

WALLP

Land Adjacent to Homer Downs, Trendeal Farm, Ladock, Cornwall: Evaluation by Trial Trenching

April 2014



LAND ADJACENT TO HOMER DOWNS, TRENDEAL FARM, LADOCK, CORNWALL



ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT CP No.10855 17/04/2014

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Quality Assurance

This report covers works as outlined in the brief for the above-named project as issued by the relevant authority, and as outlined in the agreed programme of works. Any deviation to the programme of works has been agreed by all parties. The works have been carried out according to the guidelines set out in the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standards, Policy Statements and Codes of Conduct. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance set out by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology on the preparation of reports.

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SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by WA LLP, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Land Adjacent to Homer Downs, Trendeal Farm, Ladock, Cornwall (NGR SW900 532). This work follows a planning application (Planning Application No.PA13/06612) for the construction of a Solar Farm. Cornwall County Council granted planning consent for the development, on the condition that an archaeological evaluation is undertaken.

The work is required as the site lies within an area of 'significant archaeological potential'. The site lies immediately east of a Scheduled Bronze Age Barrow cemetery (SM No. 32911). The site is also enclosed by 'Cornish hedges' or boundary banks which define the fields of the proposed development area and as such are considered 'important' under the historic criteria of the Hedgerow regulations (Section 7.4.3). Several of the banks are recorded on the 1841 Tithe map.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken over four days between the 1st and 4th April 2014. The evaluation involved the excavation of 10 trenches, across four neighbouring fields, totalling 360m², of the development area. Nine of the ten trenches contained archaeological features comprising field boundary ditches. A single posthole was also recorded within trench 10. The majority of the features correspond to the geophysical anomalies identified in the earlier surveys (Haddrell 2011, WAA 2013).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology would like to thank WA LLP, for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. Wardell Armstrong Archaeology would also like to thank Dan Ratcliffe, Historic Environment Service, Cornwall County Council, for his assistance throughout the project,

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Michael McElligott and Joe Whelan. The report was written by Joe Whelan and the drawings were produced by Adrian Bailey. The project was managed by Helen J MacIntyre, Assistant Project Manager for WAA.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In March 2014 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was invited by WA LLP, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on Land Adjacent to Homer Downs, Trendeal Farm, Ladock, Cornwall (NGR SW900 532) (Figure 1), prior to the development of a solar farm. The proposed works lie within the immediate vicinity of a Scheduled Bronze Age Barrow cemetery (SM No. 32911) which lies to the west of the site. As a result, Dan Ratcliffe, Historic Environment Service, Cornwall County Council requested a programme of archaeological investigation, prior to the development taking place. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken following approved standards and guidance (IfA 2008), and was consistent with the specification provided by the Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Project Design (February 2014).
- 1.1.3 This report outlines the evaluation works undertaken on-site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

2.1.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was submitted by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, in response to a request by the client WA LLP, for an archaeological evaluation of the study area. Following acceptance of the WSI by Dan Ratcliffe, Historic Environment Service, Cornwall County Council, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The WSI was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

2.2 THE FIELD EVALUATION

- 2.2.1 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of 10 trenches measuring 20m in length, covering 360m² of the proposed 19ha development area. The evaluation was carried out across four neighbouring fields (Figure 2). The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains within the vicinity. The evaluation trenches were located to target a series of geophysical anomalies identified in two earlier phases of geophysical survey work (Haddrell 2011 and Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2013). All work was conducted according to the recommendations of the Institute for Archaeologists (2008).
- 2.2.2 In summary, the main objectives of the field evaluation were:
 - to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed;
 - to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
 - to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
 - to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.
- 2.3.3 Turf and topsoil was removed by a 14 ton tracked 360° mechanical excavator using a 1.8m toothless grading bucket under close archaeological supervision. The trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand and all features were investigated and recorded according to the Wardell Armstrong Archaeology standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (Giecco 2012).

- 2.3.4 No archaeological finds were recovered from any of the trenches and no environmental samples were taken.
- 2.3.5 The 10 evaluation trenches were backfilled and fully reinstated upon the satisfactory completion of all field work as approved by the Historic Environment Service, Cornwall County.

2.4 THE ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited within The Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro, with copies of the report sent to the County Historic Environment Record at Truro, Cornwall, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier WAA14, TFL-A, CP10855.
- 2.4.2 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, and Cornwall County Council, support the Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, as a part of this national project.
- 2.4.3 The OASIS reference for this project is wardella2-175865.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

- 3.1.1 The site, at Homer Downs, Trendeal Farm, lies to the north of the parish of Ladock. The site lies 850m northeast of the hamlet of Trendeal, approximately 2.3km north of the village of Ladock village and 9.5km northeast of the city of Truro. It is situated in a landscape of open and exposed gently undulating plateaus, interspersed with shallow, wooded valleys. The site lies between 75-100m above sea level and comprises 4 individual adjoining fields located on a south facing slope on the spur of a ridge running north from the village of Trendeal. The fields form a roughly rectilinear block with a total area of *c*.19hectares (Figure 1)
- 3.1.2 The underlying geology Grampound formation mudstone and siltstone with limestone outcrops. The soils are of the 'Denbigh 1' type, predominantly well drained fine loam over slate (British Geological Survey 2001).

3.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 3.2.1 *Introduction:* this historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments specific to the study area. References to the County Historic Environment Record (HER) are included where known.
- 3.2.2 *Prehistoric (up to AD43):* the site lies within a landscape of significant archaeological activity and which includes a Scheduled Bronze Age barrow cemetery (SM No. 32911), consisting of three surviving barrows located 25m to the west of site. A prehistoric stone lined cist is recorded 650m to the southwest in Trendeal (HER No. MCO26049). A Scheduled Bronze Age barrow cemetery lies 1.25km the north of the site at Besowsa (SM No. 36961). Two possible later prehistoric (Iron Age) settlements are recorded to the south and to the west of the site. Other probable enclosure cropmarks are recorded 500m to the northwest.
- 3.2.3 *Medieval* (*c.AD410 c.AD1066*); strip field boundaries identified on aerial photographs to the southwest and the village of Trendeal are of probable medieval date.
- 3.2.4 *Post-medieval and Modern (c.1540AD-present):* many of the earthen 'Cornish hedge' banks represent later medieval/post-medieval field enclosures. A track way shown on the 1809 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map crossing the site was no longer in use on the 1841 tithe map.

3.3 Previous Work

3.3.1 Two geophysical surveys of the site area were undertaken by GDS in 2011 and Wardell Armstrong Archaeology in 2013. The 2011 survey examined the western-most pair of fields (Fields 1-2), closest to the barrow cemetery (SM No. 32911). The more recent (WAA) study examined the eastern-most pair of fields (Fields 3-4). Both geophysical surveys revealed a series of linear features which were identified as being probable former field boundaries. A curvilinear feature in the western fields was tentatively linked with the barrow cemetery located immediately to the west of the site. Both surveys identified a range of discrete anomalies which may be of archaeological origin. The subsequent evaluation trenches were located to target a range of the probable field boundaries and possible 'soil filled features' (Figure 2).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken in a single phase and covered four individual fields. Field 1 contained trenches 1-3, field 2 trenches 4-6, field 3 trench 7 and field 4 trenches 8-10. The evaluation trenches each measured 20m in length.

4.2 Results

- 4.2.1 The trenches were excavated by a 14 ton tracked 360° mechanical excavator using a 1.8m toothless grading bucket.
- 4.2.2 *Trench 1:* Trench 1 was located in field 1 toward the southwest corner of the field and was located to target two probable field boundaries identified in the 2013 geophysical survey. The trench was aligned roughly north to south (Figure 2), and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.50m revealing a light yellowy brown clay with fragmented limestone inclusions (102), below *c*.0.12m of mid brown silty clay subsoil (101) and *c*.0.25m of dark brown silty clay topsoil (100) (Plate 1)
- 4.2.3 Trench 1 contained two shallow linear ditches. [103] was located at the southern end of the trench and measured 0.63m in width by 0.11m in depth. The flat bottomed ditch, aligned north-south, was visible within the trench for a length of 3.2m and was filled by (104) a dark brown silty clay. No finds or dating evidence were recovered (Figure 3).
- 4.2.4 Towards the northern end of Trench 1 was ditch [105], orientated northeast-southwest (Figure 3). The ditch measured 1m in width by 0.08m in depth and ran for a length of 3.3m within the trench. [105] had a rounded bottom and was filled with (104) a dark brown silty clay. No finds or dating evidence were recovered.



Plate 1: Evaluation Trench 1 looking north

- 4.2.5 *Trench 2:* Trench 2 was located within field 1 close to the southern site boundary and was aligned northeast-southwest (Figure 2). The trench was positioned to target two probable field boundary ditches, identified in the 2013 geophysical survey, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.35m revealing a light yellowy brown clay with occasional fragmented limestone inclusions (202), below a mid brown silty clay subsoil (201) up to 0.08m in depth and a dark brown silty clay topsoil (200) 0.25m in depth (Plate 2).
- 4.2.6 Trench 2 contained a single ditch [203] towards the western end of the trench. The linear feature measured 1.66m in width by 0.11m in depth and was filled with (204) a dark brown silty clay (Figure 4). No finds or dating evidence were recovered. The feature measured 2.9m in length and was cut by a modern field drain. The field drain was not further excavated as it extended below the base of the feature.



Plate 2: Evaluation Trench 2 looking north

- 4.2.7 *Trench 3:* Trench 3 was located towards the centre of field 1 and was positioned to target two probable field boundaries. The trench was aligned roughly north east south west (Figure 2), and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.38m, revealing alight yellowy brown clay with occasional fragmented mudstone/limestone inclusions (301), below *c*.0.28m of dark brown silty clay topsoil (300).
- 4.2.8 Trench 3 did not reveal any archaeological features.
- 4.2.9 *Trench 4:* Trench 4 was located in field 2 and was positioned to target a probable field boundary and an area described, in the 2013 geophysics report, as a 'possible soil filled feature'. The trench was aligned roughly west to east (Figure 2), and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.43m revealing a light yellowy brown silty clay with fragmented mudstone inclusions (401), below *c*.0.32m of dark brown silty clay topsoil (400) (Plate 3).
- 4.2.10 Trench 4 contained a shallow linear ditch at the western end [402]. The flat bottomed feature measured 1.05m in width by 0.18m in depth. The ditch orientated north-south and was visible within the trench for a length of 1.9m and was filled by (403) a dark brown silty clay (Figure 5). This feature

accurately matches the linear identified by the 2013 geophysics survey. There was no indication of a 'soil filled feature' at the east of the trench. Ditch [402] probably continues in trench 5 as feature [502]. No finds or dating evidence were recovered.



Plate 3: Evaluation Trench 4 looking East with ditch [402] in the foreground

- 4.2.11 *Trench 5:* Trench 5 was located in field 2 towards the southwest corner of the field and was positioned to target a probable field boundary. The trench was aligned roughly northeast-southwest (Figure 2), and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.42m revealing a light yellowy brown clay with occasional mudstone inclusions (501), below *c*.0.35m of dark brown silty clay topsoil (500).
- 4.2.12 The trench contained a single shallow linear ditch. [502] was located near to the centre of the trench and measured 0.90m in width by 0.18m in depth (Plate 4). The ditch, aligned northeast-southwest was visible within the trench for a length of 2.35m and was filled by (503) a dark grey brown silty clay (Figure 6). This feature is probably a continuation of feature [402] in Trench 4. No finds or dating evidence were recovered.



Plate 4: Trench 5. Ditch [502] section looking North-east

- 4.2.13 *Trench 6:* Trench 6 was located in field 2. The trench was aligned roughly north to south (Figure 2), and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.42m revealing a light yellowy brown clay with rare mudstone inclusions (601), below *c*.0.34m of dark brown silty clay topsoil (600).
- 4.2.14 Trench 6 contained a single shallow linear ditch [602] and was located close to the trench centre and measured 0.95m in width by 0.18m in depth (Plate 5). The generally flat bottomed ditch, aligned northwest-southeast was visible within the trench for a length of 1.9m and was filled by (603) a dark greyish brown silty clay (Figure 7). No finds or dating evidence were recovered.



Plate 5: Evaluation Trench 6 [602] section looking northwest

- 4.2.15 *Trench 7:* Trench 7 was located in field 3 crossing a shallow coombe in the southeast corner of the field at the base of a slope. The trench targets a probable field boundary and a separate area described in the geophysics report (WAA 2014) as a 'possible soil filled feature'. The trench was aligned roughly north to south (Figure 2), and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.56m, revealing a light yellowy brown clay with abundant mudstone inclusions (702), below *c.*0.10m of a mid brown silty clay subsoil (701) and *c.*0.27m of a light yellowy brown silty clay topsoil (700). The subsoil was present in the northern most half of the trench (for the last 8m) and roughly corresponds with the 'soil filled feature' identified by the geophysics survey.
- 4.2.16 Trench 7 contained a single shallow linear ditch [703] and was located in the southern half of the trench and measured 0.70m in width by 0.08m in depth (Plate 6). The flat bottomed ditch, aligned northeast-southwest was visible within the trench for a length of 5.70m and was filled by (704) a yellowy brown

clayey silt with common mudstone inclusions (Figure 8). No finds or dating evidence were recovered.



Plate 6: Evaluation Trench 7 looking south

- 4.2.17 *Trench 8:* Trench 8 was located at the base of a slope within field 4. The trench was positioned crossing a visible coombe. The 2014 geophysics survey identified a 'possible soil filled feature' at this point. The trench was orientated roughly northeast-southwest (Figure 2), and was mechanically excavated to a maximum depth of 0.65m. The geology within the trench varied on either side of the coombe. To the west of the hollow the geology consisted of a light yellowy brown clay with occasional mudstone inclusions (802). To the east, the natural was a dark brown silty clay with abundant limestone fragments. Overlying the natural geology was a dark brown silty clay subsoil (801), 0.10m in depth below *c.*0.30m of mid brown silty clay topsoil (800).
- 4.2.18 A hand dug slot was excavated through the dark coombe soil (801). This revealed a ditch [803] cut within the base of the hollow (Plate 7). The ditch measured 2.40m in width with a maximum depth of 0.65m. The feature had

gentle sloping sides onto a flat base, the ditch was filled with (804), a mid brown clayey silt. Within the fill was evidence for localised in-situ scorching/burning. Immediately to the west of the ditch was a residual soil layer (805) which comprised of a mid brown clayey silt up to 0.20m in depth. This may represent residual bank material or silting within the hollow (Figure 9). No finds or dating evidence were recovered.



Plate 7: Trench 8. Ditch [803] section looking north

- 4.2.19 *Trench 9:* Trench 9 was located in field 4 on the side of a slope. The trench was aligned roughly northwest-southeast (Figure 2), and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.70m revealing a light yellowy brown clay with common mudstone inclusions (902), below a dark brown clayey silt subsoil (901) 0.10m in depth and *c*.0.40m of dark brown silty clay topsoil (900).
- 4.2.20 Trench 9 contained a single shallow linear ditch [903] which was located close to the trench centre and measured 0.90m in width by 0.11m in depth (Plate 8). The generally flat bottomed ditch, aligned north-south, was visible within the trench for a length of 2.80m and was filled by (904) a dark greyish brown silty

clay with common mudstone inclusions (Figure 10). No finds or dating evidence were recovered.



Plate8: Trench 9. Ditch [903] section

- 4.2.21 *Trench 10:* Trench 10 was located in field 4 towards the southeast corner of the field on the crest of a slope and was positioned to target a probable field boundary. The trench was aligned roughly east-west (Figure 2), and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.47m revealing a light yellowy brown clay with common mudstone inclusions (1002), below a dark yellowy brown gritty clay subsoil (1001), 0.11m in depth, below *c*.0.26m of dark brown silty clay topsoil (1000).
- 4.2.22 The trench contained a single shallow linear ditch and a posthole. Ditch [1003] was located towards the southern end of the trench and measured 1.26m in width by a maximum 0.25m in depth. The ditch, aligned east-west was visible within the trench for a length of 2.05m and was filled by (1004) a dark yellowy brown silty clay. No finds or dating evidence were recovered.
- 4.2.23 2.2m north of ditch [1003] was posthole [1005]. This oval shaped feature measured 0.35m in length by 0.24m in width by 0.26m deep (Plate 9). The feature demonstrated in-situ burning with scorching visible to the natural geology and quantities of charcoal noted within the fill (1006), a dark grey silty clay (Figure 11). No finds or dating evidence were recovered.



Plate 9: Trench 10 section and posthole [1005]

4.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

4.4.1 No archaeological finds were recovered, and no environmental samples were taken during the evaluation.

5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 During the archaeological field evaluation at Homer Downs, Trendeal Farm, Ladock, Cornwall, 10 trenches were excavated across four neighbouring fields, covering 360m² of the proposed 19ha development area. The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remain with the evaluation trenches being located to target both geophysical anomalies and apparently 'sterile' areas. All trenches were excavated down to the top of the natural substrate.
- 5.1.2 Only Trench 3 failed to provide evidence of archaeological features. The remaining 9 trenches each contained at least one shallow field boundary ditch with trench 10 also containing a burnt posthole.
- 5.1.3 The majority of the features recorded within the trenches correspond to geophysical anomalies identified within the Haddrell 2013 and WAA 2014 geophysical surveys.
- 5.1.4 No dating evidence was recovered from any of the features or trenches and no environmental samples were taken.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Description
100	Deposit	Topsoil
101	Deposit	Subsoil
102	Deposit	Natural
103	Cut	Shallow ditch in trench 1
104	Fill	Fill of [103]
105	Cut	Shallow ditch in trench 1
106	Fill	Fill of [105]
200	Deposit	Topsoil
201	Deposit	Subsoil
202	Deposit	Natural
203	Cut	Cut of shallow ditch
204	Fill	Fill of [203]
300	Deposit	Topsoil
301	Deposit	Natural
400	Deposit	Topsoil
401	Deposit	Natural
402	Cut	Cut of ditch
403	Fill	Fill of [402]
500	Deposit	Topsoil
501	Deposit	Natural
502	Cut	Cut of shallow ditch
502	Fill	Fill of [502]
600		Topsoil
601	Deposit	Natural
	Deposit	
602	Cut Fill	Cut of shallow ditch
603		Fill of [602]
700	Deposit	Topsoil
701	Deposit	Subsoil
702	Deposit	Natural Out of ditals
703	Cut	Cut of ditch
704	Fill	Fill of [703]
800	Deposit	Topsoil
801	Deposit	Subsoil
802	Deposit	Natural Natural
803	Cut	Cut of ditch
804	Fill	Fill of [803]
805	Deposit	Soil layer
900	Deposit	Topsoil
901	Deposit	Subsoil
902	Deposit	Natural
903	Cut	Cut of ditch
904	Fill	Fill of [903]
1000	Deposit	Topsoil
1001	Deposit	Subsoil
1002	Deposit	Natural
1003	Cut	Cut of ditch
1004	Fill	Fill of [1003]
1005	Cut	Posthole
1006	Fill	Fill of [1005]

Table 1: List of Contexts issued during evaluation

APPENDIX 2: FIGURES

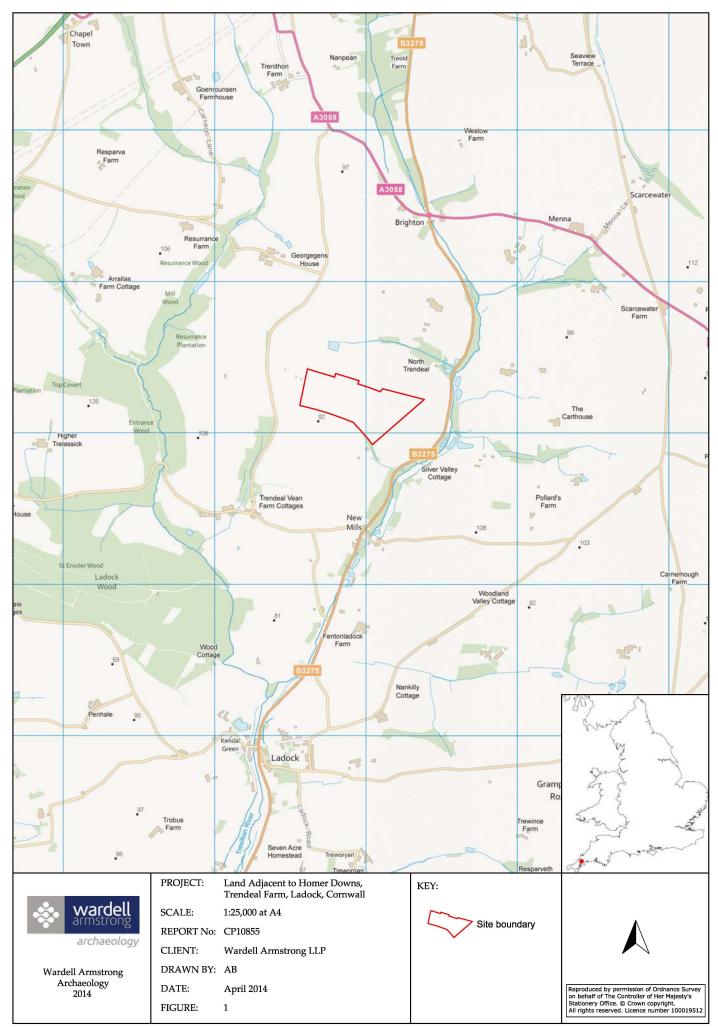


Figure 1: Site location.

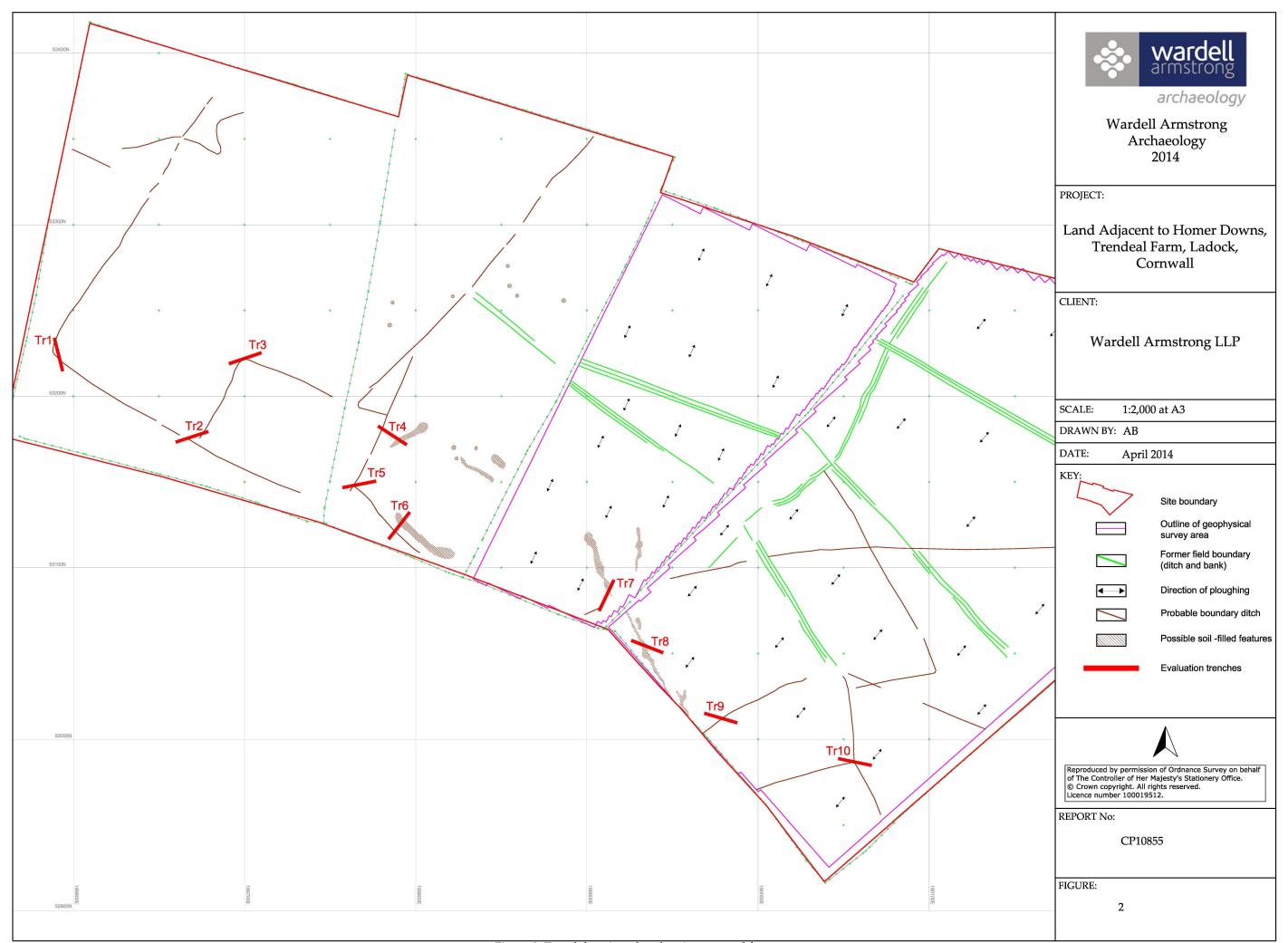


Figure 2: Trench location plan showing targeted features.

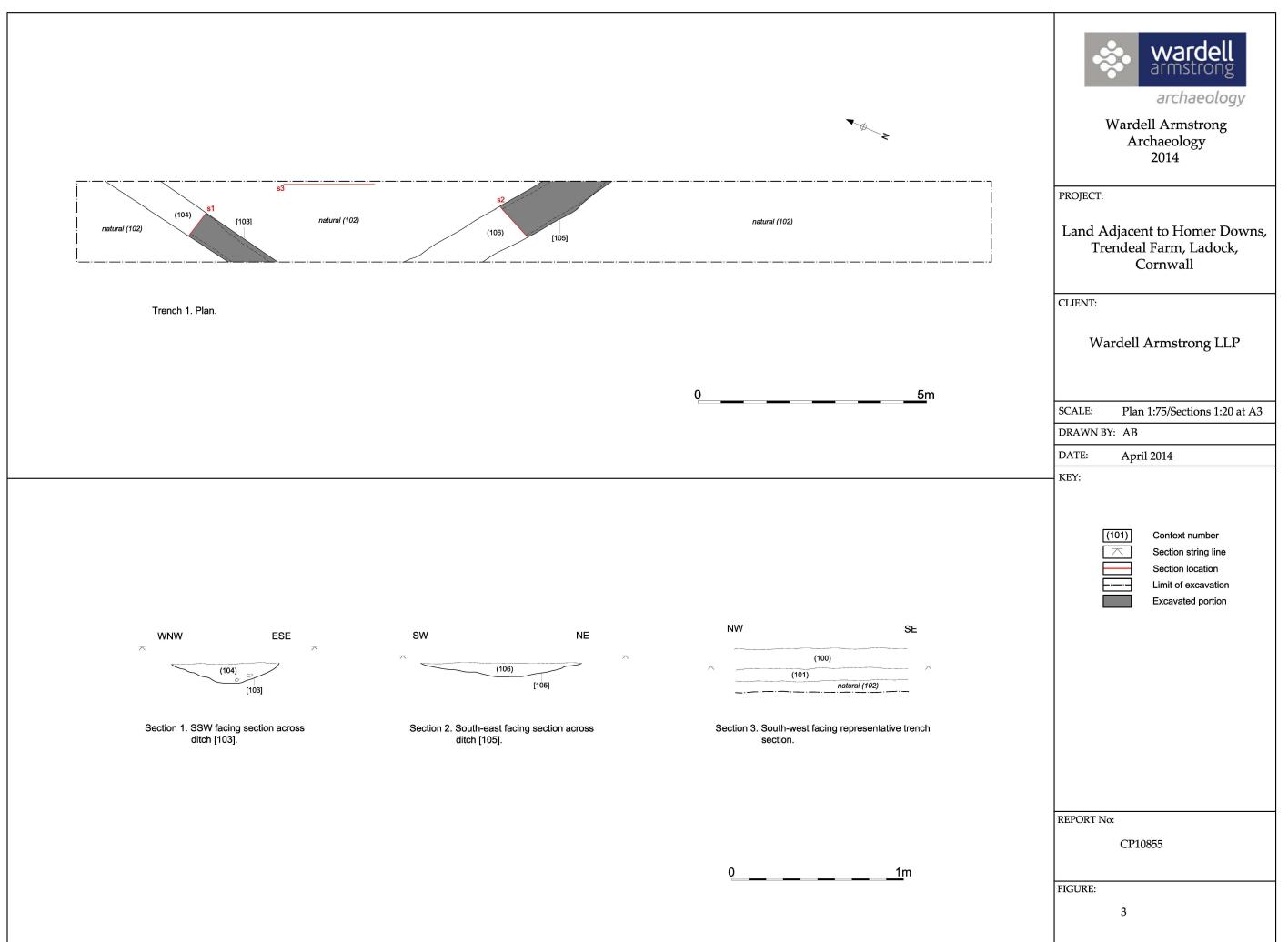


Figure 3: Trench 1; plan and sections.

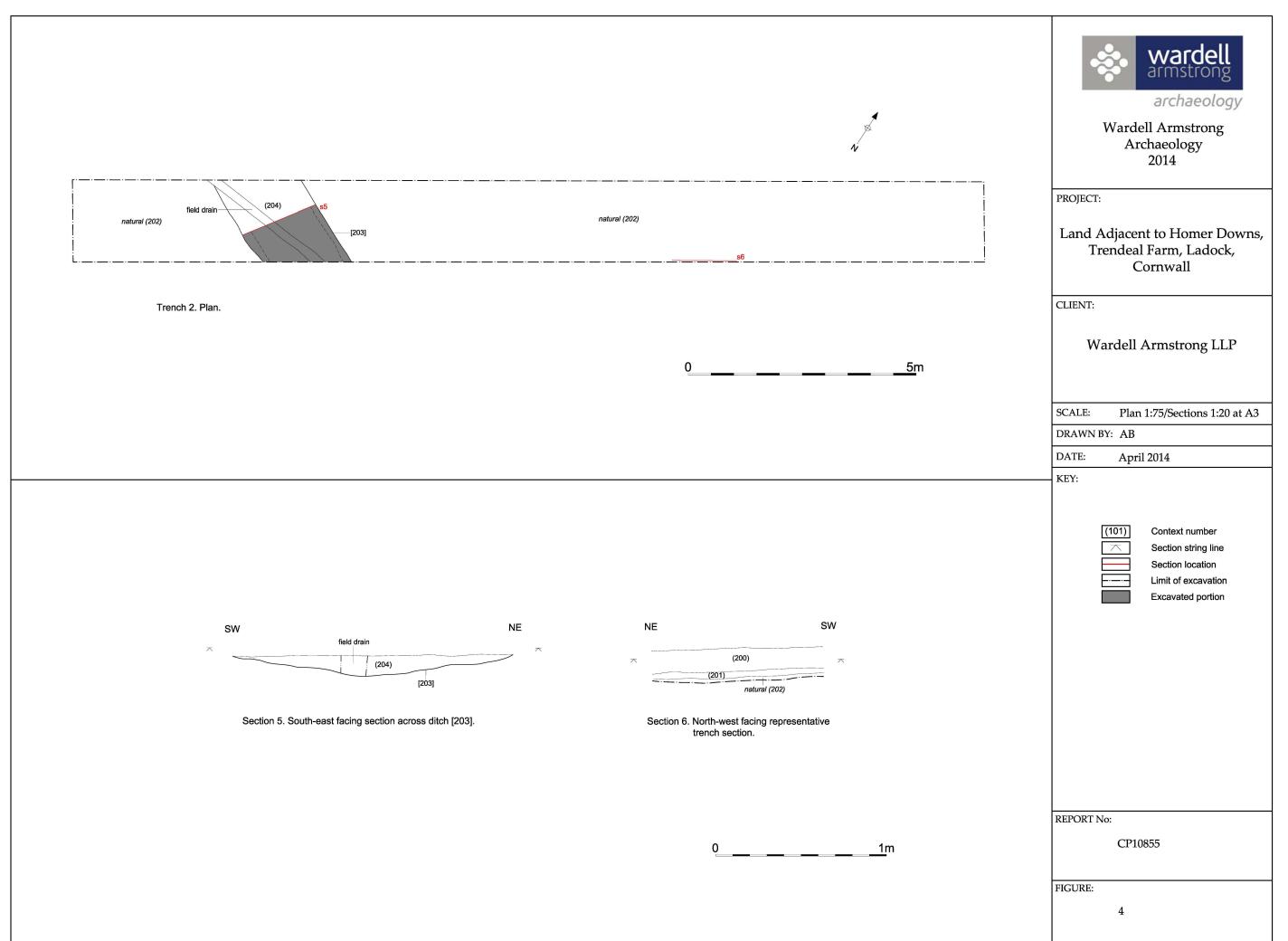


Figure 4: Trench 2; plan and sections.

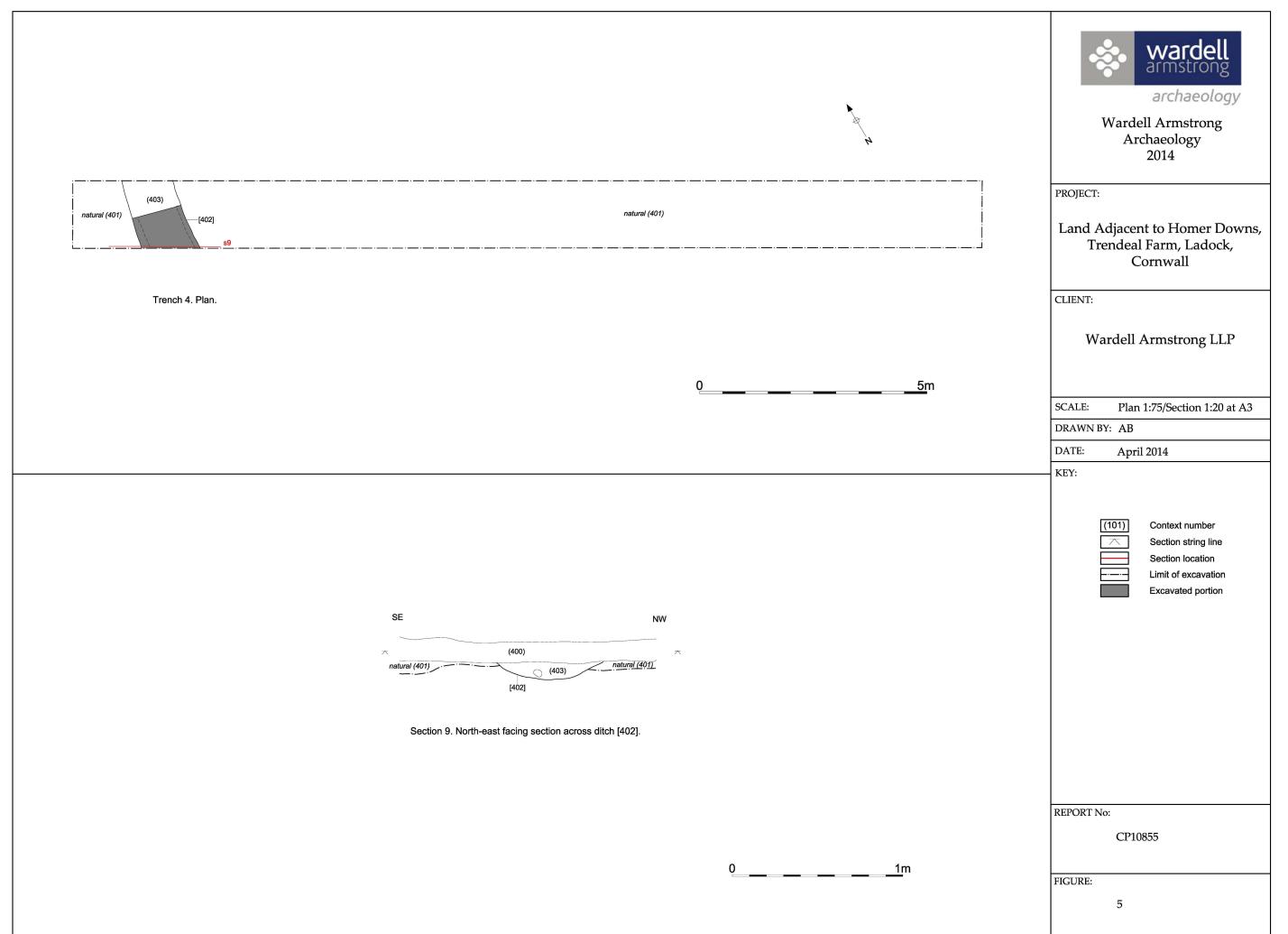


Figure 5: Trench 4; plan and section.

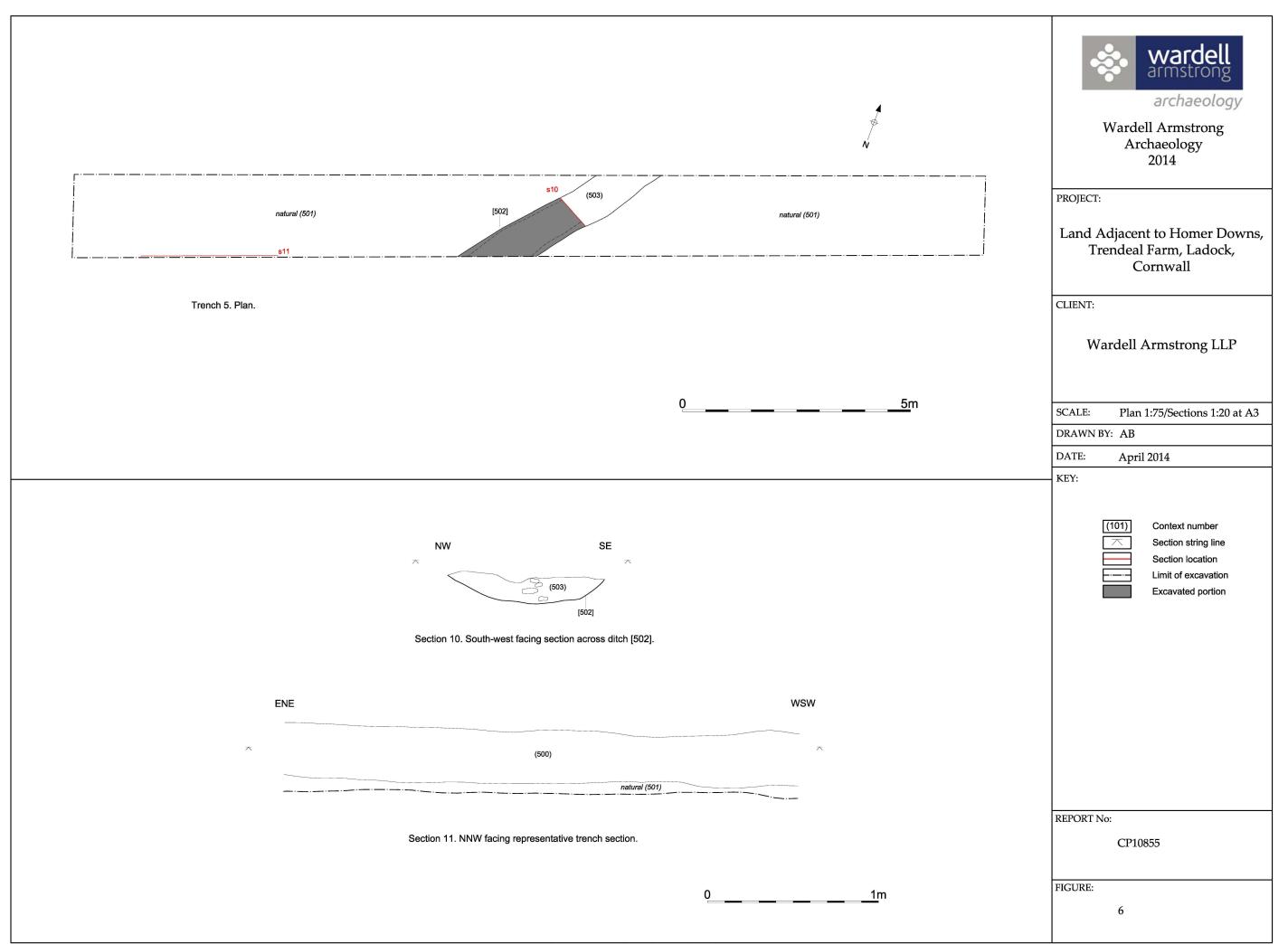


Figure 6: Trench 5; plan and sections.



Figure 7: Trench 6; plan and section.

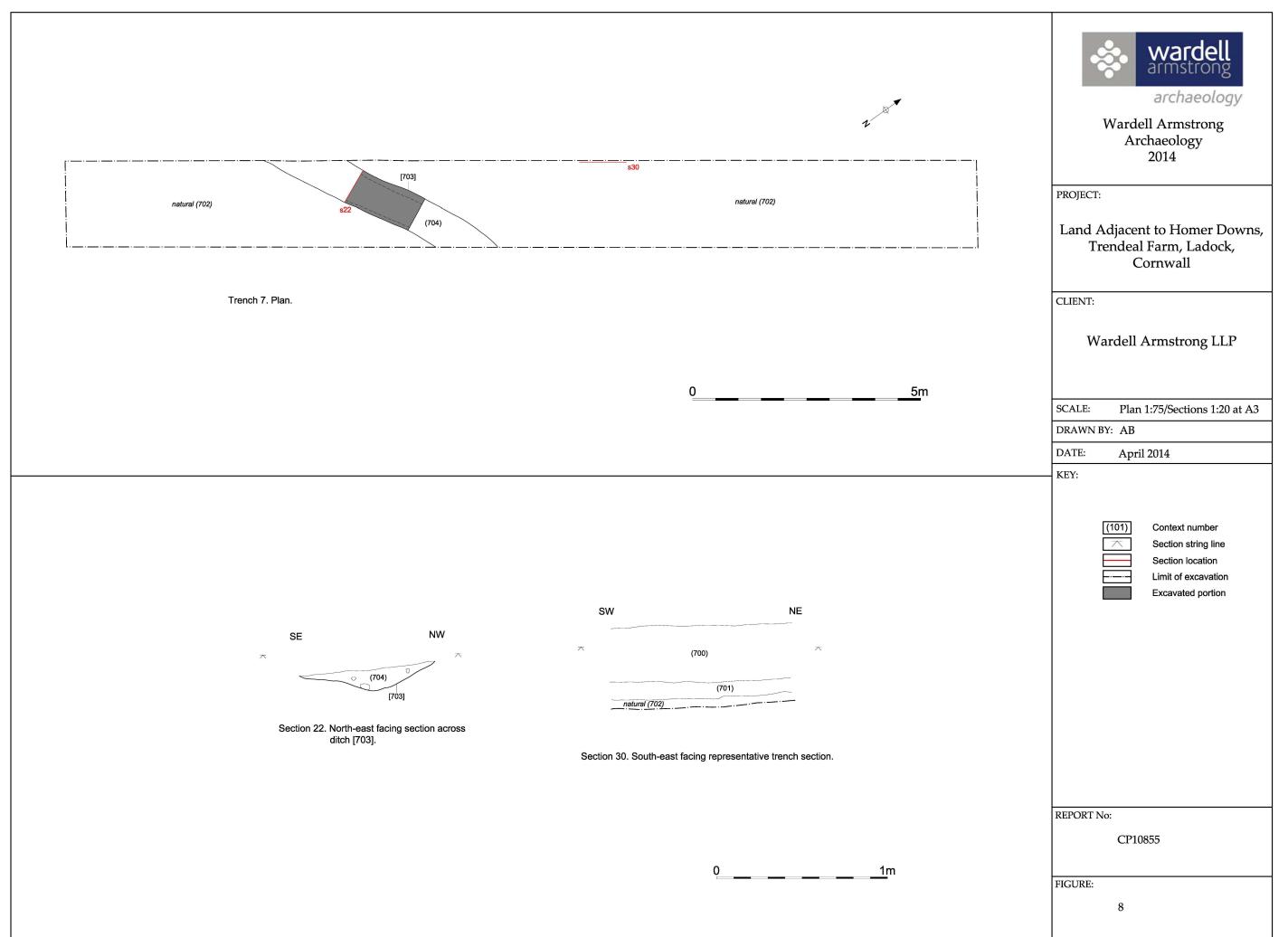


Figure 8: Trench 7; plan and sections.

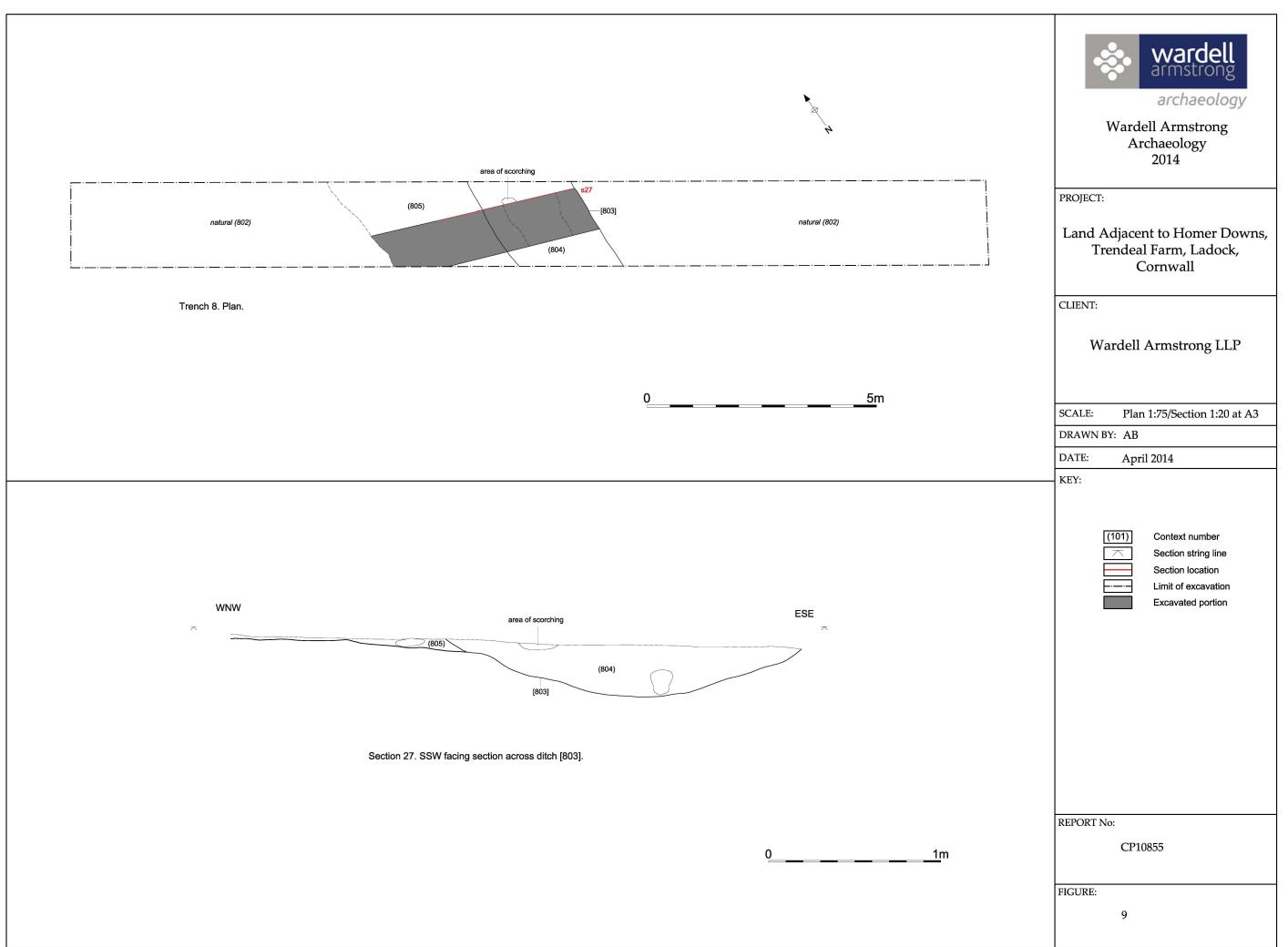


Figure 9: Trench 8; plan and section.

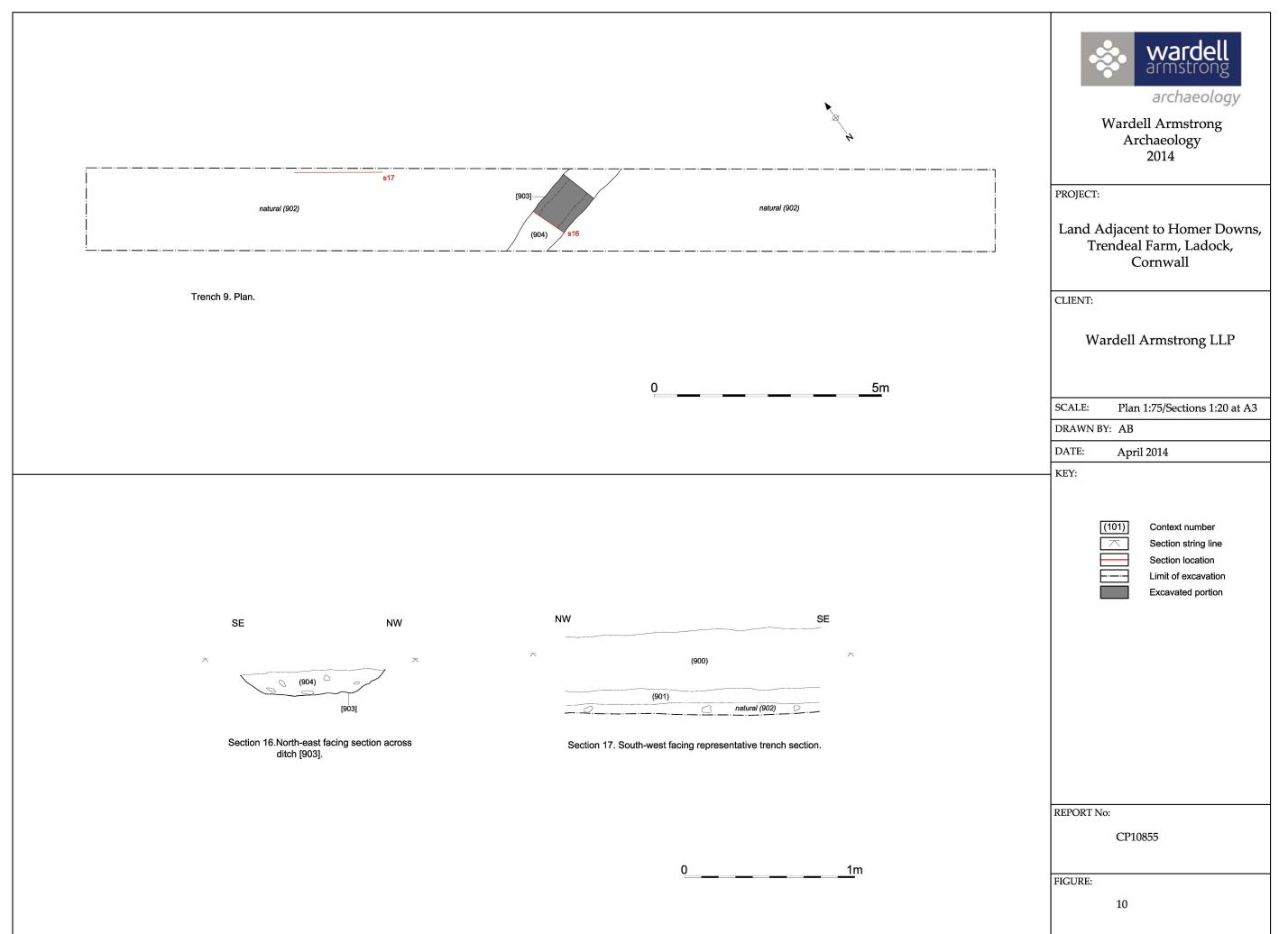


Figure 10: Trench 9; plan and sections.

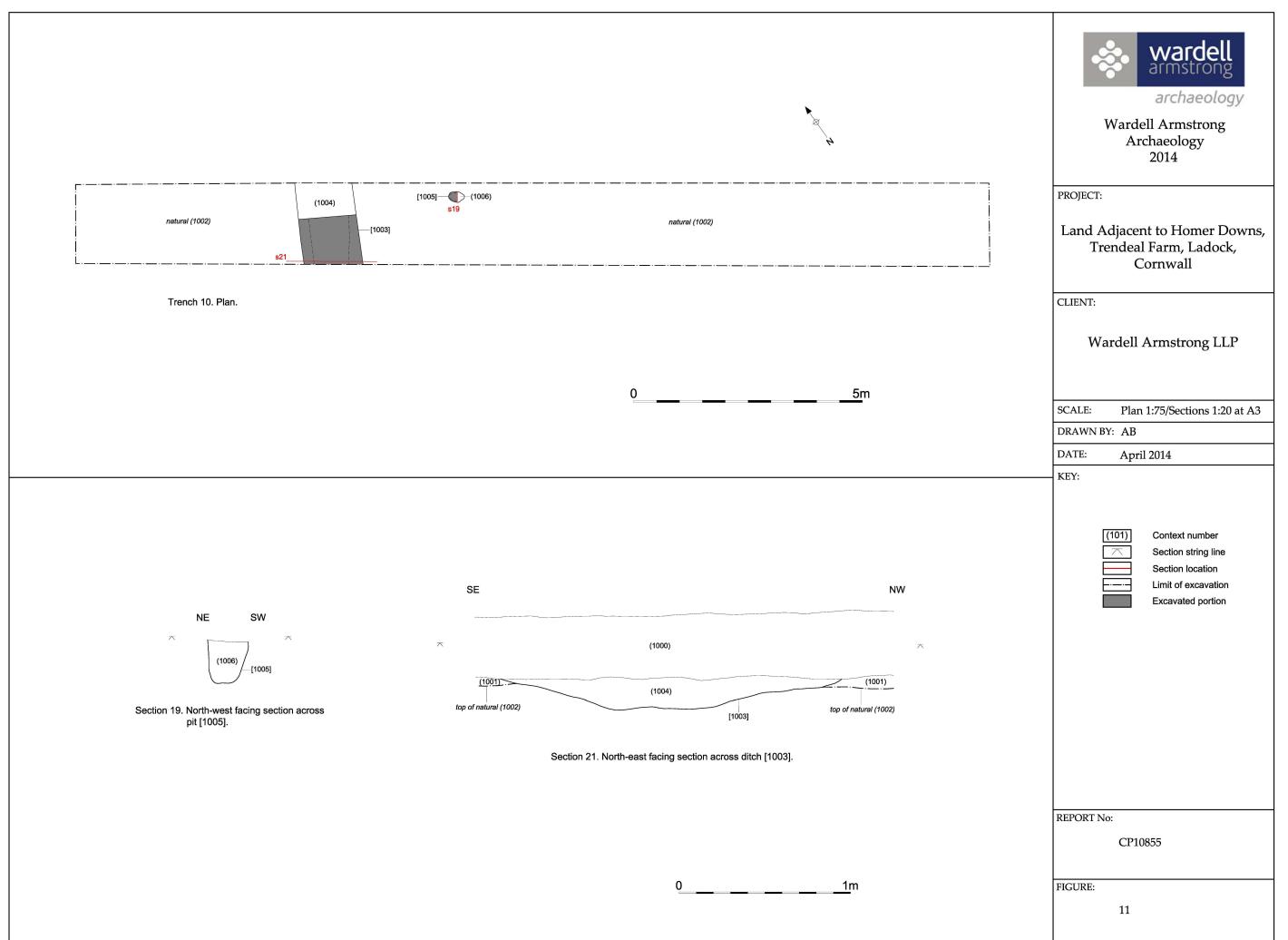


Figure 11: Trench 10; plan and sections.

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