

**LAND ON GARSTANG ROAD EAST,
POULTON – LE – FYLDE,
LANCASHIRE**



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT
CP. No: 11056/14
07/10/2014**



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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 WA Archaeology on the preparation of reports.

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SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by Persimmon Homes Lancashire, to undertake a desk-based assessment and archaeological evaluation at land on Garstang Road East, Poulton – le – Fylde, Lancashire (Centred on SD 3613 3958). This work was required to provide information in support of a planning application for a proposed residential development at the site. The work is required as the site lies next to a Romano-British settlement that was recently excavated by Oxford Archaeology.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken over 6 days between the 17th September and 24th September 2014. The evaluation involved the excavation of 14 trenches, totalling 583.6m², 0.6% of the development area. Archaeological remains were identified in Trenches 1, 2, 10, 12, 13 and 14, in the form of ditches, ring gullies and a pond. One ring gully, in trench 1 appeared to be part of a roundhouse and was associated with the Romano-British settlement that was located to the west of the trench and contained several roundhouses. In trench 2 there was a ditch that appeared to be the continuation of an enclosure ditch that was observed during the previous excavation. A possible ring gully was located in trench 14, on top of a hill in the northeast corner of the site and may be part of another settlement. There were several ditches within the trench that may have been the remains of a surrounding enclosure.

The evaluation has demonstrated given the high archaeological potential of the area that any future work be subject to a programme of archaeological investigation and this further mitigatory archaeological works may be required as a condition of any planning consent.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA) thanks Chris Gowlett for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. Thanks also to Doug Moir, Development Control Archaeologist and Ken Davies, HER Officer, Lancashire County Council, for all their assistance throughout the project.

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology also thanks Bill Sanderson and of W J Sanderson Plant Hire and Alan Watson of Clive Hurt Plant Hire for their help during this project.

The desk-based assessment and visual survey was undertaken by Fiona Wooler. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Mike McElligott, assisted by Helen Phillips, Chris Tubman and Richard Buckle. The report was written by Mike McElligott and the drawings were produced by Adrian Bailey. The finds assessment was compiled by Megan Stoakley, WAA Finds Officer. The environmental assessment was undertaken by Don O'Meara, WAA Environmental Officer.

The project was managed by Frank Giocco, Technical Director for WAA. The report was edited by Richard Newman, Post excavation Manager for WAA.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In September 2014, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was invited by Persimmon Homes Lancashire to undertake a archaeological evaluation on land on Garstang East Road, Poulton – le – Fylde, Lancashire (Centred on SD 3613 3958; Figure 1), prior to the development of residential buildings. The proposed works lie within the immediate vicinity of a recently excavated Romano-British roundhouse settlement. As a result, Doug Moir, Development Control Archaeologist, Lancashire 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 Frank Giecco (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 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design was submitted by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology in response to a request by Persimmon Homes Lancashire, for an archaeological evaluation of the study area. Following acceptance of the project design by Doug Moir, Planning Officer (Archaeology), Lancashire County Council, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The project design 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 14 trenches covering 583.6m² of the proposed c.10ha development area. The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains within the vicinity, the evaluation trenches being located to target both geophysical anomalies and apparently 'sterile' areas.

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 mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision. The trial trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand and all features were investigated and recording according to the Wardell Armstrong Archaeology standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (Giecco 2013).

2.3.4 All finds encountered were retained, including those from excavated topsoil, and were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines, and recorded under the supervision of Megan Stoakley, WWA Finds Officer.

2.3.5 The 14 evaluation trenches were backfilled following excavation and recording.

2.3.6 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the Management of Archaeological Projects (2nd Edition, 1991).

2.4 THE ARCHIVE

2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and in line with current UKIC guidelines (1990) and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited within Lancashire Archives, with copies of the report sent to the County Historic Environment Record at Preston, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier WAA14 PLF-A, CP 11056/14.

2.4.2 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology and Lancashire 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 Ltd, as a part of this national project.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

- 3.1.1 The town of Poulton-le-Fylde is located on the west bank of the River Wyre, approximately 20km to the north-west of Preston, and approximately 5km to the north-east of the coastal town of Blackpool, in an area known as 'The Fylde' (Figure 1).
- 3.1.2 The proposed development site is situated to the east side of the modern town of Poulton-le-Fylde, on the north side of Garstang Road East, and immediately to the south of the hamlet of Little Poulton. The site is bounded to the south by Garstang Road East, to the east by the Main Dyke, and to the north and west by modern properties (Figure 2).
- 3.1.3 The solid geology of the area consists of Permo-Triassic sandstones, in particular Triassic Mudstones. These are overlain and deeply masked by drift deposits, and have thus not been exploited for building stone. The drift cover consists primarily of glacial till deposits and post-glacial deposits of colluvium and alluvium, as well as peat (Lancashire County Council 2005, 7).

3.2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 **Introduction:** this background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and the records consulted during the desk-based assessment. It is intended only as a summary of historical developments around the study area, in order to assess the archaeological potential.
- 3.2.2 **Prehistoric (up to c.AD 72):** There are prehistoric findspots within the area around Poulton-le-Fylde; sherds of Bronze Age pottery have been recovered from Skippool Bridge, and a stone arrowhead has been found to the south-west of the town (Lancashire County Council 2005, 13).
- 3.2.3 **Roman (c.AD 72 – c.410):** A possible Roman road, the 'Danes Pad', was identified to the west of the town in the 19th century, with Fishwick referring to a section revealed at Puddle House where '*the road again was visible, though its gravel had been removed, and it was making for Poulton*' (Fishwick 1885, 2). This road, which was described as 'substantially built' supposedly ran from Kirkham to the south-east, to the mouth of the Wyre at Fleetwood, which has been postulated as the site of a Roman port, *Portus Setantiorum*. Recent archaeological work, however, has not revealed the road, and at present the evidence is ambiguous (Lancashire County Council 2005, 13).
- 3.2.4 **Early Medieval (c.AD410 – 1066):** One of the most characteristic place name elements is tun, denoting a farmstead or settlement and *Poul* comes from pul or pill which is derived from Welsh pwl meaning an inlet and relates to the Wyre estuary, with Poulton meaning *settlement by the pool or inlet*. This is also the meaning of *pool* in Liverpool and Blackpool. And although it suggests an Anglo-

Saxon origin, as a settlement within the Amounderness lordship, there is no direct documentary or archaeological evidence to support a pre-Conquest origin for the town, although the church dedication is to St Chad, a 7th century Anglo-Saxon saint, which may support the view that Poulton was a religious centre before the Norman Conquest (Lancashire County Council 2005, 14).

- 3.2.5 **Medieval (c.AD1066 – 1540):** Poulton was included in Domesday Book of 1086 when it was documented as ‘Pulton’ and contained two carucates of land, with Roger de Poitou holding all the lands in the parish. According to Fishwick, in the Hundred of Amounderness there were 62 places named in Domesday Book, 16 ‘vills had few inhabitants’. The 26 carucates of land held in Poulton Parish at this date, which represented approximately 2600 acres of land, was ‘under some kind of cultivation’ (Fishwick 1885, 5).
- 3.2.6 The nature of any settlement at Poulton at the time of Domesday Book is not known. Given the low-lying and marshy nature of the landscape, it is likely that any early settlement would have been small, possibly comprising individual farms on areas of higher and drier ground. There is no evidence to indicate when the settlement became a nucleated village based around the church, the first documented of which was in 1094 (Lancashire County Council 2005, 14; Storey 2001, 10). It is possible, however, that Poulton was laid out as a nucleated settlement at the time of Roger de Poitou’s grant of his estate to St Mary’s Priory, as the street pattern indicates a planned layout with the church and market at the centre (Lancashire County Council 2005, 14).
- 3.2.7 **Post-Medieval to Modern (c.1540 – present):** writing with regard to the socio-economic history of 17th century Poulton-le-Fylde, J M Locke noted that the parish was based largely on an agricultural economy, and, being an isolated settlement, was ‘almost completely self-sufficient’. By the 17th century, the open field system had practically disappeared in the Fylde and a system of enclosed farming had become general (Locke 1968, 15). This may indicate that the proposed development site was utilised for agricultural purposes in enclosed fields by this date. The HER entry for the Main Dyke, which forms the eastern boundary of the proposed development site, notes that it was constructed in 1731 as a drainage ditch for Marton Mere to Skipool.
- 3.2.8 There is evidence for settlement at Little Poulton in the 17th and 18th centuries as shown by buildings which still exist in the hamlet or earlier properties on the site of later buildings. The present Little Poulton Hall is recorded in the HER to be on the site of a 17th century property and a pre-1847 farmstead, although the house was demolished and rebuilt possibly in the early 20th century.

3.3 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

- 3.3.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North (OAN) in 2005 in advance of a proposed pipeline. Although the present study area was not the subject of this investigation, this work did identify sites which are now included in the HER database, many of which relate to field

boundaries, former marl pits and ridge and furrow, highlighting the agricultural character of the landscape around the proposed development site.

- 3.3.2 Following on from the work by OAN in 2005, a programme of archaeological excavation and a watching brief was undertaken within the proposed development site boundary, with the excavation located at the western edge of the site, adjacent to Garstang East Road. This excavation revealed significant archaeological evidence which appeared to date to the Romano-British period, with the possibility of an earlier phase of activity. The features, which included at least two round houses, were interpreted as likely to represent a Romano-British farmstead set within rectilinear enclosures, the first such example to be excavated in Lancashire, although certain elements had similarities with comparable sites in the county (OAN 2010, 40).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken in a single phase that started on the 17th September to the 22nd of September 2014 and consisted of 14 trenches (Figure 2). The topsoil and subsoil was stripped by a JCB 3CX with a toothless bucket to the level of the natural substrate. The areas under investigation were subsequently cleaned by hand and investigated and recorded fully. Almost all the trenches measured broadly 30m in length except for trenches 1, 3 and 7 that measured broadly 15m in length and trench 2 that was 16m in length. All trenches were 1.6m wide. The evaluation extended over a sub-divided single large field. Trenches 3 – 9 and 11 contained no features of archaeological significance; the summaries of these trenches are included in Appendix 2.

4.2 RESULTS

4.2.1 **Trench 1:** Trench 1 was located in the western side of the field and was aligned north-south. It was also to the east of a previously excavated Romano-British settlement by OAN (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.55m revealing friable mid orange sandy clay (**102**) below c.0.20m of soft mid-orange/brown silt subsoil (**101**) and c.0.2m of soft light brown silty sand topsoil (**100**) (Figure 3).



Plate 1: Ring-gully [105], looking southwest - Trench 1

- 4.2.2 A curvilinear feature [105] was observed near the centre of the trench on its western side (Plate 1). It measured 6.5m by 0.25m by 0.08m with its northern end aligned northwest-southeast curving slightly from and returning to the same west facing baulk. It had sharp steep sloping sides and a flat base. The fill (106) was a firm light grey brown sandy clay silt that contained occasional stone. No finds were recovered. It appeared to be part of a ring gully.
- 4.2.3 **Trench 2:** Trench 2 was located in the western side of the field and was aligned east-west. It was also to the east of a previously excavated Romano-British settlement by Oxford Archaeology North (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.45m revealing friable mid orange sandy clay (102) below c.0.2m of soft light orange/brown silt subsoil (101) and c.0.15m of soft light brown silty sand topsoil (100) (Plate 2) (Figure 4).



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking east

- 4.2.4 On the western side of the trench, a 1.2m wide ditch [203] was observed. It was aligned northwest-southeast with sharp steep sloping sides, a narrow rounded base and a V-shaped profile that measured 0.49m deep (Plate 3) (Figure 4). The fill (204) was a firm grey silty clay that contained occasional medium sized stones. No finds were recovered. It appears to be the continuation of a ditch observed during the OAN excavation and appears to be part of an enclosure ditch.



Plate 3: Ditch [203], looking northwest - Trench 2

4.2.5 **Trench 10:** Trench 10 was located toward the centre of the field and was aligned east-west (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.67m revealing firm light orange sandy clay (**1002**) below c.0.30m of firm light orange brown silt subsoil (**1001**) and c.0.12m of soft light brown sandy silt topsoil (**1000**) (Plate 4).



Plate 4: Trench 10, looking east

4.2.6 At the western end of the trench, there was what seemed to be a large feature [1010] that was only partially visible as it continued beyond the west terminus and the north and south sides of the trench (Figure 5) (Plate 5). Its overall dimensions and the extent of the fills were unknown but it measured c.1.6m to the limit of excavation. The feature could not be bottomed because of health and safety constraints. The east side was steep sloping that became more gradual at its lower half. The lowest fill (1008) was a moderately compact light yellowish grey slightly clayey silty sand that contained occasional stone and was 0.12m thick. The second fill (1007) was a friable light to mid bluish/greenish grey silty sandy clay that contained frequent organic material, occasional stone and was 0.22m thick. Several sherds of pottery were recovered. The third fill (1006) was a firm darkish mid grey brown sandy clay that contained occasional stone, charcoal flecks and was 0.5m thick. The fourth fill (1005) was a firm mid orangey reddish brown sandy clay that contained occasional stone and was 0.45m thick. The fifth fill (1004) was a firm darkish mid grey brown sandy clay that contained moderate stone and occasional charcoal that measured 0.41m thick. The sixth and upper fill (1003) was a firm mid orangey reddish brown sandy clay with light grey sandy patches that contained occasional stone and very occasional charcoal flecks. It was 0.32m thick and two pieces of slag were recovered. The feature was located between an existing pond that was to the northwest and a dried-up pond to the southwest and may also be a former pond. Fills (1003) to (1006) were layers used to backfill the feature.



Plate 5: Pond feature [1010], looking south – Trench 10

4.2.7 **Trench 12:** Trench 12 was located toward the eastern side of the site and was aligned northwest-southeast (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum

depth of 0.5m revealing firm light orange sandy clay (**1202**) below c.0.23m of firm light orange brown silt subsoil (**1201**) and c.0.1m of soft light brown sandy silt topsoil (**1200**) (Plate 6) (Figure 6).



Plate 6: Trench 12, looking east-southeast

- 4.2.8 There was a linear feature [**1203**] located near the centre of the trench and was aligned northeast-southwest (Figure 6). It measured 0.48m wide by 0.12m deep that had curved moderately steep sloping sides with a narrow rounded base and a V-shaped profile. The fill (**1204**) was a firm light grey silty clay that contained occasional small stone. No finds were recovered. It appeared to be a narrow shallow gully.
- 4.2.9 **Trench 13:** Trench 13 was located toward the northeast corner of field and was aligned east-west (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.42m revealing firm darkish mid reddish brown sandy clay (**1304**) below c.0.18m of light compact brown sandy silt subsoil (**1301**) and c.0.20m of friable light brown sandy silt topsoil (**1300**) (Plate 7) (Figure 7).
- 4.2.10 There was a linear feature [**1303**] located near the centre of the trench that was aligned north-south and measured 1.7m wide by 0.3m deep. It had gradual sloping sides with a wide flat base and a U-shaped profile. The fill (**1302**) was a firm mid brown sandy clay. No finds were recovered. It may have been part of a field system that may be associated with the Romano-British settlement.



Plate 7: Trench 13, looking east

4.2.11 **Trench 14:** Trench 14 was located toward the northeast corner of the field and was aligned east-west (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.6m revealing firm light orange sandy clay (**1400**) below c.0.20m of firm light orange brown silt subsoil (**1401**) and c.0.13m of soft light brown sandy silt topsoil (**1400**) (Plate 8) (Figure 8).



Plate 8: Trench 14, looking east

4.2.12 There was a ditch [1403] located on the west side of the trench that was aligned northeast-southwest and measured 1.1m wide by 0.3m deep (Plate 9) (Figure 8). It was straight in alignment that had sharp steep sloping sides with a moderately wide concave base and a V-shaped profile. The fill (1404) was a very firm mid grey brown sandy clay silt that contained occasional stone. No finds were recovered. It may have been part of an enclosure.



Plate 9: Ditch [1403], looking southwest – Trench 14

4.2.13 Ditch [1409] was located 0.42m to the east of ditch [1403] on the western side of the trench (Figure 8). It appeared to be L-shaped, initially aligned northeast-southwest that turned to the southeast at its southern end. It measured 1.9m wide by 0.2m deep with sharp steep sloping sides with a flattish slightly uneven base and a U-shaped profile. The fill (1410) was a firm mid grey brown sandy clay silt that contained occasional stones. No finds were recovered.

4.2.14 Gully [1407] was located 6.2m to the east of ditch [1409], near the centre of the trench (Figure 8). It was straight within the trench and was aligned north-south with a rounded northern terminus. It had gradual sloping sides with a curved base and a U-shaped profile that measured 0.25m wide by 0.06m deep. The fill (1408) was a firm light grey silty clay that contained occasional small stone. No finds were recovered. The gully may have been part of a roundhouse.

4.2.15 Gully [1405] was located near the centre of the trench and was 0.65m to the east of gully terminus [1407] (Figure 8) (Plate 10). It was straight within the trench, aligned north northwest-south southeast and measured 0.4m wide by 0.12m deep. It had gradual sloping sides with a narrow curved base and a V-shaped profile. The fill (1406) was a firm light grey silty clay that contained occasional small stone. No finds were recovered. The gully may have been part of a roundhouse.



Plate 10: Gully [1405], looking north northwest – Trench 14

4.2.16 Ditch [1411] was located on the eastern side of the trench and was aligned northwest-southeast (Figure 8). It was linear shaped with gradual sloping sides with a curved base and a U-shaped profile that measured 0.6m wide by 0.13m deep. The fill (1412) was a firm dark grey silty clay that contained occasional silty clay. No finds were recovered.

5 FINDS

5.1 FINDS ASSESSMENT

- 5.1.1 A total of 11 artefacts, weighing 49g, were recovered from four deposits on land at Garstang Road East, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire.
- 5.1.2 All finds were dealt with according to the recommendations made by Watkinson & Neal (1998) and to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standard & Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (2008b). All artefacts have been boxed according to material type and conforming to the deposition guidelines recommended by Brown (2011).
- 5.1.3 The material archive has been assessed for its local, regional and national potential and further work has been recommended on the potential for the material archive to contribute to the relevant research frameworks.
- 5.1.4 Quantification of finds by context is visible in Table 1.

Context	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Date
104	CBM	3	17	PM
U/S	Pottery	1	7	PM
1003	Slag	2	20	PM
1007	CBM	5	5	PM
TOTAL		11	49	

Table 1: Quantification of Finds by Context

5.2 POST-MEDIEVAL CERAMICS

- 5.2.1 A single sherd of post-medieval pottery, weighing 7g, was recovered from deposit (U/S).
- 5.2.2 The fragment comprises a body sherd of coarse red earthenware with a reddish dark brown manganese glaze. The fragment is of likely 19th century date.
- 5.2.3 No further analysis is recommended on the post-medieval ceramic assemblage.

5.3 CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

- 5.3.1 A total of eight fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 22g, were recovered from deposits (104) and (1007) (Table 1).
- 5.3.2 The artefacts are very abraded and no diagnostic fragments were evident.
- 5.3.3 The artefacts are likely of post-medieval date. No further analysis is recommended.

5.4 SLAG

5.4.1 A total of two fragments of slag, weighing 20g, were recovered from deposit (1003).

5.4.2 The slag artefacts likely comprise remnants from industrial furnace (charcoal / cinder) activities and the artefacts are likely of post-medieval date.

5.4.3 No further analysis is recommended.

5.5 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

5.5.1 While the artefacts provide dating evidence for deposits (104) (204) (1003) and (1007), the small finds assemblage does not add any significant information to the archaeological nature of the site.

5.5.2 It is recommended that the finds are not retained with the archive.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY

6.1 INTRODUCTION

6.1.1 During the course of the evaluation attention three bulk soil samples were taken in order to understand the nature of the organic fill within trench 10. It was suggested that this feature was an infilled pond. However, the supervising archaeologist was concerned that this feature may have been an archaeological feature, or at least heavily influenced by anthropogenic activity. Therefore samples were taken in order to assess the condition, nature, character and quality of the environmental archive preserved within this sediment.

6.2 ARCHAEOBOTANCIAL ANALYSIS

6.2.1 During the course of the evaluation eight soil samples were collected by the excavation team. This consisted of c. 50 litres of sediment from two separate contexts; two 20-litre samples from **(1007)** and a 10-litre sample from **(1008)**. The results of the analysis is summarised in Table 2.

6.2.2 The samples were taken in order to understand the levels of preservation which might be encountered during future excavation at the site, but more specifically to assess the anthropogenic input into these features (English Heritage 2011). Though preservation of organic remains was excellent, particularly in the lower fill of **(1007)**, it was not felt that at this time a full palaeoecological study would be undertaken at the evaluation assessment stage. The methodology employed required that the whole earth samples be broken down and split into their various different components: the flot/washover, the retent/residue, the clay-silt and the sand-silt. Two of the samples were soaked in water in order to break down the organic silty deposit, then manually flotted and sieved through a 'Siraf' style flotation tank. In this case the residue and the flot are retained while the sand-silt-clay components are filtered out. The sample was flotted into a 250-micron geological sieve, while the heavy residue was retained within a 1mm plastic mesh. The heavy residue was then air-dried and sorted by eye for any material that may aid our understanding of the deposit; in particular artefactual and ecofactual material. The residue samples were also scanned with a hand magnet to retrieve forms of magnetic material. This was done to retrieve residues of metallurgical activity, in particular hammer scale, spheroid hammer scale. Processing procedures and nomenclature follows the conventions set out by the Archaeological Datasheets of the Historical Metallurgical Society (Bayley et al. 2008).

6.2.3 The washover flot was dried slowly and scanned at x60 magnification for charred and uncharred botanical remains. Identification of these was undertaken by comparison with modern reference material held in the Environmental Laboratory at Wardell-Armstrong Archaeology and by reference to relevant literature (Cappers et al. 2010) and (Jacomet 2006). Plant taxonomic nomenclature follows Stace

(2010). The rich organic sediment was **(1007)** was visually examined, with a smaller samples examined wet under a microscope.

6.3 ASSESSMENT OF THE ORGANIC DEPOSITS

6.3.1 The material from **(1008)** produced very low quantities of remains. The small numbers of seeds included sun-spurge, brambleberry, rush seeds, knotgrass and goosefoots. In contrast the sample from **(1007)** was dominated by seed of rush and a Pepperwort species (*Lepidium* sp.). The thousands of rush seeds suggest that in its later stages the feature was a boggy or waterlogged area. In contrast the material from a lower fill of **(1007)** was dominated by twigs and preserved leaf litter. The preserved layers of leaves suggest that this was an area of open water, or possibly a wet carr landscape, which was gradually being infilled by organic matter. This sequence of vegetation succession suggests that an area of open, and generally dry, land became increasingly wet, with greater tree cover, and eventually lead to the later boggy, rush dominated ground, which was then infilled (as discussed in paragraph 4.2.6). A geographic explanation for this succession might be quite specific to this site, and dependant on changes to local topography or hydrology.

6.3.2 Magnetic material was not present, nor any other artefactual material.

6.4 CONCLUSIONS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY

6.4.1 In general the conclusions from the archaeobotanical analysis point to the organic deposits **(1007)** and **(1008)** as being naturally occurring deposits which were later infilled by anthropogenic activity.

6.4.2 Though no further work is recommended at this time the high levels of organic preservation, and the presence of thick organic deposits across this area of the site should be borne in mind should further archaeological work be undertaken at this site.

Sample	1	2
Context	1007	1008
Feature Type	Pond	Pond
Volume processed (litres)	20	10
<u>Flot matrix (relative abundance)</u>		
Charcoal		
Insect remains	1	
Herbaceous plant material	3	3
<u>Other plant remains (relative abundance)</u>		
<i>Chenopodioideae</i> (goosefoots) cf. <i>Atriplex</i> sp.?		B
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i> (Sun spurge)		A
<i>Juncus</i> cf. <i>efusus</i>	E+	C
<i>Lepidium</i> species	D+	B
<i>Polygonum</i> sp (knotweed)		A
<i>Ranunculus subsp ranunculus</i>	?A	
<i>Rubus</i> spp. (brambleberry family)		A
Unidentified sp.		

Table 2: Results of the Archaeobotanical Analysis

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1.1 During the archaeological field evaluation at land on Garstang Road East, Poulton – le – Fylde, Lancashire, 14 trenches were excavated over three separate areas, covering 583.6m² of the proposed c.10ha development area. The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains within the vicinity, 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.
- 7.1.2 Trenches 3 – 9 and 11 were devoid of any archaeological features or deposits. Archaeological evidence was observed in Trenches 1, 2 and 10 – 14. The feature observed within Trench 1 was a curvilinear gully that appeared to be part of a roundhouse and probably associated with a Romano-British settlement that had been previously been excavated by OAN in 2010 in the same part of field, to the west. Trench 2 was also in the same part of the field and the single feature within it comprised of a wide ditch that appeared to be the continuation of an enclosure ditch that was between enclosures B and C of the Romano-British settlement (OAN 2010).
- 7.1.3 The archaeological evidence in trench 10 consist of an in-filled feature that although its exact function was uncertain. Its size and extent were not completely revealed at this stage, however, the environmental assessment of the samples from this feature suggests this was a natural feature which does not contain anthropogenically derived material. There was a single shallow gully and a probable boundary ditch observed in trenches 12 and 13 respectively. Trench 14 was located near the top of a hill and contained three ditches of which one or possibly two may have been part of an enclosure and the third appeared to be a field boundary. There were two gullies that may be indicative of former roundhouses and may be associated with the probable enclosure ditches.
- 7.1.4 The results obtained during the present evaluation, and from previous archaeological investigations suggest that the area to the east of the Romano-British settlement was not intensively used in the past other than for agricultural purposes except for the area around trench 14 that is likely to have been the focus for another enclosed settlement of likely Romano-British date. The settlement itself did not appear to extend further than previously recorded.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Trench
(100)	Deposit	Topsoil	1
(101)	Deposit	Subsoil	1
(102)	Deposit	Natural	1
[103]	Cut	Linear feature (modern) = [205]	1
(104)	Deposit	Fill of [103] = (206)	1
[105]	Cut	Ring gully / curvilinear	1
(106)	Deposit	Fill of [105]	1
(200)	Deposit	Topsoil	2
(201)	Deposit	Subsoil	2
(202)	Deposit	Natural	2
[203]	Cut	Ditch	2
(204)	Deposit	Fill of [203]	2
[205]	Cut	Linear feature (modern) = [103]	2
(206)	Deposit	Fill of [205] = (104)	2
(300)	Deposit	Topsoil	3
(301)	Deposit	Subsoil	3
(302)	Deposit	Natural	3
(400)	Deposit	Topsoil	4
(401)	Deposit	Subsoil	4
(402)	Deposit	Natural	4
(500)	Deposit	Topsoil	5
(501)	Deposit	Subsoil	5
(502)	Deposit	Natural	5
(600)	Deposit	Topsoil	6
(601)	Deposit	Subsoil	6
(602)	Deposit	Natural	6
(700)	Deposit	Topsoil	7
(701)	Deposit	Subsoil	7
(702)	Deposit	Natural	7
(800)	Deposit	Topsoil	8
(801)	Deposit	Subsoil	8
(802)	Deposit	Natural	8
(900)	Deposit	Topsoil	9
(901)	Deposit	Subsoil	9
(902)	Deposit	Natural	9
(1000)	Deposit	Topsoil	10
(1001)	Deposit	Subsoil	10
(1002)	Deposit	Natural	10

(1003)	Deposit	Upper fill of [1010]	10
(1004)	Deposit	2 nd fill of [1010]	10
(1005)	Deposit	3 rd fill of [1010]	10
(1006)	Deposit	4 th fill of [1010]	10
(1007)	Deposit	5 th fill of [1010]	10
(1008)	Deposit	6 th fill of [1010]	10
(1009)	Deposit	Sand layer below (1002)	10
[1010]	Cut	Pond feature	10
(1100)	Deposit	Topsoil	11
(1101)	Deposit	Subsoil	11
(1102)	Deposit	Natural	11
(1200)	Deposit	Topsoil	12
(1201)	Deposit	Subsoil	12
(1202)	Deposit	Natural	12
[1203]	Cut	Narrow gully	12
(1204)	Deposit	Fill of [1203]	12
(1300)	Deposit	Topsoil	13
(1301)	Deposit	Subsoil	13
(1302)	Deposit	Fill of [1303]	13
[1303]	Cut	Shallow linear	13
(1304)	Deposit	Natural	13
(1400)	Deposit	Topsoil	14
(1401)	Deposit	Subsoil	14
(1402)	Deposit	Natural	14
[1403]	Cut	Shallow ditch	14
(1404)	Deposit	Fill of [1403]	14
[1405]	Cut	Possible ring gully	14
(1406)	Deposit	Fill of [1405]	14
[1407]	Cut	Gully terminus	14
(1408)	Deposit	Fill of [1407]	14
[1409]	Cut	Shallow ditch terminus	14
(1410)	Deposit	Fill of [1409]	14
[1411]	Cut	Ditch	14
(1412)	Deposit	Fill of [1411]	14

Table 3: List of Contexts issued during Evaluation

APPENDIX 2: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

Width: 1.60m

Length: 15m

Maximum Depth: 0.55m

Minimum Depth: 0.35m

OS Co-ordinates: 336022 439296
(Easting, Northing)

336023 439280

TOPSOIL:	LIGHT BROWN	SOFT	SILTY SAND	Depth:	0.20m
SUBSOIL:	LIGHT ORANGE BROWN	SOFT	SILT	Depth:	0.20m
NATURAL:	MID ORANGE	FRIABLE	SANDY CLAY	Depth:	N/A

Description of any features

A narrow ring gully [105]/(106) was observed near the centre of the trench along its western edge.

Trench 2

Width: 1.60m

Length: 16m

Maximum Depth: 0.45m

Minimum Depth: 0.36m

OS Co-ordinates: 336009 439315
(Easting, Northing)

336024 439317

TOPSOIL:	LIGHT BROWN	SOFT	SILTY SAND	Depth:	0.15m
SUBSOIL:	LIGHT ORANGE BROWN	SOFT	SILT	Depth:	0.20m
NATURAL:	MID ORANGE	FRIABLE	SANDY CLAY	Depth:	N/A

Description of any features

A wide ditch [205]/(206) was observed in the western side of the trench.

Trench 3

Width: 1.60m

Length: 30m

Maximum Depth: 0.60m

Minimum Depth: 0.19m

OS Co-ordinates: 336034 439302
(Easting, Northing)

336058 439319

TOPSOIL:	LIGHT BROWN	SOFT	SANDY SILT	Depth:	0.12m
SUBSOIL:	LIGHT ORANGE BROWN	FIRM	SILT	Depth:	0.20m
NATURAL:	LIGHT ORANGE	FIRM	SANDY CLAY	Depth:	N/A

Description of any features

No Archaeological features present.

Trench 4**Width:** 1.60m**Length:** 30m**Maximum Depth:** 0.50m**Minimum Depth:** 0.30m**OS Co-ordinates:**

336029 439336

(Easting, Northing)

336059 439347

TOPSOIL:	LIGHT BROWN	SOFT	SANDY SILT	Depth:	0.15m
SUBSOIL:	LIGHT ORANGE BROWN	FIRM	SILT	Depth:	0.30m
NATURAL:	LIGHT ORANGE	FIRM	SANDY CLAY	Depth:	N/A

Description of any features

No Archaeological features present.

Trench 5**Width:** 1.60m**Length:** 30m**Maximum Depth:** 0.50m**Minimum Depth:** 0.30m**OS Co-ordinates:**

336050 439368

(Easting, Northing)

336060 439340

TOPSOIL:	LIGHT BROWN	SOFT	SANDY SILT	Depth:	0.20m
SUBSOIL:	LIGHT ORANGE/BROWN	FIRM	SILT	Depth:	0.30m
NATURAL:	LIGHT ORANGE	FRIABLE	SANDY CLAY	Depth:	N/A

Description of any features

No Archaeological features present.

Trench 6**Width:** 1.60m**Length:** 30m**Maximum Depth:** 0.50m**Minimum Depth:** 0.45m**OS Co-ordinates:**

335999 439342

(Easting, Northing)

336029 439349

TOPSOIL:	LIGHT BROWN	FRIABLE	SANDY SILT	Depth:	0.15m
SUBSOIL:	LIGHT ORANGE BROWN	COMPACT	SANDY CLAY	Depth:	0.35m
NATURAL:	MID YELLOW/ORANGE	COMPACT	CLAY	Depth:	N/A

Description of any features

No Archaeological features present.

Trench 7**Width:** 1.60m**Length:** 30m**Maximum Depth:** 0.50m**Minimum Depth:** 0.45m**OS Co-ordinates:**

336014 439346

(Easting, Northing)

336011 439361

TOPSOIL:	LIGHT BROWN	FRIABLE	SANDY SILT	Depth:	0.15m
SUBSOIL:	MID BROWN	COMPACT	SANDY CLAY	Depth:	0.35m
NATURAL:	MID YELLOW/ORANGE	COMPACT	CLAY	Depth:	N/A

Description of any features

No Archaeological features present.

Trench 8**Width:** 1.60m**Length:** 30m**Maximum Depth:** 0.50m**Minimum Depth:** 0.45m**OS Co-ordinates:**

335945 439359

(Easting, Northing)

335949 439329

TOPSOIL:	LIGHT BROWN	FRIABLE	SANDY SILT	Depth:	0.20m
SUBSOIL:	MID BROWN	COMPACT	SANDY CLAY	Depth:	0.20m
NATURAL:	MID ORANGE	COMPACT	CLAY	Depth:	N/A

Description of any features

No Archaeological features present.

Trench 9**Width:** 1.60m**Length:** 15m**Maximum Depth:** 0.35m**Minimum Depth:** 0.32m**OS Co-ordinates:**

336070 439295

(Easting, Northing)

336085 439297

TOPSOIL:	LIGHT GREY	FIRM	HARDCORE/RUBBLE	Depth:	0.20m
SUBSOIL:	MID RED/BROWN	FRIABLE	SILTY SAND CLAY	Depth:	0.15m
NATURAL:	MID RED/YELLOW	FRIABLE	SANDY CLAY	Depth:	N/A

Description of any features

No Archaeological features present.

Trench 10

Width: 1.60m

Length: 30m

Maximum Depth: 0.67m

Minimum Depth: 0.30m

OS Co-ordinates: 336154 439364

(Easting, Northing)

336184 439362

TOPSOIL:	LIGHT BROWN	SOFT	SANDY SILT	Depth:	0.12m
SUBSOIL:	LIGHT ORANGE BROWN	FIRM	SILT	Depth:	0.30m
NATURAL:	LIGHT ORANGE	FIRM	SANDY CLAY	Depth:	N/A

Description of any features

Pond feature [1010]/(1003)/(1004)/(1005)/(1006)/(1007)/(1008) located in the western end of the trench.

Trench 11

Width: 1.60m

Length: 30m

Maximum Depth: 0.50m

Minimum Depth: 0.46m

OS Co-ordinates: 336222 439348

(Easting, Northing)

336252 439348

TOPSOIL:	MID BROWN/GREY	LOOSE	SANDY CLAY	Depth:	0.15m
SUBSOIL:	MID REDDISH BROWN	FIRM	SANDY CLAY	Depth:	0.30m
NATURAL:	MID YELLOW/ORANGE	FIRM	SANDY CLAY	Depth:	N/A

Description of any features

No Archaeological features present.

Trench 12

Width: 1.60m

Length: 30m

Maximum Depth: 0.55m

Minimum Depth: 0.35m

OS Co-ordinates: 336234 439414

(Easting, Northing)

336256 439393

TOPSOIL:	LIGHT BROWN	SOFT	SANDY SILT	Depth:	0.10m
SUBSOIL:	LIGHT ORANGE BROWN	FIRM	SILT	Depth:	0.23m
NATURAL:	LIGHT ORANGE	FIRM	SANDY CLAY	Depth:	N/A

Description of any features

There was a small gully [1203]/(1204) located near the centre of the trench.

Trench 13**Width:** 1.60m**Length:** 30m**Maximum Depth:** 0.42m**Minimum Depth:** 0.25m**OS Co-ordinates:** 336166 439465**(Easting, Northing)**

336196 439465

TOPSOIL:	LIGHT BROWN	FRIABLE	SANDY SILT	Depth:	0.20m
SUBSOIL:	LIGHT ORANGE BROWN	SOFT	SANDY SILT	Depth:	0.20m
NATURAL:	MID ORANGE	FRIABLE	CLAY	Depth:	N/A

Description of any features

A shallow ditch [1303]/(1304) was observed near the centre of the trench.

Trench 14**Width:** 1.60m**Length:** 30m**Maximum Depth:** 0.60m**Minimum Depth:** 0.35m**OS Co-ordinates:** 336142 439492**(Easting, Northing)**

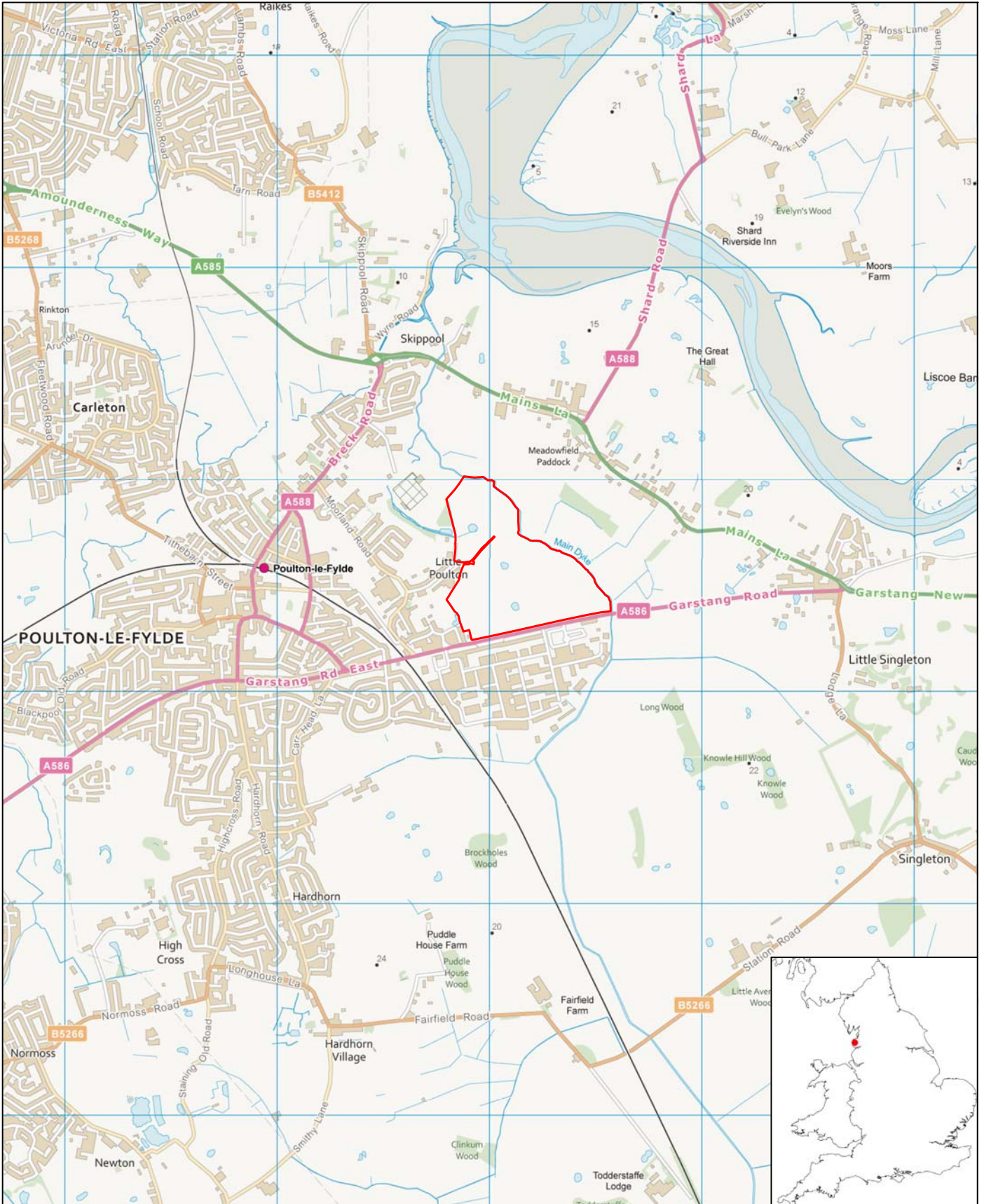
336172 439492

TOPSOIL:	LIGHT BROWN	SOFT	SANDY SILT	Depth:	0.13m
SUBSOIL:	LIGHT ORANGE BROWN	FIRM	SILT	Depth:	0.20m
NATURAL:	LIGHT ORANGE	FRIABLE	SANDY CLAY	Depth:	N/A

Description of any features

There were two ditches, [1403]/(1404) and [1409]/(1410) observed on the western side of the trench of which the former may have been part of an enclosure and the latter was a shallower field boundary. There were two gullies, [1407]/(1408) and [1405]/(1406) located near the centre and may have been roundhouses. At the eastern side of the trench, there was a second shallow ditch [1411]/(1412).

APPENDIX 3: FIGURES






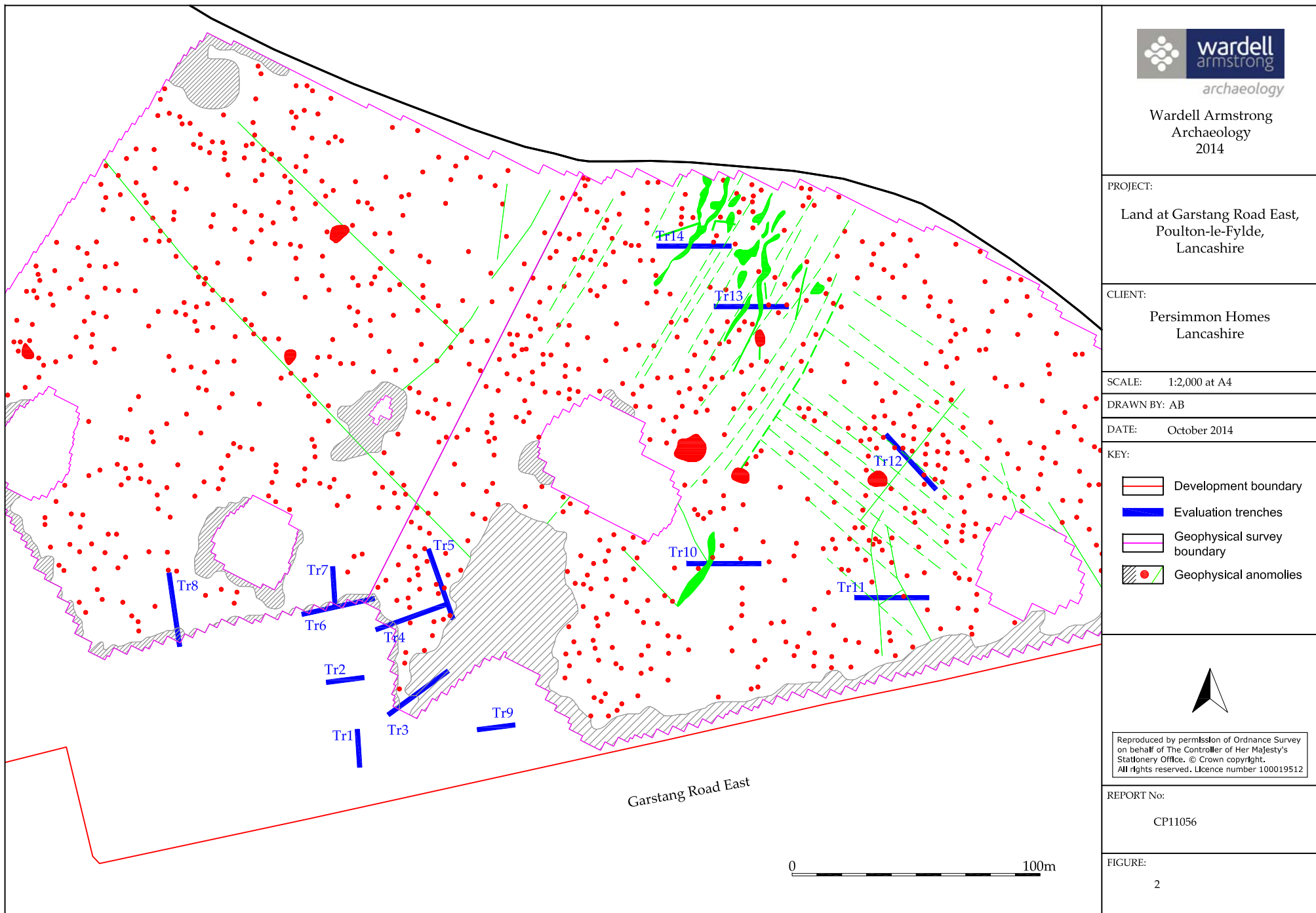
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Figure 1: Site location.



Wardell Armstrong
Archaeology
2014





PROJECT:
Land at Garstang Road East,
Poulton-le-Fylde,
Lancashire

CLIENT:
Persimmon Homes
Lancashire

SCALE: 1:2,000 at A4

DRAWN BY: AB

DATE: October 2014

- KEY:
-  Development boundary
 -  Evaluation trenches
 -  Geophysical survey boundary
 -  Geophysical anomalies



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REPORT No:
CP11056

FIGURE:
2

Figure 2: Location evaluation trenches showing targeted geophysical anomalies.

PROJECT:

Land on Garstang Road East,
Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire

CLIENT:





Persimmon Homes Lancashire

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DRAWN BY: AB & HP

DATE: October 2014

KEY:

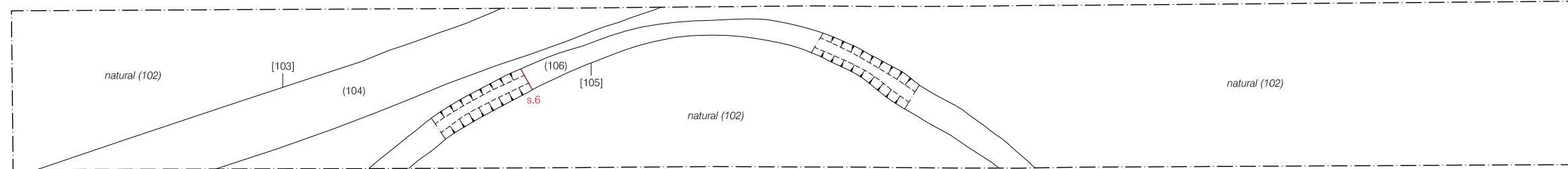
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-  Height mAOD
-  Section location
-  Limit of excavation

REPORT No:

CP11056

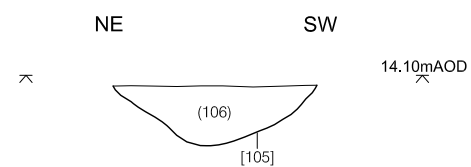
FIGURE:

3



Trench 1. Plan.

0 2m



Section 6. North-west facing section
across gully [105].

0 0,5m

Figure 3: Trench 1; plan and section.

PROJECT:

Land on Garstang Road East,
Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire

CLIENT:





Persimmon Homes Lancashire

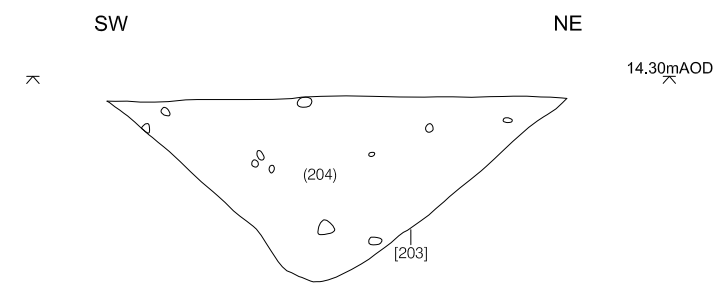
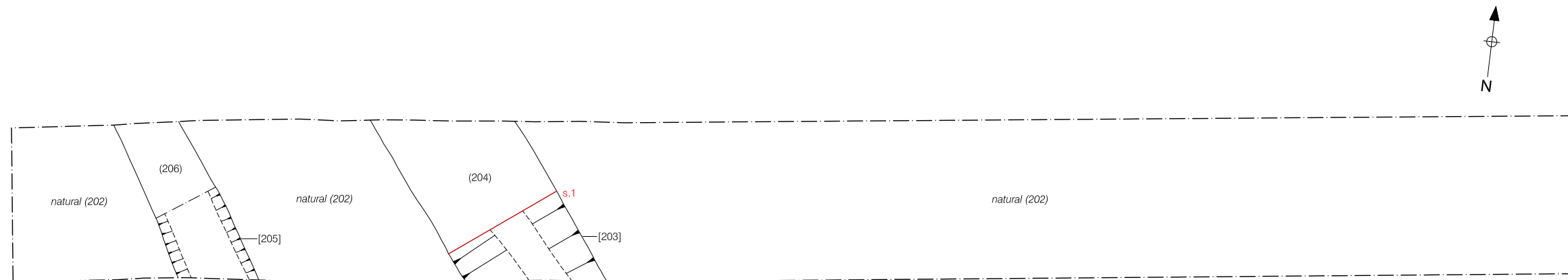
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DRAWN BY: AB & HP

DATE: October 2014

KEY:

-  Context number
-  Height mAOd
-  Section location
-  Limit of excavation



REPORT No:

CP11056

FIGURE:

4

Figure 4: Trench 2; plan and section.

PROJECT:

Land on Garstang Road East,
Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire

CLIENT:




Persimmon Homes Lancashire

SCALE: Plan 1:50/Section 1:20 at A3

DRAWN BY: AB & HP

DATE: October 2014

KEY:

- (101) Context number
-  Height mAOD
-  Section location
-  Limit of excavation

REPORT No:

CP11056

FIGURE:

5

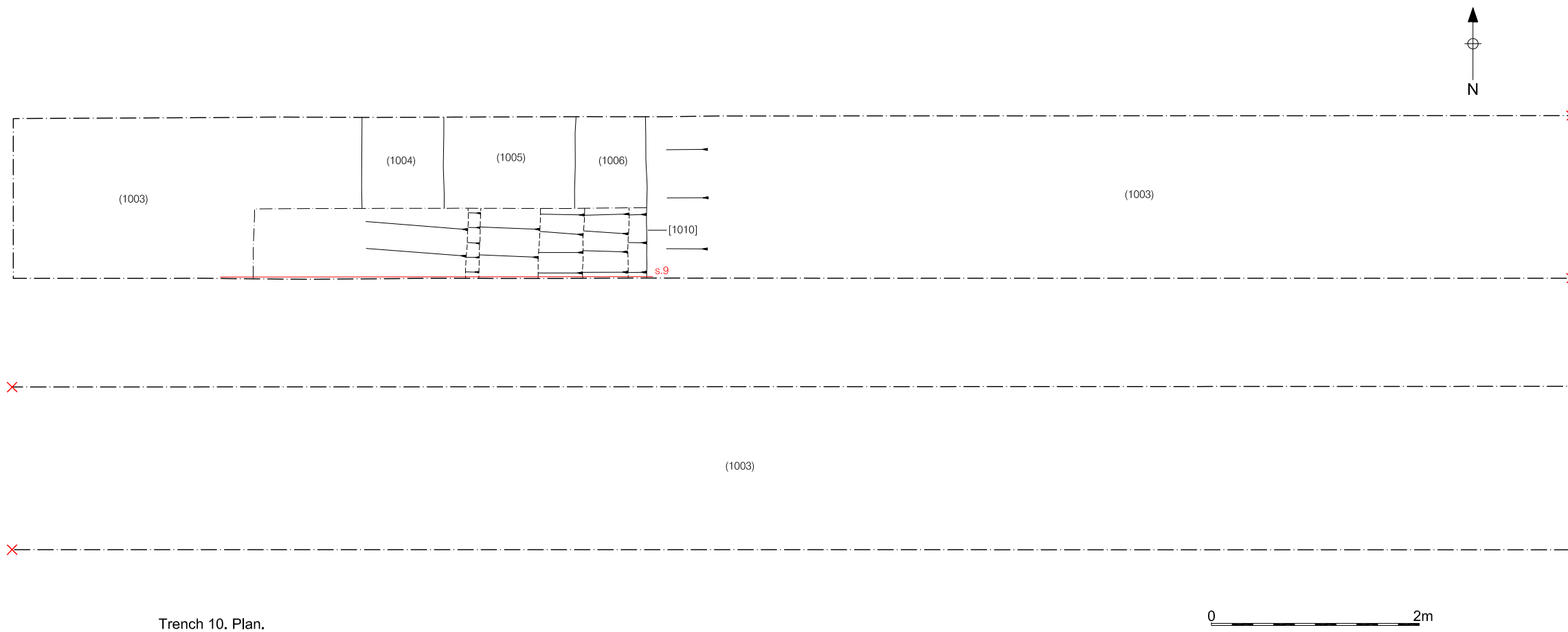


Figure 5: Trench 10; plan and section.

PROJECT:

Land on Garstang Road East,
Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire

CLIENT:




Persimmon Homes Lancashire

SCALE: Plan 1:50/Section 1:10 at A3

DRAWN BY: AB & HP

DATE: October 2014

KEY:

- (101) Context number
-  Height mAOD
-  Section location
-  Limit of excavation

REPORT No:

CP11056

FIGURE:

6

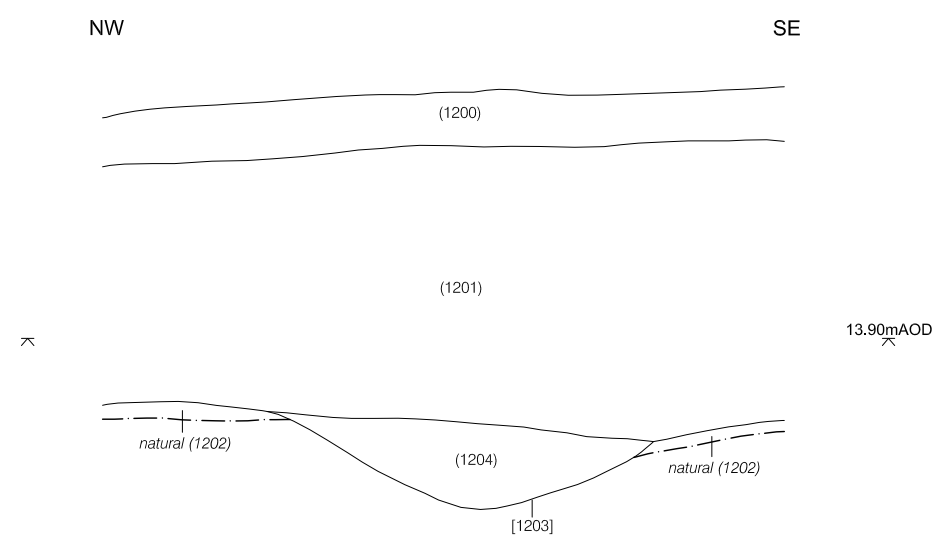
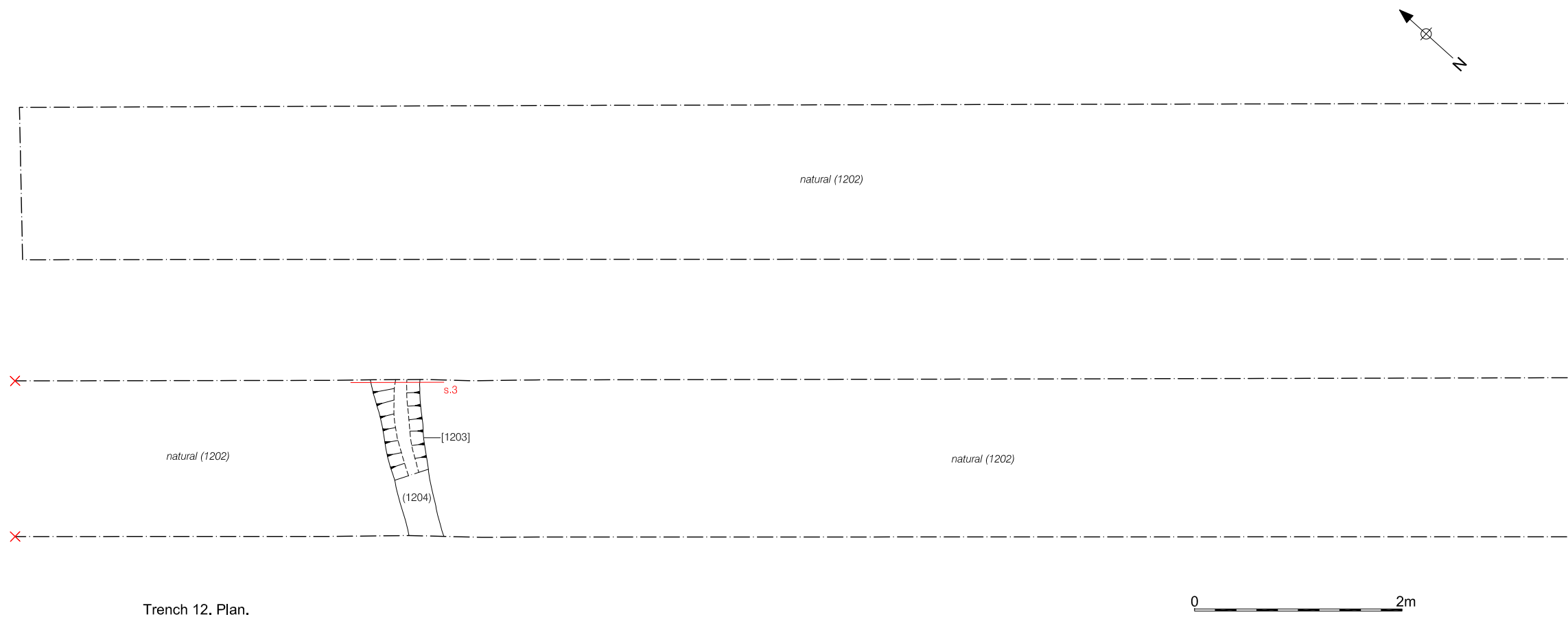


Figure 6: Trench 12; plan and section.

PROJECT:

Land on Garstang Road East,
Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire

CLIENT:

Persimmon Homes Lancashire

SCALE: Plan 1:50/Section 1:20 at A3

DRAWN BY: AB & HP

DATE: October 2014

KEY:

- (101) Context number
- Height mAOD
- Section location
- Limit of excavation

REPORT No:

CP11056

FIGURE:

7

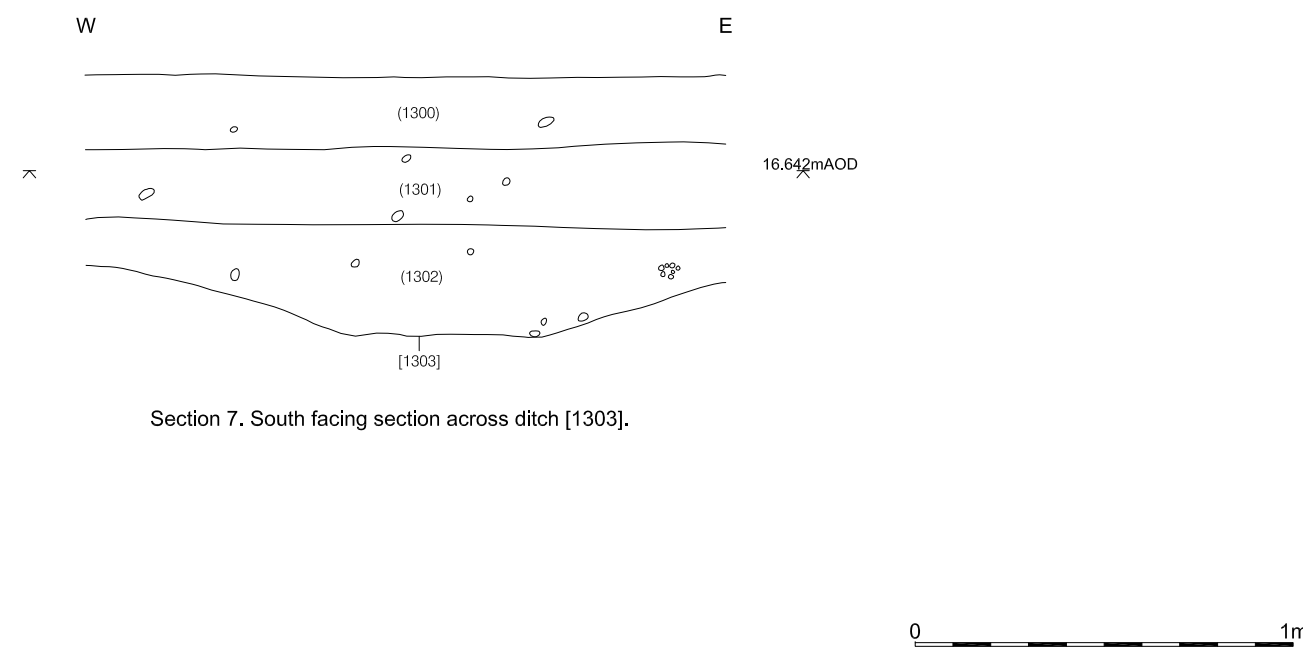


Figure 7: Trench 13; plan and section.

PROJECT:
Land on Garstang Road East,
Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire

CLIENT:
Persimmon Homes Lancashire

SCALE: Plan 1:50/Section 1:20 at A3

DRAWN BY: AB & HP

DATE: October 2014

KEY:

- (101) Context number
- Height mAOD
- Section location
- Limit of excavation

REPORT No:
CP11056

FIGURE:
8

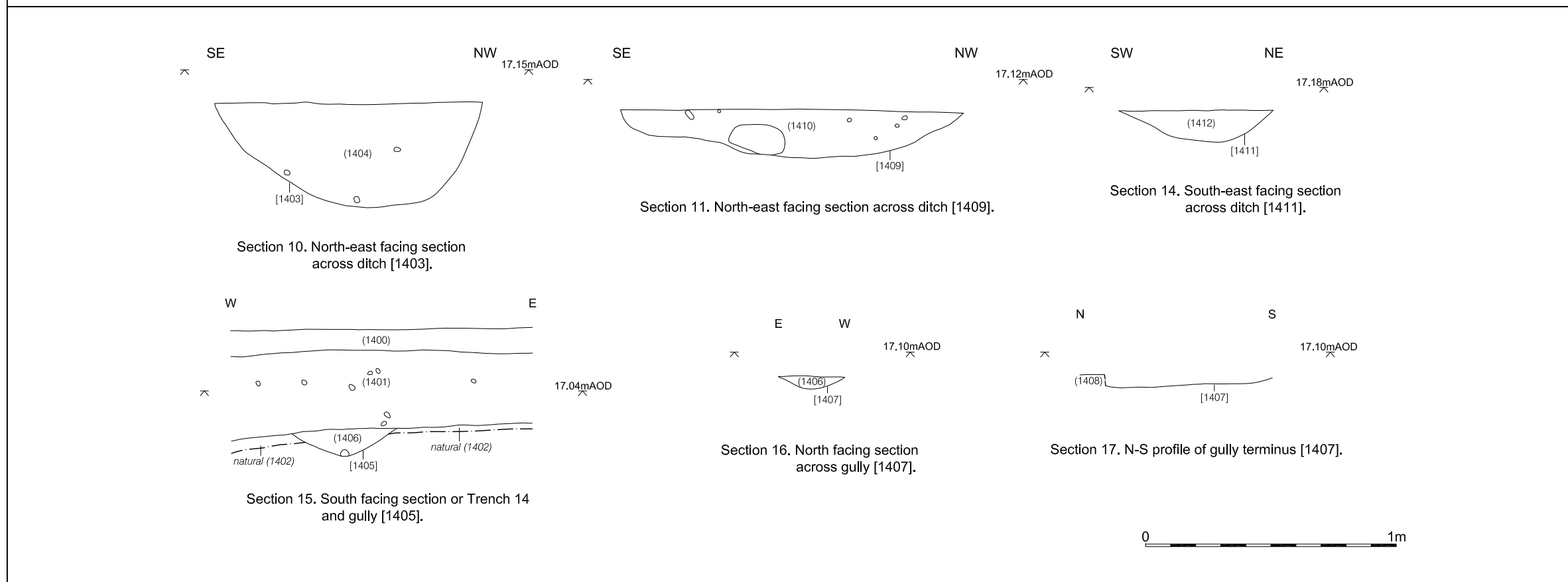
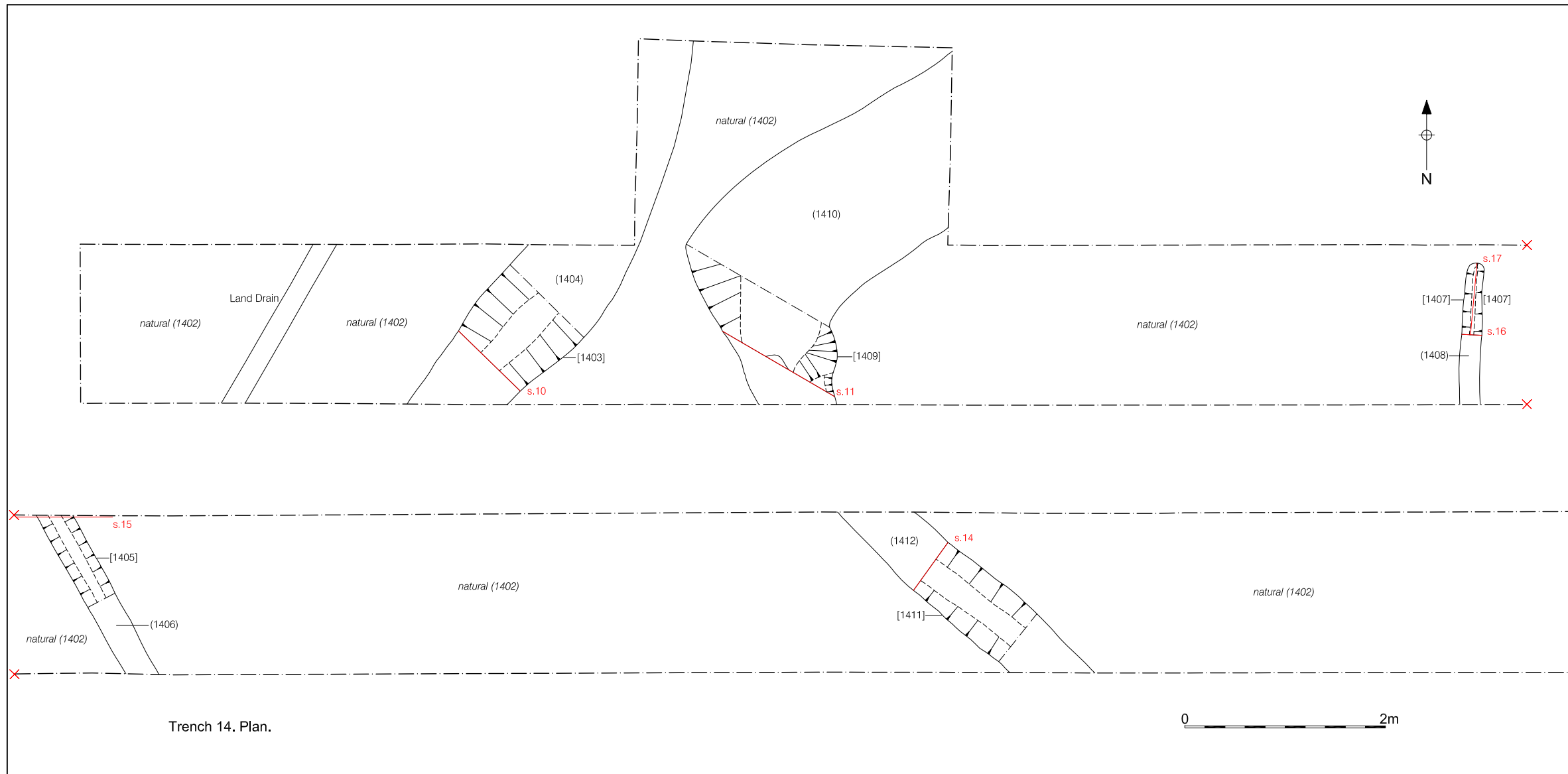


Figure 8: Trench 14; plan and sections.