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AD418

Centurion Park,
Wallsend
North Tyneside

Archaeological Evaluation
Phase 1

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Commissioned by	Bellway Homes
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AD Archaeology was commissioned by Bellway Homes to undertake archaeological evaluation trenching at Centurion Park, Wallsend in advance of a proposed housing development. The evaluation work will be undertaken in two phases. The first phase of trenching (Phase 1), the results of which are reported on in this document, has been undertaken prior to determination of the planning application. Trenches excavated in Phase 1 were located in the north-east quadrant (Trenches 1-4), the south-east quadrant (Field 1, Trenches 5-8) and the south-west quadrant (Field 2, Trenches 9-12) of the site. The Phase 2 evaluation trenches will be excavated in the area of a driving range in the north-west quadrant of the site (Trenches 13-18) and will be undertaken at a later date, subsequent to determination of planning permission and reported on separately.

The first phase of evaluation trenching was undertaken in week commencing 21st November 2022. Two curvilinear features (603 & 605) representing wall slots from a sub-circular structure, probably from either a roundhouse or a fenced enclosure, were identified in Trench 6 (Field 1). The wall slots have the characteristics of prehistoric structural features. No other significant archaeological features were located in the remaining trenches in Field 1, or those in Field 2 to the west. It is unlikely that the sub-circular structure located in Trench 6 was an isolated feature. Further work in the form of a strip and record excavation in this area of Field 1 would be an appropriate mitigation strategy, with the aim being to record the nature, form and extent of the putative settlement activity.

In the north-east quadrant of the site poorly surviving remains of two terraced rows of miners' houses (Cross Row and Low Row) were located in Trenches 3 and 4. A number of lengths of wall foundation and some areas of flooring and internal features survived in between services and other areas of disturbance. It is clear that the construction of Wallsend Sports Club in the 20th century has impacted significantly on these two terraced rows, and in light of this no further work is recommended in relation to these structures.

Trench 2 was sited to investigate Coxlodge Waggonway that ran north-west/south-east through the area of the site. Remains of compacted trackbeds and working surfaces were encountered in Trench 2. The trench was located in an area which included sidings to the west of the main line of the waggonway, the latter probably running north-west/south-east through the eastern end of the trench. At the eastern end of the trench a 2.20m wide concrete surface (205) was located overlying the trackbed/working surfaces. This was oriented north-west/south-east and is likely to represent a surface associated with an electric tramway (1901-30) and/or subsequent bus route (1930-1975 run by the Tyneside Omnibus Company), which re-utilised the line of the Coxlodge Waggonway. The concrete surface was 2.20m (7ft 2 inches) wide and the tramway had a 4ft 8 and a half inch gauge and was a single width line at this point. No trace of tram tracks was located, although they would

have presumably been removed or concreted over when the line was reused as a bus route. A modern east-west drainage gully 10m north of Trench 2 showed a wide deeply cut feature on the projected line of the waggonway suggesting that the original waggonway was set in a cutting at this point. The grassed area of the site to the north of the golf clubhouse was much disturbed by services and it was not possible to obtain a clear cross section across the different phases of the Coxlodge Waggonway. As post-determination mitigation a further attempt could be made to record the various iterations of the waggonway and its successors, with a trench sited in an area less heavily impacted upon by services.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Project

1.1.1 AD Archaeology was commissioned by Bellway Homes to undertake evaluation trenching in advance of a proposed housing development of land south of Wallsend Golf Course.

1.1.2 The evaluation work will be undertaken in two phases (Fig. 2). The first phase of trenching (Phase 1), the results of which are reported on in this document, has been undertaken prior to determination of the planning application. Trenches excavated in Phase 1 were located in the north-east quadrant (Trenches 1-4), the south-east quadrant (Trenches 5-8) and the south-west quadrant (Trenches 9-12) of the site. The Phase 2 evaluation trenches (blue on Fig. 2) will be excavated in the area of a driving range in the north-west quadrant of the site (Trenches 13-18) and will be undertaken at a later date, subsequent to determination of planning permission and reported on separately.

1.2 Location, Geology and Topography

1.3.1 The northern sector of the proposed development area is occupied by a clubhouse, driving range and a car park associated with Wallsend Golf Course. The southern sector of the site is occupied by former sport pitches comprising football pitches, tennis courts and a bowling green. The site is 10.35ha in area and is centred on NGR NZ 2868 6659.

1.4 Geology, Geomorphology and Topography

1.4.1 The site rests on the Upper Carboniferous Coal Measures which are overlain by an average of 10m thick glacial deposits belonging to the last (Late Devensian) glaciation. All earlier glacial and interglacial deposits were removed or recycled at this time. Within the Tyne valley, alluvial deposits of sand and gravel overlie these glacial deposits. The site is relatively flat and four areas of usage can be identified. The north-eastern sector of the site is occupied by the golf clubhouse and its associated car park which is accessed from Rheydt Avenue to the south. The north-western sector of the site is occupied by a golf driving range. The south-eastern sector is occupied by former sports facilities with playing fields, tennis courts and a bowling green at its southern end and a former pavilion in its north-west corner. The south-western sector was also formerly occupied by sports facilities with a synthetic surfaced football pitch on its eastern side.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric Period

2.1 The site lies within the Northumberland Coastal Plain, a landscape of widespread settlement and activity during the prehistoric period (Hodgson et al 2012).

2.2 A late Iron Age rectilinear enclosure (HER 16301) consisting of a ditched enclosure associated with a number of roundhouses was recorded during an evaluation at Station Road, Wallsend, 1.8km north of the site, by TWM in 2012 along with a prehistoric pit alignment (HER16300). Roman pottery recovered from the site suggests that the settlement continued in occupation into the Roman period. A pit alignment (HER 16300) consisting of individual pits and linear features was recorded during this evaluation running in an east to south-easterly direction. Similar pit alignments have been excavated elsewhere in the North-East many originating in the late Bronze Age. A subsequent area excavation of both the enclosure and pit alignment (which failed to identify the pit alignment) at Station Road was undertaken by Wardell Armstrong in 2015 and 2017.

Romano-British Period

2.3 The site lies 1.1km north-west of the Roman Fort at Segedunum, Wallsend (HER 198) and its civilian settlement or vicus and 900m to the north of the line of Hadrian's Wall. Late Iron Age enclosures in the vicinity may have continued into the Romano -British period as native settlements.

Early Medieval Period

2.4 No early medieval sites or finds have been recorded within the study area.

Medieval Period

2.5 In the medieval period the area of the site lay between settlements at Wallsend Village (HER 803) to the east and Little Benton to the west. Both these settlements are mentioned in documentary sources between the 11th-12th centuries. During the medieval period the area of the site is likely to have been in use as agricultural fields associated with the settlements at Wallsend and Little Benton.

Post-medieval Period

2.6 During the 18th-19th centuries the industrial revolution brought rapid and significant changes to this area of Tyneside. Wallsend and its staithes on the banks of the River Tyne were a focal point for the transport of coal supported by an infrastructure of waggonways connecting with the collieries.

2.7 Thomas Charles Bigge (1739–1794), who owned the area of the proposed development site, opened a colliery immediately north called Bigges Main Colliery in 1784 (HER 1133) around which the village of Bigges Main developed (Dodds 1930). He leased out his colliery in 1785 for 40 years during which three shafts were sunk, and rows of cottages for the miners were constructed. In 1809 the mine was abandoned when the High Main seam had been worked out. However the colliery was re-opened in 1836 to extract coal from the Low Main seam, but was finally closed in 1857 after flooding.

2.8 The Bigges Main pits (A & B Pits) (HER 1133) were linked by Bigges Main Waggonway (HER 1128) which initially consisted of a wooden waggonway linking in 1785-6 and then running south to staithes at the Tyne. The Bigges Main Waggonway ran north-south along, or adjacent to the eastern boundary of the development area. In 1797, the C Pit of Bigges Main Colliery was sunk. The Bigges Main Waggonway was extended north beyond its original northern end at C Pit to serve the Billy Pit, William Pit and Richard Pit which then connected to an extension of the Willington Waggonway by a line running west to east, originally laid as a wooden waggonway, being relaid in c.1808 with cast iron rails mounted on stone sleeper blocks when an end on connection was made with the newly laid Coxlodge Waggonway.

2.9 A stretch of the Coxlodge Waggonway (HER 1134) ran north-west/south-east through the north-eastern sector of the proposed development area. The earliest section opened in 1808, the latest in 1813. It was notable for the early use of iron rails, with locomotives using rack and pinion traction. Horses were still in use in 1817 in the eastern stretch, but steam engine locomotives were introduced shortly after this time. The part of the line from Gosforth Colliery to the river at Wallsend was closed in 1885 to be used again in 1901 as part of the route of the electric tramway from Gosforth to Wallsend laid down by the Tyneside Tramway Company, operating until 1930 (Turnbull 2019).

Victorian and Modern Period

2.10 Bigges Main village developed around Bigges Main Colliery, continuing in existence after the closure of the colliery in 1857. The village consisted of several rows of terrace houses constructed for the miners, two of which (Cross Row and Low Row) lie within the proposed development area. A Wesleyan Chapel (HER 7944) shown on the Ordnance Survey first edition map of 1865 had been converted into a school by 1897. In 1910 the village of Bigges Main, had a population of 690 with its own school (Bigges Main Church of England Junior School, which was closed in 1937) and a public house (the Mason's Arms). Most of the houses in the Bigges Main village were in use until the 1930s being demolished in the 1950s. The Mason's Arms (HER 17494) remained open until the early 1960s when it was demolished as part of the development of the area to form Wallsend Sports Centre.

Geophysical Survey

2.11 AD Archaeology undertook a geophysical survey in the southern half of the site in September 2022 (Muncaster 2022). Other than anomalies associated with terrace housing from the former mining village of Bigges Main, no anomalies indicative of any earlier significant archaeological features or settlement on the site were detected. Closely spaced parallel linear positive anomalies detected in Field 1 may represent a form of 19th century narrow ridge and furrow, possibly utilised later as field drainage for the playing field. A network of parallel strong parallel positive anomalies in Field 2 probably represents a land drainage system within the former playing field. The survey detected a number of other anomalies associated with the former playing fields that had been developed across the site including several buried services and the positions of former goalposts.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objective of the evaluation trenching was to establish the presence or absence of archaeological features on the site and to determine their nature, depth, importance and level of preservation.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General Methodology

4.1.1 The evaluation was carried out in compliance with all the relevant codes of practice by suitably qualified and experienced staff.

4.2 Excavation and Recording

4.2.1 The evaluation trench strategy was agreed with the County Archaeology Officer and was undertaken in accordance with a specification (Appendix 2).

5 RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION

Trenches in north-eastern sector of the site

5.1 Trench 1 (Fig 2)

5.1.1 Trench 1 was scheduled to be 20m by 1.5m, but services exposed at its eastern end meant that a 15m length of it was excavated to the level of the natural clay subsoil. The trench, which was oriented north-east/south-west (with a slight offset at its north-eastern end due to services) was located in the north-east corner of the site. The natural subsoil (102) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 1.05m BGL (31.20mAOD) and was overlain by a 0.15m deep brown sandy clay ploughsoil (101) and a 0.90m deep black loam topsoil (100). One 1.6m wide north-south furrow, filled with ploughsoil (101) was located at the south-western end of the trench. No significant archaeological features were recorded in the trench.

5.2 Trench 2 (Figs 2-4 & 8, Plates 1-4)

5.2.1 Trench 2 was 16m by 1.5m, oriented north-east/south-west and located immediately to the north of the golf clubhouse. Areas of former trackbed and associated working surfaces (206) were located through much of the trench. The trackbed/surfaces (206) consisted of compacted layers of coal fines containing occasional sandstone fragments, ash and crushed brick set in a black silty clay.

5.2.2 At south-western end of trench, cut through a trackbed/surface was a rectangular straight sided flat-based feature (202) 1.30m by 0.65m in size and 0.34m in depth. The rectangular feature (202) was filled with a compacted yellow sandy gravel and pebbles with lenses of coal and grey silty clay (213). Immediately to the east was a shallow irregular feature (204) up to 0.90m by 0.75m in size and 0.08m in depth. The feature (204) was filled with a grey silty clay with broken bricks laid to form a rough surface (203). Both features (202 and 204) were located in an area occupied by sidings with a line running north-west/south-east to join the main line of the waggonway, which probably ran north-west/south-east toward the north-eastern end of the trench. These features (202 and 204) may represent foundation pads in working areas adjacent to a track in the area of the siding.

5.2.3 At the south-western end of the trench overlying trackbed/surfaces 206 was a mixed layer of red ash, coal and grey silty clay with pebbles (209), 0.18m in depth and a metalled surface (207) 0.06m in depth. In the central area of the trench a sondage was excavated through these surfaces to the level of natural subsoil (201), which lay at 1.20m BGL (31.82mAOD). In the sondage beneath trackbed/surfaces (206) were accumulated layers of ash and black silty clays (210), 0.40m in depth, above a thin layer of brown sandy clay ploughsoil (212). To the north-east of the sondage overlying the trackbed/working surfaces (206) was a mixed layer of red ash, coal and grey silty clay with pebbles (208), 0.10m in depth and a further layer of

mixed ash and clays (211), 0.22m in depth.

5.2.4 Overlying layer (208) at the north-eastern end of the trench was a 2.20m wide north-west/south-east concrete surface (205) with occasional large sandstone fragments along its sides. The concrete surface (205) was 0.20m in depth and is likely to represent a former foundation associated with an electric tramway and subsequent bus route (see discussion section 6). The above layers were sealed by a black loam topsoil (200) 0.35-0.50m in depth.

5.2.5 A modern east-west drainage gully 10m north of Trench 2 showed a wide deeply cut feature on the projected line of the waggonway suggesting that the original waggonway was set in a cutting at this point (Figure 8 and Plate 4). A possible ditch on the eastern side of the line of the waggonway was also discernible in the section of the modern drainage gully.

5.3 Trench 3 (Figs 2 & 5; Plates 5-7)

5.3. Trench 3, which was oriented north-east/south-west and 8m by 1.5m in size was located to the north of the golf clubhouse. In the eastern half of the trench remains of a length of the eastern wall of a NNW-SSE row of miners' houses (Cross Row) was located. A 0.36m wide (14 inches) NNW-SSE brick wall foundation (301) was located, constructed from bricks, 10 by 4 by 3 inches in size set in a white mortar. Immediately to the west of the wall (301) was a poured yellow-brown concrete floor surface (302). This was traced for a distance of 1.70m to the point at which the trench was disturbed by a number of services. To the east of wall 301 was a compacted layer of concrete and brick fragments (303) representing a foundation for an external surface. The remains (301-3 at 32.50mAOD) of the terraced house, were sealed by a 0.52m deep black loam topsoil (300).

5.4 Trench 4 (Figs 2 & 6; Plates 8-11)

5.4.1 Trench 4 was 15m by 1.5-3m wide, oriented north-west/south-east and located to the south of the golf clubhouse. In the southern half of the trench remains of rooms from two houses from an ENE-WSW row of miner's houses (Low Row) were located. The southern wall (401) of the terraced row was located 2.2m from the southern end of the trench. The wall (401) survived to a height of three courses of bricks (0.30m), above a foundation course of bricks set on their edges. It (401) was 0.28m (11 inches) in width and was constructed from bricks, 10 by 4 by 3 inches in size set in a white mortar. At a distance of 4.60m to the north of wall 401 was the northern wall (403) of the terraced row, the building being a single room in width. The northern wall (403) survived only fragmentarily as a single course, with the northern end of the building being disturbed during the construction of Wallsend Sports Club (walls 413 & 414 and plinth 415) in the 20th century.

5.4.2 A NNW-SSE party wall (402) 4.60m in length, surviving as a single course of bricks, separated the rooms of the two houses. Opposing fireplaces were located in

the rooms, each being defined by two sets of stub walls (404/405 and 406/407), 0.60m in length, set 1m apart. All these brick walls (401-407) were 0.28m (11 inches) in width and were constructed from bricks, 10 by 4 by 3 inches in size set in a white mortar. The walls of the building were cut into, or constructed upon, mixed soils of brown sandy clay (410), up to 0.50m in depth, containing spreads of coal, and ash in places, overlying natural yellow clay (412) which was located at 30.90mAOD. To the south of the building was a small oval-pit (409) 0.90 by 0.60m in size and 0.22m deep, filled with grey clay (408) containing modern pottery.

5.4.3 The terraced row had been heavily disturbed by the construction of Wallsend Sports Club. A north-west/south-east brick wall (413) sitting on a concrete plinth (415) from this modern building was cut to a greater depth than the surviving remains of the miner's terraced row.

Field 1

5.5 Trench 5 (Fig 2)

5.5.1 Trench 5, which was 30m by 1.5m in size, was oriented north-west/south-east and located in the north-western area of Field 1. The natural subsoil (501) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.39m BGL (30.94mAOD). The natural subsoil (501) was overlain by a 0.39m deep grey loam topsoil (500). No significant archaeological features were recorded in the trench.

5.6 Trench 6 (Figs 2 & 7; Plates 12-16)

5.6.1 Trench 6, which was 30m by 1.5m in size, was oriented north-east/south-west and located in the north-eastern area of Field 1. The natural subsoil (601) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.34m BGL (30.20mAOD). The natural subsoil (601) was overlain by a 0.34m deep grey loam topsoil (600). Two curvilinear features (603 & 605) representing wall slots were identified forming part of a sub-circular structure. The structure was constructed in discontinuous segments with a 0.30m gap between the two curvilinear wall slots. Wall slot 605, which was cut by a field drain to the north, was traced for 1.40m to the point at which it terminated, 0.30m from wall slot 603. Wall slot 605, which was 0.24m wide and 0.14m in depth had steep concave sides and a flattish base. Wall slot 603 was traced for a distance of 4.20m to the point at which it terminated just before the northern baulk of the trench. Wall slot 603, which was 0.23m wide and 0.13m in depth had steep concave sides and a flattish base. The wall slots (603 & 605) form part of what is likely to have been a sub-circular structure, probably either a roundhouse or fenced enclosure. The wall slots have the characteristics of prehistoric structural features.

5.7 Trench 7 (Fig 2)

5.7.1 Trench 7, which was 30m by 1.5m in size, was oriented north-west/south-east and located in the south-eastern area of Field 1. The natural subsoil

(701) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.24m BGL (29.27mAOD). The natural subsoil (701) was overlain by a 0.24m deep grey loam topsoil (700). No significant archaeological features were recorded in the trench.

5.8 Trench 8 (Fig 2)

5.8.1 Trench 8, which was 30m by 1.5m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the southern area of Field 1. The natural subsoil (801) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.34m BGL (30.00mAOD). The natural subsoil (801) was overlain by a 0.34m deep grey loam topsoil (800). No significant archaeological features were recorded in the trench.

Field 2

5.9 Trench 9 (Fig 2)

5.9.1 Trench 9, which was 30m by 1.5m in size, was oriented north-west/south-east and located in the western area of Field 2. The natural subsoil (901) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.29m BGL (32.10mAOD). The natural subsoil (901) was overlain by a 0.29m deep grey loam topsoil (900). No significant archaeological features were recorded in the trench.

5.10 Trench 10 (Fig 2)

5.10.1 Trench 10, which was 30m by 1.5m in size, was oriented north-west/south-east and located in the central area of Field 2. The natural subsoil (1001) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.29m BGL (31.75mAOD). The natural subsoil (1001) was overlain by a 0.29m deep grey loam topsoil (1000). No significant archaeological features were recorded in the trench.

5.11 Trench 11 (Fig 2)

5.11.1 Trench 11, which was 30m by 1.5m in size, was oriented north-east/south-west and located in the south-western area of Field 2. The natural subsoil (1101) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.31m BGL (31.48mAOD). The natural subsoil (1101) was overlain by a 0.31m deep grey loam topsoil (1100). One 1.6m wide NNW-SSE furrow, filled with a brown sandy clay (1102) was located toward the centre of the trench. No significant archaeological features were recorded in the trench.

5.12 Trench 12 (Fig 2)

5.12.1 Trench 12, which was 30m by 1.5m in size, was oriented north-east/south-west and located in the south-eastern area of Field 2. The natural subsoil (1201) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.32m BGL (31.10mAOD). The natural subsoil (1201) was overlain by a 0.32m deep grey loam topsoil (1200). No significant archaeological features were recorded in the trench.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Evidence of probable prehistoric settlement activity was located in Trench 6. Two curvilinear features (603 & 605) representing wall slots from a sub-circular structure, probably from either a roundhouse or a fenced enclosure, were identified in Trench 6 (Field 1). The wall slots have the characteristics of prehistoric structural features. No other significant archaeological features were located in the remaining trenches in Field 1, or those in Field 2 to the west. It is unlikely that the sub-circular structure located in Trench 6 was an isolated feature. Further work in the form of a strip and record excavation in this area of Field 1 would be an appropriate mitigation strategy, with the aim being to record the nature, form and extent of the putative settlement activity.

6.2 In the north-east quadrant of the site poorly surviving remains of two terraced rows of miners' houses (Cross Row and Low Row) were located in Trenches 3 and 4. A number of lengths of wall foundation and some areas of flooring and internal features survived in between services and other areas of disturbance. It is clear that the construction of Wallsend Sports Club in the 20th century has impacted significantly on these two terraced rows, and in light of this no further work is recommended in relation to these structures.

6.3 Trench 2 was sited to investigate Coxlodge Waggonway that ran north-west/south-east through the area of the site. Remains of compacted trackbeds and working surfaces were encountered in Trench 2. The trench was located in an area which included sidings to the west of the main line of the waggonway, the latter probably running north-west/south-east through the eastern end of the trench. At the eastern end of the trench a 2.20m wide concrete surface (205) was located overlying the trackbed/working surfaces. This was oriented north-west/south-east and is likely to represent a surface associated with an electric tramway (1901-30) and/or subsequent bus route (1930-1975 run by the Tyneside Omnibus Company), which re-utilised the line of the Coxlodge Waggonway. The concrete surface was 2.20m (7ft 2 inches) wide and the tramway had a 4ft 8 and a half inch gauge and was a single width line at this point. No trace of tram tracks was located, although they would have presumably been removed or concreted over when the line was reused as a bus route. A modern drainage gully 10m north of Trench 2 showed a wide deeply cut feature close to the line of the waggonway suggesting that the original waggonway was set in a cutting at this point. The grassed area of the site to the north of the golf clubhouse was much disturbed by services and it was not possible to obtain a clear cross section across the different phases of the Coxlodge Waggonway. As post-determination mitigation a further attempt could be made to record the various iterations of the waggonway and its successors, with a trench sited in an area less heavily impacted upon by services.

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APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context	Depth	Description
100	0.90m	Trench 1 – Topsoil
101	0.15m	Trench 1 – Ploughsoil
102	-	Trench 1 – Natural subsoil
200	0.50m	Trench 2 – Topsoil
201	-	Trench 2 – Natural subsoil
202	0.34m	Trench 2 - Cut of rectangular feature
203	0.08m	Trench 2 – Fill of feature 204
204	0.08m	Trench 2 – Cut feature
205	0.20m	Trench 2 – Concrete foundation
206	0.20m	Trench 2 – Trackbed/surfaces
207	0.06m	Trench 2 – Metalled surface
208	0.10m	Trench 2- Layer
209	0.18m	Trench 2 - Layer
210	0.40m	Trench 2 – Layer
211	0.22m	Trench 2 – Layer
212	0.10m	Trench 2 - Ploughsoil
213	0.34m	Trench 2 – Fill of 202
300	0.52m	Trench 3- Topsoil
301	-	Trench 3- Wall foundation
302	-	Trench 3 - Floor surface
303	-	Trench 3 – Foundation
400	0.30m	Trench 4 – Topsoil
401	0.30m	Trench 4 – Wall
402	-	Trench 4 – Wall
403	-	Trench 4 – Wall
404	-	Trench 4 – Wall
405	-	Trench 4 – Wall
406	-	Trench 4 – Wall
407	-	Trench 4 – Wall
408	0.22m	Trench 4 – Fill of pit
409	0.22m	Trench 4 – Cut of pit
410	0.52m	Trench 4 – Layer
412	-	Trench 4 – Natural subsoil
413	0.50m	Trench 4 - Wall
414	0.50m	Trench 4 - Wall
415	-	Trench 4 - Plinth
500	0.39m	Trench 5 - Topsoil
501	-	Trench 5 – Natural subsoil
600	0.34m	Trench 6 - Topsoil
601	-	Trench 6 – Natural subsoil
602	0.13m	Trench 6 – Fill of wall slot
603	0.13m	Trench 6 – Cut of wall slot
604	0.14m	Trench 6 – Fill of wall slot

605	0.14m	Trench 6 – Cut of wall slot
700	0.24m	Trench 7 – Topsoil
701	-	Trench 7 – Natural subsoil
800	0.34m	Trench 8 – Topsoil
801	-	Trench 8 – Natural subsoil
900	0.29m	Trench 9 – Topsoil
901	-	Trench 9 – Natural subsoil
1000	0.29m	Trench 10 – Topsoil
1001	-	Trench 10 – Natural subsoil
1100	0.31m	Trench 11 – Topsoil
1101	-	Trench 11 – Natural subsoil
1200	0.32m	Trench 12 – Topsoil
1201	-	Trench 12 – Natural subsoil

APPENDIX 2 SPECIFICATION

Tyne and Wear Archaeology Service

Specification for Archaeological Trial Trenching at Centurion Park, Wallsend

Planning reference: 22/01122/FUL

TWAS reference: MON18480

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Introduction

The principles of this specification apply to archaeological fieldwork in Tyne and Wear including evaluation by trial trenching, excavation and archaeological monitoring (watching brief).

A Written Scheme of Investigation is not required for this work.

All fieldwork should be carried out to the relevant standards and guidance produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, and with reference to the wide range of specialist guidance produced by Historic England, in particular guidance on Archaeological Science and Surveying and Recording Heritage. An A-Z of Historic England guidance was published in 2018. Projects likely to involve the potential for environmental sampling and other scientific investigation should be discussed with the Historic England science advisor for the North East. If you are unsure which guidance applies, please contact the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer.

In addition, all fieldwork should be carried out in accordance with *Yorkshire, the Humber & the North East: a Regional Statement of Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process* (2019, available on request).

This specification is for the archaeological trial trenching of land at Centurion Park, Wallsend located at NZ 28751 66580.

Archaeological trial trenching is required in advance of determination of planning application 22/01122/FUL in order to understand the potential impact of the proposal on the significance of any heritage assets with archaeological interest, in accordance with paragraph 194 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

The site has been subject to an archaeological desk based assessment (event 5309 report 2021/94) which concluded that the site has some potential for archaeological remains from the prehistoric period, and also for the remains of the village associated with the former Bigges Main Colliery, the former Coxlodge Waggonway, and the former Bigges Main Waggonway. Subsequently geophysical survey was carried out on the two suitable fields in the southern part of the site (event 5324 report 2022/34). This identified anomalies associated with terraced housing from the former mining village of Bigges Main, and parallel linear positive anomalies possibly representing a form of 19th century narrow ridge and furrow and a land drainage system.

The appointed contractor must review these reports before commencing.

Aims

The overall aim of the project is to understand the significance of the archaeology and inform future planning decisions. The project should investigate the extent, character and chronology of the archaeological features present on the site, in order to understand and interpret them with reference to comparable sites.

The project should be carried out with reference to the relevant research agendas of the North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (NERRF) (2006). The NERRF is currently being revised. The Late Bronze Age and Iron Age research agenda of the published NERRF includes key research priority Iii. Settlement, and the Post-Medieval research agenda includes key research priority PMii. Industrialisation, which may be addressed by this project.

Hadrian's Wall is a World Heritage Site and has a specific Research Framework, *Frontiers of Knowledge* (Vol 1 Vol 2). This summarizes and assesses the existing knowledge base for Hadrian's Wall, and identifies and prioritises an agenda of key themes and a strategy for future research.

Monitoring by Tyne and Wear Archaeology Service

The fieldwork will be monitored by the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer. The Archaeological Contractor must give as much written notice as possible of the start of fieldwork, and keep the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer informed of progress, so that a site visit can be arranged if required.

Health and Safety

The appointed contractor must produce a risk assessment, or RAMS (Risk Assessment and Method Statement) if required by a main contractor, in line with legislative requirements and

industry best practice. Health and Safety will always take priority over archaeological requirements. If any elements of the fieldwork cannot be completed due to health and safety issues, this should be clearly stated in the report.

Methodology

The archaeological fieldwork must be undertaken by professional archaeologists with proven experience of undertaking similar projects, and with appropriate skills and experience to undertake work to the highest professional standards.

14 trial trenches measuring 1.5m by 30m at base, and 3 trenches measuring 1.5m by 20m at base, and 1 trench measuring 1.5m by 15m at base, should be excavated, as shown on the attached plan. If site conditions constrain the trial trenching, the location or size of the trenches may be varied in consultation with the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer.

Removal of topsoil or overburden by machine to the level of archaeological deposits or natural subsoil must be carried out using a toothless ditching bucket, except when ground conditions make a toothed bucket necessary. Machine work must be supervised by an archaeologist. Exposed archaeological deposits and structures must be cleaned by hand.

Larger features should be sampled at 50% and smaller features at 100%, unless they may be so significant as to merit preservation *in situ*. All stratigraphic relationships should be investigated where it is possible to do so within the confines of the trench. Where related features extend outside trenches, consideration should be given to extending trial trenches. Burials should be recorded and left in place unless they are known to be under threat of imminent disturbance such as planned geotechnical site investigation.

Sampling

All fills and deposits should be assessed for their potential for environmental sampling and scientific dating, and samples taken accordingly. Archaeological deposits may have the potential for the preservation of a wide range of environmental evidence, as discussed in the Historic England guidance, and specialist advice should be sought prior to and during all projects. Consideration should be given to the nature of the site and the potential for preservation by factors such as waterlogging. Scientific dating is particularly important for sites with little or no artefactual evidence.

Recording

The written record of archaeological features, stratigraphy, finds and samples should be undertaken using *pro forma* indices and record sheets, according to industry standards. Drawings (plans, sections and elevations) should be produced at standard scales as appropriate (1:10, 1:20, 1:50, 1:100 etc.). References to cardinal directions should use the standard 16 point system with no further subdivision. All site survey and the site location should be tied in to the British National Grid, and heights recorded relative to ordnance datum.

Digital photographs should be taken using a high-resolution DSLR camera with sensors exceeding 10 Mega Pixels, producing either TIFF files or RAW files which must be converted to TIFF before archive deposition. The photographs should be recorded in an index recording the image number, subject, any scales used, direction facing, date the picture was taken and who took it.

All photographs should be in focus, with an appropriate use of depth of field; they should be adequately exposed in good natural light, or where necessary well-lit by artificial means (not by camera-triggered electronic flash). The use of a tripod is recommended, particularly for the interior of buildings.

Finds

Bulk finds (pottery, animal bone etc.) should be collected by context. Small finds (metal objects, worked pottery sherds, worked bone etc.) should be recorded and located individually. Finds should be packed and stored to ensure minimal deterioration before their removal from site, according to the guidance in *First Aid for Finds* (D Watkinson and V Neal, third edition 2001, RESCUE/UKIC). A new edition of *First Aid for Finds* is expected in summer 2022.

For sites where large assemblages are anticipated, a selection strategy should be developed prior to fieldwork starting. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists has produced a Toolkit to assist in the production of a strategy.

Human Remains

Human remains must be treated with dignity and respect by all parties on site including non-archaeological contractors, and in accordance with Historic England advice. Excavation areas should be shielded from public view where necessary. Where human remains are known to be present, an osteoarchaeologist should be involved in the project from the outset.

The excavation of human remains requires a licence from the Ministry of Justice. Where human remains are found unexpectedly, a licence must be obtained before proceeding with excavation. If human remains are known to be present a licence should be obtained in advance of fieldwork.

In Christian burial grounds under Church of England jurisdiction a faculty is required rather than a licence, and reburial is generally carried out following any scientific investigation. The guidance issued by the Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England (APABE) regarding best practice should be followed.

Treasure

Any finds which might fall under the Treasure Act 1996 must be reported to the Coroner in whose district they were found within 14 days of discovery and to the regional Finds Liaison Officer.

Post-fieldwork assessment, analysis and reporting

Post-fieldwork assessment, analysis and reporting must be carried out to the relevant standards and guidance produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, and with reference to the wide range of specialist guidance produced by Historic England. All site records must be ordered, checked for internal consistency, quantified and indexed. All classes of artefacts and ecofacts must be assessed by suitably qualified and experienced specialists and consideration given to the potential for further analysis.

The report must contain the following sections as a minimum:

1. Non-technical summary
2. Introduction
3. Aims and objectives
4. Methodology
5. Results
6. Conclusions
7. Archive location
8. Appendices, including a copy of this specification
9. Illustrations
10. References and bibliography

The report must be submitted digitally as a pdf and as a bound paper report to the Tyne and Wear HER.

Publication

Significant archaeological sites will require publication in a regional or national journal (such as Archaeologia Aeliana, the Durham Archaeological Journal, the Arbeia Journal, or Industrial Archaeology Review) as appropriate. Other forms of public engagement and dissemination such as site open days, popular publications and interpretation panels may also be required for some sites.

Archive

Following assessment and reporting, the physical archive including all site records and retained artefacts and ecofacts must be prepared in accordance with the CIfA Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives, and with the requirements of the receiving body. For Tyne and Wear these are:

- Great North Museum: Hancock for Hadrian's Wall and the medieval town of Newcastle (contact Keeper of Archaeology andrew.parkin@newcastle.ac.uk).
- Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums for the rest of Tyne and Wear (Gateshead, outer Newcastle, North Tyneside, South Tyneside and Sunderland) (contact Alex Croom at Arbeia Roman Fort 0191 277 1410).

The Great North Museum: Hancock charges a fee for archive deposition as described in the Archaeological Archive Deposition Policy.

The physical archive should be deposited with a second copy of the bound paper report.

The digital archive including all photographs, CAD files etc. must be submitted to the Tyne and Wear HER on an archive quality CD, and archived with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The likely cost of archiving with the ADS and their requirements for archived material should be established before tendering for the project. Proof of archiving with the ADS will be required by the Tyne and Wear HER.

The project must be registered with OASIS in order to signpost the project nationally, and the reference number included in the report.

If you have any queries about this specification, require full website links or notice any broken links, please contact the officer named above.

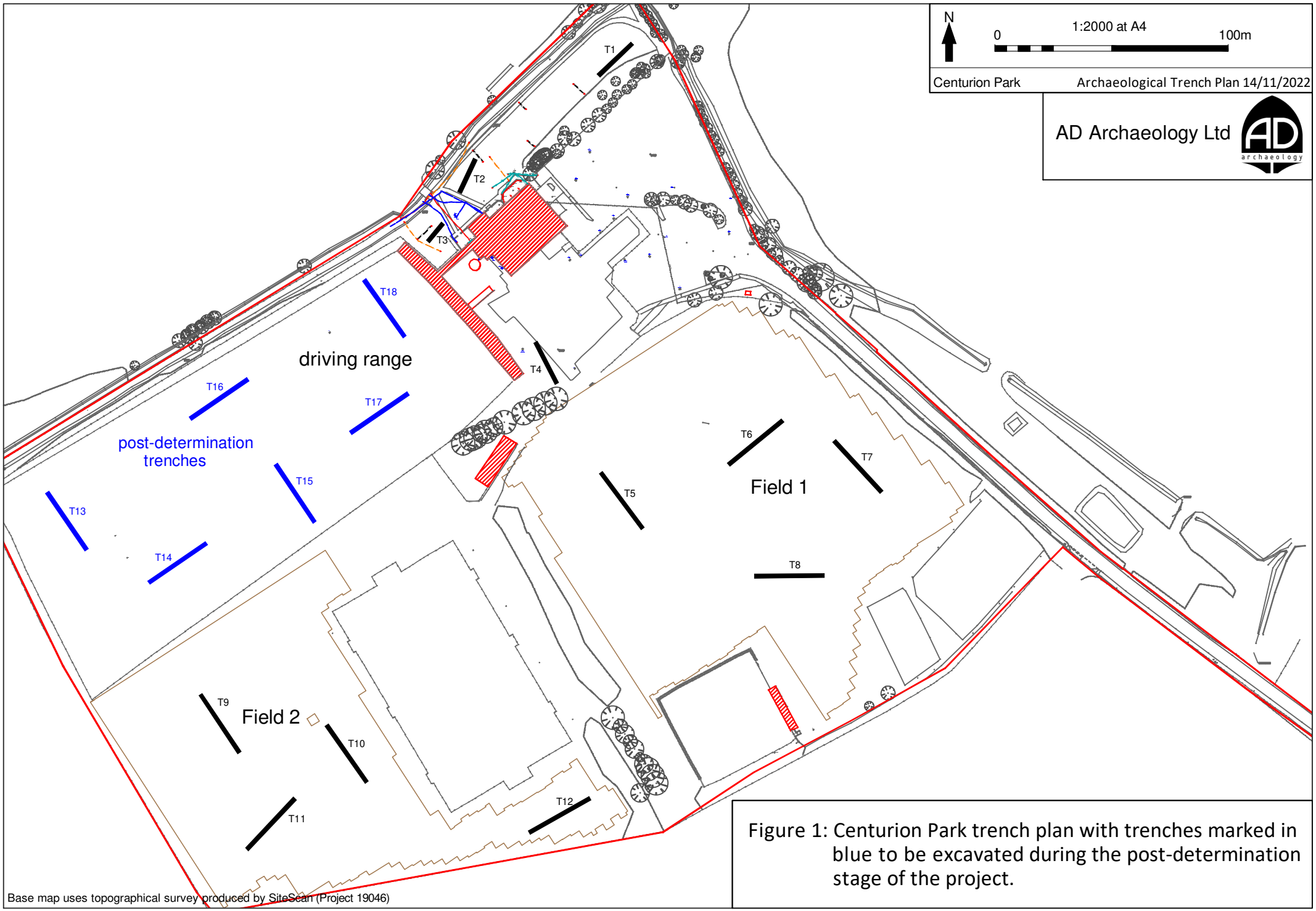


Figure 1: Centurion Park trench plan with trenches marked in blue to be excavated during the post-determination stage of the project.

AD Archaeology Ltd

0 1 2 3 km

scale: 1:50,000

Centurion Park, Wallsend Project number AD403

Figure 1: Site Location

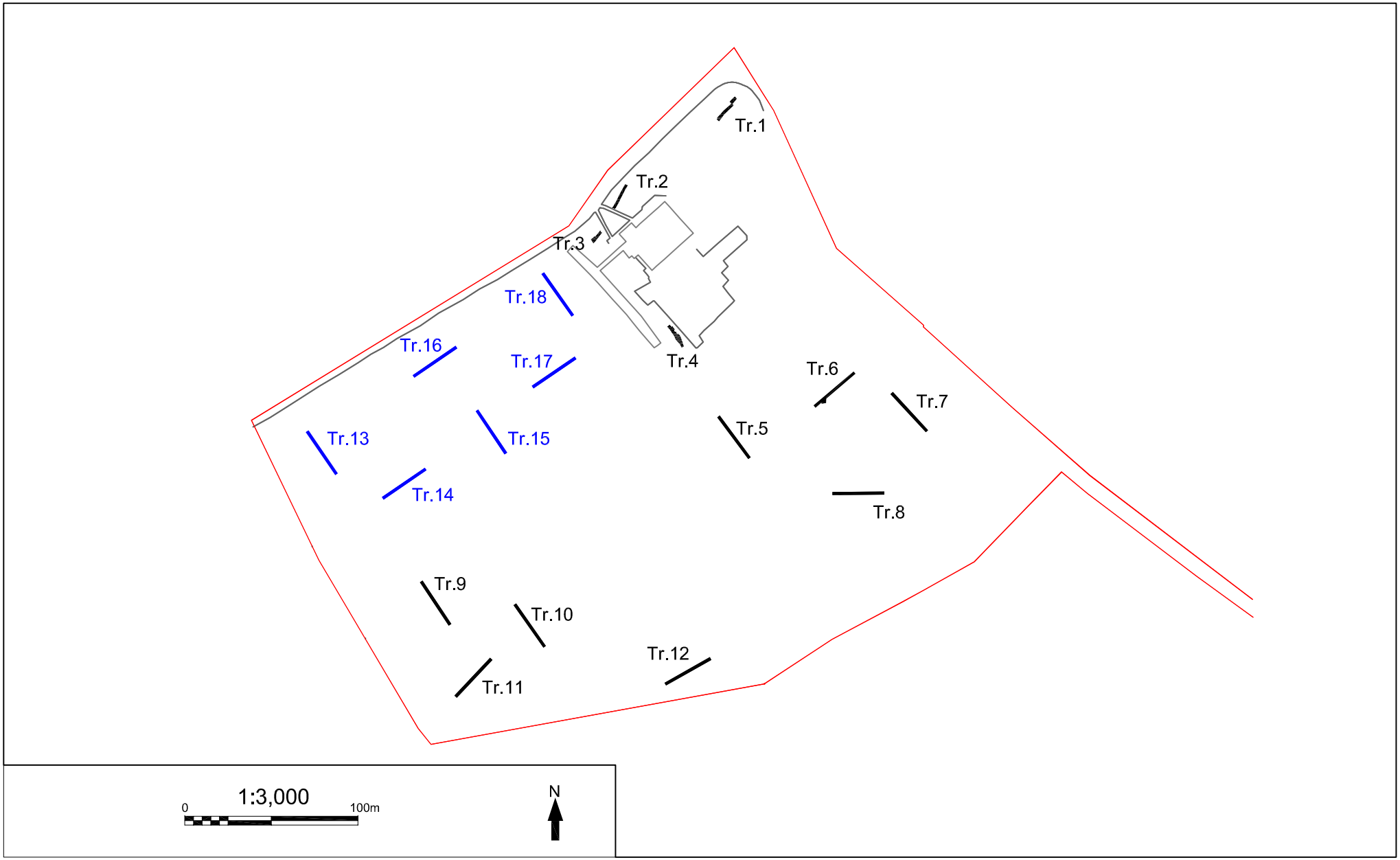


Figure 2: Trench location plan (blue trenches to be dug at a later stage)

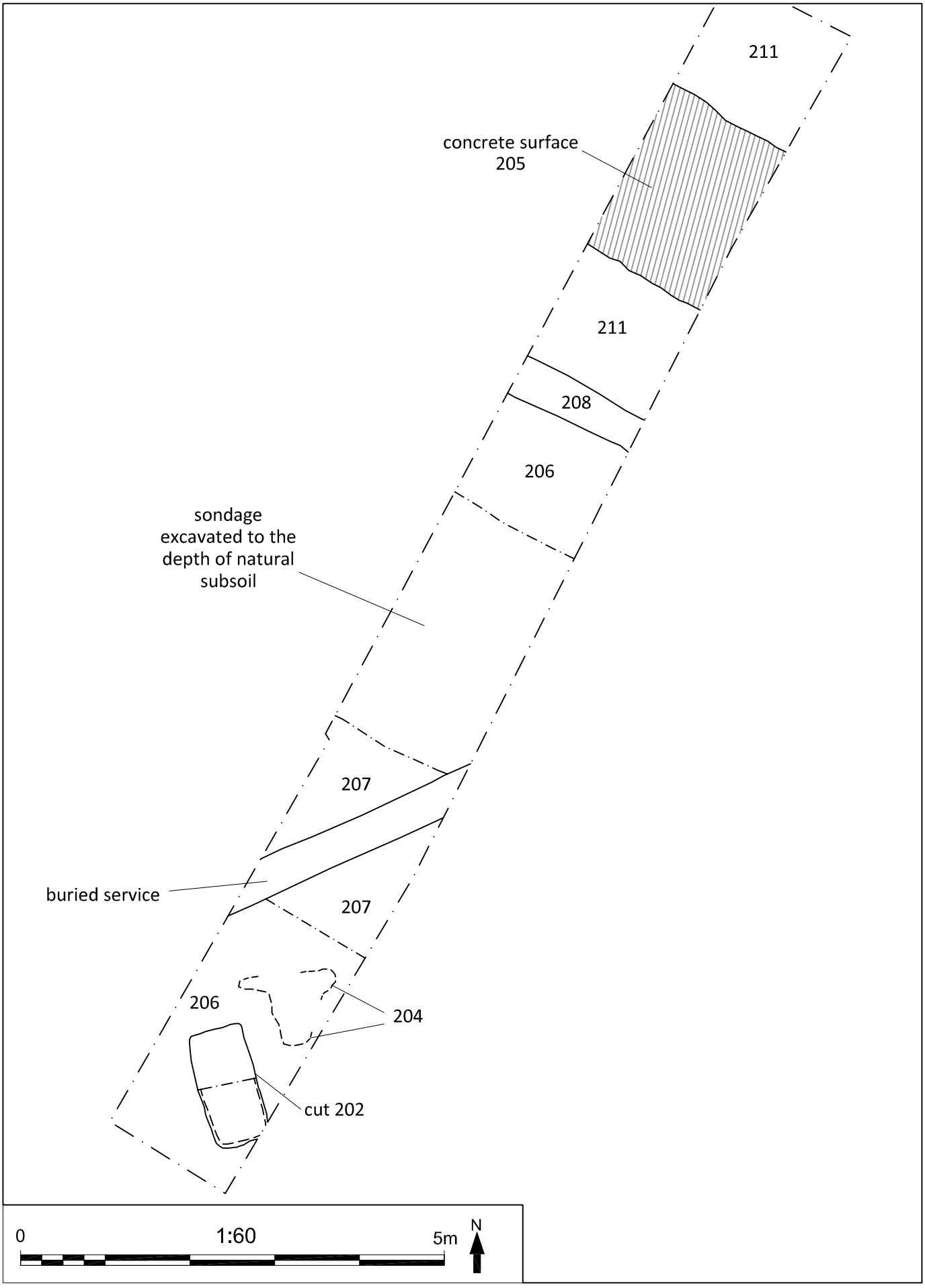
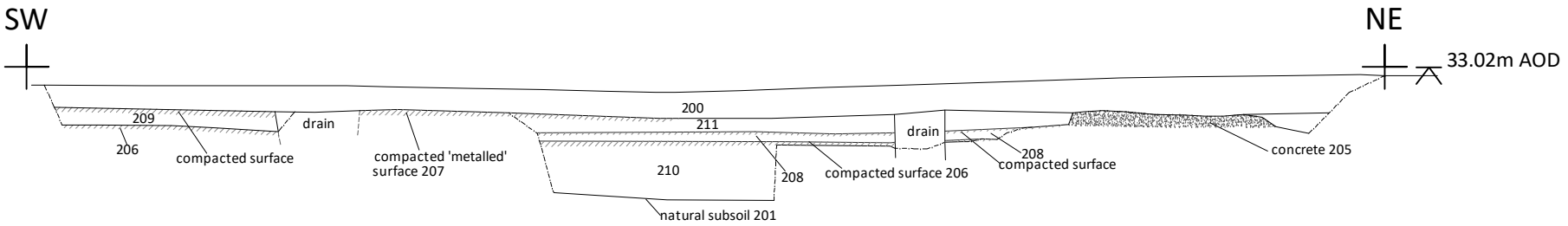


Figure 3: Trench 2



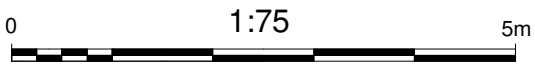
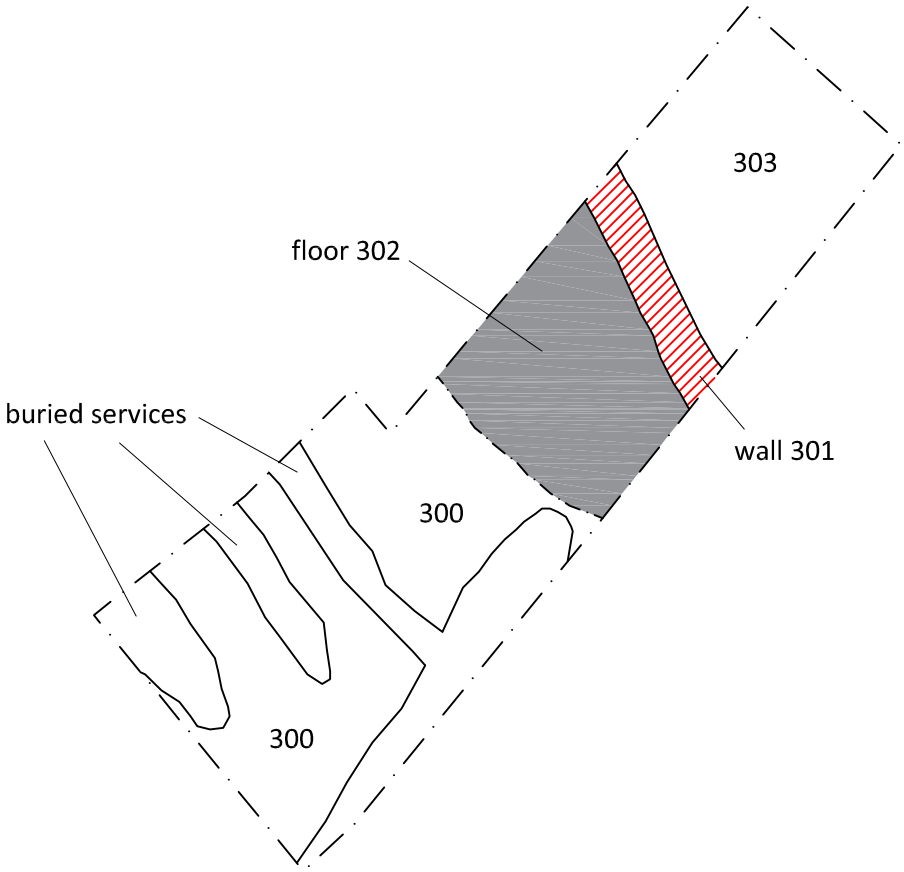


Figure 4: Trench 2 southeast facing section



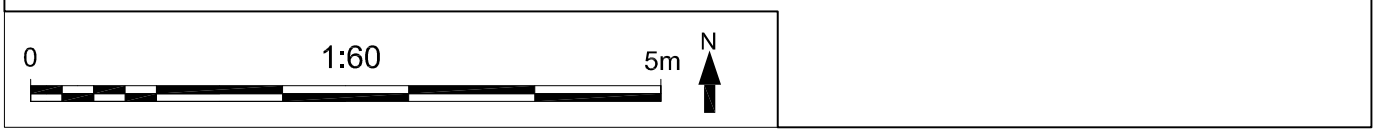


Figure 5: Trench 3

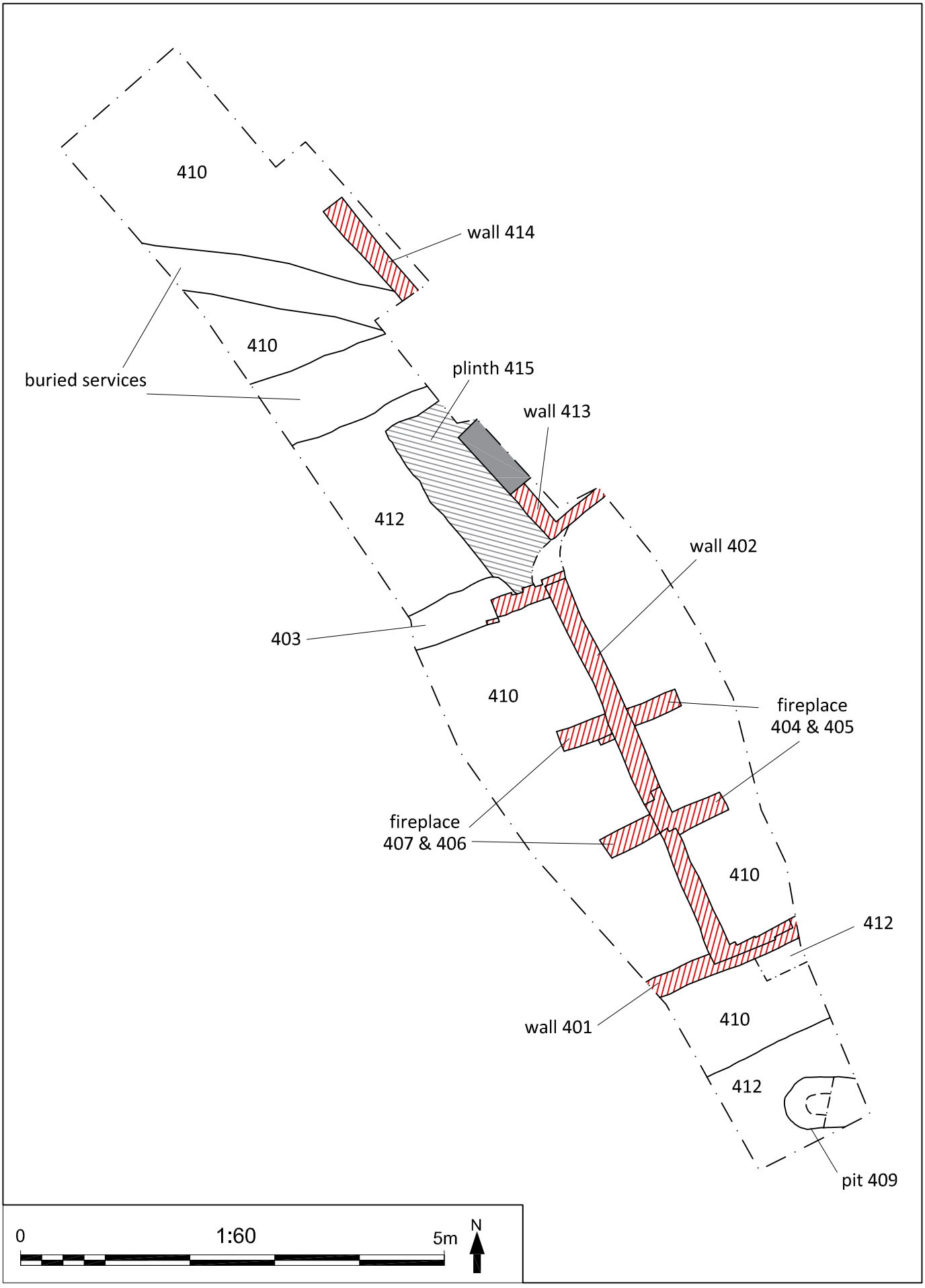


Figure 6: Trench 4

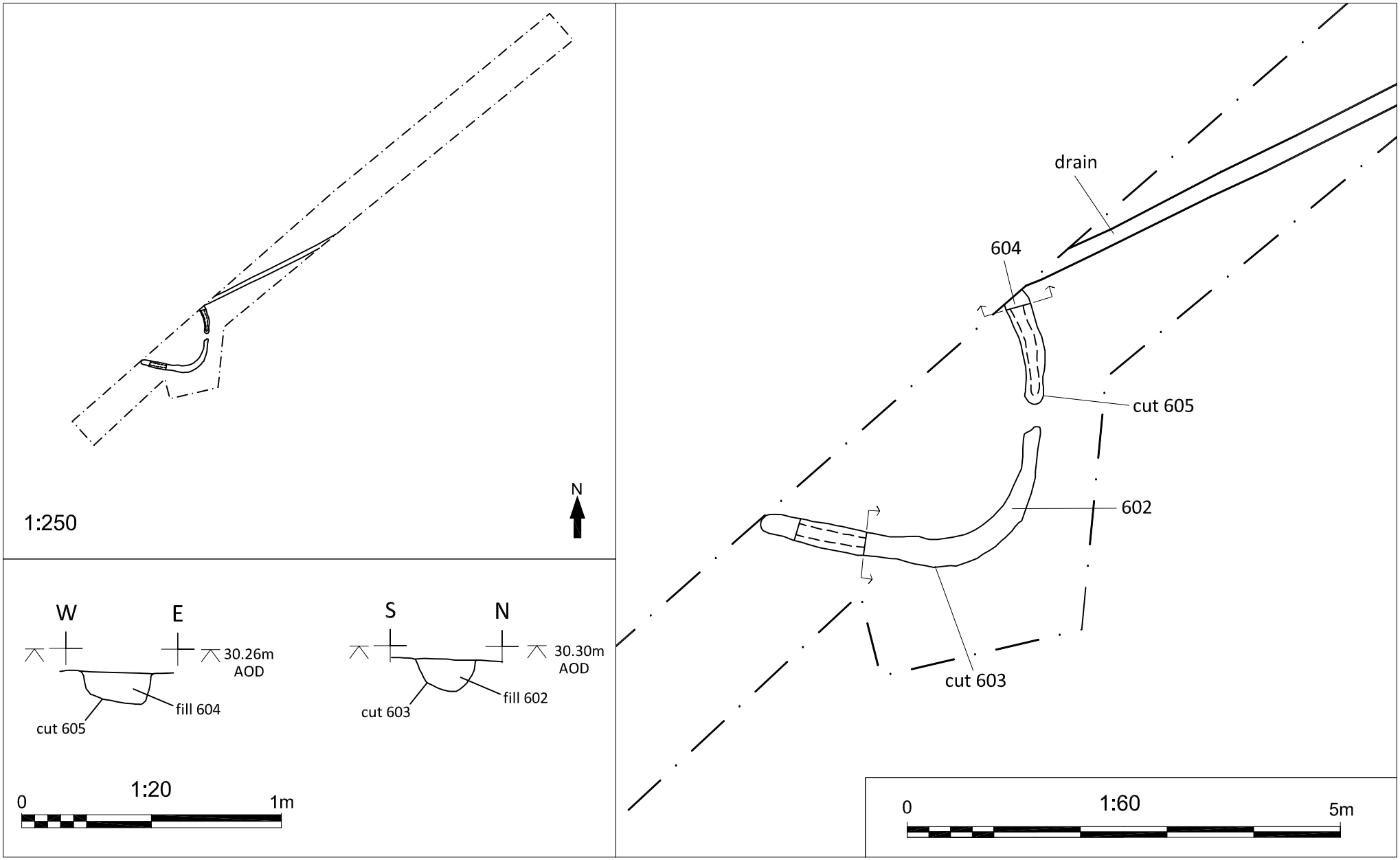


Figure 7: Trench 6

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N

0 1:1250 at A4 100m

Centurion Park, Wallsend

Figure 8: Trench plan showing earlier waggonway identified in golf drainage ditch with overlay of Google Earth view and Ordnance Survey 25 inch map of 1859

Plate 1: Trench 2 looking south-west

Plate 2: Trench 2, concrete foundation 205 looking south-east

Plate 3 Trench 2, Feature 202 looking south-east

Plate 4 Modern drainage feature north of Trench 2 looking north-east

Plate 5 Trench 3 looking north-east

Plate 6 Trench 3 looking south-west

Plate 7 Trench 3 looking south

Plate 8 Trench 4 looking east

Plate 9 Trench 4 looking north-east

Plate 10 Trench 4 looking south

Plate 11 Trench 4 fireplaces looking west

Plate 12 Trench 6 looking eastt

Plate 13 Trench 6 looking north-west

Plate 14 Trench 6 wall slot 603 looking south-east

Plate 15 Trench 6 wall slot 605 looking north

Plate 16 Trench 6 looking west