# Archaeology Wales

## Land at Station Road / School Lane, Bishop's Castle, Shropshire

Archaeological Evaluation



By
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Paul Shelmerdine

Report No. 1692



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## Land at Station Road / School Lane, Bishop's Castle, Shropshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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#### **Non-technical Summary**

Archaeology Wales Ltd carried out an archaeological field evaluation from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June at the request of Ian Pryce Property Services. This programme of works was recommended by SCHET-DC — archaeological advisors for Shropshire Council- in response to proposed development at 34-36 High Street, Sumach, Station Street, Bishop's Castle SY9 5AQ (NGR SO 32411 88939). The associated Planning Application No. Is 11/02298/FUL.

A number of HER entries are recorded within the application area. The Tithe Map of 1840 records the field immediately west of the development as 'Claypit field' (HER 05134), therefore, relating to brick making activities of post-medieval date. The medieval town defences (HER05145) partly lie within the development area. A number of structures of agricultural origin dating from the 17th – 18th centuries – e.g. HER 14059 – lie adjacent to the development area, particularly to the east, at High Street.

The programme of intrusive trial trench evaluation allowed for five trenches to be excavated targeting locations which will be disturbed during the creation of footings associated with the development. Due to the presence of underground cables and standing walls onsite, the location of the trenches was altered, however respecting areas which will be disturbed during groundworks. The new layout was agreed with SCHET-DC prior the commencement of work. Trench 1 revealed the remains of a post-medieval ditch, possibly corresponding to a field boundary documented on historic maps of the area. It also revealed a square cut feature of post-medieval date. Trench 2 yielded the remains of a cut feature. A fragment of medieval pottery and post-medieval/modern finds were found within this cut. Trench 3 did not reveal remains of archaeological origin. Trench 4 was voided due to the presence of underground cables, and Trench 5 encountered the cut for underground services.

All work conformed to Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2014) and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Artefact and Environmental Collection, Documentation Conservation and Research (CIfA 2014).

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Figure 1. Existing and proposed site plan

Figure 2. Proposed Trench Location

Figure 3. New trench layout

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Plate 3. Post-excavation view of Trench 1, looking north. Scales 2 x 1m

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Plate 5. Representative section within Trench 1, looking north. Scale 1m

Plate 6. Post-excavation shot of Linear [1003] within Trench 1, looking north. Scale 1m

Plate 7. Section of Linear [1003] within Trench 1, looking south. Scale 1m

- Plate 8. Section of Pit [1009] within Trench 1, looking S. Scale 1m
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- Plate 17. Close-up of representative section within Trench 5, looking west

#### 1. Introduction

In June 2018, Archaeology Wales was commissioned by Ian Pryce Property Services to carry out an archaeological field evaluation at 34-36 High Street, Sumach, Station Street, Bishop's Castle SY9 5AQ (NGR SO 32411 88939). The associated Planning Application No. Is 11/02298/FUL.

A number of HER entries are recorded within the application area. The Tithe Map of 1840 records the field immediately west of the development as 'Claypit field' (HER 05134), therefore, relating to brick making activities of post-medieval date. The medieval town defences (HER05145) partly lie within the development area. A number of structures of agricultural origin dating from the 17th - 18th centuries - e.g. HER 14059 - lie adjacent to the development area, particularly to the east, at High Street.

The programme of intrusive trial trench evaluation allowed for five trenches to be excavated targeting locations which will be disturbed during the creation of footings associated with the development. Due to the presence of underground cables and standing walls onsite, the location of the trenches was altered, however respecting the location of areas which will be disturbed during groundworks. The new layout was agreed with SCHET-DC prior the commencement of work.

The field evaluation was carried out under the supervision of Dan Moore, with Jen Muller, all of Archaeology Wales. The project was managed by Dr Irene Garcia Rovira. The fieldwork was undertaken between the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 32rd of June 2018.

All work conformed to Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2014) and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Artefact and Environmental Collection, Documentation Conservation and Research (CIfA 2014).

#### 2. Site description and archaeological background

#### 2.1 Location, Topography and geology

The development site is located between High Street and Station Street, and it is bounded to the south by School lane. The area is defined by green fields and a number of residential houses.

The underlying geology is defined by the Bailey Hill Formation, composed of sedimentary rocks – siltstone, sandstone – formed during the Silurian Period. No superficial soils are recorded (BGS 2018).

#### 2.2 Archaeological and historical background

The development area lies within the historic core of Bishop's Castle. The HER documents multiple designated and undesignated sites in the vicinities of the development, mostly standing structures dating to post-medieval times.

The Tithe Map of 1840 records the field immediately west of the development as 'Claypit field' (HER 05134), therefore, relating to brick making activities of post-medieval date. The medieval town defences (HER051455) lie approximately 70m SW of the development area. A number of structures of agricultural origin dating from the 17th – 18th centuries – e.g. HER 14059 – lie adjacent to the development area, particularly to the east, at High Street. It is therefore plausible to reveal archaeological remains of medieval and post-medieval date during groundworks within the application area.

#### 3. Aims and Objectives

The objective of the intrusive trial trench evaluation was to locate and describe, by means of strategic trial trenching, archaeological features present within the development area. The work aimed to reveal the presence or absence of an archaeological resource, its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance. The work included an assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and aimed to highlight any relevant research issues within national and regional research frameworks.

#### 4. Methodology

The work was undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014).

The archaeological project manager in charge of the work was satisfied that all constraints to ground works had been identified, including the siting of live services and Tree Preservation Orders.

The agreed evaluation trenches were positioned to maximise the retrieval of archaeological information and to ensure that the archaeological resource was fully understood.

It was proposed that five trenches, varying in size between 10 to 15 metres in length, were machine-excavated within the planned development area (Figure 2). The locations and dimensions of the trenches were agreed with SCHET-DC prior to the commencement of works.

The presence of underground cables and standing walls meant that the trenches had to be relocated. These changes were agreed with SCHET-DC before the commencement of works (Figure 3). Details of all changes can be found in the evaluation results section.

The evaluation trenches were excavated to the top of the archaeological horizon by a machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under close archaeological supervision. All areas were subsequently hand cleaned using pointing trowels and/or hoes to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological features and to determine their significance. The excavation of the minimum number of archaeological features was undertaken, to elucidate the character, distribution, extent and importance of the archaeological remains. As a minimum the small discrete features were fully excavated, larger discrete features were half-sectioned (50% excavated) and linear features had interventions excavated along their length, with 20% of the feature being excavated. Terminal ends of linear features and relationships with other features were investigated.

Sufficient excavation was undertaken to ensure that the natural horizon was reached and proven across the site.

#### 5. Evaluation results

#### **Trench 1 (Figure 3 - 4; Plates 1-10)**

Trench 1 was originally 10m in length and 1.8m in width, however, its position and layout were altered resulting from the presence of standing walls to the west of the trench. The new layout was agreed with SCHET-DC before the commencement of works. Trench 1 was T-shaped and measured 9m in length and 1.8m in width orientated E/W, and 3m in length and 1.8m in width orientated N/S (see Figure 3).

The natural substrate (1008) was found 0.7m below ground level. (1008) was defined by yellow grey clay and included occasional angular stones. (1008) was overlaid by (1007). The latter was found 0.5m below ground level and was defined as a layer of colluvium formed of mid-orange brown silty clay. [1003] and [1009] were cut through (1007)

• [1003] cut through (1007). [1003] was a linear cut with moderately steep sides and an almost flat base. It measured 1.8m in length (within the trench) 1.3m in width and 0.7m in depth. It was orientated north to south. [1003] was filled by (1006), (1005) and (1004). (1006) was the lowest fill and was characterised by black brown silt, with occasional sub-angular stones. It measured 1.8m in length, 1.3m in width and 0.6m in depth. (1006) contained clay pipe fragments, fragments of post medieval pottery and

an ink well. (1006) was overlaid by (1005). (1005) was the second fill of [1003]. It was characterised by firm mid-grey brown slit. It measured 1.8m in length, 1.3m in width and 0.2m in depth. (1005) contained CBM and plaster dating to post-medieval times. (1005) was overlaid by (1004). (1004) was the uppermost fill of [1003]. (1004) was characterised by mid-grey brown silt. It measured 1.8m in length, 1.3m in width and 0.3m in depth. (1004) contained CBM and plaster dating to post-medieval times. [1003] was tentatively interpreted as remains of a post-medieval field boundary.

• [1009] cut through (1007). [1009] was a square cut with steep sides and a flat base. It measured 0.45m in length, 0.3m in width and 0.37m in depth. [1009] was filled by (1011) and (1010). (1011) was the lowest fill of [1009]. (1011) was characterised by dark grey black silt with occasional sub-angular stones. It measured 0.45m in length, 0.3m in width and 0.12m in depth. (1011) contained fragments of pottery, bone, metal, CBM and a plastic comb. (1010) was the upper fill of [1009]. (1010) was characterised by firm dark grey brown clayey silt with frequent sub-angular stones. It measured 0.45m in length, 0.3m in width and 0.25m in depth. (1010) contained pottery, metal, CBM and charcoal. [1009] was tentatively interpreted as a disposal pit.

(1007), [1003] and [1009] were overlaid by (1002). The subsoil, (1002) was found 0.15m below ground level. (1002) was defined as a layer of mid-brown black silt. (1002) was overlaid by (1001). (1001) was the topsoil. (1001) was defined as a layer of mid/dark black brown silt.

#### Trench 2 (Figure 3 - 4; Plates 11-12)

Trench 2 was 10m in length and 1.8m in width. It was aligned north to south. Trench 2 was excavated to a depth of 0.6m.

The natural substrate (2006) was found 0.6m below ground level. (2006) was defined as yellow grey clay and included occasional sub-angular stones. (2006) was cut by [2004].

• [2004] cut through (2006). [2004] was a linear cut with steep sides and a concave base. It measured 1.6m in length, it varied in width between 0.29m and 0.67m and in depth between 0.33m and 0.35m. [2004] was aligned north-east to south-west. [2004] was filled by (2005). (2005) was the only fill of [2004]. (2005) was characterised by firm, mid-grey clayey silt and included occasional angular stones and roots. It measured 1.6m in length, it varied in width between 0.29m and 0.67m and in depth between 0.33m and 0.35m. (2005) contained medieval and post-medieval pottery and glass. [2004] was found against the north-east edge of the trench and it was therefore excavated to an unknown percentage, whilst medieval pottery was found within its fill, finds of post-medieval and modern date were also encountered suggesting that (2005) contained remains that were not in situ. [2004] might be tentatively interpreted as remains of a hedgerow of post-medieval date.

(2006) and [2004] were overlaid by (2003). The lower deposit (2003) was found at varying depth between 0.15m and 0.25m below ground level. (2003) was defined by as a layer of midorange brown silty clay. (2003) was overlaid by (2002). The subsoil, (2002) was found at varying depth between 0.05m and 0.08m below ground level. (2002) was defined as a layer of mid-grey brown silty soil. (2002) was overlaid by (2001). (2001) was the topsoil. (2001) was defined as a layer of mid/dark brown silt.

#### Trench 3 (Figure 3 - 4; Plate 14)

Trench 3 was 10m long and 1.8m wide. It was aligned north to south. Trench 3 was excavated to a depth of 0.5m. Trench 3 contained no finds or features.

The natural substrate (3003) was found 0.5m below ground level. (3003) was defined as yellow grey clay and contained occasional angular stones. (3003) was overlaid by (3002). The subsoil, (3002) was found 0.28m below ground level. (3002) was defined as a layer of midgrey brown clayey silt. (3002) was overlaid by (3001). (3001) was the topsoil. (3001) was defined as a layer of mid/dark brown silt.

#### Trench 4 (Figure 2)

The layout of trench 4 was originally defined as 10m in length and 1.8m in width and aligned east to west. The purpose of this trench was to evaluate the archaeological potential of the eastern side of the development. This trench was voided due to the presence of underground cables, and was agreed with SCHET-DC before commencement of works.

#### **Trench 5 (Figures 3 - 4; Plates 15-17)**

Trench 5 was originally 10m in length and 1.8m in width, however, its position and layout were altered resulting from the presence of underground cables to the east end of the trench. The new layout was agreed with SCHET-DC before the commencement of works. Trench 5 was an L-shaped trench with a length of 4m and a width of 4.5m. Trench 5 was excavated to a depth of 1.1m.

The natural substrate, (5005) was found 0.4m below ground level but sloped to below 1.1m in the south-east. (5005) was defined as yellow grey clay which included occasional angular stones. (5005) was overlaid by (5004). (5004) was found at 0.95m below ground level. (5004) was defined as fine red sand. (5004) was believed to be fill from the laying of underground services, as such it was not fully excavated for safety reasons, and likely sits in a cut into the natural substrate which causes the significant variation in depth. (5004) was overlaid by (5003). (5003) was defined as a layer of black brown silt. (5003) was overlaid by (5002). The subsoil (5002) was found 0.15m below ground level. (5002) was defined as a layer of midyellow brown silt. (5002) was overlaid by (5001). (5001) was the topsoil. (5001) was defined as a layer of mid-grey brown silt. No finds or features of archaeological origin were found within trench 5.

#### 6. The finds

With the exception of a fragment of medieval pottery, the finds assemblage was largely composed of post-medieval and modern remains. The finds recovered during the trenching evaluation are detailed below:

Trench No.	Context No.	Finds Type	No of fragments	Description	Date
1	Unstratified	Glass bottle	5	Separate glass bottle fragments	Late 19th - early 20th century
1	Unstratified	Clay Pipe	9	Clay pipe stem fragments	Post- medieval
1	Unstratified	Animal bone	4	Fragments of animal bone	Unknown
1	Unstratified	Burnt animal bone	1	Fragment of burnt animal bone	Unknown
1	Unstratified	Metal	4	Metal	Modern
1	Unstratified	Shell	1	Oyster shell	Unknown
1	Unstratified	СВМ	1	Fragment of brick	Unknown
1	Unstratified	Glass	1	Fragment of green glass	Modern?
1	Unstratified	Ceramic	4	Four fragments of a blue glazed plate	Modern
1	Unstratified	Ceramic	3	Blue transfer porcelain fragments	Modern
1	Unstratified	Ceramic	6	Stone ware, various types	Modern
1	Unstratified	Ceramic	1	Willow ware	Modern
1	Unstratified	Ceramic	10	Glazed, mixed fragments	Modern
1	Unstratified	Ceramic	1	Red slip covered red ware	Modern
1	1006	Ceramic	4	Willow ware	Modern

1	1006	Ink well	1	Stone ware	20 <sup>th</sup>
					century
1	1006	Ceramic	3	Glazed	Modern
				stone ware	
1	1006	Ceramic	1	White	Modern
				glazed	
				porcelain	
				fragments	
1	1011	Ceramic	6	Porcelain	Modern
				fragments	
	1011			of dishes	
1	1011	Plastic	2	Plastic hair	Modern
				comb and	
				plastic	
1	1011	Companie	2	spindle	Madawa
1	1011	Ceramic	2	Willow	Modern
1	1011	Ceramic	7	ware Glazed	Modern
1	1011	Ceramic	'	white and	iviouerri
				yellow fragments	
1	1011	Animal	17	Animal	Unknown
1	1011	bone	17	bone	Olikilowii
1	1011	CBM	1	Red,	Unknown
*	1011	CDIVI	*	possibly	OTIKITOWIT
				brick	
1	1011	Shell	1	Oyster shell	Unknown
2	2005	Ceramic	2	Green glaze	Probable
				ware with	late-
				grey core	medieval
				and red	
				oxidation	
				on inside	
2	2005	Glass	1	Fragment	Modern
				of glass, flat	
				(approx.	
				1.5mm	
				thick)	
2	2005	Ceramic	5	Orange/red	Unknown
				clay	
				fragments	
2	2005	Ceramic	1	Brown	Modern
				glazed	
				sherd	
5	5003	Clay pipe	7	Clay pipe	Post-
				stem	medieval
			<u> </u>	fragments	
5	5003	Ceramic	1	Fragment	Modern
				of blue	
				glazed	
				sherd	

5	5003	Ceramic	1	Porcelain fragment	Modern
5	5003	Ceramic	1	Fragment with blue transfer	Modern
5	5003	Ceramic	1	Stone ware	Modern
5	5003	Ceramic	2	White glazed fragments	Modern
5	5003	Metal	1	Nut and Modern bolt	
5	5003	Animal tooth	1	Animal tooth	Unknown

#### 7. Discussions and Conclusions

Due to the presence of underground cables and standing structures, the positioning and size of the original layout was altered. All alterations were consulted and agreed with SCHET-DC before the commencement of works.

With the exception of a single fragment of medieval pottery, the finds assemblage was of post-medieval and modern chronologies. The features found onsite were largely of post-medieval origin.

Trench 1 revealed the remains of a post-medieval ditch, possibly corresponding to a field boundary documented on historic maps of the area. It also revealed a square cut feature of post-medieval date. Trench 2 yielded the remains of a cut feature. A fragment of medieval pottery and post-medieval/modern finds were found within this cut. Trench 3 did not reveal remains of archaeological origin. Trench 4 was voided due to the presence of underground cables, and Trench 5 encountered the cut for underground services.

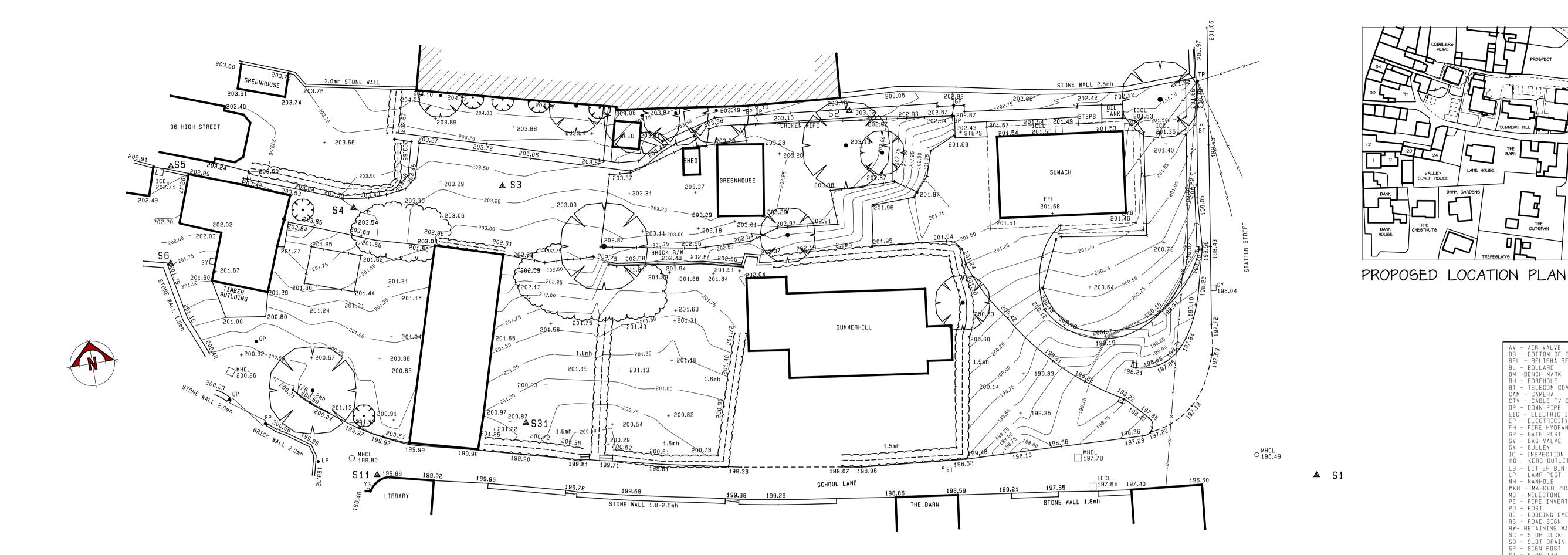
#### 8. Bibliography

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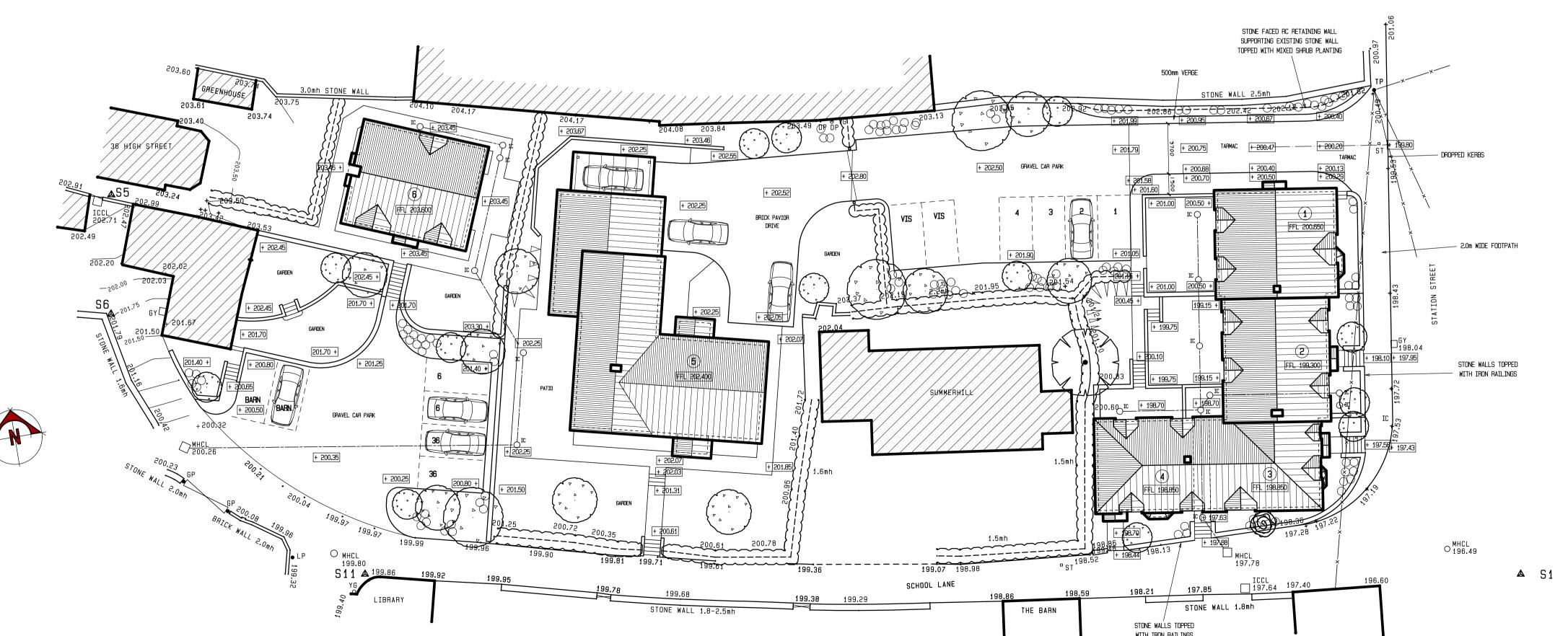
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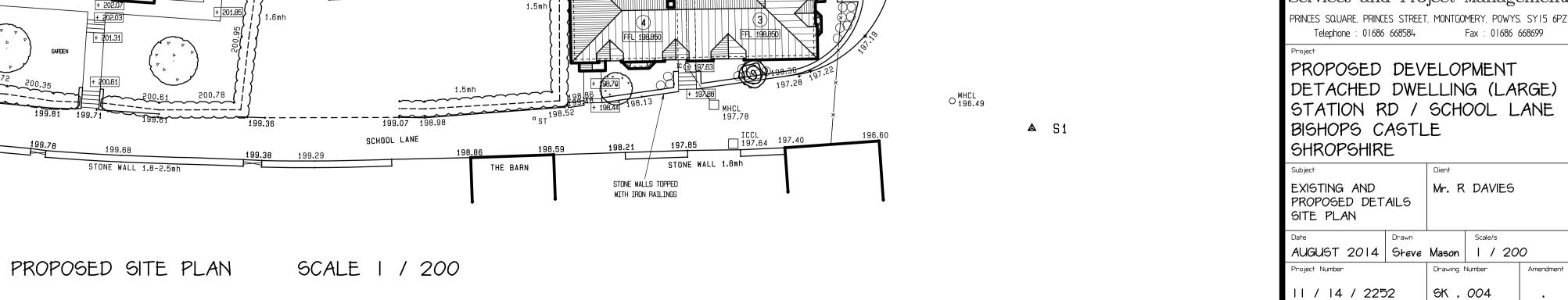
### **APPENDIX I:**

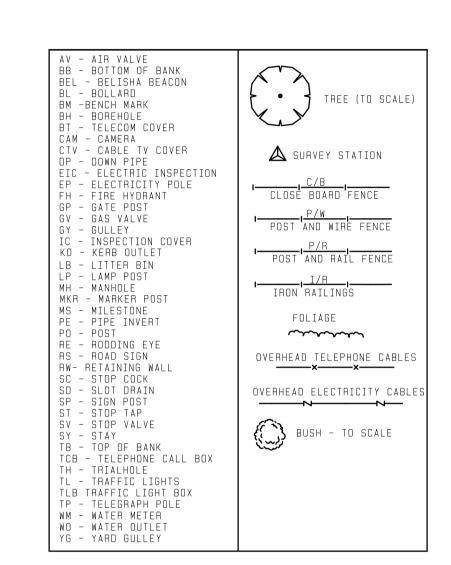


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EXISTING SITE PLAN



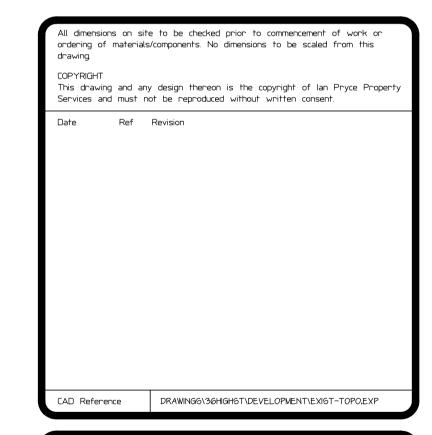


HOMELEIGH

THE OUTSPAN

SHELBOURNE

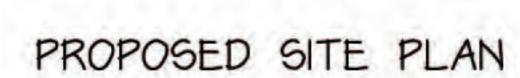
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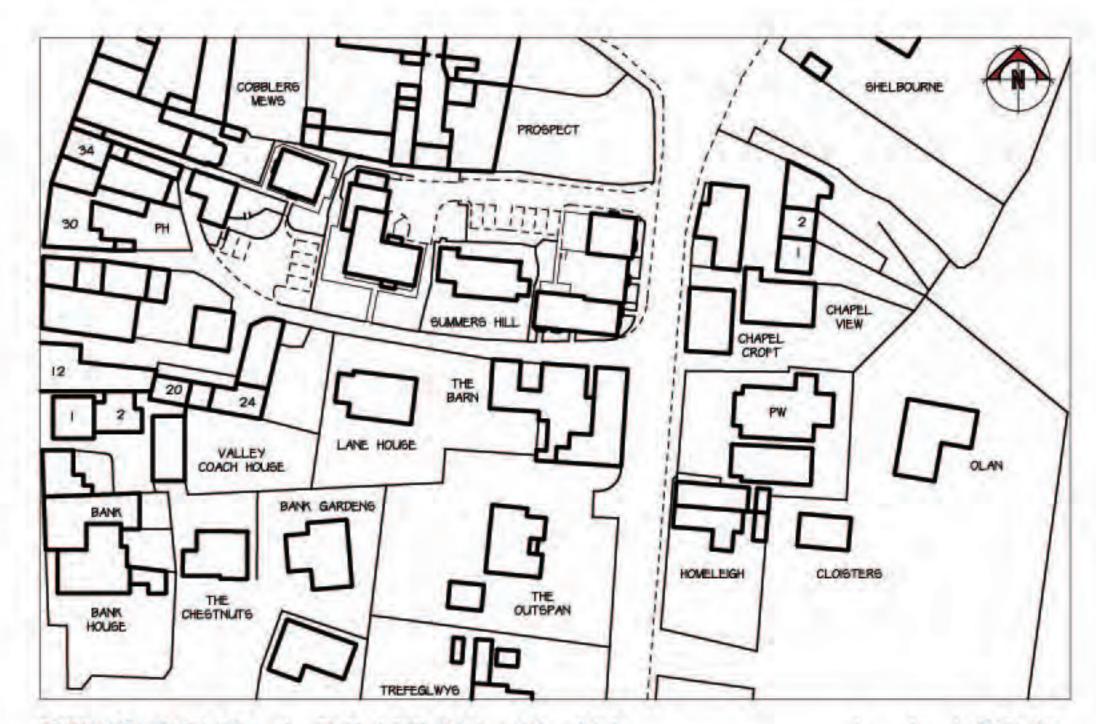


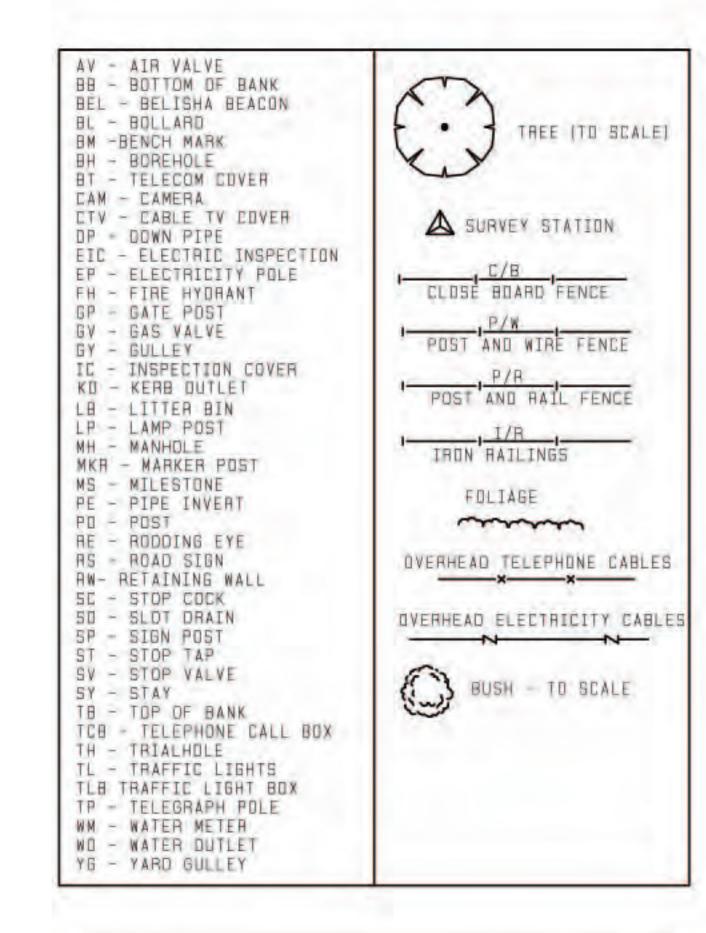


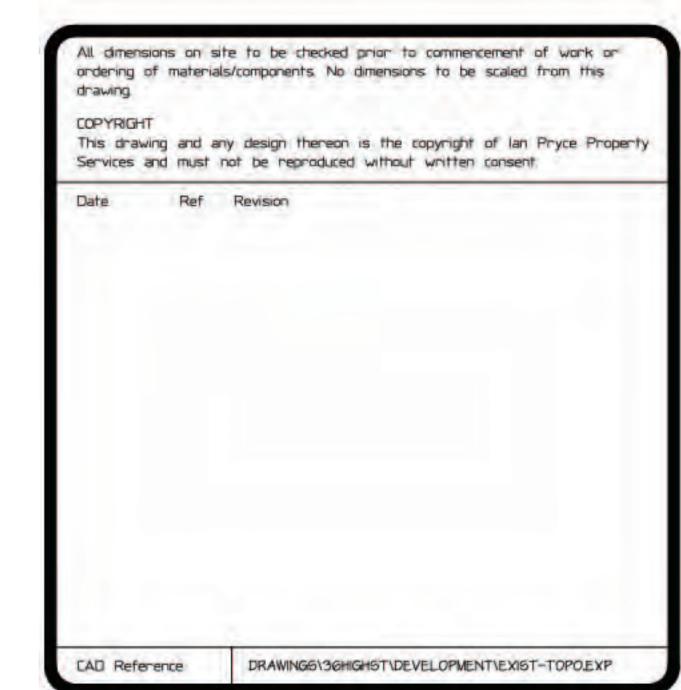
Building Surveyors, Architectural Services and Project Management.













Building Surveyors, Architectural Services and Project Management. PRINCES SQUARE, PRINCES STREET, MONTGOMERY, POWYS. SY 15 6PZ

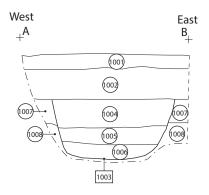
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT DETACHED DWELLING (LARGE) STATION RD / SCHOOL LANE BISHOPS CASTLE SHROPSHIRE

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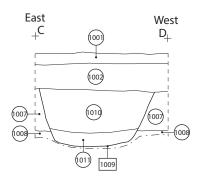
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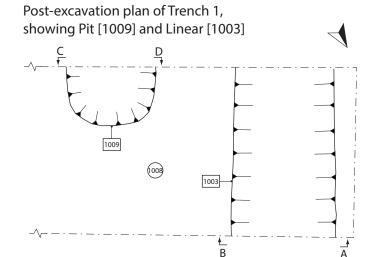


## Section of Linear [1003] within Trench 1

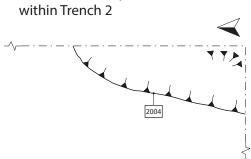


## Section of Pit [1009] within Trench 1





#### Post-excavation plan of Feature [2004]



## Representative section within Trench 5

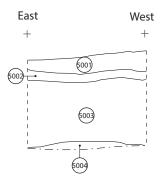


Figure 4
Sections and detailed plans of features within Trenches 1, 2 & 5.



## Archaeology Wales

**APPENDIX II:** 



Plate 1. Post-excavation view of Trench 1, looking north-west. Scales 2 x 1m



Plate 2. Post-excavation view of Trench 1, looking west. Scales 2 x 1m





Plate 3. Post-excavation view of Trench 1, looking north. Scales 2 x 1m



Plate 4. Post-excavation view of Trench 1, looking west. Scales 2 x 1m



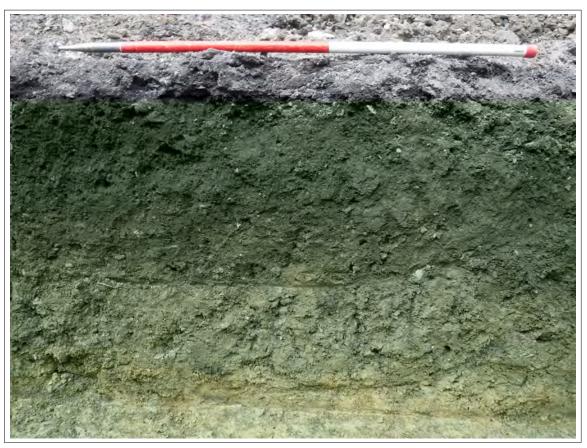


Plate 5. Representative section within Trench 1, looking north. Scale  $1\,\mathrm{m}$ 



Plate 6. Post-excavation shot of Linear [1003] within Trench 1, looking north. Scale 1m  $\,$ 





Plate 7. Section of Linear [1003] within Trench 1, looking south. Scale 1m  $\,$ 



Plate 8. Section of Pit [1009] within Trench 1, looking S. Scale 1m





Plate 9. Post-excavation shot of Pit [1009], looking south. Scale 1m



Plate 10. Post-excavation shot of Pit [1009] in plan. Scale 1m





Plate 11. Post-excavation view of Trench 2, looking south. Scale 2 x 1m  $\,$ 



Plate 12. Representative section within Trench 2, looking east. Scale 1m





Plate 13. Post-excavation shot of Feature [2004] within Trench 2, looking east. Scale 1m



Plate 14. Post-excavation view of Trench 3. Looking south. Scales 2 x 1m





Plate 15. Post-excavation view of Trench 5, looking south. Scales 2 x 1m



Plate 16. Post-excavation view of Trench 5, looking west. Scales 2 x 1m





Plate 17. Close-up of representative section within Trench 5, looking west.



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### **APPENDIX III:**

Trench	Context	Туре	Description	Date
1	1001	Deposit	Mid/dark black brown silt	Topsoil
1	1002	Deposit	Mid-brown black silt	Subsoil
1	1003	Cut	Linear cut with moderately steep	Post-medieval
			sides and an almost flat base	
1	1004	Fill	Mid-grey brown silt	Post-medieval
1	1005	Fill	Firm mid-grey brown silt	Post-medieval
1	1006	Fill	Black brown silt	Post-medieval
1	1007	Deposit	Mid-orange brown silty clay	Colluvium
1	1008	Deposit	Yellow grey clay and included	Natural
			occasional angular stones.	
1	1009	Cut	Square cut with steep sides and	Post-medieval
			a flat base	
1	1010	Fill	Firm dark grey brown clayey silt	Post-medieval
			with frequent sub-angular	
			stones	
1	1011	Fill	Dark grey black silt	Post-medieval
2	2001	Deposit	Mid/dark brown silt.	Topsoil
2	2002	Deposit	Mid-grey brown silty soil	Subsoil
2	2003	Fill	Mid-orange brown silty clay	Post-medieval
2	2004	Cut	Linear cut with steep sides and a	Post-medieval
			concave base	
2	2005	Fill	Firm, mid-grey clayey silt	Post-medieval
2	2006	Deposit	Yellow grey clay	Natural
3	3001	Deposit	Mid/dark brown silt	Topsoil
3	3002	Deposit	Mid-grey brown clayey silt	Subsoil
3	3003	Deposit	Yellow grey clay and contained	Natural
			occasional angular stones.	
5	5001	Deposit	Mid-grey brown silt	Topsoil
5	5002	Deposit	Mid-yellow brown silt	Subsoil
5	5003	Deposit	Black brown silt	Modern
5	5004	Fill	Fine red sand	Modern
5	5005	Deposit	Yellow grey clay	Natural

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