



THE ARCHAEOLOGY CO.

90 Preston Street, Kirkham

Watching Brief

January 2021

Contents

Non-technical Summary

1. Introduction

2. Site Location

3. Aims and Objectives

4. Methodology

5. Historical Background

6. Results and Conclusions

7. Archive

8. Copyright

Bibliography

Appendix 1: Figures

Appendix 2: Plates

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was a requirement of condition 4 of planning permission 19/0511, to be carried out during the groundworks for the construction of a garage. Three trenches were excavated to a depth of c. 700mm and revealed topsoil c. 250mm deep over the natural clay. Three features were found; a pit or ditch of indeterminate date, a linear ditch of indeterminate date, possibly Roman, and a post-medieval pit.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Steven Price of The Archaeology Co. has been commissioned to perform a watching brief to be carried out during the groundworks at 90 Preston Street, Kirkham, for the erection of a detached garage. Condition 4 of planning permission 19/0511 states:

No works to the application site, including any clearance/demolition or preparation works shall take place until a programme of archaeological works, including a watching brief for the demolition and excavation works and the recording of any surviving buried remains, has been submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The agreed programme of works shall be carried out during the implementation of the planning permission hereby approved, with any written recording of archaeological finds forwarded to the local planning authority on completion of the examination. The watching brief must be carried out by an appropriately qualified and experienced professional contractor in accordance with the standards and guidance set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Reason: To ensure and safeguard the recording and inspection of matters of archaeological/historical importance associated with the buildings/site in accordance with Policy ENV5 of the Fylde Local Plan to 2032 and para 189 and 190 of the NPPF.

2. SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The site lies on the south side of Preston Street (B5192), just west of its junction with Carrwood Drive. It lies c. 0.2km east of Kirkham centre. The postal address is 90 Preston Street, Kirkham, Preston, PR4 2XA and the National Grid Reference is SD 42933 32047. The building is not listed

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The purpose of a watching brief, as stated by the ClfA is:

- “to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, their presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.
- To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.” (ClfA 2014)

3.2 The results of a Watching Brief are used to produce a record of the location, nature and date of any archaeological remains encountered on the site. It also adds to the knowledge about the previous history of activity on the current site and its surroundings as well as providing information to influence future planning decisions in the area.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The project was carried out in accordance with the recommendations of The Management of Archaeological Projects 2nd ed. 1991 and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct.
- 4.2 Photographs were taken using a DSLR. Where possible and safe, a 1 or 2m scale was used in the photographs.
- 4.3 The site was visited on 4th to 6th of January 2021 when the groundworks were undertaken by mechanical digger.
- 4.4 An archaeologist (Pascal Eloy) was present during the groundworks. Ground excavation was carried out with a toothless bucket with opportunities for archaeological observation. The attending archaeologist was given opportunity to direct the machine to stop to allow inspection, excavation and/or recording of potential archaeological features. Where archaeological features were deemed to be present they were archaeologically exposed and recorded. Spoil was searched with a metal detector for finds.
- 4.5 The assessment was carried out in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs.

5. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 Evidence has been found of hunter gatherers in the Fylde area dating from the Late Upper Palaeolithic (16,000 – 8,000 BC). This took the form of the remains of an elk, which was hunted and harpooned at High Furlong, near Kirkham, found to date from 15,500 – 11,500 cal. BC (Barrowclough 2008, 48). Evidence of Mesolithic occupation has also been found, with charcoal from peat beds and changes in the pollen record showing that clearance of vegetation was taking place around 7,000 – 6,000 BC. It is believed that Mesolithic people favoured well drained sands and coastal sites, and the prehistoric coastal wetland in the area would have provided a good source of food and water, and important resources such as chert and flint were likely derived from rocks within the boulder clay (*ibid.*, 15).
- 5.2 A rise in sea level around 4,000 BC caused the area to become a series of islands. Scatters of worked flint have been found on some of these, such as one at Peel. This scatter is believed to be the remains of a ploughed out barrow, as other barrows in the area have been discovered on the 'islands' (Barrowclough 2008, 19). Finds from the late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age (2,500 BC) have also been found across the Fylde, such as axe-hammers and maces as well as bronze implements. Further, a timber track-way known as 'Kate's Pad' and written about in 1850, was excavated by Pilling Historical Society in 1950 and radiocarbon dates placed it in the Late Bronze Age (800 BC) (Sherley n.d., 14-19).
- 5.3 A Roman fort is known to have been constructed at Kirkham and lies to the south of the site. Some finds include a hoard of 17 silver denarii, with the coins ranging in date from AD 60 – 165 (Shakeshaft 2001, 4) and some Roman pottery unearthed during river dredging in the 1970's (Sherdley n.d., 21). Oxford Archaeology North uncovered a large amount of Roman remains at Myrtle Drive, c. 400m to the east of the site. Other finds from the area include; a shield boss found near Dow Brook; the tombstone of "cavalryman and barbarian type" similar to one found at Ribchester; A coin hoard found in a small Samian jar found during construction of Kirkgate in 1853, and; pottery, leather and other material found in the Pennine View/Myrtle Drive area in the late 1950's/early 1960's. (WAG, 2017). Roman finds have also been found at Carr Hill and Carr Lane, c. 100m to the east of the site.

- 5.4 Kirkham is thought to have Saxon origins, being one of the oldest parishes in the county (Baines 1824, 654). It was described by Baines as “the metropolis of the Fylde country” (ibid.). In 1066 Kirkham, like the whole of the parish, was part of the fee of Earl Tostig and was assessed as four plough-lands. Kirkham proper soon became a rectory manor, held by the clerks for the church. The Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, Oxford, leased the manor to the Cliftons of Lytham, who held it until the 19th century (Farrer & Brownbill 1912, 143-150).
- 5.5 In 1296 the Abbot of Vale Royal constituted a free borough in Kirkham. The inhabitants were to have “a gild, with gaol, pillory and cuck-stool and other means of punishing malefactors, the assize of bread and ale, and other liberties of a borough; their bailiffs were to be presented to the abbot” (Farrer & Brownbill 1912, 152). A charter for a weekly market and a fair at Midsummer were granted to the town in 1287 by Edward I. Kirkham occurs as a surname, but in mediaeval times there does not seem to have been any important resident family, although some of the neighbouring gentry had burgages in the town (Farrer & Brownbill 1912, 150-153). The Medieval entre of the town was focused on the cross roads, to the west of the site.
- 5.6 Kirkham was the ecclesiastical head of the district and after other parishes had been cut off, the detached fragments of Goosnargh remained subject to Kirkham. Farrer and Brownbill (1912, 150-153) note that “[o]therwise there is little to notice in the history” as “[t]he great lords, temporal and spiritual, were non-resident. The chief local family was that of Clifton in the south; the others appear to have been little more than yeomen, though some acquired greater importance in course of time. The parish is comparatively seldom mentioned in the records”.
- 5.7 Kirkham, like most of the Fylde, was hostile to the Reformation, and during the Civil War the king's side found zealous supporters. There was little fighting in the parish and the men were sent away to other places (Farrer & Brownbill 1912, 150-153). After the Restoration the district was once again a quiet agricultural area and the Revolution and the Jacobite insurrections producing little apparent effect in Kirkham (Farrer & Brownbill 1912, 150-153).



5.8 Kirkham as a whole has remained agricultural, although there were also cotton and other manufacturers in the town. Yates's map of 1786 shows Kirkham at this time, with the building focus around the cross roads. The OS maps from 1849, and 1911 show the site was covered with trees during the 19th century and then open land by the beginning of the 20th century. The building first appears on the 1932 OS map.

6. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The site comprised three trenches; a western trench numbered trench 1, a southern trench numbered trench 2, and an eastern trench, trench 3. The trenches were approximately 0.7m wide and 0.7m deep. The top soil was given the context number (01) and was c. 250mm in depth. It lay over the natural clay, context (02). The top soil contained post medieval pottery and appeared to have been imported. The natural clay contained lenses of sand numbered context (05).
- 6.2 Three features were identified. The first was a shallow pit or ditch with pebbles at its base seen in the western facing section of trench 1. The feature was allocated context numbers [03] for the cut and (04) for the fill. The second was a ditch identified in the east and west facing sections of trench 1. This ditch was also seen in the north facing and south facing sections of trench 2. The cut was numbered context [07] and context (08) for the fill. A small amount of roman ceramic building materials (CBM) was located in the fill, however this material may be washed in debris and the ditches date remains undetermined. The third feature was seen in trench 3, this was a wide shallow pit containing charcoal and brick fragments. This feature was allocated contexts [09] for the cut and (08) for the fill. The fill contained a small amount of post-medieval finds and was interpreted as a post medieval pit.
- 6.3 The depth of the topsoil over the natural clay and that it appears to have been imported may suggest that the site was stripped prior to the construction of the house in the early 20th century. As such, the features were likely truncated during this stripping, leaving only partial remains.

7. ARCHIVE

- 7.1 The results of the archaeological investigation form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current Historic England guidelines (“The Management of Archaeological Projects”, 2nd edition, 1991), the “Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage” (UKIC 1990), and current ClfA “standards and guidance for the creation, compilation, transportation and deposition of archaeological archive” (published October 2009). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the ClfA in that organisation’s code of conduct.
- 7.2 The written, drawn and photographic archive will be placed with Lancashire Archive (with reference DDX 3172) within a reasonable time of completion of the project. The finds have been offered to the Harris Museum, Preston, along with a copy of the report. A digital copy of the report and photographs shall be deposited with ADS through the OASIS database. A copy of the final report will also be deposited with the Lancashire Historic Environment Record.

8. COPYRIGHT

- 8.1 Full copyright of this commissioned report and other project documents shall be retained by the author of the report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abbreviations

CIfA	Chartered Institute for archaeologists
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
OS	Ordnance Survey

Literature

Baines 1824 "Baines's Lancashire" Vol. 1

Barrowclough, D., 2008, "Prehistoric Lancashire

CIfA 2020 "Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief"

Farrer, W & Brownbill, J. 1912 "Victoria County History: A History of the County of Lancaster: Volume 7"

"National Planning Policy Framework" 2012 accessed online at www.communities.gov.uk

Shakeshaft, S 2001 "A History of Freckleton"

Sherdley, H, n.d. "The Archaeology of Pilling Moss"

WAG – Wyre Archaeology Group. Accessed online at:

"<http://www.wyresearchaeology.org.uk/index.php/digs/kirkham-roman-fort>"

Maps

Yates' map of Lancashire 1786

1849 OS Map Lancashire Sheet 60



1911 OS map Lancashire Sheet 60.5

1932 OS map Lancashire Sheet 60.5

Appendix 1: Figures

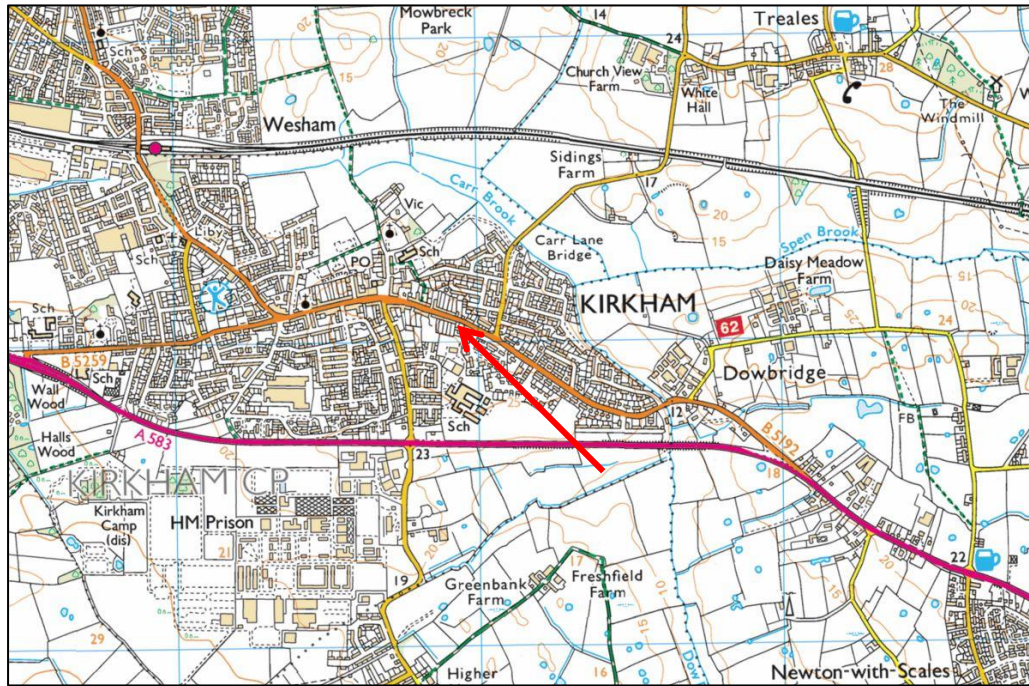


Figure 1: Location Plan (Ordnance Survey Licence Number: 100057911)



Figure 2: Yates' map of 1786 showing approximate site location (reproduced with kind permission of Lancashire Archives)



Figure 3: 1849 OS Map Lancashire Sheet 60 (Courtesy of Lancashire Archives)



Figure 4: 1911 OS map Lancashire Sheet 60.5 (Courtesy of Lancashire Archives)



Figure 5: 1932 OS map Lancashire Sheet 60.5 (Courtesy of Lancashire Archives)

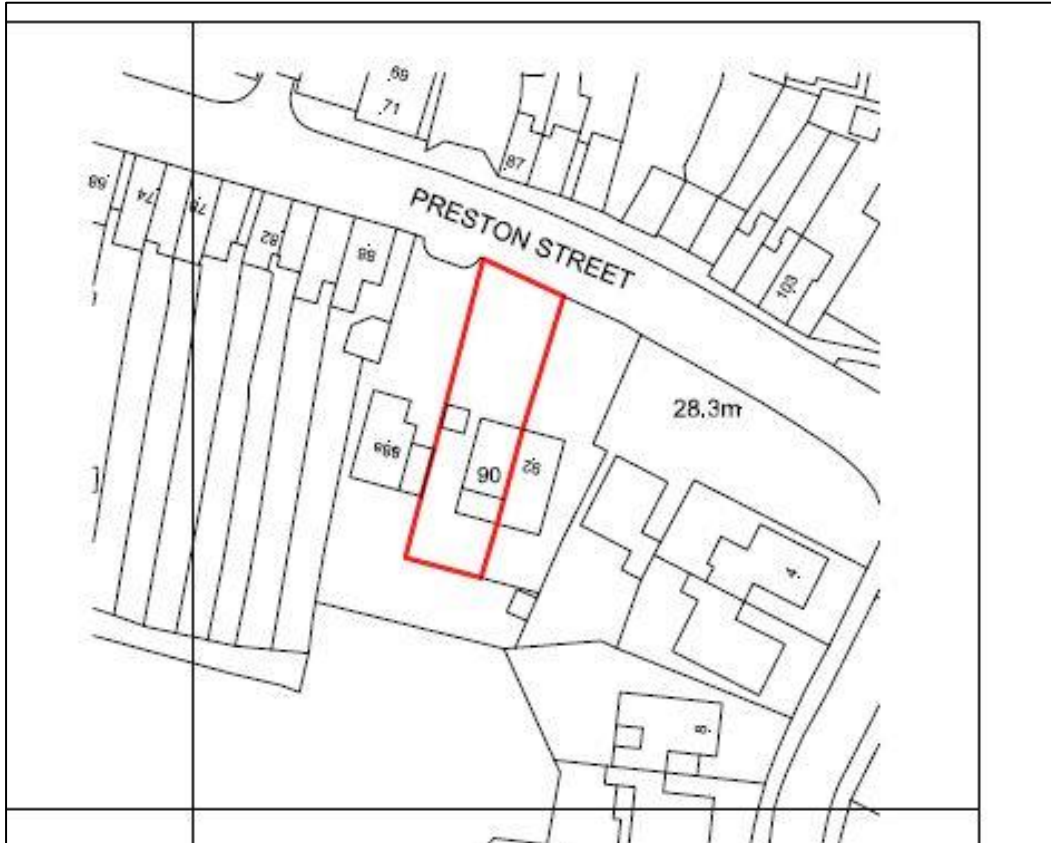
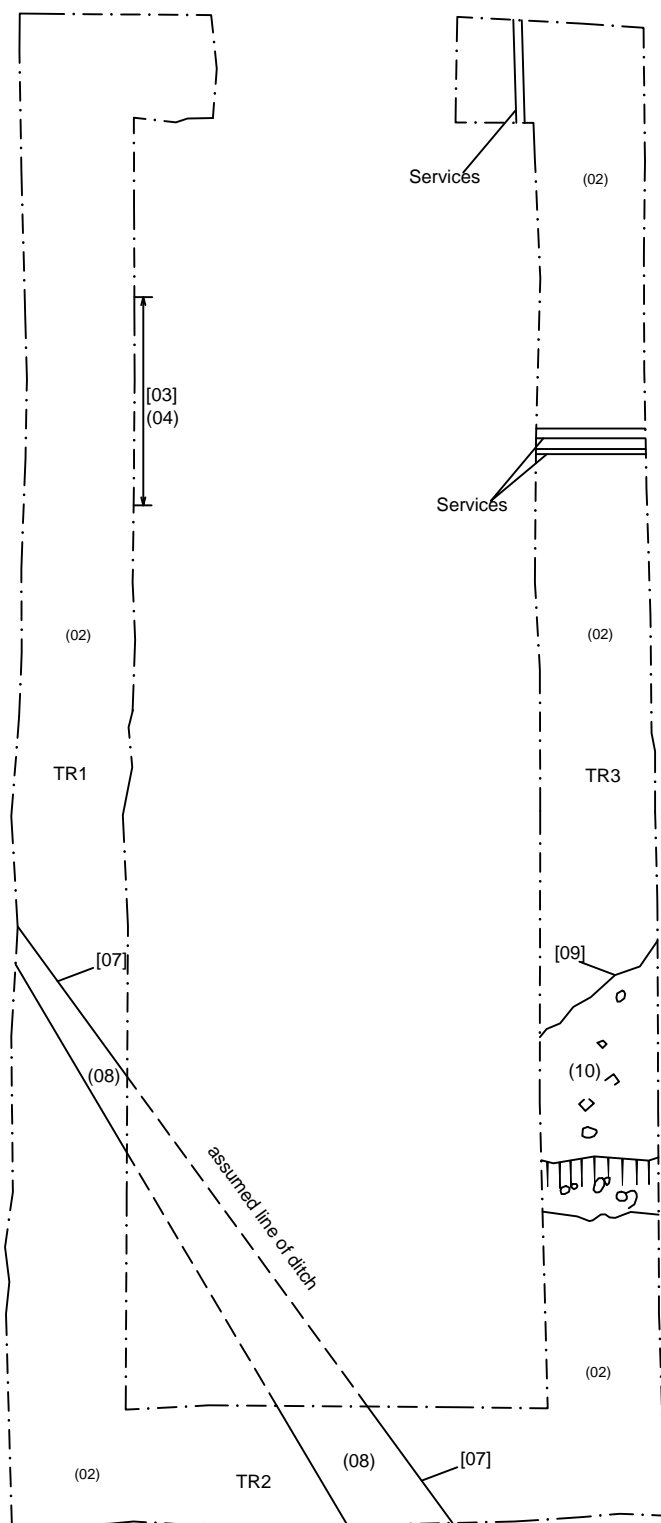


Figure 6: Site plan (courtesy of client)

Figure 7: Context List

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
01	Deposit	Compact, dark brown loamy silt containing modern debris	Imported top soil
02	Deposit	Compact, orange brown clay containing small pebbles	Natural clay
03	Cut	U shaped cut with gradual break of slope and base and sloping sides	Low cut of pit or ditch
04	Deposit	Moderately compact grey brown clay silt with pebbles	Fill of cut 03
05	Deposit	A loose, light brown sandy silt with pebbles	Natural sand deposit
07	Cut	Linear cut seen in TR1 and TR2 with steep sides, gradual break of slope and rounded base.	Linear ditch
08	Deposit	Moderately compact, dark grey brown clay silt and sand containing charcoal and pebbles. Some Roman CBM found	Ditch fill of cut 07
09	Cut	A low bowl-shaped cut with sloping side and gradual break of slope and base	Shallow pit
10	Deposit	Moderately compact dark grey brown sandy silt containing a lot of charcoal, a small number of pebbles and post medieval CBM	Fill of pit 09



THE ARCHAEOLOGY CO.

steven@thearchaeologyco.uk
07803202689

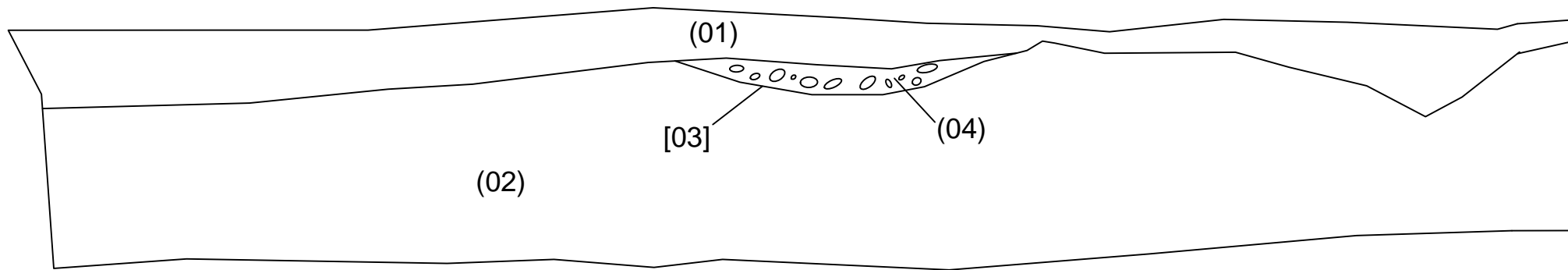
90 Preston Street,
Kirkham

Figure 8: Trench plan

Scale: 1:50

Date: January 2021

Notes



Trench 1 West Facing Section - North End


THE ARCHAEOLOGY CO.
 steven@thearchaeologyco.uk
 07803202689

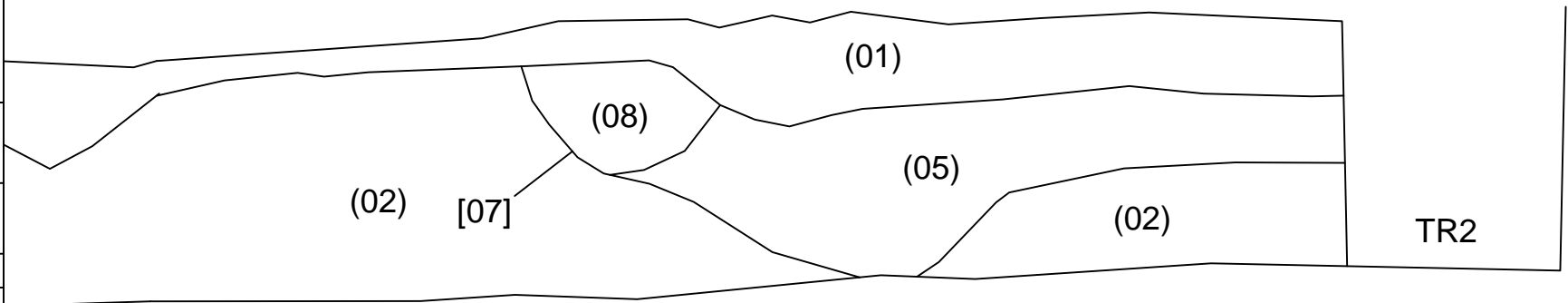
90 Preston Street,
Kirkham

Figure 9: Trench 1 West
Facing Section

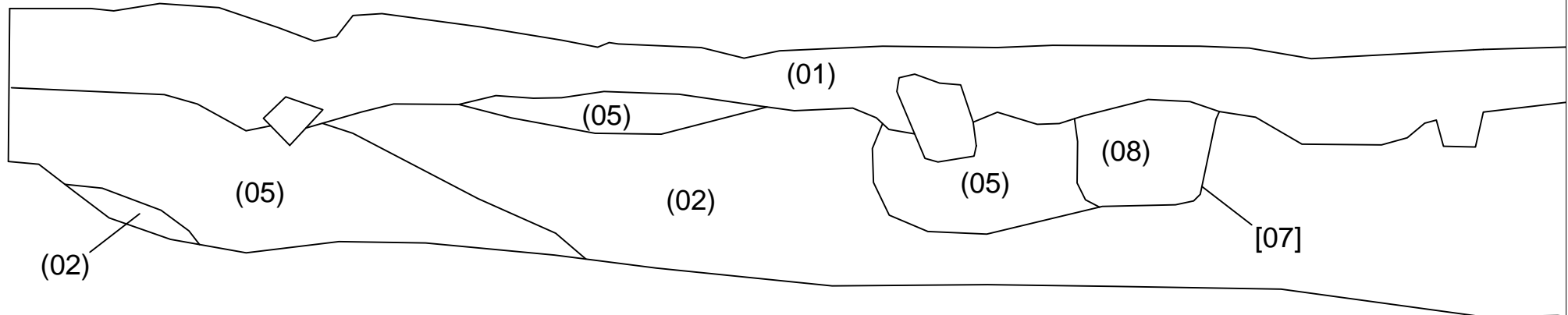
Scale: 1:20

Date: January 2021

Notes



Trench 1 West Facing Section - South End



Trench 1 East Facing Section - South End



THE ARCHAEOLOGY CO.

steven@thearchaeologyco.uk
07803202689

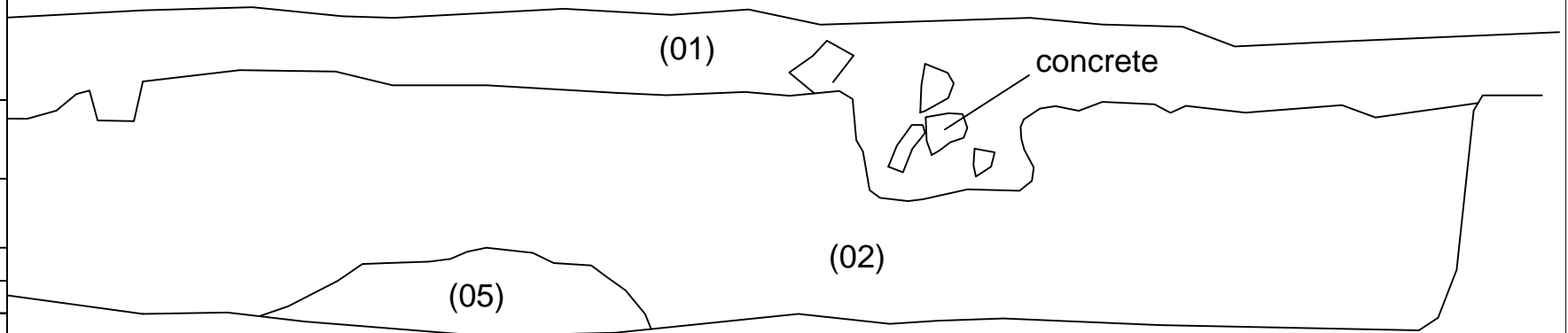
90 Preston Street,
Kirkham

Figure 10: Trench 1 East
Facing Section

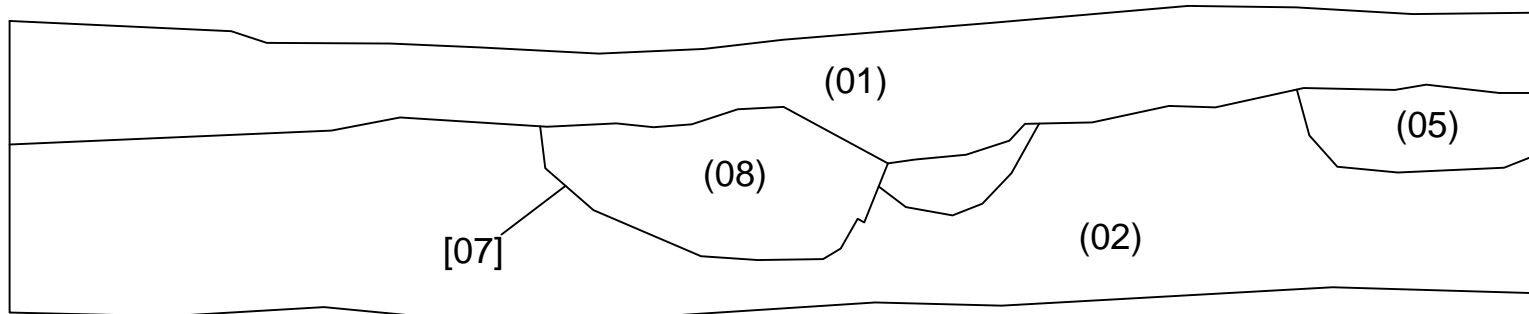
Scale: 1:20

Date: January 2021

Notes



Trench 1 East Facing Section - South End



Trench 2 North Facing Section


THE ARCHAEOLOGY CO.
 steven@thearchaeologyco.uk
 07803202689

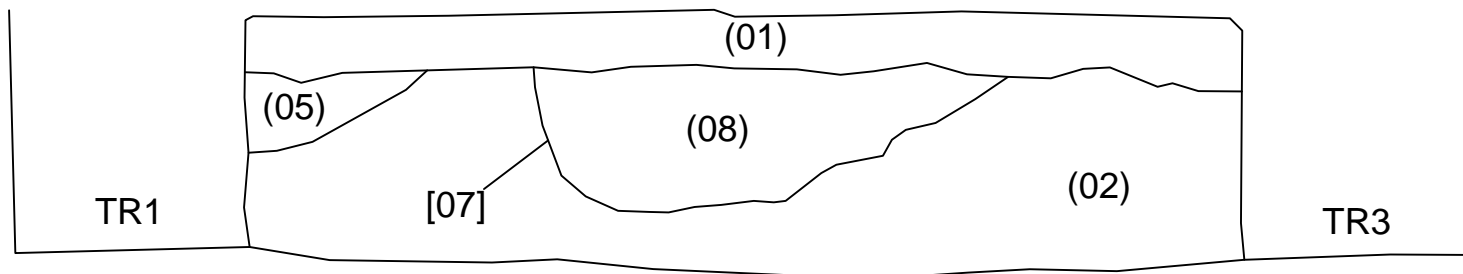
90 Preston Street,
Kirkham

Figure 11: Trench 2 Sections

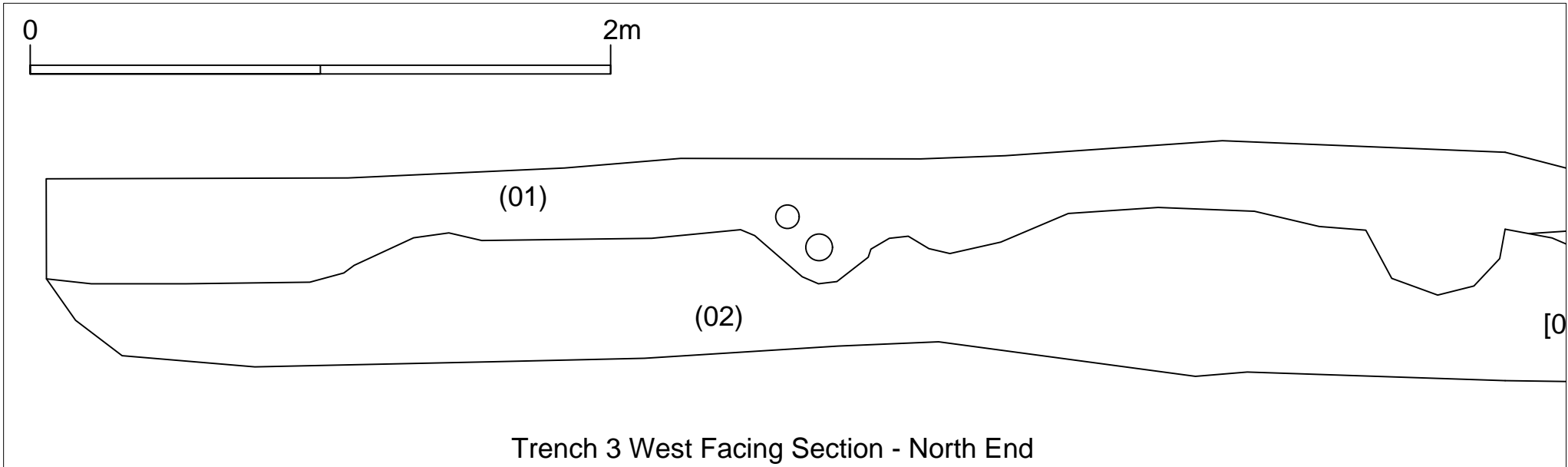
Scale: 1:20

Date: January 2021

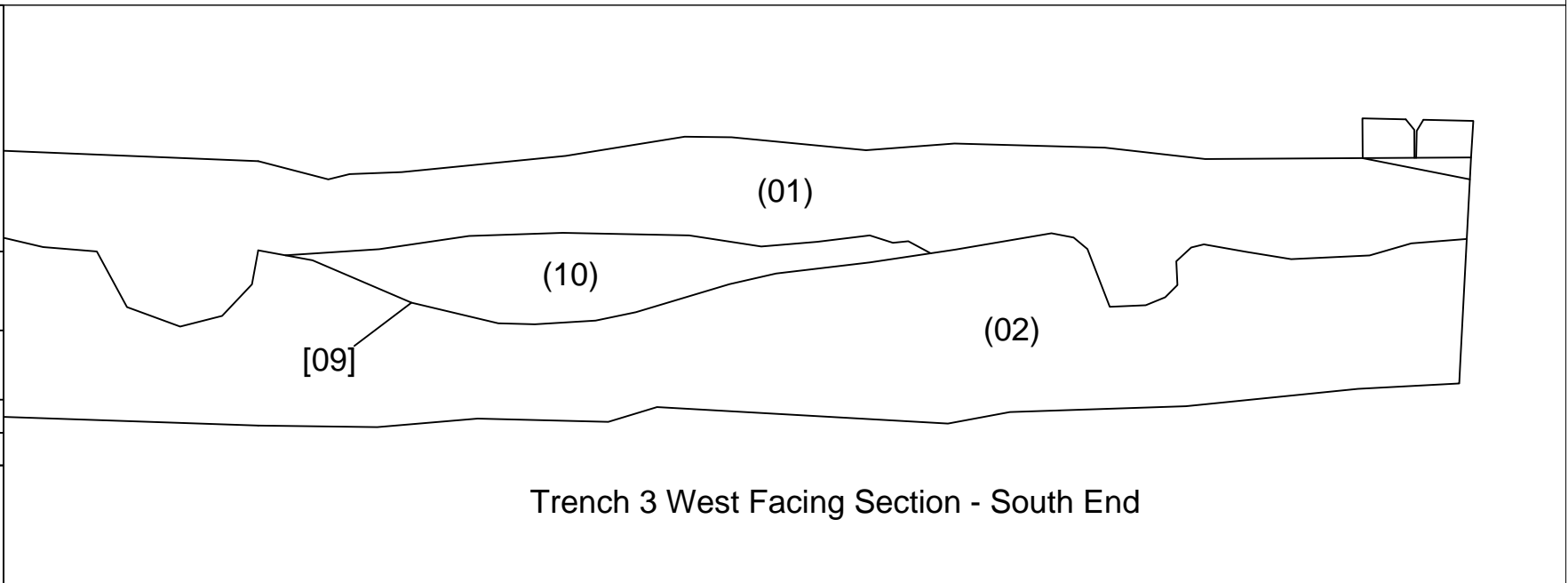
Notes

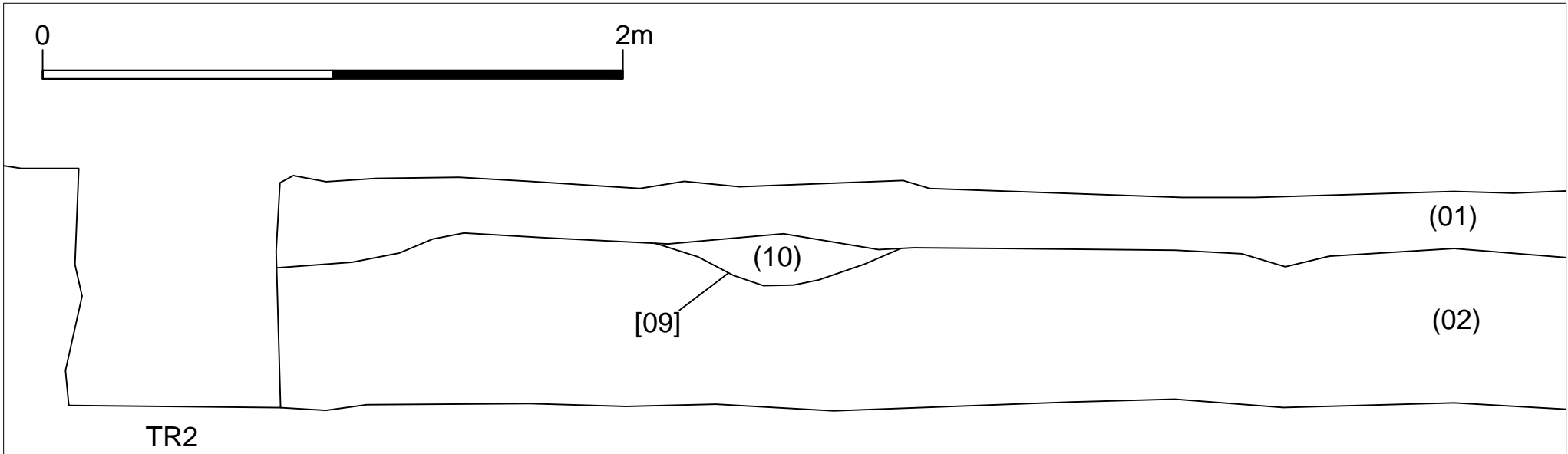


Trench 2 South Facing Section



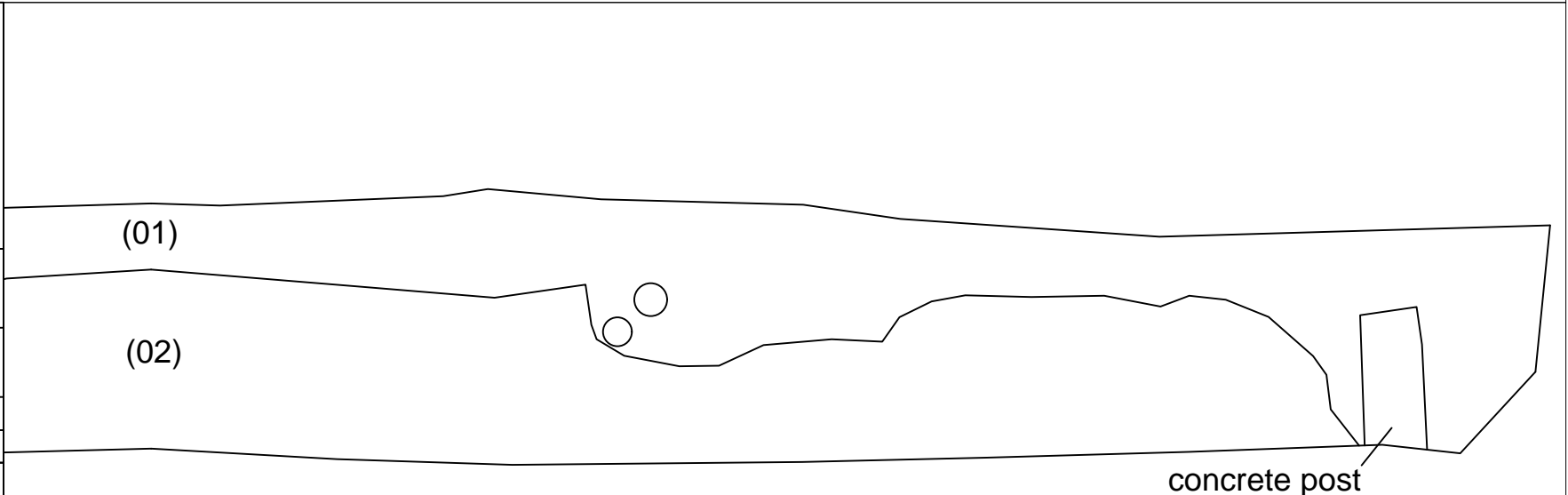
 THE ARCHAEOLOGY CO. steven@thearchaeologyco.uk 07803202689
90 Preston Street, Kirkham
Figure 12: Trench 3 West Facing Section
Scale: 1:20
Date: January 2021
Notes





Trench 3 East Facing Section - South End

 <p>THE ARCHAEOLOGY CO.</p> <p>steven@thearchaeologyco.uk 07803202689</p>
<p>90 Preston Street, Kirkham</p>
<p>Figure 13: Trench 3 East Facing Section</p>
<p>Scale: 1:20</p>
<p>Date: January 2021</p>
<p>Notes</p>



Trench 3 East Facing Section - North End

Appendix 2: Plates



Plate 1: General shot of site looking south



Plate 2: General shot of site looking north



Plate 3: Pit or ditch [03] (04) in west facing section of trench 1 (north end)



Plate 4: East facing section of Trench 1



Plate 5: Ditch [07] (08) in east facing section trench 1



Plate 6: West facing section trench 1, south end



Plate 7: Ditch [07] (08) west facing section trench 1, south end



Plate 8: Wwest facing section trench 1, south end



Plate 9: Ditch [07] (08) south facing section trench 2



Plate 10: Ditch [07] (08) south facing section trench 2



Plate 11: Ditch [07] (08) south facing section trench 2 showing alignment of ditch from trench 1 to trench 2.



Plate 12: Working shot looking north



Plate 13: Ditch [07] (08) north facing section trench 2



Plate 14: Pit [09] (10) in plan looking south east, and in east facing section trench 3 south end



Plate 15: Pit [09] (10) in plan looking north trench 3 south end



Plate 16: Pit [09] (10) west facing section trench 3 south end