



Treliske Innovation Centre, Treliske, Truro, Cornwall

Archaeological Watching Brief Report





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**TRELISKE INNOVATION CENTRE,
TRELISKE, TRURO, CORNWALL**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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by

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QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	77910	ACCESSION CODE		CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	PA14/1337/10/M.	NGR	179380 453350		

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I= Internal Draft E= External Draft F= Final

**TRELISKE INNOVATION CENTRE,
TRELISKE, TRURO, CORNWALL****Archaeological Watching Brief Report****Contents**

	Summary.....iv
	Acknowledgments.....v
1	INTRODUCTION1
1.1	Project background1
1.2	Site Use, Geology and Topology1
2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND2
2.1	Archaeological background2
3	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES2
3.1	Project aim and objectives2
4	METHOD STATEMENT3
4.1	Methodology3
5	RESULTS3
5.1	Deposit Sequence3
5.2	Archaeological Watching Brief4
6	FINDS4
7	PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES4
8	CONCLUSION.....4
9	ARCHIVE.....4
9.1	Preparation and Deposition4
9.2	The Archive5
9.3	Copyright5
10	REFERENCES5
11	OASIS FORM6
	OASIS ID: wessexar1-114108.....6

**TRELISKE INNOVATION CENTRE,
TRELISKE, TRURO, CORNWALL****Archaeological Watching Brief Report****Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by BAM Construction Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the initial groundworks associated with the construction of a new building (the Treliske Innovation Centre), at the western end of the car parking area in the Treliske Industrial estate, Treliske, Cornwall. The building, covering an area of approximately 1300m², is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 179380 453350 (**Figure 1**).

The watching brief was carried out between 1st and 15th September 2011 during the initial groundworks. The watching brief revealed no archaeological features or buried soils.

TRELISKE INNOVATION CENTRE, TRELISKE, TRURO, CORNWALL

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Acknowledgments

This project was commissioned by BAM Construction Ltd and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Lee Edwards-Smith and David Hawkins of BAM Construction Ltd for help and assistance during the project. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Danial Ratcliffe of the Historic Environment Service, Cornwall Council who monitored the project on behalf of Cornwall Council.

The fieldwork was carried out by Simon Flaherty, Oliver Good and Tomas Burk. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andy Manning. This report was compiled by Oliver Good and the illustrations were by Rob Goller and S.E. James.

TRELISKE INNOVATION CENTRE, TRELISKE, TRURO, CORNWALL

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by BAM Construction Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the initial groundworks associated with the construction of a new building (the Treliske Innovation Centre) in the Treliske Industrial estate, Treliske, Cornwall. The building, covering an area of approximately 1300m², is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 179380 453350 (**Figure 1**), hereafter referred to as 'the Site'.

1.1.2 The Site lies within an area which has been previously identified as containing a high archaeological potential for Bronze Age, Iron Age, medieval and later remains of archaeological significance. When the Site was first proposed for development in 2006, archaeological test-pitting was undertaken by Cornwall Council archaeologists to assess this area of high archaeological potential. Based on the results of the fieldwork, it was recommended that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during any subsequent groundworks. However, the development did not proceed, at that stage, and accordingly no further work was carried out.

1.1.3 A new planning application (Planning Ref.: PA14/1337/10/M) was submitted in November 2010 and approved in June 2011 with the archaeological condition (No. 10) for a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording to be carried out during the initial groundworks, in accordance with the recommendations of the 2006 fieldwork report.

1.1.4 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) (WA 2011) detailing the methodology to be used during the archaeological watching brief and the final reporting was submitted to, and approved by, Cornwall Council before the commencement of work.

1.1.5 The watching brief was carried out between 1st and 15th September 2011.

1.2 Site Use, Geology and Topology

1.2.1 The Site occupies the western end of the current car parking area associated with the Royal Cornwall Hospital. The ground surface at the southern edge of the Site was at a height of approximately 98.60m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) sloping steeply downwards to the northern limits of the Site at a height of 95.50m aOD. The natural geology is sedimentary mudstone.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Archaeological background

- 2.1.1 The Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record (Cornwall & Scilly HER) records a total of 9 known sites and historic buildings within a 500m radius of the Site (**Figure 1**).
- 2.1.2 Two Bronze Age barrows (Cornwall & Scilly HER 19230 and 19247), have been recorded within 200m to the south of the Site, within an area known on the Tithe award of 1840 as 'Barrow Field'. Barrow 19230 is known to have been removed by road construction in the 1970s although the remaining barrow was only recorded approximately in the 1850s and its precise location is not currently known. Further afield, significant Iron Age settlement remains have been found at Mount Pleasant and the Richard Lanner School, between 700 to 1000m to the southwest and west of the Site.
- 2.1.3 The medieval settlement of Gloweth (Cornwall & Scilly HER 19268) which was first recorded in AD 1325 is located approximately 500m to the southeast of the Site. Medieval/post-medieval field systems (Cornwall & Scilly HER 55105), a medieval/post-medieval boundary bank (Cornwall & Scilly HER 55106) and a medieval/post-medieval beacon site (Cornwall & Scilly HER 19204) are recorded approximately 140m to the northwest, 450m to the north and 500m to the southeast from the Site, respectively.
- 2.1.4 An 18th century milestone (Cornwall & Scilly HER 178309), a 19th century chapel (Cornwall & Scilly HER 138047) and a Second World War army camp (Cornwall & Scilly HER 55060) are located 340m to the southeast, 280m to the south and 240m to the southwest of the Site, respectively.
- 2.1.5 Archaeological test pitting within the Site was undertaken in 2006 to assess the potential for prehistoric barrows and Iron Age activity. Six test pits, each approximately 1m wide, 2m in length and up to 3m in depth were machine excavated under archaeological supervision within or immediately adjacent to the footprint of the proposed building.
- 2.1.6 Although no evidence was found for archaeological features, the test pitting appeared to show that during the car park construction, the original ground surface within the western part of the car park had been sealed below levelling deposits. This buried ground surface survives at a depth of between 1.4m to 0.30m within the majority of the footprint of the proposed building, especially to the west of a line drawn between test pits 2 and 4 (**Figure 2**).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Project aim and objectives

- 3.1.1 With due regard to the *IfA Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008), the generic aims of the project were defined as;
- To enable the preservation by record of any archaeological features or deposits uncovered and to establish the extent (where possible), date, character, relationship, condition and significance of surviving

archaeological features, artefacts and deposits within the area to be impacted by construction work

- Where significant archaeological remains or deposits are identified, to inform discussions on the final extent and scope of the required archaeological mitigation
- To place any identified archaeological remains within their context.

4 METHOD STATEMENT

4.1 Methodology

- 4.1.1 In line with the approved WSI, removal of the existing car park surface and overburden was undertaken using a mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, which operated under constant supervision by Wessex Archaeology staff. All overburden was removed to the top of the construction level or the top of the archaeological deposits, whichever was higher.
- 4.1.2 Due to the natural slope, excavation to the formal formation level resulted in an average reduction of approximately 2m below the existing ground surface within the southern half of the Site but with significantly shallower excavation (less than 0.20m in depth) at the northern limits of the Site.
- 4.1.3 All deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's standard methods and *pro forma* recording system, with all deposits being assigned a unique number. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all deposits and levels was calculated, with sections annotated with OD heights. A digital photographic record was also maintained.
- 4.1.4 The location of deposits were surveyed by GPS and tied into the OS National Grid.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Deposit Sequence

- 5.1.1 The Site which comprised part of the hospital car park was covered with a tarmac surface, below which was a mid grey type one hardcore deposit (**101**) between 0.35m and 0.25m in depth. (**Figure 3**). Along the southern edge of the Site was a 2m wide earth modern bank containing a row of tree stumps which ran across the Site on an east-west alignment. The earth bank was removed as part of the groundworks and consisted of a dark brown sandy clay topsoil (0 – 0.12m thick) and a mid greyish brown sandy clay subsoil (0.12m – 0.30m thick).
- 5.1.2 Lying directly below the hardcore and the bank subsoil was the natural geology which comprised of a mid yellowish orange silty clay containing moderate amounts of sub angular mudstone which was clearly banded at varying depths within this deposit (recorded as **102**, **103**, **104** and **105**), (**Figure 3**).

5.2 Archaeological Watching Brief

- 5.2.1 Following the removal of the tarmac, the hardcore and, where required, the underlying natural were removed under archaeological supervision.
- 5.2.2 Initial machine stripping within the southern half and the north-eastern section of the Site was to the top of the mudstone and clay natural (**202**), which was directly sealed by hardcore made ground up to 0.40m in depth (**Figures 2 and 3**).
- 5.2.3 No evidence was found for a buried soil deposit (as noted in the previous test pit investigation in 2006) or any archaeological features or finds. However, observations were continued as stripping continued downwards towards the proposed Site formation level and during the excavation of an test pit in the southwest corner. These observations noted clear banding within the natural mudstone deposits down to the proposed Site formation level.
- 5.2.4 Within the south-western corner of the Site, the proposed reduction to the formation level reduced existing ground levels by only a maximum of 0.20m, which did not penetrate below the modern hardcore deposit.
- 5.2.5 A strip of land at the southwestern corner of the Site was left *in-situ* and will not be impacted by the proposed development.

6 FINDS

- 6.1.1 No archaeological finds were recovered during the course of the fieldwork.

7 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

- 7.1.1 No archaeological deposits suitable for sampling were found and accordingly no samples were taken.

8 CONCLUSION

- 8.1.1 Very limited archaeological works within the Site in 2006 identified a potential buried soil sealed by deep made ground deposits. However, the watching brief undertaken during the stripping of the Site to the formation level did not identify any archaeological features or finds during the course of this work.
- 8.1.2 Examination of the excavated sections and that of an additional test pit did identify clear banding within the exposed natural mudstone, which may have been mistaken as possible made ground and buried soil deposits.

9 ARCHIVE

9.1 Preparation and Deposition

- 9.1.1 The archive is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's office building under the site code **77910**. The complete archaeological project archive will be prepared in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's Guidelines for Archive Preparation and in accordance with *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2007).

- 9.1.2 At a later date, the archive will be deposited with the Cornwall County Council Museum Service under the site code **77910**. The archive will be prepared in accordance with the Museum's archive preparation standards.

9.2 The Archive

- 9.2.1 The project archive was prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (UKIC 1990). It comprises a ring-bound file containing a watching brief attendance form, site 'day book', trench record sheets, photographic register and *Written Scheme of Investigation*.

- 9.2.2 Details of the Site will be submitted online to the OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) database.

9.3 Copyright

- 9.3.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

10 REFERENCES

- Brown, D.H., 2007, *Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum
- IfA, 2008, *Standards and guidance: for an archaeological watching brief*
- Wessex Archaeology, 2011, *Treliske Innovation Centre, Treliske, Truro, Cornwall, Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief*, Unpublished Client Report ref. 77910.01, May 2011

11 OASIS FORM
OASIS ID: wessexar1-114108
Project details

Project name	Treliske Innovation Centre, Treliske, Cornwall
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by BAM Construction Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the initial groundworks associated with the construction of a new building (the Treliske Innovation Centre), at the western end of the car parking area in the Treliske Industrial estate, Treliske, Cornwall. The building, covering an area of approximately 1300m ² , is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 179380 453350 (Figure 1). The watching brief was carried out between the dates 1st and 15th of September 2011 during the initial groundworks. The watching brief revealed no archaeological features or buried soils.
Project dates	Start: 01-09-2011 End: 15-09-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	77910 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CORNWALL CARRICK TRURO Treliske Innovation Centre
Postcode	TR1 3XQ
Study area	0.13 Hectares
Site coordinates	SW 794 452 50.2647806601 -5.095734321540 50 15 53 N 005 05 44 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 95.00m Max: 98.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project originator	brief City/Nat. Park/District/Borough archaeologist

Project design Wessex Archaeology
 originator

Project director/manager A Manning

Project supervisor Simon Flaherty, Oliver Good and Tomas Burk

Type of Developer
 sponsor/funding
 body

Name of BAM Construction Ltd
 sponsor/funding
 body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
 Exists?

Digital Archive Cornwall County Council Museum Service
 recipient

Digital Media 'Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'
 available

Paper Archive Cornwall County Council Museum Service
 recipient

Paper Media 'Context sheet','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General
 available Notes','Plan','Report','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title TRELISKE INNOVATION CENTRE, TRELISKE, TRURO,
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Author(s)/Editor(s) Good, O

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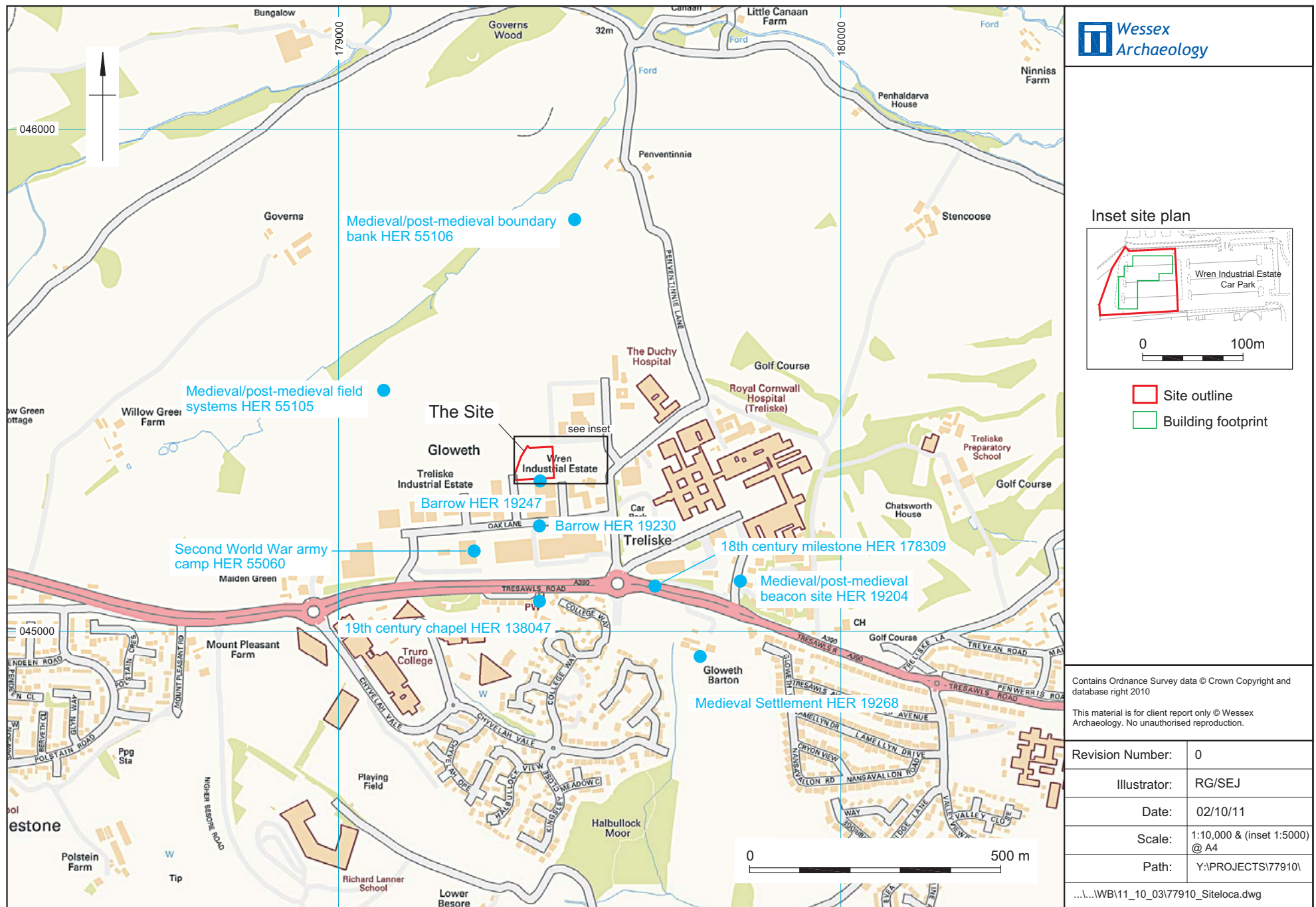
Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology

Place of issue or Salisbury
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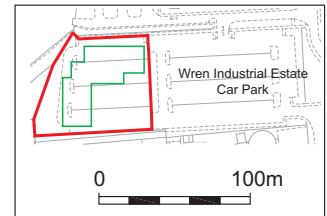
Description Standard hard copy watching brief report

Entered by Andrew Manning (a.manning@wessexarch.co.uk)

Entered on 17 November 2011



Inset site plan



- Site outline
- Building footprint

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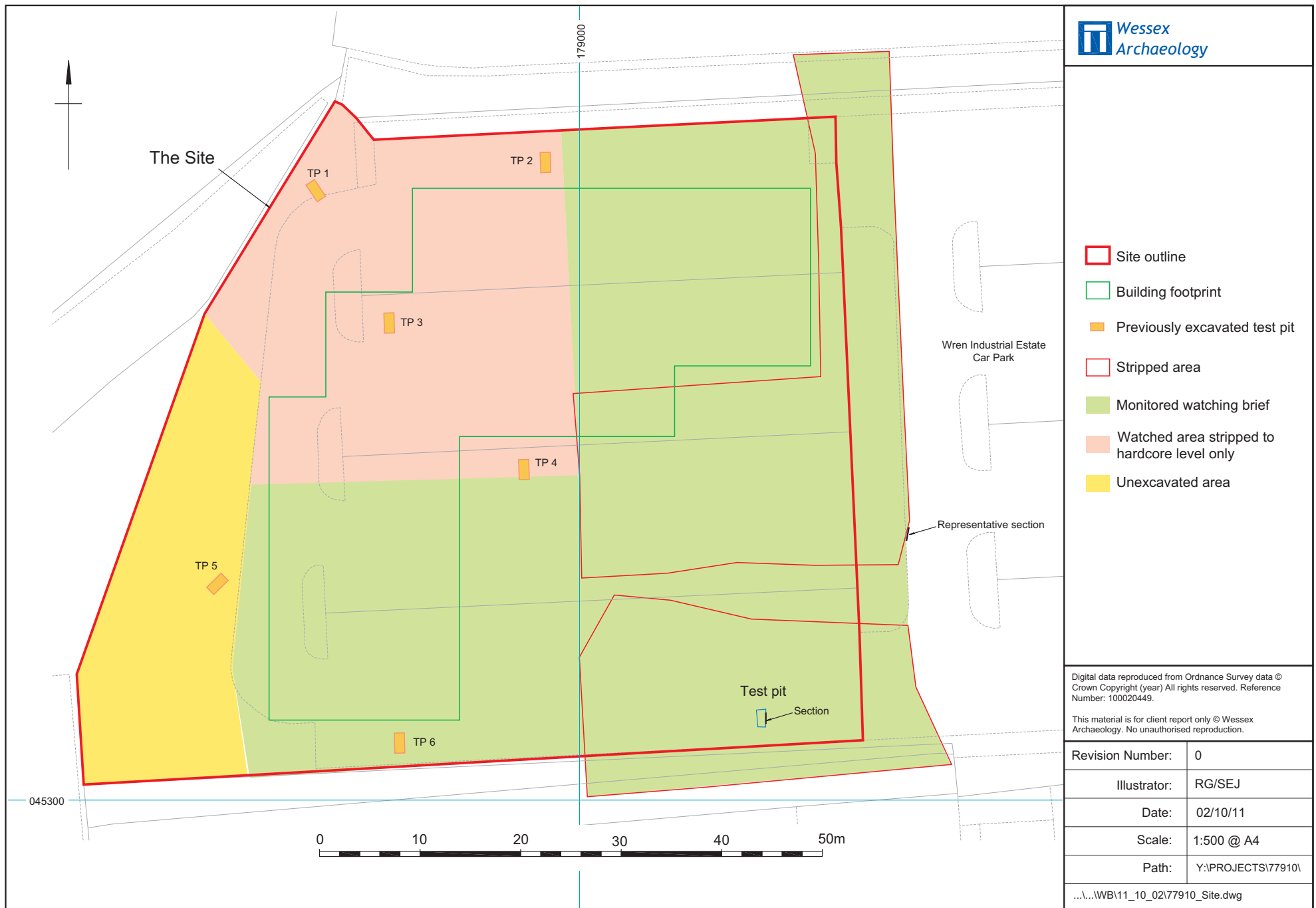
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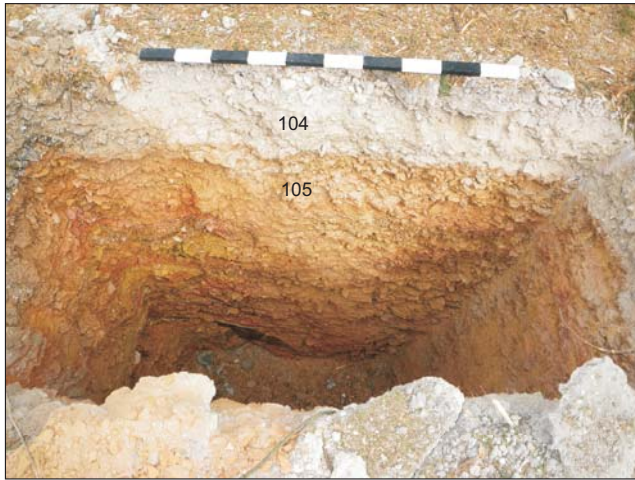
Site location and known archaeological sites

Figure 1

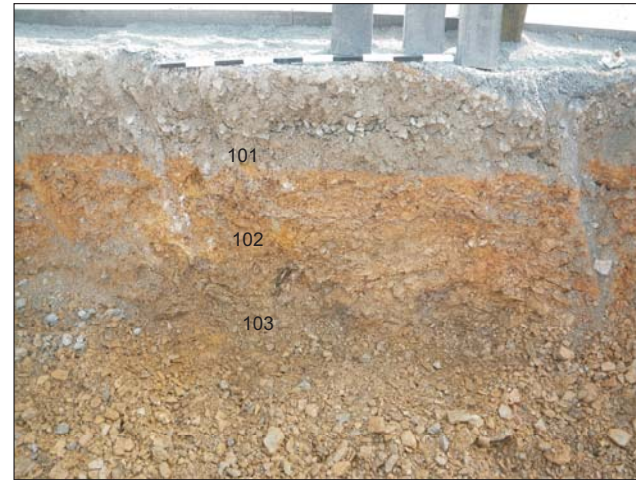
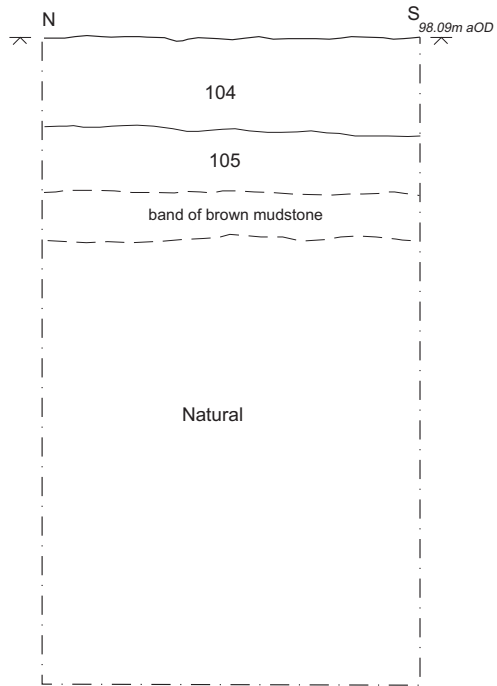


Development area, previous test pitting and monitored watching brief areas

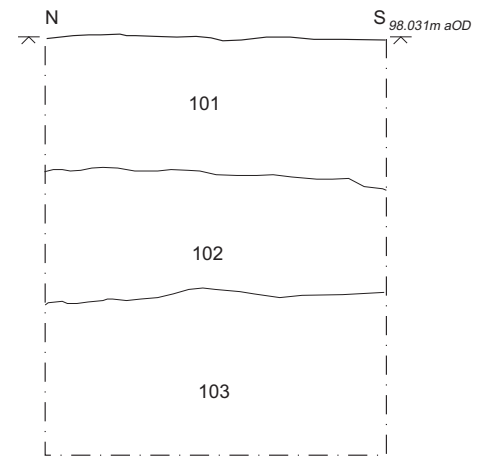
Figure 2



West facing section of test pit



West facing representative section of stripped area



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