



making sense of heritage

Land North of Wessex Close Topsham, Exeter

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Planning Reference: RAMM:14/22
Ref: 103700.03
May 2014



Land north of Wessex Close, Topsham, Exeter

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Land north of Wessex Close, Topsham, Exeter

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Heritage Developments South West Limited to undertake a targeted trial trench evaluation on land north of Wessex Close, Topsham, Exeter, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 295857 088937.

Planning permission is being sought for the construction of a new residential development comprising up to 23 dwellings and associated works. In accordance with national legislation and local planning policies, and following previous non-intrusive heritage assessments of the site, the Archaeology Officer of Exeter City Council requested evaluation trenching to inform the planning decision and scope of any further mitigation that may be needed before or during the development, should the proposal gain consent.

The works consisted of the machine excavation of 5 trenches (2 no. 20m, 1 no. 25m, 2 no. 30m, and all 1.90m wide) which were located in areas of proposed housing, and targeted on geophysical anomalies identified during the previous geophysical survey.

The archaeological evaluation confirmed a high concentration of archaeological features and deposits across the Site. In total, a section of a metalled surface, three sections of stone walls, three linear gullies, and six substantial linear ditches (three of which ran across multiple trenches) were identified and recorded. While the amount of dating evidence recovered from the excavated contexts was very small throughout the site, the dating provided and the site's setting within the wider landscape of Topsham, makes it probable that all the features identified are Romano-British in date, and the result of settlement along, or near, to the edge of a road between Exeter and the coast.

The programme of work was carried out between the 8th and 11th April 2014.



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Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Heritage Developments South West Limited, and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank David Lovell in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Andrew Pye of Exeter City Council (ECC) who monitored this project on behalf of the local authority.

The archaeological evaluation was directed in the field by Matt Kendall and assisted by Talia Hunt. The finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram. The report was compiled by Matt Kendall and the graphics were prepared by Liz James. The overall project was managed by Sue Farr, who also edited this report.



Land north of Wessex Close, Topsham, Exeter

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Heritage Developments South West Limited ('the Client'), to carry out a targeted archaeological trial trench evaluation prior to development on land north of Wessex Close, Topsham, Exeter, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 295857 088937 (hereafter 'the Site') (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 A planning application will be submitted to Exeter City Council (ECC) for a residential development of up to 23 dwellings. The Exeter City Council Archaeology Officer (EECAO) had indicated the Site may contain potentially significant heritage assets, in the form of buried remains of prehistoric and Romano-British date. As a result, he advised a programme of archaeological work should be undertaken to assess the potential of the Site prior to the determination of the planning application.
- 1.1.3 A geophysical survey (WA 2014a) undertaken within the Site had indicated several parallel ditches extending across the area, with further pit-like responses near Exeter Road, and service trenches along the northern and southern boundaries.
- 1.1.4 The fieldwork strategy and methodology was documented in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2014b) and was submitted to and approved by the EECAO prior to fieldwork commencing. The evaluation was carried out between the 8th and 11th April 2014.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site lies on the eastern edge of Topsham, to the south-west of Exeter, within the administrative boundary of Exeter City Council. It measures 0.7ha and comprises a single parcel of land positioned approximately 80m east of the M5 motorway, and 180m north of the river Exe. The Site lies on gently sloping ground, descending eastwards from an elevation of approximately 11m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to 9m aOD.
- 1.2.2 The Site is bounded by Exeter Road to the north, properties fronting onto Wessex Close to the south, further housing to the east, and a small parcel of land to the west, forming a buffer between the Site and the motorway (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2.3 The bedrock geology under the Site is recorded as Dawlish sandstone formation (Permian) with Heavitree Breccia formation further to the west. The superficial deposits are recorded as river terrace deposits of sand and gravel (Quaternary) with tidal flat deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel recorded around the rivers Exe and Clyst (BGS 1995).



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological background to the Site has been detailed in comments provided to the Client by the ECCAO, and is summarised below with due acknowledgement.
- 2.1.2 No statutorily designated sites are recorded within the Site itself.

2.2 Background

- 2.2.1 Topsham is known to contain extensive buried remains of prehistoric and Romano-British date. Substantial quantities of finds and features have been recorded within the vicinity of the Site, and include flint scatters comprising both flakes and tools of Late Neolithic date, and features indicative of extensive Romano-British activity.
- 2.2.2 Approximately 150m to the south-west, the excavation of a gravel terrace in 1974 ahead of construction of the M5 revealed a Romano-British farmstead, dating from the 1st century AD. Roman timber buildings, stake holes, and a large rectangular post complex were recorded. Later activity in the form of a 2nd century boundary, and a late 3rd to early 4th century cremation inside a small rectangular tomb confirmed the continual use of the site in the later Roman period. Late Neolithic activity was also identified by a flint scatter, and a quantity of pottery within a series of pits. A small number of microliths also revealed Mesolithic activity within site (Jarvis & Maxfield 1975).
- 2.2.3 To the south-east of the Site a number of Roman finds were collected during the excavation of the sewer pipe in the 1930's. Similarly the excavation of a pipe trench approximately 300m to the south-east in Riverside Road identified a pit containing a large group of Roman pottery, and further sporadic finds have been reported during small scale developments in the vicinity.
- 2.2.4 An archaeological evaluation to the north of Exeter Road (Exeter Archaeology 1999) targeted anomalies on an earlier geophysical survey (Oxford Archaeotechnics 1999). Thirteen trenches were excavated, which identified a large Roman enclosure in the south-west of the site, and dated from the mid-2nd to 3rd century AD. The enclosure extended beyond the site boundary, and it is possible the southern extent crosses the Exeter Road into the north-western part of the Site. Exeter Road itself lies on the line of a probable Roman road, linking the fortress and later city at Exeter with the supply depot at St Lyes and the activity (fortlet, port and settlement) at Topsham.
- 2.2.5 A further Roman enclosure is recorded to the east and several Roman coins have been found by metal detectorists within the Site itself, and to the south.
- 2.2.6 A 1st century Roman fort is recorded on the site of Topsham School approximately 650m to the south-west, and graves relating to a later Roman inhumation cemetery were also recorded (Sage & Allen 2004).
- 2.2.7 A medieval road named the Portway is recorded within the Site, and served as a route for the transport of goods to and from Exeter, especially when ships could no longer reach the city. To the north-east of the Site a probable medieval field system has been recorded.

2.3 Geophysical survey

- 2.3.1 A detailed gradiometer survey (WA 2014a) was conducted over the Site (**Figure 1**), and aimed to establish the presence, or otherwise, and nature of detectable archaeological features on the Site ahead of a proposed development.



- 2.3.2 A series of near parallel ditch-like anomalies were identified, and oriented north-west to south-east (4006), with three spurs noted to the north (4002) and south (4001) of the anomalies. Given the small size of the survey area, it was not possible to determine if the ditches mark out a road, enclosure, trackway or field system. Towards the centre of the Site, pit-like anomalies (4003 & 4004) were also noted.
- 2.3.3 Towards the north-western extent of the survey area, weak parallel linear trends were observed which are not aligned with the current agricultural regime. A modern service was also detected running parallel with Exeter Road.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 The overall aim of this programme of archaeological evaluation was to provide further information regarding the potential location and nature of archaeological remains within the Site. If remains were present, the assessment sought to establish sufficient details to enable informed decisions regarding the need, and scope of any further mitigation that may be required, before or during the development of the Site.
- 3.1.2 The following specific objectives were identified:
- To identify the nature, character, date and extent of archaeology within the proposal area;
 - To assess the survival, quality, condition and significance of any archaeological remains, in line with para 128 of the NPPF in regards to their impact on the layout of the proposed development;
 - To ensure the preservation by record of all archaeological remains revealed during the course of the assessment; and
 - To prepare an appropriate archaeological archive including the treatment and preservation of any finds.

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out within the WSI (WA 2014b). In format and content the fieldwork conformed with current best practice, and to the guidance outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE, English Heritage 2006). All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the guidance and standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008).
- 3.2.2 All the trenches were laid out using a Leica Viva series GNSS unit using the OS National GPS Network through an RTK network with a 3D accuracy of 30mm or below, and in general accordance with the pattern given (**Figure 1**). The investigation areas were scanned using a cable avoidance tool (CAT) by operatives experienced in the use of such equipment prior to machine excavation, and minor adjustments to the layout of trenches was required to take account of buried services.
- 3.2.3 Trench excavation was carried out using a JCB excavator fitted with a 1.9m wide toothless ditching bucket and was supervised by a suitably qualified archaeologist at all times. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine in a series of level spits to the top of the archaeology or natural geological deposits, whichever was encountered first.



The machine excavated arisings were stored at the side of the trench and were scanned for artefacts at regular intervals from both the topsoil and subsoil, both visually and with a metal detector.

- 3.2.4 Areas of investigation completed to the satisfaction of the Client and the ECCAO were backfilled using the excavated material in the approximate order in which they were excavated and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

3.3 Recording

- 3.3.1 All exposed archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system.
- 3.3.2 A complete drawn record of archaeological features and deposits was compiled. This included both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections), and with reference to a site grid tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels was calculated and plans/sections annotated with OD heights.
- 3.3.3 A photographic record was maintained during the evaluation using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images were subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure the long term accessibility of the image set.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The following section details the results of the archaeological trial trench evaluation, which was carried out between the 8th and 11th April 2014.
- 4.1.2 Works comprised the machine excavation of 5 trenches (2 x 20m, 1 x 25m, 2 x 30m), and their subsequent archaeological recording, prior to backfilling.

4.2 Natural deposits and soil sequences

- 4.2.1 **Trenches 1 – 5** were all situated within an agricultural field which contained the remains of a harvested crop. The underlying geology across the Site was made up of River Terrace Deposits, predominately gravels, but with patches of silts and sands (**Plate 1**). The underlying geology was overlain by topsoil and subsoil deposits across all 5 trenches, ranging in depth from between 0.36m to 0.54m (**Plate 2**).
- 4.2.2 Full details of the stratigraphic sequence can be found in **Appendix 1**.

4.3 Summary of evaluation results

- 4.3.1 **Trenches 1 – 5** were targeted on a number of geophysical anomalies identified in the previous detailed gradiometer survey, and interpreted as of probable or possible archaeological interest. A series of parallel ditch-like anomalies on a north-west to south-east orientation were identified (4000), with three spurs noted to the north (4002) and south (4001). Towards the centre of the Site, pit-like anomalies (4003 and 4004) were noted (**Figure 1**).
- 4.3.2 **Trench 1** was positioned partially over anomalies 4000 and 4005, in the west of the Site. An undated metallated surface, **105**, measuring 2.64m wide, and running on a north to

south alignment, was located broadly in the same position as anomaly 4000, albeit on a different orientation. Manual cleaning of the feature identified a compact flat metalled surface bordered on either side by probable wheel ruts. On the outer edge of these wheel ruts a band of larger cobbles were recorded, and have been interpreted as either a boundary marker for the road surface or waste material from repeated use of the feature (**Plate 3**).

- 4.3.3 No evidence for geophysical feature (4005) was identified, which suggests that the anomaly could be within the subsoil or topsoil, and not archaeological in origin.
- 4.3.4 **Trench 2** was targeted over a southern spur (4001) of the north-west to south-east aligned geophysical anomalies, and a pit-like feature (4004), both identified as being of probable archaeological origin. Excavation of the trench revealed a large north-east to south-west aligned ditch, **204**, corresponding with anomaly 4001. The feature measured 2.15m wide by at least 0.78m deep and had moderate concave sides (**Figure 2**); pottery recovered from the ditch fill indicated a Romano-British date. Excavation of the trench around anomaly (4004) revealed two foundation trenches, **207** and **209**, which are likely to form two sides of the same building. Foundation **207** (**Plate 4**) measured 0.88m wide, and ran on a north-west to south-east alignment for 4.54m across the trench. Foundation **209** (**Plate 5**) was north-east to south-west aligned, and had a width of 0.75m. Both features were made up of large stone cobbles (approx. 0.15m in size) of local origin, which had very little evidence of coursing. The lack of bonding and facing suggests the walls had been reduce to ground level and reused/robbed out. Although no dating material was retrieved from the features, ceramic building material (CBM) recovered from above both structures suggests that they are of Romano-British date.
- 4.3.5 **Trench 3** was primarily targeted on both the parallel linear anomalies (4000) and a further pit-like feature (4003) at its south-western end. A further foundation, **304**, measuring 7.60m in length by 0.97m wide was recorded, and ran on a north-east to south-west alignment. Comprising a similar matrix to **207** and **209**, it seems likely that all the structures are contemporaneous in date. At the request of the ECCAO, **Trench 3** was widened to establish whether the wall turned to meet **207**. Subsequent excavation revealed that halfway along the wall, a north-west to south-east return was noted, albeit on a slightly different alignment to **207** (**Plate 6**).
- 4.3.6 Two shallow north-north-east to south-south-west gullies, **308** and **318**, were recorded centrally within the trench, although neither had been noted on the geophysical survey. While there was no dating recovered from the excavation of these features, it was determined that they related to an earlier phase of activity to that of the north-west to south-east aligned ditches, which have been dated broadly to the Romano-British period (**Figure 3**). The three linear geophysical anomalies, collectively identified as 4000, were encountered during the excavation and recorded as ditches **312**, **314**, and **316**.
- 4.3.7 **Trench 4** was positioned over the same linear features targeted in Trench 3, and were all identified in the same position and orientation as the geophysical results had indicated. Ditch **404** (the same feature as **312**), ditch **409** (**314**), and ditch **415** (**316**) were all substantial, ranging from 1.50m to 2.20m wide, and 0.72m to 1.00m deep (**Figure 3**) with steep to moderate sloping sides. A single CBM fragment was recovered from **404** and indicates a Romano-British date. In addition to the three linear features, a shallow gully **407** was also encountered, visible as a trend on the geophysical results. Markedly different to that of the other features in the trench, the gully could be earlier than the larger ditches although no dating was recovered to confirm this.



4.3.8 **Trench 5** was targeted over two geophysical anomalies (4002) which were interpreted as northern spurs of the north-western to south-eastern aligned features. Excavation of the trench revealed two north-east to south-west aligned features, **504** and **506**, which were located in the same position as the geophysical results. Hand excavation of **506** revealed that it was broadly similar to that of the other linear features investigated, with similar dimensions (1.68m wide) and form (steep to moderate sides), although it was slightly shallower (0.52m) than the other linear features investigated (**Figure 4**). While feature **504** was not excavated, later auguring showed that it was at least 0.80m deep. Both features in **Trench 5** were undated.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered during the evaluation, deriving from contexts in four of the trenches excavated, and dominated by ceramics. The assemblage ranges in date from prehistoric to post-medieval. Quantities by material type and by context are given in **Table 1**.

Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	Animal Bone	CBM	Flint	Pottery	Stone
101				1/38	
202	1/5	6/1934	1/27		
205		2/174		3/91	
302				2/233	
305		1/39			
313		4/131		1/11	
405					3/1734
406		1/294			
416					1/542
Total	1/5	14/2572	1/27	7/373	4/2276

5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 Pottery provides the primary evidence for the Site. Of the seven sherds recovered, four are Romano-British and three post-medieval. Romano-British sherds, all in south-east Dorset Black Burnished ware (BB1) came from contexts **205** and **313**; the three sherds from **205** join to form the rim of an everted rim jar of late Romano-British form (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, type 3).

5.2.2 The three post-medieval sherds are all coarse glazed redwares. The two sherds from context **302** are from the rim of a narrow-mouthed jar with a rolled rim, possibly a syrup-collecting jar used in sugar-refining (see Allan 1984, fig. 116, no. 2582), while the sherd from context **101**, glazed inside and out, is probably from a bowl.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

5.3.1 Diagnostic pieces amongst the CBM belong exclusively to Romano-British tile types (*imbrices*, box flue tiles) – these came from contexts **202**, **205** and **305**. All other fragments, although lacking diagnostic features, can also be fairly confidently dated as Romano-British on fabric grounds.



5.4 Stone

- 5.4.1 The stone comprises three featureless fragments of roofing slate, probably of post-medieval date (context **405**), and a piece of lava stone from context **416**, probably of relatively local origin, and with ambiguous traces of working (perhaps from a quernstone).

5.5 Other Finds

- 5.5.1 Other finds comprise a small piece of animal bone, a prehistoric worked flint waste flake, and a piece of possibly worked stone (perhaps from a quernstone)

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 6.1.1 No material suitable for environmental analysis was found to be present within the monitored areas and accordingly no samples were taken.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Summary

- 7.1.1 The archaeological evaluation confirmed a high concentration of archaeological features and deposits across the Site. In total a section of a metalled surface, three sections of stone walls, three linear gullies, and six substantial linear ditches (three of which ran across multiple trenches) were identified and recorded. While the amount of dating evidence recovered from the excavated contexts was very small throughout the Site, the dating provided and the Site's setting within the wider landscape of Topsham, makes it probable that all the features identified are Romano-British in date.
- 7.1.2 The profile and the size of the ditches identified indicate that they functioned as markers or boundaries, possibly for a road or trackway. No evidence of a road surface was encountered during the works apart from **105**, but this could be due to truncation by ploughing in recent history which has removed the surface of the road but not the boundary ditches which would have been on either side. It is also interesting to note that there are three parallel ditches of similar size and profile when it would be expected to only see two. This may be because at some point the road or trackway was either increased or decreased in width, indicating that there was a change in the amount of traffic moving along it, or may suggest a shift in alignment during its use.
- 7.1.3 The foundations (**207**, **209**, and **304**) that were identified, and to a lesser extent, the metalled surface **105**, suggest that there was human occupation next to, or near, to the aforementioned road, given the walls seem to respect, and be on broadly the same north-west to south-east alignment as the ditches. In comparing the extents of the walls (assuming that they join together), a length of around 30m which is approximately three times the size of the timber building excavated during the construction of the M5 can be intimated. This, in addition with the pottery recovered from the Site which seems to be marginally later, may suggest an increase in status of the people living in the area and an improvement in their living conditions (i.e. timber to a stone building).
- 7.1.4 There seems to be two phases of activity within the Site that can be established within the limits of the evaluation's methodology. The shallow gullies **308**, **318**, and possibly **407**, are likely to be the earliest phase of occupation within the Site (this is explained by one relationship, and is not confirmed by dating evidence) with the larger ditches **312/404**, **314/409**, **316/415** cutting through the gullies at a later date. It is unknown whether ditches **204**, **504**, and **506** are contemporary with the aforementioned ditches as no trenches were targeted on the junctions. It is also unknown how the walls and metalled surface fit in to

the phasing of the Site but as stated earlier, they are orientated to the same alignment of the ditches which would seem to indicate that they are associated with them. This phasing sequence cannot be confirmed due to the small amount of dating material that was recovered from the interventions, and Site as a whole.

- 7.1.5 Overall, a good correlation was seen between the geophysical survey and the results of the fieldwork. A possibility of why the walls and metalled surface were not clearly identified, or misinterpreted, could be due to the natural underlying geology masking the responses.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

- 8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the evaluation be deposited within three months of the RAMM reopening for archive deposition and in accordance with the selection and retention strategy of the RAMM. A reference number has been issued for the Site (**RAMM: 14/22**). The archive is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's Salisbury office under the site code **103700**.

8.2 Archive

- 8.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by RAMM, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013). A reference number has been issued for the Site (RAMM: 14/22). All site records will be digitised, and will be deposited with the ADS within 12 months of completion
- 8.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following.
- 1 small cardboard box of artefacts, ordered by material type.
 - 1 file of paper records and A3/A4 graphics.

8.3 Discard policy

- 8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant further analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.
- 8.3.2 The discard of environments remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

8.4 Security copy

- 8.4.1 In line with current best practice, (e.g. Brown 2011); on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.



9 REFERENCES

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10 APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix 1: Stratigraphic summaries

TRENCH 1		Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 19.40m x 1.90m		Max. depth: 0.42m	Ground level: 9.40 – 10.06m
Co-ordinates: E 295813.54 N 088985.59 and E 298795.31 N 088977.37			
Context	Description		Depth (m)
101	Layer	Topsoil – Mid to dark reddish brown silty clay containing moderate to common sub-angular to sub-rounded stone inclusions (<0.10m) and occasional rooting throughout.	0 – 0.24m bgl
102	Layer	Subsoil – Mid reddish brown silty clay with moderate sub-angular to sub-rounded stone inclusions (<0.09m).	0.24 – 0.36m bgl
103	Layer	Natural – River Terrace Deposits; gravels and sandy silts.	0.36m+ bgl
104	Cut	Construction cut of a metalled surface which runs on a north to south alignment at the north-eastern end of the trench. Recorded as 2.40m in length by 2.64m wide. No investigative slots were dug to determine the depth of the feature.	0.22m deep
105	Structure	A north to south aligned track way or metalled surface within 104. Composed of a length of compacted sub-rounded pebbles measuring 1.10m wide which are on a flat, even level and are tightly packed, well sorted and very compact. Either side of the metalled surface are what looks like wheel ruts which measure 0.30m wide to the south-west and 0.62m to the north-east and filled with a mid reddish brown silty clay. On the outside of the wheel ruts, two bands of reddish brown silty clay with sub-angular to rounded uneven cobbles (<0.20m) were identified. These may represent a boundary marker or just loose pieces of the trackway.	0.22m thick

TRENCH 2		Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 29.70m x 1.90m		Max. depth: 0.65m	Ground level: 10.09 – 10.47m
Co-ordinates: E 295812.85 N 088970.67 and E 295832.06 N 088946.57			
Context	Description		Depth (m)
201	Layer	Topsoil – Dark greyish brown silty clay containing moderate sub-angular to sub-rounded stone inclusions (<0.10m) and occasional rooting throughout.	0 – 0.25m bgl
202	Layer	Subsoil – Mid to dark yellowish brown silty clay containing sparse to moderate sub-rounded to sub-angular stone inclusions (<0.11m).	0.25 – 0.50m bgl
203	Layer	Natural – River Terrace Deposits; gravels and sandy silts.	0.50m+ bgl
204	Cut	Cut of a large linear ditch aligned on a north-east to south-west alignment located at the north-west end of the trench. The feature has moderate concave sides which run into an unknown shaped base (not reached). Recorded as 1.90m in length by 2.15m wide and at least 0.78m deep. Later auguring put the total depth at approximately 1.10m.	0.78m+ deep
205	Fill	Single secondary fill of 204. A dark reddish brown sandy silty clay containing common sub-rounded to sub-angular stone inclusions (<0.15m). Derived from the deposition of surrounding materials through natural transport processes and side erosion.	0.78m+ thick
206	Cut	Construction cut of a wall which runs on a north-west to south-east alignment at the south-eastern end of the trench. Recorded as 4.54m in length by 0.88m wide. No	-



		investigative slots were dug to determine the depth of the feature.	
207	Structure	The possible foundation remains of a wall which runs north-west to south-east and is within 206 . Made up of large (0.19m x 0.13m) rounded cobbles which are local in origin and which seem to have no evidence of coursing, bonding or facing. Possibly contemporary with walls 209 and 305.	-
208	Cut	Construction cut of a wall which runs on a north-east to south-west alignment at the south-eastern end of the trench. Measures 1.90m in length by 0.75m wide. No investigative slots were dug to determine the depth of the feature.	-
209	Structure	The possible foundation remains of a wall which runs north-east to south-west and is within 208 . Made up of large (0.10m x 0.09m) rounded cobbles which are local in origin and which seem to have no evidence of facing and bonding but does seem to have evidence of coursing. Possibly contemporary with walls 207 and 209. Widening of the trench showed that another possible wall runs from the middle of this wall to the south-west, possibly joining up with wall 207.	-

TRENCH 3		Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 23.50m x 3.50m		Max. depth: 0.54m	
Co-ordinates: E 298564.70 N 088945.14 and E 295845.94 N 088929.60		Ground level: 10.45 – 10.62m	
Context	Description		Depth (m)
301	Layer	Topsoil – Dark greyish brown silty clay loam containing moderate sub-angular to sub-rounded stone inclusions (<0.07m) and occasional rooting throughout.	0 – 0.25m bgl
302	Layer	Subsoil – Mid orange brown silty clay containing sparse top moderate sub-angular to sub-rounded stone inclusions (<0.06m).	0.25 – 0.39m bgl
303	Layer	Natural – River Terrace Deposits; gravel.	0.39m+ bgl
304	Cut	Construction cut of a wall which runs on a north-east to south-west alignment at the south-western end of the trench. Measures 7.60m in length by 0.97m wide. No investigative slots were dug to determine the depth of the feature.	-
305	Structure	The possible foundation remains of a wall which runs north-east to south-west and is within 307 . Made up of large (0.19m x 0.14m) rounded cobbles which are local in origin and which seem to have no evidence of facing and bonding but does seem to have evidence of coursing. Possibly contemporary with walls 207 and 209. Widening of the trench showed that another possible wall runs from the middle of this wall to the south-west, possibly joining up with wall 207.	-
306	Cut	Cut of a shallow linear gully aligned on a north-east to south-west alignment located within the south-western half of the trench and which has an unclear relationship with gully 308. The feature has moderate concave sides which run into a flat base. Recorded as 5.50m in length by 0.40m wide and 0.08m deep. The same feature as gully 310.	0.08m deep
307	Fill	Single secondary fill of 306 . A dark orange brown silty clay containing sparse sub-angular stone inclusions (<0.04m). Derived from the deposition of surrounding material through natural transport processes.	0.08m thick
308	Cut	Cut of a shallow linear gully aligned on a north-east to south-west alignment located within the south-western	0.08m deep



		half of the trench and which has an unclear relationship with gully 306. The feature has moderate concave sides which run into a flat base. Recorded as 2.70m in length by 0.35m wide and 0.08m deep.	
309	Fill	Single secondary fill of 308. A dark orange brown silty clay containing sparse sub-angular stone inclusions (<0.05m). Derived from the deposition of surrounding material through natural transport processes.	0.08m thick
310	Cut	Cut of a shallow linear gully aligned on a north-east to south-west alignment located within the south-western half of the trench and which is physically cut by ditch 312. The feature has moderate concave sides which run into a flat base. Recorded as 5.50m in length by 0.46m wide and 0.18m deep. The same feature as gully 306.	0.18m deep
311	Fill	Single secondary fill of 310. A mid greyish brown silty clay loam containing occasional sub-rounded to sub-angular stone inclusions (<0.04m). Derived from the deposition of surrounding material through natural transport processes.	0.18m thick
312	Cut	Cut of a large linear ditch aligned on a north-west to south-east orientation located in the middle of the trench and which physically cuts gully 310. The feature has moderate concave sides which run into an unknown shaped base (not reached). Recorded as 1.90m in length by 1.64m wide and at least 0.19m deep. Same feature as ditch 404.	0.19m deep
313	Fill	Uppermost secondary fill of 312. A mid brownish grey silty clay loam containing sparse sub-rounded to sub-angular stone inclusions (<0.03m). Derived from the deposition of surrounding materials through natural transport processes.	0.19m thick
314	Cut	Cut of an unexcavated linear ditch aligned on a north-west to south-east orientation located in the middle of the trench. Recorded as 1.90m in length by 2.20m wide. Same feature as ditch 409.	-
315	Fill	Uppermost secondary fill of 314. A mid brownish grey silty clay containing sparse to occasional sub-rounded to sub-angular stone inclusions (<0.05m). Most likely derived from deposition of surrounding materials through natural transport processes.	-
316	Cut	Cut of an unexcavated linear ditch aligned on a north-west to south-east orientation located in the middle of the trench. Recorded as 1.90m in length by 1.60m wide. Truncated by a modern, dis-used drain and the same feature as ditch 415.	-
317	Fill	Uppermost secondary fill of 316. A mid greyish brown silty clay containing sparse to occasional sub-rounded to sub-angular stone inclusions (<0.04m). Most likely derived from deposition of surrounding materials through natural transport processes.	-
318	Group	Group number assigned to gullies 306 and 308.	



TRENCH 4		Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 19.00m x 1.90m		Max. depth: 0.54m	Ground level: 10.69 – 10.71m
Co-ordinates: E 373589.80 N 144828.15 and E 373610.36 N 144805.48			
Context	Description	Depth (m)	
401	Layer	Topsoil – Mid grey silty clay loam containing occasional rooting and sparse to occasional sub-rounded to sub-angular stone inclusions (<0.05m).	
402	Layer	Subsoil – Mid brown silty clay loam containing occasional to moderate sub-rounded to rounded stone inclusions (<0.07m).	
403	Layer	Natural – River Terrace Deposits; gravel	
404	Cut	Cut of a large linear ditch aligned on a north-west to south-east orientation and located at the south-western end of the trench. The feature has steep straight sides which run into a concave base. Recorded as 1.90m in length by 1.50m wide and 0.79m deep. Same feature as ditch 312.	
405	Fill	Secondary fill of 404 . A mid brownish orange silty clay containing occasional to abundant sub-rounded to rounded stone inclusions (<0.03m). Derived from the deposition of surrounding materials through natural transport processes and side erosion.	
406	Fill	Secondary fill of 404 . A mid greyish brown silty clay containing sparse to occasional rounded to sub-angular stone inclusions (<0.05m). Derived from the deposition of surrounding materials through natural transportation processes.	
407	Cut	Cut of a shallow linear gully aligned on a north-west to south-east orientation and located at the south-western end of the trench. The feature has moderate concave sides which run into a slightly concave base. Recorded as 1.90m in length by 0.64m wide and 0.16m deep.	
408	Fill	Single secondary fill of 407 . A mid brown silty clay containing sparse sub-rounded to sub-angular stone inclusions (<0.05m). Derived from the deposition of surrounding materials through natural transport processes.	
409	Cut	Cut of a large linear ditch aligned on a north-west to south-east orientation located at the south-western edge of the trench. The feature has steep irregular sides which run in to a flat base. Recorded as 1.90m in length by 1.88m wide and 1.00m deep. The same feature as ditch 314.	
410	Fill	Primary fill of 409 . A dark grey silty clay containing occasional rounded to sub-rounded stone inclusions (<0.03m). Derived from the deposition of materials soon after the construction of the feature.	
411	Fill	Secondary fill of 409 . A mid brown silty clay containing abundant sub-rounded to sub-angular stone inclusions (<0.04m). Derived from the deposition of materials due to erosion of the features sides.	
412	Fill	Secondary fill of 409 . A mid brown silty clay containing sparse sub-rounded to sub-angular stone inclusions (<0.04m). Derived from the deposition of surrounding materials through natural transport processes, predominately from the north-eastern side of the feature.	
413	Fill	Secondary fill of 409 . A mid brown silty clay containing common sub-rounded to sub-angular stone inclusions (<0.07m). Derived from the deposition of materials due to the erosion/collapse of the south-western side of the feature.	



414	Fill	Secondary fill of 409 . A mid brownish grey silty clay containing sparse to occasional sub-rounded to sub-angular stone inclusions (<0.05m). Derived from the deposition of surrounding materials through natural transport processes.	0.42m thick
415	Cut	Cut of a large linear ditch aligned on a north-west to south-east alignment located in the middle of the trench. The feature has steep straight sides which run into an unknown shaped base (not reached). Recorded as 1.90m in length by 2.20m wide and at least 0.72m deep. Later auguring put the total depth at approximately 1.20m. Same feature as ditch 316.	0.72m+ deep
416	Fill	Secondary fill of 415 . A mid brown silty clay containing rare sub-rounded to sub-angular stone inclusions (<0.04m). Derived from the deposition of surrounding materials through natural transport processes.	0.21m thick
417	Fill	Secondary fill of 415 . A mid greyish brown silty clay containing occasional sub-rounded to sub-angular stone inclusions (<0.04m). Derived from the deposition of surrounding materials through natural transport processes. The base of this deposit was not reached.	0.48m+ thick

TRENCH 5		Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.90m		Max. depth: 0.43m	Ground level: 10.57 – 10.76m
Co-ordinates: E 295894.73 N 088920.23 and E 295917.38 N 088900.62			
Context	Description		Depth (m)
501	Layer	Topsoil – Mid brownish grey silty clay loam containing common rooting and rare to sparse sub-rounded to rounded stone inclusions (<0.05m).	0 – 0.25m bgl
502	Layer	Subsoil – Mid brown silty clay loam containing occasional rounded to sub-angular stone inclusions (<0.07m).	0.25 – 0.43m bgl
503	Layer	Natural – River Terrace Deposits; gravel	0.43m+ bgl
504	Cut	Cut of an unexcavated linear ditch aligned on a north-east to south-west orientation located at the south-eastern end of the trench. Recorded as 2.10m in length by 2.70m wide. Later auguring determined that it was at least 0.80m deep.	0.80m+ deep
505	Fill	Uppermost secondary fill of 504 . A mid brown silty sandy loam containing sparse to occasional sub-rounded to sub-angular stone inclusions (<0.08m). Most likely derived from the deposition of surrounding materials through natural transport processes.	0.80m+ thick
506	Cut	Cut of a moderate linear ditch aligned on a north-east to south-west orientation located in the middle of the trench. Feature has steep to moderate concave sides which run into a flat base. Recorded as 1.90m in length by 1.68m wide and 0.52m deep.	0.52m deep
507	Fill	Secondary fill of 506 . A mid brown with orange hue silty sandy clay containing occasional to common sub-rounded to rounded stone inclusions (<0.04m). Derived from the deposition of surrounding material through natural transport processes and side erosion.	0.12m thick
508	Fill	Secondary fill of 506 . A mid grey silty clay containing sparse to occasional sub-rounded to sub-angular stone inclusions (<0.20m). Derived from the deposition of surrounding material through natural transport processes.	0.40m thick



10.2 Appendix 2: OASIS form

Land north of Wessex Close, Topsham, Exeter, Devon - Wessex Archaeology

OASIS ID - wessexar1-179637

Versions

View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
View 1	1	Sue Farr	s.farr@wessexarch.co.uk	23 May 2014

Completed sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1

Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
No	No	No	No	0/1

File submission and form progress

Grey literature report submitted?	No	Grey literature report filename/s
Images submitted?	No	Image filename/s
Boundary file submitted?	No	Boundary filename
HER signed off?		NMR signed off?



Geophysical Survey results:

- Archaeology
- Probable Archaeology
- Possible Archaeology
- Trend
- Ferrous
- Increased Magnetic Response
- Modern Services
- Ploughing

- Evaluation trench
- Archaeology
- Wall
- Modern disturbance
- ?Sewer pipe
- 5m buffer around sewer pipe

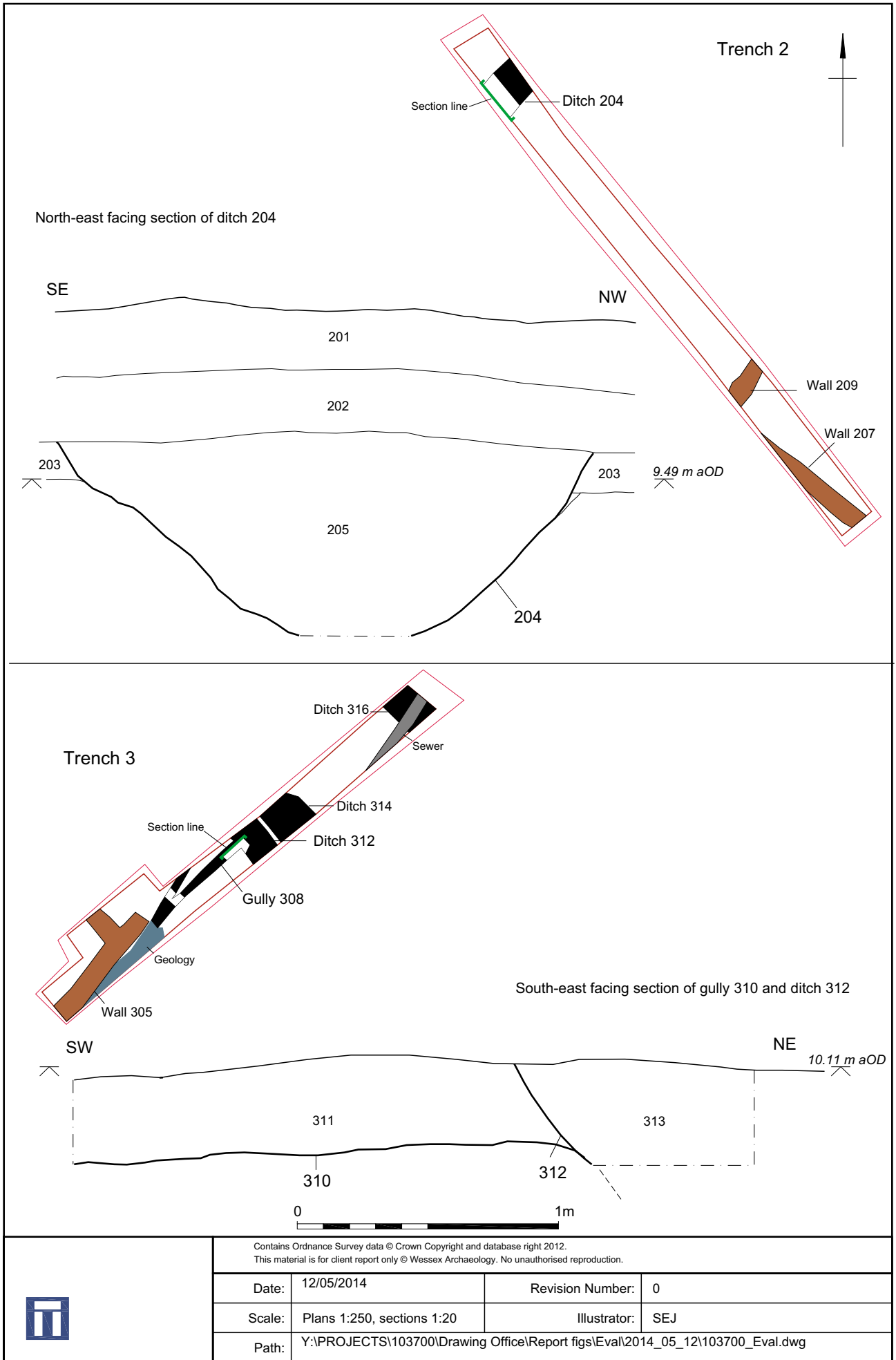


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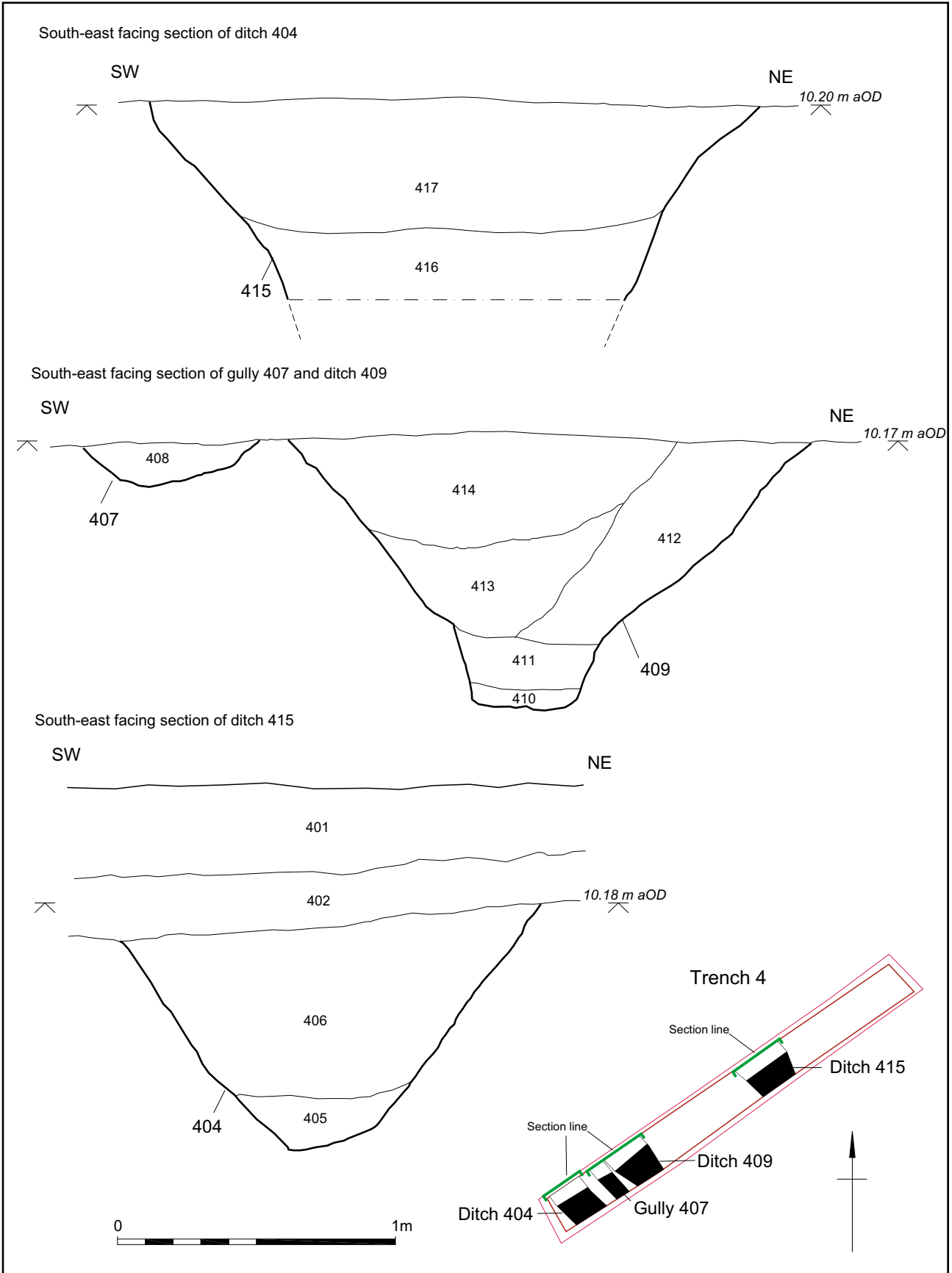
Site and trench location

Figure 1



Trench 2 and 3 plans and sections

Figure 2



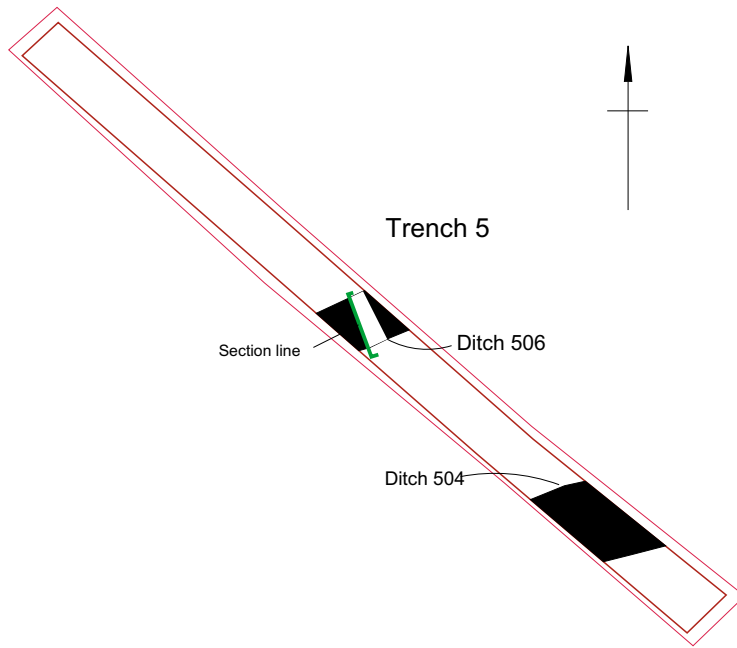
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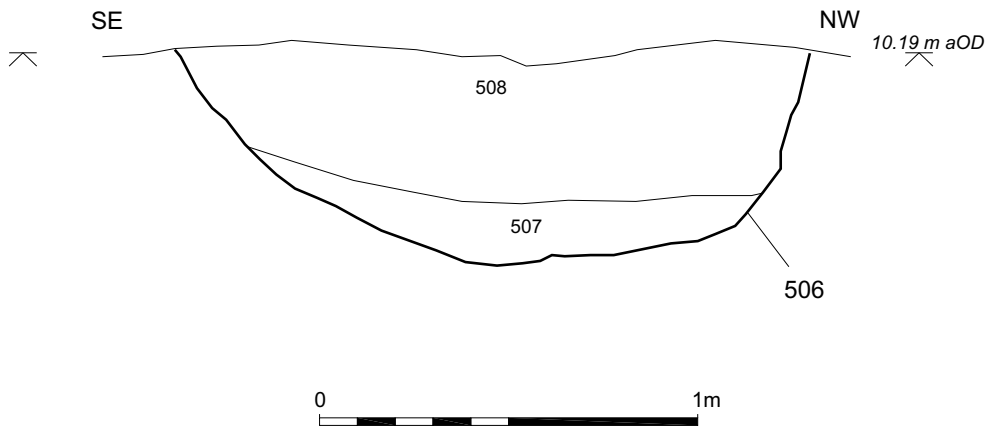
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Trench 4 plan and sections

Figure 3



North-east facing section of ditch 506



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Trench 5 plan and sections

Figure 4



Plate 5: Wall 209 viewed from the south-west



Plate 6: Wall 305 viewed from the south-west


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Plate 3: Metalled surface 105 viewed from the north



Plate 4: Wall 207 viewed from the south-east



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Plate 1: Trench 5 viewed from the south-east



Plate 2: North-east facing representative section of Trench 5

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