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# Land at Quarry Hill Road, Ilkeston, Derbyshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Planning Reference: ERE/0614/0030 and ERE/0614/0031  
Ref: 108550.02  
April 2015



**Land at Quarry Hill Road, Ilkeston,  
Derbyshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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**108550.02**



## Quality Assurance

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# Land at Quarry Hill Road, Ilkeston, Derbyshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

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# Land at Quarry Hill Road, Ilkeston, Derbyshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

### Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Meath Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on Land at Quarry Hill Road, Ilkeston, Derbyshire (NGR SK 4643 4016). Planning consent has been granted for a development of up to 350 dwellings on the site with associated infrastructure (ERE/0614/0030), alongside a further application (ERE/0614/0031) covering the western part of the site, for a change of use from agricultural land to public open space.

Following geophysical survey of the site (Geophiz.biz 2014), a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for evaluation (CgMs 2015) was submitted to, and approved by, the Local Planning Authority.

This evaluation produced largely negative results with none of the geophysical anomalies previously identified translating into archaeological features. A short (3m long) undated 'V'-shaped gully was found in one trench (**Trench 2**).

The Site is covered in ridge and furrow earthworks, demonstrating that the Site was exploited agriculturally during the medieval or early post-medieval periods. Arable farming in more recent times is unlikely due to the preservation of the ridge and furrow and the absence of finds distributed by manuring. The Site is presently used to pasture horses.

The absence of archaeology suggests that the Site lay at some distance from the historic cores of Kirk Hallam and Little Hallam. The lack of historic utilisation of the Site may be related to damp conditions caused by the proximity of the Nut Brook.

The archive of the archaeological evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under the project code **108550**. It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Derby City and County Museum under an accession number to be determined. An OASIS form, ID number **wessexar1-207803** has been provisionally completed and will be finally submitted at the time of deposition.



# **Land at Quarry Hill Road, Ilkeston, Derbyshire**

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

### **Acknowledgements**

The fieldwork was commissioned by Meath Ltd, through the auspices of CgMs, and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Simon Mortimer in this regard. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Richard O'Neill. Fieldwork was directed by Ashley Tuck, and undertaken by Ashley Tuck and Gabrielle Kinney. This report was written by Ashley Tuck, with illustrations by Chris Breeden.



# Land at Quarry Hill Road, Ilkeston, Derbyshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Meath Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on Land at Quarry Hill Road, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, hereafter 'the Site' (NGR SK 4643 4016; **Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 Planning Permission has been granted for a development of up to 350 dwellings with associated infrastructure (ERE/0614/0030), alongside a further application (ERE/0614/0031) covering the western part of the site, for a change of use from agricultural land to public open space.
- 1.1.3 An archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (DBA, CgMs 2014) was prepared, and following comments received from Derbyshire County Council Archaeology, a geophysical survey (Geophiz.biz 2014) was undertaken in support of the planning application.
- 1.1.4 The geophysical survey identified potential for two small areas of interest within the 'housing' site and one within the 'public open space' site. A scheme of trial trenching targeting these areas was agreed with the Local Planning Authority (LPA) by CgMs Consulting.

#### 1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site covers c. 11.9 hectares and is located to the south of Ilkeston, between Kirk Hallam and Hallam Fields, Derbyshire. The site is centred at National Grid Reference SK 4643 4016.
- 1.2.2 The site is currently grassland pasture. The western boundary is formed by the Nutbrook Trail, the northern boundary by the A6906, the north-eastern boundary by residential development off Quarry Hill, the south-eastern boundary by Quarry Hill Road itself, and the southern extent borders further pastures.

#### 1.3 Geology

- 1.3.1 The solid geology of the study site area is recorded by the British Geological Survey as Pennine Lower Coal Measures formation mudstone/siltstone/sandstone with some alluvial cover close to the Nut Brook ([mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html](http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html)).
- 1.3.2 The overlying soils are recorded as belonging to the Dale Association (712a), which are described as Carboniferous and Jurassic clay and shale giving slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey, fine loamy over clayey and fine silty soils on soft rock, often stoneless (<http://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/ukso/home.html>).





## **1.4 Topography**

- 1.4.1 The study site is located on the southern edge of Ilkestone (between Kirk Hallam and Hallam Fields) on a south-east facing slope. Levels within the site fall from 55m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the north-eastern corner to 45m aOD at the southern tip. The nearest watercourse is the Nut Brook, locally canalised, which is immediately adjacent to the site's north-western boundary and meanders around the southern extent of the site, but is always within 250m of the boundary.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 The following section summarises the archaeological background of the Site which was detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2015).

### **2.2 Prehistoric and Romano-British**

- 2.2.1 No evidence dating to the Prehistoric or Roman periods is recorded on the Historic Environment Record (HER) within a 1km search area around the site.

### **2.3 Medieval**

- 2.3.1 The name 'Halum' appears in Domesday Book (1086) although it is not clear whether this relates to West Hallam or Kirk Hallam. Bell pits recorded from aerial photographs c. 340m to the south-west of the site have been assigned a Medieval date. These features together with a find spot of a silver long cross penny of Edward I and All Saints Church are the only evidence recorded for nearby medieval activity.
- 2.3.2 The Site contains non-designated earthwork ridge and furrow, especially at the northern extent of the site, which is likely to be of Medieval or early Post-Medieval date.

### **2.4 Post-medieval**

- 2.4.1 The study site is located within an industrial landscape between the disused Nutbook Canal to the west and the Erewash Canal to the east. The line of the former Stanton and Shipley mineral railway forms the Site's western boundary and the north-eastern boundary comprises the embankment of the disused Great Northern railway, Stanton branch.
- 2.4.2 With the exception of some small scale quarrying and a pond excavated at the northern extent of the site there is nothing of significance shown on the historic mapping within the Site.

### **2.5 Geophysical survey**

- 2.5.1 The geophysical survey (Geophys.biz 2014) detected at least two phases of ridge and furrow, and three anomalies of potential archaeological interest, as well as a number of modern features, including two service trenches. Of particular note was a circular anomaly interpreted as a possible Bronze Age barrow.



### 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

#### 3.1 General

3.1.1 The aim of the programme of archaeological works was to investigate the three areas of interest identified by geophysical survey on the development site through a scheme of targeted trial trenching and to record any archaeological remains present.

3.1.2 The aims will be realised through the achievement of the following specific objectives:

- *to provide sufficient information regarding the character, origin, date, and preservation of any archaeological remains;*
- *to test the anomalies identified by the geophysical survey;*
- *to explore the nature of any human activity at the site and to place the site within its local, regional and national context as appropriate;*
- *to assess the site formation processes and the effects that these may have had on the survival and integrity of any archaeological features and deposits;*
- *to produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum if appropriate;*
- *and to provide information for the local HER to ensure the long-term survival of the data.*

### 4 METHODOLOGY

#### 4.1 General

4.1.1 Detailed methodology for the work can be found in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; CgMs 2015). Wessex Archaeology procedures conform to industry best practice, as outlined in the standards and guidance documentation issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a-d).

4.1.2 Five 20m long trial trenches were excavated (**Figure 1**), targeted on geophysical anomalies. **Trench 1** was extended into a T-shape on its south-west side to attempt to clarify the absence of an archaeological feature relating to a geophysical survey anomaly.

#### 4.2 Machine excavation

4.2.1 The location of all trenches was set out using a survey grade GPS with an accuracy tolerance of no greater than +/- 100mm. The trenches were scanned with a CAT to check for uncharted services prior to excavation.

4.2.2 Topsoil was removed using an 180° JCB 3CX mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist. Topsoil was removed in a series of level spits down to the level of the natural geology.



### 4.3 Hand excavation

4.3.1 Surfaces were cleaned to allow inspection and to define the extent of potential archaeological features and deposits. These features were then hand excavated sufficiently to attempt to characterise the location, extent, condition, significance and quality of potential archaeological remains.

### 4.4 Recording

4.4.1 A full written, drawn and photographic record was maintained. All deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system.

4.4.2 The excavated areas as well as archaeological features and deposits were mapped in relation to the OS grid by measured GPS survey equipment with a tolerance of  $\pm 100\text{mm}$  or better.

4.4.3 Plans, sections and elevations of archaeological features and deposits were drawn as necessary at 1:10, 1:20 and 1:50 as appropriate. Each archaeological feature and deposit as well as the excavated slots have spot heights recorded in relation to Ordnance Datum, correct to two decimal places.

### 4.5 Finds and environmental

4.5.1 No artefacts were recovered and no environmental samples were taken.

## 5 RESULTS

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The following section provides a summary of the information held in the Site archive, with a full list of context numbers and context descriptions contained in **Appendix 1**.

### 5.2 General stratigraphy

5.2.1 The natural geological substrate (e.g. **102**) in **Trenches 1-3** was yellow clay loam. In the southern trenches (**Trenches 4** and **5**) the natural was mixed yellow and grey clays.

5.2.2 Subsoil (e.g. **402**) was seen in **Trenches 4** and **5** only, and was 0.1m (**Trench 4**) or 0.3m (**Trench 5**) thick. Topsoil (e.g. **101**) across site was between 0.2m and 0.3m deep.

### 5.3 Negative results

5.3.1 No archaeological cut features or deposits were found in **Trenches 1, 3** and **5** (**Plates 1, 2** and **3**).

### 5.4 Gully in Trench 2

5.4.1 At the west end of **Trench 2**, there was short northwest-southeast aligned gully c.3m long by 0.5m wide and 0.25m deep (**204**, **Figure 2**, **Plate 4**). Gully **204** was filled with some larger stones (**205**); however no finds were recovered. The north-western terminus was excavated and appeared to be an intentionally dug terminus with a concave end. The profile of the gully was distinctly 'V'-shaped.



## 5.5 Possible feature in Trench 4

5.5.1 At the eastern end of both **Trenches 4** and **5**, the level of the natural (e.g. **403**) dipped down less than 0.1m and the subsoil (e.g. **402**) became thicker. In **Trench 4** this produced a hollow (**404**), filled with material continuous with the subsoil. It is thought that this feature is non-anthropogenic (**Figure 3, Plate 5**). No edges were present in **Trench 5** to define an analogous feature there.

## 5.6 Ridge and furrow

5.6.1 Ridge and furrow earthworks are present across the Site, running east-west, perpendicular to the contours of the land. Ridges are especially pronounced in the north. Despite the presence of earthwork ridges in the area of **Trench 1**, furrows were not present archaeologically in this trench. Furrows were observed in all other trenches, although **Trenches 4** and **5** were aligned with ridges, and furrows were only seen at the extreme west end of the trenches.

## 6 DISCUSSION

### 6.1 Correlation with geophysical survey

6.1.1 A circular geophysical anomaly, provisionally interpreted as a Bronze Age barrow, was targeted by **Trench 1**. The topsoil in **Trench 1** was only 0.2m deep, overlying clean natural with no archaeological features observed. No explanation of the geophysical anomaly is available; speculatively it may relate to the former presence of a circular hay feeder.

6.1.2 **Trenches 2** and **3** targeted geophysical anomalies appearing to form the corners of enclosures or similar. Although a gully was identified in **Trench 2**, this did not correlate with the geophysical survey results.

6.1.3 A linear geophysical anomaly was targeted by **Trenches 4** and **5**. The anomaly runs north-south, and swings slightly west before swinging back to the east at the northern end. The anomaly correlated closely with a ceramic land drain (**Plate 6**).

### 6.2 Conclusion

6.2.1 This evaluation produced largely negative results with none of the geophysical anomalies previously identified translating into archaeological features. A short (3m long) undated 'V'-shaped gully was found.

6.2.2 The Site is covered in ridge and furrow earthworks, demonstrating that the Site was exploited agriculturally during the medieval or early post-medieval periods. Arable farming in more recent times is unlikely due to the preservation of the ridge and furrow and the absence of finds distributed by manuring. The Site is presently used to pasture horses.

6.2.3 The absence of archaeology suggests that the Site lay at some distance from the historic cores of Kirk Hallam and Little Hallam. The lack of historic utilisation of the Site may be related to damp conditions caused by the proximity of the Nut Brook.



## **7 STORAGE AND CURATION**

### **7.1 Museum**

- 7.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Derby City Museum under accession number to be determined. An OASIS form, ID number **wessexar1-207803 (Appendix 2)** has been provisionally completed and will be finally submitted at the time of deposition.

### **7.2 Preparation of archive**

- 7.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Derby City and County Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014d; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

- 7.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the accession code, and a full index will be prepared.

### **7.3 Security copy**

- 7.3.1 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.



## 8 REFERENCES

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### 8.2 Online sources

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## 9 APPENDICES

### 9.1 Appendix 1: Context descriptions

Trench 1		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
101	<b>Topsoil:</b> mid –dark brown clay loam, no inclusions	0-0.2
102	<b>Natural:</b> yellow clay loam with 1% gravel	0.2+

Trench 2		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
201	<b>Topsoil:</b> dark brown clay loam with 1% gravel	0-0.28
202	<b>Natural:</b> yellow with orange and grey streaks sandy clay loam with patches of 20% gravel	0.28+
203	<b>Cut:</b> v-shaped gully 0.5m wide by 0.25m	0.28-0.53
204	<b>Fill of 203:</b> greyish brown with streaks of red clay loam. 5% gravel. Charcoal. Some larger stones	0.28-0.53

Trench 3		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
301	<b>Topsoil:</b> dark brown clay loam, no inclusions	0-0.26
302	<b>Natural:</b> yellow clay loam with grey and orange streaks, sandy clay loam with patches of 15% gravel	0.26+

Trench 4		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
401	<b>Topsoil:</b> mid brown clay loam	0-0.3
402	<b>Subsoil:</b> yellow brown sandy loam	0.3-0.4
403	<b>Natural:</b> yellow and grey clays	0.4+
404	<b>Cut:</b> subsoil filling undulation in upper horizon of natural.	
405	<b>Fill of 405:</b> yellow brown sandy loam	

Trench 5		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
501	<b>Topsoil:</b> mid brown clay loam	0-0.2



502	<b>Subsoil:</b> yellow brown sandy loam	<b>0.2-0.5</b>
503	<b>Natural:</b> yellow and grey clays	<b>0.5+</b>





## 9.2 Appendix 2: OASIS form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-207803

### Project details

Project name	Land at Quarry Hill Road, Ilkestone, Derbyshire
Short description of the project	<p>Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Meath Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation on Land at Quarry Hill Road, Ilkestone, Derbyshire (NGR SK 4643 4016). Planning Permission (ERE/0614/0030) has been granted for a development of up to 350 dwellings with associated infrastructure, alongside a further application (ERE/0614/0031) covering the western part of the site, for a change of use from agricultural land to public open space. Following geophysical survey of the site (Geophys.biz 2014), a Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2015) was prepared, submitted to and approved by the LPA, in advance of fieldwork commencement. The evaluation produced largely negative results with none of the geophysical anomalies previously identified translating into archaeological features. A short (3m long) undated 'V'-shaped gully was found. The Site is covered in ridge and furrow earthworks, demonstrating that the Site was exploited agriculturally during the medieval or early post-medieval periods. Arable farming in more recent times is unlikely due to the preservation of the ridge and furrow and the absence of finds distributed by manuring. The Site is presently used to pasture horses. The absence of archaeology suggests that the Site lay at some distance from the historic cores of Kirk Hallam and Little Hallam. The lack of historic utilisation of the Site may be related to damp conditions caused by the proximity of the Nut Brook.</p>
Project dates	Start: 30-03-2015 End: 01-04-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	108550 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 3 - Disturbed
Monument type	GULLY Uncertain
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination



### Project location

Country	England
Site location	DERBYSHIRE EREWASH ILKESTON Land at Quarry Hill Road, Ilkeston, Derbyshire
Postcode	DE7 4DA
Study area	11.90 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 4643 4016 52.9564879075 -1.30877810253 52 57 23 N 001 18 31 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 45.00m Max: 55.00m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Derbyshire County Council
Project design originator	CgMS Consulting Ltd
Project director/manager	R. O'Neill
Project supervisor	Ashley Tuck
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Derby City and County Museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Derby City and County Museum
Paper Contents	"none"



Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

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**Project  
bibliography 1**

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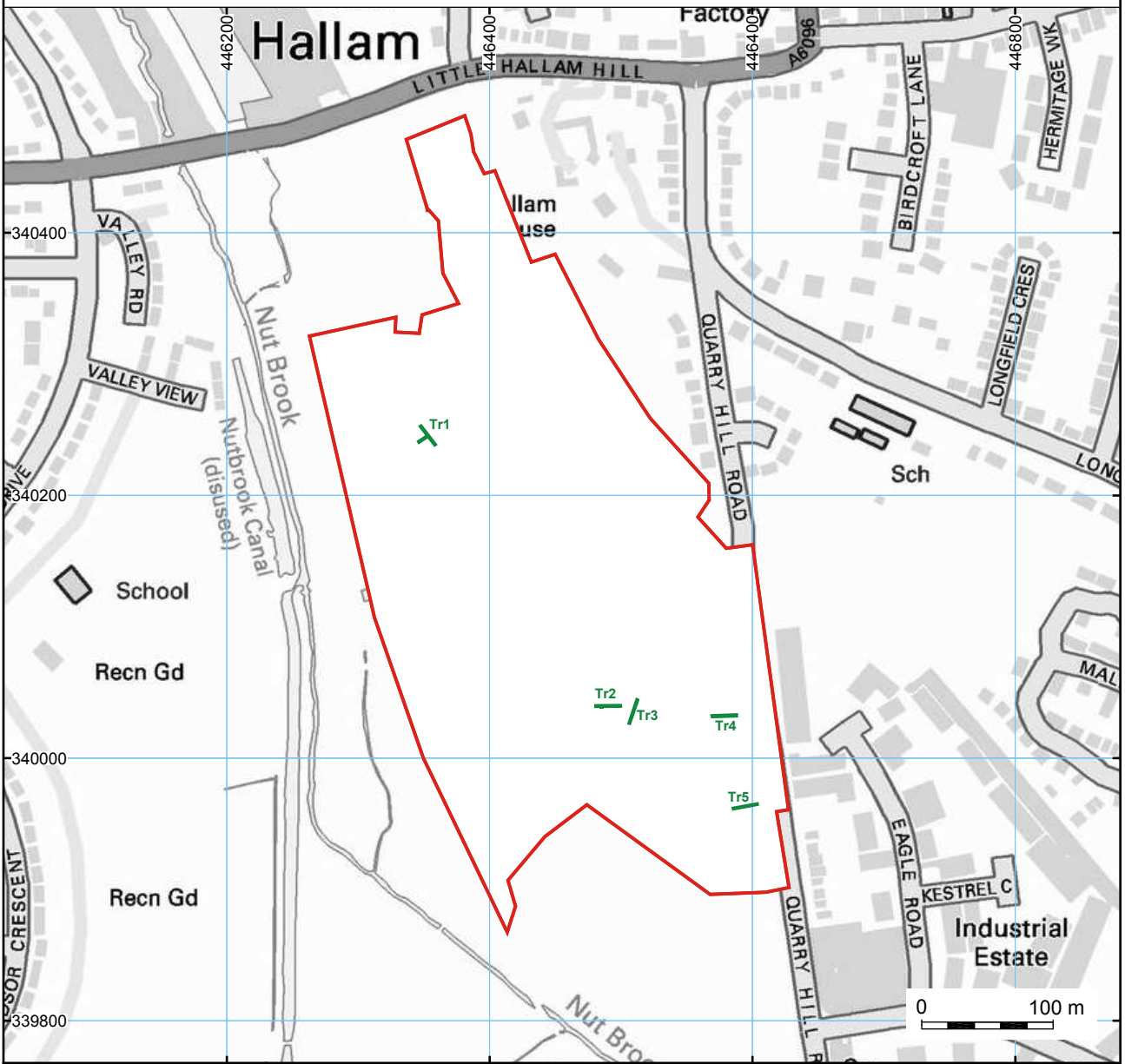
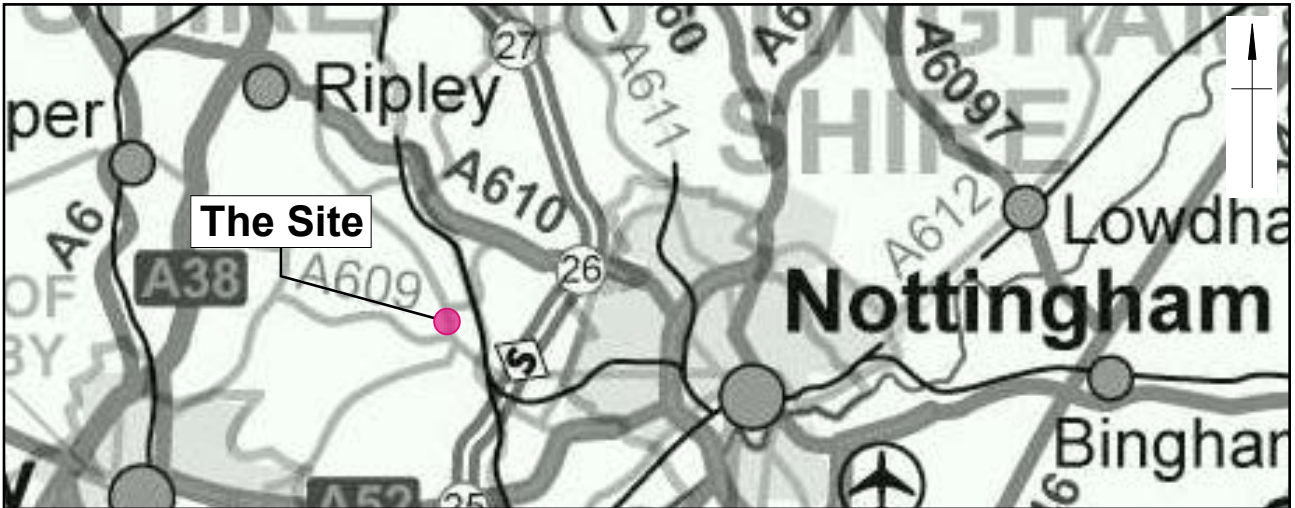
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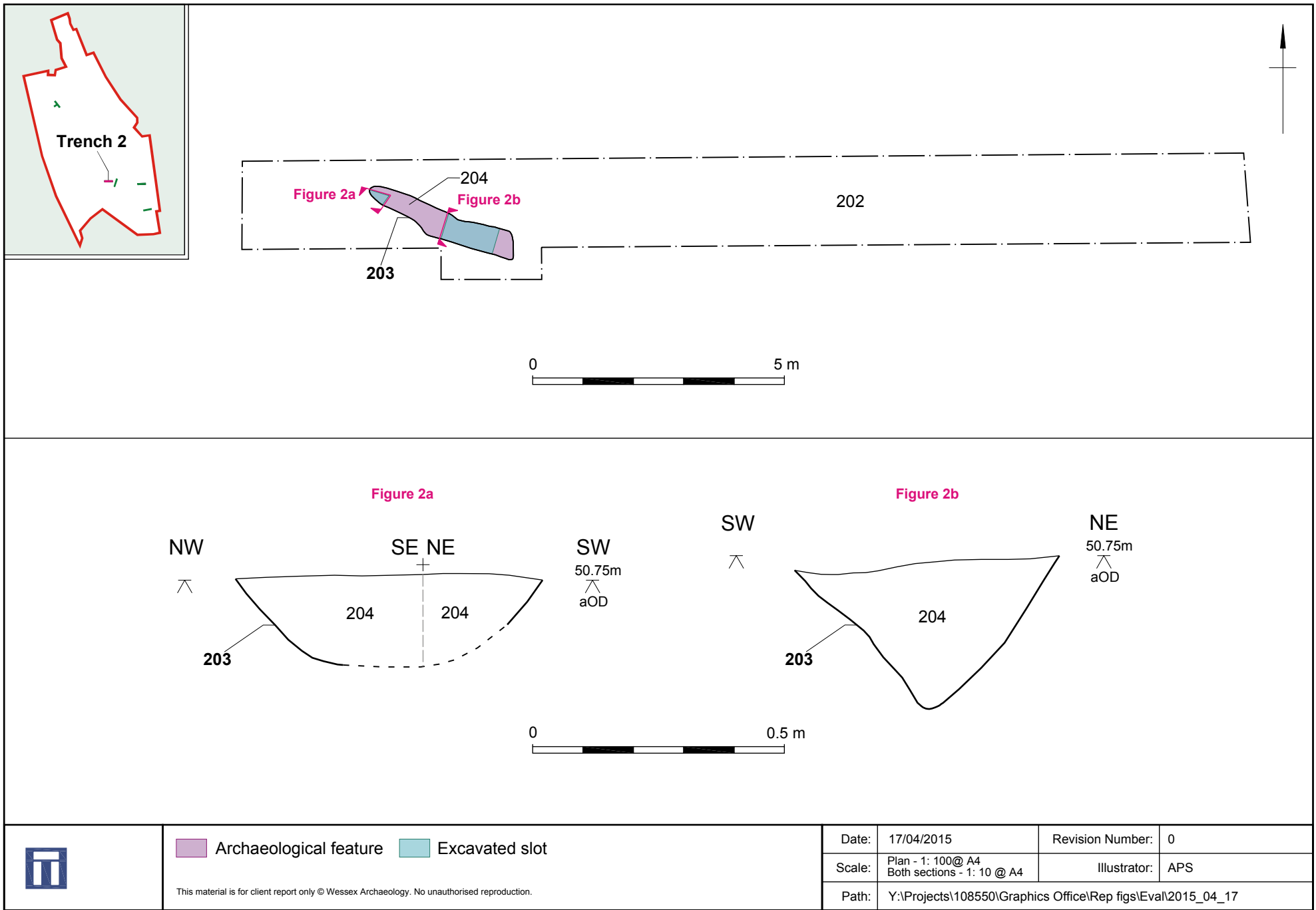
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	 Evaluation Area  Excavated trenches	
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	Scale: Main graphic - 1:5000 @ A4	Illustrator: APS
Path: Y:\Projects\108550\Graphics Office\Rep figs\Eval\2015_04_17		

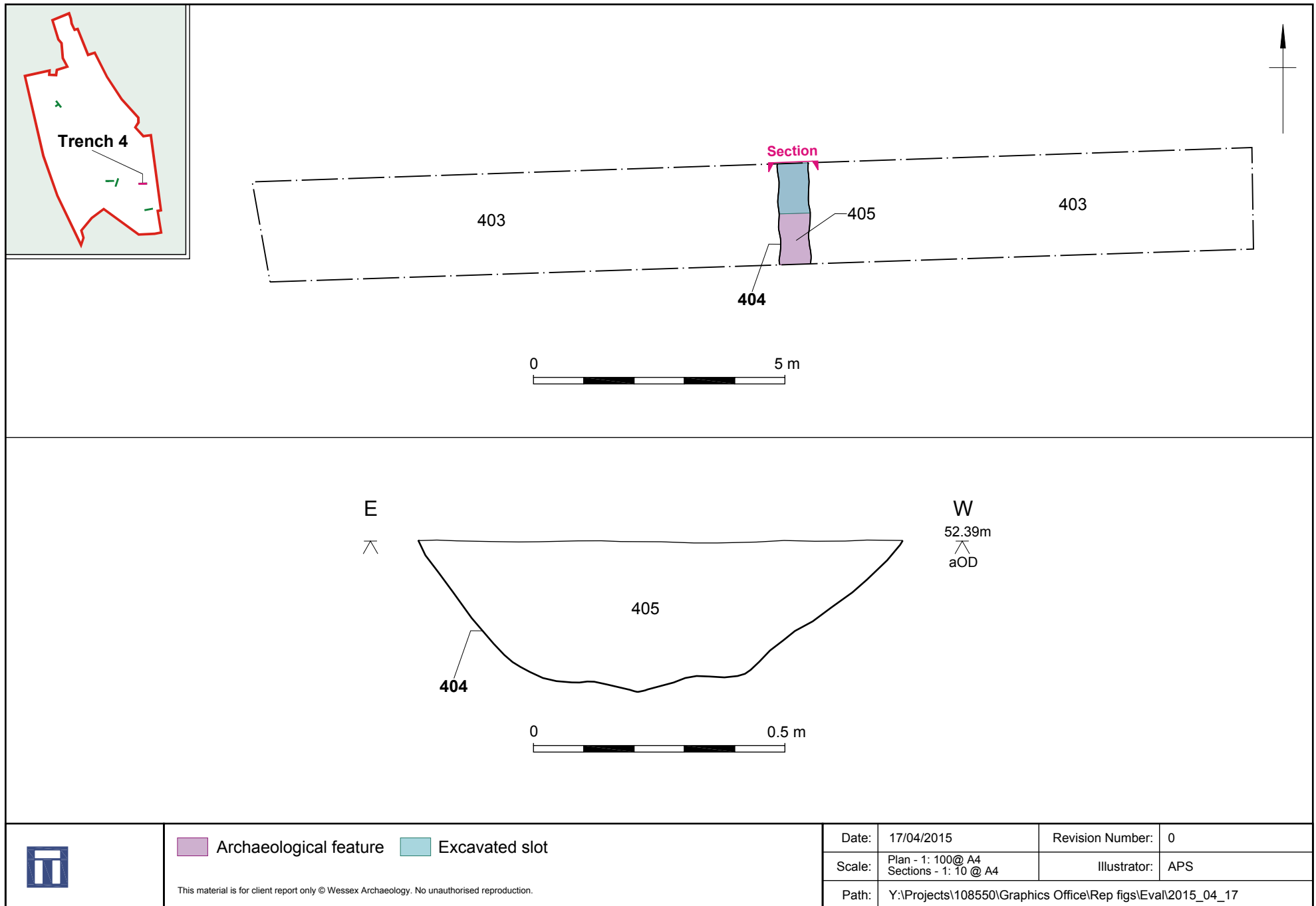
Site location and trench locations

Figure 1



Plan of **Trench 2** with section of gully **204**

Figure 2



Plan of **Trench 4** with section of natural feature **404**

Figure 3



Plate 1: **Trench 1** from south



Plate 2: **Trench 3**, furrow from southwest


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Plate 3: **Trench 5** from west



Plate 4: **Trench 2**, undated gully **204** from southeast


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Plate 5: **Trench 4**, natural feature **404** from south



Plate 6: Land drain in **Trench 5** from south

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