HALL END BARNS,
WICKWAR,
WOTTON UNDER EDGE,
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

NGR: 370466 186951

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

October 2020
Report No. 1379

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES

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Quality Assurance

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SUMMARY

On the 13th and 14th July 2020 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at Hall End Barns, Wickwar, Wotton Under Edge, South Gloucestershire (NGR: 370466 186951). The project was commissioned by Dane Sampson.

The works comprised the excavation and recording of four evaluation trenches within the study area.

The evaluation has identified a moderately complex sequence of features and deposits. These included a shallow feature cut by a later ditch; possible stone wall footings, which were associated with a spread of stone rubble; three small pits, one of which cut the wall footings, as well as part of a possible ditch, which was situated beneath a possible yard surface associated with a stone filled drain.

The recovered artefact assemblage was dominated by Roman pottery, which suggested that some of these features could have dated to the Roman period; however, due to the proximity of the Roman town, and a consequently high potential for the presence of residual material, it was not possible to be entirely confident of a Roman date. A small assemblage of Medieval pottery suggested that activity related to a former farm depicted on early maps, may have extended back to the 12th to 14th centuries.

The occurrence of metallurgical residues and charcoal rich fills suggested that industrial activity, possibly smithing, had occurred in, or near to, the northern part of the site, in the area around Trenches 1 to 3. A small amount of associated artefactual evidence suggested that this activity dated to the Medieval period, although, due to the limited nature of the evidence, this date remained tentative, and it was not possible to entirely rule out a Roman date for this activity.

Due to the limited nature of the investigation, along with the relative complexity of the encountered deposits and a high potential for the occurrence of residual Roman artefacts, it was difficult to confidently assign specific dates to the revealed features. However, it is entirely possible that at least some of the remains may have been of Roman date and, therefore, related to the Roman town situated to the north. There was also a potential that some of the features and deposits may have been related to earlier phases of the farm depicted on early maps, which possibly dated back to 12th to 14th centuries.

There was no evidence that could be related to a postulated Roman road, which is thought to extend from the Roman town, along the eastern boundary of the site.

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GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project, archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

CBM

Ceramic Building Material.

Medieval

The period between AD 1066 and AD 1500.

Natural

In archaeological terms, this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

NMP

National Mapping Programme. An aerial photographic survey, overseen by English Heritage, which sought to systematically identify and record archaeological sites and landscapes.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level. (aOD above Ordnance Datum).

OS

Ordnance Survey.

Post-medieval

The period between AD 1500 and AD 1900.

Prehistoric

The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43, traditionally sub-divided into; *Palaeolithic* – c. 500,000 BC to c. 12,000 BC; *Mesolithic* – c. 12,000 BC to c. 4,500 BC; *Neolithic* – c. 4,500 BC to c. 2,000 BC; *Bronze Age* – c. 2,000 BC to c. 800 BC; *Iron Age* – c. 800 BC to AD 43.

Roman

The period traditionally dated AD 43 until AD 410.

Saxon

The period between AD 410 and AD 1066.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation, undertaken by Foundations Archaeology on the 13th and 14th July 2020, on land at Hall End Barns, Wickwar, Wotton Under Edge, South Gloucestershire (NGR: 370466 186951). The project was commissioned by Dane Sampson.

1.2 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2020) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014).

1.3 The CIfA code of conduct was adhered to throughout.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

2.1 There is an emerging proposal to rebuild/repair the existing barns for agricultural purposes. A requirement for archaeological investigations was highlighted in a previously refused planning application (Application No. PK18/4993/PNGR). In accordance with the principles of NPPF18, the South Gloucestershire County Council Archaeological Officer requested that an archaeological evaluation be undertaken for that application; therefore this work has been commissioned by the new owner of the site, in order to inform the emerging proposal, prior to the submission of a future planning application.

2.2 The site is approximately 2.5km southwest of the centre of Wickwar. There are agricultural fields on all sides, with Hall End Lane to the south and east and Limekiln Road to the southwest. The access track for the site crosses Ladden Brook, which is located to the south of the main site area. At the time of the fieldwork, the area of the site to the north of the track consisted of rough grassland, which contained a vacant barn and an adjacent ruined structure. The topography is gently undulating, at approximately 60m aOD.

2.3 A desk based assessment on the site was carried out by Bristol and West Archaeology Ltd. in 2016. This document should be read in conjunction with this report, however, the results are summarised below.

2.3.1 The study area is located within the former Medieval parish of Yate, which was mentioned in Domesday. The earliest cartographic evidence which shows the site in detail is the 1838 Tithe Map of Yate, which indicates that the site was a fully functioning farm at this time, with a farmhouse, yard, outbuildings and sheds. The two barns currently on site are visible on the 1838 Tithe Map.

2.3.2 The site is located within an area of high archaeological potential. The Scheduled Monument of a small Roman town (List Entry Number 1021404) is present in the fields directly north of the site. The Roman town comprises an area of approximately 16 hectares and has been identified through extensive

geophysical survey and limited trial trenching and is believed to date from the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. The course of a Roman road runs north-northeast – south-southwest through the town. It linked Bitton to Gloucester and it is present along the eastern site boundary.

2.3.3 Two HER entries are located within the site area. Records 2058 and 11102 relate to the discovery of Roman pottery during fieldwalking, this was followed by a rescue excavation which identified a building, ditches with Roman pottery and evidence for the Roman road. However, it would appear likely that the location of this excavation was present to the northeast of its current location, just outside of the site area.

2.3.4 The underlying geology is recorded *as South Wales Lower Coal Measures Formation* and *South Wales Middle Coal Measures Formation* (undifferentiated) - sandstone, with superficial deposits of alluvium - clay, silt, sand and gravel (BGS Online Viewer).

2.4 The site therefore contained the potential for evidence of Roman activity. This did not prejudice the works against the recovery of data relating to other periods.

3 AIMS

3.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains; as well as to make recommendations for management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary. In turn, this would allow reasonable planning/mitigation decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the emerging development proposal.

3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:

- To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.
- To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains.
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features encountered.
- To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable that archaeological implications of the proposed development to be assessed.

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- To test if the known Roman town extends south of the scheduled area and into the current study area.

- To produce a site archive for deposition with Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery and to provide information for accession to the South Gloucestershire HER.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 A total of four evaluation trenches were excavated within the site, as shown in Figure 2. The trenches were located in order to provide a representative sample of the areas likely to be affected by the emerging development proposal. Due to the presence of Japanese knotweed, it was necessary to amend the location of Trench 3. All amendments to the approved trench plan were agreed with the archaeological representative of South Gloucestershire Council.

4.2 Non-significant overburden was removed, under constant archaeological supervision, to the top of archaeological remains or the underlying natural deposits, whichever was encountered first. This was achieved through use of a 360º mechanical excavator, equipped with a toothless grading bucket. Features and spoil tips were visually scanned for finds.

4.3 Where potential archaeological features were present, these were subjected to appropriate levels of investigation. All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the approved WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

5 RESULTS

5.1 A full description of all contexts identified during the course of the project is presented in Appendix 1. A summary of the results is given below.

5.2 **Trench 1**: The natural clay was present at an average depth of 0.51m (58.07m aOD) below the Modern ground surface. The natural was overlain by a clay subsoil (113), up to 0.20m thick, which was only present in the western half of the trench. This was partly overlain by a layer of stone rubble and soil (112), up to 0.40m thick, which occurred across the eastern half of the trench, where it overlaid the underlying natural, as well as features [101] and [109]. Both (112) and (113) were subsequently sealed by topsoil (111), up to 0.21m thick. Archaeological features were present at the eastern end of the trench, cut into the top of the natural clay.

5.2.1 **Features [101] and [109]** were stone built and probably represented the remains of former wall footings or drains. The occurrence of plastic impervious clay within and around the individual stones suggested that the features would not have functioned well as drains and, therefore, the

interpretation of former wall footings was more likely to be correct. This also accorded well with the occurrence of a fairly extensive spread of stones (112) in the part of the trench around features [101]/[109], which probably represented building rubble. No archaeological finds were recovered from the possible wall footings.

5.2.2 Wall [101] was cut by a **small pit [103]**, which was devoid of archaeological finds, but which had similar fills to pits [105] and [107].

5.2.3 **Small pits [105] and [107]** were present at the eastern end of the trench. They contained loose soil fills, which were associated with occasional to frequent flecks and lumps of charcoal and occasional lumps of plastic clay. Pit [105] yielded a single sherd of Roman pottery and a small fragment of slag, whilst pit [107] contained three sherds of Roman pottery. The stratigraphic relationship between rubble spread (112) and the pits in Trench 1 was unclear.

5.3 **Trench 2**: The natural clay was present at an average depth of 0.59m (58.46m aOD) below the Modern ground surface. In the northeast part of the trench (*Section 001*) the natural was overlain by a layer of clay silt (205), up to 0.23m thick, which contained two sherds of Roman pottery. In the southern part of the trench (*Section 003*), the natural was overlain by a deposit of firm clay silt (210), up to 0.13m thick, which contained frequent charcoal flecks and lumps, occasional lumps and flecks of pink orange clay and two sherds of Roman pottery. This was subsequently overlain by a thick layer of loose clay silt (211), up to 0.46m thick, which contained frequent stones. Layer (211) was subsequently cut by Modern pit [208], which was itself was overlain by a layer of plastic sticky clay, which contained occasional stones (206), up to 0.39m thick. This deposit probably represented part of a Modern make-up or levelling deposit, which contained two sherds of residual Medieval pottery. Make-up layer (206) was not present at the southwestern end of the trench. Layer (206) was sealed by topsoil (207), up to 0.27m thick. Archaeological features were present at the northeast end of the trench, cut into the top of the natural clay, under layer (205).

5.3.1 **Feature [201]** was only partially revealed within the evaluation trench and was therefore difficult to interpret. It was very shallow and it was uncertain if it was the truncated remains of a cut feature, or possibly, an area of disturbed or trampled natural. The fill of the feature, (202), contained five sherds of Roman pottery.

5.3.2 **Ditch [203]** was cut through feature [201]/(202) and comprised a northwest – southeast aligned ditch with a rounded profile. Its fill (204) contained 30 sherds of Roman pottery and one sherd of Medieval pottery, as well as a single fragment of probable animal bone.

5.4 **Trench 3**: The natural clay was present at an average depth of 0.36m (57.24m aOD) below the Modern ground surface. The natural was overlain by a clay subsoil (303), up to 0.12m thick. This was in turn sealed by a layer of small irregular stones (302), up to 0.10m, which possibly represented the remains of

a former yard or area of hardstanding. Layer (302) was subsequently sealed by topsoil (301), up to 0.14m thick. Two archaeological features were present within the trench.

5.4.1 **Feature [304]** was cut into the top of the natural and was sealed beneath subsoil (303). It was possibly part of a northeast – southwest aligned ditch, which terminated at the southwest. The fill of the feature, (305)/(306), was associated with a small amount of metallurgical residue (276g), six sherds of Roman pottery, one sherd of possible Medieval pottery, four small fragments of burnt probable animal bone and a small piece of glass.

5.4.2 **Drain [307]** was cut through subsoil (303) and into the top of the underlying natural. It contained frequent small to medium irregular stones (308) and was possibly related to yard/hardstanding layer (302). It contained a single sherd of Post-medieval pottery, seven fragments of animal bone, one of which was burnt, and a small piece of slag.

5.5 **Trench 4**: The natural clay was present at an average depth of 0.50m (58.04m aOD) below the Modern ground surface. The natural was overlain by a soil and stone make-up layer (401), up to 0.43m thick. This was sealed by loose gravel and tarmac (402), up to 0.07m thick, which formed the Modern track surface. No archaeological features or finds were present within the trench.

5.6 A small assemblage of ceramics, dating to the Roman, Medieval and Post-medieval periods, was recovered as unstratified material from Trenches 1 to 3.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 The evaluation revealed the presence a moderately complex sequence of features and deposits in Trenches 1 to 3, which were difficult to interpret. In Trench 1, possible wall footings were associated with a fairly extensive spread of stone rubble. It was notable that the wall footings were situated on an alignment that was distinctly different to the alignment of the extant buildings on site, which themselves appeared to reflect the alignment of farm buildings shown on the earliest maps (Figures 2 and 7). This may suggest that the wall footings represented an earlier phase of activity. The footings were cut by one of three small pits, which were all associated with soils containing charcoal flecks and lumps, as well as a single piece of slag. The northeast end of Trench 2 contained a shallow feature cut by a ditch, both of which were sealed beneath a soil layer, whilst further to the southwest in the same trench, a charcoal-rich soil layer was overlain by a soil and stone layer. This was subsequently cut by a Modern feature, which itself was overlain by a Modern make-up deposit. In Trench 3 a possible ditch, which was associated with charcoal and metallurgical residue, was present beneath a subsoil layer. A probable yard surface/hardstanding deposit, which was probably associated with a stone filled drain, was later than the subsoil.

6.2 The recovered pottery assemblage was dominated by material datable to the Roman period, which suggested that at least some of the identified features could be of Roman date. However, the occurrence of Medieval pottery in ditch [203], which also yielded 30 sherds of Roman pottery and possible Medieval pottery in ditch [304], which also contained six sherds of Roman pottery, suggested the possibility that much of the Roman material may have been residual, derived from the nearby Roman small town. The Medieval pottery assemblage, although small, was most likely to date to between the later 12th to 14th centuries, which suggested that the Post-medieval farm depicted on the 19th century maps may have had earlier origins.

6.3 It is therefore possible that the features present in Trenches 1 to 3 may represent evidence for two broad phases of activity; an earlier phase dating to the Roman period, as well as later activity dating to the Medieval to Post-medieval periods, the latter of which was probably related to a farm. Alternatively, on the basis that it was not possible to positively demonstrate the presence of any well-dated Roman features, it is also possible that the revealed remains represent Medieval to Post-medieval farm features, which contained a high level of residual Roman detritus from the nearby small Roman town.

6.4 The occurrence of metallurgical residues and relatively charcoal-rich fills suggested that industrial activity, possibly smithing, was undertaken in the vicinity of Trenches 1 to 3. Based on the limited associated artefactual evidence, this activity probably dated to the Medieval period or later, although, this was not entirely certain.

6.5 The occurrence of a dumped make-up layer directly on top of the natural in Trench 4 suggested that the area around this trench had previously been stripped, although not necessarily reduced. This probably occurred when the access track was re-surfaced in the Modern period. The complete absence of features or finds suggested that Trench 4 was not located near to any particular focus of archaeological activity.

7 CONCLUSION

7.1 The evaluation has identified a moderately complex sequence of features and deposits. These included a shallow feature cut by a later ditch; possible stone wall footings, which were associated with a spread of stone rubble; three small pits, one of which cut the wall footings, as well as part of a possible ditch, which was situated beneath a possible yard surface associated with a stone filled drain.

7.2 The recovered artefact assemblage was dominated by Roman pottery, which suggested that some of these features could have dated to the Roman period; however, due to the proximity of the Roman town, and a consequently high potential for the presence of residual material, it was not possible to be entirely confident of a Roman date. A small assemblage of Medieval pottery suggested

that activity related to a former farm depicted on early maps, may have extended back to the 12th to 14th centuries.

7.3 The occurrence of metallurgical residues and charcoal rich fills suggested that industrial activity, possibly smithing, had occurred in, or near to, the northern part of the site, in the area around Trenches 1 to 3. A small amount of associated artefactual evidence suggested that this activity dated to the Medieval period, although, due to the limited nature of the evidence, this date remained tentative, and it was not possible to entirely rule out a Roman date for this activity.

7.4 Due to the limited nature of the investigation, along with the relative complexity of the encountered deposits and a high potential for the occurrence of residual Roman artefacts, it was difficult to confidently assign specific dates to the revealed features. However, it is entirely possible that at least some of the remains may have been of Roman date and, therefore, related to the Roman town situated to the north. There was also a potential that some of the features and deposits may have been related to earlier phases of the farm depicted on early maps, which possibly dated back to 12th to 14th centuries.

7.5 There was no evidence that could be related to a postulated Roman road, which is thought to extend from the Roman town, along the eastern boundary of the site.

7.6 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology but will be deposited in due course with Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery. A digital report/archive will also be submitted to OASIS/ADS. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX 1: STRATIGRAPHIC DATA

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				TRENCH 1: 18.30m long by 1.50m wide. **Natural** = yellow beige to pink plastic clay. Present at average 58.07m aOD.		
[101]	3.85	0.57	0.33	Northwest – southeast aligned ditch with near vertical sides and a flat base. Contained stone built wall/drain 102. Equivalent to ditch [109].	Natural	102
102	3.85	0.57	0.33	Fill of ditch [101]: grey beige to pink irregular stones within a beige to pink brown plastic clay matrix. Probable wall footing or drain. Equivalent to 110.	[101]	[103], 112
[103]	0.63	0.49	0.19	Sub-oval pit with steep sides and a flat base. Contained fill 104. Uncertain stratigraphic relationship with layer 112.	102	104
104	0.63	0.49	0.19	Fill of pit [103]: dark brown friable clay silt, which contained occasional charcoal flecks and occasional lumps of beige pink clay. Uncertain stratigraphic relationship with layer 112.	[103]	111
[105]	0.59	0.50	0.13	Sub-oval pit with a shallow, flat profile. Contained fill 106. Uncertain stratigraphic relationship with layer 112.	Natural	106
106	0.59	0.50	0.13	Fill of [105]: dark brown loose clay silt, which contained occasional to frequent charcoal flecks, as well as occasional lumps of beige pink clay. Uncertain stratigraphic relationship with layer 112.	[105]	111
[107]	0.30	0.30	0.10	Sub-square small pit or posthole with steep, near vertical sides and a flat base. Contained fill 108. Uncertain stratigraphic relationship with layer 112.	Natural	108
108	0.30	0.30	0.10	Fill of [107]: dark brown loose clay silt, which contained occasional to frequent charcoal flecks, as well as occasional lumps of beige pink clay. Uncertain stratigraphic relationship with layer 112.	[107]	111
[109]	0.90	0.45	?	Northeast – southwest aligned ditch, which contained stone built wall/drain 110. Equivalent and perpendicular to ditch [101]. Recorded in plan only.	Natural	110
110	0.90	0.45	?	Fill of ditch [109]: grey beige to pink irregular stones within a beige to pink brown plastic clay matrix. Probable wall footing or drain. Equivalent to 102.	[109]	112
111	18.30	1.50	0.21	Topsoil: grey brown friable clay silt.	112, 113	n/a
112	10.0	1.50	0.40	Layer of dark brown loose clay silt, which contained frequent grey to beige irregular stones and rare fragments of CBM. Occurred at the eastern end of the trench, dissipated to the west.	113, 102, 110	111
113	11.0	1.50	0.20	Layer of dark grey plastic clay silt. Occurred at the western end of the trench, dissipated to the east. Possible subsoil.	Natural	112
				TRENCH 2: 18.70m long by 1.50m wide. **Natural** = yellow beige to pink plastic clay. Present at average 58.46m aOD.		
[201]	2.75	1.55	0.05	Linear to amorphous feature with a shallow, flat profile. Contained fill 202. Uncertain if this was a cut feature or an area of disturbance.	Natural	202
202	2.75	1.55	0.05	Fill of [201]: brown firm clay silt, which contained rare charcoal flecks.	[201]	[203]
[203]	2.00	0.68	0.15	Northwest – southeast aligned ditch with a rounded profile. Contained fill 204.	202	204
204	2.00	0.68	0.15	Fill of [203]: dark grey brown firm clay silt, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	[203]	205
205	3.80	1.50	0.23	Layer of brown firm clay silt, which contained occasional stones and rare charcoal flecks.	204	206

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CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
206	6.50	1.50	Up to 0.39	Layer of yellow beige to pink plastic, sticky clay, which contained occasional beige to pink irregular stones. Dumped make-up/levelling layer. Not present at the southwest end of the trench.	205, 209	207
207	18.70	1.50	0.27	Topsoil: dark brown loose clay silt.	206	n/a
[208]	2.80	2.30	0.63	Large cut feature with sloping sides. A total of five linear gouges, which were cut into the natural at the western edge of the feature, indicated that it had been excavated by a machine equipped with a toothed digging bucket. Contained fill 209. Modern feature: not fully excavated.	211	209
209	2.80	2.30	0.63	Fill of [208]: pink soft friable clay, which contained occasional patches of beige sticky clay and occasional large stones.	[208]	206
210	?	1.50	0.13	Layer of dark tan brown firm clay silt, which contained frequent charcoal flecks and lumps as well as occasional lumps and flecks of pink orange clay and rare small stones. Dissipated at the northeast.	Natural	211
211	?	1.30	0.46	Layer of dark grey brown loose clay silt, which contained frequent stones.	210	[208]
				TRENCH 3: 8.30m long by 1.50m wide. **Natural** = beige to pink plastic clay. Present at average 57.24m aOD.		
301	8.30	1.50	0.14	Topsoil: dark brown clay silt, which contained frequent roots.	302	n/a
302	8.30	1.50	0.10	Layer of small, irregular stones. Possible yard/hardstanding material or make up. Heavily root disturbed.	303, 308	301
303	8.30	1.50	0.12	Layer of mid grey silt clay. Possible subsoil.	306, 305, Natural	302, [307
[304]	6.40	0.62	0.44	Northeast – southwest aligned linear feature, possibly a ditch, with a sloping western edge. Terminated at the southwest. Only partially revealed and excavated. Contained fills 305 and 306.	Natural	305, 306
305	?	0.62	0.44	Fill of [304]: dark grey brown firm clay silt, which contained frequent small stones and frequent charcoal flecks.	[304]	303
306	?	1.08	0.21	Fill of [304]: brown grey hard silt clay, which contained rare charcoal flecks.	[304]	303
[307]	2.90	0.37	0.24	North-northwest – south-southeast aligned gully with a steep rounded profile. Contained fill 308. Probable drain.	303, Natural	308
308	2.90	0.37	0.24	Fill of [307]: grey brown loose clay silt, which contained frequent grey beige irregular stones and rare charcoal flecks.	[307]	302
				TRENCH 4: 10m long by 1.50m wide. **Natural** = beige yellow plastic clay. Present at average 58.04m aOD.		
401	10.0	1.50	0.43	Layer of brown loose gritty soil, which contained frequent stones. Probable make up.	Natural	402
402	10.0	1.50	0.07	Loose gravel and tarmac. Modern road/track surface.	401	n/a
				No archaeological features or finds were present within the trench.		

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APPENDIX 2: THE CERAMICS

Jane Timby

1 Introduction and methodology

1.1 The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of a small group of 74 sherds of pottery weighing 660.5 g, dating to the Roman, Medieval and Post-medieval periods. The assemblage was accompanied by one fragment of ceramic building material and two small pieces of fired clay.

1.2 The assemblage was sorted into fabrics based on the colour, texture and nature of the inclusions present in the clay. Known named or traded Roman wares were coded using the National Roman fabric reference system (Tomber and Dore 1998).

1.3 The sorted assemblage was quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context. Rims were additionally coded to general form. A catalogue of the assemblage can be found summarised in Table 1, along with a provisional date for that context.

1.4 The assemblage was in moderate to below average condition. The average sherd weight of 9 g is slightly on the low side for Roman and later pottery which tends to be more robust and well-fired. This may be a reflection of material from topsoil or plough-soil horizons as opposed to material from sealed undisturbed deposits.

1.5 Pottery was recovered from 10 defined contexts with 20 sherds recovered from unstratified collection.

2 Roman

2.1 The bulk of the pottery, 85% by sherd count, dates to the Roman period with material spanning the 2nd through the 4th century.

2.2 The assemblage comprises a mixture of continental and regional imports alongside wares of more local origin. The former includes six small pieces of samian, five of Central Gaulish (Lezoux) origin (LEZ SA) dating to the 2nd century and one of slightly earlier date from South Gaul (La Graufesenque) (LGF SA). This latter vessel is a dish Dragendorff type 35 or 36.

2.3 Regional wares comprise nine sherds of Dorset black burnished are (DOR BB1) with examples of a plain-walled dish, flanged-rim conical bowl and jars and single sherds of New Forest colour-coated ware (NFO RS2); Oxfordshire colour-coated ware (OXF RS) and South-west white-slipped ware (SOW WS).

2.4 Local wares are mainly accounted for by sherds of Lower Severn Valley grey or black micaceous ware (Gloucester TF 5) (Timby and Tyers 2020) for which a source in the Oldbury-on-Severn area is likely.

2.5 The Roman assemblage appears to be spread across the three trenches investigated, with seven sherds from Tr 1; forty-nine from Tr 2 and four from Tr 3. The highest concentration appears to be focussed on Tr 2.

3 Medieval

3.1 Nine sherds of Medieval date were recovered showing a variety of fabrics including flint-tempered; sandy, sand with calcareous inclusions and calcareous gravel (Minety ware). Eight of the sherds are plain whilst one is partly glazed and all come from jar/cooking pots.

3.2 The sherds all came from Trenches 2 and 3 and are likely to reflect a date in the period between the later 12th-14th centuries.

4 Post-medieval

4.1 Two sherds of post-medieval date were recovered from trenches 1 and 3. One sherd is a piece of unglazed red earthenware; the other is a handle fragment from an imported German stoneware vessel, probably a jug.

4.2 The fragment of ceramic building material from Tr 2 is also of post-medieval date.

5 Conclusion

5.1 This is a very small assemblage but reflects settlement at the locality in the mid-later Roman and Medieval periods. The moderately diverse nature of the Roman assemblage with 8% (count) samian suggests a settlement of some economic status beyond that of a rural farmstead where the expected norm is around 2%.

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(http://www.romanpotterystudy.org/)

Table 1: The ceramics from Hall End Barns

Cxt	Type	Fabric	Form	Wt	No	Rim	Comment	Date
106	pit 105	DORBB1		4	1	0		C2-C4
108	pit 107	BWFSY		2	1	0		Roman
108	pit 107	LEZSA	bowl	5	1	1		C2
202	feat 201	Glos TF5		32	5	0		lC2-C4
204	ditch 203	Glos TF5	flat rim bowl	168	22	1		lC2-C4
204	ditch 203	Glos TF5	jar	15	0	1	2=1 fresh break	lC2-C4
204	ditch 203	DORBB1	plain dish	19	0	1		C3-C4
204	ditch 203	DORBB1	flanged bowl	21	0	1		lC3-C4
204	ditch 203	DORBB1		18	2	0		C3-C4
204	ditch 203	LEZSA		16	1	0		C2
204	ditch 203	MEDFL		6	1	0		Med
204	ditch 203	NFORS		6	1	0		C4
205	layer	Glos TF5		10	2	0		lC2-C4
206	make-up mod	MEDFL		6	1	0		Med
206	make-up mod	MEDSY		2	1	0		Med
210	layer	Glos TF5		0.5	1	0		lC2-C4
210	layer	BWFSY		3	1	0		Roman
305	ditch 304	DORBB1	jar	7	1	1		C2-C4
305	ditch 304	DORBB1	jar	21	0	1		C2-C4
305	ditch 304	FC		4	2	0		no date
305	ditch 304	LEZSA		22	1	0		C2
306	ditch 304	BWSY		8	1	0		?Med
308	drain 307	PMSTW	handle	11	1	0		pmed
Tr 1		Glos TF5		4	1	0		lC2-C4
Tr 1		DORBB1		4	1	0		C2-c4
Tr 1		PMREW	flowerpot	7	0	1	2=1 fresh break	pmed
Tr 2 NE end		LEZSA		6	1	0		C2
Tr 2 NE end		MEDSY	jar	25	0	1	part glazed	Med
Tr 2 NE end		SOWWS		7	1	0		lC2-C3
TR 3 us		CC		17	1	0		late Roman
TR 3 us		MEDSACA		88	1	0		Med
TR 3 us		MEDSY		7	1	0		Med

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Cxt	Type	Fabric	Form	Wt	No	Rim	Comment	Date
TR1 us		Glos TF5		32	1	0		lC2-C4
TR1 us		LGFSA	Drag 35/36	1	1	0		lC1-eC2
Tr2 NE end		Glos TF5		46	8	0		lC2-C4
Tr2 NE end		cbm		70	1	0		Pmed
Tr2 NE end		MEDGL		8	1	0		Med
Tr2 NE end		MEDMIN		1	1	0		Med
Tr2 NE end		OXFRS		5	1	0		mid C3-C4
TOTAL				**734.5**	**68**	**9**		

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APPENDIX 3: THE ARCHAEOMETALLURGICAL RESIDUES

Tim Young

Abstract

The submitted material comprised 305g of material from four contexts, of which 287g were archaeometallurgical residues.

Archaeometallurgical residues from (305) and (308) comprise residues from blacksmithing with coal fuel. The pieces in the assemblage are blebs and sheets of lining slag, intermixed with zones of denser slag and occasional inclusions of coked coal and coal shale.

A single piece of dense flow-lobed slag from (106) is probably a fragment of tapped bloomery iron smelting slag.

Methods

All materials were examined visually, using a low-powered binocular microscope where required. As an assessment, the materials were not subjected to any high-magnification optical inspection, not to any form of instrumental analysis. Concretionary materials are checked with a small hand metal detector to ascertain whether they contain any surviving iron.

The identifications of materials in this report are therefore necessarily limited and must be regarded as provisional.

This assessment was conducted in July 2020 and was commissioned by Andy Hood of Foundations Archaeology Ltd.

Description of the assemblage

Archaeometallurgical residues

The submitted material (Table 1) comprised 305g of material from four contexts, of which 287g were archaeometallurgical residues:

Context (106), 8.8g (1 piece)
This context produced a single 8.8g fragment of a dense, dark, flow-lobed slag. The slag showed surficial oxidation on the upper surface, but not the lower, which had apparently moulded over a previous flow. This texture is probably indicating of the piece being a bloomery tapslag from pre-industrial iron making. Other interpretation are plausible, for slags of the same broad composition and potentially accumulating on flow-lobed masses, may be produced during some processes of conversion of cast iron to wrought iron (fining, puddling), as well as the initial stages of copper smelting and even, rarely, during smithing.

Context (305), 275.8g (31 pieces)
This collection is of rather heterogenous smithing residues ranging from vitrified and slagged hearth lining, through lining slags (rich in coarse residual quartz grains), to dense fine-grained grey slag lobes. The materials are typically rather mixed with complexly interfolded dense and lining slags forming rounded or crudely lobate lumps. Many of the slag lumps bear clasts of coal shale and the more sheet-like morphologies often have coke particles deeply impressed within dimples on the surfaces. These pieces are typical of residues from light blacksmithing with coal fuel in a clay hearth.

Context (308), 2.6g (1 piece)
This single piece is a rudely lobate dark, mostly glassy lining-influenced slag with a probable coal shale clast embedded in one surface. This fragment belongs to the same general group of materials as those from (305) and probably shares the same source.

Other materials

Context (305), 8.62g (4 pieces)
In addition to the archaeometallurgical residues listed above, the collection from (305) contained 4 other items:

- A fragment (5.9g) of a secondary iron oxide crust that has formed from corrosion of a piece of narrow strap iron (or blade fragment). The piece contains no surviving metal and the iron object is represented by a void.
- A tiny fragment of bone (0.1g)
- Two ferruginous concretions, both nearing charcoal and a very small amount of flake hammerscale. Neither contains iron metal and the source of redistributed iron is uncertain.

Context (306), 2.19g (1 piece)
This context produced a single ferruginous concretion with a very granular texture. The piece does not contain metallic iron and the source of redistributed iron is uncertain.

Context (308), 6.44g (1 piece)
This context produced a single ferruginous concretion with a very granular texture. The piece does not contain metallic iron and the source of redistributed iron is uncertain.

Interpretation

The archaeometallurgical residues from contexts (305) and (308) provide evidence for blacksmithing using coal as fuel within a clay-walled hearth. The limited nature of the assemblage limits the degree to which the residue assemblage may be interpreted; there is a lack of evidence for smithing hearth cakes in the limited collections – and it is the weight of these that can usually shed much light on the nature of the activity. However, the dominance of small scraps of strongly lining-influenced material tends to be typical of rural sites undertaking rather light and/or intermittent work.

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That the blacksmithing employed coal as fuel is an expression of a regional phenomenon, in which coal was employed at almost all sites undertaking blacksmithing (the working of iron to produce or repair artefacts) as opposed to bloomsmithing (part of the *chaîne operatoire* of the production of raw iron). The economics behind this have not been investigated, but the widespread supplanting of charcoal as the preferred blacksmithing fuel at this period may indicate other pressures on sources of charcoal. The source of coal in this area might be either from the west (Forest of Dean) or south (Bristol Coalfield). A local source is likely, but cannot be assumed, for coal became employed even on some sites in NW Wales, well away from potential sources (Young 2011, 2012).

Roman sites in the Severn Vale producing evidence for smithing using coal include Frocester Court (Price 2000; Thomas 2000), Kingswood (Young 2017), Cleevelands (2018a) and Lockleaze (Young 2018b) and, to the northwest of the Severn/Bristol Channel, Cardiff Castle (Young & Kearns 2011), Trowbridge (Young 2009a, 2009b), Bulmore (Young 1999), Caerau (Young 2020) and Caerwent (Young 2006).

The small fragment from context (106) is probably indicative of iron smelting in a bloomery furnace of Roman or Medieval age. Roman iron smelting is widespread in the Severn Vale, certainly employing ore imported from the Forest of Dean, but also probably using more local ores (Iron Acton, Pucklechurch, Hanham…). The use of local sources is perhaps more likely for the current location.

The presence of evidence for both some iron smelting and the end use of iron (blacksmithing) on the same site is quite common in the area. Frocester Court Villa (Price 2000; Thomas 2000), Lockleaze Villa (Young 2018b) and Kingswood (Young 2017) are examples of recently-investigated assemblages. The two activities are probably best regarded as entirely separate – blacksmithing being a standard activity on a rural estate of the period with smelting typically being a more intermittent activity, perhaps associated with specific building projects or with itinerant iron-makers sporadically utilising local woodland resources.

Although the discussion above has focused on Roman examples, it is clear that Medieval metallurgical activity in the area was very similar. Archaeometallurgical residues of the two periods cannot, however, readily be separated on the basis of very small assemblages such as this.

Further work

The slags, as described above, are a rather small assemblage and are not capable of yielding significant further evidence if they were to be subjected to detailed analysis at this stage, so none is recommended. The likelihood of metallurgical activity in the vicinity of the site is, however, strong.

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Table 1: summary catalogue of submitted macroscopic materials. Weights in g.

context		item wt.	no.	notes
106	7	8.83	1	fragment of dense, very dark, slag in tapslag-like flow lobes. Surface weathered but strongly reddened on top, base shows a marginal fuel (?) impression but is mostly moulded over preceding lobe, metallic lustre on base, very low vesicularity.
305		254	25	small blebby, heterogeneous lumps, lining slag, denser slag, inclusions of coke and shale, inclusion present on both upper and lower surfaces on dimpled sheet-like specimens, others more twisted nubs and blebby prills.
		8.04	3	as above, but essentially glazed and slagged hearth ceramic
		5.94	1	magnetite crust from now disappeared iron object - possible strap-like fragment but thins towards one edge - so just possibly a blade fragment.
		13.77	2	dense flow lobed slag - resemble some lobes within the lining slag lumps,
		2.56	2	ferruginous concretions, have included charcoal and gravel, with small amount of hammerscale
		0.12	1	bone fragment
306		2.19	1	granular ferruginous concretion, no MD response.
308		2.64	1	crudely lobate dark glassy (mostly) lining slag, possible coal shale clast on one surface
		6.44	1	lobate rusty irregular piece. Rusty rounded lobes have coarse sand embedded within; presumably this is largely accretion, but it is unclear if this has an iron or clinker core; there is no MD response; could be natural

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APPENDIX 4: MISCELLANEOUS FINDS LIST

CXT	DESCRIPTION
204	1 x fragment of probable animal bone. 72g.
305	1 x fragment of blue/green glass. 3g.
305	4 x fragments of burnt probable animal bone. 1g.
308	6 x fragments of probable animal bone. 29g.
308	1 x fragment of burnt probable animal bone. 1g.
Tr 1; Modern feature	1 x fragment of probable animal bone. 14g.
Tr 1; U/S	1 x fragment of carved/shaped stone. 1166g.

Site Code: HEW20
Accession Code:

N

0m 2km

FIGURE 1: Site Location

SITE
PERIMETER

Tr1

Tr2

Tr3

Tr4

Pond

Pond

NGR: 370400
186900

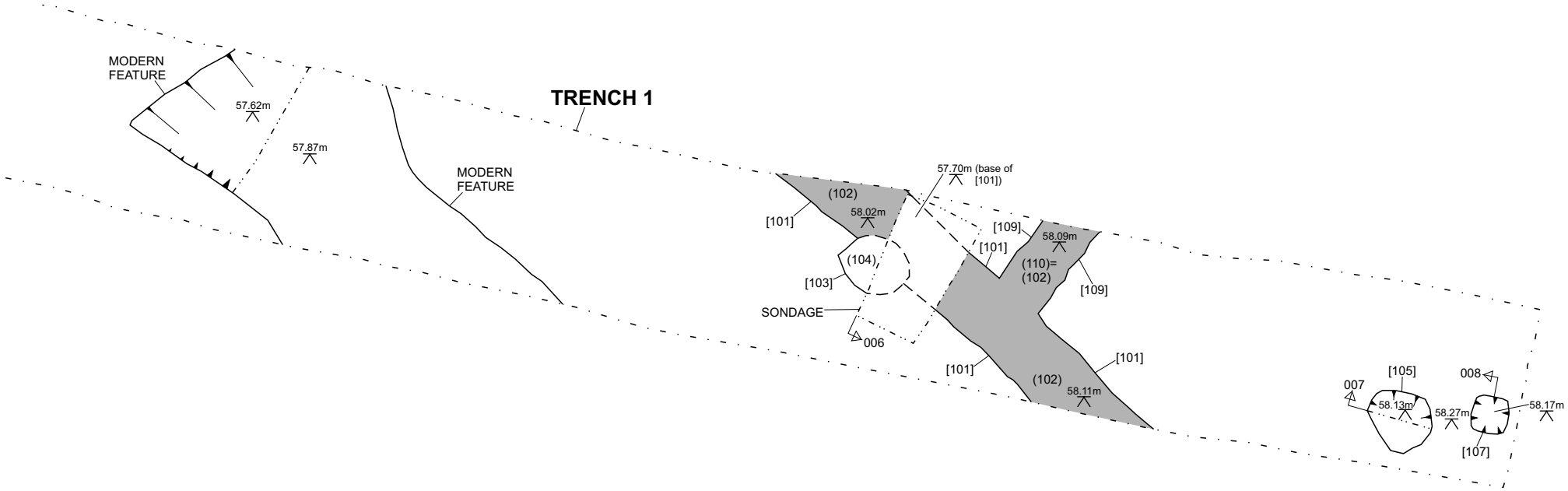
Site Code: HEW20
Accession Code:

N

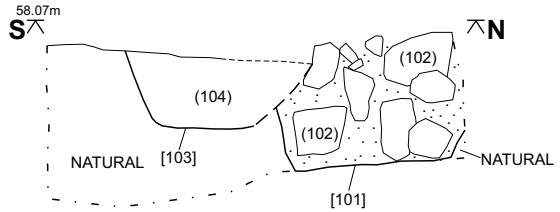
0m 20m

= PROPOSED EVALUATION TRENCH
= EVALUATION TRENCH AS DUG
= FEATURE
= STONE BUILT FEATURE - WALL FOOTING?
= MODERN FEATURE

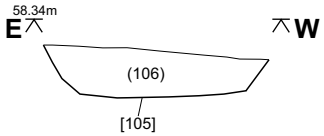
FIGURE 2: Site Plan



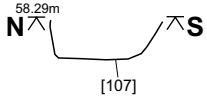
SEC 006: EAST FACING SECTION [101] and [103]



SEC 007: NORTH FACING SECTION [105]



SEC 008: PROFILE [107]



Site Code: HEW20
Accession Code:

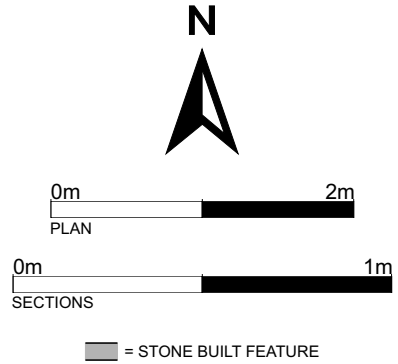
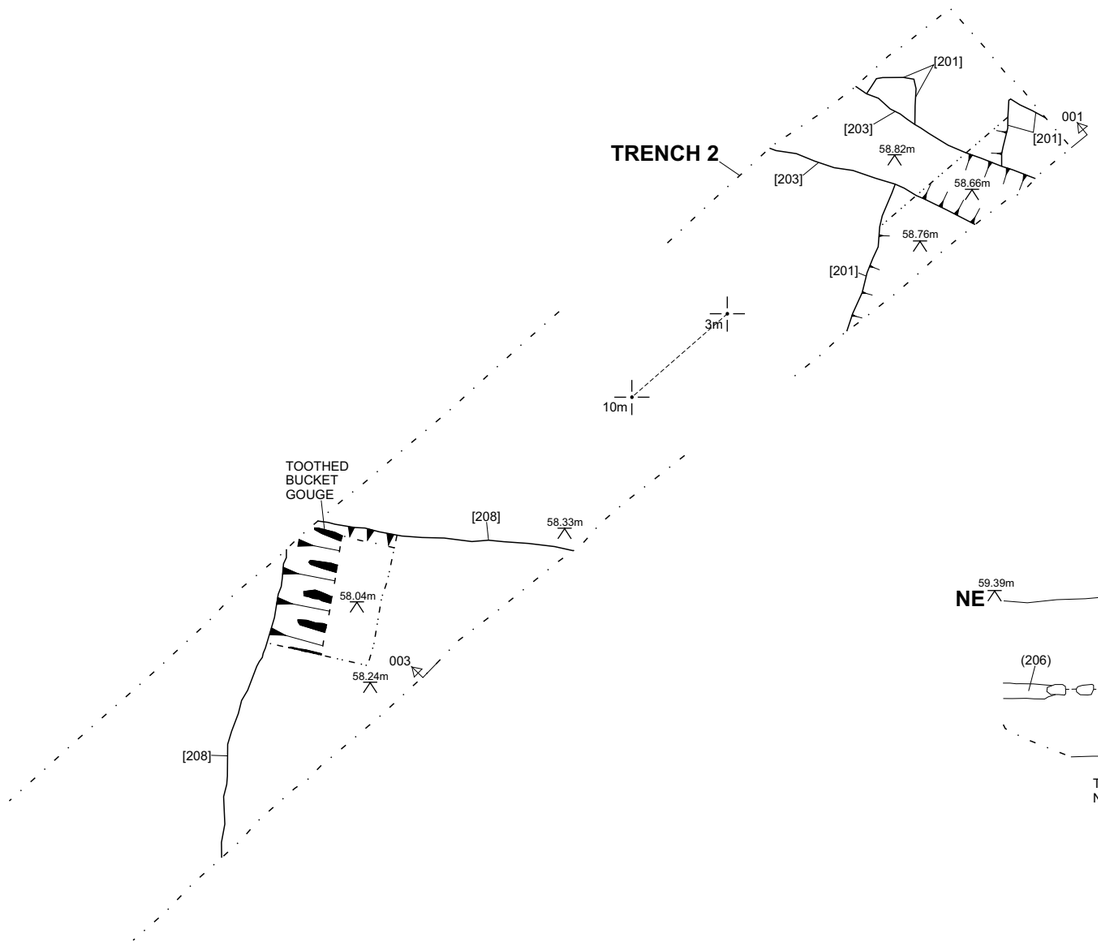
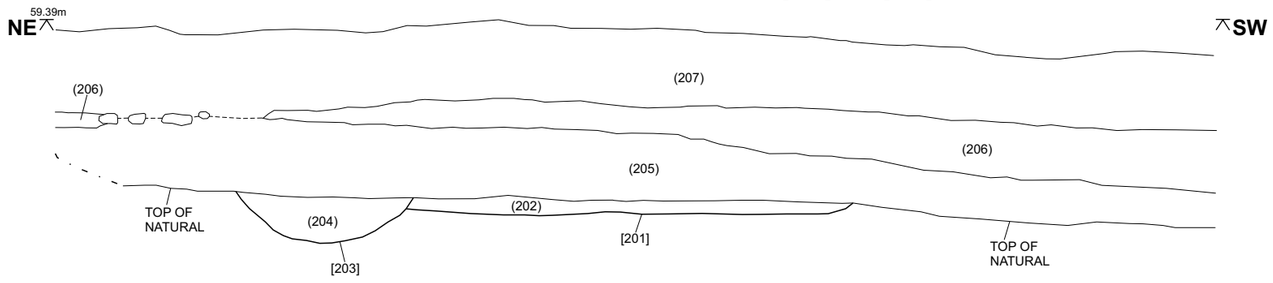
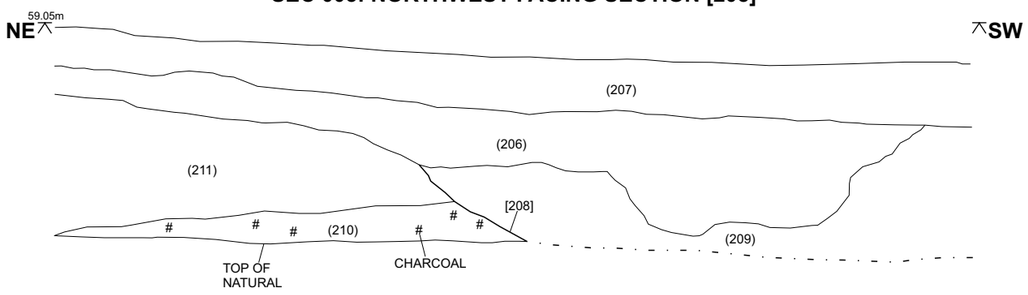


FIGURE 3: Trench 1 Plan and Sections







Site Code: HEW20
Accession Code:

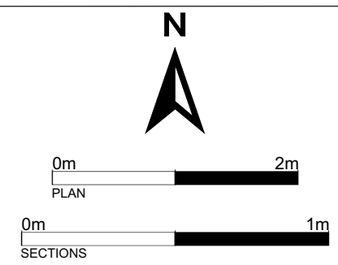
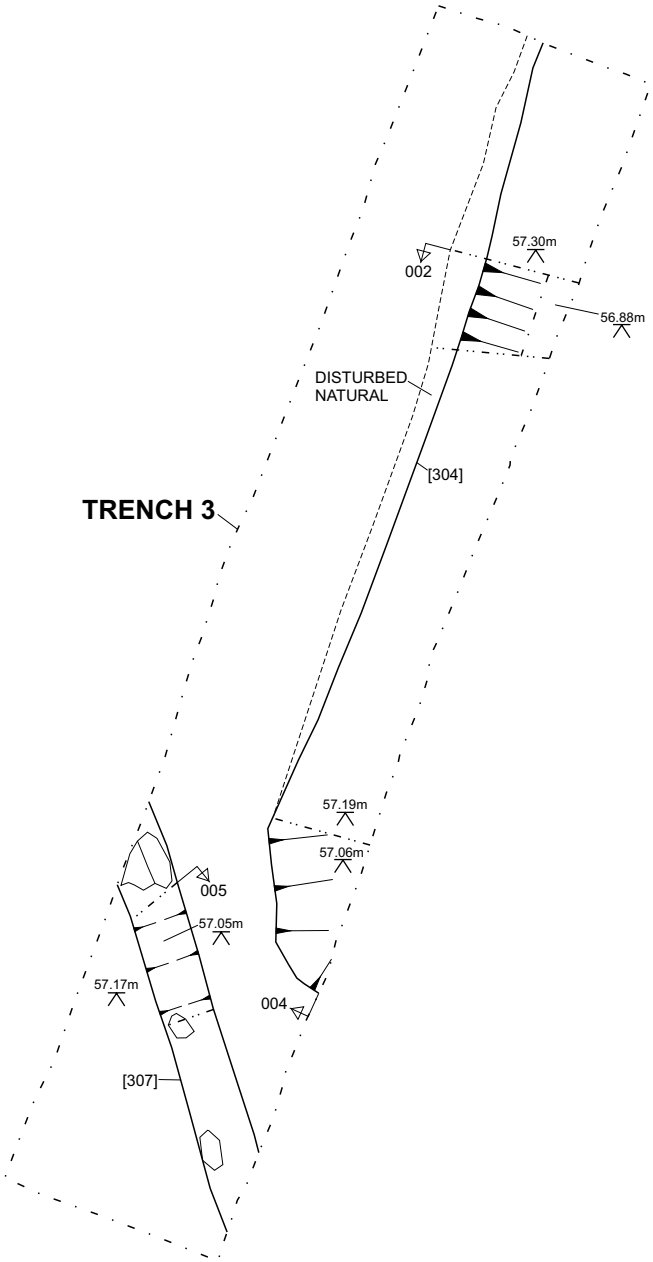
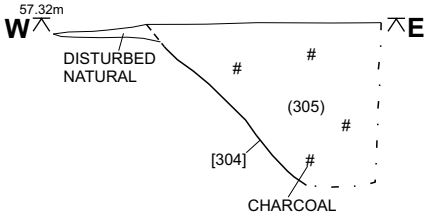


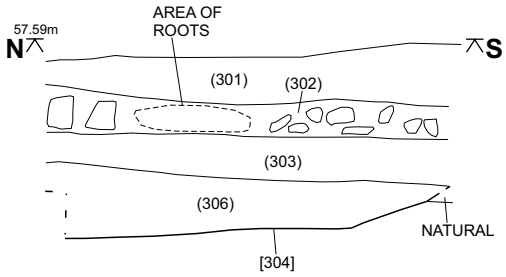
FIGURE 4: Trench 2 Plan and Sections



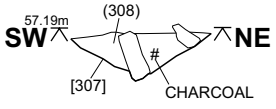
SEC 002: SOUTH FACING SECTION [304]



SEC 004: WEST FACING SECTION [304]



SEC 005: SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [307]



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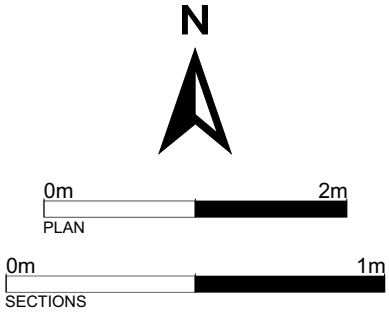


FIGURE 5: Trench 3 Plan and Sections

PHOTOGRAPH 1: FEATURES [101] and [103]
LOOKING NORTHWEST

PHOTOGRAPH 2: FEATURES [105] and [107]
LOOKING SOUTH

PHOTOGRAPH 3: TRENCH 2 LOOKING WEST

PHOTOGRAPH 4: FEATURES [201] and [203]
LOOKING EAST

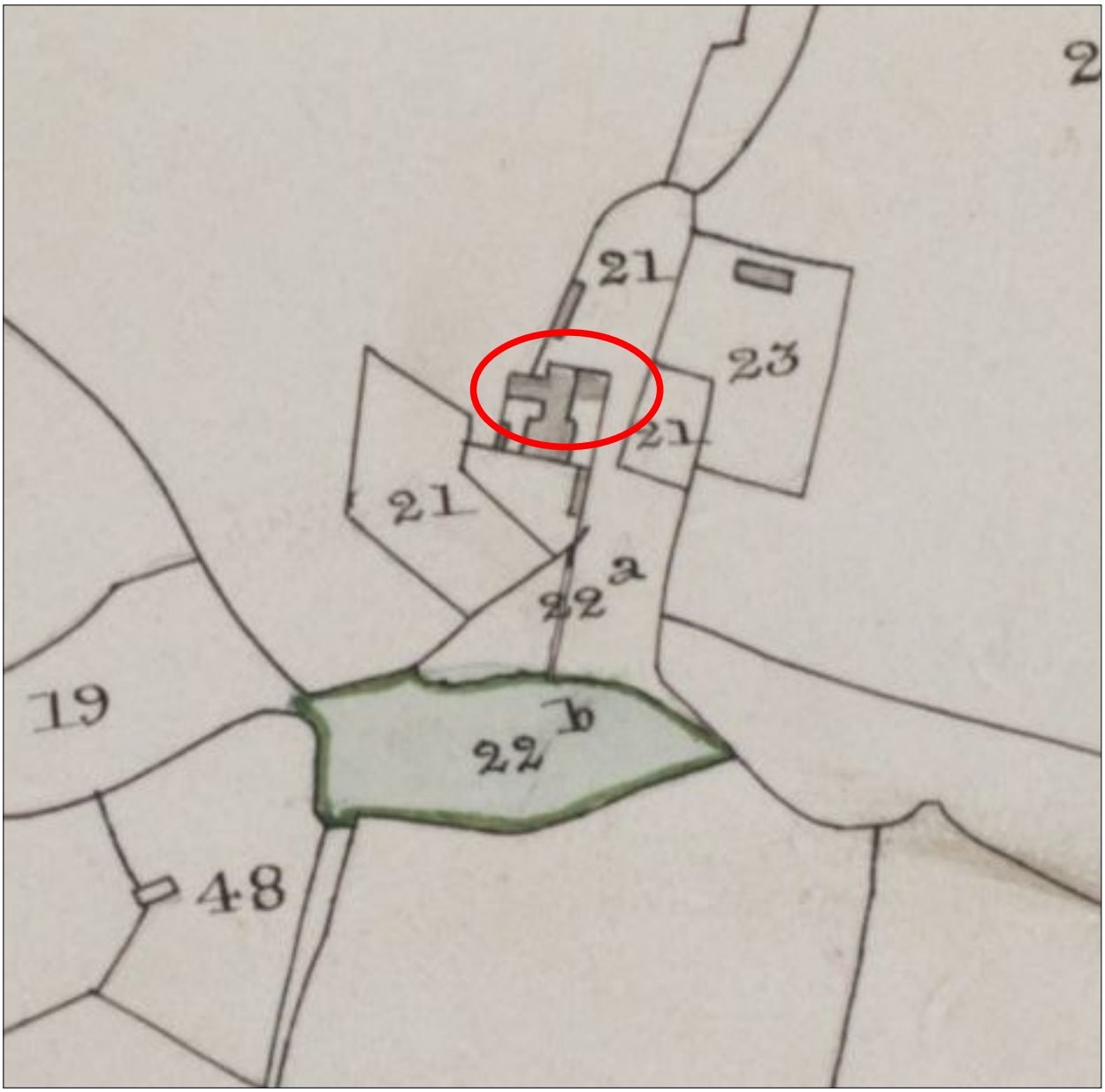
PHOTOGRAPH 5: FEATURE [208] LOOKING SOUTH

PHOTOGRAPH 6: FEATURE [304] LOOKING NORTH

PHOTOGRAPH 7: FEATURE [307] LOOKING NORTH

Site Code: HEW20
Accession Code:

FIGURE 6: Representative Photographs



= APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF EXTANT BARNS

Site Code: HEW20
Accession Code:

N

FIGURE 7: The Site as Depicted on the Pre-1840 Enclosure Map