

**LAND AT THE GARDEN HOUSE,  
STONEWALLS,  
VICTORIA ROAD,  
CIRENCESTER,  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**

**NGR: SP 0280 0146**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**July 2007**

**Report No. 550**

**Quality Assurance**

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## **SUMMARY**

In June 2007 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at The Garden House, Stonewalls, Cirencester (NGR: SP 0280 0146). The project was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Edgson.

The site is located within the occupation area of the Roman town and is therefore in a location of high archaeological significance and forms part of the Scheduled Monument (GC361).

The principle aim of the evaluation was to identify, but not excavate, any significant archaeological remains and to record their depth below modern ground surface.

The evaluation comprised the excavation and recording of fifteen 1.5m by 1.5m test pits across the proposed development area (Figures 2 and 3).

The archaeological evaluation confirmed the presence of significant archaeological remains within the study area. The remains comprised structural features, including three walls and two floor surfaces (including a *tessellated* mosaic pavement), possible cut features, rubble deposits and substantial fills. Although the features were not excavated, it is almost certain that they date to the Roman period.

A single Post-medieval/modern stone-built garden feature was present at the south end of the site.

The evaluation has defined and recorded an 'Archaeologically Significant Horizon' across the study area.

## 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 the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and *circa* AD 1500.

### Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site, in this case, Jurassic Forest Marble, overlain by alluvial deposits associated with the River Churn (British Geological Survey, 1946).

### NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

### OD

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

### OS

Ordnance Survey.

### Roman

Period traditionally dated AD 43 to *circa* AD 410.

### SAM

Scheduled Ancient Monument.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology in June 2007 on land at The Garden House, Stonewalls, Cirencester (NGR: SP 0280 0146). The project was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Edgson.
- 1.2 Scheduled Monument Consent is being sought to erect a single-storey residential dwelling on land currently forming the garden of The Garden House. A programme of archaeological works was required by English Heritage prior to the determination of Scheduled Monument Consent, in accordance with the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and by Gloucestershire County Archaeological Service, on behalf of Cotswold District Council, in accordance with the principals of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990). The archaeological evaluation was carried out under Class 7 consent.
- 1.3 This report constitutes the results of the archaeological works. The project was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2007), supplemented by discussions between Roy King of Foundations Archaeology, Charles Parry of Gloucestershire County Archaeological Service and Lucy Bourne of English Heritage. The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with IFA *Standards and Guidance on Archaeological Evaluation* (1994, revised 2001).

## 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The study area comprised the garden to a domestic house, which covered an area of approximately 0.08ha. The site is bounded to the south by King Street, to the north by The Garden House itself, to the west by St. Michaels Field and to the east by Spring House and the nursery, previously a Thames Water depot. The topography of the site is essentially flat.
- 2.2 The site has been subject to two phases of desk-based assessment (Cotswold Archaeology 2002 and Foundations Archaeology 2006) and two phases of geophysical survey (GSB 1999 and AS 2007) and a test-pit has also been excavated within the area (Time Team 2001). The various pieces of work have confirmed that the site lies in an area of known archaeological potential within the occupation area of the Roman town and is included within the Scheduled Monument (GC361). Roman structural remains are known from within the site area itself. During the Medieval period the site probably comprised undeveloped or agricultural land.
- 2.3 The site is located within an area of high archaeological significance and surviving Romano-British archaeology is certain to be present. This did not prejudice the project against the recovery of finds or features of other periods.

### **3 AIMS**

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological recording were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits; this will inform both the application for Scheduled Monument Consent and assist in the production of a reasonable programme of mitigation works associated with the development.
- 3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
- i) to define and identify the height (AOD) of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;
  - ii) to test the results of the geophysical survey (both negative and positive areas);
  - iii) to recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site;
  - iv) to establish and record, as far as possible, the nature of the remains, without excavation or other direct impact upon them at this stage;
  - v) to ascertain the level of protection to the archaeological remains present that is afforded by the overburden on the site.

### **4 METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 A total of 18 test pits measuring 1.5m by 1.5m were sited in order to provide a general profile across both the long and short axes of the site; to test the area of the proposed house, its service runs and soakaways; and to test both negative and positive responses from the geophysical survey. One test pit (Test Pit 12) was also sited to test the Time Team test pit. Three of the test pits (Test Pits 2, 7 and 17) were contingent upon the results of the other test pits and were only to be excavated after agreement, on-site, between representatives of Foundations Archaeology, Gloucestershire County Archaeological Service and English Heritage. In the event, there was no requirement to excavate Test Pits 2, 7 and 17. Due to on-site constraints it was necessary to adjust the location of Test Pits 3, 5 and 18. Final test pit locations are shown on Figures 2 and 3.
- 4.2 The test pits were excavated in order to ascertain the appropriate level of overburden required to protect the archaeological deposits and to meet the aims detailed above.
- 4.3 Excavation of the test pits was conducted by hand. The primary purpose of the exercise was to identify the top of the 'Archaeologically Significant Horizon' to inform the construction proposals.

- 4.4 All identified archaeological remains were hand cleaned and then recorded in accordance with Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3. This included a full written, drawn (plan only) and photographic record, details of which are provided below. Apart from modern feature [1809] (see 5.36 and 5.37), the archaeological remains were not excavated.
- 4.5 Normal conditions applied with regard to finds ownership and the Treasure Act 1996.
- 4.6 All artefactual and ecofactual remains, including material from spoil tips, was collected, bagged and labelled, where their recovery did not impact on the significant archaeological levels. Artefacts were subject to preliminary study on site in order to help date archaeological features and contexts. All artefactual and ecofactual evidence was treated in accordance with Technical Manual 4 (Finds Manual).
- 4.7 Provision has been made for appropriate levels of artefact and ecofact conservation.
- 4.8 Care was also taken, within the constraints identified above, to identify any contexts that may contain significant ecofactual or palaeoenvironmental evidence in order to inform further decisions for this site.

## **5 RESULTS**

- 5.1 **Test Pit 1** measured 1.5m by 1.5m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.30m (105.85m OD) below the modern ground surface. Context (104) was visible at the base of the test pit and comprised a grey brown soft clay silt. This context was not excavated. Context (104) was overlaid by fill (103), up to 0.87m thick, which comprised a dark brown clay silt with occasional stone. A total of fifteen sherds of Roman pottery, datable to the 4th century AD and six bone fragments were recovered from context (103). Fill (103) was sealed by layer (102), up to 0.23m thick, which consisted of a mid brown clay silt. Fill (102) contained frequent small stones, occasional chalk lumps, occasional CBM fragments and a mixed artefactual assemblage, which included three Roman and two Post-medieval pottery sherds along with numerous china-ware sherds, clay pipe fragments, glass and oyster shell. Context (102) was overlaid by topsoil (101), up to 0.33m thick, which comprised a dark brown clay silt. Topsoil (101) contained two Roman, twelve Post-medieval and three china-ware pottery sherds, along with CBM, glass and oyster shell.
- 5.2 **Test Pit 3** measured 1.5m by 1.4m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.80m (106.41m OD) below the modern ground surface. Context (305), up to 0.18m thick, formed the lowest deposit within the test pit and comprised a soft dark brown clay silt, which contained occasional stones. Fill (305) contained seven sherds of Roman pottery, datable to the mid 4th century AD. The top of fill (305) contained frequent large limestone fragments (304). The individual



stones were of variable shape and size, up to 0.16m by 0.20m by 0.10m, and were randomly distributed. It is possible that, at this depth, context (304) represents a rubble deposit as opposed to *in-situ* structural remains. A number of re-deposited stones (304) were present within the bottom part of layer (303). Layer (303), up to 0.43m thick, sealed contexts (305) and (304) and comprised a friable dark brown stoney clay silt. Fill (303) contained five Roman and four china-ware pottery sherds, along with metal, CBM, oyster shell and animal bone. Context (303) was overlaid by layer (302), up to 0.32m thick, which consisted of a soil, stone and brick rubble layer. Context (302) contained two Roman, three Post-medieval and four china-ware pottery sherds, along with CBM, glass, clay pipe and oyster shell. Layer (302) was overlaid by a dark brown clay silt topsoil (301), up to 0.12m thick. Topsoil (301) was cut by a modern concrete garden kerb at the southwest of the test pit.

- 5.3 **Test Pit 4** measured 1.52m by 1.45m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.69m (106.54m OD) below the modern ground surface. Contexts (404), (405), (406) and (407) formed the lowest deposits within the test pit and were not excavated.
- 5.4 Context (404) comprised the top of a northeast-southwest aligned stone wall, which extended beyond the northeast and southwest limits of excavation. The wall was 0.48m wide and was present within the test pit to a depth of 0.18m. Wall (404) consisted of large, roughly shaped, rectangular limestone blocks, which were up to 0.46m long by 0.25m wide. The stones were bonded by a friable beige pea-grit/limestone mortar (405). Context (406) occurred to the southeast of wall (404)/(405) and comprised a stone rubble deposit. Context (407) occurred to the northwest of wall (404)/(405) and consisted of a dark brown clay silt/pea-grit mix, which contained occasional stone. Contexts (404), (405), (406) and (407) were overlaid by fill (403) up to 0.40m thick, which consisted of a dark brown clay silt with occasional large stone fragments. Fill (403) contained twelve Roman, three Post-medieval and four china-ware pottery sherds, along with two ceramic tesserae, mortar, glass, shell, metal, CBM and bone fragments. Layer (403) was overlaid by fill (402), up to 0.16m thick, which comprised a light brown clay silt/stone rubble mix. Context (402) was overlaid by a dark brown clay silt topsoil (401), up to 0.19m thick.
- 5.5 **Test Pit 5** measured 1.50m by 1.40m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.60m (106.71m OD) below the modern ground surface. Context (503), up to 0.10m thick, formed the lowest deposit within the test pit and consisted of beige pea-grit and limestone fragments. Deposit (503) occurred to the southeast of feature [504].
- 5.6 Feature [504] was 1.50m long and consisted of a northeast-southwest aligned linear edge. The feature extended beyond the northeast and southwest limits of excavation. Feature [504] was not excavated and it was therefore not possible to determine if it represented a cut feature or was caused by 'sloping off' of the underlying deposits. Fill (505) occurred to the northwest of edge [504] and

was visible across the rest of the test pit base. The fill comprised a grey brown clay silt, which contained frequent limestone fragments.

- 5.7 Contexts (503), [504] and (505) were overlaid by layer (502), up to 0.35m thick, which consisted of a grey brown silt clay with frequent small stones. Layer (502) contained three china-ware pottery sherds, a clay pipe fragment and a piece of glass. Layer (502) was overlaid by a dark brown clay silt topsoil (501), up to 0.26m thick, which contained two Post-medieval and fourteen china-ware pottery sherds, along with oyster shell, glass, clay pipe and bone.
- 5.8 **Test Pit 6** measured 1.60m by 1.50m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.58m (106.59m OD) below the modern ground surface. Context (603), up to 0.27m thick, formed the lowest deposit within the test pit and consisted of a dark grey brown clay silt, which contained frequent limestone fragments and occasional patches of pea-grit. Fill (603) yielded a large artefactual assemblage, which included one hundred and seven Roman pottery sherds, datable to the late 4th century AD, along with CBM, metal fragments, flint, oyster shell, pieces of glass and bone fragments. Fill (603) was overlaid by context (602), up to 0.22m thick, which comprised a grey brown clay silt with occasional stone. Context (602) was overlaid by a dark brown clay silt topsoil (601), up to 0.21m thick, which contained one Roman, three Post-medieval and one china-ware pottery sherds, along with oyster shell, glass and clay pipe.
- 5.9 **Test Pit 8** measured 1.50m by 1.50m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.60m (106.61m OD) below the modern ground surface. Context (806) was visible at the base of the test pit and comprised a compact orange brown pea-grit and crushed stone deposit.
- 5.10 Contexts (803), (804) and (805) were only partially preserved within the test pit. Fill (805), up to 0.01m thick, consisted of a thin layer of dark beige limestone/pea-grit mortar. Layer (805) overlaid context (806), was overlaid by and acted as a bedding layer for surface (804).
- 5.11 Context (804), up to 0.015m thick, consisted of a *tessellated* mosaic pavement. The pavement extended beyond the northeast, southeast and northwest limits of excavation. The individual *tesserae* comprised square and rectangular ceramic cubes, which ranged in size from 0.0075m X 0.0075m X 0.0075m to 0.03m X 0.02m X 0.015m. Three different colours of *tesserae*, beige/white, blue/grey and red, were present. A mosaic pattern, which consisted of a double blue/grey – beige/white rectilinear setting enclosing a interleaved design, was present at the northern extent of the pavement. The mosaic pattern was set on a northeast-southwest alignment. A single Roman pottery sherd was recovered from the top of pavement (804). Pavement (804) was overlaid by pea-grit layer (803), up to 0.02m thick.
- 5.12 Feature [808] was 0.64m long, 0.30m wide and consisted of a probable cut feature which extended beyond the south limit of investigation. The feature

appeared to cut deposit (806) and was sealed by layer (802). Fill (809) comprised a dark brown plastic clay silt.

- 5.13 Layer (802), up to 0.28m thick, comprised a light brown clay silt, which contained frequent pea-grit and limestone fragments. Layer (802) contained two Roman and two Post-medieval pottery sherds, three hundred ceramic *tesserae*, metal, oyster shell and bone fragments. Layer (802) overlaid contexts (806), (805), (804), (803) and [808]/(809) and was overlaid by fill (801). Context (801), up to 0.33m thick, consisted of a dark brown clay silt topsoil, which contained one Roman and one china-ware pottery sherd and a piece of glass.
- 5.14 **Test Pit 9** measured 1.50m by 1.50m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.46m (106.68m OD) below the modern ground surface. Context (904), up to 0.12m thick, formed the lowest deposit within the test pit and consisted of beige pea-grit and limestone fragments. Deposit (904) contained a single sherd of Roman pottery, datable to the 2nd-4th century AD, and six wall plaster fragments. Context (904) was overlaid by layer (902), up to 0.18m thick, which consisted of a grey brown clay silt. Layer (902) contained one sherd of Roman pottery, datable to the 1st century AD, a piece of glass and a bone fragment.
- 5.15 Feature [905] was 1.5m long, 1.10m wide and 0.35m in depth and consisted of a modern cut feature with sloping sides and an irregular base. The feature cut layer (902) and the top of deposit (904). Feature [905] occurred at east end of the test pit and extended beyond the limit of excavation. Fill (903) comprised stone rubble, which contained occasional lenses of vitrified material and a single sherd of china-ware pottery.
- 5.16 Layer (901), up to 0.23m thick, comprised a dark brown clay silt topsoil, which overlaid contexts (902) and [905]/(903). Topsoil (901) contained two sherds of Post-medieval pottery.
- 5.17 **Test Pit 10** measured 1.50m by 1.50m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.55m (106.56m OD) below the modern ground surface. Context (1003) was visible at the base of the test pit and comprised a compact, heterogeneous layer, which consisted of mixed orange, beige, grey and pink clays and silts with frequent patches of pea-grit and occasional charcoal flecks. Layer (1003) was cut by features [1004], [1006], [1008] and [1010] and was overlaid by contexts (1012) and (1002).
- 5.18 Feature [1004] was 0.28m long, 0.22m wide and consisted of a sub-oval possible posthole. Fill (1005) comprised a light grey brown gritty silt. Feature [1004] was overlaid by context (1002).
- 5.19 Feature [1006] was 0.10m in diameter and consisted of a sub-circular possible stake hole. Fill (1007) comprised a black gritty silt with frequent charcoal flecks. Feature [1006] was overlaid by context (1002).

- 5.20 Feature [1008] was 0.10m in diameter and consisted of a sub-circular possible stake hole. Fill (1009) comprised a grey gritty silt. Feature [1008] was overlaid by context (1002).
- 5.21 Feature [1010] was 0.06m in diameter and consisted of a sub-circular possible stake hole. Fill (1011) comprised a grey gritty silt. Feature [1010] was overlaid by context (1002).
- 5.22 Context (1012) consisted of five grey slate slabs, which occurred at the southeast end of the test pit and extended beyond the limit of excavation. The individual slabs measured up to 0.30m long, 0.24m wide and 0.015m thick and appeared to have been laid to form a flat surface. Layer (1012) was overlaid by context (1002).
- 5.23 Layer (1002), up to 0.31m thick, comprised a heterogeneous brown, grey and pink clay silt and stone rubble layer, which contained occasional patches of pea-grit and occasional charcoal flecks. Context (1002) contained five sherds of Roman pottery, datable to the 4th century AD, and thirteen wall plaster fragments, along with glass, metal, CBM, oyster shell and bone fragments. Layer (1002) was overlaid by a dark brown clay silt topsoil (1001), up to 0.32m thick. Topsoil (1001) contained two Roman, one Medieval and one Post-medieval pottery sherds, along with oyster shell, metal and bone fragments.
- 5.24 **Test Pit 11** measured 1.50m by 1.45m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.48m (106.58m OD) below the modern ground surface. Context (1104) was visible at the base of the test pit and comprised a heterogeneous layer, which consisted of mixed brown and pink clays and silts with frequent patches of pea-grit and frequent large limestone fragments. Layer (1104) was similar to context (1003). Context (1104) was overlaid by layer (1103), up to 0.24m thick, which comprised a heterogeneous brown and grey clay silt and limestone rubble layer with occasional patches of pea-grit. Fill (1103) was similar to context (1002). Context (1103) contained eight sherds of Roman pottery, datable to the 4th century AD, a Roman nummus coin of 4<sup>th</sup> century date and a single china-ware pottery sherd. Other artefacts recovered from fill (1103) included two ceramic *tesserae* and a fragment of wall plaster, along with a piece of modern asbestos, CBM, shell, metal and bone fragments. Context (1103) was overlaid by layer (1102), up to 0.18m thick, which consisted of a grey brown clay silt with frequent small stone. Context (1102) was overlaid by a dark brown clay silt topsoil (1101), up to 0.13m thick.
- 5.25 **Test Pit 12** measured 1.50m by 1.50m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.58m (106.47m OD) below the modern ground surface. Contexts (1204), (1205), (1206), (1207), (1208) and (1209) formed the lowest deposits within the test pit and were not excavated.

- 5.26 Context (1204) comprised a mid brown clay silt/limestone rubble deposit, which occurred west of wall (1205)/(1206) and south of wall (1207)/(1208) and extended beyond the limit of excavation. Hand cleaning across the top of fill (1204) yielded a Roman minim coin, probably of late 3<sup>rd</sup> century date and eleven wall plaster fragments, along with CBM, oyster shell and bone fragments. Context (1204) was overlaid by layer (1203).
- 5.27 Context (1205) comprised the top of a northwest-southeast aligned stone wall, which extended beyond the northwest and southeast limits of excavation. The northeastern extent of wall (1205) was not visible in test pit. The wall was at least 0.35m wide and was present within the test pit for a minimum depth of 0.15m. Wall (1205) consisted of large, roughly shaped limestone blocks, which were up to 0.32m long by 0.29m wide. The stones were bonded by a friable orange beige pea-grit/limestone mortar (1206).
- 5.28 Context (1207) comprised the top of a northeast-southwest aligned stone wall, which extended beyond the northeast and southwest limits of excavation. The wall was 0.40m wide and was present within the test pit to a depth of 0.12m. Wall (1207) consisted of large, roughly shaped, rectangular limestone blocks, which were up to 0.27m long by 0.22m wide. The stones were bonded by a friable orange beige pea-grit/limestone mortar (1208).
- 5.29 Walls (1205)/(1206) and (1207)/(1208) were clearly of similar form and abutted to form a right-angled corner. Walls (1205)/(1206) and (1207)/(1208) were overlaid by layer (1203).
- 5.30 Context (1209) was 0.42m long, 0.32m wide, 0.13m thick and comprised a compact layer of irregularly shaped limestone fragments. Context (1209) overlaid wall (1205)/(1206) and it was unclear if context (1209) represented an *in situ* structural element or a rubble deposit. Context (1209) was overlaid by layer (1203).
- 5.31 Context (1203), up to 0.22m thick, comprised a light brown clay silt, stone rubble and pea-grit layer. Layer (1203) contained one CBM and two wall plaster fragments. Layer (1203) was overlaid by context (1202), up to 0.30m thick, which consisted of a grey brown clay silt with frequent stone. Context (1202) contained four sherds of Roman pottery, datable to the 4th century AD. Layer (1202) was overlaid by a dark brown clay silt topsoil (1201), up to 0.22m thick, which contained a sherd of china-ware pottery and two fragments of CBM.
- 5.32 **Test Pit 13** measured 1.50m by 1.40m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.53m (106.70m OD) below the modern ground surface. Context (1304) was visible at the base of the test pit and consisted of a compact layer of dark beige pea-grit and limestone fragments. Hand cleaning across the top of layer (1304) yielded four sherds of Roman pottery, datable to the 4th century AD, five wall plaster fragments and five ceramic tesserae, along with CBM, oyster shell, metal and bone fragments. Context (1304) was overlaid by

layer (1303), up to 0.20m thick, which consisted of a friable, light brown clay silt, limestone and pea-grit mix. Context (1303) contained three sherds of china-ware, a Roman minim coin, probably of later 3<sup>rd</sup> century date, a fragment of clay pipe and a single CBM fragment. Layer (1303) was overlaid by context (1302), up to 0.30m thick, which comprised a brown grey clay silt with frequent stone. Layer (1302) contained two sherds of Roman pottery and two ceramic tesserae, along with a piece of metal and a single CBM fragment. Contexts (1304), (1303) and (1302) were cut by a modern concrete-filled post setting. Layer (1302) was sealed by a dark brown clay silt topsoil (1301), up to 0.20m thick, which contained three sherds of china-ware pottery.

- 5.33 **Test Pit 14** measured 1.40m by 1.40m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.86m (106.73m OD) below the modern ground surface. Context (1404) was visible at the base of the test pit and consisted of a grey brown clay silt with frequent large limestone fragments and rare pea-grit. Context (1404) was overlaid by layer (1403), up to 0.49m thick, which consisted of a grey brown clay silt with occasional stone. Context (1403) contained a single sherd of Post-medieval pottery. Layer (1403) was overlaid by context (1402), up to 0.24m thick, which comprised a mixed grit, sand and soil deposit. Context (1402) contained a sherd of Roman pottery. Layer (1402) was sealed by a dark brown clay silt garden bedding soil (1401), up to 0.22m thick, which contained frequent small roots, along with a sherd of china-ware pottery.
- 5.34 **Test Pit 15** measured 1.50m by 1.50m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.60m (106.47m OD) below the modern ground surface. Context (1503) was visible at the base of the test pit and consisted of dark beige pea-grit and limestone fragments with frequent patches of grey brown clay silt. Context (1503) was overlaid by layer (1502), up to 0.34m thick, which consisted of a grey brown clay silt with occasional large stone. Layer (1502) was overlaid by context (1501), up to 0.28m thick, which comprised a dark brown clay silt topsoil. Topsoil (1501) contained four sherds of china-ware pottery.
- 5.35 **Test Pit 16** measured 1.50m by up to 0.80m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.56m (106.66m OD) below the modern ground surface. Due to the presence of a substantial concrete garden path it was only possible to excavate part of the test pit and record one vertical section. Context (1605) was visible at the base of the test pit and consisted of dark beige pea-grit and limestone fragments. Context (1605) was overlaid by layer (1604), up to 0.30m thick, which consisted of a grey brown clay silt. Context (1604) contained a sherd of Post-medieval pottery. Layer (1604) was overlaid by context (1603), up to 0.15m thick, which comprised a dark brown clay silt. A single large stone slab was present within context (1603), along with two sherds of Post-medieval pottery and five fragments of glass. Layer (1603) was sealed by a beige gravel layer (1602), up to 0.11m thick. Gravel layer (1602) was partly overlaid by a loose tarmac layer (1601), up to 0.04m thick.

- 5.36 **Test Pit 18** measured 1.50m by 1.50m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.92m (106.57m OD) below the modern ground surface. Context (1811) was visible at the base of the test pit and consisted of dark beige pea-grit and limestone fragments. Context (1811) was overlaid by layer (1810), up to 0.43m thick, which consisted of a grey brown clay silt with occasional stone. Layer (1810) contained a sherd of Post-medieval pottery and two fragments of CBM. Context (1810) was overlaid, at the north of the test pit, by layer (1807). Context (1807) comprised a lens of beige pea-grit which was at least 0.90m long, 0.65m wide and up to 0.06m thick. Layer (1807) was overlaid by context (1802), up to 0.54m thick, which consisted of a dark brown clay silt. Frequent modern material, including plastic, was present in layer (1802). Layer (1802) was cut by feature [1809].
- 5.37 Feature [1809] was at least 1.60m long, at least 1.40m wide, 0.42m in depth and consisted of a northeast-southwest aligned ditch with steep sides and a flat base. The northern and southern edges of the ditch were lined with a course of vertically set stones, contexts (1805) and (1806), to form a linear channel. The individual stones were of random shape and size and measured up to 0.48m by 0.25m by 0.12m. Contained within the channel, context (1804), up to 0.22m thick, comprised a mid brown clay silt and stone rubble fill, which contained occasional CBM fragments, along with two Post-medieval and one china-ware pottery sherds. Fill (1804) was overlaid by layer (1803), up to 0.08m thick, which consisted of a lens of purple, friable vitrified material with frequent charcoal flecks. Layer (1803) contained two china-ware pottery sherds, along with glass and CBM fragments. Context (1803) was sealed by layer (1808), up to 0.18m thick, which comprised a mid brown clay silt with occasional stone and CBM fragments.
- 5.38 Context (1801), up to 0.13m thick, consisted of a beige gravel layer, which overlaid contexts (1802) and (1808).

## 6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 In accordance with the aims of the project, it is necessary to define and identify the 'Archaeologically Significant Horizon' within each test pit;
- 6.2 **Test Pit 1:** Context (103) yielded a pottery assemblage datable to the 4th century AD. In the absence of later dating evidence, it is reasonable to interpret layer (103) as a Roman fill. The top of context (103) is defined as the Archaeologically Significant Horizon.
- 6.3 **Test Pit 3:** Stone rubble deposit (304) occurred at the top of Roman fill (305) and is most likely of Roman date. The top of context (304) is defined as the Archaeologically Significant Horizon.
- 6.4 **Test Pit 4:** Contexts (404) and (405) clearly represent well preserved *in situ* structural remains, with an associated rubble layer (406) and fill (407). The top

of contexts (404), (405), (406) and (407) are defined as the Archaeologically Significant Horizon.

- 6.5 **Test Pit 5:** Structural remains elsewhere on site (see features (404)/(405), (806)/(805)/(804)/(803), (1205)/(1206) and (1207)/(1208)) are consistently associated with the occurrence of pea-grit and limestone fragments. It is therefore probable that pea-grit and limestone deposit (503) is related to structural activity and the top of this layer is consequently defined as the Archaeologically Significant Horizon.
- 6.6 **Test Pit 6:** Fill (603) yielded a large pottery assemblage datable to the late 4th century AD. The top of fill (603) is defined as the Archaeologically Significant Horizon.
- 6.7 **Test Pit 8:** The occurrence of three hundred tesserae in context (802) clearly indicates that this rubble layer is associated with the underlying tessellated pavement (804). It is therefore highly probable that the Post-medieval pottery sherds recovered from fill (802) are invasive and are indicative of relatively recent disturbance. The top of layer (802) is defined as the Archaeologically Significant Horizon.
- 6.8 **Test Pit 9:** It is probable that pea-grit and limestone deposit (904) is related to structural activity. Context (904) was associated with Roman pottery and wall plaster. The top of fill (904) is defined as the Archaeologically Significant Horizon.
- 6.9 **Test Pit 10:** Layer (1002) comprised a rubble deposit, which directly overlaid a number of possible post/stake holes and a probable floor surface. Context (1002) was associated with wall plaster fragments and Roman pottery, datable to the 4th century AD. The top of layer (1002) is defined as the Archaeologically Significant Horizon.
- 6.10 **Test Pit 11:** Layer (1103) was similar to context (1002) and was associated with a mixed artefactual assemblage, which included Roman material, a china-ware pottery sherd and a piece of modern asbestos. It is probable that the modern artefacts recovered from this fill are invasive. The top of layer (1103) is defined as the Archaeologically Significant Horizon.
- 6.11 **Test Pit 12:** Stone rubble and pea-grit layer (1203) overlaid and was clearly associated with structural activity. The top of (1203) is defined as the Archaeologically Significant Horizon.
- 6.12 **Test Pit 13:** It is probable that pea-grit and limestone deposit (1303) is related to structural activity. However, the mixed, 'soiley' nature of this layer and the occurrence of three china-ware sherds, along with a fragment of clay pipe suggests that context (1303) represents relatively recently re-deposited rubble. Context (1304) occurred beneath (1303) and comprised a compact layer of pea-grit and limestone fragments. It is probable that layer (1304) is related to



structural activity. Hand cleaning across the top of layer (1304) yielded Roman pottery, datable to the 4th century AD, wall plaster fragments and ceramic tesserae, along with other artefacts. The top of layer (1304) is defined as the Archaeologically Significant Horizon.

- 6.13 **Test Pit 14:** Layer (1404) occurred at the base of the test pit and comprised a layer of large limestone fragments with rare patches of pea-grit. It is probable that layer (1404) is associated with structural activity and the top of this context is defined as the Archaeologically Significant Horizon.
- 6.14 **Test Pit 15:** Pea-grit and limestone layer (1503) is most likely associated with structural activity. The occurrence of patches of grey brown clay silt suggests that deposit (1503) has been subjected to a significant amount of disturbance. It is unclear if this disturbance is archaeological or modern. The top of context (1503) is defined as the Archaeologically Significant Horizon.
- 6.15 **Test Pit 16:** Pea-grit and limestone layer (1605) is most likely associated with structural activity and the top of this fill is defined as the Archaeologically Significant Horizon.
- 6.16 **Test Pit 18:** Stone-lined channel [1809] was cut through a modern soil layer (1802) and was clearly of recent origin, possibly a former garden feature. Excavation of this feature demonstrated that it had not impacted upon the underlying archaeological deposits. Pea-grit and limestone layer (1811) is likely to be related to structural activity and the top of this fill is defined as the Archaeologically Significant Horizon.
- 6.17 Where significant archaeological deposits and features were present they were located beneath Post-medieval/modern dark garden soils. Preservation conditions below the garden soils were generally very good, with no evidence for significant Medieval or later structural activity.
- 6.18 None of the identified archaeological features and deposits were fully excavated, therefore dating is problematic. However, given the lack of evidence for Medieval and Post-medieval structural activity, along with the sites location within the Roman town, it is highly likely that the identified archaeological features and deposits date to the Roman period.
- 6.19 A significant amount of Roman artefactual material was recovered from the top of the archaeological deposits. The recovered pottery assemblage is entirely that to be expected from a substantial Roman settlement such as Cirencester.
- 6.20 Of the five specific objectives set out in Aims (3.2), the following have been achieved;

- i/ this has been achieved, the project has successfully defined and identified the height (AOD) of archaeological deposits across the site and has, where possible, indicated a date for these deposits;
- ii/ this has been partly achieved, the project has confirmed that high resistance anomalies located towards the centre and southeastern end of the site (GSB 1999 and AS 2007) are likely to correspond to buried structural features and that areas of low resistance results at the north end of the site (AS 2007) are possibly associated with deep fills. It is notable, however, that wall (404)/(405) and rubble deposit (406) were not apparent in the earth resistivity survey (AS 2007). The evaluation project yielded no evidence for the cause of the linear high and low resistance anomalies apparent in the AS 2007 survey;
- iii/ this has been achieved, the project has identified areas of different archaeological activity, in the form of walls, floors, possible cut features, fills and rubble deposits and has recorded their spatial location and, where possible, their alignments;
- iv/ this has been achieved, the project has identified, defined and recorded archaeological remains without significant direct impact upon them;
- v/ this has been achieved, the project has defined and recorded an Archaeologically Significant Horizon across the site. The depth of this horizon below modern ground surface is recorded in Figures 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 and Table 3.

6.21 The project has confirmed the results of the Time Team test pit.

## **7 CONCLUSION**

- 7.1 The evaluation has confirmed the presence of significant archaeological remains within the study area. The remains comprise structural features, including three walls and two floor surfaces (including a *tessellated* mosaic pavement), possible cut features, rubble deposits and substantial fills. A single Post-medieval/Modern stone-built garden feature was present at the south end of the site.
- 7.2 Although the identified archaeological features were not excavated, many, if not all, were certainly of Roman date and form part of the Scheduled Monument (GC361).
- 7.3 In line with the aim of the project, the evaluation has successfully defined and recorded the height of the 'Archaeologically Significant Horizon' across the study area. This is defined on Figure 12 and Table 1.

**Table 1: Minimum Depths of Archaeologically Significant Horizon**

<b>Test Pit</b>	<b>Archaeologically Significant Horizon</b>	<b>Minimum Depth Below MGS*</b>	<b>Height OD</b>
1	(103)	0.41m	106.74m
2	n/a	n/a	n/a
3	(304)	0.54m	106.71m
4	(404)/(405), (406), (407)	0.46m	106.77m
5	(503)	0.50m	106.70m
6	(603)	0.31m	106.76m
7	n/a	n/a	n/a
8	(802)	0.27m	106.89m
9	(904)	0.26m	106.93m
10	(1002)	0.21m	106.88m
11	(1103)	0.23m	106.80m
12	(1203)	0.28m	106.78m
13	(1304)	0.40m	106.83m
14	(1404)	0.64m	106.93m
15	(1503)	0.48m	106.63m
16	(1605)	0.44m	106.78m
17	n/a	n/a	n/a
18	(1811)	0.81m	106.70m

\*modern ground surface

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## 9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Charles Parry of Gloucestershire County Council, Lucy Bourne of English Heritage and Mr and Mrs Edgson.

## Appendix 1: The Pottery

### Introduction

- 1.1 The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of a modest assemblage of 226 sherds of pottery, 3681g in weight, dating to the Roman, Medieval and post-medieval periods. Accompanying the pottery were 11 pieces of ceramic building material (CBM). This excludes 76 sherds of 'china' already extracted.
- 1.2 Pottery was recovered from 14 of the 18 test pits, a total of 33 contexts.
- 1.3 The assemblage was scanned to assess its likely chronology and quantified by count and weight for the recorded contexts. The resulting data is summarised in Table 1.
- 1.4 The overall quality of the material was quite good with an overall average sherd weight of 16 g and moderately well preserved sherds in terms of edge abrasion.

### Roman

- 1.5 The bulk of the assemblage, some 186 sherds, 61.5% dates to the Roman period.
- 1.6 A moderately diverse range of material is present with imported Gaulish samian tableware and amphorae, regional imports, and local wares from the North Wiltshire industries.
- 1.7 Five sherds of samian are present with examples from the South, Central and East Gaulish manufactories. The two sherds of amphora are both from Baetica, Southern Spain (Dressel 20) and were used to transport olive oil.
- 1.8 Prominent amongst the regional imports are sherds of Dorset black burnished ware (BB1) with some 40 sherds amongst which are jars, plain-rimmed dishes and a flanged conical bowl. Other regional imports include a sherd of Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware, various mortaria, flagon, colour-coated bowls and beaker sherds from Oxfordshire, Severn Valley ware from the Severn Valley and late Roman shell ware from the Midlands.
- 1.9 The local wares are mostly later Roman grey wares from the North Wiltshire industries and include forms copying BB1 forms.
- 1.10 Overall the date range of the Roman pottery spans the late 1st through to the later 4<sup>th</sup> century.
- 1.11 Fifteen contexts exclusively produced Roman pottery although in many cases the quantity of pottery is low. One exception is context 603 which produced

107 sherds, all of Roman date and 35% of the total assemblage. The presence of late Roman shelly ware suggests that this context along with cxt (303) and possibly (1103) are likely to date to the last quarter of the 4<sup>th</sup> century. (NB Context 1103 also contained a fragment of modern asbestos).

1.12 With a single exception the other Roman contexts also date to the later Roman period with wares typical of the 4<sup>th</sup> century. The exception is context (902), which contained a single sherd of early samian, probably redeposited.

1.13 The ceramic building material is quite fragmentary but includes pieces of Roman date. Of note are two fragments of combed box flue from a hypocaust system.

#### Medieval

1.14 Just a single medieval sherd, a jug handle in Minety ware is present from context 1001.

#### Post-medieval

1.15 Thirty-nine sherds of post-medieval date were noted to which can be added a further 76 pieces of 'china'. The sherds include several pieces of unglazed red earthenware flowerpot, English stoneware and glazed red earthenware.

#### Summary and further work

1.16 The ceramic profile is entirely that to be expected from a substantial Roman settlement such as Cirencester. The absence of any medieval material might suggest that this area was not occupied during this period or that the medieval horizons have already been truncated.

1.17 No further work is recommended.

**Table 2: Pottery Summary**

Context	Roman				Med	Pmed	Tot No	Tot Wt	CBM	Date
	<i>Sam</i>	<i>Amp</i>	<i>BB1</i>	<i>other</i>						
101	0	0	0	2	0	12	14	214	1	C19th+
102	0	0	1	2	0	2	5	20	0	C19th+
103	1	1	3	10	0	0	15	458	0	C4
302	1	0	0	1	0	3	5	89	0	C19th+
303	0	0	0	5	0	0	5	53	0	late C4
305	0	0	0	7	0	0	7	76	0	mid C4
403	1	1	5	5	0	3	15	345	0	Ro/Pmed
501	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	28	0	C19th+
601	0	0	0	1	0	3	4	45	0	C19th+
603	0	0	27	80	0	0	107	1584	4	late C4
801	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	10	0	Roman
802	0	0	0	2	0	2	4	46	0	C19th+
804	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	5	0	Roman
901	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	15	0	C19th+
902	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	C1
904	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	11	0	C2-C4
1001	0	0	0	2	1	1	4	44	0	C19th+
1002	0	0	0	5	0	0	5	89	0	C4
1103	1	0	2	5	0	0	8	132	2	Ro C4 *
1201	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	no date
1202	0	0	1	3	0	0	4	73	0	C4
1204	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	no date
1302	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	36	1	Roman
1304	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	122	0	C4
1402	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	6	0	C4
1403	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	8	0	C19th+
1603	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	5	0	C19th+
1604	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	0	C19th+
1802	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	58	0	C19th+
1803	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	no date
1804	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	76	0	C19th+
1810	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	22	0	C19th+
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>3677</b>	<b>11</b>	

\* asbestos present

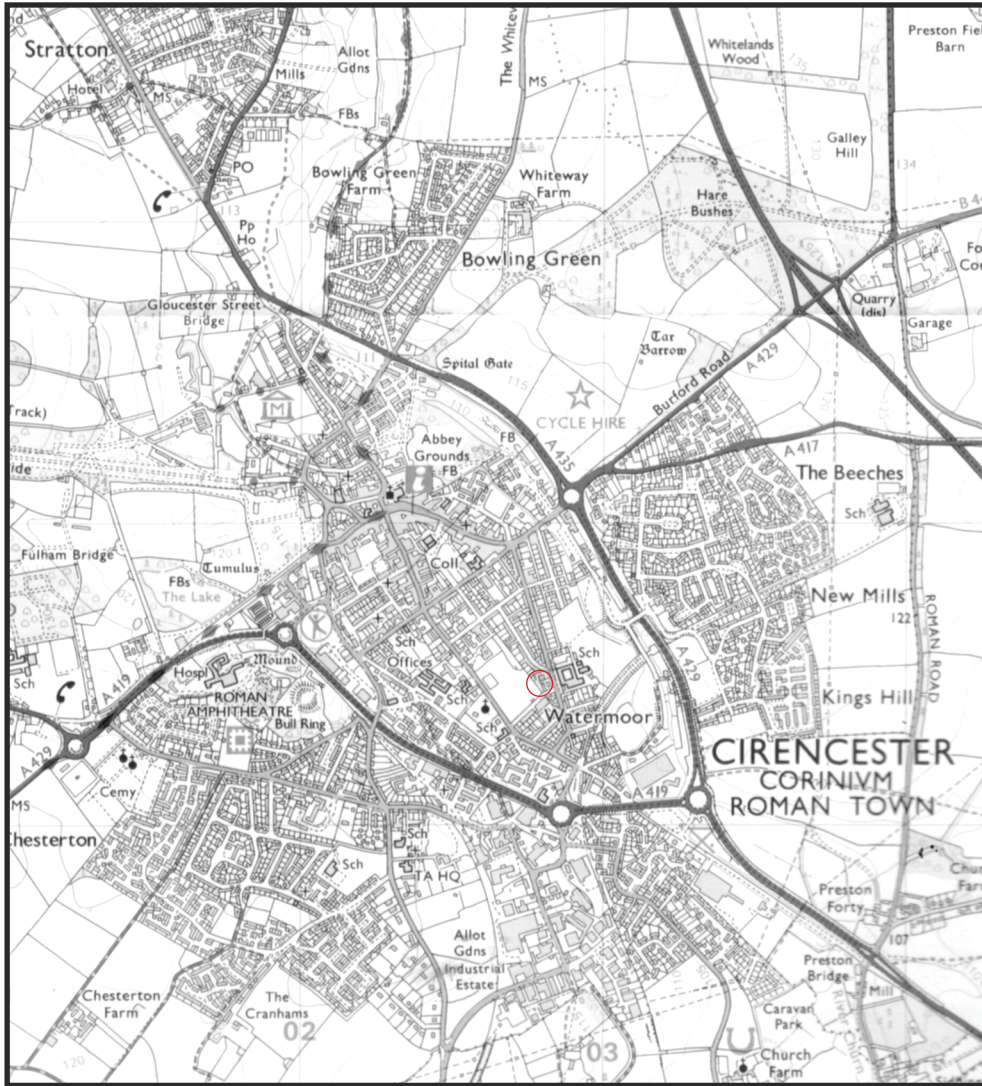
**Appendix 2: The coins**

Three coins were recovered during the course of the evaluation works, from Test-pits 11, 12 and 13. The coins were all in a poor state of preservation and no legend could be ascertained on either the obverse or reverse; an estimate of date has therefore been given based on size and general chronology. The coins constitute two *minims*, dating between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> century, but probably of late 3<sup>rd</sup> century date from Test-pits 12 and 13, and a *nummus*, the size of which (at 15mm diameter) would suggest a mid-late 4<sup>th</sup> century date.

**Table 3: Finds Summary**

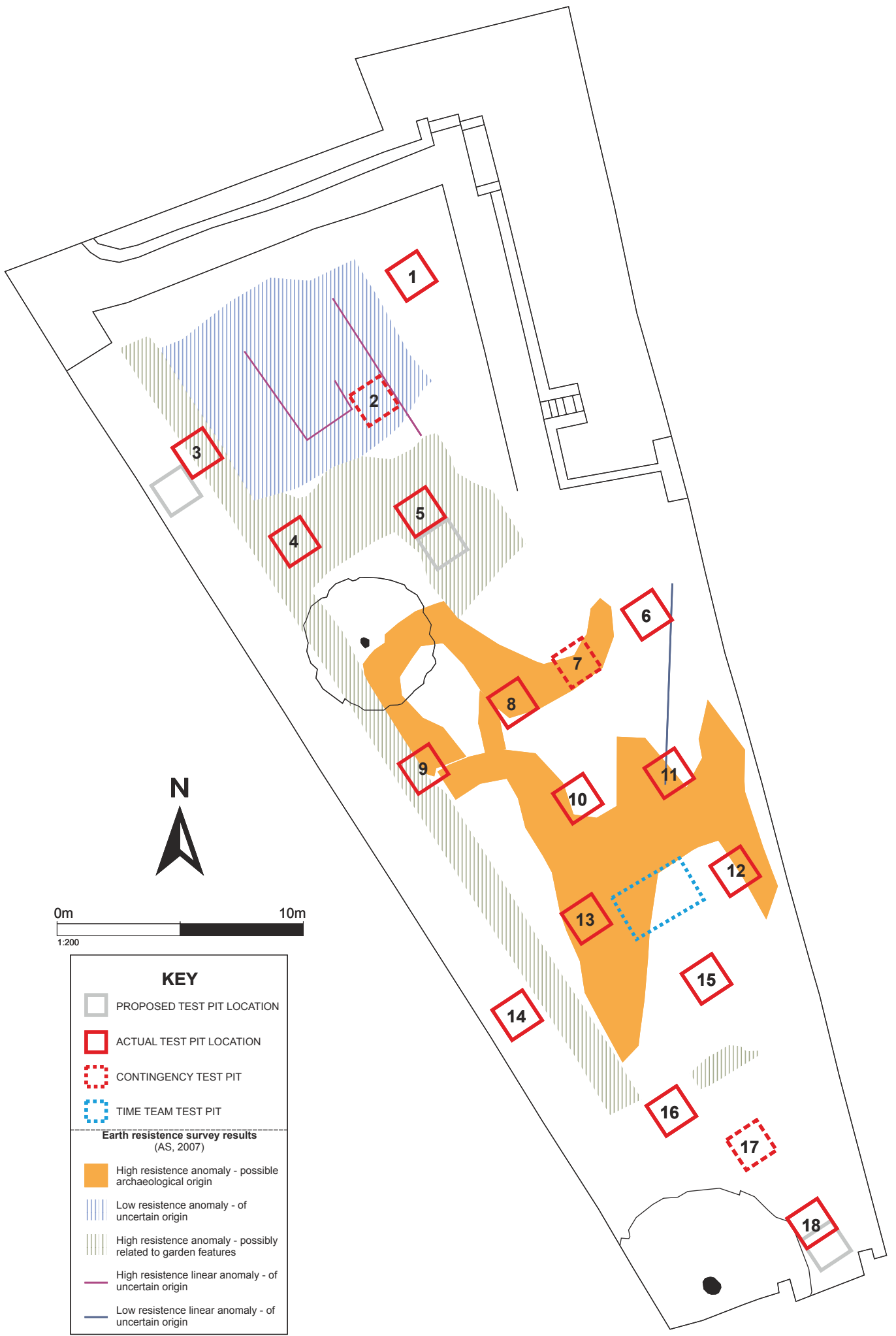
Context	Description
101	3 china-ware sherds, 1 glass and 1 shell frag.
102	24 china-ware sherds, 3 glass, 1 shell and 6 clay pipe frags.
103	6 bone frags.
302	4 china-ware sherds, 3 clay pipe, 1 shell, 1 glass and CBM frags.
303	4 china-ware sherds, 3 metal, 2 CBM, 1 shell and 8 bone frags.
403	4 china-ware sherds, 2 tesserae, 2 CBM, 1 mortar, 8 shell, 1glass, 1metal and 29 bone frags.
501	14 china-ware sherds, 2 shell, 2 glass, 1 clay pipe and 4 bone frags.
502	3 china-ware sherds, 1 clay pipe and 1 glass frag.
601	1 china-ware sherd, 6 shell, 1 glass and 2 clay pipe frags.
603	15 CBM, 1 flint, 5 metal, 3 shell, 3 glass and 40 bone frags.
801	1 china-ware sherd and 1 glass frag.
802	300 tesserae, 2 metal, 6 shell and 6 bone frags.
902	1 glass and 1 bone frag.
903	1 china-ware sherd
904	6 wall plaster frags.
1001	7 shell, 1 metal and 3 bone frags.
1002	1 glass, 3 metal, 1 CBM, 2 shell, 8 bone and 13 wall plaster frags.
1103	1 china-ware, 7 shell, 2 metal, 2 tesserae, 1 wall plaster, 8 CBM, 1 coin, 10 bone, 1 asbestos frag.
1201	2 CBM frags.
1203	2 wall plaster and 1 CBM frags.
1204	11 wall plaster, 1 coin, 2 shell, 2 CBM and 8 bone frags.
1301	3 china-ware sherds
1302	2 tesserae and 1metal frag.
1303	3 china-ware, 1 CBM, 1 clay pipe, 1 coin
1304	1 shell, 5 wall plaster, 5 tesserae, 1 bone, 3 CBM and 1 metal frag.
1401	1 china-ware sherd
1501	4 china-ware sherds
1603	5 glass frags.
1802	4 china-ware sherds, 1 plastic, 1 metal frag.
1803	2 china-ware sherds, 1 glass and 1 CBM frag.
1804	1 china-ware sherd
1810	2 CBM
u/s	15 tesserae



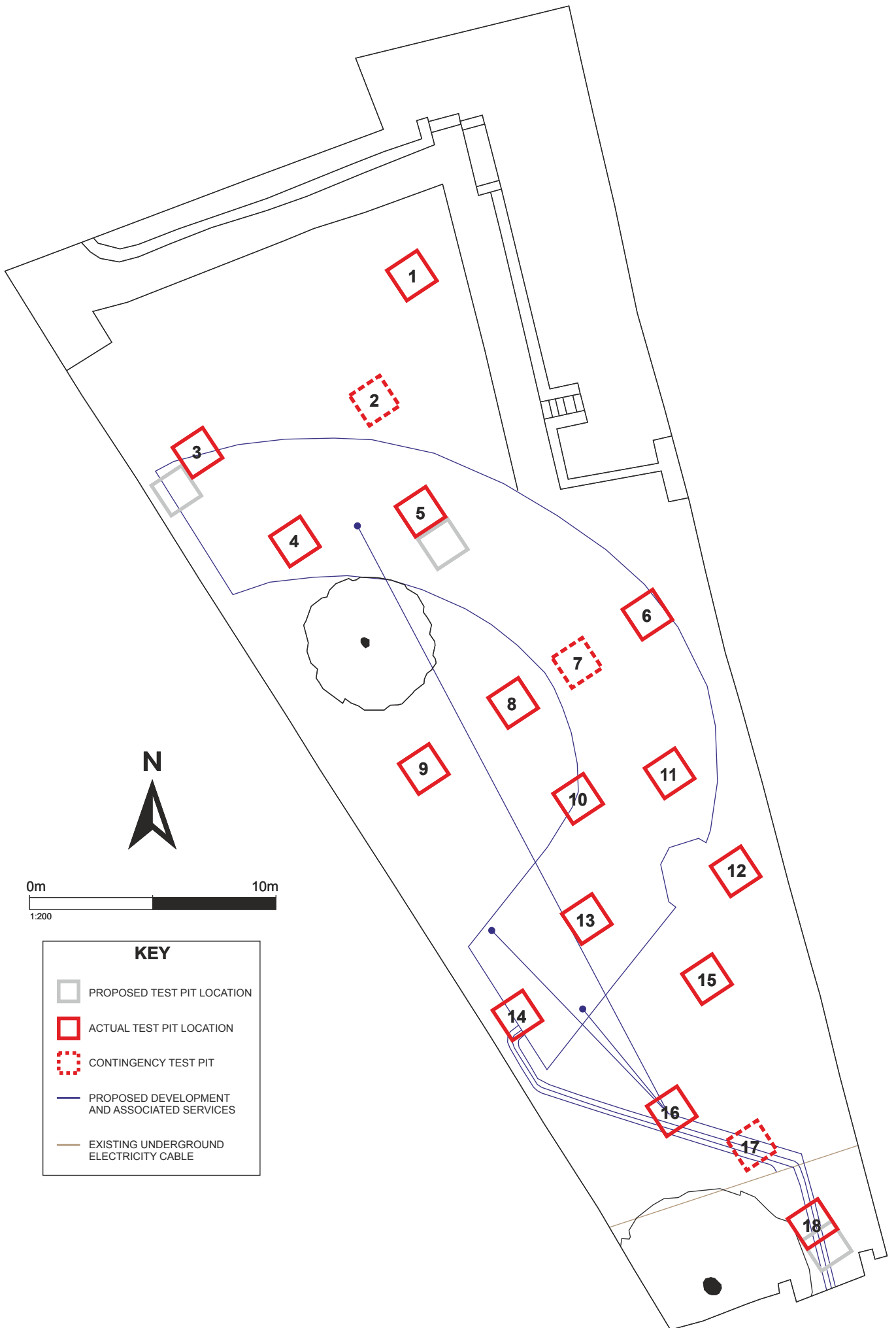


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FIGURE 1: Site Location

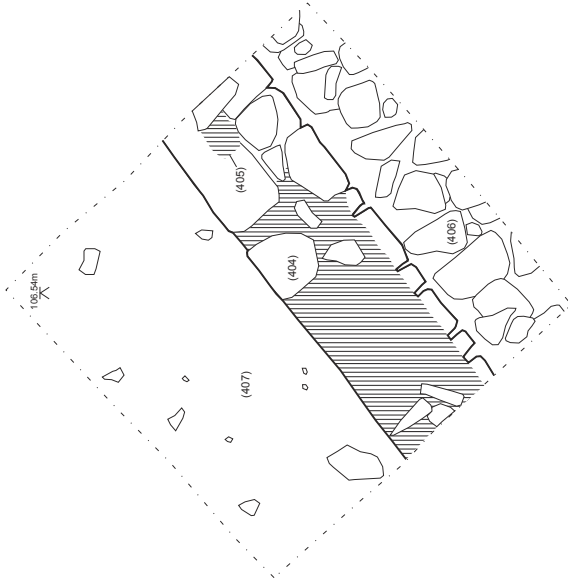


**FIGURE 2: Test Pit Locations in Relation to Previous Archaeological Investigations**

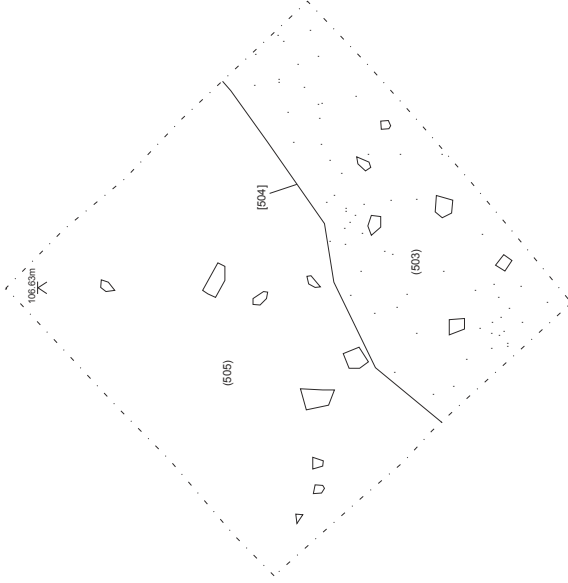


**FIGURE 3: Test Pit Locations in Relation to Proposed Development**

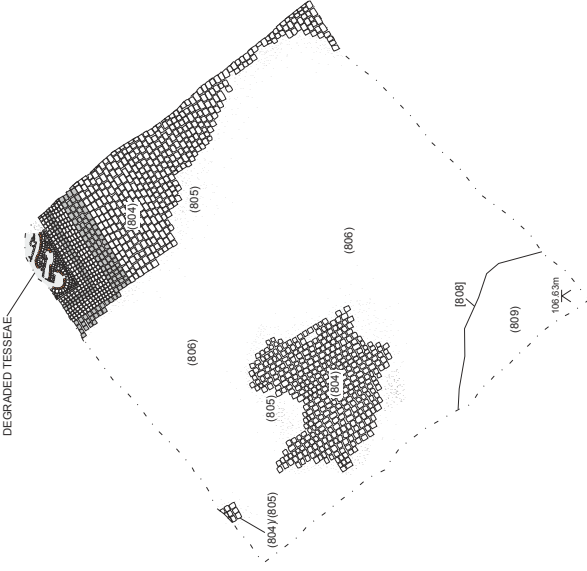
TEST PIT 4 PLAN



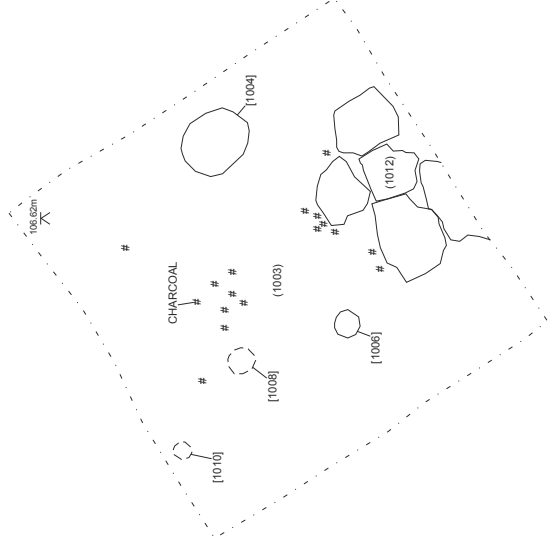
TEST PIT 5 PLAN



TEST PIT 8 PLAN



TEST PIT 10 PLAN



TEST PIT 12 PLAN

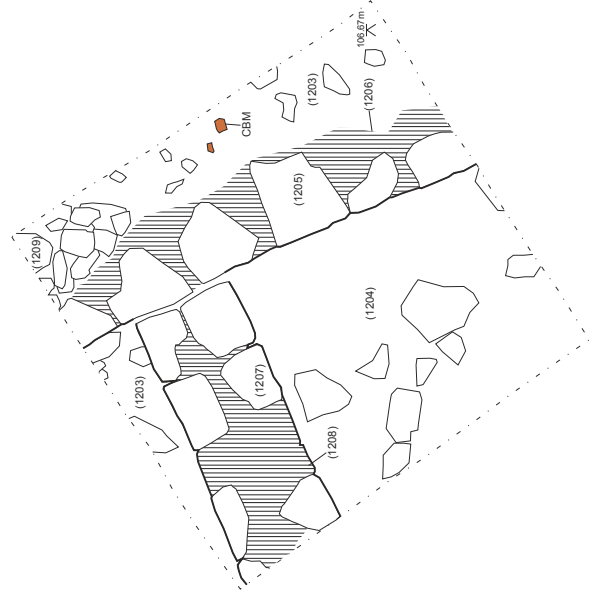
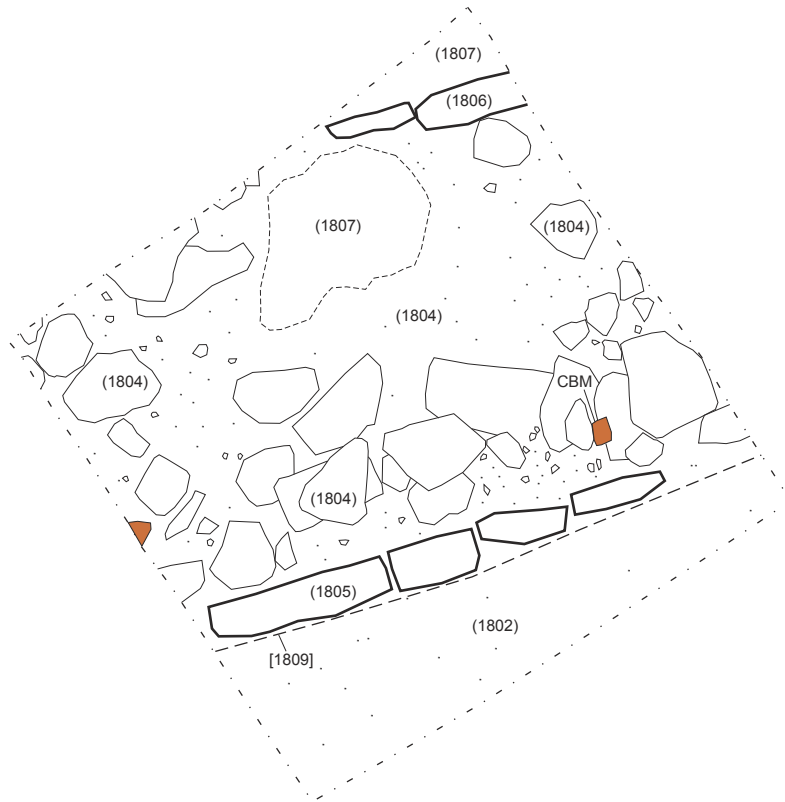


FIGURE 4: Test Pits 4, 5, 8, 10 and 12; Plans



**TEST PIT 18 PLAN, PRE-EXCAVATION**



**TEST PIT 18 PLAN, POST-EXCAVATION**



**FIGURE 5: Test Pit 18; Plans**

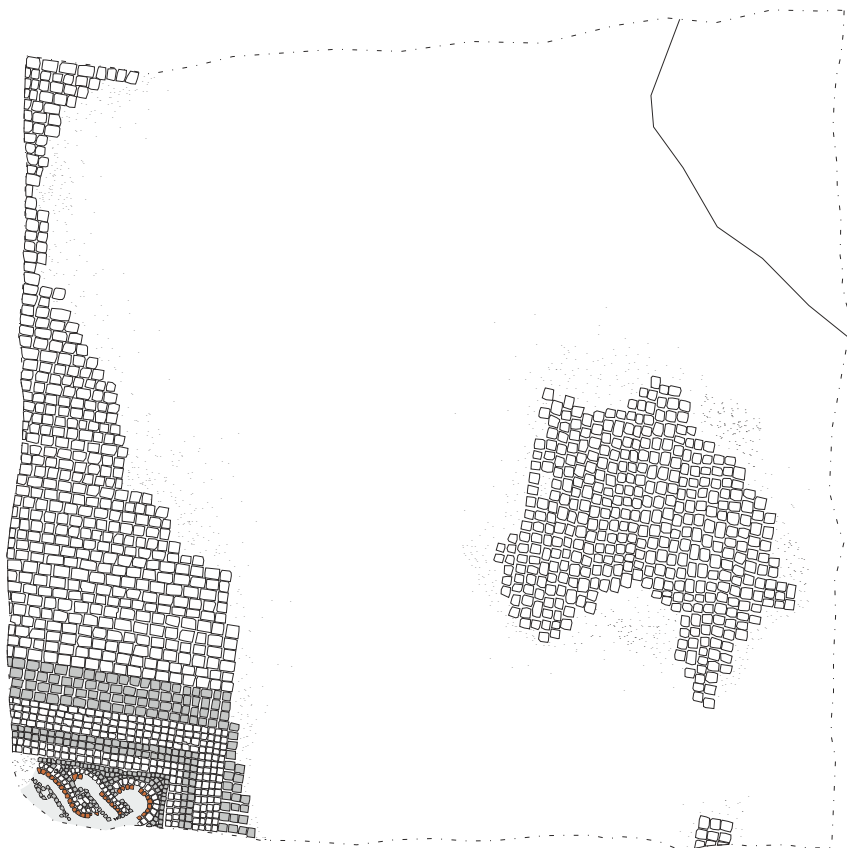
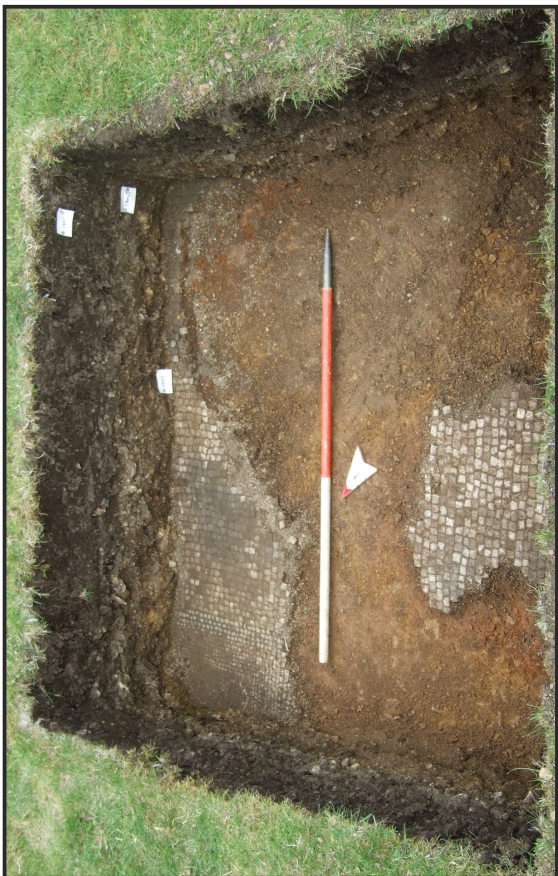


FIGURE 6: Detailed Plan and Photographs of (804)

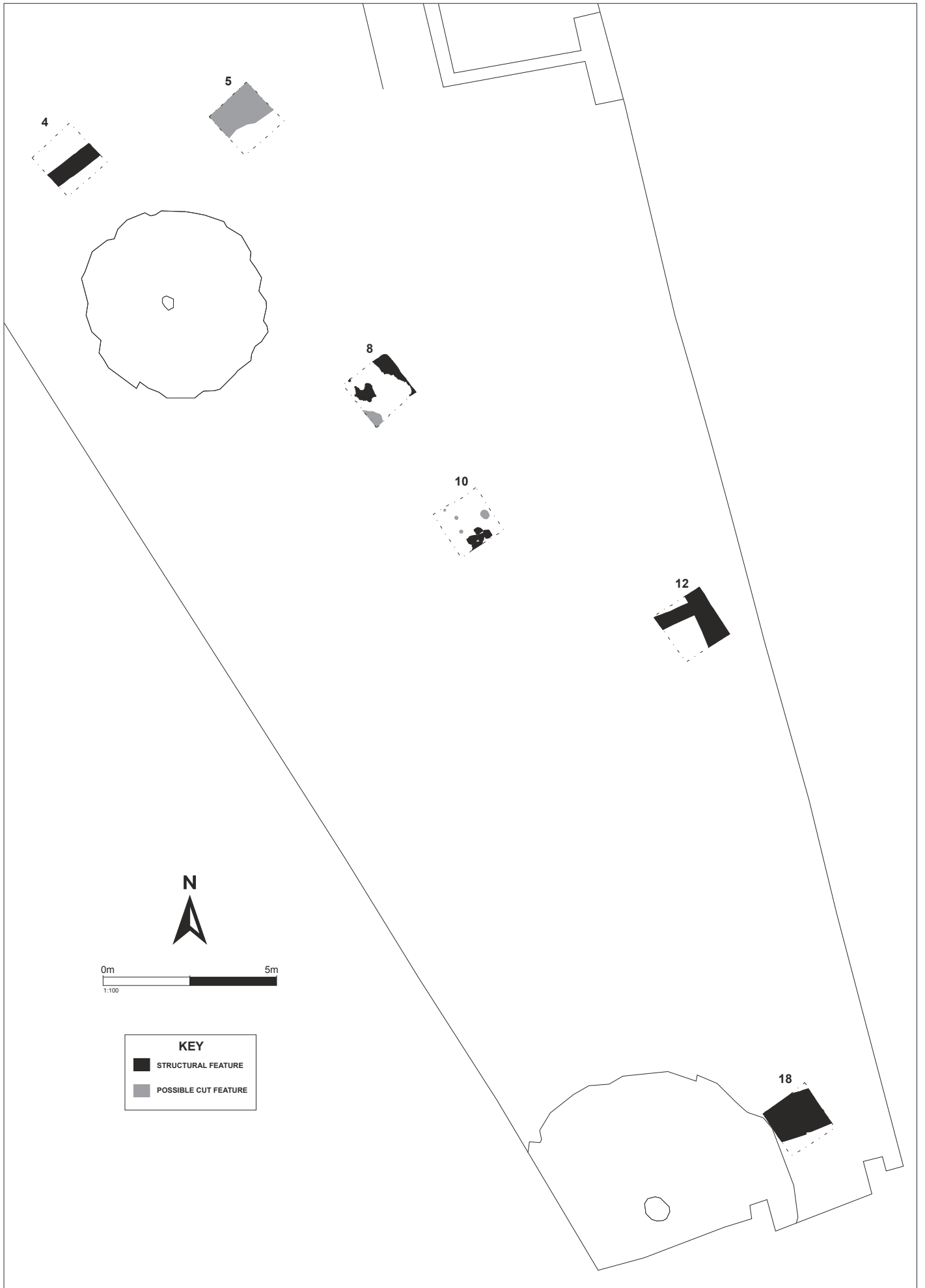
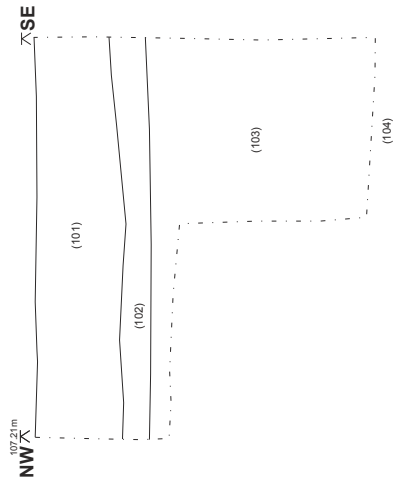
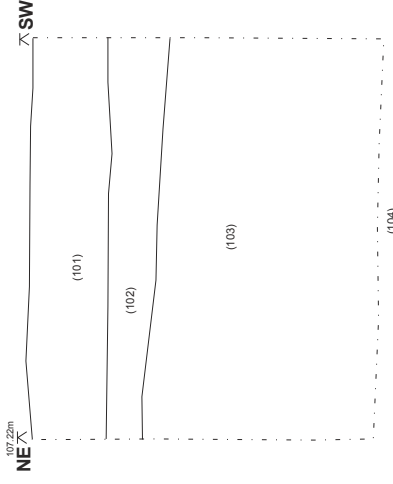


FIGURE 7: Site Plan Showing Identified Features

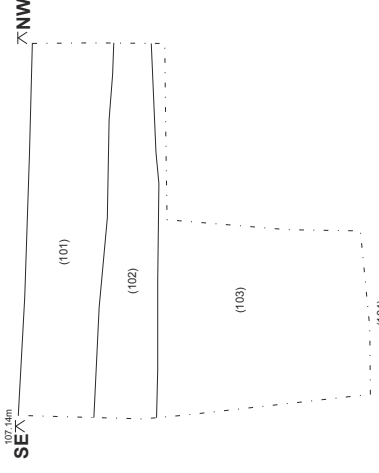
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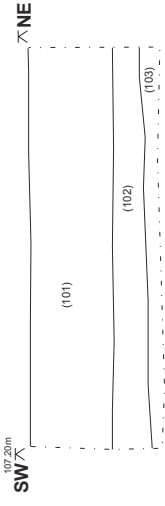
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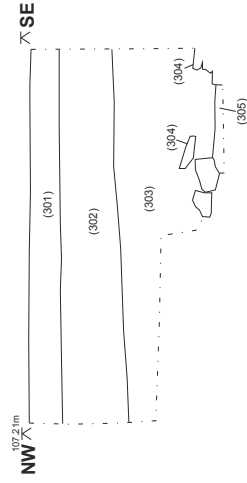
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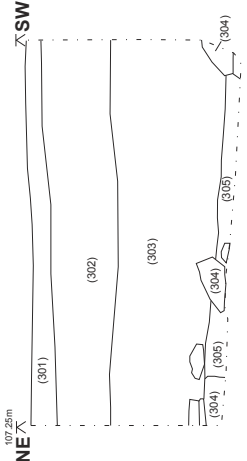
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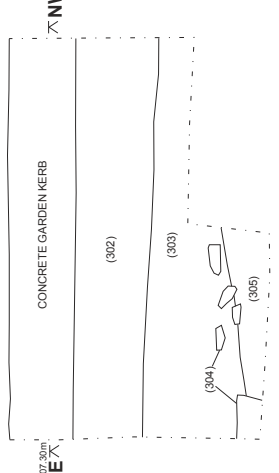
TEST PIT 3 SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION



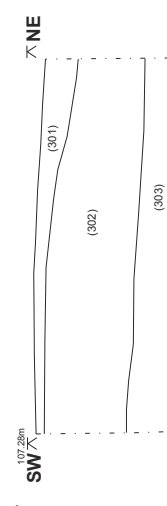
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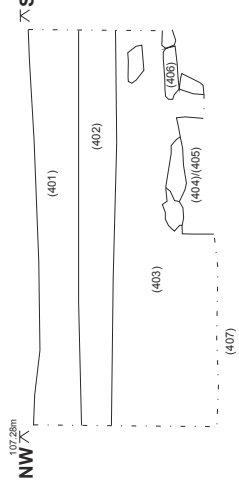
TEST PIT 3 NORTHEAST FACING SECTION



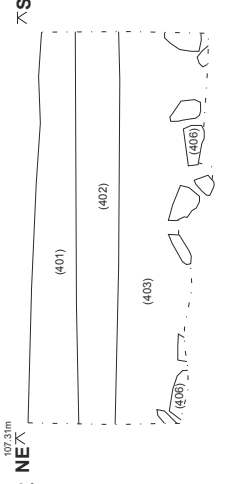
TEST PIT 3 SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION



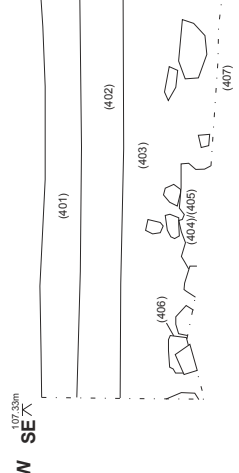
TEST PIT 4 SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION



TEST PIT 4 NORTHWEST FACING SECTION



TEST PIT 4 NORTHEAST FACING SECTION



TEST PIT 4 SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION

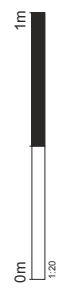
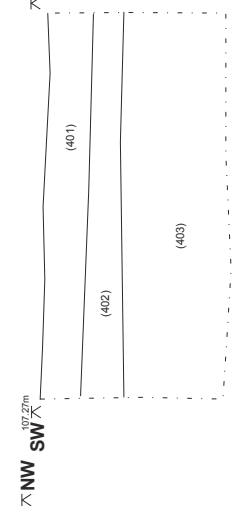


FIGURE 8: Test Pits 1, 3 and 4; Sections



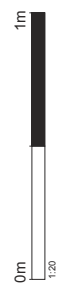
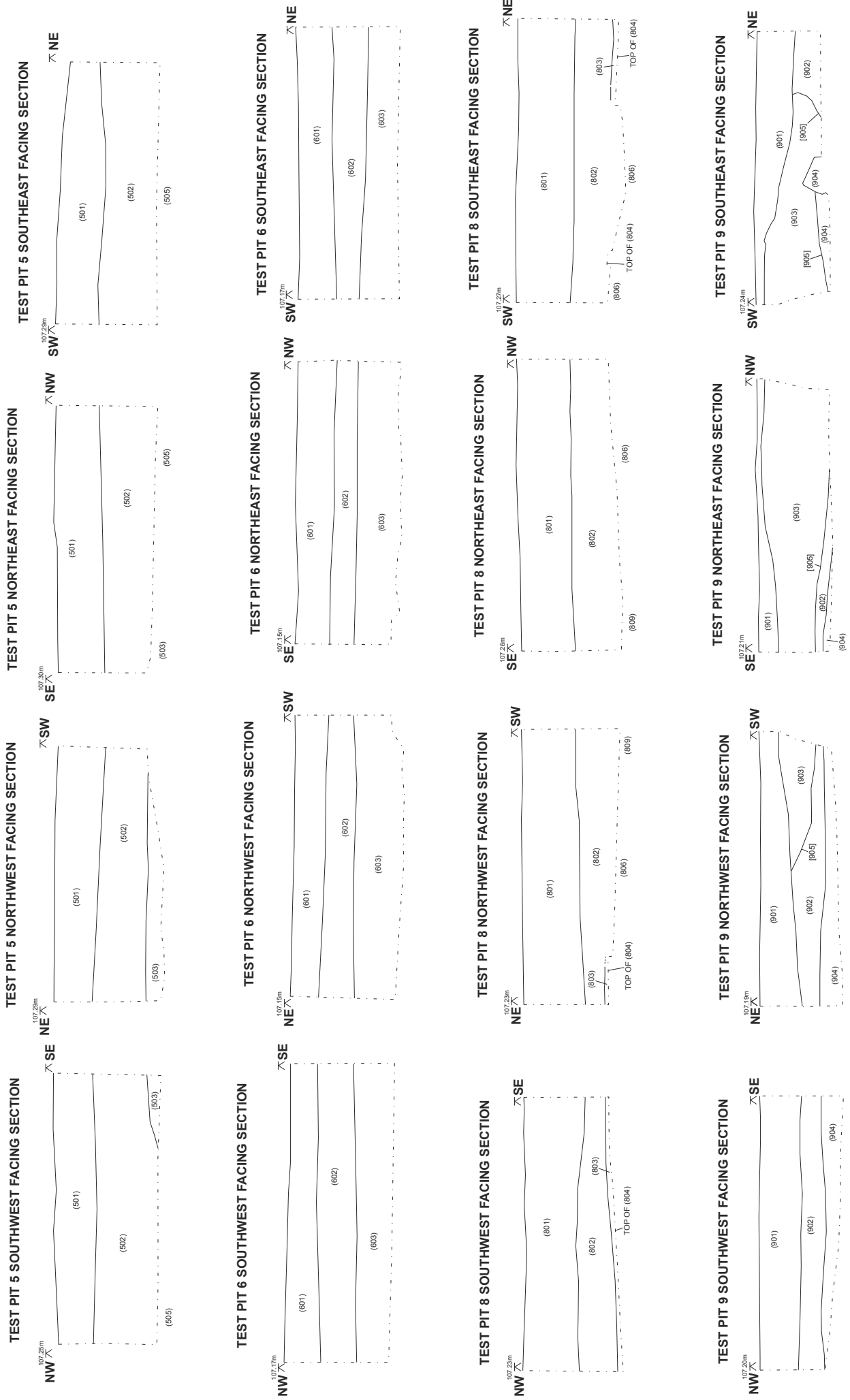


FIGURE 9: Test Pits 5, 6, 8 and 9; Sections

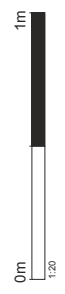
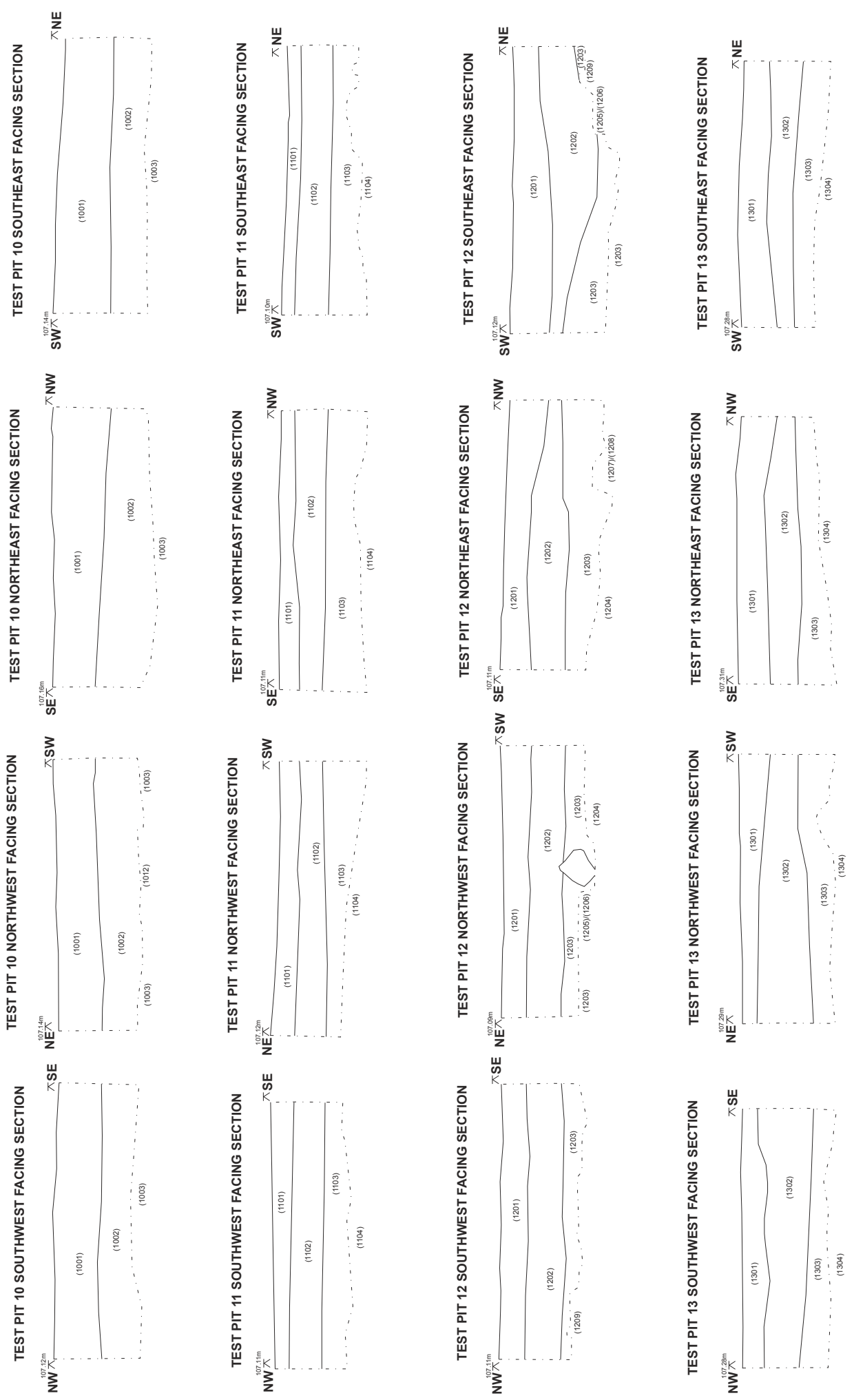


FIGURE 10: Test Pits 10, 11, 12 and 13; Sections

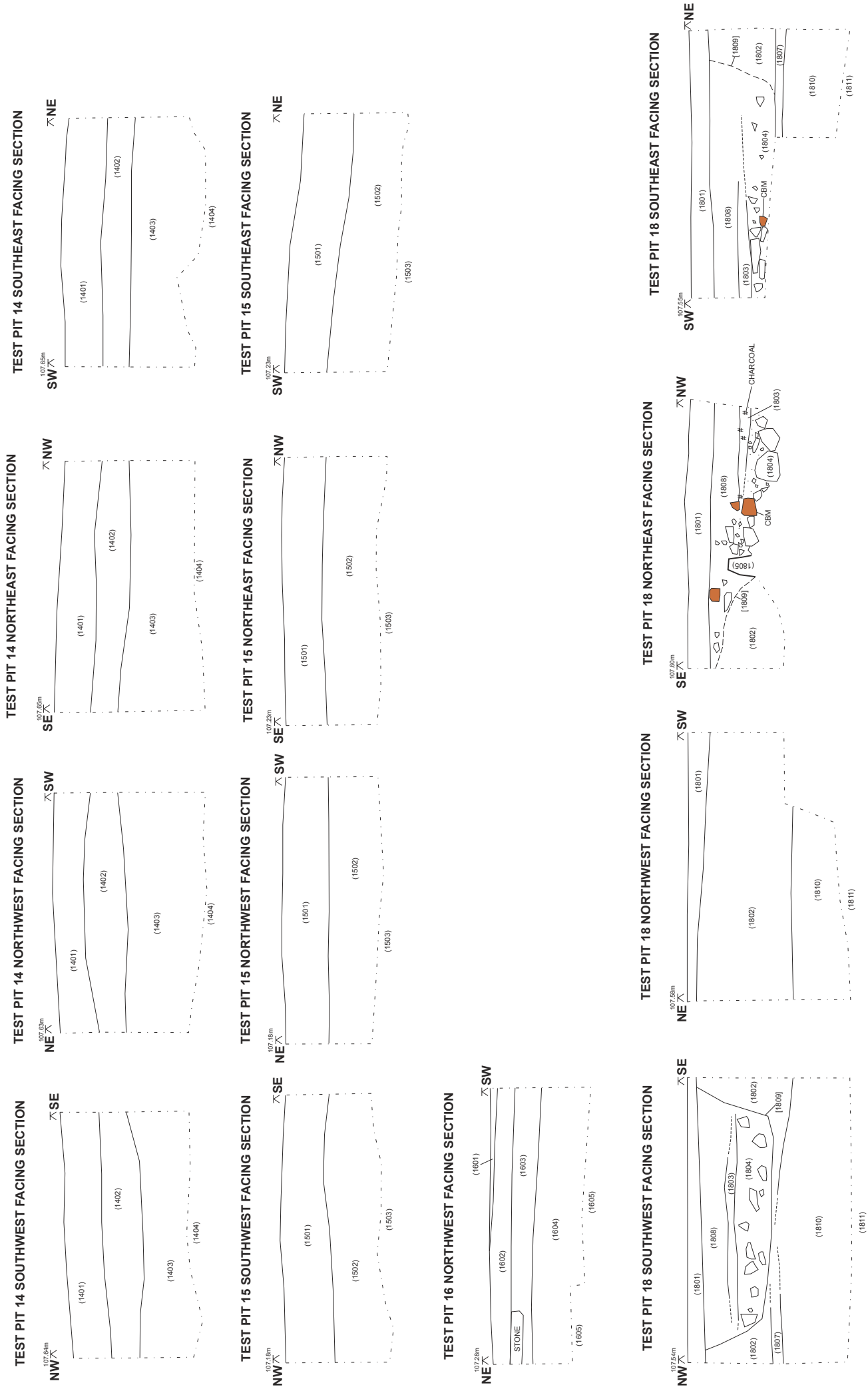
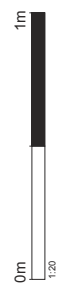
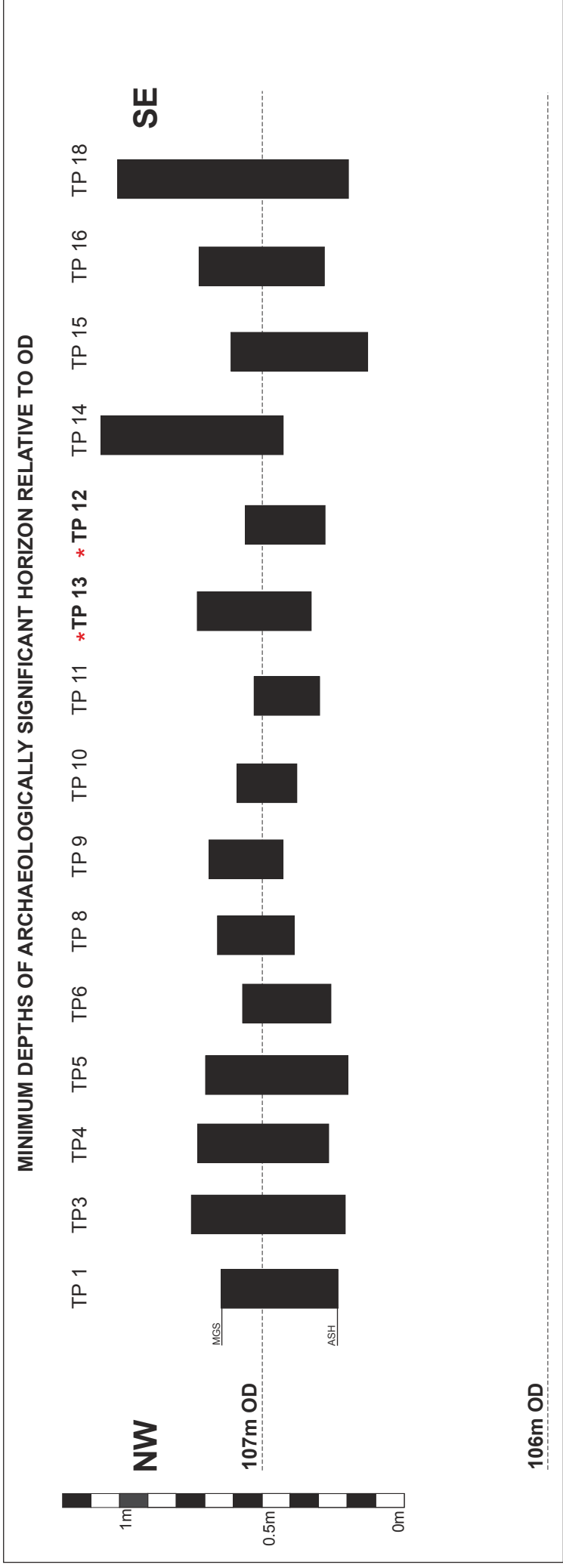
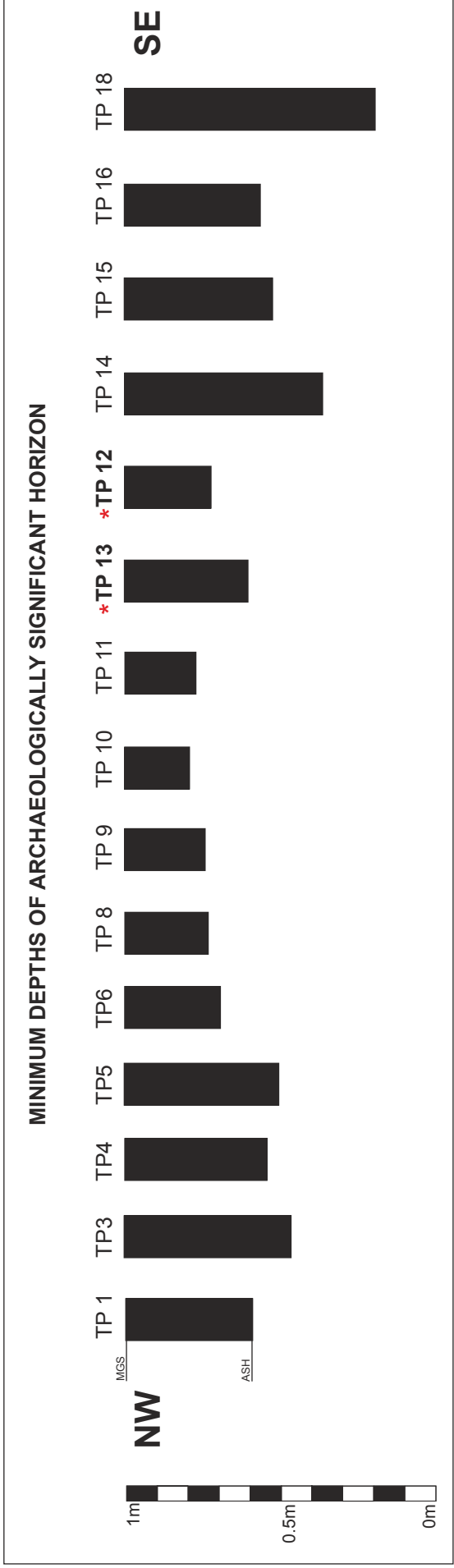


FIGURE 11: Test Pits 14, 15, 16 and 18; Sections





**FIGURE 12: Schematic Site Profile; Minimum Depths of Archaeologically Significant Horizon**

X axis - not to scale  
 Y axis - 1:20

MGS - MODERN GROUND SURFACE  
 ASH - ARCHAEOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT HORIZON

\* TEST PIT 12 AND 13 REVERSED TO REFLECT ACTUAL LOCATION