

**LAND AT 102 DEAN'S WAY,
GLOUCESTER.**

NGR: SO 833 195

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Report No. 961
April 2014



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES



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Quality Assurance

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Author: J. Crennell

Date: 22/4/14

Approved: R. King,

QA Checked: D. King,

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CONTENTS

Summary

Glossary

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND
- 3 AIMS
- 4 METHODOLOGY
- 5 RESULTS
- 6 CONCLUSIONS
- 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY
- 8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Appendix 1: Stratigraphic Data

Appendix 2: The Pottery Report

LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 1: Site Location
- Figure 2: Trench Locations
- Figure 3: Trench 1, Plan and Section
- Figure 4: Trench 2, Plan and Section

SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 28th and 31st March 2014 by Foundations Archaeology on land at 102 Dean's Way in Gloucester (NGR: SO 833 195). The work was commissioned by Aaron Mills of HGCI Properties.

The evaluation involved the excavation of one 5m by 1.8m trench and a 2m by 2m test-pit within the study area, to enable an assessment of the archaeological potential of the site prior to a planning application for re-development.

Roman activity was identified within the evaluated area in the form of frequent artefactual material, which securely dated archaeological horizons, as well as a possible bank of re-deposited natural, which also contained Roman material. These deposits were sealed by a substantial layer of subsoil, which suggests that any buried archaeological deposits will be well-preserved.

Due to time pressure it was not possible to produce full pottery analysis for this report. This will be produced as an addendum to this report as soon as possible.

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 *c.* 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.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level.

OS

Ordnance Survey

Post-medieval

The period from *c.* AD 1500 onwards

Prehistoric

In Britain this term is generally used for any of the traditionally defined periods such as Palaeolithic (480,000-12,000 BC), Mesolithic (12,000-4000 BC), Neolithic (c4000-2800), Bronze Age (2800-600 BC) and Iron Age (600 BC – AD 43)

Romano-British

Term used to define the fusion of indigenous Iron Age traditions with invasive Roman culture. Traditionally dated AD 43 to *c.* AD 410.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On the 28th and 31st March 2014 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at 102 Dean's Way, Gloucester (NGR: SO 833 195) (Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Aaron Mills of HGCI Properties.
- 1.2 Foundations Archaeology is certified to BS/EN/ISO 9001: 2008 for quality assurance in the provision of archaeological services. The company is a Registered Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists and subscribes to that organisation's Code of Conduct. All relevant IfA Codes of Practice were adhered to throughout the course of the project.
- 1.3 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2014). The WSI was prepared in accordance with the standard brief issued by Gloucester City Council, the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (2011).
- 1.4 This document presents the findings of the archaeological evaluation and conforms to the specification set out in MoRPHE (English Heritage 2006).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission is being sought for the erection of a two storey detached dwelling house to the side of the existing dwelling house at 102 Dean's Way.
- 2.2 The proposed development site is located in an area of high archaeological potential. A desk-based assessment of the site by Foundations Archaeology (2014) indicated that Iron Age deposits relating to the Dubonni tribe have been uncovered within 100m of the study area. The site was also located within the northwestern quadrant of an early Roman legionary or vexillation fortress and is also within an area of known Roman inhumations.
- 2.3 The main archaeological potential of the site was, therefore, for the presence of evidence relating to the Iron Age and Roman periods. This did not prejudice the evaluation against features and finds associated with 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 in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains. This will allow reasonable planning decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed development.

3.2 These aims were to be achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives.

i) to define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;

ii) to attempt to characterize the nature and preservation of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site;

iii) to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence which will attempt to determine the complexity of the horizontal and vertical stratigraphy present, and recover coherent artefactual, ecofactual and environmental samples;

iv) to determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present;

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 A 5m by 1.8m trench and a 2m by 2m test-pit were excavated within the proposed development area, as shown in Figure 2. Due to the presence of an *in situ* shed, a minor adjustment was required to the location of Trench 1. The adjustment was agreed with the Gloucester City Archaeologist.

4.2 All non-significant overburden was removed to the top of the archaeological deposits or natural, whichever was encountered first. This was achieved through use of a mechanical excavator, equipped with a toothless grading bucket, whilst under constant archaeological supervision. Thereafter cleaning and excavation of the features were conducted by hand and spoil heaps were visually scanned for artefacts.

4.3 Decisions about the relative value of archaeological deposits and features were made in consultation with the Gloucester City Archaeologist.

4.4 All artefactual and ecofactual remains, whether stratified or not, were collected, bagged and labelled. Artefacts were subject to preliminary study on site in order to help date archaeological features and contexts. All artefactual and ecofactual evidence were treated in accordance with *First Aid for Finds*. All finds were treated in a manner to prevent deterioration.

4.5 Each context was excavated in such a way as to produce at least one representative cross-section of the deposit.

4.6 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

5 RESULTS

Trench 1

5.1 The trench was initially excavated to the top of subsoil (104), which contained quantities of Roman artefactual material. In agreement with the City Archaeologist, a machine-cut slot was excavated along the length of the trench, followed by a small hand-dug sondage to test the nature and depths of the deposits. Natural deposits were not encountered within this trench, as excavation was halted at a depth of 1.26m (10.90m OD) from the Modern ground level due to the presence of Roman deposits.

5.1.1 The lowest deposit revealed within the trench was a dark orange brown sandy silt layer (108), which was over 0.10m thick and contained occasional charcoal flecks along with seven sherds of Roman pottery. This layer was sealed by deposit (105/106), which included a 0.22m thick lens of re-deposited orange brown gravel/sand natural, which contained a sherd of Roman pottery and a piece of animal bone. Layer (105/106) comprised a 0.21m thick layer of dark brown silty clay with orange mottles. It contained a large quantity of Roman pottery and animal bone, along with possible daub fragments and an iron nail. Deposits (105/106) and (107) were sealed by subsoil (104), a dark brown/grey sandy silt up to 0.51m thick, which contained 19 sherds of Roman pottery along with 36 pieces of animal bone and a fragment of glass. This was sealed by a 0.05m thick layer of gravel (109), which was in turn overlaid by a 0.25m thick layer of dark brown/black topsoil (103), which was sealed by a 0.25m thick layer of brick rubble and sand hardcore (102), beneath a 0.11m thick layer of concrete (101).

Trench 2

5.2 Machine excavation ceased at the top of deposits containing Roman artefactual material. In agreement with the City Archaeologist a section was thereafter excavated along the southeastern edge of the test-pit. Natural deposits consisting of orange sand and gravels with clay patches, which were encountered in this section at a depth of 1.45m (10.55m OD) from the Modern ground level.

5.2.1 The natural deposits were sealed by a possible bank of re-deposited natural (205), up to 0.49m high and over 1.78m wide, which contained five Roman pottery sherds, a fragment of animal bone and a small copper coin. This was sealed by (204), a 1.04m thick layer of dark brown grey sandy silt subsoil, which contained nine sherds of Roman pottery and four fragments of animal bone. This was sealed by (203), a 0.20m thick layer of dark grey brown silt clay topsoil, which contained frequent charcoal flecks and a few sherds of chinaware. This was in turn sealed by a 0.20m thick layer of hardcore of brick rubble (202) beneath a 0.14m thick layer of concrete (201).

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Roman activity was identified within the site in the form of frequent artefactual material which securely dated archaeological horizons and a possible bank of re-deposited natural, which also contained Roman material. These deposits were sealed by a substantial layer of subsoil, which suggests that any buried archaeological deposits will be well-preserved.
- 6.2 With the exception of the CBM, the entire pottery assemblage appears to date to the pre-Flavian period.
- 6.3 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited within 12 months with the Gloucester City Museum. A short note will also be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Foundations Archaeology, 2014. *102 Deans Way, Gloucester, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Evaluation and Recording*. Unpublished.

Institute for Archaeologists. 2011. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*. Unpublished.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Aaron Mills of HGCI Properties and the Gloucester City Archaeologist Andrew Armstrong for their assistance during the course of this project.

APPENDIX 1: Stratigraphic Data

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/ OVERLIES	CUT BY/ OVERLAID BY
				Trench 1: 3.1m long, 1.8m wide. Excavated onto natural substrate up to 1.25m (13.19m OD) from the Modern ground surface		
(101)		0.10		Black, solid tarmac	(102) (103) (107)	-
(102)		1.05		Grey brown, loose demolition layer with frequent inclusions of brick, small stones and charcoal	Nat	(101) (103) [104]
(103)		0.10		Light brown, loose gravel	(102)	(101) [104]
[104]		0.80		Modern cut which contained (105) (106) and (107)	(102) (103) Nat	(105)
(105)		0.56		Yellow, loose gravel/hardcore	[104] Nat	(106) (107)
(106)		0.05		Black, loose gravel/hardcore	(105)	(107)
(107)		0.19		Yellow, loose gravel/hardcore	(105) (106)	(101)
Nat		-		Blue grey, solid clay with occasional inclusions of small fossilised shells	-	(102) (105) [104]
				Trench 2: 30.5m long, 1.8m wide. Excavated onto natural substrate up to 1.02m (12.87m OD) from the Modern ground surface.		
(201)		0.13		Black, solid tarmac	(202)	-
(202)		0.95		Yellow brown, loose bedding layer of gravel	Nat	(201)
(203)		0.80		Grey brown, plastic demolition layer with frequent inclusions of brick, small stones and charcoal	Nat	-
Nat		-		Blue grey, solid clay	-	(202) (203)

APPENDIX 2: The Pottery Report by Dr J Timby

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of a small assemblage of 77 sherds weighing 1553 g and a single fragment of ceramic building material (CBM). With the exception of the CBM the entire assemblage appears to date to the pre-Flavian period.
- 1.2 Pottery was recovered from seven separate contexts spread across two trenches.
- 1.3 The condition of the Roman material was moderately good with some large sherds although there are very few diagnostic featured pieces. The overall average sherd weight is 20 g suggesting material that has not undergone any on-going disturbance.
- 1.4 For the purposes of the assessment the pottery assemblage was briefly scanned to assess its likely chronology and quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context. The resulting data is summarised in Table 1.

2 Roman

- 2.1 The complete assemblage dates to the early Roman period, specifically to the pre-Flavian period and is thus contemporary with the occupation of the Roman fortress at Kingsholm.
- 2.2 The group comprises a mixture of imported continental types, native wares, Kingsholm military-type wares and Severn Valley ware.
- 2.3 Imports include a single sherd of South Gaulish samian (Dragendorff 27 cup) and two sherds of amphorae; one from Baetica, southern Spain from a container used to transport olive oil; the other from Cadiz, southern Spain and used to transport garum (fish sauce).
- 2.4 The Kingsholm wares embrace a range of fabrics considered to be made in the area by the army in the Neronian period. These include Gloucester type fabrics TF 24, 36, 213 and 39. Most of the forms are probably jars or flagons but there are only two jar rims and a single handle fragment. There is a single large sherd of Kingsholm mortaria from (205) which is clearly a waster.
- 2.5 The native wares are handmade forms dating to the pre-Roman Iron Age which continued to be used in the area until the later 1st century AD. These include Malvernian-region limestone-tempered ware and grog-tempered wares.
- 2.6 Severn Valley wares are well-represented and account for 40% of the assemblage. Forms include a butt beaker with diagonal combed decoration, carinated cups/bowls, jars and a lid.
- 2.7 Amongst the other wares is the base of a flagon in white-slipped Gloucester ware (TF 7) and a globular black local beaker with barbotine dot decoration.

3 Ceramic building material

3.1 A single piece of flat tile from (104) is likely to be of post-Roman date.

4 Summary and further work

4.1 The pottery assemblage recovered is entirely typical of that to be expected from the Kingholm area and in particular reflects the range of material from the 1972 excavations (Hurst 1985) considered to lie with the area of the early Roman fortress.

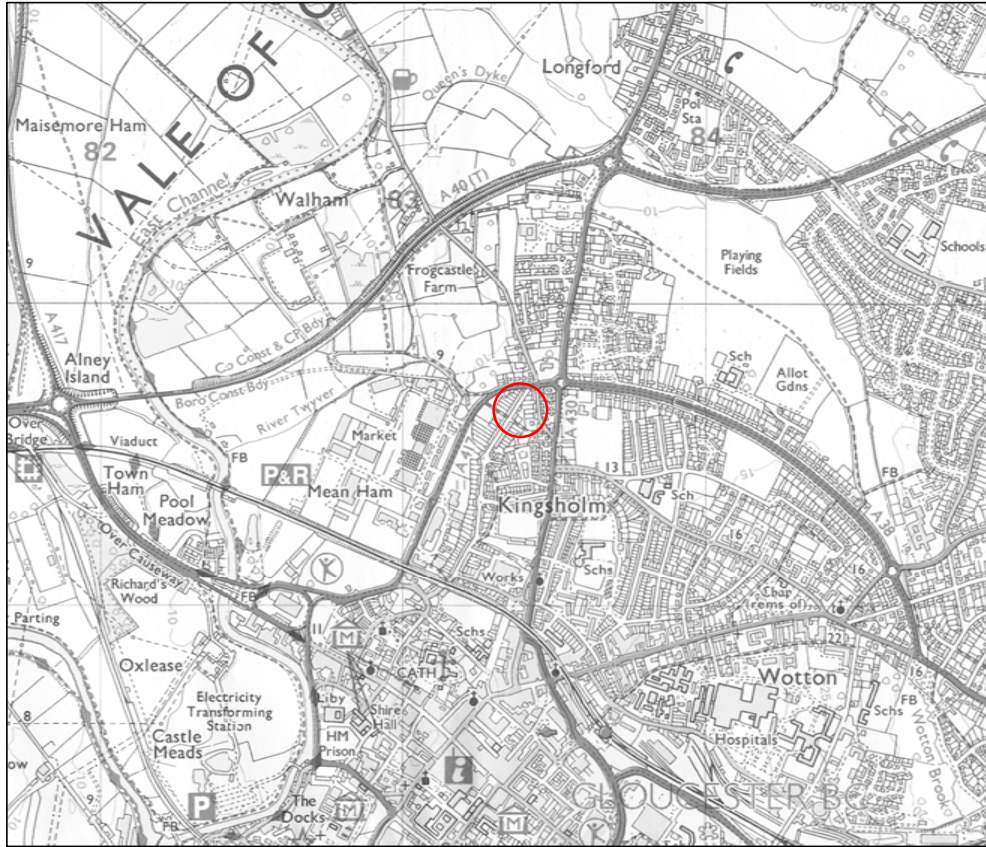
4.2 The assemblage is too small to warrant further work but adds to the gazetteer of finds already documented from this area.

Reference

Hurst, H R, 1985, *Kingsholm*, Gloucester Archaeological Reports Vol 1

Land at 102 Dean's Way, Gloucester, Archaeological Evaluation

Context	Roman	Med	Pmed	CBM	Tot No	Tot Wt	Date
103	3	0	1	0	4	8	Pmed
302	0	0	0	1	1	78	Roman
408	0	0	1	0	1	2	Pmed
506	1	0	0	1	2	7	Roman
507	1	0	0	5	6	39	?Roman
603	0	0	1	0	1	0.5	modern
604	0	0	1	0	1	31	modern
605	0	0	0	1	1	43	Roman
607	1	0	0	1	2	24	IC1-eC2
711	0	1	0	0	1	4	IC12-14th
712	1	0	0	0	1	4	IC1-eC2
806	0	0	2	0	2	91	Pmed
808	0	0	3	0	3	86	Pmed
1003	0	0	1	0	1	16	modern
1105	3	0	0	1	4	15	IC1-eC2
1201	3	0	0	2	5	14	IC1-eC2
1203	0	0	1	0	1	24	modern
1301	2	0	0	0	2	8	IC1-eC2
1303	0	0	1	0	1	5	modern
1309	0	0	1	0	1	12	modern
TP5	2	0	0	0	2	8	IC1-eC2
Tr 1	1	0	0	0	1	3	Roman
u/s	1	0	0	0	1	5	Roman
TOTAL	19	1	13	12	45	527.5	



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Site Code: DWG14Ev
Accession Code:

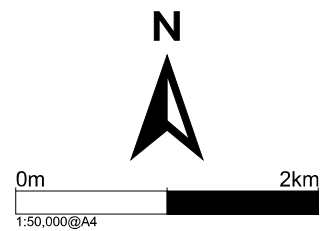


FIGURE 1: Site Location

DEAN'S WAY

gate

TR 2

garage
to be removed

102

TR 1

shed

96

Site Code: DWG14Ev
Accession Code:



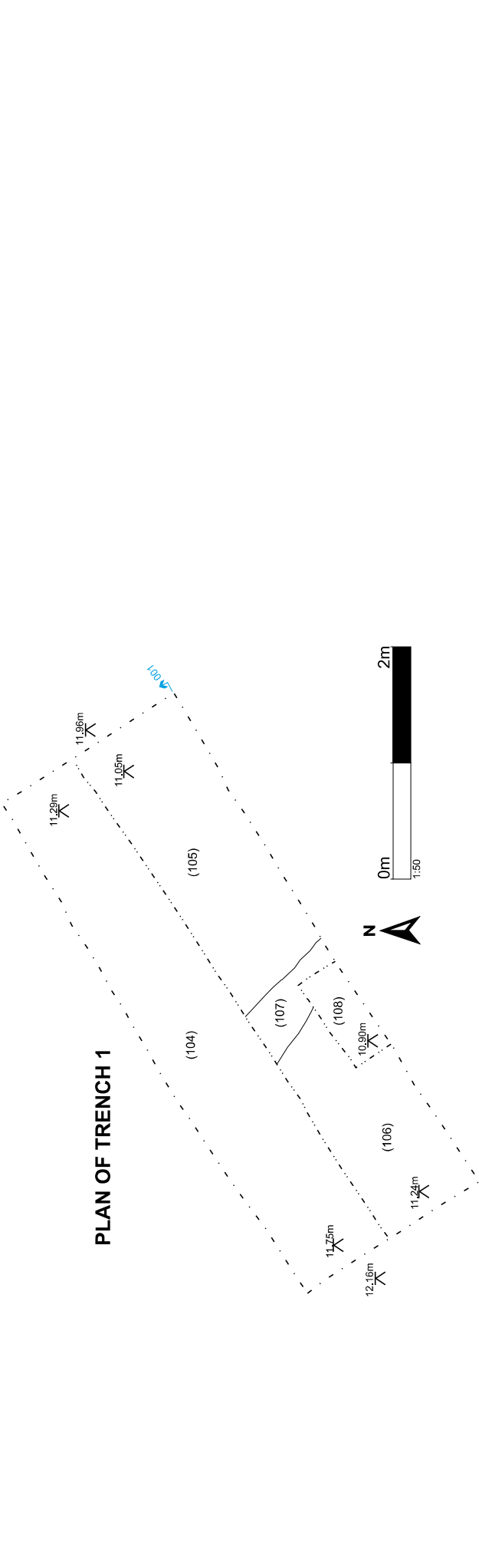
ORIGINAL TRENCH LOCATION



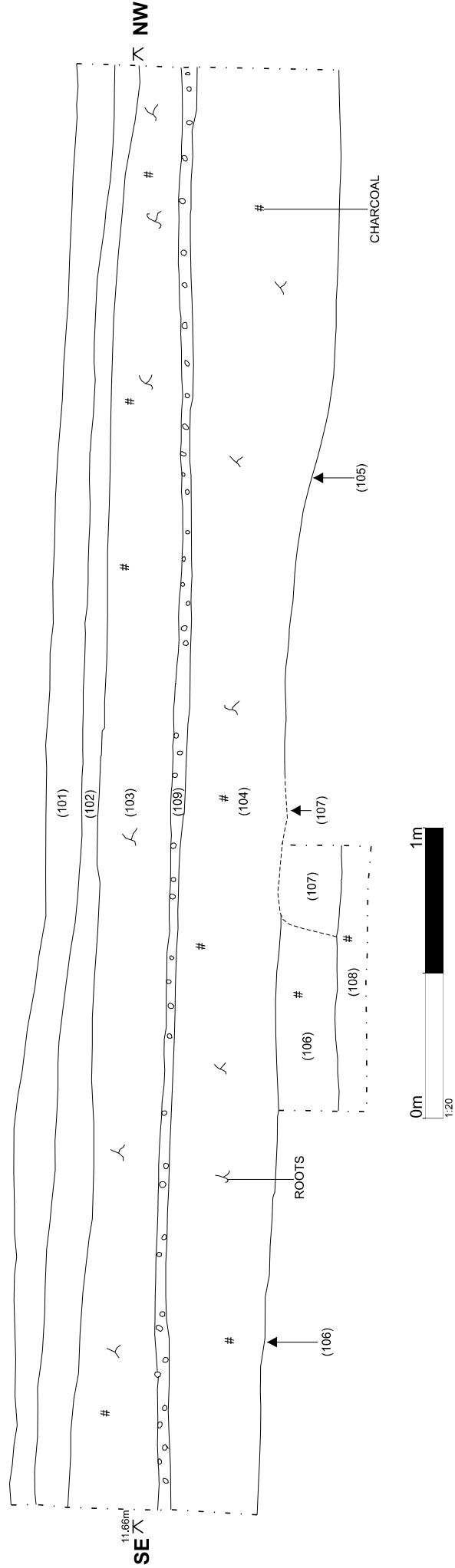
FINAL TRENCH LOCATIONS



FIGURE 2: Trench Locations

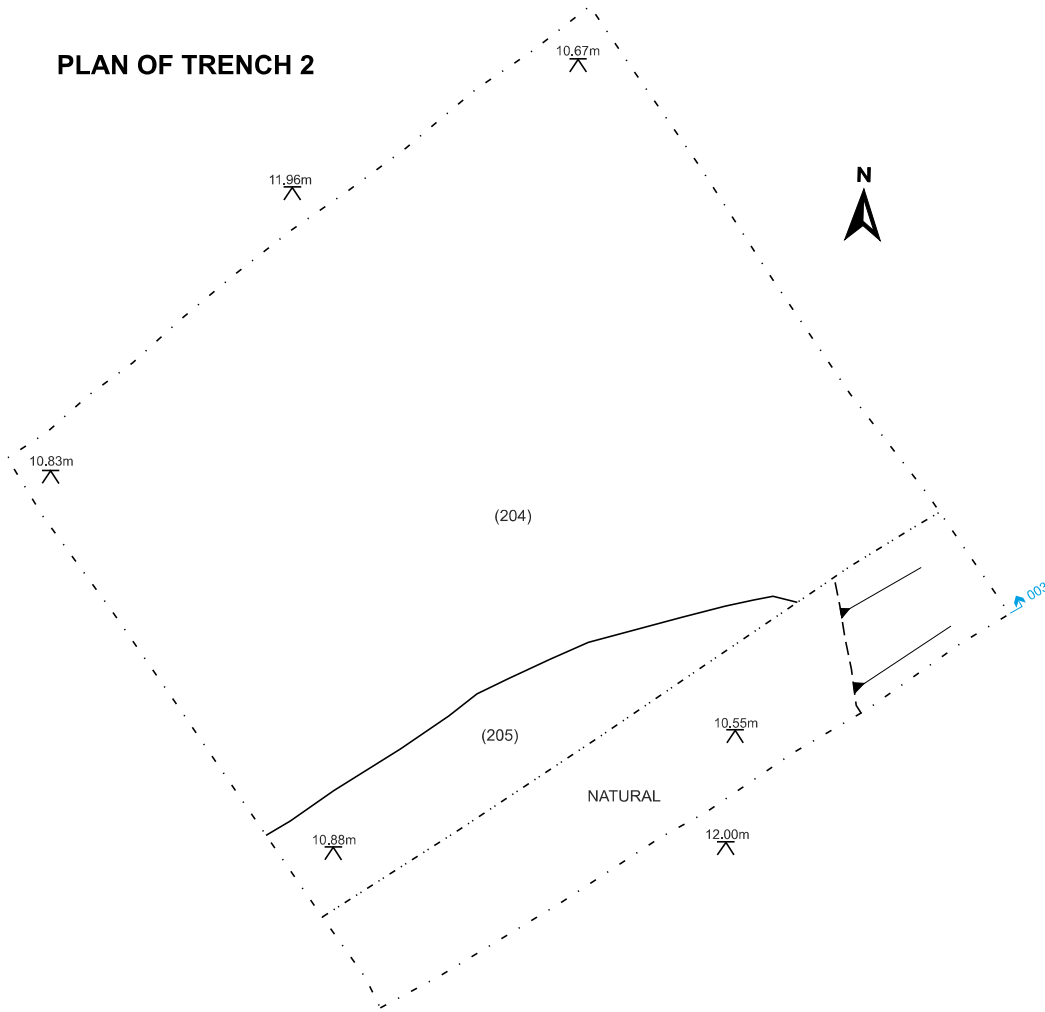


NORTHEAST FACING SECTION TRENCH 1

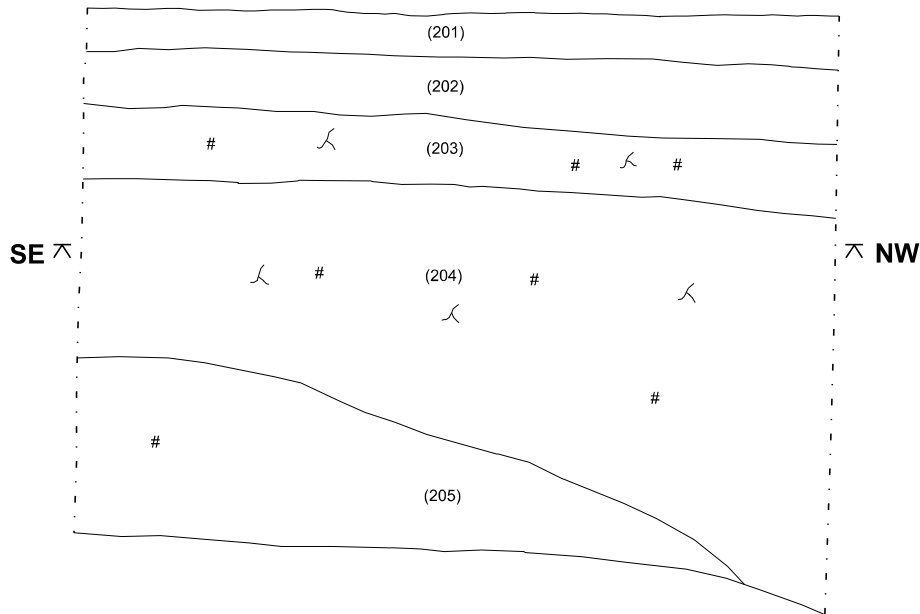


Site Code: DWG14Ev
Accession Code:
FIGURE 3: Trench 1, Plan and Section

PLAN OF TRENCH 2



NORTHEAST FACING SECTION TRENCH 2



<p>Site Code: DWG14Ev Accession Code:</p>
<p>FIGURE 4: Trench 2, Plan and Section</p>