

**THE WINCH,
70 MAIN ROAD,
WEST WINCH,
NORFOLK.**

NGR: 563058.317220 (centred)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

January 2016
Report No. 1100



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES

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Quality Assurance

This Document has been compiled and authorised in accordance with AMS's Quality Procedures (BS EN ISO 9001: 2008)

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The Winch, 70 Main Road, West Winch, Norfolk: Archaeological Evaluation

SUMMARY

Between 4th and 6th January 2016 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at The Winch, 70 Main Road, West Winch, Norfolk (NGR: 563058.317220 - centred). The project was commissioned by Caldecotte Group.

The evaluation comprised the excavation and recording of five trenches on land to the west of a former public house, within the area of a proposed residential development (Planning Ref: 15/01053/FM).

The archaeological works identified natural sand and gravel directly beneath approximately half-a-metre of topsoil. The natural deposits were cut by two undated northwest – southeast aligned drainage ditches, a Post-medieval/Modern north-south aligned ditch and a Post-medieval/Modern probable pit. No artefacts pre-dating the Post-medieval/Modern period were present within the evaluated area.

The evaluation has indicated that the site has a low potential to contain significant archaeological features or deposits.

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.

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.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology between 4th and 6th January 2016 on land at The Winch, 70 Main Road, West Winch, Norfolk (NGR: 563058.317220 - centred). The project was commissioned by Caldecotte Group.
- 1.2 The project was related to an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2015) and was conducted in accordance with CIfA *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014), the *Generic Brief for Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching* issued by Norfolk County Council, *Standards for Field Evaluation in the East of England* (Gurney 2003), the archaeological policies of King's Lynn and West Norfolk District Council and Norfolk County Council and *MoRPHE* (English Heritage 2006).
- 1.3 The code of conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists was adhered to throughout.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 It is proposed to construct a residential development within the site under planning reference 15/01053/FM.
- 2.2 The study area comprised a grassed field, which was located to the west of The Winch former public house, itself west of Main Road. The field sloped gently downwards from east (5.2m OD) to west (3.7m OD), towards the valley of the River Nar. The underlying geology consists of *Kimmeridge Clay Formation* - mudstone, overlaid by superficial deposits of *Head* - clay, silt, sand and gravel (BGS – online Geology of Britain viewer).
- 2.3 No Desk-based Assessment or Heritage Impact Assessment was compiled for the site, but the Planning Archaeologist noted that:

“The proposed development is located in a former fen-edge location, overlooking the valley of the lower River Nar. A former flood bank, which is recorded as early as the 14th century, lies immediately to the west of the site boundary. A topographically liminal location such as this is significant and is likely to have been exploited in the past, particularly prior to the construction of the flood bank, because of its access to both the Fen and ‘upland’ resources. Artefacts of Roman and later date have previously been recovered from the vicinity of the site. Consequently there is potential that heritage assets with archaeological interest (buried archaeological remains) may be present at the site and that their significance may be affected by the proposed development”.

- 2.4 The site therefore contained the potential for archaeological features and deposits, predominately relating to the Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval

periods. This did not prejudice the evaluation against evidence for other periods.

- 2.5 In light of the archaeological potential, the Planning Archaeologist required the excavation and recording of five evaluation trenches in the field to the west of the former public house.

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. This would allow reasonable planning decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed development.

- 3.2 These aims were 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 characterise the nature and preservation of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning and extent 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 to recover coherent artefact, ecofact 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;

v) to define any research priorities that may be relevant should further field investigation be required.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 Five 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 available area. Due to the presence of an overhead power cable, it was necessary to slightly amend the locations of Trenches 1 and 3. The trenches, as excavated, represented an approximate 2% sample of the available investigation area.

- 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 the use

of a mechanical excavator, equipped with a toothless grading bucket. Spoil tips were visually scanned for finds.

- 4.3 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.
- 4.4 At the time of the excavation works the Modern ground surface was water saturated and gradual water-ingress occurred in all of the trenches. Due to the flooded conditions, features [102] and [204] were recorded in plan only.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 A full description of all contexts identified during the course of the project is presented in Appendix 1 and a summary is given below.
- 5.2 The general stratigraphy within the investigation area was relatively uniform, consisting of natural sands and gravels directly overlaid by approximately half-a-metre of topsoil. A total of four features were present, cut into the top of the natural substrate.
- 5.3 **Trench 1** contained a probable pit [102]. The fill (103) of which contained pieces of plastic and glass bottles, which indicated that this was a Modern feature.
- 5.4 **Trench 2** contained two ditches [202] and [204]. Ditch [202] was undated, although its fill (203) was clearly sealed by topsoil (201). It was relatively shallow and most likely represented a former drainage ditch. Ditch [204] contained three distinct fills (205 – 7), one of which (207) contained brick fragments and a piece of vulcanized rubber. It is therefore likely that ditch [204] represented a Post-medieval/Modern boundary or drainage ditch.
- 5.5 **Trench 3** contained a single shallow undated ditch [302], which was similar to ditch [202] and, as such, probably represented further evidence for former drainage.
- 5.6 **Trenches 4 and 5** were devoid of archaeological features.
- 5.7 No artefacts pre-dating the Post-medieval/Modern period were present within the evaluated area.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The evaluation has identified two undated drainage ditches, as well as a further ditch and a probable pit, both of which most likely date to the Post-medieval/Modern period.
- 6.2 The site is therefore considered to have a low potential to contain significant archaeological features or deposits.

- 6.3 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited in due course with Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service. A short note will 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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8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

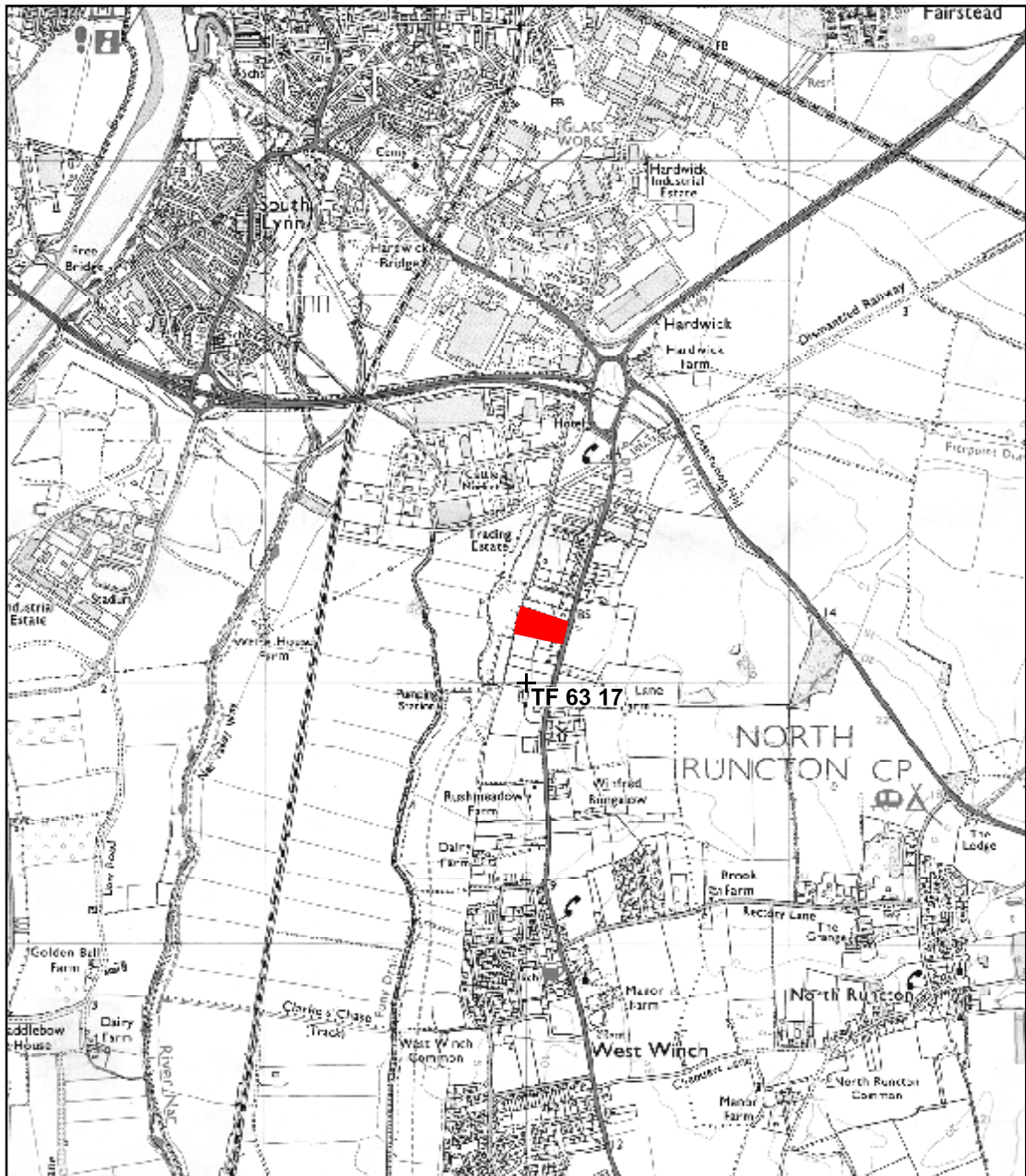
Foundations Archaeology would like to thank James Albone of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service and James Sturgess of Caldecotte Group for their help during the course of the project.

APPENDIX 1: Stratigraphic Data

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	LATER THAN	EARLIER THAN
				Trench 1: 33m by 1.8m. Natural = variable orange brown hard gravel. Top of natural at average height of 4.70m OD		
101	na	na	0.5	Topsoil: dark brown soft clay silt sand, which contained occasional Modern detritus.	natural	na
[102]	2.2	1.7	?	Probable sub-circular pit. Contained fill 103. Not excavated due to flooding.	natural	103
103	2.2	1.7	?	Fill of [102]: dark brown clay sand gravel, which contained frequent Modern detritus, including pieces of plastic and glass bottles.	[102]	101?
				Trench 2: 31m by 1.8m. Natural = yellow sand and gravel. Top of natural at average height of 4.39m OD Topsoil: dark brown soft clay silt sand.		
201	na	na	0.49		natural	na
[202]	3.1	0.78	0.18	Northwest - southeast aligned ditch with a shallow rounded profile. Contained fill 203.	natural	203
203	3.1	0.78	0.18	Fill of [202]: light grey brown soft clay sand, which contained occasional gravel.	[202]	201
[204]	1.95	2	?	North - south aligned probable ditch. Contained fills 205, 206 and 207. Not excavated due to flooding.	natural	205-7
205	1.95	0.6	?	Fill of ditch [204]: brown silt sand. Uncertain stratigraphic relationship with fills 206 and 207.	[204]	201?
206	1.95	0.45	?	Fill of ditch [204]: light grey brown soft clay silt. Uncertain stratigraphic relationship with fills 205 and 207.	[204]	201?
207	1.95	1	?	Fill of ditch [204]: dark brown black clay gravel and grit, which contained frequent Modern detritus, including brick fragments and a piece of vulcanized rubber. Uncertain stratigraphic relationship with fills 205 and 206.	[204]	201?

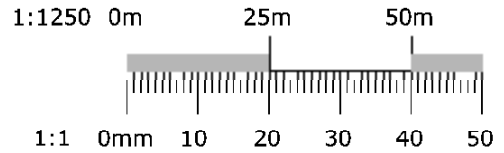
The Winch, 70 Main Road, West Winch, Norfolk: Archaeological Evaluation

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	LATER THAN	EARLIER THAN
				Trench 3: 30m by 1.8m. Natural = variable yellow orange sand and gravel. Top of natural at average height of 4.04m OD		
301	na	na	0.5	Topsoil: dark brown soft clay silt sand, which contained occasional Modern detritus.	natural	na
[302]	2.4	1	0.23	Northwest - southeast aligned ditch with a shallow rounded profile. Contained fill 303.	natural	303
303	2.4	1	0.23	Fill of [302]: light brown soft clay sand, which contained occasional gravel. Trench 4: 30m by 1.8m. Natural = variable yellow orange sand and gravel. Top of natural at average height of 3.54m OD	[302]	201, LD
401	na	na	0.55	Topsoil: dark brown soft clay silt sand. No features were present within the trench.	natural	na
				Trench 5: 31m by 1.8m. Natural = variable yellow orange sand and gravel. Top of natural at average height of 3.21m OD		
501	na	na	0.47	Topsoil: dark brown soft clay silt sand. No features were present within the trench.	natural	na



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Site Code: TWN15
Accession Code:

FIGURE 1: Site Location



- Proposed Trench Locations
- Actual Trench Locations
- Feature

Rev A 07/07/15 Red line adjusted

SA Eastview Caravan Site

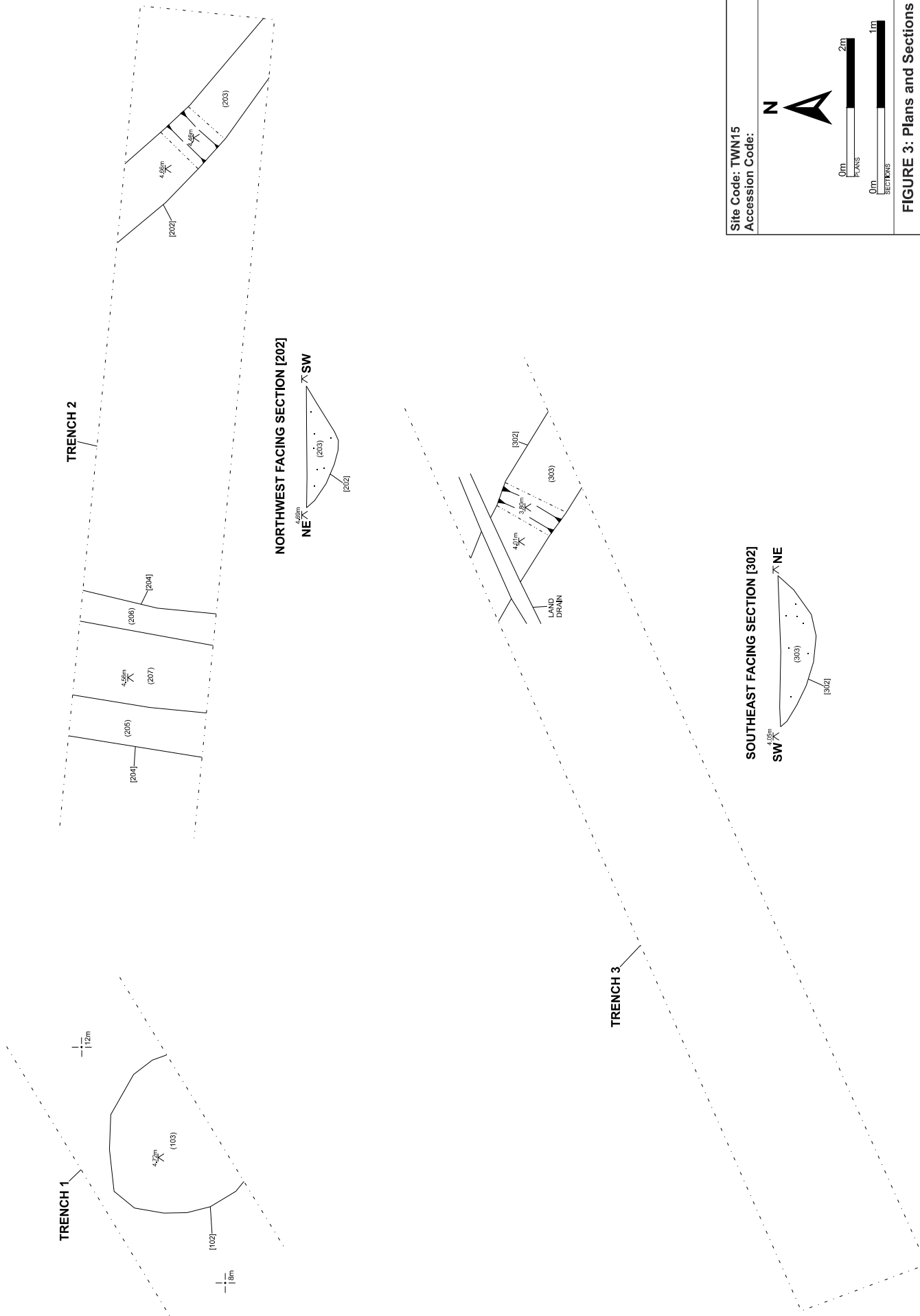
in detail of: **CaldecotteGroup**

SITE AREA: 1.669 hectares/4.124 acres

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Site Code: TWN15
Accession Code:

FIGURE 2: Trench Locations



Site Code: TWN15
 Accession Code:

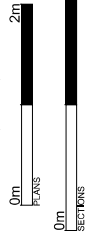


FIGURE 3: Plans and Sections