

**CHILTON FOLIAT RECREATION GROUND (SITE A),
CHILTON FOLIAT,
WILTSHIRE**

NGR:SU 3223 7049

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Report No. 985
July 2014



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES

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Quality Assurance

This Document has been compiled and authorised in accordance with
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SUMMARY

Between the 9th and 13th of June 2014 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at Chilton Foliat recreation ground, Chilton Foliat, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 3223 7049). The works were commissioned by Fowler Architecture and Planning Limited.

The project comprised the excavation and recording of three trenches within a proposed development area.

The evaluation identified a number of archaeologically significant features in the form of pits, a linear and several uncharacterised features. The earliest dated phase of activity was in the form of a possible pit/linear terminus which contained multiple sherds of Medieval pottery in Trench 3. The presence of this activity is consistent with other data recorded on the HER, which suggests Medieval agricultural or backland activity.

Evidence for Post-medieval activity was present in Trench 3 in the form of linear [304]. The location of this find near the eastern boundary of the site is consistent with the suggestion in the desk-based assessment that agricultural and backland activity may be present in this area.

A total of three features, [108], [211] and [213], were all filled with a similar mortar-like material, which may be footings/activities associated with the agricultural building dating between 1882 and 1925 or the recreation ground structure present between 1980 and 2006. No artefactual evidence was present within any of the fills associated with these features. However, as all the features cut through the subsoil, a Post-medieval/Modern date is suggested for this activity.

The three remaining features, [106], [205] and [209] are undated, although pits [106] and [209] were both sealed by subsoil, which would suggest some degree of antiquity for these features.

The evaluation therefore identified the presence of probable agricultural or backland activity dating from at least the Medieval period onwards.

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.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken between the 9th and 13th of June 2014 on land at Chilton Foliat recreation ground, Chilton Foliat, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 3223 7049). The works were commissioned by Fowler Architecture and Planning Limited.
- 1.2 The project was conducted in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2014); IfA *Standards and Guidance on Archaeological Evaluation* (2008); *Standards for Field Evaluation and Assessment in Wiltshire* (CAS 1995) and *MoRPHE*, issued by English Heritage (2006).
- 1.3 This report constitutes the results of the archaeological works.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 It is proposed to develop land at Chilton Foliat recreation ground. The planned development consists of the construction of 9 dwellings and associated access areas.
- 2.2 The site is currently a single large field used as a recreation ground. The field is predominantly turfed with dispersed trees and shrubs in areas of rough scrub along the eastern and western borders. Within the scrub along the eastern edge of the site are a number of pieces of play equipment and a fenced off area containing a skate park. The site is bounded to the north by modern residential housing, to the west by the B4001, to the south by the Wheatsheaf pub and residential housing, and to the east by an agricultural field. The site slopes slightly to the southwest.
- 2.3 The underlying geology of the site comprised *Seaford Chalk Formation* these were beneath superficial deposits of Head (gravel, sand, silt and clay) (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).
- 2.4 An archaeological desk-based assessment (Foundations Archaeology, 2014) was carried out for the site area. The assessment highlighted that the site was of overall low archaeological potential for the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Roman and Saxon periods.
- 2.5 The site had a moderate potential for Medieval activity, which, it was suggested, may comprise either backland activity, or agricultural activity. Agricultural remains dating to this period may be considered to be of relatively low significance, although backland activity may be considered of at least moderate significance. During an archaeological evaluation at “The Weirs” to the south of the site a sherd of Medieval pottery was recovered, which highlighted this potential.

- 2.6 The site was found to contain high potential for Post-medieval activity in the form of boundary divisions and backland activity. These were visible on historic aerial photographs and it was noted that they may be visible on the ground by the area of scrub on the eastern side of the site. An agricultural building dating between 1882 and 1925 and a recreation ground structure present between 1980 and 2006 were noted as having been present on the site. This activity was considered to be of generally low-moderate significance.
- 2.7 The site therefore contained the potential for the preservation of archaeological deposits, predominately dating to the Medieval and Post-medieval periods. This did not prejudice the evaluation against finds and features relating to other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the evaluation were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the location, date, character, extent, condition, significance and quality 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 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 The WSI required the excavation of two 30m by 1.6m trenches and one 40m by 1.6m trench within the development area. Due to on-site constraints, it was

necessary to slightly amend the location of the 40m trench. All amendments to trench location were agreed with the archaeological representative of Wiltshire Council.

- 4.2 Non-significant overburden was removed, under constant archaeological supervision, to the top of the archaeological deposits or the underlying natural deposits, whichever was encountered first. This was achieved through the use of a JCB type mechanical excavator, equipped with a toothless grading bucket. Thereafter, cleaning and excavation was conducted by hand. Spoil tips were scanned for finds.
- 4.3 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 A detailed description of all contexts identified during the course of the project is presented in Appendix 1. A summary discussion is given below.
- 5.2 **Trench 1** was 30m in length. It was orientated approximately northwest-southeast and was excavated down to the natural deposits of coarse gravel in a mid orange clay matrix, at a depth of 0.36m (104.96m OD) at the northwest end and a depth of 1.15m (103.74m OD) at the southeast end of the trench from the Modern ground surface.
 - 5.2.1 The stratigraphy of the site varied along the length of the trench. In the northwest third of the trench, the natural deposits were sealed by an interface layer of mid brown-orange clay-silt with gravel (105), up to 0.07m thick. This was sealed by a dark grey-brown humic silt topsoil and turf (101), up to 0.29m thick. In the central third of the trench, the natural was sealed by light orange-brown clay-silt subsoil (102), up to 0.16m deep, which contained occasional charcoal flecks. This was sealed by (101), up to 0.25m thick. In the southeast third of the trench, the natural was sealed by a colluvial layer of light-mid grey clay-silt (104), up to 0.32m thick, which contained moderate amounts of flint and small limestone fragments. This was sealed by a colluvial layer of light-mid grey-brown clay-silt (103), up to 0.25m thick, which contained infrequent charcoal flecks and moderate amounts of small limestone fragments and flint. This layer was sealed by subsoil (102), up to 0.20m thick, which was in turn sealed by topsoil (101), up to 0.38m thick.
 - 5.2.2 An undated sub-circular pit [106] and a large deep cut [108] were identified within this trench (Figure 3).
 - 5.2.3 The pit was cut through interface (105) and the natural deposits and was sealed by subsoil (102). It was 0.92m in length, 0.90m in width and 0.17m in depth and contained a mid grey-brown friable clay-silt (107). Occasional charcoal flecks and occasional limestone fragments and flint were present within the fill, but no artefactual material was recovered.

- 5.2.4 Feature [108] was cut through subsoil (102) and the natural deposits and sealed by topsoil (101). The cut was at least 1.6m in length, 3.60m in width, and at least 1.3m in depth, but the base of the feature could not be reached due to health and safety concerns. The feature contained a compact pale grey-yellow coarse clay-sand (109). Some large nodules of flint and limestone were present within the fill but, as no charcoal or artefactual material was recovered, this feature could not be dated. However, as it cut through the subsoil it was unlikely to be of any significant antiquity.
- 5.3 **Trench 2** was 30m in length. It was orientated approximately north northwest-south southeast and was excavated down to the natural deposits of coarse gravel in mid orange sandy clay matrix, at a depth of between 0.54-0.91m (104.41m to 104.69m OD) from the Modern ground surface. In the southern 23m of the trench, the natural deposits were sealed by an intermittent interface layer (203), up to 0.12m thick. In the northern 7m of the trench, the natural deposits were sealed by a colluvial layer of grey plastic clay (204), up to 0.25m thick, which contained occasional charcoal flecks. Layers (203) and (204) were sealed by a mid-brown plastic silty clay subsoil (202), up to 0.28m thick. This was in turn sealed by dark brown friable clay-silt topsoil (201), up to 0.40m thick.
- 5.3.1 A Modern pit and undated pit [205] and [209] and two undated possible footings [211] and [213] were identified within this trench (Figure 4).
- 5.3.2 Possible pit [205] was cut through the subsoil (202), interface (203) and the natural deposits and was sealed by the topsoil (201). The feature was only partly contained within the trench but was at least 0.70m in length, 2.0m in width and 0.65m in depth. It contained primary fill (206), a grey plastic clay, up to 0.23m thick, which included abundant flint and occasional Modern CBM. The secondary fill (207) was orange-brown plastic clay, up to 0.20m thick, which contained frequent flint gravel. The tertiary fill (208) was a dark brown loose clay-silt, up to 0.15m thick, with frequent flint pieces.
- 5.3.3 Undated pit [209] cut through interface (203) and the natural deposits and was sealed by subsoil (202). It was at least 0.94m in length, 0.67m in width and 0.24m in depth. It contained mid-dark brown friable clay silt (210), with occasional stones and flint but no artefactual evidence.
- 5.3.4 The two undated possible footings, [211] and [213] were cut through subsoil (202), interface (203) and into the natural deposits and were sealed by the topsoil. Feature [211] was at least 1.12m in length, 0.54m in width, and at least 0.32 in depth, but the full extent could not be reached due to the compaction and depth of the fill. It contained a pale grey-yellow compact sandy clay (212), with frequent flint and limestone inclusions. Feature [213] was at least 0.57m in length, 0.70m in width and 0.36m in depth. Fill (214) was visually identical to (212), neither fill yielded artefactual evidence but, as both features cut through the subsoil they are unlikely to be of any significant antiquity.

- 5.4 **Trench 3** was 40m in length. It was orientated approximately north northeast-south southwest and was excavated down to the natural deposits of coarse gravel in mid orange sandy clay matrix, at a depth of 0.63-0.80m (105.45m to 105.79m OD) from the Modern ground surface. The natural deposits were sealed by light-mid brown plastic sandy clay (303), up to 0.26m thick, which contained frequent flint. This was sealed by light brown plastic clay subsoil (302), up to 0.27m thick, which also contained frequent flint. The subsoil was then sealed by brown friable clay silt topsoil (301), up to 0.27m thick.
- 5.4.1 A Post-medieval linear feature [304] and a possible pit/linear terminus of Medieval date [306] were identified in this trench (Figure 5).
- 5.4.2 The linear [304] was cut through subsoil (302). It was at least 7m in length, at least 0.74m in width and 0.31m in depth. It contained brown plastic sandy clay (305), with occasional brick and CBM fragments throughout and one large piece of Post-medieval glazed brick.
- 5.4.3 The possible pit/linear terminus was cut into the natural deposits and was sealed by (303). It was only partly contained within the trench and appeared to continue beyond the eastern limit of excavation. It was at least 0.36m in length, 0.89m in width and 0.11m in depth. It contained dark grey plastic silty clay (307), with frequent flint and occasional charcoal flecks along with four sherds of southeast Wiltshire ware dating from the mid 13th to early 14th century.

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The evaluation identified a number of archaeologically significant features in the form of pits, a linear and several uncharacterised features. The earliest dated phase of activity was in the form of a possible pit/linear terminus which contained multiple sherds of Medieval pottery in Trench 3. The presence of this activity is consistent with other data recorded on the HER, which suggests Medieval agricultural or backland activity.
- 6.2 Evidence for Post-medieval activity was present in Trench 3 in the form of linear [304]. The location of this find near the eastern boundary of the site is consistent with the suggestion in the desk-based assessment that agricultural and backland activity may be present in this area.
- 6.3 A total of three features, [108], [211] and [213], were all filled with a similar mortar-like material, which may be footings/activities associated with the agricultural building dating between 1882 and 1925 or the recreation ground structure present between 1980 and 2006. No artefactual evidence was present within any of the fills associated with these features, however, as all the features cut through the subsoil, a Post-medieval/Modern date is suggested for this activity.

- 6.4 The three remaining features, [106], [205] and [209] are undated, although pits [106] and [209] were both sealed by subsoil, which would suggest some antiquity to these features.
- 6.5 The evaluation therefore identified the presence of probable agricultural or backland activity from at least the Medieval period onwards.
- 6.6 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited with Devizes Museum in due course. 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 Fowler Architecture and Planning Limited and Rachel Foster of Wiltshire Council and for their help during the course of the project.

Chilton Foliat Recreation Ground, Chilton Foliat, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation

APPENDIX 1: The Stratigraphic Data

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				Trench 1: 30m by 1.6m; natural (at average 104.345m OD) = Coarse gravel in mid orange clay matrix		
101	na	na	0.38	Topsoil; dark grey-brown friable humic clay-silt with occasional stone and flint inclusions	102	na
102	na	na	0.20	Subsoil; light orange-brown friable clay-silt with occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small stones and flint	103	101
103	na	na	0.25	Upper colluvium; light-mid brown-grey friable clay-silt with occasional charcoal flecks, moderate-frequent stones and flint	104	102
104	na	na	0.32	Lower colluvium; light-mid grey friable clay silt with moderate amounts of stone and flint	105	103
105	na	na	0.07	Interface; as natural but slightly browner and siltier	nat.	104
[106]	0.92	0.90	0.17	Cut for undated circular pit	105	107
107	0.92	0.90	0.17	Only fill of undated circular pit [106], mid grey-brown friable clay-silt with infrequent charcoal flecks and occasional stones and flint	[106]	104
[108]	1.60+	3.60	1.30+	Cut for deep, straight sided feature. Contained 109. Undated.	102	109
109	1.60+	3.60	1.30+	Fill feature [108], pale grey-yellow compact coarse clay-sand with frequent stone and flint inclusions, as well as pea grit amongst the stones	[108]	101
				Trench 2: 30m by 1.6m; natural (at average 104.423m OD) = Coarse gravel in mid orange sandy clay matrix		
201	na	na	0.40	Topsoil; dark brown friable clay-silt with frequent stones and flint at base of layer	202	na
202	na	na	0.28	Subsoil; mid brown plastic silty clay	203, 204	201
203	na	na	0.12	Interface between natural and 202; intermittent (only present at S 23m of trench),	nat.	202
204	na	na	0.25	Colluvium (only present in N 7m of trench); grey plastic clay with occasional flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	nat.	202
[205]	0.70+	2.00	0.65	Medium, flat based cut. Contained 206, 207, 208. Undated.	202	206
206	0.70+	2.00	0.23	Primary fill [205], grey plastic clay with abundant flint and occasional CBM.	[205]	207
207	0.70+	1.35	0.20	Secondary fill [205], orange-brown hard plastic clay with abundant flint inclusions.	206	208
208	0.70+	1.13	0.15	Tertiary fill [205], dark brown loose clay-silt with frequent flint inclusions.	207	201
[209]	0.94+	0.67	0.24	Shallow, elongated oval cut. Contained 210. Undated.	203	210
210	0.94+	0.67	0.24	Only fill [209], mid-dark brown friable clay-silt with occasional stones and flint.	[209]	202
[211]	1.12+	0.64	0.32+	Elongated, rectangular, steep sided cut. Contained 212. Undated.	202	212
212	1.12+	0.40	0.32+	Fill [211], pale grey-yellow very compact sandy clay with frequent stones and flint.	[211]	201
[213]	0.57+	0.70	0.36	Square, steep sided cut. Contained 214. Undated.	202	214
214	0.57+	0.70	0.36	Fill [213], pale grey-yellow very compact sandy clay with frequent stones and flint.	[213]	201
				Trench 3: 40m by 1.6m; natural (at average 105.450m OD) = Coarse gravel in mid orange sandy clay matrix		
301	na	na	0.27	Topsoil; brown friable clay silt	302	na

Chilton Foliat Recreation Ground, Chilton Foliat, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation

302	na	na	0.27	Subsoil; light brown plastic clay with frequent flint inclusions	303	301
303	na	na	0.26	Colluvium; mid brown plastic sandy clay with frequent flint inclusions	nat.	302
[304]	2.20+	0.74+	0.31	Post-medieval linear cut, orientated N-S. Contained 305.	302	305
305	2.20+	0.74+	0.31	Only fill [304], brown plastic sandy clay. Contained occasional brick and CBM fragments and 1 glazed brick.	[304]	301
[306]	0.36+	0.89	0.11	Cut for shallow Medieval feature, partially obscured by E edge of trench. Contained 307.	nat.	307
307	0.36	0.89	0.11	Only fill of [306], dark grey plastic silty clay. Contained frequent flint, occasional charcoal and four sherds of southeast Wiltshire ware dating from the mid 13th to early 14th century.	Nat.	303



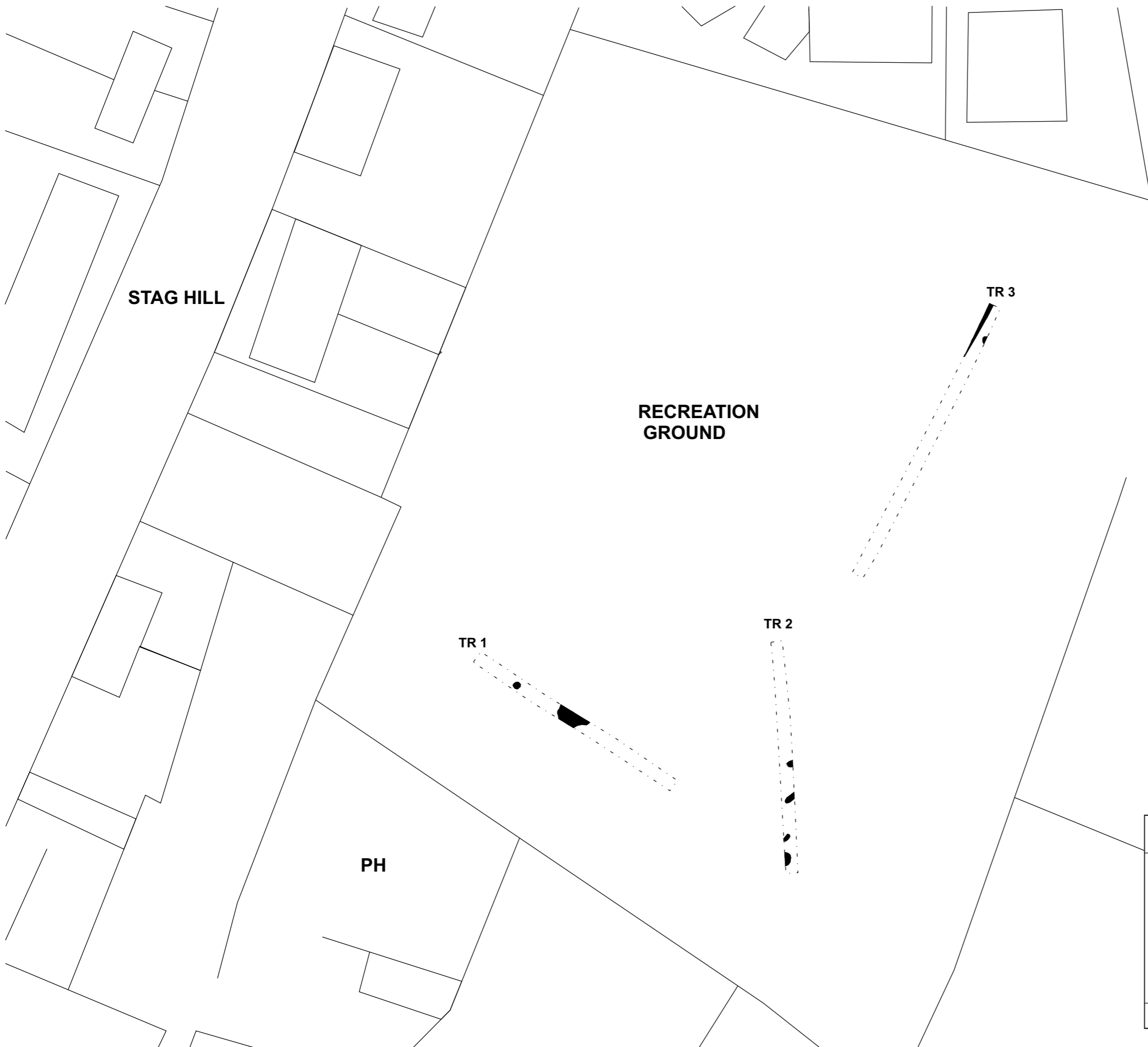
© Crown Copyright
 Reproduced under licence 100015722
Site Code: CFW14
Accession Code:

N

0m 1km

1:25,000@A4

FIGURE 1: Site Location



Site Code: CFW14
Accession Code:

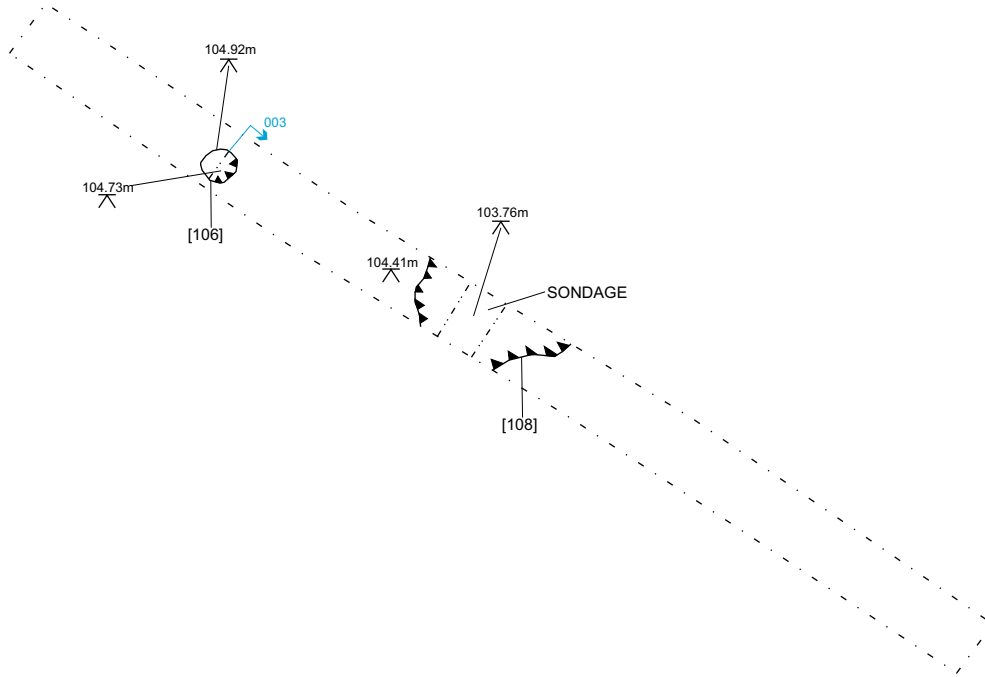
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0m 20m

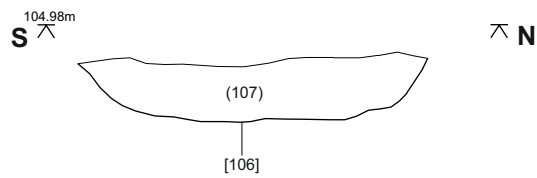
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FIGURE 2: Trench Location Plan

TRENCH 1

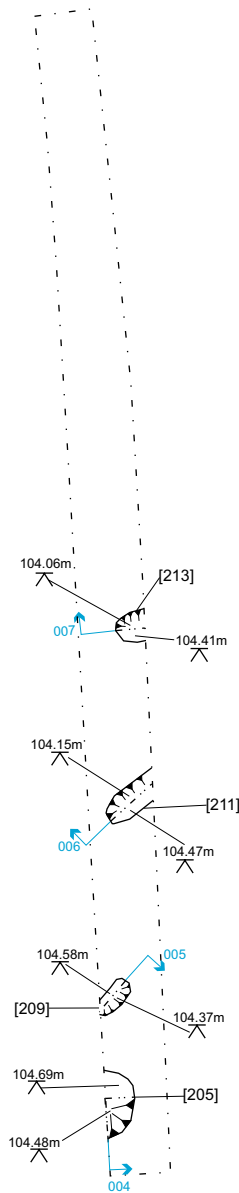


003: EAST FACING SECTION [106]

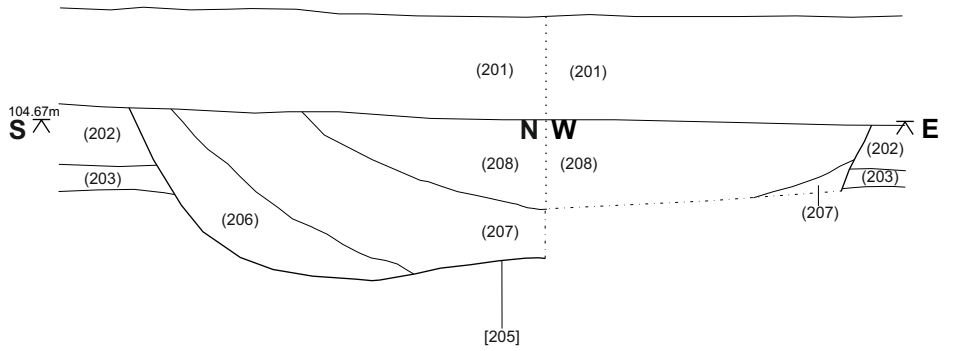


Site Code: CFW14				
Accession Code:				
N 				
PLAN				
0m				10m
1:200@A4				
SECTION				
0m				1m
1:20@A4				
FIGURE 3: Trench 1 Plan and Section				

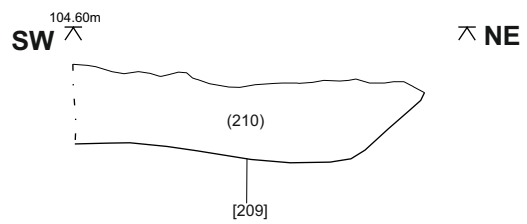
TRENCH 2



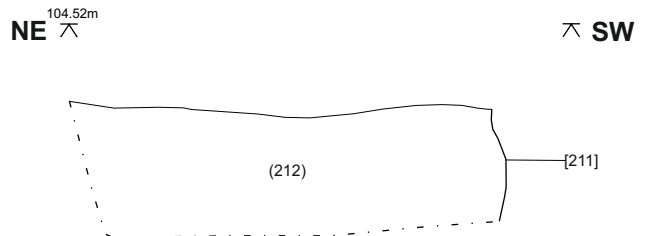
004: EAST FACING/SOUTH FACING SECTION [205]



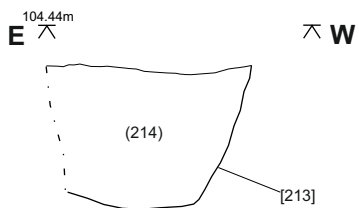
005: SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [209]



006: NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [211]

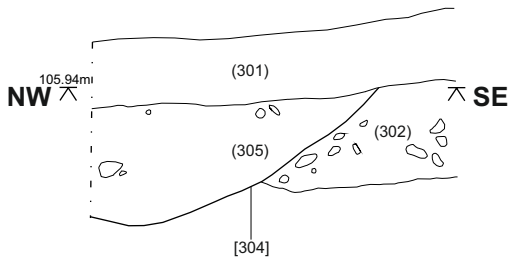


007: NORTH FACING SECTION [213]

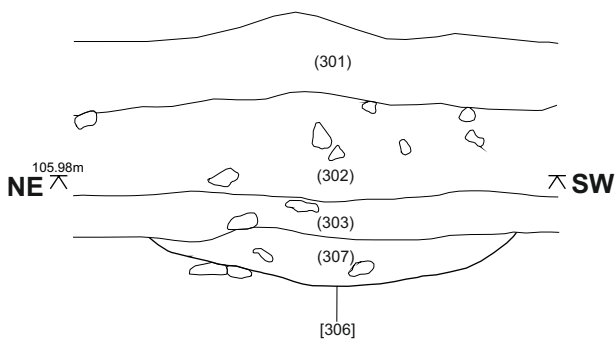


Site Code: CFW14				
Accession Code:				
PLAN				
1:200@A4				
SECTIONS				
1:20@A4				
FIGURE 4: Trench 2 Plan and Sections				

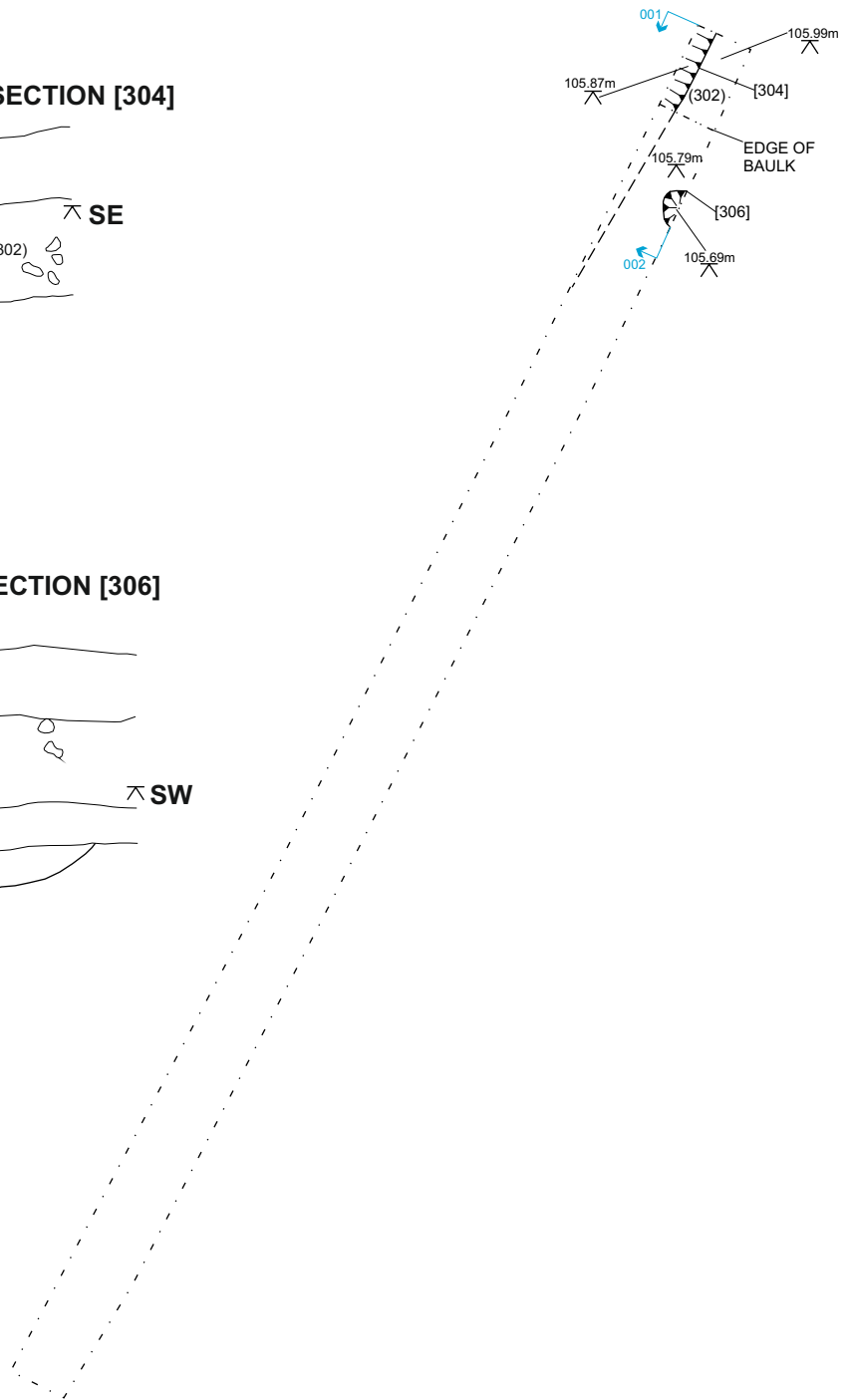
001: SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION [304]



002: NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [306]



TRENCH 3



<p>Site Code: CFW14 Accession Code:</p>	
<p>N</p>	
<p>PLAN</p> <p>0m 10m 1:200@A4</p>	
<p>SECTIONS</p> <p>0m 1m 1:20@A4</p>	
<p>FIGURE 5: Trench 3 Plan and Sections</p>	