

**LAND AT BODWEN,
LANIVET,
CORNWALL.**

NGR: 202784.60447

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Assurance

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SUMMARY

In June and July 2015 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at Bodwen, Lanivet, Cornwall (NGR: 202784.60447). The project was commissioned by Elgin Energy Ltd.

The project comprised the excavation and recording of 17 trenches across a proposed development area, in order to test and refine the results of a previous geophysical survey.

The evaluation revealed the presence of 15 ditches, one hedgerow base and one possible posthole. The features were fairly dispersed and mostly represented agricultural boundaries, which correlated moderately well with the results of the geophysical survey.

Due to a general paucity of artefacts the identified features remained poorly dated; however, the presence of a small amount of Medieval and Post-medieval pottery, as well as a single struck flint, indicated that some of the features were possibly of some antiquity.

Features and/or natural substrates, which contained peat, were identified at the south of the site, within Trenches 11, 14 and 15. These deposits were not associated with any archaeological finds and remained undated; the presence of peat and its research potential should, however, be noted. It is recommended that any intrusive activity with the potential to impact upon peat deposits should be subject to an appropriate programme of investigation and sampling.

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.

Magnetic Survey

Geophysical survey technique used to define areas of past human activity by mapping spatial variations and contrast in the magnetic properties of soil, subsoil and bedrock.

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.

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 *circa* 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 between AD 43 and AD 410.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology in June and July 2015 on land at Bodwen, Lanivet, Cornwall (NGR: 202784.60447). The project was commissioned by Elgin Energy Ltd.
- 1.2 The project was undertaken in accordance with the general principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2012) and complied with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Foundations Archaeology, 2015) and the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists - CIfA, 2014). Foundations Archaeology is a CIfA registered archaeological organisation and is certified to BS EN ISO 9001: 2008 for quality assurance in the provision of archaeological services.
- 1.3 The site comprises agricultural fields to the west of Bodwen, as shown in Figures 1 and 2. The underlying geology comprises *St Austell Intrusion* - granite (BGS online viewer).

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission (**PA13/03710**) was initially refused, but has been granted on appeal, for the development of the site as a photovoltaic (solar) farm. Due to the perceived archaeological potential of the site, a programme of archaeological investigation was required prior to the commencement of development.
- 2.2 The site has been the subject of an historic environment desk-based assessment (Foundations 2012), which highlighted that the site was generally of low archaeological potential for the recovery of finds and features from the Prehistoric period. The potential for finds and features of Early Medieval and Medieval date was assessed as moderate. Should these be of an agricultural nature they would be considered of low significance but should they be associated with the tinning industry, they would be considered of high significance. The potential for the recovery of finds and features of Post-medieval date was assessed as moderate. Should these be of an agricultural nature they would be considered of low significance but should they be associated with the tinning or China Clay industry, they would be considered of moderate-high significance.
- 2.3 The assessment also noted that analysis of deposits to the north and northwest of the site has revealed buried layers of peat, which could be of high palaeoenvironmental potential and that these deposits may extend into the site area; the potential importance of such deposits cannot be overstated.
- 2.4 Geophysical magnetic survey of the site identified a number of features and anomalies which appeared to predominantly relate to Early Medieval,

Medieval and Post-medieval agricultural activity, including evidence for ridge and furrow ploughing.

- 2.5 The site therefore contained the potential for archaeological features and deposits, predominately associated with the Early Medieval and Medieval periods. This did not prejudice the evaluation against finds and features relating to other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains; as well as to make recommendations for management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary. In turn, this will allow reasonable planning/mitigation decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the development.
- 3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
- To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.
 - To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains.
 - To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features encountered.
 - To assess the impact of previous land use on the site.
 - To establish the potential for significant environmental deposits.
 - To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable that archaeological implications of the proposed development to be assessed.
 - To inform formulation of a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains.
 - To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Cornwall Council HER.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 A total of 17 trenches were excavated across the site, as shown in Figure 2. The trenches were located to test previously identified geophysical anomalies, as well as to provide a representative sample of the site area.
- 4.2 Topsoil and non-significant overburden was removed to the top of the archaeological deposits or natural, whichever was encountered first. This was achieved by use of a mechanical excavator, equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All mechanical excavation was conducted under the direction of a suitably experienced archaeologist. Thereafter, all additional excavation was conducted manually.
- 4.3 Where necessary, trenches were trowel cleaned in order to adequately define possible deposits.
- 4.4 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

5 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- 5.1 A full stratigraphic description of all contexts identified in the course of the project is detailed in Appendix 1 and a note on the recovered pottery is given in Appendix 2. A summary discussion is given below.
- 5.2 The stratigraphic sequence within the site comprised natural substrates intermittently overlaid by subsoil, both of which were sealed by topsoil.
- 5.3 There was no direct evidence for plough damage; although, trenches containing natural deposits directly overlaid by topsoil are likely to have suffered a degree of plough truncation.
- 5.4 There was a moderate correlation between the geophysical survey results and the features present within the evaluation trenches. Some features predicted by the survey were not present, whilst a number of trenches contained features which were not predicted by the survey.
- 5.5 The evaluation revealed the presence of **15 ditches** [104], [505], [507], [509], [604], [707], [1003], [1005], [1007], [1106], [1109], [1112], [1402], [1404], [1502], **one hedgerow base** (708) and **one possible posthole** [1113].
- 5.6 The features were generally dispersed and there was no evidence for any foci of activity within the site. It is therefore most likely that the majority of these features represented agricultural field boundaries, comprising a mixture of ditches and former hedgerows.
- 5.7 There was a general paucity of finds. A single Prehistoric struck flint was recovered from the fill of ditch [507]; although, this most likely represented

residual material present within a later ditch fill. A small assemblage of Medieval and Post-medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil in Trenches 13 and 14. The majority of features therefore remained undated; however, the presence of Prehistoric, Medieval and Post-medieval artefacts indicated that some of the features were possibly of some antiquity.

- 5.8 Features and/or natural substrates, which contained peat, were identified at the south of the site, within Trenches 11, 14 and 15; although these deposits were not associated with archaeological finds and remained undated.
- 5.9 The evaluation has indicated that the site is generally of low archaeological potential, although peat deposits present within the site may have significant palaeoenvironmental potential. It is recommended that any intrusive activity with the potential to impact upon these peat deposits should be subject to an appropriate programme of investigation and sampling.
- 5.10 The archive is currently located at the offices of Foundations Archaeology but will be deposited with the Royal Cornwall Museum in due course.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. Unpublished.

Foundations Archaeology. 2012. *Land at Bodwen, Innes Downs, Lanivet, Cornwall: Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment*. Unpublished.

Foundations Archaeology. 2015. *Land at Bodwen, Innes Downs, Lanivet, Cornwall: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Evaluation*. Unpublished.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Phil Copleston of Cornwall Council, along with Colm Murphy and Ronan Clarke of Elgin Energy Ltd. for their assistance during the course of this project.

Land at Bodwen, Lanivet, Cornwall: Archaeological Evaluation

APPENDIX 1: Stratigraphic Data

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				TRENCH 1; 50m by 1.8m. Natural at average 130.38m OD.		
100	na	na	0.35	Topsoil; grey brown silt.	101	na
101	na	na	?	Natural; dark red to yellow brown sand clay.	?	100
102				void		
103	3.3	0.7	0.16	Fill of ditch [104]; dark grey brown silt clay, which contained occasional stones.	[104]	100
[104]	3.3	0.7	0.16	East-northeast - west-southwest aligned ditch with a shallow, flat profile. Contained fill 103.	101	103
				TRENCH 2; 50m by 1.8m. Natural at average 138.65m OD.		
200				void		
201	na	na	0.25	Topsoil; dark grey brown silt clay.	202	na
202	na	na	?	Natural; brown yellow clay and granite.	?	201
				No archaeological features were present within the trench.		
				TRENCH 3; 50m by 1.8m. Natural at average 136.13m OD.		
300				void		
301	na	na	0.25	Topsoil; dark grey brown silt clay.	302	na
302	na	na	0.13	Subsoil; dark brown plastic silt clay. Occurs intermittently within the trench.	303	301
303	na	na	?	Natural; grey brown clay granite.	?	302
				No archaeological features were present within the trench.		
				TRENCH 4; 50m by 1.8m. Natural at average 134.31m OD.		
400	na	na	0.4	Topsoil; grey brown silt.	401	na
401	na	na	?	Natural; yellow brown sand clay.	?	400
				No archaeological features were present within the trench.		

Land at Bodwen, Lanivet, Cornwall: Archaeological Evaluation

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				TRENCH 5; 50m by 1.8m. Natural at average 125.92m OD.		
500				void		
501	na	na	0.26	Topsoil; dark grey brown silt clay.	502	na
502	na	na	0.15	Subsoil; grey brown silt clay.	503	501
503	na	na	?	Natural; brown yellow clay and granite.	?	502
504	2.8	0.72	0.16	Fill of ditch [505]; dark grey brown silt clay.	[505]	501
[505]	2.8	0.72	0.16	North - south aligned ditch with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 504.	502	504
506	2.8	1.1	0.1	Fill of ditch [507]; dark grey brown silt clay. Contained 1 X Prehistoric struck flint.	[507]	501
[507]	2.8	1.1	0.1	North - south aligned ditch with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 506.	502	506
				Related to ditch [509].		
508	2.7	1.08	0.09	Fill of ditch [509]; mottled dark brown yellow silt clay.	[509]	501
[509]	2.7	1.08	0.09	North - south aligned ditch with a shallow, flat profile. Contained fill 508.	502	508
				TRENCH 6; 50m by 2.15m. Natural at average 125.62m OD.		
600	na	na	0.3	Topsoil; grey brown silt.	601	na
601	na	na	?	Natural; dark red to yellow brown sand clay.	?	600
602				void		
603	3	2.3	0.14	Fill of ditch [604]; dark brown sand silt.	[604]	600
[604]	3	2.3	0.14	Northwest - southeast aligned ditch with a wide, shallow profile. Contained fill 603.	601	603
				TRENCH 7; 50m by 1.8m. Natural at average 126.69m OD.		
700				void		
701	na	na	0.3	Topsoil; dark grey brown silt clay.	704	na
702	na	na	0.19	Subsoil; grey brown silt clay.	703	704

Land at Bodwen, Lanivet, Cornwall: Archaeological Evaluation

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
703	na	na	?	Natural; brown yellow clay and granite.	?	702
704	?	2.4	0.1	Lens of very dark brown silt clay, which was visible in section, present beneath topsoil 701 and above subsoil 702. Associated with hedgerow 708.	702	701
705	2.9	1.38	0.23	Fill of ditch [707]; dark grey brown silt clay.	706	701
706	?	0.87	0.11	Fill of ditch [707]; variable grey brown silt clay.	[707]	705
[707]	2.9	1.38	0.31	Northeast - southwest aligned ditch with a rounded profile. Contained fills 706 and 705.	702	706
708	1.8	4	0.1	Area of heavily root-disturbed natural and redeposited subsoil; probable base of northeast - southwest aligned hedgerow. Recorded in plan only. Associated with lens 704.	702	701
				TRENCH 8 ; 50m by 1.8m. Natural at average 130.65m OD.		
800	na	na	0.4	Topsoil; grey brown silt.	801	na
801	na	na	?	Natural; yellow brown sand clay.	?	800
				No archaeological features were present within the trench.		
				TRENCH 9 ; 50m by 1.8m. Natural at average 124.23m OD.		
900	na	na	0.3	Topsoil; grey brown silt.	901	na
901	na	na	?	Natural; dark red brown clay sand.	?	900
				No archaeological features were present within the trench.		
				TRENCH 10 ; 50m by 2.15m. Natural at average 122.92m OD.		
1000	na	na	0.4	Topsoil; grey brown silt.	1001	na
1001	na	na	?	Natural; dark red brown clay sand.	?	1000
1002	2.9	0.82	0.12	Fill of ditch [1003]; grey brown silt.	[1003]	1000
[1003]	2.9	0.82	0.12	North-northwest - south-southeast aligned ditch with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 1002.	1001	1002

Land at Bodwen, Lanivet, Cornwall: Archaeological Evaluation

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
1004	3	0.85	0.14	Fill of ditch [1005]; grey brown silt.	[1005]	1000
[1005]	3	0.85	0.14	North-northwest - south-southeast aligned ditch with a shallow, rounded profile.	1001	1004
				Related to ditch [1003]. Contained fill 1004.		
1006	2.9	1.3	0.34	Fill of ditch [1007]; grey brown silt.	[1007]	1000
[1007]	2.9	1.3	0.34	Northwest - southeast aligned ditch with a rounded profile. Contained fill 1006.	1001	1006
				TRENCH 11 ; 50m by 1.8m. Natural at average 121.12m OD.		
1100				void		
1101	na	na	0.24	Topsoil; dark grey brown silt clay.	1102	na
1102	na	na	0.12	Subsoil; brown yellow silt clay.	1103	1101
1103	na	na	?	Natural; brown yellow clay and granite.	?	1102
1104	2.7	0.72	0.09	Fill of ditch [1106]; dark grey brown silt clay.	1105	1101
1105	2.7	0.9	0.17	Fill of ditch [1106]; dark brown silt clay peat, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	1107	1104
[1106]	2.7	0.9	0.26	West-northwest - east-southeast aligned ditch with sloping sides and a flat base. Contained fills 1104, 1105 and 1107.	1102	1107
1107	?	0.7	0.03	Fill of ditch [1106]; grey plastic clay.	[1106]	1105
1108	1.95	1.5	0.28	Fill of ditch [1109]; dark grey brown silt clay, which contained rare charcoal flecks.	[1109]	1101
[1109]	1.95	1.5	0.28	Northwest - southeast aligned ditch with a wide, shallow profile. Contained fill 1108.	1102	1108
1110	0.13	0.46	0.17	Fill of feature [1113]; dark grey brown black silt clay.	[1113]	?
1111	1.8	1.77	0.15	Fill of ditch [1112]; grey brown silt.	[1112]	1101
[1112]	1.8	1.77	0.15	Northwest - southeast aligned ditch with a wide, shallow profile. Contained fill 1111.	1102	1111

Land at Bodwen, Lanivet, Cornwall: Archaeological Evaluation

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
[1113]	0.13	0.46	0.17	Cut feature with a sloping profile. Present at the northeast edge of ditch [1109].	1102	1110
				Contained fill 1110. Uncertain if this feature represented part of a pit or posthole,		
				or a natural feature, such as an animal burrow/root hole.		
				TRENCH 12; 50m by 1.8m. Natural at average 129.95m OD.		
1200	na	na	0.5	Topsoil; grey brown silt.	1201	na
1201	na	na	?	Natural; yellow brown clay sand granite.	?	1200
				No archaeological features were present within the trench.		
				TRENCH 13; 50m by 1.8m. Natural at average 137.56m OD.		
1300	na	na	0.6	Topsoil; grey brown silt. Contained 1 X Medieval pottery sherd and	1301	na
				1 X Post-medieval pottery sherd.		
1301	na	na	?	Natural; dark red brown clay sand.	?	1300
				No archaeological features were present within the trench.		
				TRENCH 14; 50m by 1.8m. Natural at average 123.34m OD.		
1400	na	na	0.5	Topsoil; grey brown silt. Contained 1 X Medieval pottery sherd.	1401	na
1401	na	na	?	Natural; yellow brown clay sand with patches of peat.	?	1400
[1402]	2.9	1.2	0.39	Northwest - southeast aligned ditch with a rounded profile. Contained fill 1403.	1401	1403
1403	2.9	1.2	0.39	Fill of ditch [1402]; dark brown peat silt.	[1402]	1400
[1404]	2.6	1.35	0.37	Northwest - southeast aligned ditch with a rounded profile. Contained fill 1405.	1401	1405
1405	2.6	1.35	0.37	Fill of ditch [1404]; dark brown peat silt.	[1404]	1400
				TRENCH 15; 50m by 1.8m. Natural at average 123.83m OD.		
1500	na	na	0.45	Topsoil; grey brown silt.	1501	na

Land at Bodwen, Lanivet, Cornwall: Archaeological Evaluation

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
1501	na	na	?	Natural; yellow brown silt clay with patches of peat.	?	1500
[1502]	2.8	1.7	0.4	West-northwest - east-southeast aligned ditch with a sloping profile. Contained	1501	1503
				fills 1503 - 1507.		
1503	?	0.45	0.08	Fill of ditch [1502]; black brown clay silt.	[1502]	1504
1504	?	0.58	0.03	Fill of ditch [1502]; lens of black brown peat clay silt.	1503	1505
1505	?	0.8	0.06	Fill of ditch [1502]; layer of light grey brown plastic clay silt.	1504	1506
1506	?	0.93	0.03	Fill of ditch [1502]; lens of black brown peat clay silt.	1505	1507
1507	2.8	1.7	0.21	Fill of ditch [1502]; black brown clay silt.	1506	1500
				TRENCH 16; 50m by 1.8m. Natural at average 139.12m OD.		
1600	na	na	0.4	Topsoil; dark grey brown silt clay.	1601	na
1601	na	na	?	Natural; yellow brown clay sand.	?	1600
				No archaeological features were present within the trench.		
				TRENCH 17; 50m by 1.8m. Natural at average 135.11m OD.		
1700	na	na	0.4	Topsoil; dark grey brown silt clay.	1701	na
1701	na	na	?	Natural; yellow brown clay sand.	?	1700
				No archaeological features were present within the trench.		

APPENDIX 2: The Pottery

By Roy King

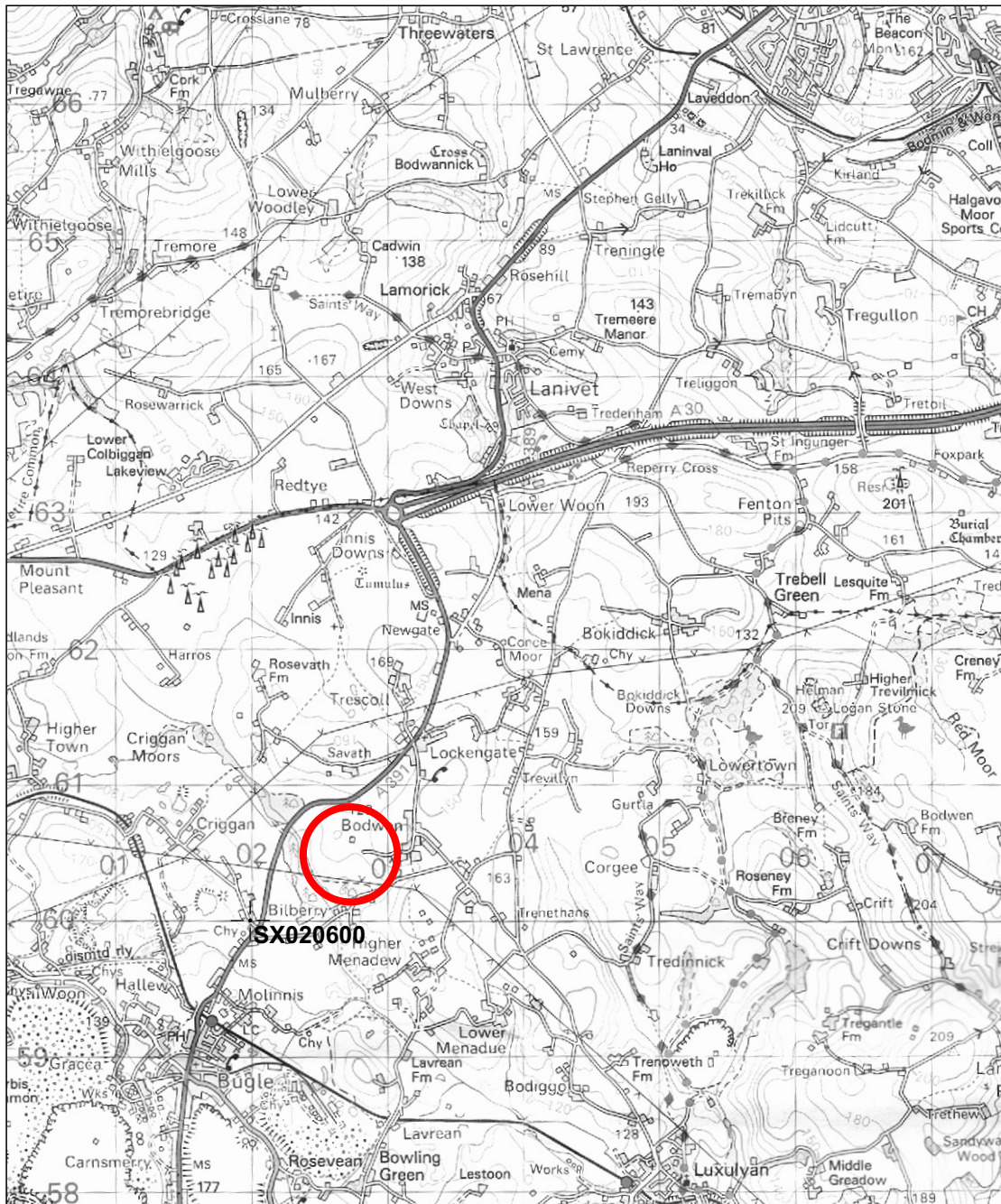
CXT 1300 = 1 internal glazed base sherd (17g), probable Lostwithiel ware; L13-15th century, 1 internal glazed body sherd (65g) Red Glazed Earthenware; 18th-19th century.

CXT 1400 = 1 unglazed body sherd (22g) probable Lostwithiel ware; L13th-15th century.

The two Medieval sherds show a good visual match to Lostwithiel wares and form part of an industry well-represented in central and eastern Cornwall. Given the proximity of the site to Lostwithiel, it is likely that the pottery originated from the kilns there. Dating for this material may be as early as AD 1200, when a potter is recorded working at Lostwithiel presumably, but not necessarily, working in ceramics (Douch 1969).

Reference:

Douch, HL. 1969. 'Cornish earthenware potters', *J. Roy. Inst. Cornwall*, 6 Pt. I (n.ser.): 33-64.



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Site Code: LBC15
Accession Code:

FIGURE 1: Site Location



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Site Code: LBC15

Accession Code:



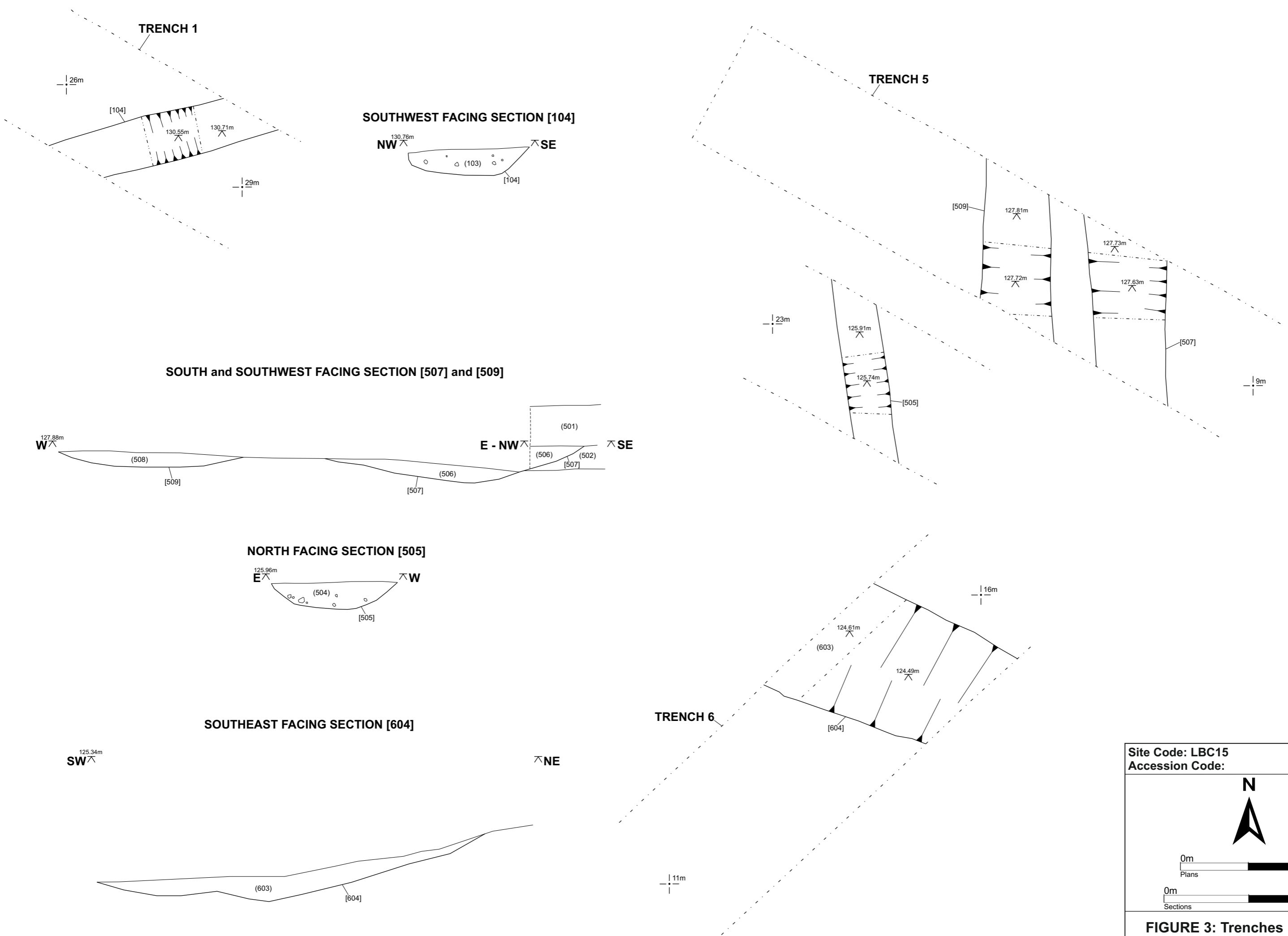
TRENCH/FEATURE

2

TRENCH NUMBER



FIGURE 2: Site Plan



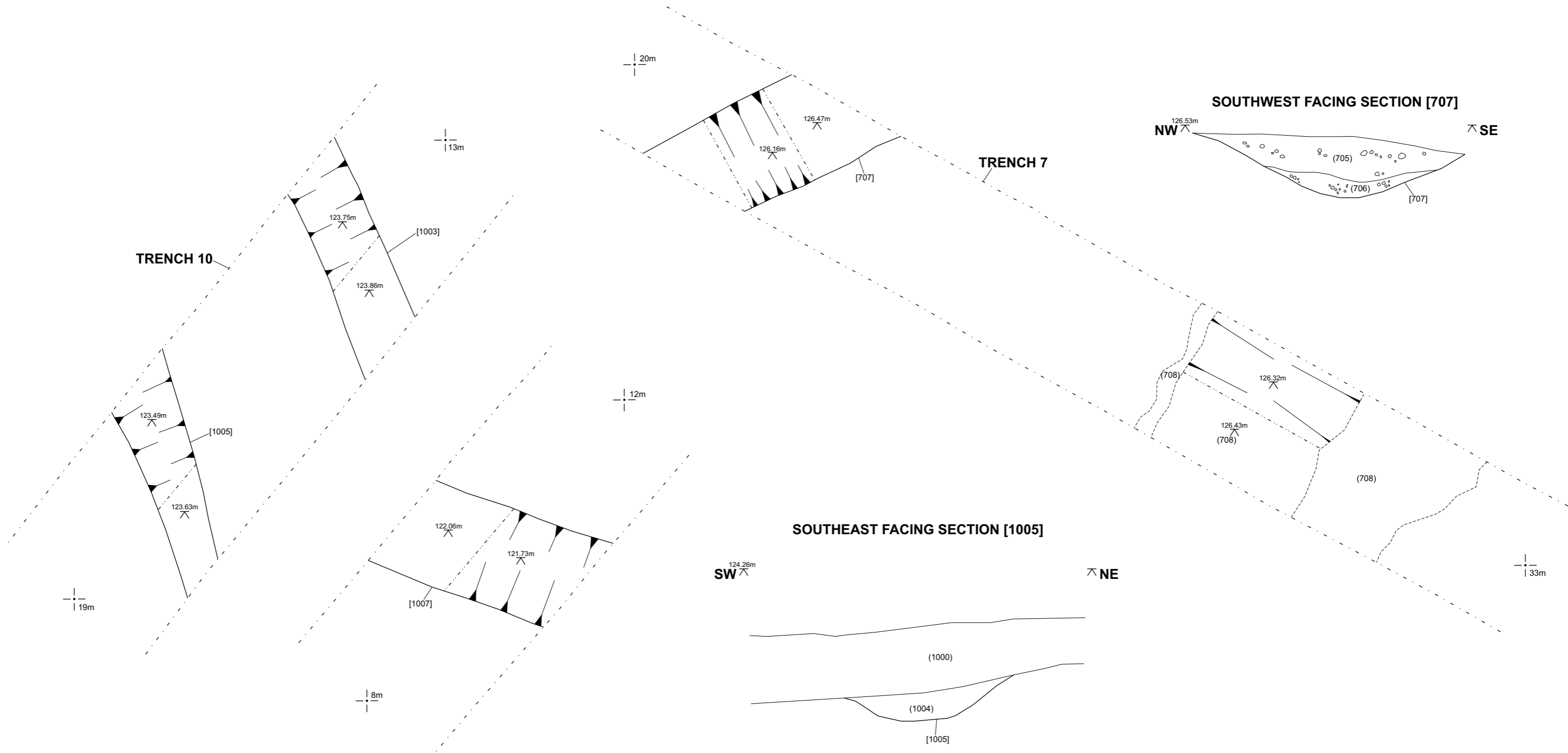
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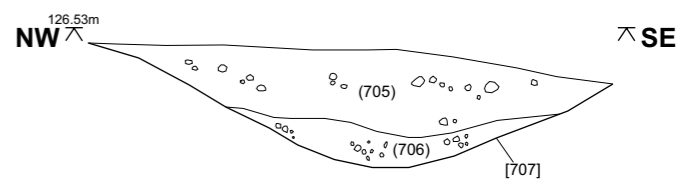
0m 2m
Plans

0m 1m
Sections

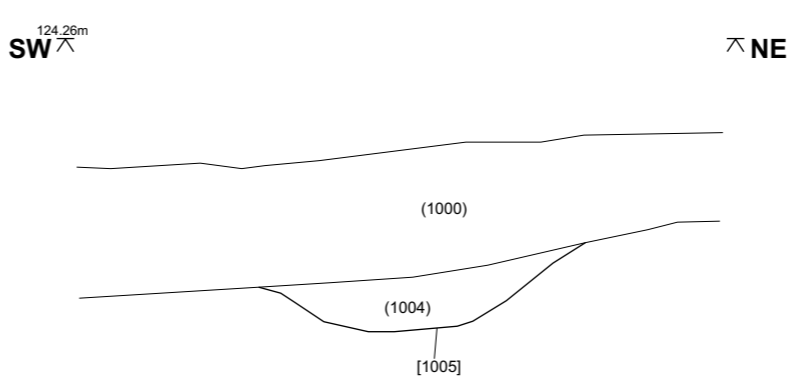
**FIGURE 3: Trenches 1, 5 and 6:
Plans and Sections**



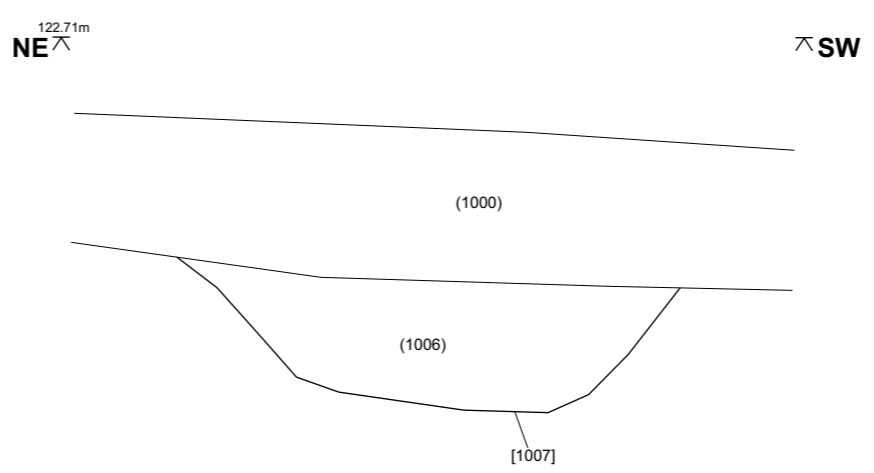
SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION [707]



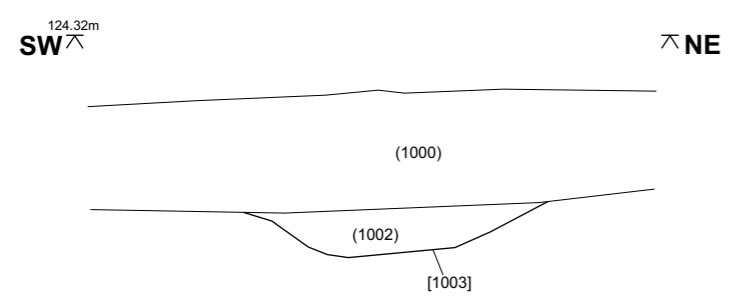
SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [1005]



NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [1007]

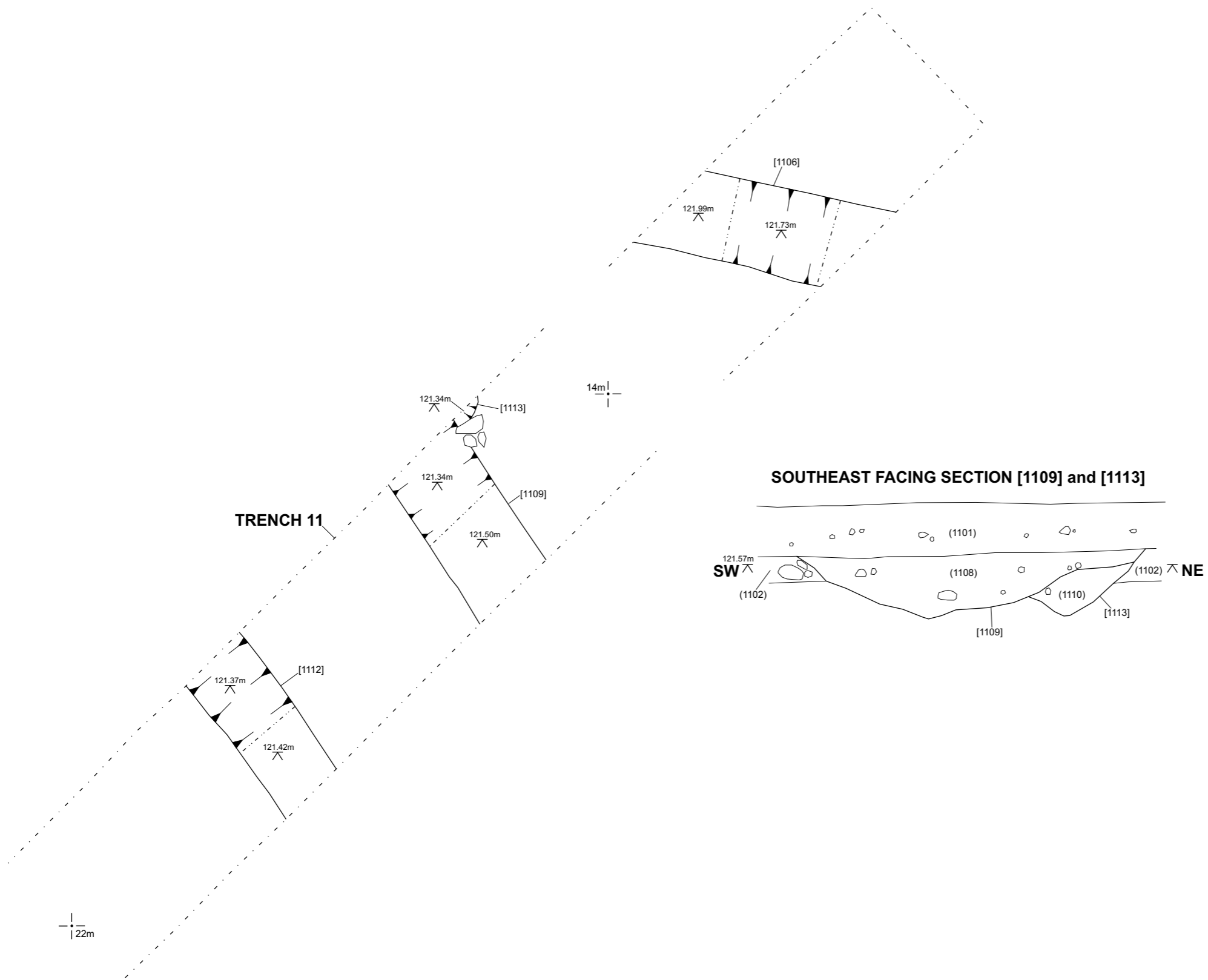


SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [1003]

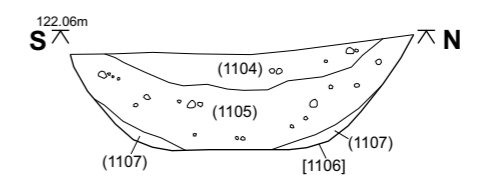


Site Code: LBC15
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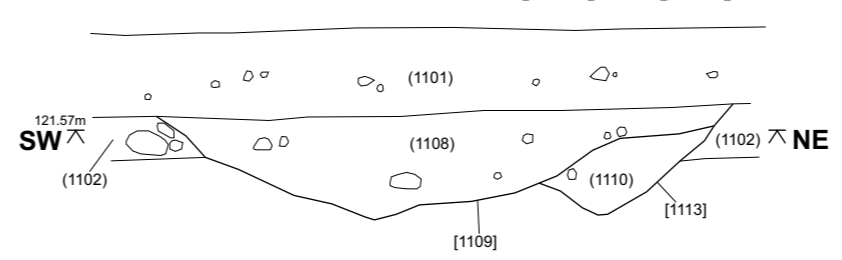
**FIGURE 4: Trenches 7 and 10:
Plans and Sections**



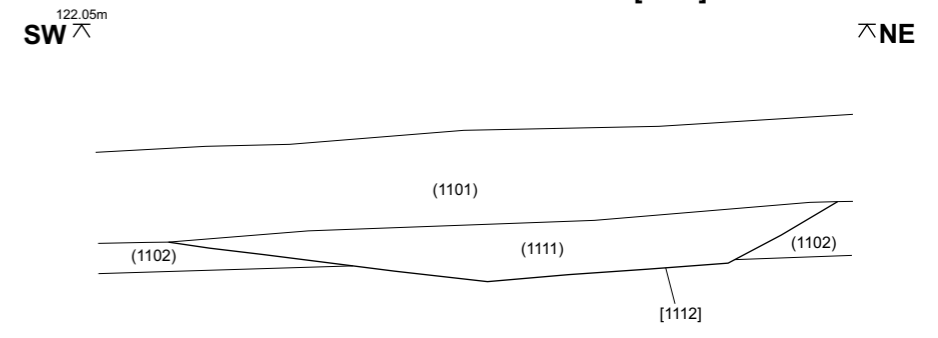
EAST FACING SECTION [1106]



SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [1109] and [1113]



SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [1112]



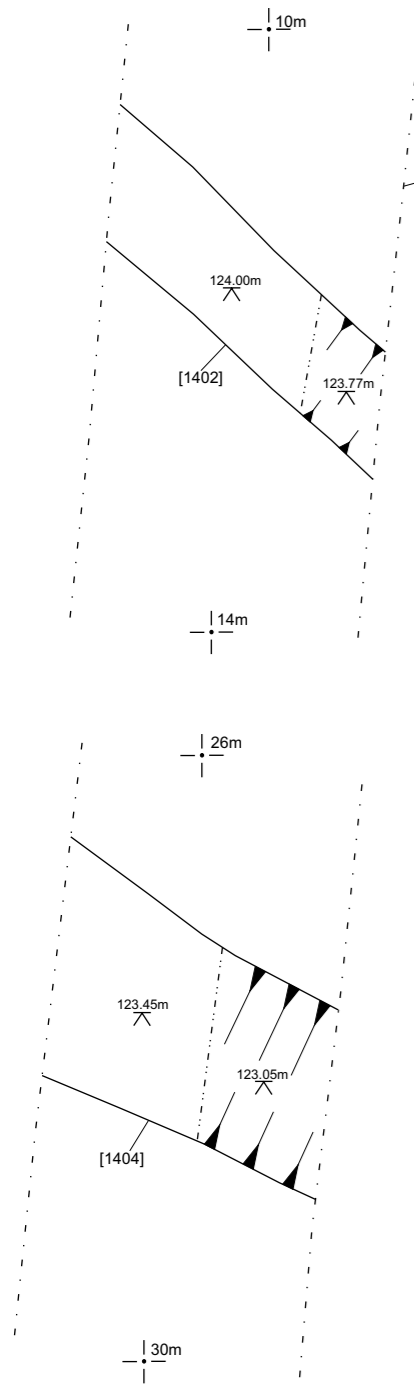
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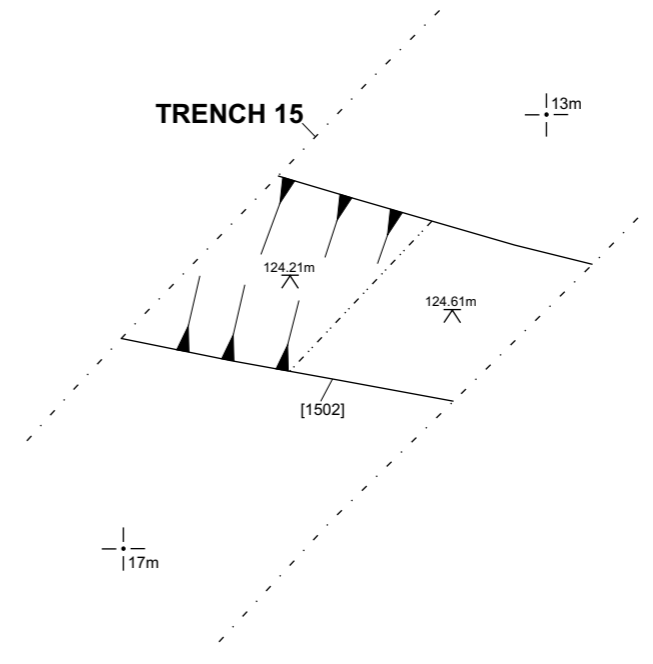
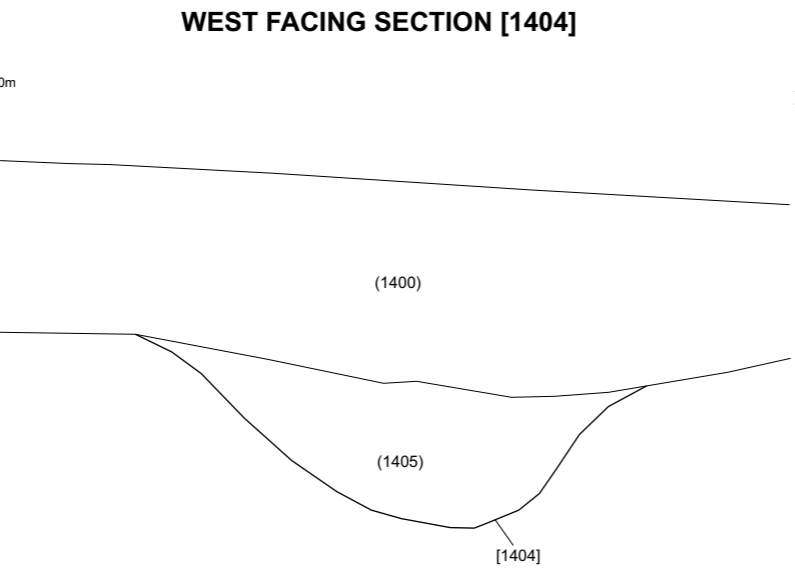
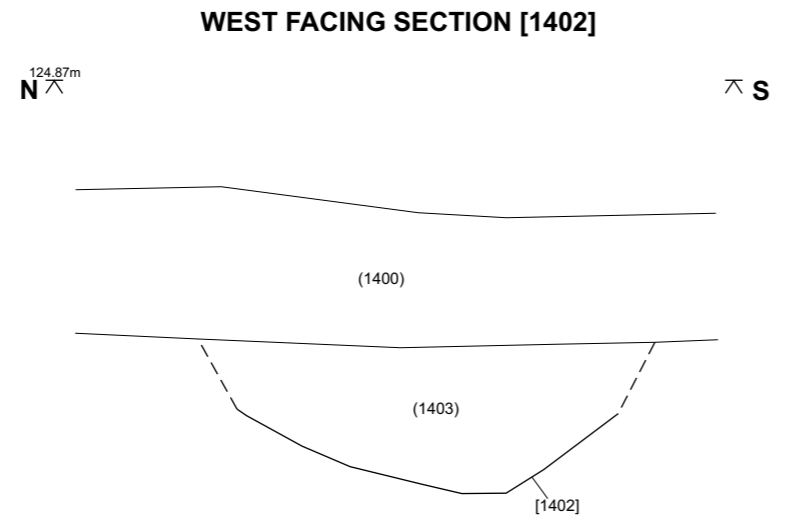
0m 2m
 Plans

0m 1m
 Sections

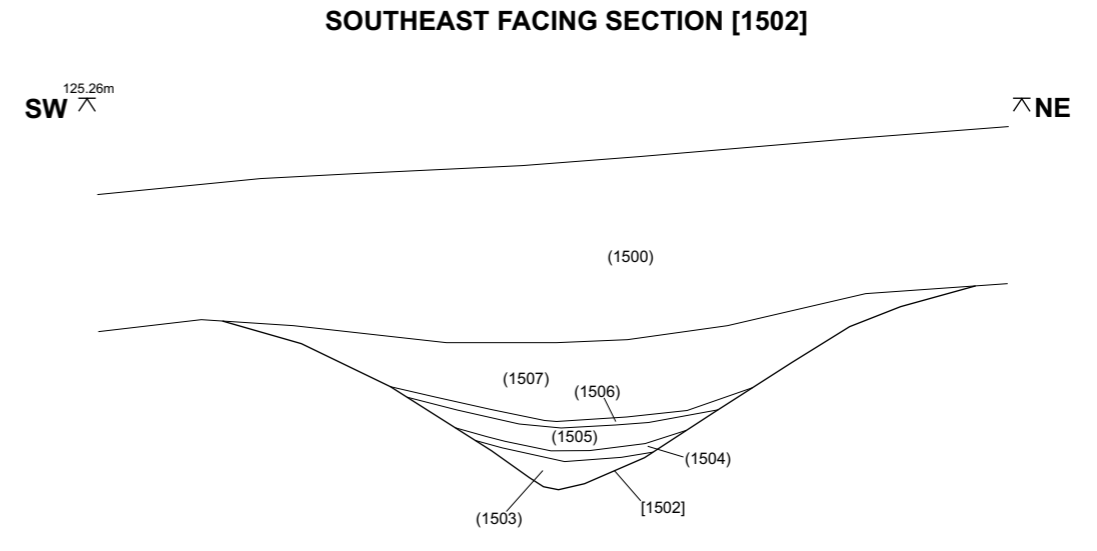
**FIGURE 5: Trench 11:
 Plan and Sections**



TRENCH 14



TRENCH 15



Site Code: LBC15
 Accession Code:

N

0m ————— 2m
Plans

0m ————— 1m
Sections

**FIGURE 6: Trenches 14 and 15:
Plans and Sections**