

**88 TO 89 HIGH STREET,
CRICKLADE,
WILTSHIRE.**

NGR: 410146.193746 (centred)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

October 2016
Report No. 1159



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES

1st Floor, Shaftesbury Centre, Percy Street, Swindon, Wilts. SN2 2AZ Tel: 01793 525993 Email: admin@foundations.co.uk

**88 TO 89 HIGH STREET,
CRICKLADE,
WILTSHIRE.**

NGR: 410146.193746 (centred)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

October 2016
Report No. 1159

Quality Assurance

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

Author: A. Hood BSc MCIfA

Date: 20th October 2016

Approved: R. King BA MCIfA

QA Checked: D. King BA MCIfA

This report has been compiled with all reasonable skill care and attention to detail within the terms of the project as specified by the client and within the general terms and conditions of Archaeological Management Services Ltd trading as Foundations Archaeology but no explicit warranty is provided for information and opinions stated. AMS Ltd accepts no responsibility whatsoever to third parties to whom this report or any part thereof is made known. Any such party relies on this report at their own risk. Copyright of this document is retained by AMS Ltd, but unlimited licence to reproduce it in whole or part is granted to the client and/or their agents and/or assignees on payment of invoice.

CONTENTS

Summary

Glossary of Archaeological Terms and Abbreviations

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND
- 3 AIMS
- 4 METHODOLOGY
- 5 RESULTS
- 6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION
- 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY
- 8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Stratigraphic Data

Appendix 2: The Pottery

Appendix 3: The Bone

FIGURE LIST

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

SUMMARY

Between 12th and 13th September 2016 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 88 to 89 High Street, Cricklade, Wiltshire (NGR: 410146.193746 - centred). The project was commissioned by the Baker Trust.

The works comprised the excavation and recording of two evaluation trenches within a proposed development area.

The evaluation has identified the presence of probable Roman features within the site, in the form of a pit and a possible posthole. A sequence of stratigraphically early clay soil layers may also have been of Roman date; although, this remained highly tentative.

Evidence for Medieval activity comprised at least two ditches and a fairly substantial probable pit. The ditches almost certainly represented settlement backland boundaries and the pit was most likely to be part of a refuse and/or cess pit and, as such, represented further backland activity.

Due to space constraints and the presence of a live gas pipe, the excavated trenches comprised a relatively small sample of the site. The general stratigraphic sequence and soil depths were, however, relatively uniform across the investigated areas. It is therefore likely that other stratified Roman and Medieval remains are present elsewhere within the site.

The finds assemblage comprised 25 sherds of Roman pottery, 29 sherds of Medieval pottery, a piece of possible Roman CBM, animal bone and a fragment of Post-medieval ceramic smoking pipe.

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 12th and 13th September 2016 on land to the rear of 88 to 89 High Street, Cricklade, Wiltshire (NGR: 410146.193746 - centred). The project was commissioned by the Baker Trust.
- 1.2 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2016), *Standards for Field Evaluation and Assessment in Wiltshire* (CAS 1995) and ClfA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014).
- 1.3 The code of conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) was adhered to throughout.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Pre-application advice, requiring an archaeological evaluation, has been provided with regard to the construction of three new dwellings fronting onto Horse Fair Lane, at the eastern end of the existing gardens to the rear of 88 to 89 High Street, Cricklade.
- 2.2 There is archaeological evidence for a Roman settlement at Cricklade, although its full extent is not known. Cricklade was also an important local centre in the late Saxon period and large parts of the town are designated as a Scheduled Monument (1004679). The site itself is located outside the scheduled area but within the area of known Roman and Saxon settlement, evidence for which has been identified in the immediate vicinity. No archaeological finds or features are currently known from within the site; although both 88 and 89 High Street are Grade II listed buildings.
- 2.3 The site therefore contained the potential for significant archaeological features and deposits, predominantly associated with the Roman, Saxon and Medieval periods. This did not prejudice the works against the recovery of finds or features associated with 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. 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 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 and 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.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The WSI stipulated that three trenches were to be excavated within the proposed development area. Trench 1 was re-located and slightly shortened due to space constraints. Trench 2 was only partly excavated and Trench 3 remained unexcavated, due to the presence of a live gas pipe. The archaeological representative of Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service was advised of the reduced trenching programme. The final trench locations are shown in Figure 2.
- 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 360° 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 the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.
- 4.3.1 Due to the occurrence of deep sections and flooding at the base of the trenches, some features were either partially excavated or 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, along with a report on the recovered pottery in Appendix 2 and a list of recovered bone in Appendix 3.
- 5.2 The natural substrates, which comprised yellow beige plastic clay, were present at an average depth of 1.50m (81.54m AOD) below the Modern ground surface.

5.3 Trench 1

- 5.3.1 Pit [113] and possible posthole [115] were stratigraphically early and contained similar fills, one of which (114) contained 17 sherds of relatively unabraded 2nd century Roman pottery, which were derived from at least two vessels. It is therefore likely that pit [113] and possible posthole [115] represent features related to Roman settlement.
- 5.3.2 Ditch [112] was fairly shallow and appeared to be the base of a later re-cut of a relatively substantial ditched boundary, represented by probable ditch fills (104), (111) and (120). Pottery recovered from the fill of ditch [112] suggested that this boundary was most likely to be Medieval in date.
- 5.3.3 Features [113], [115] and [112]/(104)/(111)/(120) were all earlier than layer (103), which contained a small amount of Medieval pottery.
- 5.3.4 Ditch [117] was stratigraphically later than layer (103) and contained 15 sherds of Medieval pottery, as well as a single residual Roman sherd. It is most likely that this feature represented part of a later Medieval or Post-medieval ditched boundary. Possible small pit (109) remained unexcavated; although, in plan, it appeared to be later than ditch fill (118).
- 5.3.5 The latest fill (119) of ditch [117] was sealed by layer (102), which contained a fragment of ceramic smoking pipe and probably represented Post-medieval or later overburden. Layer (102) was subsequently sealed by topsoil (101).

5.4 Trench 2

- 5.4.1 Clay soil layers (207), (206) and (203) were the earliest deposits within the trench. They remained poorly dated; however, a single sherd of earlier Roman pottery was present within layer (206).
- 5.4.2 Pit [208] was cut through the earlier clay layers and into the natural substrates. The feature was only partially excavated, although it contained Medieval, as well as residual Roman pottery, which suggested that it was Medieval in date.
- 5.4.3 Layer (209) comprised a dark brown humic clay silt and probably represented a buried former topsoil/turf horizon, which was situated above clay soil layers (207)/(206)/(203) and pit [208].
- 5.4.4 Layer (202) was later than buried topsoil/turf horizon (209) and most likely represented Post-medieval or later overburden. A single sherd of residual Roman pottery was recovered from this layer. Layer (202) was subsequently sealed by topsoil (201).
- 5.5 The finds assemblage comprised 25 sherds of Roman pottery, 29 sherds of Medieval pottery, a piece of possible Roman CBM, animal bone and a fragment of Post-medieval ceramic smoking pipe.

6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The evaluation has identified the presence of probable Roman features within the site, in the form of a pit [113] and a possible posthole [115]. A sequence of stratigraphically early clay soil layers (207)/(206)/(203) may also have been of Roman date; although, this remained highly tentative.
- 6.2 Evidence for Medieval activity comprised at least two ditches [112]/[117] and a fairly substantial probable pit [208]. The ditches almost certainly represented settlement backland boundaries, although, it should be noted that they were not in exact alignment with either the High Street or Horse Fair Lane. The pit was only partially present within the investigation area; however, it was most likely to be part of a refuse and/or cess pit and, as such, represented further backland activity.
- 6.3 Due to space constraints and the presence of a live gas pipe the excavated trenches comprised a relatively small sample of the site. The general stratigraphic sequence and soil depths were, however, relatively uniform across the investigated areas. It is therefore likely that other stratified Roman and Medieval remains are present elsewhere within the site. The limited trenching has indicated that the top of the archaeologically sensitive horizon is likely to be present at approximately 0.90m to 1.10m below Modern ground.
- 6.4 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited within 12 months with Swindon Museum. 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

CAS. 1995. *Standards for Field Evaluation and Assessment in Wiltshire*. Unpublished. (County Archaeology Service).

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

Foundations Archaeology. 2016. *88 to 89 High Street, Cricklade, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*. Unpublished.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger of Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service, Keith Farmer and Matt Edwards of Cotswold Architects 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: 7.40m by 1.80m. Natural (81.62m AOD) = yellow beige plastic clay.		
101	7.4	1.8	0.41	Topsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained frequent Modern detritus.	102	n/a
102	7.4	1.8	0.46	Layer of dark grey brown clay silt, which contained occasional CBM fragments,	103, 119	101
				occasional to frequent stones and a fragment of ceramic smoking pipe.		
103	7.4	1.8	0.46	Layer of variable beige brown clay, which contained occasional stones.	105, 114,	102, [117]
					104, 120	
104	1.45	1.02	?	Probable ditch fill; north-northeast - south-southwest aligned linear deposit	natural	103
				of grey brown plastic clay silt, which contained occasional charcoal flecks and		
				occasional stones. Not excavated due to flooding.		
105	1.45	1.35	0.35	Fill of ditch [112]; dark grey brown to black plastic clay silt, which contained frequent	[112]	103
				charcoal flecks.		
106				void - patch of remnant 103		
107				void - equivalent to 114		
108	1.43	1.72	0.33	Fill of ditch [117]; grey brown plastic clay silt, which contained occasional stones.	118	119
109	0.6	0.23	?	Possible small linear pit or scoop; deposit of dark brown gritty plastic clay,	118	?
				which contained occasional charcoal flecks and occasional stones. Not excavated.		
110	0.33	0.17	?	Fill of pit [113]; dark brown black plastic clay silt, which contained frequent	[113]	[117]
				charcoal flecks. Recorded in plan only.		
111	1.45	0.47	0.2	Possible ditch fill; north-northeast - south-southwest aligned linear deposit of light to	natural	[112]
				mid grey plastic clay silt, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.		
				Similar to fill 120. Only partially excavated due to flooding.		
[112]	1.45	1.36	0.35	North-northeast - south-southwest aligned ditch with a shallow, sloping profile.	111	105
				Contained fill 105. Probable re-cut of earlier ditch represented by fill 111.		

88 to 89 High Street, Cricklade, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	LATER THAN	EARLIER THAN
[113]	0.8	0.6	0.32	Probable pit with a steep, rounded profile. Contained fills 110 and 114.	natural	114, 110
114	0.8	0.6	0.32	Fill of pit [113]; mixed grey brown beige clay silt, which contained occasional charcoal flecks. Similar to fill 116.	[113]	103
[115]	?	0.2	0.24	Possible posthole with near vertical sides and a flat base. Contained fill 116.	natural	116
				Visible in section only.		
116	?	0.2	0.24	Fill of posthole [115]; mottled grey brown beige clay silt, which contained occasional charcoal flecks. Similar to fill 114.	[115]	[117]
[117]	1.43	2.3	0.52	North-northeast - south-southwest aligned ditch with a wide rounded profile.	103, 116	118
				Contained fills 118, 108 and 119.		
118	1.4	1.16	0.19	Fill of ditch [117]; variable dark grey brown to black plastic clay silt, which contained frequent charcoal flecks.	[117]	108, 109
119	?	1.63	0.2	Fill of ditch [117]; variable grey beige clay, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	108	102
120	1.45	0.65	?	Possible ditch fill; north-northeast - south-southwest aligned linear deposit of light to mid grey plastic clay silt, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	natural	103
				Similar to fill 111. Not excavated due to flooding.		
				Trench 2: 4.0m by 2.60m. Natural (81.49m AOD) = yellow beige plastic clay.		
201	4	2.6	0.5	Topsoil; dark brown clay silt, which contained frequent Modern detritus.	202	n/a
202	4	2.6	0.55	Layer of variable grey brown gritty clay, which contained occasional limestones.	209	201
203	?	0.5	0.18	Layer of grey plastic clay, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	206	[208]
204	1.45	1.35	0.54	Fill of feature [208]; mottled grey beige clay, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	[208]	209, 205

88 to 89 High Street, Cricklade, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	LATER THAN	EARLIER THAN
205	0.8	0.65	?	Fill of Modern cut; loose Modern fill - re-deposited topsoil, which contained Modern artefacts (not retained).	204	?
206	1.45	0.9	0.25	Layer of yellow beige plastic clay, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	207	203
207	0.5	0.45	0.19	Layer of mixed beige and grey clay, which contained occasional stones and occasional charcoal flecks.	natural	206
[208]	1.45	1.35	0.54	Cut feature, probably a pit, with a near vertical western edge. Contained fill 204.	203	204
				Not fully excavated.		
209	4	2.6	0.13	Layer of dark brown humic clay silt. Possible buried turf/topsoil horizon.	204	202

APPENDIX 2: The Pottery

By Jane Timby

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The archaeological evaluation resulted in the recovery of a small assemblage of 54 sherds, weighing approximately 773 g, accompanied by a single fragment of ceramic building material (CBM).
- 1.2 The pottery includes sherds of early-mid Roman and Medieval date (late 12th-13th century).
- 1.3 The assemblage was sorted into fabrics based on the colour, texture and nature of the inclusions present in the clay. Known named or traded Roman wares were coded using the National Roman fabric reference system (Tomber and Dore 1998) (codes in brackets). Other wares, generally of local origin, were coded more generically according to colour and main characteristics.
- 1.4 Pottery was recovered from seven defined contexts with a few additional pieces from the spoil of Trench 2.
- 1.5 The condition of the material is quite good with an overall average sherd size of 14.3 g. The sherds are in moderately fresh condition and there are a few instances of multiple sherds from single vessels.
- 1.6 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. Freshly broken sherds were counted as single pieces. The resulting data is summarised in Table 1.

2 Roman

- 2.1 Just under half the assemblage, 46% by sherd count, dates to the Roman period.
- 2.2 Recognisable wares include four pieces of grog-tempered Savernake ware (SAV GT) and 12 sherds of Dorset black burnished ware (DOR BB1). The latter all come from a single jar decorated with an acute lattice from cxt (114). Other wares comprise one sherd of Severn-Valley type oxidised ware (SVW OX), grey sandy wares and oxidised wares probably from local kilns.
- 2.3 Roman pottery was associated with six contexts, but only three (114, 202 and 206) contained exclusively Roman pieces; the other three appear to be of Medieval date and the pottery thus re-deposited.
- 2.4 Where datable the sherds appear to be of 2nd-century date.

3 Medieval

- 3.1 The remaining 54% of the pottery dates to the Medieval period and is almost exclusively composed of limestone gravel-tempered wares from the Minety kilns, North Wiltshire.
- 3.2 Most of the wares are plain jars or cooking pots with simple, sharply everted, flaring rims. One glazed sherd with incised decoration from cxt (103) is from a pitcher.

4 Ceramic building material

- 4.1 A single piece of tile weighing 45 g was recovered from Medieval context (108). It may be Roman in date although is quite thin (18 mm).

5 Summary and further work

- 5.1 The assemblage recovered appears to document occupation at or near the site during the early-mid Roman and Medieval periods.
- 5.2 The group is too small in size to warrant any further work but should be taken into account if any additional work is undertaken at the site

Reference

Tomber, R, and Dore, J, 1998 The National Roman fabric reference collection: a handbook, Museum of London / English Heritage/ British Museum

88 to 89 High Street, Cricklade, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation

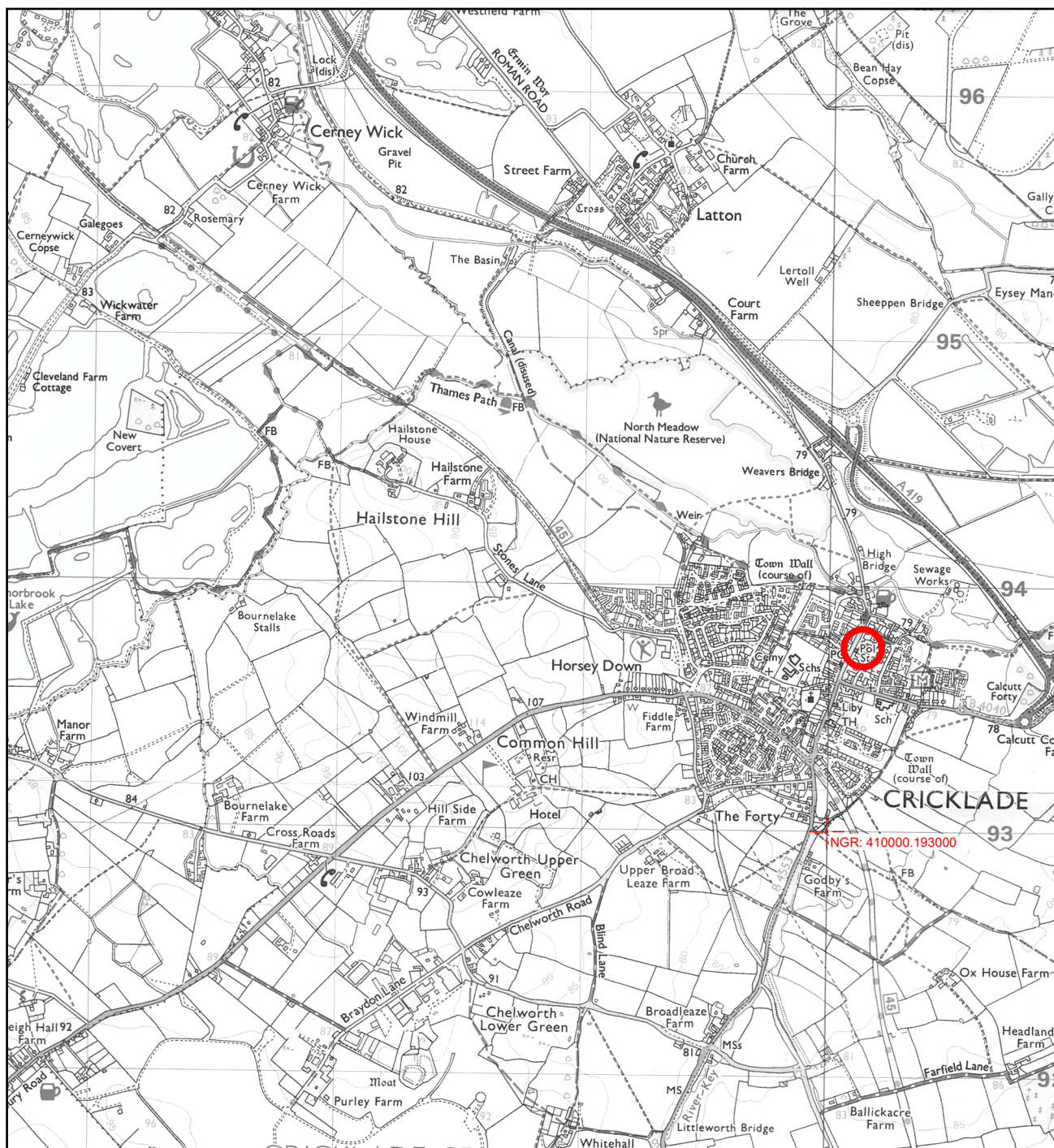
Table 1: The pottery from 88 to 89 High Street, Cricklade

Context	Roman			Med	Tot No	Tot Wt	Date	cbm
	BB1	SAVGT	Other					
103	0	0	0	2	2	27	Med	
105	0	0	1	4	5	78	Med	
108	0	0	1	15	16	340	Med	1
114	12	0	5	0	17	134	C2	
202	0	0	1	0	1	9	Roman?	
204	0	3	1	3	7	114	Med	
206	0	1	0	0	1	22	C1-C2	
Tr 2 spoil	0	0	0	5	5	49	Med	
TOTAL	12	4	9	29	54	773		

APPENDIX 3: The Bone

Context	Species	Element and Percentage	Comments
102	Sus	Distal element Tibia + 45% diaphysis	Chop marks
	Sus	Unfused Radius - 90%	Gnaw marks
	Bos	Mandible fragment - 20%	
	Ovis	Mandible fragment - 70%	p2 - m2 wear stage f = adult
	Ovis	Mandible fragment - >5%	
	Ovis	Two Rib fragments	Cut marks
	Ovis	Metacarpal diaphysis fragment	
	Ovis	Unfused proximal element Radius - 40%	
103	Bos	Radius diaphysis fragment - 10%	
	Bos	Pelvic fragment	Gnaw marks
	Sus	Proximal element Tibia + 50% diaphysis	Gnaw marks
	unknown	Rib fragment	
	unknown	Pelvic fragment	
108	Ovis	Mandible - in three fragments - 95%	p2 - m3 wear stage d = sub-adult
	Bos	Metatarsal - 95%	Gnaw marks
	unknown	Rib fragment	
	unknown	Two long bone fragments	
	unknown	Scapular fragment	
	unknown	Cranial fragment	
114	unknown	unidentified fragment	
202	Bos	Mandible fragment - 40%	Chop marks
	Ovis	Unfused distal element Radius - 45%	
204	Equus	Metacarpal	Cut marks
	Ovis	Metacarpal - 95%	Cut marks
	Ovis	Metacarpal 80%	
	unknown	Cranial fragment	
	unknown	Rib fragment	
	unknown	Three unidentified fragments	

Key: Ovis – goat/sheep
Equus – horse
Bos – cattle
Sus – pig

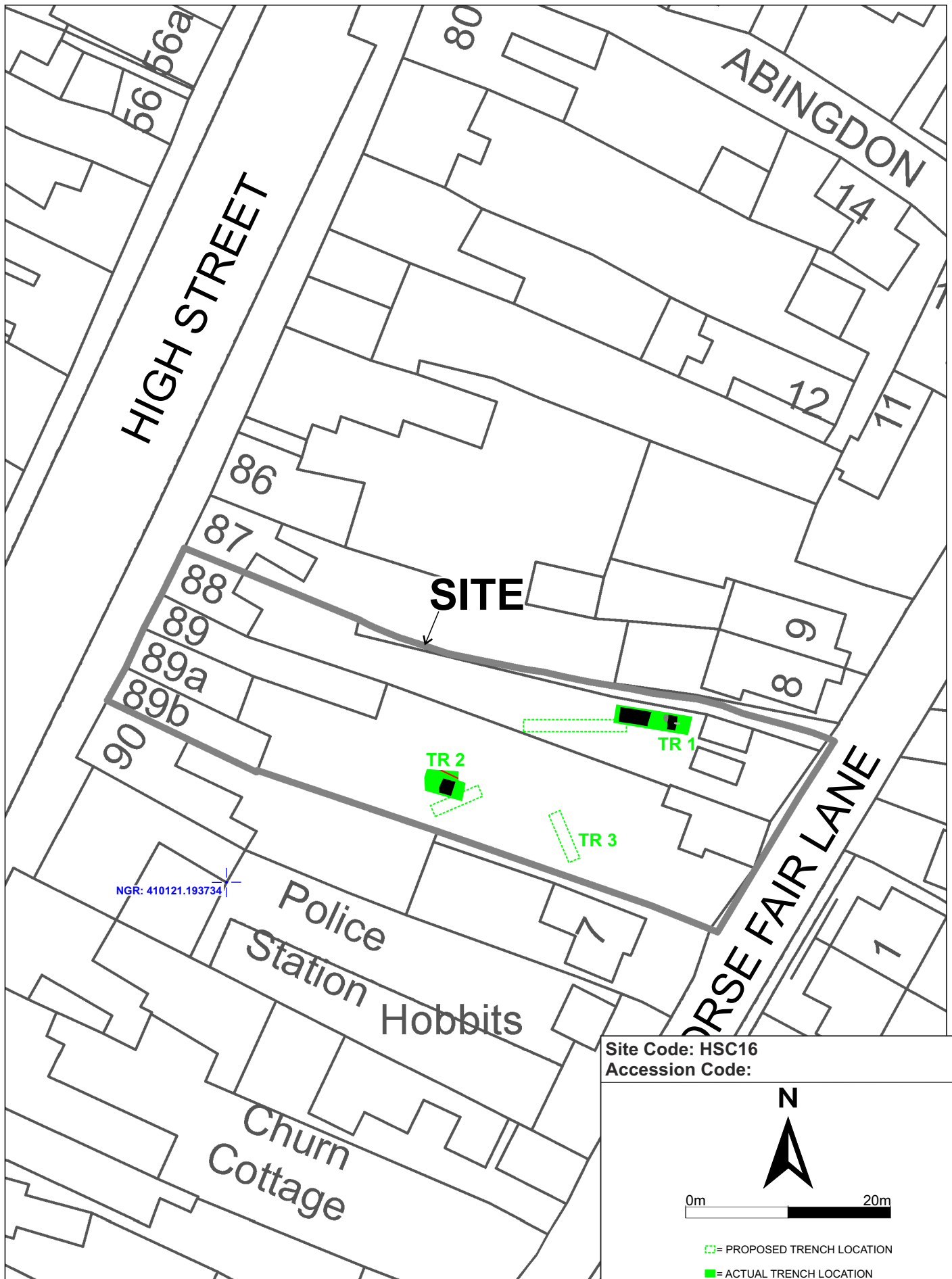


© Crown Copyright and Database Right 2016.
Ordnance Survey Licence 100015722

Site Code: HSC16

Accession Code:

FIGURE 1: Site Location



Site Code: HSC16
Accession Code:

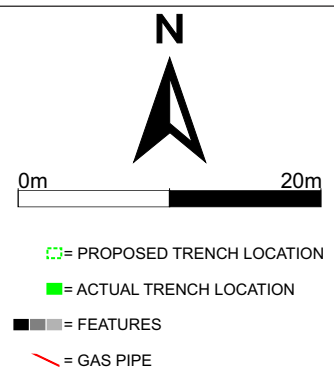
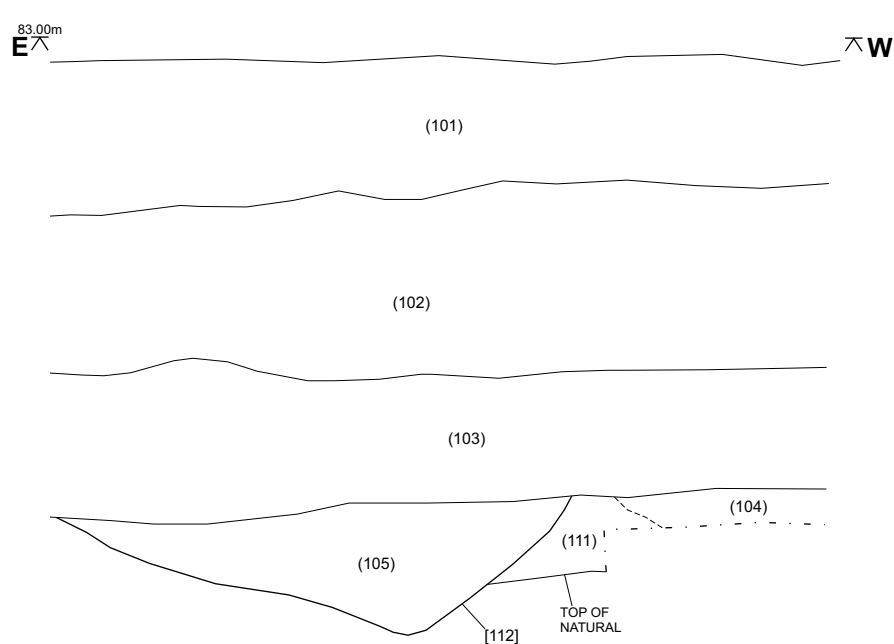
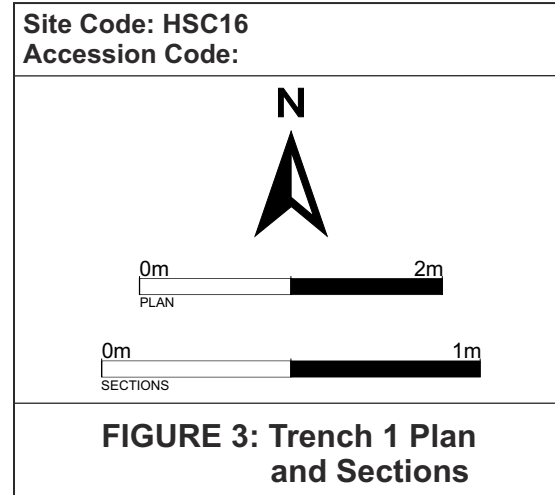
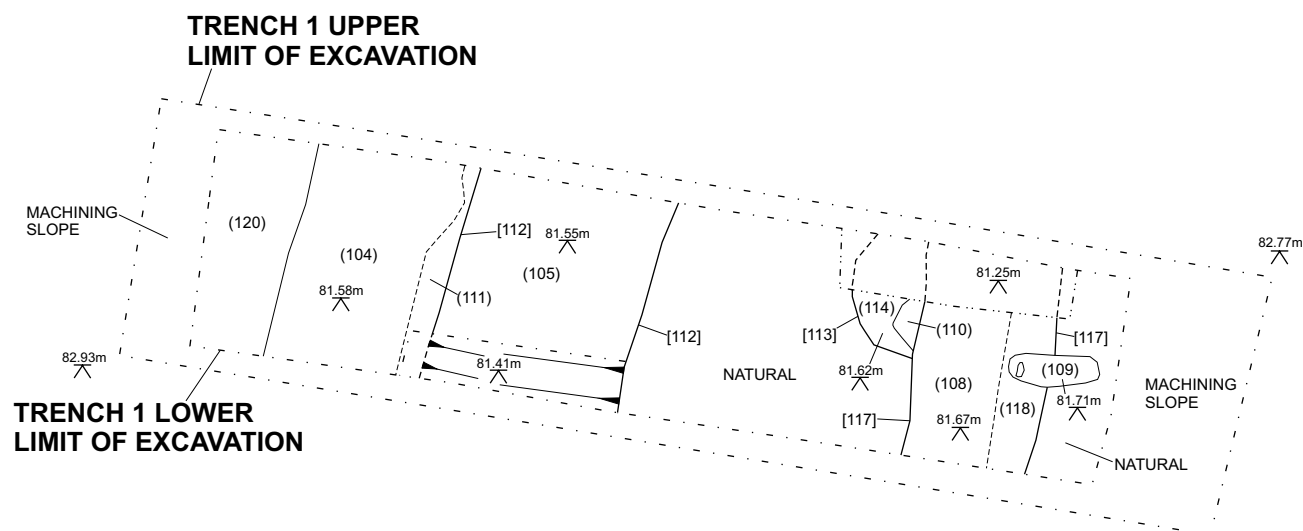
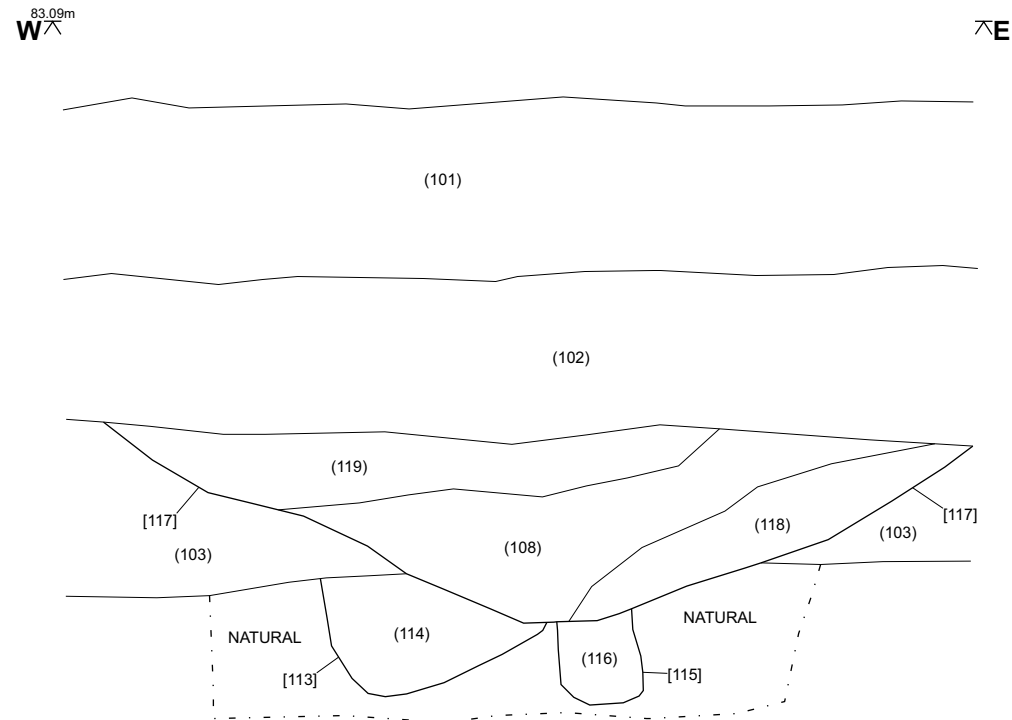


FIGURE 2: Trench Locations

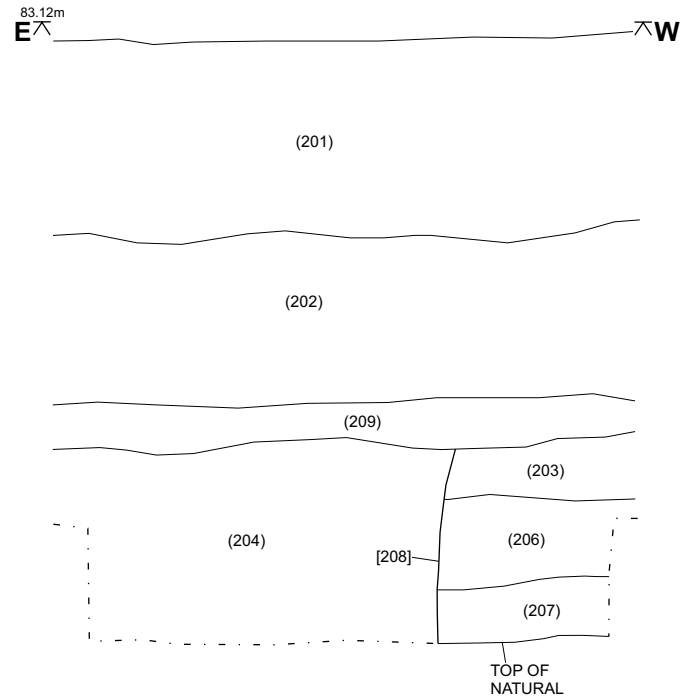
NORTH FACING SECTION [112]



SOUTH FACING SECTION [113], [115] and [117]



NORTH FACING SECTION [208]



EAST FACING SECTION (206) and (207)

