

**LOWER LITCHARDON,
NEWTON TRACEY,
DEVON.**

NGR: SS 5150 2977 (CENTRED)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

December 2020
Report No. 1396



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES

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Quality Assurance

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SUMMARY

Between the 17th November and the 4th December 2020 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed new solar farm facility on land to the east and west of the A39, Lower Litchardon, Newton Tracey, Devon (NGR: SS 5150 2977 - centred). The project was commissioned by Orion Heritage Ltd on behalf of Aura Power Developments Ltd.

The archaeological evaluation followed a geophysical survey undertaken by SUMO Services Ltd and a desk-based assessment by Orion Heritage Ltd. The geophysical survey identified several features of archaeological potential across the area of proposed development. Based upon the results of the geophysical survey and desk-based assessment a total of 39 evaluation trenches were proposed across the study area. Excavation was divided into two phases, the first of which being the excavation of the 27 trenches detailed within this report. The remaining 12 trenches will be excavated in a forthcoming second phase.

This first phase of archaeological evaluation has indicated that the study area has a high potential for the presence of archaeologically significant remains in the vicinity of Trenches 28, 29 and 30. These features comprised two Roman linear features identified within Trench 30, a possible Prehistoric ditch within Trench 29 (a possible ring ditch which was identified by the geophysical survey) and two undated features, one of which was possibly heat affected, in Trench 28. Undated discrete features were also identified in Trenches 12 and 36, along with a curvilinear feature in Trench 38. The remaining linear features, most of which were undated, are likely to represent field boundaries. Some of these are commensurate with boundaries visible on historic cartographic sources, with the remainder being presumably of pre-1840 date.

A single residual flint scraper was recovered from the topsoil (1201) and a small quantity of probable Medieval pottery was present in Trenches 30 and 37, which could indicate further archaeological activity from these periods in the vicinity.

The first phase of archaeological works has provided ground-truthing of the geophysical survey results. Many of the surveyed features correlated well with features in the evaluation trenches, although in some case features were identified that were not present on the geophysical survey; conversely, a number of geophysical features did not occur within the trenches. This phase of archaeological evaluation therefore broadly supports the results of the desk-based assessment and geophysical survey in that the site contains a clear concentration of archaeological significance in the area of trenches 28-30 but is otherwise of limited potential.

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.

Iron Age

The period between c. 800 BC and AD 43.

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 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology between the 17th November and the 4th December on the site of a proposed new solar farm on land to the east and west of the A39, Lower Litchardon, Newton Tracey (NGR: SS 5150 2977 – centred – See Figure 1). The project was commissioned by Orion Heritage Ltd on behalf of Aura Power Ltd.
- 1.2 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2020) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014).
- 1.3 The code of conduct of the CifA was adhered to throughout.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There is currently a proposal for the installation and operation of a solar farm and associated infrastructure at the site (Application No. 71708). In accordance with the principles of NPPF19, the Devon County Historic Environment Team (HET) has requested an archaeological evaluation, as part of a suite of works, in order to inform any associated planning application.
- 2.2 The site is located on the east and west side of the A39, between Barnstaple and Bideford, in an area of agricultural land.
- 2.3 The underlying geology for the site is recorded as *Crackington Formation - Mudstone and Siltstone*, with possible bands of *Sandstone* present, no superficial deposits have been recorded across the study area (BGS Online Viewer).
- 2.4 The proposed solar farm is within an area of archaeological potential. A desk-based assessment for the project was produced by Orion Heritage in July 2019. This document should be read in conjunction with this report, however, a summary is laid out below for ease.
- 2.5 A geophysical survey was carried out by SUMO within the south-central portion of the study site as part of a non-intrusive investigation for the proposed Litchardon Solar Park in 2019 (EDV5062).
- 2.6 This identified numerous anomalies of possible archaeological interest, which were interpreted as the potential site of a roundhouse with enclosures, banks and ditches (MDV80026, MDV80027, MDV80031). Linear and circular anomalies identified in the east of the study area were thought to represent further former enclosures (MDV80028). A field system of unknown date (MDV80029) and a 19th century quarry were also detected in this area (MDV32863). However, it is recognised that three fields in the southern half

of the study site, contain evidence indicative of buried remains likely to represent the remnants of Prehistoric occupation of local to regional significance, with additional evidence present within the northernmost boundary, in the westernmost part, and in the north-eastern part of the site. While the significance of many archaeological features would be largely unaffected by the small impacts which would result from a solar farm, occupation sites have the potential to contain more sensitive remains, such as burials and domestic or industrial evidence, whose significance could be degraded. Furthermore, some impacts such as for cable trenches and access roads, can also impact buried remains.

- 2.7 Archaeological monitoring and recording conducted in 2015 by Southwest Archaeology within the study area was located directly to the south of the geophysical survey (EDV6956). During this work seven areas were excavated and a total of twelve features were identified. In the main, these consisted of modern field drains or historic field boundaries although some evidence for prehistoric settlement was found consisting of the remnant of a possible ring gully (MDV115061) and residual flints. It was thought that these could relate to the features identified in the geophysical survey conducted to the north.
- 2.8 Within the wider area, Prehistoric activity has been identified to the south of the site in the form of possible residual worked flints recovered during the construction of a wind turbine in 2015. To the southeast, a gradiometry survey identified an enclosure containing another large circular feature (MDV80030). Placename evidence from Fremington tithe map suggest the presence of barrows in the vicinity (MDV327) and also present on the site was an undated ring gully, which might have Prehistoric origins.
- 2.9 The study area lies within the manor of Fremington, which had been held by Earl Harold before the Norman Conquest, but was granted to Geoffrey, Bishop of Constance by William I and was one of five manors he held in *demesne* (Lysons 1822). The manor was part of the feudal barony of Barnstaple, and so followed the same descent. Domesday references a number of settlements in the study area, so we know that they date from this time and earlier, with the nearest Medieval settlement located circa 930m to the south of the site. A sub-rectangular earthwork is located approximately 170m from the western edge of the site, this feature is undated, but is thought to be from the Medieval period. Medieval strip field systems have also been identified within the study area and it is likely that the site was located within the agricultural land for the surrounding settlements during the Saxon and Medieval periods.
- 2.10 The site therefore contains the potential for evidence of predominately Prehistoric and Medieval activity.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation are 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 decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed development.

3.2 This was 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 questions that may be relevant should further field investigation be required.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 A total of twenty-seven trenches of the proposed thirty-nine were excavated as part of this initial phase of works, as shown in Figure 2. The trenches were located in order to ground-truth and investigate potential archaeological features identified on the geophysical survey (Figure 3) and to provide a representative sample of the available area.

4.2 Due to a number of flooded areas within the fields, it was decided that the remaining twelve trenches would be excavated in a second phase of evaluation once ground conditions improve.

4.3 Trenches were to be laid out using a Topcon FC5000 GPS unit. However, owing to scheduled Ministry of Defence GPS jamming exercises at the start of the works this was not initially possible and a number of trenches laid out manually.

4.4 The trenches were excavated by use of a mechanical excavator, equipped with a toothless bucket, whilst under constant archaeological supervision. Archaeologically non-significant overburden was mechanically removed down to the top of the archaeologically significant horizon or the natural, whichever was encountered first.

- 4.5 All subsequent 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 full stratigraphic description of the evaluation trenches is presented in Appendix 1, with a summary of the results from each trench given below. Unless stated otherwise, all trenches measured 50m in length and 1.8m in width.
- 5.2 The general stratigraphic sequence across the study area comprised natural clay and/or shattered bedrock at between 0.3m to 0.6m below the Modern ground surface (between 66.5m and 105.1m AOD), with the natural deposits sealed by mid-dark brown/grey silt topsoil. Subsoil deposits were evident in only one of the excavated trenches.
- 5.3 Preservation conditions across the site were generally good; although a large number of the trenches were subject to significant flooding from groundwater and rain. This hindered excavation in several of the trenches.
- 5.4 The trenches excavated as part of these Phase 1 works comprised Trenches 1-6, 9, 12-15, 19-23, 28-38.
- 5.5 **Trench 1** (Figures 2, 3 & 4, Plate 1) was aligned north-west to south-east and was positioned in order to investigate a linear feature at its north-west end and amorphous anomalies at its south-east end. The trench contained a single linear feature [104] and a small pit [102] (Plate 1), both were cut into the natural clay and partially matched the geophysical survey results. Linear feature [104] crossed the base of the trench at the north-west end on an approximate east to west alignment. It was 0.6m wide and 0.1m deep with shallow sloping sides and an undulating base and contained a mid to dark brown silty clay fill (105), which was devoid of artefacts. The small pit feature [102] was roughly circular in plan, measured 0.8m in diameter, and was 0.1m deep. Its sides were cut at approximately 45° and sloped down to a concave base. It contained fill (103), a mid-grey silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions and manganese flecks. Pit [102] was 100% excavated but contained no finds. No further archaeological features were present within the trench.
- 5.6 **Trench 2** (Figures 2, 3 & 5, Plate 2) was aligned west north-west to east south-east and was positioned in order to investigate two linear features identified on the geophysical survey. The trench contained a single linear feature, [202] (Plate 2), at its north-western end. This was aligned roughly north-east to south-west, was 1m wide by 0.5m deep and had a concave narrow base. The primary fill, (203), consisted of a moderately compact mid-yellow/grey silty clay with occasional siltstone inclusions. This was overlain by secondary fill (204), a mid-grey/brown silty clay with no inclusions. Linear [202] was 100% excavated but contained no dateable material, however, the

desk-based assessment identified this feature as a field boundary, depicted on the 1840 tithe map, which had been removed between 1992 and 1999. Linear [202] was likely to represent the feature identified at the north-western end of the trench on the geophysical survey. No further archaeological features were present within the trench.

- 5.7 **Trench 3** (Figures 2 & 3) was aligned north-west to south-east and was positioned in order to investigate two linear features identified on the geophysical survey, however, the trench contained no archaeological finds, features or deposits.
- 5.8 **Trench 4** (Figures 2 & 3) was aligned west north-west to east south-east and was positioned in order to investigate two linear features identified on the geophysical survey, the south-eastern of which represented a possible continuation of linear [202]. However, the trench contained no archaeological finds, features or deposits. A linear feature aligned north-east to south-west, located at the western end of the trench, was a modern land drain.
- 5.9 **Trench 5** (Figures 2 & 3) was aligned north-east to south-west and was positioned in order to investigate a linear feature identified on the geophysical survey. It contained a single ephemeral north-west to south-east linear anomaly at its north-eastern end, however, excavation of the linear showed it to be a line of disturbance rather than a cut feature, most likely from the bioturbation associated with a former hedgerow. The feature was likely to represent a field boundary removed prior to 1840 as it was not depicted on the tithe map or subsequent historic maps. No further archaeological features were present within the trench.
- 5.10 **Trench 6** (Figures 2 & 3) was aligned approximately east to west and was positioned in order to investigate the continuation to the east of the same linear feature as Trench 5, however no archaeological features were present within the trench.
- 5.11 **Trench 9** (Figures 2, 3 & 6, Plates 3-4) was aligned north-west to south-east and was positioned in order to investigate an east to west linear feature identified on the geophysical survey. The trench contained two linear features at its south eastern end. Linear [904] (Plate 4) was aligned east to west, was 1.26m wide and 0.22m deep, with shallow sloping sides and flat base. It contained a mid-brownish grey silty clay fill (905). Linear [902] (Plate 3) was aligned north-south. It was 1.2m wide, 0.25m deep and shared a similar profile to [904]. It also contained a mid-brownish grey silty clay fill, (903). Each linear was subject to 100% excavation but no dateable material was recovered. East-west linear [904] represented the feature identified on the geophysical survey. This was also depicted on the historic maps within the desk-based assessment as a field boundary. Whilst linear [902] was not identified on the geophysical survey it was likely to be the co-axial boundary adjacent to [904] and was similarly depicted on the historic maps. Field boundary ditches [902] and [904] were present on the 1840 tithe map and were removed between 1964 and 1992. No further archaeological features were present within this trench.

- 5.12 **Trench 12** (Figures 2, 3 & 7, Plates 5-7) was aligned north-west to south-east and was positioned in order to investigate two north-south aligned linear features and a small discrete anomaly. North-south aligned linear feature [1202], was identified at the north-western end of the trench, which partly correlated with the linear shown on the geophysical survey. Linear [1202] was 1.6m wide and was 0.1m wide with barely perceptible edges and a flat base. It contained a dark grey/brown clay silt fill, (1203) and yielded a single piece of late Post-medieval white chinaware. To the south-east of [1202] was an elongated oval pit feature, [1204/6], which was 4m in length and 0.5m deep (Plates 5 & 6). This varied in profile along its length with the angle of the edges alternating between c.80 and 45°. The primary fill (1205/7) consisted of a grey silty clay with frequent manganese and sub-angular stone inclusions. A later recut, [1208], was evident with edges closely mirroring those of the original cut. Recut [1208] contained a mid-grey silty clay, again with frequent manganese inclusions though less sub-angular stone. Despite 100% excavation of the feature (Plate 7) no dateable material was recovered. Whilst [1202] appeared most likely to be a field boundary which was perhaps removed prior to the production of the 1840 tithe map, no date or function could be ascertained for pit [1204/6/8]. A single residual flint scraper was recovered from the topsoil (1201). No further archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.13 **Trench 13** (Figures 2, 3 & 8) was aligned north-west to south-east and was positioned in order to investigate three linear features and a small sub-circular feature identified on the geophysical survey. The trench contained a total of two cut features at the north-west end of the trench and two land drains to the south-east. The two linear features, [1302] and [1303], were parallel and aligned north-south. Each was 0.75m wide, approximately 0.1m deep with shallow sloping edges and contained a mid to dark grey/brown silt clay fill, (1304) and (1305) respectively. No dateable material was recovered from either feature. It appeared likely, given their appearance in plan, that the two parallel features formed ditches on either side of a grubbed-out hedgerow or field boundary and it correlated well with a former field boundary identified by the geophysical survey. However, no field boundary was depicted in this location on the tithe map, which may indicate that it was removed prior to 1840. No further archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.14 **Trench 14** (Figures 2, 3 & 9, Plate 8) was aligned roughly east to west and was positioned in order to investigate two linear features identified on the geophysical survey, both of which represented continuations of those investigated by Trench 12 and appeared to form a small field which was not depicted on the tithe map. However, the trench contained only a single linear feature, [1402], aligned north-south (Plate 8), which was 1m wide and 0.3m deep. It had 55° angled edges, a flat base, and contained fill (1403), a mid to dark grey clay silt with rare sub-angular stone inclusions but no dateable material. Although the feature was notably narrower and deeper, [1402] was very likely to represent a continuation of pre-1840 field boundary [1202]. No further archaeological features were present within this trench.

- 5.15 **Trench 15** (Figures 2, 3 & 10) was aligned north-west to south-east and was positioned in order to investigate two amorphous features identified on the geophysical survey. The trench contained two roughly parallel, north-south aligned, linear features, [1502] and [1504]. These were similar in appearance and orientation to the double-ditched field boundary [1302/3] present in Trench 13. Excavation of [1502] and [1504] showed them to be between 0.6m and 0.7m wide and 0.1m deep. They were similar in profile; with barely perceptible sloping edges and a flat base. Each contained a mid-brown/grey clay silt fill with occasional manganese and sub-angular stone inclusions but no dateable material. Given their similar appearance in plan and their shared alignment with [1302/3], these features were also likely to represent a further pre-1840 double-ditched field boundary. No further archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.16 **Trench 19** (Figures 2 & 3) was aligned north-east to south-west and was positioned in order to investigate an ephemeral discrete feature and a small sub-circular feature identified on the geophysical survey. Prior to the excavation of the trench it was apparent that it crossed the line of the underground power cable heading north from the wind turbine adjacent to Trench 23. The trench was thus divided into two with a 7m section left unexcavated for the power cable and a safety buffer zone. No archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.17 **Trench 20** (Figures 2 & 3) was aligned north to south and was positioned in order to investigate a linear feature at its southern end which was identified on the geophysical survey. No archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.18 **Trench 21** (Figures 2 & 3) was aligned north-east to south-west and was positioned in order to investigate two linear features forming a small field or rectilinear enclosure identified on the geophysical survey. As with Trench 19, this trench was also excavated in two sections to avoid the line of the wind turbine power cable. A north-south aligned land drain was noted within the south-western trench. No archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.19 **Trench 22** (Figures 2 & 3) was aligned north-west to south-east and was positioned in order to investigate a linear feature at its south-eastern end. Owing to the presence of the wind turbine power cable the trench was moved west of its proposed location to target a parallel linear at its north-western end on the geophysical survey. A north to south aligned land drain was noted at the south-eastern end of the trench, but no archaeological features were present.
- 5.20 **Trench 23** (Figures 2 & 3) was aligned east south-east to west north-west and was positioned in order to investigate two linear features identified on the geophysical survey. To avoid the wind turbine power cable, the trench was moved 15m to the east and so targeted only a single linear feature, however, no archaeological features were present within this trench.

- 5.21 **Trench 28** (Figures 2, 3 & 11, Plates 9-10) was aligned north-west to south-east and positioned in order to investigate two amorphous anomalies identified on the geophysical survey. A small amorphous patch of natural clay and bedrock within the centre of the trench was noted as likely to have been heat affected, with the area recorded as (2802). This area was not associated with any cut feature or finds. A ditch terminal or elongated pit [2804] (Plate 9) was located 16m to the south-east of (2802). This had a rounded end in plan, with shallow sloping edges and flat base and continued beyond the edge of the trench. The primary fill was composed of a compact brick red clay (2803) with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions. Despite the colour of fill (2803) it showed no indication of being heat affected. Secondary fill (2805) consisted of a mottled yellow and mid-brown gritty clay silt deposit with occasional manganese flecks. It is possible that (2805) represented the fill of a later recut rather than a secondary fill of [2804]. The feature was 100% excavated (Plate 10) but no dateable material was recovered. Features (2802) and [2804] appear unlikely to represent the large amorphous anomalies identified on the geophysical survey. No further archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.22 **Trench 29** (Figures 2, 3 & 12, Plate 11) was aligned north-west to south-east and was positioned in order to investigate a series of anomalies identified on the geophysical survey, including a possible ring ditch. The trench contained a single north-east to south-west aligned linear feature [2902] and a land drain. Linear [2902] (Plate 11) was 1m wide and 0.3m deep with uniform 45° sloping sides and a narrow ‘V’ shaped base. It contained fill (2903), a dark grey/brown clay silt with frequent sub-angular stone inclusions and heavy manganese flecking on the interface with the natural. A single piece of unworked flint was recovered from fill (2903), which did not appear to be local natural material. The ditch was subject to 100% excavation but no dateable material was recovered. Ditch [2902] may represent the ring ditch feature identified by the geophysical survey. No further archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.23 **Trench 30** (Figures 2, 3 & 13, Plates 12-13) was aligned north to south and positioned in order to investigate two linear features and a spread of amorphous anomalies identified on the geophysical survey. Two linear ditches were located within the northern half of the trench. The northernmost ditch, [3002/6] (Plate 12), crossed the trench on a north-east to south west alignment. It was 1m wide and 0.4m deep with 45° sloping sides and a concave base. It contained fill (3003), a mid-yellow/grey clay which, following 100% excavation, was found to contain six sherds of C2-C3 Roman ceramic. The second ditch, [3004] (Plate 13), located to the south of [3002], was 0.9m wide and had a similar profile to [3002]. It contained a mid to light grey/blue silty clay fill (3005) which, after 100% excavation, was found to contain 52 sherds of C2-C3 Roman ceramic. Ditch [3004] appeared to cut an earlier linear feature, [3008], which had a similar alignment and profile (Plate 13). It contained fill (3009), which was visually similar to (3005) though notably it

did not contain any dateable material. No further archaeological features were present within this trench.

- 5.24 **Trench 32** (Figures 2, 3 & 14) was aligned north to south and was positioned in order to investigate two linear features of former field boundaries, identified on the geophysical survey. A total of six linear features were located cut into the natural substrates, all of which were aligned east to west. The northernmost two linear features, [3202] & [3203], were parallel to one another and, as observed in Trench 13, likely formed the line of a former double-ditch field boundary. This boundary was visible on the 1840 tithe map and the historic OS maps until 1964. A total of five sherds of C17-C19 pottery were located on the surface of ditch [3203]. Ditches [3204/3205] and [3206/3207], formed two further east-west aligned field boundaries, however these were not depicted on the historic mapping so were likely to have been removed prior to the production of the tithe map. As these features were clearly field boundaries, they were left unexcavated. No further archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.25 **Trench 33** (Figures 2, 3 & 15) was aligned north-west to south-east and was positioned in order to investigate former field boundaries, identified on the geophysical survey. Two of the linear features, [3302] and [3303], were situated parallel to one another, on a roughly north to south alignment to form a double-ditch field boundary. Whilst this boundary was not depicted on the 1840 tithe map or the 1887 OS map, it was shown as extant on the later 1964 OS though it appeared to have been removed between 1993 and 1999. These features were not excavated and no further archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.26 **Trench 34** (Figures 2, 3 & 16) was aligned north-east to south-west and was positioned in order to investigate two linear features, which appeared to be part of the same former field system located within Trenches 32 and 33 and were identified on the geophysical survey. The trench contained a total of three linear features (two of which formed a double-ditch boundary) on an approximate east to west and north to south co-axial alignment. The east to west field boundary, [3402/3] and the north to south field boundary, [3404], were both depicted on the 1840 tithe map and the 1887 OS map but both appeared to have been removed before 1964. These features were not excavated and no further archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.27 **Trench 35** (Figures 2, 3 & 17) was aligned north-east to south-west and was positioned in order to investigate three linear features, which were likely to be field boundaries identified on the geophysical survey. The trench contained a total of five linear features which roughly correlated with the geophysical results. Linears, [3510] and [3511], formed a further double-ditch field boundary and were located within the centre of the trench. These were aligned north-west to south-east and correlated well to the results of the geophysical survey, though they were not depicted on any of the historical mapping, which could suggest that it went out of use before 1840. A small and shallow gully,

[3508] was cut into the natural within the centre of the trench and to the west of [3510]. The northern end continued beyond the trench edge but its southern edge did not appear to continue beyond similarly shallow north-west to south-east aligned linear, [3506]. The south-east end of [3506] continued beyond the trench edge whilst its north-west end did not appear to continue beyond larger (yet also very shallow) linear feature, [3502/4]. Linear [3502/4] was aligned north to south and likely represented the north to south linear identified on the geophysical survey. Features [3508], [3506] and [3502/4] were all very shallow, with a maximum depth of 0.1m and all contained very similar fills, (3503/5, 3507, 3509) of mid brown/grey silty clays. No dating evidence was present within any of the features, however, excavation was hampered by severe water ingress. No further archaeological features were present within this trench.

5.28 **Trench 36** (Figures 2, 3 & 18, Plate 14) was aligned approximately east to west and was positioned in order to investigate a series of amorphous anomalies identified on the geophysical survey. Two small pit features, one in the centre and one at the very eastern end of the trench, were identified. Excavation of [3602] within the centre of the trench showed it to be sub-oval in plan and to have shallow sloping sides and a flat base. The feature contained fill (3603), a mid-brown/grey silty clay with no finds or charcoal. No function or date could be ascertained for this feature and an anthropogenic origin was not certain. Pit [3604] (Plate 14) was sub-circular in plan, 0.5m in diameter, and located at the eastern end of the trench. The feature had vertical sides and flat base, which may suggest that it was more likely to be a posthole than a pit. It contained a single fill, (3605), which consisted of mid-brown/grey silty clay. This feature was 100% excavated but contained no dateable material. No further archaeological features were present within this trench.

5.29 **Trench 37** (Figures 2, 3 & 19, Plates 15-16) was aligned north-east to south-west and positioned in order to investigate two linear features identified on the geophysical survey. The trench contained a total of three linear features. Linear [3702] was located at the south-western end of the trench, on a north to south alignment and had shallow, almost imperceptible, edges and an undulating base. It contained fill (3703), a mid to dark grey/brown clay silt, which yielded a single sherd of abraded and therefore probably residual, oxidised ware of possible Medieval date. Located to the north-east of [3702] a larger linear feature, [3704], was orientated on an east to west alignment and was present for a length of 4m across the trench (Plate 15). Its primary fill, (3705) was a mottled orange/grey clay silt with a gritty texture. This was similar to the natural substrate and was likely to have been derived from the weathering of the natural into the base of the ditch. Fill (3705) was overlain by secondary fill (3706), a mid to light brown clay silt. Fill (3706) was cut by two later recuts, [3707] and [3711]. Recut [3707] had a flattened 'U' shape profile, with shallow sloping sides and a concave base. It contained fill (3708), a mid to dark brown clay silt with sub-angular stone inclusions. This was cut by further recuts [3711] and [3709]. Recut [3711] had a similar profile to [3707] and contained fill (3712), a dark brown/grey silty clay which yielded a single sherd of Industrial Refined White Ware of later Post-medieval date. Recut

[3709] was 'U' shaped in profile and contained fill, (3710), a pale brown clay silt with no finds but rare charcoal. The large linear feature which comprised [3704], [3707], [3709] and [3711] was not depicted on the tithe map or any subsequent historic mapping, however, the geophysical survey suggested that this was a field boundary which continued north-east into Trench 38. A further feature, [3713], was a small north-west to south-east aligned gully located to the north of [3704], which contained (3714), a mid-grey clay silt fill. This yielded a single sherd of C17-C19 slipware. The south eastern end of [3713] was cut by recut [3711] (Plate 16). No further archaeological features were present within this trench.

- 5.30 **Trench 38** (Figures 2, 3 & 20) was aligned north-west to south-east and was positioned in order to investigate a single linear feature identified on the geophysical survey. A total of three linear features and one ephemeral curvilinear feature were identified within this trench. Linear [3802] was present on an approximate east to west alignment, with feature [3803] on a north-south alignment and notably perpendicular to [3802]. A further narrow linear, [3804], was located close to and at a perpendicular angle to [3803] and was therefore also parallel to [3802]. Located to the south-east of [3804] and present for approximately 10m, was a 0.4m wide curvilinear feature [3805], which was extremely ephemeral in plan. The perpendicular nature of the linear features [3802], [3803] and [3804] would suggest they were likely to be co-axial field boundaries, however, they are not depicted on the historic maps, nor identified by the geophysical survey. Curvilinear feature [3805] however was unlikely to represent a field boundary and this was also not identified by the survey. Owing to rapid water ingress from rising groundwater and surface run from slurry material, it was not possible for hand excavation to be undertaken in Trench 38. No further archaeological features were present within this trench.

6 FINDS

- 6.1 A very small finds assemblage was recovered during the evaluation with the vast majority of the finds coming from the Trench 30. The assemblage was composed primarily of ceramics with a small quantity of flint also being recovered.
- 6.2 The ceramics were assessed by Dr Jane Timby. Her specialist report is presented as Appendix 2 within this report although a brief summary of the results is presented below.
- 6.3 Two contexts: (3003) and (3005) between them produced 58 sherds of pottery of Roman date, which comprised 84% of the total recovered assemblage.
- 6.4 The Roman assemblage comprised a mixture of regional imports alongside wares of more local origin. The former includes 39 sherds of Dorset black burnished ware (DOR BB1) from Poole Harbour, mainly from everted rim jars with examples present in both contexts. Accompanying these sherds in (3003)

was a whiteware, wall-sided, mortarium with polycrystalline quartz trituration grits.

- 6.5 In context (3005) the BB1 is accompanied by two joining sherds of an oxidised handmade ware with white rock inclusions, probably Gabbroic ware, and 26 sherds of South Devon coarseware with characteristic mica and coarse grits (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 177, fabric 5). The vessel has a narrow cordon around the body and a burnished finish.
- 6.6 The Roman assemblage suggests a date in the later 2nd – 3rd centuries.
- 6.7 The remainder of the ceramic assemblage consisted of a single sherd of Medieval ceramic from the Trench 30 topsoil and a range of later Post-medieval wares.

7 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The previously undertaken desk-based assessment suggested the potential of Prehistoric features being located within the assessment area. This was supported by the geophysical survey results which suggested a possible roundhouse feature in Trench 19 as well as other anomalies in the Trench 28 to 30 area.
- 7.2 The archaeological features in Trenches 2, 9, 13, 14, 15, 28, 29 and 32-37 roughly correlated with the results of the geophysical survey, however, there were instances of features within the evaluation which were not identified by the geophysical survey in Trenches 1, 9, 12, 30, 32 and 38.; although none of these appeared to be of particular archaeological significance.
- 7.3 Trenches 2-6, 13-14, 19-23 and 31 all contained features identified on the geophysical survey, but which were not present with the evaluation trenches. Thus the geophysical survey can be shown have variable results.
- 7.4 The evaluation has shown that the main area of potential archaeological significance was in the vicinity of Trenches 28, 29 and 30. This comprised of two Roman linear features identified within Trench 30, a possible Prehistoric ditch within Trench 29 (a possible ring ditch which was identified by the geophysical survey) and two undated features, one of which was possibly heat affected, in Trench 28.
- 7.5 The two Roman linears within Trench 30, [3002] and [3004], contained a comparatively large amount of unabraded Roman ceramic. The two ditches respective angles of orientation may suggest that they intersected beyond the trench edge and perhaps formed an enclosure, which was possibly partly mapped on the geophysical survey.
- 7.6 The large, elongated pit feature [1206] within Trench 12 is of uncertain date or function though it was clearly subject to recutting at some point during its use. Similarly undated were the small discrete features within Trench 36. Although

[3602] is of questionable anthropogenic origin, cut [3604] appeared likely to represent an undated posthole. The ephemeral curvilinear feature identified though not excavated within Trench 38 was also undated.

- 7.7 The linear features identified in Trenches 1, 2, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37 and 38 are all highly likely to represent former field boundaries. Whilst some were identifiable and dateable through historic cartographic sources, others can only be ascribed a likely pre-1840 removal date and may be late Medieval or early Post-medieval in origin.
- 7.8 At the time of the works all the investigated fields were under pasture and although it could not be proved that the fields had been subject to truncation by deep ploughing, the lack of subsoil across the majority of the trenches, would make this likely. It is probable that, in some instances, the field boundary ‘ditches’ represent the lines of grubbed out hedgerows.
- 7.9 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology and will be deposited in due course with the Museum of Barnstaple & North Devon under Accession Number NDDMS 5.2020a. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

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CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Description	Later Than	Earlier Than
				Trench One: 50m long by 1.8m. Natural deposits = Yellow/Grey clay & <i>Crackington Formation</i> , at average depth of 67.9m AOD.		
101	50	1.8	0.22	Topsoil. Mid-grey/brown silty clay.	Natural, 103, 105	n/a
[102]	0.8	0.8	0.11	Cut of small circular in plan pit with shallow sloping sides and concave base. Contained fill (103).	Natural	103
103	0.2	0.18	0.1	Mid-grey silty clay fill of [102]. 100% excavated. No Finds, no charcoal.	[102]	101
[104]	1.8+	0.66	0.1	Cut of linear feature. Shallow sloping sides and barely perceptible edges. Contained fill (105).	Natural	105
105	1.8+	0.66	0.1	Mid purplish-brown silty clay fill of linear [104]. No Finds, no charcoal. 100% excavated.	[104]	101
				Trench Two: 50m long by 1.8m. Natural deposits = Yellow/Grey clay & <i>Crackington Formation</i> , at average depth of 72.35m AOD.		
201	50	1.8	0.35	Topsoil. Mid-grey/brown silty clay.	Natural, 203	n/a
[202]	2	1.2	0.4	Cut of linear feature running NE-SW. 45° sides and narrow base. Contained fills (203) & (204).	Natural	203
203	2	0.8	0.2	Mid-yellow/grey silty clay forming primary fill of [202]. No finds, no charcoal.	[202]	204
204	2	1.2	0.2	Mid-grey/brown silty clay forming secondary fill of [202]. No finds, no charcoal.	203	201
				Trench Three: 50m long by 1.8m. Natural deposits = Yellow/Grey clay & <i>Crackington Formation</i> , at average depth of 71.5m AOD. No archaeological finds, features or deposits present.		
301	50	1.8	0.27	Topsoil. Mid-grey/brown silty clay.	302	n/a
302	25	1.8	0.15	Thin subsoil at SW end only. Pale orange/grey clay silt.	Natural	301

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Description	Later Than	Earlier Than
				Trench Four: 50m long by 1.8m. Natural deposits = Yellow/Grey clay & <i>Crackington Formation</i> , at average depth of 73.5m AOD. No archaeological finds, features or deposits present.		
401	50	1.8	0.37	Topsoil. Mid-grey/brown silty clay.	Natural	n/a
				Trench Five: 50m long by 1.8m. Natural deposits = Yellow/Grey clay & <i>Crackington Formation</i> , at average depth of 75.5m AOD. No archaeological finds, features or deposits present.		
501	50	1.8	0.3	Topsoil. Mid-grey/brown silty clay.	Natural	n/a
				Trench Six: 50m long by 1.8m. Natural deposits = Yellow/Grey clay & <i>Crackington Formation</i> , at average depth of 82.08m AOD. No archaeological finds, features or deposits present.		
601	50	1.8	0.26	Topsoil. Mid-grey/brown silty clay.	Natural	n/a
				Trench Nine: 50m long by 1.8m. Natural deposits = Yellow/Grey clay & <i>Crackington Formation</i> , at average depth of 102.5m AOD.		
901	50	1.8	0.3	Topsoil. Mid-grey/brown silty clay.	Natural, 903, 905	n/a
[902]	2.21	0.98	0.2	Cut of linear running N-S. Irregular sides and a flat base. Contained fill (903).	Natural	903
903	2.21	0.98	0.2	Mid to dark grey/brown silty clay fill of [902]. No finds, no charcoal. 100% excavated.	[902]	901
[904]	3.36	1.2	0.2	Cut of linear running E-W. Shallow sloping sides and flat base. Contained fill (905).	Natural	905
905	3.36	1.2	0.2	Mid-brownish grey silty clay fill of linear [904]. No finds, occasional charcoal. 100% excavated.	[904]	901

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Description	Later Than	Earlier Than
				Trench Twelve: 50m long by 1.8m. Natural deposits = Yellow/Grey clay & <i>Crackington Formation</i> , at average depth of 94.5m AOD.		
1201	50	1.8	0.4	Topsoil. Mid-grey/brown silty clay.	Natural	n/a
[1202]	1.8	1.6	0.1	Cut of NE-SW aligned linear. Imperceptible edges and flat base.	Natural	1203
1203	1.8	1.6	0.1	Dark grey/brown clay silt fill of [1202]. Single sherd of Industrially Refined White Ware of late Post-medieval date.	[1202]	1201
[1204]	0.75	1	0.2	Terminal cut of NW-SE aligned elongated pit. Sloping sides and base. Contained fill (1205).	Natural	1205
1205	0.75	1	0.2	Dark brown/grey silty clay fill of [1204]. No finds, rare charcoal. 100% excavated.	[1204]	1201
[1206]	2	0.88	0.47	Continuation of elongated pit to SE of [1204]. Steep sided 'U' shaped cut containing fill (1207).	Natural	1207
1207	2	0.88	0.47	Pale purplish/grey silty clay fill of [1206]. No finds, rare charcoal. Cut by recut [1208]. 100% excavated.	[1206]	[1208]
[1208]	2	0.81	0.42	Recut of elongated pit feature. Cuts (1207). Contained fill (1209). Sides angled from 70-45°.	1207	1209
1209	2	0.81	0.42	Mid-purple/grey silty clay fill of recut [1208]. No finds, occasional charcoal. 100% excavated.	[1208]	1201
				Trench Thirteen: 50m long by 1.8m. Natural deposits = Yellow/Grey clay & <i>Crackington Formation</i> , at average depth of 95.4m AOD.		
1301	50	1.8	0.3	Topsoil. Mid-grey/brown silty clay.	Natural	n/a
[1302]	1.8	0.8	0.05	Cut of shallow N-S aligned linear, parallel to [1303]. Contained fill (1304).	Natural	1304
[1303]	1.8	0.7	0.15	Cut of shallow N-S aligned linear, parallel to [1302]. Contained fill (1305).	Natural	1305
1304	1.8	0.8	0.05	Mid-dark grey/brown clay silt fill of linear [1302]. No finds, rare charcoal.	[1302]	1301
1305	1.8	0.7	0.15	Mid-dark grey/brown clay silt fill of linear [1303]. No finds, rare charcoal.	[1303]	1301

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Description	Later Than	Earlier Than
				Trench Fourteen: 50m long by 1.8m. Natural deposits = Yellow/Grey clay & <i>Crackington Formation</i> , at average depth of 93.1m AOD.		
1401	50	1.8	0.28	Topsoil. Mid-grey/brown silty clay.	Natural	n/a
[1402]	1.8	1	0.3	Cut of approx N-S linear, continuation of [1202]. Contained fill (1403). 45° sides and flat base.	Natural	1403
1403	1.8	1	0.3	Fill of [1402]. Mid to dark grey clay silt. No finds, rare charcoal.	[1402]	1401
				Trench Fifteen: 50m long by 1.8m. Natural deposits = Yellow/Grey clay & <i>Crackington Formation</i> , at average depth of 94.88m AOD.		
1501	50	1.8	0.29	Topsoil. Mid-grey/brown silty clay.	Natural	n/a
[1502]	1.9	0.75	0.1	Cut of NE-SW aligned linear feature, parallel with [1504]. Shallow sloping sides and flat base. Contained fill (1503).	Natural	1503
1503	1.9	0.75	0.1	Mid-brown/grey clay silt fill of [1502]. No finds, rare charcoal.	[1502]	1501
[1504]	1.9	0.6	0.1	Cut of NE-SW aligned linear feature, parallel with [1502]. Shallow sloping sides and flat base. Contained fill (1505).	Natural	1505
1505	1.9	0.6	0.1	Mid-brown/grey clay silt fill of [1504]. No finds, rare charcoal.	[1504]	1501
				Trench Nineteen: 50m long by 1.8m. Natural deposits = Yellow/Grey clay & <i>Crackington Formation</i> , at average depth of 87.3m AOD. No archaeological finds, features or deposits present.		
1901	50	1.8	0.3	Topsoil. Mid-grey/brown silty clay.	Natural	n/a
				Trench Twenty: 50m long by 1.8m. Natural deposits = Yellow/Grey clay & <i>Crackington Formation</i> , at average depth of 89.3m AOD. No archaeological finds, features or deposits present.		
2001	50	1.8	0.3	Topsoil. Mid-grey/brown silty clay.	Natural	n/a

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Description	Later Than	Earlier Than
				Trench Twenty One: 50m long by 1.8m. Natural deposits = Yellow/Grey clay & <i>Crackington Formation</i> , at average depth of 87.1m AOD. No archaeological finds, features or deposits present.		
2101	50	1.8	0.35	Topsoil. Mid-grey/brown silty clay.	Natural	n/a
				Trench Twenty Two: 50m long by 1.8m. Natural deposits = Yellow/Grey clay & <i>Crackington Formation</i> , at average depth of 84.05m AOD. No archaeological finds, features or deposits present.		
2201	50	1.8	0.35	Topsoil. Mid-grey/brown silty clay.	Natural	n/a
				Trench Twenty Three: 50m long by 1.8m. Natural deposits = Yellow/Grey clay & <i>Crackington Formation</i> , at average depth of 89.5m AOD. No archaeological finds, features or deposits present.		
2301	50	1.8	0.28	Topsoil. Mid-grey/brown silty clay.	Natural	n/a
				Trench Twenty Eight: 50m long by 1.8m. Natural deposits = Yellow/Grey clay & <i>Crackington Formation</i> , at average depth of 98.6m AOD.		
2801	50	1.8	0.15	Topsoil. Mid-grey/brown silty clay.	Natural	n/a
2802	0.4	0.4	n/a	Amorphous patch of scorched/heat affected natural - no associated cut.	Natural	2801
2803	1.45	0.5	0.3	Primary brick red clay fill of [2804] . Frequent subangular stone inclusions. No finds, occasional charcoal. 100% excavated.	[2804]	2805
[2804]	50	1.8	0.08	Cut of possible ditch terminal or elongated pit. Irregular sides and concave base. Contained fills (2803) & (2805).	Natural	2803
2805	49.2+	1.8	0.23	Secondary mottled yellow and mid brown granular clay silt fill of [2804] . Possibly a fill of a recut into (2803). No finds, occasional charcoal. 100% excavated.	2803	2801

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Description	Later Than	Earlier Than
				Trench Twenty Nine: 50m long by 1.8m. Natural deposits = Yellow/Grey clay & <i>Crackington Formation</i> , at average depth of 102.5m AOD.		
2901	50	1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Mid-grey/brown silty clay.	Natural	n/a
[2902]	2	1	0.3	Cut of linear feature running NE-SW. 45° sloping sides down to narrow base. Contained fill (2903)	Natural	2903
2903	2	1	0.3	Dark grey brown clay silt fill of [2902] , heavy manganese flecking on natural interface. Contained single unworked flint (imported). 100% excavated.	[2902]	2901
				Trench Thirty: 50m long by 1.8m. Natural deposits = Yellow/Grey clay & <i>Crackington Formation</i> , at average depth of 105.8m AOD.		
3001	50	1.8	0.25	Topsoil. Mid-grey/brown silty clay.	Natural	n/a
[3002]	2.18	0.96	0.4	Cut of linear feature running NE-SW. 45° sloping sides and narrow concave base. Contained fill (3003).	Natural	3003
3003	2.18	0.96	0.4	Mid-yellow/grey clay fill of [3002] . Contained 6 sherds of C2-C3 Roman pottery. 100% excavated.	[3002]	3001
[3004]	2.5	0.9	0.4	Cut of linear feature running NW-SE. 60° sloping sides and narrow concave base. Contained fill (3005). Truncates earlier linear [3008] .	Natural	3005
3005	2.5	0.9	0.4	Mid to light grey/blue silty clay fill of [3004] . Contained 52 sherds of C2-C3 Roman pottery. 100% excavated.	[3004]	3001
[3006]	2.18	0.96	0.4	Same as [3002] .	Natural	3003
3007	2.18	0.96	0.4	Same as (3003).	[3002]	3001
[3008]	2.5	0.5	0.4	Cut of linear feature running NW-SE. 60° sloping SW edge, NW edge truncated away by later recut [3004] . Contained fill (3009).	Natural	3009
3009	2.5	0.5	0.4	Mid to light grey silty clay fill of [3008] . Cut by [3004] . No finds, occasional charcoal. 100% excavated.	[3008]	3001

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Description	Later Than	Earlier Than
				Trench Thirty One: 50m long by 1.8m. Natural deposits = Yellow/Grey clay & <i>Crackington Formation</i> , at average depth of 97.75m AOD. No archaeological finds, features or deposits present.		
3101	50	1.8	0.45	Topsoil. Mid-grey/brown silty clay.	Natural	n/a
				Trench Thirty Two: 50m long by 1.8m. Natural deposits = Yellow/Grey clay & <i>Crackington Formation</i> , at average depth of 91.7m AOD.		
3201	50	1.8	0.4	Topsoil. Mid-grey/brown silty clay.	Natural	n/a
[3202]	1.8	1.8	n/a	Cut of E-W aligned field boundary feature. Parallel with [3203]. Unexcavated.	Natural	3201
[3203]	1.8	1.8	n/a	Cut of E-W aligned field boundary feature. Parallel with [3202]. Unexcavated. Five sherds of C17-C19 pottery on surface of feature.	Natural	3201
[3204]	1.8	0.6	n/a	Cut of E-W aligned field boundary feature. Parallel with [3205]. Unexcavated.	Natural	3201
[3205]	1.8	1.11	n/a	Cut of E-W aligned field boundary feature. Parallel with [3204]. Unexcavated.	Natural	3201
[3206]	1.8	1.22	n/a	Cut of E-W aligned field boundary feature. Parallel with [3207]. Unexcavated.	Natural	3201
[3207]	1.8	0.47	n/a	Cut of E-W aligned field boundary feature. Parallel with [3206]. Unexcavated.	Natural	3201
				Trench Thirty Three: 50m long by 1.8m. Natural deposits = Yellow/Grey clay & <i>Crackington Formation</i> , at average depth of 89.6m AOD.		
3301	50	1.8	0.48	Topsoil. Mid-grey/brown silty clay.	Natural	n/a
[3302]	2.6	0.6	n/a	Cut of NE-SW aligned field boundary feature. Parallel with [3203]. Unexcavated.	Natural	3301
[3303]	2.21	1.9	n/a	Cut of NE-SW aligned field boundary feature. Parallel with [3202]. Unexcavated. Single sherd of C17-C19 pottery associated.	Natural	3301

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Description	Later Than	Earlier Than
				Trench Thirty Four: 50m long by 1.8m. Natural deposits = Yellow/Grey clay & <i>Crackington Formation</i> , at average depth of 86.1m AOD.		
3401	50	1.8	0.35	Topsoil. Mid-grey/brown silty clay.	Natural	n/a
[3402]	2.6	1.1	n/a	Cut of E-W aligned field boundary feature. Parallel with [3403]. Unexcavated.	Natural	3401
[3403]	2.88	1.44	n/a	Cut of E-W aligned field boundary feature. Parallel with [3402]. Unexcavated.	Natural	3401
[3405]	2.45	1.43	n/a	Cut of N-S aligned field boundary feature. Unexcavated.	Natural	3401
				Trench Thirty Five: 50m long by 1.8m. Natural deposits = Yellow/Grey clay & <i>Crackington Formation</i> , at average depth of 95.2m AOD.		
3501	50	1.8	0.3	Topsoil. Mid-grey/brown silty clay.	Natural	n/a
[3502]	2.4	1.3	0.1	Cut of shallow N-S aligned linear feature. Imperceptible edges and flat base. Contained fill (3503). Cuts (3507).	Natural	3503
3503	2.4	1.3	0.1	Mixed brown/grey silt clay fill of [3502]. No finds, occasional charcoal.	[3502]	3501
[3504]	2.4	1.3	0.1	Same as [3502].	Natural	3505
3505	2.4	1.3	0.1	Same as (3503).	[3505]	3501
[3506]	1.14	0.62	0.15	Cut of NW-SE aligned linear feature, truncated by [3502/4]. Uncertain relationship with [3508]. Contained fill (3507). Edges unobserved, Flat base.	Natural	3507, [3502/4]
3507	1.14	0.62	0.15	Mid purplish-grey clay fill of [3506]. No finds, occasional charcoal.	[3506]	[3502/4]
[3508]	0.6	0.24	0.04	Cut of shallow and narrow N-S linear. Uncertain relationship with [3506]. Contained fill (3509).	Natural	3509
3509	0.6	0.24	0.04	Mid purplish-grey clay fill of [3508]. No finds, occasional charcoal.	[3508]	3501
[3510]	2.01	0.94	n/a	Cut of NW-SE aligned field boundary feature. Parallel with [3511]. Unexcavated.	Natural	3501
[3511]	2.02	0.72	n/a	Cut of NW-SE aligned field boundary feature. Parallel with [3510]. Unexcavated.	Natural	3501

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Description	Later Than	Earlier Than
				Trench Thirty Six: 50m long by 1.8m. Natural deposits = Yellow/Grey clay & <i>Crackington Formation</i> , at average depth of 93.2m AOD.		
3601	50	1.8	0.37	Topsoil. Mid-grey/brown silty clay.	Natural	n/a
[3602]	0.68	0.8	0.08	Cut of subcircular pit feature. Possibly not anthropogenic in origin owing to uneven sides and base. Contained fill (3603).	Natural	3603
3603	0.68	0.8	0.08	Mid-brown/grey silty clay fill of [3602]. No finds, no charcoal.	[3602]	3601
[3604]	0.56	0.53	0.2	Cut of circular pit/posthole feature. Vertical edges and flat base. Contained fill (3605).	Natural	3605
3605	0.56	0.53	0.2	Mid-brown/grey silty clay fill of [3604]. No finds, frequent charcoal. 100% Excavated.	[3604]	3601
				Trench Thirty Seven: 50m long by 1.8m. Natural deposits = Yellow/Grey clay & <i>Crackington Formation</i> , at average depth of 94.2m AOD.		
3701	50	1.8	0.34	Topsoil. Mid-grey/brown silty clay.		
[3702]	1.8	0.55	0.1	Cut of N-S aligned linear. Imperceptible edges and flat base. Possible grubbed out hedgerow rather than cut linear field boundary. Contained fill (3703).	Natural	3703
3703	1.8	0.55	0.1	Mid to dark grey/brown clay silt fill of [3702]. Contained single sherd of possibly Medieval ceramic. Rare charcoal.	[3702]	3701
[3704]	4	1.7	0.7	Cut of E-W linear feature. Stepped, 45° sides and flat base. Contained fills (3705) and (3706) and later recuts [3707, 3709 & 3711]. Cuts earlier NE-SW linear [3713].	Natural	3705, 3706
3705	4	1.2	0.4	Mottled orange/grey granular clay silt forming primary fill of [3704]. Rare charcoal and no finds.	[3704]	3706
3706	4	1.2	0.3	Mid to light brown clay silt forming secondary fill of [3704]. Rare charcoal and no finds. Cut by later recuts [3707, 3709 & 3711].	3705	[3707, 3709, 3711]
[3707]	4	1	0.4	Recut of linear along same course as [3704]. Wide 'U' shape profile and concave base. Cut into Natural and (3706). Truncated on N edge by later recut [3711].	3706	3708, [3711]

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Description	Later Than	Earlier Than
3708	4	1	0.4	Mid to dark brown clay silt with rare subangular stone inclusions. Fill of recut [3707]. Cut by [3709] & [3711]. No finds.	[3707]	[3709], [3711], 3701
[3709]	4	0.6	0.25	Cut of later recut along line of [3704]. 'U' shape profile with hollow base. Cut into (3708). Contains fill (3710).	[3708]	3710
3710	4	0.6	0.25	Pale brown clay silt fill of recut [3709]. No finds and occasional charcoal.	[3709]	3701
[3711]	4	0.8	0.2	Cut of further recut along line of [3704]. 'U' shape profile with flattish base. Cut into natural, (3706) and (3708). Contained fill (3712).	Natural, 3706, 3708	3712
3712	4	0.8	0.2	Dark brown-grey silty clay fill of later recut [3711]. Contained single sherd of Industrial Refined White Ware of later Post-medieval date.	[3711]	3701
[3713]	0.7	0.4	0.2	Cut of shallow N-S aligned gully feature. Contained fill (3714). 'U' shape profile with narrow, flat base. Truncated by [3711].	Natural	3714, [3711]
3714	0.7	0.4	0.2	Mid grey clay silt fill of gully [3713]. Contained single sherd of C17-C19 slipware.	[3713]	[3711], 3701
				Trench Thirty Eight: 50m long by 1.8m. Natural deposits = Yellow/Grey clay & <i>Crackington Formation</i> , at average depth of 89.8m AOD.		
3801	50	1.8	0.25	Topsoil. Mid-grey/brown silty clay.	Natural	n/a
[3802]	2.3	0.84	n/a	Cut of E-W aligned linear field boundary. Likely continuation of [3704] or one of its subsequent recuts. Unexcavated due to severe water ingress.	Natural	3801
[3803]	3.9	1.4	n/a	Cut of N-S aligned linear feature. Unmapped on DBA or Geophysical. Unexcavated due to severe water ingress.	Natural	3801
[3804]	2.8	0.55	n/a	Cut of E-W aligned linear feature. Unmapped on DBA or Geophysical. Unexcavated due to severe water ingress.	Natural	3801
[3805]	10	0.4	n/a	Cut of possible, though ephemeral, curvilinear feature to SE of [3804]. Only partially visible prior to flooding. Unexcavated.	Natural	3801

Appendix 1 – Table 1: Context Catalogue

For: Foundations
Site: Lower Litchardon, Newton Tracey, Devon
Site code: LNT 20
Author: Jane Timby
Date: December 2020

POTTERY

1 Introduction and methodology

- 1.1 The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of a small group of 69 sherds of pottery weighing 706.5 g dating to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods.
- 1.2 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).
- 1.3 The sorted assemblage was quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context. Rims were additionally coded to general form. A catalogue of the assemblage can be found summarised in Table 1 along with a provisional date for that context.
- 1.4 The assemblage was of mixed condition with some very small pieces and multiple sherds from a single vessel. The Roman wares were in better condition than some of the later wares perhaps reflecting material from undisturbed feature fills as opposed to material from topsoil or plough-soil horizons.
- 1.5 Pottery was recovered from nine defined contexts.
- 1.6 The pottery was recorded in the absence of any site details and no further research has been carried out to put it into its local context.

2 Roman

- 2.1 Two contexts: (3003) and (3005) between them produced 58 sherds of pottery of Roman date, 84% of the total recovered assemblage.
- 2.2 The Roman assemblage comprises a mixture of regional imports alongside wares of more local origin. The former includes 39 sherds of Dorset black burnished ware (DOR BB1) from Poole Harbour, mainly from everted rim jars with examples present in both contexts. Accompanying these sherds in (3003) is a whiteware, wall-sided, mortarium with polycrystalline quartz trituration grits.
- 2.3 In cxt (3005) the BB1 is accompanied by two joining sherds on an oxidised handmade ware with white rock inclusions, probably Gabbroic ware, and 26 sherds of South Devon coarseware with characteristic mica and coarse grits (Holbrook and Bidwell

1991, 177, fabric 5). The vessel has a narrow cordon around the body and a burnished finish.

2.5 The Roman assemblage suggests a date in the later 2nd – 3rd centuries.

3 Medieval

3.1 One rimsherd from a large dish from (3001) may be of medieval date. The sherd is oxidised with quite coarse quartz grits.

3.2 A small oxidised sherd from (3703), currently undated, may also be of medieval date.

4 Post-medieval

4.1 Nine sherds of post-medieval date were recovered from five contexts. The material includes three sherds of modern china, single sherds of slip-decorated ware and English stoneware and four sherds of Devon gravel-tempered ware.

5 Conclusion

5.1 This is a very small assemblage but suggests the presence of mid Roman activity (late 2nd-3rd century) at the site. The post-medieval wares, generally quite small in size reflect typical background scatter.

References

Holbrook, N and Bidwell, P T, 1991, *Roman finds from Exeter*, Exeter Archaeol Rep 4

Tomber, R, and Dore, J, 1998: *A national Roman fabric reference collection: a handbook*, Mus of London Archaeol Service/English Heritage/British Museum
(<http://www.romanpotterystudy.org/>)

Cxt	Fabric	Description	Form	Wt	No	Rim	Comment	Date
105	stone			0	0	0	geological	no date
1203	PMCH	industrial refined white ware (china)		1	1	0		Pmed
3001	MEDOX?	oxidised coarse grits	dish	57	0	1		?Med
3003	WW	white ware	mortarium	71	0	1	polycrystalline qtz trituration grit	IC2-C3 AD
3003	DORBB1	Dorset black burnished ware	jar	27	4	1		IC2-C3 AD
3005	DORBB1	Dorset black burnished ware	jar	188	18	7	also charcoal and stone	IC2-C3 AD
3005	GABCW?	?Gabbroic tempered coarseware		42	1	0	2=1 fresh break	IC2-C3 AD
3005	SDEVCW	South Devon coarseware		220	26	0	cordoned vessel, burnished	C2-C3
3203	PMDGT	Devon gravel-tempered		25	3	0		C17-19th
3203	PMESW	English stone ware		12	1	0		Pmed
3203	PMCH	industrial refined white ware (china)		3	1	0		Pmed
3301	PMDGT	Devon gravel-tempered		55	1	0		C17-19th
3703	OX	oxidised ware		3	1	0		no date
3712	PMCH	industrial refined white ware (china)		0.5	1	0		Pmed
3714	PMSLIP	slip-decorated earthenware		2	1	0		Pmed
TOTAL				706.5	59	10		

Appendix 2 – Table 2: Ceramic Analysis



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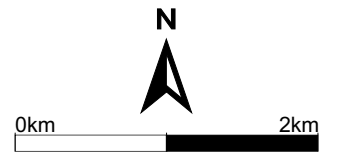
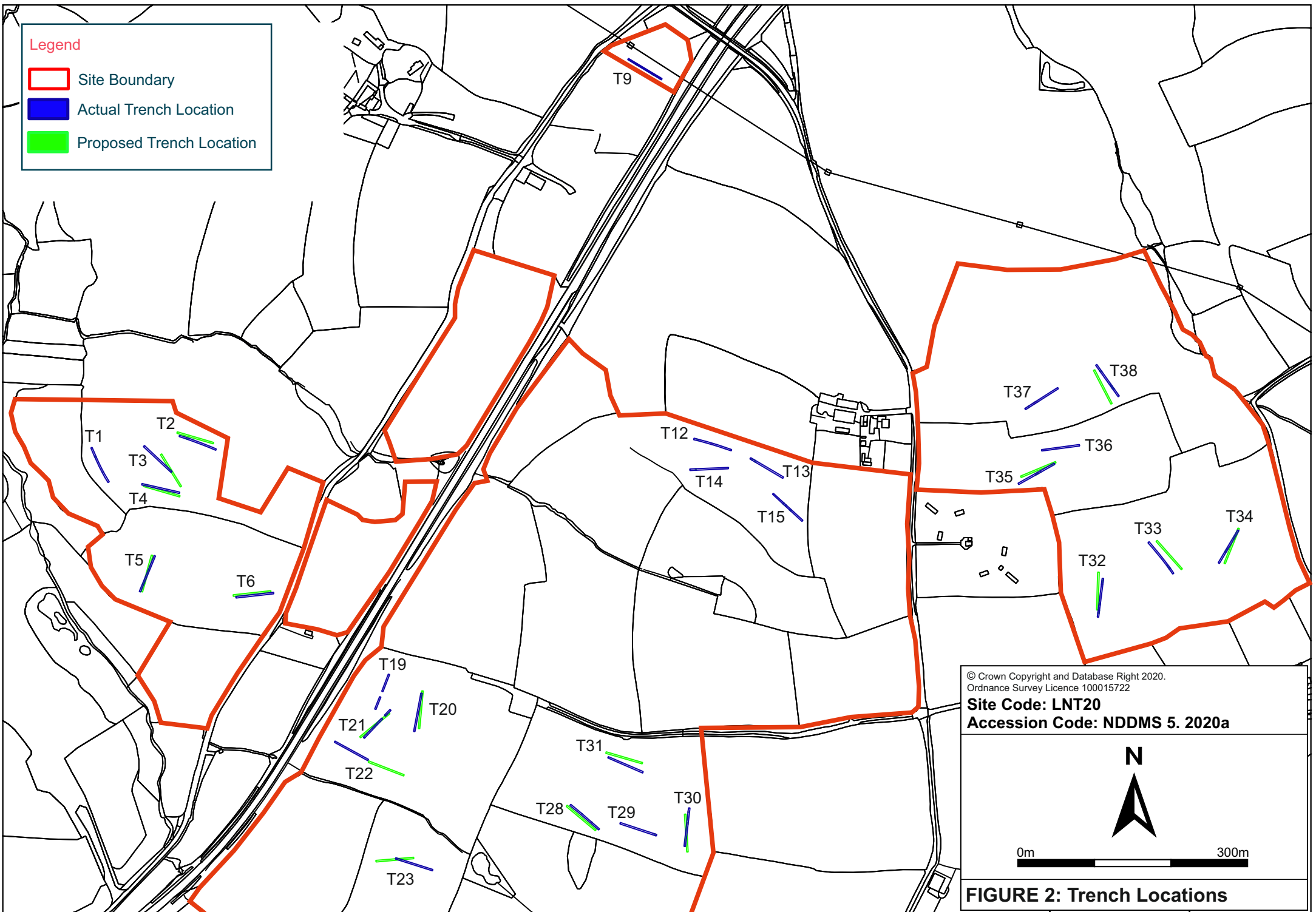


FIGURE 1: Site Location

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Actual Trench Location
- Proposed Trench Location



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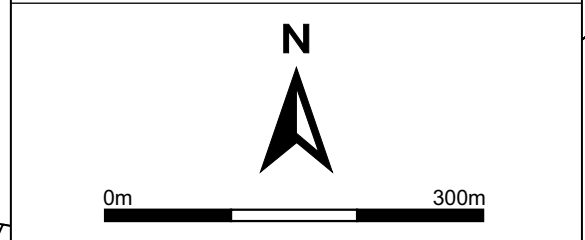
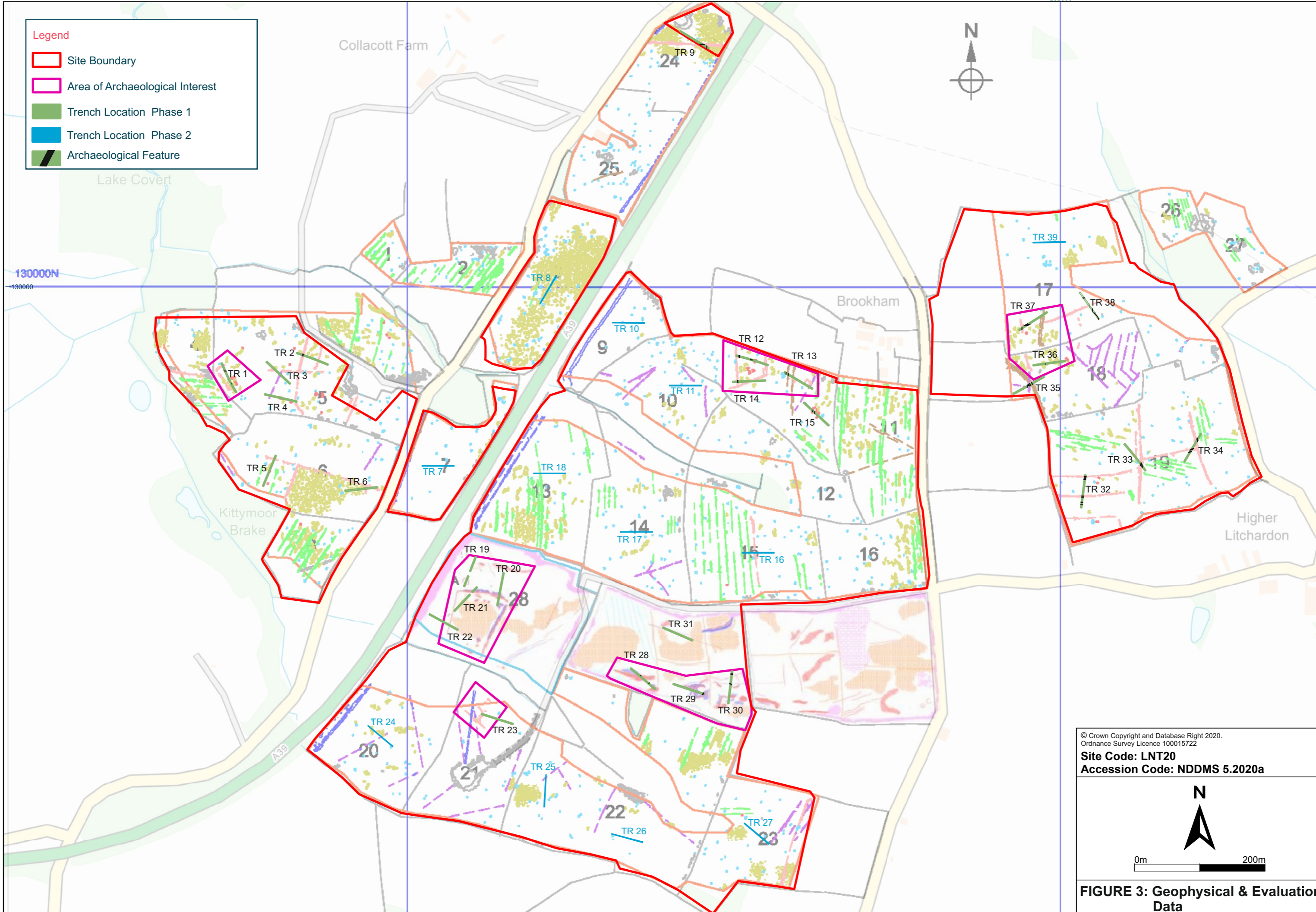


FIGURE 2: Trench Locations

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Area of Archaeological Interest
- Trench Location Phase 1
- Trench Location Phase 2
- Archaeological Feature



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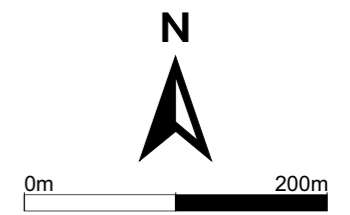
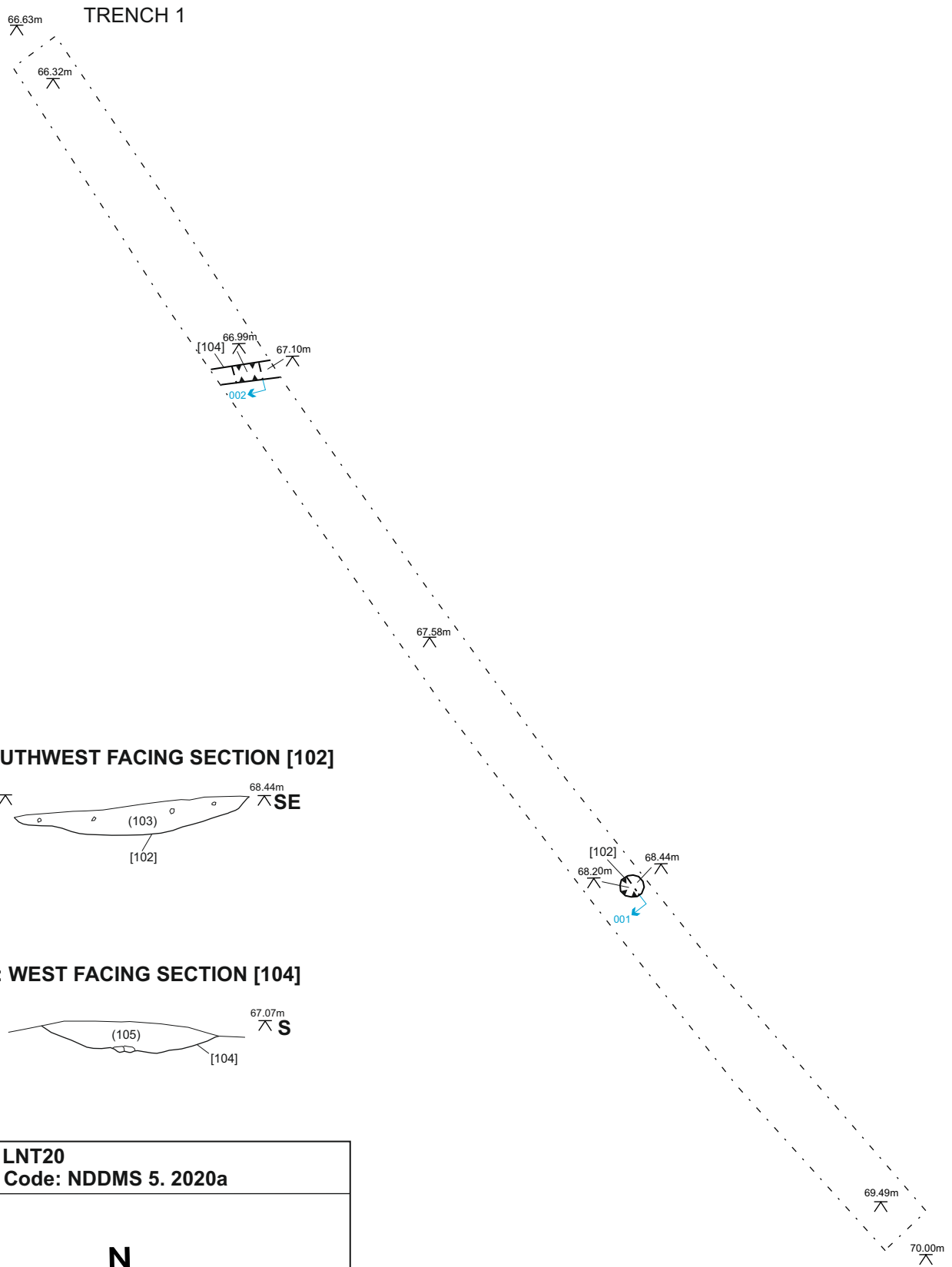
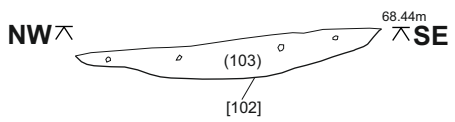


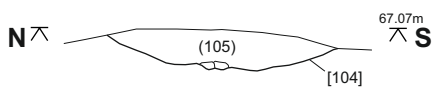
FIGURE 3: Geophysical & Evaluation Data



001: SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION [102]



002: WEST FACING SECTION [104]



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Accession Code: NDDMS 5. 2020a

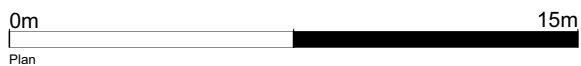
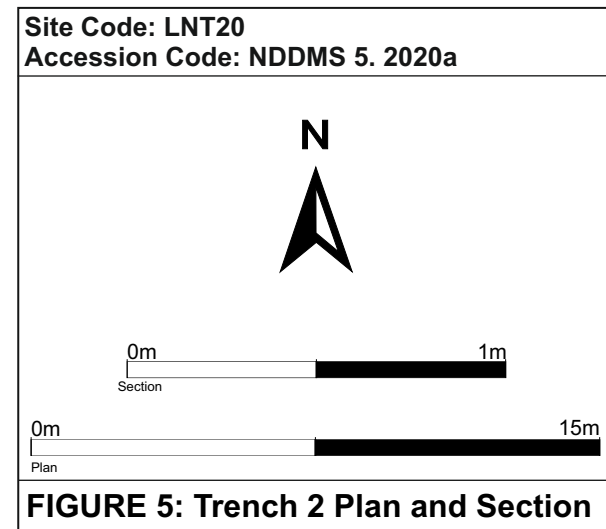
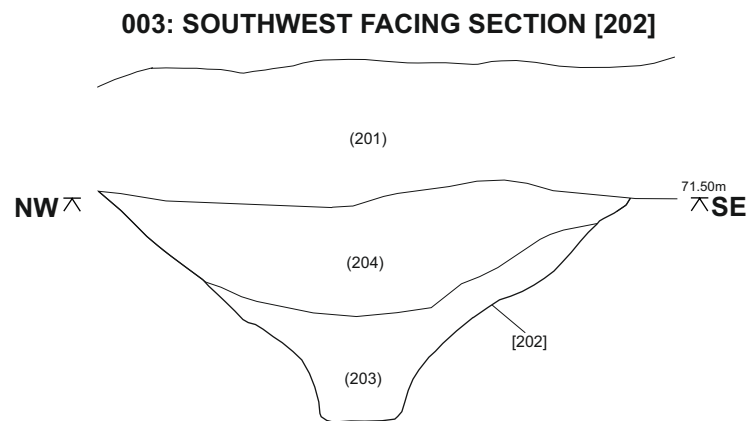
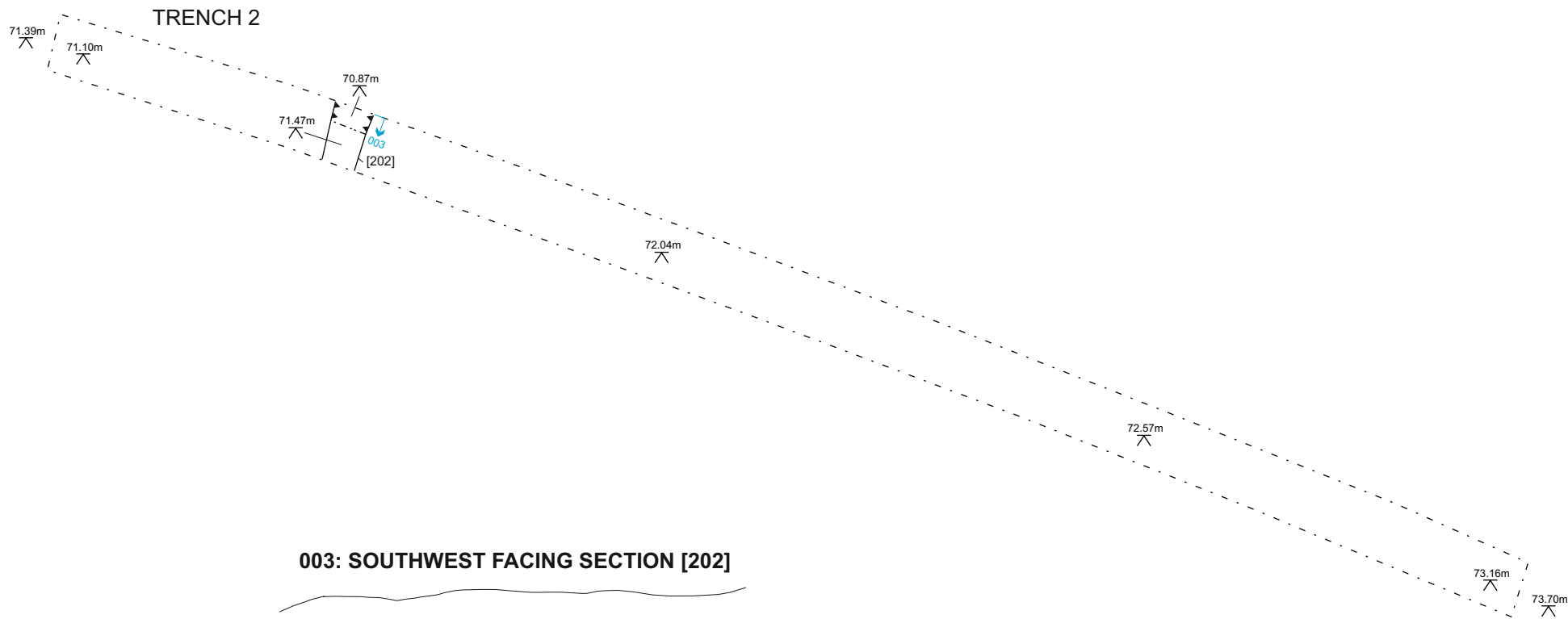
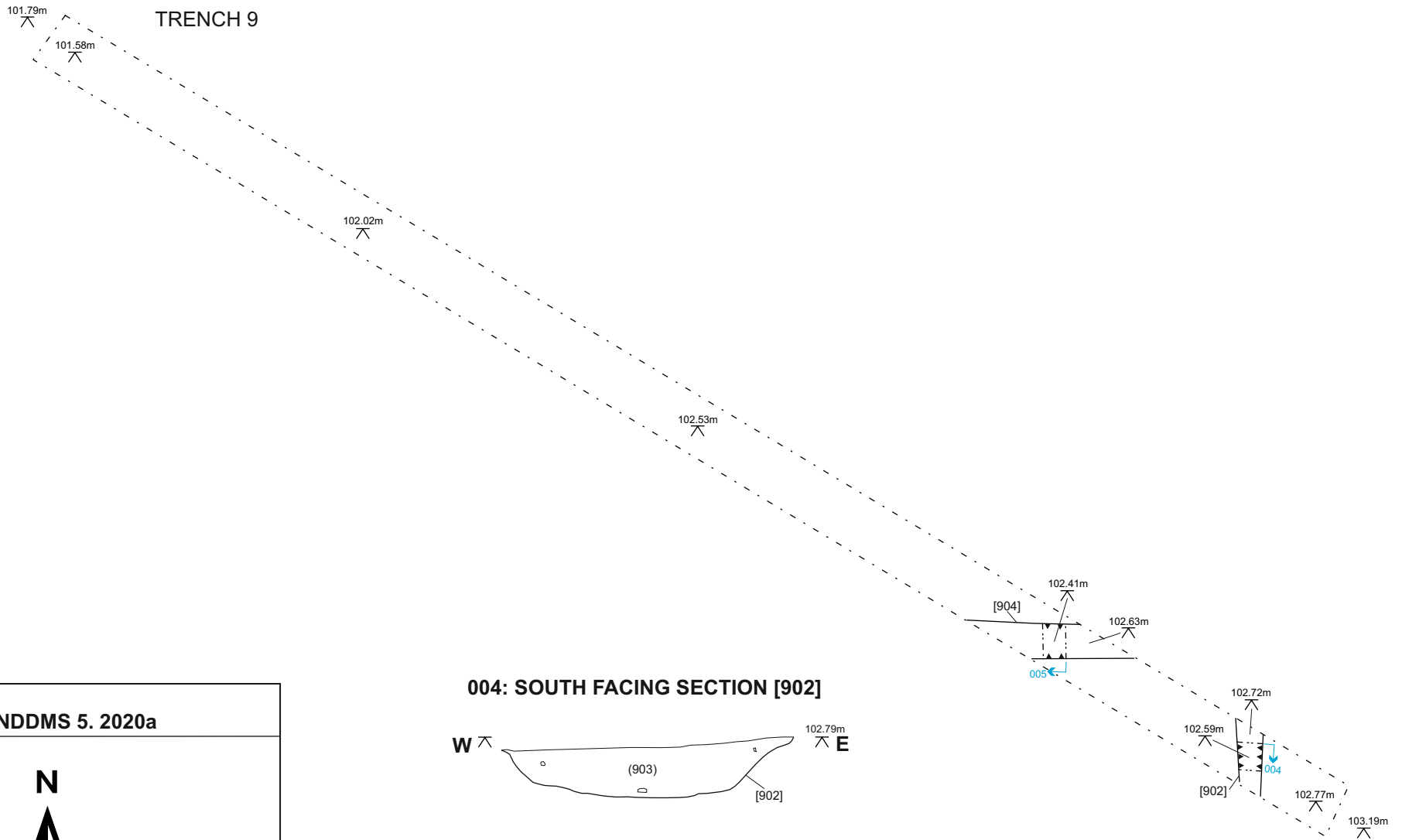


FIGURE 4: Trench 1 Plan and Sections





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Accession Code: NDDMS 5. 2020a

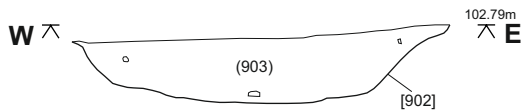
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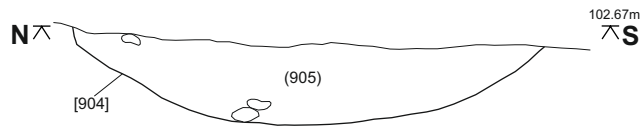
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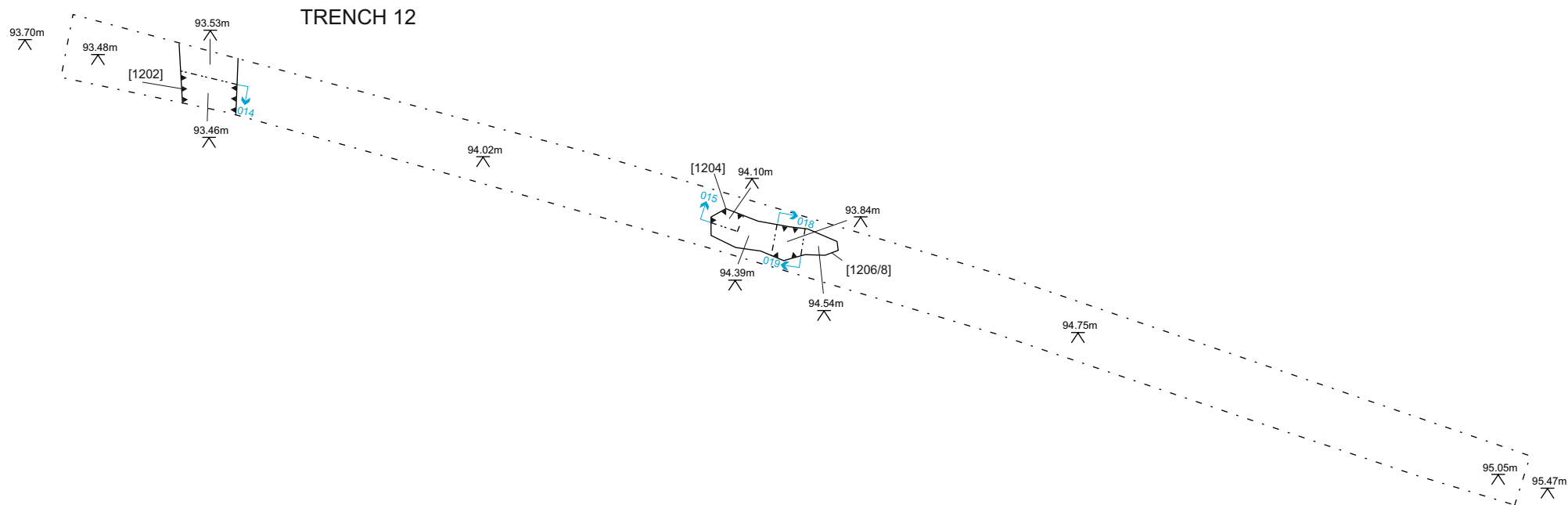
FIGURE 6: Trench 9 Plan and Sections

004: SOUTH FACING SECTION [902]

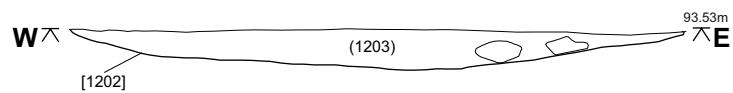


005: WEST FACING SECTION [904]

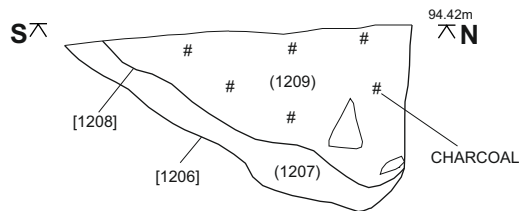




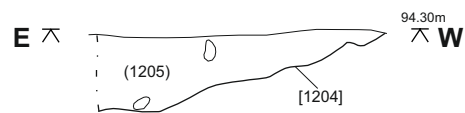
014: SOUTH FACING SECTION [1202]



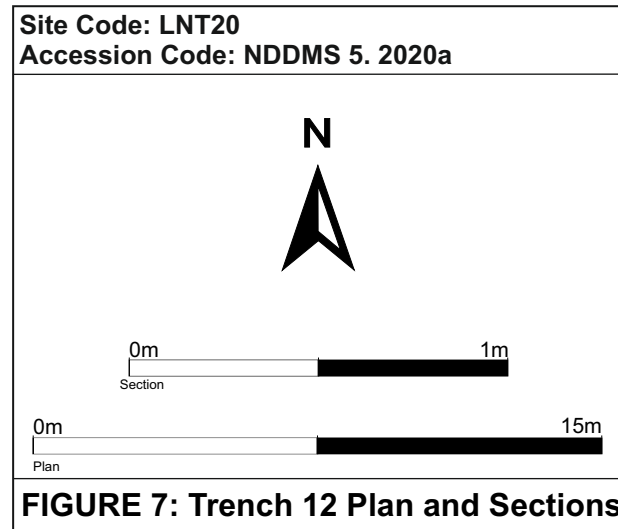
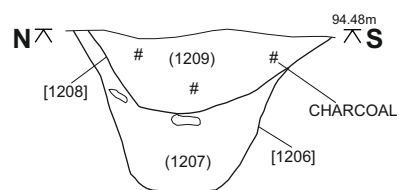
018: EAST FACING SECTION [1206] and [1208]

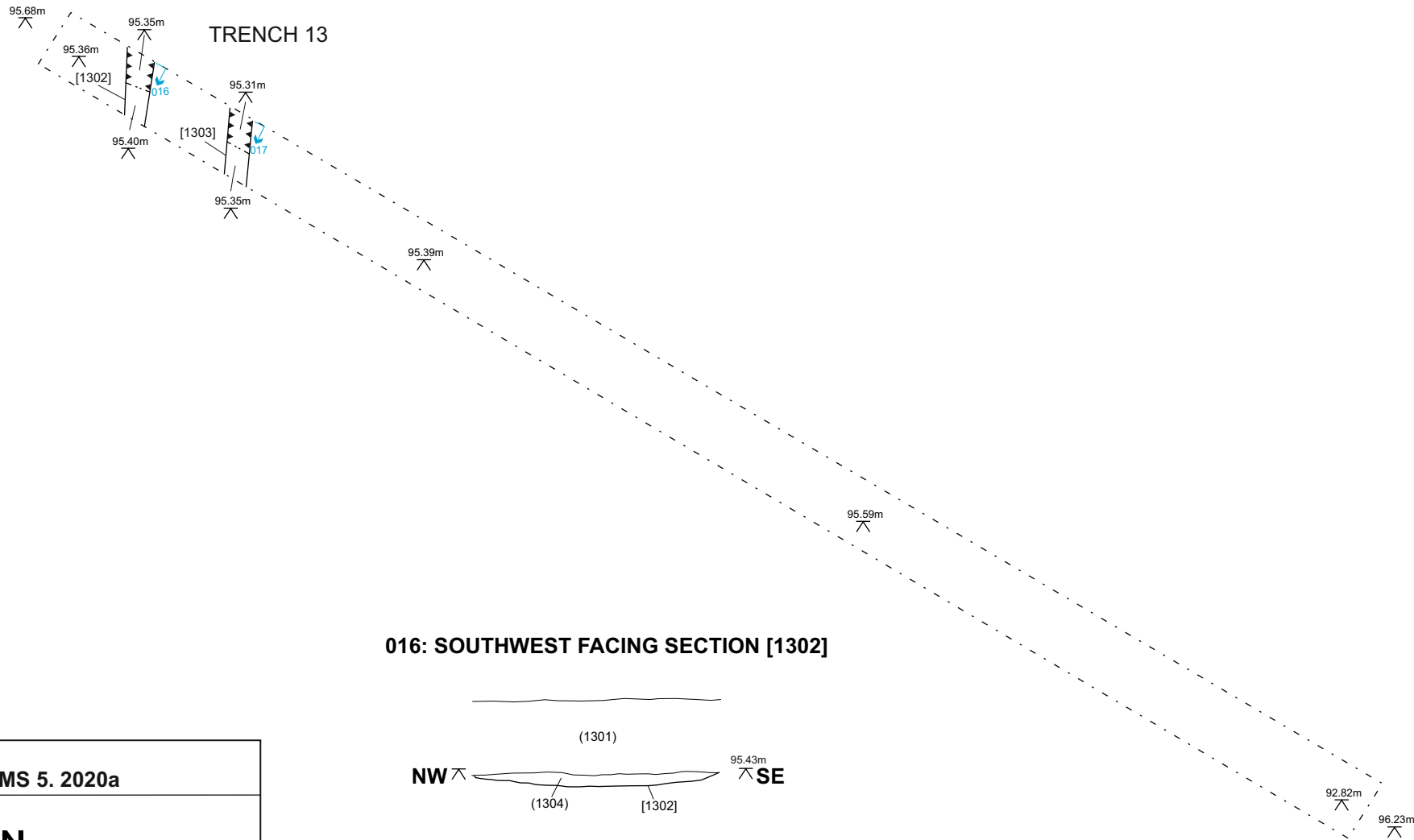


015: NORTH FACING SECTION [1204]

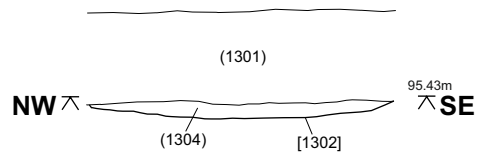


019: WEST FACING SECTION [1206] and [1208]

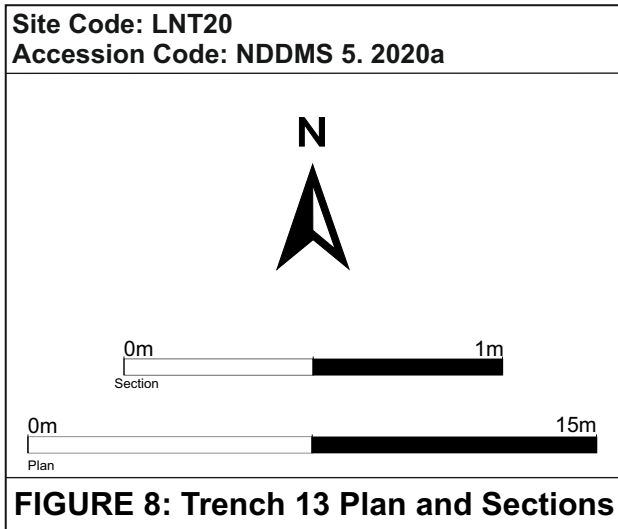
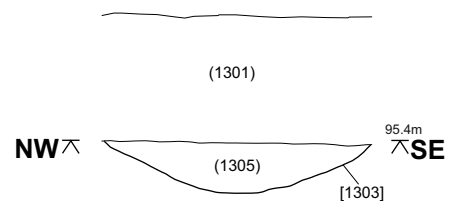


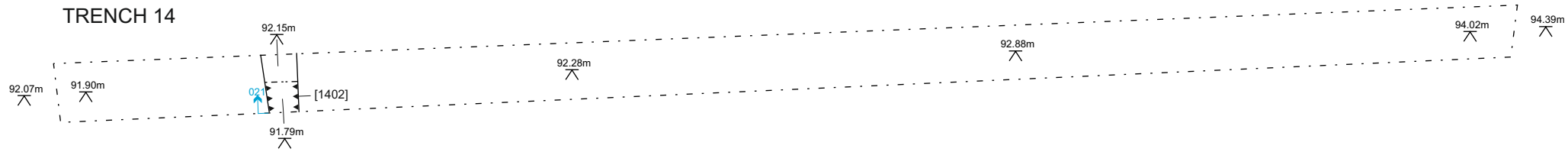


016: SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION [1302]

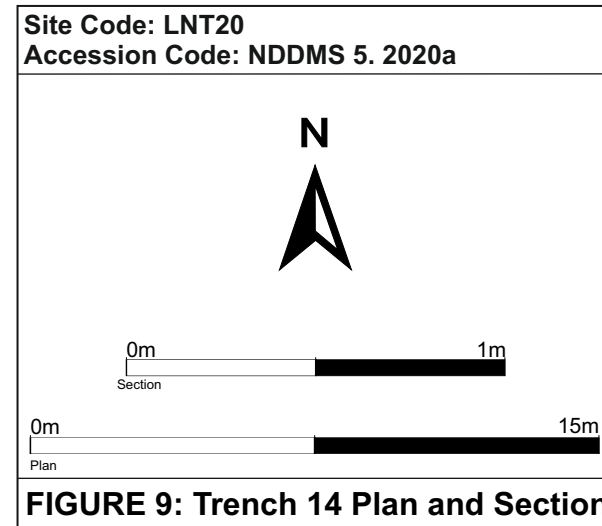
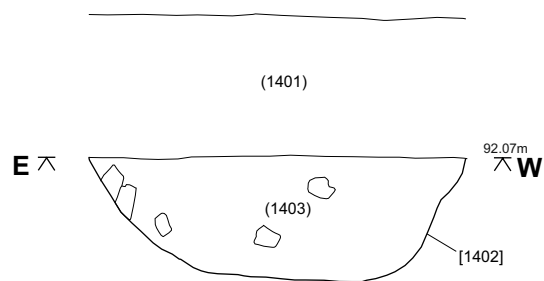


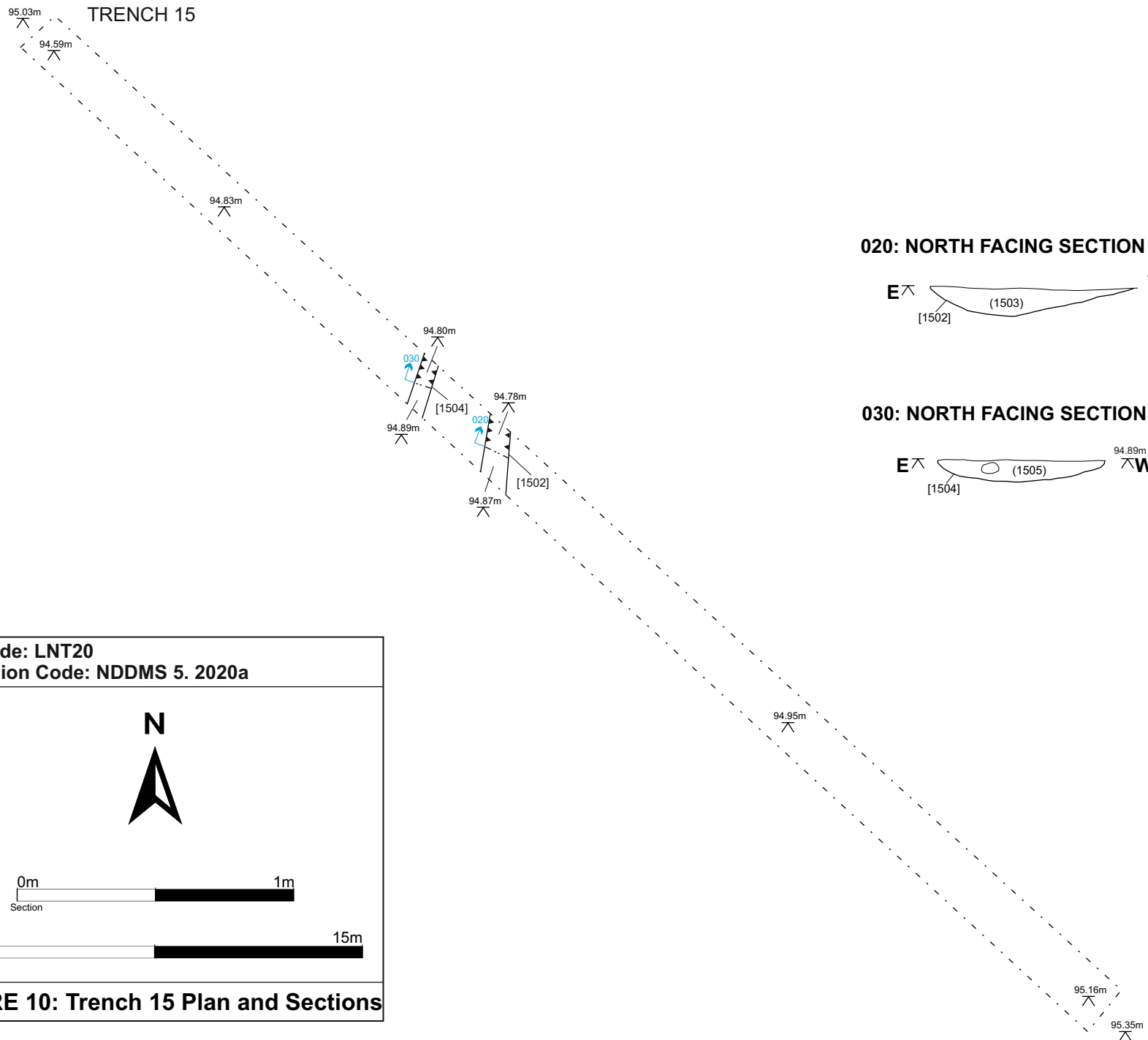
017: SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION [1303]



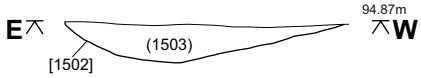


021: NORTH FACING SECTION [1402]

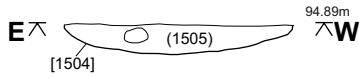




020: NORTH FACING SECTION [1502]



030: NORTH FACING SECTION [1504]



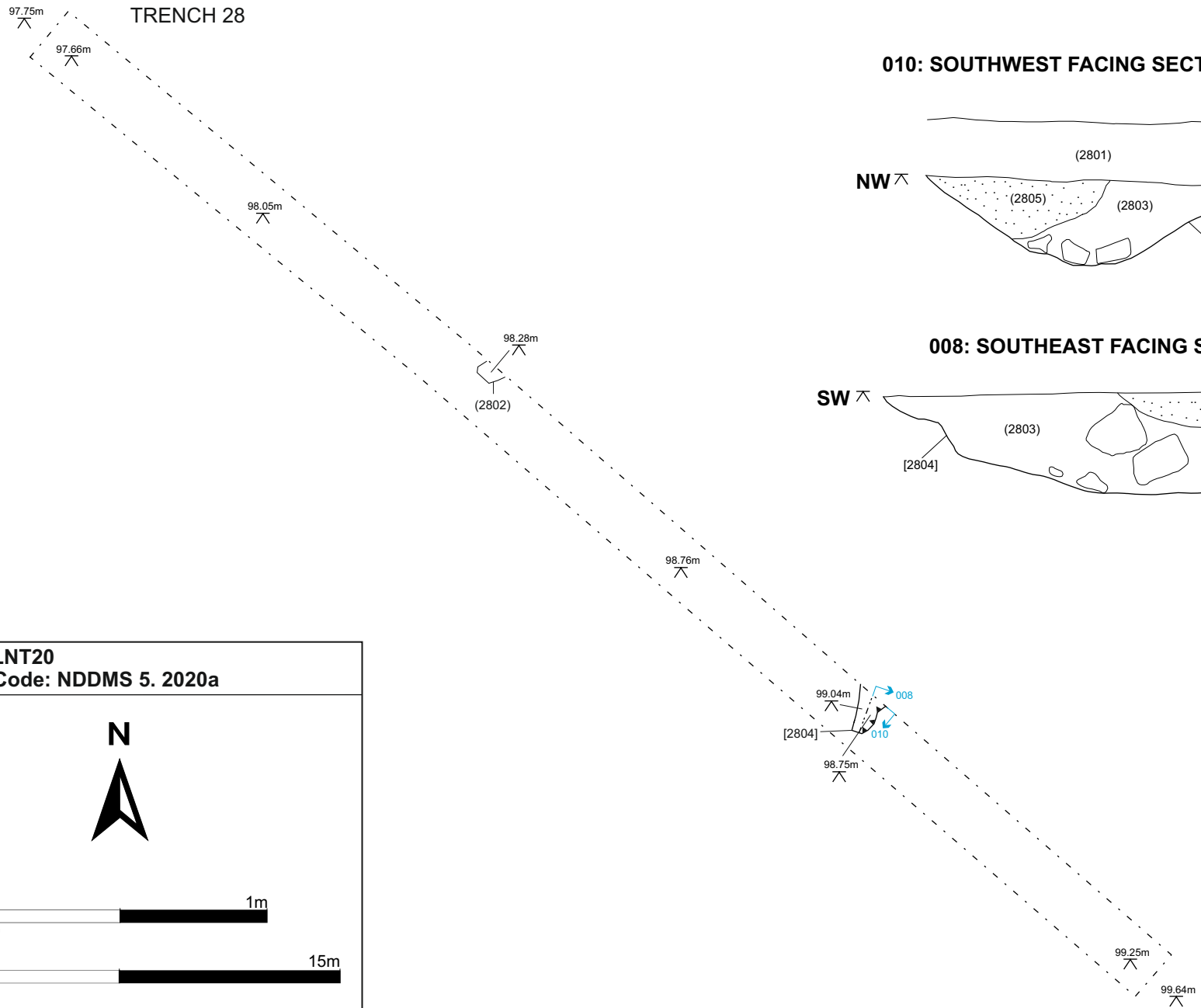
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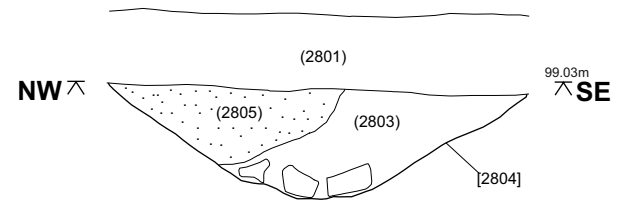
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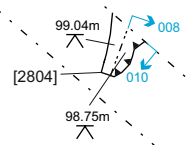
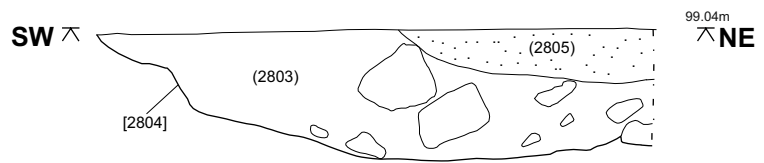
FIGURE 10: Trench 15 Plan and Sections



010: SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION [2804]



008: SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [2804]



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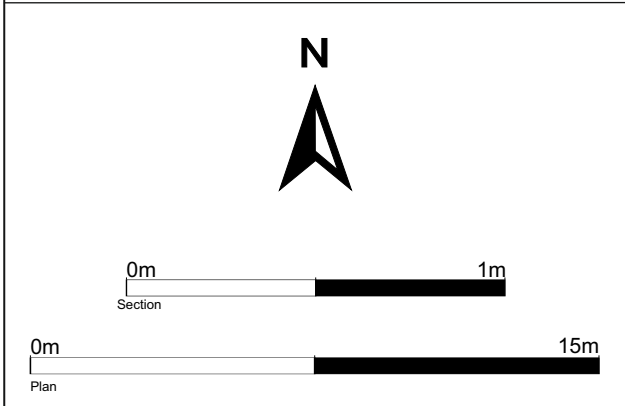
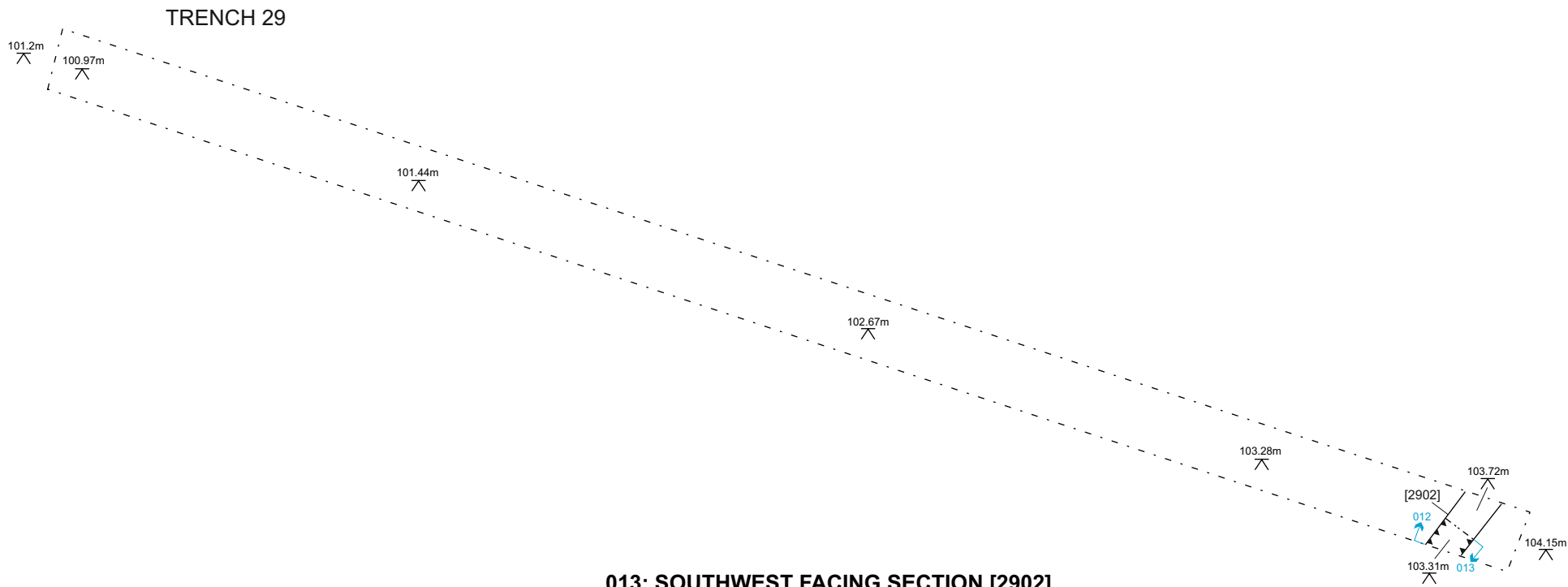
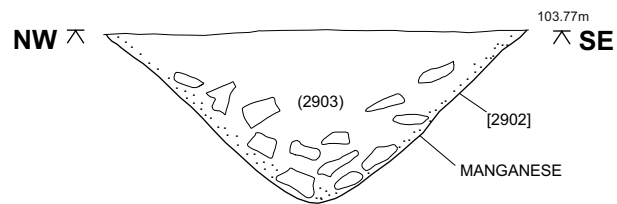


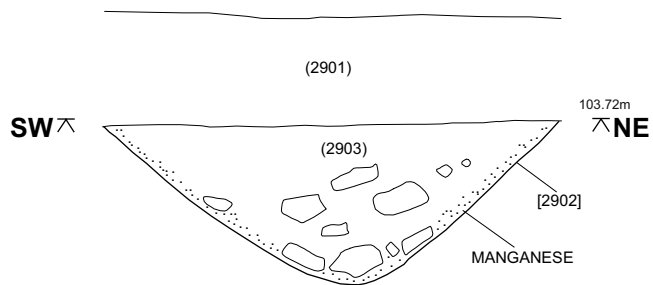
FIGURE 11: Trench 28 Plan and Sections



013: SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION [2902]



012: NORTHEAST FACING SECTION [2902]



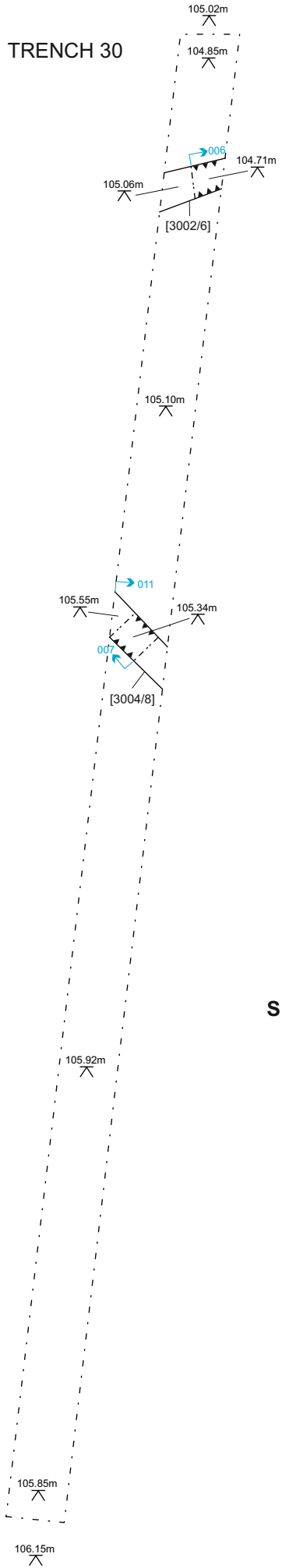
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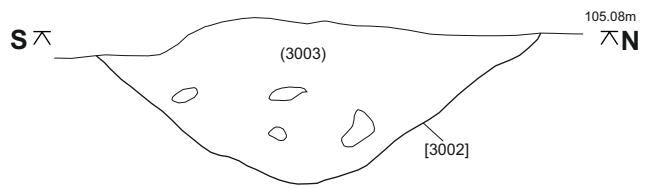
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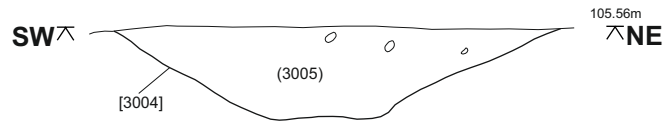
FIGURE 12: Trench 29 Plan and Sections



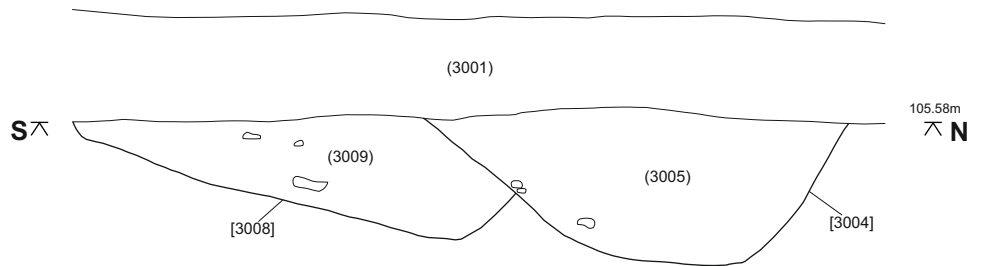
006: EAST FACING SECTION [3002]



007: NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [3004]



011: EAST FACING SECTION [3008] and [3004]



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Accession Code: NDDMS 5. 2020a

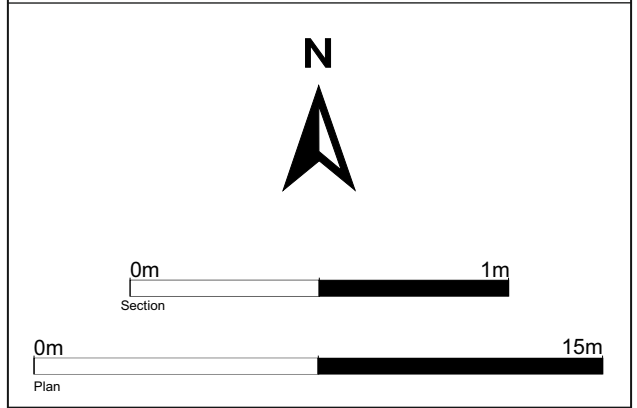
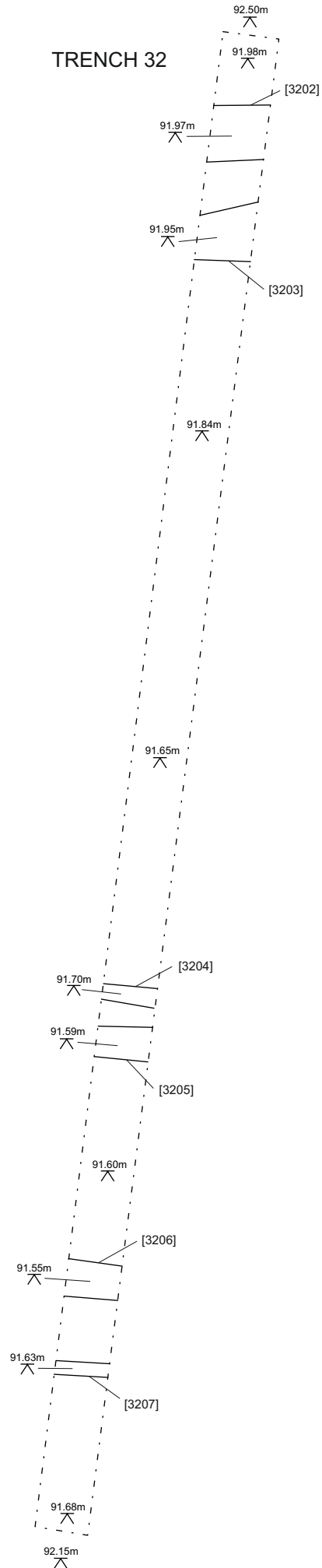


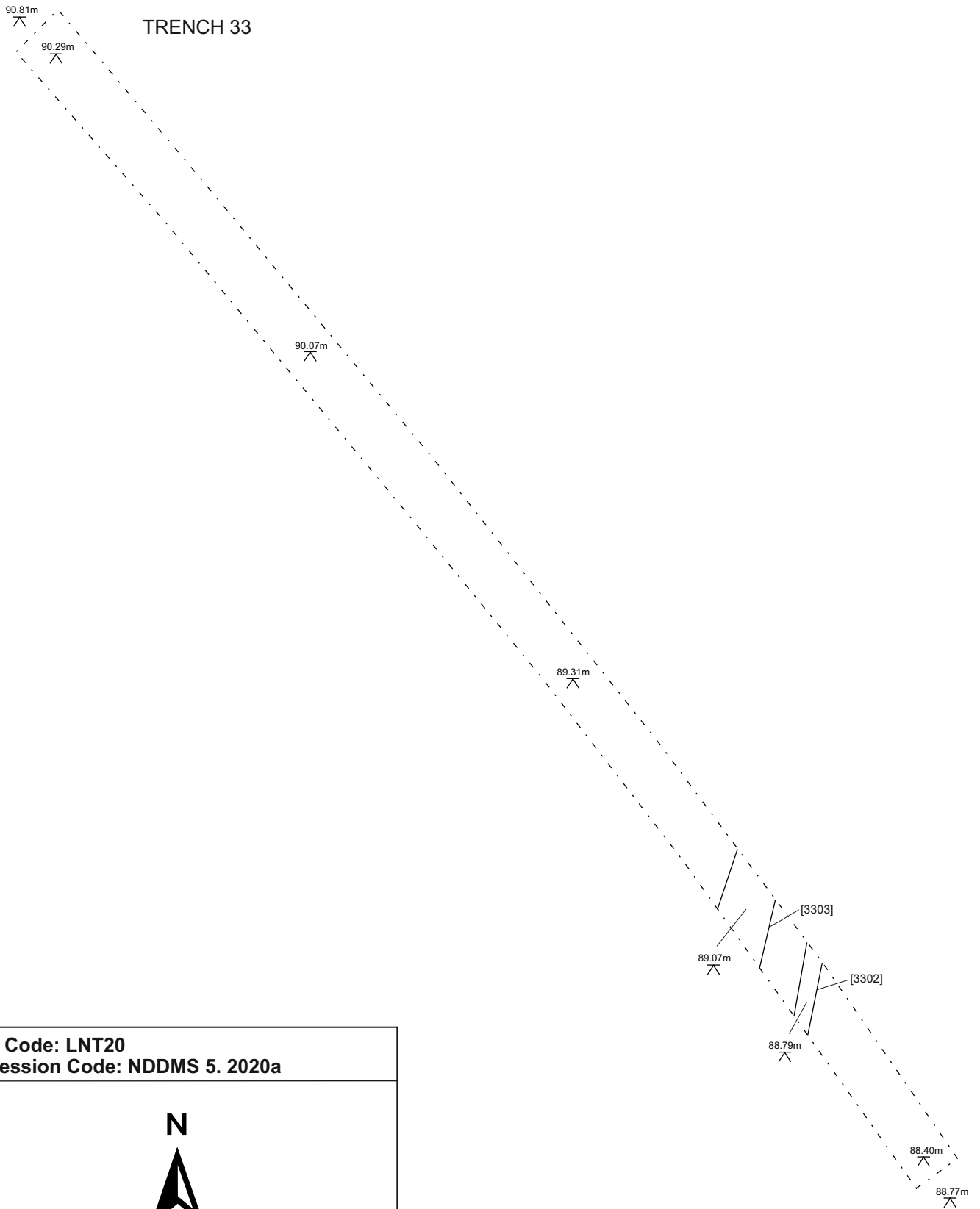
FIGURE 13: Trench 30 Plan and Sections




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FIGURE 14: Trench 32 Plan



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Accession Code: NDDMS 5. 2020a

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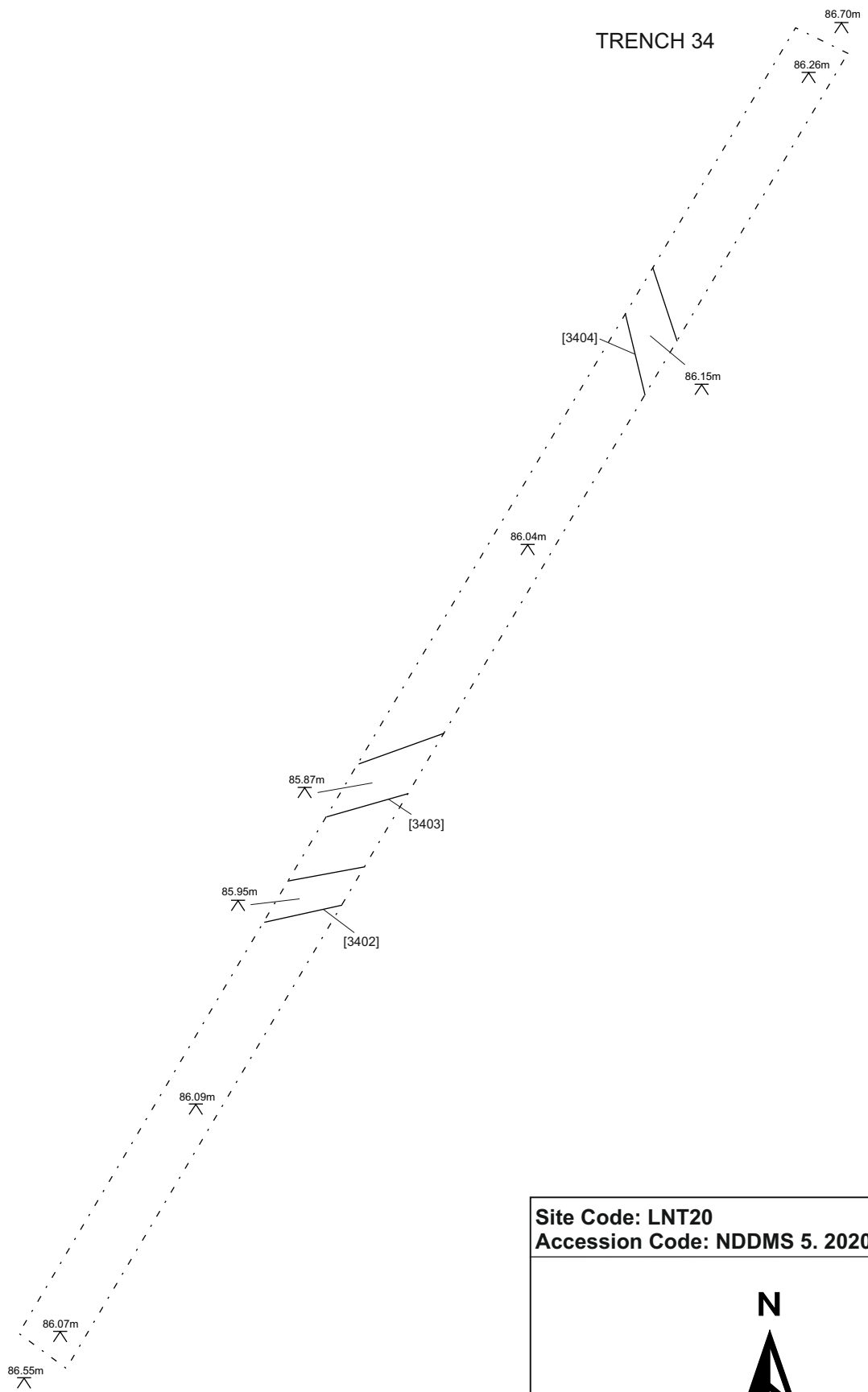


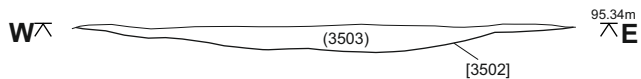
0m 15m

 Plan

FIGURE 15: Trench 33 Plan

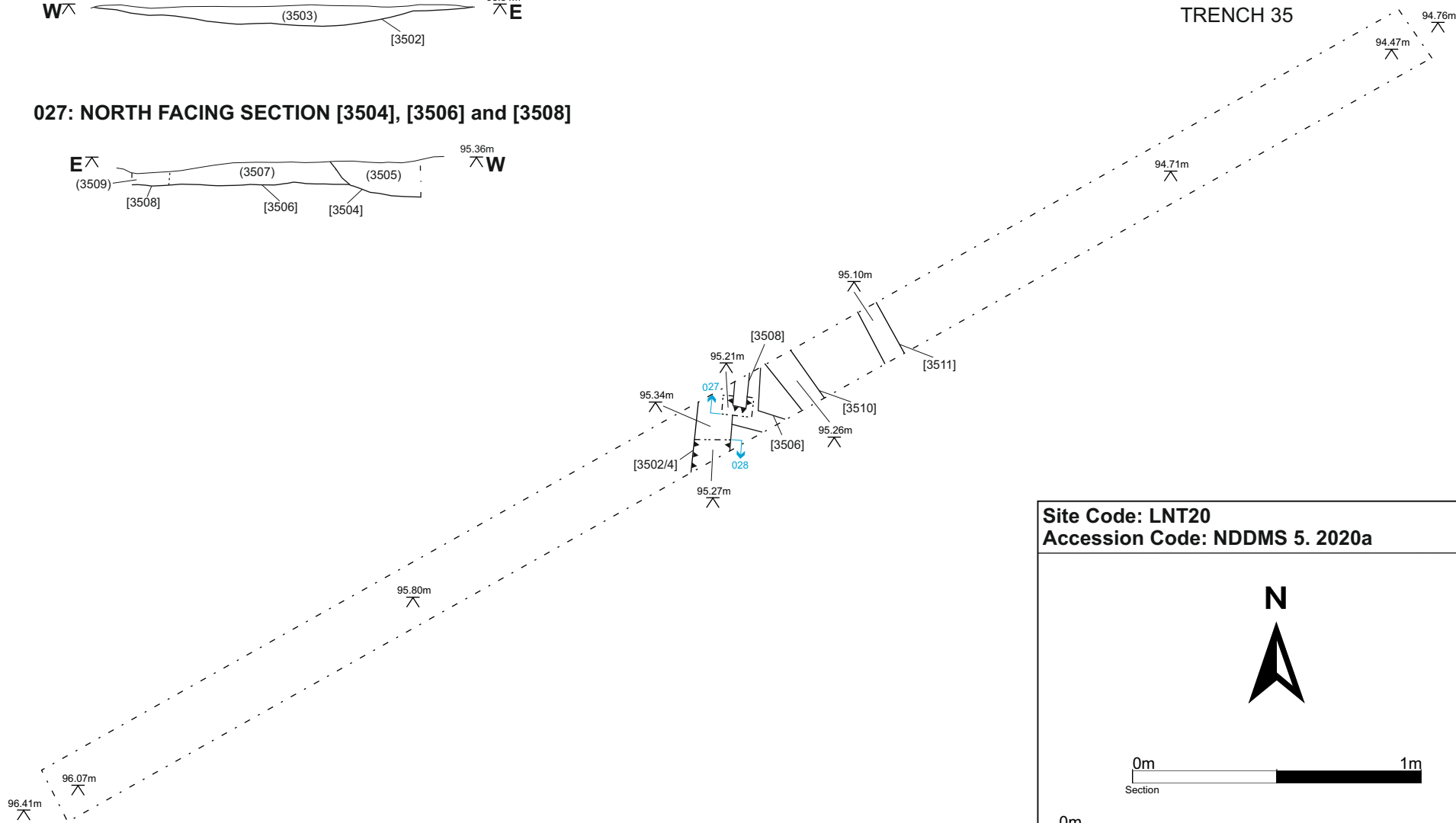


<p>Site Code: LNT20 Accession Code: NDDMS 5. 2020a</p>
<p>N</p> 
<p>0m 15m</p>  <p>Plan</p>
<p>FIGURE 16: Trench 34 Plan</p>

028: SOUTH FACING SECTION [3502]



027: NORTH FACING SECTION [3504], [3506] and [3508]



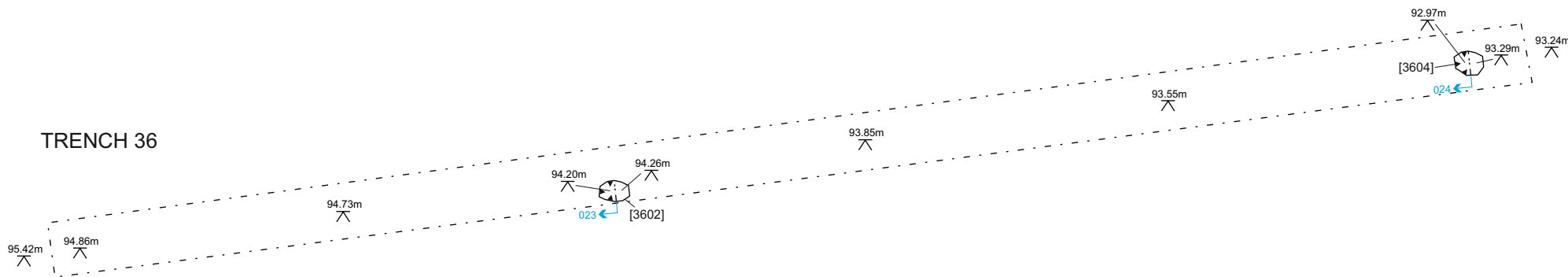
Site Code: LNT20
Accession Code: NDDMS 5. 2020a

N

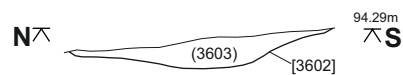
0m 1m
Section

0m 15m
Plan

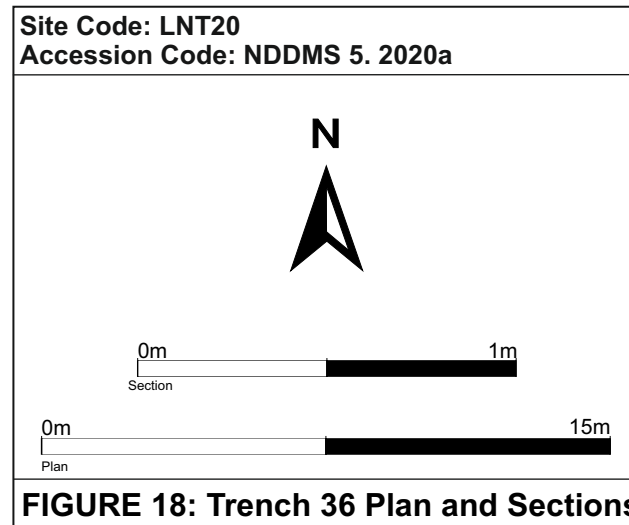
FIGURE 17: Trench 35 Plan and Sections



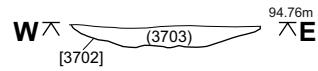
023: WEST FACING SECTION [3602]



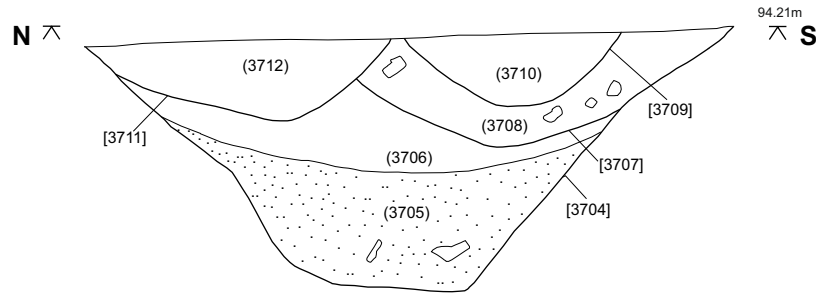
024: WEST FACING SECTION [3604]



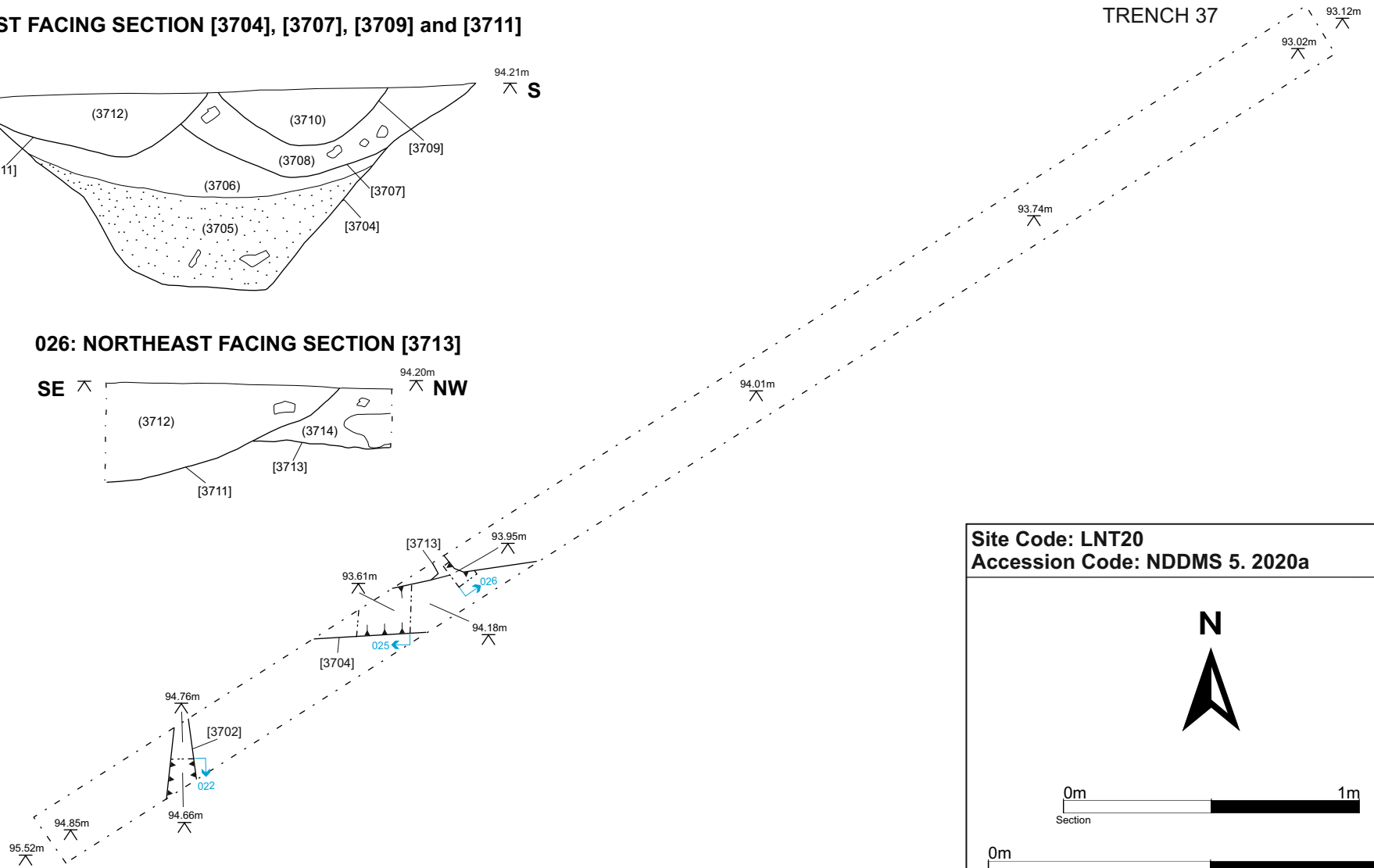
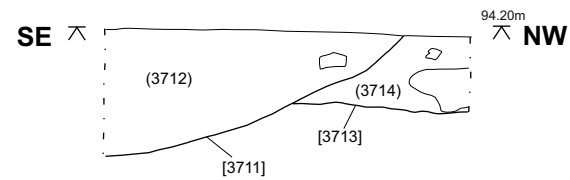
022: SOUTH FACING SECTION [3702]



025: WEST FACING SECTION [3704], [3707], [3709] and [3711]



026: NORTHEAST FACING SECTION [3713]



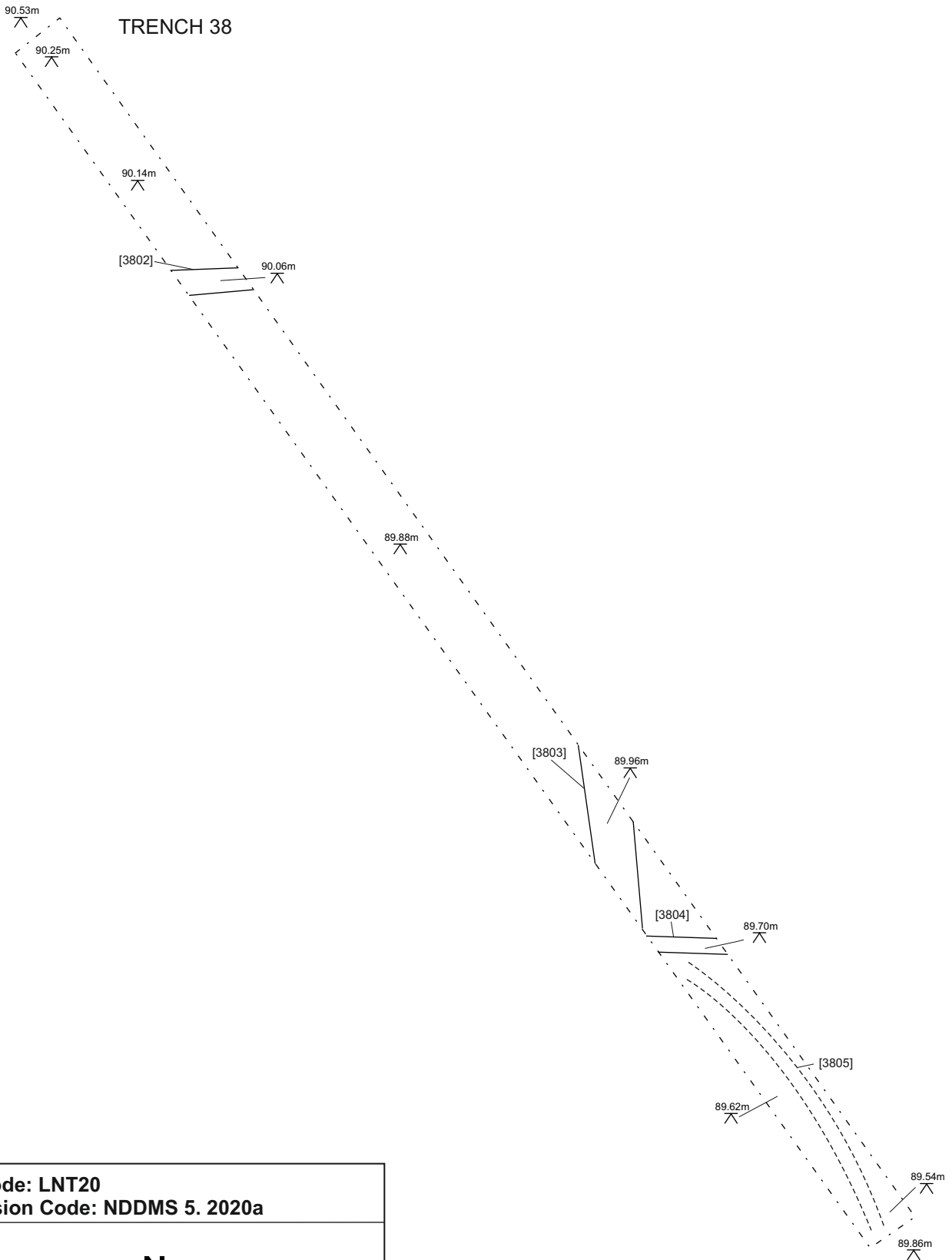
Site Code: LNT20
Accession Code: NDDMS 5. 2020a

N

0m 1m
Section

0m 15m
Plan

FIGURE 19: Trench 37 Plan and Sections





<p>Site Code: LNT20 Accession Code: NDDMS 5. 2020a</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">N</p> 
<p>0m 15m</p>  <p>Plan</p>
<p>FIGURE 20: Trench 38 Plan</p>



Plate 1: South-east facing section of pit [102]. Scale 1x1m



Plate 2: South facing section of ditch [202]. Scale 1x1m



Plate 3: South facing section of ditch [902]. Scale 1x1m

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Plates 1-3



Plate 4: West facing section of ditch [904]. Scale 1x1m



Plate 5: East facing section of elongated pit [1206]. Scale 1x1m



Plate 6: West facing section of elongated pit [1206]. Scale 1x1m

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Plates 4-6



Plate 7: View SW of 100% excavated pit [1206]. Scale 1x1m



Plate 8: North facing section of ditch [1402]. Scale 1x1m



Plate 9: East facing section of pit/terminal [2804]. Scale 1x1m

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Accession Code: NDDMS 5. 2020a

Plates 7-9

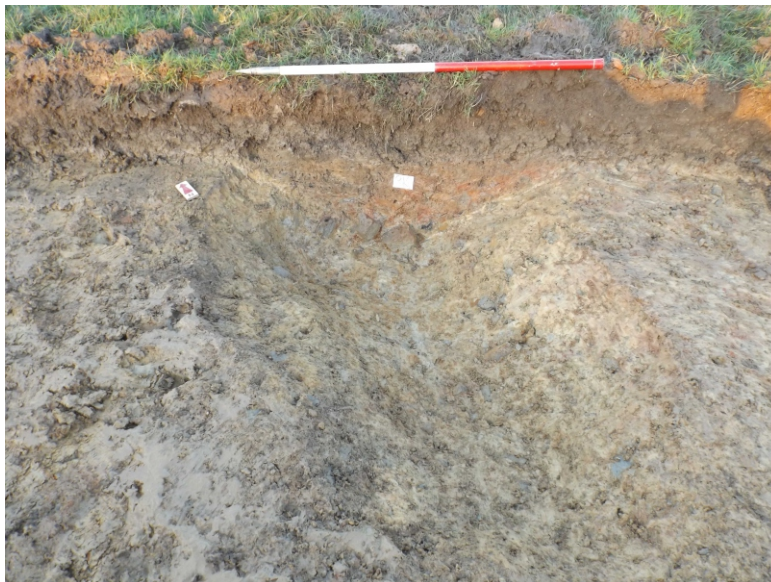


Plate 10: View of SW facing section of 100% excavated pit [2804]. Scale 1x1m



Plate 11: North east facing section of ditch [2902]. Scale 1x1m



Plate 12: West facing section of ditch [3002]. Scale 1x1m

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Plates 10-12



Plate 13: East facing section of 100% excavated ditches [3004] & [3008]. Scale 1x1m



Plate 14: East facing section of pit/posthole [3604]. Scale 1x0.3m



Plate 15: West facing section of ditch [3704]. Scale 1x1m

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Accession Code: NDDMS 5. 2020a

Plates 13-15



Plate 16: North-east facing section of ditches [3711] & [3713]
Scale 1x1m

Site Code: LNT20
Accession Code: NDDMS 5. 2020a

Plate 16