

**COLLEGE FARM, BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

NGR: SP 1670 2170 (CENTRED)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

August 2002
Report No. 245
Author: T. Michaels

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. This report is confidential to the client. 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.

CONTENTS

Summary

Glossary

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

FIGURE LIST

- Figure 1 Site Location
- Figure 2 Trench Locations
- Figure 3 Trench 4, Plan and Section

SUMMARY

In 7th August 2002 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on the land at College Farm, Fosse Way, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire at NGR: SP 167 217 (centred). The project was commissioned by Stansgate Planning Consultants on behalf of Peter Guilder.

The evaluation comprised the excavation and recording of three 10m by 1.8m trenches and one 5m by 1.8m trench, across the proposed development area. (Figure 2)

All the trenches displayed varying degrees of root and plough disturbance. The only archaeological feature present within the excavated trenches was in Trench 4. This consisted of a wide, shallow ditch; orientated north-south, which was dated to the 12th to 14th century.

No other archaeological features were present within the study area.

The potential of the study area may, therefore, be considered low.

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 the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and *circa* AD 1500.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level. (AOD Above Ordnance Datum).

OS

Ordnance Survey.

Saxon

The period between AD 410 and AD 1066.

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology in August 2002 on the land at College Farm, Fosse Way, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire at NGR: SP 167 217 (centred). The project was commissioned by Stansgate Planning Consultants on behalf of Peter Guilder.
- 1.2 It had been proposed to construct a new hay barn and access road at College Farm. A programme of archaeological works was required by Gloucestershire County Council prior to the determination of planning permission in accordance with the principals of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990) and the archaeological policies of Gloucestershire County Council.
- 1.3 This report constitutes the results of the archaeological works. The project was undertaken in accordance with the Project Design prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2002), based upon the Brief by Gloucestershire County Council and agreed by the Senior Archaeological Officer of Gloucestershire County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with IFA *Standards and Guidance on Archaeological Evaluation* (1994, revised 2001).

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site lies immediately northwest of the Fosse Way and Bourton-on-the-Water. The proposed development works cover an area of approximately 1605m².
- 2.2 The route of the Fosse Way is on a known Roman Road. A number of Roman buildings, as well as other evidence of Roman activity have previously been uncovered in Bourton-on-the-Water.
- 2.3 There is no known archaeology recorded in the location of the proposed hay barn and the associated access road. However, roadworks undertaken during the 1950's on this section of the Fosse Way, revealed eight Anglo-Saxon burials. These could represent part of a cemetery dating to the 6th century. There is potential that the possible Saxon cemetery could extend into the study area.
- 2.4 The main archaeological potential for the site was therefore for Roman and Anglo-Saxon activity. This did not prejudice the evaluation to the recovery of features from other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits, in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential

of any surviving archaeological remains; as well as to make recommendations for management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary. In turn this 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.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The project required the excavation of three trenches measuring 10m by 1.8m and one trench measuring 5m by 1.8m, this comprised just over a 4% sample of the study area. Trench locations are shown on Figure 2.

4.2 Topsoil and non-significant overburden was removed to the top of archaeological deposits or natural, whichever was encountered first. This was achieved with the use of a mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket. Thereafter the trenches were cleaned and all additional excavation was conducted by hand.

4.3 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the Foundations Archaeology Project Design and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

5 RESULTS

5.1 All the trenches were excavated in farmland, currently under pasture.

5.2 **Trench 1** (10m long) was aligned northeast-southwest and was excavated onto the natural orange/brown clay substrate at an average depth of 0.35m (138.57m OD) from the modern ground surface. These natural deposits were sealed beneath (102), a light brown clay sand subsoil, up to 0.24m thick. Subsoil (102) contained occasional charcoal flecks and a few small fragments of CBM. The subsoil was sealed beneath (101), a mid brown humic topsoil, up to 0.11m thick. The trench was heavily disturbed throughout, probably as a result of plough and root damage. Unstratified artefacts recovered during excavation consisted of one fragment of industrial waste and a sherd of 12th to

14th century pottery. No archaeological features were present within this trench.

- 5.3 **Trench 2** (5m long) was aligned approximately northeast–southwest and was excavated onto the natural orange/brown clay substrate at an average depth of 0.34m (138.77m OD) from the modern ground surface. These natural deposits were sealed beneath (202), a light brown clay sand subsoil, up to 0.29m thick. Subsoil (202) contained occasional fragments of charcoal and CBM. The subsoil was sealed beneath (201), a mid brown humic topsoil, up to 0.13m thick. No archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.4 **Trench 3** (10m long) was aligned northwest-southeast and was excavated onto the natural orange/brown clay substrate at an average depth of 0.39m (139.43m OD) from the modern ground surface. These natural deposits were sealed beneath (302), a light brown clay/sand/silt subsoil, up to 0.29m thick. Subsoil (302) contained occasional fragments of charcoal and CBM. The subsoil was sealed beneath (301), a mid brown humic topsoil, up to 0.14m thick. The trench was heavily root disturbed throughout. No archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.5 **Trench 4** (10m long) was aligned northeast-southwest and was excavated onto the natural orange/brown clay substrate at an average depth of 0.59m (144.57m OD) from the modern ground surface. These natural deposits were sealed beneath (403), a subsoil/natural interface layer, up to 0.30m thick. This was possibly the result of deeper ploughing techniques in the western field. This layer was sealed beneath (402), a light brown clay/sand/silt subsoil, up to 0.26m thick. No charcoal or CBM was present within the subsoil. The subsoil was in turn overlaid by (401), a mid brown humic topsoil, up to 0.12m thick. Unstratified artefacts recovered during excavation consisted of one large sherd of tile, three fragments of industrial waste and two sherds of Medieval pottery. A land drain, orientated approximately east-west, was present at the southwest end of the trench.
- 5.6 Located near the centre of Trench 4 was linear [404]. Ditch [404] was orientated approximately north-south, the cut had steep sides and a flat base. The cut was visible for a length of over 1.80m, with a width of 1.13m and a depth of 0.38m. The feature contained (405), a mid orange/grey clay fill with occasional small sub-angular fragments of sandstone but no visible charcoal. The fill contained a small fragment of an animal tooth, a large piece of daub and three fragments of pottery; two of which were dated 12th to 14th century, the other, a residual, abraded sherd of Roman pottery. No other archaeological features were present within this trench.

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 No evidence for the Anglo-Saxon cemetery was present in any of the evaluation trenches.

College Farm, Bourton-on-the-Water : Archaeological Evaluation

- 6.2 Only one archaeological feature was present in any of the excavated trenches. This was a large, shallow ditch dated to Medieval period and could possibly represent a field boundary. All the pottery recovered from the trenches was Medieval in date, except for one abraded sherd of Roman pottery recovered from the spoil of Trench 4. The Medieval pottery consisted of North Wiltshire and South Gloucestershire limestone tempered ware, produced at a number of sources, the best known being at Minety.
- 6.3 Although it is possible that burials are present adjacent to the Fosse Way, the results of the evaluation suggest that this may occur only as discrete features or groups, rather than as an extensive cemetery. On the basis of the evaluation evidence, the potential of the site appears to be low.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeology Service, Gloucestershire County Council 1996/2000 *Brief for an Archaeological Field Evaluation*. Unpublished

Foundations Archaeology, 2002 *New Hay Barn and Access Road, College Farm: Project Design*. Unpublished

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994 (revised 2001) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*. Unpublished

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Charles Parry of Gloucestershire County Council, Daniel Hatcher of Stansgate Planning Consultants and Peter Guilder of Peter Guilder and Sons Ltd for their assistance with this project.

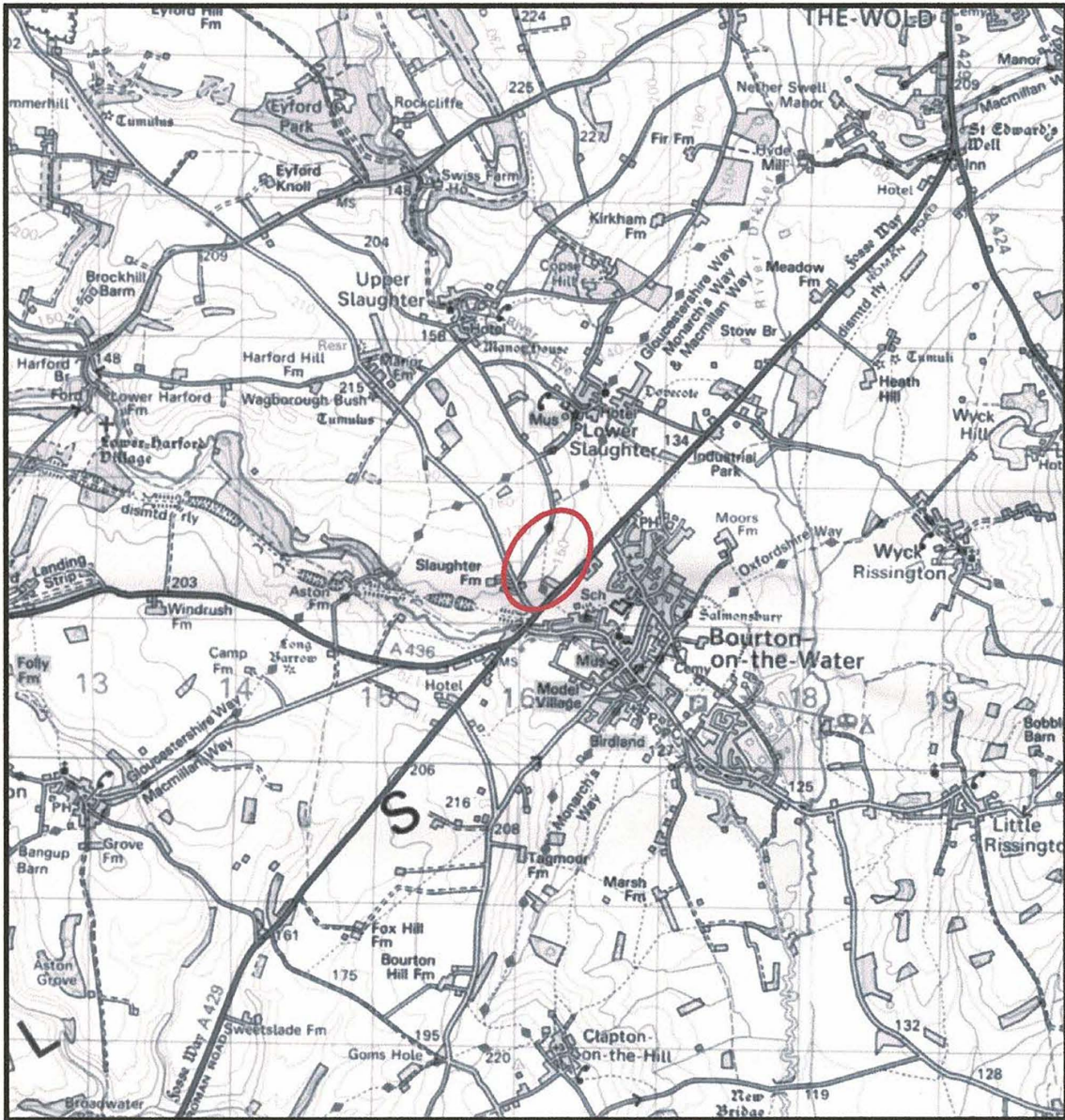


FIGURE 1: Site Location.

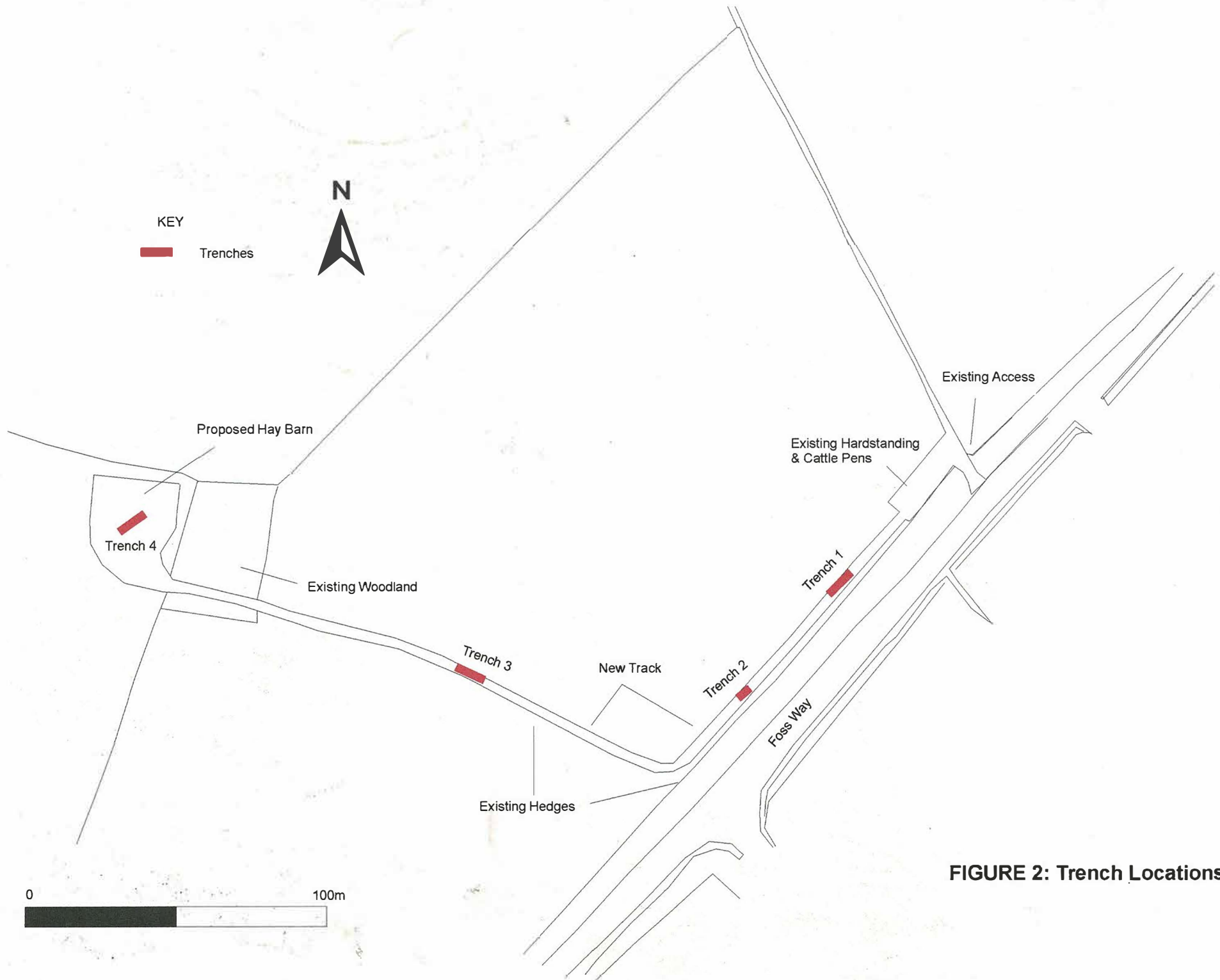
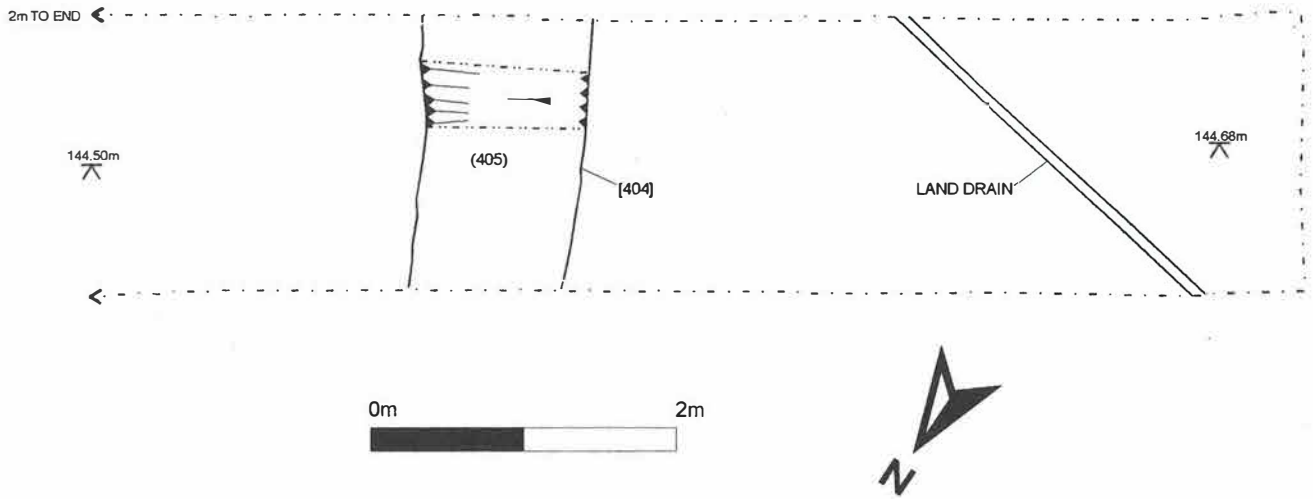


FIGURE 2: Trench Locations.

PLAN OF TRENCH 4



NORTH FACING SECTION [404]

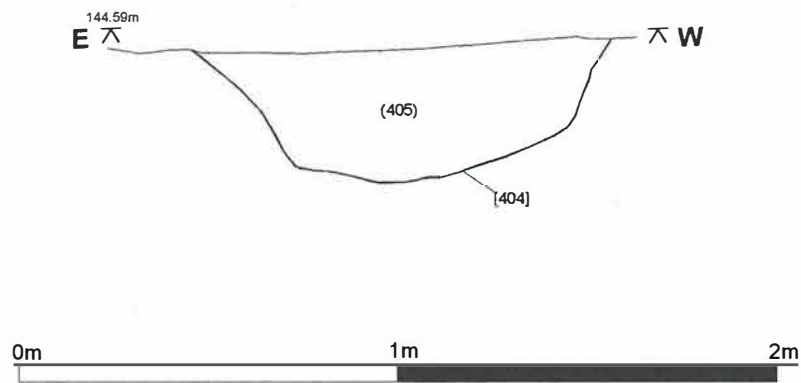


FIGURE 3: Trench 4, Plan and Section