

**FORMER AVLON WORKS,
AVONMOUTH,
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**

NGR: ST 5459 8326

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

March 2022
Report No. 1563

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Quality Assurance

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SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation, undertaken by Foundations Archaeology between the 4th and 12th April 2022, on land at the former Avlon Works, Avonmouth, South Gloucestershire (NGR: ST 5459 8326-centred). The project was commissioned by Ben Stephenson of BSA Heritage on behalf of Avonmouth Industrial Estates (UK) Ltd.

The evaluation has identified areas with a localised sequence of features and deposits. These mainly consisted of structural remains which were likely to date to the later Post-medieval period. However, large areas of the site also display significant Modern disturbance and truncation.

The earliest dated archaeological feature was ditch [1505] which contained 15th century pottery and was likely to be a boundary ditch. Probable ditch [206] was undated, but it was on a roughly similar alignment to [1505] and had been cut by ditch [205], which contained later 17th century pottery. Therefore it is possible that features [206] and [1505] are contemporary, with [1506] representing a later phase of activity. However, without further dating this cannot be confirmed.

Structural material was present in Trenches 10 and 11. Both of these trenches are located within the group of buildings within the ‘Severn Farm’ (aka Vimpenny’s) complex as shown on the 1921 OS map (see Figure 6). It would seem likely that these structural features are related to this farm(s). No secure dating was recovered from any of the identified features, with the only dating evidence being a single sherd of 19th century pottery from possible drainage channel (1012). However, a late Post-medieval date would seem likely for these features.

The animal remains recovered from Trench 2 were very likely related to farming activities. Although the remains themselves are undated, their location within the subsoil would suggest a later date. The 12th century pottery recovered close to sk 212 is therefore more likely to be related to general Medieval activity within the vicinity of the site, rather than dating the burial of sk 212. As Trench 2 is located close to the possible location of a Medieval moated site, as well as in the general location of Hook Farm which is thought to have Medieval origins, residual Medieval material in the vicinity is unsurprising, but provides firmer evidence that the farmstead may have had Medieval origins.

Further Medieval pottery has been recovered, but the majority was from within the subsoil of Trench 2.

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.

NMP

National Mapping Programme. An aerial photographic survey, overseen by English Heritage, which sought to systematically identify and record archaeological sites and landscapes.

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 the 4th and 12th April 2022, on land at the former Avlon Works, Avonmouth, South Gloucestershire (NGR: ST 5459 8326-centred). The project was commissioned by Ben Stephenson of BSA Heritage on behalf of Avonmouth Industrial Estates (UK) Ltd.
- 1.2 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2022) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014).
- 1.3 The CifA code of conduct was adhered to throughout.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There is currently a proposal for the redevelopment of the former Avlon Works north of Avonmouth. The South Gloucestershire County Council Archaeological Officer had requested that an archaeological evaluation be undertaken, in order to help inform the planning application.
- 2.2 The site lies east of the Severn Estuary and west of the M49. It is situated within an area of industrial development between Avonmouth and Severn Beach. The wider site itself consists of an extensive former chemical works developed in the post-war period on formerly agricultural land and including a number of farm buildings shown on pre-war OS maps. In April 2022 the site principally included areas of woodland, water bodies and pasture in the east and a mix of buildings, hard-surfaced areas and disused chemical processing plant in the west, the latter in the process of dismantling.
- 2.3 The underlying geology is recorded as *Mercia Mudstone Group - Mudstone*, with superficial deposits of *Tidal Flat Deposits - Clay and Silt* recorded (BGS Online Viewer).
- 2.4 An archaeological assessment was produced for the wider site by BSA Heritage in 2020. This document should be read in conjunction with this report, however, the results are summarised below for ease.
 - 2.4.1 Four HER records within the southern half of the site are related to ‘Vimpenny’s Farm’, which may have had Medieval origins. HER 9252 refers to ‘two enclosures containing buildings’ which are interpreted as separate farmsteads, albeit unnamed. These are also noted to perhaps have had Medieval origins, although definitive dating is not provided by the sources for both these and Vimpenny’s, but are recorded as being located on the edge of Vimpenny Common.

- 2.4.2 HER 5320, east of Vimpenney's Common, is recorded as 'Hook Farm' and noted as likely to have Medieval origins too. The basis for the dating is noted to be a possible moat around the farmhouse evident on 19th century and later maps. Several other HER records for this same farm include a note that all of its buildings had been demolished by the 1990s. However, HER 12687, an 'event' record, notes that a 'survey' was completed at Hook Farm in 1996 and could find no definite evidence of an earlier than 18th century date for the farm.
- 2.4.3 Although the HER also records the site of a cottage at Vimpenney's Common, both a later entry on the HER and the report's author could not distinguish this site on the pre-war Ordnance Survey maps (HER 9253).
- 2.4.4 Also located within the west of the site area, HER 21449 records the identification of ridge and furrow on aerial photographs and the entry notes that this evidence of Medieval open field cultivation has since been levelled. Further ridge and furrow is recorded west of the site under HER 21264. A plot of NMP data provided by the HER indicates a large amount of ridge and furrow once lay within and beyond the site.
- 2.4.5 In the east of the site, or just beyond it, a 'squarish' enclosure was recorded which was presumably also identified from aerial photographs (HER 5229). This is ascribed a Mesolithic date, although a Neolithic or later date would seem more likely and it may, in fact, reflect relatively recent activity.
- 2.4.6 Archaeological investigations within the study area identified Neolithic and Bronze Age peat deposits at approximately 2m below the current ground level, along with bone fragments which had been butchered with a metal tool in the northwest corner of the site itself ahead of the construction of an Effluent Treatment Plant (HER 18343). A thin peat layer was also identified at a similar level during trenching to the west, but no significant features were present (HER 20392). The peat layer was picked up again to the south at the Enron site and was dated to the Early Bronze Age (HER 17642).
- 2.4.7 Investigations to the north, northeast and east have recorded evidence for Romano-British settlement and field systems. Investigations within Plot 4000, approximately half a kilometre to the east, contained remains of round houses and evidence for metal working of Roman date (HER 18240). In the adjacent Plot 5000 was evidence for several centuries of probable agricultural activity (HER 18305), but no concentration of remains to indicate actual settlement.
- 2.4.8 Medieval to Post-medieval remains associated with Creed's and Dyer's farms were investigated in Plot 6000, north of Plot 5000 (HER 17628) and very limited Roman evidence was also recorded during this work.
- 2.5 Prior to the evaluation, the site was therefore considered to have the potential for evidence of Prehistoric, Roman, Medieval and Post-medieval activity.

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/mitigation decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the emerging development proposal.
- 3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
- To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.
 - To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains.
 - To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features encountered.
 - To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable that archaeological implications of the proposed development to be assessed. Subsequent to completion of the trial trenching, the South Gloucestershire archaeologist was happy to agree to planning requirements ahead of the production of a full evaluation report having seen the open trenches and been provided with a summary of finds and features.
 - To produce a site archive for deposition with Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery and to provide information for accession to the South Gloucestershire HER.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The works required the excavation of fifteen evaluation trenches, however, due to a range of on-site constraints it was only possible to excavate six trenches, as shown in Figure 2. Some of the trial trenches in the south had to be relocated or could not be excavated at the request of the site's principal contractor at the time. Ecological constraints prevented investigation of two of the three trenches at the former Hook's Farm site. The absence of trench numbers 4, 5, 9 & 12 is accounted for by these having fallen into a proposed second phase of trial trenching close to the extant gatehouse building. All amendments to the approved trench plan were agreed with the archaeological representative of South Gloucestershire Council.
- 4.2 Non-significant overburden was removed, under constant archaeological supervision, to the top of archaeological remains or the underlying natural

deposits, whichever was encountered first. This was achieved through use of a 360° mechanical excavator, equipped with a toothless grading bucket. Features and spoil tips were visually scanned for finds.

- 4.3 Where potential archaeological features were present, these were subject to appropriate levels of investigation. All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the approved WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 A full description of all contexts identified during the course of the project is presented in Appendix 1. A summary of the results is given below.

- 5.2 **Trench 2:** The natural clays were present at an average depth of 0.71m (5.6m aOD) below the Modern ground surface. The natural was overlain by a clay deposit (203), up to 0.10m thick, which was a probable alluvial deposit, this was then in turn sealed by sub and topsoil. Archaeological features were present within this trench.

- 5.2.1 The earliest archaeology present within the trench were features [205] and [206]. These consisted of an earlier probable northeast-southwest aligned linear [206], which was probably cut by northwest-southeast aligned linear [205]. The relationship between these features was unclear as both fills were very similar. The fill of probable later cut [205] contained later 17th century pottery and both features cut probable alluvial deposit (203) as well as the natural clays.

- 5.2.2 To the southwest of features [205] and [206] were two areas within the subsoil, which contained partly articulated animal remains. The area closest to linear [205] contained three skeletons which appeared to have been buried together (sk 209(fox), 210 (lamb), and 211 (lamb)) and sk 212 (calf) which was approximately 0.2m to the southwest. Approximately 4.4m to the southwest of this area was a further burial sk 204 (calf). It was not possible to ascertain any associated cut with any of these burials due to the similar appearance of the subsoil and material surrounding the animal bones. Close to sk 212 two fragments of early 12th century pottery were identified, however, due to the similar appearance of the surrounding soils, it was not possible to determine if the pottery was within an associated cut for the remains, or residual material within the subsoil.

- 5.3 **Trench 6:** The natural clays were present at an average depth of 1.05m (6.04m aOD) below the Modern ground surface. This trench had been truncated by Modern activity. However, a thin layer of probable subsoil/alluvium was present at the base of the trench, sealing the natural. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.

- 5.4 **Trench 7:** The natural clays were present at an average depth of 1.04m (5.55m aOD) below the Modern ground surface. This trench had been truncated by Modern activity. However, a thin layer of probable subsoil/alluvium was present at the base of the trench, sealing the natural. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.
- 5.5 **Trench 10:** The natural clay was present at an average depth of 0.98m (5.75m aOD) below the Modern ground surface. The upper stratigraphic layers of the trench showed Modern truncation. However, this had not penetrated into the lower deposits, therefore preservation conditions were good. Present within the trench were structural remains which were likely to date to the late Post-medieval period.
- 5.5.1 At the southeast end of the trench was stone surface [1005], which was constructed of limestone blocks of mixed sizes which appeared to have been laid directly onto underlying surface (1004). The stone surface was related to probable wall footing [1006]. Wall footing [1006] was aligned northeast-southwest and traces of another stone surface [1007] was present close to the edge of the wall. Surface [1007] was constructed of smaller cobbles and gravel and was again laid directly onto deposit (1004). Approximately four metres northeast of probable wall footing [1006] were two further probable wall footings ([1008] & [1009]) which appeared to be related to each other. Between the two features was a gap which contained fill (1012), this yielded a single sherd of 19th century pottery. Abutting the southwestern side of wall footings [1008] and [1009] were traces of a further floor surface (1010), which consisted of flat limestones set in a limestone mortar (see Figure 5).
- 5.6 **Trench 11:** The natural clays were present at an average depth of 0.6m (6.16m aOD) below the Modern ground surface. The upper stratigraphic layers of the trench showed Modern truncation. However, this had not penetrated into the lower deposits, therefore preservation conditions were good. Present within the trench were structural remains which were likely to date to the late Post-medieval period.
- 5.6.1 At the southeastern end of the trench was stone surface [1103], which comprised an internal area of irregularly shaped limestone blocks with an outer edge or 'kerb' of roughly faced sub-rectangular limestone blocks. The stones did not have any obvious bonding material and appeared to have been laid directly into underlying deposit (1104) and was sealed by Modern made-ground (1102). A corner of this stone surface was contained within the trench and it was likely to have been a former yard surface (see Figure 5).
- 5.7 **Trench 15:** The natural clays were present at an average depth of 0.65m (5.82m aOD) below the Modern ground surface. This trench had been truncated by Modern activity at the northwest end, however, the rest of the trench was relatively undisturbed. Probable alluvial clays (1503) at the base of the trench yielded 15th century pottery and a single archaeological feature was present at the southeastern end of the trench.

- 5.7.1 A northeast-southwest aligned ditch [1505] was present within the southeastern end of Trench 15. The feature was likely to be a boundary ditch, it was stratigraphically later than probable alluvial (1503) and subsoil (1502) and contained 15th century pottery.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The evaluation has identified areas with a localised sequence of features and deposits. These mainly consisted of structural remains which were likely to date to the later Post-medieval period. However, large areas of the site also display significant Modern disturbance and truncation.
- 6.2 The earliest dated archaeological feature was ditch [1505] which contained 15th century pottery and was likely to be a boundary ditch. Probable ditch [206] was undated. However, it was on a roughly similar alignment to [1505] and had been cut by ditch [205], which contained later 17th century pottery. Therefore it is possible that features [206] and [1505] may be contemporary, with [1506] representing a later phase of activity, but without further dating this cannot be confirmed.
- 6.3 Structural material was present in Trenches 10 and 11. Both of these trenches are located within an area where groups of buildings associated with the 'Severn Farm' complex are shown on the 1921 OS map (see Figure 6). This area is also titled 'Vimpenny's' on other mapping. It would seem likely that these structural features are related to one or more farmsteads. No secure dating was recovered from any of the identified features, with the only dating evidence being a single sherd of 19th century pottery from possible drainage channel (1012). However, a late Post-medieval date would seem likely for this complex of features.
- 6.4 The animal remains recovered from Trench 2 were very likely related to farming activities. Although the remains themselves are undated, their location within the subsoil would suggest a later date. The 12th century pottery recovered close to sk 212 is therefore more likely to be related to general Medieval activity within the vicinity of the site, rather than dating the burial of sk 212. As Trench 2 is located close to the possible location of a Medieval moated site, as well as the general location of Hook Farm which is thought to have Medieval origins, residual Medieval material is unsurprising, but possibly provides firmer evidence of Hook Farm's Medieval origins.
- 6.5 Further Medieval pottery has been recovered, but the majority was from within the subsoil of Trench 2.
- 6.6 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology but will be deposited in due course with Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery. A digital report/archive will also be submitted to OASIS/ADS. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDIX 1: STRATIGRAPHIC DATA

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				TRENCH 2: 26.5m long by 1.60m wide. Natural = mid orange grey clay. Present at average 5.6m aOD.		
201			0.35	Topsoil: Dark grey black friable clay silt. Frequent root disturbance, with Modern CBM inclusions and occasional charcoal and limestone flecks.	202	n/a
202			0.3	Subsoil: Pale green grey firm/plastic clay. Contained occasional charcoal flecks and rare stones. Contained Medieval pottery.	203	201
203			Upto 0.1	Deposit: Mid orange grey compact clay, with manganese inclusions. Probable alluvial deposit.	Natural	202
Sk204	0.9+	1.3	<0.05	Skeletal animal remains of a calf located within subsoil (202). No discernible associated cut.	202?	201
[205]	1.7+	Upto 1.1	0.3	Northwest-southeast aligned linear, with flat base and steep, almost vertical sides. Probably cuts [206], but relationship not clear. Contained (208).	Natural, [206]?, 203	208, 202
[206]	2.2+	0.8+	0.24	Probable northeast-southwest aligned linear, with flattish base and steep, sloping side. Only southwest edge contained within the trench. Probably cut by [205] but relationship not clear. Contained (207).	Natural, 203	[205]?, 207, 202
207	2.2+	0.8+	0.24	Fill of [206]. Mid brown grey compact clay with occasional charcoal flecks.	[206], 203	[205]?, 202
208	1.7+	Upto 1.1	0.3	Fill of [205]. Mid brown grey compact clay with occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small limestone inclusions. Contained later 17 th century pottery.	[205], 207?, 203	202
Sk209	0.22	0.44	<0.05	Skeletal animal remains of a fox located within subsoil (202). No discernible associated cut. Abuts sk(210) and overlies sk(211).	202?, sk(211)	201
Sk210	0.3	0.2	<0.05	Skeletal animal remains of a lamb located within subsoil (202). No discernible associated cut. Abuts sk(209).	202?	201
Sk211	0.2	0.24	<0.05	Skeletal animal remains of a lamb located within subsoil (202). No discernible associated cut. Overlaid by sk(209).	202?	Sk(209), 201
Sk212	0.5	0.6	<0.05	Skeletal animal remains of a calf located within subsoil (202). No discernible associated cut. Separate to sk(209-11) but adjacent. Possibly associated with early 12 th century pottery, which was recovered close to remains.	202?	201
				TRENCH 6: 21.5m long by 1.60m wide. Natural = light to mid grey clay. Present at average 6.04m aOD.		
601			0.1	Topsoil: Dark brown black friable clay silt. Frequent root disturbance, with Modern CBM inclusions and occasional limestone inclusions.	602	
602			0.28	Deposit: Modern made-ground layer of mid grey brown clay silt with frequent stone inclusions.	603	601
603			0.45	Deposit: Four layers of Modern hardcore/levelling given a single context. Layer of geotextile fabric at base.	604	602
604			0.16	Probable subsoil/alluvial deposit: Pale grey plastic clay.	Natural	603
				TRENCH 7: 24.6m long by 1.60m wide. Natural = light to mid grey orange clay. Present at average 5.55m aOD.		
701			0.08	Tarmac.	702	
702			0.3	Deposit: Four layers of Modern hardcore/levelling given a single context. Layer of geotextile fabric at base.	703	701
703			0.3	Probable subsoil/alluvial deposit: Pale grey plastic clay.	704	702
704			0.45	Deposit: Mid orange grey compact clay, no inclusions. Probable alluvial deposit.	Natural	703

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CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				TRENCH 10: 18.6m long by 1.60m wide. Natural = light to mid grey orange clay. Present at average 5.75m aOD.		
1001			0.25	Tarmac and hardcore underlay.	1002	
1002			0.3	Deposit: Modern made-ground layer of mid grey brown clay silt with frequent stone inclusions.	1003, [1005], [1006], [1007], 1010, 1014	1001
1003	7+	1.6+	Upto 0.5	Deposit: Mixed layer of clay and demolition material, only present in northern half of trench and north of wall [1009].	Natural	1002
1004			?	Deposit: Mid grey clay. All structural remains overlay this deposit. Depth could not be determined.	?	All structural remains
[1005]	5+	1.6+	?	Stone surface: Possible external yard type surface of limestone blocks of mixed sizes. Not obviously faced and no obvious bonding material; appeared to be laid directly onto (1004). Stones appear to be laid in 'zones' three feet apart, aligned perpendicular to probable wall [1006]. Abuts [1006]	1004	1002
[1006]	2+	0.3	?	Probable wall footing: Northeast-southwest aligned probable wall footing consisted of unbonded, roughly faced rectangular limestone blocks. Single stone width. Abuts [1005].	1004	1002
[1007]	2+	0.4+	?	Possible floor surface: Traces of small cobbles and gravels embedded directly onto (1004). Only appeared to survive where it abutted [1006].	1004	1002
[1008]	1.5+	1.5+	1+	Probable wall footing: Roughly faced and randomly sized probable wall footing; possible corner. Abuts (1010) and (1012). Probably related to [1009]. Full depth not exposed within section, but at least four courses of laid stones visible.	1004	1002
[1009]	1.5+	1.5+	1+	Probable wall footing: Roughly faced and randomly sized probable wall footing; possible. Abuts (1010) and (1012). Probably related to [1008]. Full depth not exposed within section, but at least five courses of laid stones visible.	1004	1002
1010	0.8+	0.8+	0.1	Probable floor surface: Traces of limestone flagstones abutting [1008] and [1009]. Stones set in an off white/beige lime mortar.	1012	1002
1011	1+	0.2	0.2	Ceramic drain aligned northwest-southeast in front of wall footings [1008] and [1009].	Natural	1004?
1012	0.5+	0.35-0.4	0.55+	Deposit: Dark grey clay fill within the gap between [1008] and [1009]. Probable drainage channel. A single sherd of 19 th century pottery was recovered.	Natural	1010
1013	0.2+	0.3+	?	Probable floor surface: Yellow/beige mortar type floor surface, only partly contained within trench. Appeared to be associated with [1008].	1004	1014
1014	0.2+	0.3+	0.05	Deposit: Probable organic type layer, mainly consisted of partly rotted straw, which directly sealed floor surface (1013) and abutted [1008].	1013	1002

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				TRENCH 11: 16.3m long by 1.60m wide. Natural = light to mid grey orange clay. Present at average 6.16m aOD.		
1101			0.1	Tarmac and hardcore underlay.	1102	
1102			0.25	Deposit: Modern made-ground layer of mid grey brown clay silt with frequent stone inclusions.	[1103], 1104	1101
[1103]	3+	1+	?	Stone surface: Irregularly shaped limestone blocks internally, with sub-rectangular edging. No obvious bonding, with stones laid directly onto (1104). A corner of the stone surface was present within the trench.	1104	1102
1104			0.4	Probable subsoil: Dark grey clay, with occasional stone inclusions.	1105	[1103]
1105			0.2	Deposit: Mid grey brown compact clay, with patches of sand. Probable alluvial deposit.	Natural	1104
				TRENCH 15: 25.1m long by 1.60m wide. Natural = light to mid grey brown clay. Present at average 5.82m aOD.		
1501			0.15	Topsoil: Dark grey brown/black friable clay silt, with frequent root disturbance.	1502	
1502			0.4	Subsoil: Dark grey brown friable clay silt, with occasional stone inclusions.	[1505], 1503	1501
1503			0.5+	Deposit: Mottled grey brown compact clay, probable alluvial layer. Contained 15 th century pottery.	Natural	[1505], 1502
1504	3+		0.5+	Area of Modern disturbance at west northwest end of the trench only. Continued beyond the extent of the trench.	1503, 1502, natural	1501
[1505]	1.6+	1.1	0.47	Ditch cut: Northeast-southwest aligned ditch cut, with steep sides and a flat base. Probable boundary ditch. Contained (1506).	1503	1502
1506	1.6+	1.1	0.47	Fill of [1505]: Dark blue grey compact clay, with occasional charcoal inclusions. Contained 15 th century pottery.	[1505], 1503	1502

APPENDIX 2: THE CERAMICS

Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 198 sherds with a total weight of 3,312g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 1.36. It was all medieval or later and was recorded using the conventions of the Bristol type-series (eg. Ponsford 1998), as follows:

BPT1:	Oolitic Ware , 10 th – 12 th century. 2 sherds, 12g, EVE = 0.
BPT26:	Ham Green Ware , early 12 th – mid 13 th century. 10 sherds, 63g, EVE = 0.14.
BPT32:	Ham Green Coarseware , early 12 th – mid 13 th century 61 sherds, 615g, EVE = 0.70.
BPT46:	Bath 'A' Ware , 12 th – 13 th century. 2 sherds, 26g, EVE = 0.
BPT84:	Minety-type Ware , mid 12 th - 15 th century. 70 sherds, 953g, EVE = 0.52.
BPT100:	Bristol/Staffordshire Slipware , AD1650-1800. 6 sherds, 58g.
BPT112:	North Devon Gravel-tempered wares , 16 th – 19 th century. 38 sherds, 1530g.
BPT197:	Oxidized Malvernian Ware , late 14 th – early 17 th century. 5 sherds, 27g, EVE = 0.
BPT223:	Yellow Ware , 19 th century. 1 sherd, 4g.
BPT285:	Fine Red Earthenwares , mid 16 th – 19 th century. 1 sherd, 4g.
BPTx:	U/P Proto-Stoneware 2 sherds, 20g, EVE = 0.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is largely typical of sites in the region (eg. Jarrett 2013), other than two sherds of an unprovenanced proto-Stoneware (fabric BPTx) from context 202. They are both from the shoulder of a small, wheel-thrown cup or jar with splashes of a purplish-green glaze on the outer surface, although these seem most likely to be the result of accidental ash-glazing. The fabric is very hard and partially vitrified, with fairly coarse inclusions (Plate 1) but has no obvious provenance. It seems most likely to be a continental import, but is not one of the commoner sorts of this type found in England, such as Pingsdorf Ware, and pottery from Germany is rare in the region with most of the imported wares coming from France or Spain (eg. Jarrett 2013). The date of the sherds is also uncertain. They occurred in context 202, with the rest of the pottery from it being no later than the 13th century, but it is a subsoil context and thus effectively unstratified, so the BPTx sherds could be later than this, especially as there is a fairly large amount of post-medieval material from other features on the site, and the subsoil seals a pit, 205, which was back-filled in the late 17th century. Before archiving, it is recommended the sherds are sent for inclusion in the Somerset type-series, as this may allow its future identification, and the vessel could represent an entirely previously unknown pottery type in the region.



Plate 1: Photomicrograph of fabric BPTx

A total of six contexts produced pottery, with the bulk of it occurring in the sub-soil and context 208. Most of the sherds of BPT112 from the latter are from a single, largely-complete lid-seated jar with a rim diameter of 200mm. The rim is 78% complete and the jar has a flat base with a diameter of 135mm. It also has a thin internal green glaze. A rimsherd from a large bowl in the same fabric was also present. A jar with an almost identical rim-form to the example from here is known from Bartholomew Street in Exeter and is dated to *c* AD 1680-1700 (Allan 1984, fig. 108 no. 2427). The sherds of BPT100 from here, again from context 208, are from one or two posset cups with feathered decoration on the exterior below a line of large slip dots. Bristol-type Slipware is generally rare in pre-18th century deposits in the city, but does occur from the mid-17th century onwards in small quantities (eg. Jarrett 2013, table 4.9). At Exeter, Bristol-type Slipware cups such as these form the bulk of the earliest finds of pottery of this type, *c* AD 1670 – 1700 (Allan 1984, 128).

The medieval assemblage other than the material from the subsoil comprises entirely unglazed coarsewares, indicating that the bulk of the activity of this date was limited to the 11th – 12th centuries, although small groups of 15th – 16th century pottery were also noted. Fifteen medieval rimsherds occurred, mostly unglazed jars (12 examples; 80.9% of the CP assemblage by EVE) with the rest being glazed jugs. All of the latter occurred in the subsoil. This vessel consumption pattern is very typical of early medieval pottery assemblages, and all the jars were Ham Green Coarseware or Minety types. One of the BPT32 jar rims from the subsoil had a thumbled, ‘piecrust’ form. Examples like this are known from Bristol, but do not appear to be especially chronologically diagnostic (eg. Jarrett 2013, fig. 4.1 no. 14).

Two small fragments of burnt daub weighing 2g occurred in context 202. They are undateable. A small sliver of roof-tile (weight = 2g) in a red, sandy, iron-rich fabric occurred in the same context. It may be medieval, but is so small that this cannot be stated with confidence.

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Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type.

	BPTx		BPT1		BPT32		BPT46		BPT84		BPT26		BPT197		BPT285		BPT112		BPT100		BPT223		
Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
202	2	20			54	583	2	26	69	945	10	63											U/S
208			1	2											1	4	38	1530	6	58			L17thC
212			1	10	1	1																	E12thC
1012																					1	4	MOD
1503					4	22			1	8			3	23									15thC
1506					2	9							2	4									15thC
Total	2	20	2	12	61	615	2	26	70	953	10	63	5	27	1	4	38	1530	6	58	1	4	

APPENDIX 3: THE ANIMAL BONE

Matilda Holmes

Introduction

A small assemblage of disarticulated animal remains was recovered alongside five animal burials. Excavation was carried out in advance of redevelopment of a former chemical works, in an area thought to include medieval and post-medieval farms. This report aims to characterise the zooarchaeology, assess the potential for understanding human-animal interactions at the site, and its significance on a local, regional and national level. Further work is not recommended.

Method

All hand-recovered bones and teeth were scanned and recorded by context including those that could not be identified to taxon. The number of bones and teeth that could be identified were noted, as well as those used to age the major domesticates (tooth wear and bone fusion). The quantity of bones likely to be useful for metrical data were also recorded. Other information included condition, the incidence of burning, gnawing, butchery and refitted fragments. For some elements a restricted count was employed to reduce fragmentation bias: vertebrae were recorded when the vertebral body was present, and maxilla, zygomatic arch and occipital areas of the skull were identified from skull fragments. Recording methods and analysis are based on guidelines from Baker and Worley (2014).

An assessment of the potential future use of the assemblage and the impact of retaining the material in the longer term is provided, given the demands for space in long-term archiving. Selection criteria are based on the potential to inform future research, further analysis and use of the animal remains in museum activities.

Summary of Findings

Bones were in fair to good condition. The disarticulated remains from trench 15 (context 1506) and trench 2 (context 208) were fragmentary and contained evidence of canid gnawing, suggesting that they were not buried immediately following discard. Context 208 included a calcined cattle tibia fragment and a butchered cattle tibia. None of the animal burials exhibited signs of gnawing, burning or butchery, which suggests they were buried soon after death with little processing.

The animal remains are summarised in Table 1.

Undefined feature 1: Calf 204

The well-preserved remains of a perinatal calf were recovered from an undefined feature. The animal was slightly older than calf 212, but still very young. It was complete except for the head, comprising the scapulae, humeri, right radius, ulnae, pelves, femora, patellae, tibiae, tarsals, carpals, metapodials and first to third phalanges, numerous sternebrae, ribs and vertebrae. This was a large calf, of a size more likely to reflect a modern breed rather than a medieval animal.

The fragmentary ulna of a domestic fowl was also present, most likely coming from the backfill.

Linear feature 205: Context 208

Several bone fragments were produced, including cattle and pig. Canid gnawing, butchery marks and burning implies that these were most likely food waste. Associated pottery suggests a late seventeenth century date.

Undefined feature 2: Fox 209

The complete skeleton of a young fox was recovered including a fragmentary skull, mandibles, vertebrae and limb bones including third phalanges. Identification of fox over dog was based on morphology of the bones and biometrical analysis of the metapodials (Heinrich and Ratjen 1978; Johnson 2015). The third molar was in wear indicating an adult, but none of the teeth were very worn suggesting it was not elderly. A shoulder height based on indices established for dogs (Harcourt 1974) produced a value of c.42cm, and although the absence of a baculum cannot be taken for definitive evidence for a female, the excellent preservation and recovery of other anatomical elements makes it likely.

The humerus from a sheep and poorly preserved fragmentary long bone from a medium-sized mammal were found alongside the fox. It is likely that these were from the backfill and/ or intrusive. Although the associated pottery implies a medieval date (11th to 12th century), the condition of the sheep humerus and its size (from a very large individual) are more consistent with a modern or late post-medieval date.

Undefined feature 2: Lambs 210 and 211

The fox skeleton was closely associated with two lamb skeletons, both were largely complete, including skull fragments, vertebrae, ribs, sternae, limb bones and phalanges. Lamb 210 included teeth, of which the deciduous 4th premolar was formed but unworn, and most metapodials from both lambs were unfused laterally, consistent with perinatal mortalities.

Undefined feature 2: Calf 212

The skeleton of a perinatal calf was recovered from the same cut as the fox and lambs, but some distance away. It comprised the right foreleg (scapula to metacarpal), both hind limbs (pelves to tibiae), the left metatarsal, several phalanges, numerous vertebrae and ribs. As with calf 204 there were no associated head or mandible fragments.

A fragment of mandible from a mature cattle was also produced from this feature, probably residual.

Linear feature 1505: Context 1506

Six fragments of a large mammal long bone were recovered, most likely a cattle humerus, alongside a gnawed pelvis fragment from a male cattle.

Potential and Significance

The disarticulated animal remains from contexts 1506 and 208 most likely originated as household waste. The presence of several calves and lambs represents spring or early summer birthing or early life casualties consistent with their being bred close by. The four skeletons in undefined feature 2 are unusual and implies they were deposited at the same time. The grouping of two lambs and a fox in one part of the feature

further suggests that this may have been the result of fox killed while attacking a flock. The two calf skeletons were headless and, as they appear to have been fully excavated, indicates that the skulls were deliberately removed prior to deposition, possibly to be made into brawn or head cheese, or for display.

Recommendations

The group of calf and lamb skeletons are unusual, but not unexpected when the proximity of several farms is considered, and they likely represent the natural losses of animals bred close by. The fox included with the lambs in one deposit further suggests a causal factor in the death of the lambs and the subsequent killing of the fox in one event.

The nature of the burials as discrete, individual deposits lends the material more potential for future research than is allowed for here, or necessary at the moment. Although no further work is recommended at present, the primary contexts represented may lend themselves to further analysis at a later date, so should be retained on that basis.

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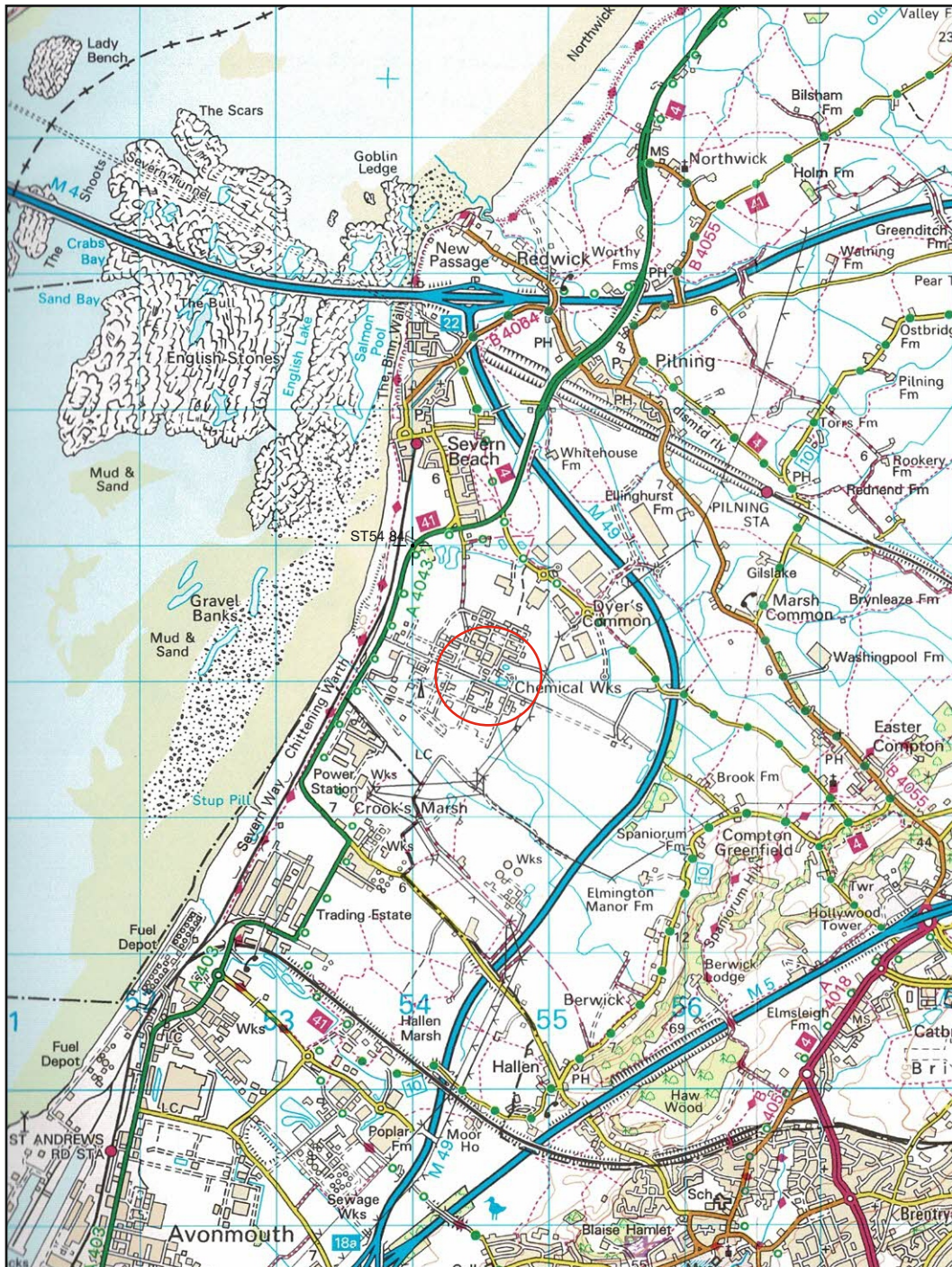
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Context	N	Element	Taxon
204	1	Partial skeleton	Cattle
204	1	Ulna	Domestic fowl
208	1	Rib	Large mammal
208	2	Fragment	Large mammal
208	1	Tibia	Cattle
208	1	Skull fragment	Pig
208	1	Tibia	Cattle
209	1	Humerus	Sheep
209	1	Long bone fragment	Medium mammal
209	1	Skeleton	Fox
210	1	Partial skeleton	Sheep/ goat
211	1	Skeleton	Sheep/ goat
212	1	Mandible	Cattle
212	1	Partial skeleton	Cattle
1506	6	Long bone fragment	Large mammal
1506	1	Pelvis	Cattle

Table 1: Summary of animal remains

APPENDIX 4: MISCELLANEOUS FINDS LIST

CXT	DESCRIPTION
208	3 x fragments of clay smoking pipe. 17g.
1012	1 x fragment of glass. 2g.
1503	4 x fragments of glass. 24g.



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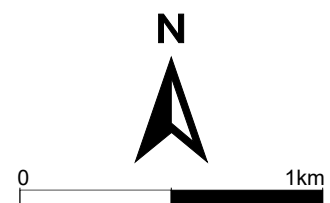
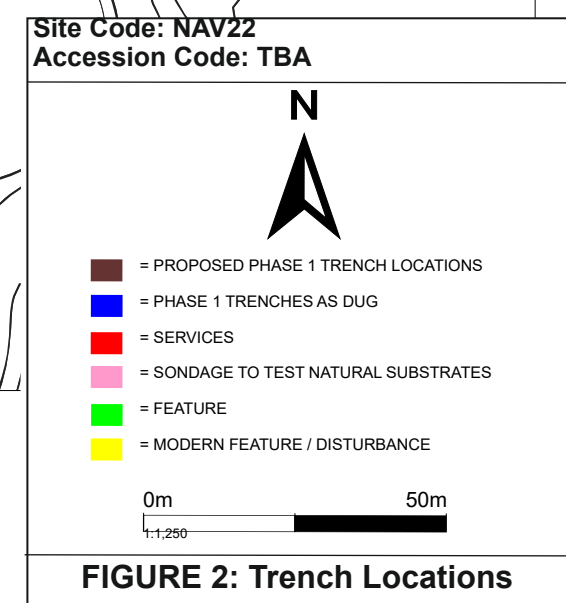
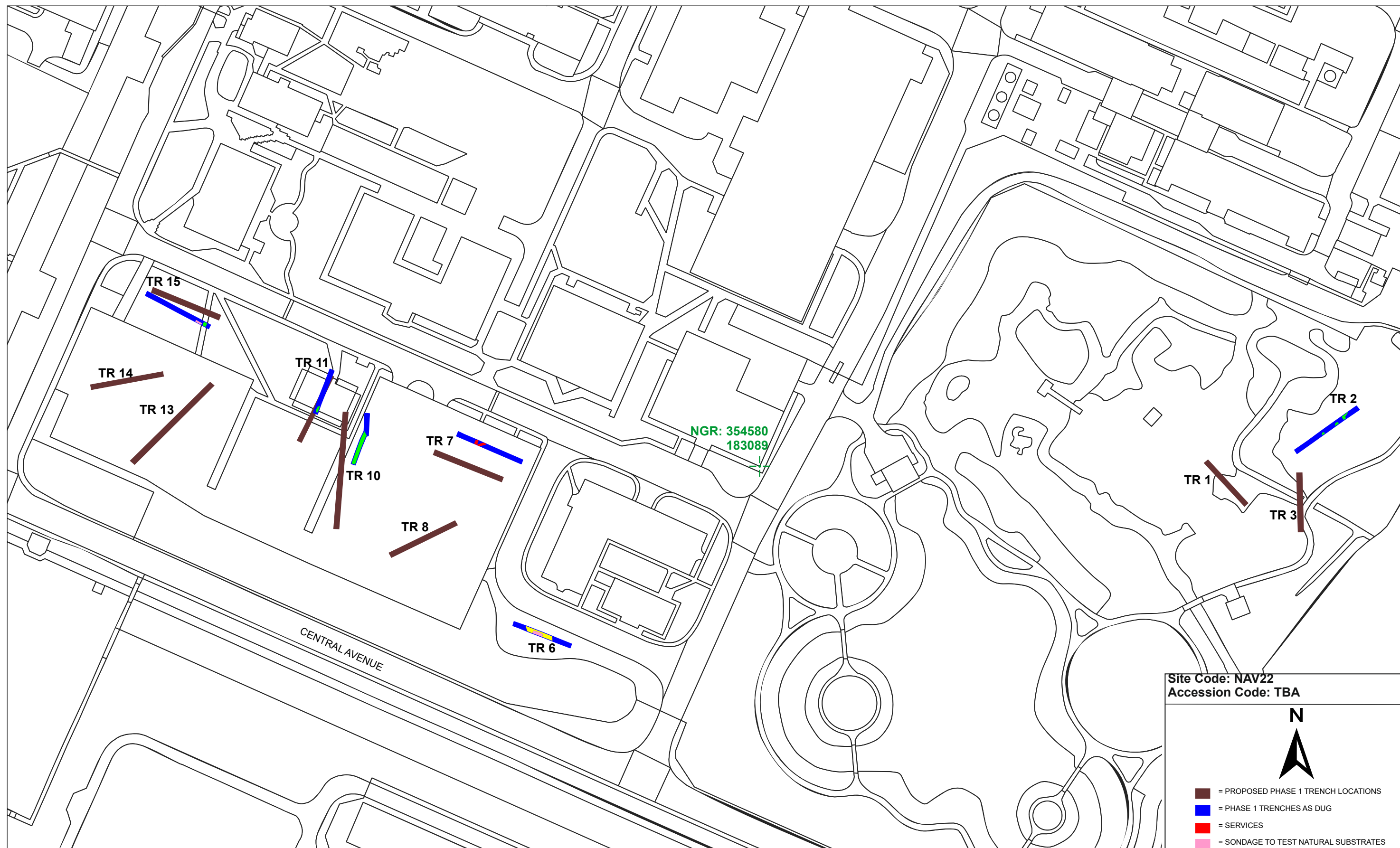
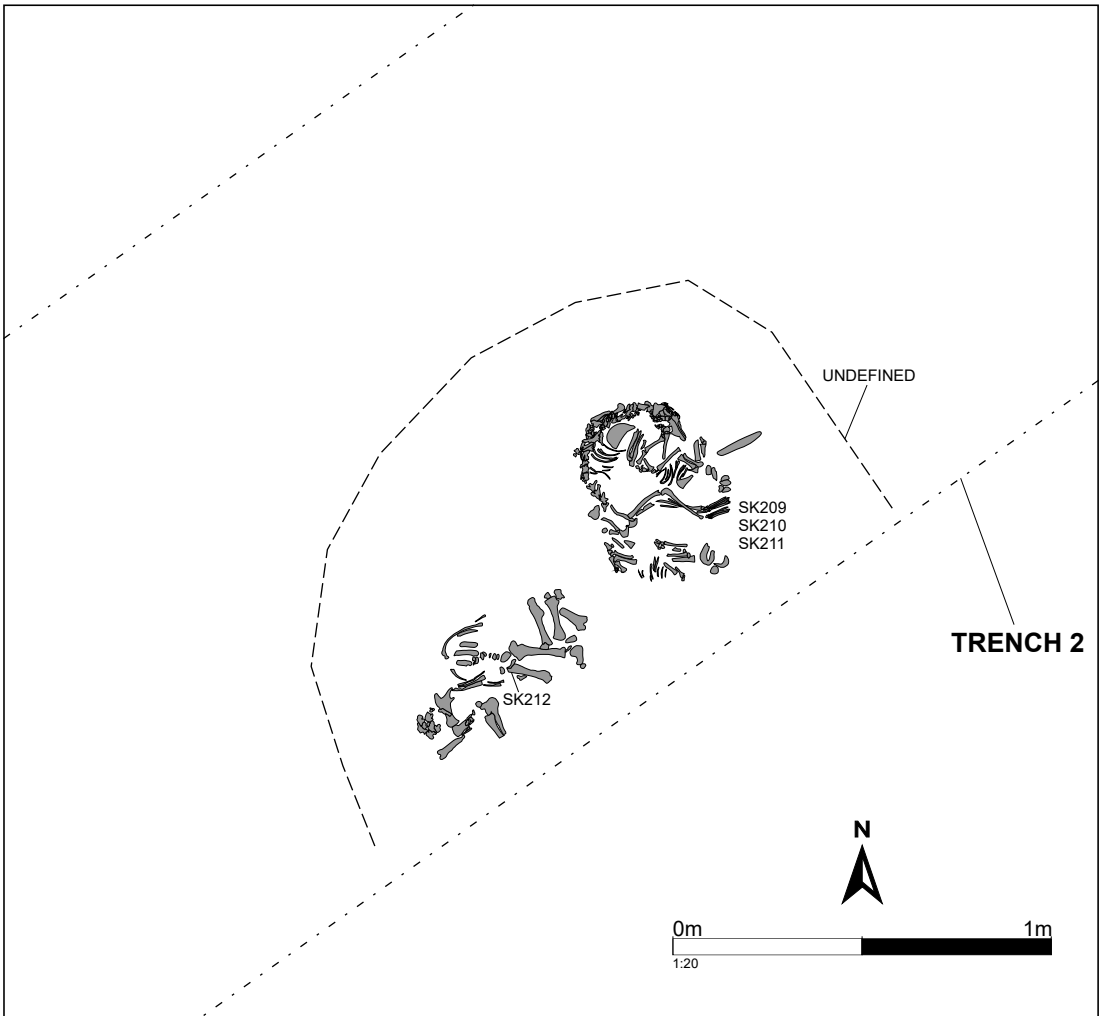
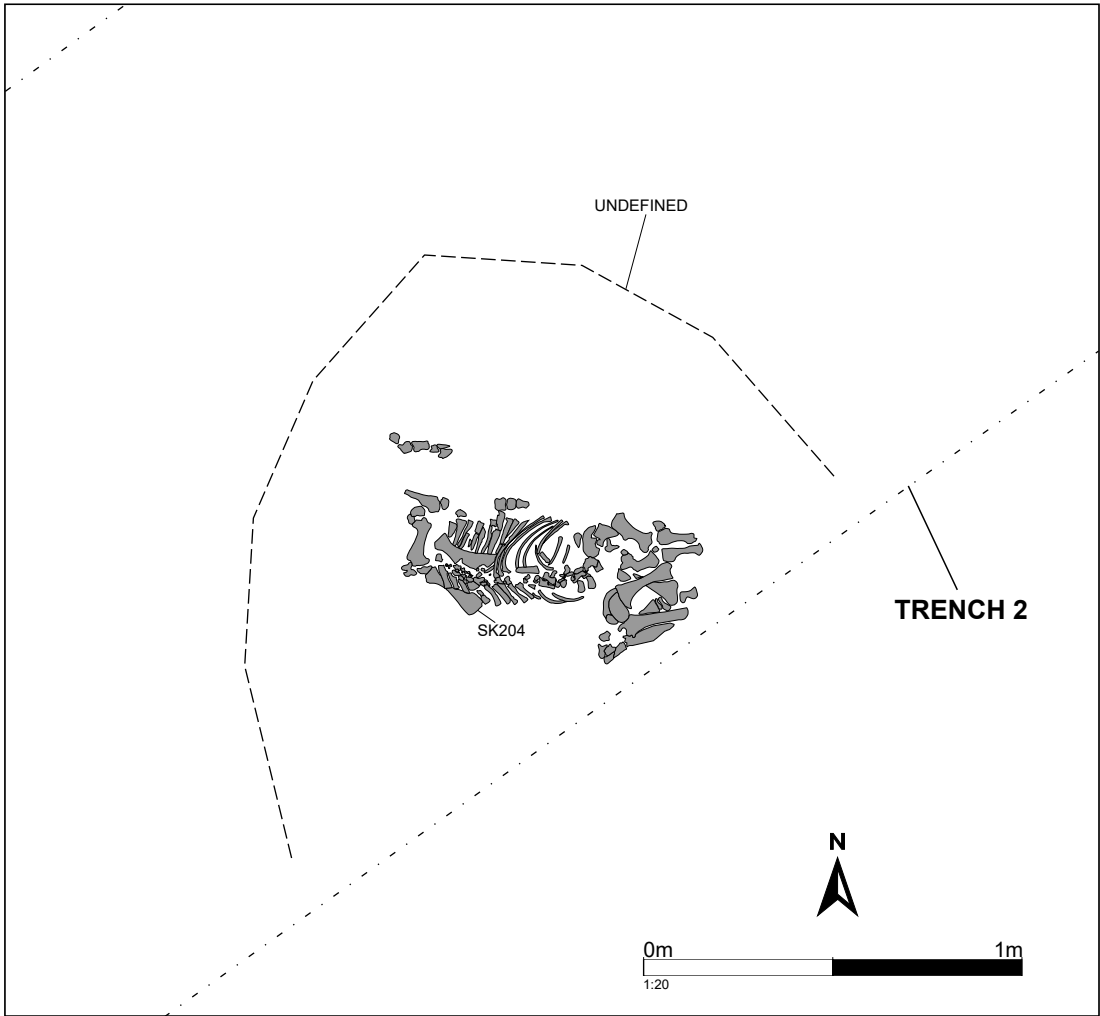


FIGURE 1: Site Location





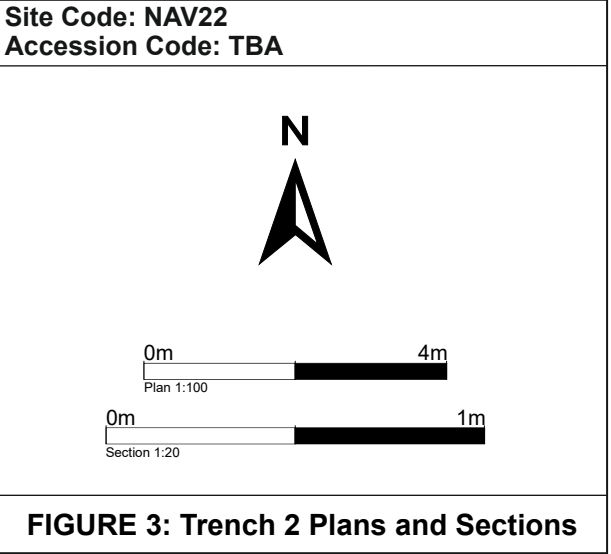
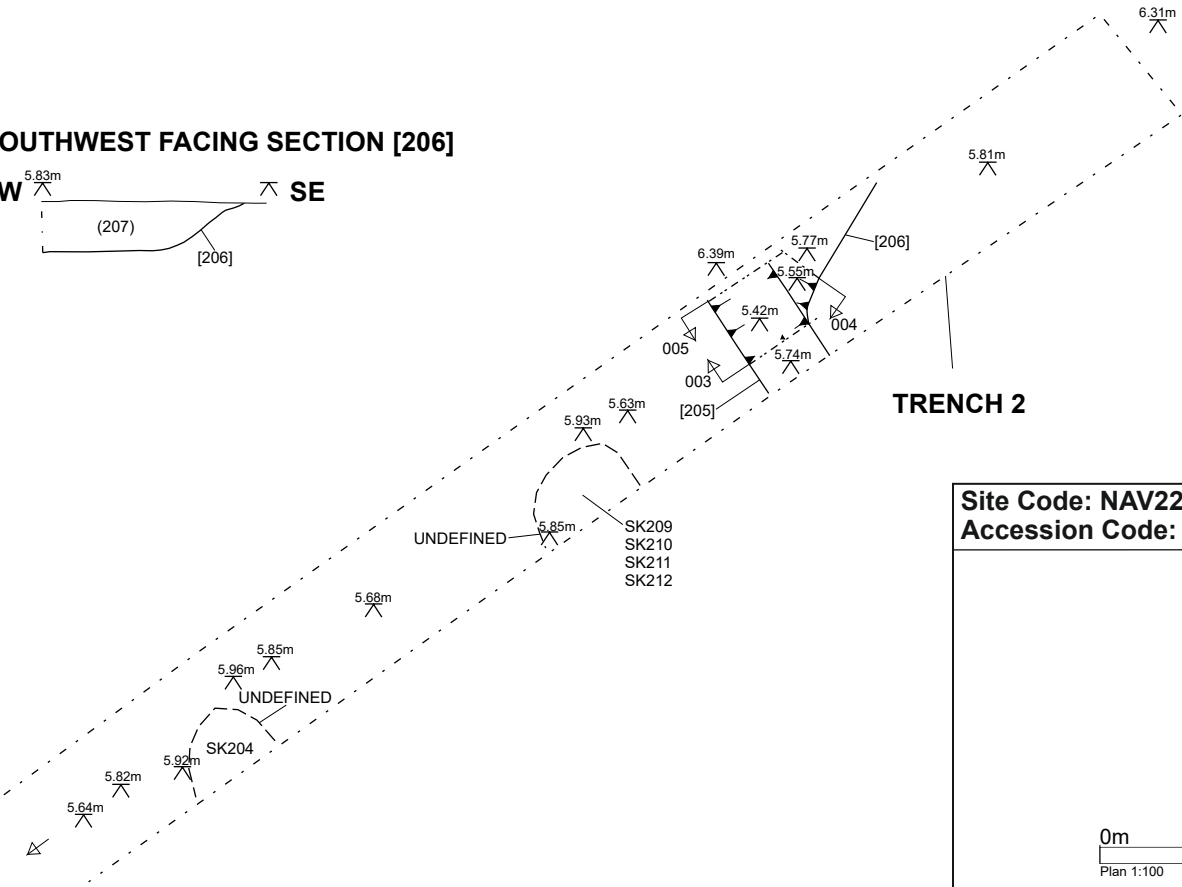
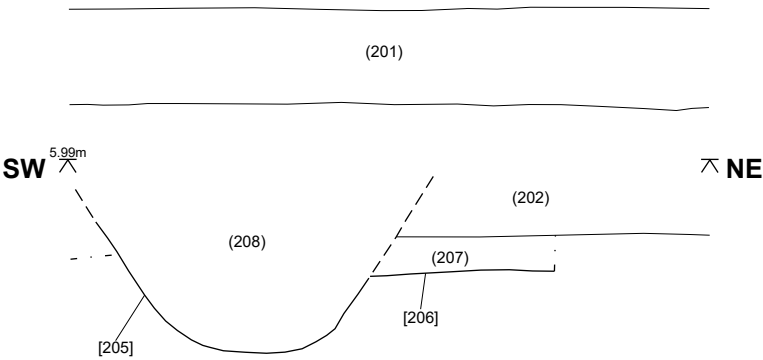
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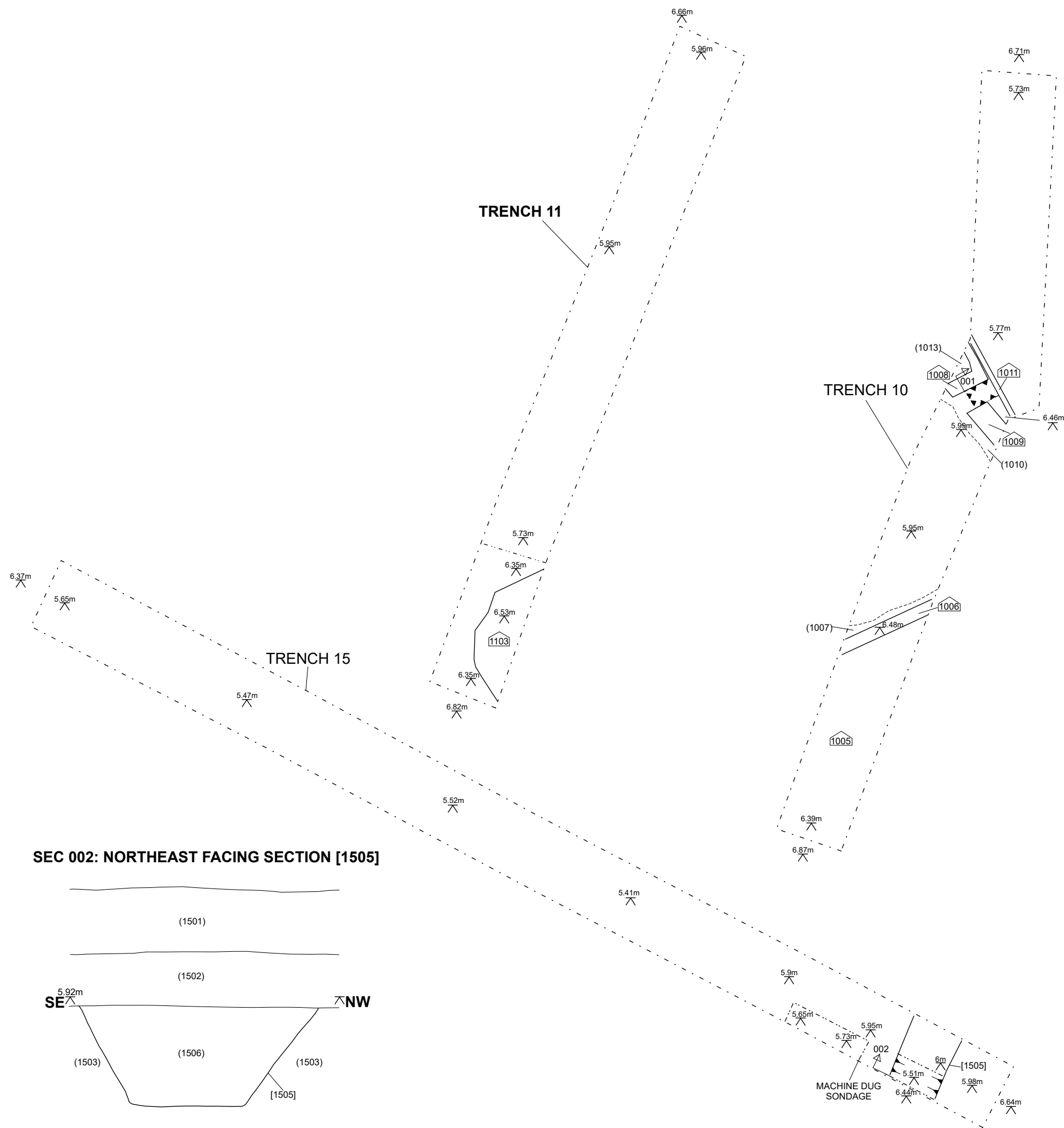


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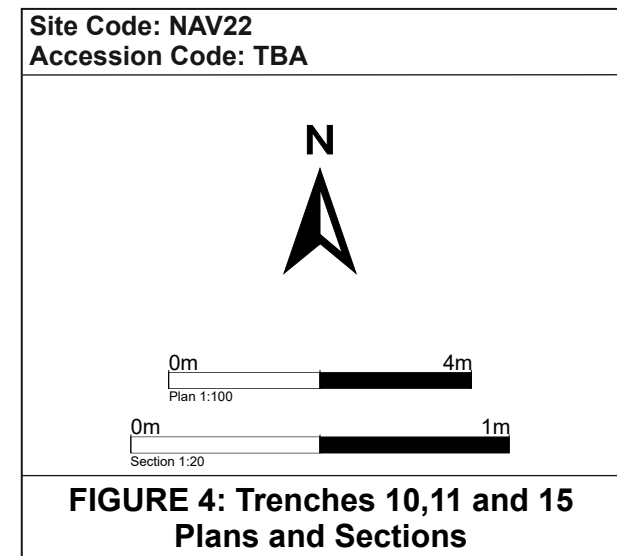
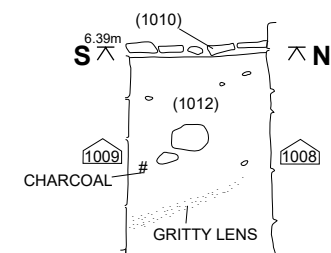


SEC 005: SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [205] and [206]





SEC 001: EAST FACING SECTION 1008 and 1009





Features [1005] and [1006], looking north



Feature [1103], looking southeast



Features [1008], [1009] and [1011], looking west



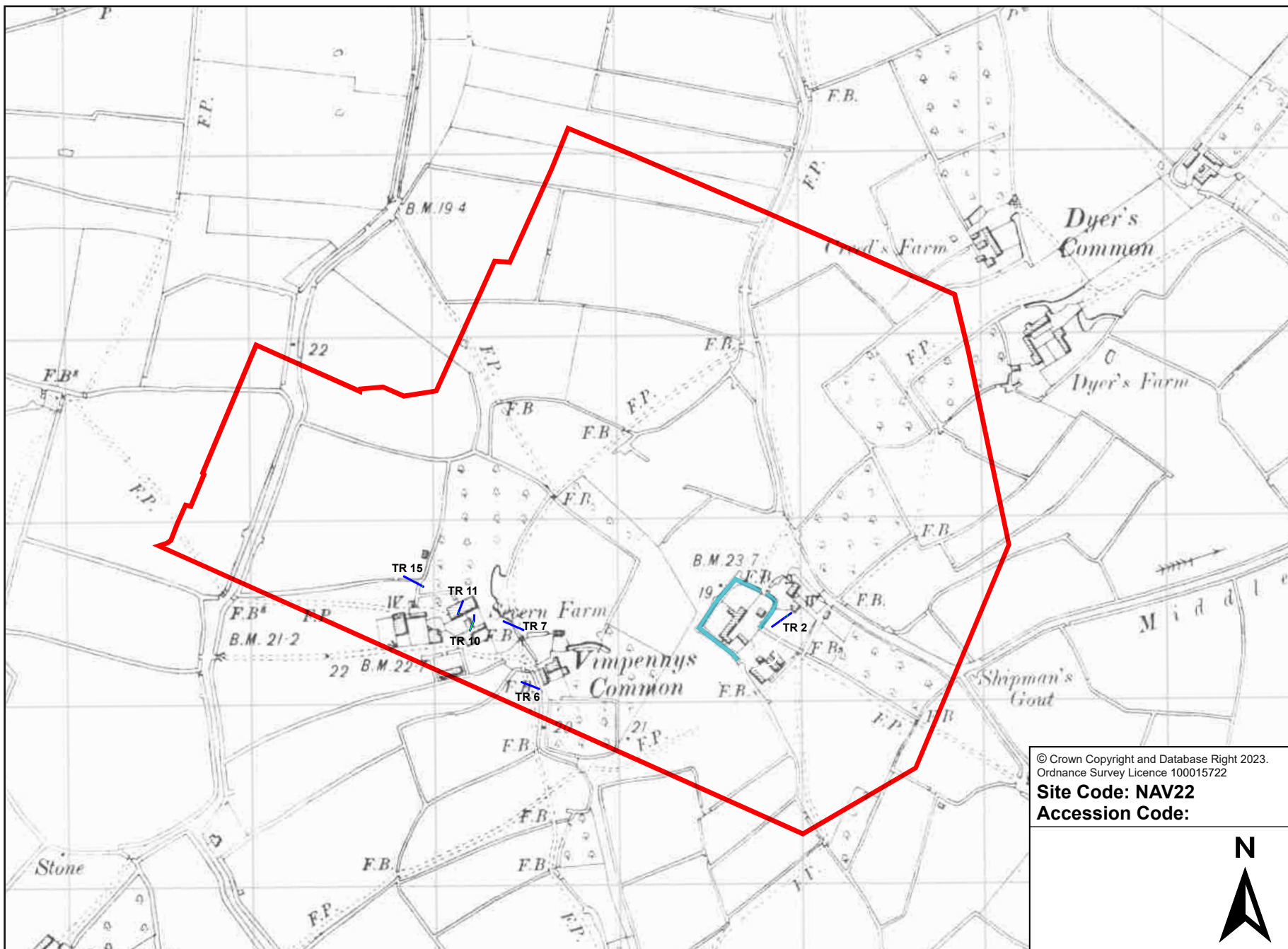
Features [1008], [1009] and [1011], overhead shot



Animal skeleton 204, looking southeast



Animal skeletons 209, 210 and 211, with 212 to the southeast. Looking northwest



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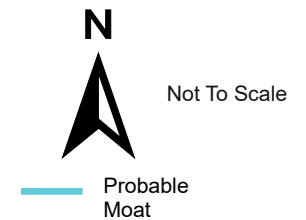


FIGURE 6: Site Area Related to OS 1921