

**LAND AT TO THE GODDARD ARMS HOTEL,
SWINDON**

NGR: SU 157 836

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Assurance

This Document has been compiled and authorised in accordance with
AMS's Quality Procedures (BS EN ISO 9001: 2000)

Author Diana King

Date 9th December 2007

Approved Tracy Michaels

QA Checked Roy King

December 2007

Report No. 576

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

CONTENTS

Summary

Glossary

- 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 Location
- Figure 3: Trench 3, Plan and Sections
- Figure 4: Trench 4, Plan and Section
- Figure 5: Trench 5 Plan and Sections

SUMMARY

In November 2007 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation, on behalf of CgMs Consulting, on land at The Goddard Arms Hotel, Swindon (NGR: SU 157 836).

A total of eight trenches and six test-pits were excavated within the study area.

A number of features were identified during the course of the project. These comprised three stone-lined drains, a well and a wall. These are all likely to be of Post-medieval origin, although an earlier, Medieval date cannot be entirely ruled out. A single sherd of Medieval pottery was recovered from one drain, although this was recovered from material that had entered the drain after the collapse of the capping stones and is likely, therefore, be residual in context. In all cases the features stand proud of the natural ground into demonstrably Post-medieval layers and may be considered unlikely to have survived undamaged, if of Medieval or earlier date. The nature of these features is entirely commensurate with backland activity associated with the Goddard Arms.

The evaluation has indicated that there is a generally low potential for significant archaeological remains to be present within the western and central parts of the study area. It is unknown as to whether there has been significant truncation of the natural deposits; although it is certain that some terracing and levelling of the area has taken place. Intact subsoils may survive in Trench 7 and the test-pits in the eastern part of the site and the archaeological potential for pre-Post-medieval features may be somewhat considered greater in these areas.

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.

Post-Medieval

Period from *circa* AD 1500 onwards.

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.* 600 BC; *Iron Age* – *c.* 600 BC to AD 43.

Romano-British

The period traditionally dated between AD 43 and AD 410

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2007 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation and recording at The Goddard Arms Hotel, Old Town, Swindon (NGR: SU 157 836 centred). The works were undertaken in accordance with a Specification (CgMs 2007) which complied with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994, revised 2001) and *Standards for Field Evaluation and Assessment in Wiltshire* (CAS 1995). The project was commissioned by CgMs Consulting.
- 1.2 It is proposed to construct a new residential development at the site. The archaeological advisor to Swindon Borough Council (SBC) requested that an archaeological evaluation should be completed prior to determination of the planning application for the site, in accordance with PPG16 (1990) and the archaeological policies of Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire County Council.
- 1.3 This report constitutes the results of the archaeological works.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The study area lies in an area of relatively dense Prehistoric activity. This includes flint implements dating to the Mesolithic period from Market Square, Wood Street, The Hermitage and The Lawns. Neolithic pottery and flint implements have been found at the Goddards Arms Hotel, the Market Square, Lloyds Bank, Penfold Nurseries and Evelyn Street. Bronze Age burials, pottery and arrow and spearheads at Bouverie Avenue, East of Market Square, Market Square and Cricklade Street. There have also been finds of Iron Age pits and pottery, plus a coin at Lloyds Bank, The Hermitage, Cricklade Street and Market Square. Some of these have been found in previous excavations as sealed archaeological contexts rather than as stray finds.
- 2.2 Roman remains in the area include Romano British structures, pits, pottery burials and coins, many found during archaeological excavations. The features suggest a possible industrial site to the east of the High Street. Finds and features are known from the rear of the Masonic Hall, Market Square, Lloyds Bank, Lawns Nursery, east of the High Street, Holy Rood Church and The Hermitage. A number of bodies reported as 'Roman' were found in Wood Street during the 19th century.
- 2.3 Excavation has also recovered Anglo Saxon remains in the immediate vicinity of the study area. These consisted of buildings, pits and associated artefacts, plus a number of adult and infant burials. Finds and features are known from Evelyn Street, Market Square, Rear of Lloyds Bank, The Hermitage and Penfold Nurseries. The evidence suggests a settlement located to the east of the High Street. It is possible that the Saxon settlement did not extend as far west as the High Street, although the proposed development is likely to impinge on its westernmost extent.

- 2.4 Swindon is first mentioned in Domesday Book as Suindone, which means ‘swine down or open land’. The earliest Medieval settlement lies in the vicinity of the study area, with the manor, mill and church present just to the east and indicates that the focus of settlement did not significantly change from the Saxon period. Mill Lane, The Planks and Dammas Lane preserve the greater part of its street pattern (WCC 2003). In the Medieval period, Swindon was owned by the De Valance family who were the Lords of High Swindon, in which the study area is located, during the 13th century. Documents written in 1274 state that William De Valance had been holding a market in Swindon for 15 years. In 1289, the town was called Chipping (or Chepping) Swindon, with ‘Chipping’ denoting that a market was held there. The study area falls within the market area in its northern part and is otherwise within the area of the 14th century planned town.
- 2.5 There are later references to the town’s burgages and to the town as ‘borough’ which suggest that a definite effort had been made by the De Valance family to foster the growth of the town.
- 2.6 Fourteenth century tax assessments show that the attempt to encourage growth in the town was fairly successful. In 1334 High Swindon was assessed at 133s 4d, a comparable figure with Devizes, Westbury and Warminster. In 1377 there were 248 poll tax payers in the town, showing it to be more than a rural manor. However, it probably remained a small rural market until the 17th century.
- 2.7 A number of medieval finds and features are known from the vicinity of the study area at East of High Street, Holy Rood Church, Market Square, Lloyds Bank, The Planks, Wood Street, The Goddard Arms, Penfold Nurseries, The Hermitage, Wood Street and Old Town. A recent archaeological evaluation at the nearby Locarno site (Foundations 2007) identified a number of medieval pits.
- 2.8 In 1627 the constables of Kingsbridge Hundred considered that 9 licensed alehouses were too many for a place which did not contain 300 communicants and had no through road. Aubrey mentions a stone quarry yielding a high quality white stone which was used in a number of houses in London. The quarry was only discovered around 1640 although the stone lay only four to five feet deep. By the late 17th century quarrying was a substantial industry in the area, much increased after the arrivals of the canal and railway. By 1697, the population had reached 791 and by 1801 it was 1198.
- 2.9 The 19th century saw the arrival of the Wiltshire and Berkshire canal, the North Wiltshire canal and the Great Western Railways. This caused a substantial increase in the population of the area, with Even Swindon and High Swindon soon merging to become one town.
- 2.10 Wood Street is first mentioned in 1599, and the High Street in 1645. By around 1773, (Figure 4) the pattern of Wood Street, High Street and Devizes Road was clearly established and there were substantial amounts of housing to

be found on Wood Street and High Street. Subsequent maps show the development of this housing, although Devizes Road (often referred to as 'Short Hedge' on the maps) did not develop until much later. By the late 18th century, the centre of the town was 'High Street' which contained the principal inns of the town. Many of the features of these buildings still remain, although most of the present building facades are Victorian in date. The Market Square was on the south side of this road. This had a market cross in 1662, which was removed in 1793. The stocks and pillories were nearby.

- 2.11 A number of Post-medieval finds and features are known from the vicinity of the study area including pits, pottery, foundations and wells from Newport Street, High Street and The Hermitage.
- 2.12 The study area therefore contained the potential for the preservation of archaeological features and deposits, predominately dated to the Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, and Medieval periods. It was also possible that unrecorded Post-medieval features, associated with the Goddards Arms will be present within the study area. This did not prejudice the works against the retrieval of information 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 Six 10m x 2m trenches, one 20m x 2m trench and one cross-shaped trench measuring 20m x 2m and 10m x 2m were excavated within the study area along with six 1.5m x 1.5m hand-dug test-pits (Figure 2).

- 4.2 Non-significant overburden was removed to the top of archaeological deposits or natural, whichever was encountered first. In the evaluation trenches this was achieved with the use of a mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket working under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Thereafter the trenches were cleaned and all additional excavation was conducted by hand. The test-pits were all excavated by hand. All spoil tips were scanned by eye for unstratified finds.
- 4.3 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the Specification and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 **Trench 1** measured 10m by 2m. It was aligned northwest-southeast and was excavated in an open area immediately behind The Goddard Arms Hotel. The trench was excavated onto a natural yellow sand deposit at an average depth of 0.78m (138.45m OD) from the modern ground surface. At the northern end of the trench the natural deposits were overlaid by a layer of brick and cinder rubble (103), up to 0.56m thick. This was overlain by a layer of modern hardcore (102) up to 0.13m thick. The entire area of the trench was topped with a 0.1m thick layer of tarmac (101). No archaeologically significant finds or features were recovered from this trench.
- 5.2 **Trench 2** measured 10m by 2m. It was aligned northwest-southeast and was excavated to immediately to the east of the east-west wing of the hotel. The trench was excavated onto natural deposits comprising yellow sand at a depth of 0.56m (137.91m OD). The natural deposits were overlain by a layer of stone and brick rubble (202) up to 0.43m thick. This layer was overlain directly by the modern tarmac surface (201), up to 0.15m thick. No archaeologically significant finds or features were recovered from this trench.
- 5.3 **Trench 3** measured 10m by 2m (Figure 3). It was aligned approximately north-south and was located east of Trench 2. The trench was excavated to the top of natural deposits comprising yellow sand at an average depth of 0.78m (137.49m OD). The natural deposits were overlain by a brown clay silt with frequent stone rubble and brick (303) up to 0.57m thick. This layer was overlain by a loose hardcore (302) for the tarmac surface (301). A number of archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.4 Well [305] measured approximately 1.50m in diameter by at least 0.58m deep; Health and Safety constraints prevented excavation to the base of the feature. It was constructed of dry stone walling (306) at least eight courses deep and contained a dark grey green clay silt with occasional stone rubble (307). No dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

- 5.5 A stone drain (309) was also identified in this trench. The feature was constructed from two parallel stone walls, only a single course deep. It contained a rubble fill in a silty clay matrix (310).
- 5.6 **Trench 4** measured 10m by 2m and was aligned approximately east-west (Figure 4). The trench was excavated onto natural deposits comprising yellow sand at an average depth of 1.52m (13.82m OD at the eastern end and 137.56m OD at the western end). The stratigraphic sequence above the natural deposits was bisected by a stone wall on a north-south alignment. Layer (403) was present on either side of the wall, although it was 1.08m thick to the west and only 0.30m thick to the east, where it had clearly been truncated. The sequence above (403) to the east comprised a layer of stone and brick rubble (406), up to 0.40m thick from which a sherd of plain chinaware of 19th/20th century date was recovered. This layer was sealed beneath a layer of cinder (405) up to 0.30m thick, beneath a layer of brick rubble (404), up to 0.40m thick. The entire length of the trench was overlain by a gravel hardcore (402), beneath the modern tarmac surface (401).
- 5.7 Wall [407] survived for a depth of at least 1.4m, was of dry-stone construction and of at least 12 courses high. It was not possible to securely establish its relationship with layer (403), partly due to a modern service that ran along the eastern edge of the wall, but it seems likely that it was cut through this layer, probably to create a terrace.
- 5.8 **Trench 5** measured 30m by 2m (Figure 5). It comprised a 'T'-shaped trench aligned north-south, with a spur to the west. It was located in the northern part of the site, immediately to the west of a modern accommodation block. The trench was excavated onto natural deposits comprising yellow/orange sand with limestone outcrops at an average depth of 0.58m (136.12m OD). The natural deposits were overlain by a layer of brick and stone rubble in a clay silt matrix (503), up to 0.40m thick. This was overlain by a gravel hardcore (502) beneath the modern tarmac surface (501).
- 5.9 Two stone-lined drains [504] and [510] were present within the trench respectively on a northwest-southeast and a northeast-southwest alignment. Both drains were present within the western arm of the trench and are likely to have joined into a single drain run to the south of the trench. Both drains were constructed of parallel stone walls, with a stone capping. Both drains contained a fill of light grey sand silt (509) and (514) respectively; although drain [504] also contained a later mid grey fill (508) from which a single sherd of 12th-14th century Medieval pottery was recovered.
- 5.10 **Trench 6** (10m by 2m) was aligned east-northeast to west-southwest and was excavated immediately north of an existing accommodation block. The trench was excavated onto natural deposits comprising yellow sand at a depth of 0.57m (136.59m OD) in the western half of the trench; the remainder of the trench could not be excavated to natural due to the presence of live services. The natural deposits were overlain by a layer of stone and brick rubble in a clay silt matrix (603) up to 0.35m thick. This layer was overlain directly by a

gravel hardcore layer (602), beneath the modern tarmac surface (601). No archaeologically significant finds or features were recovered from this trench.

- 5.11 **Trench 7** (10m by 2m) was aligned northeast-southwest and was excavated immediately northeast of an existing accommodation block in the eastern part of the grounds. The trench was excavated onto natural deposits comprising yellow sand at a depth of 0.97m (136.10m OD). The natural deposits were overlain by a mid brown sand silt (703) up to 0.35m thick. This layer was overlain by a black clay sand with cinder and brick rubble (702), up to 0.33m thick. This layer was overlain in turn by a dark brown clay silt topsoil (701), up to 0.33m thick. No archaeologically significant finds or features were recovered from this trench.
- 5.12 **Trench 8** (20m by 2m) was aligned northeast-southwest and was excavated between Trenches 1 and 4 to the rear of the hotel. The trench was excavated onto natural deposits comprising yellow sand at a depth of 1.53m (137.61m OD) at the northeastern end and 0.82m (138.46m OD) at the southwestern end. The natural deposits were overlain by a dark brown clay sand (804) between 0.99m thick at the northeastern end and 0.20m thick at the southwestern end. This was overlain by a layer of brick rubble (803), up to 0.33m thick. This layer was overlain in turn by a gravel hardcore (802), beneath the modern tarmac surface (801). No archaeologically significant finds or features were recovered from this trench.
- 5.13 **Test-Pit 1** (1.5m by 1.5m) was excavated to the rear of the long north-south aligned accommodation block in the northern part of the site. It was excavated onto natural deposits comprising yellow sand at a depth of 0.77m (136.31m OD). The natural deposits were overlain by a layer of stone rubble (1003) up to 0.26m thick, from which two sherds of 18th-19th century Red Glazed Earthenware were recovered. This layer was overlain by a black clay sand with cinder and brick rubble (1002), up to 0.27m thick. This layer was overlain in turn by a dark brown clay silt topsoil (1001), up to 0.24m thick. No archaeologically significant features were identified in this trench.
- 5.14 **Test-Pit 2** (1.5m by 1.5m) was excavated to the rear of a house in the eastern part of the site. It was excavated onto natural deposits comprising solid limestone at a depth of 0.75m (135.97m OD). The natural deposits were overlain by a layer of mid brown sand with frequent stone rubble (2002) up to 0.45m thick, from which fragments of Post-medieval ceramic building material and sherds of 18th-19th century Red Glazed Earthenware were recovered. This layer was overlain by a dark brown clay sand topsoil (2001), up to 0.30m thick from which a single residual sherd of 12th-14th century Minety ware was recovered. No archaeologically significant features were identified in this trench.
- 5.15 **Test-Pit 3** (1.5m by 1.5m) was excavated to the east of an accommodation block in the southern part of the site. It was excavated onto natural deposits comprising orange sand at a depth of 0.98m (136.29m OD). The natural deposits were overlain by a layer of mid brown sand with occasional stone rubble (3003) up to 0.55m thick. This was overlain by a layer of a mixed stone

rubble and cinder (3002) up to 0.25m thick, from which frequent modern finds were recovered. Layer (3002) was overlain in turn by a dark brown clay sand topsoil (3001) up to 0.18m thick. No archaeologically significant finds or features were identified in this trench.

- 5.16 **Test-Pit 4** (1.5m by 1.5m) was excavated on the edge of woodland in the eastern part of the site. It was excavated onto natural deposits comprising yellow sand at a depth of 0.67m (136.00m OD). The natural deposits were overlain by a layer of mottled orange brown sand (4002) up to 0.34m thick, beneath a dark brown clay sand topsoil (4001), up to 0.33m thick from which a three fragments of clay pipe stem were recovered. No archaeologically significant features were identified in this trench.
- 5.17 **Test-Pit 5** (1.5m by 1.5m) was excavated within the western fringe of woodland in the eastern part of the site. It was excavated onto natural deposits comprising yellow sand at a depth of 0.70m (135.66m OD). The natural deposits were overlain by a layer of mid brown sand (5002) up to 0.40m thick, beneath a dark brown clay sand topsoil (5001), up to 0.30m thick from which a single sherd of residual Roman greyware pottery was recovered. No archaeologically significant features were identified in this trench.
- 5.18 **Test-Pit 6** (1.5m by 1.5m) was excavated within woodland in the eastern part of the site. It was excavated onto natural deposits comprising orange sand and limestone at a depth of 0.72m (135.67m OD). The natural deposits were overlain by a layer of mid brown sand (6004) up to 0.14m thick, beneath a stony layer (6003) up to 0.12m thick. This was overlain by a layer of dark brown clay sand (6002) up to 0.26m thick, from which frequent modern finds were recovered. The latest deposit comprised a grey brown clay sand (6001), up to 0.20m thick from which frequent modern finds were recovered. No archaeologically significant finds or features were identified in this trench.

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The general lack of intact subsoils within the investigation area indicates that significant areas of the site had previously been stripped to natural deposits and subsequently made back up. This activity is likely to have predominantly occurred during the construction of the accommodation blocks which currently stand to the rear of the hotel, but may have had its origins in earlier landscaping works.
- 6.2 A number of features were identified during the course of the project. These comprised three stone-lined drains, a well and a wall. These are all likely to be of Post-medieval origin, although an earlier, Medieval date cannot be entirely ruled out. A single sherd of Medieval pottery was recovered from one drain, although this was recovered from material that had entered the drain after the collapse of the capping stones and may, therefore, be residual in context. In all cases the features stand proud of the natural ground into demonstrably Post-medieval layers and may be considered unlikely to have survived, if of

Medieval date. The nature of these features is entirely commensurate with backland activity associated with the Goddard Arms.

- 6.3 The evaluation has indicated that there is a generally low potential for significant archaeological remains to be present within the western and central parts of the study area. It is unknown as to whether there has been significant truncation of the natural deposits; although it is certain that some terracing and levelling of the area has taken place. Intact subsoils may survive in Trench 7 and the test-pits in the eastern part of the site and the archaeological potential for pre-Post-medieval features may be considered greater in this area.
- 6.4 A small pottery assemblage comprising a single sherd of locally produced Roman greyware weighing 8g; two sherds of Medieval pottery weighing 58g, which were products of the Minety kilns (12th-14th century) and six sherds of Red Glazed Earthenware weighing 122g. Nineteen sherds of chinaware weighing 43g were also recovered. Other artefactual material included clay pipe stems. Ecofactual material comprised a very small bone assemblage of modern date.
- 6.5 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology. It comprises:
- Colour slides
 - Black and white photographs
 - Digital photographs
 - Record sheets
 - Correspondence
 - Written scheme of Investigation
 - Risk Assessment and Health and Safety Method statement
 - Artefacts
- 6.6 The archive has been prepared in accordance with *MAP2* (English Heritage 1990) and *Guidelines for the preparation of archaeological archives for long-term storage* (UKIC 1990). It will be deposited with Swindon Museum within 6 months.
- 6.7 The results of the work will be published in the appropriate journal(s) and an OASIS report will be completed and submitted.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Foundations Archaeology, 2005 *The Locarno site, The Planks, Swindon: Archaeological Assessment*

Darton, L, 2007 *Goddard Arms Hotel High Street, Swindon: Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation*. CgMs Consulting.

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1999 (revised 2001) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*.

Wiltshire County Council, 1995 *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire*.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Lorraine Darton of CgMs Consulting and Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger of Wiltshire County Council for their assistance with this project.



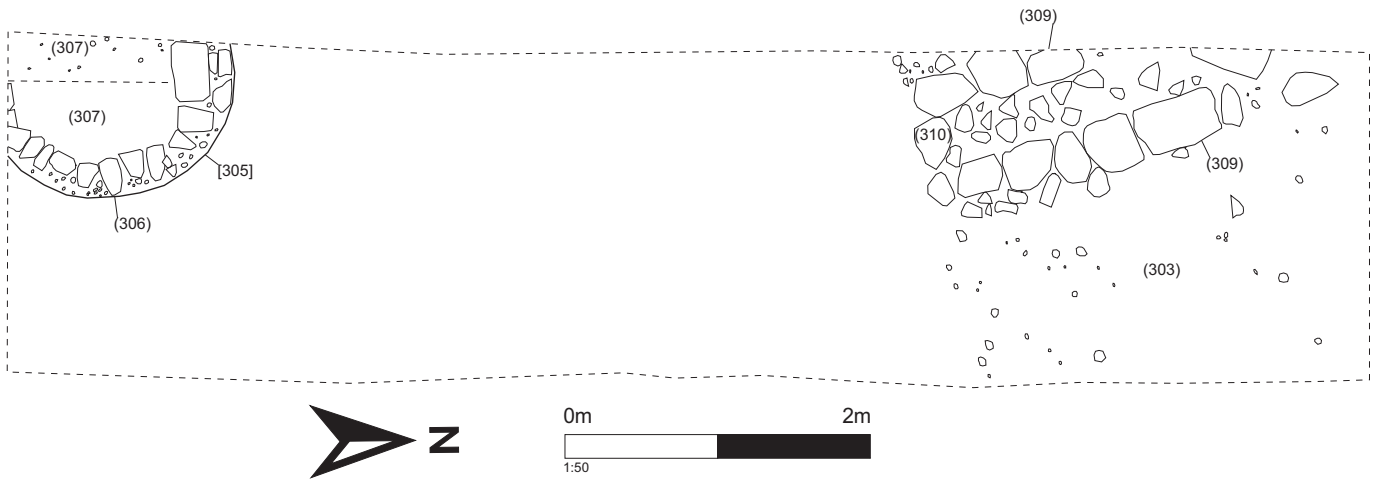
© Crown Copyright
Reproduced under licence AL523064A

FIGURE 1: Site Location

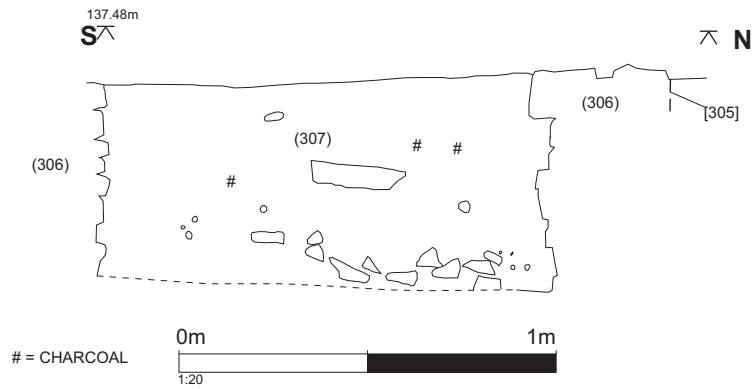


FIGURE 2: Trench Locations

TRENCH 3 PLAN



EAST FACING SECTION [305]



SOUTH FACING SECTIONS (308), (309) and (310)

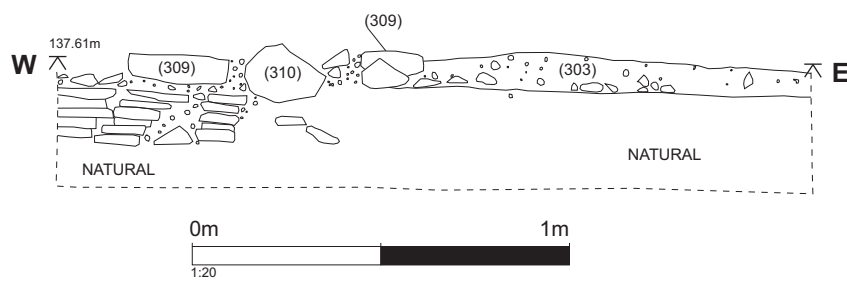
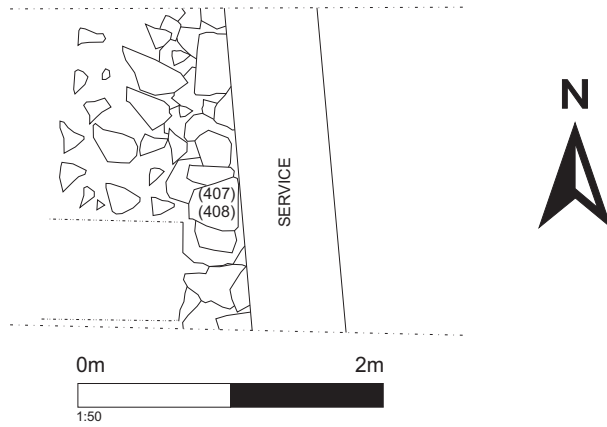


FIGURE 3: Trench 3 Plan and Sections

TRENCH 4 PLAN



NORTH FACING SECTION (407)/(408)

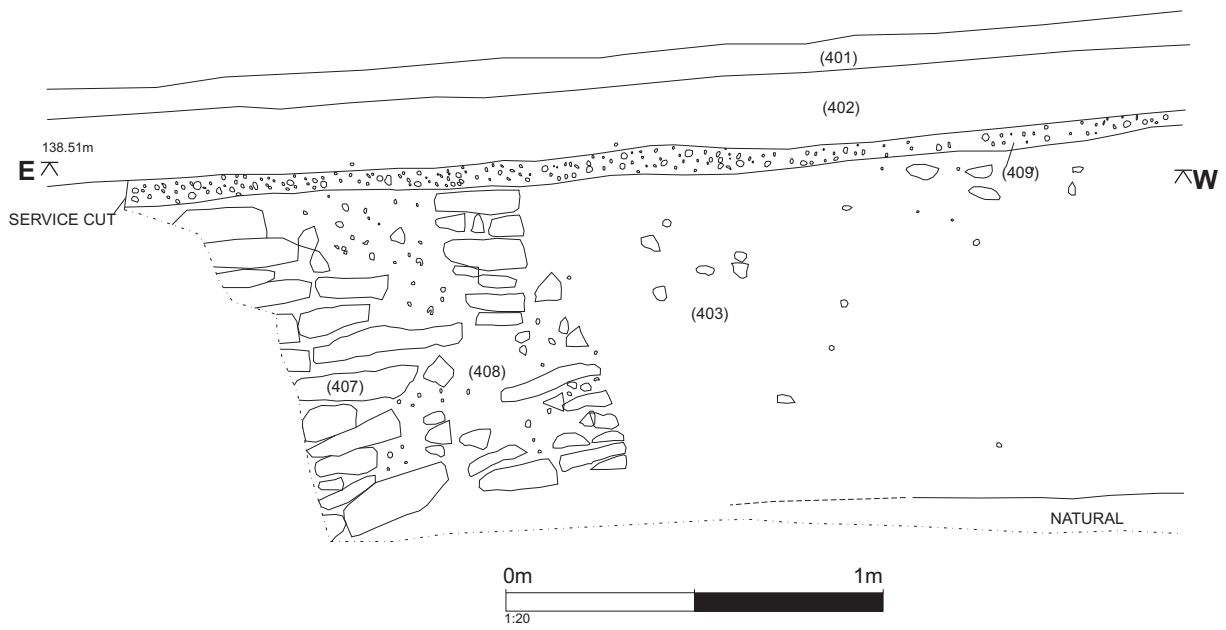


FIGURE 4: Trench 4 Plan and Section

TRENCH 5 PLAN

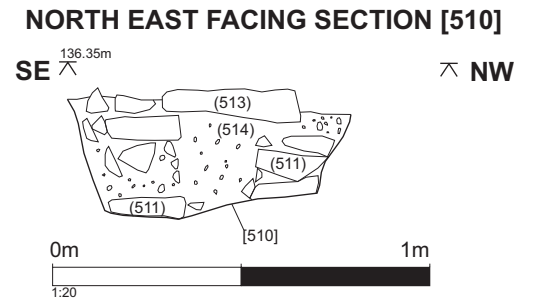
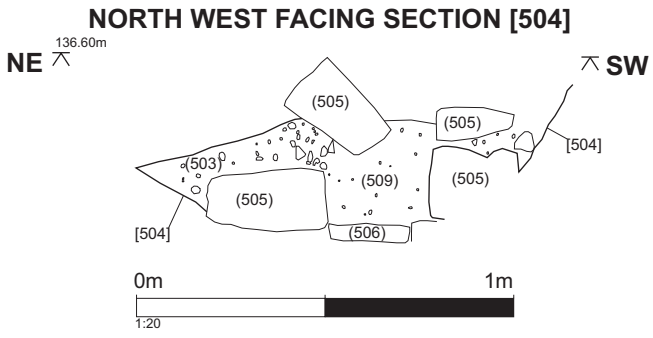
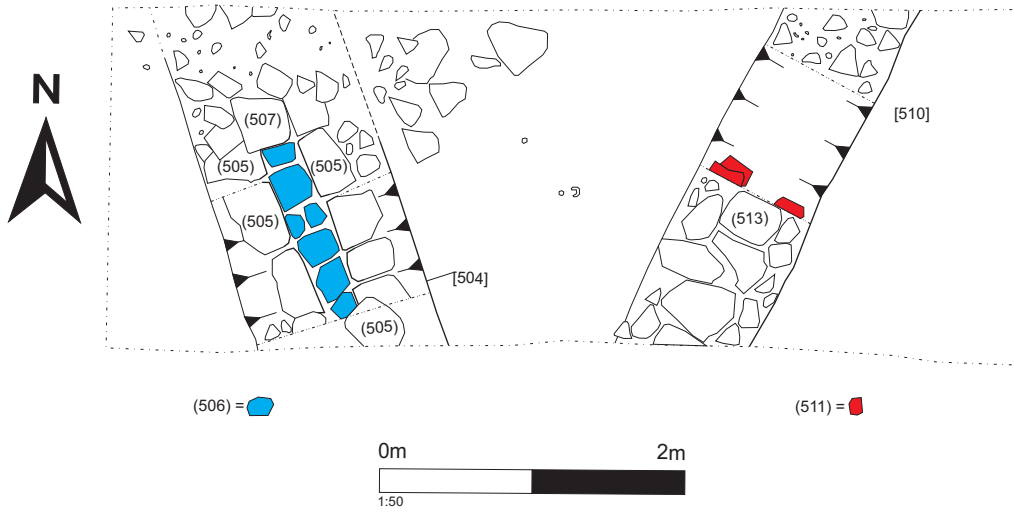


FIGURE 5: Trench 5 Plan and Sections