

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION

AT

**QUAY COTTAGE
NO 12 QUAY STREET
HEREFORD
HR1 2NH**

*NGR: SO 51121 39601
Planning Ref: S113336/FH*



Border Archaeology Limited
Registered in England and Wales
Company Registration Number 07857388
Registered Office: 45 Etnam Street Leominster Herefordshire HR6 8AE
Head Office: Chapel Walk Burgess Street Leominster Herefordshire HR6 8DE Tel: 01568 610101
Email: info@borderarchaeology.com Web: www.borderarchaeology.com

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Cover: View north from River Wye towards the property



1. Non-Technical Summary

Border Archaeology was instructed by Mrs Elizabeth Hughes Quay Cottage 12 Quay Street Hereford Herefordshire HR1 2NH to carry out a programme of archaeological observation of ground-works relating to a proposed single-storey flat roof extension to the E of the property for an additional bedroom with study & demolition of an existing garage, single-storey extension to the S side. This work was carried out on the 26th and 27th of February 2013.

Ground-works revealed a large ditch oriented NNE-SSW. The ditch was backfilled with late post-medieval demolition material to a depth of >0.8m. The base of the ditch was not revealed due to limited excavation depth. This feature may have formed part of the defensive ditch around the late 12th-early 13th century Norman keep formerly sited approximately 40m to the N, and which was believed to connect with the river at this point. The ditch was filled with an 18th century landscaping deposit.



2. Introduction

Border Archaeology was instructed by Mrs Elizabeth Hughes Quay Cottage 12 Quay Street Hereford Herefordshire HR1 2NH (SO 51121 39601) (*fig.1*) to carry out a programme of archaeological observation of ground-works relating to a proposed single-storey flat roof extension to the E of the property for an additional bedroom with study & demolition of an existing garage, single-storey extension to the S side. This work was carried out on the 26th and 27th of February 2013.

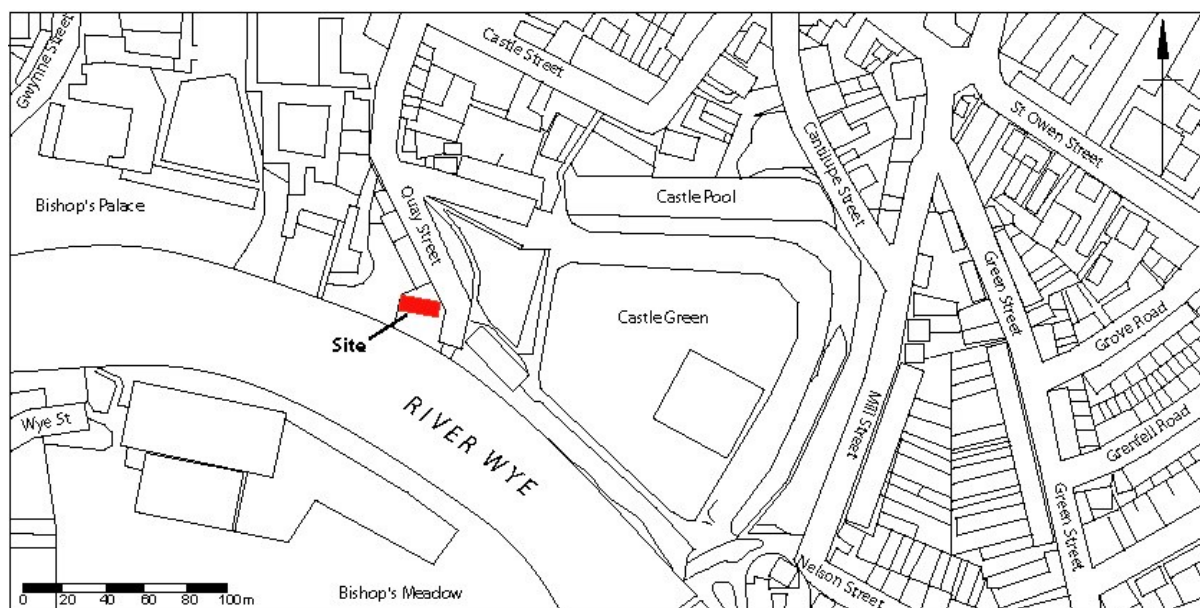


Fig 1: Plan showing location of No 12 Quay Street

Copies of this report will be submitted to the client and to Julian Cotton Esq., Archaeological Advisor, Herefordshire Council.

3. Brief Historical & Archaeological Background

No 12 Quay Street is located close to the site of the castle on the northern bank of the River Wye and at the eastern end of the walled town. The castle (SO 5114 3964) (SAM 152; SMR No 456), now demolished, appears to have been of pre-Conquest origin and had attained the peak of its importance by the 13th century, after which its importance declined steadily over a period of several centuries, punctuated by a brief revival during the Civil War. Final demolition took place in the second half of the 17th century and little remains of the castle today, although the results of surveys carried out in 1933, 1959 and 1975 indicate the presence of buried foundations.

The Castle Green site had previously served for several hundred years as a graveyard (44614) and was occupied by of the collegiate church of St Guthlac (SO 5124 3956) (SMR No 429).The burial ground was of Anglo-Saxon or early post-Conquest origin and covered an area of 0.3ha. St Guthlac's was subsequently re-founded in 1107-22 as the Benedictine Priory of St



Guthlac (SO 5153 4019) (HWCM 6498), a dependency of St Peter's Abbey Gloucester, and was relocated outside the defences to occupy extensive grounds centred upon the present bus station and county hospital sites, from where a substantial burial assemblage has been recovered intermittently over a period of several decades. The original monastic site was absorbed within the bailey of the castle.

The extent of the bailey itself is partially defined by a substantial earthwork rising to Hogg's Mound at the NE extent, to the N of which is Castle Pool, a remnant of Hereford Castle motte ditch (SMR No 44608) (SO 511 396) The projected line of the ditch has been traced based upon the results of limited archaeological interventions. Although the ditch on the eastern side has been filled in and is an open grassed area with occasional trees, its edge was excavated in 1968-9 (event 35319) SE of the site of the motte whilst a machine trench across the E side (event 35318) reportedly found only evidence of deep 17th century levelling and backfilling activity. The results of a borehole survey to the N identified evidence of an abrupt drop in the natural and steeply inclined strata consistent with a ditch profile whilst rising terraces beneath St Ethelbert's House and properties to its NE also suggest the edge of the ditch. On the W a slight scarp indicates the position of the ditch between the bailey and the former motte. St Ethelbert's Well (SMR No 20158) appears have originated as a natural spring discharging into the ditch.

Castle Cliffe House (SMR No 7292) (SO 5116 3958) stands immediately to the E of No 12 Quay St, at the SW angle of the bailey and formerly served as the city Bridewell (prison). The building appears to be of 13th or early 14th century date and the N front contains a doorway dated to c.1300, although the property has undergone substantial modernisation. The precipitous nature of the site necessitated cutting into the slope on two sides, such that the ground-floor level facing S and W form a basement with respect to the higher ground to the N. Although suggested as the site of a water-gate, the building's primary function remains uncertain. It may originally have served as a lodgings block; indeed, it was known in the 17th century as the 'Governor's Lodging'. A flight of steps reportedly rises from the river but these cannot now be located.

The significance of the site at 12 Quay Street lies principally in its location close to the castle remains and specifically to the point at which the projected line of the castle motte ditch joined the River Wye. As such, it was considered possible that evidence of the ditch might be located in the foundation trenching excavations. A coal yard occupied the site during the mid 18th century (Taylor 1757); this had been demolished by the 1880s when the site appeared to be part of a garden attached to Vaga House (Hereford Town plans, 1886). The current property was built post-1970.

4. Geology

The site is composed of typical brown alluvial soils of the TEME series (561b), these being deep stone-less permeable silty soils overlying river alluvium (SSEW 1983).



5. Methodology

Archaeological observation was carried out in accordance with *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008). Border Archaeology adheres to the *IfA Code of conduct (2012)* and *Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology (2008)* and to Herefordshire Archaeology's *Standards for Archaeological Projects in Herefordshire* (Issue 1) (Herefordshire Council, 2004) Border Archaeology is cognisant of Herefordshire Council's *Archaeology & Development Supplementary Planning Document* (2010).

All intrusive ground-works were subject to observation and ground-works activity was halted when necessary to enable any areas of archaeological interest, namely the ditch feature, to be defined and recorded.

All archaeological deposits were examined and cleaned using appropriate hand-tools. Archaeological deposits were examined and recorded both in plan and section.

5.1 Recording

Full written, graphic and photographic records were made in accordance with Border Archaeology's *Field Recording Manual* (2012). Records include:

- A pro-forma context record for each stratigraphic unit
- Plans of any area excavated showing: the extent of the area (tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid and located on a 1:2500 plan), the extent of all stratigraphic units, and appropriate detail within stratigraphic units. Overall site plans will be produced at a scale of 1:100 with plans of stratigraphic units at 1:20.
- Sections or profiles were drawn of all stratigraphic units at a scale of 1:20. All drawings were numbered and listed in a drawing register, these drawing numbers being cross-referenced to written site records.
- A photographic record of all stratigraphic units were compiled in addition to a representative photographic record of the progress of the archaeological work. The record was made using a high-resolution digital camera and comprised photographs of archaeological features and appropriate groups of features and structures. Included in each photograph was an appropriate scale and all photographic records were indexed and cross-referenced to written site records. Details concerning subject and direction of view were maintained in a photographic register, indexed by frame number.
- A temporary benchmark (TBM) was established based on an OS spot-height value located at the top of the rise adjacent to Castle Cliffe House and plans and sections contain grid and level information relative to this.



5.2 Recovery of finds

Finds identified on this site were predominantly late 19th or early 20th century in date, with occasional earlier 18th and early 19th century artefacts being revealed in a residual context. Thus, no finds were retained, although a record of their presence has been made.

5.3 Sampling levels

No deposits revealed were considered suitable for sampling.

6. Results

A single continuous foundation trench oriented ESE-WNW/N-S was opened in the area immediately to the E of Quay Cottage. The study area sloped approximately 0.5m from N to S. The site had been reduced and levelled by approximately 0.2m prior to ground-works being carried out to allow access for an excavator. Eight contexts were identified.

Topsoil deposition consisted of blackish coal waste spread (104) overlying poorly stratified late post-medieval garden soils (101).

Underlying this was a small sub-circular pit [107] filled by 19th century demolition rubble (*fig. 4*). The pit cut a moderately compact sand and gravel deposit (102) containing frequent 18th or 19th century brick rubble, pottery and lime-mortar flecks.



Plate 1: View NW of cut [103] in SSW facing section



Further excavation revealed that (102) formed a backfill deposit within a linear [103] measuring approximately 6.2m wide and >0.8m deep which appeared to run on a NNE-SSW alignment (*Plates 1 & 2; figs. 3 & 4*). The break of slope (top) was quite sharp on both sides, although the building foundations truncated it in the SW extent of the site. The ESE side of the cut was moderate to steeply sloping the WNW was stepped. The base of the feature was not revealed and this clearly lay well below construction depth

[103] was cut from similar moderately compacted sterile sand and gravel deposits (105) and (106) overlying the natural gravels.

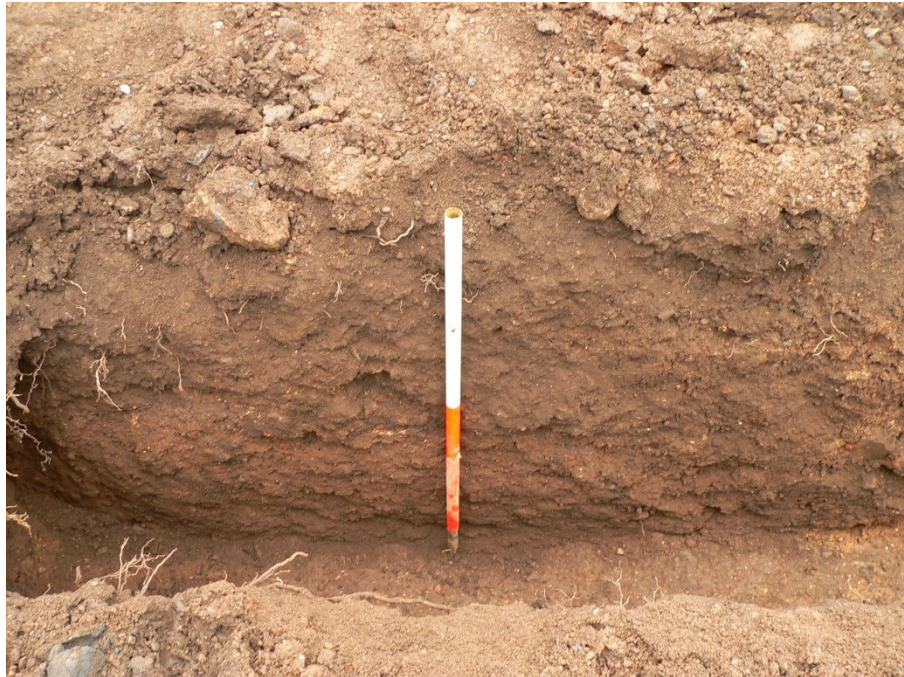


Plate 2: View SSW of cut [103] in NNE facing section

Investigation of [103] was severely restricted due to limited construction depth and poor ground stability. The N-S foundation trench appeared to reveal a continuation of ditch [103], although the feature was poorly defined due to the angle of the trench across it and the relatively shallow depth of the trench in comparison to the ESE-WNW excavation.

7. Discussion of Results

The ditch [103] excavated at No 12 Quay St appears to conform very closely in terms of position and orientation to a posited late 12th early 13th century defensive ditch to the S of the castle keep and W of the bailey, which was believed to link into the river in this location (Shoesmith, 1980) (*fig 2*).

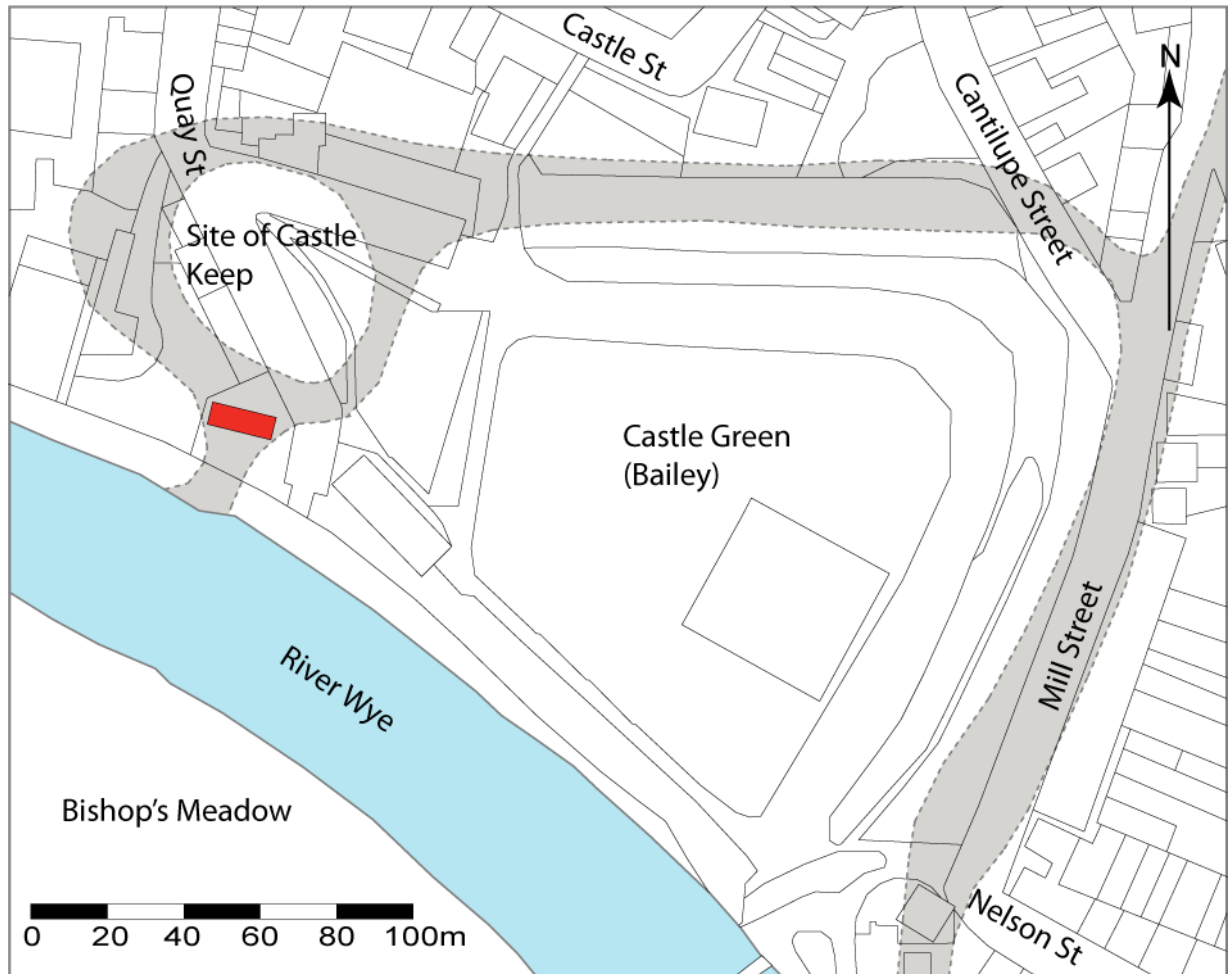


Fig 2: Plan showing location of No 12 Quay Street (marked in red), the posited location of the defensive ditch (indicated in grey) and the locations of the Norman keep and bailey.

The fill consisted of re-deposited natural sand and gravel containing frequent mid to late post-medieval pottery, brick rubble and lime-mortar flecks (102). This would imply that the ditch was at least partially extant during this period. No indication of it is shown on Taylor’s 1757 plan suggesting it had already been backfilled by this date. The map shows that the site was occupied by a riverside coal yard, offering a reasonable *terminus post quem* for the date of this deposit and the backfilling of the ditch as suggested by the results of investigations elsewhere in the vicinity (Shoemsmith 1980).

No earlier fills were revealed during the course of the ground-works due to limits of excavation and poor ground stability. Extrapolation of the available data suggests that the ditch was approximately 6.2m wide and approximately 2.3m deep, depending on the profile of the base.



8. Copyright

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10. Appendices

10.1 Context Register

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
(101)	Soft dark brown gritty silty sand, frequent brick, stone rubble, pebbles, pottery, bone and CBM, extends trench-wide by 0.3m. Underlies (104) Overlies (108)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Modern poorly stratified garden soil</i>
(102)	Moderately compact dark reddish-brown sand and gravel, brick, pottery, lime mortar flecking, pottery and CBM, extends 6.65m × >0.5m × >1.18m. Cut by [107]. Fills [103]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>C 18th landscaping deposit filling earlier ditch[103]</i>
[103]	Linear cut, oriented NNE-SSW, extending 5m × >0.5m × >0.8m. Break of slope (top) sharp. Sides moderate to steeply sloping. Break of slope (base) and base not revealed. Filled by (102) Cuts (105) and (106)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut of large ditch oriented NNE-SSW, possibly forming part of the defensive circuit around the C 12th- 13th castle to the N and W</i>
(104)	Soft black gritty coal waste, extends 2.52m × >0.3m × 0.1m. Overlies (101)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Coal waste</i>
(105)	Moderately compacted mid brown sand/silt and gravel, extends >1.5m × >0.5m by 0.3m. Cut by [103] Same as (106)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Sterile, probably naturally deposited but not compacted sand and gravel layer</i>
(106)	Moderately compact mid brown sand/silt and gravel, extends >2.5m × >3.75m × 0.52m. Cut by [103] Same as (105)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Sterile probably naturally deposited but not compacted sand and gravel layer</i>
[107]	Sub-circular cut, extends >0.57m × >0.4m × 0.5m. Break of slope (top) sharp. Sides vertical. Break of slope (base) imperceptible from base. Base concave. Filled by (108) Cuts (102)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut of late post-medieval rubbish pit</i>
(108)	Loose mid-dark brown silt sand/brick rubble, extends >0.4m × 0.5m × 0.5m. Underlies (101) Fills [107]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of C 19th rubbish pit [107]</i>



10.2 Trenching plan

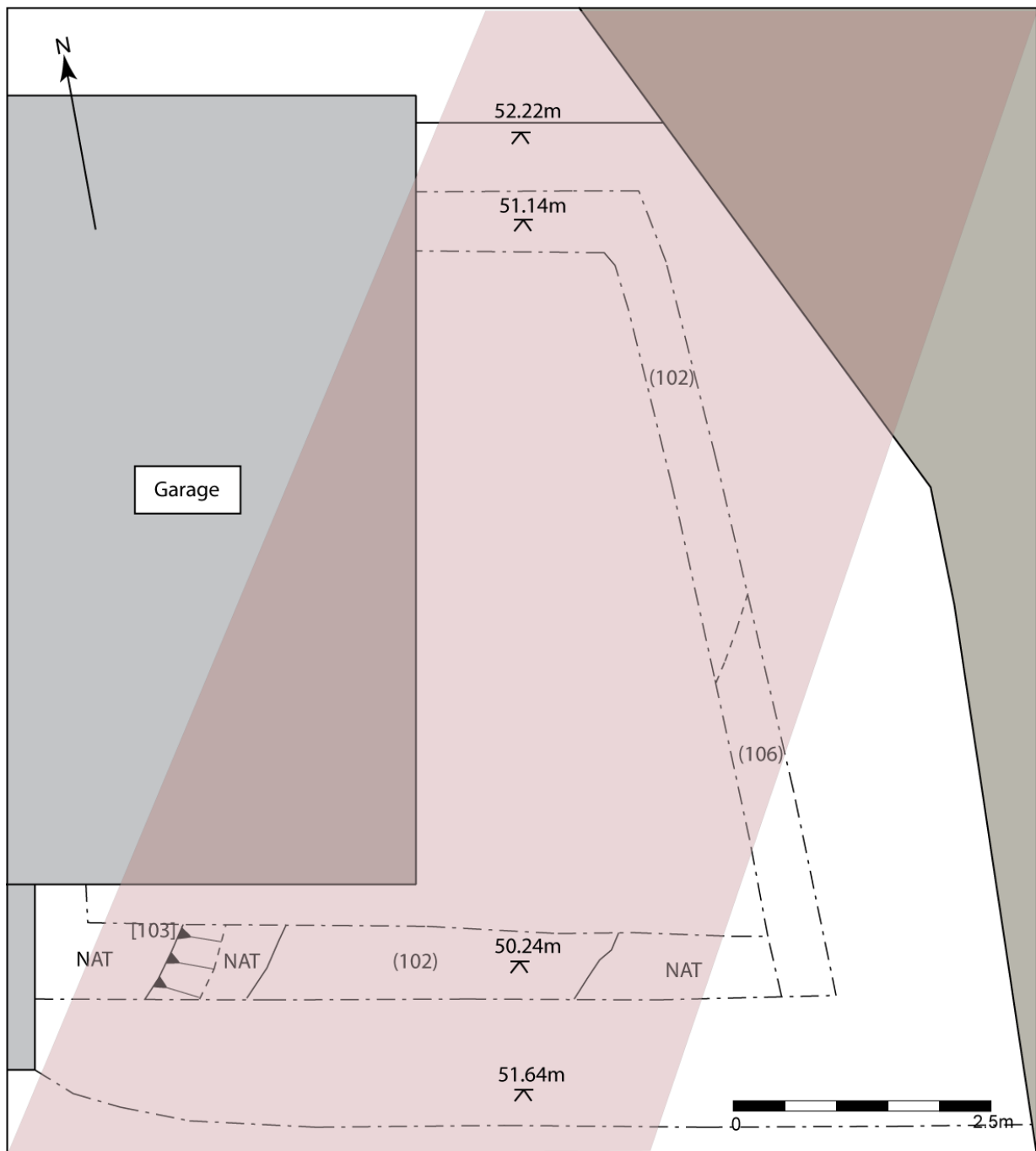


Fig 3: Plan showing trench, with the projected extent of the ditch (indicated in purple)

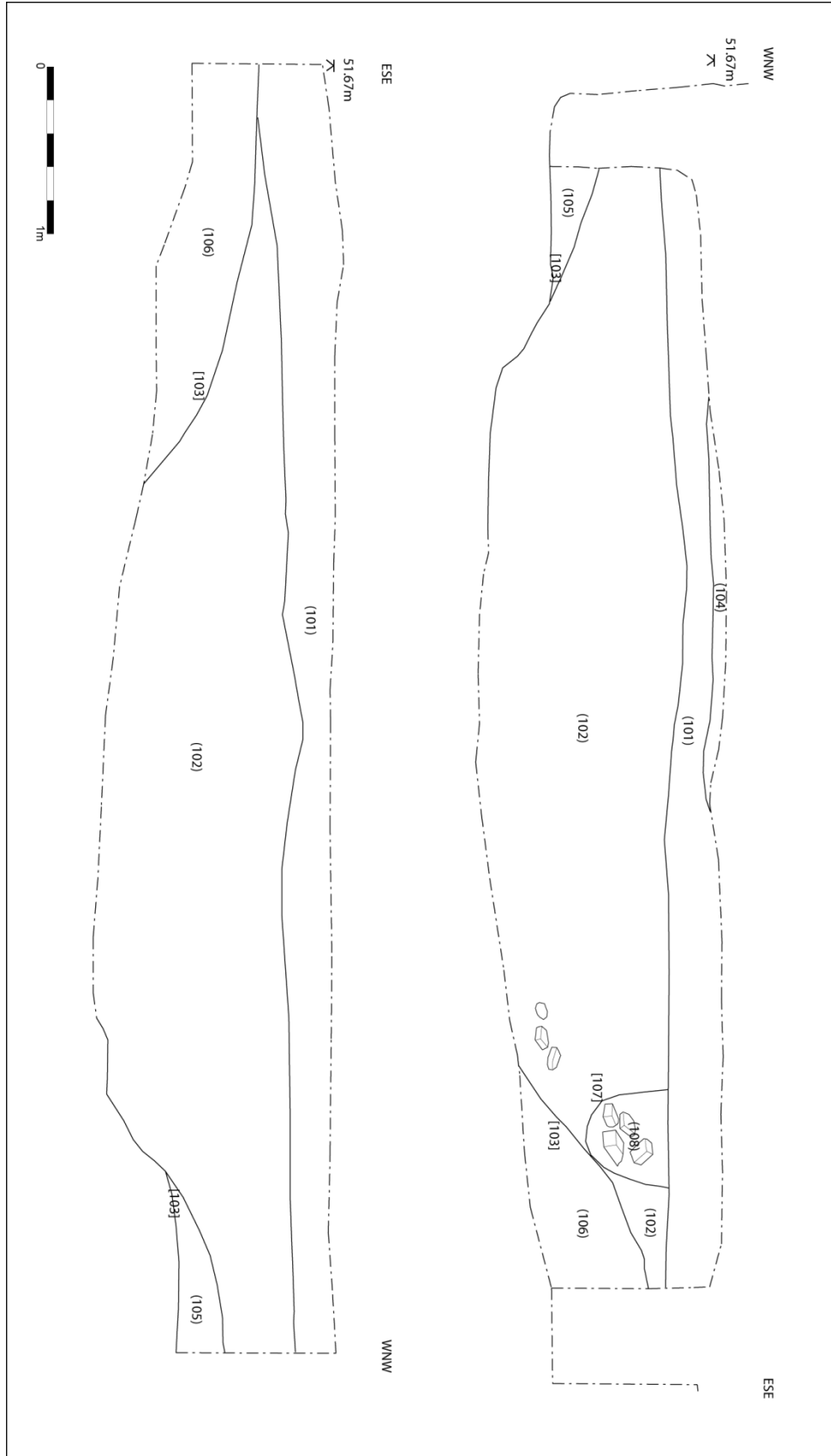


Fig 4: NNE and SSW facing sections of trenching showing excavated extent of ditch [103]



Document Control

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