



# Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record

Historic Environment Record, Historic Environment Service,  
Environment & Heritage, Cornwall Council

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Site Name: Pednandrea Yard

Grid ref (10-fig): SW 70216 41993

OS Map No:

Parish: Redruth

Site Type: Residential development

Period: Post-medieval-20<sup>th</sup> century

Form: Monitoring and Recording

Description:

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of John Styles of Randall Simmonds LLP (The Agent) on behalf of Coastline Housing (the Client) during groundworks associated with the construction of dwellings at Pednandrea Yard, Redruth, Cornwall, TR15 2EE (Figure 1). This work was undertaken by J. Bampton in accordance with a WSI drawn up in consultation with a Brief issued by Phil Copleston, Senior Development Officer, Historic Environment, Cornwall Council.

The site is located in the Redruth mining district within the sett/leased grounds of Pednandrea Mine (MCO12377), which lies 50m to the north and dates to before 1698. The mines/adits empty to the west of the site and a track runs along the east and to the north of the site. By 1765 the mine was producing tin, copper, mundic, arsenic and some lead. In 1778 the mine was idle, probably due to the slump caused by the success of the Parys Mountain copper mine in North Wales. The mine reopened in 1797, closed in 1806 and reopened again in 1824, when the chimney adjacent to the north-east of the site (MCO25196) was built by Arthur Woolf to exhaust a 70" pumping engine. This Grade II Listed structure originally had eight tiers and was 145ft high. It had three sections removed in 1891 and 1936. The mine closed in the 1830's, reopened yet again in 1854 and stayed open until 1891. East of the chimney is The Count House (DCO6804), a Grade II Listed 1770's building of killas rubble, which was altered in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and is now a private dwelling. c.50m south-west of the site is a Grade II Listed mid 19<sup>th</sup> century house said to be the Mine Captain's house (DCO7490). Immediately to the south of the site are post-medieval clay workings (MCO29079) visible on Symons map of 1855 and as a quarry on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS map. Approximately 50m to the east is the site of a post-medieval crucible factory (MCO25198), which was referred to from 1760 and is depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> series OS 6" map. Less than 100m to the north-east is the terminus of the Redruth and Chacewater Railway and within 150m is a horse whim stone (MCO25197) built into a hedge. Also within c.150m are two non-conformist chapels (MCO33141 and MCO33137); the Grade II Listed Church of St. Andrew (DCO7477); the Grade II Wesley Centenary Memorial Hall (DCO7477); Redruth Railway Station (MCO25203) and medieval architectural fragments thought to belong to an earlier chapel (MCO10142). Approximately 150m east-south-east of the site is a Prehistoric findspot (MCO1264); finds here included flints, pottery and a spindle whorl. The area is riddled with old shafts, many or most of which have not been located. In 2001 a shaft (Rowe's Shaft) shown on the 1880 Ordnance Survey map, covered over by the early 1850s, subsided at SW 70333 42092 (north-east of the site). It is identified as a tin and copper mine on the Ordnance Survey map of 1877 with stamp batteries at SW 7031 4173. Several shafts in the vicinity (53861), which may be associated with the site, are visible on aerial photographs. In 1879 a town plan shows the site as a walled yard with buildings to the north-west, south and south-east. By 1909 an additional building had been built to the north of the site (See Figures 2 and 3). These structures were subsequently demolished.

Following the demolition of any remaining structures, the site was excavated to the depth of formation (Figures 4-10). At this level only a small area of weathered natural was identified, and most of the site was covered with layers of redeposited material of unknown thickness. A series of wide pits or small quarries appear to have been terraced in from the southern edge, and the site then seems to have been used as a dump or store for killas rubble and redeposited subsoil. These deposits were then levelled out and an additional series of dumped deposits were used to build-up and level the site further. No shafts were identified on the site.

A distinct pit was identified by an investigative trench at the south-east end of the site where an edge became distinct against the natural (Figures 5, 6 and 8). All the fills of this feature extended, rising up to the edge of the cut and spread beyond. Pit [110] contained Fill (111), a compact light brownish-pink silty-gravel. Fill (112), a primary fill of redeposited natural, was comprised of compact mid yellow-orange clay and rock. Fill (112) was overlaid by Fill (113), a friable mid brown silt with gravelly and redeposited natural patches. This was overlain by Fill (114), a loosely

consolidated mix of (113) and (115), which overlaid Fill (111). Fill (114) was overlaid by Fill (115), comprised of loosely consolidated angular stones containing a single fragment of CBM. Fills (113) and (115) extended beyond the perceptible edges of the feature to the edges of the site and equate to layers covering the majority of the site. These deposits were then overlaid by later levelling/made-ground layers. The material in this feature appears to be a mix of mining waste made up of broken stone and redeposited subsoil, which may have originally been stored in bunds or within the yard before being spread prior to redevelopment in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Additional made-ground layers, including redeposited natural, then overlay this material, into and onto which structures were later built.

A sample section along the eastern edge of the site identified nine discrete layers (Figures 5-7). (100) was a concrete floor (0.10m thick). This overlaid (101), a friable mid brown-grey silty-sand with frequent building rubble 0.20m thick. This overlaid (102), a friable dark black-grey sandy-silt with glass and rubble inclusions <0.26m thick. This overlaid (103) <0.07m thick and (104), both a compact mix of light grey-brown rotten stone and clay. These overlaid (105), a compact mid pinkish-red gravel and clay with frequent medium-large angular stones (redeposited natural) <0.30m thick. This overlaid (106), friable light yellow-brown silty-sand with moderate-to-frequent angular stone <0.27m thick. This overlaid (107), loosely consolidated angular stones with occasional soil intruding from the layers above and below, <0.40m thick. Layer (107) equated to Fill (115). It overlaid Layer (108), a friable mid brown silt with gravelly patches <0.22m. Layer (108) equated to Fill (113). It overlaid Natural (109), a compact mid yellow-orange clay with rock.

A modern rectangular subterranean concrete chamber was present in the south-west of the site (Figures 5 and 11-13). This was directly overlaid by the existing floor surface and respected the structure demolished prior to the development, built between 1908 and 1967. It had a drain, 0.28m by 0.48m across, at its western end with a cast iron cover. It contained concrete and wooden demolition rubble and post 1950's pottery and was contaminated with diesel. Its sides had a very slight inward slope and survived to an internal height of 1.62m. It most likely contained a fuel tank.

Unstratified finds were recovered from the made-ground layers and within the concrete structure; these were all discarded onsite. The finds included, from the made-ground ×1 sherd (6g) 18<sup>th</sup> century Cornish coarse ware and ×2 sherds (4g) of white refined earthenware, one of which had blue transfer print decoration. The concrete structure contained ×1 sherd (11g) of later 20<sup>th</sup> century white refined earthenware and ×1 fragment (162g sample) of 20<sup>th</sup> century ceramic drainage pipe.

Overall, no significant archaeological remains or deposits were identified.

Land Use (Area): Post-industrial and Residential

Land Use (Site): Post-industrial, urban

Date of Site Visits: 10/02/2015, 11/02/2015 & 17/02/2015

Recorder's name, address and phone number: J. Bampton, South West Archaeology, The Old Dairy, Hacche lane Business Park, Pathfields Business Park, South Molton, Devon, EX36 3LH; 01769 573555

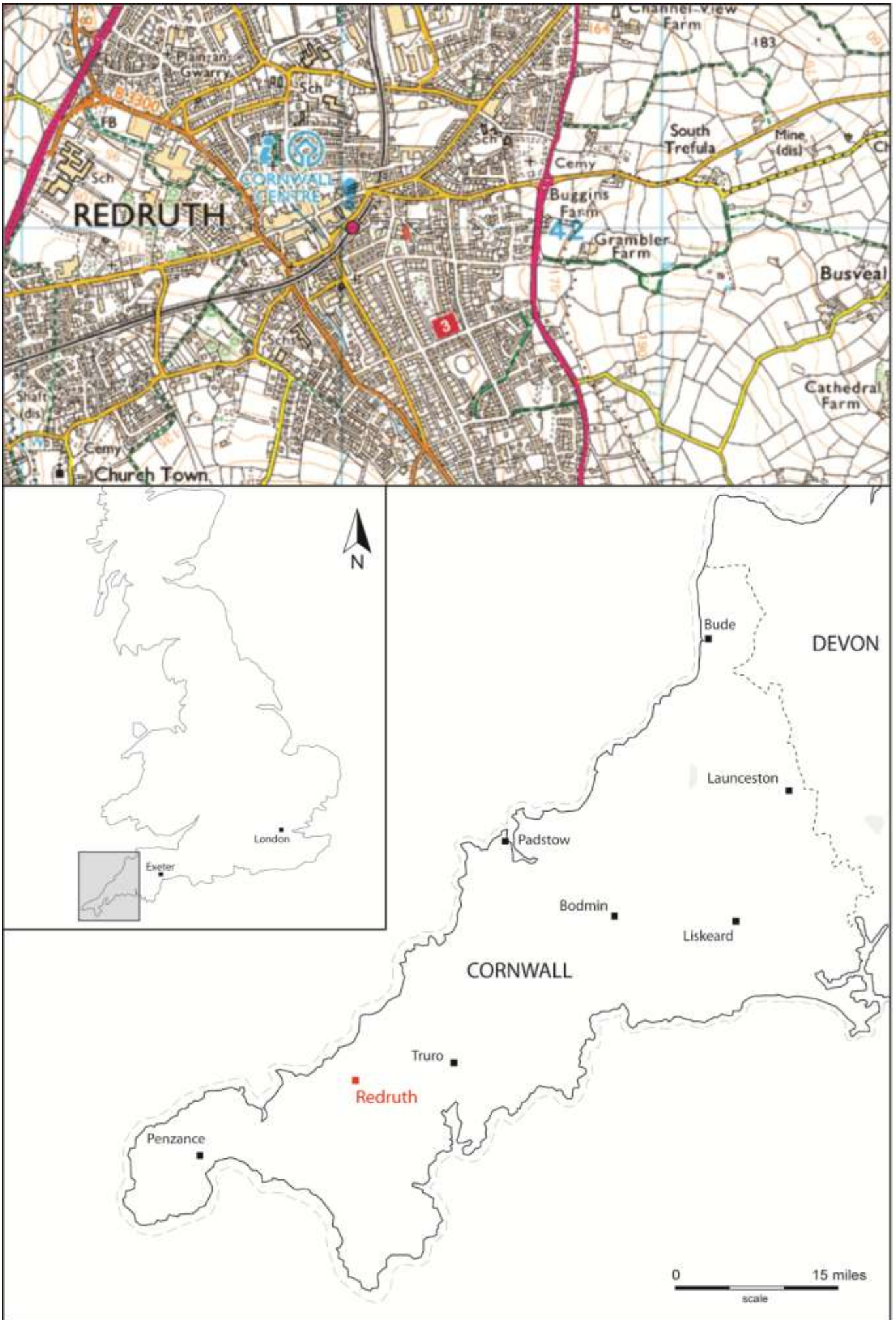


Figure 1: Site location (the site is indicated).





Figure 2: Extract from Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> Edition map, 1888 (CRO) (the site is indicated).

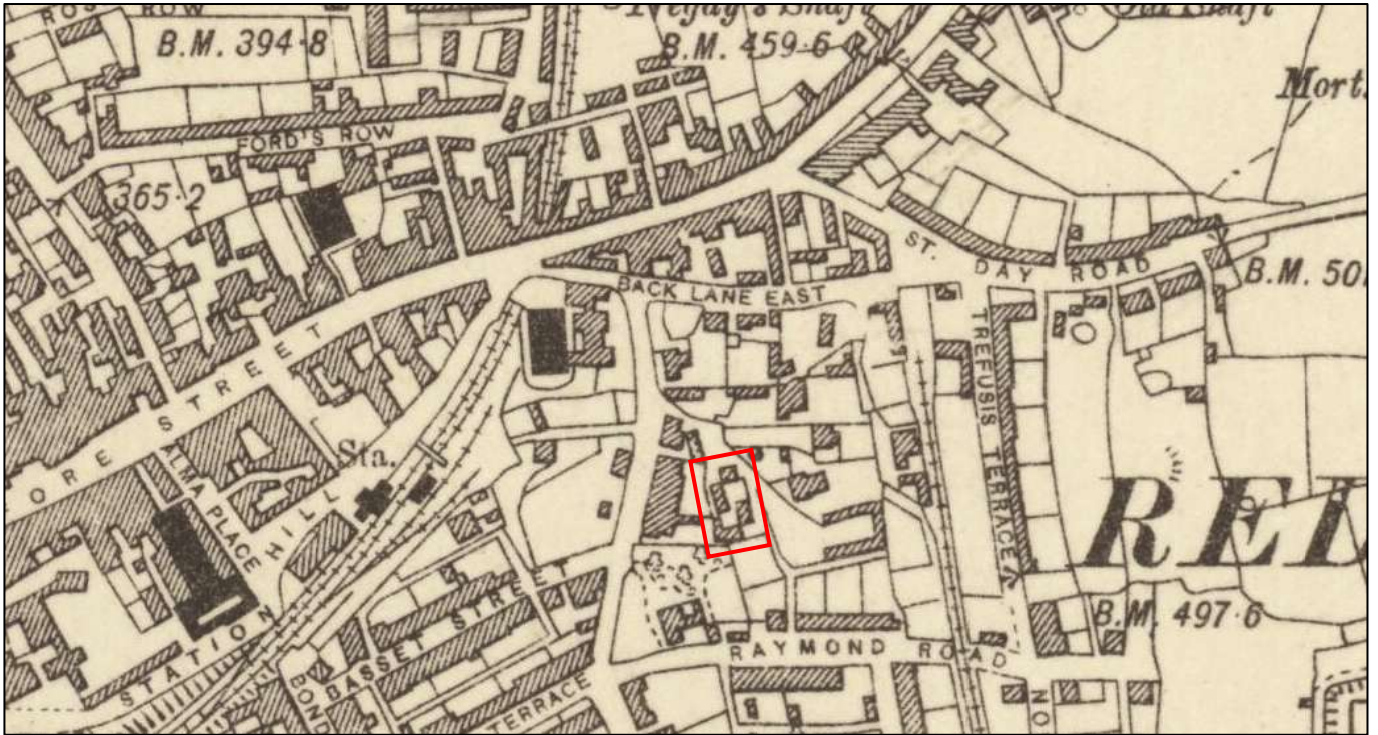


Figure 3: Extract from Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition map, 1909 (CRO) (the site is indicated).

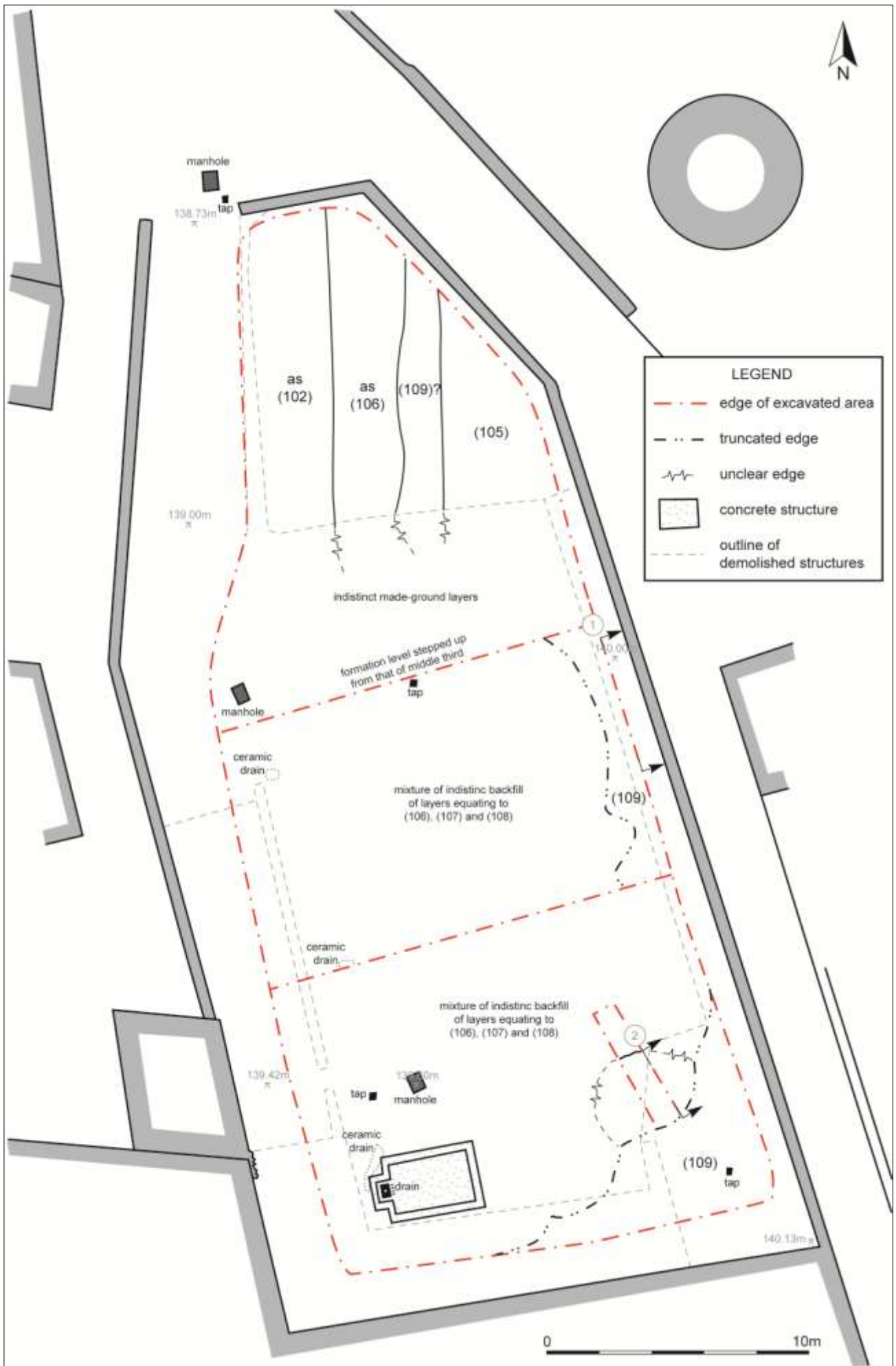


Figure 5: Site plan.



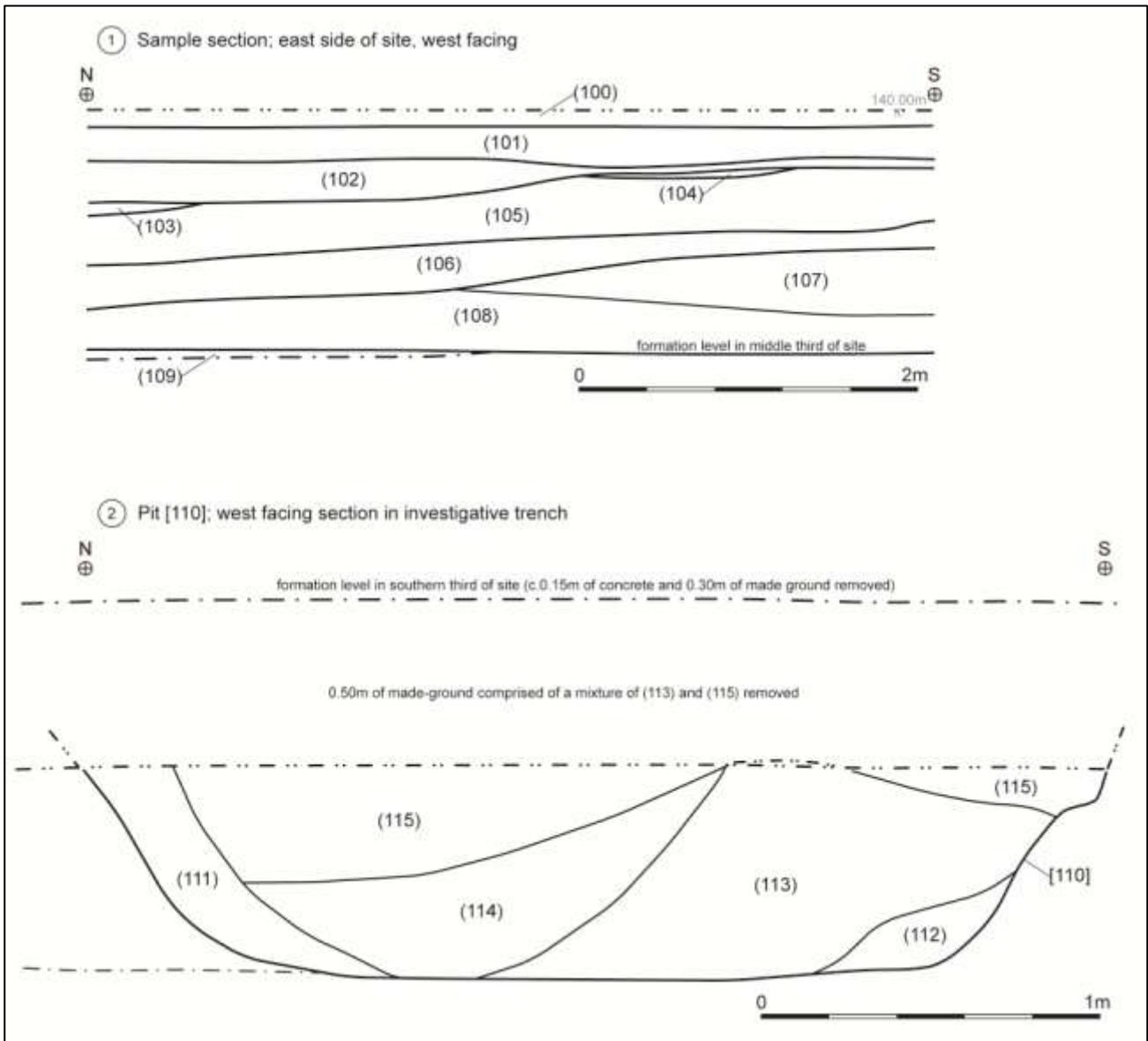


Figure 6: Section drawings.



Figure 4: Site post-excavation, viewed from the south-west corner; looking north-east (no scale).





Figure 7: West-facing section along eastern edge of the middle third of the site, viewed from the west (2m scale).



Figure 8: Investigative trench in the south-east corner with Pit [110], viewed from the south-west (1m & 2m scale).





Figure 9: North end of the site, post-excitation; viewed from the south (no scale).



Figure 10: South-east half of the site, showing the step in formation levels; viewed from the north (2m scale).





Figure 11: Internal shot of the concrete structure; viewed from the west (2m scale).



Figure 12: Internal shot of the concrete structure; viewed from the east (2m scale).



Figure 13: Drain at the west end of the concrete structure; viewed from above and to the east (partial 1m scale).