

LAND at BAKE FARM TRERULEFOOT, ST GERMANS CORNWALL

Results of an Archaeological Evaluation



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Report No.: 150410
Date: 10/04/2015
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Land at Bake Farm, Trerulefoot St Germans, Cornwall

Results of an Archaeological Evaluation

For

Nick Leaney

Of

Aardvark EM Ltd. (the Agent)

By



SWARCH project reference: SGT15
OS Map copying Licence No: 100044808
National Grid Reference: SX 326 584
Planning Application Ref: Pre-planning
Project Director: Dr. Bryn Morris
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Report: Joe Bampton
Report Editing: Dr. Samuel Walls
Graphics: Joe Bampton; Victoria Hosegood

April 2015

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Summary

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) on land at Bake Farm, Trerulefoot, St Germans, Cornwall, as part of the pre-planning documentation for a proposed solar park.

The site is located within an area of medieval farmland, with morphological and field-name evidence for the presence of open strip-field cultivation. A prior geophysical survey has identified seven probable historic boundaries on the site, and two probable medieval or earlier curvilinear features, which can be tentatively equated to medieval strip fields. The geophysical survey also identified a large pit-like anomaly. The ploughsoil was very stony, indicating any buried features on the site are likely to have been truncated by recent ploughing.

A targeted trench evaluation was undertaken: 8 trenches, measuring a total of 300m, were opened and all archaeological features encountered investigated. The evaluation demonstrated the results of the geophysical survey were generally reliable, and were a fair representation of the likely archaeological potential of the site. The exceptions to this were shallow remains of linear features in Trench 6, akin to the majority of other ditches on site. This is due to the relative severity of ploughing in this area of the site. The evaluation confirmed the preliminary identifications based on the geophysical survey; post-medieval field boundaries, and possible prehistoric ditches or medieval strip fields. The evaluation also identified a Middle Bronze Age sunken featured structure on the east side of the site.

The presence of Bronze Age activity on the site is regionally important and it is likely to occur north of a line between Trenches 1 and 3, inclusive and therefore fall outside of the proposed development boundaries. Across the rest of the site it is unlikely that any significant archaeological remains or deposits will be severely damaged by the development.

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Acknowledgements

Thanks for assistance are due to:

Nick Leaney of Aardvark EM Ltd. (the Agent).

Jon Bond, for access.

Phil Coplestone, Cornwall Council Senior Development Officer, Historic Environment (SDOHE)

The staff of the Cornwall Record Office (CRO)

1.0 Introduction

Location: Land at Bake Farm, Trerulefoot
Parish: St Germans
County: Cornwall
NGR: SX 327 584
Area surveyed: 8.3ha

1.1 Project Background

This report presents the results of a targeted archaeological evaluation carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at Bake Farm, St Germans, Cornwall (Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Nick Leaney of Aardvark EM Ltd (the Agent) in order to quantify and date any buried archaeological features and deposits that would be affected by the construction of a proposed solar farm. This phase of archaeological works was informed by a desk-based assessment, historic visual impact assessment and an archaeological geophysical survey (see SWARCH Report No.: 141128).

1.2 Topographical and Geological Background

Trerulefoot is located on the A38 where it meets the A374, halfway between Saltash and Liskeard. The site is situated to the south-west of the hamlet of Trerulefoot. It spans two fields on either side of a north-south orientated combe with a spring and watercourse running through it. The western field slopes down moderately to the south-east and the eastern field slopes down gently, then steeply, to the south-west. The site is at an altitude of c.55-75m AOD (see Figure 1).

The soil type on site consists of the well-drained fine loamy soils of the Denbigh 1 Association (SSEW 1983). These soils overlie the sedimentary bedrock of the Torpoint Mudstone and Siltstone Formation in an area with occasional igneous bands of basaltic pyroclastic rock. The geology at the north-east corner of the site borders the Saltash Slate and Siltstone Formation (BGS 2014).

1.3 Historical Background

The site is located in Trerulefoot in the Parish of St. Germans in the hundred and deanery of East. The settlement of St Germans has a medieval origin and is mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086. The place name Trerulefoot points to an early medieval origin of this settlement with the element '*Tre*' meaning estate or farmstead. Much of the land surrounding the Village would have been enclosed during this period.

1.4 Archaeological Background

The Cornwall Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) identifies the eastern field as being *modern enclosed land* (probably *medieval enclosed land* subject to extensive boundary loss in the 20th century) while the western field is listed as *medieval enclosed land* which falls into the category of *Anciently Enclosed Land* (AEL). There is little noted on the Cornwall Historic Environment Record (HER) for the immediate area surrounding the proposed site (see Appendix 2). The only sites of interest are the medieval settlement of Bake (MCO13309) situated less than 500m to the west of the proposed site, which was first recorded in 1269, and two early medieval

field boundaries (MCO44036) (MCO44037) to the north of the proposed site. There is no previous archaeological investigation recorded in the immediate areas surrounding the proposed site other than the Lynher Project, which documented the historic land use of farmland within the Lynher Valley.

1.5 Methodology

The archaeological evaluation was conducted in accordance with a Project Design (PD) devised in consultation with Phil Copleston, Cornwall Council Senior Development Officer, Historic Environment (SDOHE) (see Appendix 1).

The archaeological evaluation took place from the 30th March to 1st of April 2015. Eight evaluation trenches (4×50m trenches and 4×25m trenches, each 1.50m wide) were excavated by a tracked mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision to the depth of *in situ* weathered natural using a toothless grading bucket. Exposed archaeological deposits were excavated by hand and recorded in accordance with the PD and ClfA (2014) guidelines. The evaluation was designed to investigate and validate the results of the previous geophysical survey (SWARCH Report No.: 141128), and obtain additional information on the potential archaeological features identified to better inform further works.



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

2.0 Archaeological Evaluation

2.1 Introduction to the Evaluation

Most of the evaluation trenches (Figure 2) were targeted to investigate the geophysical anomalies identified in the earlier geophysical survey (SWARCH Report No.: 150127); in addition, trenches were located in apparently sterile areas in order to test the reliability of that survey.

The geophysical survey identified a number of anomalies; relating to historic field boundaries; boundaries probably relating to these historic field boundaries; a possible earlier field system; and possible sunken feature or pits; as well as anomalies more indicative of modern activity such as ploughing.

Eight trenches, with a total length of 300m, were opened across the site, (see Figure 2). The trenches were opened with a tracked 360° excavator fitted with a 1.5m wide toothless grading bucket and the work took place under strict archaeological supervision. A total of 15 archaeological features were encountered: 13 ditches, one posthole and one sunken featured building. Natural features were also encountered, two of which were fully recorded as possible pits or probable tree-throws. The sunken featured building was the only feature to produce dateable evidence; Bronze Age pottery. The post-hole was associated with the sunken featured building. The majority of the ditches either equate to or can be associated with historical, post-medieval boundaries identified on the geophysical survey. Two of the ditches equate to an earlier undated field-system, as speculated in the geophysical survey report.

The topsoil across the site consisted of a plough soil with a clear upper active layer and a deeper horizon of plough soil, which was perhaps less regularly disturbed. The natural across the site generally consisted of a blue-grey and grey-brown compact shillet with occasional light yellow-brown soft-friable silt-clay.

What follows is a trench-by-trench full account of the results of the evaluation. A complete set of supporting photographs can be seen in Appendix 4.

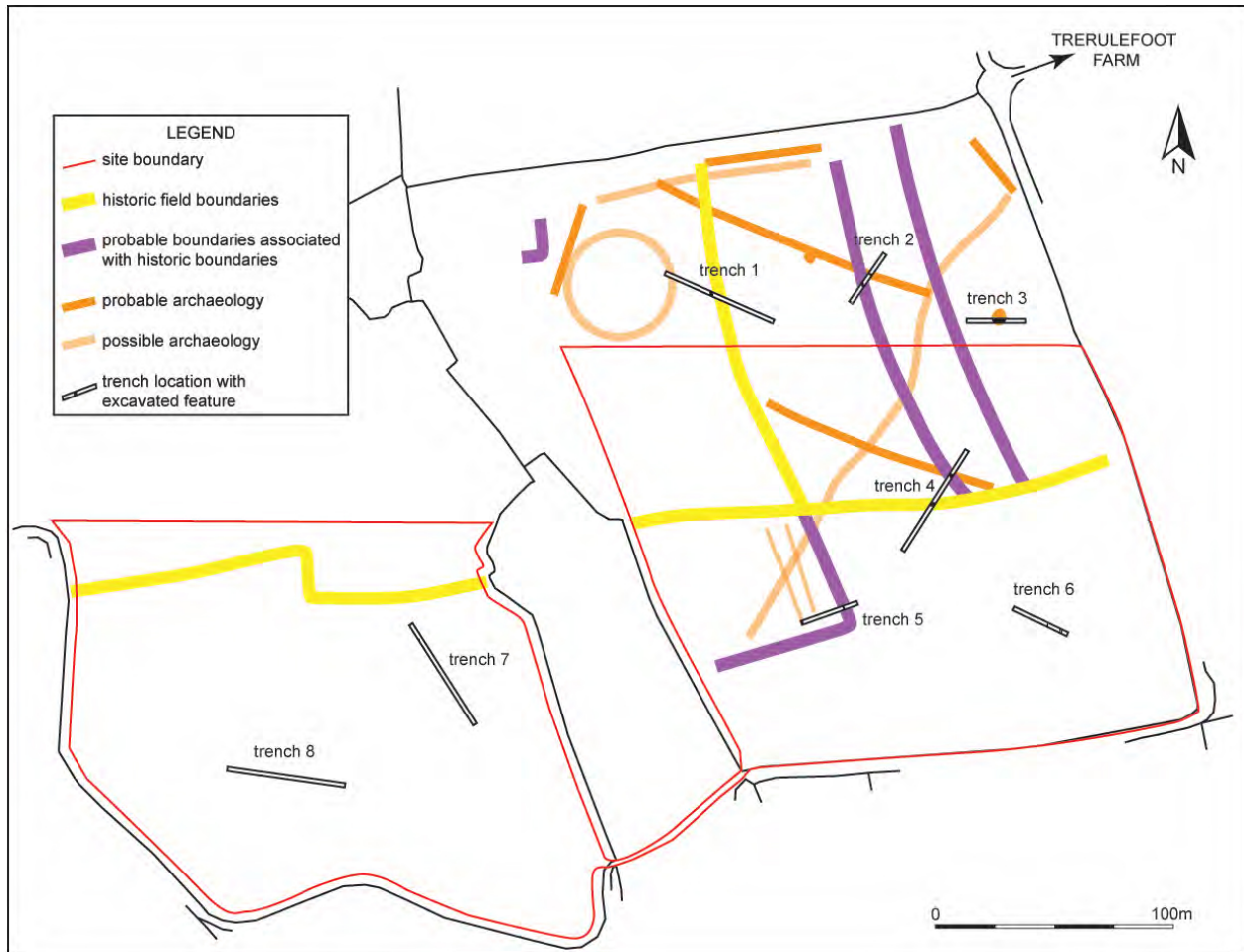


Figure 2: Interpretation of geophysical survey data overlaid with trench locations.

2.2 Trench #1

<i>Trench #1: 1.80x50m, aligned north-west by south-east</i>		
<i>Stratigraphy</i>		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Description</i>
(100)	0.25-0.33m	Topsoil. Dark brown, soft-friable clay-silt; ploughsoil
(101)	0.05-0.14m	Subsoil. Mid-dark brown, soft silt-clay with common shillet; deeper ploughsoil/horizon to natural
(102)	Below a depth of 0.33-0.40m	Natural. Mid grey-brown compact shillet with a light yellow-brown, soft-friable silt-clay

Trench #1 targeted two geophysical anomalies; one linear- and one ephemeral curvi-linear anomaly. Three features were identified in the middle of this trench; Ditches [103], [106] and [108] which all equate to the linear geophysical anomaly. Medieval and modern pottery and a possible Mesolithic flint core were recovered from the topsoil.

Ditch [103] (1.50+×0.66+×0.32m) was a linear feature aligned north-east by south-west with a moderate concave profile that cut the natural. It contained two fills, (104) and (105), lower and upper respectively. Fill (104), 0.21m thick, was a mid yellow-grey brown, soft-friable clay-silt with common shillet (i.e. re-deposited natural). Fill (105), 0.13m thick, was a mid brown, soft-friable clay-silt, which was cut by Ditch [106]. Ditch [106] (1.50+×0.60×0.24m) was a linear feature aligned north-north-east by south-south-west with a steep south-east side, moderate north-west side and a gentle concave base. It contained a single fill: (107), a mid brown, friable-soft clay-silt,

which was cut by Ditch [108]. Ditch [108] (1.50×0.60×0.26m) was a linear feature aligned north-east by south-west with steep stepped sides and a flat base. It contained two fills, (110) and (109), lower and upper respectively. Fill (109), 0.18m thick, was a mid-dark brown, friable silt, which was overlaid by Topsoil (100). Fill (110), 0.06m thick, was a mid grey-yellow brown, soft-friable clay-silt with common shillet (i.e. re-deposited natural). A plough disturbed lens of material, Layer (111), survived between these ditches, this was a 0.13m thick, mid brown, soft-friable clay-silt was also cut by Ditch [106].



Figure 3: Ditches [103], [106] and [108], viewed from the north-east (1m scale).



Figure 4: Ditches [103], [106] and [108], viewed from the south-west (1m scale).

2.3 Trench #2

<i>Trench #2: 1.50×25m, aligned north-east by south-west</i>		
<i>Stratigraphy</i>		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Description</i>
(200)	0.22-0.31m	Topsoil. Mid brown, friable clay-silt with moderate small (95-30mm dia.) sub angular stone inclusions; ploughsoil
(201)	0.12-0.22m	Subsoil. Mid grey-brown, friable clay-silt with moderate small (2-40mm dia.) sub angular stone inclusions; deeper ploughsoil
(202)	Below a depth of 0.40-0.50m	Natural. Brown-grey shillet with grey-yellow, soft-friable clay-silt

Trench #2 targeted two geophysical anomalies. Two features were identified in this trench: Ditches [205] and [207] that were cut into the natural and equate to the geophysical anomalies. A natural feature, [203], was also recorded in the trench. Medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil.

Natural feature [203] (0.50m dia.×0.12m deep) was located at the south-west end of the trench. It was sub-oval with uneven sides and a gentle concave-undulating base. It contained a single fill: (204), a mid yellow-brown, friable clay-silt with moderate sub-angular shillet inclusions. Ditch [205] (1.70×0.58×0.08m) was located near the middle of the trench. It was aligned north-south with gentle sloping and irregular sides and a flattish base. It contained a single fill: (206), a mid brown, friable clay-silt with occasional small (2-30mm dia.) angular stones. Ditch [207] (1.80×0.44×0.20m) was located in the north-east half of the trench. It was aligned north-south with steep sides, a sharp break of slope and a flat base. It contained a single fill: (208), a mid reddish-brown, friable clay-silt with moderate small-medium angular stones with the larger stones particularly towards the base.

2.4 Trench #3

<i>Trench #3: 1.50×25m, aligned east-west</i>		
<i>Stratigraphy</i>		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Description</i>
(300)	0.31-0.40m	Topsoil. Dark grey-brown, soft-friable clay-silt; ploughsoil
(301)	Below a depth of 0.31-0.40m	Natural. Mid brown-grey shillet with grey-yellow, soft silt-clay

Trench #3 targeted a geophysical anomaly described as a possible sunken feature or large pit. A Bronze Age sunken featured structure [303], a posthole, [305], and natural features were identified in this trench. Five sherds of Bronze Age pottery was recovered from the sunken structure [303]. Natural features were noted to have disturbed the natural in this trench, particularly in its eastern half.

Posthole [305] (0.30-0.34m dia.×0.39m deep) was oval with vertical sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill: (306), a light brown-grey, friable clay-silt with occasional charcoal flecks and angular stones and frequent shillet grit. It was contemporary to/cut by the sunken structure [303]. Structure [303] (6×1.50×0.32m) was oval in plan with a gentle stepped to very steep sides and a flattish undulating base. The initial stepped aspect of its sides contained a stone slab lining of slate and shillet. It contained two fills, (304) and (302), lower and upper respectively. Fill (304), 0.12m thick, was a mid-dark grey-brown, soft slightly gritty clay-silt with frequent shillet grit and occasional charcoal flecks. It contained Bronze Age pottery. Fill (302), 0.14m thick, was a reddish-

grey brown, soft-friable clay-silt with frequent shillet fragments of various sizes and occasional charcoal flecks. The horizon between fills (302) and (304) was a band of horizontally laid shillet/slate stone slabs and fragments, which was more consolidated within 2m of the edge of the feature with smaller fragments of the stone towards the centre of the feature.



Figure 5: Structure [303] and Posthole [305], viewed from the south (2m scale).



Figure 6: Section through Structure [303] and Posthole [305], viewed from the west (1m scale).



Figure 7: Structure [303] and Posthole [305], viewed from the south-west (2m scale).

2.5 Trench #4

<i>Trench #4: 1.50×50m, aligned north-east by south-west</i>		
<i>Stratigraphy</i>		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Description</i>
(400)	0.26m	Topsoil. Dark brown, soft-friable clay-silt with a merging horizon at its base; ploughsoil
(401)	0.14m	Subsoil. Mid-dark brown, friable clay-silt with a clear horizon at its base; relict ploughsoil
(402)	Below a depth of 0.40m	Natural. Grey-blue shillet fragments with grey-yellow brown, soft-friable silt-clay

Trench #4 targeted three linear geophysical anomalies. Three features were identified in this trench: Ditches [403], [405] and [407] that were cut into the natural and equate to the geophysical anomalies.

Ditch [403] (3.20×0.60×0.16m) was located near the middle of the trench. It was aligned north-west by south-east with very steep sides, a sharp break of slope and a flat base. It contained a single fill: (204), a mid orange-brown, soft silt-clay with frequent shillet fragments and occasional charcoal flecks. It was cut by Ditch [405]. Ditch [405] (1.80×0.70×0.13m) was aligned north-north-east by south-south-west with moderately steep sides, a gradual break of slope and a very slightly concave base. It contained a single fill: (406), a dark brown, soft-friable clay-silt with occasional shillet fragments. Ditch [407] (1.80×1.34m×0.24m) was located at the south-west end of the trench. It was aligned east-west with a very steep north slope and gentle south slope and a flat base. It contained two fills, (408) and (409), lower and upper respectively. Fill (408), 0.25m thick, was a dark brown, friable silt-clay. Fill (409), 0.27m thick, was a mid-dark brown, friable clay-silt.



Figure 8: Ditches [403] and [405], viewed from the south-west (1m scale).

2.6 Trench #5

<i>Trench #5: 1.50×25m, aligned east-north-east by west-south-west</i>		
<i>Stratigraphy</i>		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Description</i>
(500)	0.34m	Topsoil. Dark brown, soft silt-clay with occasional shillet fragments; ploughsoil
(501)	0.10m	Subsoil. Mid orange brown, soft silt-clay with occasional shillet fragments; relect ploughsoil
(502)	Below a depth of 0.44m	Natural. Grey-blue shillet with grey-yellow-brown, soft silt-clay

Trench #5 targeted two linear geophysical anomalies. Two features were identified in this trench: Ditches [503] and [505] which were cut into the natural, which equate to the geophysical anomalies. Modern white refined pottery and a struck flint flake were recovered from the topsoil.

Ditch [503] (1.50×0.80×0.22m) was located at the south-south-west end of the trench. It was aligned north-north-west by south-south-east with a steep east slope and moderate even west slope and concave base. It contained a single fill: (504) was a mid grey-brown, soft silt-clay. Ditch [505] (1.50×0.90×0.20m) was located near the middle of the trench. It was aligned north-north-west by south-south-east with moderately steep sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill: (506): a mid-dark brown, friable-soft clay-silt with occasional shillet fragments. It was overlaid by ploughsoil (507), 0.16m thick, was a dark-brown, soft-friable clay-silt with occasional shillet inclusions and similar to (501).

2.7 Trench #6

<i>Trench #6: 1.50×25m, aligned north-west by south-east</i>		
<i>Stratigraphy</i>		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Description</i>
(600)	0.33-0.40m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, friable clay-silt with occassional small-medium sub angular stone inclusions; ploughsoil
(601)	Below a depth of 0.33-0.40m	Natural. Grey-blue shillet fragments with grey-yellow brown, soft-friable silt-clay

Trench #6 targeted an area devoid of geophysical anomalies. Three features were identified in this trench: Ditches [602], [604] and [606] that were cut into the natural, which can be extrapolated to meet identified geophysical anomalies to the north. No finds were recovered from the topsoil.

Ditches [602] and [604] were close parallel features at the south-east end of the trench aligned north-south. Ditch [602] (2+×0.70×0.14m) had a gentle east slope and steep west slope with a flattish base. It contained a single fill: (603), a mid brown, friable clay-silt with moderate small (5-20mm dia.) sub-angular stones near its base. Ditch [604] (1.80×0.52×0.16m) had a steep east slope and moderate west slope with a concave base. It contained a single fill: (605), which was as (603). Ditch [606] (2.20×0.88×0.14m) was 5m north-west of Ditch [604] and was also aligned north-south. It had a very gentle east slope and steep west slope with a flattish base. It contained a single fill: (607), a mid brown, friable clay-silt with moderate small sub-angular stones throughout.

2.8 Trench #7

<i>Trench #7: 1.50×50m, aligned north-north-west by south-south-east</i>		
<i>Stratigraphy</i>		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Description</i>
(700)	0.29m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, soft clay-silt with occasional small stones; ploughsoil
(701)	0.02m	Subsoil. Mid orange-brown, friable sand-silt loam with occasional shillet fragments; relict ploughsoil
(702)	Below a depth of 0.31m	Natural. Blue-grey angular shillet with yellow-brown, friable-soft silt-clay

Trench #7 targeted a linear geophysical anomaly associated with a historic field boundary. The trench was located too far south and missed the intended anomaly. A possible pit or probable treethrow, [703] was identified in this trench. No finds were recovered from the topsoil, which contained modern debris including plastic.

Possible pit [703] (0.10×0.70× 0.42m) was located at the north-north-west end of the trench. It was sub-oval with a near vertical south side and very steep north side with a sharp break of slope and a slightly concave base. It contained two fills, (704) and (705), upper and lower respectively. Fill (704), 0.08m thick, was a mid grey-yellow-orange brown, friable silt-clay with occasional shillet fragments. Fill (705), 0.34m thick, was a mid grey-yellow-orange brown, friable silt-clay with occasional shillet fragments.

2.9 Trench #8

<i>Trench #8: 1.50×50m, aligned west-north-west by east-south-east</i>		
<i>Stratigraphy</i>		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Description</i>
(800)	0.22m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, soft clay-silt with occasional small (95-30mm dia.) sub angular stone inclusions; ploughsoil
(801)	0.24m	Subsoil. Mid orange-brown, friable clay-silt loam with occasional shillet fragments; deeper ploughsoil
(802)	Below a depth of 0.46m	Natural. Natural. Blue-grey angular shillet with yellow-brown, friable-soft silt-clay

Trench #8 targeted an area devoid of geophysical anomalies. No features were identified in this trench. No finds were recovered from the topsoil, which contained modern debris including plastic.

2.10 Finds Summary

Very few finds were recovered during the evaluation. The only stratified finds came from Fill (304) of the sunken structure [303].

The complete compliment of finds was;

Topsoil (100): ×1 sherd (3g) of Medieval St German's ware; ×1 sherd (3g) of Cornish Medieval Coarse ware (CMCW); ×1 sherd (2g) of White Refined Earten ware; ×1 Flint core (19.5g) with some partial cortex and oxidised, possibly Mesolithic.

Subsoil (101): ×1 sherd (5g) of Cornish Medieval Coarse ware.

Topsoil (200): ×2 sherds (6g) of Cornish Medieval Coarse ware.

SFB Fill (304): ×5 sherds (183g) of Middle Bronze Age gabbroic ware pottery; ×3 fragments (23g) of possibly burnt stone.

Topsoil (500): ×1 struck flint flake (1g) with some cortex and not oxidised, possibly Neolithic; Some White Refined Earthen ware was also noted in near to Topsoil (500) but was not recovered.

It was noted that the topsoil of the western field contained modern debris including moderate amounts of plastic.

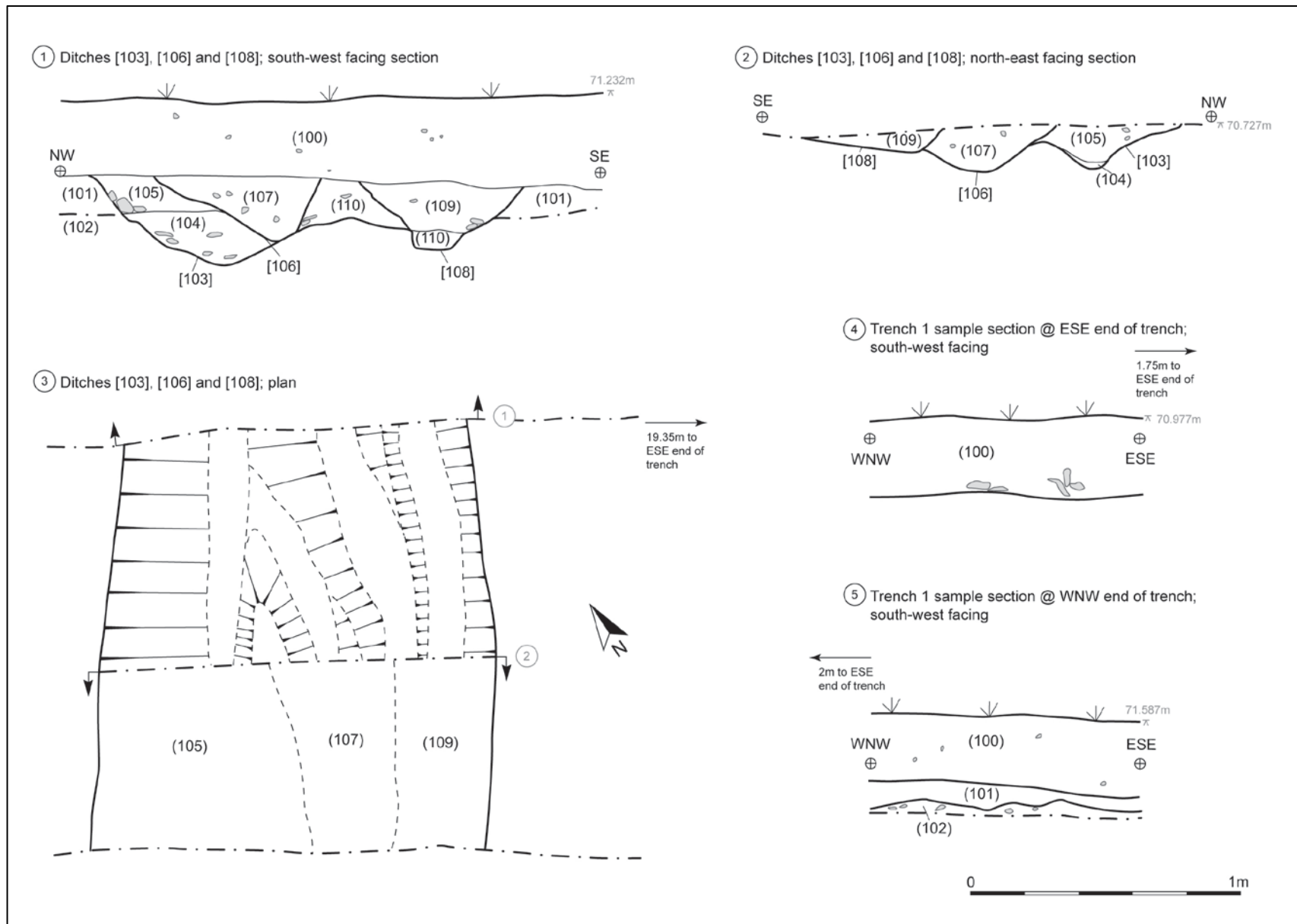


Figure 9: Trench 1; section drawings and feature plans.

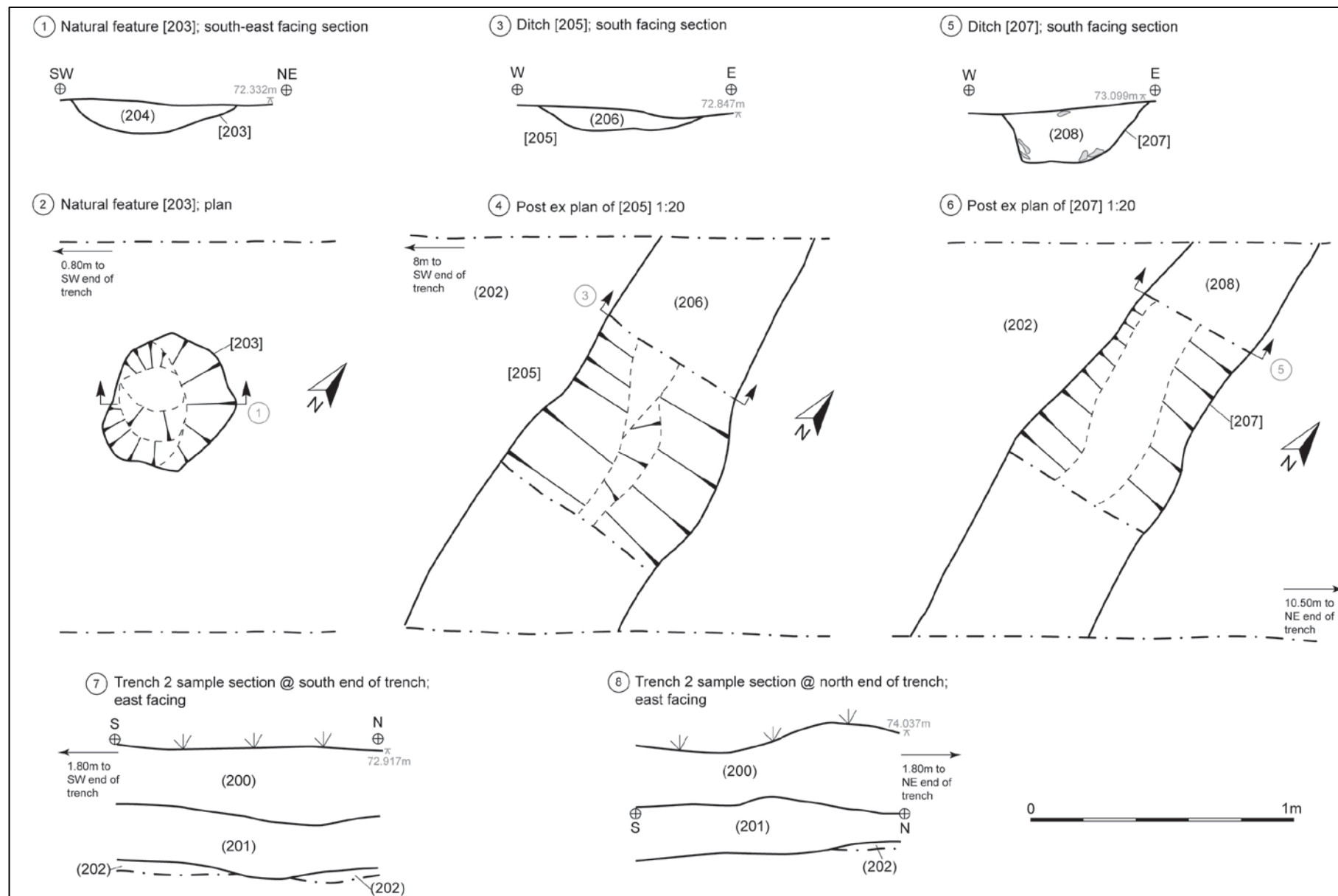


Figure 10: Trench 2; section drawings and feature plans.

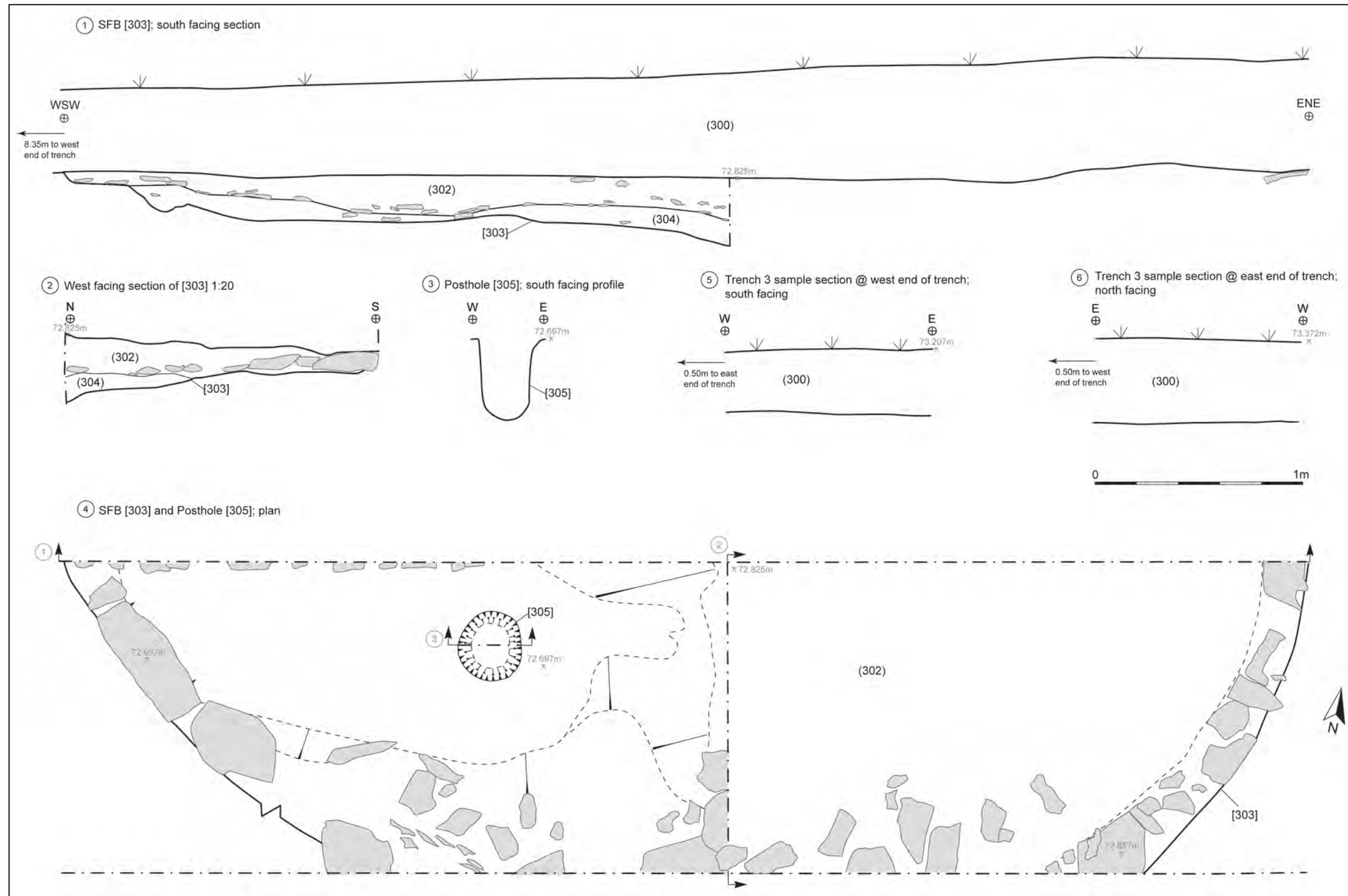


Figure 11: Trench 3; section drawings and feature plans.

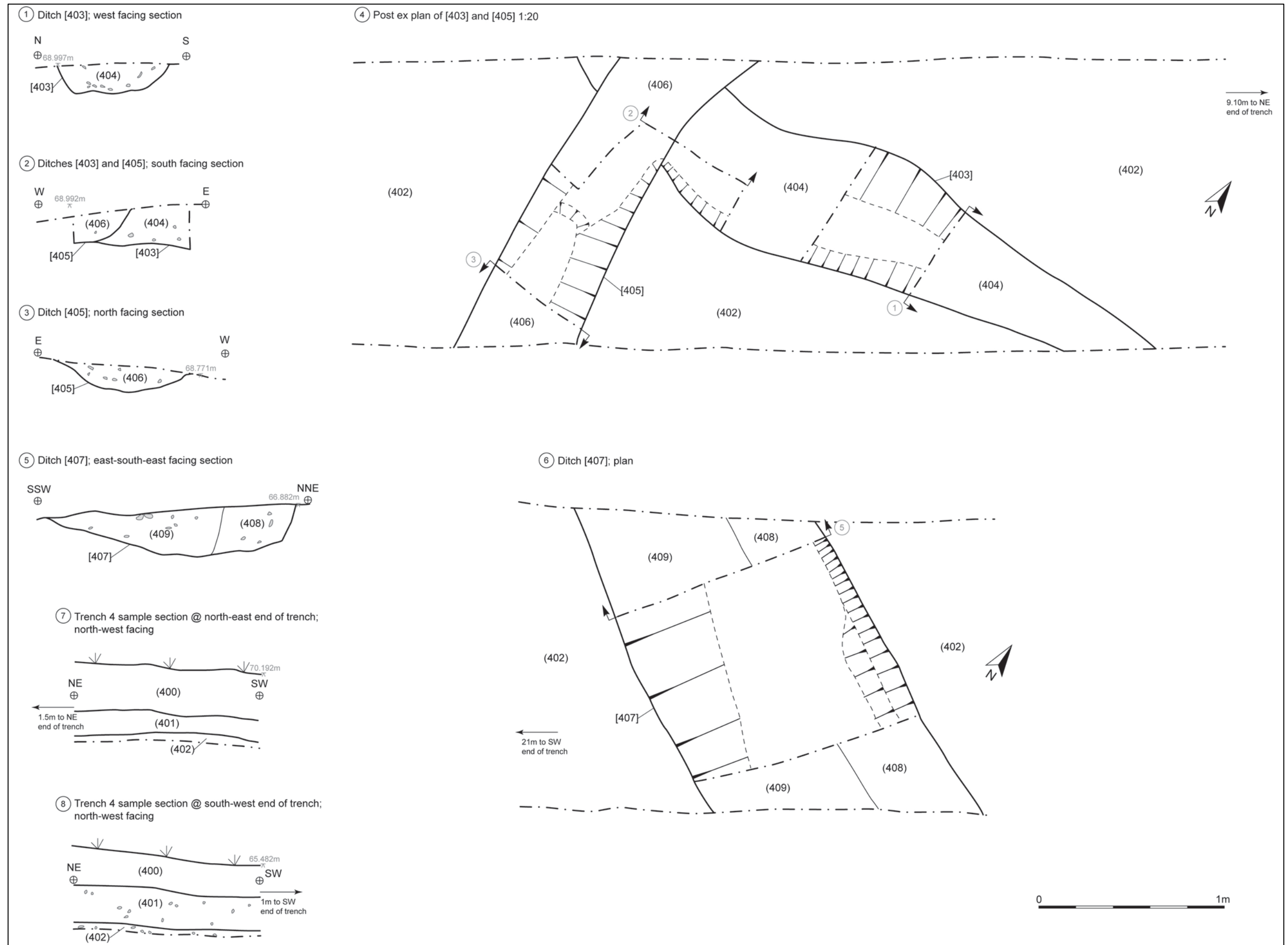


Figure 12: Trench 4; section drawings and feature plans.

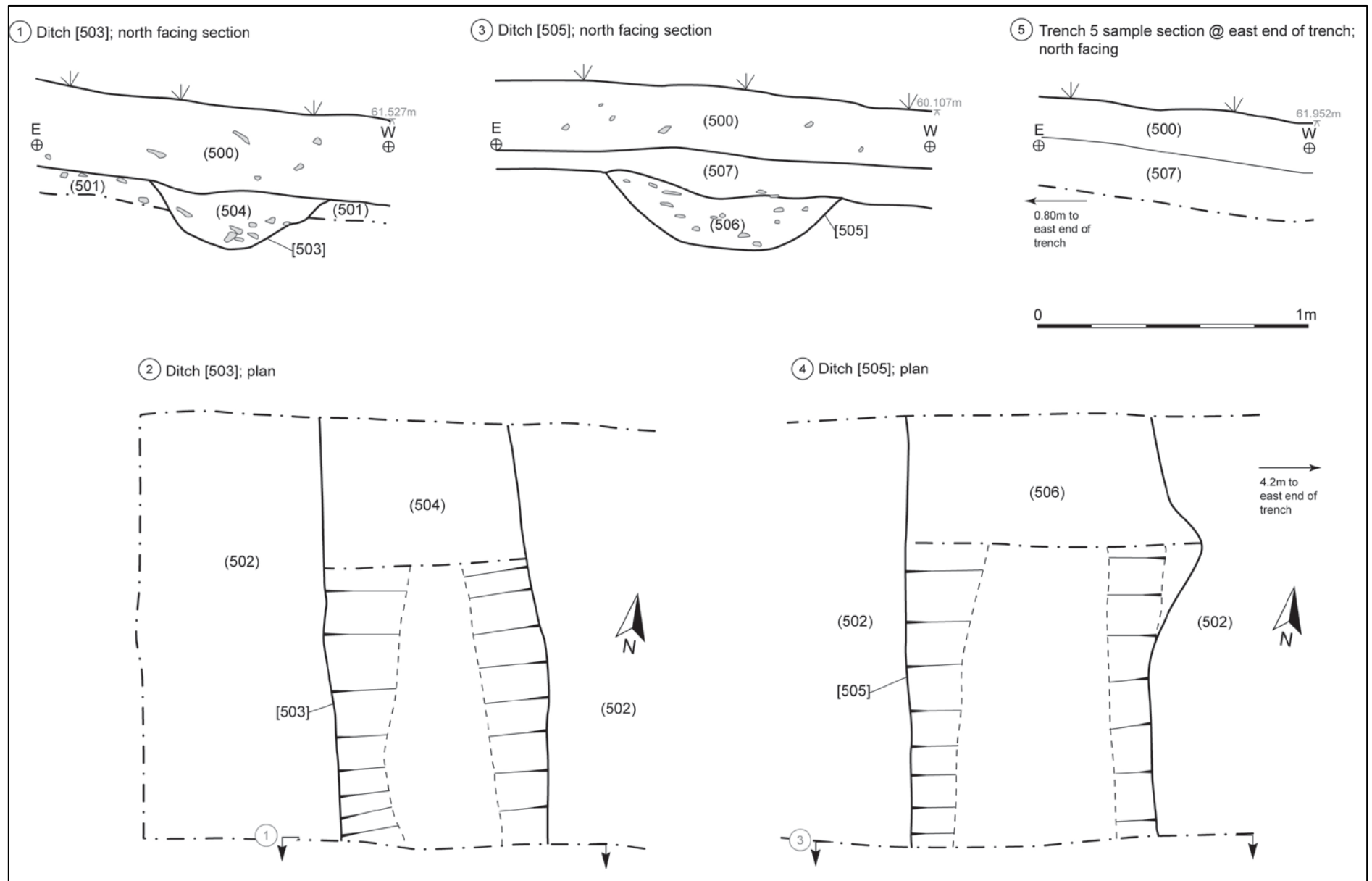


Figure 13: Trench 5; section drawings and feature plans.

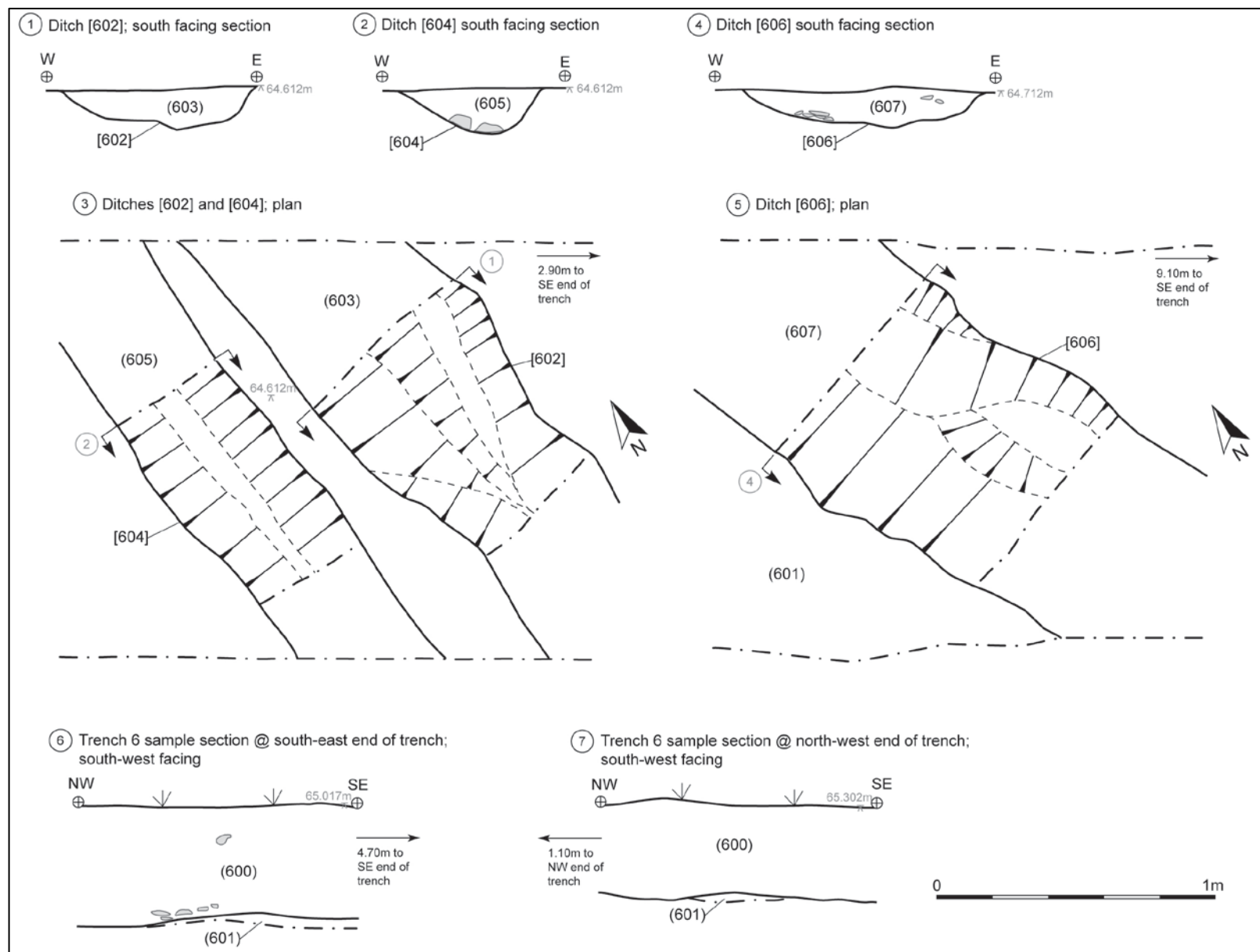


Figure 14: Trench 6; section drawings and feature plans.

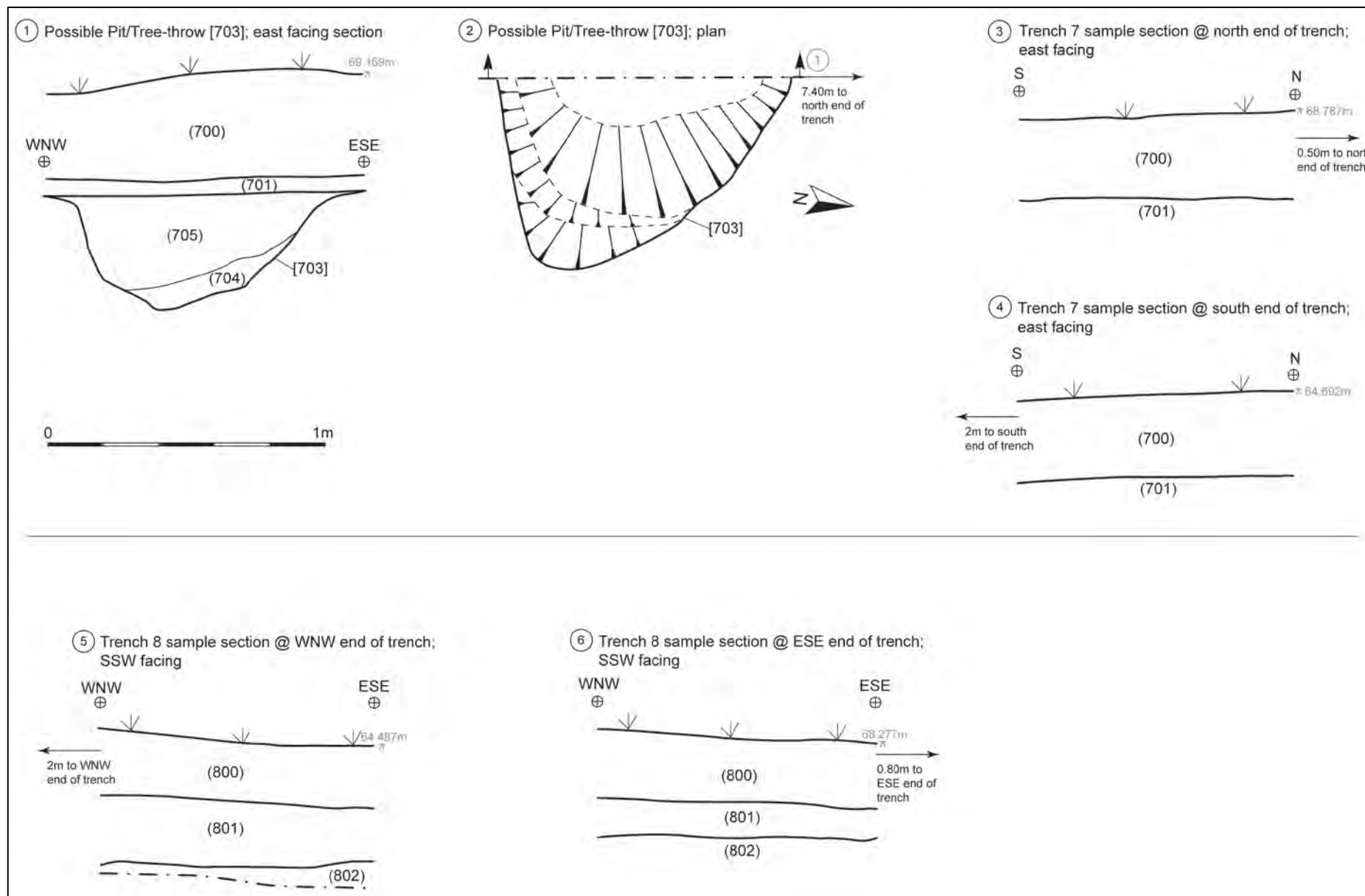


Figure 15: Trenches 7 and 8; section drawings and feature plans.

3.0 Discussion and Conclusion

3.1 Discussion

The sunken structure [303] equated to a targeted geophysical anomaly. Approximately half of the feature was exposed in the trench and half of that was excavated. It contained a single posthole [305]. The structure [303] contained a lower fill that may have built up over time during or after the building had been abandoned, which contained five sherds of Middle Bronze Age pottery. A layer of stone slabs radiating in from the edges may have been dragged by ploughing, but would suggest demolition and a final burial of the Structure. The upper fill, which overlaid the stones, was similar to the overlaying ploughsoil and may be mostly slump and plough disturbed soil. The upper layer produced no finds.

Structure [303] equates to a regionally specific form of Middle Bronze Age 'roundhouse', which is comprised of a sunken floored 'roundhouse', between 6m and 15m in diameter, which traditionally dates to c.1500 cal BC to 1100 cal BC (Jones and Quinnell 2011). The hollow is lined with stone walling and contains an internal post-ring. Examples typically produce very little occupation evidence and more often reflect ritualised deposition and abandonment practices (Jones and Quinnell 2011). Apart from a probable example at Staddon in Plymouth (Jones and Quinnell – unpublished Exeter Archaeology Projects 4648 and 4813), this is the most easterly known example of this type of structure beyond the eastern fringes of St Austell. The small amount of domestic ware fragments at the base of this feature may reflect occupation but they are merely fragments and the deposition layers seem to reflect post-abandonment and or demolition, given the inward tumble of the stone wall lining. However, outward tumble may not have survived, and the layers may simply reflect abandonment rather than any intentional deposition or abandonment processes.

Ditches [103], [106] and [108] were a set of parallel intercutting ditches aligned in relation to the existing field system, and equate to geophysical anomalies and historic field boundaries. Ditch [405] also equated to a targeted geophysical anomaly and historic field boundary (see Appendix 3 for supporting sources). Although no dating evidence was recovered from any of the ditch features it would be reasonable to assume that Ditches [205], [407] and [505] related to the now removed post-medieval field system represented in the cartographic record and Ditches [103], [106], [108] and [405], as they are orientated in the same direction and on the geophysical survey data are shown to adjoin the historic field boundaries. These ditches would represent a series of post-medieval features removed before and during the 19th century. Ditch [205] is the most likely candidate to represent the north-south boundary present in the field on the 1803 Surveyors Draft map, which is absent on the 1839 Tithe map. The less substantial Ditch [503] also conforms to this field system and appears to respect Ditch [505] and was perhaps a drainage ditch as opposed to a boundary.

Ditches [602], [604] and [606] were similar in morphology- and roughly align to ditches [205] and [407] and most likely are part of the same post-medieval field system that was partially removed before and during the 19th century. These are the only archaeological features to occur that the geophysical interpretation failed to identify. However, if one reassesses the geophysical survey data, ephemeral lines can be made out. The shallow nature and poor survival of these features due to intense ploughing activity and the nature of the fills containing more shillet stone at their bases (which is the only part of these features that survives) would account for the unclear geophysical readings and suggest a general poor condition of survival of buried remains in the south-south-east area of the site.

Post-medieval Ditch [405] cut the undated Ditch [403], which equated to a geophysical anomaly that runs perpendicular to the slope. Ditch [207] also equated to a geophysical anomaly that ran perpendicular to the slope and an ephemeral third linear anomaly parallel with these was also present slightly further south. These features represent an earlier, undated, drainage or field system, which may be tentatively linked to curvilinear Medieval strip fields. This theory may be supported by the relatively high proportion (at least compared to other finds) of Medieval Coarse wares recovered from the topsoil. However, the Middle Bronze Age structure [303] and a further geophysical anomaly that may represent a large pit or similar structure both occur along the line of Ditch [207]. It is possible that this field system is associated with the Bronze Age activity on site. If this is the case it would appear to occur with a better chance of survival in the north and east of the eastern field when compared to the condition of archaeological features and strength of geophysical results in the south-east of this field and the western field.

The geophysical survey results in the eastern field appear accurate and the severity of disturbance by ploughing was clear from the quantity of natural stone in the plough soils.

3.2 Conclusion

The evaluation validated the geophysical survey results, equating archaeological and geological features to geophysical anomalies. Although a geophysics survey will not identify small discrete features it is fair to assume that areas devoid of geophysical anomalies do not contain significant archaeological features or deposits.

The presence of Middle Bronze Age activity on the site is regionally important and it is likely to survive to the north of a line between Trenches 1 and 3, inclusive, based on the geophysical survey (SWARCH Report No.: 141128). Shallow features may have been fully truncated due to the depth of the topsoil and ploughing, particularly in the western field and southern extent of the eastern field.

Post-medieval field boundaries, which are associated with the existing field system and removed to increase the size of enclosures were identified by geophysical anomalies and corroborated by the evaluation. Historical boundaries were identified in Trenches 1 and 4 and associated linear features in Trenches 2, 4, 5 and probably 6. These boundaries may have been influenced by medieval strip fields, evidence for which can be seen in the wider landscape and place name evidence (SWARCH Report No.: 141128).

Ditches identified in Trenches 2 and 4 are indicative of an earlier drainage/field system; having been cut by a historic field boundary and based on their orientation. These may be representative of medieval strip fields. However, a Middle Bronze Age sunken floored roundhouse and geophysical anomaly that represents a possible further sunken roundhouse are situated on the line of one of these ditches and it is possible that they relate to Bronze Age activity on the site. If so these features occur down the slope, although survive less clearly in the south of the eastern field, probably due to plough truncation.

Other than Trenches 1, 2 and 3 and areas north and east of these, it is unlikely that any significant archaeological remains or deposits will be encountered by the development. The areas of greater archaeological sensitivity will fall outside of the proposed footprint of the solar park, although the associated ground works, site access, etc. may cause some disturbance.

4.0 Bibliography & References

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Thomas, N. 2001: *Wilton Farm, St Germans, small wind farm application: Archaeological Assessment*. CAU report 2001R054.

Cornwall Record Office:

Ordnance Survey Surveyor's Draft map, 1803

St Germans Tithe Map and Apportionment

Ordnance Survey map, 1868

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map, 1889

Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition map, 1907

Appendix 1

PROJECT DESIGN FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION TRENCHING AT BAKE FARM, TRERULEFOOT, ST. GERMAN'S, CORNWALL.

Location: Land at Bake Farm, Trerulefoot
Parish: St. Germans
County: Cornwall
NGR: SX327584
Proposal: Proposed Solar Farm Site
OASIS Record ID: Southwes1-198894
Date: 05-03-2015

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document forms a Project Design (PD) which has been produced by South West Archaeology (SWARCH) at the request of Nick Leaney of Aardvark EM Ltd (the Agent). It sets out the methodology for evaluation trenching to be undertaken in advance of the application for planning for the above solar farm and for related off site analysis and reporting. The PD and the schedule of work it proposes were drawn up in consultation with Phil Coplestone, Cornwall Council Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer (HEPAO).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site is located in two fields approximately 500m SW of Trerulefoot in the Parish of St. Germans in the hundred and deanery of East. The settlement of St Germans has a medieval origin and is mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086. The place name Trerulefoot points to an early medieval origin of this settlement also, the element 'Tre' meaning estate or farmstead. Much of the land surrounding the Village would have been enclosed in this period (or before) including the fields here assessed. The Cornwall Historic Landscape Characterisation identifies the eastern field as being modern enclosed land while the western is medieval enclosed land which falls into the category of Anciently Enclosed Land (AEL). There is little noted on the Cornwall Historic Environment Record for the immediate area surrounding the proposed site. The only sites of interest are the medieval settlement of Bake (MCO13309) situated less than 500m to the west of the proposed site, which was first recorded in 1269, and two early medieval field boundaries (MCO44036) (MCO44037) to the north of the proposed site. There is no previous archaeological investigation recorded in the immediate area surrounding the proposed site other than the Lynher Project which documents the historic land used of farmland within the Lynher Valley.

A geophysical survey was carried out by SWARCH in 2015, and the results of this have been used to determine the location of the trenches (fig. 1).

3.0 AIMS

3.1 The principal objectives of the work will be to:

- 3.1.1 To assess the potential for the survival of below-ground archaeological deposits.
- 3.1.2 Produce a report containing the results of the evaluation trenching;
- 3.1.3 Provide a statement of the impact of the proposed development on the potential archaeological resource, with recommendations for those areas where further evaluation and/or mitigation strategies may be required.

4.0 METHOD

4.1 Evaluation Excavations:

Eight evaluation trenches will be dug on site, targeting features highlighted by the geophysics results (Fig. 1). The trenches will cover approximately 300m in total. The evaluation trenches will be opened by 360 degree tracked excavator with toothless bucket, but any archaeological features exposed would be excavated by hand by the site archaeologist to the depth of *in situ* subsoil/weathered natural or archaeological deposits whichever is highest in the stratigraphic sequence.

4.1.1 The archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation 2014*, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation 2014* and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief 2014*.

4.1.2 Spoil will be examined for the recovery of artefacts.

4.1.3 All excavation of exposed archaeological features shall be carried out by hand, stratigraphically, and fully recorded by context to IfA guidelines. All features shall be recorded in plan and section at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50. All scale drawings shall be undertaken at a scale appropriate to the

complexity of the deposit/feature and to allow accurate depiction and interpretation. An adequate photographic record of the excavation will be prepared. Where digital imagery is the sole photographic record, archivable prints will be prepared by a photographic laboratory.

4.1.4 If archaeological features are exposed, then *as a minimum*:

- i) small discrete features will be fully excavated;
- ii) larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated);
- iii) long linear features will be sample excavated along their length, with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature, and to investigate terminals, junctions and relationships with other features.
- iv) One long face of each trench will be cleaned by hand to allow site stratigraphy to be understood and for the identification of archaeological features.

Should the above % excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined full excavation of such features/deposits may be required. Additional excavation may also be required for the taking of palaeoenvironmental samples and recovery of artefacts. Any variation of the above will be undertaken in consultation with the SDOHE.

4.1.5 Artefacts will be bagged and labelled on site. Unstratified post-1800 pottery may be discarded on site after a representative sample has been retained. Following post-excavation analysis and recording, further material may be discarded, subject to consultation with the appropriate specialists and the receiving Museum;

4.1.6 Should archaeological or palaeoenvironmental remains be exposed, the site archaeologist will investigate, record and sample such deposits.

4.1.7 The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve or report on finds or advise or report on other aspects of the investigation (e.g. palaeoenvironmental analysis) can be called upon and undertake assessment and analysis of such deposits - if required. On-site sampling and post-excavation assessment and analysis will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage's guidance in *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (2002).

4.1.8 Human remains will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected. Removal will only take place under appropriate Ministry of Justice and environmental health regulations. Such removal will be in compliance with the relevant primary legislation.

4.1.9 Any finds identified as treasure or potential treasure, including precious metals, groups of coins or prehistoric metalwork, will be dealt with according to the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (2nd Revision) (Dept for Culture Media and Sport). Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

4.1.10 In the event of particularly significant discoveries, the SDOHE will be informed and a site meeting between the consultant, the SDOHE and the client/applicant will be held to determine the appropriate response.

5.0 REPORT

5.1 A report will be produced, which will include the following:

- 5.1.1 A report number and the OASIS ID number;
- 5.1.2 A location map, with the boundary of the development site clearly marked on each. All plans will be tied to the national grid;
- 5.1.3 A concise non-technical summary of the project results;
- 5.1.4 The aims and methods adopted in the course of the investigation;
- 5.1.5 Illustrations of the site in relation to known archaeological deposits/sites around it, in order to place the site in its archaeological context;
- 5.1.6 A statement of the impact of the proposed development on the potential archaeological resource, and an indication of any areas where further evaluation (e.g. intrusive trenching) and/or recording is recommended;
- 5.1.7 A copy of this PD will be included as an appendix.

5.2 The full report will be submitted within three months of completion of fieldwork. The report will be supplied to the SDOHE on the understanding that one of these copies will be deposited for public reference in the HER. A copy will be provided to the SDOHE in digital 'Adobe Acrobat' PDF format.

5.3 A copy of the report detailing the results of these investigations will be submitted to the OASIS (*Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological investigationS*) database under the reference number Southwes1-198824.

6.0 FURTHER WORK

Should the results of this Assessment indicate a need for further archaeological works to be undertaken this may need to be completed before validation of the Planning Application in order to enable the Local Planning Authority to make an informed and reasonable decision on the application, in accordance with the guidelines contained within paragraph 141 of paragraph 128 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (2012).

7.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

7.1 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) English Heritage 2006 upon completion of the project. If artefactual material is recovered the requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the Royal Cornwall Museum under an accession number.

7.2 Where there is only a documentary archive this will be retained by SWARCH for a minimum of 3 years after which point it may be destroyed. A copy of the report will also be supplied to the National Monuments Record (NMR) Swindon.

8.0 PERSONNEL

The project will be managed by Dr. Brynmor Morris; the evaluation trenching will be carried out by SWARCH personnel with suitable expertise and experience. The SDOHE will be consulted as appropriate. Where necessary, appropriate specialist advice will be sought (see list of consultant specialists in Appendix 1 below).

Natalie Boyd

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Appendix 1 – List of specialists

Building recording

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Conservation

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Richard and Helena Jaeschke 2 Bydown Cottages, Swimbridge, Barnstaple EX32 0QD

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Curatorial Thomas Cadbury Curator of Antiquities Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Bradninch Offices, Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter EX4 3LS Tel: 01392 665356

Bone

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Lithics

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Palaeoenvironmental/Organic

Wood identification Dana Challinor Tel: 01869 810150 dana.challinor@tiscali.co.uk

Plant macro-fossils Julie Jones juliedjones@blueyonder.co.uk

Pollen analysis Ralph Fyfe Room 211, 8 Kirkby Place, Drake Circus, Plymouth, Devon, PL4 8AA

Pottery

Prehistoric Henrietta Quinnell 39D Polsloe Road, Exeter EX1 2DN Tel: 01392 433214

Roman Alex Croom, Keeper of Archaeology Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums, Arbeia Roman Fort and Museum, Baring Street, South Shields, Tyne and Wear NE332BB Tel: (0191) 454 4093 alex.croom@twmuseums.org.uk

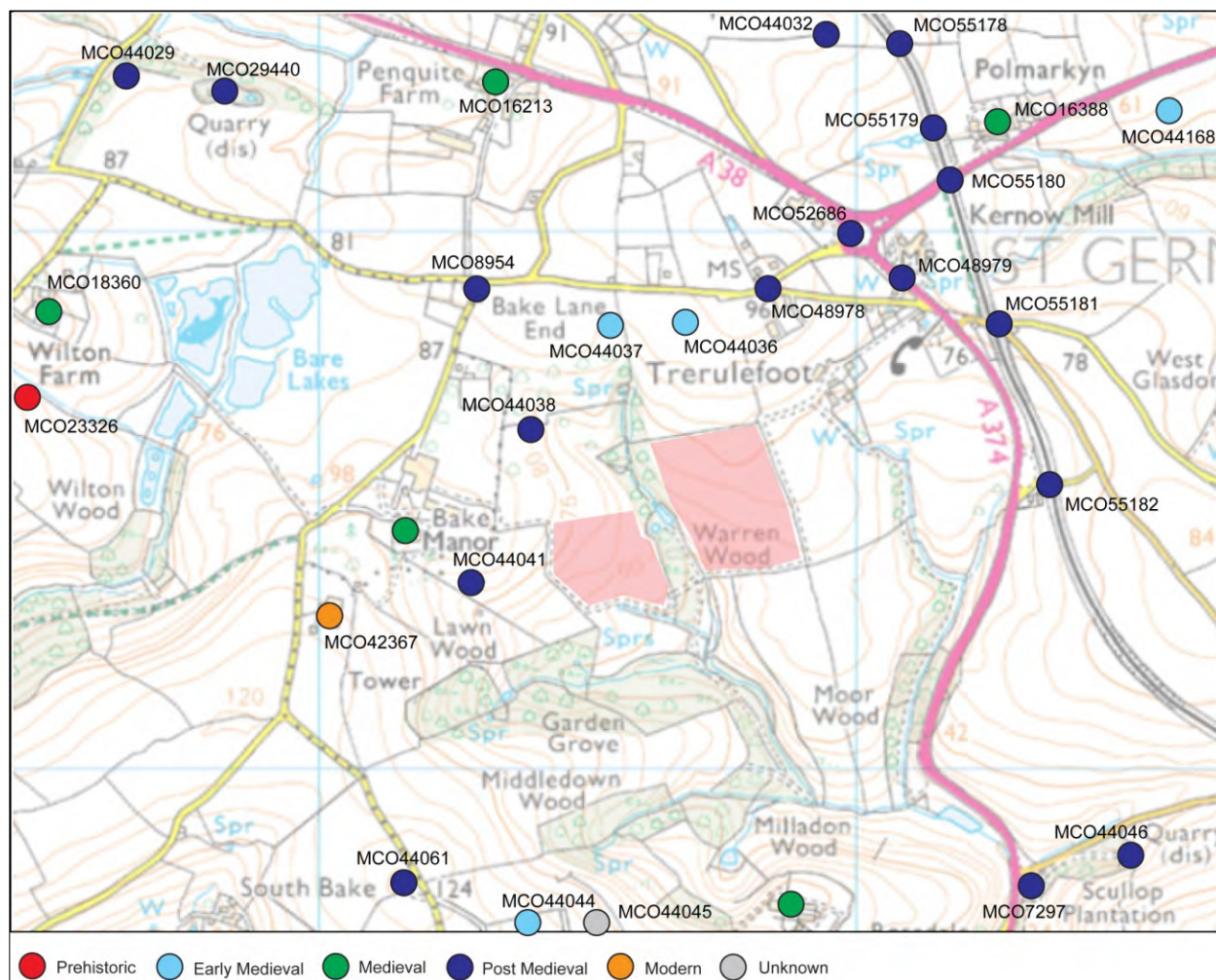
Medieval John Allen, 22, Rivermead Road Exeter EX2 4RL Tel: 01392 256154 john.p.allan@btinternet.com

Post Medieval Graham Langman Exeter, EX1 2UF Tel: 01392 215900 email: su1429@eclipse.co.uk



The location of the trenches, and the geophysics results.

Cornwall HER entries



Location map of local HER records (source: Cornwall Council, Access to Monuments and Heritage Gateway).

Mon. ID	Site Name	Record	Notes
MCO23326	Wilton – Prehistoric occupation site	Findspot	HER No. 6495, 11 flints and a convex flint knife were found
MCO44168	Polmarkyn – Early Medieval field boundary	Cropmark	HER No. 71920, visible on aerial photography
MCO44036	Trulefoot – Early Medieval Field Boundary	Cropmark	HER No. 71727, visible on aerial photography
MCO44037	Trulefoot – Early Medieval Field Boundary	Cropmark	HER No. 71728, visible on aerial photography
MCO44044	Bake – Early Medieval field system	Cropmark	HER No. 71736, visible on aerial photography
MCO16388	Polmarkyn – Medieval Settlement	Documentary	HER No. 6524, settlement of Polmarkyn first recorded in 1289
MCO16213	Penquite – Medieval Settlement	Documentary	HER No. 6522, First recorded in 1347
MCO18360	Wilton – Medieval Settlement	Documentary	HER No. 6533, First recorded in 1329
MCO13309	Bake – Medieval Settlement	Documentary	HER No. 6503, First recorded in 1269
MCO15730	Milladon – Medieval Settlement	Documentary	HER No. 6519, First recorded in 1327
MCO44029	Penquite Farm – Post Medieval Quarry	Extant	HER No. 71720, visible on aerial photography
MCO29440	Wilton Quarry – Post Medieval Quarry	Documentary	HER No. 42229, visible on aerial photography and 1880 maps
MCO8954	Bake Lane End – Post Medieval	Documentary	HER No. 42225, visible on 1880 maps

	blacksmiths workshop		
MCO44038	Bake – Post Medieval Quarry	Extant	HER No. 71730, visible on aerial photography and 1880 maps
MCO44041	Bake – Post Medieval pond	Extant	HER No. 71733, visible on aerial photography
MCO44061	Molevenney Quarry – Post Medieval quarry	Extant	HER No. 71749, visible on aerial photography and 1880 maps
MCO7297	Rosedale – Post Medieval Lime Kiln	Documentary	HER No. 42234, on 1843 Tithe map and current OS map, not 1 st or 2 nd ed.
MCO44046	Treskelly Quarry – Post Medieval Quarry	Extant	HER No. 71738, visible on aerial photography and 1880 maps
MCO55182	Bag Lane – Post Medieval railway bridge	Extant	HER No. MCO55182 C19+
MCO55181	Trerulefoot – Post Medieval railway bridge	Extant	HER No. MCO55181 C19+
MCO55180	Tideford Road – Post Medieval railway bridge	Extant	HER No. MCO55180 C19+
MCO55179	Polmaekyn – Post Medieval railway bridge	Extant	HER No. MCO55179 C19+
MCO55178	Polmaekyn – Post Medieval railway bridge	Extant	HER No. MCO55178 C19+
MCO44032	Budges Shop – Post Medieval Quarry	Extant	HER No. 71723, visible on aerial photography
MCO52686	Trerulefoot – Post Medieval toll house	Demolished	HER No. 176879, exact location unknown but on now improved junction of the West Taphouse Liskeard Torpoint turnpike
MCO48979	Trerulefoot – Post Medieval milepost	Extant	HER No. 173067, Grade II Listed, C19
MCO48978	Trerulefoot – Post Medieval milestone	Extant	HER No. 173066 Grade II Listed, C18-C19
MCO42367	Bake – Modern military/prisoner of war camp	Extant	HER No. 166294, nissen hutted camp built to accommodate the US 29th Infantry Division prior for embarkation to Omaha Beach in Normandy on D-Day. Visible on aerial photographs. Bake Manor was also used to house German prisoners of war.
MCO44045	Bake – undated enclosure	Cropmark	HER No. 71737, visible on aerial photography

Local HER records (source: Cornwall Council, Access to Monuments and Heritage Gateway).

Supporting Sources and Images



Graphic data plot of geophysical survey results (SWARCH Report No.: 141128).

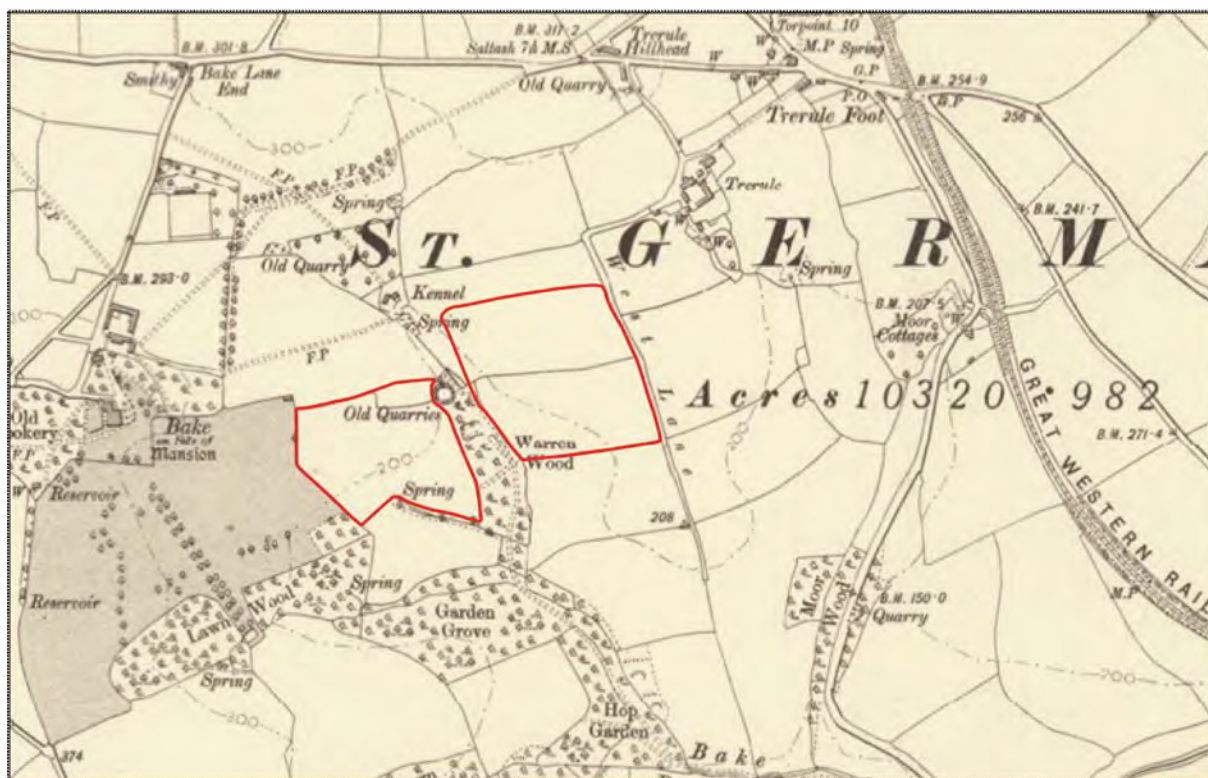


Extract from Ordnance Survey Surveyors Draft of 1803 (CRO) (the approximate extent of the site is

indicated).



Extract from the 1843 St Germans tithe map (CRO) (the approximate site location is outlined in red).



Extract from the OS 2nd edition map, 1905 published 1907 (CRO) (the site is indicated).

Appendix 4

Supporting Photos



Trench 1, post-excavation, viewed from the south-east (1 & 2m scale).



Trench 1, sample section at south-east end of the trench, viewed from the south-west (1m scale).



Ditches [103], [106] and [108], viewed from the north-east (1m scale).



Ditches [103], [106] and [108], viewed from the south-west (1m scale).



Trench 2, post-excavation, viewed from the north-east (1 & 2m scale).



Trench 2, sample section at south-west end of the trench, viewed from the south-east (1m scale).



Ditch [205], viewed from the south (1m scale).



Ditch [207], viewed from the south (1m scale).



Trench 3, post-excitation, viewed from the west 91 & 2m scale).



Trench 3, sample section at west end of trench, viewed from the south (1m scale).



SFB [303] and Posthole [305], viewed from the south (2m scale).



SFB [303] and Posthole [305], viewed from the south-west (2m scale).



SFB [303] and Posthole [305], viewed from the west (2m scale).



SFB [303] and Posthole [305], viewed from the east (1m scale).



Posthole [305], viewed from the south (0.30m scale).



Posthole [305], viewed from the south (0.30m scale).



Trench 3, natural feature/variation in natural at east end of trench, viewed from the east (1m scale).



Trench 4, post-excavation, viewed from the north-east (1 & 2m scale).



Trench 4, sample section at north-east end of the trench, north-west facing (1m scale).



Ditch [403], viewed from the north (0.30m scale).



Ditches [403] and [405], viewed from the south (0.30m scale).



Ditches [403] and [405], viewed from the west (1m scale).



Trench 5, post-excavation, viewed from the east (1 & 2m scale).



Ditch [503] and sample section at west end of the trench, viewed from the north (1m scale).



Ditch [507], viewed from the south-east (1m scale).



Ditch [507], viewed from the north-west (1m scale).



Ditch [507], viewed from the south-east (1m scale).



Ditch [505], viewed from the north (1m scale).



Ditch [505], viewed from the north (1m scale).



Trench 6, sample section at north end of the trench, viewed from the south-west (1m scale).



Trench 6, post-excavation, viewed from the south east (1 & 2m scale).



Ditch [602], viewed from the south (0.30m scale).



Ditch [604], viewed from the south (0.30m scale).



Ditches [602] and [604], viewed from the south (1m scale).



Ditch [606], viewed from the south (1m scale).



Ditch [606], viewed from the south (1m scale).



Trench 7, post-excitation, viewed from the north (1 & 2m scale).



Trench 7, post-excavation, viewed from the south (1 & 2m scale).



Trench 7, sample section at south end of the trench, viewed from the east (1m scale).



Possible pit or Tree-throw [703], viewed from the east (1m scale).



Possible pit or Tree-throw [703], viewed from the east (1m scale).



Trench 8, [post-excavation, viewed from the south-east (1 & 2m scale).



Trench 8, sample section at south-east end of the trench, viewed from the north-east (1m scale).



Trench 7, sample section at snorth-west end of the trench, viewed from the north-east (1m scale).



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