

ADJOINING LAND AT CANAL RISE/SOUTHFIELDS BRIDGERULE TORRIDGE DEVON

Results of a Desk-Based Assessment & Archaeological Evaluation



South West Archaeology Ltd. report no. 170508



www.swarch.net Tel. 01769 573555

Adjoining Land at Canal Rise/Southfields, Bridgerule, Devon Results of a Desk-Based Assessment & Archaeological Evaluation

By B. Morris & L. Lichtenstein
Report Version: FINAL
21st April 2017

Work undertaken by SWARCH for Mr. M. Dinner

SUMMARY

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned to undertake a desk-based assessment and archaeological evaluation on adjoining land at Canal Rise/Southfields, Bridgerule, Devon, in advance of the proposed development of the site.

The site at Bridgerule is located immediately to the west of the current settlement, just south of the former hamlet of Littlebridge, on a south-facing slope at an altitude of 105-115m AOD. The line of the Launceston branch of the Bude Canal runs through the site.

Five trenches measuring 140m long in total were found to contain six features or groups of features. The most significant of these was the Bude Canal itself, consisting of a wide central channel flanked by banks, with an associated ditch and bank on the down slope side. The excavation of a section through this feature provides useful structural information on the techniques employed during the construction of the Canal. The other features included two wide but shallow oval pits, historic field boundaries and land drains. There was no trace of an outbuilding shown on the 1842 tithe map. A small number of finds were recovered, mainly 18th-19th century pottery with some medieval and post-medieval North Devon wares.

The archaeological potential of the site is clear, and additional targeted investigation of the Canal is warranted in order to determine if the section excavated in this evaluation is representative, but further extensive archaeological work is difficult to justify given the character of the features investigated (post-medieval field boundaries, land drains) and the general lack of artefactual evidence.



South West Archaeology Ltd. shall retain the copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the WSI.

CONTENTS

<i>SUMMARY</i>	2
<i>CONTENTS</i>	3
<i>LIST OF FIGURES</i>	3
<i>LIST OF TABLES</i>	4
<i>LIST OF APPENDICES</i>	4
<i>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</i>	4
<i>PROJECT CREDITS</i>	4
1.0 INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND	5
1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	5
1.3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	5
1.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	5
1.5 METHODOLOGY	6
2.0 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT	7
2.1 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	7
2.2 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES	7
3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	11
3.2 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS AND LIDAR	12
3.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL	13
4.0 RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION	14
4.1 INTRODUCTION	14
4.2 RESULTS	15
5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION	21
5.1 DISCUSSION	21
5.2 CONCLUSION	22
6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY	22

LIST OF FIGURES

COVER PLATE: THE SOUTHERN BANK {222} OF THE CANAL TO THE WEST OF THE SITE; VIEWED FROM THE WEST.

FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION.	6
FIGURE 2: EXTRACT FROM THE 1803 OS SURVEYOR'S DRAFT MAP.	8
FIGURE 3: EXTRACT FROM THE 1842 TITHE MAP.	9
FIGURE 4: EXTRACT FROM THE 1885 OS 1 ST EDITION 1:25 INCH MAP.	9
FIGURE 5: EXTRACT FROM THE 1906 OS 2 ND EDITION 1:25 INCH MAP.	10
FIGURE 6: MAP OF NEARBY HERITAGE ASSETS.	12
FIGURE 7: IMAGE DERIVED FROM LIDAR DATA, SHOWING THE SITE.	13
FIGURE 8: SITE PLAN SHOWING LOCATION OF THE TRENCHES IN RELATION TO EARTHWORKS AND THE TITHE MAP.	14
FIGURE 9: TRENCH 1 WITH PIT [103]; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.	15
FIGURE 10: CANAL [203], OBLIQUE SHOT FROM THE SOUTH-WEST, LOOKING NORTH-NORTH-EAST.	16
FIGURE 11: BEDROCK UNDERNEATH THE NORTHERN BANK {221} OF CANAL [203]; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (1M SCALE).	16
FIGURE 12: TRENCH 1 AND 2 PLANS AND SECTIONS.	17
FIGURE 13: TRENCH 3 AND 4 PLANS AND SECTIONS.	19
FIGURE 14: TRENCH 5 PLANS AND SECTIONS.	20

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 1: EXTRACT FROM THE BRIDGERULE (WEST) TITHE APPORTIONMENT.	8
TABLE 2: LIST OF NEARBY HERITAGE ASSETS (SOURCE: DEVON HER AND CORNWALL & SCILLY HER).	11

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT LIST	23
APPENDIX 2: FINDS CONCORDANCE	26
APPENDIX 3: SUPPORTING PHOTOGRAPHS	27

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MR S.B. SHANKS (MCKENZIE FRIEND)
MR. M. DINNER (THE CLIENTS)
MICHAEL VANSTONE PLANT HIRE (PLANT PROVISION)
STEPHEN REED & BILL HORNER, DEVON COUNTY HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT TEAM (DCHET)
THE STAFF OF THE DEVON HERITAGE CENTRE

PROJECT CREDITS

PROJECT DIRECTOR: DR. BRYN MORRIS
PROJECT OFFICER: LASZLO LICHTENSTEIN
FIELD WORK: ALEXANDRA SCARD; LASZLO LICHTENSTEIN;
FINDS PROCESSING: NATALIE BOYD
REPORT: LASZLO LICHTENSTEIN; DR BRYN MORRIS
EDITING: DR SAMUEL WALLS
GRAPHICS: LASZLO LICHTENSTEIN; DR BRYN MORRIS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Location:	Land off Canal Rise
Parish:	Bridgerule
District:	Torrige
County:	Devon
NGR:	SS 26979 02814
Planning No.:	pre-planning
SWARCH ref:	BCR16

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by Mr. M. Dinner (the Client) to undertake a desk-based assessment and archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed development of the site on adjoining land at Canal Rise/Southfields, Bridgerule, Torrige, Devon. This work was carried out in accordance with a Project Design (Boyd 2016) drawn up in consultation with Stephen Reed (Devon County Historic Environment Team). The results of this work will inform and guide the need, nature and extent of any subsequent archaeological mitigation.

1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site at Bridgerule is located immediately to the west of the current settlement on a south-facing slope at an altitude of 105-115m AOD (see Figure 1). The soils of this area are well-drained fine loamy soils, with occasional areas of seasonally-waterlogged soils, of the Neath Association (SSEW 1983). These overlie the sandstones of the Bude Formation (BGS 2017).

1.3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Bridgerule lies in the Hundred of Black Torrington in Devon; it once lay within the Hundred of Stratton in Cornwall, but was transferred to Devon under the Counties Act of October 1844. The east and west halves of the village, straddling the River Tamar, were treated as separate villages for administrative purposes until 1950. Bridgerule has two entries in the Domesday Book, once for *Brige* and once for *Tacabre* (Tackbear Manor). In 1086 the manor was held Ruald Adobed, hence Bridgerule (*Brige+Ruald*). The route of the historic Bude Canal crosses the site from east to west, leading to the site of a former an aqueduct (MDV65876), the abutments of which survive but are very overgrown.

1.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Very little recent archaeological fieldwork has taken place in the immediate area, and thus its archaeological potential is difficult to quantify. The Devon HLC characterises this area as *medieval enclosures based on strip fields*, pointing to the existence of a common open-field system, presumably originally associated with the Domesday Manor or either Bridge or Tackbear. In Cornwall, this would form part of the designation *Anciently Enclosed Land*, and regarded as having *high* potential for Prehistoric and Romano-British remains. However, the lack of fieldwork makes this impossible to confirm. Some extensive survey has taken place in the district (e.g. geophysical surveys at Pitworthy Farm (EDV6112), Southlands Farm (EDV6860) and Crinacott Farm (EDV6098), but with equivocal results (Smalley 2013; Railton 2015; Urmstone 2013; Brennan 2013). There is a sense that this area, remote from the administrative centres of both Devon and Cornwall, has very much been neglected archaeologically. For example the piece-meal development of the

adjacent Canal Rise over the last c.10 years has not been subject to any archaeological intervention.

The Bude Canal has rarely been the subject of archaeological recording, despite its length, although there are exceptions (e.g. Reed & Weddell 1990).

1.5 METHODOLOGY

The desk-based assessment and archaeological evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Project Design (Boyd 2017) drawn up in consultation with Steve Reed (DCHET) and in line with best practice (Cifa 2014).

The archaeological evaluation took place between the 15th and 20th of March 2017. Four evaluation trenches, each 1.6m wide and totalling 140m in length were laid out using a Leica GS08 dGPS and opened by a 16t tracked mechanical excavator to the depth of *in situ* weathered natural using a toothless grading bucket. Exposed archaeological deposits were excavated by hand and in accordance with the PD and CIFA guidelines. The evaluation was designed to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character and date of any *in situ* archaeological deposits within the site to inform any further archaeological mitigation.

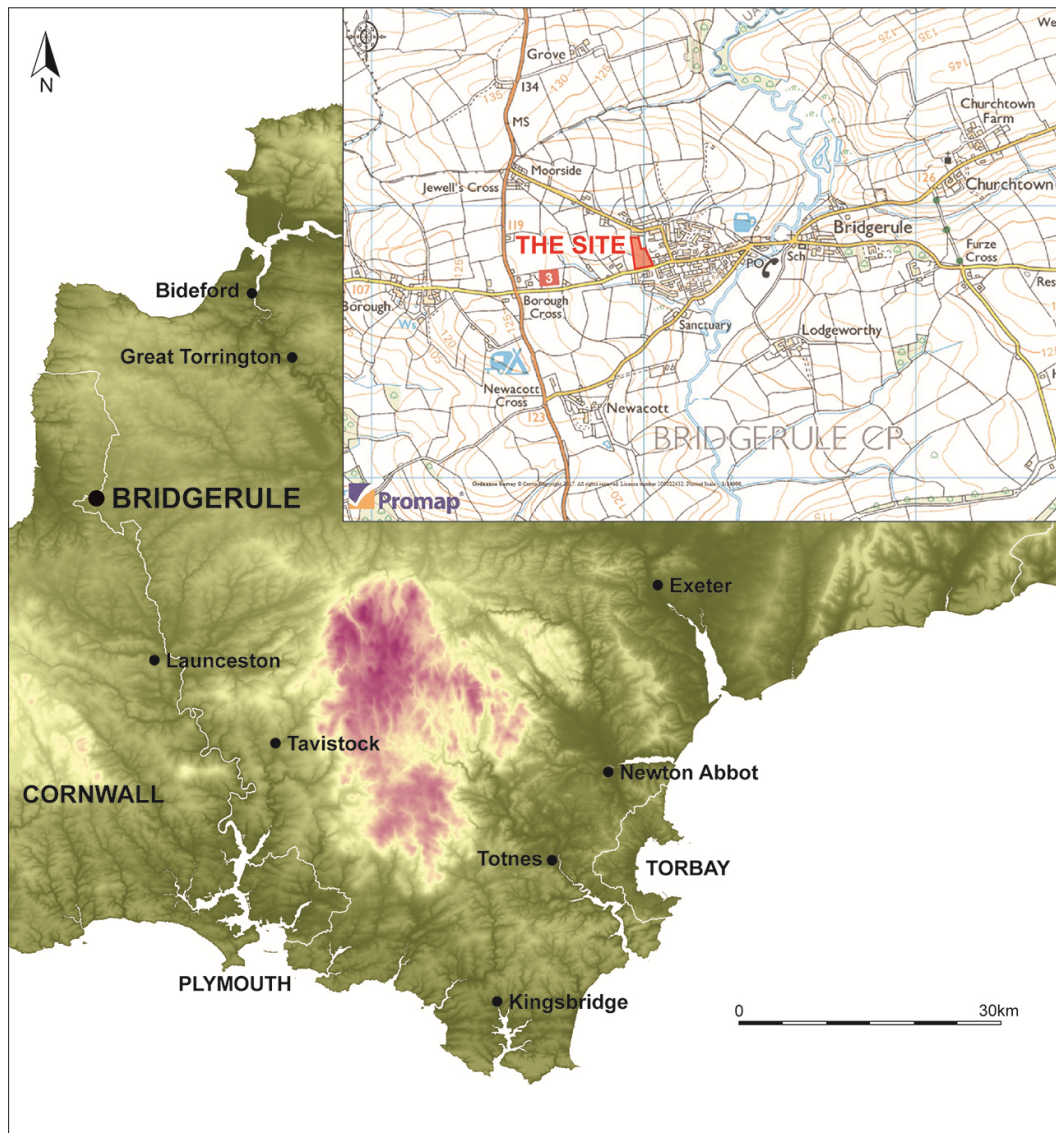


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION (THE SITE IS INDICATED).

2.0 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

2.1 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The parish of Bridgerule was formerly divided between the counties of Devon and Cornwall; the civil parish was reunited in 1884, the ecclesiastical parish in 1950. The eastern part of the parish lay in the hundred of Black Torrington; the western part in the Hundred of Stratton. The Manor of Bridgerule (*Brige*, OE bridge, later *Briggrroald* 1238) was held by the Saxon thane Frawin in 1066, and by Roald Adobed in 1086; the Domesday book records that the manor contained land for 8 ploughs, but that it was only taxed for 1½ virgates. The Domesday account also lists a meadow 7 furlongs long and 2 furlongs wide, which in Domesday terms is exceedingly large (Thorn & Thorn 1985). The manor was granted by Henry I with the rest of Roald's estates to William Gyffard. In 1241 the tenant in possession under Walter Giffard was Ralf de Dune, whose descents held the manor into the later 14th century. In 1428 the freeholders were the heirs of Thomas Aston, John Speke and John Tredyden (Reichel 1942, 213-4). In the late and post-medieval period the Manor was divided in moieties, held variously by the Rolle, Prideaux and Arscott families; in 1822 the Manor was held by Sir Arscott Ourry Molesworth of Pencarrow (Lysons 1822), but much of the land was held independently of the manor.

The Bude Canal passes through the site and was championed by John Edyvean of St Columb Minor in the late 18th century; an Act was passed but Edyvean's abortive canal at St Columb consumed both his attention and his fortune; he died in the 1780s. However, the St Columb Canal was to be a tub-boat canal using inclined planes instead of locks to change levels, and as such clearly influenced the design of the Bude Canal. In 1817 local supporters of the Canal commissioned the surveyor Thomas Shearm and engineer James Green to devise a workable scheme; they estimated the Canal could be constructed for £128,341, and an Act of Parliament was achieved in 1819. Green was appointed engineer in charge of construction and the Canal was completed for in 1825, though parts were in use from 1823.

The original purpose of the Canal, as envisaged by Edyvean, was to link the English and Bristol Channels via the Tamar. In 1817, the concept of the canal was repurposed to move goods in and out of north Cornwall and west Devon, and in particular calcareous beach sands to 'sweeten' the acidic soils of the local area. Thus, while a product of the Industrial Revolution, the Canal was actually built to facilitate the Agricultural Revolution in the Holsworthy district. The profitability of the Canal was affected by road improvements, an issue compounded by the extension of the railways to Holsworthy (1879) and Bude (1898). By 1902 the Launceston and Holsworthy branches of the Canal were no longer in use, and while part of the Canal has been retained for recreational use, much of the remaining section beyond Helebridge was lost after 1960.

2.2 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

The first cartographic source available to this study is the 1803 Ordnance Survey surveyor's draft map of the area. The scale of this map makes it difficult to discern any real detail, but the settlement of *Little Bridge* is shown.

The Bridgerule (West) tithe map of 1842 (Figure 3) is the first detailed cartographic resource available to this study. It shows the settlement of *Little Bridge* and the Bude Canal in some detail. The layout of the settlement, together with the slightly-curving form of the field boundaries, might indicate the houses were built along one edge of a series of open field strips. The fields closest to the houses are depicted as orchards, and the near-circular shape of Field no.86 is of clear morphological interest. The field names are entirely prosaic and reflect the close proximity of the site to a farming settlement (i.e. the profusion of mowhays etc.). It is of interest that the

road is shown crossing the canal, implying at this date the existence of a bridge rather than a viaduct (see below).



FIGURE 2: EXTRACT FROM THE 1803 OS SURVEYOR'S DRAFT MAP (BL) (THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE SITE IS INDICATED).

The Bridgerule (West) tithe map of 1842 (Figure 3) is the first detailed cartographic resource available to this study. It shows the settlement of *Little Bridge* and the Bude Canal in some detail. The layout of the settlement, together with the slightly-curving form of the field boundaries, might indicate the houses were built along one edge of a series of open field strips. The fields closest to the houses are depicted as orchards, and the near-circular shape of Field no.86 is of clear morphological interest. The field names are entirely prosaic and reflect the close proximity of the site to a farming settlement (i.e. the profusion of mowhays etc.). It is of interest that the road is shown crossing the canal, implying at this date the existence of a bridge rather than a viaduct (see below).

TABLE 1: EXTRACT FROM THE BRIDGERULE (WEST) TITHE APPORTIONMENT.

Field No.	Owner	Tenant	Field Name	Field Use
Littlebridges				
84	Edward Wills	Marwood Carwithen	Plot	Arable
85			Orchard	Orchard
86			Plot	Pasture
87			House	House
88			Orchard	Orchard
89			Barn & Mowhay	Mowhay
90			Mowhay Plot	Pasture
98			Meadow	Pasture
Bucks Littlebridges & Littlebridge				
91	Lewis William Buck	John Bailly	Orchard	Orchard
92			House	Waste
99			Lower West Park	Arable
Mappowder				
93	Knott (now William) Ash	James Ham	Dwelling house & Outbuildings	Yard
94			Orchard	Orchard
95			Mowhay & Barn	Waste
96			Mowhay Plot	Pasture
97			Plot	Arable

The subsequent historic OS maps show depict a landscape that differs only slightly from that of 1842. To the east, the bridge over the Canal had been replaced by an aqueduct. By 1885 the smaller fields to the north of the Canal (field nos. 84, 85, 86, 89 and 90) had been amalgamated, and by 1906 all the relict field boundaries had been removed and the building shown on the tithe map had disappeared. In 1885 the Canal still appears to be functional; by 1906 it is shown only as a continuous curving field boundary.

ADJOINING LAND AT CANAL RISE/SOUTHFIELDS, BRIDGERULE



FIGURE 3: EXTRACT FROM THE 1842 TITHE MAP (DHC) (THE LOCATION OF THE SITE IS INDICATED).



FIGURE 4: EXTRACT FROM THE 1885 OS 1ST EDITION 1:25 INCH MAP (DHC) (THE SITE IS INDICATED).

ADJOINING LAND AT CANAL RISE/SOUTHFIELDS, BRIDGERULE

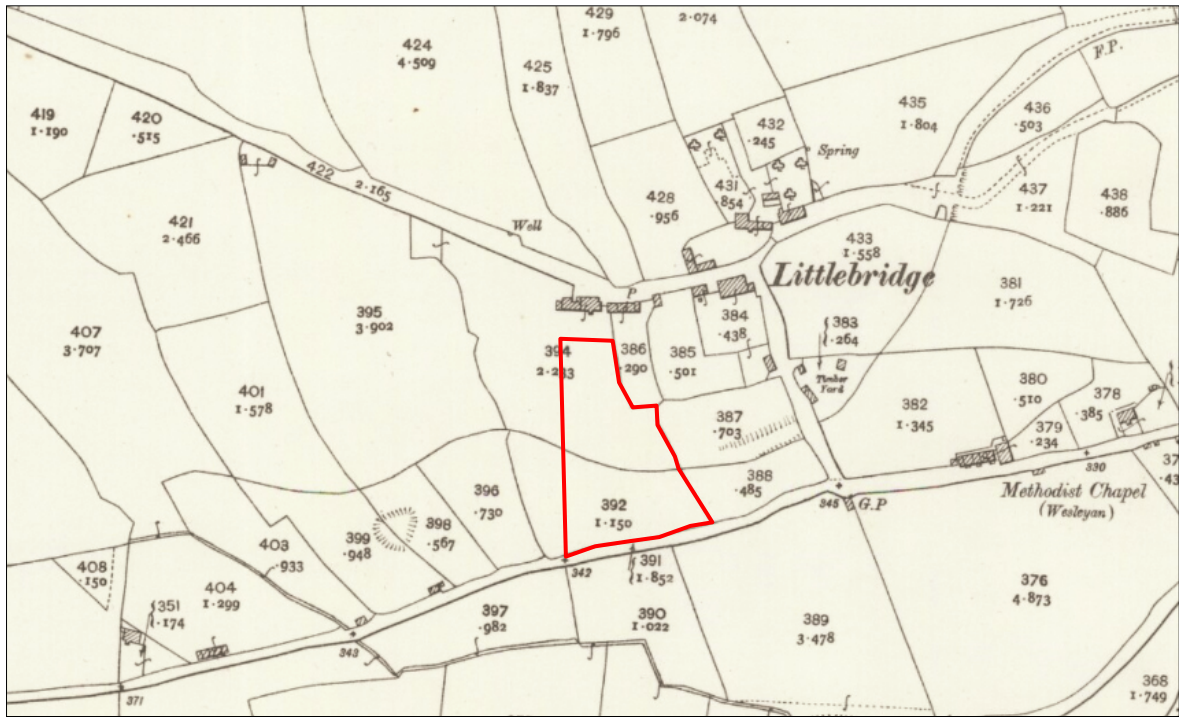


FIGURE 5: EXTRACT FROM THE 1906 OS 2ND EDITION 1:25 INCH MAP (DHC) (THE SITE IS INDICATED).

Subsequent OS maps chart the spread of the settlement of Bridgerule. By 1954 some buildings (housing?) had appeared in the back gardens of Littlebridge, and a line of houses constructed along the road to the south-east. Later housing development took place to the west (Littlebridge Meadow, late 1990s) and, most recently, the plot immediately to the west (Canal Rise). None of these developments were subject to archaeological works, and these portions of the canal have already been lost.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Very little archaeological fieldwork appears to have taken place in this area, and there are relatively few HER records for Bridgerule. The historic landscape characterisation (HLC) for Devon shows the area as *medieval enclosures based on strip fields*

3.1.1 PREHISTORIC AND ROMANO-BRITISH 4000BC – AD409

There are no records of Prehistoric or Romano-British activity in the immediate area. However, it is likely this area was cleared and cultivated from at least the Bronze Age. There are Bronze Age barrows in the wider landscape (e.g. Robin Hill bowl barrow MDV7123, 2.4km to the east), and a possible Romano-British settlement was identified during a geophysical survey at Pitworthy Farm 2.7km to the north-east (MDV106317; Smalley 2013).

3.1.2 EARLY MEDIEVAL AD410 – AD1065

The archaeology of the early medieval period is poorly represented, but there was a manor at *Brige* in 1066; the place-name indicates the existence of a bridge, and thus the route crossing the valley of the River Tamar here is likely to be of considerable antiquity.

3.1.3 MEDIEVAL AD1066 - AD1540

Most of the farms and many of the settlements in the area are medieval in origin; Bridgerule and Tackbear are both Domesday manors, and the ecclesiastical and tenorial geography of the area would have been in place by 1086. It is likely that there was a form of communal open-field agriculture in place during the medieval period, but those fields would have been enclosed by agreement by the 16th century. Since that time the landscape has been characterised by land held in severalty, with communal areas of lowland and upland rough grazing.

3.1.4 POST-MEDIEVAL AND MODERN AD1540 - PRESENT

The modern landscape of roads, fields and settlements has its origins in the medieval period. The 20th century expansion of Bridgerule has created a village in a landscape largely characterised by isolated farmsteads. The most significant addition to this landscape is the Launceston Branch of the Bude Canal, in use 1819×25 to 1891, which survives as a discontinuous curving earthwork (MDV65875).

TABLE 2: LIST OF NEARBY HERITAGE ASSETS (SOURCE: DEVON HER AND CORNWALL & SCILLY HER).

No.	HER No.	Name	Record	Description
1	MDV36155	Post-medieval quarry	Cartographic	Quarry marked on historic mapping
2	MDV36155	Post-medieval quarry	Cartographic	Quarry marked on historic mapping
3	MDV36155	Post-medieval quarry	Cartographic	Quarry marked on historic mapping
4	MDV101775	Borough Farmhouse	Structure	Gill farmhouse, possible medieval in origin, three-cell cross-passage plan, converted
5	MCO15069	Jewells Cross	Settlement	Post-medieval settlement
6	MCO52529	Milestone	Structure	C19 milestone
7	MCO40762	Post-medieval quarry	Cartographic	Quarry marked on historic mapping
8	MCO46445	Copthorne Farmstead	Cartographic	Post-medieval farmstead, lost by c.1880
9	MCO40782	Undated fieldsystem	Aerial Photo	Relict fieldsystem on aerial photographs
10	MCO46453 MCO46454 MCO46455 MCO46451	Grove Farmstead Threshing mill Cider press Cow house	Structure Cartographic Find Structure	Post-medieval farmstead Horse engine attached to the barn Stone weight from a cider press Post-medieval farm buildings
11	MCO40784	Undated fieldsystem	Aerial Photo	Relict fieldsystem on aerial photographs
12	MCO21977	Medieval strip field system	Cartographic	Curving field boundaries from a medieval strip field system
13	MCO40761	Post-medieval quarry	Cartographic	Quarry marked on historic mapping
14	MCO51967 MDV65875	Launceston branch of the Bude Canal	Structure	Bude Canal built 1819×25 and operated until c.1891; canal bed and flanking banks survive as an earthworks and curving field boundary
15	MDV65876	Bude Canal aqueduct	Structure	An overgrown abutment is all that remains of the aqueduct that carried the Bude Canal over the

ADJOINING LAND AT CANAL RISE/SOUTHFIELDS, BRIDGERULE

No.	HER No.	Name	Record	Description
				road here
16	MCO15436	Littlebridge	Structure	?medieval and post-medieval settlement
17	MDV36259 MDV36260	Littlebridge Methodist Chapel Smithy	Cartographic Cartographic	Site of a demolished C19 Wesleyan Chapel Site of a C19 smithy
18	MDV64304 MCO9521	Bridgerule Bridge	Structure	Concrete bridge constructed 1923; place-name reference to bridge in 1066
19	MDV2600	Bridgerule Bible Christian Chapel	Structure	Chapel opened in 1907 on the site of an earlier chapel
20	MDV21270	The Bridge Mill	Structure	C19 three-storey brick and stone mill, two waterwheels each driving a single pair of stones, reputedly site of Domesday mill
21	MDV106175	Leat and tail race for Bridge Mill	Structure	Earthworks of the mill leat and tail race
22	DDV17952 DDV7208	The Glebe House Coach House and Stable	Structure Structure	GII C19 former vicarage, now flats GII C19 former stables, now flats
23	MDV10	St Bridget's Church, Bridgerule (east)	Structure	Parish church with fine late medieval tower, C13 chancel with C14-C15 alterations. Restored 1723, bell-frame replaced 2006
24	DDV725	St Bridget's & St Katherine's Cottage	Structure	GII C16 Church House, used as a school room and poorhouse in 1818
25	MDV118832	Church Town Farm	Structure	Range of C19 farm buildings
26	MDV22543	London & South Western Railway, Holsworthy Branch	Structure	Railway opened 1879 and closed 1966
27	MDV113700	Geophysical Survey	Survey	Evidence for ridge & furrow, field boundaries, land drains

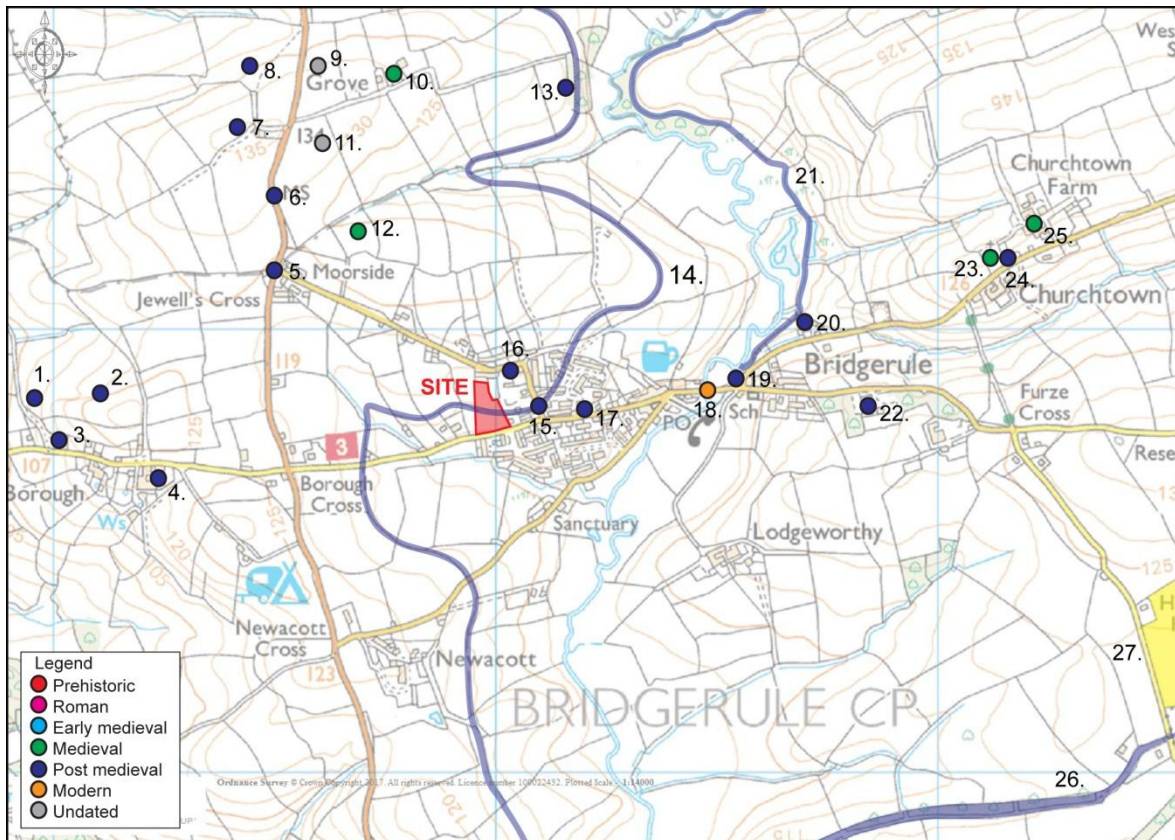


FIGURE 6: MAP OF NEARBY HERITAGE ASSETS (SOURCE: DEVON AND CORNWALL & SCILLY HER).

3.2 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS AND LIDAR

A review of the readily-available recent aerial photography for the site did not identify any new archaeological features, but some of the relict field boundaries on the site, and the course of the Bude Canal, are visible. Analysis of the LiDAR date (Figure 7) shows these earthworks as distinct and well-preserved.

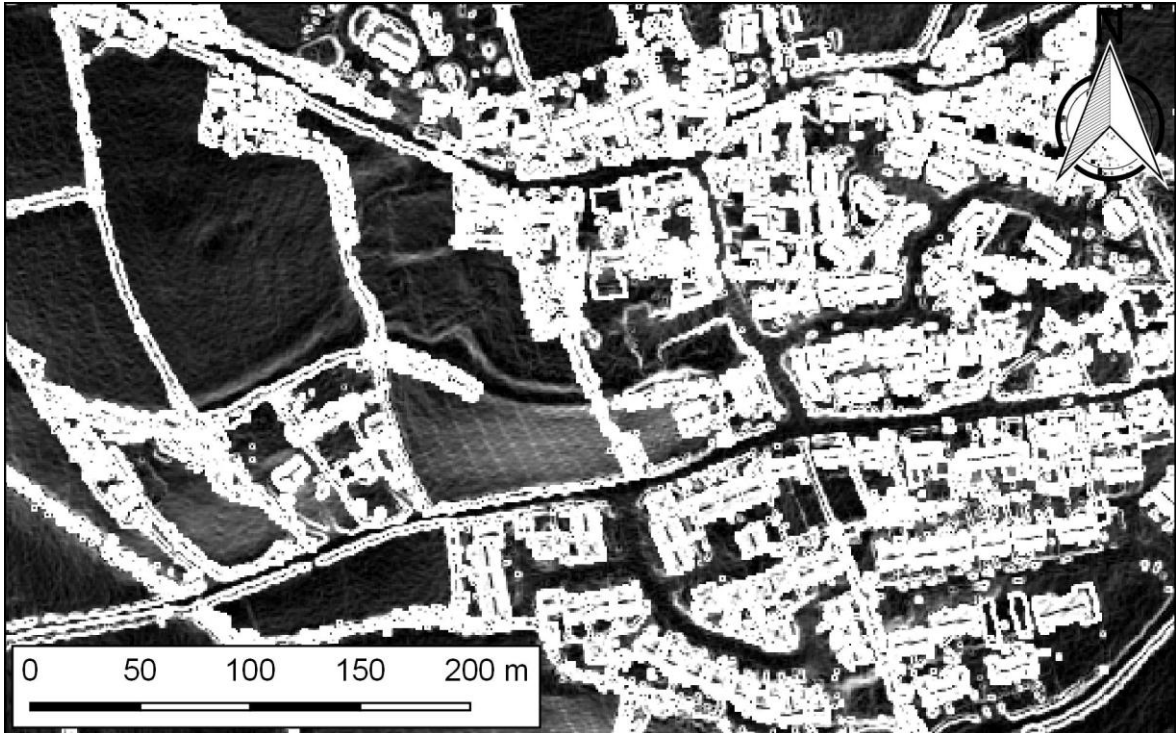


FIGURE 7: IMAGE DERIVED FROM LIDAR DATA, SHOWING THE SITE. THE EARTHWORKS OF THE CANAL ARE CLEARLY VISIBLE, AS ARE THE RELICT FIELD BOUNDARIES TO THE NORTH (PROCESSED USING QGIS VER2.18.2, TERRAIN ANALYSIS/SLOPE, VERTICAL EXAGGERATION 3.0). DATA: © ENVIRONMENT AGENCY COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHTS 2017; CONTAINS OS DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHTS 2017.

3.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The archaeological potential of the site can be seen to be fairly *high* overall. The site contains the earthworks of relict field boundaries that defined the tofts of the settlement at Littlebridge; while this settlement is first recorded in the 18th century, it is possible these boundaries are medieval in origin. It is also crossed by the Launceston branch of the Bude Canal, constructed in 1819×25.

4.0 RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Four evaluation trenches with a total length of 140m were opened with a tracked mechanical excavator using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision. Six archaeological features were identified, comprising: three ditches (two of them with associated a bank); two pits; and the Bude canal with two associated berms and a ditch. The following is a summary of the main findings; full context descriptions can be found Appendix 1, finds in Appendix 2, and a complete set of supporting photographs in Appendix 3.

A consistent site stratigraphy was identified across the site: a friable dark greyish-brown silt topsoil 0.3m thick, overlying a hard stony mid greyish-brown clay-silt subsoil up to 0.42m thick. The thickness of these deposits was greatest to the southern, downslope part of the site. The natural varied from a variably stony pale brownish-yellow silt-clay to a compact mid greyish-brown silt-clay.

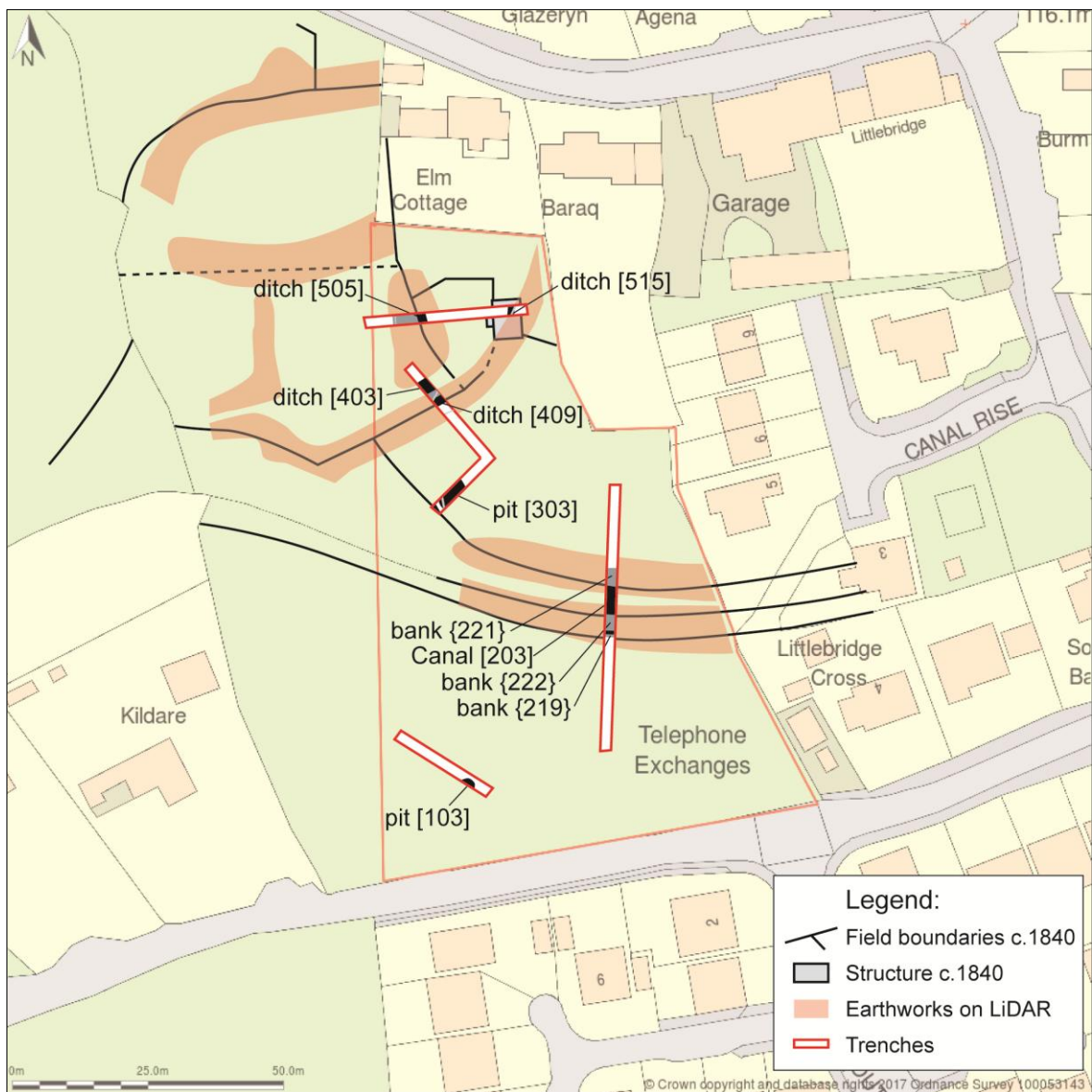


FIGURE 8: SITE PLAN SHOWING LOCATION OF THE TRENCHES IN RELATION TO EARTHWORKS AND THE TITHE MAP.

4.2 RESULTS

4.2.1 TRENCH 1

Trench 1 was located in the south-western part of the site and was 20m long. This trench contained a single feature, shallow pit [103] (Figure 9 and Figure 12). Pit [103] was a sub-circular feature c.2.95m in diameter and 0.23m deep with gradually-sloping sides and concave base. It contained a single fill (104), a loose mid greyish-brown silty clay with frequent charcoal and frequent small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions; some of the stones were heat affected. There were no finds.



FIGURE 9: TRENCH 1 WITH PIT [103]; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (SCALES 1M & 2M).

4.2.2 TRENCH 2

Trench 2 was located just west of Littlebridge Cross and was 50m long; it was located to target the former Bude Canal line. The only features in this trench related to the Canal: its channel [203] with a bank to either side {221} {222}, and a small ditch [218] and bank {219} beyond the bank on the southern side. The southern bank also probably functioned as a towpath (Figure 10 – Figure 12).

The Canal channel [203] was located in the centre of the trench and it was orientated east-west. It measured c.8.0m wide and was up to 1.50m deep. Its profile was somewhat asymmetric, with a steeply-sloping northern edge and a more gradual southern edge; its base was broad and slightly concave. It contained eight fills (206)(207)(208)(209)(210)(211)(212)(217). Basal fill (206) was a very thin layer of compact blue-grey clay, most probably accumulated whilst the canal was in use or possibly a waterproof lining intended to prevent leakage. This fill produced some fragments of oyster shell (14g). Fill (207) was a compact mid greyish-brown silty clay with occasional medium-sized sub-angular stone inclusions, and may be from the initial silting of the feature. The other fills were variably-stony grey to yellowish brown silty clays or clayey silts capped with a modern topsoil (217); it seems likely these represent dumped deposits and that the Canal channel was deliberately infilled. Fill (212) produced ×1 sherd of white refined earthenware (later 19th century).

The banks to either side of the main channel were visible as clear earthworks in the field. Prior to their construction the topsoil and subsoil had been stripped down to the level of the natural, presumably to counter leakage and ensure greater stability. The banks appear to have been created by piling up excavated material from the central channel. The northern bank {221} was sat on the top of the natural bedrock, and consisted of a single layer of compact mid greyish-brown clayey silt with

abundant poorly-sorted small to very large stones. The southern bank {222} was slightly different construction and was comprised of three layers: (204) a compact mid brownish-grey silty clay redeposited natural with abundant small to very large sub-angular stone inclusions; (205) a compact mid greyish-brown clayey silt with occasional medium sub-angular stone inclusions; and (216) a compact dark greyish-brown clayey silt with abundant medium to large stone inclusions. These stones formed a distinct layer on top of the bank, and this was presumably the towpath.

A small ditch [218] flanked the southern side of the southern bank {222}, with its own bank {219} on its downslope side. It was c.1.5m wide and up to 0.35m deep with a U-shaped profile. It appeared to be contemporary with [203], presumably to carry any leaking or excess water from the canal. The ditch contained two fills: (215) a compact mid grey clay with occasional medium to large stone inclusions; this fill may have weathered from the southern bank {222} while it was still in use. Fill (220) was compact mid brownish-grey clay silt with occasional stone fragments, interpreted as relatively recent and deliberate backfilling. Bank {219} ran parallel to ditch [218] and was comprised of compact mid greyish-brown clayey silt with occasional stone inclusions.



FIGURE 10: CANAL [203], OBLIQUE SHOT FROM THE SOUTH-WEST, LOOKING NORTH-NORTH-EAST (SCALE 1M & 2M).



FIGURE 11: BEDROCK UNDERNEATH THE NORTHERN BANK {221} OF CANAL [203]; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (NO SCALE).

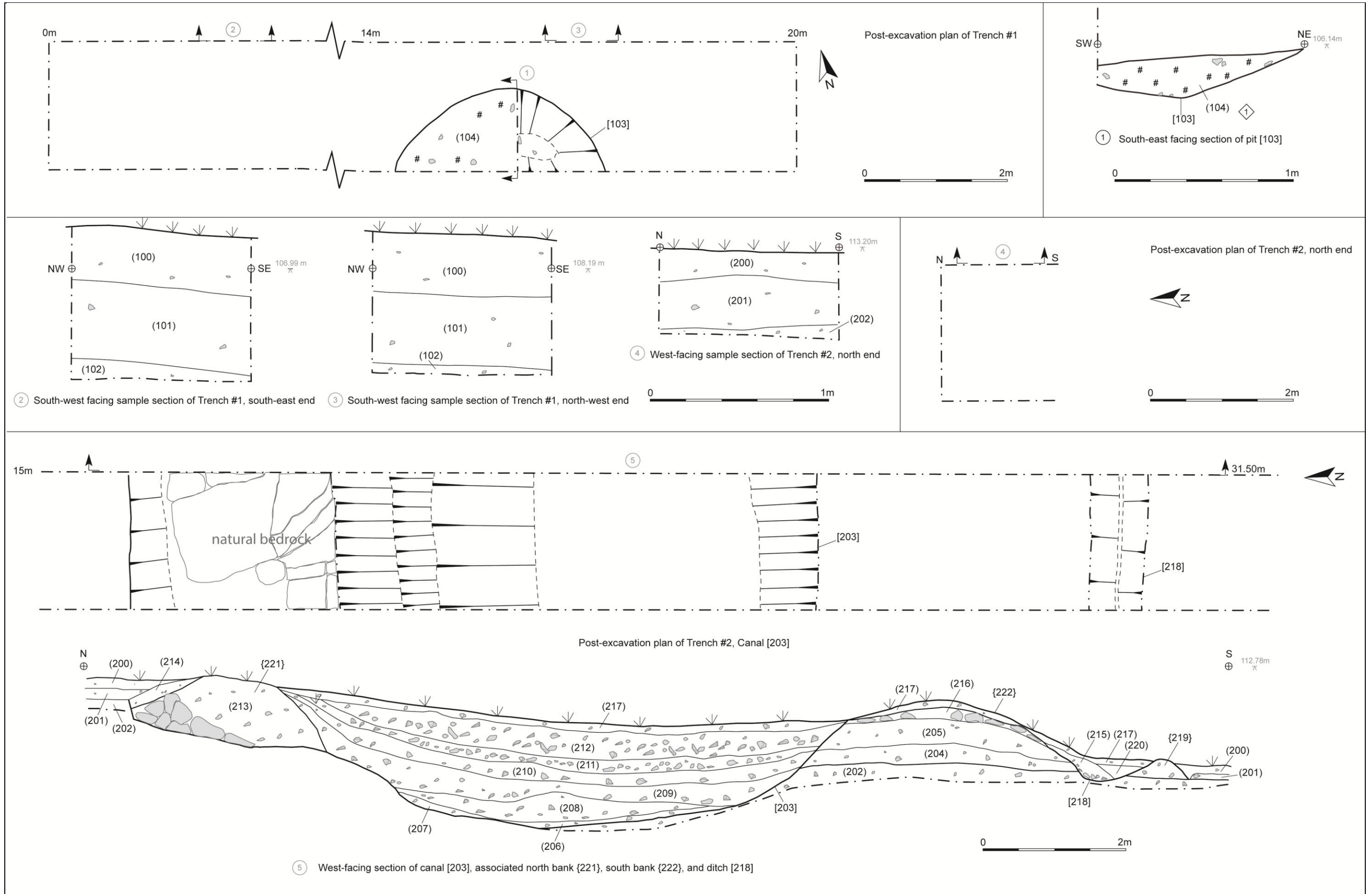


FIGURE 12: TRENCH 1 AND 2 PLANS AND SECTIONS.

4.2.3 TRENCH 3

Trench 3 was located towards the western edge of the site and was orientated north-east to south-west; it was 15m long. A single feature was identified in this trench. Pit [303] was oval in plan, c.2.6m in diameter and 0.23m deep with gradually-sloping sides and flat base (FIGURE). It contained a single fill (304), a firm dark brownish-grey clayey silt with occasional stone inclusions. It was cut by a land drain on its south-west side. There were no finds.

4.2.4 TRENCH 4

Trench 4 was located towards the western edge of the site and orientated north-west to south-east; it was 20m long and adjoined Trench 3 at its north-east end. Only one feature was identified in this trench: ditch [403] with an associated bank {407} and a modern drainage cut [413] (Figure 13).

Ditch [403] was aligned approximately east-to-west and measured 1.8m wide and 0.65m deep with moderate to steeply-sloping sides and a concave base. It contained four fills (404)(405)(406)(412), all variably stony friable or soft mid greyish-brown or grey silty clays; Fill (412) was particularly stony. Fill (404) produced one fragment (3g) of clay tobacco pipe stem and seven (1104g) probable roof slate fragments (one pierced). It also produced a single fragment (16g) of animal bone. Bank {407}, comprised a single soft mid brown silty clay layer, was located on the southern side of ditch [403] and was clearly visible as an earthwork. Bank {407} was cut by a modern ceramic land drain [413].

4.2.5 TRENCH 5

Trench 5 was located towards the northern part of the site; it was orientated east-to-west and was 30m long. The topsoil and subsoil produced ×4 sherds (94g) of 19th century stoneware, ×1 (25g) sherd of Bristol/Staffordshire yellow slipware, ×1 sherd (4g) North Devon medieval coarseware, and ×1 (293g) slate fragment. Two features were identified in this trench: ditch [515] and ditch [505] with an associated bank {511}.

Ditch (515) was at least 1.5m wide and 0.5m deep. It was located towards the eastern end of the trench, and was orientated approximately north-east to south-west. It contained two fills: (516) a compact light brownish-grey sandy clay with frequent stone inclusions, and (517) a compact light brownish-grey sandy clay with frequent stone inclusions. Fill (516) produced ×2 sherds (6g) of co-joining North Devon medieval coarseware. The eastern side of [515] was cut by a land drain [503]. The backfill of this drain (504) produced ×1 sherd (11g) of 16th century North Devon calcareous ware, ×1 fragment (23g) of modern brick, ×1 (95g) fragment of double-pierced slate and ×1 (7g) iron nail.

Ditch [505] was located towards the middle of the trench and was associated with a bank {511} and a modern land drain [513]. It aligned approximately north-north-west to south-south-east and measured 1.72m wide and 0.70m deep with moderate to steeply-sloping sides and a concave base. It contained six fills (506)(512)(507)(508)(509)(510), all variably stony soft or friable mid greyish-brown clayey silts or silty clays. Fill (506) produced ×2 sherds (6g) of post-medieval North Devon calcareous pottery, ×1 sherd (2g) medieval coarseware, and ×2 (16g) pieces of flint. The associated bank {511} was located on the western side of ditch [505] and was clearly visible as an earthwork. It comprised a single deposit of friable mid brown clayey silt with abundant sub-angular and angular stones. The bank produced ×1 sherd (11g) North Devon medieval coarseware. It was cut by a land drain [513].

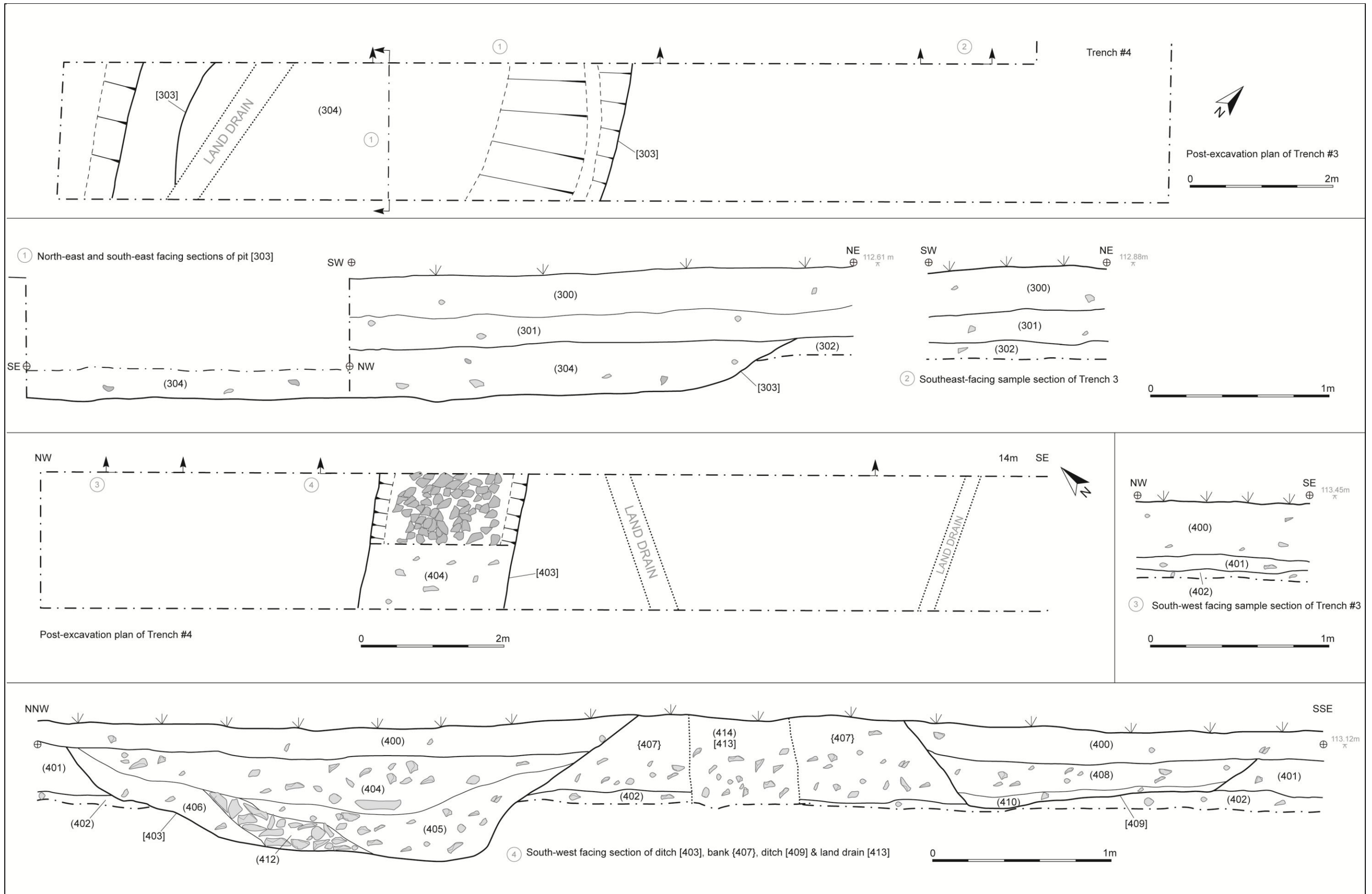


FIGURE 13: TRENCH 3 AND 4 PLANS AND SECTIONS.

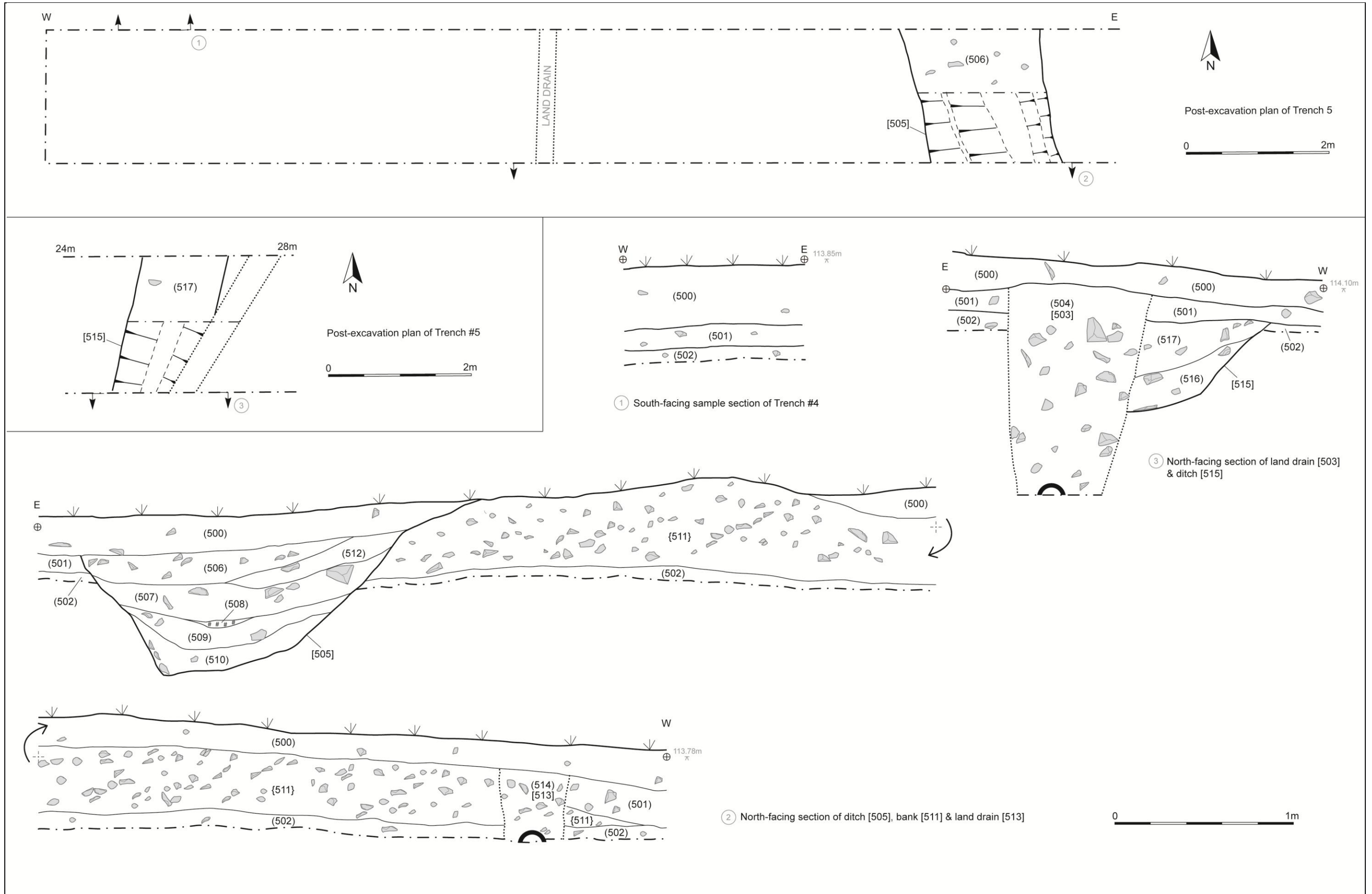


FIGURE 14: TRENCH 5 PLANS AND SECTIONS.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

5.1 DISCUSSION

The evaluation investigated the earthworks of the Bude Canal and has been able to provide useful data on the method of its construction. Previous development works in the area have not been subject to any archaeological intervention or recording. While sections of the Canal have been cleared for reuse by the Bude Canal and Harbout Society, this investigation joins a very limited number that have sectioned the Canal structure (Reed & Weddell 1990).

The topsoil and subsoil was removed from the footprint of the Canal and the banks that flanked it to either side, a corridor up to 15m wide. The Canal channel, c. 6.75m wide, was dug down the centre of this corridor and the variably-stony material used to build up the banks to either side. The northern (upslope) bank {221} consisted of a single dump of material, but the southern (downslope) bank {222} contained a sequence of deposits capped with very stony material or metalling. This variation would reflect the fact that the downslope bank would always be the most vulnerable structurally, and that the towpath ran along this bank (as indicated on historic OS maps). Beyond the downslope bank was a second, much smaller bank {219} and ditch, probably intended to carry any water leaking through or overtopping the Canal bank safely to existing drainage channels. It is of interest that the topsoil and subsoil from the Canal corridor was largely removed, and presumably this must have been disposed of in the local area.

The primary fill (206) of the channel was a thin layer of blue-grey clay which can be interpreted as puddled clay intended as waterproofing. The next fill (207) should probably be interpreted as primary silting, but the thickness of this layer (even accounting for compaction) would suggest the Canal – in use for 66 years – was subject to periodic cleaning. As the bulk of the material filling the channel consists of fairly clean redeposited natural, this would imply the Canal was infilled quite quickly after it fell out of use. This redeposited material could be derived from clearing the relict field boundaries on the site (which disappear from the historic OS maps by 1906), or, if a longer chronology can be justified, from housing development in the local area during the first half of the 20th century. The evidence for discrete layers, but the lack of stabilisation horizons, would suggest episodic infilling over a short period of time.

Most of the other features on the site relate to historic field boundaries removed after 1842. Despite the apparent significance of the sub-circular enclosure shown on the tithe map, the dating evidence recovered from the fills of ditch [404] indicated no more than it was backfilled after the 18th century. The fact that in some instances the bank material survives to ground level – i.e. there is no continuous topsoil across the site – would indicate the field had not been ploughed since before 1900. Ditch [505] and associated bank {511} contained medieval pottery, and as this is on the line of the boundary to the rear of Elm Cottage, it might hint at medieval origins for these toft boundaries.

There was no trace of the building shown on the tithe map in Trench 5 (indeed – there is a ditch and land drain here), implying it was of mass-walled (cob) construction or else had relatively shallow foundations. The two wide shallow pits are of interest, but lack dating evidence. Pit [303] is very close to the edge of the Canal, and was presumably associated with it. The charcoal and burnt stones in pit [103] might hint that this feature is of early medieval or Prehistoric date, but the lack of dating evidence makes this very tentative conjecture.

The small amount of medieval and post-medieval pottery recovered from the site might suggest the settlement at Littlebridges has its origins in the medieval period (and see discussion of ditch

[505] above), but the quantity and condition of this material indicates it could just as easily be from domestic refuse spread on the fields from a nearby but older settlement.

5.2 CONCLUSION

The site contains a number of earthworks that belong to the Launceston branch of the Bude Canal and relict field and toft boundaries attached to the hamlet of Littlebridge. It provided an opportunity to investigate the structural character of the Canal, and further investigation is warranted to determine if the section cut through the Canal is representative. The relict field boundaries largely produced post-medieval dating material. Two other shallow undated pits were revealed, the fills of one of these contained charcoal, and it is possible this is medieval or earlier.

6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Published Sources:

Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (a brief explanation of the constituent soil associations)*.

Websites:

British Geological Survey 2017: *Geology of Britain Viewer* [accessed 28.03.2017]

http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html

Bude Canal & Harbour Society 2017: Home page [accessed 28.03.2017]

<http://www.bude-canal.co.uk/Bude%20Canal%20History.htm>

Unpublished Sources:

Brennan, N. 2013: *Land at Crinacott Farm, Pyworthy, Devon: archaeological watching brief*. Wessex Archaeology.

Smalley, R. 2013: *Pitworthy Farm, Pancrasweek, Devon: geophysical survey report*. Stratascan J3225.

Railton, M. 2015: *Land at Southlands Solar Farm, Holsworthy: geophysical survey report*. Wardell Armstrong.

Reed, S.J. & Weddell, P.J. 1990: *Archaeological Recording on the South West Water Holsworthy to Hersham Water Main*. Exeter Archaeology.

Turton, S.D. & Weddell, P.J. 1990: *An Archaeology Assessment South West Water Holsworthy to Hersham Pipeline*. Exeter Archaeology.

Urmstone, B. 2013: *Land at Crinacott Farm, Pyworthy, Devon: detailed gradiometer survey*. Wessex Archaeology.

Devon Heritage Centre:

Bridgerule (west) Tithe Map 1842 & Tithe Apportionment 1842

Ordnance Survey 1st edition map, surveyed 1883, published 1885

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map, surveyed 1905, published 1906

ADJOINING LAND AT CANAL RISE/SOUTHFIELDS, BRIDGERULE

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT LIST

Context	Type	Description	Relationships	Extent: length x width x depth/thickness (m)	Spot date
TRENCH 1					
(100)	Layer	TOPSOIL - Loose dark greyish-brown silt.	Overlies (101)	Across trench, c. 0.3m thick.	-
(101)	Layer	SUBSOIL - Loose mid greyish-brown clayey silt with frequent medium-large, sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions.	Overlies (102); overlain by (100)	Across trench, c. 0.42m thick.	-
(102)	Layer	NATURAL - Varies: firm mid brownish-yellow silty clay with frequent small-medium sub-angular stone inclusions in SE part of trench; firm mid greyish-brown silty clay with abundance of small-large sub-angular stone inclusions in NW part of trench.	Overlain by (101)	Across trench at a depth of c. 0.75m.	-
[103]	Cut	Sub-circular pit; gradually-sloping sides with a concave base; partially within the SW trench edge.	Cuts (102); filled by (104)	2.95 x >1.15 x 0.23	-
(104)	Fill	Fill of pit [103]; loose mid greyish-brown silty clay; abundant of charcoal, frequent small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions (some heat affected); evidence of burning.	Fill of [103]; overlain by (101)	2.95 x >1.15 x 0.23	-
TRENCH 2					
(200)	Layer	TOPSOIL - Loose dark greyish-brown silt; modern pottery recovered.	Overlies (201)	Across trench, c. 0.15-0.3m thick.	Modern
(201)	Layer	SUBSOIL - Loose mid greyish-brown clayey silt with frequent medium-large, sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions; modern pottery recovered.	Overlies (202); overlain by (200)	Across trench, c. 0.25-0.3m thick.	Modern
(202)	Layer	NATURAL - Varies: firm mid brownish-yellow silty clay with frequent small-medium sub-angular stone inclusions to a firm mid greyish-brown silty clay with abundance of small-large sub-angular stone inclusions.	Overlain by (201)	Across trench at a depth of c. 0.45m.	-
[203]	Cut	Canal; steeply-sloping northern edge with the southern edge more gradual, slightly concave base; oriented E-W; cuts into the natural bedrock; contemporaneous with ditch [218].	Cuts (202); abutted by {221} & {222}; filled by (206)-(212)	>1.8 x c. 8 x 1.5	Modern
(204)	Layer	Initial layer of southern bank of Canal [203]; compact mid brownish-grey silty clay; abundant small-very large sub-angular stone inclusions; redeposited natural.	Overlies (202); butts [203] & [218]; overlain by (205); part of {222}	>1.8 x 3.95 x c. 0.3	-
(205)	Layer	Intermediate layer of southern bank of Canal [203]; compact mid greyish-brown clayey silt; occasional medium-sized sub-angular stone inclusions; combination of redeposited natural and subsoil.	Overlies (204); butts [203] & [218]; overlain by (216); part of {222}	>1.8 x 3.3 x c. 0.35	-
(206)	Fill	Initial fill of Canal [203]; compact bluey-grey clay; VERY thin layer, most probably accumulated whilst the canal was in use; oyster shell recovered.	Fill of [203]; overlain by (207)	>1.8 x 3.4 x c. 0.07	-
(207)	Fill	Intermediate fill of Canal [203]; compact mid greyish-brown silty clay; occasional medium-sized sub-angular stone inclusions.	Fill of [203]; overlies (206); overlain by (208)	>1.8 x 1.39 x 0.1	-
(208)	Fill	Intermediate fill of Canal [203]; compact light brownish-yellow silty clay; frequent small-medium sub-angular stone inclusions.	Fill of [203]; overlies (207); overlain by (209)	>1.8 x 4.75 x 0.4	-
(209)	Fill	Intermediate fill of Canal [203]; compact light grey clay mottled with light brownish-yellow silty clay; occasional small-medium sub-angular stone inclusions throughout, become more frequent toward the top of the fill.	Fill of [203]; overlies (208); overlain by (210)	>1.8 x 7.2 x c. 0.45	-
(210)	Fill	Intermediate fill of Canal [203]; compact mid brownish-grey clayey silt; very occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions.	Fill of [203]; overlies (209); overlain by (211)	>1.8 x 7.5 x 0.25	-
(211)	Fill	Intermediate fill of Canal [203]; compact light brownish-yellow silty clay with occasional patches of grey clay; frequent small sub-angular stone inclusions.	Fill of [203]; overlies (210); overlain by (212)	>1.8 x 7.2 x 0.2	-

ADJOINING LAND AT CANAL RISE/SOUTHFIELDS, BRIDGERULE

(212)	Fill	Upper fill of Canal [203]; compact mid greyish-brown clayey silt; very occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions; modern pottery (WRE with BTP) recovered.	Fill of [203]; overlies (211); overlain by (217)	>1.8 x 7.25 x 0.42	Modern
(213)	Layer	Initial layer of northern bank of Canal [203]; compact mid greyish-brown clayey silt; abundant small to very large stone inclusions; probable combination of redeposited topsoil, subsoil and natural, laid upon natural weathered bedrock.	Overlies (202); butts [203]; overlain by (214); part of {221}	>1.8 x 2.3 x 0.9	-
(214)	Layer	Upper layer of northern bank of Canal [203]; compact mid grey clay; frequent medium-large stone inclusions; 'gap filler' of bank.	Overlies (213); part of {221}; overlain by (201)	>1.8 x 0.3 x 0.12	-
(215)	Layer	Initial fill of ditch [218]; compact mid grey clay; occasional medium to large stone inclusions; slumping within ditch, most probably accumulated whilst the ditch was in use.	Fill of [218]; overlain by (220)	>1.8 x 0.4 x 0.25	-
(216)	Layer	Upper layer of southern bank of Canal [203]; compact dark greyish-brown clayey silt; abundance of medium to large stone inclusions; redeposited stones forming a layer on top of the bank, probably the towpath surface.	Overlies (205); butts [203] & [218]; overlain by (217)	>1.8 x 2.9 x 0.18	-
(217)	Layer	Layer of modern topsoil overlying the backfilled Canal [203], southern bank {222} and ditch [218]; firm dark greyish-brown clayey silt; possibly the result of modern levelling.	Overlies (212), (216) & (220)	>1.8 x 12.3 x 0.15	-
[218]	Cut	Ditch; U-shaped profile; oriented E-W; shallow ditch running parallel with canal [203], to the south of the southern bank [222]; visible mostly in section as almost machined-out; constructed for drainage purposes.	Cuts (202); abutted by {219} & {222}; filled by (215) & (220)	>1.8 x c. 1.5 x c. 0.35	-
{219}	Structure	Bank to the south of ditch [218]; compact mid greyish-brown clayey silt; occasional stone inclusions; small bank on the southern side of canal drainage ditch; visible in section.	Overlies (202); butts [218]	>1.8 x c. 0.9 x c. 0.26	-
(220)	Fill	Upper fill of ditch [218]; compact mid brownish-grey clayey silt; occasional stone inclusions; backfill of small canal drainage ditch, made after disuse of canal [203] relatively recently.	Fill of [218]; overlies (215); overlain by (217)	>1.8 x c. 0.7 x c. 0.21	-
{221}	Structure	Northern bank of Canal [203].	Overlies (202); butts [203]; consists of (213) & (214)	>1.8 x c. 2.5 x 0.9	-
{222}	Structure	Southern bank of Canal [203].	Overlies (202); butts [203] & [218]; consists of (204), (205) & (216); overlain by (217)	>1.8 x 3.95 x 0.78	-
TRENCH 3					
(300)	Layer	TOPSOIL - Loose dark greyish-brown silt.	Overlies (301)	Across trench, c. 0.25m thick.	-
(301)	Layer	SUBSOIL - Loose mid greyish-brown clayey silt with frequent medium-large, sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions.	Overlies (302); overlain by (300)	Across trench, c. 0.2m thick.	-
(302)	Layer	NATURAL - Varies: firm mid brownish-yellow silty clay with frequent small-medium sub-angular stone inclusions to a firm mid greyish-brown silty clay with abundance of small-large sub-angular stone inclusions.	Overlain by (301)	Across trench at a depth of c. 0.42m.	-
[303]	Cut	Oval pit; gently-sloping sides with a flat base; located to the east of the canal; possibly modern: excavated when the canal was backfilled?	Cuts (302); filled by (304)	c. 2.6 x >1.8 x 0.3	-
(304)	Fill	Sole fill of pit [303]; firm dark brownish-grey clayey silt; occasional stone inclusions; cut by a later land drain in the SW end of the trench.	Fill of [303]; overlain by (301); cut by later land drain	c. 2.6 x >1.8 x 0.3	-
TRENCH 4					
(400)	Layer	TOPSOIL - Soft/friable mid greyish-brown silt.	Overlies (401)	Across trench, c. 0.3m thick.	-
(401)	Layer	SUBSOIL - Soft/friable mid brownish-grey clayey silt.	Overlies (402); overlain by (400)	Across trench, c. 0.1m thick.	-
(402)	Layer	NATURAL - Soft mid yellowish-greyish-brown clay with frequent sub-angular and angular stone inclusions.	Overlain by(401)	Across trench, c. 0.38m thick	-
[403]	Cut	Ditch; moderate to steeply sloping sides, concave base; oriented approximately E-W;	Cuts (402); butts {407}; filled by (404)-(406) & {412}	>1.8 x 2.7 x >0.65	Post-medieval
(404)	Fill	Upper fill of ditch [403]; friable/soft mid greyish-brown silty clay; occasional-frequent sub-angular stone inclusions (up to 0.2m in size); clay pipe stem, animal bone and slate recovered.	Fill of [403]; overlies (405); overlain by (401)	>1.8 x 2.56 x 0.39	Post-medieval

ADJOINING LAND AT CANAL RISE/SOUTHFIELDS, BRIDGERULE

(405)	Fill	Fill of ditch [403]; soft mid greyish-brown silty clay; occasional angular and sub-angular stone inclusions.	Fill of [403]; overlies (406); overlain by (404)	>1.8 x 1.85 x 0.36	-
(406)	Fill	Basal fill of ditch [403]; soft mid-light grey clay.	Fill of [403]; butts {412}; overlain by (405)	>1.8 x >4.3 x >0.25	-
{407}	Structure	Sole layer of linear bank; soft mid brown silty clay; moderate to steeply sloping sides with a slightly convex top; bank visible both in the section and as an existing earthwork across the site.	Overlies (402); abutted by [403] & [409]; cut by [413]	>1.8 x c. 2.2 x 0.35	-
(408)	Fill	Top fill of ditch [409]; soft/friable mottled mid yellowish-brown clayey silt.	Overlies (410); overlain by (400)	>1.8 x 1.3 x 0.3	-
[409]	Cut	Ditch; shallow to moderately sloping sides with a slightly undulating base; oriented approximately E-W.	Cuts (401); butts {407}; filled by (410)	>1.8 x c. 1.6 x 0.18	-
(410)	Fill	Fill of ditch [409]; slightly friable/soft mid grey silty clay.	Fill of [409]; overlain by (408)	>1.8 x c. 1.6 x 0.18	-
-411-	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
{412}	Fill	Bank material; angular and sub-angular stones, up to 0.2m in size, within a soft mid grey clay; oriented approximately E-W.	Within [403]; abutted by (406); overlain by (405)	>1.8 x c. 0.6 x >0.2	-
[413]	Cut	Linear gully; near vertical sides; oriented approximately NE-SW; modern land drain, not excavated by hand.	Cuts (402) & {407}; filled by (414); same as [503]	>1.8 x 0.7 x >0.4	Modern
(414)	Fill	Fill of land drain [413]; soft mid yellowish-greyish-brown silty clay; redeposited natural.	Fill of [413]; overlain by (401)	>1.8 x 0.7 x >0.4	Modern
TRENCH 5					
(500)	Layer	TOPSOIL - Soft mid (slightly) greyish-brown clayey-loam with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions (up to 0.02m in size); post-medieval/modern pottery and slate recovered.	Overlies (501)	Across trench, c. 0.34m thick.	Modern
(501)	Layer	SUBSOIL - Soft mid yellowish-greyish-brown clay with frequent angular stone inclusions (0.02-0.06m in size); medieval and modern pottery recovered.	Overlies (502); overlain by (500)	Across trench, c. 0.12m thick.	Modern
(502)	Layer	NATURAL - Soft brownish-yellow clay with bands of soft blueish-grey clay amongst weathered bedrock.	Overlain by (501)	Across trench at a depth of c. 0.46m.	-
[503]	Cut	Land drain; near vertical sides (western edge a little more gentle than the eastern); oriented approximately NE-SW; modern land drain, only excavated to the top of the ceramic land drain; truncates earlier ditch.	Cuts (501), (502), (516) & (517); filled by (504); same as [413]	>1.8 x c. 0.9 x >0.95	Post-Medieval/Modern
(504)	Fill	Fill of land drain gully [503]; mixed soft mid greyish-brown clay with patches of soft yellowish-greyish-brown clay; frequent to abundant angular stone inclusions (c. 0.02-0.1m in size); post-medieval pottery, brick, Fe nail and slate recovered.	Fill of [503]; overlain by (500)	>1.8 x c. 0.9 x >0.95	Post-Medieval/Modern
[505]	Cut	Ditch; moderate to steeply sloping sides with a very slightly concave base; oriented approximately NNW-SSE.	Cuts (501); filled by (506)-(510) & (512)	>1.8 x 1.72 x 0.7	Medieval/post-medieval
(506)	Fill	Uppermost fill of ditch [505]; slightly friable/soft mid greyish-brown silty clay; frequent angular stone inclusions (up to 0.05m in size); medieval and post-medieval pottery and flint recovered.	Fill of [505]; overlies (512); overlain by (500)	>1.8 x 1.72 x 0.25	Medieval/post-medieval
(507)	Fill	Intermediate fill of ditch [505]; mixed soft mid greyish-brown clay with occasional patches of soft/friable mid greyish-brown silty clay; occasional sub-angular stone inclusions (up to 0.08m in size).	Fill of [505]; overlies (508); overlain by (512)	>1.8 x 1.66 x 0.22	-
(508)	Fill	Intermediate fill of ditch [505]; soft mid greyish-brown clay; common charcoal; lens of deposit.	Fill of [505]; overlies (509); overlain by (507)	>1.8 x 0.48 x 0.05	-
(509)	Fill	Intermediate fill of ditch [505]; soft mid greyish-brown clay; occasional angular to sub-angular stone inclusions (up to 0.05m in size); slightly waterlogged silting within the lower part of the ditch.	Fill of [505]; overlies (510); overlain by (508)	>1.8 x 1.27 x 0.16	-
(510)	Fill	Basal fill of ditch [505]; soft mid slightly brownish-grey clay; probable waterlain deposit resulting from the waterflow whilst the ditch was in use.	Fill of [505]; overlain by (509)	>1.8 x 1.12 x c. 0.2	-

ADJOINING LAND AT CANAL RISE/SOUTHFIELDS, BRIDGERULE

{511}	Structure	Bank material; friable mid-brown clayey silt; abundance of sub-angular and angular stone inclusions (up to c. 0.1m in size); oriented approximately N-S; visible in the section and as an existing earthwork across site; medieval pottery recovered. It has moderate to steeply sloping sides and slightly convex top.	Overlies (502); cut by [513]	>1.8 x c. 5.4 x 0.36	Medieval
(512)	Fill	Fill of ditch [505] soft/friable mid greyish-brown clayey silt.	Overlies (507); overlain by (506)	>1.8 x 0.52 x 0.28	-
[513]	Cut	Land drain; steep/near vertical sides; base not reached; oriented approximately N-S.	Cuts (502) & {511}; filled by (514)	>1.8 x c. 0.6 x >0.4	-
(514)	Fill	Fill of land drain gully [513]; mixed soft mid greyish-brown clay with soft yellowish-greyish-brown clay; frequent angular and sub-angular stone inclusions; redeposited natural.	Fill of [513]; overlain by (500)	>1.8 x c. 0.6 x >0.4	-
[515]	Cut	Ditch; moderately sloping sides with a concave base; oriented NE-SW; truncated by later/modern land drain.	Cuts (502); filled by (516) & (517)	>0.72 x >1.8 x 0.52	Medieval
(516)	Fill	Initial fill of ditch [515]; compact light brownish-grey sandy clay; frequent stone inclusions; medieval pottery recovered.	Fill of [515]; overlain by (517); cut by [503]	>0.67 x >1.8 x 0.2	Medieval
(517)	Fill	Uppermost fill of ditch [515]; compact light brownish-grey sandy clay; frequent stone inclusions.	Fill of [515]; overlies (516); overlain by (501) cut by [503]	>0.72 x >1.8 x 0.32	-

APPENDIX 2: FINDS CONCORDANCE

Context	POTTERY			CLAY PIPES			OTHER			DATE
	Sherds	Wgt. (g)	Notes	Frgs.	Wgt. (g)	Notes	Frgs.	Wgt. (g)	Notes	
104							3	2	Charcoal	
200	2	2	White refined earthenware (WRE)							C19
	1	4	Jackfield ware							C18
201	1	2	Industrial earthenware							C19
206								14	Oyster shell	
212	1	95	WRE: Blue transfer print (BTP), stamp on base; "Sem China IV" in triple diamond.							Modern
404				1	3	Stem	1	16	Animal bone	
500	1	25	Bristol Staffordshire yellow slipware (BSYS)				7	1104	Undiagnostic slate, x1 pierced	
	3	88	Stoneware				1	293	Undiagnostic slate	
501	2	6	Industrial earthenware							
	1	4	North Devon gravel-tempered post-medieval scrap							
504	1	7	ND calcareous C16				1	23	Brick	Post-medieval
							1	7	Fe nail	
506	1	6	ND calcareous				1	95	Double pierced slate	
	1	2	North Devon Medieval coarseware				2	16	Flint (residual)	C15-C16
511	1	11	North Devon Medieval coarseware							
516	2	6	North Devon Medieval coarseware, co-joining							

APPENDIX 3: SUPPORTING PHOTOGRAPHS



THE CANAL AND SOUTHERN BANK {222}, TAKEN FROM THE NORTH (SCALE 1M).



SOUTHERN CANAL BANK {222}, FLANKING DITCH [218] AND BANK {219}; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (SCALE 1M).



SOUTHERN CANAL BANK {222}, DITCH [218] AND BANK {219}, OBLIQUE SHOT TAKEN FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (SCALE 1M).



MARSHY AREA WITHIN THE WIDER PART OF THE CANAL; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (SCALE 1M & 2M).



MARSHY AREA AT THE WIDER PART OF THE CANAL, WITH THE SOUTHERN BANK {222}; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (SCALE 1M & 2M).



TRENCH 1, POST-EXCAVATION SHOT FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (SCALE 1M & 2M).



PIT [103], SOUTH-EAST FACING SECTION (SCALE 1M).



TRENCH 2, POST-EXCAVATION SHOT FROM THE SOUTH (SCALE 1M & 2M).

ADJOINING LAND AT CANAL RISE/SOUTHFIELDS, BRIDGERULE



TRENCH 2, POST-EXCAVATION SHOT FROM THE NORTH (SCALE 1M & 2M).



CANAL [203], OBLIQUE SHOT FROM THE NORTH-WEST, LOOKING SOUTH/SOUTH-EAST (SCALE 1M & 2M).



CANAL [203], WEST-FACING SECTION OF NORTHERN BANK {221} (SCALE 2M).



CANAL [203], WEST-FACING SECTION, NORTHERN END, SHOWING NORTHERN BANK {221} (SCALE 2M).



CANAL [203], CENTRAL WEST-FACING SECTION (SCALE 2M).



CANAL [203], WEST-FACING SECTION, SOUTHERN END, SHOWING SOUTHERN BANK {222} (SCALE 2M).



CANAL [203], WEST-FACING SECTION, SOUTHERN END, SHOWING SOUTHERN BANK {222} (SCALE 2M).



BEDROCK BENEATH NORTHERN BANK {221} OF CANAL [203]; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (SCALE 1M).



CANAL [203] AND SOUTHERN BANK {222}, WEST-FACING SECTION (SCALE 1M & 2M), WITH EARTHWORK VISIBLE TO THE EAST.



TRENCH 3, POST-EXCAVATION SHOT FROM THE WEST (SCALE 1M & 2M).



PIT [303], SOUTH-FACING SECTION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (SCALE 1M & 2M).



PIT [303], VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (SCALE 1M & 2M).



SAMPLE SECTION 3, SOUTH-FACING (SCALE 1M).



DITCH [403], BANK {407} AND RUBBLE {412}; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (SCALE 2M).



DITCH [403], BANK {407} AND RUBBLE {412}, WEST-FACING SECTION (SCALE 2M).



DETAIL OF DITCH [403] AND RUBBLE {412}, WEST-FACING SECTION (SCALE 2M).



TRENCH 5, POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (SCALE 1M & 2M).



LAND DRAIN [503] AND DITCH [515], NORTH-FACING SECTION; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (SCALE 1M).



DITCH [505], NORTH-FACING SECTION; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (SCALE 1M).



DITCH [505] AND BANK [511], NORTH-FACING SECTION; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (SCALE 2M).



NORTH-FACING SECTION OF DITCH [505] AND BANK {511}; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (SCALE 2M).



SAMPLE SECTION 1A: SOUTH-WEST FACING (SCALE 1M).



SAMPLE SECTION 1B: SOUTH-WEST FACING (SCALE 1M).



The Old Dairy
Hacche Lane Business Park
Pathfields Business Park
South Molton
Devon
EX36 3LH

Tel: 01769 573555
Email: mail@swarch.net