ASHCOMBE GARDEN
SIMONSBATH
EXMOOR
SOMERSET

Results of an Archaeological Evaluation

South West Archaeology Ltd. report no. 181115

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES & HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING
SOUTHWEST ARCHAEOLOGY

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Ashcombe Garden, Simonsbath, Exmoor, Somerset
Results of an Archaeological Evaluation

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Report Version: FINAL
15th November 2018

Work undertaken by SWARCH for Exmoor National Park Authority (the Client)

Summary

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at Ashcombe Garden, Simonsbath, Exmoor, Somerset. This work was informed by previous metric survey and geophysical survey of the gardens and an historic building assessment of the adjacent White Rocks Cottage. This work was conducted with a focus on community engagement and in association with Exmoor National Park Authority. This phase of work hoped to determine aspects of a possible picturesque designed landscape laid out in and after the 1820s.

The most important outcome of this investigation was to determine the location and form of the main path crossing the garden and demonstrate the use of quartz gravels to its build. The use of quartz in this way is significant as it is paralleled in Picturesque gardens elsewhere. No trace or a seat or vantage was identified in Trench 5. The other trenches have proven less conclusive and have raised more (different) questions. It is possible the natural substrate encountered in Trench 1 formed the base layer to a path similar to that exposed in Trench 2. No trace of the main path was located in Trenches 3 and 4. The evidence for the boundary wall revealed in Trench 6 is equivocal about the character of its build. One clear success for the project was the level of public engagement, with enthused volunteers, school groups and a successful open day.

Another significant outcome for the project has been the realisation that the Gardens are more complex than previously appreciated, and that the upper terrace (and perhaps also the lower terrace/path) are multi-phase structures. As originally conceived, these structures may have been purely functional or purely aesthetic, successively one then the other, or both from the outset.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

LOCATION: LAND NORTH OF WHITE ROCK COTTAGE
PARISH: SIMONSBATH
AUTHORITY: EXMOOR
COUNTY: SOMERSET
NGR: SS 77338 39443
SWARCH REF: SAG18

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

This report presents the results of a small archaeological evaluation consisting of six hand-dug trenches carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) with volunteers at the request of, and in conjunction with, Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA) (the Client) in Ashcombe Garden, north of White Rock Cottage, Simonsbath, Somerset (Figure 1). The objectives of this evaluation were: to locate the position of two bridges destroyed by floods *c.*1952; investigate the location of a postulated elevated covered seat; establish the form and build of a lost garden wall; locate and examine a path shown on historic maps that ran through the gardens; and identify any associated features. The work was carried out in accordance with a project outline (Wilson-North 2018) and in consultation with Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA).

1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Simonsbath is a small village located within Exmoor National Park in the heart of the former Royal Forest of Exmoor. It lies to the north of a crossing point of the River Barle where the roads from Lynmouth, Challacombe, South Molton and Exford converge. The site is located on the northern side of the village, *c.*220m north-east of Simonsbath House Hotel and field studies centre. It lies immediately to the north of White Rock Cottage, the other side of the stream that runs through the valley of *Ashcombe Bottom*. The altitude of the site is *c.*326m AOD.

The soils of this area are the well-drained fine loamy or fine silty soils over rock of the Manod Association (SSEW 1983), which overlie the slates of the Kentisbury Slate Member (BGS 2018).

1.3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The place-name Simonsbath (MEM23687), first documented *c.*1540-1550, is derived from the personal name 'Simon' and the Modern English 'bath'; meaning 'Simon's bathing place or pool' (Watts 2004). John Leland recounts using the bridge there when he crossed the Forest from Exford in *c.*1530 (Siraut 2009). It is the highest village in Exmoor National Park. The former Royal Forest of Exmoor (MEM22088) probably had its origins in the Anglo-Saxon period: the Domesday Book records three foresters holding land at Withypool. 'Forest' was a term indicating a managed hunting estate that usually included woodland. It is likely the Anglo-Saxon Kings exercised control over Exmoor as landowners rather than royalty, as the legal definition of 'forest law' as a royal prerogative was a Norman introduction (Hegarty & Wilson-North 2014). Simonsbath became the seat of the Warden of the Royal Forest of Exmoor. In 1508, the Warden Sir Edmund Carew leased the forest from the Crown for the first time, entitling the Warden to its revenues. These revenues were regulated at courts held twice a year, held at Simonsbath from at least 1797. The Forest Court ceased when Exmoor was disafforested in 1818 (Coleman-Cooke 1970; MacDermot 1973). After the Civil War the Forest was bought by Joseph Strange in trust of James Boevey. Around this time the extant Simonsbath House was built by Boevey (a beam in the house is dated 1654). Boevey enclosed *c.*48ha around the house to create the first farm in the Forest (Siraut 2009). Following the Restoration the Forest once again became a Crown estate with a purchasable

wardenship. The Acland Family held the Wardenship of the Forest until 1814, after which parts of the Forest were sold off following the Acts of Enclosure in 1815. When John Knight purchased Simonsbath House in 1818 it was the only house at Simonsbath (Siraut 2009). By 1820 John Knight had purchased *c.*6273ha of land, three quarters of the former Royal Forest (Coleman-Cooke 1970). *Symondsbath* is shown on the Ordnance Survey (OS) Surveyor's Draft map from 1804 and *Simons Bath Farm* is shown on an 1818 Exmoor Enclosure map. On these maps the site at Ashcombe Garden is shown within a larger enclosed area, but not specifically enclosed itself.

John Knight invested heavily in developing his new estate. He began by constructing a boundary around the estate and then he started improving the agricultural potential of the moor. This included developing the settlement at SImonsbath, laying down metalled roads radiating out from the village, planting woodland (e.g. Birchcleave), and a wide range of less successful and often costly ventures. He started building his mansion behind Simonsbath House; it was not completed and a wing of the mansion was incorporated into Simonsbath House. John Knight moved to Rome in 1841 leaving the management of the Exmoor estate to his son Frederic. Frederic Knight continued to develop the estate, assisted Robert Smith, to whom he had leased Emmett's Grange (Coleman-Cooke 1970). In 1818 Simonsbath had ostensibly been an isolated farmstead housing a single family. At its peak in 1871 Simonsbath had a population of 339 (Havinden 1981). Following the death of his son and heir, Frederic Knight sold the whole estate to Lord Fortescue of Castle Hill, a sale that was realised on his death in 1897. The Fortescues continued to invest in the estate (Green *et al.* 2015) but after the deaths of Lord and Lady Fortescue in 1959, large parts of Exmoor were put up for sale. In 1952 a flood that became known as the *Lynmouth Flood Disaster* caused considerable damage in Simonsbath, sweeping away the bridges over Ashcombe water. An oral history event undertaken by the ENPA has collected the memories of people who had lived in Simonsbath or gone to the school (White Rock Cottage); these memories include descriptions of the bridges and garden wall at Ashcombe. The box of Knight family papers held by the widow of John Knight's great grandson, located in 2016, affirm that construction of the mansion and White Rock Cottage began in 1819. More detailed histories of Simonsbath and its historical protagonists can be found elsewhere (Garrett 2004; Green 2010; Green *et al* 2015; Wilson-North 2017).

1.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The Exmoor National Park Historic Environment Record list various assets and monuments within 1km of the site, most of which are located within Simonsbath itself and date to the 19th century. Ashcombe Gardens (MEM22434) has its own HER monument record:

An inventory of 1833 confirms the existence of a garden in Simonsbath in 1833 and later records dating to 1860s and 70s also note its existence. An indenture of 1864 records Simonsbath House as having a garden, shrubberies and pleasure grounds, which is reiterated in other documents dating to 1867 and a property valuation book of 1878. It is thought that this area of land is that referred to as plot 319 on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map. By 1888, this area of land running along the west side of the Ashcombe stream is laid out with paths, various deciduous trees and shaded, small trees that presumably represent bushes or shrubberies. A section where several paths meet in the centre is shown as a separately enclosed piece of land and this may have been the original 'garden by the river'; the partial remains of a wall still run across the bottom of the Ashcombe valley here. The stretch of path through the woodland to the house has a hard surface and may have been wide enough for a horse-drawn vehicle, possibly providing a link to the Upper Stables. An old slate quarry within the garden (MEM22305) may have acted as a fernery. The garden may have formed a prelude to a woodland garden in Ashcombe. The plantation is shown on the 1st and 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey maps with a footpath shown continuously around the combe, crossing the stream at the top of the plantation via a footbridge. The plantation was a mixture of deciduous and coniferous trees, with the majority of the conifers on the north side of the southern boundary. A small area of purely coniferous vegetation, shown on the 2nd Edition map, may be a small plantation of Japanese Larch that has been attributed to the Fortescues. Various garden plants that are present includes Love-Lies-Bleeding (Amaranthus caudatus), Periwinkle, Snowdrops and Daffodils. The garden rapidly deteriorated since the

Fortescue's sold off Simonsbath house. Rising above the footpaths on either side of the valley are two outcrops of quartz, currently covered in lichen and small rock plants. It seems highly likely that these natureal features in the landscape have been intentionally cleared and isolated to enhance their appearance. Furthermore, these quartz outcrops create the effect of a gateway into the valley, marking the beginning of the footpaths and the entrance to the woodland wilderness garden of Ashcombe. The designed landscape at Ashcombe was part of John Knight's original plan for the formal landscape around Simonsbath House and was modified in the later 19th and 20th Centuries. It includes the Garden by the River and land to its northeast. A series of terraced paths ran from Simonsbath House, around the Garden by the River and up the west side of Ashcombe, crossing the Ashcombe Water at its head via a stone footbridge before heading southwards on the eastern side. There are large quartz outcrops scattered around the area, some of which have been partially excavated to form a platform and emphasise their size. A leat running on the western side of Ashcombe may help to explain its boundary as it is thought to predate the gardens.

The other heritage assets listed in the ENPHER within 1km of the site include:

- The medieval Simonsbath Bridge (MSO10646), which was first described by John Leland in 1540, extensively rebuilt after being damaged during flooding in 1952.
- A medieval or post-medieval bank and terraced track (MEM23037) in Ashcombe, although it is not depicted on the 1818 enclosure map.
- A probable post-medieval pound in Simonsbath (MSO10963).
- The 18th/19th century linhay and stables associated with Simonsbath House (MSO10648). Simonsbath house allegedly incorporates part of James Boevey's house, built *c.*1654 and John Knight's 1830s uncompleted mansion. It is now a hotel.
- White Rock Cottage (MEM22117), immediately south of the site, was an early part of the 19th century landscape around SImonsbath. It was used as a school from 1857 to 1970. It had a garden and orchard (MEM23038) to its south-west; the gardens had an associated gardeners building and probable details of its layout can be seen on 1st and 2nd edition OS maps.
- A former cold store at White Rock Cottage (MEM22303), which may originally have been built as a grotto and modified as a cold store in the mid 19th century, was built into the banks of Ashcombe stream beneath White Rock Cottage.
- St Luke's Church and churchyard (MSO10240), built in *c.*1856.
- A K6 telephone box (MEM23727).
- The Gospel Hall in Simonsbath (MSO10241), which has a concrete datestone for 1929.
- Post-medieval drainage ditches (MMO2898).
- Post-medieval field boundaries (MMO2913), forming roughly rectangular fields probably established after 1816 and abandoned prior to 1889.
- Possible post-medieval storage pits (MSO7062), known as *Potato Clamps* in Birch Wood.
- Catchwater meadows (MMO2343; MMO2351), visible on the valley slopes of *Ashcombe Bottom* of parallel irrigation gutters that could overflow with water and that encouraged early growth on the slopes in spring.
- Various assets associated with post-medieval prospection and quarries, particularly south of SImonsbath, but across the wider area (MMO22570; MMO22572; MMO22573; MMO2322; MMO2952).
- Various post-medieval leats (MMO2897; MSO23689; MSO7074) associated with providing water to the settlement, but also two phases of leat associated with the 19th century Simonsbath sawmill (MEM23688); monitoring work has identified 19th century features here.

Further afield the landscape contains more post-medieval assets associated with land management, but also evidence for Prehistoric activity. There are nine Bronze Age barrows (MDE1191) on Five Barrows Hill near Emmett's Grange, and a Bronze Age barrow (MSO6800) near Blue Gate. There is an Iron Age hillfort at Cow Castle (MSO6797). Comparable assets to those on or near the site include contour leats (MMO2738) and the 19th century historic landscape at Emmett's Grange, *c.*4km south-west of Simonsbath.

Previous archaeological works at Ashcombe Gardens include a measured topographical survey (Riley 2014), a geophysical survey (Dean 2014), an historic building survey of White Rock Cottage (Green *et al.* 2015) and a report on Simonsbath House Hotel (Blaylock 2017). These works are associated with the ENPA's intention to utilise the Gardens to 'serve the community of Exmoor parish and promote the heritage of the area' (Wilson-North 2018). The measured survey identified areas of surviving boundaries and landscape features associated with a probable 19th century landscape garden and features depicted on historic OS maps. The geophysical survey identified anomalies associated with the paths shown on the 1888 and 1902 OS maps, and eluded to areas of possible drainage, palaeochannels and structures. The building survey included a desk-based assessment of Simonsbath and White Rock Cottage and demonstrated that White Rock Cottage was once a pair of 19th century estate cottages probably laid out in consideration to the design of the adjacent garden. A conservation statement was carried out by Nicholas Pearson Associates, and a history of the former school written by Mary Siraut.

Analysis of LiDAR imagery (see Appendix 3) would indicate that the boundary shown on historic OS map on the north side of the gardens may have been part of a water management system. There are the remains of a reservoir further up the valley, and the gutters of a contour leat system are visible on the opposing slope of the valley. It is possible these leats formed part of a water management and control system similar to that realised at Emmett's Grange (see Bray *et al*. 2011).

1.5 METHODOLOGY

This work was conducted in accordance with best practice and CiFA guidelines; *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation and Watching Briefs* (CIfA 2015) and *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* (CiFA 2014). The archaeological works in this instance aims to address questions pertaining to the restoration of the garden as outlined in a project outline, rather than achieving full excavation of all features (Wilson-North 2018).

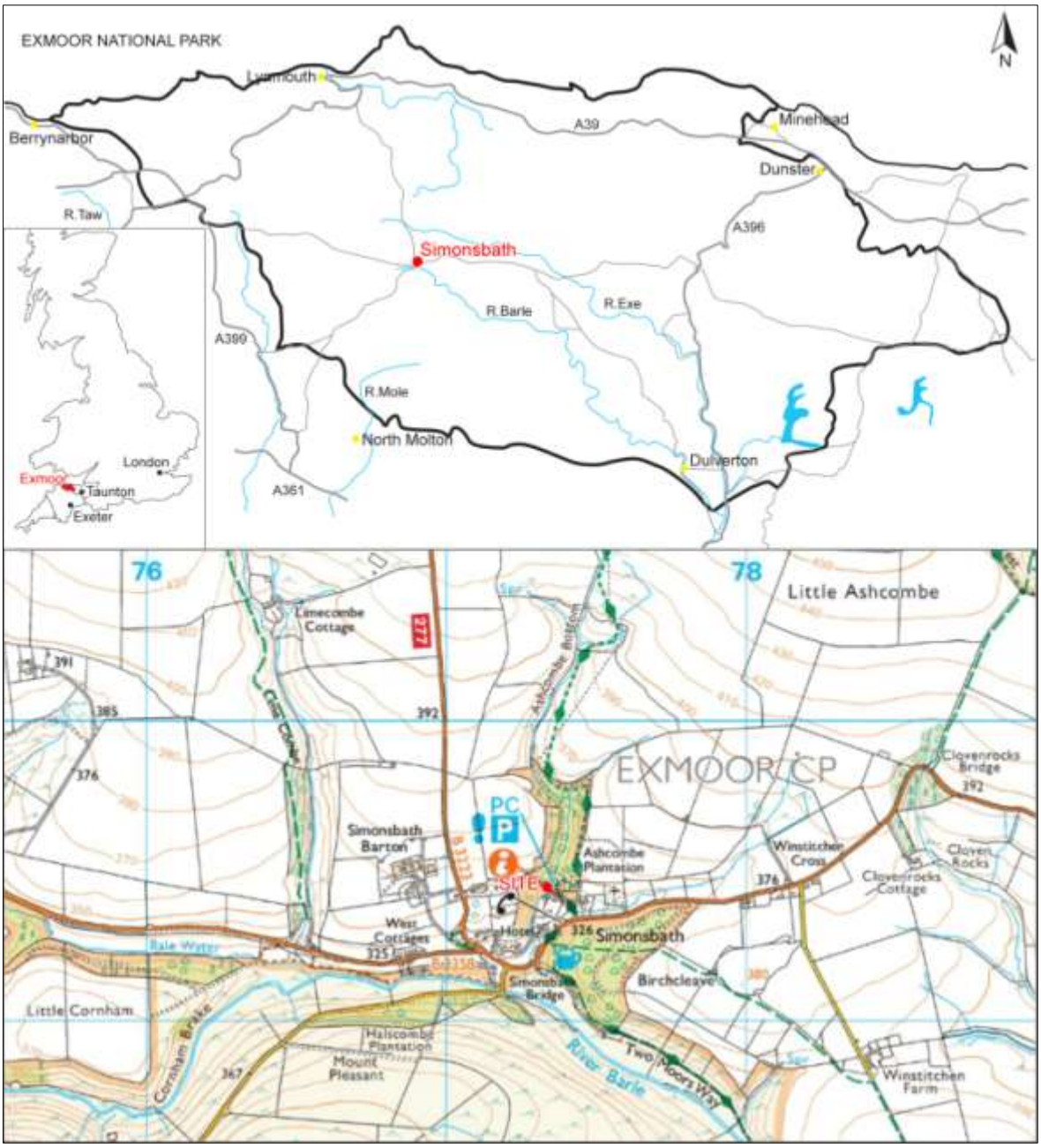

FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

2.1 INTRODUCTION

It is clear that the landscape at Ashcombe were manipulated for visual effect, and we know that John Knight and his extended family were strong proponents of the Picturesque aesthetic ideal. In the absence of clear documentary evidence we are reliant on the later historic OS maps, our understanding of Picturesque sensibilities, and the physical evidence, to reconstruct the form and layout of the gardens that were undoubtedly laid out in association with the Knight mansion. This programme of fieldwork was undertaken in order to identify, investigate and record features within Ashcombe Gardens that could be associated with the layout of the Gardens as depicted on the historic Ordnance Survey maps, identified by the various non-intrusive surveys undertaken, or as suggested by the layout of the Garden itself. This work was also designed to interrogate the features identified, to better understand form and build, so that should plans be made to restore these features, the reconstructions can be as faithful as possible. This phase of work did entail the full excavation of these features. The work was undertaken by professional archaeologists working with volunteers; community engagement also included an open day and school visit.

Six evaluation trenches, totalling 20.55m in length, were excavated by hand. The six trenches revealed: a pathway, a retaining wall/curb, a wall and geological variation indicative of both natural and possible man-made processes. Trench 1 exposed the side of a possible relict river channel. Trench 2 revealed a footpath flanked by stone-lined gutters. Trenches 3 and 4 revealed deep river gravel and stony deposits. Trench 5 revealed a wall to curb to a path. Trench 6 exposed the base of the garden wall along the north-east side of the site. What follows is a summary of the results; detailed context descriptions can be found in Appendix 1, the finds list in Appendix 2, and the photographic archive in Appendix 4.

2.2 SITE INSPECTION

The site is divisible into two main parts: the gently-sloping lower meadow located in the bend of the Ashcombe Stream, and the steep wooded slopes above. The grass of the meadow had been cut short and earthworks associated with the paths shown on the historic mapping were visible. Stony piles were observed in the eastern part of the meadow that were not associated with the white quartz rock outcrops. The Ashcombe stream that runs to the east and south was canalised with well-built walls of pitched slatestone, though long sections have been lost, presumably in 1952. Along the eastern and southern side of the Ashcombe stream, White Rock Cottage and its associated boundaries survived as depicted on the OS maps. These walls were built of pitched slatestone *c.*1.0m to c.1.50m in height. The bed of the stream was made up primarily of shale gravels and exposed bedrock, but fragments of possibly non-local grey sandstone were noted the streambed immediately below the location of one of the lost bridges, to the north-eastern side of the meadow.

A wide path or terrace runs along the contour within the wooded slopes to the south. This was largely clear of vegetation, with areas of moss growing on presumed stone/rocky outcrops (possibly associated with a wall and the boundary under investigation, below). Box (*Buxus*) plants were noted sporadically along the path and they may have continued beyond. These plants may have been planted to line a path or bind a bank. The north-eastern end of this path appears to terminate at the remains of the north-east boundary wall of the garden; at this point the path widens to form a possible platform, level but slightly raised relative to the approach. Just to the south-west of this platform there is a well-defined berm described as possible up-cast from a robbed-out boundary wall (Riley 2014); however, it may in fact be the wall itself. The least ruinous section of wall along the north-east boundary of the garden was located next to the possible

platform. A section of wall c.3m long was visible under a shallow layer of earth, roots and moss, with a further 1-2m visible beneath a thick layer of moss and foliage to the north-west, where it turned at a right-angle to align with a visible ridge of moss-covered rock.

2.3 DEPOSIT MODEL

Not unexpectedly, the natural stratigraphy of the site varied between the six evaluation trenches. Weathered deposits of slate/shale, derived gravels and coarse gritty yellowish clays were present in all of the trenches opened in the meadow. These deposits represent the undisturbed natural substrate across the site. However, given the limitations of this programme of fieldwork and the paucity of finds, it is entirely possible these deposits have been reworked/move, either by human agency or by historic variation in the flow of the Ashcombe stream. Trenches 3 and 4 exposed very loose deposits of clean shale gravel with occasional larger stones. In Trenches 5 and 6 the slopes of the valley featured deep deposits of weathered subsoil and bedrock was not reached.

2.4 RESULTS

2.4.1 TRENCH 1

Trench 1 (4.10m long × 0.60m wide), aligned approximately north-east by south-west, was located in the south of the garden to target the path depicted on the 1889 OS map. It was located close to the river bank in order to confirm the location of a bridge destroyed in the flood of 1952. The trench exposed geological deposits of river clays and a weathered band of stone that was overlaid by a made-ground of re-deposited garden soil (101). See Figures 2, 8 and 12. No archaeological features appeared to be present. However, based on the results from Trench 2 it is likely the natural material encountered to the west end of the trench formed the solid base of the path shown on the historic OS maps. Layer (101) contained three sherds of post-medieval and modern pottery and very small fragments of coke and anthracite.

FIGURE 2: TRENCH 1; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (2M SCALE).

2.4.2 TRENCH 2

Trench 2 (5m long × 1m wide), aligned approximately north-south, was located to the middle-north part of the meadow and targeted the footpath shown on the historic OS maps. It was visible as an earthwork on the ground. The trench contained Footpath [203]. See Figures 3, 9 and

12. Footpath [203] consisted of a patchy linear spread of (mainly quartz) gravel (204) 1.74m wide with a pronounced camber, flanked by shallow concave gullies, each roughly lined with the local slate stone (205) and (206). All of the deposits that constitute the path appeared to be pressed directly into the natural substrate, which appeared compacted through use. Given that the line of the path is marked by a fairly distinct earthwork it is probable that the natural material is redeposited and was deliberately formed to provide a solid base. That being the case, the natural in Trench 1 probably performs a similar function. Topsoil (200) contained a modern corroded iron tool; a sample of angular quartz was taken from path layer (204).

FIGURE 3: PATH [203]; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (1M SCALE).

2.4.3 TRENCH 3

Trench 3 (2.5m long × 0.50m wide), aligned approximately north-south, was located on the eastern side of the meadow to target the path where it may have crossed the Ashcombe stream. It was an extension of the area targeted by Trench 4 and revealed the same stratigraphy. It contained geological deposits of river gravels and large stones that may have accumulated over time or been removed from the water channel and used to expand and level the gardens. Some of the larger stones may be from the demolished bridge. Modern finds were recovered from the topsoil. See Figures 10 and 12. No archaeological features or finds were present, including any evidence of a path.

2.4.4 TRENCH 4

Trench 4 (4m long × 0.60m wide), aligned approximately north-south, was located on the eastern side of the garden to target where the path may have crossed the Ashcombe stream. It contained geological deposits of river gravels and large stones that may have accumulated over time or been removed from the water channel and used to expand and level the gardens. Some of the larger stones may be from the demolished bridge. A modern black alkathene water pipe, aligned approximately north-south, ran along the eastern half of the trench. See Figures 4, 10 and 12. No archaeological features were present, including any evidence of a path. Topsoil (400) contained a small amount of modern debris and ceramic building material.

FIGURE 4: TRENCH 4, POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (2M SCALE).

FIGURE 5: WALL {504}; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (1M SCALE).

2.4.5 **TRENCH 5**

Trench 5 (3.10m long × 0.60m wide), aligned approximately north-west by south-east, was located within the woodland to the north of the meadow. It targeted an area where a terrace widened to form a possible platform. Excavation revealed a retaining wall/revetment of pitched slatestone, {504}, which may have also functioned as the curb to a path. See Figures 5, 11 and 12. Only the top of wall {504} was visible prior to excavation, but two courses (c.0.44m) of pitched slatestone were revealed in Trench 5. It is possible it functioned as a retaining wall – and the pitched stonework is similar to both wall {603) and the sides of the leat located to the north – or as the

curb to a path. However, only the top of this wall was visible prior to its excavation, and it is located 0.5-1.0m back from the edge of the terrace, rendering both interpretations suspect. The most plausible explanation is that the terrace was created or widened sometime after the wall was constructed. No finds were recovered from this trench.

2.4.6 TRENCH 6

Trench 6 (1.85m long × 0.75m wide), aligned approximately north-east by south-west, was located across a surviving segment of boundary wall at the northern end of the Gardens. In addition, a 2.85m length of the surviving wall, {603}, was cleaned back in order to examine its build. Excavation revealed a single course of pitched and flat laid stones at the approximate depth of the topsoil, with no discernible construction cut or bond. See Figures 6, 7, 11 and 12. Wall {603} was approximately 0.90m wide and comprised a single course (*c.*0.26m) of slatestone. It overlay a subsoil of weathered natural and there was no discernible construction cut; however, bioturbation of the topsoil and subsoil, and the insubstantial nature of the wall itself, may have obscured a clear construction cut. The stones of the upper section of wall tilt downslope at a 45° angle, but were presumably vertical when first built. The stones of the lower section of wall were laid horizontally; it is possible these stones were also once vertical, but it is more likely they were laid flat for stability. No finds were present.

FIGURE 6: WALL {603}; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (2M SCALE).

FIGURE 7: WALL {603}; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (1M SCALE).

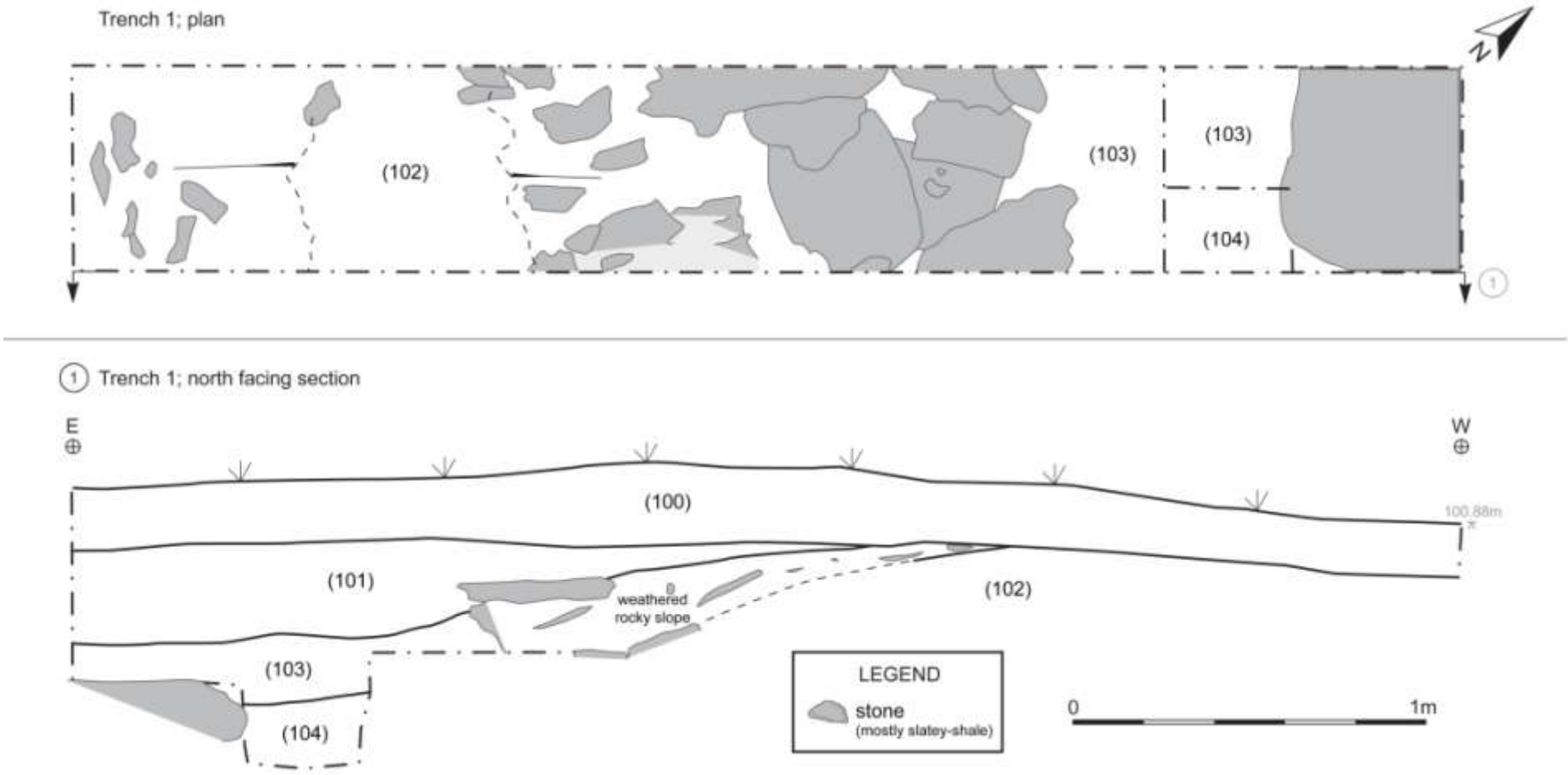

FIGURE 8: TRENCH 1 PLAN AND SECTION DRAWINGS.

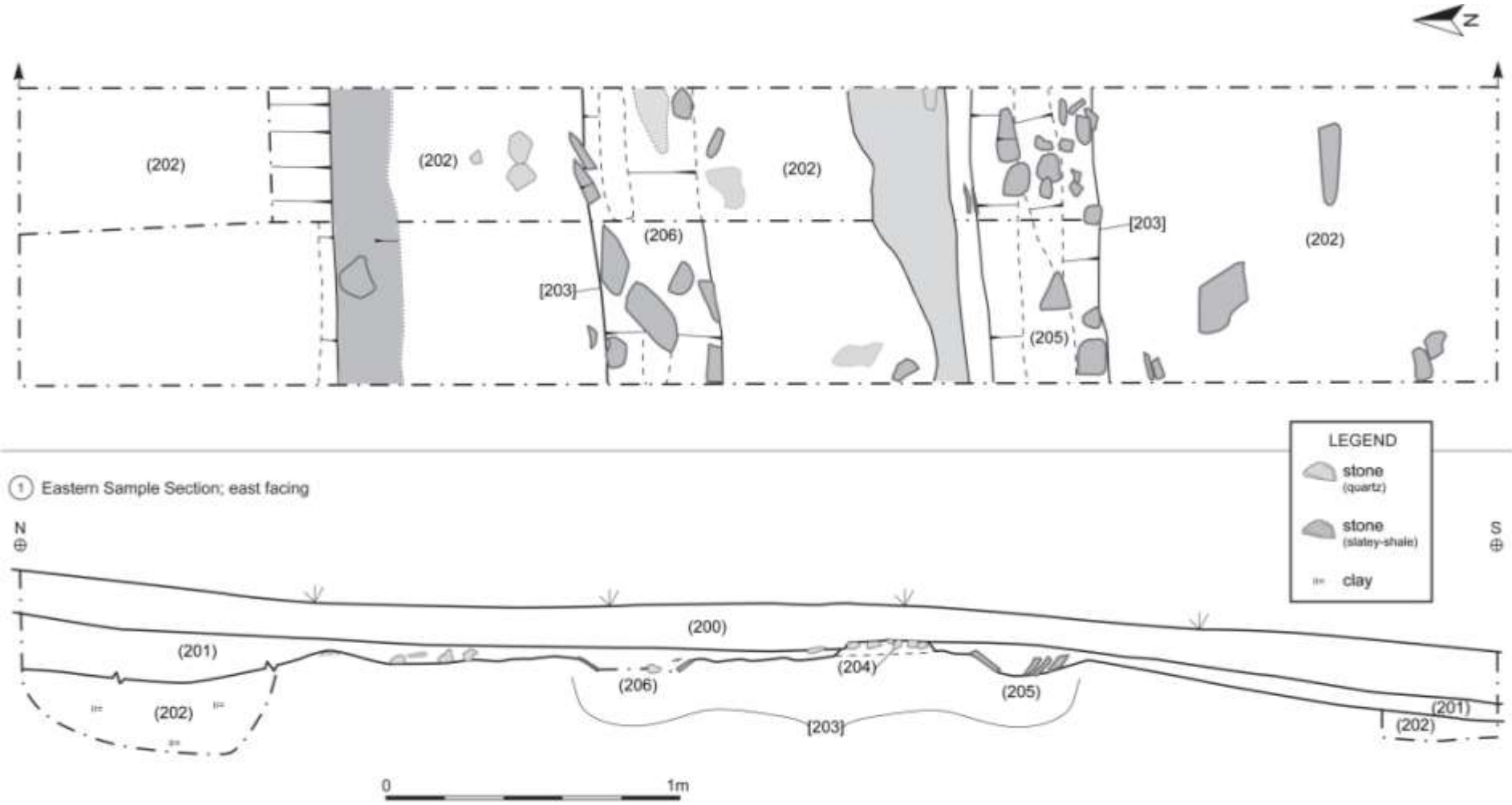

FIGURE 9: TRENCH 2 PLAN AND SECTION DRAWINGS.

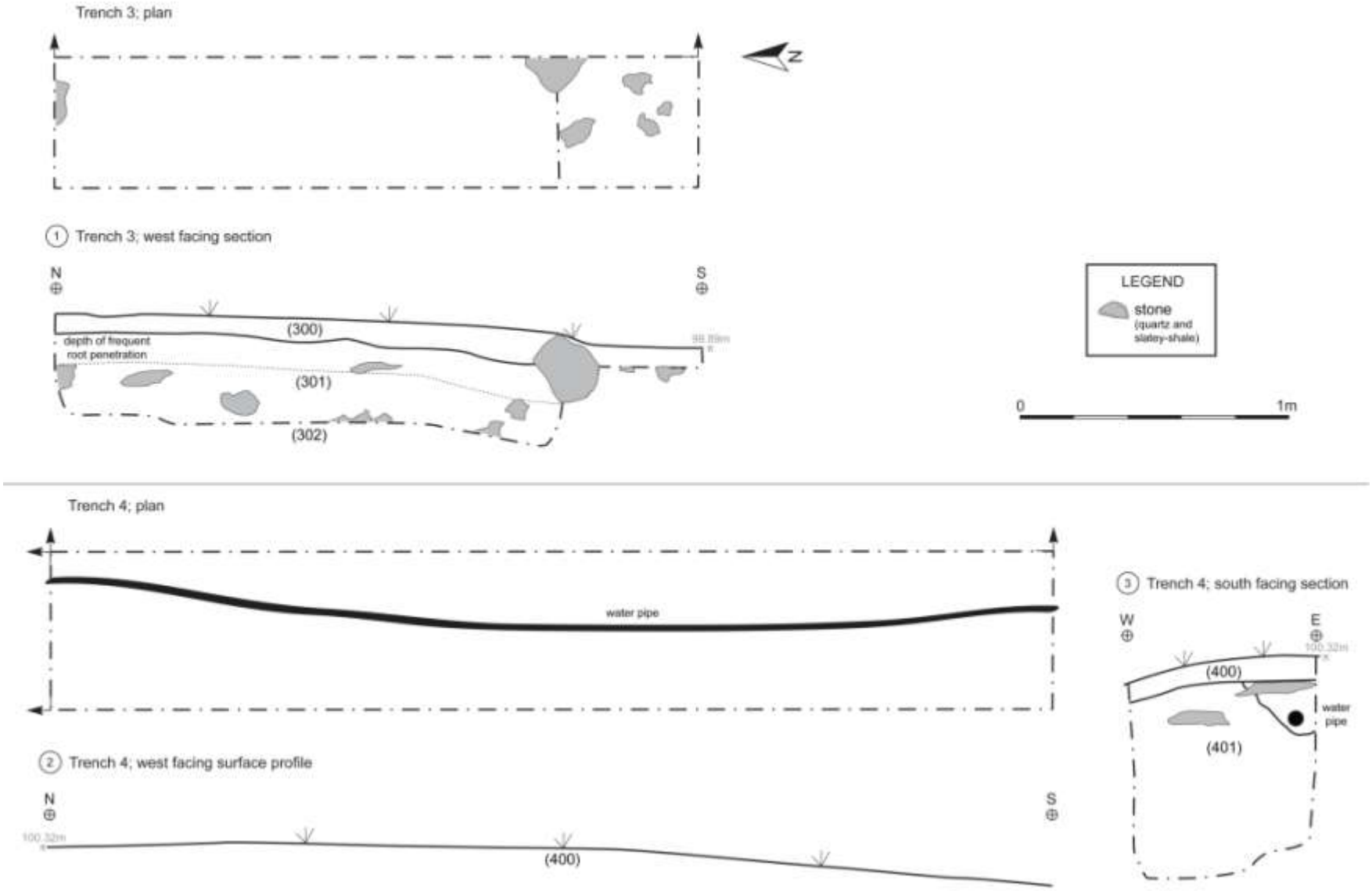

FIGURE 10: TRENCHES 3 AND 4 PLAN AND SECTION DRAWINGS.

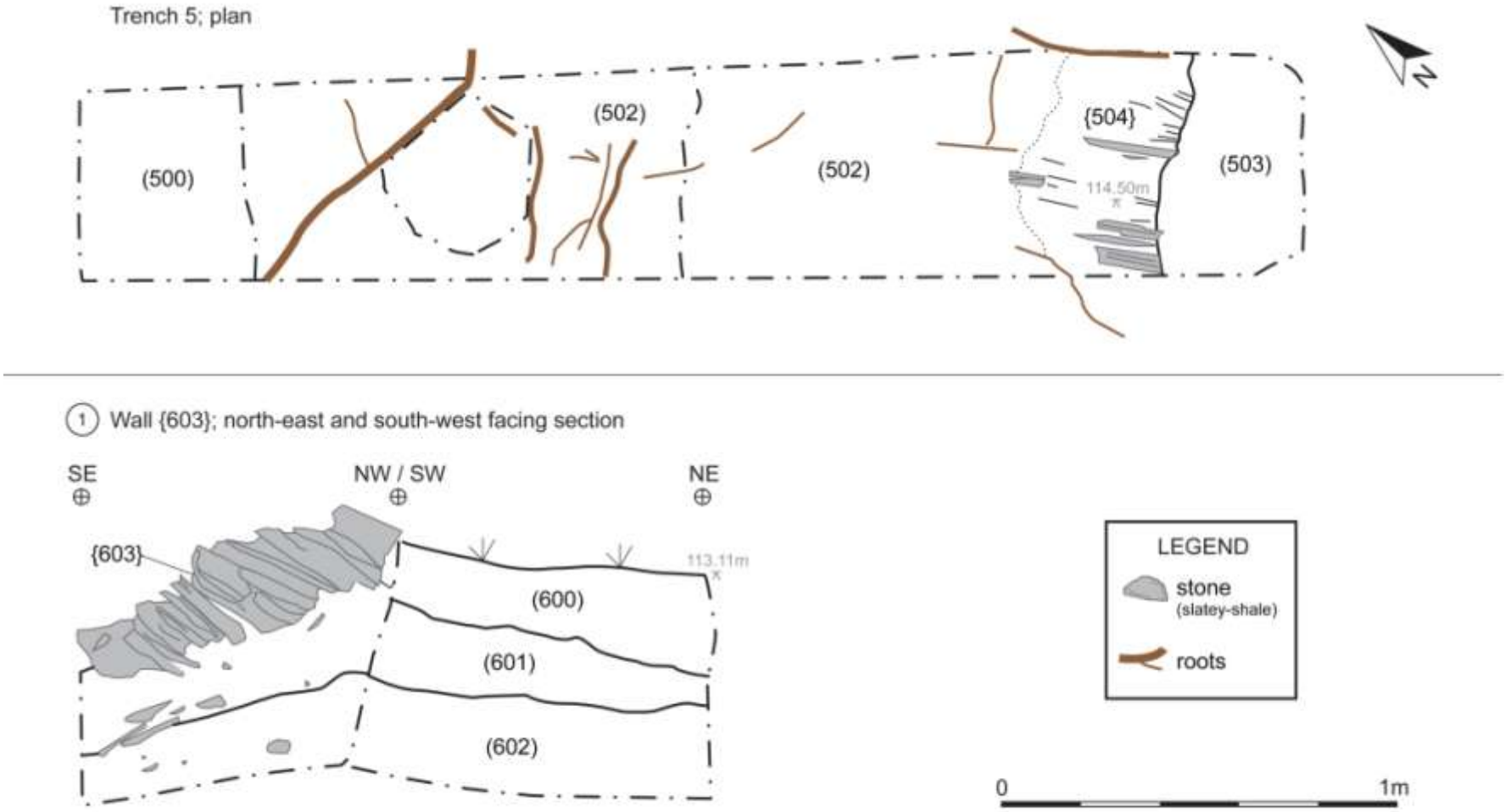

FIGURE 11: TRENCH 5 PLAN AND TRENCH 6 SECTION DRAWING.

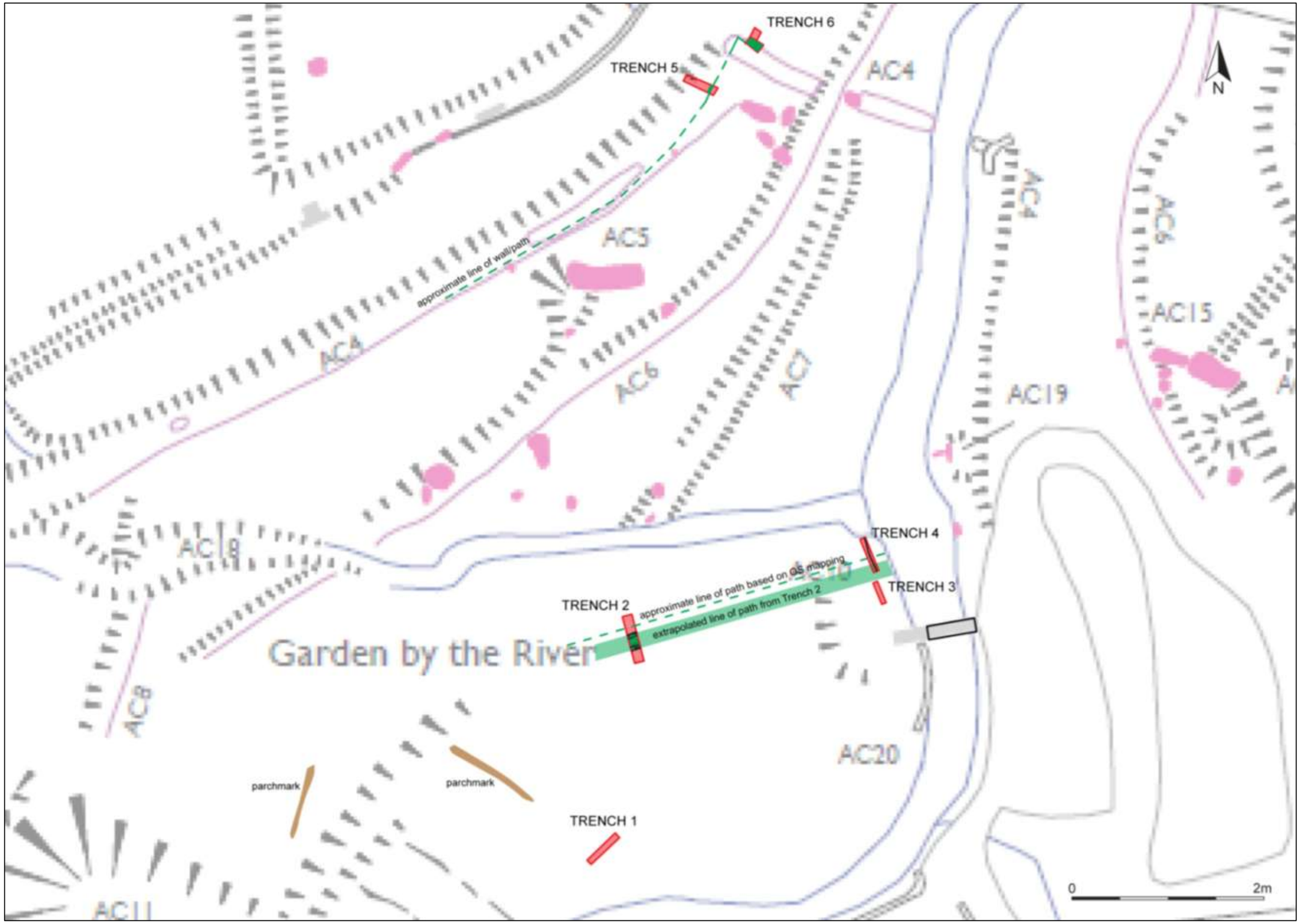

FIGURE 12: TRENCH LOCATION PLAN OVER METRIC SURVEY (SOURCE OF SURVEY: RILEY 2014).

2.5 FINDS

A very small number of finds were recovered during the excavation. This is somewhat surprising given the location of the site relative to adjacent domestic residences, and the more recent use of the site as public open space. It may, however, simply reflect the total area investigated. The made ground (101) in Trench 1, a buried or redeposited topsoil, did contain a small number of the usual finds, including coke, brick and flowerpot. The only other trenches from which finds were recovered (Trenches 2 and 4) produced a small amount of modern debris from the topsoil. A full finds list can be seen in Appendix 2.

A sample of the quartz stone from path layer (204) in Trench 2 was retained. These stones were relatively angular, perhaps suggesting that the path had not been well used, or that they comprised only the surviving coarse basal layer. The use of quartz in this way is in keeping with the theme of 'white rocks' in Ashcombe gardens (*White Rock* Cottage, the large exposed quartz boulders on the slopes of the valley etc.). Comparisons can be drawn with Mariamne's Garden at Hafod Uchtryd in Wales (NPRN 5584; Poucher 2007) as John Knight was a cousin to Thomas Johnes of Hafod, although it is not known if he ever visited.

3.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

3.1 DISCUSSION

The archaeological evaluation clarified some aspects of the garden at Ashcombe. The main footpath leading from Simonsbath House across the meadow was located and its form and build established. The location and build of the wall that once formed the north-eastern boundary of the site was also determined. The precise location of the paths crossing Ashcombe stream, and therefore the site of the bridge abutments, was not established. It is possible the path here was damaged or swept away in 1952, and the deposits encountered in Trenches 3 and 4 were all clean shale gravels. The 'natural' encountered in Trench 1 may represent the solid base of the path here, but this was not confirmed. Images and photographs in support of the following discussion can be found in Appendices 3 and 4.

3.1.1 THE GARDEN PATHS

Trench 1 was located to target the south path where it approached a bridge over the Ashcombe stream. No clear evidence of the path was encountered but, as discussed, the natural substrate encountered just below the topsoil in this trench could have be redeposited and may have formed the solid base to a cambered path. Attempts to reconcile the historic and modern maps with the topographic and geophysical surveys have proved surprisingly difficult, introducing some uncertainty to the precise location of the paths. Ultimately, the trench was too small to validate the original hypothesis.

Trenches 3 and 4 were located to target the main path as it approached the other bridge across the Ashcombe stream. Both trenches exposed deposits of clean water-borne slate fragments but no trace of the path. It is possible that at this location, close to where the Ashcombe Stream discharges from its narrow, steep-sided valley, the path was entirely swept away in 1952. Alternatively, we should consider the possibility the path was *buried*. After all, it is not clear whether the bed of the stream here is at the same level as it was in 1951 or even 1851.

The main path survives as a clear earthwork across the western part of the meadow and was identified and excavated in Trench 2. The path proved to be 1.74m wide and slightly cambered, with narrow gullies to each side. The remains of a coarse gravelled surface survived (*hoggin*), most of which proved to be quartz. The gravel appeared to be pressed directly into the compacted natural substrate. However, as the path survives as an earthwork to the west there must be a strong suspicion that this material is redeposited and deliberately formed to create a solid base to the path. The appearance of parchmarks along the line of the paths during the long dry summer would support that interpretation. The use of quartz gravel is entirely in keeping with overall aesthetic of the garden. Large quartz boulders were excavated and exposed to view on the slopes above the meadow, and quartz does seem to have been employed elsewhere as a decorative element (e.g. *White Rocks Cottage*). The use of quartz for the path supports the interpretation of this space as a designed picturesque garden, and has some parallels in other gardens of a similar age. Mariamne's garden (est. 1795-96) at Hafod Uchtryd included paths of quartz gravel (Poucher 2007), and her father Thomas Johnes was a cousin to John Knight.

3.1.2 THE NORTH-EAST BOUNDARY WALL

The remains of the north-east boundary wall proved highly ephemeral. With the caveat that very little survives, excavation of the wall would imply it comprised sections of pitched and laid stonework. Examples of both are to be found around the Garden, though walls of pitched stone are usually more substantial as they tend to be stone-faced banks rather than freestanding walls *per se*. The wall appears on the historic OS maps and locals recall an integral arch over the

Ashcombe stream prior to 1952. The section of wall selected for investigation appeared to be the most complete, but very little material associated with a collapsed stone wall was encountered. It is curious that if this wall constituted a meaningful boundary (i.e. it stood 1-1.5m high and could control the movement of people and animals), where has all the stone gone?

3.1.3 THE UPPER TERRACE

Trench 5 targeted the north-eastern end of a broad terrace c.2m wide that terminates just short of the north-east wall. This location was investigated on the basis that it provided an excellent vantage point overlooking the Garden, and traces of a seat or prospect might survive. The trench excavated here revealed a surprising depth of material and exposed two courses (0.44m) of a wall of pitched stone. The top of this wall was visible on the surface, and could be traced back along the terrace to the south-west. This structure most readily lends itself to interpretation as a retaining wall to the terrace and/or path. However, it is located towards the *middle* of the terrace, not its edge. This would strongly imply the terrace as it currently exists is the product of more than one phase of construction and use.

The terrace in its current form is fairly broad and clearly did fulfil a function as a walkway and viewing platform. However, 15m to the north of the terrace runs a defunct leat contained on its downslope side by a narrow wall of pitched stone; this leat is connected to a (mill)pond that later fed a sawmill in the valley below. 15m to the south of the upper terrace is a lower terrace/path that also follows the contour, and traces of a stone retaining wall or curb may also be observed. These three parallel earthworks are clearly visible on LiDAR imagery (see Figure 13), and the question naturally arises: were they all conceived and built in a single operation, or is the apparent coherence of plan no more than the fortuitous juxtaposition of unrelated elements built at different times for different purposes?

The lack of clear documentation makes it very difficult to understand how and why the Garden was developed. John Knight engaged no landscape architects on his behalf, and understanding of his intentions remains tentative; however, the documentary evidence makes it clear that as soon as he took possession of the estate he immediately initiated a series of very ambitious projects. One constant is that the work undertaken by and for John Knight appears to have been part of an evolving scheme, and that his vision for Simonsbath could be fluid and adaptive.

A prosaic, functional explanation of these features would suggest all three were planned and built in a single phase, and readily identify them as contour leats. The Knights were deeply involved in the reclamation and improvement of the Moor, and water management was a key element of their plans: draining the moor and creating catchwater meadows to facilitate the early growth of spring grass. Emmett's Grange, one of the Knight's principal new farms, features a comprehensive network of leats linked to a reservoir fed by the local stream and was the subject of a prize-winning essay by its architect Robert Smith (1856). The broad, open hillside to the east of Ashcombe features at least five (widely-spaced) contour leats. For this explanation to work, the features in the Garden would need to date to the earliest phase of works at Simonsbath, and were later re-purposed as garden features. A clear problem with this explanation is that Robert Smith was at Emmett's Grange from the 1840s under Frederic Knight, and if we assume the Garden was conceived and laid out by John Knight it would predate this later emphasis on water management. In addition, higher up Ashcombe Water the leat is terraced into and around a rocky tor and concealed beneath stone slabs to present the very Picturesque image of a spring bursting forth from among the rocks.

The interpretation of the leat is key to the alternative interpretation. The HER entry (MEM23036) for the leat states: *this leat is said to have provided Simonsbath House and most of the village with a water supply until the relatively recent installation of a borehole… The leat may have origins in the 17th or 18th century as a reliable water supply to Simonsbath Farm*. This explanation is open to

question, as the effort to create and maintain reliable water supplies were usually reserved for mills, mines and designed landscapes. Water for domestic purposes could more readily be obtained from wells or the Ashcombe stream, and the line of the leat between the Gardens and Simonsbath House is open to debate. However, it is possible water brought to the Gardens by the leat may have served a direct aesthetic purpose here. At Hestercombe in Somerset a stream descends via a series of cascades ornamented with quartz (the *Valley of Cascades*, as documented by Edward Knight in 1761), and a similar feature – albeit on a *much* smaller scale – was noted at Emmett's Grange (Feature 133). Therefore it is *possible* water was redirected through the gardens from the upper leat to achieve a Picturesque result (the leat was redirected through down into the meadow at some point between 1888 and 1902).

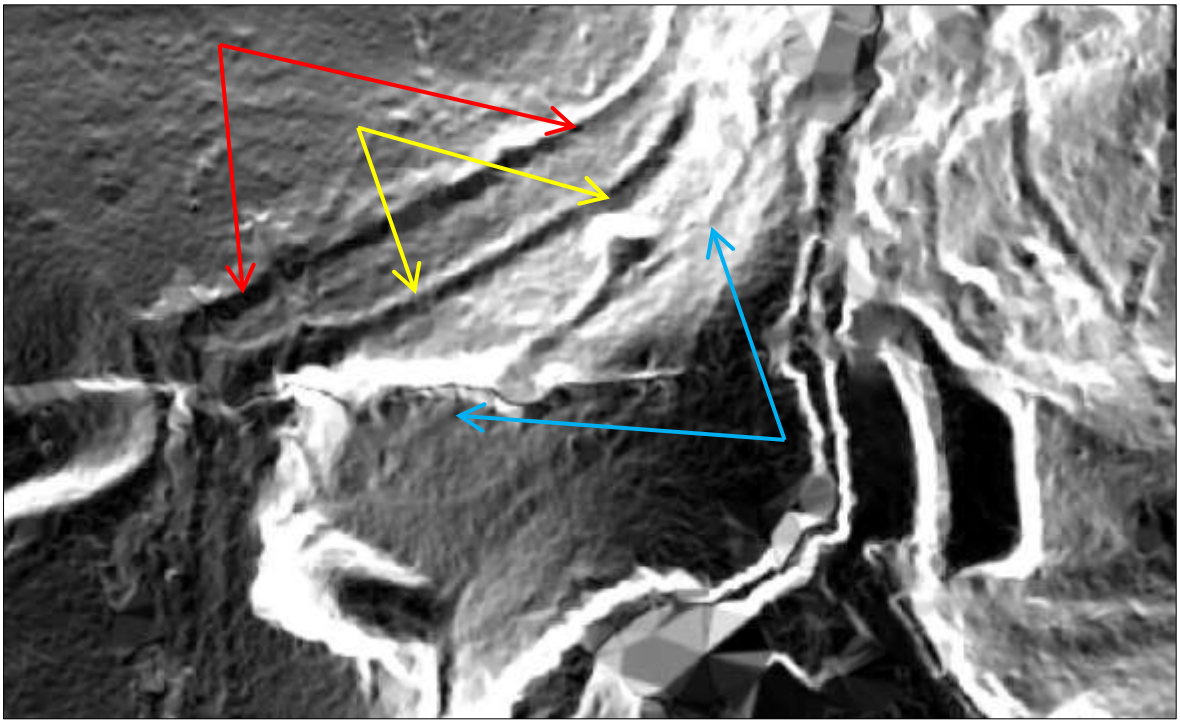

FIGURE 13: LIDAR IMAGE OF THE GARDEN. THE LEAT ABOVE THE UPPER TERRACE IS INDICATED BY THE RED ARROWS; THE UPPER TERRACE IS INDICATED BY THE YELLOW ARROWS; THE LOWER TERRACE/PATH IS INDICATED BY THE BLUE ARROWS. THE LIDAR DATA USED IS FREELY AVAILABLE DATA SUPPLIED BY NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL (CENTRE FOR ECOLOGY & HYDROLOGY; BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY; BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY); ©NERC (CENTRE FOR ECOLOGY & HYDROLOGY; BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY; BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY).

These two interpretations are not mutually-exclusive, and it is quite feasible that the same features served both functional and aesthetic purposes. Indeed, it is plausible that the Fortescues were responsible for some of the alterations to this landscape, and analogies could, for instance, be made with the ornamented woodland walks along the valley to the west of the Castle Hill at Filleigh.

3.1.4 FURTHER QUESTIONS AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

This limited programme of investigation has explored the build and character of some of the features around Ashcombe Gardens, but the scale of the intervention has inevitably raised as many questions as it has answered. A non-exhaustive list of additional works here should include:

1. Fully excavate a section across the wall of pitched stone on the upper terrace to determine whether this was a retaining wall, a leat wall, or some other feature;
2. Excavate a section across the leat to the north to compare to the upper terrace;
3. Excavate a section across the lower terrace/path to compare to the upper terrace;
4. Extend Trench 1 to determine if the natural substrate does indeed form the makeup of a path;

5. Excavate a deep test pit close to the north-east corner of the meadow to determine whether the historic levels are sealed by c.1952 alluvial gravels;
6. Examine the stone in the river adjacent to the bridges lost in 1952 to search for non-local stone that may have belonged to the bridges/abutments;
7. Assess water management and control across the whole settlement in order to determine the role and relative importance of the leat to the Gardens and the House.

3.2 CONCLUSION

The most important outcome of this phase of investigation was to determine the location and form of the main path crossing the meadow and demonstrate the use of quartz gravels to its build. No trace or a seat or vantage was identified in Trench 5. The other trenches have proven less conclusive and have raised more (different) questions. It is possible the natural substrate encountered in Trench 1 formed the base layer to a path similar to that exposed in Trench 2. No trace of the main path was located in Trenches 3 and 4. The evidence for the boundary wall revealed in Trench 6 is equivocal about the character of its build. One clear success for the project was the level of public engagement. An open morning was held on the 27th June, and tours of the garden and White Rock Cottage attracted c.70 visitors. Pupils from St Dubricius School in Porlock took part in a series of activities including excavation.

Another significant outcome for the project has been the realisation that the Gardens are more complex than previously appreciated, and that the upper terrace (and perhaps also the lower terrace/path) are multi-phase structures. As originally conceived, these structures may have been purely functional or purely aesthetic, successively one then the other, or both from the outset. Further work on the leat, its associated water-capture system, and the role of water management across the whole settlement, would be of use here.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT LIST

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION		RELATIONSHIPS	DEPTH/ THICKNESS	SPOT DATE
TRENCH 1					
(100)	*Topsoil*	Mid brown-grey, friable clay-silt with frequent gravel and roots	Overlaid (101)	<0.24m	C19-C20
(101)	*Made-Ground*	Mid-dark grey brown, friable clay-silt loam with moderate roots and occasional coal	Overlaid (102)(103); Overlain by (100)	<0.28m	C19-C20
(102)	*Natural?*	Mid-light yellow brown, weathered shillet	Abutted by (103); Overlain by (101)	Below 0.24m+	-
(103)	*Natural?*	Light yellow grey, soft-firm sandy-clay	Abutted (102); Overlaid (104); Overlain by (101)	*c.*0.19m	-
(104)	*Natural?*	Light brown yellow, soft clay with very large water worn stone slab (reddish quartz)	Overlain by (103)	0.19m+	-
TRENCH 2					
(200)	*Topsoil*	Mid brown-grey, friable clay-silt with occasional slate stones and roots	Overlaid (201)	0.11-0.17m	C19-C20
(201)	*Subsoil*	Mid brown-grey, friable clay-silt, frequent angular slatey stone and occasional stone and quartz stones (0.05-0.08m dia.), finds included a fragment of brick (CBM)	Overlaid (204)(205)(206); Overlain by (200)	0.04-0.18m	C19-C20
(202)	*Natural*	Patchy light yellow-brown sandy-clay and shillet fragment over bands of light-mid yellow-grey sandy-clay with gravel. The soft north end may equate to weathering, a river deposit or feature. The south end the natural became gradually more convincing, indicating a depth of weathering of up to *c.*0.33m	Cut by [103]	Below 0.18-0.24m	-
[203]	*Cut of path*	Linear feature aligned approximately east-west, 1.74m wide; moderate concave gullies on either flank with a flat surface between	Cut (202); Contained (204)(205)(206)	<0.10m	C19-C20
(204)	*Fill of path*	Patchy surface to path proper; quartz stones, *c.*0.05m dia. surviving intermittently, particularly in a 0.20m band along the south side of the path, pressed directly into weathered shillet-clay natural	Fill of [203]; Abutted (205)(206); Overlain by (201)	<0.05m	C19-C20
(205)	*Fill of path*	Slate lining to gully/gutter along the south side of the path, flat stones laid at opposing *c.*45° angles to line concave gutter, stones *c.*0.02×0.15m across, gully then filled with Subsoil (201) and brick fragment recovered from in this gully	Fill of [203]; Abutted (204); Overlain by (201)	0.02-0.06m	C19-C20
(206)	*Fill of path*	Slate lining to gully/gutter along the north side of the path, flat stones laid at opposing *c.*45° angles to line concave gutter, stones *c.*0.02×0.10-0.23m across, gully then filled with Subsoil (201)	Fill of [203]; Abutted (204); Overlain by (201)	0.02-0.06m	C19-C20
TRENCH 3					
(300)	*Topsoil*	Mid brown-grey, friable clay-silt with frequent gravel and roots	Overlaid (301)	0.05-0.13m	C19-C20
(301)	*Subsoil*	Mid brown-grey, loose clay-gravel (a little loamy mixed in) with very frequent sub-angular stones including ×1 <0.45×0.25×0.20m dia., a possible shaped stone and quartz fragments	Overlaid (302); Overlain by (300)	*c.*0.30m	-
(302)	*Subsoil*	Mid brown-grey, loose clay-gravel (a little loamy mixed in) with frequent medium sub-angular stones (<*c.*0.15m dia.). Possibly same as (301) with variable stone inclusions	Overlain by (301)	Below 0.38m	-
TRENCH 4					
(400)	*Topsoil*	Mid brown-grey, friable clay-silt with frequent gravel and roots	Overlaid (401)	0.07-0.10m	C19-C20
(401)	*Subsoil*	Mid brown-grey, loose clay-gravel (a little loamy mixed in) with frequent medium sub-angular stones (<*c.*0.15m dia.), up to 0.80m+ deep from ground level	Overlain by (400); equated to (301)(302)	Below*c.*0.10m	-
TRENCH 5					
(500)	*Topsoil*	Mid brown-grey, friable sandy-silt (loam), bound with frequent roots and containing frequent slate rocks and fragments, located in the north-west end of the trench forming the bank along this edge of the path and partially overlaying the path	Overlaid (501)	*c.*0.12m	C19-C20
(501)	*Path surface*	Mid grey brown friable silt and broken fragments of shale rock pressed into the ground at various angles, with patches of stone on a perpendicular alignment to the path, includes mossy patches over stone	Overlaid (502){504}; Overlain by (500)	0.01m	C19-C20
(502)	*Layer*	Mid yellow-grey brown silty-clay stone deposit, firm-friable, mostly comprised of broken fragments	Overlain by (501); Cut by or Abutting	0.80+m	-

		of shale rock, with soil and occasional voids, at various angles, with patches apparently laid one atop another but also on their sides, possibly a weathered natural severely shifted by rooting or the infill of a leat structure?, *c.*0.80m+ deep	{504}		
(503)	*2nd Topsoil*	Mid grey-brown, friable sandy-silt (loam) with very frequent angular stones, built-up along the south-east side of Wall {504}	Abutting {504}	*c.*0.40m+	C19-C20
{504}	*Wall*	Linear wall aligned approximately north-west by south-east, no discernible construction cut; two courses of slate stone deep, 0.44m+, pitched	Overlain by (501); Cut or Abutted by (502); Abutted by (503)	0.40m+	C19-C20
TRENCH 5					
(600)	*Topsoil*	Mid brown-grey, friable sandy-silt (loam), bound with frequent roots and containing frequent slatey-shale rocks and fragments	Cut by {603}	*c.*0.23m	C19-C20
(601)	*Subsoil*	Light brown yellow, friable sandy-clay root disturbed and weathered natural	Overlaid (602); Overlain by {603}	*c.*0.17m	-
(602)	*Natural*	Light brown yellow, soft sandy clay and solid rock	Overlain by (601)	Below *c.*0.39	-
{603}	*Wall*	Wall aligned approximately north-west by south-east, *c.*0.90m wide, a single course of slate stone ostensibly pitched and then fallen atop each other down slope post the destruction of the wall further down slope, approximately 2.85m of the terminus of the wall was cleared of moss and cleaned back revealing that some courses of the stone lower down slope may have been laid flat...or have fallen flat over time, no bonding was present between the stones, no discernible construction cut, this may have been obscured by bioturbation, particularly considering that it appears that the topsoil was cleared and then the wall built without deeper foundations, the subsoil it overlies is probably a form of weathered natural, the south-west side of the wall may have been dug away for steps, but soil creep and bioturbation/erosion has obscured and probably destroyed most of the evidence.	Cut (600)	*c.*0.26m	C19-C20

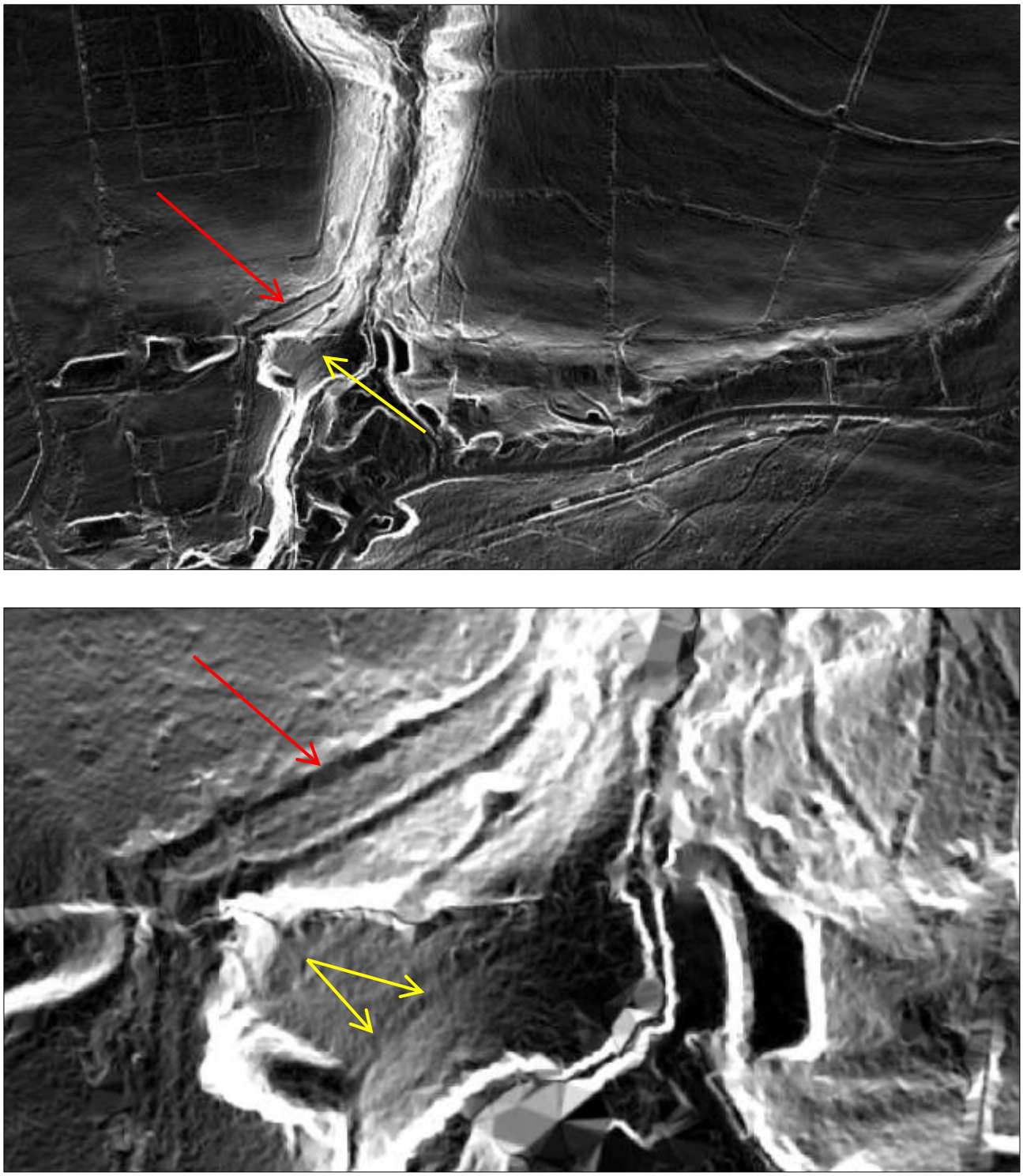
APPENDIX 2: FINDS CONCORDANCE

Context	Notes	Frags.	Wgt. (g)	Notes
(101)	TR1	2	3	Anthracite
		2	1	Coke
		1	20	Ceramic Building Material (CBM), poorly made brick
		1	4	Tile/flower pot
		1	4	Post-medieval, redware, 18th-19th century
(200)	TR2 Topsoil	1	143	Fe 'tractor tool', 'T' shaped tool with two spanners and a screwdriver, light corrosion
(204)	TR2 Path	4	575	Sample of quartz stones, angular, *c.*5cm diameter, possible lower coarse layer?
(400)	TR4 Topsoil	1	<1	Ring pull
		1	<1	Plastic wrapper (ice pole-/tube top?)
		1	<1	CBM

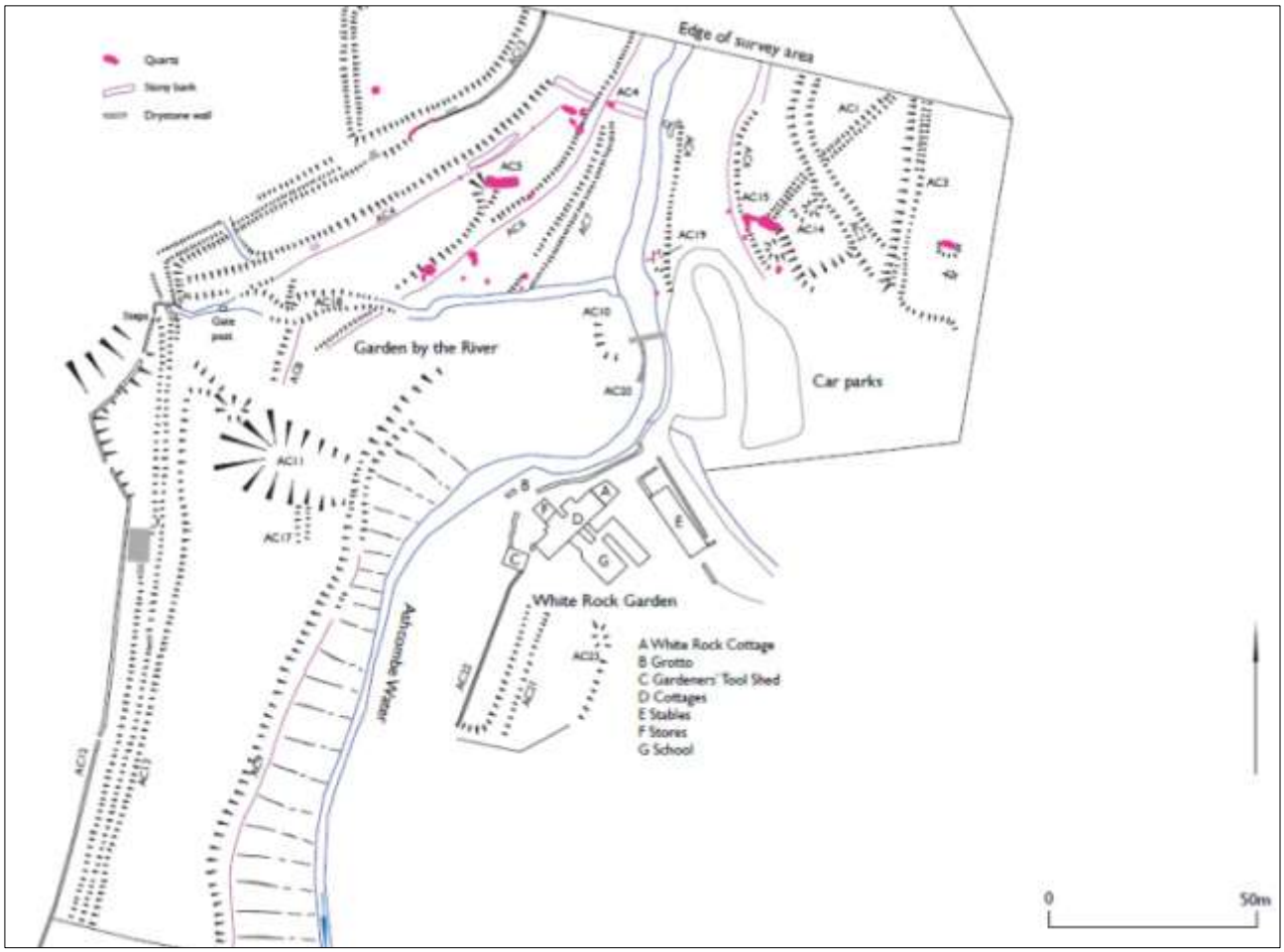
APPENDIX 3: SUPPORTING IMAGES

EXTRACT FROM THE OS SURVEYOR'S DRAFT MAP FOR THE NORTH MOLTON AREA, 1804 (BL).

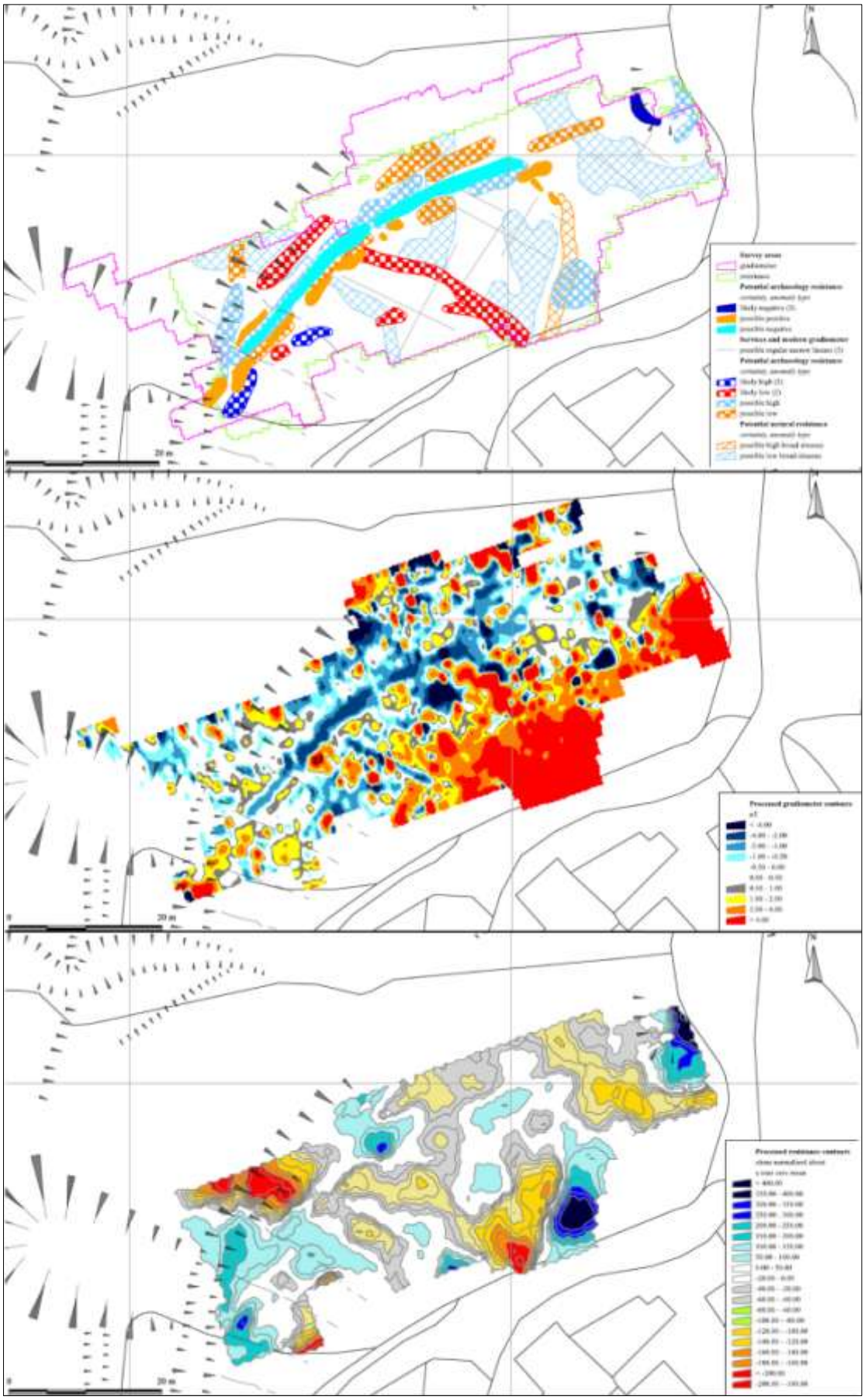
EXTRACT FROM THE EXMOOR ENCLOSURE MAP OF 1818 (SRO; SOMERSET ARCHIVES AND LOCAL STUDIES).



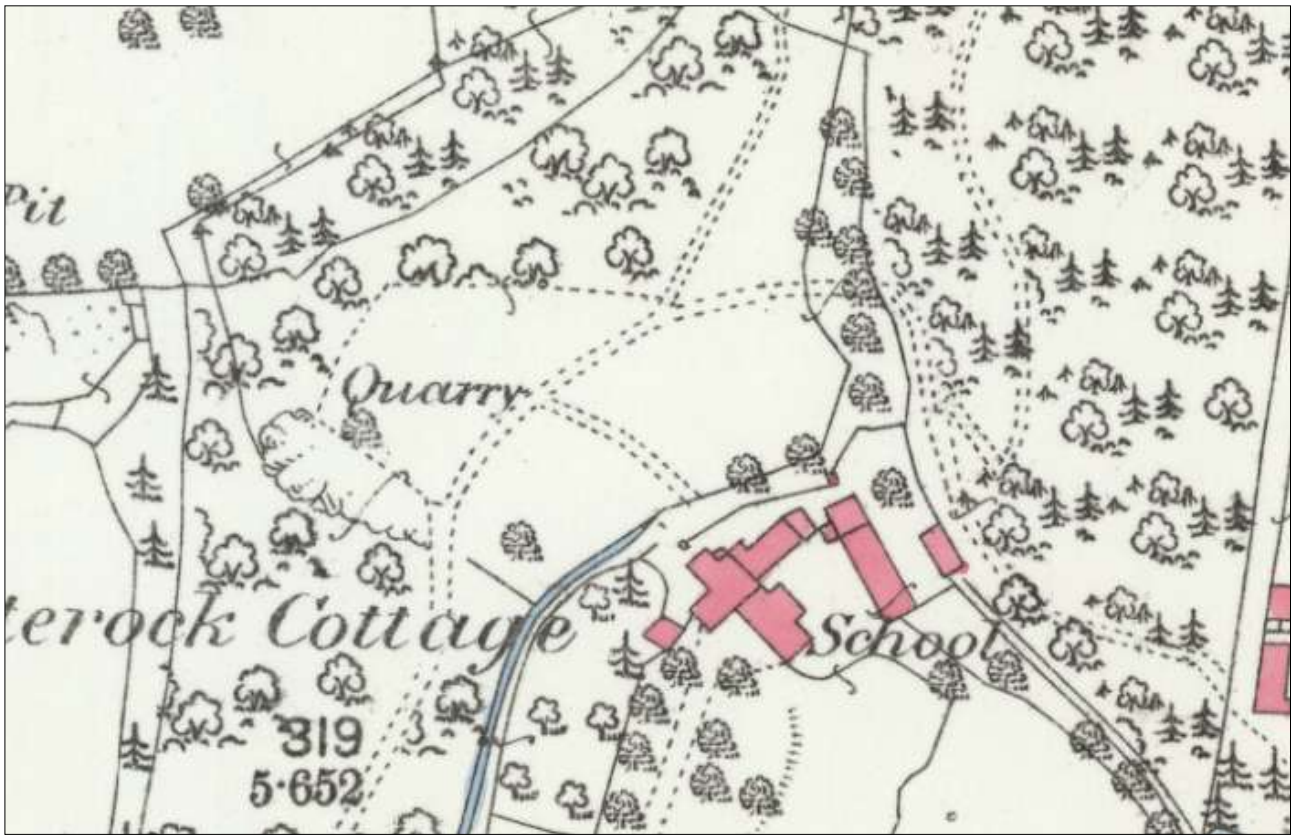
LIDAR IMAGE, WITH DETAIL OF THE GARDEN BELOW; THE LEAT ABOVE THE TERRACE IS INDICATED BY THE RED ARROW, THE MAIN PATH ACROSS THE MEADOW IS INDICATED WITH A YELLOW ARROW.



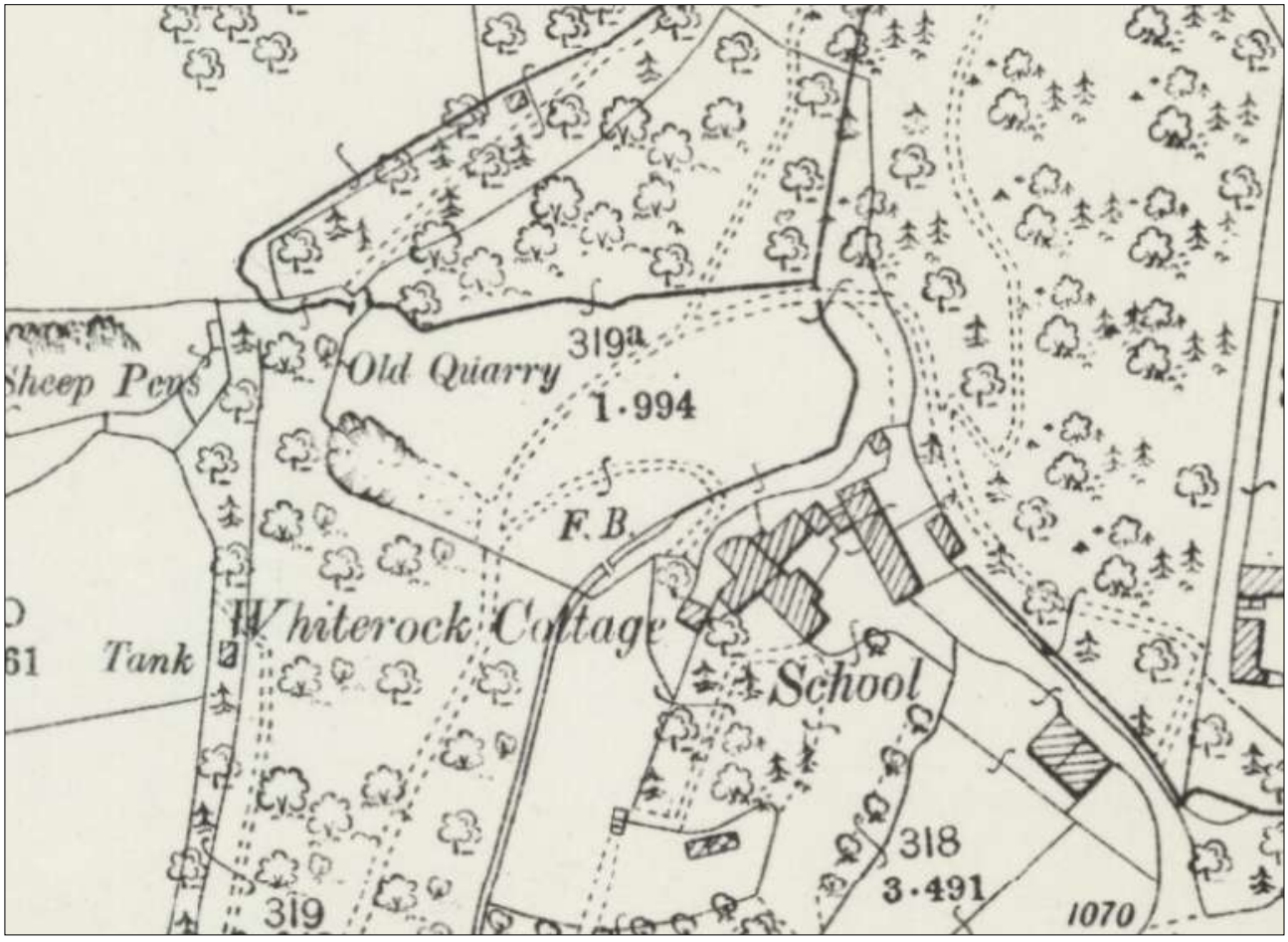
METRIC SURVEY OF THE SITE (SOURCE: RILEY 2014).



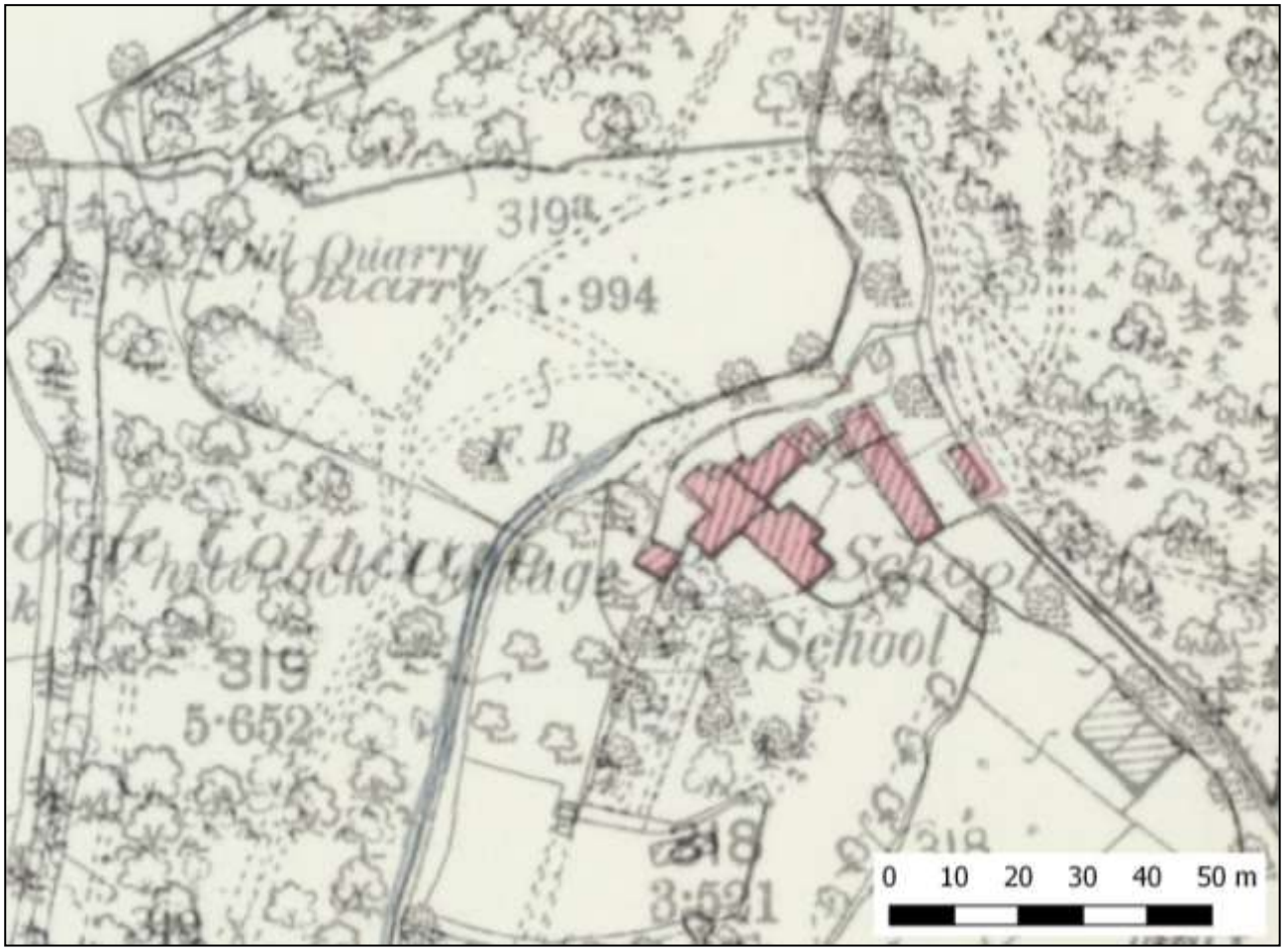
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY IMAGES OF THE SITE: (TOP) INTERPRETATION OF EARTH-RESISTANCE SURVEY; (MIDDLE) SHADE PLOT OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY; (BOTTOM) SHADE PLOT OF EARTH-RESISTANCE SURVEY (SOURCE: DEAN 2014).



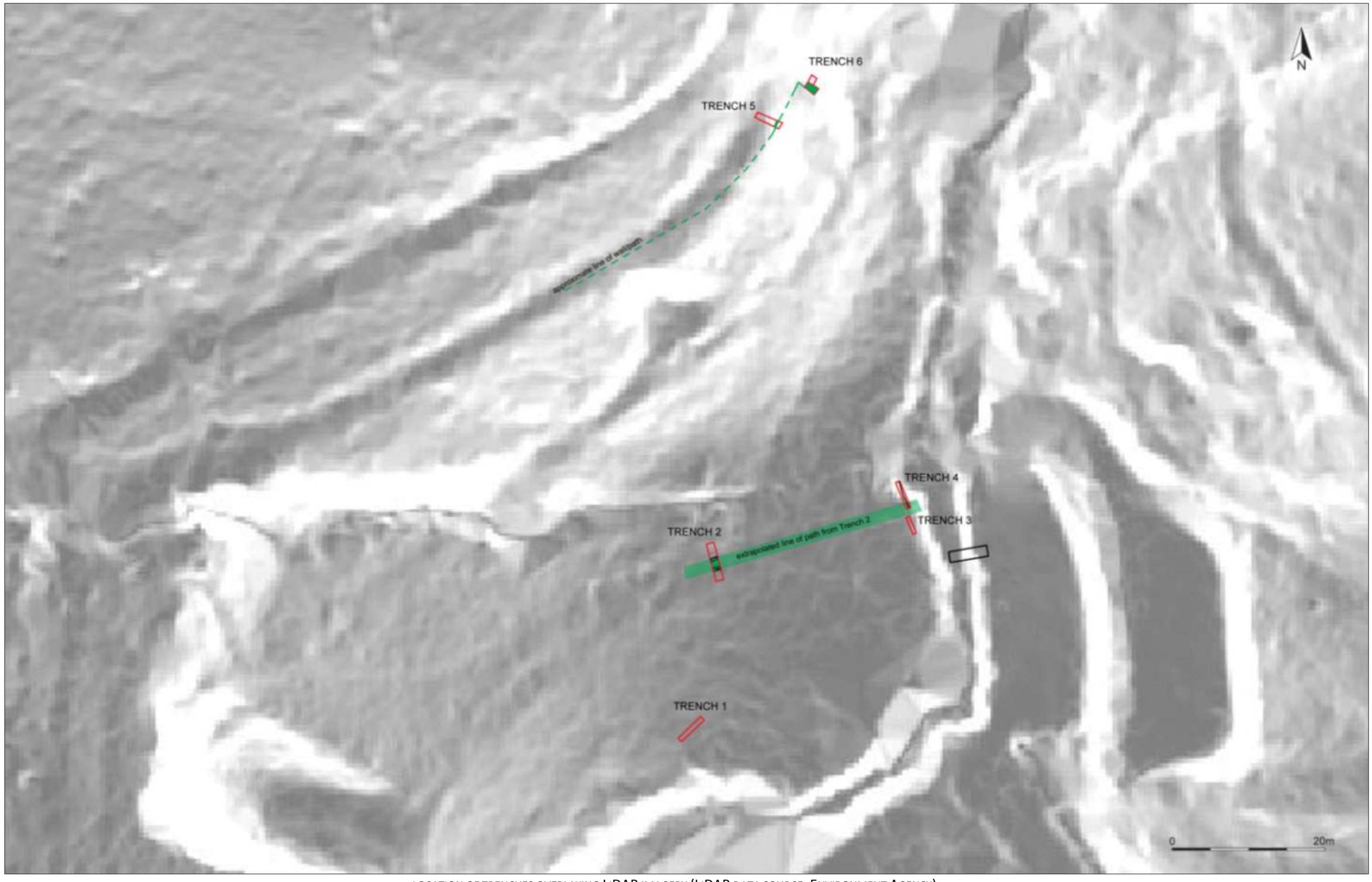
FIRST EDITION 25" ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP SHOWING GARDEN PATHS (SOURCE: ENPA).



SECOND EDITION 25" ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP SHOWING ALTERED ROUTE OF GARDEN PATH (SOURCE: ENPA)



OVERLAY OF FIRST AND SECOND EDITION ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS SHOWING THE CHANGING POSITION OF THE PATHS



LOCATION OF TRENCHES OVERLAYING LIDAR IMAGERY (LIDAR DATA SOURCE: ENVIRONMENT AGENCY).

APPENDIX 4: SUPPORTING PHOTOGRAPHS

TRENCH 1

1. TRENCH 1; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (2M SCALE).

2. SOUTH-WEST END OF TRENCH 1; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (2M SCALE).

3. NORTH-EAST END OF TRENCH 1; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (2M SCALE).

4. NORTH-EAST END OF TRENCH 1; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (2M SCALE).

5. NORTH-EAST END OF TRENCH 1; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (1M SCALE).

6. TRENCH 1; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-NORTH-EAST (1M SCALE).

TRENCH 2

7. PATH [203]; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).

8. PATH [203]; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (1M SCALE).

9. PATH [203]; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).

10. SOFT 'NATURAL' AT THE NORTH END OF TRENCH 2; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (1M SCALE).

11. TRENCH 2; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (1M SCALE).

12. (LEFT) TRENCH 2; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (1M SCALE).
13. (RIGHT) TRENCH 2; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).

14. PATH [203]; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (1M SCALE).

15. TRENCHES 1 AND 2 VIEWED FROM NEAR TRENCH 3; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (NO SCALE).

TRENCH 3

16. TRENCH 3; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).

17. TRENCH 3; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (1M SCALE).

18. TRENCHES 3 AND 4 IN RELATION TO THE EXISTING FOOTBRIDGE; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (1M SCALE).

TRENCH 4

19. TRENCH 4; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (2M SCALE).

20. STONE BENEATH TURF AT SOUTH END OF TRENCH 4; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (2M SCALE).

TRENCH 5

21. WALL {504}; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (1M SCALE).

22. WALL {504}; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (1M SCALE).

23. WALL {504}; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (1M SCALE).

24. TRENCH 5; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).

25. VIEW OF PITCHED STONES ALIGNED WITH WALL {504}; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (1M SCALE).

26. WALL {504}; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (1M SCALE).

27. WALL {504}; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (1M SCALE).

TRENCH 6

28. WALL {603}; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (2M SCALE).

29. WALL {603}; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (2M SCALE).

30. WALL {603}; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (1M SCALE).

31. WALL {603}; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (1M SCALE).

32. WALL {603}; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (1M SCALE).

33. WALL {603}; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (1M SCALE).

34. WALL {603}; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (1M SCALE).

OTHER FEATURES IN THE ASHCOMBE GARDEN LANDSCAPE

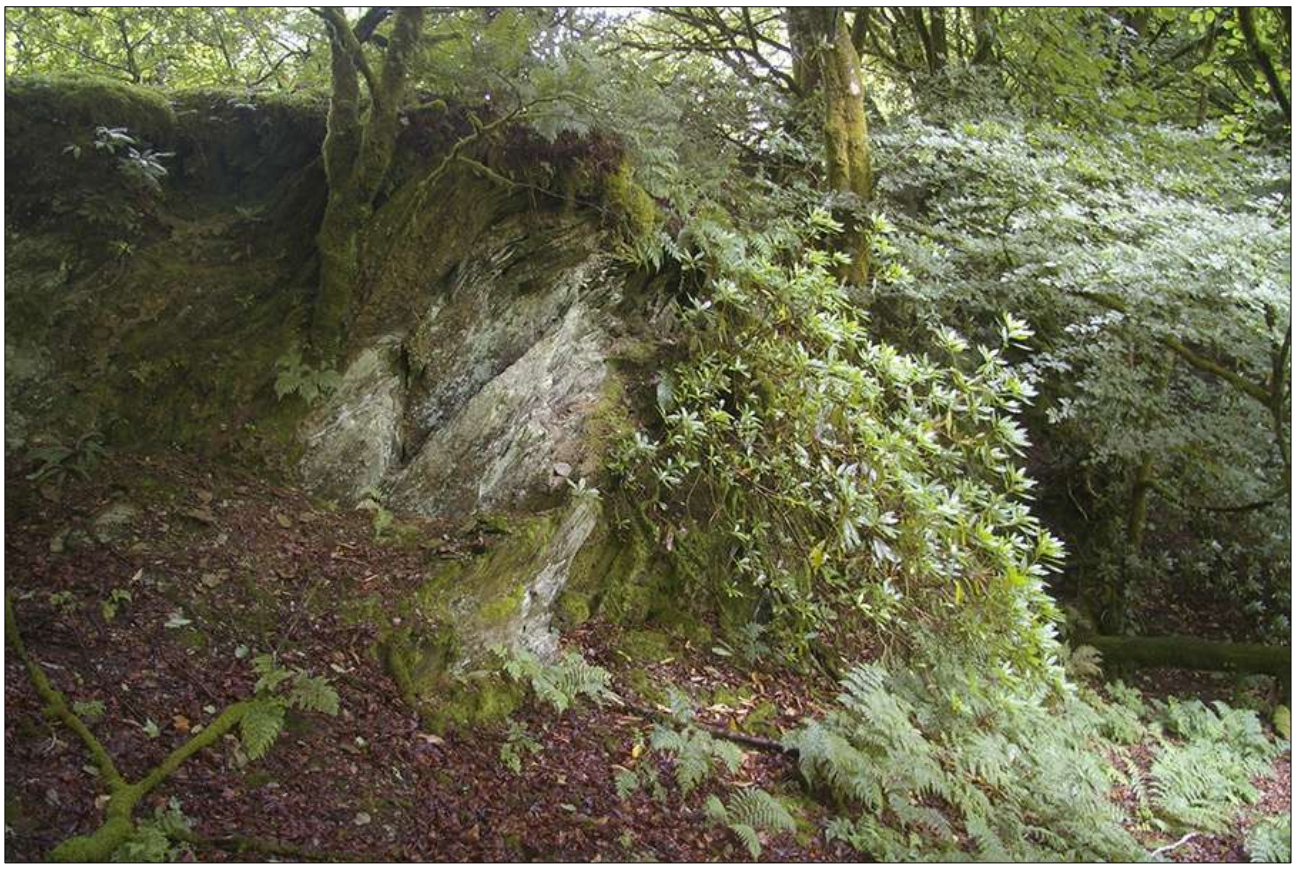
35. BOUNDARY WALL ADJACENT TO PUBLIC TOILETS AND NORTH-WEST OF ASHCOMBE COTTAGE; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (2M SCALE).

36. RIVER BANK ADJACENT TO ASHCOMBE CAR PARK; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (2M SCALE).

37. SECTION OF CANALISED ASHCOMBE STREAM ADJACENT TO WHITE ROCK COTTAGES; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (2M SCALE).

38. PITCHED STONE TO CANALISED PART OF ASHCOMBE WATER IN SOUTH-EAST OF MEADOW, NOW SILTED-UP; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (2M SCALE).

39. PATHWAY FROM SIMONSBATH HOUSE LEADING TO ASHCOMBE GARDEN, JUST SOUTH OF THE GARDEN, SHOWING NATURAL ROCK BEHIND THE REVETMENT FACE; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-SOUTH-WEST (2M SCALE).



40. SOUTH SIDE OF QUARRY TO THE WEST SIDE OF THE GARDENS SHOWING THE STRATA OF THE BEDROCK AND FOLDS WITHIN IT; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (NO SCALE).

41. EXAMPLE SECTION OF DEFINITIVE BOUNDARY WALLS TO THE FIELDS NORTH-WEST OF THE SITE AND IN THE AREA OF SIMONSBATH; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (2M SCALE).

42. PITCHED STONE WALLING WHERE THE LEAT NORTH OF THE SITE MEETS THE FIELD BOUNDARY TO THE NORTH-NORTH-WEST OF THE SITE; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (2M SCALE).

43. MOSS COVERED, POSSIBLE PITCHED CURB OR WALLING IMMEDIATELY SOUTH-WEST OF TRENCH 5; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST AND ABOVE (2M SCALE).

44. LEAT NORTH OF TRENCH 5; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (2M SCALE).

45. THE LEAT TO THE NORTH OF TRENCH 6. AT THE POINT INDICATED THE FLOW MAY HAVE BEEN DIVERTED TO A LOWER LEVEL; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-NORTH-EAST (NO SCALE).

46. POSSIBLE NATURAL ROCK-CUT CHANNEL, PARALLEL TO AND NORTH-EAST OF, THE LOST WALL ALONG THE NORTH-EAST SIDE OF THE GARDEN. SOME BOX PLANTS WERE NOTED ACROSS THIS SLOPE. VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (2M SCALE).

47. NATURAL OR PITCHED STONE ALONG PATH BETWEEN ASHCOMBE WATER AND NORTH BOUNDARY LINE; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (NO SCALE).

48. NORTH-EAST CORNER OF THE MEADOW, STEPS FROM THE LOWER PATH; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (2M SCALE).

49. SOUTH-EAST END OF RUINED NORTH-EAST BOUNDARY WALL (AS INVESTIGATED IN TRENCH 6); VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (2M SCALE).

50. SOUTH-EAST END OF RUINED NORTH-EAST BOUNDARY WALL (AS INVESTIGATED IN TRENCH 6); VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (NO SCALE).

51. BOUNDARY ADJACENT TO/SOUTH OF THE RUINED WALL PHOTOGRAPHED ABOVE; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (2M SCALE).

52. DETAIL OF BOUNDARY ADJACENT TO/SOUTH OF THE RUINED WALL PHOTOGRAPHED ABOVE; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (0.5M OF A 2M SCALE).

53. EXPOSED BEDROCK BEHIND TREE-THROW ADJACENT TO THE SOUTH-EAST SEGMENT OF RUINED NORTH-EAST BOUNDARY; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-SOUTH-WEST (NO SCALE).

54. POSSIBLE RELICT CATCH-MEADOW/PATH NORTH-EAST OF ASHCOMBE CAR PARK; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (2M SCALE).

55. OUTCROP OF 'WHITE ROCKS' TO NORTH OF ASHCOMBE CAR PARK; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (NO SCALE).

THE OPEN DAY

56. TRENCHES 1 AND 2 DURING AN OPEN DAY; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (NO SCALE).

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