

**LAND OFF TORRIDGE ROAD
APPLEDORE
NORTHAM
DEVON**

Results of a two stage Archaeological Evaluation



South West Archaeology Ltd. report no. 200914



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Land off Torridge Road, Appledore, Northam, Devon

Results of a two stage Archaeological Evaluation

By P. Webb

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Work undertaken by SWARCH for
Chichester Developments (the Client)

SUMMARY

This report presents the results of archaeological evaluation trenching carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. on land off Torridge Road, Appledore, Northam, Devon. The site is in an area of known archaeological potential, a civil war fort being located approximately 200m to the east.

The evaluation which was undertaken over two stages identified five archaeological features: an undated ditch terminus and four post-holes. No artefacts were recovered from the ditch, though prehistoric artefacts from the post-holes hint at possible early origins; whilst Romano-British artefacts were recovered from the subsoil; and prehistoric and post-medieval artefacts were recovered from the topsoil. The features are most likely to represent part of an early phase of field-system. Soil samples were retrieved and processed from these features, and two attempts were made to obtain radio-carbon dates. The scientific dating failed for both samples, and the recovered 'charcoal' was likely a form of manganese oxide based on the Laboratory's analysis.

Much of the site shows signs of modern disturbance: a substantial drain running along the north-western edge, with further modern drains crossing the site; the eastern corner showing signs of having been used for spoil storage during the construction of the houses along Polywell Road. It is thought likely, therefore, that the archaeological potential of the site is restricted, and further intervention is unlikely to be particularly rewarding.



February 2021

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DEVON COUNTY HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT TEAM (DCHET)
BRISTOL RADIOCARBON ACCELERATOR MASS SPECTROMETRY FACILITY (BRAMS)

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

LOCATION:	TORRIDGE ROAD, APPLIEDORE
PARISH:	NORTHAM
COUNTY:	DEVON
NGR:	SS 245860 130710
PLANNING NO.:	1/0750/2019/REMM
DCHET REF.:	ARCH/DM/TO/31311B
OASIS NUMBER:	SOUTHWES1-392571
SWARCH REF.:	APP20

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by Fearnley Lott Architects (the Agent) on behalf of Chichester Developments (the Client) to undertake archaeological evaluation trenching as part of a planning application for a residential development with associated access, landscaping and services on land off Torridge Road, Appledore, Northam, Devon.

This work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Boyd 2020) drawn up in consultation with the Local Planning Authority and in line with best practice and ClfA guidelines (2020).

1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site is located at the western edge of modern expansion of Appledore, c.3.7km north of Bideford and c.10.2km west-south-west of Barnstaple; and south and east of the North Devon coast on the southern side of Torridge Road. The site comprises a single pastoral field on the north-west facing steeply sloping spur of land at the mouth of the River Torridge at an altitude of between c.14m and c.23m AOD (Figure 1). The soils of this area are the slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged fine silty over clay, fined loamy over clay and clay soils of the Wickham Association (SSEW 1983), which overlie the sedimentary mudstone and siltstone of the Ashton Mudstone Member and Crackington Formation (BGS 2020).

1.3 HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Appledore lies within the parish of Northam in the historic hundred of Shebbear and the Deanery of Hartland. Settlement at Appledore pre-dates Domesday, though it is not recorded as such until 1335. A small civil war fort was built on Staddon Hill, garrisoned at various points by both the Parliamentarians and the Royalists. The settlement has a strong fishing and ship-building tradition, much of the settlement dating from between the late 16th to the early 19th centuries, the settlement having grown up at the point where ships could first lie up having crossed the Bideford Bar at the mouth of the Taw-Torridge estuary.

1.4 METHODOLOGY

The archaeological evaluation was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Boyd 2020) drawn up in consultation with the Local Planning Authority and in line with ClfA guidelines (2020) and best practice. Four trenches, each 1.40m wide and totalling c.120m were laid out by tape and opened by tracked mechanical excavator to the depth of weathered natural using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision. An additional area measuring c.7m×5m was excavated around archaeological features exposed in one of the trenches. Exposed archaeological deposits were excavated by hand and in accordance with the WSI and ClfA

guidelines. All trenches and spoil heaps were metal detected using a C.Scope CS660 metal detector.

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 planning decisions. The archaeological evaluation took in phases in May 2020 and September 2020.

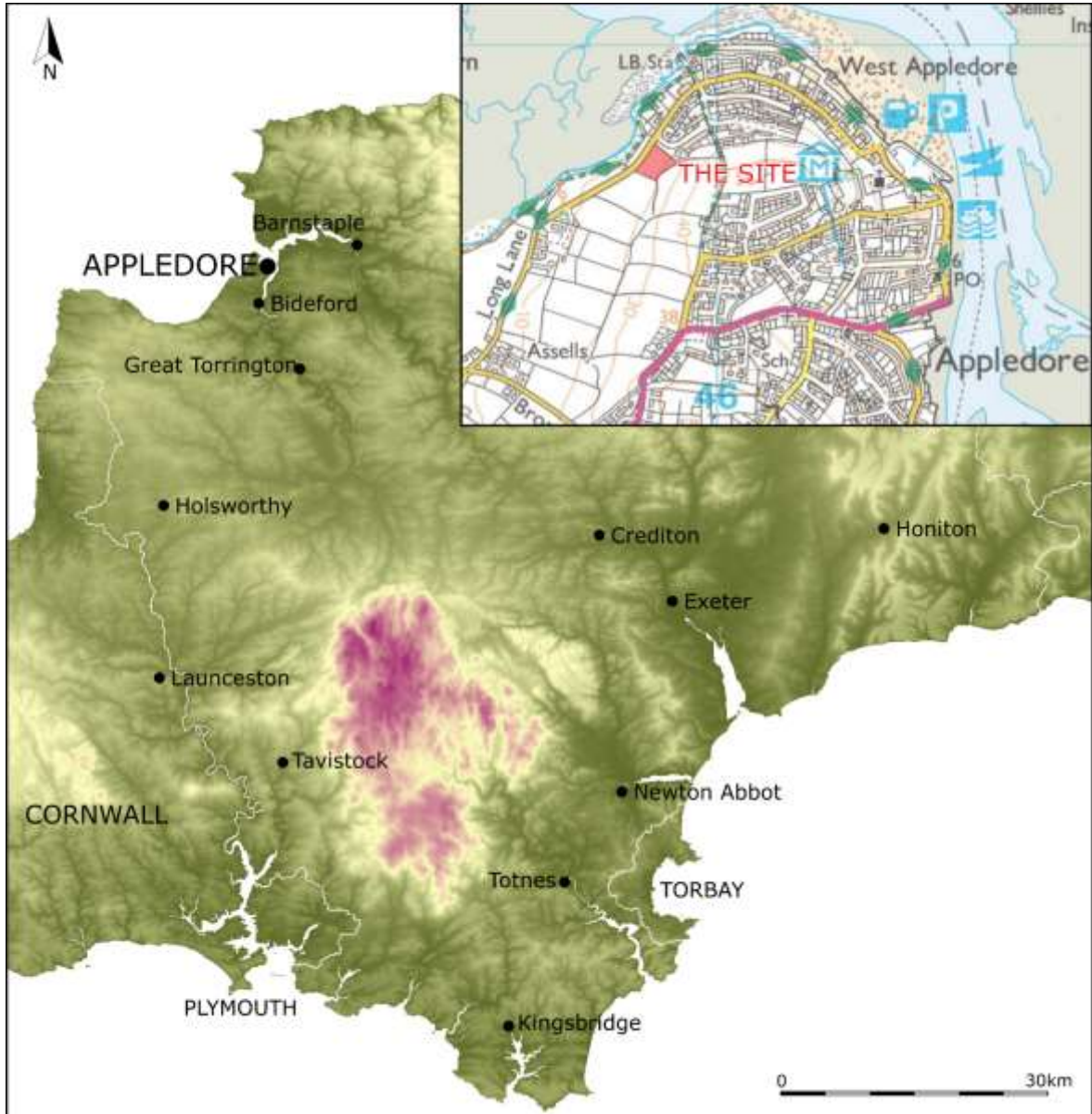


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION (THE SITE IS INDICATED).

2.0 DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

Historically situated within the parish and manor of Northam, Appledore is first recorded under this name in 1335 (Gover *et al* 1931), but appears to correspond to a settlement named *Tawmouth* in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle for the year 1068 and was held by the Abbot of Caen (Fox 2001). Settlement here may date back further, with the suggestion that the settlement was sacked by the Vikings, and was the site of a battle in which Hubba the Dane was slain in AD879, a memorial stone being erected in the 21st century.

Numerous buildings in the settlement date from between the late 16th to the early 19th centuries, the settlement having grown up at the point where ships could first lie up having crossed the Bideford Bar at the mouth of the Taw-Torridge estuary; becoming a significant maritime settlement with a tradition of fishing and ship-building. In 1643 a small fort was built at Appledore, along with one either side of the river at Bideford, where a Parliamentary garrison was stationed under the command of Colonel Bennet. Following victory by Royalist forces at Torrington, however, the forts were surrendered to Colonel Digby (Lysons 1822). 19th century developments included the building of a new parish church in place of the former chapel of St Anne (1838) and the construction of the Quay (1845) over what had formerly been the foreshore.

The development site sits on agricultural land between the settlements of West Appledore and Watertown, Appledore only extending to the edge of the site as a result of substantial 20th century urban development.

2.1 CARTOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT

The earliest detailed cartographic source available to this study is the tithe map of 1838 (Figure 2). This shows the site as being located within a landscape of enclosed agricultural fields and isolated farmstead; the larger village settlement of Appledore largely following the coast to the east. The development site lies to the west of Appledore, and at this time was formed of two fields. The accompanying 1838 tithe apportionment indicates that the site was under the ownership of Elizabeth Vernon and occupied by Thomas Parminter. The curving field boundaries in the area have their origins in the medieval layout of the landscape, with straighter post-medieval boundaries starting to sub-divide these strips representing a later phase of enclosure. The field names recorded in the tithe apportionment are essentially prosaic, reflecting the local topography (e.g. no.1094 *Hill*) and historic use of the land/nearby features (e.g. no. 1099 *Lime Kiln Field*); a limekiln also being depicted within plot no. 1098, *Lime Kilns Plots*.

TABLE 1: EXTRACT FROM THE 1838 NORTHAM TITHE APPORTIONMENT (SOURCE: THE GENEALOGIST).

Plot No.	Land owner	Occupier	Field name	Cultivation	
965	Thomas Lock	Thomas Hancock	Shand Close	Arable	
966			Mount Fields	Arable	
1094			Hill	Arable	
1082	Elizabeth Vernon	William Lashbrook	North Hill	Arable	
1095		Thomas Parminter	Square Park	Arable	
1096			Long Close	Arable	
1100			Hill Plot	Arable	
1097		John Lang	Beach Plot	Arable	
1098		John Kelly	Lime Kilns Plots	Arable	
1098a			Lime Kilns Plots	Arable	
1099		Thomas Chappell	Lime Kiln Field	Arable	
1101		William Chappell	Chappell	Higher Style Field	Pasture



FIGURE 2: EXTRACT FROM THE NORTHAM TITHE MAP OF 1838; THE APPROXIMATE SITE BOUNDARY IS INDICATED (SOURCE: THE GENEALOGIST).

The Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1888 (Figure 3) depicts a landscape similar to that of 1838. Some boundary loss had occurred, particularly around Watertown and between plot nos. 1095 and 1096, the development site, although *new* boundaries are present; *Lover's Lane* has been extended to run to the *Custom House*, the buildings of which have been re-developed; and the road through Watertown has also been extended to cross the beach north-west of the proposal site to link Watertown and West Appledore; there is a gas works to the north of Watertown; and Richmond House has been built.

The landscape as depicted in the 1904 OS 2nd edition map (Figure 4) remains relatively unchanged, with very limited boundary alteration and rationalisation in the wider landscape; the road crossing the beach has gone, and there is no direct road link between Watertown and West Appledore; itself having expanded to infill the space up to the Custom House (now the Lifeboat House). A Royal Navy Reserves drill battery has also been built to the north-east of the limekiln, now indicated as having gone out of use; and a small building is depicted within plot no. 1097.

Mapping at the beginning of the 20th century (not depicted) shows that the Bideford, Westward Ho! and Appledore railways was extended (between 1901-1908) from Northam to reach Appledore, passing along the approximate line of Torridge Road as it passes the proposal site. However, the line was closed in 1917, and subsequent Ordnance Survey mapping (Figure 5) does not indicate the position of the railway. It shows that there was again only limited development during the inter-war years, Torridge Road had been constructed along its current course, cutting through former plot no. 1096; whilst the building within plot no. 1097 has been extended and a new building added to its south-west, these building perhaps being former railway buildings. The Royal Navy drill battery also appears to no longer be in military ownership. It is not until the post-war period that significant development can be seen, particularly in relation to the proposal site Appledore and West Appledore both continuing to grow to become a single settlement which covers much of Staddon Hill; the houses along Polywell being added from the 1970s.



FIGURE 3: EXTRACT FROM THE FIRST EDITION OS 25" MAP OF 1888; THE APPROXIMATE SITE BOUNDARY IS INDICATED (NLS).

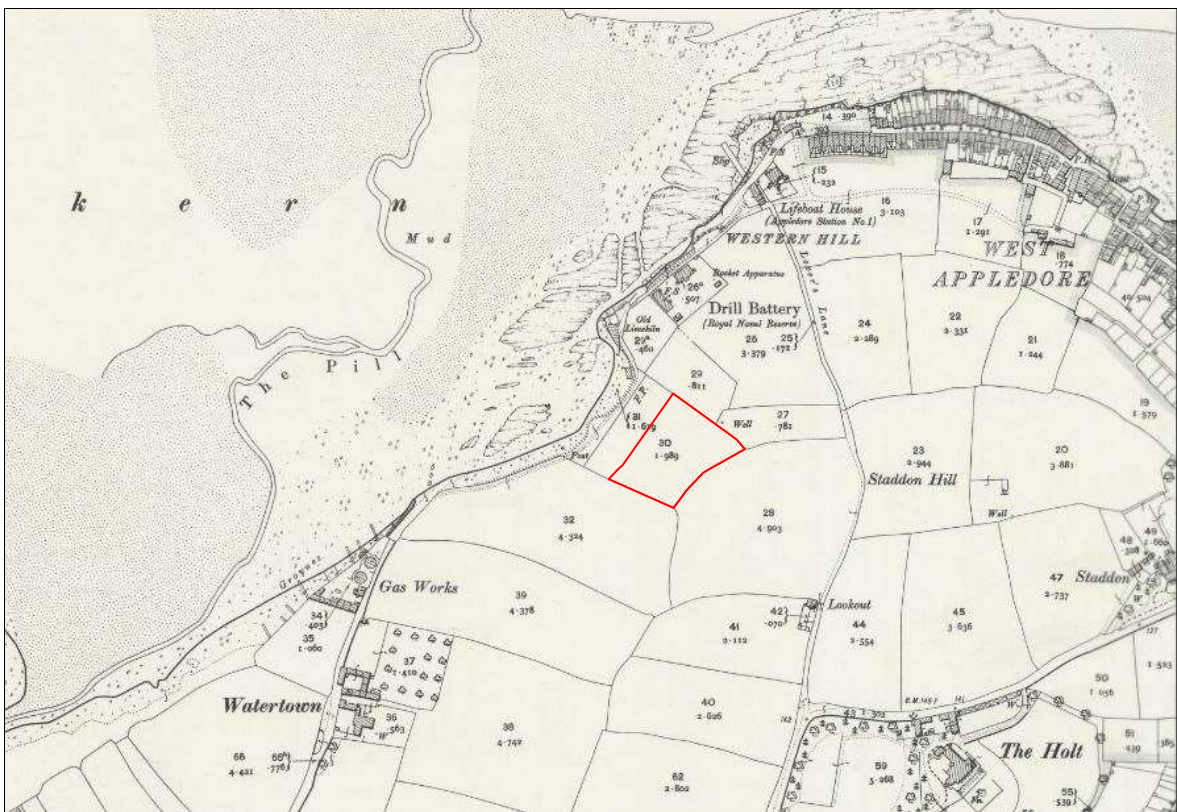


FIGURE 4: EXTRACT FROM THE SECOND EDITION OS 25" MAP OF 1904; THE APPROXIMATE SITE BOUNDARY IS INDICATED (NLS).



FIGURE 5: EXTRACT FROM THE ORDNANCE SURVEY 25" MAP OF 1934; THE APPROXIMATE SITE BOUNDARY IS INDICATED (NLS).

2.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The development site lies in an area where little formal archaeological investigation has been undertaken; the Devon Historic Environment Record (HER) identifying many of the surrounding features as post-medieval or later in date, and largely reflecting the 18th and 19th century growth of settlement in the area.

Relatively few archaeological investigations have taken place in this area; the majority of work comprising archaeological survey of Northam Burrows (E66518); building recording along Market (EDV5408) and Myrtle Streets (EDV4605, EDV6392); site inspection of the historic docks (EDV4241, EDV4930); and as part of the wider landscape scale survey of limekilns (EDV5610). Archaeological investigation which has taken place in the area is limited to evaluation trenching at Staddon Road (Webb 2019).

The historic landscape in this area is characterised by the Devon Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) as *medieval enclosures based on strip fields*.

The early archaeological history of Appledore is poorly represented, as whilst the settlement is thought to have Saxon origins, reportedly being sacked by Viking invaders; Hubba the Dane believed to have been slain nearby and commemorated by a modern memorial stone (MDV211); and the field boundaries indicating medieval origins, little evidence is recorded until the post-medieval period. Several of the Grade II Listed buildings within the Appledore Conservation Area, and particularly along Irsha Street have origins in the 16th century (Nos.41-47 List 1104735); with further growth of settlement in the 17th (Nos.13-19 List 1306458; Nos.110-110a List1333021) alongside the construction of a fort (MDV11870) and gun battery (MDV1868) during the civil war. The pattern of limited settlement expansion continued through the 18th century, with more substantial growth in the 19th century (Nos.16-34 List1306492) which also included the Baptist Chapel (MDV77477),

Church of St Mary (List1104753), Lifeboat Station (MDV60499), Prince of Wales Hotel (List1169529), Royal George Inn (List1104736).

Development and growth of Appledore continued through the 20th century, though the focus altered. Initially this saw a short-lived stretch of the Bideford, Westward Ho! and Appledore Railway running to the immediate north-west of the development site was constructed between 1901-1908, though closed in 1917 (MDV210). The impact of war can be seen all along the coastline at Appledore, blockades (MDV102553), military buildings (MDV102534) and camps (MDV55669), emergency batteries (MDV39541, MDV60500/102530), fence lines (MDV102537), storage depots (MDV102526), training areas (MDV102555), and water tanks (MDV102531) all being recorded.

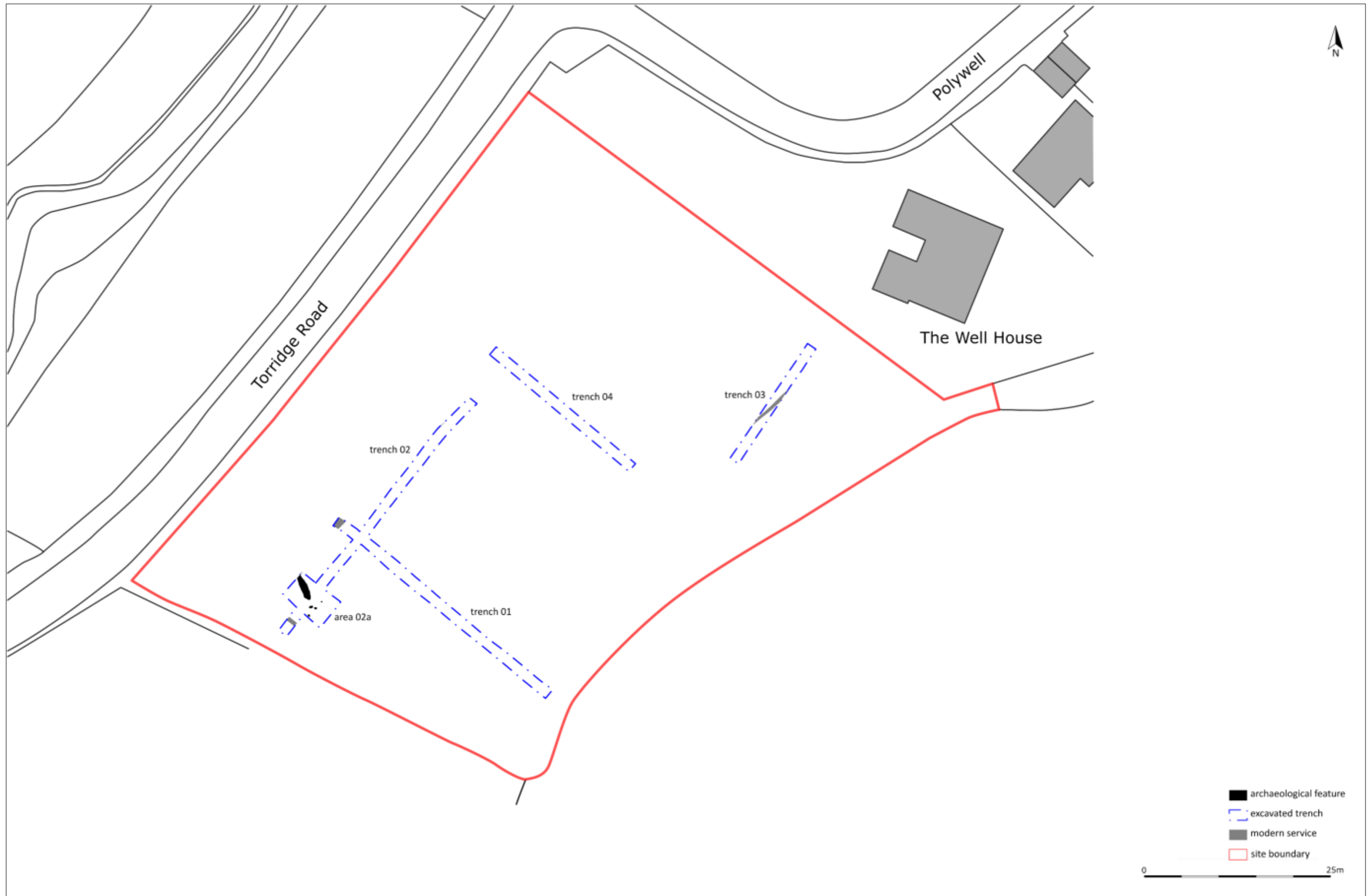


FIGURE 6: SITE PLAN, SHOWING THE LOCATION OF IDENTIFIED FEATURES.

3.0 RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of four trenches across the site, each 1.40m wide and totalling c.120m in length (Figure 6) by tracked mechanical excavator to the depth of weathered natural using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision. An additional rectangular area measuring c.7m×5m was excavated around features identified within one of the trenches. Exposed archaeological features and deposits were excavated by hand and in accordance with the WSI and ClfA guidelines. All trenches and spoil heaps were metal detected using a C.Scope CS660 metal detector. The evaluation took place in two phases on 26th May and 9th September 2020 following unconfirmed (and subsequently disproved) reports of an unexploded World War II bomb within the field.

The excavations identified five archaeological features: one ditch terminus and four post/stake-holes. Five sections of modern service trenches were also identified. A complete description of all contexts can be seen in Appendix 1; detailed finds concordance in Appendix 2; environmental sample summary in Appendix 3; and additional baseline photographs in Appendix 4.

3.2 RESULTS

3.2.1 DEPOSIT MODEL

The stratigraphy differed across the site. To the north- and south-west (within Trenches 01 and 02) a dark-mid grey-brown silt topsoil overlay a mid yellow-brown silt-clay upper subsoil; and mid brown-yellow clay lower subsoil. This sealed the weathered natural of yellow firm clay. The thickness of these soils was largely consistent across these trenches, though each layer was appreciably thicker at the downslope ends of each trench: the topsoil c.0.18-0.50m thick; upper subsoil c.0.16-0.42m thick; and lower subsoil up to 0.10-0.22m thick. However, a slightly raised area within the sloping topography was visible across the south-eastern corner of the site, across which trenches 03 and 04 were situated. Where this was identified additional layers of mid red-brown, and brown silt-clay buried soil/made-ground; and yellow-brown silt-clay with common sub-angular stone between 0.26-0.60m thick were identified between the topsoil and upper subsoil.

3.2.2 TRENCH 01

Trench 01 was located towards the south-western end of the site, measuring 36.90m long on an approximate north-west to south-east alignment. The topsoil was 0.18-0.35m thick; upper subsoil 0.25-0.37m thick; and lower subsoil 0.16-0.22m thick. Finds recovered from this trench included clay-pipe stems, post-medieval pottery, and iron artefacts.

A single feature (Figure 7) was identified within this trench: drain [103]. It was located at the north-western end of the trench, corresponding with the approximate position of a known modern service. It was orientated approximately north-east to south-west, measuring 1+m wide. It contained an upper fill: (104), mid brown-yellow soft-firm clay mixed with mid grey-brown soft friable silt-clay. This feature was not excavated.

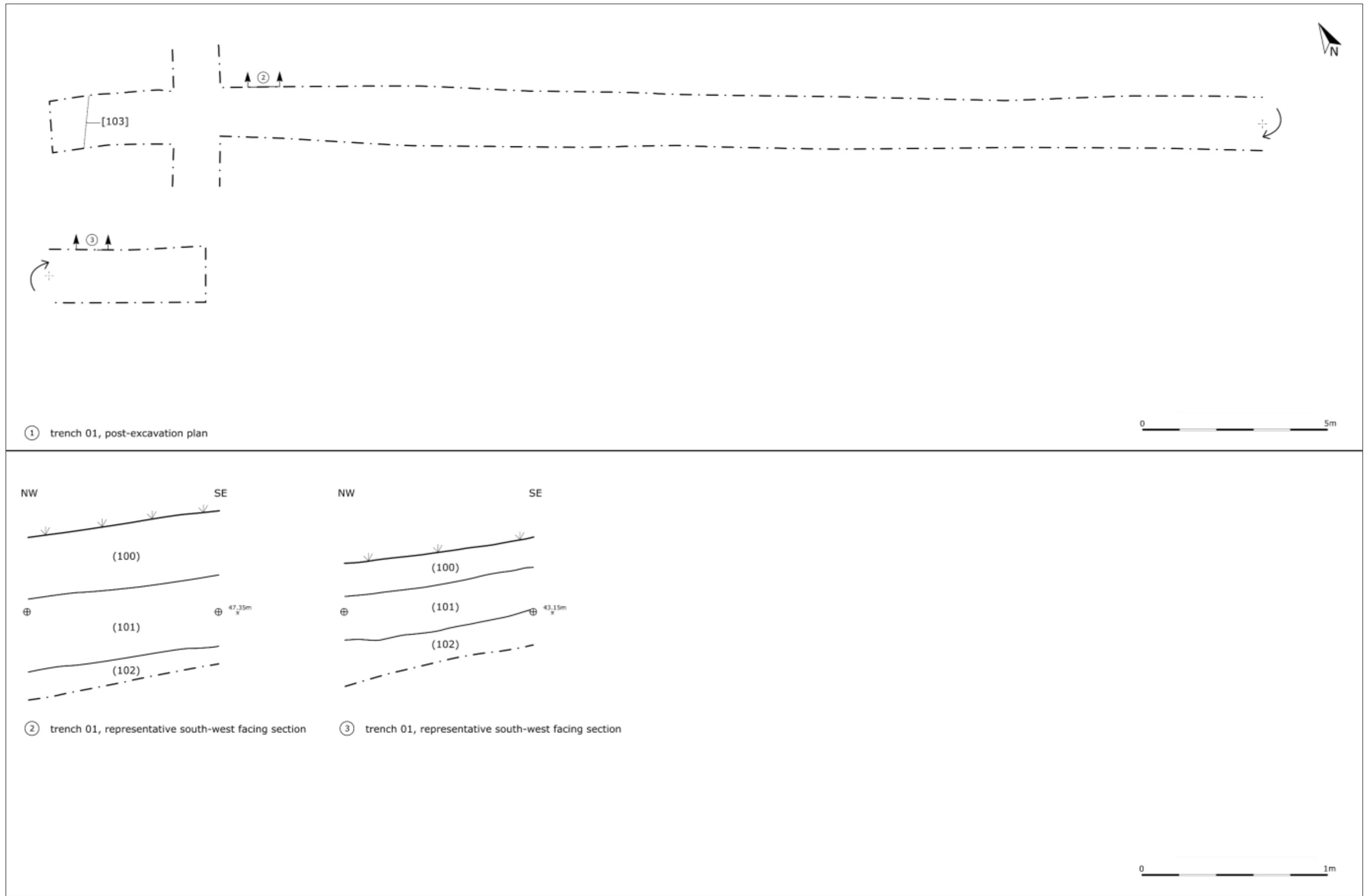


FIGURE 7: TRENCH 01, PLANS AND SECTIONS. LEVELS BASED ON AN ARBITRARY HEIGHT OF 50M AOD.

3.2.3 TRENCH 02 AND AREA 02A

Trench 02 was located towards the south-western end of the site, perpendicular to and cutting trench 01. It measured 40m long on an approximate north-north-east to south-south-west alignment; the topsoil was 0.24-0.36m thick; upper subsoil 0.16-0.28m thick; and lower subsoil up to 0.20m thick. This trench was expanded during the second phase of evaluation, a rectangular area measuring c.7m×5m on an approximate north-west to south-east orientation excavated following the discovery of a ditch. Finds recovered from this trench included post-medieval pottery and iron nails.

A total of eight features (Figures 8-10) were identified within this trench: one ditch terminus; four post/stake-holes and three section of modern drain. Ditch terminus [203] was located towards the south-western end of the trench on an approximate north to south alignment. It was identified for a length of 3.70m, terminating at its southern end and being truncated by modern service [208]/[219] at its northern end. It measured 1.20m wide and up to 0.10m deep with moderate sloping sides, clear break of slope and slightly concave base. It contained two fills: (204), dark-mid grey-brown soft-friable silt-clay with deep red firm clay with manganese oxide; and (205), dark brown-black friable-firm slightly silt-clay. No finds were recovered from this feature.



FIGURE 8: DITCH TERMINUS [203], MID-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (1M & 2M SCALES).

Drain [206] was located at the south-western end of the trench on an approximate north-west to south-east orientation, measuring 0.60m wide. It contained an upper fill: (207), mid brown-yellow soft-firm clay mixed with mid grey-brown soft-friable silt-clay. This feature was not excavated.

Drain [208] was located towards the north-eastern end of the trench on an approximate north-east to south-west orientation, measuring 0.20+m wide. It contained an upper fill: (209), mid brown-yellow soft-firm clay mixed with mid grey-brown soft-friable silt-clay. This feature formed a continuation of drain [103] and was further identified within the expanded Area 02A as drain [219] and was not excavated.

Post/stake-hole [211] was located to the south-east of ditch [203] towards the southern end of Area 02A. It was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.21m in diameter and 0.09m deep with steep

sloping sides, clear break of slope and slightly concave base. It contained a single fill: (212), mid yellow-brown-grey soft clay. No finds were recovered from this feature.

To the north-west, post-hole [213] was sub-circular to sub-oval in plan on a slight north-west to south-east alignment. It measured 0.32-0.38m in diameter with steep to near vertical sloping sides, clear to sharp break of slope and flat base. It contained a single fill: (214), mid yellow-brown-grey soft clay. A single piece of flint debitage was recovered from the fill of this feature.

Post-hole [215] was located to the north of post-hole [213], and was sub-oval in plan on an approximate east to west alignment. It measured 0.58m×0.33m with steep to near vertical sides, clear to sharp break of slope and broadly flat base. It contained a single fill: (216), mid yellow-brown-grey soft clay. A single piece of unworked chert was recovered from the fill of this feature.

Post-hole [217] was located against the western edge of Area 02a, to the south-west of post-hole [213]. It was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.30-0.36m in diameter with steep to near vertical sides, clear to sharp break of slope and flat base. It contained a single fill: (218), mid brown soft clay with patches of deep red clay and abundant manganese oxide. No finds were recovered from this feature.



FIGURE 9: POST/STAKE-HOLES [211], [213], [215], AND [217], POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (1M & 2M SCALES).

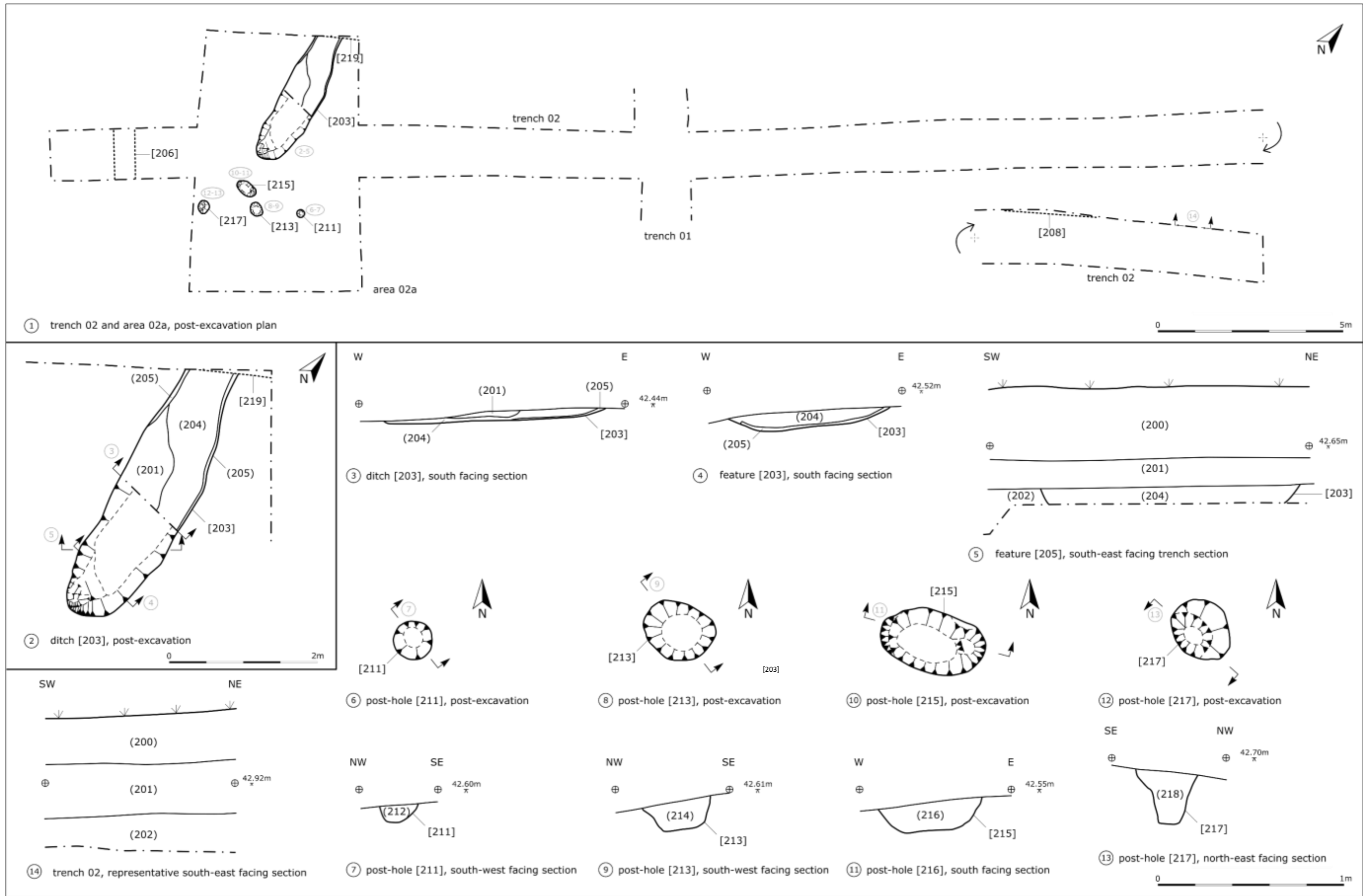


FIGURE 10: TRENCH 02 AND AREA 02A, PLANS AND SECTIONS. LEVELS BASED ON AN ARBITRARY HEIGHT OF 50M AOD.

3.2.4 TRENCH 03

Trench 03 was located towards the south-eastern end of the site. It measured 19m long on an approximate north-north-east to south-south-west alignment; the topsoil was 0.40-0.50m thick; stony layer 0.26-0.44m thick; upper subsoil 0.16-0.42m thick; and lower subsoil 0.10m thick. Finds recovered from this trench included post-medieval pottery.

A single feature (Figure 10) was identified within this trench: drain [304]. It was located towards the middle of the trench on an approximate north-east to south-west alignment, measuring 0.50m wide. It contained an upper fill: (305), mid brown-yellow soft-firm clay mixed with mid grey-brown soft-friable silt-clay. This feature was not excavated.

3.2.5 TRENCH 04

Trench 04 was located towards the centre of the site. It measured 25m long on an approximate north-west to south-east alignment; the topsoil was 0.28-0.36m thick; buried soil/made-ground layers 0.38-0.48m thick; stony layer 0.26-0.30m thick; upper subsoil 0.14-0.20m thick; and lower subsoil 0.10-0.16m thick. Finds recovered from this trench included post-medieval pottery.

No archaeological features were identified within this trench (Figure 10).

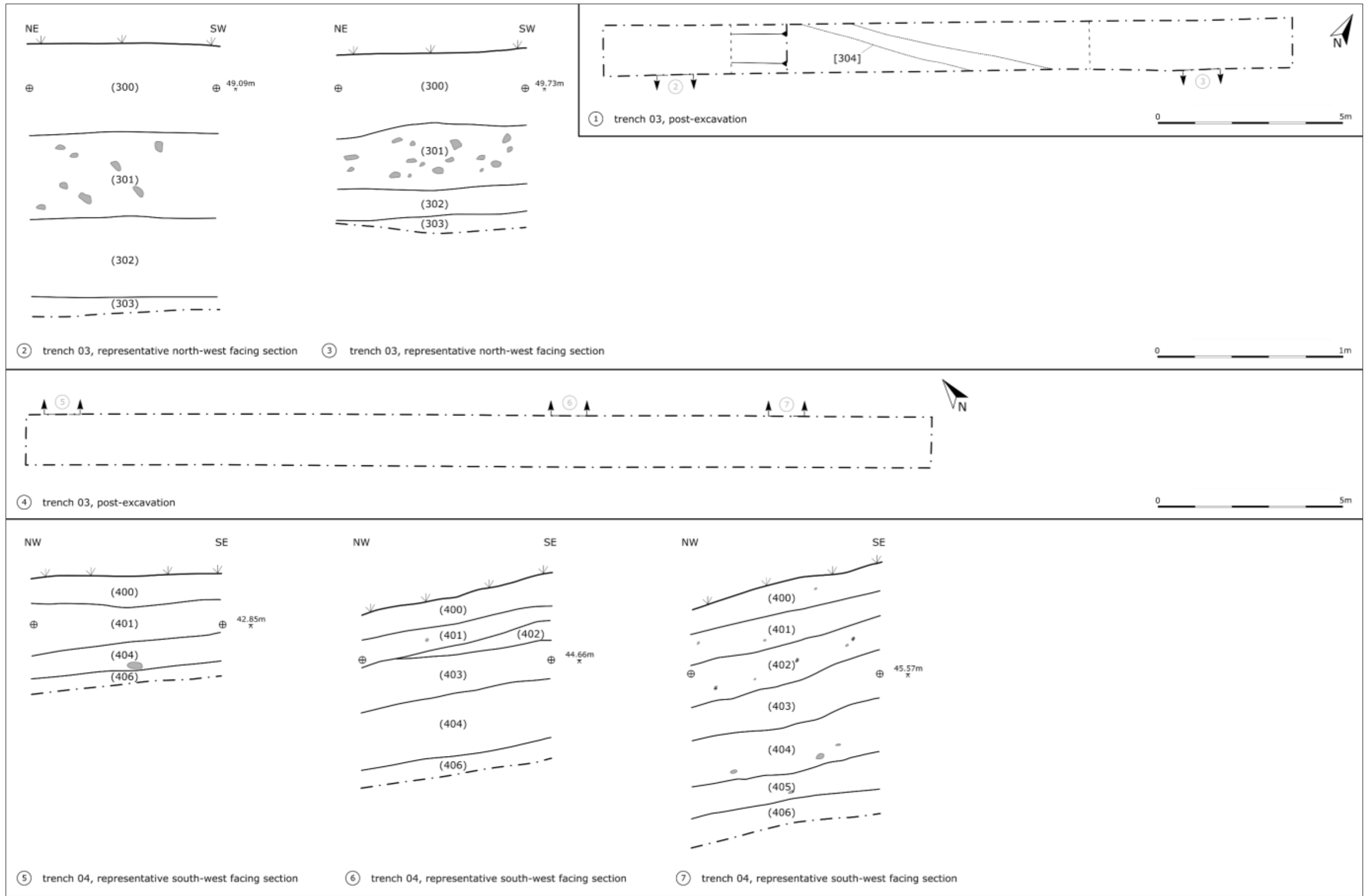


FIGURE 11: TRENCHES 03 AND 04, PLANS AND SECTIONS. LEVELS BASED ON AN ARBITRARY HEIGHT OF 50M AOD.

3.2.6 FINDS

Only a relatively small quantity of finds was recovered during the excavations, including 1 piece of flint debitage (2g) from the fill of post-hole [213]; and 1 shattered piece of chert (14g) from the fill of post-hole [215]. The vast majority of the artefactual evidence, however, was recovered from the topsoil layers. These included: 2 sherds (58g) of 17th-18th century North Devon gravel tempered pottery; 3 sherds (178g) 19th century stoneware; 1 sherd (48g) 19th century North Devon calcareous slipware; 1 sherd (7g) North Devon calcareous ware; and 9 sherds (39g) of white refined earthenware; 2 fragments (2g) of clay pipe stem; and 8 (408g) iron artefacts, including nails and hooks from the topsoil of Trench 01; 1 sherd (4g) 17th-18th century North Devon calcareous yellow slipware; 1 sherd (4g) North Devon calcareous ware; 1 sherd (13g) North Devon gravel tempered pottery; 1 sherd (15g) industrial slipware; 1 sherd (5g) possible North French green glazed white ware; 3 sherds (18g) white refined earthenware; 1 (5g) chert flake; and 1 (26g) iron nail from the topsoil of Trench 02; 1 sherd (37g) North Devon whiteware; 1 sherd (5g) white refined earthenware; and 1 fragment (126g) ceramic tile from the topsoil of Area 02A; 1 sherd (8g) North Devon calcareous ware; and 1 (3g) chert flake from the topsoil of Trench 03; 1 sherd (96g) stoneware; 9 sherds (60g) of white refined earthenware; and 1 sherd (27g) redware (27g) from the topsoil of Trench 04; 1 sherd (5g) white refined earthenware; and 1 fragment (2g) of clay pipe stem from the lower topsoil of Trench 04. Two sherds (16g) of Romano-British pottery were also recovered from subsoil (406).

The finds recovered from the archaeological features indicate possible prehistoric activity; with overlying layers showing limited Romano-British and increased post-medieval domestic and agricultural activity.

The lithic artefacts recovered from the post-holes and topsoil demonstrate prehistoric activity and perhaps settlement in the vicinity, though the pieces are of a very poor quality and are heavily damaged. The remaining artefacts show limited evidence of Romano-British activity associated with the subsoil layers; post-medieval to modern domestic and agricultural activity from the 17th century onwards appearing more substantial from the finds recovered from the topsoils.

3.3 DISCUSSION

The evaluation identified a total of ten features, including: a ditch terminus; four post/stake-holes; and five sections of modern drain. Of these, only the ditch terminus and post/stake-holes are of archaeological interest, likely forming part of an earlier phase of field-system to the existing layout. No artefacts were recovered from the ditch, and it remains undated following failed attempts to obtain a radio-carbon date. A broken lithic artefact was recovered from one of the post-holes.

The ditch terminus is likely to reflect a boundary feature and/or drainage of the land, the offset alignment to the existing field boundaries indicating that it forms part of an earlier phase of land division and agricultural activity. The fills were thought to be burnt, but were rich in manganese oxide, which is likely the results of environmental conditions, being caused by microbial activity, and perhaps supports a prehistoric date for these features, as it is likely to have taken at least hundreds of years to have accumulated. At least one of the post-holes, [217], is likely to be contemporary with the ditch, containing a further manganese oxide rich fill; whilst the recovery of lithic artefacts from post-holes [213] and [215] may indicate that these are prehistoric in date, though given the presence of root disturbance and damaged nature of these flints, they could easily be intrusive residual artefacts.

The extreme depth of Trench 03 (up to 1.50m) and the south-eastern end of Trench 04 (up to 1.40m) compared to the other trenches (up to 0.90m) is unusual given their position across the highest topographic point, where it would usually be expected to be the shallowest point of a steeply sloping site. Additional buried soils (402) and (403); and stony stratigraphic layer (301)/(404)

are present within these trenches between the topsoil and upper subsoil, and appear to form a 'made-ground' layer and which may be the remains of a (clean) spoil heap associated with the construction of the houses along Polywell in the later 20th century; these buildings have certainly been heavily terraced into the hillside. Further significant modern intrusions include drain [103]/[208]/[219] running along the north-western edge of the site, and recorded by South West Water as being up to a depth of 3.40m.

Given the potential significant disturbance caused to the site by the excavation of a 3m+ deep drain along with additional modern drainage across the site; and possible use of the site for spoil storage, the archaeological potential of the site is very restricted, and further intervention is unlikely to be particularly rewarding. However, the site has clearly demonstrated that there is archaeological potential in the nearby area for encountering prehistoric or Roman remains.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The evaluation identified a total of ten features, including: a ditch terminus, four post/stake-holes, and series of modern drains. Of these, only the ditch terminus and post/stake-holes are of archaeological interest, forming part of an earlier phase of field-system to the existing layout. No artefacts were recovered from the ditch, and it remains undated, though two of the post-holes contained lithic artefacts suggesting possible prehistoric origins. Soil samples were retrieved and processed from these features, and two attempts were made to obtain radio-carbon dates. The scientific dating failed for both samples, and the recovered 'charcoal' was likely a manganese oxide based on the BRAMS analysis.

The artefactual evidence recovered from the subsoil suggests that there was limited Romano-British activity in the vicinity of the site; whilst those from topsoil and made-ground contexts reflecting a mix largely of post-medieval and modern domestic activity.

Much of the site shows signs of modern disturbance: a substantial drain running along the north-western edge, and with further modern drains crossing the site; the eastern corner showing signs of having been used for spoil storage during the construction of the houses along Polywell Road. It is thought likely, therefore, that the archaeological potential of the site is restricted, and further intervention is unlikely to be particularly rewarding. Further development in the general area, beyond the limits of this site is likely to require archaeological mitigation, as there is clearly archaeological potential given the results of this work.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Type	Description	Relationships	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot date
Trench 01					
(100)	Layer	Topsoil – mid-dark grey-brown friable slightly sand-silt.	Overlies (104); same as (200), (300), (400)	0.18-0.35m thick	Modern
(101)	Layer	Subsoil – mid yellow-brown to yellow-grey-brown friable-soft silt-clay.	Cut by [103]; overlies (102); same as (201), (302)	0.25-0.37m thick	-
(102)	Layer	Subsoil – light-mid slightly brown-yellow soft-firm clay.	Overlain by (101); overlies (105); same as (202), (303)	0.16-0.22m thick	-
[103]	Cut	Modern drain – linear feature orientated approximately north-east to south-west. Measures 1+ wide. Not excavated.	Filled by (104); cuts (101); same as [208]	-	Modern
(104)	Fill	Upper fill of drain [103] – mid brown-yellow soft-firm clay mixed with mid grey-brown soft-friable silt-clay. Re-deposited natural.	Overlain by (100); fill of [103]; same as (209)	-	Modern
(105)	Natural	Light yellow firm clay with occasional sub-angular stone.	Overlain by (102); same as (210), (306)	-	-
Trench 02					
(200)	Layer	Topsoil – mid-dark grey-brown friable slightly sand-silt.	Overlies (207), (209); same as (100), (300), (400)	0.24-0.36m thick	Modern
(201)	Layer	Subsoil – mid yellow-brown to yellow-grey-brown friable-soft silt-clay.	Cut by [206], [208]; overlies (204); same as (101), (302)	0.16-0.28m thick	-
(202)	Layer	Subsoil – light-mid slightly brown-yellow soft-firm clay.	Cut by [203]; overlies (210); same as (102), (303)	c.0.20m thick	-
[203]	Cut	Ditch terminus – linear feature orientated approximately north to south. Measures 0.90m wide and 0.10m deep with moderate sloping sides, clear break of slope and slightly concave base.	Filled by (204), (205); cuts (202)	0.10m deep	-
(204)	Fill	Upper fill of ditch [203] – dark-mid grey-brown friable-soft silt-clay with high proportion of deep red firm clay.	Overlain by (201); overlies (205); fill of [203]	0.07m thick	-
(205)	Fill	Basal fill of ditch [203] – dark brown-black friable-firm silt-clay.	Overlain by (204); fill of [203]	0.03m thick	-
[206]	Cut	Modern drain – linear feature orientated approximately north-west to south-east. Measures 0.60m wide. Not excavated.	Filled by (207); cuts (201)	-	Modern
(207)	Cut	Upper fill of drain [206] – mid brown-yellow soft-firm clay mixed with mid grey-brown soft-friable silt-clay. Re-deposited natural.	Overlain by (200); fill of [206]	-	Modern
[208]	Cut	Modern drain – linear feature orientated approximately north-east to south-west. Measures 0.20+m wide. Not excavated.	Filled by (209); cuts (201); same as [103], [219]	-	Modern
(209)	Fill	Upper fill of drain [208] – mid brown-yellow soft-firm clay mixed with mid grey-brown soft-friable silt-clay. Re-deposited natural.	Overlain by (200); fill of [208]; same as (104), (220)	-	Modern
(210)	Natural	Light yellow firm clay with occasional sub-angular stone.	Overlain by (202); same as (105), (306)	-	-
Area 02A					
(200)	Layer	Topsoil – mid-dark grey-brown friable slightly sand-silt.	Overlies (207), (209); same as (100), (300), (400)	0.24-0.36m thick	-
(201)	Layer	Subsoil – mid yellow-brown to yellow-grey-brown friable-soft silt-clay.	Cut by [206], [208]; overlies (204); same as (101), (302)	0.16-0.28m thick	-
(202)	Layer	Subsoil – light-mid slightly brown-yellow soft-firm clay.	Cut by [203]; overlies (210); same as (102), (303)	c.0.20m thick	-

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[203]	Cut	Ditch terminus – linear feature orientated approximately north to south. Measures 1.20m wide and 0.10m deep with moderate sloping sides, clear break of slope and slightly concave base.	Filled by (204), (205); cuts (202)	0.10m deep	-
(204)	Fill	Upper fill of ditch [203] – dark-mid grey-brown friable-soft silt-clay with high proportion of deep red firm clay.	Overlain by (201); overlies (205); fill of [203]	0.07m thick	-
(205)	Fill	Basal fill of ditch [203] – dark brown-black friable-firm silt-clay.	Overlain by (204); fill of [203]	0.03m thick	-
(210)	Natural	Light yellow firm clay with occasional sub-angular stone.	Overlain by (202); same as (105), (306)	-	-
[211]	Cut	Post/stake-hole – sub-circular feature measuring 0.21m in diameter and 0.09m deep with steep sloping sides, clear break of slope and slightly concave base.	Filled by (212); cuts (210)	0.09m deep	-
(212)	Fill	Fill of post/stake-hole [211] – mid yellow-brown-grey soft clay with occasional manganese flecks.	Overlain by (202); fill of [211]	0.09m thick	-
[213]	Cut	Post-hole – sub-circular to sub-oval feature orientated approximately north-west to south-east. Measures 0.32-0.38m in diameter and 0.16m deep with steep to near vertical sloping sides, clear to sharp break of slope and flat base.	Filled by (214); cuts (210)	0.16m deep	Prehistoric?
(214)	Fill	Fill of post-hole [213] – mid yellow-brown-grey soft clay with occasional manganese flecks and root disturbance.	Overlain by (202); fill of [213]	0.16m thick	Prehistoric?
[215]	Cut	Post-hole – sub-oval feature orientated approximately east to west. Measures 0.58m x 0.33m and 0.18m deep with steep to near vertical sloping sides, clear to sharp break of slope and broadly flat base.	Filled by (216); cuts (210)	0.18m deep	Prehistoric?
(216)	Fill	Fill of post-hole [215] – mid yellow-brown-grey soft clay with occasional manganese flecks and rare sub-angular small stone inclusions.	Overlain by (202); fill of [215]	0.18m thick	Prehistoric?
[217]	Cut	Post-hole – sub-circular feature measuring 0.30-0.36m in diameter and 0.28m deep with steep to near vertical sides, clear to sharp break of slope and flat base.	Filled by (218); cuts (210)?	0.28m deep	-
(218)	Fill	Fill of post-hole [217] – mid brown soft clay with abundant charcoal and occasional deep red clay patches.	Overlain by (201)/(202); fill of [217]	0.28m thick	-
[219]	Cut	Modern drain – linear feature orientated approximately north-east to south-west. Measures 0.10+m wide. Not excavated.	Filled by (220); cuts (201); same as [103], [208]	-	Modern
(220)	Fill	Upper fill of drain [208] – mid brown-yellow soft-firm clay mixed with mid grey-brown soft-friable silt-clay. Re-deposited natural.	Overlain by (200); fill of [219]; same as (104), (209)	-	Modern
Trench 03					
(300)	Layer	Topsoil – dark-mid brown friable silt.	Overlies (305); same as (100), (200), (400)	0.40-0.50m thick	Modern
(301)	Layer	Possible made-ground/spoil from adjacent development – mid yellow-brown friable silt with common sub-angular stone.	Cut by [304]; overlies (302)	0.26-0.44m thick	Modern?
(302)	Layer	Subsoil – mid yellow-brown soft silt-clay.	Overlain by (301); overlies (303); same as (101), (201)	0.16-0.42m thick	-
(303)	Layer	Subsoil – mid brown-yellow soft clay.	Overlain by (302); overlies (306); same as (102), (202)	c.0.10m thick	-
[304]	Cut	Modern drain – linear feature orientated approximately north-east to south-west. Measures 0.50m wide and 0.40+m deep. Not fully excavated.	Filled by (305); cuts (301)	0.40+m deep	Modern
(305)	Fill	Upper fill of drain [304] – mid brown-yellow soft-firm clay mixed with mid grey-brown soft-friable silt-clay. Re-deposited natural.	Overlain by (300); fill of [304]	0.40+m thick	Modern
(306)	Natural	Light yellow firm clay with occasional sub-angular stone.	Overlain by (303); same as (105), (210)	-	-
Trench 04					
(400)	Layer	Topsoil – dark brown-grey soft-friable silt.	Overlies (401); same as (100), (200), (300)	0.14-0.18m thick	Modern

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(401)	Layer	Lower topsoil – mid-dark brown-grey friable-soft silt-clay. Recorded as part of topsoil in other trenches.	Overlain by (400); overlies (402); part of (400)	0.14-0.18m thick	Modern
(402)	Layer	Buried soil made-ground/spoil from adjacent development – mid red-brown friable-soft sand-silt-clay with occasional charcoal and chalk flecks.	Overlain by (401); overlies (403)	0.18-0.22m thick	-
(403)	Layer	Buried soil made-ground/spoil from adjacent development – mid brown friable-soft sand-silt-clay.	Overlain by (402); overlies (404)	0.20-0.26m thick	-
(404)	Layer	Possible made-ground/spoil from adjacent development – mid yellow-brown soft slightly sand-clay with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions.	Overlain by (403); overlies (405)	0.26-0.30m thick	-
(405)	Layer	Subsoil – mid yellow-brown friable-soft clay.	Overlain by (404); overlies (406)	0.14-0.20m thick	-
(406)	Layer	Subsoil – mid brown-yellow soft-firm clay.	Overlain by (405); overlies (407)	0.10-0.16m thick	Romano-British?
(407)	Natural	Light-mid yellow firm clay.	Overlain by (405)	-	-

[100] feature/layer described in report

(100) feature not described in report

 archaeological feature – cut

APPENDIX 2: FINDS CONCORDANCE

Context	Pottery			Other			Date
	Sherds	Wgt. (g)	Notes	Frgs.	Wgt. (g)	Notes	
(100)	2	58	North Devon gravel tempered type 7 chamber pot. x1 rim, x1 base. 17 th -18 th century.	2	2	Clay pipe stem	Post-medieval
	3	178	Stoneware. x1 body, x1 base, x1 bottle base. 19 th century.	1	3	Shell	
	1	7	North Devon calcareous ware. Body. Post-medieval.	8	408	Iron objects, including x5 nails, x1 hook, x2 unidentified	
	1	48	North Devon calcareous slipware bowl. x1 rim. 19 th century.				
	9	39	White refined earthenware including blue transfer print and sponge decorated. x4 body, x5 base.				
(200)	1	4	North Devon calcareous ware. x1 body. 19 th century	1	26	Iron object, x1 nail.	Post-medieval
	1	4	North Devon calcareous yellow slipware closed form. x1 body. 17 th -18 th century.				
	1	13	North Devon gravel tempered ware. x1 body. Post-medieval.	1	22	Oyster shell	
	4	23	White refined earthenware including blue transfer print. x2 base, x2 body.	1	5	Chert flake, unworked	
	1	15	Industrial slipware. x1 rim.	1	126	Tile fragment	
	1	37	North Devon whiteware. x1 basal angle. 17 th century or later.				
	1	5	White ware with green glaze. Possible North French.				
(214)			1	2	Chert flake, unworked	Prehistoric	
(216)			1	14	Chert flake, unworked	Prehistoric	
(300)	1	8	North Devon calcareous ware. x1 body. Post-medieval.	1	3	Chert flake, unworked	Post-medieval
	1	25	White refined earthenware, blue transfer print. x1 base.				

(400)	9	60	White refined earthenware, blue transfer print. x1 base/body/rim, x1 base, x4 body, x2 rim. 19 th century or later.						Post-medieval
	1	27	Redware with Jackfield type glossy black glaze. 18 th or 19 th century						
	1	96	Stoneware. x1 sanitary ware body with basal angle.						
(401)	1	5	White refined earthenware, blue transfer print. x1 body	1	2	Clay pipe. x1 stem			Post-medieval
(406)	2	16	x2 body (from single piece). Romano-British						Romano-British
TOTALS	42	668		19	613				

APPENDIX 3: ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

Sample No.	Context No.	Feature Type	Sample Type	No. Bags/Buckets	% Fill/Feature	Date	Initials	Comments in the Field	Processed?	Comments During Processing	Macrofossils?
1	(204)	Ditch	Bulk	3 bags	25%	26.05.20	SS	Red clay with manganese oxide	Yes	Charcoal (manganese oxide) present sent for RC dating	-
2	(212)	Post-hole	Bulk	1 bag	100%	09.09.20	PW	-	Yes	-	None
3	(214)	Post-hole	Bulk	2 bags	100%	09.09.20	PW	-	Yes	-	None
4	(216)	Post-hole	Bulk	2 bags	100%	09.09.20	PW	-	Yes	-	None
5	(218)	Post-hole	Bulk	2 bags	100%	09.09.20	PW	Red clay with manganese oxide	Yes	Charcoal (manganese oxide) present sent for RC dating	-

APPENDIX 4: ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING PHOTOGRAPHS



1. TRENCH 01, REPRESENTATIVE SOUTH-WEST FACING SECTION, SOUTH-EAST END; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (1M SCALE).



2. TRENCH 01, REPRESENTATIVE SOUTH-WEST FACING SECTION, NORTH-WEST END; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (1M SCALE).



3. TRENCH 01, POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (1M & 2M SCALES).



4. DITCH TERMINUS [203], SOUTH FACING SECTION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).



5. DITCH TERMINUS [203], POST-EXCAVATION, WITH SOUTH-EAST FACING TRENCH SECTION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (1M SCALE).



6. TRENCH 02, REPRESENTATIVE SOUTH-EAST FACING SECTION, NORTH-EAST END; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (1M SCALE).



7. TRENCH 02, POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (1M & 2M SCALES).



8. DITCH [203] WITHIN AREA 02A; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (1M & 2M SCALES).



9. DITCH [203], SOUTH FACING SECTION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).



10. DITCH [203], POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).



11. POST-HOLES [211], [213], [215], AND [217], PRE-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (2M SCALE).



12. POST-HOLE [211], POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (1M SCALE).



13. POST-HOLE [213], POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (1M SCALE).



14. POST-HOLE [215], POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (1M SCALE).



15. POST-HOLE [217], POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (1M SCALE).



16. POST-HOLES [211], [213], [215], AND [217], POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (1M & 2M SCALES).



17. TRENCH 03, REPRESENTATIVE NORTH-WEST FACING SECTION, NORTH-EAST END; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (1M SCALE).



18. TRENCH 03, REPRESENTATIVE NORTH-WEST FACING SECTION, SOUTH-EAST END; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (1M SCALE).



19. TRENCH 03, POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (1M & 2M SCALES).



20. TRENCH 04, REPRESENTATIVE SOUTH-WEST FACING SECTION, NORTH-EAST END; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (1M SCALE).



21. TRENCH 04, REPRESENTATIVE SOUTH-WEST FACING SECTION, MID; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (1M SCALE).



22. TRENCH 04, REPRESENTATIVE SOUTH-WEST FACING SECTION, SOUTH-EAST END; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (1M SCALE).



23. TRENCH 04, POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (1M & 2M SCALES).



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