

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT:
LAND AT NO. 34, STATION ROAD, BARDNEY,
WEST LINDSEY, LINCOLNSHIRE**

NGR: TF 11802 69479
WLDC Planning Ref.: 131109
Site code: BARE 14
PCAS job no.: 1249
Archive acc. code: 2014.122

Prepared for

J. H. Walter LLP

by

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Summary

A programme of archaeological evaluation trenching took place to advise the proposed construction of a small residential development on land at no. 34, Station Road in the village of Bardney in the West Lindsey, Lincolnshire.

The proposed development site is situated in the medieval and post-medieval core of the village, and medieval artefact scatters have been recorded in the vicinity. Medieval earthworks lie to the north-east of the site.

Two trenches were excavated; both positioned to avoid existing structures and other obstacles, but giving the broadest possible coverage of the site within areas where groundworks are proposed. Trench 1 exposed no significant archaeology whatsoever; Trench 2 contained one small feature of dubious origin. No finds were recovered from either trench.

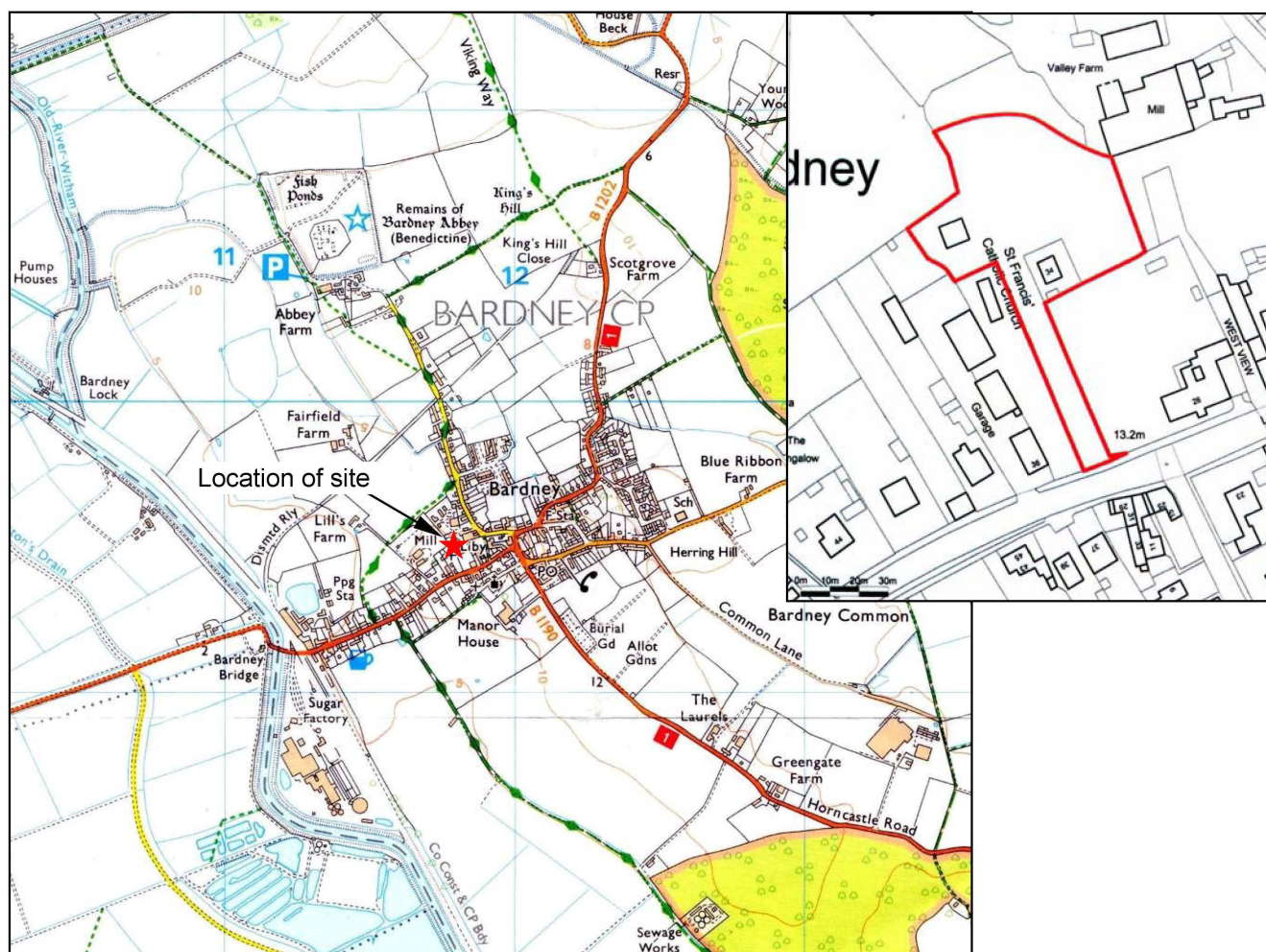


Figure 1: Location plan of the site (marked in red) at scale 1:25,000, with an inset detail at scale 1:2500. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was commissioned by J. H. Walter LLP to undertake a scheme of archaeological evaluation trenching to advise the proposed construction of a small residential development on land at no. 34, Station Road in the village of Bardney in the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire.

The site is situated in the medieval and post-medieval core of the village; there is evidence of medieval artefact scatters in the vicinity, and medieval earthworks to the north-east of the site. A programme of archaeological trial trenching was therefore recommended in order to inform a potential scheme of archaeological mitigation as part of the forthcoming planning application.

2.0 Location and description (figs. 1 and 2)

The village of Bardney lies within the district of West Lindsey, on the north-eastern bank of the River Witham some 14km east of Lincoln. The village extends along the B1202, which crosses the river at Bardney Bridge; Bardney no longer has a rail connection, but the former railway ran alongside the river, and the stretch of the B1202 running down to the river from the village centre is still called Station Road.

The proposed development site lies in the centre of the village, forming part of the extended garden of no. 34 Station Road, a brick-built bungalow. The site is bordered by St. Francis' Catholic Church to the west, the barn and outbuildings of Valley Farm to the north-east, and the garden of the neighbouring no. 28 Station Road to the south-east. It occupies an area of 0.404 hectares and is currently unused - it formerly had a quasi-commercial use, in association with a workshop in the north-western area of the site (Jones and Catney, 2010).

Central National Grid Reference: TF 11802 69479.

3.0 Geology and topography

Bardney lies in the valley of the River Witham, whose modern, canalised course passes the village to the south-west. It is sited on a shallow rise, above the 10m OD contour line, while the majority of the surrounding land is c. 5m OD.

Bardney's slightly elevated position is attributable to it being sited on a drift geology 'island' of older river sand and gravel, representing a desirable, reliably dry site for habitation in the Witham wetlands. The underlying solid geology is Oxford Clay (BGS, 1973).

4.0 Planning background

A planning application for the construction of 8 new dwellings off a private drive is under consideration, following the refusal of a former application in 2010 for the construction of 7 dwellings (application no. 126641). The results presented here will inform an archaeological mitigation strategy, if required, to support the ongoing application for planning permission (no. 131109).

5.0 Archaeological and historical background

The Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER) identifies a single prehistoric find in the vicinity of the proposed development site: a Neolithic to Bronze Age flint scraper found to the

east of Abbey Road (HER ref. 51159). No Roman sites or findspots are recorded within 250m of the central NGR of the site.

Medieval Bardney was a wealthy manor, belonging to Gilbert of Ghent. The manor itself had in its possession extensive arable land, meadow land and woodland pasture, with 27 taxable households, a mill and five fisheries, and it administered a number of outlying estates. Its taxable value was set at £20, one-fifth that of the city of Lincoln (Williams and Martin, 2003, p.920).

Earthwork remains of the medieval settlement of Bardney are visible on early aerial photographs. These earthworks were levelled in the 1970s, when associated medieval pottery was found, relating to visible house platforms. Quantities of post-medieval pottery were also found, but this was largely confined to the southern fringe of the area, probably deriving from properties fronting on to Abbey Road rather than from the levelled earthworks themselves.

The core of the present village is centred on a small open space, all that survives of a large triangular open area with a lane leading from its north-west corner directly to Bardney Abbey. This may have been a medieval market place, related to the weekly market instituted by the abbey in the early 13th century. The ridge-and-furrow earthworks of medieval Bardney's open fields have also been identified on aerial photographs, but all such earthworks have now been levelled by modern ploughing (HER refs. 51176-7).

6.0 Aims and methodology

It was decided that the evaluation would consist of two trenches, each measuring (approx.) 10m x 2m. The trenches were positioned in order to avoid existing structures and other obstacles, but giving the broadest possible coverage of the site within areas where groundworks are proposed (fig. 2).

The results of the evaluation will inform the potential impact of the development on any significant archaeological deposits. It will likewise inform the planning application that is currently under consideration, allowing for a programme of archaeological mitigation to be included, should this be necessary.

The broad aims of the evaluation were:

- To determine the presence/absence, nature, date, depth, quality of survival, importance, extent, form and function of any archaeological features on the site in advance of proposed development;
- To recover stratified dating evidence;
- To establish the sequence of archaeological remains on the site;
- To interpret the archaeology in the context of known archaeological remains in the vicinity.

A methodology for the scheme was fully set out in the WSI prior to excavation.

7.0 Results

A full descriptive context summary list appears as Appendix 2, whilst selected photographs can be seen in Appendix 1. For trench locations, see Figure 2.

Trench 1 (plates 3-4)

Trench 1 (10m x 2m and 0.75m deep) was orientated approximately ENE/WSW and was, for practical purposes, archaeologically sterile.

Upon excavation, one feature was exposed, but this contained modern waste such as rubber, batteries, etc, and was left largely unexcavated. The exposed stratigraphic sequence comprised of topsoil (101), subsoil (102) and the underlying natural substrate (103).

Trench 2 (plates 5-7)

Trench 2 (10m x 2m and 0.65 deep) was orientated approximately ENE/WSW. It exposed one possible archaeological feature at the SW end of the trench, [204], 0.7m in diameter and 0.22m deep, and filled with mid orange-brown sandy silt. Circular in shape, this was deemed to be either a small pit or a posthole. This small feature was cut into the natural substrate (203) and was sealed by subsoil (202). It is perhaps noteworthy that the fill of the feature was very similar to the subsoil, suggesting possibly that this feature could even have been of natural origin.

Generally, the trench exposed a stratigraphy of topsoil, subsoil and the natural substrate.

8.0 Discussion and conclusion

The evaluation concluded that Trench 1 contained no features of archaeological significance. Trench 2 contained a small feature that may have been a pit or posthole, but was conceivably not of anthropogenic origin.

Overall, the results suggest that the development would have little or no impact upon any significant archaeology.

No finds were recovered from the site.

9.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology employed during this project achieved its primary objective, ensuring that the proposed development area was fully explored in order to characterise any potential archaeology.

10.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. are grateful to JH Walter LLP for this commission.

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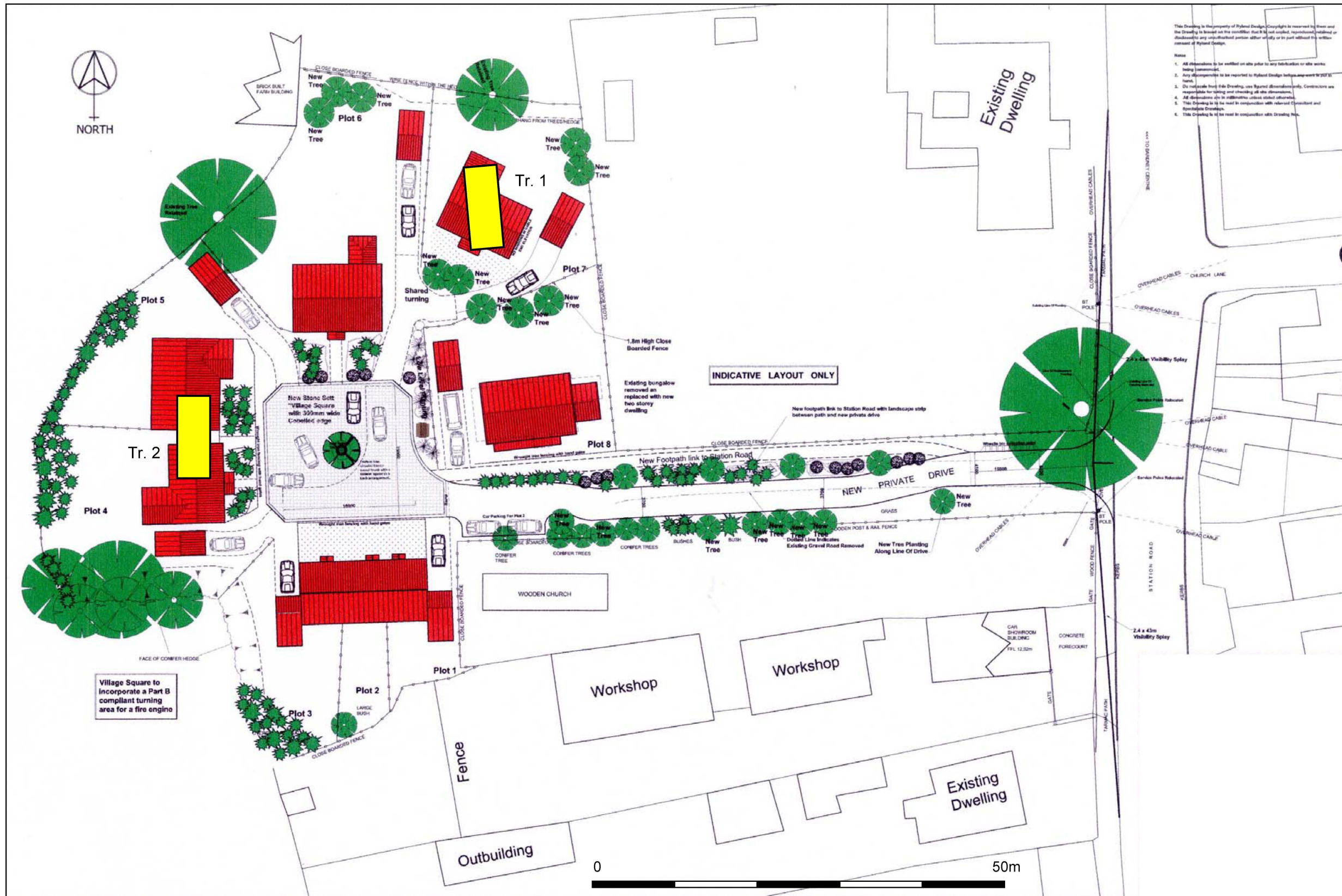


Figure 2: As-proposed plan of the site at scale 1:500, showing the positions of the evaluation trenches in yellow. Plan supplied by client.

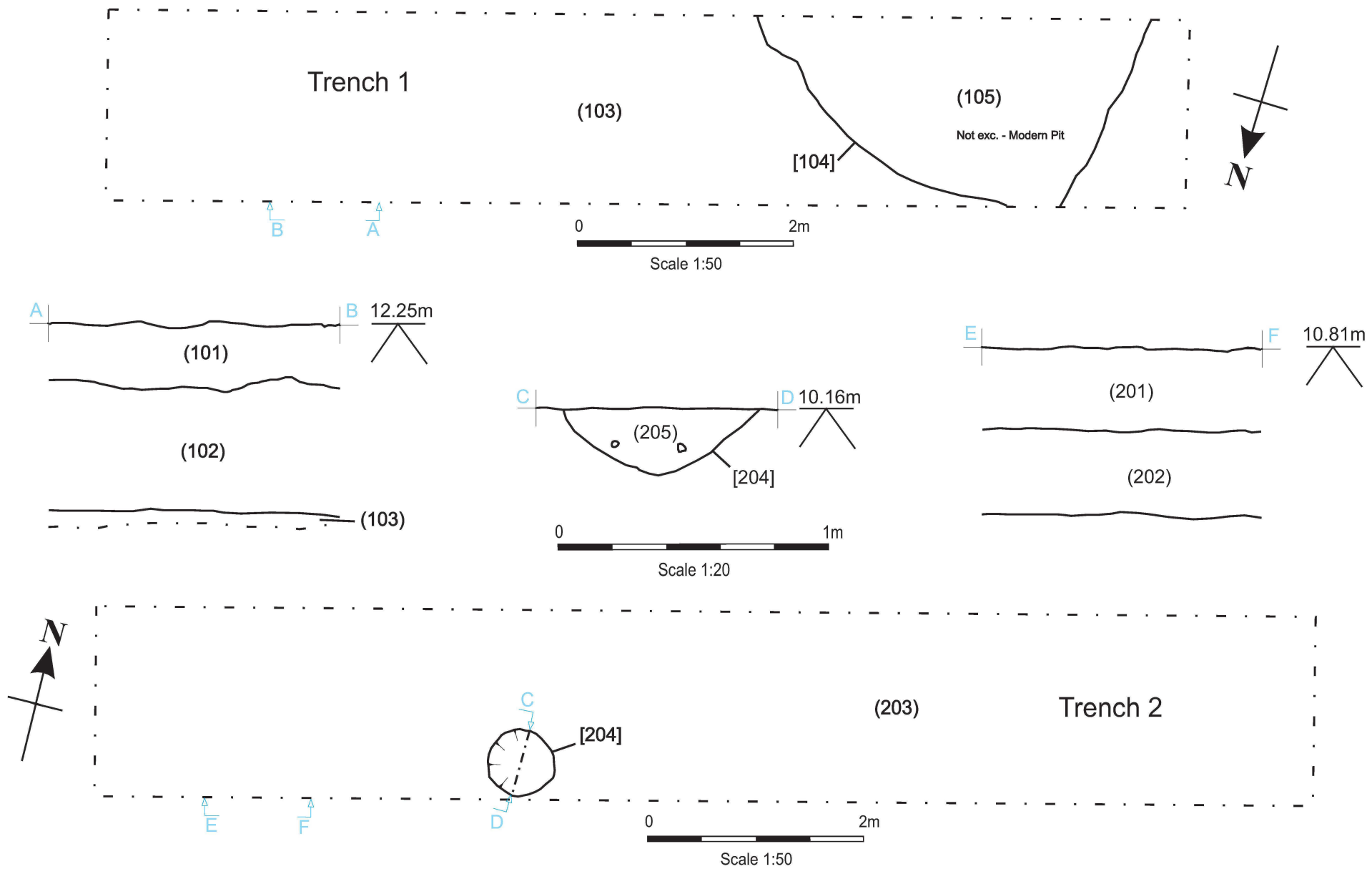


Figure 3: Plan (1:50) and representative section (1:20) of Trenches 1 and 2; Section (1:20) of pit [204].

Appendix 1: Colour plates



Plate 1: General shot of site. Pre-excavation (looking NW).



Plate 2: General shot of site. Pre-excavation (looking SE).



Plate 3: Trench 1 (looking W). Note modern pit [105] in the background.



Plate 4: Trench 1 representative section (looking NNW).



Plate 5: Trench 2 representative section (looking SSE).



Plate 6: Trench 2 (looking SW).



Plate 7: Feature [204] (looking E).

Appendix 2 – Context Summary

Context no.	Type	Description	Finds
Trench 1			
101	Layer	Mid to dark brown slightly sandy loam. Very occasional small pebbles. A modern garden soil. 0.2m thick.	
102	Layer	Mid slightly orange brown sandy silt with frequent small round pebbles. 0.5m thick.	
103	Layer	Natural. Mottled orange/brown silty sand and gravel. Depth unknown.	
104	Cut	Of large sub-rectangular pit. Modern, therefore not investigated.	
105	Fill	Of [104]. Mostly re-deposited soil. Contained lots of modern waste, inc. Rubber, paint can and decayed batteries. Not further investigated.	
Trench 2			
201	Layer	Same as (101). 0.3m thick.	
202	Layer	Similar to (102) but fewer pebbles/ gravel and a higher amount of silt. 0.3m thick.	
203	Layer	Natural. Mixed light yellow brown sandy clay and mottled orange brown silty sand containing frequent pebbles.	
204	Cut	Possible pit or posthole. Round in plan, smooth and concave in profile. 0.7m in diameter and 0.22m deep.	
205	Fill	Of [204]. Same as (202). Very clean with no charcoal or finds.	

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