

**Chard Regeneration Scheme  
Land North of Boden Mill  
Chard, Somerset**

*Archaeological Evaluation*



*for:*  
Speller Metcalfe

CA Project: EX0073  
CA Report: EX0073\_1

OASIS ID: cotswold2-368107

May 2023



# Chard Regeneration Scheme Land North of Boden Mill Chard, Somerset

## *Archaeological Evaluation*

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project name:</b>	Chard Regeneration Scheme
<b>Location:</b>	Land north of Boden Mill, Boden Street, Chard, Somerset
<b>NGR:</b>	332393 108537
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	24–25 February and 24 March 2020
<b>Planning reference:</b>	South Somerset District Council 19/01630/FUL
<b>OASIS ID:</b>	cotswold2-368107
<b>Location of archive:</b>	To be deposited with the Somerset Museums Service and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
<b>Site Code:</b>	CHRD 19

In February and March 2020, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land north of Boden Mill, Boden Street, Chard, Somerset. A total of six trenches were excavated.

The evaluation recorded two ditches: one modern and one undated. The evaluation also recorded deep modern levelling layers throughout the site. These are indicative of extensive ground disturbance associated with 19th and 20th century development.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In February and March 2020, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land north of Boden Mill, Boden Street, Chard, Somerset (centred at NGR: 332393 108537; Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for Speller Metcalfe.
- 1.2. South Somerset District Council has granted planning permission for the erection of a leisure centre, the conversion of an existing building to a library, and the demolition of further buildings (planning ref: 19/01630/FUL). These works are part of the Chard Regeneration Scheme.
- 1.3. Conditions 3 and 4 of this planning permission required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work.
- 1.4. The scope of this archaeological evaluation was defined by Steve Membery of the South West Heritage Trust (the archaeological advisor to South Somerset District Council). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2019a) and approved by Steve Membery.
- 1.5. The evaluation was also in line with *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

### The site

- 1.6. The evaluation site lies towards the centre of Chard. It is bounded by Boden Street to the west, Mill Lane to the south and Silver Street to the east. At the time of the evaluation, the site was occupied by several disused industrial buildings and areas of car parking.
- 1.7. The site lies on a gentle south-east facing slope, falling from c. 109m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at its western boundary to c. 105m aOD at its eastern boundary.
- 1.8. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as Upper Greensand Formation sandstone, which formed in the Cretaceous Period. This is overlain in the majority of the site by Head clays, sands and gravels, with colluvial diamicton

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present in the south-western part of the site. Both of these superficial deposits formed in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2019).

## **2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

2.1. The evaluation site has been the previous subject of a desk-based heritage assessment (CA 2019b). The following text is summarised from this report, which should be referred to for a full archaeological background.

2.2. The evaluation site lies within the Chard Town Area of High Archaeological Potential, as defined by South Somerset District Council. This area is considered to have potential for evidence of Chard's medieval and post-medieval development.

### **Roman (AD 43–AD 410)**

2.3. Evidence for Roman activity in the vicinity of the evaluation site is limited, although a ditch containing Roman pottery was recorded during archaeological work at High Street (c. 300m north-west of the site).

### **Early medieval (AD 410–1066) and medieval (1066–1539)**

2.4. Settlement in early medieval Chard is believed to have been centred on the site of St Mary's Church (c. 200m south of the evaluation site) and the adjacent crossroads. While the extent of the early medieval settlement is unknown, it is not believed to have extended as far north as the evaluation site.

2.5. St Mary's Church itself was constructed in the 15th century, although documentary sources indicate the presence of an earlier church (presumably on the same site) from at least the 12th century.

2.6. Chard expanded northwards in the early 13th century. The present route of High Street and Fore Street, to the immediate north of the evaluation site, is believed to preserve the line of a primary medieval thoroughfare. The northern part of the evaluation site is likely to have been within an area of burgage plots laid out to the south of this medieval street. Such burgage plots typically comprised long, narrow plots with houses fronting onto the street and yards to the rear, with paths or lanes along their rear boundaries.

2.7. Previous archaeological investigations within the town centre have recorded medieval remains, including a tiled floor, boundary ditches, stone wall foundations

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and pits. All of these features were recorded within 60m–700m of the evaluation site.

- 2.8. Old Town Farmhouse, which lay c. 100m south of the evaluation site and was demolished in the 1950s, may have been a medieval foundation.

#### **Post medieval (1540–1800) and modern (1800–present)**

- 2.9. The 19th century saw the construction of several lace-making factories in Chard, including Boden Mill (which still stands within the evaluation site), Holyrood Mill (to the immediate west of the evaluation site) and Oram’s Mill (to the immediate south-west of the evaluation site). The Archway was constructed at the site in the later 19th century. Boden Mill and the Archway are Grade II Listed Buildings.
- 2.10. Historic cartographic sources document increased industrial/urban development within the site, and this is likely to have had a negative impact on the survival of any earlier below-ground remains.

### **3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1. The general objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. This information will enable South Somerset District Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposals, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021).

### **4. METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of six trenches (Fig. 2):
- 2no c. 10m x 1.8m trenches; and
  - 4no c. 20m x 1.8 trenches.
- 4.2. Trenches were numbered 1–5 and 7; there was no Tr6.
- 4.3. The trenches were located to provide a representative sample of the site, outside of the standing buildings. There were several amendments to the proposed trench plan set out in the WSI (CA 2019a), in order to avoid services and maintain access.

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- 4.4. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. After removal of the modern tarmac, overburden was stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate, or to a depth of c. 1m below present ground level (whichever was first encountered).
- 4.5. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.6. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. No deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.7. CA will make arrangements with the Somerset Museums Service for the deposition of the project archive. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020).
- 4.8. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A. Figure 2 shows the evaluation trenches and the recorded archaeological features in plan.

### General stratigraphy

- 5.2. The natural substrate comprised yellow/green clay with chert/flint inclusions. It was exposed at a depth of 0.6m–0.9m below present ground level in Tr2, Tr4 and Tr5.
- 5.3. In Tr5, the natural substrate was overlain by 0.3m of dark brown silty clay 502, which may represent a former soil horizon. This was sealed by modern made ground, which was covered in turn by the modern tarmac surfacing.



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- 5.4. In Tr2 and Tr4, the natural substrate was directly overlain by modern levelling layers, which were sealed in turn by the modern tarmac surfacing.
  - 5.5. Tr1, Tr3 and Tr7 were excavated to a depth of 1m–1.2m bpgl without exposing the natural substrate. These trenches contained modern levelling deposits to depth.
  - 5.6. Archaeological features were recorded in Tr2 and Tr4; these features were cut into the natural substrate.

#### **Trench 2 (Fig. 3)**

- 5.7. North-east/south-west aligned ditch 206 was 0.48m wide and 0.14m deep. This ditch terminated within the trench. It contained a single undated fill (207).

#### **Trench 4**

- 5.8. North/south-aligned ditch 403 was 1.4m wide. It was not excavated, but modern artefacts were present on the upper surface of fill 402 (not recovered).

## **6. DISCUSSION**

- 6.1. Ditch 206 (Tr2) was undated artefactually. It was on the same alignment as the adjacent plot boundary to the north (Fig. 2) and may therefore represent a former boundary feature.
- 6.2. The evaluation recorded deep modern levelling layers throughout the site. These are indicative of extensive ground disturbance associated with 19th and 20th century development. Ditch 403 (Tr4) contained modern artefacts and is likely to be associated with this phase of activity.

## **7. CA PROJECT TEAM**

- 7.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Jerry Austin and Simon Sworn. This report was written by Jerry Austin and Craig Jones. The report illustrations were prepared by Ken Lymer. The project archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.

## **8. REFERENCES**

British Geological Survey 2019 *BGS Geology Viewer* <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/bgs-geology-viewer/> Accessed 25 September 2019

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Cotswold Archaeology 2019a *Chard Regeneration Scheme, Land North of Boden Mill, Boden Street, Chard, Somerset: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

Cotswold Archaeology 2019b *Chard Regeneration Scheme – Leisure Centre, Chard, Somerset: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* CA report no: **EX0009\_1**

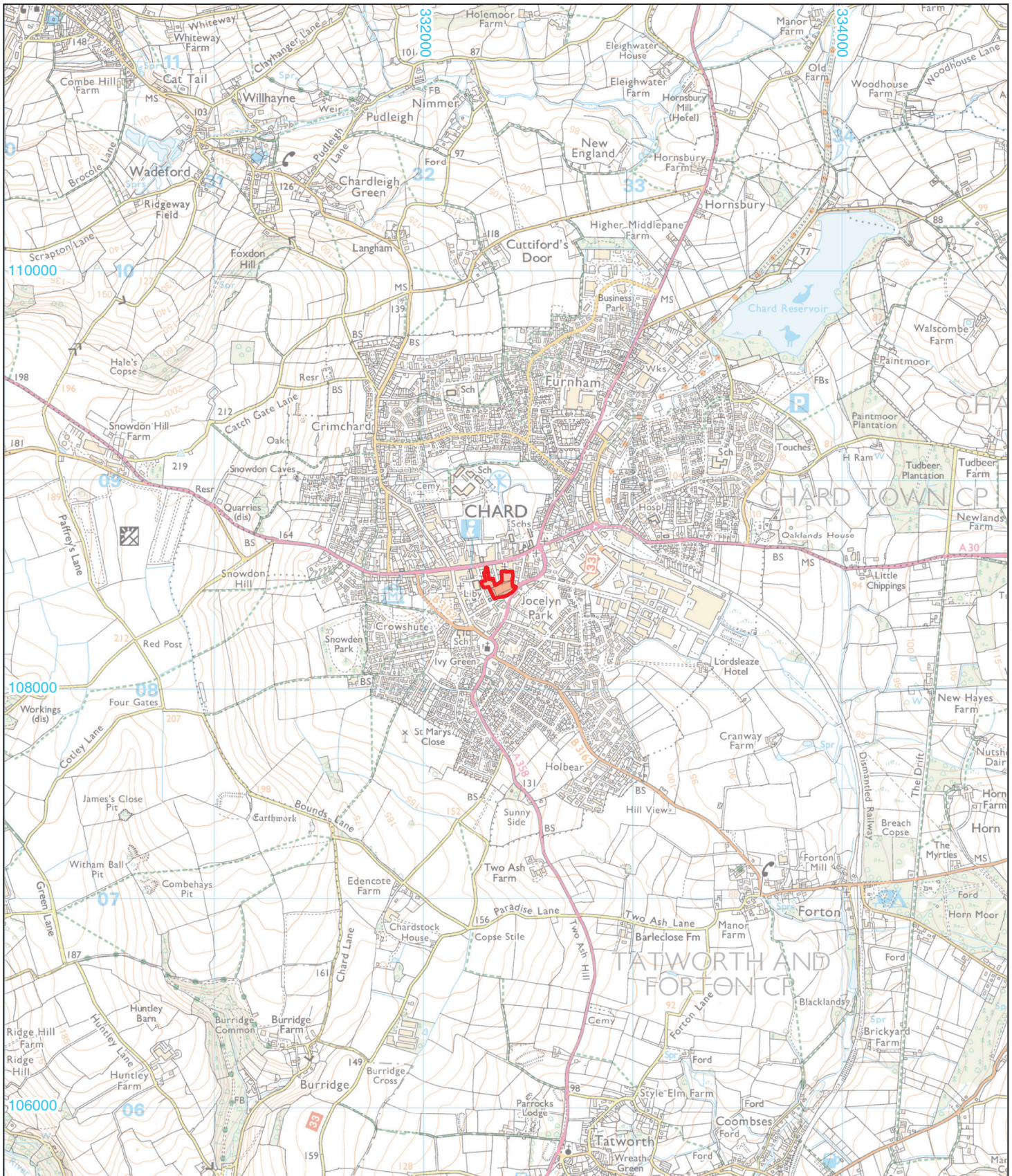
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government 2021 *National Planning Policy Framework*

## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	
1	100	Deposit		Tarmac surface	Modern tarmac ground surface		0.27	
1	101	Deposit		Levelling for tarmac surface	Type 1 scalpings		0.16	
1	102	Deposit		Levelling for tarmac surface	Compact yellow sand		0.24	
1	103	Deposit		Made ground	Blue-grey clay with brick inclusions		0.1	
1	104	Deposit		Made ground	Mid grey-brown sandy clay with frequent modern demolition rubble		0.44	
1	105	Deposit		Made ground	Pale grey sandy gravel with lime mortar inclusions		?	
2	200	Deposit		Tarmac surface	Modern tarmac ground surface		0.08	
2	201	VOID						
2	202	Deposit		Made ground	Mid brown silty clay with frequent mortar and brick inclusions		0.58	
2	203	Deposit		Made ground	Redeposited natural clay		0.4	
2	204	Deposit		Made ground	Redeposited natural clay		0.2	
2	205	Deposit		Made ground	Mid brown silty clay with frequent mortar and brick inclusions		0.4	
2	206	Cut		Ditch	Linear ditch; NE/SW aligned; terminates at SW end; cuts natural 209	0.48	0.14	
2	207	Deposit	206	Ditch fill	Grey sandy clay	0.48	0.14	
2	208	Deposit		Made ground	Mid grey-brown silty clay with CBM inclusions		0.25	
2	209	Geology		Natural	Yellow/green clays with chert inclusions			
3	300	Deposit		Tarmac surface	Modern tarmac ground surface		0.1	
3	301	Deposit		Made ground	Modern demolition waste in a silty clay matrix		>0.9	
4	400	Deposit		Tarmac surface	Modern tarmac ground surface		0.2	
4	401	Deposit		Made ground	Dark brown silty clay with frequent modern rubble inclusions		0.45	
4	402	Deposit	403	Ditch fill	Dark brown/black silty clay with modern pottery fragments; not excavated	1.4	?	
4	403	Cut		Ditch	Linear ditch; NW/SE aligned; not excavated; cuts natural 404	1.4	?	
4	404	Geology		Natural	Chert/flint in light yellow-brown silty clay			
5	500	Deposit		Tarmac surface	Modern tarmac ground surface		0.1	
5	501	Deposit		Levelling for tarmac surface	Type 1 scalpings		0.2	
5	502	Deposit		Buried soil?	Dark brown silty clay		0.3	
5	503	Geology		Natural	Chert/flint in light yellow-brown silty clay			
7	700	Deposit		Tarmac surface	Modern tarmac ground surface		0.23	
7	701	Deposit		Made ground	Modern brick and mortar rubble		0.35	
7	702	Deposit		Made ground	Redeposited natural with tarmac inclusions		0.1	
7	703	Deposit		Made ground	Mid brown silty clay with modern demolition rubble		0.33	
7	704	Deposit		Made ground	Grey silty clay with CBM inclusions		>0.3	

## APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	Chard Regeneration Scheme, Land North of Boden Mill, Chard, Somerset	
Short description	<p>In February and March 2020, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land north of Boden Mill, Boden Street, Chard, Somerset. A total of six trenches were excavated.</p> <p>The evaluation recorded two ditches: one modern and one undated. The evaluation also recorded deep modern levelling layers throughout the site. These are indicative of extensive ground disturbance associated with 19th and 20th century development.</p>	
Project dates	24–25 February and 24 March 2020	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Desk-based heritage assessment (Cotswold Archaeology 2019)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site location	Land North of Boden Mill, Chard, Somerset	
Study area (m <sup>2</sup> /ha)	5ha	
Site co-ordinates	332393 108537	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	Jerry Austin and Simon Sworn	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
None		
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>		
None		
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Somerset Museums Service	Site recording forms
Digital	Archaeology Data Service	Digital photos, survey data, etc.
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Cotswold Archaeology 2023 <i>Chard Regeneration Scheme, Land North of Boden Mill, Chard, Somerset: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report <b>EX0073_1</b>		



 Site boundary



Andover 01264 347630  
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Chard Regeneration Scheme, Silver Street, Chard

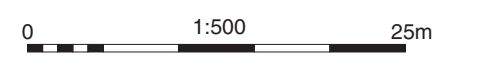
**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

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<b>DRAWN BY</b>	<b>KL</b>	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	<b>EX0073</b>	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
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<b>APPROVED BY</b>	<b>DE</b>	<b>SCALE@A4</b>	<b>1:25,000</b>	<b>1</b>



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature



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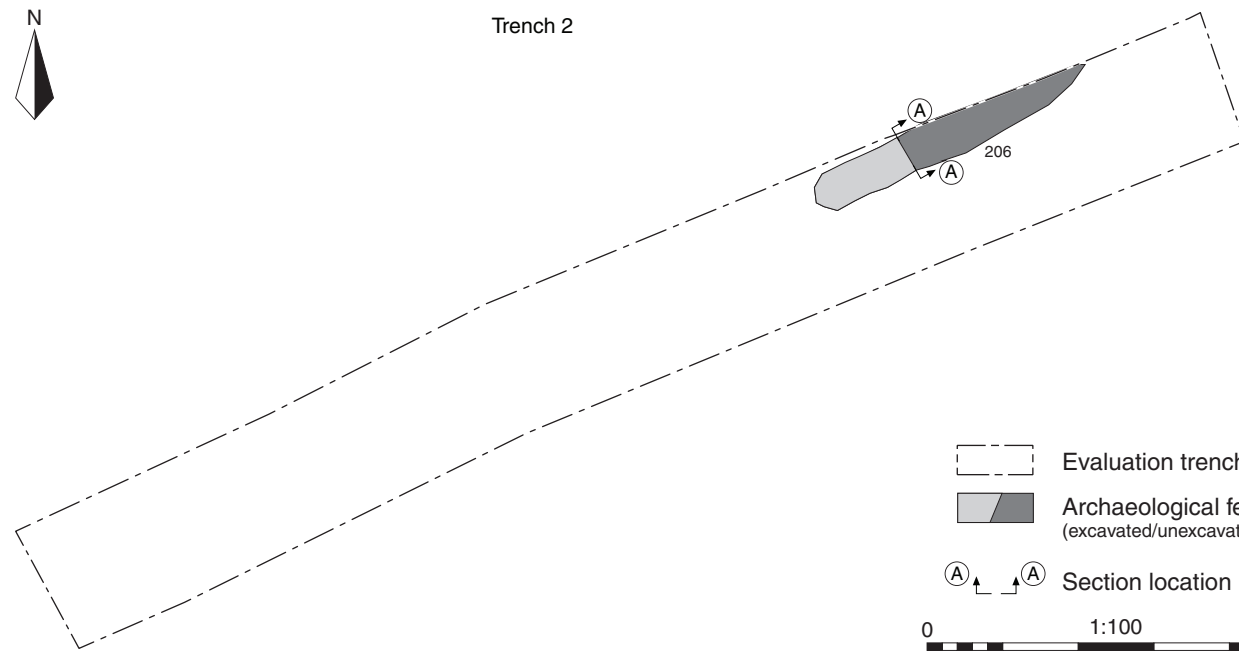
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

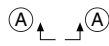
**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench location plan showing archaeological features

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<b>CHECKED BY</b> DB	<b>DATE</b> 14/12/2022	<b>2</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b> DE	<b>SCALE@A3</b> 1:500	

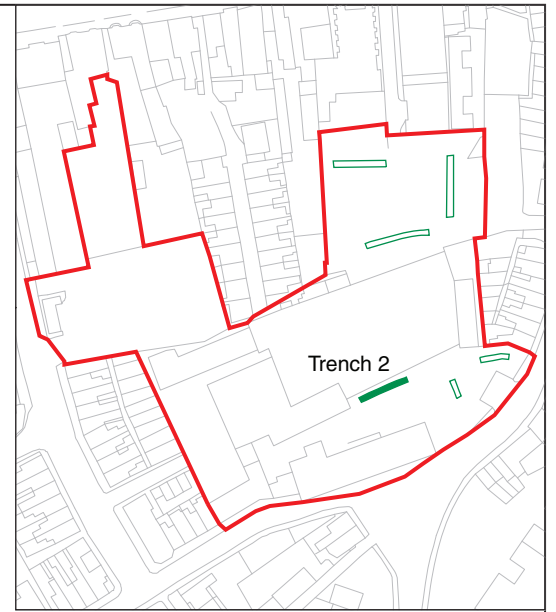


Trench 2

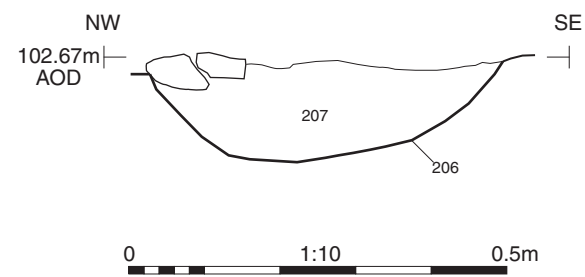


-  Evaluation trench
-  Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
-  Section location

0 1:100 5m



Section AA



Trench 2 during excavation, showing feature 206, looking north-east (0.3m scale)

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PROJECT TITLE  
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FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 2: plan, section and photograph**

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