

Former Gerway Nurseries Ottery St. Mary East Devon

Archaeological Evaluation



for
CgMs Consulting Ltd.

CA Project: 880034
CA Report No: 15609

July 2015



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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Former Gerway Nurseries
Location:	Ottery St. Mary, East Devon
NGR:	SY 0998 9496
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	13-15 July 2015
Planning Reference:	14/1227/MOUT
Location of Archive:	Royal Albert Memorial Museum
Site Code:	GER 15

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2015 at the former Gerway Nurseries, Ottery St. Mary, East Devon. Eight trenches were excavated.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the post medieval or modern periods were recovered. Within **Trenches 5, 6, and 7** the only features recorded comprised of the remains of post medieval field system ditches which broadly correspond to historic mapping.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Waddeton Park Ltd at the former Gerway Nurseries, Ottery St. Mary, East Devon (centred on NGR: SY 0998 9496; Fig. 1).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken to fulfil condition 5 of the Grant of Planning Permission (ref: 14/1227/MOUT) for the construction of 45 dwellings with associated open space and infrastructure. Condition 5 of the Grant of Planning Permission states that:

No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the Implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out at all times in strict accordance with the approved scheme, or such other details as may be subsequently agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority

1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the recommendations provided by Stephen Reed, of Devon County Council Historic Environment Team DCCHET, the archaeological planning advisor to East Devon District Council (EDDC), and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by DCCHET. The WSI set out the details and methodology by which the trial trench evaluation and subsequent staged archaeological investigation would be undertaken at the site.

1.4 The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014), DCC's *Specification for Archaeological Field Evaluation*, the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).

The site

1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 2ha, and comprises a lawn, driveway, house and garden to the south, three sheds/storage buildings in the centre of the site, and a large wooden storage building to the north. All other

structures as outlined in the WSI (CA 2015) had been removed by the time groundworks had commenced. The boundaries of the site are formed by hedge banks to the east, south and west, and by the stream to the north. The site dips down to the north east where the stream is from the central buildings

- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Triassic Period Otter Sandstone Formation. This is shown to be overlain in the northern part of the site, adjacent to the watercourse, by superficial deposits of Head Sand and Gravel, which formed up to three million years ago in the Quaternary Period.
- 1.5 The proposed development site is located partially on the top, and partially on the east-facing slope of a north-east/south-west Greensand ridge. The open vale of the River Otter was situated to the west, and the valley of the River Sid to the east, beyond the high north/south ridge of East Hill.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Cotswold Archaeology (2014) produced a Heritage Desk Based Assessment of the site which gives a detailed account of the archaeological back ground. The conclusion is set out below.
- 2.2 No currently recorded or potential heritage assets are present within the site. Prehistoric find spots have been recorded within the site by the DHER, but these were plotted with an error margin of 1000m and are unlikely to have come from within the site. As the site is located on high ground above the valley and close to a small watercourse, there was thought to be some general, but low, potential for prehistoric settlement, although there is no evidence to suggest that this is the case.
- 2.3 Roman period settlement was recorded c. 650m to the south-west by the River Otter, but there was no evidence to suggest that any such settlement is present within the site.
- 2.4 The site formed part of the agricultural hinterland of the settlement of Ottery St. Mary in the early medieval, medieval and post-medieval periods, and as such the potential for archaeological remains of these periods within the site was considered to be very low.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality. The initial stage of investigation (trial trench evaluation) was designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered from this initial stage will enable DCHET advisor to EDDC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and where possible to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). Where impact on any subsequently identified archaeological remains is unavoidable, further stages of archaeological investigation and recording (as set out in section 1.4 of the WSI) maybe be necessary, either taking the form of open area archaeological excavation or a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording (i.e. watching brief), whichever is deemed the most appropriate level of archaeological mitigation.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of seven 30m x 2m trenches and one 35m x 2m trench in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and scanned for live services by trained Cotswold Archaeology staff using CAT and Genny equipment in accordance with the Cotswold Archaeology *Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services*. The position of trenches **1-5** were adjusted on site to account for the North East-South West service running across site. The final 'as dug' trench plan was recorded with GPS.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

- 4.3 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 however, that were suitable for environmental sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited with The Royal Albert Memorial Museum. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-7)

- 5.1 Archaeological features were identified during the trial trench evaluation within **Trenches 5, 6, and 7**. Limited Archaeological features relating to post medieval field systems and temporary structures were found in these trenches. No archaeological features or deposits were found within **Trenches 1 - 4 and 8**.
- 5.2 The general soil profile observed within the trenches comprised of the natural substrate a light brown sand with bands and patches of clayey sand. Within Trench 2 the natural substrate was recorded as large river cobbles set in grey silt. The natural substrate was overlain by up to 0.30m of subsoil, which was overlain by up to c.0.40m of ploughsoil, which was sealed by up to c.0.30m of topsoil. Within trenches 3 and 4 between 0.30m to 0.50mm of colluvium was recorded lying between the natural substrate and subsoil.

Trench 5 (Figs 2 - 3)

- 5.2 An east – west linear ditch (**503**) was identified within **Trench 5** and observed to terminate within the trench. Ditch (**503**) consisted of a shallow U-shaped profile and contained a single fill (**504**) containing modern debris such as plastic. The ditch appears to have the same alignment as (**706**).

Trench 6 (Figs 2 – 3 & 5)

- 5.4 A north west – south east ditch (**604**) corresponding with (**704**) to the south east ran perpendicularly across the west end of the trench and was not excavated, as it was known to be the field boundary evidenced in the desk based assessment (CA 2014) and its continuation was excavated in **Trench 7**.
- 5.5 **Trench 6** also contained a modern post hole (**606**) with a single humic fill containing plastic, a concrete slab and glass amongst other modern debris.

Trench 7 (Figs 2-3 & 6-7)

- 5.5 A north-west to south-east ditch (**704**) and an east to west ditch (**706**) ran through **Trench 7**, both corresponding in alignment to ditch (**604**) and ditch (**503**) respectively. Both ditches contained single fills (**705**) and (**707**) respectively of reddish brown sandy silt.

6. THE FINDS AND PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 6.1 Modern debris was observed in the topsoil of all trenches and post medieval to modern fragments of CBM were frequent in the plough soil and subsoil. This material was also present in fills (**605**) and (**705**) of the post medieval field boundary ditches **604** and **704**.
- 6.2 No deposits observed were suitable for sampling.

7. Discussion

- 7.1 The trial trench evaluation identified post-medieval to modern features only within **Trenches 5, 6** and **7**. A north west – south east post medieval field boundary was uncovered in **Trenches 6** and **7** and fits with the findings of the DBA. Further ditches were recorded within **Trenches 5** and **7** of likely post-medieval or modern date based on their alignment and dated by the content of ditch (**504**) and the similarity of ditch (**705**) to ditch (**707**). The post hole in trench 6 is also of this date given the modern content of its fill and sharpness of its horizon.

- 7.2 These features went out of use prior to the subsequent relatively modern deep build-up of subsoil, plough soil and topsoil, despite the features likely being extant up until as recently as 1905 based on historic mapping. This indicates that there has been a large importation of material to the site within the last 100 years.
- 7.3 The archaeology recorded during the trial trenching has shown no evidence for any archaeological features or deposits pre-dating the post medieval period.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jeremy Clutterbuck, assisted by Natasha Djukic and Jack Martin-Jones. The report was written by Jeremy Clutterbuck. The illustrations were prepared by Leo Heatley. The archive has been compiled by Thomas Rowley, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Greatorex.

9. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 9 February 2014

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Heritage Desk Based Assessment of the Gerway Nurseries, Ottery Saint Mary, Devon*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation at Former Gerway Nurseries, Ottery St. Mary, East Devon*

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*





APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTION

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy silt with moderate modern debris including CBM	30	1.8	0.3
1	101	Layer	Plough Soil	Light brown silty sand with moderate ≤ 40 mm sub rounded flint, CBM & slate	30	1.8	0.3 - 0.6
1	102	Layer	Subsoil	Light yellowish brown medium sand with occasional ≤ 30 mm sub rounded stone	30	1.8	0.6 - 0.85
1	103	Layer	Natural	Very light brown and white medium sand and pinkish purple sandy clay	30	1.8	0.85 – 1.2+
2	200	Layer	Made Ground	light yellow sand	30	1.8	0 - 0.94
2	201	Layer	Plough Soil	mid grey sandy clay and brick rubble	30	1.8	0.94 – 1.21
2	202	Layer	Natural	large river cobbles set in grey silt	30	1.8	1.21 – 1.26+
3	300	Layer	Topsoil	Mid brown silty sand	30	1.8	0 – 0.18
3	301	Layer	Plough Soil	Mid brown silty sand CBM flint and coal	30	1.8	0.18 – 0.52
3	302	Layer	Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown sand	30	1.8	0.52 – 0.82
3	303	Layer	Colluvium	Mid reddish brown silty sand	30	1.8	0.82 – 0.99
3	304	Layer	Colluvium	Light reddish brown silty medium sand	30	1.8	0.99 – 1.13
3	305	Layer	Natural	Light yellowish brown clayey sand	30	1.8	1.13 – 1.32
4	400	Layer	Topsoil	Mid brown silty sand	30	1.8	0 - 0.2
4	401	Layer	Plough soil	Mid brown silty sand cbm flint and charcoal	30	1.8	0.2 – 0.62
4	402	Layer	Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown sand	30	1.8	0.62 – 0.93
4	403	Layer	Colluvium	Mid reddish brown silty sand	30	1.8	0.93 - 1.4
4	404	Layer	Natural	Light brown sand with bands of pinkish brown and white and patches of clayey sand	30	1.8	1.4+
5	500	Layer	Topsoil	Black dark brown silty sand	30	1.8	0 – 0.12
5	501	Layer	Plough soil	Mid brown silty sand small sub rounded flint cbm and charcoal	30	1.8	0.12 – 0.3
5	502	Layer	Natural	Light brown sand with bands of brown and white and patches of clayey sand	30	1.8	0.3 – 0.5
5	503	Cut	Ditch	Linear in plan moderate concave sides concave base e/w alignment	1.1	0.7	0.42
5	504	Fill	Of 503	Mid greyish brown with reddish brown mottling silty sand moderate charcoal	1.1	0.7	0.42
6	600	Layer	Topsoil	Light brown silty sand occasional sub rounded stones	30	1.8	0 – 0.2
6	601	Layer	Plough soil	Mid brown silty sand cbm flint and charcoal	30	1.8	0.2 – 0.45
6	602	Layer	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown silty sand with occasional manganese	30	1.8	0.45 - 1.14
6	603	Layer	Natural	Light brown sand with bands of pinkish brown and white and patches of clayey sand	30	1.8	1.14+
6	604	Cut	Ditch	Linear not excavated same as 704	1.86	1.42	n/a
6	605	Fill	Of 604	Mid reddish brown sandy silt	1.86	1.42	n/a

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
6	606	Cut	Beam pilling	Circular in plan sub rounded corners steep concave sides concave base	0.52	0.47	0.2
6	607	Fill	Of 606	Mid greyish brown silty sand large stone slab	0.52	0.47	0.2
7	700	Layer	Topsoil	Light brown silty fine sand with occasional sub rounded flint	35	1.8	0 – 0.2
7	701	Layer	Plough soil	Mid brown silty fine sand cbm flint and charcoal	35	1.8	0.2 – 0.46
7	702	Layer	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown silty sand occasional manganese	35	1.8	0.46 – 0.75
7	703	Layer	natural	Light brown sand with bands of pinkish brown and white and patches of clayey sand	35	1.8	0.75 – 0.83
7	704	Cut	Ditch	Linear in plan moderate concave sides irregular flat base se/nw alignment	0.9	1.31	0.19
7	705	Fill	Of 704	Light reddish brown sandy silt	0.9	1.31	0.19
7	706	Cut	Ditch	Linear in plan moderate strait sides flat base	2+	1.63	0.63
7	707	Fill	Of 706	Mid reddish brown silty sand occasional sub angular flint	2+	1.63	0.63
8	800	Layer	Topsoil	Light pinkish brown silty clay	36	1.8	0 – 0.2
8	801	Layer	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown silty sand occasional cbm flint	36	1.8	0.2 - 0.56
8	802	Layer	Natural	Light brown sand with bands of pinkish brown and white and patches of clayey sand	36	1.8	0.56 – 0.8

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project Name	Former Gerway Nurseries Ottery St. Mary
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2015 at the former Gerway Nurseries, Ottery St. Mary, East Devon. Eight trenches were excavated. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the post medieval or modern periods were recovered. Within Trenches 5, 6, and 7 the only features recorded comprised of the remains of post medieval field system ditches which broadly correspond to historic mapping.
Project dates	13-15 July 2015
Project type	Evaluation
Previous work	CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 Heritage Desk Based Assessment of the Gerway Nurseries, Ottery Saint Mary, Devon
Future work	Unknown
PROJECT LOCATION	
Site Location	former Gerway Nurseries, Ottery St. Mary, East Devon
Study area (M ² /ha)	2ha
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SY 0998 9496
PROJECT CREATORS	
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Brief originator	CgMs Consulting Ltd
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Manager	Damian De Rosa
Project Supervisor	Jeremy Clutterbuck
MONUMENT TYPE	
Post medieval field boundaries	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	
none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	
Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	none
Paper	The Royal Albert Memorial Museum Context sheets, drawings, photo registers
Digital	digital photos, survey data - GIS
BIBLIOGRAPHY	
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015: <i>Former Gerway Nurseries, Ottery St. Mary, East Devon: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report 15609	



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PROJECT TITLE

Former Gerway Nurseries, Ottery St Mary
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FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

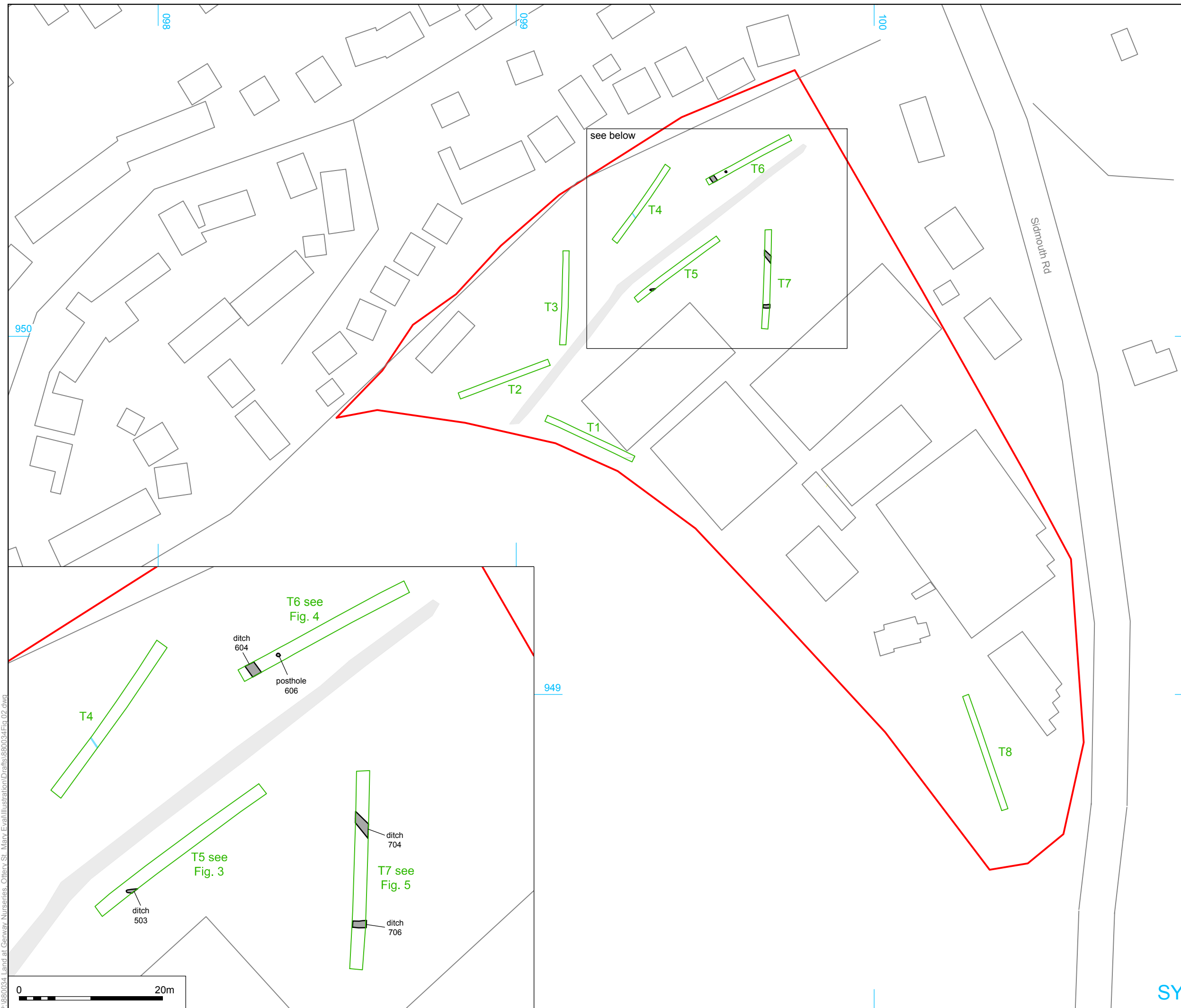
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PROJECT NO. 880034
 DATE 31/07/2015
 SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- ▭ site boundary
- ▭ evaluation trench
- ▭ archaeological feature
- ▭ field drain

0 50m

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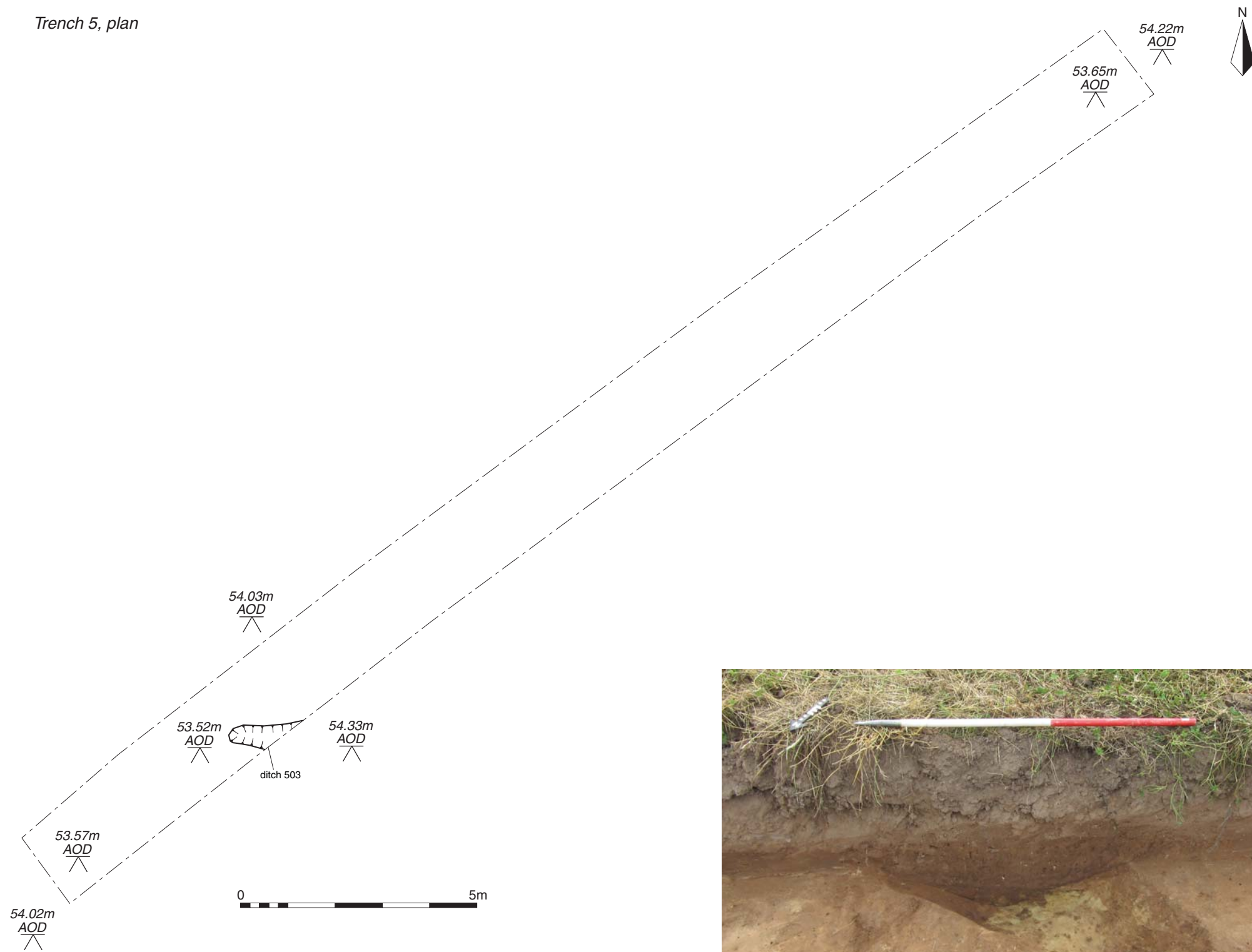
PROJECT TITLE
Former Gerway Nurseries, Ottery St Mary East Devon

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan showing archaeological features

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 CHECKED BY RP/LM DATE 31/07/2015 2
 APPROVED BY DDR SCALE@A3 1:1000 & 1:500

P:\880034 Land at Gerway Nurseries, Ottery St Mary Evaluation\Illustration\Drafts\880034\Fig 02.dwg

Trench 5, plan



Ditch 503, looking south-east (1m scale)

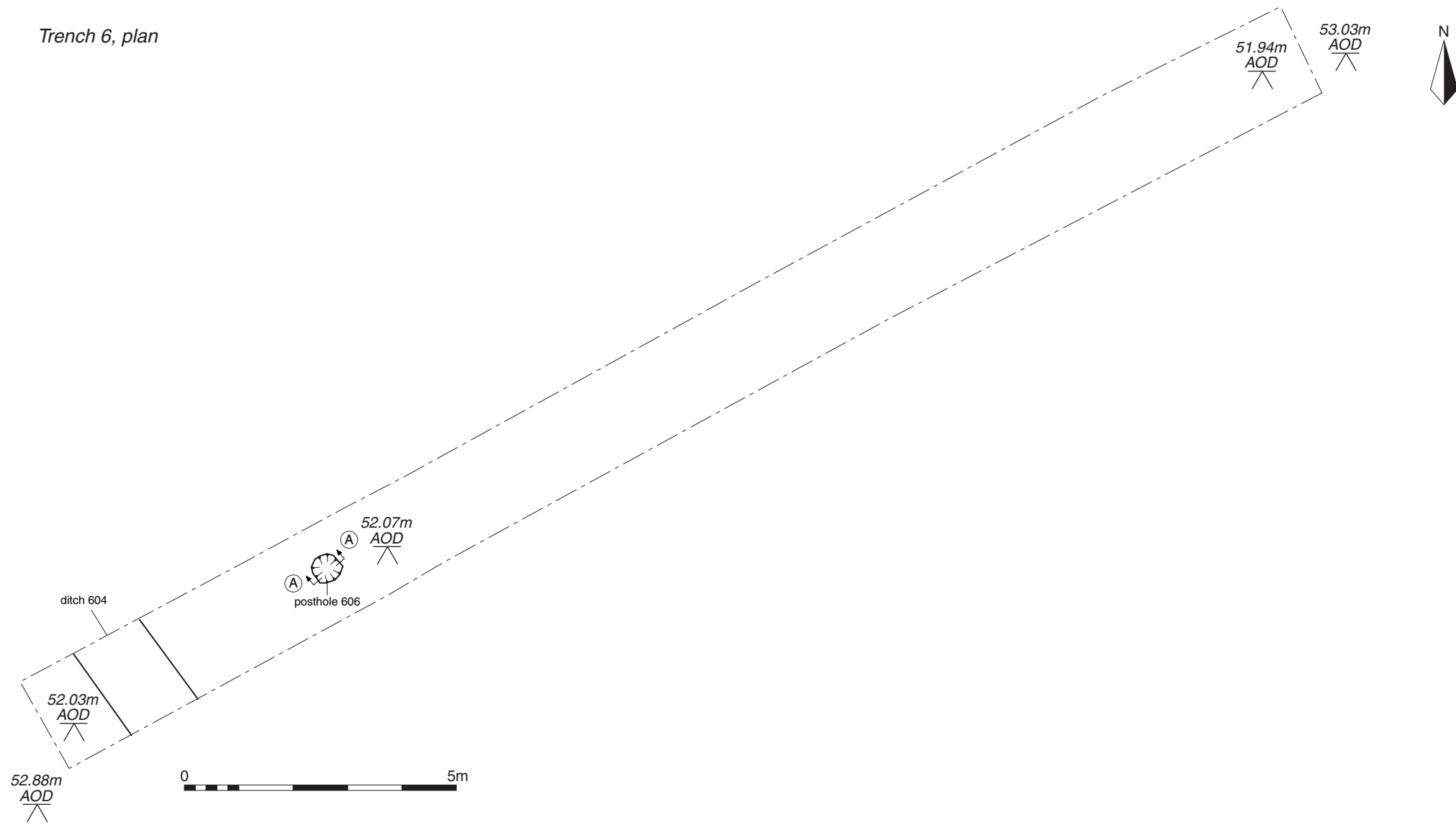

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PROJECT TITLE
**Former Gerway Nurseries, Ottery St Mary
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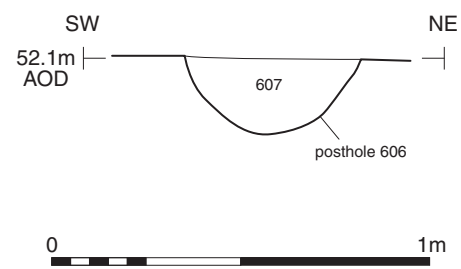
FIGURE TITLE
Trench 5: plan and photograph

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APPROVED BY	DDR	SCALE@A3	1:100	

Trench 6, plan



Section AA



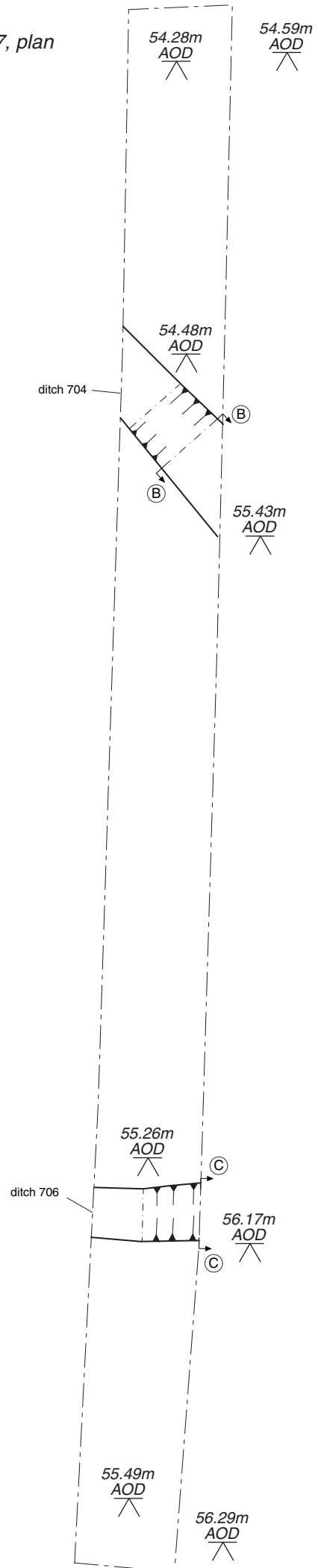
Posthole 606, looking north west (0.3m scale)


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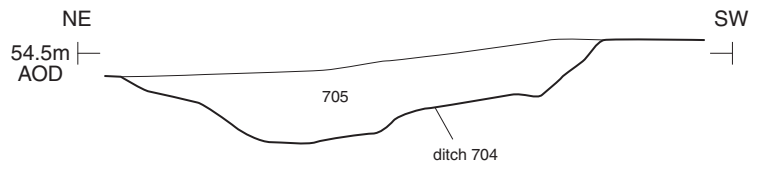
PROJECT TITLE
Former Gerway Nurseries, Ottery St Mary East Devon

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 6: plan, section and photograph

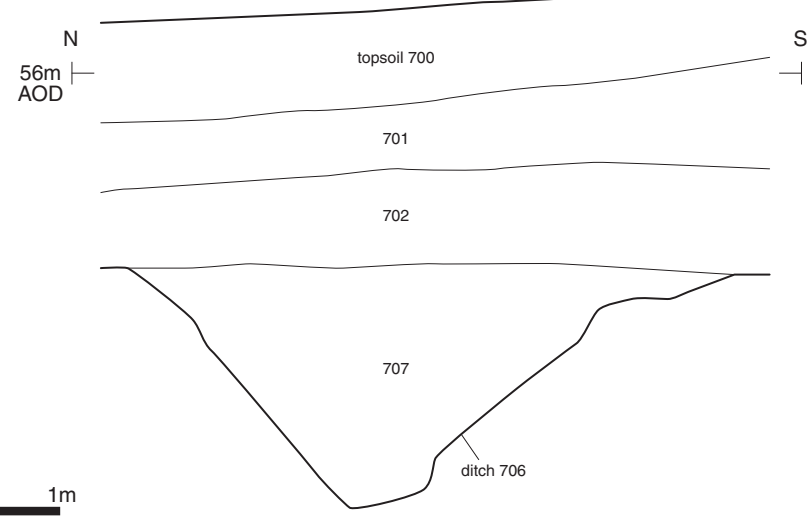
Trench 7, plan



Section BB



Section CC



Ditch 704, looking south-east (1m scale)



Ditch 706, looking east (1m scale)

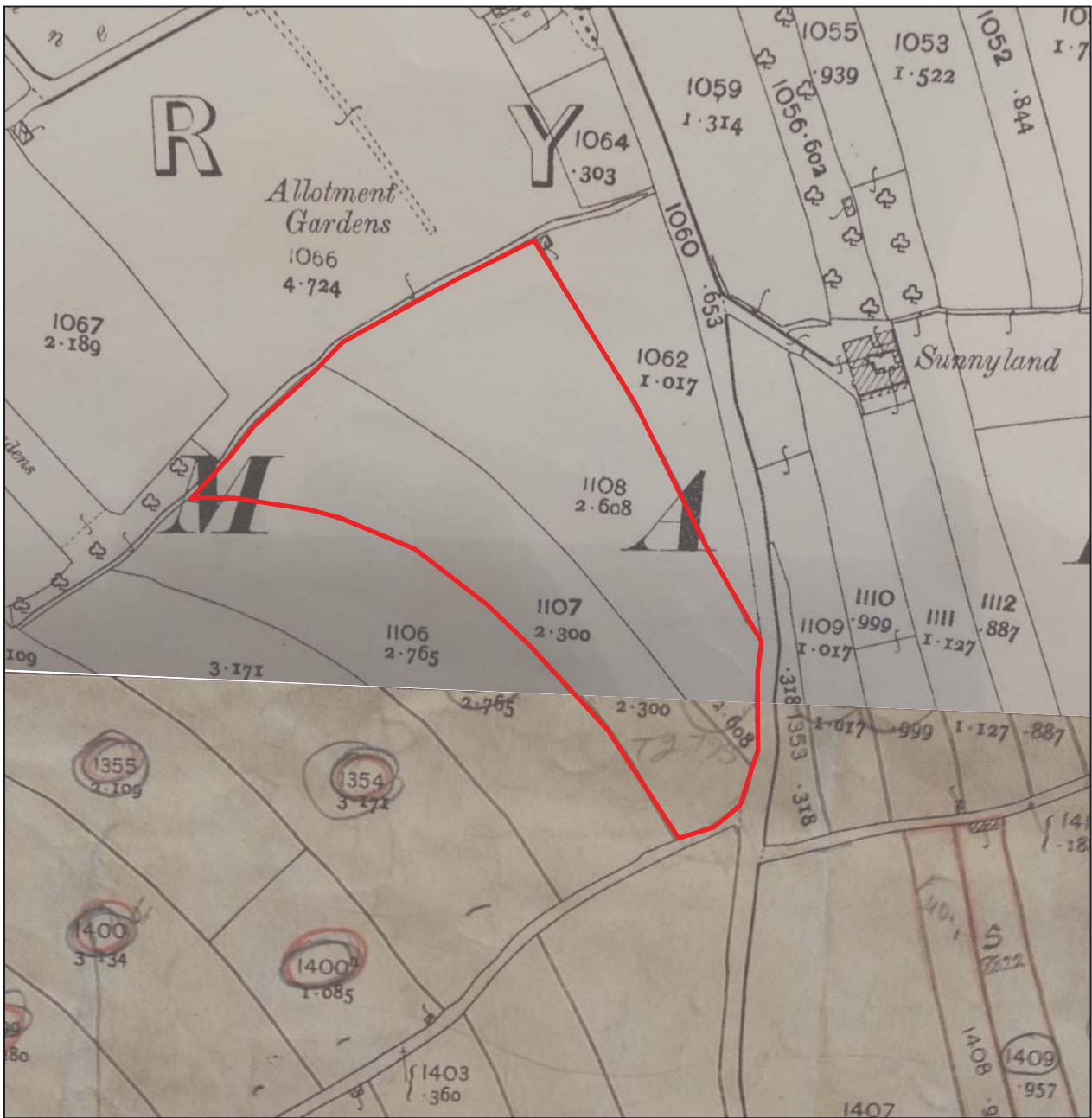


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FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 7: plan, sections and
 photographs**

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Extract from the 1905 Second Edition Ordnance Survey map


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PROJECT TITLE
Former Gerway Nurseries, Ottery St Mary East Devon

FIGURE TITLE
Historic map

DRAWN BY	AO	PROJECT NO.	880034	FIGURE NO.
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