

**Post Cross Business Park
Kentisbeare
Devon**

Archaeological Evaluation



for:
BG Middleton Developments Ltd

CA Project: AN0455
CA Report: AN0455_1
OASIS ID: cotswold2-502716

December 2021



Post Cross Business Park Kentisbeare Devon

Archaeological Evaluation

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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	19 December 2021	Josh Nowlan	Derek Evans	Internal review	–	Derek Evans

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SUMMARY

Project name:	Post Cross Business Park
Location:	Kentisbeare, Devon
NGR:	305771 107232
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	25–26 November 2021
OASIS ID:	cotswold2-502716
Location of Archive:	N/A
Site Code:	PCB21

In November 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land north of Post Cross Business Park, Kentisbeare, Devon. A total of four trenches were excavated at the site.

The evaluation recorded a single undated pit and a modern ditch.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In November 2021, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land north of Post Cross Business Park, Kentisbeare, Devon at (centred at NGR: 305771 107232; Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for BG Middleton Developments Ltd.
- 1.2. Mid Devon District Council has granted outline planning permission for construction of two Class E industrial buildings (planning ref: 21/00710/MFUL). Condition 15 of this planning permission requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with an approved WSI.
- 1.3. The scope of the required archaeological works was defined by Stephen Reed (Senior Historic Environment Officer, Devon County Historic Environment Team) and was set out in a subsequent Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2021).
- 1.4. The evaluation was also in line with the following documents:
 - *Specification for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Devon County Council 2020);
 - *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 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

- 1.5. The proposed development site lies at the northern end of the Post Cross Business Park, which is situated on the northern side of the A373. The site is c. 1.2km south-west of Kentisbeare and c. 3.7m east of Cullompton.
- 1.6. The proposed development site is approximately 1.15ha in extent. The south-eastern part of the site is currently occupied by industrial buildings and yard/parking areas associated with the business park. The north-western part of the site is currently within parts of two agricultural/pastoral fields.

-
- 1.7. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as Aylesbeare Mudstone Group, which formed the Triassic Period. No superficial deposits are recorded at the site (BGS 2021).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The following text is summarised from HET's comments on the planning application, supplemented by data from the Devon Historic Environment Record (HER). Codes in parentheses are HER references.

Bronze Age (2400 BC–700 BC)

- 2.2. Two barrow mounds are located approximately 690m south-east of the proposed development site (MDV11453, MDV109822).

Iron Age (700 BC–AD 43) and Roman (AD 43–AD 410)

- 2.3. Aerial photographs have recorded the cropmarks of a probable Iron Age/Roman field system to the north-east of the proposed development site (MDV109190). The extent of this former field system is unknown.

Medieval (1066–1539)

- 2.4. Cropmarks associated with a possible medieval field system have been recorded to the south of the proposed development site (MDV109218).

Modern (1800–present)

- 2.5. The business park site was occupied by a minor Second World War military complex. The structures within the site were mainly of Nissen hut type and were in a variety of sizes; two circular possible water tanks were also present. By 1967, only three of the smaller Nissen-type structures were upstanding, although the bases of the other structures and the circular tanks were visible on aerial photographs until 1989. After this, the site was redeveloped. No surviving remains of the military complex are visible on the most recent aerial photographs (taken in 2010).

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 Mid Devon 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).

- 3.2. The specific objective of the evaluation was to determine if any archaeological remains associated with the possible Iron Age/Roman field system to the north-east extended into the proposed development site (see *Archaeological background*, above).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of four trenches (Fig. 2):
- 2no 40m x 1.8m trenches;
 - 1no 30m x 1.8 trench; and
 - 1no 10m x 1.8m trench.
- 4.2. The trenches were located to provide a representative sample of the proposed development site. Tr4 was reduced in length from 30m (as proposed in the WSI) to 10m, in response to the development site boundary. This was done with the approval of Stephen Reed.
- 4.3. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. 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.
- 4.4. Records were maintained in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.5. 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.
- 4.6. As no significant archaeological features were identified during the archaeological evaluation, no archive will be prepared. The results of the fieldwork will be held by HET in the form of this evaluation report. 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 (OASIS ref: cotswold2-502716).

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A.
- 5.2. The natural substrate comprised compact reddish brown silty clay. It was exposed in all trenches at a depth of 0.35m–0.49m below the present ground level. The natural substrate was sealed by 0.1m–0.17m of silty clay subsoil, which was covered in turn by 0.24m–0.34m of modern topsoil.
- 5.3. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed in Tr1, Tr3 and Tr4. Tr2 contained a pit and a ditch and is discussed below.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

- 5.4. Pit 205 was exposed in the north-eastern end of the trench. This pit measured 0.98 in length, 0.6m in width and 0.2m in depth. It contained a single undated fill (206).
- 5.5. North-west/south-east aligned ditch 203 lay towards the centre of the trench. This ditch had almost vertical sides and appeared to be a modern, machine-cut feature. It was not excavated to depth, but was over 0.8m deep.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1. The evaluation recorded a single undated pit and a modern ditch (both in Tr2). The ditch was on the same alignment as the extant field system and may represent a former drainage or boundary feature.
- 6.2. There was no evidence that the known Iron Age/Roman field system to the north-east of the proposed development site (see *Archaeological background*, above) extended into the site boundary.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Josh Nowlan, assisted by William Lewis and Kane Starr. This report was written by Josh Nowlan. The report illustrations were prepared by Krissy Moore. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.

8. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 2021 *Geology of Britain Viewer*

<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/> Accessed 15
November 2021

Cotswold Archaeology 2021 *Post Cross Business Park, Kentisbeare, Devon:*

Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Work

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

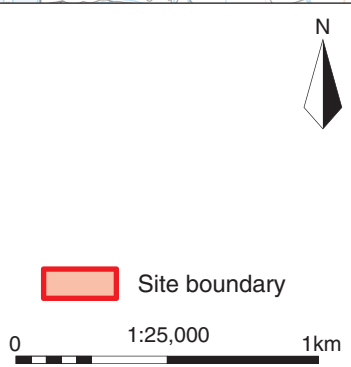
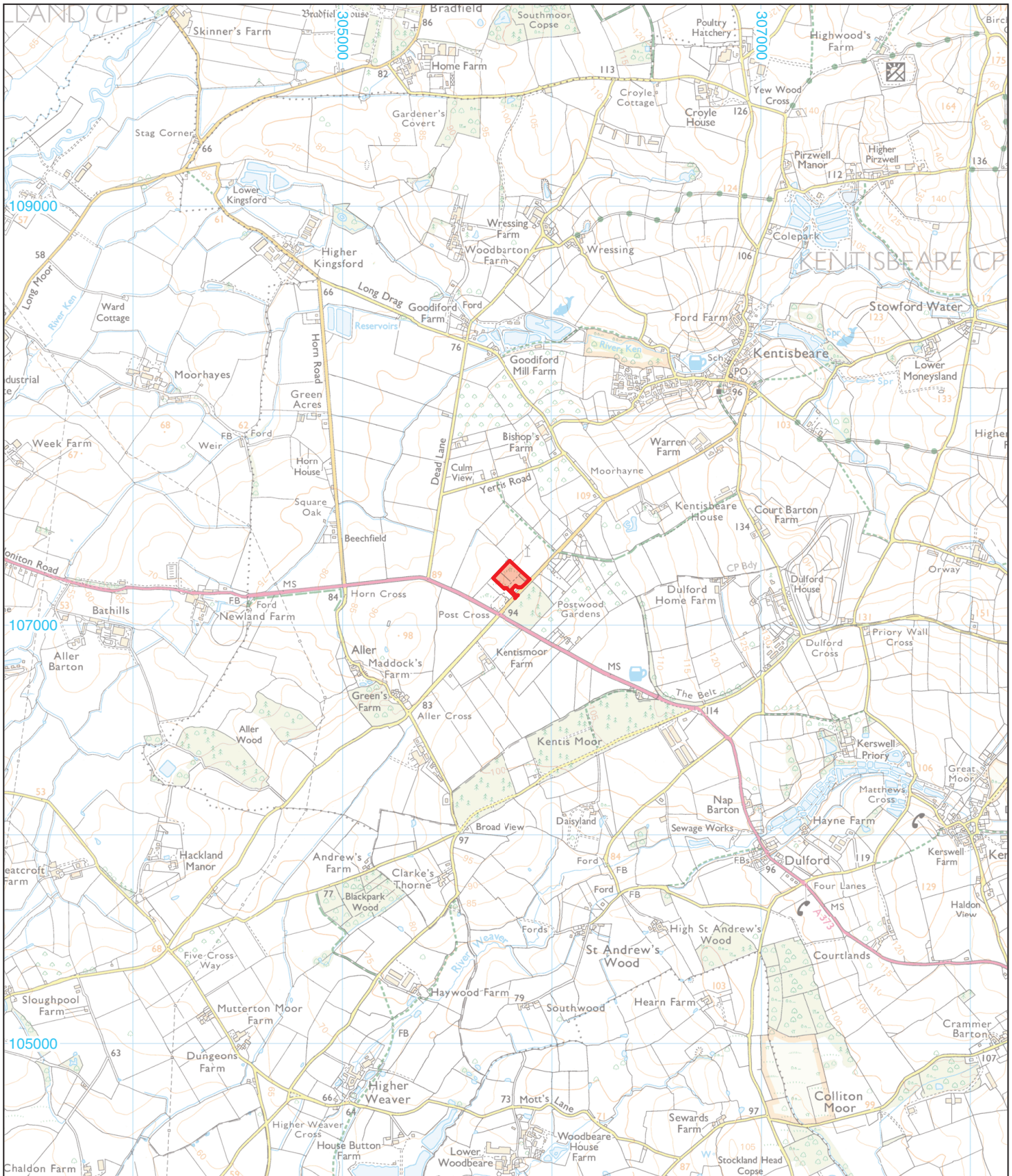
Policy Framework

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Depth/ thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay	0.25
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid bluish grey silty clay	0.17
1	102	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid reddish brown silty clay, occasional sub-angular stones <10%	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay	0.24
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid bluish brown silty clay	0.14
2	202	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid reddish brown silty clay	
2	203	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NW-SE aligned linear ditch, vertical sloping sides, not bottomed	>0.8
2	204	Fill	203	Ditch fill	Single fill of ditch, mid reddish brown, silty clay	>0.8
2	205	Cut		Pit	Cut of pit, sub-oval in shape, moderate sloping sides, concave base	0.2
2	206	Fill	205	Pit fill	Single fill of pit, light brownish grey silty clay	0.2
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay	0.34
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid bluish grey silty clay	0.15
3	302	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid reddish brown silty clay	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay	0.25
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid bluish grey silty clay, occasional sub-angular stones <5%	0.1
4	402	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid reddish brown silty clay, occasional sub-angular stones <10%	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Post Cross Business Park, Kentisbeare, Devon	
Short description	In November 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at Post Cross Business Park, Kentisbeare, Devon. A total of four trenches were excavated on the site. The evaluation recorded a single undated pit and a modern ditch.	
Project dates	25–26 November 2021	
Project type	Archaeological evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Post Cross Business Park, Kentisbeare, Devon	
Study area (m ² /ha)	1.15 ha	
Site co-ordinates	305771 107232	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	Josh Nowlan	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Contents
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	N/A	N/A
Digital	N/A	N/A
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2021 <i>Post Cross Business Park, Kentisbeare, Devon: Archaeological Evaluation CA</i> typescript report AN0455_1		



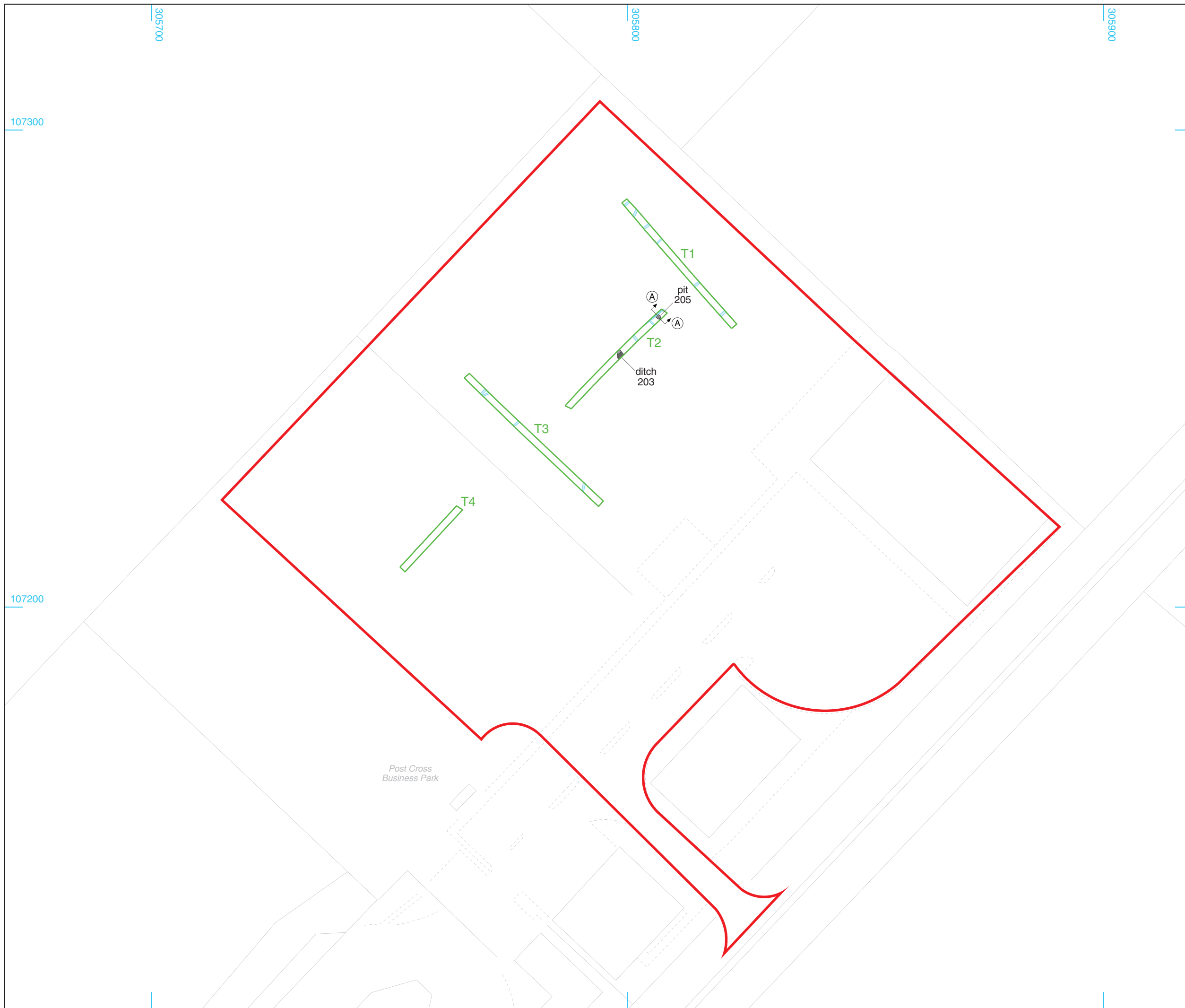

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PROJECT TITLE
 Post Cross Business Park, Kentisbeare, Devon

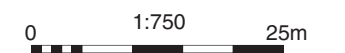
FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	KM	PROJECT NO.	AN0455	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	RP	DATE	1/12/2021	1
APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	

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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
(excavated/unexcavated)
- Field drain
- A A Section location



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PROJECT TITLE
 Post Cross Business Park, Kentisbeare,
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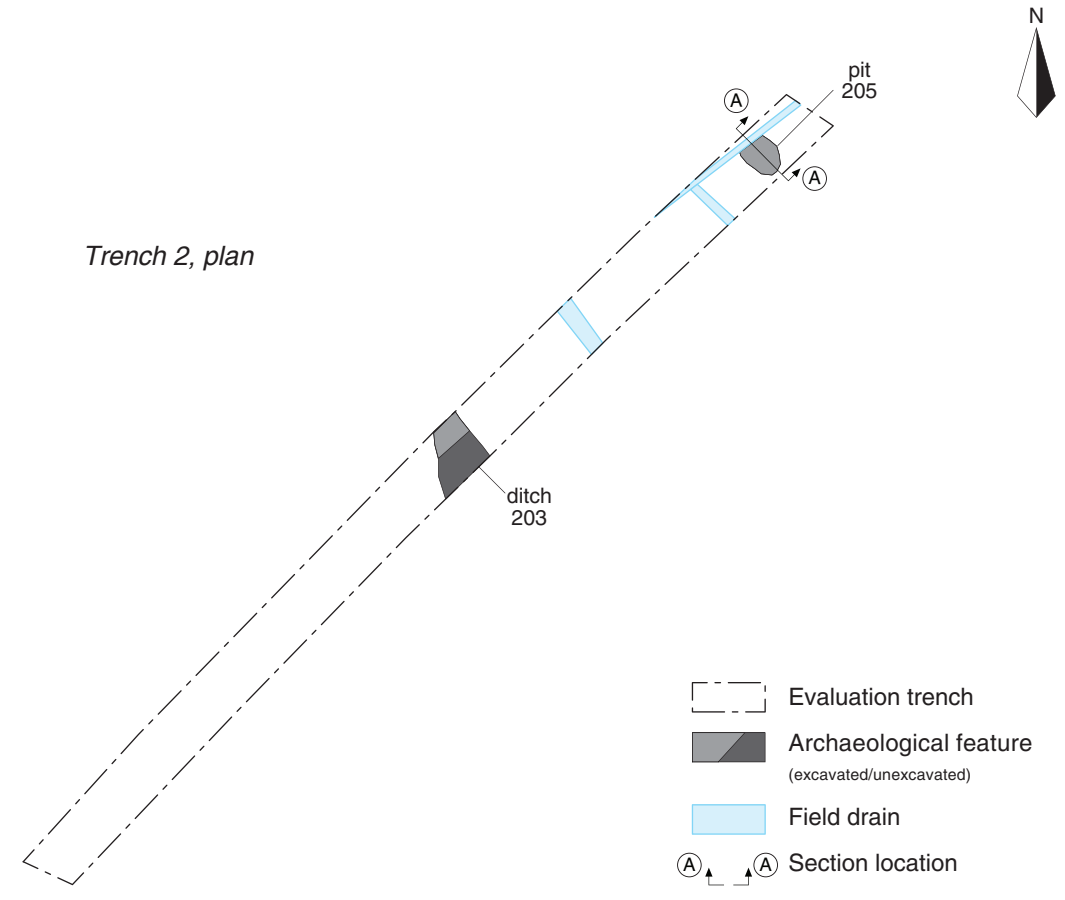
FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan, showing
 archaeological features

<small>DRAWN BY</small> KM	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> AN0455	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> RP	<small>DATE</small> 1/12/2021	2
<small>APPROVED BY</small> DE	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:750	

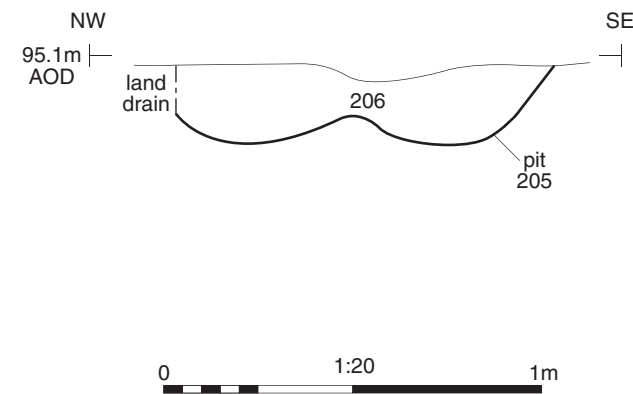


Pit 205, looking north-east (scale 1m)

Trench 2, plan



Section AA




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PROJECT TITLE
Post Cross Business Park, Kentisbeare, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 2: plan, section and photograph

DRAWN BY	KM	PROJECT NO.	AN0455	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	RP	DATE	1/12/2021	3
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