

**TRENCHARD HOUSE  
EDDE CROSS STREET  
ROSS-ON-WYE  
HEREFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

*For*

**PJPLANNING**

*on behalf of*

**CARBURY INVESTMENTS LTD**

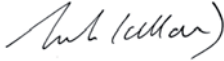
CA PROJECT: 3113  
CA REPORT: 10095

JUNE 2010

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CA PROJECT: 3113  
CA REPORT: 10095

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date	24 June 2010
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date	30 June 2010
approved by	Mark Collard, Head of Contracts
signed	
date	30 June 2010
issue	01

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## CONTENTS

SUMMARY .....	2
1. INTRODUCTION .....	3
2. RESULTS .....	5
3. DISCUSSION.....	7
4. CA PROJECT TEAM .....	8
5. REFERENCES .....	8
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS .....	9
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS .....	10
APPENDIX C: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES .....	10
APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	11

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Test pit location plan showing archaeological features (1:250)
- Fig. 3 Test pit 1: plan, section and photograph (1:20)
- Fig. 4 Test pit 2: section and photograph (1:20)
- Fig. 5 Test pit 3: section and photograph (1:20)
- Fig. 6 Test pit 4: section and photograph (1:20)
- Fig. 7 Terracing and walling in the western part of the site

## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Trenchard House  
**Location:** Edde Cross Street, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire  
**NGR:** SO 5976 2427  
**Type:** Evaluation  
**Date:** 14-16 June 2010  
**Planning Reference:** DMSE/090184/O  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Hereford Museum and Art Gallery  
**Accession Number:** 2010-290  
**Site Code:** THR 10

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June 2010 at Trenchard House, Edde Cross Street, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire. Four test pits were excavated.

The natural geological substrate was identified at a depth of approximately 1.67m below present ground level (49.26m AOD) in Test pit 2 and at a depth of 1.16m bpgl (46m AOD) in Test it 3. In both test pits this deposit was overlain by a series of make-up/levelling deposits apparently relating to the terracing of the site during the post-medieval/modern periods. The earliest deposits encountered in Test its 1 and 4 represented further post-medieval levelling or make-up deposits. An undated cobbled surface, probably representing a former yard surface, was identified sealing one of these make-up deposits in Test pit 1.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2010 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for PJPlanning, on behalf of Carbury Investments Ltd at Trenchard House, Edde Cross Street, Ross On Wye, Herefordshire (centred on NGR: SO 5976 2427; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application to Herefordshire Council (ref.no. DMSE:/0090184/O) for the construction of 11 dwellings with ancillary parking.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation* (HC 2010) prepared by Mr Julian Cotton, archaeological advisor to Herefordshire Council, and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2010) and approved by Mr Cotton. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008), the *Standards for Archaeological Projects in Herefordshire* (Issue 1), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991), and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE)* (English Heritage 2006).
- The site**
- 1.3 The proposed development area encloses an area of approximately 0.22ha, and comprises an existing house (Trenchard House), built in the 1960s, with driveway and terraced gardens. The site is bounded to the east by Edde Cross Street, to the north by the grounds of the Merton House Hotel, to the west by trees and fields adjacent to the River Wye and to the south by residential and commercial properties.
- 1.4 The eastern part of the site, adjacent to Edde Cross Street, lies at approximately 49m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) and slopes steeply downward to the west, with parts of the garden at the rear of the property at approximately 42m AOD.
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Lower Red Sandstone of the Devonian era, overlain by Head deposits of the Flandrian era (BGS 2000). The natural substrate, comprising a sterile mid red sandy clay was identified in Test pits 2 and 3.

### **Archaeological background**

- 1.6 Archaeological interest in the site arises from its situation within the historic core of Ross-on-Wye, as defined by the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey 1996, and Ross is deemed an Archaeologically Important Urban Area for the purposes of Section 9.7.7 of the *Unitary Development Plan* (Herefordshire Council 2010). The Herefordshire Council online Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) lists a number of medieval and post-medieval sites within the vicinity of the development. Burgage plots of potential medieval date were noted fronting Edde Cross Street (SMR ref. no. 12030), along with the former site of the medieval/16th-century Edde Cross, at the junction of Edde Cross Street and New Street (SMR ref. no. 19914). The 17th-century Mann of Ross Inn is also listed (SMR ref. no. 19914). Given the proximity of these sites there is the potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains to survive within the site.

### **Archaeological objectives**

- 1.7 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist the Herefordshire Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

### **Methodology**

- 1.8 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of four test pits, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Test pit 1 measured 2.3m in length and 1.5m in width whilst Test pits 2-4 measured 1.5m in length and 1.5m in width. Test pit 1 was reduced in length and repositioned due to the presence of modern services and trees at the front of the property. Test pits 3 and 4 were repositioned due to the presence of a possible service running across their original locations. The test pits were relocated with the approval of Julian Cotton at a site meeting on 14 June 2010. The terracing and walling in the western part of the site was also recorded.
- 1.9 Test pit 1 was 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. Test pits 2-4 were excavated by hand. Following excavation, all archaeological features revealed were planned and recorded in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).

- 1.10 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* (2003). However, no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).
- 1.11 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Hereford Museum and Art Gallery under accession number 2010-290, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 2. RESULTS

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.

### ***Test pit 1 (Fig. 3)***

- 2.2 The earliest deposit encountered in Test pit 1 was deposit 104 identified at a depth of 1.2m below the present ground level (bpgl). This deposit was at least 0.80m in thickness and consisted of mid red brown sandy clay containing occasional fragments of sandstone and charcoal flecks and appeared to represent a levelling or make-up deposit. A single sherd of modern pottery was recovered from this deposit. This was sealed by make-up/levelling deposit 103 which was in turn sealed by probable surface 102.
- 2.3 The full extent of surface 102 was not revealed as it continued beyond the limits of the test pit. It was constructed from a single layer of angular sandstone fragments, bonded by friable greyish white lime mortar. It was overlain by rubble make-up deposit 101 and topsoil 100.

**Test pit 2 (Fig. 4)**

2.4 The earliest deposit encountered in Test pit 2 was deposit 204 identified at a depth of 1.58m bpgl. This deposit was at least 0.10m in thickness and consisted of sterile sandy clay that appeared to represent the natural substrate.

2.5 Deposit 204 was sealed by probable make-up/levelling deposit 203. This deposit was up to 0.88m in thickness and comprised orange red clayey sand with occasional sandstone rubble and charcoal fragments. Deposit 203 was sealed by post-medieval make-up/levelling deposit 202 which was in turn sealed by garden soil 201 and turf 200.

**Test pit 3 (Fig. 5)**

2.6 The earliest deposit encountered in Test pit 3 was deposit 305 identified at a depth of 1.16m bpgl. This deposit was at least 0.20m in thickness and consisted of sterile sandy clay that appeared to represent the natural substrate. Deposit 305 was sealed by probable post-medieval make-up/levelling deposit 304. This deposit was up to 0.53m in thickness and comprised orange red clayey sand with occasional sandstone rubble and charcoal fragments.

2.7 Deposit 304 was overlain by post-medieval garden soil deposits 303 and 302 which were in turn sealed by modern levelling deposit, 301, and concrete slabs, 300.

**Test pit 4 Fig. 6)**

2.8 The earliest deposit encountered in Test pit 4 was post-medieval levelling/make-up deposit 405, identified at a depth of 0.62m bpgl. This deposit was at least 1.18m in thickness and consisted of mid brownish red sandy silt with frequent sandstone fragments throughout.

2.9 Deposit 405 was overlain by further post-medieval make-up/levelling deposits 404 and 403 which were sealed by garden soil 402. Deposit 402 was overlain by rubble bedding deposit 401 which was in turn sealed by concrete slabs, 400.



### ***The Finds and Palaeoenvironmental Evidence***

- 2.10 Small quantities of finds comprising post-medieval and modern pottery, animal bone, glass and clay pipe was recovered from seven deposits (Appendix B). The majority of the pottery fragments recovered are dateable to the modern period. A porcelain lidded cream pot, dateable to the 19th century, was recovered from deposit 104.
- 2.11 Pottery of post-medieval date was recovered from deposits 202, 404 and 405. Two sherds are identifiable as Staffordshire brown-glazed earthenware and one as black-glazed earthenware.
- 2.12 Given the late date of the artefacts recovered, no material will be retained.

## **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 The stratigraphic sequence identified during the course of the evaluation indicated that the natural geological substrate survives at a depth of 1.67m below the present ground level (bpgl) in Test pit 2 and at a depth of 1.16m bpgl in Test pit 3. This was overlain by a series of post-medieval and modern levelling or make-up deposits, relating to the terracing/landscaping of the site. Further levelling or make-up deposits were identified in Test pits 1 and 4.
- 3.2 The full extent and function of surface 102 remains undetermined due to its limited exposure within Test pit 1. However, it may be interpreted as a yard surface in all likelihood of post-medieval date and associated with former buildings fronting Edde Cross Street.
- 3.3 Garden walls in the western part of the site were briefly assessed and recorded (Fig. 7). The walls comprised sandstone blocks in a dark mortar. They appeared to probably pre-date the construction of Trenchard House but appeared to have been substantially remodelled during recent years.

#### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Steven Sheldon, assisted by Jessica Cook, Samantha Hall and Hazel O'Neill. The report was written by Steven Sheldon. The finds report was compiled by Angela Aggujaro. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Steven Sheldon, and prepared for deposition by Jon Hart. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

#### 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2000 *Geological Survey of England and Wales, Ross-on-Wye, Solid/Drift Ed Sheet 215*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 *Trenchard House, Edde Cross Street, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

HC 2010 *Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation: Proposed Residential Development, Site at Trenchard House, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire*

**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

## Test pit 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil and turf			0.55m	
101	Layer	Rubble make-up deposit			0.50m	
102	Layer	Sandstone and cobble surface. Probably representing post-medieval tenement plot or yard surface.	>2.3m	>0.62 m	0.05m	
103	Layer	Make-up deposit			0.38m	
104	Layer	Make-up deposit			>0.8m	C19+

## Test pit 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Topsoil and turf			0.1m	
201	Layer	Garden soil			0.16m	
202	Layer	Make-up/levelling deposit			0.57m	C18-C19
203	Layer	Make-up/levelling deposit			0.84m	
204	Layer	Natural substrate: sterile mid red sandy clay			>0.05m	C18

## Test pit 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Concrete slabs			0.04m	
301	Layer	Rubble bedding for 300			0.12m	
302	Layer	Heavily re-worked garden soil			0.22m	
303	Layer	Garden soil			0.35m	LC18-C19
304	Layer	Make-up/levelling deposit			0.53m	
305	Layer	Natural substrate: sterile mid red sandy clay			>0.20m	

## Test pit 4

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Concrete slabs			0.05m	
401	Layer	Rubble bedding for 400			0.07m	
402	Layer	Garden soil			0.28m	C19
403	Layer	Rubble make-up/levelling deposit			0.20m	
404	Layer	Sand silt make-up/levelling deposit			0.30m	C19
405	Layer	Sandy silt make-up/levelling deposit, frequent sandstone fragments throughout.			>1.05m	LC18-C19

**APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**

Context	Description	Ct.	Wt.	Date
104	Modern pottery: porcelain lidded cream pot	6	62	C19+
202	Animal bone: cattle, cow-sized, sheep-sized. Wine/spirit bottle glass Clay pipe Post-medieval pottery: brown glazed earthenware Staffordshire?	6 1 2 1	150 40 8 18	C18-C19
204	Wine/spirit bottle glass	1	150	C18
303	Modern pottery: refined whiteware, white salt-glazed stoneware Clay pipe	4 5	8 12	LC18-C19
402	Modern pottery: refined whiteware transfer-print decorated	2	24	C19
404	Post-medieval/ modern pottery: black-glazed earthenware, refined whiteware transfer-print decorated	2	42	C19
405	Animal bone: sheep-sized, cow-sized Clay pipe Post-medieval/ modern pottery: Staffordshire brown-glazed earthenware, refined whiteware Window glass	3 2 2 1	24 8 20 2	LC18-C19

**APPENDIX C: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES**

Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

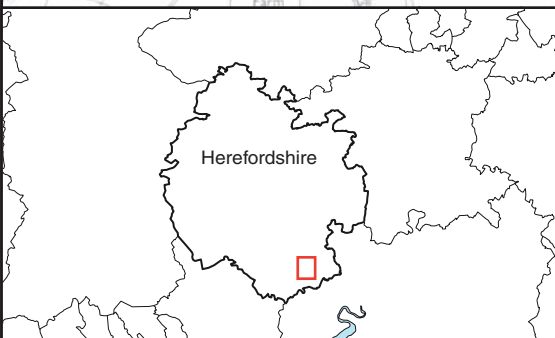
	Test pit 1	Test pit 2	Test pit 3	Test pit 4
Current ground level	0.00m (49.07m)	0.00m (49.26m)	0.00m (45.97m)	0.00m (42.06m)
Top of post-medieval surface	0.80 (48.27m)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Top of natural substrate	N/A	1.67m (47.59m)	1.16m (44.81m)	N/A
Limit of excavation	2.00m (47.07m)	1.68m (47.58m)	1.46m (44.51m)	1.80m (40.26m)


Upper figures are depth below modern ground level; lower figures in parentheses are metres AOD.

## APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Trenchard House, Edde Cross Street, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June 2010 at Trenchard House, Edde Cross Street, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire. Four test pits were excavated.</p> <p>The natural geological substrate was identified at a depth of approximately 1.67m below present ground level (49.26m AOD) in Test pit 2 and at a depth of 1.16m bpgl (46m AOD) in Test it 3. In both test pits this deposit was overlain by a series of make-up/levelling deposits apparently relating to the terracing of the site during the post-medieval/modern periods. The earliest deposits encountered in Test its 1 and 4 represented further post-medieval levelling or make-up deposits. An undated cobbled surface, probably representing a former yard surface, was identified sealing one of these make-up deposits in Test pit 1.</p>	
Project dates	14-17 June 2010	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	N/A	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Trenchard House, Edde Cross Street, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.22ha	
Site co-ordinates	SO 59760 24271	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Steven Sheldon	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Physical	Hereford Museum and Art Gallery (2010-290)	ceramics, animal bone, glass
Paper	Hereford Museum and Art Gallery (2010-290)	Black and white photographs, colour photographs, context sheets, trench sheets, section drawings, trench plans, photographic registers
Digital	Hereford Museum and Art Gallery (2010-290)	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 <i>Trenchard House, Edde Cross Street, Ross-on-Wye: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>10095</b>		

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 <b>COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY</b>			
<b>PROJECT TITLE</b> Trenchard House, Edde Cross St Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire			
<b>FIGURE TITLE</b> Site location plan			
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598

- site
- evaluation test pit showing archaeological features



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Trenchard House, Edde Cross St  
Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Test pit location plan showing  
archaeological features

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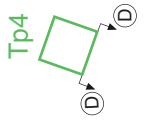
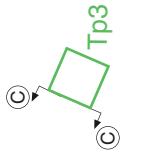
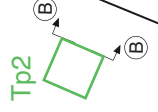
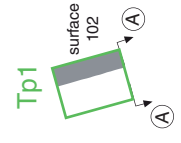
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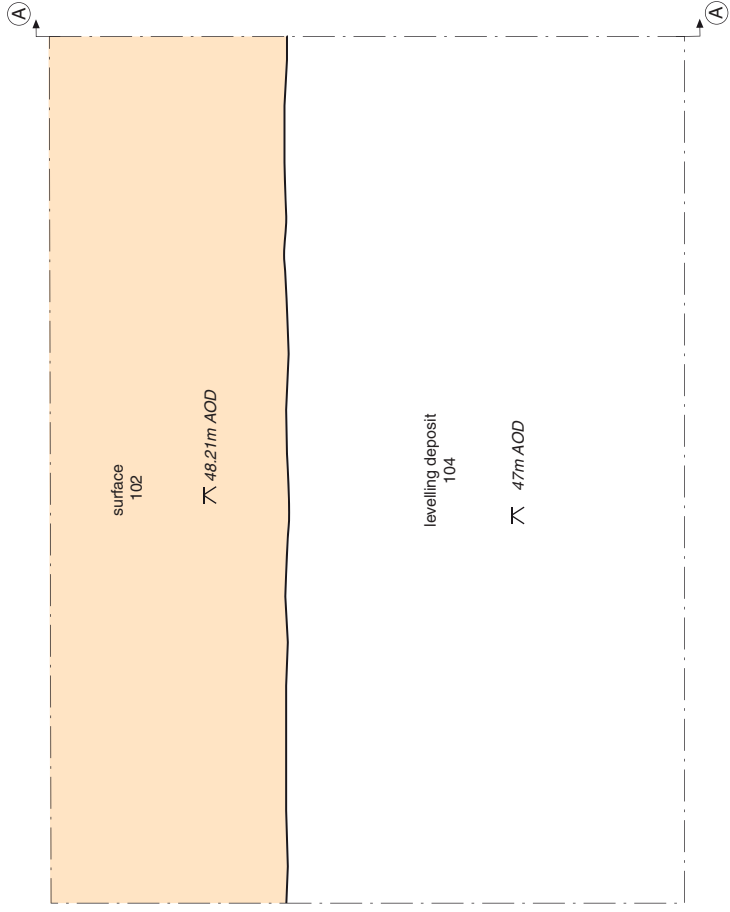
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EDDE CROSS STREET

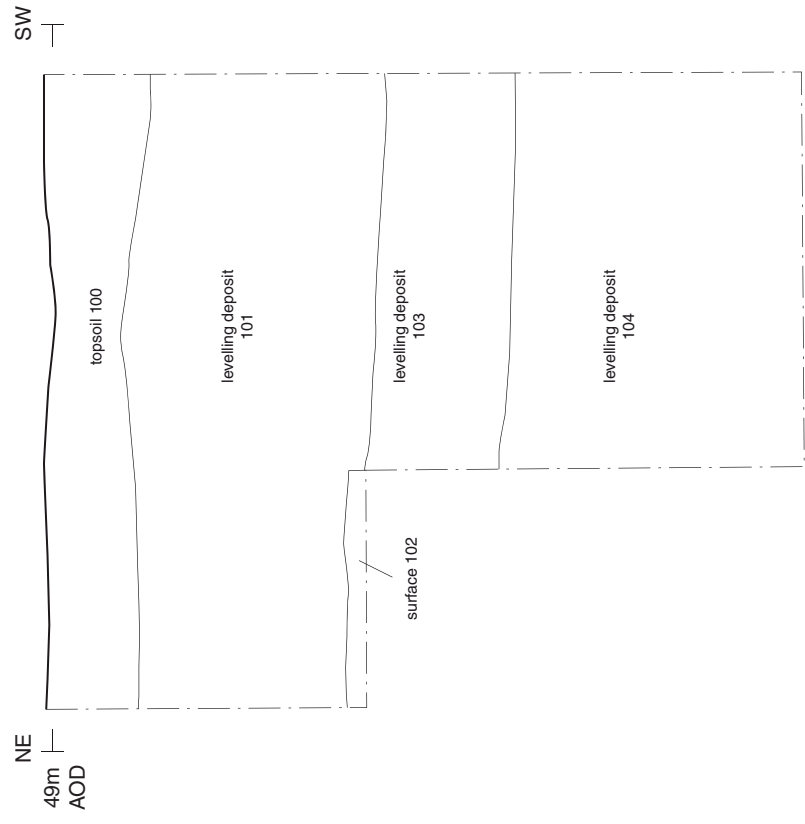
Trenchard House





South-east facing section of Test pit 1  
looking north-west

Section AA



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Trenchard House, Edde Cross St  
Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Test pit 1: plan, section and  
photograph

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PROJECT NO.

3113

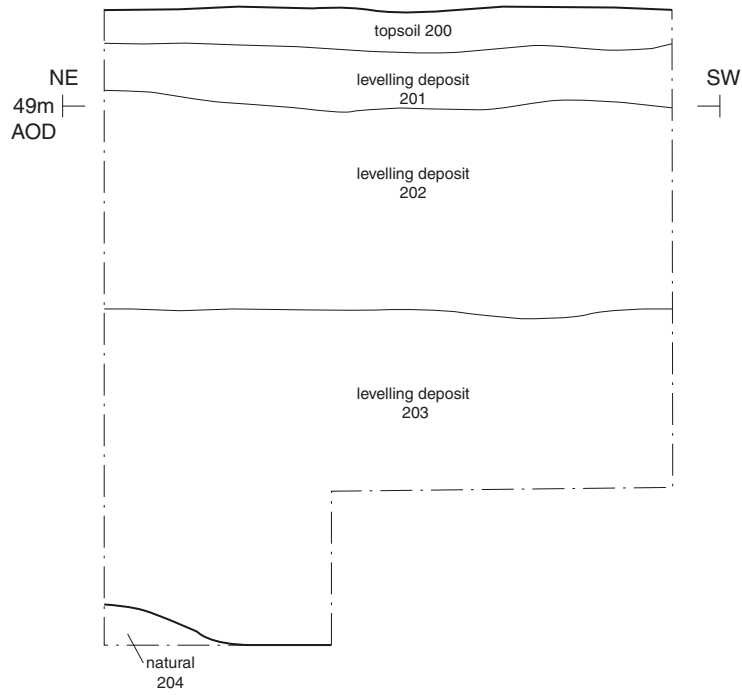
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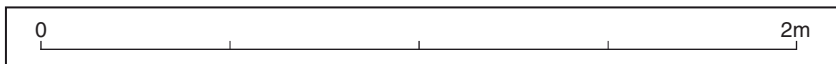




Section BB



**North-west facing section of Test pit 2, looking south-east**



**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

*PROJECT TITLE*

**Trenchard House, Edde Cross St  
Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire**

*FIGURE TITLE*

**Test pit 2: section and photograph**

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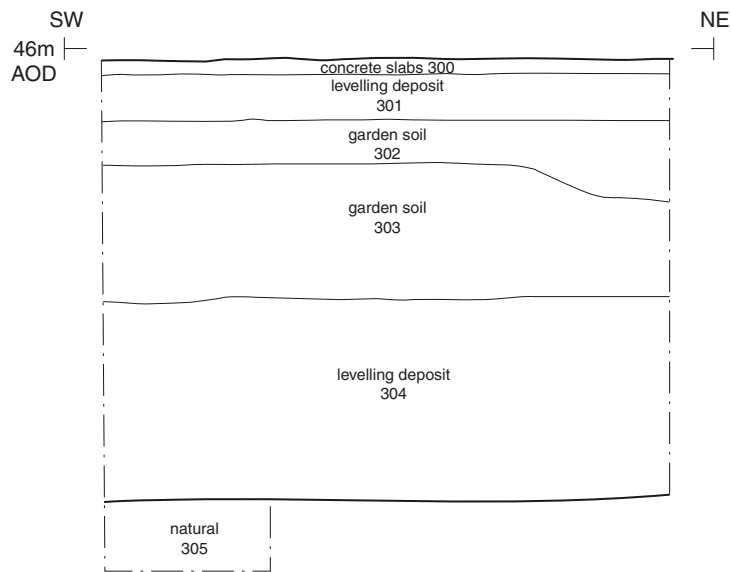
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**3113**

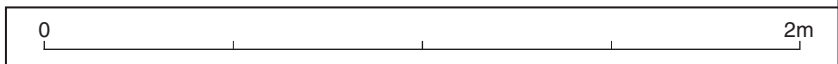
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**4**

Section CC



**South-east facing section of Test pit 2, looking north-west**



**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

*PROJECT TITLE*

**Trenchard House, Edde Cross St  
Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire**

*FIGURE TITLE*

**Test pit 3: section and photograph**

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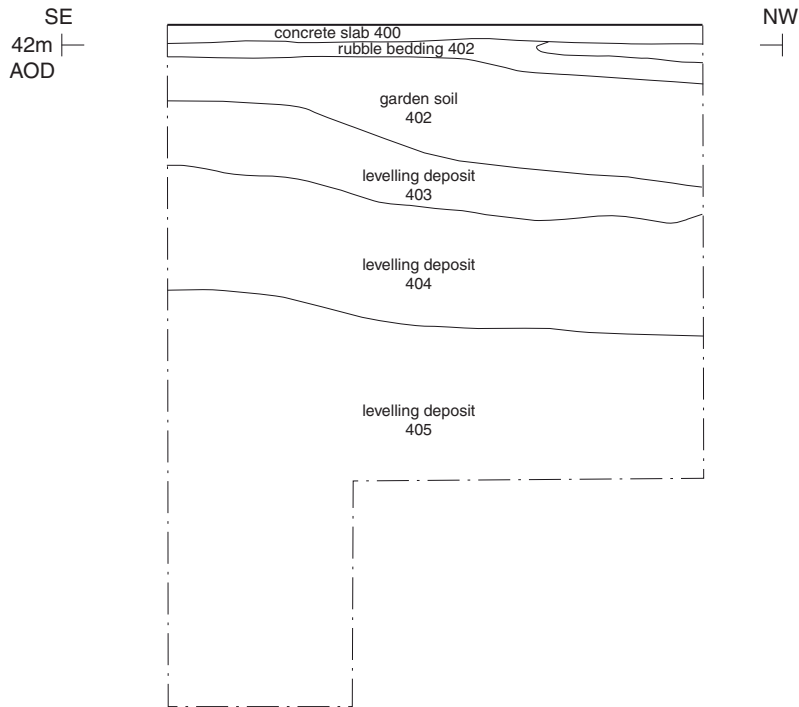
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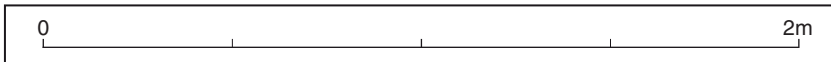
*FIGURE NO.*

**5**

Section DD



North-east facing section of Test pit 4, looking south-west



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Trenchard House, Edde Cross St  
Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire

FIGURE TITLE

**Test pit 4: section and photograph**

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PROJECT NO.

3113

FIGURE NO.

**6**



**7 Terracing and walling in the western part of the site**



**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

*PROJECT TITLE*

Trenchard House, Edde Cross St  
Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire

*FIGURE TITLE*

**Photographs**

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**7**