

LAND AT PINHOE QUARRY, EXETER

(NGR SX 95572 94733)

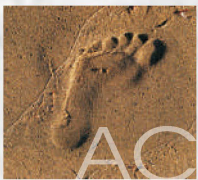
Results of archeological excavation

Prepared by:
Alex Farnell

On behalf of:
Pinhoe Quarry LLP

Document No: ACD617/2/0

Date: May 2014



AC archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Pinhoe	National Grid Reference NGR SX 95572 94733	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: Land At Pinhoe Quarry, Exeter: Results of archaeological excavation		Photo attached? Y
Planning Application no: N/A	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 177092	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD617	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 31.03.14 - 01.04.14	

Introduction

The excavation of three trenches was carried out by AC archaeology during April 2014 across a sunken lane and former field boundary in advance of residential development on land at Pinhoe Quarry, Pinhoe, Devon (NGR SX 95572 94733; Fig. 1). Pinhoe quarry occupies an area of approximately 22 hectares and is bounded by Harrington Lane to the south, Church Lane and a cemetery to the north, pasture fields and Church Hill to the east and pasture fields and Cheynegate Lane to the west. The underlying solid geology across the site comprises Carboniferous Culm Measure shales of the Crackington Formation.

Archaeological assessment of the site (GK Heritage Ltd 2011) identified limited potential for prehistoric and Roman remains, with some potential for both medieval and post-medieval features. The latter included a sunken lane of probable medieval origin on the west side of the development area as well as hedgebanks of possible medieval origin. A geophysical survey was carried out as part of the assessment (Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2011) and was followed by evaluation trenching carried out by AC archaeology (Sims 2013) during which no significant archaeological features were identified.

Description

Three trenches were excavated; two were located across the sunken lane of possible medieval date and one across the position of a removed field boundary (Fig. 2). The local topography was a moderate to steep west-facing slope. All deposits described were heavily affected by root disturbance. All work was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of archaeological work prepared by GK Heritage Ltd (2012).

Trench 9 (Fig. 3; Plate 1)

This trench was aligned NW-SE and measured 13.2m long by 1.8m wide. It was positioned to expose a full profile of the sunken lane at its southwest end. Natural subsoil (907) was encountered across the trench, overlain by a thin layer of reddish-brown clay subsoil (901 and 908), the former only survived under the bank. Material overlying the natural further to the west (909) had been significantly disturbed by vehicle movements. On the northwest side of the lane a shallow poorly defined and irregular feature (F906) was exposed but into the natural subsoil below the NW bank of the sunken lane. It contained a single, clean, red-brown, silty clay fill (905).

Below the lane itself, natural subsoil had been significantly truncated or eroded into the underlying shale bedrock. It was directly overlain by a rough metalled surface (F903), comprising a single unbonded layer of medium-sized sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles. Pebbles were water worn and of a hard, probable quartzite, not local to the site. Dark reddish brown sandy clay, most probably derived from removal of the subsoil during construction of the lane, had been banked up to either side (902 and 910), overlying the subsoil. Some slumping and root disturbance of this banked material (912) had occurred on the SW side. To the NE, weathering or disturbance of the underlying natural (where formerly exposed) had occurred (911) as well as some slumping of bank material 910. A layer of topsoil (900 and 904) or root mat overlay bank deposits and subsoil to either side of the sunken lane.

Trench 10 (Fig. 4a; Plate 2)

This trench was aligned NW-SE and measured 13.7m long by 1.8m wide. It was positioned to expose a full profile of the sunken lane at its northeast end. Natural subsoil (1009) was encountered across the trench. Below the lane itself, natural subsoil had been significantly truncated or eroded into the underlying shale bedrock. It was directly overlain by a rough metalled surface (F1008), comprising a single unbonded layer of medium-sized sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles. Pebbles were water worn and of a hard, probable quartzite, not local to the site. To

either side of the lane natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of reddish-brown clay subsoil (1003 and 1007). Material most probably derived from removal of the subsoil during construction of the lane, had been banked up to either side. The southeast bank deposit 1005 comprised dark reddish-brown sandy-clay. The northwest bank was formed from two deposits. The lower layer (1002) was of similar character to subsoil 1003 and 1007 but looser in consistency and with frequent small shale fragments. It had the appearance of mixed, re-deposited subsoil and natural. The upper bank deposit (1001) comprised dark red-brown clay. Some slumping of banked material had occurred (1006). A layer of topsoil (1000 and 1004) and root mat overlay bank deposits and subsoil to either side of the sunken lane.

Trench 11 (Fig. 4b-c; plate 3)

This trench was aligned NE-SW and positioned to target a former field boundary. It measured 12m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.25m at which depth natural subsoil (1105) was encountered. A single archaeological feature was exposed cutting into the natural. This was a shallow NW-SE aligned linear gully (F1101) that measured 1.10m wide by 0.25m deep and contained a single fill (1102) of firm reddish-brown clay with rare charcoal inclusions. The feature had been disturbed by a similarly aligned, vertical sided field drain (F1103) containing a single mixed fill of redeposited natural (1004). This fill was not fully excavated. Deposits were overlain by a layer of dark grey-brown, sandy-clay topsoil (1101).

Comments

Two trenches were excavated across the sunken lane. No deposits containing palaeoenvironmental or scientific dating potential were exposed, and no finds were recovered to date the deposits exposed.

Two profiles across the sunken lane suggest that its construction comprised removal of topsoil across the full width of the lane and banks followed by the removal of the subsoil onto natural bedrock along the lane itself. This material was used to form the banks on either side. The lane cuts across the naturally west-facing slope resulting in a terrace into the natural reinforced by slight bank on the SE side. The NW side of the lane was defined by a large bank. Large, mature trees had grown up on the banks on both side of the lane. No associated cut features were present to either side of the sunken lane, which furthers this interpretation of the banks being associated with the lane rather than as pre-existing or later Hedgebanks. Feature F906 under the west hedgebank may relate to an earlier boundary, although too little of the feature was exposed to be confident of its purpose.

Trench 3 exposed a shallow irregular linear feature (F1101) along the approximate line of a former field boundary. A later field drain had been inserted along the same line draining towards a water course at the base of the hill. No finds were recovered from either feature. It is unclear whether the ditch was associated with the hedgebank or was an earlier landscape feature like F906.

Sources Consulted

Archaeological Surveys Ltd, 2011, *Pinhoe Quarry, Magnetometer survey* GK Heritage Ltd, 2011, *Proposed residential development with associated community facilities at Pinhoe Quarry*

GK Heritage Ltd, 2012, *Proposed residential development with associated community facilities at Pinhoe Quarry. Written scheme of investigation: for evaluation excavation*

Sims, R., 2013, Land at Pinhoe Quarry, Devon, NGR SX 95572 94733, Results of an archaeological trench evaluation, AC archaeology document no. **ACD617/1/0**

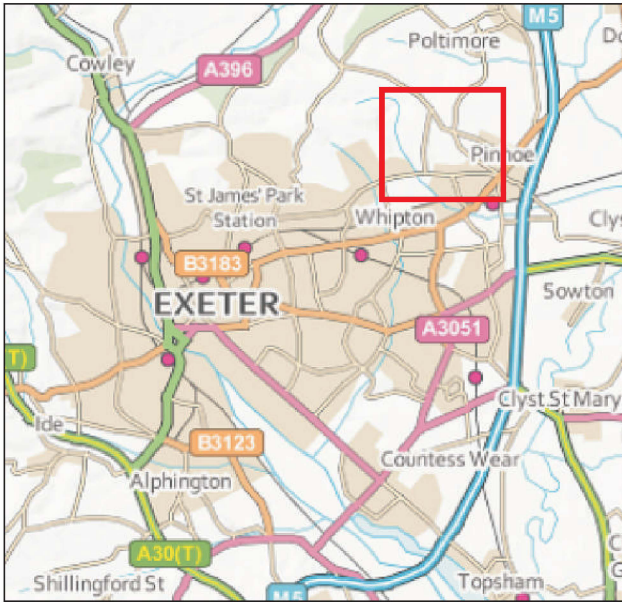
A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.

Recorder:

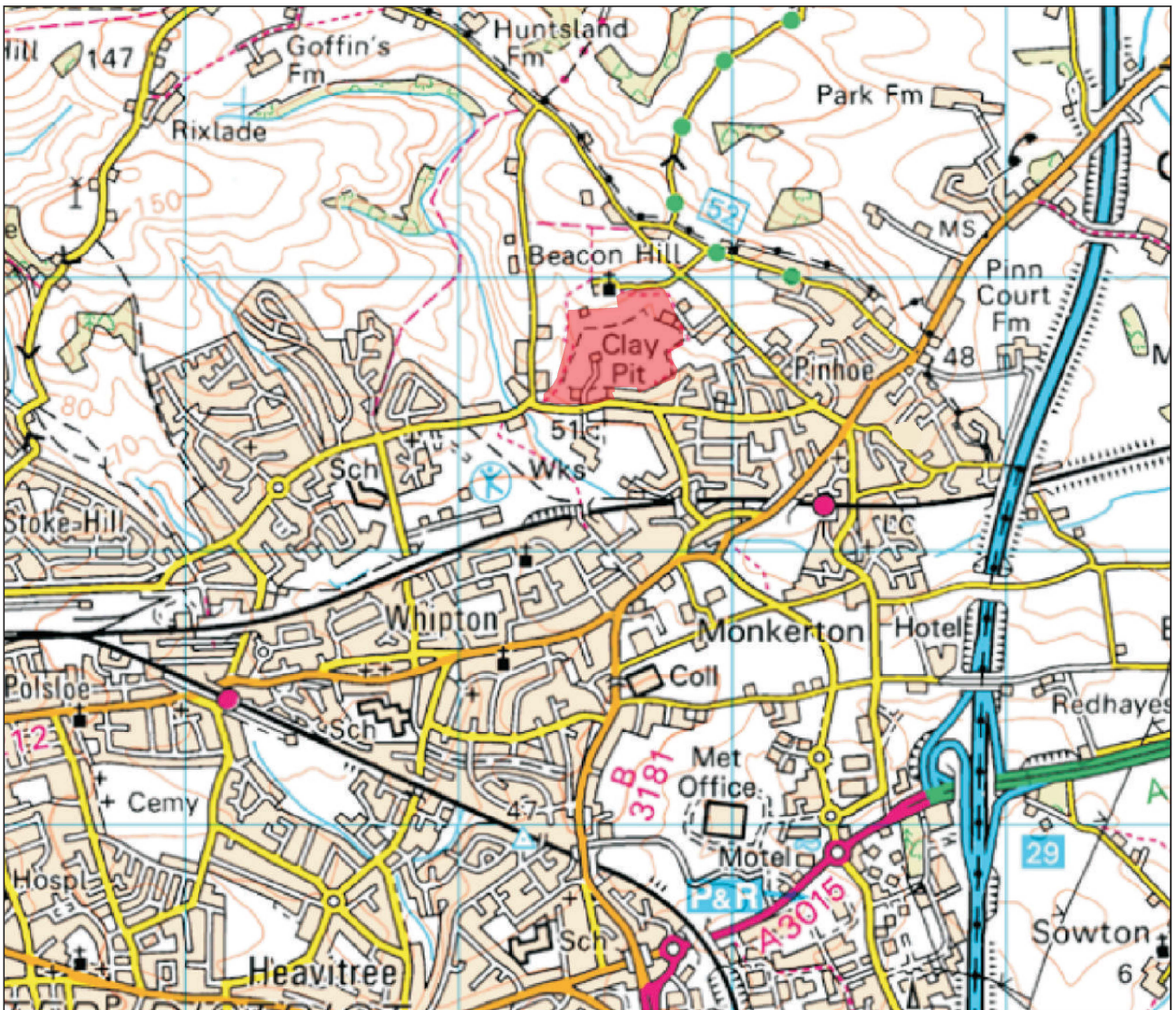
Alex Farnell, AC archaeology

Date sent to HER:

1 May 2014



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TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site



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 Application area

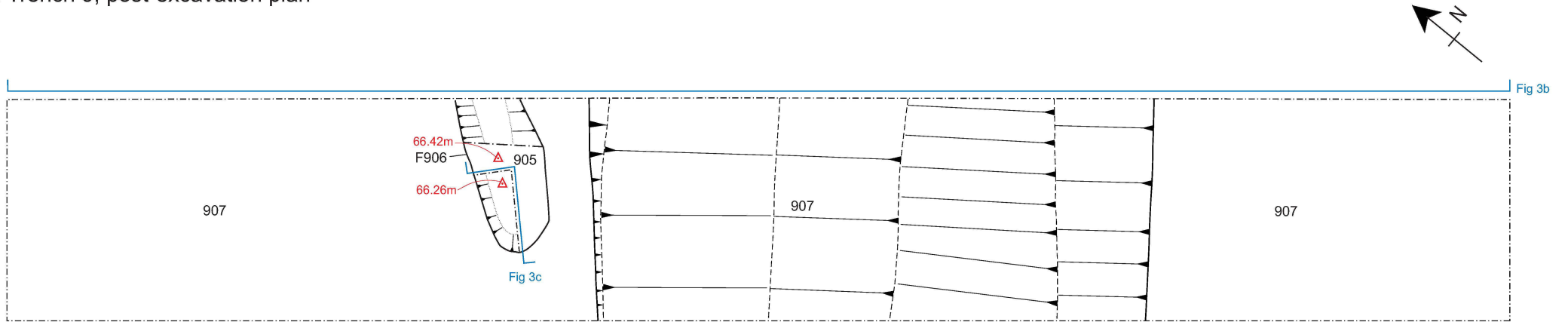


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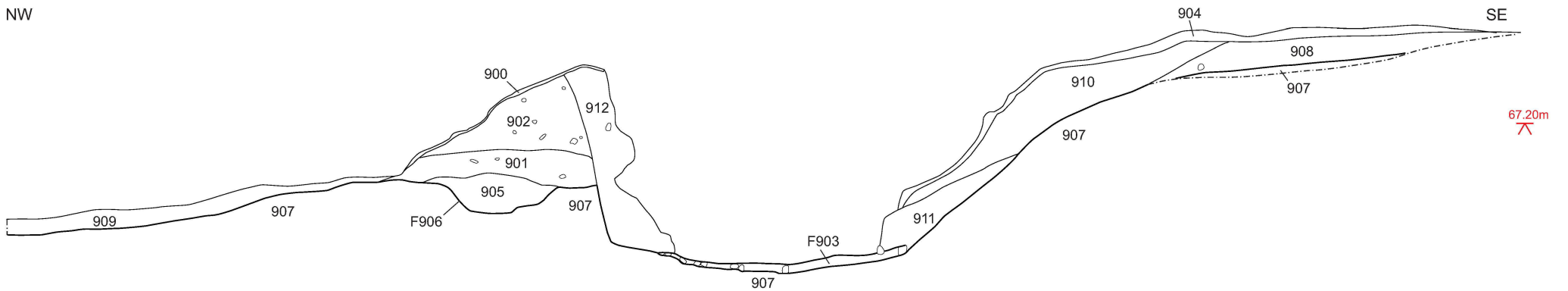
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Fig. 2: Location of trenches



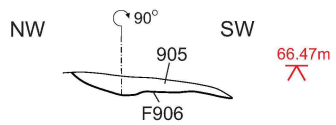
a) Trench 9, post-excitation plan



b) Section through sunken lane and hedgebank



c) Section of F106

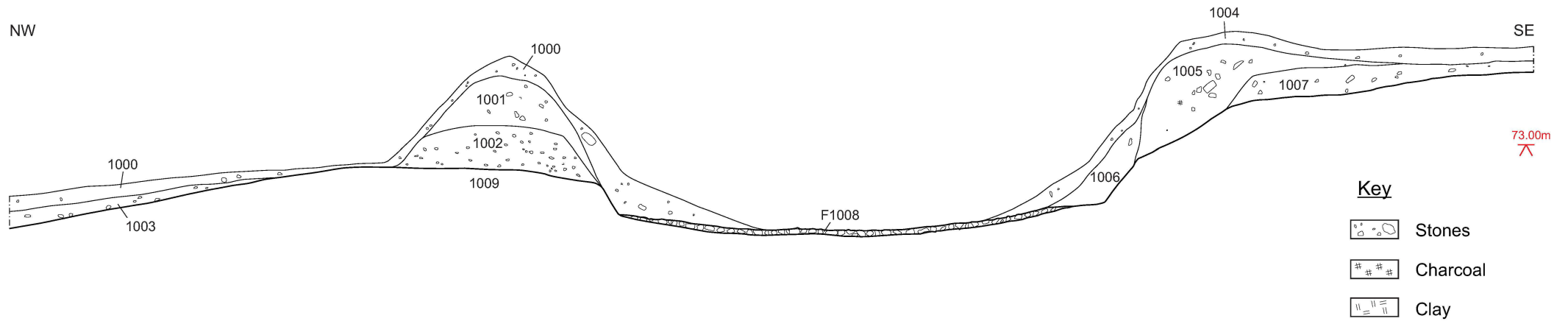


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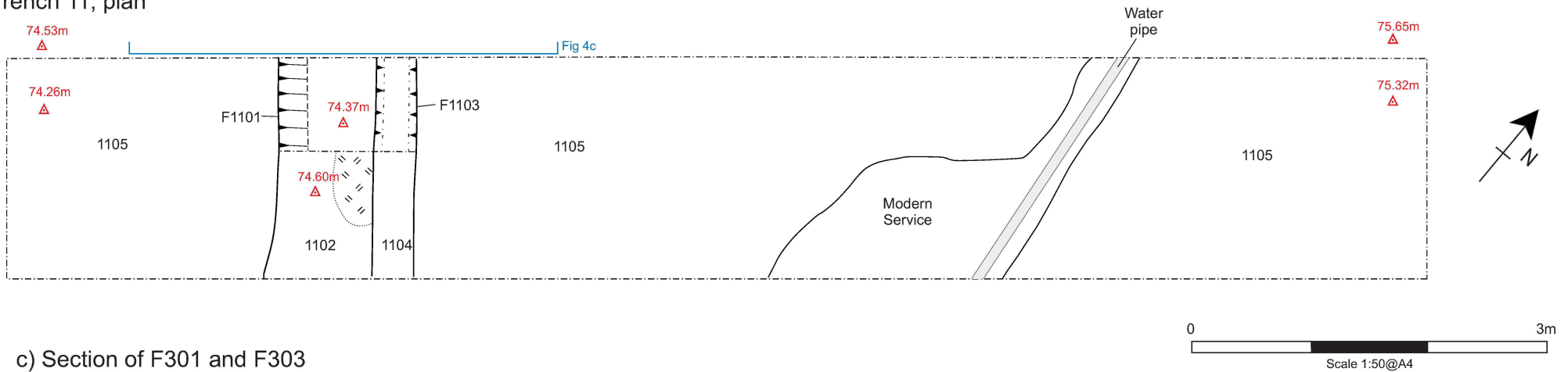
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Fig. 3: Trench 9, plan and sections



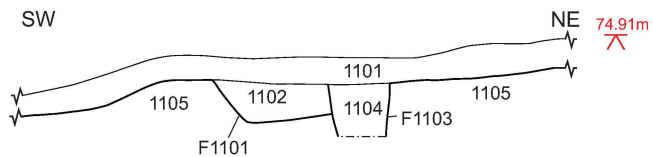
a) Trench 10, section through sunken lane and hedgebank



b) Trench 11, plan



c) Section of F301 and F303



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Fig. 4: Trench 10, section and Trench 11
plan and section





Plate 1: General view of Trench 1, looking east (scale 1m)



Plate 2: General view of trench 2, looking east (scale 1m)



Plate 3: View of F1101, Trench 3, looking northwest (scale 1m)

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