

Land at Higher Woolbrook, Sidford, Sidmouth, Devon

Centred on NGR SY11608967

Results of an archaeological trench evaluation

Prepared by:
John Valentin

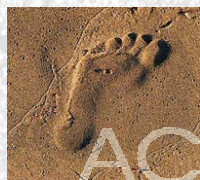
with contributions by:
E Firth, S Hughes and J Richards

Commissioned by:

RPS Planning and Development Ltd

Document No: ACD69/2/1

Date: August 2009



archaeology

LAND AT HIGHER WOOLBROOK, SIDFORD, SIDMOUTH, DEVON

CENTRED ON NGR SY11608967

RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRENCH EVALUATION

CONTENTS

	Summary	
1.	Introduction.....	1
2.	Archaeological and historical background	1
3.	Aims.....	2
4.	Methodology.....	2
5.	Results.....	2
6.	The finds.....	4
7.	Discussion.....	8
8.	Conclusions.....	9
9.	Archive and OASIS.....	9
10.	Acknowledgements.....	9
11.	Sources consulted.....	9
	Appendix 1: Trench descriptions	
	Appendix 2: Geophysical survey report	

List of figures

Fig. 1: Site location

Fig. 2: Location of trenches in relation to interpreted geophysics results

Fig. 3: Plans and sections, Trenches 1, 2 and 5

Fig. 4: Plans and sections, Trenches 8 and 12

Fig. 5: Plans and sections, Trenches 15 and 16

Fig. 6: Location of all features and areas of highest archaeological potential

List of plates

Plate 1: General view of site looking to southwest from Trench 17

Plate 2: General view of the layer sequence in Trench 5, looking to south. Palaeochannel
F504 is at far end of trench (scale 2m)

Plate 3: Northwest facing section Trench 8. Layer 802, containing charcoal and medieval
pottery, located bottom left of 1m scale

Plate 4: Ditch F1603, Trench 16, south-facing section, view to north (scale 1m)

Summary

An archaeological trench evaluation, carried out in support of a planning application for residential development on land at Higher Woolbrook, Sidford, Sidmouth (NGR SY11608967), was undertaken by AC archaeology during July 2009. The site occupies an area of approximately 3.5 hectares and is situated on agricultural land to the south of Sidford High Street, the alignment of which is thought to represent the Roman coastal road between Charmouth and Exeter. The area also contains a number of previously recorded archaeological sites and monuments dating to the prehistoric period. An earlier geophysical survey of the site by magnetometry identified a number of anomalies which indicate archaeological activity.

The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of 17 trenches, each 1.6m wide and totalling 520m in length, with these positioned to investigate the anomalies identified during the geophysical survey, with some 'control' trenches located in what were thought to be blank areas.

Across large parts of the site negative or largely negative results were recorded, with many of the anomalies identified during the geophysical survey being shown to relate to variations within the natural geology and as a result of natural fluvial and colluvial processes. In one alluvial layer a single piece of probable Bronze Age pottery was present, while prehistoric worked flint was found in the upper silts of a probable palaeochannel. There was also what appeared to be a dumped deposit adjacent to the stream which contained medieval pottery. There was also evidence for later medieval activity on the site in the form of two parallel and curving probable former strip-field boundaries, A ditch of this date was also present in the lower part of the site in an area where buried remains for an early structure could be present, although none were identified during this work.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trench evaluation carried out in support of a future planning application for residential development on land at Higher Woolbrook, Sidford, Sidmouth, Devon, was undertaken by AC archaeology during July 2009. The work was commissioned by RPS Planning and Development Ltd on behalf of clients and was undertaken following consultation with Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES).
- 1.2 The site occupies two pasture fields, divided by a central substantial hedgebank and is located on the south side of Sidford High Street (Fig. 1 and Plate 1). The southern boundary is formed by a stream, the Wool Brook. The site lies between c. 58m and 70m OD and covers an area of approximately 3.5 hectares. The ground slopes gently to moderately down to the south and west and the underlying solid geology comprises Triassic Mercia Mudstone.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site is located to the south of Sidford High Street, the alignment of which is likely to represent a portion of the Roman coastal road between Charmouth and Exeter. It is also in an area where evidence for prehistoric activity has been previously identified, including a cropmark enclosure (DCHER ref. 37757) and worked flint scatter (61297) to the north of the site at Core Hill, as well as barrows and sites of cairns (eg. 28986, 28987, 29867) to the southwest of the site at Bulverton Hill.

- 2.2** Immediately to the west of the site is the small hamlet of Stowford, with a settlement recorded here as early as 1281. The name is likely to derive from its proximity to the Wool Brook, probably meaning 'ford marked by staves or posts'.
- 2.3** The Sidmouth parish tithe map of 1839 depicts the layout of the site as largely the same as today, although a small rectangular enclosure (Plot 73 on the tithe map) is located against the southern boundary. The accompanying apportionment of 1840 names the two main fields as 'Great Orchard' and 'New Street Meadow', with Plot 73 described as house, garden and yard, although no building is shown. Immediately to the northwest another house is present, with the boundary between this and the site shown as a road.
- 2.4** By 1888, the Ordnance Survey first-edition 25-inch map shows the layout of the site exactly as it is today, with Plot 73 having by this time been removed, as had the road on the northwest side. There are no additional changes shown on maps of 1903 and 1933.
- 2.5** An earlier geophysical survey of the site by magnetometry (Appendix 2) identified a number of sub-surface anomalies which indicated possible archaeological activity (Fig. 2). In the western field the anomalies included a substantial area of magnetic enhancement where the house, garden and yard is shown on the tithe map, as well as a series of linear features which may represent early land division boundaries. In the eastern field there were two strong curvilinear anomalies extending through the centre of the field, as well as two areas which were thought might contain structural evidence. Extending alongside the north boundary is a probable modern service trench, while through the centre of the site a northwest to southeast aligned anomaly is in the position of an existing footpath.

3. AIMS

- 3.1** The aim of the evaluation was to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character and date of any archaeological features, deposits or finds within the site. The results as set out in this report will be reviewed and used to inform any subsequent mitigation as a condition once planning permission has been granted.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1** The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a method statement prepared by AC archaeology (Valentin 2009), submitted to and approved by DCHES prior to commencement on site. It comprised the machine-excavation of 17 trenches totalling 520m in length, with each trench 1.6m wide. This represented an approximate 3% sample of the total site area. Trench positions were largely chosen to investigate the anomalies identified during the geophysical survey, with some 'control' trenches located in what were thought to be negative areas. The location of trenches is shown on Fig. 2.
- 4.2** The site was recorded in accordance with the AC archaeology pro-forma recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and in accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 1*. All plans were drawn at a scale of 1:50 and sections at 1:10 or 1:20. All levels have been related to Ordnance Datum.

5. RESULTS by Simon Hughes

5.1 Introduction

In the majority of trenches largely negative results were recorded and consequently these are described in tabulated form only in Appendix 1. In trenches where archaeological deposits, features or complex layer sequences were recorded, these are described in more detail below. Relevant plans and sections are included as Figs 3 to 5.

5.2 Trench 1 (Detailed plan Fig. 3a and section 3b)

This trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.45m (within a machine-cut sondage), into a layer of natural river gravels (context 104), present at a depth below ground level ranging between 0.39m in the southwest to 1.2m in the northeast. The gravel deposit was below a 0.28m thick deposit of alluvial silty clay (106), which was in turn sealed by a 0.42m thick layer of colluvium (105).

Cutting through colluvial layer 105 was a northwest to southeast aligned linear feature (F102). This probable ditch was 1.34m wide and 0.42m deep, with irregular, moderately steep-sloping sides and concave base. It contained a single sandy silty clay fill (103) sealed by a subsoil/colluvium layer (101), which was in turn below topsoil (100). Fill layer 103 contained 19th century pottery and bottle glass fragments, as well as prehistoric worked flint.

5.3 Trench 2 (Detailed plan Fig. 3c and sections 3d-e)

This trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.21m within a machine-cut sondage at the northwest end of the trench and 1.12m deep at the northeast end. At the northwest end the sondage was excavated onto a natural gravel deposit (211), which was below a series of further naturally-formed deposits comprising gleyed clay (210), a layer of natural gravels (209) and an alluvial clay (202). Cut into layer 202 was a northeast to southwest aligned linear feature (F204). This probable ditch was 1.6m wide and 0.3m deep, with gradual sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single clay silt fill (203), with two sherds of medieval pottery and a piece of prehistoric worked flint recovered.

The northeast end of the trench was excavated onto natural gravels (208), present at a depth of between 1.12m and 0.74m below ground level. The gravels were below a layer of gleyed alluvial clay (207), with an alluvial silty clay (206) above this. This latter layer was beneath a 0.43m thick colluvial deposit (205) that also overlay alluvial clay 202. A single piece of prehistoric pottery was recovered from layer 206. Colluvial layer 205 and fill 203 were sealed by subsoil/colluvium (201) which was below topsoil (200).

5.4 Trench 5 (Detailed plan Fig. 3f and sections 3g-i; Plate 2)

This trench was excavated onto natural gravels (502), present at a depth of 0.85m below the ground surface. Towards the southwest end of the trench the gravels were below an alluvial layer (505), which was cut by a linear feature (F504). This was a probable naturally-silted possible former watercourse (palaeochannel), which was 2.37m wide, 0.6m deep and with a gradually-sloping northeast side and a gradual diffuse southwest edge. The base was generally flat and irregular and, at this level an underlying gleyed clay was exposed (508). The channel contained two homogenous silty clay main fills (507 and 503) and a firm clay silt fill on its northeast edge (506). A small quantity of prehistoric worked flint was recovered from fill layer 503. The upper sequence of deposits consisted of a colluvial clay silt (501) below topsoil (500).

5.5 Trench 8 (Detailed plan Fig. 4a and sections 4b-c; Plate 3)

This northeast to southwest aligned trench was excavated onto natural gleyed clay (805), present at a maximum depth of 1.1m below ground level. At the northeast end of the trench the natural clay was below an alluvial silty clay (806), which was in turn below a clay silt deposit that contained abundant gravels (804). Towards the southwest end of the trench was a further alluvial silty clay (803), below a 0.04m thick lens of silty clay (802), which contained abundant charcoal and occasional heat-affected clay fleck inclusions, as well as three sherds of probable early medieval pottery. This was localised to the northwest facing section of the trench and was below a further alluvial deposit (808). Layers 808 and 804 were sealed by a 0.7m thick deposit of colluvial clay silt (801) which was below topsoil (800). Colluvial layer 801 contained 17 sherds of medieval pottery.

5.6 Trench 12 (Detailed plan Fig. 4d and sections 4e-g)

This 'L' shaped trench was excavated onto natural subsoil (1202) comprising a silty clay with abundant chert gravels, present at a maximum depth of 0.72m beneath a colluvial layer (1201) and topsoil (1200).

The trench contained a single north to south aligned linear feature (1205). This probable ditch was 2m wide and 0.3m deep, with a profile that consisted of a moderately steep sloping east side, a gradual-sloping west side and a concave base. It contained two fills, comprising a basal deposit of silty clay (1204) and a clay silt upper fill (1203). Fill layer 1203 contained two sherds of medieval pottery. The feature could be seen on the surface as an earthwork depression and raised area, although there was no variation within the layer sequence to indicate a deliberately formed bank. The ground level to the east of the ditch was up to 0.62m higher than that to the west.

5.7 Trench 15 (Detailed plan Fig. 5a and sections 5b-c)

This trench was excavated onto natural subsoil (1502), present at a maximum depth of 0.64m below ground level. This was below a colluvial/subsoil layer (1501) and topsoil (1500). The trench contained two linear features (F1503 and F1505).

Feature F1503 was aligned northeast to southwest and located at the far southeast end of the trench. It was 2.13m wide, 0.27m deep and had gradually-sloping sides and shallow concave base. The ditch contained a single sandy clay silt fill (1502) and No finds were recovered.

Feature F1505 was also northeast to southwest aligned and located towards the northwest end of the trench. The probable ditch was 1.1m wide and 0.35m deep, with moderately steep-sloping sides and irregular concave base. The ditch contained a homogenous single silty clay fill (1504) and no finds were recovered. Both these ditches were seen on the surface as earthwork depressions and raised areas, although there was no variation within the layer sequence to indicate deliberately formed banks. The ground levels to the southeast of the ditches were up to 0.35m higher than those to the northwest.

5.8 Trench 16 (Detailed plan Fig. 5d and sections 5e-f; Plate 4)

This trench was excavated onto natural subsoil (1604), which comprised clay with abundant gravels, present at a maximum depth of 0.9m below layers of colluvium (1601) and topsoil (1600). The trench contained a single northeast to southwest aligned probable ditch (F1603), which was 1.64m wide and 0.19m deep, with moderately steep-sloping sides and a flattish base. It contained a single clay sandy silt fill (1602) and no finds were recovered.

6. THE FINDS

By Emma Firth and Julian Richards

6.1 Introduction

All finds recovered on site have been retained, cleaned and marked where appropriate. Finds were then quantified according to material type within each context. The assemblage was then scanned by context to extract information regarding the range, nature and date of artefacts represented. This information is briefly discussed below. Finds totals by material type are set out in Table 1.

Table 1. Finds summary (weight is in grams)

Trench No	Context	Description	Pottery		CBM		Glass		Worked Flint		Cu Alloy		Slag	
			No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
1	100	Topsoil	3	13					3	12				
	103	Fill of ditch F102	11	117			12	82	8	34				
2	200	Topsoil					2	42	5	35				
	203	Fill of ditch F204	2	2					1	1				
	205	Colluvial layer	1	3					2	16				
	206	Alluvial layer												
3	300	Topsoil					1	13	2	9				
	400	Topsoil												
4	401	Colluvium/subsoil							8	66				
	501	Colluvial layer							6	87				
5	503	Fill of F504							5	86				
	601	Colluvial layer							1	5				
7	700	Topsoil	2	27										
	701	Colluvial layer	1	42					2	38				
8	801	Colluvial layer	17	36							2	18	1	16
	802	?Dumped deposit	3	15										
9	900	Topsoil	1	25	1	94								
	901	Subsoil/colluvium	1	4					2	13				
12	1200	Topsoil	1	11					1	2				
	1203	Ditch fill	2	3										
13	1301	Subsoil/colluvium	1	9										
15	1500	Topsoil	5	90	2		1	66	3	27				
	1501	Subsoil/colluvium	1	3					1	4				
17	1701	Subsoil/colluvium							1	4				
Total			52	400	3	94	16	203	51	439	2	18	1	16

6.2 Copper alloy objects

These comprise two strips of copper alloy, one of which has been folded/rolled. There are no distinguishing features to suggest function and both are likely to be modern in date.

6.3 Slag

The single piece of iron smelting slag was recovered from the colluvial layer in Trench 8.

6.4 Glass

A total of sixteen pieces of glass was recovered and all are from clear or green bottles of 19th-century and later date.

6.5 Ceramic building material (CBM)

The three pieces of CBM recovered are all brick fragments.

6.6 Worked flint

The assemblage consists of 51 pieces of worked flint and chert. From observation of surviving cortex the flint appears to derive from gravel nodules. The source of the somewhat grainy chert is not known. No core material was present and of the flakes that comprised the majority of the assemblage, only two show signs of retouch. One crude scraper came from context 1500, topsoil layer in Trench 15 and the only other potentially diagnostic piece was a single broke flint bladelet from context 203, fill of ditch F204. This can be taken to indicate a Mesolithic/early Neolithic date. The lack of individually diagnostic pieces and the nature of the flake assemblage, which could date from any time between the late Neolithic and the middle Bronze Age, suggests that further analysis would fail to yield any further meaningful conclusions.

Table 2. Summary of worked flint and chert

Context	Flakes			Blades			Tools		Chips	Rejuv	Comment	Total
	Whole	Broken	Ret	Whole	Broken	Ret	Scraper	Other				
100	2								1		Flint and chert	3
103	3	1								4	Flint and chert	8
200	4		1								4 chert	5
203					1						SF3 = broken bladelet	1
205		1	1									2
300	1								1			2
401	4	2							1	1	Flint and chert	8
501	4	1								1	Flint and chert	6
503	5										Flint and chert	5
601	1											1
701		1								1		2
901	1	1										2
1200		1										1
1500	2						1				Irregular retouch	3
1501		1										1
1701	1											1
Totals	28	9	2		1		1		3	7		51

6.7 Pottery

Introduction

All pottery recovered is itemised by period in Table 3 below.

Prehistoric

A small, single sherd of probable prehistoric pottery was recovered from Trench 2 (206). The sherd is a soft fabric with flint/chert inclusions and is similar to the medieval fabrics (see below). The sherd has sooting/residues on its external surface and is most likely Bronze Age in date.

Medieval

A total of 30 sherds (143g) of medieval pottery was recovered during the evaluation. These could range in date from the 10th century through to the 15th century.

Early fabrics include chert and flint-tempered handmade sherds which derive from the Blackdown Hills of East Devon/South Somerset and a single sherd of North Devon coarseware. This latter sherd has a fine clay matrix with moderate amounts of quartz inclusions and was recovered from a possible dumped deposit (802) in Trench 8. This fabric type dates to the 13th century. The Blackdown Hill type fabrics are chert-tempered with quartz inclusions and are mainly small plain body sherds. Most notable of this fabric group are 17 sherds recovered from Trench 8 (801). They include a small internal bevelled rim sherd and several have sooting on their external surfaces which would suggest a small cooking jar. It is likely that all these sherds derive from the same vessel. This fabric has a potential date range from mid 10th century to 14th century.

A single sherd of possible Ham Hill ware was recovered from the subsoil of Trench 15 and is a small plain glazed body sherd from a jug.

The remaining sherds are all probably Exeter Fabric 40. This fabric has a date range from the mid 13th century to the 15th century, but most of the pottery recovered from this site is likely to be at the latter end of this range. Many of the sherds are plain glazed body pieces, although a jug handle and some bases are present. The earliest example of this fabric is

the base of small jug with finger impressions around the base, which probably dates to the 13th century and was recovered from the topsoil of Trench 12.

Post-medieval to modern

A total of ten sherds (137g) of early post-medieval pottery was recovered, and includes Exeter and Donyatt type glazed wares which are very similar to the medieval fabrics. The fabrics include fine clay micaceous wares with few visible inclusions. Many of the sherds have a thick clear glaze. A single sherd from a bowl was recovered from Trench 9 (context 900) and is decorated with bands of white slip on its internal surfaces. Trench 15 contained possible sherds which derive from the Donyatt kilns in Somerset and these have a darker, harder fabric and a thick dark green glaze. Trench 1 (context 100) had a sherd of a redware with tin glaze and is possibly imported.

Pottery dating to the 19th-century and later includes blue transfer-printed ware and glazed earthenware sherds.

Table 3. Pottery by trench and period (Weight is in grams)

Trench	Context	Prehistoric		Medieval		Post medieval		Comments
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	100					3	13	Flowerpot; unusual glazed ware – possibly imported
	103					11	117	Includes 19th century lead-glazed earthenwares, blue and white transfer printed wares
2	203			2	2			Exeter Fabric 40 base with internal glaze; plain body sherd
	206	1	3					could be either prehistoric or medieval- soft fabric with flint/chert inclusions
7	700			2	27			Possibly Exeter Fabric 40 (F40), jug base with finger impressions; plain body sherd with internal glaze
	701			1	42			Same as 700 with internal glazing
8	801			17	36			Blackdown Hills type, possibly all from same vessel; small everted rim with inturned bevel
	802			3	15			Two Blackdown Hills type fabric and one North Devon coarseware
9	900					1	25	Rim of bowl, glazed internally with bands of white slip, slightly micaceous, could be Exeter type fabric, but of early post-medieval date
	901			1	4			Blackdown Hills type fabric
12	1200			1	11			Exeter F40 pulled handle ?jug, small patch of glaze
	1203			2	3			Exeter F40 very small glazed body sherds
13	1301					1	9	Fine micaceous fabric, harder than the Exeter fabrics, thick clear glaze body sherd from neck of jug- post medieval
15	1500					5	90	Thick clear glazed, includes possible Donyatt type, earlier post medieval; later post medieval china and earthenware pottery also present
	1501			1	3			?Ham Green, fine fabric with no visible inclusions, buff and grey surfaces, no inclusions, green glazed, pitted external surface
Totals		1	3	30	143	21	254	

6.8 Environmental samples

A bulk 10 litre sample was collected from layer 802 in Trench 8, which contained medieval pottery. A sub-sample of this has been examined and frequent charcoal and scorched clay is present. This has not been processed or analysed further for the purposes of this report, but has been retained in the event that no further archaeological work will be carried out on the site as a result of the application either being withdrawn or refused, or that further environmental analysis is required as part of a future programme of archaeological works.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1** The evaluation has established that many of the anomalies identified during the earlier geophysical survey relate to variations within the natural geology and as a result of natural fluvial and colluvial processes. The site is located on sloping ground down to a stream (the Wool Brook) forming the southwest boundary to the site. As a consequence of this some of the trenches positioned in the lower-lying ground next to the stream contained banded layers of alluvial clays, silts and gravels overlain by a colluvium. Elsewhere on the site a more straightforward sequence of layers was recorded, comprising undisturbed natural subsoil, overlain by colluvium/subsoil and then topsoil.
- 7.2** In the lower lying part of the site, the edge of a stream terrace was identified towards the northeast end of Trench 2 (see Fig. 3e). This terrace contained layers of natural gravels and clays (contexts 206-208) and was overlain by a thick colluvial deposit (205). A single piece of probable prehistoric pottery was recovered from alluvial layer 206. Similar sequences of deposits were identified in Trenches 1, 5 and 8. Within Trench 5, the edge of the stream terrace was also identified, as well as a broadly northeast to southwest aligned a probable early palaeochannel (F504). This was filled with a series of water-borne deposits of clays and silts. Five pieces of prehistoric worked flint waste flakes were recovered from the upper fill (503), although these are not diagnostic to any particular period.
- 7.3** Close to the northeast edge of the river terrace in Trench 8, a thin charcoal-rich and scorched layer (802) contained a small quantity of medieval pottery, indicating the possibility of settlement of this date either on the site or close by.
- 7.4** It is likely that the colluvial layer immediately below the topsoil in the lower part of the site was present in all trenches, even those further up slope. This layer was consistently of the same composition in all trenches, with only the thickness varying, presumably as a result of localised topographic factors. In no area of the site was there a level plateau where colluvium could not have formed. In only two trenches (2 and 4) was there a second, lower colluvial layer identified, again possibly as a result of localised topography.
- 7.5** The geophysical survey identified two parallel strong-response curvilinear anomalies, which were recorded in Trenches 12, 15 and 16. These were also visible as surface features (earthwork depressions and raised areas) and each had an associated ditch on their west side. The presence of a ditch indicates that these features do not represent lynchets or terraces, but are probably early field boundaries. The Sidmouth parish tithe map of 1839 shows the boundaries around and within site in their present form, but outside there are a series of slightly curving medieval strip fields present, with the features recorded here likely to represent parts of the same system. As would be expected with agricultural features, few finds were recovered, but two sherds of medieval pottery were present in a segment of one of the ditches excavated in Trench 12.
- 7.6** The only other archaeological features identified were linear ditches recorded in Trench 1 (F102) and Trench 2 (F203). These are shown on Fig. 6. Ditch F102 was in the position of a linear anomaly identified during the geophysical survey and contained 19th century pottery and bottle glass. Ditch F203 contained two small sherds of medieval pottery, as well as prehistoric worked flint, and is in the position of a small enclosure on the 1839 tithe map and is likely to represent one of the boundaries for this. The accompanying tithe apportionment describes this enclosure as house, garden and yard, although no building is shown and none was found during the evaluation.

8. CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1** In large parts of the site only limited or no evidence for archaeological activity was recorded. In the area adjacent to the Wool Brook, a series of alluvial deposits were recorded, with most of the layers identified likely to be naturally formed and of pre-glacial date. However, one of the upper alluvial layers contained a single piece of probable Bronze Age pottery, while prehistoric worked flint was found in the upper silts of a probable palaeochannel. There was also what appeared to be a dumped deposit adjacent to the stream which contained medieval pottery. The presence of these finds indicates possible evidence for settlement of these dates nearby and also the potential of the associated deposits to contain further artefacts, as well as for the retrieval of well-preserved environmental remains, such as pollen, organic material and carbonised plants or wood. The areas where there is the greatest potential for these finds and deposits are annotated on Fig. 6.
- 8.2** There was also evidence for later medieval activity on the site in the form of two parallel and curving probable former strip-field boundaries (see Fig. 6 for their extent), although it is unlikely that any additional information about these would be obtained from their further examination. A ditch of this date was also present in the lower part of the site in an area where buried remains for an early structure could be present, although none were identified during this work.

9. ARCHIVE

- 9.1** The paper and digital archive and finds are currently held at the offices of AC archaeology Ltd, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, Bradninch, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ. They will be deposited at Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter under the accession code 235/2009, along with any archive generated by any subsequent work on the site.
- 9.2** The OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS) number for this project is 62809.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The evaluation was commissioned on behalf of RPS by Steve Taylor. The site trial-trenching was carried out by Simon Hughes, Chris Caine, Kerry Dean, Ben Sunderland and Colin Wakeham and the illustrations for this report were prepared by Sarah Cottam. The advice and collaboration of Stephen Reed, Devon County Archaeology Officer, is duly acknowledged.

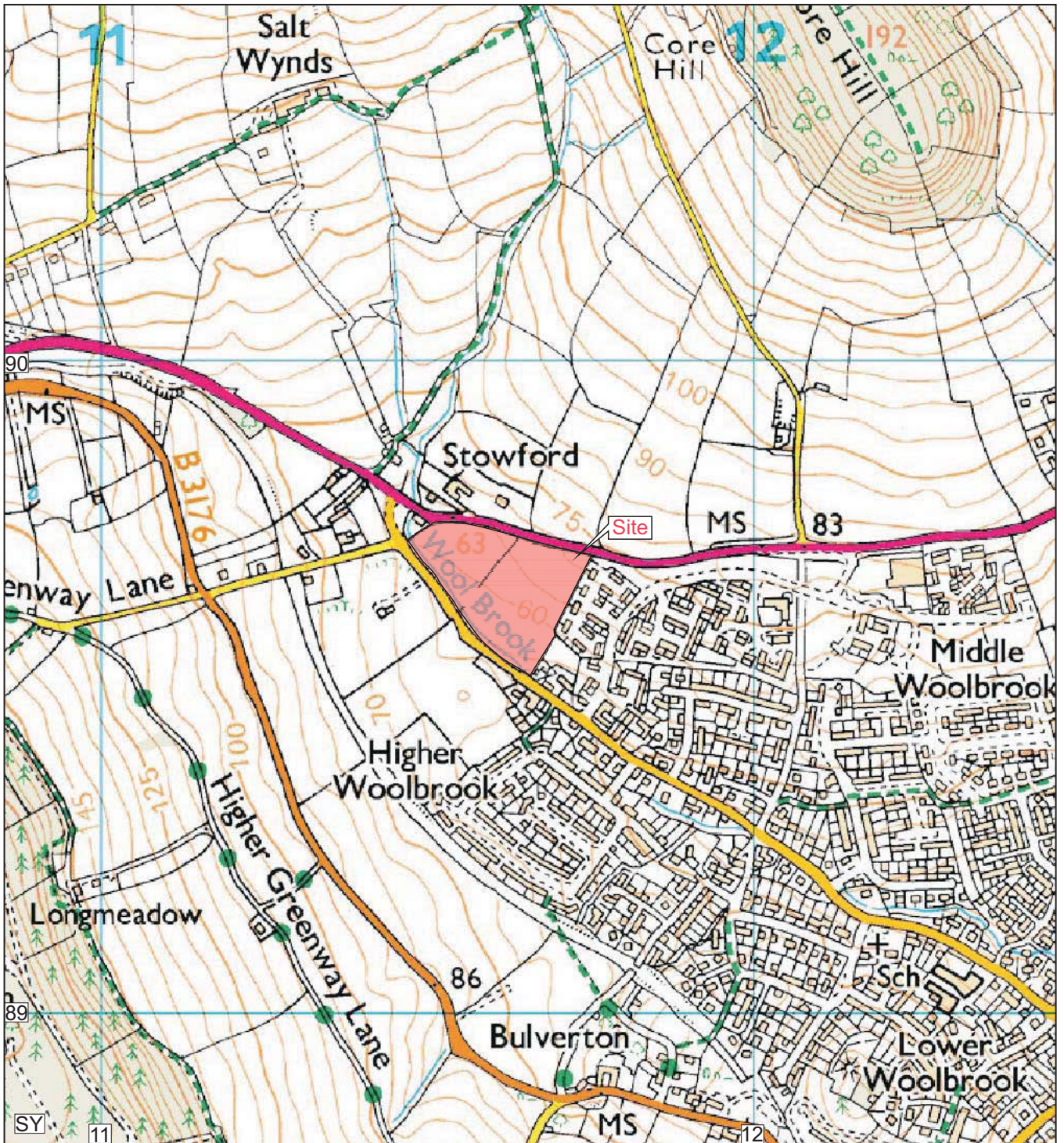
11. SOURCES CONSULTED

DRO, Sidmouth parish tithe map, 1839 and apportionment, 1840.

Ordnance Survey 25-inch Devonshire sheet 82.14, surveyed 1888, published 1889, revised 1903, published 1905, revised 1933, published 1934.

Sitescan Archaeological Ltd, 2009, *A report for AC Archaeology for a geophysical survey carried out at Stowford, nr Sidmouth, Devon*. Report reference AC/01/09.

Valentin, J., 2009, *Land at Higher Woolbrook, Sidford, Sidmouth, Devon: Method statement for an archaeological trench evaluation*. Unpublished AC archaeology document, ref. ACD69/1/0.



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright AC archaeology, Chicklade, Wiltshire. Licence No AL100016452

Fig. 1: Site location

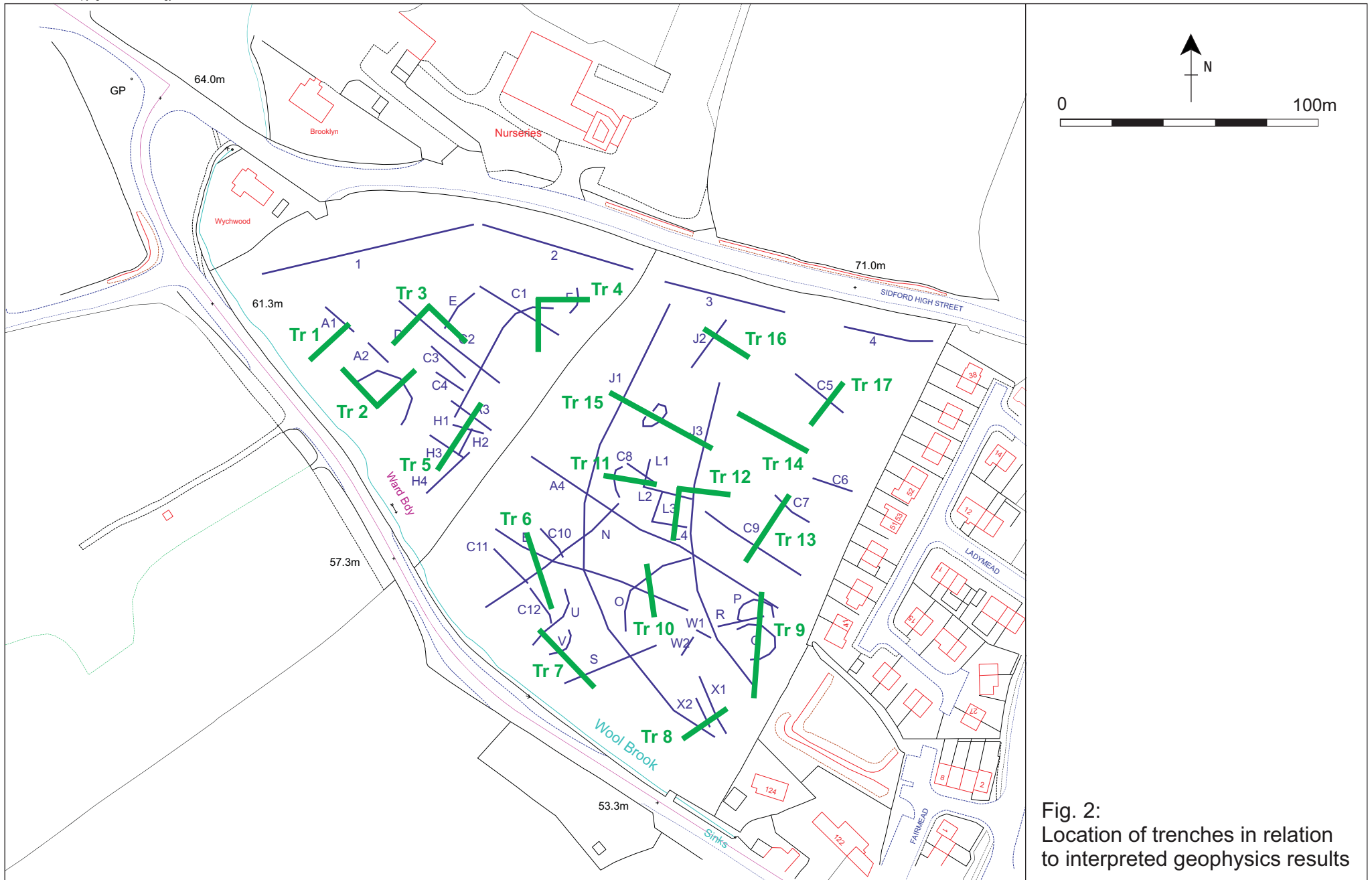


Fig. 2:
Location of trenches in relation
to interpreted geophysics results

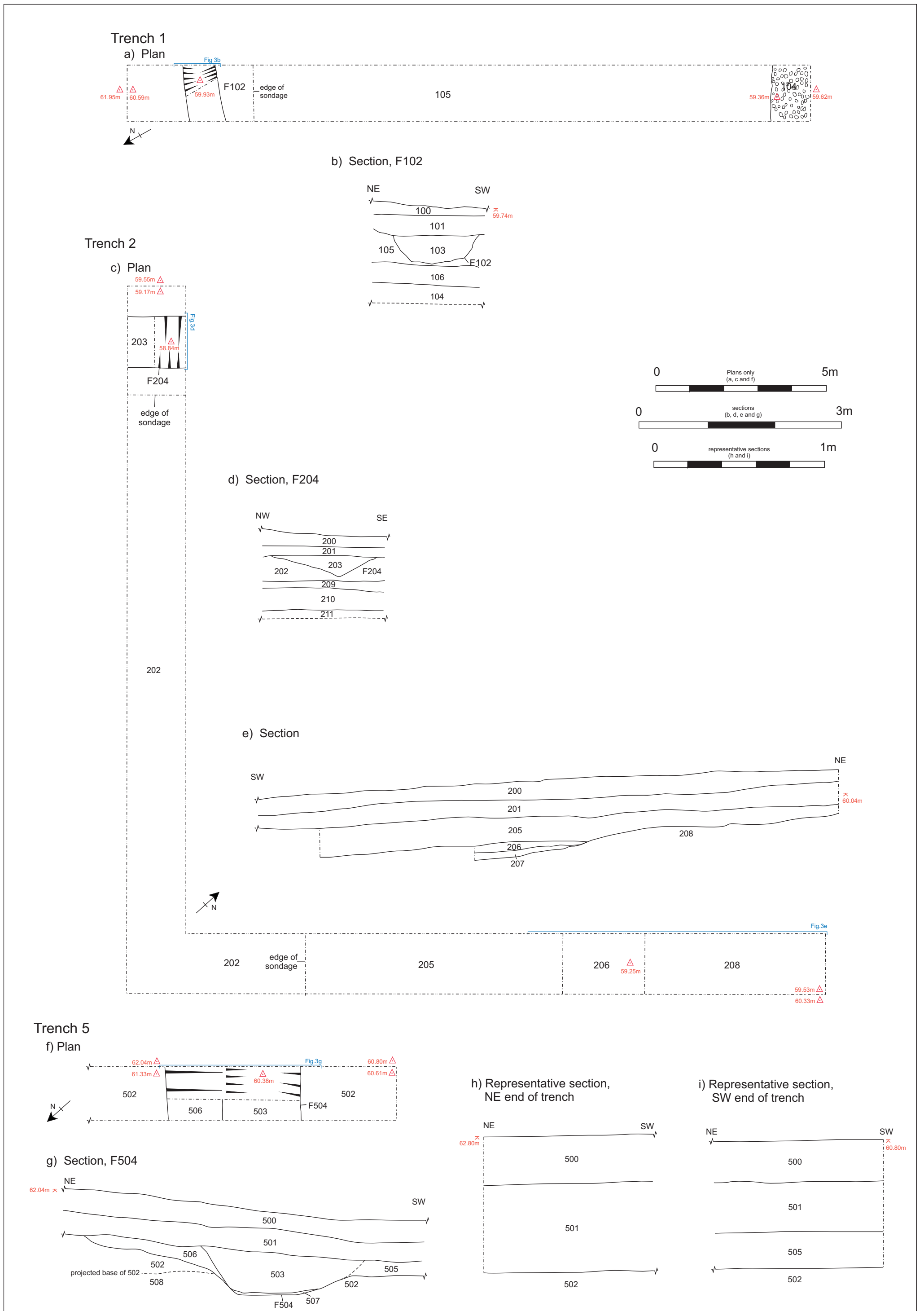


Fig. 3: Plans and sections, Trenches 1, 2 and 5