

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION  
AT  
4/4A WHITTINGTON ROAD,  
WORCESTER

Tom Rogers

With a contribution by Alan Jacobs

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE  
Project 2829  
Report 1385  
WCM 101409



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## **Archaeological evaluation at 4/4a Whittington Road, Worcester**

**Tom Rogers**

**With a contribution by Alan Jacobs**

### **Part 1 Project summary**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 4/4a Whittington Road, Worcester (SO 8688 5369). It was undertaken on behalf of John Rudge, who intends to develop the site for residential use. The project aimed to determine if any significant archaeological site was present and if so to indicate what its location, date and nature were.

The site comprises the garden to the rear of a large Victorian brick house (no 4 or Perrypoint), which fronts onto Whittington Road and the garden of no 4a, a relatively modern house slightly to the south-east. The northern half of the site is flat and consists of well-tended garden but the southern half is a steep south-facing slope of rough grass and some fruit trees. A grass covered mound, from which a pear tree grows, lies in the garden of Perrypoint some 25m south of the house. It is reputed to be the location of a gallows (WCM 91097) used until the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is recorded on the Worcester City Historic Environment Record as an archaeologically sensitive area.

Seven trenches were opened across the site by a machine fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless grading bucket. Apart from some garden terracing features no features of archaeological interest were uncovered over the southern or central part of the site. However, in the area of the mound, several features of interest were recorded. A former ditch crossed the site from east to west and the hedge bank also relating to this boundary was uncovered. This is the remains of a field boundary which once marked the edge of St Peter the Great parish to the south and Whittington parish to the north. The probable edge of the former road to Pershore, which is thought to have extended this far south before turnpike improvements in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. A pit was recorded to the west of the mound with an irregular base and one deep narrow section continuing to the depth of almost a metre. The fill was relatively sterile apart from occasional charcoal flecks. It is possible that this represents a narrow pit or posthole in which a tree grew after disuse and this feature may therefore relate to the execution site. However no dateable evidence was recovered from the pit.

## Part 2 Detailed report

### 1. Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 4/4a Worcester (SO 8688 5369). It was undertaken on behalf of John Rudge, who intends to develop the site for residential use. A brief for archaeological evaluation was issued by Worcester City Museum Archaeological Section (WCMAS 2005) who consider that a site of archaeological interest may be affected (WCM 91097).

#### 1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 1999)

The project also conforms to a brief prepared by and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2005).

#### 1.3 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability and documentation. The purpose of this was to establish their significance, since this would make it possible to recommend an appropriate treatment, which may then be integrated with the proposed development programme.

More specifically the following aims were identified in the brief. To address:

- Possible prehistoric activity at the site
- The potential medieval (or even earlier) use of the execution site
- The nature of structural and other evidence for post-medieval execution and for the subsequent treatment of bodies.

### 2. Methods

#### 2.1 Documentary search

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Worcester City Historic Environment Record. In addition the following sources were also consulted:

##### *Cartographic sources*

- 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500, 1884
- Ordnance Survey 1:2500, 1934
- Tithe award map of Whittington parish 1842

##### *Documentary sources*

- 
- The Victoria County History of England: Worcestershire
  - Place-names (Mawer and Stenton 1927).

## 2.2 **Fieldwork methodology**

### 2.2.1 **Fieldwork strategy**

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2005). Some adjustments were made to the original trench layout plan. On request of the agent, trench 4 was moved slightly to the east to avoid an area of trees, which will not form part of any development on this site. An extra trench (Trench 1) was therefore opened at the north-western edge of the development area to test the area north of the trees. Two trenches (2 and 3) were moved to the area around the mound in order to more fully test the area of the possible execution site in accordance with the brief.

Fieldwork was undertaken between 5<sup>th</sup> December and 9<sup>th</sup> December. The site reference number and site code is WCM 101409.

Seven trenches, amounting to just over 217m<sup>2</sup> in area, were excavated over the site area of 0.3ha, representing a sample of 4%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 1. Trenches 2, 3 and 7 were placed deliberately around the mound in order to test the location of the reputed former execution site. On the request of the client, the area to be tested archaeologically was slightly extended.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a wheeled excavator employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

The following techniques were considered for use but were not considered to be appropriate for this project; geophysical survey, fieldwalking and topographic/earthwork survey.

### 2.2.2 **Structural analysis**

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was effected through a combination of structural, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

## 2.3 **Artefact methodology, by Alan Jacobs**

### 2.3.1 **Artefact recovery policy**

All artefacts from the area of salvage recording were retrieved by hand and retained in accordance with the service manual (CAS 1995 as amended).

### 2.3.2 **Method of analysis**

All hand-retrieved finds were examined and a primary record was made on a Microsoft Access 2000 database. Artefacts were identified, quantified and dated and a *terminus post quem* date produced for each stratified context.

Pottery was examined under x20 magnification and recorded by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by the Service (Hurst and Rees 1992).

## 2.4 **The methods in retrospect**

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

## 3. **Topographical and archaeological context**

No 4 Whittington Road, also known as Perrypoint, is a large red brick Victorian house on the south side of the Whittington Road about 2km east-south-east of the city centre. The garden extends southwards from this road frontage in a long rectangle, a portion of which is now occupied by the house and garden of 4a Whittington Road, a modern house. The northern portion of the plot, a well cultivated garden, is flat but about 80m from the road there is a sudden steep gradient which continues to the end of the plot, beyond which is an arable field. This area is covered by rough grass and apple trees. This scarp is the southern edge of Red Hill a ridge of high ground to the south-east of the city centre. The site lies south of the point at which the Spetchley Road, which leads to Alcester and Stratford (A422) and the Whittington Road, which leads to Evesham (A44) diverge, although due to recent road improvements this section of the Spetchley Road now only continues as far as County Hall.

According to Mawer and Stenton (1927) the place name Red Hill was “Redhill” in Worcester Episcopal Records of 1303 and “Redehull” in the Calendar of Patent Rolls of 1327 and means simply a red hill, referring to the colour of the soil.

The site which formerly lay partially on the boundary of the two parishes, St Peter the Great to the south and Whittington to the north. The slope overlooks the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Middle Battenhall Farm (WCM 100250), a moated grange and fishpond complex which lies some 600m to the south.

An archaeological evaluation (WCM 101147) undertaken at a site near the village of Whittington 600m south east-of the subject site in 2003, identified a prehistoric site, potentially of mesolithic date. The site survives as a dispersed spread of flint artefacts and fire cracked stones in the topsoil and subsoil of the field. The artefacts recovered included an unusual tranchet axe and a microlith, both mesolithic in date.

The site is reputedly the location of the Perrypoint Gibbet (WCM 91097). A small mound on which a pear tree grows is traditionally the location and a relatively modern memorial to Father John Wall stands near the mound commemorating a Catholic Priest hanged here in 1679. The Victoria County History of Worcestershire (VCHIII, 515) records the following; ‘Where the London and Alcester roads join at Red Hill in the north-eastern corner of the parish was the spot at which all the county criminals were executed until the early half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The gibbet on which some of them as were hung in chains were suspended also stood here’.

Other hangings on Red Hill included Father Oldcorne in 1606, one of a group of Jesuit Priests accused of being behind the gunpowder plot. (Haynes 1994). He hid with Father Henry Garnet in Hindlip House for eleven days following the discovery of the plot but was discovered and hanged along with three others also implicated including John Wintour, half brother of Robert and Thomas Wintour, two of the principal conspirators.

There is a modern memorial on the site to Father John Wall, another Catholic priest hanged at Red Hill in 1609. The inscription is as follows:

To the memory of blessed John Wall O.S.F. and other priests who died for the Catholic Faith in the County of Worcester.

For twelve years Blessed John Wall discharged his Priestly duties at Harvington Hall, Chaddesley Corbett and in other parts of the county in daily peril of death. Born in 1620, he was ordained preist in 1645 and was hanged near this spot on the Octave day of the Assumption, August 22<sup>nd</sup> 1679



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*Transit Gloria Mundi  
Fides catholica Manet*

This memorial was erected by Ellen Ryan of King's Norton, Worcestershire

Although the existence of an execution site on Red Hill is well documented, there is no evidence to link the execution site to the mound in the garden of no 4 Whittington Road other than tradition.

The site now lies within the parish of Worcester but the boundary between the parishes of St Peter the Great and Whittington formerly crossed the site some 20m south of Perrypoint. The 1842 title map of Whittington parish therefore depicts the subject site only to the north of the parish boundary. No buildings are shown and a thin strip parallel to the road is labelled 'new inclosure'.

The 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey of 1884 shows the house Perrypoint standing in relative isolation. There has been some development along the London Road and three cottages stand on the north side of the Spetchley Road but these represent only the beginnings of the spread of the city to this area. The garden of the house extends only some 25m south of the house, roughly as far as the northern boundary of no 4a and a footpath crosses the site from east to west. This line is also marked as the parish boundary between St Peter's and Whittington. South of this boundary the land is shown as a field. A footpath is also shown running roughly north-south along the eastern boundary of the plot as it does today, forming a crossroads at the east of the site with the east-west footpath.

The 1934 Ordnance Survey shows the area much more built up with houses along the southern edge of the Pershore (now Whittington) Road. The footpath which crosses the site has now disappeared although the line is preserved to the west of the site by a lane. The land holding attached to Perrypoint is now shown at its current size, including the area now occupied by no 4a. The southern portion of the site is shown as an orchard and a terrace has been built out at the top of the slope.

There is evidence that the top of the slope was landscaped at some time and it is possible that this is when the terracing took place. The garden to the rear of Perrypoint is very flat, but on the western side a strip of uneven raised ground survives along the boundary. It is probable that this represents the original ground surface of the garden before landscaping.

## 4. Results

### 4.1 Structural analysis

The layout of the trenches is shown in Figure 2. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

#### 4.1.1 Phase 1 Natural deposits

In the garden area on top of the ridge and slope, natural deposits comprised very compact pinkish sandy clay with occasional rounded quartzite pebbles. Variations in the natural included occasional patches of purer red sand. Refer to geology map

#### 4.1.2 Phase 2 prehistoric and Roman

A single piece of undateable flint debitage was recovered from the fill of the possible gallows or gibbet posthole (see below). Aside from this however no evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity was recovered.

#### 4.1.3 **Phase 3 medieval deposits**

A large shaped stone fragment was recovered from the site lying slightly beneath the terraced bank. This is a window mullion of 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century date carved from Old Red sandstone. It is likely that this may have been brought into the garden as an ornamental feature.

#### 4.1.4 **Phase 4 Post-medieval deposits.**

Several features of archaeological interest were found around the reputed gallows mound. In Trench 2, which was excavated immediately to the north of the mound, a long cut into the natural (2004) was recorded running east to west along the centre of the trench, north of which was a brown silty clay (2003). Two slots were excavated across this feature, which was shallow, dipping slightly to the north with a distinctive linear depression running from east to west. The fill (2003) contained frequent charcoal inclusions and frequent rounded cobbles up to 0.06m. The feature is interpreted as the edge of a trackway running east to west with the linear depression forming a single wheel rut. Although rounded quartzite pebbles were found occasionally within the natural, they were not found in this concentration anywhere else on the site except in some modern garden paths and it is likely therefore that these were imported as a road surface, although no distinct surface of cobbles was uncovered. One sherd of Malvernian ware was recovered from context 2003 and some modern brick fragments. It is possible that this context was disturbed during the landscaping of the garden.

In Trench 3 to the west of the site a pit 1.7m long and 1.1m wide was uncovered in the northern half of the trench (Fig 4). The southern half of this feature was excavated by hand and had a sandy fill (3006) of a pinkish colour similar to that of the natural clay but considerably looser and with occasional charcoal flecks and patches of brown clay. The excavated portion of the pit had steeply sloping sides, which flattened to a shelf 320mm below ground surface but continued to descend in the centre to a depth of 1m. At the base a fragment of slate projected from the section. This feature was originally assumed to be a tree bole due to its irregularity, but it is unlikely that a tree bole would have such a narrow downward extension (see section, Fig 6). No dating evidence was recovered from the fill but it is possible that this feature is related to the gallows site, either as a posthole for the gallows post, gibbet post or a related feature. One piece of flint debitage was recovered from the fill which was not dateable.

Slightly south of the pit, a ditch, 1.2m wide was recorded crossing Trench 3 from east to west. A section was excavated across this feature by hand. The cut (3005) was shallow with gently sloping sides. The base was irregular and the ditch was a maximum of 0.3m deep. It was filled by grey brown silty clay (3006) with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional small rounded stones with a maximum diameter of 0.05m. The ditch is interpreted as a former field boundary which is visible on the 1884 Ordnance Survey and forms the parish boundary between St Peter the Great and Whittington. In Trench 1 to the west, a ridge of redeposited natural (1006) may have formed the hedge bank to the south of this ditch. The ditch itself was also visible in Trench 7 to the east of the mound. A fragment of 18<sup>th</sup> century buff ware was recovered from the fill.

Other features recorded on the site included modern clinker filled drains at the top of the slope, a cobbled path crossing Trench 3 and two brick features on the steep slope. These were recorded in Trench 4. The northern feature, higher up the slope, comprised a small brick wall (4007) crossing the trench on the strike of the slope. It was four courses high and two bricks wide. The bricks unfrogged, measuring 230mm x 110mm x 80mm. This feature is likely to have been a revetment wall and is probably contemporary with the terracing of the garden at some point between 1884 and 1934 (see section 3 above). The southern brick feature (4008) was wider but only one brick deep and was probably a path crossing the slope.

The southern end of the flat area, crossed by Trench 4 was 'made up' ground, redeposited natural clay (4005) lying over a former soil horizon (4006). This is an extension to the slope

which is visible on the 1934 Ordnance Survey, probably carried out when the garden was being levelled.

## 5. **Artefact analysis, by Alan Jacobs**

The pottery assemblage retrieved from the excavated area consisted of eight sherds of pottery weighing 111g, fragments of tile, brick, worked stone, mollusc and flint. The group came from three stratified contexts and could be dated from the medieval to the modern period (see Table 1). Level of preservation was generally good with the majority of sherds displaying low levels of abrasion.

All sherds have been grouped and quantified according to fabric type (see Table 1). A total of two diagnostic form sherds were present, other sherds were dated by fabric type to the general period or production span. Where mentioned, all specific fabrics are referenced to the county type series (Hurst 1992; Hurst and Rees 1992).

Context	Material	Fabric	Total	Weight (g)
100	Sandstone mullion	n/a	1	17500
2003	Unidentifiable metal object	n/a	1	18
2003	Mollusc	n/a	1	3
2003	Brick	1	1	3000
2003	Brick/tile	2a	2	53
2003	Malvernian oxidised glazed ware pottery	69	1	31
3002	Medieval/post-medieval roof tile	2b	1	42
3002	Medieval/post-medieval roof tile	2c	2	145
3002	Modern stoneware pottery	81.4	2	50
3002	Modern porcelain pottery	83	1	3
3004	Post-medieval buff-ware pottery	91	1	13
3006	Flint	n/a	1	9
4001	Base tile	2a	1	192
4001	Post-medieval red sandy ware pottery	78	1	7
4001	Modern porcelain pottery	83	1	2
4001	Modern Stone china pottery	85	1	5

**Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage**

A single fragment of an old red sandstone mullion (cavetto) of 13th-14th century dating was recovered, this stone originated probably from either Ombersley or Holt, twin slots were cut in either side (context 100). The earliest pottery was a sherd of oxidised glazed Malvernian ware (fabric 69) residual in a modern context (2003), also recovered from this context were a number of fragments of modern brick including a rounded coping brick for a garden wall (fabric 1), which dated from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Only two fragments of post-medieval pottery were recovered, one a sherd of red sandy ware (Fabric 78) was residual in modern context (4001), the other a fragment of post-medieval buff ware (Fabric 91) was of 18<sup>th</sup> century date (context 3004). The modern pottery consisted of small fragments of porcelain (fabric 83) of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century date (contexts 3002 and 4001). In addition two fragments of modern stoneware pottery were recovered (context 3002) and a single fragment of modern stone china (fabric 85), with a willow transfer pattern dating from about 1850. A single fragment of the base tile of a horseshoe drain (context 4001), and three fragments of medieval/post-medieval roof tile were recovered (Fabric 2b and 2c) from modern context (3002). A single fragment of flint debitage was recovered (context 3006), which was undateable.

Context 100	13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century
Context 2003	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
Context 3002	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
Context 3004	18 <sup>th</sup> century
Context 3006	Undated
Context 4001	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century

Table 2. *Terminus post quem* dates by context

## 5.1 Significance

In conclusion the small quantity of finds makes this assemblage of very limited archaeological interest. The finds recovered most probably represent manuring and general waste disposal from the medieval period onwards. The only object of interest was the mullion which seems likely to have been imported as a garden ornament.

## 6. Synthesis

Despite the proximity of the prehistoric site (WCM 10147) some 600m to the south-east discovered from a scatter of flint artefacts, no prehistoric finds or features were recorded on the site, aside possibly from the undateable flint debitage.

A large shaped fragment of carved red sandstone was recovered lying loose below the terrace. It is likely that this fragment was imported into the garden as an ornamental feature. It is a medieval window mullion and may have come originally from the moated grange of Middle Battenhall Farm some 600m to the north of the site.

Post-medieval deposits include the edge of a track, a field boundary ditch and, possibly the pit. The two roads which diverge from the London Road immediately north of the site (the Spetchley Road and the Whittington, formerly Pershore Road) are both 18<sup>th</sup> century turnpike improvements and it is likely that the footpath which formerly crossed this site from east to west is a remnant of the original line of the road. Roads of this period were not fixed within narrow boundaries and frequently in difficult conditions such as steep slopes or waterlogged ground there were wide areas providing various alternatives for passing. The subject site is at the top of a slope and the clay ground is sticky in wet weather so it is probable that the small section of trackway uncovered in Trench 2 might therefore be only a remnant of a much wider section of road. While it is unlikely that roads of this period would be deliberately cut into natural ground similar to a Roman road, it is probable that constant traffic would lower the natural levels to create a slight holloway.

It is well documented that until the late 18<sup>th</sup> century executions were held on Red Hill but, other than tradition, there is no evidence to link this with the low mound in the garden of no 4 Whittington Road. However there is other circumstantial evidence to suggest that this is the correct location. Medieval and post-medieval execution sites were often placed in locations intended to be prominent. Therefore they were often at crossroads, on the edge of parish boundaries or in prominent topographic locations such as the top of a hill. The garden of Perrypoint fits all these criteria being on the edge of the former parish boundary of St Peter the Great and Whittington and also on the top of a prominent scarp. Until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century a footpath crossed the garden just at the location of the mound and crossed another, which still exists running down the eastern boundary of the site. This footpath can be traced north of the Whittington Road, continuing toward Perry wood and may itself have been a more prominent path in the past. The two paths would therefore have formed a crossroads at the eastern edge of the site at the location of the memorial.

The mound itself is not convincing as a feature with any great antiquity. The field boundary ditch passes directly beneath it (see Fig 4) and the pear tree itself is directly in line with the former hedge bank. It is suggested that the pear tree stands on a remnant of the hedge bank, which has been enhanced during the substantial flattening, and landscaping of the garden in

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the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It may be that a small area of ground was left at its original height to prevent damage to the tree's roots. It is also possible that an original mound was removed at this time and later tradition mixed the location with the existing mound.

The pit uncovered in Trench 3 did not provide any dateable evidence. It was filled by a fairly sterile loose sandy fill with some occasional charcoal and patches of brown sandy clay. A slate fragment projected from the section at the base. Although this pit was over a metre in diameter at the top, it narrowed to the dimensions of a large posthole at a depth of 0.32m and was 1m deep. It may represent a posthole in which a tree grew at a later date. If so the timber upright would have had a diameter of at least 0.5m. No human bone was recovered from the fill.

## 7. Significance

Although no definitive material evidence for the location of the gallows was recorded during the evaluation, it is still considered that the combination of the tradition attached to this site, the proximity of the recorded road, parish boundary ditch and the suggestion from map evidence of a former crossroads to the east of the site is compelling and that it is likely that the execution site lay in this general area, even if not directly on the mound.

## 8. Publication summary

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 4/4a Whittington Road, Worcester (SO 8688 5369; SMR ref WCM91097). It was undertaken on behalf of John Rudge, who intends to develop the site for residential use. The site comprises the garden to the rear of a large Victorian brick house (no 4 or Perrypoint), which fronts onto Whittington Road and the garden of no 4a a relatively modern house slightly to the south-east. A mound with a pear tree growing on it some 25m south of no 4. is reputed to be the location of a gallows used until the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. The project aimed to determine if any significant archaeological site was present in particular, any structures or finds related to the gallows and if so to indicate what its location, date and nature were..*

*The northern half of the site is flat and consists of well-tended garden but the southern half is a steep south-facing slope of rough grass and some fruit trees. Seven trenches were opened across the site by a machine fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless grading bucket. Apart from some garden terracing features no features of archaeological interest were uncovered over the southern part of the site. However, in the area of the mound, several features of interest were recorded. A ditch, 1.5m wide and 0.3m deep crossed the site from east to west on the line of the mound and the hedge bank also relating to this boundary was uncovered slightly to the west. This is thought to be a former field boundary which is shown on the 1884 Ordnance Survey as the southern edge of the garden of no 4. It is also the former parish boundary between St Peter the Great and Whittington and the line of a former footpath which skirted the southern side of the Whittington Road. The probable edge of a former trackway was also recorded to the north of the mound comprising a shallow cut with a probable cart rut with many cobbles within the fill. Although only a part of this feature was within the trench, the cart rut indicated that the track was following the same line as the former footpath. A pit which narrowed in its base to the dimensions of a large posthole with a depth of 1m was recorded immediately west of the mound. No dateable evidence was recovered from the fill, but it is possible that this feature relates to the execution site as the posthole for the gallows, gibbet or another related structure.*

## 9. **The archive**

The archive consists of:

7	Trench record sheets
3	Fieldwork progress records AS2
1	Photographic records AS3
1	Level record sheet
42	Digital Photographs
7	Scale drawings
1	Box of finds
1	Computer disk

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcester City Museum  
Foregate Street  
Worcester  
WR1 2PW

## 10. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, John Rudge the developer, Malcolm Rogers, agent for John Rudge and James Dinn, Worcester City Archaeologist.

## 11. **Personnel**

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Tom Rogers. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Simon Woodiwiss. Fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Rogers and Adam Lee, finds analysis by Alan Jacobs and illustration by Carolyn Hunt.

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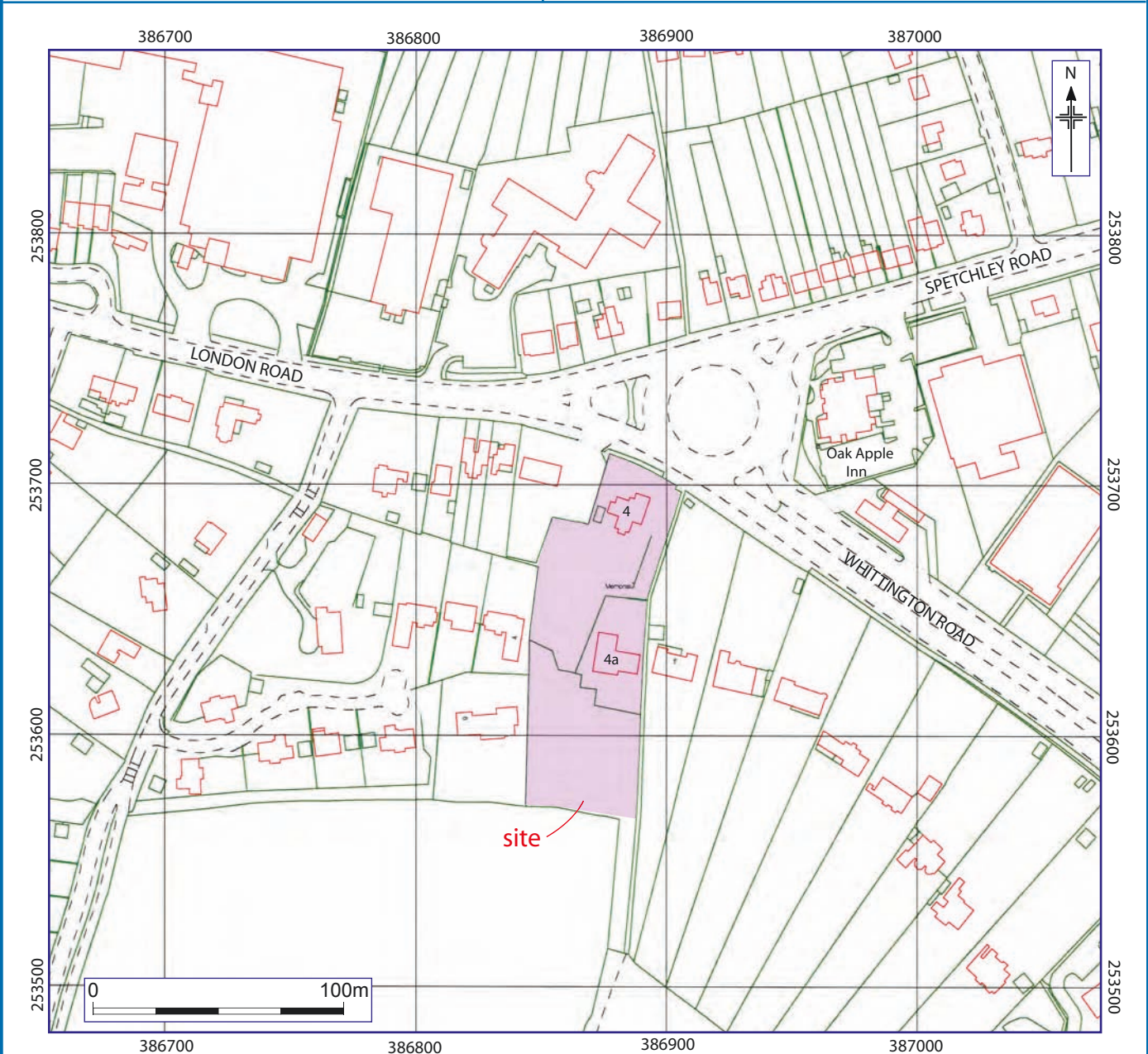
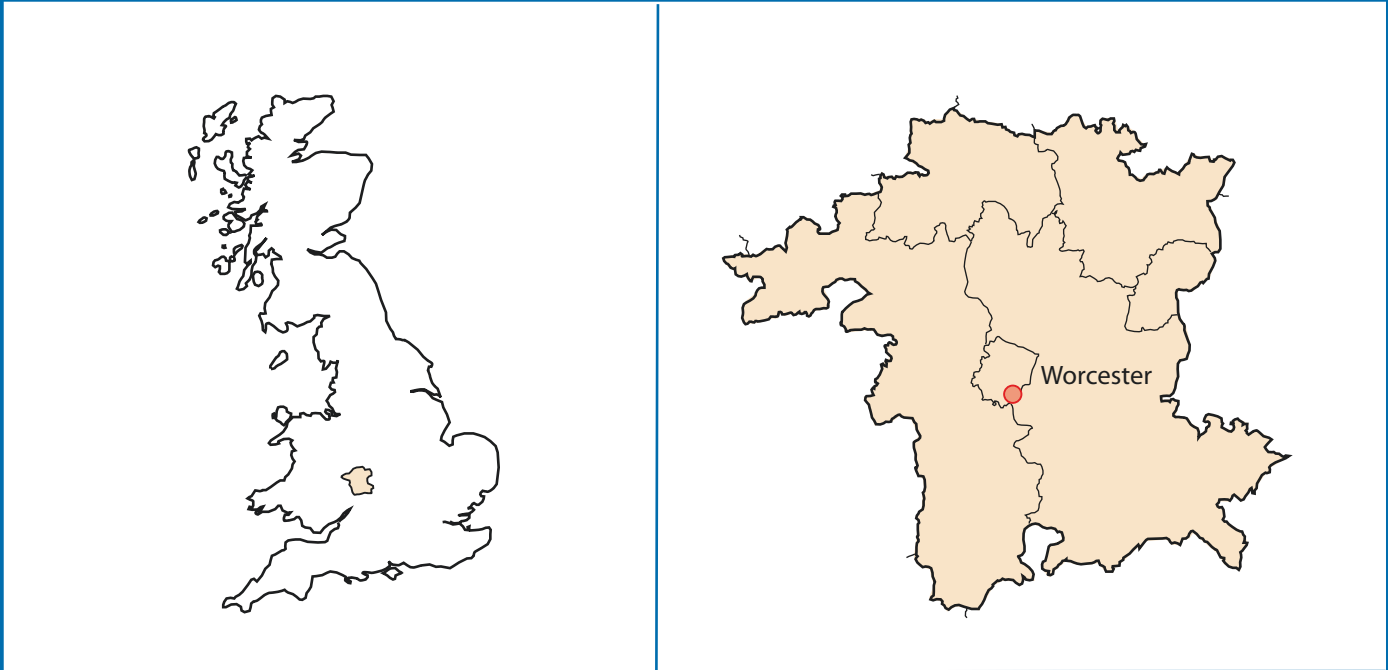
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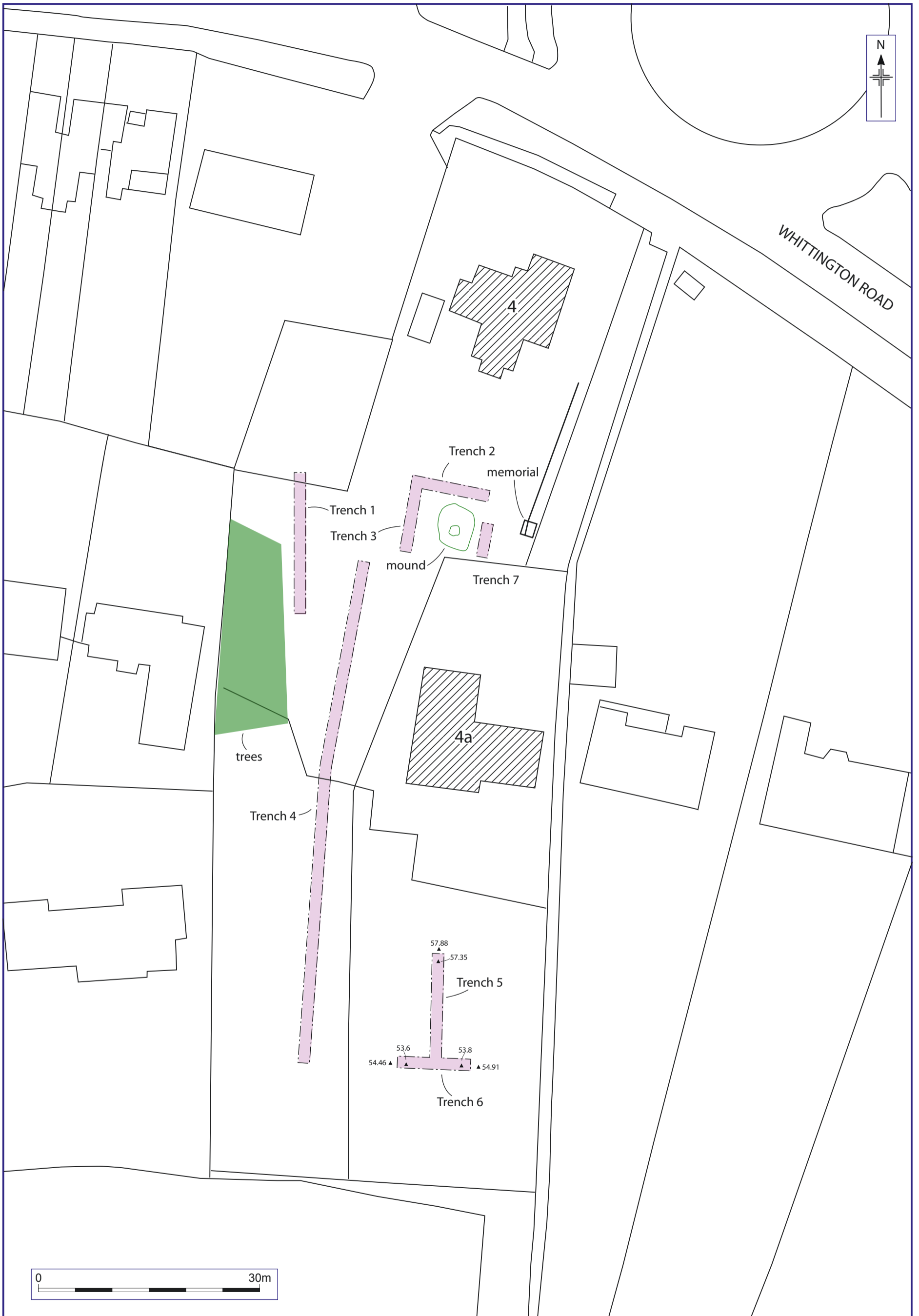


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Location of the site.

Figure 1

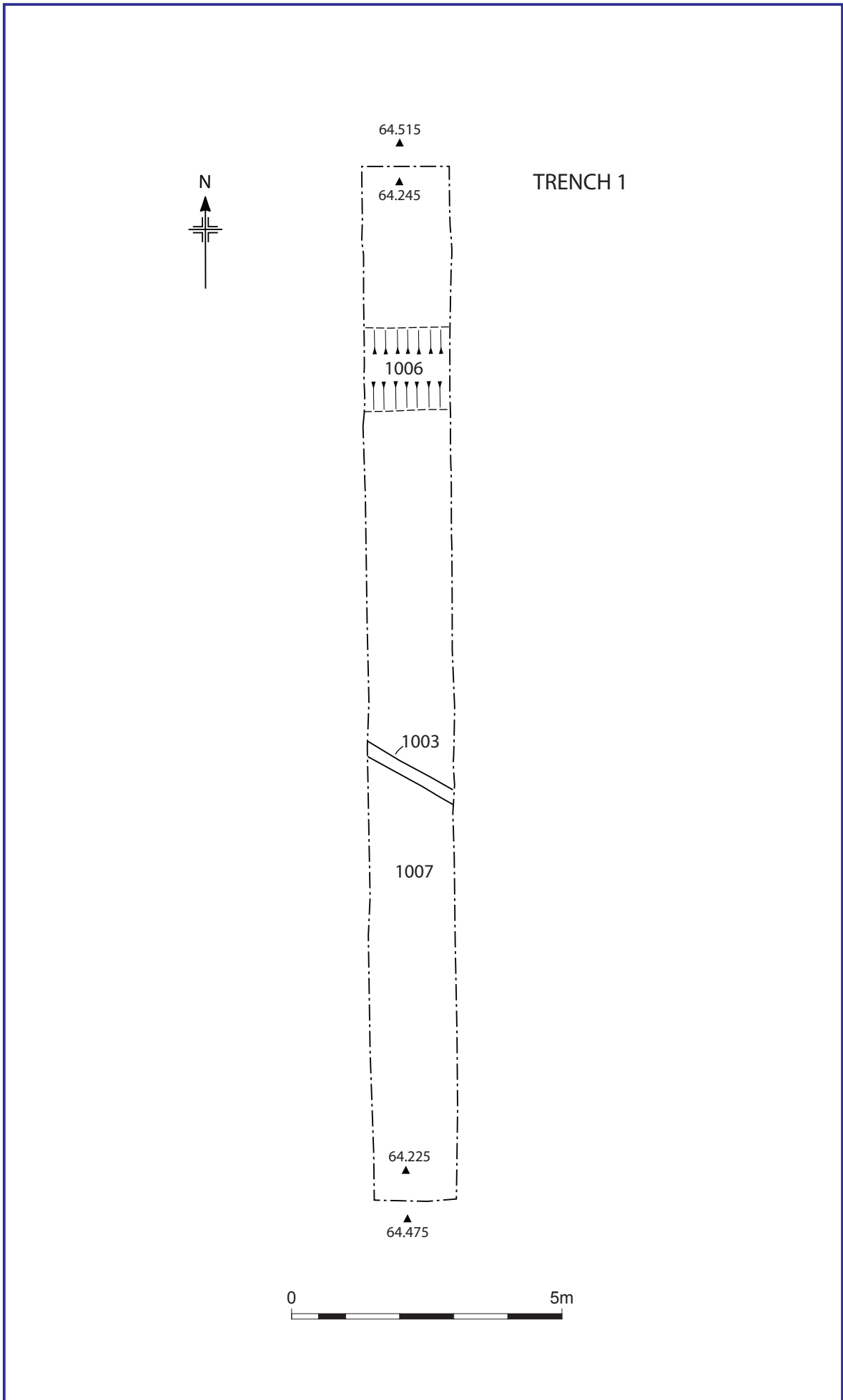




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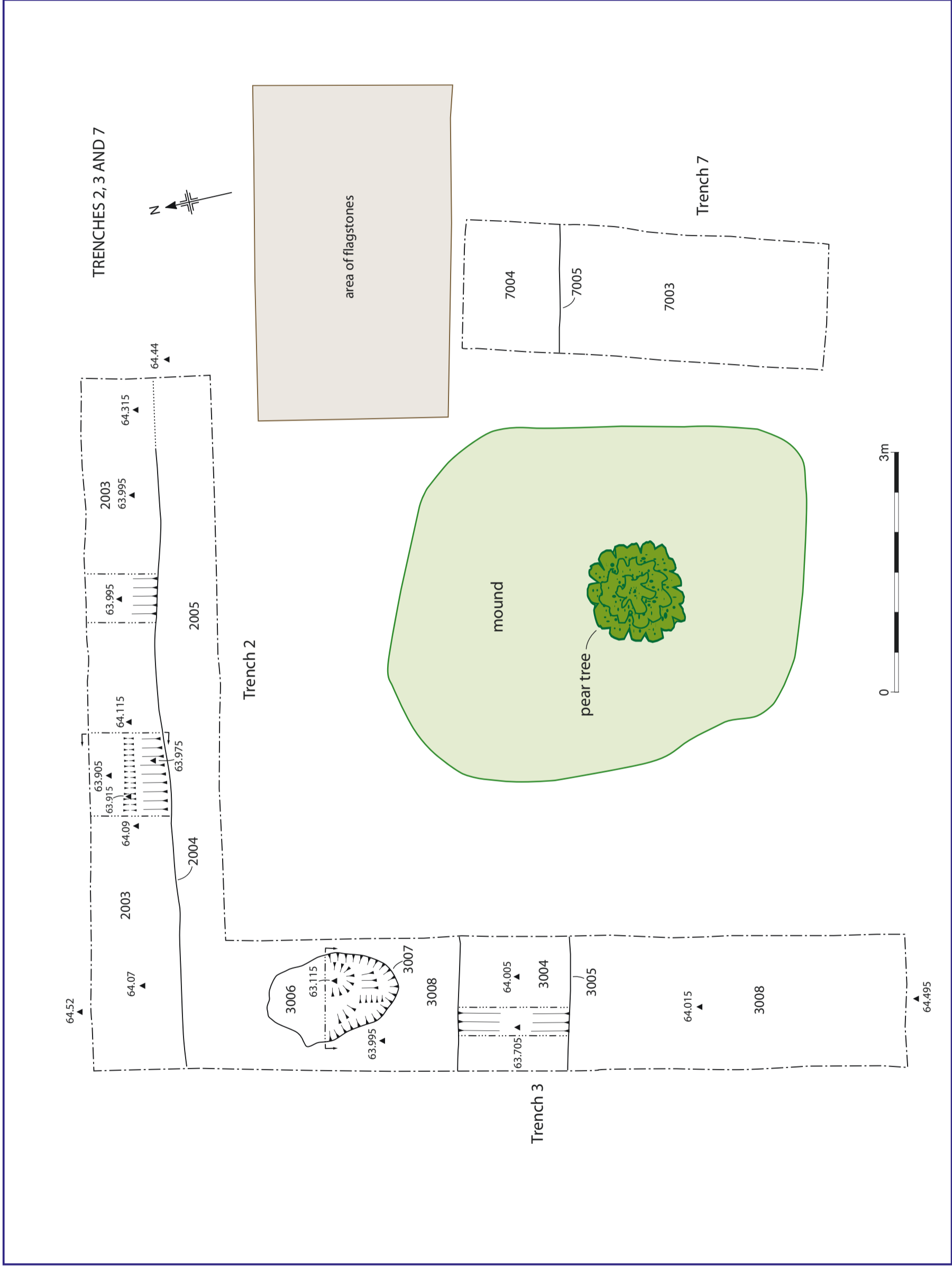
Location of Trenches

Figure 2



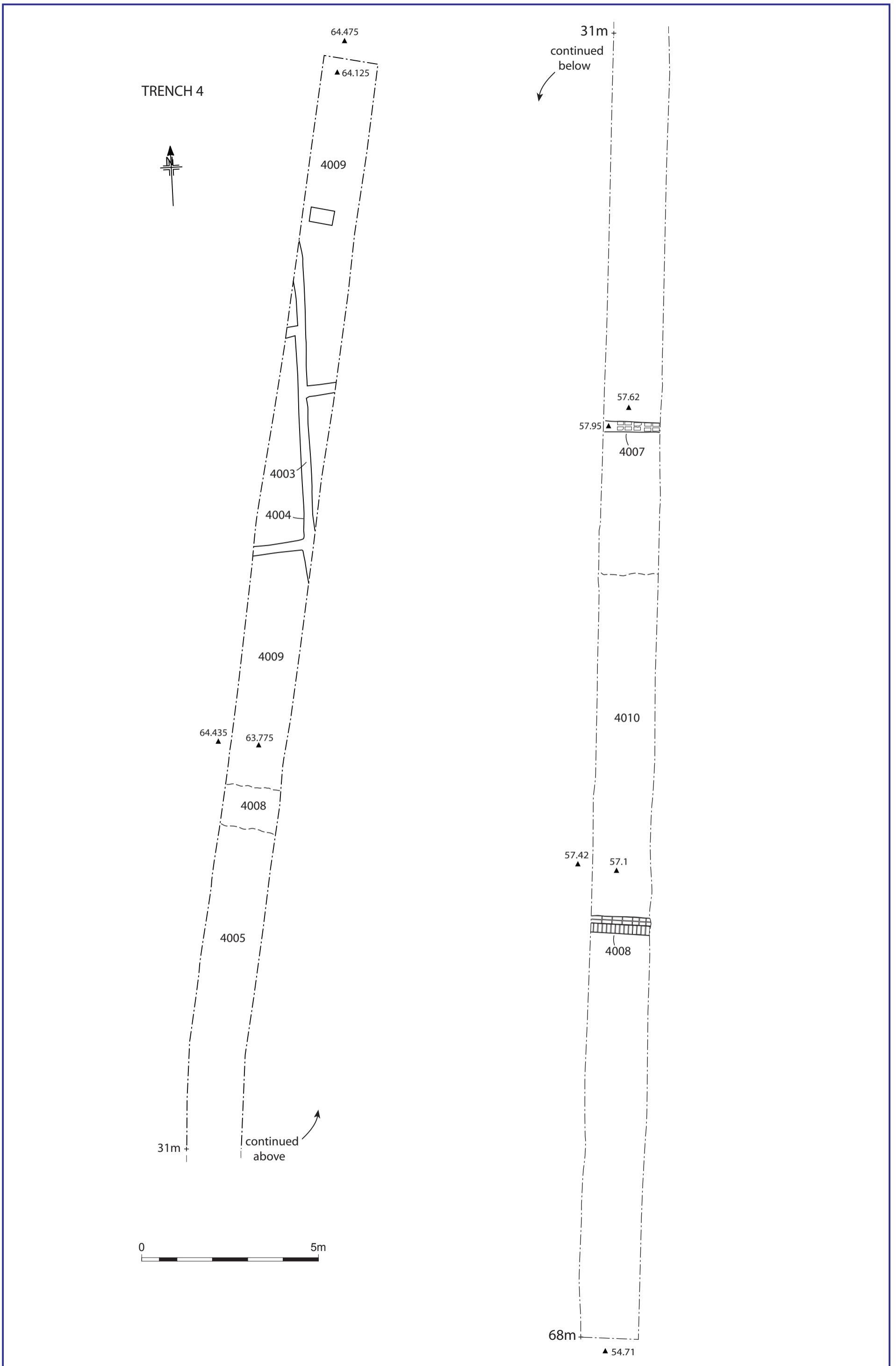
Plan of Trench 1.

Figure 3



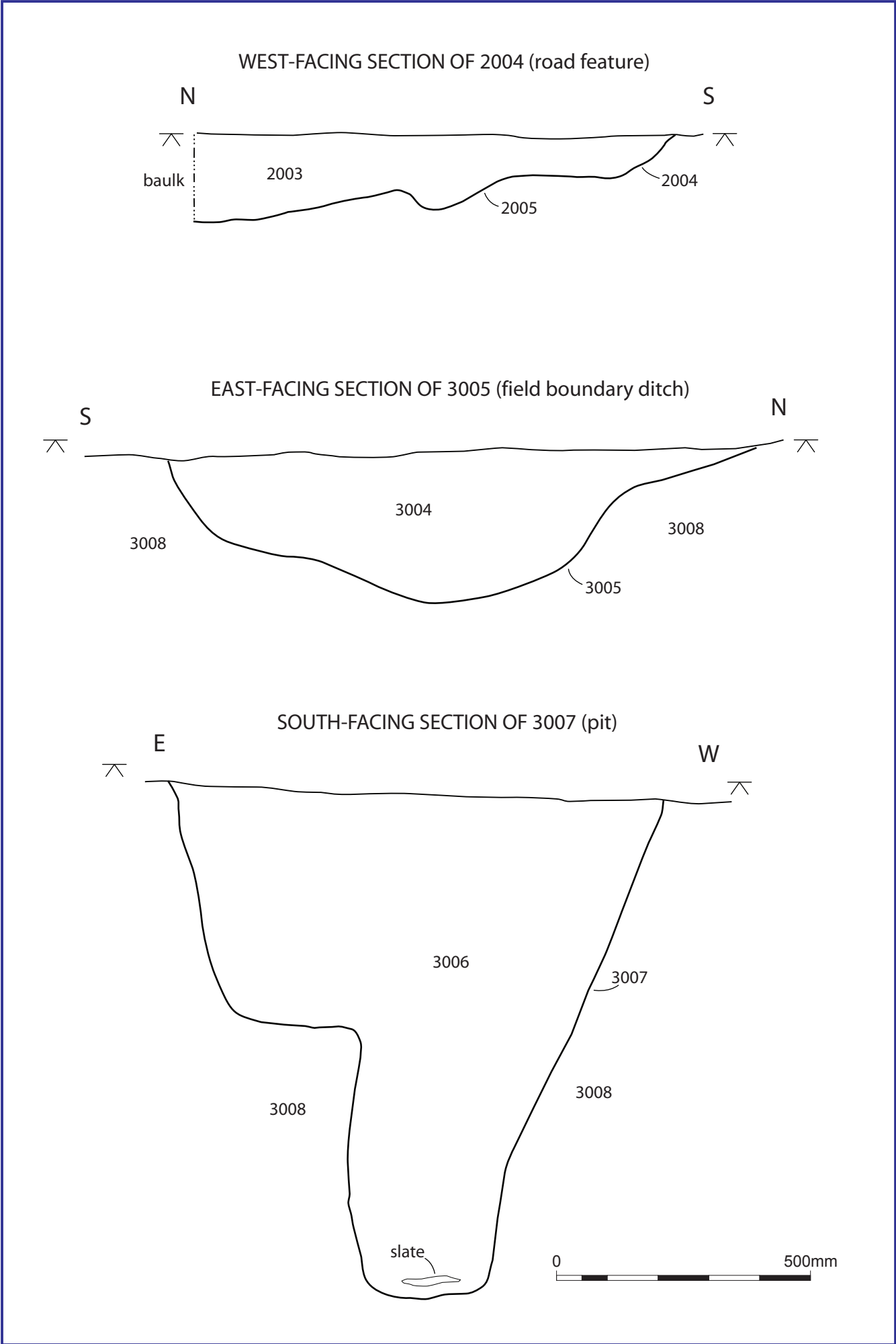
Plan of Trenches 2, 3 and 7

Figure 4



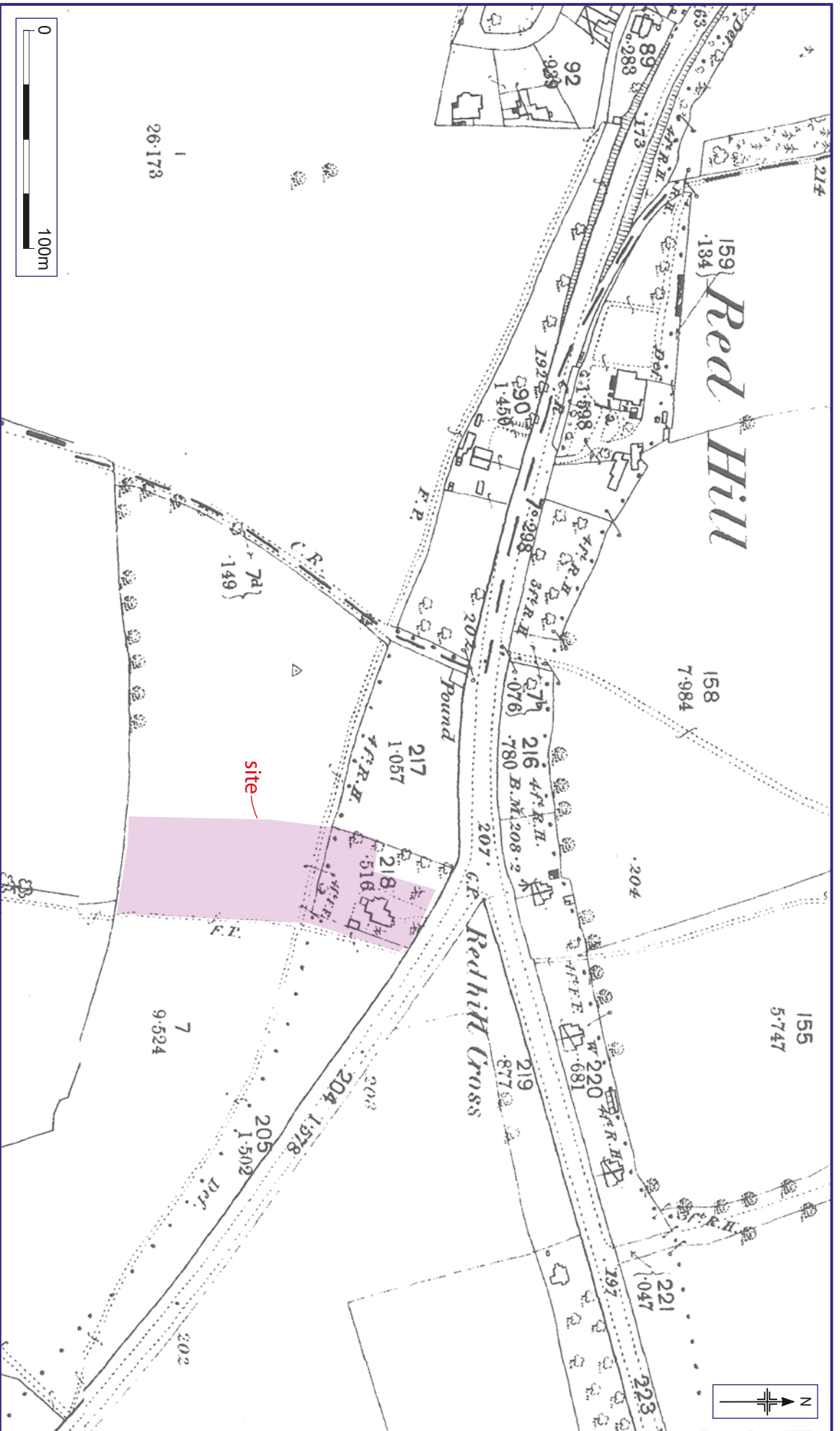
Plan of Trench 4.

Figure 5



Sections

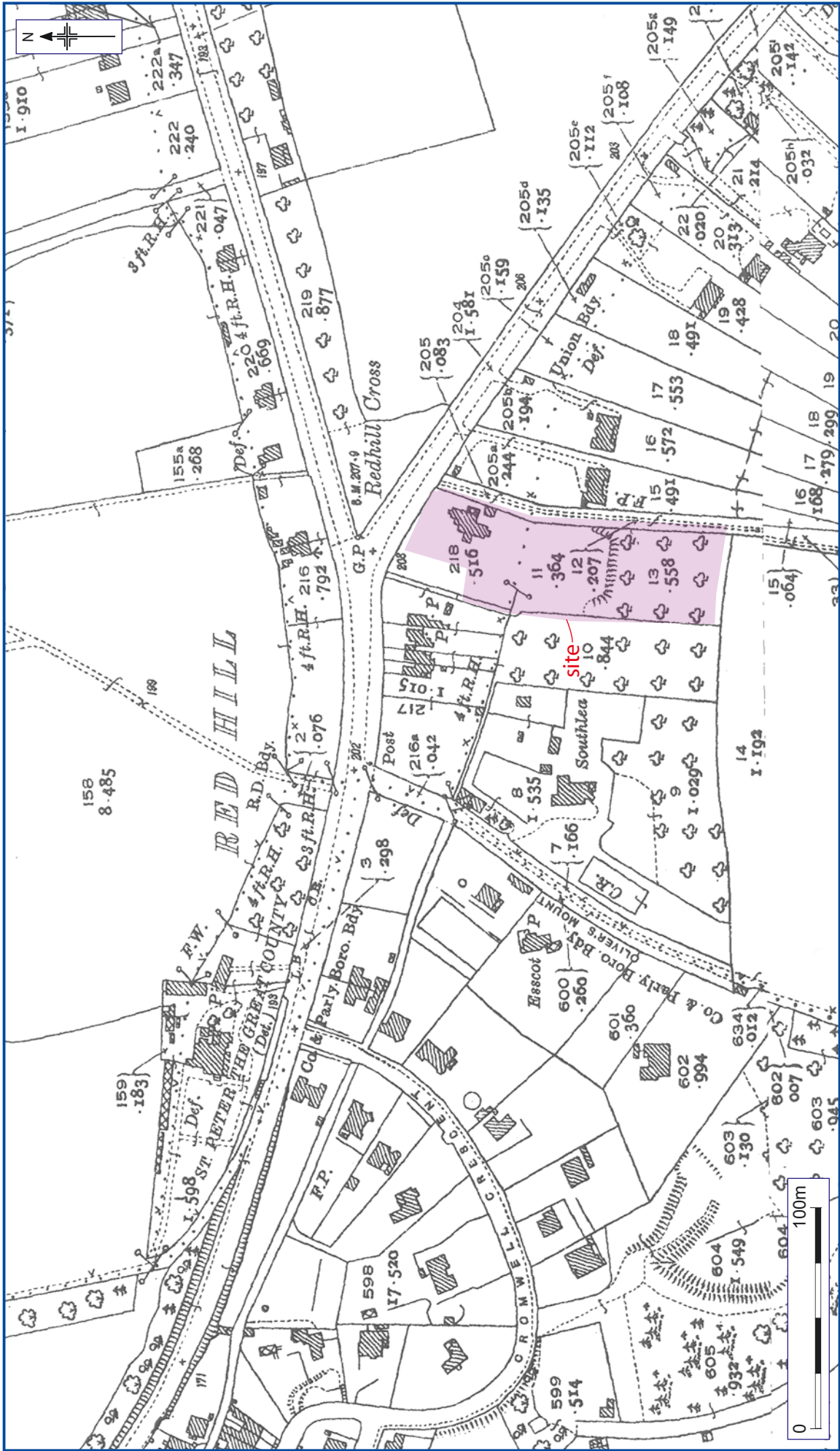
Figure 6



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Extract from 1st Edition Ordnance Survey, 1884. 1:2500 map of Worcester

Figure 7



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Extract from 1934 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map of Worcester

Figure 8



Plate 1. Trench 1 looking north



Plate2. Trench 2 looking west





Plate 3. Trench 3 looking south



Plate 4. Trench 4 looking north



Plate 5. Trench 5 looking south



Plate 6. Trench 6 looking east



Plate 7. Modern memorial to Father John Wall



Plate 8. Section excavated across the possible road (2004) in Trench 2



Plate 9 Section excavated across field ditch 3005 in Trench 3.



Plate 10. Showing the relationship between the field ditch and the mound



Plate 11 Pit 3007 in Trench 3

## Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

### Trench 1

Site area:

Area 1

Maximum dimensions:

Length: 19.1m

Width: 1.6m

Depth: 0.12-0.38m

Orientation:

North-south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1001	Topsoil	Loose mid brown loam with occasional rounded quartzite pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks. Frequent grass roots. Occasional white glazed pottery.	0m-0.14m
1002	Subsoil	Firm red/pink clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Cut by modern clinker filled drains.	0.14m-0.34m
1003	Fill of 1004	Modern clinker	0.34m – 0.45m
1004	Cut of modern drain	Modern drain cut into 1006. Steep sided and flat bottomed, 0.34m wide and 0.11m deep.	0.34m – 0.45m
1005	Patch of cobbles	Concentration of cobbles at the northern end of the trench not forming a surface.	0.28m-0.34m
1006	Redeposited natural	Pale pink sandy clay with occasional patches of sandier material and rare quartzite pebbles.	0.12m – 0.36m
1007	Natural	Pale pink sandy clay with occasional patches of sandier material and rare quartzite pebbles.	0.34m -

**Trench 2**

Site area: Area 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 8.75m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.45-53m

Orientation: East-West

## Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2001	Topsoil	Loose mid brown loam with occasional rounded quartzite pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks. Frequent grass roots. Occasional white glazed pottery.	0m-0.14m
2002	Subsoil	Firm red/pink clay with occasional charcoal flecks and small rounded quartzite pebbles. Cut by 2004	0.15 – 0.31m
2003	Fill of 2004	Brown clay with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional angular stones and frequent rounded cobbles up to 0.8m long.	0.32 – 0.445
2004	Cut of possible road	Shallow cut, only one small section of the feature excavated. Gently sloping incline to the north and irregular base with one thin linear depression.	0.32 – 0.445
2005	Natural	Pale pink sandy clay with occasional patches of sandier material and rare quartzite pebbles.	0.34m -

**Trench 3**

Site area: Area 1  
 Maximum dimensions: Length: 10m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.49-1.45m  
 Orientation: North-south  
 Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
3001	Topsoil	Loose mid brown loam with occasional rounded quartzite pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks. Frequent grass roots. Occasional white glazed pottery.	0m-0.14m
3002	Cobble path	Layer of rounded quartzite pebbles up to 0.08m in length, interspersed with modern pot and tile fragments 20 <sup>th</sup> century bottles and brick	0.29m – 0.32m
3003	Base of cobble path	Dark brown/black silt with frequent charcoal and white glazed pottery	0.32m – 0.36m
3004	Fill of ditch	Mid grey/brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional small rounded stones with a maximum breadth of 30mm.	0.49 – 0.79m
3005	Cut of ditch	Shallow cut with gently sloping sides. Slight shelf on the northern edge. Rounded base with a maximum depth of 0.3m.	0.49 – 0.79m
3006	Fill of pit	Loose red/pink sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and patches of grey/brown clay.	0.57 – 1.45m
3007	Cut of pit	Steep sided slopes shallowing out to a shelf on the south and west sides at a depth of 320mm but to the north east of the excavated section descending to a depth of 1m in an area just over 0.5m in diameter.	0.57 – 1.45m
3008	Natural	Pale pink sandy clay with occasional patches of sandier material and rare quartzite pebbles.	0.57m -



**Trench 4**

Site area: Area 1  
 Maximum dimensions: Length: 68m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.35-0.76m  
 Orientation: North-south  
 Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
4001	Topsoil	Loose mid brown loam with occasional rounded quartzite pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks. Frequent grass roots. Occasional white glazed pottery.	0m-0.14m
4002	Subsoil	Firm red/pink clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Cut by modern clinker filled drains.	0.14m-0.35m
4003	Fill of 1004	Modern clinker drain fill.	0.35m – 0.42m
4004	Cut of modern drain	Modern drain cut into 1006. Steep sided and flat bottomed, 0.38m wide and 0.12m deep.	0.35m – 0.42m
4005	Redeposited natural	Pale pink sandy clay with occasional patches of sandier material and rare quartzite pebbles.	0.35m – 0.72m
4006	Soil horizon below 4005	Loose mid brown loam with occasional rounded quartzite pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.35m – 0.76m
4007	Brick revetment wall	Lime mortared wall of unfrogged bricks (230mm x 110mm x 80mm), four courses high and two bricks wide.	0.05m – 0.65m
4008	Brick path	Unmortared path of bricks (230mm x 110mm x 80mm) 2 bricks wide and one deep.	0.06m 0- 0.12m
4009	Natural	Pale pink sandy clay with occasional patches of sandier material and rare quartzite pebbles.	0.35m -
4010	Natural (lower slope)	Very compact grey/brown homogenous clay with occasional small rounded pebbles <10mm.	0.45m -

**Trench 5**

Site area: Area 2  
 Maximum dimensions: Length: 19.1m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.7m – 1.18m  
 Orientation: North-south  
 Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
5001	Topsoil	Compact dark grey clay silt with frequent charcoal, brick fragments and small round pebbles <25mm	0m-0.6m
5002	Subsoil	Compact pinkish brown clay with rare charcoal flecks and occasional brick fragments and rounded pebbles <25mm	0.6mm-1.18m
5003	Natural	Very compact grey/brown homogenous clay with occasional small rounded pebbles <10mm.	1.18m -

**Trench 6**

Site area: Area 2  
 Maximum dimensions: Length: 10.4m Width: 1.6m Depth 0.8m – 1.18m  
 Orientation: North-south  
 Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
5001	Topsoil	Compact dark grey clay silt with frequent charcoal, brick fragments and small round pebbles <25mm	0m-0.6m
5002	Subsoil	Compact pinkish brown clay with rare charcoal flecks and occasional brick fragments and rounded pebbles <25mm	0.6 – 1.18m
5003	Natural	Very compact grey/brown homogenous clay with occasional small rounded pebbles <10mm.	1.18m -

**Trench 7**

Site area: Area 1  
 Maximum dimensions: Length: 4.5m Width: 1.6m Depth 0.4m  
 Orientation: North-south  
 Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
6001	Topsoil	Loose mid brown loam with occasional rounded quartzite pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks. Frequent grass roots. Occasional white glazed pottery.	0m-0.12m
6002	Subsoil	Firm red/pink clay with occasional charcoal flecks and small rounded quartzite pebbles	0.12m – 0.4m
6003	Fill of field boundary ditch	Mid grey/brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional small rounded stones with a maximum breadth of 30mm. Not excavated	0.4m -
6004	Natural	Pale pink sandy clay with occasional patches of sandier material and rare quartzite pebbles.	0.4m -