

Archaeology Wales

Land adjacent to Cerrigcochion Road, Brecon, Powys

Archaeological Strip, Map & Excavation

Planning Application No. 16/13596/FUL



By
Steven Cole & Philip Poucher


Report No. 1842


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Summary

In the summer of 2019 Archaeology Wales Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological mitigation at the request of PAR Homes, in association with development works on land adjacent to Cerrigochion Road, Brecon, Powys. The development site is centred on SO 0511 2890. The associated Planning Application No. is 16/13596/FUL.

The archaeological mitigation consisted of an Archaeological Strip, Map and Excavation on an area of potential archaeological remains identified during a preceding archaeological evaluation. The archaeological evaluation had identified a series of possible pits, postholes, stake holes and gullies forming two sides of a possible structure or enclosure. An area measuring 20m by 20m was opened surrounding these features.

A number of cut features were identified, but they appeared to largely represent the remains of vegetation and rooting activity that were not of archaeological origin. The only artefacts recovered were of late post-medieval or modern origin, and no artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological significance were retrieved. These results suggested some of the features identified during the previous evaluation may also have been natural in origin. There remains the potential that some stake holes relate to a temporary fence-line, and the possibility for archaeological evidence to have been lost to later ploughing, however the site as a whole is not considered to have contained intensive archaeological activity.

Crynodeb

Yn ystod haf 2019, cynhaliodd Archaeology Cymru Cyf raglen o waith lliniaru archeolegol ar gais PAR Homes, mewn cysylltiad â gwaith datblygu ar y tir ger Heol Cerrigochion, Aberhonddu, Powys. Mae canol y safle datblygu wedi'i leoli yn SO 0511 2890. Y Rhif Cais Cynllunio cysylltiedig yw 16/13596/FUL.

Roedd y gwaith lliniaru archeolegol yn cynnwys Gwaith Stripio, Mapio a Thyllu Archeolegol ar ardal lle'r oedd gweddillion archeolegol posibl a nodwyd yn ystod gwerthusiad archeolegol blaenorol. Roedd y gwerthusiad archeolegol wedi nodi cyfres o byllau, tyllau postyn, tyllau polion a gwteri posibl a oedd yn llunio dwy ochr i strwythur neu adeilad posibl. Agorwyd ardal yn mesur 20m wrth 20m o gwmpas y nodweddion hyn.

Nodwyd nifer o nodweddion toredig, ond roedd yn ymddangos eu bod yn bennaf yn cynrychioli gweddillion planhigion a gweithgaredd gwreiddiau nad oeddent o darddiad archeolegol. Roedd yr unig arteffactau a ganfuwyd o darddiad ôl-ganoloesol hwyr neu fodern, ac ni chanfuwyd arteffactau neu ecoffactau o arwyddocâd archeolegol. Roedd y canlyniadau hyn yn awgrymu ei bod yn bosibl bod y nodweddion a nodwyd yn ystod y gwerthusiad blaenorol hefyd o darddiad naturiol. Mae potensial o hyd bod rhai o'r tyllau polion yn ymwneud â llinell ffens dros dro, fodd bynnag, nid ystyrir bod y safle yn ei gyfanrwydd o unrhyw ddiddordeb archeolegol arwyddocaol.

1. Introduction

This report has been prepared by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) in response to a request by PAR Homes to provide archaeological mitigation in association with the construction of a mixed-use development of residential units and employment space on land adjacent to Cerrigcochion Road, Brecon, Powys. The planning application number is 16/13596/FUL, and the local planning authority is the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA). The development site is centred on SO 0511 2890.

The site has been subject to a number of previous archaeological investigations. These include a desk-based assessment, ASIDOHL and Environmental Impact Assessment submitted to accompany the planning application. As a result of an archaeological potential identified at the site a subsequent geophysical survey and follow up evaluation trenching was also undertaken across the site. These more detailed investigations identified one specific area of archaeological activity, which comprised a series of possible stake-holes, post holes, gullies and pits that appeared to define a post-built structure or enclosure of uncertain date.

The recommendations for the current sequence of archaeological mitigation on the site have been proposed by the Heritage Officer (Archaeology) of BBNPA, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local authority. The requirements for the mitigation were laid out in an internal memorandum from the Heritage Officer, dated 17/02/17. As a result AW produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), detailing the methodology for an archaeological strip, map and excavation to be undertaken on the area of archaeological interest. This WSI was approved by the Heritage Officer (Appendix II).

The site work took place in August and September 2019. The work was managed by Philip Poucher MCIfA and carried out under the supervision of Daniel Moore. A site monitoring visit was undertaken by the Heritage Officer on the 30th August and the 4th September 2019. The AW project number for the work is 2711, and the site code is CRB/19/SME.

2. Site description and archaeological background

2.1 Location, Topography and geology

The site lies on the northern edge of the nucleated settlement of Brecon, adjacent to the B4602 (Cerrigcochion Road) that runs north out of Brecon (Figures 1 & 2). Prior to development the land consisted of several fields, amalgamated into two main fields, of improved but low quality grazing. The fields were enclosed by hedgerows, stands of mature trees and some post and wire fencing. The B4602 forms the western boundary, a public bridleway (Slwch Lane) forms the southern boundary, hedgerows bordering further agricultural land forms the eastern boundary and educational buildings belonging to Coleg Powys form the northern boundary. The area of

archaeological interest lies at the south-eastern end of the site, close to the line of the sunken Slwch Lane, on gently sloping ground.

The site as a whole is located on a west to southwest-facing hillside, with land sloping from *circa* 190mOD in the north to *circa* 175mOD in the south. To the east lies further agricultural land with land rising to the summit of Slwch Tump at 246mOD to the southeast, and a television relay mast located *circa* 150m to the east of the site. To the south, beyond the wooded line of Slwch Lane, lies the War Memorial hospital and then the main nucleated settlement area of Brecon on ground that falls towards the River Usk. To the west on the opposing side of the B4602 lies the modern building complex of Brecon High School along with further urban development. To the north lies modern buildings of Coleg Powys and Ysgol-y-Bannau with the Brecon Leisure Centre and playing fields and further agricultural land beyond that.

The underlying bedrock geology of the area consists of interbedded sandstone and argillaceous rocks of the St Maughans Formation, overlain in places with sand and gravel from glaciofluvial ice contact deposits.

2.2 Archaeological and historical background

A number of previous archaeological investigations have been undertaken on this site, including an archaeological desk-based assessment (Hankinson 2015), Environmental Impact Assessment (Poucher 2016a), geophysical survey (Poucher 2016b) and archaeological evaluation (Poucher & Shobbrook 2017), highlighting a general archaeological background to the area, as well as identifying specific features within the site.

In terms of general background the archaeology of the immediate area is dominated by Slwch Tump hillfort (PRN 611/NPRN 92032/SAM BR063), which lies within 400m to the east of the site. This hillfort is considered to date to the Iron Age, and is one of the largest, in terms of its internal area, within Powys. It is defended by a relatively simple single line of bank and ditch. Recent re-analysis of Lidar data suggests the defended area is only one part of a more extensive site that may have been reused over a considerable period of time. Parch marks revealed in dry conditions suggest an earlier phase of activity within the defended area, potentially originally a smaller hillfort. A field attached to the north side of the defended area would appear to outline a large annex or enclosure contemporary to the use of the hillfort, the outline of which is now preserved in field boundaries.

A short distance to the northeast lies the site **of St Alud/Eluned's Chapel (PRN 617)**, reputedly of 5th century AD origin, but clearly still in use in the 12th century as Gerald of Wales, writing around 1188, recounts in detail the religious ceremony taking place there at the beginning of August. He describes people in a trance-like state within the chapel building, the churchyard and amongst the surrounding graves, all being **watched by crowds 'from far and wide'**. **Earthworks visible on lidar data indicates an area of possible medieval agricultural activity extending to the north of the hillfort,**

and possible associated activity to the north of the chapel, suggesting a wide area of activity, and possible re-use of the hillfort, during the early medieval and medieval periods.

The chapel site is accessed via Slwch Lane, a sunken lane that runs around the southern boundary to the site. It would seem likely therefore that this lane was in use during the medieval period to access the chapel, and possible activity around the chapel. As it also runs alongside the hillfort there is the potential that the lane may even have prehistoric origins.

Cerrigcochion Road which forms the western boundary to the site is likely to have been a routeway of long standing as well, believed to follow the line of a Roman Road (PRN 47027).

Within the site area itself the occasional coin has been recorded, including an early 13th century coin of Henry III (PRN 120082), a 15th century jetton (PRN119623), a 16th century silver coin of Elizabeth I (PRN 120080) and a 17th century cloth seal (PRN 117657).

The geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation across the development site found only limited evidence of potential archaeological activity within the site boundary however. A number of post-medieval field boundaries were identified in the survey, an isolated pit was identified during the evaluation in the centre of the site that appeared to be of limited archaeological interest, and a concentrated area of potential structural remains to the southeast were also identified in the evaluation. The possible structural remains were considered to be of potential archaeological interest. These remains (Figure 10) comprised a row of seven stake holes on a roughly northeast to southwest, slightly curvilinear alignment, with a right-angled return at the northeast end represented by a series of possible stake holes, larger post holes and pits and short sections of gullies. Taken together the remains suggested a post-built structure or enclosure. The shallow nature of the remains indicated evidence may have been lost to subsequent ploughing and erosion, but this also suggested a site of potential antiquity. No artefacts or material of an archaeological nature was recovered from any of the features uncovered, although a lack of artefactual material from rural sites in Wales is not uncommon. It was also thought to be of potential significance as the site lies close to (within 14m) the sunken Holloway of Slwch Lane to the east.

3. Aims and Objectives

3.1 Strip & Map

The objective of the strip and map was to reveal, record and map any archaeological deposits, features or structures in the development area. Where there is no archaeology present the strip should be deep enough to reveal the natural deposits, providing the required evidence that BBNPA might need to sign off particular areas.

3.2 Excavation

The objective of any excavation was to preserve, by record, detailed information on all archaeological deposits within the site area, prior to their likely destruction as a consequence of the development. All archaeological deposits, horizons and artefacts encountered should be recorded and removed stratigraphically by the excavation team.

The main objectives of this excavation was to establish the form, function and date of any remains.

4. Methodology

The excavation area (Figure 3), agreed in advance with the BBNPA Heritage Officer, was located using GPS survey equipment, centred on the potential features identified during the previous archaeological evaluation. An area 20m by 20m was marked out, adjusted slightly along the northern corner to avoid machine work near overhead cabling.

The excavation area was stripped of modern overburden, comprising topsoil and plough-disturbed soil, under close archaeological supervision, to the top of the potential archaeological horizon or the natural deposits, whichever was encountered soonest. Previous investigations in this area had indicated that archaeological features may be revealed at a depth of around 0.3m below the current ground levels, with features cut into the underlying geological clay and fragmented bedrock deposits. This was confirmed through the current excavations, and the previous features were identified by protective sheeting laid down during the backfilling of the previous evaluation trench. The strip was undertaken by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. The removed material was stored at a safe distance adjacent to the excavation area.

The resulting surface was hand cleaned using hoes and pointing trowels to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological features. All potential features were recorded and planned, and excavated.

All potential archaeological features and deposits were hand excavated stratigraphically down to natural subsoils, in order to gain a complete understanding of the archaeological resource.

The sample rates of features and their fills were initially set at 50% for long linear features and larger post holes and pits, and 100% for stake holes, smaller post holes and pits, and any further significant discrete features. Due to the shallow nature of many of the features, and a requirement to take environmental samples, all features were 100% excavated with the exception of long linear feature [056].

Site monitoring visits were undertaken by the BBNPA Heritage Officer after the initial clearance of the site, and again after the excavation of most of the revealed features.

An ordered and integrated site archive has been prepared in accordance with *The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017* (National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales) and the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. This archive will be deposited at the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales, based at The National Library, Aberystwyth, in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure. Following approval, a copy of this report will also be deposited at the regional Historic Environment Record, held and maintained by Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, Welshpool.

5. Results (Figures 4 – 10)

Basal deposit (003) was characterized as a firm mid brown-red silty-clay with fragmented bedrock apparent throughout. It was interpreted as the natural substrate, exposed throughout the area. Deposit (003) was cut by a several features.

Cut [004] was a shallow sub-circular feature with irregular steep sides and concave base that measured 0.3m in length, 0.26m in width and 0.11m in depth (Photo 5). It was located in the southwest corner of the site, close to the edge of the exposed area. Cut [004] contained single fill (005) which was characterized as moderately loose mid red-brown clayey-silt with infrequent angular bedrock fragments. The feature was tentatively interpreted as a posthole, but appeared more likely to be caused through bioturbation, specifically rooting.

Cut [006] was sub-circular in plan with shallow sides and concave base that measured 0.12m in length, 0.10m in width and 0.03m in depth. The cut was located in the southwest area of the site and contained single fill (007). This was characterized as a firm mid red-brown clayey-silt. The ephemeral feature was interpreted as a potential stake hole, but again more likely the result of natural action such as rooting.

Cut [008] was sub-oval in plan with steep sides and concave base that measured 0.54m in length, 0.32m in width and 0.14m in depth, although the southern edge of the feature was indistinct against the general natural ground (003) (Photo 6). The cut was located in the southwest area of the site, approximately 0.8m west of cut [006] and contained single fill (009). This was characterized as a firm mid orange-brown clayey-silt with moderately frequent small sub-angular stone inclusions. The fill (009) contained remnants of rooting suggesting a relatively recent date due to the state of decomposition.

Cut [010] was sub-oval in plan with irregular and moderately shallow sides and an undulating base (Photo 7 & 9). It measured 0.7m in length, 0.42m in width and 0.07m in depth and was located in the northwest area of the site. The cut contained single fill (011), which was characterized as a moderately loose mid red-brown clayey-silt. The shallow and irregular nature of the feature suggested it was the result of rooting activity.

Cut [012] was a small sub-circular feature with steep sides and concave base, which measured 0.07m in length, 0.06m in width and 0.06m in depth (Photo 8). The cut was in close proximity to [014] and is located in a cluster of features in the western part of the site. The cut contained single fill (013), which was characterised as a firm mid red-brown silt and interpreted as either a potential stake hole or caused by rooting.

Cut [014] was sub-circular in plan with steep sides and concave base, which measured 0.15m in length, 0.1m in width and 0.1m in depth (Photo 8). The cut is in close proximity to [012] and [024], it is also located in a cluster of features in the western part of the site. The cut contained single fill (015), which was characterised as a firm mid red-brown silt and interpreted as either a stake hole or caused by rooting.

Cut [016] was sub-circular in plan with moderately steep sides and concave base, which measured 0.15m in length, 0.12m in width and 0.09m in depth (Photo 8). The cut is in close proximity to [018] and is located in a cluster of features in the western part of the site. The cut contained single fill (017), which was characterised as a firm mid red-brown silt and interpreted as a possible stake hole or caused by rooting.

Cut [018] was a very small sub-circular feature with steep sides and concave base, which measured 0.09m in length, 0.08m in width and 0.06 in depth (Photo 8). The cut is in close proximity to [016] and north of [024], it is also located in a cluster of features in the western part of the site. The cut contained single fill (019), which was characterised as a firm mid red-brown silt and interpreted as a possible stake hole or caused by rooting.

Cut [020] was sub-circular in plan with moderately steep sides and concave base, which measured 0.1m in length, 0.07m in width and 0.07m in depth (Photo 8). The cut is in close proximity to the south of [024], it is also located in a cluster of features in the western part of the site. The cut contained single fill (021), which was characterised as a firm mid red-brown silt and interpreted as a possible stake hole or caused by rooting.

Cut [022] was linear in plan with steep sides and V-shaped base, which measured 0.38m in length, 0.06m in width and 0.03m in depth (Photo 8). The cut ran northwards into and cut by [024] / [026], also located in a cluster of features in the western part of the site. The cut contained single fill (023), which was characterised as a firm mid red-brown silt and interpreted as a possible plough scar or caused by rooting.

Cut [024] and [026] represent two sections of the same feature, labelled as [024] on the plans. It was linear in plan, orientated roughly east - west with steep sides and V-shaped base, which measured 0.55m in length, 0.08m in width and 0.1m in depth (Photo 8). The cut is in close proximity to [018] and [020], and would appear to cut feature [022]. It is located in a cluster of features in the western part of the site. The cut contained single fill (025) / (027), which was characterised as a firm mid red-brown silt and interpreted as a possible plough scar or caused by rooting.

Cut [028] was sub-circular in plan with vertical sides and U-shaped base, which measured 0.32m in length, 0.2m in width and 0.13m in depth (Photo 9). The cut is in close proximity to [010] to its north and [030] to the south, it is located in a cluster of features in the western part of the site. The cut contained single fill (029), which was characterised as moderately loose mid red brown silt and interpreted as a possible posthole or caused by rooting.

Cut [030] was sub-oval to linear, with a somewhat irregular outline in plan with moderately gentle sides and undulating base, which measured 0.7m in length, 0.3m in width and 0.06m in depth (Photo 9 & 10). The cut is in close proximity to [028], also located in a cluster of features in the western part of the site. The cut contained single fill (031), which was characterised as loose mid red-brown silt-loam and due to its irregular nature the feature was interpreted as a small tree throw or rooting.

Cut [032] was a very shallow sub-oval feature with moderately steep sides and undulating base, which measured 0.3m in length, 0.2m in width and 0.05m in depth (Photo 9 & 11). The cut is in close proximity to [034], also located in a cluster of features in the western part of the site. The cut contained single fill (033), which was characterised as moderately loose mid red-brown silt-loam and interpreted as root activity due to the undulating and shallow nature of the feature.

Cut [034] was sub-circular in plan with steep sides and U-shaped base, which measured 0.2m in diameter and 0.13m in depth (Photo 9 & 11). The cut is in close proximity to [032], also located in the southwest area of the site. The cut contained single fill (035), which was characterised as moderately loose mid red-brown silt-loam and interpreted as a possible stake hole or caused by rooting.

Cut [036] was a relatively large sub-oval feature, almost crescent shaped, with steep to moderate sides and undulating base, which measured 2.1m in length, 0.64m in width and 0.22m in depth (Photo 12 & 13). The cut is in close proximity to [038] which lies to its east. Cut [036] is located in the centre of the area containing the identified cut features. This feature contained single fill (037), which was characterised as moderately firm mid red-brown silt-loam and interpreted as a possible pit or a tree throw.

Cut [038] was sub-linear in plan with uneven sides and base, at its deepest section appearing to be concave, which measured 0.45m in length, 0.15m in width and 0.14m in depth (Photo 14). The cut is in close proximity to [036], also located in the centre of the site. The cut contained single fill (039), which was characterised as a firm mid red-brown silt and interpreted as the likely result of rooting activity.

Cut [040] was very shallow, sub-circular in plan with gentle slopes and a flat base, which measured 0.16m in length, 0.15m in width and 0.04m in depth (Photo 15). The cut lies just south of the centre of the site. The cut contained single fill (041), which was characterised as a firm mid red-brown silt and interpreted as rooting.

Cut [044] was sub-oval in plan with moderately steep sides and an undulating, uneven base, which measured 0.8m in length, 0.3m in width, 0.05m in depth (Photo 16). The cut is in close proximity to [036] to its north, also located in the centre of the site. The cut contained single fill (045), which was characterised as a loose mid reddish-brown silt-loam and is interpreted as the likely result of rooting activity.

Cut [046] was irregular in plan with steep sides and an undulating base, which measured 0.4m in length, 0.18m in width and 0.09m in depth (Photo 17). The cut is in close proximity to [036] to the north-east and the terminus of [056] to the south-west. The cut [046] is located in the southern area of the site. The cut contained single fill (047), which was characterised as moderately loose mid red-brown silt-loam and is interpreted as the likely result of rooting activity.

Cut [052] was sub-circular in plan, very shallow, with gentle sides and an undulating base, which measured 0.82m in diameter and 0.05m in depth. The cut was relatively isolated with no other features nearby and is located in the centre of the site. The cut

contained single fill (053), which was characterised as moderately loose mid red-brown silt-loam. It contained no artefactual material and no noticeable burnt material. Due to the shallow nature of the feature, its irregular base and profile it is interpreted as the likely remnants of a tree throw.

Cut [056] is a group number for individually numbered segments [048], [050] and [054] (Photo 19). This is linear in plan with somewhat irregular edges, orientated northwest to southeast for 2.7m, turning to the southwest for another 1.1m before becoming indistinct at the edge of the excavated area. It had moderately gentle sides and an undulating base, up to 0.4m in width and 0.12m in depth. The cut contained a single fill (057), which was characterised as moderately firm mid red-brown silt-loam with some medium to large sub-angular stone inclusions. Initially it was thought this may represent a drainage feature, but the irregular plan and undulating base suggests the feature likely represents rooting activity.

The infilling material of all above features was overlaid by deposit (002). This was a subsoil characterized as a firm mid brown-red clayey-silt. It was visible throughout the excavated area and had a depth of 0.2m. Deposit (002) was overlaid by deposit (001), a friable mid red-brown silt with grass (topsoil) occurring across the excavated area, which had a depth of 0.2m.

6. Artefactual and Environmental Data

The only artefact recovered from any of the cut features within the site area was a fragment of clay pipe stem, retrieved from deposit (037), the single fill of cut [036]. This pipe stem was relatively undiagnostic, other than giving a general late post-medieval to early modern date.

The only other artefacts retrieved from the excavation comprised one further fragment of late post-medieval clay pipe stem, and two fragments of late post-medieval to modern glazed pottery, all recovered from the subsoil deposit (002). These artefacts likely represent a general spread of late post-medieval and modern material spread throughout plough-disturbed soils across the site.

This would accord with the results from the evaluation trenching in this area, which recovered three fragments of 19th century pottery, and one fragment of 18th century pottery, and four fragments of clay pipe stem, all from the topsoil deposit.

Table 1: Artefact assemblage

Context Number	Object Type	Quantity	Weight (g)	Description
002	Clay Pipe	1	2	Late post-medieval pipe stem
002	Pottery	2	34	Late post-medieval/modern. 1 x white glazed ware 1 x outer black glaze, inner yellow glaze
037	Clay Pipe	1	-	Late post-medieval pipe stem

Bulk samples were taken from five features. These processed samples comprised deposit (009) (the fill of cut [008]), deposit (029) (the fill of cut [028]), deposit (035) (the fill of cut [034]), deposit (037) (the fill of cut [036]) and deposit (045) (the fill of cut [044]).

The bulk samples were processed using a three tank, recycled water flotation system. Due to the clayey nature of the soil, all samples were treated prior to flotation by soaking in a solution of water and sodium carbonate overnight in order to break down the clay component. During the flotation process, a 500µm mesh was used to collect the residue and a 300µm mesh to collect the flot. Residues were then washed through a sieve stack containing 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and 500µm mesh sizes. Each fraction was kept separate to aid drying.

Once dry the residues were sorted for artefacts and ecofacts. Material was extracted from all residues greater than 2mm and separated according to type. A magnet was passed over the <2mm residue in order to collect any magnetic residue present. This was then scanned by eye for any obvious signs of hammer scale. The flots were scanned by eye for environmental remains.

No artefacts or ecofacts were recovered from deposits (029), (035) or (045).

Deposit (037) contained the late post-medieval clay-pipe stem mentioned above. This deposit also contained a small amount of charcoal/coal mix, along with a potential charred grain and a number of weed seeds likely to be modern. The presence of modern roots visible within the sample indicates that the integrity of the sample cannot be confirmed, and the charcoal fragments appear highly fragmented and eroded, indicating they have been present in the area, and moving around, for some time. This material was not considered suitable for potential dating material by the AW environmental specialist.

Deposit (009) contained one unidentified charred plant remain. The presence of modern roots within this deposit also meant that the integrity of the sample cannot be confirmed. This material was not considered suitable for potential dating material by the AW environmental specialist.

Table 2: Environmental Assemblage

Sample Number	Context Number	Residue Material	Flot Material
1	037	Charcoal/coal mix. Clay pipe stem	Charred plant grain Weed seeds (modern)
2	035	No finds	No finds
3	029	No finds	No finds
4	009	No finds	1xcharred plant remain (unidentified)
5	045	No finds	No finds

7. Discussion and Conclusion

The previous archaeological evaluation (Poucher & Shobbrook 2017) had uncovered a series of cut features, comprising a potential mixture of pits, postholes and stake holes, which, within the confines of the evaluation trench, suggested that they may form two sides of a possible structure or enclosure. No artefacts or clear evidence of archaeological material were recovered from any of these features, including a number of processed soil samples taken from the infilling material of these features. However, it was hoped that these features could be shown to be part of a more recognisable structural feature once the surrounding area had been exposed through the current works.

A number of additional cut features were identified as this larger area was exposed, many of these additional features however lacked the same regularity in form or arrangement. Rather, it would appear to suggest clusters of features that in appearance are more likely to result from natural activity, or potentially a combination of natural features and artificially cut features.

Towards the south-western corner of the site there was a cluster of features that comprised [010], [012], [014], [016], [018], [020], [022], [024], [028], [030], [032] and [034]. The location of these features could suggest some association with a row of features excavated during the evaluation and interpreted as row of stake holes (features [18021] through to [18033]). In plan they appear to potentially continue the line, or represent part of a return, although the profile and infill material of the individual features themselves display characteristics that appear more natural in origin. Features [010], [032], [028] and [034] potentially continue the line of the stake holes, but the irregular nature of both [010] and [032] strongly suggest they were caused by root activity. Feature [028] and [034] appeared more regular, however the infilling material was processed and examined and contained no evidence of archaeological material, neither artefactual nor environmental. A short distance to the south are a cluster of small sub-circular features [012] to [020], that were similar in appearance and dimension to the previous evaluation stake holes. However, they cluster around small linear features [022] and [024], that may represent ploughing scars, but given their irregular nature appear more likely to result from rooting activity, and therefore the small sub-circular features could result from associated rooting activity. The fragmented stony nature of the natural material into which they cut make it impossible to be certain about the true complete profile of such small cut features, and it is entirely possible that they represent roots pushing their way through the fragmented natural bedrock prevalent in this area.

Spread throughout the centre and south of the site are more dispersed mixed features, comprising [036], [038], [040], [044], [046], [052] and [056]. The plan and profile of all these features would strongly suggest they are of natural origin. The deepest of which, [036], is suggested represents the remains of a tree throw, surrounded by rooting activity (the clearest example of which would be feature [056]). The fragment of clay pipe stem retrieved from the infill of [036], which was otherwise devoid of

archaeological material, along with likely modern weed seeds retrieved from the environmental processing of the infill material, would suggest the feature is not of great antiquity, potentially late post-medieval or early modern in origin.

The identification of such rooting activity in this area calls into question some of the original interpretation of the evaluation results. Their appearance in the evaluation trench suggested linear arrangements of features, within the context of the surrounding features however it is possible at least some of these features represent clusters of rooting rather than structural features.

To the southeast evaluation features [18002], [18004], [18008] and [18035] now also appear to be associated with shallow sub-circular features [006] and [008]. This more irregular arrangement is similar to feature [036] and surrounding smaller features, which it is suggested now represented a central tree throw with surrounding root activity. What was initially interpreted as intercutting postholes and pits, with stone packing, may in fact result from intercutting roots and dislodged fragmented bedrock stones.

Evaluation features [18011], [18013], [18015], [18017], [18019], [18037], [18039] and [18041] were interpreted as a cluster of postholes and gullies, although it was noted that [18017] was irregular in plan and profile, and the base of the gullies were also irregular, although it was suggested this may be due to intercutting stake holes. With a larger area uncovered these features now appear similar in nature to a feature such as [056], possibly a larger root, the upper part of which may be truncated through subsequent ploughing to leave the irregular base of a linear feature appearing as a series of small pits and gullies.

The row of stake holes represented by [18021], [18029], [18025], [18027], [18023], [18031] and [18033] do still appear too regular in their linearity to represent a natural feature. They may therefore still represent a small temporary structure, such as a fence-line, but there is no indication that this represents an internal division of a large structure, as was postulated from the evaluation results.

It should be noted however that the relatively shallow nature of many of the features, directly overlaid by plough-disturbed soil, suggests evidence may have been lost to ploughing activity. Similarly a lack of artefactual material is not unusual for a rural site such as this located away from major centres of activity, particularly when there is no indication of intensive development on the site itself. Given this, the potential for some of these features to relate to more extensive activity cannot be discounted, and it may well be that a spread of rooted vegetation across the site has served to complicate the picture. That being said, based on the surviving evidence, particularly the lack of any evidence of archaeological activity in the processed environmental samples, it would appear that there has been minimal archaeological activity in this area.

In conclusion therefore, the features identified within this area of the site would appear to largely represent the remnants of vegetation and rooting activity that are not of archaeological origin. Although there remains the possibility of some temporary

structures (potentially fence-lines) being erected in this area that cannot be closely dated, and the potential for further evidence to have been lost to ploughing.

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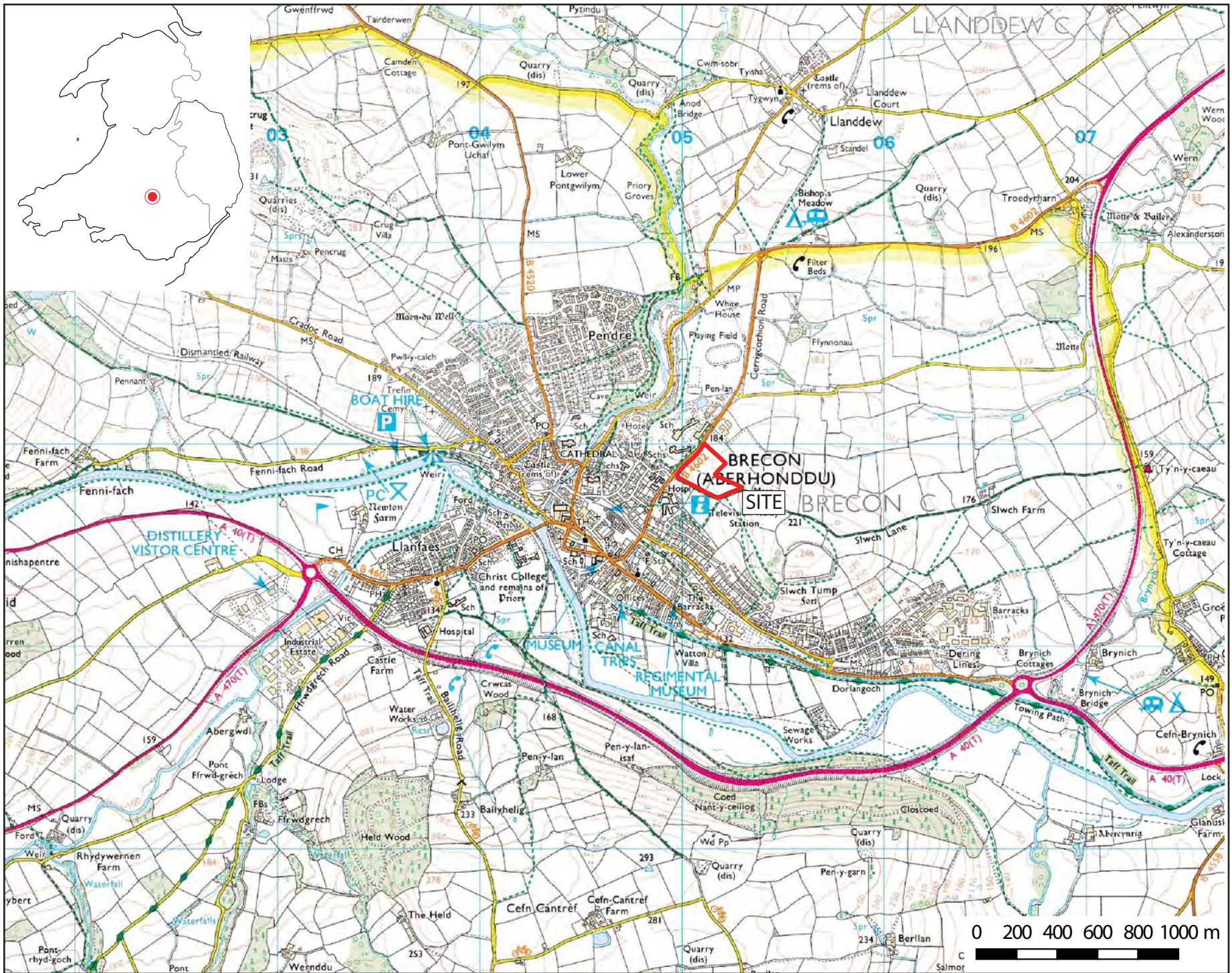


Figure 1: Location map, 1:25,000 @ A4

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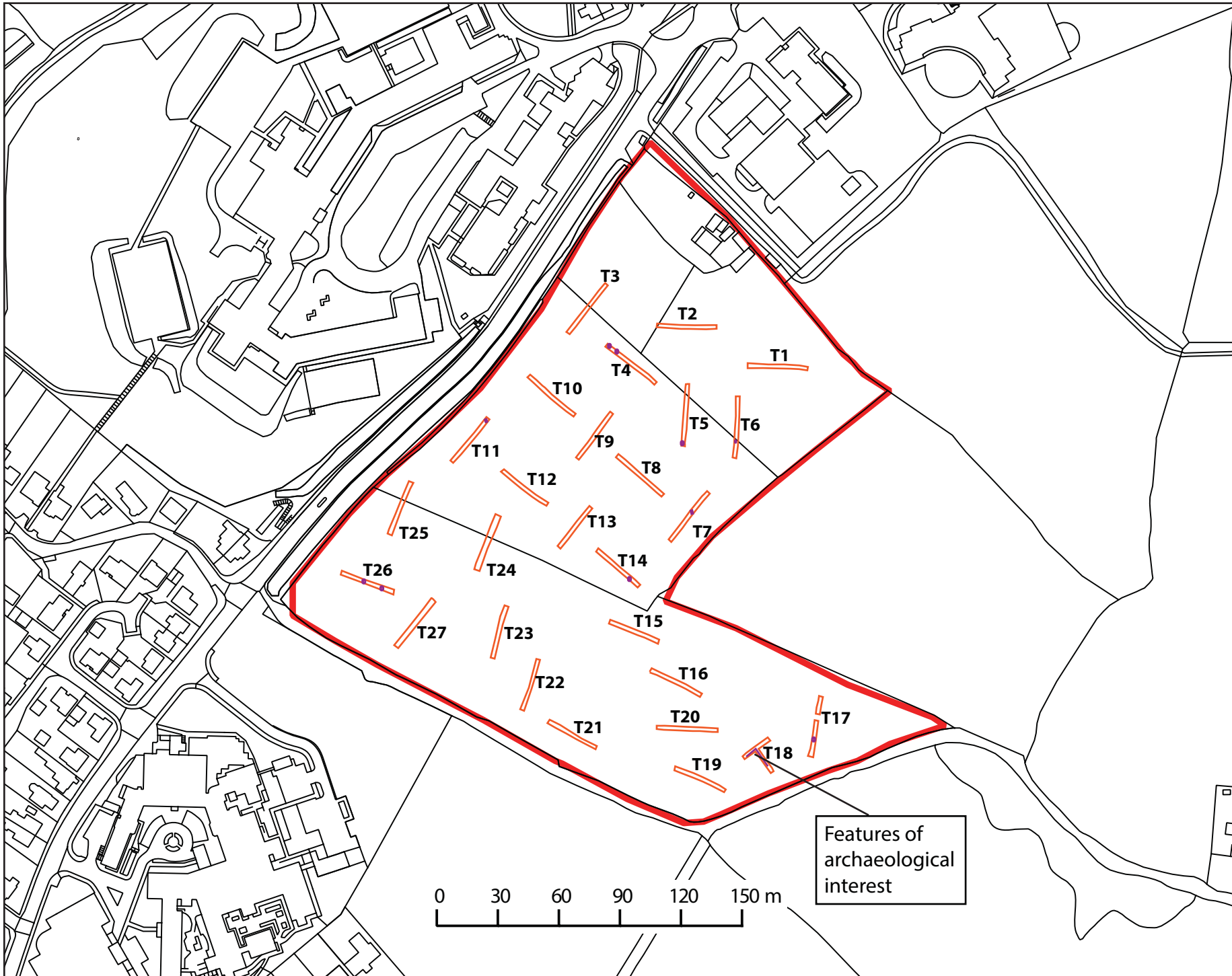


Figure 2: Site layout plan showing the location of all previous evaluation trenches and area of archaeological interest.

1:2500 @ A4

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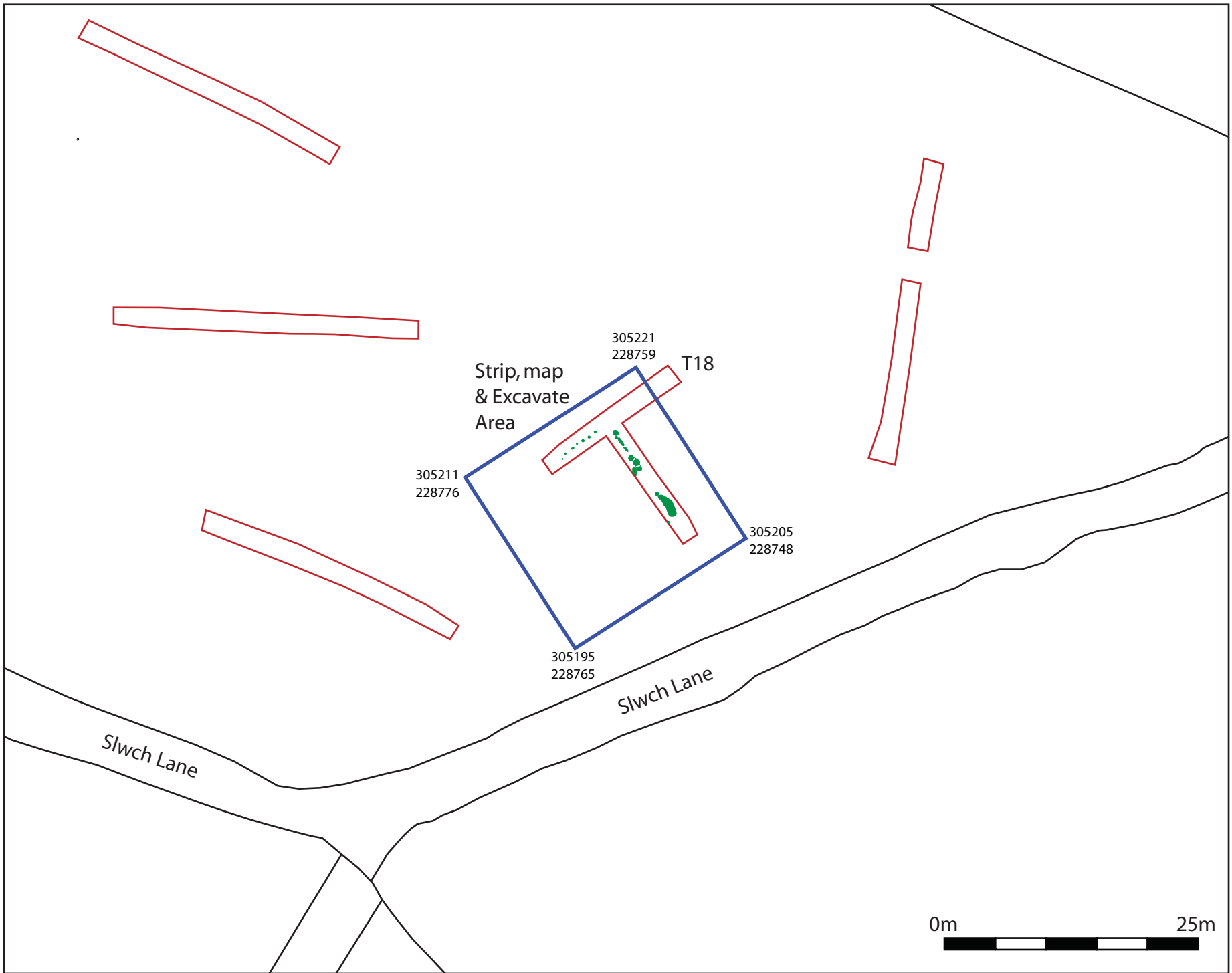


Figure 3: Strip, map and excavate area shown in blue. Previously identified archaeological features shown in green.

1:500 @ A4

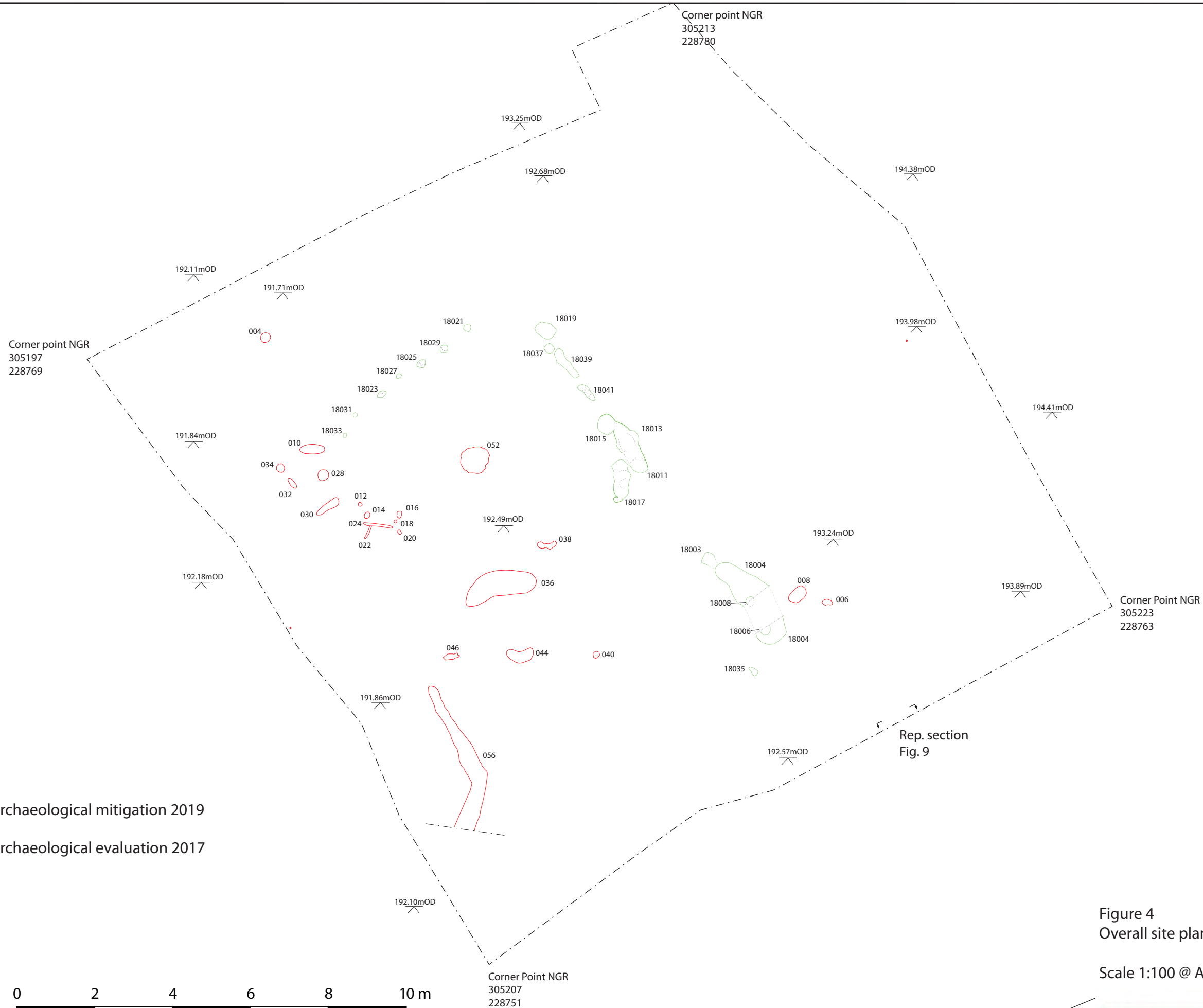


Figure 4
Overall site plan

Scale 1:100 @ A3



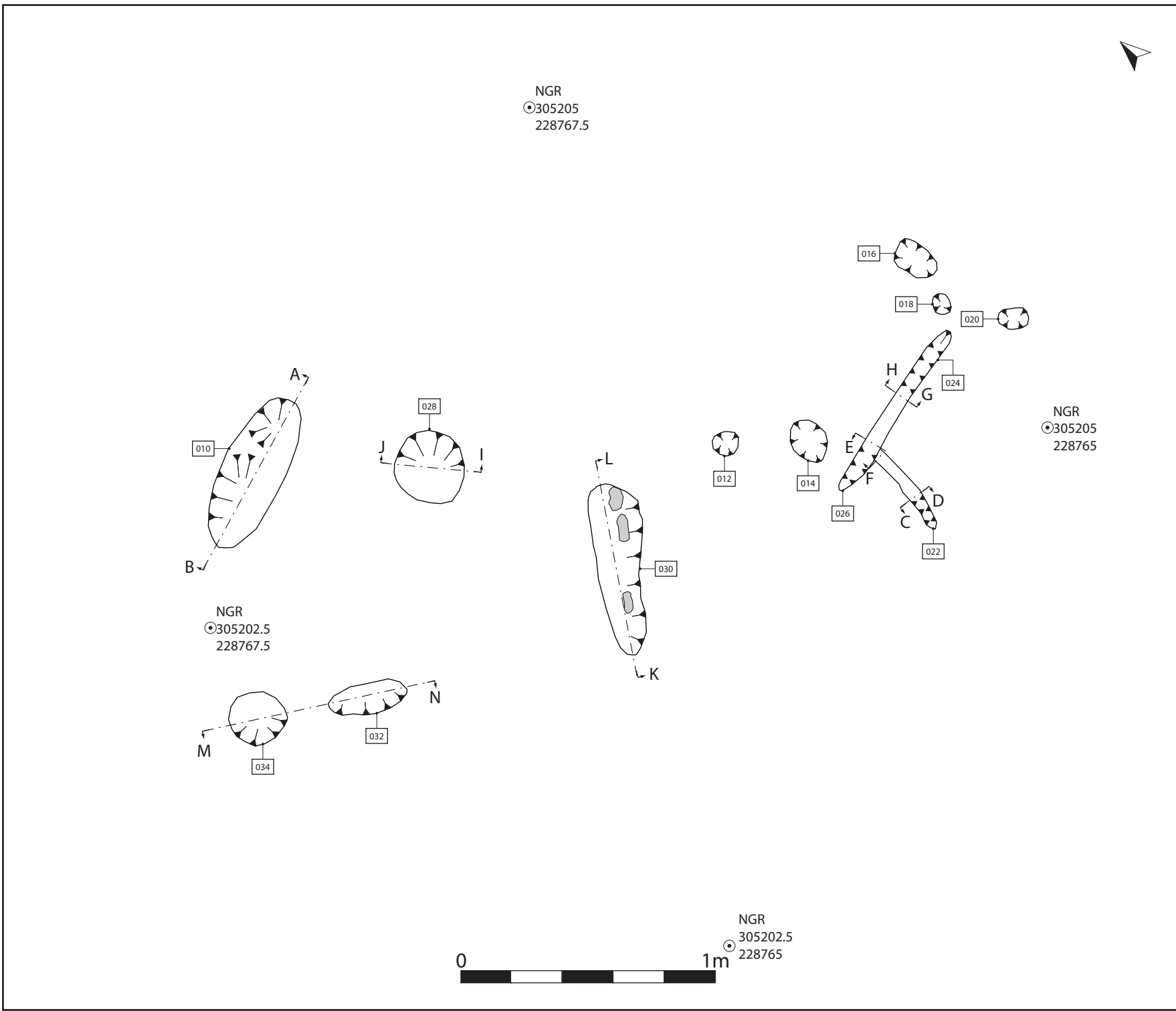
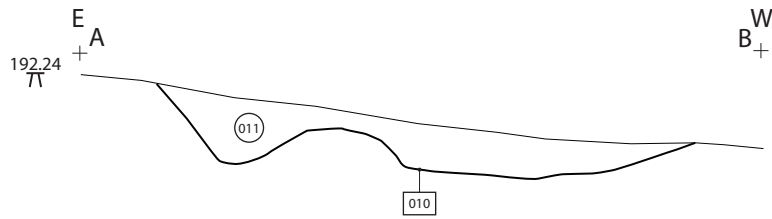


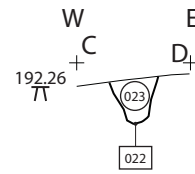
Figure 5
 Plan of features [010], [012], [014], [016], [018], [020], [022], [024], [026], [028], [030], [032] and [034].

Scale 1:20 @ A4

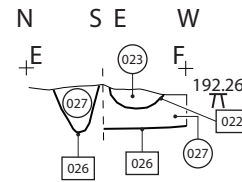
Section of Feature [010]



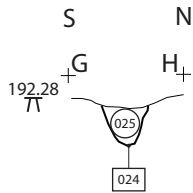
Section of Feature [022]



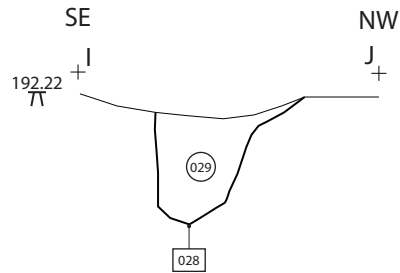
Section of Feature [022] and [026]



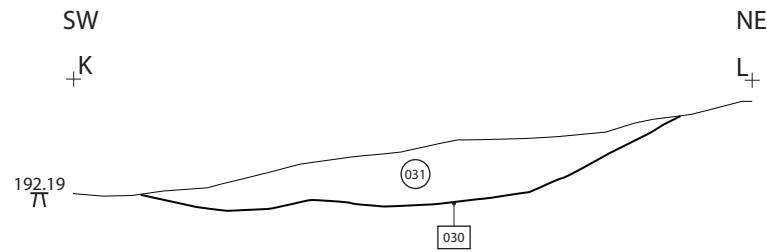
Section of Feature [024]



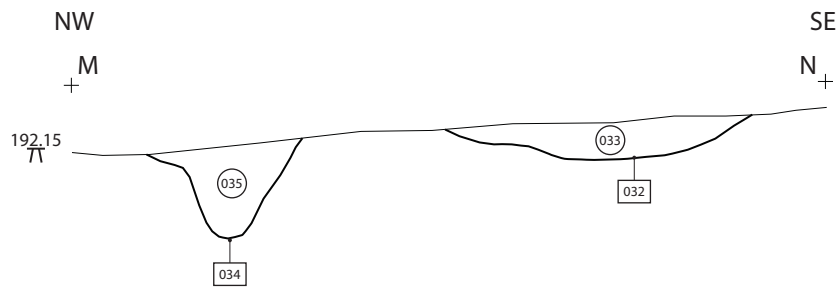
Section of Feature [028]



Section of Feature [030]



Plan of Features [032] and [034]

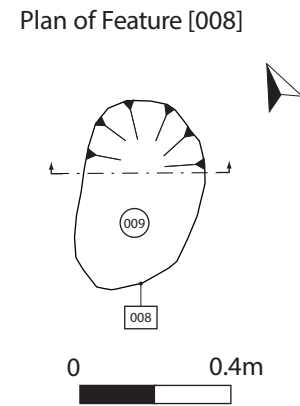
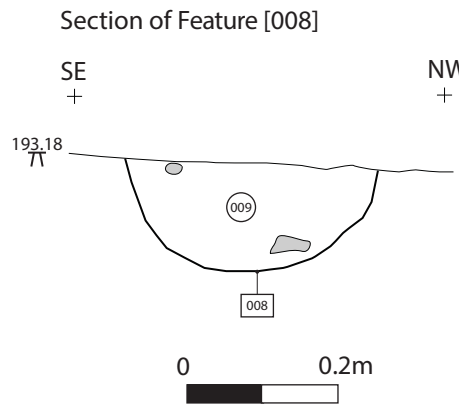
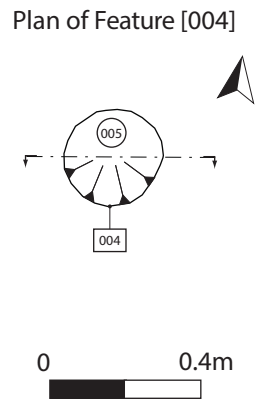
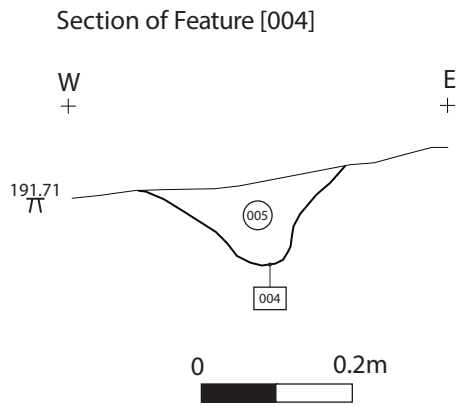


All levels are metres above Ordnance Datum

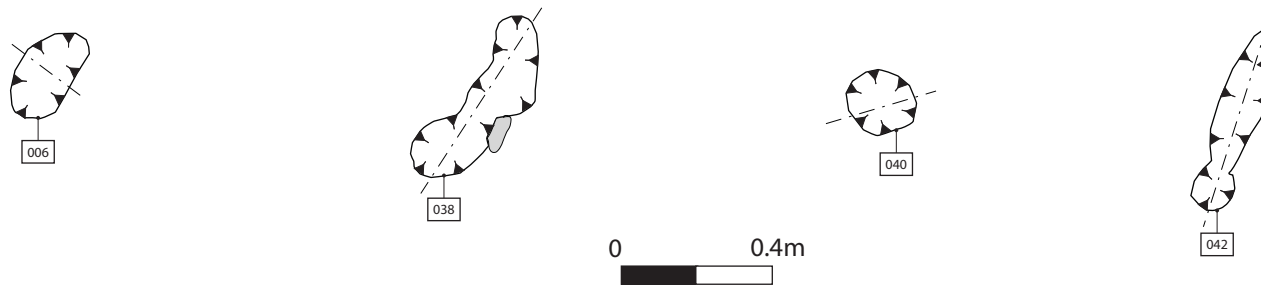


Figure 6
Sections of Features
[010], [028], [030], [032]
[034], [022] and
[024/026].

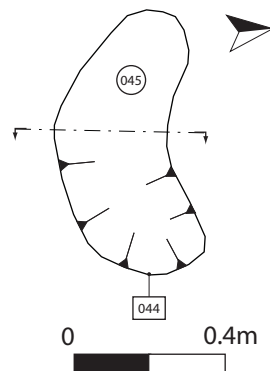
Scale 1:10 @ A4



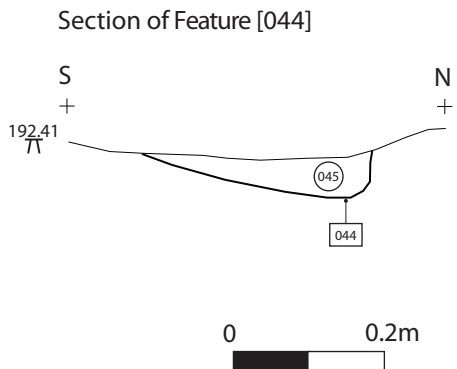
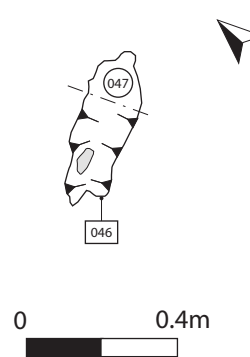
Plans of Features [006], [038], [040] and [042]



Plan of Feature [044]



Plan of Feature [046]

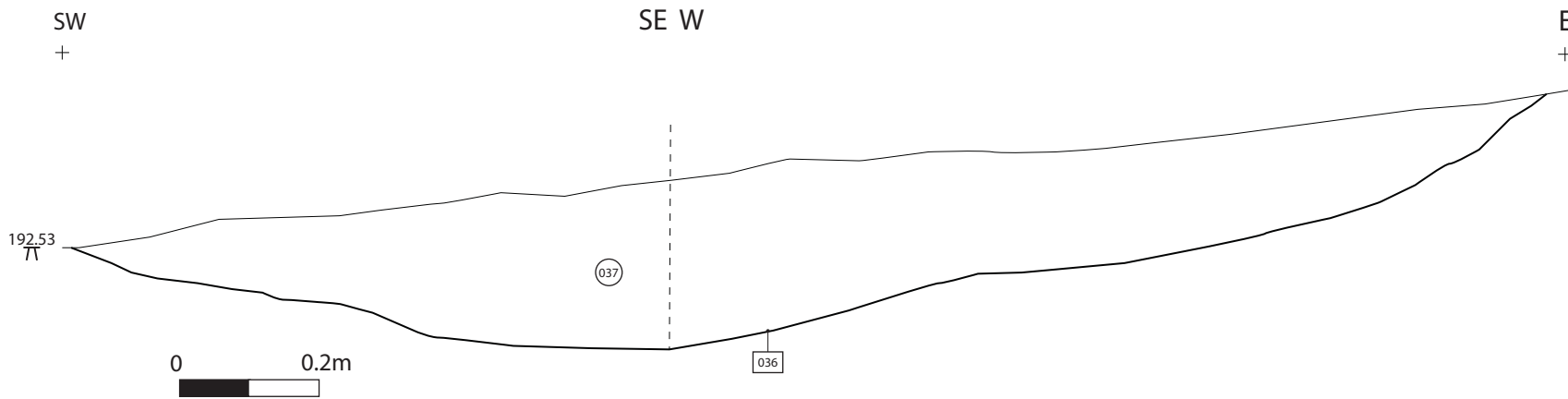


All levels are metres above Ordnance Datum

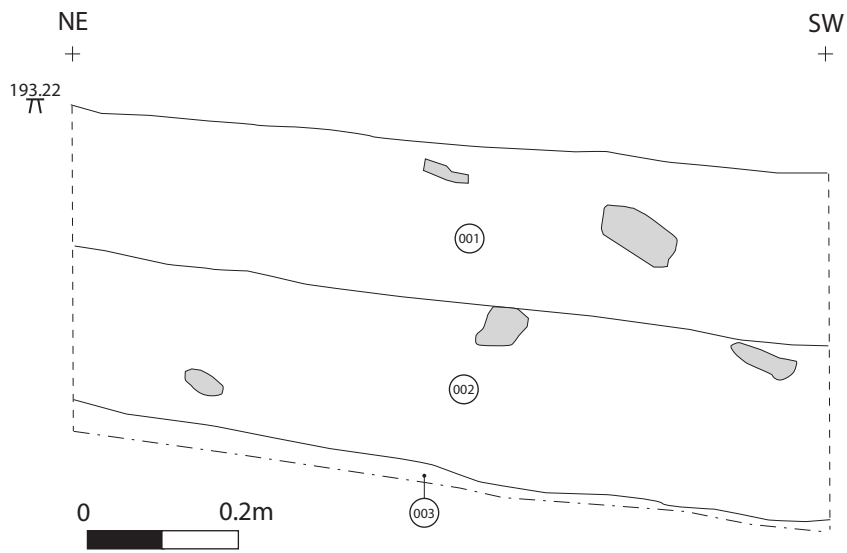
Figure 7
Plans and sections of Features [004], [008], [044], [006], [038], [040], [042] and [046].

Scales sections 1:10 and plans 1:20 @ A4

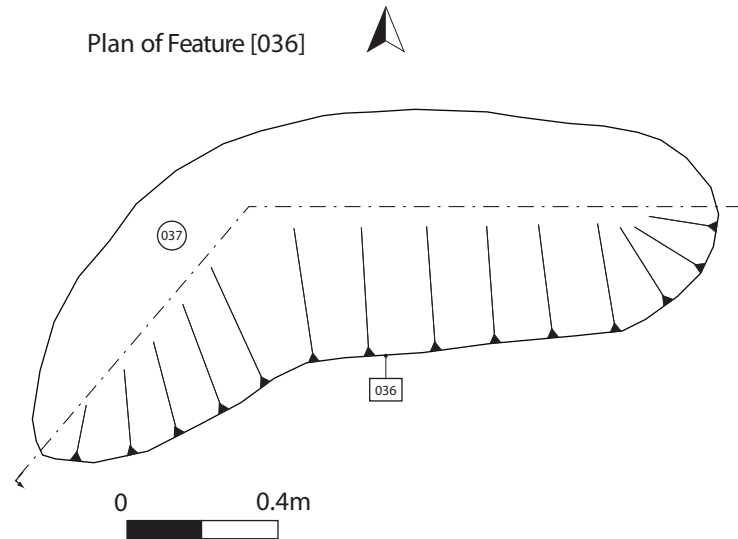
Section of Feature [036]



Representative section (see Fig. 4 for location)



Plan of Feature [036]



All levels are metres above Ordnance Datum

Figure 8
Plan and section of
Feature [036] and
representative section.

Scales sections 1:10 and
plan 1:20 @ A4

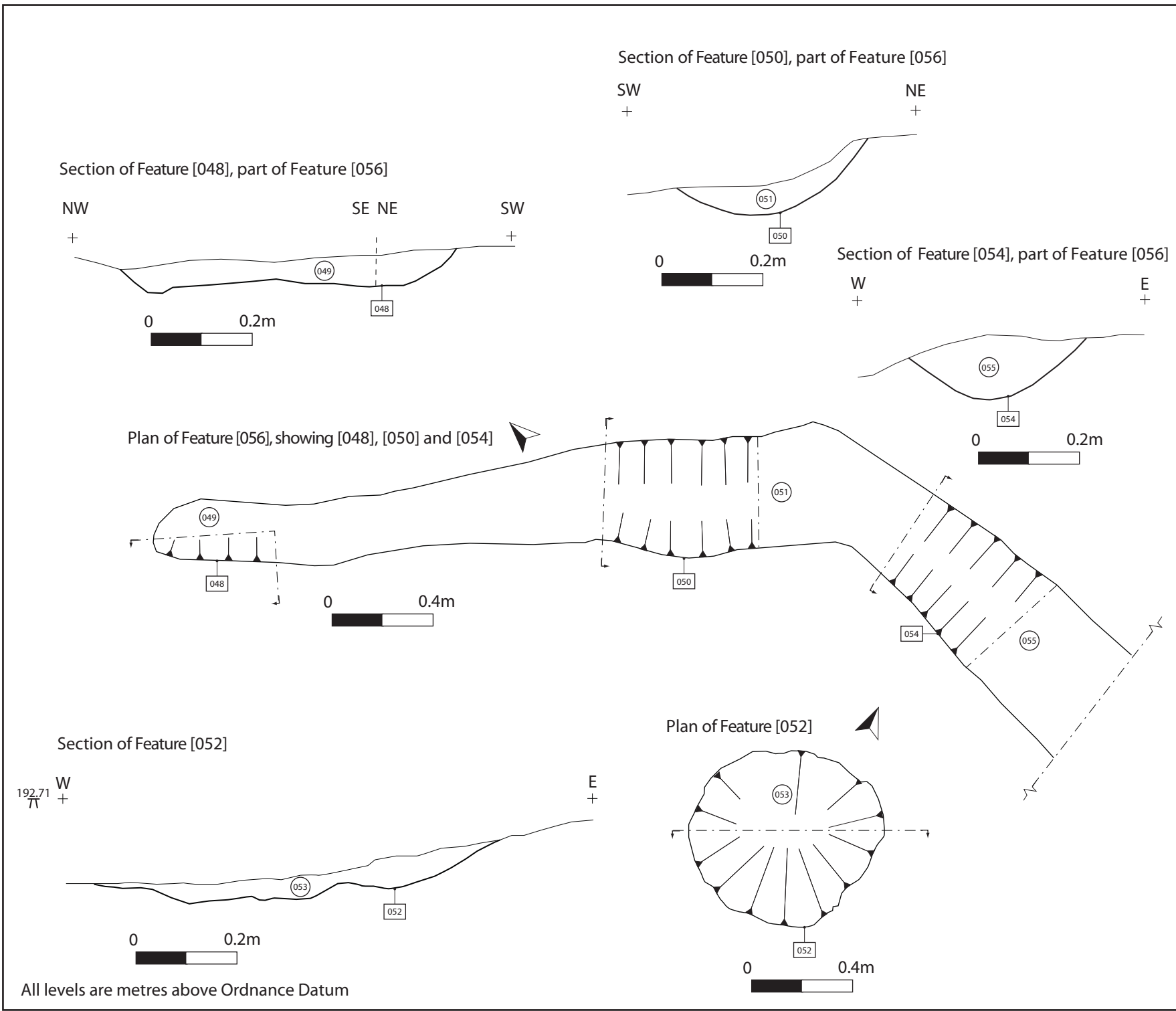


Figure 9
Plans and section
of Features [056] and
[052]
Scales sections 1:10
and plans 1:20 @ A4

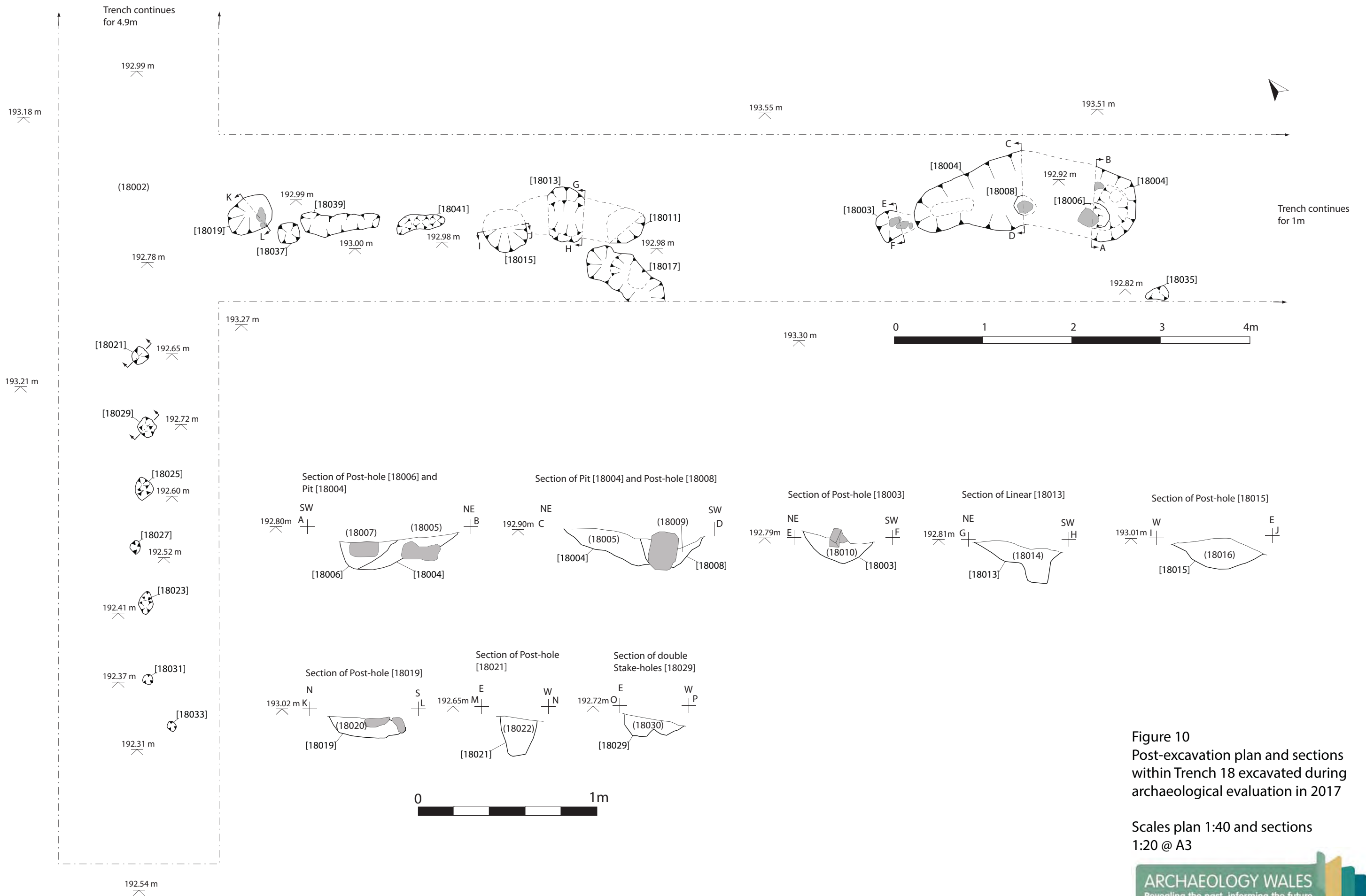


Figure 10
 Post-excavation plan and sections
 within Trench 18 excavated during
 archaeological evaluation in 2017

Scales plan 1:40 and sections
 1:20 @ A3



All levels in metres above Ordnance Datum



Photo 1: General shot looking southwest across the excavated area.



Photo 2: General shot looking west across the excavated area.



Photo 3: General shot looking east across the excavated area. Slwch Lane lies behind the treeline to the rear.



Photo 4: Representative section of the edge of the excavated area, looking northwest. Showing deposits (003), (002) and (001). 1m scale.



Photo 5: Half section through feature [004], looking north. 0.3m scale.



Photo 6: Excavated feature [008], looking south. 0.3m scale.



Photo 7: Half section through feature [010], looking south. 0.5m scale.



Photo 8: Excavated cluster of features comprising central linear feature [024], adjoining linear feature [022] to the top right, and surrounding features [016], [018] and [020] to the left, [012] and [014] to the right. Looking south, 1m scale.



Photo 9: Cluster of features including [034] bottom left, [032] adjacent, [028] above the 0.5m scale on the right, [010] to the left of that, and the part stone-filled [030] on the right. Looking northeast along the line of stake holes identified during the evaluation (not clearly discernible in the photo).



Photo 10: Section through feature [030], looking northwest. 0.5m scale.



Photo 11: More detailed shot of feature [032] (on the right) and [034], looking northeast. 0.5m scale.



Photo 12: Section through the eastern half of feature [036], looking north. 1m scale.



Photo 13: Fully excavated feature [036], looking northeast. 1m & 0.5m scales.



Photo 14: Fully excavated feature [038], viewed in plan, facing south. 0.3m scale.



Photo 15: Feature [040], viewed in plan facing south. 0.3m scale.



Photo 16: Post excavation shot of feature [044], surrounded by a 0.5m and 0.3m scale. Feature [040] is visible above it to the right, evaluation pit [18004] is identifiable above by the black plastic used in its initial backfill. Looking northeast.



Photo 17: Partially excavated features [046], demonstrating its irregular nature. Looking east, 0.3m scale.



Photo 18: Section through feature [052], looking north. 0.5m scale.



Photo 19: Section through feature [056], looking northwest. 0.3m scale.



Photo 20: View of partially re-cleaned evaluation features, with re-excavated [18017] in the foreground, and the infilled [18004] to the rear, identified by the black plastic. 0.5m & 0.3m scale.

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APPENDIX I:
Context List

Context #	Context type	Dimensions (m)	Description
001	Deposit	L-20m, W-20m, D-0.2m	Topsoil, mid red brown silt, moderate subangular stones
002	Deposit	L-20m, W-20m, D-0.2m	Subsoil (plough disturbed), mid brown red clay silt, moderate subangular stones
003	Deposit	L-20m, W-20m, D-0.1m	Natural, mid brown red silt clay, abundant fragmented bedrock
004	Cut	L-0.3m, W-0.2m, D-0.11m	Subcircular posthole/stake hole (possible rooting)
005	Fill	L-0.3m, W-0.2m, D-0.11m	Mid red brown silt sand loam, rare angular fragmented bedrock
006	Cut	L-0.12m, W-0.1m, D-0.03m	Subcircular stake hole (possible rooting)
007	Fill	L-0.12m, W-0.1m, D-0.03m	Mid red brown clay silt, no inclusions
008	Cut	L-0.54m, W-0.32m, D-0.14m	Sub oval posthole (possible rooting)
009	Fill	L-0.54m, W-0.32m, D-0.14m	Mid orange brown clay silt, moderate subangular stones
010	Cut	L-0.7m, W-0.42m, D-0.07m	Sub oval tree throw
011	Fill	L-0.7m, W-0.42m, D-0.07m	Mid red brown, rare angular fragmented bedrock
012	Cut	L-0.07m, W-0.06m, D-0.06m	Subcircular stake hole (possible rooting)
013	Fill	L-0.07m, W-0.06m, D-0.06m	Mid red brown silt, sparse subangular stones
014	Cut	L-0.15m, W-0.1m, D-0.1m	Subcircular stake hole (possible rooting)
015	Fill	L-0.15m, W-0.1m, D-0.1m	Mid red brown silt, sparse subangular stones
016	Cut	L-0.15m, W-0.12m, D-0.09m	Subcircular stake hole (possible rooting)
017	Fill	L-0.15m, W-0.12m, D-0.09m	Mid red brown silt, moderate subangular stones
018	Cut	L-0.09m, W-0.08m, D-0.06m	Subcircular stake hole (possible rooting)
019	Fill	L-0.09m, W-0.08m, D-0.06m	Mid red brown silt, moderate subangular stones
020	Cut	L-0.1m, W-0.07m, D-0.07m	Subcircular stake hole (possible rooting)
021	Fill	L-0.1m, W-0.07m, D-0.07m	Mid red brown silt, moderate subangular stones
022	Cut	L-0.38m, W-0.06m, D-0.05m	Linear (possible plough scar or rooting), N-S orientation

023	Fill	L-0.38m, W-0.06m, D-0.05m	Mid red brown silt, moderate subangular stones
024	Cut	L-0.35m, W-0.08m, D-0.08m	Linear, east terminus (possible plough scar or rooting). Same as [026]
025	Fill	L-0.35m, W-0.38m, D-0.08m	Mid red brown silt, moderate subangular stones. Same as (027)
026	Cut	L-0.2m, W-0.08m, D-0.1m	Linear, west terminus (possible plough scar or rooting). Same as [024]
027	Fill	L-0.2m, W-0.08m, D-0.1m	Mid red brown silt, moderate subangular stones
028	Cut	L-0.32m, W-0.2m, D-0.13m	Subcircular posthole (possible tree bole)
029	Fill	L-0.32m, W-0.2m, D-0.13m	Mid red brown silt loam, v.rare angular fragmented bedrock
030	Cut	L-0.7m, W-0.3m, D-0.06m	Sub oval tree throw
031	Fill	L-0.7m, W-0.3m, D-0.06m	Mid red brown silt loam, v.rare angular fragmented bedrock
032	Cut	L-0.3m, W-0.2m, D-0.05m	Sub oval tree throw
033	Fill	L-0.3m, W-0.2m, D-0.05m	Mid red brown silt loam, rare angular fragmented bedrock
034	Cut	Dia-0.2m, Dep-0.13m	Circular stake hole (possible rooting)
035	Fill	Dia-0.2m, Dep-0.13m	Mid red brown silt loam, rare angular fragmented bedrock
036	Cut	L-2.1m, W-0.64m, D-0.22m	Sub oval pit (possible tree throw)
037	Fill	L-2.1m, W-0.64m, D-0.22m	Mid red brown, frequent angular fragmented bedrock
038	Cut	L-0.45m, W-0.15m, D-0.14m	Sublinear (possible rooting)
039	Fill	L-0.45m, W-0.15m, D-0.14m	Mid red brown silt, moderate subangular stones
040	Cut	L-0.45m, W-0.15m, D-0.14m	Subcircular stake hole (possible rooting)
041	Fill	L-0.45m, W-0.15m, D-0.14m	Mid red brown silt, moderate subangular stones
042	Cut	L-0.5m, W-0.12m, D-0.09m	Sub oval tree throw
043	Fill	L-0.5m, W-0.12m, D-0.09m	Mid red brown silt loam, rare angular fragmented bedrock
044	Cut	L-0.8m, W-0.3m, D-0.05m	Sub oval tree throw
045	Fill	L-0.8m, W-0.3m, D-0.05m	Mid red brown silt loam, v.rare angular fragmented bedrock

046	Cut	L-0.4m, W-0.18m, D-0.09m	Irregular tree throw
047	Fill	L_0.4m, W-0.18m, D-0.09m	Mid red brown silt loam, rare angular fragmented bedrock
048	Cut	L-0.5m, W-0.22m, D-0.06m	Linear (terminus) rooting. Part of [056]
049	Fill	L-0.5m, W-0.22m, D-0.06m	Mid red brown silt loam, sparse angular fragmented bedrock
050	Cut	L-0.6m, W-0.4m, D-0.06m	Linear rooting. Part of [056].
051	Fill	L-0.6m, W-0.4m, D-0.06m	Mid red brown silt loam, sparse angular fragmented bedrock and subrounded stones
052	Cut	Dia-0.82m, Dep-0.05	Subcircular tree throw
053	Fill	Dia-0.82m, Dep-0.05	Mid reddish brown silt loam, sparse angular fragmented bedrock
054	Cut	L-0.4m, W-0.35m, D-0.12m	Linear rooting. Part of [056].
055	Fill	L-0.4m, W-0.35m, D-0.12m	Mid red brown silt loam, sparse angular fragmented bedrock and subrounded stones
056	Cut (Group #)	L-3.8m, W-0.4m, D- 0.12m	Cuts [048], [050] & [054]. Feature most likely to be rooting than a land drain
057	Fill (Group #)	L-3.8m, W-0.4m, D- 0.12m	Fills (049), (051) & (55). Mid red brown silt loam, sparse angular fragmented bedrock and subrounded stones

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APPENDIX II:
Written Scheme of Investigation

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION

AT Land adjacent to Cerrigcochion Road, Brecon, Powys

Planning Application No: 16/13596/FUL

Prepared for:

P A R Homes

Project No: 2711

March 2019



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Figure 1. Site location

Figure 2. Site plan

Figure 3. Plan of excavation area

Figure 4. Details of known archaeological remains

Summary

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details a programme of archaeological mitigation to be undertaken by Archaeology Wales at the request of PAR Homes.

The archaeological mitigation will consist of an Archaeological Strip, Map & Excavation that will be undertaken in association with development works on land adjacent to Cerrigochion Road, Brecon, Powys. The development site is centred on SO 0511 2890. The associated Planning Application No. is 16/13596/FUL.

Previous archaeological investigations have identified a potential structure or enclosure of some antiquity towards the southeast edge of the site. The Heritage Officer at Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority have requested a programme of archaeological work to be undertaken to ensure preservation by record of any archaeological deposits that would be damaged or destroyed as a result of activities associated with the development.

All work will be undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

1. Introduction and planning background

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details the methodology for a programme of archaeological mitigation (archaeological strip, map and excavation) to be undertaken in association with the construction of a mixed-use development of residential units and employment space on (Figures 1 & 2), on land adjacent to Cerrigochion Road, Brecon, Powys. The development site is centred on SO 0511 2890.

The local planning authority is the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA). The associated Planning Application No. is 16/13596/FUL. This WSI has been prepared by Philip Poucher, Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW).

The site has been subject to a number of previous archaeological investigations. These include a desk-based assessment, ASIDOHL and Environmental Impact Assessment submitted to accompany the planning application. As a result of an archaeological potential identified at the site a subsequent geophysical survey and follow up evaluation trenching was also undertaken across the site. These more detailed investigations identified one specific area of archaeological activity, which comprised a series of stake-holes, post holes, gullies and pits that appeared to define a post-built structure or enclosure of uncertain date, but potentially of some antiquity.

Planning permission has been granted for this development subject to a number of Conditions. The Heritage Officer (Archaeology) with BBNPA, acting in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, has recommended archaeological mitigation as one of these Conditions. The requirements for this mitigation is laid out in an internal memorandum from The Heritage Officer dated 17/02/17, it states:

No development shall take place within the area of archaeological interest until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work.

The developer will ensure that a suitably qualified archaeological contractor is employed to carry out an Archaeological Excavation. The archaeological works will be carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority and must meet the standards laid down by the Institute for Archaeologists in their Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation.

A copy of the Excavation Report shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval. Following approval, the report will be submitted to the National Park Archaeologist and the local Welsh Archaeological Trust for inclusion in the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER).

Reason: To ensure that any remains of archaeological significance disturbed in the course of the work are excavated, recorded and reported.

The purpose of the archaeological mitigation is to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information regarding the nature of archaeological remains on the site of the development, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy (revised edition 10, 2018), Section 6.1 and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017). The work is to ensure that all historic and archaeological assets are fully investigated and to ensure preservation by record of any archaeological deposits that would be damaged or destroyed as a result of activities associated with the development.

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

2. Site Description

The site lies on the northern edge of the nucleated settlement of Brecon, adjacent to the B4602 (Cerrigochion Road) that runs north out of Brecon. The land consists of several fields, now amalgamated into two main fields, of improved but low quality grazing. The fields are enclosed by hedgerows, stands of mature trees and some post and wire fencing. The B4602 forms the western boundary, a public bridleway (Slwch Lane) forms the southern

boundary, hedgerows bordering further agricultural land forms the eastern boundary and educational buildings belonging to Coleg Powys form the northern boundary. The area of archaeological interest lies at the south-eastern end of the site, close to the line of the sunken Slwch Lane, on gently sloping ground.

The site as a whole is located on a west-facing hillside, with land sloping from *circa* 190mOD in the north to *circa* 175mOD in the south. To the east lies further agricultural land with land rising to the summit of Slwch Tump at 246mOD to the southeast, and a television relay mast located *circa* 150m to the east of the site. To the south, beyond the wooded line of Slwch Lane, lies the War Memorial hospital and then the main nucleated settlement area of Brecon on ground that falls towards the River Usk. To the west on the opposing side of the B4602 lies the modern building complex of Brecon High School along with further urban development. To the north lies modern buildings of Coleg Powys and Ysgol-y-Bannau with the Brecon Leisure Centre and playing fields and further agricultural land beyond that.

The underlying bedrock geology of the area consists of interbedded sandstone and argillaceous rocks of the St Maughans Formation, overlain in places with sand and gravel from glaciofluvial ice contact deposits.

3. Archaeological background

A number of previous archaeological investigations have been undertaken on this site, including an archaeological desk-based assessment (Hankinson 2015), Environmental Impact Assessment (Poucher 2016a), geophysical survey (Poucher 2016b) and archaeological evaluation (Poucher & Shobbrook 2017), highlighting a general archaeological background to the area, as well as identifying specific features within the site.

In terms of general background the archaeology of the immediate area is dominated by Slwch Tump hillfort (PRN 611/NPRN 92032/SAM BR063), which lies within 400m to the east of the site. This hillfort is considered to date to the Iron Age, and is one of the largest, in terms of its internal area, within Powys. It is defended by a relatively simple single line of bank and ditch. Recent re-analysis of Lidar data suggests the defended area is only one part of a more extensive site that may have been reused over a considerable period of time. Parch marks revealed in dry conditions suggest an earlier phase of activity within the defended area, potentially originally a smaller hillfort. A field attached to the north side of the defended area would appear to outline a large annex or enclosure contemporary to the use of the hillfort, the outline of which is now preserved in field boundaries. A short distance to the northeast lies the site of St Alud/Eluned's Chapel (PRN 617), reputedly of 5th century AD origin, but clearly still in use in the 12th century as Gerald of Wales, writing around 1188, recounts in detail the religious ceremony taking place there at the beginning of August. He describes people in a trance-like state within the chapel building, the churchyard and amongst the surrounding graves, all being watched by crowds 'from far and

wide'. Earthworks visible on lidar data indicates an area of possible medieval agricultural activity extending to the north of the hillfort, and possible associated activity to the north of the chapel, suggested a wide area of activity, and possible re-use of the hillfort, during the early medieval and medieval periods.

The chapel site is accessed via Slwch Lane, a sunken lane that runs around the southern boundary to the site. It would seem likely therefore that this lane was in use during the medieval period to access the chapel, and possible activity around the chapel. As it also runs alongside the hillfort there is the potential that the lane may even have prehistoric origins.

Cerrigcochion Road which forms the western boundary to the site is likely to have been a routeway of long standing as well, believed to follow the line of a Roman Road (PRN 47027).

Within the site area itself the occasional coin has been recorded, including an early 13th century coin of Henry III (PRN 120082), a 15th century jetton (PRN119623), a 16th century silver coin of Elizabeth I (PRN 120080) and a 17th century cloth seal (PRN 117657).

The geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation across the development site found only limited evidence of potential archaeological activity within the site boundary however. A number of post-medieval field boundaries were identified in the survey, and a centrally located pit and a concentrated area of potential structural remains to the southeast were identified in the evaluation. The pit appeared isolated and of limited archaeological interest, but the possible structural remains were considered to be of potential archaeological interest. These remains (Figure 4) comprised a row of seven stake holes on a roughly northeast to southwest, slightly curvilinear alignment, with a right-angled return at the northeast end represented by a series of stake holes, larger post holes and pits and short sections of gullies. Taken together the remains suggested a post-built structure or enclosure. The shallow nature of the remains indicated evidence may have been lost to subsequent ploughing and erosion, but this also suggested a site of some antiquity despite the lack of any dateable material from the features uncovered. It may be significant that the site lies close to (within 14m) the sunken Holloway of Slwch Lane to the east.

4. Objectives

This WSI sets out a program of works to ensure that the mitigation will meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (2014). This standard states:

An archaeological excavation will examine and record the archaeological resource within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the project, and comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant regulations of CIfA. It will result in one or more published accounts and an ordered, accessible archive.

Strip & Map

The objective of the strip and map is to reveal, record and map any archaeological deposits, features or structures in the development area. Where there is no archaeology present the strip will be deep enough to reveal the natural deposits, providing the required evidence that BBNPA might need to sign off particular areas. Overburden, comprising recent topsoil and ploughsoil, will be removed by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket under archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features are encountered full excavation of these features will take place, which is outlined below.

Excavation

The objective of the proposed excavation is to preserve, by record, detailed information on all archaeological deposits within the development plots, prior to their likely destruction as a consequence of the development. All archaeological deposits, horizons and artefacts encountered will be recorded and removed stratigraphically by the excavation team.

The main objectives of the excavation of archaeological deposits will be to establish the form, function and date of any remains.

Following all stages of the work report will be produced that will provide a detailed account of all the archaeological work undertaken (strip, map and excavation). Sufficient desk-top research will be undertaken to ensure that the results of this work are properly understood, interpreted and reported.

The report will include a comprehensive assessment of the historic context within which the archaeological evidence rests, a consideration of the evidence for dating, a consideration of the landuse within the broader historic landscape, and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within regional, national and, if relevant, international research frameworks.

5. Timetable of works

5.1. Fieldwork

The programme of mitigation will be undertaken prior to any ground works associated with the proposed development. An exact start date for the archaeological work has not yet been finalised, but it is likely to commence shortly after the approval of this WSI, with a start date of early to mid April 2019 suggested.

5.2. Report delivery

The report will be submitted to the client, and to the BBNPA Heritage Officer within three months of the completion of the fieldwork for approval. Following approval a copy will also be sent to BBNPA and the regional Historic Environment Record.

6. Strip, Map & Excavation Detail

The strip, map and excavation will be used to investigate an area measuring 20m by 20m to encompass the extent of the archaeological features at the south-eastern edge of the site identified during the archaeological evaluation, as illustrated on Figure 3. This area will encompass both the features identified in the evaluation trench, along with a sufficient area surrounding them to ensure any continuation of these features or associated activity is also investigated.

The work will be undertaken to satisfy the relevant Standards published by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

The project manager in charge of the work will satisfy him/herself that all constraints to groundworks have been identified, including the siting of live services and Tree Preservation Orders.

The excavation area will be stripped of modern overburden, comprising topsoil and plough soil, under close archaeological supervision, to the top of the archaeological horizon or the natural deposits, whichever is encountered soonest. The strip will be undertaken by a machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket.

The resulting surface will be hand cleaned using hoes and/or pointing trowels, as appropriate, to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological features. All such features will be recorded, and fully excavated.

All archaeological features and deposits will be hand excavated stratigraphically down to natural subsoils, in order to gain a complete understanding of the archaeological resource. Previous investigations in this area have indicated that archaeological features may be revealed at a depth of around 0.3m below the current ground levels, with features cut into the underlying geological clay and fragmented bedrock deposits.

The sample rates of features and their fills should be at least 50% for long linear features and larger post holes and pits, and 100% for stake holes, smaller post holes and pits, and any further significant discrete features. Should this percentage excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features and deposits to be fully understood then 100% excavation of such features and deposits will be required.

7. Recording & Archiving

7.1. Recording

Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets, etc.) using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 or 1:10 as required and related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

All features identified will be tied in to the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries.

Photographs will be taken in digital format with an appropriate scale, using a 10MP+ camera with photographs stored in Tiff format.

The archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will have access to the AW metal detector and be trained in its use.

7.2. Finds

The professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological (2014)* will form the basis of finds collection, processing and recording.

All manner of finds regardless of category and date will initially be retained. Following cataloguing and initial analysis finds of little archaeological significance may be discarded.

Finds recovered that are regarded as Treasure under *The Treasure Act 1996* will be reported to HM Coroner for the local area.

Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator (normally Phil Parkes at Cardiff University).

7.3. Environmental sampling strategy

Deposits with a significant potential for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental material will be sampled, by means of the most appropriate method (bulk, column etc).

Deposits that may contain material suitable for scientific dating processes will also be bulk sampled.

Where sampling will provide a significant contribution to the understanding of the site AW will draw up a site-specific sampling strategy alongside a specialist environmental archaeologist.

All environmental sampling and recording and will follow Historic England's *Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology (2011)*.

7.4. Human remains

In the event that human remains are encountered, their nature and extent will be established and the coroner informed. All undisturbed human remains will be left *in situ* and protected during backfilling. Where preservation *in situ* is not possible the human remains will be fully recorded and removed under conditions that comply with all current legislation and include acquisition of licenses and provision for reburial following all analytical work. Human remains will be excavated in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains* (2017).

A meeting with BBNPA Heritage Officer, the client and AW will be called if the human remains uncovered are of such complexity or significance that the contingency arrangement (6.1 above) would not be of sufficient scope.

7.5. Specialist advisers

In the event of certain finds, features or sites being discovered, AW will seek specialist opinion and advice. A list of specialists is given in the table below although this list is not exhaustive.

Artefact type	Specialist
Flint	Kate Pitt (Archaeology Wales)
Animal bone	Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall (APS)
Clay pipe	Hilary Major (Freelance)
Glass	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst (University of York)/Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy (University of Leicester)/ Quita Mold (Freelance)
Metal work and metallurgical residues	Dr Tim Young (GeoArch)
Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson (Bradford University)
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby (Freelance)
Roman Pottery	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)/ Peter Webster

	(Freelance)
Post Roman pottery	Stephen Clarke (Monmouthshire Archaeology)
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot (Freelance)
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling (University of Wales – Lampeter)
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers (Freelance)

7.5.1. Specialist reports

Specialist finds and palaeoenvironmental reports will be written by AW specialists, or sub-contracted to external specialists when required.

8. Monitoring

The BBNPA Heritage Officer will be contacted approximately one week prior to the commencement of archaeological site works, and subsequently once the work is underway.

Any changes to the WSI that AW may wish to make after approval will be communicated to the BBNPA Heritage Officer for approval on behalf of Planning Authority.

The BBNPA Heritage Officer will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the mitigation work. No area will be back-filled or developed until the Heritage Officer has had the opportunity to inspect it, unless permission has been given in advance. The BBNPA Heritage Officer will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during post-excavation.

9. Post-fieldwork programme

9.1. Archive assessment

9.1.1. Site archive

An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with *The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017* (National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales) and the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists upon completion of the project.

The site archive (including artefacts and samples) will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure and deposited with an appropriate receiving organisation, in compliance with ClfA Guidelines (*Standard and guidance for the*

creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives', 2014). The legal landowners' consent will be gained for deposition of finds.

9.1.2. Analysis

Following a rapid review of the potential of the site archive, a programme of analysis and reporting will be undertaken. This will result in the following inclusions in the final report:

- Non-technical summary
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological works
- Location plan showing the area/s covered by archaeological works, including the locations of all artefacts, structures and features found
- Plans and section drawings (if features are encountered) with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
- A written description and interpretation of all deposits identified, including their character, function, potential dating and relationship to adjacent features. Specialist descriptions and illustrations of all artefacts and soil samples will be included as appropriate. An indication of the potential of archaeological deposits which have not been disturbed by the development
- The report will contain a discussion of the local, regional and national context of the remains by means of reviewing published reports, unpublished reports, historical maps, documents from local archives and the regional HER as appropriate.
- A detailed archive list at the rear listing all contexts recorded, all samples finds and find types, drawings and photographs taken. This will include a statement of the intent to deposit, and location of deposition, of the archive.

9.2. Reports and archive deposition

9.2.1. Report to client

Copies of all reports associated with the mitigation, together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as appropriate, including photographs and illustrations, will be submitted upon completion to The BBNPA Heritage Officer for comment and approval. Following approval a final copy will be sent to the client, and for formal submission to BBNPA.

9.2.2. Additional reports

After an appropriate period has elapsed, copies of all reports will be deposited with the relevant county Historic Environment Record (CPAT), the National Monuments Record and, if appropriate, Cadw. The report and all relevant information will be submitted to the Historic Environment Record following the guidelines and procedures laid out in the *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records* (WAT 2018).

9.2.3. Summary reports for publication

Short archaeological reports will be submitted for publication in relevant journals; as a minimum, a report will be submitted to the annual publication of the regional CBA group or equivalent journal.

9.2.4. Notification of important remains

Where it is considered that remains have been revealed that may satisfy the criteria for statutory protection, AW will submit preliminary notification of the remains to Cadw.

9.2.5. Archive deposition

The final archive (site and research) will, whenever appropriate, be deposited with a suitable receiving institution. If artefacts are recovered, and dependent on the size of the final archive, the preferred receiving institution would be a suitable local institution, in this case the Brecknock Museum & Art Gallery, Brecon. If the archive is not acceptable the archive will be deposited with Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, Cardiff. If no artefacts are recovered then the archive will be deposited with the *National Monuments Record*, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth. Arrangements will be made with the receiving institution before work starts.

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, copies of all reports and the final archive will be deposited no later than six months after completion of the work.

Copies of all reports, the digital archive and an archive index will be deposited with the *National Monuments Record*, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.

Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER. A summary of the contents of the archive will be supplied to CPAT.

9.2.6. Finds deposition

The finds, including artefacts and ecofacts, excepting those which may be subject to the Treasure Act, will be deposited with the same institution, subject to the agreement of the legal land owners.

10. Staff

The project will be managed by Phil Poucher MCIfA and the fieldwork undertaken by suitable qualified and experienced AW archaeologists. Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of the BBNPA Heritage Officer and the client.

Additional Considerations

11. Health and Safety

11.1. Risk assessment

Prior to the commencement of work AW will carry out and produce a formal Health and Safety Risk Assessment in accordance with *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*. A copy of the risk assessment will be kept on site and be available for inspection on request. A copy will be sent to the client (or their agent as necessary) for their information. All members of AW staff will adhere to the content of this document.

11.2. Other guidelines

AW will adhere to best practice with regard to Health and Safety in Archaeology as set out in the FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) health and safety manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (2002)*.

12. Community Engagement and Outreach

Wherever possible, AW will ensure suitable measures are in place to inform the local community and any interested parties of the results of the site investigation work. This may occur during the site investigation work or following completion of the work. The form of any potential outreach activities may include lectures and talks to local groups, interested parties and persons, information boards, flyers and other forms of communication (social media and websites), and press releases to local and national media.

The form of any outreach will respect client confidentiality or contractual agreements. As a rule, outreach will be proportional to the size of the project.

Where outreach activities have a cost implication these will need to be negotiated in advance and in accordance with the nature of the desired response and learning outcomes.

13. Insurance

AW is fully insured for this type of work and holds Insurance with Aviva Insurance Ltd and Hiscox Insurance Company Limited through Towergate Insurance. Full details of these and other relevant policies can be supplied on request.

14. Quality Control

14.1. Professional standards

AW works to the standards and guidance provided by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*. AW fully recognise and endorse the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*, *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* and the *Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs* currently in force. All employees of AW, whether corporate members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists or not, are expected to adhere to these Codes and Standards during their employment.

14.2. Project tracking

The designated AW manager will monitor all projects in order to ensure that agreed targets are met without reduction in quality of service.

15. Arbitration

Disputes or differences arising in relation to this work shall be referred for a decision in accordance with the Rules of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' *Arbitration Scheme for the Institute for Archaeologists* applying at the date of the agreement.

16. References

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014. *Standards and guidance for the collection, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*.

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Hankinson, R. 2015, *Land at Cerrigochion Road, Brecon: Archaeological Assessment*. CPAT Report No.1315-1

Historic England, 2011. *Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology*.

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Poucher, P. 2015, Cerrigochion Road, Brecon: ASIDOHL. AW Report No. 1393

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Poucher, P. 2016b, *Land adjacent to Cerrigochion Road, Brecon, Powys: Geophysical Survey*. AW Report No.1506

Poucher, P & Shobbrook, A. 2017, *Land adjacent to Cerrigochion Road, Brecon, Powys: Archaeological Evaluation*. AW Report No.1543

The Welsh Archaeological Trusts (WAT). July 2018. *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records*.

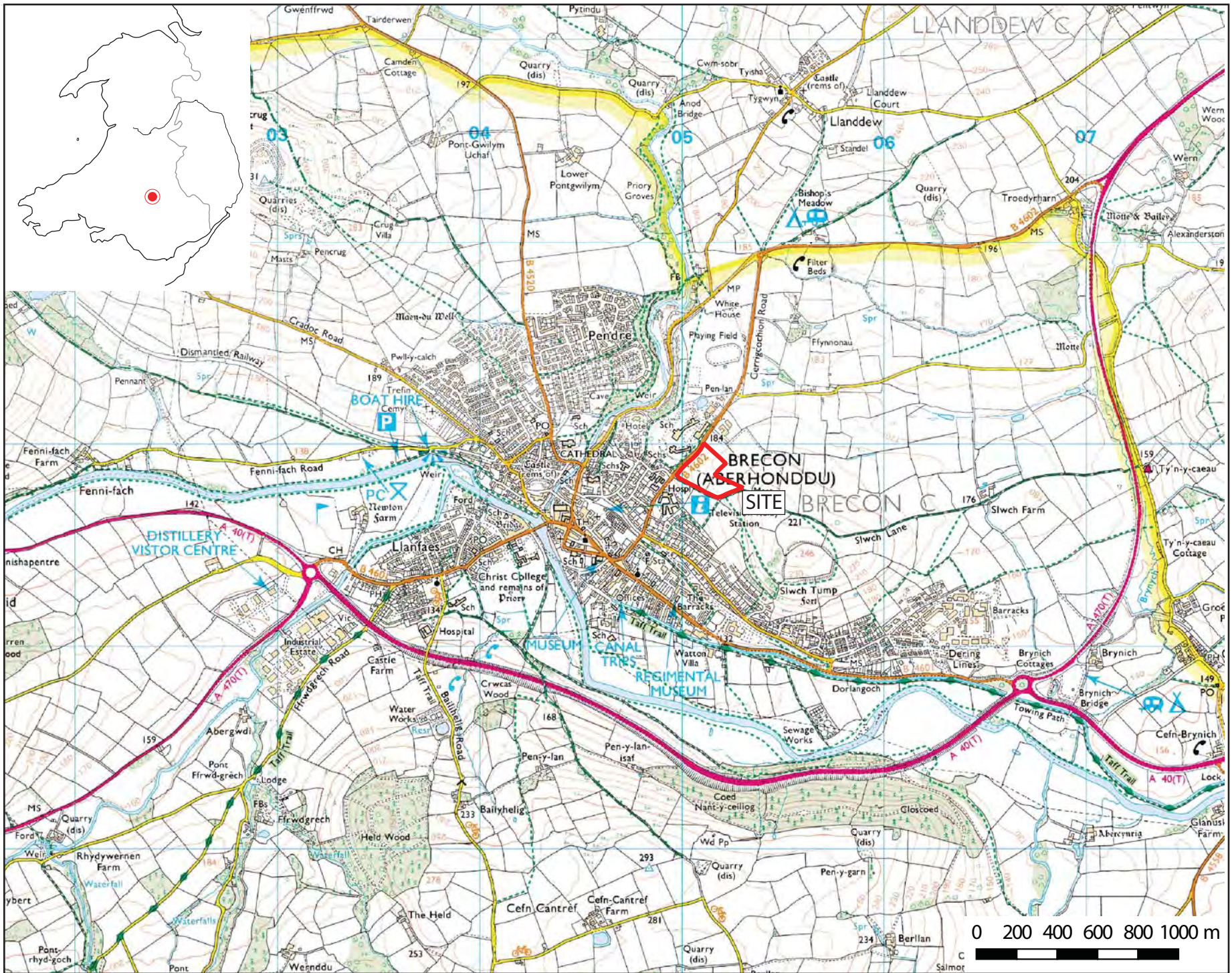


Figure 1: Location map, 1:25,000 @ A4

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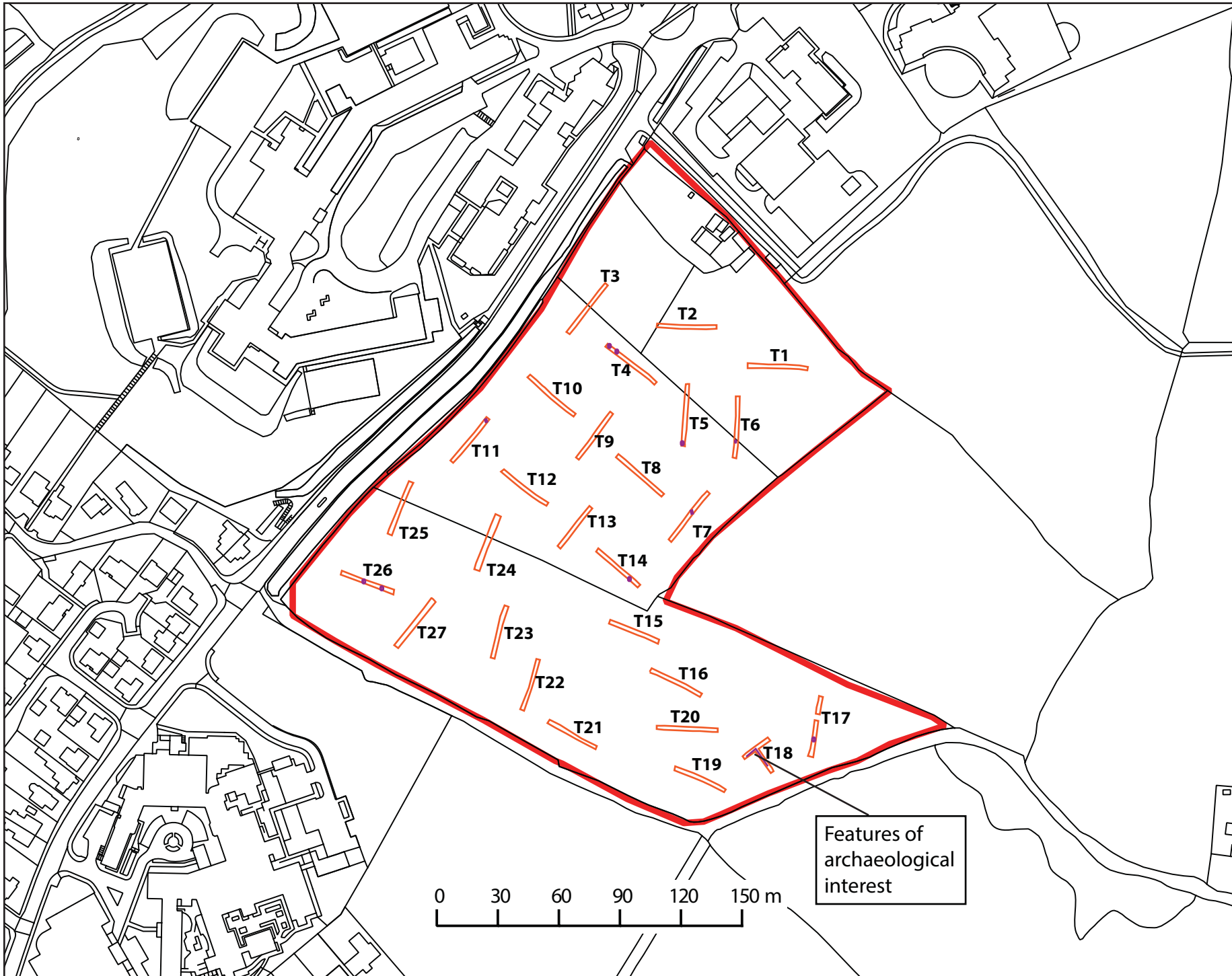


Figure 2: Site layout plan showing the location of all previous evaluation trenches and area of archaeological interest.

1:2500 @ A4

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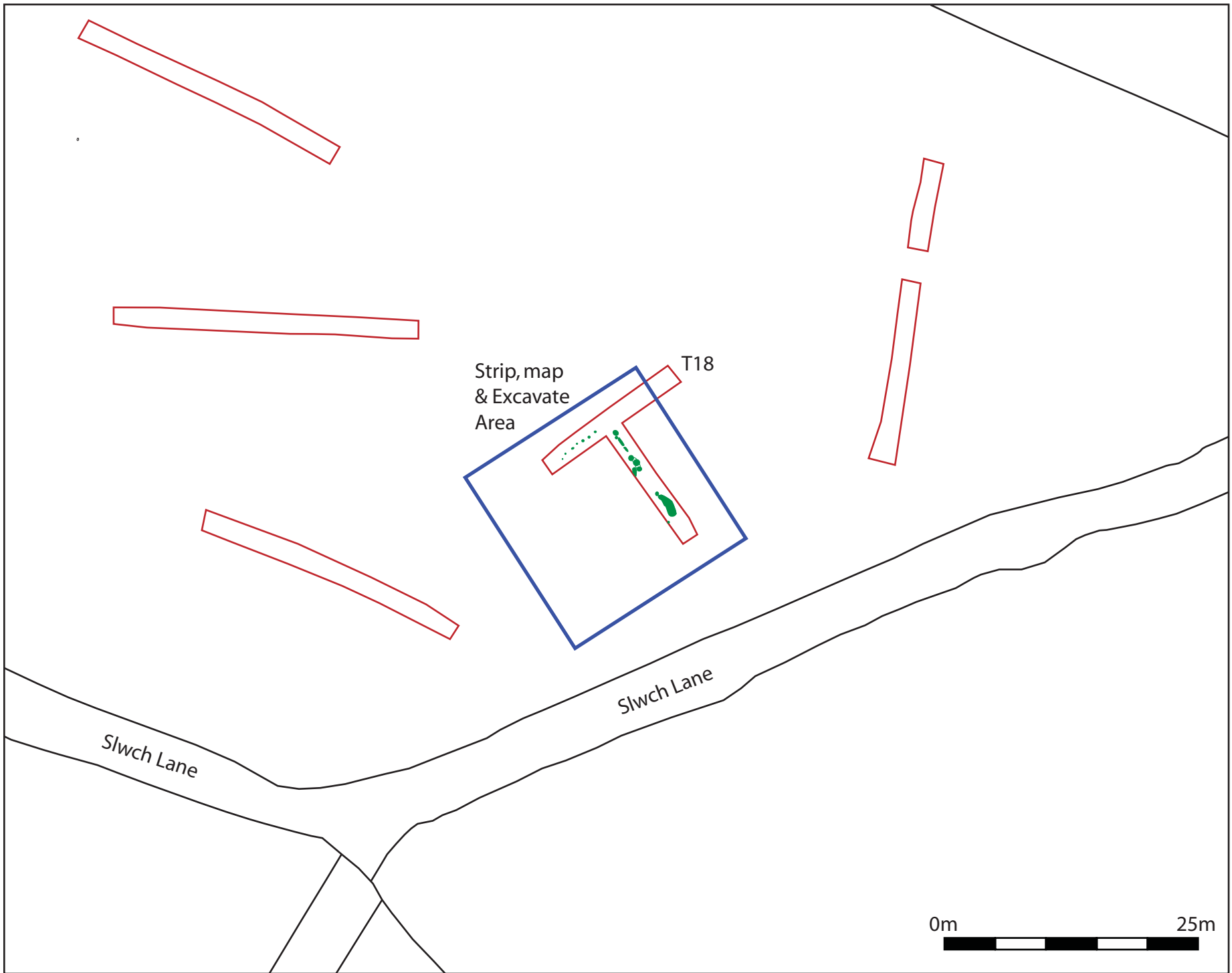


Figure 3: Strip, map and excavate area shown in blue. Previously identified archaeological features shown in green.

1:500 @ A4

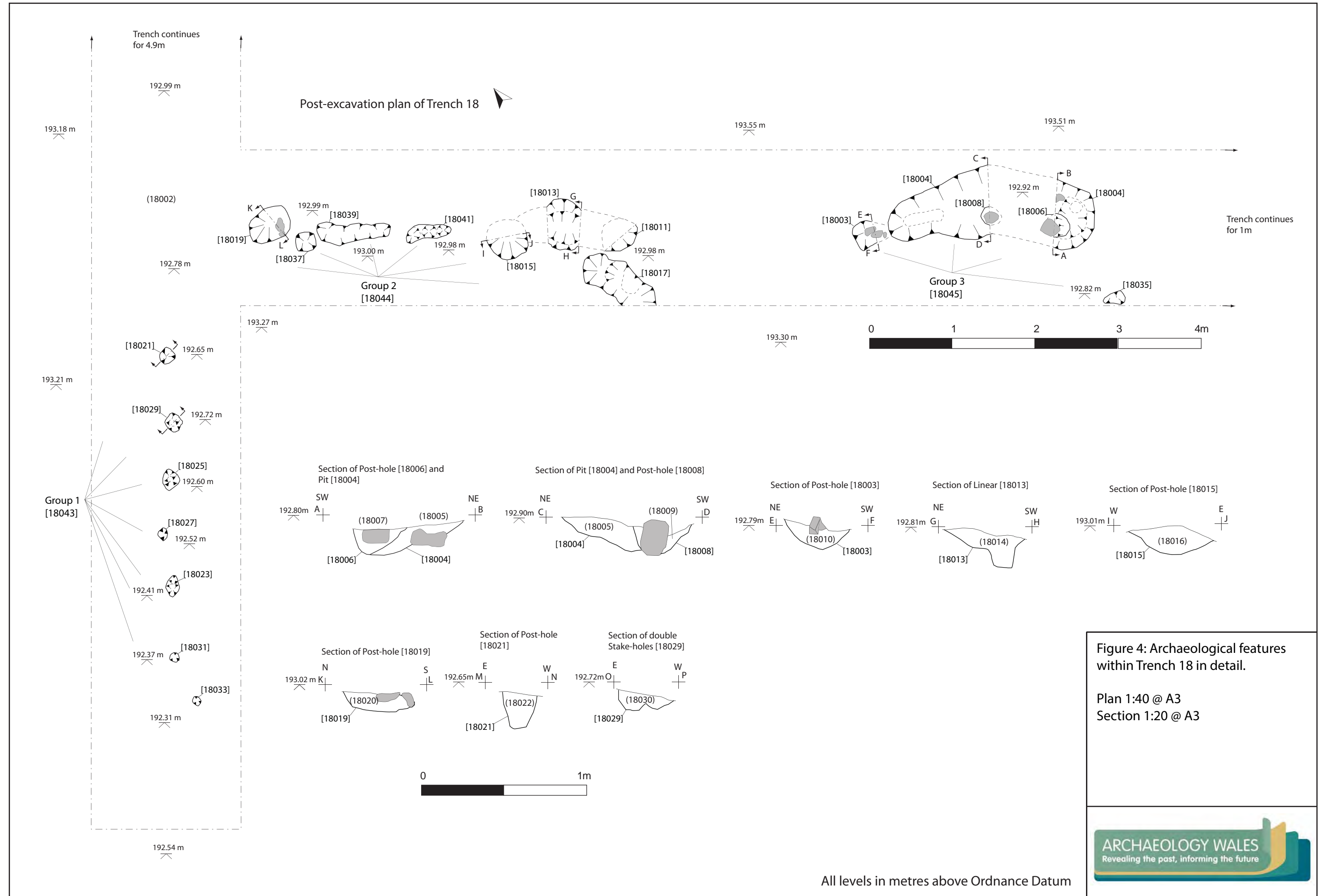


Figure 4: Archaeological features within Trench 18 in detail.

Plan 1:40 @ A3
Section 1:20 @ A3



Archaeology
Wales

APPENDIX III:
Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Land adjacent to Cerrigochion Road, Brecon, Powys

Site Name:	Cerrigochion Road, Brecon
Site Code:	CRB/19/SME
PRN:	-
NPRN:	-
SAM:	-
Other Ref No:	-
NGR:	NGR SO 0511 2890
Site Type:	Residential development on former pasture fields. Possible post and stake hole structure partially identified in evaluation, undated.
Project Type:	Strip, Map & Excavate
Project Manager:	Philip Poucher
Project Dates:	April 2019 - October 2019
Categories Present:	-
Location of Original Archive:	AW
Location of duplicate Archives:	RCAHMW, Aberystwyth
Number of Finds Boxes:	0
Location of Finds:	-
Museum Reference:	-
Copyright:	AW
Restrictions to access:	None

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