

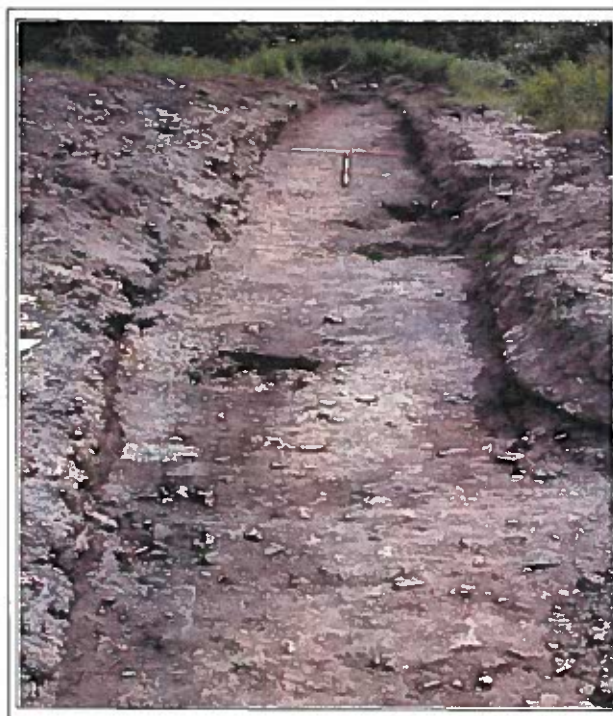


CAMBRIAN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECTS



Cosheston, Pembroke Dock

Archaeological Evaluation



By
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Report No. 572

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Cosheston, Pembrokeshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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Non Technical Summary

This report documents work undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd (CAP) for Idris Davies Ltd at Cosheston, Pembroke Dock, Pembrokeshire.

The report describes the examination of the site at Cosheston, Pembrokeshire, for archaeological remains, particularly features or artefacts of medieval and post-medieval date associated with the northern frontage of Point Lane, which defines the northern limit of the site.

This investigation revealed the area to have been denuded and re-levelled in the recent past, with only a 19th-20th century drainage ditch and a single post-medieval pit or posthole base surviving within the area excavated.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In June 2009 CAP undertook the archaeological evaluation of a proposed development site on land immediately south east of West Park Cottage, Point Lane, Cosheston, Pembroke Dock (Figs. 1 and 2).
- 1.1.2 The work was carried out for Idris Davies Ltd (IDL), according to the specifications given in the brief prepared by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust, advisors to Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC), the local planning authority. The planning application no. is 08/0631/PA.
- 1.1.3 The development entails the construction of several residential units on land previously developed as commercial greenhouses at NGR SN0032603616.

1.2 Topography and Geology

Cosheston is situated approximately two miles north east of Pembroke Dock on the brow of Cosheston Pill, overlooking an estuary of the river Cleddau at an elevation of roughly 40 metres OD.

The underlying bedrock in the area is Cosheston Sandstone.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The site lies approximately 200 metres east of the medieval parish church of St Michael, on the south facing frontage of Point Lane, in the village of Cosheston. Surrounded by a landscape of narrow strip fields, defined by hedgebanks, the current village has a linear layout and lies largely to the east of the church and rectory, suggesting a possible relocation of the settlement.

First recorded in the 13th century, the village lay within the medieval manor of Cosheston, a castle-guard fee of the Lordship of Pembroke (Jones 1996).

2 Aims and Objectives

2.2 Field evaluation

- 2.2.1 To determine the presence or otherwise of archaeological remains in the evaluation area.
- 2.2.2 To assess the extent, condition, type and period of any remains exposed by the excavation.
- 2.2.3 To evaluate the archaeological and paleoenvironmental potential of any deposits or features encountered.
- 2.2.4 To assess the developments' impact on any surviving archaeological remains and propose appropriate mitigation strategies where required.

3 Evaluation Methodology

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The evaluation comprised a single trench (Fig. 5), measuring roughly 2m x 25m, excavated by machine, using a flat-edged ditching bucket. Excavation was closely monitored by K.W.Collins and site assistant Hywel Keen.
- 3.1.2 The trench base and sections were cleaned by hand, revealing a deposit of cement and cinder at the northern end of the trench. Removal of this layer showed it to overlay the cut of a modern ditch, which, in turn, cut the remains of a post-medieval pit /posthole base.

All features were recorded in plan at a scale of 1:20 and in section at 1:10. The east facing trench section was also recorded in its' entirety at 1:10.

A full photographic record was kept using 35mm monochrome print, colour slide and high resolution digital photography.

- 3.1.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with the IFA *Standards and Guidance: for an archaeological desk based assessment and archaeological evaluation* and current health and safety legislation.

5 Evaluation Results

5.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 5.1.1 Weather conditions were warm and dry. Topsoil was a well drained loose, dark brown clay silt with frequent inclusions of modern rubble and detritus immediately overlying a weathered sandstone natural.

5.2 Distribution of deposits

- 5.2.1 The topsoil deposit (001), was undisturbed in the southern half of the evaluation trench and directly overlay natural (002).

In the northern half of the trench the topsoil was overlain by a thick layer of modern rubble and hardcore (011), presumably a levelling deposit.

Both topsoil and hardcore contained frequent inclusions of modern material including brick, pottery and glass, suggesting a recent origin

5.3 Feature descriptions

- 5.3.1 Emerging from the northern end of the trench, a linear round-based ditch (feature [007/003]) ran diagonally for approximately 6m before intersecting with the western section face (Figs. 3 and 5). A 30% sample of this feature was excavated, showing a rounded profile containing a single fill (004).

A significant quantity of well stratified late 19th to early 20th century material was recovered from this feature.

- 5.3.2 A flat based pit or possible posthole [009] was also recorded in the northern sector of the evaluation trench (Figs. 3 and 5).

Cut by feature [007/003], this feature contained a single fill (010), and produced only one securely stratified find, a fragment of lime plaster.

- 5.3.3 Three irregular features were investigated in the southern end of the trench [005,006 and 014], two proved to be tree throws, the other an apparent badger scrape.

6 Finds

6.1 Pottery

- 6.1.1 Pottery was recovered from feature [003]. This was predominantly modern and 19th century in date.

6.2 Miscellaneous

- 6.2.1 Other finds recovered from feature [003] include a fragment of clay pipe stem and brick fragment.
Feature [009], produced a single lump of lime mortar and coal fragments.
- 6.2.2 Modern pottery, glass, brick and ceramic field-drain pipe was present throughout the topsoil, there was a notable absence of earlier residual material.

7 Discussion and Interpretation

7.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 7.1.1 The excavation was affected by the quantity of modern rubble present in the overlying soil, rendering it too unstable to cut vertically, this resulted in a narrower than specified footprint for the trench.
However, as the trench had revealed the survival of features cut into the natural, it was considered unnecessary to widen it further.
- 7.1.2 While the evaluation did not reveal activity earlier than post medieval, it did demonstrate the potential for the survival of cut features along the frontage of Point Lane.
The absence of any residual earlier material here may be due to the area undergoing stripping associated with the development of the greenhouse complex, this, followed by reinstatement with imported topsoil, could potentially disguise the presence of earlier activity on this site without having destroyed it.

8 Acknowledgements

8.1.1 The author is grateful to Hywel Keen for his fieldwork assistance.

8.1.2 Thanks are also due to Dyfed HER for their help with historical background information, and to Carl Beddis for his help in obtaining site layout information.

9 Bibliography

Jones F, 1996 *Historic Houses and their Families*, Newport, Brawdy.



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APPENDIX I

Figures

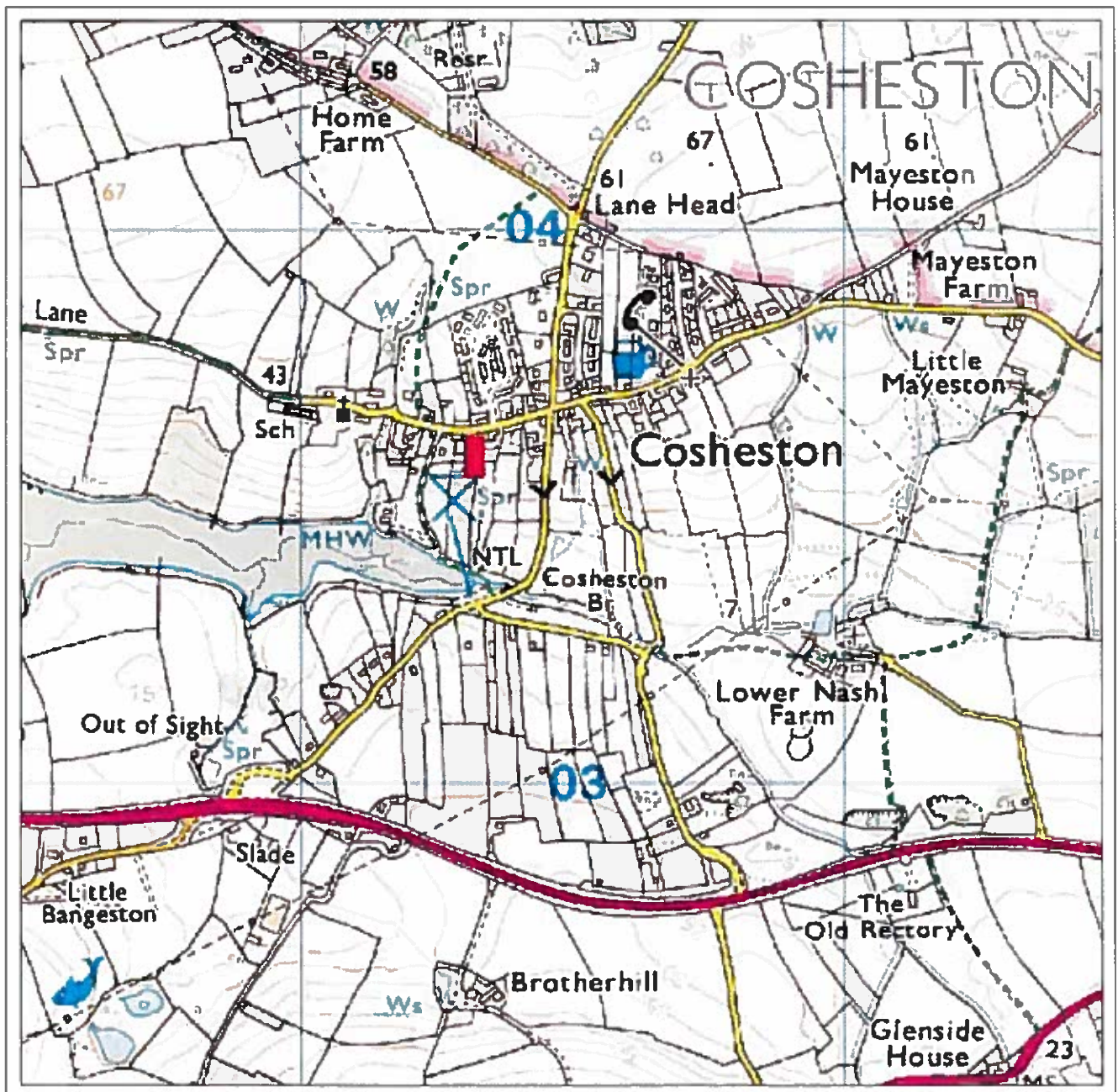
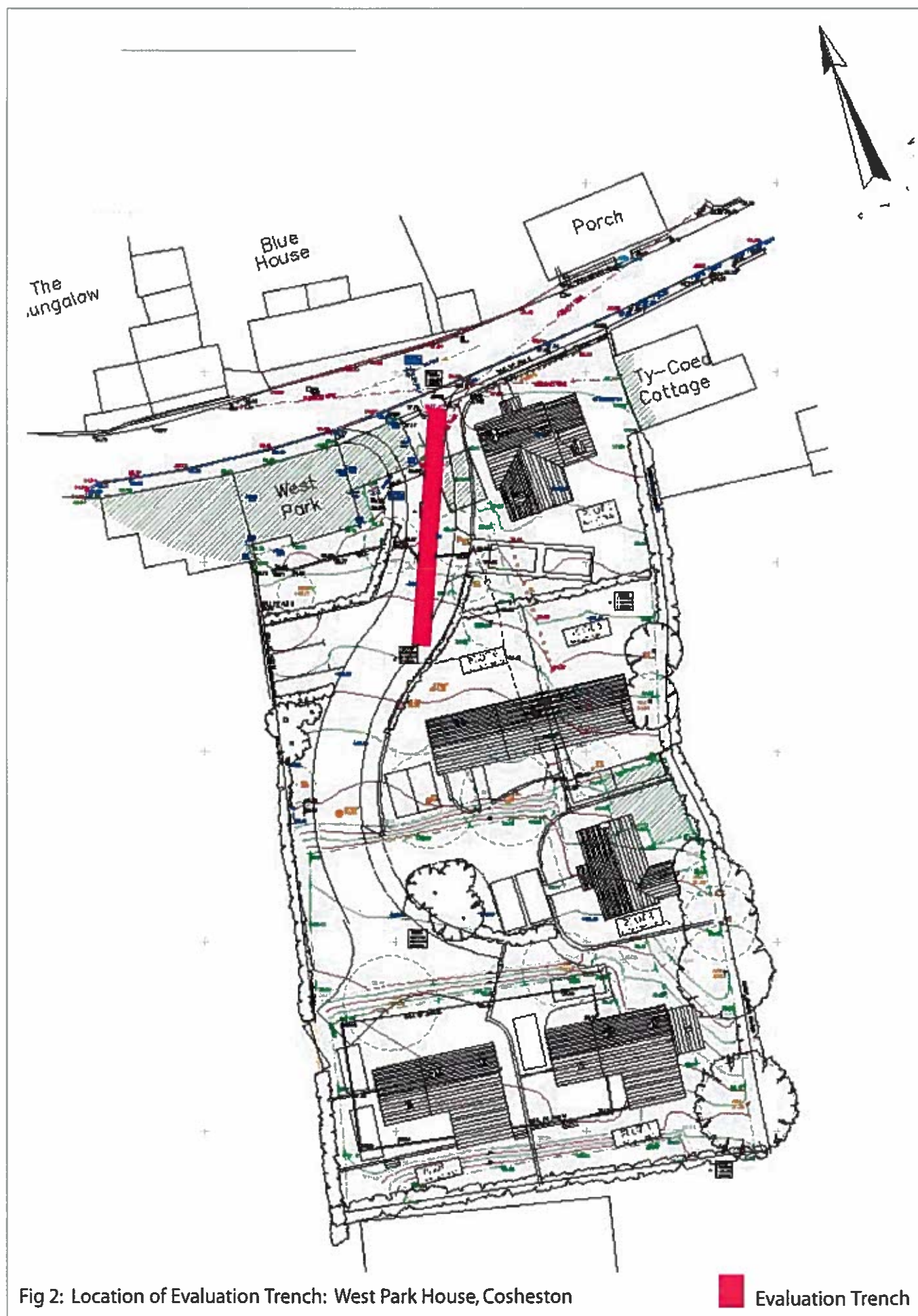


Fig 1: Site Location: West Park House, Cosheston



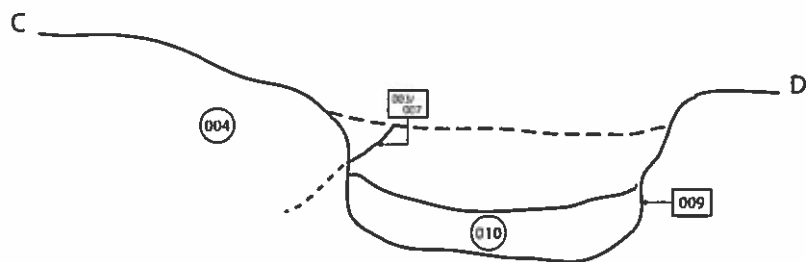


Fig 3. Feature [003/007]cutting Pit [009]. Looking south

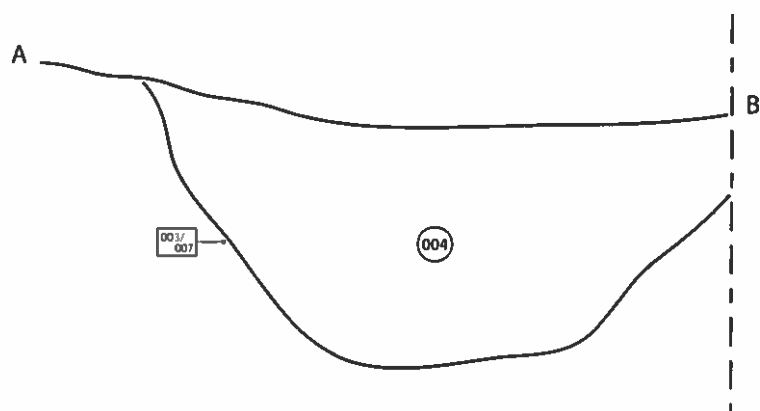
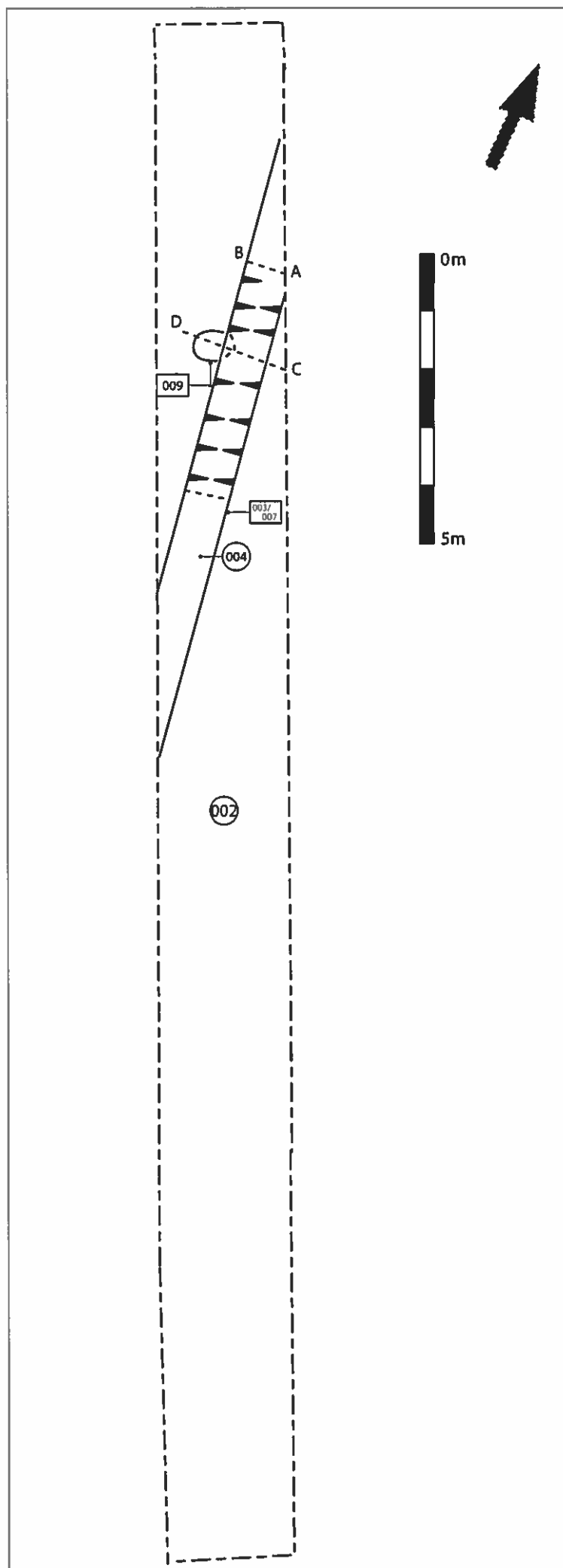


Fig 4. Feature [003/007]. Looking south



Fig 5. Evaluation trench plan





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APPENDIX II

Photo Plates



Plate1 Ditch/Gully [003/007]



Plate 2 Pit/Posthole [009]



Plate 3 Modern levelling overlaying topsoil



Plate 4 Modern levelling overlaying sandstone bedrock, [007] in foreground



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APPENDIX III

Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

West Park House, Cosheston, Pembroke

Site Name:	West Park House, Cosheston
Site Code:	CPD/09/EV
PRN:	N/A
NPRN :	N/A
SAM:	N/A
Other Ref No:	NA
NGR:	SN 0032603616
Site Type:	Urban
Project Type:	Archaeological evaluation
Project Officer:	Kev Collins
Project Dates:	February 2008
CAP report number:	572
Categories Present:	N/A
Location of Original Archive:	-
Location of duplicate Archives:	N/A
Number of Finds Boxes:	N/A
Location of Finds:	N/A
Museum Reference:	Not assigned
Copyright:	CAP Ltd
Restrictions to access:	None

