A497 Improvement
Abererch to Llanystumdwy

Assessment of Potential for Post-excavation Analysis

GAT Project No. 1692
Report No. 573
March 2005

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Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
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Prepared for Gwynedd County Council

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A497 Improvement Scheme: Abererch to Llanystumdwy (G1692):
Assessment of potential for post-excavation analysis

1 INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd County Council has commissioned Gwynedd Archaeological Trust to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the partial replacement and improvement of the current A497 between Abererch and Llanystumdwy, Gwynedd. The area affected is shown on Figure 1.
An archaeological assessment was undertaken in July 1993 (GAT Report: 60, Project No. G1142), updated in September 1996 (GAT Report: 224, Project No. G1429). Further changes were made to the report in November 1997, to take into account changes to the proposed improvements (GAT Project No. G1513). The final assessment report formed Part 4 *Archaeology and Heritage*, of Volume 2 of the Gwynedd Council Environmental Assessment Report, 1998 (Volume II: Part 4.0 Archaeology and Heritage). A magnetometer survey was undertaken in August 2004 (Stratascan Report No. 1899 *Geophysical Report: A497 Abererch to Llanystumdwy, Gwynedd*). Recommendations were made for evaluation and recording, which were undertaken between September and December 2004. A total of ninety-eight trenches were opened.
Included within the recommendations was a list of twenty sites of archaeological interest and the impact of the proposed scheme, coupled with the required mitigation measures. These sites were identified and recorded.
Recommendations for mitigation following the evaluation work included excavation at five sites. This work took place in late December.

1.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS

The aim of the excavation was to build upon previous assessments and findings by using trial trenching to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains and to assess their extent and significance. The known archaeological remains were used both to help determine the likely location of, and the character of, new archaeological findings.

1.2 TOPOGRAHY & GEOLOGY

The geology of the study area is mostly Ordovician sedimentary rocks with igneous intrusions, such as that forming the Penychain peninsula to the southwest (Bassett & Davies 1977, 19). Grey slates and mudstones of the Tremadoc series underlie the area, with the most intrusive rocks being rhyolites (Smith & George 1961, 28; Roberts 1979).
The study area lies on the periphery of the coastal plain overlooking Cardigan Bay and comprises mainly enclosed, undulating farmland located on a plateau sloping towards the sea to form a coastal flood plain. Within this area are a number of river valleys, bridged by the current A497. Drainage on the farmland is often poor, hinting at the extent to which much of the area has been recently reclaimed from the sea and is invariably used for pasture. The main exception is the eastern end of the scheme were the farmland is devoted to crops. Two specific areas differ from the general topography: an area of swampland below Tanyrallt farm and an overgrown enclosed field north of Hafan y Mor Holiday camp.

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

No settlements or burial sites were known from the prehistoric period within the projected road scheme, but finds related to this period suggest that the area was settled: two possible loom weights were found separately near Penbryn Neuadd, whilst a polished stone axe and two axe hammers were found in the park of Broom Hall. None of these finds is securely dated but all are of prehistoric type: the polished stone axe is Neolithic, the axe hammers possibly Bronze Age, whilst the loom weights could be from either period.
Settlement in the area during the medieval period is fairly well documented but limited physical evidence exists. The study area includes the parishes of Abererch, Llanarmon and Llanystumdwy. This area was quite intensively settled in the medieval period, but although there is some documentary evidence of settlement, little survives on the ground. The medieval townships of Bothach, Penarth, Chwilog and Penychain were located in the study area.

Medieval sites in the area which survive include the remains of a settlement within the township of Bothach, located within Broom Hall park. Other medieval sites include Penarth Fawr medieval house and Tomen Fawr ring-work.
Tomen Fawr now stands in isolation; the associated fieldwork systems have disappeared under modern ploughing. The Tomen itself is a good example of a Norman ring-work, later reused by the Welsh Princes and eventually serving as the centre of the township of Ffriddlwyd. The township was later given to the Cistercians and became a grange of the Aberconwy Abbey, but returned to the Crown through an exchange. Traces of a possible rectangular structure survive within the ringwork and small depressions in the grass may indicate the positions of gateposts.
Documentary evidence refers to Edward I staying in this area on his way to Pwllheli following the Edwardian Conquest of North Wales. The most likely location would have been the township of Penychain, now reduced to a farm and headland southeast of Hafan-y-Mor Holiday Camp. A sizeable house or hall would have been required for the royal retinue, but no evidence for this has been discovered. One explanation may have been that any substantial building would have succumbed to the latent coastal erosion extant in this area.
Penychain was a bond township, becoming crown land soon after the Edwardian Conquest in the late 13th century. In 1590 there were 91 people living in 16 dwellings in Penychain (Gresham 1973, 345-6). By 1784, the township belonged to Sir Thomas Wynn, the first Baron Newborough of Glynllifon, and the numerous small holdings were rationalised into larger farms; a single farm called Penychain included much of the original demesne land (*ibid*., 350).
There have been relatively few changes to the area since the 18th century and some of the early buildings survive along with the general layout of the fields and roads. The present A497 is approximately along the line of a route which has been used since at least the 12th century and was turnpiked in 1803 by the Portdinllaen Turnpike Trust (Bassett & Davies 1977, 78; 164-166). John Evans' 1795 map of North Wales shows the main road here along its present route. Minor improvements have taken place along the road; between 1839 and 1889, the A497 appears to have been straightened.

The current report assesses the potential for post-excavation analysis of the results of the evaluation, the twenty archaeological sites impacted by the scheme and the excavation, as recommended in *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP 2)* prepared by English Heritage (1991). This report includes illustrated site narratives summarising the results from each trench, a quantification of the data collected during the excavation and a statement for potential from each class of data.

2 EVALUATION RESULTS

2.1 Methodology

The project took place between the 2nd of September and 16th of December 2004.

A total of ninety-eight trenches were inserted in the proposed development area for the evaluation, in response to the geophysical survey, with the trenches placed in the areas of most likely archaeological activity (Stratascan Report Job Ref. 1899, August 2004).

The subsequent excavation involved expanding specific trenches to assess the extent of the identified archaeological remains.

A 360º tracked excavator and a 180° wheeled excavator were used separately at various stages of the project. Topsoil and unwanted material overlying the archaeological remains were removed by machine. All subsequent features were excavated by hand

Each trench is described separately. Archaeological deposits are numbered within rounded brackets and archaeological cuts within square brackets. An underlined number signifies archaeological structures. Trench size is expressed in square metres. The dimensions of deposits and features are expressed in metres. The dimensions of structural stonework are expressed in millimetres.

For the location and orientation of individual trenches, see Figures 1 to 4.

2.2 Recording

Identified features were recorded photographically and by notes, sketches and plans, and were located either by measuring from the field boundaries or by using a total station.

The archive is held by GAT under the project number **G1692**.

2.3 Summary site narrative by trench

Trench 1
Size: 40m²
Description:
Trench 1 was located in a small field west of a Cemlyn farmhouse, south of the current A497.
The trench was not excavated because of overhead power lines.

Trench 2
Size: 20m²
Description:
Trench 2 was located west of Cemlyn farmhouse to investigate a hollow-way .
Although feature 5 was identified as a historical feature the trench was recorded as archaeologically sterile.

Trench 3
Size: 40m²
Description:
Trench 3 was situated c.25m east of Cemlyn farmhouse. The trench was recorded as archaeologically sterile.

Trench 4
Size: 40m²
Description:
Trench 4 was located in a field east of Cemlyn Farm (Figure 2). One feature was present: a shallow cut, crossing the trench about 7m from the western end (context 102).
Interpretation:
No artefacts recovered but the feature was identified as a post-medieval agricultural feature.

Trench 5
Size: 40m²
Description:
Trench 5 was located c.18m east of Trench 4. One feature was present: a shallow drain ran across the trench on a northeast-southwest orientation, c.4m from the southern end of the trench (context 103) and was of post-medieval date.

Trench 6
Size: 40m²
Description:
Trench 6 was located c.20m east of Trench 5 and c.25m west of the Afon Erch (Figure 2).
Interpretation:
The trench was recorded as archaeologically sterile.

Trench 7
Size: 40m²
Description:
Trench 7 was located east of the Afon Erch but was not excavated due to inaccessibility caused by extensive waterlogging.

Trench 8
Size: 40m²
Description:
As Trench 7.

Trench 9
Size: 40m²
Description:
Trench 9 was located c.30m south of Bodriala Farm. Two small, shallow postholes were recorded within the trench (contexts 107 and 109).
Interpretation:
The proximity of the two features (0.86m apart) as well as the similarity of the fills (both contained flecks of charcoal and daub), suggested they were contemporary. No datable artefacts were recovered. A probable tree hole was also located within the trench (context 105).

Trench 10
Size: 40m²
Description:
Trench 10 was located northwest of Glan Morfa Bach Farm (Figure 2).
Interpretation:
The trench was recorded as archaeologically sterile.

Trench 11
Size: 40m²
Description:
Trench 11 was located east of Glan Morfa Bach Farm and contained two narrow linear features, 7.10m apart (contexts 114 and 120 respectively), identified as post-medieval field drains. A 17th-18th century potsherd and a fragment of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from the fill of context [114]. Two shallow ditches located between these two features were identified as drainage ditches of similar provenance (contexts 116 and 118 respectively).
Interpretation:
The features were identified as evidence for post-medieval activity.

Trench 12
Size: 40m²
Description:
Trench 12 was located to the southeast of Trench 11 (Figure 2). A broad, shallow, linear band was recorded running north-south through the trench.
Interpretation:
The feature was identified as a post-medieval agricultural feature.

Trench 13
Size: 40m²
Description:
Trench 13 were located east of Trench 12 (Figure 2). The topsoil lay over clean, mid-grey natural silt, which, at a depth of 0.78m, was removed to expose a stone-rich horizon. In this surface, three areas of burning were noted: a small area of charcoal (context 124) and two areas of burnt, fractured stone (contexts 134 and 136, respectively). Samples were taken from context 124 for palaeoenvironental processing and radiocarbon dating (samples 1 and 2). A flint flake was recovered from the spoil heap.
Interpretation:
The depth of the hearth, under a considerable amount of silt suggested the feature may have an early post-glacial date, possibly Mesolithic.

Trench 14
Size: 40m²
Description:
Trench 14 was located east of Trench 13 and was inserted to investigate a northeast to southwest geophysics linear anomaly. This proved to be a natural shingle bank, presumably part of an ancient shoreline. The bank had previously been recorded as a possible old field boundary.
Interpretation:
No features were identified or recorded.

Trench 15
Size: 40m²
Description:

Trench 15 was located south of Gorwel Farm and was inserted across a low, north-south orientated bank. The bank proved to be formed by pebbles, well spread, and there was one feature: a narrow linear gully aligned NNW to SSE. No datable artefacts were recovered.
Interpretation:
The trench was recorded as archaeologically sterile.

Trench 16
Size: 40m²
Description:
Trench 16 was inserted to investigate a faint linear geophysical anomaly. No features were identified in the subsoil.
Interpretation:
The geophysical anomaly was most likely a cultivation feature within the topsoil horizon.

Trench 17
Size: 60m²
Description:
Trench 17 was inserted to investigate a number of geophysical anomalies. No features were identified in the subsoil.
Interpretation:
The geophysical anomalies were most likely cultivation features within the topsoil horizon.

Trench 18
Size: 30m²
Description:
Trench 18 was located north of Glan Morfa Ganol Farm (Figure 2) and was inserted to investigate a series of geophysical anomalies. No features were identified in the subsoil.
Interpretation:
The geophysical anomalies were most likely cultivation features within the topsoil horizon.

Trench 19
Size: 20m²
Description:
Trench 19 was located northeast of Glan Morfa Ganol Farm (Figure 2).
Interpretation:
The trench was recorded as archaeologically sterile.

Trench 20
Size: 40m²
Description:
Trench 20 was located East of Trench 19 (Figure 2).
Interpretation:
The trench was recorded as archaeologically sterile.

Trench 21
Size: 40m²
Description:
Trench 20 was located South of Tanrallt Farm (Figure 2).
Interpretation:
The trench was recorded as archaeologically sterile.

Trench 22
Size: 24m²
Description:
Trench 22 was located to the south of the current A497 and to the southwest of Tanyclogwyn Farm.
Interpretation:
The trench was recorded as archaeologically sterile.

Trench 23
Size: 24m²

Description:
Trench 23 was located west of Tanyclogwyn Farm in response to a geophysics signal identifying a ferrous object. No feature was identified in the subsoil.
Interpretation:
The geophysical anomaly was most likely a feature within the topsoil horizon and therefore of recent provenance.

Trench 24
Size: 32m²
Description:
Trench 23 was located southwest of Tanyclogwyn Farm in response to a geophysics signal identifying a former field boundary. This feature was identified within the trench as a disturbed line of irregular sub-angular and sub-rounded stone, sealed by layers of colluvium. The wall was built to delineate the farmland from the unproductive marshland to the west and had been revetted with a bank of earth. No datable artefacts were recovered within or around the wall. A shallow pit (context 148) was also located within the trench, cutting a horizon of colluvial subsoil. No datable artefacts were recovered.
Interpretation:
The archaeological activity was limited to post-medieval farming activity.

Trench 25
Size: 40m²
Description:
Trench 25 was located to the southeast of Tanyclogwyn Farm across a series of geophysics signals denoting ploughmarks.
Interpretation:
These ploughmarks were not identified within the trench, suggesting they were limited to the topsoil horizon. No other features were identified.

Trench 26
Size: 24m²
Description:
Trench 26 was located within the same area as Trench 25, several metres to the east (Figure 2). Again, no ploughmarks were recorded, but a shallow field drain was identified (context 150), of probable post-medieval date.
Interpretation:
Post-medieval farming activity.

Trench 27
Size: 46m²
Description:
Trench 27 was located to the east of Tanyclogwyn Farm and was inserted as an L-shaped trench to investigate Feature 19 (Appendix X): an area of suspected earthworks/medieval platform house. The geophysics survey identified an area of "magnetic disturbance" within the same location. The earthwork was revealed as a collection of stones of various sizes that could have been a redundant field boundary (context 152), whilst a more disparate collection to the northeast could have been a similar boundary with an east-west alignment (context 153). Context (153) also contained a variety of post-medieval potsherds, window glass and fragmented roof slate. This material was probably dumped here rather than representing the remains of a structure.
Interpretation:
There was no evidence for Feature 19 within this trench.

Trench 28
Size: 24m²
Description:
Trench 28 was located east of Trench 27 across a positive linear anomaly identified in the geophysics survey (Figure 2). This feature was not revealed in the subsoil, suggesting it was limited to the topsoil horizon.
Interpretation:
No datable artefacts or any other features were recorded in this trench.

Trench 29
Size: 40m²
Description:
Trench 29 was located to the east of Trench 28. The trench was not excavated because of overhead power lines. The area was inspected during the watching brief phase of the project.

Trench 30
Size: 30m²
Description:
Trench 30 was located to the east of Trench 29 (Figure 2) in response to a geophysics signal displaying a "positive linear anomaly". This signal was not identified within the trench, suggesting it was extant in the topsoil horizon removed during machining. A shallow sub-circular cut was identified within the trench, c.9.0m from the northeastern end (context 163). A post-medieval potsherd was recovered from the fill (context 162).
Interpretation:
The feature was possibly agricultural in nature and may have been caused by field clearance.

Trench 31
Size: 40m²
Description:
Trench 31 was located c.10m to the east of Trench 30 in response to a geophysics signal displaying a "positive linear anomaly". The trench revealed a narrow linear feature at the location of the signal (context 159) and was identified as a redundant field boundary. This was later confirmed by reference to the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1889) of the area, which showed a field boundary crossing the field at this location. Two small sub-circular features were located either side of the field boundary (contexts 140 and 161). Context [140] contained charcoal but no artefactual evidence. Context [161] was larger in size and was filled with a deposit akin to the topsoil horizon.
Interpretation:
Both features were interpreted as remnants of agricultural activity, possibly field clearance.

Trench 32
Size: 40m²
Description:
Trench 32 was located c.5m east of Trench 30 in response to a geophysics signal displaying a "positive linear anomaly". This feature was not revealed in the subsoil, suggesting it was limited to the topsoil horizon.
Interpretation:
No datable artefacts or any other features were recorded in this trench.

Trench 33
Size: 40m²
Description:
Trench 33 was located c.4m southeast of Trench 32, again, in response to geophysics signals displaying a "positive linear anomaly".
Interpretation:
The signals were revealed to be natural bands of sand and gravel within the trench, probably resulting from periglacial activity.

Trench 34
Size: 40m²
Description:
Trench 34 was located c.10m north Trench 33 (Figure 2). A narrow linear feature was identified 7.10m from the eastern end of the trench (context 155).
Interpretation:
The feature was identified as the remnants of the field boundary detailed on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1889).

Trench 35
Size: 20m²
Description:

Trench 35 was located on the eastern side of the trackway leading to Glan Morfa Farm and was inserted to accommodate a positive/negative linear anomaly. This signal was revealed as a distinct cambered roadway, 4.2m wide, built from a succession of sand and gravel layers compacted into a concreted mass, 0.45m deep (context 173) [Figure 12]. The road was cut into a thick deposit of subsoil (context 171). Below this subsoil was a natural layer of Morrainic Drift Geology (context 172), which contained discreet patches of burning. Environmental samples were taken for macrobotanical and dating purposes.

Interpretation:

This road was identified as the toll road that pre-dated the current A497 (the present course of that road having been built in the mid-19th century with the coming of Broomhall Estate). The line of the road could be seen stretching as a hollow-way across the field, away from the current road, following the most favourable topography towards the river.

Trench 36

Size: 40m²

Description:

This trench was excavated to the southwest of Trench 35 but did not reveal any further evidence for the toll road.

Interpretation:

The trench was recorded as archaeologically sterile

Trench 37

Size: 40m²

Description:

This trench was located northeast of Trench 36 to investigate the proposed access road linking the original A497 to the new road.

Interpretation:

The trench was recorded as archaeologically sterile

Trench 38

Size: 40m²

Description:

This trench was located at the top of a natural slope, across the projected road. No features or artefacts were recovered.

Interpretation:

The trench was recorded as archaeologically sterile.

Trench 39

Size: 79m²

Description:

This trench was located on the banks of the Afon Du at the base of a steep slope. A visual inspection of the area showed a feature (a hollow-way), crossing the landscape and running towards the river in a north-easterly direction; the hollow-way then continued across the other side of the river in an easterly direction, for the length of that field. The feature (identified as Feature 18) was tentatively identified as a toll road that was superseded by the A497. The cambered road identified in Trench 35 was recorded as part of the same road. Trench 39 was inserted to ascertain the extent of the road and the technology used. Within the trench, the road was revealed as a 4.5m wide surface of compacted stone and shale (context 322). The road was cut into the natural. A section through the surface of the road revealed evidence for repair, as the original surface of the road had been covered by colluvium from the hillside (context 321). A stone revetment had been built onto this colluvium on the eastern side of the road, presumably to stabilise the surface. Finally, patches of the latest surface for the road were also identified (context 376). This material was very similar to that identified on the toll road in Trench 35, suggesting both were repaired during a similar time. A drainage ditch was cut into the western side of the road, possibly concurrent with the other repair work (context 332). At the extreme western end of the trench, a narrow track was identified, terraced into the steep slope. It could be seen running northwards along the base of this slope towards the mid-19th Century bridge crossing the river. A visual inspection to the north of the bridge confirmed that the track continued along the river and also that the bridge truncated the track, suggesting the track was older. The relationship between the track and the road could not be ascertained.

A couple of "satellite" trenches were opened by hand around Trench 39 to gain further insight into the road, specifically where the road crossed the river. It was unclear from inspecting the area whether the road crossed the river via a ford or via a bridge, or indeed, via both. An embankment was clearly visible, however, suggesting a bridge may have been used. Trench 39a was inserted across the embankment; Trench 39b was inserted across the track, roughly halfway between Trench 39 and the bridge.

Trench 39a was opened over the extent of the embankment to look for any bridge structure and any evidence for the road. No structural evidence was recovered to suggest how the embankment was bridged. The road surface was recorded as a stone-rich deposit akin to that identified in Trench 39 (context 421). This surface was built onto a layer of hardcore that in turn sealed a layer of broken shale. These deposits suggested a single sequence of road building, enhancing a natural embankment to elevate the road above the river. There was no evidence of the repair work undertaken in Trenches 35 and 39, although there was a line of revetting stones within the trench that matched those in Trench 39. Unlike Trench 39 however, the revetting stones were not built onto a layer of hillwash overlying an earlier road surface, but were concurrent with the surface. This evidence suggested the embankment was part of a later phase of road building, contemporary with the repair work in the other trenches denoting the road. The embankment may have superseded an earlier ford across the river. The possible location for the ford was to the north of the embankment, where a continuation of the hollow-way was still visible. This area could not be investigated however due the proximity of a high-pressure gas main.

The embankment on the opposite side of the river was also tentatively inspected, but could not be investigated properly as it was so heavily overgrown.

Trench 39b was opened across the north-south aligned trackway. The surface of the track was constructed from closely packed stones and cobblestones (context 252). There was no evidence for repair but the track had been partly covered by colluvium. This colluvium also covered a narrow linear feature that ran parallel to the track (context 256), that was filled with stone and slag. The slag was removed for specialist analysis. The exact function of the linear could not be ascertained within the confines of the trench but it was tentatively identified as a drain. The trench could not be extended further due to the proximity of the gas main.
Interpretation:
This trench contained extensive evidence for the 18th Century toll road including evidence for structural repair.

Trench 40
Size: 55m²
Description:
This trench was located to the east of Trench 39, across the projected width of the new road, on the opposite side of the river at the base of a steep slope. It was not located in response to any geophysics but was located where the wide embankment for the new road was located. The hollow-way was clearly visible running to the north of this trench but it could not be investigated due to the gas main.

The trench contained a considerable depth of colluvial deposits below the topsoil, which was not surprising considering the steepness of the slope. Within this sequence of hillwash were a number of post-medieval field drains running westwards and southwestwards towards a culvert at the base of the field. At the southern end of the trench was a more complicated sequence of events. A colluvial deposit that sealed the natural clay had been terraced and a structure built from stone had been laid to form a circle with a clay hearth in the centre (context 213). The stones appeared to have been used as kerbing rather than as foundations for a wall. Two large sub-circular boulders at the southwestern end of the structure were used as an entrance, c.0.60m wide. The boulders were set into the natural clay and were glacial in origin. Within the structure the clay hearth contained a charcoal spread, probably from when it was fired. A cobbled surface had been laid around the hearth (context 204). A smaller hearth was located to the east of the structure. Two holes cutting into this hearth, as well as a charcoal spread over some of the kerbstones, suggested later activity after the structure went out of use. A field drain also cut through the western end of the structure, between the entrance and the hearth, whilst a modern, ceramic, drain was laid to the west of the entrance.
Interpretation:

No datable artefacts were recovered from any of the features or deposits. The only available dating evidence would be from the radiocarbon determination of the charcoal samples taken from the hearths. This would suggest whether the structure was contemporary with the toll road. Until the samples are analysed, the exact provenance of the structure cannot be ascertained.

Trench 41
Size: 33m²
Description:
This trench was located to the north of Trench 40 on the crest of the steep slope and was inserted to investigate a geophysics signal.
Interpretation:
A shallow, narrow linear feature was discovered at the northern end of the trench. It was identified as the geophysics signal and recorded as a post-medieval agricultural feature.

Trench 42
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located in response to a geophysics signal which identified a negative semicircular feature, which appeared to be the remains of a circular enclosure, c. 30m in diameter. The feature was located mostly outside the proposed road scheme so only the extreme northern end of the feature could be investigated. The trench could not identify anything to match the geophysics signal; the only feature recorded was a shallow, post-medieval agricultural feature (probably a ploughscar). It appeared that if the feature did exist, it was located outside the road scheme, and therefore, outside the scope of the evaluation.
Interpretation:
No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 43
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located to the south of Llwyngwyn Farm. It was not located according to a geophysics signal but was located within the limited space between a high-pressure gas main pipe and the southern end of the road scheme. Two wide but shallow linear features were identified in the centre of the trench, 1.20m apart and running north-south (contexts 265 and 266). They were both filled with humic soil and sub-angular stones (unevenly spread).
Interpretation:
The exact function of the linear features could not be ascertained and there were no datable artefacts, but they were tentatively identified as post-medieval agricultural features; possibly silted up drains or culverts.

Trench 44
Size: 40m²
Description:
As with the previous trench, this trench was located according to the parameters dictated by the gas main and the road scheme. Again, the archaeological evidence was limited to discrete agricultural features; in this instance, a ploughscar (context 268).
Interpretation:
No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 45
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located to the east of Trench 44, just below the crest of the hill that sloped southwards. Drainage was very poor throughout the excavation area. A stone-rich hollow was identified at the northern end of the trench (Context 314). The hollow was identified as a tree hole. Cutting this hollow was a small linear feature with a charcoal-rich fill (context 270). Cutting this feature were two small pits/post-holes, both of which contained fragments of a very coarse ceramic (context 264). This material was tentatively identified as prehistoric in date, possibly Iron Age. It was removed for specialist analysis. The trench was extended to the north, east and west of context (270). The eastern extension was separated from the main trench due to a modern culvert running down the slope. This

extension was designated as Trench 45a. There was no further evidence for prehistoric activity within any of these extensions: the archaeological activity was limited to post-medieval field drainage. It was assumed that the features containing the prehistoric pottery were part of a larger settlement, but there was no evidence for this. It was noted that the topsoil was very shallow, only 0.15m deep suggesting there had been considerable erosion in this part of the field. Moreover, it was suggested that there might have been evidence for settlement on the crest of the hill, which would have been lost with the construction of the road.
Interpretation:
Limited evidence for prehistoric activity. Appears any further evidence for such activity has been lost due to farming and construction of the A497.

Trench 46
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located at the eastern end of the field, close to the field boundary.
Interpretation:
No archaeological features were identified except for a possible tree-hole at the eastern end of the trench.

Trench 47
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was placed between the northern field boundary and the gas main.
Interpretation:
No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 48
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was placed down the slope from the gas main, across the slope of the hill.
Interpretation:
No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 49
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was placed down the slope from the gas main, along the slope of the hill.
Interpretation:
No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 50
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located at the western end of the field, close to the field boundary, across a geophysics signal that identified “magnetic disturbance”.
Interpretation:
No archaeological features were identified, the reason for the signal was not explained.

Trench 51
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located to the southwest of Tan-yr-Allt Farm, at the point of an access road linking the current A497 to the proposed road.
Interpretation:
No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 52
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located southwest of Trench 51.

Interpretation:
No distinct archaeological features were identified.

Trench 53
Size: 20m²
Description:
This trench was located on top of a north-south aligned ridge. This was outside the land acquired for the road, but was part of the land selected for sand and gravel extraction.
Interpretation:
No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 54
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located south of Tanycoed farm and east of Afon Wen bridge.
Interpretation:
No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 55
Size: 20m²
Description:
This trench was located west of Trench 54, across a geophysics signal denoting "magnetic disturbance".
Interpretation:
No archaeological features were identified, the reason for the signal was not explained.

Trench 56
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located southeast of Tanycoed farm.
Interpretation:
No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 57
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located to the south of Tan-yr-Allt Farm along a north-south slope leading into a hollow. (The hollow was designated as Feature 31 in the project design). The trench was located across a geophysics signal denoting a "magnetic disturbance".
Interpretation:
No archaeological features were identified, but the signal was interpreted as an extensive spread of small sub-rounded stones that were glacial in origin.

Trench 58
Size: 40m²
Description:
This was located at the south-easternmost end of the field, at the lowest point between two slopes. The trench contained evidence for post-medieval farming activity, viz., two field drains and two redundant "post" holes.
Interpretation:
The former appear to have been dug to soakaway water running off the surrounding slopes; the latter, the two post-holes, contained modern ceramic building material and were off late 19th or early 20th century date, but their exact function was unclear.

Trench 59
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located southeast of Tan-yr-Allt Farm across a "positive linear feature" identified during the geophysics survey.
Interpretation:

There were no archaeological features, just a series of sand deposits, possibly related to an old shoreline. A post-medieval potsherd was recovered from the topsoil.

Trench 60
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located to the northeast of Trench 59, across a "positive linear feature" identified during the geophysics survey.
Interpretation:
No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 61
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located to the east of Trench 60. The only feature identified was a small pit at the southeastern end of the trench that contained evidence for in situ burning. There were no datable artefacts but a sample of the charcoal was taken for palaeoenvironmental analysis and radiocarbon dating.
Interpretation:
The pit was interpreted as evidence for modern field clearance but awaits sampling and dating to confirm this.

Trench 62
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located to the northeast of Trench 61. At the eastern end of the trench a group of features were identified: a circular cut, possibly a post-hole (context 240); a shallow ditch with a square post setting (contexts 233 and 242 respectively) and a small stake-hole containing charcoal and daub. The square post-setting appeared modern. There were no datable artefacts from any of the other features.
Interpretation:
Their exact function and provenance were unclear, but they were all interpreted as agricultural features.

Trench 63
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located in a field opposite Hafan-y-Mor holiday camp. The field was being used for pasture. It appeared that a narrow stream running through the centre of the field had been culverted, but overall the field was noted for its poor drainage. A modern sump was located at the western end of the field. Trench 63 was located to the east of this sump, across two geophysics signals denoting a "positive linear anomaly". Glacial boulder clay was identified at the western end of the trench and bedrock at the eastern end. There were various hollows within both the bedrock and the boulder clay, but they were too indistinct to be examined further. The geophysics signals were not identified.
Interpretation:
No specific archaeological features were identified.

Trench 64
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located to the east of Trench 63.
Interpretation:
No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 65
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located to the northeast of Trench 64 towards the centre of the field, along the slope leading towards the culverted stream and was inserted across two geophysics signals denoting a "positive linear anomaly".
Interpretation:

These signals were identified as modern drainage cuts. No other features were identified.

Trench 66
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located to the north of Trench 65. The trench was not fully excavated due to extensive waterlogging.
Interpretation:
The area that was opened contained glacial deposits but no archaeological features.

Trench 67
Size: 225m²
Description:
This trench was located to the northeast of Trenches 65 and 66, on the other side of the culverted stream. It was located in response to a geophysics signal denoting a "magnetic disturbance". This signal was identified as the remains of a possible burnt mound, suggested by a spread of heat fractured stone. This would suggest a date in the second millennium BC. Two unrelated linear features were also identified, coupled with a stone spread. The trench was further extended to expose an area of c.15m by 15m. This extension revealed a linear spread of stones and three pits containing burnt stone. These pits were cut by the linear features, which were identified as plough furrows or gullies. A third gully was orientated perpendicular to the others. There was also a patch of burning to the east of the pits, possibly from a fire site. The stone spread was identified as a glacial deposit, akin to that identified in Trench 66. There was evidence of human activity on top of the stone spread, however, as there was a discrete spread of heat fractured stone. There was no evidence of a burnt mound as such, but the topsoil/ploughsoil was very shallow, suggesting that a mound could have been almost entirely removed through ploughing. The pits were not typical burnt mound troughs, but could have performed a similar function. No datable artefacts were recovered but extensive environmental samples were taken from all of the features containing burnt material. They await processing and specialist analysis.
Interpretation:
Prehistoric archaeological activity.

Trench 68
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located to the northeast of Trench 67.
Interpretation:
No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 69
Size: 60m²
Description:
This trench was located c.20m east of Trench 68, across two distinct geophysics signals denoting a positive linear anomaly. Only one feature was identified within the trench: a narrow linear cut; possibly a ploughscar. The other geophysics signal may have been limited to the topsoil and/or the ploughsoil.
Interpretation:
No specific archaeological features were identified.

Trench 70
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located at the easternmost end of the field.
Interpretation:
No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 71
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located in an enclosed field to the east of the field containing Trenches 63 to 70. The field was devoted to pasture farming. An inspection of the 1889 25" Ordnance Survey Map (1st

Edition) showed that the field boundaries had not been altered (although the main road had been realigned through the southern end of the field during the 20th century).
Interpretation:
No archaeology was identified within the trench.

Trench 72
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located to the northeast of Trench 71. It was located across a geophysics signal denoting a positive linear anomaly. This was identified as a shallow gully.
Interpretation:
No specific features were located within the trench.

Trench 73
Size: 40m²
Description:
Trench 73 was not excavated, as it was located over a geophysics signal that turned out to be outside the projected road scheme.

Trench 74
Size: 3.24m²
Description:
This trench was located over a series of geophysics signals identified in the *Stratascan* Report as possible plough scars. The size of the trench was limited to a hand dug trench c.2m by 2m in size. It was hand dug at the request of *Mowlem* due to the proximity of a water main. The ploughscars were not located in the trench and may have been limited to the topsoil/ploughsoil.
Interpretation:
No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 75
Size: 2.88m²
Description:
This trench was located to the east of Trench 74. It was also hand dug due to the restrictions imposed by the water main. The trench was positioned over a series of geophysics signals denoting positive and negative linears.
Interpretation:
No archaeological features were identified. The geophysics signals were most likely limited to the ploughsoil. This signal was identified within the trench as a bank of sand and gravel that was glacial in origin.

Trench 76
Size: 8.00m²
Description:
This trench was located east of Trench 75 across a geophysics signal denoting an area of “magnetic disturbance”, possibly a redundant field boundary.
Interpretation:
No evidence for this feature was identified within the trench.

Trench 77
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located opposite a house called “Tyn Lon” in a field belonging to Afon Wen Farm. The house was formerly a tavern and the area was formerly the location for a local market. This suggested the possibility for archaeological evidence related to small-scale industrial activity and/or evidence related to the market. The field was presently used for arable farming and suffered from poor drainage. The geophysics survey was dominated by the signal locating the high-pressure gas main that ran across the field within the proposed road scheme. This stricture meant placing the trenches within a narrow corridor between the northern field boundary and the gas main. Therefore, only three equidistant trenches were placed within the field.
Interpretation:

Trench 77 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 78
Size: 40m²
Description:
Trench 78 contained some evidence for general burning in the area probably related to tree clearance. The patches of charcoal in the trench seem mostly to have been brought down by roots or by animal burrows.
Interpretation:
No archaeological features.

Trench 79
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench contained a shallow sub circular feature with patches of burning.
Interpretation:
The feature was interpreted as further evidence for tree clearance but an environmental sample was taken for palaeoenvironmental analysis and possible radiocarbon dating.

Trench 80
Size: 80m²
Description:
This trench was located towards the eastern end of the road scheme in a field belonging to Glanllynau Farm. Trench 80 was opened in response to an apparent pit alignment identified on the geophysics survey. The majority of the alignment was outside the road scheme. The trench was located at the base of an east-west slope, with the ground rising more gently to the west. The field was presently used for arable farming and had good drainage. A large pit was identified in the trench, c.2m across (context 342). It was filled with a brown/black silt rich in sub-rounded heat fractured stones (context 341). There were no signs of extraneous burning around the pit, suggesting the pit may have been dug to as a refuse for the stones. The pit was cut into a stone-rich layer of grey silt (context 355). On the eastern side of the pit the grey silt was charcoal-flecked, but not on the western side; suggesting the eastern side was the main focus for associated activity. The trench was subsequently extended eastwards, c.6m and the grey layer was investigated further. The grey layer sealed a layer of concentrated sub-rounded stones (context 389), also cut by the pit. The stones were most likely an artefact of ploughing, but ploughing that predated the pit. A poorly defined gully ran along the northern end of the trench, cutting context (389) of the gully also contained a fill of heat fractured stone. A more detailed investigation of the pit proved there was also a stake-hole cut into the side of the pit. The stake-hole may have been used concurrently with the pit and the gully.
Interpretation:
The exact function and provenance of the pit and the associated features was unclear, as was the extent of the pit alignment (which lay outside the road scheme and could not be investigated). Environmental samples were taken from the pit, gully and stake-hole for specialist analysis, which could provide dating, and macrobotanical evidence.

Trench 81
Size: 80m²
Description:
This trench was located to the northeast of Trench 80. A possible ditch was located in the southwest corner of the trench (context 337). It did not contain any datable artefacts.
Interpretation:
This trench was interpreted as revealing evidence for post-medieval farming activity.

Trench 82
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located, along with Trench 80, to investigate the pit alignment suggested by the geophysics survey.
Interpretation:
No features matching the alignment were identified.

Trench 83
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located to the east of Trench 81. A large ditch was discovered running east-west along the north side of the trench, which was then cut by a north-south aligned trench. A large sewer pipe then cut this trench.
Interpretation:
This trench was interpreted as revealing evidence for modern drainage activity.

Trench 84
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located within a proposed link road between the A497 and the B4354. The field was used for pasture and had poor drainage. The trench was cut across an area identified in the geophysics containing "magnetic disturbance". The trench exposed a fairly homogenous fluvio-glacial sand and gravel layer. There were several small hollows at the eastern end of the trench, but they were dismissed as animal burrows.
Interpretation:
No archaeological features.

Trench 85
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located directly to the north of Trench 84, within the same area of "magnetic disturbance". The only features discovered were remnants of ridge and furrow farming. The ridge and furrow ran on an east-west alignment, parallel to the present field boundary. Along the northern edge of the ridge and furrow was a more prominent ridge and bank, which, when it was sectioned, proved to be composed entirely of ploughsoil.
Interpretation:
Archaeological evidence limited to post-medieval farming activity.

Trench 86
Size: 40m²
Description:
The location for Trench 86: over a positive linear anomaly identified from the geophysics survey, turned out to be outside the proposed road scheme and was therefore not opened.

Trench 87
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was opened at the northern end of the link road.
Interpretation:
No features were identified. The evidence was limited to animal disturbance at the western end.

Trench 88
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located c.300m east of Trench 83, within a field north of a Scheduled Ancient Monument, identified as a medieval fortified site. It was hoped for some evidence for field systems or any other activity associated with the fortified site. The geophysics survey showed evidence of ploughscarring. Unfortunately, the majority of the signals were outside the proposed road scheme.
Interpretation:
The trench did not contain any archaeological features.

Trench 89
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located to the east of Trench 88, in a neighbouring field. A c.1.5m wide ditch and a shallow gully were discovered running along the western end of the trench.

Interpretation:
The ditch was identified as a redundant field boundary. The provenance of the ditch could not be ascertained due to a lack of datable evidence.

Trench 90
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located within land belonging to Tyddyn Berth Farm and was positioned in response to a topographical feature extant as a subtle bank on the brow of an easterly slope.
Interpretation:
No archaeological features were identified within the trench.

Trench 91
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located to the east of Trench 90, along the slope.
Interpretation:
No archaeological features were identified within the trench.

Trench 92
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located at the western end of an overspill car park belonging to Hafan-y-Mor Holiday Camp. The location of the trenches in the car park was restricted by the close proximity of several utility pipes.
Interpretation:
No archaeological features were identified within the trench.

Trench 93
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located at the eastern end of the overspill car park. The location of the trenches in the car park was restricted by the close proximity of several utility pipes.
Interpretation:
No archaeological features were identified within the trench.

Trench 94
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located in a field to the east of the car park and to the west of Brynbachau Chapel. The field had not been exploited for farming for some time and had become overgrown. One explanation may have been the extensive waterlogging within the field. The location of the trenches was restricted by the proximity of a gas main. The trenches were located towards the southern end of the field. This trench was located by the entranceway into the field.
Interpretation:
Two linear cuts were located within the trench and were identified as post-medieval drainage features.

Trench 95
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located to the east of Trench 94, in the centre of the field; two drainage cuts were located within the centre of the trench. Both trenches showed evidence for drainage suggesting attempts were made to drain the field for cultivation.
Interpretation:
An inspection of an aerial photograph of the field showed these drainage cuts on a greater scale. An inspection of the tithe schedule for the field proved that attempts were made in the mid-19th century to drain the field.

Trench 96
Size: 40m²

Description:
This trench was located to the southeast of Trench 88 to investigate the ploughscars evident from the geophysics survey.
Interpretation:
The ploughscars were not evident cutting the subsoil and were restricted to the ploughsoil horizon. No other features were identified.

Trench 97
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was located to the south of Trench 89 to investigate evidence for ferric objects identified in the geophysics survey.
Interpretation:
No evidence was found in the trench, suggesting the features were too ephemeral to be identified and were also most likely only extant in the topsoil/ploughsoil horizon.

Trench 98
Size: 40m²
Description:
This trench was inserted at the eastern end of the field containing Trenches 89 and 98 and was located over a geophysics signal identified as "magnetic disturbance". This signal was found to be evidence for extensive topsoil dumping and spreading on the field. The topsoil contained a variety of plastic rubbish proving it happened very recently.
Interpretation:
There were no archaeological features.

2.4 Summary of Archive
Contexts: 428
Trench sheets: 98
Plans and Sections: 139 drawings on 21 sheets
Feature Record Forms: 20
Photographs:
Colour slide films: 24
Colour print films: 24

2.5 Statement of potential
Although a total of ninety-eight trenches were opened across the 6.5km road scheme, only six trenches revealed any evidence for extensive archaeology: Trenches 13, 39, 40, 45, 67 and 80. Trench 39 revealed extensive information about the technology used in building the 18th Century toll road, including evidence for structural repair. There was limited scope for datable material: the best example was the slag removed from a linear feature alongside the trackway on Trench 39b, which has the potential for providing a date. The circular structure and hearth in Trench 40 will have to rely solely on the environmental sampling for any datable evidence. The potsherds recovered from Trench 45 will need to be subjected to specialist analysis to establish the provenance and function of the material. Environmental samples from the same deposit as the potsherds should help supplement the available information. Trenches 13, 67 and 80 will, again, rely on the environmental sampling for datable evidence from the pits; specifically radiocarbon dates from any charred remains. Both of these trenches also contained heat fractured stones which can also be analysed to specify the provenance of the stone used, specifically whether the stone was derived from a local source.
It will also be necessary to conduct a watching brief on specific areas of the road scheme during the initial groundworks to embellish the information derived from the evaluation, particularly those areas that contained specific archaeological features. This will include the areas incorporating the five trenches described above, as well as the areas including the Hollow-way and anywhere along the scheme that will benefit from an analysis of the ground when all the topsoil is removed. A full list of the watching brief areas is given below.

3 SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST

3.1 Summary of sites

Feature No.	Site	NGR	Description	Action Required/ Taken
2	Dwelling	SH39613633	Small derelict single room cottage of 19th century construction.	Basic Recording/ Photograph
3	Track	SH39753631	Shown on the Abererch Tithe Map (1840) as a road to the Morfa, leaving the turnpike road near the house known as *Yr Odyn*. The ground drops steeply away at the south and is revetted.	Basic Recording/ Photograph
4	Dwelling	SH39763635	A two storey structure typical of the late 19th century. Does not appear on the 1888 OS Map, but does on the 1900 edition.	Basic Recording/ Photograph
5	Track	SH39773633	A short length of track, walled on both sides, leading to feature 4. Of similar age.	Basic Recording/ Photograph
10	Track	SH40093639	A track leading from Bodriala Farm to the southwest, walled on both sides. Appears on the Abererch Tithe Map (1840).	Basic Recording/ Photograph
11	Track	SH40433650	A short length of walled track, southwest of Efail Bach Farm.	Basic Recording/ Photograph
12	Enclosure	SH40453643	Small walled enclosure, shown on map as woods or orchard.	Basic Recording/ Photograph
13	Bank	SH40453637	Low, wide bank following possible redundant field boundary. As no boundary exists on the Tithe Map, it could be a trackway. Either way, not in use by 1840.	Basic Recording/ Photograph
14	Track	SH40653635	Track leading to Glan-y-Morfa Farm, south of Gorwel Farm. Revetted.	Basic Recording/ Photograph
15	House	SH40653634	Shown on Abererch Tithe Map (1840). Probable pre-19th century. In disrepair.	Detailed Recording/ Photograph. Dendrochronological samples
16	Track	SH40903632	Overgrown gate from the road appears to have tracks away east and west, with some stone revetting on the downhill side.	Basic Recording/ Photograph
18	Wood	SH41383643	Small, walled, triangular enclosure containing old trees marked as *coed* on the tithe map.	Basic Recording/ Photograph
19	Earthworks	SH41703640	An area of earthworks southeast of Tanyclogwyn Farm that may include house platforms from the medieval period. There are scattered large boulders, some of which appear to form lines.	Recording & Excavation/ Trench
20	Track	SH41883662	The walled entrance track to Glan Morfa Farm	Basic Recording/ Photograph
21	Wall	SH42043672	A 19th century demesne wall of quarried stone, surviving up to 3m high, part of the Broom Hall estate.	Basic Recording/ Photograph
22	Hollow-way	SH42003667 to SH42113671	A turnpike road, ploughed out in the field immediately east of Glan Morfa but clearly visible alongside a natural scarp in the northeast corner of	Detailed Recording & Excavation/

			the field and to the west of the farm where it crosses the Afon Du.	Trenches 39, 39a; watching brief.
26	Track	SH43613729	Walled farm track at Tyddyn Berth Farm. Appears on 1819 Map.	Basic Recording/ Photograph
28	Embankment	SH43803740	Railway embankment associated with the Machynlleth to Pwllheli line linked to Caernarfon via Afon Wen (operational from 1866 to 1964). Now fenced off and overgrown.	Basic Recording/ Photograph
31	Bridge	SH43893757	A single-arch humped stone bridge over the Afon Wen.	Detailed Recording/ Photograph
33	Hollow	SH44143766	A circular depression in an arable field of uncertain character and purpose. Most likely of natural origin.	Basic Recording/ Photograph
35	Track	SH4457731	A walled farm track, leading to Afon Wen Farm, shown on the 1819 Map.	Basic Recording/ Photograph
37	Dwelling	SH42573783	Dwelling of uncertain age but shown on maps of the 1880s	Basic Recording/ Photograph

3.2 Summary of Archive
Plans and Sections: 7 drawings on 6 sheets
Feature Record Forms: 20
Photographs:
Colour slide films: 9
Colour print films: 8
Digital photographs (Feature 15):

3.3 Statement of potential
The archive for the sites of archaeological interest is limited mainly to photographic records and a brief written description for each site. The three exceptions were Features 15, 22 and 31; a dilapidated post-medieval farmhouse, a medieval/post-medieval hollow-way and a mid-19th century bridge respectively. Both the farmhouse and the bridge were demolished as part of the scheme. Detailed drawings were made of the various elevations of the farmhouse, including a 19th Century annexe and various extensions. Extensive photographs were taken of these elevations as well as individual details such as surviving timber. Further photographs were taken during the demolition phase and a sample was taken from a wooden lintel above the fireplace for dendrochronological dating. A subsequent report will be included as an appendix to the final report with illustrations and photographs.

The hollow-way was investigated as part of the evaluation, specifically through trenches 35 and 39. This information will be included as part of the general report discussing the evaluation.

The mid-19th Century bridge was extensively photographed both prior to and during the demolition. The northern elevation of the bridge was drawn prior to demolition. A subsequent report will be included as an appendix to the final report with illustrations and photographs.

3.4 Further Work

A sample from the oak lintel from the farmhouse will be sent for dendrochronological dating.

4 ARTEFACTS

4.1 Summary of artefacts

Trench	Context	Artefact Type	Quantity	Period
11	115	Flint	01	Prehistoric

11	117	Pottery	01	Unknown
11	117	Pottery	01	Post-medieval
13	Unstratified	Flint	01	Prehistoric
27	Unstratified (Topsoil)	Pottery	11	Post-medieval
39b	Unstratified (Topsoil)	Pottery	04	Post-medieval
39b	255	Slag	12	Post-medieval
40	Unstratified (Topsoil)	Pottery	03	Unknown
40	193	Worked Stone	01	Unknown
45	Unstratified (Topsoil)	Pottery	05	Prehistoric?
45	263	Pottery	72	Prehistoric (Special Find 01)
45	263	Animal Bone (Burnt)	02	Prehistoric?
57	Unstratified (Topsoil)	Pottery (Rim Sherd)	01	Post-medieval
58	192	Pottery	01	Post-medieval?
59	226	Pottery	01	Post-medieval
67	Unstratified (Topsoil)	Pottery	02	Post-medieval
74	Unstratified (Topsoil)	Pottery	05	Post-medieval
74	Unstratified (Topsoil)	Flint	01	Prehistoric (Residual)
85	Unstratified (Topsoil)	Pottery (Rim Sherd)	01	Post-medieval
89	Unstratified (Topsoil)	Pottery	01	Post-medieval
93	Unstratified (Topsoil)	Pottery (Base Sherd)	01	Post-medieval

4.2 Statement of potential

The finds' assemblage is small with the majority of the finds' limited to the topsoil horizon and is mostly of post-medieval date. The greatest potential for datable evidence comes from Trench 45 and the thirty sherds of suspected Iron Age pottery recovered from context 263. The sherds are possibly from a single vessel.
The other find of note is the worked flint from context 115. The slag recovered from Trench 39b may also provide dating evidence for the construction of the trackway.

4.3 Further Work

The worked flint from Trench 11 should be analysed to identify a specific date and function.
The slag from Trench 39b may provide an insight into the activities surrounding the toll road and its construction.
The thirty sherds of Iron Age pottery from Trench 45 should be sent for specialist analysis to identify their date and function.

Examples of the Iron Age pottery should be photographed for the final report.

4.4 Storage and curation

There are no specific curation problems. It is recommended that after specialist analysis unstratified post-medieval artefacts and modern artefacts be discarded. Gwynedd Archaeological Trust pending transferral will hold all other finds to the appropriate museum. This will be the Gwynedd Museum and Art Gallery, Bangor.

5 SOIL SAMPLES

5.1 Summary of samples

Sample No.	Trench No	Context	Description of context	Volume (litres)
1	**13**	124	Fill of a small, sub-circular cut	2
2	**13**	124	Fill of a small, sub-circular cut	2
3	**13**	134	Remains of a hearth	2
4	**13**	136	Remains of a hearth	2
5	**31**	156	Fill of a small post-hole	2
6	**31**	156	Fill of a small post-hole	2
7	**37**	164	Fill of a sub-circular feature	2
8	**37**	165	Fill of a sub-circular feature	2
9	**35**	166	Fill of a sub-circular feature	2
10	**35**	173	Surface of 18th century toll road	1
11	**40**	205	Charcoal deposit/ Remains of a hearth	2
12	**40**	213	Remains of a hearth	2
13	**61**	231	Fill of a sub-circular feature	2
14	**45**	263	Fill of a sub-circular feature	2
15	**78**	273	Charcoal deposit	2
16	**79**	269	Charcoal deposit/ Fill of a sub-circular feature	2
17	**45**	263	Charcoal deposit	2
18	**67**	275	Charcoal deposit/Burnt stones	2
19	**67**	280	Burnt stones	2
20	**67**	286	Charcoal deposit	2
21	**45**	313	Burnt stones	2
22	**80**	341	Charcoal deposit/Burnt stones	2
23	**80**	343	Charcoal deposit	2
24	**40**	362	Charcoal deposit	2
25	**67**	400	Charcoal deposit	2
26	**67**	409	Charcoal deposit	2
27	**67**	411	Charcoal deposit	2
28	**CH5000**	427	Charcoal deposit	2
29	**33**	271	Charcoal deposit	2

5.2 Potential of samples

Sample No.	Tr. No.	Ctxt No.	Potential for analysis
1	**13**	124	Possible charred remains of fuel used for firing and possible charred grains and other macrofossils
2	**13**	124	Possible charred remains of fuel used for firing and possible charred grains and other macrofossils
3	**13**	134	Possible charred remains of fuel used for firing and possible charred grains and other macrofossils
4	**13**	136	Possible charred remains of fuel used for firing and possible charred grains and other macrofossils
5	**31**	156	Possible charred remains of fuel used for firing and possible charred grains and other macrofossils
6	**31**	156	Possible charred remains of fuel used for firing and possible charred grains and other macrofossils
7	**37**	164	Possible charred remains of fuel used for firing and possible charred grains and other macrofossils
8	**37**	165	Possible charred remains of fuel used for firing and possible charred grains and other macrofossils
9	**35**	166	Possible charred remains of fuel used for firing and possible charred grains and other macrofossils
10	**35**	173	Useful for assessing building technology used
11	**40**	205	Possible charred remains of fuel used for firing and possible charred grains and other macrofossils
12	**40**	213	Possible charred remains of fuel used for firing and possible charred grains and other macrofossils
13	**61**	231	Possible charred remains of fuel used for firing and possible charred grains and other macrofossils
14	**45**	263	Possible charred remains of fuel used for firing and possible charred grains and other macrofossils
15	**78**	273	Possible charred remains of fuel used for firing and possible charred grains and other macrofossils
16	**79**	269	Possible charred remains of fuel used for firing and possible charred grains and other macrofossils
17	**45**	263	Possible charred remains of fuel used for firing and possible charred grains and other macrofossils
18	**67**	275	Possible charred remains of fuel used for firing and possible charred grains and other macrofossils
19	**67**	280	Useful for sourcing burnt stone
20	**67**	286	Possible charred remains of fuel used for firing and possible charred grains and other macrofossils
21	**45**	313	Useful for sourcing burnt stone
22	**80**	341	Possible charred remains of fuel used for firing and possible charred grains and other macrofossils
23	**80**	343	Possible charred remains of fuel used for firing and possible charred grains and other macrofossils
24	**40**	362	Possible charred remains of fuel used for firing and possible charred grains and other macrofossils
25	**67**	400	Possible charred remains of fuel used for firing and possible charred grains and other macrofossils
26	**67**	409	Possible charred remains of fuel used for firing and possible charred grains and other macrofossils

27	**67**	411	Possible charred remains of fuel used for firing and possible charred grains and other macrofossils
28	**CH 500 0**	427	Possible charred remains of fuel used for firing and possible charred grains and other macrofossils
29	**33**	271	Possible charred remains of fuel used for firing and possible charred grains and other macrofossils

All samples should be subject to flotation using a 0.5mm sieve and the residue should be wet sieved through a 1mm sieve. A specialist to identify the species of timber used should study the charred remains from all these samples and any other surviving plant remains. After identification, appropriate parts of at least three samples should be sent for radiocarbon dating. In addition, if charred cereal grains are found, a high precision AMS date should be produced from them as this could give the most accurate date on the activity carried out on the site.

All ceramic fragments should be removed from the residue and sent for study with the hand-collected pieces.

5.3 Statement of Potential

The samples of greatest importance to the project are Nos. **11, 12, 14, 17, 19-27**. Samples 11,12 and 24 are from the hearth in Trench 40 and are the only source of datable evidence from that trench through radiocarbon dating. Samples 14 and 17 are from Trench 45, which contains the suspected Iron Age pottery sherds. The radiocarbon dates from the charcoal in context (263) would help compliment the information derived from the potsherds. Samples 19, 25, 26 and 27 are from the pit cuts within Trench 67, which contained the remnants of a burnt mound. The samples are the only source of datable evidence from that trench (through radiocarbon dating). Samples 22 and 23 are from a pit in Trench 80 and are the only source of datable evidence from that trench through radiocarbon dating. This means there are a total of thirteen samples of archaeological potential.

5.4 Storage

It is recommended that all wet sieving residues that has had all macrofossils and artefacts removed are kept only until the specialist reports are received. If these give no reason for retaining the residues these should be discarded. Charred macrofossils are to be kept with the artefact assemblage to be held by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust pending transferral to the appropriate museum.

6 WATCHING BRIEF

6.1Summary of areas

(Chainages refer to the metric distances used along the road scheme)

Chainage	Trial Trench No	Results of Trenching	Mitigation Recommendation	Comments on Mitigation	Other Comments
0000-1750	2-21	-	-	-	Signed off; no further impact
1750-2050	22-23	Nil	Watching Brief	Not evaluated due to excessive waterlogging	Watching Brief complete; signed off; no further impact
2150-2200	26-28	Excavation suggested a combination of natural features overlaid by post-med. field clearance dumping	Watching Brief	Original Trial trenching restricted by overhead power lines	Watching Brief complete; signed off; no further impact

2400-2960	35-45	18th C turnpike road; hearth (Tr. 40); iron age activity (Tr. 45)	Watching Brief	Potential for furthers archaeology a number of areas and periods.	Watching Brief issued. Excavation completed within evaluation period.
3300-3500	92-93	Nil	Nil	-	-
3530-3730	94-95	Post-med. drainage activity	Watching Brief	Potential for further archaeology	Watching brief issued.
3800-4000	64-70	Burnt Mound (Tr. 67)	Watching Brief	Potential for further archaeology (Prehistoric)	Watching brief issued.
4000-4550	71-72	Nil	Specific watching brief @CH4500	Railway Embankment (Feature 28)	Watching Brief complete; signed off; no further impact
4550-4640	74-76	Nil	Watching Brief	Sand/gravel area	Watching brief issued.
4700-4800	53-54	Nil	Nil	-	-
4800-5000	51-52; 55-58	Feature 33 (Hollow); post-med. agricultural activity	Watching Brief	Sand/gravel area	Watching brief complete; area signed off; 2 samples of wood removed from Feature 33 for dendrochronological analysis.
5000-5200	59-62	Sub-circular feature in Tr. 61	Watching Brief	Potential for further archaeology	Watching brief complete; area signed off; no further archaeology identified; environmental sample from Tr. 61 processed.
5380-5625	77-79	Nil	Watching Brief	Near former tavern/market place; potential for further archaeology	Watching brief issued.
5700-5900	80-83	Suspected prehistoric activity Tr. 80	Watching Brief	Potential for further archaeology	Watching Brief issued. Excavation completed within evaluation period. Environmental samples taken.
6000 (North)	84, 85 & 87	Nil	Nil	-	-
6000 (East) – 6300	88 & 96	Nil	Watching Brief	Sand/gravel area	Watching brief issued.
6300-6500	89, 97, 98	Nil	Watching Brief	Sand/gravel area; close to Tomen Mawr scheduled medieval site	Watching brief issued.

6.2 Summary of Archive

Photographs:
Colour slide films: 2
Colour print films: 2

6.3 Statement of potential

The watching brief is still in progress. The potential is there for further archaeological remains, particularly in the areas where known archaeology exists.
Presently, the only area to have yielded further archaeological material was the hollow (Feature 33), in chainage 4800-5000, which contained relict oak and pine. A cutting was taken from the most complete examples of oak and pine for dendrochronological analysis, the assumption being that they are the remnants of an ancient woodland.

6.4 Further Work

A sample from the oak and pine trees will be sent for dendrochronological analysis.

Appendix I

Task

Evaluation Report

Contextual Analysis

Enhancement of excavation archive
Analysis of contextual information
Stratigraphic analysis and preparation of Harris Matrix
Updating site interpretation
Updating site database
Computing support
Archiving photographs: Total 49 Films (36 Exposure)

Specialist reports

Worked flint: analysis and report: Context (115)

Preparation of first draft of report

Library research
Preparation of drawing roughs
Preparation of first draft of text
Preparation of site illustrations: Trench Location Maps/Detailed Map of Ford at CH3200,000
Preparation of site photographs: General Archive Photographs of Project
Editing first draft of report
Amendments to first draft

Publication and archive deposition

Proof reading and publication
Preparation of research archive
Arrangements for deposition of archive

Trench 11

Specialist reports

Worked flint: analysis and report: Context (115)

Trench 13

Contextual Analysis

Enhancement of excavation archive
Analysis of contextual information
Stratigraphic analysis and preparation of Harris Matrix
Updating site interpretation
Updating site database
Computing support
Archiving photographs

Specialist reports

Worked flint: analysis and report (Unstratified)
Charred plant remains: processing samples Contexts (124, 134 & 136)
Charred plant remains: sorting and identification Contexts (124, 134 & 136)

Charred plant remains: analysis and preparation of report	Contexts (124, 134 & 136)
Radiocarbon date: selection and packaging of samples for dating	Contexts (124, 134 & 136)
Radiocarbon date: X dates	Contexts (124, 134 & 136)

Preparation of first draft of report

Library research
Preparation of drawing roughs
Preparation of first draft of text
Preparation of site illustrations: Trench Plan/Section Drawings: Contexts (124, 134 & 136)
Preparation of site photographs: Archive No. (G1692/07/09-15)
Editing first draft of report
Amendments to first draft

Publication and archive deposition

Proof reading and publication
Preparation of research archive
Arrangements for deposition of archive

Trench 35

Contextual Analysis

Enhancement of excavation archive
Analysis of contextual information
Stratigraphic analysis and preparation of Harris Matrix
Updating site interpretation
Updating site database
Computing support
Archiving photographs

Specialist reports

Charred plant remains: processing samples	Context (166)
Charred plant remains: sorting and identification	Context (166)
Charred plant remains: analysis and preparation of report	Context (166)
Radiocarbon date: selection and packaging of samples for dating	Context (166)
Radiocarbon date: X dates	Context (166)

Preparation of first draft of report

Library research
Preparation of drawing roughs
Preparation of first draft of text
Preparation of site illustrations: Trench plan/Section Drawing (contexts 170-173)
Preparation of site photographs: Trench 35/The Toll Road (contexts 170-173)
Editing first draft of report
Amendments to first draft

Publication and archive deposition

Proof reading and publication
Preparation of research archive
Arrangements for deposition of archive

Trench 39

Contextual Analysis

Enhancement of excavation archive
Analysis of contextual information
Stratigraphic analysis and preparation of Harris Matrix
Updating site interpretation
Updating site database
Computing support
Archiving photographs

Specialist reports

Slag: analysis and report: Context (255)

Preparation of first draft of report

Library research
Preparation of drawing roughs
Preparation of first draft of text
Preparation of site illustrations: Trench plan/Section Drawing of Toll Road (Feature 22)
Preparation of site photographs
Editing first draft of report
Amendments to first draft

Publication and archive deposition

Proof reading and publication
Preparation of research archive
Arrangements for deposition of archive

Trench 40

Contextual Analysis

Enhancement of excavation archive
Analysis of contextual information
Stratigraphic analysis and preparation of Harris Matrix
Updating site interpretation
Updating site database
Computing support
Archiving photographs

Specialist reports

Charred plant remains: processing samples: Contexts (205, 213)
Charred plant remains: sorting and identification: Contexts (205, 213)
Charred plant remains: analysis and preparation of report: Contexts (205, 213)
Radiocarbon date: selection and packaging of samples for dating: Contexts (205, 213)
Radiocarbon date: X dates

Preparation of first draft of report

Library research
Preparation of drawing roughs
Preparation of first draft of text
Preparation of site illustrations: Trench plan/Section Drawing
Preparation of site photographs: Archive No.: (G1692/01-14)
Editing first draft of report

Amendments to first draft

Publication and archive deposition

Proof reading and publication
Preparation of research archive
Arrangements for deposition of archive

Trench 45

Contextual Analysis

Enhancement of excavation archive
Analysis of contextual information
Stratigraphic analysis and preparation of Harris Matrix
Updating site interpretation
Updating site database
Computing support
Archiving photographs

Specialist reports

Prehistoric pottery: analysis and report (30 sherds; Context 263)
Charred plant remains: processing samples (Context 263)
Charred plant remains: sorting and identification (Context 263)
Charred plant remains: analysis and preparation of report (Context 263)
Radiocarbon date: selection and packaging of samples for dating (Context 263)
Radiocarbon date: X dates

Preparation of first draft of report

Library research
Preparation of drawing roughs
Preparation of first draft of text
Preparation of site illustrations: Trench plan/Section Drawing (context 263)
Preparation of site photographs (Archive No. G1692/27/28)
Editing first draft of report
Amendments to first draft

Publication and archive deposition

Proof reading and publication
Preparation of research archive
Arrangements for deposition of archive

Trench 67

Contextual Analysis

Enhancement of excavation archive
Analysis of contextual information
Stratigraphic analysis and preparation of Harris Matrix
Updating site interpretation
Updating site database
Computing support
Archiving photographs

Specialist reports

Charred plant remains: processing samples: (contexts 275, 286, 400, 409 & 411)

Charred plant remains: sorting and identification: (contexts 275, 286, 400, 409 & 411)
Charred plant remains: analysis and preparation of report: (contexts 275, 286, 400, 409 & 411)
Radiocarbon date: selection and packaging of samples for dating: (contexts 275, 286, 400, 409 & 411)
Radiocarbon date: X dates: (contexts 275, 286, 400, 409 & 411)

Preparation of first draft of report

Library research
Preparation of drawing roughs
Preparation of first draft of text
Preparation of site illustrations: Trench plan/Section Drawings (contexts 275, 286, 400, 409 & 411)
Preparation of site photographs (Films 45 & 47)
Editing first draft of report
Amendments to first draft

Publication and archive deposition

Proof reading and publication
Preparation of research archive
Arrangements for deposition of archive

Trench 80

Contextual Analysis

Enhancement of excavation archive
Analysis of contextual information
Stratigraphic analysis and preparation of Harris Matrix
Updating site interpretation
Computing support
Archiving photographs

Specialist reports

Charred plant remains: processing samples: Context (343)
Charred plant remains: sorting and identification: Context (343)
Charred plant remains: analysis and preparation of report: Context (343)
Radiocarbon date: selection and packaging of samples for dating: Context (343)
Radiocarbon date: X dates Context (343)

Preparation of first draft of report

Library research
Preparation of drawing roughs
Preparation of first draft of text
Preparation of site illustrations: Trench plan/Section Drawing (context 342)
Preparation of site photographs (Archive No. G1692/39/20)
Editing first draft of report
Amendments to first draft

Publication and archive deposition

Proof reading and publication
Preparation of research archive
Arrangements for deposition of archive

Features Report

Analysis

Site interpretation
Computing support
Archiving photographs

Specialist reports

Dendrochronology: selection and packaging of samples for dating
Dendrochronology: 1 date (Feature 22)

Preparation of first draft of report

Library research
Preparation of drawing roughs
Preparation of first draft of text
Preparation of site illustrations: Location Map of Features/Elevation Drawings of Feature 15 & 31
Preparation of site photographs: Features 15/21/22/31
Editing first draft of report
Amendments to first draft

Publication and archive deposition

Proof reading and publication
Preparation of research archive
Arrangements for deposition of archive

Watching Brief Report

Analysis

Site interpretation
Computing support
Archiving photographs

Specialist reports

Dendrochronology: selection and packaging of samples for dating
Dendrochronology: 2 dates

Preparation of first draft of report

Library research
Preparation of drawing roughs
Preparation of first draft of text
Preparation of site illustrations: Watching Brief location map
Preparation of site photographs: Working shots during Watching Brief
Editing first draft of report
Amendments to first draft

Publication and archive deposition

Proof reading and publication
Preparation of research archive
Arrangements for deposition of archive

Appendix II

REFERENCES AND OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED

Published Sources

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Gresham, C A 1973, *Eifionydd*, 343-351.

Roberts, B, 1979, *The Geology of Snowdonia and Llyn: an outline and field guide*. British Geological Society.

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Donaldson, KT Geophysical Survey Report: Abererch to Llanystumdwy, Gwynedd. (Stratascan Report Job Ref. 1899, August 2004)

Documentary sources

Caernarvonshire county series 25” ordnance survey XXXIII.14, XXXIII.15, XLI.2, XLI.3 (1889, 1900, 1917)

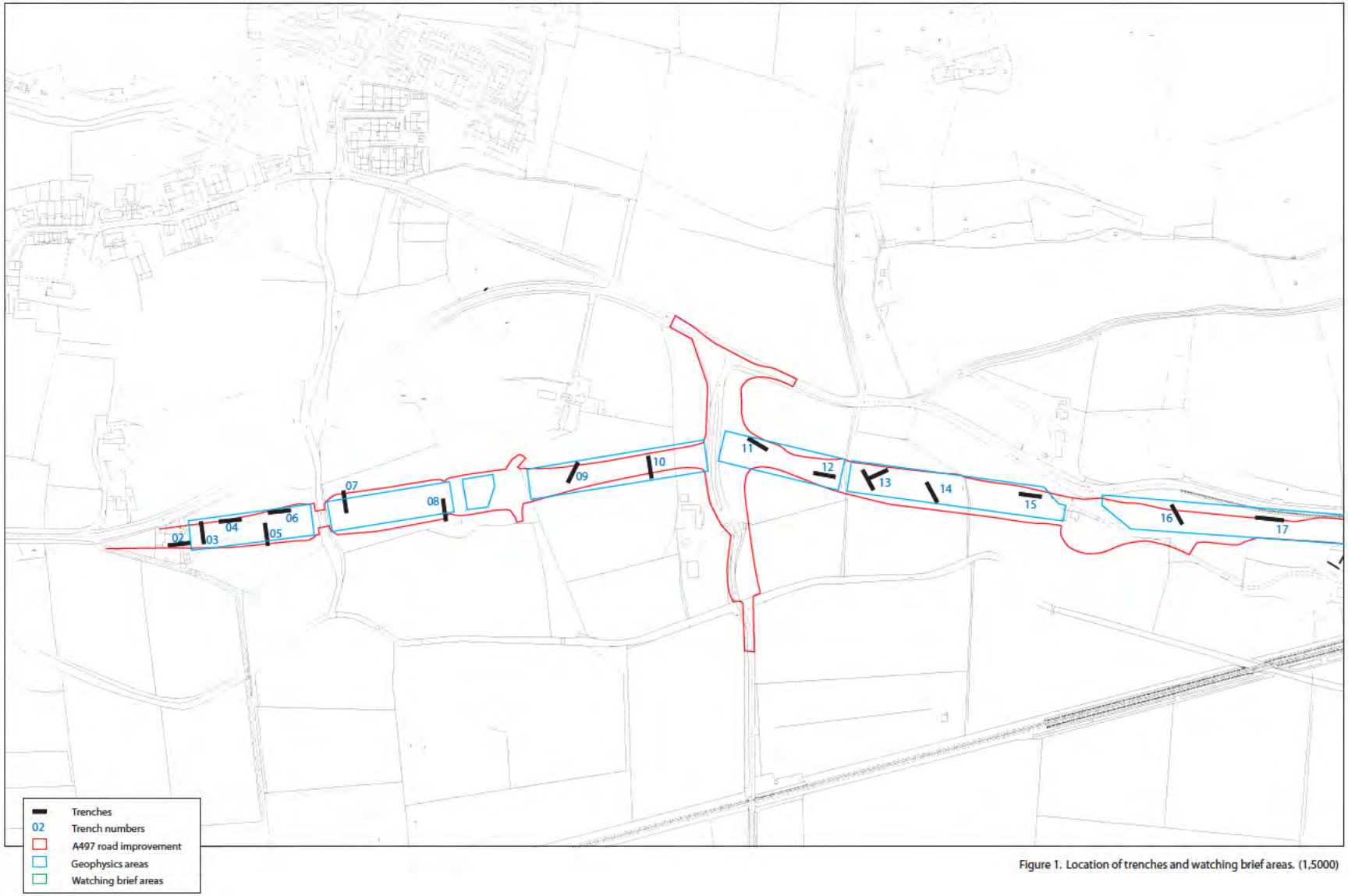

Figure 1. Location of trenches and watching brief areas. (1,5000)

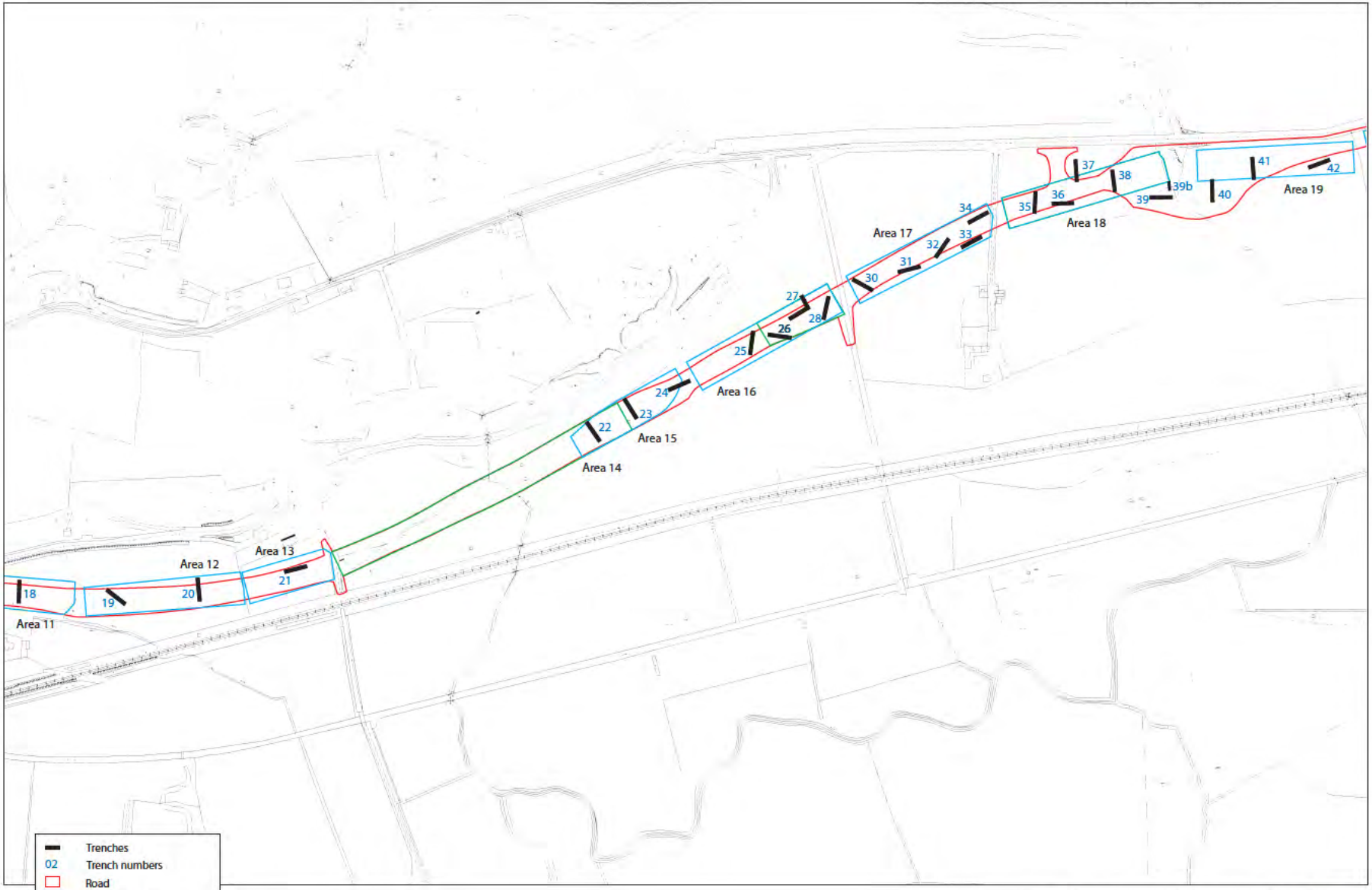

Figure 2. Location of trenches and watching brief areas. (1,5000)

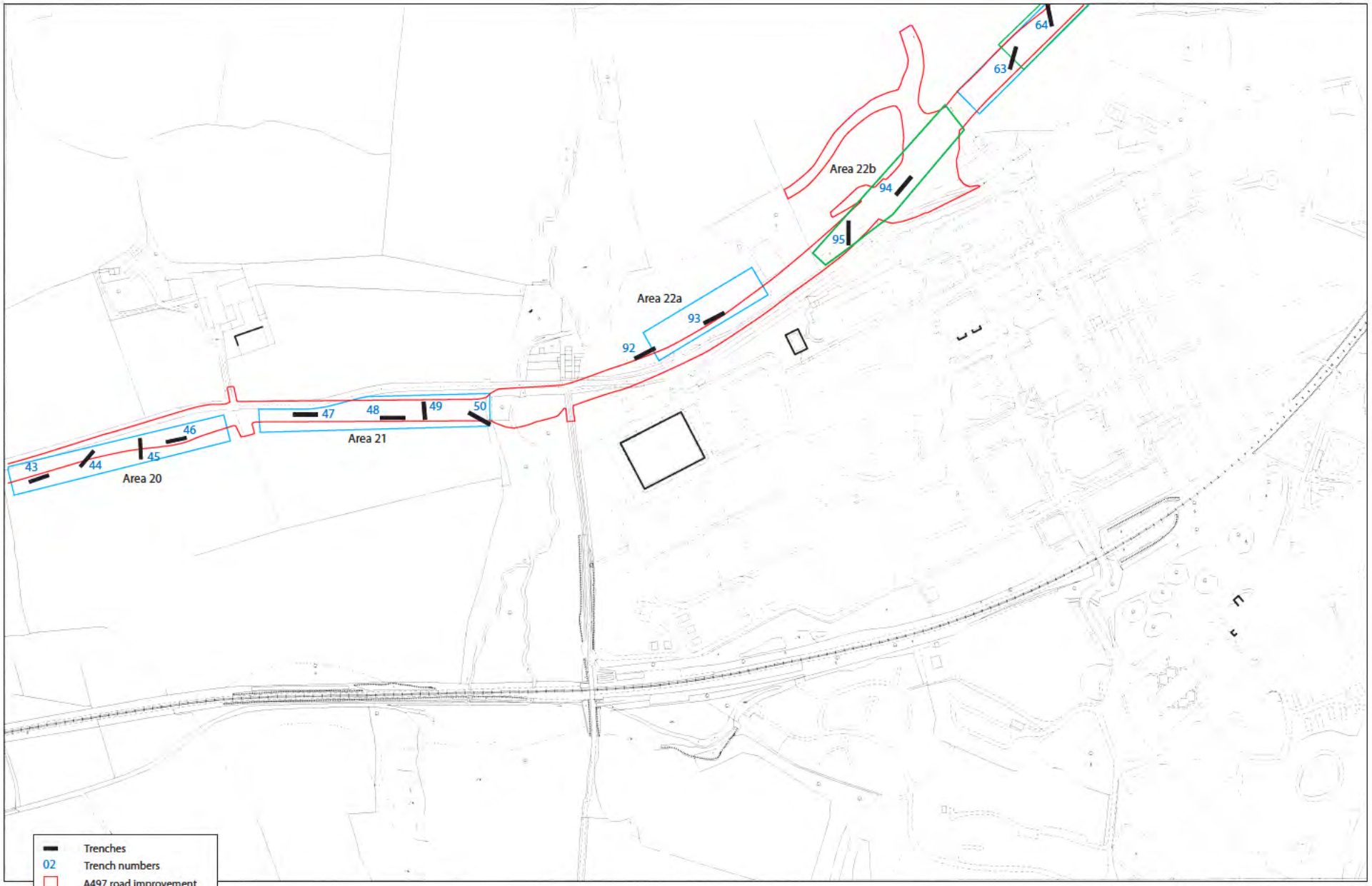

Figure 3 . Location of trenches and watching brief areas. (1,5000)

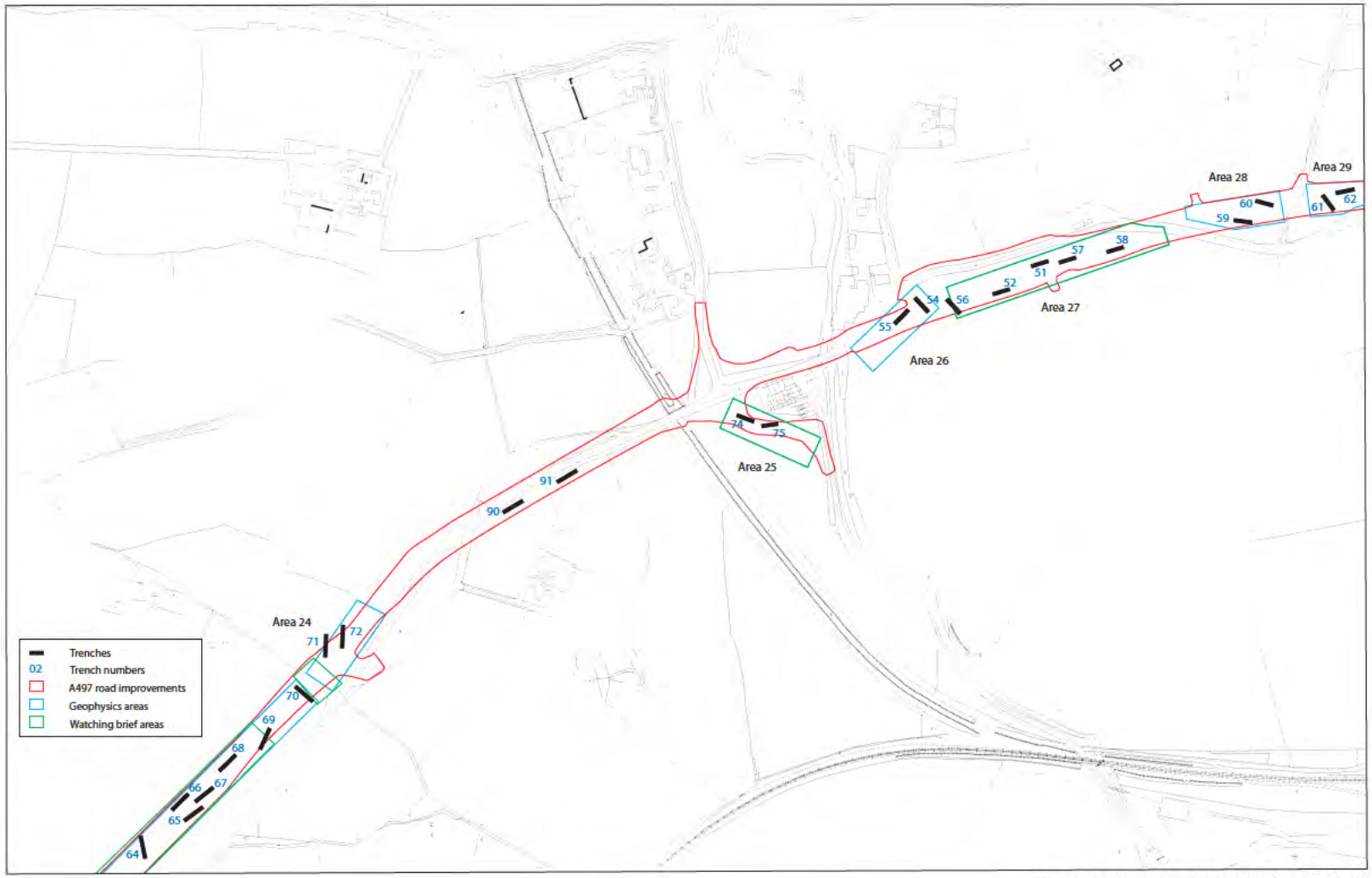

Figure 4. Location of trenches and watching brief areas. (1,5000)

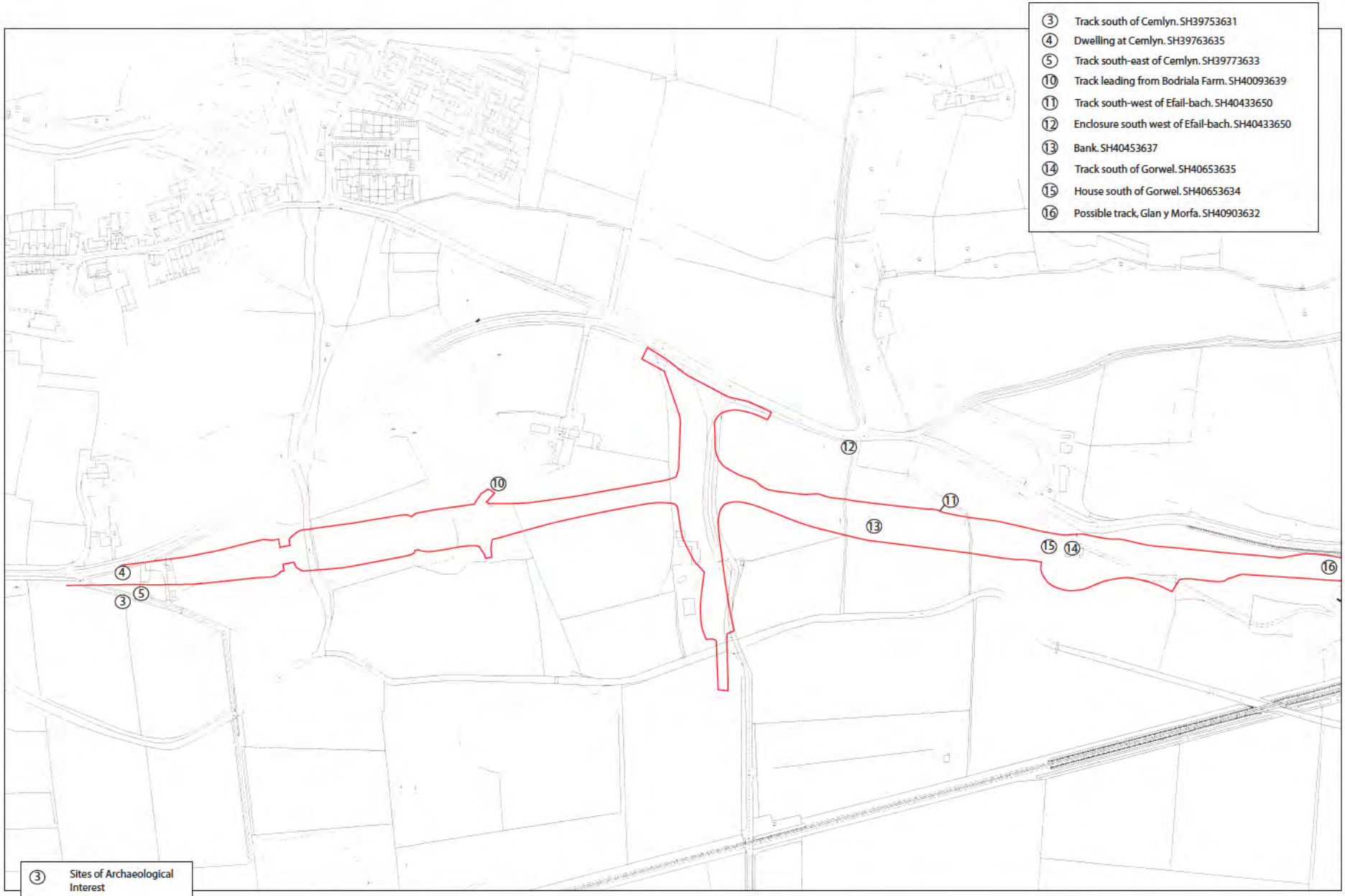

Figure 6. Sites of Archaeological Interest. (1,5000)

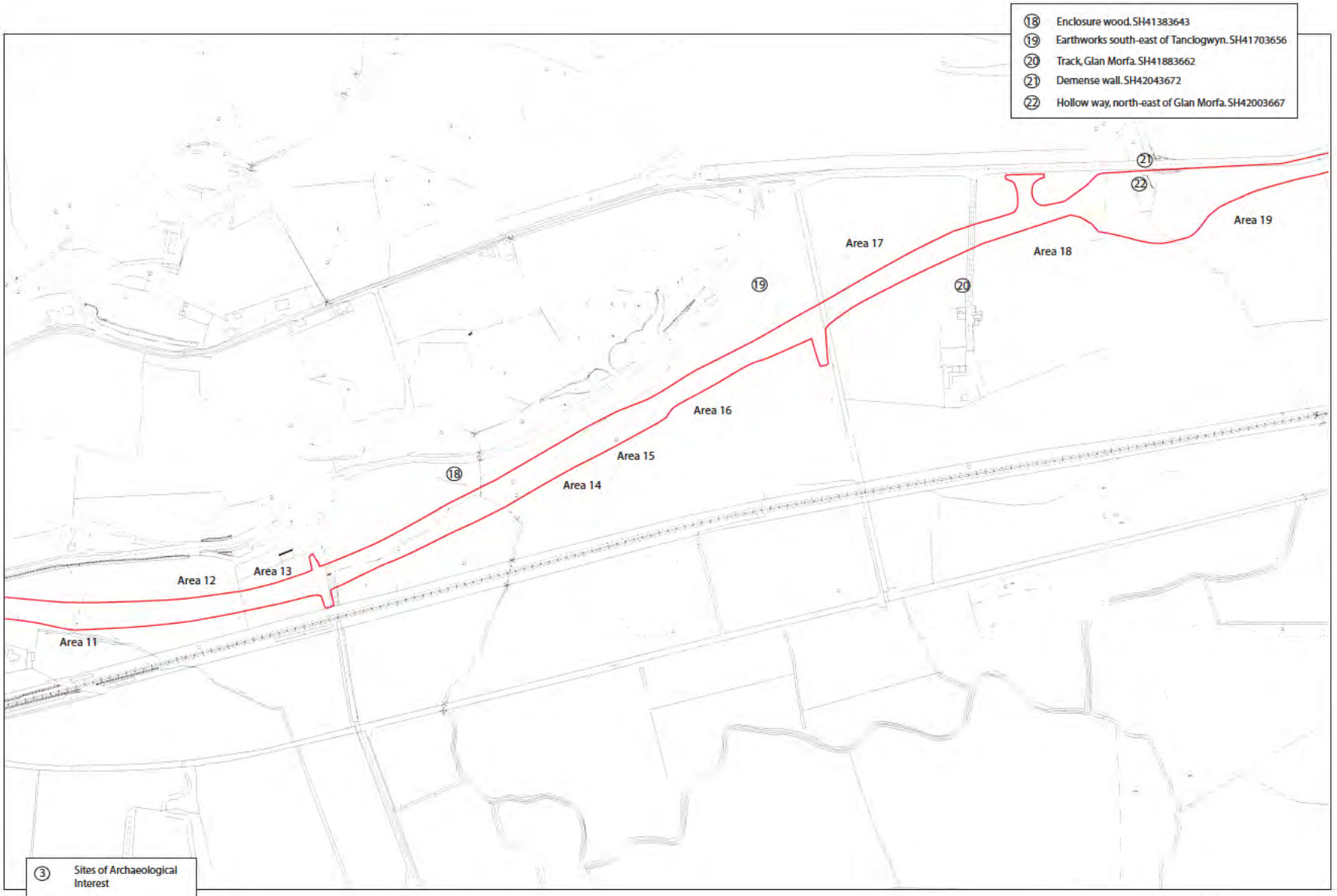

Figure 7. Sites of Archaeological Interest. (1,5000)

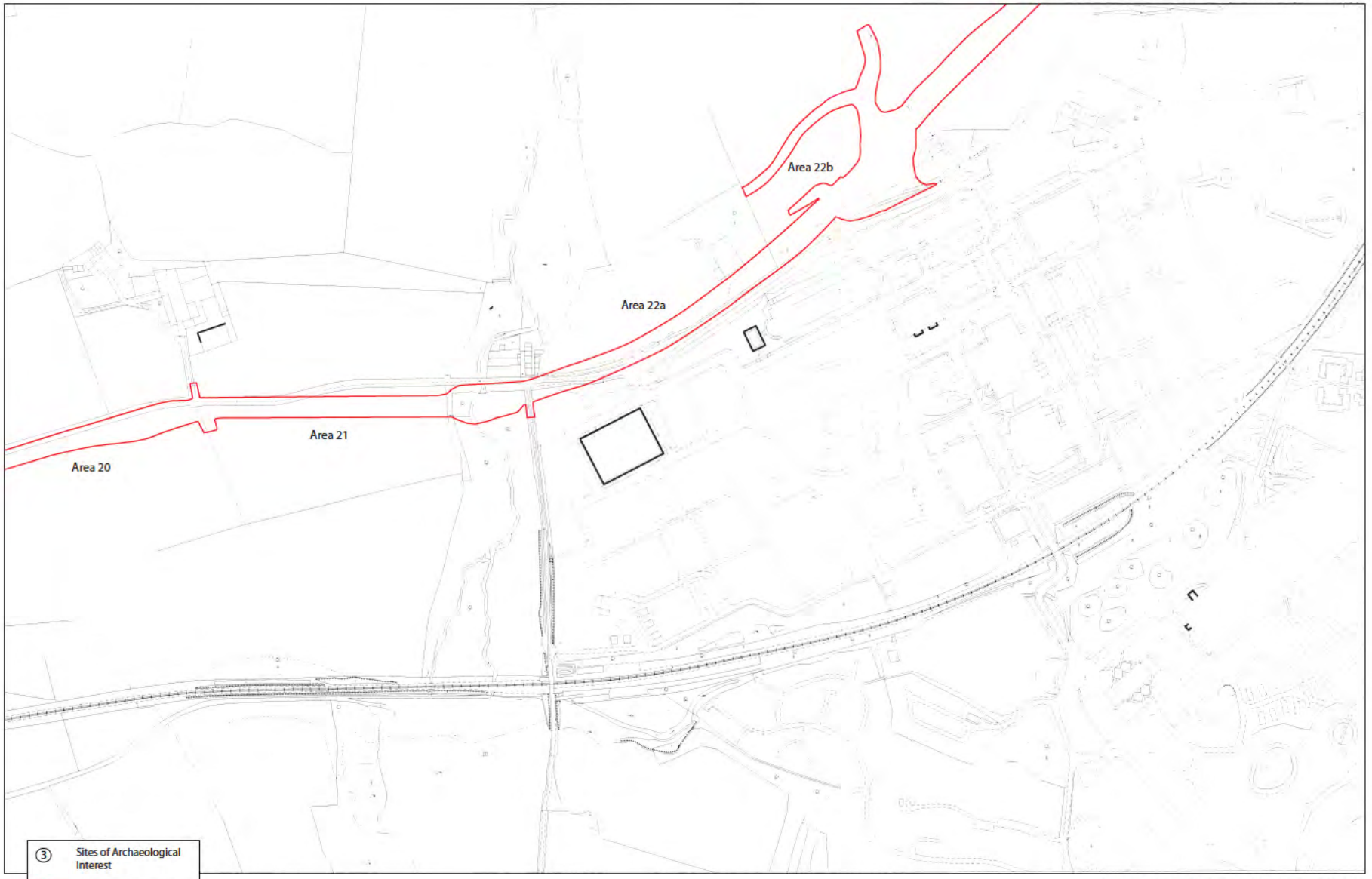

Figure 8. Sites of Archaeological Interest. (1,5000)

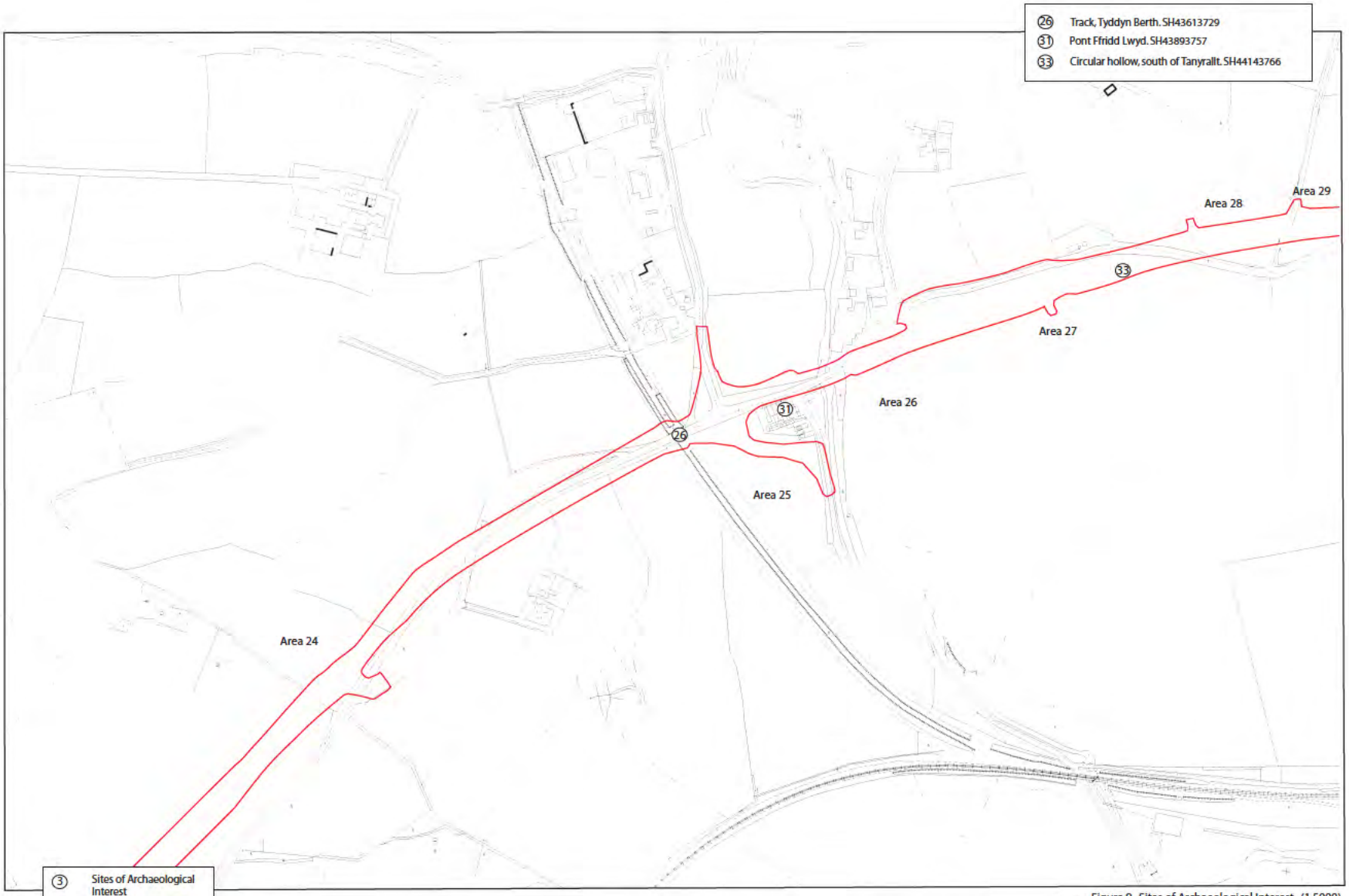

Figure 9. Sites of Archaeological Interest. (1,5000)

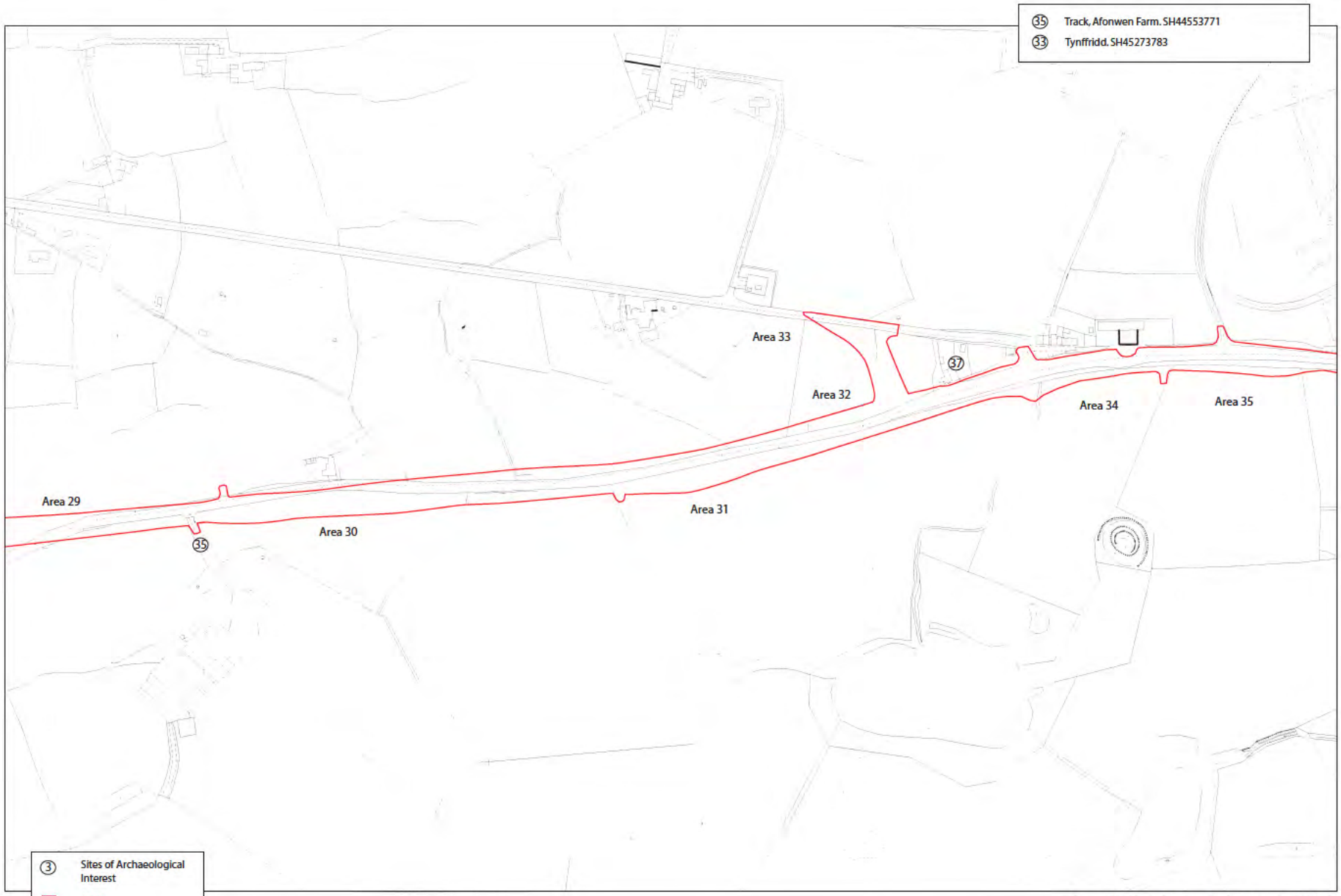

Figure 10. Sites of Archaeological Interest. (1,5000)

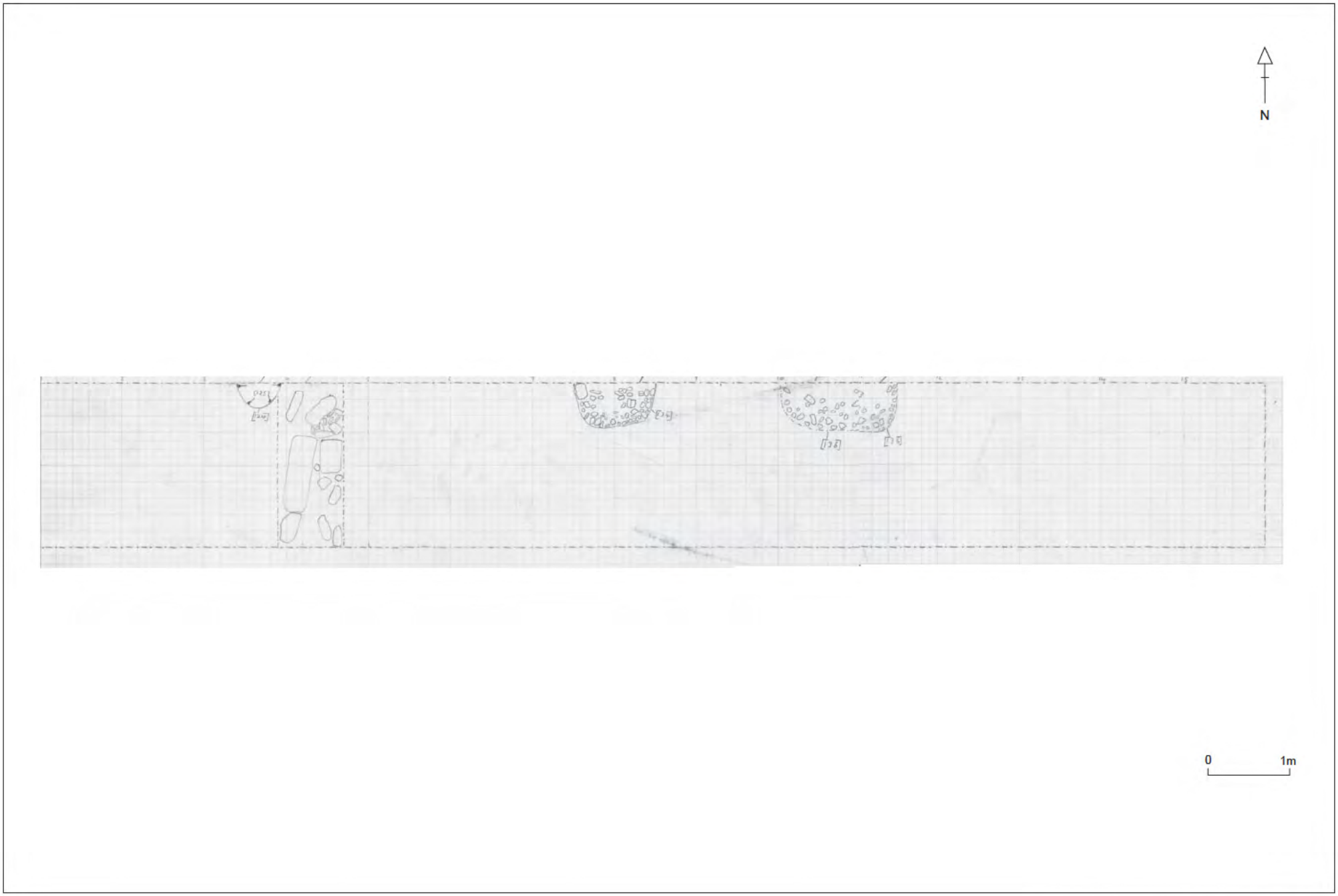

Figure 11. Post excavation plan of trench 13

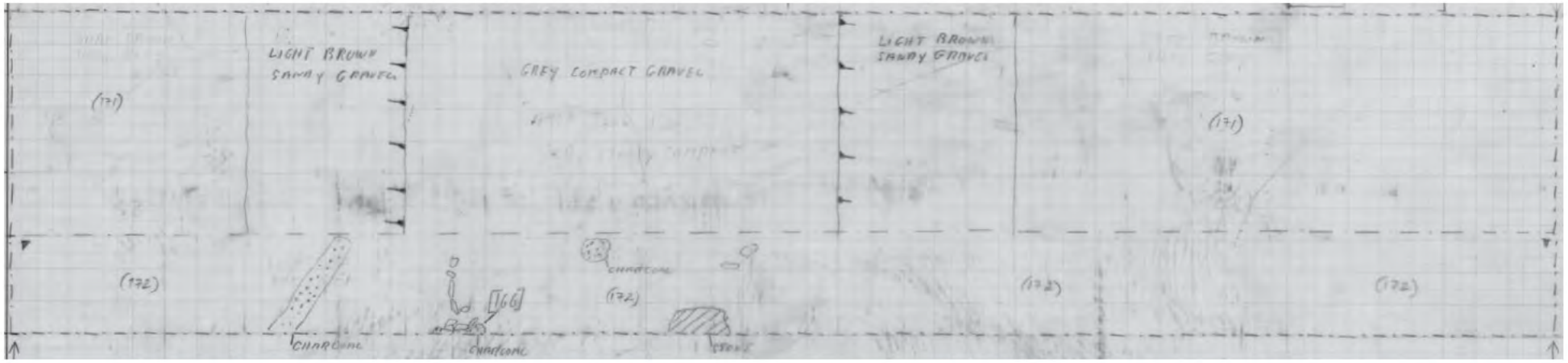

Figure 12. Post excavation plan of trench 35

Figure 13. Post excavation plan of trench 39

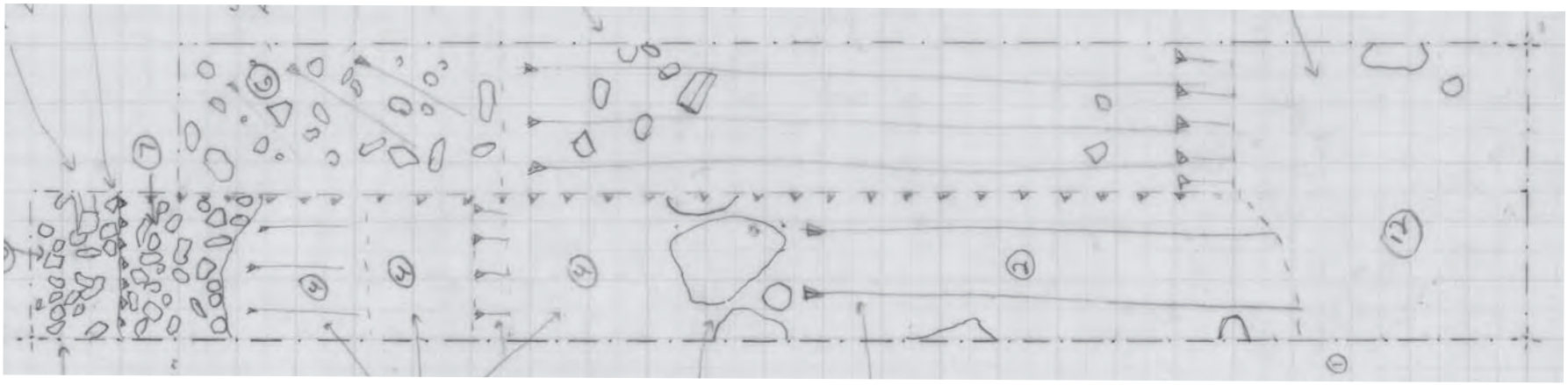

Figure 14. Post excavation plan of trench 39a

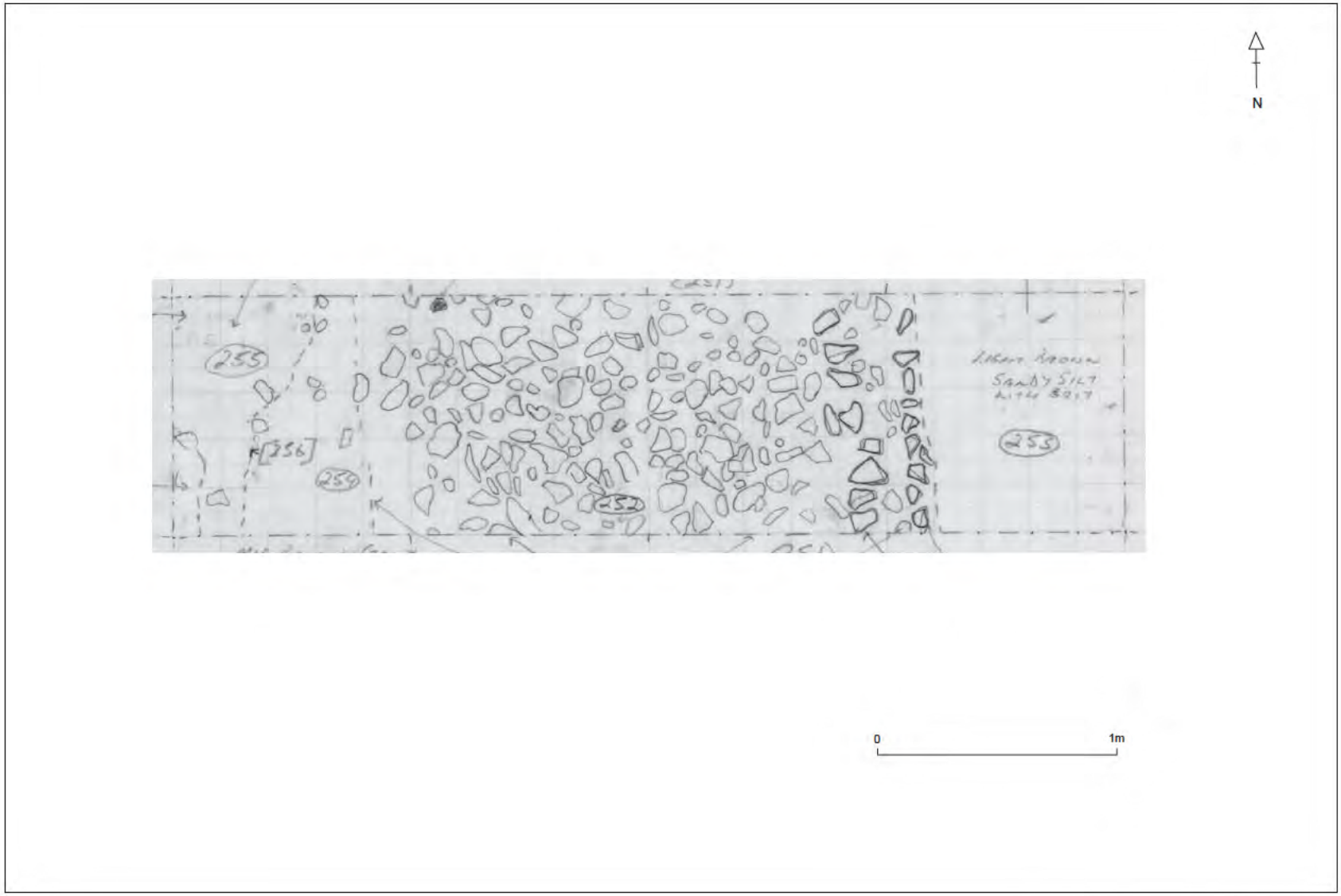

Figure 15. Post excavation plan of trench 39b

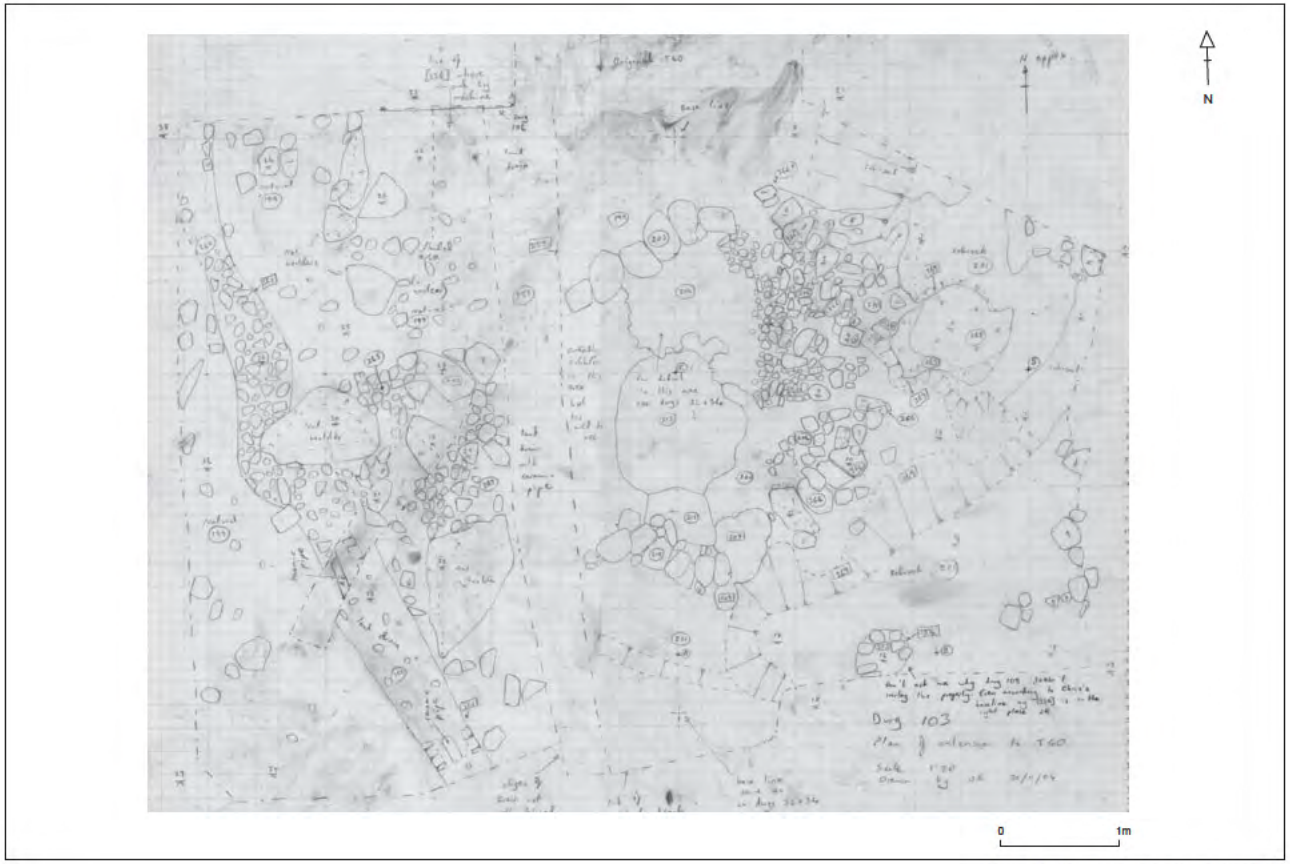

Figure 16. Post excavation plan of trench 40

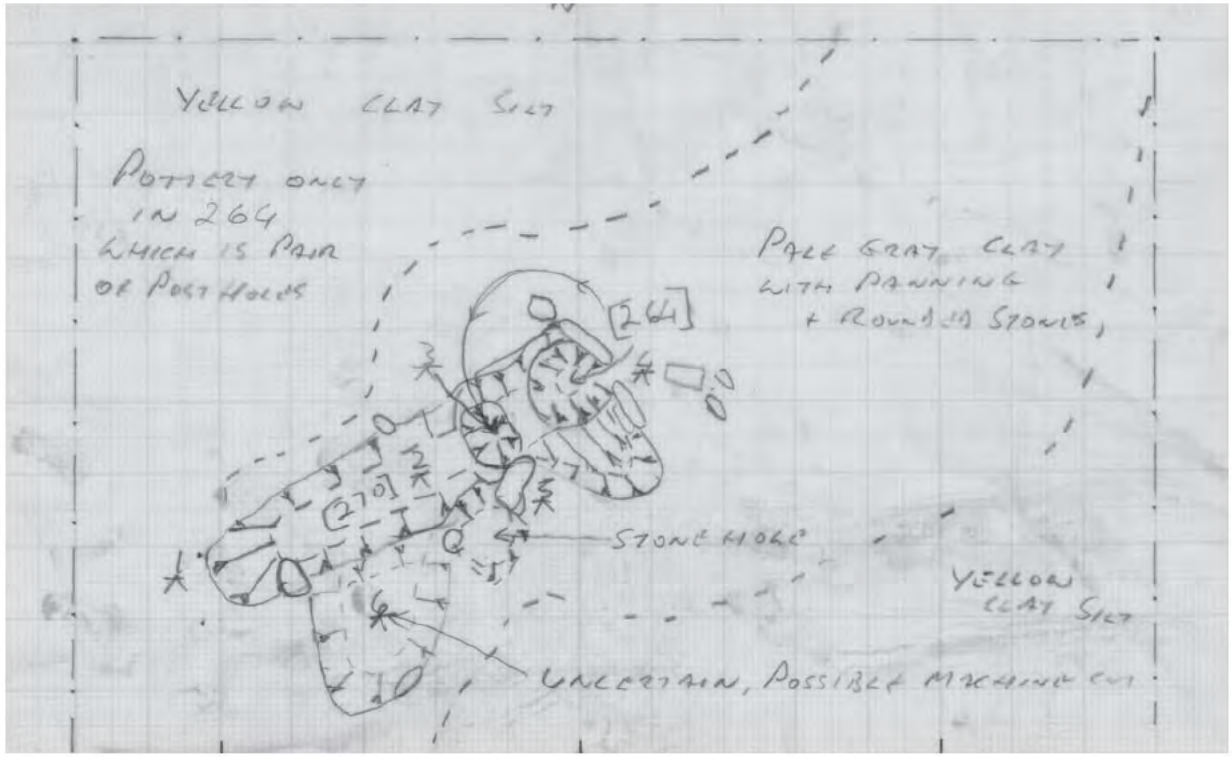

Figure 17. Post excavation plan of trench 45

Figure 18. Post excavation plan of trench 67.

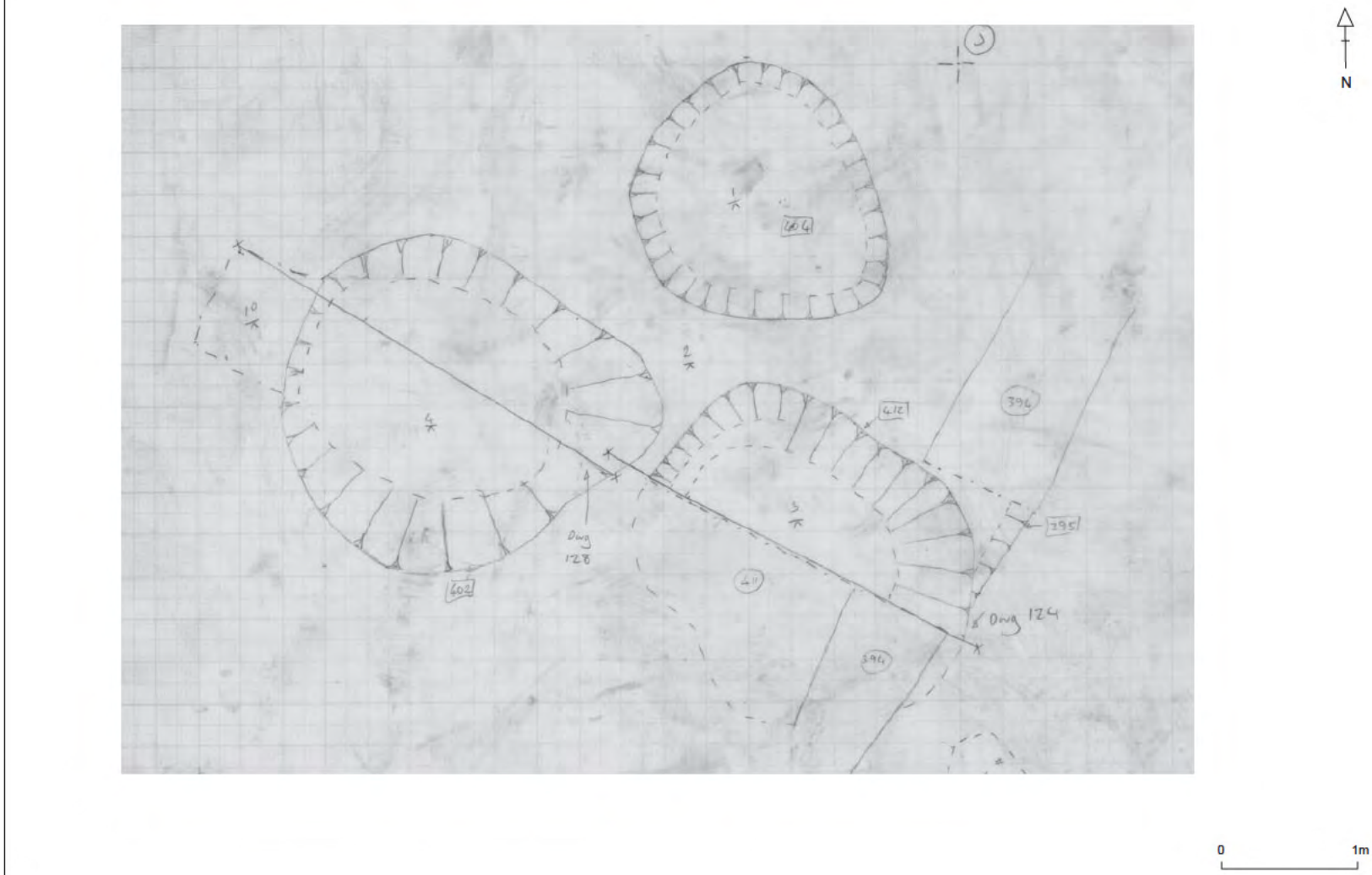

Figure 19. Detail of pits (402), (404) and (412) within trench 67.

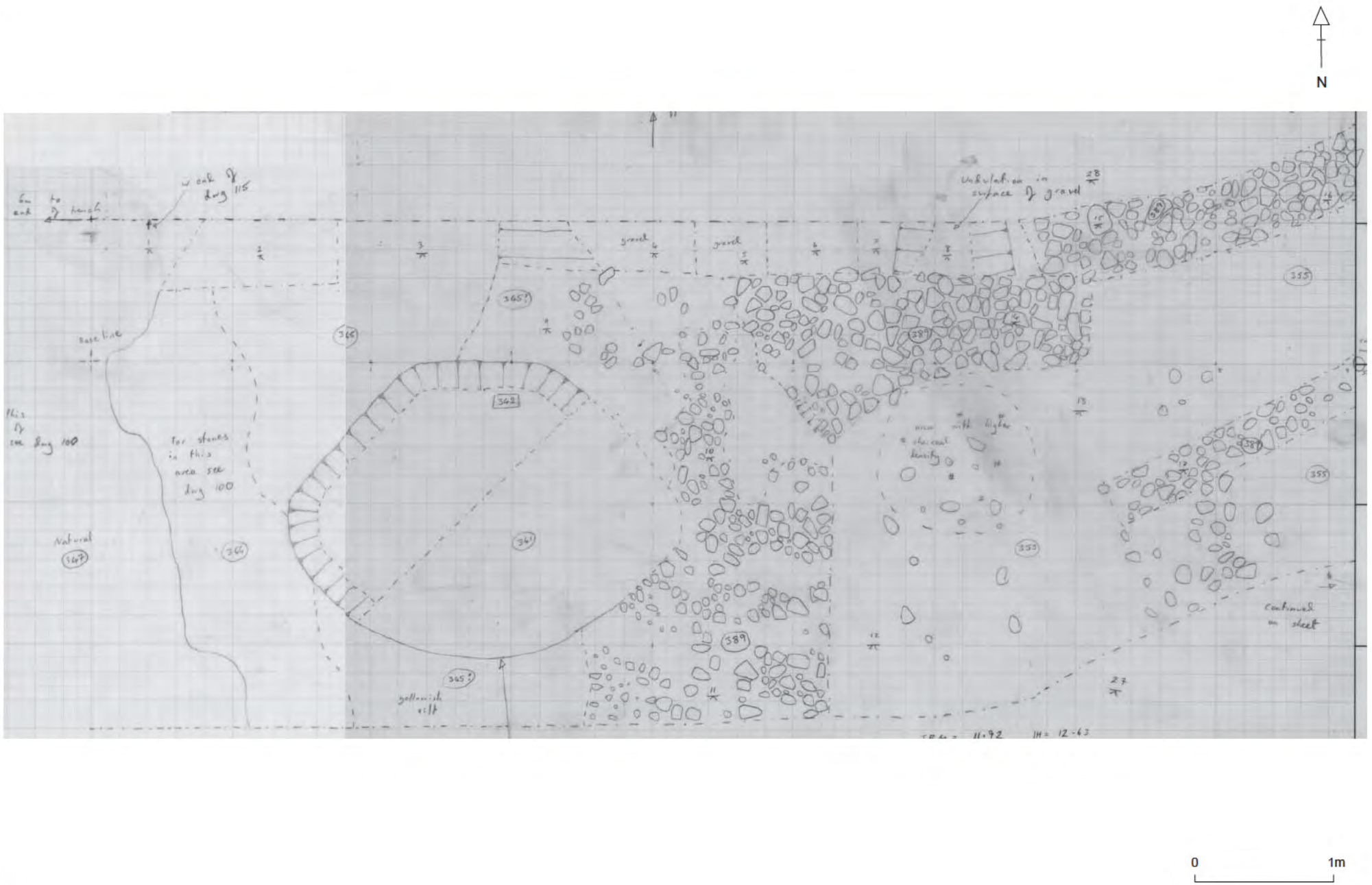

Figure 20. Post excavation plan of trench 80.

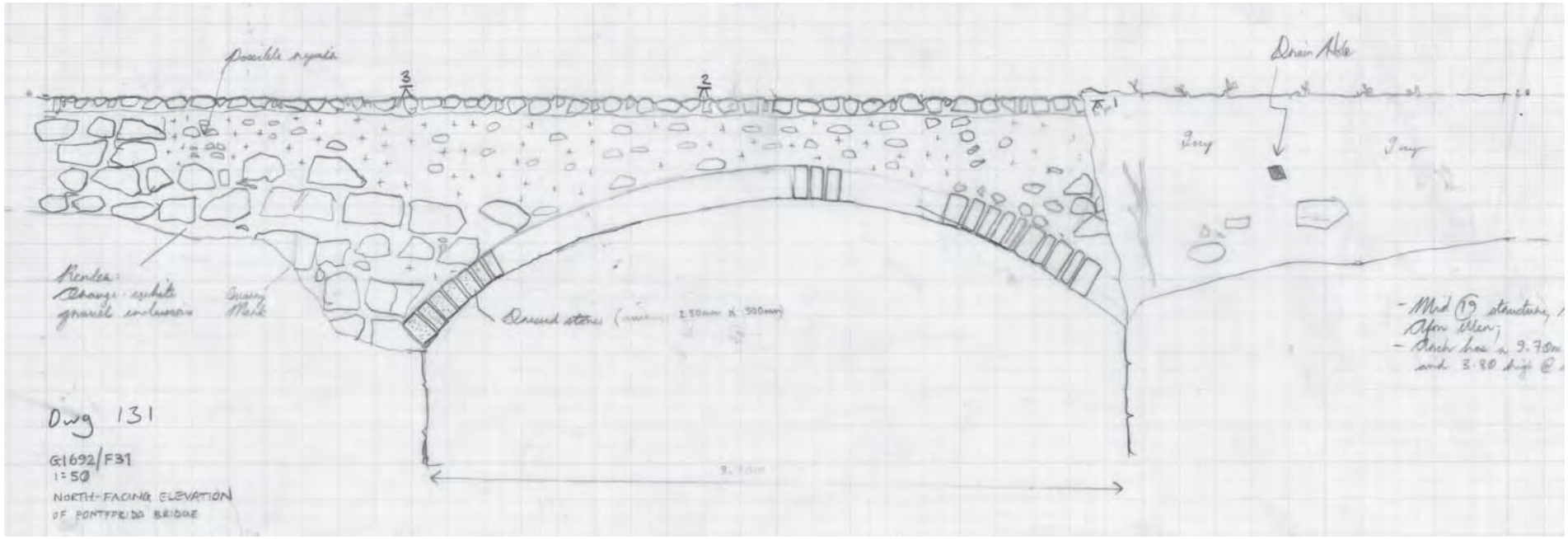

Figure 21. North facing elevation of Pontffridd Bridge (Feature 31)

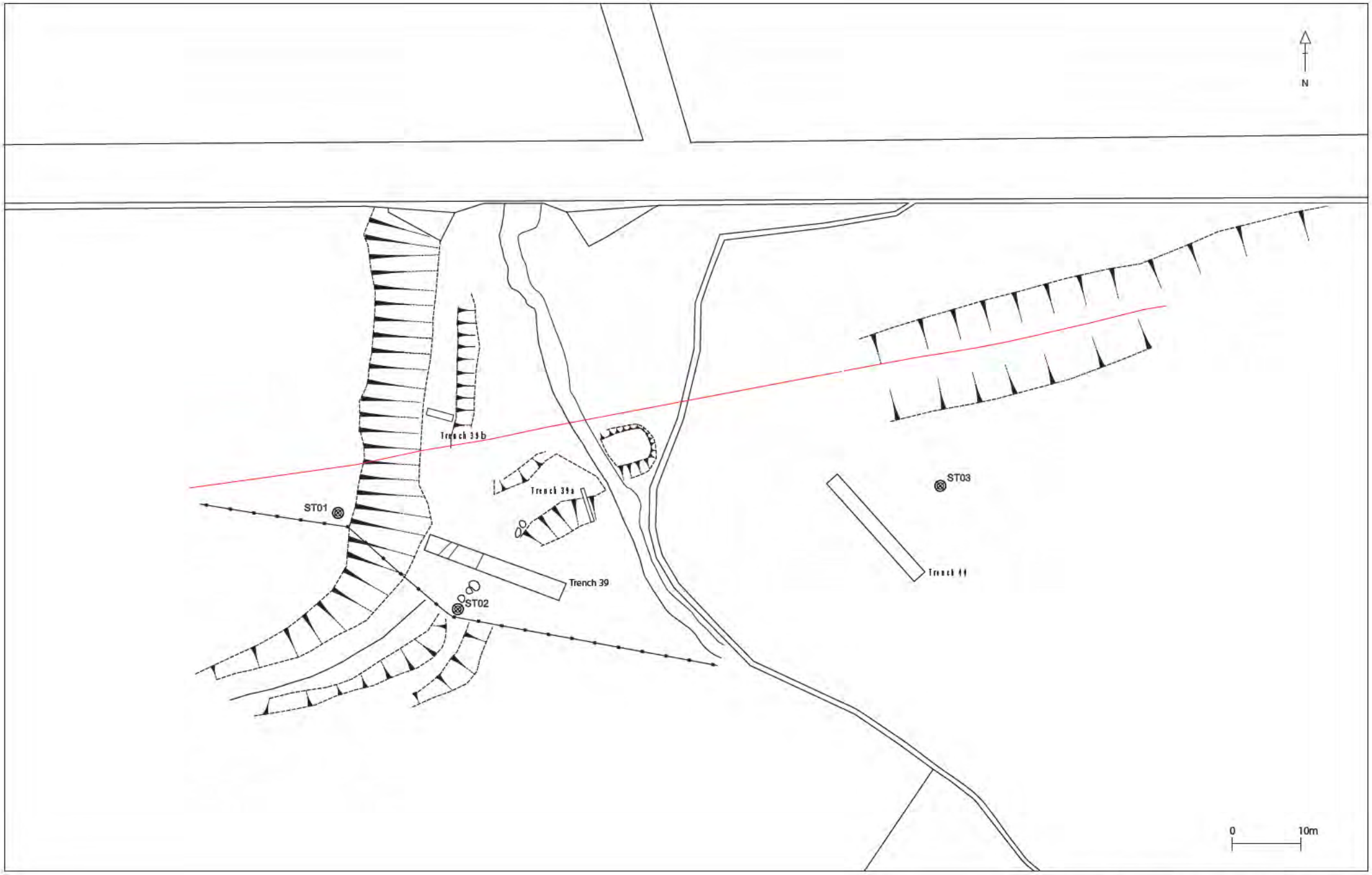

Figure 22. Survey of hollow way, including trenches 39, 39a, 39b and 40

Plate 1. Trench 13, Context (124). Facing north. G1692/05/11

Plate 2. Trench 35. Toll road. Facing south. G1692/15/22

Plate 3. Trench 39. Section through toll road. Facing south. G1692/19/22

Plate 4. Trench 40. Facing south. G1692/23/13

Plate 5. Trench 45. Contexts (263) ad (264). Facing north. G1692/27/29

Plate 6. Trench 67. General view of burnt stone. G1692/29/32

Plate 7. Trench 80. General view of context (341) and (342). Facing east. G1692/27/29

Plate 8. Feature 15. South facing elevation. G1692/03/13