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Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd.

**Ysgol Treferyth, Criccieth, Gwynedd:
Archaeological Evaluation**

**Commissioned by
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NGR

Centred on: SH 49233 38036

Location and Topography (Figure 1)

The site of the proposed new school for Criccieth lies at the western edge of the built-up area of Criccieth, Gwynedd. It is south of the A497, west of Lon Fel and north of the railway. The eastern side of the development area is under semi-mature woodland and is fenced off as a separate plot. West of the woodland the land has the appearance of parkland with a series of mature oaks within a pasture. The oaks concentrate along the western side of the development, partly along a drainage channel or seasonal stream. In the south west corner of the development area is an area of reedy vegetation suggesting this part of the field is waterlogged at times of the year.

Near to the southern boundary is a single standing stone. Aeon Archaeology (Cooke 2019, 28) records this stone as having apparent drill marks on its eastern face suggesting it is a relatively modern feature. The drill marks, however, could not be located during the current works.

In general, the ground slopes gently down to the south, but with the occasional diffuse earthworks which are assumed to be natural. The north western corner of the development area, however, appears to form a flattish platform, approximately 80 x 40 m in size, with a short, steeper, slope down to the south.

Archaeological Background

Gwynedd County Council plan to build a new school on the site (Planning Reference C21/0718/41/LL). Previously they commissioned Aeon Archaeology (Cooke 2019) to produce a desktop study of the proposed development which looked at a larger area including a second field immediately to the west of the survey area. The study defined a number of potential archaeological features within the development area including fifteen archaeological sites within, or in close proximity to the site boundary. Of particular note is the former driveway to Muriau (GAT PRN: 81364) which crosses the survey area from south to north. Also, the 1839 tithe map (Figure 20) suggests a serpentine water course crosses the surveys area as does a series of field boundaries which are also shown on 1831 Ordnance Survey map.

This was followed by a Fluxgate Gradiometer survey of 1.13 Ha of the proposed development area (Brooks 2020) which suggested the presence of a number of anomalies which could be result of archaeological activity. The majority of the anomalies appeared to relate to the either modern disturbance or the parkland landscape, however, the drive to Muriau was located and a group of anomalies in the north east section of the survey suggested a level of archaeological activity not recorded in the desk-top study.

In his response to the Gwynedd Planning Committee, Tom Fildes (Planning archaeologist at the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service) states that “the periphery of the town does hold potential for unknown archaeological sites. The Tithe Map suggests early variations on the field’s composition, as well as being in proximity to an early (possibly even Medieval) farmstead to the south. The route of the A497 is the route of the original track in and out of Criccieth to the west, meaning that roadside sites such as this hold particular potential for

associated activity.” (<https://amg.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/planning/index.html?fa=getApplication&id=32054>).

Aims of Evaluation

1. To evaluate the results of the Fluxgate Gradiometer Survey
2. To evaluate the archaeological record within the development area.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

A total of 22 trenches, each approximately 30 x 1.8 m in size, were dug to sample the results of the previous Fluxgate Gradiometer survey and to evaluate the archaeological record of the development site. Seven of the trenches contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits. The other trenches contained evidence for previous land divisions, probably related to those seen on the 1839 Tithe Map for Criccieth, the previous line of the drainage channel and the track from Muriau. Most surprisingly, at least one, probable, prehistoric, cist, and part of a possible second cist, was located in Trench 12.

Cloddiwyd cyfanswm o 22 ffos, pob un tua 30 x 1.8 m o ran maint, i samplu canlyniadau arolwg blaenorol Fluxgate Gradiometer ac i werthuso cofnod archeolegol y safle datblygu. Nid oedd saith o'r ffosydd yn cynnwys unrhyw nodweddion na dyddodion o arwyddocâd archeolegol. Roedd y ffosydd eraill yn cynnwys tystiolaeth o raniadau tir blaenorol, yn ymwneud yn ôl pob tebyg â'r rhai a welwyd ar Fap Degwm 1839 ar gyfer Criccieth, llinell flaenorol y sianel ddraenio a'r trac o Muriau. Yn fwyaf trawiadol, roedd o leiaf un gist, mae'n debyg, yn gynhanesyddol, tra bod yna ail gist bosibl, wedi'i lleoli yn Ffos 12.

Methods

Twenty-two trenches were laid out across the development area (Figure 2) with the aim of sampling the results of the Fluxgate Gradiometer survey. These were positioned to both sample the anomalies recognised by the geophysical survey and areas where the survey did not suggest archaeological activity. Also, five of the trenches were positioned to sample areas within the development where it was not possible to carry out a Fluxgate Gradiometer survey.

The topsoil was removed with a Zaxis 130 LCN mechanical excavator using a smoothed faced ditching bucket 1.8 m wide. After this all of the work was carried out by hand. Any features located were recorded with a written, drawn and photographic record being kept. Photographs were taken with a Nikon D5300 Digital SLR Camera at a resolution of 24.2 MP with the photographs recorded in RAW format, which was converted to .TIFF for the archive. Photogrammetric plans of trenches with archaeological features were produced using Agisoft Metascape v. 1.8.1.

The fieldwork took place between 21st March and 1st April 2022.

Results

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located to the west of the water course crossing the development area in an area which was not covered by the Fluxgate Gradiometer Survey (Plate 1). No archaeology was recorded in this trench.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was positioned, outside the area of the Fluxgate Gradiometer survey, but across a linear hollow that appear to mark the position of a previous course for the water course (Figures 3 and 17.1, Plate 2). At the eastern end of the trench a tip of stones (Context 7, Plates 3 and 4) sits largely on the western lip of the linear hollow, but also fills the base of the feature. This layer was then sealed with a layer of mid brown clayey silt (Context 6) largely filling the hollow.

Trench 3

Trench 3 (Figure 4, Plate 5) was located to cross Anomaly P (Brooks 2021, Figure 6) which appears to mark the boundary of an area of magnetic disturbance in the north-east sector of the development area. No signs of an archaeological feature related to Anomaly P was noted, however, shallow scoop (Context 10) filled with rounded and sub-rounded stones (Context 9) (Figure 18, Plates 6 and 7) was located towards the south eastern end of the trench. This feature was 2.10 x 1.10 m in size, but only up to 100 mm deep. It had sloping sides and a flattish base, slightly disrupted by natural boulders protruding from the natural clay below.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was designed to sample the area within the possible enclosure (Anomalies Q and P, Brooks 2021, Figure 6) (Plate 8). No archaeology was recorded in this trench, although the underlying natural clay was slightly redder in colour and had noticeably higher density of small (up to 100 mm) rounded and sub-rounded pebbles than elsewhere on the site. This

variability may have given rise to some of the variability seen in the Fluxgate Gradiometer survey.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was located to sample Anomaly G of the Fluxgate Gradiometer survey (Brooks 2021, Figure 6) (Plate 9). This was reflected in the presence of a large area of burning and heated stones (Context 25) covering an area at least 5.4 x 1.9 m in size (Figure 5, Plate 10). This layer was within a shallow hollow (Context 27, Figure 18, Plate 11) up to 120 mm deep. It is clear that burning took place in this location as of this feature had heat affected clay (Context 26) across its base. Context 25 also contained two clay pipe fragments and a sherd of Buckley Ware pottery suggesting an eighteenth or nineteenth century date.

The western end of Trench 5 also contained the eastern edge of the track from Muriau (Context 29, Plate 12). This consisted of many rounded pebbles and small cobbles up to 140 mm in size in a friable pale grey silty matrix. It would seem likely that these cobbles were collected from a local beach.

Trench 6

Trench 6 was designed to sample Anomaly P of the Fluxgate Gradiometer survey (Brooks 2021, Figure 6) and part of the internal area of the possible enclosure formed by Anomalies P and Q (Plate 13).

Two archaeological features were located within this trench (Figure 6). Firstly, a spread of large pebbles and small cobbles between 40 and 200 mm in size with the occasional small boulder up to 400 mm in size (Context 21, Figures 6 and 18, Plate 14). These were within a yellowish/brown slightly clayey, but still friable, matrix similar to the topsoil above. The spread covers an area at least 1.3 x 1.9 m in size, but is only up to 50 mm thick.

Secondly, a line of earth fast boulders forming a line across the trench (Context 22, Figure 6, Plate 15) which appears to correlate with Anomaly P from the geophysical survey. It would seem likely that these stones mark the position of previous land boundary, possibly the base of a stone wall.

Trench 7

Trench 7 was positioned to sample Anomalies P, V and X from the Fluxgate Gradiometer survey (Brooks 2021, Figure 6) (Plate 16)

No archaeology was recorded in this trench

Trench 8

Trench 8 was positioned to sample Anomalies Q, V, U and R of the Fluxgate Gradiometer Survey (Brooks 2021, Figure 6). Plate 17.

Only two archaeological features were located within this trench (Figure 7), both towards the southern end of the trench. Context 13 (Plate 18) consisted of a line of earth fast boulders crossing the trench, possibly marking the remains of a stone wall. To the south of Context 13 was a cut feature (Context 16, Figure 18, Plate 19) which appears to be a lynchet with a steep northern edge and a southern boundary that merges with the local slope. It was filled with a series of randomly placed rounded and sub-rounded cobbles up to 250 mm in size in a mid-

yellowish/brown clayey loam matrix. There was a moderate quantity of fine roots throughout the deposit. The stones tend to be larger and more closely packed towards the northern side of the feature.

Context 13 appears to correlate with Anomaly Q from the geophysical survey, whilst there is no corresponding magnetic anomaly for Context 16. It also appears to align with Context 18 in Trench 9 and Context 32 in Trench 13. The extent and full form of Context 16 is unknown as it extends beyond the trench, however it does not extend as far as Trench 9, only 13 m away to the east.

Trench 9

Trench 9 ran parallel to Trench 8 at a distance of approximately 13 m (Plate 20). It was designed to provide further samples of Anomalies Q and R from the Fluxgate Gradiometer survey. Only one of these can be related to the archaeology recorded in this trench.

Near to the break of slope between the relatively flat area of the platform and the slope forming its edge was a line of earth fast boulders (Context 18, Figure 8, Plate 21) was located. This appears to correlate with Anomaly Q on the Fluxgate Gradiometer survey and aligns with Context 13 in Trench 8 and Context 32 in Trench 13.

Trench 10

Trench 10 was positioned to sample a relatively quiet to the east of the track from Muriau (Plate 22). On excavation the eastern edge of the spread from the track (Context 51, Figure 9) was located at the western end of the trench.

Trench 11

Trench 11 was positioned across the magnetic anomaly (Anomaly O, Brooks 2021, Figure 6) which was assumed to be the track from Muriau.

The trench (Plate 23) was crossed by a distinctive feature (Context 55) consisting of a concentration of beach pebbles forming a band 3.5 m wide across the middle of the trench. The feature forms a linear mound approximately 120 mm high with sloping sides and a flat top. Many closely packed pebbles and small cobbles up to 150 mm in size, mainly discoidal in shape, in a loose matrix of yellowish-brown clayey silt. This corresponds with the construction of track from Muriau using local beach pebbles.

On the western edge of Context 55, and partly buried by the track make-up, was a large boulder (Context 56, Plate 24) with half of a circular bowl carved out of its bulk. There were a series of linear marks running down the slope of the “bowl”, the base of which was crushed and pitted. The boulder appears to be earth fast and Context 55 laps up, and partly covered, its eastern side suggesting it probably pre-dated the construction of the track. Its function is not entirely clear, however it is possibly part of a mortar.

Trench 12

Trench 12 was positioned an area within the geophysical survey where there appeared to be no anomalies (Brooks 2021, Figure 6). However, this proved to be one of the more interesting trenches.

A concentration of stone within the trench (Figure 11, Plates 26 - 28) resolved itself into a rough disc of pebbles and cobbles (Context 47) with four large stone blocks in the centre (Plate 27). At least three of these blocks appear to form a capping with voids below them. One of these blocks (Plate 29) was a slab of slate, one end of which had been deliberately modified with a series of flakes removed from the broken end. A second block was a sandstone boulder which had been used as a grindstone (Plate 30). This block had been further modified with pecking on one end of the main surface. This artefact was originally standing vertically and it is assumed that this pecking was to modify the shape of the block so that it fitted into its place. On removal of the capping a clear space 1.82 x 0.99 m in size was revealed, defined on the western side by a series of upright cobbles. The eastern side is less well defined, however the modified grindstone occupied part of this side.

Although not directly associated with the possible cist a bevelled pebble was found on the spoil heap adjacent to Context 47. This artefact is a local beach pebble with a heavily worn distal end (Plate 31).

It is assumed this feature is a cist of an unusual form possibly originally under a small cairn.

A concentration of stones in the edge of the trench to the east of Context 47 (Context 48, Figure 11, Plate 32) may be the remains of a second cist, however, the majority of the feature is outside Trench 12.

Trench 13

Trench 13 was placed to sample Anomaly Q from the Fluxgate Gradiometer survey (Brooks 2021, Figure 6) and to extend into a corner of the field that was not included in the geophysical survey.

Only one feature was recorded, a series of earth fast boulders (Context 32) crossing the western end of the trench at an angle (Figure 12, Plates 33 and 34). There is some suggestion that these boulders form two parallel lines forming a feature approximately 0.75 m wide. The alignment and form of this feature suggest that they are part of the same boundary recorded as Context 13 in Trench 8 and Context 18 in Trench 9. It is likely that this boundary is shown on the 1839 Tithe Map for Criccieth (Figure 20).

Trench 14

Trench 14 was designed to sample a relatively quiet area of the Fluxgate Gradiometer plot (Brooks 2021, Figure 6). Two features were recorded in this trench (Figure 13, Plate 34), a linear feature (Context 40, Plate 35) and a small feature (possibly a post-hole) (Context 42, Plate 37).

The linear feature ran ENE – WSW across the eastern end of the trench it was 420 mm wide and 90 mm deep with sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a layer (Context 41) which was notable for the quantity of iron panning within its matrix which cemented the fill. The function of this feature is unknown; however, it is likely to represent local drainage in this part of the field.

Context 42 was a small oval shaped feature, 560 x 310 mm in size and only 40 mm deep. The feature had sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a charcoal rich fill (Context 43). No associated features were recorded; however, these could exist outside the trench.

Trench 15

Trench 15 was placed to sample Anomaly H of the Fluxgate Gradiometer survey (Brooks 2021, Figure 6)

No archaeology was recorded in this trench (Plate 38). It is possible that the magnetic disturbance recorded in the Fluxgate Gradiometer survey was within the plough soil and was therefore removed during the topsoiling.

Trench 16

Trench 16 was positioned to sample Anomaly K of the Fluxgate Gradiometer survey (Brooks 2021, Figure 6).

No significant archaeology was recorded in this trench (Plate 39). There was a diffuse area, covering approximately 2.5 m of the trench which contained some burnt stones together with significant manganese development (Context 72). No edges of this spread could be determined and the manganese deposits seem to extend down into the underlying clay (Context 71) in irregular patches. It seems likely that Anomaly K was the result of burning a tree stump in recent times.

Trench 17

Trench 17 was positioned to sample Anomaly I of the Fluxgate Gradiometer survey (Brooks 2021, Figure 6)

No archaeology was recorded in this trench (Plate 40). It is assumed that the magnetic disturbance recorded as Anomaly I must have been the result of magnetic material within the topsoil.

Trench 18

Trench 18 sampled an area on the edge of the Fluxgate Gradiometer survey (Brooks 2021, Figure 6) and extended into an area not covered by that survey.

No archaeology was recorded in this trench (Plate 41)

Trench 19

Trench 19 was placed to sample Anomaly O from the Fluxgate Gradiometer survey (Brooks 2021, Figure 6). This anomaly marks the line of the track from Muriau which is shown on the historic mapping of the area.

The line of the track was marked by a strip of closely packed gravel and cobbles 3.75 m wide (Figure 14, Plates 42 – 44). This had a camber top forming a feature up to 300 mm thick (Figure 17, Plate 44). This is clearly a well-made track, constructed largely of beach pebbles linking Muriau to the main road.

The track had been partly constructed over a large natural boulder 1.4 m x 0.5 m in size.

Trench 20

Trench 20 was placed to sample an area of the Fluxgate Gradiometer survey with no magnetic anomalies (Brooks 2021, Figure 6)

A possible linear feature (Figure 15, Plates 45 and 46, Context 59) was recorded crossing this trench in a ENE – WSW direction. This feature consisted of a very sporadic line of boulders up to 750 x 450 mm in size, but generally up to 250 x 150 mm in size. It is possible that this feature marks the line of a previous field boundary, although it is also possible that this is a natural feature.

Trench 21

Trench 21 was positioned to sample an area of reedy vegetation in the south west corner of the development area that was not covered by the Fluxgate Gradiometer survey (Brooks 2021, Figure 6)

No archaeology was recorded in this trench, which was very wet with standing water within 20 minutes of removing the topsoil. It is noticeable that there is no peat build-up in this clearly damp area of the field. It would seem likely that the condition of this part of the field is a result of relatively recent impeded drainage, probably connected with the construction of the Criccieth to Pwllheli rail line. This line was constructed in the 1860's with Pwllheli station being completed by 1867 (Gwyn, 2006, 212).

Trench 22

Trench 22 was positioned at the edge of the area covered by the Fluxgate Gradiometer survey (Brooks 2021, Figure 6) where no anomalies were recognised. It also extended beyond the survey area to the edge of the area of reedy vegetation in the south western corner of the development (Figure 16, Plate 48).

The removal of the topsoil (Context 65) revealed what appeared a linear feature crossing the western end of the trench (Figure 16, Plates 48 and 49). On investigation this proved to be three overlapping layers which are probably natural in nature. The most recent of these layers is Context 67, a yellowish grey clay with few inclusions. This sat upon, and partly merged with, a band of yellow clay 250 mm wide (Context 68) running in an ENE – WSW direction. Context 68, in turn, overlayed (and partly merged with) Context 69, which a very similar character to Context 67. It is assumed that this variability is the result of differential oxidation of the sediments in this wet area of the field.

***Find*s**

The finds are summarised in Appendix 4. The vast majority of the finds are of eighteenth or nineteenth century date and are assumed to be the result of a manuring scatter over the field.

A limited number of finds, however, are probably prehistoric in date, the majority of which are associated with Context 47 or at least Trench 12. The only exception was a single flint flake which was found in Context 13, Trench 8. This is clearly a residual artefact in this later feature; however, it suggests a level of prehistoric (probably Bronze Age) activity in the area.

Directly associated with the possible cist/cairn (Context 47, Trench 12) were three artefacts. A modified grindstone or possible quern (Plate 30) formed part of the structure and was

originally placed upright. It has one smoothed/worn face which was later modified with extensive pecking removing approximately half of the worn surface. It is assumed that this pecking was, at least partly, to reshape the artefact so that it would fit into the structure of the cist. Within the scatter of pebbles around the possible cist were two artefacts. A knapped block of a pale grey chert (Plate 50). This artefact has at least four removals on its dorsal surface, although its ventral surface appears to be a natural break. The second artefact is a secondary flake of the local rock which has been truncated with a tranchet flake across its distal end (Plate 51).

Found on the soil heap, but probably associated with Context 47 was a flat, oval cobble with extensive wear on one end forming a bevelled edge (Plate 31). The wear on the distal end suggest that this artefact was used against an abrasive surface at an angle of 30° for the majority of the work, with a second working area at an angle of approximately 90° to the axis of the cobble.

None of the prehistoric finds are temporally diagnostic, however given the form of Context 47 they are probably Bronze Age in date.

Discussion

The correlation between the Fluxgate Gradiometer survey (Brooks 2021) and the current work is reasonable with many features correlating with anomalies seen in the grey scale plots. There is one area, however, where the Fluxgate Gradiometer survey suggest a level of archaeological activity which was not reflected in the evaluation. This is in the north-eastern sector of the field where there is a large flat area below the boundary wall. Sampled by Trenches 3, 4 6 8 and 9, it was noticeable that the natural underlying clay was of a slightly different character being slightly redder in appearance and noticeably stonier the other areas of the evaluation. It would therefore seem likely that at least part of the magnetic disturbance in this part of the field is the result of the variability in the character of the underlying till in this part of the field.

Although essentially undated, the majority of the features recorded appear to relate to the eighteenth and nineteenth century use of the field. Contexts 13 (Tr 8), 18 (Tr 9) and 32 (Tr 13) appears to form a field boundary which probably equates with the southern boundary of Plots 476 of the 1839 Tithe Map of Criccieth (<https://places.library.wales>) (Figure 20). The accuracy of the Tithe map, however, is brought to question as the watercourse running parallel to this boundary on the Tithe Map was not located in the evaluation.

The other major, post-medieval feature is the track which originally linked Muriau to the main road. Its course has been traced for at least 80 m across the field in Trenches 5, 10, 11 and 19. It is curious, however that no sign of the track was recorded in Trench 2 suggesting the surviving remains of this track peters out between Trenches 2 and 5. The track was well made largely of beach cobbles, presumably collected from the local beaches. The relationship of the standing stone in the field to the track is curious as the stone (Plate 52) appears to sit on one side of the track. It is possible that this stone acted as a gate post, although it is possible that it was erected at a later date.

Tip of stones in Trench 2 (Context 7) suggest a period of clearance, probably related to a period of ploughing. The linear hollow, below, probably marks the line of a previous water course marked as a line of trees on the 1888 Ordnance Survey map, Caernarvonshire XXXIV.SW map (Figure 21).

Probable prehistoric activity occurs in two of the trenches, but concentrates in Trench 12. The exception is the large stone block (Context 56, Plate 25) which appear to be half of a large stone mortar with a carved hollow and extensive use in its base. It is clear that the track (Context 55) was constructed around this artefact and it is therefore earlier. The date of this artefact is not known, but a similar mortar was excavated by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust at Melin y Plas, Bryngwran, where it was associated with an early Roman round house (Smith 2012 and 2012a, Figure 4.9, Figure 8.17). No artefact or features of this date were recorded from the evaluation and it is possible that this artefact may be from earlier activity.

The main, probable, prehistoric activity took place in Trench 12. Context 47 appears to be the disturbed remains of a possible cist, possibly beneath a cairn. The structure of this feature is unusual with cists more typically being constructed of stone slabs; however, the local geology means that it was more practical to use local beach cobbles for much of the construction. It is noticeable that the stone which were probably used as the lid to the chamber used at least one block of slate which had been modified in order to fit. The inclusion of a modified possible saddle quern as part of the structure suggests a prehistoric date as does the knapped flakes found within the structure and the bevelled pebble tool from the spoil heap. No burial was recorded within Context 47; however, it is assumed that the local conditions are not suitable for the preservation of bone as no bone was found within any of the trenches.

A similar structure was recorded by Wessex Archaeology at the Rhyd-y-Groes Wind Farm on Anglesey (Wessex Archaeology 2007, 15-16, Figure 6) which was assumed to be cist sealed beneath a small cairn. It also had not firm dating, but was assumed to be broadly Bronze Age in date with a suggested date range of between the 3rd millennium BC and 13th century BC (Wessex Archaeology 2007, 16 Lynch, Aldhouse-Green and Davies 2000, 127). Further away, Bronze Age, oval, graves lined with small stones, rather than large slabs were also recorded at Newton (Mumbles) Barrow, Swansea, Glamorgan (Savoy 1972, 124-7).

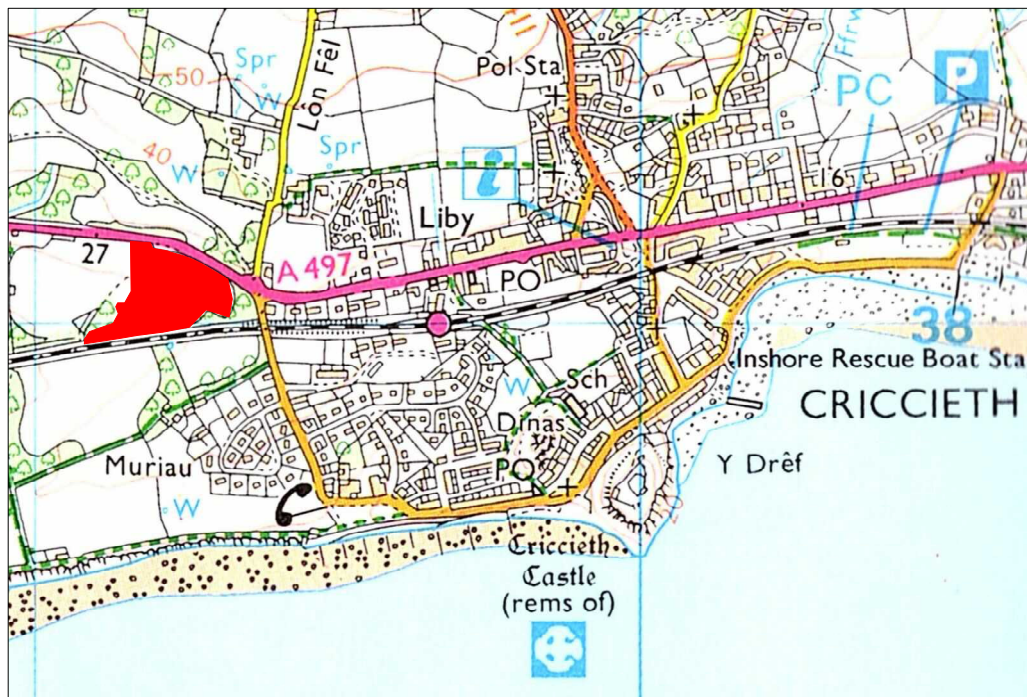
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Wessex Archaeology 2007. *Rhyd-y-Groes Wind Farm, Werthyr, Near Amlwch, Anglesey, North Wales. Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results.* Wessex Archaeology Report 62509.01

Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned by Alan Edwards, Swyddog Datblygu Eiddo, Adran Tai ac Eiddo, Cyngor Gwynedd. He also organised the visit by the local school to the site. The topsoiling was carried out by Mei Black of XTPlant with his usual skill. The fieldwork was carried out by the author together with Matt Jones of CR Archaeology whose support is gratefully acknowledged. The project was monitored for the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service by T. Fildes.



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Figure 1: Location
 Scale 1:12,500

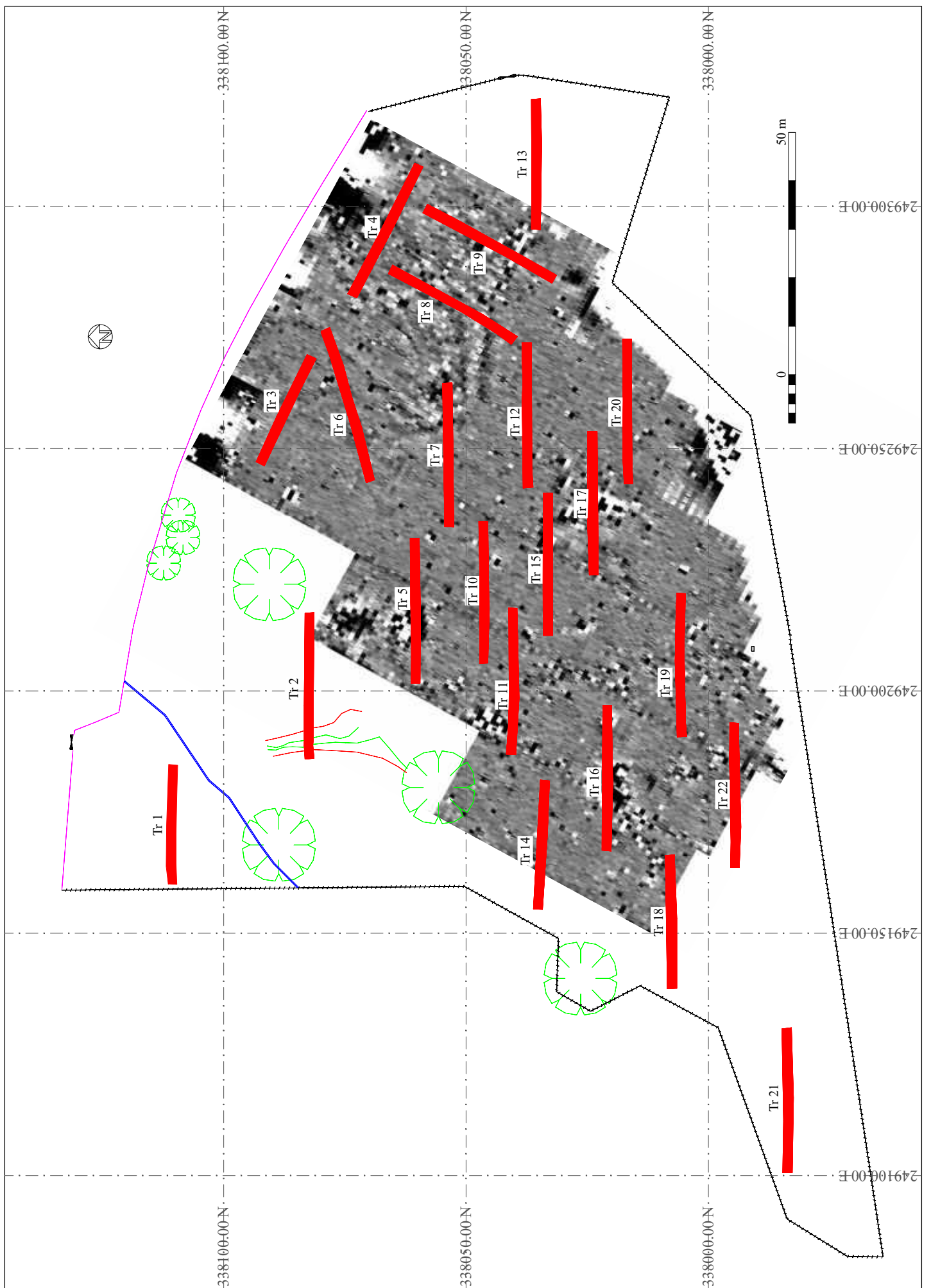


Figure 2: Location of the Trenches
Scale 1:1,000

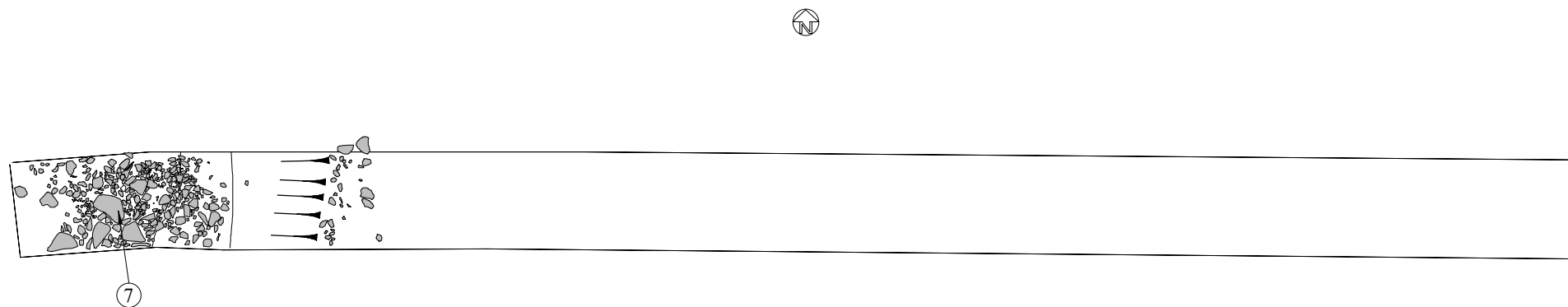


Figure 3: Plan of Trench 2
Scale 1:120

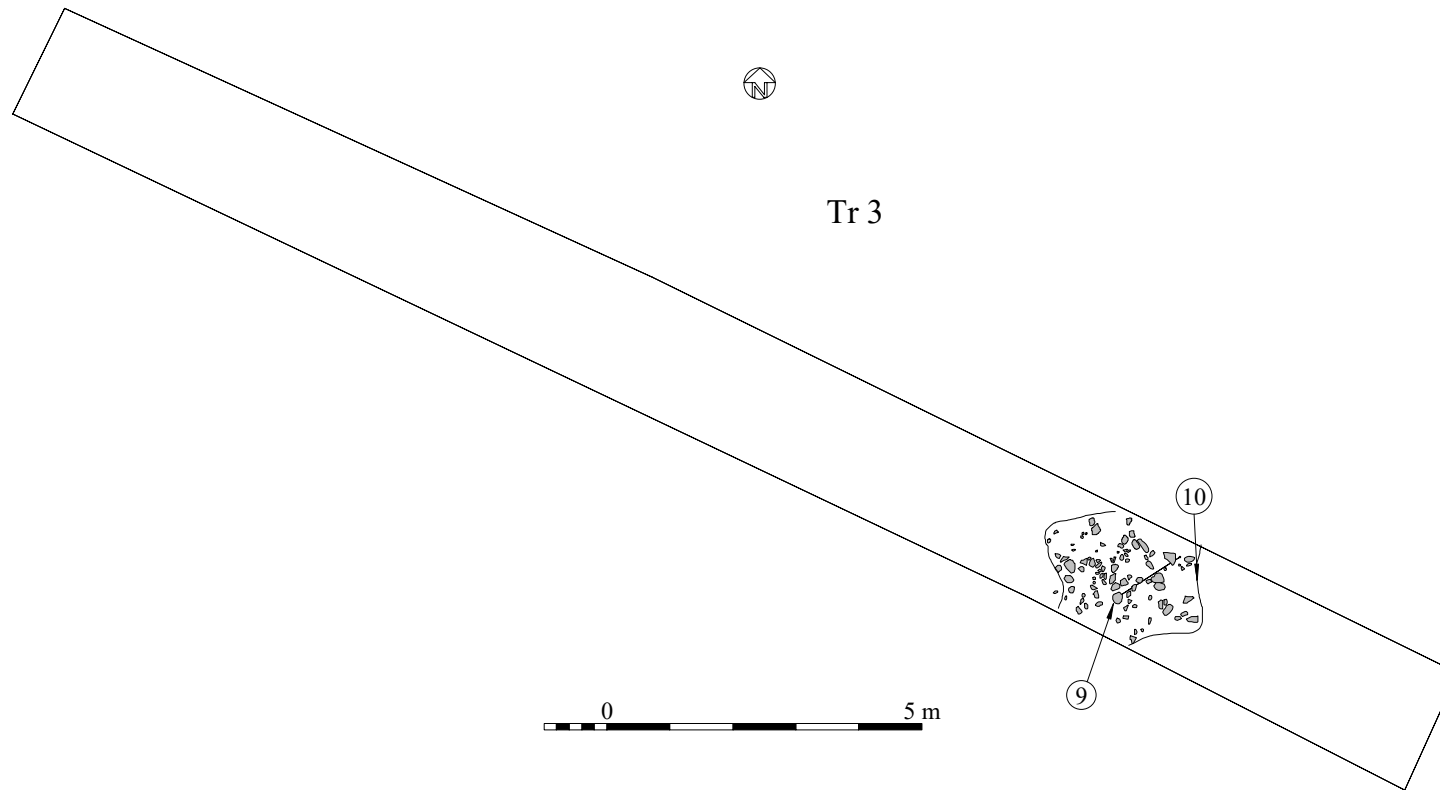


Figure 4: Plan of Trench 3
Scale 1:120

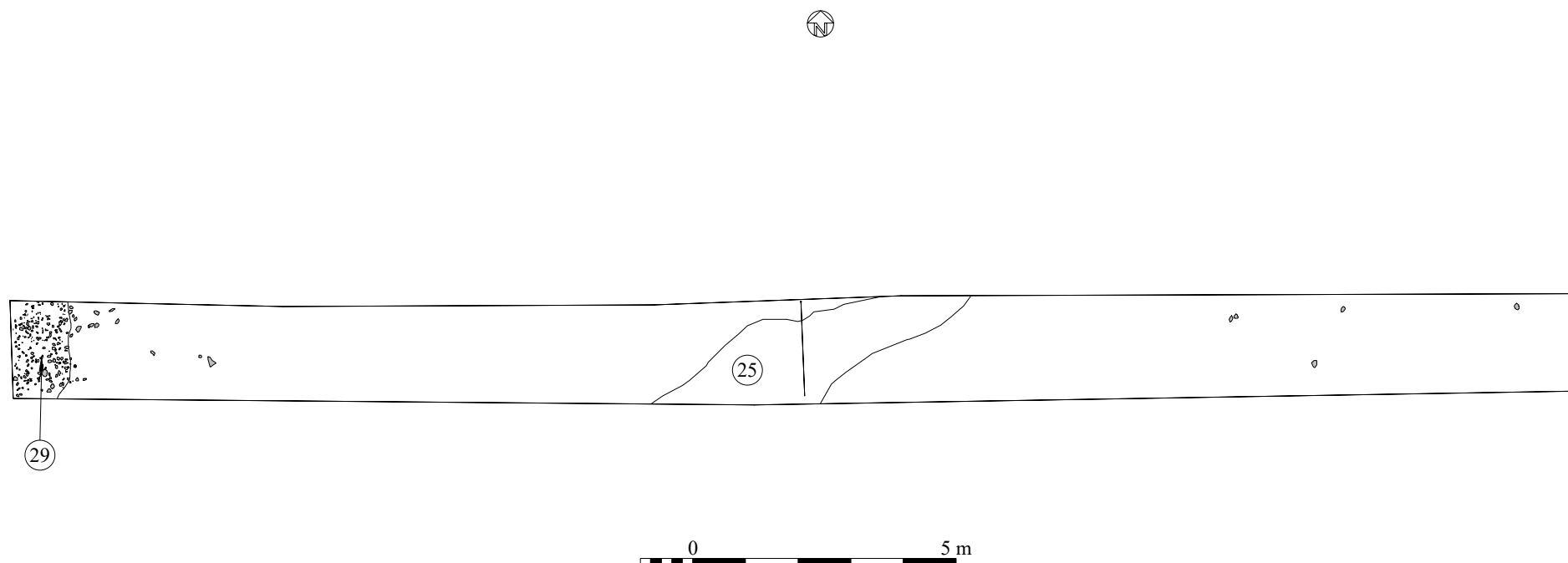


Figure 5: Plan of Trench 5
Scale 1:120

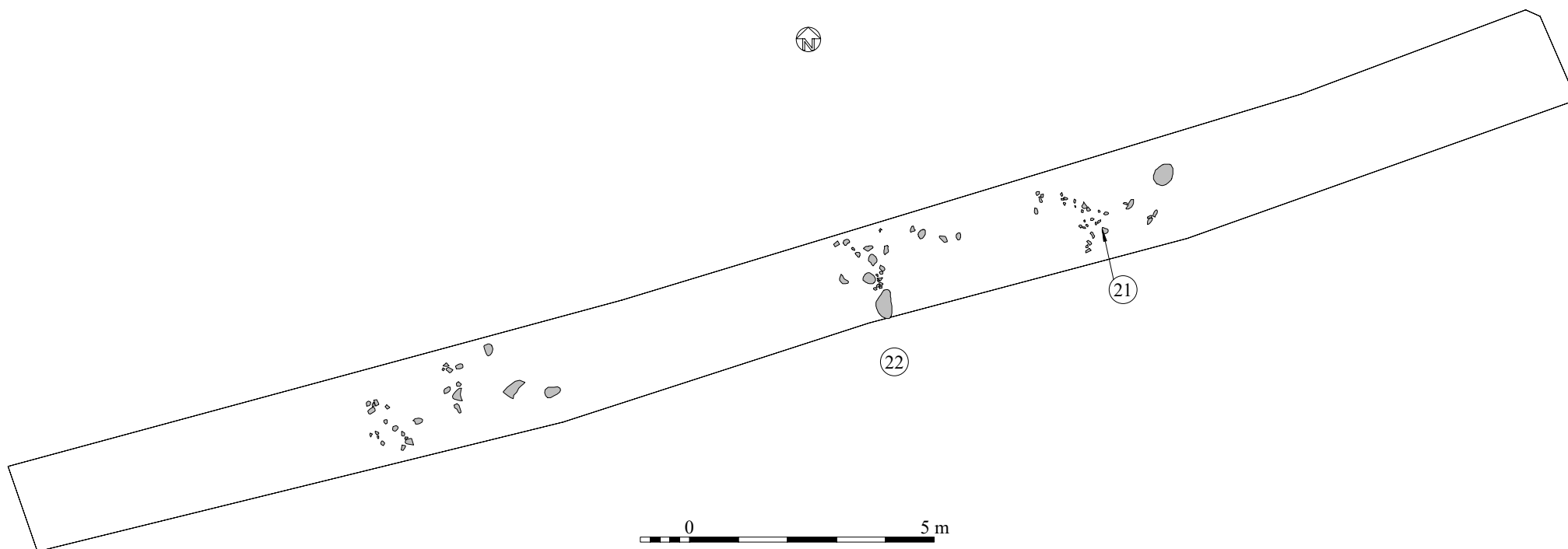


Figure 6: Plan of Trench 6
Scale 1:120

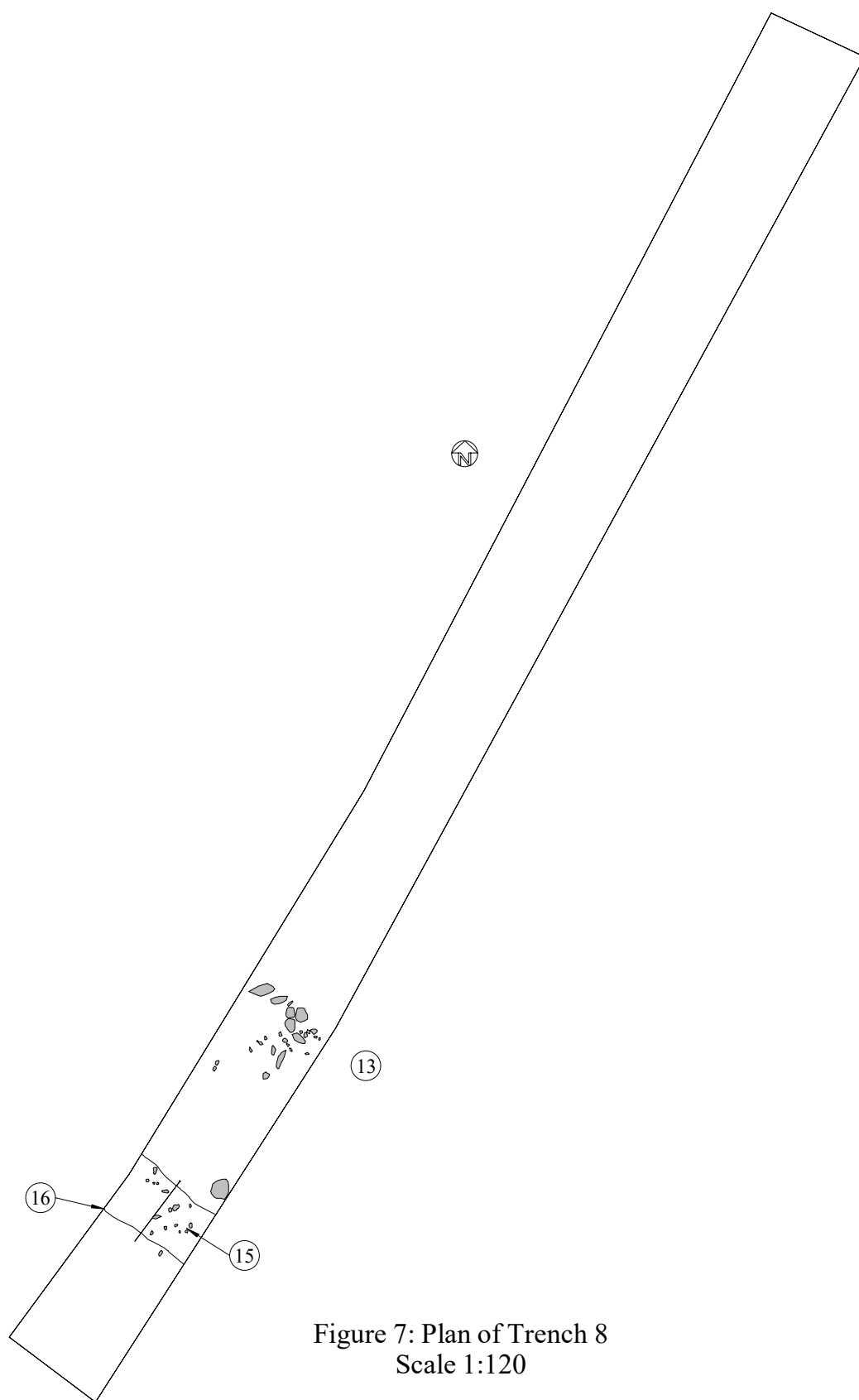


Figure 7: Plan of Trench 8
Scale 1:120



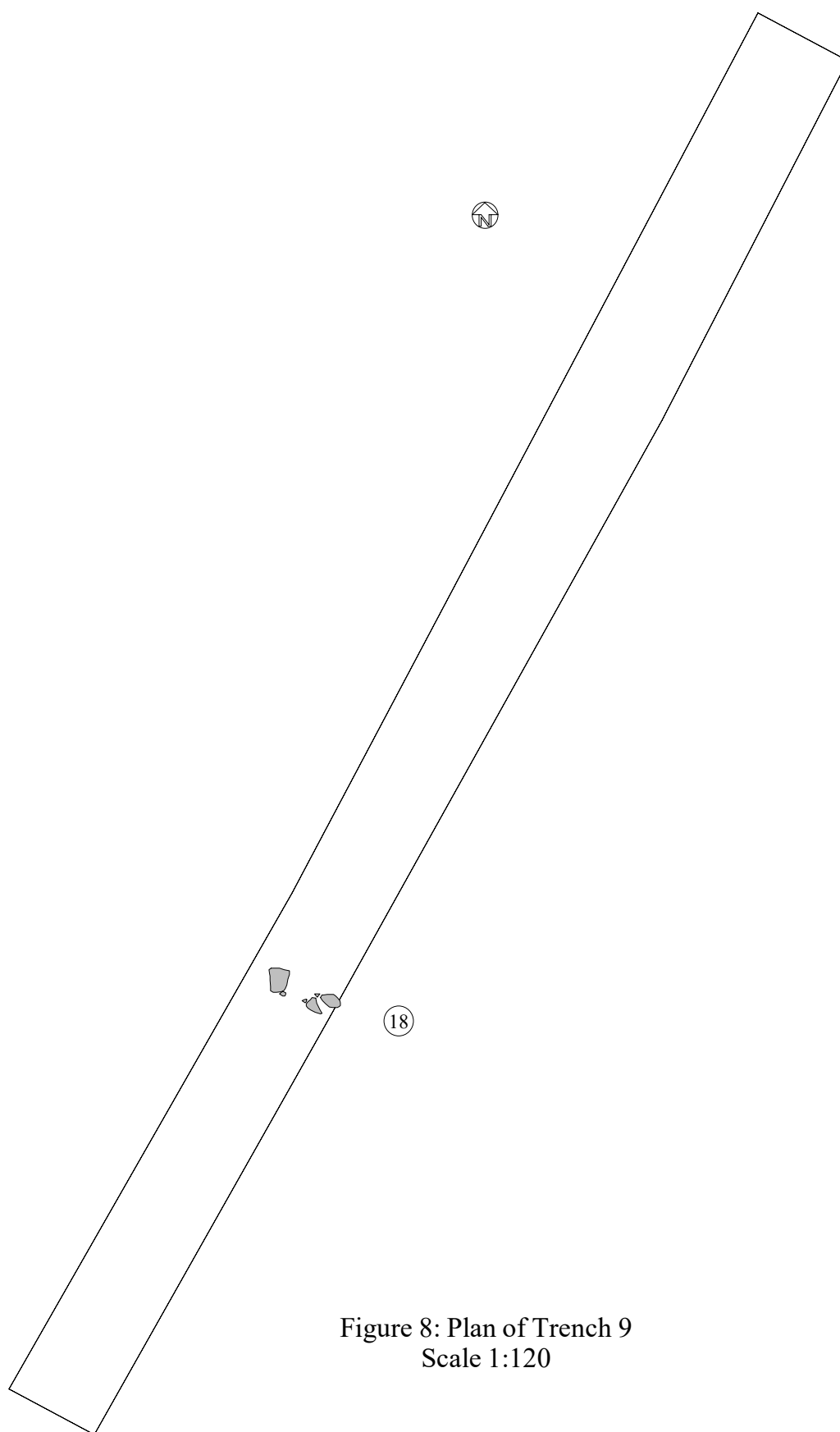


Figure 8: Plan of Trench 9
Scale 1:120



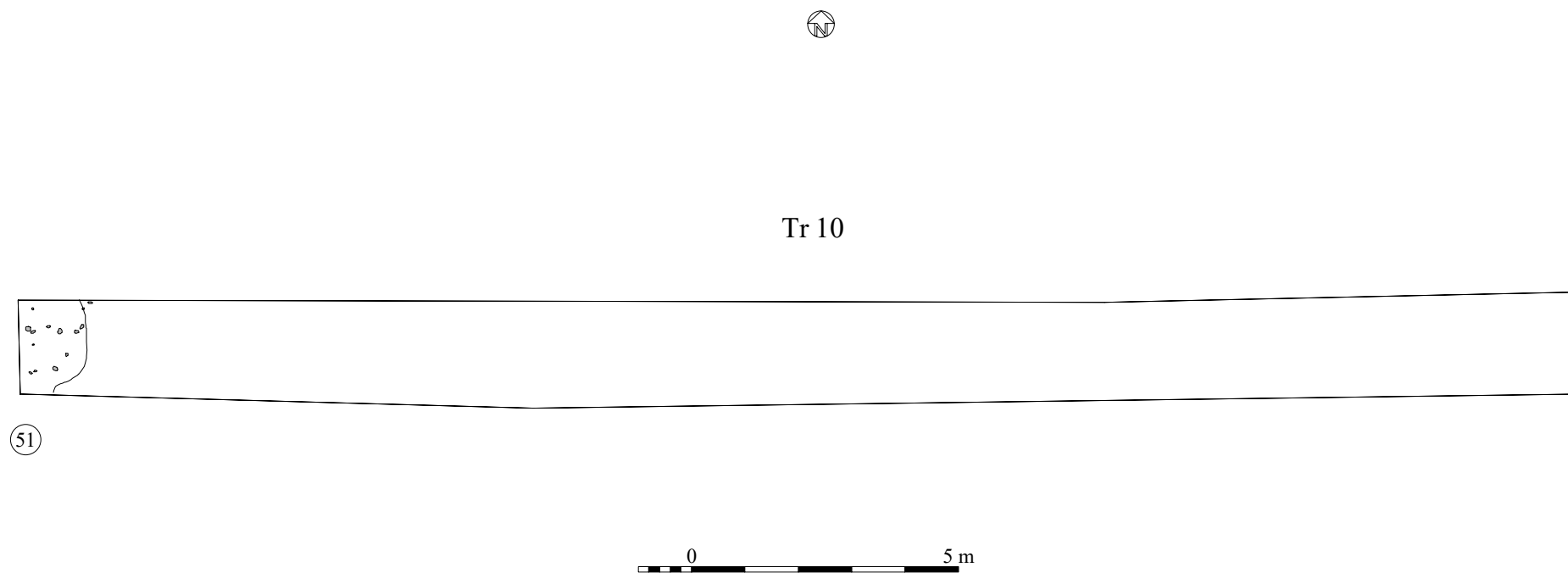


Figure 9: Plan of Trench 10
Scale 1:120

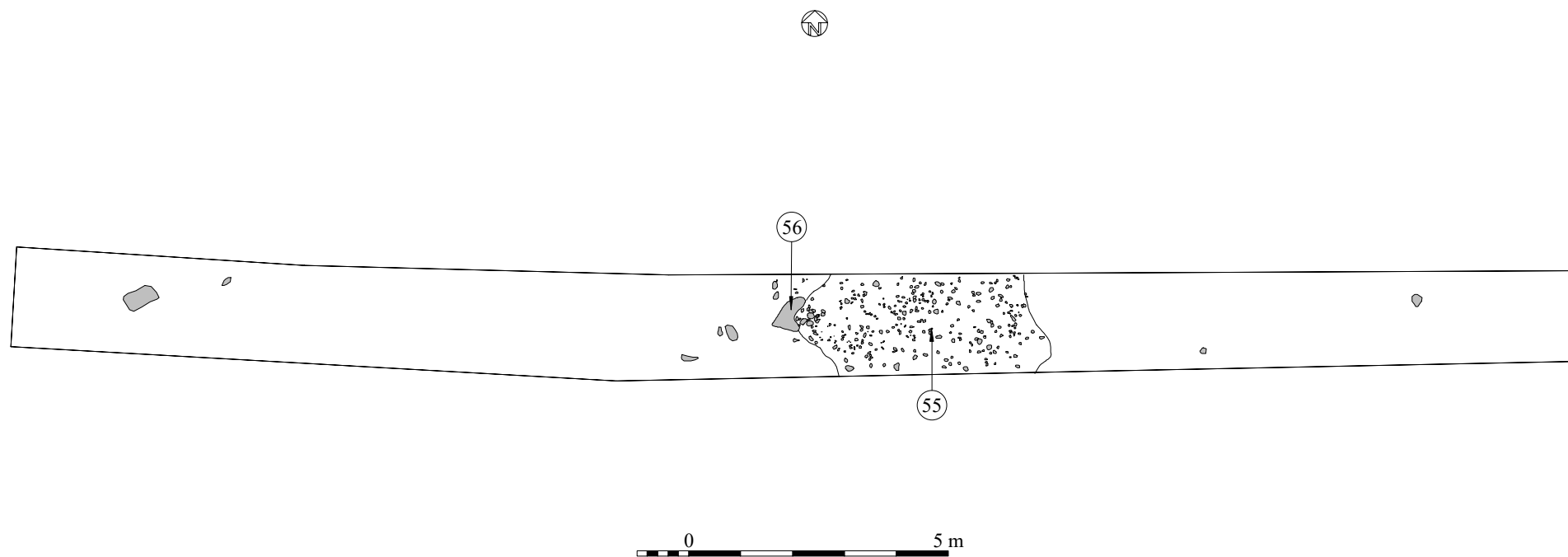


Figure 10: Plan of Trench 11
Scale 1:120

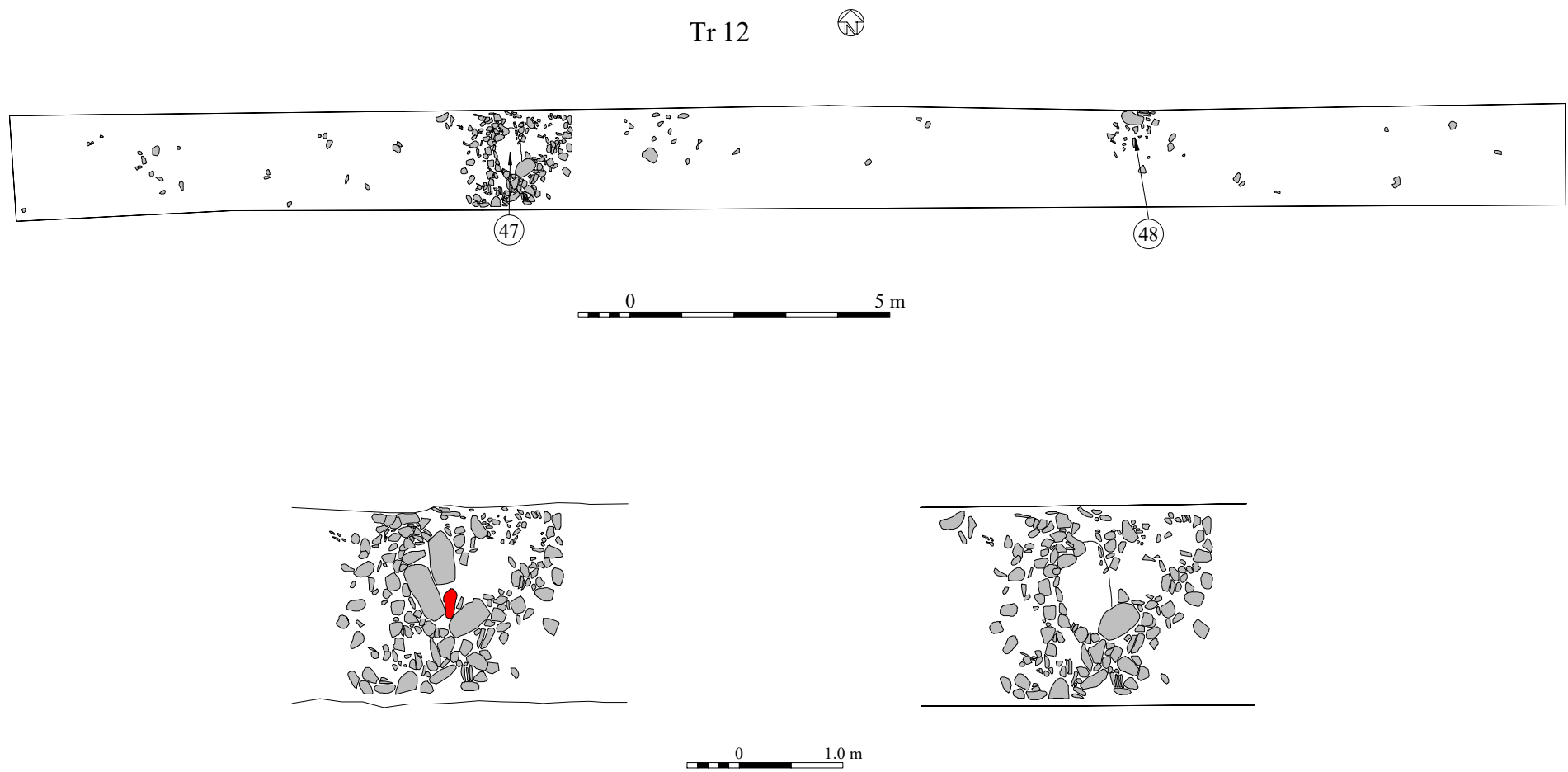


Figure 11: Plans of Trench 12
Main plan 1:120
Details 1:60

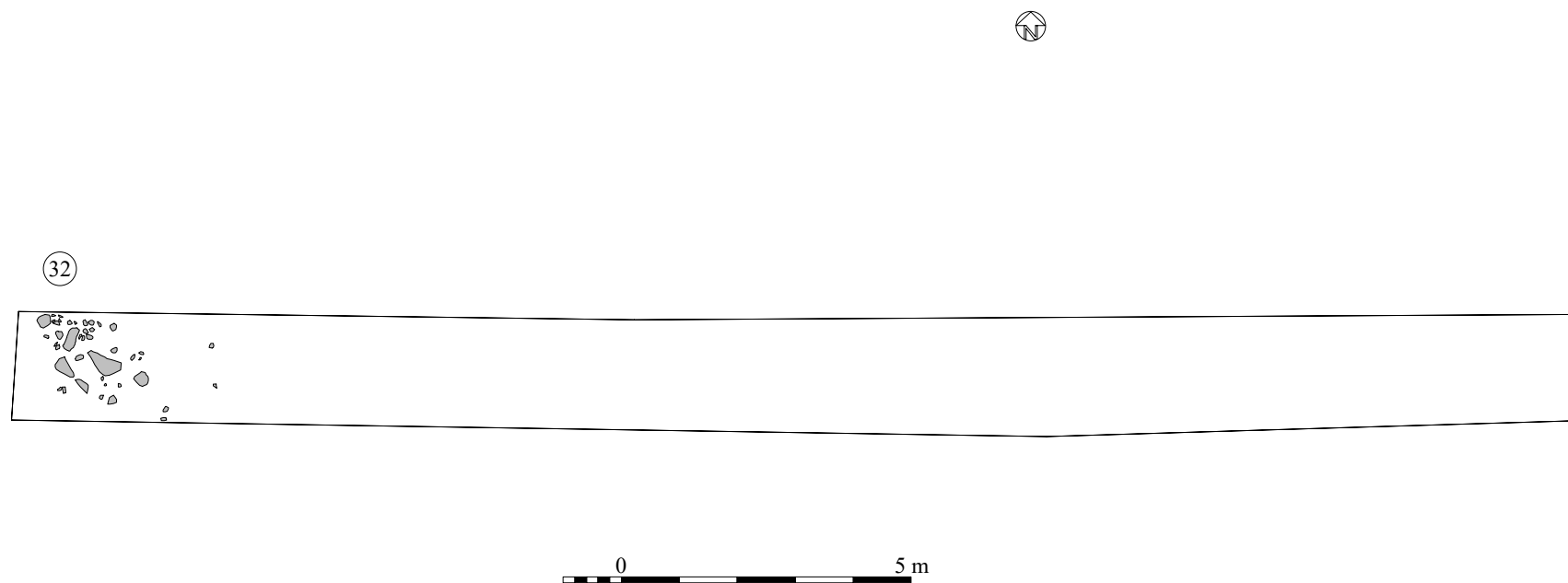


Figure 12: Plan of Trench 13
Scale 1:120

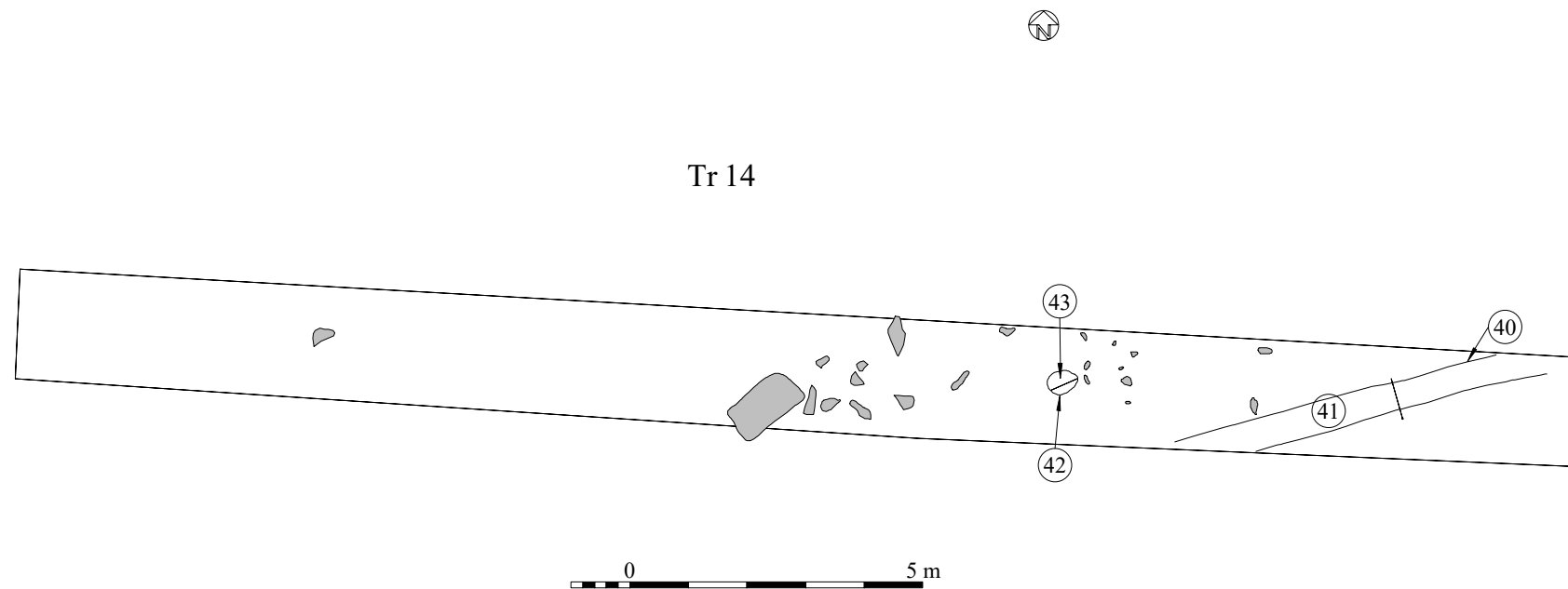


Figure 13: Plan of Trench 14
Scale 1:120

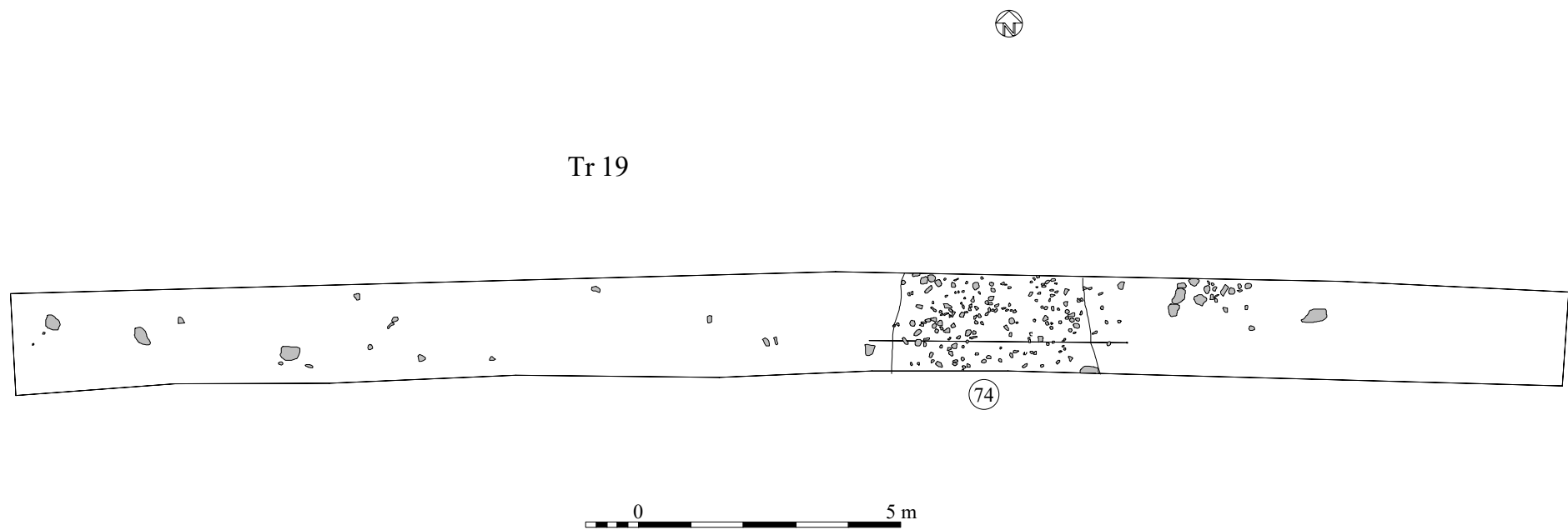


Figure 14: Plan of Trench 19
Scale 1:120

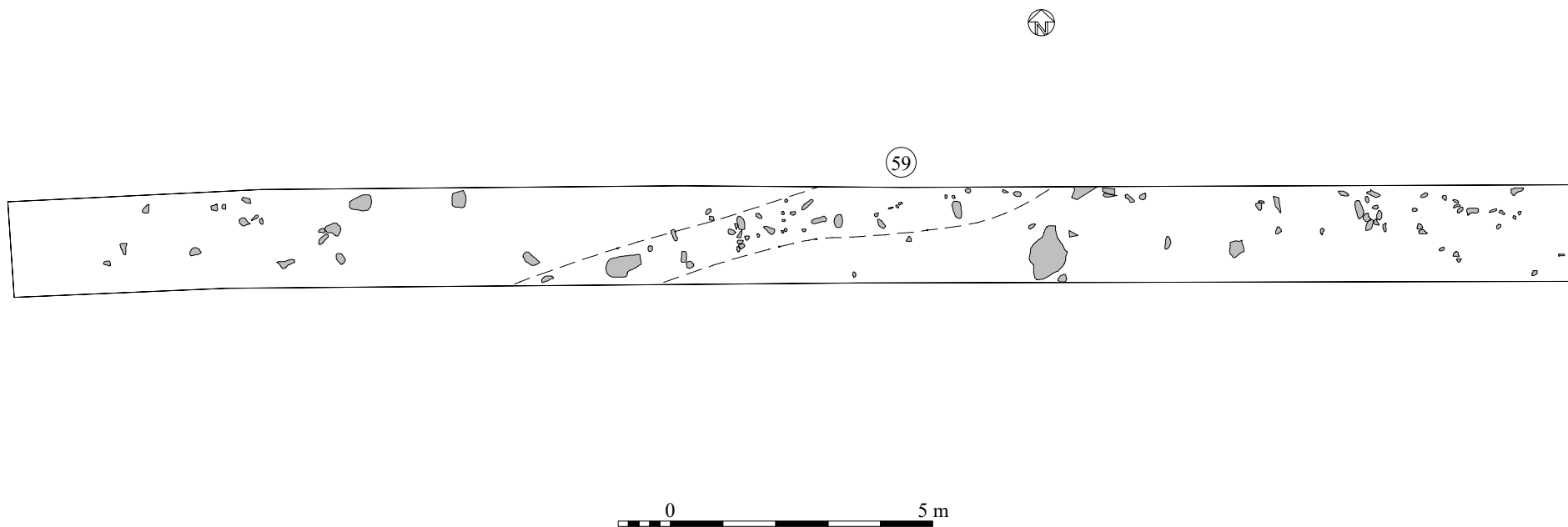


Figure 15: Plan of Trench 20
Scale 1:120

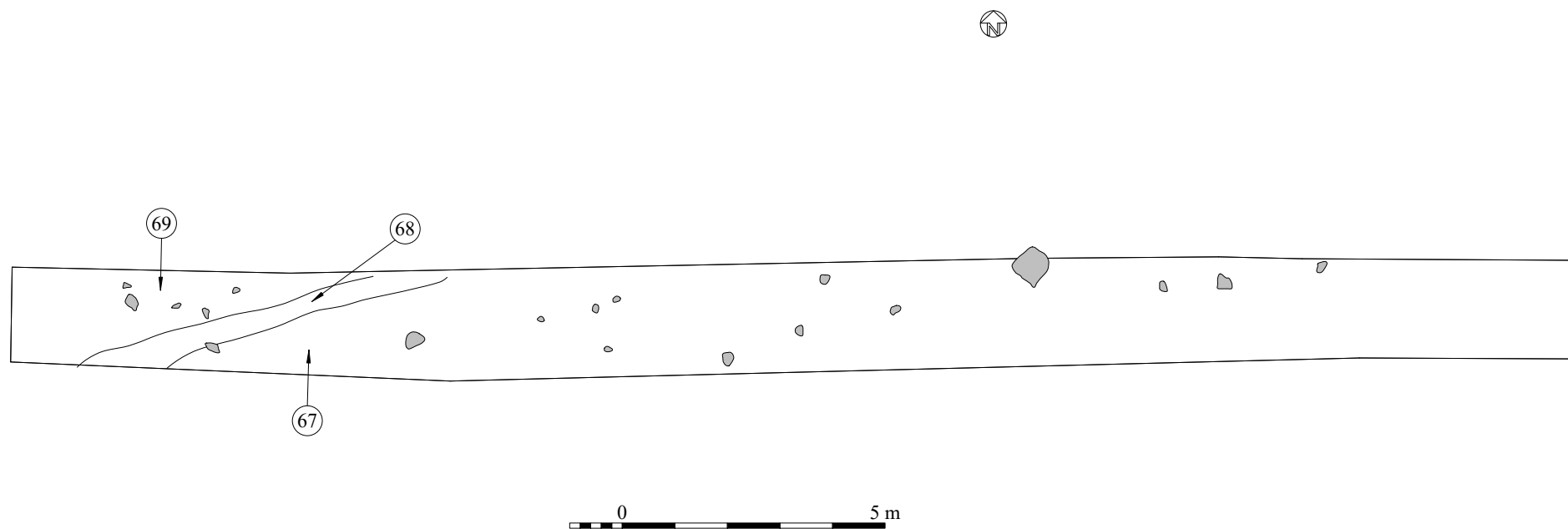


Figure 16: Plan of Trench 22
Scale 1:120

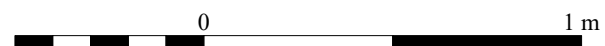
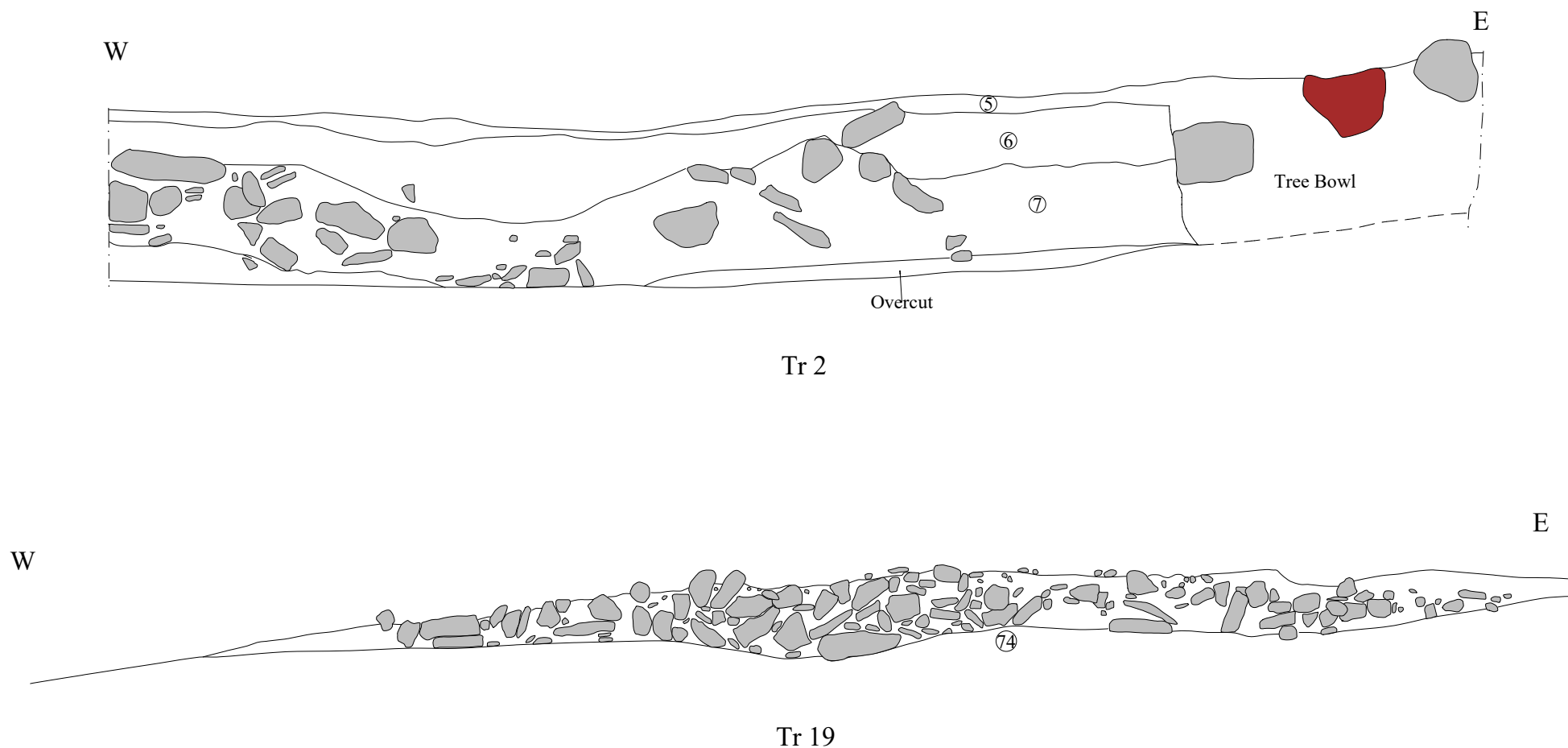


Figure 17: Sections from Trenches 2 and 19
Scale 1:20

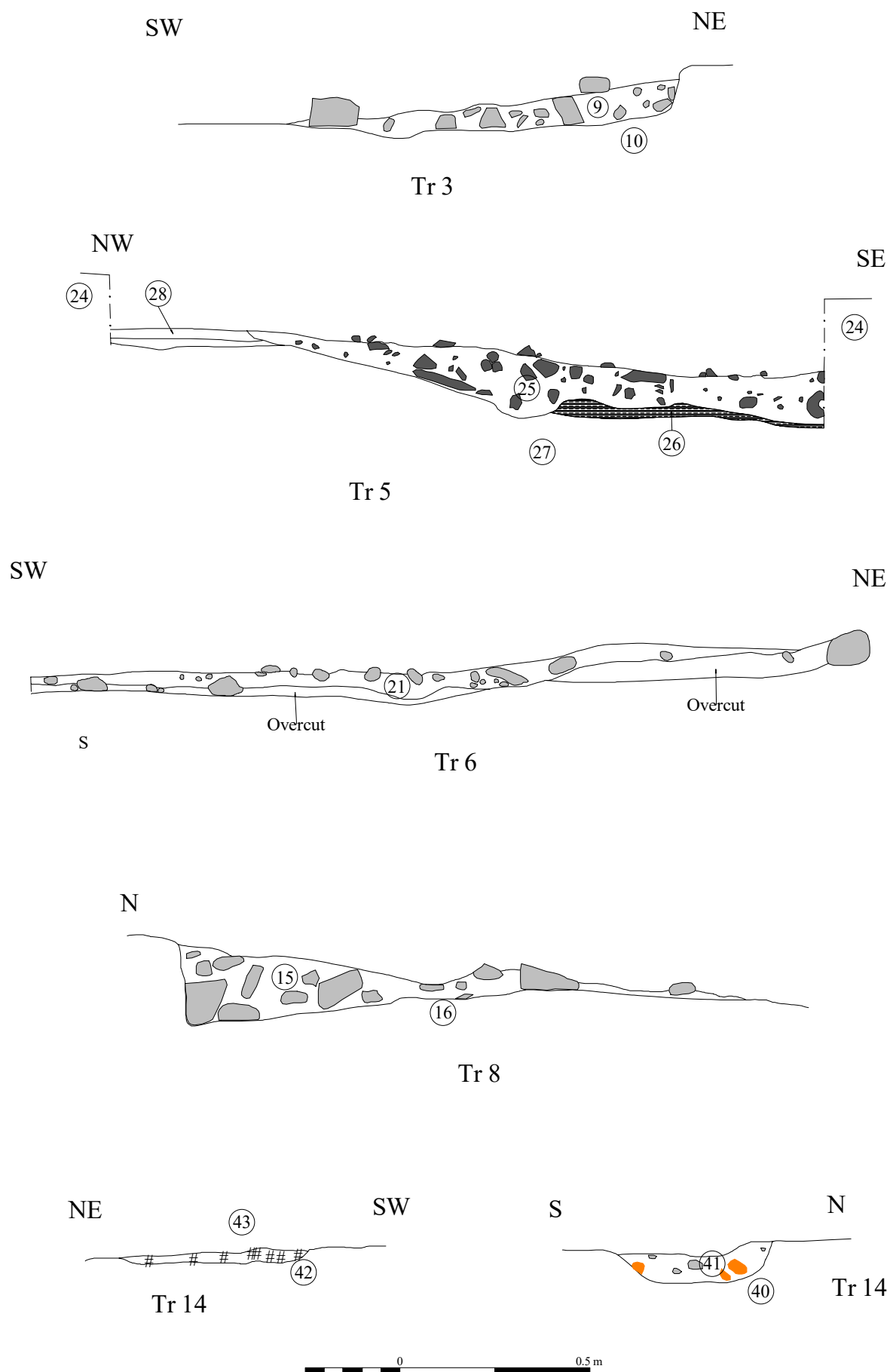


Figure 18: Sections from Trenches 3, 5, 6, 8 and 14
Scale 1:15

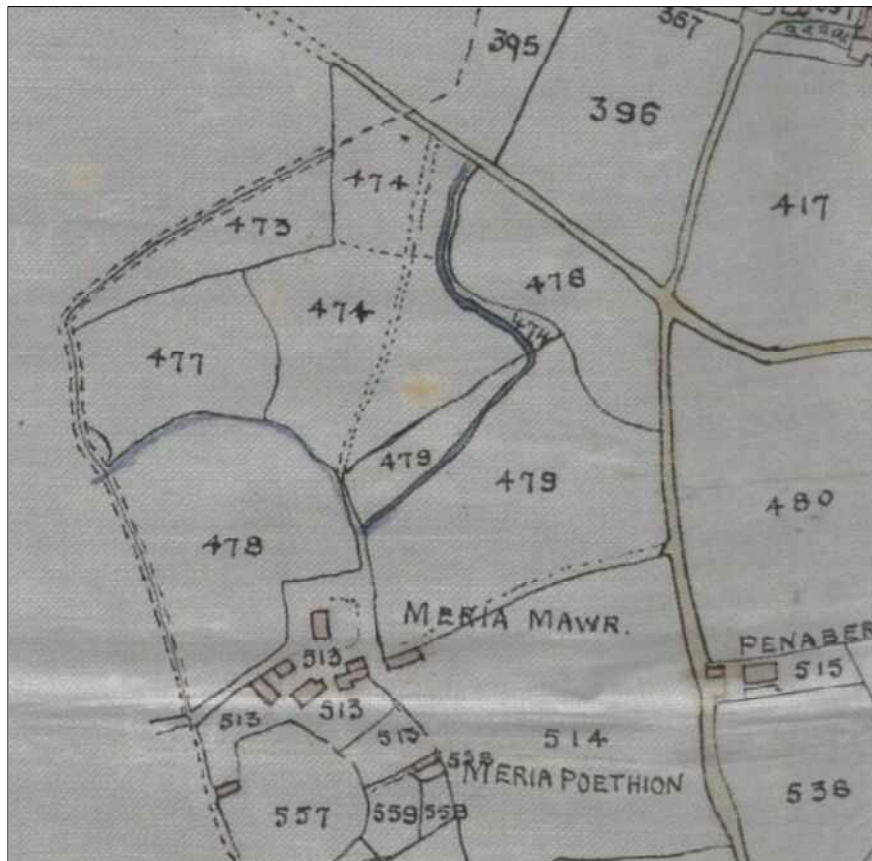


Figure 20: Extract from the 1839 Tithe Map of Criccieth
Not to Scale.

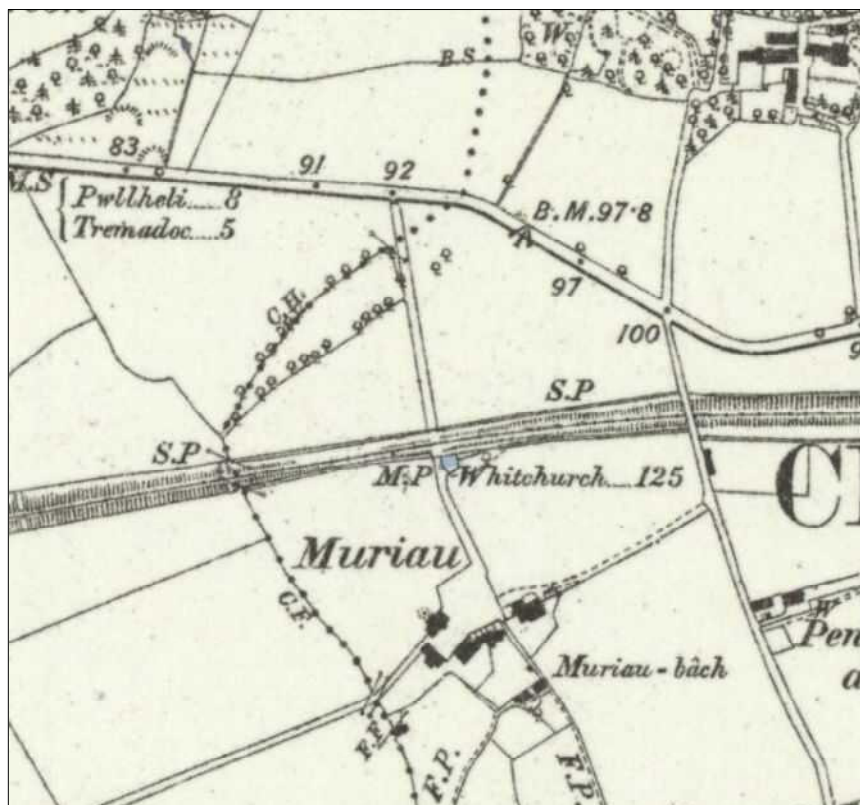


Figure 21: Extract from the Caernarvonshire XXXIV SW Map
Published in 1888.



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking west



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking east



Plate 3: Western end of Trench 2, showing Context 7



Plate 4: Section through Context 7



Plate 5: Trench 3, looking west



Plate 6: Trench 3, Context 9



Plate 7: Section through Context 10



Plate 8: Trench 4, looking north west



Plate 9: Trench 5, looking east



Plate 10: Trench 5, Context 25



Plate 11: Section through Context 25



Plate 12: Trench 5, Context 29

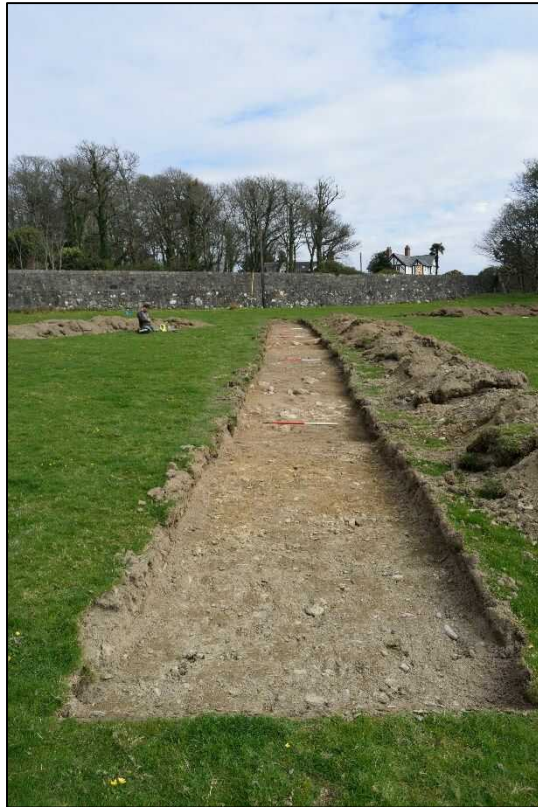


Plate 13: Trench 6, looking ENE



Plate 14: Trench 6, Context 21



Plate 15: Trench 6, Context 22



Plate 16: Trench 7, looking west



Plate 17: Trench 8, looking north



Plate 18: Trench 8, Context 13



Plate 19: Section through Context 15, Trench 8



Plate 20: Trench 9, looking north



Plate 21: Trench 9, Context 18



Plate 22: Trench 10, looking west



Plate 23: Trench 11, looking west



Plate 24: Trench 11, Context 55



Plate 25: Possible stone artefact (Context 56) in Trench 11



Plate 26: Trench 12, looking east



Plate 27: Possible cist (Context 47) with the lid



Plate 28: Possible cist (Context 47) after the removal of the lid.

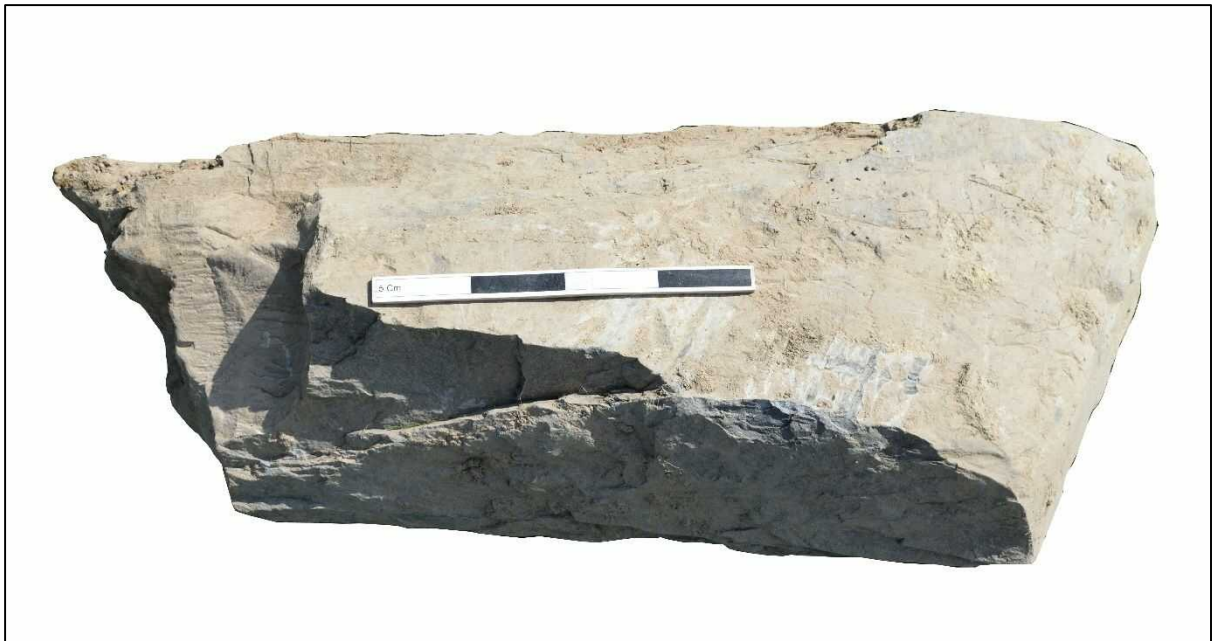


Plate 29: Modified stone use as part of the lid for the possible cist (Context 47)



Plate 30: Stone artefact from Context 47



Plate 31: Bevelled pebble from Tr 12



Plate 32: Trench 12, Context 48



Plate 33: Trench 13, looking east



Plate 34: Trench 13, Context 32



Plate 35: Trench 14, looking west



Plate 36: Trench 14, Context 40



Plate 37: Trench 14, Context 42



Plate 38: Trench 15, looking west



Plate 39: Trench 16, looking west



Plate 40: Trench 17, looking west



Plate 41: Trench 18, looking west



Plate 42: Trench 19, looking west



Plate 43: Trench 19, Context 74



Plate 44: Trench 19, section through Context 74



Plate 45: Trench 20, looking east



Plate 46: Trench 20, Context 59



Plate 47: Trench 21, looking west



Plate 48: Trench 22, looking east



Plate 49: Trench 22, Contexts 67 – 69



Plate 50: Knapped chert block from Context 47, Trench 12



Plate 51: Stone flake from Context 47, Trench 12



Plate 52: The standing stone

Appendix 1: Specification

Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation on the site of a new school at Ysgol Treferthyr, Criccieth, Gwynedd. (Planning Reference C21/0718/41/LL)

Compiled by I.P. Brooks 07/02/2022

1. Non-Technical Summary

- 1.1. Gwynedd County Council plan to build a new school on land opposite Bron Eifion Lodge, Criccieth, LL52 0RY (Figure 1). As part of the archaeological evaluation of the site they have commissioned a series of trial trenches on the site.

2. Background

- 2.1. Gwynedd County Council plan to build a new school on land opposite Bron Eifion Lodge, Criccieth, LL52 0RY (Figure 1), Planning Reference C21/0718/41/LL
- 2.2. They have previously commissioned an archaeological desktop study from Aeon Archaeology (Cooke 2019) which recommended a phase of geophysical investigation took place on the site.
- 2.3. In September 2021, a Fluxgate Gradiometer Survey was commissioned from Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd (Brooks 2021). This showed a number of magnetic anomalies of potential archaeological origins. Of particular note is a concentration of linear anomalies, in the north east corner of the survey area, which suggests significant archaeological activity, probably alongside the road which was to become the A497.
- 2.4. The Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services recommended that either a programme of geophysical and trial trenching, or that archaeological mitigation takes place over all ground works (Letter from T. Fildes dated 25th August 2021)
- 2.5. In his letter Fildes states that “the periphery of the town does hold potential for unknown archaeological sites. The Tithe Map suggests early variations on the field’s composition, as well as being in proximity to an early (possibly even Medieval) farmstead to the south. The route of the A497 is the route of the original track in and out of Criccieth to the west, meaning that roadside sites such as this hold particular potential for associated activity.”

3. Objectives

- 3.1. The principal objectives of the proposed evaluation are as follows:
 - 3.1.1. To evaluate the results of the geophysical survey and characterise the archaeological record.

4. Fieldwork Program

- 4.1. A program of field work is proposed for this area that will include:
 - 4.1.1. The excavation of twenty-two 30 x 1.8 m trenches
 - 4.1.2. Analysis

4.1.3. Archive preparation

4.1.4. Report preparation

5. Methodology

5.1. Fieldwork

5.1.1. The trenches will be laid out as in Figure 2

5.1.2. All topsoil and superficial deposits will be removed using a smooth faced bucket under constant archaeological supervision and monitoring.

5.1.3. The trench will be cleaned by hand and any subsequent excavation will also be carry out by hand.

5.1.4. All features or archaeologically significant deposits revealed will be fully recorded including:

5.1.4.1. A written description of deposit: type, components etc.

5.1.4.2. Hand drawn plans and sections at suitable scales. Typically plans will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 or greater and sections at a scale of 1:10.

5.1.4.3. Photographs will be taken with Nikon D5300 Digital SLR Camera at a resolution of 24.2 MP

5.1.4.4. If appropriate photographs will be taken with a Panasonic Lumix DC-FT7 camera on an extendable pole. These photographs will be processed with Agisoft Metashape v. 1.6.3 to produce photogrammetric images of the trenches.

5.1.4.5. Plan drawings showing the extent and nature of any archaeological deposits or features encountered.

5.1.4.6. Section drawings of any features recorded to record vertical stratigraphy.

5.1.5. The Gwynedd Archaeological Planning service will be notified immediately if significant archaeological deposits, features or artefacts are located.

5.1.6. The photographs will include metric scales

5.1.7. All artefacts and ecofacts will be recorded by context.

5.1.8. Each deposit, feature or layer will be identified by a unique context number to which all other records will be related

5.1.9. Where possible, features will be sampled to obtain dating and functional evidence.

5.1.10. All discrete features will be excavated by hand, whilst a minimum of 10 % of the length of linear features will be sampled. The approach to spreads will be assessed on site with the intension of excavating approximately 50% of spreads being sampled.

5.1.11. Where possible, elevation drawings of feature half sections to record vertical stratigraphy.

5.1.12. Where appropriate, deposits will be sampled for environmental, dating or technological evidence. Samples will be fully recorded and packed appropriately for future analysis.

5.1.12.1. Sampling will be carried out in accordance with the procedures outlined in English Heritage. 2011. Environmental Archaeology. A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation.

5.1.12.2. Bulk samples are likely to be in the range of 10 – 40l depending on the reason for the sample and the availability of suitable material.

5.1.13. If human remains are encountered all works will stop until the appropriate permissions have been obtained. A further specification will be submitted to detail the excavation of any human remains and the subsequent specialist reports.

5.2. Post Excavation Analysis

5.2.1. If there is little, or no, archaeological deposits/features or remains recorded during the evaluation will progress immediately on to the archive report.

5.2.2. If significant archaeological remains/features/deposits are encountered. On completion of the fieldwork an assessment of the archaeological record from the site, will be made and the project design updated. Including an estimate on the cost of the post-excavation process.

5.2.3. On approval of the updated project design the full archaeological report will be undertaken to including the commissioning of all specialist reports recommended by the revised project design.

5.3. Finds

5.3.1. The intention is to archive any suitable finds with STORIEL in Bangor.

5.3.2. Any flint artefacts will be studied by I.P. Brooks for Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd.

5.3.3. Any pottery will be studied by an appropriate specialist to be agreed in consultation with the Curatorial Archaeologist

5.3.4. Any metal or other special finds will be studied by an appropriate specialist to be agreed in consultation with the Curatorial Archaeologist

5.3.5. All ceramic, bone and stone artefacts will be cleaned and processed immediately following the watching brief.

5.3.6. Metal artefacts will be stored and managed on site according to the UK Institute of Conservation Guidelines.

5.3.7. Any samples taken for environmental analysis will be assessed and studied by an appropriate specialist to be agreed in consultation with the Curatorial Archaeologist

5.3.8. All finds will be bagged by context with the exception of closely datable or “special” finds which will be recorded with a 3 D position and will be bagged separately

5.3.9. The requirement for specialist archaeological reports will be discussed with the Curatorial Archaeologist. The extent and cost of any such report will be discussed with the client and a suitable level of response formulated in discussion between the Archaeologist and the Curatorial Archaeologist.

5.3.10. The initial report will include an assessment of the finds from the work and a recommendation for further study if require.

5.4. Archive Preparation and Report Preparation

- 5.4.1. On completion of fieldwork an archive of the results will be prepared.
- 5.4.2. The digital records will be archived with the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales
- 5.4.3. The digital archive will be prepared in line with Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales. 2015. Guidelines for digital archives
- 5.4.4. The deposition of any find with a local museum will be discussed with the owner and the development control archaeologist with a strong recommendation that any finds are deposited in a suitable local museum. This is likely to be STORIEL in Bangor.
- 5.4.5. A summary report on the findings of the investigations will be prepared and completed within four weeks from completion of the project. This will summarise the results of the project including;
 - 5.4.5.1. A site location plan
 - 5.4.5.2. A plan of the site locating any features or archaeological deposits located.
 - 5.4.5.3. An outline methodology
 - 5.4.5.4. The results of the Evaluation.
 - 5.4.5.5. A full bibliography
 - 5.4.5.6. A copy of the agreed specification
 - 5.4.5.7. An assessment of the potential for further archaeological investigation
 - 5.4.5.8. Up to five copies of the report will be provided.
 - 5.4.5.9. A digital copy of the report will also be provided.
 - 5.4.5.10. A digital copy of the report will be supplied to the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record
 - 5.4.5.11. A digital copy of the report will be supplied to Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service
 - 5.4.5.12. The preparation of the report will conform to the Welsh Archaeological Trusts 2018 “Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)”

6. Staff

- 6.1. The project will be carried out by Ian Brooks, PhD, BA, MCIfA., FSA
- 6.2. The staff will include M. Jones (CR Archaeology)

7. Timetable

- 7.1. It is intended to start the fieldwork on 22nd February 2022.
- 7.2. The week previous the trenches will be marked out with a series of flags
- 7.3. The following are estimates of the time required:
 - 7.3.1. Marking out: 2 man days (two people for one day).

7.3.2. Removal of topsoil with the machine: 2 – 3 days

7.3.3. Fieldwork: 20 man days (two people for ten days)

7.3.4. Assessment and report: 5 days

7.3.5. Backfilling: 1 – 2 days

8. General

8.1. CIfA Code of Conduct

8.1.1. All staff will abide by, and all procedures be carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct

8.2. Health and Safety

8.2.1. EAS Ltd adopt and adhere to safe working practices at all times.

8.2.2. A copy of the company's general statement of policy is available on request.

8.3. Staff

8.3.1. The project will be directed by Dr I.P. Brooks MCIfA FSA

8.3.2. Project Staff will include Dr I.P. Brooks MCIfA FSA.

8.4. Curatorial Monitoring

8.4.1. The Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service will be informed as to the start date and progress of the fieldwork.

8.5. Insurance

8.5.1. EAS Ltd carries all necessary Public and Employee Liability Insurances.

8.5.2. EAS Ltd carries Professional Indemnity Insurance

9. Copyright

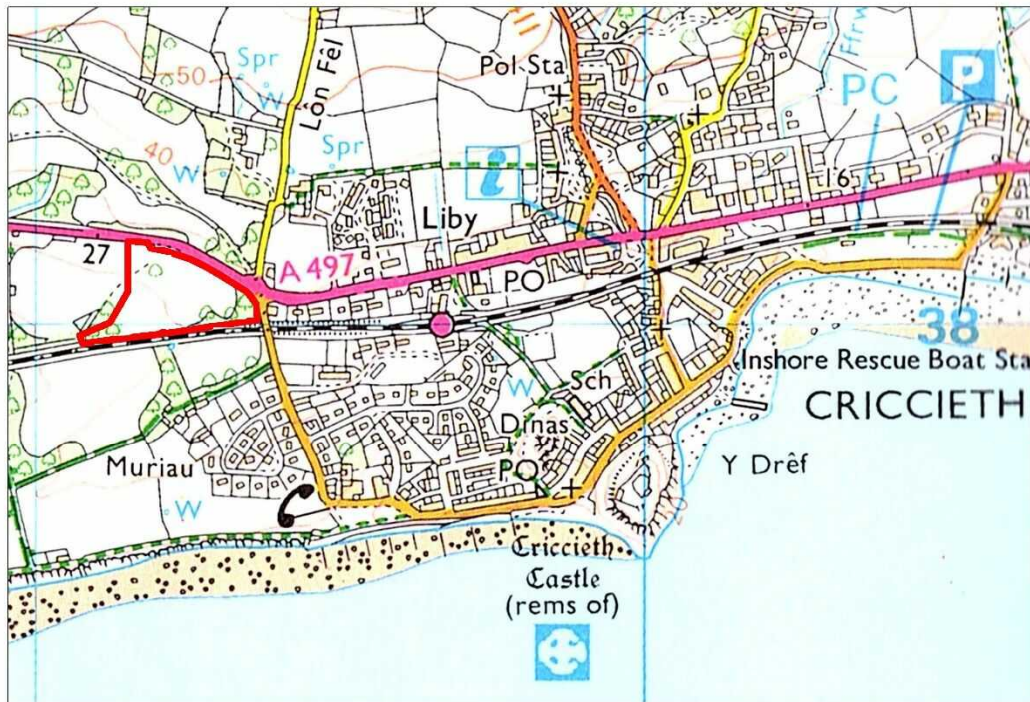
9.1. EAS Ltd shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documentation, under the Copyrights, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved: excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

9.2. EAS Ltd is prepared to assign a licence to the client for the use of the report and any associated data.

References

Brooks, I.P. 2021. Ysgol Treferythyr, Criccieth, Gwynedd: Geophysical Survey. *Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd. Client Report 2021/08*

Cooke, R. 2019. Proposed New School Site, A497 / Stryd Fawr, Criccieth, Gwynedd LL52 0RY *Aeon Archaeology Report 0211*



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Figure 1: Location

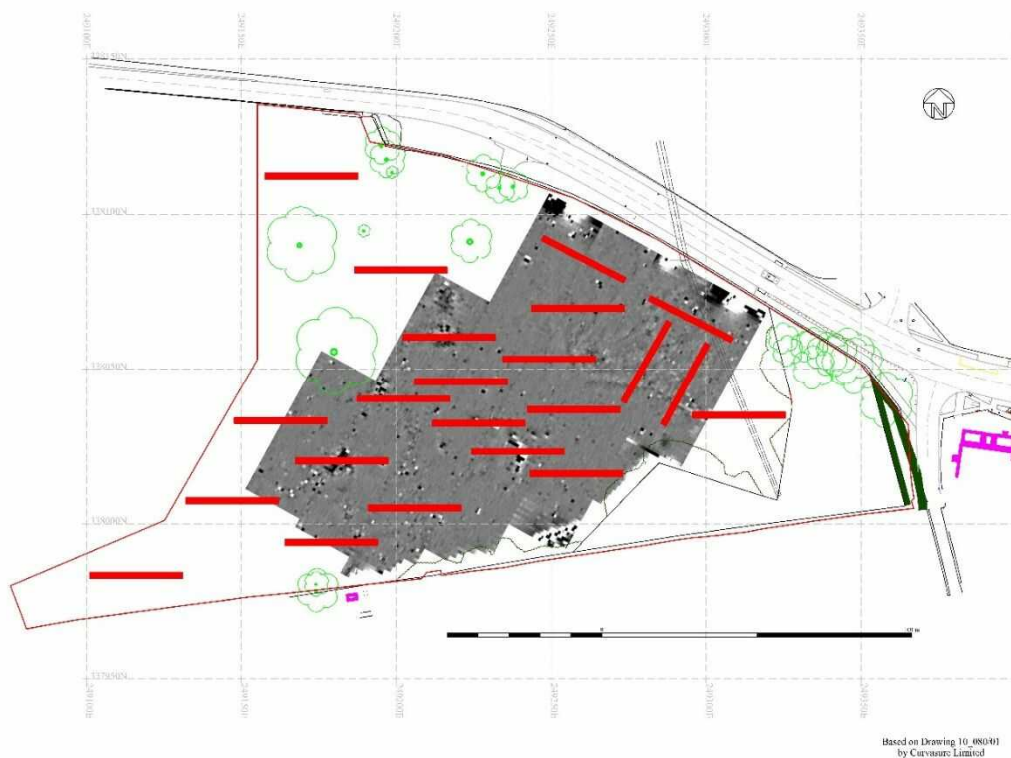


Figure 2: Possible Location of the trenches

Appendix 2: Context Summary

Context	Location	Description	Relationships
1	Tr 21	Topsoil. Pale grey/brown very clayey soil up to 300 mm deep covering the whole of Tr 21. The layer is somewhat wet leading to most of the trench being under a shallow layer of water. The west end of the trench is dry for approximately 4.5 m where the layer goes down onto a yellow clay. The base of the layer has a series of large cobbles and boulders, largely rounded in character up to 400 mm in size, but more generally up to 200 mm in size. Some of these are within the underlying natural, whilst others appear to have been dumped in this wet corner of the field.	Above 2
2	Tr 21	Natural yellow clay with the occasional rounded, stone boulder up to 400 mm in size. Whilst topsoiling this layer was observed throughout the trench, but within an hour all but 4.5 m at the western end was under water.	Below 1
3	Tr 1	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown clayey loam up to 150 mm thick over the whole of Tr1.	Above 4
4	Tr 1	Natural yellow/brown clay with a moderate quantity of medium/small rounded pebbles and cobbles up to 50 mm in size and the rare larger boulder up to 600 mm in size. The layer tends to become damper and more clayey towards the eastern end where it approaches the stream. Tr 1 was truncated slightly so that it did not interfere with the water course.	Below 3
5	Tr 2	Turf layer clay silt mid brown, mixed inclusion lots of disturbance	Above 6 Cut by Tree throw
6	Tr 2	Sub soil mid brown clay silt	Below 6 Above 7
7	Tr 2	Deposit of stone mainly from the west side of an old gully with a gray silt clay soil matrix	Below 6
8	Tr 3	Topsoil Mid grey/brown clayey loam up to 200 mm deep	Above 9
9	Tr3	Many sub-rounded to rounded cobbles and stone fragments in a mid-orange/brown clayey loam appearing to form the remains of a consistent feature, possibly a wall.	Below 8 Within 10
10	Tr 3	Sub rectangular feature approximately 2.10 x 1.10 m in size, but only up to 100 mm deep. It has sloping sides and a flattish base, slightly disrupted by natural boulders protruding from the natural clay below.	Below 8 Contains 9 Cuts 11
11	Tr 3	Natural clay. Yellowish brown clay with a few rounded and sub-rounded cobbles and pebbles up to 250 mm in size, but mor typically up to 100 mm. The stones tend to be more evident at each end of the trench and less prominent in the centre section.	Below 8 Cut by 10

Context	Location	Description	Relationships
12	Tr 8	Topsoil. Mid yellowish/brown clayey loam up to 200 mm thick.	Above 13, 14 15
13	Tr 8	Line of at least three earth fast boulders up to 600 x 300 x 150 mm in size marking the break of slope. Probably equates with a magnetic anomaly se on the geophysical survey and may relate to a boundary on the 1839 Tithe Map. No clear cut could be determined, however, it would seem likely that they sit on a deliberate shelf cut into the natural. Likely to have been a deliberate boundary.	Below 12 Above 14
14	Tr 8	Natural orange/brown clay with the occasional pebble up to 100 mm in size.	Below 12, 13 Cut by 16
15	Tr 8	A series of randomly placed rounded and sub-rounded cobbles up to 250 mm in size in a mid-yellowish/brown clayey loam matrix. There is a moderate quantity of fine roots throughout the deposit. The stones tend to be larger and more closely packed towards the northern side of the feature.	Below 12 Within 16
16	Tr 8	Possible lynchet cut into the south facing slope of Tr8. Cut in by 200 mm on the northern side and feathering out to nothing to the south. The feature has a flattish base.	Below 12 Contains 15 Cuts 14
17	Tr 9	Topsoil. Mid yellowish/brown slightly clayey loam up to 200 mm deep.	Above 18, 19
18	Tr 9	Rough line of earth fast boulders up to 600 x 300 x 200 mm in size defining the break of slope in Tr9. Probably the same feature as 13 in Tr8. Only four boulders survive within the trench, possibly in pairs with a gap between the two pairs of stones. They appear to be partly siting within the underlying natural clay.	Below 17 Above 19
19	Tr 9	Natural orange brown clay with the occasional rounded or sub-rounded pebble or cobble and very rare large stone block.	Below 17, 18
20	Tr 6	Topsoil. Mid yellowish/brown clayey loam up to 200 mm deep	Above 21, 22, 23
21	Tr 6	Spread of large pebbles and small cobbles between 40 and 200 mm in size with the occasional small boulder up to 400 mm in size. These are within a yellowish/brown slightly clayey, but still friable, matrix similar to the topsoil above. The spread covers an area at least 1.3 x 1.9 m in size, but is only up to 50 mm thick.	Below 20 Above 23
22	Tr 6	Line of boulders up to 600 x 300 x 250 mm in size, but more generally up to 200 mm in size. Possible edge of field shown on the 1839 Tithe Map. The stones are earth fast.	Below 20 Above 23
23	Tr 6	Natural. Orange/brown clay with rare stones up to 600 mm in size.	Below 20, 21, 22
24	Tr 5	Topsoil. Yellowish/brown clayey loam up to 200 mm thick	Above 25, 29, 30

Context	Location	Description	Relationships
25	Tr 5	Very dark grey, almost black clayey silt with many fragments of cracked stone and flecks of charcoal. Probable site of a large fire.	Below 24 Above 28 Within 27
26	Tr 5	Heat affected natural clay	Below 25 Within 27
27	Tr 5	Large shallow hollow at least 3.2 x 1.4 m in size and up to 120 mm deep. The feature has sloping sides and a rounded base.	Below 24 Cuts 30 Within 27
28	Tr 5	Brown silty clay with few other inclusions	Below 25 Above 30
29	Tr 5	Part of the track from Muriau exposed for 1.1 m in the western end of Tr5. Many rounded pebbles and small cobbles up to 140 mm in size in a friable pale grey silty matrix.	Below 24 Above 30
30	Tr 5	Natural yellowish grey clay with the occasional pebble up to 100 mm in size.	Below 24, 28, 29 Cut by 27
31	Tr 13	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown clayey loam up to 200 mm deep. The layer tends to become deeper towards the east being only 150 mm at the west end	Above 32, 33
32	Tr 13	Group of large boulders crossing the western end of Tr13 at an oblique angle. Consisting of earth fast boulders up to 600 mm in size roughly extending the line of Contexts 13 and 18 in trenches 8 and 9.	Below 31 Above 33
33	Tr 13	Natural yellowish-brown clay with a low density of rounded pebbles up to 100 mm in size.	Below 31, 32
34	Tr 15	Topsoil. Mid yellowish-brown clayey loam up to 200 mm thick	Above 35
35	Tr 15	Natural. Pale yellowish-grey clay with few stone inclusions	Below 34
36	Tr 17	Topsoil. Mid yellowish-brown clayey loam up to 200 mm deep	Above 37
37	Tr 17	Natural. Yellowish-brown clay with a moderate density of small cobbles and pebbles up to 100 mm in size.	Below 36
38	Tr 7	Topsoil. Yellowish brown clayey loam up to 250 mm deep.	Above 39
39	Tr 7	Natural. Yellowish brown clay with the occasional pebble or small cobble up to 150 mm in size. The layer tends to become darker in the hollow towards the eastern end of the trench and paler at the western end.	Below 38
40	Tr 14	Shallow gully which can be traced for at least 5 m running in an ENE - WSW direction. Shallow, straight gully 420 mm wide and 90 mm deep with sloping sides and a flat base.	Contains 41
41	Tr 14	Gully fill. Yellow, hard packed fill, partly cemented with iron pan with the occasional small, rounded pebble and rare larger cobble.	Below 44 Within 40 Cuts 45
42	Tr 14	Small, shallow, oval shaped feature filled with charcoal rich fill. 560 x 310 mm in size and only	Below 44 Contains 43 Cuts 45

Context	Location	Description	Relationships
		40 mm deep. The feature has sloping sides and a flat base.	
43	Tr 14	Very dark brown (almost black) silty fill with many fleck and small fragments of charcoal up to 10 mm in size. Probably modern fill associated with the burning of trees.	Below 44 Within 42
44	Tr 14	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown clayey loam up to 200 mm thick	Above 41, 42, 45
45	Tr 14	Natural. Pale yellowish grey clay	Below 44 Cut by 41, 42
46	Tr 12	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown clayey loam up to 300 mm thick.	Above 47, 48, 49
47	Tr 12	Possible cist. Oval of stones covering an area of at least 1.8 x 2.0 m with a central area 1150 x 460 mm devoid of stone. This central area was partly capped with a couple of large stone. One of these was sub-rounded 500 x 250 x 100 mm in size. The other is 650 x 250 x 200 mm in size and although one side retains its smooth face the other faces are broken and one end appears to be deliberately shaped. The central void is lined by upright flat pebbles with a large rounded boulder at the south end. The ring of stone contains both rounded and angular stone up to 300 mm in size, but more typically 150 mm. The possible capping structure also included a possible grind stone.	Below 46 Above 49
48	Tr 12	Little group of stones towards the eastern end of Tr12. One large boulder 450 x 200 x 200 mm and several smaller stones grouped together in the northern balk of the trench. Possibly a second cist??	Below 46 Above 49
49	Tr 12	Natural. Yellowish brown clay with low density of sub-rounded and sub-angular stones up to 150 mm in size.	Below 46, 47, 48
50	Tr 10	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown clayey loam up to 350 mm thick	Above 51, 52, 53
51	Tr 10	Probable remnant of the track crossing the site extending only 1.0 m into the western end of Tr 10. Scatter of rounded pebbles up to 100 mm in size pressed into the top of the natural clay (Context 53).	Below 50 Above 53
52	Tr 10	Patch of rounded pebbles at the eastern end of Tr10. Covering an area of 1100 x 900 mm. Pebbles and cobbles up to 150 mm in size largely pressed into the underlying natural clay.	Below 51 Above 53
53	Tr 10	Yellowish brown clay with the occasional cobble or pebble up to 150 mm in size and one large boulder 550 x 550 mm in size.	Below 51, 52, 53
54	Tr 11	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown clayey loam up to 200 mm thick	Above 55, 56, 57
55	Tr 11	Track. Concentration of beach pebbles forming a band 3.5 m wide across the middle of the trench. The feature forms a linear mound approximately	Below 54 Above 56

Context	Location	Description	Relationships
		120 mm high with sloping sides and a flat top. Many closely packed pebbles and small cobbles up to 150 mm in size, mainly discoidal in shape. In a loose matrix of yellowish-brown clayey silt. This feature aligns with one of the magnetic anomalies on the geophysical plot and the track from Muriau on the historic mapping	
56	Tr 11	Large stone 700 x 500 mm in size with a marked hollow in the top face, adjacent to the eastern edge. The hollow appears to have grooves running down the hollow, the base of which has crushing evident. The hollow was originally filled with cobbles similar to those used for the adjacent track (Context 55), although there appears to be a separation between the track and this feature	Below 55 Above 57
57	Tr 11	Natural. Yellowish brown clay with the occasional cobble up to 150 mm in size	Below 54, 55, 56
58	Tr 20	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown clayey loam up to 300 mm deep, tending to become deeper towards the east end of the trench.	Above 59, 60
59	Tr 20	Very sporadic line of boulders up to 750 x 450 mm in size, but generally up to 250 x 150 mm in size. The line runs approximately NE - SW across the trench. Possible remnant of a field boundary.	Below 58 Above 60
60	Tr 20	Natural. Mid yellowish-brown clay with the occasional rounded cobble up to 450 mm in size and a single boulder 1000 x 700 mm in size.	Below 58, 59
61	Tr 18	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown clayey loam up to 250 mm in depth.	Above 62
62	Tr 18	Natural. Pale yellowish grey clay with the occasional boulder up to 900 x 650 mm in size, although more typically up to 150 mm. This layer is very close to the local water table with standing water in one of the holes for a stone pulled out during topsoiling.	Below 62
63	Tr 4	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown clayey loam up to 300 mm deep.	Above 64
64	Tr 4	Natural. Orangey brown clay with a moderate density of medium/small rounded and sub-rounded pebbles up to 100 mm in size.	Below 63
65	Tr 22	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown clayey loam up to 300 mm deep.	Above 66, 67, 68
66	Tr 22	Natural. Mid yellowish-brown clay with a moderate density of medium/small rounded and sub-rounded pebbles and cobbles up to 200 mm in size. These tend to form irregular groups rather than being equally scattered. Also, one large boulder 650 x 600 mm in size.	Below 65
67	Tr 22	Natural. Yellowish grey clayey silt with few inclusions in the SW corner of Tr22. Merges with Context 66 to the east.	Below 66 Above 69

Context	Location	Description	Relationships
68	Tr 22	Yellow clay band 250 mm wide running in a NE - SW direction in the eastern end of Tr22. Probably natural variation in the subsoil because of the moisture at this end of the trench	Below 65 Above 67
69	Tr 22	Similar to 67, but to the north of 68	Below 67
70	Tr 16	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown clayey loam up to 250 mm thick	Above 71, 72
71	Tr 16	Natural. Pale yellowish grey clay with few stones except two large boulders. One 900 x 500 mm in size and the other 500 x 300 mm. The layer merges with 72 with no clear edge.	Below 70 Merges with 72
72	Tr 16	Irregular area of burnt stone fragment, manganese deposits and charcoal flecks which merges with the background natural for the area (71). The layer covers an area of approximately 2.50 m by the width of the trench and extends to a depth of 200 mm. Looks like a tree stump that has been burnt out.	Below 70 Merges with 71
73	Tr 19	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown clayey loam up to 300 mm deep.	Above 74, 75
74	Tr 19	Track. Rounded beach cobbles packed together to form a track with sloping sides and. Slightly rounded top. Cobbles and stone fragment up to 200 mm in size forming a bank up to 300 mm thick. The layer also sits on some large boulders, one of which is 1.40. 0.5 m in size. Whilst some of the cobbles appear to-be layered others are more jumbled. Track from Muriau to the road shown on the historic Ordnance Survey mapping.	Below 73 Above 75
75	Tr 19	Natural. Yellowish grey clay with a few patches of rounded stones up to 100 mm in size.	Below 73, 75

Appendix 3: Photographic Index

Frame	Trench	Scale	Looking	Contents
CNS 2022 001	Tr 21	1 m	W	General view of trench
CNS 2022 002	Tr 21	1 m	E	General view of trench
CNS 2022 003	Tr 21	1 m	E	General view of trench
CNS_2022_004	Tr 2	1 m	W	Western end of trench showing Trench 7
CNS 2022 005	Tr 2	1 m	E	General view of trench
CNS 2022 006	Tr 1	1 m	W	General view of trench
CNS 2022 007	Tr 1	1 m	E	General view of trench
CNS 2022 008	Tr 1	1 m	E	General view of trench
CNS 2022 009	Tr 3	1 m	E	General view of trench
CNS 2022 010	Tr 3	1 m	W	General view of trench
CNS 2022 011	Tr 3	1 m	W	Context 9 before excavation
CNS 2022 012	Tr 3	1 m	S	Context 9 before excavation
CNS 2022 013	Tr 2	1 m	NE	Section through Context 7
CNS 2022 014	Tr 2	1 m	NE	Section through Context 7
CNS 2022 015	Tr 2	1 m	NE	Section through Context 7
CNS 2022 016	Tr 2	1 m	NE	Section through Context 7
CNS 2022 017	Tr 2	1 m	NE	Section through Context 7
CNS 2022 018	Tr 2	1 m	NE	Section through Context 7
CNS 2022 019	Tr 3	1 m	W	Section through Context 10
CNS 2022 020	Tr 3	1 m	W	Section through Context 10
CNS 2022 021	Tr 5	1 m	S	Context 25 before excavation
CNS 2022 022	Tr 5	1 m	NW	Context 25 before excavation
CNS 2022 023	Tr 4	1 m	E	General view of trench
CNS 2022 024	Tr 4	1 m	W	General view of trench
CNS 2022 025	Tr 5	1 m	W	Section through Context 25
CNS 2022 026	Tr 5	1 m	W	Section through Context 25
CNS 2022 027	Tr 5	1 m	W	Context 29
CNS 2022 028	Tr 5	1 m	W	Context 29
CNS 2022 029	Tr 2	1 m	E	General view of trench
CNS 2022 030	Tr 2	1 m	E	General view of trench
CNS 2022 031	Tr 2	1 m	W	General view of trench
CNS 2022 032	Tr 2	1 m	W	General view of trench
CNS 2022 033	Tr 8	1 m	S	General view of trench
CNS 2022 034	Tr 8	1 m	N	General view of trench
CNS 2022 035	Tr 8	1 m	N	Context 13
CNS 2022 036	Tr 8	1 m	N	Context 13
CNS 2022 037	Tr 5	1 m	W	General view of trench
CNS 2022 038	Tr 5	1 m	E	General view of trench
CNS 2022 039	Tr 6	1 m	SW	General view of trench
CNS 2022 040	Tr 6	1 m	NE	General view of trench
CNS 2022 041	Tr 6	1 m	SW	Context 21
CNS 2022 042	Tr 6	1 m	NE	Context 22
CNS 2022 043	Tr 6	1 m	NE	Context 21
CNS 2022 044	Tr 8	1 m	N	Section through Context 15
CNS 2022 045	Tr 6	1 m	NW	Section through Context 21

Frame	Trench	Scale	Looking	Contents
CNS 2022 046	Tr 9	1 m	N	Context 18
CNS 2022 047	Tr 9	1 m	N	Context 18
CNS 2022 048	Tr 9	1 m	N	Context 18
CNS 2022 049	Tr 9	1 m	S	General view of trench
CNS 2022 050	Tr 9	1 m	N	General view of trench
CNS 2022 051	Tr 16	1 m	W	General view of trench
CNS 2022 052	Tr 16	1 m	E	General view of trench
CNS 2022 053	Tr 16	1 m	N	Context 72
CNS 2022 054	Tr 12	1 m	E	General view of trench
CNS 2022 055	Tr 12	1 m	W	General view of trench
CNS_2022_056	Tr 12	1 m	SW	Context 47 after the removal of the topsoil
CNS_2022_057	Tr 12	1 m	NW	Context 47 after the removal of the topsoil
CNS_2022_058	Tr 12	1 m	N	Context 47 after the removal of the topsoil
CNS_2022_059	Tr 12	1 m	N	Context 47 after the removal of the topsoil
CNS 2022 060	Tr 15	1 m	W	General view of trench
CNS 2022 061	Tr 15	1 m	E	General view of trench
CNS 2022 062	Tr 17	1 m	W	General view of trench
CNS 2022 063	Tr 17	1 m	E	General view of trench
CNS 2022 064	Tr 7	1 m	E	General view of trench
CNS 2022 065	Tr 7	1 m	W	General view of trench
CNS 2022 066	Tr 14	1 m	SW	Context 40
CNS 2022 067	Tr 14	1 m	SW	Context 40
CNS 2022 068	Tr 14	1 m	SW	Section through Context 40
CNS 2022 069	Tr 14	1 m	SW	Section through Context 40
CNS 2022 070	Tr 14	200 mm	S	Section through Context 42
CNS 2022 071	Tr 14	200 mm	S	Section through Context 42
CNS 2022 072	Tr 18	1 m	W	General view of trench
CNS 2022 073	Tr 18	1 m	E	General view of trench
CNS 2022 074	Tr 12	1 m	W	Context 47
CNS 2022 075	Tr 12	1 m	N	Context 47
CNS_2022_076	Tr 12	1 m	W	Context 47 after the removal of the “lid”
CNS_2022_077	Tr 12	1 m	N	Context 47 after the removal of the “lid”
CNS_2022_078	Tr 12	1 m	N	Context 47 after the removal of the “lid”
CNS 2022 079	Tr 12	200 mm		One of the cap stones
CNS 2022 080	Tr 12	200 mm		One of the cap stones
CNS 2022 081	Tr 12	200 mm		One of the cap stones
CNS 2022 082	Tr 12	1 m	E	General view of trench
CNS 2022 083	Tr 12	1 m	W	General view of trench
CNS 2022 084	Tr 10	1 m	E	General view of trench
CNS 2022 085	Tr 10	1 m	W	General view of trench
CNS 2022 086	Tr 11	1 m	W	General view of trench

Frame	Trench	Scale	Looking	Contents
CNS 2022 087	Tr 11	1 m	E	General view of trench
CNS 2022 088	Tr 11	1 m	N	Context 55
CNS 2022 089	Tr 11	1 m	N	Context 55
CNS 2022 090	Tr 11	1 m	E	Context 55 and 56
CNS 2022 091	Tr 11	1 m	E	Context 55 and 56
CNS 2022 092	Tr 11	1 m	S	Context 55 and 56
CNS 2022 093	Tr 11	1 m	SW	Context 55 and 56
CNS 2022 094	Tr 11	1 m	W	Context 56
CNS 2022 095	Tr 11	1 m	W	Context 56
CNS 2022 096	Tr 11	1 m	N	Context 56
CNS 2022 097	Tr 11	1 m	SW	Context 56
CNS 2022 098	Tr 19	1 m	W	General view of trench
CNS 2022 099	Tr 19	1 m	E	General view of trench
CNS 2022 100	Tr 19	1 m	S	Context 74
CNS 2022 101	Tr 19	1 m	S	Context 74
CNS 2022 102	Tr 11	200 mm	W	Context 56
CNS 2022 103	Tr 11	200 mm	W	Context 56
CNS 2022 104	Tr 19	1 m	S	Context 74
CNS 2022 105	Tr 19	1 m	S	Context 74
CNS 2022 106	Tr 19	1 m	S	Context 74
CNS 2022 107	Tr 13	1 m	E	General view of trench
CNS 2022 108	Tr 13	1 m	W	General view of trench
CNS 2022 109	Tr 13	1 m	NE	Context 32
CNS 2022 110	Tr 13	1 m	NE	Context 32
CNS 2022 111	Tr 20	1 m	W	General view of trench
CNS 2022 112	Tr 20	1 m	E	General view of trench
CNS 2022 113	Tr 20	1 m	NW	Context 59
CNS 2022 114	Tr 20	1 m	NW	Context 59
CNS 2022 115	Tr 20	1 m	NW	Context 59
CNS 2022 116	Tr 20	1 m	W	General view of trench
CNS 2022 117	Tr 20	1 m	E	General view of trench
CNS 2022 118	Tr 19	1 m	N	Section through Context 74
CNS 2022 119	Tr 19	1 m	N	Section through Context 74
CNS 2022 120	Tr 19	1 m	N	Section through Context 74
CNS 2022 121	Tr 19	1 m	NW	Section through Context 74
CNS 2022 122	Tr 19	1 m	NW	Section through Context 74
CNS 2022 123	Tr 19	1 m	NE	Section through Context 74
CNS 2022 124	Tr 22	1 m	E	General view of trench
CNS 2022 125	Tr 22	1 m	W	General view of trench
CNS 2022 126	Tr 22	1 m	W	Section through Contexts 67, 68, 69
CNS 2022 127	Tr 22	1 m	W	Section through Contexts 67, 68, 69
CNS 2022 128	Tr 12	100 mm		Grind stone from Context 47
CNS 2022 129	Tr 12	100 mm		Grind stone from Context 47
CNS 2022 130	Tr 12	50 mm		Bevelled pebble tool
CNS 2022 131	Tr 12	50 mm		Bevelled pebble tool
CNS 2022 132	Tr 12	50 mm		Flaked chert block
CNS 2022 133	Tr 12	50 mm		Flakes stone (dorsal surface)

Frame	Trench	Scale	Looking	Contents
CNS 2022 134	Tr 12	50 mm		Flakes stone (dorsal surface)
CNS 2022 135	Tr 12	50 mm		Flakes stone (ventral surface)
CNS_2022_136	Tr 12	1 m	vertical	Ortho corrected composite photograph of Context 47
CNS_2022_137	Tr 12	1 m	vertical	Ortho corrected composite photograph of Context 47 with lid
CNS_2022_138	Tr 2	1 m	vertical	Ortho corrected composite photograph of Context 7
CNS 2022 139	Tr 3	1 m	vertical	Ortho corrected composite photograph
CNS_2022_140	Tr 3	1 m	vertical	Ortho corrected composite photograph of Context 9
CNS 2022 141	Tr 5	1 m	vertical	Ortho corrected composite photograph
CNS 2022 142	Tr 6	1 m	vertical	Ortho corrected composite photograph
CNS 2022 143	Tr 8	1 m	vertical	Ortho corrected composite photograph
CNS 2022 144	Tr 9	1 m	vertical	Ortho corrected composite photograph
CNS 2022 145	Tr 10	1 m	vertical	Ortho corrected composite photograph
CNS 2022 146	Tr 11	1 m	vertical	Ortho corrected composite photograph
CNS 2022 147	Tr 12	1 m	vertical	Ortho corrected composite photograph
CNS_2022_148	Tr 12	1 m	vertical	Ortho corrected composite photograph after the removal of the lid to Context 47
CNS 2022 149	Tr 13	1 m	vertical	Ortho corrected composite photograph
CNS 2022 150	Tr 14	1 m	vertical	Ortho corrected composite photograph
CNS 2022 151	Tr 20	1 m	vertical	Ortho corrected composite photograph
CNS 2022 152	Tr 22	1 m	vertical	Ortho corrected composite photograph

Appendix 4: Finds Summary

Trench	Context	18th - 19th century	Clay pipe	Tile	Glass	Iron	Flaked stone	Other stone	
5	25	1	2						3
8	13	1	1				1		3
11	55	2			2				4
12	46	1	1						2
12	47						2	1	3
12	US							1	1
19	73	5				1			6
	US	28	1	2					31
		38	5	2	2	1	3	2	53

Appendix 5: Samples

Trench	Context	Number of Bags	Total Weight (g)	Reason
5	25	2	2333	Charcoal rich deposit
14	43	1	990	Charcoal rich deposit
16	72	1	1408	Manganese and charcoal rich deposit
		4	4731	