Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 096

5 TEMPLEWELL
TEMPLEPATRICK
COUNTY ANTRIM

LICENCE NO.: AE/06/253

NAOMI CARVER

Site Specific Information

Site Name: Land to rear of No. 5 Templewell, Templepatrick, BT39 0AB

Townland: Templepatrick

SMR No. : ANT 051:071

State Care Scheduled Other √ [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: J 2294 8555

County: Antrim

Excavation Licence No. : AE/06/253

Planning Ref / No. : T/2006/0416/O

Dates of Monitoring: 30th October to 3rd November 2006

Archaeologist(s) Present: Naomi Carver, assisted by Janet Bell, Clare McGranaghan and Steven Trick

Brief Summary:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at a site to the rear of 5 Templewell, Templepatrick, County Antrim, as part of the planning application for a new dwelling. The proposed development site is within an area of historical significance. It is located in the immediate vicinity of a previously recorded holy well (ANT 051:071), and may also contain the remains of a medieval church with associated burials. Due to the sensitive nature of the potential archaeological remains and the fact that access to the site is restricted, mechanical excavation was not recommended. The evaluation therefore consisted of a geophysical survey followed by the excavation of three test pits. The location of the test pits was determined by the results of the geophysical survey.

No features of archaeological interest were uncovered during the course of the evaluation and it is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out.

Type of monitoring: Geophysical survey followed by hand excavation of three test pits

Size of area opened: Three test pits each approximately 1.0m by 2.0m in size

Current Land Use: Residential

Intended Land Use: Residential

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site for a proposed new dwelling is located immediately to the rear of No. 5 Templewell, Templepatrick, County Antrim. Templepatrick is a small town approximately 13 miles north-west of Belfast, close to Belfast International Airport and the M2 Motorway (Figures One and Two). The proposed development site is located in a quiet cul-de-sac close to the main A57 road through the town. Prior to the evaluation the site was laid out as a garden with a neatly mown lawn and small ornamental shrubs (Plate One). There is a small paved area in the north-eastern area (Plate Two) and mature trees border the site on the north-eastern, southern and western edges. To the north of the application site is No. 5 Templewell while to the west is No. 6 Templewell (Figure Three). The site is enclosed to the south by a small stream which flows into a large lake on the site's eastern boundary (Plate Three). The lake was created by a former limestone quarry. There is also a small hollow on beside the stream on the southern side of the site (Plate Four). Access to the site is restricted and therefore it was not possible to use a mechanical excavator to carry out the evaluation.

Historical Background (prepared by Philip Macdonald)

There are a number of sites of archaeological interest in and around Templepatrick. These include a 17th century castle (Castle Upton: ANT 051:059) built on an earlier monastic site, a souterrain (ANT 051:052) and a mixture of other sites such as raths and enclosures. The evaluation was requested due to the proximity of the development to the site of a holy well, recorded in the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (NISMR) as potentially being associated with a medieval church and graveyard (ANT 051:071).

The Sites and Monuments Record for the site is largely derived from the Ordnance Survey Memoir for Templepatrick. The Memoir states that 'some of the old inhabitants assert that they remember the foundations and fragments of the walls of the ancient church or temple which was erected here by the Templars, or more probably by the Knights of St John, in the 14th century and dedicated by them to St Patrick. The temple is said to have stood near the holy well at the centre of the village' (Day, McWilliams and English 1996, 108). The Memoirs continue 'at the eastern end of the village is a very old burial ground, which within the memory of some old people contained the foundations of a church, said also to be of the Knights of St John' (Day, McWilliams and English 1996, 108). In this account it is not certain whether a single church site is being mistakenly recorded as two separate sites; it is unlikely that a small settlement would have had two churches during the Middle Ages. The close proximity of a holy well with a church site is also unusual.

O'Laverty records that the church at Templepatrick 'stood in the graveyard but not a trace of it now remains' (1878, 237). O'Laverty explains the fact that the church is not recorded in any of the historical sources relating to Papal and Diocesan taxation, because it belonged to the Order of St John of Jerusalem (otherwise known as the Hospitallers) and was therefore exempt (O'Laverty 1878, 236-237). In the same passage, O'Laverty records that 'there was once a holy well at Templepatrick, about which many traditions are handed down among the Presbyterian inhabitants. This well was near where the old lime kiln stood, adjoining the rere (*sic*) wall of the Constabulary barracks. When the bed of the river was blasted for limestone, about 1812, several fissures were made, and the well gradually

disappeared' (1878, 237). O'Laverty was the first to record the proximity of the holy well to both the lime kiln and the police barracks. Interestingly, O'Laverty does not explicitly state that the holy well was located close to the site of the medieval church at Templepatrick. His description of the church being located within a graveyard is more consistent with the Ordnance Survey Memoirs description of the site at the eastern end of the village, rather than the ancient church or temple near the site of the holy well in the centre of the village. Again, it should be reiterated that it is not clear whether the Ordnance Survey Memoir mistakenly conflates confused descriptions of a single site into two different sites. It should also be noted that the references to Templars and the Knights of St John having founded a church at Templepatrick are apparently of no historical validity. There is no evidence for either of these orders being located in Templepatrick; the placename itself was apparently not adopted until after the Papal Taxation of 1302-06, when it is called 'vill of Hugh de Logan' without reference to the Hospitallers (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 368).

The site was visited by Brian Williams in 1978 at a time when it was for sale as a building plot. It was described as being 'in a slight hollow' but containing 'no visible trace'. Occupants of an adjacent house who had lived in the village all their lives had no knowledge of the well, nor could they recommend anyone who might know. Brian Williams revisited the site in 1987 in response to concerns regarding the DOE's proposed Planning Service Area Plan. A local informant, Mrs Todd, whose family had lived in the village for six generations, confirmed that 'the well was situated behind the old barracks, and not the present RUC Station'. Unfortunately, the site was not marked on any edition of the 6" Ordnance Survey maps. Based on Mrs Todd's description Brian Williams marked the approximate position of the well on the relevant field map of the DOE's Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch (Figure Four). It is from Mrs Todd's description and Brian William's annotation of the field map that the grid reference for the site is derived. A lime kiln is marked on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey 6" map in the immediate vicinity of the site identified by Mrs Todd. Although it is not certain that this is the lime kiln noted by O'Laverty as being in the immediate vicinity of the holy well – this cartographic evidence is consistent with, and supports the accuracy of, Mrs Todd's observations. Brian Williams also noted that by 1987 a modern bungalow (No.5 Templewell) had been built over the site. It is the rear garden of this property which is the subject of the current planning application. (Information cited in this paragraph is derived from unpublished notes incorporated into SM7 file: ANT 051:071).

The evidence for the location of a holy well in the immediate environs of No.5 Templewell, Templepatrick is reasonably certain. The Ordnance Survey Memoirs suggest that the well was located close to a medieval church, but there is some doubt as to the accuracy of this account. Although O'Laverty records the holy well and the site of a single medieval church at Templepatrick, he does not explicitly associate the two. Despite these ambiguities in the nineteenth century sources for the site, the possibility that the holy well was located in close proximity to a church (and by extension a churchyard) cannot be dismissed – hence the need for an archaeological evaluation of the proposed development site.

Geophysical Survey (Prepared by Steven Trick)

Method

An earth resistance survey was conducted in the back garden of the property using a grid-based methodology. The grids were set out using tapes. The resistance equipment consisted of a Geoscan Research RM15 Earth Resistance Meter in a twin-probe configuration. The probe separation was 0.5m. The traverse and sampling interval were both 0.5m. The data were downloaded and processed using Geoplot 3.0s software by Geoscan Research. The data were de-spiked and clipped from -2 to +3 standard deviations to provide more contrast in the plot.

Anomalies (Figures Five and Six)

Anomaly	***Description***
r1, r2	Areas of high resistance. These areas correspond with the shadow cast by a number of mature trees in the area. The high-resistance readings are interpreted as a result of transpiration effects, i.e. the tree canopy stops rain getting to the soil, and the tree roots further remove moisture from the soil. These combined effects cause the soil to be dryer and therefore of higher resistance.
r3	This is a linear anomaly approx. 1.0m wide, heading from the house east-south-eastwards towards the patio in the garden. Intriguingly it presents as a high resistance anomaly at its western end, and low resistance at its eastern end. The narrow linearity of the anomaly, and its direction from the house to the lake suggests it is a modern feature such as a drainage pipe.
r4	This is not an anomaly in itself, but highlights a distinct boundary between low and high resistance zones in the plot. It is rare to find such a distinct boundary delineating such large discrete zones. This phenomenon is interpreted as the result of relatively recent landscaping on the shore of the lake, which was a former gravel extraction site. It is suggested that soil moved in, dumped and levelled on the site to provide a useable ground surface at the lake's edge.
r5	The anomaly at r5 is a sub-circular area of high-resistance. This corresponded on the ground with a depression in the topography. The landowner related that this was a hole in the ground that he had filled up with old paint pots and covered over. It is therefore a modern feature.

Excavation

The evaluation consisted of three small test pits positioned in the locations shown in Figures Five and Six. The test pits were each 1.0m by 2.0m in size and all three trenches were excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil.

Test Pit One

Test Pit One was located in the north-eastern part of the site over a possible linear feature (r3) highlighted by the geophysical survey. The trench was 2.0m by 1.0m in size.

The sod and topsoil layer in Test Pit One (Context No. 101) consisted of friable, dark brown, loam. The layer contained numerous active tree roots and small rounded stones (average size: 50x50x50mm). Finds from the topsoil included post-medieval pottery and natural, unstruck flint. The sod and topsoil layer was 0.14m thick at the south-eastern end of the trench and 0.22m thick at the north-western end. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 101) at the north-eastern end of the trench were a number of large rounded stones contained within a matrix of dark brown loam (Context No. 102). The stones extended the full width of the trench (1.0m) and for a distance of around 0.6m to the south-west. The average size of the stones was 200x200x150mm. Although the stones coincided with a border region on the resistivity (r4) and a potential linear anomaly (r3), there was no cut associated nor did they appear to form part of a structural feature. Their proximity to the modern topsoil suggests that they are more recent; perhaps associated with an episode of leveling or landscaping. It was not clear if the stones were responsible for the recorded geophysical anomaly (r3).

Below the stones was a layer of friable, light orangeish brown, clay loam (Context No. 103). The layer was present over the whole trench and was 0.14m thick. The clay loam contained a clay pipe fragment, a tile, fragments of red brick and several sherds of pottery. The layer probably represents a relict cultivation soil. Indeed the landowner mentioned that there had been an orchard on the site and that when he purchased it and removed the trees a substantial amount of imported topsoil was required to level the site (G. Barton, *pers. comm.*).

Below the clay loam (Context No. 103) was the natural subsoil (Context No. 104) which consisted of boulder clay (Figure Seven and Plate Five). The subsoil was present at a maximum depth of 0.40m (Figure Eight and Plate Six). No archaeological features were observed in the subsoil.

Test Pit Two

Test Pit Two was located in the southern part of the site 15.0m along and 8.0m to the west of the baseline. It was intended that the trench test the boundary between contrasting areas of high and low resistance (r4). The trench was 2.0m by 1.0m in size.

The sod and topsoil layer in Test Pit Two (Context No. 201) consisted of friable, dark brown, loam. The layer contained a large number of tree roots, both relict and active, as well as small rounded stones (average size: 50x50x50mm). A small number of sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil layer which was 0.25m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 201) was a layer of relatively compact, orangeish brown, clay loam (Context No. 202). The layer also contained active and relict tree roots and smallish stones (average size: 100mmx50mmx50mm). It was a maximum of 0.27m

thick and contained a number of sherds of post-medieval pottery and some modern glass. It is likely that the clay loam was the remains of a cultivation soil, similar to the layer encountered in Test Pit One (Context No. 103), again possibly related to the orchard which previously occupied the site.

Below the clay loam (Context No. 202) was the natural subsoil (Context No. 203: Figure Nine and Plate Seven) which was encountered at a depth of 0.52m (Figure Ten and Plate Eight). There were no archaeological features in the subsoil of Test Pit Two.

Test Pit Three

Test Pit Three was located 10.0m along the baseline and 3.0m west from it. The trench was not positioned over any geophysical anomalies but it was intended to further test the archaeological potential of the evaluation area. Test Pit Three was 2.0m by 1.0m in size.

The sod and topsoil layer in Test Pit Three (Context No. 301) consisted of loose, dark brown, loam. It contained some stone inclusions including angular flint and sub-rounded chalk pebbles as well as active roots from a nearby tree. The layer also contained modern glass and post-medieval pottery. It was 0.12m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 301) was a layer of compact, orangeish brown, clay (Context No. 302) containing angular fragments of flint and sub-rounded chalk pebbles. The layer also contained roots, both active and relict, as well as sherds of modern glass. The orangeish brown clay was probably the remains of a relict cultivation soil, of a similar nature to the deposits excavated in Test Pits One and Two (Context Nos. 103 and 202). In Test Pit Three it was 0.15m thick.

Below the orangeish brown clay (Context No. 302) was a sub-circular pit (Context No. 305) in the north-eastern corner of the trench (Figure Eleven). The feature was 0.50m in diameter, 0.30m deep (Figure Twelve and Plate Nine) and extended beyond the limit of excavation to the north and east. The sub-circular pit was filled with loose dark brown loam (Context No. 304) containing charcoal flecks, angular fragments of flint and sub-rounded chalk pebbles. In the base of the sub-circular pit was a charred length of wood which resembled the remains of a tree root charred *in situ*. From the fill (Context No. 304) of the sub-circular pit (Context No. 305) several sherds of modern glass and a corroded iron object were recovered, indicating that the feature was modern in nature.

The sub-circular pit (Context No. 305) was cut into a layer of compact pale orange clay (Context No. 303) containing fragments of decayed stone, angular flint fragments, chalk pebbles and small rounded stones. The clay was 0.14m thick and below it was the natural subsoil (Context No. 306), the surface of which was encountered at a depth of 0.41m. There were no archaeological features exposed in the boulder clay subsoil of Test Pit Three (Plate Ten).

Neither the geophysical survey nor the subsequent test pit excavation uncovered any evidence of a holy well or a medieval church at the proposed development site. No other features of archaeological significance were found during the evaluation and it is recommended that no further archaeological work, save for a summary in the annual *'Excavations'* bulletin, is carried out.

References

Day, A., McWilliams, P. and English, L. 1996. *Ordnance Survey Memoirs o Ireland. Volume Thirty-five. Parishes of County Antrim XIII 1833, 1835, 1838. Templepatrick and district*, The Institute of Irish Studies, The Queen's University of Belfast, Belfast.

Gwynn, A. and Hadcock, R.N. 1970. *Medieval religious houses Ireland with an appendix to early sites*, Longmans, London.

O'Laverty, J. 1878. *An historical account of the Diocese of Down and Connor, ancient and modern. Volume III*, James Duffy & Sons, Dublin.

Archive:

Finds:

The artefacts recovered during the evaluation are temporarily archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

Photographs:

The digital images taken during the evaluation are currently archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

Plans / Drawings:

The field drawings from the site are currently archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

Signed:_____ Date:_____

Figure One: General location map showing Templepatrick

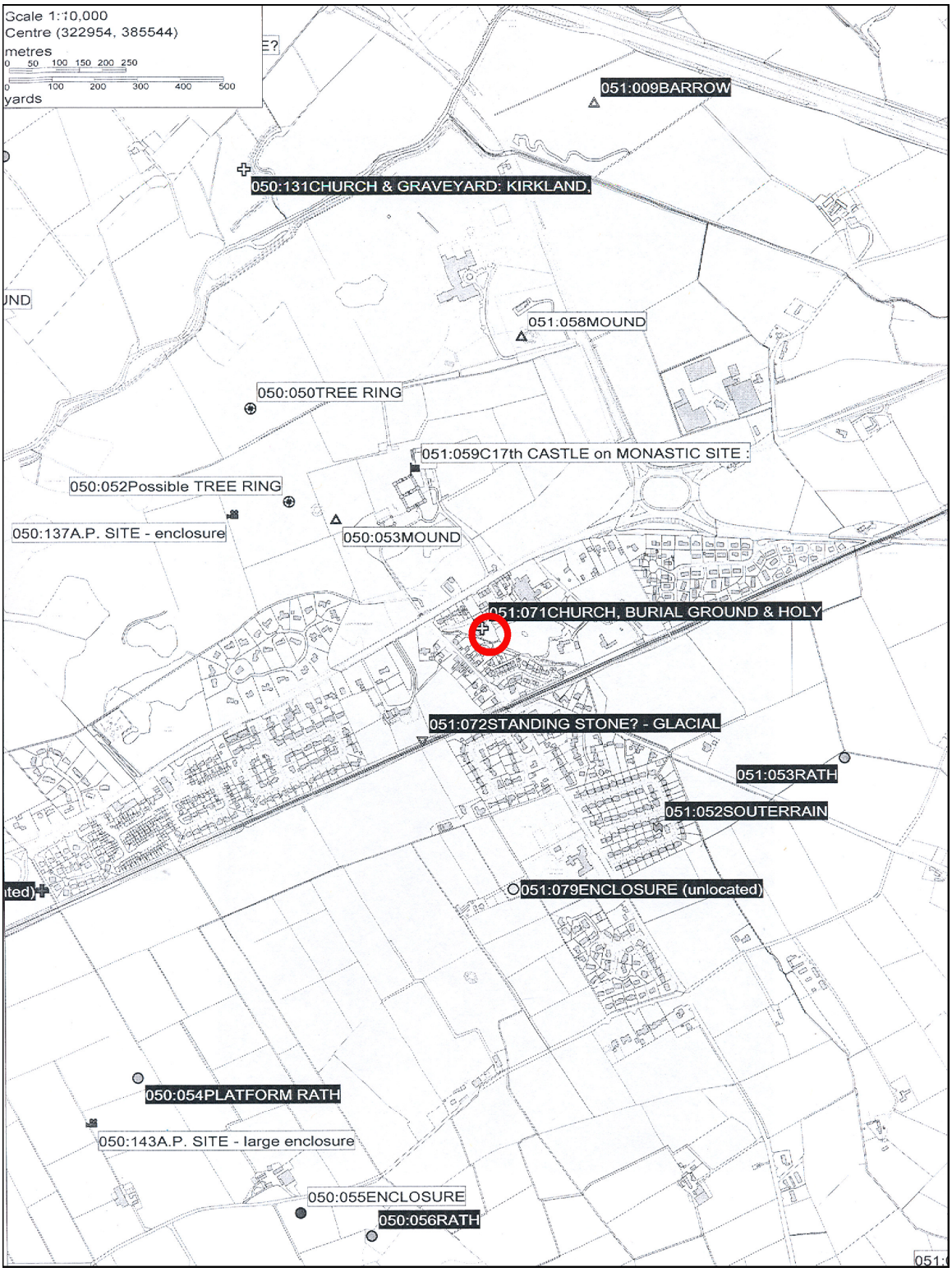

Figure Two: Detailed location map showing sites of archaeological interest in the surrounding area

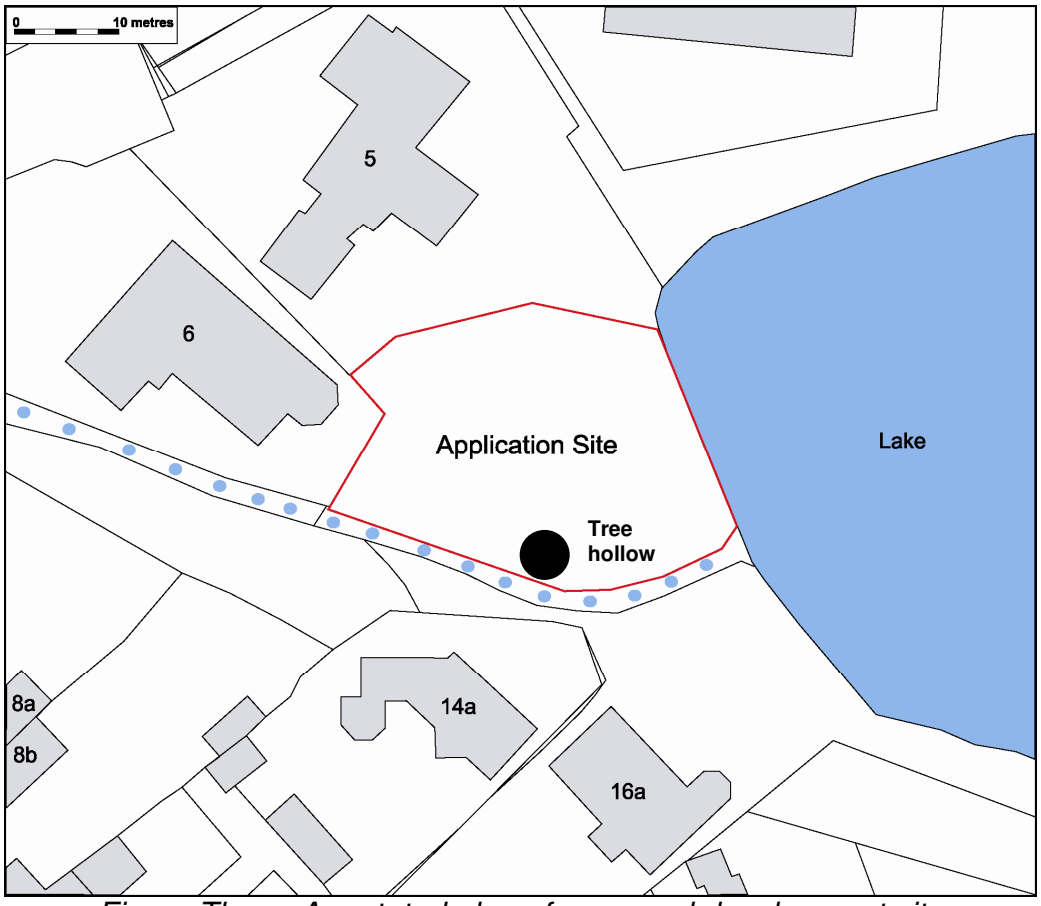

Figure Three: Annotated plan of proposed development site

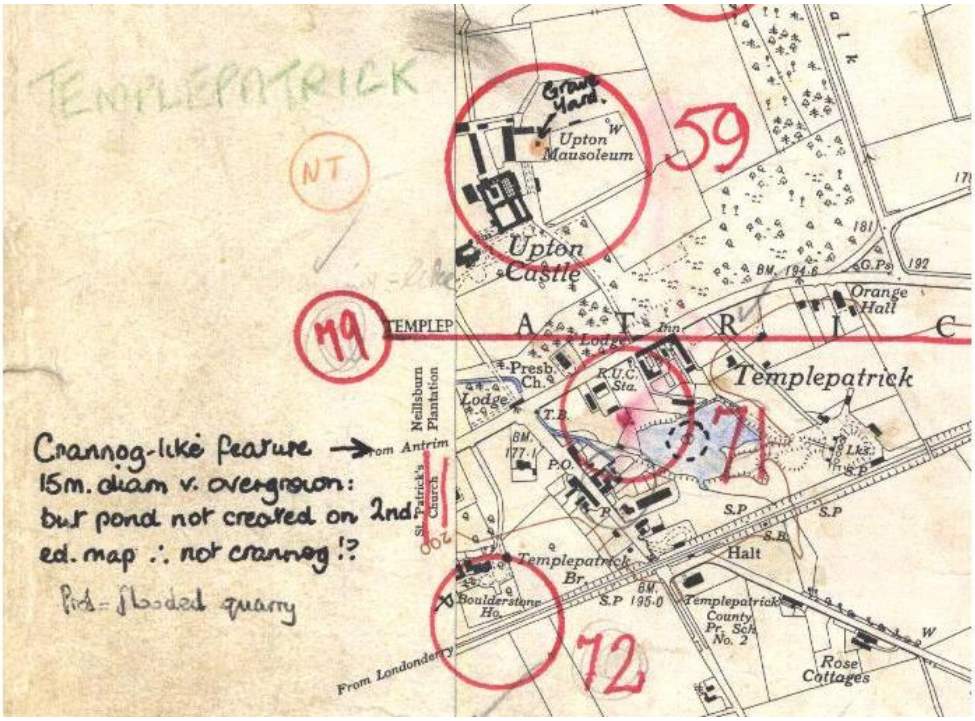

Figure Four: Field Map showing annotation made by Brian Williams indicating the approximate location of the holy well as indicated by local resident Mrs Todd

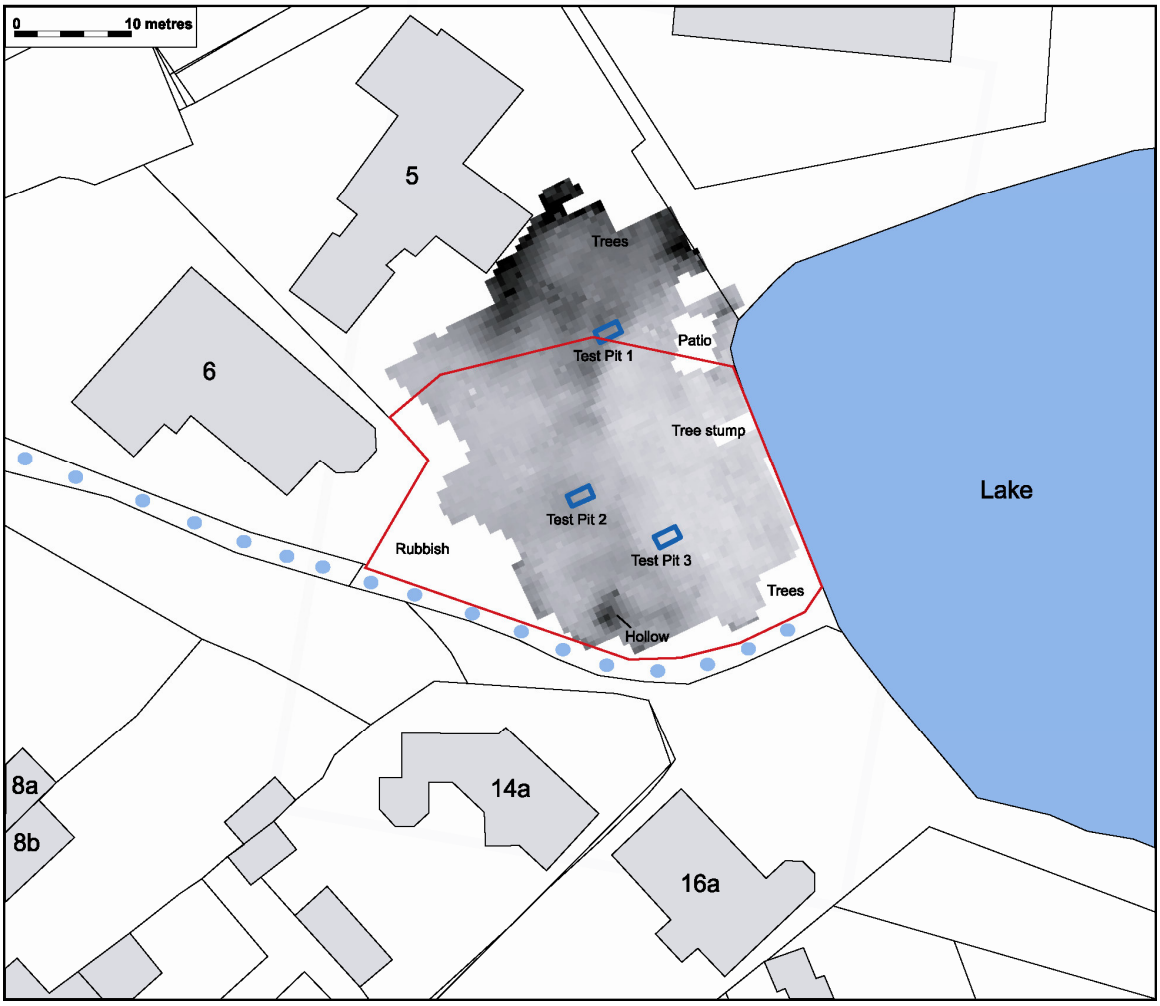

Figure Five: Plan of proposed development site showing the results of the geophysical survey and also test pit locations

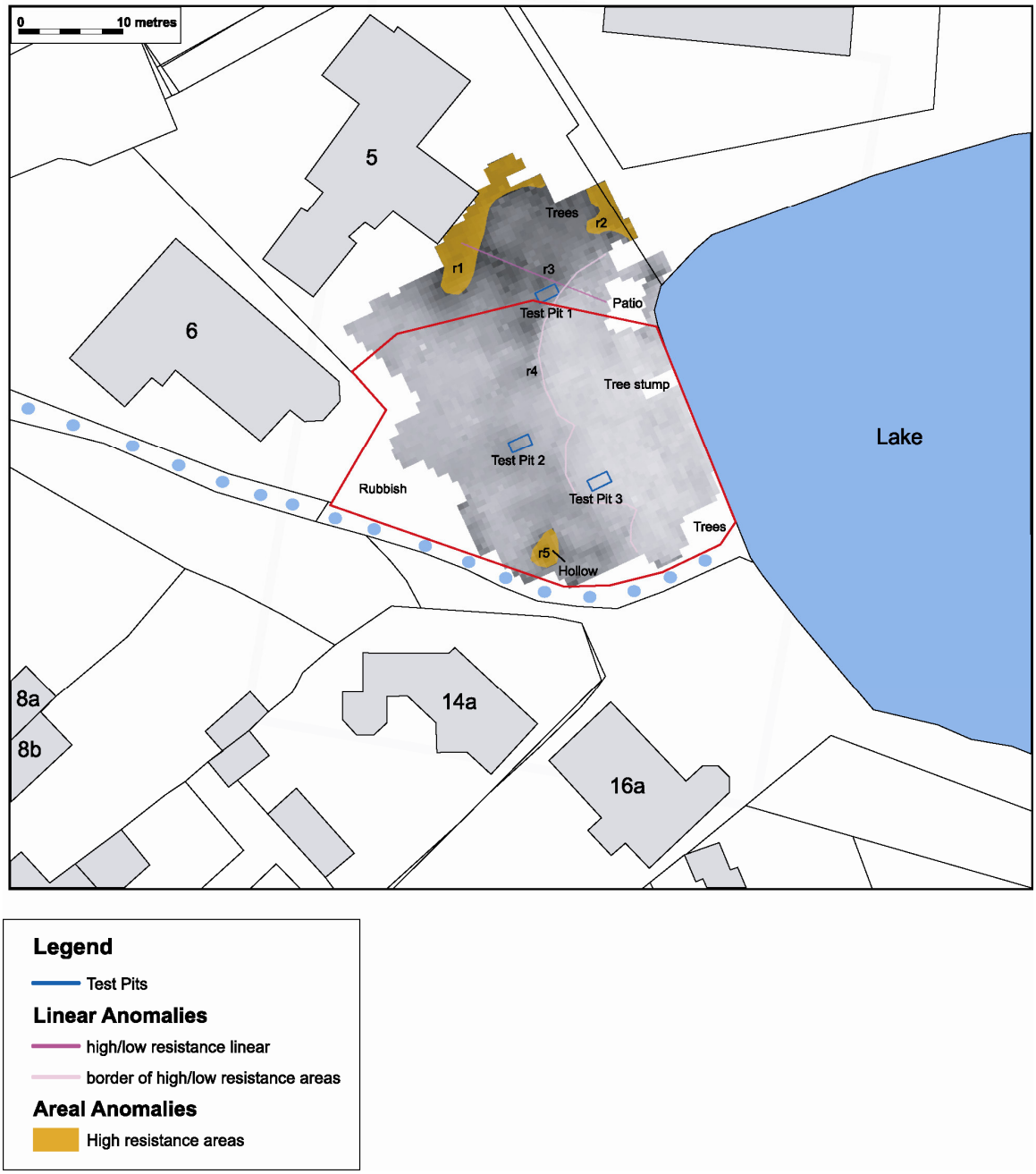

Figure Six: Plan of the proposed development site showing interpolated results of the geophysical survey and also test pit locations

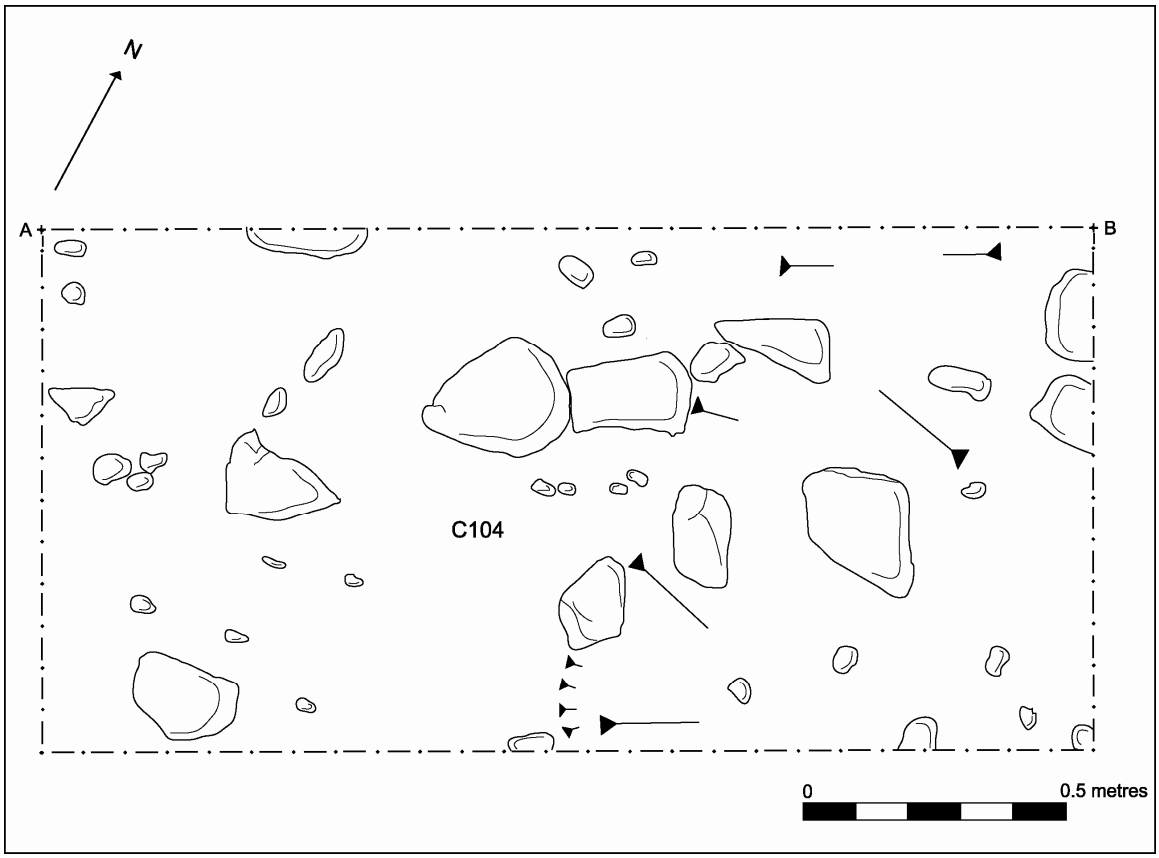

Figure Seven: Post-excavation plan of Test Pit One

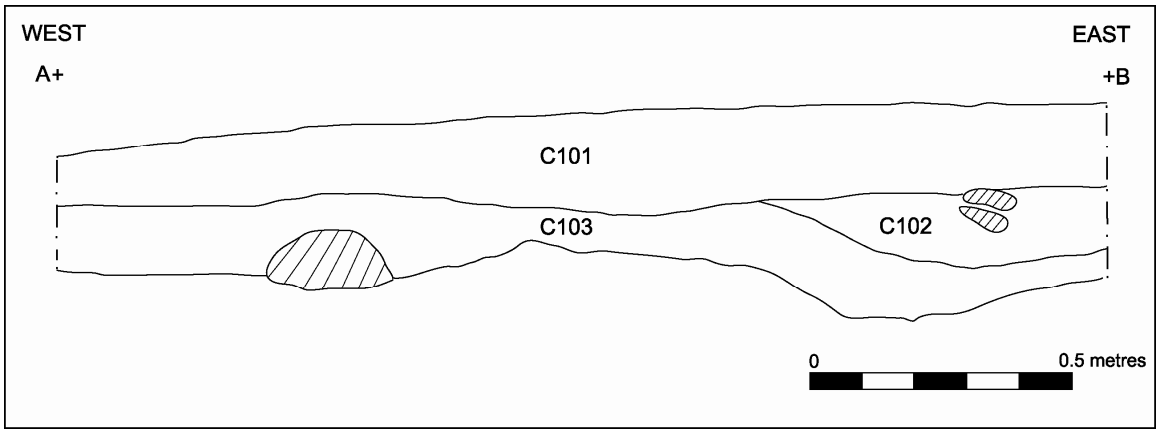

Figure Eight: South-facing section of Test Pit One

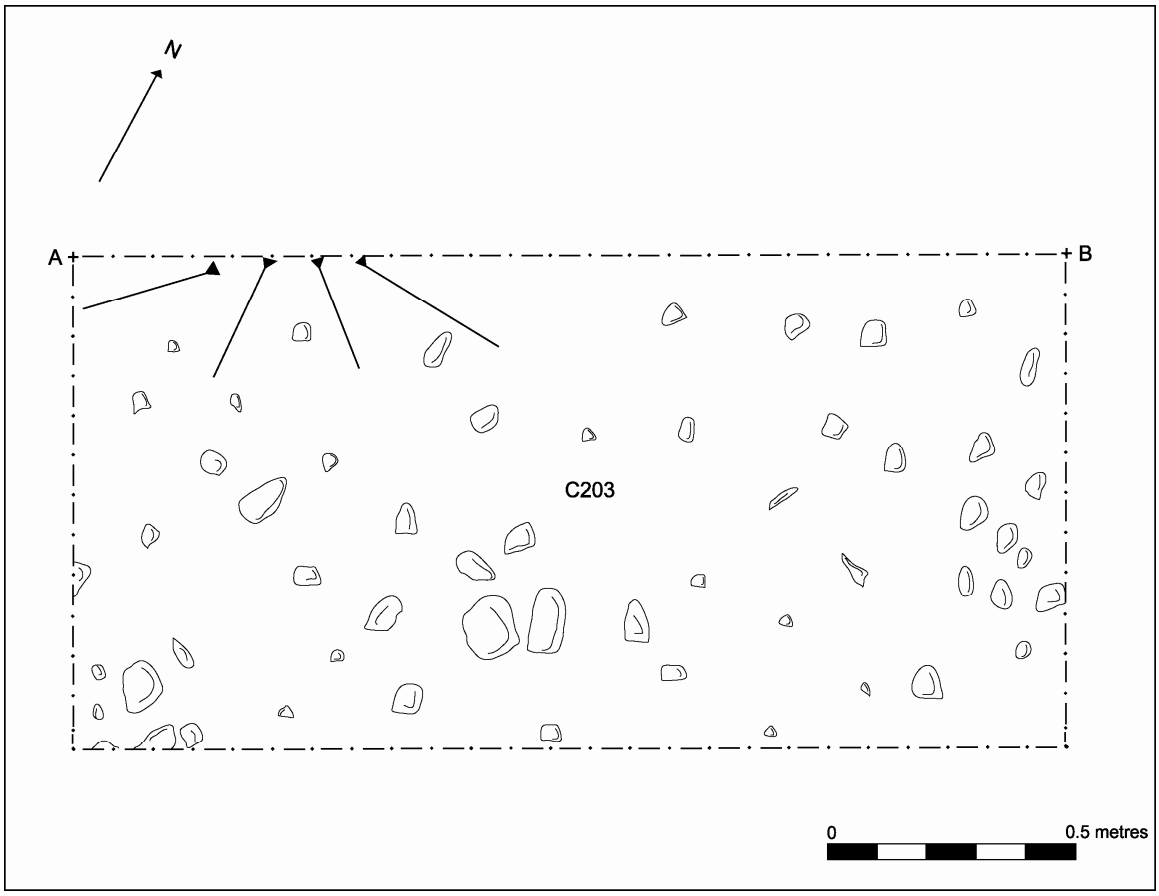

Figure Nine: Post-excavation plan of Test Pit Two

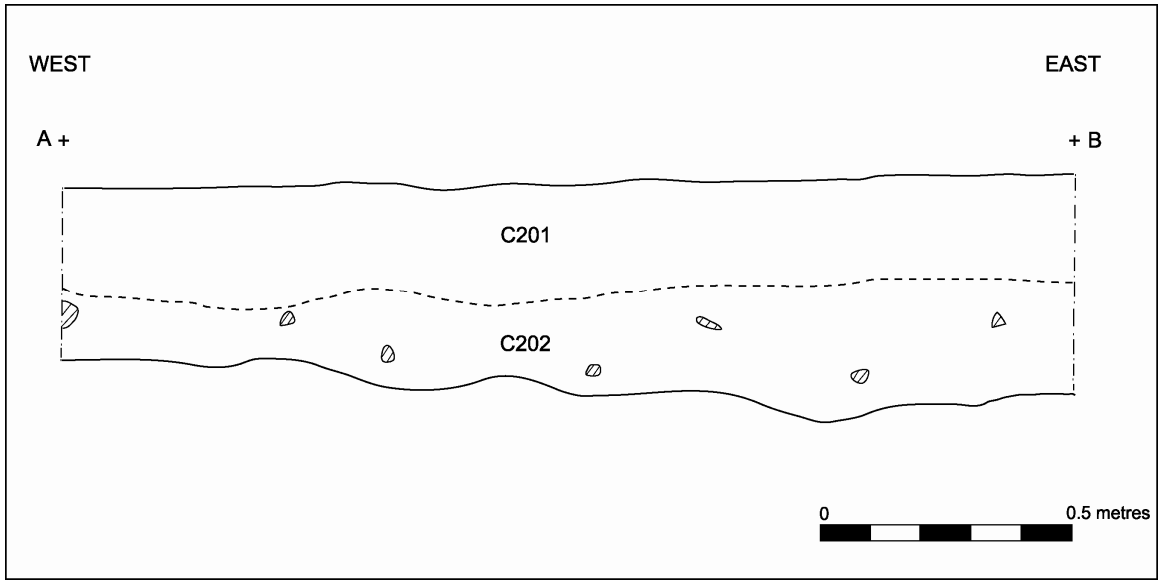

Figure Ten: South-facing section of Test Pit Two

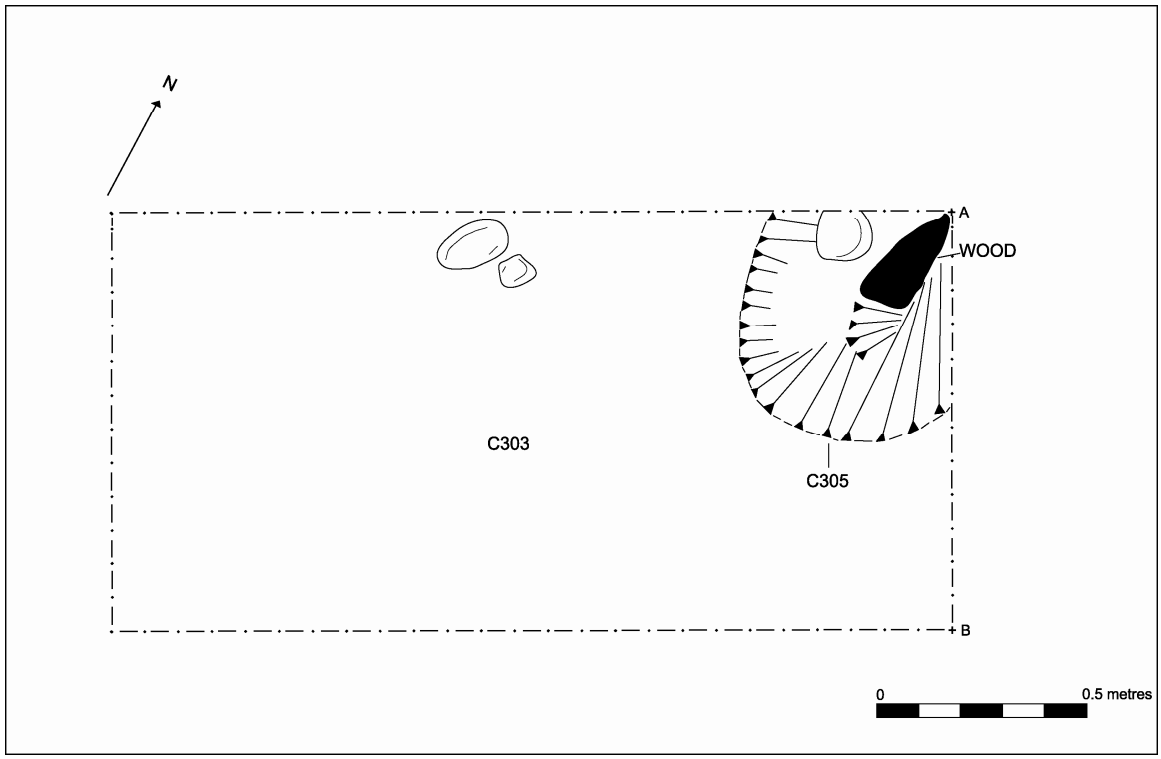

Figure Eleven: Post-excavation plan of Test Pit Three

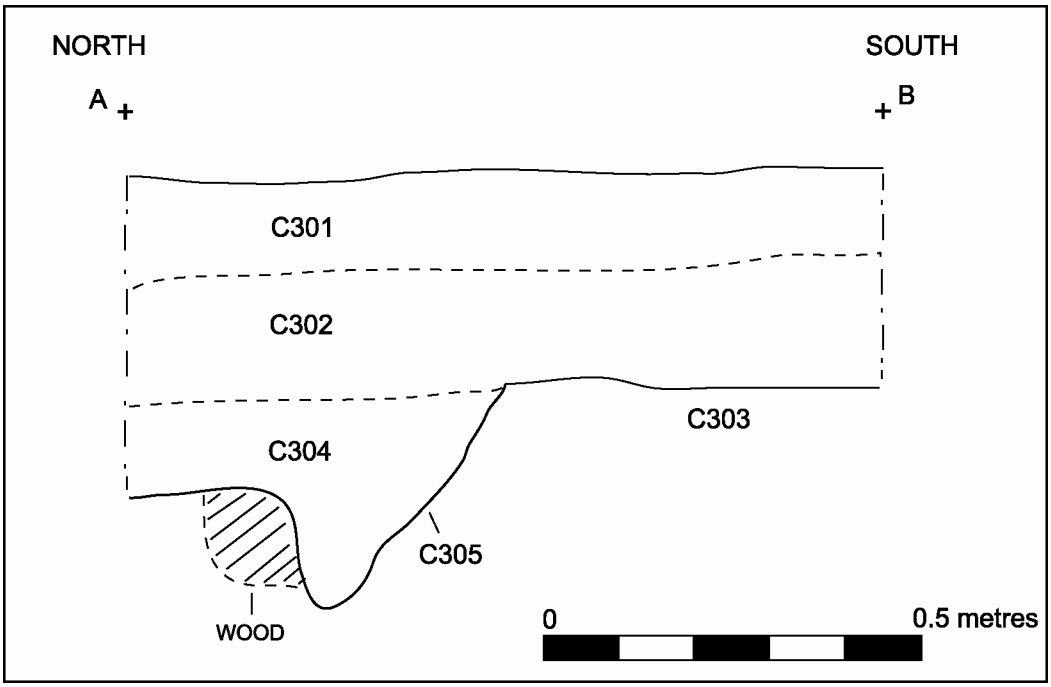

Figure Twelve: West-facing section of Test Pit Three

Plate One: Proposed development site, prior to evaluation, looking north

Plate Two: Proposed development site, prior to evaluation, looking north-east

Plate Three: Proposed development site looking east towards lake formed in relict limestone quarry

Plate Four: The tree hollow in the southern part of the development site, looking south

Plate Five: Test Pit One following excavation to subsoil level (Context No. 104), looking south-west

Plate Six: North-facing section of Test Pit One, looking south

Plate Seven: Test Pit Two following excavation to subsoil level (Context No. 203), looking south-west

Plate Eight: South-facing section of Test Pit Two, looking north-west

Plate Nine: South-facing section of Test Pit Three showing the sub-circular pit (Context. No. 305), looking north-east

Plate Ten: Test Pit Three following excavation to subsoil level (Context No. 306), looking west