

**LAND AT THE GREEN, WELLFIELD ROAD
MARSHFIELD
NEWPORT**

NGR: ST 2612 8185

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

May 2005
Report No. 419

Quality Assurance

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Approved

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SUMMARY

During May 2005 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at The Green, Wellfield Road, Marshfield (NGR: ST 2612 8185). The project was commissioned by Mrs J Sage.

The evaluation comprised the excavation and recording of two 10m trenches, across the proposed development area.

No significant archaeological finds or features were present within the evaluation trenches. A single post-medieval ditch was present in both trenches. It was cut into the natural ground and sealed by the subsoil, indicating that the original soil cover had been removed at some point during the 18th-20th century and the ground subsequently built back up.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project, archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

CBM

Ceramic Building Material.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site, in this case orange clay with brash.

Neolithic

Division of the prehistoric period dated approximately between 4500 BC and 2000 BC.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level. (AOD Above Ordnance Datum).

OS

Ordnance Survey.

Prehistoric

For the purpose of this report Prehistoric is defined as being the period prior to the Roman invasion of AD43.

Romano-British

The period between AD 43 – *circa* AD 410.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology during May 2005, on a plot of land at the Green, Wellfield Road, Marshfield (NGR: ST 2612 8185). The project was commissioned by Mrs J. Sage.
- 1.2 A programme of archaeological works was required by Newport County Council in advance of development, in accordance with the principals of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990) and the archaeological policies of Newport County Council.
- 1.3 This report constitutes the results of the archaeological works. The work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Foundations 2005) which complied with the brief issued by GGAT Curatorial (2005). The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994, revised 2001). The code of conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists was adhered to throughout.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 It is proposed to undertake a new development at the above site. The application site consists of the garden of the existing property known as The Green. It is proposed to construct a single detached house at the site with associated car parking and landscaping.
- 2.2 The site lies within the Blacktown area on the intersection between the Old Red Sandstone and the alluvial marshes of the Wentloog Levels. An archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology in 2003 at Blacktown Farm revealed evidence of medieval occupation. The site therefore contained the potential for the preservation of archaeological deposits. In particular this was likely to consist of prehistoric, Roman and medieval occupation.
- 2.3 The study area therefore contained the potential for significant archaeological features and deposits, predominantly associated with the prehistoric and Roman periods. This did not prejudice the evaluation against the recovery of evidence relating to other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits, in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains. In turn this would allow reasonable planning decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed development.

3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:

i) To define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;

ii) To attempt to characterise the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site;

iii) To recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The archaeological specification required the excavation of two trenches measuring 10m long by 1.8m wide. Trench locations are shown on Figure 2.

4.2 Non-significant overburden was removed, under constant archaeological supervision, to the top of the archaeological deposits or the underlying natural deposits, whichever were encountered first. This was achieved through the use of a JCB-type mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket. Thereafter cleaning and excavation was conducted by hand. Spoil tips were scanned for finds.

4.3 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

5 RESULTS

5.1 **Trench 1** (10m by 1.8m) was aligned southeast-northwest and was excavated onto the natural orange brown clays with brash at an average depth of 0.83m (6.65m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural clays were sealed beneath a mid brown sandy clay subsoil (102), up to 0.37m thick. This was sealed by a dark brown humic clay topsoil (101), up to 0.62m thick. No significant archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.

5.2 The natural deposits were cut by a substantial ditch feature [103], which ran on a northeast-southwest alignment through the majority of the trench. The ditch measured at least 1.05m wide by 0.58m deep, with sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a light grey brown silty clay fill (104) from which three sherds of 18th-19th century pottery were recovered. The ditch was sealed beneath layer (102).

5.3 Two modern pits were cut through the topsoil from immediately beneath the turf layer.

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- 5.4 **Trench 2** (10m by 1.8m) was aligned east-west and was excavated onto the natural orange brown clays at an average depth of 0.68m at the western end, (6.44m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were sealed beneath a mid brown sand clay subsoil (202), up to 0.22m thick. This was sealed by a dark brown silt sand topsoil (201), up to 0.44m thick. No significant archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.
- 5.5 The natural deposits were cut by a substantial ditch feature [203], which represented a continuation of feature [103] identified in Trench 1. The ditch was sealed beneath layer (102) and was present only in the western end of the trench.
- 5.6 A modern pit was present at the western end of the trench. It was cut through the topsoil from immediately beneath the turf layer.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The archaeological evaluation trenches were excavated onto clean natural clay beneath a subsoil and topsoil layer. No significant archaeological finds or features were present in any of the trenches. The presence of an 18th-19th century ditch sealed by the subsoil clearly indicates that the site has been previously stripped of its original soil cover and subsequently made up.
- 6.2 The results of the evaluation work would suggest that the potential of the study area to contain archaeologically significant deposits is low.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

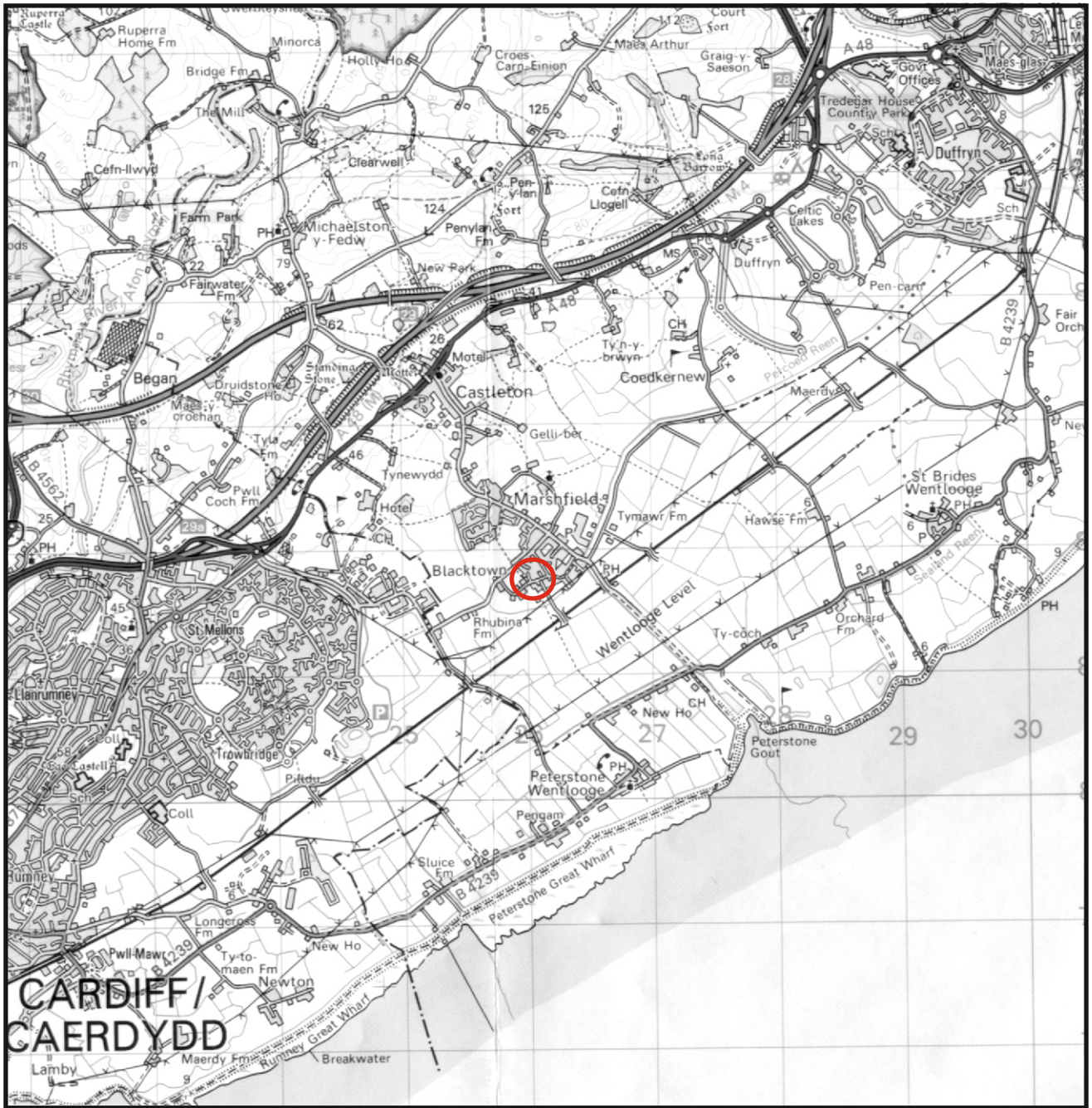
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GGAT Curatorial 2005: *Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation*

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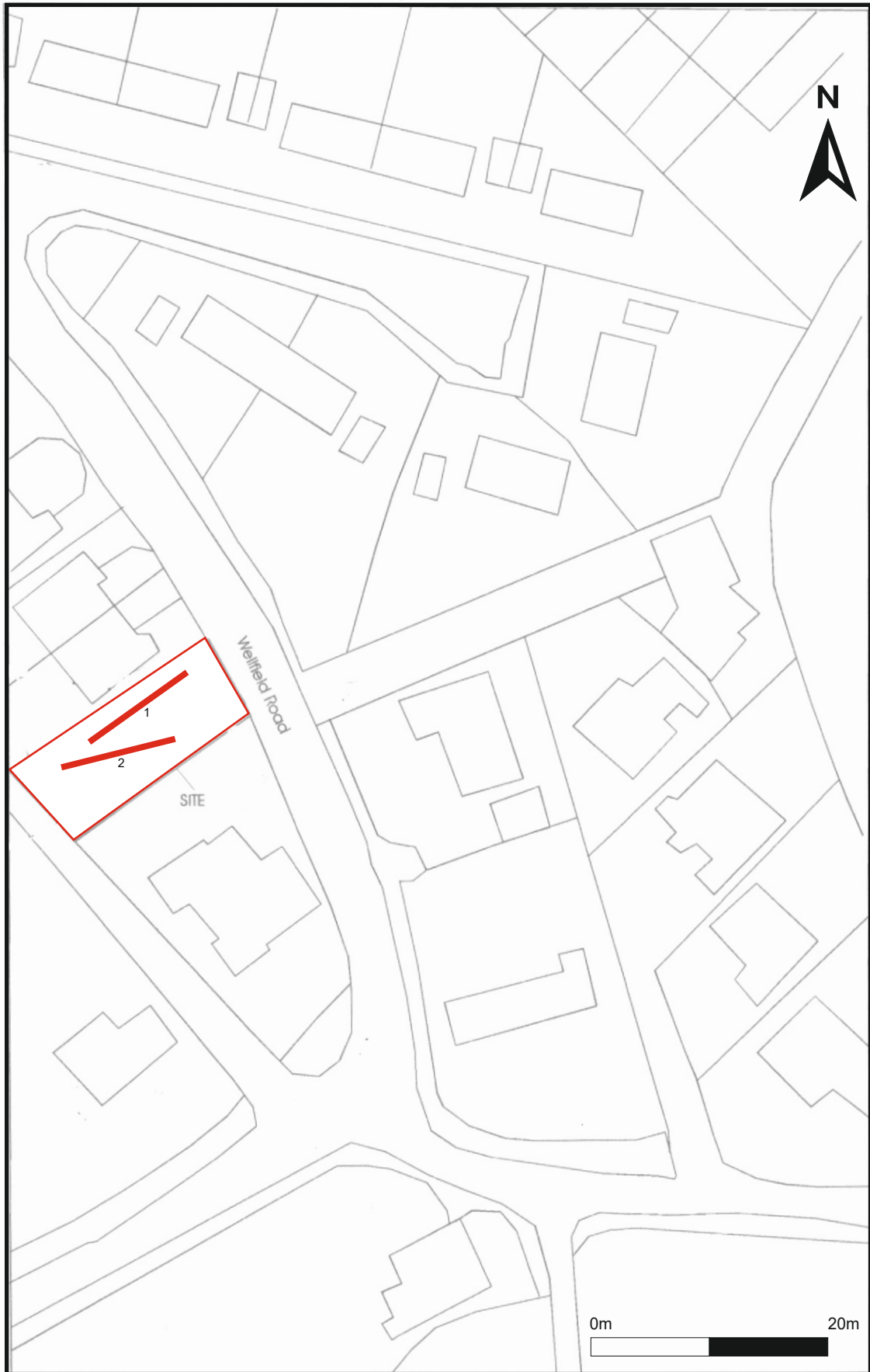
8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Neil Maylan of Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (Curatorial) and Mrs J. Sage.



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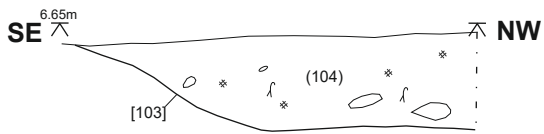
FIGURE 1: Site Location



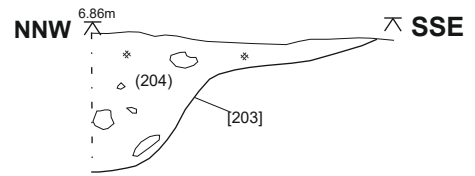
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FIGURE 2: Trench Locations

NORTHEAST FACING SECTION [103]



WEST SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION [203]



KEY

- * CHARCOAL
- ∩ ROOT



PLAN OF TRENCH 2

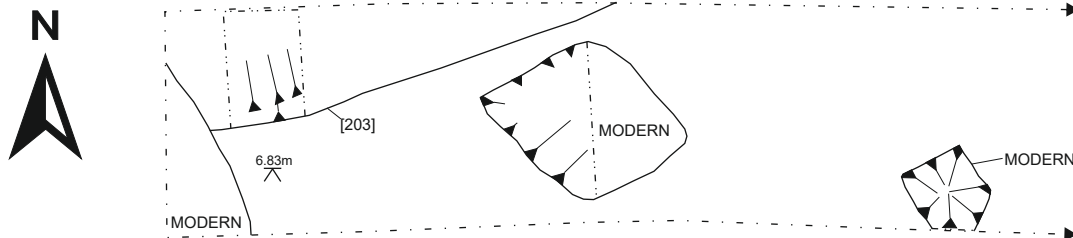


FIGURE 3: Trenches 1 and 2, Plan and Sections