



Highland Archaeology Services Ltd
Bringing the Past and Future Together

Knockgranish, Aviemore

(Land 50M West Of Batching Plant)



Archaeological Mitigation (Phase 2)

7 Duke Street Cromarty Ross-shire IV11 8YH

Tel / Fax: 01381 600491 Mobile: 07834 693378 Email: info@hi-arch.co.uk Web: www.hi-arch.co.uk
Registered in Scotland no. 262144 Registered Office: 10 Knockbreck Street, Tain, Ross-shire IV19 1BJ VAT No. GB 838 7358 20



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(Land 50M West Of Batching Plant)

Archaeological Mitigation Report (Phase 2)

Report No.	HAS141201
Site Code	AVH14
Client	Colin Bain
Planning Ref	2012-0208-DET
OS Grid Ref	NH 902 147
Date/ revision	03/12/2014
Author	Lynne Mckeggie

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken to complete the investigation and recording of a cellar noted during previous trial excavations at a go-kart track development in November 2013. Other features were flagged off to be avoided by the development. No further archaeological work is recommended.

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Acknowledgements

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Aims and objectives

The objectives of the work were to:

- Further investigate a cellar found within Feature 11 during previous fieldwork, to clarify its nature and extent
- Draw attention to the features to be safeguarded during development
- Minimise any possible delay or cost to the development by anticipating archaeological requirements as far as possible, timetabling and integrating archaeological recording work with the project, and dealing with any issues arising quickly and efficiently

Location

The site is located at Knockgranish, immediately north of Aviemore, Highland, at approximate grid reference NH 901 147.

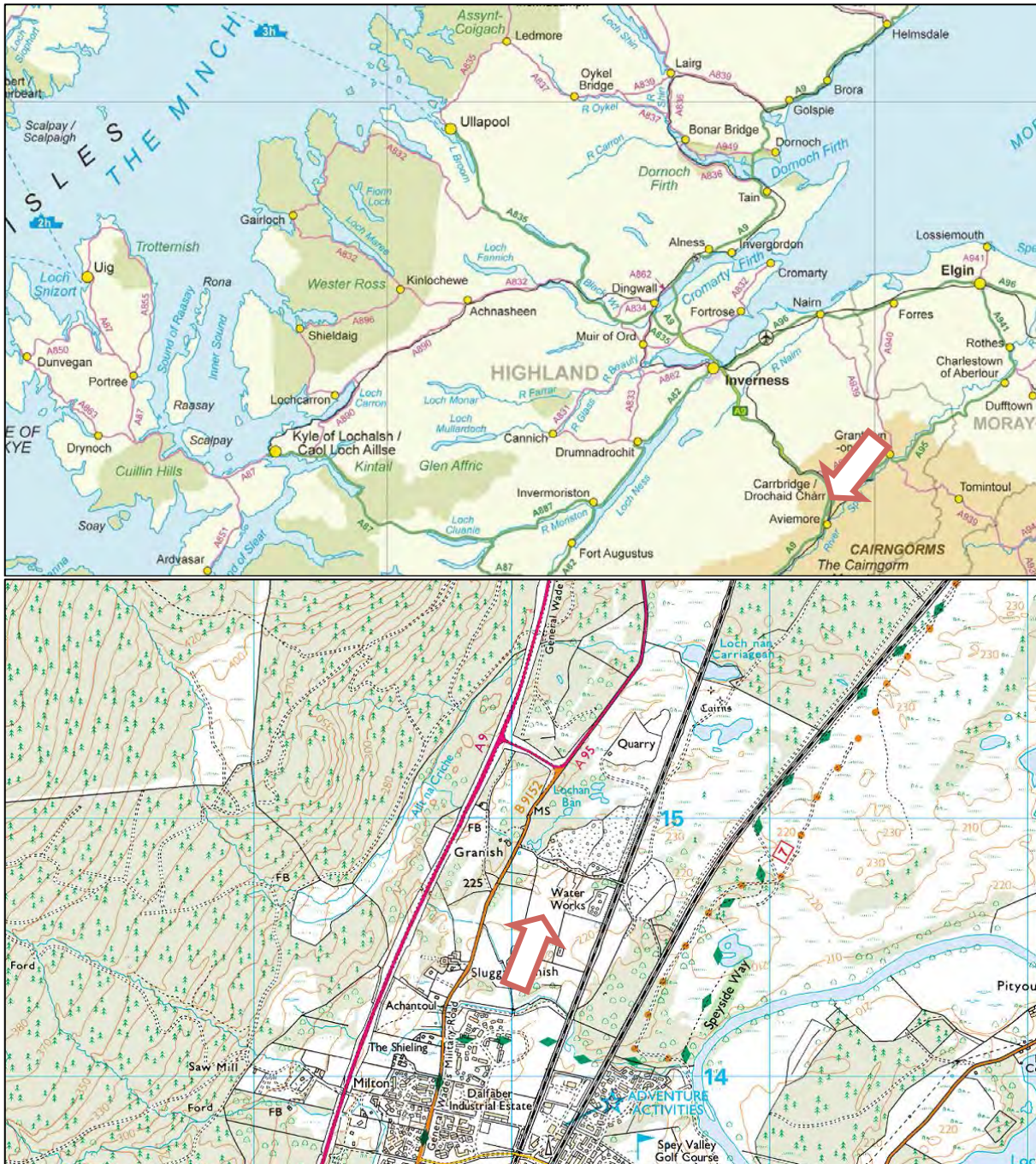
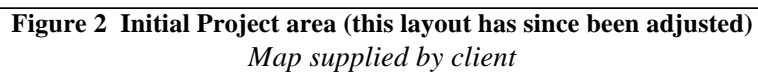


Figure 1 Project location (general)

From OS mapping, reproduced under Licence. Not to original scales



Legislation and Policy

The common principles underlying international conventions, national legislation and local authority planning policies are that cultural heritage assets should be identified in advance of development and safeguarded where practicable; if disturbance is unavoidable appropriate recording of features and recovery of portable artefacts should take place. These have been set out in international and European Union agreements, and UK and Scottish legislation, as well as national and local planning policies¹.

Professional standards during the present project have been secured by adherence to the *Codes of Conduct and Approved Practice and Standards* of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and the Highland Council's *Standards for Archaeological Work*.

Background

The proposed development is the construction of a kart track at Knockgranish, Aviemore.

A desk-based assessment and walk-over survey were undertaken by Emma Malone for Highland Archaeology Services in July 2013². These identified 11 features of possible archaeological interest, all but two of them field clearance cairns (see Figure 2). Following consultation with the client it was agreed that the majority of these would be avoided by micro-siting or adjusting the development layout (Figure 3).

An archaeological evaluation was then carried out by Lachlan and Lynne McKeggie in November 2013 to characterise two features lying within the area to be developed. Two slot trenches were excavated across these features. Trench 1 established that a cairn along the crest of a slope (F1) was a modern field clearance cairn with no earlier phases. Trench 2 investigated a rectangular stone structure (F11) and discovered stone slab flooring and a cellar. A cellar is relatively unusual in 18th or 19th century township structures. The cellar could not be completely emptied during this investigation and further work was recommended to establish its depth and characteristics, which may aid interpretation.³

Programme

A site visit by Lynne McKeggie took place on 2nd December 2014. The weather was cold and clear and so visibility was good, although the sun is very low in the sky at this time of year and the days are short, and so photographs within the cellar were affected by a lack of light.

¹ Malone, E. and Whitcutt, J. 2013. *Knockgranish, Aviemore: Archaeological Evaluation*. Highland Archaeology Services Report HAS130802, Cromarty.

³ McKeggie, L., 2014. *Knockgranish, Aviemore (Land 50m west of batching plant): Archaeological Evaluation*, Highland Archaeology Services Report HAS140102, Cromarty.

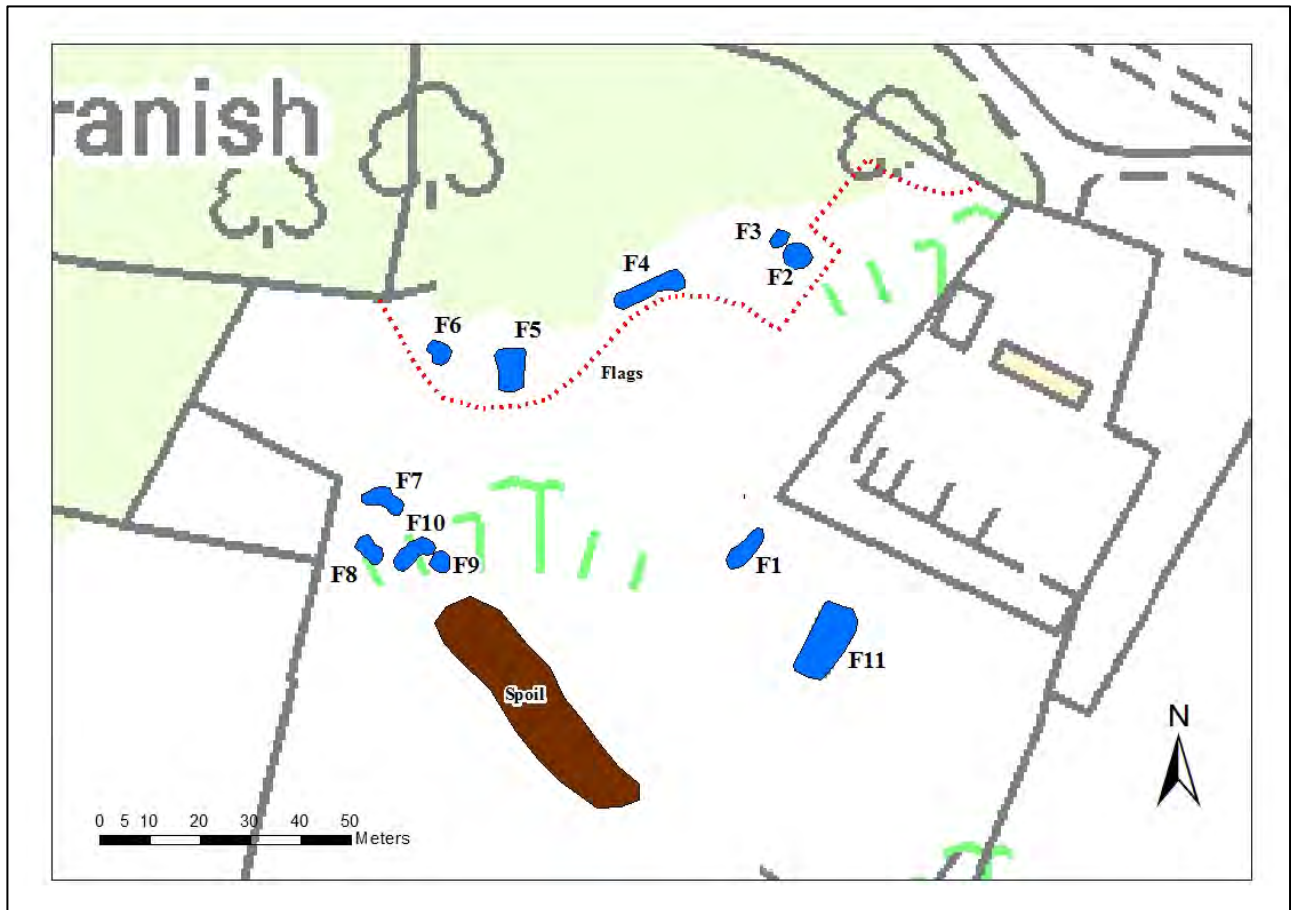


Figure 3: As found, December 2014

Features identified during walk-over survey in 2013 (blue); limit of development as flagged off (red dotted line); client's spoil bund (brown)

The client had already flagged out the development area, so the line was walked with the client to confirm that the previously identified features were outside this. Soil stripping in the car park area had also now taken place and this area had been adjusted to accommodate the features (see Figure 3).

A spoil heap had been set up by the client which will eventually form the sound deflecting bund. It was confirmed that this would be extended to cover field clearance heaps (F7-9). These were identified on the ground with the client and will be safeguarded by placing soil carefully and avoiding driving machinery over them.

Excavation of the cellar in Feature 11 was undertaken with the aid of a mechanical digger, owing to the large boulders, wire and other debris that had been dumped there in the past. This necessitated the removal of sections of wall in order to provide access, supervised by the archaeologist. The depth of cellar within Trench 2 was then excavated, and the trench was extended to the north-east and south-west in order to reveal the extent of the cellar. Measurements and photographs were taken to add to the record.

Results

Soil and boulders were removed from the cellar by machine to a depth of approximately 1.2m, and the trench was then extended to the northeast in order to create a sloping access route. It proved necessary to breach the northern edge of the cellar to do this. A sondage was then excavated by hand in the base of the trench in order

to establish the full depth and the character of the floor. The trench was then extended to the southwest in order to reveal the extent of the cellar in this direction. The full extension to Trench 2 is shown in Figure 4.

The cellar was found to be 2.3m long by 2m wide at the top, with each wall sloping in by approximately 10cm so that the cellar was slightly smaller at the base. The walls were of random rubble with generous amounts of lime mortar to create a flat surface. The walls were all approximately 25cm thick, with the stones pressed in to the surrounding subsoil. It was not possible to ascertain the relationship of the cellar to the construction of the western wall of the building, however, as this side unfortunately collapsed during excavation. There was no indication of a stairway leading into the cellar, so it appears that a trap door was probably used for access.

Large boulders continued to be found deep down within the cellar deposits (210), along with dark organic rich loam (216) which contained the remains of pieces of wood, wire and parts of a leather shoe (Find no.9; Plate 3). The fragments of wood may be from wooden flooring above the cellar.

The base of the cellar was found to consist of poured lime mortar (215). This was relatively smooth with the occasional depression and was slightly higher on the southern side where slight raised lips suggest the mortar was poured in.

Interpretation

The cellar was found to be relatively compact at 2x2.3m, although quite deep at 1.4-1.5m below the surrounding floor level. This might suggest use as a game larder, although there were no deposits or other evidence to confirm this. Its location directly opposite the doorway, reflect the layout of the house, with a room on each end of the house leaving the middle for accessing both the roof space and this subterranean store. This building appears to be of fairly standard mid- late 19th c. construction and is probably an estate building, later than the rest of the township.

Conclusions and Recommendations

This fieldwork was undertaken to fulfill the recommendations made following archaeological excavation in 2013. The aim was to record the nature and depth of the cellar floor. This has been achieved and no further archaeological work is recommended at this site.

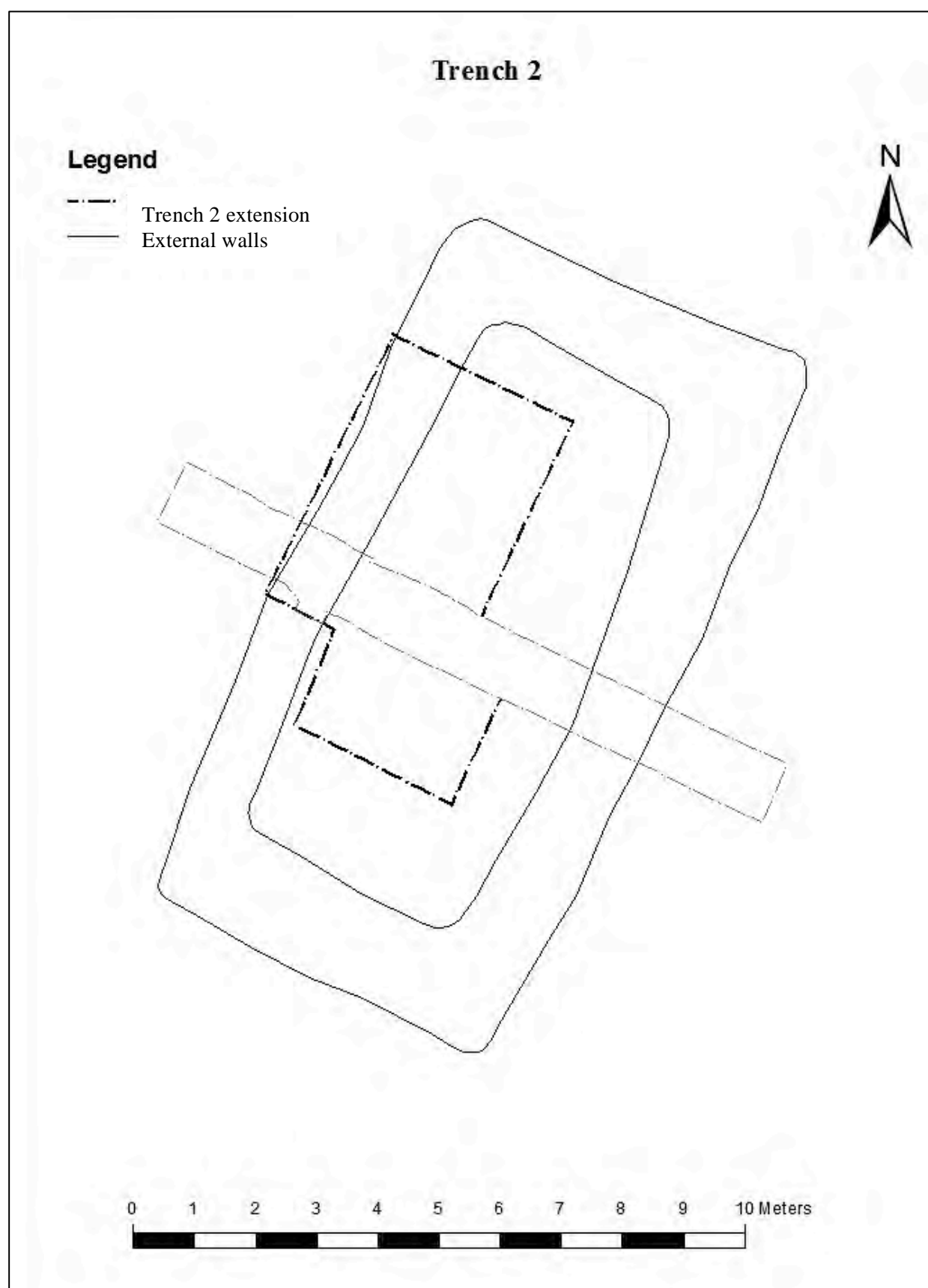


Figure 4: Extent of extended Trench 2

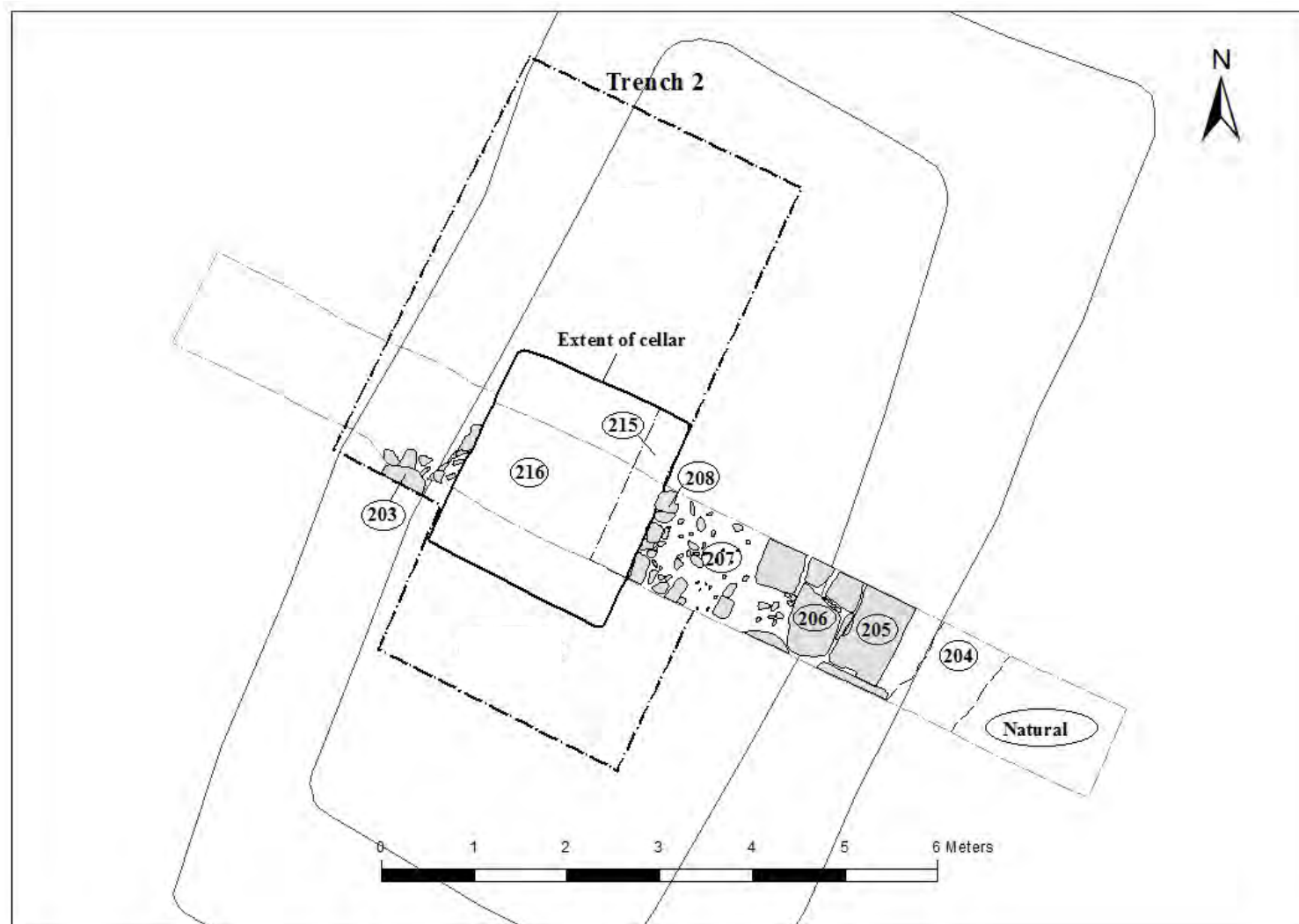


Figure 5: Composite post excavation plan



Plate 1: Internal wall and base of cellar (208) [AVG14_1]



Plate 2: Internal wall and base of cellar (215) [AVG14_4]



Plate 3: Artefacts 8 and 9 heel plate and leather shoe

Tables

Finds (cont.)

Find No.	Trench No.	Context No.	Description
8	2	216	Small metal heel plate, possibly belonging to Find 9
9	2	216	Fragments of leather shoe including portion of sole and heel.

Photographs

Photo No. (AVH14_)	Facing	Trench	Showing
1-3	SE	2	Internal cellar wall (208)
4	SE	2	Detail of base of cellar
5-6	E	2	Eastern corner of cellar
7	NW	2	Area of external cellar wall after collapse (214)
8-9	W	2	Detail showing section of external cellar wall (214)