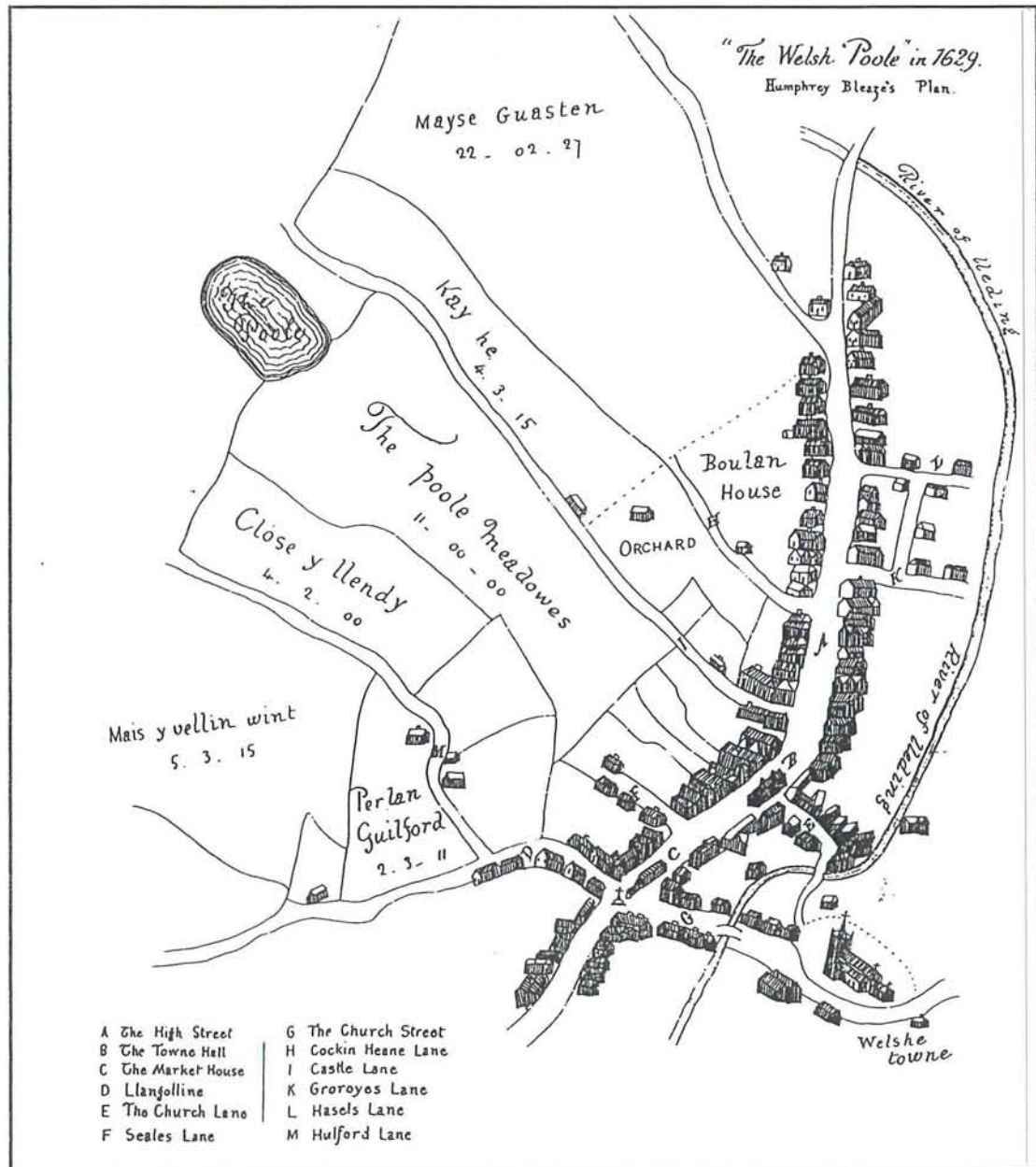


# The Cock Yard, Welshpool, Powys

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



**CPAT Report No 512**

# **The Cock Yard, Welshpool, Powys**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**I Grant and N Jones**  
February 2003

Report for Mr J Potter



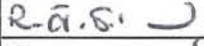

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## CPAT Report Record

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In December 2002 the Contracts Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was invited by Mrs S Wilford, J-Ross Developments, acting on behalf of Mr J Potter, to prepare a specification and quotation for undertaking an archaeological evaluation on land at The Cock Yard, Salop Road, Welshpool, Powys, in connection with a development proposal for the construction of 13 new dwellings. The evaluation was the subject of a brief drawn up by Mr M Walters of the CPAT Curatorial Section (CPAT EVB 476), acting in his capacity as archaeological curator for the region.
- 1.2 Information held within the County Sites and Monuments Record indicates that the plot lies within what is perceived to be the early medieval historic core of Welshpool, in close proximity to the medieval cemetery thought to be associated with Capel Llewelyn. It was therefore assumed that the plot might contain deposits relating to what may have been the original Welsh settlement in the area.
- 1.3 An archaeological evaluation had previously been undertaken nearby, along the street frontage of The Moorings, at the south-eastern end of the plot, which revealed evidence for medieval occupation in the area (Grant and Jones 2002).

## 2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 The area of the assessment lies to the east of the present town centre of Welshpool, occupying land between Salop Road and Mill Lane (Fig. 1; SJ 226075). The plot comprises the yard area alongside and to the rear of the former Cock Inn, together with a security compound to the rear, and the adjoining garden belonging to The Moorings.
- 2.2 The solid geology of the area mainly consists of undivided Ludlow and Wenlock Series siltstones and mudstones belonging to the Silurian period, though there is some local faulting which has exposed Caradoc Series siltstones and mudstones of the Ordovician period (1994 British Geological Survey map). The soils of the area generally consist of fine silty and loamy soils belonging to the Denbigh 1 Association (1983 Soil Survey of England and Wales map).

## 3 DESKTOP STUDY

- 3.1 Stage One of the evaluation involved the examination of all the readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic, pictorial, and photographic sources for the immediate area. Repositories consulted included the following: the Regional Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), held by CPAT at Welshpool; the National Monuments Record, held by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW) in Aberystwyth; the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth; and Powys County Archives in Llandrindod Wells.
- 3.2 Although the origins of the present town lie in the medieval period, there is some evidence of occupation dating back to the Roman period. During the construction of the nearby Smithfield in 1959 a probable Roman burial deposit was found (PRN 119), and this was partially excavated by the National Museum of Wales in July 1960. All of the objects recovered were grave goods, although no trace of a pit or cist was identified. The grave goods included three bronze paterae (dishes) and a bronze ewer (jug), which were placed in a bronze cauldron and wrapped in a fine linen cloth and may have been packed in leaves. A sixth vessel was a wooden bucket with a bronze bull's head handle similar to one from Kent. There was also an iron fire-dog which dates from AD150-200, two iron stands, the remains of a glass bottle and some sherds of pottery (Boon 1961, 13-31). The site of this discovery lies little more than 200m to the south-east of the proposed development.
- 3.3 Welshpool is said to have been the site of churches founded by St Cynfelyn and his brother Llywelyn in the 6th century AD; the latter has since been associated, at least traditionally, with the 'Old Church' which is known to have stood on the east side of Mill Lane. The most recent church on the site was erected in 1587 but was destroyed by fire in 1659, although some of its masonry remains were still visible until the 19th century (Soulsby 1983, 265). Part of the graveyard was identified during rescue excavations by CPAT in 1986-7, when 17 burials were located. Radiocarbon dates suggested that they belonged to the 13-14th century (Blockley 1987, 24-6). Further work in 1997 revealed the



possible site of Capel Llewelyn (PRN 4438) in a garden to the rear of 37 Salop Road. It may be then that the line of Mill Lane broadly followed the western boundary of the graveyard (PRN 16386).

- 3.4 Domen Gastell, a motte and bailey castle (PRN 120) c.350m to the south-east of the proposed development, may have been constructed as early as 1111, although the earliest possible reference to it dates from 1196 (Silvester 1992, 167). There has been some suggestion that a settlement emerged around the castle, although no firm evidence has yet been found to substantiate this hypothesis.
- 3.5 The present town developed in a deliberate attempt by Gruffudd ap Gwenwynwyn, Prince of Powys, to establish a new borough. As such, this was a planned town which owed little to any existing settlement (Soulsby 1983, 266). The burgesses received a foundation charter in the 1240s and a market was recorded there in 1252 (Silvester 1992, 167). The new town followed a basically linear plan, centred on High Street and Broad Street, with some development also along Church Street, Berriew Street and Severn Street. Interestingly, the parish church of St Mary's, which was refounded around 1250, lies further to the east, away from the centre of the town and in an area recorded by Humphrey Bleaze on his map of 1629 as 'Welshe town' (Fig. 2). Although this, the earliest map of Welshpool, does not show the area of the proposed development, it is clear that the location is within the general area of 'Welshe town', and it may be that Mill Lane was part of an early Welsh settlement which emerged between the motte and bailey castle and Capel Llewelyn.
- 3.6 An archaeological evaluation, undertaken in the grounds of The Moorings in the summer of 2002, provided tentative evidence for occupation in this area during the 13th and 14th century, although no structures were identified. The depth of deposits sealing the medieval contexts suggested that the plot remained largely unoccupied for a considerable period and may have been in agricultural or garden use from perhaps the 14th century onwards.
- 3.7 A survey of the Estate of Mrs Victoria Lloyd, surveyed by John Rocque in 1747 (*NLW/Dept of Maps/M256*) shows Mill Lane and Salop Road, although with no indication of any buildings on the street frontage, possibly because the area then was under different ownership. The condition of the map and copyright restrictions prevent its reproduction in this report. Although other pre-19th century depictions of Welshpool are available, none shows the area of the evaluation.
- 3.8 An illustration, probably dating to the early 19th century, shows the original Cock Inn as a two-storey timber-framed, thatched building, with a single-storey cottage adjoining the eastern side and what may be a barn on the western side, both of similar construction to the inn (Trant 1986, 123). The former existence of timber-framed buildings is further indicated by the exposed timber-framing on the north-eastern gable wall of No 2 Church Street.
- 3.9 At some time during the 19th century the original Cock Inn, along with the adjoining buildings, was demolished and replaced by a purpose-built red-brick public house, then known as the Cock and Smithfield Public House. This still survives although it is now derelict. On the western side of the inn a large six-storey, stone-built flannel mill was constructed sometime between the 1840s and 1885 when it was depicted on the large-scale Ordnance Survey (1:500) town map of Welshpool (fig. 4). After the mill closed, the building was used by a number of organisations including the St John Ambulance, the Oddfellows and the Scouts before it was finally demolished around 1960. The remains of the mill survive within the development area, with walls standing to around 2.4m in height, within which some architectural detail is visible. A three-storey, brick-built, Georgian town house, Bryneglwys, formerly stood adjacent to the flannel mill and this is also depicted on the 1885 map. The house was used by the War Agricultural Committee during the Second World War and has now been demolished (Trant 1986, 124).
- 3.10 During the 19th century the majority of the evaluation area, with the exception of the Cock Inn yard, lay within the grounds of the Vicarage. The first record of a parsonage dates from 1684 (PRN 72012), although it may have been built in the 16th century. A new vicarage (PRN 72013) was built in 1819 for William Clive and this is depicted on the Tithe Survey of 1840 (Fig. 3). The accompanying Tithe Apportionment indicates that the plot was exempt from tithes. The 1885 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 4) clearly shows that this part of the proposed development lay within the vicarage grounds, which seems to have been laid-out with regular paths and with what appears to be a walled garden and greenhouse near what is now The Moorings.
- 3.11 The Moorings, a modern brick-built house, occupies the south-eastern part of the plot. The majority of the vicarage's former grounds are now occupied by a car park.



#### 4 EXCAVATION (Figs 5-11)

- 4.1 The evaluation comprised eight machine-excavated trenches, the size and position of which were agreed in advance with the curator. All machine excavation was undertaken under close archaeological supervision onto the surface of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, as required by the curatorial brief. A drawn, written and photographic record was maintained throughout the archaeological works (see Appendix 1). Context numbers, usually in brackets, refer to individual on-site records of different layers, and many will be found on the accompanying plans and sections.

##### **Trench 1 (Fig. 6 and Plates 1-2)**

- 4.2 A single L-shaped trench, 15m long and 1.5m wide, aligned approximately north-south with its shorter arm east-west, was excavated by machine through an area of hardcore near the street frontage, 6m east of the Cock Inn. In the eastern branch of the trench an overburden of tarmac and gravel sub-base (80), up to 0.3m thick, was removed by machine, to reveal the undisturbed natural subsoil (93). The natural substrate varied in character throughout the trench, although it consisted predominantly of a yellowy-grey clay, interspersed with bands of grey sand, gritstone and shattered mudstone. No features were identified within this area of Trench 1.
- 4.3 At the southern end of the trench the overburden was removed by machine, along with four underlying deposits (see Fig. 6; Plate 1-2). Two of the deposits, (contexts 87 and 88), consisted of a series of ash and dark brown silty-sand /clay lenses up to 0.18m thick, and were associated with the remains of a lime mortared stone wall (89) of late 18th or 19th-century origin. This wall was bonded to the corner of an earlier dry-stone wall (91), 0.54m wide, aligned north-east to south-west, and possibly of late 17th or mid-18th-century origin. The nature and alignment of this earlier structure suggests the former existence of an outbuilding at the rear of a street frontage property, for which there was no surviving evidence within the excavated area.
- 4.4 Two other deposits (contexts 81 and 84), truncated by both the structure (91) and a modern lead pipe drain (83), were also removed by machine. The upper deposit (81) consisted of a firm olive-grey silty clay up to 0.18m thick, characterised by the inclusion of flecks of charcoal and mortar. The nature of the deposit indicated a possible floor surface, and associated ceramics suggest a 17th-century date. The underlying deposit (84) was a fairly firm olive brown silty-clay up to 0.19m thick, with inclusions of charcoal throughout. In section (see Fig. 6) it was evident that this deposit was sloping downwards north to south, but the extent and depth could not be established. On comparison with a similar deposit (36) in Trench 3, it has been concluded that this is a cultivation soil possibly of 13th or 14th-century origin.

##### **Trench 2 (Fig. 7 and Plates 3-4)**

- 4.5 A single trench 9.6m long and 1.5m wide, aligned north-west to south-east, was excavated by machine through an area of hardcore, immediately at the rear of the Cock Inn. Throughout the length of the trench (see Fig. 7) an overburden of tarmac and gravel sub-base (43), up to 0.24m thick, and an underlying brick floor (44) 0.18m thick, were removed by machine. After the machine removal of the underlying deposits it became evident that the deposits within the trench could be divided approximately into two stratigraphic sequences, north and south of what appeared to be the remains of a dry-stone wall (53), aligned east to west. The deposits and features on the northern side of the wall were predominantly of 19th-century origin. In contrast, on the southern side there were the remains of medieval and early post-medieval cultivation soils.
- 4.6 In the northern extent of the trench a deposit of firm yellowy clay (45), up to 0.3m thick, lay directly beneath the brick floor. This had been cut by two drains (52 and 136), aligned east to west and 2.8m apart. Underlying this was a sequence of two deposits (46 and 47), both approximately 0.24m thick, and composed of a series of sandy charcoal and mortar lenses, resembling demolition deposits that could be dated to the late 18th or early 19th century. On removal of these deposits a firm olive-brown silty clay layer (48) was revealed, up to 0.16m thick, and characterised by inclusions of small rounded pebbles throughout. No dateable artefacts were recovered from this deposit, which was removed to reveal the undisturbed natural substrate (49), comparable with the natural deposit (93) encountered in Trench 1, a yellowy grey clay, interspersed with shattered mudstone.
- 4.7 At a point 3m from the northern extent of the trench a ditch or gully (66) was identified, 1.3m in width and 0.8m deep, orientated north-west to south-east, and extending beyond the limits of excavation in either direction (see Fig. 7). Examination of the exposed section revealed that this feature had been



cut through deposit (46) and all earlier deposits, including the natural substrate. The ditch had vertical sides and a shallow concave base and was filled by three deposits: context 65, a grey clay up to 0.58m thick; context 128, a green cess-like silty sand, 0.14m thick; and context 129, the primary fill of the ditch, a bluish-grey silty clay containing large rounded stones. All of the deposits within the feature contained quantities of 19th-century pottery. This ditch could be associated with the 19th-century Flannel Mill, the site of which is located to the north-west. The distinctive strong mineral odour that was emitting from the primary fill of the ditch suggests that the feature may well have been used to remove water-borne industrial waste from the site.

- 4.8 To the south of the dry-stone wall (53) and underlying the brick floor (44), a deposit of very firm grey-brown silty clay (55), 0.14m thick, was revealed. The deposit contained occasional flecks of mortar and charcoal, together with an assemblage of clay-pipe of 17th and 18th-century origin. It is possible that this deposit is contemporary with the construction of the wall (53), although comparison with similar deposits in Trenches 3 and 4 suggests the deposit is not confined to this area and is therefore not an internal floor surface.
- 4.9 Beneath this post-medieval deposit was a cultivation layer of dark greenish-grey silty clay (56), up to 0.34m in thick. Although no dateable artefacts were recovered from the deposit, comparable deposits recorded within Trenches 3 and 4 demonstrate that this layer is possibly of late 15th or early 16th-century origin. The underlying deposit (64) was a fairly firm dark yellowish-brown silty clay, characterised by inclusions of charcoal, small rounded stones and occasional flecks of daub. A sondage (see Fig. 7) was excavated on the eastern side of the trench in order to determine the depth of this deposit, which was found to be up to 0.6m thick.
- 4.10 Deposit (64) had been cut by a large sub circular pit (63), 1.5m in diameter and 0.85m in depth (see Plate 4). The pit had concave sides and a rounded base and was filled by six deposits; context 57, a firm grey plastic clay up to 0.28m thick; context 58, an olive brown silty clay, 0.24m thick; context 59, a mottled olive clay, 0.13m thick and characterised by a light green cess-like material; context 60, a lens of black charcoal; context 61, a pale yellow silty-clay up to 0.09m thick containing cess material; and context 62, the primary fill of the pit, a firm grey silty clay. Although the pit produced no dateable artefacts, it may possibly be of late medieval or early post-medieval date, based on the assumed dating of layers (56) and (64).

#### **Trench 3 (Fig. 8 and Plates 5-6)**

- 4.11 A single trench 11.2m long and 1.5m wide aligned approximately north-east to south-west, was excavated by machine through an area of hardcore, 9m south of the Cock Inn. Throughout the length of the trench the upper layers comprised a series of surfaces of likely 19th and 20th-century date: a layer of tarmac and gravel sub-base (28), up to 0.15m thick; an underlying brick floor (29) 0.1m thick; a mixture of stone aggregate (116) and demolition layers (117); and a firm grey brown silty clay (30) 0.18m thick, containing flecks of mortar, charcoal and clay-pipe, comparable with deposit 55 in Trench 2. In general, the underlying deposits followed the same stratigraphic sequence as in the southern extent of Trench 2: a cultivation layer of dark olive-brown silty-clay (36), up to 0.6m thick and containing an assemblage of 13th and 14th-century ceramics; a dark yellowish brown silty-clay (37), 0.5m thick and of likely medieval origin; a bluish-grey marbled clay (38), up to 0.1m thick; and finally the undisturbed natural substrate (39).
- 4.12 At the southern extent of the trench, on the eastern side, a dry-stone wall (123) was recorded in section, together with an earlier pit (121), 0.86m in diameter (see Fig. 7 E-F). Both features had been cut through the cultivation soil (36) and although no dateable artefacts were recovered, it can be suggested that the pit could be of post-medieval date, whereas the dry-stone wall is probably of 17th or 18th-century origin.
- 4.13 In the northern extent of the trench a sub-rectangular pit (35) was identified cutting the cultivation soil (36). The pit measured 2.76m in length, 0.9m wide, of 0.88m deep, with near vertical sides and a shallow concave base (see Fig. 7 G-H; Plate 6). The pit was filled by four deposits: a loose, mottled yellowy-brown silty-clay (31), 0.6m thick; a yellowish-brown clay (32), 0.16m thick; a dark greyish-brown silty matrix of clay and rounded stones (33), up to 0.4m thick; and the primary fill, a loose dark grey silty clay (34), 0.3m thick. Although the majority of the ceramics recovered from the pit were of 13th and 14th-century date, two sherds of early post-medieval salt-glazed pottery were recovered from the lower fill (33), suggesting a date for the pit of the late 15th to early 16th century. The function of the pit is unknown although the lack of refuse and cess-like material may indicate a possible industrial rather than domestic origin.



**Trench 4 (Fig. 9 and Plates 7-8)**

- 4.14 A single trench 10m long and 1.5m wide aligned approximately north to south, was excavated by machine through an area of hardcore, immediately south of the entrance into a fenced compound at the rear of the Cock Yard. Throughout the length of the trench (see Fig. 9; Plate 7) an overburden of concrete and gravel sub-base (67), up to 0.12m thick, was removed by machine. Underlying the hardcore the same basic stratigraphic sequence as in Trench 3 was also removed by machine: a brick floor (68), 0.3m thick; and a firm grey-brown silty-clay (69), 0.2m thick, containing flecks of mortar, charcoal and clay-pipe. Both deposits had been cut by a modern pit (70), 1.5m in diameter, located 1.8m south of the northern extent of the trench. These deposits overlay a cultivation layer of dark olive-brown silty-clay (72), up to 0.46m thick, beneath which lay a dark yellowish-brown silty-clay (73), 0.46m thick, which overlay the undisturbed natural substrate (74). Unlike the comparable medieval deposits in Trench 3, no dateable artefacts were recovered from either context 72 or 73.
- 4.15 Towards the southern extent of the trench a substantial stone culvert (78) was identified cutting through context 73 and into the undisturbed subsoil (74). The culvert was 1.0m in width, orientated approximately north-east to south-west, and extended beyond the limits of excavation in either direction. The culvert was constructed from slabs of stone, set into a vertically-sided trench (79), 0.4m deep (see Plate 8). The trench had been back-filled with a loose mid-brown clay-silt deposit (76), containing 14th to 17th-century ceramics, and the whole structure was sealed by a firm and compacted yellowy-brown clay (75), presumably composed of redeposited natural subsoil. It was apparent that some repair work had been carried out with the addition of fragmented brick in one isolated part of the feature. A section (see Fig. 9 K-L) was excavated across the culvert, which revealed detail of its construction and identified a fine, soft dark brown silt (77) in its base.
- 4.16 Along the western side of the trench a sondage, 5m in length, was excavated in order to establish the depth and nature of the natural substrate (74), which revealed a significant north to south gradient, indicating the direction of flow within the culvert (see Fig. 9).

**Trench 5 (Fig. 10 and Plate 9)**

- 4.17 A single trench 9.5m long and 1.5m wide and aligned approximately north-west to south-east, was excavated by machine through an area of hardcore, within the fenced compound, 18m east of Trench 4. Throughout the length of the trench (see Fig. 10; Plate 9) an overburden deposit of dark brown silty-clay and house brick (09), up to 0.64m thick, was removed by machine, along with two other underlying deposits, both of which extended throughout the trench. The upper deposit consisted of a very dark compact silty-clay (10), up to 0.2m thick, which contained fragments of 17th to 19th-century ceramics and clay pipe. Beneath this was a layer of compacted dark brown silty clay (11), up to 0.3m thick. Recovered artefacts indicated that this deposit was of 18th to 19th-century origin.
- 4.18 At the eastern extent of the trench a soft yellowish-brown silty-clay (12), up to 0.5m thick, (comparable with the 13th to 14th-century deposits identified in Trench 2, 3 and 4) was removed to reveal the undisturbed natural substrate (13), a yellow-grey sandy-clay, interspersed with patches of bluish marbling. A group of four sub-circular features were identified cutting into the natural subsoil (contexts 16, 18, 24 and 26), all of which were found to be the result of either tree-root disturbance or animal activity.
- 4.19 At a point 3.6m from the eastern extent of the trench, a large pit or ditch (22) was identified, cutting deposit 12. This was at least 1.5m wide, orientated approximately north to south and extended beyond the limits of excavation in either direction (see Fig. 10; Plate 9). The feature was filled by a fine bluish-grey silty-clay (21), up to 0.28m thick, which produced no dateable artefacts and had been cut by a second large pit (20), which also extended beyond the limits of excavation. The latter was of 19th-century origin. On excavation the fill of both pits emitted a strong mineral odour, identical to that recorded within ditch 66 in Trench 2; the origin of this odour is unclear.

**Trench 6 (Fig. 11 and Plate 10)**

- 4.20 A single trench 9.7m long and 1.5m wide and aligned north-west to south-east, was excavated by machine through a matrix of grass and rubble, within the fenced compound to the rear of the Cock Yard, 16m south-east of Trench 5. Throughout the length of the trench (see Fig. 11) an overburden deposit of dark brown silty-clay (94) mixed with demolition rubble, up to 0.14m thick, was removed by machine. Three underlying deposits were also removed by machine: a loose layer of house bricks (95), 0.22m thick; a fairly compacted dark brown silty-clay (96), up to 0.5m thick and comparable with deposit 11 in Trench 5; and a yellowy brown silty clay (97), 0.3m thick.



- 4.21 At the south-eastern extent of the trench, the partial remains of a deposit of soft yellowish brown silty clay (112) was revealed in the deposit 96. This deposit may be of medieval origin, and similar to the basal deposits identified in other trenches. On removal of context 112 the undisturbed natural substrate (113) was revealed which was comparable with that in the other trenches.
- 4.22 Ten evenly spaced linear features were identified cutting into the natural substrate (113) (see Fig. 11; Plate 10). Each feature was between 0.6m and 0.9m in width, traversing the trench on a north-east to south-west axis. All of the features had concave sides and a shallow concave base, filled either by a deposit of charcoal and ash or a dark grey silty-clay (98). A large assemblage of 19th-century ceramics were recovered from the gullies suggesting that, as a group, they are possibly part of an ornamental or allotment garden relating to the areas former use as the Vicarage garden.

#### **Trench 7 (Fig. 11 and Plate 11)**

- 4.23 A single trench 10m long and 1.5m wide, aligned north-west to south-east, was excavated by machine through an area within the garden adjoining the Moorings, 5m south-west of the house. Three deposits, all of which extended throughout the trench, were removed by machine. The upper deposit consisted of a very loose dark grey silty-clay (01), up to 0.31 m thick, rich in organic material and typical of garden topsoil. Beneath this was a layer of firm dark brown silty-clay (02), up to 0.32m thick, and characterised by small stones, flecks of charcoal and mortar. The assemblage of ceramics recovered from this deposit cover a wide period from the 13th to the 18th century. This deposit was removed to reveal a deposit of firm, light olive-brown silty-clay (03), up to 0.5m thick. Once again an assemblage of 17th and 18th-century ceramics were recovered suggesting the deposit to be either a remnant plough or garden soil.
- 4.24 Throughout the extent of Trench 7 deposit 03 was removed to reveal the undisturbed natural subsoil (08), which consisted of a light olive-brown silty-clay that contained a moderate dispersion of sub-rounded and fractured stone. A single circular post-hole (05), 0.5m in diameter and 0.11 m deep, with shallow concave sides and rounded base, was identified cutting into the natural subsoil at a point 3.8m from the northern end of the trench. The feature contained a single deposit of loose, dark brown silty-clay (04), from which a quantity of 17th or 18th-century clay-pipe stems was recovered.

#### **Trench 8 (Fig. 11 and Plate 12)**

- 4.25 A single trench, 10m long and 1.5m wide, aligned north-west to south-east, was excavated by machine through an area within the garden adjoining the Moorings, 2m south-east of Trench 7 and 8m south-west of the house. The same stratigraphic sequence as in Trench 7 was removed by machine: a topsoil layer of loose, dark grey silty-clay (01), up to 0.2m thick; a layer of firm, dark brown silty-clay (02), up to 0.36m thick, and characterised by small stones, flecks of charcoal and mortar; and a deposit of firm, light olive-brown silty-clay (03), up to 0.36m thick. A further assemblage of 17th and 18th-century ceramics was recovered, again suggesting the deposit to be either a remnant plough or garden soil.
- 4.26 Throughout the length of Trench 8 deposit 03 was removed to reveal the undisturbed natural subsoil (08). No archaeological features were identified within the trench.

## **5 FINDS**

- 5.1 A large assemblage of ceramic was recovered from the evaluation, which consisted mainly of post-medieval and industrial wares dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. However, 40 sherds of medieval pottery were also recovered, all of which were typical of locally produced sandy micaceous, siltstone tempered fabrics, similar to those from excavations at Pool Road, Montgomery (Britnell and Jones 1989), which were dated to the 13th-14th centuries. Identified vessels included cooking pots and glazed jugs or jars. Several sherds were recovered from significant contexts, notably from the fill (34) of a pit (35) and a layer of cultivation spoil (36), both in Trench 3.
- 5.2 Other finds included fragments of clay-pipe stems, glass and brick. A catalogue of finds is presented in Appendix 1.



## 6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 It has been suggested that this area of Welshpool, centred on Mill Lane, was the location of the original Welsh settlement, pre-dating the establishment of the planned town in the 13th century. Part of a 13-14th century cemetery has previously been identified on the north-east side of Mill Lane, and this has been thought to be associated with Capel Llewelyn which is believed to have been originally founded as early as the 6th century.
- 6.2 The desk-based study has revealed that the street frontage along Salop Road was, at least during the early 19th century, occupied by a row of timber-framed buildings, including the original Cock Inn. These were demolished to be replaced by a large Flannel Mill and adjacent town house, together with the present brick-built Cock Inn. The rear of the plot, within the fenced compound and the Moorings garden, was part of the Vicarage gardens from at least the early 19th century, and possibly for some period prior to that.
- 6.3 The area of the Cock Yard itself has revealed significant evidence of post-medieval activity, although with little direct evidence for structures. Although Trench 1 had been sited in an attempt to identify presumed street frontage occupation, the results suggest that the area immediately adjoining the street has been substantially cleared, leaving no evidence of any structures. The remains of a possible outbuilding were identified, however, revealing two phases of construction dating from the 17th or 18th century and the 18th or 19th century respectively.
- 6.3 The results from Trench 2 revealed a probable property boundary running roughly east to west, to the north of which lay a series of predominantly 19th-century deposits, including a substantial ditch running parallel to the boundary, which may be related to the nearby Flannel Mill. To the south of the boundary, and also within Trenches 3-5, buried cultivation deposits were identified of likely 13th or 14th-century date, suggesting occupation within the general area, presumably along the street frontages. In Trench 4 these had been cut by a substantial stone culvert of probable 17th-century date, running north-east to south-west. The culvert is presumably associated with some structure or activity lying outside the area of the evaluation.
- 6.4 In addition to the features identified in the evaluation trenches, the upstanding remains of the Flannel Mill still survive almost to first-floor level and include structural detail such as window and door openings.

## 7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 The writers would like to thank the following people for their assistance during the project: Bob Silvester, CPAT; Peter Jones, Ian Davies, John Roberts and Sean Daley; the staff of the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; and the staff of the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.

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**Cartographic sources**

1629 plan of 'The Welsh Poole' by Humphrey Bleaze

1747 Survey of The Estate of Mrs Victoria Lloyd in the parishes of Pool, Guilsfield and Buttington, surveyed and drawn by John Rocque, NLW M256.

1840 Tithe Survey and Apportionment for Welshpool parish

1885 Ordnance Survey 1:500 first edition map of Welshpool

1983 Soil Survey of England and Wales map (Sheet 2 - Wales) and Legend (1:250,000 scale)

1994 British Geological Survey map of Wales (Solid edition at 1:250,000 scale)



## APPENDIX 1

### PROJECT ARCHIVE

#### Site archive

137 Context record forms  
 1 black and white negative films  
 1 colour slide films  
 1 colour print film  
 Photographic catalogue  
 26 site drawings

#### Finds Catalogue

##### Trench 1

context	Number	Weight (g)	Description	Date
U/S	1		badly corroded coin, ? silver 3d	
81	29	448	highly fired fabric	
81	2	52	coal measures buff slip	
81	7	206	highly fired purple glazed	
81	1	9	highly fired fineware	
81	1	8	unglazed jug, sandy micaceous fabric	13-14th
81	2	9	Cistercian type ware	16-17th
81	14	114	mottled ware	17-18th
81	6	15	clay pipe stem	17-18th
81	3	46	coal measures redware	17-18th
81	2	20	trailed slipware	17-18th
81	3	23	coal measures red slip	17-18th
81	2	9	coal measures redware	17-18th
81	1	7	red earthenware	17-18th
81	1	3	green glazed whiteware handle	17-18th
81	1	12	coal measures redware	17-18th
81	1	28	red earthenware	17-18th
81	1	18	red earthenware handle	17-18th
87	5	8	clay pipe stem	17-18th
88	1	2	fineware	
88	5	4	clay pipe stem	17-18th
88	1	2	mottled ware	17-18th
88	1	1	coal measures redware	17-18th
88	3	23	industrial slipware	18-20th
88	1	14	grey stoneware	18-20th
91	3	404	brick	
91	1	4	Cistercian type ware	
91	2	2	white stoneware	
91	1	1	developed whiteware	
91	1	45	coal measures redware	
91	1	3	coal measures buffware	
91	1	5	Midlands yellow ware	
91	1	4	slipware	
91	1	8	bottle glass	
91	1	4	flint chunk	
91	6	20	clay pipe	17-18th
91	1	16	combed slipware	17-18th
91	1	9	mottled ware	17-18th
91	1	1	slip decorated yellow ware	19th

**Trench 2**

context	Number	Weight (g)	Description	Date
127	2	216	coal measures buff pancheon	18-19th
127	3	168	brown stoneware	18-19th
127	2	53	creamware	18-19th
127	5	158	stoneware jar	18-19th
127	1	10	industrial slipware	18-20th
127	13	1818	unusual vessel in grey stoneware	19-20th
127	2	348	transfer printed pitcher	19th
127	5	680	transfer printed	19th
127	3	122	polychromatic transfer print	19th
127	1	38	slip decorated yellow ware	19th
127	2	152	porcelain vase	19th
127	1	90	white stoneware candle stick	19th
127	4	82	transfer printed teacup	19th
30	8	14	clay pipe stem	17-18th
30	1	1	clay pipe bowl	17-18th
30	1	7	mottled ware	17-18th
30	1	1	developed whiteware	19-20th
43/44/45	1	70	coal measures buffware	18-19th
43/44/45	1	14	brown stoneware	18-19th
43/44/45	7	130	slip decorated yellow ware	19th
43/44/45	3	42	transfer print	19th
47	1	70	tea pot spout	19-20th
50	1	9	brown stoneware	
50	5	20	clay pipe	17-18th
50	1	5	developed whiteware	19th
50	1	13	polychromatic transfer print	19th
50	1	54	red earthenware handle	19th
50	1	66	whiteware	19th
55	1	2	brown stoneware	
55	1	2	green glazed whiteware jug	13-14th
55	1	2	clear glazed jug, sandy micaceous fabric	13-14th
55	1	4	body sherds, sandy micaceous fabric	13-14th
55	1	23	coal measures redware	17-18th
55	1	12	mottled ware	17-18th
55	1	9	red earthenware	19th
65	4	398	Buckley coarseware	
65	1	108	coal measures redware	
65	1	354	red earthenware	
65	8	166	white stoneware	
65	2	56	press moulded whiteware rims	
65	1	15	Buckley fineware	
65	1	26	stoneware	
65	9	32	glass	
65	13	562	coal measures buffware	17-18th
65	2	15	slipware	17-18th
65	6	8	clay pipe stem	17-18th
65	1	2	mottled ware	18-19th
65	8	70	industrial slipware	18-20th
65	1	13	brown glazed stoneware	18-20th
65	1	6	highly-fired fineware	18-20th
65	5	356	developed yellow ware	19-20th
65	19	206	transfer printed	19-20th
65	8	102	late yellow ware	19th
65	2	7	bone china	19th
65	23	1066	bottle glass	19th



**Trench 3**

context	Number	Weight (g)	Description	Date
117	1	2	glass	
117	11	21	clay pipe stems	17-18th
117	9	72	developed whiteware	19th
29	1	10	bottle glass	
29	1	13	Buckley coarseware	
29	8	86	white stoneware	
29	3	8	clay pipe stem	17-18th
29	1	15	coal measures buffware	17-18th
29	3	11	industrial slipware	18-20th
29	1	7	developed whiteware	19-20th
29	3	7	bone china	19th
30	1		copper wire object - ?hook	
32	4	20	cooking pot body sherds sandy micaceous fabric	13-14th
32	3	12	assorted jug/jar body sherds	13-14th
33	1	5	green glazed sandy micaceous fabric	13-14th
33	2	76	buff fabric pink ?salt glaze	post med
34	1	16	patchy glazed jug rim, sandy micaceous fabric, applied dec.	13-14th
34	1	5	jug rim sandy micaceous fabric	13-14th
34	7	34	assorted jug/jar body sherds, sandy micaceous fabric	13-14th
34	2	15	cooking pot body sherds, sandy micaceous fabric	13-14th
34	1	19	unknown vessel, sandy micaceous fabric	13-14th
34	1	5	internally glazed jug/jar rim, sandy micaceous fabric	13-14th
36	1	37	possible waster	
36	1	68	green glazed strap handle, sandy micaceous fabric	13-14th
36	1	6	cooking pot, sandy micaceous fabric	13-14th
36	1	7	patchy green glazed jug rim, sandy micaceous fabric	13-14th
36	1	16	unglazed jug/jar rim, sandy micaceous fabric	13-14th
36	2	24	jug/jar base, sandy micaceous fabric	13-14th
36	6	40	assorted jug body sherds, sandy micaceous fabric	13-14th

**Trench 4**

context	Number	Weight (g)	Description	Date
68	3	19	developed whiteware	19-20th
76	2	3	clay pipe stem	17-18th
76	1	2	mottled ware	17-18th
76	1	3	coal measures buffware	17-18th
76	1	13	coal measures redware	17-18th
76	1	2	creamware	18-19th
78	1	4	sandy micaceous fabric	13-14th

**Trench 5**

context	Number	Weight (g)	Description	Date
10	3	7	press-moulded white stoneware	
10	1	1	press-moulded tea ware	
10	1	8	red earthenware	
10	1	3	clay pipe stem	17-18th
10	1	3	mottled ware	17-18th
10	1	22	Buckley coarseware	17-18th
10	1	66	coal measures buffware	17-18th
10	1	19	industrial slipware	18-20th
10	1	1	brown glazed stoneware	18-20th
10	2	6	transfer printed	19-20th
10	1	1	bone china	19th
19	1	8	press-moulded whiteware	
19	7	26	white stoneware	
19	1	3	Cistercian type ware	16-17th
19	5	13	clay pipe stem	17-18th
19	3	5	mottled ware	17-18th
19	1	8	coal measures buff ware	17-18th
19	1	1	slipware	17-18th
19	2	5	pearlier	1780-20th
19	2	11	brown glazed stoneware	18-20th
19	1	4	grey stoneware	18-20th
19	1	4	industrial slipware	18-20th
19	1	5	late yellow ware	19th
19	6	40	tearaways	19th
19	2	11	red earthenware	post med

**Trench 6**

context	Number	Weight (g)	Description	Date
98	2	176	glass bottle necks	
98	1	612	glazed red earthenware pancheon	18th

**Trench 7**

context	Number	Weight (g)	Description	Date
1	1	5	coal measures coarseware	16-19th
1	1	2	mottled ware	1690-1760
1	1	2	clay pipe stems	17-18th
1	1	1	white ware	18-19
1	4	14	red earthenware	18-19
1	1	8	brown glazed stoneware	18-19th
2	1	7	cooking pot base	13-14th
2	1	6	Cistercian type ware	16-17th
2	1	5	mottled are	1690-1760
2	5	9	clay pipe stem	17-18th
2	1	1	industrial slipware	1770-20th
2	4	33	white stoneware	18-19th
2	2	11	red earthenware	18-19th
2	1	15	brown glazed stoneware	18-20th
2	1	51	green bottle glass	19th
2	5	26	brick	19th
3	1	2	white stoneware	18-19th
4	1	1	clay pipe stem	17-18th
4	2	7	white stoneware	19th

**Trench 8**

context	Number	Weight (g)	Description	Date
1	1	7	unglazed jug/jar rim in micaceous sandy fabric	13-14th
1	1	1	mottled ware	1690-1760
1	2	5	clay pipe stems	17-18
1	1	4	creamware	1750-19th
1	1	4	coal measures redware	18-19th
1	1	1	red earthenware	18-19th
1	2	9	white ware	18-19th
2	1	4	misc. Jug body sherds, micaceous fabric	13-14th
2	1	1	clay pipe stem	17-18th
2	1	6	coal measures buffware	17-18th
2	1	1	creamware	1750-19th
2	2	41	brown glazed stoneware	18-19th
2	7	40	red earthenware	18-19th
2	1	36	brick	18-19th
2	2	6	developed white ware	19-20th
2	1	5	bone china	19th
2	2	3	white stoneware	19th
2	1	10	Buckley coarseware	19th
3	1	4	salt glazed stoneware	
3	1	1	clay pipe stem	17-18th
3	1	1	white stoneware	19th



## APPENDIX 2

### COCK YARD, SALOP ROAD, WELSHPOOL, POWYS SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The proposed development involves the construction of 13 new dwellings on land at The Cock Yard, Salop Road, Welshpool. The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, acting as archaeological advisors to the local authority, have determined that an archaeological evaluation should be undertaken to assess the potential impact of the proposals on the archaeological resource. Accordingly, a Brief has been prepared (EVB 476 dated 26/11/02) which details the works required.
- 1.2 The development site lies within the historic core of Welshpool within 50m of the church. It is thought that this area may have been the site of the early medieval settlement between the church and the motte and bailey. In the 19th century the area was occupied by a large flannel mill.

#### 2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of the assessment are:
  - 2.1.1 to reveal by means of a combination of desk based study and field evaluation, the nature, condition, significance and, where possible, the chronology of the archaeology within the area of the proposed development in so far as these aims are possible;
  - 2.1.2 to record any archaeological sites identified during the field evaluation;
  - 2.1.3 to prepare a report outlining the results of the assessment, incorporating sufficient information on the archaeological resource for a reasonable planning decision to be taken regarding the future management of the archaeology.

#### 3 Methods

- 3.1 Stage one of the assessment will involve the examination of all the readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic, pictorial, photographic and oral sources. Repositories consulted will include the following: County SMR, CPAT, Welshpool; the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth; the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; Powys County Archives, Llandrindod Wells.
- 3.2 Stage two will take the form of a field evaluation consisting of eight excavation trenches, each 1.5m wide and up to 10m in length. The programme of works will be agreed with the client, and the position of the trenches approved by the curator, in advance of site work commencing. Any alterations to this scheme will only be undertaken following full consultation with the curator and client.
- 3.3 The excavations will be undertaken using a machine excavator with a toothless bucket to remove modern overburden down to the level of the first recognisable archaeological horizon. Thereafter, all excavation will be conducted by hand unless otherwise agreed with the curator in advance. All archaeological contexts identified will be adequately sampled to define their function, date and relationship to other features, in so far as these aims are possible.
- 3.4 Contexts will be recorded on individual record forms and be drawn and photographed as appropriate. All photography will be in 35mm format black and white and colour print and colour slide. All features will be located as accurately as possible with respect to buildings and boundaries identified on modern Ordnance Survey maps and levels will be related to Ordnance Datum where possible.
- 3.5 All artefacts will be treated in a manner appropriate to their composition and will be processed by trained CPAT staff. Any environmental sampling will be conducted by CPAT following the advice of an appropriate specialist.

3.6 Following the on-site work an illustrated and bound report will be prepared according to the principles laid out in the Curatorial Brief. This will be in A4 format and contain conventional sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology; Historic Background; Evaluation; Conclusions and Recommendations and References, together with appropriate appendices on archives and finds. A draft report will be forwarded to the curator prior to the production of the final report.

3.7 The site archive will be prepared to specifications laid out in Appendix 3 in the Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991).

#### **4 Resources and Programming**

4.1 The evaluation will be undertaken by a small team of skilled archaeologists under the overall supervision of Mr RJ Silvester, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

4.2 All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist who conducted the evaluation.

4.3 It is anticipated that the desktop study will be completed within 2 days, and the evaluation will be completed within 10 days. The report will be completed within 2 weeks of the completion of on-site works. At present CPAT would not be in a position to commence works until January 2003. A copy of the report will be deposited with the Regional SMR. The curator will be informed of the timetable in order to arrange for monitoring if required.

4.4 The following contingencies have been allowed:

On-site conservation, specialist analysis and reporting	£200
2 radiocarbon dates	£600
Environmental sampling	£200
Museum deposition	no additional charge
Publication	no additional charge

4.5 Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.

4.6 CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance.

N.W. Jones  
13th December 2002





Fig. 1 Site location, 1:2,500



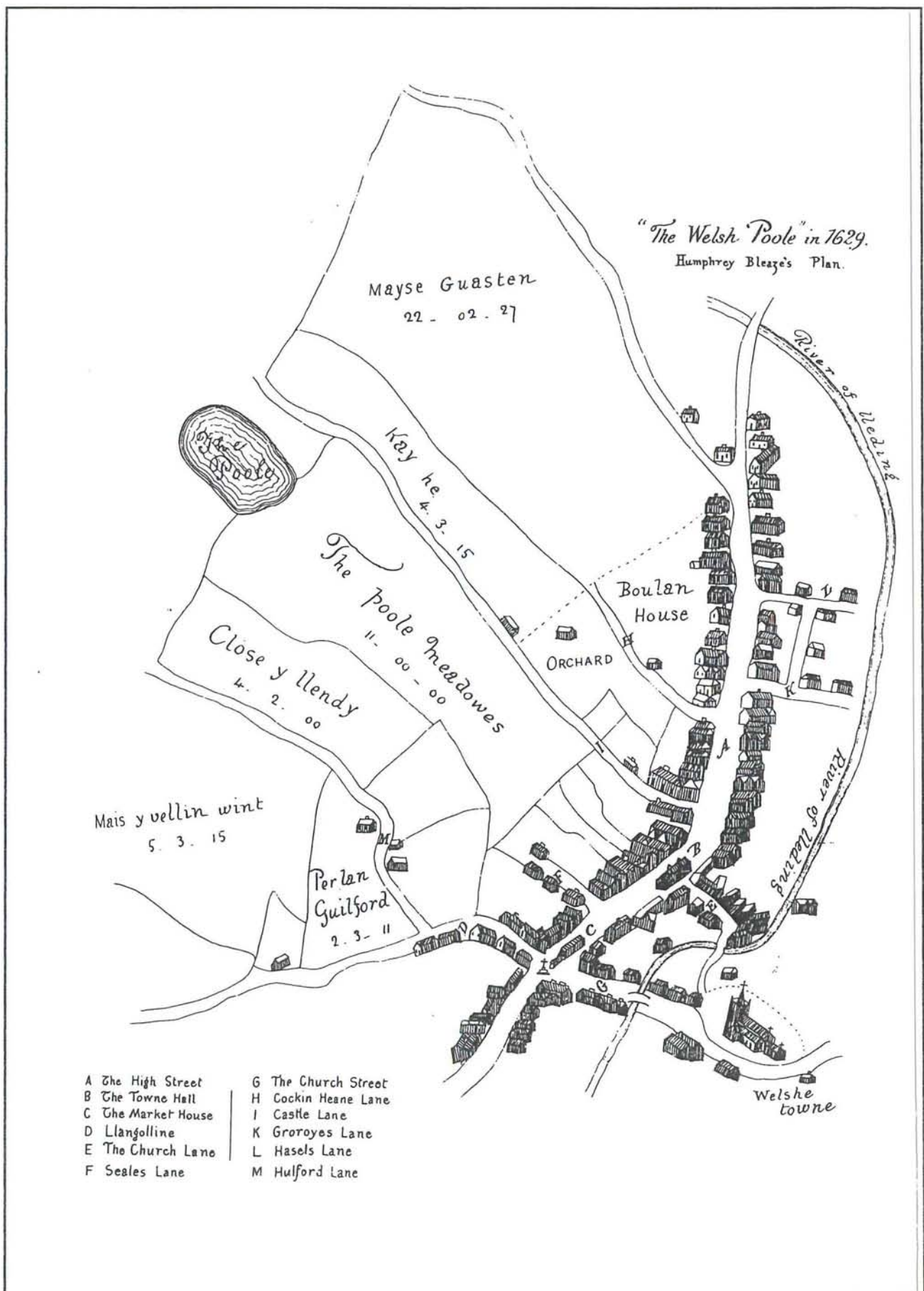


Fig. 2 Plan of The Welsh Poole by Humphrey Bleaze, 1629



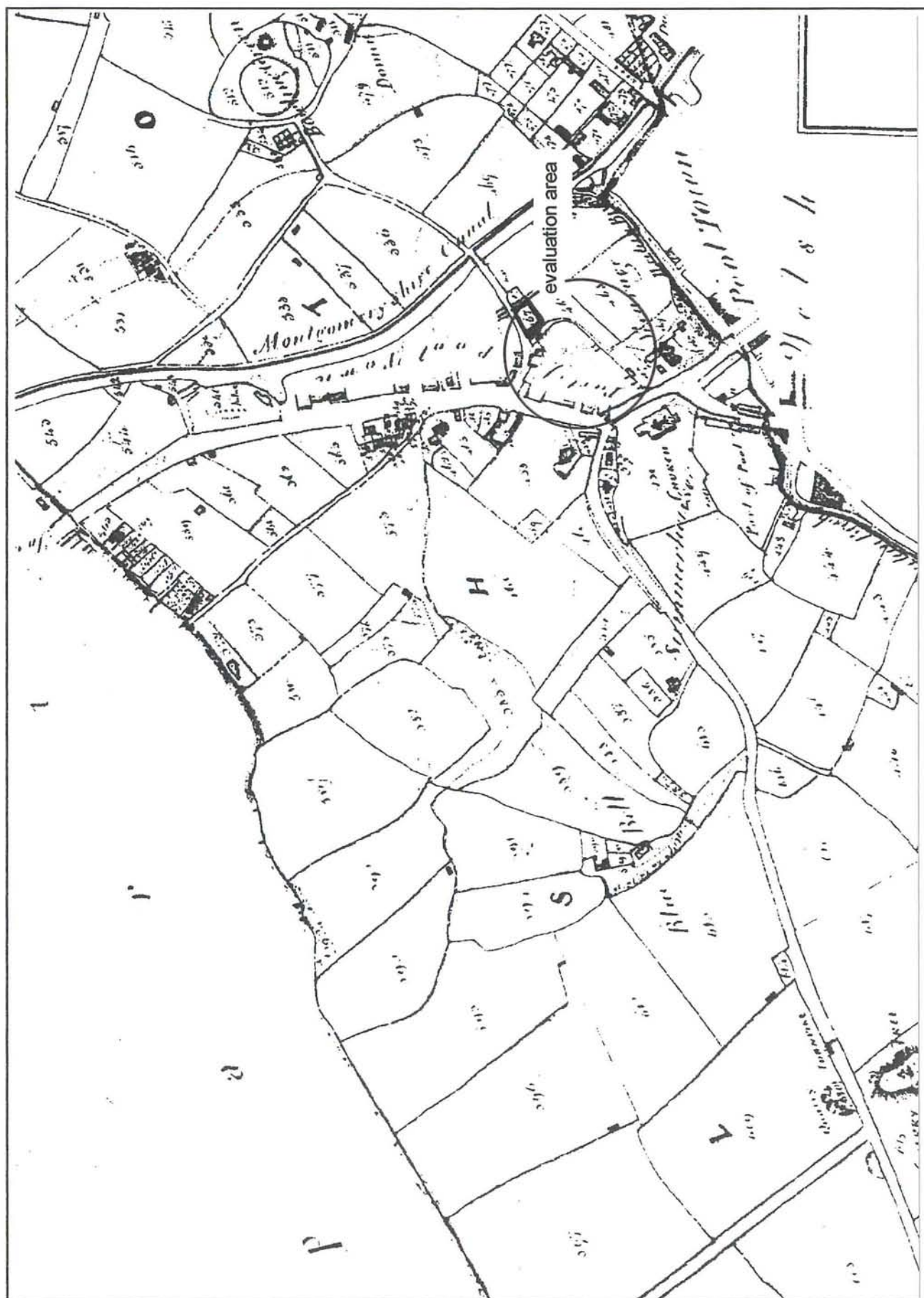


Fig. 3 Tithe Survey for Welshpool parish 1840



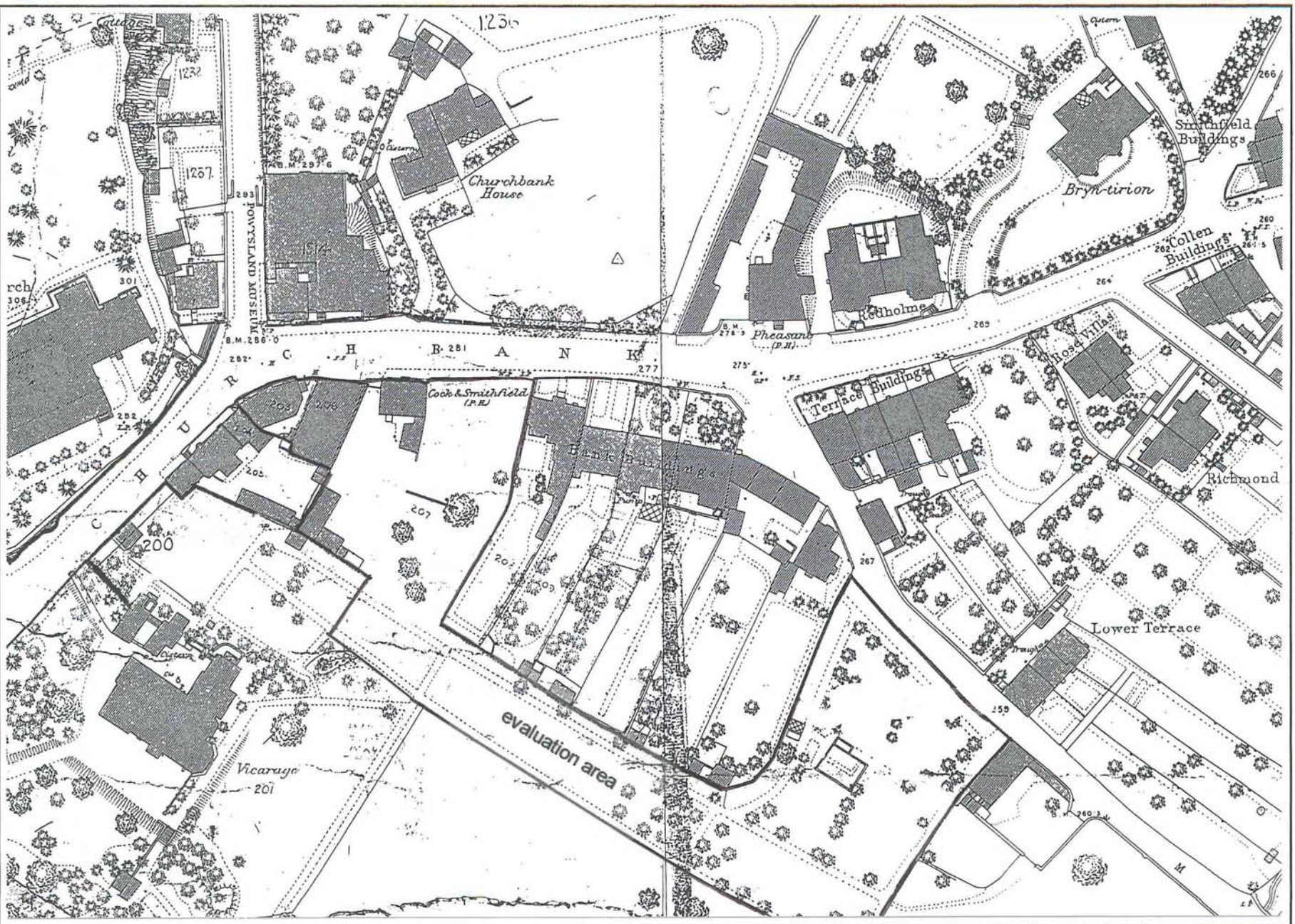


Fig. 4 Ordnance Survey 1:500 first edition 1885



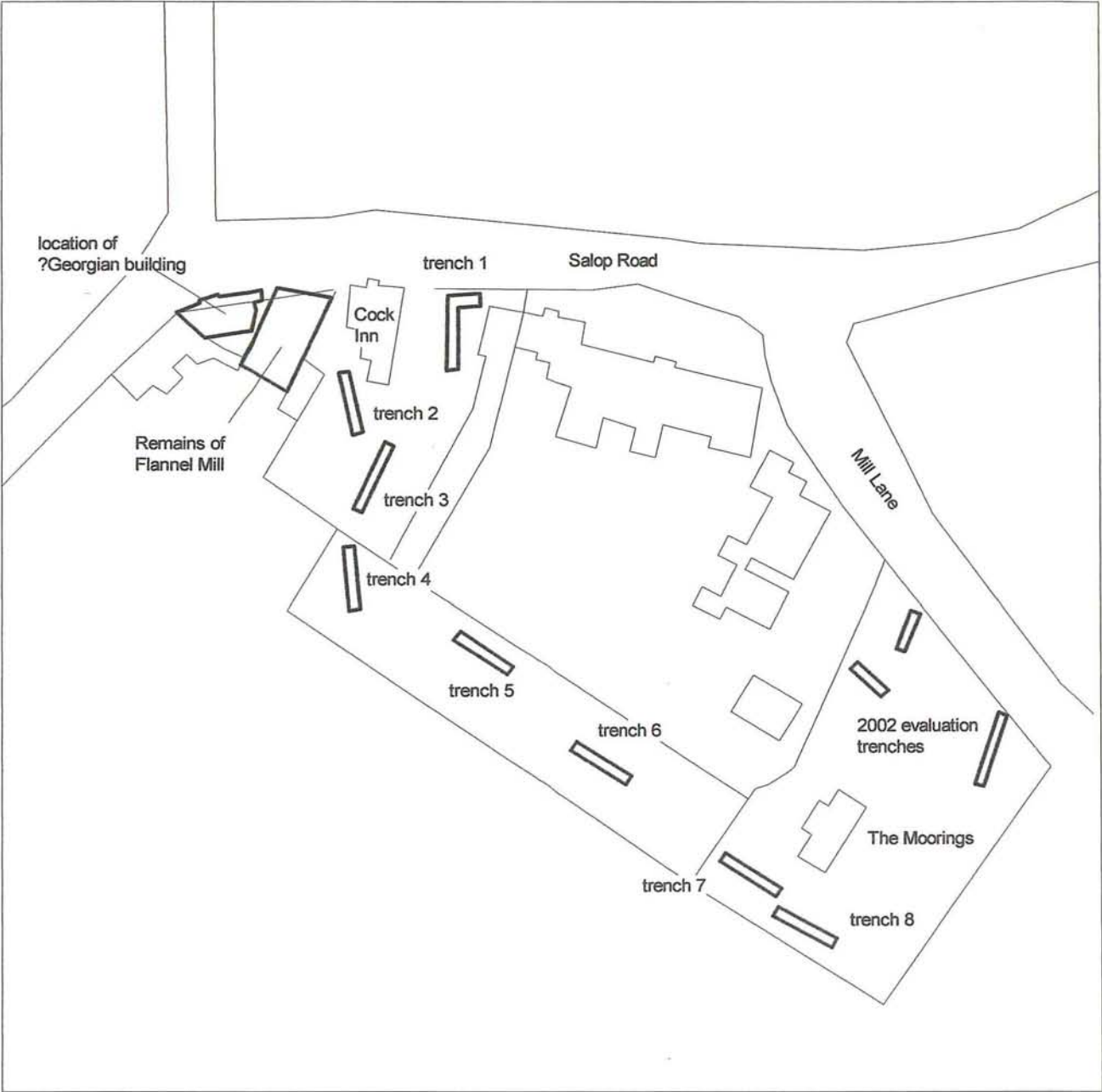


Fig. 5 Trench location, 1:1,000

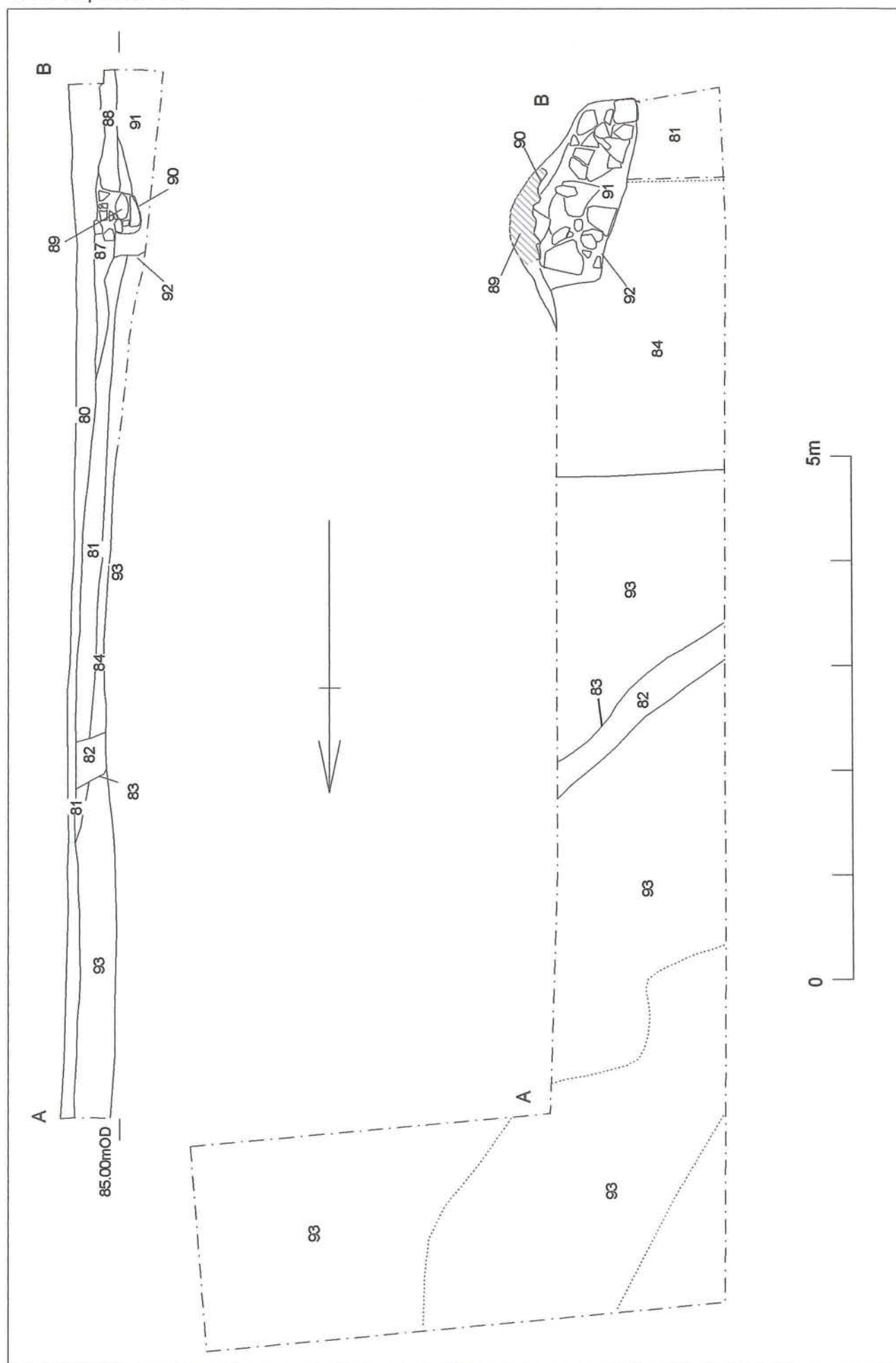


Fig. 6 Trench 1 plan and section, 1:50



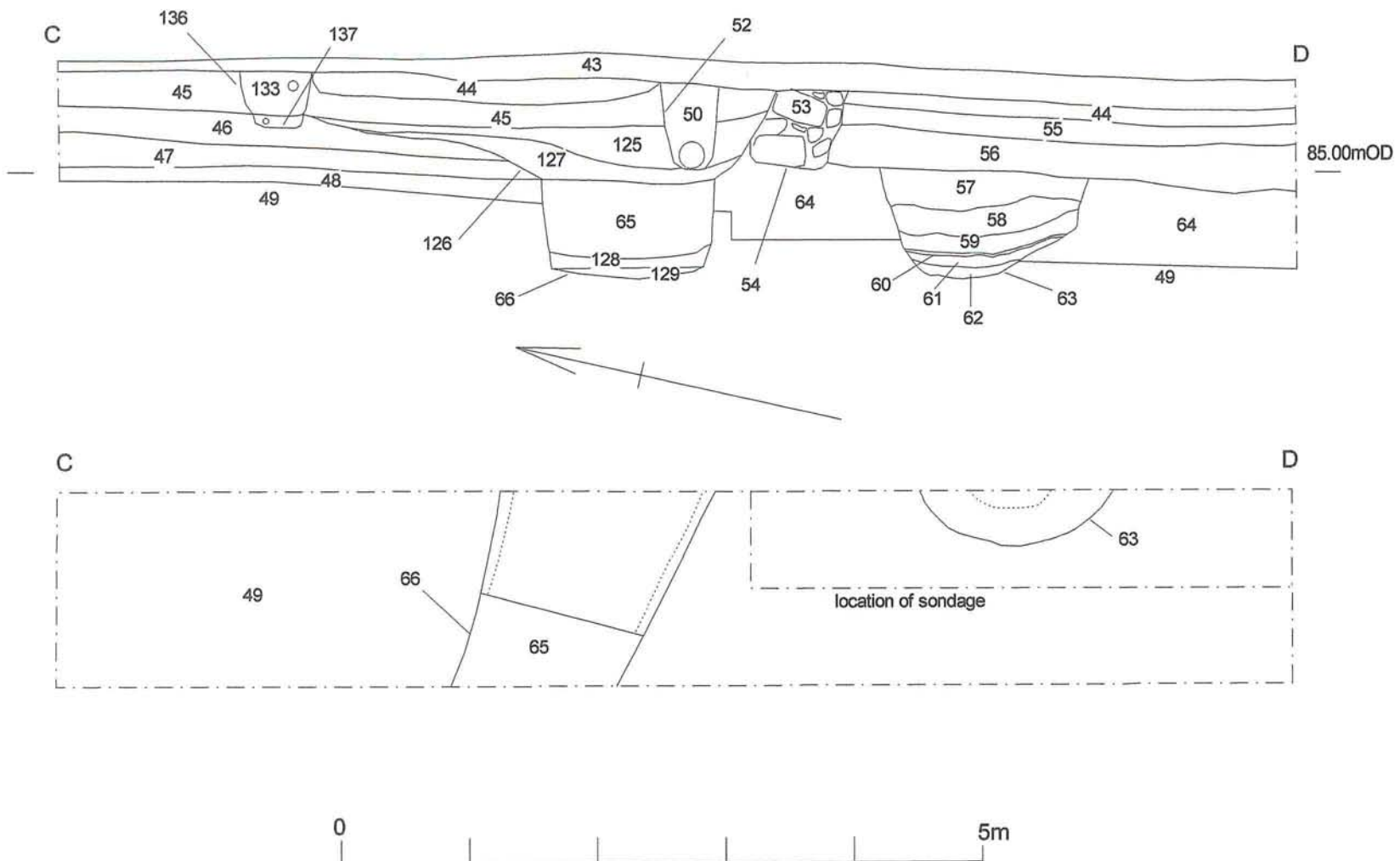


Fig. 7 Trench 2 plan and section, 1:50

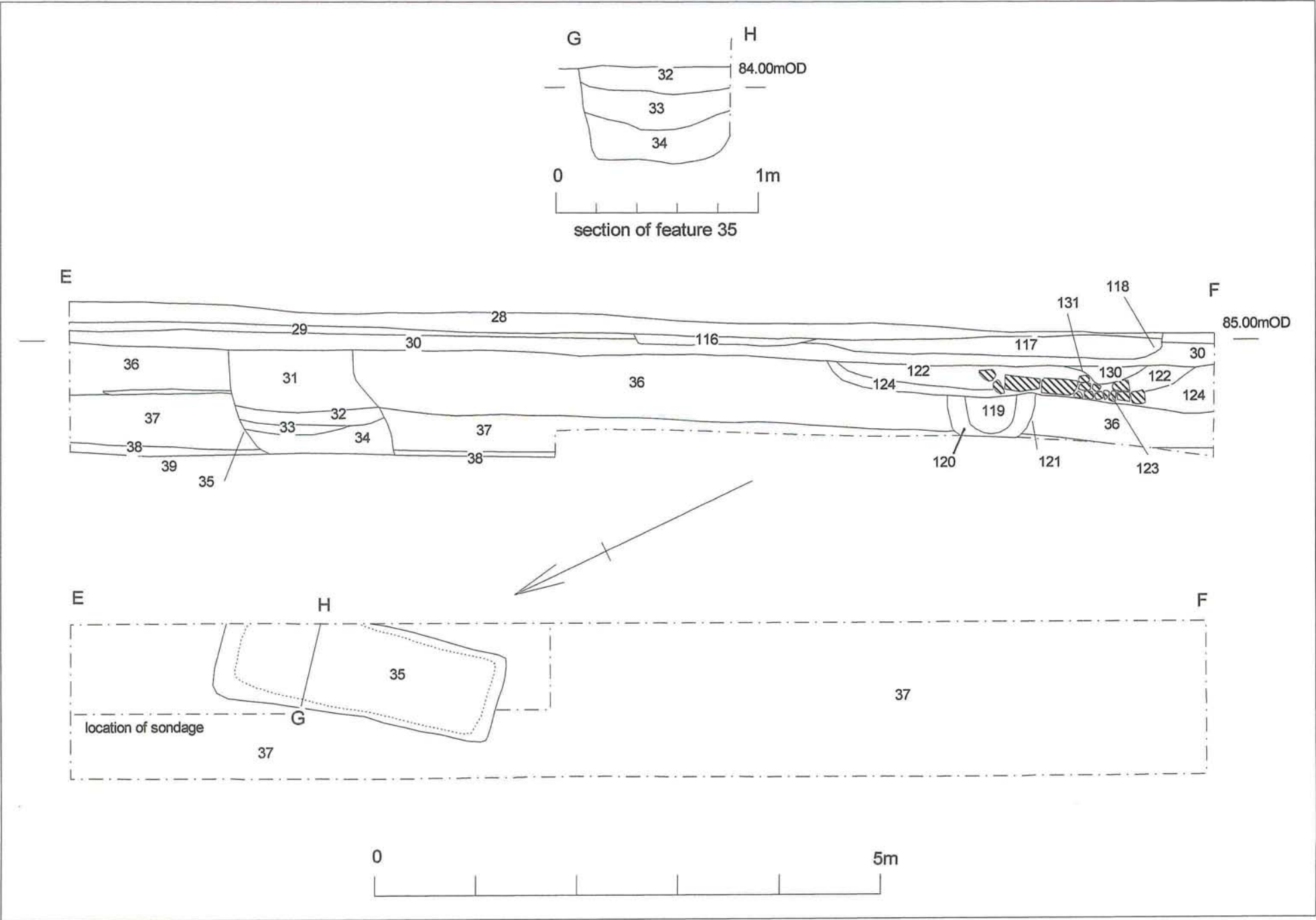


Fig. 8 Trench 3 plan and section, 1:50



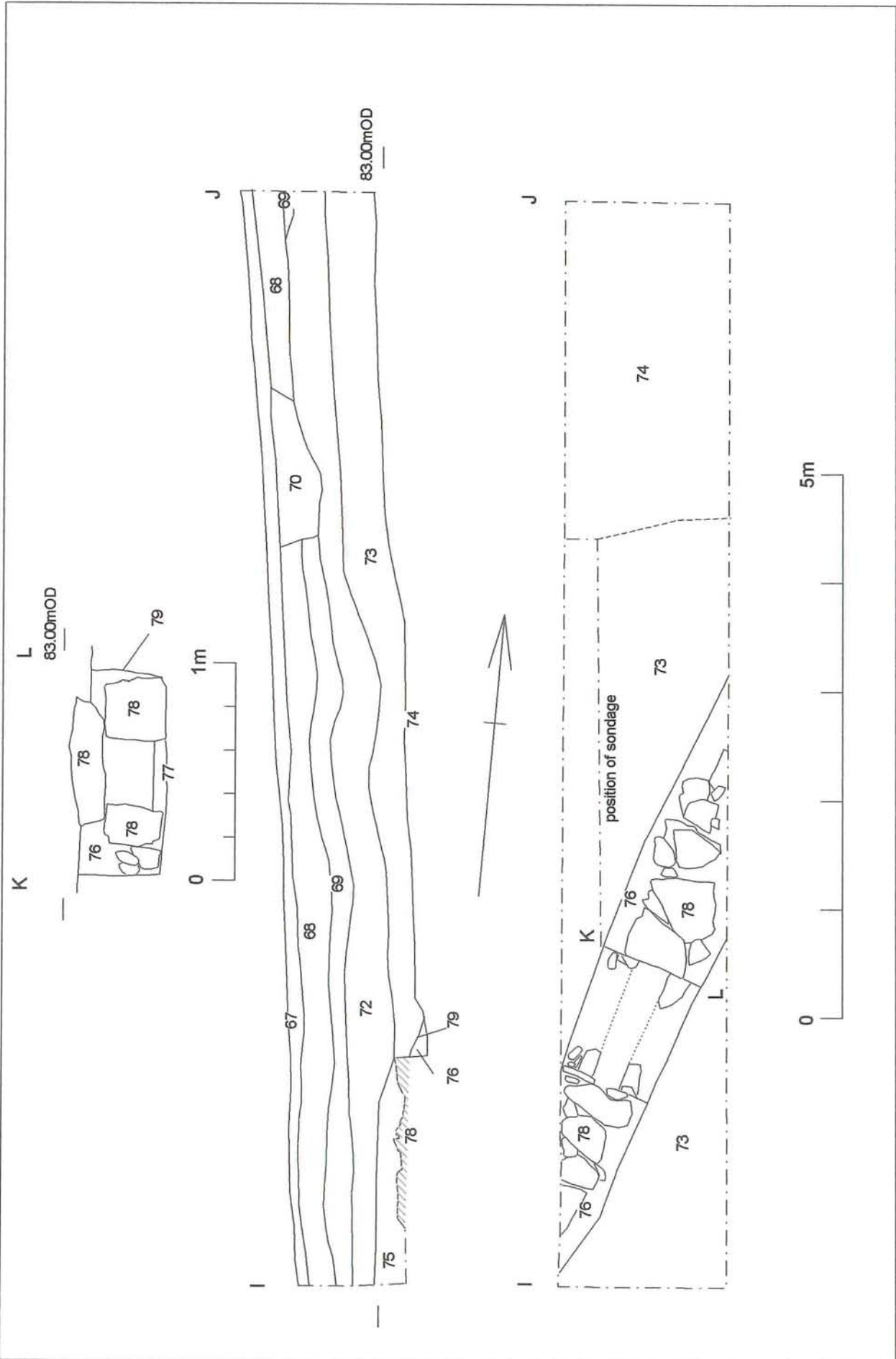


Fig. 9 Trench 4 plan and section, 1:50

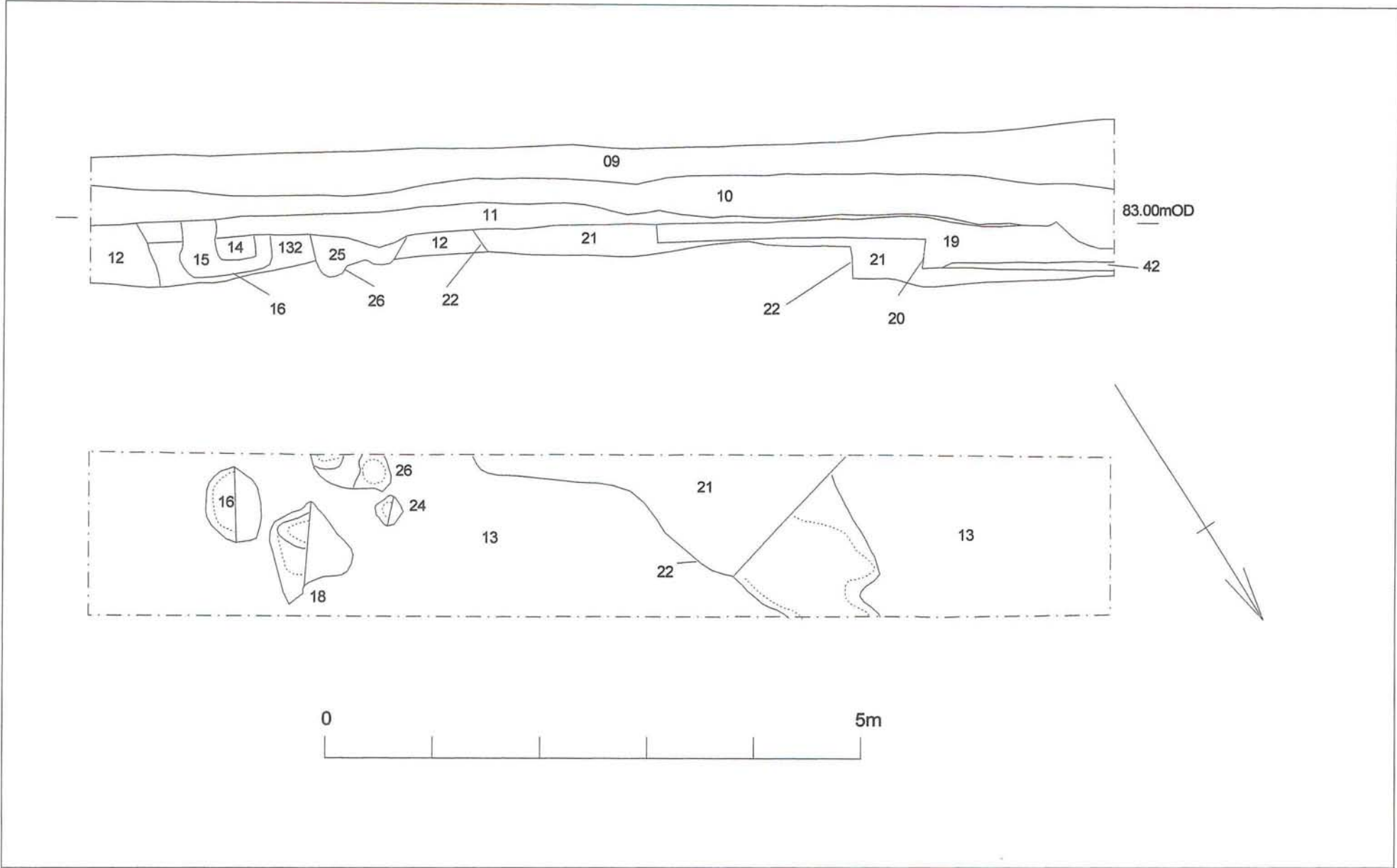


Fig. 10 Trench 5 plan and section, 1:50



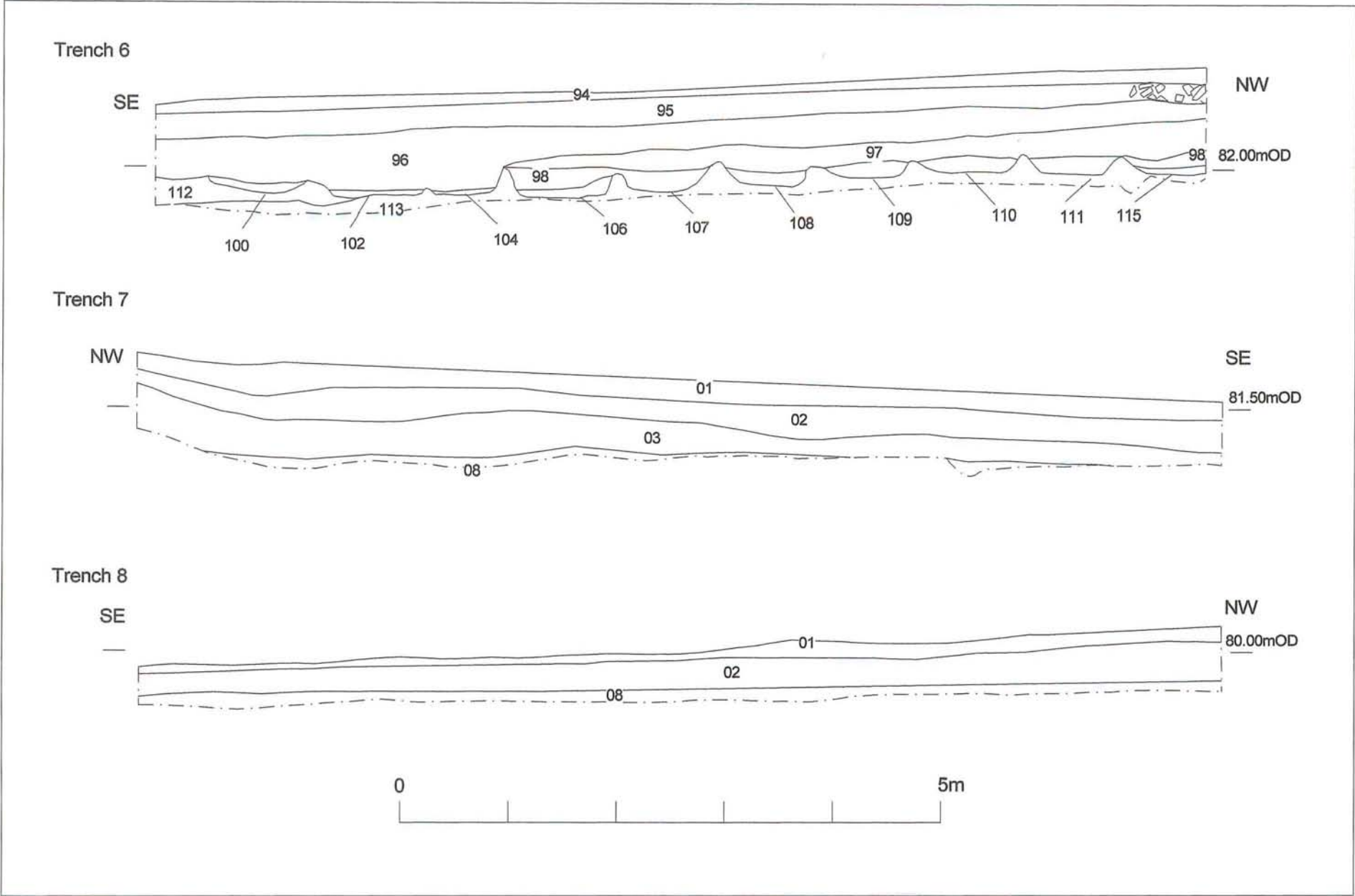


Fig. 11 Sections of Trenches 6, 7 and 8, 1:50

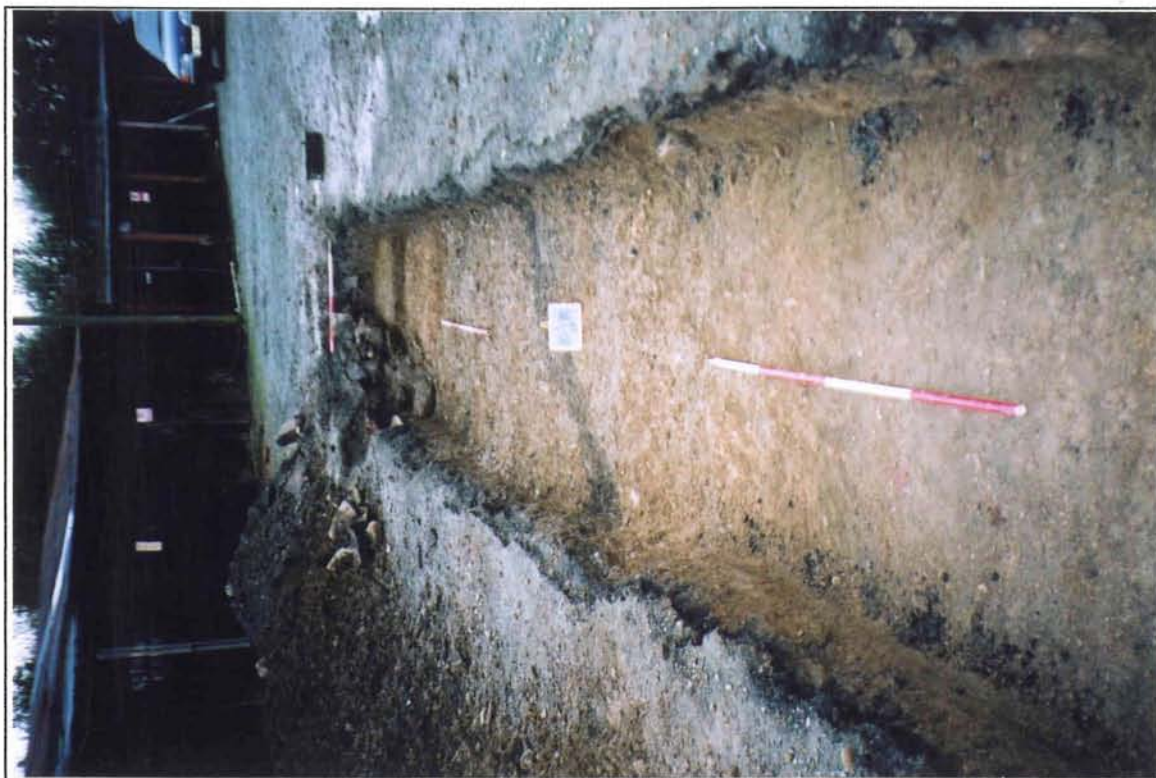


Plate 1. Trench 1 (southern branch), north facing, post machining. Photo CPAT 1300.21



Plate 2. Trench 1, remains of Post-Medieval wall (91). Photo CPAT 1300.23





Plate 3. Trench 2, south facing, post machining. Photo CPAT 1300.13



Plate 4. West facing section through pit (63), possibly Medieval, Trench 2. Photo CPAT 1300.18





Plate 5. Trench 3, south-west facing, post machining. Photo CPAT 1301.19



Plate 6. South-west facing section through early Post-Medieval pit (35), Trench 3. Photo CPAT 1300.11





Plate 7. Trench 4, north facing, post machining. Photo CPAT 1300.02



Plate 8. North-east facing section through early Post-Medieval culvert, Trench 4.  
Photo CPAT 1300.20





Plate 9. Trench 5, north-west facing, post machining. Photo CPAT 1301.17



Plate 10. Trench 6, north-west facing, post machining. Photo CPAT 1301.16





Plate 11. Trench 7, south-east facing, post machining. Photo CPAT 1301.13



Plate 12. Trench 8, south-east facing, post machining. Photo CPAT 1301.14