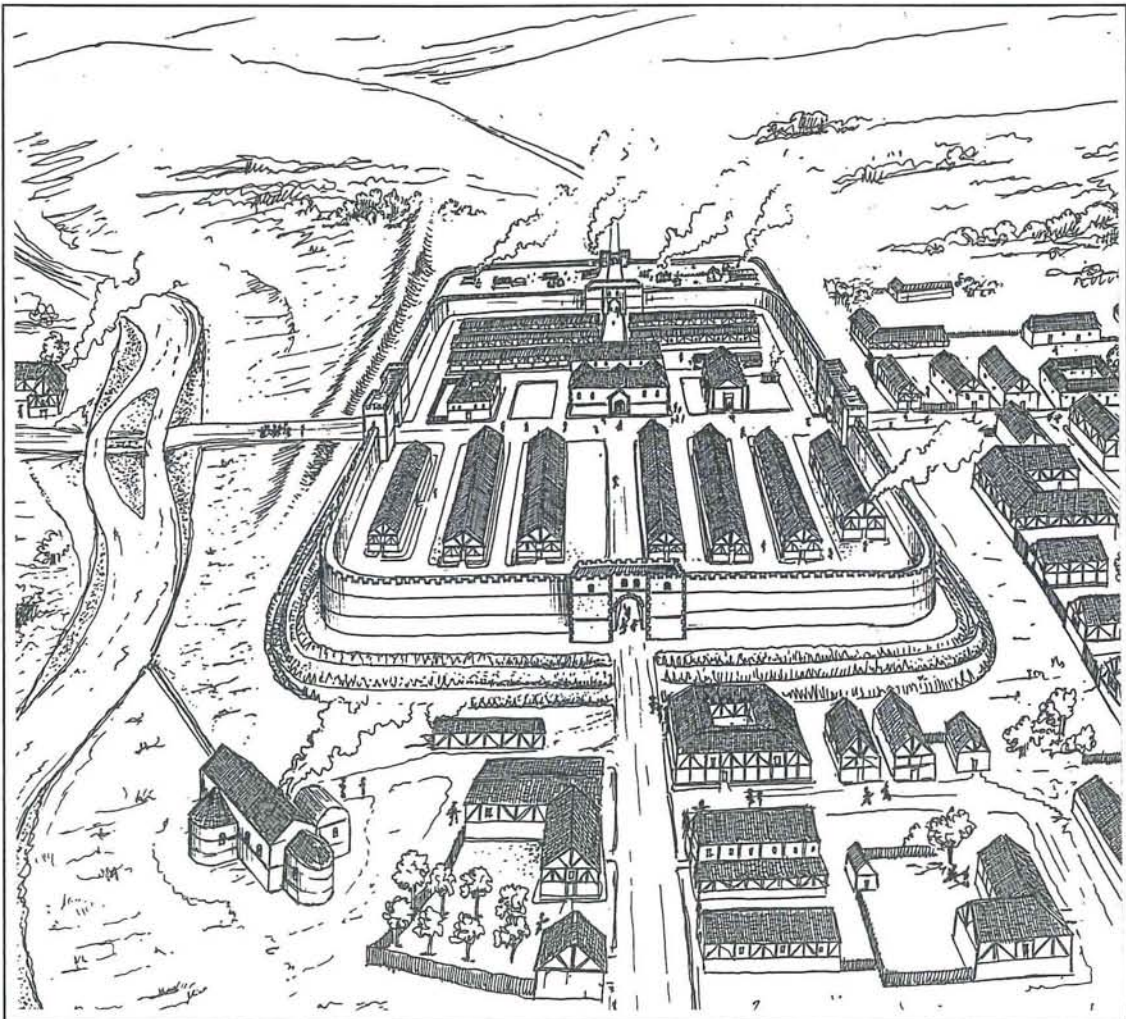


THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Glan y Nant, Caersws, Powys

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION



CPAT Report No 632

CPAT Report No 632

Glan y Nant, Caersws, Powys

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

I Grant
May 2004

Report for Mr R. D. Bennett

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

7a Church Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7DL

tel (01938) 553670, fax (01938) 552179


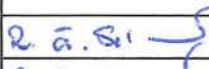
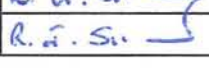
© CPAT

CPAT Report Record

Report and status

CPAT Report Title	Glan y Nant, Caersws, Powys: Archaeological Excavation		
CPAT Project Name	Glan y Nant, Caersws		
CPAT Project No	1183	CPAT Report No	632
Confidential (yes/no)	Yes	draft/final	Final

Internal control

	name	signature	date
prepared by	I Grant		06/05/04
checked by	R.J. Silvester		06/05/04
approved by	R.J. Silvester		06/05/04

Revisions

no	date	made by	checked by	approved by

Internal memo

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

7a Church Street Welshpool Powys SY21 7DL

tel (01938) 553670, fax 552179

© CPAT

CONTENTS

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY
- 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND
- 4 EVALUATION
- 5 FINDS
- 6 CONCLUSIONS
- 7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
- 8 REFERENCES

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT ARCHIVE

APPENDIX 2: SPECIFICATION

FIGURES

Fig. 1 Caersws II - Fort and Vicus

Fig. 2 Location

Fig. 3 Trenches A-B

Fig. 4 Trenches C-D

Fig. 5 Trenches E-F

Fig. 6 Trenches G-H

PLATES

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2004 the Contracts Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was invited by Mr R D Bennett to prepare a specification and quotation for undertaking an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Glan-y-Nant, Manthrig Lane, Caersws, Powys. The pre-planning evaluation was the subject of a brief drawn up by Mr M Walters of the Curatorial Section of CPAT (CPAT EVB 519, dated 7th November 2003), acting in his capacity as archaeological curator for the region, which identified the need for a field evaluation. The specification and quotation were subsequently accepted and the evaluation was undertaken between the 19-26 April 2004. This report was compiled immediately thereafter.
- 1.2 The site lies in close proximity to areas already known to contain buried archaeological deposits relating to the civilian settlement which developed in association with the Roman fort at Caersws. It was therefore anticipated that significant buried archaeological deposits might have survived within the evaluation area.

2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 The area of the evaluation lies east of the main village centre and north of the Glan-y-Nant housing terrace, bounded to the south by the Manthrig Brook and overlooked by the Maesydre housing estate to the north. The site, centred on SO 0327 9214, is currently a small pasture field.
- 2.2 The solid geology of the area consists of Telychian siltstones and mudstones belonging to the Llandovery Series of rocks that form the earliest division of the Silurian period (1994 British Geological Survey map). The soils of the immediate area consist of fine loamy soils over gravel belonging to the Rheidol Association, though there are fine silty and clayey soils belonging to the Conway Association nearby (1983 Soil Survey of England and Wales map).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Caersws occupies a focal point in the system of Roman forts and that controlled mid-Wales. As part of the early Roman campaigns a large auxiliary fort, Caersws I, was founded before AD 70 in a strongly defended position on a spur overlooking the River Severn, to the north-east of the present village. This fort was relatively short-lived and was replaced by a more permanent fort, Caersws II, during the 70s AD, situated on the flood plain near the confluence of the Severn and its tributary the Carno. Caersws II has been the subject of a series of excavations, most recently during the 1990s, the results from which have suggested that the main phase of occupation lasted until the late 2nd century AD and that by the early 3rd century the military tenure was effectively at an end, although some form of activity continued into the early 4th century (Jones 1993, 87).
- 3.2 A civilian settlement, or *vicus*, developed in association with Caersws II fort, and evidence from a series of excavations, geophysical survey and aerial reconnaissance suggests that it may have covered an area of at least 7ha on the south and east side of the fort (Fig. 1). Excavations just outside the south gate of the fort in 1985-6 (Britnell 1989) identified part of a flourishing commercial centre, revealing timber buildings and associated finds that suggested a possible tavern, shops and metal working workshops (Fig. 1, 10). This commercial activity appears to have continued until the 130s AD, its decline possibly being associated with a withdrawal of troops to the northern frontier, as elsewhere in Wales (Jones 1993, 88).
- 3.3 The contemporary road leading east from the fort has been identified through aerial reconnaissance together with a side road leading from it to the south (Fig. 1). Excavations between Manthrig Lane and Main Street between 1989 and 1993 (Jones 1996; Fig. 1, 17 and 22) identified further elements of the *vicus*, comprising post-holes and beam slots for a series of timber buildings, including a likely Romano-British temple, or *temenos*, one phase of which was dated to the mid 2nd century (Jones 1996, 33).

- 3.4 The present evaluation trenches are located c. 75m south-east of an area where at least two phases of Roman occupation were identified during the construction of the Llys Rhufein housing estate in 1978 (Fig. 1, 8A-D). The earliest occupation consisted of a building with stone foundations, while other features included a floor of crushed tiles, a cobbled area and several pits and postholes. Pottery recovered from a range of features suggested that the area was occupied from the late 1st until the early 3rd century (Jones 1993, 90).

4 EVALUATION (Figs 2-6)

- 4.1 The investigation consisted of a total of eight trenches (A-H), each measuring 10m by 1.6m (Fig. 2), all of which were mechanically excavated onto the surface of the first recognisable archaeological deposit and thereafter all excavation was undertaken by hand. The trenches were located following discussions with the curator, who monitored the excavations on two occasions. A drawn, written and photographic record was maintained throughout (see Appendix 1). The site archive has been deposited with the Regional Sites and Monuments Record, CPAT, Welshpool, while the artefact assemblage will be deposited at the Powysland Museum, Welshpool, in due course.

- 4.2 The numbers in brackets in the following text refer to contexts given to those features and layers which were identified during the excavation. A drawn, written and photographic record was maintained throughout.

- 4.3 Throughout all of the excavated trenches a combined overburden comprising a topsoil deposit of dark brown silty clay and an underlying deposit of light reddish brown silty clay, interpreted as an old ploughsoil, was removed by machine to varying combined depths of between 0.3m and 0.5m. The exception to this was Trench H, located on the eastern extremity of the site, where the combined topsoil and ploughsoil deposit was up to 0.7m thick. Late 18th and 19th-century ceramics were recovered from these deposits which, after an initial inspection, were subsequently discarded.

Trench A (10.3m x 1.6m; Fig. 2-3, Plates 1-4)

- 4.4 Trench A was aligned north-east to south-west and was located at the north-western extremity of the site, parallel to an adjacent public footpath.
- 4.5 Three features (20, 38, 67) were identified cutting into the natural subsoil, an orange mottled greyish-yellow clay containing mineral deposits of manganese and iron-panning (24), that was encountered at a depth of approximately 0.6m below the ground surface. The most northerly feature (67) was a shallow gully, 0.1m deep and 1.16m wide, orientated north-west to south-east (See Plate 2). This was filled with an orange-brown silty clay (66) containing occasional flecks of charcoal and abraded fragments of Roman pottery. Located just to the south of the gully was a shallow sub-circular depression (38), 0.7m wide and 0.1m deep. The remaining feature (20), located at the southern end of the trench, may have been the butt end of a possible gully which extended beyond the limits of the excavation. The feature, which was 0.94m wide and 0.1m deep with a curved base, was orientated north-east to south-west and contained a uniform fill (19) of stony grey silt.
- 4.6 These features were sealed by two successive fills (11, 12), both of which contained Roman pottery. The earliest deposit (12) consisted of a reddish orange-brown silty clay, up to 0.15m thick, containing occasional flecks of charcoal. The overlying deposit (11) was a pale grey-brown silty clay, 0.13m thick, that contained a high percentage of charcoal flecks and tiny fragments of either burnt clay or abraded red ceramic. Both deposits yielded an assemblage of Roman ceramics that included decorated Black Burnished ware, amphora, Samian and Cheshire Plains ware.
- 4.7 Towards the centre of the trench three features were identified cutting through layer 11. A post-hole (16) measuring 0.7m in diameter and 0.26m deep, contained a well preserved post-pipe (13), 0.3m in diameter. Finds recovered from the post-hole included two iron nails, fragments of daub, lattice decorated Black Burnished ware, Samian and iron slag (See Plate 3). A second post-hole (18), of similar diameter although somewhat deeper (0.48m), was also excavated and recorded in section (See Plate 4). Fragments of calcined bone and burnt daub were recovered from the charcoal rich brown silty clay (17). Finally a broad pit (37), 1.0m wide and 0.18m in

depth, contained a uniform fill (36) of pale white-grey clay that included fragments of burnt daub and Roman building material.

- 4.8 In the northern extent of the trench the deposit 11 was covered by a solid metalled stone surface (10) up to 0.1m thick (See Plate 2). The surface, constructed from river-rounded pebbles and cobbles of varying size, extended up to 3.9m along the trench. A few abraded sherds of Roman red ware were recovered from within the matrix of the metalled surface which may be the remains of a yard surface, associated with a building as yet not identified, or possibly a section of road that may traverse the upper slopes of the field from east to west (See section 6 for further discussion).

Trench B (10m x 1.5m; Fig. 2-3, Plate 5)

- 4.9 Trench B was aligned north to south and was located at the western extent of the site, parallel to a modern storm-drain. The siting of the trench was prospective in the hope of establishing the nature of a low embankment that could be seen traversing the field from west to east.
- 4.10 The natural subsoil in this area was similar to those encountered within Trench A, comprising an orange mottled greyish-yellow clay containing mineral deposits of manganese and iron-panning (79), at a depth of approximately 0.4m below the ground surface. The embankment was found to be a natural landform containing a mineral deposit of manganese of some depth. No features were identified cutting the natural subsoils and a sondage was excavated in the northern part of the trench in order to ascertain the archaeological potential and nature of the deposits interfacing with the minerals, but these were also found to be natural subsoils.
- 4.11 At the northern extent of the trench a thin grey-brownish silty clay (78), 0.08m thick, overlay the natural subsoil. The layer contained charcoal flecks and occasional small rounded pebbles, and produced several sherds of Black Burnished ware, Samian and Roman red ware.

Trench C (10m x 1.6m; Fig. 2, 4, Plate 8-9)

- 4.12 Trench C was aligned east to west and was located at the south-west corner of the site, parallel with the Manthrig Brook.
- 4.13 The natural subsoil revealed at a depth of 0.4m (65), was comparable to those encountered across the rest of the site, although somewhat more waterlogged due to the close proximity of the Manthrig Brook. In the eastern extent of the trench this was overlain by a thin layer (56) of pale silty grey clay, 0.04m thick, which was cut by two features (58, 64) extending beyond the bounds of the excavation. The most easterly feature (58) appears to have been an irregularly shaped pit 1.8m wide and 0.4m deep, with a shallow curved base, containing a uniform fill (57) of mottled grey clay containing large quantities of manganese and iron-panning together with occasional flecks of charcoal. The only dating evidence were a number of tiny abraded fragments of Roman red ware in very poor condition.
- 4.14 A second feature (64) to the west traversed the trench on an east-westerly orientation appearing as a broad gully, 1.2m wide (See Plate 7). The primary fill (63), consisted of a thin (0.05m thick) fine silty grit, from which a small angular glass 'frit' bead was recovered. The secondary fill (62), a gritty bluish grey silty-clay up to 0.3m thick, produced Roman ceramics, including fragments of a lattice-decorated Black Burnished cooking pot and Samian ware. Overlying this deposit was a tertiary fill (61), a pale reddish-brown silty clay, which also produced quantities of Roman ceramics, as well as a number of post-medieval pottery sherds.
- 4.15 A further feature (60), a late 19th-century drainage gully, cut through the ploughsoil and the Roman deposits below. This linear feature, 0.7m wide and 0.3m in depth, was located centrally within the trench on a north to south orientation and contained a singular fill (59) of fine reddish-brown silty clay.

Trench D (10.3m x 1.6m; Fig. 2, 4, Plate 8-9)

- 4.16 Trench D was aligned north-west to south-east and was located to the east of Trench A.
- 4.17 The natural subsoil encountered (24), approximately 0.64m below the ground surface in the northern extent of the trench and 0.5m in the southern extent, was cut by a single pit (33) located 4m from the southern end of the trench on the western side. The pit was 1.0m wide and 0.5m deep with near vertical sides and a flattish base (See Plate 9), and was filled with a series of deposits; the primary fill (32) a fine grey silty clay; a lens of charcoal rich silty clay (31); and

a thick charcoal flecked mottled grey silty clay (30). All of the deposits contained quantities of Roman ceramics comprising of Black Burnished and Roman red wares. The assemblage also included a fragment of Roman glass, iron nails, daub and Roman building materials. An initial interpretation of this feature is that it was not a rubbish pit due to the character and nature of the fills but more likely a shallow water collection point, as the depth was clearly below the natural water table. At some point the pit had been capped with a deposit of mottled brown silty clay (29). This heavily iron-panned deposit (up to 0.2m thick) extended northwards for 2.4m and was sealed by a metalised stone surface (25), 0.04m thick, constructed from river-rounded pebbles and cobbles of varying size. Numerous sherds of Roman ceramics were recovered from these deposits including decorated Black Burnished, Samian and white mortarium ware.

- 4.18 A deposit of fine pale grey silty clay (26) overlay the metalised surface. This was contemporary with a much larger deposit (23) of probable Roman origin, up to 0.2m thick, that extended across the whole of the trench. This horizon, a light greyish-brown silty clay mottled with charcoal and small pebbles, was approximately 0.46m below the ground surface in the northern extent of the trench and only 0.14m in the south.
- 4.19 Located 3.5m from the southern end of the trench a broad (1.4m wide) gully (28) was revealed containing a fill (27) of fairly firm pale greyish-brown silty clay containing flecks of charcoal. (0.3m deep). The linear feature was orientated west to east, cutting through deposit 23 and the underlying metalised surface (25) and deposit (29). Fragments of pottery recovered from the fill of the linear indicated that the gully was of late 18th- century origin.

Trench E (10m x 1.6m; Fig. 2, 5, Plate 10-12)

- 4.20 Trench E, aligned east to west, was located at the northern end of the site, situated on a broad terrace on the crest of a gentle slope, north-east of Trench D.
- 4.21 The mechanical removal of the overlying material revealed a uniform deposit (04) of mottled reddish-brown silty clay at a depth of 0.5m below the ground surface. Fragments of Roman pottery recovered from the layer indicated that this was likely to be a deposit of archaeological significance and to establish the depth and nature of the underlying subsoils a sondage was excavated at the western extremity of the trench. This revealed that the Roman deposit (04) was at least 0.38m thick and the underlying natural subsoil (24) was recorded at a depth of 0.84m below the ground surface.
- 4.22 Two features were identified cutting into deposit 04, a post-hole and a gully. The post-hole (44), measured 0.35m in diameter and 0.15m deep; its primary fill (46) contained a number of post-packing stones with an overlying olive-brown silty clay (45) (See Plate 12). Although no dateable artefacts were recovered, the post-hole may be of Roman date.
- 4.23 The gully (06) traversed the trench on a north to south orientation, 0.94m wide and 0.42m deep, with a concave base (see Plate 11). This feature had been cut from a higher level and sealed by a deposit of yellow brown silty clay (03) that contained fragments of Roman pottery. During the initial machining of the trench the deposit (03) had been removed but it was later found to be a uniform layer that also sealed deposit 04. The gully (06) contained a series of five fills; the primary fill (43), a lens of charcoal rich silt, was sealed by a fine mid-brown silt (42). Above this deposit was another lens of charcoal (40), again sealed by a yellowy-brown silty clay (41) which in turn was sealed by a firm grey silty clay (05). Roman pottery was recovered from both layers 43 and 05.

Trench F (9.9m x 1.6m; Fig. 2, 5, Plate 13-14)

- 4.24 Trench F, aligned north-east to south-west, was located 5m south of Trench E and east of Trench C. The initial aim of the trench was to locate the extents of the previously identified linear features 06 (Trench E) and 28 (Trench D).
- 4.25 The natural subsoil revealed at a depth of 0.42m (75) was again comparable to those encountered across the rest of the site. In the western extent of the trench a linear feature (72), orientated north-west to south-east, was identified cutting into the natural subsoil. It was at least 1.35m wide and 0.3m in depth with a curved base. Its primary fill (71) consisted of a bluish-grey silty clay sealed by a reddish-brown clay (70). A mixture of Roman and 18th-century ceramics were recovered from the feature. Consequently, the orientation of the feature, together with the post-medieval date, suggests that gully 72 is a continuation of the alignment of the gully 28 in Trench D.

- 4.26 Overlying the natural subsoil at the centre of the trench was a rough metallised surface, composed of small rounded stones in a firm grey silty clay matrix (See Plate 14). The surface, which was 0.14m thick and 3m wide, was sealed beneath a fairly loose deposit of light grey silty clay (73), 0.1m thick, that contained occasional charcoal flecks. A few fragments of Roman ceramic were recovered from this deposit indicating a possible Roman provenance for the underlying metallised surface.

Trench G (9.9m x 1.6m; Fig. 2, 6, Plate 15)

- 4.27 Trench G was aligned north to south and was located west of Trench C in the lowest area of the site. The siting of the trench (as in Trench B) was again prospective in the hope of establishing the nature of a low embankment that could be seen traversing the field from east to west.
- 4.28 Beneath the overburden was what was perceived to be the natural subsoil (82), a mottled greyish yellow clay at a depth of 0.4m. A broad gully (89) was identified cutting into the deposit, 1.5m wide and 0.2m deep, and aligned east to west. Its fill (84) consisted of light reddish-brown silty clay containing post-medieval pottery.
- 4.29 Although layer 82 was initially interpreted as the natural subsoil, this was re-evaluated following the discovery of sherds of Roman pot. Consequently, a sondage along the entire eastern side of the trench was excavated. This revealed a series of underlying silty clays that appeared to have been formed through a sequence of alluvial events. At the northern end of the trench the sondage was excavated to a depth of 0.9m (See Plate 15). The rising water table prevented further excavation and subsequently the depth of the natural subsoils was never established at this point.
- 4.30 The earliest deposit identified consisted of a fine bluish-grey clay (90), mottled with charcoal flecks from which a single sherd of Black Burnished ware pottery was recovered. This was sealed by a thick layer of grey clay (88), 0.28m thick, that contained a few fragments of red sandstone and Roman ceramics, including Samian and red wares. Overlying this was a thin deposit, rich in charcoal (83). Deposit 83 was confined to the northern extent of the trench and could possibly have been the remains of a shallow feature. To the south deposit 88 was sealed by a heavily iron-panned grit and silt-clay matrix of Roman origin (86). At the southern end of the trench deposits of a similar nature (87) produced further quantities of Black Burnished ware, Samian and Roman white wares.

Trench H (10 x 1.6m; Fig. 2, 6, Plate 16)

- 4.31 Trench H was aligned north to south and was located at the north-eastern extent of the site, parallel to a field boundary on the crest of a narrow terrace. The siting of the trench was positioned in the hope of establishing further evidence of a possible road on the upper terraces of the field.
- 4.32 At the northern end of the trench removal of the overlying topsoil, old ploughsoil and a layer of reddish-brown silty clay (49) up to 0.28m thick, revealed a solid metallised stone surface (50), up to 0.1m thick (See Plate 16). The surface, constructed from river-rounded pebbles and cobbles of varying size, extended up to 2.4m along the trench to the edge of a terrace. The sharp break of slope immediately to the south of the metallised surface had resulted in a large accumulation of overburden within the trench.
- 4.33 At the base of the slope layer 49 sealed a layer of fine grey silty clay (51), up to 0.2m thick, that contained small fragments of Roman building material, pottery and iron nails. The deposit was removed at the southern extent of the trench to reveal the natural subsoil at a depth of 0.9m below the ground surface.
- 4.34 In order to establish the depth and nature of the underlying subsoils at the northern end of the terrace, a sondage was excavated 2.1m from the northern end of the trench. This revealed that the metallised stone surface deposit (50) was at least 0.1m thick and the underlying deposits consisted of a series of mineralised concretions of natural subsoils (52).

5 FINDS

Roman pottery identified by Wendy Owen

- 5.1 A total of 99 sherds of Roman pottery was recovered from the excavations. The range of fabrics and forms is similar to previously published assemblages from Caersws (Jones 1993; Jones 1996) and as with several other excavated sites around the village the pottery is generally very fragmentary and abraded, with few rim sherds recovered and very few other diagnostic sherds. Only a very small proportion of any vessel was recovered, making identification and dating of the coarse pottery rather problematic.
- 5.2 Table 1 shows the quantity of each fabric type recovered from the excavations. The various fabric groups are discussed below.

Table 1: Roman pottery

Fabric group	No. sherds
Samian	27
Mortaria	4
Red wares	32
Grey wares	1
Black Burnished ware	33
White wares	1
Amphorae	2
Totals	99

Red and grey wares

- 5.3 Of the identifiable red wares, both Severn Valley and Cheshire Plains type fabrics were present, although the sherds were generally too small to identify individual vessel forms or provide any indication of date.

Black Burnished Ware

- 5.4 Black Burnished ware sherds of category 1 fabric (BB1) account for 33% of the total pottery recovered from the excavations. The fabric is typically grey-black, hard, rough and contains frequent quartz inclusions, though several of the sherds recovered had been burnt. Only three rims were recovered, one cooking pot, possibly early to mid 2nd century, one undecorated dish or bowl with a grooved rim, and the other a plain-rimmed dish. Several sherds displayed lattice decoration, including one with obtuse lattice which is probably mid 3rd century or later.

White Wares

- 5.5 A single small body sherd was recovered which may be a Roman white ware.

Amphorae

- 5.6 Only two sherds of amphorae were recovered, both from Dressel 20, South Spanish olive oil amphorae.

Samian

- 5.7 A total of 27 sherds were recovered from the excavations, none of which was decorated. The Samian was generally in very poor condition with the soil conditions having removed most or all of the surface and degraded the fabric of the vessels.

Mortaria

- 5.8 Only three sherds of mortaria were recovered, one possibly similar to a Wroxeter creamware, while the other two were in a white fabric.

Miscellaneous finds

- 5.9 A single small bead of blue glass frit was recovered, along with one fragment of vessel or window glass. A limited number of iron objects were recovered (10 fragments), five of which were nails.

- 5.10 A small assemblage of building materials was recovered from the excavations, comprising 31 fragments of brick/tile and 14 fragments of daub. Other finds included 1 fragment of flint and one of chert.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The evaluation has demonstrated the presence of significant Roman deposits within the area, which are presumably associated with the extensive civilian settlement, or *vicus*, that developed to the south and east of Caersws II fort during the late 1st and 2nd centuries AD. The small size of the excavated areas has limited the interpretation of the results and, although few obvious structural features were revealed it is reasonable to assume that at least some of the identified deposits represent either floor levels or yard surfaces associated with a succession of buildings. Evidence from the ceramic assemblage suggests that occupation in this area extended into the 3rd century, typical of activity elsewhere in the *vicus*.
- 6.2 One of the more significant discoveries during the evaluation was the section of Roman road revealed in Trench H, which appears to be a continuation of the road leading eastwards from the fort (see Fig. 1). It had previously been assumed that this road turned to the north to adopt the higher ground now occupied by the Llys Rhufein housing estate, but it now seems possible that two routes existed, one eventually heading north and the other north-east towards Caersws I Roman fort and perhaps along the north side of the Severn.
- 6.3 The results from the evaluation have clearly demonstrated the archaeological potential of the site and have provided evidence for occupation in an area previously thought to be on the fringe of the *vicus*, or possibly beyond its eastern extents. It seems reasonable to assume this occupation extends further to the east alongside the road and that perhaps in this area the *vicus* may have taken the form of a ribbon development.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 The writer would like to thank the following people for their assistance during the project: Gary Foster, Richard Hankinson, Nigel Jones and Wendy Owen, CPAT; Mark J Walters, Curatorial section CPAT and Mr R. D Bennett.

8 REFERENCES

- Britnell, J E, 1989. *Caersws Vicus, Powys: excavations at the old primary school, 1985-86*. British Archaeological Reports 205.
- Jones, N W, 1993. Caersws Roman fort and vicus, Montgomeryshire, Powys, 1984-92. *Montgomeryshire Collections* 81, 15-96.
- Jones, N W, 1996. Excavations within the Roman vicus at Caersws, 1989-93. *Montgomeryshire Collections* 81, 15-96.
- 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

90 context record forms
 04 A1 site plans
 01 A2 site plan
 02 black and white negative films
 02 colour slide films
 02 colour print film
 photographic catalogue
 context register
 drawings register
 13 levels record forms

Find catalogue

Trench	Context	No.	Material	fabric	Comment
A	10	3	pottery	RR	Roman red ware
A	11?	2	brick		
A	11	1	pottery	RG	possibly burnt black burnished ware
A	11	1	pottery	RG9	black burnished ware dish- swirly dec under base
A	11	1	pottery	RG9	black burnished ware dish/bowl with flat rim
A	11?	2	pottery		post-med
A	12	1	brick/tile		
A	12	1	pottery	RG9	black burnished ware
A	12	2	pottery	RA	amphora Dressel 20
A	12	1	pottery	RRCP	Roman. Cheshire plains bowl or possibly lid
A	12	2	pottery	RG9	black burnished ware cooking pot rim. ?E-M 2nd
A	12	3	pottery	RS	samian
A	12	1	pottery	RR	Roman red ware. Flanged. Possible mortarium
A	12	1	pottery	RO	Mortarium, cream fabric. Poss from Wroxeter
A	12	1	pottery	RR	Severn valley
A	14	2	iron		nails
A	15	1	daub		
A	15	1	pottery	RG9	black burnished ware - lattice dec
A	15	1	pottery	RS	samian
A	15	1	slag		
A	17	1	bone		calcined bone
A	17	1	daub		
A	36	1	brick		
A	36	1	daub		
B	78	1	iron		object
B	78	2	pottery	RR	Roman red ware
B	78	1	pottery	RG9?	black burnished ware?
C	59	4	pottery		post-med
C	61	2	daub		
C	61	1	pottery	RG9	black burnished ware
C	61	2	pottery	RG9	black burnished ware dish/bowl with grooved rim
C	61	2	pottery	RS	samian
C	61	1	pottery		post-med pottery
C	62	3	daub		
C	62	1	pottery	RS	samian footring
C	62	2	pottery	RS	samian
C	62	8	pottery	RG9	black burnished ware cooking pot. Obtuse lattice. Prob mid C3rd or later
C	62	1	pottery	RG9	black burnished ware dish/bowl with decoration
C	62	1	pottery	RR	base
C	63	1	glass frit?		bead

D	22	3	brick/tile		
D	22	1	pottery	RR	Roman red ware
D	23	1	iron		nail
D	23	2	pottery	RS	samian
D	25	1	brick		
D	25	1	chert		
D	27	2	pottery	RR	Roman red ware
D	27	4	pottery		post med mottled ware
D	29	3	brick/tile		
D	29	2	pottery	RG9	black burnished ware dish/bowl. Swirly dec under base
D	29	1	pottery	RG9	black burnished ware
D	29	4	pottery	RS	samian
D	29	3	pottery	RR	Roman red ware
D	29	1	pottery	RO	mortarium in white fabric
D	29	1	pottery	RRCP	Roman red ware base, probably a jar
D	30	2	brick/tile		
D	30	3	daub		
D	30	1	glass		
D	30	1	iron		nail
D	30	1	pottery	RG9	black burnished ware base of dish/bowl. Swirly dec underneath
D	30	2	pottery	RG9	black burnished ware cooking pot
D	30	3	pottery	RR	Roman red ware
D	31	3	daub		
D	31	4	pottery	RG9	black burnished ware cooking pot
E	03	3	pottery	RS	samian
E	03	5	pottery	RR	Roman red ware. Includes 3 sherd poss Severn valley ware
E	03	1	pottery		post-med Coal Measures Buff
E	04	1	flint		
E	04	1	pottery	RR	Roman red ware jar
E	04	1	pottery	RG9	black burnished ware plain rim dish
E	05	1	pottery	RR	
E	05	1	pottery	RS	burnt samian
E	40	1	pottery	RR?	Roman red ware ?
F	70	1	brick		post-medieval
F	70	1	clay pipe		
F	70	3	iron		objects
F	72	3	pottery	RS	samian
F	73	5	brick/tile		
F	73	1	iron		object
F	73	1	pottery	RS	samian
F	73	1	pottery	RR	Roman red ware
F	74	2	brick/tile		
G	82	1	pottery	RS	burnt samian
G	82	1	pottery	RR	Roman red ware
G	82	1	pottery	RW?	Roman white ware ?
G	84	1	brick		post-med ?
G	87	2	brick/tile		
G	87	1	pottery	RR	Roman red ware
G	87	1	pottery	RG9	black burnished ware plain rim dish
G	87	1	pottery	RG9	black burnished ware
G	87	2	pottery	RO?	Possible mortaria in white fabric
G	87	3	pottery	RS	samian
G	88	1	pottery	RS	decorated samian
G	88	1	pottery	RR	Roman red ware
G	90	1	pottery	RG9	black burnished ware dish/bowl. Swirly dec under base

H	48	1	clay pipe		
H	51	1	pottery	RS	samian
H	51	2	pottery		post-medieval
H	51	5	brick/tile		
H	51	3	brick/tile/daub		
H	51	1	iron		nail
H	51	1	pottery	RR	Roman red ware

APPENDIX 2

SPECIFICATION

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Contracting Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust has been invited to prepare a specification of works for undertaking an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Glan y Nant, Manthrig Lane, Caersws, Powys. The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, acting as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, have determined that an archaeological evaluation should be undertaken to assess the potential impact of the proposals on the archaeological resource.
- 1.2 The site lies in close proximity to areas known to contain buried archaeological deposits relating to the civilian settlement which developed in association with the Roman fort at Caersws. It is therefore anticipated that significant buried archaeological deposits may survive within in the and the following specification has been designed to evaluate the depth and significance of these deposits.

2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of the evaluation are:
 - 2.1.1 to reveal by means of a desktop 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 The history and development of the Roman settlement has already been investigated in some detail and the existing published sources will be reviewed, together with an investigation of the Tithe Survey, 19th-century Ordnance Survey mapping and appropriate aerial photography.
- 3.2 The field evaluation will consist of eight 1.5 x 10m trenches, the positions of which will be determined following discussions with the client and curator. 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. The evaluation will be entirely non-destructive and designed to determine the depth at which archaeologically sensitive deposits survive, together with their nature condition and significance. The depth of natural deposits will be determined to assess the extent of any stratified deposits which may be encountered. Responsibility for reinstatement will lie with the client.
- 3.3 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 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.
- 3.4 All artefacts will be related to their contexts from which they were derived and treated in a manner appropriate to their composition and will be processed by trained CPAT staff.
- 3.5 Following the on-site work an illustrated and bound report will be prepared in A4 format, containing conventional sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology; Archaeological Background; Evaluation; Conclusions and References, together with appropriate appendices on archives and finds.
- 3.6 The site archive will be prepared to specifications laid out in Appendix 3 in the Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991), to be deposited with the Regional Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). All artefacts will, subject to the permission of the owner, be deposited with the Powysland Museum, Welshpool.

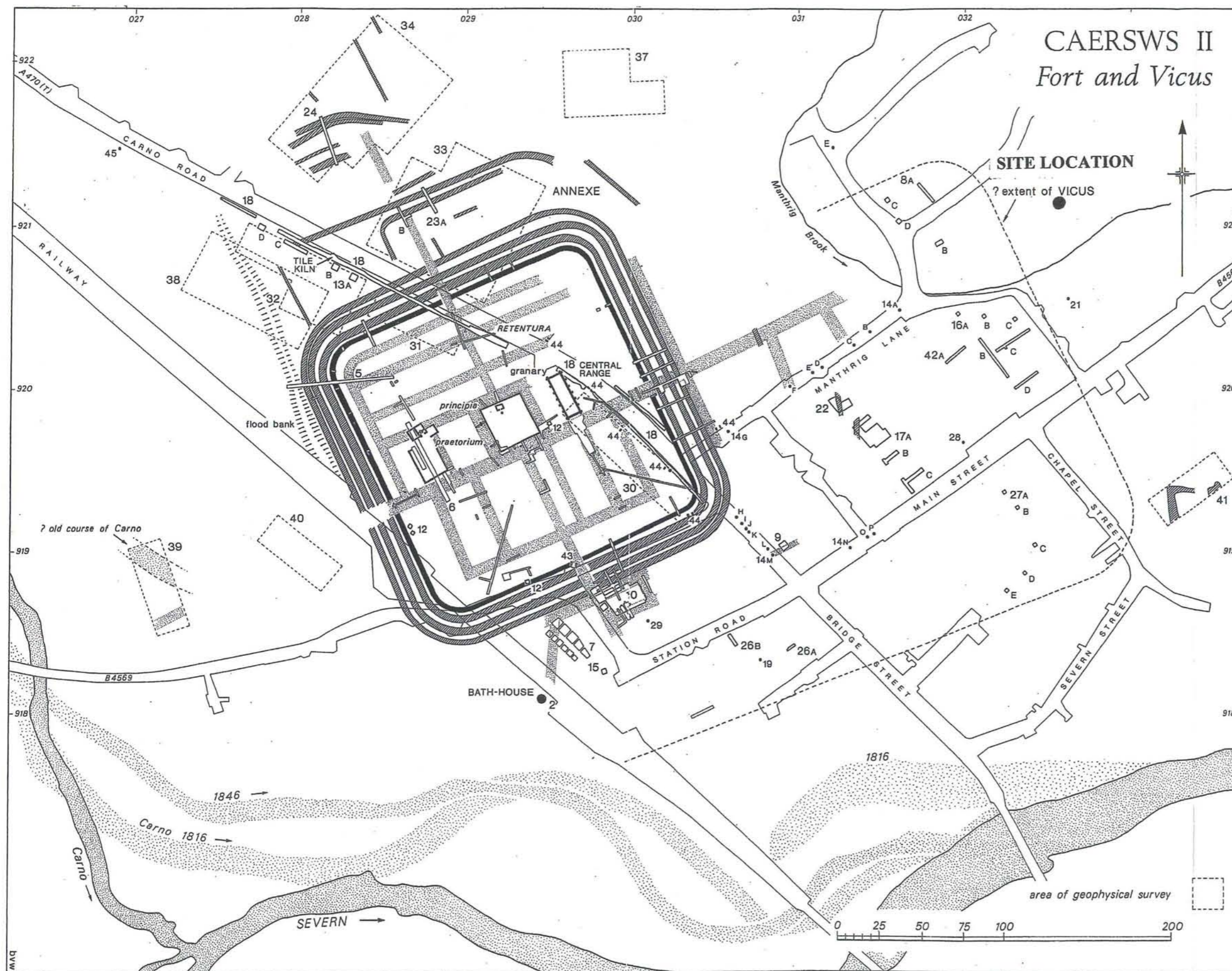
4 Resources and Programming

- 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 (IFA). CPAT is an IFA Registered Organisation.
- 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 evaluation will be completed within 5 days. The report will be completed within 2 weeks of the completion of on-site works. Copies of the report will be provided to the client and the Regional SMR. The Curator will be informed of the timetable in order to arrange for monitoring if required. At present, CPAT would be in a position to undertake the work during April 2004.
- 4.4 The following contingency sums have been allowed in accordance with section 10 of the curatorial brief. The need for such contingencies, and their potential cost, would be subject to discussions between CPAT, the client and the curator once the fieldwork has been completed. The following figures are therefore only for guidance and the final cost, should any of the services be required, may be more or less than the estimates provided.

Finds conservation etc	£200	
2 Radiocarbon dates	£550	
Environmental sampling	£200	
Museum deposition and storage		Powysland Museum, Welshpool, no charge
Publication		<i>Archaeology in Wales</i> at 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
9th February 2004



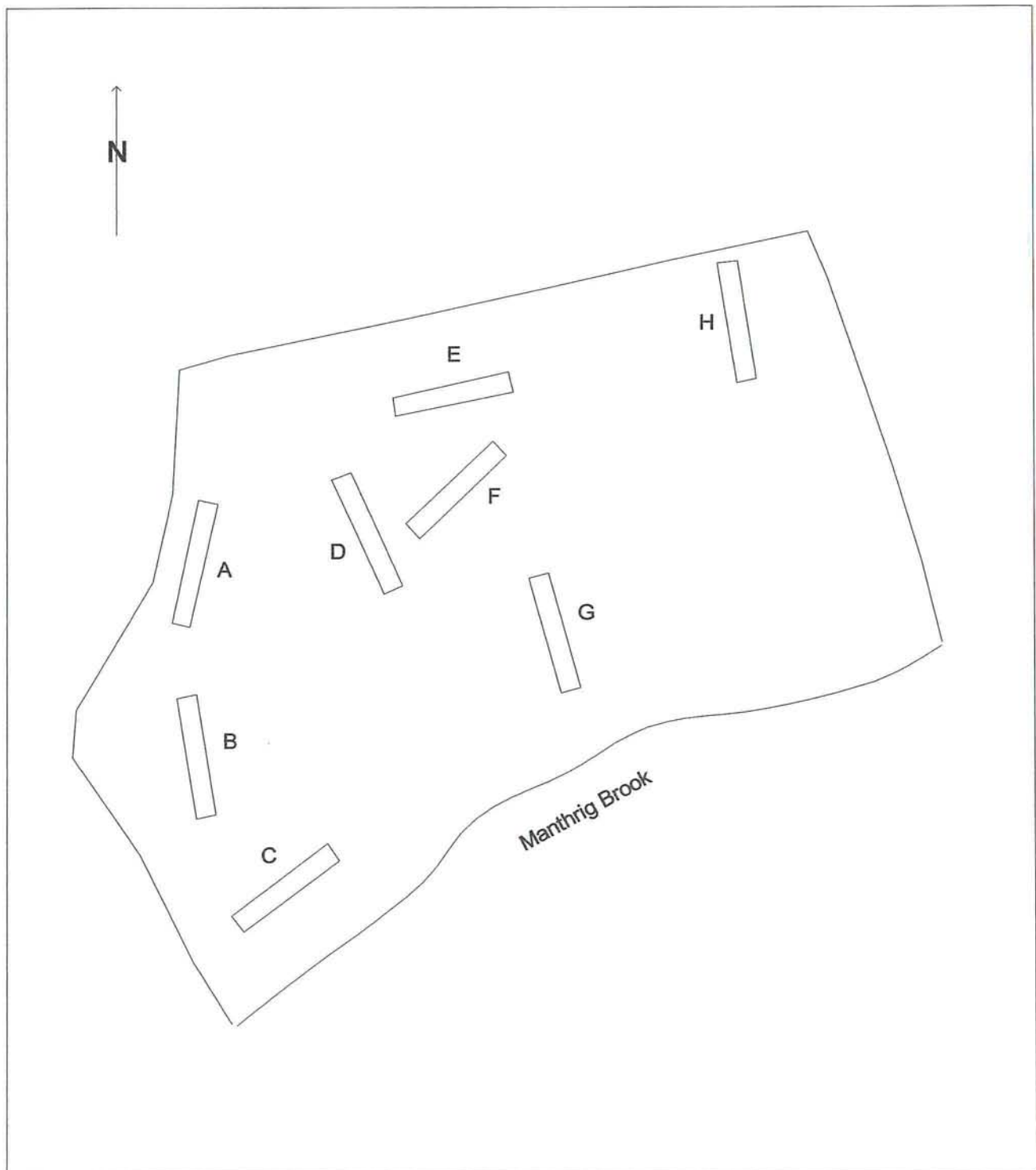


Fig. 2 Trench locations, scale 1:500

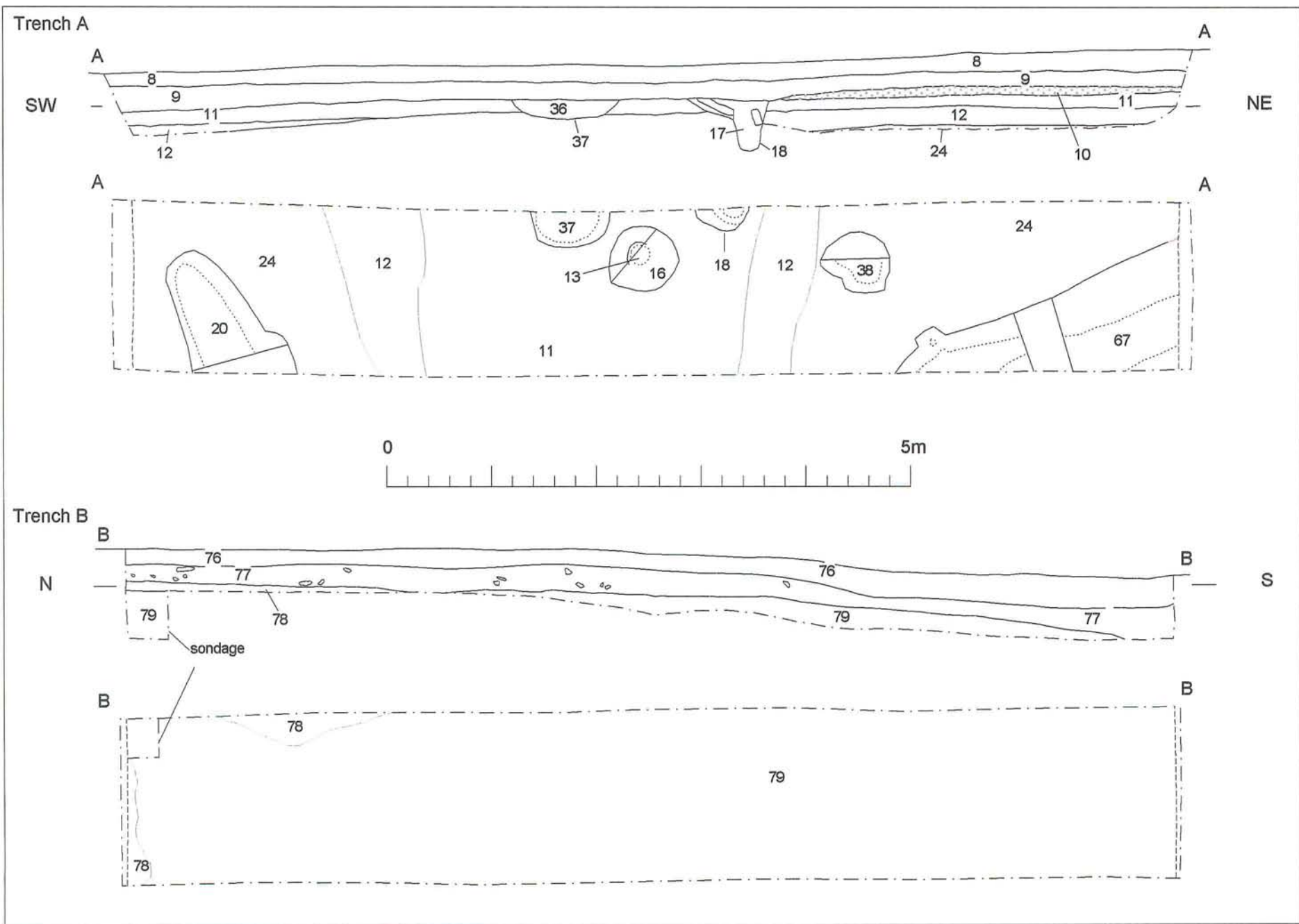


Fig 3. Trenches A and B, Scale 1:50

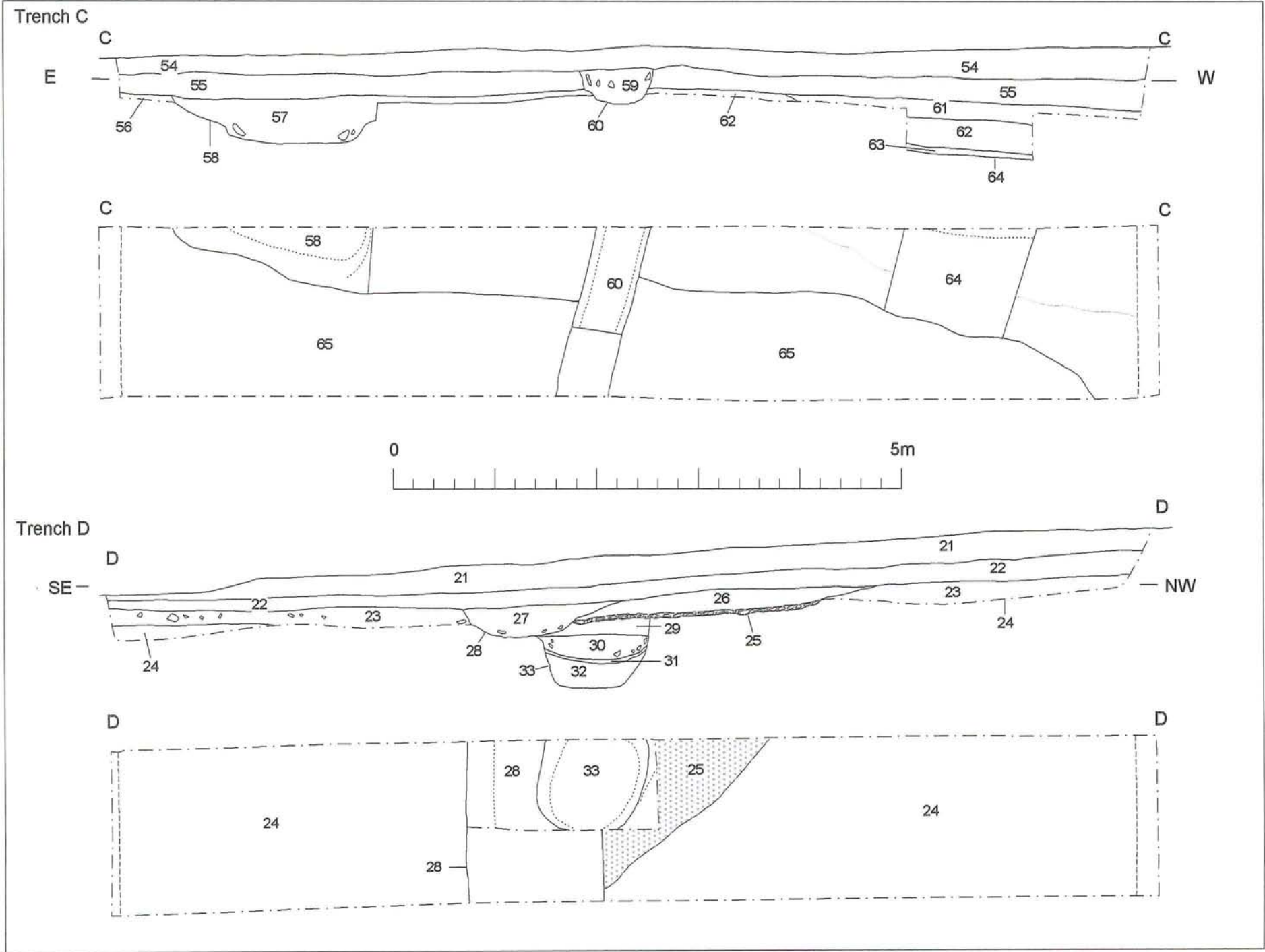
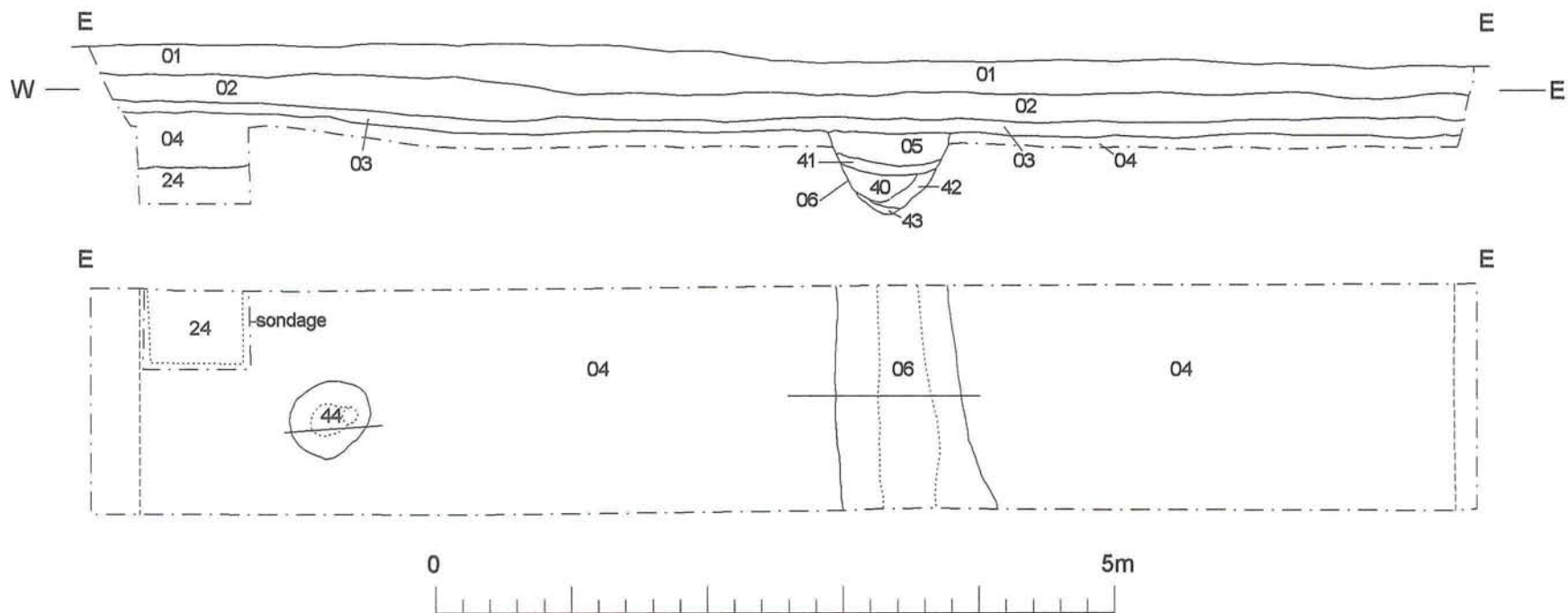


Fig 4. Trenches C and D, Scale 1:50

Trench E



Trench F

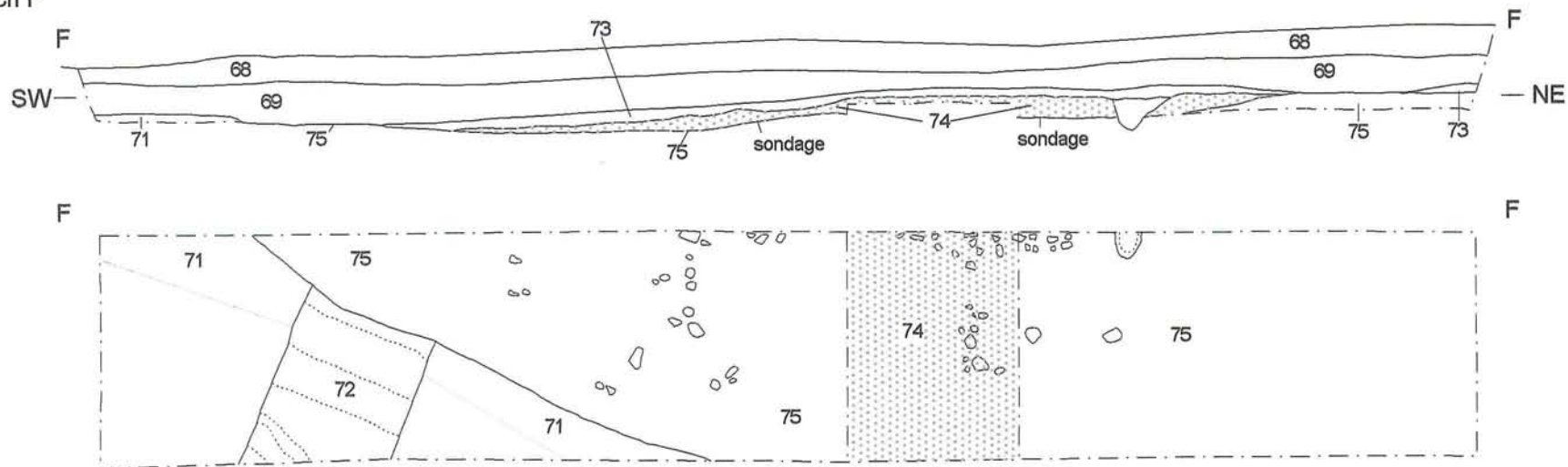
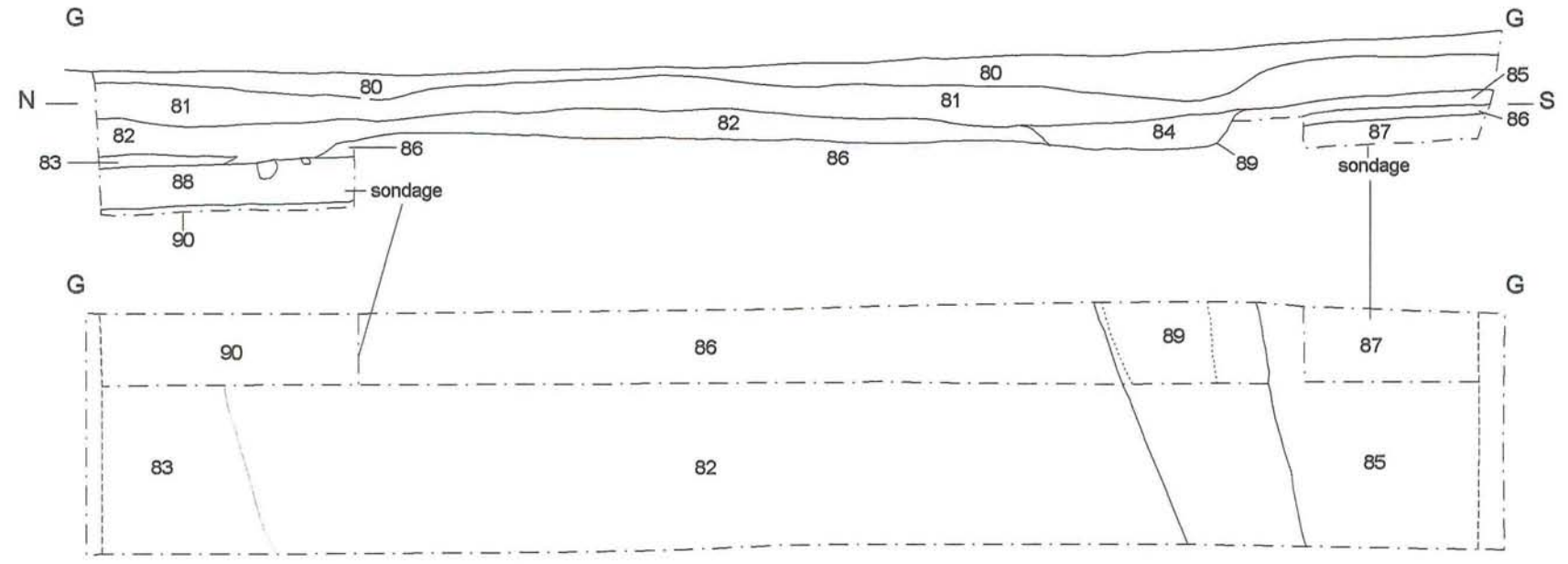


Fig 5. Trenches E and F, Scale 1:50

Trench G



Trench H

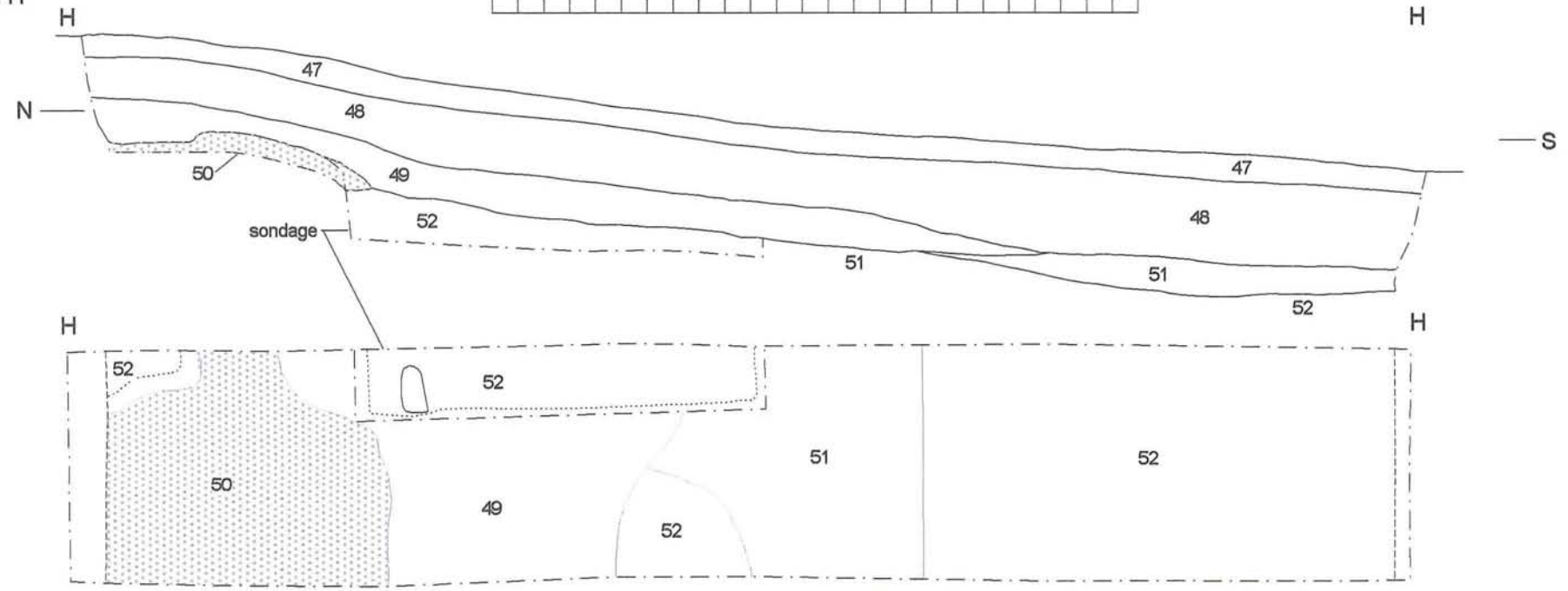


Fig 6. Trenches G and H, Scale 1:50



Plate 1. Trench A, south-west facing, post machining. Photo CPAT 1657.01



Plate 2. Trench A, south facing section through gully (67) with overlying Roman deposits and metallised surface (10) illustrated in section above. Photo CPAT 1658.15



Plate 3. Trench A, east facing section through Roman post-pipe (13). Photo CPAT 1657.15



Plate 4. East facing section through Roman post-hole (18) and pit (38). Trench A.
Photo CPAT 1657.16



Plate 5. Trench B, south facing, post machining. Photo CPAT 1658.03



Plate 6. Trench C, east facing, post machining. Photo CPAT 1658.02



Plate 7. North facing section through Roman gully (64). Trench C. Photo CPAT 1658.09



Plate 8. Trench D, south facing, post machining. Photo CPAT 1657.05



Plate 9. East facing section through Roman metallised surface (25) and pit (33). Trench D.
Photo CPAT 1657.35



Plate 10. Trench E, east facing, post machining. Photo CPAT 1657.12



Plate 11. South facing section through Roman gully (06). Trench E. Photo CPAT 1657.20



Plate 12. Excavation of Roman post-hole (44), illustrating the remains of post-packing. Trench E. Photo CPAT 1657.25



Plate 13. Trench F, west facing, post machining. Photo CPAT 1657.13



Plate 14. Sondage through metallised surface (73), probably Roman. Photo CPAT 1658.21



Plate 15. North facing sondage through probable Roman deposits. Trench G.
Photo CPAT 1658.06



Plate 16. South facing section through metallised surface (50), probably Roman. Trench H
Photo CPAT 1658.18