

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

The Smithfield, Brecon, Powys
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



CPAT Report No 246

The Smithfield, Brecon, Powys
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

N.W.Jones and W.G.Owen
October 1996

Report for Powell Dobson Partnership

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

7a Church Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7DL
tel (01938) 553670, fax (01938) 552179

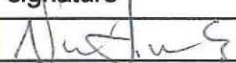
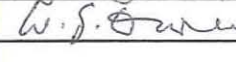
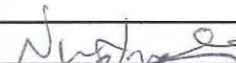
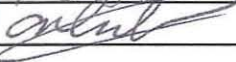
© CPAT 1997

CPAT Report Record

Report and status

CPAT Report Title	The Smithfield, Brecon, Powys: Archaeological Evaluation		
CPAT Project Name	Brecon Smithfield		
CPAT Project No	748	CPAT Report No	246
Confidential (yes/no)		draft/final	

Internal control

	name	signature	date
prepared by	N.W.JONES		22/10/97
	W.G.OWEN		22/10/97
checked by	N.W.JONES		
approved by	A.M. GIBSON		22/10/97

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 SOILS
- 3 DESK TOP STUDY
- 4 TRIAL EXCAVATION
- 5 FINDS
- 6 CONCLUSIONS
- 7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
- 8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDIX 1: SPECIFICATIONS

APPENDIX 2: SITE ARCHIVE

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Fig. 1 John Speed's map of Brecon, 1610 | Fig. 11 Trench A Sections |
| Fig. 2 Meredith Jones Ichnography of the Town of Brecknock, 1744 | Fig. 12 Trench B Section |
| Fig. 3 Map of Brecon in 1761 from the Tredegar Estate Collection | Fig. 13 Trench C Section |
| Fig. 4 John Wood's Map of Brecon, 1834 | Fig. 14 Trench D Section |
| Fig. 5 Brecon Tithe Map 1840 | Fig. 15 Trench E Section |
| Fig. 6 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2,500 1889, surveyed 1883 (Brec. 28.9 and 13) | Plate 1 Trench A from NE |
| Fig. 7 Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1:2,500 1904 (Brec. 28.13) | Plate 2 Trench A, pit 5 from SE |
| Fig. 8 Map Regression and Development location | Plate 3 Trench A, pit 9 from NW |
| Fig. 9 Location of excavation trenches | Plate 4 Trench B section from S |
| Fig. 10 Trench A Plan and Section | Plate 5 Trench C section from S |
| | Plate 6 Trench D section from S |
| | Plate 7 Trench E section from S |

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 1997 the Contracts Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (henceforth CPAT Contracts) was asked by The Powell Dobson Partnership to submit a quotation and specification for an archaeological evaluation at The Smithfield, Brecon, Powys based on a brief (EVB243) prepared by the Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, acting in their capacity as advisors to the Powys County Council.
- 1.2 The proposed development involves the construction of a retail store, ancillary buildings and car parking. An evaluation was considered necessary prior to the consideration of a planning application (No. 15434) as the proposed development lies in an area of archaeological potential on the northernmost edge of the defined historic core of Brecon (Silvester 1993) and immediately to the north-east of the mid-13th century town defences.
- 1.3 The Brief required a two stage evaluation consisting of a desk top study followed by strategic trial trenching.

2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND SOILS

- 2.1 The assessment area (see fig. 10), as defined in the Curatorial Brief, occupies the existing Smithfield Cattle Market and Car Park west of Free Street and south of Alexandra Road, Brecon (SO 04632859). At present the site consists mostly of surfaced car parking and stock pens.
- 2.3 The underlying solid geology consists of Silurian Old Red Sandstones of the Pridoli Series.

3 DESK TOP STUDY

- 3.1 The desk top study was undertaken according to the requirements of the Curatorial Brief and included an examination of all readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic, pictorial and photographic sources at the following repositories: County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, Welshpool; National Library of Wales (NLW), Aberystwyth; Powys County Archives, Powys County Council, Llandrindod Wells; Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW), Aberystwyth. Information from these sources has been used to produce the following historical framework.

3.2 Brecon Town

- 3.2.1 The origins of the present town are closely associated with founding of the castle and its subsequent development as the *caput*, or principle settlement, for one of the great lordships in south Wales, functioning not only as a stronghold, but also as an administrative centre for a large region. The original castle is thought to have been constructed before, or immediately after 1093 when Bernard de Neufmarche defeated and killed the local Welsh ruler Bleddyn ap Maenarch and his supporters in a battle close by (Thomas 1991, 4).
- 3.2.2 The earliest urban development is assumed to have been located within the castle bailey on the west bank of the Honddu, with the Benedictine priory of St. John the Evangelist founded soon after. At some later time a town developed to the east of the Honddu, probably with associated defences. In 1217 the town was besieged by Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, and although he was bought off by the burgesses on that occasion, he returned in 1231 and again in 1233, burning the town on both occasions (Thomas 1991, 11). The town was unsuccessfully besieged by Glyndwr in 1403.
- 3.2.3 The town received its first charter in 1276, with a second sometime between 1277 and 1282, subsequent charters in 1308 and 1412 (Thomas 1991, 17-22). At the time of the 1412 charter 86 burgesses were recorded and by 1443 this number had risen to 121. As the town developed it became an important market centre with twice weekly markets and three annual fairs (Silvester 1993, 3).
- 3.2.4 By the 16th century Brecon had become an important urban centre and under the Act of Union of 1536 it was designated one of the four regional administrative centres for Wales. There have been

suggestions that by the mid-16th century the population may have been at least 2000, leading to the development of extra-mural settlements in Oldport, Llanfaes and Watton (Silvester 1993, 3-4).

3.3 Town Defences

3.3.1 There is no documentary evidence suggesting the foundation of the town defences, but it would seem likely that they originated as earthwork and timber barricades associated with the development of the early settlement during the 12th century. The defences are first mentioned in 1314 and there are records of the ditch being cleared out in 1399 and the gates, walls and ditches being fortified in 1405 (Colvin 1963, 575). In their final form the defences consisted of an encompassing stone wall with ten towers and four gates, with a substantial external ditch. The defences followed an oval course from the castle postern gate through a field called 'Clawdd y Gaer', running behind and roughly parallel to Lion Street to the Watton Gate and following the line of Captain's Walk (see figs 1, 2 and 6). The earliest surviving cartographic evidence for the defences, as well as for the town itself, is John Speed's map of 1610 (fig. 1), when they are recorded as being in good repair. A map of 1761 (fig. 3) shows the walls still standing between the Watton Gate, which is also extant, and the Usk Bridge, with two towers shown along Captain's Walk. The walls appear to have been gradually robbed for building materials and the destruction of the gates was ordered in 1775. During the following century large sections were pulled down (Soulsby 1983, 82).

3.3.2 The majority of the defences have been either destroyed or built over, although in two places clear traces still survive. A section of medieval wall and earthen bank survives at Watton Mount, immediately south of the assessment area, and is protected as a scheduled ancient monument (B150). On the south side of the circuit Captain's Walk lies atop a scarp with Danygaer Road below, presumably in the town ditch.

3.3.3 Excavations in the basement of 2 The Struet identified what was assumed to be a short section of the town ditch containing medieval pottery of 12th-15th century date (Dorling 1991). More recent excavations associated with the redevelopment of Bethel Square (fig. 8D), identified a substantial ditch at least 7m wide and 2m deep, assumed to be part of the town ditch (Locock 1996). The ditch showed evidence of early backfilling on the south side possibly indicating the replacement of an earthwork defence with a stone wall which required a less substantial ditch. A series of re-cuts and fills within the ditch indicated that it remained as a visible feature at least until the late 18th century.

3.4 Development Site

3.4.1 The lack of any direct evidence relating to the history of the development site leads us to rely on conclusions drawn from historic maps and associated sites within the vicinity.

3.4.2 The earliest cartographic evidence is again Speed's map of 1610 (fig. 1), which clearly shows the town wall with what appears to be open ground outside to the north-east. Houses are shown lining both sides of Free Street, Mount Street and intermittently along Alexandra Road. Meredith Jones map of 1744 (fig. 2) Also shows the town defences, identifying the area north-east of the defences as Clawdd y Gaer, within which the development plot is situated, but does not show buildings along Free Street or Alexandra Road.

3.4.3 A map of 1761 (figs 3 and 8A) from the Tredegar Estate provides a detailed view of Brecon, showing the assessment area to be largely within 'A Field belonging to ye Town'. This map has been used in conjunction with the subsequent surveys in 1834, 1883 and modern Ordnance Survey maps to produce a map regression analysis for the development plot (fig. 8). Significant detail has only been included for the assessment area and its immediate surroundings.

3.4.4 The map of Brecon by John Wood in 1834 (figs 4 and 8B) shows Clawdd y Gaer as the property of the Reverend Archdeacon Davies. By this time the town defences have been lost although the wooded strip between Clawdd y Gaer and the boundaries to the rear of Lion Street may indicate the line (or possibly the outer line) of the ditch. A large building along the north-west side of Heol Rhydd (Free Street) is presumably the hotel/public house still standing on the south-west side of the entrance to the development site, with an area of wooded ground to the rear, occupying part of the assessment area. An L-shaped building is shown at the north-east end of one of the Lion Street plots, which clearly extends within the assessment area, although there is no indication of its likely date or function. At the north-western end of the area buildings are shown fronting onto both sides of Mount Street and The Struet. The Tithe Map of 1840 (fig. 5) shows little detail, but does outline Clawdd y Gaer as plot 49, recorded as a meadow.

- 3.4.5 The Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2,500 map (figs 6 and 8C), surveyed in 1883, show the boundaries of the development plot very much as they are today with the Cattle Market, which was established by 1878 (Thomas 1993, 62) occupying a large part of the area, having encroached into Clawdd y Gaer. The building identified in the 1834 survey had evidently been demolished by this date. The position of the town walls and a tower is shown south-east of the plot, while the site of the town ditch is indicated running north-west to south-east through the western side of the Cattle Market. The north-east boundary of the plot is occupied by the Brecon and Merthyr Railway, which opened in 1863 (Thomas 1993, 25), involving a realignment of Mount Street and the demolition of buildings along this and The Struet. Several small buildings, possibly associated with the market, are shown between the market and the railway. North-west of the market, the remaining area of Clawdd y Gaer is shown as undeveloped. The 2nd edition of 1904 (fig. 7) shows a similar situation, but indicates an expansion of the Cattle Market to the north. During the present century the market expanded further, occupying the remaining area of Clawdd y Gaer.
- 3.4.6 An assessment of the aerial photographic evidence as part of the initial site appraisal by the developers involved consultation of sources held at the Central Register of Air Photography for Wales in Cardiff. The results revealed some detail regarding the later history of the site. Sorties from 1942 indicated that the majority of the western area remained undeveloped, with the cattle market occupying the eastern end. By 1946 the situation had changed little, with only limited alterations to the layout of the cattle market and some structures, possibly industrial units, along the western fringe of the site. Further coverage in 1952 showed the eastern half of the site to be unchanged, while the central area appeared to have been levelled and a yard area and possibly cattle pens had been constructed at the western end of the site. By 1969 the area had been totally developed with the railway appearing to be disused. Following the closure of the railway in the later 1960s, the land was redeveloped to be used as car parking and access the market.
- 3.4.7 There are a number of Listed Buildings within the immediate environs of the assessment area (fig. 8D), particularly along the eastern side of the Struet on either side of the Mount Street junction. However, it would seem unlikely that any would be affected by the proposed development.
- 3.4.8 A series of boreholes, test pits and window samples (see fig. 9) undertaken as part of an appraisal for the proposed development (Johnson, Poole and Bloomer 1997) have revealed information relating to the nature of deposits within the assessment area. Whilst the majority of the area consisted of an upper concrete or tarmacadam hardstanding and sub-base overlying largely natural deposits, the south-west corner of the site contained evidence of a considerable depth of man-made deposits. In particular, Boreholes 3 and 4 (BH3 and BH4) and Test Pit 4 showed man-made fills extending for up to 2.70m below present ground level, while the adjacent samples DH9 and TP3 showed no such depth of stratigraphy. It is possible that in some cases the man-made fills may be associated with the town ditch, particularly within BH4 and TP4, although the descriptions of the layers is not sufficiently detailed to confirm this.
- 3.4.9 The available evidence would therefore suggest that the majority of the assessment area remained undeveloped until the construction of the Cattle Market by 1878, and the opening of the railway in 1863. Prior to this, the area of Clawdd y Gaer would appear to have been open ground, presumably a meadow as described in the Tithe Survey. The only exception would appear to be the buildings shown along Free Street, Mount Street and Alexandra Road at the time of Speed's survey in 1610 and the building identified on John Wood's survey of 1834, which was demolished by 1883. However, since the earliest evidence dates from 1610, we have no indication of the nature of the site throughout the Medieval period. Although lying mostly outside the defences, and therefore unlikely to have been developed as part of an expanding settlement, the existence of extra-mural settlements elsewhere at Llanfaes, Oldport and Watton indicate that the town was not restricted to the confines of the defensive circuit.
- 3.4.10 Although no trace of the town defences survives at this point, it would seem likely that the town wall, and certainly the ditch, follows the south-west boundary of the site running south-east from the church behind Bethel Square, where the position of the ditch was confirmed by excavation (Locock 1996), and across the Car Park at the south-west corner of the site.

4 TRIAL EXCAVATION

4.1 The number and location of the excavation trenches was agreed following a site meeting between the developer, the curator and CPAT Contracts. These consisted of an L-shaped trench at the entrance to the site (Trench A), together with a series of 2 x 2 trial pits (Trenches B-E), which were excavated between 8th and 17th October 1997. In all trenches a mechanical excavator was used to remove the surfacing, sub-base, and modern overburden to a maximum depth of 1.2m. The trenches were then cleaned and all further excavation was undertaken by hand. A full drawn, written and photographic record was maintained throughout and is listed in the Site Archive, Appendix 2. In the following text numbers in brackets refer to individual context numbers. The site was inspected and monitored by the Curator on 9th October 1997.

4.2 Trench A (9 x 2m and 6 x 2.5m, figs 10-11 and pls 1-3)

4.2.1 Immediately below the tarmac (1) and stone sub-base (2) was a soil layer (3), composed of a dark brown, friable clayey loam max. 0.44m thick. The layer was well-mixed and contained quantities of mortar, lime and brick fragments. Other finds recovered from this layer were exclusively post-medieval in date. This overlay a reddish brown coloured, fairly stiff clayey silt (4) which extended to the base of the trench at a maximum depth of 0.88m below the tarmac surface. Charcoal streaks and fragments within this layer decreased with depth and had disappeared more or less completely at the maximum depth of excavation. No finds were recovered from this layer and it was interpreted as natural subsoil.

4.2.2 Two pits (5 and 9), were revealed cutting through layer 4, and sealed by layer 3. Pit 5 measured c.2.0m in diameter, extending beyond the limits of excavation, and was up to 0.52m deep. Pit 9 measured c. 2.60 in length, at least 1.4m in width, extending beyond the limits of excavation and up to 0.22m deep. The fills of both (6 and 10 respectively) consisted of a friable, clayey silt matrix with quantities of Pennant sandstone fragments. Pottery sherds recovered from both fills were either of medieval or early post-medieval date although later material, possibly intrusive from soil layer 3, occurred at the top of the fill of Pit 5.

4.2.3 A narrow trench-like feature (7) cut through both soil layers 3 and 4 and was sealed by the stone sub-base material (2) indicating that it was of a relatively late date. This pit was of maximum width 0.60m and was 0.58m deep. A sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from its fill together with a clay pipe stem and a glass fragment all of which were regarded as intrusive. The feature was interpreted as a disused and back-filled former pipe-trench.

4.2.4 A small circular pit (11), 0.36m in diameter and 0.30m deep located c. 1.0m to the south-west of feature 7 was interpreted as the base of a possible post-hole of unknown date.

4.3 Trench B (2 x 2m, fig. 12 and pl. 4)

4.3.1 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.20m. Soil layer 34, exposed below the tarmac and its stone sub-base (32 and 33), consisted of a brown, friable clayey loam which contained brick and concrete fragments to the full depth of the excavation, indicating that all the material was redeposited. Similar material occurred in layers 35 and 36. Finds recovered from layer 34 were all post-medieval, ranging in date from the 17th to the 19th centuries.

4.3.2 An auger sample taken from below the base of the trench seemed to indicate that layer 34 continued to a depth of 1.83m below the tarmac surface. Beneath this layer was a fairly stiff silty clay 0.10m thick which contained slight traces of charcoal. Below this, the sample showed apparently undisturbed soils to a depth of 2.20m consisted of a clean, finely-textured sandy silt varying in colour with depth from greenish-buff to reddish brown.

4.4 Trench C (2 x 2m, fig. 13 and pl. 5)

4.4.1 Removal of the surface tarmac (18) and its stone sub-base (19) exposed a thin layer of an earlier tarmac surface (20) 0.08m thick at a depth of 0.36m. This rested directly on a brown, friable silty clay soil (21) which extended more or less uniformly to the base of the trench at 1.30 m, apart from a lens of brown silty loam (22). The northern corner of the trench was disturbed by a modern ceramic drainage pipe (23), for which there was no obvious trench, suggesting that it was contemporary with the deposition of layers 21 and 22. Both layers 21 and 22 contained brick, charcoal and coal fragments. Finds recovered from layer 21 included pottery ranging in date from the 16th to the 19th centuries. An auger sample indicated from charcoal flecks within it, that this layer seemed to extend to a depth of 2.44m below the modern tarmac surface. Below this, successive layers of soil recovered up to a depth of 4.60m contained no extraneous material.

4.5 Trench D (2 x 2m, fig. 14 and pl. 6)

4.5.1 The modern tarmac (24) and sub-base (25) sealed and earlier tarmac level (26) and its thin sub-base (27). Below this a reddish-brown clayey silt (28), extended to the base of the trench at a maximum depth of 1.30m, and contained lenses of dark brown friable clayey silt (29 and 30). Layer 28 contained charcoal, pockets of gravel, and abundant stone, brick and coal fragments. Finds from it included pottery possibly ranging in date from the 13th to the 18th century. A ceramic drainage pipe (31) was located in the northern corner of the trench, for which there was no obvious trench, suggesting that it was contemporary with the deposition of layers 28, 29 and 30. An auger sample indicated charcoal-bearing soils extending to a depth of 2.40m below the modern surface.

4.6 Trench E (2 x 2m, fig. 15 and pl. 7)

4.6.1 Underlying the modern tarmac (37) and sub-base material (38) at a depth of 0.40m, an earlier tarmac/sub-base layer (39 and 40 respectively) was exposed. Below this was a dark brown friable clayey loam (41) containing abundant stone, coal and brick fragments. This layer also filled a substantial trench (47) extending beyond the limit of excavation which may have been cut for a drainage pipe since the projected line of that identified in Trenches C and D lies close to the eastern edge of Trench D. In the western half of the trench layer 41 overlay a sequence of soils (42, 43 and 46) containing stone associated with some mortar. In the north-eastern corner, the bottom of the trench was cut by a posthole (44), 0.44m in diameter and 0.30m deep, which may have been truncated by trench 47. The fill (45) contained abundant sandstone fragments as packing and finds included a single sherd of medieval pottery and a clay pipe stem. Auger sampling was abandoned in this trench owing to the presence of a stony layer at a depth of approximately 0.20m below the base of the trench.

5 THE FINDS

5.1 The trial excavations produced a small assemblage of medieval and post-medieval pottery, together with fragments of clay pipe, bottle glass, brick and animal bone (Appendix 2).

5.2 A total of 26 sherds (266g) of medieval pottery were recovered, consisting of body and base sherds from a variety of jugs and jars. No rims were recovered. The jugs were all in a similar fine sandy micaceous fabric presumably derived from sandstone of fairly local origin. The jar fabrics were from a similar source but much more coarse with inclusions of quartz and possibly sandstone. Without the rims and with such a small percentage of each vessel it is not possible to closely date the assemblage, which can only be assigned to a period between the later 13th century and the early 16th century. The only securely stratified pottery recovered from contexts with no later material came from pit 9 in Trench A, although later finds in pit 5 came from the surface of the feature with only medieval sherds from the main fill.

5.3 The post-medieval wares consisted of 26 sherds (358g) of a variety of Developed White and Yellow Wares (19-20th century), late Stoneware (18-19th century), Local Red Earthenware (16th-mid 18th century), Cistercian Type Ware (16-17th century) and one possible Mocha Ware (18-19th century).

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The evidence revealed during the desk top study would suggest that the majority of the assessment area remained undeveloped until the construction of the Cattle Market by 1878, and the opening of the railway in 1863. Until the mid-19th century the area of Clawdd y Gaer would appear to have been open ground with the only documented building being that identified on John Wood's survey of 1834, which may have been built over the line of the town defences. It is possible that the foundations of this building survive beneath the hardcore make-up for the car park.

6.2 From the available cartographic sources it would seem likely that the town defences follow the south-west boundary of the site running south-east from the chapel behind Bethel Square, where the position of the ditch was confirmed by excavation (Locock 1996), and across the Car Park at the south-west corner of the site.

- 6.3 The results from the trial excavations have shed some further light on the development of the assessment area. Although no direct evidence was revealed for any buildings within the areas investigated, Trench A produced evidence of possible medieval occupation in the form of two pits (5 and 9), as well as an undated posthole. Both pits contained sherds of medieval pottery, although pit 5 also produced later material from the surface of the feature. The nature and position of these features would be consistent with an interpretation as pits to the rear of a property fronting Free Street, not identified within the areas investigated, but possibly one of those identified on Speed's survey of 1610. Similar features have been excavated at within a number of Welsh medieval towns, including Montgomery (Britnell and Jones 1989) and New Radnor (Jones forthcoming). The dating of the pottery and the evidence provided by the surveys of Speed and Meredith might suggest that a building or buildings once stood along the Free Street frontage, founded sometime the medieval period and being abandoned or demolished between 1610 and 1744.
- 6.4 The results from the four 2 x 2m excavations (Trenches B-E) revealed the area to consist of made-up ground extending beyond the base of the pits at 1.3m below present ground level. Features and layers recorded within these trenches indicate successive dumping of material, possibly from the early 16th century until the construction of the cattle market in the late 19th century. Alternatively, this material could represent a short period of dumping which contained residual finds within this date range.
- 6.5 Auger samples from Trenches B, C and D appear to indicate made-up ground extending to depths of 2.13m, 2.44m and 2.40m all of which are within the general depths of made-up ground expressed in the results derived from Boreholes 3 and 4 and Test Pit 4. None of these, however, offer any firm evidence of the course of the Town Ditch.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 CPAT wish to thank the staffs of the National Library of Wales and of the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales both in Aberystwyth and the staff of the Powys County Archive, Llandrindod Wells. Thanks are also given to Mr David Moore of Brecon Museum and to Mr Peter Dorling of Brecon Beacons National Park. Thanks also to Pat Frost and Mark Kings for their expert and willing assistance during the course of the excavation.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Britnell, J.E. & Jones, N.W., 1989. Pool Road, Montgomery: Excavations within the Medieval Town, *Montgomeryshire Collect.* 77, 41-72.
- Colvin, H.M., 1963. *The History of the King's Works, 2: The Middle Ages*, London: HMSO.
- Dorling, P., 1991. 2 The Struet, Brecon, *Archaeology in Wales*, 31, 39.
- Johnson, Poole and Bloomer, 1997. *Site Appraisal of Proposed Redevelopment Land at the Cattle Market, Brecon, for a Food Retail Store and a Petrol Filling Station*: Draft Report.
- Jones, N.W., forthcoming. Excavations within the Medieval Town at New Radnor, Powys, 1991-2, *Archaeological J.*
- Locock, M., 1996. Bethel Square, Brecon: Excavations in the Medieval Town, *Brycheiniog*, 28, 35-79.
- Silvester, R.J., 1993. *Brecon Town Study*. CPAT Report No 58.
- Soulsby, I., 1983. *The Towns of Medieval Wales*. Chichester: Phillimore & Co. Ltd.
- Thomas, W.S.K., 1991. *Brecon 1093-1660: An Illustrated History*. Llandyssul: Gomer Press.
- Thomas, W.S.K., 1993. *Georgian and Victorian Brecon. Portrait of a Welsh County Town*. Llandyssul: Gomer Press.

Cartographic Sources

1610 map of Brecon by John Speed

Meredith Jones Ichnography of the Town of Brecknock, 1744

A survey of the Hon. William Morgan Esquire's Estates in the Parishes of St John the Evangelist and St David, Breconshire, 1761. Tredegar Estate Collection 1046, NLW

A survey of the Hon. William Morgan Esquire's Estates in the Parishes of St John the Evangelist and St David, Breconshire, 1761. Tredegar Estate Collection 671, NLW

A survey of the Hon. William Morgan Esquire's Estates in the Parishes of St John the Evangelist and St David, Breconshire. Tredegar Estate Collection 659 Map III, NLW

1834 Map of Brecon by John Wood

Brecon Tithe Map 1840

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2,500 1889, surveyed 1883 (Brec. 28.9 and 13)

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:500 1888

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1:2,500 1904 (Brec. 28.13)

APPENDIX 1**SMITHFIELD, BRECON****SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION
BY CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST****1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The proposed development of a block of land at the Smithfield, Brecon, involves the construction of a retail store with ancillary buildings, new access and car parking on land at the Smithfield Cattle Market. This land is currently largely given to stock pens at surfaced car parking.
- 1.2 This area lies on the northernmost edge of the defined historic core of Brecon in an area formerly known as Clawdd Y Gaer. The town wall and ditch are known to survive immediately south of the development area however the extent of historic settlement to the N of the defences is not presently known.
- 1.3 The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT Curatorial) in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority have determined that a field evaluation is necessary to assess the implications of the proposed development on the archaeological resource. Accordingly a brief (No EVB243, dated 24th September 1997) has been prepared by CPAT Curatorial which describes the scheme of archaeological works required.

2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of the evaluation are:
 - 2.1.1 to reveal by means of a combination of desk-based assessment and evaluation trenches, 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 archaeology revealed in the evaluation trenches;
 - 2.1.3 to prepare a report outlining the results of the field evaluation and incorporating sufficient information on the archaeological resource for a reasonable planning decision to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the area affected by the proposed development;
 - 2.1.4 to identify and recommendations options for the management of the archaeological resource, including any further provision for that resource where it is considered necessary.

3 Methods

- 3.1 Stage one of the evaluation will involve the examination of all the readily available primary and secondary records relating to this part of the town, including documentary and cartographic sources. Archives and repositories will include the County Sites and Monuments Record, The National Library of Wales, Powys County Archives, and RCAHMW.
- 3.2 Stage two will take the form of 10 trenches, each 2m long by 2m wide and a single L-shaped trench 15m x 2m. Where required these will be taken to a maximum depth of 1.2m below the existing ground surface. Consultation with the client and the curator will be necessary before this depth is exceeded.
- 3.3 The evaluation will be undertaken using standard evaluation procedures:
 - 3.3.1 breaking of the car park surface and removal of modern overburden by machine;

- 3.3.2 evaluation of the archaeological deposits by hand trowelling to establish their importance and integrity, but avoiding any unnecessary disturbance of the deposits. All features encountered will be examined as fully as appropriate to fulfil the requirements of the evaluation and within the constraints imposed by time and safety considerations.
- 3.3.3 all archaeological contexts recorded using the standard numbered context system employed by CPAT. All significant contexts to be planned and/or drawn in section at appropriate scales (as defined in the Curatorial Brief), and photographed in monochrome and colour. All drawn records will be related to control points depicted on modern maps.
- 3.3.4 all archaeological artefacts and environmental samples recorded and processed in a manner appropriate to the material involved. Those requiring conservation or other specialist treatment will be stored in a stable environment until such times as they can be examined by a specialist. All finds, except those deemed to be Treasure Trove, are the property of the landowner. It is anticipated that they will be donated to the appropriate local or regional museum, subject to agreement being reached with the landowner and the museum curator.
- 3.4 Following the on-site work an illustrated and bound report will be prepared according to the principles laid out in the Curatorial Brief (section 7). This will be in A4 format and contain conventional sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology; Historic Background; Excavation; Conclusions and Recommendations and References, together with appropriate appendices on archives and finds.
- 3.5 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 3 skilled archaeologists under the direct supervision of an experienced field archaeologist, who will also be responsible for undertaking the desk-based assessment. Overall supervision will be by Dr A Gibson, 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 the same field archaeologist who conducted the evaluation.
- 4.3 It is anticipated that the assessment and evaluation will take no more than 10 days in all and that the subsequent report would be prepared immediately thereafter, dependent on the client's instructions and the arrangement of a suitable timetable. The date of commencement, at the time of writing, has yet to be agreed with the client, and will be dependent on the state of the site and agreed access. The archaeological curator will be informed of the detailed timetable and staffing levels when agreement has been reached with the client.
- 4.4 Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 4.5 CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance.

A.M. Gibson
Projects Manager

Appendix 2

Site Archive

- 47 Context record forms
- 1 A1 site drawings
- 2 Colour slide films CPAT CS97/53 and CS97/55
- 2 Black and white negative films, contacts and archive prints CPAT 650 and 658
- 2 Colour print film CPAT 651-2

Photographic catalogue

Finds

Medieval pottery	26 sherds	(266g)
Post-medieval pottery	28 sherds	(358g)
Brick/tile	2 frags	(31g)
Clay pipe	22 frags	(45g)
Bottle glass	8 frags	(32g)
Animal bone	10 frags	(77g)

Context 3

6 sherds	64g	Developed Yellow Ware
18 sherds	61g	Developed White Ware
3 sherds	70g	Stoneware
4 sherds	57g	Local Red Earthenware
5 frags	22g	Green bottle glass
14 frags	29g	Clay Pipe, including 1 bowl frag with spur and partial maker's mark and 1 stem stamped – TAYLOR
2 frags	19g	Animal bone
2 frags	14g	Oyster shell

Context 6 (Pit 5, Trench A)

8 sherds	50g	Medieval pottery. Min. 2 vessels: Jug with thumb-frilled base, exterior patchy green glaze; jug with clear glaze.
2 sherds	84g	Medieval jar with internal green glaze
3 sherds	64g	Red Earthenware, poss. Late medieval or early post-medieval
1 sherd	9g	Developed Yellow Ware
1 frag	3g	Clay pipe stem
3 frags	26g	Animal bone

Context 8 (Pipe trench 7, Trench A)

1 sherd	1g	Medieval green glazed jug
2 frags	2g	Clay pipe stem
1 frag	3g	Green bottle glass
1 frag	1g	Animal bone

Context 10 (Pit 9, Trench A)

2 sherds	63g	Late medieval/early post-medieval jar, internal mottled glaze
2 sherds	4g	Medieval jug, external mottled glaze
3 sherds	36g	Medieval green glazed jug
2 sherds	5g	Medieval jug with external mottled glaze
1 sherd	3g	Medieval green/brown glazed jug
1 sherd	1g	Medieval dark green glazed jug
1 frag	1g	Green bottle glass
1 frag	4g	Animal bone

Context 21 (Layer, Trench C)

1 sherd	3g	Cistercian Ware
1 frag	6g	Clay pipe stem

Context 28 (Layer, Trench D)

3 sherds	17g	Medieval jug base
2 frags	2g	Clay pipe stem

Context 34 (Layer, Trench B)

1 sherd	21g	?Mocha Ware
1 sherd	12g	?Cistercian Ware
2 frags	31g	Brick
1 frag	6g	Green bottle glass
1 frag	2g	Clay pipe bowl
1 frag	13g	Animal bone

Context 45 (Posthole 44, Trench E)

1 sherd	2g	Medieval jug, patchy external glaze
1 frag	1g	Clay pipe stem

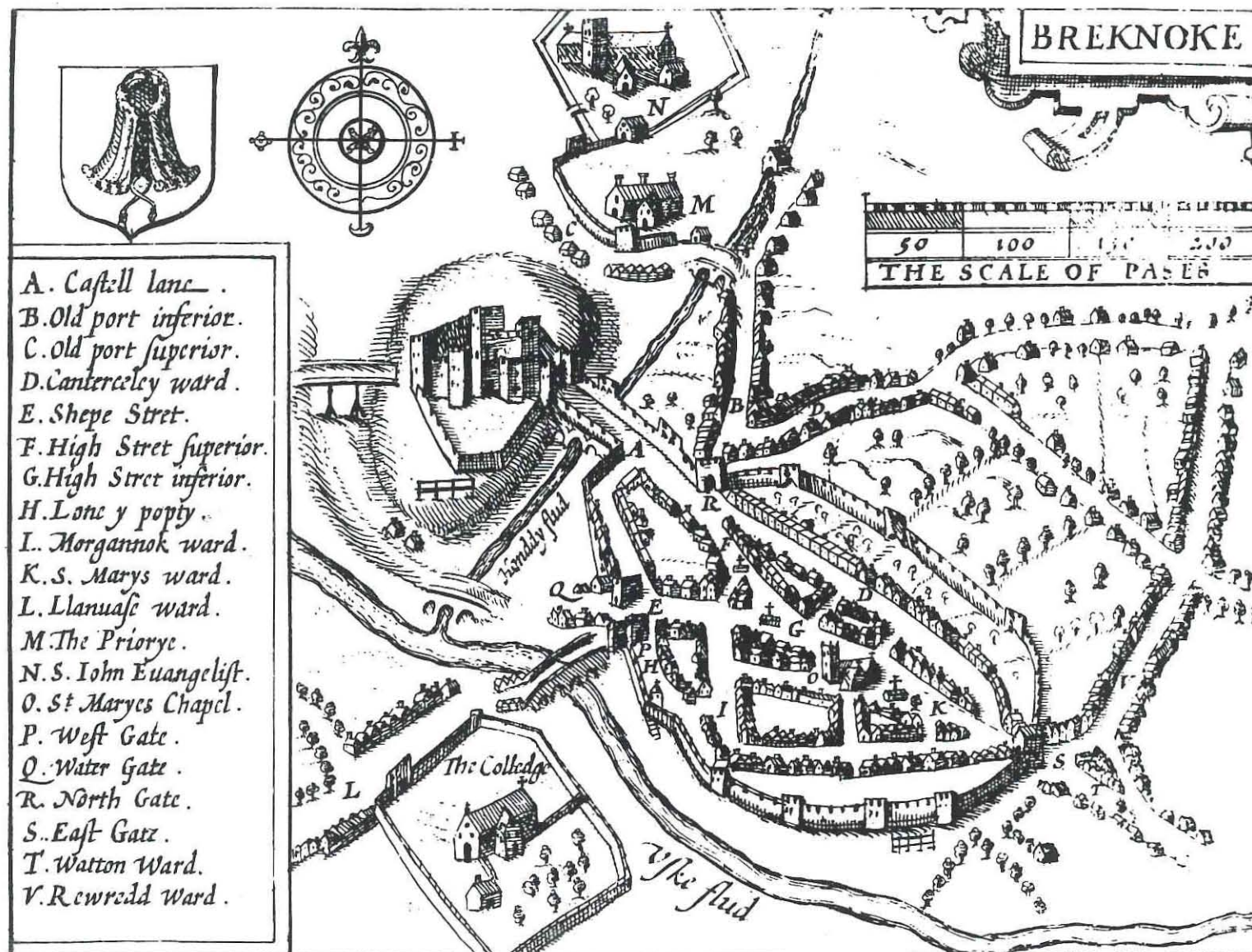


Fig. 1 Map of Brecon by John Speed in 1610

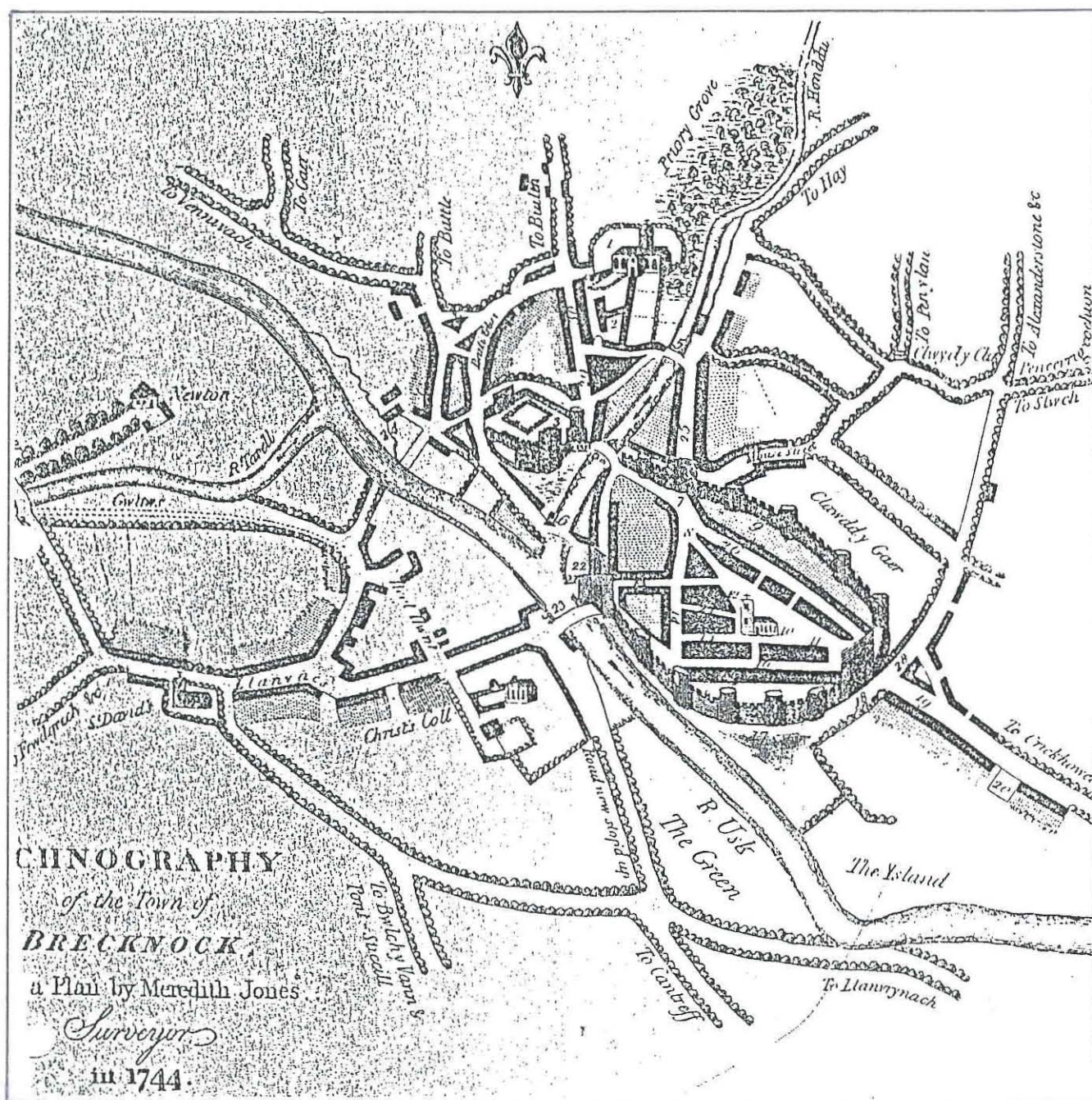


Fig. 2 Meredith Jones Ichnography of the Town of Brecknock, 1744

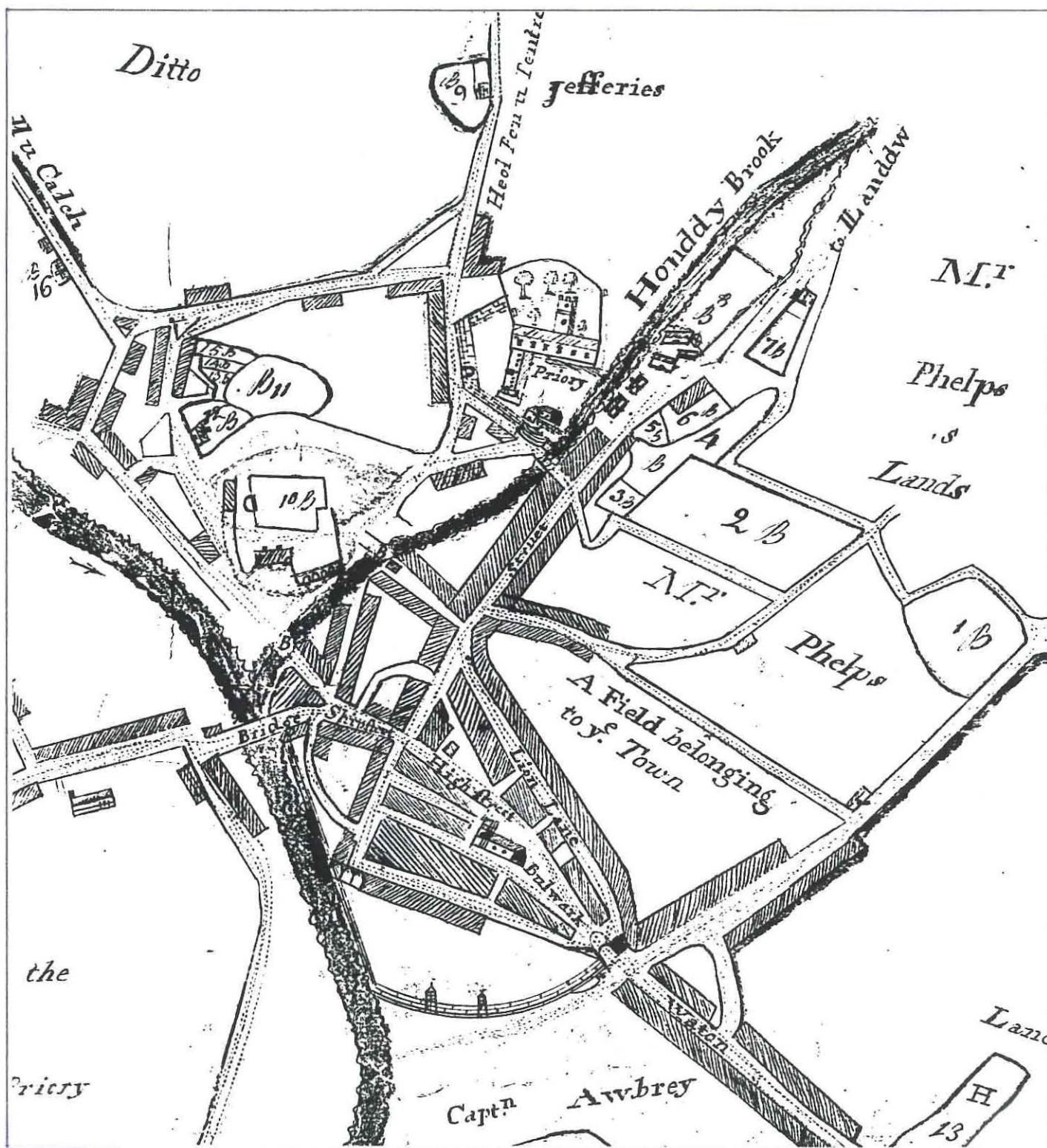


Fig. 3 A survey of the Hon. William Morgan Esquire's Estates in the Parishes of St John the Evangelist and St David, Breconshire, 1761. Tredegar Estate Collection 1046, NLW

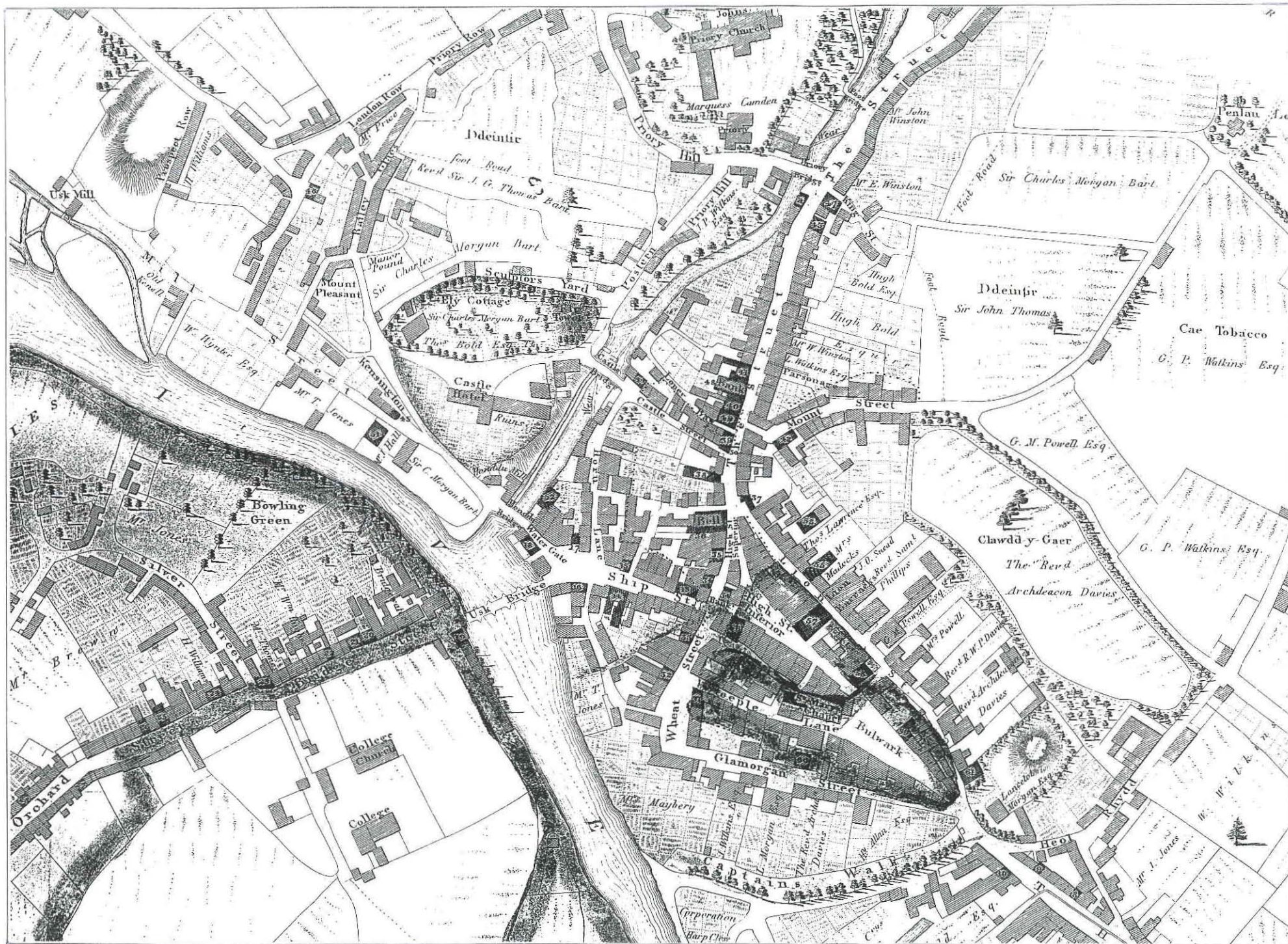


Fig. 4 Map of Brecon by John Wood, 1834



Fig. 5 Brecon Tithe Map 1840

Fig. 6 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2,500 1889, surveyed 1883 (Brec. 28.9 and 13)



Fig. 7 Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1:2,500 1904 (Brec. 28.9 and 13)

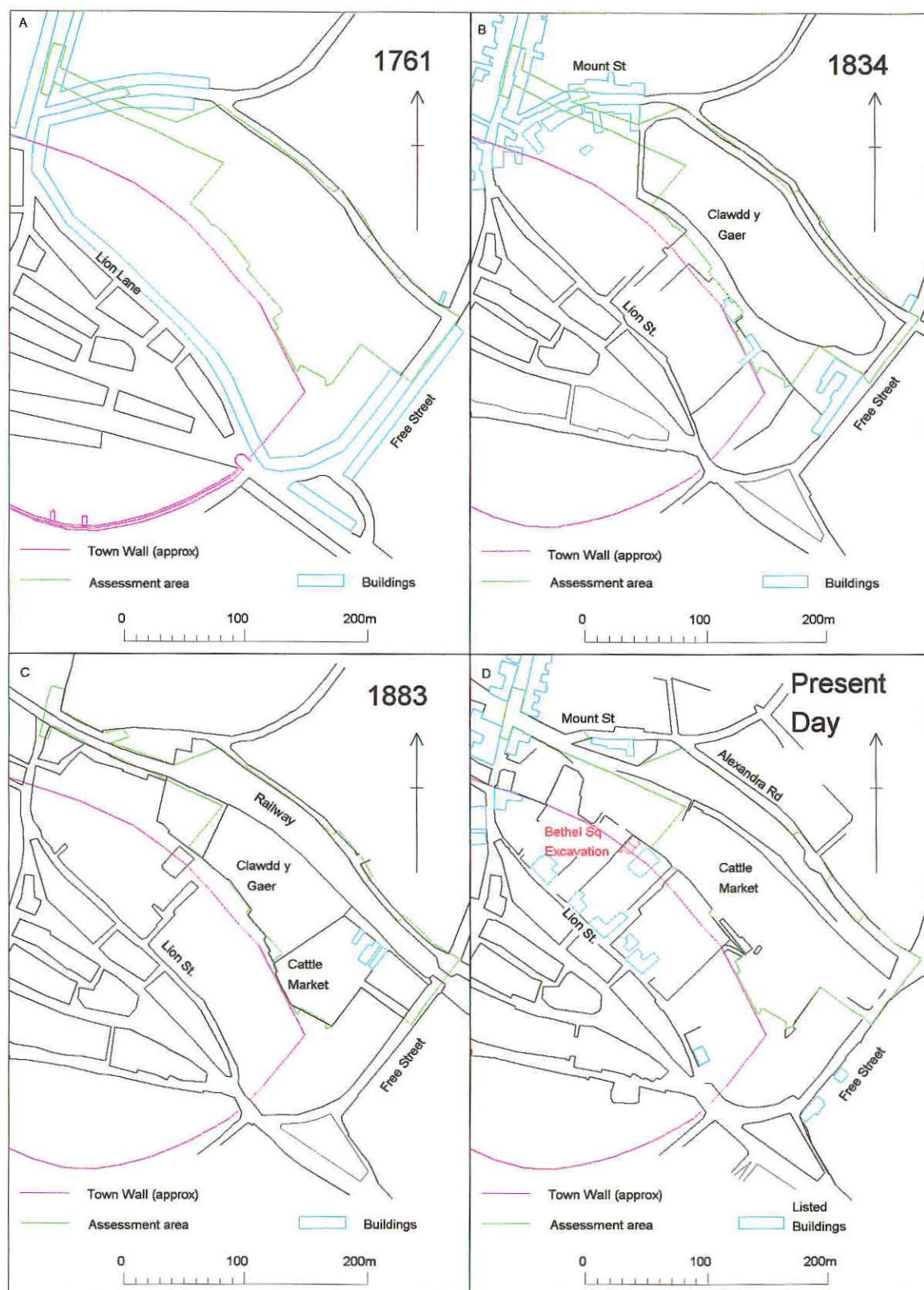


Fig. 8 Map Regression and Assessment Area location



Fig. 9 Trench Location

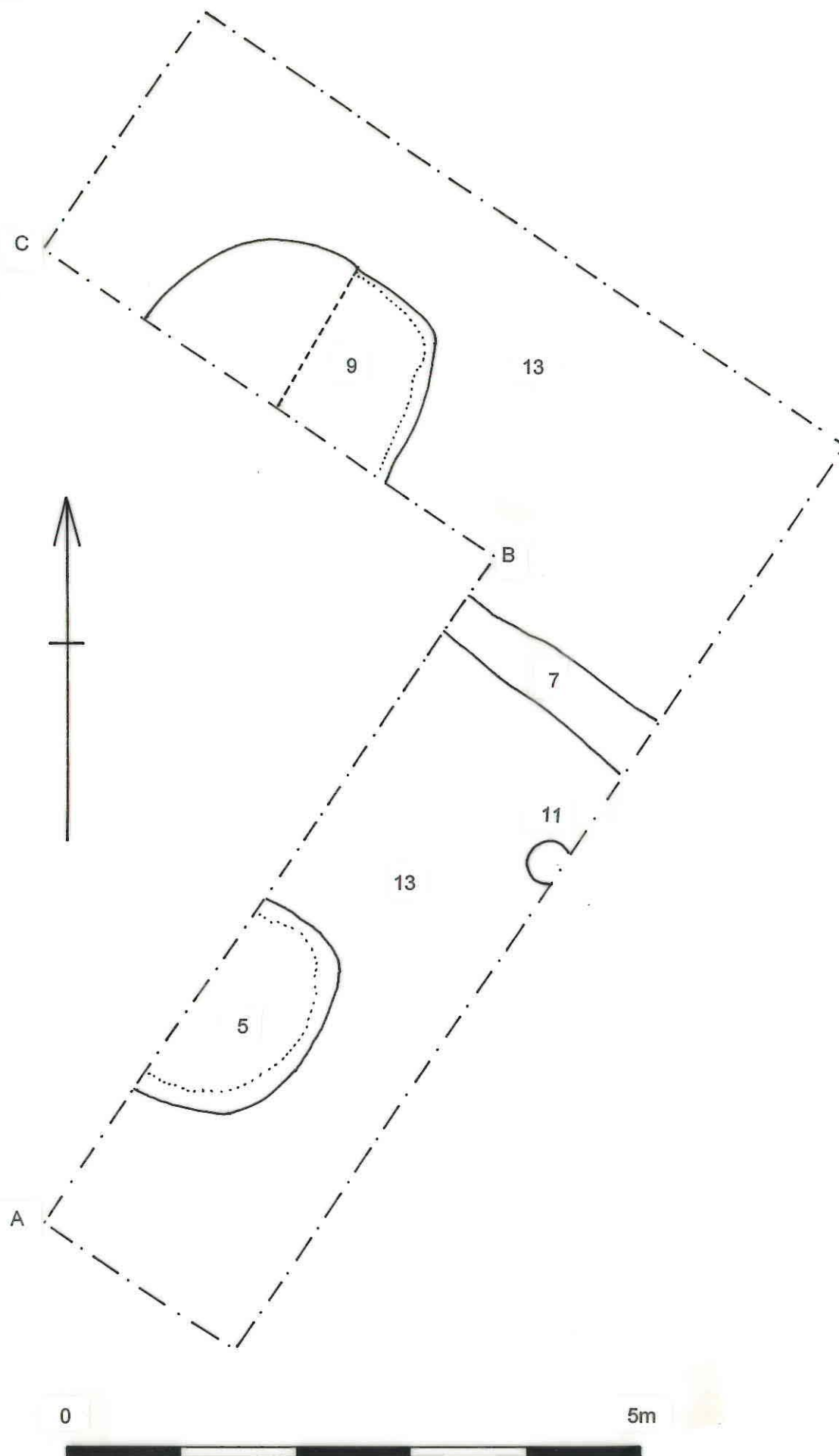
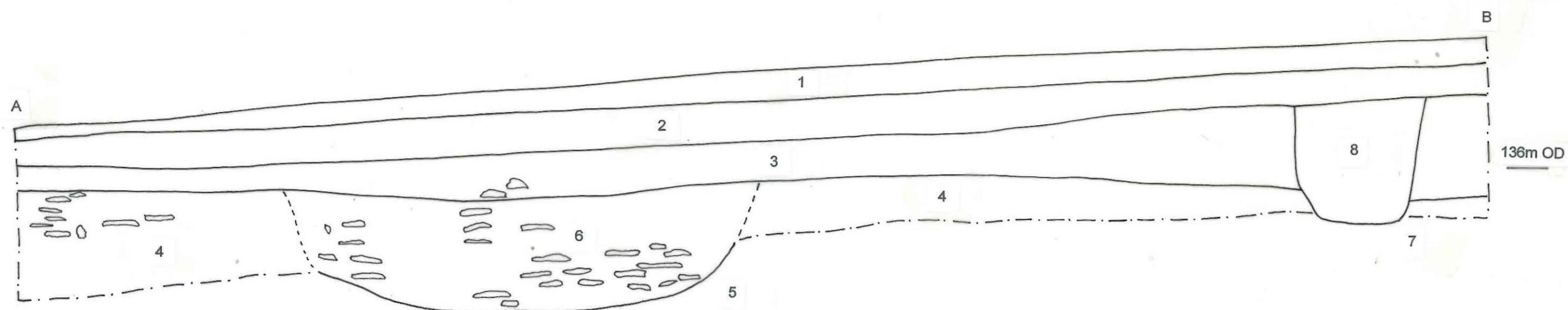


Fig. 10 Trench A Plan, scale 1:50

SW

NE



NW

SE

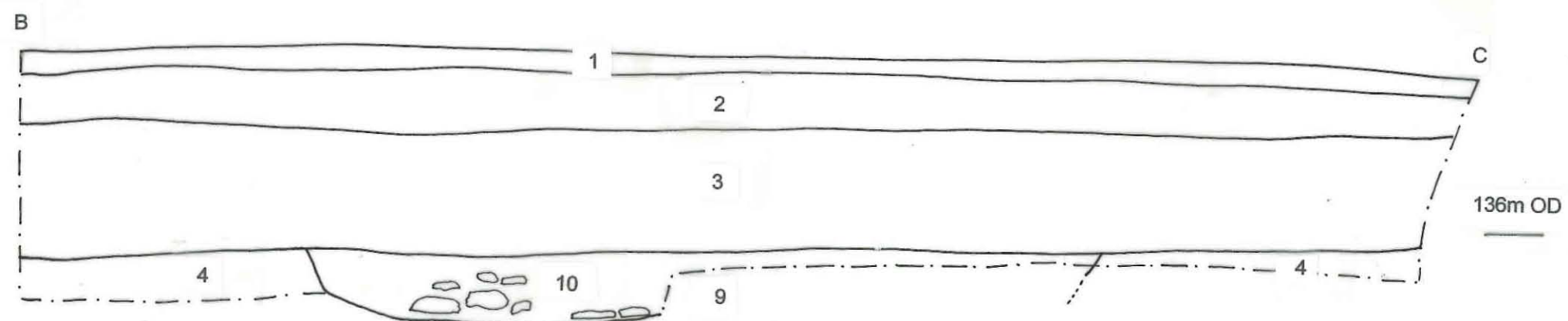


Fig. 11 Trench A Sections, scale 1:20

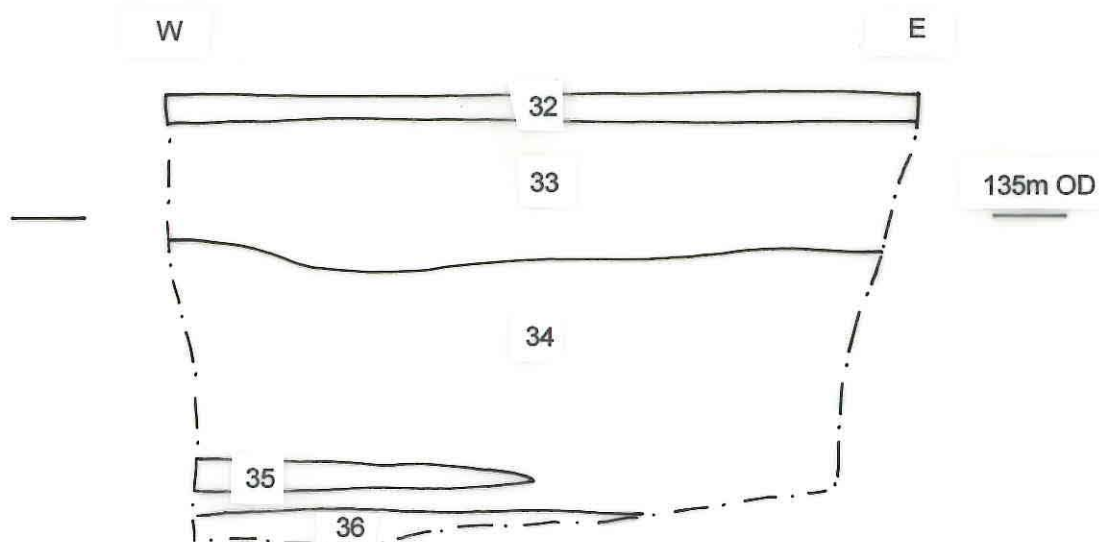


Fig. 12 Trench B Section, scale 1:20

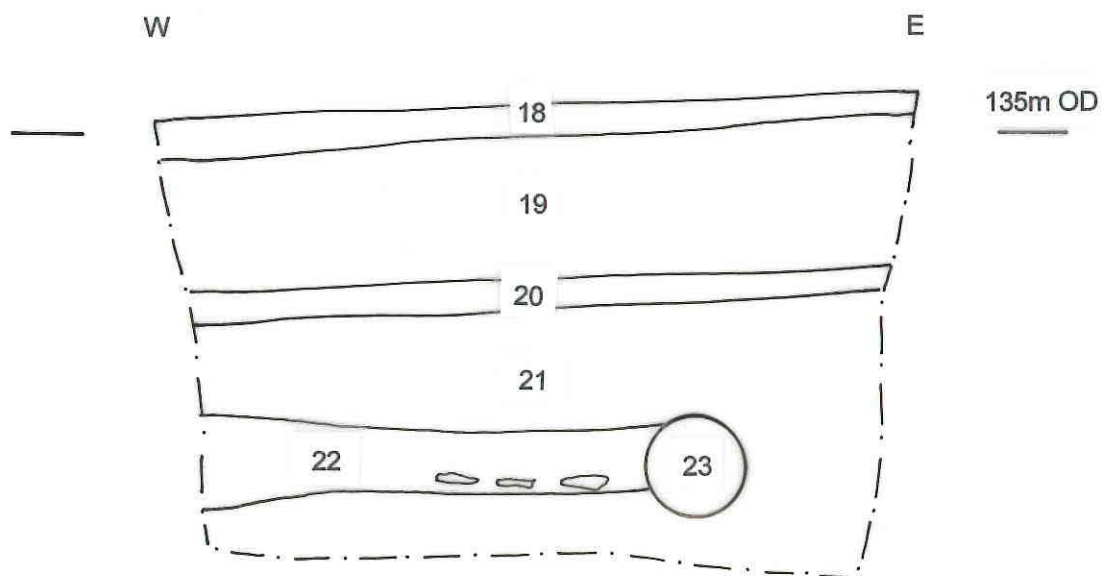


Fig. 13 Trench C Section, scale 1:20

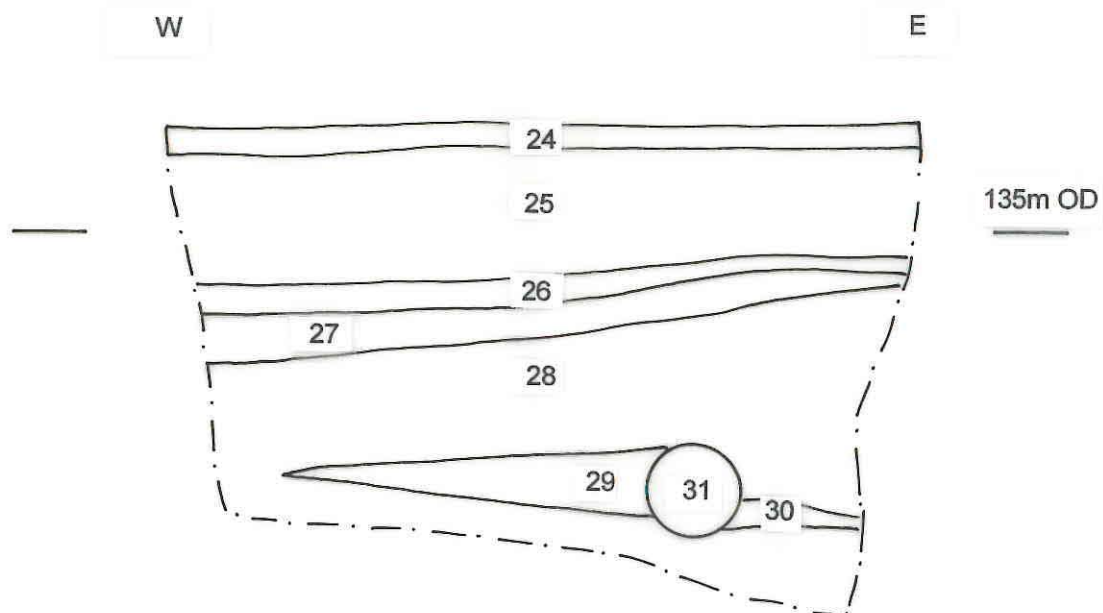


Fig. 14 Trench D Section, scale 1:20

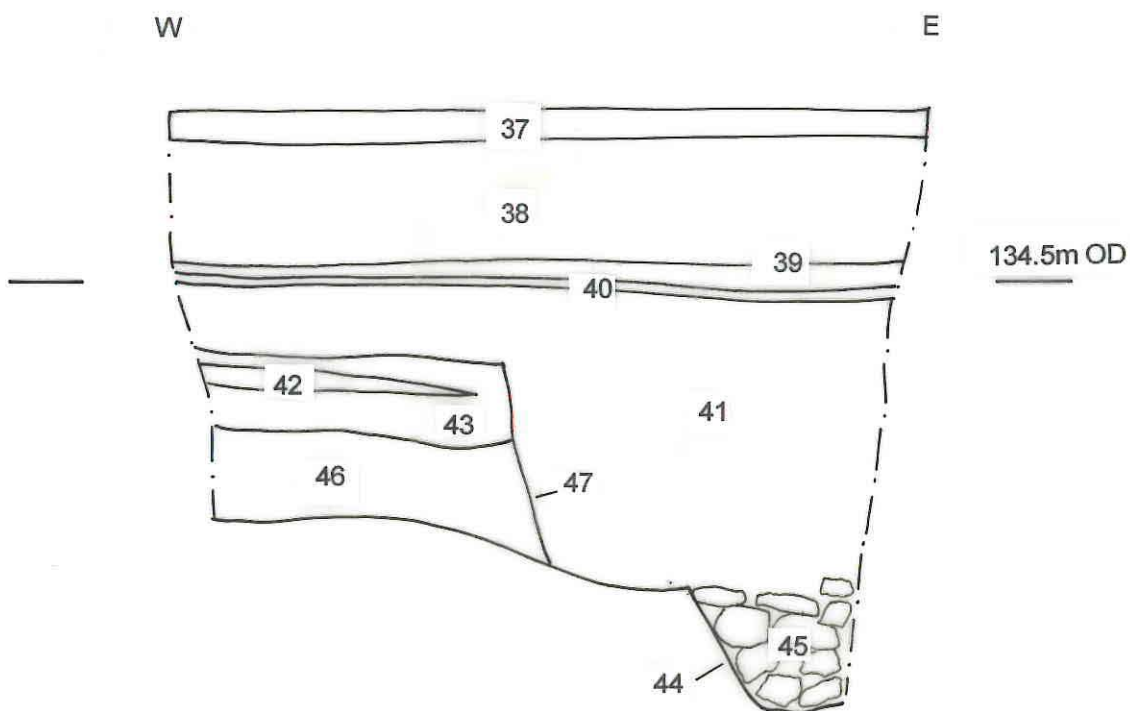


Fig. 15 Trench E Section, scale 1:20



Plate 1 Trench A from NE showing Pit 5 and pipe trench 7

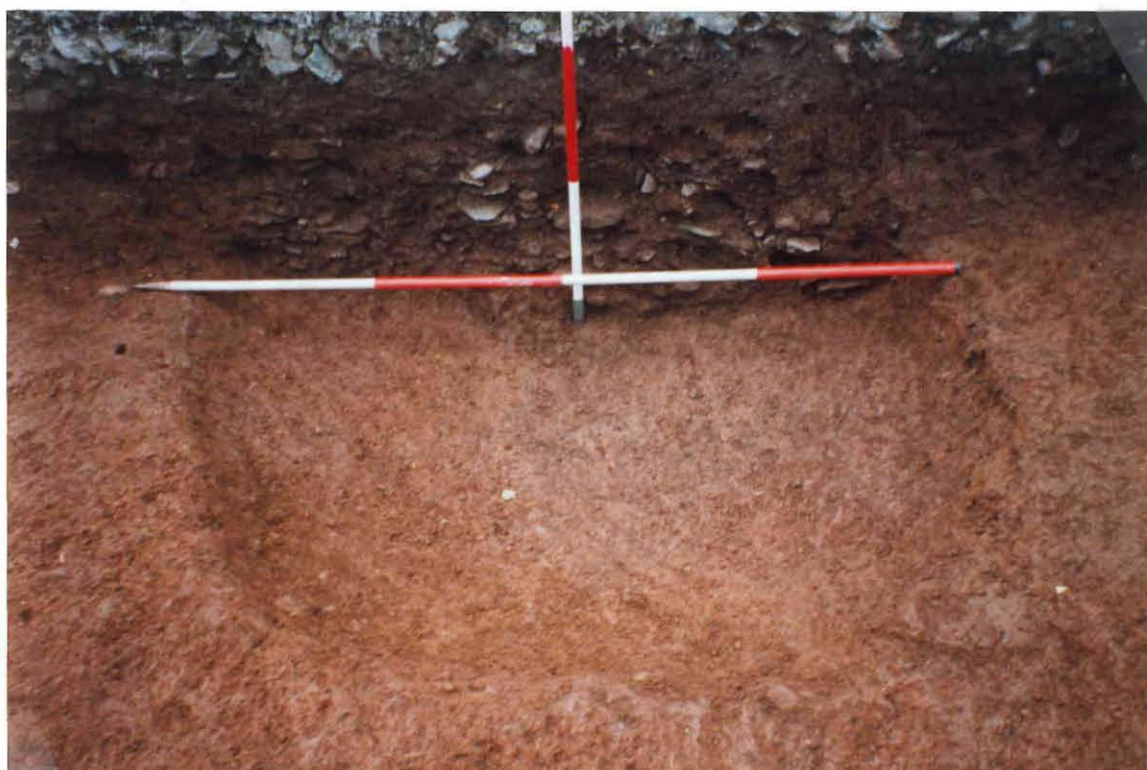


Plate 2 Trench A, pit 5 from SE



Plate 3 Trench A, pit 9 from NW

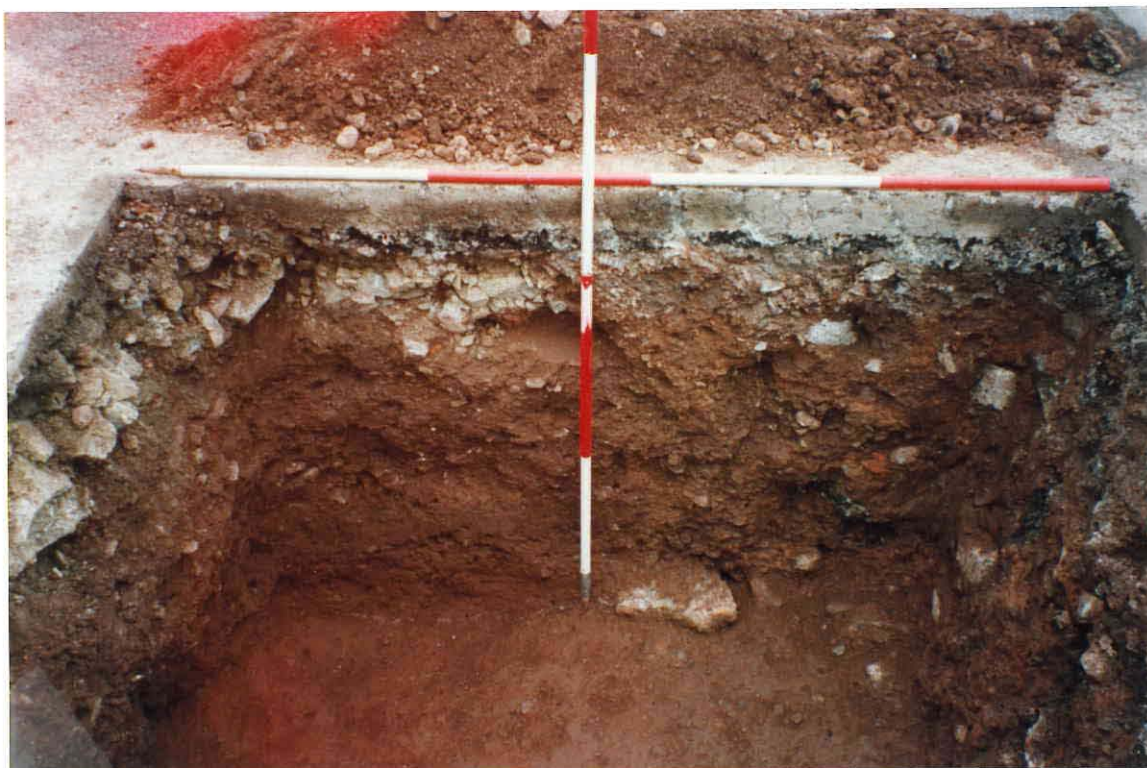


Plate 4 Trench B section from S

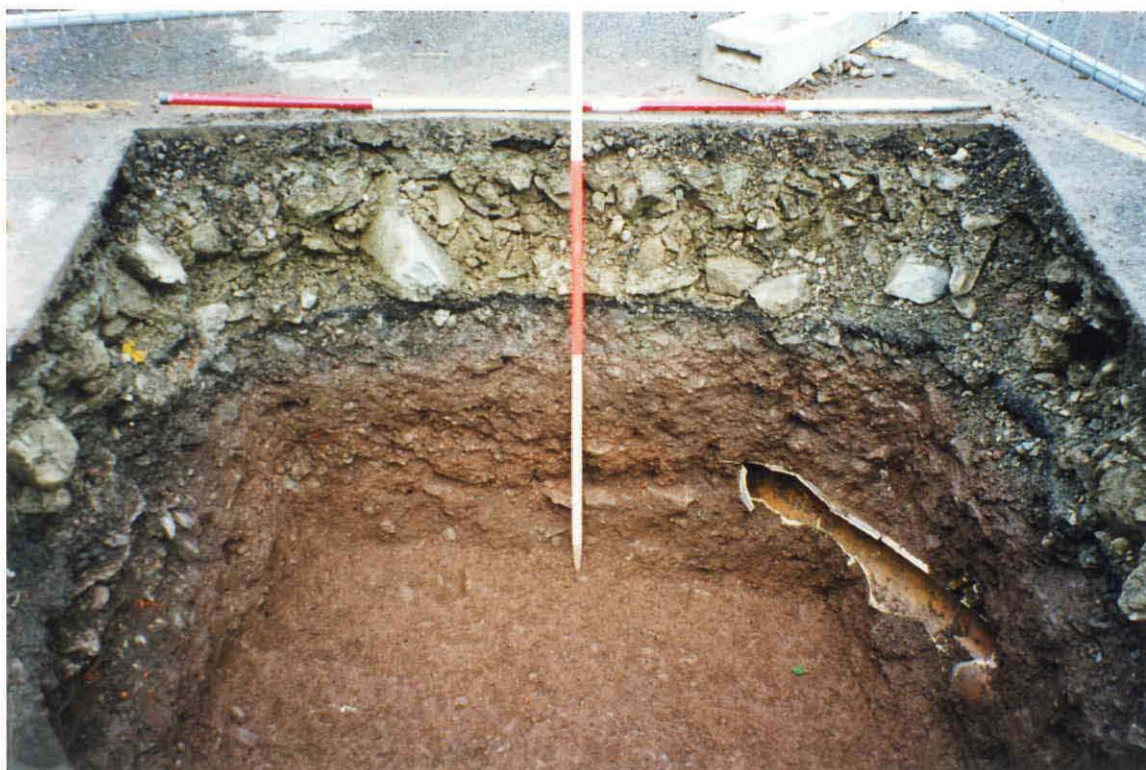


Plate 5 Trench C section from S

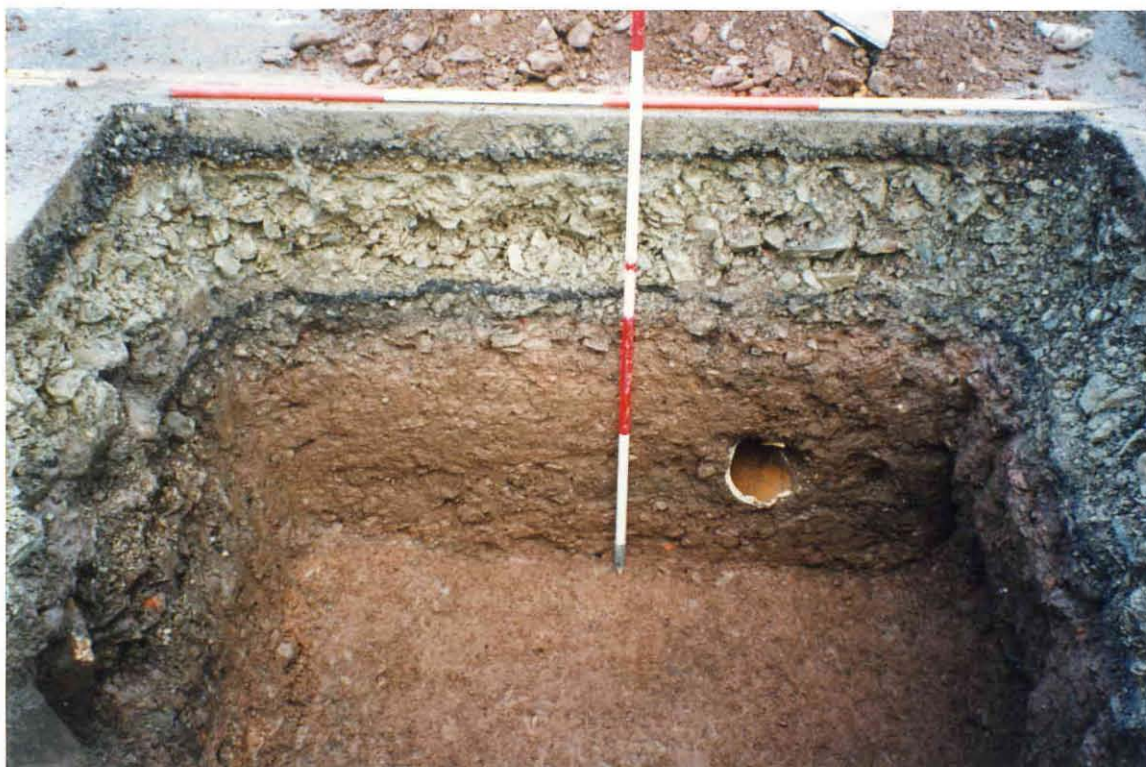


Plate 6 Trench D section from S



Plate 7 Trench E section and posthole 44 from S