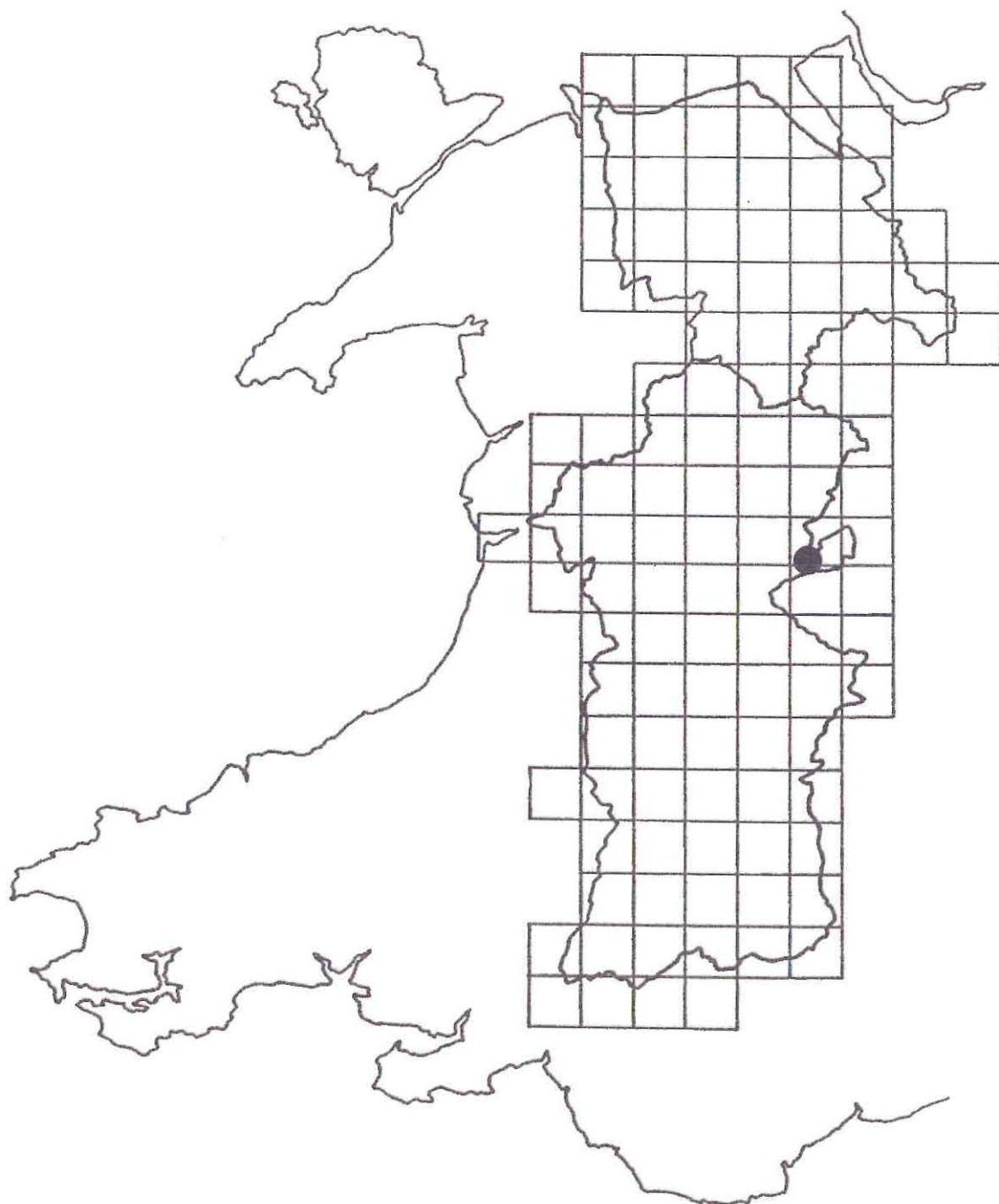


THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

*Back Lane, Montgomery*

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



CPAT Report No 1987

CPAT Report No198

*Back Lane, Montgomery*

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

by **D. Murphy**  
September 1996

Report prepared for D.E.Mills

**The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust**

7a Church Street Welshpool Powys SY21 7DL

tel (01938) 553670, fax 552179

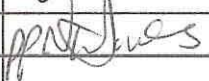
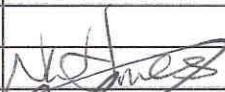
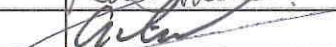
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## CPAT Report Record

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checked by	N.W.JONES		27/09/96
approved by	A.M. GIBSON		30/09/96

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## The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

7a Church Street Welshpool Powys SY21 7DL

tel (01938) 553670, fax 552179

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## **CONTENTS**

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND
- 3 THE WATCHING BRIEF
- 4 THE FINDS
- 5 CONCLUSIONS
- 6 REFERENCES
- 7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

APPENDIX I: ARCHIVE

APPENDIX II: SPECIFICATIONS



## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 On 23rd August 1996, the Contracts Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (hereafter CPAT Contracts) was invited by D.E. Mills Building Contractor to submit a quotation and specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief with limited excavation in response to the archaeological condition appended to the planning consent by Powys County Council (PCC) and the Design Brief prepared for PCC by the Curatorial Section of CPAT (No. WAT 184).
- 1.2 The development at Back Lane, Montgomery (SO 22259637; Fig. 1) involved the excavation of foundation trenches prior to the construction of a house and garage and formed the second stage of archaeological investigation at the site.
- 1.3 An Archaeological Evaluation had previously been conducted as a condition of planning consent to pre-determine the impact of the development on this disused garden plot (Murphy 1996).
- 1.4 The specification and quotation prepared by CPAT was accepted on 23rd August 1996 with the groundworks proposed for 27th August 1996.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The development at Back Lane lies within the historic core of the town and it was believed that medieval street-frontage buildings and associated activities may have survived in a relatively undisturbed state.
- 2.2 Previous excavation during the Archaeological Evaluation revealed evidence for occupation on the site, possibly dating to the late medieval or early post-medieval period. This consisted of a yard surface with a series of shallow drainage gullies, a pit containing fragments of medieval pottery and the footings and lower courses of a well-built faced stone wall.

## **3 THE WATCHING BRIEF**

- 3.1 Excavation works took place between 27th August and 3rd September 1996 under the supervision of the writer. In the following text, numbers in brackets refer to individual contexts recorded in the site archive.
- 3.2 Seven trenches (Fig. 2) were machine-cut to a maximum depth of 1.2m below the existing ground surface to enable building foundations to be established.
- 3.3 Trenches A, D, E, and F were excavated to the natural subsoil or to a maximum safety depth of 1.2m and no archaeological remains of any significance were uncovered.
- 3.4 At the eastern end of Trench B a faced stone wall with a corner return (0160; Fig. 3) was uncovered. The western section of the wall had been damaged by the construction of a manhole inspection pit for a sewage pipe (0120). This wall was bonded in yellow clay and finds associated with it suggest that it may have been constructed during the early post-medieval period. The wall is a continuation of that uncovered in the previous Evaluation (Murphy 1996, Fig. 6 0107).
- 3.5 Trench C (Figs 4 & 5) revealed the continuation of the bowl-shaped pit (0130) uncovered in the previous Evaluation (Murphy 1986, Fig. 6 0115). Health and Safety restrictions precluded the full excavation of this feature but it was found to measure nearly 5m in total length and at least 0.4m below existing natural subsoil. Finds contained in the pit reinforced the medieval date previously concluded in the Evaluation.
- 3.6 Trench G contained the continuation of both walls previously uncovered in the Evaluation. To the west of Trench G was a wall (0152; Fig. 6) of modern or later post-medieval date and 1m to the west of this wall was a faced stone wall (0153) bonded in yellow clay. This wall was part of the same wall uncovered in Trench B.

#### 4 THE FINDS by N.W.Jones

- 4.1 The watching brief recovered 1 sherd of Roman pottery, 53 sherds of Medieval pottery, 12 sherds of transitional Medieval/Post-medieval pottery and 43 sherds of Post-medieval pottery. Other finds included fragments of clay pipe, glass, iron and a small assemblage of animal bone. Appendix 1 includes a catalogue of finds by Trench and context.
- 4.2 The single sherd of Roman Severn Valley ware, probably from a jar, is of some significance since although it was clearly in a secondary context (101), this is the first recorded Roman find from Montgomery.
- 4.3 Although 53 sherds of Medieval pottery were recovered, the only secure medieval assemblage came from pit 0130 (context 131), which produced 19 sherds. The remainder of the medieval pottery came from contexts containing later finds and must therefore be considered as redeposited. In general, the medieval pottery conforms to the assemblage from excavations at Pool Road, Montgomery (Britnell and Jones 1989), and would appear to be of fairly local manufacture dating to between the 13th and 15th centuries. An interesting difference is the presence of 3 sherds of Whitewares, which may have come from outside the region.
- 4.4 The Post-medieval wares ranged in date from 16th to 19th or 20th centuries, and included 12 sherds of possible Cistercian Wares from 16-17th centuries, a period of transition between medieval and post-medieval pottery types.
- 4.5 Several fragments of stone roofing tile were recovered, together with fragments of possible ceramic ridge tile and roofing finial, all of possible medieval date. This would suggest the presence of a substantially roofed structure, probably domestic, within the immediate area.

#### 5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The Watching Brief has confirmed the existence of occupation of likely later medieval and early post-medieval date associated with probable street-frontage occupation. The large rubbish pit (0130) produced a reasonable assemblage of pottery of that period, and the stone wall (0160) may well be a contemporary feature, as could be the yard surface and gullies identified during the initial evaluation. The wall, with a short section of corner return made with slightly narrower coursing of stone and the number of stone roofing tiles suggests that this once formed part of a building. However, the nature of the Watching Brief has made interpretation of this site difficult due to the small area excavated and the safety limits necessary for work.

#### 6 REFERENCES

- Britnell, J.E., and Jones, N.W., 1989. Pool Road, Montgomery: Excavations within the Medieval town, *Montgomeryshire Collections* 77, 41-72
- Murphy, D., 1986. *Back Lane, Montgomery: Archaeological Evaluation*. CPAT Report No. 189.

#### 7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The co-operation and assistance of David Mills and Glyn Pritchard is greatly appreciated.



**Appendix 2: Site Archive****Site data**

62 Context record forms  
 2 A1 Site plans  
 2 B/W print films, contacts and archive prints (nos 510-11)  
 2 Colour slide films (nos CS96/35-36)  
 Photographic catalogue

**Finds****Trench A**

- 101 1 sherd (5 frags) Roman Severn Valley Ware  
 1 brick frag
- 107 1 clay pipe stem  
 1 animal bone  
 1 glass frag  
 3 brick frags  
 1 sherd stoneware  
 1 sherd slipware 17-18th
- 109 2 brick frags

**Trench B**

- 119 2 sherds ?Cistercian Ware 16-17th  
 2 sherds Coal Measures Redware 17-18th  
 1 Mochaware handle  
 2 sherds Coal Measures Slipware 17-18th  
 2 transfer printed Developed Whiteware sherds 19-20th  
 1 frag bottle glass
- 159 1 stoneware jar lid  
 4 transfer printed Developed Whiteware sherds 19-20th  
 1 bone china sherd  
 1 glass bottle  
 1 glass jar  
 1 glass stopper
- 161 4 sherds (9 frags) Medieval jug body/base angle 13-15th  
 6 misc Medieval body sherds 13-15th  
 1 (2 frags) ? Medieval roofing finial 13-15th  
 1 sherd Cistercian Ware 16-17th  
 3 animal bones

**Trench C**

- 128 1 sherd green glazed Medieval Whiteware 13-15th  
 10 misc Medieval body sherds 13-15th  
 1 sherd stoneware  
 1 sherd Coal Measures Redware 17-18th  
 1 clay pipe stem  
 2 frags brick  
 5 animal bones  
 8 animal teeth
- 131 1 sherd green glazed Medieval Whiteware 13-15th  
 1 incised Medieval jug handle stub 13-15th  
 1 Medieval jug rim sherd 13-15th  
 1 Medieval green glazed jug body sherd with incised line decoration 13-15th  
 2 Medieval green glazed jug body sherds 13-15th  
 13 misc Medieval body sherds 13-15th

3 Fe nails  
 2 Fe objects  
 12 animal bones  
 2 animal teeth  
 4 calcined bone frags

**Trench D**

139 1 sherd ?Cistercian Ware 16-17th  
 1 animal tooth

**Trench E**

143 1 Medieval jug rim sherd 13-15th  
 1 (3 frags) Medieval jug base 13-15th  
 3 misc Medieval sherds 13-15th  
 1 Green glazed ?Medieval floor tile 13-15th  
 12 sherds Coal Measures Redware 17-18th  
 1 Developed Whiteware 19-20th  
 1 Cistercian Ware rim sherd 16-17th  
 3 Cistercian Ware base sherds 16-17th  
 3 Cistercian Ware misc sherds 16-17th  
 5 brick frags  
 2 clay pipe stem  
 4 calcined bone frags  
 18 animal teeth/jaw frags  
 26 animal bone frags  
 1 Fe nail  
 3 Fe ?blade frags  
 1 ferrous slag frag

**Trench F**

148 1 Medieval green glazed Whiteware sherd 13-15th  
 3 sherds Coal Measures Redware 17-18th  
 2 brick frags  
 1 glass bottle frag  
 1 animal bone  
 1 clay pipe stem

**Trench G**

151 8 sherds Coal Measures Redware 17-18th

154 1 frag ?Medieval roof tile 13-15th  
 3 stone roof tile frags  
 1 glass frag  
 2 frags brick/tile  
 6 animal bone frags  
 1 Fe nail  
 1 frag ferrous slag

155 1 sherd (2 frags) Medieval jug handle stub 13-15th  
 3 misc Medieval jug body sherds 13-15th  
 1 sherd ?Cistercian Ware 16-17th  
 1 Fe object  
 1 clay pipe stem  
 2 stone roofing tile frags  
 6 animal bone frags  
 6 animal teeth

157 1 sherd stoneware 17-18th  
 1 red earthenware sherd 16-18th  
 1 frag bottle glass



## APPENDIX 2

### SPECIFICATION FOR A LIMITED EXCAVATION AND AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF BY CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The proposed development at Back Lane Montgomery involves the construction of a dwelling, garage and access drive on a currently vacant plot.
- 1.2 This area lies within the historic core of Montgomery and an evaluation by the CPAT Contracts has demonstrated that the site preserves generally deeply stratified traces of the medieval archaeology of Montgomery (Murphy 1996).
- 1.3 The Curatorial section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (hereafter CPAT Curatorial) in their capacity as archaeological curators for the county have determined that limited archaeological excavation and a watching brief is necessary to record the archaeological features prior to their destruction. Accordingly a brief has been prepared by CPAT Curatorial (No. WAT 184 dated 19th August 1996) which describes the scheme of archaeological works required.

#### 2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works are:
  - 2.1.1 to record the nature, condition, significance and, where possible, the chronology of any archaeological deposits and/or features revealed within the area of the proposed development during the development works in so far as these aims are possible;
  - 2.1.2 to prepare a report outlining the results of the watching brief.

#### 3 Methods

- 3.1 The watching brief will be carried out according to the guidelines submitted with the Curatorial Brief and will involve the examination of all the groundworks in the archaeological sensitive areas.
- 3.2 All archaeological deposits and/or features noted during the watching brief will be excavated and recorded by drawn section and/or photography.
- 3.3 Following the on-site work an illustrated and bound report will be prepared according to the principles laid out in the Brief (section 8). This will be in A4 format and contain conventional sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology; Historic Background; Catalogue of sites identified with notes on their condition and significance, 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).
- 3.6 The excavation will be submitted to a local journal for publication within one year of the completion of the fieldwork.

#### 4 Resources and Programming

- 4.1 The watching brief will be undertaken by a skilled and experienced archaeologist. 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 watching brief.
- 4.3 It is anticipated that the watching brief will take no more than five 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 negotiated 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.

## 5 Reference

Murphy, D. 1996. *Back Lane, Montgomery. Archaeological Evaluation*. Report No.189: CPAT.

A.M. Gibson  
20th August 1996



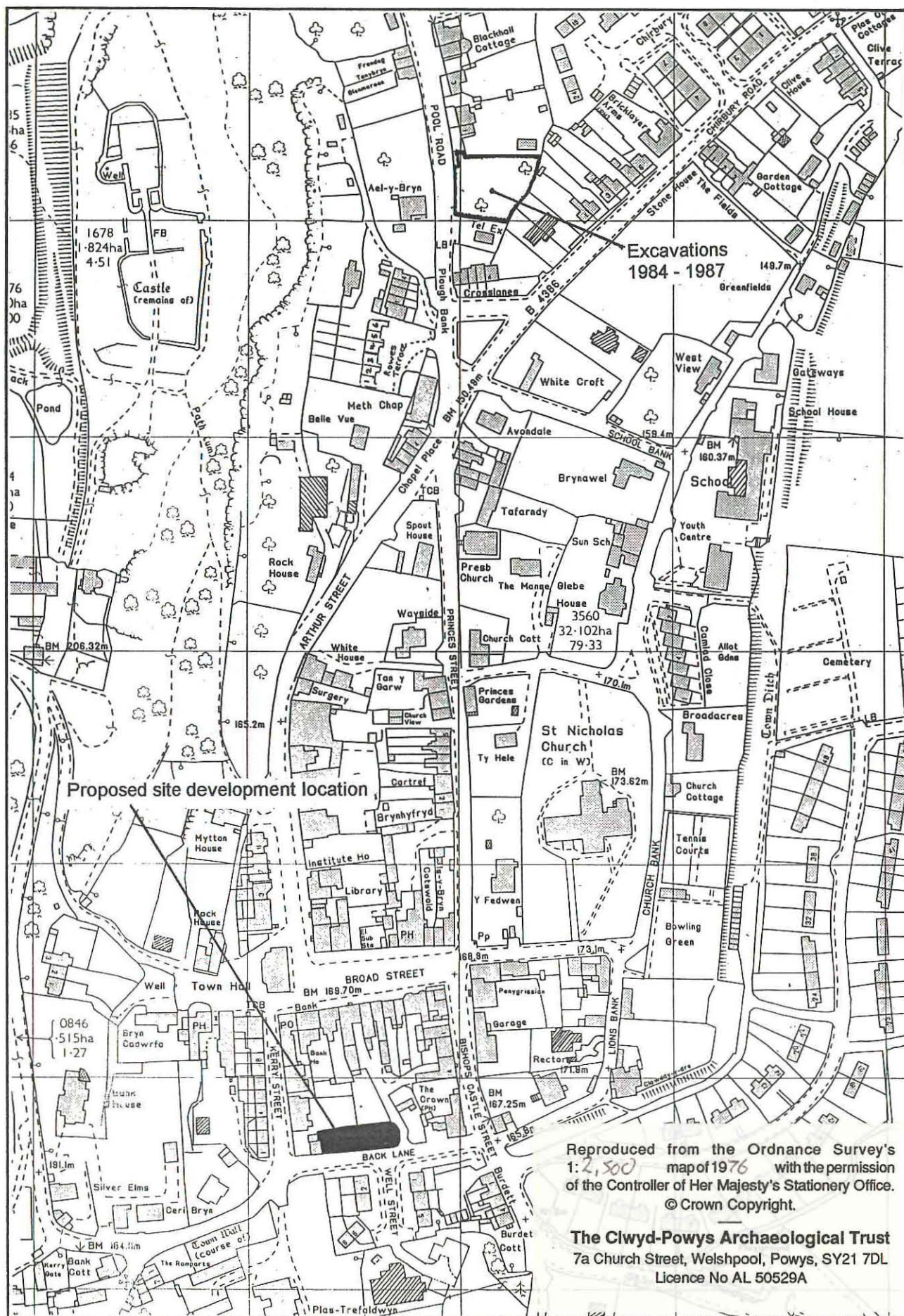


Fig. 1 Location 1:2500

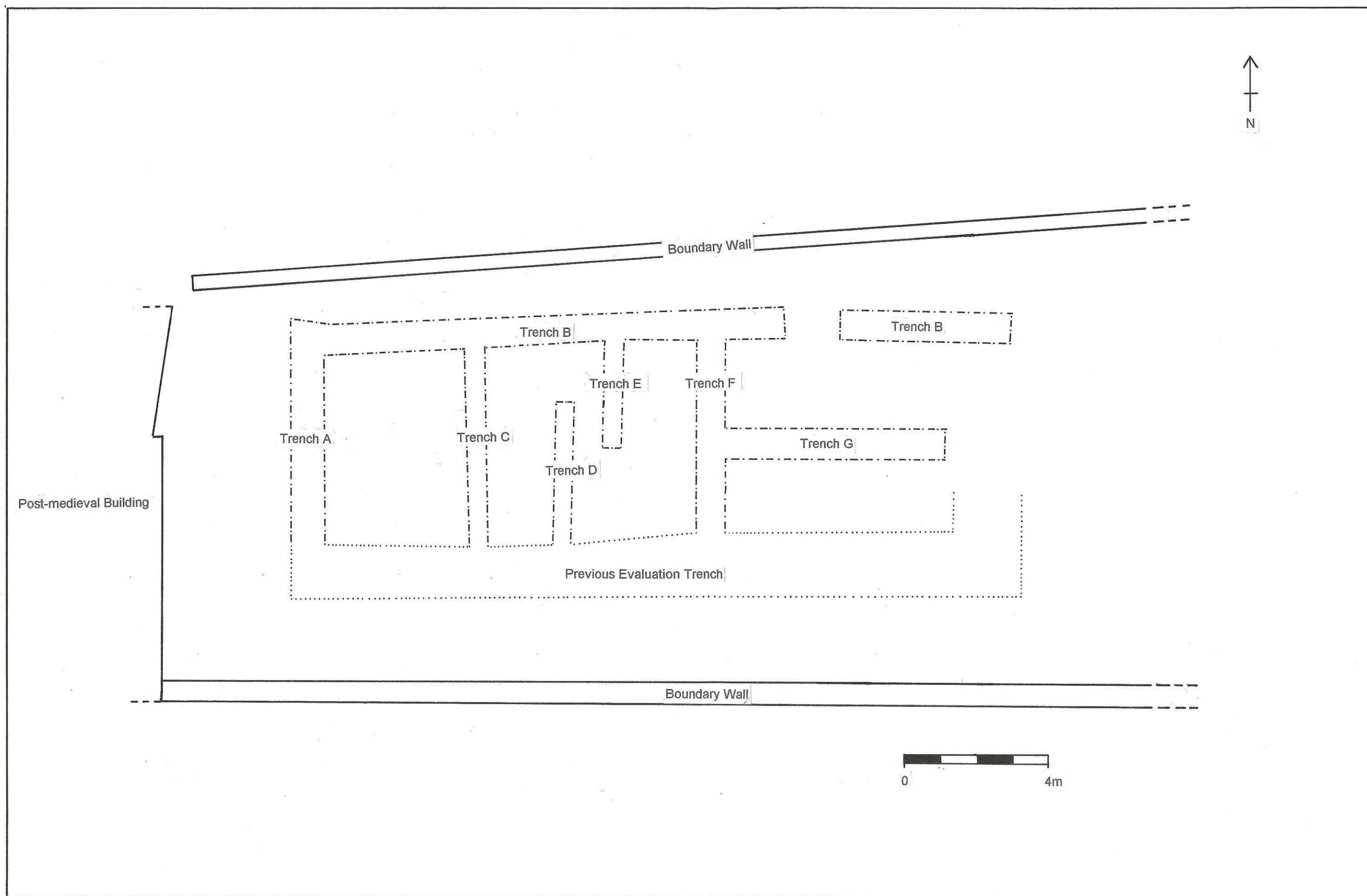


Fig 2 Location plan of trenches 1:100



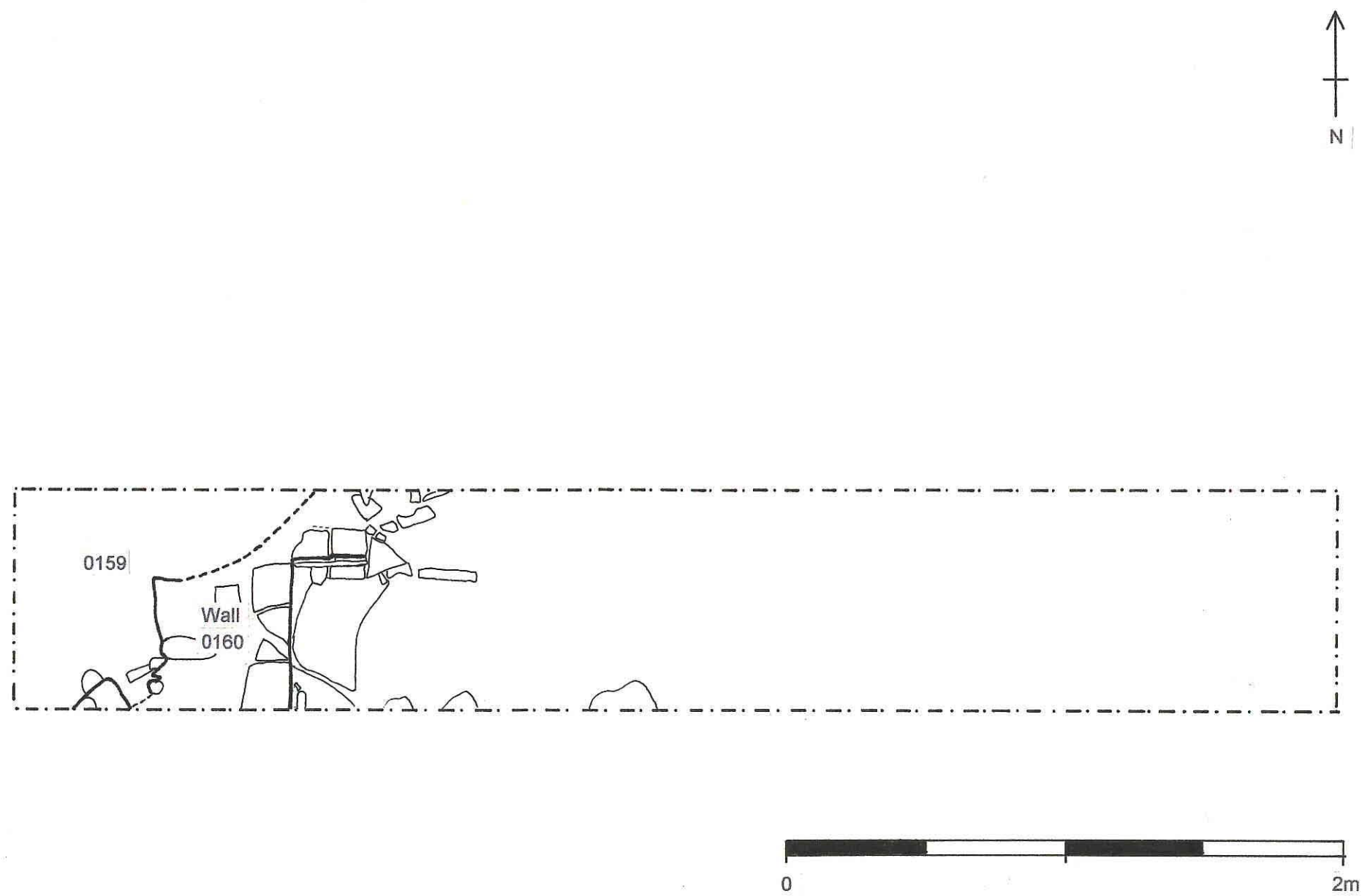


Fig 3 Plan of wall and corner in Trench B 1:20

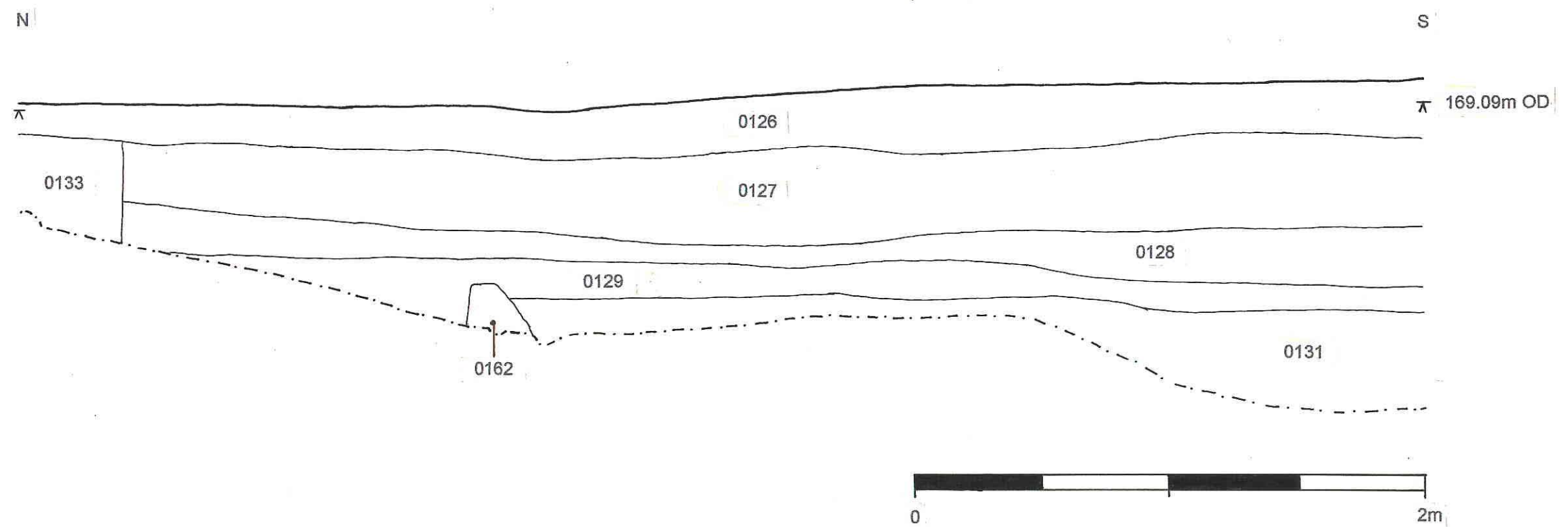
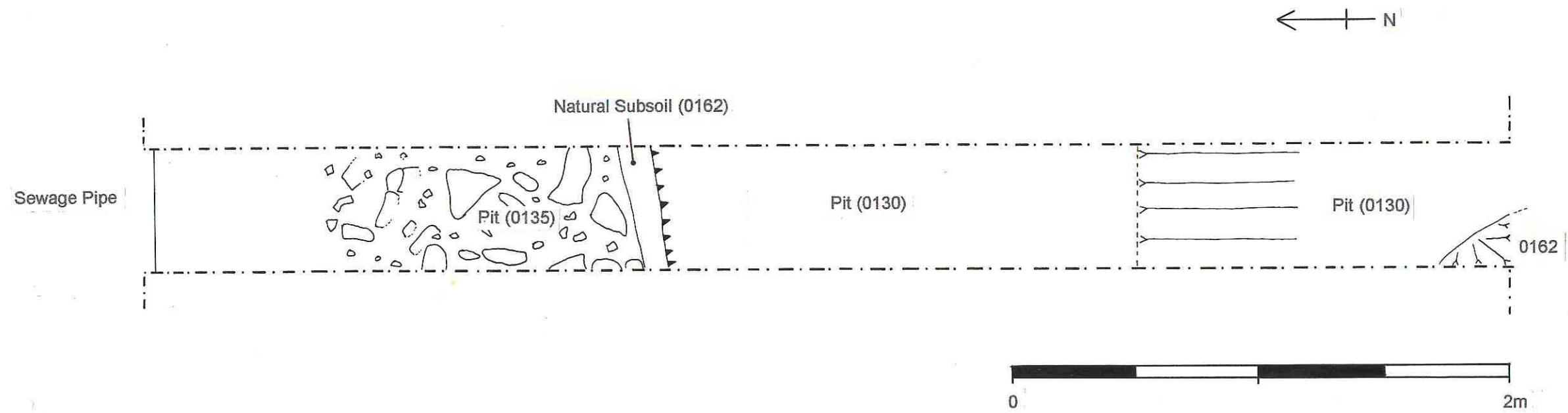


Fig 4 Plan of medieval pit in Trench C 1:20  
 Fig 5 Section of pit in Trench C 1:20

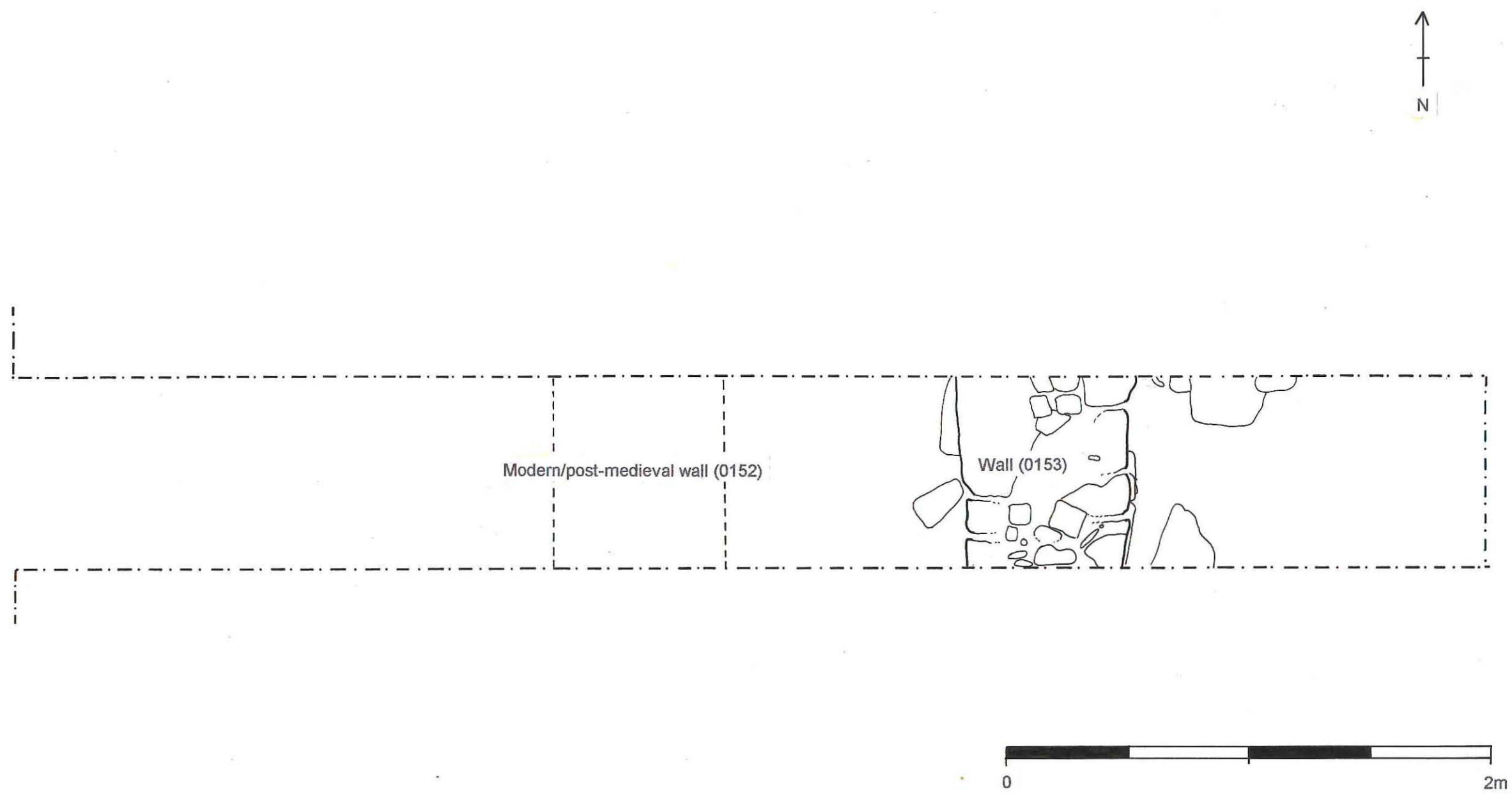


Fig 6 Plan of walls in Trench G 1:20