

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

*8 Church Street, Wellington, Shropshire*  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

**W G Owen**  
January 1998

Report for D B Roberts & Partners.

**The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust**

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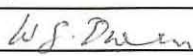


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## CPAT Report Record

### Report and status

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On December 9th 1997, the Contracts Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust was asked by The Hunt Wood Partnership, acting on behalf of their client D B Roberts & Partners, to submit a quotation and specification for an archaeological evaluation at 8 Church Street, Wellington, Shropshire based on a brief prepared by the Archaeology Service of Shropshire County Council.
- 1.2 An evaluation was considered necessary prior to the consideration of a planning application for extensions and alterations to 8 Church Street (Planning Application Ref WR97/0833) because the proposed development was situated within the historic core of the town which has its origins in the 13th century when it was established as a new town. The development site itself formed part of a block of tenement plots aligned on the early market place and Church Street and might, therefore, contain archaeological remains associated with the medieval and later development of Wellington.

## 2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

- 2.1 The development site is located on the eastern side of Church Street, Wellington at NGR 5565 0117 and at an altitude of 318mOD (Fig. 1). Topographically, the surrounding area is gently undulating but with a general fall towards the west and north-west.
- 2.2 Soils in the vicinity of Wellington are sandy loams of the Salwick Series (Rudeforth *et al.* 1984) derived from reddish till and glaciofluvial drift which itself overlies the Lower Coal Measures (Hains & Horton 1969).

## 3 THE EVALUATION

- 3.1 The evaluation, which was carried out on January 6th 1998, comprised the sample excavation of a single trench 5m long x 1.5m wide which was located in the yard area immediately to the rear of 8 Church Street (Fig. 2).
- 3.2 Excavation exposed a simple stratigraphic sequence of soils extending to the base of the trench at 1.20m (Fig. 3). The uppermost layer (1) consisted of a very dark brown, gritty clayey-loam varying in thickness from 0.30m in the southern half of the trench to a maximum of 0.80m in the northern half. It contained numerous brick and coal fragments and artifacts recovered from it were mainly glass and glazed pottery sherds of late Post-medieval date. A single course of modern brickwork 0.76m long (2), was exposed section in the south-western corner of the trench. The bricks were contained within the matrix of Layer 1 and were therefore of late Post-medieval origin. Further brickwork was visible at ground level to the south and west of the trench, which may represent the remains of a yard surface. Below Layer 1, along the western edge of the trench, was a layer of loose, yellow sand (3) max. 0.10m thick, which was more or less continuous apart from at the south-west corner of the trench where it faded out. It contained small patches of dark grey friable loam but otherwise was fairly clean. No finds were recovered from it. Below this, three successive layers revealed no artifacts and were interpreted as variations in the natural subsoil: a mid-grey clayey silt (4), a buff silty sand (5) and a firm orange clay (6).

## 4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The excavation revealed a shallow sequence of late Post-medieval soil layers lying directly on the natural subsoil. The only feature consisted of a layer of brick (2) at the south-west corner of the trench. No evidence was revealed for any features or deposits predating the late Post-medieval period.



## **5 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 As no features of archaeological significance were found during the evaluation no further archaeological provision is seen as necessary for this site.

## **6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 6.1 The writer would like to thank the staff of D.B. Roberts and Partners at 8 Church Street for their help during the course of the evaluation. Thanks are also extended to Mr. Gary Bird of Bird's Plant Hire.

## **7 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Hains, B.A., & Horton, A., 1969, *British Regional Geology: Central England*, British Geological Survey. London: HMSO.

Rudeforth, C.C., Hartnup, R., Lea, J.W., Thompson, T.R.E., and Wright, P.C., 1984, *Soils and their Use in Wales*, Bulletin No 11. Harpenden: Soil Survey of England and Wales.

## APPENDIX 1

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT 8 CHURCH STREET, WELLINGTON, SHROPSHIRE: SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION BY CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The proposed development of a block of land at 8 Church Street, Wellington (NGR SJ55650117) involves the construction of an extension to the present office buildings.
- 1.2 This area lies within the historic core of Wellington and occupies a plot of land that fronts onto what is believed to have been the market place for the Anglo-Saxon and post-Norman settlement and which comprised part of a block of tenement plots following the development of the 13thC new town.
- 1.3 The Archaeology Service of Shropshire County Council, in their capacity as archaeological advisers 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 (dated December 1997) has been prepared by Shropshire Archaeology Service 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 an evaluation trench, the nature, condition, significance and, where possible, the chronology of any 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 trench;
  - 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 the evaluation will take the form of one trench, 5m long by 1.5m wide. 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.
- 3.2 The evaluation will be undertaken using standard evaluation procedures:
  - 3.2.1 removal of modern overburden by machine;
  - 3.2.2 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.
  - 3.2.3 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.

- 3.2.4 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.
- 3.3 Following the on-site work an illustrated and bound report will be prepared according to the principles laid out in the Curatorial Brief (section 4). 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 one skilled archaeologist 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 evaluation will take no more than 2 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.

A.M. Gibson  
Projects Manager



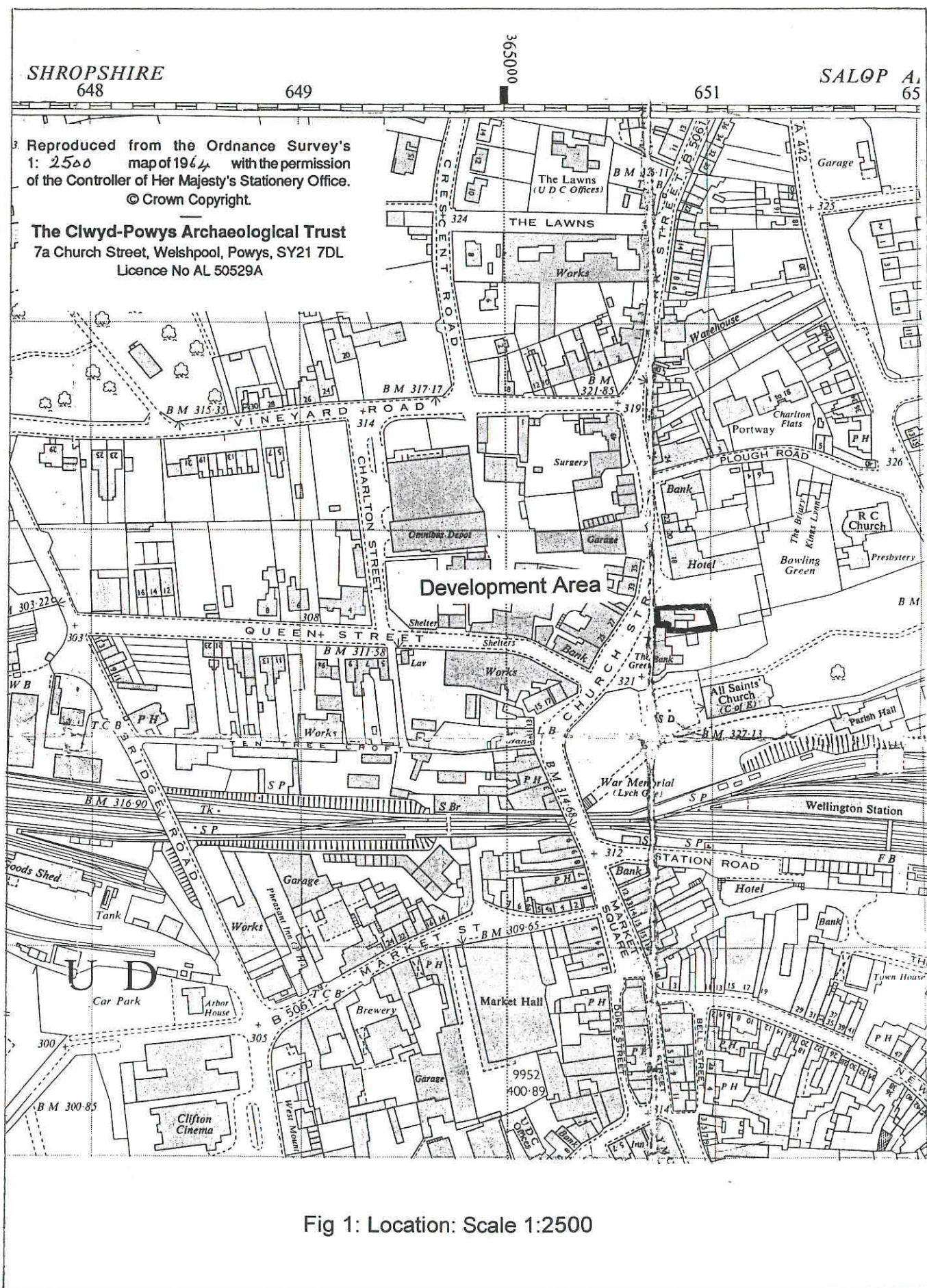
**APPENDIX 2**  
**SITE ARCHIVE**

**Site Data**

10 Context Record Forms  
1 A1 location plan and trench sections  
1 B&W negative film and contacts  
1 slide film  
Photographic catalogue  
Correspondence

**Finds**

5 sherds Post-medieval ware. Context 1. Not retained.  
3 clay pipe stem fragments. Context 1. Not retained.



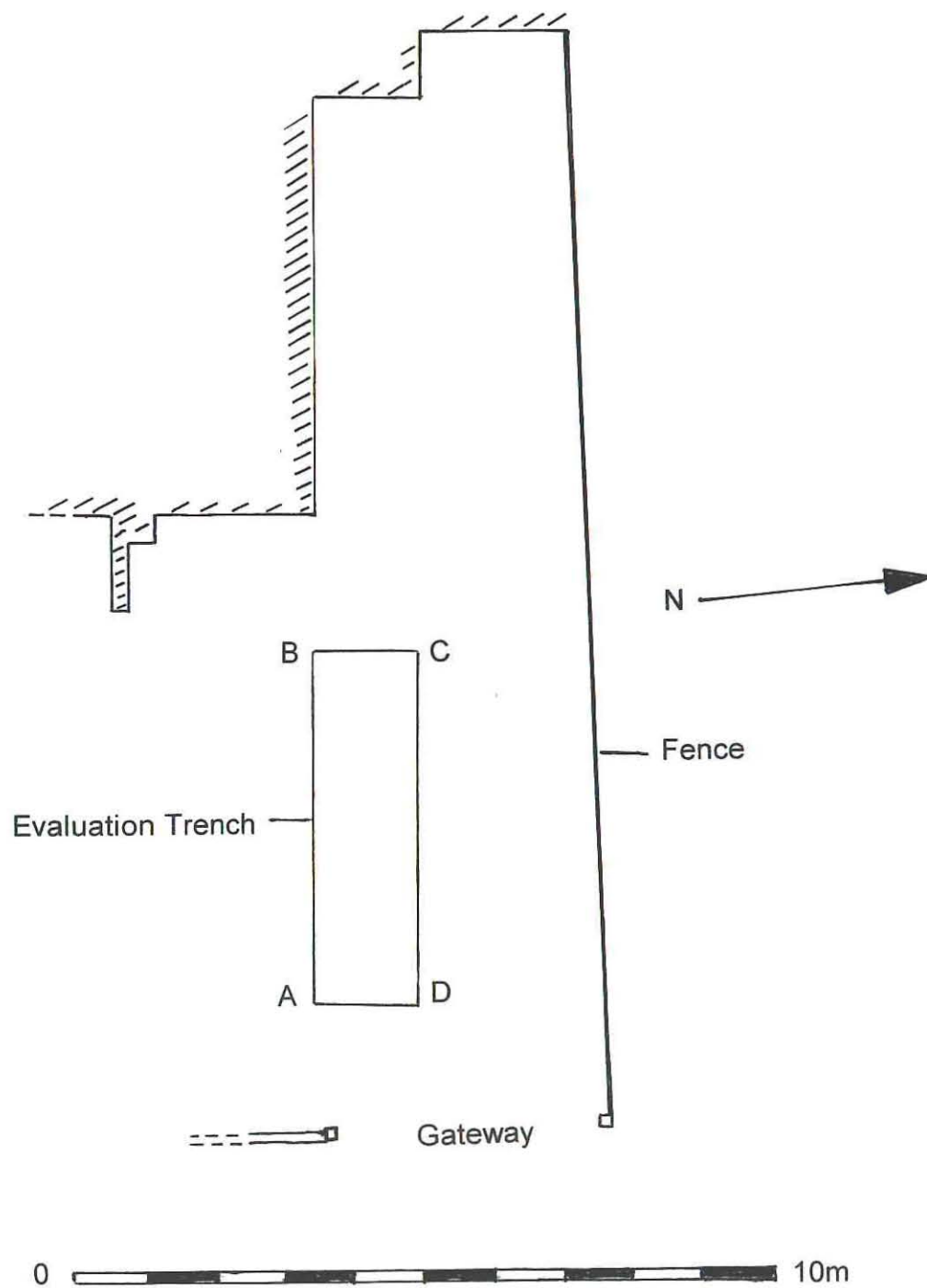


Fig 2: Trench Location: Scale 1:100



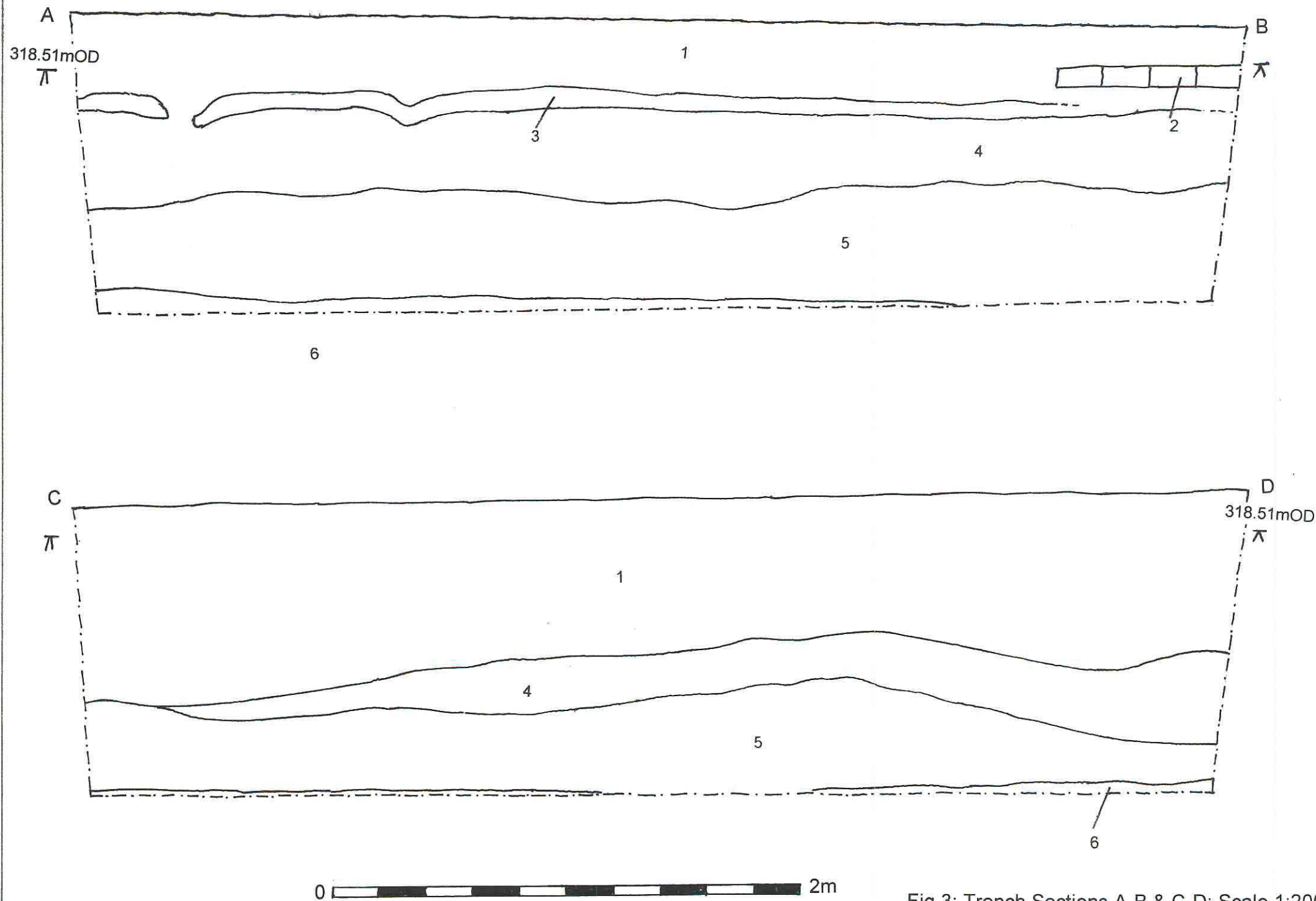


Fig 3: Trench Sections A-B & C-D: Scale 1:200