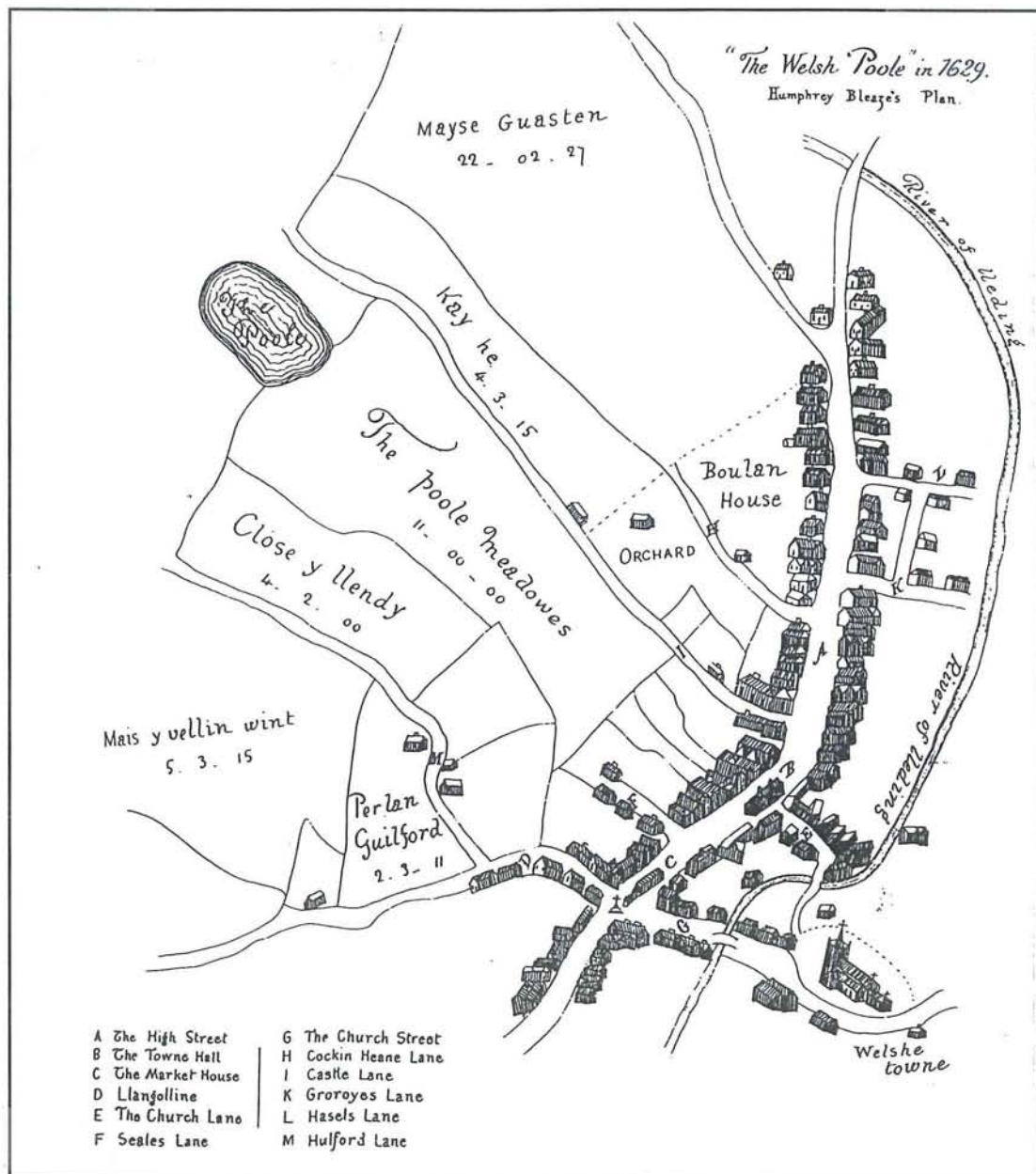


The Moorings, Mill Lane, Welshpool, Powys

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



CPAT Report No 486

**The Moorings, Mill Lane, Welshpool,
Powys**
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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August 2002

Report for Harry Ray & Company

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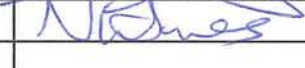
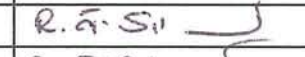
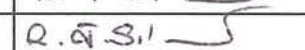


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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In April 2002 the Contracts Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was invited by Mr J Mason of Harry Ray and Company, Welshpool to prepare a specification and quotation for undertaking an archaeological evaluation on land adjoining The Moorings at Mill Lane in Welshpool, Powys. The evaluation was the subject of a brief drawn up by Mr M Walters of CPAT Curatorial Section (CPAT EVB 450), acting in his capacity as archaeological curator for the region.
- 1.2 Information held within the County Sites and Monuments Record indicates that the plot lies within what is perceived to be the early medieval historic core of Welshpool, in close proximity to the medieval cemetery thought to be associated with Capel Llewelyn. It was therefore assumed that the plot might contain deposits relating to what may have been the original Welsh settlement in the area.

2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 The area of the assessment lies to the east of the present town centre of Welshpool, on the south-west side of Mill Lane (fig. 1; SJ 22710759). The plot forms part of the garden belonging to The Moorings and is bounded to the north-east by Mill Lane, to the south-east by a car park and to the north-west by further housing.
- 2.2 The solid geology of the area mainly consists of undivided Ludlow and Wenlock Series siltstones and mudstones belonging to the Silurian period, though there is some local faulting which has exposed Caradoc Series siltstones and mudstones of the Ordovician period (1994 British Geological Survey map). The soils of the area generally consist of fine silty and loamy soils belonging to the Denbigh 1 Association (1983 Soil Survey of England and Wales map).

3 DESKTOP STUDY

- 3.1 Stage One of the evaluation involved the examination of all the readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic, pictorial, and photographic sources. Repositories consulted included the following: the Regional Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), held by CPAT at Welshpool; the National Monuments Record, held by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW) in Aberystwyth; the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth; and Powys County Archives in Llandrindod Wells.
- 3.2 Although the origins of the present town lie in the medieval period, there is some evidence of occupation dating back to the Roman period. During the construction of the nearby Smithfield in 1959 a probable Roman burial deposit was found (PRN 119), which was partially excavated by the National Museum of Wales in July 1960. All of the objects recovered were grave goods, although no trace of a pit or cist was identified. The grave goods included three bronze paterae (dishes) and a bronze ewer (jug), which were packed into a bronze cauldron and wrapped in a fine linen cloth and may have been packed in leaves. A sixth vessel was a wooden bucket with bronze bull's head handle similar to one from Kent. There was also an iron firedog which dates from AD150-200, two iron stands, the remains of a glass bottle and some sherd of pottery (Boon 1961, 13-31). The site of this discovery lies little more than 200m to the south-east of the proposed development.
- 3.3 Welshpool is said to have been the site of churches founded by St Cynfelyn and his brother Llywelyn in the 6th century; the latter has since been associated with the 'Old Church' which is known to have stood on the east side of Mill Lane. The most recent church on the site was erected in 1587 but was destroyed by fire in 1659, although some of its masonry remains were still visible until the 19th century (Soulsby 1983, 265). Part of the graveyard was identified during rescue excavations by CPAT in 1986-7, when 17 burials were located. Radiocarbon dates suggested that they belonged to the 13-14th century (Blockley 1987, 24-6). Further work in 1997 revealed the possible site of Capel Llewelyn (PRN 4438) in a garden to the rear of 37 Salop Road. It may be that the line of Mill Lane roughly followed the western boundary of the graveyard (PRN 16386).
- 3.4 Domen Gastell, a motte and bailey castle (PRN 120) c.350m to the south-east of the proposed development, may have been constructed as early as 1111, although the earliest possible reference

to it dates from 1196 (Silvester 1992, 167). There has been some suggestion that a settlement may have grown up around the castle, although no firm evidence has yet been found to support this hypothesis.

- 3.5 The present town developed as a deliberate attempt by Gruffudd ap Gwenwynwyn, Prince of Powys, to found a new borough. As such, this was a planned town which owed little to any existing settlement (Soulsby 1983, 266). The burgesses received a foundation charter in the 1240s and a market was recorded there in 1252 (Silvester 1992, 167). The new town followed a basically linear plan centred on High Street and Broad Street, with some development also along Church Street, Berriew Street and Severn Street. Interestingly, the parish church of St Mary's, which was refounded around 1250, lies further to the east, away from the centre of the town and in an area recorded by Humphrey Bleaze on his map of 1629 as 'Welshe town' (fig. 2). Although the map does not show the area of the proposed development, its location is within the general area of 'Welshe town', and it may be that Mill Lane was part of an early Welsh settlement which emerged between the motte and bailey castle and Capel Llewelyn.
- 3.6 A survey of the Estate of Mrs Victoria Lloyd, surveyed by John Rocque in 1747 (NLW M256) shows Mill Lane, although with no indication of any buildings on the street frontage, possibly because the area then was under different ownership. The condition of the map and copyright restrictions prevent any reproduction in this report. Although other pre-19th century depictions of Welshpool are available, none shows the area of the evaluation.
- 3.7 During the 19th century the evaluation area lay within the grounds of the Vicarage. The first record of a parsonage dates from 1684 (PRN 72012), although it may have been built in the 16th century. A new vicarage (PRN 72013) was built in 1819 for William Clive and this is depicted on the Tithe Survey of 1840 (fig. 3). The accompanying Tithe Apportionment indicates that the plot was exempt from tithes. A building is shown to the south of the plot, which appears in more detail on the large-scale Ordnance Survey (1:500) town map of Welshpool from 1885 (fig. 4). This clearly shows the area of the proposed development lying within the vicarage grounds with what appears to be a walled garden and greenhouse nearby. The evaluation area itself lies between the walled garden and Mill Lane, an area containing a number of trees.
- 3.8 The plot presently lies within the grounds of The Moorings, a modern brick-built house, and comprises an overgrown orchard within which are some contemporary features such as a low retaining wall. The majority of the vicarage's former grounds are now occupied by a car park.

4 EXCAVATION (Fig. 5)

- 4.1 Initially, the design brief (CPAT EVB 450) outlined a trial trenching strategy that would consist of a series of four machine excavated trenches, each 6m long and 1.5m wide. However, due to the density of the mature trees within the orchard, two of the trenches were combined into a single trench (Trench 1) following reservations aired by the client and in consultation with the curator. Machine excavations were undertaken under close archaeological supervision onto the surface of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, as required by the curatorial brief. A drawn, written and photographic record was maintained throughout the archaeological works (see Appendix 1). Context numbers, usually in brackets, refer to individual on-site records of different layers, and many will be found on the accompanying plans and sections.

Trench A (12.2m x 1.5m; Fig. 6 and Plates 1-3)

- 4.2 Trench A was located at the south-eastern side of the plot, extending from the Mill Lane frontage, aligned approximately north-north-east to south-south-west. An upper layer of fairly loose mid/dark brown sandy silt (01), 0.11m thick, and an underlying deposit of firm light/mid brown silty clay (02), 0.22m thick in the northern extent to 0.5m thick in the southern extent, were both removed by machine. Context 01, heavily disturbed by tree-root activity, contained fragments of coal, brick, 19th-century ceramics, clay pipe and an iron horseshoe. The underlying deposit (02) was characterised by inclusions of flecks of white mortar and daub throughout the layer. The assemblage of ceramics and clay pipe recovered from the deposit suggest a deposition date of 18th century origin.
- 4.3 On removal of these deposits a very firm deposit of light yellow/brown silt (03), mixed with cobbled stone (04) and shattered bedrock (05) was revealed. Context 03 (up to 115mm thick in the northern extent of the trench) contained a uniform percentage of small flecks of mortar, daub and charcoal and

appeared to be a combination of lime and sandy silt wash, creating a firm concretion, overlying and bonding with the underlying metal surface (04). Apart from a few small patches of silt bonded with the fragmented cobbled surface (04), the deposit did not survive in the southern and central extents of the trench. The ceramics recovered from the deposit suggest that the layer is of medieval origin, probably 13th/14th century in date.

- 4.4 A section of context 03 was excavated (See Fig. 6 C-D; Plate 3) in order to ascertain the relationship between the silt and the underlying metal surface (04). This revealed a fine layer of pea-grit, containing fragments of mortar, daub and charcoal, that interfaced with the cobbled surface. The degraded cobbled surface (04) was quite firm where it survived in the northern extent of the trench, although large tracts of the deposit were punctuated by the underlying shattered bedrock (05). The metal surface (04) appears to be orientated north-west to south-east and slopes downwards from north to south. In the southern extent of the trench a sondage was excavated in order to establish the nature of the underlying natural deposits (05), which consisted of shattered bedrock and occasional rounded and angular stones of varying size, within a light grey clay silt matrix.

Trench B (6.2m x up to 1.6m; Fig 7 and Plates 4 -7)

- 4.5 Trench B was located on the northern side of the plot, aligned approximately north-north-east to south-south-west from the Mill Lane frontage. An upper layer of fairly loose mid/dark brown sandy silt (06), up to 0.2m thick, and an underlying deposit of firm light/mid brown silty clay (07), 0.3m thick in the southern extent to 0.4m in the northern extent, were both removed by machine. Layer (06) and (07) were similar to the deposits (01) and (02) respectively within Trench A. The assemblage of ceramics and clay pipe recovered from the context 07 suggest a deposition date of 18th-century origin, corresponding with that of context 02 in Trench A. Revealed beneath the deposits was a layer of very compact yellowy/orange sandy clay with occasional mudstones, pebbles and small gritstone (08). This represented the undisturbed subsoil and differed considerably in comparison to the shattered bedrock (05) encountered in Trench A.
- 4.6 Within the trench, a total of eight features and one layer remnant were identified. Three of the features (10, 12 and 14) were similar in character, cut into the subsoil (08), sub circular in plan and between 0.3m and 0.4m in diameter. The fills of these features (respectively 09, 11 and 13) each consisted of a light/mid brown sandy silt, fairly loose with inclusions of fragmented charcoal and mortar. Although no dateable artefacts were recovered, the nature of the features suggests that they may be planting holes relating to garden activity associated with the orchard and are therefore probably early 19th-century in origin. A fourth feature (16; see Plate 6) contained a similar fill (15). However, this feature was linear, orientated east-west and extending beyond the limits of excavation. The feature was at least 1.0m in length, 0.35m wide and only 50mm deep with a curving base. It is probable that this feature is contemporary with the other features (10), (12) and (14).
- 4.7 Also cut into the subsoil at the northern end of the trench was a linear feature (22), aligned north-east to south-west. A similar feature (27) was investigated in Trench C (See para 4.10) revealing a land drain of 18th-century origin. At the southern extent of the trench a rectangular feature (42) measuring 0.38 x 0.23m and 0.23m deep (Plate 7) contained mid 18th-century ceramics, although its function is unknown. The feature had been truncated on the western side by a fairly modern drainage sump of brick construction (17), set within a construction trench (44), and an associated drain (19) containing a salt-glazed drainage pipe (20).
- 4.8 On the south-western side of the trench was a very compact mid/light brown silty clay (21), overlying the subsoil (08) and covering an area of 1.6m x 0.46m. When excavated, it was found to be quite friable in texture and contained small inclusions of daub and charcoal. Although no dateable finds were recovered from this deposit, an identical deposit in Trench C (28) produced an assemblage of ceramics dating to the 13th/14th century.

Trench C (6.4m x up to 1.6m; Fig. 8 and Plates 8 - 12)

- 4.9 Trench C was located on the north-western side of the plot, aligned approximately north-west to south-east. An upper layer of fairly loose mid/dark brown sandy silt (36), up to 0.12m thick, and an underlying deposit of firm light/mid brown silty clay (37), 0.32m thick, were both removed by machine. As in Trench B, these upper layers were similar to the deposits (01) and (02) respectively within Trench A. Removal of these layers revealed the same undisturbed subsoil (08) as in Trench B, which extended across two thirds of the trench.
- 4.10 Within the trench, a total of six features and one layer remnant were identified. At the north-western extent of the trench were two linear features (25) and (27), cut into the subsoil (08). Excavation of

context 27 revealed a hand-excavated cut for a land drain, orientated north-east to south-west and extending beyond the limits of excavation. The drain was 0.4m wide, tapering to 0.2m at the base, and 0.65m deep with a flat base (See Plate 10). A flat-based ceramic drain pipe, manufactured from local red clay, was set into the base of the cut, each section of pipe measuring 0.3m in length and 45mm in section. The drain had been backfilled with redeposited subsoil comprising a compact light/grey clay silt matrix which contained fragments of mortar, charcoal and red brick. The recovered ceramics, together with the character of the clay pipe drain, would suggest the feature to be of late 18th to early 19th-century origin. The other linear feature (25), aligned north-west to south-east, extended beyond the limits of excavation but with the south-east end cut into the fill of drain 27. The feature was found to be of similar character and dimensions to the drain, although clearly of later date, and was not investigated further.

- 4.11 At the south-eastern extent of the trench a large pit (35) was identified, filled by two deposits (34 and 38). The upper deposit (34), a fairly loose dark brown sandy silt, contained a large amount of late 19th-century glass bottle and ceramics, forming a deposit of rubbish. A representative sample of ceramics was retained. The underlying deposit (38), a mixture of light brown silty clay and redeposited natural clays, contained quantities of fragmented house brick. On removal of these deposits, a total depth of 0.5m, the remains of a concrete floor and associated brick wall foundation were revealed (See Plate 9). The remains formed part of a building orientated north-east to south-west, the return spar of the wall extending eastwards beyond the extent of excavations. The nature of the building is unknown although it would appear to be 19th-century in date and may well be associated with the walled garden and greenhouse recorded within the Vicarage garden (fig. 4). The foundation trench for the building had truncated one other feature (30) and a layer remnant (28).
- 4.12 The layer remnant (28) was a very compact mid/light brown silty clay, overlying the subsoil (08) and covering an area of 1.6m x 1.7m. When excavated it was found to be quite similar to the deposit 21 in Trench B, friable in texture and containing small inclusions of daub and charcoal. The ceramics recovered from this deposit indicate the layer to be of 13th/14th century origin. Two features (30 and 32) had been cut through the deposit. Context 30 was a linear feature, aligned north-west to south-east and had been truncated in its south-eastern portion by the 19th-century wall foundation cut (see Plate 11). The feature was at least 1.24m in length, 0.25m wide and only 70mm deep with a curving base. Although some residual fragments of 13th/14th century ceramic were recovered from within the feature, further excavation produced fragments of late 18th-century clay pipe. It is probable that this feature, together with feature 32, a shallow square post-hole (see Plate 12), is contemporary with the linear feature 16 in Trench B.
- 4.13 On removal of the deposit 28 the remains of a very shallow linear feature (43) were identified traversing the trench on a north-east to south-west alignment. The feature was cut into the subsoil (08) and measured up to 0.3m in width and was at least 1.6m in length, extending beyond the extent of excavations. Although no dateable finds were recovered from this feature, it is probably contemporary with the 13th/14th century deposit (28).

5 FINDS

- 5.1 The ceramic assemblage consisted mainly of post-medieval and industrial wares dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. However, several sherds of medieval pottery were also recovered, all of which were typical of locally produced sandy micaceous, siltstone tempered fabrics, similar to those from excavations at Pool Road, Montgomery (Britnell and Jones 1989), which were dated to the 13th-14th centuries. Vessels identified included cooking pots and glazed jugs. Several sherds were recovered from significant contexts, notably from the cobbled surface (04) in Trench A and soil layer 28 in Trench C.
- 5.2 The deposit of rubbish (34) infilling the remains of building 39 in Trench C contained substantial quantities of 19th-century finds, only a small number of which were retained. The finds included press-moulded, transfer printed plates and tea wares, glass bottles, earthenware vessels, and clay-pipe stems.
- 5.3 Other finds included fragments of oyster shell, clay-pipe stems, glass, brick and an iron horseshoe. A catalogue of finds is presented in Appendix 1.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 It has been suggested that this area of Welshpool, centred on Mill Lane, was the location of the original Welsh settlement, pre-dating the establishment of the planned town in the 13th century. Part of a 13-14th century cemetery has previously been identified on the north-east side of Mill Lane, which it is assumed belongs to Capel Llewelyn which is believed to have been originally founded as early as the 6th century. The results from the excavations have provided tentative evidence for occupation in this area during the 13th and 14th century, although no structures have been identified. The remnants of a possible cobbled surface were identified in Trench A, consisting of stones impressed into the subsoil, from the surface of which several sherds of medieval pottery were recovered. Stratified medieval pottery was also recovered from a soil layer in Trench C, as well as being redeposited in later contexts in all three trenches. The depth of deposits sealing the medieval contexts would suggest that the plot remained unoccupied for a considerable period and may have been in agricultural or garden usage from perhaps the 14th century onwards.
- 6.2 The results from the evaluation indicate that the plot has been part of the Vicarage gardens since at least the early 19th century, and possibly for some period prior to that. The excavations have identified a number of features which would appear to belong to this period, including a brick-built structure, land drains and possible planting holes.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 The writers would like to thank the following people for their assistance during the project: Bob Silvester, Glyn Owen and Wendy Owen, CPAT; Mr Jim Mason of Harry Ray & Company; the staff of the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; and the staff of the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.

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Cartographic sources

1629 plan of 'The Welsh Poole' by Humphrey Bleaze

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

1840 Tithe Survey and Apportionment for Welshpool parish

1885 Ordnance Survey 1:500 first edition map of Welshpool

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

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

APPENDIX 1

PROJECT ARCHIVE

Site archive

44 Context record forms
 1 black and white negative films
 1 colour slide films
 1 colour print film
 Photographic catalogue
 3 A1 site drawings
 00 A4 site drawings

Context Register

context	trench	type	fill of	filled by	above	below	part of	cuts	cut by
1	A	layer of soil	-	-	02	-	-	-	-
2	A	layer of soil	-	-	03	01	-	-	-
3	A	layer of soil	-	-	04	02	04	-	-
4	A	layer of cobble	-	-	05	03	-	-	-
5	A	natural subsoil	-	-	-	04	-	-	-
6	B	layer of soil	-	-	07	-	-	-	-
7	B	layer of soil	-	-	08; 09; 11; 13; 15; 17; 18; 19; 21; 22; 41	06	-	-	-
8	B	natural subsoil	-	-	-	07	-	-	10; 12; 14; 16; 23; 42; 44
9	B	fill deposit	10	-	10	07	-	-	-
10	B	cut feature	-	09	08	09	-	08	-
11	B	fill deposit	12	-	12	07	-	-	-
12	B	cut feature	-	11	08	11	-	08	-
13	B	fill deposit	14	-	14	07	-	-	-
14	B	cut feature	-	13	08	13	-	08	-
15	B	fill deposit	16	-	16	07	-	-	-
16	B	cut feature	-	15	08	15	-	08	-
17	B	structure	44	18	08	07	-	-	-
18	B	fill deposit	17; 44	-	17	07	-	-	-
19	B	fill deposit	44	-	44	07	17	-	-
20	B	structure-drain	44	-	44	07	17	-	-
21	B	layer of soil	-	-	08	07	-	-	44
22	B	fill deposit	23	-	23	07	-	-	-
23	B	cut linear	-	22	08	22	-	08	-
24	C	fill deposit	25	-	25	37	-	-	-
25	C	cut linear	-	24	26	24	-	26 08	-
26	C	fill deposit	27	-	27	25	-	-	25
27	C	cut linear	-	26	08	26	-	08	25
28	C	layer of soil	-	-	08 43	37 30 35 32	-	-	30 32 35
29	C	fill deposit	30	-	30	37 35	-	-	35
30	C	cut linear	-	29	28	29	-	28	35
31	C	fill deposit	32	-	32	37	-	-	-
32	C	cut feature	-	31	28	31	-	28	-
33	C	unused	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
34	C	fill deposit	35	-	38	37	-	-	-
35	C	cut feature	-	34; 38; 39	28; 30	39	-	28; 20	-
36	C	layer of soil	-	-	37	-	-	-	-
37	C	layer of soil	-	-	08; 24; 26; 28; 29; 31;	36	-	-	-

					34				
38	C	fill deposit	35	-	39	34	-	-	-
39	C	structure	35	-	35	38	-	-	-
40	B	cut linear	-	19; 20	08	20	17	42	-
41	B	fill deposit	42	-	42	40; 44	-	08	40; 44
42	B	cut feature	-	41	08	41	-	08	40; 44
43	C	cut linear	-	28	08	28	-	08	30
44	B	cut feature	-	17; 18	21; 41	17; 18	40	08; ;21; 41	-

Finds

Context 1

- 1 Cistercian type ware base (26g) 16-17th century?
- 1 local red earthenware strap handle (9g) 17-19th century
- 1 local red earthenware rim (42g) 17-19th century
- 5 developed whiteware (8g) 19-20th century
- 4 transfer printed wares (10g) 19th century
- 2 glazed buff fabric (19g) 18-19th century
- 1 glazed red fabric (2g) 18-19th century
- 7 clay pipe stem (13g) 17-19th century
- 1 iron horseshoe (300g)

Context 2

- 1 13-14th century jug base (10g)
- 1 clay pipe stem (1g) 17-19th century
- 3 glazed buff fabric (19g) 18-19th century

Context 3

- 1 13-14th century jug strap handle (17g)
- 3 13-14th century jug body sherds (6g)
- 1 oyster shell (8g)

Context 7

- 1 transfer printed ware (3g) 19th century
- 1 coal measures buff ware (4g) 18-19th century
- 2 developed whiteware (6g) 19-20th century
- 1 clay pipe stem (2g) 17-19th century

Context 24

- 1 developed whiteware (3g) 19th century
- 3 brick frags (62g)
- 2 slag (3g)

Context 26

- 2 tin glazed earthenware (2g) 18-19th century
- 1 local red earthenware (3g) 17-19th century
- 1 glazed buff fabric (6g) 18-19th century
- 6 brick frags (325g)
- 1 oyster shell (4g)
- 3 slag frags (13g)

Context 28

- 2 13-14th century jug sherds (3g)
- 1 highly fired fabric, external green glaze (7g) 15th century

Context 29

- 1 13-14th century cooking pot body sherd (4g)
- 2 clay pipe stems (1g)
- 1 iron ?nail (8g)
- 1 bone (1g)
- 4 coal/slag (4g)

Context 31

1 clay pipe stem (1g) 17-19th century

Context 36

1 coal measures buff ware (10g) 18-19th century

2 developed whiteware (6g) 19th century

1 bone china (7g) 19th century

2 transfer printed wares (4g) 19th century

1 brick frag (29g)

2 clay pipe stems (3g) 17-19th century

Context 41

2 developed whiteware (2g) 19th century

1 glazed buff fabric (1g) 18-19th century

APPENDIX 2

THE MOORINGS, MILL LANE, WELSHPOOL, POWYS SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The proposed development involves the construction of a new dwelling on land adjacent to The Moorings, Mill Lane, Welshpool, Powys (Powys CC Planning Application M2002/0248). The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, acting as archaeological advisors to the local authority, have determined that an archaeological evaluation should be undertaken to assess the potential impact of the proposals on the archaeological resource. Accordingly, a Brief has been prepared (EVB 450 dated 15/04/02) which details the works required.
- 1.2 The development site lies within the historic core of Welshpool which is focused on Church Bank and Mill Lane. The plot lies 50m from a known medieval cemetery which may continue into the development area. It is therefore anticipated that buried archaeological deposits may survive within in the area of the proposed development.

2 Objectives

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

3 Methods

- 3.1 Stage one of the assessment will involve the examination of all the readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic, pictorial, photographic and oral sources. Repositories consulted will include the following: County SMR, CPAT, Welshpool; the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth; the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; Powys County Archives, Llandrindod Wells.
- 3.2 Stage two will take the form of a field evaluation consisting of four 6 x 1.5m trenches. The programme of works will be agreed with the client, and the position of the trenches approved by the curator, in advance of site work commencing. Any alterations to this scheme will only be undertaken following full consultation with the curator and client.
- 3.3 The excavations will be undertaken using a machine excavator with a toothless bucket to remove modern overburden down to the level of the first recognisable archaeological horizon. Thereafter, all excavation will be conducted by hand unless otherwise agreed with the curator in advance. All archaeological contexts identified will be adequately sampled to define their function, date and relationship to other features, in so far as these aims are possible.
- 3.4 Contexts will be recorded on individual record forms and be drawn and photographed as appropriate. All photography will be in 35mm format black and white and colour print and colour slide. All features will be located as accurately as possible with respect to buildings and boundaries identified on modern Ordnance Survey maps and levels will be related to Ordnance Datum where possible.

- 3.5 All artefacts will be treated in a manner appropriate to their composition and will be processed by trained CPAT staff. Any environmental sampling will be conducted by CPAT following the advice of an appropriate specialist. Contingency sums have been allowed for general specialist fees.
- 3.6 Following the on-site work an illustrated and bound report will be prepared according to the principles laid out in the Curatorial Brief. This will be in A4 format and contain conventional sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology; Historic Background; Evaluation; Conclusions and Recommendations and References, together with appropriate appendices on archives and finds. A draft report will be forwarded to the curator prior to the production of the final report.
- 3.7 The site archive will be prepared to specifications laid out in Appendix 3 in the Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991).

4 Resources and Programming

- 4.1 The evaluation will be undertaken by a small team of skilled archaeologists under the overall supervision of Mr RJ Silvester, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 4.2 All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist who conducted the evaluation.
- 4.3 It is anticipated that the desktop study will be completed within 2 days, and the evaluation will be completed within 5 days. The report will be completed within 2 weeks of the completion of on-site works. A copy of the report will be deposited with the Regional SMR. The curator will be informed of the timetable in order to arrange for monitoring if required.
- 4.4 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.

N.W. Jones
27th May 2002

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Fig. 1 Site location, 1:2,500

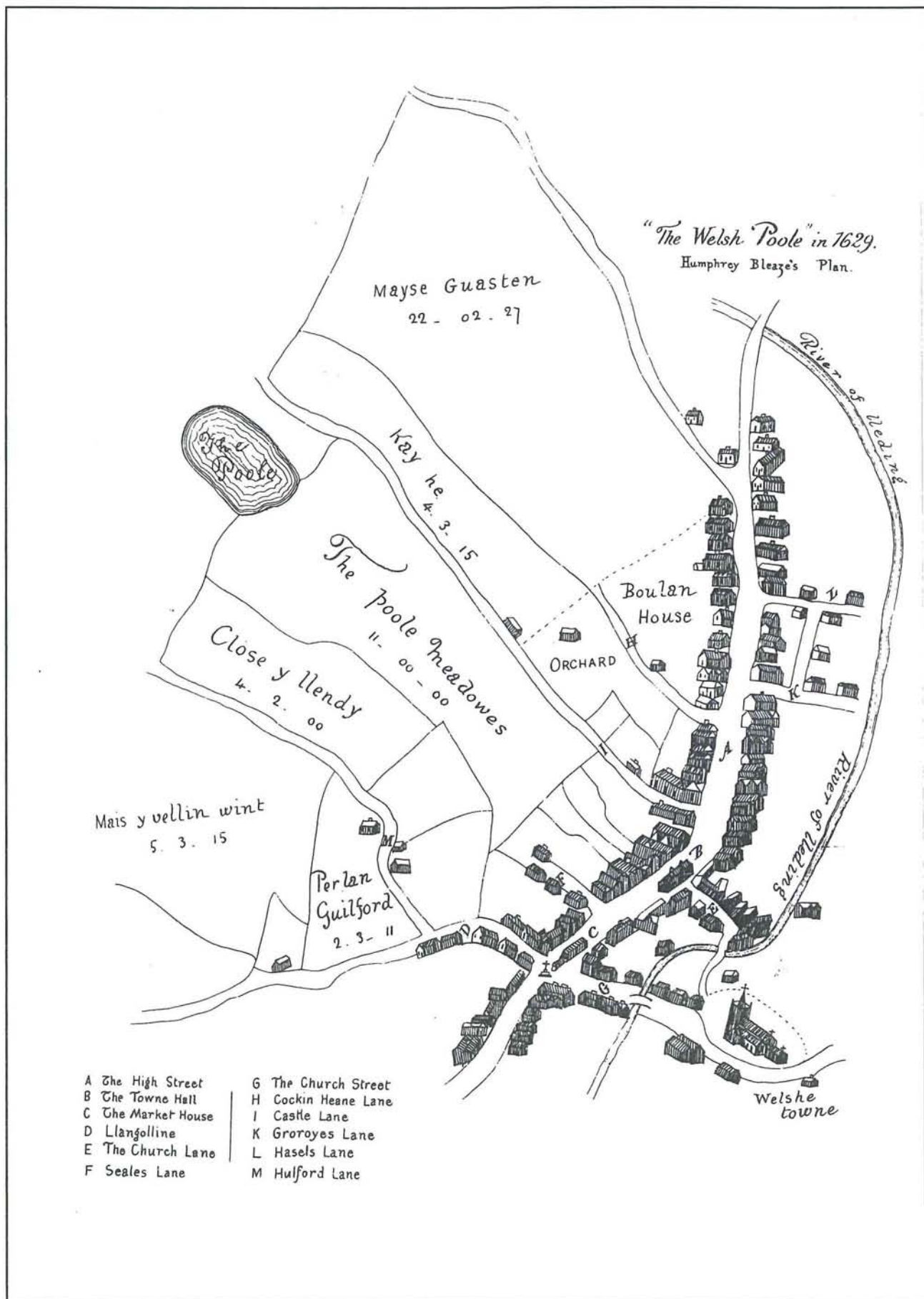


Fig. 2 Plan of The Welsh Poole by Humphrey Bleaze, 1629

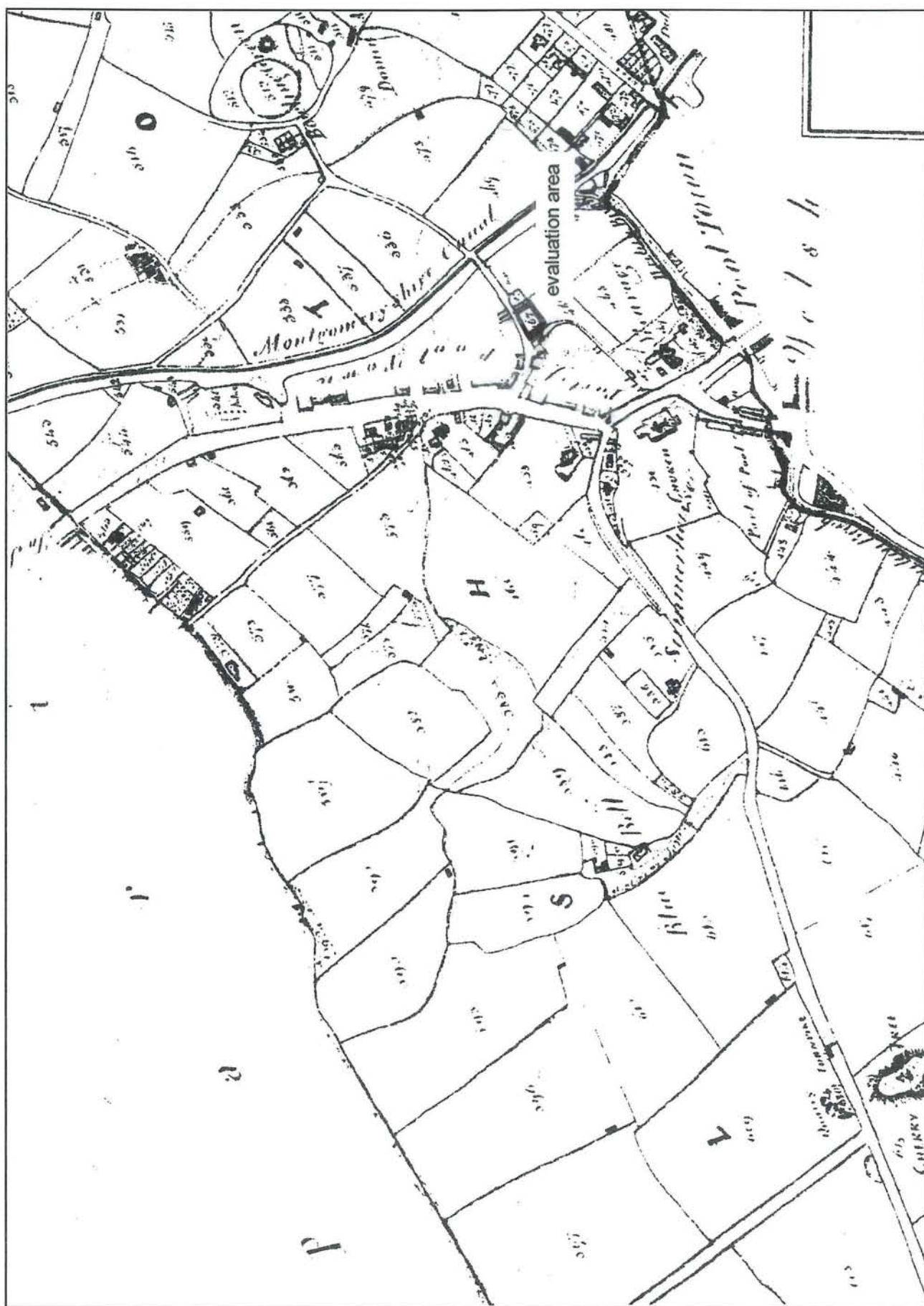


Fig. 3 Tithe Survey for Welshpool parish 1840

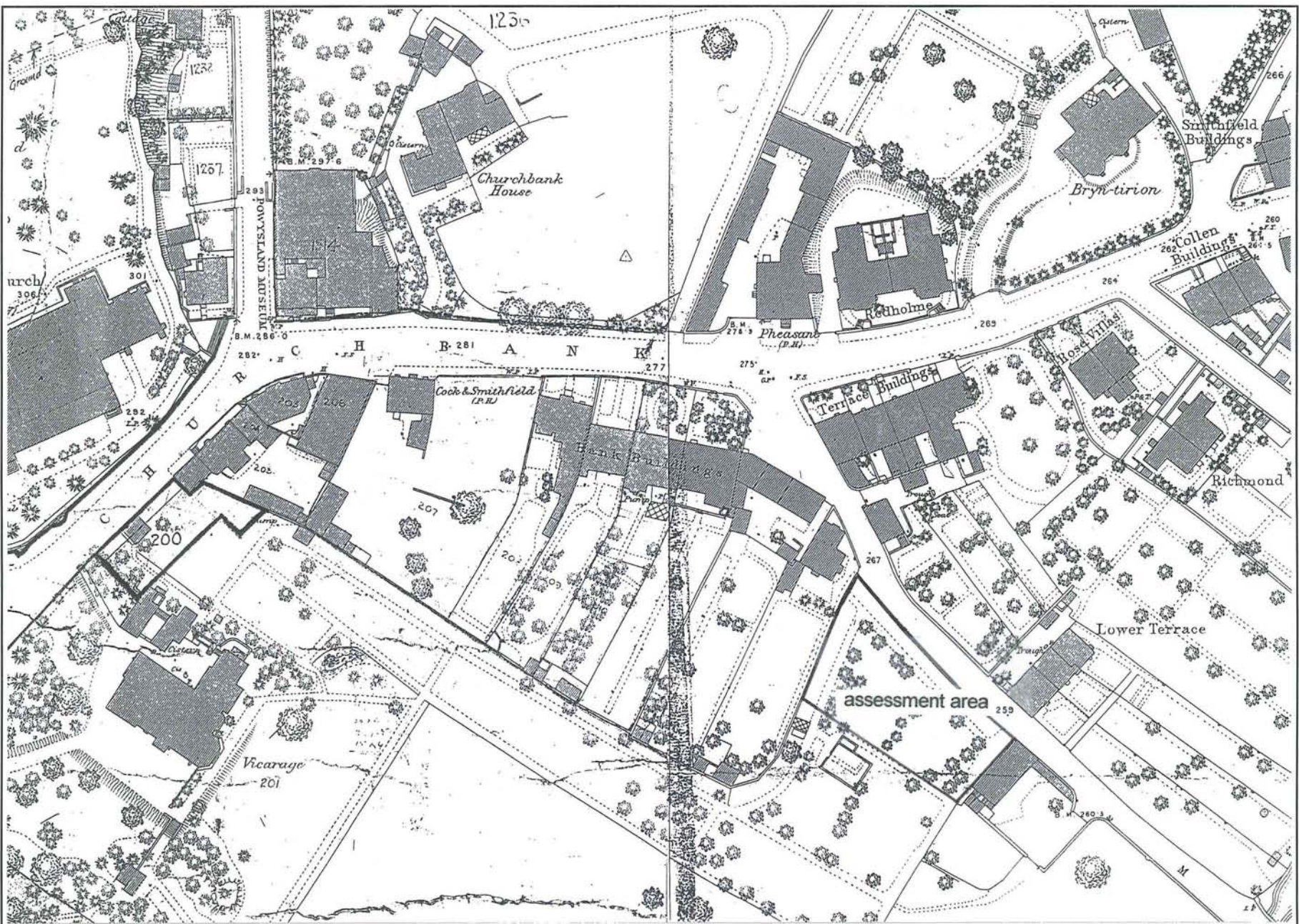


Fig. 4 Ordnance Survey 1:500 first edition 1885

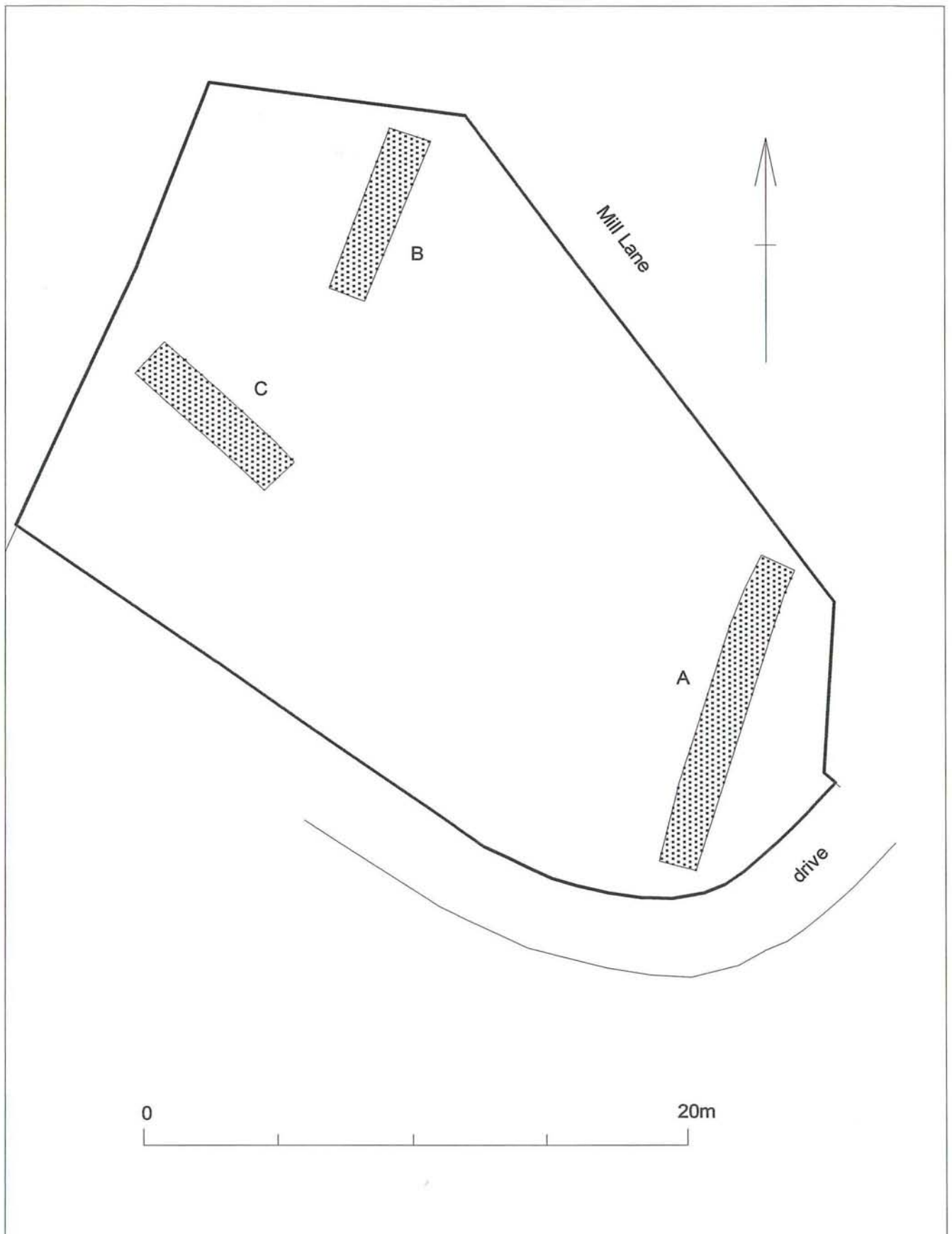


Fig. 5 Trench location, scale 1:200

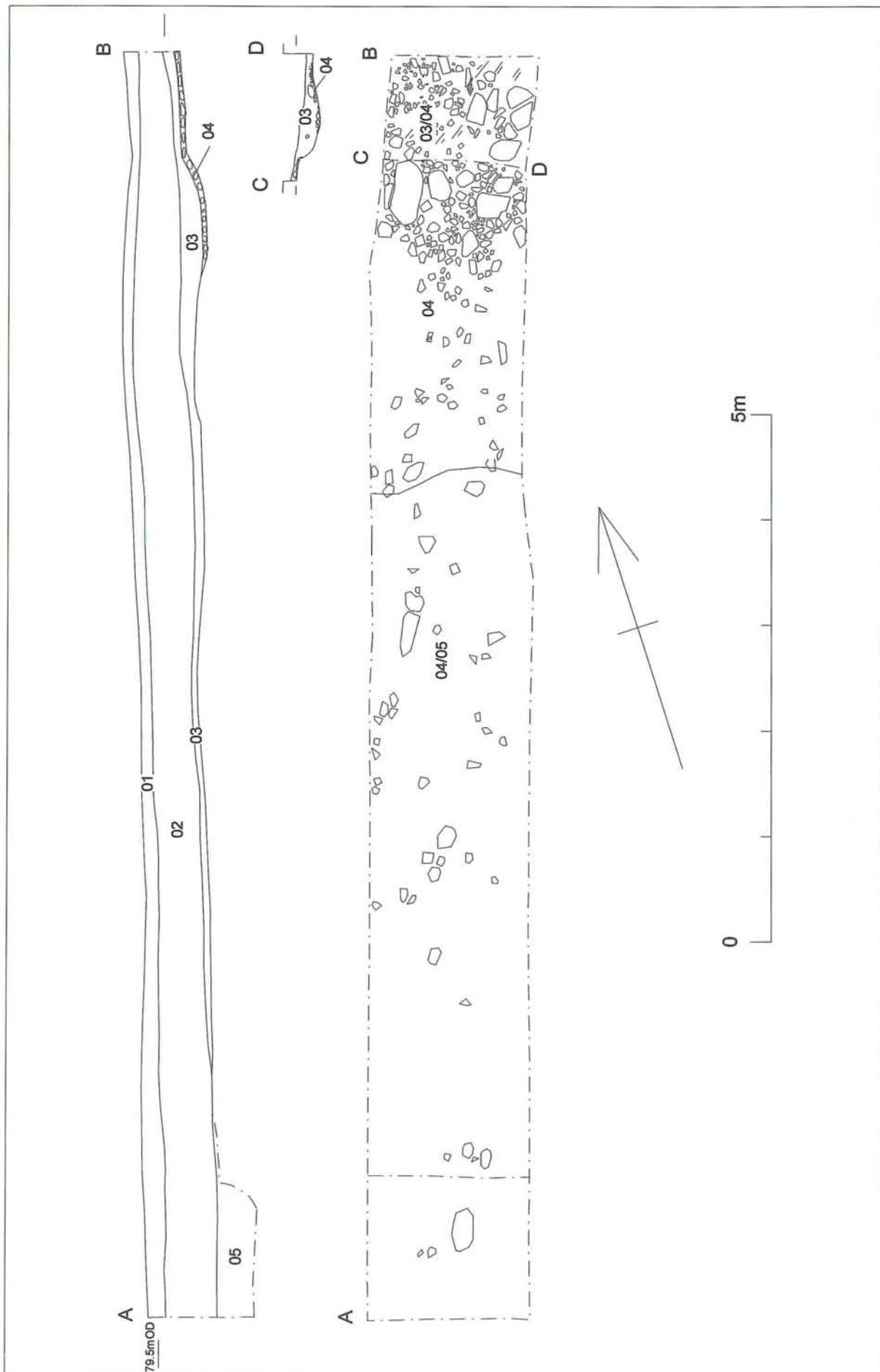


Fig. 6 Trench A plan and section

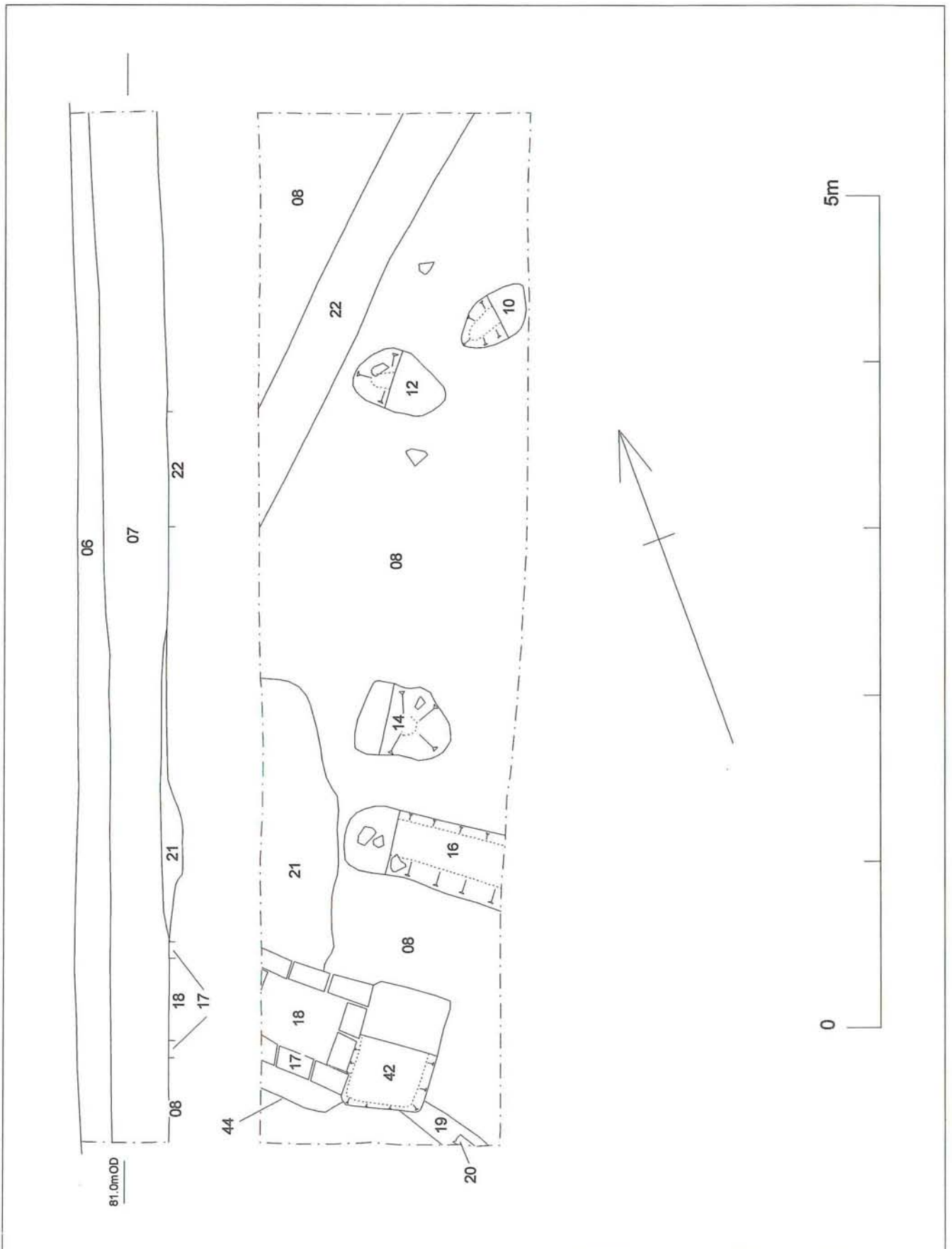


Fig. 7 Trench B plan and section

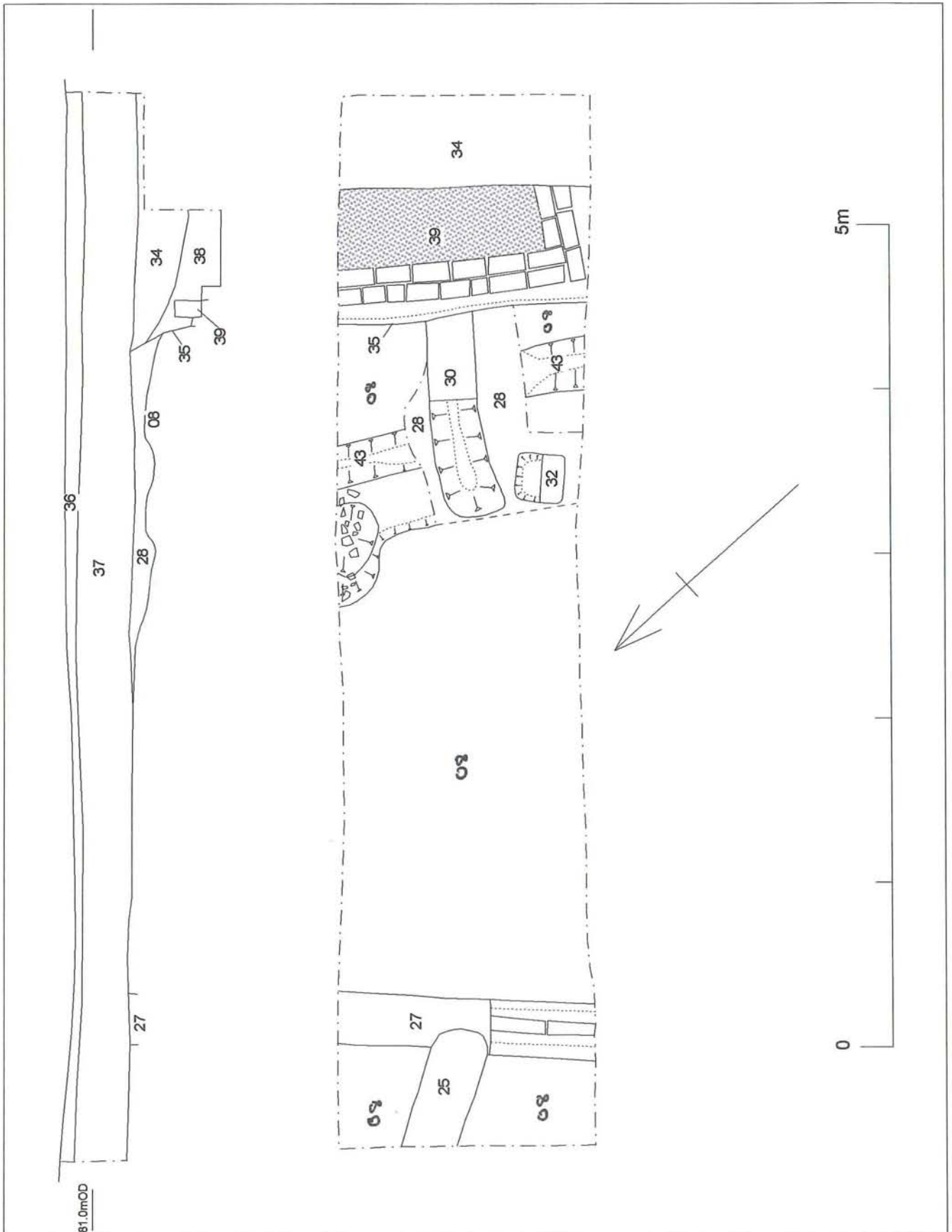


Fig. 8 Trench C plan and section



Plate 1. Trench (A), north facing, post machining. Photo CPAT 1209.02



Plate 2 . East facing section through Trench (A), illustrating deposits (01), (02), (03) and possible Medieval road surface (04). Photo CPAT 1209.17



Plate 3. South west facing section through possible road surface deposits (03) and (04). Trench (A)
Photo CPAT 1209.15

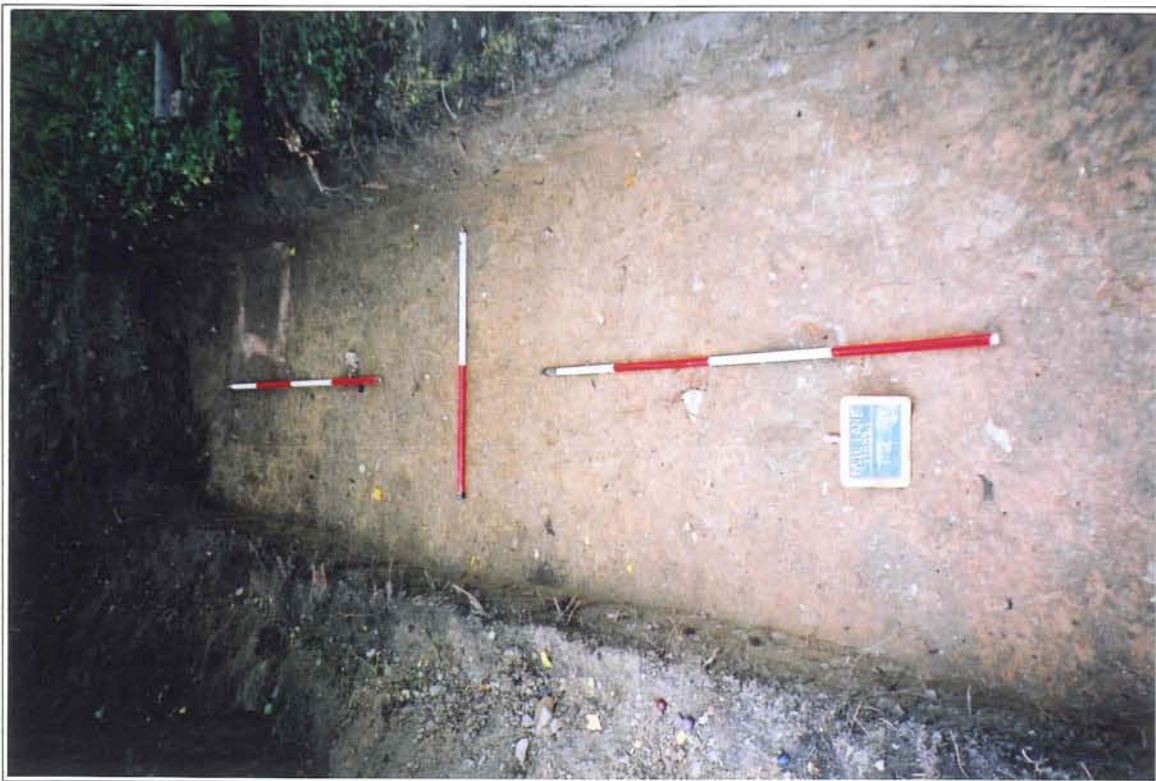


Plate 4. Trench (B), North east facing, post machining. Photo CPAT 1209.04



Plate 5. South east facing section through Trench (B), illustrating deposits (06), (07) and (08).
Photo CPAT 1209.24



Plate 6. South east facing section through Post-Medieval linear feature (16), Trench (B).
Photo CPAT 1209.28



Plate 7. South west facing section through Post-Medieval feature (42), Trench (B), illustrating disturbance from 19th century drainage sump. Photo CPAT 1209.27

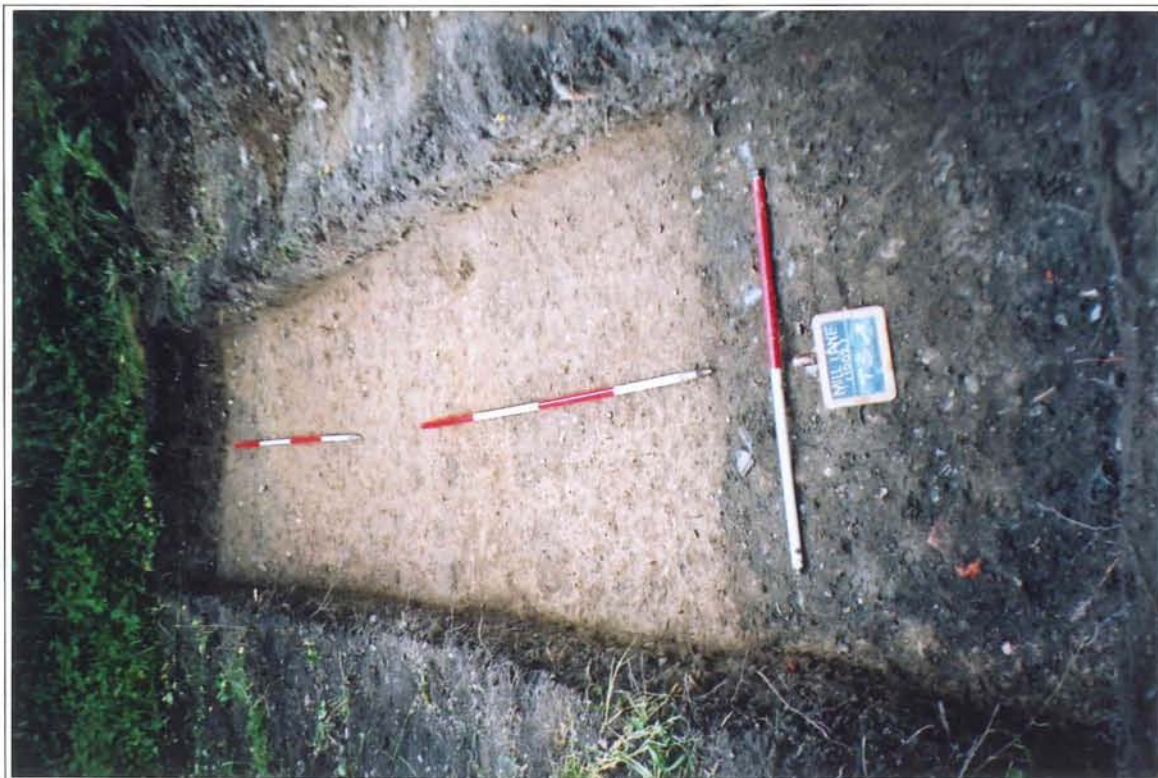


Plate 8. Trench (C), South east facing, post machining. 19th century pit (35) in the foreground Photo CPAT 1209.05

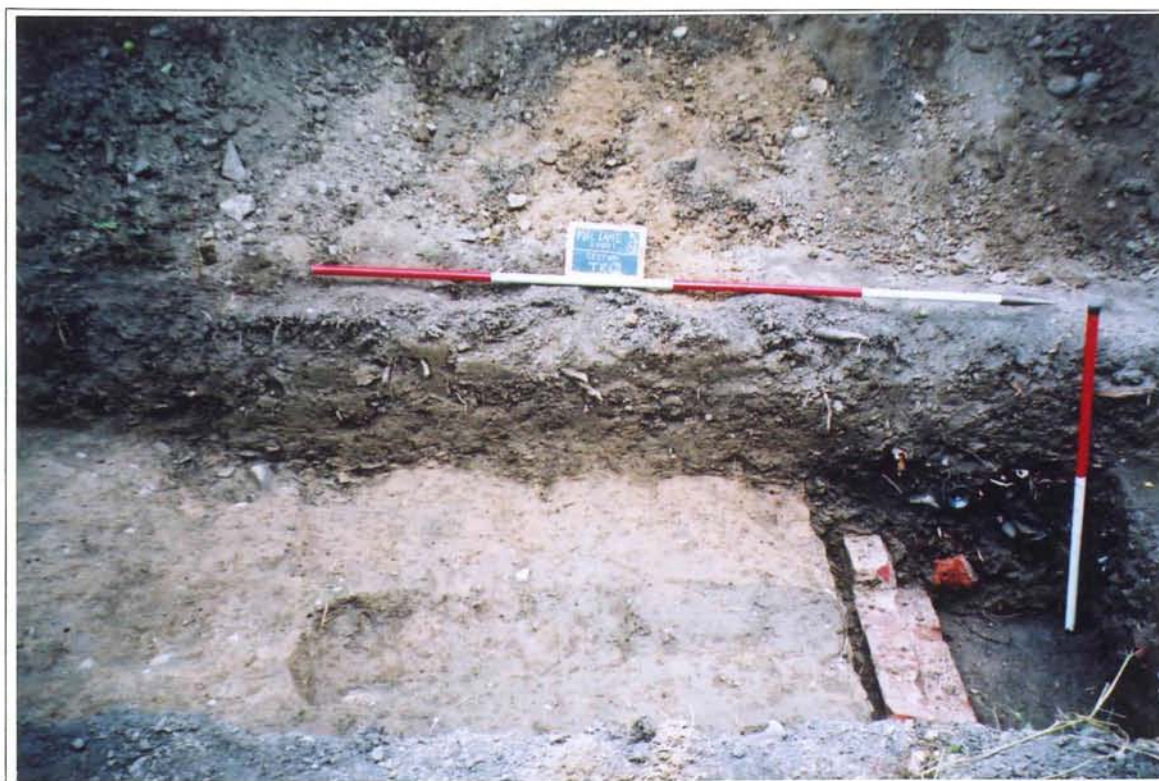


Plate 9. South west facing section through Trench (C), illustrating overburden deposits (36), (37) and a 19th century pit (35) and building foundations (39). Photo CPAT 1209.19

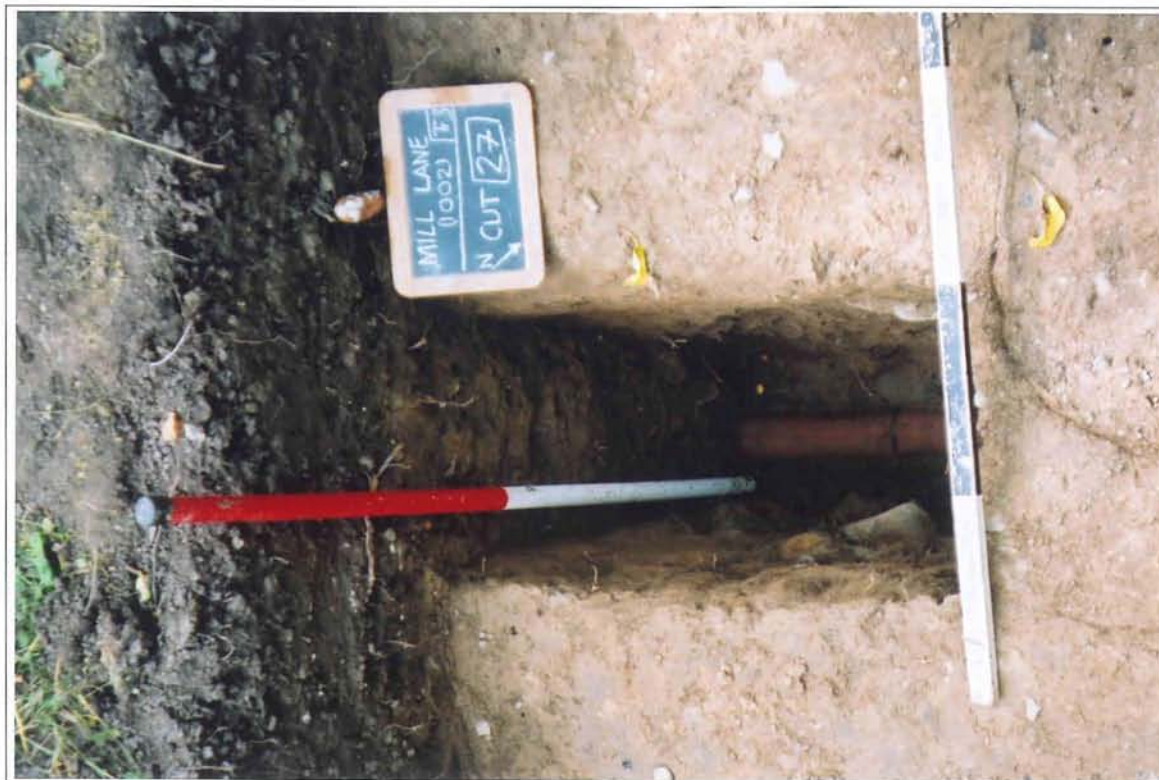


Plate 10. North east facing section through Post-Medieval land drain (27), Trench (C). Photo CPAT 1209.08



Plate 11. North west facing section illustrating Post-Medieval linear feature (30) truncating 13th/14th century Medieval deposit (28). (19th century pit fill (34) in the background)
Photo CPAT 1209.11



Plate 12. North east facing section illustrating Post-Medieval post-hole (32), Trench (C), truncating 13th/14th century Medieval deposit (28). Photo CPAT 1209.10