Land Adjoining Bank Buildings, Rectory Lane, New Radnor, Powys

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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August 2005

Report for McCartneys

CPAT Report Record

Report and status

CPAT Report Title	Land Adjoining Bank Buildings, Rectory Lane, New Radnor, Powys: Archaeological Evaluation
CPAT Project Name	Bank Buildings New Radnor

CPAT Project No	1287	CPAT Report No	728
Confidential (yes/no)	Yes	draft/final	Final

Internal control

	name	signature	date
prepared by	I. Grant		23/08/05
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checked by	N.W. Jones		23/08/05
approved by	R. J. Silvester		23/08/05

Revisions

no	date	made by	checked by	approved by

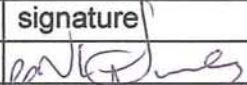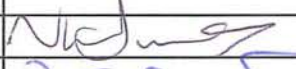### Internal memo

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1   INTRODUCTION

1.1   The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust was invited by Mr R Edwards of McCartneys in Kington, Herefordshire to undertake on behalf of his clients an archaeological evaluation in connection with their proposals to erect three new dwellings on land adjoining Bank Buildings lying off Rectory Lane in New Radnor in Powys. The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, had determined that an evaluation should be undertaken to assess the potential impact of the proposals on the archaeological resource within the plot, in accordance with a design brief (EVB 579), prepared by the Curatorial Section in April 2005.

1.2   The site lies within the historic core of the medieval town, on the west side of Rectory Lane (SO 2116 6084) and to the north of Bank Buildings. Immediately to the south of the development plot is an area of the medieval town which is statutorily designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM Rd 154) (Fig. 1).
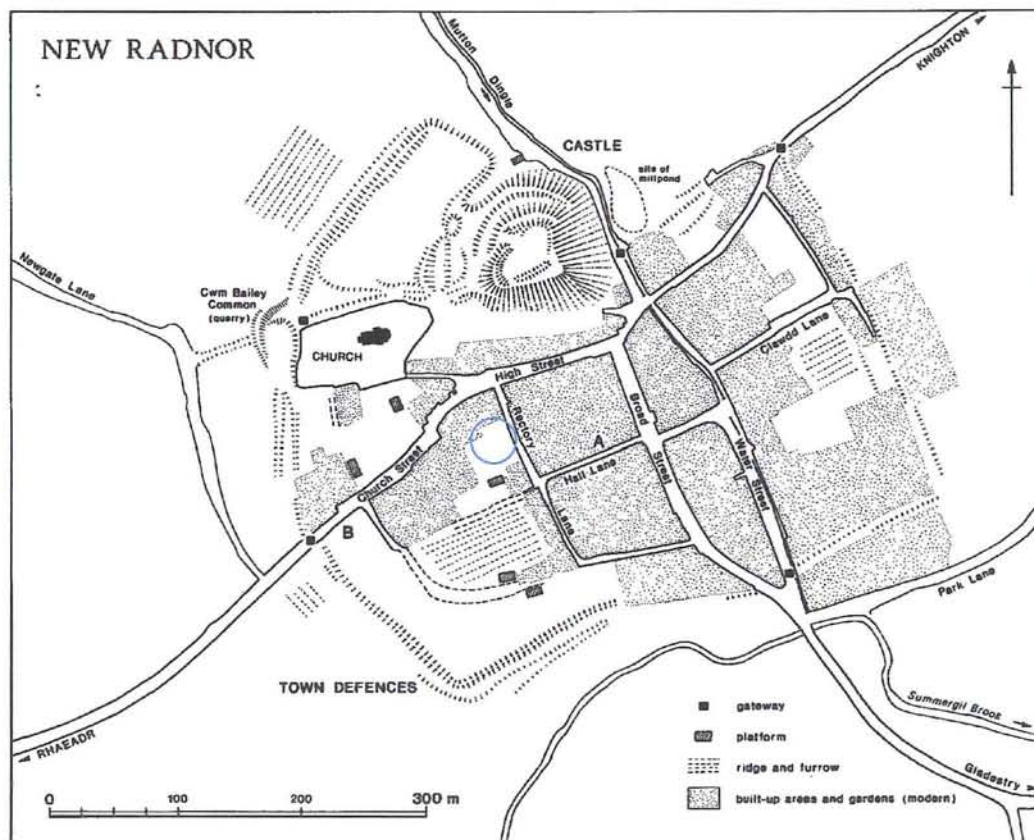
Fig. 1 Modern plan of New Radnor showing known earthworks (from Silvester 1997). The evaluation area is marked in blue.

2   HISTORICAL BACKGROUND by Bob Silvester

2.1   Stage one of the evaluation involved the examination of all the readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic, pictorial, and photographic sources within the Historic Environment Record held by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust at Welshpool, and in the National Library of Wales at Aberystwyth; and the National Monuments Record, also in Aberystwyth.

Introduction

2.2   New Radnor is a small and demonstrably shrunken settlement on the eastern edge of the
        central Welsh uplands. For a brief period, early in the post-medieval era, it was the county
        town of Radnorshire but today it is smaller and relatively insignificant in comparison with
        other small and thriving towns in central Powys such as Knighton and Presteigne which
        occupied more favourable locations in the old county.

2.3   Notwithstanding its present obscurity, it played a particularly important and strategic role in
        earlier centuries, and arguably its archaeological potential is greater than that of its more
        successful neighbours.

2.4   The town lies on the north side of the Summergil Brook where the stream breaks out of a
        narrow valley hemmed in by Radnor Forest on the north and Highgate Hill and the Smatcher
        on the south. Eastwards are the lower lands of the Walton Basin which open out into
        Herefordshire. A spur projecting into the valley from the southern slopes of Radnor Forest
        was adapted for the castle earthworks which guarded the approaches to and from one of the
        more accessible passes into mid Wales and subsequently the town was laid out on flatter
        ground below its defences.

2.5   It has been the subject of a very detailed examination by the writer in 1994 and much of what
        follows has been adapted from relevant sections of those writings (see Silvester 1994a;
        1994b; 1997)

Sources

2.6   New Radnor is fortunate in having a series of early maps which provide otherwise
        unobtainable background information. John Speed's plan of the town (Fig. 2) was published
        in 1611, but drawn probably in 1606. A recently identified map (Fig. 3), now in the Powis
        County Council Archives, probably dates from around the mid to late 18th century, and then
        in quick succession appeared a map to accompany the enclosure of the common lands in
        the parish, which incorporated, unusually, a plan of the town (1811), and secondly Le Keux's
        map prepared for Jonathan Williams' aborted *History of Radnorshire*, abandoned around
        1818, and not published until the middle of the century (Williams 1859). Subsequently, the
        Tithe Map of 1846 (Fig. 4) and the earliest edition of the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map
        (1889; Fig. 5) provide valuable data. A full list of these sources can be found in Silvester
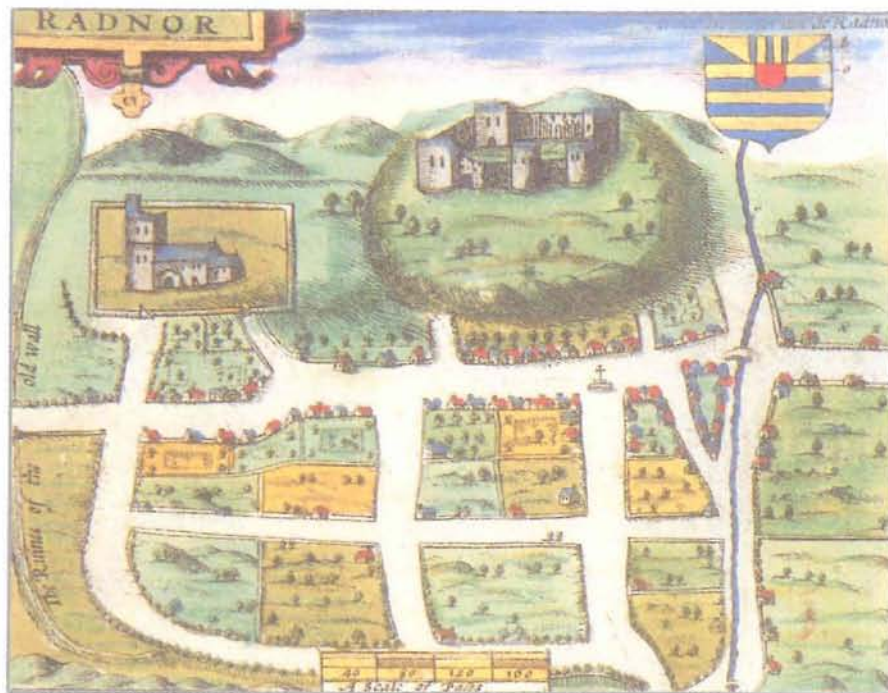   1994a, except for the new map in the Powys Archives.

Fig 2. John Speed's map of New Radnor published in 1611

2.7   New Radnor appears frequently in the Calendars of State Papers, usually with reference to the castle, less frequently to the town. Oblique aerial photographs of New Radnor have been taken almost annually since 1984 and provide information on the earthworks of the town.

History

2.8   New Radnor first appears in the records specifically as 'Radenore Nova' in 1277. Though it is reasonable to assume that the town was founded at an earlier date, how much earlier remains an open question as all earlier written references are to Radnor alone (for a detailed description see Silvester 1994; 1997). To Radnor came Baldwin the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1188, his starting point in Wales for preaching the First Crusade, and this is more likely to have been New Radnor than Old Radnor. A Charter Roll entry of 1235 by which the Earl of Pembroke was granted custody of the de Breos lands mentions 'Radnor Castle and the town of the castle', and the first murage grant to enable the building of defences around the town was recorded in the Patent Roll of 1257.

2.9   The borough that emerged below the castle was undoubtedly a plantation, that is a deliberately founded settlement usually laid out to a regular pattern. Initially slow to establish itself, the town underwent a rapid population expansion in the 14th century. The 97 burgesses in the returns of 1301had nearly doubled to 189 holding 262 and a half plots, in an Inquisition Post Mortem three years later. A return of £13 on rents and tolls in 1360 indicates a prosperous settlement by the standards of the day.

2.10   The murage grant obtained in 1257 was followed by further grants in 1280, 1283 and 1290. A weekly market was operating early in the 14th century, and a charter for a yearly fair was obtained in 1306.

2.11   The castle and town were sacked by Owain Glyndŵr in 1401, leaving the ruins seen by Leland, and the later Middle Ages also witnessed a decline in the prosperity of the town of New Radnor.

Fig. 3 Later 18th-century map of New Radnor (reproduced by permission of Powys County Archives). The evaluation area is indicated by the blue circle.

2.12   Speed's plan (Fig. 2) shows large open areas within the town, surely reflecting a considerable reduction in the number of burgage plots recorded in the early 14th century. It was, however, elevated to the rank of shire town for Radnorshire at the time of the Act of Union in 1536, perhaps because it was the only place in the county that preserved the semblance of a castle, and the only one that could be used as a prison.

2.13   Despite its status the town slipped into gradual decline, a result of its location which had little to offer the trader. The courts of Great Sessions had been transferred to Presteigne by the late 17th century and even the weekly market ceased. By 1731 only 7 burgesses were left. Economically it was a failure. Williams early in the 19th century noted 'its deserted streets, several of which have no buildings and others are now only footpaths, ... not more than 50 dwelling houses, and most of those of mean appearance ... (Davies 1905).

Fig. 4 Tithe Survey for New Radnor Parish, 1846

The setting of the evaluation

2.14   The plot of land that is the subject of this report lies within the town defences towards the western side of the town. The location of the plot, a distance from both the castle and the town defences, avoids the need to consider either of these in any detail, but it is necessary to examine the street network.

2.15   The modern street layout reveals the medieval grid plan that was imposed on gently sloping ground below the castle. Three streets ran on a west-south-west to east-north-east alignment: High Street, Hall Lane and the southern arm of Rectory Lane. Four others were aligned north-north-west to south-south-east.

2.16   Rectory Lane, which edges the development plot on the east, represents one of the original streets in the town, though this is certainly not its original name.

2.17   Some of these streets have now partly or wholly disappeared, but can still be detected on the ground. They are depicted, too, on early maps, not only that by Speed but also 19th-

century plans. Hall Lane, for instance, continues to the west of Rectory Lane and beyond Bank Buildings, which themselves lie immediately to the south of the evaluation area, and it can be seen as a flat linear depression about 4m wide but no more than 0.2m deep.

2.18   The sinuous line of Church Street as it curves to meet High Street represents an irregularity in the grid pattern. It is best explained by the presence of an earlier track approaching from the west and continuing on towards Presteigne and Knighton which had to link into a grid pattern on a different alignment. It does not seem to indicate that there was an earlier line to the route which would have been much very much closer to the evaluation plot.

2.19   The Tithe Survey for New Radnor in 1846 (fig. 4) records the plot as No. 125, homestead and plock, arable. At this date there is no trace of the barns and Bank buildings to the south, which are first depicted by the Ordnance Survey in 1889 (fig. 5).

2.20   Earthworks reveal the position of former buildings in fields on the south side of the town, but none are discernible in the evaluation plot. Nor do any of the historic maps, including the late 19th-century Ordnance Survey map, that are available show any earlier buildings or other features on this part of Rectory Lane. Within the plot is a low bank on the west side of the field which marks the position of a former field boundary (PRN 19130) depicted in 1889 (Fig. 5), and a boundary bank along the street frontage which probably incorporates a former stone boundary wall. There are still the remains of a small building along the northern boundary which does not appear on the Tithe Survey, but was in existence by 1889, and to the west of Bank Buildings are the low earthworks of a small rectangular building or enclosure.
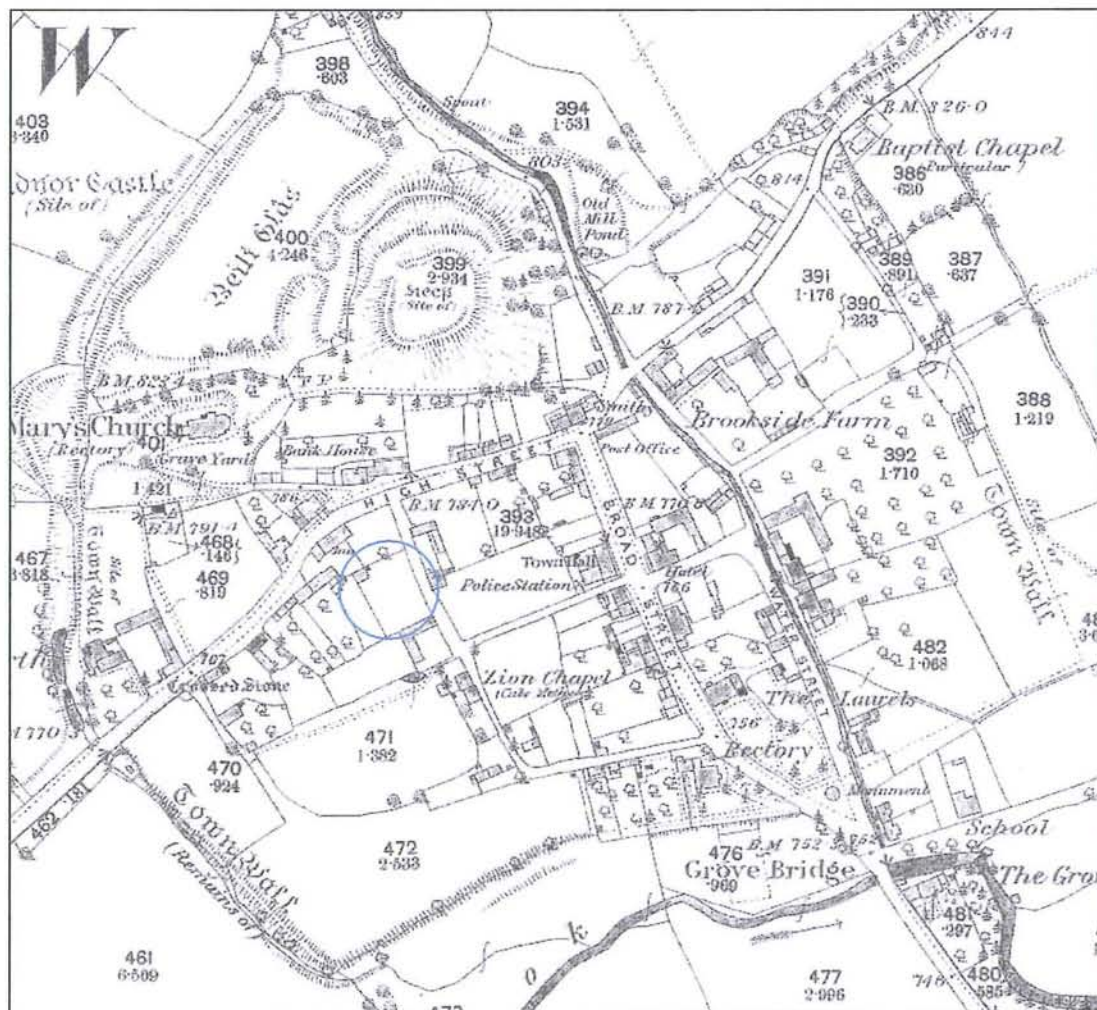

Fig. 5   Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2.500 map 1889

Earlier excavations in New Radnor

2.21   In 1988, examination of a street frontage site in Hall Street (Fig. 1, A; SO 2124 6084) revealed a corn-drying kiln of late medieval/early post-medieval date damaged by what was probably an 18th-century ditch (Dorling 1988).

2.22   Excavations on a field beside The Porth, about 120m to the south-west of the present evaluation area took place in 1991-2 (Fig. 1, B). Traces of intensive medieval usage were found during the 1991/92 excavations, fronting onto Church Street in OS plot 0675; the ground had been levelled out by later land use and no indications of this activity were revealed by geophysical survey. The partial plans of several stone and timber buildings were located, together with the residue from what may have been a medieval smithy, three small circular ovens, a corn-drying kiln and several large latrine pits (Jones 1998). Evidence was also revealed for prehistoric activity on the site, consisting of a small assemblage of flintwork, including a single piece of Upper Palaeolithic date and others dating to the Mesolithic and neolithic, as well as a series of pits containing Bronze Age pottery. Further excavations were conducted in the same field in 2001-02, and these served to emphasise the significance of this western portion of the town (Border Archaeology 2002).

2.23   The excavations conducted to date demonstrate the archaeological potential of the town of New Radnor, but at the same time clearly indicate that surface traces (or the absence of them) are not an adequate guide to the archaeological reality.

3   **EVALUATION**

3.1   The evaluation comprised two trenches, each measuring 8 x 8m and located along the street frontage, as specified in the curatorial brief (Fig. 6). The aim of the evaluation was to identify the nature and possibly the dating of any archaeological features within the development area. Particular emphasis was placed on identifying evidence that related to medieval activity within the historic core of the village.

3.2   The modern and post-medieval overburden in each trench was removed by machine under close archaeological supervision, with all subsequent cleaning and excavation being carried out by hand. The numbers in brackets in the following text refer to contexts given to those features and layers which were identified during the excavation. A drawn, written and photographic record was maintained throughout the duration of the evaluation (see Appendix 1).

Trench 1 (Fig. 7, Plates 1-3)

3.3   Trench 1 was located immediately to the north of the entrance into the field off Rectory Lane. Across the whole of the trench a layer of topsoil (01) comprising a dark brown silty clay, and an underlying deposit (02), a lighter brown silty clay, were removed by machine. The thickness of this overburden varied between 0.16m and 0.5m. The topsoil contained numerous fragments of coal, brick and pottery sherds of 18th to 19th-century date, whereas the underlying deposit (02), probably an old ploughsoil, contained ceramics and clay-pipe of a late 17th to 18th-century origin. Both deposits also contained numerous ferrous (iron) objects, of probable agricultural origin, and a few residual sherds of medieval pottery. Beneath this overburden was a layer of loose grey-brown silty clay (28), 0.2m to 0.4m thick, which appeared upon excavation to be a demolition layer of variable depth, and contained a large quantity of fragmented micaceous sandstone stone roofing tiles, nails and a few pottery sherds, again of late 17th to 18th-century date.

3.4   Removal of this layer revealed a series of structural features and floor deposits, probably belonging to two buildings. The earliest phase of this building work consisted of two well-built walls of dry-stone construction, *c.* 0.6m wide, only the basal courses of which survived (Plate 1). Both walls had been built with coursed, facing stone on either side, and a rubble infill in between. The northern wall (54), aligned east to west, probably represented the outer wall of the building, while the western wall (52), aligned north to south, may have been an internal wall, as the northern wall clearly extended further to the west than the latter. A 1.1m-wide gap between the two walls possibly represents a doorway within which were two late

medieval deposits (33 and 34) which were not fully investigated. Both walls extended beyond the limits of excavation.

3.5   Within the building two floor layers were identified (32 and 50), both composed of firm yellow-grey clay. Set within the floors were three open hearths (Plate 2) constructed of edge-set stones, the earliest of which (49) was 1.4m in diameter, with a later hearth (48) built into the centre. The third hearth (51) lay just to the south and was well-constructed in edge-set stone that formed a rectangle 1.36m by at least 1.84m. All three features were sealed by a fine dark-brown charcoal rich silt (35).

3.6   In the south-east corner of the trench the excavation revealed part of an oven (53) which extended beyond the limits of excavation to the south (Plate 3). This feature was of dry-stone construction with five courses surviving to a height of 0.26m. Internally, the oven was roughly circular, at least 1.0m in diameter, and with an opening on the western side. The floor of the oven (41) consisted of compacted clay, the surface of which was fire-blackened and impregnated with flecks of charcoal and burnt daub. The primary fill (40) of the feature comprised a very fine burnt silty clay, containing animal bone and iron roofing nails. Overlying this material, but still contained within the bounds of the structure, were two layers of sandy silt, the lower fill (39) containing fragments of fine gritty stone, roofing tile, nails and green-glazed medieval pottery, while the upper fill (38) also contained fragments of animal bone.

3.7   In the north-western quadrant of the trench, overlying both the clay floor (32) and the west wall of the building (52), was a deposit of fine, dark brown, silty sand/clay, between 20mm and 50mm thick. The layer, rich in charcoal and daub, contained a good assemblage of 13th to 14th-century pottery. The deposits overlying much of the building indicated either a change of use, or perhaps more likely a period of decline and collapse. This is illustrated by a number of layers containing building debris overlying the hearths and oven. The initial deposit (37), containing shattered roof tile and building stone, occupied the southern half of the trench.

3.8   On the western side of the trench, overlying parts of both the western wall (52) and the initial demolition deposit (37), was a deposit (30) that appeared to represent a phase of demolition or collapse. Contained within the shattered building debris were large quantities of green-glazed medieval ridge tile. A further overlying layer of grey-brown silty clay (29) mixed with fragmented shale, appeared to represent further collapse. The deposit contained quantities of large iron roofing nails, animal bone, sherds of unglazed medieval cooking pot, and pottery of early 16th-century date. Of particular interest was a small copper-alloy decorative casting which was also recovered from the deposit (see below and Plates 9-10).

3.9   At a later date a second building was constructed on the same site, erected over the remains of the earlier building and its associated layers of building debris. This was less-well constructed and consisted of a dry-stone wall (45), 0.56m wide, aligned east to west and built over one of the hearths (48) of the earlier building. Only part of the walling survived, with three courses standing to a maximum height of 0.14m. Where the wall had been removed there was evidence for a construction trench (47). At its eastern extent sufficient elements of the structure had survived to demonstrate that it was tied into, and therefore contemporary with another wall (43) of similar build, which ran north to south along the south-eastern limits of the excavation. This wall, surviving to two courses, 0.1m in height, had been constructed over the top of the earlier oven (53). A further short length of walling may be represented by two large stones (42), aligned north to south, which may be associated with the later structure.

3.10   In the angle between the two walls was an area of firm yellow clay overlying the layer of debris (37), which may have been laid to level the floor of the later structure (44). Also overlying the debris, in the south-west quadrant of the trench, was a deposit (36) containing fragmented stone roofing tiles and several sherds of 13th to 14th-century pottery. This occupied a sub-circular area, 2.7m across, and may indicate the presence of a large pit into which later deposits (36 and 37) have subsided.

Trench 2 (Fig. 8, Plates 4-6)

3.11 As with Trench 1, a combined layer of topsoil (01) and an underlying deposit (02), of varying thickness between 0.36m and 0.6m, was removed by machine. The artefacts recovered from the two deposits paralleled those recovered from Trench 1, the topsoil artefacts dating from the 18th to 19th century and the underlying ploughsoil deposit from the late 17th to 18th century, with a few residual sherds of medieval pottery recovered from the lower deposit (02). Whilst removing the ploughsoil (02) along the eastern extent of the trench a late post-medieval field drain (03) was revealed, traversing the site on a north-west to south-east alignment. The cut for the drain was up to 0.4m in depth and contained a ceramic clay pipe capped with a culvert of re-used stone roofing tile.

3.12 Initially, along the northern section of the trench, the machining revealed underlying deposits of firm yellow brown silty clay (22), 0.41m thick, which overlay a thin layer of yellowy brown silty clay (26), up to 60mm thick. The deposit, which lay directly over the undisturbed natural subsoil (27), contained fragments of charcoal and a single sherd of unglazed medieval pottery. As machining progressed across the rest of the trench it became evident that layer 22 was cut by a series of features and that it also contained glazed and unglazed sherds of medieval pottery. Consequently, the remaining overburden was removed onto the surface of this deposit, with subsequent cleaning and excavation undertaken by hand.

3.13 In the south-western quadrant of the trench, overlying layer 22, was a firm, light grey, clay deposit (23), stained with charcoal flecks. Impressed into the clay, although clearly of a residual nature, was a large piece of copper alloy slag which appeared to be the remains of a smelting hearth (see below and Plate 11). The remnants of a stony surface (24) survived, partly overlying layers 22 and 23, and consisting of small rounded pebbles impressed into the underlying layers. A single stone roofing tile and sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the surface of the layer which is likely to represent a yard area outside the building identified in Trench 1.

3.14 Four shallow pits were identified cutting through layer 22, two of which (07 and 17) also cut the metalled surface (24) (Plate 5). Pit 17 was sub-circular, approximately 1.84m across and up to 0.15m deep. The basal fill consisted of a thin grey clay silt (15) while the main fill (16) predominantly consisted of large fragments of stone shale roofing tiles in a matrix of silty clay and charcoal, from which several artefacts were recovered, including medieval cooking pot sherds, roofing nails, and animal bone. Pit 07, which had been partially truncated along its northern edge during the machining, was of similar character to pit 17, sub-circular, measuring 2.4 x 1.7m and up to 0.25m deep. The two fills were similar in character to those in pit 17 and contained a number of iron roofing nails and several sherds of medieval pottery. The third pit (14) was also similar to pits 07 and 17, although it had been partly removed during the machining and was only clearly visible in the south facing section of the trench.

3.15 The fourth pit (11) was cut directly layer 22 and measured 1.95m in diameter and 0.52m deep (Plate 6). The primary fill (10), 0.06m thick, was a fine light grey clay silt containing flecks of charcoal above which was a layer of yellowy silty clay (09), 0.18m thick, which was confined to the eastern side of the pit. The uppermost fill, a firm brown silty clay (08), 0.42m thick and rich in charcoal and burnt daub, contained a number of sherds of 13th-14th-century pottery. The feature had an irregular curved base that, on the western edge, exposed the underlying natural subsoil (27), a gritty orange sand and clay mix.

3.16 Two other smaller features, both probably post-holes, were also identified. One post-hole (19) was located to the south-east of the pit 11, cutting through layer 22. The feature was 0.4m in diameter and only 50mm deep, containing a single fill (18) of fragmented stone mixed with grey clay silt. The second post-hole (21), sub-circular and up to 0.5m across and 90mm deep, was located in the north-west quadrant of the trench. This feature also contained a single fill (20) of firm grey silty clay, containing flecks of charcoal, burnt daub and sherds of unglazed medieval pottery.

3.17 In the north-west corner of the trench a deposit of greyish brown silty clay (55) was recorded in the south facing section of the trench, having been removed by the machining. The deposit had been cut by pit 14 and is therefore likely to be contemporary with layer 22.

3.18 A sondage was excavated in the south-east corner of the trench in order to ascertain the nature and depth of layer 22 and the depth of the natural subsoil. This demonstrated that

layer 22 was up to 0.41m thick and overlay a deposit of dark brown silty clay (25), 0.2m thick. Below deposit 25 was a yellowy-brown silty clay, probably the equivalent of deposit 26 previously recorded in the south-facing section of the trench. The underlying natural subsoil (27) was recorded at a depth of 1.28m. It has been assumed that layer 22 represents a medieval cultivation deposit.

4   THE FINDS by Nigel Jones

Medieval pottery (Plates 7 and 8)

4.1   The evaluation produced a significant assemblage of medieval pottery amounting to 231 sherds (2026g), as well as 92 sherds (4086g) of glazed ridge tile. The pottery has been rapidly assessed and subdivided macroscopically into three main generic fabric types, based on petrological inclusions that accord with the Clwyd-Powys Medieval Fabric Series (Courtney and Jones 1989). A full catalogue of the material is provided in Appendix 1.

Table 1 Medieval pottery quantification by fabric group

Fabric	No. sherds	Weight (g)
MB	205 (89%)	1814 (89%)
MC	18 (8%)	105 (5%)
MF	8 (3%)	107 (6%)
Totals	**231**	**2026**

Fabric MB

4.2   Ordovician or Silurian inclusions, characteristically with quartz, muscovite, biotite, micaceous sandstone, siltstone and fine-grained igneous inclusions. Forms include jugs, cooking pots and a single sherd of an unusual pottery mortar. The ceramic ridge tiles were also all Fabric MB. These are assumed to be of local manufacture.

Fabric MC

4.3   Hard, predominantly oxidised fabric with fine mica and occasional micaceous sandstone inclusions. A micaceous fabric typical of Herefordshire with forms that include jugs and cooking pots.

Fabric MF

4.4   Late Malvern oxidised wares dating from the last quarter of the 14th century to the 16th century. Inclusions of quartz sand, fragments of sandstone, igneous and metamorphic rocks. Forms are normally dominated by jugs although cooking pots are also represented.

4.5   In general the assemblage broadly parallels that from the excavations at The Porth, New Radnor in 1991-2 (Jones 1998) with many of the jug and particularly the cooking-pot rim forms being virtually identical. The vast majority of sherds are from an unknown local source and, although local wares are difficult to date precisely, as at The Porth, they are likely to belong to the 13th and 14th centuries. Small quantities of late medieval pottery are present in the form of Malvern wares (Fabric MF), which were recovered from the debris layers (contexts 05 and 29) indicating the likely collapse of the earliest building. In terms of vessel form, there are more jugs or jars (131 sherds) than cooking pots (99 sherds), and there is a single body sherd from a pottery mortar with rounded quartz trituration grits impressed into the interior surface of the pot. Both rod and strap handles are represented on the jugs and although most sherds are plain, there are examples of decoration including rouletting, applied strips and one sherd with more elaborate applied decoration, as well as stabbed markings on some of the handles.

Post-medieval Pottery

4.6   A total of 86 sherds (992g) of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the evaluation, all of which came from modern ploughsoils or late deposits sealing the later building. A variety

of vessel types and fabrics are represented including slipware dishes, mottled ware and glazed earthenware drinking vessels, as well 19th-century developed wares, including transfer prints.

Miscellaneous finds

4.7   Perhaps the most interesting artefacts recovered from the evaluation were the base of a small, copper alloy, smelting hearth and a small bronze casting (Plates 9-11). The latter seems to have been cast using the 'lost wax' method in a wet sand mould and could be the head and neck of a bird. The casting was obviously discarded as sand from the mould still adheres to the copper alloy. Unfortunately, both objects were residual in later deposits but provide a clear indication of metalworking nearby.

4.8   Other artefacts that were recovered include a large quantity of micaceous sandstone roofing tile, only a small sample of which was retained, and a single architectural fragment, probably from a window moulding. Similarly, although a quantity of iron objects were recovered, only those from more significant contexts were retained (excluding those from modern ploughsoil, the majority of which appear to be nails. A full catalogue of the miscellaneous finds is presented in Appendix 1.

5   CONCLUSIONS

5.1   The evaluation has demonstrated that significant buried archaeological remains survive within the plot adjacent to Bank Building, comprising two phases of construction work, the earliest perhaps dating to the 13th or 14th century, while the later structure could belong to the early post-medieval period.

5.2   The earliest building was constructed with well-built dry-stone walls and appears to have been aligned east to west, extending back from the frontage with Rectory Lane. Only the northern wall and one internal wall were identified within the evaluation, the building being over 8m in width and length, possibly with the main elevation fronting directly onto the street. The interior of the building had clay floors and an open hearth, three phases of which were identified, together with a drystone, circular oven. The building was roofed with micaceous sandstone tiles attached with iron nails, and glazed ceramic ridge tiles. Pottery recovered from the debris suggests that the building may have been abandoned during the 15th century.

5.3   The area to the north of the building included the remnants of a metalled yard surface and a number of shallow pits, all containing medieval pottery. It is possible but unproven that the rear part of the plot, to the west of the building, includes an additional yard area, possibly with further structures and large rubbish pits, similar to those revealed during excavations at The Porth, in 1991-2, some 130m to the west of the present evaluation. The evaluation also revealed evidence for metalworking in the form of a hearth base and a discarded, copper alloy casting, although both were residual in later contexts. It is probable, however, that this activity was undertaken nearby, possibly in an ancillary structure within the yard area.

5.4   Following the collapse of the building another structure was built on the site, overlying its predecessor. This was less well constructed and had no obvious floor surfacing, although it may have used the debris from the earlier building as a floor. No internal features were identified, the lack of which, together with and absence of associated domestic pottery, suggests that this may have been an agricultural building.

5.5   This report has been produced as an interim statement in support of the client's planning application to construct a number of dwellings within the plot. The site archive has been assessed and a full catalogue is provided in Appendix 1. It is clear that the site itself has significant archaeological potential and the existing archive has the potential for further research to be undertaken at some future date to understand more fully the nature and dating of the excavated remains. In particular, further analysis of the medieval pottery

assemblage could include more detailed comparisons with material from The Porth, as well as comparable material from Herefordshire. Specialist advice might also be sought on the evidence for metalworking, although the residual nature of the finds from the evaluation necessarily limits the significance of any additional information that be forthcoming.

5.6   The writers recommend that the site archive be deposited with the Regional Historic Environment Record, held by CPAT in Welshpool, while the artefacts should be deposited in an appropriate museum, which in this instance should be the Powys County Museum at Llandrindod Wells.

5.6   No further analysis of the archive is planned at present and any decision to conduct further work will be dependent on the outcome of the planning application. Should further excavation be undertaken on the site it would be appropriate for the two site archives to be amalgamated to allow the publication of a full and final report. If further excavation is not forthcoming, there is a requirement under the terms of the curatorial brief for the publication of the outline results from the evaluation in an appropriate journal, probably *Archaeology in Wales*.

6   ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDIX 1

PROJECT ARCHIVE

Site archive
55 context record forms
02 A1 site plans
03 A2 site plans
01 colour slide film
01 black and white negative film
40 Digital images
Photographic catalogue
Context Register
Drawings Register
5 levels record forms
Finds catalogues

CONTEXT REGISTER

Context	Trench	Context Type	Comments
01	1 and 2	Deposit	Topsoil
02	1 and 2	Deposit	Ploughsoil 17th/18th Century. Mid-brown, stony
03	2	Structure	Field Drain
04	2	Deposit	Stone demolition rubble
05	2	Fill	Stone demolition rubble in [07]
06	2	Fill	Below (05) – Clay – grey, firm
07	2	Cut	Pit, - cuts (22) and (24)
08	2	Fill	Loose to firm brown silt/clay in [11], rich in burnt clay and charcoal
09	2	Fill	Yellowy silt clay? - below (08) in [11]
10	2	Fill	Milky grey clay silt – below (09) in [11]
11	2	Cut	Pit – Cuts (22)
12	2	Fill	Stone demolition rubble and silty clay in [14]
13	2	Fill	Fine orangy silt below (12) in [14]
14	2	Cut	Pit in north section of Trench 2 (cuts [22]
15	2	Fill	Stony demolition rubble and silty clay
16	2	Fill	Grey clay silt fill in [17]
17	2	Cut	Pit – cuts (22) and (24)
18	2	Fill	Stony fill and clay silt in [19]
19	2	Cut	Post hole - cuts (22)
20	2	Fill	firm grey silty clay in [21]
21	2	Cut	posthole – cuts (22)
22	2	Deposit	Medieval cultivation layer – yellowy brown, below (02)
23	2	Deposit	Firm grey clay (floor?) over (22) – charcoal
24	2	Deposit	Metalled surface below (02), over (22) and cut by [17]
25	2	Deposit	Dark brown silty clay, cultivation layer below (22)
26	2	Deposit	Thin yellowy/ orangy-brown silt/clay.
27	2	Natural	Orangy clay/ sand, gritty in places, firm and stony elsewhere
28	1	Deposit	Demolition layer – loose grey brown with redeposited yellow clay and roof tile mixed with ploughsoil – below (02)
29	1	Deposit	Shattered stone and grey-brown soil under east wall
30	1	Deposit	Demolition layer/ roofing tiles – overlies wall [52] and (31)
31	1	Deposit	Overlying clay (32) - (yellow floor)
32	1	Deposit	Yellowy grey clay floor
33	1	Deposit	Possible fill underlying demolition rubble
34	1	Deposit	Demolition rubble overlying wall [52] and (33)
35	1	Deposit	Fine blackish silt overlying hearths
36	1	Deposit	Shattered stone SW of hearth overlying (37)
37	1	Deposit	Shattered stone and clay – below (29) above clay floor(50)
38	1	Fill	Fine loose brown silt within oven
39	1	Fill	Below (38) – gritty/ sandy – dark brown
40	1	Fill	Primary fill of oven – burnt area (Clay silt and demolition above burnt silt)
41	1	Deposit	Base of oven – below (40) – burnt silty clay
42	1	Structure	Unknown wall overlies (30) and (31)
43	1	Structure	Wall- drystone, under (28) over (29)
44	1	Deposit	Clay – firm, under (29) over (37)
45	1	Structure	Wall – drystone – part of [43]
46	1	Fill	Dark brown silt within [47], below and part of [45]
47	1	Cut	Cut for wall [45]
48	1	Structure	Hearth – under (29), over (49)
49	1	Structure	Hearth? – or base of oven, under [48]- set into (50)
50	1	Deposit	Firm yellowy clay floor, under (37)
51	1	Structure	Hearth – set into (50), below (35)
52	1	Structure	Drystone wall – western edge runs N to S
53	1	Structure	Oven, below (37) and [43] filled by (38-40)
54	1	Structure	Drystone wall- northern edge runs E to W, below demolition layer (28)
55	2	Deposit	NW corner, below (02), cut by [14], contemporary with (22)?

DRAWINGS REGISTER

Drawing Number	Scale	Comments
01	1:20	Post excavation plan of Trench 1
02	1:20	Post excavation plan of Trench 2
03	1:10	Southwest facing section drawing of Pit [07]
04	1:10	Southwest facing section drawing of Pit [17]
05	1:10	Southwest facing section drawing of Pit [11]
06	1:10	Southwest facing section drawing of Posthole [19]
07	1:10	North facing section drawing of Posthole [21]
08	1:20	West facing section of Trench 2
09	1:20	South facing section of Trench 2
10	1:20	West facing section of Trench 1
11	1:20	South facing section of Trench 1

FINDS CATALOGUES

Medieval pottery catalogue

Context	Form	Fabric	Sherds	Weight (g)	Comment
1	Jug/Jar	MB	1	9	Body sherd
2	Jug/Jar	MB	10	50	1 small rim sherd
2	Jug	MB	1	26	Strap handle
2	Jug/Jar	MB	1	44	Horizontal ribbing
2	Ridge tile	MB	5	124	
2	Jug/Jar	MB	3	12	Body sherd
5	Jug/Jar	MB	1	84	2 small rimsherds, 1 small base
5	Cooking pot	MB	13	26	2 glazed sherds
5	Jug/Jar	MC	6	17	Body sherds
5	Cooking pot	MF	3	64	1 small rimsherd
8	Jug/Jar	MC	4	9	Body sherds
8	Cooking pot	MB	2	5	Body sherds
8	Jug/Jar	MB	7	20	2 glazed sherds
8	Cooking pot	MB	19	186	2 small rimsherds, 1 small base
8	Jug/Jar	MB	10	60	3 glazed sherds
8	Jug/Jar	MB	1	32	Rimsherd
8	Jug/Jar	MB	1	11	Glazed rimsherd
8	Cooking pot	MB	1	11	Rimsherd
15	Cooking pot	MB	3	112	Bodysherds
15	Cooking pot	MB	1	59	Rimsherd
15	Cooking pot	MB	1	42	Joins with above rimsherd
15	Jug/Jar	MB	2	11	1 base sherd
20	Jug/Jar	MB	1	12	Rimsherd
22	Jug	MB	1	36	Handle decorated with stabbed holes
22	Cooking pot	MB	1	13	Rimsherd
22	Jug/Jar	MB	1	62	Glazed lug handle?
22	Mortar	MB	1	12	Pottery mortar
24	Cooking pot	MB	1	14	Rimsherd
26	Cooking pot	MB	1	6	1 small rimsherd
28	Jug/Jar	MB	1	48	Base - 8cm diameter, 35%
28	Jug/Jar	MB	3	19	2 glazed sherds
28	Ridge tile	MB	14	408	
29	Jug/Jar	MB	28	108	Bodysherds
29	Jug/Jar	MB	2	22	2 rod handles
29	Jug	MB	1	6	Decorated in roulette style

29	Cooking pot	MB	1	45	Rimsherd
29	Cooking pot	MB	10	63	Bodysherds
29	Jug/Jar	MF	2	13	2 glazed sherds
29	Cooking pot	MC	1	4	Bodysherd
30	Cooking pot	MB	1	6	Base
30	Ridge tile	MB	70	3504	
30	Jug/Jar	MB	2	23	1 bodysherd, 1 strap handle with stab marks
31	Cooking pot	MC	3	23	2 bodysherds, 1 base sherd
31	Cooking pot	MB	27	212	Bodysherds
31	Cooking pot	MB	1	18	Rimsherd
31	Cooking pot	MB	1	21	Rimsherd
31	Cooking pot	MB	1	20	Rimsherd
31	Jug/Jar	MB	1	23	1 rod handle
31	Cooking pot	MB	1	13	Rimsherd
31	Jug/Jar	MB	23	122	Bodysherds
31	Ridge tile	MB	1	17	
33	Jug/Jar	MF	3	30	2 glazed sherds, 1 rod handle
34	Jug/Jar	MB	3	10	Bodysherds
34	Jug	MC	1	33	Highly decorated rim
35	Jug/Jar	MC	3	19	Bodysherds
36	Jug/Jar	MB	6	26	Bodysherds
36	Cooking pot	MB	4	20	Bodysherds
37	Cooking pot	MB	1	17	Rimsherd
37	Ridge tile	MB	2	33	
39	Jug/Jar	MB	1	12	Glazed sherd
52	Cooking pot	MB	1	5	Base sherd

Post medieval pottery catalogue

Context	Sherds	Weight (g)	Comment
1	3	32	Coal measures red
1	1	4	Yellow ware
1	2	30	Developed white ware
1	2	4	Mottled ware
1	1	11	Brown glaze
2	2	11	Combed slipware
2	6	40	Mottled ware
2	2	11	Yellow ware
2	1	2	Cream ware
2	3	9	Developed white ware
2	1	3	White ware
2	2	22	Coarse ware
2	13	106	Slip ware
2	1	11	Jasper ware?
2	3	7	
2	1	22	Yellow ware handle
2	6	45	Mottled ware
2	1	12	Combed slipware
2	3	74	Coal measures red
2	3	44	Combed slip ware
2	2	57	
2	2	214	Grey stoneware
2	2	12	Developed white ware
28	1	3	Industrial ware
28	2	11	Yellow ware
28	9	174	
28	11	21	

Miscellaneous finds catalogue

Material	Context	Number	Weight	Comment
Animal bone	15	1	5	
Animal bone	29	2	39	
Animal bone	38	1	14	
Animal bone	40	2	48	
Clay pipe	1	4	12	1 pipe bowl
Clay pipe	2	24	40	
Clay pipe	2	1	36	
Clay pipe	28	4	116	
Coin	2	1		Edward VII penny, 1902
Copper alloy	29	1	3	Casting of ?bird's head
Daub	28	1	19	Imprint of wattle on burnt daub
Fired clay	8	7	35	
Iron	5	1	17	Nail?
Iron	8	5	62	
Iron	15	2	10	Nail?
Iron	22	6	90	
Iron	29	12	384	Nails etc
Iron	31	6	30	
Iron	39	1	6	Nail
Iron	40	3	37	Nails
Lead	40	1	10	
Slag	22	2	12	
Smelting hearth base	22	1		Large fragment of a copper alloy smelting hearth base
Stone roofing tile	5	4		
Stone roofing tile	15	1		
Stone roofing tile	28	4		
Stone roofing tile	34	1		2 holes
Stone roofing tile	36	3		
Stone roofing tile	39	2		
Worked stone	33	1		Moulded window decoration?

APPENDIX 2

SPECIFICATION

1   Introduction

1.1   The Contracting Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust has been invited to prepare a specification of works for undertaking an archaeological evaluation in connection with proposals to erect three new dwellings on land adjoining Bank Buildings, Rectory Lane, New Radnor, Powys. The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, acting as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, have determined that an archaeological evaluation should be undertaken to assess the potential impact of the proposals on the archaeological resource.

1.2   The site lies within the historic core of the medieval town, and it is therefore anticipated that significant buried archaeological deposits may survive within in the area and the following specification has been designed to evaluate the depth and significance of these deposits.

2   Objectives

2.1   The objectives of the evaluation are:

2.1.1   to reveal by means of a desktop study and field evaluation, the nature, condition, significance and, where possible, the chronology of the archaeology within the area of the proposed development in so far as these aims are possible;

2.1.2   to record any archaeological deposits 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 evaluation will involve the examination of all the readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic, pictorial, and photographic sources at the County Records Office, Llandrindod Wells; the County Sites and Monuments Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, Welshpool; the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; and the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.

3.2   All cartographic sources consulted will be included within the desktop section of the report, together with transcriptions of relevant documents and copies of plans, maps and photographs containing relevant information.

3.3   The field evaluation will consist of two trenches, each measuring 8 x 8m. The excavation will be undertaken using a machine excavator with a toothless bucket to remove modern overburden down to the level of the first recognisable archaeological horizon. Thereafter, all excavation will be conducted by hand unless otherwise agreed with the Curator in advance. The evaluation will be entirely non-destructive and designed to determine the depth at which archaeologically sensitive deposits survive, together with their nature condition and significance. The depth of natural deposits will be determined to assess the extent of any stratified deposits which may be encountered.

3.4   It has been assumed that the area in question has sufficient access for a JCB or other mechanical excavator. Excavated material will be temporarily stored adjacent to the trench, which will be reinstated with this material upon completion. No provision has been made for stripping or relaying any surfaced areas, or for fencing the trench during the excavation. It has also been assumed that each trench will be mechanically excavated and any changes to this methodology could impact on the timing and therefore cost.

3.5   Contexts will be recorded on individual record forms and be drawn and photographed as appropriate. All photography will be in 35mm format black and white print and colour slide. All features will be located as accurately as possible with respect to buildings and boundaries identified on modern Ordnance Survey maps and levels will be related to Ordnance Datum where possible.

3.6   All artefacts will be related to their contexts from which they were derived and treated in a manner appropriate to their composition and will be processed by trained CPAT staff.

3.7   Following the on-site work an illustrated and bound report will be prepared in A4 format, containing conventional sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology; Archaeological Background; Evaluation; Conclusions and References, together with appropriate appendices on archives and finds.

3.8   The site archive will be prepared to specifications laid out in Appendix 3 in the Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991), to be deposited with the Regional Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). All artefacts will, subject to the permission of the owner, be deposited with Llandrindod Wells Museum.

4   **Resources and Programming**

4.1   The evaluation will be undertaken by a small team of skilled archaeologists under the overall supervision of Mr RJ Silvester, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). CPAT is an IFA Registered Organisation.

4.2   All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist who conducted the evaluation.

4.3   It is anticipated that the evaluation will be completed within 10 days. The report will be completed within 2 weeks of the completion of on-site works. A draft copy of the report will be forwarded to the Curator for approval prior to the production of the final report. Copies of the final report will provided to the client and the Regional SMR. The Curator will be informed of the timetable in order to arrange for monitoring if required. At present, CPAT would be in a position to undertake the work during June or July 2005, subject to sufficient advance notice.

4.4   The following contingency sums have been allowed in accordance with section 10 of the curatorial brief. The need for such contingencies, and their potential cost, would be subject to discussions between CPAT, the client and the curator once the fieldwork has been completed. The following figures are therefore only for guidance and the final cost, should any of the services be required, may be more or less than the estimates provided.

Curatorial monitoring	£50 per visit
Finds conservation etc	£200
Dating	£300
Environmental sampling	£200
Museum deposition and storage	£50
Publication	*Archaeology in Wales* at no additional charge

4.5   Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.

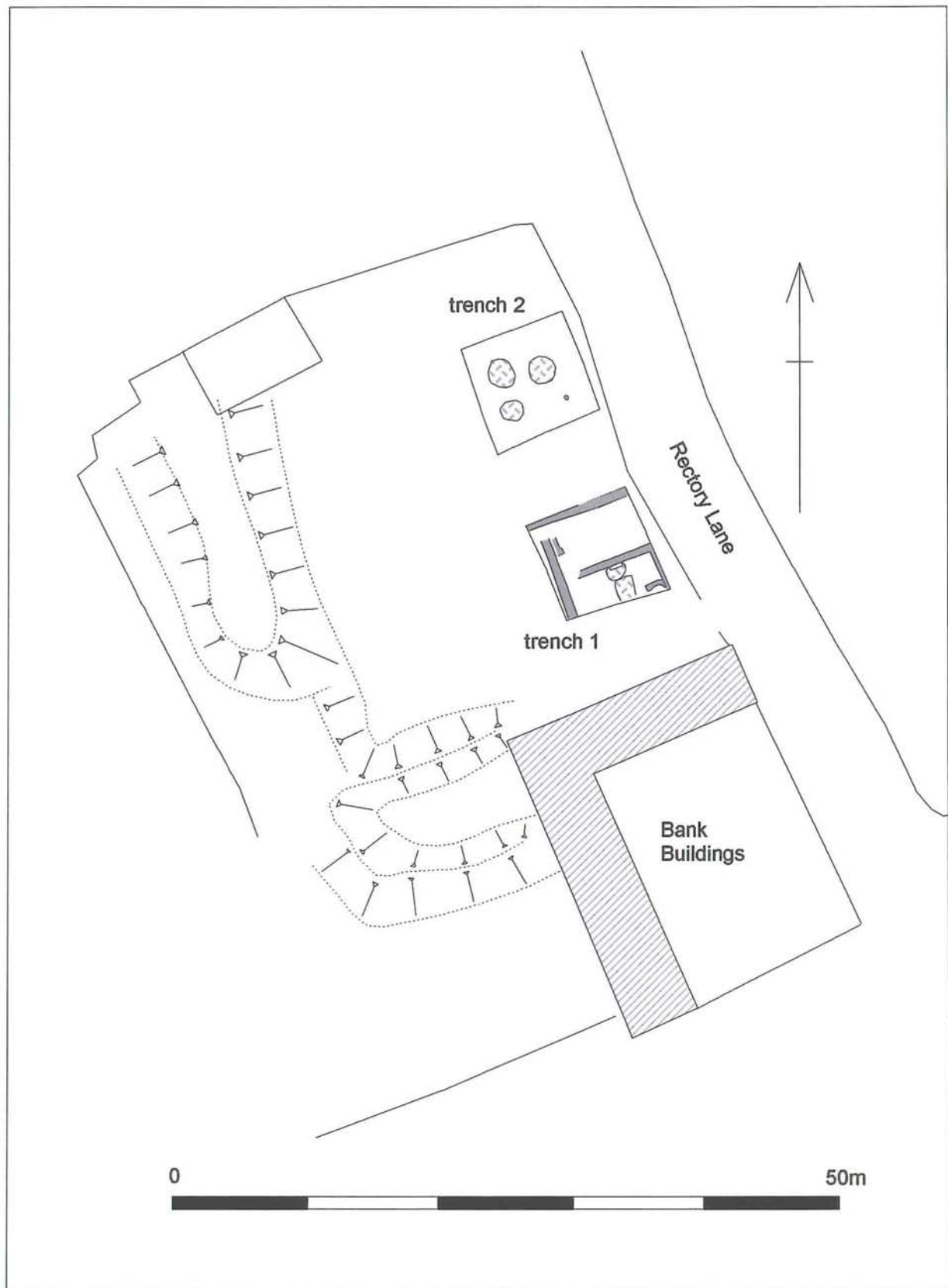4.6   CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance.

N.W. Jones
6 May 2005

Fig. 6 Trench location and earthworks

Fig. 7 Trench 1 plan and sections

A · B

54

34

33

42

31

32

30

45

47

48

44

37

49

50

37

36

51

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41

C

A · B

01

02

28

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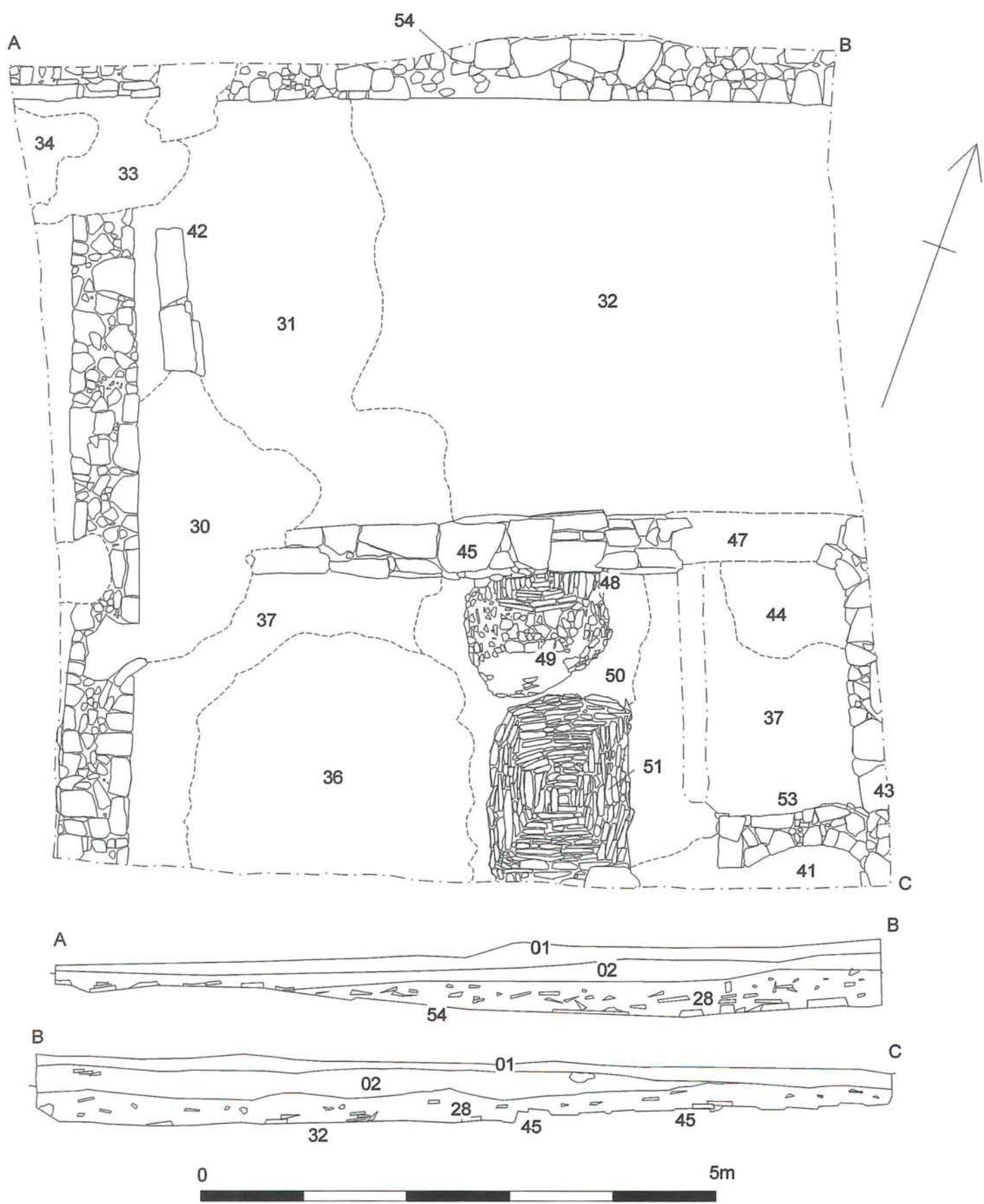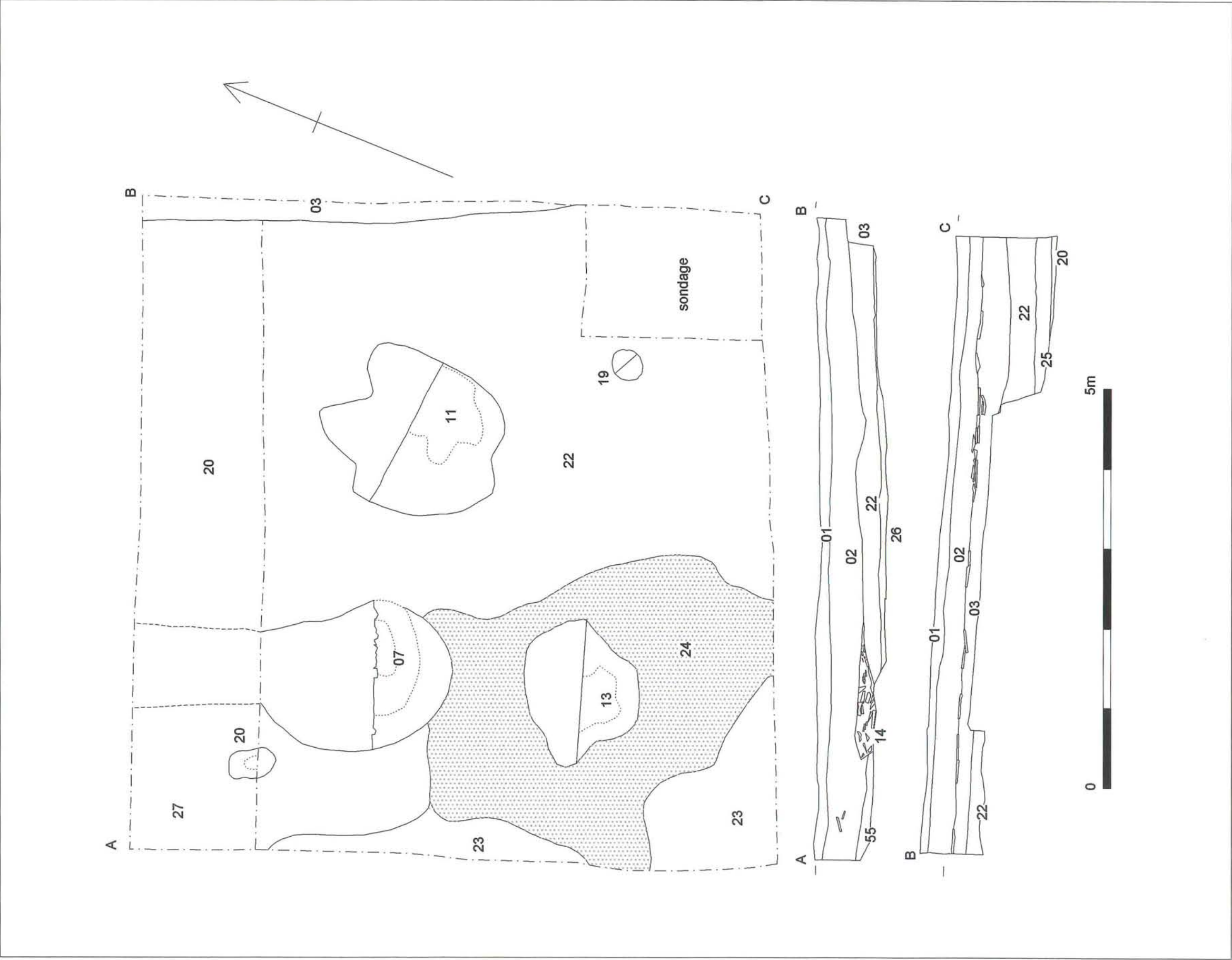
Fig. 8 Trench 2 plan and sections

Plate 1. Trench 1, medieval building and floor levels viewed from the west. Photo CPAT 1979.11

Plate 2. Trench 1, medieval open hearths (48, 49, 51) viewed from the south. Photo CPAT 1979.09

Plate 3. Trench 1, medieval oven (53), post excavation. Photo CPAT 1979.37

Plate 4. Trench 2, post cleaning illustrating medieval cultivation layer (22). Photo CPAT 1979.18

Plate 5. Trench 2. South facing sections through pits 17 and 07. Photo CPAT 1979.28

Plate 6. Trench 2, South facing section through pit 11. Photo CPAT 1979.30

Plate 7. Selection of medieval glazed jug sherds

Plate 8 Selection of medieval cooking pot sherds

Plate 9 copper alloy casting from context 00 (side view)

Plate 10 copper alloy casting from context 00 (top view)

Plate 11 Copper alloy smelting hearth base from context 22