



THE UNIVERSITY  
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**The Salvation Army,  
Upper Well Street,  
Coventry:  
An Archaeological  
Evaluation 2003**

*Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit*



Institute of Field  
Archaeologists

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Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit  
**Project No. 1067**  
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**The Salvation Army Citadel, Upper Well Street, Coventry:  
An Archaeological Evaluation. 2003**

by  
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## **THE SALVATION ARMY, UPPER WELL STREET, COVENTRY: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION. 2003**

### **SUMMARY**

*An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit in Upper Well Street, Coventry (NGR SP 3315 7931) in May 2003. HSSP Architects commissioned the work, on behalf of The Salvation Army, prior to the building of a new centre. As the medieval city wall runs along the eastern edge of the current Salvation Army building and Upper Well Street dates to the medieval period, it was thought that archaeological remains may be present. Three trenches were excavated to establish the survival of a ditch associated with the city wall and to investigate any evidence of settlement along Upper Well Street. The excavations revealed that the city ditch survives below a substantial build-up of post-medieval layers in the eastern part of the development area. However, along Upper Well Street, archaeology relating to the medieval period survived to within 0.3m of the current ground surface.*

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This report details the results of trial trenching at Upper Well Street, Coventry. The evaluation was undertaken in advance of the building of a new Salvation Army Centre. Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) was commissioned by HSSP Architects on behalf of The Salvation Army to carry out the work, which was undertaken in May 2003.

The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief prepared by The Planning Archaeologist for Coventry City Council (Soden 2003) and a written scheme of investigation prepared by BUFAU (Cutler 2003).

### **2.0 THE SITE**

Upper Well Street is located to the north of Coventry city centre (NGR SP 3315 7931, Fig. 1), just outside the medieval city walls. The site is bounded by Lamb Street to the north, Upper Well Street to the west and the city wall, which is still standing, to the east and south. The area under evaluation consists of the Salvation Army Citadel, a partially cellared 1950s building, with open asphalt and paved areas surrounding it (Fig. 2).

The underlying geology of the area is Kcuper Marl, a stiff red clay of the Triassic Enville Beds with an underlying, course grained red sandstone. These seal Carboniferous coal seams (British Geological Survey 1955).

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The City of Coventry probably dates to the late Anglo-Saxon period. Prehistoric and Roman activity of a transitory nature has been noted in what is now the city, but no settlements have been identified yet. A priory was founded here in the late Anglo-Saxon period, maybe as early as the ninth century. The city was thriving by the twelfth century as a commercial centre built up around the Cathedral Priory.

Upper Well Street was part of the main route between Stafford and Coventry from at least the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The evaluation area lies along this road just outside the medieval city wall. The length of the city wall between Upper Well Street and the modern line of Lamb Street is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 20.b), and is one of the few upstanding sections of the wall to survive. The ditch and wall are here of fifteenth century date and the whole circuit took nearly 200 years to complete. This once formed a corridor approximately 10m wide which ran for nearly two and a quarter miles around the medieval city. Excavations in 1960 showed that the wall hereabouts replaced an earlier defensive ditch. The same excavations showed the post-medieval and contemporary overburden in front of the wall to be in the region of 1.5m in depth. Recent fieldwork in the area has demonstrated that this amount of overburden above the medieval levels is common in this part of Coventry. Due to the depth of the ditch it seems reasonable to suggest that a well stratified sequence of deposits may survive within it. As Well Street was in existence by the 12<sup>th</sup> century and since the ditch and wall are known to be of 15<sup>th</sup> century date, it seems likely that occupation predating the ditch may be encountered.

Upper Well Street appears to have been continuously occupied since the medieval period, despite being outside the city walls. A document dating to 1609 (Borough Archive BA/A/4/114/1) describes several properties on the east side of Well Street immediately outside the city walls and the 1610 map (Fig. 3) shows the area to be fully built up. Some of the eastern frontage today lies beneath the present pedestrian pavement, with only half of the remaining frontage area located within the site. Within the development area the properties shown on the 1748-49 map appear to be the same as those on the 1807 map. As Coventry was in an economic decline from c.1500-1750 it seems likely that the buildings on the 1748-49 map are pre-1500 (Iain Soden *pers. comm.*). The medieval frontage has been developed at least twice since 1807. Fig. 4 shows the trial trenches superimposed over an early 20<sup>th</sup> century plan of the area.

The existing Salvation Army building was built in the 1950s. It contains a basement at its southern end, which suggests that deposits would have been truncated in this area. However, there remains the possibility of deposits dating to the medieval period surviving in the area between the western outer edge of the ditch and the former street frontage under the rest of the building. Deposits relating to early medieval occupation may also survive under the pavement along Upper Well Street.

#### **4.0 METHODOLOGY**

The trenches were excavated using a mini-digger fitted with a 1m toothless ditching bucket, under direct archaeological supervision, down to the subsoil or level of the uppermost archaeological horizon. Trench 1 was approximately 6m x 2.5m, Trench 2 was 6m x 2m and Trench 3 was 4m x 2m. Information from earlier excavations suggested that modern overburden would be present to a depth of 1.5m. This proved to be the case in Trenches 1 and 2, therefore they were shored to facilitate safe excavation. In Trench 1 the asphalt was cut and broken using a floor saw and concrete breaker. In Trenches 2 and 3 the concrete slabs were removed by hand and placed away from the excavation area. All discrete features were hand excavated.

Excavation of the undisturbed deposits in the city ditch was not within the scope of this evaluation, their presence was merely established. An auger was used in Trench

2 to determine the level of the natural and provide a depth for the ditch. Particular importance was placed on establishing ordnance datum for each trench.

Each trench was drawn in section and planned at 1:20 and 1:50. Photographs were taken in both black and white and colour print. Dateable features and deposits were sampled for paleoenvironmental analysis. Finds were collected, washed, marked, bagged and conserved as appropriate. Recording was by means of printed *pro-forma* context and feature cards. The levels on the trenches were recorded with a standard dumpy level from a spot height on the junction between Bishops Street and Lamb Street

The site archive consists of all artefactual and ecofactual remains from the site and conforms to the guidelines set down in Appendix 3 of the Management of Archaeology Projects. The archive will be made available to the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum in a form commensurate with the museum's accession requirements.

### **Aims**

The general aim of the evaluation was to characterise the nature, extent and date of any archaeological deposits encountered.

More specific aims were identified as follows:

#### **TRENCH 1**

This trench was to be aligned perpendicular to the city wall (Fig.2) to intersect the western edge of the associated defensive ditch. Due to live services the alignment of this trench was altered slightly. It was excavated to establish the presence or absence of medieval occupation, and to define the western edge of the ditch.

#### **TRENCH 2**

This was located in the Salvation Army car park adjacent to Lamb Street. The trench was orientated east-west in order to intersect with the defensive ditch. The objective of Trench 2 was to establish the presence or absence of medieval occupation in the area, and to obtain dating evidence from the 'made ground' to establish a chronology.

#### **TRENCH 3**

This was located within the entrance to the Salvation Army Citadel with the intention of identifying medieval horizons associated with the former street frontages.

## **5.0 THE RESULTS OF THE TRIAL TRENCHING**

### **Trench 1 (Fig. 5)**

Natural (1008) was located c.1.5m below the ground surface in the north end of the trench. At the southern end the natural was cut by the city wall ditch (F101) and was machined to a maximum depth of 2.8m below the current ground surface (see Table 1 for heights above sea level). The western edge of the city wall ditch (F101) was aligned approximately northeast-southwest across the trench. The full dimensions were not established as the ditch was not fully excavated. The lowest visible fill was 1007 a soft mid-brown silty sand with lumps and flecks of charcoal throughout. This context was more than 0.3m deep. Above this was a slightly darker soft brown silty sand with large charcoal inclusions (1003). This context was up to 1.5m deep and

contained late 17<sup>th</sup> – early 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery. In the west facing section of the trench was a band of dark brown silt containing patches of natural and charcoal flecking (1002, not illustrated), this was up to 0.4m deep and probably represents the uppermost surviving ditch deposit. Overlying F101 was a layer of dark-brown/black silt (1001) c.0.6-0.8m deep. This contained brick fragments and late post-medieval pottery.

Cut through 1003 was the foundation trench for a wall (F100). The foundation was 1.5m deep in-filled with five courses of sandstone blocks (1009). The blocks were mostly irregular, however at their southern extent they were faced at what appeared to be a corner. Two courses of bricks (1010) were mortared onto the sandstone which were associated with a dark-brown/black silty fill (1005 not illustrated). The wall (F100) was aligned approximately north-south, however a return (F102), associated with this, was aligned east-west at the northern extent of the trench (Fig. 5). Built up against the wall foundation and slightly overlying it was a dark-brown/black silty layer (1006) filled with brick rubble. In the north facing section (not illustrated) 1006 was overlying a layer of grey degraded concrete, building rubble and mortar (1004). This was up to 0.4m deep and overlying 1001.

Overlying 1010 was a layer of concrete, under builder's sand and the paving slabs (1000).

#### **Trench 2 (Fig. 5)**

The natural drift geology was not exposed in Trench 2. The trench was machine excavated to what appeared to be undisturbed deposits within the city ditch (2007) approximately 1.8m below the current ground surface. An auger was used at this point, and the depth of the natural (2008) established at 3.5 m (see Table 1).

2007 was a soft mid-brown silty sand containing large lumps of charcoal. This fill was similar to 1007 found in Trench 1. No finds were recovered from this context. Above this was 2005, a thin layer, c.0.1-0.15m deep, of soft mid brown silt sand containing patches of natural red sand. This was overlain by a layer of mid-brown silt sand containing large lumps and flecks of charcoal (2004). This layer was up to 0.5m deep and contained modern window glass.

These layers (2004, 2005 and 2007) were cut by a wall foundation cut (F200). The cut, visible cutting through the lower fills of the ditch contained a dark-brown silt fill with charcoal inclusions (2006). The wall was made of large sandstone ashlar masonry (2002). Four courses survived each approximately 0.3m high with blocks ranging from 0.25-0.9m in length. The width of the wall was not established.

A layer of dark-brown/ black silt with charcoal inclusions (2003) up to 0.6m deep appeared to have built up against the wall (F200). This layer contained 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery and was very similar in matrix to 1001 from Trench 1.

Overlying F200 and 2003 was a layer of brick rubble (2001) up to 0.7m deep, this was overlain by the asphalt (2000).



### **Trench 3 (Fig. 6)**

The natural geology was established at a depth of 0.3-0.35m below the current ground surface. This was a hard red clay with small patches of red sandstone(3009). Above this was a thin layer c.0.1m thick of solid red clay containing small patches of red sandstone and charcoal (3008), which appeared to be disturbed natural.

F300 (Fig. 6) was a large pit cut into 3008, the northern extent of which lay beyond the northern section of the Trench. Measuring 1.3m wide the pit was roughly rectangular with rounded corners in plan. With a U shaped profile the pit was cut to a depth of c.0.7m. The primary fill was a black layer of coal and charcoal (3004), 0.15m deep, which was sealed by a reddish brown sand (3003) with small patches of natural clay and sand, c.0.2-0.3m deep. Sealing 3003 was a greyish brown silty sand with charcoal inclusions (3002), 0.15m deep. Both 3003 and 3002 produced 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century pottery. The upper fill of the pit (F300) consisted of a reddish brown clay-silt with a large amount of charcoal. This context also contained 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery and animal bone, which showed evidence for button manufacture.

Two small post-holes (F302 and F304) and a stake-hole (F303) were cut into 3008. F302 (3011) was circular, 0.2m in diameter and 0.1m deep. F303 (3012) was a small square feature 0.1m x 0.1m and 0.16m deep. F304 was circular, 0.35m in diameter, 0.06m deep, and produced one sherd of medieval pottery.

A large pit (F308) measured approximately c.0.9m across and was excavated to a depth of 0.12m. It was filled by a greenish ash and silt mixed with large quantities of charcoal (3018) c.0.01-0.03m deep. This was sealed by a hard burnt red clay (3017), 0.11m in depth. This was cut by a shallow, oval feature (F307), approximately c.0.45m wide and 0.75m long. Cut to a depth of c.0.04m, the feature (F307) was filled by a mid-light brown sand with charcoal flecking throughout (3016).

F305 and F306 were not excavated. The edges of these features were visible in the southern edge of the trench, but the dimensions unclear. They were both cut through 3000. F305 (3014) possibly dates to the post-medieval period due to the presence of broken bricks visible in the upper fill. A piece of ceramic tile was recovered from the upper surface of F306 (3015).

F301 (3007) was a probable post-medieval feature of unknown dimensions cut through both 3000 and 3008. The edge of this feature was visible in the south section of the trench. It was not excavated. A large, modern, frogged house brick was evident in the upper fill of this feature.

These features were sealed by a mid-dark brown charcoal flecked silty sand (3000), which contained medieval pottery. This context was under a thin layer of yellow builder's sand (3006) which underlay the paving slabs (3005).

Table 1 Height above sea-level of trenches and features

Location Level Taken	Height AOD
Top Trench 1, north	83.56
Top of Trench 1, south	83.13
Trench 1, top of F100	83.13
Trench 1, datum line on section drawing	82.37
Top of Trench 2, east	85.18
Top of Trench 2, west	85.18
Trench 2, top of F200	84.99
Trench 2, top of 2004	83.86
Trench 2, top of 2005	83.24
Top of Trench 3, east	83.82
Top of Trench 3, west	83.83
Trench 3, top of 3000	83.64
Trench 3, top of F300	83.59
Trench 3, top of 3008	83.56

## 6.0 THE FINDS

### 6.1 A summary of the finds by Annette Hancocks

Table 2. Finds quantification and spot dating

Description	Quantification	Spot-dating
Unstratified	Animal Bone (80g)	
1003	7x clay pipe stem (19g), 2x Post-medieval pottery (23g), included feathered slipware, animal bone (<1g)	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – early/mid 18 <sup>th</sup> Century
1007	1x Medieval pottery (19g); 1x ceramic tile (100g); animal bone (8g)	1250 – 1300 AD (residual)
Tr.2		
Cleaning Layer	5x modern glass vessels (423g; including marmite jar); 1x Medieval pottery (12g); 8x Post-medieval pottery (540g, mottled ware); includes animal bone (3g)	Modern 19 <sup>th</sup> century with residual 17 <sup>th</sup> and 1250-1300 AD
2003	1x Bakerlite light switch (48g); 2x Post-medieval pottery (41g), mottled and blackware?	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – early/mid 18 <sup>th</sup> century coarsewares
2004	Animal bone (30g); 2x ceramic tile (53g); 3x modern window glass (7g)	
2005	Animal bone (105g)	
Tr. 3		
Unstratified	1x Medieval Pottery (9g)	1250 – 1300 AD
Layer	Animal Bone (24g); 3x Medieval (15g)	
3000 Layer	14x Medieval pottery (199g, Chilvers Coton A, Coventry A Ware and Canon Park?); animal bone (63g); iron nail (46g).	14 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> century AD with 1250-1300 AD material
3001 (F300) Upper Fill of Pit	Animal bone (137g), includes evidence for button-making; 11x Medieval pottery (223g, Chilvers Coton A and C Ware, Whiteware); 1x Chilvers	14 <sup>th</sup> century AD

	Coton ceramic tile (12g); 2x ceramic tile (34g) Residue finds: 1x ceramic tile (18g)	
3002 (F300) Pit	Animal Bone (967g); 44x Medieval pottery (766g, Chilvers Coton A, Proto Midlands Purple Ware, Late Red ware, Early Chilvers Coton A; one piece reused a counter); 3x ceramic tile (113g) with splash glaze; 1x sandstone (47g); Slag (19g); 1x coal (7g) Residue finds: Animal bone (37g); 1x Medieval pottery (4g)	15 <sup>th</sup> century with 1250-1300AD material
3003 (F300) Pit	Animal bone (432g); 19x Medieval pottery (273g, Early Chilvers Coton C); 3x coal (12g); 4x ceramic tile (418g); 2x stone (29g)	13 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> century
3004 (F300)	Residue finds: Animal bone (6g)	
3008	5x fired clay/daub (17g); 1x Medieval Pottery (7g)	
3010 (F304)	1x Medieval pottery (1g)	
3011 (F302)	1x Medieval pottery (20g, Chilvers Coton A)	12 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> century AD
3014 (F305) Pit	2x Ceramic glazed tile (31g); 1x Medieval pottery (6g); 1x slate frag. (5g); 1x worked stone quern? (436g)	1250 – 1300 AD
3015 (F306)	Modern Ceramic Tile (126g)	
3017 (F308)	5x Medieval Pottery (58g); Animal bone (7g); 2x brick? (5g) Residue finds: 3x Medieval pottery (10g, Coventry types wares)	Mid 13 <sup>th</sup> Century AD

The ceramics were rapidly-scanned, quantified and a spot-date assigned by Stephanie Rátkai. A total of 138 sherds (2226g) with an average sherd weight of 16g were observed. It was noted how little early material survived, with a noticeable lack of Chilvers Coton C wares. This may reflect the competition from the Canon Park pottery industry.

The largest feature, Pit F300 produced the most ceramics. It is apparent that upon excavation some contamination occurred between contexts 3001 and 3002 (S Rátkai pers comm). Overall though this feature appears to date to the early 14<sup>th</sup> century AD.

## 6.2 The Animal Bone by E Hancox

A small amount of bone was hand collected from the excavation, weighing 1756g. Bulk samples were taken for sieving, no faunal remains were recovered from these. Countable elements came from 6 contexts 1007 (Tr 1), 2004, 2005 (Tr 2), 3000, 3001 and 3002 (TR 3). The bone from Trenches 1 and 2 dates to the post-medieval, Trench 3 is possibly 14<sup>th</sup> century in date. The bone was in fair condition but much of it was fragmented. Evidence of butchery was found in context (3002). This context also produced a fragment of calcified bone but no evidence of pathology or gnawing was found.

Context 3002 produced the largest bone assemblage; 8 cow, 17 sheep, 3 pig and 3 bird bones (2 chicken and 1 goose) were noted along with 2 horncores. 6 measurable bones and 3 ageable jaws were present. 2 button blanks were also recovered from this context along with another from 3001.

3001 and 3002 both originate from F300, a probable 14<sup>th</sup> century rubbish pit. The presence of button blanks and the 2 horncores could be indicative of small-scale industry in the vicinity in the form of bone working and tanning.

The faunal assemblage is too small to be of any archaeological potential at present. No further work is recommended at this stage.

It is recommended that the finds archive, in particular the pottery, be incorporated into any future work. The archive comprises of 19 assemblage summary sheets and a small box of finds. These will be deposited with the Herbert Museum and Art Gallery, Coventry, once the issue of legal title has been resolved.

#### **7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS** by Marina Ciaraldi

Soil samples of 10 and 20 litres were taken from two features in Trench 3. Samples 3001, 3002 and 3004 were taken from different fills of a possible 14<sup>th</sup> century pit F300. Sample F300/3004 contained large pieces of coal. Sample F308/3017 was collected from a possible hearth. It had a hard clayey/sandy soil matrix with charcoal fragments, probably part of an artificially hardened surface. The plant remains recovered from these features are discussed in the light of their contribution to the reconstruction of the site economy and palaeoenvironment.

Soil sub samples were processed by manual flotation. The light fraction (flot) was recovered on a 0.5 sieve and the residue (heavy fraction) on a 1mm mesh. The residue was sorted by eye, whereas the flots was quickly scanned under a low power stereomicroscope.

#### **Results and recommendations**

The results of the preliminary analysis on the samples are listed in Table 3. All the samples were extremely charcoal rich and some contained charred remains of cereals, weeds as well as fish and mammal bones. The preservation of the charred seeds was generally good although their concentration in the soil was rather low. The species identified included all the major types of cereals used during the medieval period, including rye (*Secale cereale* L.) and bread/club wheat (*Triticum aestivum* s.l.). The mixture of charred plant remains, bones and pottery suggest that the deposit probably resulted from the disposal of kitchen waste. Though a few weed seeds were noticed, the plant assemblage does not seem to suggest that crop processing activity took place on site.

The presence of fish bones is particularly important as they can provide information on the diet of the occupiers of the site and their trading network.

The presence of charred plant remains as well as fish and mammal bones from the samples examined suggests that they are present and well preserved in the archaeological deposits from Upper Well Street. The biological material is also important as it will compare with assemblages from medieval deposits recently excavated in Birmingham and Wolverhampton (Ciaraldi forthcoming a and b.). On the basis of the results discussed above, it is recommended that a targeted sampling strategy should be designed in advance of any further excavations. Particular attention

should be paid to the recovery of fish bones and it is suggested that sieving of deposits related to kitchen waste are routinely undertaken.

Table 3 List of samples assessed. In brackets are indicated the items counted for each taxa

Sample No.	Feature/context	Context type	Date	Soil proc. (lt.)	Notes
1	F300/ 3001	pit	14 <sup>th</sup>	10	Barley (4), cereal grains (4), rye (1), <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> (1), <i>Cirsium/Carduus</i> (1), nut (possibly walnut). Charcoal rich, some fragments of coal; pot and some small animal bones
2	F300/ 3002	pit	14 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup>	3	Poaceae (1)
3	F300/ 3004	pit	N/A	2	Very charcoal rich. Some charcoal fragments were very large. Large pieces of coal in the residue
4	F308/ 3017	pit?	Mid 13 <sup>th</sup>	10	oats (1), bread/club wheat (2), barley (1), rye (1), <i>Chenopodium</i> sp. (1), <i>Galium aparine</i> (1), <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> (1), <i>Corylus</i> sp.. Charcoal rich. Fish bones, animal bones and pot

## 8.0 DISCUSSION

The undisturbed upper fills of the city ditch were established in Trenches 1 and 2 at depths of approximately 1.6m. This evaluation did not excavate these deposits as the proposed development will not affect archaeology at this depth. The sequence of layers in these two trenches was fairly similar. The full depth of the ditch is approximately 3.5m from the current ground surface. In Trench 1 the upper ditch fill (1007) was of a similar nature to 2007 in Trench 2. Above this was context 1003 (Tr 1) also appeared to be of a similar nature and date and to 2004 (Tr 2). In both Trenches the ditch was overlain by a dark silt layer 1001 (Tr 1) and 2003 (Tr 2). This may represent a cultivation layer as the area behind the buildings fronting onto Upper Well Street is shown as orchards on the 1748/9 map and as gardens on the 1807 map. The finds from these layers would tend to concur with this. This tends to suggest that a similar stratigraphic sequence is to be expected in the area of the city ditch along the eastern edge of the site.

Walls were found in both trenches, F100 (Tr. 1) is of sandstone block construction, and as such is difficult to date. This wall was certainly part of a structure which post-dated the city ditch and may represent the reuse of an earlier foundation by a later building. It seems likely that the structure was in use during the nineteenth century since the wall lines (F100 and F102) match closely with the rear of a property recorded on the 1851 and twentieth century maps (Fig. 4). It may also be possible that this foundation reused sandstone from the city wall. The date of F200 is also uncertain, however the wall is clearly shown on early twentieth century maps. The

wall is cut through the lower fills of the city ditch but does not appear to cut through later deposits (2003). This wall (F200), of ashlar construction, was presumably once above ground level rather than providing a foundation.

There is no sign of a structure on the 1610 (Fig. 3), 1748-49 or 1807 maps in this area, however, a dividing wall between two properties corresponding to F200 is present on the 1851 and twentieth century maps (Fig.4), and suggests that buttresses were present along the northern face of the wall. F200 was constructed once the city ditch had fallen into disuse, and therefore post-medieval. The fact that the wall truncated context 2004, which contained eighteenth/nineteenth century finds, suggests the wall must post-date this. This, along with the map evidence, suggests that the wall was constructed somewhere between 1807 and 1851.

In both Trenches 1 and 2 a small amount of pottery dated to 1250-1300 was recovered. This suggests that the ditch may have truncated earlier deposits relating to the medieval period.

In Trench 3 the archaeology was very close to the surface. Natural was encountered approximately 0.3m below the pavement. There appears to be two main phases, with features cut into 3008 dated 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century and features cut through 3000 dated to the later post-medieval. The majority of the medieval finds came from a pit (F300), which appeared to be a rubbish pit containing large amounts of pottery and bone. The rubbish is mostly domestic, however, the presence of both button blanks and horncores is indicative of small-scale industry.

Three pieces of drilled bone were recovered from contexts 3001 and 3002. The holes were approximately 0.8cm in diameter and had clearly been drilled from both sides of the bone leaving a ridge midway between the outer surfaces. Button blanks were also found during the 1976-78 excavations on the city wall (Bateman and Redknap 1978, 153) along with other pieces of worked bone. These were dated to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, possibly later than those found here, but the manufacturing process appears to be the same. The results of the environmental samples taken from this pit also suggest that the assemblage derives from the disposal of kitchen waste and the plant assemblage does suggest crop processing activity. The environmental analysis has shown a good potential for the survival of environmental remains. In particular the presence of fish and mammal bones may provide a particular insight into an understanding of the local economy.

A burnt area appears to be a truncated hearth (F308) cut into the natural geology. This produced the earliest pottery from the evaluation, dated to the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century. While the deposits in Trench 3 may not be representative of the entire Well Street frontage, the evidence suggests the archaeology is likely to consist of discreet features cut into the natural geology. This does not reflect the complex urban stratigraphy encountered on other sites in Coventry, where by approximately 1.5m of modern overburden could be expected to overlie medieval deposits. The presence of the natural geology so close to the surface in Trench 3 suggests that this area has been levelled down, truncating much of the earlier deposits. This may relate to the construction of the present Salvation Army building. An examination of the original plans for the building also confirms the idea that the area around the current entrance was levelled down. The presence of a basement at the southern end of the building

will almost certainly have truncated the majority of earlier deposits within this part of the building.

The difference in archaeological deposits between the trenches close to the city ditch, and the trench along the Well Street frontage suggests that the nature of deposits in the area of the building is to some extent difficult to predict. While the wall in Trench 2 was buried by approximately 1.6m of later post medieval deposits, the base of this wall (83.24 AOD) is only c.20-30cm lower than the natural in Trench 3.

The presence of walls dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century will have caused some disturbance to earlier medieval deposits. The results of the evaluation suggest that to the rear of the property these walls may survive to a height of approximately 1m in some places. To the front of the property it may be possible that these walls define earlier property boundaries, however the present building may have truncated much of this evidence.

## 9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The evaluation was undertaken by Richard Cherrington, Emma Hancox and Paul Harris. Emma Hancox wrote the report, which was edited by Richard Cuttler, who managed the project. The finds were quantified by Annette Hancocks and the spot dates were provided by Stephanie Ratzki. The illustrations and plates were prepared by Nigel Dodds. Marina Ciaraldi analysed the environmental samples.

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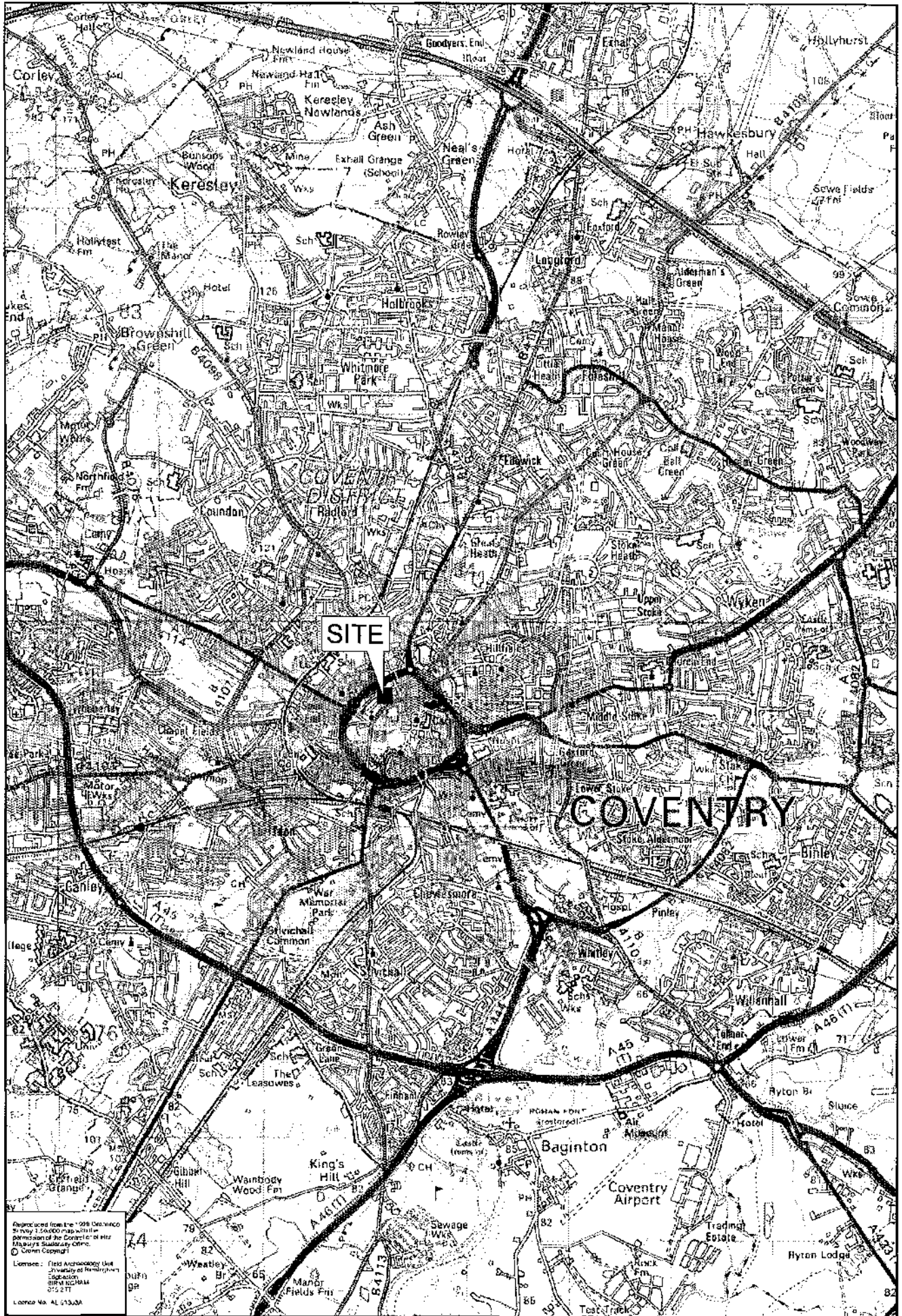


Fig.1



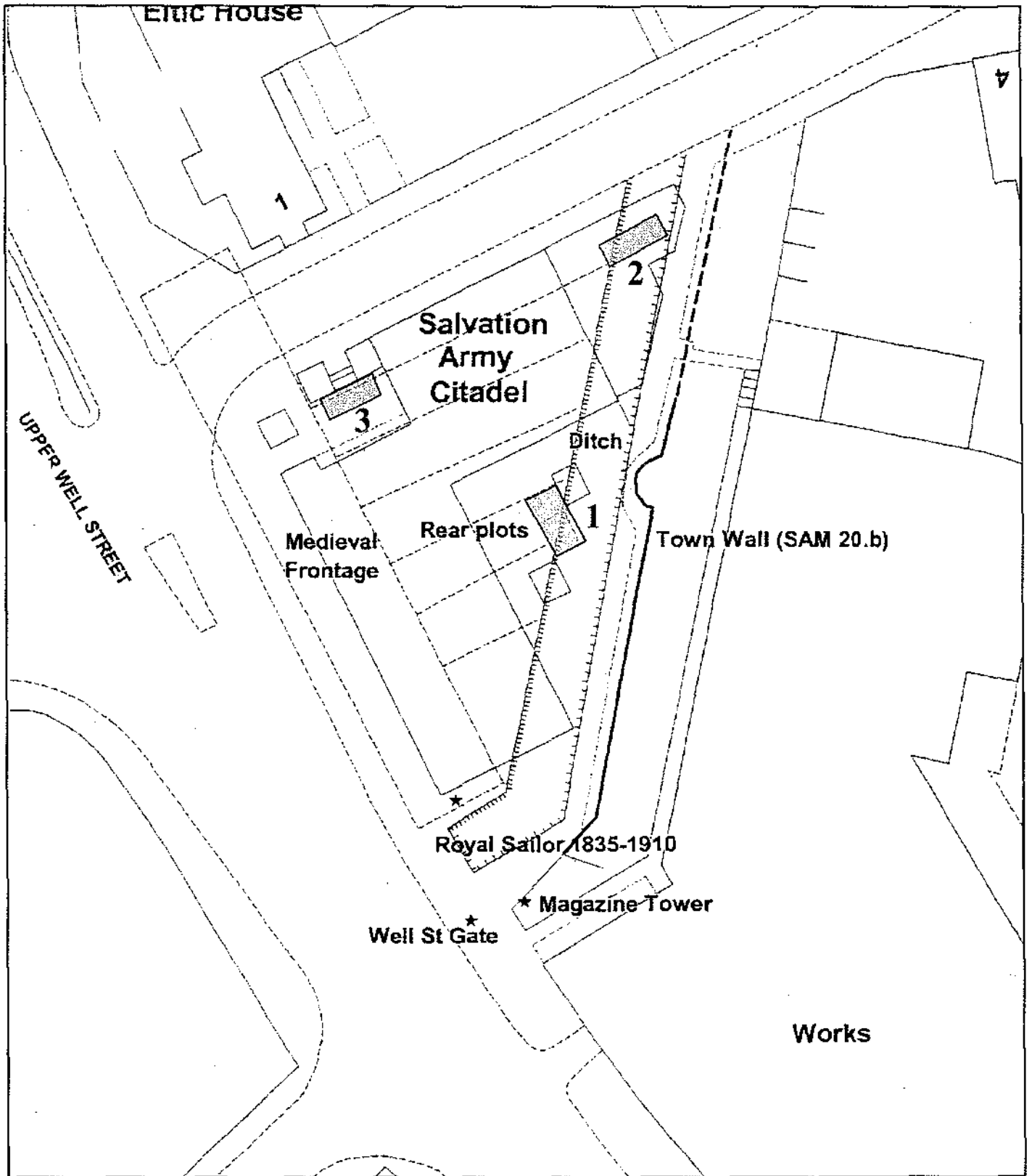


Fig.2

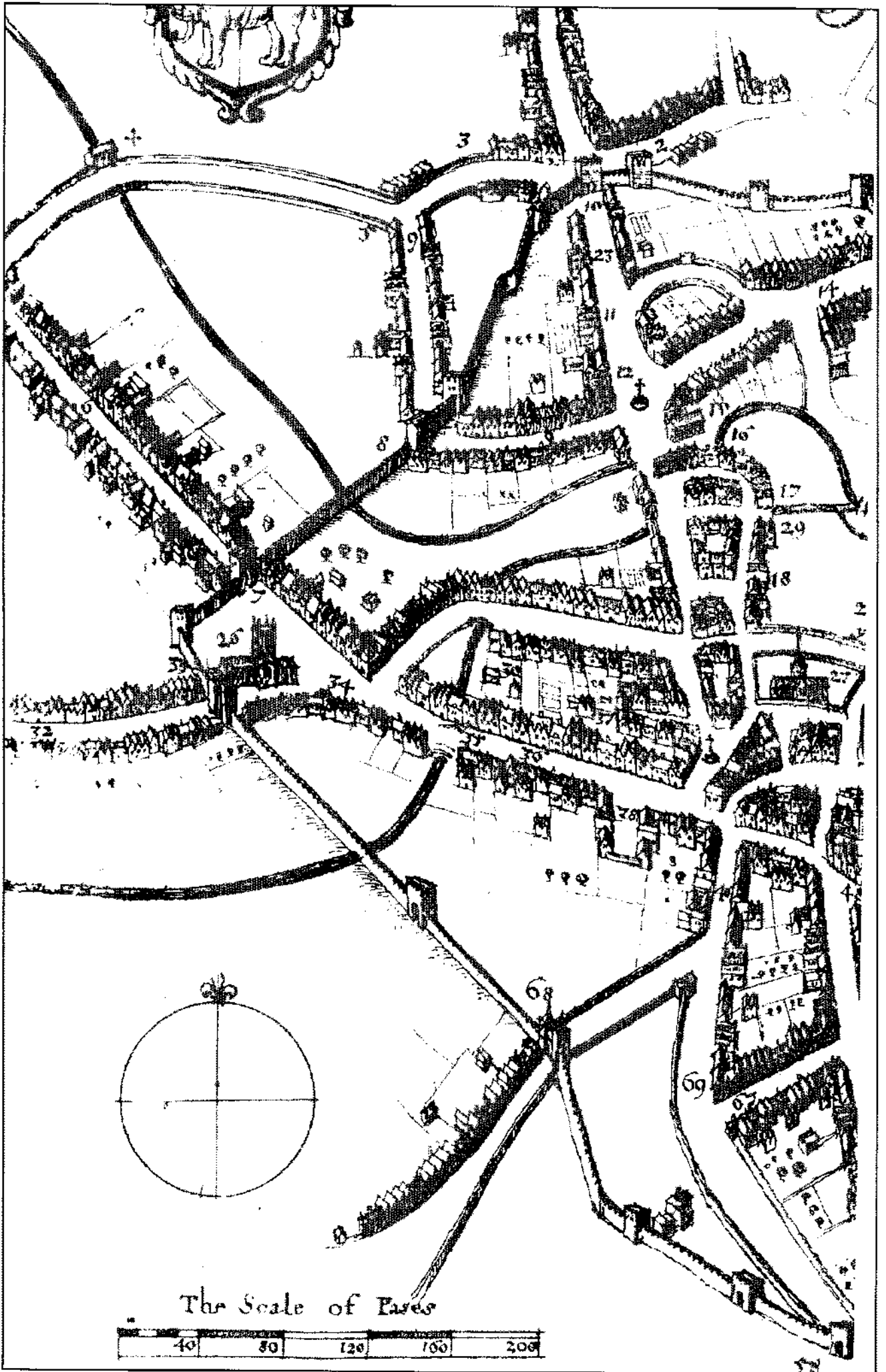


Fig.3 (1610)

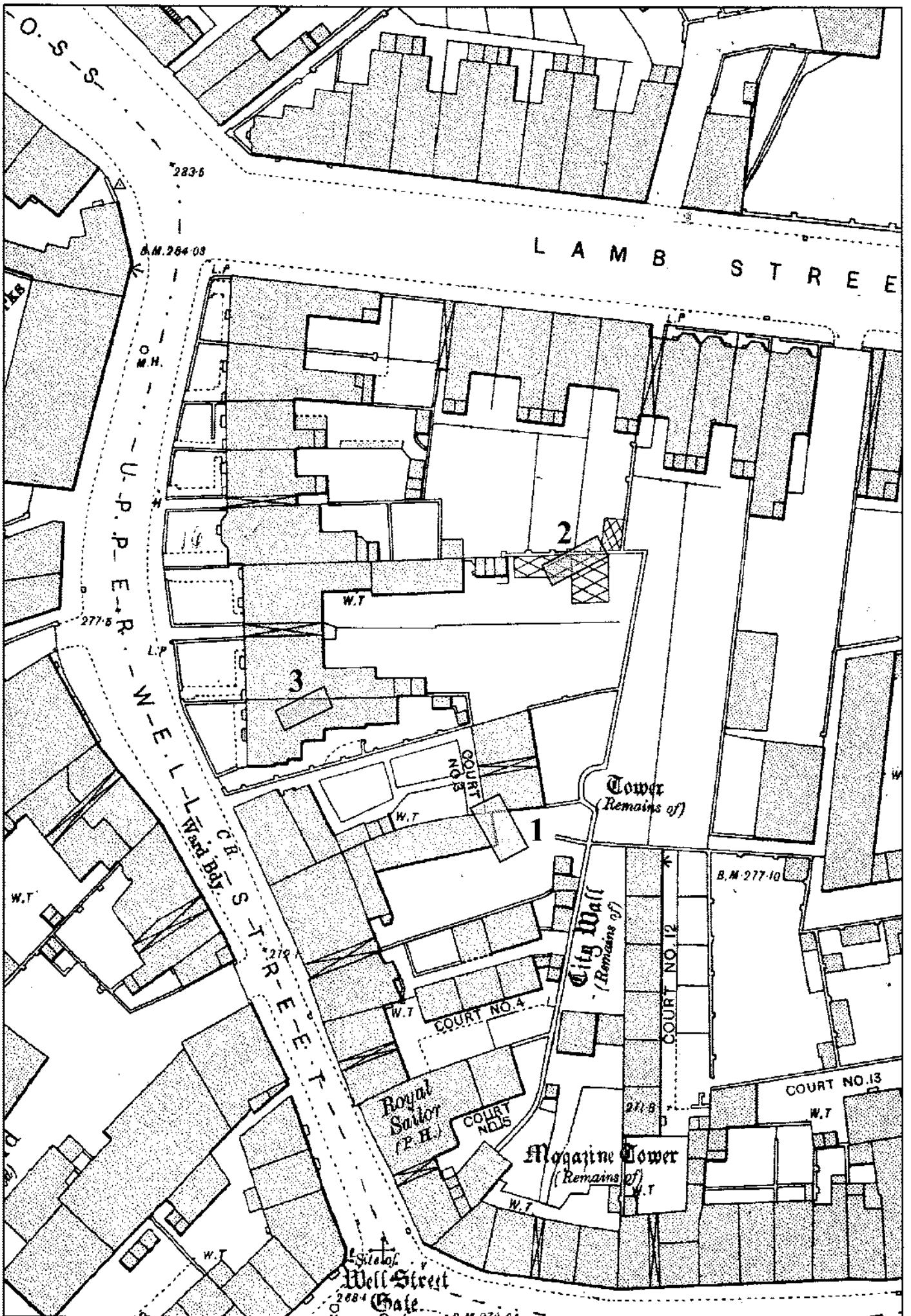
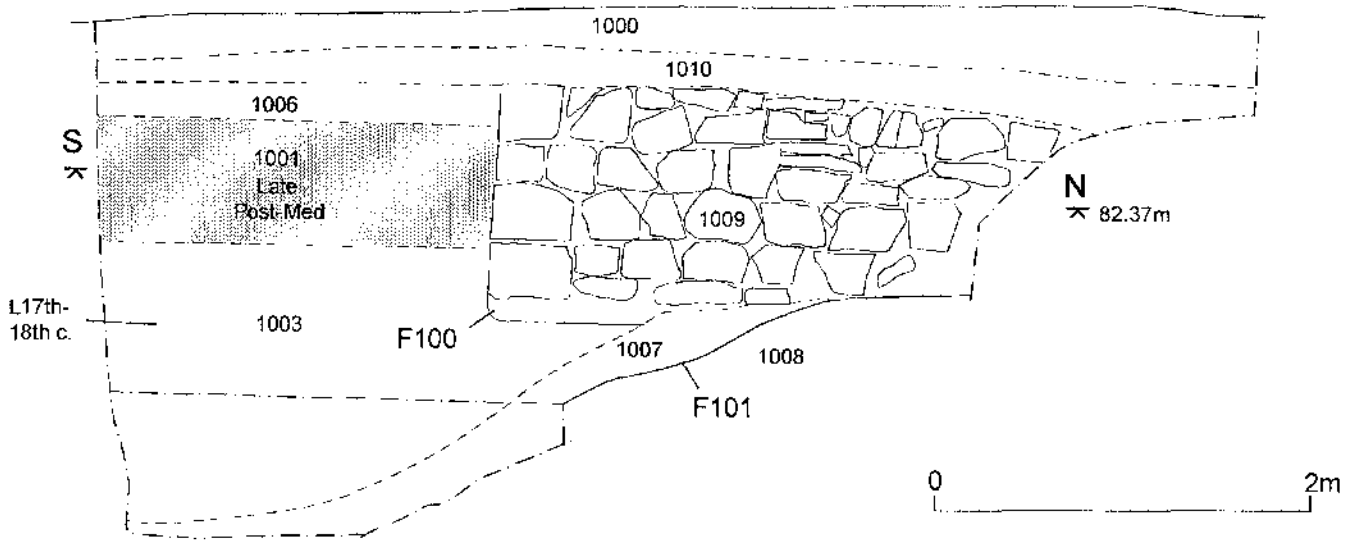
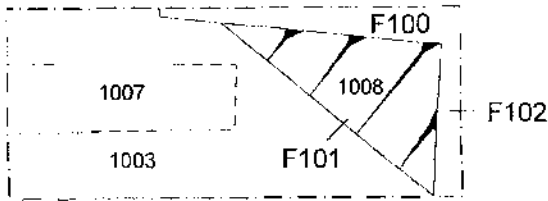


Fig.4

Trench 1



Trench 2

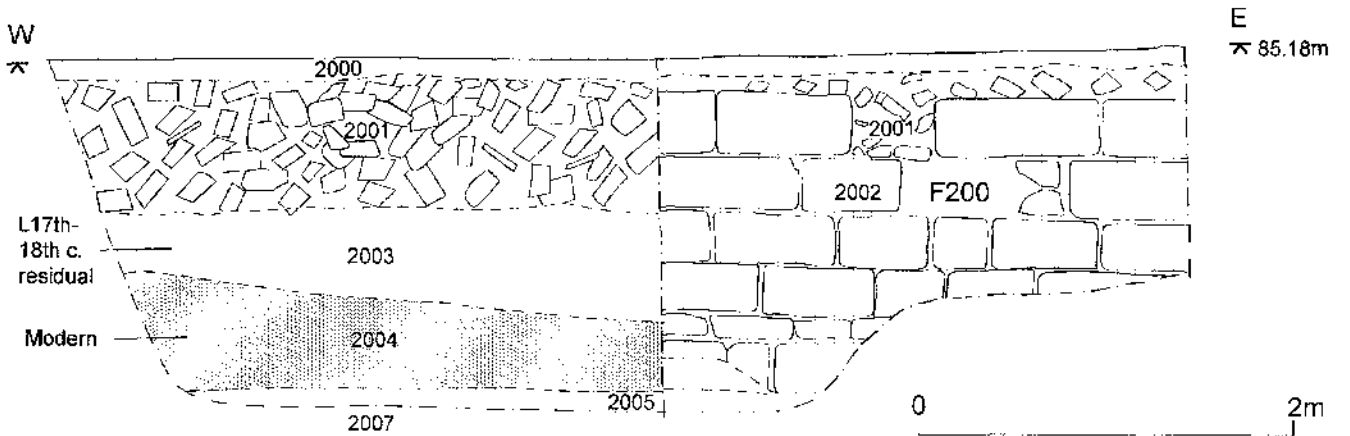
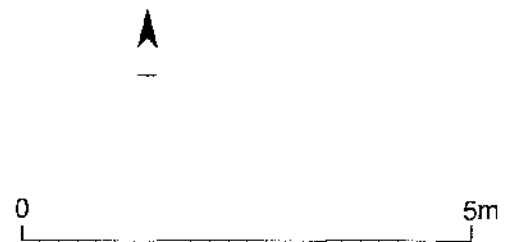
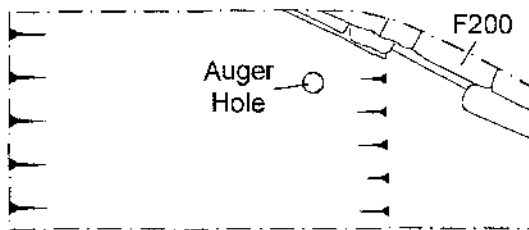


Fig.5

Trench 3

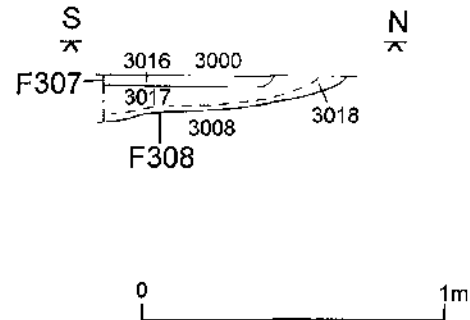
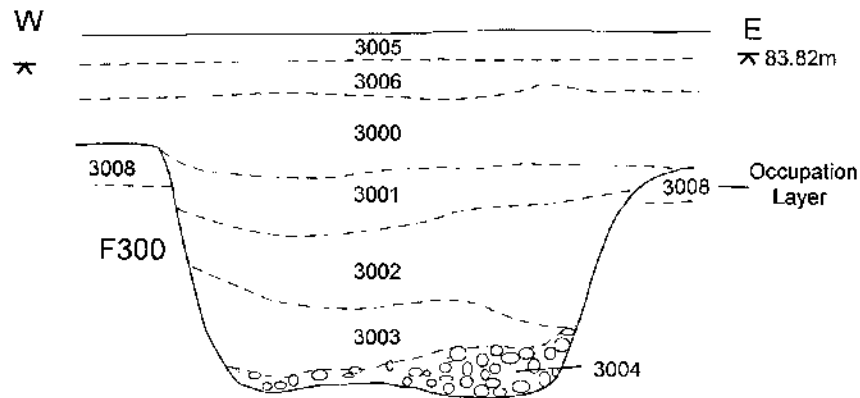
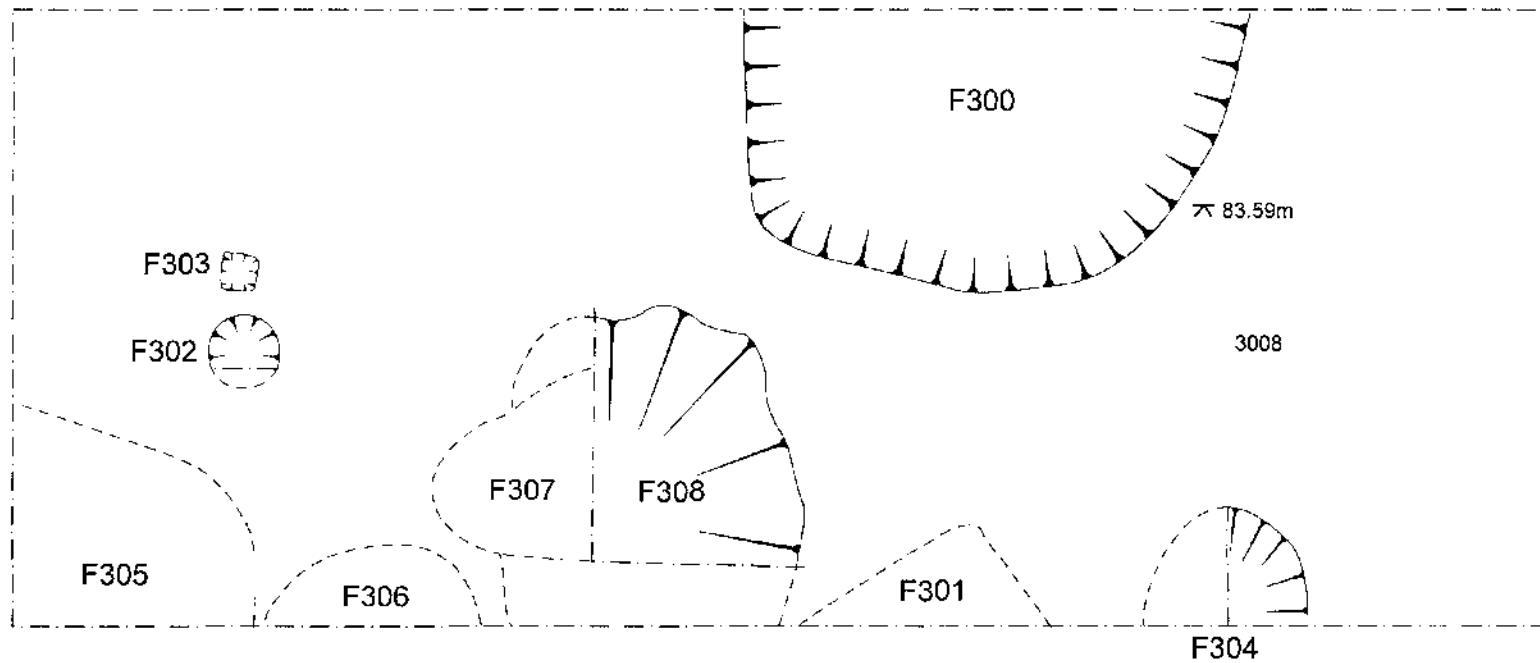


Fig.6

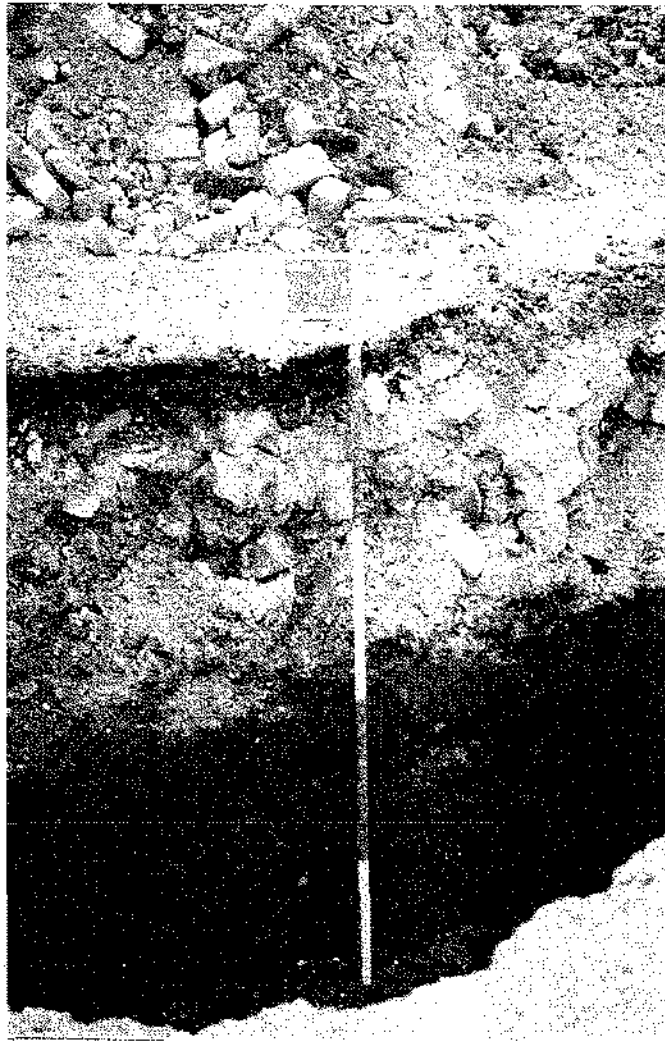


Plate 1



Plate 2

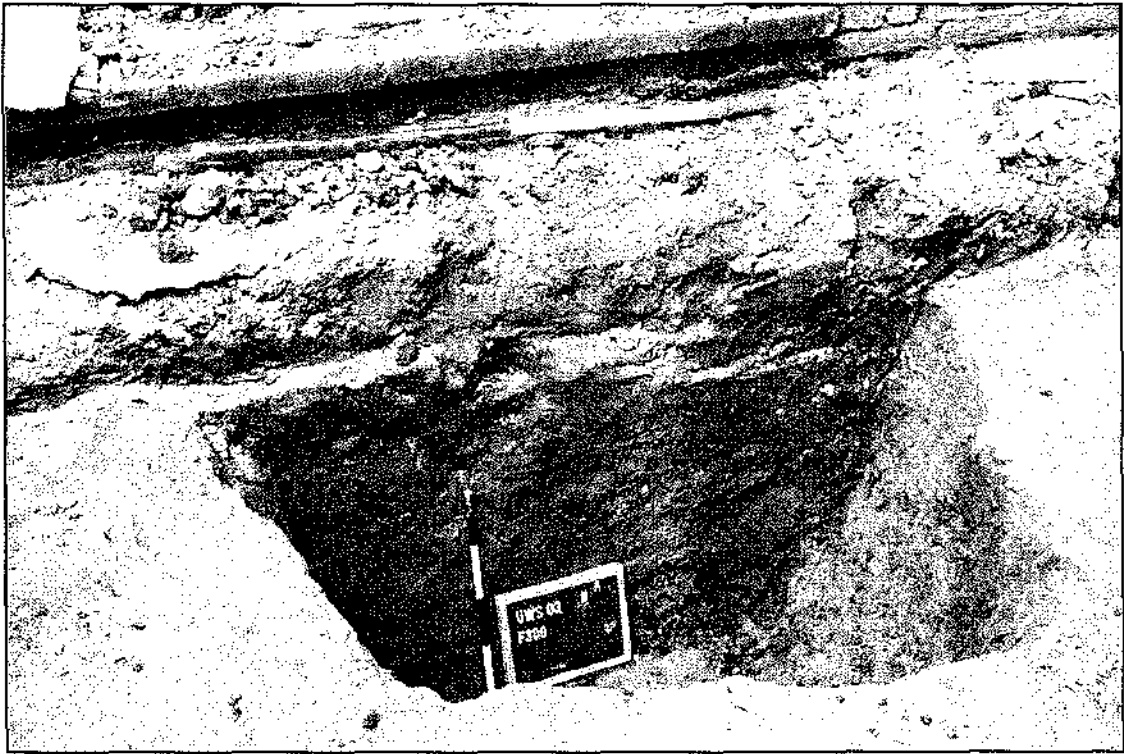


Plate 3

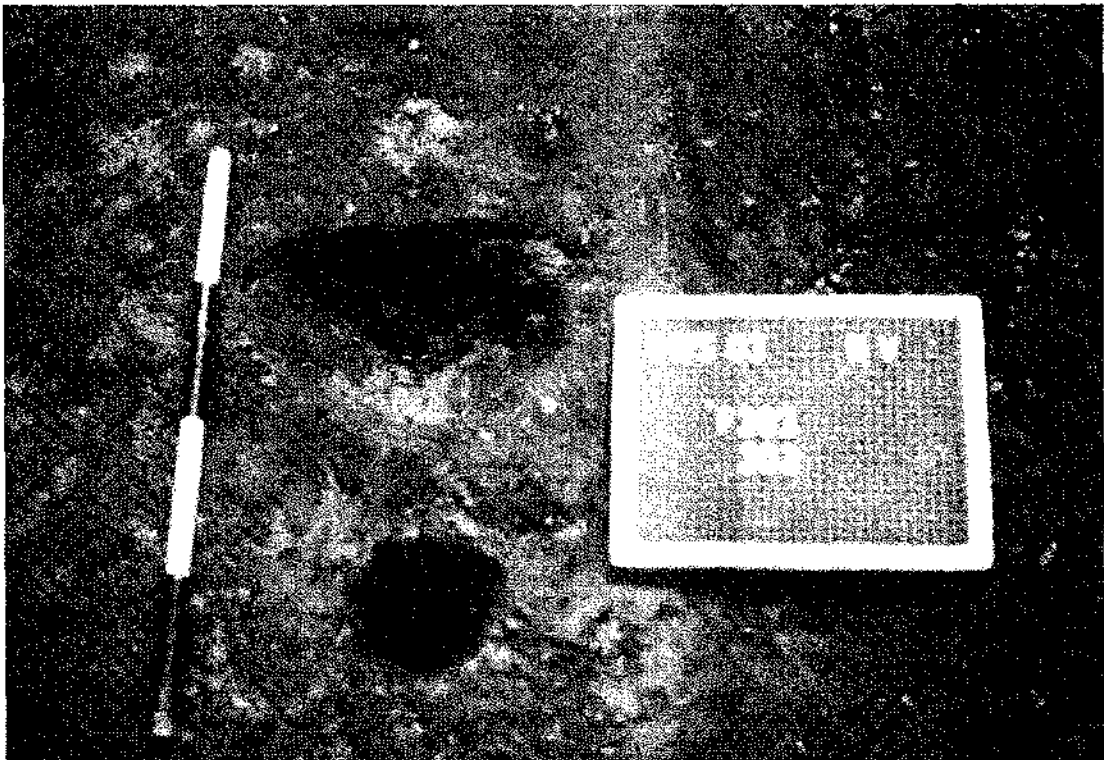


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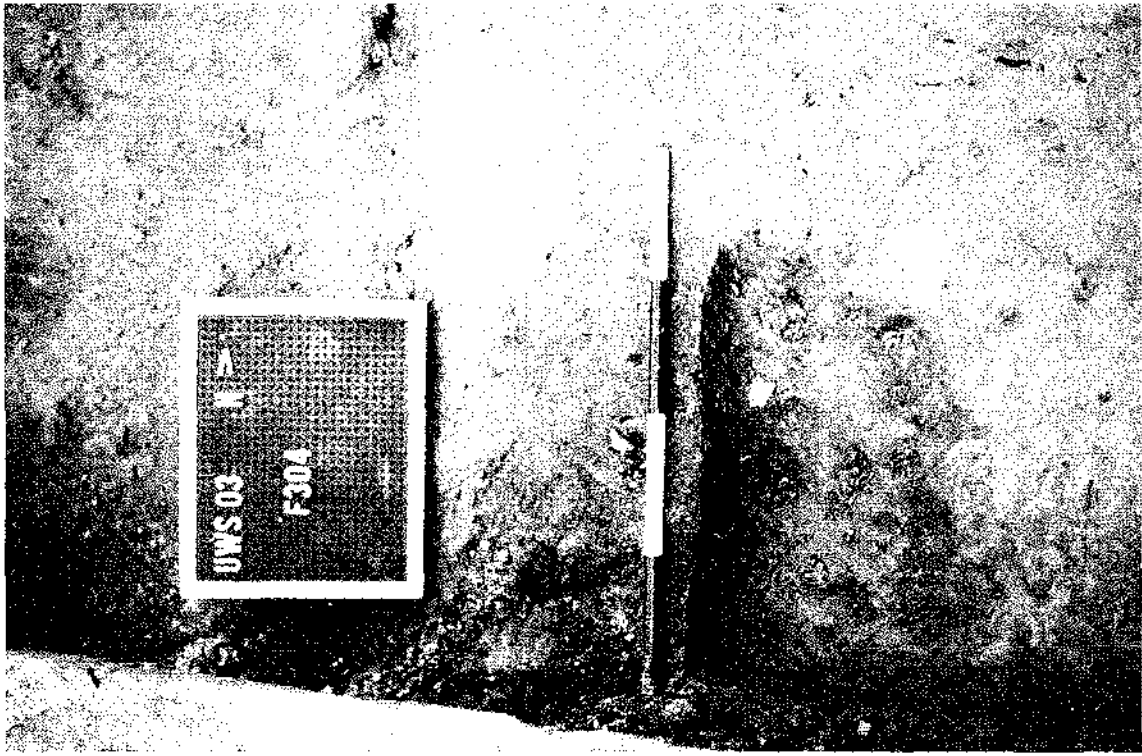


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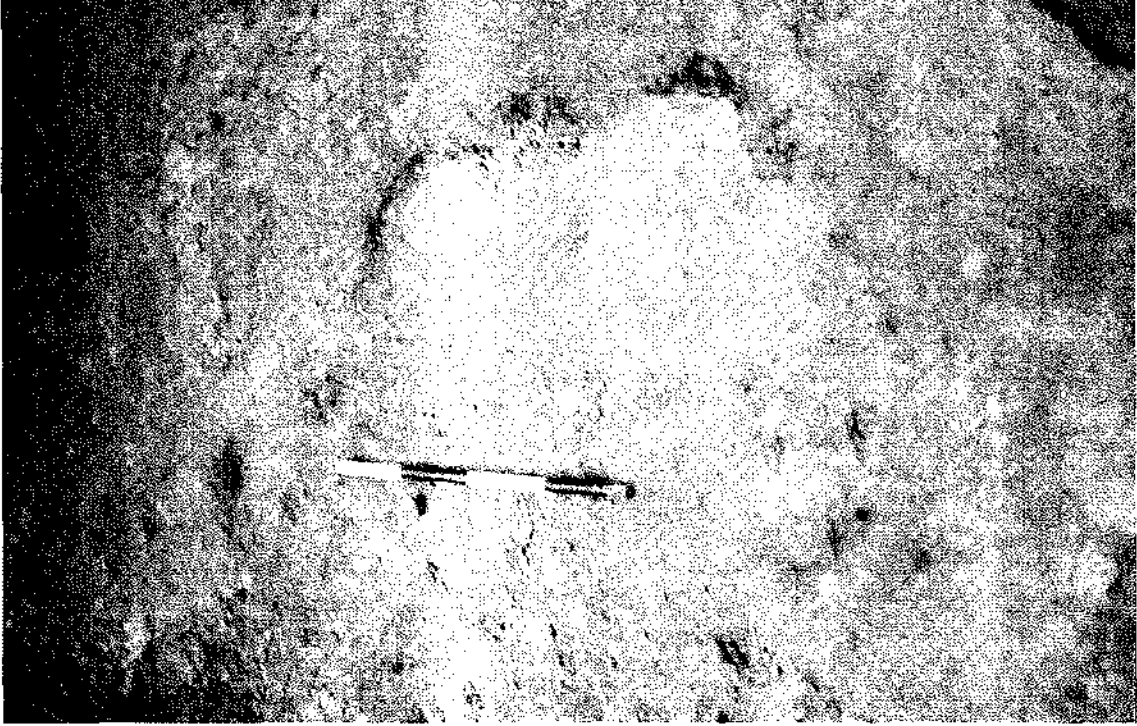


Plate 6



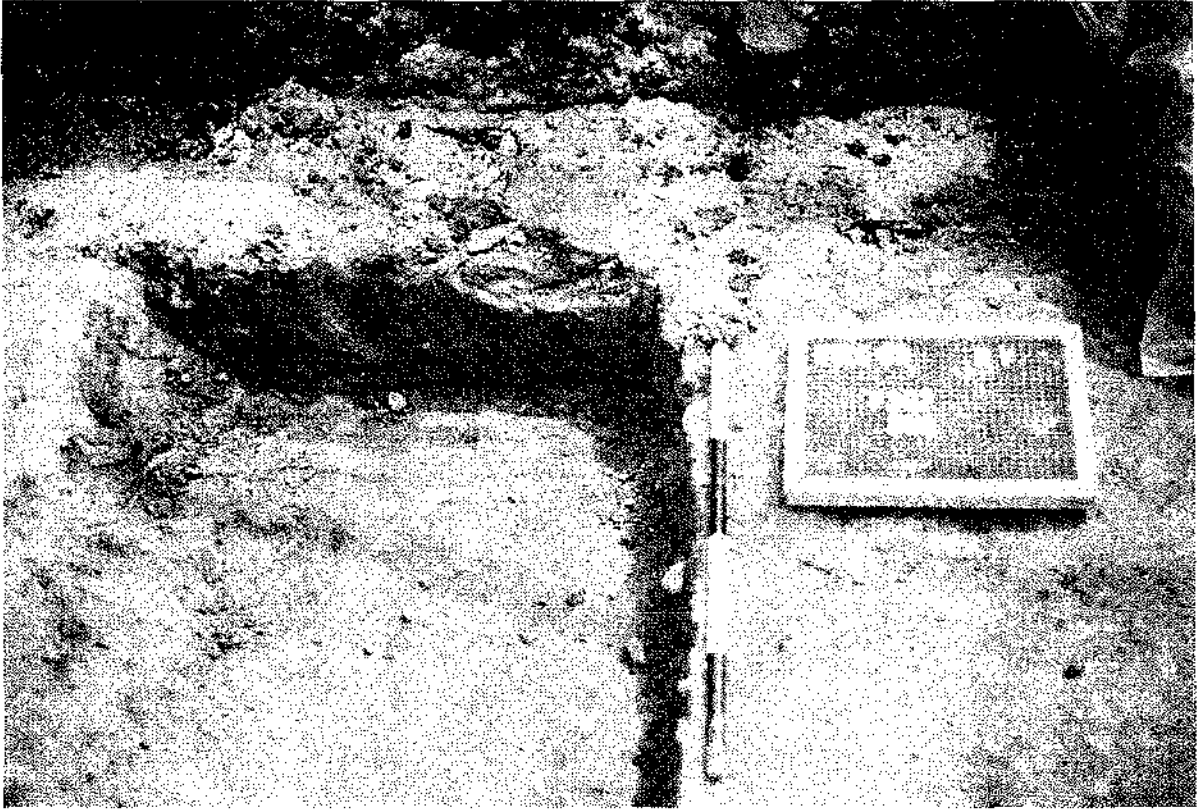


Plate 7