



**ST JOHN AMBULANCE HALL, NORTH SQUARE,
DORCHESTER, DORSET
Archaeological Evaluation**

Prepared on behalf of:

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St John Ambulance Hall, North Square, Dorchester, Dorset

Archaeological Evaluation, February 2000

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Summary

Four evaluation test pits were excavated at the St John Ambulance Hall site on the corner of North Square and Friary Lane, Dorchester. Along the Friary Lane frontage the remains of several post-medieval houses were revealed. The house at the northern end was cellared and at least two successive buildings were exposed at the southern end of the site. Below the southern buildings was intact Roman stratigraphy, including the wall of a Roman building. Along the eastern side there was a build-up of soil at least 1.6 m deep, dated to the late 19th century.

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** This archaeological evaluation was commissioned by Signpost Housing Association Ltd, who are in the process of acquiring the site of the former St John Ambulance Hall for redevelopment and a planning application is being prepared. The archaeological evaluation is in line with Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, *Archaeology and Planning* (1990).
- 1.2** The development proposals involve the demolition of the present buildings on the site and the erection of flats adjacent to the Orchard Street and Friary Lane frontages. It is proposed that there should be garages along Friary Lane with car-parking/turning space to the east.
- 1.3** The site (SY69329086) lies within the northern part of Dorchester, on the southeastern corner of North Square, bounded by Friary Lane on the west and Orchard Street to the east (Figure 1). At present the site is occupied by the St John Ambulance hall and offices, a precast concrete sectional building erected in the 1950's, with the frontage set back slightly from Orchard Street. There are narrow strips of open ground on the west, east and south sides of the building. The general topography of this area slopes eastwards down to the River Frome floodplain. The site itself is flat, at a height of about 63.1 m above Ordnance Datum, with the western edge about 1 m below the present street level and reveted by stone rubble walls from earlier buildings along Friary Lane. The eastern side of the site is about 0.9 m above the level of the back gardens of the houses on the west side of Orchard Street. Along the southern side of the site is a garage set at street level. The underlying geology is mapped as Upper Chalk (Geological Survey of England and Wales Sheet 328 *Dorchester* 1:50000 Drift 1981).
- 1.4** The fieldwork was carried out between 1st – 6th February 2000.
- 1.5** Terrain Archaeology would like to acknowledge Helen Martland of Signpost Housing Association Ltd and Mrs N. Fergusson of St. John Ambulance for their cooperation and assistance during this project. Thanks are also due to Steven Wallis of the Dorset County Council Archaeological Service for his advice and help. The fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Bellamy, Nathan Chinchin and Simon Cleggett. This report was compiled by Peter Bellamy. Pottery identification was by Jo Draper.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The archaeological and historical background to the site has been set out in a separate assessment report (Keen 2000), therefore, the details will not be repeated here, except in a very summary fashion.
- 2.2** There are no records of prehistoric material from the site.
- 2.3** The site lies within the Roman town of Dorchester. No Roman material has been recorded from the site itself. However, observations of a service trench in Friary Lane revealed a layer of dark grey soil with mortar rubble, flints and limestone roof tile debris, at a depth of between 0.45 m and 0.7 m below street level, which was interpreted as Roman building debris (ex info



C. Sparey Green). Also, immediately to the north, under Friary Court, the southern lip of the Roman town ditch was found (Graham 1982).

- 2.4 The Franciscan Friary, founded by 1267, was located somewhere in the area. Burials were found in the garden of 7 Orchard Street suggesting that the Friary church was close by.
- 2.5 Medieval records demonstrate the existence of buildings along both sides of Friary Lane but it is unclear whether the buildings were continuous along both frontages (Draper 1995). By 1771 the numbers had been reduced, then expanded again by c. 1810, and became continuous by 1887.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objective of the archaeological works is to evaluate the archaeological potential of the site, that is, to appraise the nature, extent, level of preservation and importance of any archaeological deposits.
- 3.2 The evaluation will aim to record all the *in situ* archaeological deposits and features revealed during the works in order to provide sufficient data to assess the archaeological significance of the site and present the results in a report..

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The observations were carried out in compliance with the specification prepared by L. J. Keen (John Stark & Crickmay Partnership) and in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeology's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (1994, rev. 1999).
- 4.2 The specification states that the evaluation will comprise three trenches 1 m by 1 m across and one trench 2 m by 2 m across in specified locations.
- 4.3 The trenches were located by taped measurements taken from plans provided by the client.
- 4.4 The four trenches were dug by hand, then the base and sides of the trenches were cleaned by hand and all deposits recorded using Terrain Archaeology's standard recording system of complementary written, drawn and photographic records.
- 4.5 A sample of every potential archaeological feature was investigated and recorded.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Trench 1

- 5.1.1 Trench 1 was dug at the north-west corner of the site, on the corner between North Square and Friary Lane (Figure 1). It was situated in a narrow level area between the St. John Ambulance building and the rubble retaining wall along the edge of Friary Lane, at about 0.55 m below

street level. The trench measured 0.75 m square and was about 1.2 m deep (Figure 2).

Stratigraphic sequence

5.1.2 The following stratigraphic sequence was exposed in the trench:

<i>depth</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>context nos</i>
0 – 0.1 m	topsoil	100
0.1 – 1.1 m	demolition debris	101
>1.1 m	cellar	102, 103

The full list of contexts can be found in Appendix 1.

Cellar

5.1.3 At the bottom of the trench was a stone floor (103). To the east were two finely-dressed stone flags, but in the west half the stone flags were cracked and the upper part was broken. Above the broken flags was a 0.05 m thick layer of coal dust and small coal fragments (102).

Demolition debris

5.1.4 Above the cellar floor was a 1.0 m thick deposit of brick and mortar rubble (101). There were large fragments of blue-painted single-skin brick wall and a small number of lumps of concrete within this layer. The lower part of the layer was void between the rubble, but further up there were lenses of brown soil and sand and mortar fragments. A small quantity of 20th century rubbish was found in this layer.

Topsoil

5.1.7 The topsoil comprised of a 0.1 m thick layer of greyish brown clay loam with frequent flint gravel (100). The gravel was derived from the construction of the St John Ambulance buildings.

5.2 Trench 2

5.2.1 Trench 2 was dug through the sloping bank at the southern end of the site, adjacent to Friary Lane (Figure 1). The trench measured 2.0 m by 2.0 m and was up to 1.3 m deep (Figure 3). After the initial exposure of the remains of the former house fronting Friary Lane, excavation continued only in a small sondage 1.0 m by 0.8 m in the northeastern quadrant of the trench.

Stratigraphic sequence

5.2.2 The following stratigraphic sequence was exposed in the trench:

<i>depth</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>context nos</i>
0 – 0.15 m	topsoil	150
0.1 – 0.6 m	later building remains	151, 152, 153, 154
0.6 – 0.75 m	earlier building remains	155 – 167
0.75 – 1.05 m	buried soil	168
1.05 – 1.25 m	Roman deposits	169 – 175, 177, 178
1.25 – 1.35 m	pre-Roman deposits	176
>1.35 m	natural deposits	179

The full list of contexts can be found in Appendix 1.

Natural deposits

- 5.2.3 The natural chalk (179) was exposed at a depth of 62.45 m OD, about 1.75 m below street level. The chalk was very friable with patches of reddish-brown clay.

Pre-Roman deposits

- 5.2.4 Above the natural chalk was a 0.1 m thick layer of reddish brown clay with frequent flint nodules (176). The only finds recovered were struck flint. This layer is probably the remnants of a prehistoric land surface.

Roman deposits

- 5.2.5 Above layer 176 was a 0.1 m thick layer of reddish brown clay (175) with frequent chalk lumps and moderate flint nodules. It contained a number of struck flints and a small number of very small abraded sherds of Roman pottery, including one sherd of micaceous Terra Nigra. This layer was earlier in date than wall 174 and may be an early Roman land surface.
- 5.2.6 Running along the eastern side of the trench were the remains of a wall (174), oriented roughly North/South (Figure 3). This wall comprised a mixture of flint nodules and limestones bonded with yellowish grey sandy lime mortar and was constructed in a construction trench which cut through layers 175 and 176. The wall survived up to a height of 0.3 m and was over 0.45 m wide (the full width was not exposed within the trench). In the top of the wall was a small circular feature (178), 0.25 m in diameter, which may be the remains of a post-hole within the wall. On the western side of the wall was a 0.1 m thick layer of hard-packed reddish brown sandy silt with lenses of decayed lime mortar and patches of dark grey ash and charcoal (171). It is not clear if this layer butted against the wall or was cut through by the construction trench. This layer may represent a floor layer in the building or construction debris. It contained a small quantity of Roman coarseware pottery, animal bone and one sherd of a glass vessel.
- 5.2.7 Wall 174 was partially destroyed by an oval scoop (173) with shallow rounded sides 0.25 m deep. The full plan shape of this feature was not exposed. It was filled with soft dark grey brown silty soil with charcoal and mortar flecks (172) containing a small quantity of later Roman pottery, tile fragments, animal bone and oyster shell. The function of this feature is not known.
- 5.2.8 Scoop 173, wall 174 and layer 171 were sealed by a thin hard-packed chalk surface (170). This surface was discontinuous as it had been disturbed by layer activity. It may represent the floor of another Later Roman building replacing the structure represented by wall 174.

Buried soil

- 5.2.9 Immediately above the chalk floor 170 was a layer of grey brown chalky soil (169) with frequent mortar flecks and a layer of soft dark grey brown clay loam (168) with moderate flint and stone rubble and mortar flecks. The majority of finds were residual Roman artefacts with a single sherd of Late Medieval pottery. These layers probably represent soil build-up during the post-Roman and medieval periods.

Earlier building remains

- 5.2.10 At a depth of about 1.3 m below present street level was a 0.1 m thick layer of brown clay loam (167) with frequent chalk rubble and some mortar flecks and lumps. The upper surface was very hard-packed. Upon this layer was constructed a mortared limestone block wall bonded with earthy grey lime mortar (166), oriented roughly east-west. The full width of this

wall was not exposed in the trench. It survived up to four courses high and had been truncated by the landscaping activity associated with the construction of the St John Ambulance Hall.

- 5.2.11 Above floor 167 was a series of layers dipping down to the south. Against wall 166 was a small patch of brick, stone and flint rubble (165), above which were two layers of brown silty clay loam and chalk (161, 164). A small post-hole (163), 0.35 m in diameter, and filled with soil and stone rubble packing (162) cut through layer 164). Above this was a layer of grey brown soil (159), 0.15 m thick. All these layers butt against wall 166.
- 5.2.12 Wall 166 appears to be the remains of the north wall of a house fronting on to Friary Lane. The Late Medieval sherd recovered from layer 169, beneath the floor layer 167 of this building gives a *terminus post quem* of 14th-15th century. The date range of the pottery from the material infilling the building remains is from the mid 16th to the early 19th century. This suggests that the structure was demolished and backfilled in the early 19th century.

Later building remains

- 5.2.13 Overlying the backfilled remains of the earlier structure described above, was a thin layer of dark orange sand and chalk (158), a chalky brown silty loam layer (157), a thin layer of pale yellowish grey decayed lime mortar (156) and another layer of chalky soil (155). These layers probably represent construction an levelling layers associated with a later house on the Friary Lane frontage.
- 5.2.14 In the upper part of the trench, the remains of a wall (152), running parallel to Friary Lane, were uncovered. This wall was built on top of layer 155 and comprised a mortared rubble face of mixed brick, limestone and flint nodules, surviving up to 0.35 m high, with mortared stone and brick rubble behind (Figure 3).

Construction of St. John Ambulance Hall

- 5.2.15 As part of the groundworks associated with the construction of St John House, the deposits associated with the earlier buildings along the Friary Lane frontage were cut away to form a steep bank (179). In the eastern end of the trench there was a layer of orange gravel (180) immediately below the topsoil, which is assumed to be associated with the construction of the hall.

Topsoil

- 5.2.16 The topsoil comprised of a layer of brown clay loam (150) about 0.1 m thick.

5.3 Trench 3

- 5.3.1 Trench 3 was dug at the south-eastern corner of the St. John Ambulance building (Figure 1). The trench measured 1 m by 1 m long and was up to 1.6 m deep (Figure 4). The trench was excavated to a depth of 1.2 m. A small sondage was excavated in the north-west corner down to a depth of 1.6 m. Excavation was halted at this level for health and safety reasons. Natural deposits were not reached.

Stratigraphic sequence

- 5.3.2 The following stratigraphic sequence was exposed in the trench:

<i>depth</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>context nos</i>
0 – 0.1 m	topsoil	200

0.1 – 0.55 m	20th century deposits	201
0.55 – >1.6 m	19th century deposits	202 – 206

The full list of contexts can be found in Appendix 1.

19th century deposits

- 5.3.3 Excavation was halted at the top of a fairly hard-packed layer of dark brown silty loam (206) with frequent flint and brick rubble. Above this layer was a 0.2 m thick layer of dark brown silty loam containing a lens of charcoaly soil (205). This layer was covered by a 0.25 m thick deposit of dark brown soil containing a large quantity of stone, brick and mortar rubble (204). Above this was a 0.75 m thick layer of dark brown soil (202, 203). All of these layers contained late 19th century pottery and it is assumed that they represent landscaping activity, perhaps associated with the construction of the houses on Orchard Street.

20th century deposits

- 5.3.4 Above the 19th century soils described above, was a 0.45 m thick layer of loose brown sandy loam (201) with many tips and lenses of orange brown sand and gravel, crushed chalk and brick rubble. It contained mainly late 19th/early 20th century pottery but the best dating evidence is provided by a sherd with a date stamp of 1946. This layer is likely to be associated with the construction of the St John Ambulance Hall.

Topsoil

- 5.3.5 The topsoil was a 0.1 m thick layer of dark brown sandy loam with frequent flint gravel (200).

5.4 Trench 4

- 5.4.1 Trench 4 was dug on the eastern side of the site, 5.5 m to the north of Trench 3. It measured 1 m by 1 m across and was about 1.2 m deep (Figure 5). Excavation was halted at this level for health and safety reasons. Natural deposits were not reached.

Stratigraphic sequence

- 5.4.2 The following stratigraphic sequence was exposed in the trench:

<i>depth</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>context nos</i>
0 – 0.1 m	topsoil	250
0.1 – 0.55 m	20th century deposits	251
0.55 – >1.6 m	19th century deposits	252 – 254

The full list of contexts can be found in Appendix 1.

19th century deposits

- 5.4.3 At the base of the trench was a fairly hard-packed layer of dark brown clay loam with frequent chalk and mortar flecks (256). Cutting into this layer was a subrectangular post-hole (255) 0.55 m across, filled with dark grey brown clay loam (254) with frequent stone rubble surrounding a void post-pipe 0.2 m in diameter. Late 19th century pottery was recovered from this feature which may be the remains of a fencepost.
- 5.4.4 Above post-hole 255 was a 0.65 m thick deposit of dark brown soils (252, 253) with moderate flint and stone rubble, which produced late 19th century pottery. This layer may be associated with landscaping following the construction of Orchard Street.

20th century deposits

- 5.4.4 Above the 19th century soils described above, was a 0.45 m thick layer of loose brown sandy loam (251) with many tips and lenses of orange brown sand and gravel, crushed chalk, and brick rubble. This layer is probably associated with the construction of St John Ambulance Hall.

Topsoil

- 5.4.5 The topsoil was a 0.1 m thick layer of dark brown sandy loam with frequent flint gravel (250).

5.5 Finds

- 5.5.1 The finds have been rapidly scanned to provide spot dates and any other information which may aid in interpretation of the excavated features and deposits. They have not been examined or described in detail. All finds are tabulated by context in Table 1. After examination, all unstratified finds were redeposited in the excavation trenches.
- 5.5.2 *Roman pottery.* A total of 32 sherds were recovered. The majority of these were undiagnostic Black-Burnished Ware body sherds. Diagnostic sherds included two rim sherds of Late Roman flange-necked bowls (Seager Smith and Davies 1993; Type 25) of late 3rd–4th century AD date (from contexts 177 and 251). Finewares comprised two sherds of Samian (from contexts 162 and 171) and one sherd of micaceous Terra Nigra (from context 175).
- 5.5.3 *Medieval pottery.* Only two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered. Context 169 produced a sherd from a late medieval strip (and pellet?) decorated jug of 14th–15th century date. The other sherd was a scratchmarked body sherd found residually in context 164.
- 5.5.4 *Post-medieval pottery.* The vast bulk of the pottery comprised industrial whitewares of late 19th century date. A number of sherds of Edwardian bone china were also recovered. The earthenwares were predominantly 19th century bread bins and bowls, with a small number of 18th century sherds also present. A small number of sherds are worthy of note — a large fragment of a mid 16th century stoneware mug was found in context 164 and a sherd from an early 17th century delft mug was recovered from context 161.
- 5.5.5 *Clay tobacco pipe.* The majority of clay pipe fragments were undiagnostic stem fragments. Five 19th century bowls were recovered from contexts 202, 252/253 and 254.
- 5.5.6 *Ceramic building material.* The vast majority of the ceramic building material was post-medieval brick fragments. A small number of post-medieval flat roof tile and pantile fragments was also present (in contexts 202 and 253). A fragment of green-glazed crested ridge tile was recovered from context 203. A total of 3 pieces of Roman tile were recovered from contexts 167, 172 and 252/253.

context	Roman pottery	medieval pottery	post-medieval pottery	clay tobacco pipe	ceramic building material	glass	metal	flint	stone	shell	animal bone
150	2/15		2/6		3/92	4/24	Fe 1				1/193
155	2/13				4/53						
156					1/13		Fe 1				
157	3/34				15/923			1/10			
158			2/8		9/524		Fe 2				1/4
159			14/53	1/4		4/4	Fe 5				10/49
160			1/25				Fe 1				
161			5/48		8/177		Fe 14	1/37			12/83
162	1/4		2/134		20/1311			1/43			2/55
164	1/8	1/12	2/51	1/4	12/793		Fe 4	1/21		1/26	3/17
165					8/522						
167					3/120			3/84			3/37
168	6/78				4/50		Fe 3	1/4	2/55		10/83
169	1/9	1/6					Fe 1				1/1
171	3/19					1/1		1/6			1/1
172	7/110				1/36			1/1		1/4	2/5
175	4/8							3/33			9/59
176								32/698			
177	1/25						Fe 1				
201			14/180	4/10		3/58	Fe 1				20/254
202			91/1093	23/42	29/1004	27/290	Fe 20	12/152		4/18	40/300
203			22/286	4/15	6/1313	5/80	Fe 1				7/78
204			6/69			1/7				3/21	10/139
250							Pb 1				16/590
251	1/35		53/876	5/10		8/135	Fe 2; Pb 1		1/47		16/264
252/253			77/1058	12/34	9/599	9/188				1/6	8/29
256			1/21								
254			3/22	1/9							
total	32/358	2/18	295/3930	51/128	132/7530	62/787	Fe 57; Pb 2	57/1089	3/102	10/75	172/2241

Table 1: All finds (no/wt (g)) by context

- 5.5.7 *Glass.* The glass was predominantly post-medieval green and clear bottle glass. A single small sherd of Roman clear vessel glass was recovered from context 176.
- 5.5.8 *Metal objects.* The majority of iron objects were nail fragments of assorted sizes. The majority of these were from post-medieval deposits. A single Roman nail fragment was recovered from context 177. Other iron objects included a fragment of a post-medieval table knife blade and a number of unidentifiable flat fragments. Two pieces of lead strip were recovered.
- 5.5.9 *Flint.* Two different industries could be identified in the worked flint assemblage. The earlier industry (37 pieces) comprised mainly patinated pieces from a flake industry. Four cores were recovered (from context 176): two single platform and two multidirectional flake cores. The flakes are mainly waste flakes from core trimming. No tools were recovered. The general character of this industry suggests that it is Bronze Age in date. The later industry (20 pieces) comprises unpatinated hard-hammer struck flakes and includes a large number of cortical flakes. This industry probably represents the shaping of flint nodules for wall building. Flakes from this industry were recovered only from post-medieval contexts (157, 161, 162,

164, 167, 168, 202).

5.5.10 *Stone*. Two limestone tesserae were recovered from context 168. A whetstone fragment was found in context 251.

5.5.11 *Shell*. Nine oyster and one scallop shell fragment were recovered.

5.5.12 *Animal bone*. The animal bone assemblage was largely recovered from 19th and 20th century contexts and included cattle, sheep, pig, chicken and rabbit bones. One cattle bone had saw cuts on it.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The evaluation trenches have effectively sampled all of the available areas of the site both along the Friary Lane frontage and the area behind the St John Ambulance Hall adjacent to the back gardens of Orchard Street. Only two areas of the site have not been evaluated — the area of the St John Ambulance building, which lies just above the Roman levels (Figure 6), and more importantly the area of the ambulance garage on the southern end of the site. This area is adjacent to surviving archaeological deposits and appears to have been built up, unlike the rest of the site which has cut away, so the probability of surviving *in situ* archaeological deposits and features is high.

6.2 The evaluation has demonstrated that there has been significant landscaping of the area. The site, at present is almost flat as the western part of the site has been cut back to form a terrace up to 1.2 m high along the edge of Friary Lane and the eastern part has been raised by at least 1.6 m (Figure 6). The terracing on the western side is contemporary with the construction of the St John Ambulance Hall and the landscaping of the eastern side is dated to the late 19th century, possibly following the construction of the houses in Orchard Street in 1878.

6.3 Despite the landscaping which has taken place, *in situ* archaeology still survives in the southwestern part of the site. Traces of at least two periods of Roman building survived below a height of 62.90 m above Ordnance Datum in Trench 2. Not enough of these buildings survive to enable their size and form to be determined. No traces of the Roman town defences were revealed.

6.4 No evidence for the Friary was revealed during the evaluation.

6.5 The evaluation has confirmed the documentary evidence (Keen 2000) that there were houses along the Friary Street frontage. The house on the corner of Friary Lane and North Square was cellared (Trench 1) and it is likely that it has destroyed any archaeological levels in this area, although this has not been demonstrated beyond doubt. The evidence from Trench 2 indicates that there were at least two phases of building in this area during the post-medieval period but the evidence for medieval activity is confined to a well developed soil layer indicating that there was not a continuous row of houses along the east side of Friary Lane in this period. The character of the exposed walls along Friary Lane indicate the former presence of at least two further buildings along the street frontage.

6.6 In conclusion, it can be said that significant Roman archaeology survives in places along the Friary Lane frontage of the site. The levels are such that it is possible that Roman deposits



7.1 The archive (Terrain Archaeology Project TA5058) will be deposited with the Dorset County Museum, who have agreed in principle to accept the archive, subject to fulfilment of the Museum's requirements of the preparation of archaeological archives.

File 1:

- 1.1 The evaluation specification
- 1.2 The assessment report
- 1.3 Trench record
- 1.4 Context index
- 1.5 Context record
- 1.6 Context finds record
- 1.7 Drawing register
- 1.8 Photographic register and monochrome contact sheets

File 3: Drawings

8 REFERENCES

- 
- terrain archaeology

Appendix 1: List of all contexts

trench	context	description	interpretation	depth below surface
1	100	Brown clay loam with very frequent flint gravel.	topsoil and clearance layer	0 – 0.1 m
1	101	Brick and concrete rubble with orange brown sand and mortar frags with patches of grey brown soil.	demolition debris infilling cellar	0.1 – 1.1 m
1	102	Black coal dust.	coal dust on cellar floor	1.1 – 1.15 m
1	103	Stone flags bonded with yellowish brown earthy mortar.	cellar floor	>1.1 m
2	150	Grey brown clay loam.	topsoil	0 – 0.1 m
2	151	Dark orange brown mortar with brick and stone rubble.	demolition rubble	0.1 – 0.25 m
2	152	Mortared wall faced with stone, brick and flint.	wall of 19th century house	0.1 – 0.3 m
2	153	Thin grey brown chalky mortar surface.	rough mortar floor	0.34 - 0.35 m
2	154	Thin grey brown chalky mortar surface.	rough mortar floor	0.4 m
2	155	Grey brown clay loam with frequent chalk lumps and moderate stone and flint rubble.	levelling layer for wall 152	0.3 – 0.4 m
2	156	Loose pale yellowish grey decayed lime mortar.	construction/levelling deposit	0.4 - 0.46 m
2	157	Brown silty loam with frequent chalk flecks and lumps, moderate flint and patches of orange sand.	levelling layer	0.46 - 0.55 m
2	158	Loose dark orange decayed mortar with occasional chalk flecks and flint fragments.	construction debris	0.55 – 0.65 m
2	159	Mid grey brown silty clay loam with chalk lumps and flint fragments and occasional charcoal flecks.	soil layer over infill of earlier building	0.65 – 0.8 m
2	160	Black ash and sand with frequent charcoal flecks.	patch of ash	0.65 - 0.7 m
2	161	Mid brown silty loam with chalk flecks and lumps and flint fragments.	soil layer infilling earlier building	0.8 - 0.95 m
2	162	Dark yellowish brown clay loam with frequent flint and limestone rubble and occasional brick and chalk rubble.	post-hole fill and packing	0.95 - 1.3 m
2	163	Circular vertical-sided cut.	post-hole	0.95 - 1.3 m
2	164	Brown silty clay loam with frequent chalk lumps, moderate flint fragments and occasional charcoal flecks.	backfill in earlier building remains	0.7 - 1.1 m
2	165	Compact reddish brown clay loam with frequent brick, stone and flint rubble.	rubble patch on floor of earlier building	0.95 - 1.05 m
2	166	Limestone blocks cemented with grey earthy lime mortar.	wall of earlier building	0.5 - 1.0 m
2	167	Hard-packed brown clay loam.	ground surface in earlier building	1.0 - 1.15 m
2	168	Dark grey brown clay loam with moderate stone rubble and occasional mortar patches.	medieval soil layer	1.1 - 1.35 m
2	169	Grey brown silty loam with frequent chalk and mortar flecks and occasional charcoal flecks.	medieval soil layer	1.2 - 1.25 m
2	170	Hard white chalk.	rammed chalk surface	1.25 - 1.28 m
2	171	Hard-packed reddish brown sandy silt loam with frequent flint and mortar fragments and patches of ash.	floor of Roman building	1.28 - 1.4 m
2	172	Soft dark grey brown silty loam with moderate charcoal and mortar flecks and stone rubble.	fill of scoop 173	1.3 - 1.55 m
2	173	Oval shallow-sided rounded-bottomed cut.	scoop	1.3 - 1.55 m
2	174	Flint nodules, limestone and chalk bonded with yellowish grey sandy lime mortar.	wall of Roman building	1.15 - 1.55 m
2	175	Reddish brown clay with frequent chalk lumps	Early Roman soil layer	1.35 - 1.45 m
2	176	Sticky reddish brown clay with frequent flint nodules.	ancient soil layer	1.45 - 1.55 m
2	177	Soft dark grey brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks.	fill of post-hole 178	1.15 - 1.25 m

Appendix 1: List of all contexts (continued)

trench	context	description	interpretation	depth below surface
2	178	Small circular cut in top of wall 174.	post-hole	1.15 - 1.25 m
2	179	Cut for the construction of St John Ambulance Hall		
		Dark orange flint gravel.	construction deposit for St John Ambulance Hall	0.15 - 0.25 m
2	180			
3	200	Loose dark brown sandy loam with frequent flint gravel.	topsoil	0 -0.1 m
		Loose brown sandy loam with frequent flint gravel, chalk lumps and brick rubble.	construction of St John Ambulance Hall	0.1 - 0.5 m
3	201			
3	202	Dark brown humic silty loam.	19th century levelling layer	0.5 - 0.9 m
3	203	Dark brown humic silty loam with moderate chalk lumps.	19th century levelling layer	0.9 - 1.2 m
3	204	Dark brown gritty loam with frequent brick and stone rubble.	19th century levelling layer	1.2 - 1.4 m
3	205	Dark brown silty loam with lens of dark ash.	19th century levelling layer	1.4 - 1.6 m
3	206	Dark brown silty loam with brick and flint rubble.	19th century levelling layer?	>1.6 m
4	250	Loose dark brown sandy loam with frequent flint gravel.	topsoil	0 -0.1 m
		Loose grey brown sandy loam with frequent flint gravel, stone and brick rubble.	construction of St John Ambulance Hall	0.1 - 0.5 m
4	251			
4	252	Dark brown humic silty loam.	19th century levelling layer	0.5 - 0.85 m
4	253	Dark brown humic silty loam with moderate chalk lumps.	19th century levelling layer	0.85 - 1.1 m
4	254	Dark grey brown clay loam with frequent small stone rubble.	fill and packing of post-hole 255	1.1 -1.45 m
4	255	Square or sub-rectangular cut.	post-hole	1.1 -1.45 m
2	256	Dark brown clay loam with frequent chalk and mortar flecks.	19th century levelling layer	>1.1 m

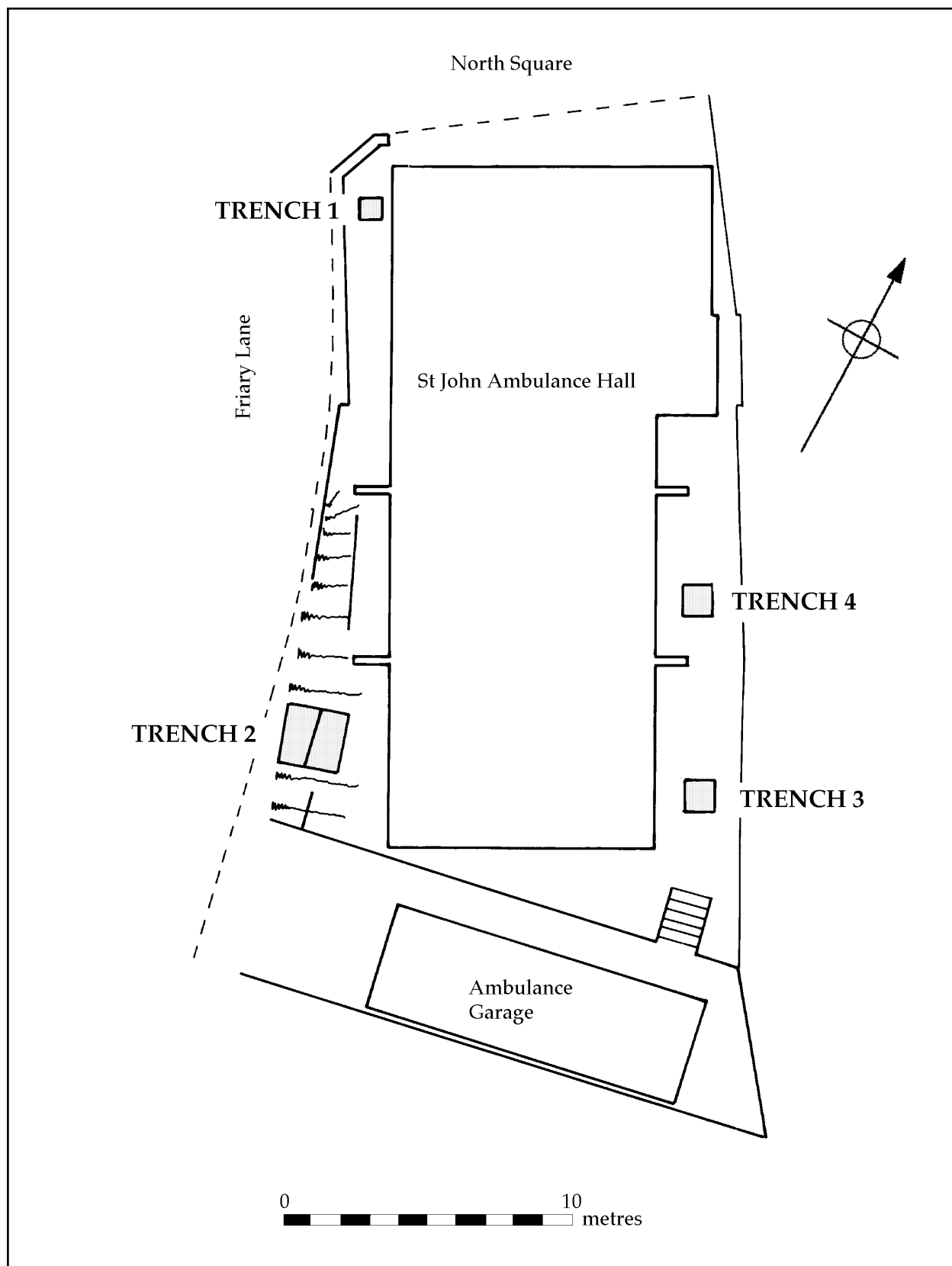


Figure 1: Location map

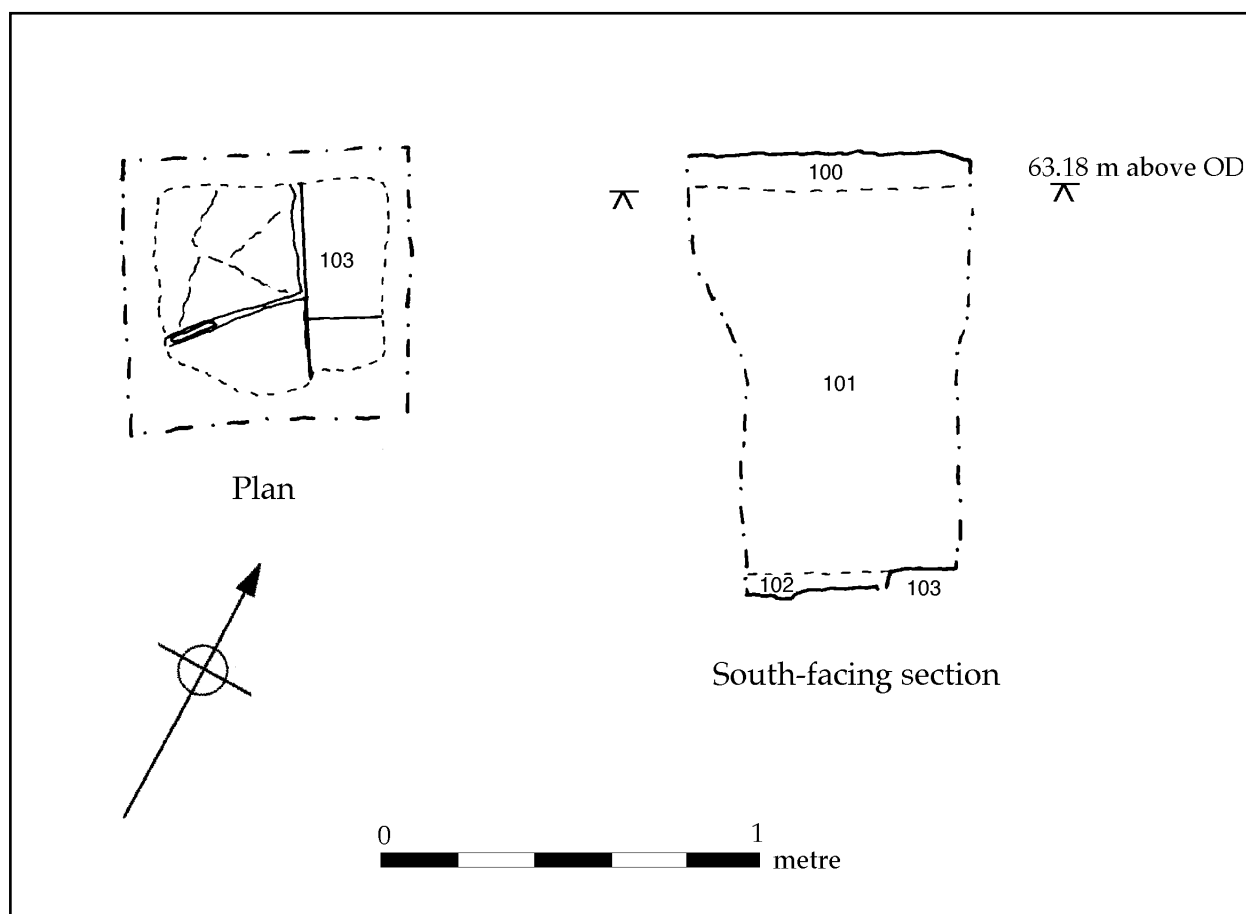


Figure 2: Plan and section of Trench 1

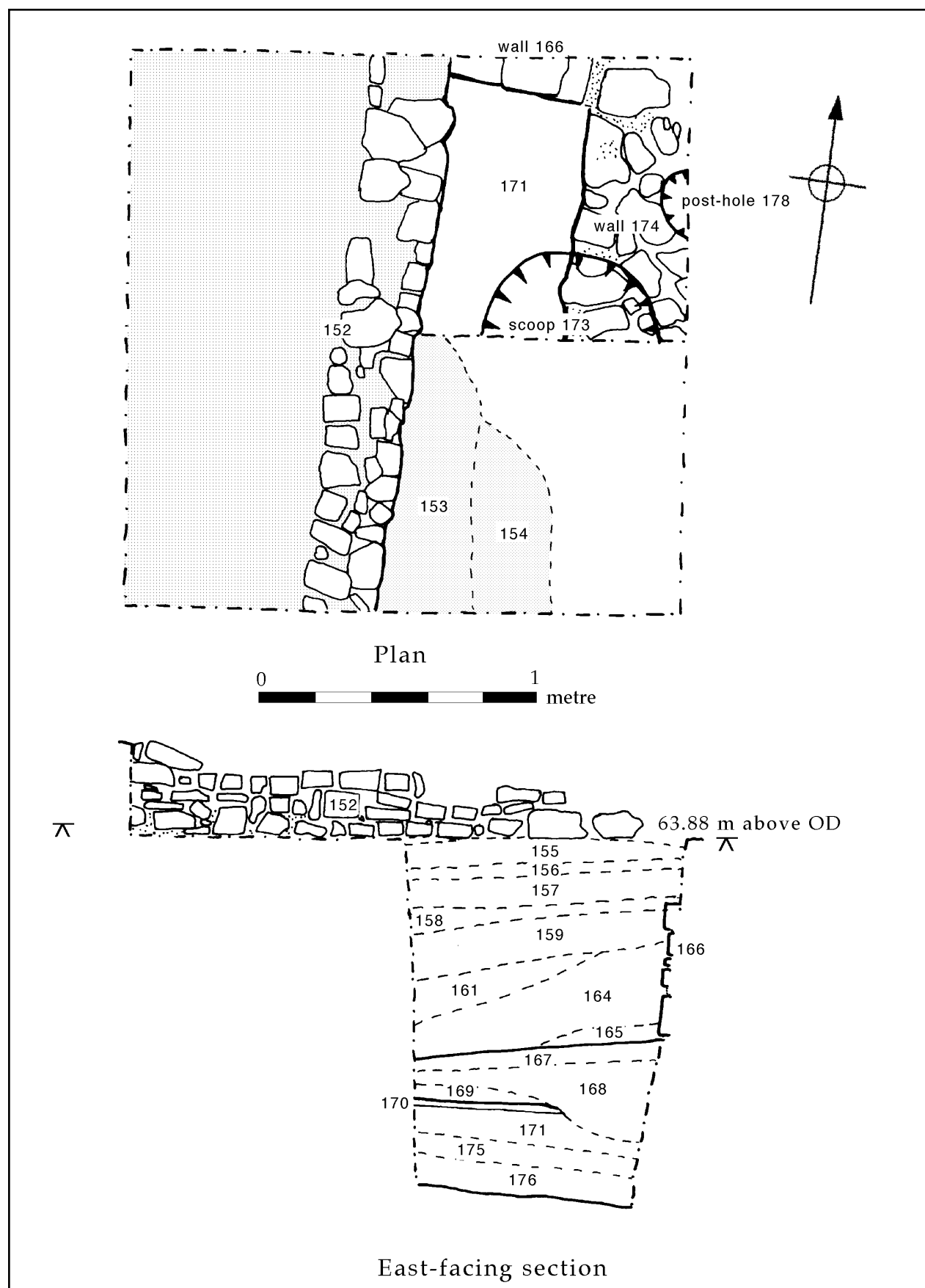


Figure 3: Plan and section of Trench 2

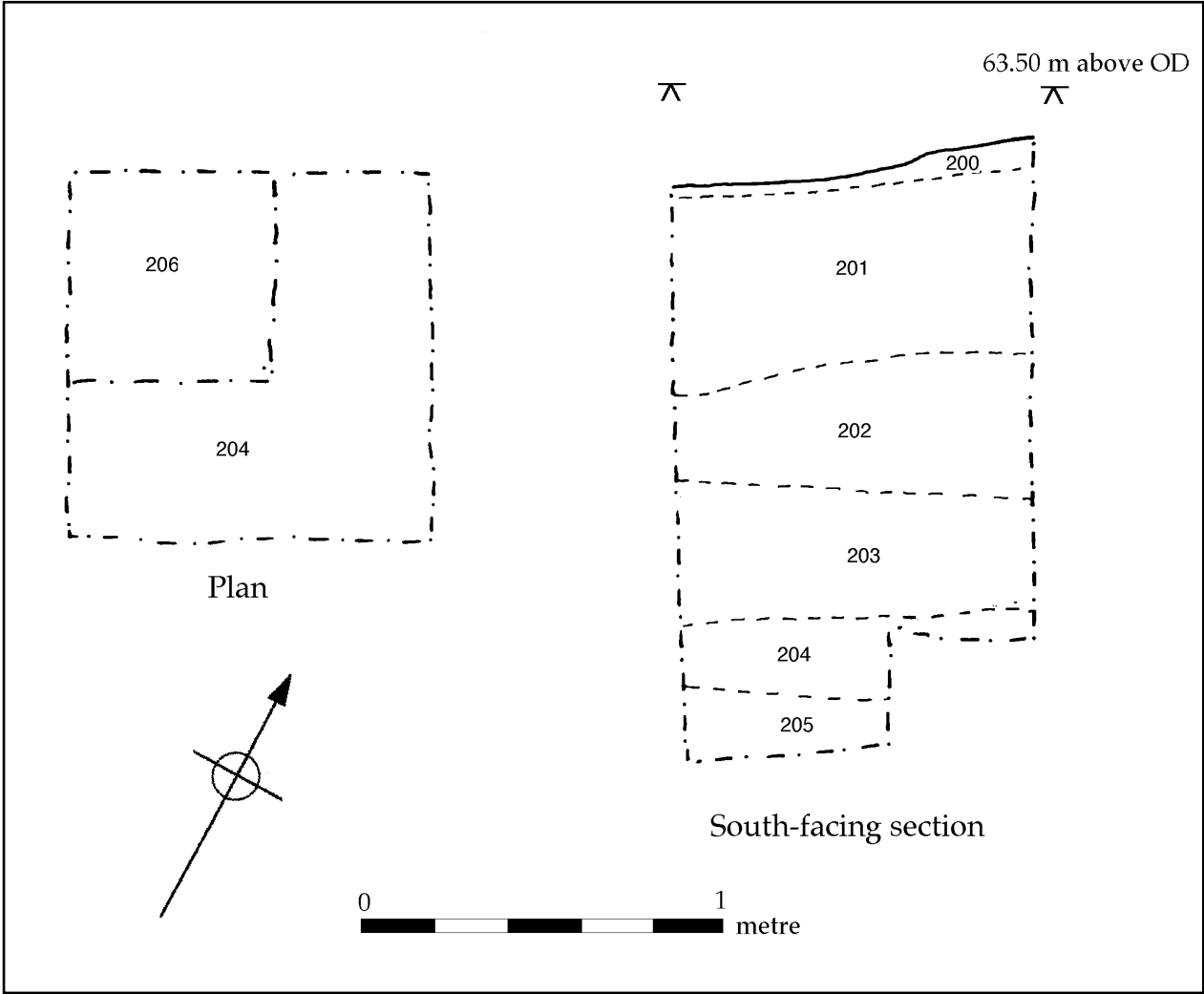


Figure 4: Plan and section of Trench 3

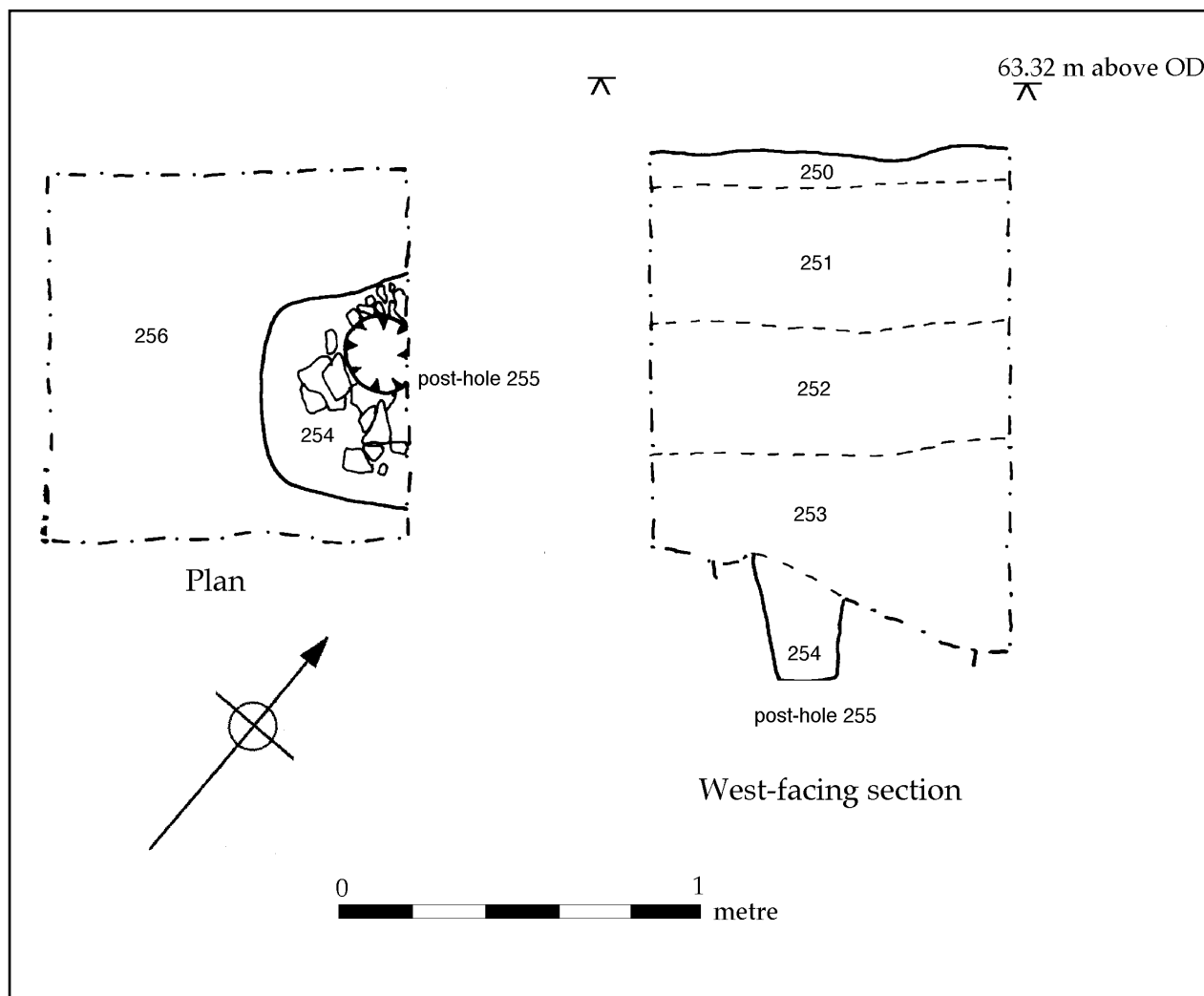


Figure 5: Plan and section of Trench 4

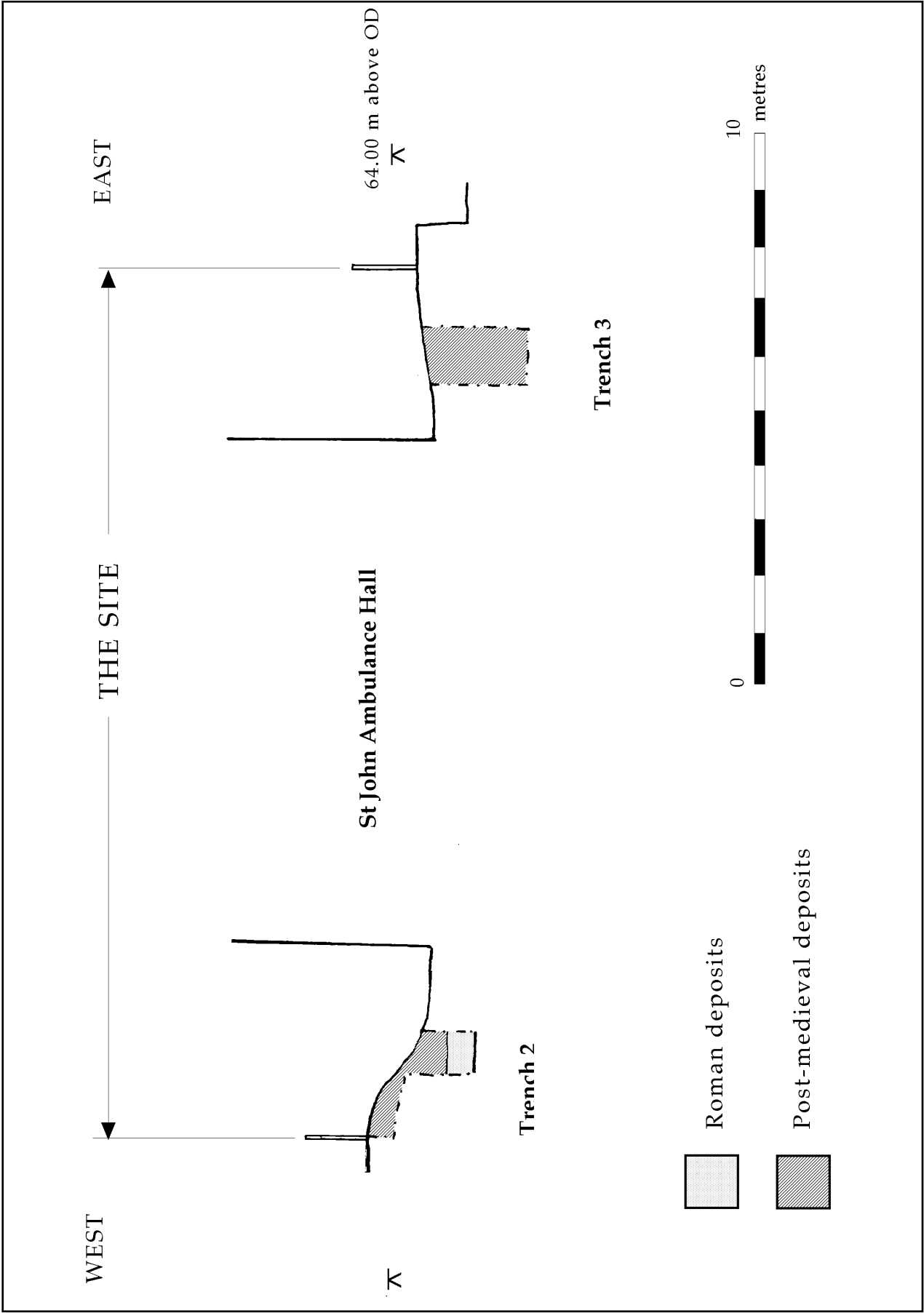


Figure 6: Reconstructed section across south end of site