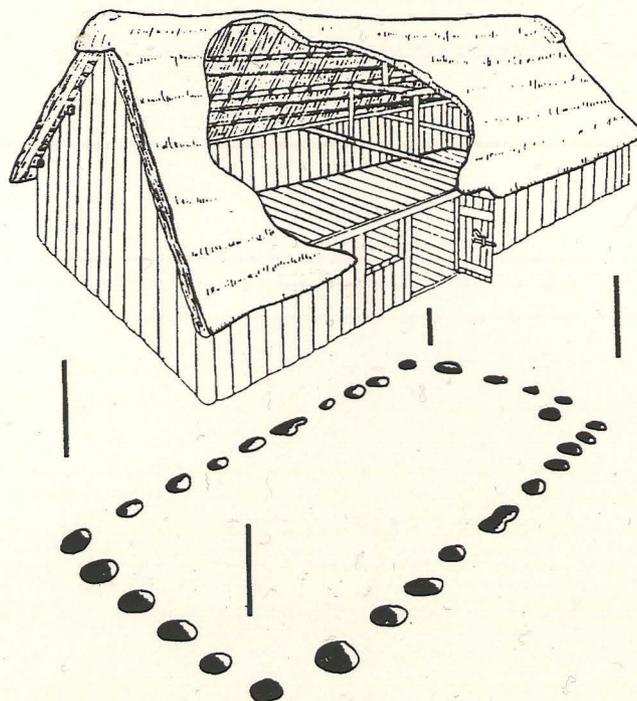




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**An Archaeological Evaluation**  
**On Land off High Street/Tanners Lane,**  
**Corby Glen, Lincolnshire (SK 9970 2510)**  
(CGHT00)

**Jennifer Browning**

For Hazel Ltd

Planning Application Numbers: SK94/0368/23/15 & S00/0168/23

University of Leicester Archaeological Services  
Report No: 2000/156

Highways & Planning  
Directorate  
18 JAN 2001  
Planning &  
Conservation

**An Archaeological Evaluation On Land Off High Street/Tanners Lane, Corby  
Glen, Lincolnshire (SK 9970 2510).**

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**An Archaeological Evaluation On Land Off High Street/Tanners Lane, Corby Glen, Lincolnshire (SK 9970 2510).**

**Jennifer Browning**

**Summary**

*An archaeological evaluation in the form of trial trenching was carried out on land off High Street/Tanners Lane, Corby Glen, Lincolnshire in November 2000. University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Hazel Ltd. to undertake the work. Eight trenches were excavated, revealing evidence of medieval activity, comprising a drystone wall in Trench 6 and a pit, possibly the result of backyard activity, in Trench 2. The archive will be held by the City and County Museum, Lincoln under the Museum Accession Number 2000.297 and the site code CGHT00.*

**1. Introduction**

*Did this go through as part of planning process?*

Outline planning permission has been granted for a number of dwellings on land off the High Street and Tanners Lane in Corby Glen village (Planning Application No: SK94/0368/23/15). The permission has no archaeological conditions attached but a geophysical survey has taken place on site following a request on behalf of the developer. Further investigations have been recommended by the Community Archaeologist and included in *Archaeological Project Brief for a Scheme of Trial Trenching as part of an Evaluation at Land off High Street/Tanners Lane, Corby Glen*. An application for full planning permission was submitted in Spring 2000. This report presents the results of archaeological evaluation of the land, in the form of trial trenching, which took place from the 14th –20th November 2000.

A strategy for the work was set out in the *Design Specification for a scheme of trial trenching as part of an evaluation at land off High Street/Tanners Lane Corby Glen, Lincolnshire (SK 9970 2510) ULAS 2000* (hereinafter DS). Trial trenching totalling 315 square metres or 2% of the area of impact was undertaken. This amounted to 210 linear metres of 1.5m wide trench, consisting of 6 trenches of 30m and 2 of 15m in length.

**2. Location**

The proposed development site is located in the village of Corby Glen, which lies in the centre of South Kesteven District, approximately 12 miles to the north of Stamford (*figures 1 & 2*). It consists of an area of c. 2.5 hectares in which it is proposed to build a number of dwellings. The land presently consists of a disused timber yard to the north and pasture to the south, behind existing dwellings on Barleythorpe Road. A site visit confirmed that much of the former timber yard was unsuitable for trenching, as modern disturbance was likely to have destroyed any earlier deposits. However, trenches were sited in areas thought to be less disturbed. The underlying geology is likely to consist of a Lincolnshire limestone substratum (DS). The site lies at a height of c. 60m O.D. on land sloping gently from the north-east to the south-west.

### 3. Archaeological and Historical Background

The site lies within an area of prehistoric activity, including finds of a Neolithic axe and a Bronze Age ring ditch. In addition the northern part of the site lies close to the historic core of Corby Glen, which suggests potential for evidence of domestic occupation from the Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods. It is believed that Corby, meaning 'woody place', was a Danish settlement, although it is first mentioned in the Domesday book (Steel 1979, 5). At this time much of the parish seems to have been wooded, although the settlement itself was larger than the surrounding villages (*ibid.*, 5). A moated site to the north-east of the market place is thought to be the forerunner of later halls and manor houses (*ibid.*, 9). Corby was an administrative centre in medieval times and was used for the wapentake court and later for the meeting of the justices, until it was displaced by the nearby village of Folkingham in the 16th century (*ibid.*, 6). Corby appears to have still held some importance in the early eighteenth century yet by the nineteenth it was clearly in decline. In the twentieth century, the timber yard provided important local employment, providing work for about twenty people in the 1970s (*ibid.*, 4).

A geophysical survey was carried out in the pasture area to the south of the disused sawmill by Engineering Archaeological Services in March 2000, using magnetic susceptibility and magnetometry. The magnetometer survey revealed the remains of ridge and furrow agriculture running approximately north east –south west. It also produced an anomaly that was tentatively interpreted as a ring ditch and a stronger anomaly across the southern part of the site that was thought to represent a bank, perhaps an old field boundary (Brooks 2000).

### 4. Aims

The aims of the trial trench phase of the evaluation, as set out in the DS, were:-

- 1). To establish the nature, character and extent of any archaeological deposits within the designated areas whilst minimising damage to such deposits.
- 2). To establish a date range for any archaeological deposits located.
- 3). To define the state of preservation of these deposits, including the potential for the survival of environmental data.
- 4). To assess the local, regional and national importance of any deposits.
- 5). To produce an archive and report any results.

### 5. Methodology

Eight trenches were excavated across the site, comprising 6 x 30m trenches and 2 x 15m trenches. They were located so as to target anomalies identified in the geophysical survey and also to sample areas not included in the survey. The trenches were excavated using a JCB 3CX mechanical digger with a 1.5m wide, toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil and subsoil were removed in spits under constant

archaeological supervision until either archaeological features were revealed, the undisturbed natural substrata was reached or to a maximum depth of 1.20m.

Limited excavation of archaeological features was carried out to determine the character and date of any remains. Archaeological features were recorded with reference to the ULAS recording manual. All work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.

## 6. Results

Eight trenches were excavated in the application area. Only two of the trenches targeted the former timber yard as it was thought that most of the area had been truncated by modern disturbance. A geophysical survey was undertaken across the pasture part of the site and some of the trenches were designed to target anomalies identified during the survey. The exposed natural subsoil generally consisted of a reddish brown sandy clay with very frequent limestone.

The following consists of a table summarising the basic features of each trench, followed by a description. All features have been given context numbers to identify them. Further context details are provided in Appendix 1. The numbers in round brackets () represent the fill of a feature, while those in square brackets [] refer to its cut. The surface levels shown were taken at each end of the trench and this is indicated by compass point. Maximum depths of topsoil and subsoils are always measured from the surface unless otherwise stated; for example 'subsoil depth at 0.77m' means that the base of the subsoil was located at 0.77m below the top of the trench, not that the subsoil was 0.77m thick.

<b>Trench No:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Orientation:</b>	N-S
<b>Length:</b>	30m
<b>Width:</b>	1.5m
<b>Surface level (OD):</b>	N-67.09 S-67.00
<b>Maximum topsoil depth</b>	0.25m
<b>Maximum subsoil depth</b>	-
<b>Maximum trench depth:</b>	1.20m
<b>Contexts</b>	(3)[4]

Trench 1 was excavated in the eastern part of the former timber yard close to the site entrance. It was located in one of two areas, which were thought to have been least disturbed by recent activity on the site. Excavation began at the south end and natural subsoil was quickly established directly beneath the topsoil at a shallow depth (<0.21m). At 10m from the southern end of the trench a large feature was identified [4]. It contained a dark brown silty fill (3). The trench was machined to a maximum depth of 1.20m but this was still within the fill of the pit. At the end of the trench, natural subsoil was located sloping upwards in the trench section, signifying the northern extent of the feature. A sample of the finds from the pit was retained for analysis, and these were identified as moulded post-medieval brick and post-17th century earthenware/pancheon ware (see Appendix 2).

<b>Trench No:</b>	2
<b>Orientation:</b>	NE-SW
<b>Length:</b>	29m
<b>Width:</b>	1.5m
<b>Surface level (OD):</b>	NE-65.64 SW-64.45
<b>Maximum topsoil depth</b>	0.35m
<b>Maximum subsoil depth</b>	0.70m
<b>Maximum trench depth:</b>	0.77m
<b>Contexts</b>	(1) [2]

This trench was located to the north of the former timber yard in an area thought to be relatively free from modern disturbance. Frequent organic material and fragments of wood, coal, brick and stone was present in the topsoil and there were pockets of disturbance in the subsoil. A feature was revealed on the west side of the trench, which was partially excavated to establish its date and nature. It contained a friable red brown clayey silt, with occasional limestone pieces (1). The feature appeared linear with sides sloping at a 45° angle. The base was not reached as the main part of the pit appeared to be beneath the western baulk, but it was thought likely to be a fairly substantial feature. Seven pottery sherds dating to the medieval period were recovered. These were mostly Bourne wares but a single sherd of Stanion Lyveden ware and a sherd of Stamford ware were also recovered. None was later than the fifteenth century in date (See Appendix 2 for details).

<b>Trench No:</b>	3
<b>Orientation:</b>	NE-SW
<b>Length:</b>	29m
<b>Width:</b>	1.5m
<b>Surface level (OD):</b>	NE- 60.43 SW-59.52
<b>Maximum topsoil depth</b>	0.40m
<b>Maximum subsoil depth</b>	0.65m
<b>Maximum trench depth:</b>	0.80m
<b>Contexts</b>	N

This trench was located towards the north of the pasture field. No archaeological features or finds were identified in this trench. The natural subsoil consisted of a grey brown silty clay with frequent small limestone pieces. It was mottled by irregular patches of reddish brown silty clay.

<b>Trench No:</b>	4
<b>Orientation:</b>	NE-SW
<b>Length:</b>	28.5m
<b>Width:</b>	1.5m
<b>Surface level (OD):</b>	NE 62.11 SW- 60.95
<b>Maximum topsoil depth</b>	0.28m
<b>Maximum subsoil depth</b>	0.40m
<b>Maximum trench depth:</b>	0.50m
<b>Contexts</b>	N

No archaeological features or finds were identified in this trench, at the north-east of the pasture field. The exposed natural subsoil, a yellow sandy clay with very frequent limestone fragments, was mottled by patches of reddish brown sandy clay.

<b>Trench No:</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Orientation:</b>	NE-SW
<b>Length:</b>	29m
<b>Width:</b>	1.5m
<b>Surface level (OD):</b>	NE- 61.55 SW- 60.65
<b>Maximum topsoil depth</b>	0.40m
<b>Maximum subsoil depth</b>	0.90m
<b>Maximum trench depth:</b>	0.95m
<b>Contexts</b>	N

This trench was located primarily to target the possible ring ditch located during the geophysical survey. The alignment of the trench was slightly altered to avoid the course of a drain running through the area. The ground sloped gently from the north-east to the south-west. Signs of surface flooding in this area were observed and this was reflected by the soils observed in the trench section. The topsoil overlay a mid grey brown silty clay subsoil, which in turn was above a mid reddish brown, sandy silty clay. These were both thought to be an alluvial build up, the result of successive flooding episodes. At the base of the trench a yellow brown sandy clay with limestone fragments was identified, which was interpreted as the natural subsoil. The base of the trench flooded during the course of the work, particularly at the south-western end. No archaeological finds or features were observed in this trench.

<b>Trench No:</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Orientation:</b>	E-W
<b>Length:</b>	16m
<b>Width:</b>	1.50m
<b>Surface level (OD):</b>	NE- 61.35 SW- 60.85
<b>Maximum topsoil depth</b>	0.30m
<b>Maximum subsoil depth</b>	1.07m
<b>Maximum trench depth:</b>	1.14m
<b>Contexts</b>	(5) [6] (7)

Topsoil overlay a layer of limestone-rich topsoil, below which two similar reddish brown sandy clay subsoils were identified. A drystone wall (5) was uncovered at 0.25m beneath present ground level, orientated north-south (*figure 5*). It was c.1.0m wide and was constructed from rough limestone blocks. In most places only the foundation course remained. The wall was constructed in a cut with shallow sloping sides and a flattish base [6] in a reddish brown sandy clay subsoil. A layer of limestone rubble in a topsoil-like matrix (7) covered the wall and it was from this that a large piece of pottery was recovered, proving to be a jug rim and the top of a strap handle dating to the fifteenth century and suggesting a possible medieval date for the wall itself. Only 3.5m of the wall remained, disappearing abruptly, as though it had been deliberately removed. The lack of rubble in the topsoil strongly suggests that the wall has been robbed, rather than just ploughed out. Beyond this point, no further archaeological features were observed and the trench was machined down to the natural limestone subsoil, at a depth of approximately 1m. Patches of reddish brown sandy clay (similar to the subsoil into which the wall was cut) were observed but these are likely to have been of natural origin.

<b>Trench No:</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Orientation:</b>	E-W
<b>Length:</b>	28.5m
<b>Width:</b>	1.5m
<b>Surface level (OD):</b>	NE- 59.87 SW- 59.30
<b>Maximum topsoil depth</b>	0.25m
<b>Maximum subsoil depth</b>	0.50m
<b>Maximum trench depth:</b>	0.80m
<b>Contexts</b>	N

The section revealed similar strata to those in Trench 6, without the rubble layer. Natural subsoil was located at 0.5m below ground level and consisted of a sandy clay gravel with occasional patches of reddish brown clay. No archaeological features or finds were identified.

<b>Trench No:</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Orientation:</b>	E-W
<b>Length:</b>	14m
<b>Width:</b>	1.5m
<b>Surface level (OD):</b>	E- 59.40 W-59.20
<b>Maximum topsoil depth</b>	0.25m
<b>Maximum subsoil depth</b>	0.80m
<b>Maximum trench depth:</b>	0.92m
<b>Contexts</b>	N

This trench was located at the south eastern extent of the development area. No archaeological features or finds were identified. The natural subsoil consisted of a sandy gravel with limestone and red clay intrusions.

## 7. Discussion

Three isolated features were located during this evaluation, in trenches 1, 2 and 6. The large pit in trench 1, contexts (3) & [4], may represent a quarry pit, backfilled in the post-medieval period. It was not possible to establish the east and western extents of this feature in such a narrow trench and it would have been unsafe to have excavated deeper so the depth and profile of the feature remained unknown. However, the dark silty fill type and finds recovered (mostly post-medieval brick fragments) indicated that that it has fairly modern origins.

The pit in trench 2, contexts (1) & [2], has potentially more archaeological value than that in trench 1. Although its form and function could not be satisfactorily established, a number of medieval pottery sherds were recovered, none of which post dated the fifteenth century. These were mostly from vessels produced locally at Bourne, accompanied by a sherd of Stamford ware and a single sherd of Stanion Lyveden ware. The excavated portion of this feature revealed the sides to be sharply sloping downwards suggesting that the most of the feature is likely to lie to the north-west of the trench, under the baulk. It was thought likely to be part of a pit feature of substantial size. It may be evidence of backyard activity in the late 14th and 15th century, associated with properties fronting onto Tanners Lane or High Street.

The drystone wall, contexts (5) & [6], was located in trench 6. The structure could not be dated with accuracy but pottery found in the rubble layer above it (7) dated from

the fifteenth century, thereby suggesting an earlier date for the wall itself. A lack of stone in the topsoil was apparent further down the trench and would seem to suggest that it had been robbed, although there is no evidence of when this might have occurred. It is difficult to establish the purpose of the wall from such a short surviving stretch. However, there were no indications that it represented a building. No floor levels were identified, for example, and there was no evidence that it turned a corner or changed direction. It seems most likely to be the remains of a property boundary. It may also correspond to the anomaly noted during the geophysical survey, which was interpreted as a bank or former field boundary. It is highly probable that more of the structure will survive to the east of the trench.

## 8. Conclusion

The features located during this evaluation confirm that there was medieval activity on the site. Trench 5 was positioned in the area where a possible ring ditch was identified during the geophysical survey. This feature was not located but a thick layer of alluvial soils was noted. No evidence for pre-medieval archaeological structures or deposits was identified and much of the northern extent of the site had been disturbed by modern activity associated with the timber yard.

## 9. Archive

The archive consists of 8 trench sheets, 7 context sheets, 13 sherds of pottery, 2 sheets of plan and section drawings, a trench location plan, black and white prints and colour slides. The archive will be held by the City and County Museum, Lincoln under the Museum Accession Number 2000.297 and the site code CGHT00.

## 10. Acknowledgements

This report was compiled from information collected on site by Barry Martin and Jennifer Browning. The pottery was identified by Deborah Sawday and the project was managed by Dr. Patrick Clay. I would like to thank Paul John Construction and Hazel Ltd for their help and co-operation during this evaluation.

Jennifer Browning  
December 2000

ULAS Report No: 2000/156

## 11. References

- |              |      |   |
|--------------|------|---|
| Brooks, I.P. | 2000 | <i>Adcocks Sawmill, Corby Glen. Geophysical Survey.</i> Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd.  |
| Steel, D.    | 1979 | <i>A Lincolnshire Village.</i> Longman Group Ltd, London.   |
| Clay, Dr. P. | 2000 | <i>Design Specification for a Scheme of Trial Trenching as part of an evaluation at land off High Street/Tanners Lane, Corby Glen, Lincolnshire (SK9970 2510)</i> ULAS. |

**Appendix 1:  
List of Contexts**

Context	Trench No.	Cut	Below	Description
1	2	2	-	Fill of pit/ditch. Mid reddish brown clayey silt, friable with occasional limestone pieces, probably redeposited from natural.
2	2	-	1	Cut of pit/ditch. Linear with sides sloping at a 45° angle. The base was not reached as the main part of the feature was out of the area of excavation. Appeared to be aligned NE-SW.
3	1	4	-	Fill of large pit. Possible quarry pit? Dark greyish brown silty clay with bands of redeposited natural and demolition debris, brick pancheon and tile.
4	1	-	3	Cut of large pit. Possible quarry pit? Steep sided (sloping at a 45°). Not bottomed.
5	6	6	7	Stones of wall. Below (7). Wall made from irregular blocks of limestone- a maximum of 2 courses remaining but mostly only 1 is present. No evidence of bonding between the stones. Irregular blocks face inwards forming a straight exterior face. The wall is infilled with smaller blocks of limestone (example blocks 38x25x14cm, 50x35x20cm and 23x23x10cm).
6	6	-	5	Cut for wall. Shallow cut with flattish base into reddish brown sandy clay, presumed to be natural. 3.5m of wall exposed, comes to an abrupt end – possibly robbed away.
7	6	-	-	Layer of limestone rubble. Dark brown silty sand, friable with very frequent small and medium limestone fragments. This layer is observed down the length of trench 6 but contains far fewer limestone fragments towards the west. Located below thin layer of topsoil and overlying wall and reddish brown subsoil. One fragment of medieval pottery recovered from it and several fragments of animal bone observed, including a complete ox tibia and partial ox? humerus.

## Appendix 2

## The Pottery from Corby Glen, Lincolnshire

Deborah Sawday

Bearing in mind the proximity of the site to the county boundary, the pottery has been catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series for Leicester and Leicestershire (Davies and Sawday 1999). Not surprisingly, given the local nature of most medieval pottery trade distribution patterns, all of the eight medieval pottery sherds come from kilns operating within the region from the late Saxon to the late medieval period. The kilns were based at Stamford and Bourne in Lincolnshire and at Stanion and Lyveden in north Northamptonshire.

The pottery is evidence of activity in the vicinity of High Street and Tanners Lane from the 11th or 12th centuries to the late medieval period, whilst the fragment relating to the possibly property boundary dates from the mid 15th or 16th centuries.

Davies, S., and Sawday, D., 1999. 'The Post Roman Pottery and Tile' in A., Connor and R., Buckley 1999, *Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester*, Leicester Archaeology Mon. 5, 165-213

Kilmurry, K., 1980. *The Pottery Industry of Stamford, Lincolnshire, AD 850-1250*. Oxford: Brit. Archaeol. Rep. (Brit. Ser.) 84

McCarthy, M., R., and Brooks, C., M., 1988. *Medieval Pottery in Britain AD900-1600*. Leicester: Leicester University Press

Site/Parish: High St/Tanners Lane, Corby Glen Lincs. Accession No/ Doc Ref: CGHT00 - 200.297/corbygl1.doc Material: pottery and brick	Submitter: J. Browning Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Id:14.12.00 Method of Recovery: wb Site Type: T1/T2 - village core, T6 - pasture with ridge and furrow
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Context	fabric/ware	sherd nos.	weight grams	comments
POTTERY				
T2 (1) pit fill (only partially excavated)	ST2 - Fine Stamford ware	1	2	c.1050 - 12th c.
	LY5 - Stanion - Lyveden type ware	1	15	c.1200 -c.1400
	Bourne ware 2 - A/B ware	2	13	c.13th c.
	BO1 - Bourne ware 1 - D ware	3	12	c.1450+
T1 (3) quarry pit	EA2 - Earthenware 2/Pancheon ware	2	32	17th c.+
T6 (7) layer above drystone wall - poss. a property boundary	BO1 - Bourne ware 2 - D ware	1	146	jug rim and top of strap handle, glazed, thumb smeared at side of handle and five

				vertical thumb smears above handle which is probably dowelled into the neck of the vessel, the handle may be decorated with longitudinal incised lines, 1450+, (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 409, fig.255)
BRICK				
T1 (3)	EA- Earthenware	3		moulded, post med.

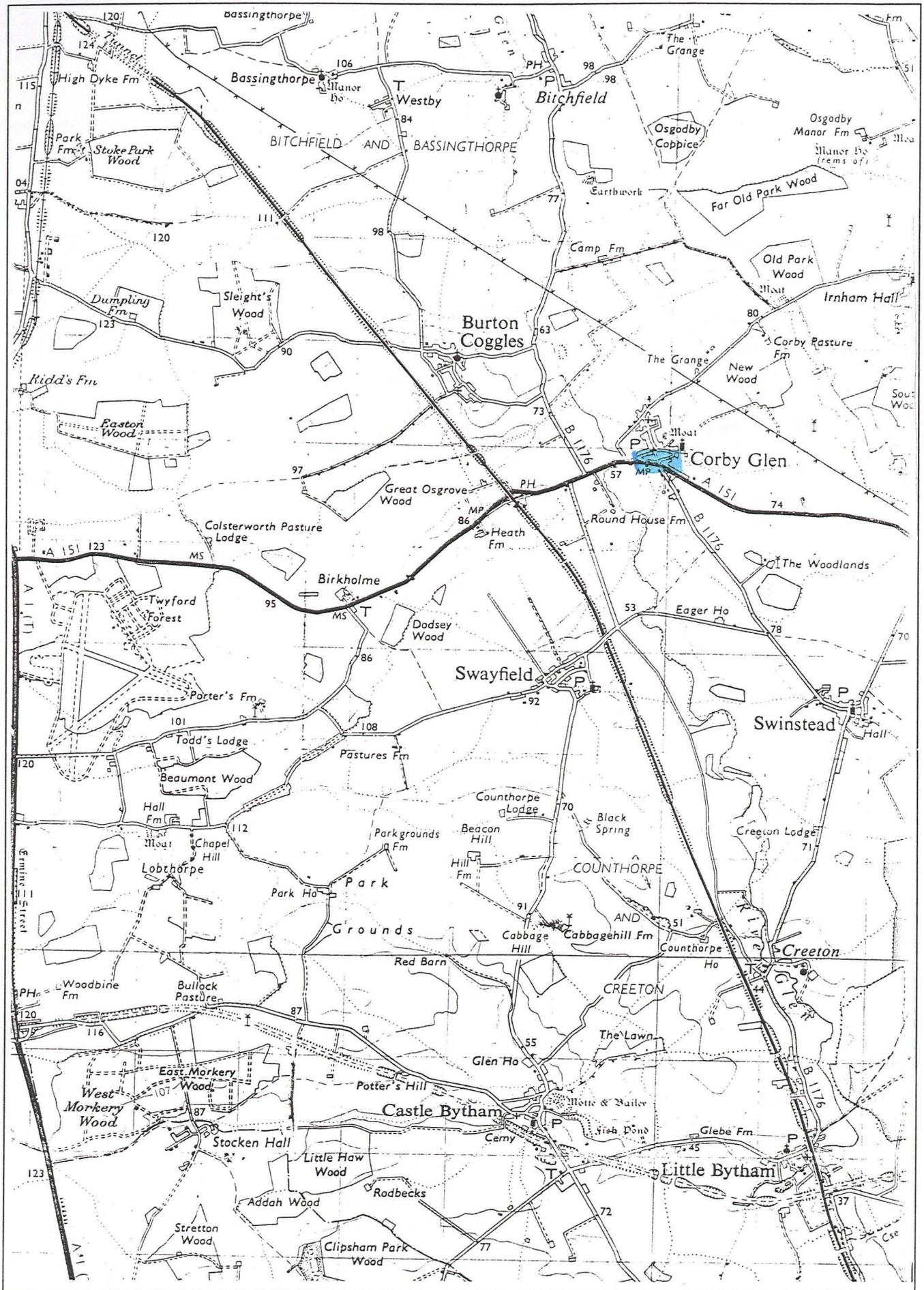


Figure 1: Location Map. Scale 1:50 000. Reproduced from the 1994 Ordnance Survey map, sheet 130 with the permission of the Controller of HMSO © Crown Copyright. ULAS licence no. AL51800A0001.



Figure 2: Plan of site showing location of trenches.  
 Scale 1:2000 (approx). Based on plan supplied by developer.

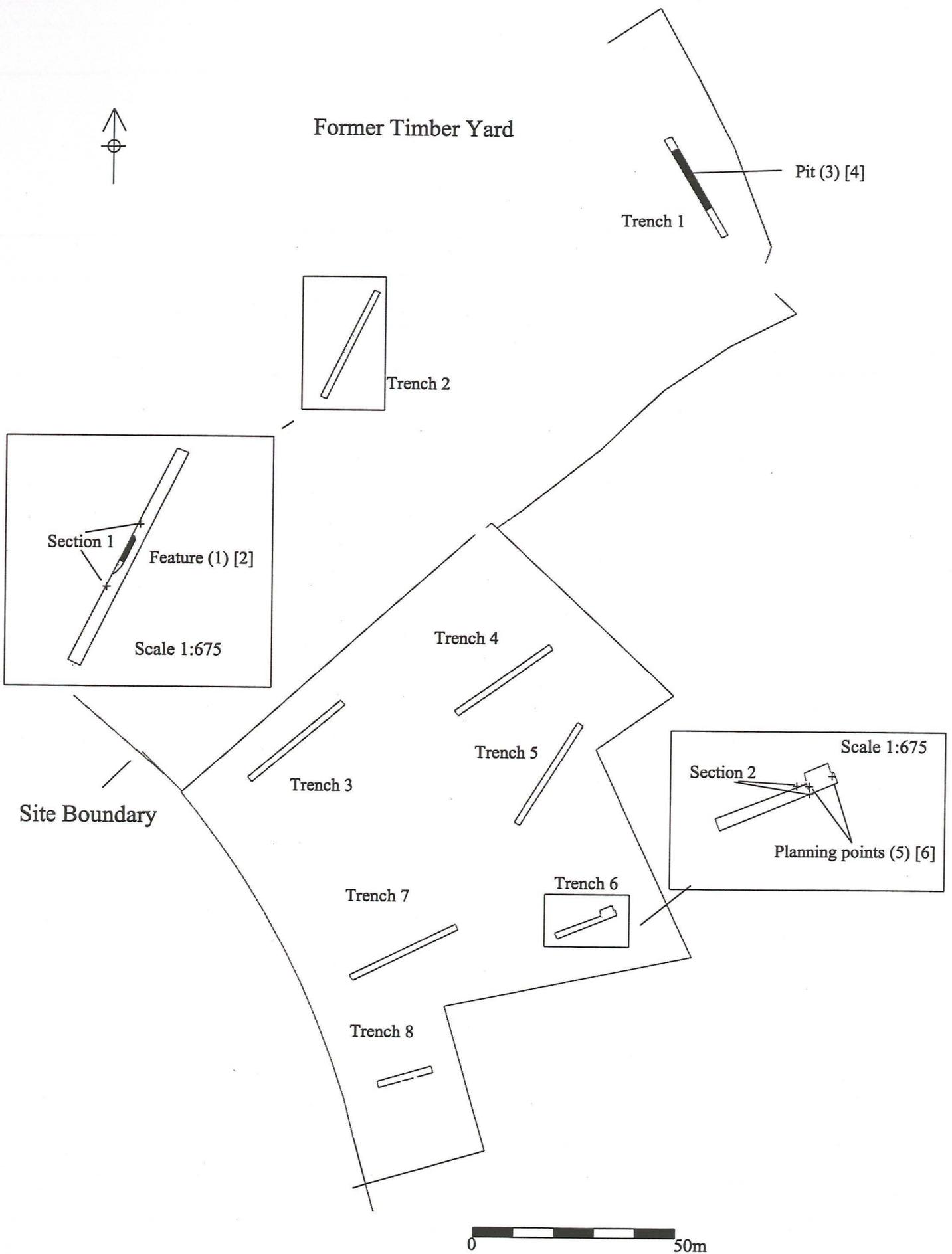


Figure 3: Plan of trenches, showing location of features. Scale 1:1250.

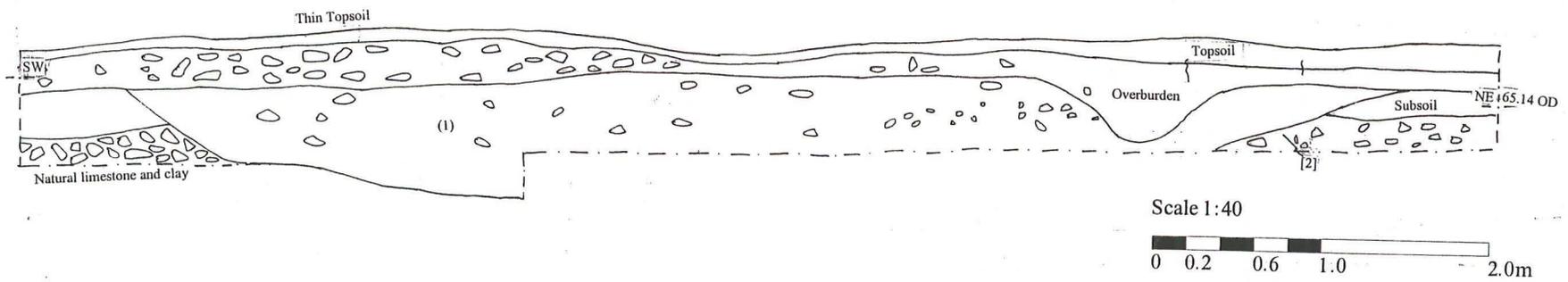


Figure 4: Section through feature (1) [2] in Trench 2. Scale 1:20

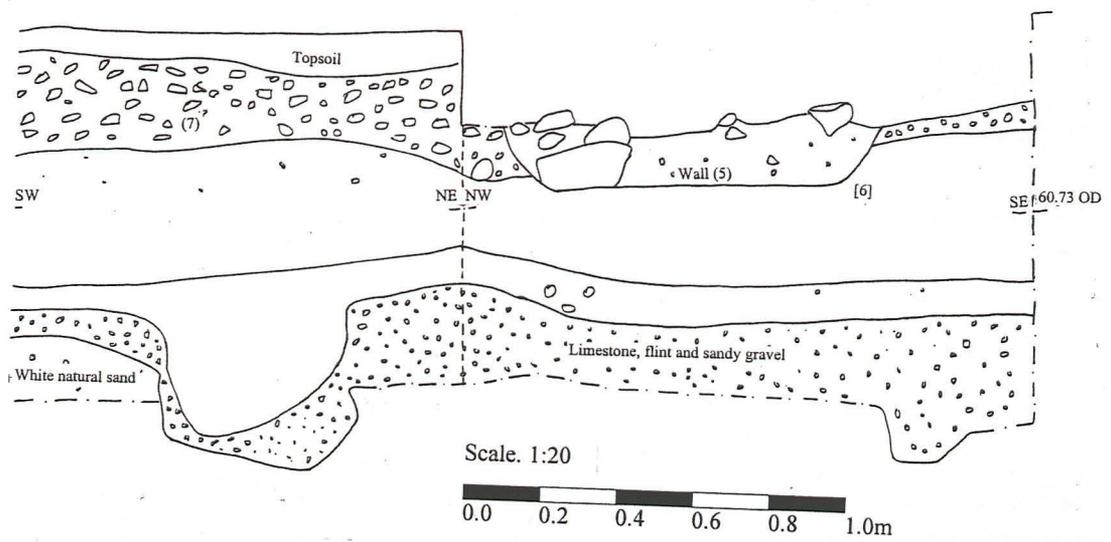
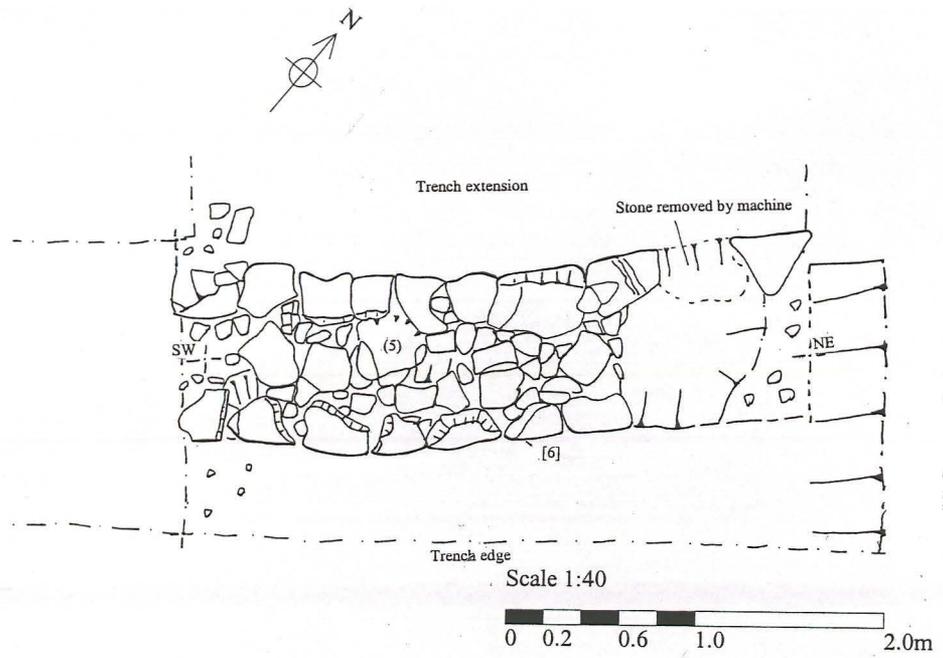


Figure 5: Detail of feature (5)[6] comprising plan and section through wall in Trench 6.



Plate 1: View of the former timber yard, prior to trenching. Looking west.



Plate 2: View of the pasture area, prior to trenching. Looking north east from bottom of field.