

Marches Archaeology

**Palmers Hall
Ludlow College
Ludlow
Shropshire**

Report on an archaeological evaluation

November 2003

Marches Archaeology Series 311

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Marches Archaeology

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**Palmers Hall
Ludlow College
Ludlow
Shropshire**

NGR: SO 511 744

**Report on
an archaeological evaluation**

**Report by
Jo Wainwright**

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Summary

Two trenches were excavated at Ludlow College. The medieval archaeological features and deposits excavated in Trench 2 indicate a stone surfaced yard, a well and a small building, perhaps of an industrial nature, close to the rear of Palmers Hall. The medieval remains are of good quality, are well preserved and have only been truncated where service trenches have been excavated. It is likely that similar medieval features and deposits exist throughout the western part of the site.

In Trench 1 it seems likely that the medieval deposits excavated formed as a result of cultivation. It seems probable that this area, further from the medieval frontage, had been a garden from the medieval period to the 18th century.

1 Introduction

There is currently a proposal to redevelop land at Ludlow College. The site is situated at NGR: SO 511 744 (Fig. 1).

In advance of submitting a planning application the College wished to commission an archaeological evaluation. The Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor produced a "Brief for an archaeological field evaluation". RRA, on behalf of the Client, commissioned Marches Archaeology to provide the archaeological services detailed in the Brief.

Ludlow College site is situated on the eastern side of Mill Street at the southern end of the street (Fig. 1). The development site comprises an open courtyard surrounded on all sides by the buildings of Ludlow College. The south, west and part of the north sides of the study area are partially built on by these College buildings and structures. A wall forms the eastern and part of the northern boundary. The development area is fairly flat at about 94.30m O.D. A flight of steps at the south-west leads down about three metres to the area to the south.

The underlying geology is of Downtonian sandstones which typically consist of red marls.

2 Scope and aims of the project

The Brief states that the archaeological project would consist of:
the excavation of two trenches, each 10m x 1.5m in extent

An archaeological evaluation aims to “gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality) in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context, leading to one or more of the following: the formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource; the formulation of a strategy to initiate a threat to the archaeological resource; the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research” (Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations).

The objectives of this evaluation, based on the above stated aim, were

- to locate any archaeological features and deposits within the study area
- to assess the survival, quality, condition and relative significance of any such features or deposits
- to identify and recommend options for the management of the archaeological resource, including any further archaeological provision

3 Methodology

Documentary research

Primary and secondary sources were consulted in order to inform the fieldwork phase. Initially a site visit was made and the Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record was consulted. A visit was made to the Shropshire Record Office. The following sources were also considered:

- Ordnance Survey maps; Tithe maps and other historical maps; Previous published and unpublished archaeological reports and archive work; Written non-archaeological sources and Geological maps.

Fieldwork

Two trenches were excavated at the locations shown in the brief (Fig. 6). Plant and machinery was provided by Marches Archaeology.

The upper deposits were excavated by mechanical excavator to a level determined to comprise deposits and, features of archaeological significance. Further excavation was by hand. Selected sampling by use of mechanical excavator to test deeper stratification, the level of natural deposits or other information required for the fulfilment of the aims and objectives of the Brief was carried out. All artefactual and ecofactual material recovered from hand excavation was initially retained.

The recording system included written, drawn and photographic data. Context numbers were allocated and context record sheets completed. Site notes were also made. Plans and sections of significant data were made. Plans were multi-context. The photographic record was made using black and white negative and colour transparency film.

On completion of the fieldwork the trenches were backfilled and the ground reinstated.

Office work

On completion of fieldwork a site archive was prepared. The written, drawn and photographic data was catalogued and cross-referenced and a summary produced. The artefactual data was processed, catalogued and cross-referenced and a summary was produced. After an initial assessment any non-diagnostic artefacts were discarded. Further dispersal of artefacts and ecofacts will be in line with the collection policy of the recipient repository and will be documented in the archive.

Assessment was based on the site archive. The pottery that required specialist assessment was submitted for such work.

4 Archaeological and historical background

Ludlow by Nic Appleton-Fox

Although scattered prehistoric artefacts have been recovered from the area of the town, and a Bronze Age barrow is recorded on the site of St Lawrence's Church (Stanford, 1991) there is no evidence for the occupation of the town site itself until the late 11th century. The site of the town is suggested as the crossroads for two prehistoric trackways (Lloyd, 1999) and it is also suggested that the line of Corve Street and Old Street reflects the line of a Roman road to the ford (Watson, 1989).

Ludford is recorded on Domesday Book (Thorn and Thorn, 1986), and is presumably of Saxon origin, but there is no mention of the castle. This is thought to have been built between 1086 and 1095, with the town being founded shortly after (SMR: 6177, Fig. 1). The site was part of the estate of Stanton Lacy and eventually became the main centre for the de Lacys in Shropshire (Faraday, 1991). The topography here made it an ideal defensive site; level ground surrounded by steep slopes and flanked by the rivers Teme and Corve. The local Silurian limestone provided an abundant source of building material. However, the first documentary reference to the castle is from the siege of 1139 (Faraday, *op cit*). The castle was built to form a staging post for the mounting of campaigns into Wales and became increasingly important. The town had spread as far as the south end of Corve Street by 1186, when burgages are recorded there. The bridge over the Teme was built by 1220 and a murage licence was granted to the town in 1233 (Lloyd and Moran, 1978). Evidence from curtailed burgage plots shows that the town was well built up before the wall was constructed and the southern circuit was not completed until around 1290 (SMR: 1177, Fig. 1, Stone, 1998).

It is known that the town was granted a charter in the 13th century, probably before 1241 as an annual fair was being held by then, and there is reference to a market place in 1255. In the 13th century Ludlow was one of the 53 places in England that was licensed to export cloth, which was the mainstay of the medieval economy of the town (Conzen, 1968). This declined during the 14th century and with the pacification of Wales in the late 13th century the importance of Ludlow declined. The effects were somewhat mitigated by the Mortimer family transferring the centre of their activities to Ludlow from Wigmore in the early 14th century.

In 1461 the town became a corporate borough and returned a member of parliament (Beresford and Finberg, 1973). The establishment of the Council of the Marches in the latter 15th century, with Ludlow as its base, created a boost to the service industries of the town. This, together with a resurgence of the cloth industry helped to restore the fortunes of Ludlow

(Faraday, 1991). As the cloth trade declined after 1582 leather working became the chief occupation apart from serving as a market town and the associated activities. In response to the burgeoning ironworking industry in North Herefordshire an attempt was made to make the River Teme navigable by William Sandys in 1636 (*op cit*).

With the dissolution of the Council of the March during the Commonwealth Ludlow lost a good source of income, even with the restitution of the Council after the Restoration it never fully recovered its influence and the Council was finally abolished in 1689. Ludlow had stood for the King during the Civil War, but escaped most of the usual ravages after the negotiated surrender of the castle, though the town saw some destruction, with a large number of houses being levelled in preparation for the siege (Dalwood, 1996).

During the 18th century Ludlow benefited from the turnpiking of the roads and became fashionable as a resort (Lloyd and Klein, 1984). In 1794 the streets of the town were paved and provided with lighting. By the middle of the 19th century railway lines joined Ludlow to Hereford and Shrewsbury. Glove making remained an important industry along with tanning and the exploitation of the local timber resources. Clothing was still represented in the town until the closure of E Walters & Sons factory in the 1990s. Tourism is now the main source of income for the town.

The development area

The study area lies in a part of Ludlow characterised by planned medieval tenement plots. The block of tenement plots in which the site is situated is defined by Mill Street, Bell Lane, Lower Raven Lane and Silk Mill Lane (Sites and Monuments Record: 6240, Fig. 1). A number of hypotheses have been advanced for the development of the town and various dates have been ascribed to the laying out of this specific block of burgages. Conzen suggested burgage plots orientated on Mill Street were laid out in the mid 13th century, as part of a large plan-unit (Dalwood, 1996, SMR: 06240). Rear access to burgages was by Raven Lane until in the late 13th century when the lane was built up with new burgages made up of the back of the Mill Street plots (SMR: 06240). Slater believes the burgage plots here were developed in the first half of the 13th century (Dalwood, 1996). Therefore the study area would have been part of a burgage plot or plots laid out by at least the mid 13th century. In Ludlow, as in many other towns, the standard unit of measurement the perch or pole (16½ feet (5½ yards), 5.029 metres) seems to have been used in the laying out of burgage plots (Lloyd, 1999).

The Grammar School (now Ludlow College) moved to the Mill Street site in about 1527. Originally the site consisted of Palmers Hall (SMR: 11225, Fig. 1) and a garden to the rear of the hall. The study area would have been within this garden.

Palmers Hall is a stone built medieval hall house of probably 14th century date (SMR: 11225). It had a central hall and a solar at the north end and the service quarters at the south and was probably built for a rich merchant. As the school expanded the building was enlarged and altered. By the early 17th century the southern part of the hall was being used by the Usher, the central part was the schoolroom and the northern end was the Schoolmaster's house. The gardens to the rear were similarly divided up (Lloyd, 1977).

The northern end of the hall was probably extended eastwards in the 16th century by Richard Harley, approximately along the lines of the present Haycock Wing. It is possible that a similar extension was built at the southern end (*op cit*).

In 1682 ‘new houses of office’ (enclosed earth closets) were erected at the top of the playground. A wall divided the Master’s garden from this playground. Lead pipes were laid by Ludlow Corporation in 1718 to bring water into the Headmaster’s House and in 1734 the wall along the southern edge of the playground was repaired, separating it from the Barnaby House gardens to the south. Further alterations took place to Palmers Hall in the preceding centuries, and as the school expanded more buildings and land were bought.

In the early 19th century the school acquired two cottages to the north of Palmers Hall and these were knocked down and a large building fronting on to Mill Street was erected. Behind this, in the gardens of the demolished cottages, a kitchen and outbuildings were built. In 1828 the eastern wing, at the north end of Palmers Hall, was replaced by the Haycock Wing. This was further extended in 1908 (*op cit*).

In 1874 a row of cottages and gardens directly to the south of the school were purchased. Three of these cottages had been made out of a medieval house, Barnaby House. A survey carried out on Barnaby House concluded that parts of the building date from about 1300 (SMR: 4806, Morriss, 1991). Presumably the building was set within a burgage plot that fronted onto Mill Street and it is certain that this building was longer than it is now (Morriss, 1991). Silk Mill Lane, to which Barnaby House is adjacent, was originally known as Barnaby Lane (*op cit*). The gardens ran up to the steep 12 foot high slope to the south of the school playground (Lloyd, 1977).

In the early part of the 20th century the block, forming the southern boundary of the site, was built as a laboratory. This was designed to sit astride the steep slope down from the schoolyard. Further alterations were made to Palmers Hall with an extension added at the south end. The old coach factory was also purchased (SMR: 6148) and a new building erected on the site. In the later 20th century a temporary building was erected in the playground towards the rear of the study area.

An 1832 Map of the Borough of Ludlow by Evans shows the Free School, i.e. Palmers Hall (Fig 2). More detail is shown on Wood’s 1835 Map of Ludlow (Fig. 3). Palmers Hall is shown as is the extension to the east. The division between Barnaby House and the school is visible but the boundary between the plots fronting onto Raven Lane is shown as being closer to the school than it is today. The 1849 Tithe Plan of Ludlow St Lawrence (not illustrated) is not detailed and does not show any property divisions. Curley’s 1862 Map of Ludlow is similar to Wood’s except it shows the eastern property boundary to the school in the same position it is today (Fig. 4). The 1885 Ordnance Survey 1:500 Town Plan is more detailed (Fig. 5). Steps are shown leading down to the Barnaby House area and the study area is shown as gardens and a playground. The eastern boundary is situated in the same place it is today.

It seems likely then that the study area was part of the backlands of Palmers Hall from at least the 14th century. Indeed if the burgage plots in this part of Ludlow were laid out during the 13th century it is possible that a predecessor to Palmers Hall existed and the study area was within the backlands of this plot. It is probable that the northern and southern boundaries

of the backlands of Palmers Hall have not changed since they were laid out in the 13th century. However, it is possible that the rear (eastern) boundary has gone through several changes. Originally it probably continued to Raven Lane until in the late 13th century when the Raven Lane frontage began to be built up. If the map evidence is correct then the backlands associated with the Raven Lane frontages would have extended further west. Presumably the school acquired part of the backlands of properties fronting onto Raven Lane before Curley's Map was drawn in 1862. If this is the case then the study area is not just within the Palmers Hall backlands but part of it is within the backlands of several properties fronting onto Raven Lane. The position of this boundary is probably along the same line as the boundaries of the plots situated to the north follows (Fig. 1).

If the study area was part of backlands from at least the 13th century then it is probable that the activity taking place within these backlands would have been of a domestic and possibly industrial nature.

5 The evaluation

Trench 1 (Fig. 7)

The earliest deposit excavated was the natural yellow sandstones and clay [123]. This layer was seen at about 900mm below the present day ground surface in the north but sloped down towards the south where it was seen about 1.60 metres below the tarmac. Above the natural and seen over the whole trench was a mid brown beige silty clay with occasional sandstone, charcoal and mortar [122]. This was interpreted as a garden or cultivation soil. This varied in thickness but was a maximum 500mm in the south. Pottery recovered from this dates from the 14th-15th centuries. Above this in the east of the trench was a layer of sandstone fragments in a beige clay matrix [121]. This was about 300mm thick and contained a medieval ridge tile. Overlying [121] in the south of the trench was a layer of mid brown silty clay with sandstone fragments and sub-rounded pebbles [117].

In the west of the trench and above [122] was a lens of reddish brown silty clay [124] which contained burnt material. Overlying [124] and seen in the south of the trench, was a layer of mid brown silty clay with charcoal and sandstone fragments [120]. This layer was a maximum 400mm thick.

Above layers [117] and [120] was a soft mid brown silty clay with many inclusions including charcoal, sub rounded pebbles, sandstone fragments and mortar flecks [116]. This varied in thickness but was about 300mm in the main and contained pottery from the 17th-18th centuries. In the north east corner of the trench a probable sub-rectangular pit with a flat base and concave sides [105] was seen cutting [116]. This was filled with [104] which was a mid brown silty clay with very frequent inclusions of charcoal, coal, oyster shell and mortar. Pottery recovered from this fill dates from the late 17th to mid-18th centuries.

Cutting [116] in the south of the trench and only seen in section was a shallow scoop [119] filled with [118] a mid brown clay silt. Cutting pit [119] was [111] a linear slot running east to west which was seen in both sections. This cut was deeper and more regular in the west than the east. Filling [111] was [110] a lens of burnt material surrounded by a yellowish silty clay.

Sealing both pit fills [104] and [110] was a layer of garden or cultivation soil [103]. This was a humic mid dark brown silty clay with frequent inclusions and contained pottery from the late 17th to mid-18th centuries. Cutting [103] in the south of the trench was [113] a pit only seen in section. This was filled with [112] which was a silty clay with very frequent sandstone fragments. Cutting [103] in the centre of the trench was a large sub circular pit with a flat base [115]. This was filled with a mixture of clay silt with inclusions of brick, pebbles and sandstone fragments [114]. The upper part of the fill contained more sandstone fragments than the lower portion of the fill.

Also cutting [103] were two pipe trenches. One was for a water pipe [108] and [109], and one was for a ceramic drain [106] and [107]. Above [103] was the make-up [102] for the present day ground surface of tarmac [101].

Trench 2 (Fig. 8)

The natural was not reached in this trench. Significant archaeology was reached at a depth of about 650mm along the whole of the trench. In the west of the trench the earliest layer seen was a probable surface [236] containing medieval pottery. This consisted of rough hewn sandstone fragments which were mainly laid on edge and surrounded by a greyish silty clay. Above this surface was a thin layer of light brown silty clay with frequent sandstone fragments, mortar and charcoal [239]. Overlying this and also only seen in the western end of the trench was a layer of sandstone fragments in a beige silty clay [204]. This was a maximum 500mm thick and contained charcoal and brick fragments.

To the east of [236], but separated by a service trench cut [234] and [235], was a circular well [233] with a lining [231] constructed of roughly squared greyish sandstone blocks. These were faced internally. Part of the well lining was visible in the south section indicating that the well was above the ground level when it was covered over in antiquity. The well was backfilled with a mixture of silty sand and rubble [232]. Pottery recovered from [232] is c1800. To the east of the well lining was another surface [230] which appeared to be bonded into the well structure. This surface was similar to the one to the west but was constructed out of slightly larger sandstone blocks and contained medieval pottery. Above [230] was a thin lens of reddish brown silty clay with frequent burnt material [238].

To the east of surface [230] but separated from it by a service trench [225] was a patch of mid to yellow brown slightly silty clay [223]. This contained inclusions of frequent sandstone fragments, occasional charcoal and 1 sherd of 13th-14th century pottery. Another service trench [221] cut this deposit in the east.

To the east of this service trench was a layer of reddish brown soft silty clay with very frequent charcoal, burnt clay, mortar and occasional sandstone fragments [220]. This layer contained pottery from the 14th or 15th century and had areas of burnt material which were concentrated where the layer butted up against two hearths. Both hearths were constructed of rough hewn sandstone fragments which were bonded together with clay that was burnt red from the heat. The hearth in the north [218] consisted of 4 sandstone blocks laid flat with smaller stones laid on edge at the back of the hearth. The hearth in the south [219] was partially obscured by burnt clay but was constructed in a similar manner to [218]. A narrow

lens of burnt silty clay [237] was directly above hearth [219]. Both hearths had been partially cut by the service trench to the west.

Cutting layer [220] and hearth [219] in the east was another service trench [216] and [217]. To the east of this trench and cut by it were two layers. Deposit [215] was very similar to [220] and probably equates to it. The other layer was a mixed mid grey brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of pink clay, charcoal, mortar, oyster shell and sandstone fragments [214] and contained pottery from the 13th-14th centuries. Set into [214] was a course of rough hewn sandstone blocks [213] running north to south. These were about 40mm thick and were faced on the east. It is probable that this feature is a sill foundation for a wooden building. The north western part of this feature is probably a return foundation running east to west.

To the east, foundation [213] was set into a mid green brown silty clay with frequent sandstone fragments and pebbles and moderate charcoal [212]. Three sherds of pottery recovered from this layer date it to the 13th-14th centuries. A small sondage was excavated through [212] to test the depth of archaeology. The sondage was excavated to a depth of 600mm below the top of [212] and natural was not seen. The earliest layer seen was a light beige silty clay [244]. Above this and in the southern part of the sondage was a layer of charcoal [243]. Overlying this and about 300mm thick was [242] a light beige silty clay with frequent sandstone fragments, occasional charcoal and this contained 1 sherd of pottery from the 13th-14th centuries. Above [242] was [212] which was 280mm thick.

Cutting [212] in the south east corner of the trench was a sub-square pit [211] filled with [210] a mid grey green silty clay with sandstone fragments laid on edge within the fill. Pottery recovered from this fill dates from the 18th century.

Above the features and deposits situated to the east of service trench [225] was a layer of mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent coal, charcoal and sandstone fragments [205]. This was probably a garden or cultivation soil, perhaps of medieval origin, which continued to be cultivated into the post-medieval period and contained late 18th century pottery. Above this and also overlying the deposits and features to the west of service trench [225] and east of service trench [235] was another soil deposit [203]. This was a dark brown silty clay with frequent pebbles, charcoal, coal, mortar and sandstone fragments. This layer, from which a clay pipe stem was recovered, was probably a soil which was cultivated during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Cutting [203] in the west of the trench were two intercutting pits. The earliest [227] was filled with [226] a mixed mid grey brown silty clay with frequent inclusions including clay pipe stems. Cutting this was pit [229] which was filled with [228] a similar fill to [226] except it contained more charcoal and pottery of c1820-1830.

Towards the east end of the trench and cutting [203] was a small sub square pit [241] filled with a mixed greyish silty clay with lenses of pink clay and frequent charcoal [240]. At the far eastern end of the trench was a flat bottomed rubbish pit [209]. This was filled with friable dark brown silty clay with frequent coal, charcoal, oyster shell, tile and sandstone fragments [208]. Pottery recovered from the fill dates from 1720-1760/70.

Above these pits, the service trenches and [203] was the make-up [202] and the tarmac [201] of the present ground surface.

6 The pottery by Stephanie Rátkai

A small pottery and ceramic roof furniture assemblage was recovered from the site, totalling 43 sherds of pottery and 19 of roof furniture. The pottery and tile were examined macroscopically and recorded by sherd count (Tables 1-3 and Appendix).

Context	Date
103	c 1760
104	late 17th-mid 18th c
114	later 17th-mid 18th c
116	17th-18th c
121	medieval
122	14th-15th c
205	late 18th c
208	1720-1760/70
210	18th c
212	13th-14th c
214	13th-14th c
220	14th-15th c
223	13th-14th c
228	c 1820-30
230	medieval
232	c 1800
236	medieval
242	13th-14th c
u/s	mid 13th-mid 14th c

Table 1 – pot spot dates

Sum of qty	
fabric	Total
agw	2
blw	2
crw	3
cw	4
lmed	3
mang	5
med	11
plw	2
slipc	1
slpw	2
slpwld	2
stwbr	1
tge	2
wsg	3
Grand Total	43

Table 2 – pottery fabrics

The pottery was a mix of medieval and later post-medieval sherds, with an apparent hiatus in the early post-medieval period. The earliest medieval pottery, which was made up almost entirely of micaceous siltstone tempered wares, was very similar to that recovered from Wigmore Castle in North Herefordshire. The abundance of golden mica and siltstone in the pottery reflects the geology of the North Herefordshire-South Shropshire area and indicates that the pottery was of local manufacture. These micaceous siltstone tempered wares appear to date to the 13th and 14th centuries. In the absence of a large published pottery corpus from Ludlow or North Herefordshire it is impossible to refine the dating further and therefore this small assemblage can unfortunately throw no light on the date of the laying out of the burgage plots on Mill Street.

context	description	qty
121	glazed ridge tile	1
122	part of finial/louwer	1
230	glazed ridge tile	2
230	glazed ridge tile	1
236	glazed louver or possibly finial fragments	14

Table 3 –ceramic roof furniture

Later medieval activity is suggested by a small number of wheel-thrown, fairly fine-bodied oxidised wares with tan or brownish glazes. On analogy with pottery from other sites on the western edge of the West Midlands these are likely to date to the 15th and possibly 16th centuries. Apart from these sherds, there is little or no pottery which can be confidently ascribed to the period c.1500-1650/1700. A blackware cup base found residually in [205] could date to the 17th century, as could two rather fragmentary and abraded tin-glazed earthenware sherds from [232]. The majority of the post-medieval pottery appears to date to the late 17th and 18th centuries and contains the usual urban mix of coarseware, white salt-glazed stoneware, slipware, mottled ware and creamware. Context [208] was perhaps the most interesting, since it contained an agate ware dish and two small white salt-glazed stoneware porringers.

There was unfortunately insufficient pottery evidence to determine the likely status of the occupants of Mill Street in either the medieval or post-medieval periods. However, the presence of glazed ridge tiles and, particularly, part of a glazed louver, in a local fabric, indicates that there was a building of some status in the vicinity. It is tempting to see the louver's destruction and deposition as reflecting alterations and additions to Palmers Hall situated on the edge of the excavated area.

7 Discussion

The results from the two trenches differ significantly. It is apparent from Trench 2 that there was extensive activity on the site by at least the 14th century. As natural deposits were not seen here it remains possible that the occupation had begun earlier than that. In the 13th or 14th century a building founded on a sill foundation was erected on the site. The angle found probably represents the north-east corner of the building, some 20m from Mill Street. The evaluation suggests that there were at least two hearths within this building, one of which was at least 1.3m across. This size suggests either that it was a principal room (e.g. a hall), which seems unlikely, or had an industrial function. Presumably this building was contemporary with Palmers Hall.

The stone surfaces and the well in the west of the trench are probably contemporary with this building and suggest its western end was to the east of the well. The sondage excavated in the eastern end of Trench 2 demonstrated that medieval archaeological deposits exist at least 550mm below the level reached along the whole of the trench.

In Trench 1 it seems likely that the medieval deposits excavated formed as a result of cultivation. It seems probable that this area had been a garden from the medieval period to the 18th century. The documentary research has suggested that the eastern boundary of the site has been altered on at least two occasions, possibly before the 14th century. The evaluation in the area of Trench 1 did not produce any evidence of this. It is, however, possible that elsewhere in the eastern part of the site significant information about these alterations may exist.

During the early post-medieval period, c.1500-1650/1700, there appears to be a hiatus in the archaeological record. No pottery was recovered from this period though from the historical record it is clear that the site was in use as a school so activity was taking place on the site.

The absence of pottery from the early post-medieval period from other sites in Ludlow has been noted elsewhere (Mike Watson, pers. comm.).

During the later post-medieval period the area of Trench 2 was probably incorporated into the gardens which were situated further east.

8 Archaeological implications for the development

The new development will consist of a building on the eastern part of the site and landscaping of the western part. It is intended that the external ground level be the same as the internal floor level of Palmer's Hall. The proposed new build is to have piled foundations with pile caps and ground beams. Augered piles are preferable to driven piles as they minimise the impact on the archaeological resource. It is understood that the ground beams will penetrate into medieval soil layers. If any groundworks are proposed deeper than 93.5m O.D. it is recommended that a watching brief be maintained, with provision for formal excavation if significant remains are encountered.

In the medieval period the external and internal ground levels were broadly similar so this approach will have an impact on the archaeological remains. It has been suggested by RRA that the medieval stone surfaces uncovered during the excavation of Trench 2 be consolidated and used to form the new ground surface. This would preserve significant remains, and allow secure preservation of lower deposits. However, the extent of the stone surfaces is unknown and, in areas where they are absent, formal archaeological excavation would be required to preserve other medieval deposits and features by record for sufficient depth to allow new stone surfacing to be laid.

It is proposed that a new service duct be excavated across the site from north to south under the new building. If deeper than 93.5m O.D. such works would afford an opportunity to investigate the pre-14th century archaeology of the site, which remains poorly understood. It is therefore recommended that a watching brief of any service trench excavation be maintained, with provision for formal excavation if significant remains are encountered.

9 Conclusions

The medieval archaeological features and deposits excavated in Trench 2 indicate a stone surfaced yard, a well and a small building, perhaps of an industrial nature, to the rear of Palmers Hall. The medieval remains are of good quality, are well preserved and have only been truncated where service trenches have been excavated. It is likely that similar medieval features and deposits exist throughout the western part of the site.

The eastern part of the site was a garden in the medieval period. However, the medieval development and alterations in this area are poorly understood and are susceptible to further interpretation if intrusive groundworks are observed archaeologically.

10 References

Maps and plans

1832 Map of the Borough of Ludlow, Evans

1835 Map of Ludlow, Wood

1849 Tithe Plan of Ludlow St Lawrence

1862 map of Ludlow, Curley

1885 Ordnance Survey Plan, 1:500, 78.12.1

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11 The archive

The archive is currently stored in the offices of Marches Archaeology awaiting transfer to Shropshire County Museum Service.

The archive consists of:

- 1 drawing index
- 4 sheets of field drawings
- 2 trench recording sheets
- 68 context sheets
- 1 box of finds
- 21 finds recording sheets
- 1 set of site notes
- 1 list of levels
- 1 photographic index
- 2 sheets of colour transparencies
- 2 sheets of black and white negatives

The site code is PHLC03A

Appendix

Pottery descriptions

contextfabric	fabric name/description	qty	fabric type
103crw	Creamware	1	
103slpwld	slipware light-on-dark	1	
103slpwld	slipware light-on-dark	1	
103wsg	white salt-glazed stoneware	1	
104cw	coarseware	1	
104mang	mottled ware	1	
104slpw	slipware	1	
104stwbr	brown stoneware	1	
114mang	mottled ware	3	
116cw	coarseware	1	
116cw	coarseware	1	
122lmed	late medieval ware	1	fine, oxidised
122med	local medieval ware	2	siltstone
205blw	blackware	1	
205blw	blackware	1	
205crw	creamware	1	
208agw	agate ware	2	
208slpw	slipware	1	
208wsg	white salt-glazed stoneware	2	
210med	local medieval ware	1	iron-poor siltstone and mica
210slipc	slip-coated ware	1	
212med	local medieval ware	1	fine siltstone and mica
212med	local medieval ware	1	iron-poor siltstone and mica
212med	local medieval ware	1	sandy micaceous ware
214med	local medieval ware	1	fine, oxidised, micaceous
214med	local medieval ware	1	fine, micaceous
220lmed	late medieval ware	1	fine, oxidised
220lmed	late medieval ware	1	fine, reduced/burnt
223med	local medieval ware	1	siltstone and mica, glazed
228plw	pearlware	1	
232crw	creamware	1	
232cw	coarseware	1	
232mang	mottled ware	1	
232plw	pearlware	1	
232tge	tin glazed earthenware	2	
242med	local medieval ware	1	iron-poor siltstone and mica
u/s med	local medieval ware	1	oxidised, siltstone tempered, glazed

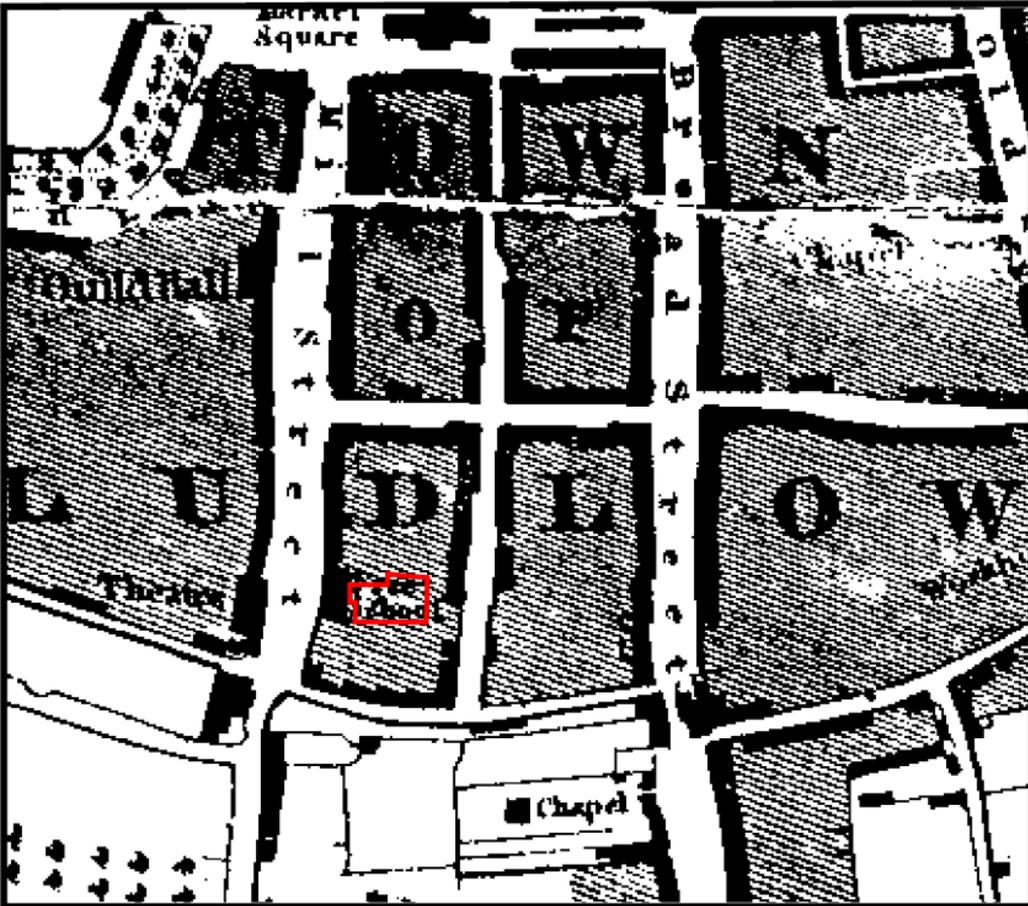


Fig. 2 1832 Map of the Borough of Ludlow, Evans

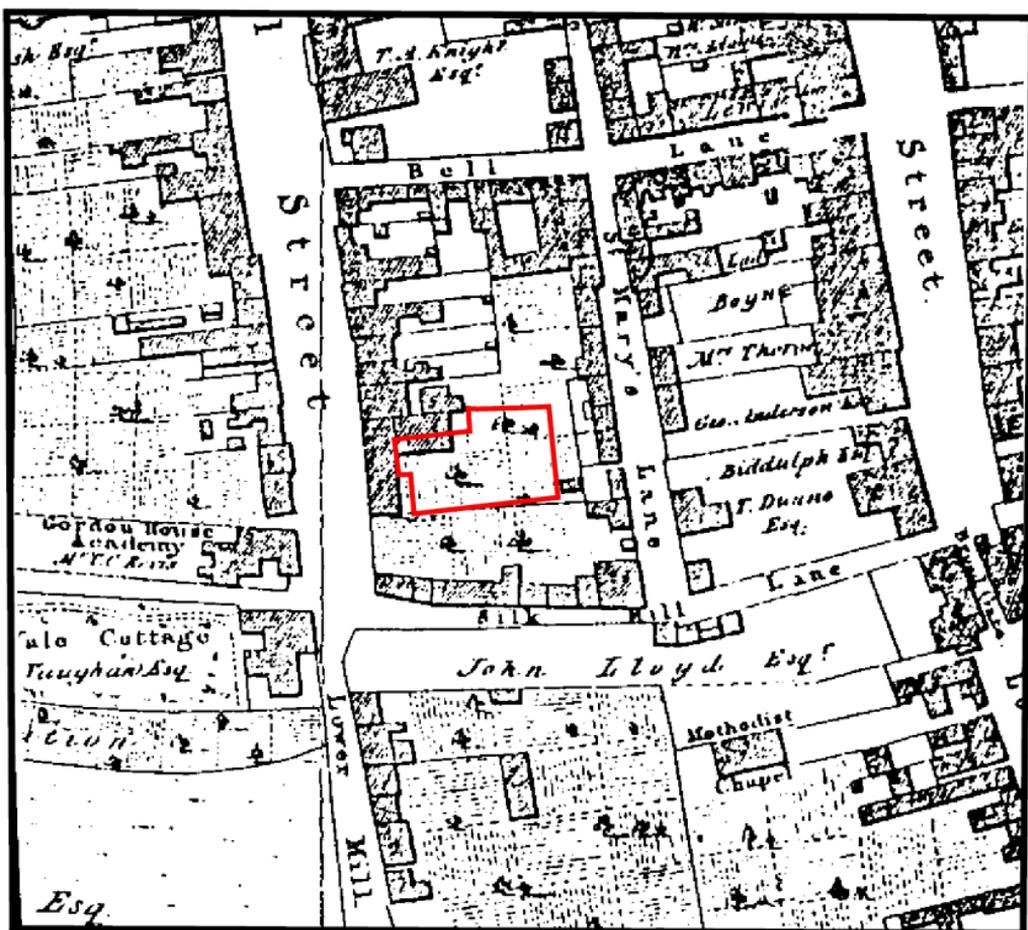


Fig. 3 1835 Map of Ludlow, Wood

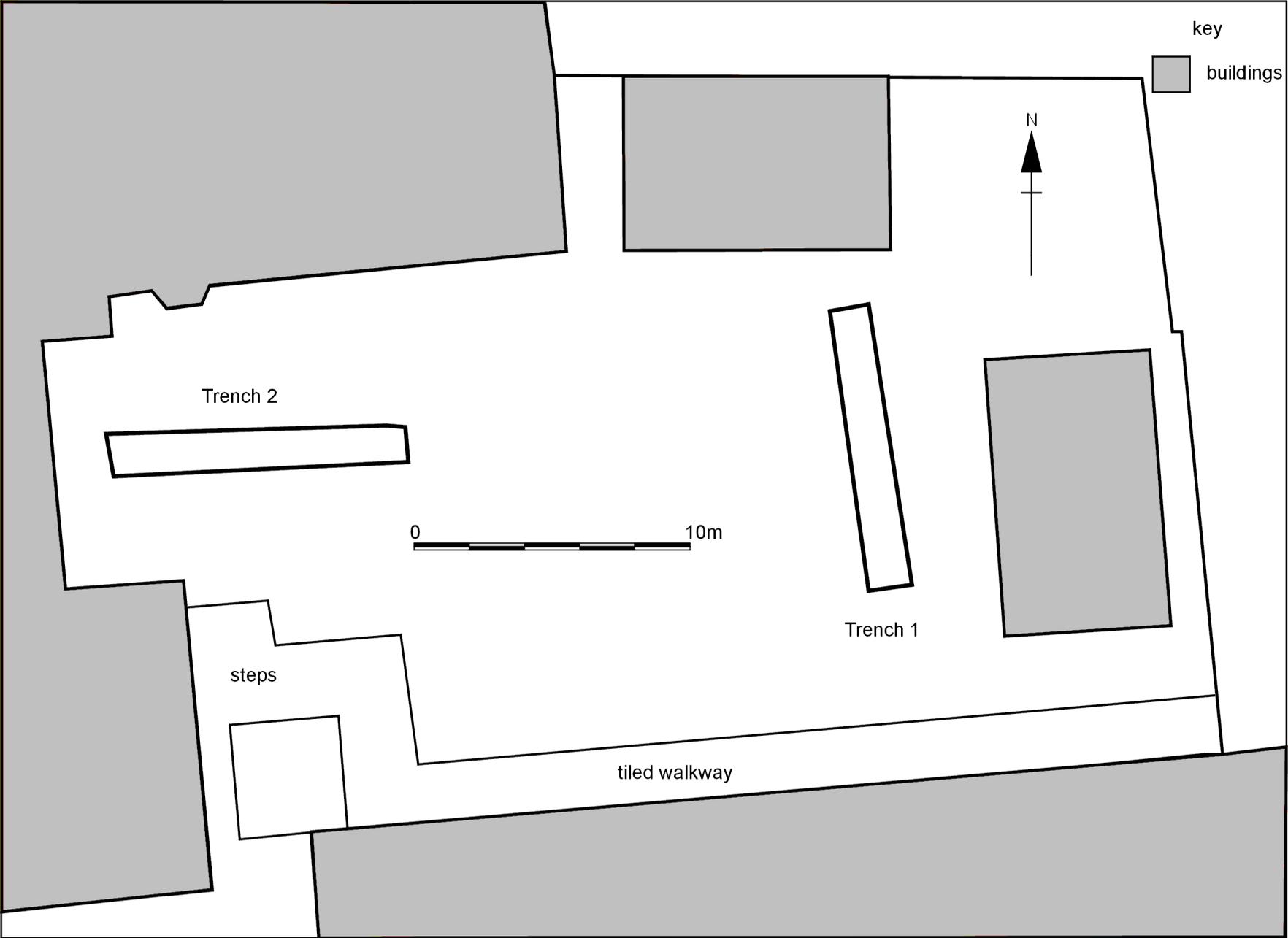
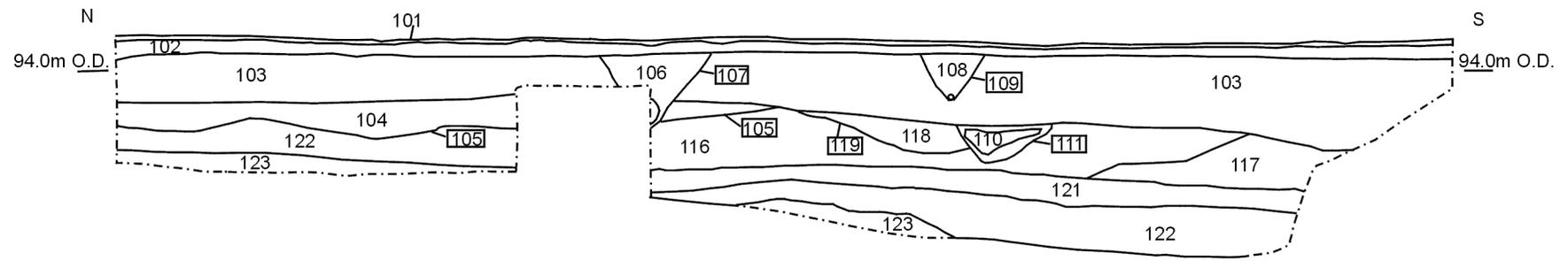
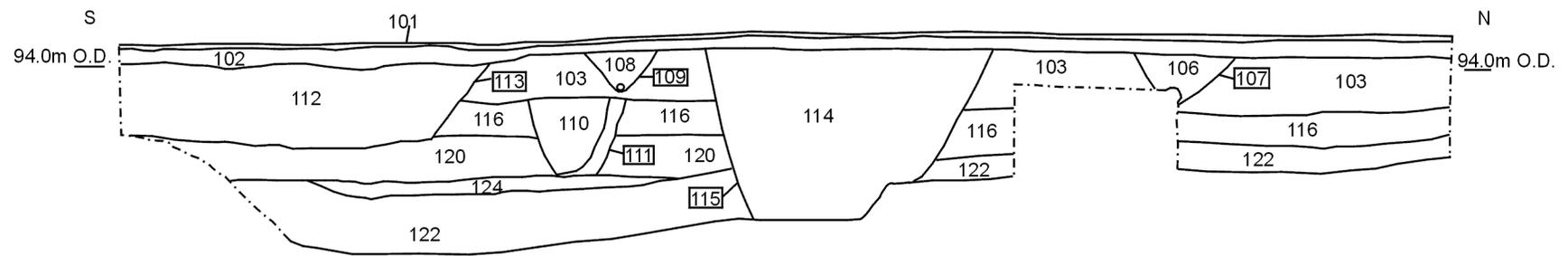


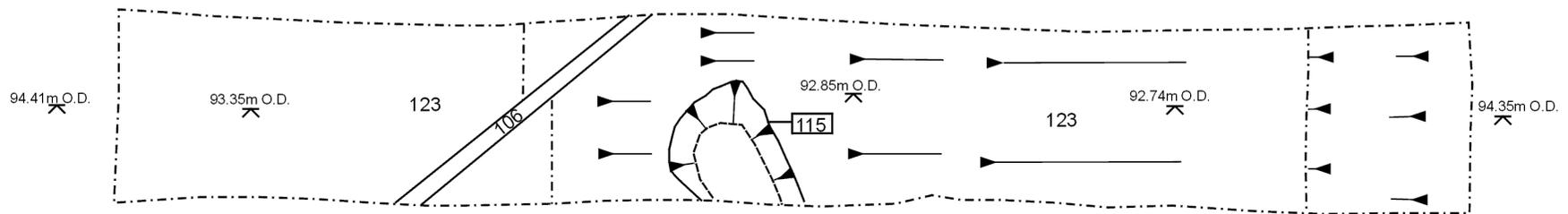
Fig. 6 Location of the trenches (based on RRA site survey)



East facing section

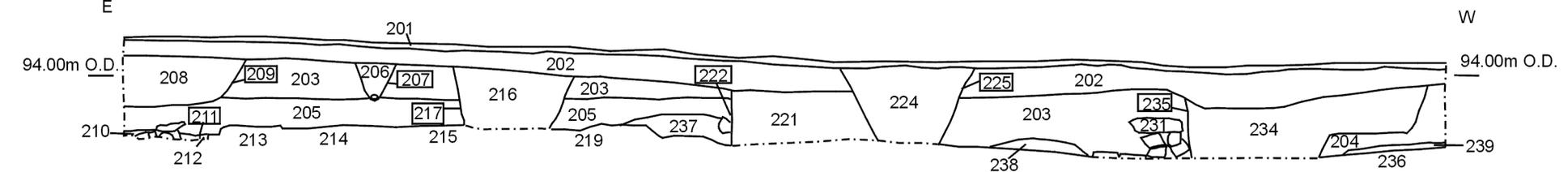


West facing section

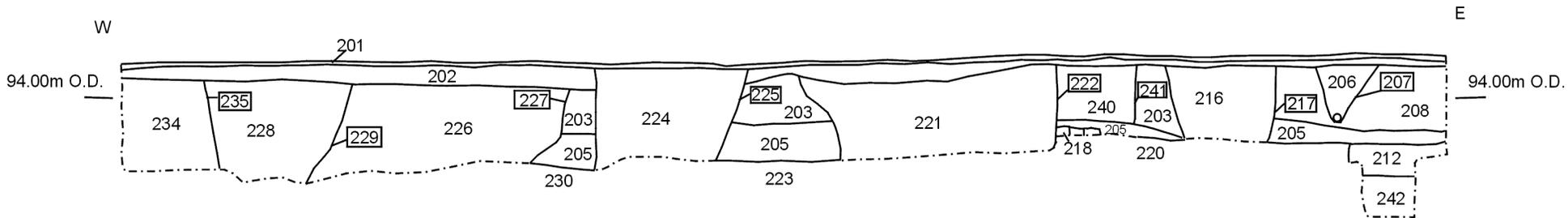


Plan

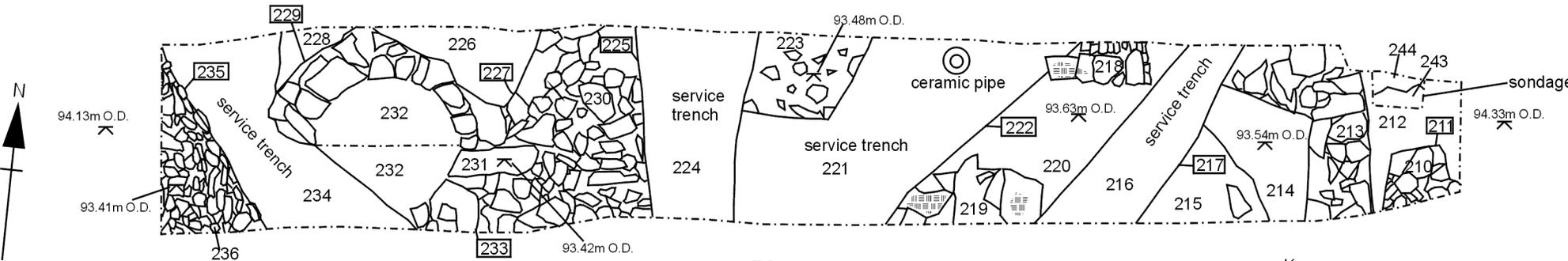
Fig. 7 Sections and plan of Trench 1



North facing section

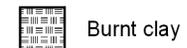


South facing section



Plan

Key



Burnt clay

Fig. 8 Sections and plan of Trench 2