

**Programme of archaeological work
at the Long Barn,
Bidford Road,
Cleeve Prior,
Evesham,
Worcestershire**

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25th May 2014
17th August 2014

WSM 57115

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Introduction

A programme of archaeological work was carried out at the Long Barn, Bidford Road, Cleeve Prior, Evesham, Worcestershire (SP 08890 49329; Fig 1) at the request of Mr Shaun Stephens. This work was undertaken in compliance with a brief from Mike Glyde of Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service (dated 20th August 2013, planning ref W/12/0986 condition no.15) and in accordance with a written scheme of investigation provided by Martin Cook BA MifA and approved by Mike Glyde of Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service. The construction work involved the construction of a single domestic dwelling.

The project was undertaken in order to

- Observe all ground-breaking activity and
- Provide a stratigraphic record and interpretation of deposits exposed by the groundworks, the extent and depth of the groundworks and a record of all finds and environmental material.

The documentary material

Historic mapping

The earliest available map was the transcription (by D. Guyatt) of the Cleeve Prior map made for the Dean and Chapter by John Snape (1772). Unfortunately the transcription gives no detail in the area of the site. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1884 (Fig 2) shows the site as an empty plot to the south and as occupied by farm buildings that no longer exist at its northern extremity. The 3rd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1923 (Fig 2) shows the site occupied, conspicuously by what appears to be a Dutch barn, possibly the 'long barn', that gave the site its name. This, also, no longer survives.

The Worcestershire Historic Environment Record

The immediately surrounding buildings, by century comprise:

11th century

Two buildings date from the 11th century. The church of St Andrew's (WSM 02807), has late Roman antecedents and is a listed building (Gd II*; ref 1081345). Additions and alterations took place in the 12th century, mid to late 14th century, 19th century and 20th century. The other is a dovecote, to the rear of the Manor House (WSM 02806), which is also a listed building (Gd II* ref 1081310). This was the dovecote of the adjacent manor house (see below).

14th century

The 14th century is represented by the manor house itself (WSM 02805 and 53183); a listed building, (Gd II*; ref 1081308). Although its origins lie in the 14th century, it is principally of late 16th century date with alterations in the 17th century and mid 20th century. Also of the 16th century is a collection of outbuildings, now converted to domestic use.

17th century

Two structures date from the 17th century. These are a stable range and granary (WSM 39073), south of the manor house; listed buildings (Gd II; ref 1350122) and a house known as Sharrow (WSM 39075) on Main Street. This is a partially extant, 17th century listed farmstead (Gd II; ref 1155507) with unconverted buildings.

18th century

Most buildings in the vicinity of the site date from the 18th century. These are the Vicarage (WSM 33103) with alterations in the 18th and 21st centuries, a former school (WSM 39069), a listed building (Gd II; ref 1350123), Church Croft (WSM 39070) a listed building (Gd II; ref 1081311) with a similarly dated barn and dovecote, a summer house (WSM 39072), to the west of the manor

house, a listed building (Gd II; ref 1081309) and a barn (WSM 39074) to the north of Sharrow, also a listed building (Gd II; ref1350086).

The site forms part of the (conjectural) garden (WSM 21264) of the manor house, dating to the 17th century.

The fieldwork

General

Fieldwork took place on the 11th and 12 November 2013 and on the 9th April 2014. It comprised observation of all ground breaking activity (foundation and service trenches; Figs 3.1, 4, 5 and 6) with records (drawing and photographs) made as appropriate. A full description of the contexts is given in Appendix 1; a summary being employed below.

Description and interpretation

The northern-most foundation trench was drawn in its entirety (Fig 3.2; Section 1). The deposits comprised the topsoil (context 001), a very dark grey brown sandy loam with abundant small angular sandstone fragments, which overlay two disused service trenches. One of these (context 003) was later than the other (Context 005) but both contained redundant surface water drains. These were cut through a thin, tabular layer of natural mudstone (context 006) and also into the underlying natural clay (context 007).

A partial section was also drawn of the service trench (Fig 3.2; Section 2). The uppermost layer was of modern aggregate (context 008). This overlay a topsoil of very dark grey brown sandy loam with abundant small angular sandstone fragments (context 009) and is the same as the topsoil in Section 1 (context 001). This in turn overlay a layer of heavily fractured mudstone (context 010) which is essentially the same as context 006 in Section 1). This in turn overlay a layer of natural clay (context 011) which is the same as context 007.

Depositional and post-depositional processes

The only novel feature of the depositional sequence was the thin, natural, tabular bed of mudstone overlying the natural clay. Apart from this the site showed little evidence of anthropogenic activity beyond the two redundant service trenches that were identified in Section 1. The majority of the site lay beyond the limits of the farmstead associated with the manor house (Fig 2; 1884) and, apart from the apparent Dutch barn which, by their design, have little impact at and below ground level (Cook 2014) the site appears to have always been a field or paddock.

Summary

A programme of archaeological work was carried out at the Long Barn, Bidford Road, Cleeve Prior, Evesham, Worcestershire. The project recorded the stratigraphic sequence of the deposits exposed by the groundworks and the extent and depth of the groundworks. No significant archaeological features were identified.

Bibliography

Cook, M, 2014 *Historic building recording at Upper Blackstone Farm, Bewdley, Worcestershire*

Acknowledgements

The author would particularly like to thank Mr Shaun Stephens, and Mr Mike Glyde of Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service for their kind cooperation.

Archive

The physical archive consists of:

- 1 Hard copy of the report
- 1 Hard copy of the brief
- 1 Hard copy of the WSI

It has been deposited at Hartlebury Museum.

The digital archive consists of:

- 1 DVD-ROM
 - digital copy of the report
 - digital copy of the brief
 - digital copy of the WSI
 - digital copies of the report component files

It has been deposited with the Archaeology Data Service.

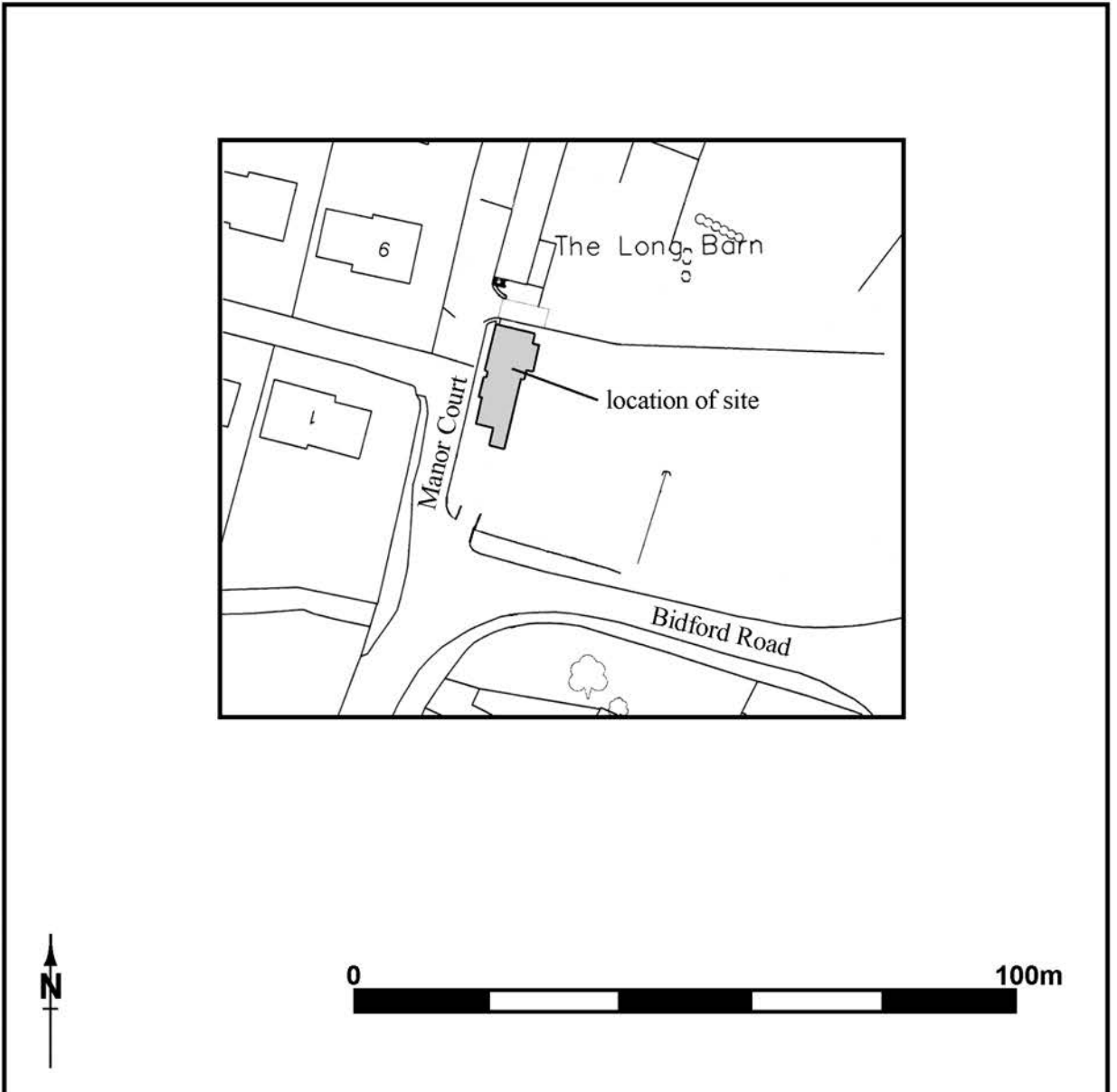
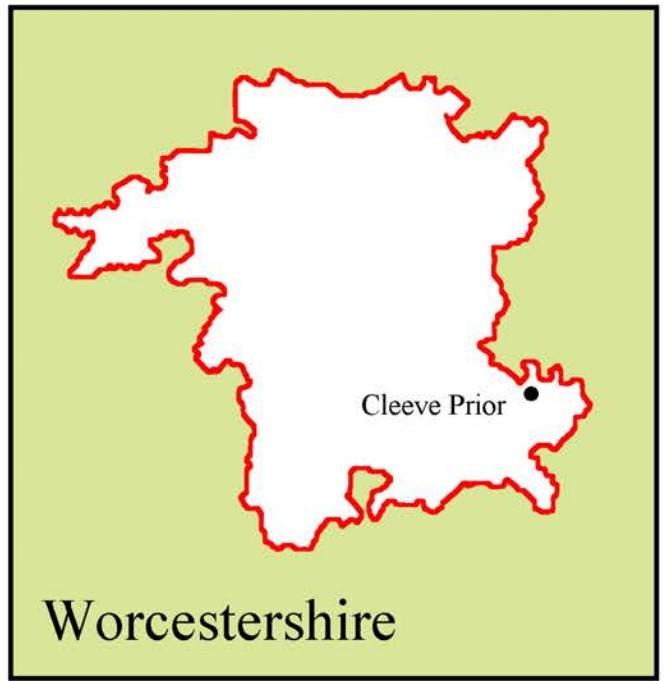
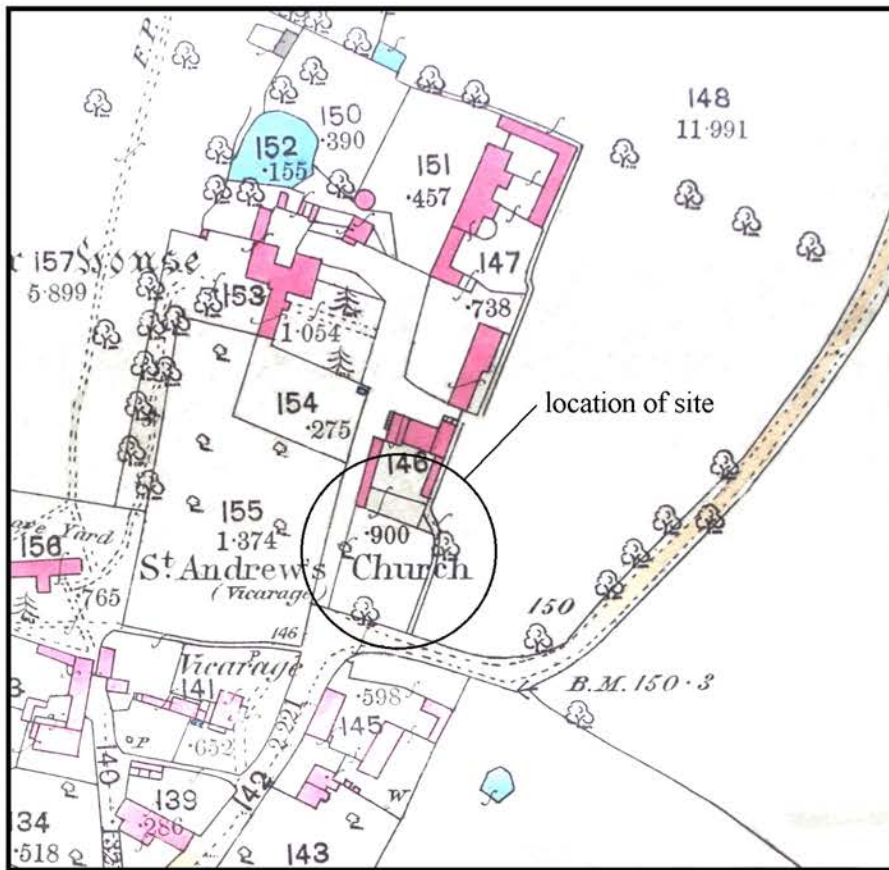


Fig 1: Location of site

1884



1923

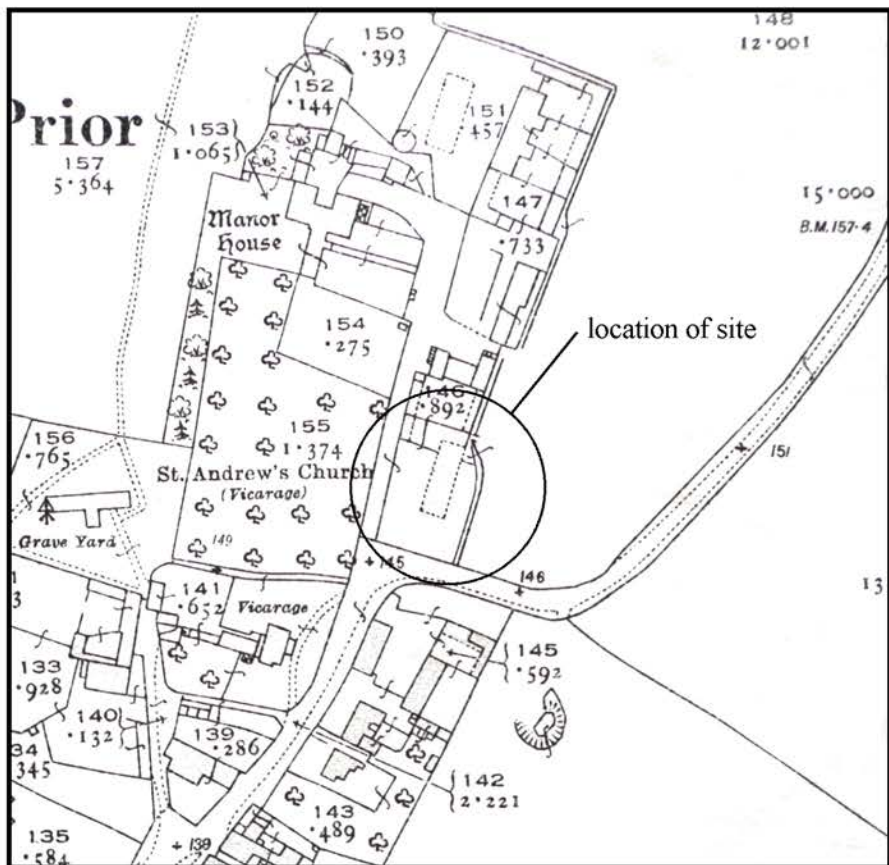


Fig 2: Historic mapping

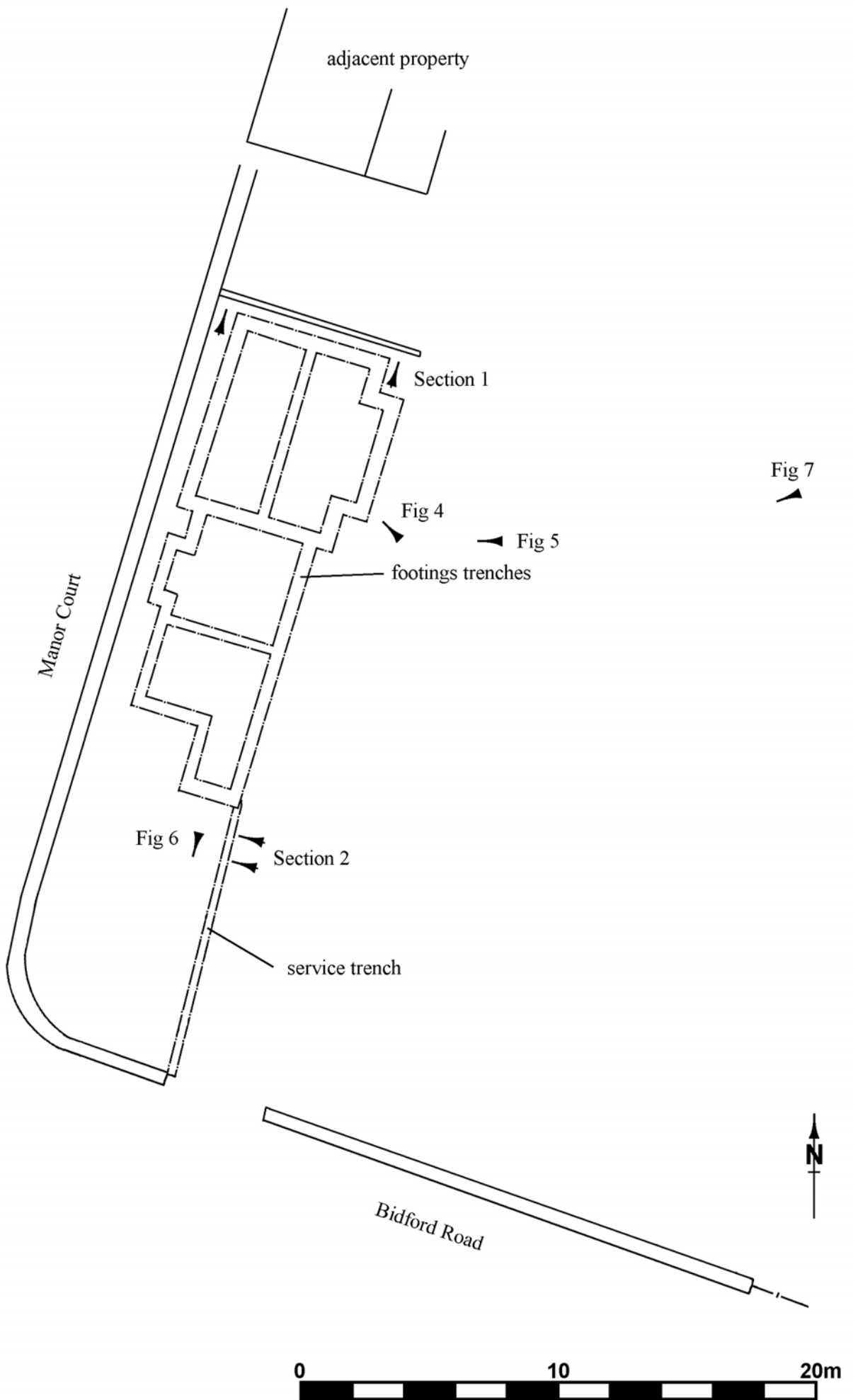
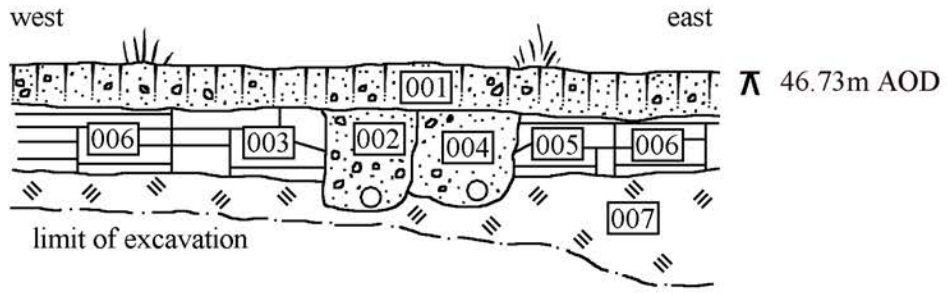


Fig 3.1: Location of recorded features

Section 1



Section 2

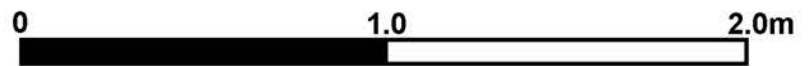
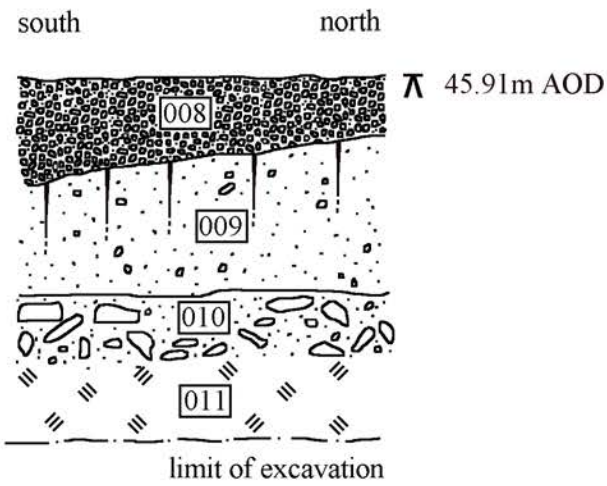


Fig 3.2: Sections









| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
|  | loam and/or topsoil |
|  | stones |
|  | sand/gravel |
|  | clay |
|  | natural rock |
|  | ash and charcoal |
|  | limit of excavation |
|  | height above Ordnance Datum |

Fig 3.3: Key to sections



Fig 4: View of excavations looking north-west



Fig 5: View of excavations looking west



Fig 6: View of excavations looking south-west



Fig 7: General view of site after erection of new building

Appendix 1: List of the contexts

| Context number | Description | Interpretation |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| 001 | Very dark grey brown sandy loam with abundant small angular sandstone fragments | Topsoil – same as 009 |
| 002 | Dark grey brown sandy loam with common small angular sandstone fragments | Fill of 003 |
| 003 | Rectangular cut | Pipe trench |
| 004 | Dark grey brown sandy loam with common small angular sandstone fragments | Fill of 005 |
| 005 | Rectangular cut | Pipe trench |
| 006 | Mudstone layer | Natural geology |
| 007 | Grey-green tenacious clay | Natural – same as 011 |
| 008 | Green-grey small angular gravel | Modern building material |
| 009 | Dark grey-brown sandy loam with common small angular sandstone fragments | Topsoil – same as 001 |
| 010 | Heavily fractured mudstone layer | Disturbed natural geology; otherwise same as 006 |
| 011 | Grey-green tenacious clay | Natural – same as 007 |