

MRM PARTNERSHIP

PROPOSED A35 CHIDEOCK -
MORCOMBELAKE BYPASS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT - PHASES III & IV

AUGUST 1992

CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
2.0 SUMMARY AND ASSESSMENT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS	2
2.1 Field 'N'	2
2.2 Field 'P'	2
2.3 Ship Farm	3
2.4 The New Western Alignment	3
3.0 IMPACTS OF THE PREFERRED ROUTE & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MITIGATION	4
3.1 Field 'N'	4
3.2 Field 'P'	4
3.3 Ship Farm	4
3.4 The New Western Alignment	5
4.0 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY PHASES I - IV : SUMMARY	6
BIBLIOGRAPHY	8
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	11
APPENDIX 1 Field 'N'	i
APPENDIX 2 Field 'P'	v
APPENDIX 3 Ship Farm	vi
APPENDIX 4 The New Western Alignment	xxii

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In January 1991 the Field Archaeology Unit of Liverpool University was commissioned by the Environmental Advisory Unit Ltd. to prepare an archaeological impact assessment of the preferred (yellow) route of the Chideock to Morcombelake bypass. A draft report was submitted in March 1991 which identified a number of potentially significant areas of archaeological interest.

In October 1991 a second phase of work was carried out to examine these areas in more detail. The results of this work were submitted in the Draft Archaeological Impact Assessment - Phase II, November 1991. This identified two sites (fields 'N' and 'P') which required trial excavation and one site (the deer park boundary) which should be subject to excavation prior to destruction. It also recommended further work at the Ship Farm complex.

In February 1992 the Field Archaeology Unit was instructed to carry out these further works. A survey of the Ship Farm buildings was undertaken in March 1992 and, subsequently, trial excavations were carried out at the Farm in April/May 1992. Trial excavations were also carried out in fields 'N' and 'P' in April 1992. These works collectively constitute Phase III of the archaeological work and are presented in this report.

In addition to the Phase III work, the Field Archaeology Unit was commissioned to carry out an assessment of the new western alignment of the road from Charmouth to Morcombelake (Phase IV). This was undertaken in April 1992 and is also included in this report (below & Appendix 4).

2.0 SUMMARY AND ASSESSMENT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS

2.1 Field 'N'

Six trial trenches were excavated in this field (A-F; fig 1) all of which produced significant quantities of 13th to 14th century pottery. Trench A was located on higher ground where modern ploughing was found to extend right down to the natural subsoil. Despite this, the bases of archaeological features cut into the subsoil still survived (fig 2). Further down the slopes, hillwash had resulted in a buildup of soil to the extent that, in trench D, medieval sherds were found buried up to 50cm below the modern surface. An accumulation of hillwash such as this is beneficial to archaeological deposits in that it seals and protects them.

Five of the six trenches excavated produced archaeological features. These ranged from a substantial hollow way in trench B to a single post hole in trench C (figs 2 & 3). The hollow way appears to have been substantially backfilled by the seventeenth century and is almost certainly medieval in origin. The lower fill is waterlogged and is likely to contain environmental remains. The size of this feature suggests that it once formed an important route, almost certainly serving the castle.

The other features recorded consisted of a gulley, pit, cobbled surface and ditch. The ditch contained wood in its waterlogged fill and, like the hollow way, would provide a rich source of environmental remains (fig 4). Although none of the features could be conclusively dated from the trial excavations, the overwhelming quantity of medieval pottery suggests that this was the main period of activity on the site.

The trial trenches have demonstrated that archaeological deposits and features could survive in any part of the field affected by the proposed road line and that the principal period of activity represented by the finds is medieval. It has also shown that a variety of medieval and later features are likely to contain well preserved environmental remains.

Although this site would appear to contain important information about the medieval settlement, landscape and environment around Chideock Castle, there is no evidence that the remains are of such significance that they warrant moving the proposed line. The site should, however, be subject to a proper programme of excavation and recording prior to destruction (3.1).

2.2 Field 'P'

Two trial trenches were excavated in order to determine the nature and significance of the crop marks visible in this field (fig 5). Both sets of marks proved to be caused by modern land drains. This has demonstrated that there is no archaeological constraint in this area.

2.3 Ship Farm

The building survey has shown that outbuildings 1, 2, 3, and 5 all predate the Tithe Map of 1840 and that they have been repeatedly modified and repaired during their lives. The outbuildings have principally been made of local stone rubble with brick being used for quoins and openings. Brick has been extensively used in structures 1 & 2. This was probably made on site and is significant since it was not a usual material in the villages. It probably reflects the importance and status of the site as a coaching inn.

Although much altered and repaired, the most interesting building in the complex is probably structure 2, the large barn (figs 9-11). This started life as a two storey cob walled building and pre-dates the construction of the present farmhouse. It is possible that this was originally the Ship Inn and that it was converted to an outbuilding when the present farmhouse was built in the C18th (fig 12).

Trial trenches were excavated in and around the outbuildings to test for evidence of other or earlier structures and to see whether the site might have extended into the main area of the proposed cutting. These trenches produced evidence for various phases of surfacing around the buildings and for a drain in trench B (fig 16). In the field to the SW of the farm complex, evidence for brick production, probably of C18th date, was found.

The finds were generally of C17th and later date and include a range of Delft plates, Westerwald stonewares, saltglazed tankards and bottles which reflect the former role of the site as an inn. There were also a few residual medieval and early post-medieval sherds which suggest that the site might have been occupied since the medieval period. The trial trenches did not, however, locate any deeply stratified deposits or structural remains which would significantly contribute to our understanding of the site.

2.4 The New Western Alignment

The land affected by the new western alignment was walked in April 1992. It was completely under pasture and so only earthworks or above ground features could be noted. Five new sites were added to those recorded during the initial survey. Of these, only three appear to be of any significance.

At the Berne Lane end, two hydraulic ram pumps were noted (sites 316 & 317) but the landowner denied access to inspect these. Their age, condition and historical value cannot therefore be determined.

About half way along the new alignment, site 318 consists of a small green lane or drove way leading into a funnel shaped field. This does not make sense as part of the present landscape pattern and may be a relic feature of an earlier landscape.

3.0 IMPACTS OF THE PREFERRED ROUTE & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MITIGATION

3.1 Field 'N'

The proposed road will destroy a strip some 50m wide and 150m long through this field. Survey and excavation work has demonstrated that this area contains a dense concentration of medieval and later pottery and that archaeological features and environmental remains are likely to survive below the modern ploughsoil.

It is recommended that the modern ploughsoil be stripped from this area and that any features exposed be excavated and recorded prior to destruction. Allowance should also be made for the recovery and examination of waterlogged organic and other environmental remains which have been shown to survive.

3.2 Field 'P'

Trial excavations have demonstrated that the features observed in this field are of modern origin and that no archaeological constraint exists in this area.

No further work is necessary.

3.3 Ship Farm

The proposed bypass will completely destroy structures 3, 4, 5 & 6 at the farm and pass so close to structures 2 & 7 that their survival must be in doubt. It will also destroy the whole of the paddock to the SW of the farm complex and most of the one to the SE. In effect 50-75% of the historic farm core will be destroyed and the setting of the remainder will be seriously affected.

This survey has shown that the large barn (Structure 2) is the oldest surviving building on the site and that it may have originally been the Inn itself. Although the presence of a few medieval and early post-medieval sherds suggests that there may have been occupation on the site, trial trenching has not located any earlier buildings.

While there is insufficient evidence that formal excavations would significantly contribute to our understanding of this site, it is clearly a sensitive area in which remains may exist. These might include middens or rubbish pits associated with the coaching inn, kilns associated with brick making or earlier buildings which have not been located.

It is recommended that this area be cleared and the topsoil stripped in advance of the main construction work and under archaeological supervision. This would allow for minimal recording of elements such as the ruin (structure 5) which is inaccessible without substantial clearance of rubble and vegetation and for the recording and recovery of any structures or significant archaeological deposits which may come to light.

during this clearance.

3.4 The New Western Alignment

Only five additional sites were noted on the new western alignment and none of these is likely to affect the road line. Three of the sites, however, are of sufficient interest to warrant some further recording before they are destroyed.

Sites 316 & 317 consist of a pair of hydraulic ram pumps which will be completely destroyed by the proposed Berne Lane roundabout. Access to the pumps was denied so it has been impossible to determine why they were installed or what their age or condition is.

It is recommended that they should be visited before the proposed bypass is built and a record of them made. If they are in a reasonable condition or of particular interest, consideration should be given to finding a museum or other interested body with which they could be deposited for preservation.

Site 318 consists of a drove way which may be a relic feature of an earlier landscape. A length of 750m survives and this will be completely destroyed by the proposed bypass.

It is recommended that an archive record of this drove way be made prior to the start of construction. This should include measured profiles of the banks and a record of the woody species present in the hedges. Notes should also be made of any sections exposed during initial stripping.

4.0 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY PHASES I - IV : SUMMARY

4.1 Any new road will disrupt the historic landscape pattern in general and totally destroy all the archaeological sites in its path. In order to assess the impact of this particular proposal (the yellow or preferred route), four phases of archaeological evaluation have been undertaken. These have progressively identified and defined the most sensitive archaeological areas in order that informed proposals for mitigation and preservation by record can be put forward.

4.2 None of the alternative routes have been assessed so the archaeology and comparative value of them remains an unknown quantity.

4.3 Although the whole route has been examined in detail only about 35% of it consists of arable. The remaining 65% is predominantly permanent pasture under which archaeological sites tend to be better preserved but under which they cannot be detected through surface artifact scatters. In addition, there may be sites in arable areas which could not be detected from the surface. It has, therefore, been recommended that a watching brief be maintained during any surface stripping operations so that some record can be made of any previously undetected sites or features.

4.4 Two sites have been recommended for full excavation and recording prior to the start of construction work on the bypass. These are the medieval site in field 'N' and the adjoining deer park boundary.

4.5 One site (Ship Farm) has been recommended for clearance and stripping under archaeological supervision before the main road works start. Although no significant features or deposits were located by the trial excavations this is a sensitive area including the probable site of the roman and medieval roads, the possible site of medieval and later occupation and the site of an important post-medieval coaching inn. A contingency should be allowed for the recording of any significant features uncovered during clearance and stripping.

4.6 Site 318, an old drove road, will be totally destroyed and a record of it should be made prior to destruction.

4.7 A number of buildings and smaller structures will be affected by the road scheme. It has been recommended that a superficial record consisting of sketches, notes and photographs, should be made of any buildings to be demolished. The smaller structures, such as the milestones (25, 236), folly (153), whalebone gateway (154) and hydraulic ram pumps (316 & 317) should be either moved to a place of safety for re-erection after the road has been built or offered to a museum or some other suitable institution with a view to their long term preservation.

4.8 One area, the section to the north of Eype Down and including field 'K', has been flagged for particular attention during earthmoving operations.

4.9 It is recommended that a professional archaeologist be retained immediately prior to the start of works and during the initial earthmoving stages. The brief should be to organise and implement the smaller recording jobs listed above (4.4-4.6), to liaise closely with the contractors and site foreman over earthmoving operations and to make whatever record is possible of any finds or features uncovered.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDIX 1 - Field 'N'

Field 'N' lies to the north-west of and partly adjoins the site of Chideock Castle. In the phase I & II reports it was identified as containing a particularly dense scatter of medieval and later pottery indicative of occupation. Trial excavations were, therefore, undertaken in April, 1992 (fig 1). The object of these was to determine the depth and nature of the surface deposits and to see whether any archaeological features survived below the modern ploughsoil. Six trenches were excavated (A-F) in addition to which a record was made of pottery projecting from the side of the hollow way (G). The site code used for this work was CH92.

Trench A A 2.5m x 1.25m trench located just to the E of a track shown on the 1838 Tithe Map and in a concentration of C13/14th pottery (fig 1).

The modern ploughsoil was generally 20-25cm thick over this trench and lay directly on a firmly packed yellowish clay. This was quite hard to trowel and did not have the open texture and patches of intrusive topsoil found below the ploughsoil elsewhere on the site. The clay had been scored by the plough with the result that occasional small pieces of it had become incorporated within the ploughsoil. This trench was near a high point in the field and it seems that ploughing is actively eroding the subsoil in this area.

The clay had a slightly pitted surface but only two features which appeared to be of significance (fig 2). Both were filled with a soil which was similar to the modern ploughsoil, although lighter in colour. In the northern corner of the trench was part of a shallow hollow (3) which, if roughly circular, would have been about 1.2m in diameter. It cut about 7cm into the clay and had a cluster of small stones at its base. There was a large piece of post-medieval earthenware in the top of the fill but this was on the boundary with the modern ploughsoil and does not provide secure dating evidence.

The second feature was a small gully, about 40cm wide and cutting c12cm into the clay. It ran roughly NNE/SSW, which is parallel with the line of the nearby track. It is possible that it represents some form of plot or field division associated with the track. The feature did not produce any finds.

Trench B A 2.5m x 1.25m trench located on the edge of an anomaly detected during the gradiometer survey (presumed to be the track shown in 1838) and in a concentration of C13/14th pottery (fig 1).

The ploughsoil in this trench was about 20cm deep. In the E corner of the trench this rested on a light yellowish brown clay subsoil. This was mottled with darker patches of soil but was regarded as natural. To the W the ground became progressively darker and proved to be the fill of a substantial hollow way. The fill was very similar to the modern ploughsoil but softer and

rather silty. The hollow way was found to be holding water at about 40cm below the field surface although the lack of waterlogged organic remains suggests that this may have been different in the past or that it fluctuates seasonally. The side of the hollow way dropped steeply and was excavated to a depth of 1.1m below the present surface when further excavation became impossible. The bottom was not reached (fig 2).

In the upper part of the fill, at about 28cm below the present surface, the corroded remains of a number of barbed wire strands were found. The line of the track was preserved as a field boundary until at least 1928 (OS Map) and the barbed wire had, presumably, been used as fencing. The upper part of the fill contained other post-medieval artifacts, including a number of mid-seventeenth century clay tobacco pipe fragments. The lower fill contained only occasional pieces of medieval pottery. Although no stratigraphy could be discerned either during excavation or in the section the finds suggest that the hollow way was already substantially silted up by the mid-seventeenth century and that this process has continued to the present. It seems likely that the active cutting of the hollow way took place during the medieval period.

The side of the hollow way was poorly defined but consisted of a layer of lighter soil mixed with clay. This interface contained a number of stones and a large chunk of bone. Observation of the hollow way presently giving access to the field showed that its sides are made up of slumped soil with sparse vegetation cover. Large stones, perhaps from former metalled surfaces, were also observed in its sides. The excavated hollow way must have been of very similar appearance.

Although the bottom of the hollow way was not reached it clearly lies at a considerable depth below the present surface. The depth of this feature across what is relatively flat ground suggests that the route was well used during the medieval period, more so than would be needed to give access to the small field which it served in 1838. The track heads directly towards the site of Chideock Castle so it seems likely that this was once an important access route to that site. The track surface and primary silting may well contain useful artifactual and environmental remains.

Trench C A 2.5m x 1.25m trench located in a concentration of C13/14th pottery (fig 1).

The modern ploughsoil was 20-25cm deep and overlayed a very similar but lighter brown soil. There were no apparent features in this so a spit of 5-10cm depth was removed (2). This revealed an area of rather softer, darker soil in the middle of the trench (3; fig 3). This was about 90cm in width and appears to have been about 1.25m in length. It was only a few centimetres deep and may well have been ground disturbed by tree roots. One of the old farm hands recalls a spinney and orchard on this part of the field, probably during the 1940's or 50's.

Below this disturbed area the soil (4) was indistinguishable from 2 until a depth of about 40cm from the present surface. These layers contained numerous small pieces of medieval pottery, some of which were found vertically in the ground. There seems little doubt that layers 2 & 4 represent a former ploughsoil.

At 40cm a mottled clay surface was exposed (7). This may have been slightly disturbed but appeared to be the top of the natural. In the E corner of the trench a small dark area, which would have been about 50cm in diameter, proved to be the fill of a hole (6) cutting about 35cm into the clay. The fill of this (5) was identical to layers 2 and 4 above and contained a few fragments of medieval pottery. Although no dark stain or packing stones were present this is likely to have been a post hole of medieval or later date (fig 3).

Trench D A 2.5m x 1.25m trench located in a concentration of C13/14th pottery (fig 1).

The modern ploughsoil was about 20cm deep and overlayed a slightly lighter brown earth. This was virtually stone free but contained numerous pieces of pottery and flecks of charcoal. Although this was excavated in three spits (2, 3, 4) there was no observable difference between the layers. The pottery fragments were usually small in size and often found on edge. All the deposits between 20cm and 50cm below the present surface appear to constitute a well mixed former ploughsoil, very similar to contexts 2 & 4 in trench C.

At 50cm a mottled yellowish brown clay layer was found. The dark patches appeared to result from worm and root action into the clay. A trial section, 10cm deep, was dug into the clay. Mottled patches were still present at this depth but they were becoming less frequent and there seems little doubt that mottled clay forms the natural subsoil over much of this site. No features were found in this trench.

Trench E A 2.5m x 1.25m trench located on an anomaly detected during the gradiometer survey (presumed to be a field boundary shown in 1838) and in a concentration of C13/14th pottery (fig 1).

The ploughsoil was about 25cm deep in this trench and overlayed a complex series of intercutting deposits centred on the field boundary shown on the 1838 Tithe Map. It was not possible to fully excavate these in the time available although the basic sequence was established (fig 4).

At the north-eastern end of the trench the ploughsoil lay on a mottled clayey deposit (5) similar to the earlier ploughsoils found in trenches C and D. This had been cut by a ditch running WNW/ESE which was filled with a dark, silty fill (contexts 4 & 7). The ditch was not fully sectioned but appears to have been a least 1.75m wide and cut about 1m into the clayey layer. The ditch proved to be waterlogged and poorly preserved organic remains were encountered in lower levels of its fill. The ditch

fill had been cut twice to insert water pipes, one of iron (6), the other plastic (3). These had, presumably, fed the cattle trough which was recently removed from this field.

At the south western end of the trench was a rather cleaner looking clay deposit. The excavated ditch fill appears to run under this so it must be a dumped rather than natural layer.

Although this trench was not fully excavated it is clear that archaeological deposits and features associated with the former landscape survive in this part of the field. These features contain both artifactual and environmental data through which the landscape can be interpreted.

Trench F A 2m x 1m trench located in a stone scatter located during fieldwalking (fig 1).

The modern ploughsoil in this part of the field is particularly stony and extends to a depth of c20-25cm. Below this an extensive cobbled surface was found to cover the SE part of the trench (fig 3). It was comprised mainly of broken and water-rolled flint and chert nodules although a range of other stone types were present. The stones were up to 20cm long and between them were finer stone chippings and pea gravel.

Towards the NW end of the trench the stones became less frequent and appeared to lie in two different bands of soil; a darker silty soil and a mottled yellow clay. A section was dug through these layers to test their thickness and to see whether other archaeological layers lay below. The cobbled surface proved to be about 10cm thick and rested on fairly clean looking light yellowish clay. This seemed quite soft and friable but did not seem to contain charcoal flecks. At the NW end of the trench was a light soil which contained darker, humic patches to a depth of at least 60cm below the present surface. No dating evidence was found for the cobbled surface or for the layers beneath.

Group G A small group of pottery collected from the side of the present hollow way running onto the fields (fig 1). This group was observed projecting from the bank on the south side of the track. The pottery was just above a band of stones in the section, about 70cm below the top of the bank and 1.6m above the present track level. The pottery appears to be of fifteenth or sixteenth century date and includes two large joining rim sherds. These would easily crush if left in an open area and so they would seem to represent some form of dumped deposit lying on a stone surface.

APPENDIX 2 - Field 'P'

During the initial survey two cropmark sites (182 & 183) were noted in field 'P' which were suggestive of substantial ditched enclosures. Despite further fieldwork and geophysical survey using both a fluxgate gradiometer and a resistivity meter the nature of these anomalies could not be resolved (Archaeological Assessment - Phase II report). It was therefore recommended that machine trenches be excavated to determine whether these marks constituted a significant constraint in planning the road line. These trenches were excavated during April 1992 (fig 5). The site code used for this work was CH92.

Trench H This trench was laid out along the farmers tram lines which ran E/W across the field. A trench about 1m wide and 28m long was excavated to a depth of about 1m. This showed that the modern ploughsoil simply faded into a fine sandy subsoil. Towards the bottom of the trench some areas of this were a darker sandy/greyish colour and tended to exhibit laminar bedding planes. Two features were located in the expected positions but both turned out to be land drains laid at 80-90cm below the present surface. These were modern machine extruded pipes, 7.5cm in diameter and 31cm in length, stamped 'BROWNE & Co'. The backfill of the drain trenches was almost indistinguishable from the subsoil which had been cut. This probably explains why they could not be detected through geophysical survey.

Trench I This trench was about 1m wide and 20m long. It was laid out running roughly N/S across the northern two features. As with trench H these proved to be Browne & Co land drains buried 95cm below the surface.

The results of this trial were surprising for a number of reasons. The farm manager had told us that he did not think that there were any land drains in this field and the machine driver was surprised both by the general location and orientation of them, particularly the pair that appear to turn a right angle near the castle earthworks. It is also surprising that such small pipes at a depth of 1m could have had such a marked impact on crop development, particularly in March when the photographs were taken.

The most important result of this survey, however, is in establishing the origin of the marks and demonstrating that there is no archaeological constraint in this area.

APPENDIX 3 - Ship Farm

Ship Farm is situated on the south-western perimeter of the village of Morcombelake at SY 40019402 although it actually lies in the parish of Stanton St Gabriel. It sits on the SE side of a neck of land connecting Stonebarrow and Hardown Hills. The farm was formerly a coaching inn known as The Ship and appears to have been an important staging point along the south coast route between Dorchester and Exeter. Judge Jeffreys is reputed to have stayed at the Inn during September 1685 (Wanklyn, 1927, 109).

The roman and medieval route is also thought to have crossed the neck of land by Ship Farm to avoid the northern slopes of Stonebarrow Hill which are very wet and prone to slippage. In about 1823, however, a new turnpike road was constructed which took the road onto the gentler gradients to the north of the hill. As a result the main road line was moved some 70m NE of Ship Farm and a new 'Ship Inn' constructed on the main road.

The farm is situated at 123m O.D. on the Bridport and Yeovil sands of the Upper Lias and has commanding views SE towards Golden Cap. A fault line with various sandy beds of the Middle Lias runs across the field to the SW of the farm building complex (British Geological Survey 1:50,000, sheet 327, 1977). Just above this fault and only 250m from the farmhouse is an ancient holy well known at The Saint's or St Wite's. It can be seen that Ship Farm occupies an important topographical as well as historical position within the landscape.

A limited amount of historical research has been carried out to explore the history of the farm. The following is a summary of the information collected:

1685 First suggestion of an important coaching inn on the site (Wanklyn, 1927, 109).

1753 David Osbourn at the sign of the Ship, Morcombelake (Mr & Mrs Harrington's notes from the Licensed Victuallers Records).

1823 The Bridport Turnpike plan and schedule (D.R.O QDP(M) TT9) show John Chard as the owner and occupier of the Ship Inn.

1825 On 13 April 1825 (D.R.O. D411/T3) Joseph Horsford leases the Ship Inn to John Flew and Richard Richards of Weymouth (see fig 6). The lease states that the Inn had formerly been in the tenure or occupation of Samuel Mullet, his under tenants or assigns, and late of William Pouncey. The lease includes "all that part of the tenement in the tenure or occupation of John Chadd under a lease thereof granted after the decease of Mary his wife containing the cottage, workshop and garden adjoining to the Ship Inn and lying on the east side of the present old turnpike road from Bridport to Charmouth". John Flew must have subsequently purchased the farm which, upon his death (27.1.1842) passed to his wife, Susannah, who in turn passed it to their daughter, Ann Weston Fowler Mawkes, who held it until 1885 (D.R.O

D411/T3; 8.7.1885).

1840/42 The Tithe Apportionment dated 12.7.1842 gives John Flew as the landowner with Henry Brown in occupation (D.R.O. T/SS6). The 1840 Tithe Map (fig 6) shows the farmhouse with three outbuildings and a row of cottages to the NE of the farmhouse. These are not marked on either the 1825 or 1890 plans and so must have had a relatively short life.

1848 The P.O. Directory gives Henry Brown as a Farmer in Stanton St Gabriel and Richard Chedd as a wheelwright in Whitchurch Canonichorum.

1859 The P.O. Directory gives Henry Brown as a Farmer at Ship Farm in Stanton St Gabriel, Richard Cheed (sic) as a wheelwright in Whitchurch Canonichorum and Eli Cheed (sic) as a farmer in Whitchurch Canonichorum.

1867 The P.O. Directory gives Henry Brown as a Farmer at Ship Farm in Stanton St Gabriel, Richard Cheed (sic) as a wheelwright and carpenter in Whitchurch Canonichorum and Eli Cheed (sic) as a carpenter and farmer in Whitchurch Canonichorum.

1880 Kelly's Directory gives Henry Brown as a farmer and shopkeeper at Ship Farm in Stanton St Gabriel and Eli Cheed (sic) as a carpenter and farmer in Whitchurch Canonichorum.

1881 On 21.12.1881 Eli Chedd rents the Farm, occupied by Mr Harris, from Ann Mawkes for 14 or 21 years at £55pa. (D.R.O. D411/T3).

1885 On 7.7.1885 Mrs Ann Weston Fowler Mawkes of Wyke Regis sold Ship Farm to Mrs Maria Garrod of East Moulsey (sic) in Surrey for £1,250. The property was described as, "all that farm with the messuages, tenements and farmhouse, barns, stables, outhouses, ... for many years occupied by Mr Brown, Mr Harris and Mr Eli Chedd.

1887 Eli Chedd leases the Farm from Maria Garrod for 14 years at £55pa (D.R.O. D411/T3; 10.8.1887).

1889 Kelly's Directory gives Eli Cheed (sic) as a farmer at Ship Farm in Stanton St Gabriel.

1890 Eli Chedd purchases the Farm from Maria Garrod for £1,400 (D.R.O. D411/T3; 13.2.1890).

1895 Kelly's Directory gives Eli Cheed (sic) as a farmer at Ship Farm.

1940's Preparatory sketches of the Farm made by Edmund Dulac. Currently in the possession of Mr and Mrs Harrington.

1971 The farm with its present lands purchased by the current owners, Mr & Mrs R A Harrington, from the National Trust.

THE BUILDING SURVEY A building survey was undertaken at Ship Farm during March, 1992. This was primarily concerned with the older outbuildings affected by the proposed bypass although some notes have also been made on the farmhouse to which they belonged and on the more modern elements of the present complex. The various structures which make up the present complex have been numbered from 1 to 7 (fig 7) and are described below.

The main problem in conducting the survey was in gaining access to the outbuildings since all of them were in active use for storage and / or as housing for animals. The mild winter meant that, in some cases, hay was being stored from floor to ceiling, making it impossible to inspect some areas internally. In addition, the small barn backed onto steeply sloping ground overgrown with bushes and the ruin was almost entirely covered with ivy.

Structure 1 - The Farmhouse The present farmhouse is a Grade II listed building (number 6/108), probably of eighteenth century date. It is constructed of hand-made brick in flemish bond laid on a thin bed of hard white mortar. There are flat arches of rubbed bricks over the windows and decorative lines of blue brick run parallel with the edges of the gables. The building consists of two main storeys and a basement storey which, due to the drop in the land, gives direct access out of the SW side of the building. There is also an attic storey with three dormer windows along the NW side of the gambrel roof.

The farm was purchased from the National Trust by the present owners, Mr & Mrs R A Harrington, in 1971. The farmhouse was then in a very run-down condition and has been extensively restored by them. This has included removing a nineteenth century external flue from the SW wall, replacing the roof with second-hand slates from London, building a porch from a mixture of modern and old materials and gutting the interior. All the windows have been replaced, using copies of the originals, and a small partitioned office has been removed from one of the ground floor rooms. Part of this, complete with some of the original crown glass, complete with 'bulls eyes', now forms part of the partition between the veranda and garden at the western corner of the house. The veranda itself replaces a rear porch which does not appear on the Tithe Map of 1840 but which is depicted on a deed of 1890 (DRO D/411 D3). It was still in existence when some sketches of the farm were made by Edmund Dulac in the 1940's.

A large timber removed from above the front door is possibly an old ship's timber since it has a number of holes in it which appear to have been bored by marine mollusca (fig 8). It has a large, semi-circular, cut with flanking bolt holes on one side. The roof was largely slate when they arrived but with a small patch of tiles at the southern corner of the roof. A surviving sample of one of these measures 27.5cm by 16.5cm and has two diamond shaped peg holes at one end.

The scale, materials and architectural detail of the farmhouse are quite different from those generally found in the local villages. The buildings of Morcombelake and Chideock are almost entirely of stone with thatched roofs and it is only in places such as Bridport with their elegant town architecture that good parallels may be found. This building was clearly one of the most prestigious in Morcombelake and indicates the status and importance of the coaching inn.

Structure 2 - The Large Barn This is the largest and by far the most complex structure on the site (figs 9-11). The core of the building is two stories high but single storey outshots have been added on three sides. The present first floor and roof are later replacements to the structure, probably dating from the late C19th or early C20th. The roof is covered with slate and has a ridge of black glazed ceramic tiles for most of its length although there are two pairs of corrugated red tiles amongst them. The front elevation (fig 9) clearly shows the numerous alterations and rebuildings which characterise the whole building.

The majority of the two storey core sits on stone rubble foundations, marked on the front elevation by the lowest dotted line (fig 9). Above this the front wall essentially consists of hand made bricks laid in flemish bond in a fine white mortar. There is a small plinth along the left hand half of the elevation, roughly at the base of the window sill and a string course, three bricks deep across the whole façade. One of the original window arches survives, made of alternating red and blue headers (opening 4). The character and style of the brickwork is very similar to that of the main house suggesting that this façade and the farmhouse belong to the same phase of building activity on the site.

The front elevation also shows signs of numerous alterations. The whole of the right hand end has been rebuilt at some point. This must have taken place prior to the construction of the brick outshot since it has been bonded into the rebuilt section. The string course was restored when the main façade was rebuilt but, subsequently, the very right hand end has been chiselled flush to the wall, presumably to make way for a down pipe.

One brick course above the left hand two thirds of the string course, a line of projecting slates has been inserted. Many of these are now broken but they were presumably intended to throw water clear of the string course. None of the original fenestration survives and all of the window openings have been altered. A number of the original openings have quarter bricks set into the surrounding brickwork so that they could be edged with headers and stretchers. This makes it possible to identify some of the original openings even if they have been rendered or obscured with later frames. The openings in this elevation have been numbered 1-10 and are described below (fig 9).

1 Window shortened with newer bricks under. There are quarter bricks at the left hand side of this opening. The present window has a wooden sill.

2 Opening shortened and narrowed, concrete sill to the window.

3 The left hand side of the door opening is now rendered but has quarter bricks down to the same level as window 2. The right hand side of the opening and a section running down to window 7 have been rebuilt in machine pressed brick. This suggests that this opening has been widened and deepened to take the door and that it was originally a window opening of the same size as 2. The modern bricks on the left hand jamb have graffiti on them; WB 1944 (twice), CC, SC 1918, SC 1919, SC 1927, SC 1965, WI, MP 1946?, CS + SK 1966. SC apparently represents Sam Chedd, who sold the farm to the National Trust in about 1971 and who died in 1987. He was apparently quite a character and used to take fresh milk round the area on a yolk twice a day (information from Mr & Mrs Harrington). His dated initials of 1918 show that the door must have been inserted before that date. CC probably represents Cecil Chedd who used to be at St Gabriels.

4 Opening narrowed and shortened but with the original alternating blue and red brick headers over. The present window has a galvanised frame and concrete sill.

5 The whole opening and a large area of collapse above has been rebuilt in machine pressed brick. The section of wall above bows out badly at this point.

6 The whole opening and the arch above have been rebuilt in machine pressed brick so its age cannot be determined.

7 Original opening shortened and the top rebuilt. Present frame has a concrete sill.

8 This window is in the rebuilt section but appears to be a new opening since the old brickwork at the left of the frame has been cut. It has a concrete lintel and would have had a concrete sill cast in situ, but this has dropped off.

9 & 10 These two openings are contemporary with the wall of the outshot. Both have concrete lintels and the window has a concrete sill.

From the evidence for the original position and size of the openings it is possible to suggest a reconstruction of the elevation in its intended form (fig 12). The two doorway positions have been retained in this reconstruction on the grounds that some access through this elevation seems likely and that there is no evidence for a central or any other opening which has been blocked.

All the evidence from the front elevation would suggest that the core of the barn was contemporary with the farmhouse, although it has been much altered since. However, internal inspection

reveals that this brickwork is merely an external skin which backs onto a second internal skin, this time made of machine pressed bricks. The two skins are not bonded together (fig 10). The answer to this enigma is only to be found by examining the other walls of the two storey core.

The NW end wall of the building has a similar external facing but consists of a cob wall internally. This extends right up to the top of the second floor although the whole gable has collapsed at some date and been rebuilt in brick. This explains the step seen from the front elevation. The NW wall of room 5 (figs 10 & 11) has similar stone footings with cob wall above but this has been rebuilt above about 2m with a stone rubble wall. This section of wall now holds the floor joists and roof trusses and must have been rebuilt as part of a major refurbishment of the building, probably during the later C19th. The wall between rooms 2 & 4 is 'basically of stone although there are various rebuildings including some in brick. A two storey section of this wall is made of roughly dressed sandstone, the only example of its type in the whole farm complex. The wall between rooms 2 & 3 is made of brick.

The ground floor of the core is presently divided into two main areas by a cross wall. This rests directly on the natural subsoil and consists of a single course of dressed stone blocks with brick above. Room 1 has a nineteenth century earth floor (see 'Trench A' below) and was being used as a hay store at the time of the survey. Room 2 has a modern concrete floor which includes a slurry trough. When Mr Harrington purchased the farm in 1971 there were cattle stalls in this room but he has removed these. He has built a wooden calving pen in the western corner of the room and the rest of it was being used for hay, general storage and chest freezers for meat.

The first floor of the core is a single large room with access via a simple opening in room 2 which is reached from some mobile steps. At the time of the survey it was being used for the storage of a wide range of items such as furniture, timber, etc. There are two windows and a door in the front elevation (fig 9) and one window and what appears to be a small door near the eastern corner of the back wall. These openings are in the rebuilt wall, probably of later C19th date, and open under the roof of room 5. The end wall of room 5 is butted against by the outside toilet (room 6) and should, therefore, predate 1840. There does not seem to be any evidence of a first floor in this room nor any apparent reason why a window and door should open under the lean-to roof. One possible explanation could be that this whole side of the core building and lean-to were partially demolished and rebuilt at the same time and that these openings were used before the lean-to roof was reinstated.

This survey has revealed that the core of the large barn is a complex multi-period structure. In its earliest form it appears to have been a substantial two storey building (c6m x 14m) constructed of cob walling on stone footings. When the present farmhouse was built it was faced on the front and sides with

brick (there is no evidence of a brick facing outside at the back although the string course does turn the eastern corner of the building). The cob wall must have then crumbled away from behind necessitating a series of repairs and rebuildings: the back wall has been repaired and rebuilt a number of times, the SW wall has been completely rebuilt, the NE gable has been replaced and the whole of the front elevation has been backed with brick. So although the cob walling has now almost completely disappeared its form has become 'fossilised' by the later repairs and rebuildings.

In addition to these works the building has also had a variety of outshots added to it. The outshot to the SW (room 3) was added between 1840, when it was not shown on the Tithe Map, and 1890, when it appears on an old deed (DRO D411/T3). It has a partly sunken floor where it has been cut into the rising ground and, despite its relatively short life, has undergone a number of changes. The SW and SE walls are made of stone rubble with a brick quoin. The brick wall of the front elevation butts up against this stonework on the inside and forms a new quoin on the outside and so must be later in date. The door and window in the SW wall are insertions and were probably added at the same time that the brickwork of the front elevation was built.

Inside room 3 there are small holes in the NE wall which suggest that this room had a ceiling or some form of overhead racking at one stage. There is presently a concrete cattle stall in the room, which is still in use. The roof of this outshot is covered with pantiles, some of which have incuse sans serif stamps 'C.S & Co PAT No (blank) / BRIDGWATER SOM / GUARANTEED HAND MADE'.

The outshot along the SE side of the main barn (rooms 4 & 5) is much more complicated. Room 4 presently has just a small section of wall, consisting of stone rubble footings with machine pressed bricks in stretcher bond above. The rest of the wall is made up of some light timber panelling with an old telegraph pole supporting the corrugated iron roofing. There is no wall on the SW side. The area was being used to store hay and a 1924 BSA car at the time of the survey. The relatively ephemeral nature of construction and the fact that two windows from room 2 look into this area might suggest that this is a late addition to the complex. However, the area was already built up when the Tithe Map of 1840 was drawn and the two windows are late insertions, probably contemporary with those in room 3. So, once again, the present structure appears to be a later replacement of one that existed prior to 1840.

The partition wall between rooms 4 & 5 has a wide base made of stone rubble which extends into room 5 as a plinth. Above this it is made of older brick with an irregular bond. There are traces of whitewashed horsehair plaster on this brickwork in room 5. The partition wall is not bonded into the main barn and has slumped slightly to the SE so that a gap has had to be infilled against the main wall. The partition wall extends to the outside of the building by the doorway, but all of the wall from that doorway to the NE corner of the outshot is of a different build,

being made of small but neatly laid stone rubble. There are a few machine pressed pieces of brick incorporated in some of the openings which suggests that this is a late build although, once again, its outline was mapped in 1840.

The roof of room 5 is of corrugated iron. It presently has two external doors and, formerly, there was an internal door connecting it with room 1. This is now filled with brick but the rough, naturally arching lintel set into the cob walling still survives. There are some odd sections of brickwork which have been set into or against the cob walling of the NW side of this room. These are very rubbed suggesting that cattle have been stalled against them. There is still a wooden partition in this room where there is also a step. The present floor is concrete and the room was being used for the storage of motorbikes, wood, tables, etc at the time of the survey.

The NE wall of room 5 is particularly complex. It includes an additional section where its roof height has been raised, a window opening which has been partly blocked and a fully blocked window opening which in turn is butted against by a the former toilet, room 6. The toilet was shown in 1840 thus providing a terminus ante quem for the blocking. So, as with the main part of the barn, the north-eastern outshot is a multi period structure occupying a site which has been used since at least 1840 and which was old enough to have been altered before that date.

The small room on the NE end of the barn was formerly the toilet (room 6). It is built of stone rubble with brick quoins and has a corrugated tin roof. As noted above, the toilet is shown on the 1840 tithe survey and butts onto both the main barn and the outshot (5). The front (NE) wall of the toilet collapsed within the last 20 years and has been rebuilt by Mr Harrington. The roof pitch has been altered at some point, formerly being slightly higher against the main barn but having a steeper pitch. There is a blocked door in the NW wall of the toilet where the later outshot (7) has been butted against it. The toilet itself has been removed and the room is presently disused with the door fallen in.

The remaining outshot, rooms 7 & 8, are not shown on the 1890 deed but were depicted on the 1903 edition OS map. This outshot is completely rendered internally and externally obscuring any constructional details. Room 7 is presently used for storage and room 8 is presently a toilet. It has three steps up to it and was formerly a stand for milk churns. It was converted by Mr Harrington within the last 20 years.

Structure 3 - The Small Barn The small barn consists of a main range running NW/SE with an enclosure on its SW side. This was formerly a roofed part of the structure, giving the whole complex an 'L' shape (fig 13). It is shown as such on the 1840 Tithe Map (fig 6) and has remained the same basic form since although the 1890 deed (DRO D 411/T3) appears to show a slightly smaller roofed area to the SW than that depicted on the 1903 or 1929

editions.

This building complex was difficult to survey for a number of reasons. The main barn was half filled with hay and the door to the separate south-eastern end was completely overgrown so it could not be opened. The remains of the SW wing contained later structures and stored materials which were rather overgrown and the steeply sloping ground to the SE and NE were covered with dense bushes and scrub. The survey results suggest an odd alignment of the SE end of the building. This may be the result of survey errors under these conditions rather than the actual shape of this end.

The present barn is constructed primarily of stone rubble with brick quoins. The main area is floored with large stone slabs and the present roof is of corrugated asbestos. An area of the side wall at the NW corner of the barn collapsed down the slope within the last 20 years and was rebuilt by Mr Harrington.

The barn shows signs of a number of alterations over the years. The end wall at the NW is stone on the outside but brick on the inside. This brickwork disappears behind the SW side wall which must have been butted onto it. The NW gable is also made of brick and includes an infilled door or window opening (fig 13). Inside the barn one substantial cross beam survives as does the slot for another. The surviving beam is 30cm square with roughly chamfered and stopped edges. The beam was partly obscured by hay but appeared to have 10 joist slots along each upper edge. This beam and the blocked opening in the gable suggest that this was originally a two storey structure.

The south-western enclosure is also built of stone rubble with brick quoins. The surviving walling was clearly once part of a building but has been truncated and repaired to form an enclosure. There is a blocked up window opening in the SE wall of the enclosure, against the main barn. Breeze blocks on the NW side together with a surviving purlin set in them show that this enclosure was at least partly roofed in the recent past. There is presently a timber pigsty constructed by Mr Harrington in the SW corner of the enclosure.

Structure 4 - Mobile Home This is a modern 'mobile home' type of caravan permanently parked in this position. A fence has been built between it and structure 3 to keep farmyard animals away from its entrance and the small 'courtyard' thus formed has been surfaced with gravel and planted with rose bushes in borders around the edge. The 'courtyard' area and borders were rather overgrown at the time of the survey and the home appeared to be little used, although it was still perfectly habitable. It had probably been put on the site by the Harrington's within the last 20 years.

Structure 5 - The Ruin This consists of the remains of an outbuilding shown on the 1840 Tithe Map as a simple rectangular block (fig 6). The 1890 deed (DRO D 411/T3) shows that this had been extended to the NW, presumably by the addition of a lean to.

This extension is not shown on the 1903 OS map but appears on the 1929 edition. Possibly an original extension was demolished and replaced before 1929. The site of it now lies under structure 6. An extension also appears to have been added to the SE end of the building. This is not shown in 1890 but is present from 1903 onwards.

A series of preparatory sketches of the farm made by Edmund Dulac, probably during the 1940's, are in the present owner's possession. These depict the building as a single storey structure and shows the NE wall as containing a window, a door and another opening which is either a window with shutters or a split door. Annotation on the drawings indicates that this wall was stone at the bottom with brick above, perhaps indicating a major rebuilding phase. The NW end of the building is shown with a half-hipped roof covered with corrugated iron while the SE end is thatched and has a gable.

At the time of the survey very little of the surviving structure could be seen. At the NW end the tallest surviving section was largely inaccessible. It was covered with ivy and had rubble overgrown with brambles stacked in front of it. However, according to the Harrington's, it consists of a chimney stack. A vertical brick edge, perhaps for a doorway, could be seen inset 1.4m from the northern corner of the building (fig 14).

The NE wall has been almost completely demolished except for a small, overgrown section at the eastern corner. This is built of stone rubble with brick quoins and openings, as is the rest of the structure. One side of what was presumably a door opening could be detected in this wall. The south-eastern wall has been completely demolished although its course was marked by a line of stones which had been used as the edge of a modern concrete floor within the building. Where this wall joins the SW wall there is a section of different stonework which suggests that this corner of the core of the building had been rebuilt at some point. Projecting SE from this junction is a section of stone wall terminating in a brick end. This must have been part of the post 1890 south-eastern extension. The squared wall end suggests that this was an open ended shelter rather than an enclosed room.

Quite large sections of the south-western wall survive but, once again, they are largely obscured by ivy. It was possible to locate one door and one window opening in this wall. There was also a possible internal sub-division adjoining the door which was marked by a raised line of stones. It is just possible, however, that this is merely an edging for the modern concrete floors which have been laid within the ruin. These have been put down for cattle and a Dutch barn of iron girder construction with a corrugated iron roof constructed within the ruin to shelter them.

Structure 6 - Workshop Immediately to the NW of structure 5 was a modern iron framed barn covered with corrugated iron. This was being used as a workshop and store by Mr Harrington and had been built by him to replace a Dutch barn which had collapsed. The Dutch barn is depicted in the Dulac sketches which show that it consisted of a simple pitched roof of tin supported on six tall poles.

Structure 7 - Garage This is a relatively modern pre-fabricated garage presently used to store a vintage car.

THE TRIAL EXCAVATIONS Six trial trenches (A-F) were excavated at Ship Farm during the period 26 April to 1 May 1992 (fig 7). The work was directed by David Higgins with Peter Brown, Peter Higgs and Jenny Lawton working on site. The site code used for these excavations was SF 92.

Trench A This was a 2m x 1m trench located within the northern end of the principal outbuilding at Ship Farm (Structure 2 - the 'Large Barn'; fig 11). The object of this trench was to try and obtain dating evidence for the structure and to see whether there was any evidence for earlier levels sealed beneath the existing building. This area was chosen because it was being used to store hay which could be re-arranged to expose an area of the earth floor. The rest of the building has concrete flooring and could not so easily be cleared.

The trench was set away from the walls to prevent undermining them and just inside the door where the maximum amount of light was available. After the trench had been fully excavated a small section up to the cross wall was removed to test the relationship between the floor levels and the cross-wall footings.

Beneath the hay the surface of the floor was rather undulating and consisted of a thin packed layer of coal chips (1). This suggests that the room has been used as a coal store at some point. This must have been prior to 1971 when the present owners moved in since they have not put it to such a use. The coal layer was up to about 2cm thick and lay on a surface of packed earth (2).

The second floor surface (2) was a light sandy-brown colour and contained some small stones. It was very hard packed and so had to be broken into with a pick. When cleaned it appeared that there was a slightly darker layer of this material (3) overlying a cleaner layer (4). These were excavated separately although all three deposits (2, 3, 4) probably constitute a single phase of floor make-up. This floor deposit had been cut by a small pit or scoop (6) and four stakes had been driven through it (5, 7, 12, 13; fig 15). These appeared as very soft patches or hollow voids at between 5cm and 10cm below the present surface. The sides were well preserved and showed that the stakes varied considerably in section, being hexagonal, oval, pentagonal and roughly 'D' shaped respectively.

Below layers 2 / 3 / 4 was a slightly coarser 'rusty' earth (8). This contained some small stones and was rather gritty. Inside the doorway this layer included a very large, irregular, stone block with a smooth surface, possibly work. Context 8 did not, however, appear to have a very well compacted surface and may have simply been a first level of make-up below contexts 2, 3 and 4. It came down onto a well packed and smooth surface (11).

The lowest floor surface (11) was dark in colour and mottled with reddish patches. It was rather granular and contained some small stones. Although quite thin it contained numerous iron objects as well as fragments of coal and brick. The floor dipped into two features, a shallow hollow (9), which also contained a lot of iron objects, and a post hole (10). The top of the post-hole was about 30cm in diameter and it extended about 28cm below the floor surface (11). A half brick had been used to block the top of the post hollow which measured 13cm x 14cm.

The lowest floor (11) rested directly on the natural subsoil. This was a light sandy colour and consisted of a fine, mica rich deposit with bedding planes. When a section was excavated up to the cross wall it was found that this only extended some 5cm below the modern surface and that it rested directly onto the natural. The natural had been cut vertically, flush with the face of the wall to a depth of about 20cm.

It appears that the cross wall, which is constructed of brick on a single course of dressed stone footings, had been constructed directly onto the natural. The floor in the northern part of the barn had then been dug out to a depth of 20cm below the base of this wall. It must have been open at this depth for a sufficient time for the trampled floor (11) to have built up and for the post hole (10) to have been dug and used. The pottery from this floor indicates that it was in use during the nineteenth century.

The lowered floor was then raised to roughly its present level by layers 8, 4, 3 and 2. These could have formed a single phase of make-up, and all contain mid to late nineteenth century pottery. At some point since then and 1971 the room has probably been used as a coal store. Since 1971 it has been used for animals and is presently in use as a hay store.

Trench B This was a 2m x 1.2m trench excavated between the pigsty and the small barn (fig 13). It was located to test the depth and nature of the deposits around these buildings.

A thin weed cover was cleared to reveal a gravel surface made of rounded pebbles (1). These were generally 2-3cm in size but occasionally as large as 6cm. The layer was about 10cm deep. Mr Harrington informed us that he has put this surface down since buying the farm in 1971. The stones came from Seatown Beach.

Beneath the modern pebbles was a layer of fine brown earth (2). This was barely present on the NW of the trench but became thicker as it dipped to the SE. It overlay and then merged with a hard surface made of stone and brick rubble (3; fig 16). To

the NW of the trench this surface was mainly of brick, but to the SE it was mainly of stones, generally of c15cm in size. The surface petered out to the SE where it mixed with the dark earth (2). In the N corner the surface consisted of a patch of rather larger stones of up to 35cm in size. These appeared to be rather more firmly set and were recorded as 4. Upon excavation this setting was found to include a modern 12 bore cartridge case (Eley).

Beneath this stone and brick surface was a patch of rather loose stones and gravel (5). This was confined to the E corner of the trench and overlay a firmer stony layer (6). This in turn faded into a stony surface (7) which covered the southern half of the trench. This consisted of rather smaller and looser stones mixed with clay in the W corner with larger and hard set ones in the E (fig 16). This stone surface faded out to the NW of the trench where patches of yellow clay, 11, appeared under 6. In the N corner of the trench there was still stony soil but it appeared mixed and disturbed (8). This area included quite a large quantity of pottery. In the E corner of the trench a drain (9) was found cutting into the yellow clay. This sides of this feature were very poorly defined and the drain had slumped a little, but it was clearly intended to drain northwards towards the barn. It was constructed mainly of brick but with some stone. Each side consisted of two courses of brick or stone set directly onto the natural clay. There was no evidence of a capping although the drain did appear to be covered by some of the stones of surface 7.

It was very hard to satisfactorily examine such complex deposits within the confines of a small trench. All of the layers tended to dip towards the NE and SE, following the natural slope of the land. There appeared to be three main phases of surfacing in this area; the modern gravel (1), the brick and stone surface (3 and 4) and the mainly stone surface (6 & 7). With the interleaving layers of earth and gravel this represents a buildup of some 30cm to 40cm across this area. The relationship of the drain to the earliest surface was not clear although it possibly pre-dated it. In the N corner there appeared to be a disturbed area of uncertain extent or function (8). This dipped to the NE where at least 60cm of stratigraphy was present.

Trench C This was a 2m x 1m trench located within the eastern end of the ruined outbuilding (fig 14). A Dutch Barn, which provides shelter for livestock, has been constructed within this ruin and the trench also lay within this.

A deep layer of trampled mud and straw, generated by the three bullocks then in the field, was cleared to reveal a concrete surface. This had been cracked and distorted by the cattle since it was only some 4-6cm thick. The concrete lay directly on a light sandy coloured material, very fine and full of mica flecks. There were some dark patches on the surface of this but these proved to represent only a thin trampled layer. A trial of some 15cm deep into the sandy coloured material proved it to be the natural subsoil and that there was no surviving archaeology below

the modern concrete slab. This was surprising given that the building was in existence prior to the Tithe survey and that the track and yard area on the north side of the ruin's wall was about 0.5m lower than the concrete floor. The field to the south is, however, higher than the concrete and it appears that the floor level has been cut into this higher ground.

Trench D This was a 2m x 1m trench located in a small field of pasture, 10m to the south of the ruined building (fig 7). In a deed of 1825 this field is shown as having been sub-divided into smaller plots (fig 6). Sam Chedd, who was at the farm before the Harrington's, had told them that this field was formerly used as a stack yard for hay. The trial trench was located in the flattest part of the field to see if there was any evidence for buildings or other activity in this area.

The turf (1) and soil immediately below it (2) occupied the top 20cm of the trench. They were both mid-brown in colour and of a fine, humic nature with very few stones. This type of soil profile is typical of old pasture and suggests that the field has not been disturbed for some time. Between 20cm and 25cm the soil became lighter in colour and was quite stony (3). The stones were quite angular and varied in size. This layer seemed quite well mixed and contained artifacts. It may represent a phase of ploughing. From about 25cm to 60cm below the present surface the soil was a lighter, yellowish colour and rather clayey in nature (4). This appeared to be the top of the natural so only a small trial area within the trench was excavated below 25cm. The top of this layer contained quite a number of stones. These appeared to become larger but less frequent towards the base of the layer. There were no finds recovered from context 4, although it contained charcoal flecks.

From about 60cm to 1m below the present surface the soil appeared rather mixed in nature with patches of light brown and 'rusty' brown clayey material (5). There were occasional stones and pieces of charcoal in this layer. At about 1m a dense greyish clay appeared with small water-rolled grits in it. This appeared to be rather patchy although it could only be seen at the base of a small test pit. As with the layers above it contained charcoal flecks.

The evidence from this trench suggests that the field has been pasture for some time (1) but that it may have been ploughed for a period before that (2). The deep layers of mixed clayey material had the feel of being natural deposits although they contained charcoal fragments (4, 5, 6). The nature of these deposits is different from the natural found under the ruin some 10m to the north and it is just possible that these layers represent dumping of spoil from the higher ground to the south, perhaps as a result of quarrying for clay (cf trench F).

Trench E This was a 1m square trench located 1m SW of the large barn (fig 11). It was positioned on a flat area of hard standing between the outbuildings, some 6m or 7m from the old core of the large barn. The object of this trench was to test for any evidence of former buildings on this flat area and to examine the depth and nature of the archaeological deposits.

The present surface consists of small rounded beach pebbles laid down by Mr Harrington (1; cf trench B). These were less thick towards the barn but were up to about 8cm thick on the south side of the trench. Beneath the pebbles was an earlier surface consisting of a well packed layer of rounded stones up to 20cm in depth (2). This was primarily of local chert but included a few brick fragments. Beneath this layer was another trampled layer (3) which was marked by a spread of red clay roof tile fragments. This was only a thin layer, the tiles having been crushed onto the top of the hard surface below (4). This consisted of numerous stones packed into a light brown matrix. It was 5cm - 10cm in depth and dipped slightly to the north, following the natural slope of the land. This hard surface rested directly on the natural (5), a light, sandy coloured soil as found in trenches A, B and C. The total depth of excavated in trench E was 25cm in the south and 33cm in the north.

This trench revealed three hard surfaces, one of pebbles (1) and two of sub-rounded stones (2 & 4). There was no trace of any earlier soil or features between 4 and the natural. This suggests that the hill-side had been cut into before the earliest surviving surface was laid.

Trench F This was a 1m square trench located in the paddock to the south of Ship Farm (fig 7). It was positioned on sloping ground to the north of a small pond which had been built by the Harrington's. During its construction they reported the finding of a large number bricks. They suggested that the bricks for the house might have been made 'on site' and that these were waste pieces since they appeared to be without mortar on them.

Along the southern side of the trench was some disturbed ground (1) which was the tail of the retaining bank for the pond. Below this and all across the trench was found a layer, about 30cm in depth, consisting of a mid-brown soil with some stones (2). This rested on a 10cm deep layer of crushed brick fragments (3). These were soft and poorly fired and appeared to represent a trampled surface. Below 3 was a layer, about 15cm thick, which consisted of a grey clayey soil containing some stones and a lot of broken bricks (4). The bricks measured 22cm x 11cm x were soft and poorly fired and without any trace of mortar. They appear to be production waste from a brick kiln. This layer rested on a grey sandy clay with stones (5). A section of this was excavated to a depth of some 10-15cm but the bottom was not reached.

This trench shows that the sloping side of the field at this point is made up of at least 70cm of deposits. This includes a layer of brick rubble (4) and a surface of crushed brick (3), totalling about 25cm in depth, which appears to derive from a brick kiln. The field to the SW of this paddock was known as Kiln Close from as early as 1825 (DRO D411/T3) so it seems likely that it was a brick kiln which was referred to.

APPENDIX 4 - The New Western Alignment

During April, 1992, an additional area of land at the western end of the proposed bypass between Berne Lane and Morcombelake was studied. This was necessitated since the road line had been modified to extend to the north of the present A35 rather than to the south of it and proposals for a roundabout at the Berne Lane junction had been added.

Almost all of the additional areas could be walked or adequately viewed, the only exception being the proposed site of the roundabout at Berne Lane where access was refused. Background work such as consultation of the SMR and aerial photographs had been covered in the initial survey submitted in March 1991. The general comments contained in that report and, in particular, the details of sites 250-73 still stand. The object of this survey was to examine the ground form in detail and to note any earthworks or artifacts which may indicate the presence of previously unrecorded sites.

The whole of the area examined was under pasture and so no significant finds of artifacts were made. The ground was generally damp with a tendency to be boggy and in many places slippage had resulted in undulations in the ground surface. There were also a number of vegetational marks which could be associated with small springs or mineral flushes emanating from the hill-side. It seems unlikely that these ground conditions would have attracted permanent settlement in the prehistoric period although seasonal hunting camps or clearance for grazing may have taken place. The medieval and later land use is likely to have always been as arable. The only dwellings affected are post-medieval in date.

Only a small number of additional sites were noted and none of these is likely to be of significance with regard to the road proposals. The new sites have been numbered from 316-320 to avoid any confusion with those in the initial survey. Additional notes have been made on site 6 from that survey. The sites are as follows:

6 : Eighteenth Century Toll Road (SY 3795 9379) A section of about 100m of the mid-eighteenth century toll road will be destroyed. This is a greater length than formerly proposed. The road line is poorly preserved at this point and, given the quality of some of the adjoining sections of earthwork, no further recording is deemed necessary.

316 & 317 : Hydraulic Ram Pumps (SY 3768 9373 & SY 3769 & 9365) These two ram pumps are marked on the modern OS map but could not be visited because they were on land where access had been denied.

Hydraulic Ram Pumps were invented in France at the very end of the nineteenth century although their design was only perfected during the early nineteenth century. They were made commercially in this country from 1822 by Josiah Eastern but did not really

become widespread until about the 1830's or 40's. By the 1870's there were over 100 manufacturers in this country and the demand for them remained high until the widespread introduction of mains water from the 1930's. From the 1920's production was concentrated in the hands of Carter & Green of Winchester, who had taken over Easterns, and John Blakes of Accrington in Lancashire.

The earliest pumps were generally purchased by large landowners and installed in large underground chambers. Gradually their use moved down the social scale and much of the later production was supplied to farmers. The pumps varied considerably in size, ranging from about 2'6" to 9' in height. They relied on a running stream of water but from this they could generally raise water some 60-80'. They were ideal as a low maintenance and cost free means of pumping water and a few Victorian examples are still in regular use.

Without visiting the site it is impossible to determine why these two pumps were installed or what their age or condition is. This should certainly be done before the proposed bypass is built and a record of them made. If the pumps are in a reasonable condition consideration should also be given to finding a museum or other interested body with a view to preserving them.

318 : Drove Way (SY 3901 9409) Two old hedges (263 & 264 in the initial survey) flank a drove way some 13-15m wide. The western bank (263) is particularly large, standing about 1.5m in height. The eastern bank has a ditch on its western side. The drove way extends north of the present A35 for about 75m and then splays out into a wedge shaped field, a layout which has remained unchanged since the tithe map of 1844 (DRO T/WCC). It is not normal for a simple field access to be so wide and this section may represent the remains of some earlier landscape feature. The whole 75m long section will be destroyed by proposed road scheme.

It is recommended that an archive record of this drove way be made prior to the start of construction. This should include measured profiles of the banks and a record of the woody species present in the hedges. Notes should also be made of any sections exposed during initial stripping.

319 : Disused Quarries (SY 3950 9425) Two hollows in the hill-side probably represent disused quarries of unknown date.

320 : Former Field Boundary (SY 3955 9418) An earthwork representing a former field boundary runs roughly N/S through this point.

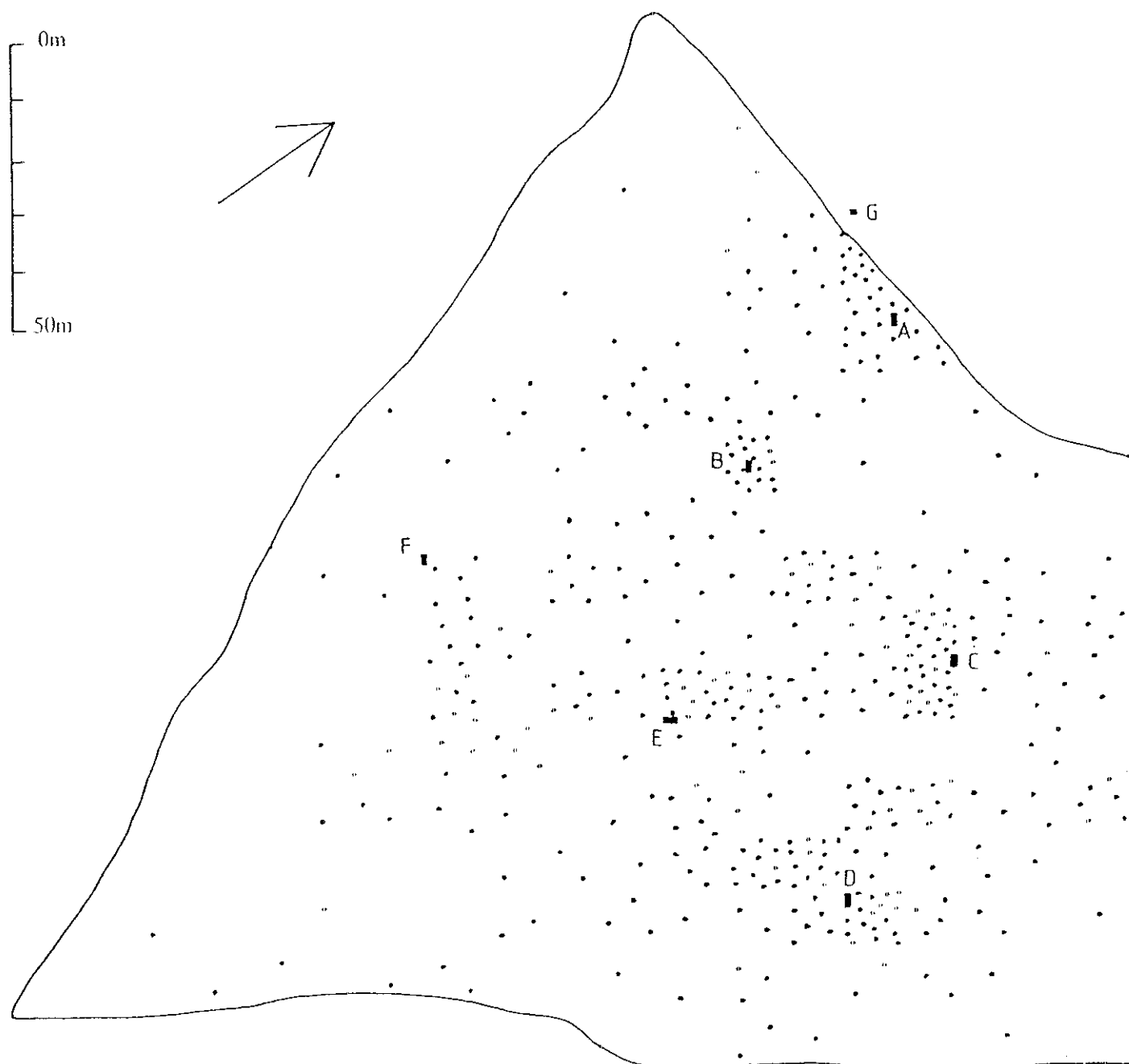


Fig 1 Field 'N' showing the location of trenches A - F and collection site G in relation to the scatter of mid C13th to mid C14th pottery plotted in the Phase II survey.

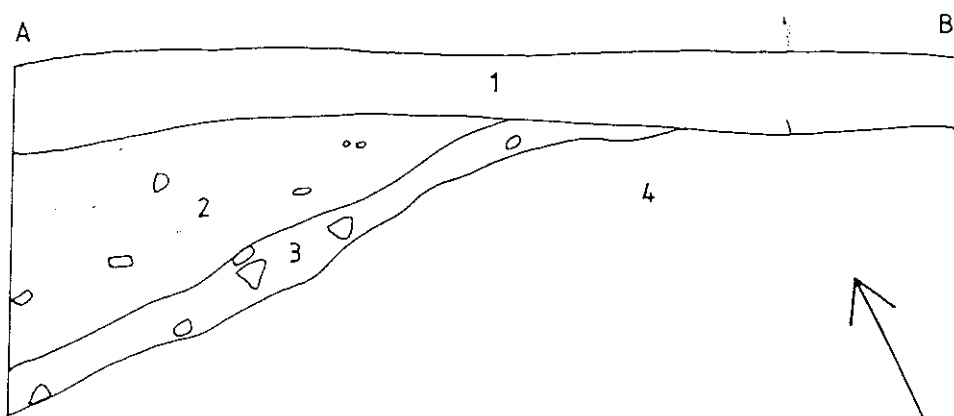
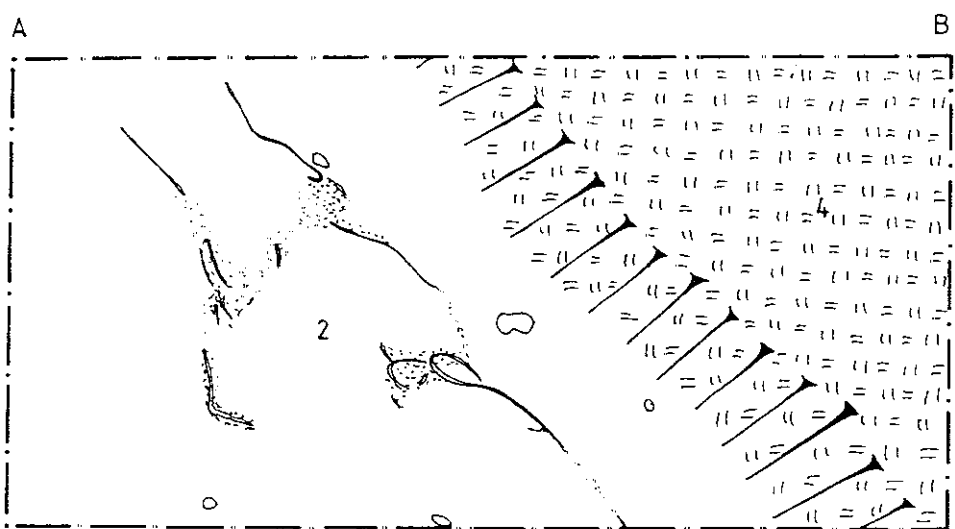
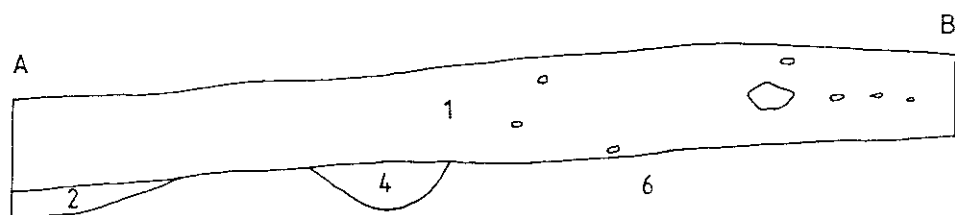
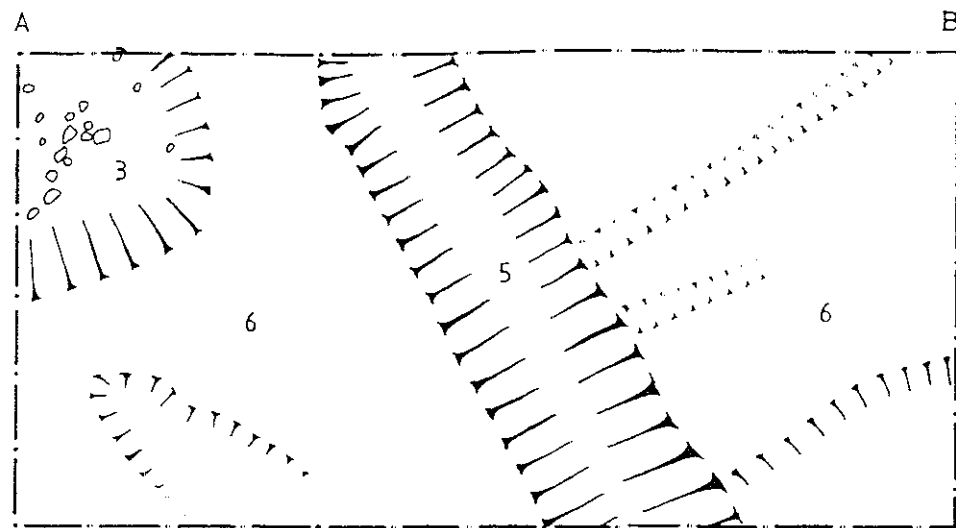


Fig 2 Field 'N' - Plans and sections of trenches A (top) and B (bottom). Scale 1:20.

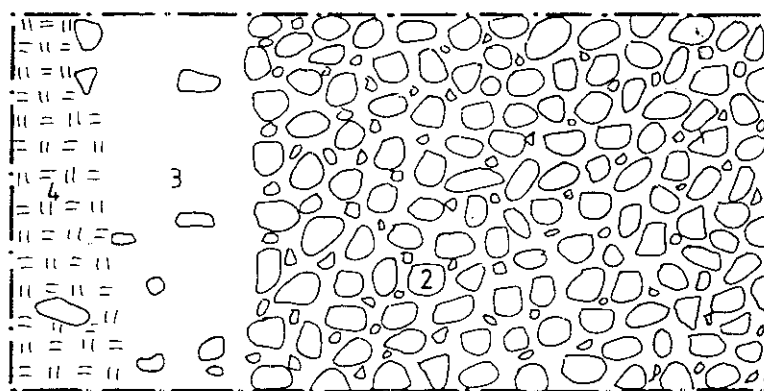
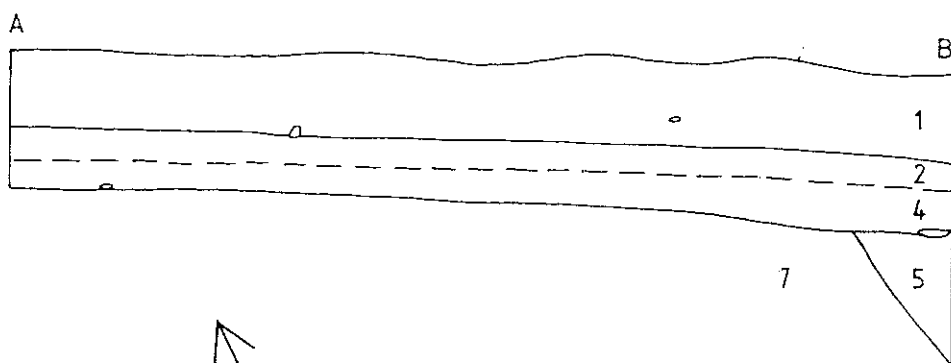
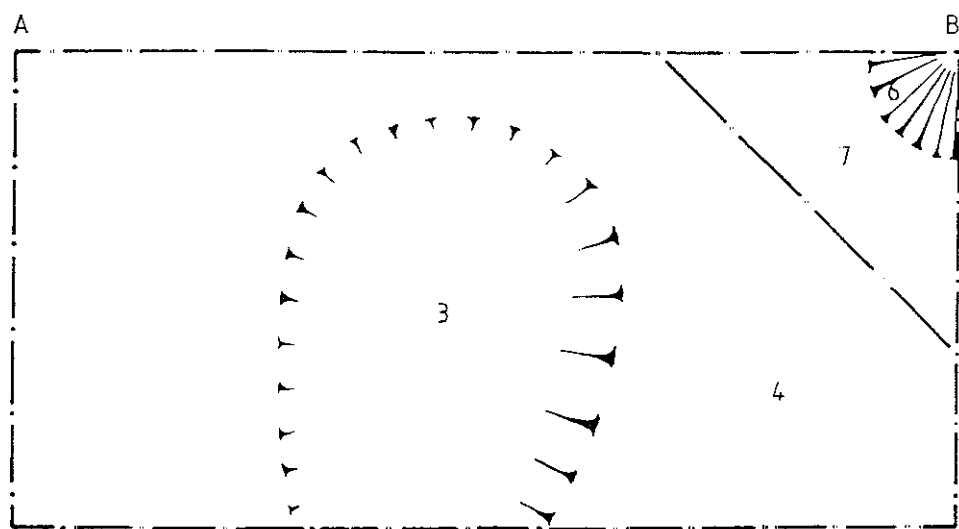
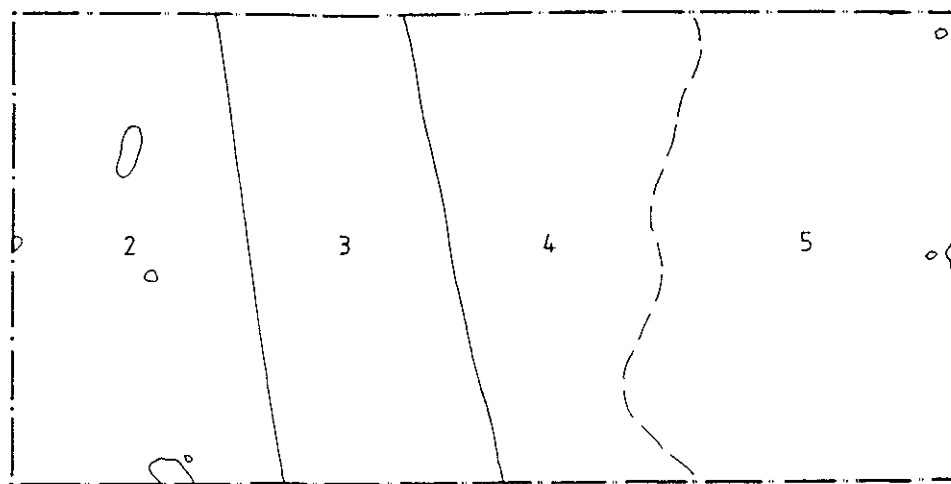
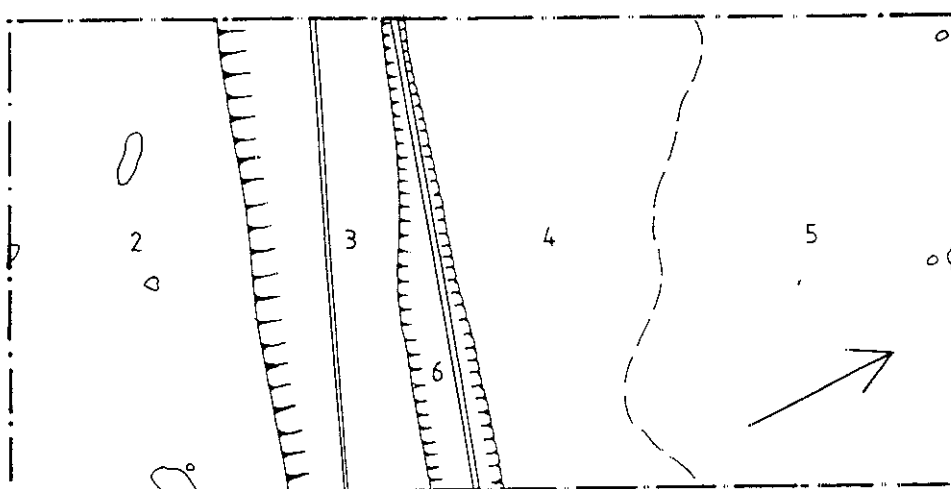


Fig 3 Field 'N' - Plans and section of trenches C (top) and F (bottom). Scale 1:20.



A

B



A

B

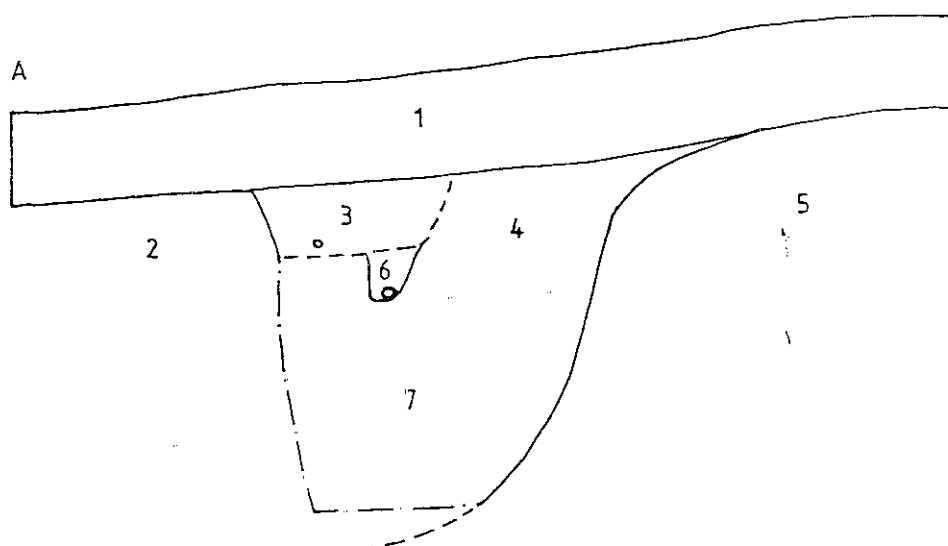


Fig 4 Field 'N' - Plans and section of trench E. Scale 1:20.

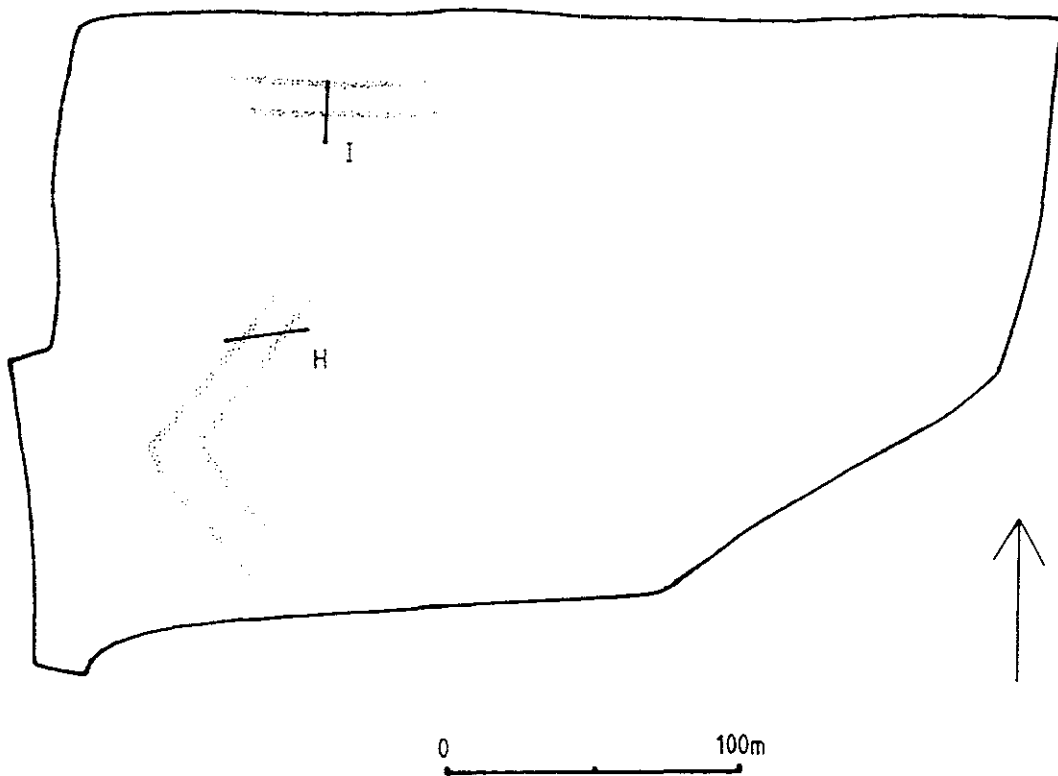


Fig 5 Field 'P' showing location of the crop marks and the trial trenches excavated across them.

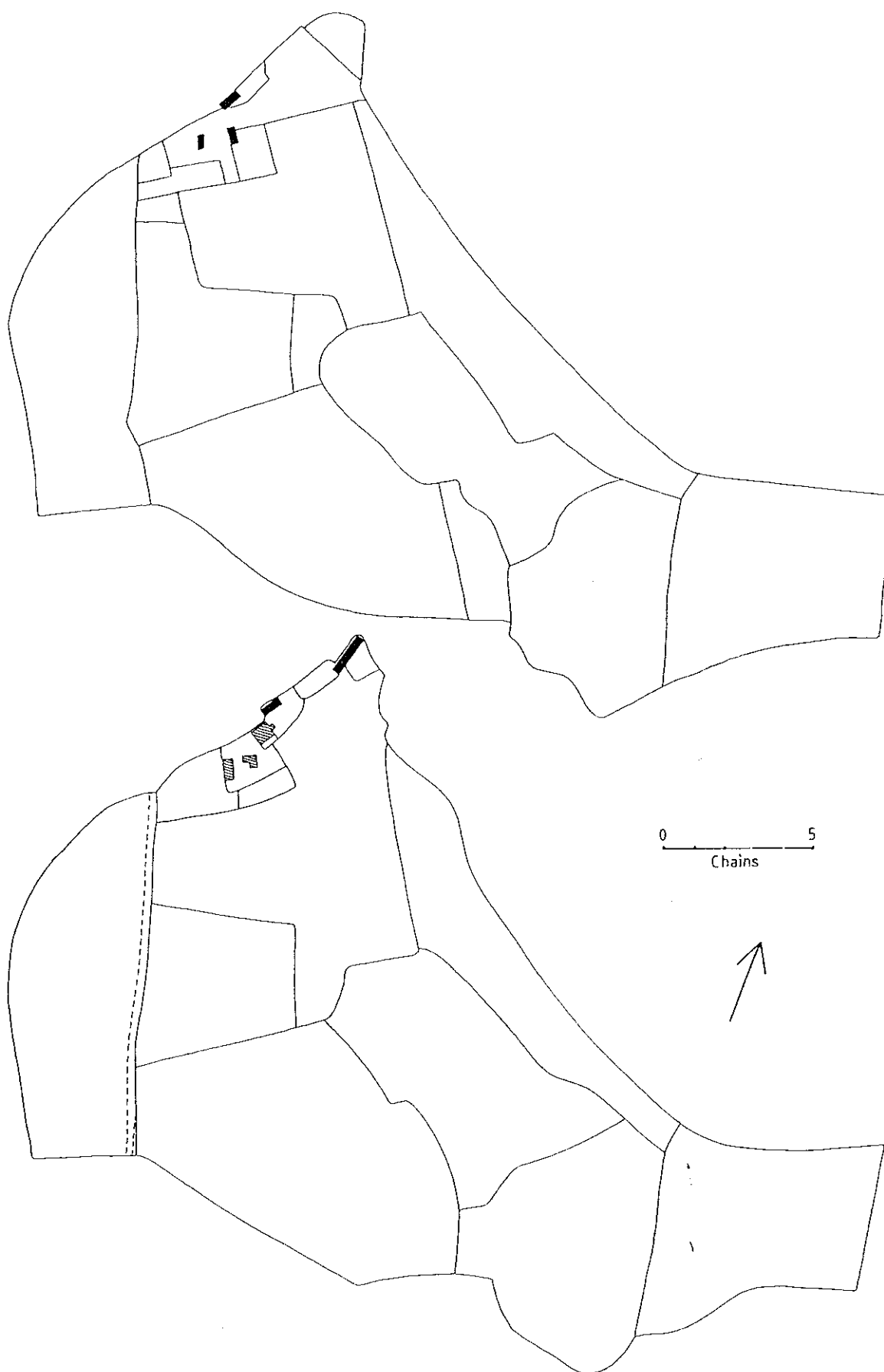


Fig 6 Ship Farm, Morcombelake. Top: copy of a plan prepared in 1825 for John Flew (DRO D 411/T3). Bottom: copy of an extract from the 1840 Tithe Map showing dwellings solid and outbuildings hatched (DRO T/SSG).

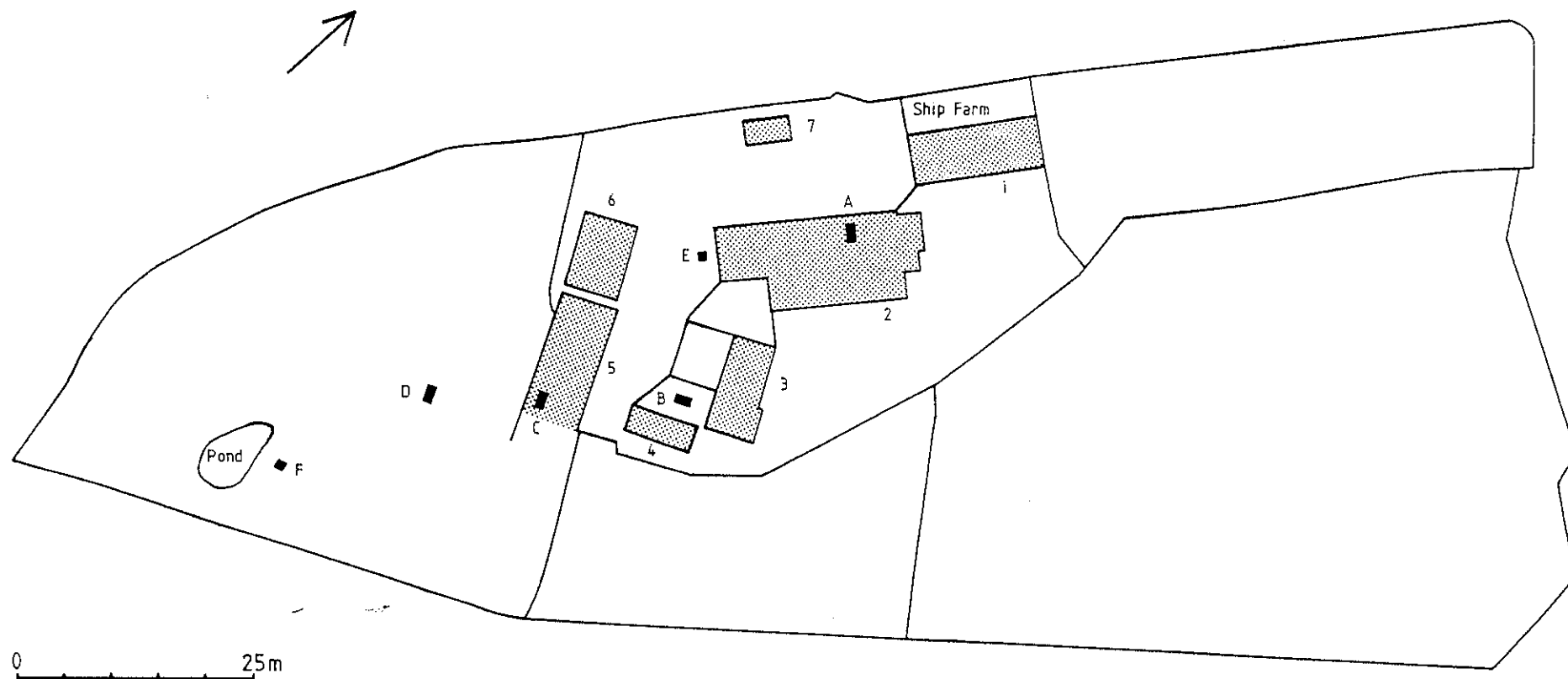


Fig 7 Plan of Ship Farm showing the location of structures 1 - 7 and trenches A - F.

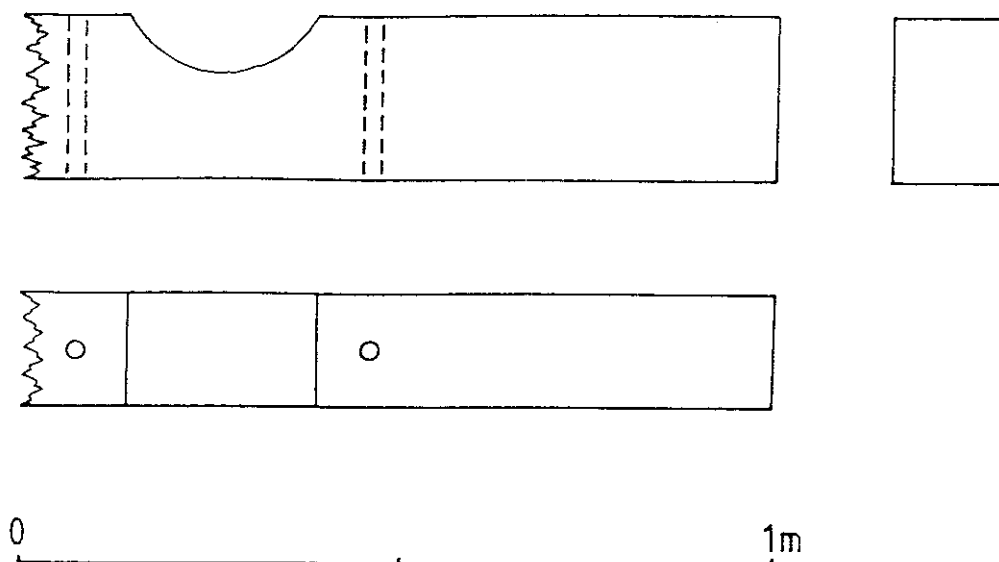


Fig 8 Wooden beam, possibly from a wreck since it has been attacked by marine boring mollusca. It was reused as a lintel over the front door of Ship Farm and removed by Mr Harrington during restoration work.

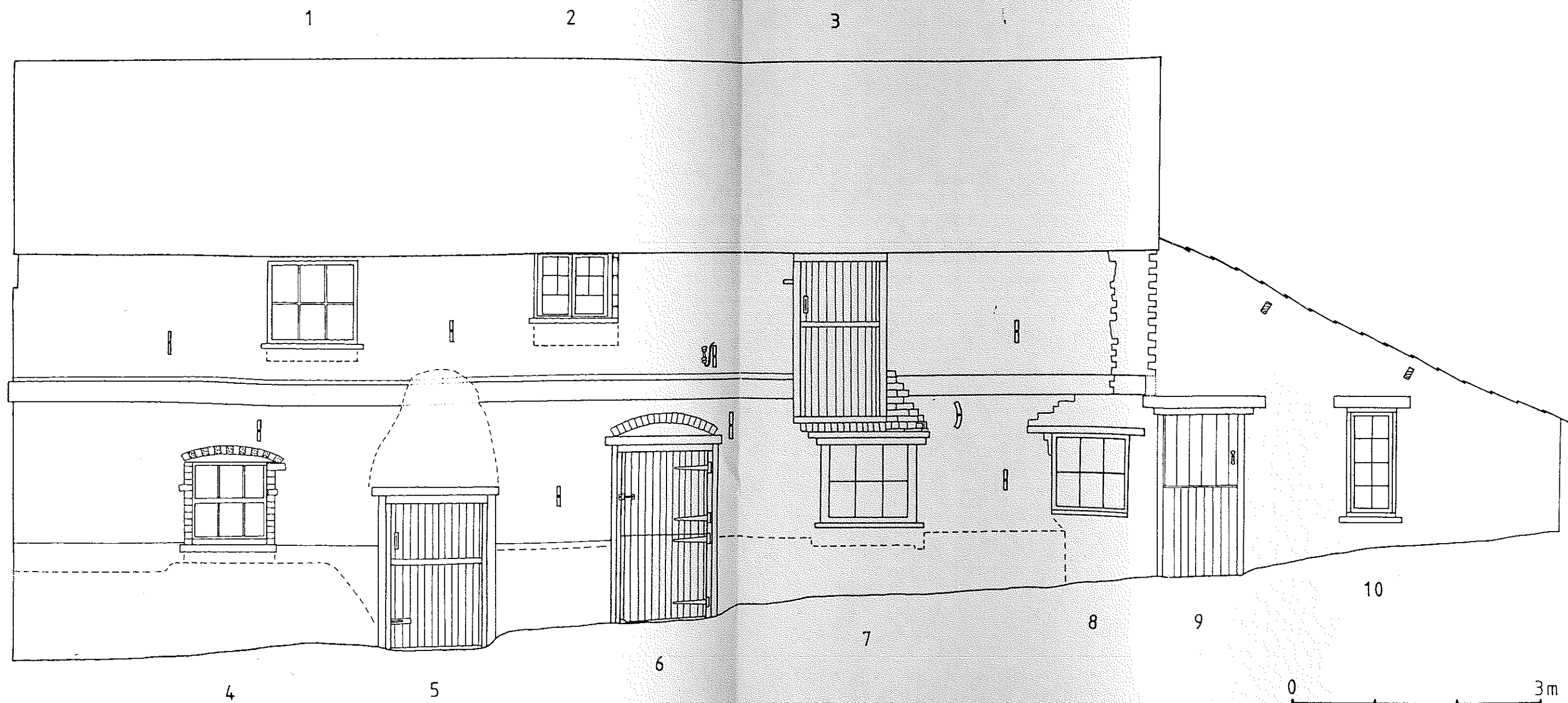
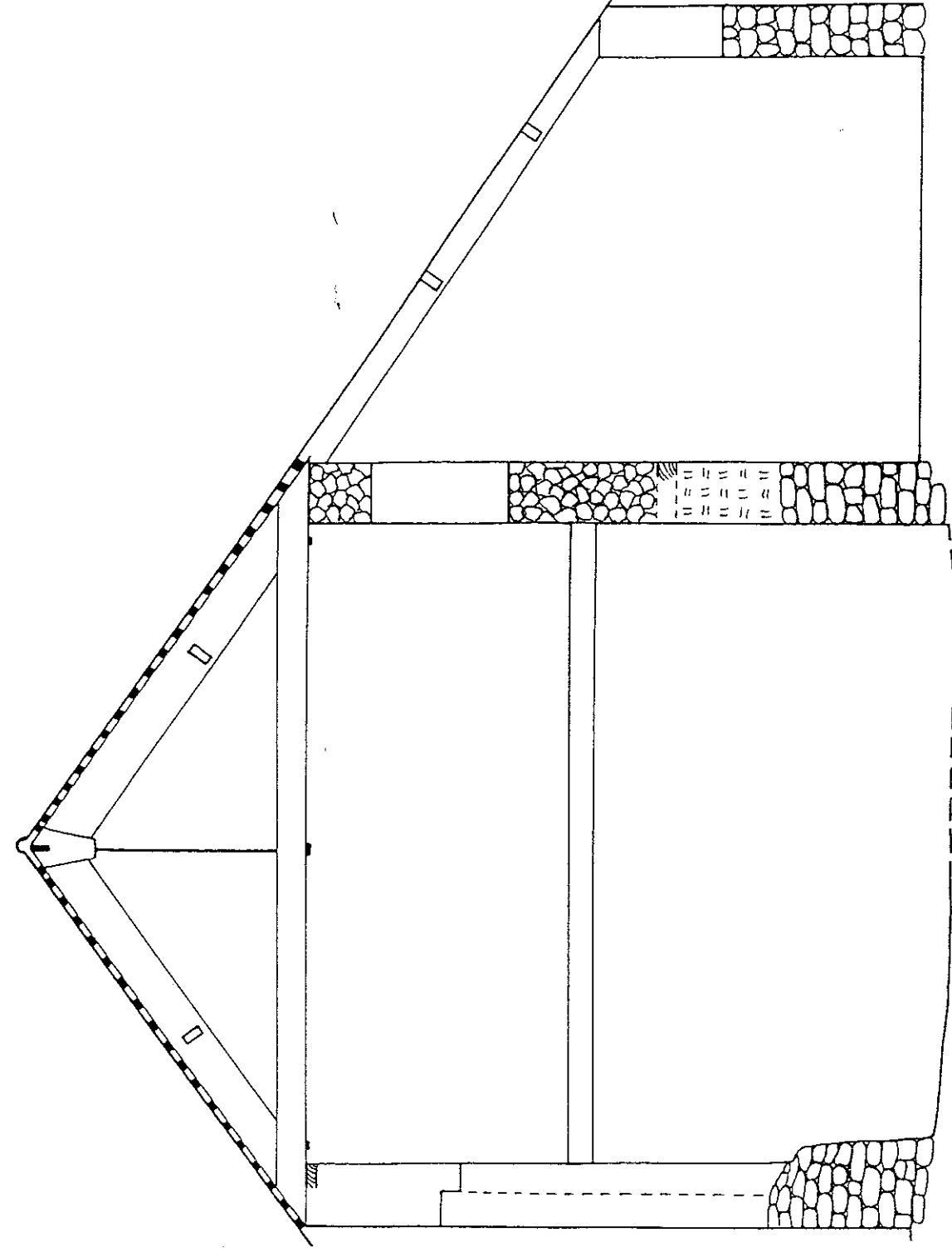


Fig 9 Front elevation of the Large Barn (Structure 2) at Ship Farm.



0 3m

Fig. 10 Cross section of the Large Barn (Structure 2) at Ship Farm.

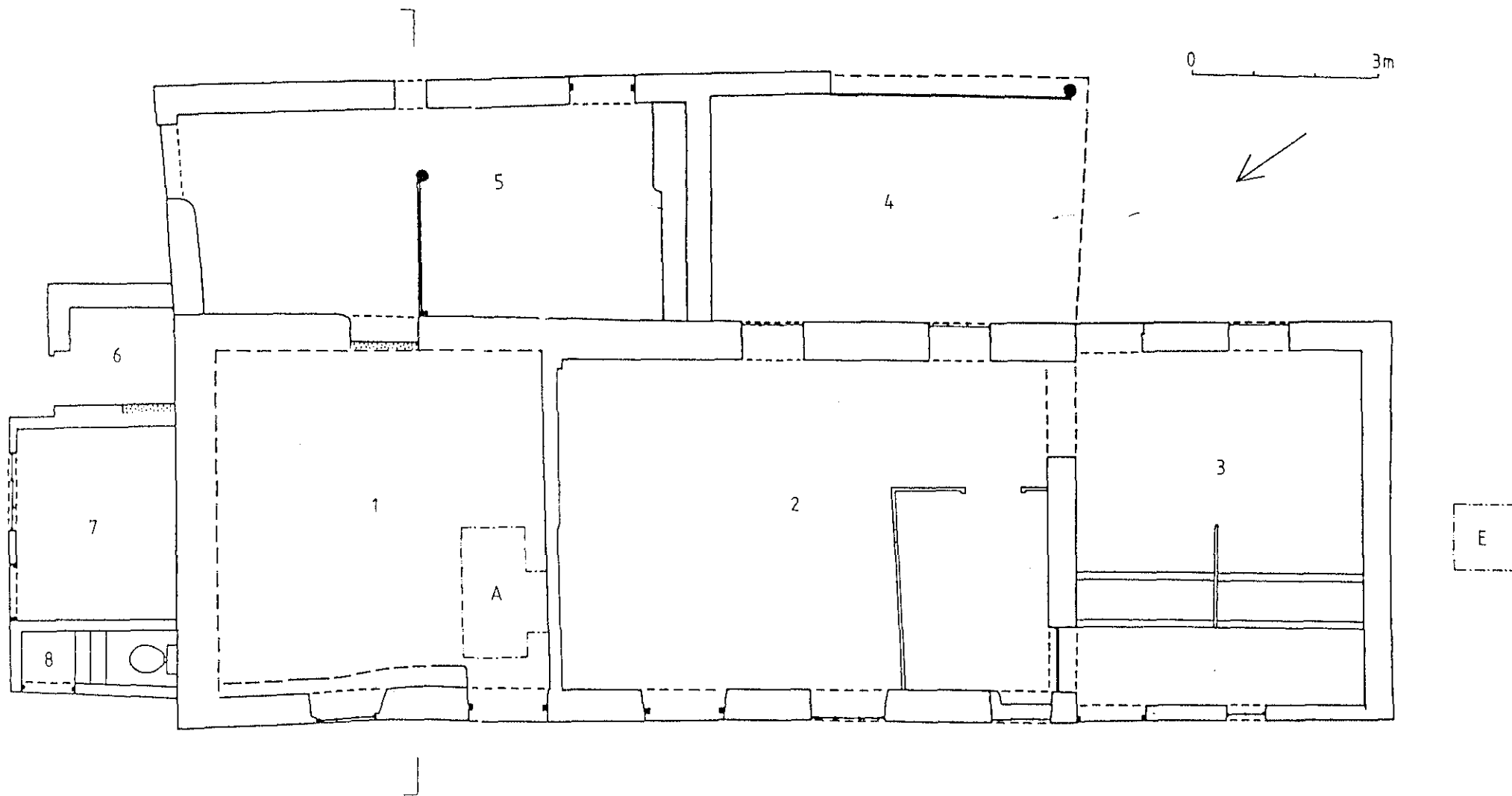


Fig 11 Plan of the Large Barn (Structure 2) at Ship Farm showing the room numbering and location of trenches A and E.

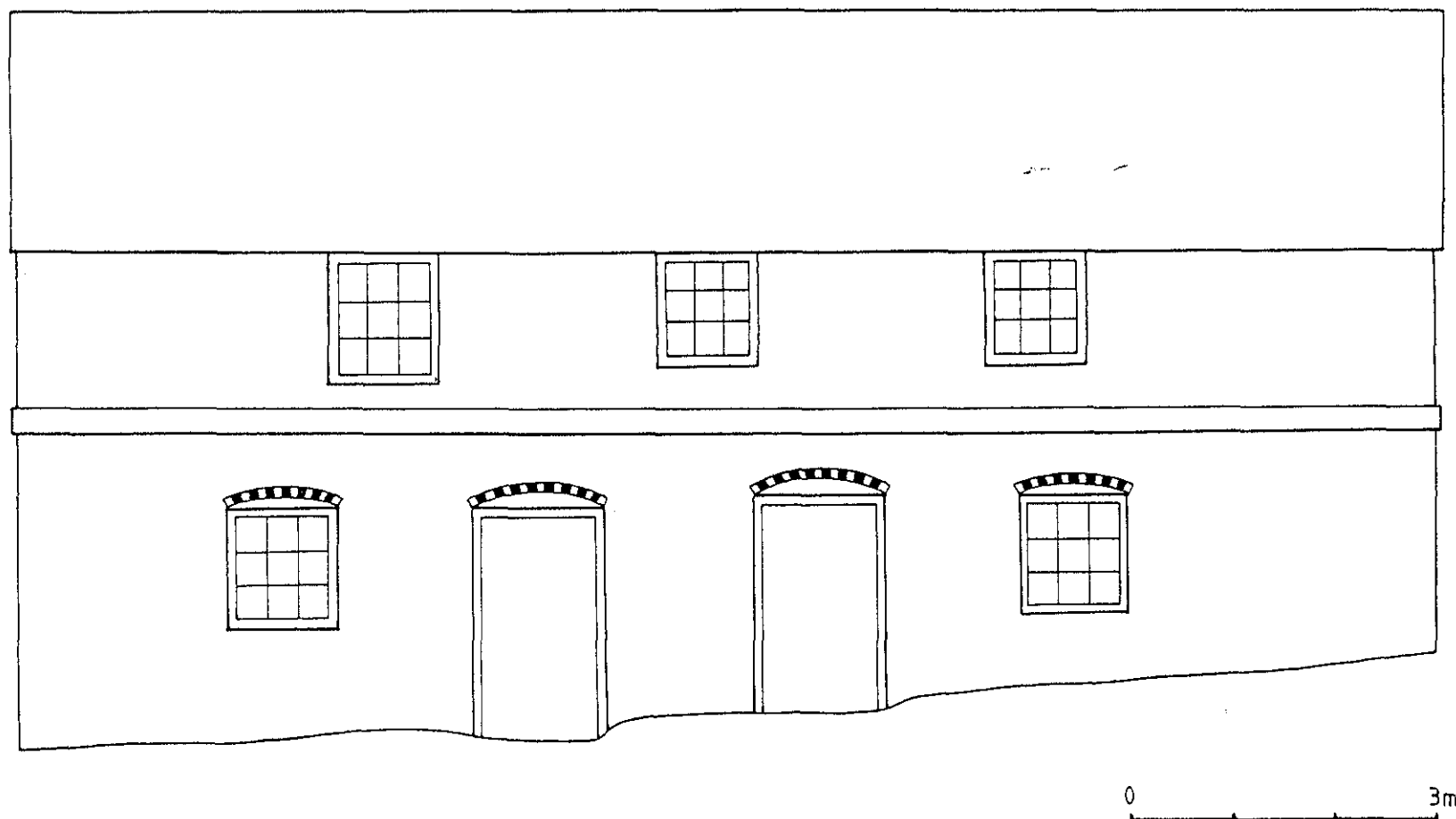


Fig 12 Suggested reconstruction of the front elevation of the Large Barn (structure 2) in its eighteenth century form.

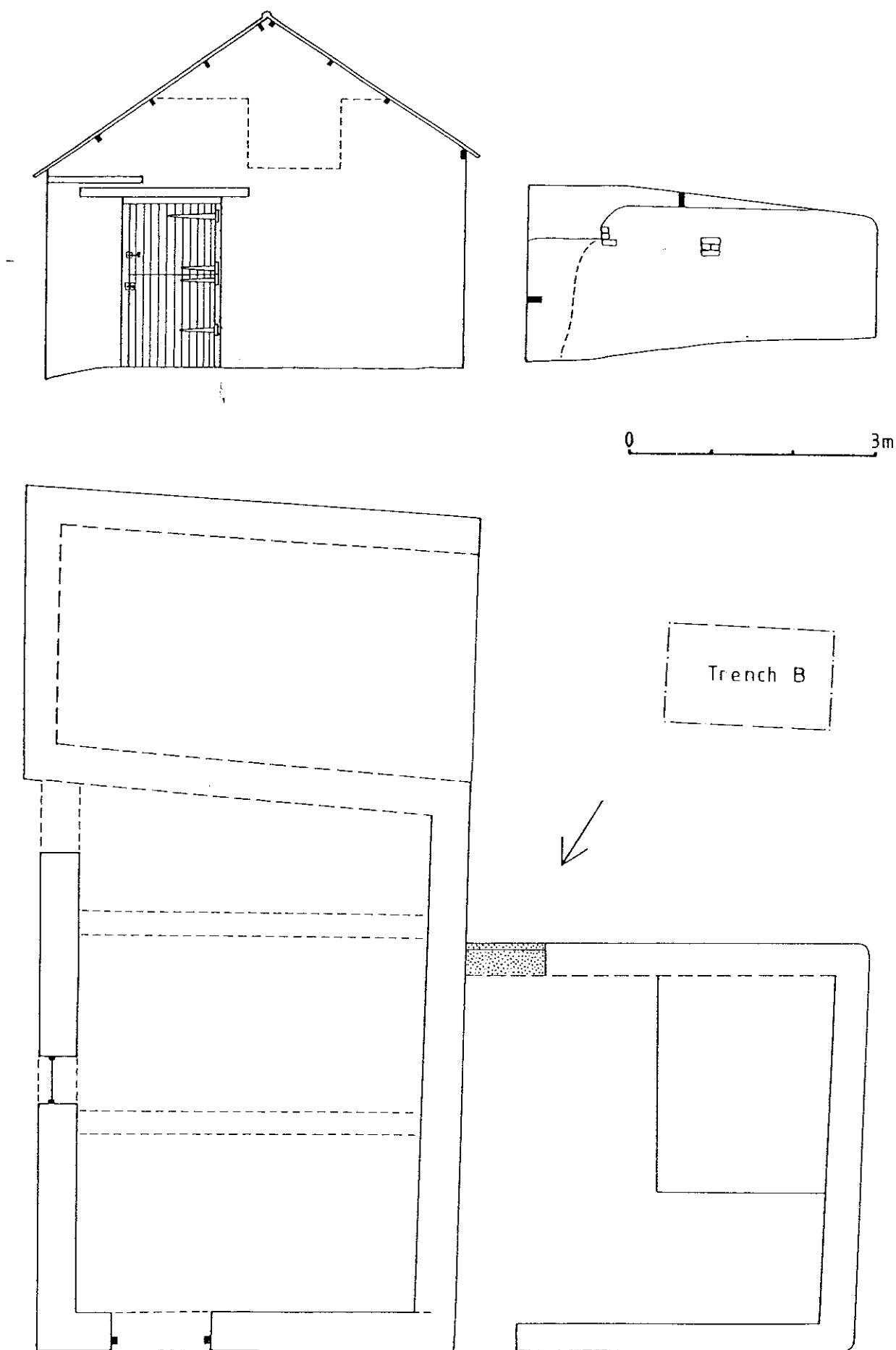


Fig 13 Plan and section of the Small Barn (Structure 3) at Ship Farm showing the location of trench B.

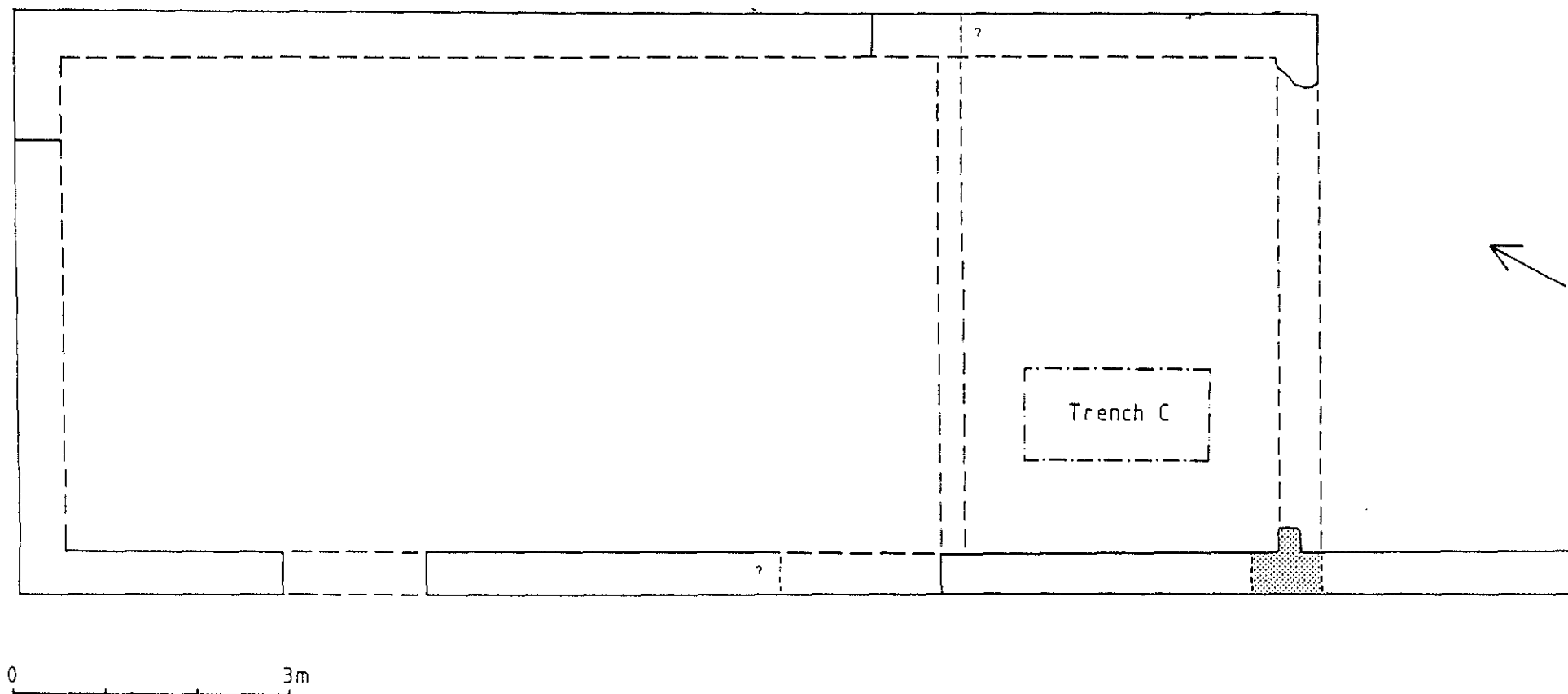


Fig 14 Plan of the Ruin (Structure 5) at Ship Farm showing the location of trench C.

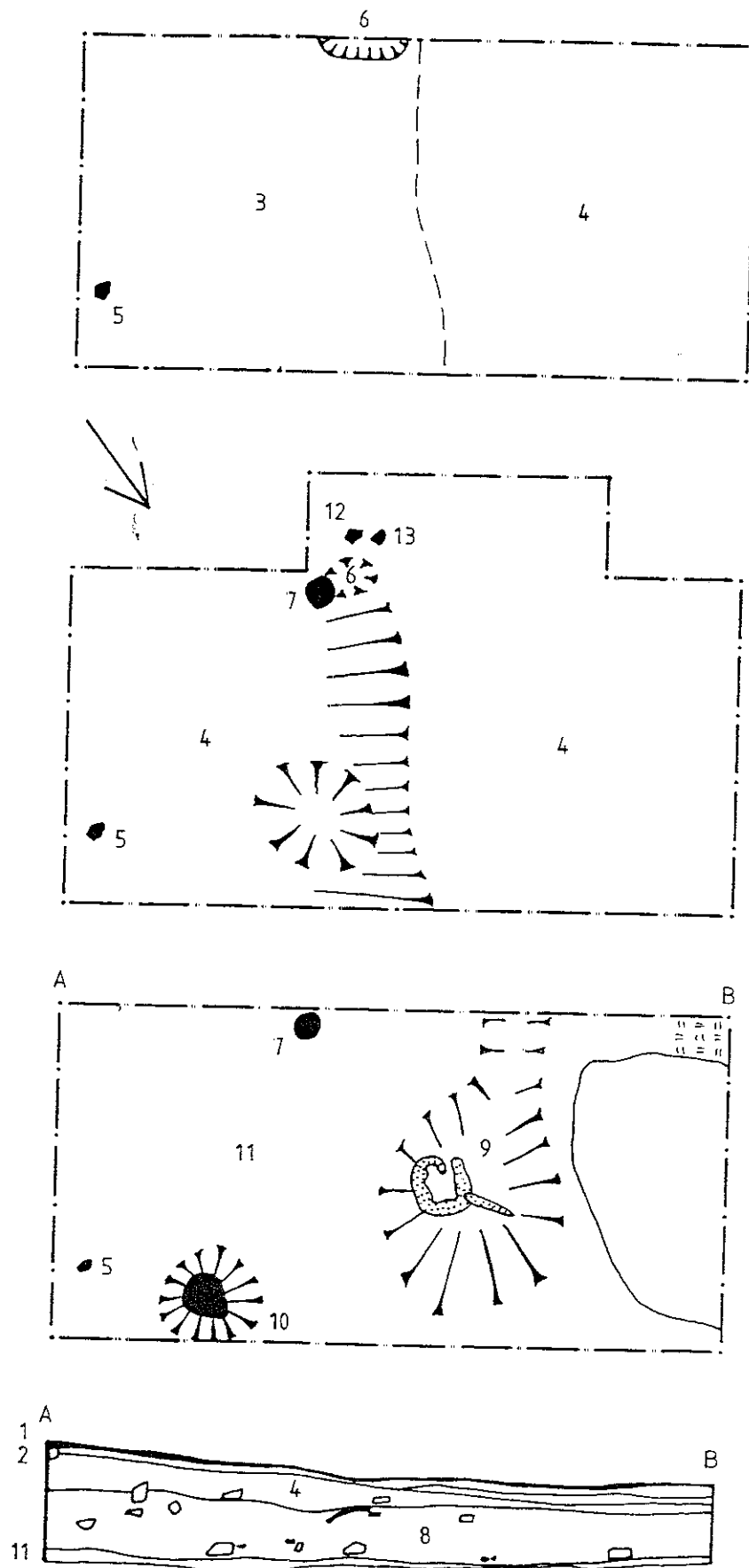


Fig 15 Ship Farm - Plans and section of trench A. Scale 1:20.

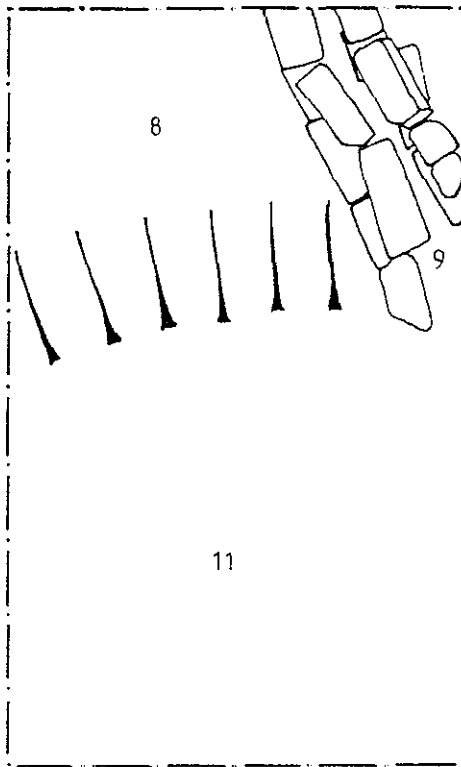
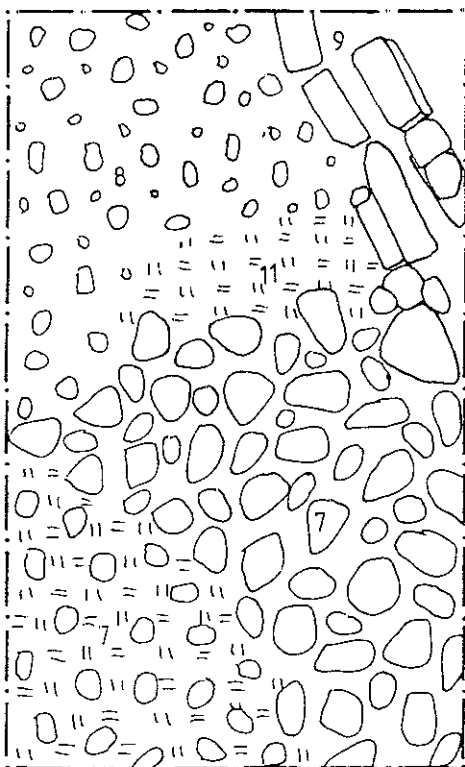
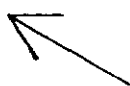
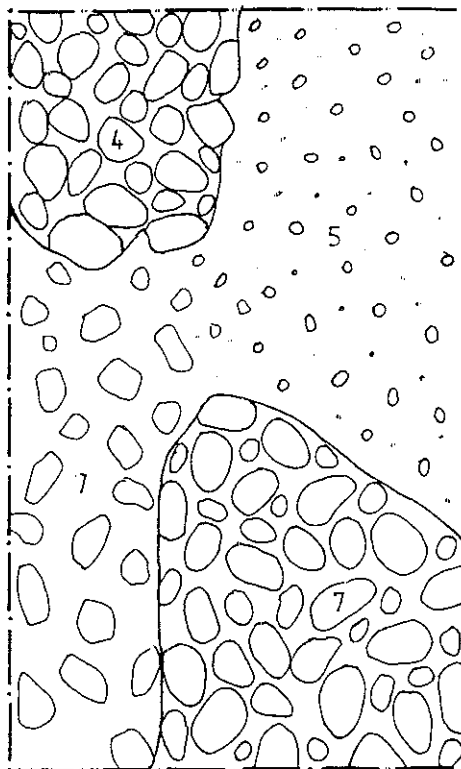


Fig 16 Ship Farm - Plans of trench B. Scale 1:20.

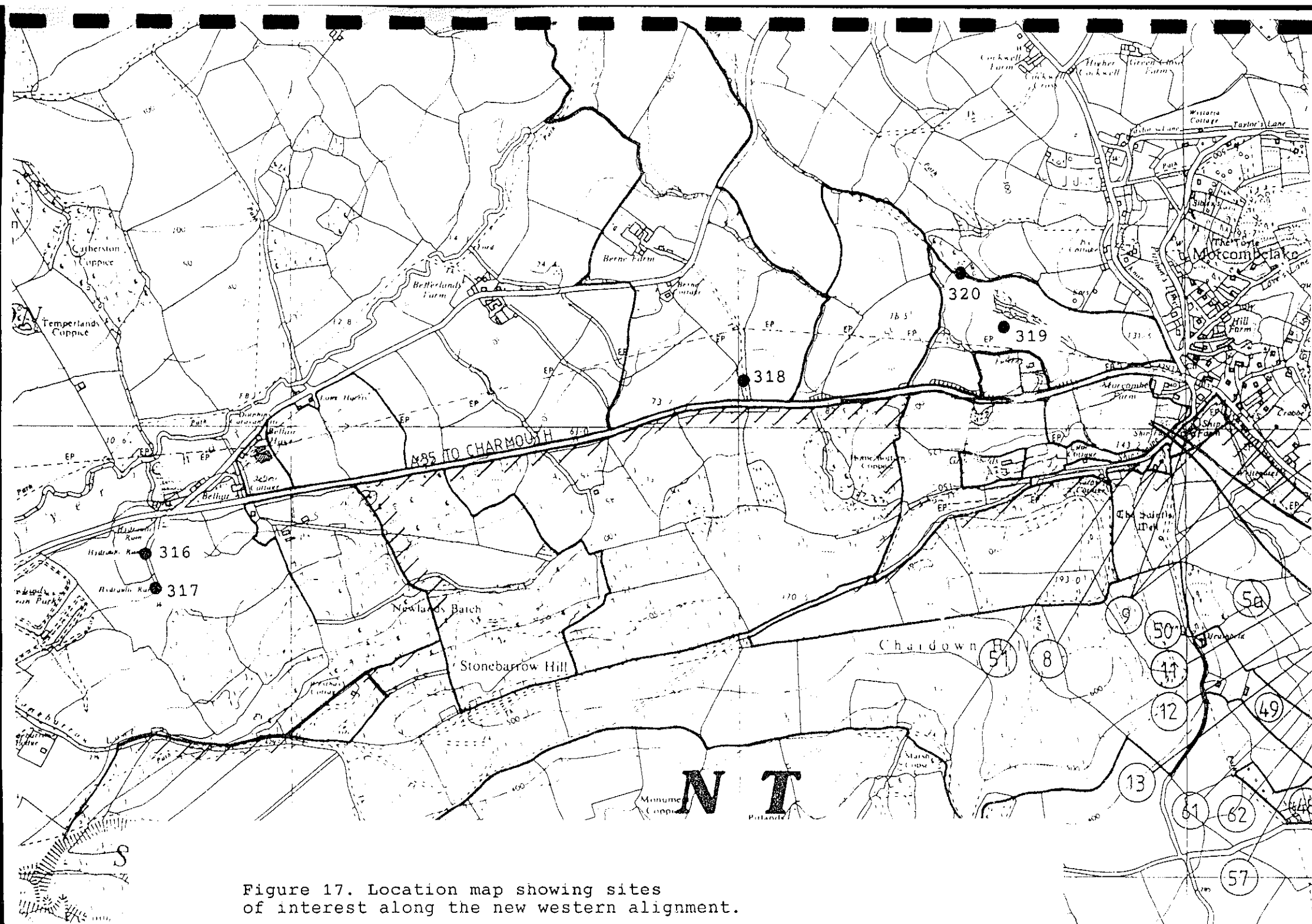


Figure 17. Location map showing sites of interest along the new western alignment.