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**A40 Gypsy Corner
Improvements to Western Avenue**

(OS Grid Ref. 520500 181700)

**Archaeological Field Evaluation
GYP 93**

A Report on Behalf of

Sir Frederick Snow & Partners

By

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of road improvements at the corner of the A40 Western Avenue and Horn Lane, Acton by South Eastern Archaeological Services over the last two weeks of April 1993.

A previous desk top assessment, also undertaken by SEAS, had concluded that a medieval moat was possibly to be found beneath the site. The moat was recorded on the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record.

Four machine trenches were excavated in the carpark of the car supermarket on the site. The aim of the evaluation was to locate and sample the moat and any associated structures or remains for their archaeological and palaeo-environmental potential.

The evaluation failed to locate the moat or any other medieval structures. It is concluded that in the areas sampled 19th and 20th century activity has destroyed any earlier remains; limited amounts of residual medieval artifacts were recovered. However, it is not impossible that limited archaeological deposits are present in non-evaluated areas, e.g. under the car supermarket.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 SEAS were commissioned by Sir Frederick Snow & Partners (SFSP) to undertake the field evaluation of land within the curtilage of the car supermarket at the corner of the A40 Western Avenue and Horn Lane. SEAS had already undertaken a desk top assessment (cgp/gyp/gyp5.doc) of the site on behalf of SFSP. The programme of archaeological assessment and evaluation was in advance of major improvements to the junction of Western Avenue and Horn Lane.
- 1.2 The assessment and evaluation constituted the two stage assessment recommended by English Heritage (letter to SFSP 25.11.92, no ref.) to investigate the threat posed by the road improvement scheme to the potential archaeological deposits of the area; specifically a potential moated site thought to be present under the car supermarket. The field evaluation stage would be subject to the conclusions of the desk top assessment.
- 1.2 The initial assessment report made recommendations concerning the desirability of undertaking a programme of field evaluation to further investigate the site.
- 1.3 After consideration of the report a programme of field evaluation was requested by English Heritage, London Region (EH). Although a detailed brief was not provided, a specification for the work with research objectives was agreed between the interested parties.
- 1.4 The area of the evaluation was within the outer tarmac carpark of the car supermarket. This was determined by availability of land rather than purely on archaeological considerations. The necessity to return the site to its former condition after completion of the evaluation limited the potential for evaluating large areas.
- 1.5 The fieldwork was completed within the specified time and the author is happy to acknowledge the assistance and perseverance of the manager and staff of the car supermarket, Paul Sanders of SFSP and Robert Whytehead of EH.

2.0 THE EVALUATION AREA

- 2.1 The evaluation area is located in Figure 1 (OS grid reference 520500 181700) and illustrated in more detail in Figure 3. It approximates to the curtilage of the former 367 Horn Lane, originally Friars Place farmhouse. The area is at present under tarmac and in use as a carpark. The modern topography is essentially urban and is dominated by a car supermarket at the junction of Horn Lane and the A40; the former constituting the eastern boundary of the evaluation area. This is a modern "light industrial" style building and is the latest in a succession of different buildings of diverse uses.
- 2.2 The evaluation area was determined by the availability of suitable land rather than overriding archaeological considerations, though it does roughly coincide with the probable moated area. It would have been unreasonable to excavate within the car supermarket itself and access to gardens adjacent to the moated area was not possible.
- 2.3 The evaluation area is at about 30m above Ordnance Datum. The surrounding area varies between +28m O.D. and +32m O.D. The natural sub-soil is the London Clay, weathered at its surface. The London clay is fissured in this area, but is otherwise known to be relatively impermeable. There was no evidence for *in situ* terrace gravels above the clay. Drainage within the area is impeded with ground water and surface run off readily collecting in open trenches.

3.0 BACKGROUND TO THE EVALUATION

- 3.0.1 The archaeological evaluation was a recommendation of the initial desk top assessment. Its broad aim was to investigate the impact of proposed road improvements and associated works on the potential archaeological content of the area. The results of this work could then be used to predict the likely impact of the road on any archaeological deposits that might exist under the car supermarket and adjoining areas.
- 3.0.2 The evaluation will now be placed in context by first summarizing the archaeological background of the area, then noting the nature of the proposed road improvement scheme and finally examining the conclusions and recommendations of the desk top assessment.
- 3.1 Archaeological Background
- 3.1.1 The presence of a moated site within the evaluation area is recorded on the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GLSMR): GLSMR reference 050510. The record notes an OS grid reference of TQ 20475 81675. It describes it as a medieval moated site, now destroyed, which was possibly

the manor house of St. Bartholomew's. The location for a moat had been suggested by what appears to be a water filled feature on the 1865, 1894 and 1914 editions of the OS 1:2500 maps for the area. These illustrate two sides (south and west) of what may be a rectangular feature (Figure 3). The southern arm is about 65m long and the western is about 50m long. There is, however, no unequivocal evidence that a medieval moated site is present at the Friars Place Farm location.

- 3.1.2 In summary, little more was known about the site. Swainson-Cooper informs us that Friars' Place Farm was moated on two sides; his sketch suggests the south and west sides (Swainson-Cooper 1890). He records the presence of old buildings which he describes as "*....old-fashioned and picturesque*". King-Baker (King-Baker 1912) notes that the site was originally known as Pryors' or Priors' Place Farm. He also notes a "Guild Record of 1894" which states that

".....at the commencement of the present century (C19th ?) there remained, we are told, vestiges of several moated houses....There are one or two mansions of this character.....One of them is the old farm house Friars' Place Farm."

Keene (Keene 1975) was aware of the location of the probable moated site but could add nothing to the comment in the V.C.H (V.C.H II, 4) of 1911 that the site was to be found 440 yards N of Acton station. Smith (Smith 1987) attributes it as the manor house of St. Bartholomew's, Smithfield. Here he cites V.C.H (V.C.H Middlesex VII, 17-18), though they are not so certain in the attribution and only suggest a possible ownership. They note that the change of name to Friars' Place Farm is first recorded in 1684.

- 3.1.3 English Heritage also noted the proximity of gravel river terraces associated with climatic change in the Pleistocene period and, therefore, the potential for archaeological deposits of that date.

3.2 The Road Improvement Scheme

- 3.2.1 The threat to potential archaeological remains is the improvements to the A40 Western Avenue and, more specifically, the realignment of Horn Lane and the re-routing of certain piped services (Figure 3). This figure shows Horn Lane realigned to the west, passing through the site of the car supermarket before joining the A40 at a new roundabout and flyover. It's northern exit from the roundabout is also slightly to the west of it's current meeting with the A40.

3.2.2 Whilst the proposed road is not intended to be materially higher or lower than at present, its construction will necessitate excavation to a maximum of 1m below present ground level. In addition there will probably be provision for drains etc. at a greater depth. Deeper foundations will be required for the flyover.

3.2.3 Figure 3 also illustrates corridors (numbered 1 - 6) which are earmarked for re-routed services. The following list outlines the nature of the service and the probable depth of disturbance. This is not intended as an accurate portrayal of the exact position of the intended services. Its purpose is to indicate general areas of potential disturbance and conflict

- 1. Thames Water. Trench disturbance to approx. 1.60m below present ground surface.
- 2. Thames Water & British Telecom. Similar disturbance.
- 3. BT. Trench disturbance to approx. 3.0m - 5.0m below present ground surface.
- 4. BT. As 1.
- 5. Thames Water & BT. As 1.
- 6. Thames Water & BT. As 1.

3.2.4 The road scheme is at an advanced stage of planning and design. Draft orders have been published and a Public Inquiry was held in 1989. Notices of Intent have been issued and Notices of entry are imminent. Orders for advanced works will be completed soon.

3.3 The Desk Top Assessment

3.3.1 On the basis of the threat posed by the improvement scheme to potential archaeological deposits within the area, a full desk top assessment was undertaken with the aims of plotting an exact location for the moat, providing information on the extent and function of any associated buildings both within and without the moated area, assessing the likely impact of the scheme and making recommendations regarding the desirability of undertaking field evaluation. These broad aims were proposed by EHL

3.3.2 Despite a thorough assessment of all the readily available information pertinent to the Friars Place Farm site there was little that could be concluded with confidence. In the first instance an exact location was not possible from map sources and it could not be proven if the moat had originally had northern and eastern sides. Secondly there was no firm evidence for the manorial status of the moat or its owners. Thus any internal buildings etc. are

conjectural. However, inferences suggest that there may have been a wide range of associated buildings, especially if the site was a manorial complex. Buildings might be expected within and without the moated area.

3.3.3 Research also suggested that there must be doubt as to the degree of survival of any archaeological remains which are not dug into the sub-soil. The site has been subject to extensive development over the last 130 years or so, though it is not known how intrusive and damaging this development has been.

3.3.4 In addition, the report further concluded that on the basis of restricted borehole evidence there were no grounds for expecting significant Pleistocene archaeological potential close to the modern surface. However, high water tables suggested that cut features and depressions may be expected to be waterlogged and, therefore, have good organic preservation.

3.4 Recommendations of the Desk Top AssessmentAssessment

3.4.1 The report noted that if the aims of the EH brief (3.3.1) were to be satisfactorily answered, the problem would need to be further addressed by field evaluation. In the first instance there was still no clear indication that a moated site had ever been present within the area in question; the evidence suggested so, but was not unequivocal. Secondly, the sources available to the desk top assessment had been insufficient to accurately locate the "moat", define the extent or function of any associated structures or confidently conclude whether such archaeological deposits, if they ever existed, would have survived subsequent development.

4.0 EVALUATION AIMS

4.1 The specific aims of the evaluation were

- to locate the eastern and northern arms of the moated site
- to retrieve data on the palaeo-environmental potential of the moat
- to assess the potential for the survival of archaeological deposits within the moated area.
- to test the observation that medieval buildings remained into the early C20th.

5.0 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1** Following discussions between all interested parties a trench based methodology was agreed upon. Although four trenches were initially proposed permission was only granted for three; subsequently it proved desirable to excavate a fourth. The rationale for each trench follows.

5.1.1 Trench 1

On the assumption that the feature marked on the OS maps is the remains of a moat with 4 sides, Trench 1 was positioned to locate and sample the eastern arm of the moat and part of the moated area. The OS maps illustrated a marked enlargement of the southern arm of the moat which is recorded as a pond. SEAS interpreted this as a modification of the junction of the eastern and southern arms of the moat which might have seriously disturbed any archaeological deposits. Trench 1 was, therefore, deliberately located to the north of this area to sample a section of the moat not recorded on the OS maps. The assumption being that it should, therefore, have been backfilled prior to 1865 and contain relatively undisturbed deposits.

5.1.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located to sample the interior of the moated area and test if the western arm of the moat returns at this point to form a northern arm.

5.1.3 Trench 3

Trench three was to have sampled an area external to the moat. Permission was not granted to undertake this work.

5.1.4 Trench 4

This was located at the request of EH to sample the possible medieval undercroft noted in para. 4.2.7 of the desk top assessment report. The source for the description of the possible undercroft notes that it was on the right hand side of a courtyard. Depending on which way one is facing this could be either the north or south sides. However, as it had seemed reasonable to interpret the buildings on the north side as the cottages mentioned by various sources, the southern range of buildings was sampled.

5.1.5 Trench 5

This was located to sample the eastern arm of the moat once this feature was found to be absent from trench 1.

- 5.2 All of the trenches, with the exception of trench 3, were located to sample specific features and can be considered as purposive. On closer examination of the site it was concluded that the carpark was significantly smaller than the property boundary indicated on the engineer's 1:500 site plan; the southern boundary had been moved northwards and the western boundary moved eastwards. This necessitated positioning trenches 2 and 4 slightly to the east of their proposed locations. Trench locations are provided in Figure 2. Note that the points 1a, 1b, 1c.....etc. are external grid points rather than trench corners.
- 5.3 All trenches were excavated by machine (JCB 3CX). The necessity of cutting tarmac and, in some instances, working between buried walls required the use of a 2' 6" toothed bucket on the back 'actor'. A wider toothless ditching bucket would have been ineffective and unweildy.
- 5.4 In all trenches, after the removal of tarmac, all demonstrably C19th and C20th deposits were removed by machine. Stratigraphic excavation was then employed involving the archaeological cleaning and recording of all contexts, at least in section, and selective excavation. Single context recording was not used. However, all contexts were recorded on Museum of London context sheets using the Museum of London site recording manual. Trench sections were recorded at an appropriate scale (1:20) as were composite plans of surviving masonry features. The trench specific approach is noted in the results section.
- 5.5 In Trench 1 a complete section of the moat was to be excavated by machine. This was considered the most cost efficient method of sampling the primary silts for dating and palaeo-environmental material and establishing the overall depth of archaeologically important stratigraphy. The moat was to be machined in spits. On failing to locate the moated feature, an additional trench (Trench 5) was excavated in a similar manner.

6.0 RESULTS

6.1 Trench 1. Figures 2 & 4

- 6.1.1 Trench 1 was initially approximately 13.5m long and 1.5m wide. It was machined in spits to a maximum depth of 1.80m below present ground level. Natural London clay was present at approx. 28.25m OD. There was no evidence for a moat or any other substantial cut feature. There was a maximum of 1.15m of stratigraphy overlying London clay. Below the modern tarmac surface and its Type 1 sub-base (Contexts 1 & 2) there are two major hardcore layers (Contexts 19 & 20). The high percentage of building rubble in the upper layer suggests that it may derive from the demolition of the Friars Place farm house. Below this, contexts 21, 22, 23 & 25 are suggestive of deliberate levelling perhaps to produced several phases

of "gravelled" area. Context 21 contained substantial amounts of coal fragments in a coal dust matrix. Contexts 22 and 25 comprise lenses of poorly sorted flint gravel and "hogging". Context 23 is a coarse well sorted sand. Context 24 comprises two parallel and contiguous lines of shelly limestone blocks. They are roughly squared with some evidence for dressing. Maximum dimensions are 490mm x 200mm x 180mm. They are surrounded by context 25 on all sides and are best interpreted as contemporary. Context 25 has a marked concentration of clay roof tile and broken brick fragments at its base. This context lies directly on the natural subsoil without any intervening topsoil layer or other organic horizon. This suggests that the natural sub-soil has been truncated. However, the two closest boreholes to the evaluation area suggest that weathered London clay was encountered at similar datums to that present in the trench. Truncation may not have been substantial.

- 6.1.2 Following a site meeting, EH requested that the trench be extended at its eastern end to reveal more of the masonry feature and widened over its entire length to investigate the boundary between London clay and context 25. Figure 2 records the final extent of the trench. No features were recorded cut into natural clay.

- 6.1.3 Dateable material from the sequence is sparse, though C20th material is present in contexts 19 & 20. With artifacts absent from contexts 21, 22 & 23, the artifacts at the base of context 25 are crucial for providing a *terminus post quem* for gravel layers and associated masonry. The ceramic building material was all broken and it was not possible to record dimensions or types, other than to note that the sample appeared to consist entirely of peg hole tiles and bricks. The roof tiles are all made of a hard fired red fabric and two tiles have square peg holes. They are probably 'post-medieval'. Two brick fragments are in a soft, bright red fabric and may be early C15th - mid C17th. One sherd of post-medieval hard fired earthenware was also recovered, for which a date range of 1700 - 1900 is suggested. Although the context may include late medieval ceramic building material, this must be interpreted as residual and a *terminus-post quem* as late as 1900 is suggested by the one sherd of pottery.

6.2 Trench 2. Figures 2 & 5

- 6.2.1 Originally, Trench 2 was positioned to test the hypothesis that a northern arm of the moat ran approximately parallel to the south wall of the car supermarket. The trench had been provisionally positioned to miss the "cottages", building 'E' in the assessment report. However, due to the changes in the property boundary, the trench had to be positioned in the area thought to contain building 'E'. If building 'E' proved to be of medieval origin the original aim of the trench would be abandoned to concentrate on this aspect.

- 6.2.2 Although a regular 10m x 2m trench was intended, the result was a rather non-geometric, slightly curved affair varying in width from 2m to 2.5m. The trench was initially machined to the top of floor layers and masonry features. Where they were established as C19th or C20th they were machined through to allow an examination of earlier deposits.
- 6.2.3 Within the trench a maximum of 1.15m of stratigraphy was recorded. Central to the trench was an approximately east-west aligned English bond red brick wall (Context 15). An associated flagged area (Context 16) was present to the south, with a thin concrete screed (Context 10) overlying a base of tight packed on edge bricks (Context 11) to the north. A brick built octagonal(?) "pier" (Context 17) was present in the northeast corner of the trench. A probable infilled man-hole (Context 18) accords acceptably well with the feature recorded on the engineers 1:500 site survey. Context 15 is the stratigraphically earliest feature in the trench. It is built directly onto London clay. Its northern edge is stepped at the top to take the brick and screed floor and an "offset" (Not recorded on the section) is present in its lowest course. The latter is overlain by the lowest deposit in the stratigraphic sequence to the north of the wall (Context 14. Not present in the recorded section). It is suggested that these floor layers are contemporary with the wall and "pier". Contexts 13 & 14 appear to be re-deposited natural, though 14 had brick dust and fragments "trodden" into its surface, and 13 is a poorly sorted sand and clay mix acting as a bedding layer. To the south of the wall the area is greatly disturbed by the removal of a substantial tree. However, the flagged area appears always to have been roughly laid and there was no evidence for a foundation or bedding level. The man-hole was cut through this surface though there was evidence that the flags were then repositioned around it suggesting that it was dug from this level and then reinstated. This surface is interpreted as an external paved area.
- 6.2.4 Dateable material is absent from any contexts associated with the construction of the features described above.
- 6.3 **Trench 4. Figures 2 & 6**
- 6.3.1 Trench 4 was positioned to sample a range of buildings on the south side of the farm courtyard to test the hypothesis that the structure might include a medieval undercroft. Its actual location was about 1m to 2m east of its intended position to accommodate changes in the carpark property boundary. After removal of tarmac and sub-base, hardcore was removed by machine to the top of floor layers and masonry features. After cleaning and recording of all contexts a flagged floor was partially removed at the western end of the trench to allow earlier deposits to be sampled. These contexts were excavated by hand. The trench dimensions were approximately 9m x 2m.

6.3.2 The maximum depth of stratigraphy recorded was 0.80m. Below the tarmac and sub-base was a 0.30m thick layer of hardcore (Context 3). The abundance of brick and other ceramic building material suggests that it derives from the demolition of the underlying building. This layer sealed two well preserved flagged floors and two brick walls. The main east - west red brick wall (Context 6) has a plaster facing and skirting board on its north face (Context 5); there was no obvious floor level to the south although a concrete "screed" (Context 32) was visible which perhaps suggests an external hard standing. It is suggested, therefore, that this wall is external. About 3.20m from the east end of the trench there is evidence for a doorway or perhaps a low window. At points 'A' and 'B' on the plan there is evidence for a vertical plaster face and between these points there is also the suggestion of a horizontal screed of plaster. Note also that the bricks are built to a different bond. The proximity of broken glass (south side) would point to a window rather than a door. The bond of the wall was irregular but predominantly Header. Perpendicular to and bonded with this wall is a thinner internal wall with a step on the west face (Context 7); the bond is English Cross. Context 7 separates two flagstone floors (Contexts 4 & 8) which are at different levels (context 8 is 0.10m higher). They are both constructed of competent shelly limestone. The upper surface is dressed though the underside is rough hewn. Context 4 is set in a coarse sand and mortar mix (Context 27). Below this, Contexts 28, 29 & 30 contain variable amounts of coarse sand and grit and may represent the formation of a level surface on which to lay the flagstones. Contexts 4, 27, 28, 29 & 30 are all stratigraphically later than the east - west wall. However, all the contexts (i.e. 4, 6, 7, 8, 27, 28, 29 & 30) are associated with the building and its construction are interpreted as one broad phase. Below context 30, context 31 lies directly on London clay; it is stratigraphically earlier than the wall (Context 6). This is the only context sampled to pre-date the construction of the building.

6.3.3 Context 31 contains three sherds of late medieval (C14th - C15th) pottery, one is of possible Kingston Type ware. However, hard fired post medieval roof tile is also present. The bricks from the main wall (Context 6) are dated as mid C17th - C19th. Therefore, a date before the 1818 rebuilding of the farmhouse is quite feasible for this range of buildings. The presence of residual medieval pottery may suggest earlier phases of building and occupation in the immediate vicinity.

6.4 Trench 5. Figure 2 & 7

6.4.1 Trench 5 was positioned to locate and sample the eastern arm of the moat after the failure of Trench 1 to do the same. A similar methodology was adopted. The trench was 14m x 1.80m and excavated to a maximum depth of 1.90m. A maximum of 1.65m of stratigraphy was recorded.

- 6.4.2 The trench located and sampled a major cut feature (Context 36) with a stone lining (Context 43). From its contemporary ground surface it was about 1m deep though its lateral extent was beyond the limits of the trench. It was cut through a succession of deposits of which only Context 41 was observed to contain artifacts, notably a concentration of ceramic building material at the interface between the base of the context and the London clay. Several of these deposits were predominantly sand and gravel, being reminiscent of contexts 22 & 25 in Trench 1. The similarity is heightened by the concentration of ceramic building material. Three major phases of infill were recorded. The earlier consists of context 46. This basal level is a poorly sorted gravel and sand mix. Above this is a layer of cohesive clay of variable thickness (Context 45). Finally, the remainder of the feature is filled in and the ground surface raised by up to 0.40m with a dark pebbly clay loam (Context 33).
- 6.4.3 Context 33 contained material which would not be inconsistent with the late C19th and early C20th, thus dating the final phase of backfilling. The basal gravel also contained material of the late C19th or early C20th. The construction of the feature lacks direct dating evidence because no dateable artifacts were recovered from the backfill (Context 35) of the construction cut. However, a C19th *terminus post quem* would not be unreasonable if the gravel and tile levels are similar in date to those in trench 1.

7.0 INTERPRETATION

- 7.1 The following brief interpretation is based on information collected during the desk top assessment, the evaluation and through the personal recollections of several local residents who made themselves known during the course of the project.
- 7.2 Trench 1
- 7.2.1 The gravel contexts are interpreted as a court/farm yard or track of several phases. A clearly defined drive is recorded at this location on the OS maps from 1934 onwards, though it is assumed that a less formal track would have been present before this. The ceramic building material at its base suggests that the earliest phase was constructed anytime after c.1700. The masonry feature is more problematic though one local resident remembers a wide driveway flanked by "white" walls leading up to the farm house; there seems no reason to doubt this recollection. Therefore, it may be contemporary with the formalization of the drive between c.1914 and 1934. The stone is well weathered and it is not inconceivable that it may be reused from earlier building phases on the site.

7.3 Trench 2

- 7.3.1 The location and angle of the east - west wall (15) accords well with the known position of the south wall of building 'E' (assessment report Fig. 3). The relevant VCH (Middx. VII, 18) notes two cottages at the rear (of the farm house) facing a paved courtyard. The paved area (16) would presumably be this courtyard. However, the substantial internal floor is hard to equate with anything required by a cottage and furthermore the VCH notes that the cottages are earlier than the farmhouse (probably 1818). Whilst the evaluation did not sample the farmhouse *in sensu stricto*, (the southern range of buildings was sampled (Trench 4), which are red brick rather than the yellow brick known for the farm house; VCH VII, 19) the quality of the brick and the degree of weathering suggested that the walls in Trench 2 post-date those in Trench 4. The source for the VCH is not clear, it might be, *inter alia*, the Ealing Local Historian (No.1, 1966) or the Ministry of Town and Country Planning Lists (1947). Figure 8 illustrates the 1865 and 1894 editions of the OS 1:2500 maps for the area. A close examination of these suggests that building 'E' on the later edition has replaced a slightly smaller building on the previous addition. This would appear to discount building 'E' as the "*earlier cottages*." Therefore, the source(s) for the cottages (VCH) either themselves cite earlier sources for buildings pre-dating those illustrated on the 1894 ed 1:2500, or they are for the buildings on the south side of the courtyard, i.e. Trench 4. The question remains open and is unlikely to be resolved without a careful examination of all the primary sources, which does not seem appropriate in this case.
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7.4 Trench 4

- 7.4.1 The location of Trench 4 indicates that the structural features recorded within it represent the buildings on the southern side of the courtyard illustrated by the OS from 1865 onwards. The last farm house on the site was known to have been built or improved in 1818. The evidence suggests that the structures could pre-date this and may, therefore, be the earlier cottages referred to above.

7.5 Trench 5

- 7.5.1 Whilst a major cut feature is present within this trench it is not a medieval moat. The evidence suggests that it is the farm yard pond known to have been present on the site and infilled in 1929. The exact date of the construction of the pond is not clear though it is known to have been present in 1865, though perhaps in a different form. If the moat had once been present in this location it could well have been obliterated by the construction of the pond. The massive limestone "revetment" is unusual and may represent re-use of material from an earlier phase of the sites history.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The overall conclusions are at odds with the potential suggested by the desk top assessment though the expected final phases of the site are confirmed.
- 8.1.1 The absence of any evidence for the moat in Trench 5 is suprising despite the disturbance caused by the farm pond. The pond was little more than a metre deep and yet has removed any trace of the moat in section. Therefore, the moat is unlikely to have been much more than about 1m deep itself at this point. Its absence from Trench 1 can be interpreted in at least two ways. Either the moat never extended this far, or there has always been a causeway at this point. The absence from Trench 2 would suggest that the western arm may continue a little further north before returning to the east; if a northern arm is indeed present.
- 8.1.2 The degree of disturbance on the site of the car supermarket is not known. It is still possible, therefore, that if the moat ever existed it could survive in a severely truncated form beneath the concrete floor of the building. Note that the late C19th early C20th ground level would appear to have been about 0.40m -0.50m lower than the present tarmac carpark level; more or less equivalent with the floor of the supermarket.
- 8.1.3 There was no evidence for any other medieval deposits or cut features, though medieval artifacts were recovered. The trenches suggested truncation of the upper surface of the natural London clay which would have removed any horizontal stratigraphy or above ground remains. Therefore, only substantial cut feaures are likely to remain.
- 8.1.4 There was no evidence for any of the masonry features being of medieval date. A post-medieval phase of building is not unfeasable for Trench 4; though note that the bricks could date as late as the C19th. Therefore, it is hard to find any substantial evidence for "*...old fashioned and picturesque buildings.....*" (Swainson-Cooper 1890) or the old manor house alluded to by other authors (e.g. King-Baker 1912). However, King-Baker's source is commenting on the begining of the C19th. This may suggest that the 1818 farm house (present until the 1980s) post dates the source and represents an almost complete demolition of all that went before rather than minor modifications. Likewise, the cottages may have remained until 1890 for Swainson-Cooper to comment on only for them to be swept away before the 1894 revision of the 1:2500 OS map and replaced with the substantial structures confirmed by the evaluation, unless they are the buildings of Trench 4.

- 8.2 In light of the evaluation results it is concluded that none of the structures and deposits recorded are of great archaeological importance. This conclusion is not based on objective, quantifiable criteria (e.g. Secretary of States non- statutory criteria for scheduling, MPP critcria) but is a personal opinion offered in good faith.
- 8.3 However, the evaluation had limited aims and was restricted to a limited area. Other archaeological deposits and remains may, therefore, be present within the evaluation area and the recovery of medieval material from two trenches should be considered. The limited potential for archaeological remains surviving below the car supermarket has also been noted.

9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 No archaeological remains were recorded that will require *in situ* preservation.
- 9.2 There is no evidence to suggest that there will be a requirement for large scale archaeological excavation in advance of development.
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- 9.3 The potential for the moat to be preserved, to a greater or lesser extent, under the car supermarket has been noted. Some provision should, therefore, be made for limited excavation and recording immediately in advance of development. The details of such a programme could be confirmed at a later stage but it might involve one or two machine trenches to locate, sample and record any archaeological deposits.
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APPENDIX 1

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APPENDIX 2

GLSMR/RCHM(E) NAR REPORT FORM

1. Type of recording: **Excavation**
 Watching Brief
 Other (specify) Evaluation
2. Address: **Gypsy Corner, Acton**
Borough: **Ealing**
Site Name: **Gypsy Corner** Site Code: **GYP 93**
National Grid Refs: centre of site **520500 181700**
 limits of site a) b)
 c) d)
3. Directed/Supervised by: **Chris Place**
Address: **White Lodge, Ditchling North End, Hassocks, Sussex**
For (organization/department): **South Eastern Archaeological Services**
Funded by: **Sir Frederick Snow & Partners**
4. Date Fieldwork started: **19/4/93** Date finished: **30/4/93**
Fieldwork previously notified **Yes/No**
Fieldwork will continue **Yes/No**
5. Periods represented:
- | | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| palaeolithic | roman |
| mesolithic | saxon |
| neolithic | <u>medieval</u> |
| bronze age | <u>post-medieval</u> |
| iron age | unknown |

6. Period Summaries

Residual medieval artifacts. Three medieval sherds (C14th - C15th) and occasional CBM recovered.

Late C17th(?) - early C19th range of domestic buildings; southside of courtyard of previous Friars Place Farm (destroyed 1980s). Also C19th buildings of unknown use on north side of courtyard: may be cottages. C19th/C20th farm pond sectioned, possibly on site of original medieval moat. Also C19th/C20th driveway and wall. No evidence for moat or other medieval structures/deposits

7. Natural

Height above Ordnance Datum: **Variable; 27.70m - 28.25m**

Type (specify): **London Clay**

8. Location of Archive

a) Please tick those categories still in your possession

NO PH SL MS

PL NG CO

b) All/some records ~~have been~~/will be deposited in the following museum/record office etc.
Museum Of London

c) Approx. year of transfer: **1993**

d) location of any copies: **None**

e) Has a security copy of the archive been made? Yes/No

If not, do you wish RCHM(E) to consider microfilming? **Yes**

9. Location of Finds:

a) In your possession (delete as appropriate) All/Some/None

b) All/~~some~~ finds ~~have been~~/will be deposited with the following museum/other body: **MoL**

c) Approx. year of transfer: **1993**

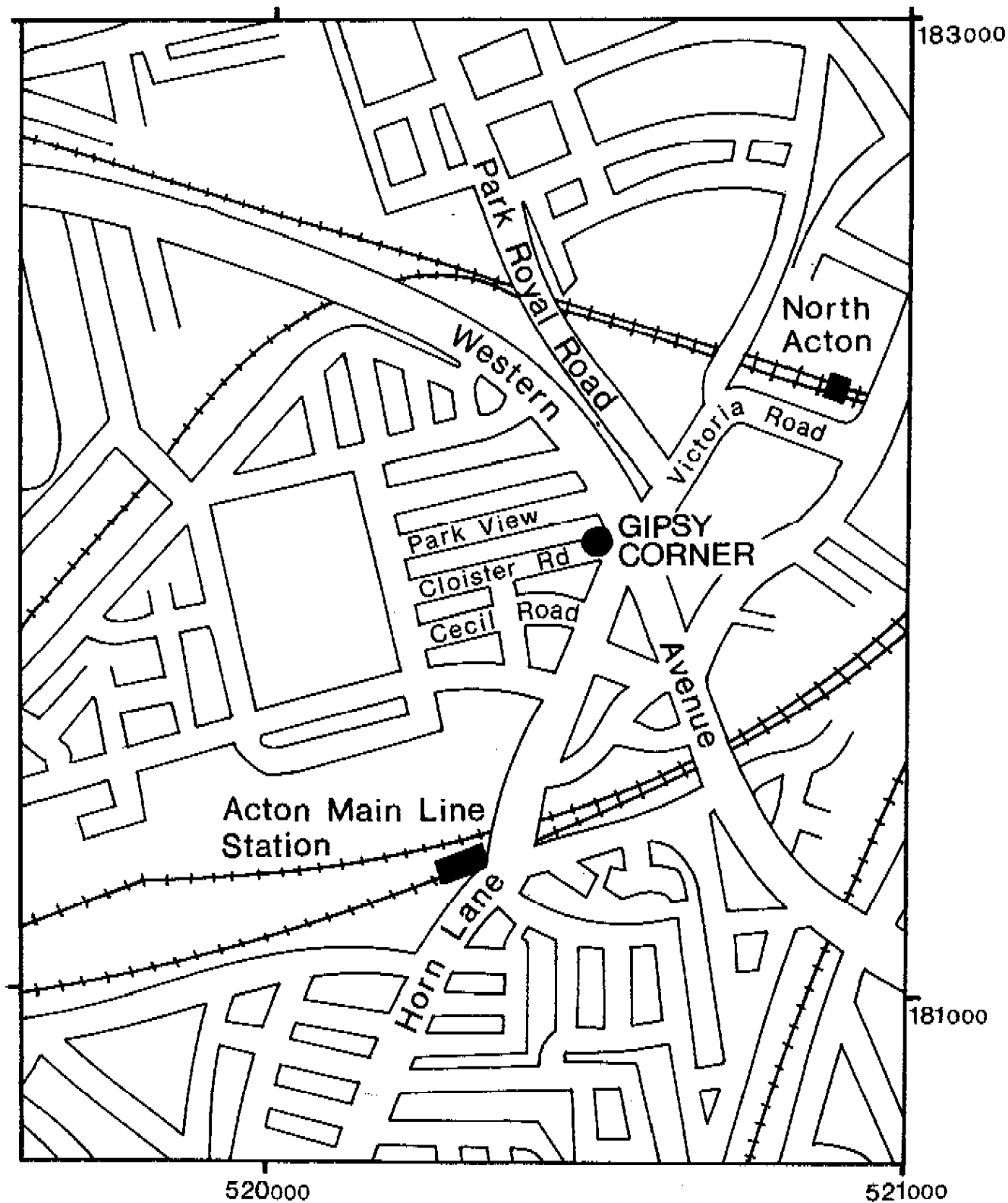
10. Bibliography: **See Report.**

Signature:



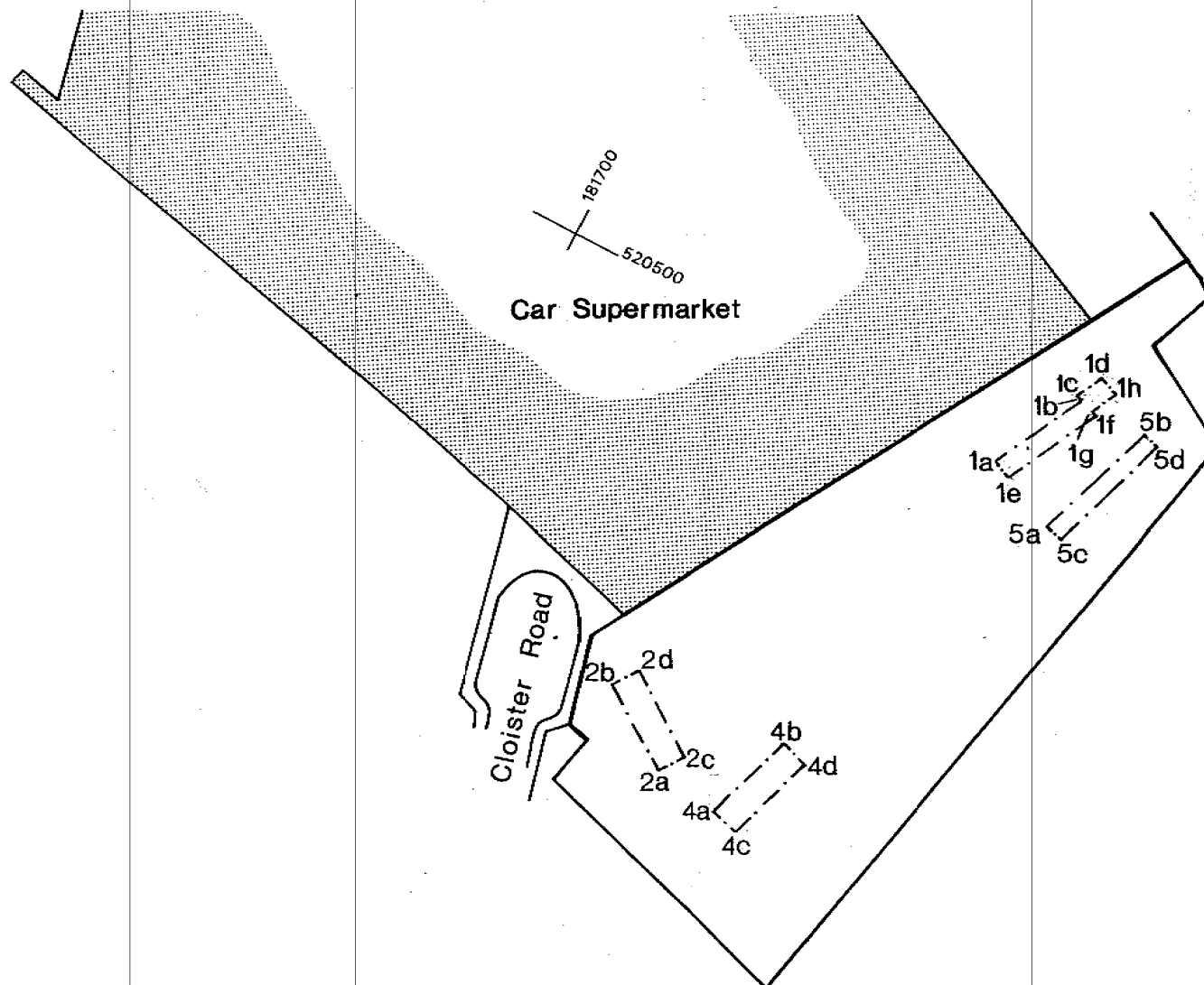
Date:

12 May '93



Gypsy Corner, Site Location.

Figure 1



SEAS South Eastern Archaeological Services Whitelodge, Ditchling North End Hassocks, Sussex BN6 8TF Tel: 0223 843026	Site	A40 Gypsy Corner	
	Title	Trench Location Plan	
	Date	Ref. 1993/16	Figure No. 2
	May 1993		

SEAS

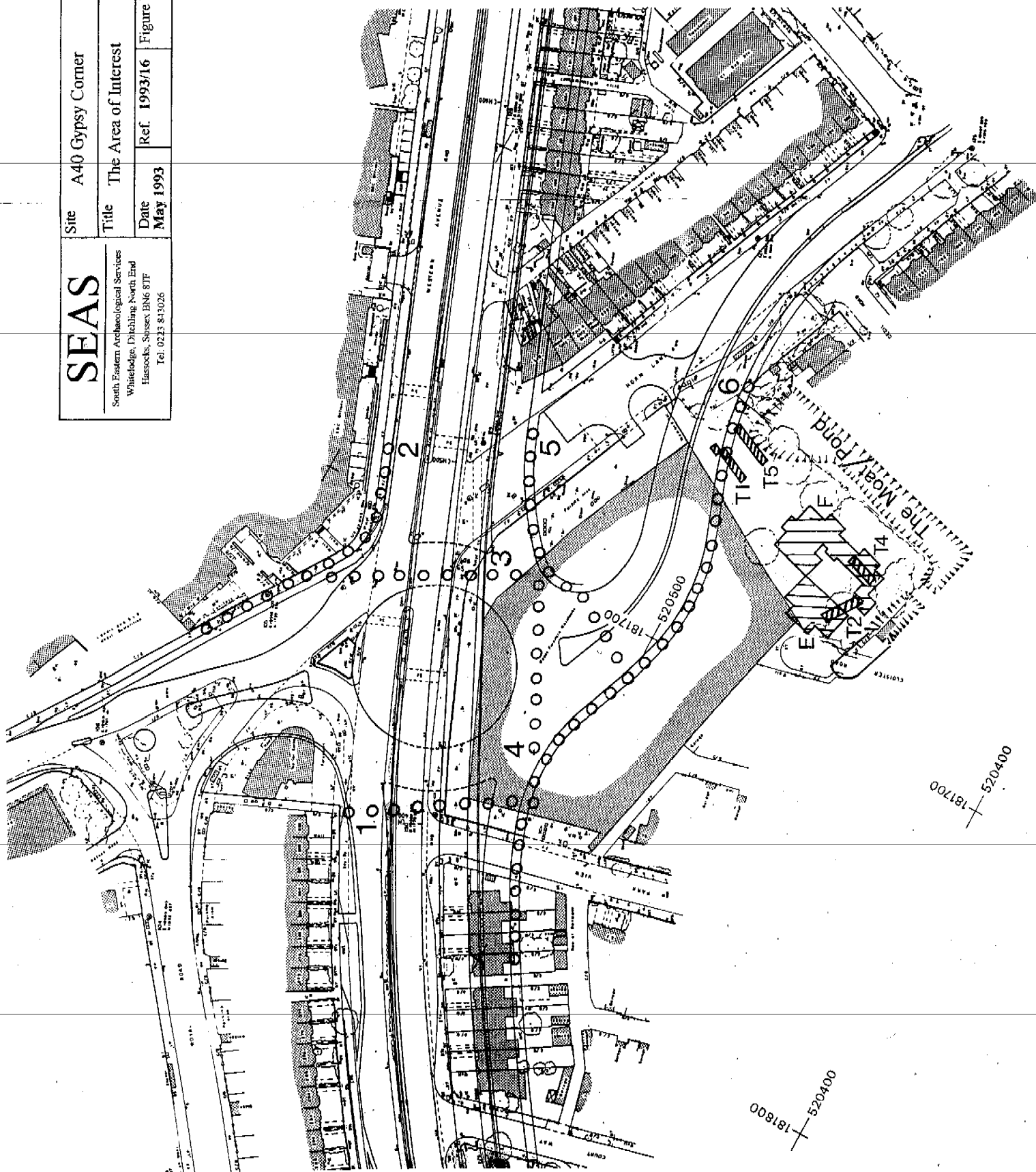
South Eastern Archaeological Services
Whiteledge, Ditchling North End
Hassocks, Sussex BN6 8TF
Tel: 01243 843026

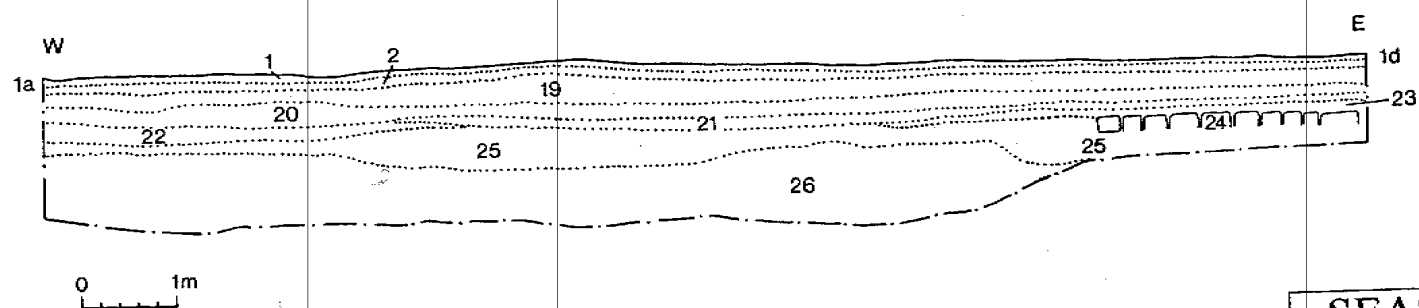
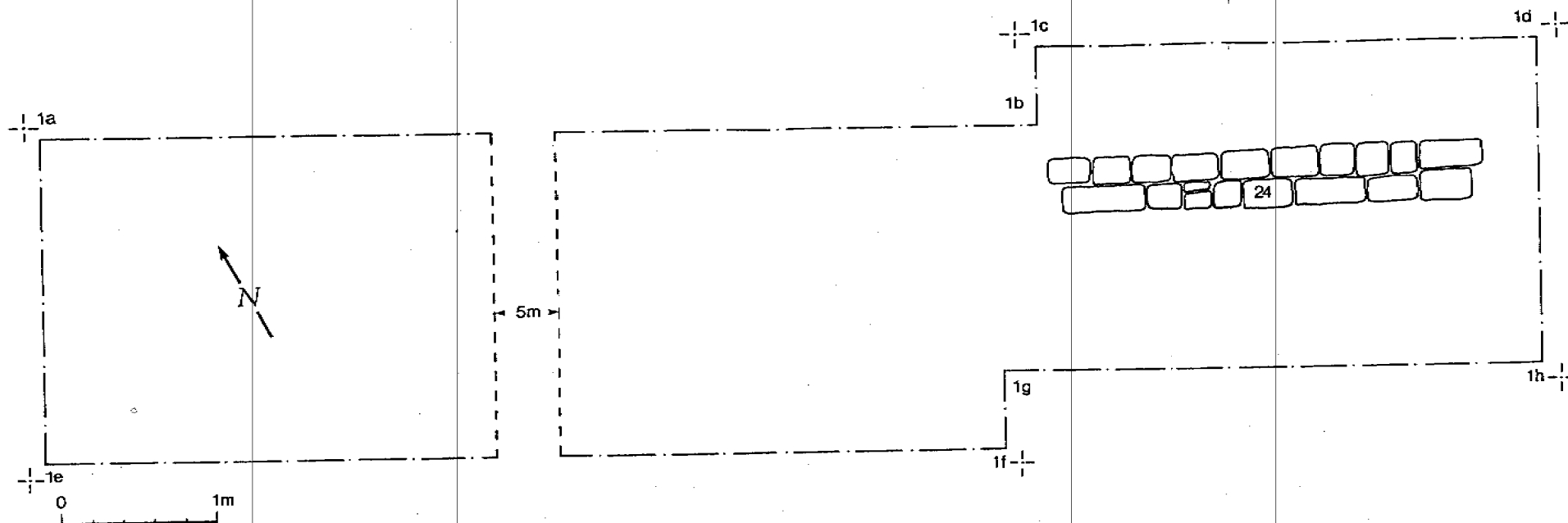
Site A40 Gypsy Corner

Title The Area of Interest

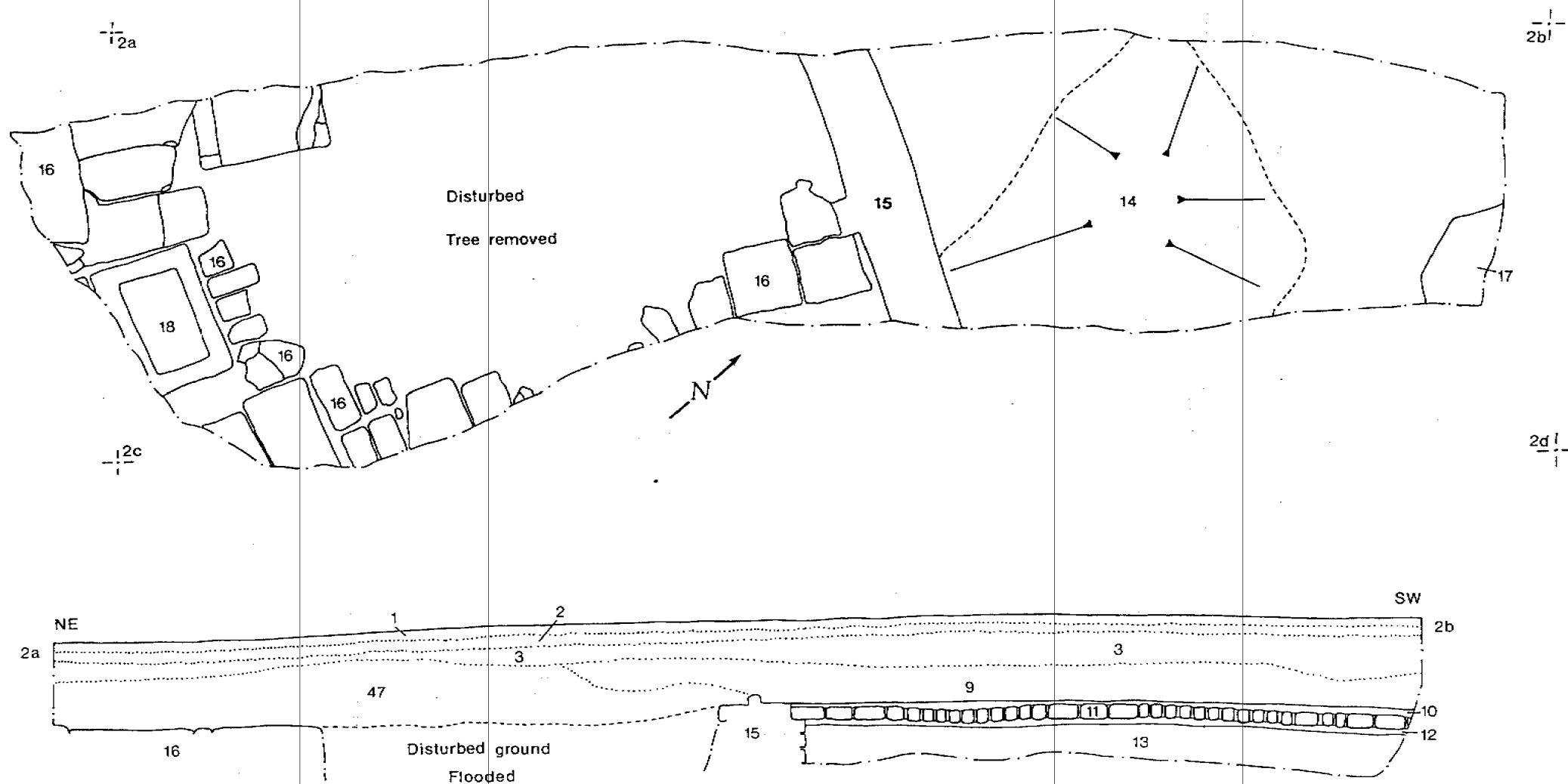
Date May 1993

Ref. 1993/16 Figure No. 3



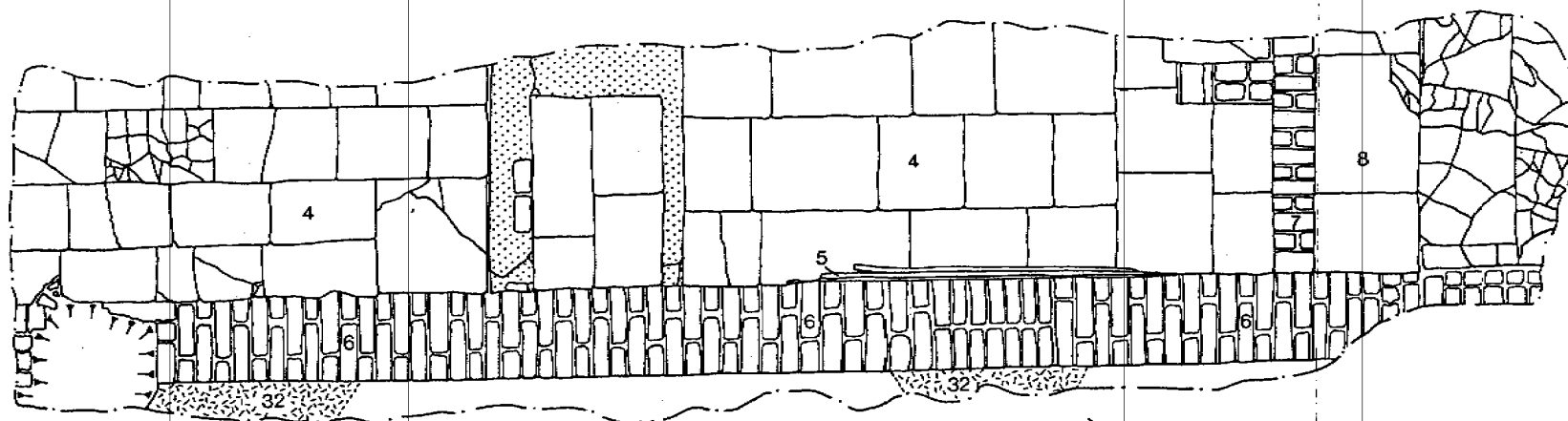


SEAS South Eastern Archaeological Services White Lodge, Ditchling North End Hassocks, Sussex BN26 9TF Tel: 0223 843026	Site:	A40 Gypsy Corner	
	Title:	Trench 1 Plan & Section	
Date:	May 1993	Ref. 1993/16	Figure No. 4



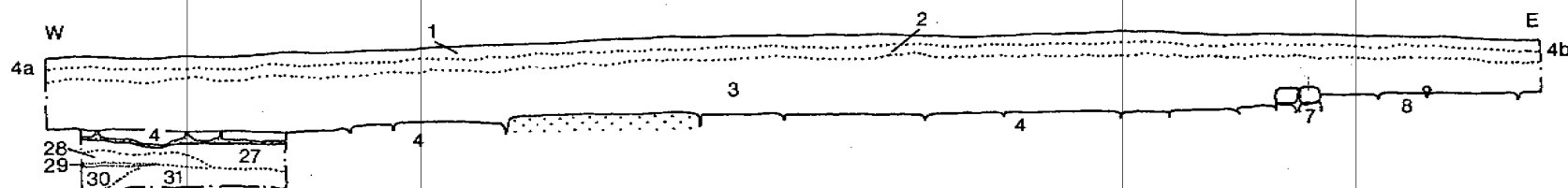
14a

4b



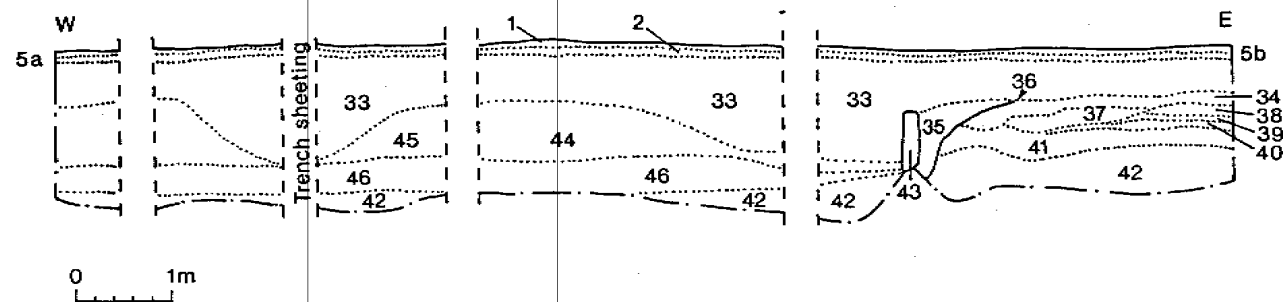
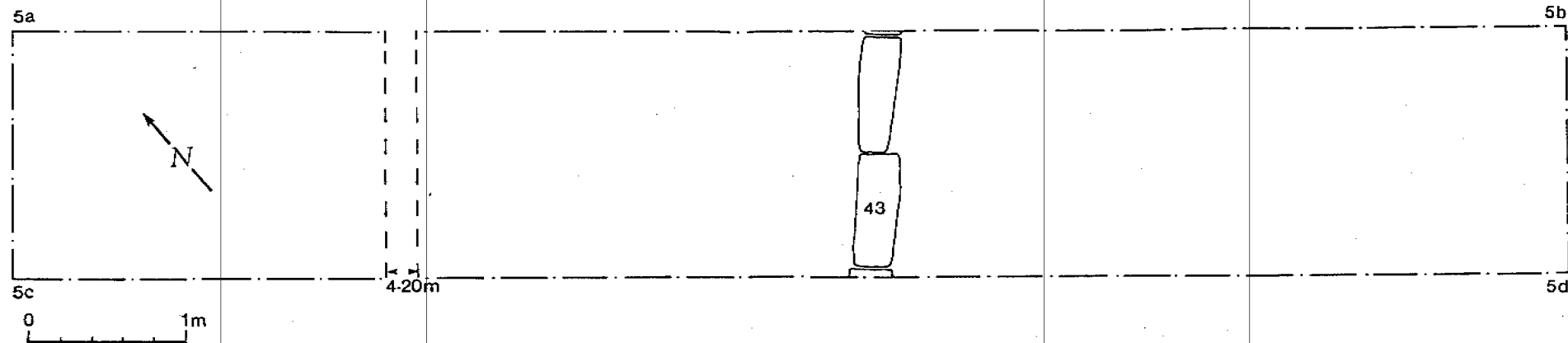
14c

4d



0 1m

SEAS <small>South Eastern Archaeological Services Whitlock, Dudding North End Haslemere, Surrey GU26 8TF Tel: 01223 841026</small>	Site	A40 Gypsy Corner	
	Title	Trench 4 Plan & Section	
	Date	Ref. 1993/16	Figure No. 6
	May 1993		



SEAS South Eastern Archaeological Services Whitelodge, Ditchling North End Haverock, Sussex BN9 8TF Tel: 0123 843026	Site	A40 Gypsy Corner	
	Title	Trench 5 Plan & Section	
	Date	Ref. 1993/16	Figure No. 7

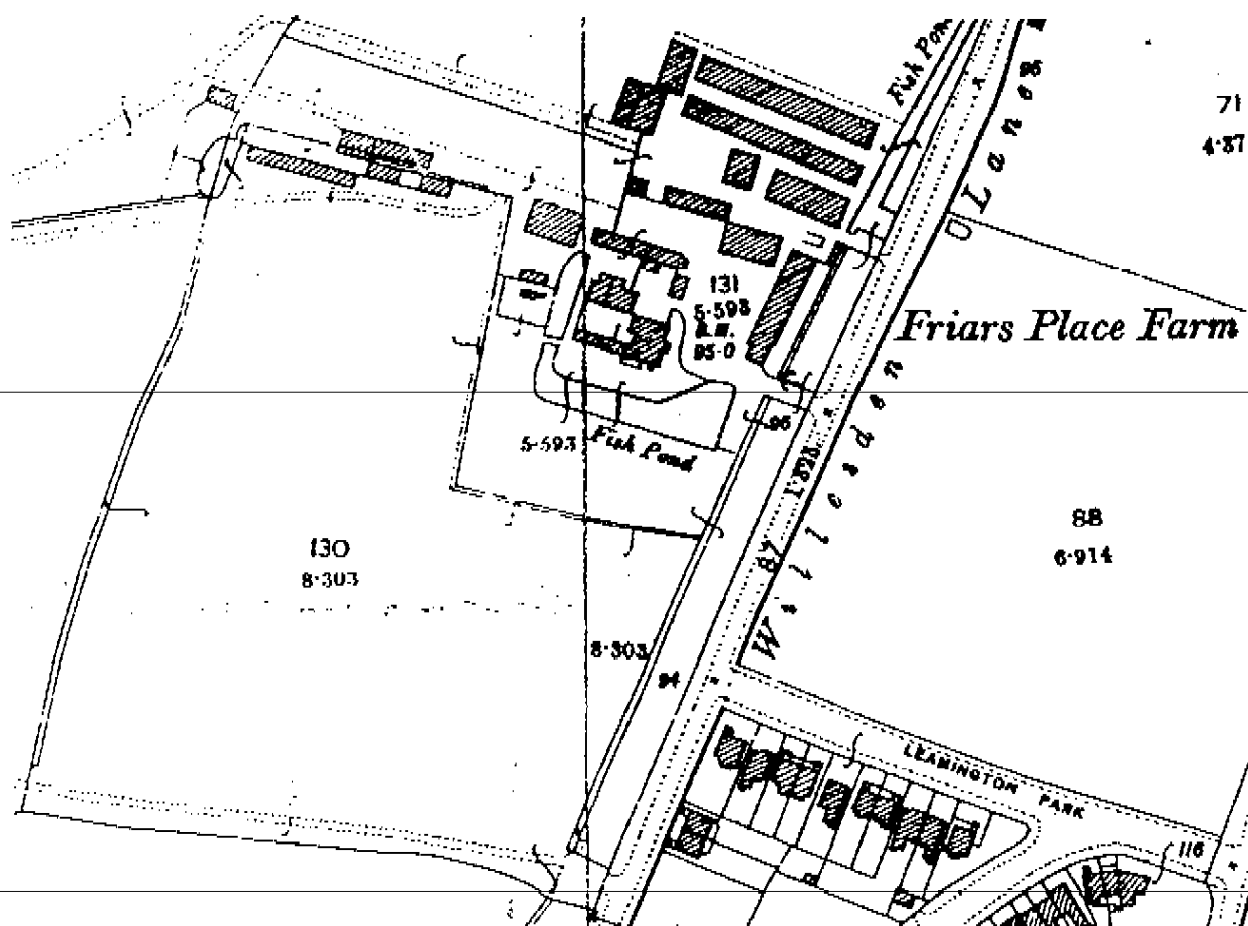
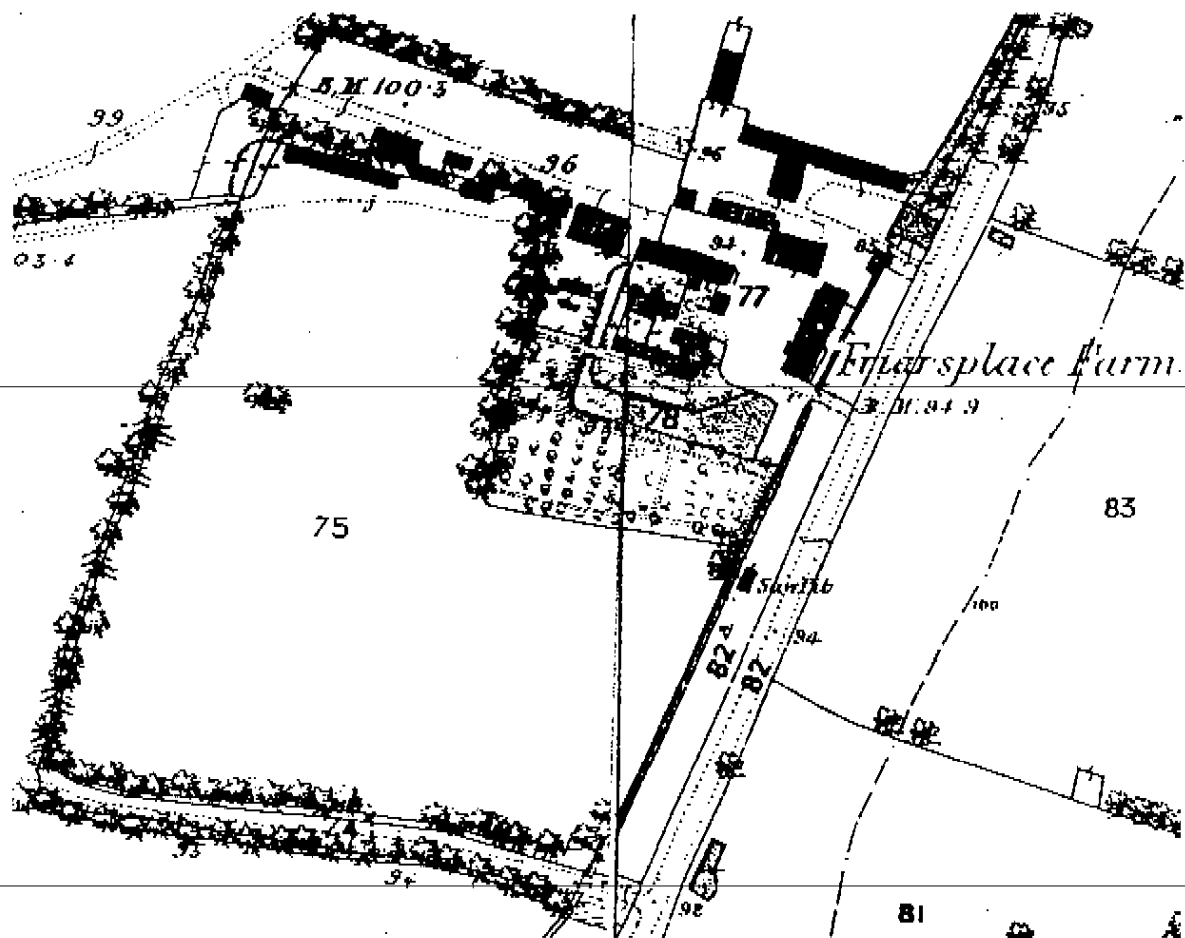


Figure 8.
OS 1:2500 1865 ed. (Upper) & 1894 ed. (Lower)