

# *Marches Archaeology*

## **Lower Galdeford Garage Smithfield Car Park Ludlow Shropshire**

### **Report on archaeological observation of trial trenches**

February 2004

*Marches Archaeology Series 319*

**This report is produced by**

## ***Marches Archaeology***

**Marches House  
6 High Street  
Clun  
Shropshire  
SY7 8JB**

**Tel:- 01588 640976**

**Fax:- 01588 640796**

**e-mail:- [marches@archaeology.kc3.co.uk](mailto:marches@archaeology.kc3.co.uk)**

**For:-**

**J D Motors Ltd  
Lower Galdeford Garage  
Smithfield  
Ludlow  
Shropshire  
SY8 1RT**

*Marches Archaeology* is the trading name of Marches Archaeology Limited (Registered in England and Wales: 4095678). The directors are Nic Appleton-Fox and Richard Stone, who have worked in close association since 1991. All principal members of staff are members of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and abide by its code of practice and other regulations. *Marches Archaeology* provides a full range of archaeological services to a client base of architects, local authorities, national bodies and private individuals. Our standard services include; excavation, watching briefs, building survey, building analysis, planning advice, landscape survey, photographic recording and historical research. Specialist consultants are available to provide environmental, geophysical and finds advice and analysis.

VAT Reg. No. 656 0767 15

**Lower Galdeford Garage  
Smithfield Car Park  
Ludlow  
Shropshire**

NGR: SO 516 745

**Report on archaeological  
observation of trial trenches**

**Report by**  
Jo Wainwright

*Summary*

*Two trenches were excavated. Two walls were uncovered. These are probably part of the Augustinian Friary of Ludlow. Post-medieval demolition layers and dumps of material overlay these features to a depth of about 1.30 metres. These are possibly the backfills from the 19<sup>th</sup> century excavations. Occupation levels associated with the walls were not reached.*

## **1 Introduction**

There is currently a proposal to build an extension to Lower Galdeford Garage, Smithfield Car Park, Ludlow. The site is situated at NGR: SO 516 745 (Fig. 1).

The proposed development site lies directly on the site of the main cloister of the medieval Augustinian Friary of Ludlow (Fig. 1). The plan of the friary was determined during excavations in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. As a result of this archaeological interest, a condition was attached to the planning consent to undertake an archaeological investigation of the site. There was no formal brief for the works.

## **2 Scope and aims of the project**

The scope of the project was to assess the nature, extent and relative significance of the surviving archaeological remains.

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

further archaeological investigation within a programme of research” (Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations).

### **3 Methodology**

Initially one trench was excavated in the presence of the client’s structural engineer (Fig. 2). Due to the nature of the findings the client requested excavation of a further trench. This was agreed by Shropshire County Council’s Historic Environment Officer by telephone.

The trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator to a depth where archaeologically significant deposits were encountered.

On completion of the ground works this report was produced to inform any further archaeological response to the proposed development.

### **4 The observation of the trial trenches**

#### *Trench 1 (figs 2 and 3)*

This trench was excavated to a depth of 1.45 metres. The earliest feature observed was what is thought to be a green sandstone wall running east west [106]. The sandstone fragments were roughly hewn and bonded with a pinky red clay containing frequent mortar flecks. The depth of this feature was a minimum 350mm. No face of the wall was apparent and it was not clear what the exact width of this feature was. Butting this wall was a brown silty clay which contained rough hewn green sandstone fragments [105]. It is thought that this is possibly a demolition spread. This was a minimum 200mm thick.

Above [105] was another demolition layer [104]. This was a silty clay matrix with sandstone fragments, pebbles, charcoal and mortar. Sealing this dump of material was a 100mm thick layer of greenish brown sandy silt [103]. This contained occasional pebbles, charcoal and brick. Above this was 700mm thick dump of clinker, ash, pottery, bottle glass and metal within a sandy loam [102]. Pottery from this layer dates from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Overlying this was the topsoil [101]. This was 250mm thick and was a humic sandy loam.

#### *Trench 2 (figs 2 and 4)*

Trench 2 was excavated to a depth of 1.60 metres the earliest feature seen was a wall running roughly east to west [206]. This was constructed of roughly squared green sandstone blocks faced on the southern side. The bonding of the wall was a beige clay. Butting and overlying this wall was a very mixed dump of brown silty clay [205]. This contained frequent ash, coal, charcoal, mortar and sandstone fragments. Finds recovered from this layer date from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Above [205] was [204] which was the same as [104] in Trench 1 except it contained slightly less stone. Overlying [204] was [203] which equates to [103] and then above this was [202]

which is the same as [102] in Trench 1. Sealing this was the topsoil [201] which was the same as [101].

## **5 Conclusions**

Interpretation of information seen in small trenches is always subject to some level of uncertainty. However, as the plan of the friary is known, the wall seen in Trench 2 can be attributed with some confidence as being one of the walls of the Augustinian Friary, perhaps part of the south range of the cloister (Fig. 1). It should be noted that there is a slight discrepancy in the apparent orientation of the friary walls and the observed wall. In view of the small size of the trial holes it is unclear what weight should be given to this anomaly. Although no dating evidence was recovered from this wall the general build of the feature and the location of this feature c. 1.40 metres below the present ground level point to it being of an early date. The wall in Trench 1 is on the same alignment, though with a different bonding material. It is also likely to be part of the Augustinian Friary. It is not clear when the top parts of these walls were demolished.

The earliest dump [205] in Trench 2 which abuts and overlies wall [206] dates from probably the 19th century. Although undated, the rubble layer [105] in Trench 1 could also date from the 19th century. If these walls were observed in the 19th century 'excavations' of the friary then it is possible the watching brief excavations were within the backfills of the 19th century excavations.

The base of the walls in the two trenches were not seen. Therefore an earlier sequence of archaeological deposits may exist which would have not been disturbed by the 19th century excavations.

## **6 Recommendations**

The foundation design for the new build has yet to be finalised. Two options are being considered: 1) stanchion bases (approximately 6) with a shallow floor; 2) raft foundation, understood to be probably 600mm deep. The structural engineer indicated on site that it is likely to be possible to build off the walling seen in the trenching. If a geotextile membrane were laid above the walling this should avoid significant damage to these structures.

The significant archaeological features (walls 106 and 206) are at least 0.95m below existing ground level. As the ground in the area of the proposed extension does not slope it is reasonable to suppose that the significant archaeological remains are at this depth throughout.

The recommended archaeological response depends on the type of foundations used. If a raft foundation is used no archaeological intervention is needed, provided that groundworks do not exceed 800mm below current ground level. If stanchions are used it is recommended that an archaeologist be on site during excavation works to record any items of archaeological interest. It is estimated that 1-2 days site attendance would be required, dependent on the working method of the excavation contractor. The small size of the stanchion holes suggests that it is likely that only a relatively low level of detail will be achievable in understanding of the friary. This should be reflected in the scope of archaeological works carried out.

If any other ground works are undertaken deeper than 800mm below present ground surface (e.g. service trenches, machinery such as rolling road) these should also be carried out with an archaeologist present on site during excavation to record any items of archaeological interest.

## **7 The archive**

The archive is currently held in the offices of Marches Archaeology awaiting deposition at the relevant museum.

The archive consists of:

- 2 trench recording sheets
- 3 finds recording sheets
- 1 box of finds
- 1 drawing index
- 1 sheet of field drawings
- 1 photographic index
- 1 sheet of black and white negatives
- 1 sheet of colour transparencies
- 1 sheet of notes

The site code is LGL04A

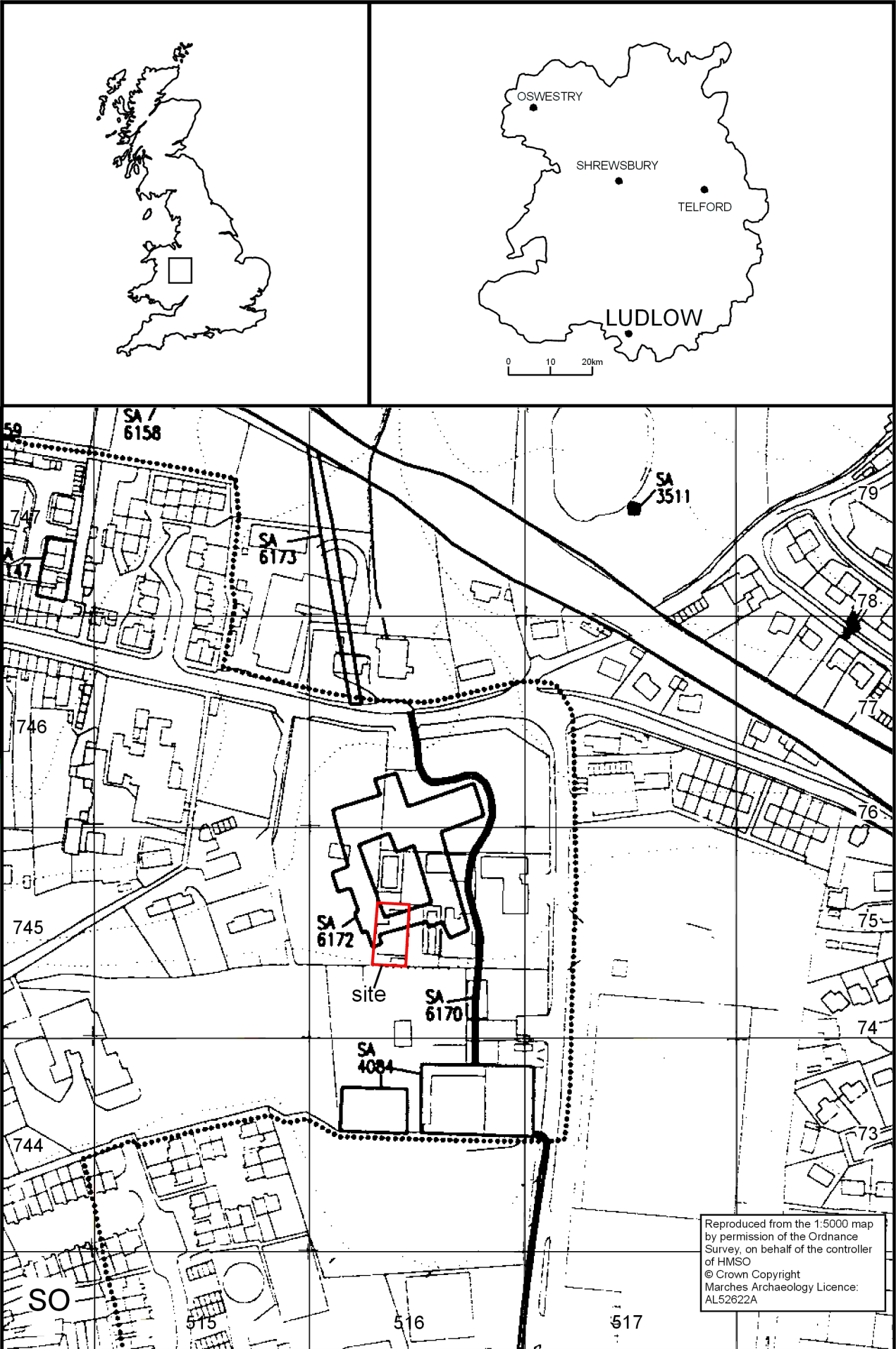


Fig. 1: Location of site and surrounding sites and monuments

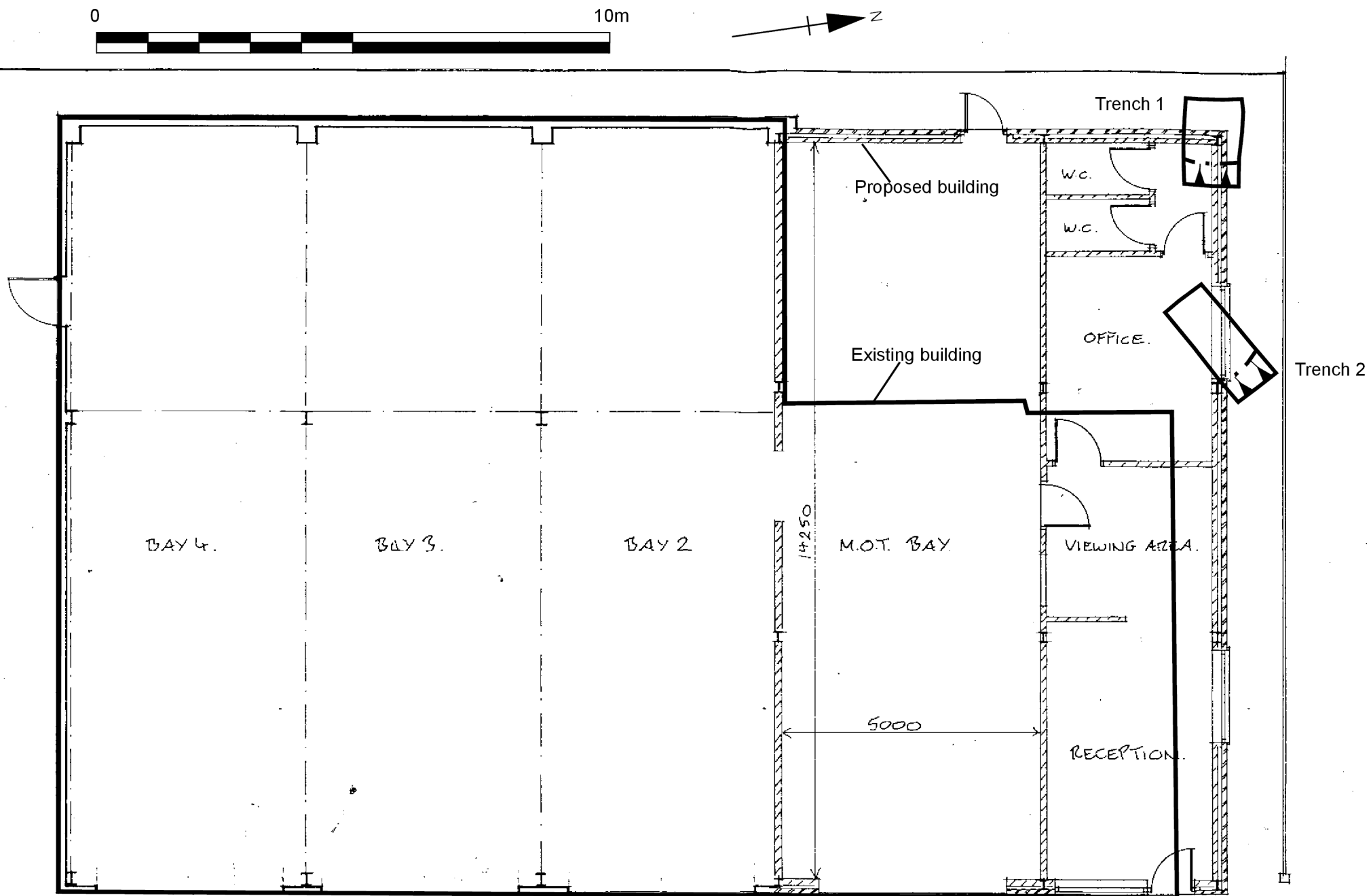
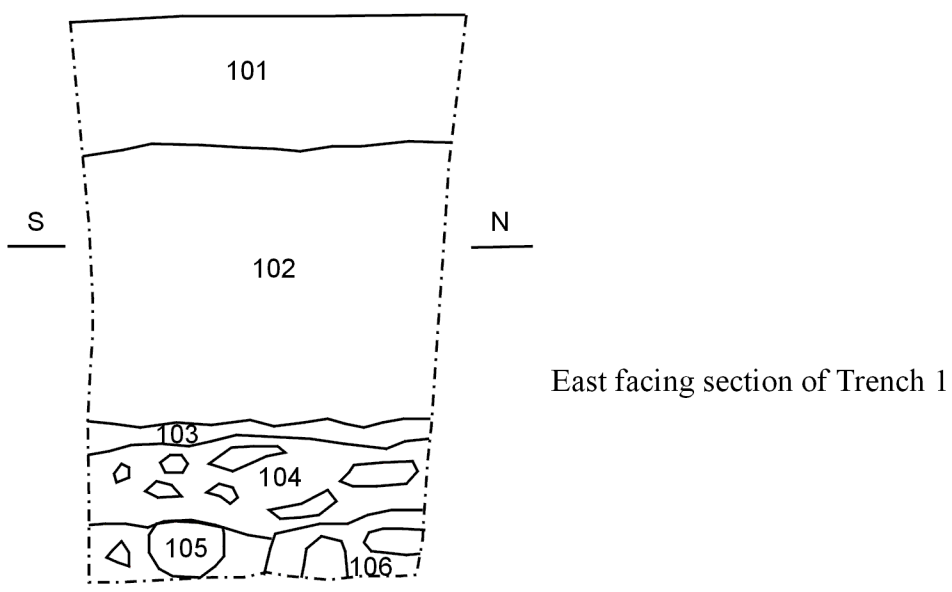
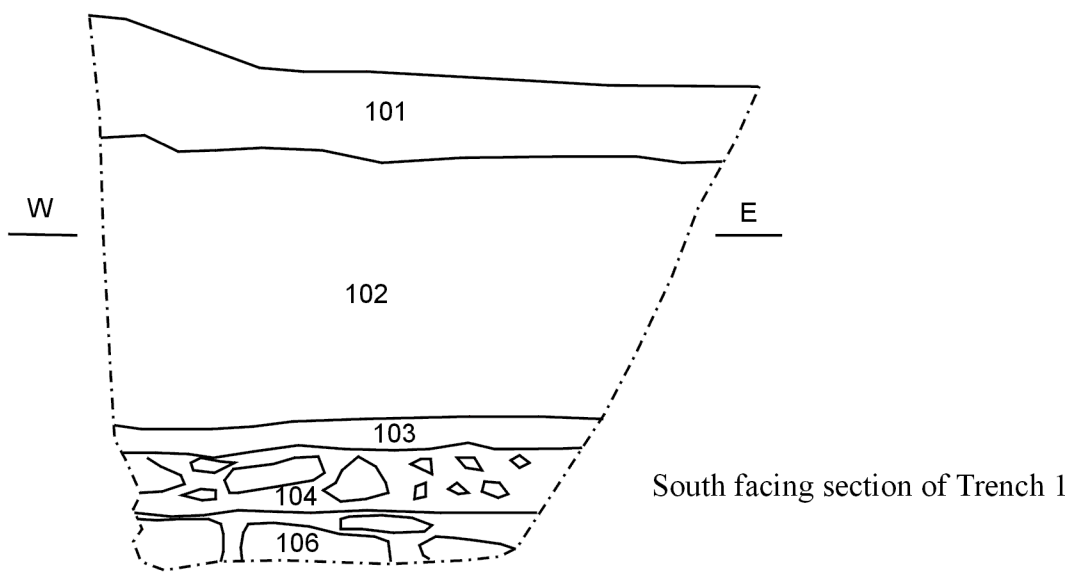
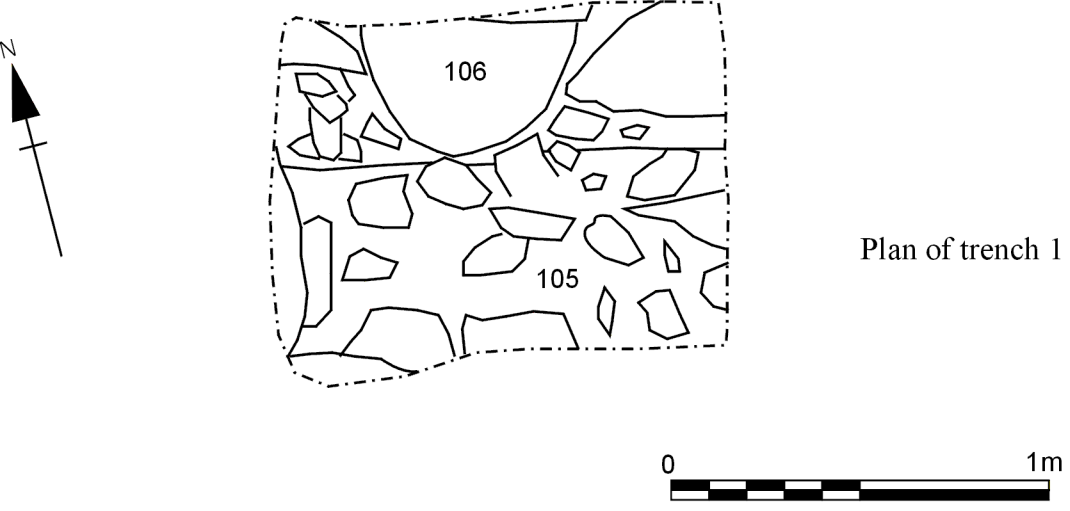
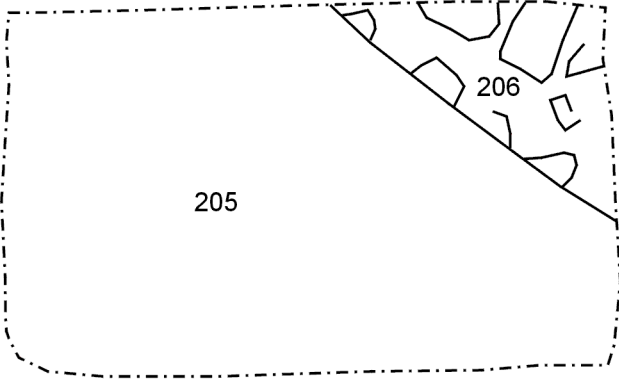


Fig. 2 Location of the trenches

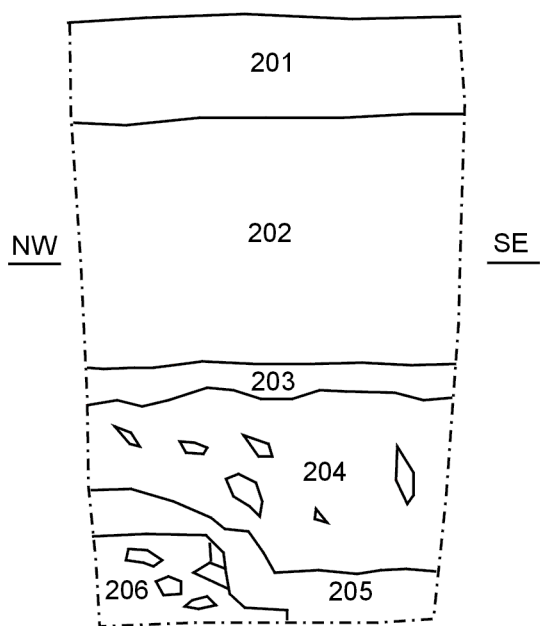




**Fig. 3 Plan and sections of Trench 1**



Plan of trench 2



South-west facing section of Trench 2

**Fig. 4 Plan and section of Trench 2**