

# ***Marches Archaeology***

**The Golden Cup Public House  
53 Toll End Road  
Tipton**

**A Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief**

August 2005

*Marches Archaeology Series 395*

**Archaeological Consultants and Contractors**

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**The Golden Cup Public House  
Toll End Rd  
Tipton**

**NGR: SO 972 935**

**A report on an archaeological watching Brief**

Contents

Figure 1      Site Location

Summary

- 1      Introduction
- 2      Archaeological and Historical background
- 3      Scope and Aims of the project
- 4      Methodology
- 5      The Watching Brief
- 6      Conclusions
- 7      Acknowledgements
- 8      Archive

Figures 2-7    Large Scale Maps

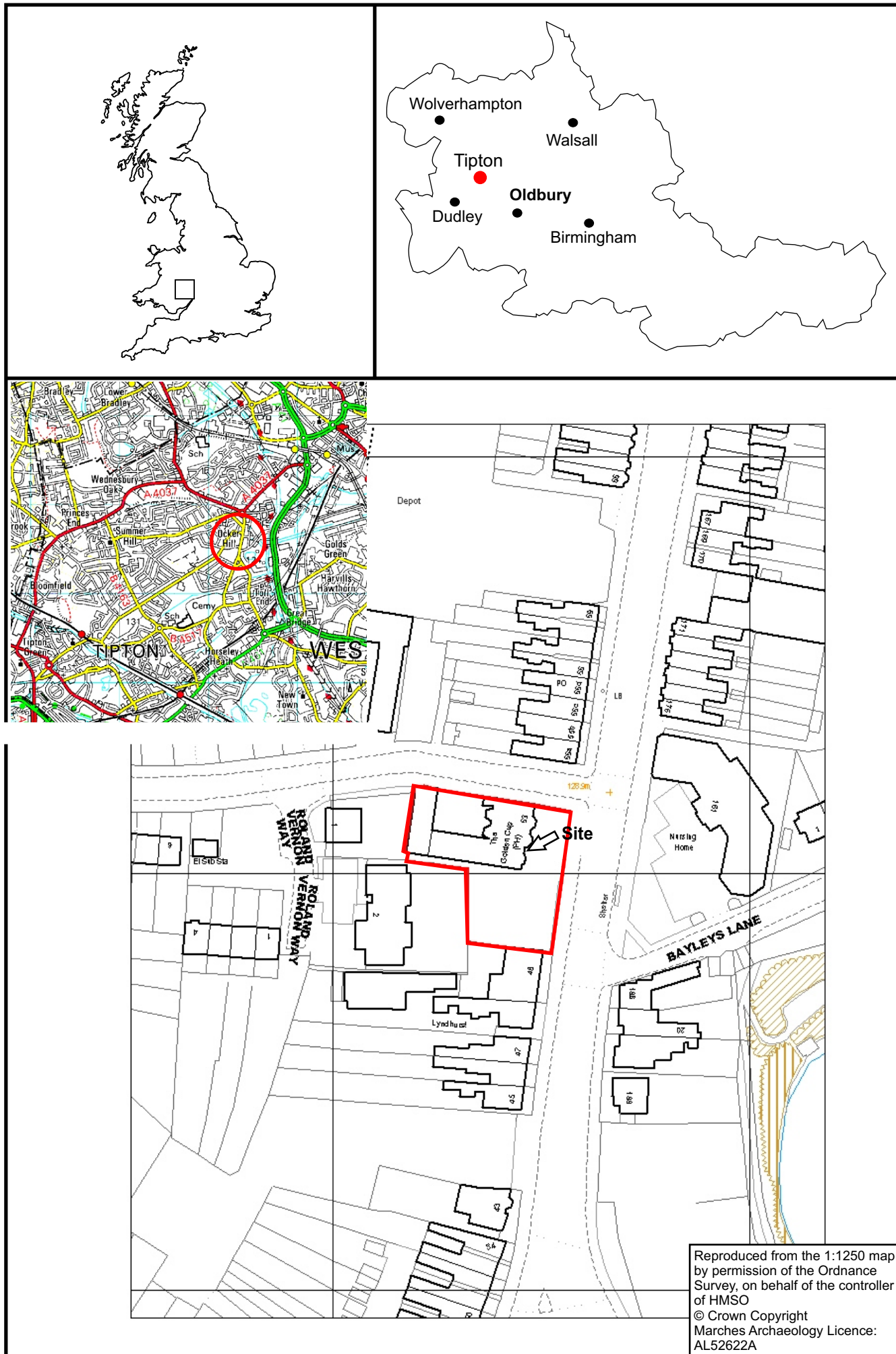
Figure 8      Trench Location

Figures 9-13   Section Drawings

Plates 1-4

August 2005

*Marches Archaeology Series*



**Fig. 1 Location of the site**

**Golden Cup Public House  
53 Toll End Rd  
Tipton**

**A report on an archaeological watching brief**

*Summary*

*An archaeological watching brief was carried out on groundworks for a new residential building of 11 apartments at the site of the recently demolished Golden Cup Public House at 53 Toll End Rd, Tipton (Figure 1). Prior to commencement of the work a desk top study was carried out involving map regression to aid interpretation of the archaeology exposed during the work. No archaeological deposits were discovered earlier than the nineteenth century, although some pottery may date to the early post-medieval period. In-situ archaeology comprised wall footings, cellars and three wells associated with these buildings all dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> century or later. The surviving cellars were preserved to a considerable depth, constructed on natural clay and had there been any earlier activity on the site it is likely that all traces were destroyed during the original construction of these structures. As the new footings followed the lines of previous buildings only ground disturbed in their construction was excavated and hence no earlier archaeology was discovered.*

## **1 Introduction**

A planning application (DC/03/41572) was submitted to Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council in November 2003 for a new residential building at 53 Toll End Rd, Tipton. In view of the site's location at the edge of medieval Tipton on a staggered crossroads (thought to be of some antiquity) the Borough Archaeologist advised the council to attach a negative condition on future consent based on the advice given in *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning* (DoE 1990):

*‘No development involving any ground disturbance shall take place until an archaeological investigation of the site has been carried out in accordance with a specification to be submitted to, and approved by, the local planning authority in writing’.*

Marches archaeology was commissioned by Astra Civil Engineering Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief on the site of the recently demolished Golden Cup Public House, 53 Toll End Rd, Tipton (NGR: SO 972 935). The Watching brief was carried out on seven days between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> August 2005 when

groundbreaking activity was undertaken. This was preceded by a short desktop study consisting of a map regression exercise to assist with the on-site interpretation of archaeological deposits.

## **2 Archaeological and Historical Background**

There are no entries on the Sandwell Sites and Monuments record to suggest that any previous archaeological investigations have been carried out in the immediate vicinity of the site.

Little is known of Tipton's earliest history. The area was once part of the Royal Forest of Cannock, and records survive of land ownership in the Norman period. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century Tipton was still a collection of hamlets – Princes End, Great Bridge, Burnt Tree, Tipton Green, Ocker Hill and Toll End. The catalyst for the town's growth was the discovery of ironstone and coal and the construction of the Birmingham to Wolverhampton canal in 1772, followed by the Toll End Communication Canal (1809) and Thomas Telford's Main Line in 1838. Massive expansion in the coal and iron trades lead to a sevenfold increase in Tipton's population across the 19<sup>th</sup> century from 4,000 to 30,000.

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

The scope of the project is defined in the brief as:

The observation of all topsoil stripping, other earthmoving and trench excavation until natural subsoil is reached

The sequence of soil deposits present and all archaeological deposits and features shall be recorded

All artefacts shall be collected, identified and catalogued

The purpose of an archaeological watching brief is defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists as:

‘to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works’

and:

‘to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard’.

## 4 Methodology

### 4.1 Documentary research

The requested documentary research involved a map regression exercise. This was based on large-scale sources held at the Local Studies section of Smethwick Library, consisting of Ordnance Survey Editions from 1890 to the present day and the Tipton Tithe map of 1847 held at the Staffordshire County Records Office based at Lichfield Library. Two useful small-scale maps held by Marches Archaeology were the W Yates County of Stafford map 1798 scale 2 miles to 1 inch and the C S Smith County of Stafford map 1801 scale 2½ miles to 1 inch.

#### *Small Scale Maps (not reproduced)*

Both the Yates and Smith maps confirm the existence of Toll End Road in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and, despite the small scale, Yates' 1798 map shows two buildings on, or very close to, the Golden Cup Public House site. The Smith map of 1801 also shows a building immediately north of the junction of Toll End Road and what is now called Bridge Road, but in view of the scale one cannot be certain whether this indicates the same site or either of the buildings depicted on the earlier map. Neither map confirms the existence of the staggered crossroads formed by Toll End Road and the modern Cupfields Avenue and Bayleys Lane.

#### *Large Scale Maps*

The Tipton Tithe map of 1847 (Figure 2) shows a series of buildings on the Golden Cup site; an 'L' shaped building at the northwest corner is the original public house building. The apportionment indicates all the buildings use as housing with various owners and tenants, none of which are named. The main landowner in the vicinity was William Jones who owned a colliery to the west and an arable field and building immediately to the north of the site. The apportionment also names Bill Charles as the owner of a cottage and garden to the south of the site. The line of Cupfields Avenue at this point was the southern field boundary of the arable field and Bayleys Lane is indicated as a track leading northwest across the Birmingham canal. The idea that the site may have provided the focus for earlier medieval settlement on the basis of its location at the crossroads cannot be substantiated through map evidence.

The Tithe does indicate the location of a number of public houses across the Tipton area therefore it is also unlikely that the Golden Cup existed as a public house at this time.

The Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map of 1890 (Figure 3) shows that the Golden Cup was in existence by this time and, as far as can be ascertained, all main buildings on the site, depicted on the tithe, were still standing. The public house on its east side appears to have extended out into the road beyond the line of the present day pavement. The southern boundary of the arable field was by this point a track so the staggered crossroads only formed between 1847 and 1890.

The Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1904 (Figure 4) indicates that the public house and other buildings along the northern boundary of the site were still standing. All other buildings on the site bar one at the southwest corner (not affected by the present works) were by this time demolished.

The Third Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1919 (Figure 5) shows that the original public house had been demolished and a new one built set back from Toll End Road. A row of four terraced houses was built on the site south of the then new Golden Cup as part of a major building programme which saw the construction of terraced housing on both sides of Toll End Road along its entire extent. A building was also built on the northwest corner of the site. The track along the north of the site was formalised into a proper road but was blocked by a wall to the west of the site. The original track leading from the colliery site beyond was diverted to the north. It is interesting to note that the historic maps do not confirm other documentary sources for Tipton's 19<sup>th</sup> century population expansion, as it appears that the major phase of residential house building (in the Toll End/ Ocker Hill area at least) occurred in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The Fourth Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1938 (Figure 6) shows no change to the layout on site but Cupfields Avenue by this time had been extended westwards taking on its present form and new housing built along it. There is also no change to the site apparent on the 1966 Fifth edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 7) but by the time of the most recent Ordnance Survey map (Figure 1) the row of terraced houses immediately south of the Golden Cup had been demolished. Sometime after 1966 the rear of the public house to the west had been extended by approximately 4 metres up to the building on the northwest corner of the site constructed by 1919.

### *Conclusion*

Evidence from the map regression exercise suggests that although the original public house building probably dates back to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, it only became a public house sometime after 1847 but before 1890. Similarly the staggered crossroads formed by Toll End Road, Bayleys Lane and Cupfields Avenue is not as old as was first assumed having likewise only appeared after 1847 and before 1890. Cupfields Avenue may have provided new access to the Colliery as the landscape around the area was filling up with various coal heaps and open cast pits. Alternatively it is possible that the Golden Cup itself provided the reason for the formation of the track that eventually became Cupfields Avenue to enable access to the public house from the west.

The Golden Cup site is approximately 1½ miles from Tipton centre and therefore is more likely to have been a rural setting in the Medieval period. Consequently surviving medieval archaeology is likely to be rural in character comprising agricultural soils, field boundaries and possibly an isolated hamlet. In view of the later post-Medieval activity of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries involving the construction of buildings across the whole site (the public house at least with substantial cellars) it is extremely unlikely that earlier in-situ archaeological deposits remain.



## 4.2 Fieldwork

Fieldwork was carried out on seven days between 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> August 2005 when foundation trenches were being excavated. Although a single continuous trench, for recording purposes the work was broken down into six trench-digging events (See trench location plan Figure 8) starting at the south end of the site. Trenches 1-4 represented areas excavated on a daily basis, but Trenches 5 and 6 (in the area of the original public house cellars and recently demolished building) took approximately 1½ days each. The ground surface across the site was essentially level comprising the public house car park in the south and east of the site, and the public house itself demolished and backfilled to the same level. Trench depths and sample drawn sections were measured from the ground surface with tapes in all parts of the site as the depth of trenches and the unstable rubble and soil deposits prevented direct access on health and safety grounds. Four sample sections were drawn from Trench 1 and one from trench 2. Thereafter trenches 3-6 were too deep (2m-4.2m) and the sides, comprising very loose soil and brick rubble, too unstable even to approach at ground level for any measurements of acceptable accuracy to be made. Additionally due to their proximity to the pavement, and to avoid any potential collapse, the north end of trenches 5 and 6 were dug through boxes and immediately filled with concrete. Consequently recording in these areas was by trench recording sheets, context sheets and some photography only.

## 5 The Watching Brief

### Trench 1

Located south of both the modern and 19<sup>th</sup> century public houses Trench 1 revealed possible traces of buildings depicted on the Tithe map and demolished between 1890 and 1904. These included dry stone wall [9] and wall [11]. The dry-stone wall (Figures 9 & 10) is not considered to be medieval as a sherd of Staffordshire slipware with internal dark brown glaze was discovered within the stonework (C 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century) and two early post-medieval bricks were also incorporated into the wall. Wall [11] (Figure 10) was constructed from bricks similar to those in dry stone wall [9]. These are much smaller than is usual for 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings and are more typical of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The dry-stone wall was constructed on a layer of clean mid yellow sand with scree-like sandstone fragments [5]. Wall [11] was constructed on a layer of dark brown sand [10] that abuts the dry-stone wall and cuts layer [5], and on a layer of mid-brown sand [12]. Three sherds of pottery with a mid-brown fabric and dark-brown internal and external glaze were recovered from [10]. It is likely to be early post-medieval Cistercian ware. Both sandy layers overlay a dark grey-green clay layer [8] defined by bricks at its north and west end and sitting on undisturbed natural clay. This appears to be a remnant of cellar floor from one of the houses depicted on the Tithe. The pottery in layer [10] above might indicate that at least one of these buildings is of greater antiquity than is presently suspected. The south facing section shows that the natural clay rises significantly west of layer [8] indicating that probably only the front of the building (extending east under the present pavement) had some form of basement storage. The dry-stone wall underlies a layer of demolition rubble comprising mainly brick [4].

The early wall [11] underlies a similar layer [3] containing both demolition rubble and soil.

Evidence for the row of terraced houses constructed sometime after 1904 and before 1919 comprises wall [13] running along the east side of Trench 1, Wall [16] running along the west side and Wall [17] running north/south down the centre (Figure 11). Both are either constructed on, or cut into, the demolition layer [3] and are made from 'modern' brick as opposed to those used in the construction of wall [11]. Layer [3] also contained several sherds of 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century whiteware, whiteware with blue transfer pattern and two sherds of window glass. Wall [17] appears to be the returning back wall of the terrace whereas Wall [16] may form part of the rear extensions of the row. A fireplace [14] from one of these later buildings is evident on both sections of the central east/west cut of Trench 1 (Figure 11), and another [15] on the north facing section at the north end of Trench 1 in the same position relative to the terrace walls (Figure 12). The south facing section at the northern end of Trench 1 consists of demolition rubble and soil onto the natural clay. There is no evidence for a fireplace structure at this point.

The layer of demolition rubble [4] is covered by a 0.1m layer of mortar above Wall [11] and Wall [13] this in turn is covered by 0.2m of hard core [2] and 0.1m of tarmac [1]. The layer of demolition rubble and soil [3] has no mortar layer above it and sits directly under layer [2].

## **Trench 2**

The southern end of Trench 2 where it joined Trench 1 consisted of demolition debris onto the natural clay. After 2 metres Wall [13] reappears this gap in the terrace row corresponds to a ground floor alleyway leading to the rear between 51 and 52 Toll End Road (Figure 7). The east/west section (Figure 13) shows the rear extension wall [16] and wall [18] opposite a fireplace evident in the north facing section (not drawn) and in line with the fireplaces in Trench 1. Six sherds of pottery with a light red fabric and dark brown internal and external glaze were recovered from a brown sandy layer beneath. This sandy deposit is similar to [12] in Trench 1, but containing soil and some demolition debris and is probably a lense within [3].

The north end of Trench 2 was too unstable to draw the sections, but Wall [20] in the north facing section appears to be the returning back wall (equivalent to [17] in Trench 1) and Wall [16] could be seen in both north and south facing sections. Also of note was a small well [19] the edge of which was revealed in the east facing section at the southwest corner of the trench. This was probably situated just outside the back of the terraced house. Although mainly destroyed when the properties were demolished (sometime after 1966) the western side is still intact; and enough remains to show that it was constructed of bricks that were corbelled probably to create a small opening at the top to support a wooden lid. The inner face of the brickwork was covered with render. Three sherds of pottery were retrieved from the structure, one sherd of whiteware, one sherd of white glazed pottery with blue transfer pattern and one sherd of Staffordshire Slipware with a chocolate-brown internal glaze. The whiteware is probably 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century

and the Staffordshire Slipware possibly 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century. The well is likely to be contemporary with the buildings depicted on the 1847 Tithe rather than the later terrace, although may still have been in use after the later terrace was constructed.

### **Trench 3**

This area lies beyond the 20<sup>th</sup> century terrace and on the southern end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century public house cellars. Most of the trenches were cut through demolition debris down onto the natural clay [6]. At the southern end of Trench 3 this deposit was the same as [3] in Trenches 1 and 2 containing similar whiteware and blue transfer patterned pottery. But at the north and northwest end, where cellar walls first appear (walls [21], [22], [23] also Plate 1 and [24]) the fill changes to coke, clinker, ash and iron slag [34]. No pottery was evident in the deposit in Trench 3 but it did contain some window glass and a fragment of clay pipe stem. When the new public house was constructed c1919 the cellars of the original public house were backfilled with material from the local colliery and iron foundry rather than being demolished or re-used. The cellar walls survive to a maximum depth of 2.3m constructed directly on the natural clay. Cellar wall [22] in the west facing section on the east side of the trench confirms that the cellars extended out under the present pavement of Toll End Rd.

### **Trenches 4 & 5**

The trenches are located at the northeast of the site close to the pavements of Toll End Rd and Cup Field Avenue. As in Trench 3 the cellars of the earlier public house are well preserved. Wall [23] continues across Trench 4 (Plates 1 & 2) and at the northeast corner two walls approximately 1m apart [29] may indicate the bottom of a stairway. On the east side of Trench 5 in the west facing section another double wall feature [28] may be the bottom of a beer chute and confirms that the cellars extended out into Toll End Rd. The industrial waste deposit [34] did contain some 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery, in Trench 4 (2 sherds of whiteware) and in Trench 5 (2 sherds of whiteware and 1 sherd of whiteware with blue transfer pattern). All along the north end of the trenches and continuing into Trench 6 is the north end of the public house cellar [30].

### **Trench 6**

An extension west of Trenches 4 and 5, Trench 6 is located where the later public house stood. Recent demolition not only removed the above ground property, but also the cellars down to the natural clay. Consequently it is impossible to assess how much, of the original cellars were re-used in the later building. The continuation of wall [30] indicates that part of the earlier cellar was incorporated into the later building. The demolished cellars were backfilled with what appears to be crushed and ground demolition debris that when first inspected looked like a dark brown topsoil [35]. Whether this material was brought to site or was produced from the demolished building is not known.

At the western end of Trench 6 two wells [31] and [32] were discovered. The east side of Well [31] was just clipped by the trench showing it clearly in the east facing section. It was similar in size and form to Well [19] in Trench 2 and

capped with concrete (Plate 3). There were no finds associated with this feature. At the southwest corner of Trench 6 a much more substantial well was revealed [32] extending across the whole width of the trench (Plate 4). The top of the well was 2.60m below ground level and its base a further 1.60m below this. Its diameter was at least 1.5 metres. It was filled with a damp black humic deposit that contained two fragments of white-glazed floor tile, one sherd of whiteware pottery and one sherd of whiteware with blue transfer pattern. A sample of the deposit was also taken. The pottery is 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century and indicates when the well went out of use, rather than its construction. It is likely that well [32] replaced the smaller well [31] perhaps when the original building changed its use from private residence to public house sometime between 1847 and 1890.

## **5 Conclusions**

The watching brief confirmed the findings of the documentary research. Any medieval archaeology was likely to be ephemeral and rural in character and unlikely to survive in situ the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century developments that took place on site. The position, extent and sequence of post-medieval archaeology that was examined, and the associated datable finds collected, supports the map evidence.

## **6 Acknowledgements**

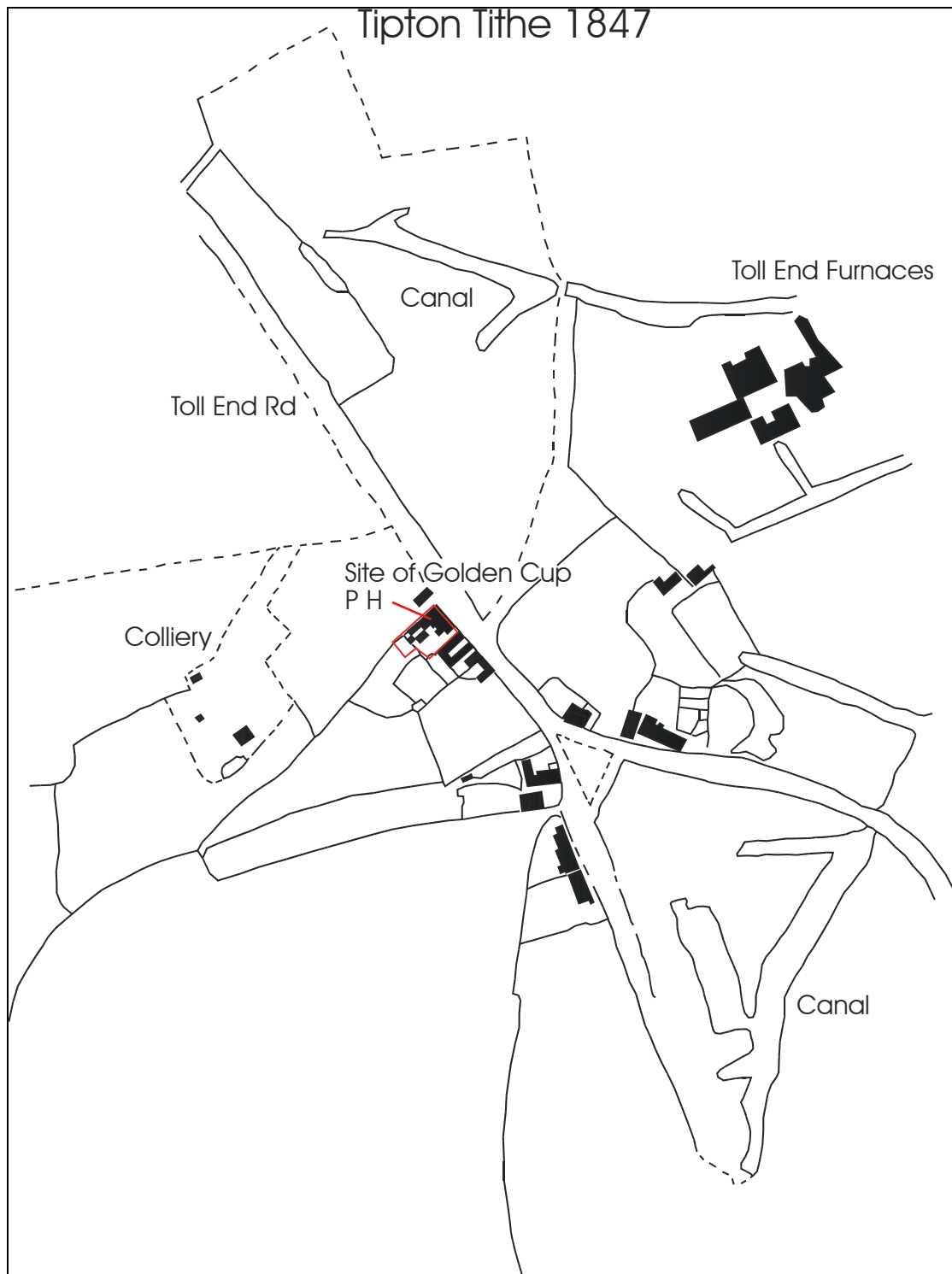
Thanks to Fay de Souza, Assistant Archaeologist (Sites and Monuments Record) Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council for supplying copies of Ordnance Survey maps from 1890 to the present.

## **7 Archive**

The archive consists of:

- 6 Trench record sheets
- 30 Context sheets
- 14 bags of ceramic and glass finds
- 1 Trench Location Plan
- 5 section drawings on 3 sheets
- 2 Photo record sheets
- 1 Black & white film
- 1 Colour slide film
- This Report

The archive is currently stored at the offices of Marches Archaeology awaiting transfer to a suitable repository.



**Figure 2: Tipton Tithe 1847. Traced copy not to scale**

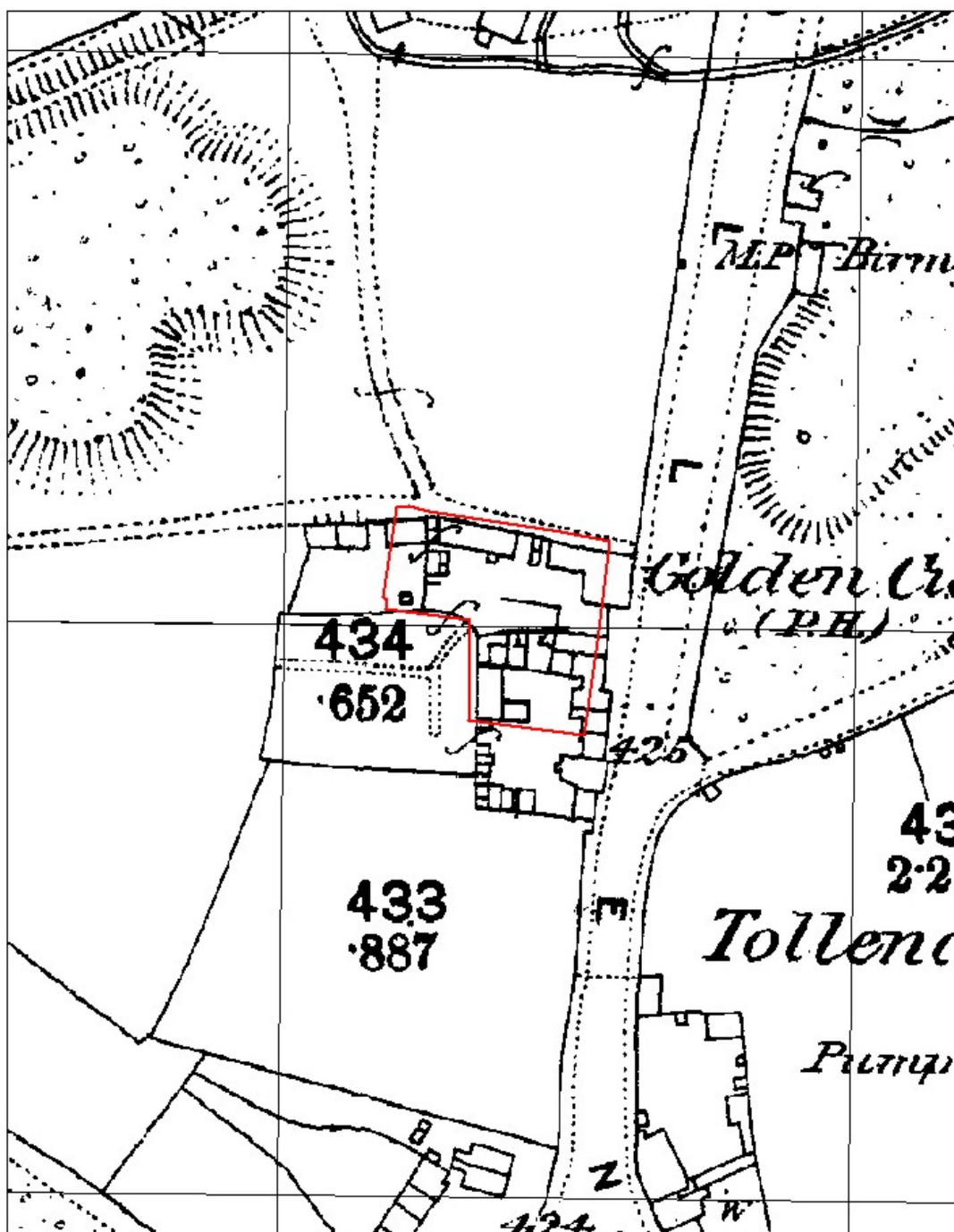


Figure 3: Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 1890. Scale to 100m Grid

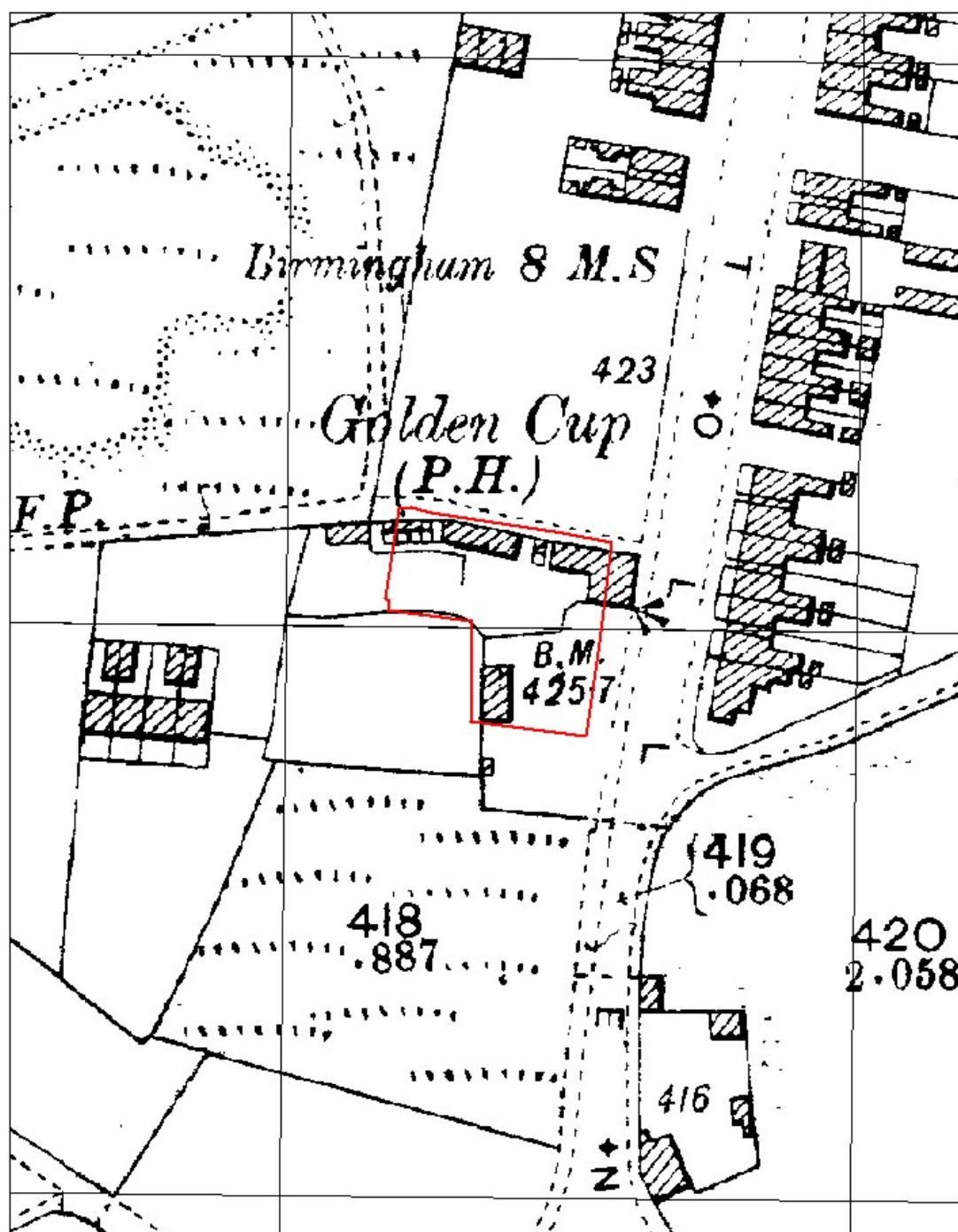


Figure 4: Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 1904. Scale to 100m Grid



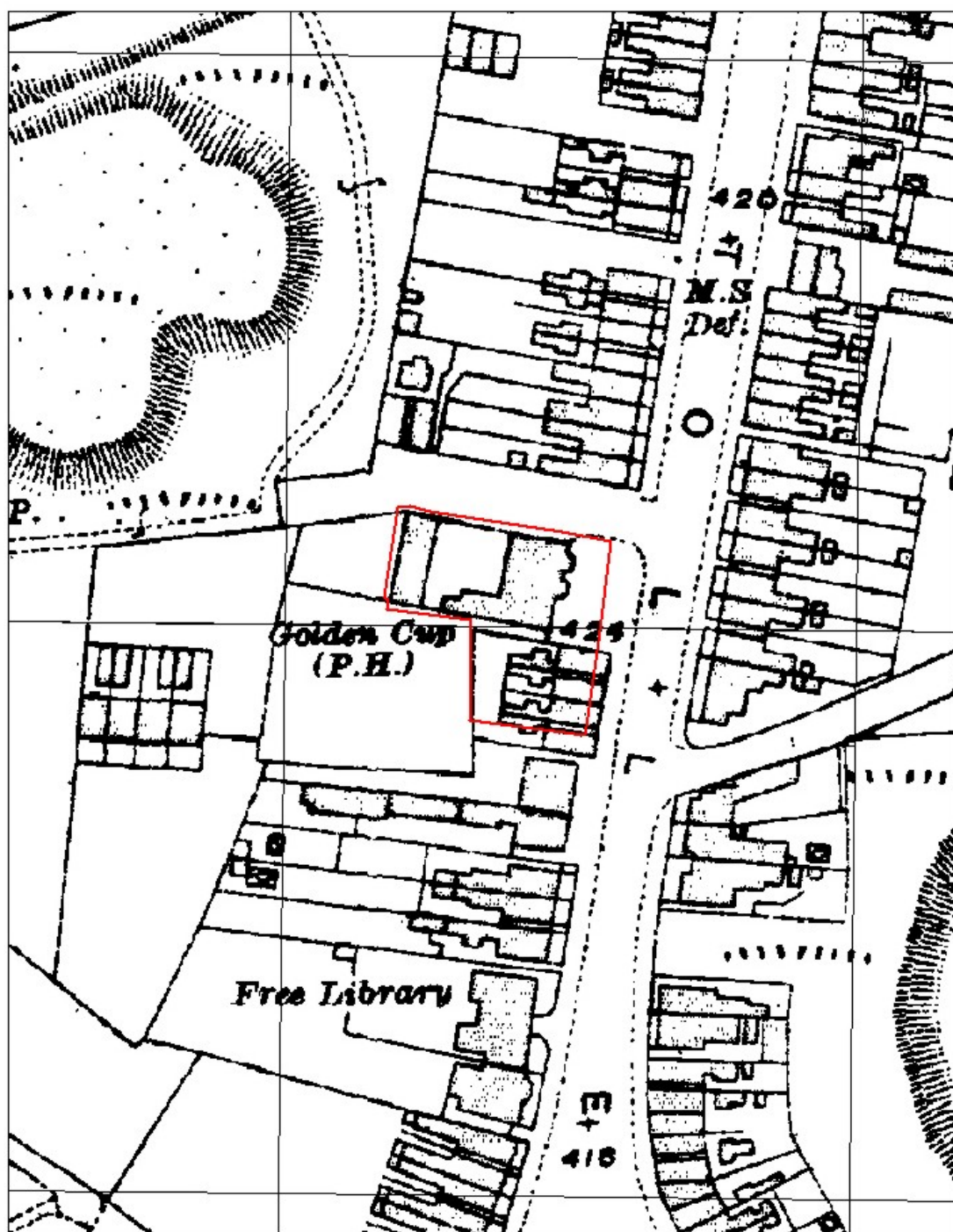


Figure 5: Ordnance Survey 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition 1919. Scale to 100m Grid



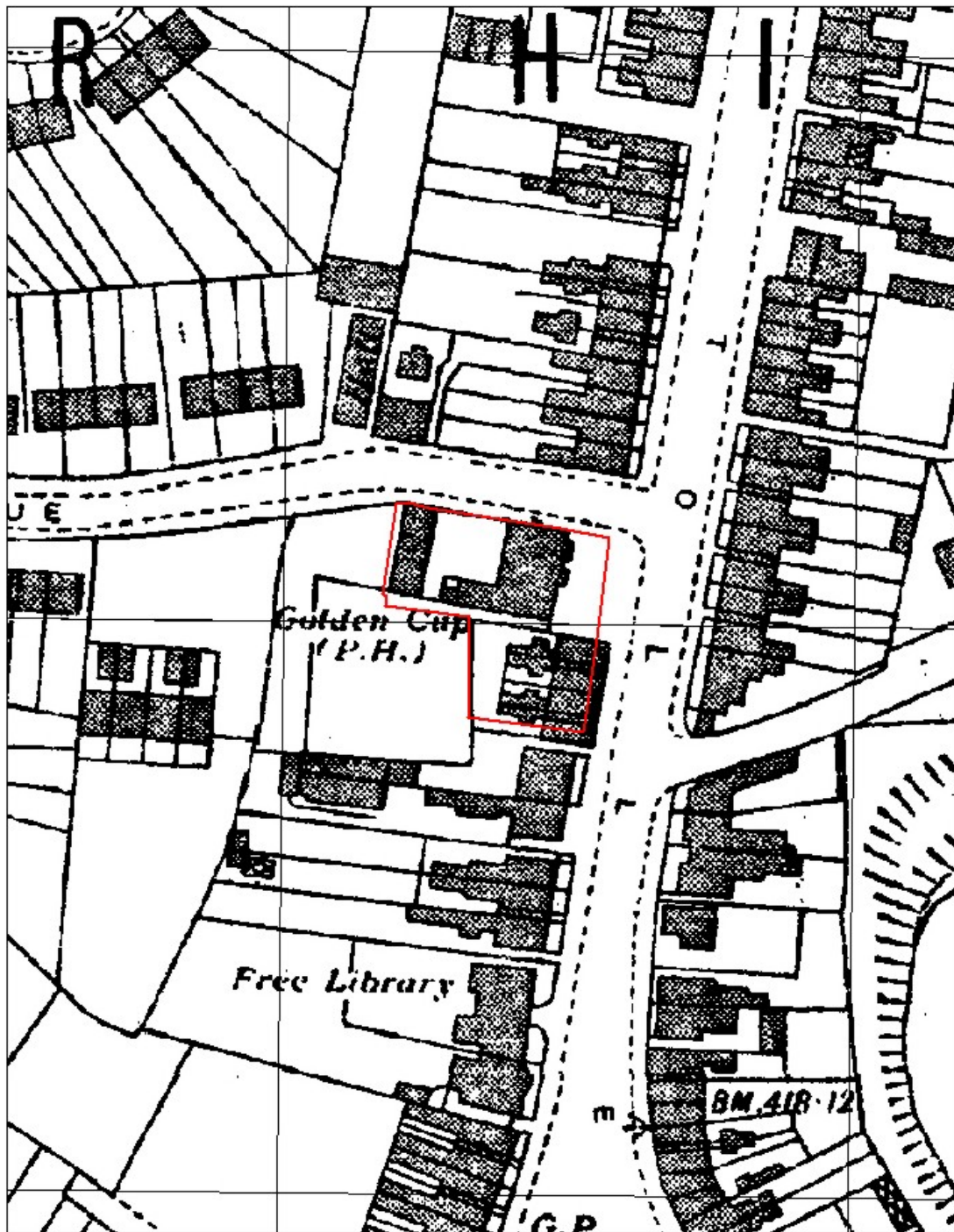


Figure 6: Ordnance Survey 4<sup>th</sup> Edition 1938. Scale to 100m Grid

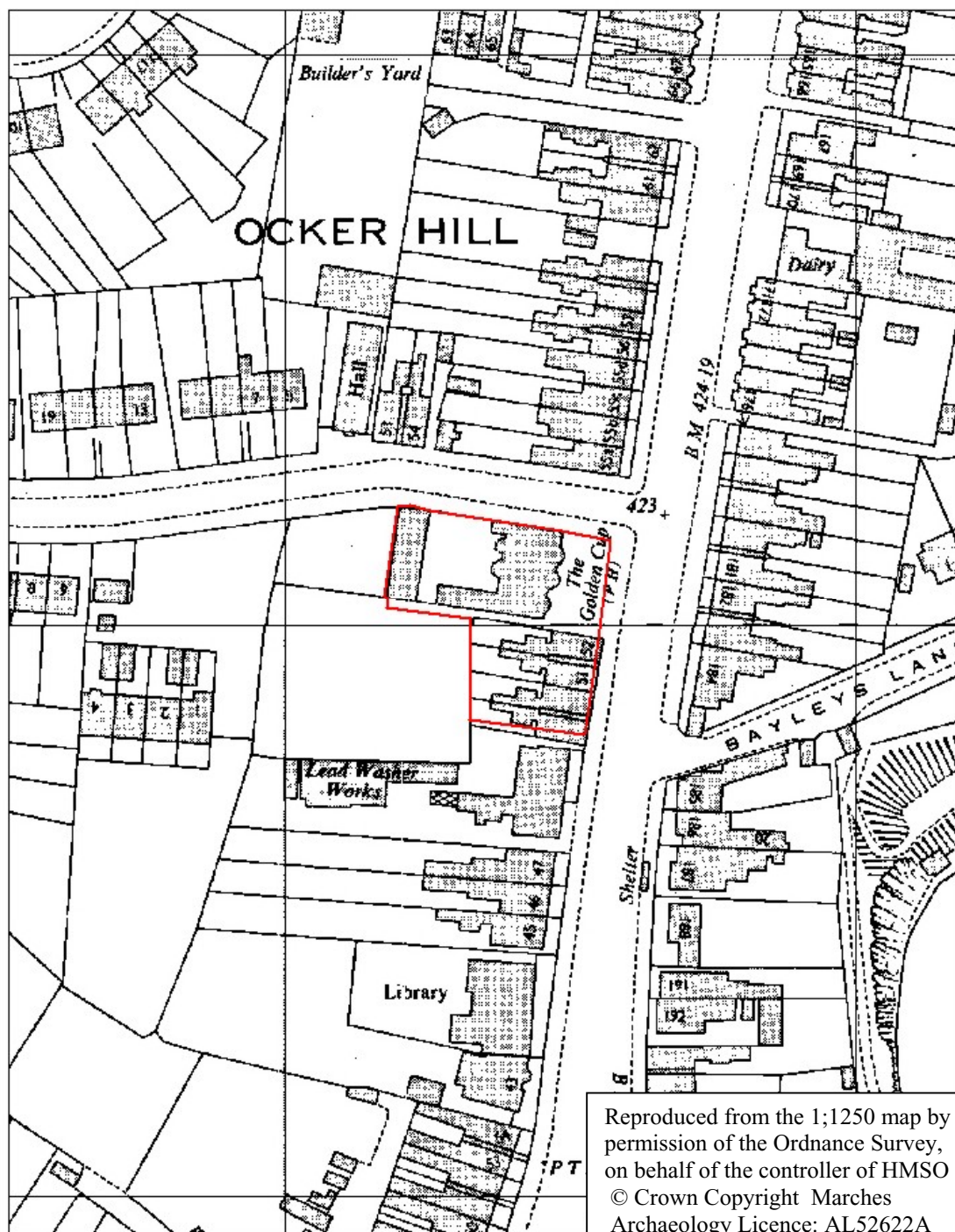
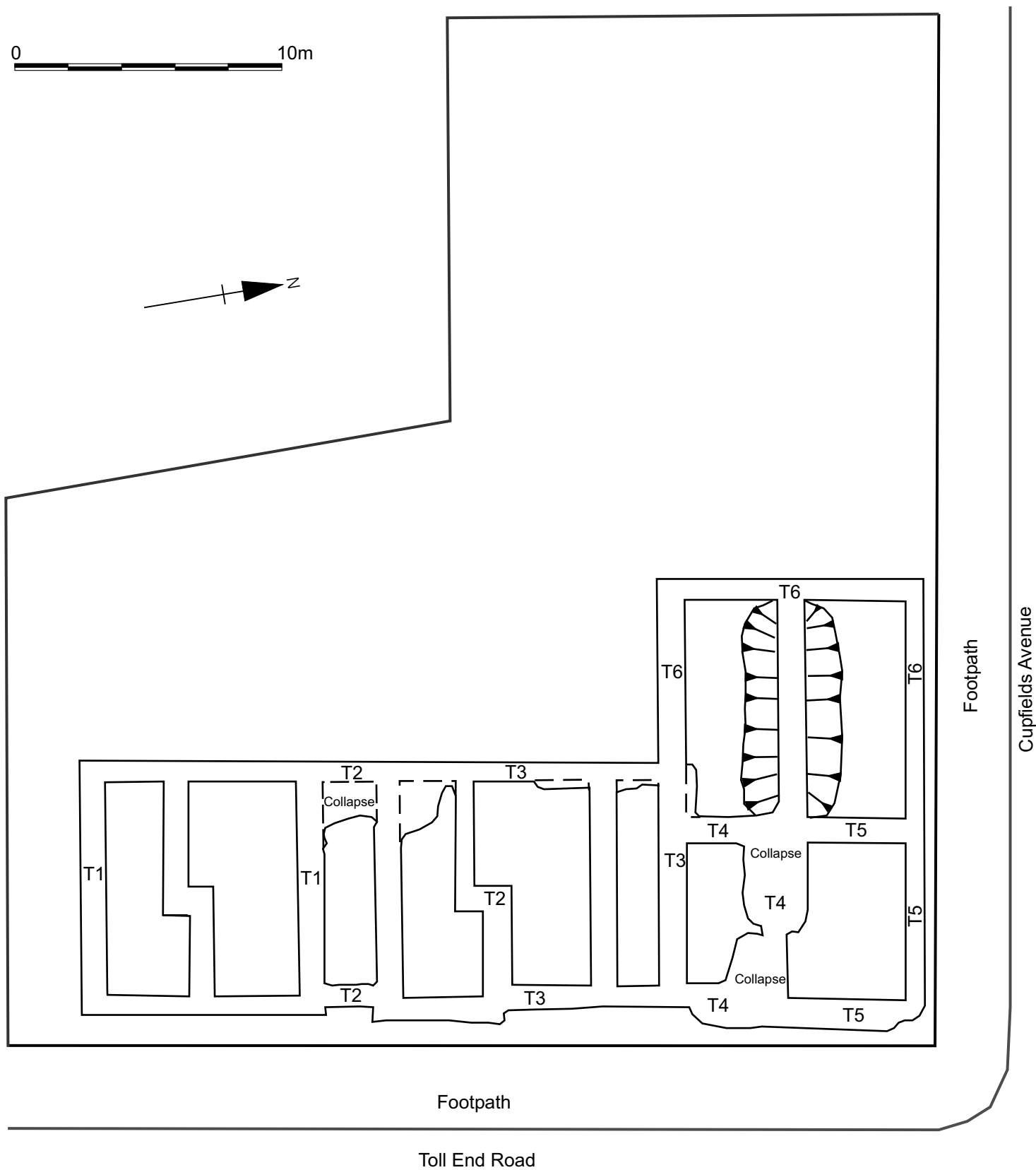


Figure 7: Ordnance Survey 5<sup>th</sup> Edition 1966. Scale to 100m Grid



**Fig. 8 Trench layout**

Fig. 9 Section of Trench 1 - South End (South-facing)

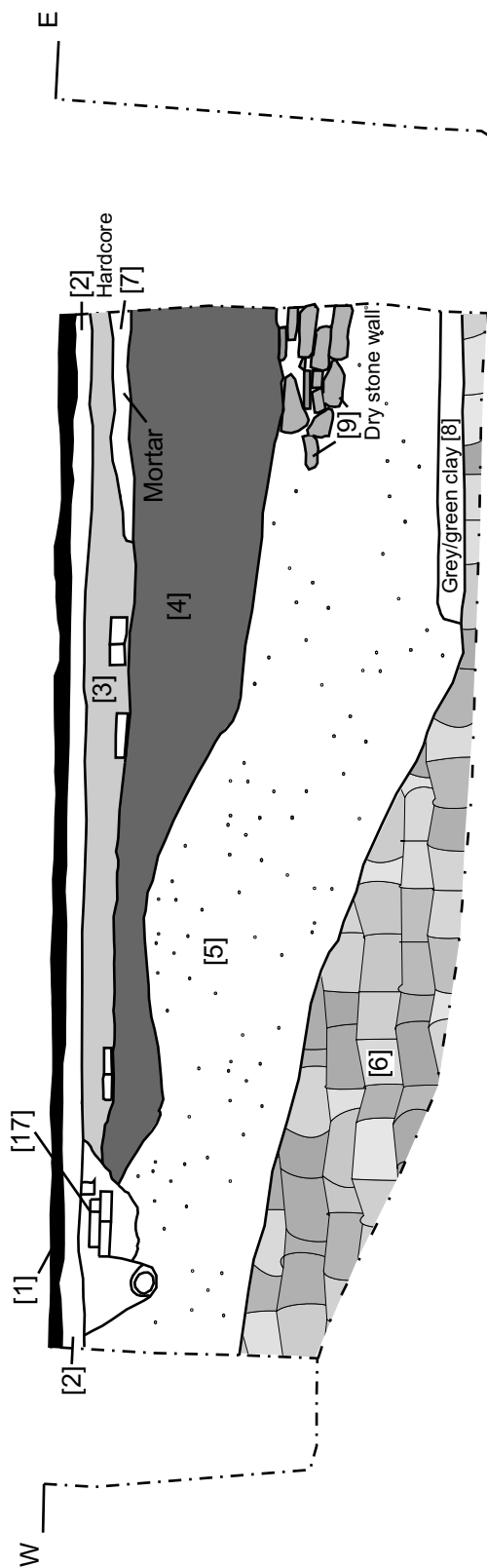
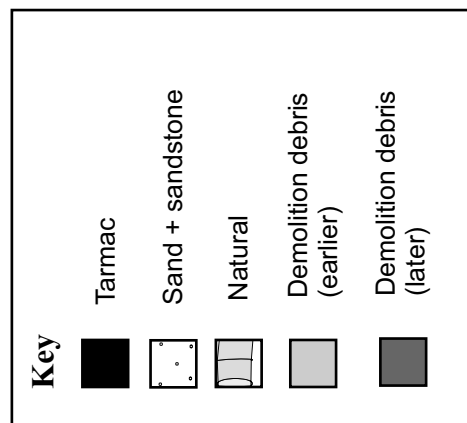
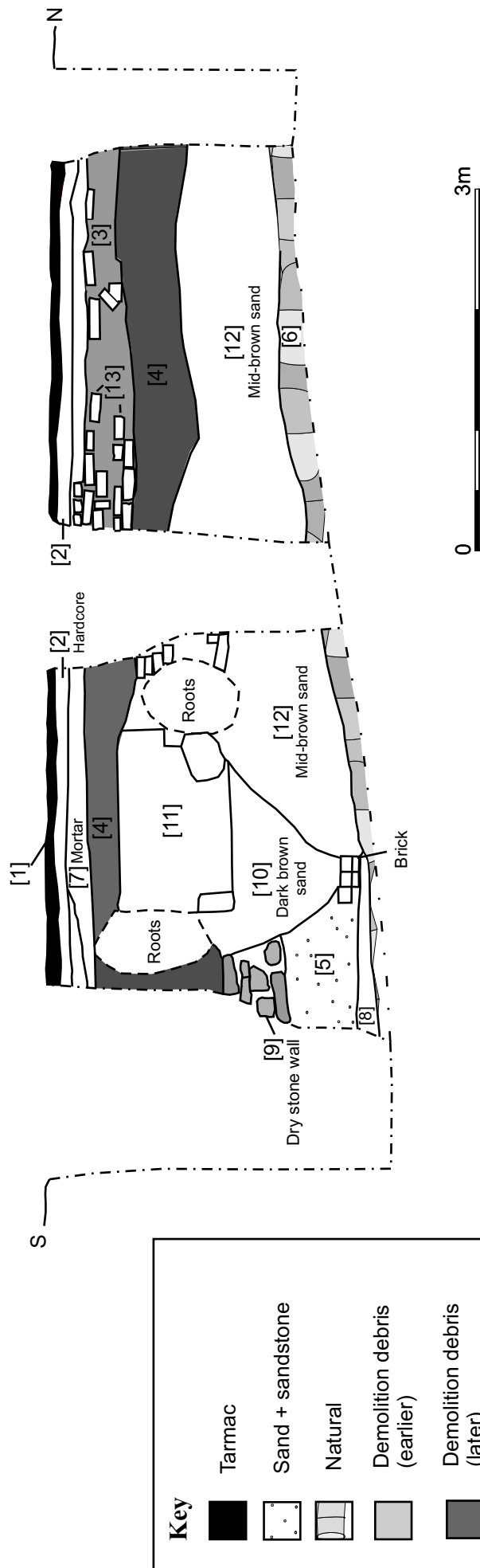
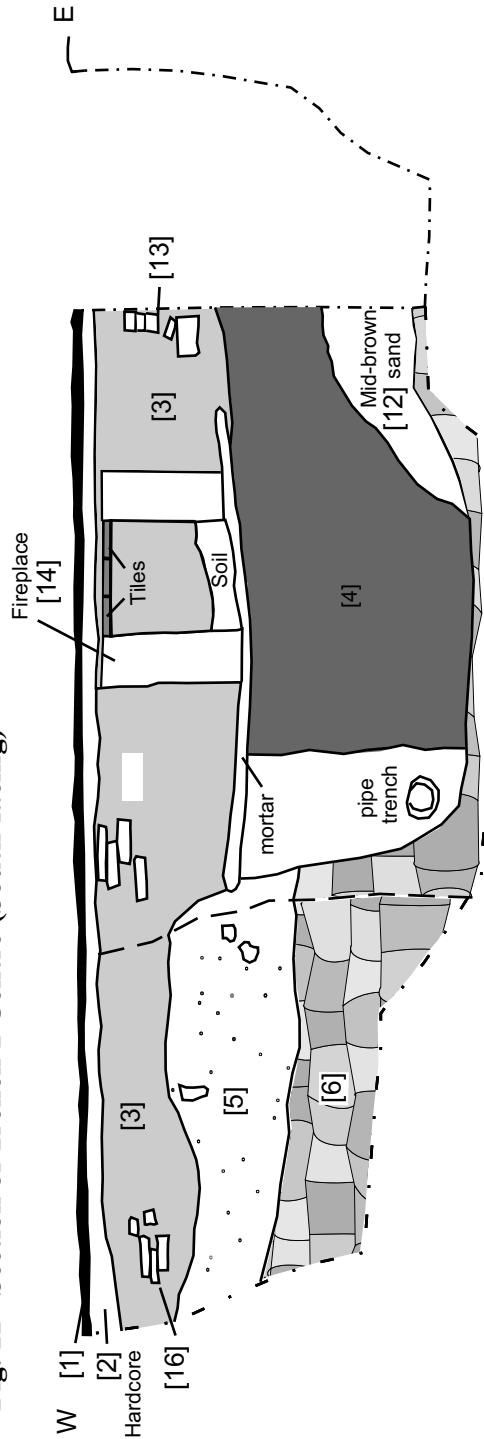


Fig. 10 Section of Trench 1 - East End (East-facing)



Figs. 9 +10 Trench 1 sections

**Fig. 11 Section of Trench 1 Centre (South-facing)**



**Fig. 12 Section of Trench 1 North end (North-facing)**

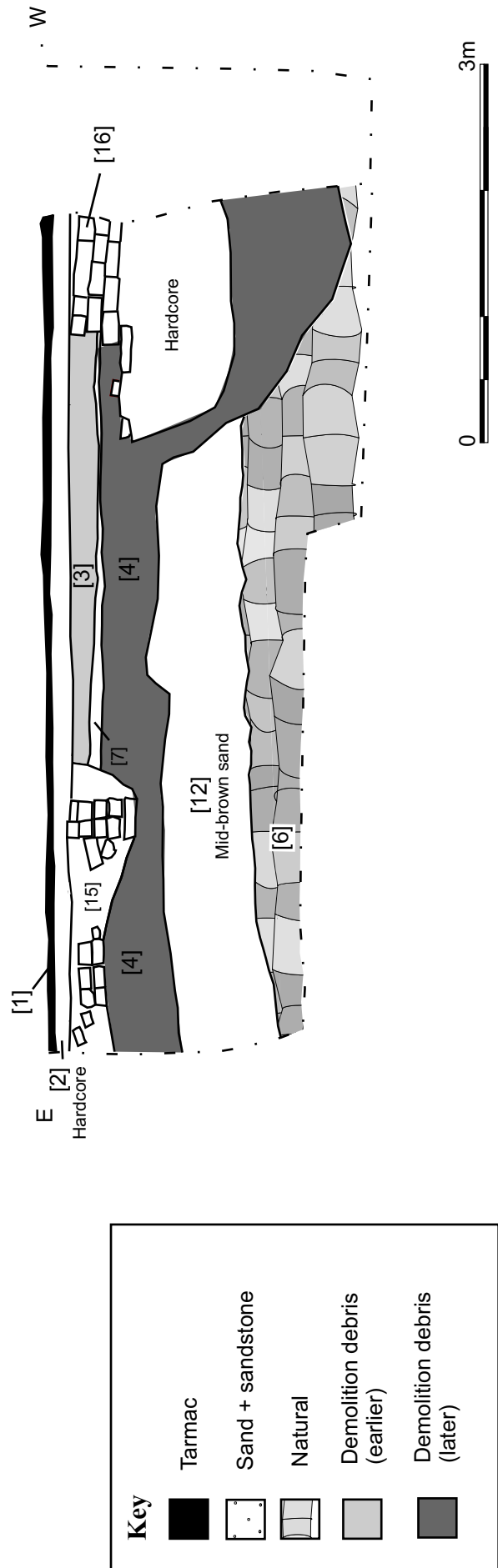


Fig. 13 Section of Trench 2 (South end - South-facing)

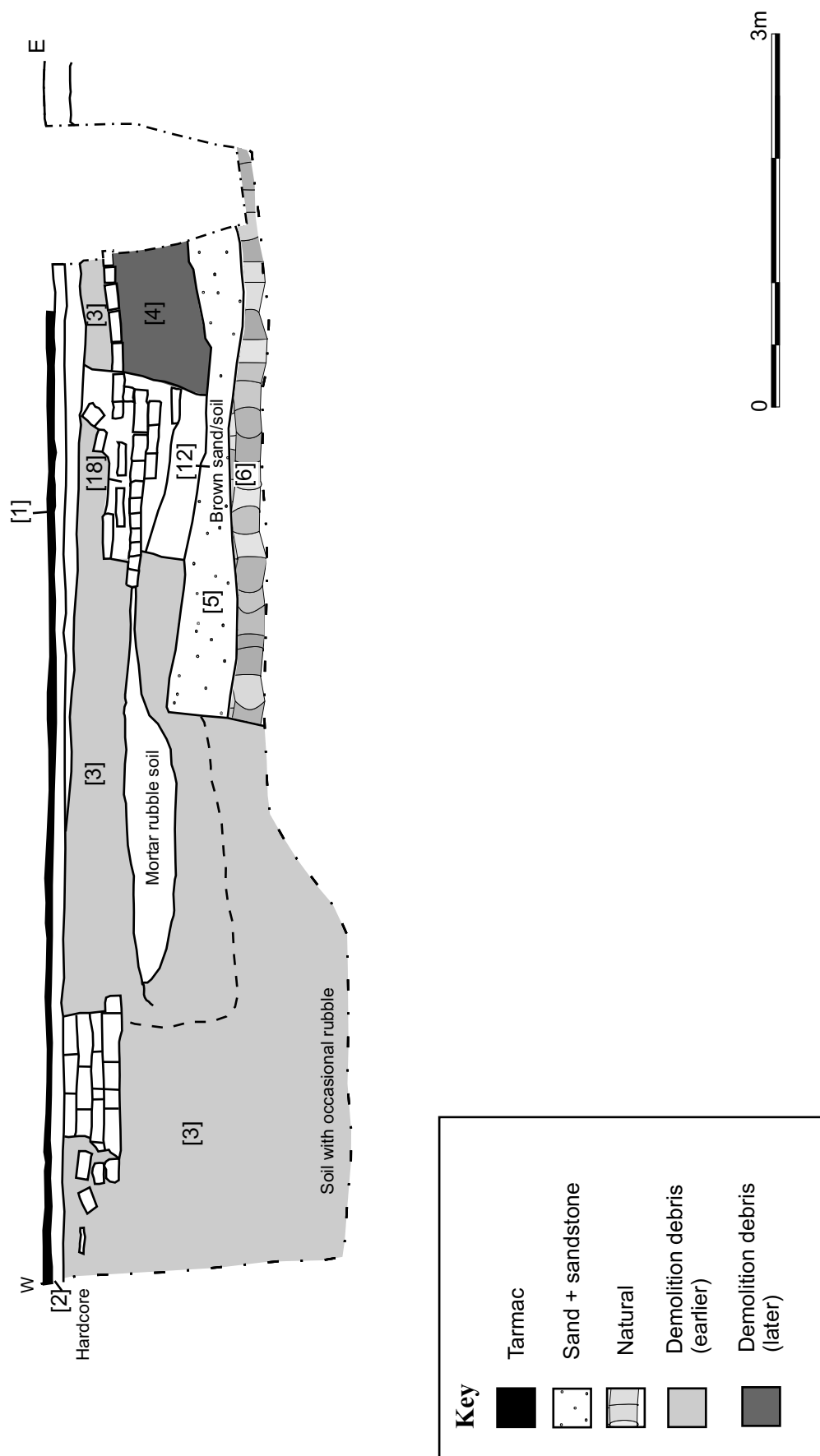


Fig.13 Trench 2 Section





**Plate 1** Cellar walls from original Public House view northeast



**Plate 2** Cellar Walls from original Public house view northwest





**Plate 3** Well [31] Trench 6 view west



**Plate 4** Well [32] Trench 6 view north