

Marches Archaeology

A track at Castlett Farm Guiting Power Gloucestershire

**A report on a
programme of archaeological works**

September 2005

Marches Archaeology Series 398

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Gloucestershire**

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NGR: SP 091 258

**Report by
Jo Wainwright**

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Summary

A programme of archaeological works at Castlett farm, Guiting Power, Gloucestershire revealed no deposits or features of archaeological significance. The natural limestone brash was excavated in one trench as was a cultivation soil which was beneath the topsoil. In the other areas of excavation the natural was not reached and only the cultivation soil and the topsoil were excavated.

1 Introduction

A planning application was submitted to the local planning authority for permission to lay a new driveway at Castlett Farm, Guiting Power, Gloucestershire (ref. 05/00666/FUL). The site is situated at NGR: SP 091 258 (Fig. 1).

The site is listed on the local Sites and Monuments Record as a site of archaeological interest. A desk based assessment identified that elements of the neighbouring deserted medieval village may have intruded upon the site (Wainwright, 2005a). A subsequent evaluation found some medieval features (Wainwright, 2005b). The Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor advised that in order that the archaeological resource was adequately protected a programme of archaeological works was to be carried out during ground works associated with the proposed development. There was no Brief for these works.

Neil Hodson, on behalf of the client, commissioned Marches Archaeology to provide the archaeological services required.

2 Aims and objectives

The scope of the project was:

- { observation of all topsoil stripping, other earthmoving and trench excavation until natural subsoil was reached
- { recording of the sequence of soil deposits present and all archaeological deposits and features
- { the collection, identification and cataloguing of all artefacts
- { if significant archaeology had been identified the archaeologist on site should have informed the County Archaeological Officer and Project Engineer

immediately in order that appropriate action may have been taken to minimise the damage to such deposits and to record them appropriately.

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’.

3 Methodology

Documentary research

No documentary research was carried out for the project as a desk based assessment on the site was completed in June 2005 (Wainwright 2005a). The findings of the desk based assessment are not reproduced here.

Fieldwork

Observations and appropriate recording was undertaken of all ground breaking activity in association with the development. An archaeologist was site for two days in September 2005. The ground breaking activities included the stripping of soil from part of the route of the track, removing hardcore and terram from areas adjacent to the track and the excavation of a water pipe trench (Fig. 2).

The recording system included written, drawn and photographic data. The primary written record was by site notes, accompanied by sketches. Context numbers were allocated and trench record sheets were completed. A plan of the areas of excavation was made. The photographic record was made using black and white negative and colour transparency film.

Office work

On completion of fieldwork a site archive was prepared. The written, drawn and photographic data was catalogued and cross-referenced and a summary produced. The artefactual data was processed and catalogued.

4 Site description

Before the construction of the ménage the area of the proposed track lay wholly within a field (Fig. 1). However, a temporary access route was formed which ran from the ménage to the lane at the north-east. This area was fenced off and partially stripped with hardcore laid over parts to provide a solid base for the temporary access route. The north-western route of the

proposed track, parallel with the existing lane, was still under pasture. Here the field was under long grass and a wooden fence separated the field from the existing lane.

The land of the study area slopes down from about 190m O. D. in the north-east to about 180m O.D. in the south-west. To the west of the ménage the land slopes steeply down to a stream and a series of ponds. Although there are earthworks visible within the field of the proposed track none can be seen along the proposed route. There was one small tree at the northern end of the track.

5 The programme of archaeological works (Fig. 2)

Area of soil strip

This area was taken down a maximum of 300mm but in the main only 220mm was removed. The earliest layer excavated was a cultivation soil which was a mid orangey brown silty clay with very frequent limestone fragments and flecks [602]. Three sherds of residual medieval pottery were recovered from [602]. The base of [602] was not reached but it was a minimum 100mm thick. Above this was the topsoil which was a mid grey brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments and flecks [601]. This was a maximum 250mm thick but in general was about 150mm thick. These two deposits were also encountered in the evaluation excavation in Trenches 3, 4 and 5.

Area where stone and terram removed

About 200mm of hardcore and terram sheeting was removed from this area which had been stripped in 2004. The hardcore and terram had been laid down to form the temporary access road and hardstanding for site accommodation units. In the main, layer [602] was visible underneath the terram, but in places only the topsoil [601] was seen.

Water pipe trench

This was excavated to a maximum of 800mm deep. The natural limestone brash [603] was seen at about 550mm below the surface of the trench. Overlying this was [602] which was a maximum 300mm thick. Above this was the topsoil [601] which was about 200mm thick.

6 Discussion

The evaluation excavation uncovered medieval features which are probably associated with the medieval settlement of Castlett. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were excavated during the programme of works.

In the area of the soil strip and in the area where the hardcore and terram was removed the excavations were not deep enough to encounter significant archaeology. A cultivation soil was seen at the limit of excavation [602], which was also excavated in the evaluation. In the water pipe trench the natural [603] was reached which was below [602].

7 Acknowledgements

Thanks must go to the on site groundwork contractors for their help during the project.

8 References

Unpublished references

Wainwright, J, 2005a, *Proposed Track at Castlett Farm Guiting Power Gloucestershire: A report on an archaeological desk based assessment*, Marches Archaeology Series 386

Wainwright, J, 2005b, *Proposed Track at Castlett Farm Guiting Power Gloucestershire: A report on an archaeological evaluation*, Marches Archaeology Series 389

9 Archive

The site code is CFG05C. The archive consists of:

- 1 trench sheet
- 1 field drawing on 1 sheet
- 1 sheet of site diary and notes
- 1 finds sheet
- 2 photo record sheets
- 1 film of black and white photographic negatives
- 1 film of colour photographic transparencies
- 1 box of finds

The archive is currently held by Marches Archaeology awaiting transfer to the appropriate museum.

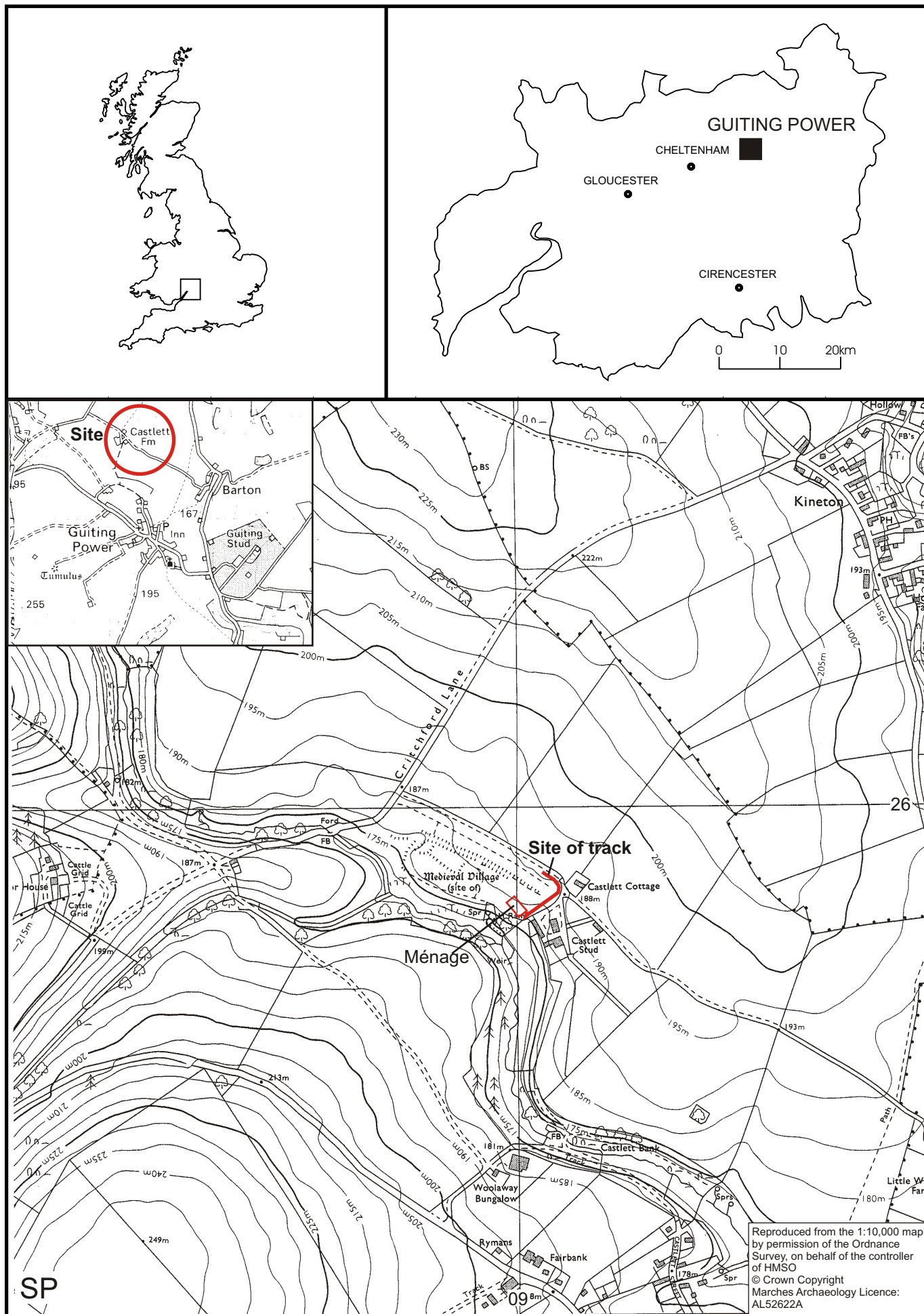


Fig. 1 Location of the site

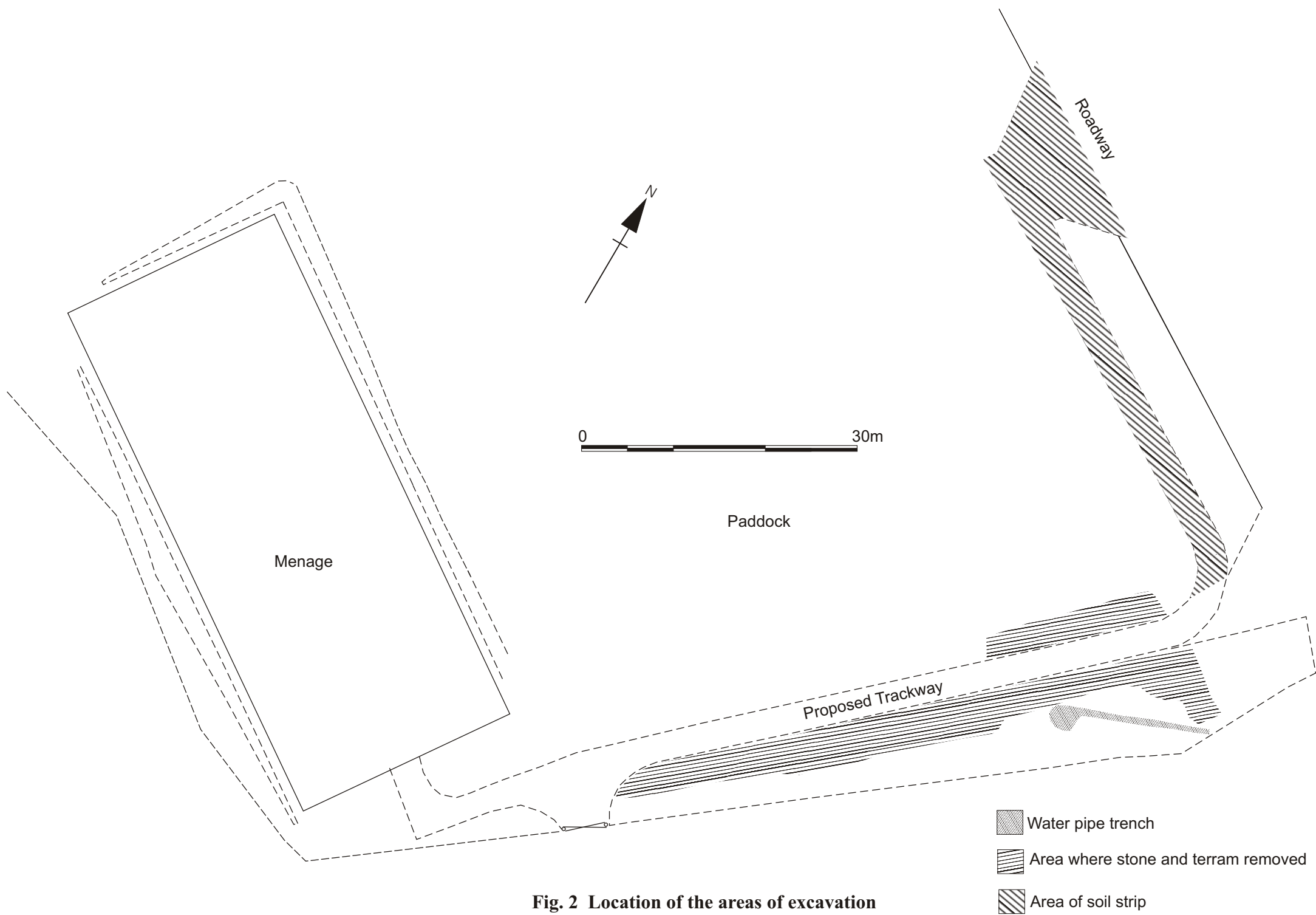


Fig. 2 Location of the areas of excavation