



19 BLANDFORD ROAD, HAMWORTHY, POOLE
Archaeological Evaluation – Stage 2



Report No. 53209/2/2

June 2008

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Archaeological Evaluation – Stage 2, June 2008

Planning Application No. 07/00913/020/F

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CONTENTS

Summary	1
Introduction	1
The Site	2
Archaeological Background	2
Aims and Objectives	3
Methods	3
Results	4
<i>Block A</i>	4
<i>Block C</i>	5
<i>Block D</i>	7
Discussion.....	8
Project Archive	8
References.....	9

Figures

1 Location map	10
2 Trench location plan	11
3 Plan of Trenches 10 and 13 in area of Block A	12
4 Plan of Trenches 7, 8 and 9 in area of Block C	13
5 Plan of Trenches 11 and 12 in area of Block D.....	14
6 Sections.....	15

Plates

1 Block A – Trench 10; view from the north.	16
2 Block A – Trench 10; east-facing section and ditch 10.6.....	16
3 Block A – Trench 13; view from the east.....	17
4 Block A – Trench 13; south-facing section.	17
5 Block A – Trench 13; north-facing section.	18
6 Block C – Trench 7; view from the north.	18
7 Block C – Trench 7; west-facing section.....	19
8 Block C – Trench 8; view from the west.....	19
9 Block C – Trench 8; south-facing section with feature 8.10.	20
10 Block C – Trench 9; view from the north.	20
11 Block C – Trench 9; east-facing section.....	21
12 Block D – Trench 11; view from the west.	21
13 Block D – Trench 11; north-facing section.....	22
14 Block D – Trench 12; view from the south.....	22
15 Block D – Trench 12; east-facing section.	23

19 Blandford Road, Hamworthy, Poole

Archaeological Evaluation – Stage 2

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SUMMARY

In June 2008, Terrain Archaeology carried out a second stage of archaeological evaluation of land to the rear of 19 Blandford Road, Hamworthy, Poole (NGR SZ00379017). This phase of evaluation was specifically targeted in those areas formerly inaccessible below the previous industrial buildings on the site, which lie within the footprint of the proposed new development. Seven machine-dug evaluation trenches were excavated and archaeological features were revealed in every trench. Primarily the archaeology comprised a series of small ditches, very similar to the Late Iron Age and Roman ditch systems found previously on this site and the adjacent site of Shapwick Road, together with a smaller number of possible pits and postholes. A small number of more recent features were also found.

INTRODUCTION

Terrain Archaeology has been commissioned by Scammell Securities PLC, to undertake a programme of archaeological works during the proposed redevelopment of Blandford Road, Hamworthy, Poole, (Planning Application No. 07/00913/020/F), in order to fulfil the required archaeological planning conditions. The outline scheme of the programme of archaeological works has been set out in Terrain Archaeology Document No. 3209/0/3 (March 2008).

Condition 10 of the Grant of Planning Permission (Application No. 07/00913/020/F) states: "The applicant shall secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation to be submitted to, and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall cover archaeological fieldwork together with post-excavation work and publication of the results."

As part of the Planning Application, an archaeological desk-based assessment and subsequent archaeological evaluation were undertaken by Terrain Archaeology in February and July 2006. The desk-based assessment indicated that the site lies in an area of high archaeological potential, particularly for remains of the Late Iron Age and Roman periods (Bellamy and Tatler 2006a). The subsequent archaeological evaluation was limited by the presence of the existing buildings on the site and a smaller sample was investigated (about 0.55%) than would normally be required under ideal circumstances. Nevertheless, it revealed the presence of archaeological features surviving on the site (Bellamy and Tatler 2006b). Consultation with Steve Wallis, Senior Archaeologist, Dorset County Council determined that a second stage of archaeological evaluation would be required in the area of the former buildings when the area becomes available. This report presents the results of this second stage of evaluation.

An archaeological evaluation, as defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (1994, as revised) is "a limited programme of intrusive fieldwork, which determines the presence, or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present, field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context, as appropriate."

The proposed development of the site comprises the construction of four blocks of housing: Blocks A and B in the southern end of the site and Blocks C and D in the central part of the site. There will also be some development along the northern edge of the site along Blandford Road. The buildings will be constructed on either strip or piled foundations, together with associated roads, services and landscaping.

The fieldwork was carried out between the 3rd and 5th June 2008 by Steven Tatler and Sam Worrall. The project was managed by Peter Bellamy BSc (Hons) MIFA.

Terrain Archaeology would like to acknowledge the help and cooperation of the following during the course of this project: Tony O'Connor and Peter Scammell (Scammell Securities), Ian Stratton (Total Demolition), Steven Wallis (Dorset County Council).

THE SITE

The site lies on the south side of Blandford Road in Lower Hamworthy and is an irregularly shaped area about 125 m by 90 m, centred on Ordnance Survey NGR SZ00379017 (Figures 1 and 2). The topography is almost flat and lies at a height of about 1.6 m above OD. The site was until recently occupied by large steel-framed industrial units and includes Station Road along the eastern edge, part of the station yard in the southeast corner, and 19 Blandford Road along its northern edge. 19 Blandford Road is a Grade II Listed Building. The area to the west has been developed for housing but was formerly the site of Carter's (later Pilkington's) tileworks, with a sawmill immediately adjacent to the present site. On the north side of Blandford Road, opposite the site, lies Sydenham's Timber Yard with the Pilkington Tiles factory (formerly the Patent Architectural Pottery) to the west.

The underlying geology is mapped as Poole Formation deposits of the Bracklesham Group overlain by drift deposits (British Geological Survey 1:50000 Sheet 329 *Bournemouth* (1991)). The Site probably lies on Second level River Terrace deposits of flint gravel, often very sandy, with Oakdale clay and sand deposits underneath.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological and historical background of the site has been set out in some detail in the desk-based assessment of the site (Terrain Archaeology Ref. No. 53209/1/1, February 2006) and reference should be made to that document for more details. Only a very brief summary of the archaeological and historical background is presented here.

In July 2006 Terrain Archaeology carried out an initial evaluation of part of the site and revealed evidence for Late Iron Age saltworking in the southeastern part of the site (Bellamy and Tatler 2006b). A number of ditches and pits were found, similar to an extensive complex of small ditches and other features found to the west of the present site (Bellamy and Tatler 2005; Bellamy 2004; Collins 1989). These have been interpreted as drainage ditches and/or ditches associated with salt production in this area in the Late Iron Age and Roman period, but the function of these ditches is difficult to determine without exposing more of the plan of the ditch system. Hamworthy has produced some of the best evidence for Late Iron Age and Roman saltworking in on the northern shores of Poole Harbour and a review article on salt production in Poole Harbour has underlined how important this industry is in understanding the Iron Age and Roman settlement and economy of Poole Harbour (Hathaway 2005). In May 2008, Wessex Archaeology carried out an excavation of the footprint of Block B of the proposed new development (Figure 2). This excavation revealed elements of a ditch system, together with a part of a possible ring ditch and several pits (M. Williams (Wessex Archaeology, pers. comm.)). Another ring ditch dating to the Late Iron Age period immediately prior to the Roman conquest was found during evaluation of the Shapwick Road site, immediately to the west of the present site (Bellamy and Tatler 2003).

The most significant archaeology found in Hamworthy dates to the early Roman period. Part of the defensive circuit of a large Roman military 'fort' or supply base has been found to the west and northwest of the site, but the full extent is not known and the proposed development area could lie within it. There has been comparatively little exposure of the interior to date, so the internal arrangements of this supply base are poorly understood. There is some evidence for timber Roman military-style buildings and also a number of pits, postholes, slots, and other features. The associated finds date to the period c. AD43–65 and includes some imported fineware pottery of types that suggest a Roman military association (Bellamy 2000a & b; Bellamy and Pearce 2001). This 'fort' at Hamworthy is connected by a Roman road to the Roman legionary fortress at Lake Farm, near Wimborne, which also appears to have been occupied in the period c. AD43–65 (Field 1992). Hamworthy appears to be a major supply base supporting the Roman army during Vespasian's campaign to conquer the Durotriges and other tribes in the southwest.

Subsequent to the period of Roman military occupation, the area appears to have been used for salt production from the later 1st century AD. This salt production site may have been under Roman military control. Cartographic evidence shows that the site was agricultural land until the middle of the 20th century when an engineering works was built, so consequently there is unlikely to be any significant post-medieval archaeological features encountered on the site.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the archaeological works is to evaluate the archaeological potential of the area of the site previously sealed beneath the former buildings and likely to be disturbed by the proposed development.

The two main objectives are (i) to assess the level of survival of potential archaeological features and deposits beneath the former industrial buildings on the site and (ii) to test whether there are any archaeological features surviving within the areas of the proposed new development.

The evaluation will expose and plan *in situ* archaeological deposits and features revealed during the works, in order to provide data to inform the subsequent stages of the archaeological programme of works.

METHODS

The archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Terrain Archaeology (Ref. 3209/0/5, June 2008) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, although no written brief was issued for the works.

The evaluation comprised intrusive investigation in the form of seven (7 No.) trenches measuring a nominal 10 m by 2 m. The location of the trenches was limited to the footprints of the proposed new buildings referred to as Block A, Block C and Block D (Figure 2).

The trenches were cleared of overburden by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket, down on to the top of any *in situ* archaeological deposits, or the natural subsoil, whichever was encountered first. No excavation was taken deeper than 1.2 m below present ground surface. All machine operation was supervised at all times by an experienced field archaeologist. One end of each trench was stepped by the machine to allow easy access for recording purposes.

All archaeological deposits and features exposed during the works were cleared by hand, then planned and photographed. The recording of the archaeological features and deposits was limited to planning, photographing and a brief description of the soils and deposits, using components of

the Terrain Archaeology recording system of complementary written, drawn and photographic records, as it is intended to record the archaeology as part of the subsequent excavation stage.

The records will be compiled, together with the records of the other stages of archaeological work, into a stable, cross-referenced and fully indexed archive in accordance with current guidelines (Brown 2007; Walker 1990) and the requirements of the receiving museum.

RESULTS

Block A

Block A lies in the southwest corner of the site. Its proposed footprint was evaluated by the machine-excavation of two trenches, Trench 10 and Trench 13 (Figure 3).

Trench 10

This trench was situated in the southwest corner of the site and was aligned NNE – SSW. It measured 10.5 m long by 2.1 m wide and was excavated up to a depth of 0.85 m. The underlying natural deposits consisted of loose orange sand (10.4) containing rare flint gravel.

Probable Late Iron Age and Roman Features

A number of features cut into the natural sand were exposed (Plate 1). In the northeast corner of the trench, part of a linear feature (10.5), probably a ditch, was found running NNW – SSE. It was filled with mid yellowish-brown sand containing flint gravel. Two roughly parallel small ditches were found running almost perpendicular to it. The northern one (10.6) was a small ditch or gully, aligned NE – SW, which terminated towards the east. It was up to 0.5 m wide and filled with mid yellowish-brown sand containing patches of dark greyish-brown (charcoal rich?) sand and flint gravel (Plate 2). The southern one (10.8) was up to 0.85 m wide and was filled with mid yellowish-brown sand and flint gravel.

Probable Post-medieval and Modern Features

Between the two ditches described above was a small, rectangular feature (10.7), probably a posthole, measuring 0.25 m long by 0.2 m wide, and filled with mid greyish-brown sand with flecks of charcoal and small lumps of yellow and white sandy-silt.

Soil Layers and Overburden

Sealing these features and overlying the natural sand was a layer of mid yellowish-brown sand (10.3), up to 0.25 m thick, containing flint gravel. Above this was a deposit of mid yellowish-brown sand (10.2), up to 0.3 m thick, containing flint gravel and lenses of yellow and white sandy silt, which became more concentrated towards the southern end of the trench and may represent historic inundation at the edge of Poole Harbour. Overlying this was a dark greyish-brown sandy loam (10.1), up to 0.3 m thick, containing flint gravel. These deposits overlying the natural sand probably represent medieval and later agricultural soil development.

Trench 13

This trench was situated at the southern end of the site to the east of Trench 10, aligned WNW – ESE. It was 11 m long by 2.1 m wide and excavated up to a depth of 0.95 m. The underlying natural deposit consisted of dark reddish brown sand (13.5) containing flint gravel.

Probable Late Iron Age and Roman Features

At the eastern end of the trench was a narrow linear feature (13.6), probably a ditch, aligned N - S and up to 0.6 m wide, which cut the natural sand. It was filled with dark reddish-brown sand with

patches of dark greyish-brown sand. Late Iron Age or Roman pottery was noted in the fill of this feature. Sealing this feature and overlying the natural sands was a mid greyish-brown sandy silt layer (13.4), up to 0.2 m thick, containing flecks of charcoal and flint gravel.

Probable Post-medieval and Modern Features

In the northern half of the trench layer 13.4 was cut by an array of rectangular pits (13.7), which ran the whole length of the trench. They had vertical sides and were spaced, on average, 0.1 m apart. All were filled with the same deposit of clean orangey yellow sand (13.3), containing patches of white sandy silt. This sand also formed a thin layer across the whole of the trench (Plates 3-5).

Soil Layers and Overburden

All the features and layers described above were covered by a layer of mid greyish-brown sandy silt (13.4), up to 0.14 m thick, containing flecks of charcoal and flint gravel, very similar to deposit 13.4. Overlying the whole trench was a deposit of building rubble (13.1) up to 0.28 m thick.

Block C

Block C lies on the western side of the site, adjacent to Block D (Figure 2). Its proposed footprint was evaluated by the machine-excavation of three trenches, Trench 7, Trench 8 and Trench 9 (Figure 4).

Trench 7

This trench was situated near the western boundary of the site and was aligned NNE-SSW. It measured 10.5 m long by 2.1 m wide and excavated up to a depth of 1.2 m. The underlying natural deposit consisted of pale yellowish-brown coarse sand (7.5) containing flint gravel.

Probable Late Iron Age and Roman Features

At the northern end of the trench was a large sub-oval feature (7.6), up to 2.0 m wide, and running under the eastern section. (Plate 6) It was filled with mid yellowish-brown sand containing flint gravel and frequent patches of dark greyish-brown sand, possibly charcoal stained. Occasional pieces of briquetage were observed in the surface of the fill. In the middle of the trench was a sub-circular feature (7.7), 0.45 m by 0.40 m, containing dark greyish-brown sand, again possibly charcoal stained, with flint gravel and small flecks of white sand. At the southern end of the trench was a large linear feature (7.10) aligned ESE – WNW, its southern edge obscured by the stepped area at this end of the trench used for access. It was filled with mid yellowish-brown sand with flint gravel and occasional charcoal flecks. Fragments of briquetage were observed in the surface of the fill.

Probable Post-medieval and Modern Features

Along the northern edge of 7.10 were two rectangular features (7.8 and 7.9) both filled with dark greyish-brown charcoal-rich sand with flint gravel, some burnt, together with some fragments of coarse textile, possibly hessian or sacking.

Soil Layers and Overburden

Sealing these features was a mid yellowish-brown silty sand layer with some gravel (7.4), up to 0.4 m thick. Above this was a greyish-brown sandy loam (7.3), up to 0.35 m thick, containing flint gravel (Plate 7). These two deposits probably represent medieval and later agricultural soil development. Overlying these layers was a deposit of yellow and white sand with flint gravel (7.2), up to 0.35 m thick, probably the sub base layer for the concrete floor of the recently demolished building. Above this was a layer of mixed demolition rubble (7.1) from the previous buildings.

Trench 8

This trench was situated in the middle of the proposed footprint of Block C, to the east of Trench 7 (Figure 4). It was aligned ESE – WNW and measured 10 m long by 2.1 m wide and excavated up to a depth of 1.15 m. The underlying natural deposit consisted of mid reddish-brown coarse sand (8.3) containing flint gravel.

Probable Late Iron Age and Roman Features

At the western end of the trench the natural sand was cut by a large probably linear feature (8.4), aligned E – W and running under the western and northern edges of the trench (Plate 8). It was filled with mid yellowish-brown sand containing flint gravel. Along the southern edge of this feature and filled with a similar deposit, was a small gully (8.5) running south and terminating in the middle of the trench. East of this was a narrow linear feature (8.7), running parallel to 8.4 and terminating in to the west (8.7). It was 0.5 m wide and filled with mid yellowish-brown sand containing flint gravel. The western end of this ditch was cut by an oval pit (8.6), measuring 1.1 m by 0.8 m across, which was filled with mid yellowish brown sand containing flint gravel and patches of dark greyish brown sand, possibly charcoal stained. At the eastern end of the trench and observed in the northern section only was a shallow, concave feature (8.10), 0.52 m wide (Figure 6). It was filled with a layer of dark pink burnt clay (8.8), up to 0.12 m thick, overlying a thin deposit of charcoal (8.9), up to 0.02 m thick (Plate 9).

Soil Layers and Overburden

Overlying these features was a layer of mid yellowish-brown silty sand (8.2), up to 0.4 m thick, containing flint gravel. This deposit probably represents post Roman agricultural soil development. Above this was a mixed layer of recent demolition rubble (8.1).

Trench 9

This trench was situated in the middle of the western half of the site, to the east of Trench 8 (Figure 4). It was aligned NNE – SSW and measured 10 m long by 2.1 m wide and was excavated up to a depth of 0.8 m. The underlying natural deposit was mid orangey-brown coarse sand (9.3) containing flint gravel.

Probable Late Iron Age and Roman Features

A narrow curvilinear feature (9.8), up to 0.8 m wide, was exposed along most of the length of the trench, running under the eastern edge at the northern and southern end (Plate 10). It was filled with mid yellowish-brown sand containing flint gravel and patches of dark greyish-brown sand, possibly charcoal stained. In the northern half of the trench a circular feature or pit (9.6) was found running under the western edge of the trench. It was up to 0.9 m wide and filled with mid yellowish-brown sand containing flint gravel and patches of dark greyish-brown sand, possibly charcoal stained. In the middle of the trench was a large sub-oval feature (9.7), which appeared to cut feature 9.8. It measured up to 1.4 m wide and continued beyond the edge of the trench to the west. It was filled with yellowish-brown sand containing flint gravel. At the northern end of the trench, both feature 9.8 and feature 9.6 were cut by a linear ditch (9.4) aligned WNW – ESE, measuring up to 1.1 m wide. It was filled with mid yellowish-brown sand containing flint gravel. Along the northern edge of this ditch, near the eastern edge of the trench, was a short length of gully (9.5) running north and terminating near to the northern end of the trench. It was filled with mid yellowish-brown sand containing flint gravel.

Soil Layers and Overburden

Sealing these features was a dark greyish-brown silty sand layer (9.2), up to 0.3 m thick, containing flint gravel (Plate 11). This deposit probably represents medieval and later agricultural soil development. Above this was a mixed layer of recent demolition rubble (9.1).

Block D

Block D lies to the northeast of Block C, in the central northern part of the site (Figure 2). Its proposed footprint was evaluated by the machine-excavation of two trenches, Trench 11 and Trench 12 (Figure 5).

Trench 11

This trench was situated in the northern half of the site near to Station Road and aligned ESE – WNW. It was 10m long by 2.1m wide and excavated up to a depth of 0.6m. The underlying natural deposit consisted of mid reddish brown coarse sand (11.3) containing flint gravel.

Probable Late Iron Age and Roman Features

In the western half of the trench were two small circular postholes (11.5 and 11.6), up to 0.25 m across and one rectangular pit (11.4), 0.6 m by 0.5 m across (Plate 12). All three were filled with similar deposits of dark greyish-brown sand containing flint gravel.

Probable Post-medieval and Modern Features

In the eastern half of the trench two slightly irregular features were observed at the edge of the trench. Both appeared to be modern.

Soil Layers and Overburden

Overlying the natural was a layer of dark greyish-brown silty sand (11.2), up to 0.3 m thick, containing flint gravel. This deposit probably represents medieval and later agricultural soil development. Above this was a dump of broken tile fragments and mixed building rubble (11.1), up to 0.3 m thick (Plate 13), probably deriving from the tile works previously occupying the adjacent land to the west and used as levelling material.

Trench 12

This trench was situated at the northern half of the site near to Station Road (Figure 2). It lay to the northeast of Trench 11 and was aligned NNE – SSW (Figure 5). The underlying natural consisted of yellowish-brown sand (12.4) containing flint gravel.

Probable Late Iron Age and Roman Features

In the middle of the trench was a large possibly linear feature (12.5), up to 2.7 m wide, and aligned E – W. On the northern edge feature 12.5 was what appeared to be a large rectangular feature (12.7), only partially within the trench. Both 12.5 and 12.7 were filled with similar mid yellowish-brown sand containing flint gravel, flecks of charcoal and patches of dark greyish-brown sand, possibly charcoal stained. Along the western edge of the trench was what appeared to be a narrow linear feature (12.6), aligned NNE – SSW, running into the northern edge of feature 12.5 to the south and terminating to the north, near the northern end of the trench. It was filled with a similar deposit to feature 12.5. In the southern half of the trench two large square features (12.8 and 12.9) were observed lying about 2.5m apart (Plate 14). They were both about 0.7 m across and filled with dark greyish-brown sand containing flint gravel and flecks of charcoal. At the northern end of linear 12.6 a small rectangular feature (12.10) was observed. It was 0.4 m long by 0.3 m wide and filled with very dark greyish-brown sand containing flint gravel and flecks of charcoal.

Soil Layers and Overburden

Sealing these features was a dark greyish brown sandy loam (12.3), up to 0.3m thick, containing flint gravel and flecks of charcoal (Plate 14). Overlying this was a layer of mixed debris (12.2), up to 0.3 m thick, associated with the steel fabrication work carried out by the previous owners of the site. Above this was a mixed layer of demolition rubble (12.1).

DISCUSSION

The evaluation trenches were designed to assess the level of survival of potential archaeological features and deposits beneath the former industrial buildings on the site and to test for the presence of archaeological features in the areas of the proposed development.

All Stage 2 evaluation trenches revealed archaeological features. The majority contained traces of ditches, with a smaller number of pits and postholes also present. The ditches are similar in character to the Late Iron Age and Roman ditches exposed during the recent excavations in Block B and also those found in the archaeological works on the adjacent Shapwick Road site adjacent to the west (Bellamy and Tatler 2005). Within such small trenches, it is difficult to identify a coherent pattern to the ditches or be able to trace any features between one trench and the next. The curvilinear ditch in Trench 9 is of interest and may be similar to the curvilinear ditch in the Block B excavations and another found on the Shapwick Road Site in 2003 (Bellamy and Tatler 2003). Some fragments of briquetage were noted and a number of features contained some charcoal, but no definite saltworking features were identified. Trench 10 is notable in that no ditches were revealed, only small pits and postholes, which may indicate an area of slightly different function.

The alignment of closely spaced rectangular pits in Trench 13 is very different to the archaeology found in the other trenches. They clearly post-date the Iron Age and Roman features. The interpretation of these pits is uncertain, but it is most likely that they are associated either with former industrial activity on the site, or are perhaps part of some sea-defence or reclamation structure. Nothing has been noted on the historic maps of this area, which could aid in interpretation.

In conclusion, this phase of evaluation has been successful in demonstrating that there is a similar level of archaeological features surviving within the area of the proposed new development, to that found during the recent excavations on Block B. It has also shown that archaeological deposits and features survive with relatively little disturbance beneath the footprint of the former industrial buildings on the site.

PROJECT ARCHIVE

The archive (Terrain Archaeology Project No. 53209) will be deposited with Poole Museums Service, which has agreed in principle to accept the archive, subject to fulfilment of the Museum's requirements of the preparation of archaeological archives. A copy of the microfilmed archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record.

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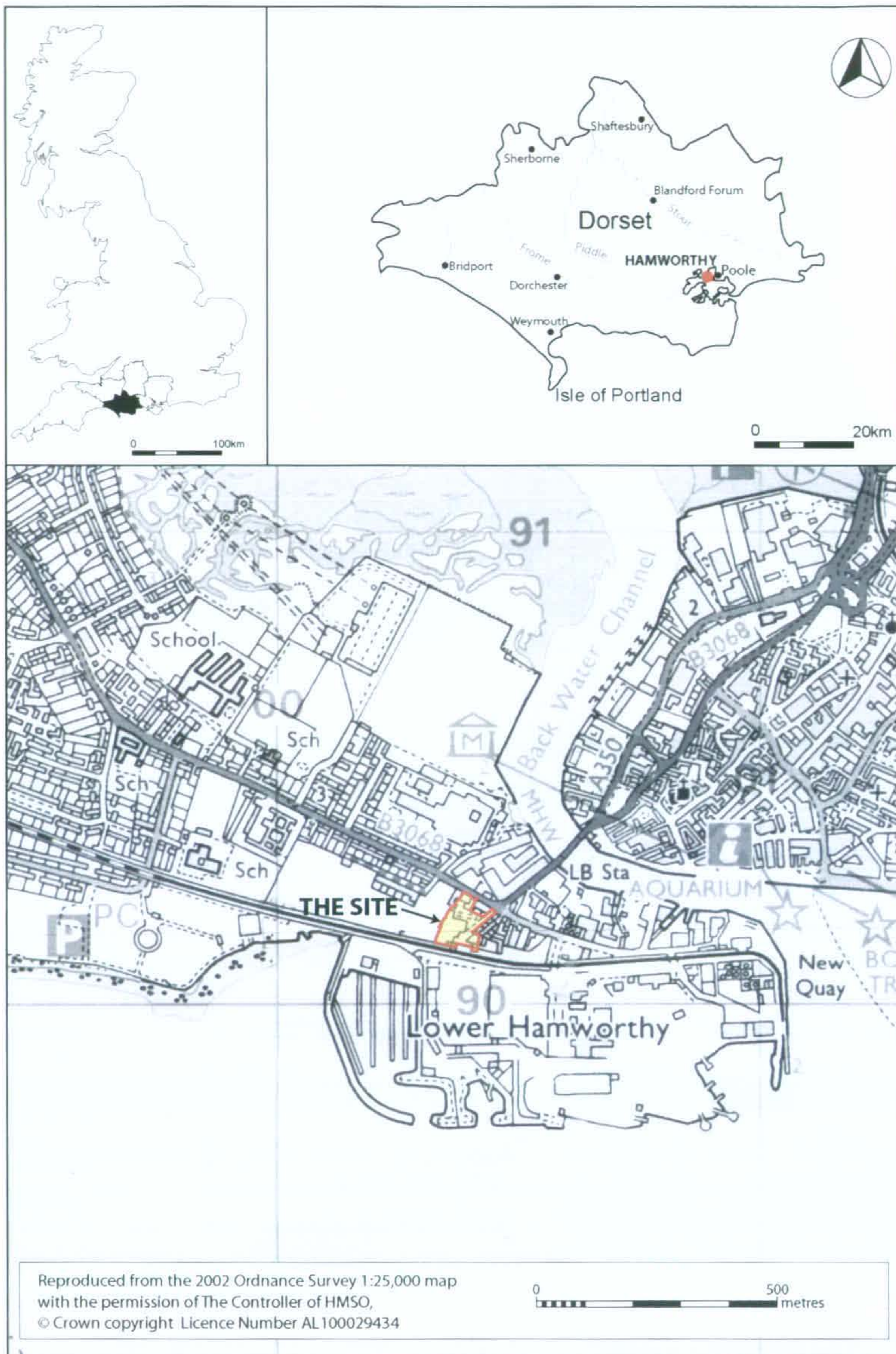


Figure 1: Location map

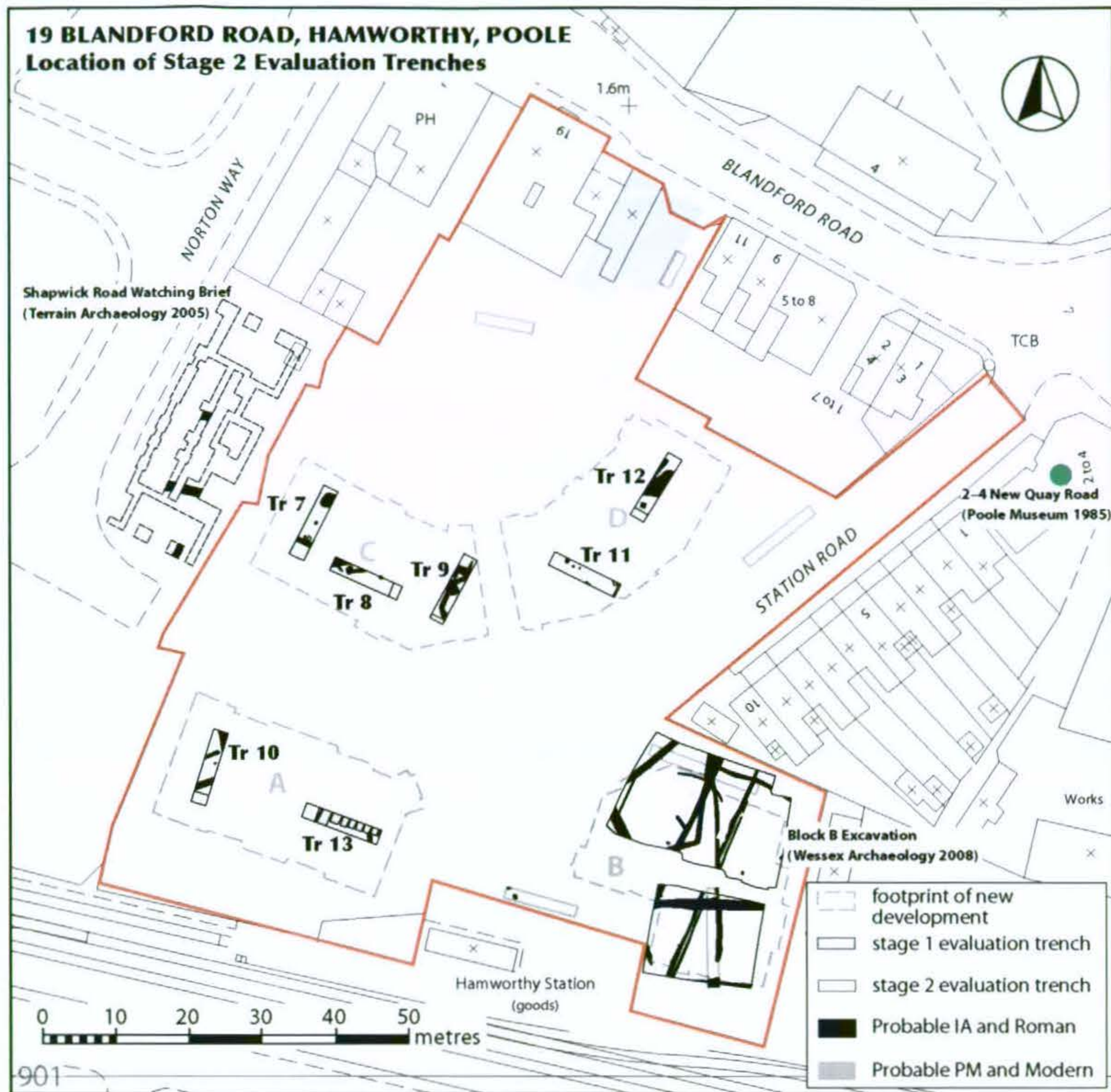


Figure 2: Trench location plan.

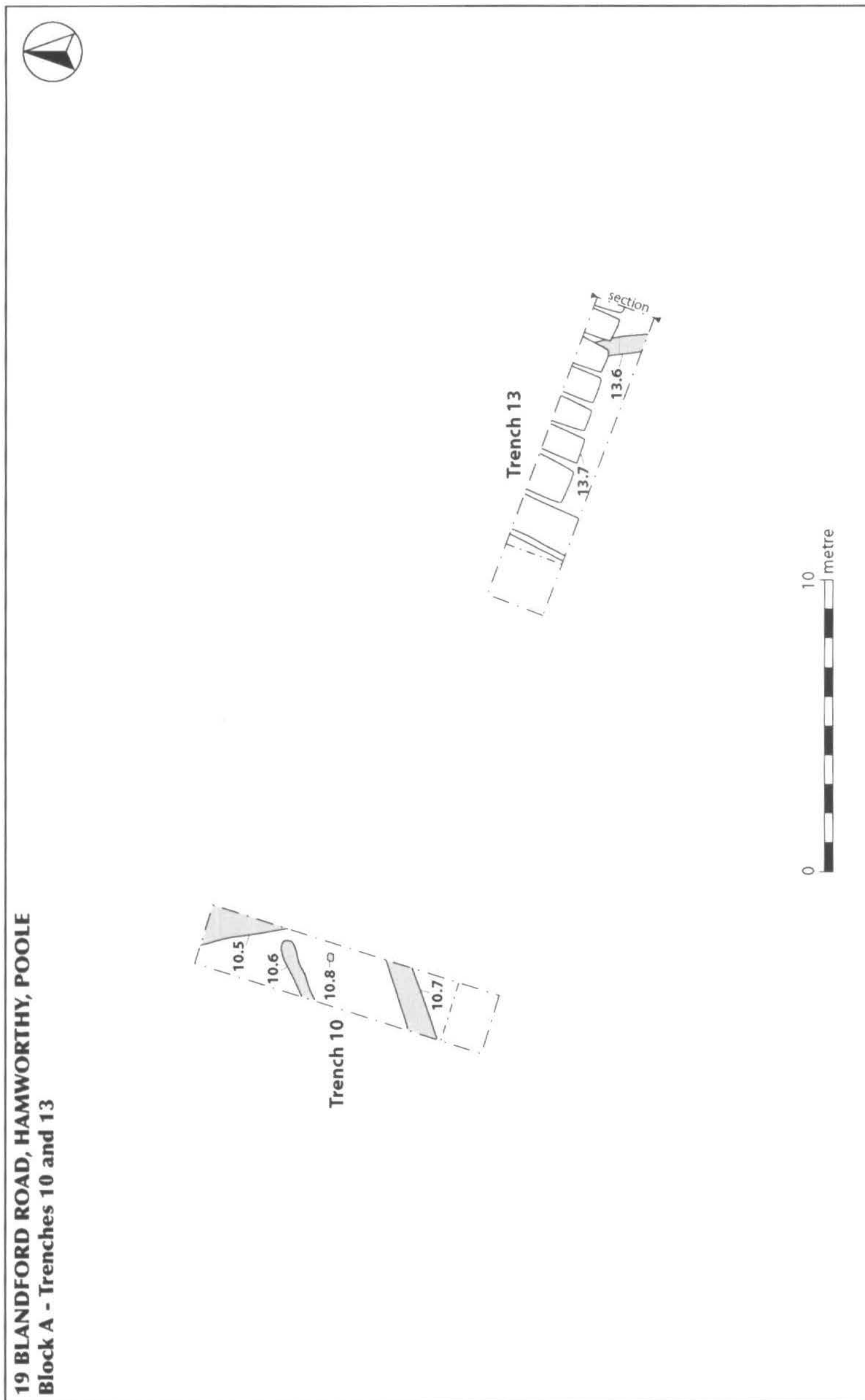


Figure 3: Plan of Trenches 10 and 13 in area of Block A.

19 BLANDFORD ROAD, HAMWORTHY, POOLE
Block C - Trenches 7, 8 and 9

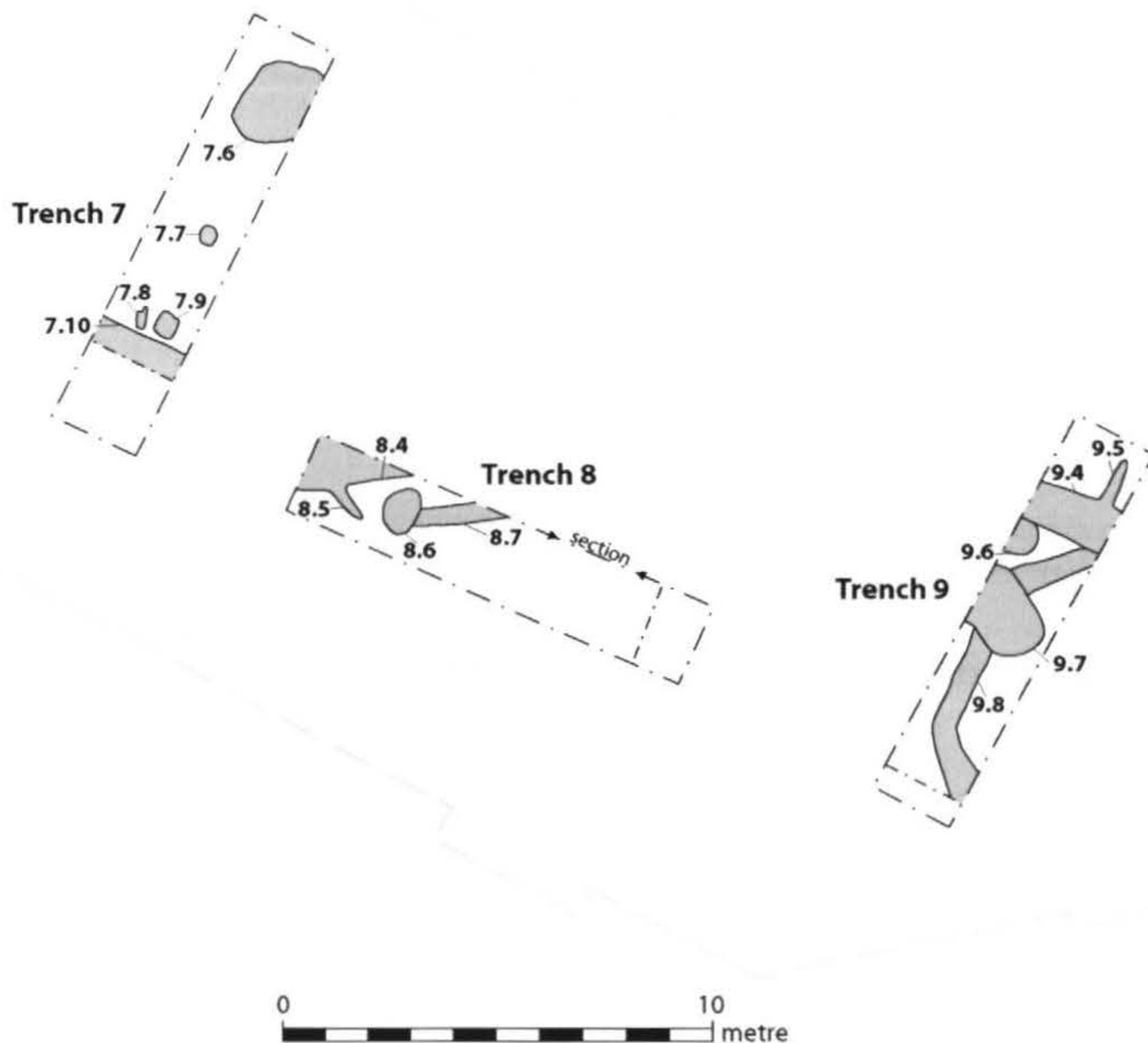


Figure 4: Plan of Trenches 7, 8 and 9 in area of Block C.

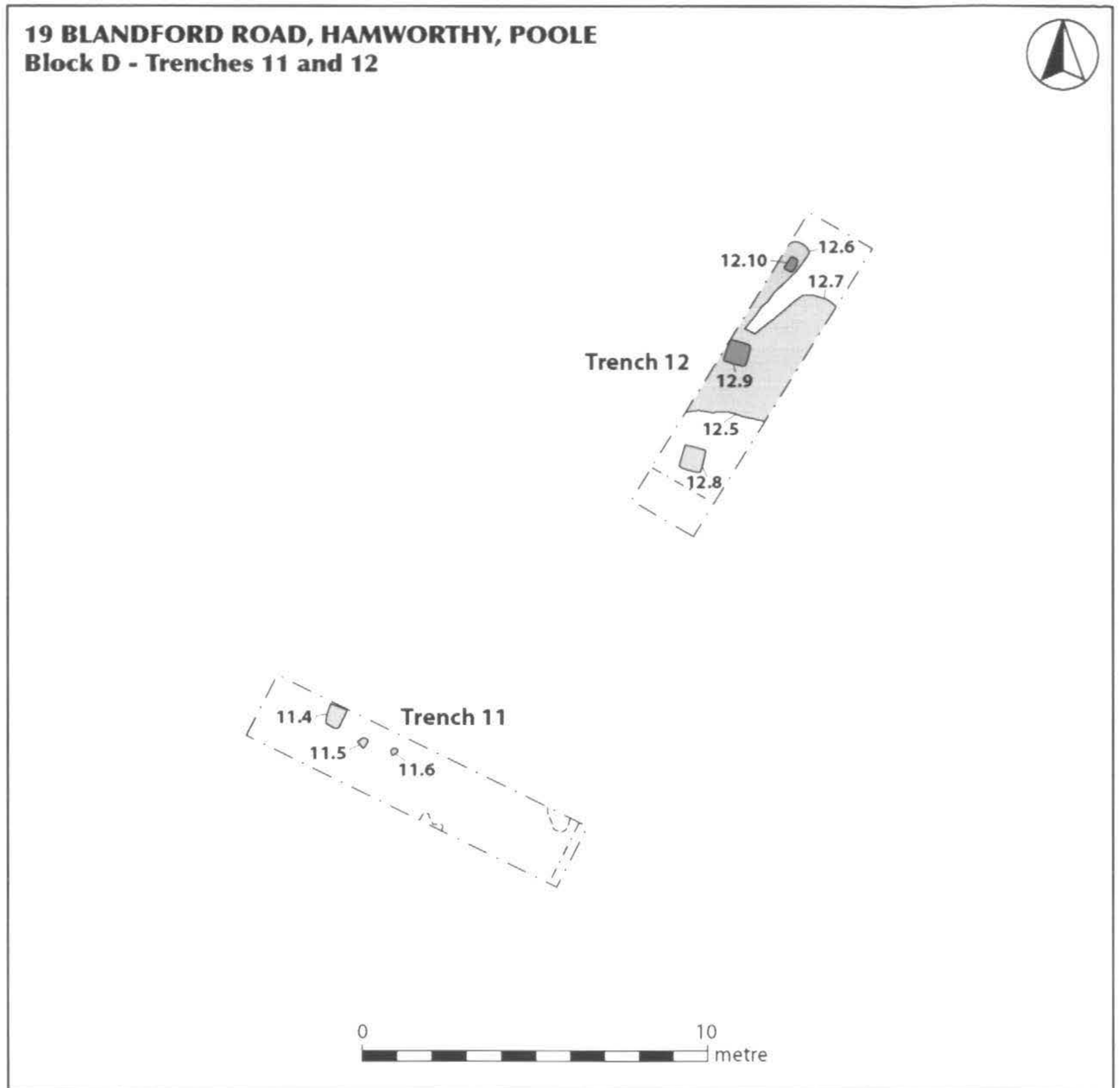


Figure 5: Plan of Trenches 11 and 12 in area of Block D.

19 BLANDFORD ROAD, HAMWORTHY, POOLE

Sections

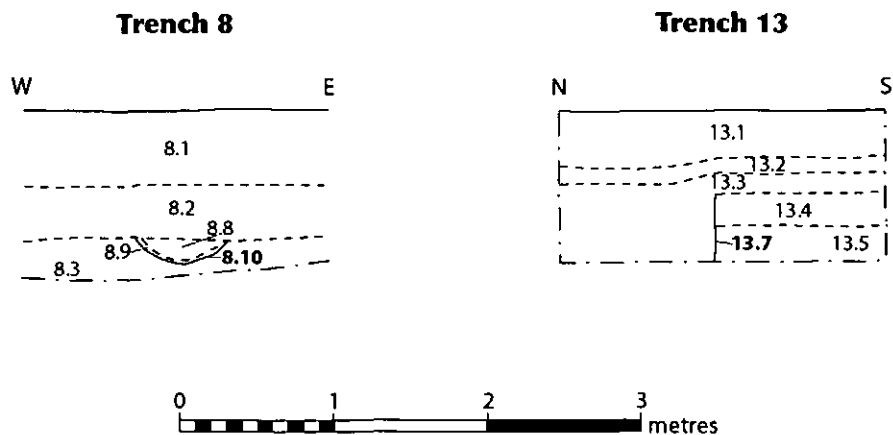


Figure 6: Sections



Plate 1: Block A – Trench 10; view from the north.



Plate 2: Trench 10; east-facing section and ditch 10.6.



*Plate 3: Block A – Trench 13;
view from the east.*



*Plate 4: Block A – Trench 13;
south facing section.*



Plate 5: Block A – Trench 13; north facing section.



Plate 6: Block C – Trench 7; view from the north.



Plate 7: Block C – Trench 7; west facing section.



Plate 8: Block C – Trench 8; view from the west.



Plate 9: Block C – Trench 8; south facing section showing feature 8.10.



Plate 10: Block C – Trench 9; view from the north.



Plate 11: Block C – Trench 9; east facing section.



Plate 12: Block D – Trench 11; view from the west.



Plate 13: Block D – Trench 11; north facing section.



Plate 14: Block D – Trench 12; view from the south.



Plate 14: Block D – Trench 12; east facing section.



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