

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSED  
VILLAGE HALL SITE AT CHURCH MEAD, TOLLER  
PORCORUM, DORSET (SY 5616 9794)**

---

Report prepared by Peter W. Cox MIFA  
and Steve Robinson PIFA

Report no. 0396/2/0

April 1996

**AC**  
*archaeology*

Manor Farm Stables  
Chicklade  
Hindon  
Near Salisbury  
Wiltshire SP3 5SU

---

# **AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSED VILLAGE HALL SITE AT CHURCH MEAD, TOLLER PORCORM, DORSET (SY 5616 9794)**

---

## **1. SUMMARY**

*Following a desk-based assessment of this site, which has been the subject of several seasons of archaeological survey and excavations by Bournemouth University in the 1990s, a field evaluation was commissioned to further assess specific areas of archaeological potential within the site. Seven evaluation trenches were excavated. These trenches were machine- and hand-dug, and revealed further sub-surface evidence for Medieval and Romano-British deposits. This includes evidence for the date and development of the major lynchet on the site, structural remains relating to a probable house and boundary walls in Church Mead and buried soil horizons of Romano-British date. This new data, along with the earlier results can now assist in clarifying the issues in the proposed development of the site and will assist in defining any future mitigation measures.*

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

2.1 This report summarises the results of an archaeological field evaluation at Church Mead, Toller Porcorm, Dorset. The site is the subject of a planning application (ref 1/E/95/362) by the village hall trustees for the construction of a new village hall and access road. The evaluation has been commissioned by the Toller Porcorm Parish Council at the request of West Dorset District Council, as advised by the County Archaeological Officer, Dorset County Council.

2.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a written specification (AC archaeology Doc. 0396/1/0), which was approved by the Dorset County Archaeological Officer. The site investigation was monitored by Steven Wallis for Dorset County Council.

2.3 The site has received delegated planning approval, subject to the results of an archaeological field evaluation. The principal aim of the work is to provide additional archaeological information in advance of the proposed development of the site. The results will assist in determining the character and extent of any archaeological constraints which need to be included in any future development of the site.

2.4 The extent and detail of the development are shown on Fig. 9. A total area of c. 2,450m<sup>2</sup> is affected by the village hall and car park site. In addition a further c. 290m<sup>2</sup> is required for a site access road. Within these two areas approximately 260m<sup>2</sup> and 100m<sup>2</sup> respectively have previously been archaeologically excavated.

### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Much of the site, and adjacent areas to the west, have previously been investigated by Bournemouth University (BU) between 1991-3. Archaeological observations were also made during the laying of a sewage pipeline through the area in the 1970s. Summary notes of these earlier investigations have been published in the Dorset Proceedings (Gale 1992, 1993, 1994 & Farrar 1976). A more detailed summary and assessment of the development proposals have been set out in a desk-based report on the site (*Church Mead, Toller Porcorum, Dorset - An archaeological Assessment*, Bournemouth University School of Conservation Sciences September 1995). This latter study has previously been submitted to the County Archaeological Officer as part of the initial site assessment for the development proposals.

3.2 In summary, the area of the proposed village hall and car park lies in an area of proven Medieval settlement, much of which survives as low earthworks. Evidence for at least one Medieval house foundation and pre- 12th-century ditches and boundaries have been identified within this area. Other, possible earlier features, including a ditch and post hole containing pottery of late Iron Age or Romano-British date have also been located.

3.3 Various elements of the site have not been fully investigated, including the dates of, and relationships between, various enclosure or field boundaries and lynchets, or the potential for earlier (late prehistoric or Romano-British) activity.

3.4 The BU assessment report (Appendix A: Recommendation III) identifies a reasoned justification for a number of locations where evaluation trenches would be desirable. These recommended trenches have been adopted for the evaluation and the specific location of the trenches was further clarified at a site meeting held on 22 January 1996 with representatives of Dorset County Council Archaeological Service, Bournemouth University, AC archaeology and the scheme architect, Mr Robin Younger.

## 4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Each evaluation trench was positioned so as to investigate specific aspects of the site. The location of each trench is shown, in approximate relation to the BU earthwork survey, on Fig. 1. The plan dimensions and objective of each trench is set out below on Table 1.

TRENCH NO.	DIMENSIONS	OBJECTIVE OF EVALUATION
1	5 X 1.5m	To provide dating evidence for (?Medieval) lynchet creation and assess its relationship with previously recorded (undated) ditch
2	4 x 1.5m	To assess local evidence for further late Iron Age or Romano-British activity suggested by previously recorded subsoil features and finds
3	5 X 1.5m	To assess the date and construction of the east boundary of former Wood's Mead where it deviates westwards
4	5 X 1.5m	To assess the date and construction of the east boundary of former Wood's Mead
5	5 X 1.5m	To assess evidence for use of possible house platform
6	5 X 1.5m	To assess the relationship between the major (?Medieval) lynchet and the east boundary of Wood's Mead
7	5 X 1.5m	To assess the date and construction of the (?Medieval) lynchet

**Table 1: Summary of evaluation trenches**

4.2 Topsoil, modern overburden and upper earthwork bank material were generally removed by mechanical excavator using a mini-digger under constant archaeological supervision. All other deposits were hand-excavated.

4.3 All spoil heaps were scanned for archaeological artefacts.

4.4 All artefacts and deposits revealed were recorded using the standard AC *archaeology* pro-forma recording system, with appropriate scale plans and section drawings, photographs and finds records. The relevant site code is AC302.

4.5 The work was directly supervised by Julian Cotton BA AIFA.

## 5. RESULTS

5.1 This section sets out the results of each individual trench. Relevant plans and sections are shown on Figs. 2-8. To enable a comparison of the results in relation to the objectives set out above the order of trench descriptions is arranged as follows: assessment of the major (?Medieval) lynchet - Trenches 1, 6 & 7; assessment of the east end of Wood's Mead and the possible house platform - Trenches 3, 4 & 5, and; assessment of area of possible late Iron Age activity - Trench 2.

### **Assessment of the major (?Medieval) lynchet**

#### **5.2 Trench 1**

Turf, topsoil and upper bank deposits were initially excavated by hand and then bank material and upper ditch profiles were machine-excavated. The trench revealed two linear features aligned W-E as well as a bank which sealed a buried land surface. The character of these deposits was as follows:

Contexts (106) and (100), turf and topsoil, comprised a mid-brown clay-silt with occasional coarse components of small flint/chert fragments and charcoal flecks to a maximum depth of 0.60m at north end of trench. Context (100) overlaid bank deposit (101) and ditch fills (105) and (109). Context (100) contained Romano-British, Medieval and post-Medieval pottery sherds.

Contexts (101) and (102) constituted bank material. Context (101) comprised a yellow/brown sandy-clay with a maximum depth of 0.12m and contained frequent coarse components of small flint/chert fragments. Context (102) comprised a mid/dark brown silty-clay with a maximum depth of 0.25m and contained a moderate amount of coarse components of flint fragments and charcoal flecks. Both these deposits had the appearance in section of upcast material from ditch cut F104. Context (102) overlaid a buried soil horizon (103).

Feature F104 was a ditch aligned W-E with a width of approximately 1.60m and profile of steep to gentle sloping sides to rounded base. The maximum surviving depth was c. 0.80m. Feature F104 was filled by (105) a mid/dark brown clay-silt with occasional lenses of flint fragments and nodules up to 0.12m in size and occasional charcoal flecks (very similar to deposit (100) in colour and texture). No finds were recovered from (105). The cut of F104 clearly shows in section as cutting buried land surface (103) and subsoil (108). Feature F104 also appears to be cut by a second ditch F110, although the relationship was not altogether clear. This was also W-E aligned with a width of approximately 0.80m and profile of steep to sloping sides to a narrow rounded base. The maximum surviving depth was 0.60m. This ditch was filled by (109), a mid brown clay-silt with occasional small flint/chert fragments and charcoal flecks. Context (109) contained one clay pipe fragment (stem and bowl).

The buried soil horizon (103) comprised a dark brown silty-clay with occasional small flint/chert fragments and charcoal flecks. This survived to a maximum depth of 0.25m. It was similar to context (102) but stickier in consistency and darker in colour. This overlay subsoil (108). Context (103) contained Romano-British pottery sherds and worked flint and may represent an earlier occupation layer.

Context (108) was a subsoil comprised of grey/brown silty-clay with moderate small flint fragments. It survived to a maximum depth of 0.20m overlying natural subsoil (111) which was an orange/brown sandy-clay with flints.

### **5.3 Trench 6**

Turf and topsoil were excavated by hand to a depth of 0.35m before coming onto what was initially thought to be natural greensand deposit. Further investigation and discussion with local residents revealed that the greensand deposit (context 601) was redeposited material from the area of the present modern housing estate when under construction. Test pits excavated by hand at both north and south ends of the trench revealed earlier archaeological deposits comprised of buried soil horizons.

Context (600) represents a turfline with a maximum depth of 0.15m. No well-developed topsoil as such was present. Context (600) contained small quantities of Medieval and Post-Medieval pottery, clay pipe and burnt flint. This turf immediately overlaid redeposited material (601) which consisted of sandy greensand mixed with black silty-clay varying in depth from 0.40m to 0.20m. Context (601) contained Medieval pottery. This deposit overlaid a buried soil horizon, context (602), which was a dark brown silty-clay with orange flecks with rare coarse components of small flint/chert fragments and occasional charcoal flecks. The maximum surviving depth of this deposit was 0.20m and the deposits exhibited a slighter slope than overlying contexts. Context (602) contained Medieval and post-Medieval pottery. This overlaid another buried soil horizon, context (603), a dark brown silty-clay with quite frequent flint/chert fragments up to 0.10m in size and occasional charcoal flecks. The full depth of this deposit was examined only in the southern end of the trench and was 0.12m. No dating evidence was retrieved from (603). This overlaid natural sand and gravel deposit (604).

### **5.4 Trench 7**

Turf and topsoil were excavated by hand to a depth of 0.10m before revealing redeposited greensand similar to that observed in Trench 6. The sequence of deposits below this material (up to and including buried soil (703)) was broadly similar to that revealed in Trench 6 although depths vary. Beneath soil horizon (705) several features were revealed including a W-E wall and a ditch on a parallel alignment. The maximum depth of the trench onto natural gravel and sand was 1.65m at north end and 0.80m at south end.

Contexts (700), (701) and (703) may be compared with (600), (601) and (602) in Trench 6 although the buried topsoil (703) had a greater depth than (602), up to 0.45m. Context (703) appears to preserve the line of a bank at the N end of the trench, but all deposits below this appear to be more horizontally bedded. Medieval and post-Medieval pottery were recovered from layers (700) and (701).

Context (704) comprised a fairly thin horizon of slightly yellow/brown silty-clay with occasional small flint/chert fragments and only appeared at the far northern end of the trench overlying context (705). This may represent the vestiges of a bank. Pottery of probable Medieval date was recovered from (704). Context (705) was similar to layer (703) and comprised dark brown silty-clay with occasional flint/chert fragments up to 0.12m and occasional charcoal flecks. This contained pottery of Medieval date and a small sandstone or quartzite whetstone.

Below layer (705) a W-E aligned, well-constructed wall [707] was revealed measuring 0.80m in width and comprised compacted flint nodules up to 0.15m in size with occasional chalk blocks up to 0.20m. No bonding was evident and there appeared to be only one course of stone sitting directly on top of natural subsoil. Context (708), a possible surface below layer (705) comprised of a thin horizon of compact, slightly mixed yellow brown sandy-clay with occasional charcoal flecks. This appeared to butt up to wall [707] and cut by ditch F711. Ditch F711 was a W-E aligned ditch, approximately 1.60m wide with gentle sloping edges to a rounded base. It contained two fills (712) and (713). Upper fill (713) was a slightly mixed mid yellowish brown silty-clay with occasional small flint/chert fragments and charcoal flecks, with a maximum depth 0.12m. It contained one sherd of Medieval pottery. The lower fill (712) was a dark brown silty-clay with fairly frequent flint nodules up to 0.15m and frequent charcoal flecks. This fill may represent deliberate backfilling.

A further possible cut feature (F709) was present in the NW corner of the trench. This was shallow, with a maximum depth of 0.25m and had a gentle sloping edge (only part exposed). It contained one fill which comprised a black/brown silty-clay with frequent medium sized flint fragments and nodules up to 0.10m in size and occasional charcoal flecks.



All features overlay the natural subsoil (706) which was comprised of flint gravel and sand.

## **Assessment of the east end of Wood's Mead and the possible house platform**

### **5.5 Trench 3**

Turf and topsoil were removed by mechanical excavator to an average depth of 0.20m before manual cleaning. The archaeological deposits revealed may be summarised as follows:

Context (305) below topsoil (300) comprised a layer of dark-brown silty-clay with quite frequent small flint or chert fragments and occasional charcoal flecks with a maximum depth of 0.25m. This overlaid all other archaeological deposits and may represent a local colluvial deposit of weathered bank material. Finds, of Medieval pottery, were only recovered from layer (300).

Feature F302 appears to be part of a wall comprised of one course of large stone blocks including chalk and limestone and smaller occasional flint nodules with an average size of 0.25m. Feature F303 is a compact area of mainly flint nodules with an average size of 0.12m and appears to be associated with, or part of, F302 forming a 'dogleg' or turn to a possible boundary wall to the platform or plot (see earthwork survey plan). Apparently enclosed by F302 and F303 was context (306) which comprised of a narrow linear spread of yellowish-brown clay-silt with rare small flint fragments and charcoal flecks.

A metallised surface (F304) was present on the slope to the east, off the platform and comprised very compact flint to a depth of 0.25m (revealed in excavated slot). To the west a possible linear feature was present, although the edge definition was very unclear. This was filled with context (301), a thin layer of black/brown silty-clay with small flint or chert fragments and occasional charcoal flecks. Material below this (308) comprised fairly compact flint fragments and nodules within a black/brown silty-clay, but may be part of surface (304).

Natural subsoil (307) comprised sand and gravel.

#### **5.6 Trench 4**

Turf and topsoil (400) were removed by machine to a depth of 0.25m. Subsequent hand excavation revealed a N-S aligned wall structure F403 which comprised mainly flint nodules and occasional chalk and sandstone blocks with an average size of 0.15m. Edge definition of this structure was unclear on the east side as stone rubble was present. Context (405) was a subsoil comprised of mid-dark brown silty-clay loam with occasional small flint or chert fragments and charcoal flecks, with a depth of 0.20m. Context (404) was a spread of dark brown silty-clay with occasional small flint or chert fragments and charcoal flecks. Context (401) was a spread of compacted flint nodules alongside wall F403 and may be demolition rubble. Finds, of Medieval pottery, were only recovered from layer (400).

Natural (402) was a sand and gravel.

#### **5.7 Trench 5**

This trench was entirely hand-excavated. The turf and topsoil layer (500) comprised dark brown silty-clay, with rare small flint or chert fragments and occasional charcoal flecks, to a depth of 0.25m. Layer (500) contained fragments of Medieval pottery. Below this was revealed a roughly NW-SE wall structure F503, comprised mainly of flint nodules up to 0.20m in size and occasional chalk and limestone fragments. A clear face to the wall was visible on the E side. A hand dug slot was excavated from the wall to the eastern section of trench to reveal context (501), a similar deposit to topsoil (500). Layer (501) contained Medieval, post-Medieval and ?Romano-British pottery. Immediately below this was a clay surface (502) comprised of mixed dark yellow brown silty-clay with frequent charcoal flecks. This may be interpreted as a possible floor surface. This layer contained Medieval pottery and an unidentified lead alloy object.

## Assessment of area of possible late Iron Age activity

### 5.8 Trench 2

Turf and topsoil was initially excavated by machine to reveal a natural sandy-clay deposit which was cut by a NE-SW linear feature.

Topsoil (200) comprised a mid-brown sandy-clay loam with small flint or chert fragments, to a maximum depth of 0.20m. This overlaid a subsoil (204) comprised of mid-light brown sandy-clay with flint/chert fragments, to a maximum depth of 0.20m. Feature F201 was a NE-SW aligned ditch 0.60m in width with steep-sloping edges to rounded base and a maximum depth of 0.30m. The ditch contained one fill (202), a grey/brown sandy-clay with occasional flint or chert fragments and rare charcoal flecks. No dating evidence retrieved from ditch fill. Natural subsoil (203) was an orange/brown sandy-clay with flints.

### 5.9 The finds

All finds recovered from the site were manually collected. The following table shows the broad categories of finds retrieved. A comment on the principal categories of pottery is set out in section 5.9.1 - 5.9.3.

TRENCH NO.	CONTEXT NO.	Romano-British pottery	Medieval pottery	Post-Medieval pottery	Worked flint (flakes only)	Clay pipe	Ceramic tile	Other
1	100	3/25g	9/44g	4/62g	-	-	-	-
	103	23/187g	-	-	3/28g	-	-	-
	109	-	-	-	-	1/13g	-	-
2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	300	-	6/104g	-	-	-	-	-
4	400	-	3/30g	-	-	-	-	-
5	500	-	3/19g	-	-	-	-	-
	501	75/18g	1/9g	1/5g	-	-	-	-
	502	-	7/138g	-	-	-	-	SF1: 1/102g pb alloy object
6	600	-	1/2g	1/3g	-	1/4g	-	-
	601	-	3/52g	-	-	-	-	-
	602	-	2/27g	4/89g	-	-	-	-
7	700	-	5/15	1/4g	2/26g	2/3g	-	-
	701	-	5/117g	3/58g	-	-	2/25g	-
	704	-	72/13g	-	-	-	-	-
	705	-	11/73g	-	1/1g	-	-	SF2: 1/159g whetstone
	713	-	1/18g	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS		31/230g	59/661g	10/159g	6/55g	4/20g	2/25g	-

Table 2: Summary of finds recovered

#### **5.9.1 Romano-British pottery**

Small quantities of Romano-British pottery were recovered principally from Trench 1 with several possible sherds from Trench 5. The most diagnostic material, from context (103) includes sherds from a single, black burnished ware, flanged rim bowl dating from the 2nd-3rd century AD. Other material, particularly from context (501) is very fragmentary and the identification is uncertain.

#### **5.9.2 Medieval pottery**

Much of the Medieval pottery is fragmentary and is unlikely to yield specific information about date and form, even with more detailed analysis and comparative assessment. No diagnostic forms or decorative elements were present, but based on a rapid visual assessment of the fabrics most of the material would be consistent with the date range of the 13th or early 14th century date. The material from the possible occupation horizon in Trench 5 (context 501) consists of coarsewares including thin-walled cooking pots, much of which could be of an earlier, possible 12th-century, date. Several sherds from context (700) and (701) includes hard-fired red sandy fabrics which could be of 15th- or 16th-century date. These have been included in the post-Medieval section of Table 2.

#### **5.9.3 Post-Medieval pottery**

Small quantities of post-Medieval pottery were recovered from upper horizons of the trenches. Much of the material is lead-glazed earthenware of 18th- or 19th-century date.

#### **5.10 Palaeo-environmental assessment**

Consideration has been given to the potential of the site to yield remains capable of providing palaeo-environmental evidence relating to the site's use. This assessment is based on a macroscopic examination of excavated deposits and a review of the general potential of this and earlier investigations on the site. No sieving of deposits has been undertaken as part of this investigation, but it is assumed that palaeo-

environmental analysis has been, or will be, undertaken as part of the BU excavations.

The absence of animal bone from the excavated artefact assemblage may indicate that the soils are slightly acidic. In such cases the survival of pollen in suitable buried contexts (land surfaces beneath banks etc) may provide valuable information for sampling and analysis. Land mollusca have not been identified. Carbonised material, probably including plant macrofossils, has been noted in possible occupation deposits related to the Medieval structure, but these may be highly localised in survival. No substantial rubbish pits have yet been recorded on the site, but if present may contain carbonised remains suitable for analysis. There are no waterlogged deposits on the site. The existence of buried soils under banks may allow useful soil micromorphological data to be gathered.

## **6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERPRETATION**

### **6.1 The major (?Medieval) lynchet**

It is apparent from a surface inspection that the major lynchet running W-E across the north of the site (as shown on Fig. 1) may not be a continuous feature. The evaluation trenches across the lynchet are able to confirm that the visible component of the earthwork is not a single-phase feature. Trench 1 revealed a buried bank and ditch complex which is likely to be of Medieval date and which appears to form the core of the lynchet. To the east, Trenches 6 and 7 show no similar features in the same relative position on the visible lynchet. It is clear from both these latter trenches that a substantial amount of modern infilling has enhanced the topography of a former lynchet which appears to lie somewhat to the north of the present break in slope. Trench 7 in particular reveals a rising buried land surface which is highly suggestive of a bank, the crest of which lies outside the line of the trench. Significantly the tail of this lynchet appears, in Trench 7, to overlie Medieval deposits in the form of walled structures and possible occupation horizons. It may be suggested, therefore, that the earliest phase of the lynchet is of later- or post-Medieval formation with a final phase occurring with the modern dumping towards the east end of the lynchet which has had the effect of moving the

earthwork forward, burying areas of intact Medieval stratigraphy including, presumably, the junction with the E boundary of Wood's Mead. The present investigation cannot show whether Medieval deposits continue to the north of the lynchet, but it is noteworthy that the earlier BU Trial Pit 6 revealed that the lynchet bank seals a single subsoil feature on the north side. The date of this feature is uncertain.

Significantly, the bank revealed in Trench 1 seals deposits containing pottery exclusively of Romano-British date. This is discussed further in section 6.3.

## **6.2 The east end of Wood's Mead and the possible house platform**

Trenches 3-5 provide substantial new information about the character of Medieval activity in the east of the former land division known as Woods Mead, the west portion of which has been extensively examined by previous BU excavations. Three principal structural elements are present. Trenches 3 and 4 reveal that the core of the east and south-east boundary to Wood's Mead is formed by a stone wall. While it is not possible from the evaluation to be certain of the continuity of either feature, it seems reasonable to assume that walls F302/303 in Trench 3 and wall F403 in Trench 4 are the same structure. Neither can be shown from artefactual evidence to be contemporaneous, but both may be assumed to be of Medieval date. This therefore confirms that the 'dog-leg' turn in the boundary of Church Mead fossilises an earlier boundary wall, apparently enclosing a house platform.

The second structural element relates to the relatively level interior of the well-defined earthwork platform sampled by Trench 5. Here, the evidence for a wall footing (F503) and possible occupation horizons is highly suggestive of a house or cottage site. Associated pottery, which includes possible 12th-century forms, provides evidence for a Medieval date of use, and is therefore comparable with the structure excavated to the west in 1992.

The third structural element relates to features outside the enclosure. Trench 3 revealed a compacted stone surface running downslope from the boundary wall. The small exposure recorded does not provide substantial information about the

width or extent of the feature, but it would seem to be reasonable to suggest that it is part of a path or track running alongside and possibly beyond the Wood's Mead boundary. No evidence for the feature was present in Trench 4. There are no associated finds from the track (all finds in Trench 3 are from topsoil) and the dates of its construction and use are therefore speculative, but it is probably of Medieval origin. A possible linear feature alongside could not be fully defined.

### **6.3 Possible late Iron Age / Romano-British activity**

There has been a reasonable body of evidence accrued from the previous site investigations for later prehistoric and Romano-British activity in the area. Trench 2 was designed to further assess the potential for such remains adjacent to the BU 1991 excavation trench where late Iron Age or Romano-British pottery was found associated with a ditch and post hole. The observed feature in Trench 2 could not be dated from associated artefacts, but to the north of this area, in Trench 1, significant evidence was found. Context 103, which is a soil horizon sealed by a ?Medieval bank, contained a significant quantity of Romano-British pottery. These sherds were in a relatively fresh state and several conjoin. Furthermore, the deposit does not contain later material. It is highly likely that layer 103 in Trench 1 is a buried Romano-British occupation horizon dated to, or shortly after, the 2nd-3rd century AD. Such a deposit is difficult to interpret from such a small exposure, but it is tempting to suggest that further, contemporaneous deposits exist to the north of Trench 1, but probably outside the development area. It is not possible to relate this material to the undated linear feature recorded in the BU Trial Pit 6.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS**

The following comments refer to the archaeological potential of the area as a whole in the context of the proposed development of a new Village Hall.

The earthwork remains on the site (see Fig. 1), as previously surveyed by BU are largely of Medieval date and include field boundaries and the site of at least two house platforms. The major W- E lynchet is partly a modern enhancement of a former, probably Medieval, earthwork. Attention has previously been drawn to the

likely impacts on these important landscape features (BU 1995; section 5) and they are not further discussed here.

The subsurface archaeology can now be further defined. Fig. 9 shows a summary of the results from the present investigation in relation to the proposed development. The heights shown alongside each trench records the highest point at which undisturbed Medieval or earlier archaeological deposits have been recorded, at the N and S end of each trench. It is anticipated that this information will assist in future discussions with the County Archaeological Officer over the progress of the planning application. Of particular importance is the vulnerability of these deposits to development pressure; both the previous BU investigations and these recent results show that many structural remains lie within 200mm of the existing land surface. At this level even minimal topsoil disturbance, or rutting and compaction by vehicles, could cause damage to important buried remains.

## 8. REFERENCES

- Bournemouth University, 1995, *Church Mead, Toller Porcorum, Dorset - An archaeological Assessment*. Unpublished Assessment report. School of Conservation Sciences September 1995
- Farrar, R. A. H., 1976, The observation of sewage trenches at Toller Porcorum. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society* Vol 97 67
- Gale, J., 1992, Toller Porcorum 1991. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society* Vol 113 178-80
- Gale, J., 1993, Toller Porcorum. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society* Vol 114 244-5
- Gale, J., 1994 Toller Porcorum 1993. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society* Vol 115 158



# CHURCH MEAD TOLLER PORCORUM

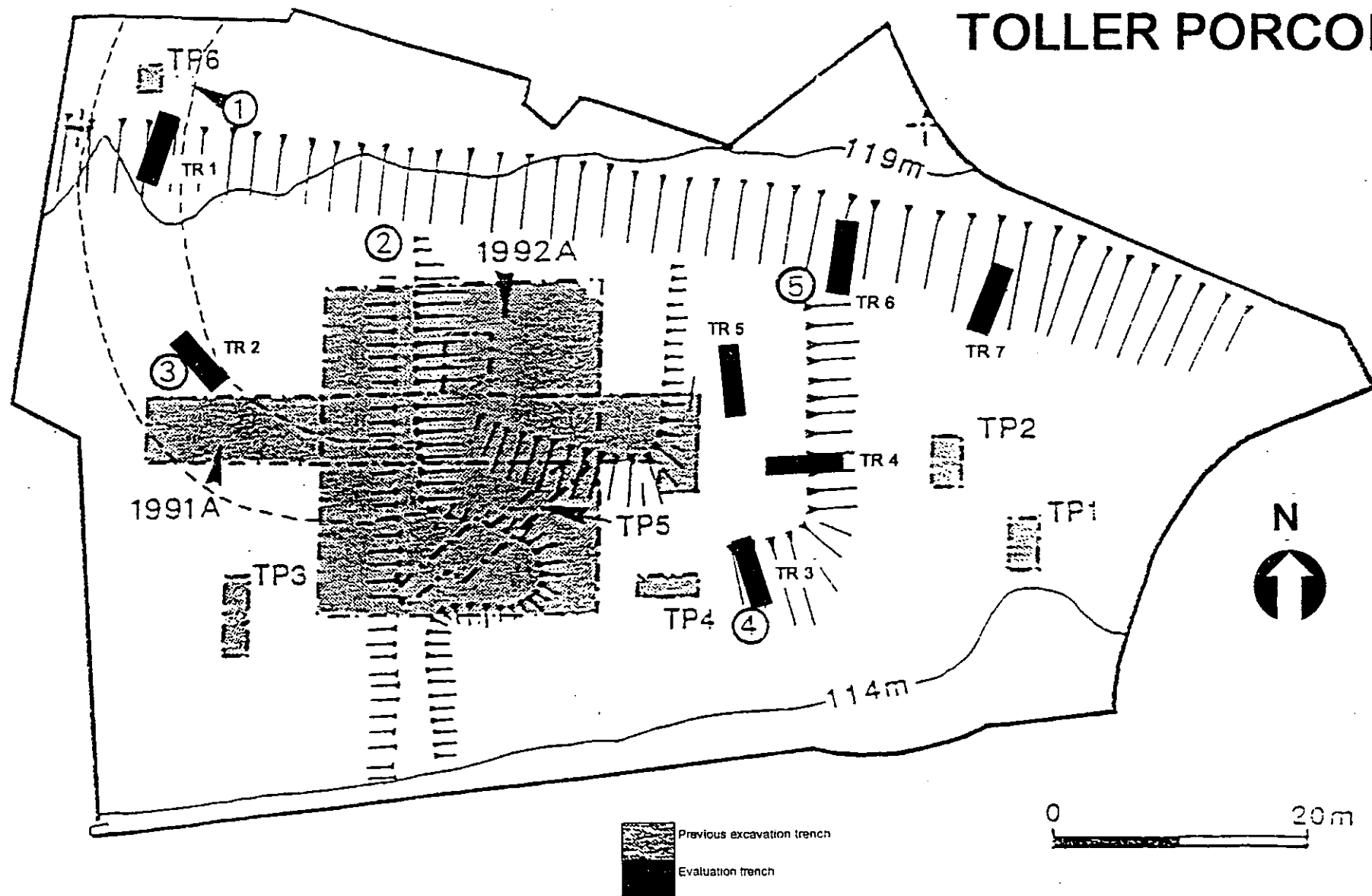
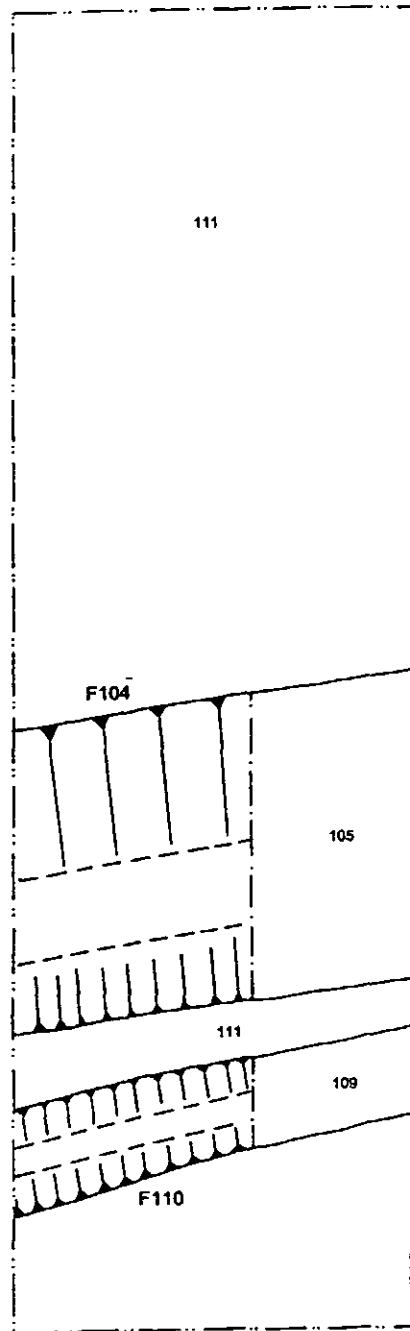


Fig. 1 : Location of previous excavation trenches and present evaluation trenches shown relative to existing earthworks

# CHURCH MEAD TOLLER PORCORUM



S

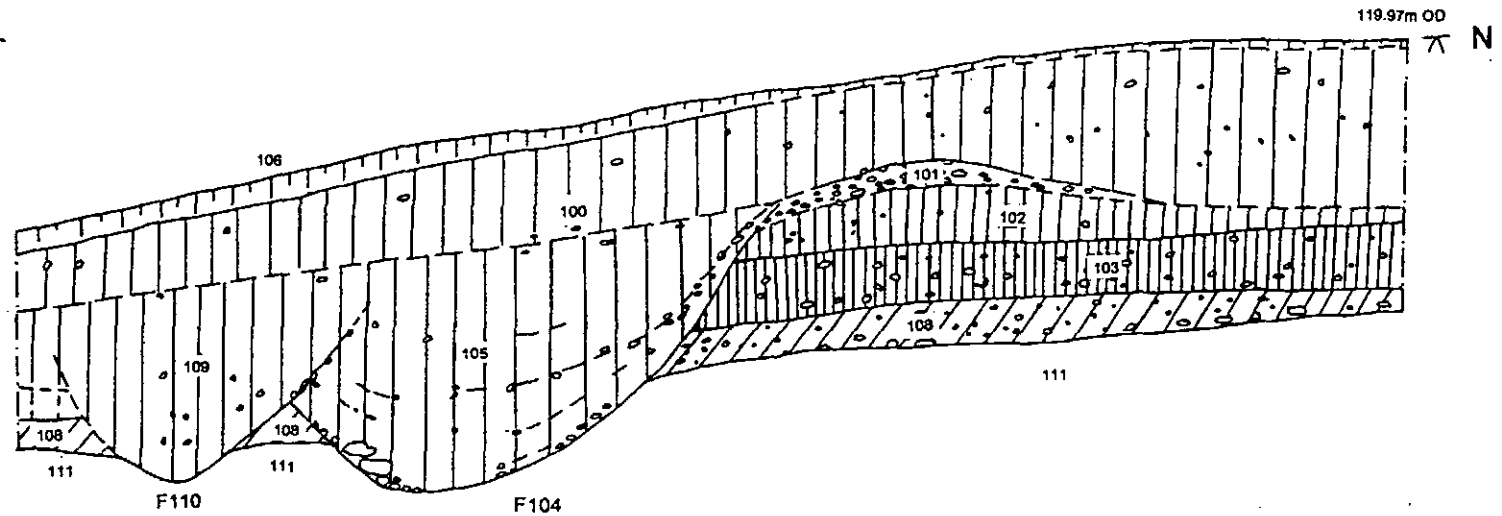
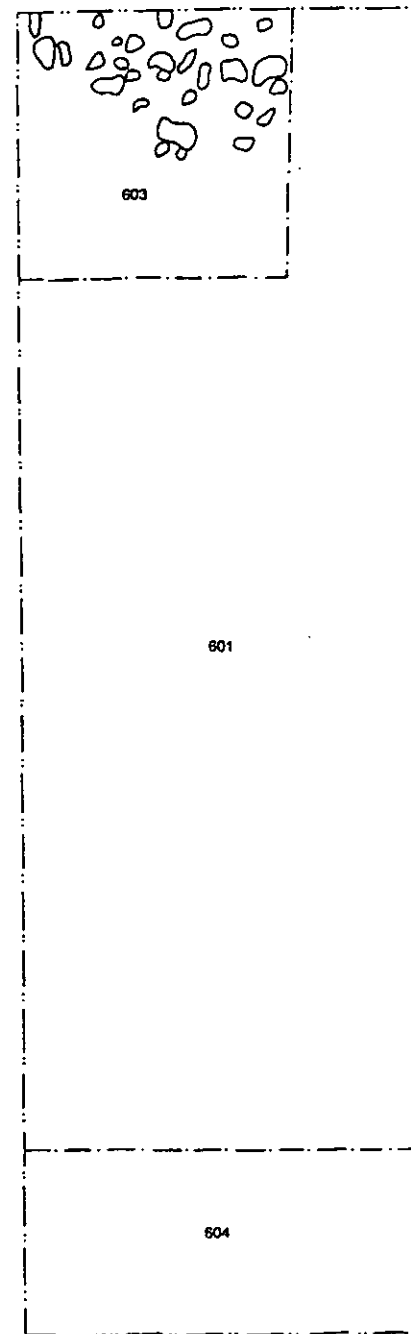


Fig. 2: Plan and Section of Trench 1

# CHURCH MEAD TOLLER PORCORUM



S

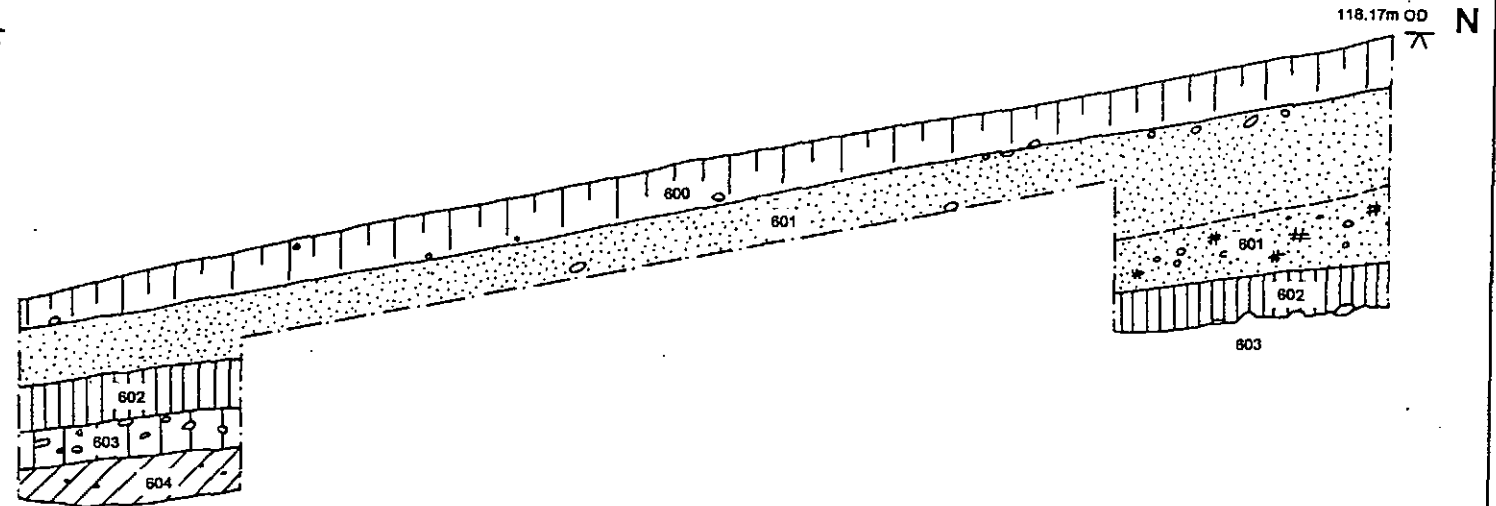


Fig. 3: Plan and Section of Trench 6

# CHURCH MEAD TOLLER PORCORUM

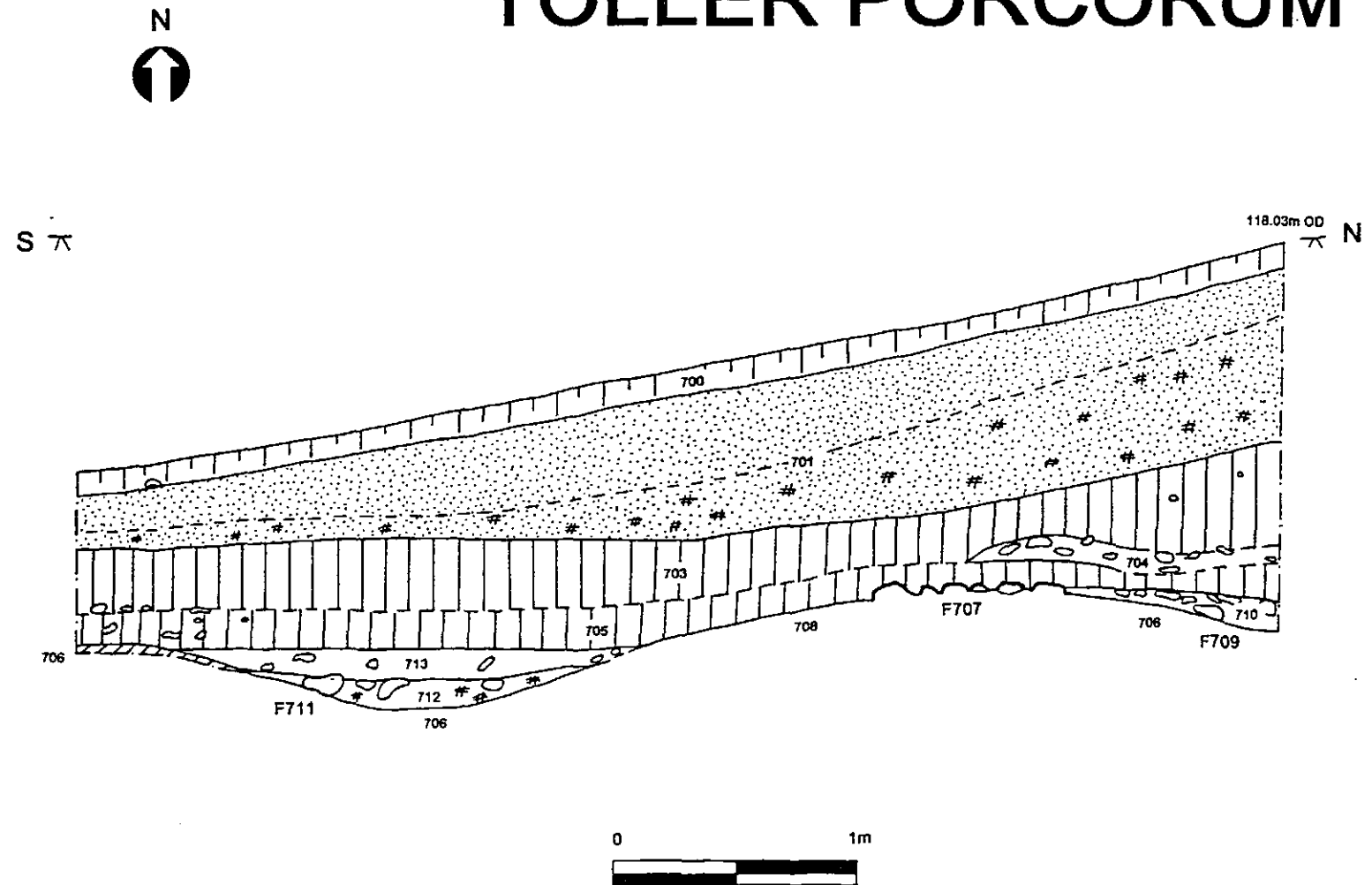
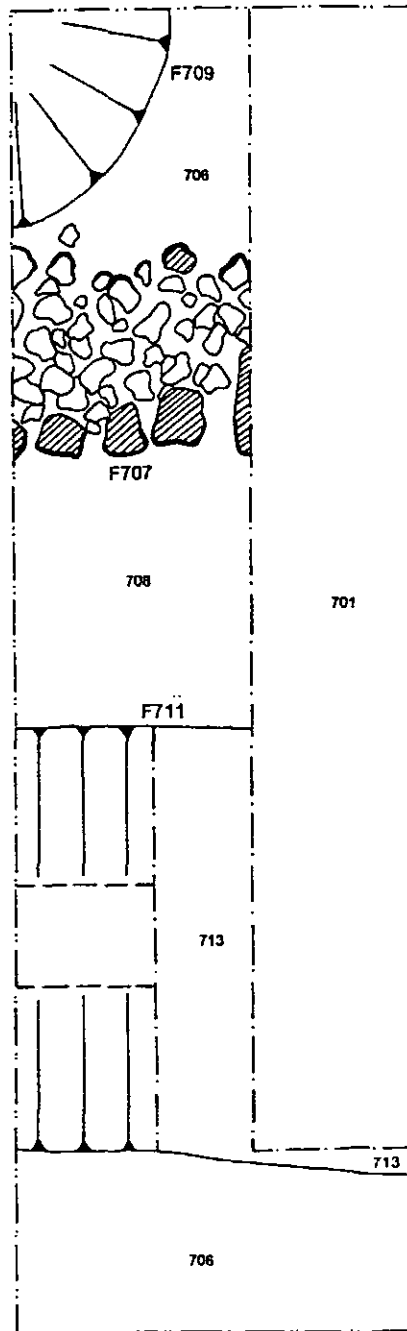


Fig. 4: Plan and Section of Trench 7

# CHURCH MEAD TOLLER PORCORUM

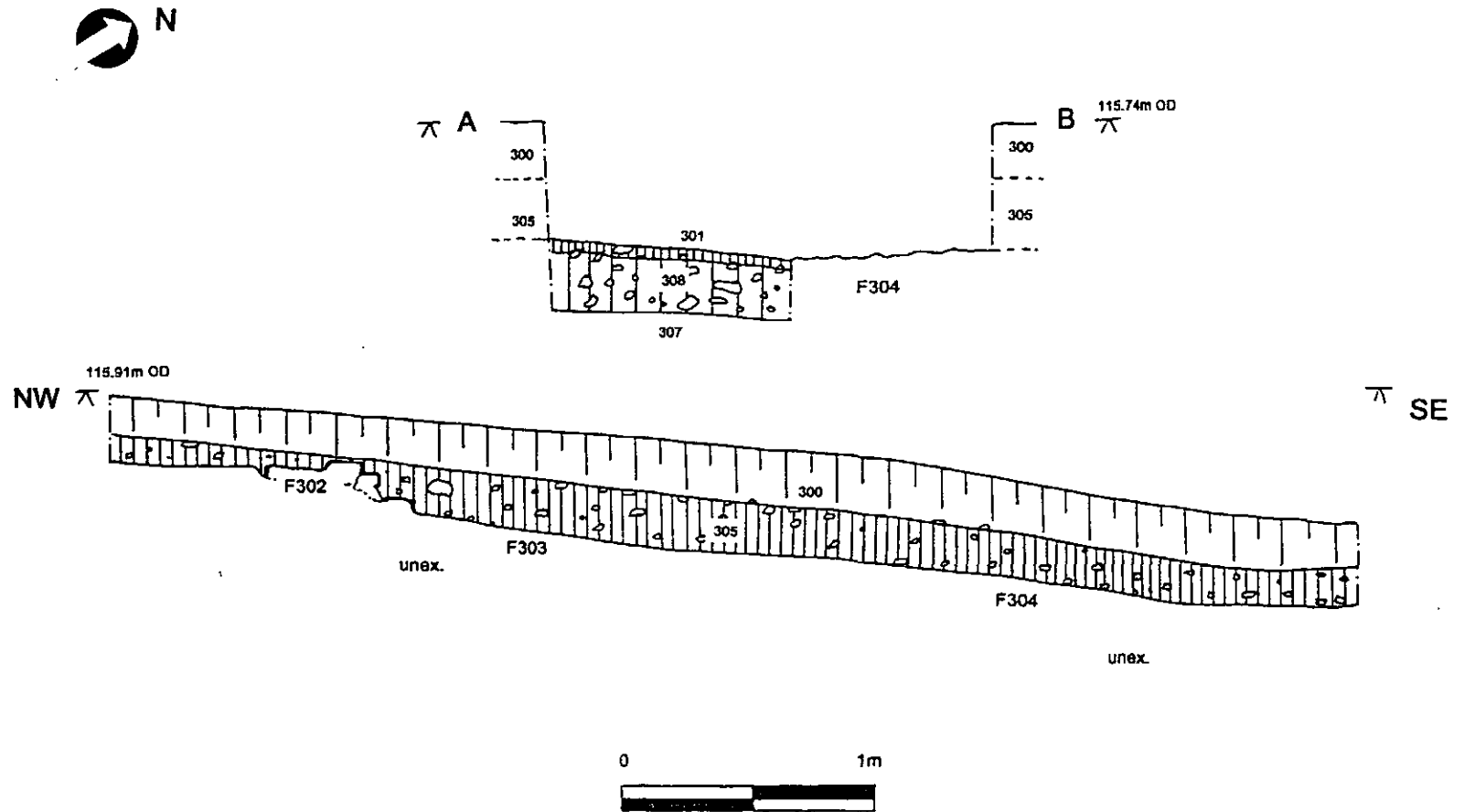
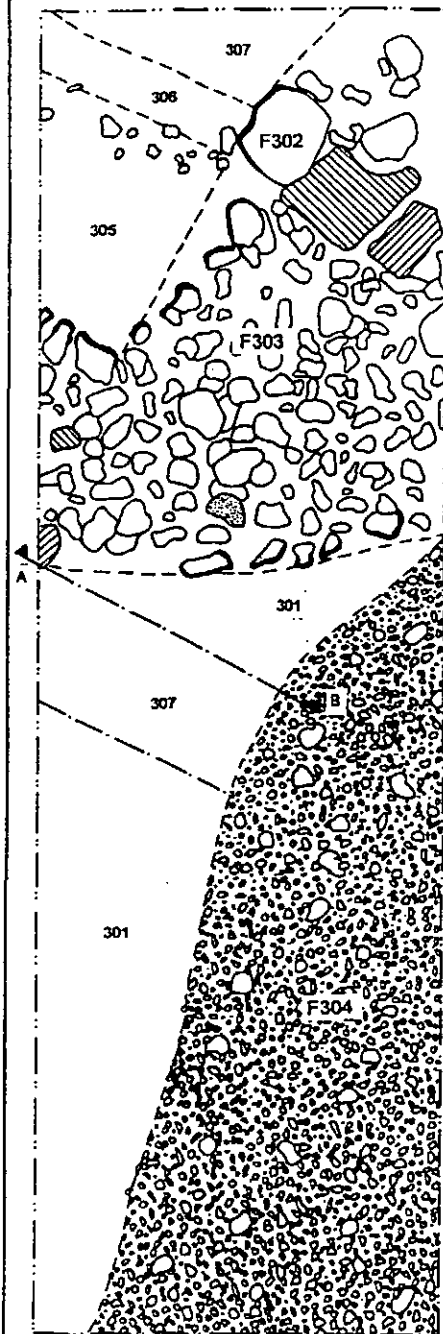


Fig. 5: Plan and Section of Trench 3

# CHURCH MEAD TOLLER PORCORUM

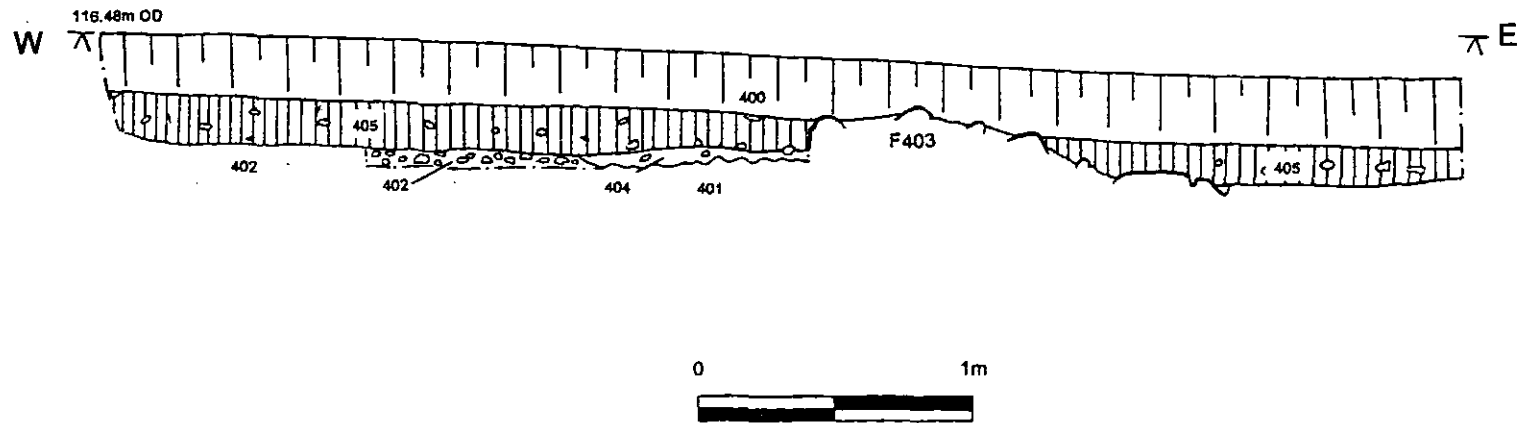
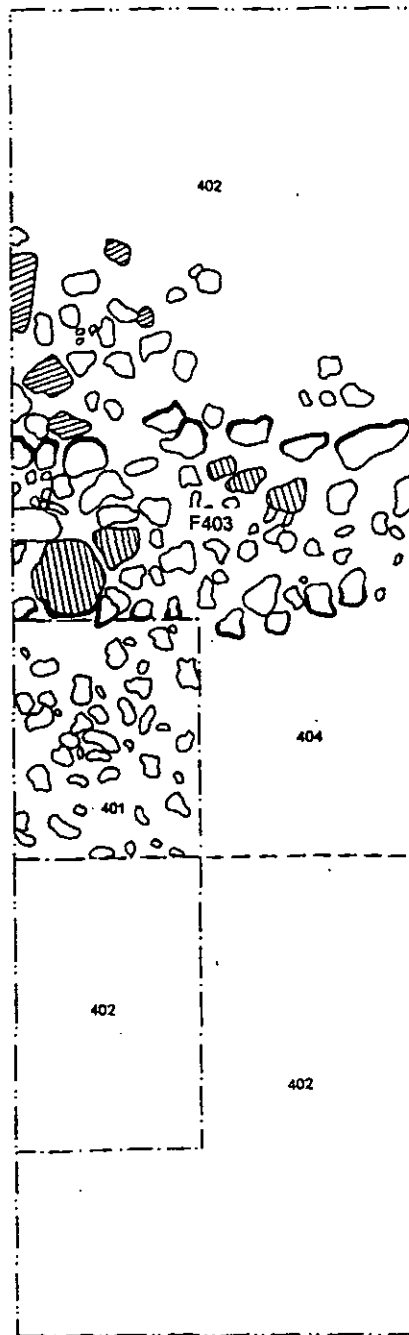


Fig. 6: Plan and Section of Trench 4

# CHURCH MEAD TOLLER PORCORUM

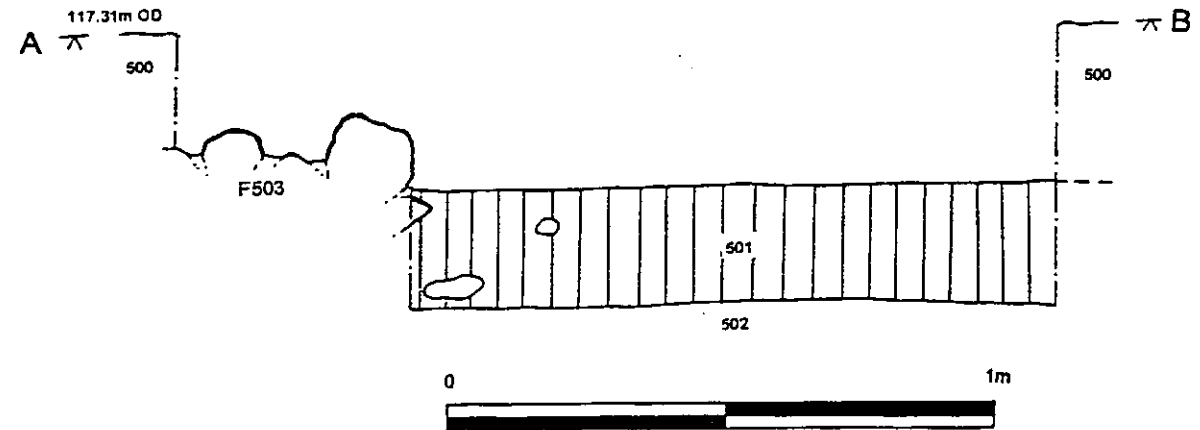
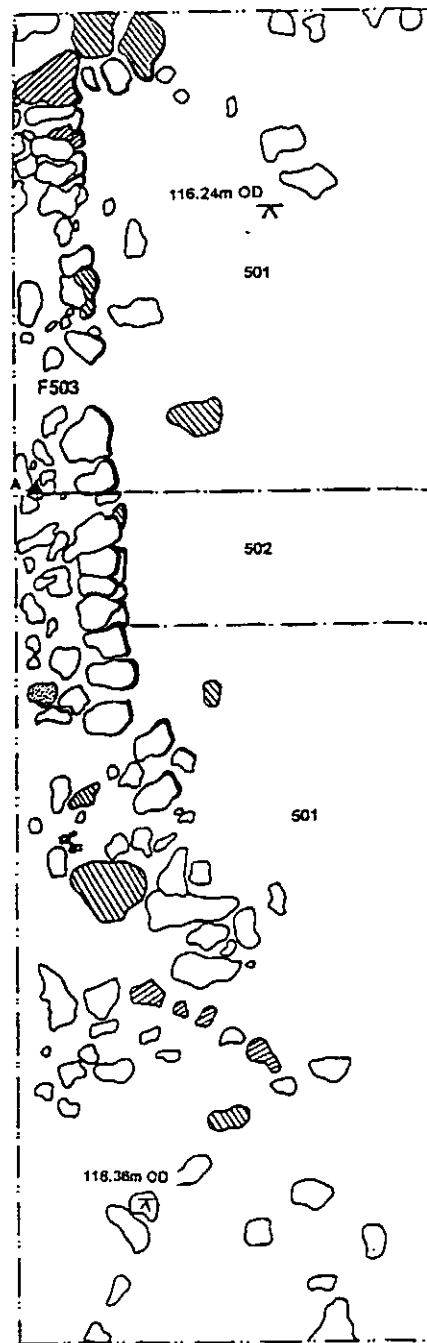


Fig. 7: Plan and Section of Trench 5

# CHURCH MEAD TOLLER PORCORUM

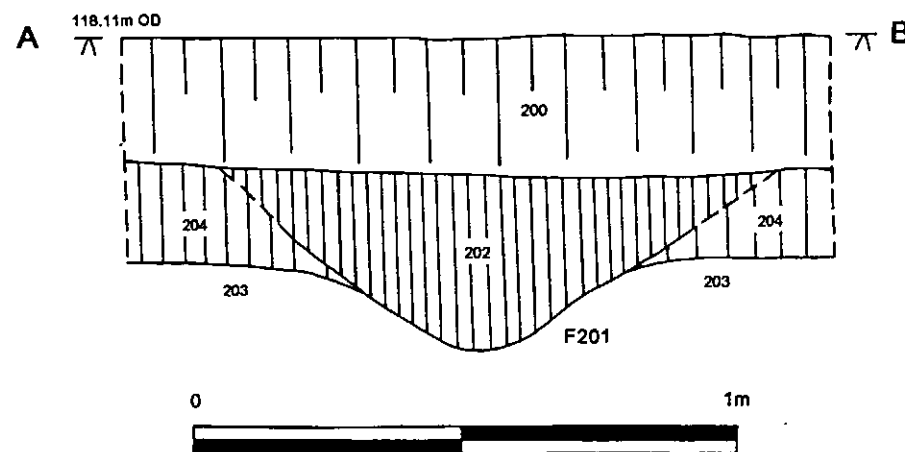
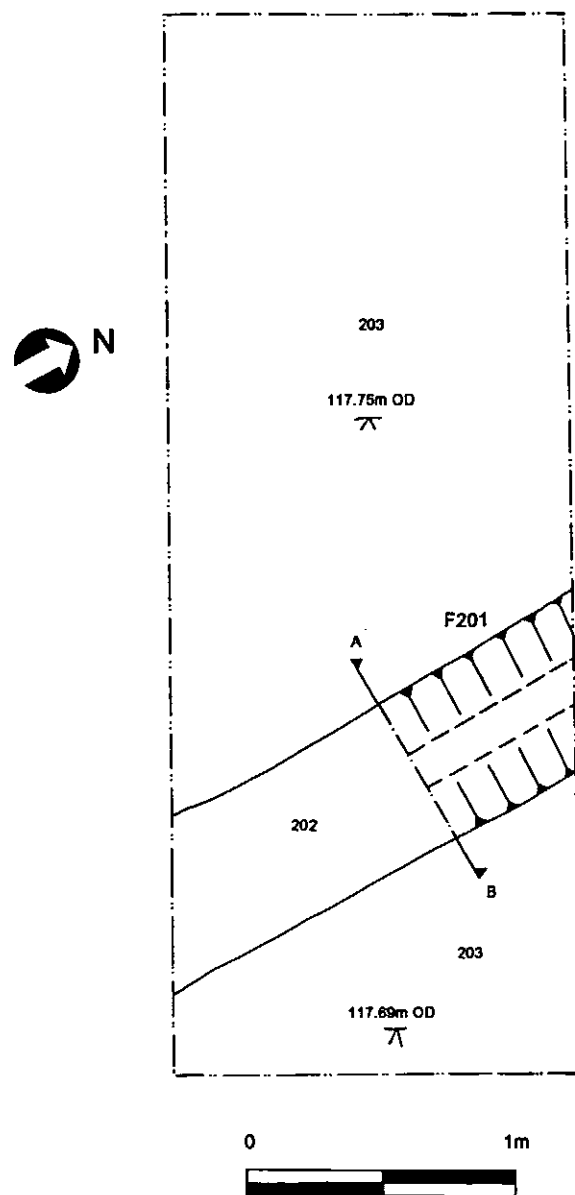


Fig. 8: Plan and Section of Trench 2



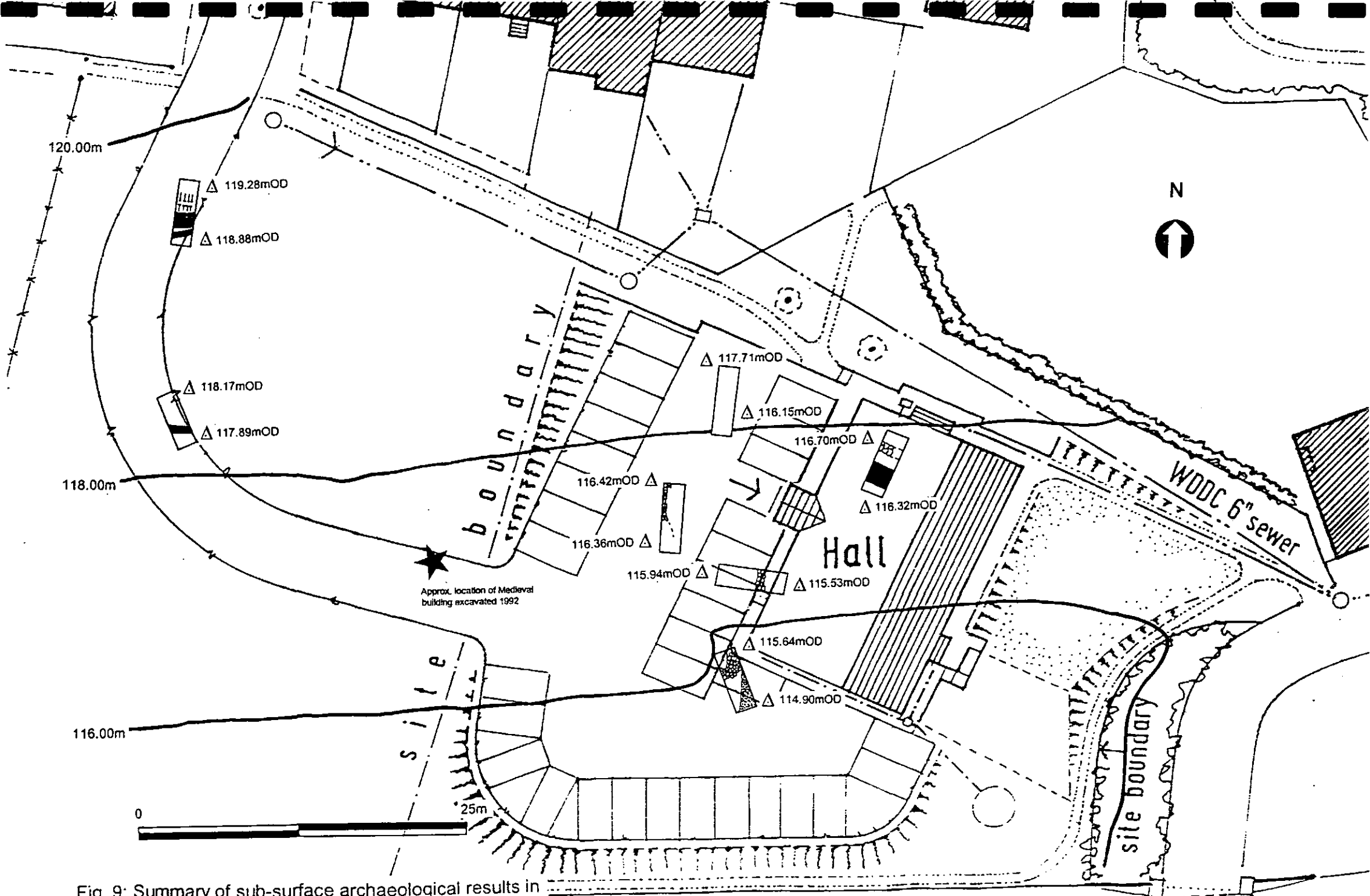


Fig. 9: Summary of sub-surface archaeological results in relation to proposed development