

**An archaeological evaluation
of land proposed for the construction
of the Eastern Surface
Water Attenuation Pond
at Shelford Farm Estate,
Broad Oak Road, Canterbury**

**Canterbury Archaeological Trust
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1) Summary

During December 2000, an evaluation of a site at Shelford Farm Estate, Broadoak (TR 1655 6015), was undertaken by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust in advance of the construction of a facility relating to Brett Waste Managements proposals to enlarge this landfill site.

The evaluation exposed structural remains dated by their associated pottery to Late pre-Roman Iron Age occupation of the site, these superceded by Roman-period buildings, probably a farmstead complex. The buildings survived in the form of foundations and linear rubble spreads including rubble-filled beam-slots and may have been in two phases. Also present was an associated hollow way later converted into a metalled path with a fence running along its eastern edge. The substantial foundations suggested that a strongly-built structure measuring 8.9m by 10.5m was the principal building within the farmstead complex. Cultural and structural materials associated with the Roman-period structures included brick, floor tile, roof tile (*imbrex* and *tegula*) and potsherds.

Several ditches of Late pre-Roman Iron Age and/or Roman date were also exposed, these almost certainly being drainage ditches cut to carry water coming off the steep slope to the north, away from the above-described structures.

2) Introduction

Between the 6th and 20th December 2000, an evaluation of a site (TR 1655 6015; Fig. 1) at Shelford Farm Estate, Broadoak, north-east of Canterbury was undertaken by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) in advance of the construction of the 'Eastern Surface Water attenuation Pond'. This facility, part of a number of works relating to Brett Waste Managements proposals to enlarge this landfill site, was to be undertaken under Canterbury City Council planning permission CA/96/0794. The work was commissioned by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC) on behalf of their clients, Brett Waste Management Limited. Previous sites relating to the various developments here have already been evaluated by JSAC, the closest being the site of a gas compound/leachate plant (Area E) to the west (some information on this site has kindly been provided by Simon Johnson of JSAC).

The archaeological work, covered by a condition attached to the planning consent, was carried out to a specification supplied by Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group. The proposed water attenuation pond is to be about 5000m² in extent. The site (c. 2km north-east of Canterbury) is located just within the entrance to the Shelford Quarry Estate, on the north side of Broadoak Road (by the Broadoak Crossing) and about 750m south-east of Shelford Farm itself, within arable land previously planted with beans.

The site is on the margins of the Great Stour flood plain, the river itself situated only 200m to the south. Immediately to the north-east of the site, the ground rises sharply toward Shelford Farm, attaining an elevation of 50m OD. Immediately to the east of the site, adjacent to where the Broadoak Road begins to climb the hill, is a running stream, which rises in springs at the head of a narrow valley between Shelford and Goose Farms. Though the site is of a fairly level aspect, it slopes gently down to the south, from an elevation of about 11m OD to c. 7m OD (Fig. 2).

The underlying geology is shown as Head Brickearth on the relevant survey (Geological Survey of Great Britain [England and Wales], Canterbury, Sheet 289). This drift deposit overlies London Clay. River alluvium, relating to the Stour, extends to within 50m of the site. Within the immediate vicinity however, the geological situation is more complex (Cross 1996, 10-12). There is historical evidence to indicate that there has been rotational slipping of the London Clay down slope across the south side of Barton Down. In the mid-nineteenth century, for example, the area is referred to as the 'Hanging Banks'. 'Masses of contorted London Clay' were also recorded in 1953 in the exposed face of Shelford Sand Pit (Smart *et al* 1966, 269). The London Clay plateau around Shelford Farm is diversified by three isolated patches of more recent Pleistocene deposits of Head Gravels just to the north-west, to the south-west and to the south-east of Shelford Farm, situated at about 49m O.D., rising slightly on the north and falling to 46m on the south-west. These deposits are bounded on the north-west by a ridge of London Clay which carries only a little gravelly soil derived from pockets at over 55m. These probably represent the 'roots' of Older Head Gravels. This sequence appears to be confirmed by recent bore-hole data from the site. Head gravels outcrop at various other places in the vicinity.

3) Archaeological background

The site lies in an area of considerable archaeological potential and interest, on the northern verges of the flood plain of the Great Stour, directly at the base of the higher slopes of the valley. As such, the immediately underlying natural deposits are geologically recent. For example, deposits of Head Gravel outcrop in the Shelford Farm area. Lower to Upper Palaeolithic flint artifacts can occur within these deposits, mostly in derived contexts and often dispersed.¹ However, in finer colluvial sediments, artifacts may not have moved very far from their point of deposition and can be well preserved (Wymer 1995, 47; Wessex Archaeology 1993, 11-13 and 15-17). Spreads of Head Brickearth to the south-east and east of Shelford Farm, and underlying the present site, may contain this type of artefactual evidence. For example, *in situ* finds of Lower to Upper Palaeolithic material have been recovered from the base of brickearth deposits from quarries 1km to the south-west (*ibid*).

No monuments or sites and few re-deposited surface finds of this early, or indeed of later prehistoric date, have been recorded from the immediate area. In a wider context, however, crop-marks discerned through air photography indicate the former presence of two burial mounds, probably of Bronze Age date, located immediately to the north of Barton Wood, at TR 1580 6124, and to the north-east of Six Acre Wood, at TR 1606 6122 (RCHME/NAR/TR16 SE55). An extensive pattern of crop-marks between Goose Farm and Six Acre and Beecham Woods, centred on TR 1625 6115 (RCHME/NAR/TR16 SE55), may indicate the site of a settlement with associated field systems, possibly originating in the later Bronze or Iron Age and perhaps surviving into the Roman period (RCHME/NAR/TR16 SE56). All of these sites lie on the higher ground not much more than a kilometer north of the present site.

In addition, occasional discoveries of archaeological material made in the locality include re-deposited surface finds of flint artifacts and implements of the Mesolithic (c. 8,500 BC - c. 4,250 BC), found north-west of Kemberland Wood just to the south of Calcott, at TR 1727 6231, 1718 6228 and 1741 6235 (RCHME/NAR/TR16 SE17A-C), and flint artifacts of the Neolithic (c. 4,250 BC - c. 2,100 BC), found at Hawcroft Farm, Popes Lane, centred on TR 1790 6162 and 1813 6159 (Canterbury Archaeological Trust: Sites and Monuments Record: STB93/F1-F2 Ref Nr 493).

A Late Bronze Age (c. 900 BC - c. 700 BC) metal smith's hoard was discovered immediately to the east of the site during sand quarrying in 1941, west of the Shallock Road at TR 1664 6048 (RCHME/NAR/TR16 SE3), and somewhat further afield, a cremation burial of Late Bronze Age date as well as pottery of the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age periods were recovered during gravel extraction in the 1930s at School Pit, just west of the Herne Bay Road, on the east side of Den Grove Wood. This site, which is centred on TR 1743 6065 (RCHME/NAR/TR16 SE18 [i]-[ii]), is called variously Brett's Pit, Milner Pit or Street Hill Pit and is now incorporated into the Greenhill Shooting Grounds. Large numbers of Lower to Middle Palaeolithic (Acheulian and Levallois) flint

¹ The compilation of this section is almost entirely based on an earlier appraisal of the Shelford Farm area, see Cross 1996, 13).

artifacts, especially handaxes, dated c. 250,000/200,000 - c. 25,000/15,000 BC were also recovered from this pit during quarrying (Roe 1968, 177-179, Wessex Archaeology 1993, 140-141 and 146-147).

This imprint of settlement and burial extends both to the west, where archaeological excavations have revealed an Early Neolithic settlement at the north-western apex of Little Hall Wood, at TR 1465 6067 (Kent Water Resources Studies 1991, 1992 and 1993) and to the east, beyond the Herne Bay Road, and suggests that the landscape on the northern side of the Stour valley was extensively occupied and exploited during much of the prehistoric period. Later prehistoric settlement and burial within the locality, however, appears to be restricted to sites on the second and third terrace river gravels north-east of Sturry and now either quarried out or occupied by more recent development (Cross 1996, 14, footnote 20).

No monuments, sites or re-deposited surface finds of Late Iron Age or Roman date (c. 100 BC - c. AD 450) have previously been recorded from the immediate area (Cross 1996, 15). As in the prehistoric period however, the area was probably of some importance. The site is situated just over 2km from the town walls of Roman Canterbury (*Durovernum Cantiacorum*), close to the Great Stour, which would have been an important waterway and was probably navigable this far upstream during the Roman period. The main Roman road which connected Canterbury to the Roman fort at Reculver (*Regulbium*) and a branch to the Isle of Thanet (Margary 1955, 34-35, routes 110 and 11) followed an alignment along the valley floor on the southern side of the River Stour, no more than 500m from the site.

Numerous finds of Early-Mid Roman cremation and inhumation burials have been recorded flanking the routes of these roads, following the Roman law of burial outside the town limits. Some represent the former sites of isolated or small groups of burial mounds, others of larger cemeteries in use from the early first century through to the second century AD. Many, though not all of these burials, have been recovered during the various and protracted episodes of quarrying along the Stour valley (see Cross 1996, 16 and footnotes 25 and 26 for more details). The closest to the present site are probably those found at the Vauxhall pits (TR 1640 5910), about a kilometer to the south. The spread and concentration of these sites is evidence for the density of occupation here at this time. The settlements or farmsteads, the inhabitants of which 'were over many generations buried in these cemeteries' (Cross 1996, 16) appear to have been located at intervals along the northern side of the Stour valley. For example, an extensive and considerably important Iron Age and Roman settlement has recently been discovered immediately east of Hersden (Cross, 1998). Two such settlements, probably first occupied in the Early or Late Iron Age and continuing into the early Roman period, have been located during episodes of quarrying north-east of Sturry Court Farm, at TR 1768 6068 (RCHME/NAR/TR16 SE19) and east of Babs Oak Hill, at TR 1875 6150 (RCHME/NAR/TR16 SE10 [i]-[ii]). See Cross 1996, 17, footnote 27 for details of these sites). Various other Roman finds have also been made to the north of the present site (Cross 1996, 15).

For the Anglo-Saxon period, the presence of a cemetery about 500m north of the present site is indicated by the discovery of an inhumation burial associated with two sixth - seventh century gill

bronze mounts, a shield-boss and spearhead at TR 1650 6028 (RCHME/NAR/TR16 SE2 and RCHME/NAR/TR16 SE54), this discovery being made in 1929 during sand quarrying just to the south of Shelford Farm. Subsequent discoveries made in 1985, including buckles, a spearhead, and an early sixth-century AD cruciform Anglian brooch, were recovered as re-deposited surface finds from further north, on the spur-ridge closer to Shelford Farm (this site was not entered onto Kent County SMR but for details see Ager & Dawson 1989). Such finds in Kent have been suggested as being indicative of marriage ties between Anglian and South Saxon and Kentish families during the sixth century, perhaps associated with royal missions to the court of King Aethelberht of Kent.

These finds, all funerary in nature, are probably derived from graves forming part of a once extensive cemetery and perhaps related to a major settlement in the vicinity. The full extent or character of the cemetery is unclear, but the local topography, along with the high quality of the finds, suggest that early sixth-century burial mounds may have been located on the ridge on the 50m contour, with later sixth- to seventh-century inhumations being interred on the lower terraces (Cross 1996, 18).

Whether Shelford originated at this time is unknown, but Late Anglo-Saxon settlement is recorded here in a mid ninth-century charter (Cross 1996, 18 footnote 31). Various later sources, including medieval surveys of the estates of the Abbey of Saint Augustine, of which the parish of Sturry formed part from the early eleventh century, give a glimpse of the subsequent historical development of the locality (see Cross 1996, 18-23 and footnotes 33-40 for details). The early form of the place-name Sturry (Sturigao), signifying the district about the Great Stour, indicates that Sturry was almost certainly a *villa regalis*, or royal estate, one of a group of important royal centres, the others being at Eastry and Lyminge, which clustered around Canterbury. These appear to date back to the early seventh century, to the reign of Aethelberht, King of Kent (c. 560 - c. 616), during his period of supremacy as Bretwalda over the English kingdoms south of the Humber.

The extent of the early Jutish river estate centred on Sturry is uncertain, but it probably extended across the present parishes of Sturry, Westbere, Hoath and Chislet and was probably bounded to the north by the London Clay upland of the Blean (Cross 1996, 23). The other boundaries of Sturigao extended west to the Wantsum Channel, and to the boundary of the former *territorium*, however blurred by then, of *Cantwaraburh* (Anglo-Saxon Canterbury). As an undeveloped, and possibly Late Roman estate, it contained all the agrarian elements of arable, meadow, pasture, woodland, and particularly of pannage rights, which were to make it such a valuable addition to the ecclesiastical estates, first of Minster-in-Thamet and later of the Abbey of Saint Augustine, Canterbury.

The estate centred on Sturry may have undergone rapid development during the late seventh and eighth centuries with the clearance of parts of the Blean woodlands. Charter confirmations of 690 refer to ten or twelve settlements with woods and orchards in the district of Sturry, some of which probably survive amongst the later six boroughs of Sturry Street, Butland, Buckwell, Calcott, Blaxland, and Hoath, all subordinate to the paramount manor of Sturry, and the

sub-manor of Mayton. All of these place-names, now represented by small farmsteads or hamlets, are philologically early, though none are recorded in pre-Conquest sources.

Archaeological evidence for the form, location and type of early medieval settlement in the vicinity is at present limited. A recent archaeological evaluation just west of Vale Farm (centred on TR 1640 6240) has however indicated the presence of a small farmstead occupied from between c. 850 and c. 1125 AD and succeeding one of Roman date (Kent Water Resources Study 1993). Most of the information as to the medieval and post-medieval development of the area comes from documentary sources (detailed in Cross 1996). A brief outline of this history is presented here for completeness. By 1086 Sturry was a nucleated settlement with thirty-nine *villani* (villagers), all of whom would have held five or more acres of land each. There were also 32 landholders of inferior status. The estate contained valuable assets, namely: seven fisheries, twenty acres of meadow, ten mills and pasturage for thirty pigs (pannage), the latter presumably available in the Blean woodlands.

A mid ninth-century land grant describes Shelford ('Scufeling') as a '*haelftun*' (half-farm), with its eastern boundary delineated by the medieval parish boundary, following the Broadoak Stream, shared with Sturry. This Late Saxon estate, developed into the manor of Shuldeford (named variously as Scolyforde, Schulforde or Sholyford) during the medieval period. From then on it was continuously occupied. In the late thirteenth century the estate was in the possession of Nicholas de Hadloe and remained in the possession of this family until at least 1345. Thereafter it was owned by the Brent family of Canterbury, who continued to farm the property until 1487.

By the early sixteenth century the manors of Shelford and Broadoak had become united in the ownership of Sir Edward Boughton. By 1839 Shelford Farm extended to 238 acres 19 perches, the tenant being one William Collard and during the later nineteenth century the farm was incorporated into the Hales Place Estate. Shelford Farm in 1800 comprised a small group of buildings ranged around a central stockyard, open on the south, and set within a sub-rectangular enclosure situated at the northern end of Shelford Lane (Cross 1996, 23-26). Some of these buildings, much altered, still survive today in a dilapidated state.

4) Method

Trial trenches were cut within the area of the proposed pond, to a pattern agreed with the County Archaeologist. Six trenches (Tr 1-6) were initially excavated, all c. 2m wide and totalling about 120m in length (c. 4.6% of the total evaluation area of c. 5240m²). The trenches were positioned to give as comprehensive coverage of the development as possible. The only constraints to trench position were a buried high voltage electricity cable on the eastern and northern sides of the development area, and services on the western side, adjacent to the quarry access road. In the event these did not affect the layout, although Tr 2 was moved slightly east due to the presence of the latter installations.

The trenches were all excavated by a tracked 360° mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed bucket and under constant archaeological supervision. Although the specification indicated that the trenches were to be taken down either to the top of 'natural' or to any significant archaeological level, whichever was the higher, this proved to be difficult due to a variably thick blanket of colluvium across the site, some of which contained a high proportion of artefactual material. At a number of places (kept to a minimum), deeper sondages were cut into the subsoils to test for the presence of buried land surfaces, river gravels and any associated prehistoric material.

As per the specification, a contingency for additional trenching (of up to 60m² in area) had been allowed for, and this was undertaken in areas of interest or to solve certain problems of interpretation. A further 45m of trench was cut in this second phase, the total area subject to trenching thus being c. 6% of the evaluation area. Conditions during the evaluation were wet and unfavourable. The work was carried out after many weeks of heavy rainfall and it was found that in the majority of the trenches, the water table was very high, often above the levels of the archaeological horizons. It also continued to rain during much of the evaluation. These factors limited the level of excavation that could be carried out (see 8 below).

5) Results

The earliest cultural materials consisted of ten Late pre-Roman Iron Age ('Belgic') and/or Early Roman potsherds recovered in Trench 5 from a re-worked colluvium layer (3), in the immediate vicinity of, but not from within, the fills of two groups of features. A large quantity of small fire-cracked flints, probably potboilers, were also recovered from this layer, along with 38 sherds of Early, Mid and Late Roman-period, including Romanised grog-tempered Native Coarseware, Central Gaulish Samian, Upchurch, Black-Burnished and Alice Holt Ware and Oxford 'Parchment' Ware mortaria, the ceramics as a whole indicating protracted re-working throughout the Late Iron Age and Roman period.

The two groups of features were consistent in appearance with the possible remains of structures, perhaps huts. They comprised clusters of probable postholes with diameters ranging from 11cm to 32cm. Each group was close to and possibly associated with a gully-like feature with a lobate terminal. One group contained eight postholes (context numbers 50 - 62), approximately two metres west of a slightly curved gully (66), from which they were separated by a pit-like feature (64), only part of which was exposed by the trench. The likely postholes within this group described a rough curve immediately adjacent to and east of a large feature (6), interpreted as a hollow way of later, Roman date, which may have removed other postholes in the vicinity. The gully (66) was interpreted tentatively as a possible eaves or drip gully.

The second group occurred approximately 6m east of the first and consisted of eight possible postholes (68 - 82), one of which was 60cm east of a gully terminal (84), the remainder describing a rough oval west of the gully (the western end of the gully was not determined during

the course of the evaluation and three of the possible postholes [68, 74, 76] may have represented part of its western continuation). Here, the probable post holes varied between 20cm and 30cm in diameter.

In conformity with Part 4.4 of the Archaeological Specification (Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group, 2000), only three of the above-described features (the two gullies and the pit-like feature) were part excavated in order to establish that they represented archaeological rather than geological features. This was considered to be the case. Gully 66 was 19cm deep, gully 84 was 22cm deep and pit 64 was 20cm deep.

In Trenches 3 and 8, a large ditch (38) aligned approximately north-south was exposed and was considered to be of possible pre-Roman or Early Roman date. This chronology was suggested by a pebble layer (43), which sealed the ditch's fill (37) and which consisted primarily of a single course (average thickness 3cm) of pebbles and flints containing occasional large- and medium-sized Roman tile fragments. This layer probably also occurred in Trenches 1, 2 and 6, where it was recorded as 87/105, 107 and 89 respectively. It also sealed and thus post-dated two archaeological features, possible ditch 95 in Trench 1 and pit 91 in Trench 6, and was cut by or adjoined ditch 86, also in Trench 1. This pebble layer has been provisionally interpreted as resulting from intensive settlement activity dating largely to the Roman period (see below). However, an origin as a Late Iron Age occupation horizon cannot be precluded in the light of the above-mentioned evidence of settlement activity for that period exposed in Trench 5. Although clearly discontinuous within the evaluation site, layer 43 is probably very extensive and is almost certainly equatable with the 'pebble layer' identified during the previous evaluation by JSAC (Trench 1), in an area 70m or so west of the present evaluation site. Here, '*Coarse-tempered pottery*' was observed '*immediately above the pebble layer*', which is possibly a naturally-occurring single-course pebble layer (stringer) on which occupation activity subsequently took place (*pers. comm.* Simon Johnson).

In Trench 3, Layer 43 immediately underlay a 2cm - 5cm thick dark grey-brown clayey deposit (36). This produced twenty-nine Late pre-Roman Iron Age ('Belgic') and eight Roman-period potsherds, along with Roman tile fragments, charcoal flecks and burnt flints, all suggestive of anthropogenic reworking. It was interpreted as an occupation layer (36), probably in the form of a re-worked buried soil (*palaeosol*).

Other, mostly ditch-like features were exposed in Trenches 1 and 2, although persistent flooding meant that detailed examination of the deposits here could not take place. However, sufficient time was available immediately following the cutting of these trenches to record the features in plan and section and for limited sampling to take place. Trench 1 exposed three linear features (86, 93, 95), all probably ditches (although this identification was less certain for the latter), and another feature (97) of uncertain identity. No potsherds were recovered during the limited sample excavation in this trench.

The eastern part of Trench 2 exposed either a large feature (106) or, more likely, a complex of features, the fill(s) of which (45) produced five Late pre-Roman Iron Age sherds and eight

Roman-period sherds, along with burnt flints. An attempt to characterise the archaeology here more fully was frustrated by heavy rain and rising groundwater, which again flooded the trench.

Trench 6 was examined in greater detail and was observed to contain six archaeological or possibly archaeological features, including two pits (91, 104), a possible posthole/pit (102) and a linear feature, almost certainly a ditch (100), which was east-west aligned and appeared to have been re-cut (99), close to the western edge of the trench. Pit 104 was circular and cut the fill (11) of ditch 100. One pit (91), part of which was excavated, proved to be shallow (20cm) and produced prehistoric flintwork which, if not residual, suggested that the site had been near the focus of some prehistoric occupation activity. Another feature (17), also shallow (18cm), was excavated but contained no archaeological materials and could therefore have been of anthropic or geological origin. Although no datable material was recovered from the Trench 6 features, it is possible that some of them were associated with construction activity dating to the Late Iron Age and Roman periods, evidence for which was exposed in Trenches 5 and 7.

In Trench 5, twelve metres to the north of Trench 6, a series of inter-related features (4, 5, 6, 108, 110, 112, 114, 115, 116) was interpreted as a hollow way subsequently metalled in part to make a substantial pathway fenced on one side. Cut/interface 6 almost certainly represented part of a road or trackway where the original land surface had been worn away by constant use to produce the hollow way. Deposit 5, which produced four Roman-period potsherds, probably represented either a colluvial accumulation or deliberate backfilling of the hollow way, which occurred prior to the construction of a flint-metalled path (4) of 1.8m width. An apparent construction cut (116) for the path was evident 45cm east of the metalling, the intervening fill being made up of a charcoal-rich clayey deposit (115), which also extended westward underneath the metalling. A north-south aligned line of four postholes (108, 110, 112, 114) of between 12cm and 19cm diameter was exposed immediately to the east of 116, this almost certainly representing the remains of a fence running along the east side of the pathway. A deposit sequence (3, 30, 31) overlying the metalled path and other features in Trench 5 appeared to represent colluvial layers subsequently re-worked as occupation deposits (see below). Deposit 3 contained ten Late pre-Roman Iron Age ('Belgic') and/or Early Roman potsherds associated with probable Late Iron Age features as described above. Deposit 30 produced three sherds of Late Iron Age or possibly Early Roman period 'Belgic' Ware, two sherds of Romanised grog-tempered 'Belgic' Ware and two sherds of Roman-period Ware. Deposit 31 produced three Late pre-Roman Iron Age or Early Roman-period 'Belgic' sherds.

Part of the same metalled path examined in Trench 5 appeared to have been exposed in the bed of a recently scoured stream at a distance of 44m to the south. Here, a 20cm thick band of flint metalling (also containing Roman tile fragments) was observed to have a similar alignment and virtually the same width as that of the metalling exposed in Trench 5. Also observed in the stream some 20m to the north-east was a more substantial exposure of flint metalling, similarly containing Roman tile fragments, and which possibly represented part of a more substantial Roman road or trackway.

The above-described remains of roads or trackways can be stated with confidence to have provided access to and from a Roman-period building, parts of the foundations of which were exposed in Trenches 4 and 7. The foundations in Trench 4 were partly excavated, showing one section (fabric 28, construction cut 29) to be 40cm deep, one metre wide at the top and 60cm wide at the base and to extend out of the trench to the south-east. The fabric consisted of hard-packed flints of varying size, medium and large Roman tile fragments and gravel, with no banding evident. A conjoining foundation (fabric 26, construction cut 27) extended to the north-east, with the two foundations together forming a right-angle, clearly the corner of a substantial building. The north-east corner of the same building was exposed in Trench 7, 14m to the north east, where its fabric was recorded as 117, its construction cut as 118. Comparison with the corner exposed in Trench 4 suggested that the building was 8.9m wide and 10.5m long.

Less substantial linear spreads abutting or cut by these foundations were evident in both trenches, suggesting that the deep-founded building was partly surrounded by adjoining buildings or, since the alignments between these elements appeared to be different, that it had replaced earlier structures. In Trench 4, a linear spread (24/25, also recorded as 20/21), probably represented the truncated remains of a roughly north-south aligned wall. This spread produced a residual sherd of prehistoric pot and a sherd of Roman-Period Black Burnished ware. Also in Trench 4, another linear spread (18/19) may have represented part of the right-angle return of 24/25. In Trench 7, a north-east aligned linear spread (120) may have represented part of another building, perhaps adjoining and therefore contemporary with the deep-founded building. Roman tile fragments also formed part of the fabric of the deep foundation (27/29/118), suggesting that demolition rubble from an earlier building had been re-used.

The upper part of all the above-discussed structural remains had clearly been subject to severe plough damage, the resulting spread of flints, gravel and Roman tile fragments being evident as a rubble layer, recorded as 22 in Trench 4 and 119 (also 34), in Trench 7, in which trenches it immediately underlay modern plough soil (1). Deposit 22 in Trench 4 produced a fragment of South Spanish Dressel 20 amphora dated from the late first to the early third centuries AD. Deposit 34=119 in Trench 7 produced three sherds of Late pre-Roman Iron Age 'Belgic' ware and two sherds of Romanised native coarse ware. The plough soil also contained much Roman-period archaeological material, with tile fragments and flints, in addition to Roman period potsherds in considerable quantities. This suggested that, in those areas where there was no protective colluvial overburden, as in Trenches 4 and 7, *in situ* Roman structural remains had been destroyed by ploughing.

The colluvial material overlying archaeological horizons of Roman or earlier date can be considered to be down-slope deposits from the steep slope to the north, with protracted ploughing contributing significantly to the natural process of erosion (colluvial creep). Thus, deposit 2 in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6; deposit 44 in Trench 3; deposits 3, 30 and 31 in Trench 5 and deposits 8 and 9 in Trench 6 probably all result from or originate as specific episodes of erosion on the adjacent slope. It is also clear that colluvial creep occurred, albeit at a lesser rate, prior to the occupation periods represented by the archaeological remains discussed above. For

example, colluvial deposits underlying archaeological horizons were exposed in Trench 4 (deposits 122 and 123), in Trench 6 (deposit 33) and in Trench 7 (deposits 124 and 125).

Ditch 47 in Trench 2 appeared initially, on the basis of its similar alignment, to be a northward extension of ditch 38 exposed in Trenches 3 and 8, and considered to be Late pre-Roman Iron Age or Roman in date. However, both its width (75cm) and stratigraphic position (cutting colluvium 2) were different, and it was subsequently interpreted, albeit tentatively, as representing part of a medieval/early post-medieval drainage or boundary ditch.

Soil 1, which represents the surface deposit across the whole of the evaluation site, is a modern plough soil, as attested to by the rows of decaying bean plants which at present occupy the field.

6) The finds

6.1 The pottery

Context	Fabric Description	No. of sherds	Weight (gms)	Notes	Date
3B1	"Belgic" fine grog - tempered.	1	16		Late C1st. BC. - Early C2nd. AD.
3B2	"Belgic" coarse grog - tempered.	8	90	Inc. 1 x base.	Late C1st. BC. - Early C2nd. AD.
3B3	"Belgic" grog - tempered with sparse flint.	1	14		c. 50 BC. - AD. 75.
3R1	Romanised grog - tempered Native Coarseware.	10	150	Inc. 2 x rim and 1 x base.	c. 175 - 300.
3R1.2	"Belgic" coarse/Romanised grog - tempered Native Coarseware.	3	74	Check fabric. Inc. 1 x rim.	c. 70 - 175.
3R3	Romanised grit/sand - tempered Native Coarseware.	1	26	Check fabric.	Late C2nd. - Mid. C4th.
3R14	Black - Burnished 2.	2	18	Inc. 1 x base.	c. 120 - 350.
3R16	Fine grey Upchurch.	3	18	Inc. 1 x Late C1st. - Early C2nd. bowl rim.	c. 70 - 275.
3R43	Central Gaulish samian.	2	86	Inc. 1 x rim. Sherds worn.	Hadrianic - Antonine.
3R61	?Gaul/S.E.England Fabric 1 mortaria.	1	116	Rim sherd with part of spout.	C1st.
3R73	?Coarse grey sandy.	8	86	Inc. 1 x rim and 1 x base.	c. 50 - 400.
3R73.1	Black - Burnished - type.	3	38	1 x rim & 2 x base.	c. 120 - 350.
3LR1	Prob. local coarse grog - tempered.	1	6	Check fabric: sherd over - fired.	c. 275 - 425.
3LR2.2	?Local fine grey sandy over - fired.	1	32	Base sherd.	C3rd. - Early C4th.
3LR5	Alice Hoit.	1	10		c. 300 - 425.
3LR7	Oxford "Parchment" Ware mortaria.	1	40	Rim sherd with part of spout.	Mid. C3rd.+.
3PM1	Red earthenware.	1	44	Sherd late: c. 1750 - 1850.	c. 1550 - 1800.

Context	Fabric	Description	No. of sherds	Weight (gms)	Notes	Date
5R14		Black - Burnished 2.	1	18	Rim sherd.	c. 120 - 350.
5R43		Central Gaulish samian.	1	2	Rim sherd.	Hadrianic - Antonine.
5R50		South Spanish Dressel 20 amphora.	1	232		Late C1st. - Early C3rd.
5R73		?Coarse grey sandy.	1	6		c. 50 - 400.
7R50		South Spanish Dressel 20 amphora.	1	30		Late C1st. - Early C3rd.
20LPP		Uncertain Later Prehistoric.	1	6		c. 1500 - 50 BC.
20R14		Black - Burnished 2.	1	8	Base sherd.	c. 120 - 350.
30B1		"Belgic" fine grog - tempered.	2	16	Sherds join.	Late C1st. BC. - Early C2nd. AD.
30B2		"Belgic" coarse grog - tempered.	1	18	Rim sherd.	Late C1st. BC. - Early C2nd. AD.
30R1		Romanised grog - tempered Native Coarseware.	2	24	Sherds join.	c. 175 - 300.
30R73.1		Black - Burnished - type.	1	34	Rim sherd.	c. 120 - 350.
30LR1		Prob. local coarse grog - tempered.	1	12	Check fabric.	c. 275 - 425.
31B2		"Belgic" coarse grog - tempered.	3	18		Late C1st. BC. - Early C2nd. AD.
34B2		"Belgic" coarse grog - tempered.	3	102	Inc. 2 x rim. Few sherds join.	Late C1st. BC. - Early C2nd. AD.
34R1		Romanised grog - tempered Native Coarseware.	2	54	Inc. 1 x base.	c. 175 - 300.
36B1		"Belgic" fine grog - tempered.	2	12		Late C1st. BC. - Early C2nd. AD.
36B2		"Belgic" coarse grog - tempered.	27	410	Inc. 3 x rim and 2 x base. Few sherds join.	Late C1st. BC. - Early C2nd. AD.
36R5		Canterbury coarse grey sandy.	2	32	Inc. 1 x lid frag.	Late C1st. - C2nd.
36R9.2		Canterbury fine pink - buff sandy.	1	8	Sherd worn.	Late C1st. - C2nd.
36R42		Southern Gaulish samian.	1	6	Base sherd.	C1st.
36R43		Central Gaulish samian.	1	4		Hadrianic - Antonine.
36R50		South Spanish Dressel 20 amphora.	1	80		Late C1st. - Early C3rd.
36R56		South Gaulish Pelichet 47 amphora.	1	50		Mid. C1st. - C3rd.

Context	Fabric	Description	No. of sherds	Weight (gms)	Notes	Date
36	LR10	Oxford red/brown colour - coat.	1	4	Check fabric: sherd v. worn.	c. 250+.
45	B1	"Belgic" fine grog - tempered.	1	12		Late C1st. BC. - Early C2nd. AD.
45	B2	"Belgic" coarse grog - tempered.	4	56	Inc. 1 x base.	Late C1st. BC. - Early C2nd. AD.
45	R1	Romanised grog - tempered Native Coarseware.	3	64		c. 175 - 300.
45	R14	Black - Burnished 2.	1	6	Rim sherd.	c. 120 - 350.
45	R16	Fine grey Upchurch.	1	2		c. 70 - 275.
45	R88.9	Flagon White Ware: Rigby Fabric WW2 - 8.	1	6		c. 0 - 300.
45	R99	Unident. mortaria.	1	12	Rim sherd.	c. 50 - 400.
45	LR1	Prob. local coarse grog - tempered.	1	6	Check fabric. Rim sherd from Dog Dish.	c. 275 - 425.

6.2 The Ceramic Building Material

Louise Harrison

Approximately 173 pieces of Roman brick and tile weighing 38.850kg was collected from the evaluation. The assemblage can be broken down into the following categories:

Form	Quantity	Weight
Roman Brick	35	31.145kgs
Roman Tile	131	6.535kgs
<i>Imbrex</i>	4	370gms
<i>Tegula</i>	3	800

The brick varies in thickness from approximately 40mm to 67mm. This suggests that fragments of *bessalis*, *pedalis*, *sesquipedalis* and possibly *tegula bipedalis* are present in the assemblage. Additionally, a *tegula mammata* fragment was recovered consisting of type A (Brodrigg 1987). This particular type of *tegula mammata* was used to assist with bonding when brick was used in courses or in flooring. The presence of the brick together with the roofing tile suggests that a substantial Roman building, possibly with a hypocaust system was present in or near the area of excavation.

7) Conclusions

Apart from the more general objectives of establishing the location, extent, date, significance and character as well as depth and condition of the archaeological remains, the specification defines particular issues which should be addressed in this case. To a large extent, the archaeological evaluation has achieved the general objectives. In as far as location and extent are concerned, it would appear that virtually all of the area of development is likely to contain archaeological remains to some degree, though the concentration is noticeably less in the southern part of the site. Date, significance and character are discussed below. Although most of the archaeological features are sealed by considerable deposits of colluvium, in the north-east part of the site, remains of archaeological significance (specifically the Roman structures) exist immediately below the modern ploughsoil. In this area, the archaeology has probably been severely truncated and disturbed, but not eradicated. Elsewhere however, deposits have been preserved under colluvium, but this is variable across the site.

The specific issues raised by the specification are:

1) *Are the proposals likely to affect deposits which may contain remains of Paleolithic date and if so are such deposits present?*

This question has not been explicitly answered by the evaluation. Head gravels, where such Paleolithic material is likely to occur, were hardly exposed in any of the evaluation trenches, because they only outcropped at depths greater than that safely attainable in the trenches (below 1.5 m for the most part). Although some gravel was exposed at the base of sondages in Trenches 1 and 6, this was not examined closely due to immediate and considerable water incursion. However, it can be noted that nothing of artefactual significance was observed during the machine excavation of these sondages, and that of all the lithic material recovered during the evaluation (all residual in later contexts), nothing is likely to predate the Neolithic period.

2) *Is an Anglo-Saxon cemetery present in the area of development and if so how extensive is it?*

There was no evidence for any form of Anglo-Saxon activity on the site and no artefactual material of this period was recovered. It can be said with some confidence therefore, that the answer to this question is negative.

3) *Does the ancient settlement of Shelford or the remains of any activities associated with it extend into the application site?*

There was no evidence for settlement activity relating to the ancient manor of Shelford. No medieval pottery was recovered and only one sherd of post-medieval ceramic (intrusive and probably introduced during manuring) recorded. One ditch however (47), may be part of field systems relating to the manor, but is of negligible significance.

4) *Are there any remains in the area of later prehistoric or Roman date?*

The evaluation has clearly demonstrated that the area of the proposed development intrudes upon the site of a Roman-period settlement with its origins in the Late Iron Age. At least two structures, perhaps of different phases were located. The main structure was built off relatively substantial footings, of a common form for this area during the Roman period, and overlay or was adjacent to earlier and less clearly defined buildings, probably mostly of timber build. The considerable quantity of building materials (much of it left *in situ*), suggests that a fairly substantial building, perhaps with tiled floors or hypocaust and tiled roof, exists in the vicinity.

Due to its proximity with the foundations (and its absence elsewhere), it seems highly likely that this spread of building rubble relates directly with one or other of the structures located in trenches 4 and 7. However, the main structure, as identified, would appear to be too small to contain an extensive hypocaust system for example, and it is possible therefore, that the Roman buildings are more extensive and complex than can be determined from evaluation trenches alone. A more complete understanding of the full extent, plan, structural development and function of these buildings, will only be possible upon greater exposure in an area excavation of the site, although it is clear that, because of truncation to the level of the footings, nothing more than the ground-plan may be forthcoming.

Also associated with the settlement were metalled roads or trackways and a ditched drainage system, all of which suggests this was a settlement of some substance, as did the presence of building and cultural materials such as brick, floor tile, roof tile (*imbrex* and *tegula*). Although the ceramic assemblage is fairly small in terms of quantity, it is of some variety, with a number of imported vessels, although these particular types are fairly common for the area. While some of the more undiagnostic sherds may date into the fourth or fifth centuries², there is nothing within the assemblage to suggest that the settlement was occupied beyond the mid-late third century. The settlement would appear to have originated in the later first century BC.

It may be conjectured at this stage that the exposed Roman-period remains were of a prosperous farmstead which benefitted from its close proximity to the markets of Roman Canterbury. However, a metal-detector survey of the site failed to locate any coins or any other bronze objects, perhaps pointing to its essentially rustic nature. It may also be conjectured in reference to the nearby Roman-period cemeteries discussed by Cross (1996, 16) that the inhabitants of this rural settlement on the northern side of the Stour valley '*were over many generations buried in these cemeteries*'.

The site is therefore of definite local significance. Although in the wider Kentish context, sites of this type and period are not uncommon (in relation to Anglo-Saxon settlements for example), few if any of these Stour valley rural Roman settlements, close to the important Roman centre of

² There are one or two definitely late sherds, but these were residual within colluvium and may derive from elsewhere.

Durovernum, have been systematically excavated or examined. In terms of concrete data, known structure and chronological development, this settlement may be considered, in the context of Roman settlement along the Stour valley, a 'scarce type-site'. In this respect, perhaps, aspects of the site may prove to possess a more regional significance, but this cannot be stated with any certainty on the presently available evidence.

8) *Consideration of the methodology and confidence rating*

The evaluation proved to be totally effective in exposing, if not completely delineating, substantial Roman-period structural remains and associated archaeological deposits. However, the identification and characterisation of less distinct prehistoric remains, such as those exposed in Trench 5, was highly problematic given the extremely wet conditions which prevailed on the site. In such conditions, it is virtually impossible to record and characterise these kinds of remains by sample excavation without substantially damaging or destroying them.

The confidence rating for the evaluation can therefore be stated as high for the Roman-period archaeology but less satisfactory for the pre-Roman remains and on this basis the methodology can be said to have been largely effective.

17/1/2001

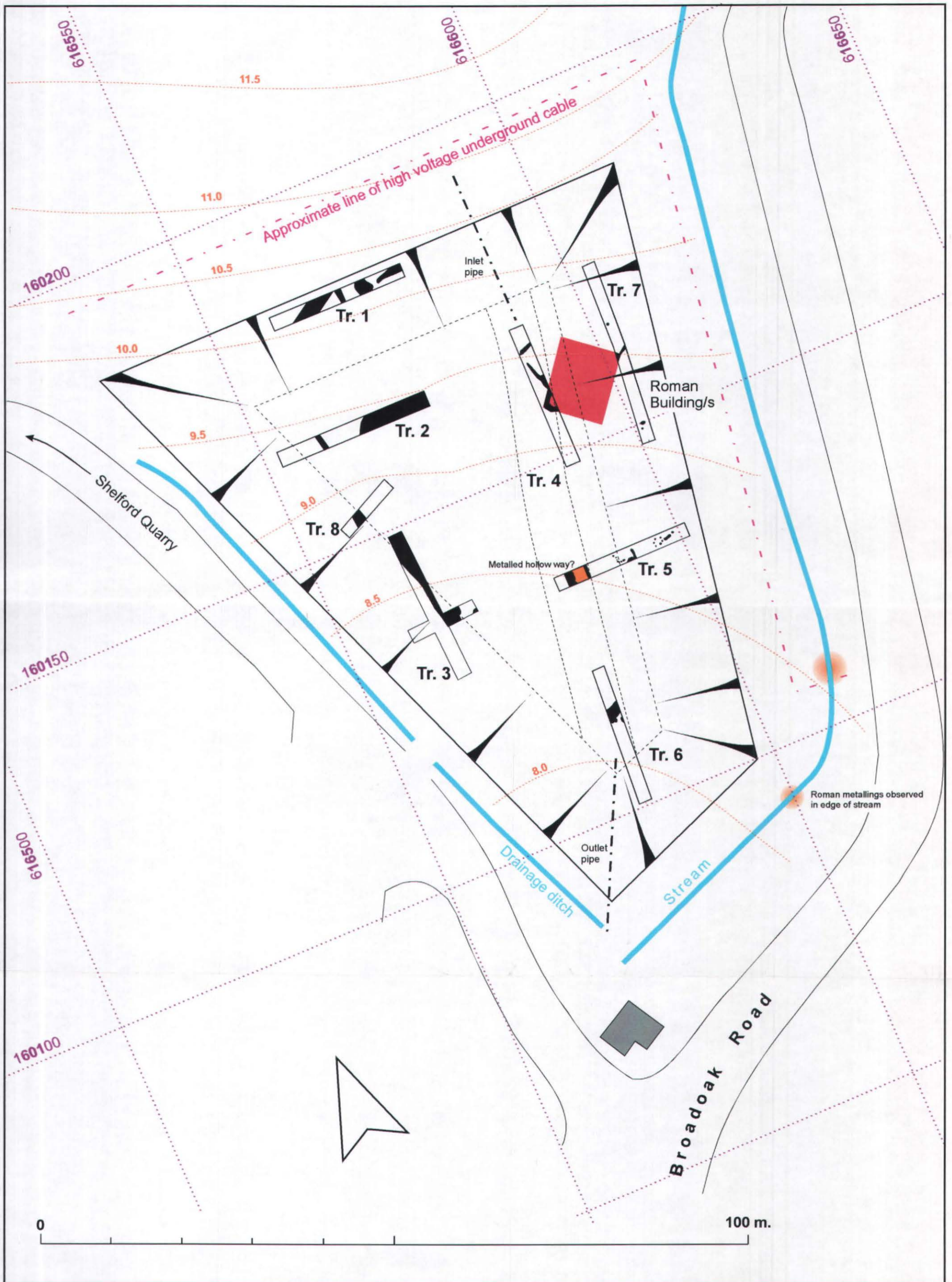
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Site location

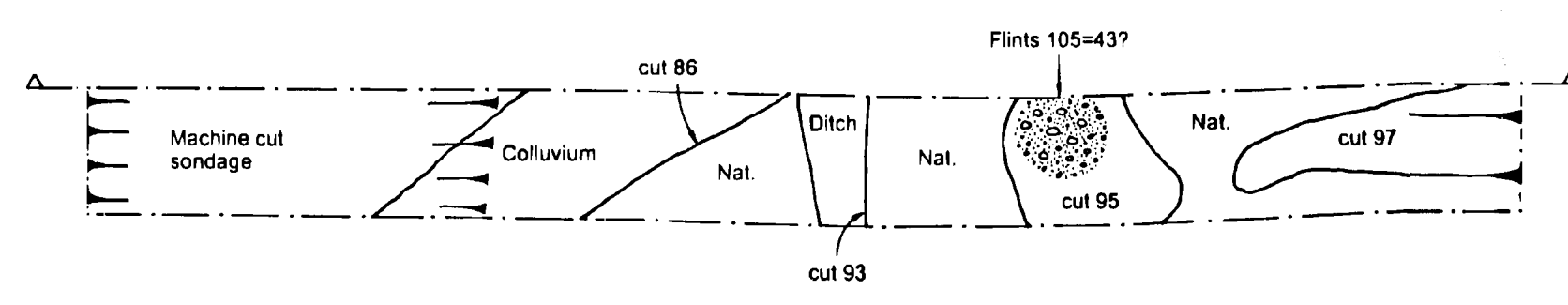
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Shelford Quarry, Broadoak. Archaeology outlined against the East Surface Water Attenuation Pond

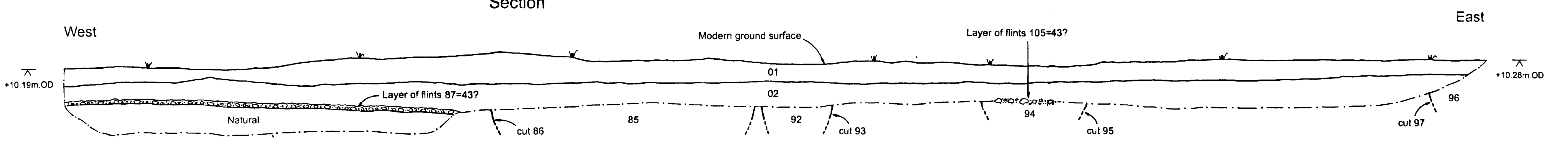
Trench 1

Plan



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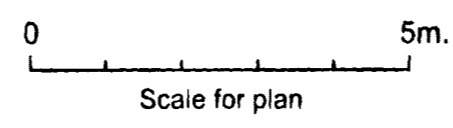
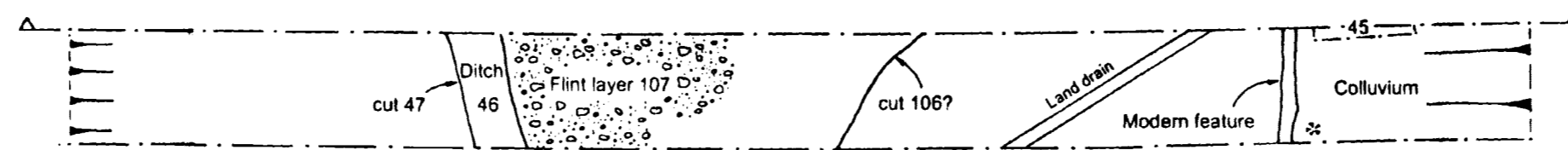
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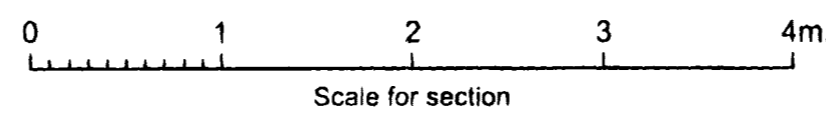
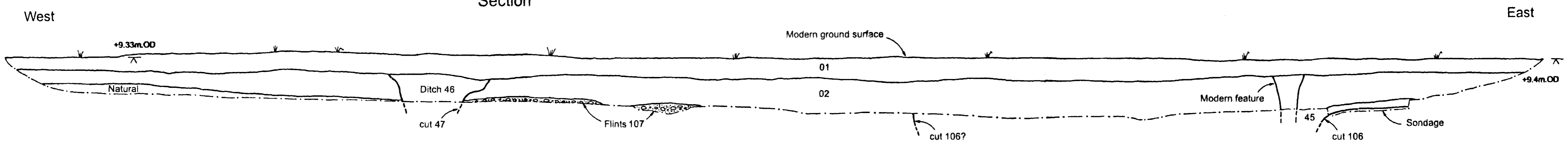
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Trench 2

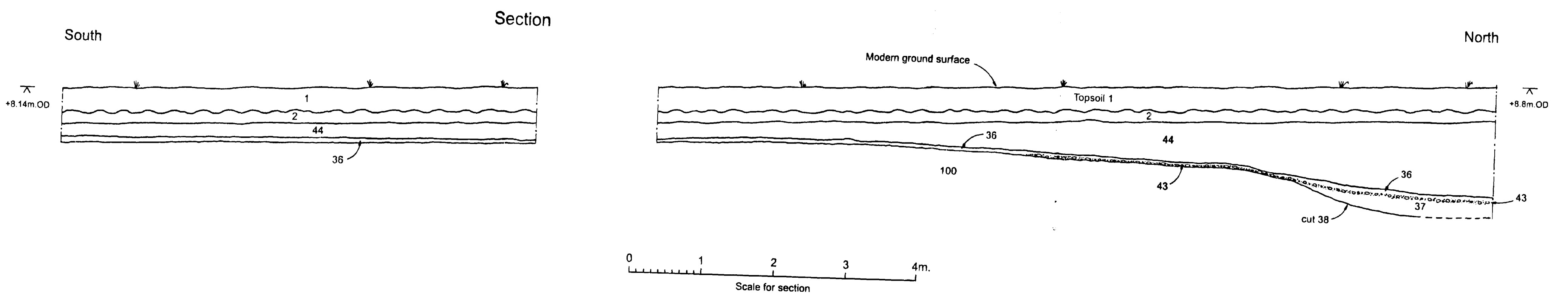
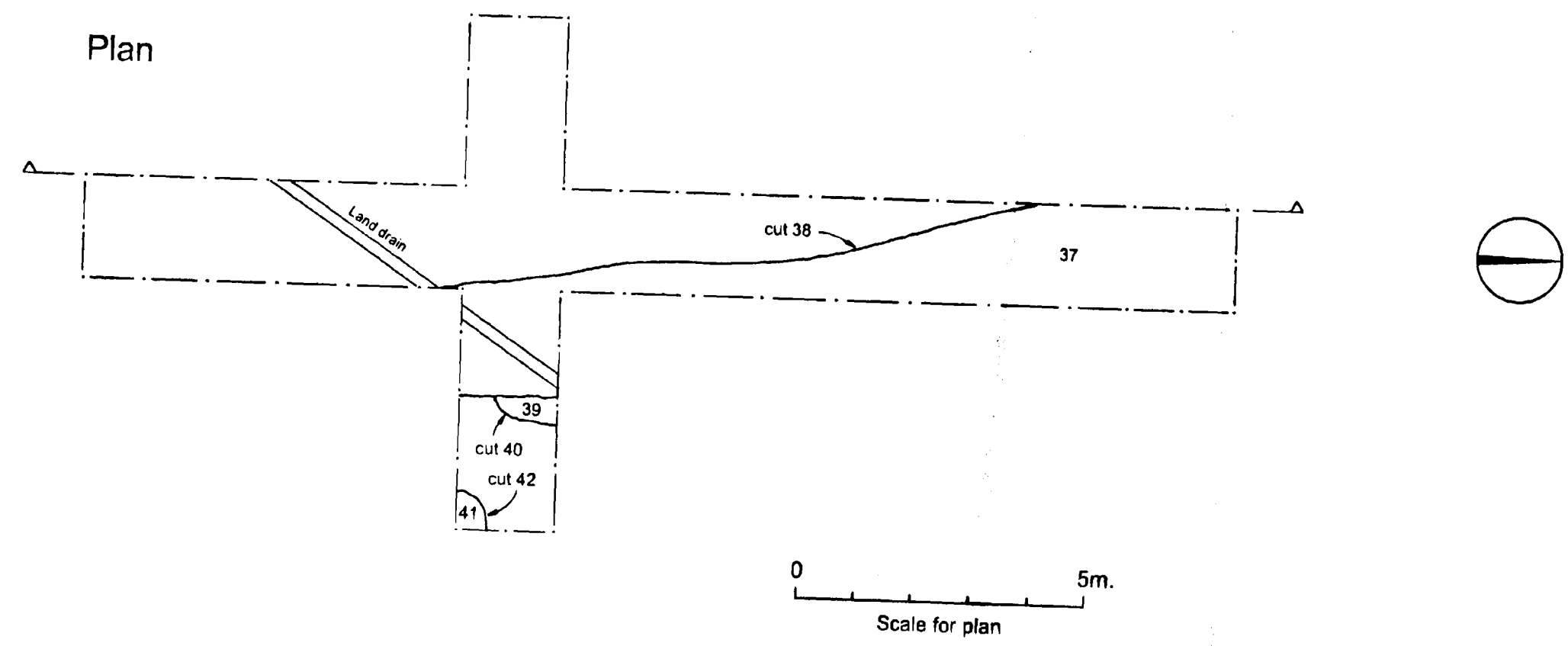
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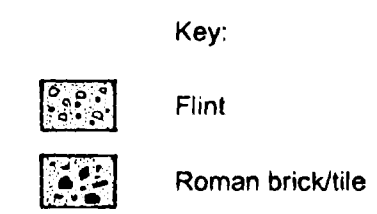
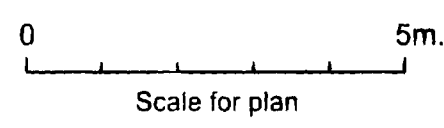
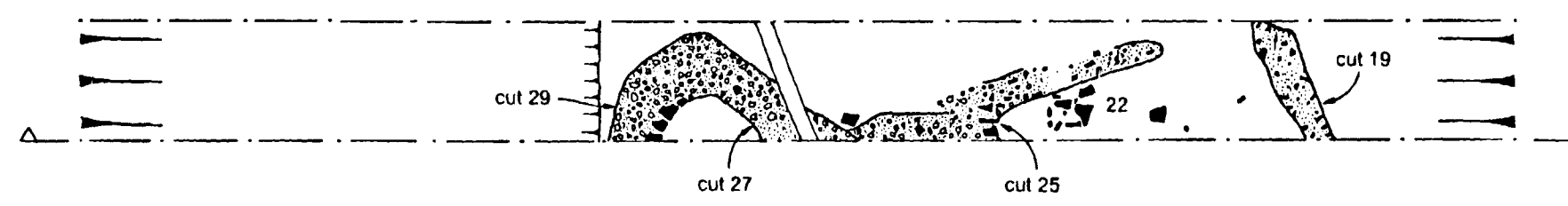


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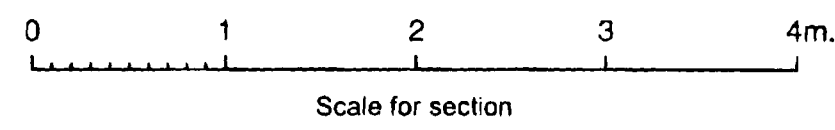
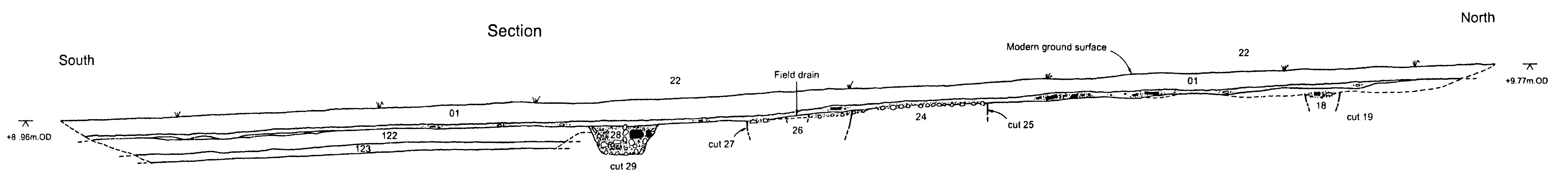


Trench 4

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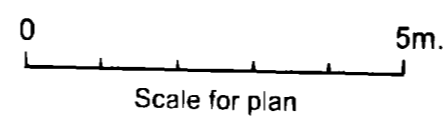
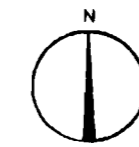
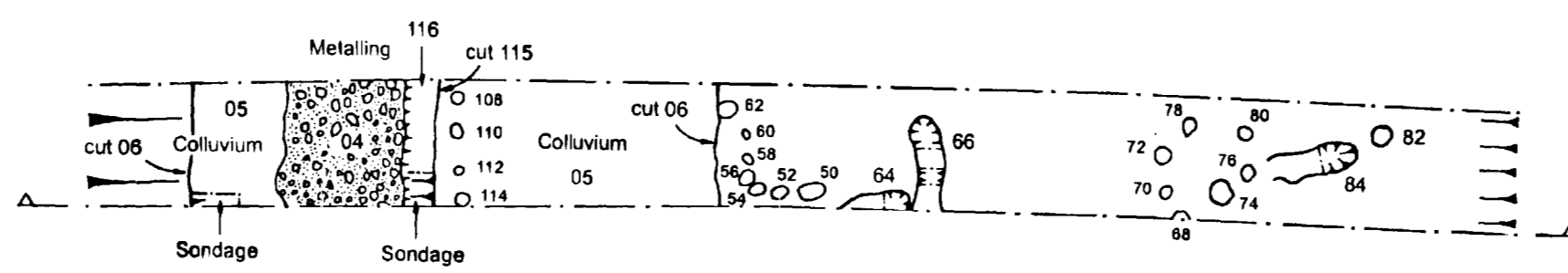


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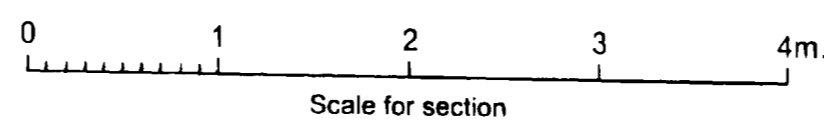
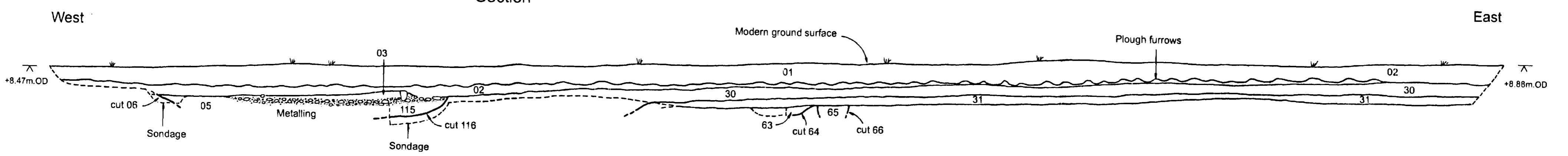


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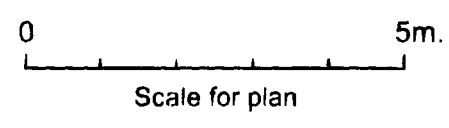
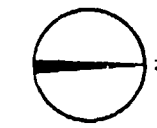
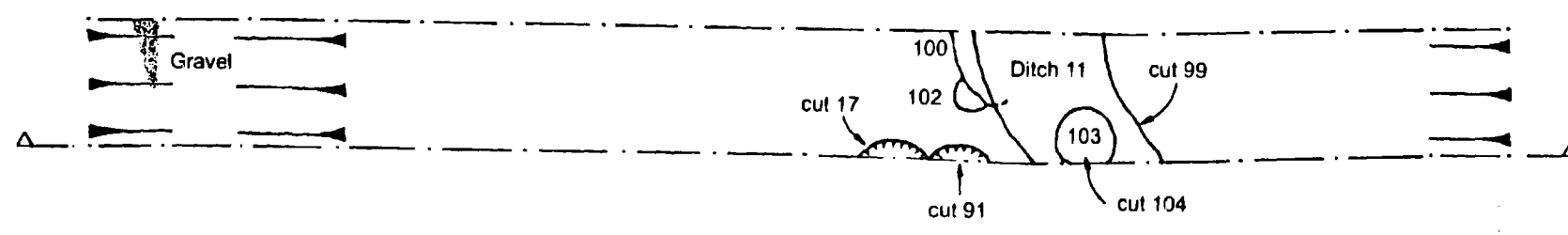


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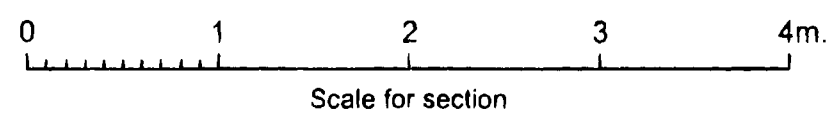
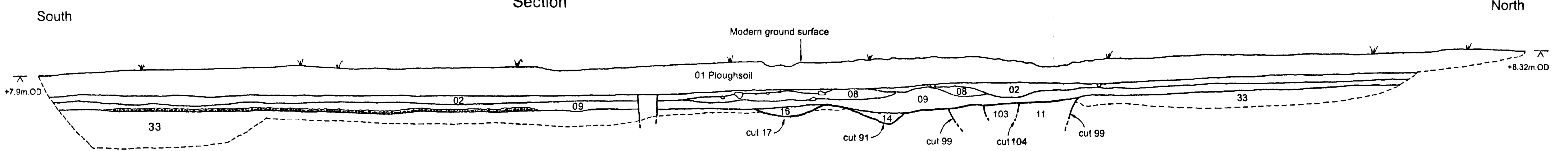
Trench 6

Plan



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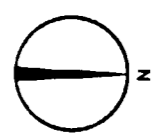
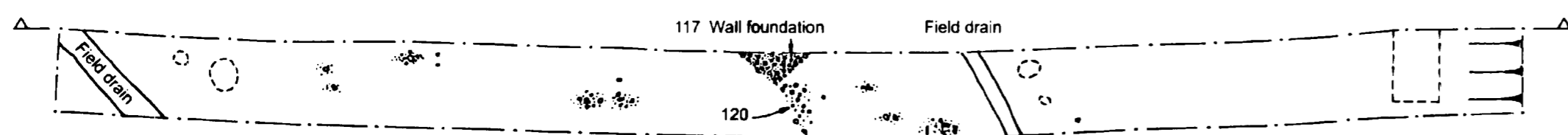
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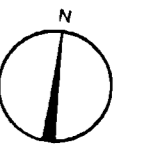
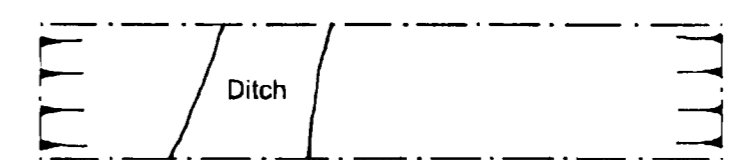
Trench 7

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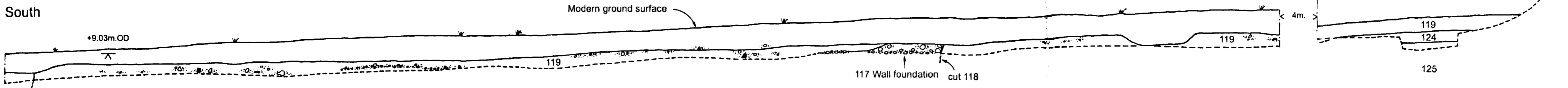
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Key:

- Flint
- Roman brick/tile

Section



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