

**INTERIM REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF  
PART OF THE WARWICK'S AND RICHARDSON'S BREWERY SITE AND  
ADJACENT LAND, NEWARK, NOTTS.**

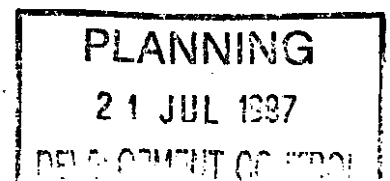
*by Gavin Kinsley, Ruth Leary, Vicki Priest and Richard Sheppard,  
Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust  
27/6/97*

**TRENT & PEAK**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST



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## SUMMARY

### INTRODUCTION

#### *Project Background*

The evaluation was commissioned by John M Harris Design Partnership on behalf of Limes Developments. The field work was carried out between 14th April and 18th June 1997.

#### *Archaeological background*

An archaeological desk-top assessment compiled in 1994 laid out the then current state of knowledge of archaeological remains on the site in detail. They comprised i) a possible old river channel or strip of floodplain on the east bank of the river, and possible further channels throughout the development site; ii) remains of an important Romano-British settlement throughout the development site; iii) medieval features probably relating to the medieval hamlet of Osmundthorpe along the Northgate frontage and possibly throughout the development site; iv) the cemetery and buildings of the hospital of St Leonard, founded in the medieval period but continuing in occupation until the Civil War, when it was fortified; v) possibly part of the King's Sconce, a Civil War earthwork; vi) cottages and small-scale industrial buildings, and some of the buildings of the Warwick's and Richardson's brewery.

The evaluations were to consist of:

- i) an overview of buildings of industrial archaeological interest which survive on the site,
- ii) a geomorphological survey through augering / test-pitting
- iii) the excavation of seven 10x3m trenches with a contingency for two more depending upon results.

### RESULTS: BURIED ARCHAEOLOGY

#### *Trench 1*

Humus over a mudstone filled linear feature 0201, not well dated but possibly of recent origin, over an apparent featureless cultivated layer (0202), over a buried ground surface (0203) cut by several Roman features.

#### *Trench 2*

Humus over a featureless cultivated layer (0002) over disturbed former archaeological stratigraphy (0003-0006) over medieval and Roman archaeological features.

#### *Trench 3*

Modern overburden (0400) over featureless former topsoil (0412) over natural gravel with no archaeological features.

#### *Trench 4*

Modern overburden (0608) over featureless former topsoil (0609) over Roman features including a stone wall.

#### *Trench 5*

The north-west side of the trench was filled entirely with recent dumped slag etc., the east side consisted of modern overburden (0511) over featureless deposit of unknown date of formation but containing significant quantities of Roman pottery (0512).

#### *Trench 6*

Humus relating to modern bowling green (0100) over featureless cultivated soil (0101) over Roman features. There is a major distinction between the densely-packed features in the south-east side of the trench and the dispersed layout in the north-west, suggesting a difference in land use.

### *Trench 7*

Humus (0300) over featureless cultivated soil (0301) over Roman features cutting a buried ground surface (0312/0314).

### *Trench 14*

Humus (0710) over featureless cultivated soil (0707) over a medieval mortar and stone floor (0700) over a general sediment (0704) with medieval pottery in its upper levels and Roman towards the base, where features appear. A large feature with burned edges, tentatively dated to the medieval period may be a kiln (0708).

### *Trench 15*

Modern overburden (0809) over a general deposit containing brick etc. (0810) over two parallel ditches of medieval date (0800/0801) cutting undated but earlier narrow gulleys on a perpendicular alignment (0804, 0807).

### *Geomorphological Survey (Trenches 08-13, 16-19)*

The pits confirmed the general sequence revealed in the excavation trenches of topsoil over c. 1.2m of natural sands and gravels over the Mercia Mudstone.

Test-pits 10, 11, 16 and 17 contained apparent archaeological features.

08 and 18 both revealed a grey clay charcoal-rich sediment probably representing a former channel of the river.

### *Roman pottery assessment*

The pottery is largely of late 2nd-3rd century, with some both earlier and later. The site is likely to have been of high status in the early period, perhaps with an official or military function.

### *Medieval pottery assessment*

The pottery compares generally with the excavated collection from Slaughterhouse Lane in Newark. It does not contain Saxo-Norman pottery or Cistercian or Midland Purple wares suggesting that the period of occupation lay within the 12th to 15th centuries.

### *General conclusions*

Archaeological deposits and features lie buried throughout most of the development site at a depth of between 450 and 950mm. with the exception of the vicinity of 03 and 15. Roman features are widespread while medieval features are focused on the North Gate frontage in trenches 15, 02 and 14. No remains of the King's Sconce or the medieval hospital of St Leonard have been discovered.

### **RESULTS: BUILDINGS SURVEY**

The standing buildings on the brewery site are listed in the gazetteer of *Newark's Industrial Archaeological Resource*. The brewery buildings affected by the development discussed here are, with the exception of numbers 17 and 18, all post-1890 in date. Many display little detail of architectural interest. The lack of internal features and machinery in most leaves the question of their original and subsequent use problematic. The earliest brewery buildings, 04 and 06, have late Victorian detail of some interest. The former Head Brewer's House and more recently the site offices (17), is possibly of late 18th century origin and connected to earlier industrial use of the site. The adjoining stores (18) are of similar interest.

### *Buildings Survey Recommendations*

Further recording in the form of a photographic record to provide external views (of each elevation), together with internal views and a record of noticeable detail. A closer examination of building 04 to determine its correct date(s). A measured ground-plan and section through the floor levels of buildings 17 and 18.

## INTRODUCTION

### Project Background

The evaluation was commissioned by John M Harris Design Partnership on behalf of Limes Developments. The field work was carried out between 14th April and 18th June 1997, directed by Vicki Priest. This report contains a summary of the results of the evaluation. A fully detailed archive of the evaluations will be retained with TPAT until the completion of any further fieldwork.

### Archaeological background

An archaeological desk-top assessment was compiled by Gavin Kinsley and Eileen Appleton of Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust in 1994, which laid out the then current state of knowledge of archaeological remains on the site in detail (A.G. Kinsley and E.M Appleton, *An Archaeological Assessment of the Proposed Development site at Warwick's and Richardson's Brewery, North Gate, Newark* 1994). Since that time the site boundaries have been modified to their current lines, but the assessment was considered to still be valid by the County Archaeological Officer. Prior to the commencement of the evaluations, the principal elements of archaeological and architectural potential of the site were identified as follows:

- i) a possible old river channel or strip of floodplain on the east bank of the river, and possible further channels throughout the development site
- ii) remains of an important Romano-British settlement throughout the development site
- iii) medieval features probably relating to the medieval hamlet of Osmundthorpe along the Northgate frontage and possibly throughout the development site
- iv) the cemetery and buildings of the hospital of St Leonard, founded in the medieval period but continuing in occupation as a hospital and later as an aristocratic mansion house until the Civil War, when it was fortified
- v) possibly part of the King's Sconce, a Civil War earthwork
- vi) cottages and small-scale industrial buildings, and some of the buildings of the Warwick's and Richardson's brewery.

The evaluations were to consist of:

- i) an overview of buildings of industrial archaeological interest which survive on the site,
- ii) a geomorphological survey through augering / test-pitting
- iii) the excavation of seven 10x3m trenches with a contingency for two more depending upon results.

## RESULTS: BURIED ARCHAEOLOGY

### Excavations

Nine evaluation trenches were excavated, each initially 10x3m in plan (Fig. 1). The overburden was removed by machine under archaeological supervision in successive level spits of about 400mm down to the upper surface of deposits of archaeological significance, or natural ground whichever was the higher.

*Aims & Objectives:* The positioning of the trenches aimed to generally assess the nature, extent and condition of archaeological remains on this previously largely-uninvestigated site. Locations were designed to investigate specific research objectives (described in the account of each trench below), and also to take into account the problems of present ground cover and locations of underground services.

A brief account of each trench follows (bold type indicates the highest archaeologically-significant layer).

#### *Trench 1 (Fig. 2)*

##### *Location factors*

This was located to i) identify potentially surviving archaeological remains, including burials, in the vicinity of the former medieval chapel, hospital and burial ground of St Leonard's, ii) identify potentially surviving remains adjacent to the Roman Fosse Way.

##### *General excavation sequence*

The modern humus was removed exposing a layer of reddish-brown mudstone with pebbly mid-brown loamy

sand patches (0201). This was initially taken to be natural Mercia Mudstone during machining and was exposed and cleaned. No features were revealed, so a 3x1m test-pit was dug manually through the deposits in the north corner of the trench. There were no features evident in the pit, but the mudstone was underlain by a dark-brown silty clay loam with small skerry fragments within it (0202). This in turn overlay a slightly darker band of silty clay loam containing varying amounts of charcoal flecks and a few fragments of skerry (0203). Beneath these deposits lay a thin band of dark-grey iron-panned gravel (0220), within a dark brown clay sand (0206), above a fine reddish brown sandy clay deposit (0207). These layers apparently represent the natural stratigraphy of the site (possibly alluvial in origin), and overlay solid Mercia Mudstone clay (0219), which was excavated to a depth of 150mm. The test-pit stratigraphy clearly showed that the upper mudstone (0201) was redeposited and it was accordingly machined off in spits across the whole trench. 0202 was also removed from the south-west side of the trench until archaeological features were revealed within 0203. These features were then sampled by limited excavation. The 1m baulk of 0202 that had been left against the north-east section was removed manually for artefact collection.

#### *General stratigraphic sequence*

The general sequence in the trench was shown to be:

- 1 300mm of top humus (0200)
- 2 400mm of mudstone (0201) 11.27m O.D.
- 3 300mm of dark-brown stoney and featureless soil (0202)
- 4 250mm of dark silty clay loam with features cutting (0203) 10.57m O.D.
- 5 500mm of dark clay sand with bands of iron-panned gravel above fine red sand (0206, 0220, 0207)
- 6 150mm+ of natural Mercia Mudstone. (0219)

#### *Description of features and dating*

The mudstone 0201 proved to occupy a linear depression with U-shaped base, occupying the north-east half of the trench. Most of the artefacts from this layer were recovered during surface cleaning and included post-medieval, medieval and Romano-British pottery and animal bone, although two small sherds of Medieval pottery were found 300mm below the base of the topsoil.

No features were observed in 0202, which contained a large number of small skerry fragments similar to stone seen in the underlying features (0210, 0209, 0221), and possibly derived from them. 0202 produced a single late first century AD sherd was recovered, but the remaining 38 sherds of Roman pottery were late 2nd-4th centuries. Nine sherds of medieval pottery were also found in this layer.

All of the archaeological features in this trench lay within 0203. These included a horseshoe shaped structure interpreted as a corn-drier, formed of red clay and large, mainly flat skerry stones, with two large, sub-rectangular stones at each of the ends (0210). A darker soil around the north-east edge of the feature may have been the remnants of a cut for the structure and a small pit (0216) lay at the entrance cutting 0203. To the south-east of this was a small post-hole packed with large pieces of tile (0214), and a spread of fragments of skerry stone (0209), probably a cobbled surface. At the far south-east end of the trench was a short alignment of stones (0221), probably the remnants of a wall roughly faced on its south-east side. Ninety-six sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the surface of 0203, most dating from the late second to fourth centuries, and none of later date. Pottery from the features was comparable in date, though one rusticated sherd from 0214 might be late 1st century.

#### *Interpretation of features and deposits*

The date of 0201 rests mainly on two tiny sherds of medieval pottery definitely stratified within the layer. Despite the proximity to the surface of this layer, it appears unaffected by allotment digging, which might be taken to indicate that the layer post-dates that phase of activity.

In 0202 the presence of skerries probably derived from the features below, suggests that the layer was cultivated or otherwise disturbed, either by allotment digging before the deposition of the Mercia Mudstone above it, or by earlier agricultural activity. The presence of medieval pottery in the layer indicates a medieval date for this deposit.

The Roman features cutting 0203 could suggest a cobbled yard (0229) behind a building fronting the Fosse Way (0221), though such interpretations are speculative given the small area excavated. The layer of silty clay loam (0203) which they cut may well represent the contemporary ground surface, albeit truncated by the later cultivation noted above.

## Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

### Location factors

This trench was located to evaluate the area of former allotments where excavations were undertaken by S. Gorin. The intention was to compare the results of Gorin's excavations with those of the evaluation.

### General excavation sequence

The topsoil humus (0001) and underlying pebbly silty clay loam (0002) were removed in spits by machine as they contained no features. This revealed a mixed layer with discrete patches of varying colour and texture (0003-0006). Although these layers appeared at first sight to represent archaeological deposits, there was no extensive coherent stratigraphy evident, and these deposits contained gravel resembling the underlying natural gravels although darker brown in colour (0005). Given the apparent disturbed nature of this stratigraphy, a 200mm spit was machine-excavated from the north-west half of the trench (divided longitudinally), to reveal clear orange-brown sand and gravels (0015) cut by several features. The remaining area of the layer was excavated in two hand-dug spits in order to establish the precise level from which features were cut. To an extent 0003-0006 reflected the changes of the underlying stratigraphy, although precise divisions in the sediments representing feature edges were not visible.

### General stratigraphic sequence

The general sequence in the trench was thus shown to be:

- 1 300mm of top humus (0001)
- 2 300mm of pebbly, silty clay loam (0002)
- 73 400mm of disturbed stratigraphy (0003-0006) 11.26m O.D.
- 4 100mm+ of natural sands and gravels with features cutting (0015)

### Description of features and dating

No finds were recovered from 0002 due to its mechanical removal. 0003-0006 contained fifty-eight Roman sherds including material ranging from the late 1st-2nd centuries to the 3rd-4th centuries. 137 medieval sherds were also found in this layer. Features cutting into the natural sands and gravels below 0003-0006 included a narrow, steep sided ditch (0011), running approximately north-east/south-west across the trench and then curving eastwards along the north-west section. This produced late 2nd-early-3rd-century pot. Adjacent post-hole 0013 and a short ditch/gully (0024), parallel to parts of 0011, produced no dateable finds. 0011 was cut by a wider, shallow u-shaped ditch (0023) orientated north/south, with a second parallel ditch (0021) stopping short in a butt end before it reached 0011. Both produced medieval pottery (23 and 20 sherds respectively). An area of yellow clay (0009) was also visible at this level overlying burnt clay deposits (0022). Surrounding the clay was an area with red sandy clay mixed with the natural sands and gravel (0010). None of these related deposits produced dateable finds. Patches of this distinctive yellow clay and red sandy clay were visible in the sections at a higher level again suggesting disturbance.

0011 is clearly Roman, and 0024 might be contemporary on the grounds of common alignment.

### Interpretation of features and deposits

A sequence of intersecting Roman and medieval features was present in this trench, overlain by a disturbed layer apparently representing disturbed former archaeological stratigraphy (0003-0006). At a depth of 70cm from the surface this latter layer seems very deep to be explained by allotment digging for cultivation purposes and possibly intermittent excavations by allotment holders has taken place. The disturbance of this layer is therefore likely to be intermittent and preservation of deposits to a higher level beyond the trench cannot be ruled out.

## Trench 3 (Fig. 4)

### Location factors

This trench was located to identify potentially surviving Roman roadside remains.

### General excavation sequence

The concrete, brick-rubble overburden (0400) and underlying pebbly silty clay loam (0412) were removed in spits by machine revealing no features. A baulk of the latter was retained for manual excavation to establish the potential finds content. Below this a layer of varying natural sands and gravels was exposed (0402-0403), but the only features revealed in the trench were two modern pits containing brick debris (tone on



Fig. 4). The gravels were hand-excavated in 200mm shovel-spits in a 1x1m area at the north-east end of the trench down into the natural Mercia Mudstone (0413), in order to verify the natural origin of the featureless gravels.

#### *General stratigraphic sequence*

The general sequence in the trench was shown to be:

- 1 450mm of concrete and brick overburden (0400)
- 2 300mm of pebbly silty clay loam topsoil (0412) 11.78m O.D.
- 3 400mm of natural sands and gravels (0402-3)
- 4 100mm+ of Mercia Mudstone (0413)

#### *Description of features and dating*

The only features revealed in trench 03 were of modern origin.

#### *Dating evidence and interpretation of features and deposits*

Three Roman and two medieval sherds were recovered in residual contexts, reflecting the general absence of archaeological features. It is particularly striking that the area should lack features and finds of both periods, which are otherwise extensively represented over the site. The buried topsoil 0142 was extensively preserved within the trench and therefore as there is no evidence for significant post-medieval disturbance of the area it appears that it was not used for building or other activities in Roman and medieval periods.

#### *Trench 4 (Fig. 5)*

##### *Location factors*

This trench was located to i) evaluate the nature, extent and condition of potentially surviving archaeological remains within the brewery building, especially Roman remains which are recorded from adjacent areas to the south-west, and ii) to assess the extent of disturbance to archaeological deposits, caused by the construction of the building.

##### *General excavation sequence*

The concrete slab (0608) and a compacted soil and rubble overburden were removed in spits by machine along with the underlying pebbly, silty clay loam (0609). Beneath this was a very fine, brown silty loam (0601). Most of this layer was also removed leaving a 1m-wide baulk along the north-east side of the trench retained for manual excavation to establish the potential finds content. On cleaning after machining it became clear that the lowest depth of machining had been overestimated as features were visible cut from the top of the baulk (0601). These features were sampled by excavation.

##### *General stratigraphic sequence*

The general sequence was shown to be:

- 1 400mm of concrete slab and formation materials (0608)
- 2 260-500mm of pebbly silty clay loam topsoil (0609)
- 3 wall top (0604) 12.25m O.D.
- 4 300mm of fine brown silty loam (0601)
- 5 300mm+ of natural sands and gravels (0600)

##### *Description of features and dating*

The main features within the trench comprised a partly robbed wall (0604, robbing 0601) cut by a wide ditch (0602/0606). A 1m section through the latter was excavated in 50mm spits showing it to be two ditches: 0602 had a wide top narrowing to a steep, almost vertical-sided gully with a flat base approximately 1m deep from its highest level; 0606 was a shallow, rounded gully, running on a slightly different alignment. The fill of both the ditches was a dark brown silty clay loam with very few pebbles and both cut through the backfilled robber trench 0601. 0602 produced thirty-six sherds of Roman pottery suggesting a 3rd-century date. 0604 was formed of flat skerries lying on edge with a single horizontal stone probably representing the lowest course of masonry. There was no mortar between these stones although patches of mortar in the backfilled robber trench suggest that the upper parts of the wall may have been mortared or rendered. A second area of densely-packed stone was exposed in the section, apparently representing a return of the wall to the north-east beyond the limit of excavation. Spreads of mortar fragments and stone to the north-west appear to be tumble from the wall. The stones at its eastern face had slumped into the ditches 0602/0606. 0604 appeared to be sited within an earlier feature (0607); a sloping ditch along the same alignment but deeper than the base of the wall itself and therefore probably not a foundation trench for the wall. Four sherds of Roman pottery from this feature indicated a late-2nd-mid-3rd century date. A small patch of dark fill

containing modern pottery was seen only in the section above the wall (0610). This may be part of the cut for a culvert known to run close to the north-east corner of the trench. No finds came from 0606.

#### *Interpretation of features and deposits*

The L-shaped wall fragment probably represents the south-west corner of a building (0604), built over an earlier feature. The implicit use of mortar in its construction indicates a building of some significance. The robbing of this structure (0601) followed by later ditch-digging (0602, 0606) indicates significant re-organisation of the settlement, apparently within the Roman period.

#### *Trench 5 (Fig. 6)*

##### *Location factors*

This trench was located to evaluate the nature, extent and condition of potentially surviving archaeological remains at the back of the site.

##### *General excavation sequence*

The machine-excitation encountered throughout a modern deposit including slag and brick fragments. At the base of this on the south-east side of the trench (c. 400-450mm below existing surface) a layer of pebbly loamy sand (0506) sloping down to the north-west was encountered and exposed. A 1m-wide cutting was made into this sediment perpendicular to the angle of the slope, and excavated in spits. This showed the layers to consist of tipped deposits containing modern debris with a solid layer of slag at the base of the trench (0510). However the lowest layer excavated (0512) revealed a small area of dark brown silty clay loam containing two sherds of medieval pottery. The slope of 0506 corresponds with a boundary to a strip of riverside fields mapped in 1846 (Fig. 1; a mature tree stump still lies on its line); it was argued in the Desk-Top Assessment that these fields might represent a strip of floodplain or old river channel (supported by later discoveries in the geomorphological survey). It appeared then the higher ground would lie largely south-east of the trench, which was therefore extended at its north-east end in a further 5x4m area, stripped down to the top of 0512, which appeared to be extensive, and possibly therefore a buried topsoil. The 1m-wide trench was continued across this new area and manually excavated in spits to produce a full section. At the north-west end of the section, dark-grey-brown gravel (0515) over solid Mercia Mudstone (0516) was encountered, but the area was too heavily disturbed by tree roots for reliably stratified finds to be recovered. As 0512 was devoid of features the remainder was machined off to the top of the gravel deposits and cleaned. No features were evident.

##### *General stratigraphic sequence*

The general sequence in the south-east side of the trench was shown to be:

- 1 450-550mm (south-east side) - 1500mm+ (north-west side) of rubble/slag overburden (0513-4, 0506, 0509)
- 2 300mm of pebbly silty clay loam (0512) 11.45m O.D.
- 3 200mm of dark gravel (0515)
- 4 Mercia Mudstone (0516) (sloping to the north-west).

##### *Description of features and dating*

Finds suggested a 18th or 19th century date for the tipped slag deposits; from 0512 came eighteen sherds of Roman pottery two medieval and three handmade pagan Anglo-Saxon or middle Saxon sherds.

##### *Interpretation of features and deposits*

The trench contained a former drop in ground level corresponding with 1846 field boundary, and probably indicating a former line of the river bank, filled up in the 18th or 19th centuries (0513, 0514, 0509, 0506; Fig. 1). The extent and nature of the featureless dark brown silty clay loam (0512) suggests that it is the remnant of a topsoil beneath modern tip deposits; associated pottery suggests significant Roman activity at least in the vicinity, despite the lack of features. The Anglo-Saxon sherds are also significant as settlement sites of the period often produce only small quantities of pottery.

#### *Trench 6 (Fig. 7)*

##### *Location factors*

This trench was located to evaluate the nature, extent and condition of potentially surviving archaeological remains within the area of the former bowling green.

##### *General excavation sequence*

A fine humus (0100) and an underlying mid-brown pebbly silty clay loam (0101) were removed in spits by machine revealing no features. Below this clear yellow-brown gravel (0130) cut by features was exposed at the north-west end of the trench, while the south-east end revealed more mid-brown pebbly silty clay loam (0102). This deposit apparently represented feature fill, either a single large feature or a series of intersecting features with coalesced fills. On cleaning the gravel produced a number of small features which were sampled by individual excavation. The large area of fill was excavated by trowel in 100mm spits with individual finds plotting. At a depth of around 1200mm the bases of various discrete features were encountered confirming that the area had consisted of coalesced shallow features.

#### General stratigraphic sequence

The general sequence in the trench was shown to be:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | 350mm of top fine humus (0100)   |
| 2 | 400mm of pebbly silty clay loam (0101)                                       |
| 3 | 200mm+ of natural sands and gravels with features cutting (0130) 11.59m O.D. |

S + G.  
11.59.

#### Description of features and dating

All of the discrete features cutting the gravel at the north-west end of the trench were deep rounded pits. Eight of the pits were small and regular with steep sides and two others (0105, 0110) contained blocks of stone perhaps for the packing of posts suggesting that most of these features represent post-holes. Two further pits against the section had flat bases and slightly square ends (0107, 0104). These could be pits rather than post-holes but not enough of them was exposed for definite identification. Bones from 0107 may indicate a burial although provisional identification suggests that the bones are animal rather than human. Pottery from these features was all Roman although too scarce and scrappy to provide finer dating.

Once a 100mm spit had been removed from 0102 three features were visible to a lesser extent cutting through the top of 0102 (0133, 0142, 0132). For the most part however, the features only clarified themselves towards the very base of the trench where they were separated by ridges of the the natural gravel. A vast amount of Romano-British pottery (over 400 sherds) was recovered from 0102 and its related contexts. The pottery was predominantly late second to third century wares but also included earlier first to second century pottery and later third to fourth century pottery suggesting an extensive period of usage. Two quern fragments, a piece of vessel glass and roof-tile fragments were also found. A complete bone pin and several fragments were also found within 0102 along with a copper alloy ring. Five medieval sherds and one post-medieval sherd came from the top of this deposit presumably representing the base of later disturbance from cultivation.

#### Interpretation of features and deposits

The upper fine humic soil is most likely to be imported for the construction of the Bowling Green and the soil immediately below (0101) the original topsoil layer. Insufficient area of either the individual features at the north-west end of the trench or the large mass of features to the south-east was exposed to enable identification of specific structures, although most of the features cutting the gravel were clearly structural. The contrast in density of features at each end of the trench suggests two zones of differing land-use, possibly separated by a boundary represented by 0103.

#### Trench 7 (Fig. 8)

##### Location factors

This trench was located to identify potentially surviving remains of the King's Sconce, and verify the extent of Roman and medieval features or deposits towards the back of the site.

##### General excavation sequence

During machining the overburden seemed to consist entirely of humus (0300) over featureless pebbly dark-grey-brown silty clay loam (0301), and this was removed until natural gravel and Mercia Mudstone (0302, 0310) was exposed, with features cutting into it. This latter was excavated 400mm deeper in a test-pit, to verify its natural origin. On cleaning in section, the silty clay loam was clearly differentiated into a darker upper layer (0301) over a darker silty clay loam (0312) over a leached more clayey layer (0314). Two features cut 0312 (0315, 0303). A small extension was added to the north-east side of the trench above the ditch to record features from the tops of their cuts.

##### General stratigraphic sequence

The general sequence in the trench was shown to be:

- 1 400mm of top modern humus (0300)
- 2 300mm of pebbly silty clay loam (0301)
- 3 300mm of darker silty clay loam cut by features (0312) 11.55m O.D.
- 4 150mm of leached pebbly silty clay cut by features (0314) 11.40
- 5 500mm+ of natural gravel and Mercia Mudstone (0302, 0310). 10.90.

#### *Description of features and dating*

Eight spits excavated in the northern extension area through 0301 produced Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery, while only Roman and medieval pottery came from the lower spits. Two main features were apparent upon cleaning. The first of these was a narrow slightly curving ditch (0303) with a dark grey clayey fill. A 1m section of this was excavated revealing a steep sided ditch cut into the mudstone. Several narrow cuts were visible along the northern edge, which may represent spade or mattock marks from the original excavation of the ditch. From the section it was obvious that this ditch cut through the leached clayey layer (0314) above the gravels. Pottery from the base of the ditch was 3rd-4th century. The second feature visible in plan was a regular area of grey silty clay (0308) running under the north-east section. Along the southern edge of this feature was a structure in the form of a linear patch of red clay with three large sub-rectangular stones set into it (0306). A small circular post-hole cut into the north corner (0309). No finds came from this group of features as they were only exposed in plan and not excavated. 0315/0319 was a shallow ditch crossing the trench from south-west to north-east, cutting into the top of 0303; it produced 24 sherds of Roman pottery including a 4th-century dish. The spit excavation of the extension showed two small rounded features (0317, 0320), cut into the top of 0315/0319 of which the latter produced Roman pottery, not closely dated.

#### *Interpretation of features and deposits*

The range of pottery from the featureless layer 0301 beneath the modern humus, including Roman pottery apparently disturbed from the underlying Roman levels may again be attributed to cultivation in the medieval and post-medieval later periods. Beneath this, a sequence of Roman pits and ditches and a structure (0306) were found cutting into a buried soil (0312, 0314).

#### *Trenches 8-13*

These were machine-dug test-pits forming part of the geomorphological survey (see below).

#### *Trench 14 (Fig. 9)*

##### *Location factors*

This trench was located to identify and date the remnants of a 'plaster floor' originally seen in previous excavations by S. Gorin (described in the Desk-top Assessment).

##### *General excavation sequence*

The topsoil (0710) and featureless lower brown silty clay loam (0707) were removed by machine to the top of the natural gravel. This identified Gorin's original 3x2m excavation trench and the plaster floor (0700) in its section. The excavation trench was emptied of all backfill and a small area of the plaster surface cleaned back. A 1m section of the 'plaster floor' was removed in spits against the north-west section to the top of the natural gravels in order to obtain dating evidence. Features were also identified cut into the gravel beneath the 'plaster floor' although the level of the cut was unclear other than being sealed by the floor. On cleaning of the rest of the trench other features were identified within the gravels (0708, 0709), and un-numbered features at the north-east end.

##### *General stratigraphic sequence*

The general sequence was shown to be:

- 1 400mm of top modern humus (0710)
- 2 450mm of brown silty clay loam (0707)
- 3 150mm of stone and plaster floor(0700) 11.02m O.D.
- 4 200mm of dark silty clay loam (0704)
- 5 300mm+ of natural gravel and Mercia Mudstone (0705, 0703)

#### *Description of features and dating*

The plaster floor (0700) appeared to consist primarily of small angular stones in a mortar matrix. The whole surface was badly degraded in places especially in the south corner where it was little more than plaster

and stone mixed with dark soil. It extended only for a few metres to the north-west where it tailed out (section B-C) and came no further north-east than the edge of the old excavation trench. Pottery from the surface of the floor included two Roman and five medieval sherds, while two medieval sherds were recovered from immediately below the plaster surface. All of the pottery from below this level was Romano-British including 3rd-4th-century sherds. The excavations beneath the plaster surface revealed two rounded features (0711, 0712) cut into the gravels. These produced no finds but the general layer beneath the floor (0704) produced fourteen sherds of 3rd-4th century date, together with two of medieval date. At the north-west end of the trench an oval band of clay reddened by burning was uncovered with some stones set along its edge (0708). Further patches of red clay were seen at the south-east end although irregular in shape. Five Roman sherds and two medieval came from cleaning over this feature. The layer above these features (0707) also contained patches of red clay, skerry fragments and some gravel suggesting that this layer was disturbed perhaps by allotment digging and may be the same disturbed layers as seen in trenches 02 and 01.

#### *Interpretation of features and deposits*

The mortar and stone floor was shown to be intermittent, possibly due to wear of its surface. It was not clear whether the floor was external or internal. The medieval pottery from its surface and beneath it indicate a medieval date. The reddened clay and stones of feature 0708 suggest some form of kiln, possibly of medieval date from the sherds derived from cleaning around it.

#### *Trench 15 (Fig. 10)*

##### *Location factors*

This trench was located to identify the extent of an area apparently devoid of archaeological features between trenches 04, 02 and 03.

##### *General excavation sequence*

The concrete and overburden was removed along with a layer containing brick and mortar fragments and charcoal flecks (0810) and a dark brown silty clay loam layer beneath it (0811), until the natural orange-brown sands and gravels (0812) were visible with several features cutting through them.

##### *General stratigraphic sequence*

The general sequence was shown to be:

- |   |   |        |
|---|---|--------|
| 1 | 450mm of concrete slab and formation materials (0809)           |        |
| 2 | 500mm of dark soil with mortar flecks (0810)                    |        |
| 3 | 200mm of dark brown silty clay loam (0811) 11.83m O.D.          | S+G.   |
| 4 | 200mm of natural sands and gravels with features cutting (0812) | 11.63. |

##### *Description of features*

Beneath the modern overburden 0809, 0810 also filled a feature not separately numbered which cut through the top of an apparent single large ditch running the entire length of the trench (0800/0801). A small pit containing a dark, almost black, loamy fill, full of modern material (0802) cut into the south-east edge of 0801. The far south-west end revealed a large trench cutting across all of the deposits (0806) containing bricks and rubble. The ditch 0800/0801 was sampled by excavation in two places: both cuts revealed that it was in fact two parallel ditches, a small shallow gully (0801) and a deeper, wider ditch (0800) with two pits in the base (0803, 0805). Seven sherds of medieval pottery came from the ditches. These ditches appeared in section to cut through gravels 0812 and possibly 0811. Both of the ditches cut at right angles a third narrow ditch (0804; unexcavated) and two other small and irregular features were visible along the north-west edge of the main ditches (0807).

##### *Interpretation of features and deposits*

0811 from its appearance may have been a buried topsoil cut through by ditches 0800 and 0801 which are dated to the medieval period. 0804 and 0807 with a shared alignment are likely to be contemporary, and are stratigraphically earlier than 0800/0801, but were not excavated and so produced no dateable finds.

#### *Trenches 16-19*

These were part of the geomorphological survey described below.

### **Geomorphological survey (test pits 08-13 and 16-19)**

An attempt to establish the sub-surface topography of the site including any earlier channels of the River Trent was carried out by investigating transects of machine-dug test-pits aligned perpendicular to the Fosse Way (Fig. 1).

Each transect was initially intended to consist of hand-auger holes with initial machining to penetrate modern overburden spaced between excavation trenches at approximately 20m intervals. The ground conditions and potential depth of deposits revealed by ground investigation test-pits suggested that machine-dug test-pits would be more informative. Accordingly, each test-pit was about 3x1m in plan, and excavated to 2.5m+. One long section was cleaned by hand-hoe with extended handle and a sketch section and photograph made showing at least basic sediment changes and features, with depths related to OD values, and their position recorded on a location plan related to the National Grid. Test-pits dug by MJMC (Civil and Structural) Ltd. for ground investigation were also inspected.

The following general sequences were obtained

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 08 | 2.5m modern infill over grey clay with charcoal fragments   |
| 09 | 0.4m of modern overburden over 0.5m loamy sand over natural sands and gravels over Mercia Mudstone  |
| 10 | 0.25m of modern overburden over 0.6m of loamy sand over natural sands and gravels over Mercia Mudstone  |
| 11 | 0.3m of modern overburden over 0.3m of loamy sand over natural sands and gravels over Mercia Mudstone   |
| 12 | 0.3m of modern overburden over 0.3m of loamy sand over natural sands and gravels over Mercia Mudstone   |
| 13 | 0.7m of modern overburden over natural sands and gravels over Mercia Mudstone.  |
| 16 | 0.3m of humus over 0.2m of loamy sand over natural sands and gravels over Mercia Mudstone   |
| 17 | 0.6m of humus and loamy sand over natural sands and gravels over Mercia Mudstone  |
| 18 | 0.3m humus over 1.2m redeposited sand and gravel with loam lenses over 0.7m of variegated sands over dark grey clay at a depth of 2.25m for a thickness of at least 0.7m. |
| 19 | 1.4m of made ground including 19th cent. brick over 1.4m of varied sands and clays over Mercia Mudstone at 2.8m.  |

### **General conclusions**

The pits confirmed the general sequence revealed in the excavation trenches of topsoil over c. 1.2m of natural sands and gravels over the Mercia Mudstone.

Test-pits 10, 11, 16 and 17 contained depressions in the tops of the natural sands and gravels filled with dark brown loamy sand and pebbles closely resembling the fills of the medieval and Roman features seen in the manually-excavated trenches: these were presumably archaeological features although due to the circumstances of excavation these were not verified by associated finds.

08 and 18 both revealed a grey clay charcoal-rich sediment at about 2.5m depth; this result supports the conclusion from trench 05 and from the Desk-top Assessment that the 1846 field boundary marks a former line of the river bank.

### **The Romano-British Pottery: general assessment**

*by R.S. Leary*

Around 950 sherds of pottery from the excavation were identified as Romano-British. These were examined by eye in context groups and given provisional fabric groupings and spot-dates. The majority of the assemblage appeared to date to the later second to third century with only very small numbers of first or early second century types and rather more late third to fourth century types.

The first to early second century material included a mica-dusted beaker, samian, rough-cast ware, white wares and Derby Racecourse type fabrics and so was comparable to material previously recovered from S. Gorin and Sulley's excavations in 1973-4. To these may be further added several sherds of "Trent Valley ware" type, a ware common on Trent Valley sites, particularly those with a military or "high" class connection. These few indications support the suggestion that the site was of a high status during the early period, perhaps with a military or official function.

The majority of both the coarse and fine wares belong to the later second and third century. These comprised flat-, bead- and grooved-rim dish or bowls and cavetto- and rebated-rim jars in grey and black-burnished fabrics, complemented by a wide range of Nene Valley colour-coated beakers: indented, rouletted and decorated en barbotine. To these latter were added other colour-coated wares which may have been locally produced and merit further study. These included one small rouletted beaker similar in fabric to the Much Hadham colour-coated products. Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria were identified in second and third century forms and fragments of Dressel 20 amphorae were present.

Only a small number of coarse wares need date later than the third century. Very few flanged bowls were present and only a small number of Dales ware jars with none of the later grit-tempered Dales ware type. Late Nene Valley fine wares were represented by small numbers of flanged bowls and dog dishes of the late third to fourth centuries but the quantities suggested activity may have declined by the late third century or early fourth century.

The assemblage included a wide-range of traded wares. The majority came from the Nene Valley kilns with further fine wares from Gaul, Derby and, perhaps, Mancetter-Hartshill, Spanish amphora, mortaria from Mancetter-Hartshill, a jar, possibly, from St Albans, jars and bowls from the black burnished ware kilns in Dorset, Dales ware from Yorkshire or Lincolnshire and jars from the Derbyshire ware kilns. The mica-dusted and rough-cast ware may have come from the south of England or overseas.

Sherds of non-Nene Valley colour-coated ware, including a possible sagger, raises the possibility of local pottery production. A possibility further strengthened by the identification of sherds similar to Derbyshire ware but apparently copying true Derbyshire ware. Derbyshire ware copies are known from Rossington Bridge and Mancetter-Hartshill coarse ware kilns so their production here would add to the known pattern.

The variety of grey ware fabrics present and some distinctive, decorative motifs on the grey ware also suggests the possibility of local production and further study of these wares and forms may shed light on the hitherto, ill-understood pottery industry of this area. These distinctive decorative traits were also noted in the museum collection.

Three sherds of handmade pottery were identified tentatively as possible Anglo-Saxon.

## **Medieval pottery: general assessment**

The pottery has been compared with a type series held by TPAT, compiled from excavated material from Slaughter House Lane, Newark and identified by Rosie Woodland, and with excavated material from Nottingham identified by Charles Young.

Material comparable with Nottingham glazed wares, i.e. Nottingham Splashed wares, Nottingham Sandy wares and Nottingham Green Glazed wares is well represented, together with other green glazed wares not identified but probably broadly contemporary. No Saxo-Norman wares are present in features (e.g. Stamford, Torksey and Thefford all known from Slaughterhouse Lane). Equally no late medieval wares such as Midland Purple and Cistercian Wares are present in features. The medieval occupation thus appears to fall within the period c.12th to 15th centuries.

## **General conclusions**

All of the trenches with the exception of 03 produced archaeological deposits and/or features. These were sealed by varying depths of featureless overburden, dumped rubble etc., and/or apparent cultivated soils. Depths of overburden lacking archaeological features are given in the descriptions of individual trenches but these vary between about 450mm (05) and 900mm (01). Substantial cellarage is limited to building 04 (1934 and 1938 sections), where all but very deep archaeological features may be expected to have been destroyed. Selected existing surface levels are shown in Fig. 1 underlined. These are generally maintained within buildings, with the exception of building 04 (dated ?1934 and ?1938 on Fig. 11): where cellarage results in a floor level around 10.22-10.97m OD. Given the depth of archaeological remains at 12.25m OD in 04, and 11.83 in 15, only the deepest archaeological features are likely to be preserved within the cellared area. A further small cellared area could exist beneath buildings 17/18 but this is not accessible.

With the exception of 03 and 15, Roman activity has been recorded in every trench indicating extensive occupation or other activity throughout most of the development site as far west as the former river bank in 05.

Medieval occupation / activity however appears to have been focused on the North Gate frontage (with features in trenches 15, 02, 14).

No clear trace of the King's Sconce or medieval hospital cemetery or buildings have been located at the north end of the site.

Evidence for a former channel of the river was found in test-pits 08 and 18, together with a fall in ground level in trench 05, the whole tending to confirm the suggestion in the desk-top assessment that a former line of the river bank was preserved in a field boundary of 1846.

## RESULTS: BUILDINGS SURVEY

*By Richard Sheppard*

The standing buildings on the brewery site are listed in the gazetteer of *Newark's Industrial Archaeological Resource*, a building survey carried out by T&PAT in 1993 for Newark & Sherwood District Council. The former Warwick & Richardson site was given the National Buildings Record number 91260, and separate buildings (some of which abut others) were subdivided further with numbers 01 to 20; these appear on the accompanying plan. Buildings 21 and 22 were omitted from the original list and are added here. The plan also corrects some of the dates given in the list.

The original survey of the site employed a quick response technique pioneered by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME), referred to as 'rapid survey'. This entailed cursory examination of the exterior of the buildings concerned, the recording of obvious details on a pro-forma, and the taking of 1-3 photographs of each building. This level of recording should ideally be further supplemented by internal examination of a building, and a higher photographic coverage which includes details of construction missed in the more panoramic views typical of the rapid survey.

The brewery buildings affected by the development discussed here are, with the exception of numbers 17 and 18, all post-1890 in date. The main brewhouse, maltings and other buildings to the south are all of earlier date. They are all mentioned in Alfred Barnard's book 'The Noted Breweries of Great Britain and Ireland' (Vol.111, 1890), whereas those to the north had yet to be built. The later Ordnance Survey 6 inch to the mile map of 1900 shows building 06 and the most southerly part of 04. Later buildings were added in close proximity to 06, and in the 1930s the site expanded further. Building 04 was possibly rebuilt above ground and doubled in size, (although the styling of this building looks much earlier than its datestones suggest); a further enlargement took place in 1963.

### **Points of interest**

Following a more recent examination of the buildings as part of this evaluation, including the opportunity to see inside most of them, the following points can be made:

1. Many of the buildings are 20th century in date and display little detail of architectural interest. The lack of internal features and machinery leaves the question of their original and subsequent use problematic.
2. The earliest brewery buildings, 04 and 06, have late Victorian detail of some interest; 04 retains an earlier ceiling than the building above suggests and, as mentioned above, the datestones on the south elevation are questionable. Building 06 has brick detailing that mimics that of the maltings (dated to 1864 by Barnard).
3. The former engineer's shop, 09, retains line shafting and pulley wheels. The former engineer's store, 07, still houses a Ruston Paxman boiler.
4. The former Head Brewer's House and more recently the site offices (17), is possibly of late 18th century origin and connected to earlier industrial use of the site. It exhibits at least 3 phases of construction. The adjoining stores are of similar interest.

### **Recommendations**

1. Prior to redevelopment of the site and the potential removal of all the present buildings, some further recording is desirable. This should principally be in the form of a photographic record, which would enhance the existing record with more external views (of each elevation), together with internal views and a written and photographic record of significant detail.
2. A closer examination of building 04 should determine its correct date(s).
3. A measured ground-plan and section through the floor levels of buildings 17 and 18 would be desirable, considering their possible early industrial use and subsequent alteration.



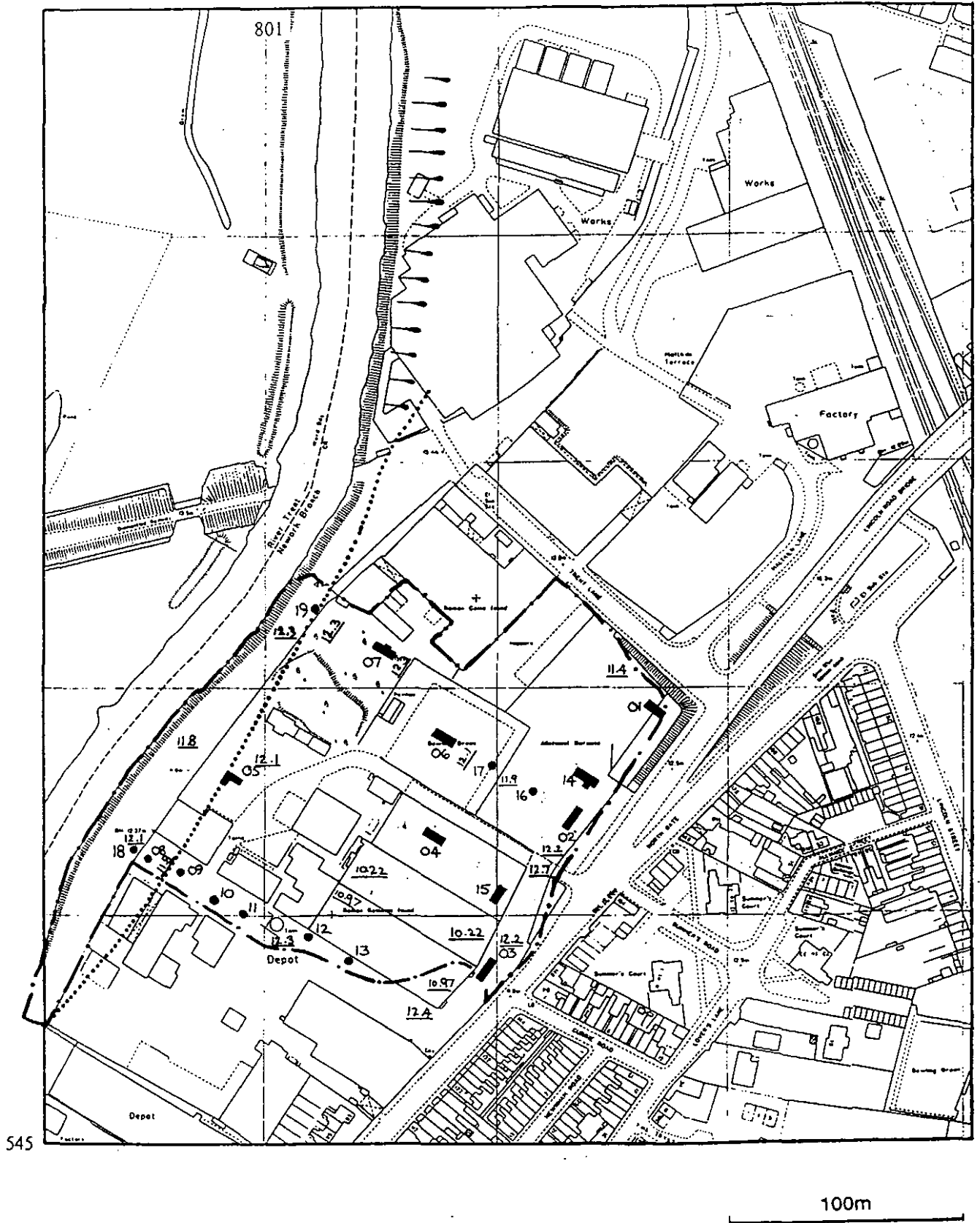


Fig 1: Trench and test-pit locations (numbered), site boundary (dot-dash), 1846 boundary (dotted) and Ordnance Survey map hachures

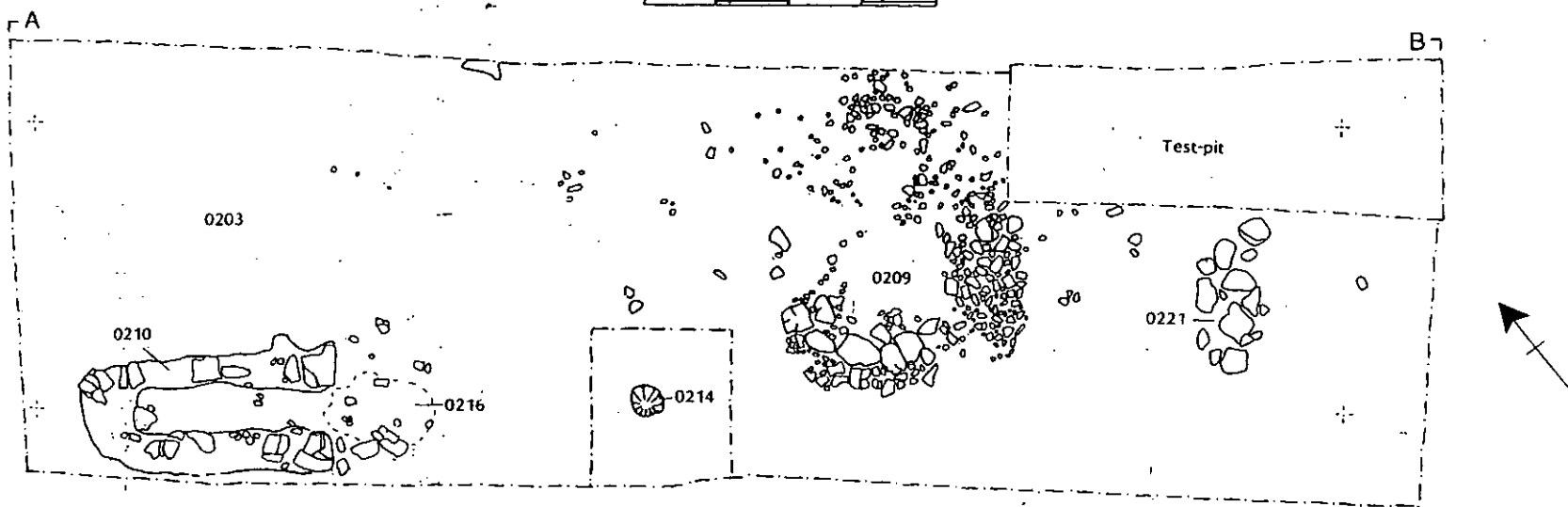
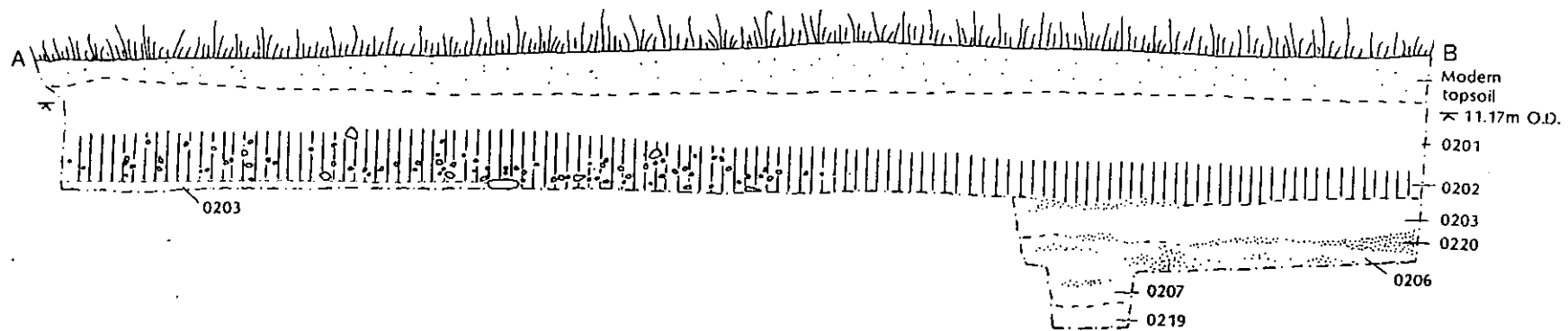


Fig. 2 Trench 01: plan of features and south-west facing section

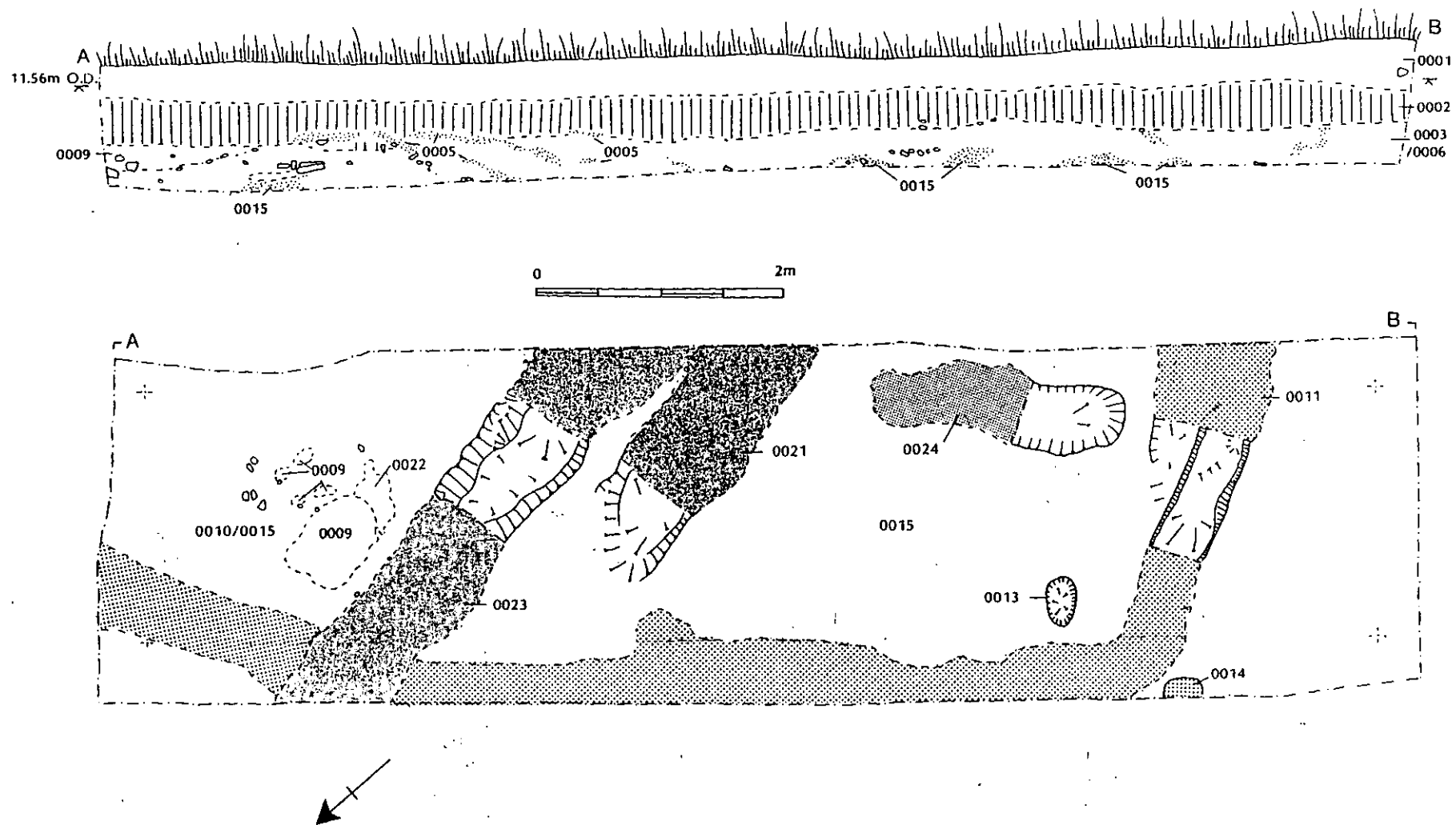


Fig. 3 Trench 02: plan of features and north-west facing section

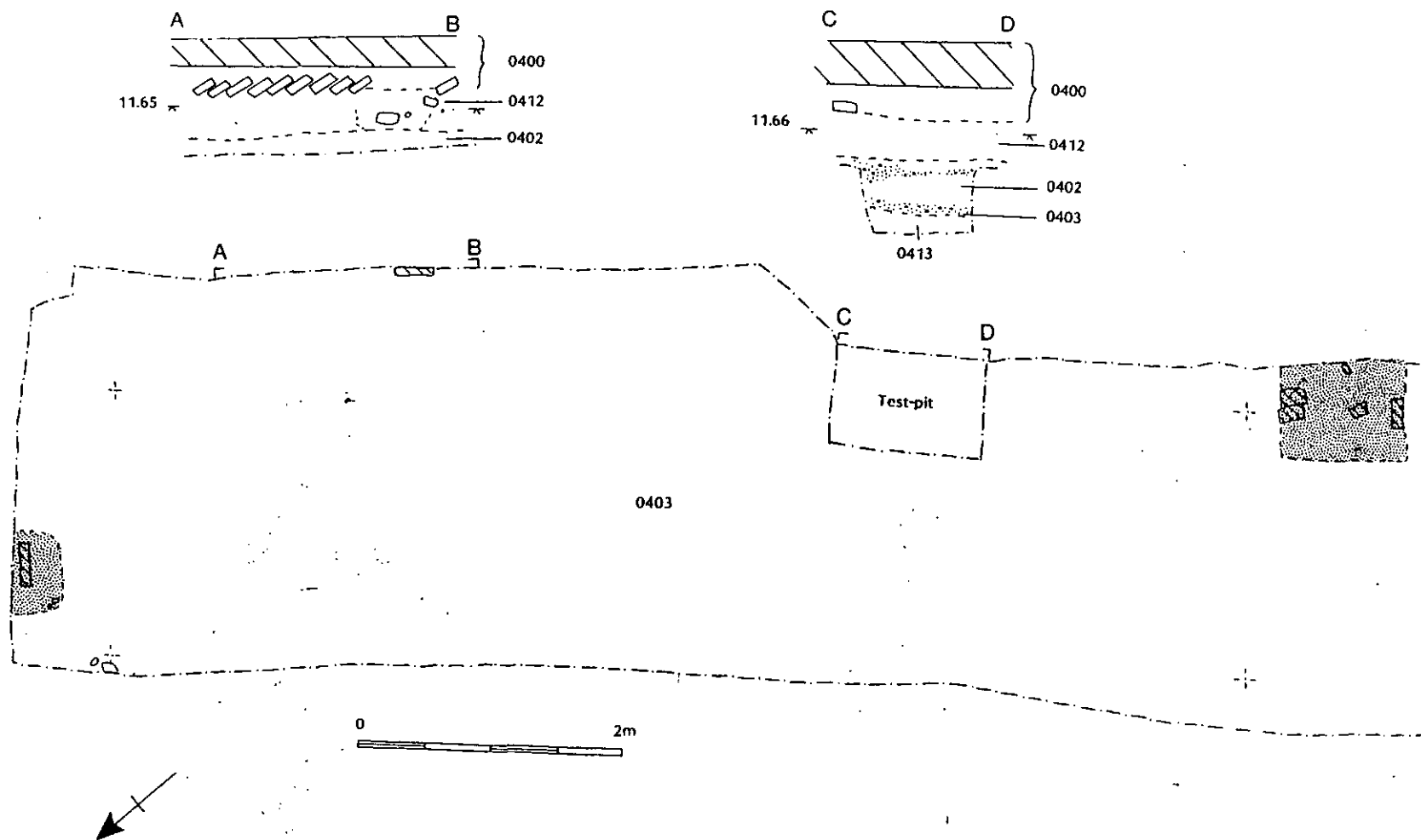


Fig. 4 Trench 03: plan of features and north-west facing section

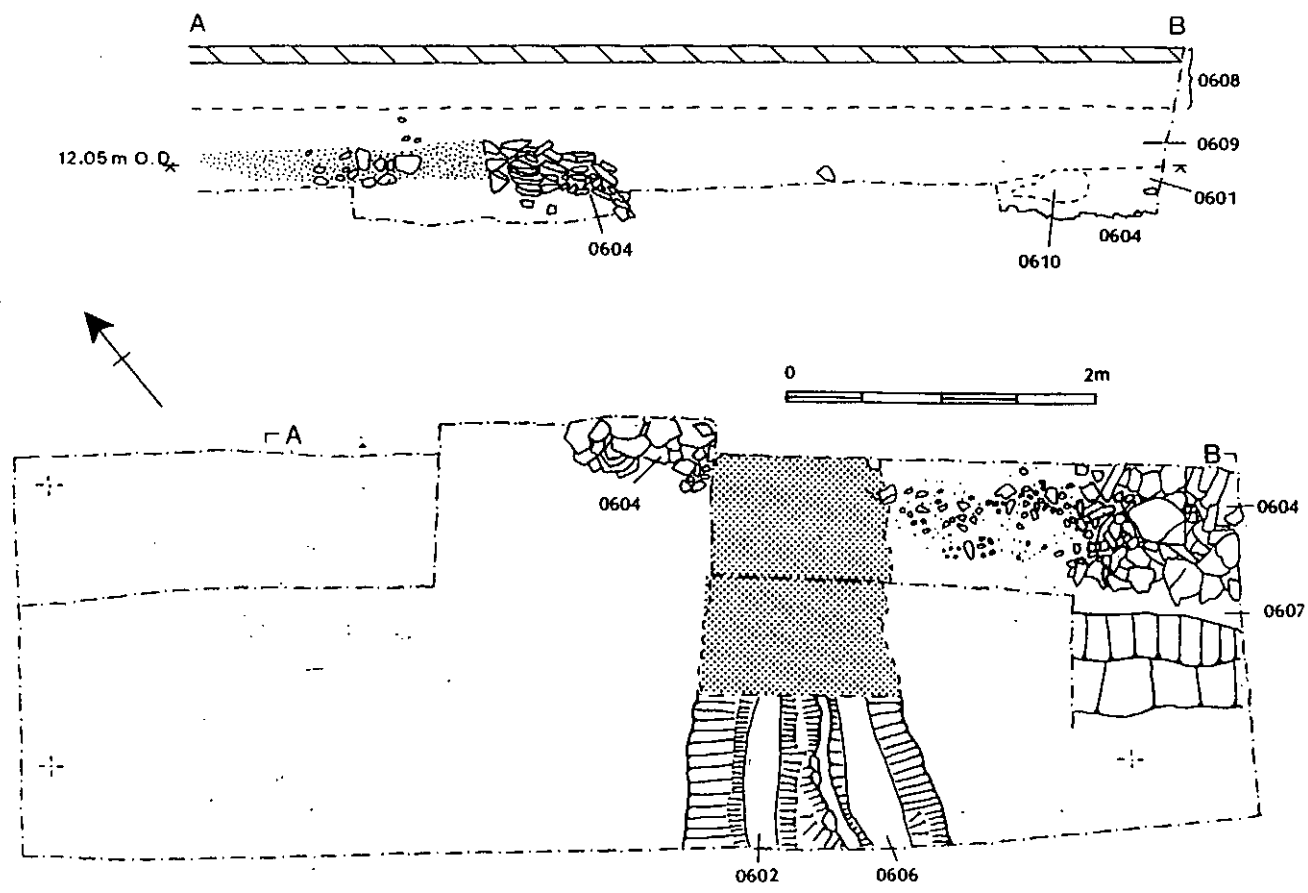


Fig. 5 Trench 04: plan of features and south-west facing section

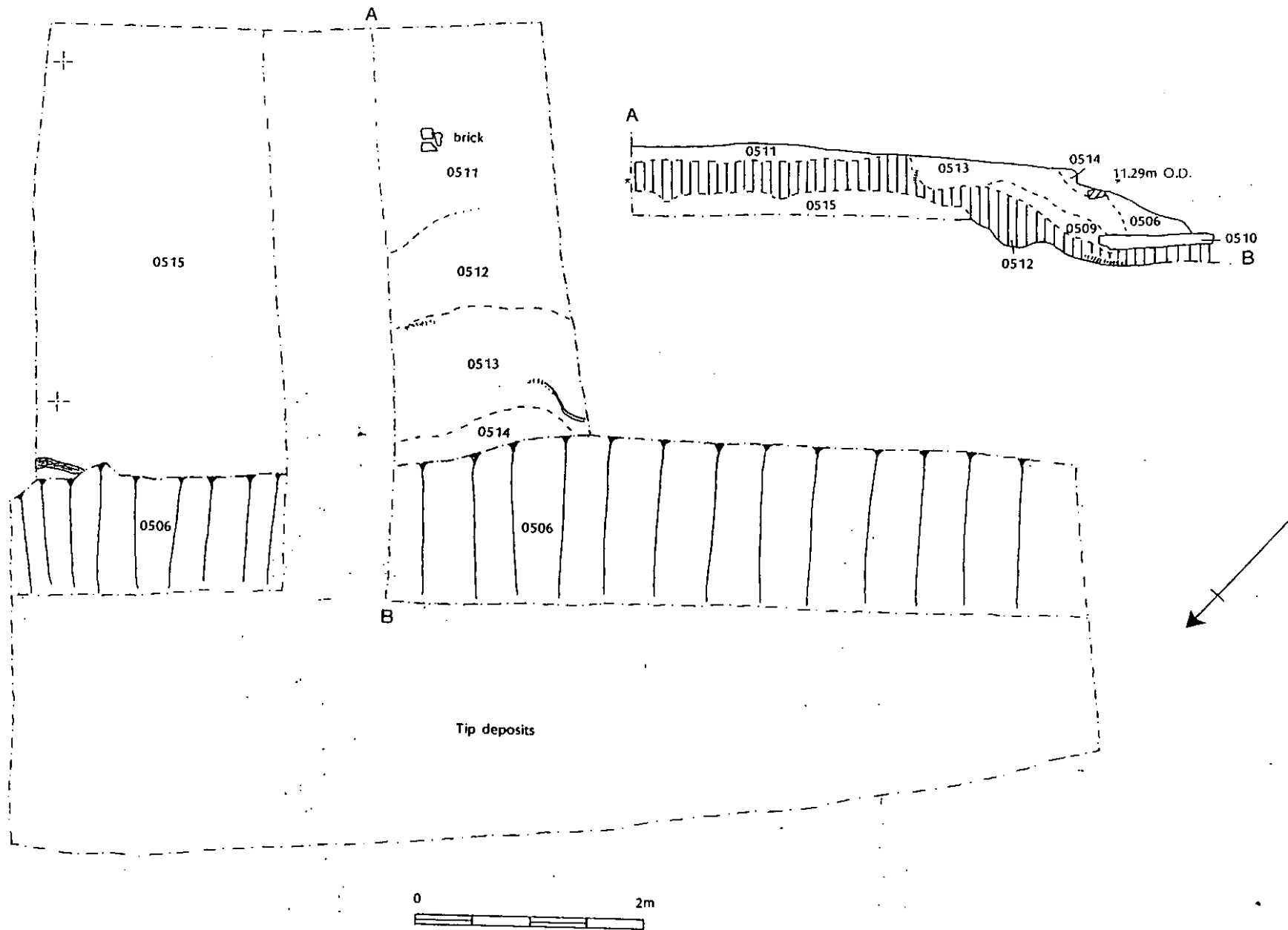


Fig. 6 Trench 05: plan of features and north-west facing section

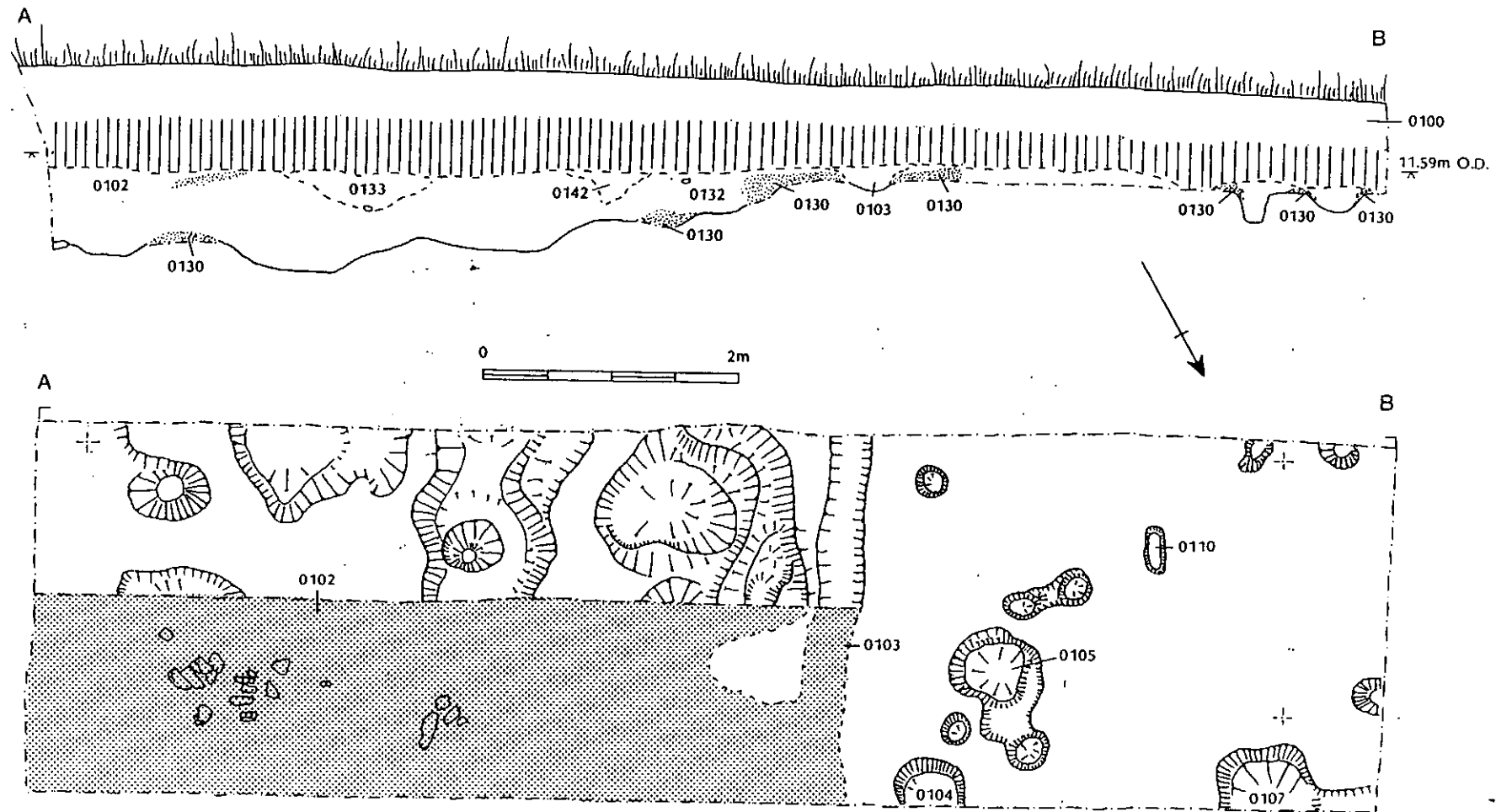


Fig. 7 Trench 06: plan of features and south-west facing section

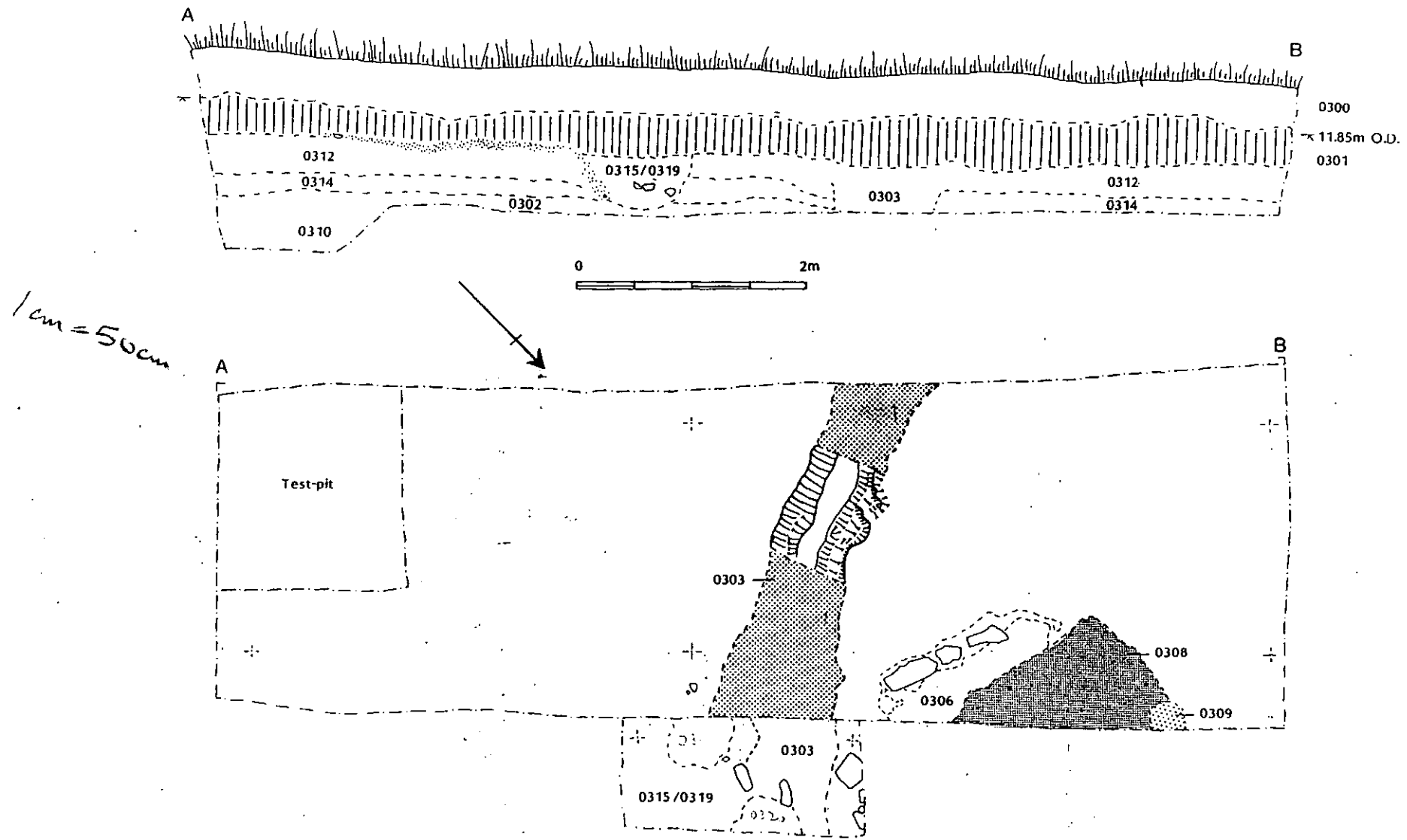


Fig. 8 Trench 07: plan of features and north-east facing section



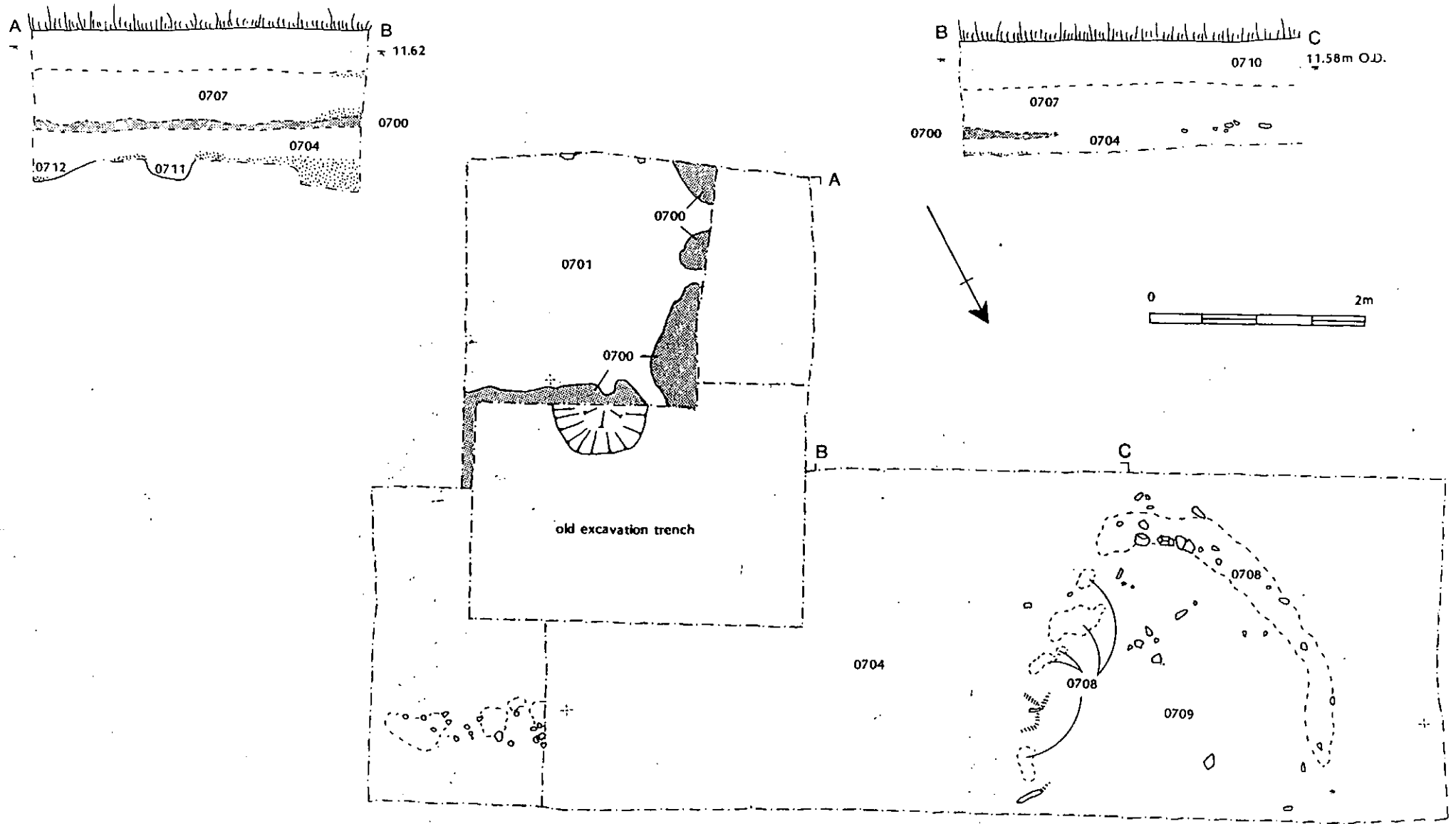


Fig. 9 Trench 14: plan of features and sections

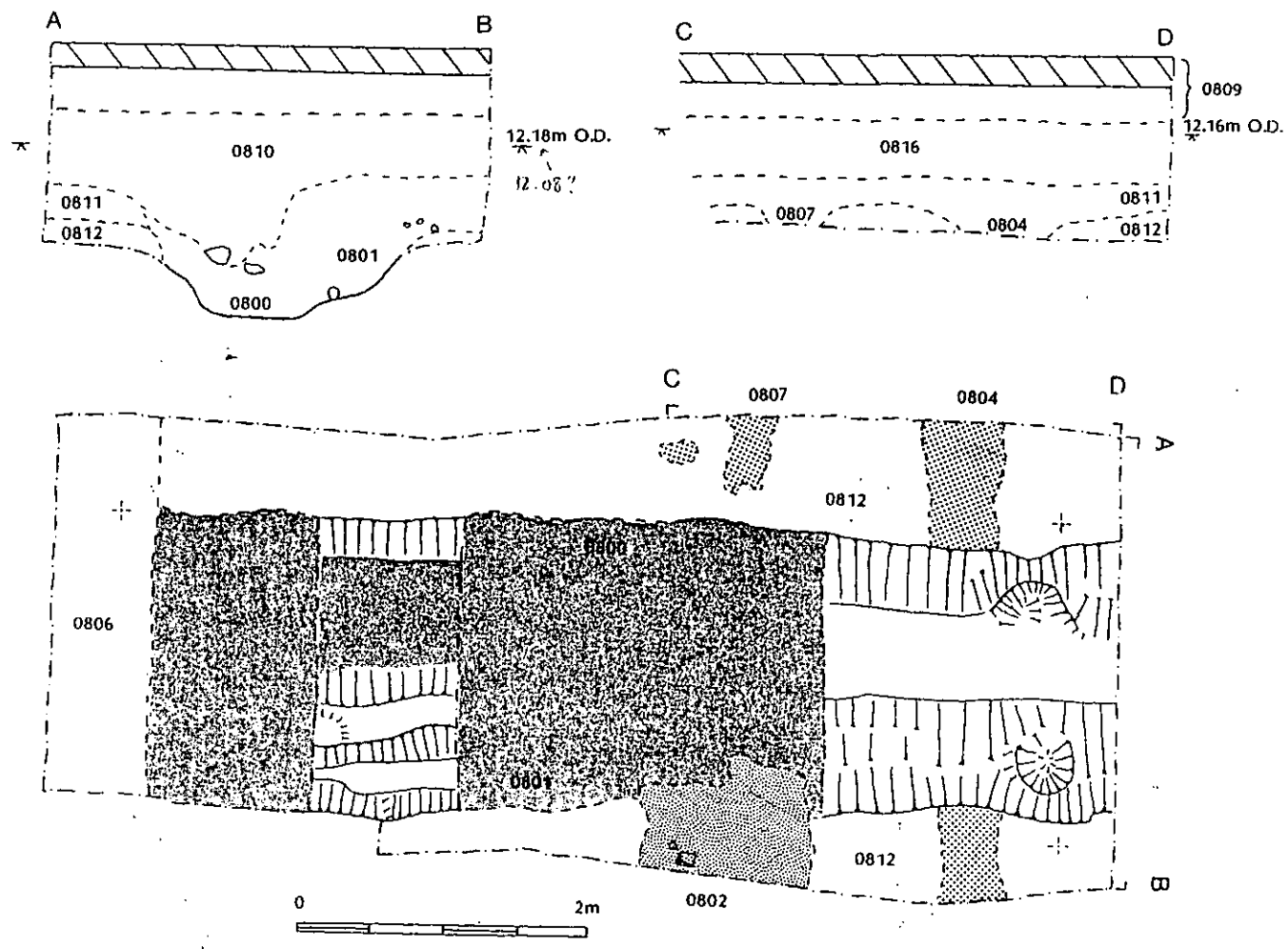


Fig. 10 Trench 15: plan of features and sections

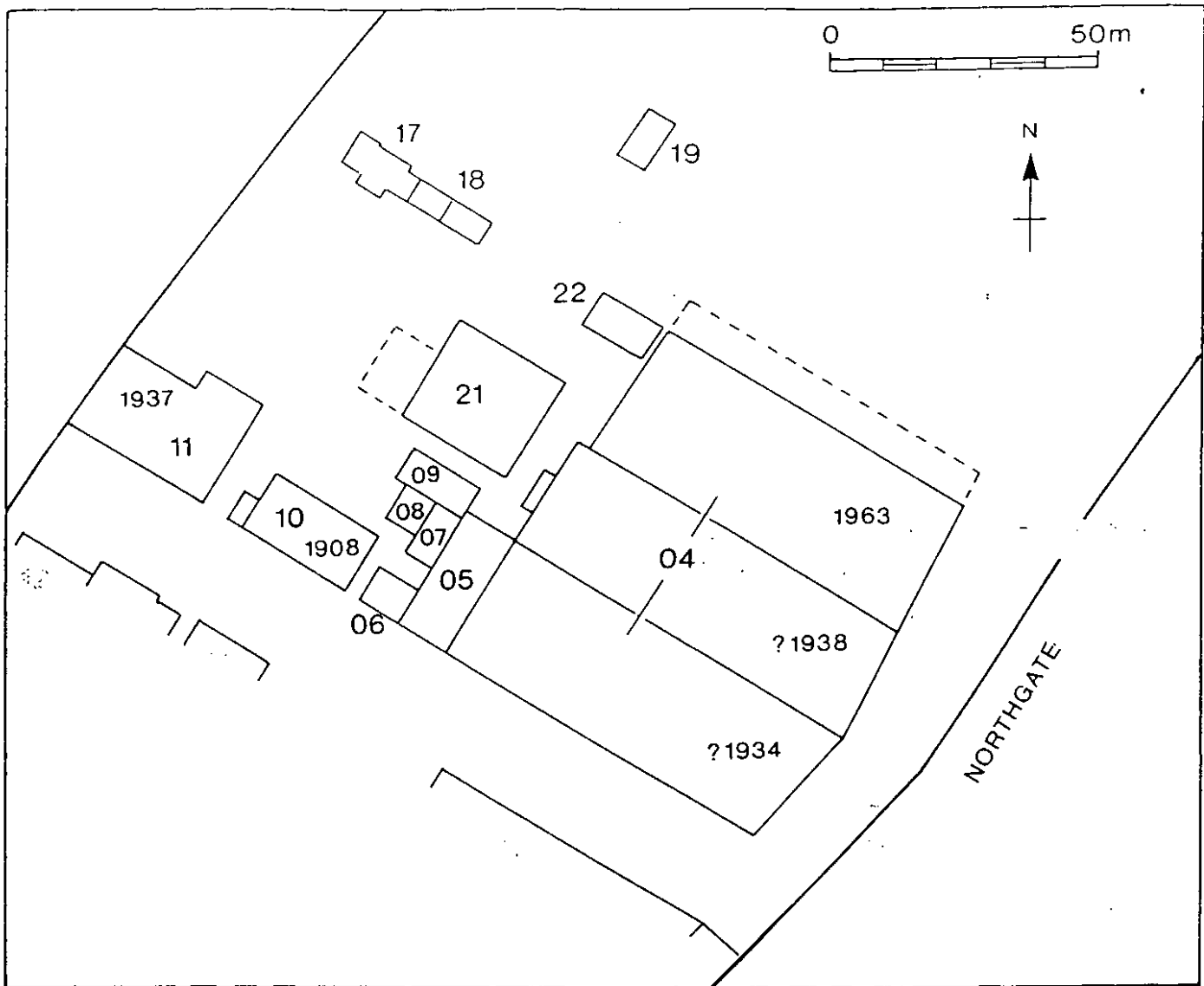


Fig. 11: Buildings covered in the Buildings Survey