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# *Marches Archaeology*

## **Wall Town Farm Cleobury Mortimer Shropshire**

### **Report on an archaeological watching brief**

April 2003

*Marches Archaeology Series 278*

This report is produced by

## *Marches Archaeology*

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**Wall Town Farm  
Cleobury Mortimer  
Shropshire**

**Report on an archaeological watching brief**

NGR: SO 692 783

**Report by  
Jane Kenney**

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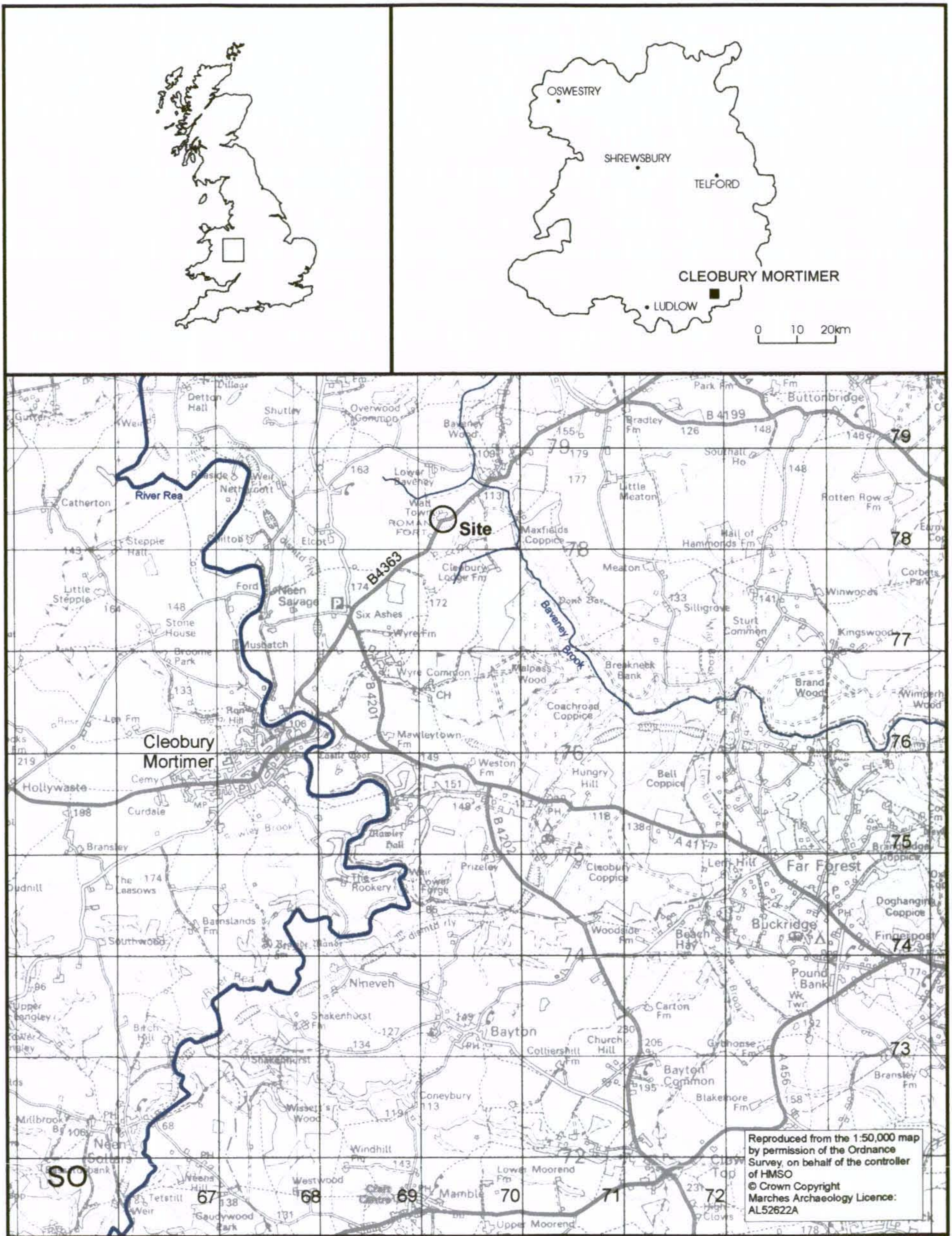


Fig. 1: Location of Wall Town Farm

**Wall Town Farm  
Cleobury Mortimer  
Shropshire**

**Report on an archaeological watching brief**

*Summary*

*A watching brief was undertaken on groundworks for service trenches related to the conversion of a barn to residential use at Wall Town Farm, Cleobury Mortimer. The farm is located within a Roman fort and the trenches revealed numerous Roman features. In the farmyard it was confirmed that the modern buildings have done minimal damage to the archaeological deposits. Two phases of activity were noted, comprising slighter early activity including the dumping of burnt material, and extensive later activity including the construction of stone buildings. These phases were separated by a build up of cultivation soil. In the field to the north of the farmyard trenches for a septic tank and soak-away revealed features of a different character, some probably the traces of timber structures. The evidence is not conclusive, but it could supported the suggestion that there is an early fort on the site with timber buildings, succeeded by a second fort with stone buildings. Features from both phases found in the current project appeared to date from the Hadrianic-Antonine period (early to mid second century AD), although the proposed earlier fort was probably constructed in the Flavian-Trajanic period (late first century AD). It was evident that any groundbreaking works within the farmyard are as likely to disturb archaeological deposits as within the scheduled area surrounding the farmyard.*

**1 Introduction**

A planning application was submitted to the local planning authority for permission to convert a redundant barn for residential use (ref. BR20/0533). The site is situated at NGR: SO 692 783 (see Fig. 1).

The farmyard, in which the barn stands, is situated on the northern part of a Roman fort. The fort is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (County Monument 102), although the farmyard is excluded from the scheduled area (Fig. 2). The fort is recorded in the county Sites and Monuments Record as SMR no.1186. Some of the proposed works, a septic tank and associated soak-away, were within the scheduled area and required Scheduled Monument Consent, which was obtained before the work was undertaken (ref. HSD 9/2/3025PT4). The barn to be converted did not lie within the scheduled area, but considering the archaeological importance of the location, the Local Planning Authority's Archaeological Advisor advised that, to adequately protect the archaeological resource, an archaeological watching brief was

to be carried out during groundworks associated with the proposed development. The scheduled monument consent also required monitoring and recording of groundworks, so the two parts of the works were included in the same watching brief.

The Local Planning Authority's Archaeological Advisor produced a "Brief for an archaeological watching brief". Mr DG Haywood (the client) commissioned Marches Archaeology to provide the archaeological services detailed in the Brief. The commission was based on a Project Proposal provided by Marches Archaeology, which formed a written scheme for the works.

The fieldwork was carried out between 24th to 29th October 2002, and the report issued on 14th April 2003.

## **2 Scope and aims of the project**

The purpose of an archaeological watching brief is defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists as:

'to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works'

and:

'to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard'.

The scope of this project is defined in the Brief as:

- ◆ A short documentary study
- ◆ Archaeological observation and recording of all ground-disturbing operations forming part of the development
- ◆ Contingency for full archaeological excavation if significant archaeological entities are present.
- ◆ Full processing of archaeological materials and the production of an appropriate report.

## **3 Methodology**

### *Documentary research*

Documentary research had been carried out for a previous watching brief (Appleton-Fox 2001), so no further study was undertaken at this stage.

### *Fieldwork*

The groundworks consisted of the excavation of drainage trenches using a mechanical excavator with a ditching bucket. The trenches were to hold sewage drains, which ran into a septic tank in the field to the north of the farmyard. From the septic tank ran a series of trenches holding soak-away drains to disperse the water from the septic tank. All the trenches, including those for the soak-away, were on average 0.6m wide and 0.9m deep. Once the pipes were laid they were covered with gravel and the trenches were backfilled. The trenches in the farmyard ran around three sides of the barn under conversion, from here a single trench ran east across the farmyard, then it turned north and ran into the field to join the septic tank (Fig. 3).

The hole for the septic tank and part of the trench leading from it into the farmyard had been dug before the monitoring archaeologist arrived, but the excavation of all other trenches were observed by the archaeologist. Archaeological features were recorded in the trench sections by photography, context sheets and sections drawn at a scale of 1:20. Where necessary both sections of a trench were drawn, or the alignment of the features was indicated in plan. In the farmyard the positions of the trenches were located by measuring from the buildings. In the field the soak-away was surveyed using a total station electronic theodolite, and tied in to buildings in the farmyard. Using this information to create a composite plan of the whole area showing the location of the trenches was problematic, as the plans of the farmyard supplied by the client were not perfectly accurate. There may, therefore, be some inaccuracies in Fig. 3, although the more detailed plans (Figs. 4 and 11) are internally accurate.

The quantity of archaeological features revealed required the contingency arrangements to be invoked, allowing more staff and time for adequate recording. The excavation of features was kept to a minimum, so as to reduce the disturbance of the archaeology. Features were only excavated where they could not be interpreted from the sections alone. Most of the finds recovered are, therefore, from cleaning the sections in preparation for recording. Samples for environmental and technological analysis were collected where considered appropriate.

The recording system includes written, drawn and photographic data. Context numbers were allocated and context record sheets completed. In each of the three trenches surrounding the barn to be converted one complete section was drawn at a scale of 1:20. Elsewhere sections were drawn as necessary to record features. Plans at 1:20 were drawn where required, and the location of the trenches in the farmyard were planned at a scale of 1:250. The photographic record consists of black and white negative and colour transparency film.

All artefacts found were collected, processed and archived, with the exception of tile. In ditch [34] a large quantity of tile was found and only the larger, most representative pieces were collected. Two samples were taken of deposits with environmental potential, and one sample was taken for technological analysis.

### *Office work*

On completion of fieldwork a site archive was prepared. The written, drawn and photographic data was catalogued and cross-referenced and a summary produced. All artefacts were archived, and a specialist report was obtained on the pottery and tile to obtain a date for the



features discovered (see appendix III). A full site matrix was produced and phased according to the dates obtained from the pottery (appendix II).

This report includes the aims, methods and results of the project, as well as a non-technical summary, details of the location and size of the archive.

#### **4 The site and topographical background**

Wall Town Farm is located 2.5km north-east of Cleobury Mortimer, on the north side of the B4363. Near the road is a complex of stone and brick buildings forming a courtyard, to the north of this the ground is scattered with corrugated iron barns, tractor sheds and workshops. The area covered by the buildings is generally flat having been extensively levelled with a variety of surfaces of concrete, tarmac and hardcore. Towards the north the land dips away slightly and a farmyard pond had been built in the lowest lying part in the north-east corner. The field to the north of the farmyard is under permanent pasture.

The farmyard occupies the northern half of the square fort, which is also cut through by the road. The ramparts of the fort still survive as well preserved earthworks in the field to the south of the road. Earthworks to the north and west of the farmyard suggest the presence of an earlier fort, although this area has also been interpreted as a civilian settlement (see discussion below).

The fort lies at an altitude of *c.* 140m OD, with stream valleys, both tributaries of the Baveney Brook, running to its north and south-east. The land rises gently to the south, but the fort is effectively located on a spur between the two stream valleys. The River Rea lies only 2km to the west of the site, but the streams flow east, eventually joining the River Severn. The immediate area of the site is characterised by undulating, low hills, but the land rises to the west to reach 533m OD on Titterstone Clee Hill.

#### **5 Archaeological and historical background**

The Roman fort beneath Wall Town Farm is known as Wall Town Camp. Previous work suggests that it dates from the 1st to 4th centuries AD (Walker 1965-8). The fort covers 2 hectares and extensive earthworks survive on all sides of the farmyard and to the south of the road. The area of the fort outside the farmyard is a scheduled ancient monument (County Monument No. 102, see Fig. 2). Although the farmyard is not currently scheduled most of the modern farm buildings are constructed on concrete rafts, and are unlikely to have significantly disturbed the archaeological deposits below. An archaeological assessment of the site concluded that the archaeological deposits under the farmyard are likely to remain largely intact (Sternberg and Leach 1989), and the present watching brief has confirmed this.

The site was known about at least since the early twentieth century, and an air photograph published by JK St Joseph in 1953 led to its identification as a Roman fort (Walker 1965-8, 8). The fort is square with rounded corners, but further earthworks to the north and west of the main fort indicate a more complicated layout, and possibly the existence of an earlier fort. To the west a double hedge-line with a track between may indicate the alignment of a road leaving the fort. There is also the trace of a road to the north. The fort's location is less than

ideal for a defensive site, as although the ground slopes steeply down to a stream on the east side, it rises to the south (*ibid.*).

Two trenches were excavated on the site in 1960-1 by the Kidderminster & District Archaeological and Historical Society (Walker 1965-8, see Fig. 2). The trench through the southern rampart revealed a clay bank with traces of two turf revetments and a stone wall, and to the south were three ditches. These features formed two construction phases of the fort. The first phase consisted of the turf revetted rampart with at least one V-shaped ditch. In the second phase a stone wall was inserted in the front of the rampart and the inner ditch was filled in. The middle ditch was dug or recut in this phase, and an outer ditch was constructed. There may have been a cookhouse behind the rampart. Pottery dated these phases to the late 1st and early 2nd centuries AD. Later Roman activity, including a roadway post-dating the infilling of the outer ditch, was dated to the 3rd or 4th century AD, and suggested to be a civilian settlement. Four large voussoirs found in a layer sealing the wall within the rampart imply the presence of substantial buildings in the fort.

The earthworks to the north and west of the fort define what appears to be an earlier, larger fort. Occupation evidence from the second trench dug by the Kidderminster & District Archaeological and Historical Society to the west of the main fort demonstrated that the feature was Roman and suggested a date covering the late 1st to early second centuries AD. In 1964 a trench was cut across the northern boundary of this feature (see Fig. 2), and suggested that the earthworks were due to terracing of the slope for a street and timber buildings. They were associated with occupation levels containing pottery of the later 1st and early 2nd century AD. It was not established whether this feature was an earlier fort or an annexe to the main fort, but it seems to have been occupied until at least Antonine times. The Kidderminster & District Archaeological and Historical Society excavation through the southern rampart found 1st to 2nd century AD occupation deposits beneath the fort bank. This activity may represent the presence of a *vicus* to the south of the fort. Two slight banks are visible south of the rampart, which have been interpreted as the remains of this *vicus* (SMR report 1186).

The conversion of a barn to the east of the one presently under conversion required the excavation of 119m of trenches for drainage. The watching brief was carried out by Marches Archaeology (Appleton-Fox 2001), and this identified a broad ditch, 8.5m wide, on the north side of the farmyard, and the footings of two walls (see Fig. 3). The Roman pottery recovered was mostly from the late 1st century. This report includes a copy of the 1839 field name map, which shows Wall Town Farm, but gives no indication of the fort.

## 6 Results of the watching brief

More detailed descriptions of each context are given in appendix I and a matrix showing the relationships between the contexts is included as appendix II.

### *The farmyard* (Fig. 4)

The Roman deposits within the farmyard were found to occur immediately below the concrete yard surface (context [01]). Concrete stantions for barns now demolished disturbed the archaeological deposits in all the trenches within the farmyard.

Very little in the way of medieval or post medieval deposits were located. The exception was one layer [42] to the north of the barn being converted (Fig. 5). This was a fairly disturbed layer, which produced a copper alloy buckle, presumably of late medieval or post-medieval date. Most of the other layers and features in the area could be assigned to the Roman period by the pottery and other artefacts they contained. There was some doubt over the date of a stone-built drain (context [35], Figs. 5 and 6) and several linear features, also suggested to be drains ([116], [118] and [120], Fig. 6). Drain [35], which ran roughly east-west, was built of sandstone slabs and blocks laid as a capping with smaller stones forming the side walls. There was no dating material from this feature or from the fill [111] of the cut [108] for this drain. Running roughly parallel to this, as far as could be seen in the pipe trench, were three linear features ([116], [118] and [120]) containing sandstone slabs set on edge at an angle in a clayey fill. As the slabs were on edge these were not wall foundations, and may have functioned as drains, though the clayey fill would seem to have been an obstruction. These were cut from directly below the concrete yard surface and contained no dating material.

Over this area was a thick general layer deposited in the Roman period. To the east of the barn this layer was described as a brown silty clay with patches of red clay, containing pieces of sandstone and Roman brick (contexts [97] and [110]). To the west of the barn the deposit was a dark grey silty clay, loosely compacted, with flecks of charcoal, ceramic building material and some patches of stone (context [36]). The pottery from this layer appeared to be Hadrianic/Antonine or late 2nd century AD, though it also contained a Samian sherd of AD 70-110 (appendix III). Generally the western deposit had less building rubble and more closely resembled a cultivation soil than the eastern deposit, but both seem to be lateral variations of the same sediment. The drains described above cut this general layer, but several features of more convincingly Roman date also cut through it.

To the east of the barn were the foundations for two stone walls ([113] and [100], Figs. 6 and 7). These were both made of sandstone blocks, and were 0.7m wide and 0.5m deep. They were presumably set in vertical sided foundation cuts, but the deposits into which they were cut seem to have eroded into the spaces between the stones, making the cuts impossible to see. It is assumed that both these wall foundations were cut into the general layer, as they were not coursed or neatly constructed, and presumably intended to be below ground level. If the general layer had built up against the walls the latter would be expected to be more neatly built, as they would have originally have been visible above ground. Although it is possible that these walls related to medieval activity the general absence of medieval finds makes them more likely to be Roman in date.

On the western side of the barn (Fig. 4) was found a wall [132] mostly made of small sandstones, but apparently faced with larger blocks on the southern side (Fig. 8). On the northern side of [132] were several flat, sandstone slabs laid horizontally [131]. Two slabs were laid on top of each other, and a sloping slab seems to have fallen off the top of the pile. This seems to be the remains of some structural element related to the wall, perhaps the base of an abutting wall, or a flagged surface, possibly the floor of the building formed by wall [132].

Wall [132] may have butted against or cut another, more substantial wall [139] (Fig. 9). This was constructed of large, ashlar sandstone blocks, which formed a face to the wall, seen in the west section of the trench. To the south of [139] was a deposit of sandstone blocks [38], mostly roughly squared, but with some ashlar. These blocks were mostly resting at an angle,

sloping down towards the south, and the deposit did not extend across the full width of the trench. They overlay [36] and appeared to have built up against wall [139]. The stones in this deposit were not coursed or placed as if in an *in situ* wall, and may be dumped or collapsed masonry, possibly from the collapse of wall [139]. Deposit [38] contained Roman pottery that could not be more accurately dated.

A similar area of stones sloping at an angle, this time angled down towards the east, was found to the east of the barn [125]. These lay immediately east of a feature also interpreted as a wall [123] (Fig. 10). [123] was less regular and well built than [139], but its sandstone blocks were mostly set with their bases horizontal, and seem to have formed the foundations of a wall. [125] may also be the collapse from this wall [123], perhaps deliberately demolished and the stone left in place as a levelling layer.

Two large cut features on the eastern side of the barn were clearly of Roman date (Fig. 7). A large cut [34], which was 2.6m wide and over 0.8m deep, contained large quantities of Roman tiles as well as lenses of charcoal in its brown silty clay fill [33]. Pottery from this fill was datable to the late 1st to early 2nd centuries AD. Cut [104] was a vertical sided cut 3.3m wide and over 0.6m deep. It contained three visible fills ([105], [106] and [107]), the upper most of which produced Roman pottery dating to the 1st or 2nd centuries AD, possibly Hadrianic/Antonine (appendix III). In both cases it was difficult to determine whether the features were pits or ditches. Cut [34] seemed to terminate just east of the trench edge, but it is possible that it continued to the west and is part of the feature visible in the trench at the western side of the barn (Fig. 4). This cut [143] is only 1.7m wide, and the dark grey silt fill [144] did not contain tiles, but there was a layer of charcoal rich sediment [41] lining the southern edge (Fig. 8). Variation in fill is to be expected and the width of [34] could be deceptive if the section does not cross the feature transversally.

Two pits or ditches cut the general Roman layer [36] to the west of the barn (Fig. 8). Cut [127] was fairly steep sided and filled with mottled red-brown and grey silty clay [126]. Some small cobbles [128] in the top of this fill could be the trace of a badly disturbed cobbled surface. The edges of [127] were well defined, but those of cut [40] were indistinct and difficult to detect. This cut seems to have had fairly gently sloping sides and was filled by a deposit [39] very similar to [36], but more plastic. Fill [39] produced a Samian sherd dating to AD 100-120. Another similar pit or ditch [37] cutting [36] is probable at the southern end of the trench west of the barn. Here 6 sherds of Roman pot, plus tile, daub and slag were recovered, but this end of the trench was inside a barn and very dark, making the identification of a subtle feature impossible. The pottery dated to possibly AD 160-200, but there was also a Samian sherd from AD 100-125 (appendix III).

All the features described above cut or overlay the general layer [36/97/110], which the artefacts demonstrate was Roman in date. This layer seems to represent a cultivation soil, with some demolition rubble, and probably built up over a considerable period. Below this layer, and sealed by it, were other Roman features. To the east of the barn, at the southern end of the trench, there were dumps of burnt clay, possibly daub (Fig. 7). The dumped layers [28] and [96] were composed of fragments of red and orange burnt clay. Whether they were from a burnt wattle and daub building or from an oven or other similar structure is not clear, but they were underlain by thin layers very rich in charcoal [29] and [99], presumably related to the same burning event.

A cut [142] was glimpsed in the base of the western section west of the barn (Fig. 8). It had a very shallow northern edge, and the southern side was not located. The fill [140] was very similar to the reddish clay into which the feature was cut, but a thin layer of charcoal [141] along the side of the cut defined the edge. The base of this cut was not revealed in the trench and it is unclear whether it was more than a shallow hollow.

Stony deposits [136] and [130] occurred in the trench west of the barn beneath layer [36] and may represent floor surfaces, though no associated structural features were located (Fig. 8). Beneath all the recognised features was a red-brown silty clay containing occasional gravel and charcoal fragments [112/129/135]. This appeared to be disturbed or redeposited natural clay, and may be the same deposit as that seen in the 2001 watching brief and referred to as layer 03 (Appleton Fox 2001). Clean, undisturbed natural [21] was only seen in the southern part of the trench east of the barn.

A stone wall foundation ([06], set in cut [16]) was seen in the 2001 watching brief (Appleton Fox 2001) just east of the large modern barn in the northern part of the farmyard. During the current watching brief a similar sandstone wall foundation was noted, presumably part of the same wall, which must have run roughly east-west. This wall would have been close to the northern boundary of the fort, but still within its area (Fig. 3).

When the farmer, Mr Haywood, was doing groundworks on the southern edge of the farmyard, just north of the road, he discovered a ditch [101] containing Samian ware dating to AD 140-190, and other pottery dating to later than AD 180, perhaps late 3rd century. This feature was not seen by the archaeologists.

#### *The northern field (Fig. 11)*

There was considerable activity within the trenches dug in the field to the north of the farmyard. Although there were no stone buildings here there is evidence of timber structures in the form of beam slots. Patches of charcoal may represent traces of occupation layers, and pits and ditches demonstrate other activities.

Beneath the modern topsoil [11], which was c.100mm thick, the whole area was covered by up to 500mm of reddish brown silty clay [12]. This contained pottery dating to AD 70-110 and AD 120-150/200 (appendix III), but also 18th to 19th century sherds. This layer is assumed to represent the post-Roman cultivation of the field, with Roman pottery included by ploughing disturbing features below. This layer sealed all the features discovered, with the exception of occasional modern postholes and field drains.

Across the northern part of the soak-away there was a particular density of features, several of a structural nature. A sequence of slots and gullies ran in various directions. This area was complex but the features were generally poorly defined, and time constraints were tight, so it proved difficult to fully clarify the stratigraphy within the small area of the trench. The descriptions given below should be taken as tentative, as some of the critical relationships were not firmly proved.

Cut from directly below the cultivation soil was [89] a steep side, linear cut, running approximately north-south across the trench, and filled by well compacted red-brown silty clay [88] (Fig. 11). This feature was difficult to define as its edges were diffuse, but it contained pottery dating to AD 120-200, perhaps AD 120-150 (appendix III). It cut through a

thin layer of red clay [93], which sealed most of the area. Beneath [93] was a brown, charcoal rich layer [53], which appeared to overlie earlier features. Layer [53] contained 1st to 2nd century AD pottery. Under [53] was a slot [87], which had vertical sides and a flat base and was filled by a plastic red clay [86] containing charcoal inclusions. Slot [87] was very regular feature, which was possibly a beam slot to hold a foundation beam of a timber building. Cut [65] was a similar vertical sided linear feature filled with red-brown silty clay [64] (Fig. 13), which may be part of the same structure as [87], although they do not seem to quite lie at right angles to each other (Fig. 11). Fill [64] contained pottery of Hadrianic/Antonine date, perhaps Hadrianic rather than later in this range (appendix III).

Also apparently under [53] was a pit [92], just clipped by the section (Fig. 12). It had sides sloping at c.45 degrees, and was filled with a brown-grey silt [91]. Pit [92] was cut into a red-brown clay [81] filling a cut [82] of indeterminate plan. Feature [82] was cut by a narrow, steep sided slot [80] only 250mm wide, filled with brown clay [79], running north-south across the trench. Fill [79] contained pottery dating to AD 120-160, perhaps Hadrianic, i.e. the earlier part of this range, suggesting that most of the activity here falls within this period (appendix III). Slot [80] also cut an earlier north-south slot, [84], which was V-shaped in profile and filled with brown clay loam (Figs. 12 and 14). Another narrow feature [78] filled with brown silty clay was seen in the south section just east of slot [80], also below layer [53]. Cut [78] may be a posthole. Although [80] clearly superseded [84], features [80] and [78] could be contemporary.

Another narrow V-shaped slot [76] was found further south, aligned ENE to WSW, and filled with grey silt capped with red clay (Fig. 13). This may be a return of slot [50], which runs roughly north-south in the trench to the east (Figs. 15 and 16). [50] cuts layer [53], so it and [76], if these are related, must post-date slot [80]. It is impossible to suggest the outline of any structure that these slots may define, but their shape suggests that they may have held planks or stakes as part of a timber structure. Another feature under [53] was a narrow linear feature [52] aligned roughly north-south, with one vertical side and one more gradually sloping side. This may have been a slot like the others but the removal of the timbers it contained may have caused the distortion of one vertical side.

Also in this area was a roughly sub-circular pit [61], filled with charcoal-rich brown clay [60] (Fig. 14), containing Samian ware dating to AD 70-85, and a roughly east-west aligned ditch [63] filled with red-brown clayey silt [62] (Fig. 13). The latter contained Hadrianic/Antonine pottery and approximately aligns with another ditch [71] to the west. Ditch [63] may be a continuation of [71]. Ditch [71] had fairly gently sloping sides and a rounded base and was filled by a brown silty clay [70] containing c.10% charcoal, pottery from the 2nd century AD and three pieces of roof tile. [71] had cut across an earlier ditch [73] with a similar brown silty clay fill [72], containing pottery from the late 1st or 2nd century (Figs. 11, 17, 18 and 19).

Most of the features in this northern part of the soak-away trenches were indistinct and difficult to define and understand. There may have been other even less distinct features here, but the limitations of the watching brief prevented them from being recognised. The narrowness of the trenches prevented any of the features being seen clearly in relation to each other in plan, and they were therefore difficult to understand and interpret.

As well as the general layer [53] described above there were other charcoal-rich deposits in the area. In the hole dug for the septic tank there was a sequence of charcoal-rich layers. The upper most was [18] a brownish-red silty clay containing patches and lenses of charcoal. Below this was [19], a light brown clay also containing charcoal and 1st to 2nd century pottery. Immediately above the natural [21] was layer [20], a dark brown silty clay with very frequent charcoal and Samian ware dating to AD 70-100 (Fig. 20). Layer [20] extended almost far enough west to meet layer [53] and may be an extension of this layer, although the pottery evidence suggests that it is earlier (Fig. 3). Other charcoal-rich deposits appeared to lie within shallow cuts or hollows. Both [27] and [44], dark brown silty clays with c.20% charcoal, lay in the bottoms of shallow but steep sided cuts with undulating bases ([46] and [45], respectively) (Figs. 21 and 22). The upper part of cut [45] was filled with a brown silty clay with patches of red clay [43], while the upper part of [46] was filled with a deposit indistinguishable from layer [12]. Fill [27] contained Hadrianic/Antonine pottery. The steep sides of these cuts suggested that they were man-made, but the irregular bases were not consistent with deliberately dug pits. It is possible that these were areas of repeated activity, which has caused erosion of the natural clay, producing a hollow in which the charcoal deposits accumulated. Another small, isolated patch of charcoal-rich brown silty clay [90] was found at the western end of the soak-away, but this did not lie in a well defined cut or hollow (Fig. 23).

There were also two pits containing charcoal-rich deposits. Cut [55] was a large, steep sided feature, probably roughly circular in plan. Its primary fill was a brown silty clay with c.20% charcoal [59] (Fig. 24). Above this was a grey silty clay, mottled with red clay [58], then another charcoal-rich layer [25], containing pottery dating to AD 70-110. Fill [58] seemed to have been deposited by water and may represent a period of abandonment and erosion between two episodes when burnt debris was deposited. The upper part of the cut was filled by a red-brown silty clay, resembling redeposited natural [54]. Pit [68] was smaller, but also had steep sides and was filled by a brown silty clay containing lenses of charcoal and patches of pink clay (Fig. 25).

Along most of the southern edge of the soak-away area ran a thick deposit of soft, brown silty clay [47]. The section at the eastern end demonstrated that this filled a ditch [48] with a steep northern side (Fig. 26). This ran roughly east-west for over 12m, and seemed to cut away the upper deposits of pit [55] at its western end. The width of the feature was unclear. In the section shown in Fig. 22 the gently sloping northern side of a cut [57] was seen that contained a fill [56] identical to [47], but it was unclear whether this was part of the ditch or a separate feature cut by it.

## 7 Discussion and conclusions

### *The farmyard*

The watching brief confirmed the proposition by Sterenberg and Leach (1989) that the modern farm buildings had caused minimal damage to the archaeological deposits. The most recent barns had been supported on concrete stanchions, which had disturbed only a very small proportion of the deposits. The concrete barn floors had been laid over the archaeological layers with very little disturbance. The older buildings, with stone foundations, will have caused more damage, but this leaves large areas of undisturbed Roman archaeology.

No features were securely dated later than the Roman period, although some features lacked dating evidence in terms of artefacts or stratigraphic relationships.

There seems to have been two phases of Roman activity separated layers [36], [97] and [110]. The three layers seem to have been horizontal variations of the same deposit, which was more rubbly to the east and more soily to the west. It is likely that this deposit is basically a cultivation soil, developed over a period of time into which some demolition rubble has been incorporated. This implies that at least the immediate area was unoccupied and cultivated for some time, and that some previous structures were at least partly destroyed resulting in rubble debris.

The earlier phase is represented by only a small number of features; the burnt daub dumps ([28], and [96]), thin stony layers ([130] and [136]) and a possible cut feature [142], although this may only be a hollow in the top of the disturbed natural. The excavated trenches would seem to be on the periphery of the activity in this period.

Much more substantial occupation and building is evidenced from the later features cutting or overlying the cultivation layer. These represent the remains of stone buildings with related pits and ditches. In plan structure [100] aligns fairly well with wall [132] on the western side of the barn (Fig. 4). This section of [132] may be aligned north-west to south-east, although its plan was very difficult to determine in the narrow trench. [100] could be a return of this wall or another joining it. Wall [139] with its facing of ashlar blocks was clearly a well built, high status wall, and presumably part of an important building close to the centre of the fort. Deposit [38] may represent the collapse or demolition of this wall. Another stone wall [123] apparently also collapsed was located to the east of the barn. The narrowness of the trenches make the layout of these structures impossible to determine, and it is also unknown whether they are all contemporary or not, although it might be suggested that all the stone walls are roughly contemporary. Similarly the overall plan of the large pits or ditches ([34], [104], and [143]) is difficult to understand, although [34] and [143] may be part of the same linear feature.

Although several of the features in this area have produced datable pottery interpreting the date of the different phases is not straight forward. Layer [36] contained a Samian sherd dating from AD 70-110, but it also contained pottery from the Hadrianic/Antonine period, or possibly late 2nd century. It seems probable that deposit [36] built up from the late 1st into the late 2nd century AD at the latest. The fill [33] of ditch [34] with its large quantities of tile appears to be part of the demolition of the site. Pottery from the ditches/pits [34] and [104] appears to date to the mid 2nd century at the latest, so the abandonment of the site may date to the Antonine period. This implies that the development of the soil layer [36] finishes in the Hadrianic period and the stone buildings are constructed then. Pits [40] and [37] which cut [36] contained early 2nd century pottery, but [37] also contained sherds dating to the late 2nd century. The earlier pottery is probably residual, becoming incorporated into the pit fills from layer [36], and that the pits were dug in the late 2nd century. The earliest phase of activity is undated, but as it predates [36] it is presumably earlier than the late 1st century AD.

#### *The northern field*

The trenches dug in the northern field revealed considerable activity possibly bounded on the southern side by a large ditch [48] and including the construction of timber buildings. However, the nature of the narrow trenches excavated prevented features being seen clearly in



plan, making their interpretation and the understanding of relationships between features very difficult. Many features cut, and therefore post-date, other features but it is not clear whether there are distinct phases of activity or whether it represents repair and recutting of features within a relatively short space of time. The absence of stone structures makes the activity in this area distinct from that within the farmyard, but that does not necessarily demonstrate a different date.

The pottery dates most of the activity in this area to the Hadrianic/Antonine period, apparently contemporary with the construction of the stone buildings within the farmyard. The inter-cutting features in the northern part of the soak-away area could not be separated into phases of different dates by the pottery so most must have been dug within a fairly short period. There is earlier activity including one pit in the north part of this area [61] and one towards the south-west [55], both containing 1st century pottery. Some of the earliest slots may also belong to this phase, which may be contemporary with the earlier phase in the farmyard.

However, there are stratigraphic hints that the timber buildings precede the stone buildings, and may belong to the earlier fort. The large ditch [48] along the southern edge of this area contained Roman pottery but nothing diagnostic. It is possible, although by no means proved, that ditch [48] is a continuation of ditch [10] seen in the 2001 watching brief. If these two features are joined together on the plan a proposed line for the ditch can be suggested (see Fig. 3), which closely parallels the line of the surviving fort ramparts. Where the trench south-east of the soak-away cut this proposed line it was particularly narrow and rapidly filled with water, so no firm evidence of the ditch could be recognised. However, it was felt that large stones [22] seen in the trench just north of the proposed line may have been placed on the northern edge of the ditch, and that the existence of the ditch here could not be ruled out. The suggestion of a ditch in this location is supported by the earthwork plan included in the report on the 1960-61 excavations (Walker 1965-8, 9), which indicates the earthwork remains of a ditch in this location, since entirely levelled away. This plan also strongly suggest that this ditch was part of the defences of the later fort.

This ditch [48] has no direct stratigraphic relationship with the slots for the timber buildings, but it does cut feature [46], which contained Hadrianic/Antonine pottery, suggesting that it post-dates at least Hadrianic activity in the area. The stratigraphy and pottery evidence therefore suggests that ditch [48] may be contemporary with the stone buildings in the farmyard, and its position implies that it is the defensive ditch for the second fort. The lack of direct relationships between this ditch and the timber structures leaves open the possibility that these belong to an annexe contemporary with the main fort, but it does hint that these may represent a slightly earlier phase, possibly an earlier fort.

This limited evidence suggests that there was extensive activity before the construction of the main fort, and that this was focused on wooden buildings to the north of the present farmyard, with ancillary activities being carried out further south. A trench excavated just north of the present works in 1964 suggested that this area was terraced to provide a level area for a street and timber buildings. The pottery recovered gave a date of late 1st to early 2nd century for these features. The present findings are consistent with the interpretation that there was an earlier fort with timber buildings dating from this period. The earthwork plan in Walker (1965-8, 9) suggests that this is an earlier fort, defended by ditches and ramparts, not just a settlement. The size of the early fort is unclear. The earthwork plan suggests that it was

smaller than the later fort and occupied the north-western corner of the site, but this may be a deceptive impression caused by slight distortion to the ends of the ramparts. Walker (*ibid.*, 10) found features dating to the late 1st century, including remains of timber buildings, underneath the southern rampart of the second fort. So the early fort may have been larger than the later one, which was constructed over its southern and middle parts.

The main fort, whose earthworks are still prominent, was built over the southern part of this earlier fort in the mid 2nd century, and it included at least some stone buildings. The quantities of tile in the fill of ditch [34] also suggests the presence of substantial buildings.

The ditch [101] located by the farmer at the southern edge of the farmyard produced pottery from the late 2nd century or even 3rd century, which represents the latest Roman artefacts recovered during the watching brief. This ditch was not seen by the archaeologists, but it could be related to ditch [34] and in-filled with the demolition rubbish from the second fort.

The 1960-1 excavation presented an even more complex story (Walker 1965-8, 18). He suggests an early fort with two or three phase of timber buildings dating to the first century AD, i.e. slightly earlier than the date suggested for those found in the present watching brief. The rampart of the later fort was built over this and a wall inserted in this during the first half of the 2nd century. In a layer overlying the wall were large voussoirs from 4 different arches, which suggest substantial stone buildings within the second fort. There seemed to be military abandonment in the third quarter of the 2nd century, and there appears to have been a later Roman civilian occupation to the south of the forts. Combining this evidence with the present study suggests that the cultivation soil [36] would be seen as a very localised development, perhaps an area of garden, not a period of general abandonment. This was probably contemporary with the building of the ramparts, with the other walls and ditches being constructed in the mid 2nd century, when the wall was inserted into the southern rampart. The presence of mid to late 2nd century pottery is consistent with this being the date of the abandonment of the fort. The apparent collapse of some of the walls and tile dumped in the ditches does suggest that the buildings at least were dismantled on the abandonment of the fort, even though the ramparts were left intact. Pottery from ditch [101] suggests that there was later activity on the site, although the nature of this is not clear.

## 8 Conclusions

The watching brief has demonstrated intense activity in both the scheduled area and within the unscheduled farmyard. The evidence is not conclusive, but could support the argument that there was an earlier fort on the site with timber buildings. The earliest activity dates possibly to the Flavian-Trajanic period, but the remains of the timber buildings seen in the watching brief seem to be Hadrianic. This proposed fort was superseded by a later, possibly smaller fort, with stone buildings constructed in the Hadrianic or Antonine period. This fort seems to have been abandoned in the mid or late 2nd century and some at least of its buildings demolished. Although the northern part of the proposed earlier fort and the southern part of the later fort are scheduled it must be emphasised that the area of the present farmyard lies over an important part of both the early and later fort. Considerable archaeological deposits and features survive undisturbed despite the construction of the farmyard, and these are as deserving of preservation and protection as the deposits within the scheduled areas.

## 9 Sources

Appleton-Fox, N, 2001, Wall Town Farm, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire: a report on an archaeological watching brief. *Marches Archaeology Series 220*

Sterenberg, J and Leach, P, 1989, Wall Town Camp, Shropshire, Monument survey 1989. Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit.

Walker, CI, 1965-8, Excavation at the Roman fort at Walltown Farm, Shropshire, 1960-1961. *Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological Society 58*, 8-18

## 10 The archive

The archive is currently held by Marches Archaeology awaiting transfer to Shropshire Museum Service.

The archive consists of:

- 1 sheet drawings index
- 10 sheets of drawings
- 3 sheet levels and surveying notes
- 3 sheets site notes
- 1 sheet sample index
- 3 sample recording sheets
- 34 finds recording sheets
- 4 sheets context index
- 145 context sheets
- 2 colour slide films
- 2 black and white print films

### Finds (in 4 boxes)

Context	Type	Quantity	Weight
Unstrat. in field	pot sherds	13	262g
12	pot sherds	18	186g
12	tile	1	152g
19	pot sherd	1	2g
19	daub	1	12g
20	pot sherds	16	132g
20	daub	1	34g
20	slag	1	80g
23	pot sherds	10	214g
23	tile	2	420g
23	daub	1	22g
23	bone	1	<1g
25	pot sherds	10	81g
26	pot sherds	2	8g

27	pot sherds	1	4g
30	pot sherds	3	40g
31	pot sherds	1	<1g
33	pot sherds	1	12g
33	tile	18	5136g
36	pot sherds	8	312g
36	brick	1	306g
37	pot sherds	6	228g
37	tile	3	132g
37	daub	1	26g
37	slag	3	668g
38	pot sherds	6	1g
39	pot sherds	1	8g
41	pot sherds	1	6g
42	Cu alloy	1	26g
43	slag	1	38g
47	pot sherds	1	14g
53	pot sherds	8	144g
60	pot sherds	4	102g
62	pot sherds	5	66g
64	pot sherds	4	130g
64	tile	1	48g
66	pot sherds	3	28g
70	pot sherds	18	182g
70	tile	2	136g
70	brick	1	296g
72	pot sherds	3	146g
72	flint	1	8g
79	pot sherds	29	344g
85	pot sherds	4	40g
86	pot sherds	1	2g
88	pot sherds	5	52g
88	glass	1	1g
91	pot sherds	2	60g
101	pot sherds	99	3kg
102	pot sherds	1	180g
102	tile	16	21kg
102	bone	23	376g
107	pot sherds	4	52g

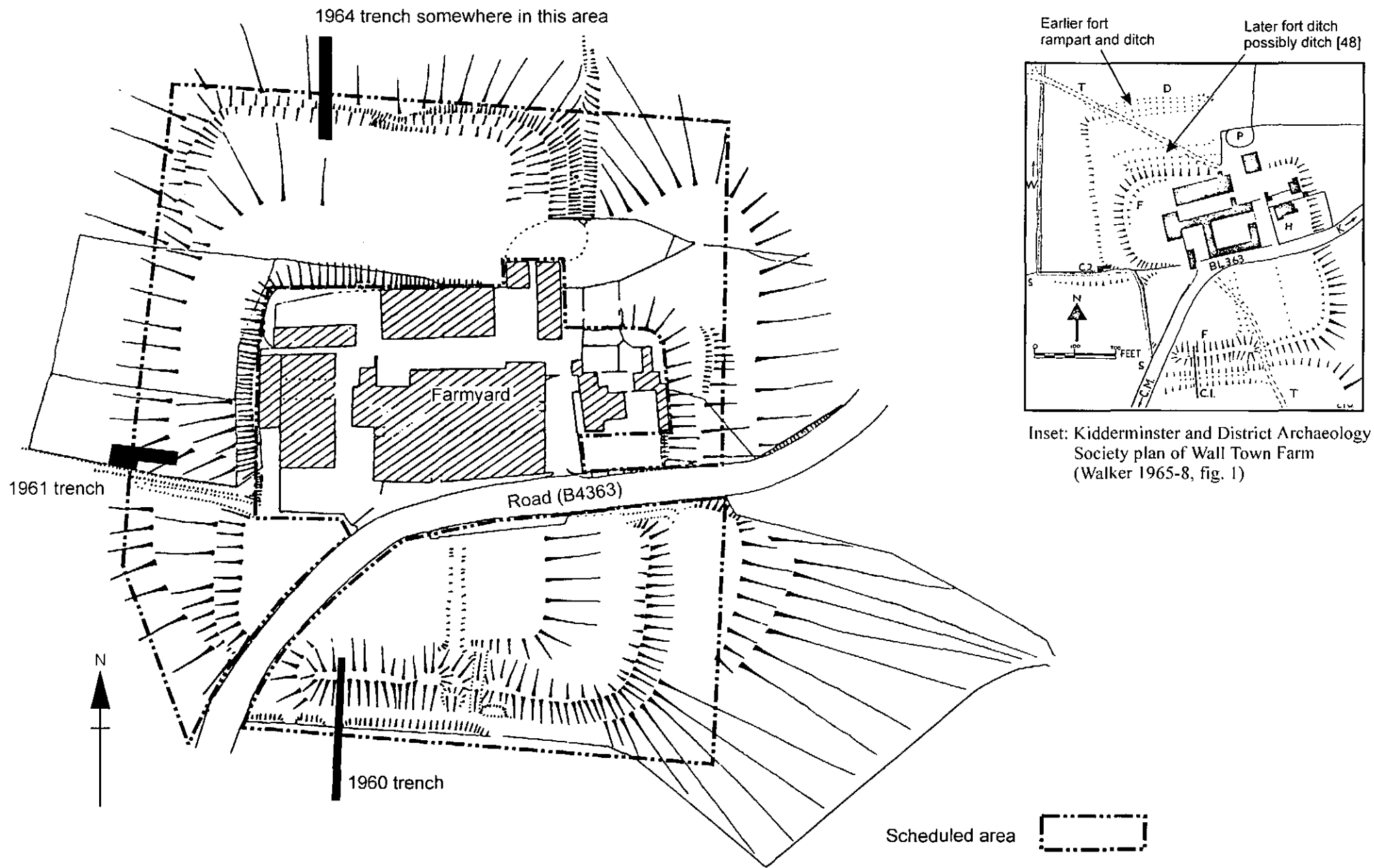


Fig. 2: Location of previous excavation trenches, with inset comparing the 1960 earthwork plan

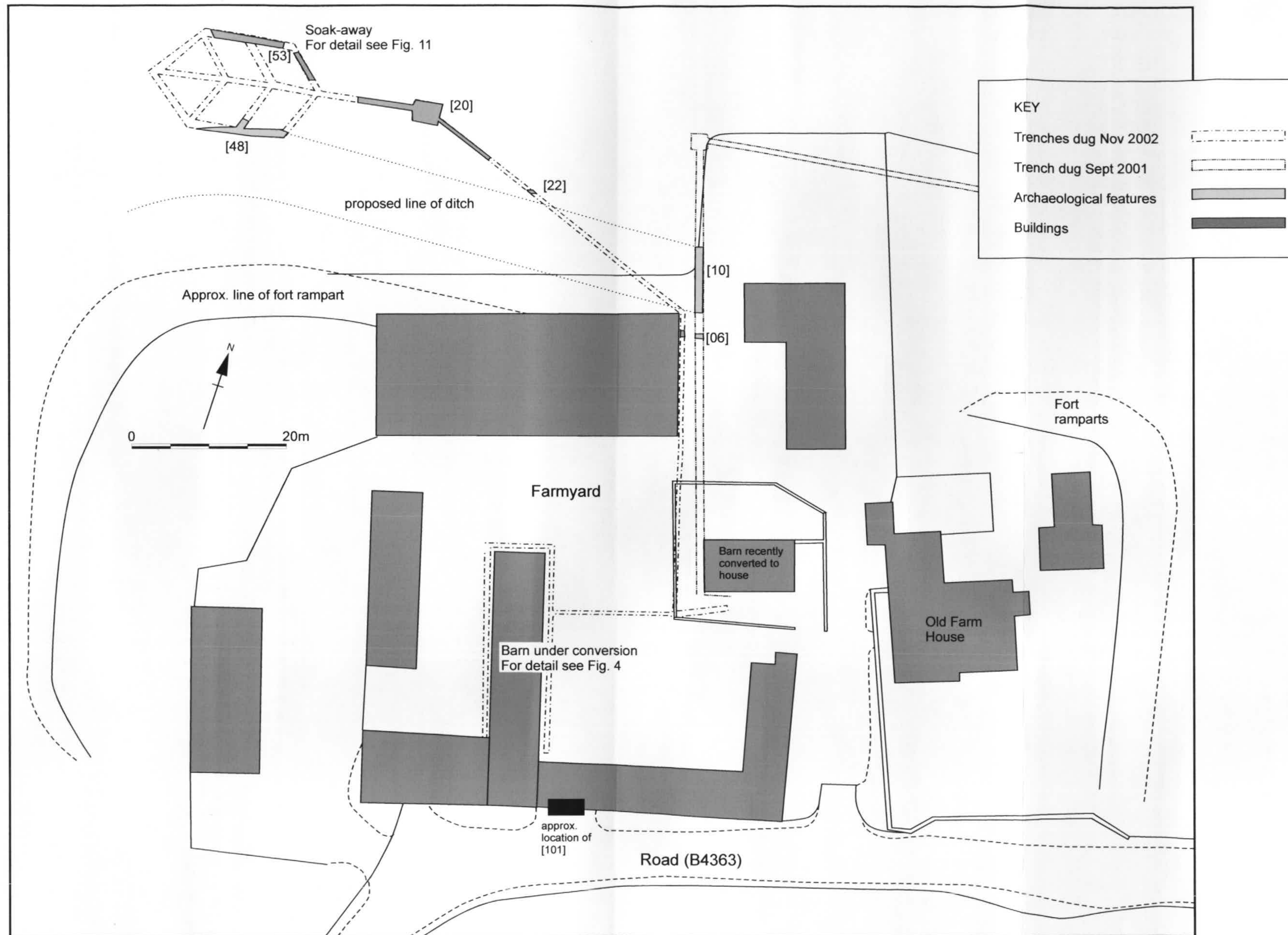


Fig. 3: Plan of Wall Town Farm, showing location of service trenches

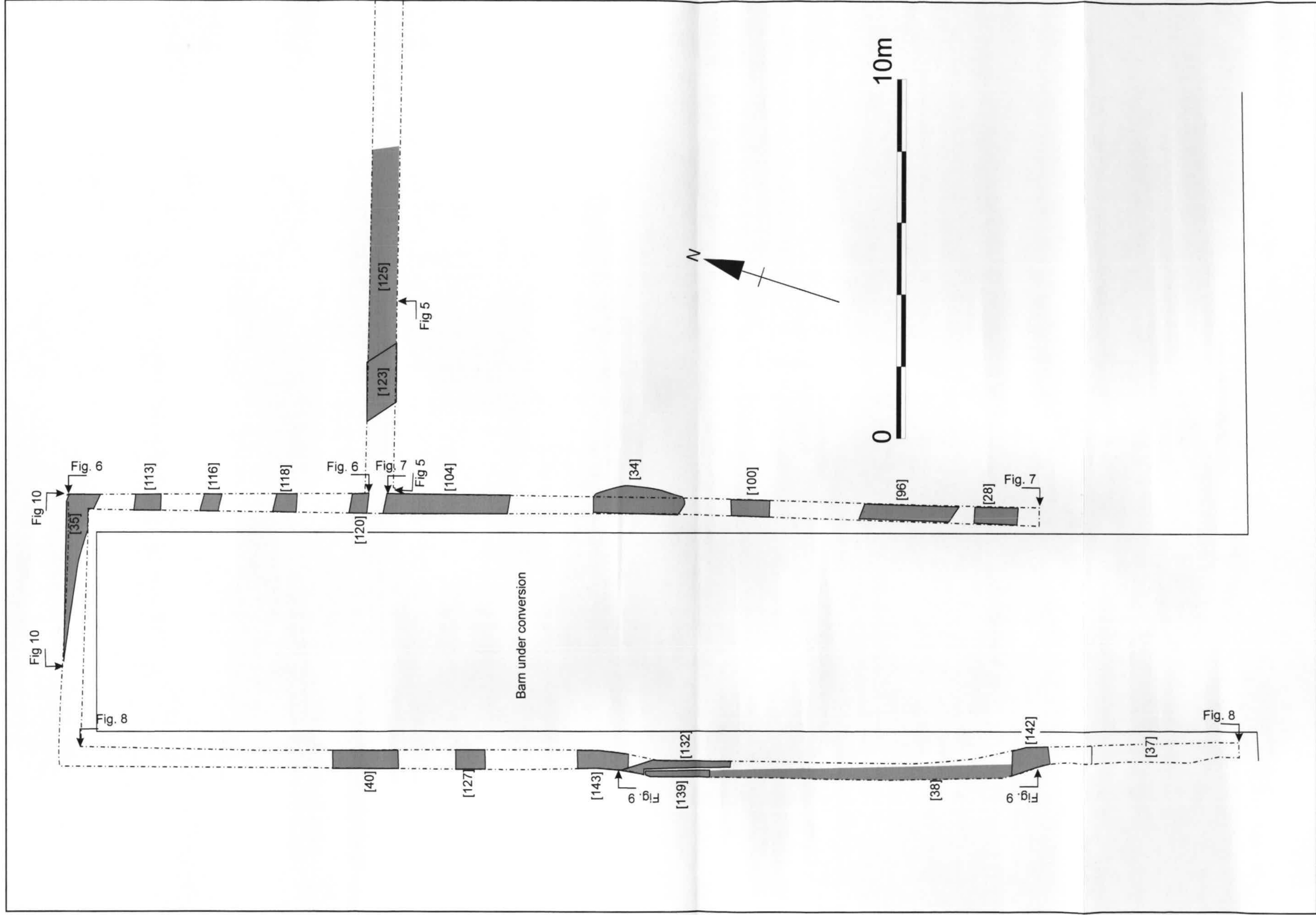


Fig. 4: Features around barn under conversion

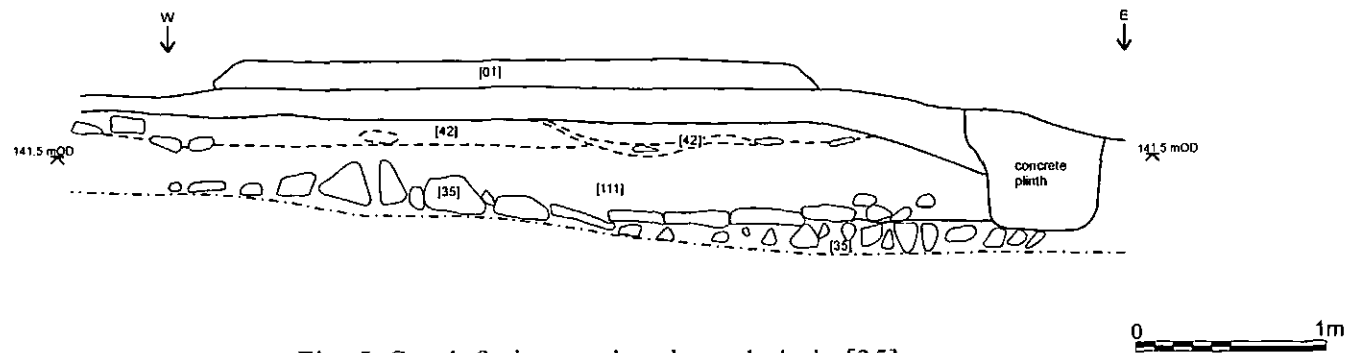


Fig. 5: South facing section through drain [35]

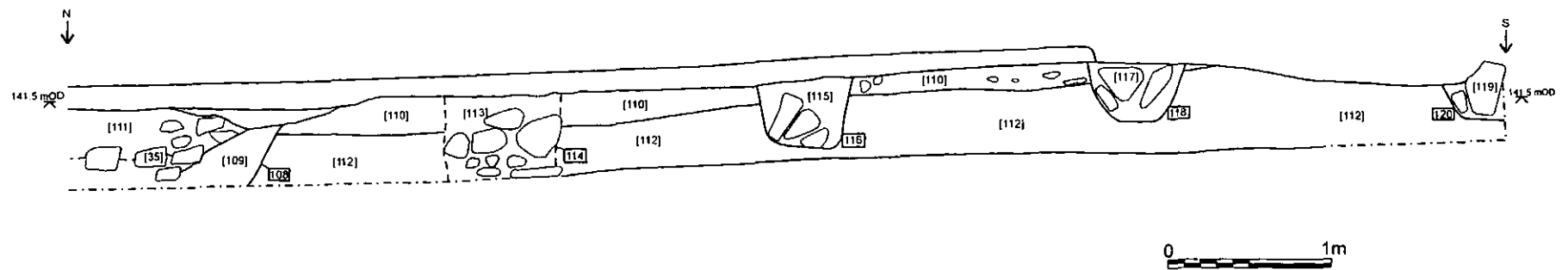


Fig. 6: Northern end of west facing section east of barn



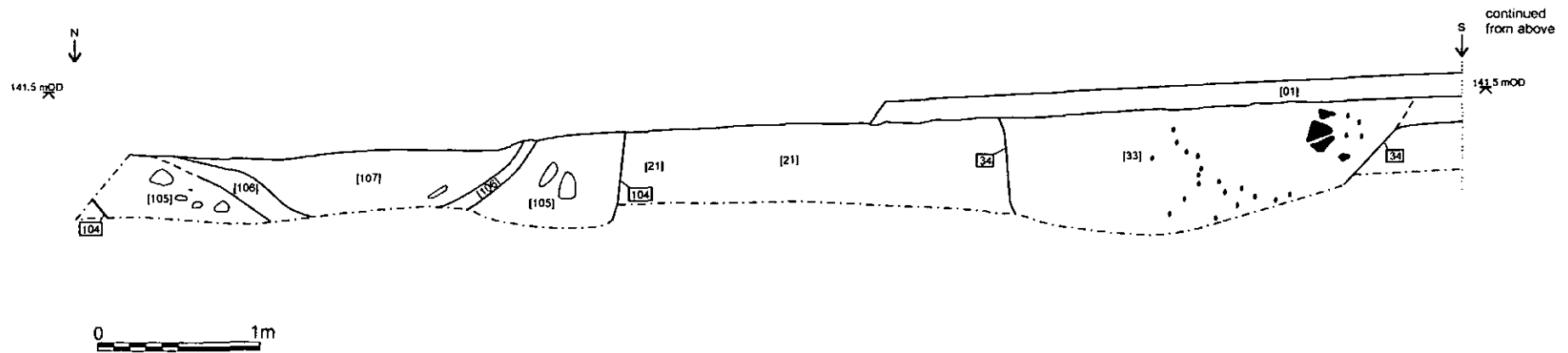
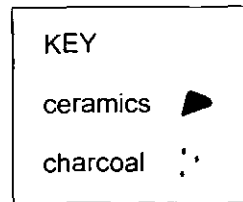
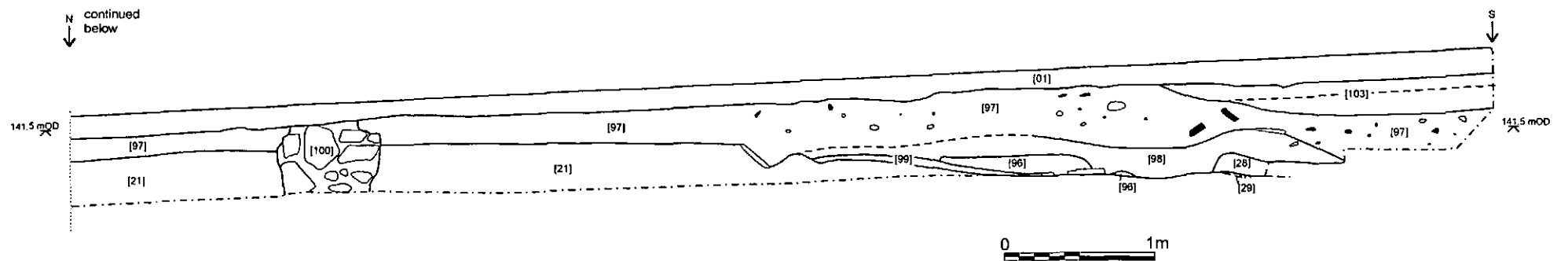


Fig. 7: Southern end of west facing section east of barn

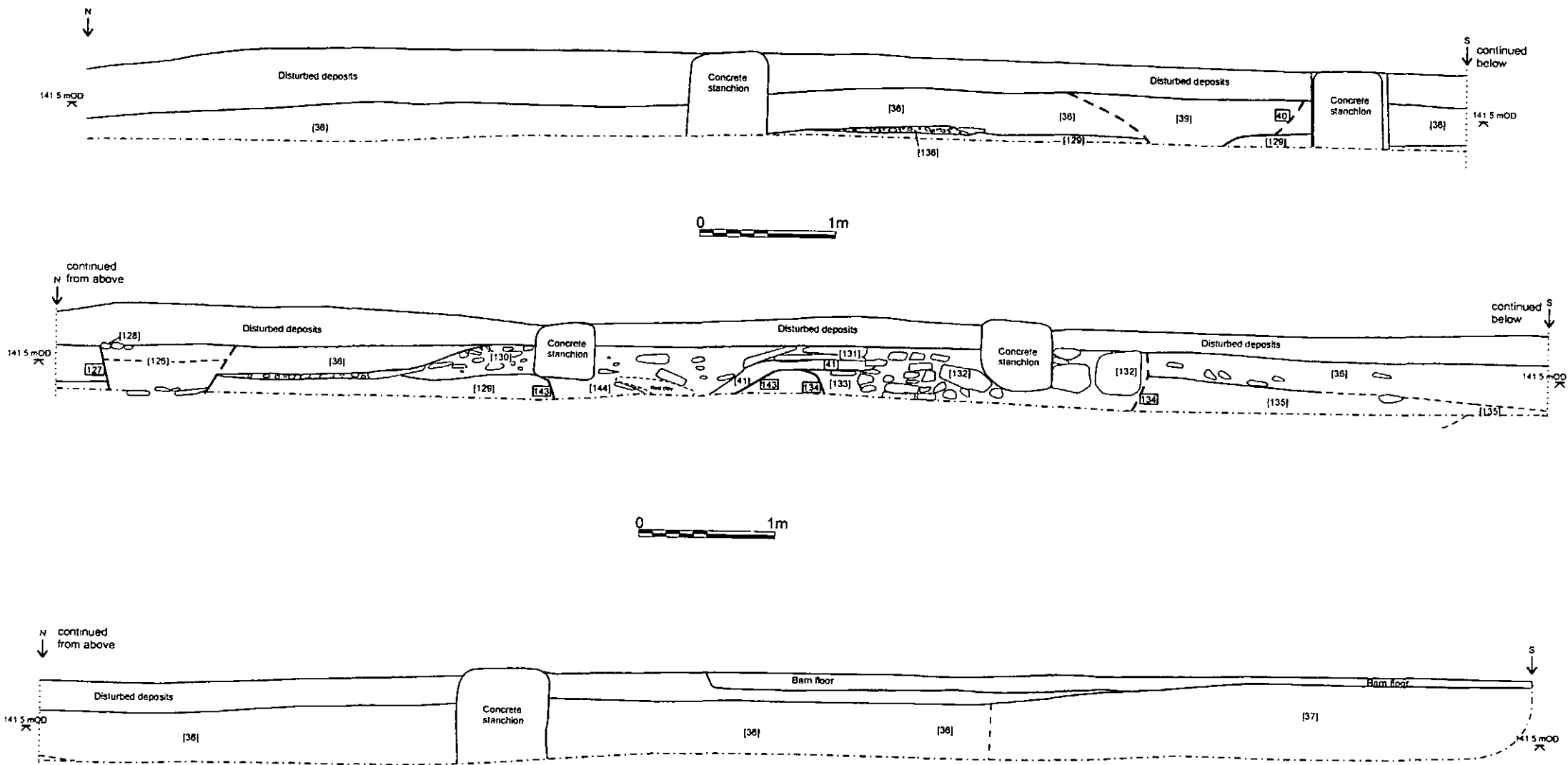


Fig. 8: West facing section along eastern side of trench west of the barn under conversion

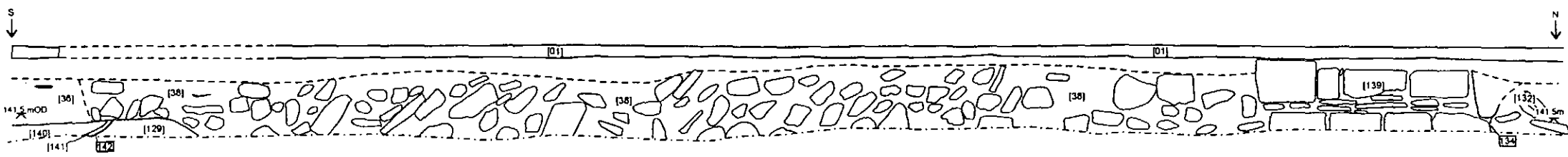


Fig. 9: East facing section through [38] and [139]

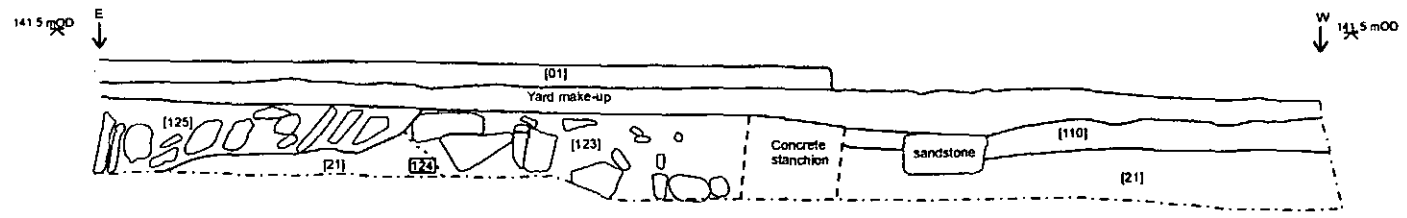


Fig. 10: North facing section through feature [123]

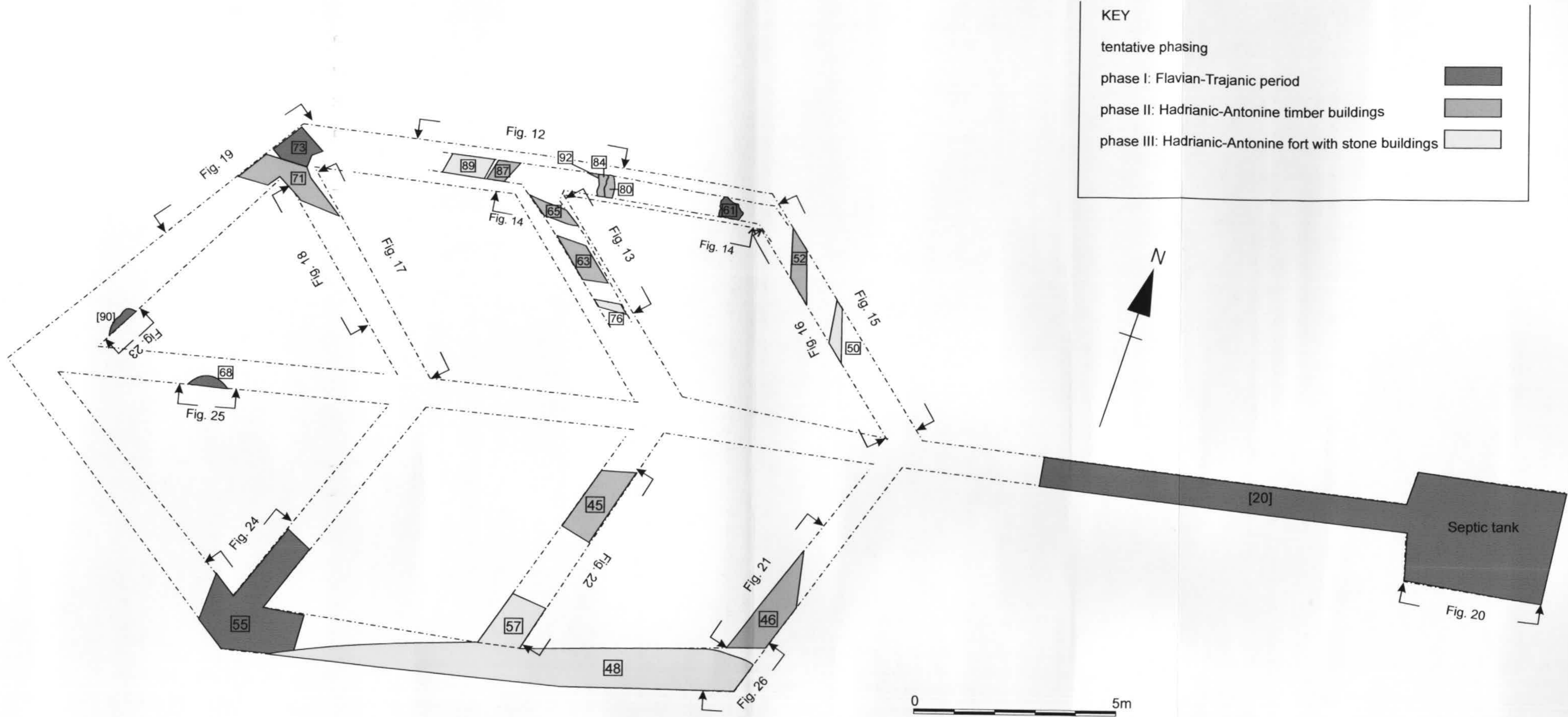


Fig. 11: Location of sections and features in the field north of the farmyard

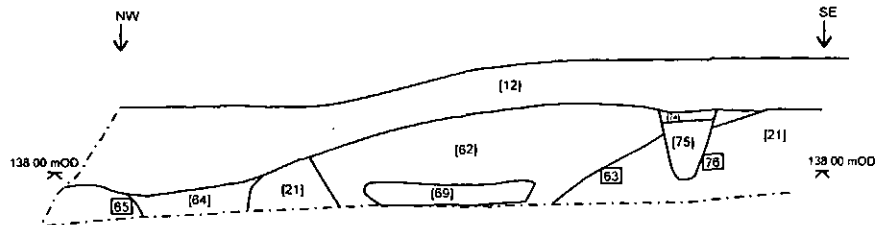


Fig. 13: South-west facing section through cuts [63], [65], and [76]

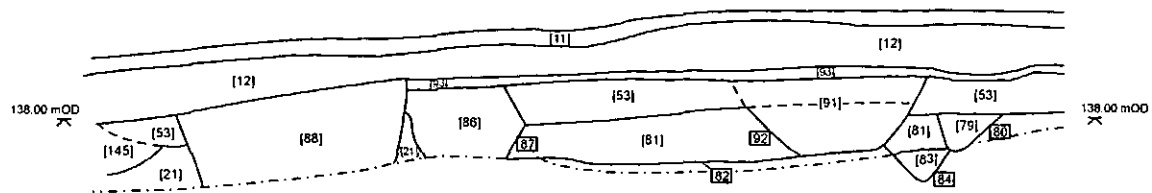


Fig. 12: South facing section through cuts [80], [82], [84], [87] and [89]

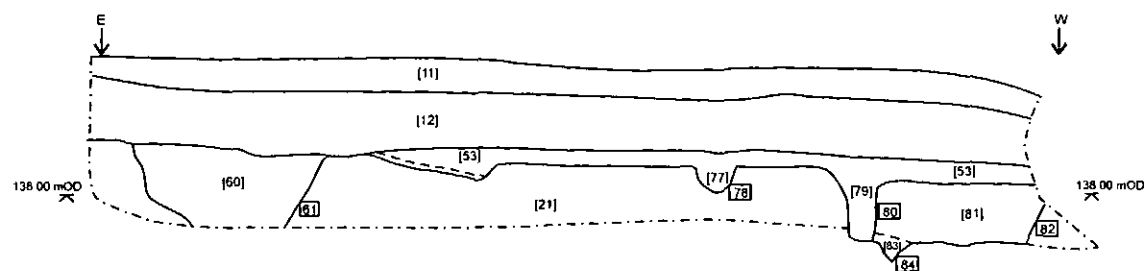


Fig. 14: North facing section through cuts [78], [80], [82] and [84]

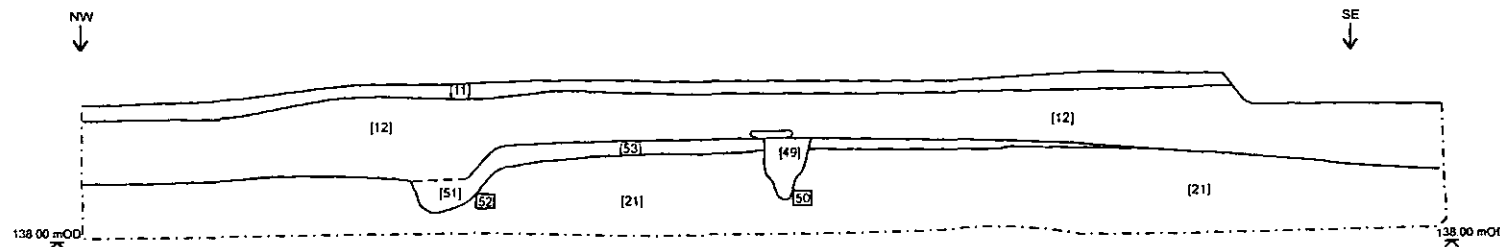


Fig. 15: South-west facing section through [50] and [52]

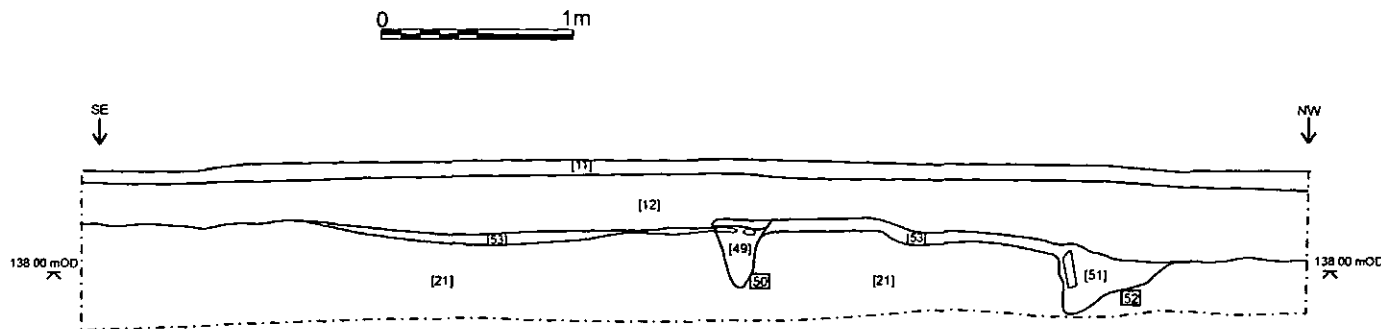


Fig. 16: North-east facing section through [50] and [52]

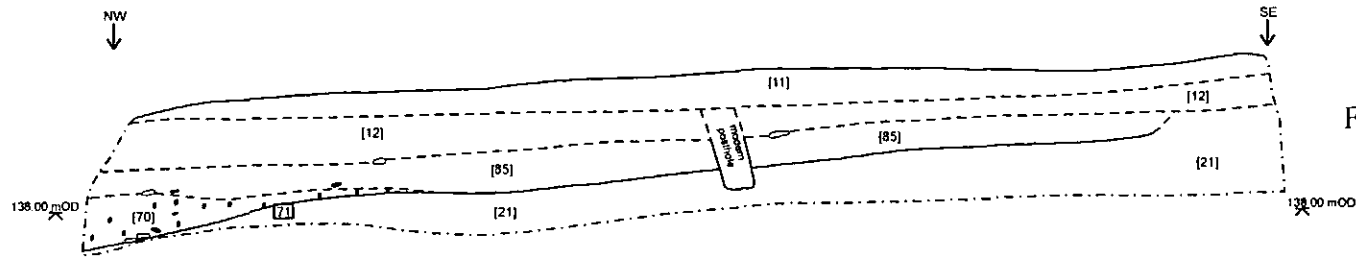


Fig. 17: South-west facing section through ditch [71]

Fig. 18: north-east facing section through ditch [71]

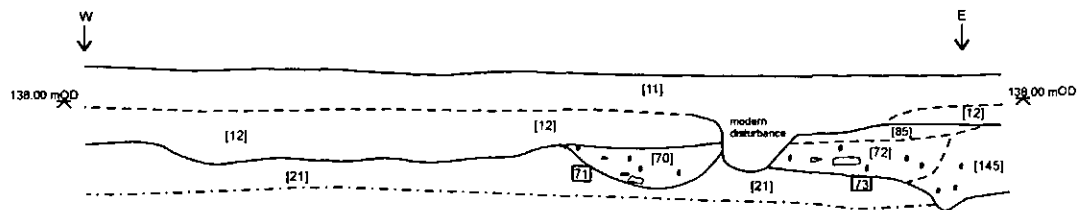
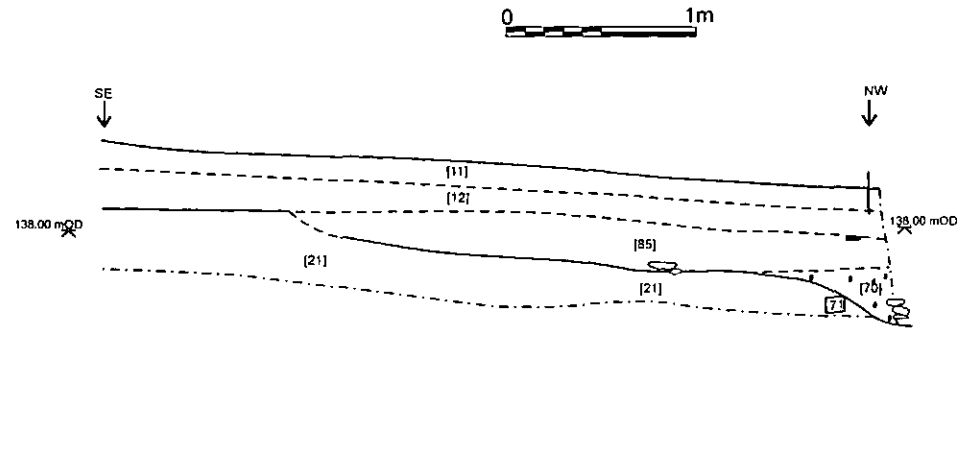


Fig. 19: South-east facing section through ditches [71] and [73]

Fig. 20: North facing section of septic tank trench

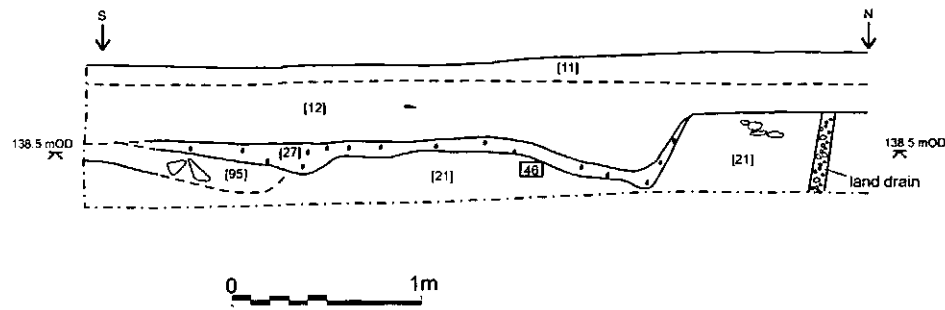
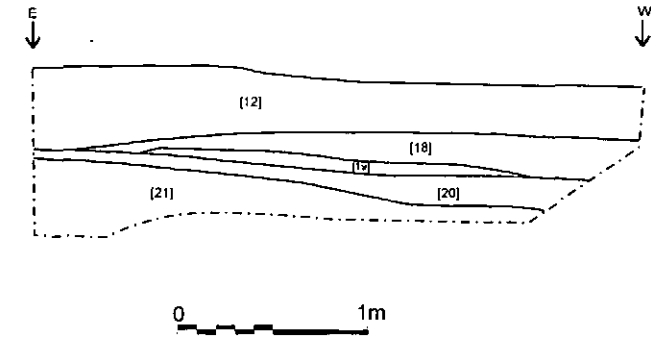


Fig. 21: South-east facing section through [46]

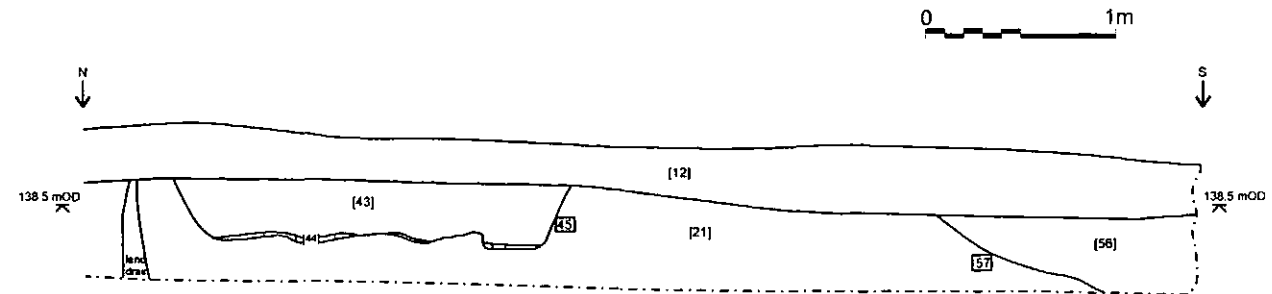


Fig. 22: North-west facing section through cuts 45 and 57

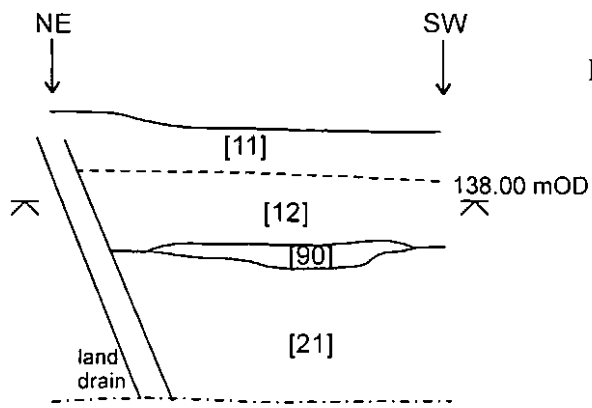


Fig. 23: North-west facing section through [90]

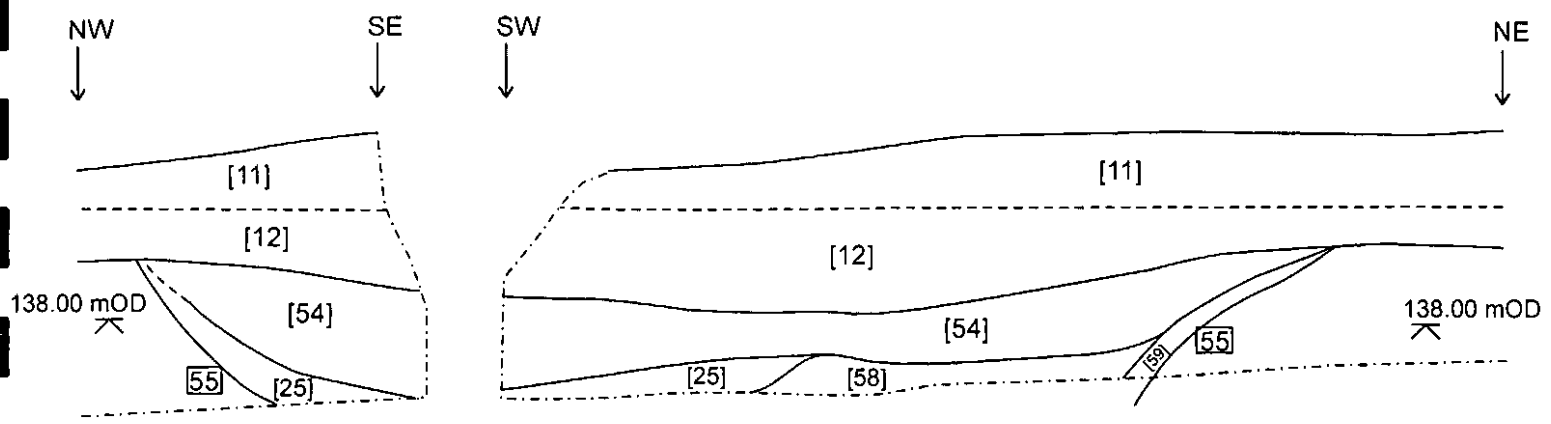
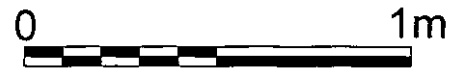


Fig. 24: South-east and south-west facing sections through [55]

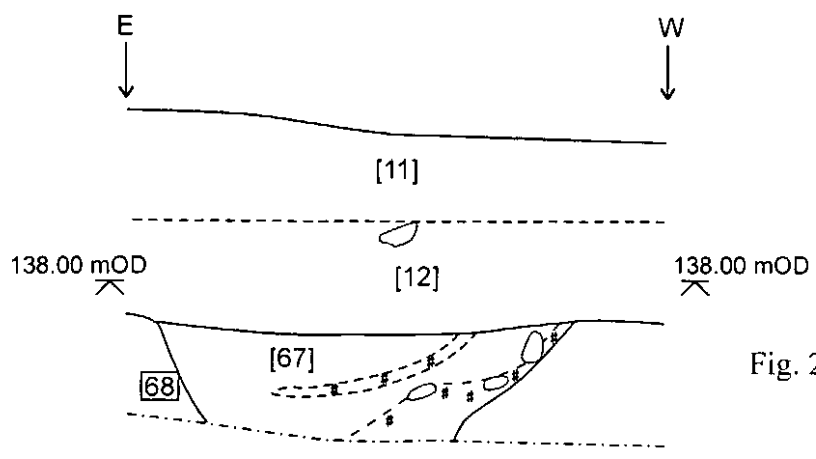
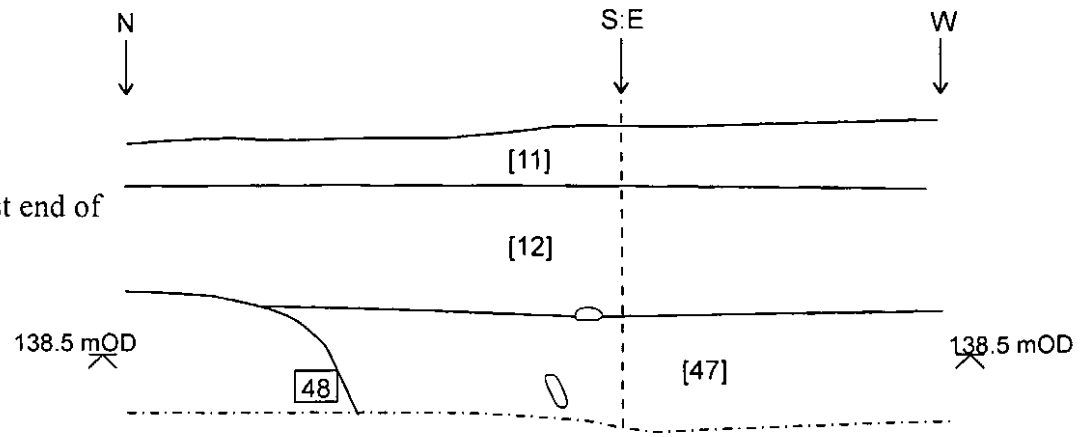


Fig. 25: North facing section through [68]

Fig. 26: Section in corner at east end of ditch [48]





**Appendix I**

## Wall Town Farm, Cleobury Mortimer

### Contexts

Context	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over	Pottery date
1	Series of surfaces laid over farmyard. Includes concrete, tarmac and scalpings.	Farmyard surface	Generally 150mm thick		02, 11, 14	
2	Very dark brown, stony clayey silt. Described during WTFC01A, but also seen in trench through farmyard dug on 24/10/02 for WTFC02A.	General layer	c.360mm thick, becomes thinner to N	4	3	
3	Reddish brown silt. Upper surface fairly level. Described for WTFC01A, but also seen in trench dug in farmyard on 24/10/02.	Initially interpreted as natural, but probably redeposited as deliberate levelling of site, either during destruction of fort or building of farmyard.		05, 10, 12, 16	?	
4	Make-up layer of stones at N end of trench. Overlies and eventually replaces 02.	Make-up layer for farmyard surface	50mm thick.	1	02, 17	
5	Stiff, silty clay. Forms general layer, but also fills upper part of cut 16.	General layer/fill of 16		08, 15, 17	6	
6	Alignment of stones within cut 16. Stones are up to 600 x 450 x 180mm in size. Stones later used as footings for modern wall	Wall foundations		5	16	
7		Fill of 08		11	8	
8	Apparently circular cut. Vertical N side and stepped S side.	Pit	430mm deep, 540mm N-S. The cut projected into the trench for 260mm.	7	05, 12	
9	Mid brown silty clay containing rare flecks of charcoal.	Fill of 10		12	10	
10	Wide ditch. S side sloped at c.45 degrees, N side nearly vertical.	Ditch	8.5m wide, over 600mm deep, not bottomed.	9	3	
11	Dark brown loam.	Top soil in field to north of farmyard.	100mm thick.		7	
12	Reddish brown silty clay. A concentration of large stones was seen within this layer, just beyond the fence, but no cut was seen for them.	General cultivation soil within field north of farmyard.	Varies between 140mm and 500mm in thickness	8	9	AD120-150/200 AD70-110
13						
14	Greyish brown clayey silt containing fragments of a rotted post.	Fill of 15		1	15	

Context	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over	Pottery date
15	Circular, vertical sided posthole.	Modern posthole	300mm diameter, 400mm deep.	14	5	
16	Linear cut, sides nearly vertical.	Cut for wall.	1.4m wide, over 560mm deep.	6	3	
17	Patch of modern bricks filling a rut.			4	5	
18	Mid brownish red silty clay with patches or lenses of red-brown clay and charcoal. Seen in septic tank trench.	General layer	A length of 3m was exposed. Up to 220mm deep.	12	19	
19	Light beige clay with charcoal. Seen in septic tank trench.	General layer	A length of 2m was exposed. Up to 80mm deep.	18	20	prob. C1-2
20	Dark brown silty clay. Very frequent charcoal.	General layer	Seen along a 18m length of trench. Up to 160mm deep.	19	21	AD70-110
21	Firm red-brown clay with some pale greenish mottles. Generally stone free but has occasional rather rotted sandstone pieces in places.	Natural		All		
22	2 large stones seen in base of trench. No cut visible, and seem to be within 21, though presumably there was a cut.	Possible feature.	Stones measured up to 400mm in length.	12	21	
23	Friable mid red brown with concentrations of charcoal and occasional stones. Context allocated during initial cleaning. Further investigation found 2 ditches (71 and 73). Finds labelled as 23 could come from either, but most probably 71.	Fill of 24		12	24	AD70-110 AD117-161
24	Double numbered, same feature as 71.	Ditch				
25	Brown silty clay with c.20% charcoal lumps and dust. Only very occasional small stones. Produced numerous sherds of pot.	Fill of 55. Possible occupation/rubbish deposit.	c.80mm thick	54	58	AD70-110
26	Deposit recorded during initial cleaning. Closer inspection showed 2 features with charcoal deposits in. Finds marked 26 could be from either.	26 equals 44 and/or 56				Roman
27	Fairly friable brown silty clay with 20% charcoal and occasional patches of burnt clay. V few stones. Becomes indistinct at S end.	Possible occupation deposit	Up to 160mm thick.	12	46	AD117-161
28	Brown gritty silt containing pieces of charcoal, and c.80% fragments of burnt clay. The burnt clay is red and orange and friable. It contains air pockets and plant impressions.	Dump of burnt daub or pieces of oven or kiln.	>1m long, >460mm wide, 120mm thick	97	29	
29	Grey-brown clayey silt containing large pieces of wood charcoal up to 50mm in length.	Deposit of charcoal dumped from burning event. No evidence of in situ burning	>0.5m long, >0.46m wide, c.20mm thick.	28	94	

Context	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over	Pottery date
30	Double numbered. Equals upper part of 67					AD70-110
31	Double numbered. Equals lower part of 67					Roman
32	Double numbered. Equals 68					
33	Brown silty clay with patches and lenses of charcoal. Contains some stones and a considerable quantity of tile.	Fill of 34		1	34	C1-3
34	Fairly steep sided ditch, bottom not exposed. S side slopes at angle of c.45 degrees, N side nearly vertical. Upper part of S side is unclear, but it must cut 97 as N side continues right up to concrete and tile and stones in fill continue up to the concrete close to the S side. In the E section some of the fill collapsed revealing the edge turning sharply. The edge here is near vertical. It appears that the feature ends just E of the section.	Large pit or ditch	2.6m wide, over 0.8m deep.	33	97	
35	Structure made of sandstone blocks and slabs. The slabs were originally laid horizontally, but several have slumped. They seem to rest on smaller stones beneath. The row of slabs and blocks seem to form the capping of a drain.	Stone drain. As Roman features are cut from immediately under the concrete it is impossible to be sure if it is Roman or medieval, though the similarity of the drain fill [111] to the general Roman layer [36] suggests that the drain is Roman.	>5m long, >260mm deep.	111	109	
36	Dark grey silty clay. Loosely compacted. Contains flecks of charcoal, ceramic building material and some patches of stone.	General cultivation soil of a Roman date.	Up to 0.5m thick.	40, 127, 134, 138	130, 136	AD70-110 AD117-161
37	The same as [36] but particularly rich in pottery. Located at S end of trench.	The higher density of pottery may be incidental but it is likely that there was a feature here not recognised when cleaning the section. This area was under a roofed barn and was very dark, so a subtle feature was unlikely to be seen. Cut [40] was also difficult to recognise and contained a quantity of pottery.				AD100-125 AD160-200?
38	Deposit of sandstone, mostly roughly squared, with occasional ashlar blocks. Most stones slope down towards the S. Matrix is similar to [36] but more clayey. The deposit extended into the trench, but not as far as the opposite section. Seems to butt against [139] and to cut through [36]	As not seen in plan this feature is difficult to interpret. It is not coursed like a wall, and could be a dump or collapsed masonry.	8.6m long, over 0.5m deep.	1	36, 139	Roman

Context	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over	Pottery date
39	V similar to [36] but more plastic. Firmer and more compact than [36]. Contains Samian sherds. Also lots of flattish stones and ceramic building material.	Fill of [40]		1	40	AD100-120
40	Cut, very difficult to identify. Appears to have gently sloping N side and steeper S side. Not bottomed.	Pit?	1.7m wide at top, 0.5m wide near base. 340mm deep.	39	36	
41	Mid grey clayey silt with frequent charcoal. Underlies slabs 131. Slumps into edge of cut [143].	Charcoal layer	100mm thick.	131	133, 143	Roman
42	Dark brown clayey silt similar to [111] but containing more stone and lenses of mortar fragments.	Disturbed layer	180mm thick.	1	111	
43	Moderately compact mid brown silty clay with small patches of red clay and occasional flecks of charcoal.	Fill of 45	Up to 320mm thick	12	44	
44	Dark brown silty clay with 20% charcoal flecks and flecks of burnt clay. Max. depth 35mm, irregular and peters out in places.	Primary fill of feature 45, consisting largely of fire debris.	30mm thick.	43	45	
45	Runs across trench E-W. Seen only in section. Truncated at top by [12]. Steep sides with sharp break of slope to base which is undulating.	Pit or ditch	1.8m wide, 340mm deep.	44	21	
46	Cut with steep N edge, irregular, undulating base, and no clear S edge. S end may have been disturbed by [48].	Shallow cut feature, house floor??	2.9m long, 0.4m deep	27	95	
47	Brown, malleable silty clay containing very few stones and occasional charcoal flecks. Fairly soft with slightly compacted crumb structure. Worm mixed cultivation soil.	Fill of 48		12	48	Roman
48	Linear cut running along most of S drainage trench. Visible along all S section, and profile seen in E section, showing steep N edge. Cut [57] may also be part of same feature. If this is so the cut is considerably over 2.2m wide.	Large ditch	>12m long. The depth is unknown, but over 0.4m.	47	54, 27?	
49	Mid brown crumbly clay, clean with no inclusions	Fill of [50]		12	50	
50	Steep sided, shallow bottomed cut. Appears to have cut layer [53].	Land drain or ditch	240mm wide, 360mm deep.	49	53	
51	Mid brown crumbly clay with around 60% charcoal. Sandstone slab slopes steeply down into fill. Fill is indistinguishable from layer [53]	Fill of 52		53	52	
52	Cut, N side has shallower incline than S side, the bottom is concave.	Narrow linear feature	600mm wide, 360mm deep	51	21	

Context	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over	Pottery date
53	Thin layer (200mm max.) of mid brown silt with 60% charcoal. Present along N drainage trench. Charcoal content decreases towards the W.	General burnt layer	Up to 200mm thick.	50, 73, 92	51, 77, 86	C1-2+
54	Red-brown silty clay, rather dirty, redeposited natural. Few inclusions.	Fill of 55	Up to 280mm thick.	84	25	
55	Steep sided cut, possibly roughly circular, but hard to tell. Upper fills seem to be cut away by ditch [48].	Large pit	c.2m x >2.75m, >400mm deep.	59	21	
56	Mid brown loosely compacted clay silt, virtually identical to [12]. Includes patches of red clay and burnt clay, and charcoal flecks.	Fill of 57		12	57	
57	Only small area seen in plan. Orientation uncertain as base and top of sides differ in orientation. Sides slope gradually, base not seen.	Pit or ditch, possibly part of 48.	c.1.4m wide, 400mm deep	56	21	
58	Grey silty clay mottled with red clay. Contains occasional charcoal. Sediment v fine, seems to be result of waterborne silting.	Fill of 55	>100mm thick.	25	59	
59	Brown silty clay with c.25% charcoal. V similar to [25].	Lowest fill of 55	60mm thick.	58	55	
60	Mid brown clay with c.60% charcoal fragments.	Fill of 61		12	61	AD70-85
61	Roughly circular feature, only half seen. Steep sided, base not seen.	Pit	1m x >0.6m, >400mm deep.	60	21	
62	Reddish brown clay silt, moderately compacted. Moderate inclusions of charcoal and small angular stones.	Fill of 63		76	63	AD117-161
63	Linear feature running E-W or NW-SE. Sides slope shallowly, but not excavated, so base is unclear. c.0.85m wide.	Ditch	0.84m wide, 0.5m deep.	62, 69	21	
64	Moderate-well compacted, friable reddish brown clayey silt with moderate inclusions of charcoal	Fill of 65		12	65	AD117-161 AD100-125
65	E-W linear 0.35m wide and up to 0.38m deep, to top of truncation by [12]. S side vertical, N side mainly vertical but lower part slopes at 45 degrees. Base flat.	Beam slot or flat bottomed ditch.	>1.2m long, 300mm wide, 400mm deep.	64	21	

Context	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over	Pottery date
66	Firm clayey silt, well compacted. Pale grey-brown, with hint of yellow. Similar to [12], but more compact and paler. Mottled and patchy colour, with occasional flecks of charcoal and occasional pieces of sandstone. Limits uncertain, visible in NW end of soakaway, but possibly present over much of site, but too mixed to be recognised.	Possible preserved Roman soil horizon.		12	21	C2
67	Brown silty clay, fairly malleable. Contains lenses of charcoal, fragments of burnt clay and patches of red clay. c.5% small sandstones.	Fill of 68, repeated dumping of burnt material.	>300mm deep.	12	68	
68	Steep sided cut, not bottomed. Impossible to say if it is a pit or ditch, but does not extend across full width of trench, seems to have rounded end.	Possible pit.	1.06m wide, >300mm deep.	67	21	
69	Mod.-well compacted plastic slightly silty clay with moderate inclusions of charcoal and small stones.	Lense in 62				
70	Brown silty clay, slightly gritty with c.10% charcoal. Generally few stones but groups of sandstones dumped in base of cut. Contains occasional fragments of burnt clay and considerable quantities of pot.	Fill of 71		85	71	C2
71	Linear cut with fairly gently sloping sides and rounded base. Runs NW-SE, cutting through [73].	Ditch	c.0.8m wide, >2.8m long, c.300mm deep.	70	72	
72	Slightly gritty brown silty clay containing occasional pieces of sandstone and c.5% charcoal fragments and occasional pieces of pot.	Fill of 73	240mm deep.	71	73	late C1-C2?
73	Steep sided, round bottomed cut. Presumably linear, but cut away by [71] so plan is unclear.	Ditch	c.1m wide, 240mm deep.	72	53	
74	Red clay, well compacted, 50mm thick over all of 75 where seen in section.	Fill of 76, possible capping.	60mm thick.	12	75	
75	Clean, loose grey silt. Occasional fragments of ceramic building material.	Main fill of 76	300mm deep	74	76	
76	Linear, V-shaped feature, 0.15-0.2m wide at top. Sides regular and steep.	Drain or gully	>800mm long, 200mm wide, 360mm deep.	75	62	
77	Mid brown with charcoal flecks, very similar to [53]. Contains some tile	Fill of 78		53	78	
78	Steep sided concave bottomed cut.	Posthole?	150mm deep, 150mm wide.	77	21	
79	Mid brown clay with a charcoal content. Near the bottom of the fill was a lot of Roman pottery.	Fill of 80		53	80	AD120-160

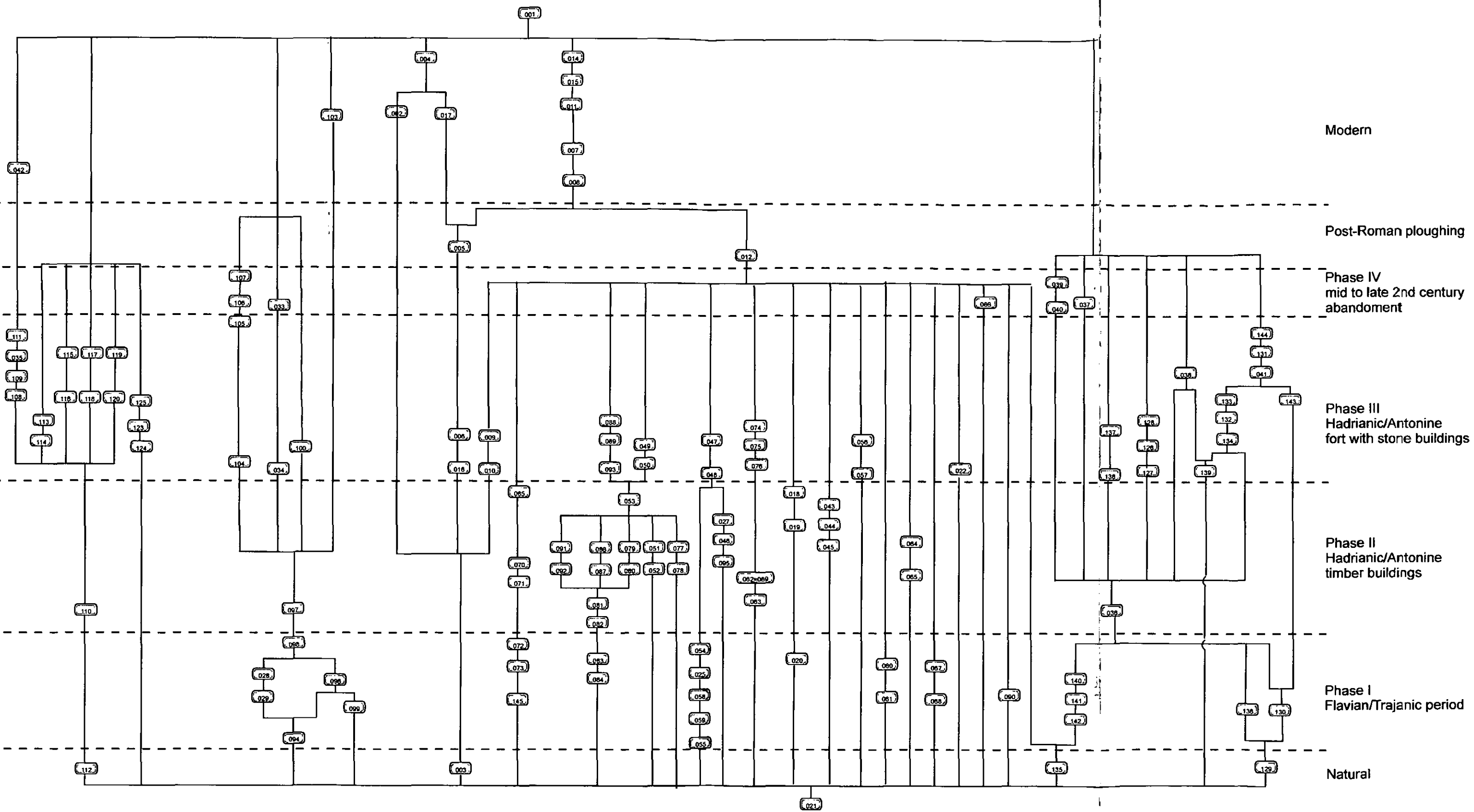
Context	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over	Pottery date
80	Near vertical sided cut with flat base.	Gully	At the top the cut is 250mm wide, and 140mm wide at base. 380mm deep.	79	81	
81	Friable pinky clay, not as pink as the natural.	Fill of 82		80, 87	82	
82	Steep sided cut, probably linear	Gully/ditch?	>300mm deep	81	83	
83	Mid brown clay loam with c.20% inclusions of small sub-rounded stones.	Fill of cut 84		82	84	
84	V-shaped cut, 140mm wide at top tapering to point.	Gully?	>600mm long, up to 240mm wide, 160mm deep.	83	21	
85	Brown clayey silt containing occasional small stones and charcoal flecks. Generally fairly homogenous, but does include reddish clayey lumps in places.	General layer over northern central part of soakaway.	>6.5m long, >0.6m wide, up to 240mm thick.	12	70	late C1-early C2
86	Well compacted plastic red clay with moderate charcoal. Towards sides an base there is grey silt and more charcoal flecks.	Fill of 87		53	87	Roman
87	NS linear feature. V steep sides. Top cut by [92]. Edges hard to see in section	Possible beam slot	>800mm long, 440mm wide, 240mm deep.	86	81	
88	Well compacted reddish brown silty clay with moderate charcoal. Lenses of more silty material, with angular stones and flecks of charcoal.	Fill of 89		12	89	AD120-200, perhaps 120-50
89	Plan uncertain. Runs across trench so may be ditch, but sides v straight, more like a pit. In plan the W edge was clear, but N edge more diffuse. Sides difficult to see in section but may be V steep.	Large pit or poss. ditch.	c.1m wide, 440mm deep.	88	93	
90	Brown silty clay with 20-50% charcoal varying along length of deposit. Unlike the other patches of charcoal on site this does not seem to be in a cut. The deposit does not appear in opposite section or to S.	Patch of charcoal rich deposit	c.65m long and 60mm thick.	12	21	
91	Mid brown to grey brown silt with frequent charcoal and patches of charcoal. V similar to 53, and may in fill 92 at same time that 53 was deposited.	Fill of 92		53, 93	92	Roman
92	Pit with sloping side. Only SW part seen. In section it is shown cutting 53	pit	c.800mm wide, 240mm deep.	91	81	
93	Red clay 'capping' above features 87 and 92. Only identified in N section. c.70mm thick, though varies.	layer of redeposited natural	Up to 80mm thick.	89	53, 91	
94	Brown clayey silt with some sand, firm. Contains some flecks of charcoal. Lies beneath 29	Layer		29, 96	?	



Context	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over	Pottery date
107	Dark brown clayey loam containing small stones and some larger sandstone pieces. Also contains charcoal.	Upper fill of 104	c.400mm thick	1	106	C1-2
108	Steep sided cut. Only S side seen. Not bottomed. Cuts 110	Cut for drain 35	>5m long, c.0.8m wide, 0.5m deep	109	110	
109	Dark grey silty clay	Deposit within drain cut 108	c.300mm thick	35	108	
110	Brown silty clay containing occasional stones. Similar in appearance and stratigraphic position to 97, but too large a gap between the two deposits to be sure they are part of same layer.	General layer, probably same as 97	220mm thick	108	112	
111	Dark brown clayey silt with loose crumb structure. Occasional stones and charcoal. Indistinguishable from 36 but occurs within cut 108	Back fill over drain 35	300mm deep	1	35	
112	Red brown silty clay with occasional gravel and charcoal fragments	Redeposited or mixed natural. Probably equals 03	Up to 0.5m thick	110	21	
113	Wall built of sandstone blocks up to 0.3 x 0.2m. Blocks are sub-angular and sub-rounded. Matrix between the stones resembles 112 lower down and 110 higher up, presumably as the sediments have eroded into the wall.	Wall foundation		1	114	
114	Vertical sided cut, sides indistinct. Relationships unclear, but probably cuts 110	Cut for wall foundation 113	Cut 0.7m wide and over 0.5m deep, not bottomed.	113	110	
115	Red brown clay similar to 112 containing sandstone slabs set on edge at an angle. Stones are deliberately not laid flat, and could not form the foundation of a wall, but might function as a rough drain.	Possible stone-filled drain		1	116	
116	Steep, near vertical sided cut with flat base	Cut for stone filled drain	540mm wide, 420mm deep.	115	110	
117	Sandstone slabs set on edge like 115.	Possible stone-filled drain		1	118	
118	Steep sided cut. Runs parallel to 116	Cut for stone filled drain	580mm wide, 360mm deep	117	110	
119	Sandstone slabs set on edge like 115.	Possible stone-filled drain		?	120	
120	Steep sided cut. Runs parallel to 116. S half cut away by pipe trench	Cut for stone filled drain	>360mm wide, 360mm deep.	119	110	
121	Brown clay, few inclusions	Fill of 122. Visible in base of trench so unsure about overlying deposits		?	122	
122	Circular pit. Not excavated or seen in section.	Circular pit	c.0.6m diameter. Depth unknown.	121	?	

Context	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over	Pottery date
123	Possible wall foundations of sandstone block. Blocks mostly set with base horizontal but no clear coursing or other patterning. No recognisable face. Matrix is pink clay like the natural.	Rather random, jumbled positioning of stones suggests base of foundations rather than coursed wall.		1	124	
124	Presumed cut for wall foundations 123. Edge of cut impossible to see but foundations must cut natural. Soft malleable natural clay means the stones can sink a long way into the clay beyond the edge of any formal cut	Cut for wall	c.1.4m wide, 400mm deep.	123	21	
125	Deposit of sandstone slabs most resting on edge at an angle embedded in or surrounded by pink clay.	Possibly tumble from wall 123 or dump of stone	>2m long, 400mm thick.	1	123	
126	Mottled red brown and grey silty clay with few stones except at base of cut. At top of deposit it becomes more grey and towards base it is mixed red and grey.	Fill of 127	340mm deep	128	127	
127	Cut with N side near vertical and S side c.45 degrees. Not quite bottomed in trench.	Cut. Impossible to tell if it is a pit or a ditch	1m wide, >360mm deep.	126	36	
128	Line of 3 rounded cobbles, (stones c.100mm in length) in top of cut 127.	Could be part of pit fill or possibly remnant of cobbled surface	240mm long, 40mm deep.	1	126	
129	Red brown clay with occasional charcoal. Too mixed and dirty to be natural. Probably same as 112	Disturbed or redeposited natural	>200mm deep.	130, 136	?	
130	Brown silty clay containing c.70% stones.	Stony layer.	2.34m long. Up to 220mm thick.	36	129, 131	
131	Large flat sandstone slabs up to 0.65m in length and 0.06m thick. 2 slabs are laid on top of each other and one seems to have slipped off the top of the pile.	Possible flagged surface or wall base	0.9m wide, 100mm deep.	130	41	
132	Sandstone wall with red brown clay matrix. Largest stone (320 x 320mm) is on S side and seems to form a face. Stones become small towards N but remain roughly coursed. 4 small stones seem to form fairly straight N face.	Wall	c.2m wide, >400mm deep.	133	134	
133	Red brown clay indistinguishable from 129, but within cut 134	Backfill of foundation cut	300mm wide, >140mm deep.	41	132	
134	Steep cut edge seen N of wall 132. Almost impossible to see but S edge assumed to be just S of wall. It is impossible to tell whether 36 built up against wall 132 or whether 134 cut it., but latter seems most likely. Relationship to 139 also unsure.	Foundation trench for wall	2.3m wide, >400mm deep	132	36, 135, 139	
135	Red brown clay with c.10% silt. V plastic. Colour varies between red-brown and grey brown with some mottling. Moderate charcoal flecking. Few other inclusions.	Probably continuation of layer 129	>260mm deep	134	?	

Context	Description	Interpretation	Measurements	Under	Over	Pottery date
136	Small, thin, stony patch. Composed of pebbles and some sandstone pieces in dark grey clay.	Stony patch	1.2m long and c.0.04m thick.	36	129	
137	Fill indistinguishable from 36	Fill of 138		1	138	
138	Small cut presumed to be circular though only half projects into trench. Cuts 129, but can't tell if cuts 36	Small pit	Diameter 0.32m.	137	36?	
139	Wall constructed of large ashlar sandstone blocks. Face of wall visible in W section and did not continue across trench. Small stones provide wedges between large blocks. Fairly neatly coursed. N side jagged and may be cut by 134. Base not excavated. S edge seems to be genuine corner.	Well built, high status wall	1.54m long, 0.5m deep.	38, 134	?	
140	Pink redeposited natural	Fill of 142	>100mm thick.	36	141	
141	Thin charcoal layer lining cut 142	Primary fill of 142	c.20mm thick.	140	142	
142	Cut difficult to define. Extended at least half way across trench. Gently sloping N side. S side not recognised.	Cut	>0.7m wide, >100mm deep.	141	129	
143	Cut with steep N side, rather more gently sloping S side. Concrete stantion has destroyed relationship with 130, but seems likely that 143 cut 130	Possible ditch. May align with 34, but difficult to prove it is same ditch	c.1.4m wide, over 0.2m deep, not bottomed.	41	130	
144	Dark grey silt containing c.20% stones. Also lenses of red clay.	Fill of 143	>200mm deep.		41, 131	
145	Red-brown clay containing numerous charcoal flecks. Initially included in [53], but seems to be more clayey and contains much less charcoal than [53].	Disturbed natural. Animal burrowing has probably resulted in the introduction of charcoal and silt to the natural clay.	c.400mm thick	73, 53	21	



Modern

Post-Roman ploughing

Phase IV  
mid to late 2nd century  
abandonment

Phase III  
Hadrianic/Antonine  
fort with stone buildings

Phase II  
Hadrianic/Antonine  
timber buildings

Phase I  
Flavian/Trajanic period

Natural

**Appendix III**  
**Pottery from Wall Town Farm, Cleobury Mortimer (WTFC02A)**  
 Jeremy Evans (13 February 2003)

Some 281 sherds of Roman pottery were presented for examination from the site (6.130kg). Although some sherds were worn the average sherd size was quite large, at 21.8g. The pottery has been coded into general ware classes following the system used by the Warwickshire Museum and the Oxford Archaeology Unit, using the classes and codes from the Warwickshire Museum County Fabric Type-Series.

**Date**

Dating evidence for individual contexts is listed in Appendix 1 below. The assemblage as a whole, and that excavated previously (Evans 2001a), gives the opportunity to assess the dating of the fort as a whole.

Overall some 36 samian vessels have been recovered recently from the site. These are tabulated in Table 001.

Table 001 Samian ware from Cleobury Mortimer (by minimum numbers of vessels).

Form	SG	MDV	CGS	EG	N
Decorated					
29	1	0	0	0	1
30	1	0	0	0	1
37	5	3	1	0	9
67	1	0	0	0	1
Plain -dishes					
15/17	1	0	0	0	1
15/17R or 18	1	0	0	0	1
18	6	0	0	0	6
18/18R	2	0	0	0	2
18/31	2	1	1	0	4
36	0	0	1	0	1
Plain - bowls					
31	0	0	1	0	1
31R	0	0	1	0	1
38?	0	0	2	0	2
Plain - cups					

27	3	0	0	0	3
Indet	5	0	0	0	5
N	28 - 72%	4 - 10%	7 - 18%	0	39

What is very noticeable is the very high level of South Gaulish samian ware, 72%, and a high level for Les Martres, 10%, in relation to the national background, but a very low level of Central Gaulish material, at 18%, and a complete absence of East Gaulish material, not necessarily significant at this westerly location and in assemblage of this size. This must suggest much more intense occupation here in the Flavian-Trajanic period, than later, and it might be questioned if there was any military occupation here after the early Hadrianic period.

Of the samian recovered by Walker (1968) two samian sherds in twenty two were of Neronian-early Flavian date, none so early were recovered in the present collection, however, the total collection is small and the question of whether there was a late Neronian foundation to the fort remains open.

As with the Walker excavations evidence of later Roman activity was very limited, there were a few sherds suggesting some continuing post-fort activity on the site, but probably at a pretty low level, or else, like many rural sites in the county, at a low level of ceramic use.

### **Fabric supply**

Table 001 shows the fabric proportions in the assemblage as a whole. Amphorae are poorly represented at 0.4% by count and 3.7% by weight, the sole sherd being a Dressel 20 oil amphora rimsherd. (A Dressel 20 amphora stopper is also present.) The weak representation of amphorae here is surprising. One of the strongest characteristics of 1st-3rd century military assemblages is usually a very high representation of amphorae (Evans 2001b, fig 11). The assemblage is rather small, but amphorae were also absent from the previous group recovered here (Evans 2001a), and it might possibly be that the lack of amphorae is a real trend reflecting the isolation of this fort.

BB1 is also poorly represented, at 3.2% by count, especially given that much of the assemblage is of 2<sup>nd</sup> century date, at which period it was commonest at Worcester (Evans in prep). The low levels here reflect those at Worcester, where it was commoner than here in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, but still much less so than at Alcester, and confirm the lack of BB1 in the upper Severn Valley mapped by Allen and Fulford (1996).

Malvernian Metamorphic Tempered ware (G44) is quite strongly represented on the site at 6.7%, a similar level to sites in the Worcester area, and quite a lot commoner than at Alcester, although the latter is of a similar distance from the kiln site. All the forms represented are barrel jars and tubby cooking pots.

The single other sherd in the Gritted Ware class is a jar rimsherd, with organic and quartz tempering, which would appear to be of Iron Age tradition, and presumably local manufacture.

Table 002 Fabric proportions from Wall Town Farm

Fabric	% Nosh	% Wt	% MV	% RE	% BE
A01	0.4	3.7	2.5	5.7	0
B01	3.2	3.2	12.5	8.9	0
G00	0.4	0.5	2.5	1.6	0
G44	6.7	3.8	10.0	7.7	0
M00	1.1	2.4	5.0	3.4	0
M22	1.1	7.2	2.5	8.5	0
M45	0.4	2.8	2.5	3.8	0
O00	9.5	5.6	5.0	7.7	9.2
O20	39.6	47.9	22.5	40.8	41.3
Q00	0.4	0.6	0	0	0
R00	12.7	5.7	5.0	4.2	0
S10	1.4	0.5	2.5	1.2	0
S20	4.2	6.2	10.0	5.9	30.7
S21	0.4	0.2	2.5	1.4	0
W00	18.0	9.7	15.0	12.7	18.8
Z30	0.7	0.3	0	0	0
n	283	6.149kg	40 rims	495%	489%

Mortaria are represented by a number of whiteware and oxidised fabrics. A Severn Valley fabric M45 is represented, but other sherds seem likely to be of fairly local origin, especially the sandy whiteware mortarium flange, which like the whitewares from this site, seems likely to come from a fairly local source, probably using Coal Measures clays. (The white daub on the site probably comes from a similar source.)

A Mancetter mortarium (M22) is found on the site, but the fabric is not apparently dominant here, although it is at a similar distance to the kiln site as Alcester (Booth 1994) which is dominated by Mancetter products at this date. Other oxidised wares are quite strongly represented at 9.5%, generally quite sandy fabrics, and probably of local origin, forms include a reeded rimmed carinated bowl, suggesting perhaps local military production, given the predominantly military distribution of this type. Severn Valley wares are a major component of the assemblage at 39.6%. Forms include three constricted necked jars, a jar, three wide-mouthed jars, a bowl and a dish, as discussed below the absence of tankards may be significant. The fabrics seem to mainly fall in the ranges of Warwickshire Museum fabrics O23/O231 and O36.

Reduced wares are a fairly minor component of the assemblage at 12.7%, as is usual in the lower Severn Valley, forms represented chiefly being rustic wares (generally military associated) and BB copy jars.

Samian wares are not very strongly represented at 6.0% of the assemblage. This figure fits within the urban range, but most military sites have higher levels (Willis 1998). Five of the eleven samian vessels identified to type are decorated, 45%, and in the overall assemblage recovered from the site, the figure is still 35%. These figures are high, but military sites do usually have high levels of decorated samian ware, and military associated sites in the north-west, which this site could group with, seem to have particularly high levels.

Whitewares are remarkably strongly represented at 18.0%. These fabrics are usual on military sites in the 1st and 2nd centuries, but not usually in this quantity. The sand tempered fabric of these at Wall Town Farm seems likely to be of local origin, and as noted above it seems quite likely that these may originate in Coal Measures clays. Forms represented in this fabric include four jars and a bowl, this is also unusual, whitewares normally comprising mainly flagons and a few bowls. It is also unusual that 15 of the 51 whiteware sherds show evidence of sooting or burning, and this and the presence of so many jar forms might suggest these coarse whitewares were being used as a cooking ware fabric.

### Functional analysis

Table 002 shows the functional analysis of the assemblage. Jar levels are fairly high for a military site at 40.0% (although, surprisingly, a lower 33.8% by RE), although tableware levels (dishes and bowls) are also fairly high, as might be expected on an urban or military site. Surprisingly no drinking vessels are represented in the assemblage and the lack of Severn Valley ware tankards is notable.

Table 002 Functional analysis of the Wall Town Farm assemblage (by minimum numbers of rims and RE)

Constricted-necked jars	Jars	Wide-mouthed jars	Cups, Beakers tankards	Bowls	Dishes	Mortaria	Lids	Amphorae	n
7.5%	32.5%	7.5%	0	17.5%	20.0%	10.0%	2.5%	2.5%	40 rims
15.8%	29.5%	4.4%	0	16.2%	8.7%	15.8%	1.0%	5.7%	495%

In the core area of Severn Valley ware distribution tankards are common on all types of site and drinking vessels are strongly represented on urban and rural sites (Evans 2001; Evans 1999). The lack of tankards here must suggest that it was beyond the core zone of Severn Valley ware use, as the general lack of Roman pottery from rural sites in Shropshire also does, and that Severn Valley wares were used differently here from in the core zone.



Mortaria are also rather strongly represented in the assemblage, on both measures. The interpretation of this is unclear. Mortaria are generally quite well represented in military assemblages, but levels above 5-6% are unusual.

## **Discussion**

The excavations in the early 1960s established (Walker 1968) that the fort was occupied in the Flavian-Trajanic and Hadrianic-early Antonine periods, although with two samian sherds in twenty two of Neronian-early Flavian date, a late Neronian foundation would not be impossible.

The pottery from the present site basically confirms the evidence presented by Walker (1968). However the overall site samian list suggest most activity was Flavian-Trajanic, and Hadrianic-Antonine activity was of a much lower intensity, if it was military. Again there are a few later Roman sherds, suggesting some continuing post-fort activity on the site, but probably at a pretty low level, or else, like many rural sites in the county, at a low level of ceramic use.

Most of the pottery comes from the area of the annexe/earlier fort, with only 23 sherds from the fort interior, a group too small to enable useful comparisons. However, there are 98 sherds from the ditch to the south of the fort, including a BB1 flange rimmed dish with intersecting arc decoration which should date *c*AD 180-200, and a wide mouthed jar in Severn Valley ware, which may well be of later 3rd century date or later, although this is not completely certain. This evidence is consistent with that reported by Walker (1968, 17) who suggested post-fort occupation continued on the south side.

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## **The Roman tile**

Some thirty-three fragments of Roman tile were recovered from the site. These are basically catalogued below. All are tegulae or imbrices, with no floor or box flue tiles, indicating that they were only used in roofing.

### **Context 12**

An eroded tile fragment. Wt 135g

### **Context 23**

Two eroded, buff, tile fragments. Wt 400

### **Context 33**

A large tegula fragment with a dog paw-print. Wt 1035g

An imbrex fragment, exterior heavily sooted. Wt 970g

An eroded tegula fragment. Wt 1070g

An imbrex fragment, interior sooted. Wt 425g

A burnt tile fragment. Wt 100g

### **Context 36**

A tegula flange fragment. Wt 300g

### **Context 37**

Three tile fragments, one very thin. Wt 125g

### **Context 64**

A buff tile fragment. Wt 40g

### **Context 70**

An eroded tile fragment. Wt 20g

An eroded imbrex fragment. Wt 90g

An eroded tile fragment, probably tegula, Wt 250g

### **Context 102**

A tegula end fragment with cutaway. Wt 405g

Much of an imbrex. Wt 1350g

A tegula fragment with cutaway. Wt 835g

A tegula fragment. Wt 470g

A tegula fragment with cutaway. Wt 1105g

A buff tegula fragment. Wt 950g

A large tegula fragment. Wt 1650g

A large tegula fragment with paw prints and cutaway. Wt 2810g  
A tegula fragment with cutaway. Wt 2000g  
A tile fragment. Wt 135g  
A tegula fragment. Wt 1250g  
A tegula fragment. Wt 1015g  
A tegula fragment. Wt 925g  
A tegula fragment. Wt 1585g  
A tegula fragment. Wt 1300g  
A buff tegula fragment. Wt 1045g  
A tegula fragment. Wt 1435g

## Appendix 1 - Spot Dating

Context U/S

AD 120-200

Context 12

C18-19, Roman = **AD 120-150/200**, samian SG Dr 18/18R, AD 70-110

Context 19

Roman, **probably C1-2**

Context 20

LC1-E/MC2, samian Dr 27, SG, **AD 70-100**

Context 23

**Had-Ant?** Samian, cup or bowl scrap, SG, AD 70-110

Context 25

Coarse pot perhaps LC1-EC2, Dr 18, SG, **AD 70-110**

Context 26

**Roman**

Context 27

**Had-Ant??**

Context 30

LC1-EC2 perhaps, samian SG, Dr 30, AD 70-110, so **Flavian-Trajanic**

Context 31

**Roman**

Context 33

**C1-3**

Context 36

**Had-Ant, could be LC2+ Samian indet, SG scrap, AD 70-110**

Context 37

**AD 160-200?** Samian, Dr 37, Les Martres, AD 100-125

Context 38

**Roman**

Context 39

AD 100-20?? Samian Dr 18/31, Les Martres, **AD 100-120**

Context 41

**Roman**

Context 47

**Roman**

Context 53

**C1-2+**

Context 60

LC1-EC2?, Samian, Dr 37, SG, **AD 70-85**

Context 62

Had-Ant

Context 64

Had-Ant, samian, Dr 37, Les Martres, AD 100-125, **perhaps Had.**

Context 66

**C2, perhaps M-LC2**

Context 70

**C2, possibly M-LC2**

Context 72

**LC1-C2?**

Context 79

**AD 120-60, perhaps Hadrianic**

Context 85

**LC1-EC2?**

Context 86

**Roman**

Context 88

**AD 120-200, perhaps AD 120-50**

Context 91

**Roman**

Context 101

**AD 180+, perhaps LC3+, samian Dr 31, CGS, AD 140-90**

Context 102

LC1-MC2

Context 107

C1-2, possibly Hadrianic-Antonine

U/S samian

Dr 37, footring, SG, AD 70-110.

Indet, SG, AD 70-110.

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SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	
COMPLAINTS & CUSTOMER SERVICES	
RECEIVED	
ACKNOWLEDGED	
DATE	

Dear Penny,

Please find enclosed a copies of recent Marches Archaeology reports, as follows:

Wall Town Farm, Cleobury Mortimer  
Cound Hall, Cound  
New Pumping Station, Frankwell Flood Alleviation Scheme, Shrewsbury  
St Peter's Church, Stanton Lacy  
St Mary's, Water Lane, Shrewsbury  
Old Regal Cinema, Oswestry

Copies have also been sent to the relevant Archaeological Officer.

Yours sincerely,

  
Sarah Jameson  
for Marches Archaeology