

**An Archaeological Watching Brief on
Construction of New Playing Fields
at
The Kings of Wessex School
Cheddar**

CS99

Carried out for Somerset Property Services

by
Charles and Nancy Hollinrake,
Consultant Archaeologists,
12 Bove Town,
Glastonbury,
Somerset BA6 8JE

telephone: 01458 833332

Report number 179

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Kings of Wessex School, Cheddar

Table of Contents

page	para	contents
1		Summary
1	1	Introduction
3	2	Background
8	3	Methods
8	4	Observations
15	5	Finds
16	6	Discussion
19		Acknowledgements
		Bibliography

Appendix - Scheduling Document

Finds Table

Figures

- 1 Location - showing Scheduled Areas and watching brief area
- 2 Watching Brief - Site and Findspots
- 3 Detailed plan of figure 2
- 4A Section through F1
- 4B Sketch plan of the stone building on the river bank
- 5 Sketch plan of the railway bridge
- 6 Interpretive plan with the main archaeological features
- 7 1839 Tithe Map

<p>An Archaeological Watching Brief undertaken during construction of new playing fields at the Kings of Wessex School, Cheddar</p>

SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief undertaken during construction of new playing fields and service trenches south of the main school block recovered relatively large amounts of Romano-British coins and large quantities of lead scrap. Romano-British pottery was also recovered. A brief discussion of all the evidence relating to the site suggests that this might be the location of a small Romano-British port and associated settlement.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 After the discovery of a large Romano-British building on the site of new classrooms immediately south of the main school block during an archaeological watching brief¹, a planning application (**Sedgemoor District Council application number 1/17/98/056**) for the creation of new playing fields to the south of the school was made the subject of an archaeological programme of works (see figure 1).

Part of the construction programme entailed the demolition of the redundant 19th century railway embankment which crossed the site and demolition of the railway bridge.

1.2 The brief for the archaeological programme of works, designed by the Somerset County Council Senior Field Archaeologist Mr. R.A. Croft, specified the presence of an archaeologist whenever the ground was broken. Special attention was drawn to the existing hedged boundary running diagonally across the site which is believed to perpetuate the boundary of either the Saxon royal complex or of the minster estate.²

¹ Broomhead, 1999.

² "A map of 1772 preserved in the archives of Longleat House indicates the boundary to be in existence at this date and to form the division between lands belonging to Walter Long Esq. and the then Lord Weymouth, Marquis of Bath. The lands of Walter

There was also a requirement to record the railway bridge on the site prior to its demolition.

1.3 The archaeological watching brief was carried out by Keith Faxon, with contributions from Stuart Prior and Charles Hollinrake, on behalf of C. & N. Hollinrake, archaeological consultants, who were commissioned to carry out the archaeological works by Somerset Property Services, between 20th July and 25th October 1999.

1.4 During the period when this archaeological watching brief was being undertaken, a further construction project was being undertaken on the eastern side of the site by Prowting Homes South West. This project was also subject to a programme of archaeological works, undertaken by The Trust for Wessex Archaeology.

1.5 After the discovery of the Romano-British building during the earlier watching brief, a geophysical survey of the proposed playing fields area was commissioned by Somerset County Council; this was undertaken by Stratascan in March 1999. Several areas of anomalies were detected which were of uncertain derivation; in normal circumstances they would have been interpreted as natural outcrops of gravels, but in an area of such high archaeological potential it was felt that they might represent spreads of paving or cobbling.³

1.6 In conjunction with the main watching brief on the playing fields, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken when new service trenches for electricity ducting from the main school block to new classrooms.

Long comprised the manor of Cheddar Hannam...forming a discrete estate at the centre of which lay the ruins of the Saxon and early medieval palace complex." Broomhead, 1999, p.3.

³ Barker and Mercer, 1999, p.9.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography, Geology and Soils

The Kings of Wessex school is situated within a block of land formerly attached to Hannam manor house. The position of the manor and school is immediately south of what is assumed to be a planned late-Saxon or early-medieval planned settlement contained within a north-south grid pattern. The main medieval settlement area was to the north-east and east of the modern school.

The parish church and graveyard lies around 200metres south-east of the main school block adjacent to the vicarage.

The new playing field area where this archaeological watching brief took place slopes gently down from the north, where the main school buildings stand at around 10metres above Ordnance Datum, to the south at the River Yeo which flows through alluvial levels at around 6metres.

The national grid reference for the watching brief site centres on ST 4575 5295.

The River Yeo springs at the foot of Cheddar Gorge, approximately 1kilometre north-east of the school, and runs on a course slightly west of south to a point SSE of the church. From this point the river has very obviously been diverted or channelled into a series of long, straight cuts running south-west towards Hythe Bow and beyond. The period at which this channelling occurred is not known.

Geologically, the site lies above deposits of Gravely Head over Keuper marl which supports soils of the Langford Series; neutral to acid, often stoney, brown to grey brown, sandy and loamy soils over gravel Head and/or red marl with mixed riverine clays and gravel alluvium to the west and south⁴. The northern boundary of the site constitutes the southern boundary of the historic settlement of Cheddar, which lies at the foot of the Mendip escarpment below the famous landmark of Cheddar Gorge.

⁴ Findlay, 1965.

2.2 Roman period

There is little evidence for prehistoric activity on this site and the earliest archaeological finds and features generally relate to the Romano-British period. The major element known from the Romano-British period is listed in the Sites and Monuments Register.

Roman Villa (SMR 11441, SAM 344)

Parch marks, visible in 1975 in the vicarage garden, have been interpreted as marking the walls of a Roman villa on this site. Many Roman finds have been found in this area including tesserae, burials and large quantities of ceramics and metal objects. A small rescue excavation adjacent to the villa site took place in 1970 which showed a metalled access to the site and some evidence of 2nd century industrial working (Hurst and Rahtz 1973). A watching brief on the construction of houses adjacent to the vicarage at parson's Penn produced similar results (Hurst and Rahtz 1973). Roman material has also been found at the Kings of Wessex School excavations and evaluations over a wide area suggesting that this was an extensive villa complex (Gater 1990, Hawkes 1991).⁵

2.3 Saxon period

2.3.1 As the Domesday Book of A.D.1086 records⁶, Cheddar was a large and important royal manor incorporating the settlements of Axbridge and Wedmore and the Forest of Mendip.

Lands of the King; entry 1;2

CEDRE. King Edward held it. It has never paid tax, nor is it known how many hides⁷ are there.

Land for 20 ploughs. In lordship 3 ploughs; 2 slaves; 1 freedman;

17 villains⁸ and 20 bordars⁹ with 17 ploughs.

7 people who pay 17s in tribute. In Axbridge 32 burgesses who pay 20s.

2 mills which pay 12s 6d; 3 fisheries which pay 10s; meadow 15 acres; pasture 1 league long and as wide.

6 cattle, 15 pigs, 100 sheep.

It pays £21 2 1/2 d a year at 20 pence to the *ora*.

Woodland 2 leagues long and 1/2 league wide.

Of this manor Bishop Giso holds 1 member, Wedmore, which he held himself from King Edward. William the Sheriff accounts £12 for it in the King's revenue every year.

From this manor 1/2 virgate of land has been taken away which was part of the lordship revenue of King Edward. Robert of Aubervill holds it Value 15d.

These 2 manors of Somerton and Cheddar, with their dependencies, paid *firmum unius noctis* before 1066.

⁵ English Heritage Extensive Urban Survey for Cheddar, draft archaeological survey.

⁶ Thorn, 1980.

⁷ A measure of land, generally reckoned to be about 120 acres, enough to sustain an extended family. Estates without a specified hideage were not liable to be taxed.

⁸ Unfree peasants tied to the estate, but entitled to a small share of the common field.

⁹ Free peasants without entitlement to a share of the common field; they may or may not own small parcels of land but the bulk of their income usually came from labouring.

This is the second entry in Domesday, coming after Somerton, and this position indicates the wealth and importance of the estate. The practice of *firmum unius noctis* involved the collection and storage of food and provisions against the time that the peripatetic king, his household and his retinue visited the estate, making these estates the heartland of the House of Wessex. Domesday illustrates how the Cheddar estate contained everything the royal household required: large expanses of arable (20 ploughlands) and the villains, bordars and slaves to work the farms, meadows, pastures and woodland; a small town of 32 burgesses in Axbridge, probably a port; the Rivers Axe and Yeo for navigation and fishing and the power for milling; and the Forest of Mendip for game and recreation for the court and for minerals, especially lead.

2.3.2 The above estate (and the entire kingdom, when the king was in residence) was administered from the royal complex at Cheddar which will also have regularly accommodated the royal household.

2.3.3 The earliest documentary reference to Cheddar is in the will of King Alfred in c.880 in which he stated that "I beseech the community (*hiwum*) at Cheddar (*Ceodre*) to choose him [his son Edward] on the conditions of which we have already spoken...". This is the earliest indication of another of the key features of the site - the Saxon ecclesiastical community which was recorded as *Cheddarmynster* by Domesday.¹⁰ The site of this minster church has not been identified, but is assumed to be on the site of or in the vicinity of the present parish church.

The church is dedicated to St. Andrew but in the medieval period it contained a chapel to St. Nectan, a pre-Saxon, British saint (like Columbanus, the patron saint of the chapel adjacent to the palace), suggesting that the church might have been founded earlier than the West Saxon conquest of the 7th century. The siting of the church

¹⁰ Blair, 1996, p. 112.

adjacent to the Roman villa [and the river] is unlikely to be accidental and again suggests early origins¹¹. For these reasons the area around the parchmarks and between the churchyard and the river was designated as Scheduled Monument 344.

2.3.4 The site of the Saxon and medieval palaces or royal halls lies north-west of the church/villa complex and the excavations and historical background to the palace halls and buildings is well documented by Philip Rahtz who stated that a royal hall was established by the mid-9th century and that 10th century English kings met their *witan* or council there in AD941, 956 and 968. The various buildings in the complex were rebuilt a number of times and were subsequently used by Kings Henry I and II and by King John after which the site was transferred to Wells Cathedral¹².

Although the excavations of 1960-1962 were concerned with the Saxon and medieval phases of the palace area, Philip Rahtz noted substantial quantities of Romano/British finds and subsequent archaeological works in the area of the palace have recorded Romano/British features without identifying a contemporary settlement¹³.

A recent re-interpretation by Dr. John Blair of the 1960-62 excavations has suggested that the earliest royal halls should be dated to the very end of the 9th century and that the halls were built within older boundaries which had previously enclosed a monastery and/or an important minster. John Blair also draws attention to the layout of the settlement north of the monastic/royal complex and suggests that the grid pattern of two north-south streets linked by four east-west streets is obviously artificial and was planned for a high density settlement. Blair compares the grid pattern with that of Wimborne Minster and ascribes this type of planning to the

¹¹ Rahtz, 1979,p15.

¹² Rahtz, 1979, p.xv.

¹³ Blair 1997, pp 112-113.

formation of a lay settlement on the periphery of a pre-urban monastic zone¹⁴. The implication is that the layout is pre-Norman, dating to the 9th or 10th centuries.

2.3.5 .Historic map studies (see figure 7)

The only historic map reproduced for this report is the Tithe Map of 1839. This clearly shows the boundaries extant in the mid-19th century and the accompanying apportionment book details land ownership and use as follows:

plot no	name	use	owner	tenant
352	House, Garden and Orchard		Rev. Richard A'Court Beadon (lessee)	himself
356	Church and Churchyard			
357	The Vicarage House, garden and orchard		Rev. Richard A'Court Beadon	
358	The Parsonage Barn and Penning		The Dean and Chapter of Wells Cathedral	
359	The Parsonage House		The Dean and Chapter of Wells Cathedral	
382	Court House, Farm Yard and outbuildings		Walter Long Esq.	
1856	Yeodens	p	Walter Long Esq.	George Ford
1857	At Stoney Stile	p	Walter Long Esq.	George Ford
1858	At Stoney Stile	p	The Marquis of Bath	Henry Star Junr
1860	Garden	g	Walter Long Esq.	George Ford
1861	At Meadyeats	o	The Marquis of Bath	James Keel

From the above it can be seen that there are four main blocks; the first being the parish church and vicarage; the second being the parsonage grounds immediately north of the church; the third being Hannam Manor, owned by Walter Long and comprising the present school ground and the playing fields north and east of the curving boundary; and the fourth portion being the ground south and west of the curving boundary which was owned by the Marquis of Bath.

2.3.6 On December 16, 1999, the scheduling of the two historic areas, that of the school/palace (SM 305) and the area around the church/villa (SM 344) - was reviewed with the result that they were incorporated into a new scheduled area, **SM 29673** (see figure 1). As the main points concerning the site have already been covered, the text of the scheduling document has been included in this report in as an Appendix.

¹⁴Blair, 1997, pp111-112.

3.0 METHODS

3.1 An archaeologist was on site when the ground was disturbed during machine operations involving topsoil stripping; excavations for foundations, service trenches etc.. Finds were bagged either by area or by feature. Finds bags were numbered consecutively and their positions were recorded. Measured sketch plans and notes were taken throughout and the watching brief was also recorded photographically using black and white and colour prints and colour slides.

3.2 Due to the volume of finds recorded in previous archaeological projects in this area, a metal detector was used to sweep newly exposed areas and spoil heaps. The position of all coins and metal objects was recorded.

3.3 All finds were cleaned, sorted, identified, listed and marked with the site code, the bag or feature number and the **Somerset County Museum Accession Number - 62/1999**. Special finds - coins, glass etc. - were assigned a 'small finds number [SF]' and listed and bagged separately. All finds will be deposited in the County Museum, Taunton and the paper and photographic archive including field plans will be deposited in the Somerset Records Office, Obridge Road, Taunton.

3.4 Prior to its demolition, the railway bridge was recorded photographically and a measured sketch drawing was made (see figure 4).

4.0 OBSERVATIONS

4.1 First area stripped

4.1.1 The first area to be stripped was a triangular shaped plot south-west of the railway embankment and to the west of the overhead power lines, extending to the possible Saxon boundary ditch. Generally ca.20 - 30cms of turf and topsoil was removed to expose an orange subsoil. Natural gravels were exposed below the subsoil in some places.

4.1.2 A linear feature (F1) running roughly north-south from the northern corner of this area was uncovered. It was generally 1metre wide and extended for 37metres where it appeared to have been cut by an existing water main. The feature was filled by loose angular and rounded local grey limestone rubble up to 10cms in diameter with occasional red sandstones (?Draycott stone). All of the stones were loosely held within a dark orange subsoil; none were bonded with mortar.

A small section was cut through F1 approximately 16metres north of the existing pipeline. This showed it to be a shallow feature only ca.20cms deep cut into orange subsoil on either side and natural gravels below. A single R/B pottery sherd was found at the base of the stones above the gravels and one R/B pot sherd was found in the subsoil on the eastern side of the feature. A few rounded stones were exposed on the east side of the feature at its southern end but no real evidence of a return could be located. Interpretation of this feature was hampered by the limited extent of the excavation. If this did represent a wall, it was probably of drystone construction, possibly a boundary feature (see figure 4A).

Very few pot sherds were recovered from the exposed surface in this area but the metal detector survey located scraps of lead and a few copper alloy coins, mainly concentrated at the southern end of F1 on its eastern side (see figure 2).

4.2 Second area stripped.

4.2.1 The second area stripped ran east from the overhead power lines (situated between the two SWEB trenches shown on figure 2) to the railway embankment and southwards to the River Yeo. A depth of ca.20-30cms of topsoil was removed from this area. A 16metre wide area was left undisturbed along the line of the overhead power cables which was removed later when the cables removed and ducted underground.

4.2.2 The southern end of this area was very stony and contained 19th and 20th century debris and spreads of scalplings from pipe laying activity. Very clean orange subsoil was exposed in the rest of the area.

4.2.3 The original line of the possible Saxon ditch was exposed in places but could not be fully observed as sections of it were masked by topsoil. There were few pot sherds recovered from this area and no new archaeological features were observed. The metal detector survey located Romano British artefacts at the north and south ends of the area but no structures were seen.

4.3 Removal of 16m wide electricity strip

No new features were observed during the removal of this strip but two medieval silver pennies were found as a result of the metal detector survey.

4.4 Area of railway bridge

4.4.1 The general profile below the redeposited base of the railway embankment for the area below the embankment comprises:

depth	description
c80 to 100cm -	dark brown / red clay with rounded and angular local, grey limestone, up to 20cm in diameter;
below c100cm -	gravels mixed with red sandy clay.

4.4.2 The infill behind the east side of bridge contained significant quantities of Romano-British pottery (see figures 2 and 3).

4.5 SWEB trenches

4.5.1 Two trenches were excavated on either side of the overhead powerlines and parallel with them, approximately 16metres apart (see figure 2) The trench excavated on the west side of the powerlines was cut in error and had to be backfilled and re-excavated on the east side.

4.5.2 The trenches were up to c60cm deep and exposed the following layers:

depth	description
c20 to 30cm	turf and topsoil;
below c30cm	light orange/brown sandy subsoil with many sub-rounded stones 1 to 6cm in diameter.

4.5.3 The north end of the eastern trench cut through a 19th or early-20th century rubbish dump. A few Roman pot sherds were found in the spoil from the northern end of the west trench (dug in error). No features earlier than the 19th century were observed.

4.6 Boundary bank and ditch (assumed to mark a Saxon boundary line)

4.6.1 A section of this hedge and ditch formed a boundary between the two main areas of the site to be stripped. At the NW end it comprised a ditch up to 1metre deep and 4metres wide with a low, spread bank on its northern side up to 2metres wide and ca.30 to 40cms high. The ditch gradually became shallower to the east before running south towards the river. This latter portion was much smaller than the main ditch, being ca.1.4metres wide and 0.6metres deep. This north-south section of the ditch is a late alteration; topsoil stripping exposed the original line of the ditch continuing south-east towards the river where it was bridged by an unusual 3-walled stone structure of unknown function. The structure was of local grey limestone bonded with the hard grey mortar typical of the Victorian period. A small drain in the base of the wall would allow any water in the ditch to enter the interior of the structure.

The former course of this ditch is represented on figure 2. The ditch was eventually backfilled with stones and clay from the embankment.

4.62 The hedge was mainly growing on the north side of the ditch and was removed by machine which then exposed a very dry and crumbly surface full of rounded and angular stones up to 10cms in diameter disturbed by hedge roots. No finds or features were recorded during this operation.

4.6.3 Removal of the hedge bank only exposed a mixture of topsoil and gravels.

4.6.4 Two electricity trenches were cut through the ditch (one in error) but due to their shallowness (0.5m) only recent ditch silts were exposed.

4.7 The railway embankment area

4.7.1 The embankment generally comprised between 0.8m - 1 metre of dark brown/red clay with rounded and angular local grey limestone blocks (up to 20cms in diameter) above an internal core of mixed red sandy clay with gravels. The embankment, therefore, had been constructed with a soft inner core and a hard outer skin, unlike modern construction methods, which would generally have employed a more solid base with the smaller material used to form the outer surface.

4.7.2 Removal of the embankment from the south-east side of the partially dismantled bridge exposed a band of dark brown clay within the in-fill, which contained bone and Romano-British pottery. The only area where the embankment was completely removed, however, exposing the pre-construction surface, was at the north-west edge of the site. Here, a 40m long strip was scraped off to reveal the original, now compacted, topsoil surface. This 40m long strip was the only area monitored during these works which came close to R.A. Broomhead excavation of the Roman building.

No features could be seen cutting through or within this surface but the metal detector survey revealed a large concentration of Romano-British artefacts at the southern end of this strip (see figures 2 and 3.)

4.7.3 At the northern end of this strip a roughly circular area ca.7metres in diameter appeared to have been back-filled with the same material used for the construction of the embankment. This could possibly represent a filled-in pond.

4.7.4 A shallow drainage trench running roughly north-west-south-east, with side trenches branching off to the north, was cut through this area (see figure 3). Generally the trench was ca.50cms deep and ca.20cms wide with the side trenches starting off the same depth as the main trench and fading out to 5cms in depth. The general profile revealed by the trenches comprised ca.30cms of topsoil above natural gravels. A dark deposit which resembled topsoil but continued to the base of the trench and ran for 9metres north-west-south-east was observed at the south-east end of the main trench. This deposit could also be seen in the side trench running north for 4metres. Metal detecting of the spoil from the dark layer located numerous Roman period artefacts.

4.7.5 4metres south-east of this dark deposit a possible ditch was recorded, ca.1.3metres wide and over 50cms deep, filled with dark grey silty clay with frequent small stones. No dateable artefacts were found within this feature.

4.7.6 A water pipe trench with similar dimensions as the land drains, was also cut along the southern edge of this area. The first 13metres run south-eastwards revealed the same dark layer mentioned above to the base of the trench, with the spoil containing Roman period artefacts. In this trench, the natural gravels could be seen at the base. The typical profile for the rest of this trench was the same as the other trenches: 0.2 - 0.3metres of topsoil above natural gravels. The possible ditch was also visible within this trench, ca.2metres north-west of the main land drain (see figure 3).

4.7.7 Once the drains had been back-filled, the surface of the compact topsoil was broken up with the bulldozer bucket so that it could be keyed into the new topsoil which was to be spread over this area.

4.7.8 Once the topsoil had been stripped from the site, material from the embankment was spread over the exposed surface to a depth of ca.0.6metres. The drains were then cut into this made-up surface so that archaeological deposits remained undisturbed.

4.8 Site access road

A number of Roman and medieval artefacts and pottery sherds were found on the spoil heap resulting from the cutting of the access road. The majority of the finds were from the west end of the road.

4.9 Metal detecting survey of spread topsoil

A day was spent metal detecting the topsoil from both areas whilst it was being spread. It was found to be contaminated with modern debris and therefore it was decided that it would be impractical to detect the whole area after the works were completed. No Roman artefacts or any finds earlier than the 19th Century were found.

4.10 Area not monitored

The area to the south and west of the possible Saxon boundary was not available for inspection due to the contractors undertaking topsoil stripping and spreading of the railway bank material without notifying the archaeologists. The only sub-surface excavation recorded in this area was a small silt trap in the south-west corner. It was 2metres long, 1.5metres wide and 1metre deep and comprised:

depth	description
c50cmm -	turf and topsoil
c20cm -	orange clay and gravels
below 70cm -	blue/grey clay and gravels to the base.

4.11 Railway bridge (see fig. 5)

The bridge was 17metres long from the ends of the north and south buttress, 6metres wide east- west and 5.3metres high. The arch had an internal width of 3.6metres and an internal height of 3.45metres. The parapets are 6.5metres long, 0.45metres wide and 0.9metres high, giving a track bed width of 4.3metres. It was mainly constructed with local grey Lias limestone pitched faced blocks ranging in size from 30cms long by 10cms. high up to 1metre long by 75cms high. It was bonded with hard pink mortar containing fine gravels.

Weathered cappings on the north and south facing buttress and on the parapet appeared to be a yellow cream speckled conglomerate with large quartz inclusions and red and grey pebble inclusions (or they may possibly be formed out of reconstructed stone). They were up to 1.1metre long, 0.45metres wide and 0.25metres high.

A course of red sandstone conglomerate ran below the parapet on the north and south facing elevations of the bridge and the internal soffit of the main arch was also faced with this material. It appeared to be a conglomerate with small quartz and small grey stone inclusions, possibly ?Draycot Stone .

5.0 FINDS

5.1 All finds recovered during the watching brief were plotted onto a site plan provided by the developers and their distribution can be seen on figures 2 & 3. These finds are listed on the accompanying Finds List.

5.2 Pottery was largely of Romano-British date, with a few medieval and post-medieval sherds. The Romano-British pottery covered all phases of Roman occupation in Britain. Prehistoric pottery was absent and flint rare.

5.3 In 1991, AC Archaeology opened up a series of evaluation trenches to the south of the railway line, close to the area of this watching brief. Their work also produced Romano-British artefacts comprising coins, a copper alloy ring and the following pottery groups:¹⁵

fabric.....	sherds
grey wares.....	368
BB1.....	191
orange sandy	41
limestone-tempered.....	22
mortaria.....	1
amphorae	3
Samian	17
colour-coated	17

¹⁵ Hawkes, 1991.

5.4 The proportion of different fabrics in the 1991 evaluation is similar to those recovered during this watching brief, suggesting that these percentages are a genuine reflection of the fabric proportions in the Roman period. The metal finds show an important difference, however, in that the quantities of lead recovered in the watching brief (mainly through metal detecting) were not recovered in the evaluation.

5.5 It is advised that the metal finds should be given special attention and that the lead scraps should be submitted to a metallurgist for analysis.

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 It is likely that there were far more features in the area of the watching brief than have been observed, but the shallowness of the topsoil stripping operation prevented them from being recorded.

6.2 The cluster of finds in the "40 metre strip" of dark soil below the railway embankment included a quantity of lead fragments which showed signs of melting and it is possible that a lead-smelting hearth was in the close vicinity.

6.3 If the assumption expressed in para.6.2 above is correct, it is likely that this activity took place within a building as lead working requires dry conditions. It is possible, therefore, that this cluster of lead finds marks the site of a building which was not seen during the watching brief.

6.4 Two finds bags - numbers 45 and 57 - in the "40 metre strip" contained pottery sherds with lead rivet repairs. In one case, the pottery was black burnished ware, the ubiquitous kitchen ware of the Romano-British period and, presumably, one of the cheapest to purchase. Although mending pottery by means of lead rivets is a well known practice during the Romano-British period, it is usually reserved for large or rarer types of vessels, not such a commonplace product as Dorset black burnished

ware. It might be, therefore, that the mending took place some time after the end of the Roman period at a time when all types of ceramics were became rare as knowledge of pottery manufacture appears to have been lost quickly after the end of the 4th century.

6.5 Roughly half of all the coins recovered, all apparently of 4th century date, were very worn and were indecipherable, suggesting that they may have been in circulation for a considerable period.

6.6 Piecing together the observations presented in paragraphs 6.2 to 6.5 above, a possible scenario emerges of activity in the post-Roman period when coinage was very rare and pottery was no longer being produced. This activity seems to involve the accumulation and melting of lead scrap.

It may be that this activity is part of the Dark Age trade with Byzantium, when ship-loads of pottery vessels and other exotic goods were traded for metals and wool from western Britain. Mediterranean pottery of this date has been recovered in Somerset from Cadbury-Congresbury hillfort, Glastonbury, South Cadbury hillfort, Cannington hillfort and Carhampton. Although no imported Mediterranean pottery has been found at Cheddar, here as witnessed by a radiocarbon¹⁴ assessment from animal bone within a ditch at The Old Showground site (shown on figure 1), which centres on a date around 500AD¹⁶.

At Cheddar, the lead was probably being stripped from ruinous Roman buildings. The close proximity of the Roman site to the assumed early Christian settlement and the Saxon palace complex argues for a continuity of activity over a period of some 600 years (hence the extensive scheduling) and it may be that the "40 metre strip of relic topsoil" is one of the features that should be examined if this theory is ever tested.

¹⁶ Hollinrake, 1998.

6.7 Figure 6 is an interpretive drawing showing the principle archaeological elements of the site. It can be seen that the possible Saxon boundary reflects the 25metre contour and coincides with the point at which the River Yeo begins to be channelled. It would appear that this boundary might reflect part of the original course of the river. Wharves or landing stages connected with the Roman site, the early Christian establishment, the Saxon minster and the Saxon palace complex will have been located somewhere along the river, but their locations have not yet been identified. Present knowledge suggest two possible locations:

1. A cluster of finds was recorded at the junction of F1 and the ?Saxon boundary (?original river bed).
2. The road to Wells crosses the river near to the church at Cheddar bridge. This crossing may mark the site of a former ford, suggesting the limit to the navigability of the river and another possible site of a wharf. This is the spot where the known ancient buildings appear to be closest to the river.

6.8 The spread of Romano-British finds recording during all the different archaeological projects over the last 35 years is extensive, giving rise to speculation as to whether the interpretation of the Roman phase as a villa and outbuildings, based as it is on a parchmark, and the finds of tesserae and wall plaster, is really adequate. Although these finds do strongly suggest that there is a high-status building, the extensive spread of finds and the location of other buildings, as in the one recorded by R. A. Broomhead in 1999, suggest other possible explanations, including: a government building within a small port complex, perhaps exporting Mendip lead to the Empire.

6.9 Inspection of the subsoil after stripping of turf and topsoil suggests that the areas in the geophysical survey which could have been interpreted as cobbling or hardstanding were in fact outcrops of gravely Head deposits.

6.10 The building identified by R.A. Broomhead in June 1999 appears to be aligned on the footpath recorded in Rahtz, 1979. See fig. 6.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The archaeological works were commissioned by Mr. Colin Ewan of Somerset Property Services with the archaeological brief devised and supervised by Bob Croft, Somerset County Field Archaeologist. Chris Webster provided the Sites and Monuments Record and supplementary material. The tithe map and tithe award were from the Somerset Record Office, Obridge Road, Taunton.

Charles and Nancy Hollinrake

29 February 2000

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Barker, P.P., and Mercer, E.J.F., March 1999, *A Report for Somerset County Council on a Geophysical survey carried out at Kings of Wessex School, Cheddar, Somerset.*
- Blair, John, 1997, *Palaces or minsters? Northampton and Cheddar reconsidered, Anglo Saxon England*, Volume 25.
- Broomhead, R.A., 1999, *Kings of Wessex School Cheddar, An Archaeological Evaluation for Somerset County Council*, unpubl. report in County SMR
- English Heritage Extensive Urban Survey for Cheddar, draft archaeological survey.
- Findlay, D. C. , 1965, *The Soils of the Mendip District of Somerset, Memoirs of the Soil Survey of Great Britain*, Harpenden.
- Hawkes, J, 1991, *Evaluation at Kings of Wessex School*, unpubl. report in SMR
- Hollinrake & Hollinrake, 1998, *An Archaeological Evaluation at The Old Showground, Cheddar, Second Series*, Report no 121, unpubl. report in county SMR.
- Rahtz, Philip, 1979, **The Saxon and Medieval Palaces at Cheddar**, BAR British Series 65.
- Thorn, C. and F., 1980, *Domesday Book - Somerset*, Phillimore, Chichester.

APPENDIX

DEPARTMENT FOR CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT BATCH NUMBER 10765
FILE REFERENCE AA 80190/1

SCHEDULE ENTRY COPY

ENTRY IN THE SCHEDULE OF MONUMENTS COMPILED AND
MAINTAINED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER SECTION 1 OF
THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT
1979 AS AMENDED.

MONUMENT: Roman settlement site, Anglo-Saxon and Norman royal palace, and St
Columbanus' Chapel

PARISH CHEDDAR

DISTRICT SEDGEMOOR

COUNTY SOMERSET

NATIONAL MONUMENT NO: 29673

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE(S): ST45765299

DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENT

The monument includes the core of an extensive area of Roman settlement overlain by an Anglo-Saxon royal palace and meeting place which was later used as a royal residence by the Normans. The medieval chapel of St Columbanus, which is Listed Grade II, stands as a ruined structure within the complex. The monument, which stretches from Station Road to the banks of the Cheddar Yeo river, lies on relatively low lying ground at the foot of the Mendip hills at the southern end of Cheddar Gorge. Its extent has been established by way of excavation, evaluation, and the recording of crop marks, over the course of several decades from the 1950s onwards. The earliest recorded occupation on the site belongs to the Roman period and pottery dating from the 2nd to the 4th centuries AD has been recovered from many evaluation trenches dug within the area of the monument in advance of building works. Roman burials uncovered north of the vicarage further attest to the presence of a Roman settlement. The occupation traces appear to be associated with a Roman villa estate, the main building of which is represented by parch marks just to the south west of St Andrew's Church. The parch marks (where the inability of the soil to retain nutrients above the underlying walls produces discolouration of the grass or crops) have been plotted to reveal a building plan which most likely represents part of the living quarters of a villa, a well known Roman building type which provided high class accommodation for its inhabitants. Its recorded extent, north- south, is about 50m but further sections of the building may lie beneath the modern graveyard to its east. Roman villas are known, in many cases, to have supported a range of ancillary buildings associated with farming and other activities. A number of hearths and furnaces have been discovered in the vicinity of the Cheddar villa whilst a large domestic building with stone foundations was found to its north west in 1999. The villa would have been served by the River Yeo which appears to have been navigable by small craft from the Bristol Channel via the River Axe in earlier times. The findings of wall plaster and tesserae (for mosaics) indicate the presence of high status buildings and a number of 4th century coin finds demonstrate that occupation may have extended towards the

end of the Roman period and probably beyond. It has been suggested that the Roman site might be identified with the settlement of Iscalis listed by the geographer of Roman times, Ptolemy, in this region of the Mendips. The villa estate, with boundaries probably still recognisable and perhaps still functioning, would have attracted interest among the Saxons who arrived in the area in the 7th century AD and this, together with its prime location, may have been instrumental in the site being chosen for the establishment of an important Anglo-Saxon settlement by the 9th century AD at the latest. A major excavation by Rahtz in the 1960s, ahead of the construction of The Kings of Wessex School, demonstrated the below ground presence of the foundations of a long hall and other timber buildings on ground just a little to the north of the Roman buildings. They represent the earliest recorded phase of the Saxon settlement which could reasonably be dated to the early 9th century. This has been interpreted as a royal household in which the area occupied by the Roman buildings may have been developed as a farm or settlement which supported and supplied the needs of an adjacent royal enclosure represented by ditches and banks to the north, west and east. This settlement underwent a radical change in layout in the mid-10th century probably at the instigation of King Athelstan. The long hall was demolished and overlain by a small stone built chapel, known from later documents to have been dedicated to St Columbanus, whilst a new and larger hall on a different alignment was constructed. The changes placed the site on a new footing with the new hall being of the requisite size for meetings of the king's assembled council (the *witan*) and by this stage of its development the site can be interpreted as a royal palace. It appears that the complex suffered no diminution in its status following the Norman Conquest as a monumental new timber hall was constructed early in the 12th century and both hall and chapel were rebuilt on several occasions afterwards. The rebuilding of the chapel in the 13th century involved the widening of the nave and enlargement of the chancel, the earlier Saxon chapel having been levelled and engulfed within the grander structure. Documentary evidence has demonstrated that the site may be identified as the location of the Cheddar *witenagemots* (where the king met his council) of 941, 956, and 968. The meeting of 968, in Edgar's reign, was held at Easter and is the most completely recorded. Further documents show that the royal palace was visited by both Henry I and Henry II at various times in the 12th century. The site was handed over to the church in 1204 by King John and was acquired by the Bishops of Bath and Wells in 1230, and it was finally abandoned, apparently in the 14th century. After the Reformation, St Columbanus' Chapel passed into secular hands and was in use as a dwelling until 1910 when it was partially demolished; it survives as a roofless structure with four walls standing and is supported at its eastern and western ends by modern buttresses. The houses on the south side of Station Road (namely, Bodele, Copper Beeches, Hanham Manor, Downderry, and Ribbons), all of the buildings of The Kings of Wessex School, the Leisure Centre, the disused railway embankment and railway arch, all modern ancillary buildings, sheds, The 'Bungalow' and all modern standing structures within the Church Farm Caravan Site, and all above ground constructions of post-Reformation date, all paths, hard standing, and prepared surfaces, and all fencing and gates are excluded from the scheduling, although the ground beneath these features is included. St Columbanus' Chapel is included in the scheduling, both above and

below ground. Also included in the scheduling are the modern concrete blocks which mark the positions of the excavated post holes which formed part of the foundations for the halls of the Anglo-Saxon and Norman periods. These blocks provide a visual aid for the public in understanding the layout of the complex.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE

Anglo-Saxon palaces were high status residential sites usually occupied by royalty or, occasionally, by bishops. Available architectural evidence is largely restricted to royal palaces which provided accommodation for the king, his retinue, his guests, and his councillors (the *witan*). The focus of the complex was usually a large and elaborate timber hall. The remains of these halls can usually be distinguished by their large size or method of construction using massive timber uprights set in large pits or trenches; these often survive well below ground. In such a hall the king would hold court, receive emissaries, and summon periodic meetings of his councillors; the earliest English epic poem *Beowulf* describes such a setting. Around the hall, courtyards provided space for less formal gatherings, and other buildings such as a chapel of stone or timber, lodgings, kitchens, and storehouses. Activities such as metal working, milling, brewing, and animal husbandry all appear to have been carried out within the boundaries of the palace, which were often marked by large ditches. Anglo-Saxon palaces may be found across most of south east and central England and, whilst some may date from as early as the fifth century AD, most are likely to have been constructed in later centuries up until the time of the Norman Conquest. Following the Conquest, they were sometimes allowed to continue to function under royal Norman patronage or put to ecclesiastical or other use. A handful of palaces are known by name from documentary sources, usually charters recording the meetings of the *witan*. However, fewer than a dozen examples have been identified with certainty and even fewer have been excavated. All positively identified Anglo-Saxon palaces are considered to be of national importance by virtue of their rarity and representivity.

Although now partly overlain by development the Anglo-Saxon palace site at Cheddar is a rare survival of a richly appointed Saxon building complex, later embellished by the Normans. Modern development on the site has been undertaken sympathetically with buildings raised upon rafts in order to leave untouched the early medieval halls and to avoid damage to the underlying archaeology which has been shown to comprise an extensive area of Roman occupation including buildings whose foundations survive close to the modern ground surface. The series of early medieval halls provide evidence of a rare type of building of which there are few excavated examples. The documentary evidence associated with the monument attests to its importance as a royal court and meeting place of the *witan* under successive Anglo-Saxon kings and as a royal property following the Conquest. The monument is known from excavation to contain archaeological information relating to the Roman and the earlier and later medieval periods. Crucially, it will provide some insight into the relationship between Roman villa estates and their later settlement usage, as well as providing information about the lives of the Roman, Saxon, and Norman peoples who lived on the site, and the development of the landscape in which they lived. St Columbanus' Chapel survives as the shell of a Norman chapel

which is known to have developed from Saxon origins. Its outer walls survive although they have been considerably altered during use of the building for domestic means. The below ground remains of the earlier Saxon chapel are encompassed within the walls and the chapel illustrates the development of an ecclesiastical building from Saxon to Norman times.

Cheddar Kings of Wessex School CS99

context	pottery			date	building materials		misc.
	shards	fabric	surface		no.	type	
SF1				c. 348 AD			coin: Constans (R120 + 125) phoenix on a globe
SF2							poor
SF3							worn coin
SF4							pierced, cone-shaped Pb obj., 16g.
SF5							wide Cu alloy strip + buckle + fittings
SF6				c330-1AD			coin: Constantine (R96)
SF7							dense, heavy ?Cu alloy slag: 68g
SF8				c330-35AD			coin: obv. 2 soldiers holding 2 standards
SF9							coin: pos. Constantius I (RC 13-7)
SF10				c330-35AD			coin: TRP mint mark obv. 2 soldiers holding 2 standards
SF11							Fe ring/brooch 8g.
SF12							Cu alloy strip, small
SF13				L3rd AD			coin: radiate, v. worn. ?Claudius II
SF14							Cu alloy frag. ?bowl, 69g
SF15				1216-72A			coin: See HIII, 1/2d
SF16				1154-89A			coin: See HII ?1d
SF17							Cu alloy obj., 3g.
SF18				c318AD			coin: ?London mint, rev. altar; worn
SF19							Cu alloy frag., 1g.
SF20				c345AD			coin: ?Constans. rev. 2 Victories; CR 118/114
SF21				?c335AD			coin: worn
SF22				cC4th AD			coin: worn
SF23							Cu alloy globe, flat base c10cm diam., 6g,

Cheddar Kings of Wessex School CS99

						iron stain on base.
SF24			cC4th?AD			coin: v. worn
SF25						coin: v. worn
SF26			C4th AD			coin: obv. 2 soldiers holding 2 standards
SF27						Cu alloy obj. 13g.
SF28			cC4th AD			coin: worn
SF29						coin: v. worn
SF30						coin: v. worn
SF31						coin: v. worn
SF32						Cu alloy obj. 5g.
SF33			cC4thAD			coin: worn
SF34						coin: worn
SF35						coin: worn
SF36						coin: v. worn
SF37						coin: v. worn
SF38						coin: v. worn
SF39						coin: v. worn
SF40			C4thAD			coin: obv. soldier holding standard
SF41			C4th AD			coin: ?2 soldiers holding 2 standards
SF42						Cu alloy ring, 2g., 21mm inner diam., 14mm inner diam.
SF43						?coin: sub-circular, 5g Cu alloy, illegible
SF44						Cu alloy fitting, pierced strip, 3g.
SF45						Cu alloy strip, folded, 5g
SF46						Cu alloy frag, ?brooch pi
SF47			C4th AD			coin
SF48			?C4th			coin

Cheddar Kings of Wessex School CS99

SF49			c330 AD		coin: obv. ?Victory on prow with shield & scepter
SF50					coin: v. worn
SF51					coin: v. worn & fragile
SF52			C4th AD		coin: worn
SF53					coin: worn
SF54					coin: v. worn & fragile
SF55			LC3rd AD		coin: worn
SF56					?coin: ?Cu alloy, 2g
SF57					Cu alloy treezers, 4g.
SF58					Cu alloy brooch frag. 4g.
SF59					coin: v. worn
SF60					coin frag.: worn
SF61					coin: worn
SF62			C4thAD		coin: v. worn
SF63			C3rd AD		coin: ?Tetricius or Radiate
SF64			C4th AD		coin
bag					
1	1 greyware (5g)		C1-4th	1 Fe nail (11g)	
2	1 rim; prob. mortarium sandy, orange, micaceous (385g)		C1-4th		
3					Pb lump/scrap (17g)
4					Pb lump/scrap (10g)
5					Pb lump/scrap (13g)
6					Pb scrap pieces (15g)
7					Pb lump/scrap (49g)
8					Pb lump/scrap (38g)
9					Pb lump/scrap (7g)
10				1 brick/tile frag. (9g) ?modern 1 Fe nail, small (5g)	1x animal tooth (2g) 1x Pb scrap (11g)

Cheddar Kings of Wessex School CS99

					1 Fe nail, large (41g)	
11						Pb lump/scrap (12g)
12	1 greyware, sandy, gritty, micaceous (12g)		C1-4th		1 Fe nail (7g)	
	1 BBW (2g)		C1-4th			
13						1x Pb obj. (2g)
14						1x Pb scrap (7g)
15						1x Pb scrap (14g)
16						1x Pb scrap (4g)
17						1x flint blade/scrapper grey-brown (6g)
						1x Pb lump/scrap (6g)
18						1x Pb obj. (12g)
19						1x Pb obj. (17g)
20	1 rim; Samian, small		C1-3rd			1x grey ?slag (4g)
	2 joining; greyware sandy, grey & orange grits	orange	?medieval			1x Fe obj. (47g)
						5x Pb lumps/scrap (82g)
21						1x Pb lump/scrap (16g)
22						1x Pb lump/scrap (10g)
23						2x Pb lump/scrap (19g)
24						1x Pb lump/scrap (87g)
25						2x Pb lump/scrap (36g)
26						1x Pb lump/scrap (212g)
27						1x Pb lump/scrap (112g)
28						1x Pb lump/scrap (21g)
29						1x Pb lump/scrap (5g)
30						1x lg. fe obj.:punch (173g)
						1x Cu alloy button (2g)
						?modern
						1x Pb scrap/lump (8g)
31						1x Pb lump/scrap (7g)
32						2x Pb lump/scrap (23g)
33						4x Pb lump/scrap (44g)

Cheddar Kings of Wessex School CS99

34						1x flint thumbnail scraper brown (5g)
35						2x Pb lump/scrap (118g)
36	1 rim; BBW type	grey	C1-4th			2x Pb scrap/lumps (116g)
	sl. micaceous (28g)					2x Pb scrap/lumps (40g)
	1 rim; greyware, small		C1-4th			
	black grits (22g)					
	1 greyware type,	grey outer, buff	C1-4th			
	pale grey core (3g)	inner				
	1 base; greyware,		C1-4th			
	black core, sandy					
	(131g)					
	1 grey core,	orange	C3-4th			
	micaceous,					
	Oxford ware (9g)					
	1 oxidized (265g)	lt. brown glaze	C18-19th			
		inner				
37						2x Pb lump/scrap (90g)
38	1 greyware, (12g)		C1-4th			5x Pb scrap/lump (90g)
	smooth lt. grey,					
	black grits & quartz					
	sl. micaceous					
	1 greyware (3g),		C1-4th			
	soft grey					
39						2x Pb lump/scrap (26g)
40	1 greyware, (7g)	smooth grey	C1-4th	1 Fe nail (9g)		
	smooth orange					
41						3x Pb lump/scrap (151g)
42	1 BBW (5g)		C1-4th			2xPb scrap/lump (343g)
	1 greyware (29g)	sandy darker grey	C1-4th			
	pale grey, grey					
	grits					
43						1x Pb lump/scrap (44g)
44	1 colour coat (2g)	black decorations	C1-4th			
	grey, sandy					
45						3x Pb scraps (47g)
						1x Pb bar, circular profile
						(23g)
						1x large Pb rivet around
						pottery
46				1 Fe nail + 2x slag (6g)		1x Pb scrap/lump (15g)
47	1 BBW rim (13g)		C1-4th			1x lump ?Fe slag (64g)
48						1x Pb slag (141g)
						1x Fe nail (15g)

Cheddar Kings of Wessex School CS99

49						1x Pb slag (36g)
50					2 Fe nails 21g	
51						1x Pb scrap (6g)
52	3	Samian rims (36g)		C1-3rd		1x flat Fe ring (40g)
drain	1	grey (<1g)	shiny red	C3-4th		1x Fe lump (63g)
area			colour coat			1x pony shoe, v. small
	1	BBW (11g)		C1-4th		Fe (16g)
	2	joining; sandy (22g)	grey inner,	C1-4th		many frags. of Pb scrap
			orange brown			(1295g)
			outer surface			1x Pb strip, 2x holes
	2	joining rim /body	grey/brown	?C1-4th		pierced in either end,
		black, limestone				?sinker (29g)
		temper (41g)				
	1	rim; soft, lt. orange		C1-4th		
		red grits (18g)				
		?Shepton Mallet				
	1	rim; greyware,	cracked	C1-4th		
		sandy (10g)				
	2	greywares (19g)		C1-4th		
		sandy, micaceous				
	1	greyware rim (7g)		C1-4th		
		limestone &				
		grit temper				
	4	greyware, 1 a rim;	darker grey	C1-4th		
		pale grey,				
		grey grits (44g)				
	1	soft orange (2g)	speckled clear	?medieval		
			glaze outer			
53	3	Samian (12g)		C1-3rd	3 Fe nails (32g)	1x animal bone, small (2
topsoil	2	rims; BBW (54g)		C1-4th		1x Pb scrap/obj. (176g)
	1	greyware (9g)	grey	C1-4th		7x Pb scrap/lumps (159g)
		orange				1x Fe obj. (19g)
	3	greyware (27g)	darker	C1-4th		1x Fe obj. (178g)
		pale grey, grey				
		grits				
	8	various greywares		C1-4th		
		(114g)				
	1	greyware (11g)	grey, sandy	C1-4th		
		pink/grey, sandy				
	1	rim; smooth grey	buff with pale	C14-16		
		(40g)	green glaze			
	1	dark grey (14g)	red-orange with	C18-19th		
			lt. orange glaze			
54	1	BBW (6g)		C1-4th	2 Fe nails (30g)	5x Pb scrap/lumps (157g)
drain		lge. grey grits				
spoil	1	rim; BB-type (32g)	lt. grey sandy,	C1-4th		
		dark grey, sandy,	oxidized patches			
		quartz temper				
	1	rim; ?greyware (5g)	pink-orange	C1-4th		
		fine grey				
	1	base; pink/brown		?C14-16		
		sandy, micaceous				
		(15g)				
	1	prange, sandy	?spots of glaze	?C14-16		

Cheddar Kings of Wessex School CS99

		(12g)				
	1	base; white (9g)	patchy green glaze outer	C13-14		
55	1	?oxidized BBW (4g)		C1-4th	1 Fe nail (5g)	1x fired clay frag. (2g)
electric trench 1-30m	1	oxidized (5g)		?medieval		4x Pb scrap/lumps (39g)
56						1x Pb obj., pierced (56g)
electric trench south side						?sinker
57	1	rim; BBW (7g)		C1-4th	3 Fe nails (18g)	1x large Pb rivet around a sherd of BBW (15g)
	1	greyware (12g) sandy, gritty		C1-4th		
	2	dark grey, smooth sandy (6g)		?C1-4th		
	1	soft orange (1g)		?C1-4th		
	1	sandy, lt grey (2g)	orange	C13-14		
58	3	rim; Samian (7g)		C1-3rd		2x animal bone frags. (158g)
railway bridge backfill SE side	5	BBW, 2 rims (45g)		C1-4th		
	1	base; greyware	darker grey	C1-4th		
		pale grey, white grits (32g)				
	3	greyware (15g) sandy, gritty		C1-4th		
	2	thick, orange-brown, quartz temper, storage jar	grey (32g)	C1-4th		
	1	oxidized (2g)		?medieval		
59	3	2x rims; Samian (38g)		C1-3rd		
surface below railway bridge backfill	1	rim; greyware (43g)	darker grey	C1-4th		
		pale grey, black/grey grits				
	1	rim; greyware (21g)		C1-4th		
		sandy				
	1	base; greyware		C1-4th		
		fine white quartz temper (55g)				
60	3	BBW (28g)		C1-4th	1 roof slate frag. (15g)	10x animal bone frags. (117g)
SWEB line						
61	1	Samian (1g)		C1-3rd	1 Fe nail (4g)	1x animal bone, burnt (2g)
SWEB line	1	reduced, gritty (9g)	orange outer	C13th		
62	c35	white wares		C19th	1 brick frag. (76g)	1x coal (discarded)
SWEB trench 2	c30	transfer wares (362g)	1x "Lewis-Valley Restaurant-Cheddar	C19th		1x animal bone (disc.)
						1x twisted Cu wire, sm.
	7	various stonewares (168g)		C18-19th		
	1	rim; earthenware	?flower pot (18g)			
	1	earthenware (13g)				
	1	oxidized (10g)	orange glaze	C19th		

Cheddar Kings of Wessex School CS99

63	1	orange (5g)	black	C17th	2	roof slate frags. (54g)	1x flint lump, black (4g)
SWEB	1	oxidized (1g)		uncertain			1x Fe balde, rusted (44g)
trench							
2							
64	1	BBW (3g)		C1-4th			
base of							
F1, on gravels							
65	1	pink-orange (2g)		prob. C1-4th			
orange clay							
east of F1							
66	3	greyware (23g)		C1-4th			1x animal tooth
W. end		grey grits					
S. field	1	Samian (2g) worn		C1-4th			
	1	orange, grey core, sandy (16g)	pale green glaze	C14-16			
67	3	BBW (36g)		C1-4th			
access	1	greyware, hard (16g)	thin black slip	C1-4th			
road	1	greyware (14g)	grey	C1-4th			
spoil		orange, sandy					
68	3	Samian (9g)		C1-3rd	1	Fe nail/wedge (4g)	8x Pb scrap/lumps (232g)
spoil	19	BBW (118g)		C1-4th			
W. end	29	various greywares (2065g)		C1-4th			
access	1	fineware, pale		?C1-4th			
road		orange (1g)					
	1	sandy (4g)		?medieval			

Cheddar Kings of Wessex School CS99

	pottery				building materials		
context	shc	rds	fabric	surface	date	{ no. type }	misc.
SF1					c. 348 AD		coin: Constans (R120 + 125) phoenix on a globe
SF2							poor
SF3							worn coin
SF4							pierced, cone-shaped Pb obj., 16g.
SF5							wide Cu alloy strip + buckle + fittings
SF6					c330-1AD		coin: Constantine (R96)
SF7							dense, heavy ?Cu alloy slag; 68g
SF8					c330-35AD		coin: obv. 2 soldiers holding 2 standards
SF9							coin: pos. Constantius I (RC 13-7)
SF10					c330-35AD		coin: TRP mint mark obv. 2 soldiers holding 2 standards
SF11							Fe ring/brooch 8g.
SF12							Cu alloy strip, small
SF13					L3rd AD		coin: radiate, v. worn. ?Claudius II
SF14							Cu alloy frag. ?bowl, 69g
SF15					1216-72A		coin: See HIII, 1/2d
SF16					1154-89A		coin: See HII ?1d
SF17							Cu alloy obj., 3g.
SF18					c318AD		coin: ?London mint, rev. altar, worn
SF19							Cu alloy frag., 1g.
SF20					c345AD		coin: ?Constans, rev. 2 Victories; CR 118/114
SF21					?c335AD		coin: worn
SF22					cC4th AD		coin: worn
SF23							Cu alloy globe, flat base c10cm diam., 6g,

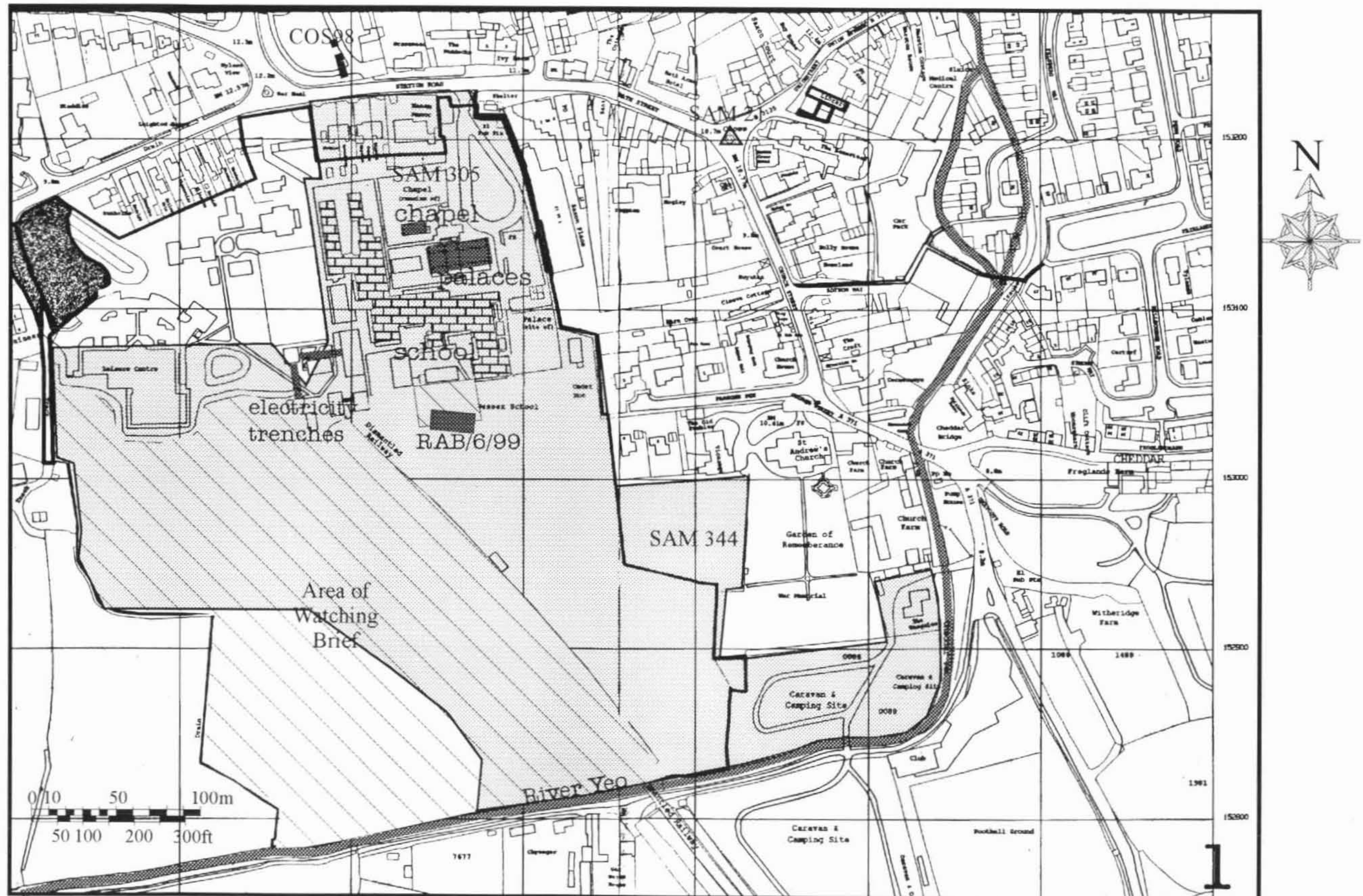


Fig. 1. Location map showing revised Scheduled Monument area (no 29673, light grey), Kings of Wessex school (brick effect), locations of former buildings (dark grey) and watching brief areas.

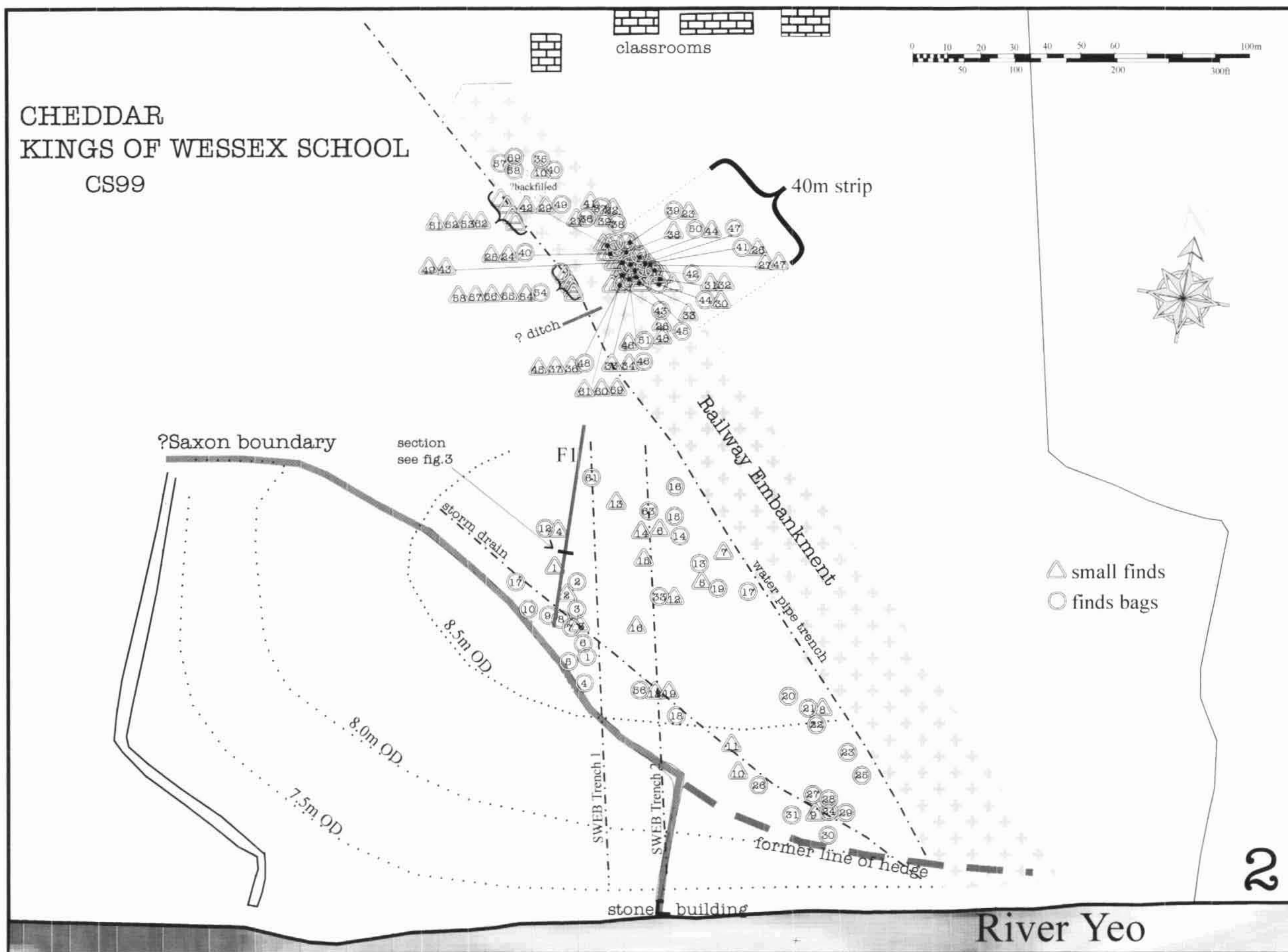


Fig. 2. Findspots. Plan based on site plan drawn by Swan Paul Partnership.

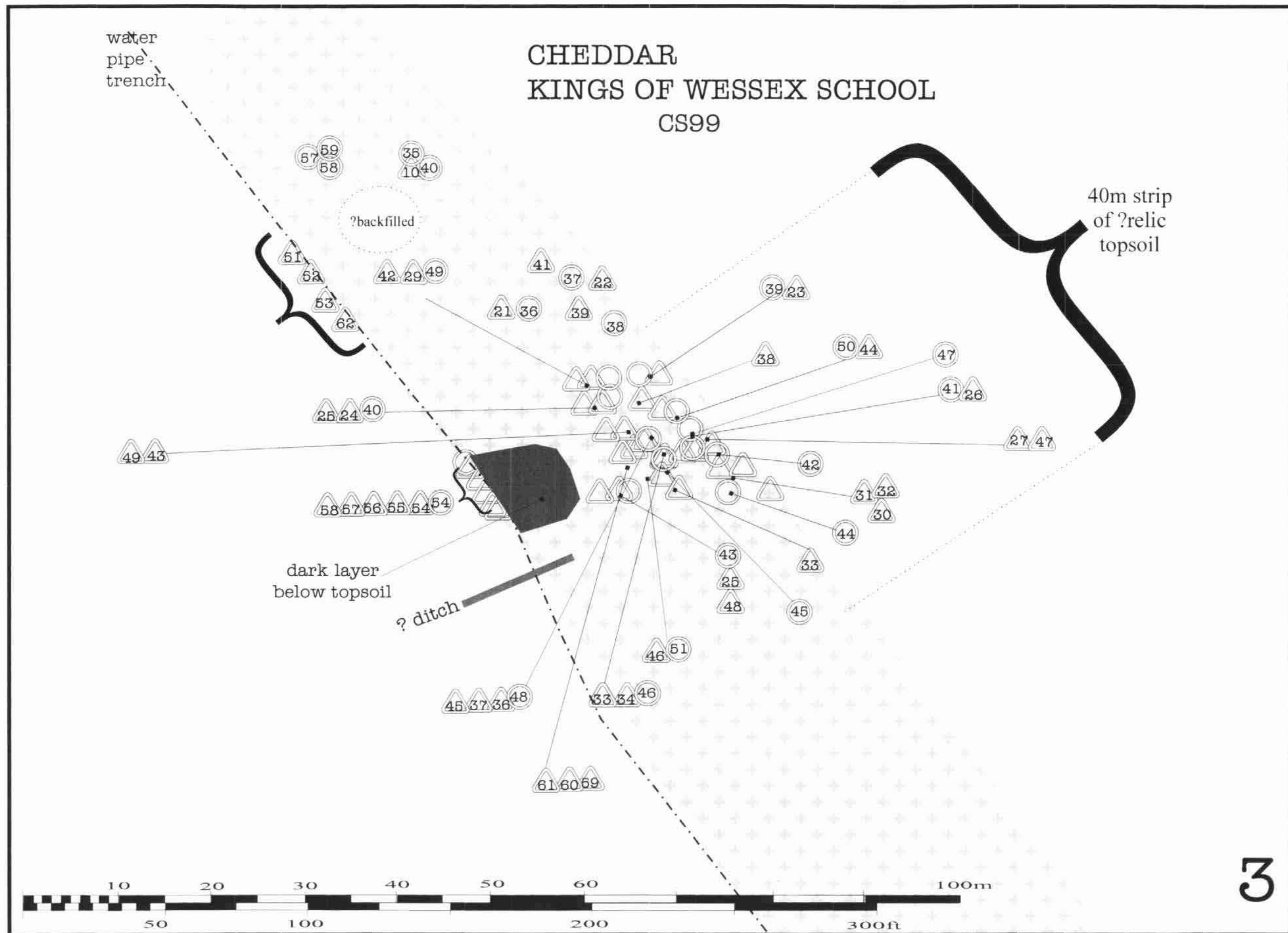


Fig. 3. Detail of Figure 2.

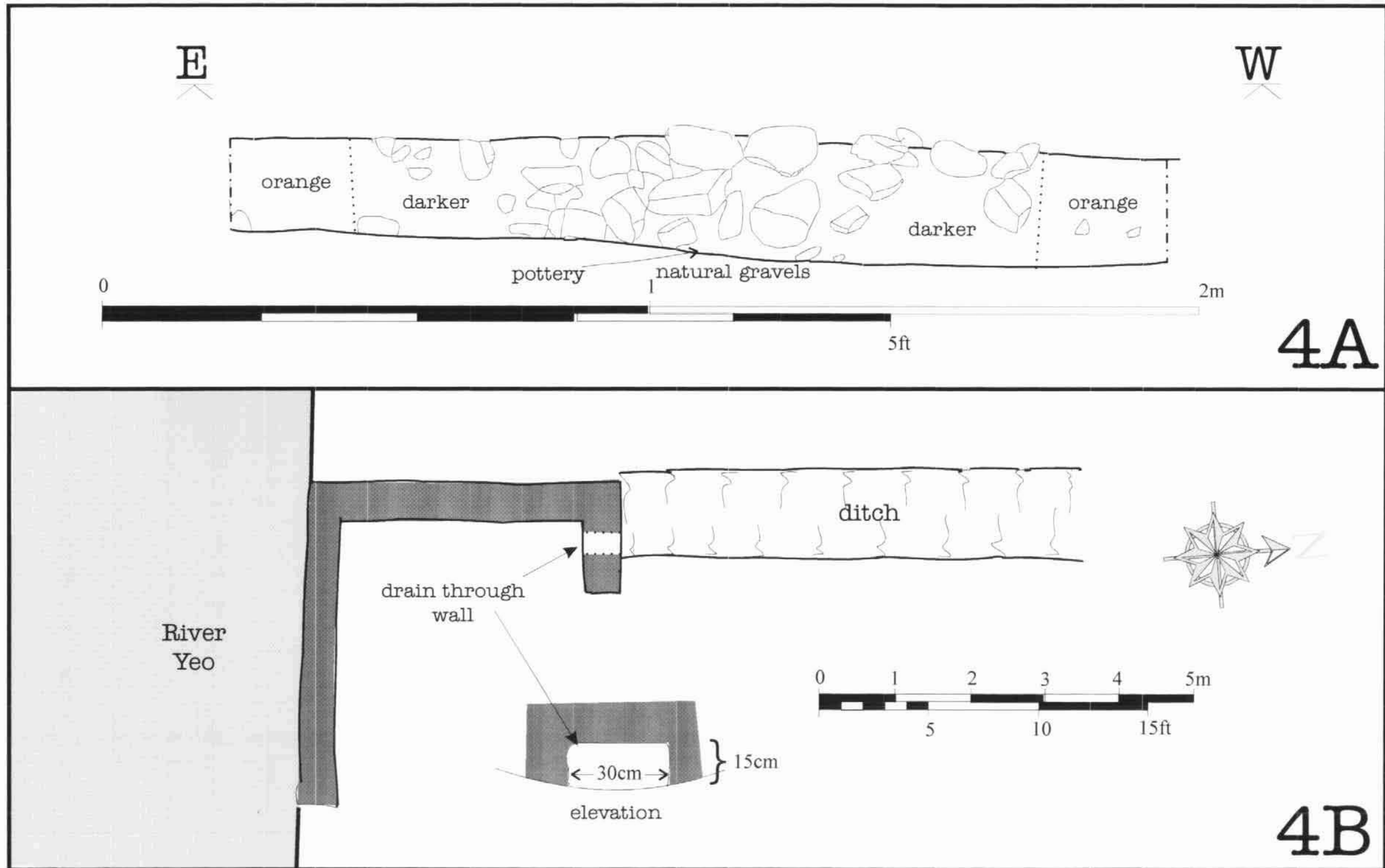


Fig. 3A. Measured sketch of the section through F1.

Fig. 3B. Measured sketch plan of the stone building on the river bank.

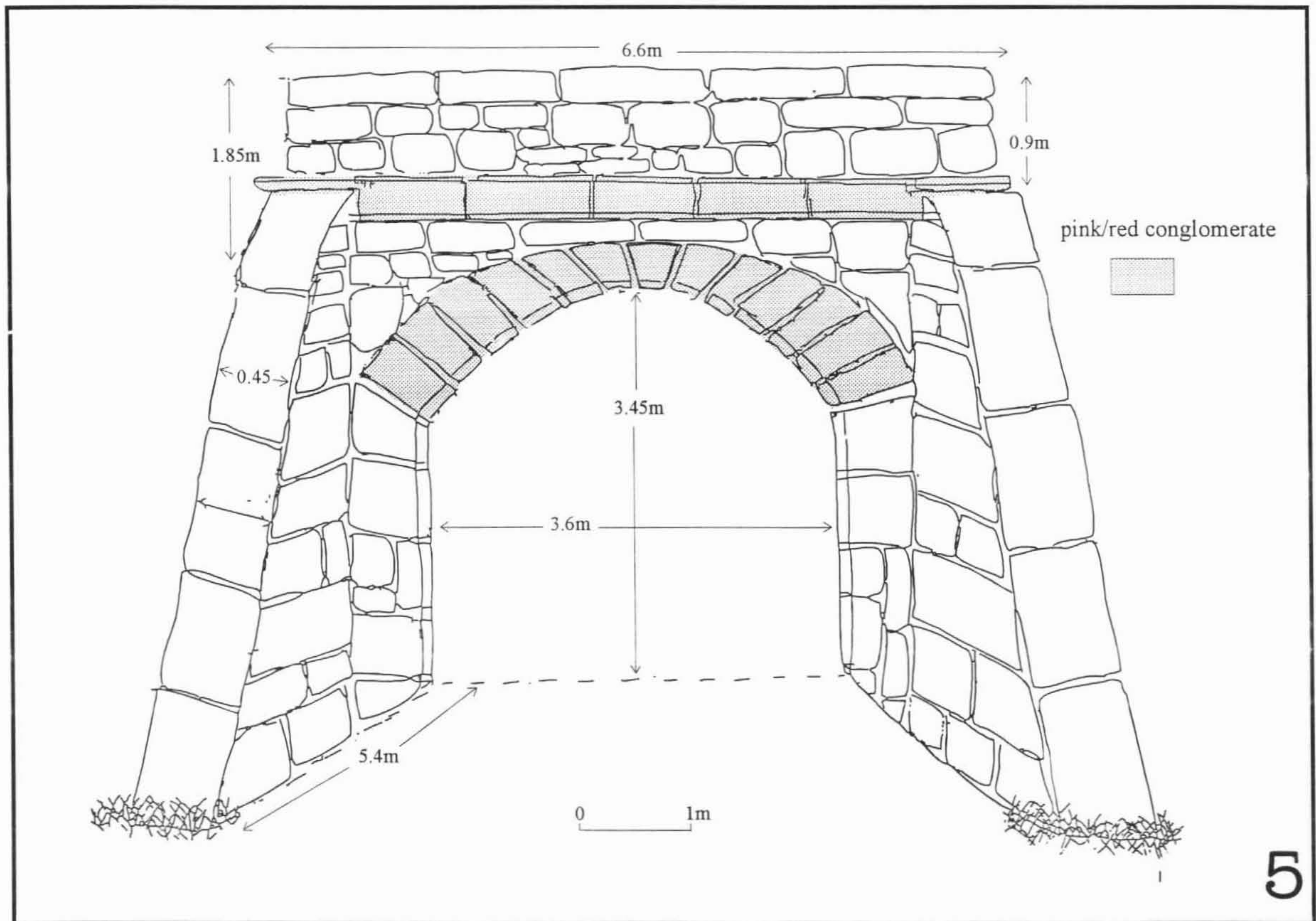


Fig. 5. Measured sketch of railway bridge.

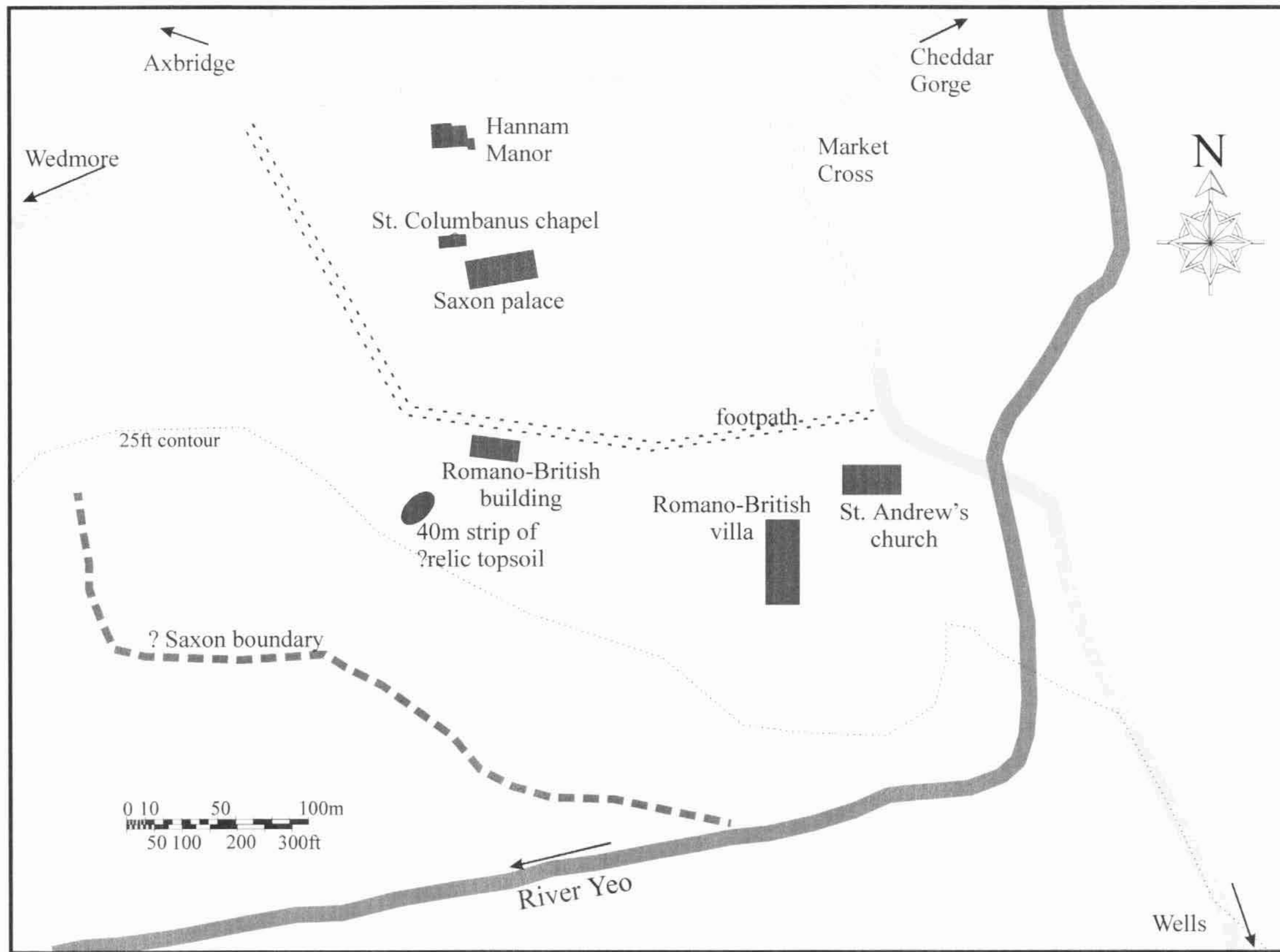


Fig. 6. Interpretive plan showing locations of major archaeological features in their landscape.



1839 Tithe Map 7