

**SAXON PLACE  
CHEDDAR**  
**An archaeological evaluation,**  
**December 2007**

(SPC '07; TTNCM 219/2007)

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# **An archaeological evaluation of land proposed for residential development at Saxon Place (Lanes), Bath Street, Cheddar, 2007**

## **Summary**

*An archaeological evaluation by means of trial excavation trenches was required at Saxon Place, Cheddar to inform an application for planning consent for a residential development. Three trenches were excavated within an area currently used for car parking in December 2007, which is located between two areas of a Scheduled Ancient Monument No. 29673 – the Saxon and medieval royal palace site beneath the Kings of Wessex School to the west, and possible remains of a Roman villa near St Andrew's church to the south. A series of Romano-British boundary ditches and other features containing moderate quantities of occupation debris was encountered at the eastern end of the site. Portions of a more substantial north-south boundary ditch of medieval origin crossed the centre of the site, the line of which was perpetuated by a post-medieval mortared wall foundation. This was butted against the foundations of an earlier post-medieval stone structure, but no other medieval or earlier structural remains were seen in the western half of the site. Underlying natural gravel formations were encountered in places along all three trenches.*

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## 1.0 Introduction

1.1: This investigation and its reporting were prompted by a pre-application consultation with Segemoor District Council and Somerset County Council, in respect of proposals for a residential development at the rear of Lanes, Bath Street, Cheddar. The site lies adjacent to a Scheduled Ancient Monument (No. 29673), namely the site of a royal Saxon and medieval palace beneath the Kings of Wessex School to the west and extensive Roman remains to the south. Thus it was recommended that an archaeological evaluation of the site was desirable prior to the submission of a planning application, the results of which could inform that application. In the context of nationally important archaeological remains found in the immediate locality there was insufficient information available concerning the character or potential of any similar remains preserved on this site.

1.2: In consultation with The Historic Environment Service of Somerset County Council an investigation by trial trenching was deemed to be the most appropriate technique, in accordance with a Specification provided to owners of the site E. E. Lane (Holdings) Ltd. This was undertaken at their commission by the author of this report in December 2007, in conformity with that brief and the existing *General Specification for Archaeological Work in Somerset*, Somerset County Council, March 2005. The recommendation follows central government advice as set out in *Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16) issued by the Department of the Environment in 1990, County Structure Plan Policy AH5 and Local Plan Policy.

1.3: Acknowledgements: I am grateful to Michael Baulf, E. E. Lane (Holdings) Ltd., who commissioned the evaluation; to Stephen Reading, Collier Reading Architects, (Glastonbury), for liaison and advice, to staff of Lanes for their helpful co-operation; to G. A Doble (Compton Dundon) for mechanical excavation and backfilling; to Steve Membrey, Historic Environment Service, Somerset County Council for monitoring the project; and to Steven Maidens and Dee Leach for essential support on site.

## 2.0 Site

2.1: Saxon Place lies on the south side of Bath Street, close to the historic centre of Cheddar village, the site for development being an L-shaped area to the rear that is currently used for car parking (Figs. 1 and 2). Centred on NGR ST 457531, the site is bounded to the south and east by private gardens, and to the west by a footpath and the grounds of the Kings of Wessex School. Its northern end links with Saxon Place – currently occupied by commercial premises, including Lanes hardware store, and giving access to Bath Street. Prior to the evaluation the whole area was an almost level tarmac car park with its surface at around 11m aod.

2.2: Within the current townscape the development site occupies the southern extremity of plots extending south from properties on the Bath Street road frontage, and

the western end of a corresponding plot that formerly extended west from a Church Street frontage property. This lies on the west side of the historic village core, with the parish church of St Andrew to the south. The village is located upon a well drained fan of periglacial outwash gravels, emanating originally from the Mendip Hills via Cheddar Gorge to the north. The present Cheddar river skirts east of the village before flowing west and out onto the adjacent peat moors of the Axe Valley.

2.3: Little or no archaeological evidence is recorded from the village core area of Cheddar but remains of national importance lie immediately to the west and south, bordering parts of the development site, the areas of which are protected within the designation of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (No. 29673).

2.4: To the west, excavations in the early 1960s were undertaken in advance of building the Kings of Wessex School on the site of Manor Farm, where extensive remains of an Anglo-Saxon and medieval palace were revealed (Somerset Historic Environment Record PRN 12760). This may have begun as a Minster site in the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> century, which was developed and functioned as a royal palace from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, before being granted to the Dean and Chapter of Wells. Only the ruins of the medieval chapel of St Columbanus are visible above ground today, although the outline of some of the palace buildings are marked out within the school grounds (Rahtz 1979).

2.5: The Scheduled Ancient Monument designation also covers extensive evidence for earlier Romano-British settlement in the locality, notably in the vicinity of St Andrew's Church to the south. Further excavations and watching briefs were undertaken here in advance of residential development within part of the vicarage garden (PRN 35935), and subsequently in response to development along the north side of Parsons Pen (PRN 35936). There was evidence for relatively intensive occupation here from at least the 2<sup>nd</sup> century to the later 4<sup>th</sup> century and probably later. Part of an east-west aligned road was found, along with pits and ditches, some industrial features, burials and material indicative of a high status building in the immediate vicinity - possibly a villa (Rahtz 1965 and Hirst and Rahtz 1973).

2.6: Subsequent archaeological discoveries in Cheddar have been made almost exclusively within the grounds of Kings of Wessex School, in response to various developments there between the 1980s and the present day. The bulk of these have greatly extended our view of the Roman settlement, though adding relatively little to the picture of Late Saxon and medieval arrangements. Among these investigations the discovery of another late Roman building (PRN 12891) and other building remains, a well and some large ditches (PRN 35934), 100m or so to the southwest of Saxon Place are notable. A more limited investigation immediately to the south and just outside the vicarage garden (PRN 44731) revealed further walls and other structures associated with relatively abundant Roman and medieval material (Grove *et al* 2007).

### 3.0 Method

3.1: An archaeological evaluation of the site through the excavation and recording of trial trenches was undertaken in December 2007, in accordance with a specification provided by the Heritage Environment Service of Somerset County Council. In consultation with the Development Control Officer (Archaeology) it was proposed to investigate the area by means of three mechanically excavated trenches, totalling a maximum of 80m (Fig. 3). Trench 1 was 42m x 1.8m, cut to sample the eastern arm of the site; Trench 2, 23m x 1.8m, followed the western boundary; Trench 3, 13m x 1.8m, was cut across the entry from Saxon Place. The unavoidable coincidence of poor weather conditions with the execution of the site investigation imposed some restrictions upon the scale of archaeological deposit sampling, notably where the lowest levels were below the water table or subsequently flooded.

3.2: Despite the hindrances of inclement weather and sometimes difficult working conditions, it was possible to examine by hand and record a full picture of the archaeological contexts present in all three trenches following their mechanical excavation. Substantial accumulations of modern overburden were encountered in all trenches – to depths of up to 1m in places – a combination of mixed earlier 20<sup>th</sup>-century dumping with hardcore makeup for the tarmac surface above. Their mechanical removal permitted clearance and definition by hand of deposits and structures surviving below, and the further sampling and recording of these. The full deposit and structural sequence in each trench was recorded by single context based pro-forma written records, supported by scale drawn and photographic recording. Finds were collected and identified in accordance with that system, and the combination of data applied to provide a chronological sequence and interpretation of the contexts and remains encountered. That data, in combination with further desk-top research, forms the basis of this report and will be deposited with the Somerset County Museum Service at Taunton (ref. TTNCM 219/2007).

### 4.0 Results

4.1: *Trench 1* (Figs. 3 and 4) The deposit sequence revealed in Trench 1 began with the upper levels of a mixed, coarse orange-pink gravel with a little clay in patches, identified as layer 1010. Only its upper surface was seen in places on the trench bottom or cut into by many of the archaeological features, at around 1m below the modern surface. Although its full depth was not established this is an alluvial gravel of wholly natural origin, also identified in Trenches 2 and 3 and seen elsewhere beneath Cheddar.

4.2: Sealing the gravel in most places was a thin deposit of buff-orange/brown silty clay with scattered grit and gravel (layer 1008), usually 200 - 300mm deep and occasionally flecked with charcoal. This had been removed where cut through or truncated by disturbances of later origin. No datable finds were recovered from this deposit but it probably represents the remains of a primary silt and subsoil accumulation that formed above the gravel. Equivalent deposits were seen in Trenches 2 and 3.

4.3: Some 2m from the eastern end of the trench an irregular thin layer of stone blocks and some smaller rubble in gritty clay flecked with occasional charcoal (layer 1002), spread almost 5m westwards above the subsoil horizon. The stones were of mixed origin, the majority of Mendip limestone, with occasional pieces of Lias limestone and Triassic red sandstone. The only other finds were a few worn sherds of Roman red colour coat pottery and a flaked flint. Close to the eastern edge of this deposit were two stony clay-filled, shallow depressions (1013 a & b) almost 1m apart. These were undated but a block of sandstone set vertically within 1013a suggests that at least one was a posthole. There was no other discernable structure to the stone rubble layer 1002 indicative of paving or a wall foundation.

4.4: less than 5m west of the stone spread a 1m wide strip of dark grey-brown silty clay soil (layer 1003), represented the fill of a shallow ditch (F103) that crossed the trench on a northwest-southeast axis. This had sloping and uneven sides to a flattened base, cut up to 300mm deep through the subsoil layer to the gravel below. Excavation of a 1m long segment of ditch fill produced 35 fragments of well preserved animal bone (mainly sheep and cattle), and over 40 sherds of Romano-British pottery – the bulk of local greyware fabrics that probably originate from kilns located around Congresbury in north Somerset, with a smaller quantity of South Dorset Black Burnished ware and a few oxidized fabrics. Also within the fill were moderate quantities of ash and charcoal and a scatter of small-medium sized stones, especially towards the base of the ditch. Although not closely datable, the pottery suggests mainly 2<sup>nd</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD deposition.

4.5: Midway along the trench were two more shallow ditches (F104 and F105) cut through the subsoil into the underlying gravel, both apparently crossing on a northwest-southeast axis. The smaller to the east, F104, was similar in form and size to F103, a 1m wide excavated sample of its dark grey fill 1004 containing plentiful ash and charcoal, and a moderate quantities of stone, some of which was burnt. There was also a substantial assemblage of well preserved animal bone (some 80 fragments), including sheep, cattle and some pig, several of which were burnt. Also recovered were 17 sherds of mainly 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century AD Romano-British pottery – the bulk South Dorset Black Burnished ware with some local greywares, and an iron nail.

4.6: The ditch F105 was situated less than 1m to the west but was twice the width, with very shallow sloping sides, particularly to the east, and cut to a maximum depth of almost 500mm through the underlying subsoil and gravel. Excavation of a 1m wide sample recovered a small collection of mainly 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century AD Black Burnished and local greyware pottery and a few animal bones – mostly from one shoulder blade of cattle. Its dark grey-brown fill (1005) also contained some charcoal and scattered stone cobbles, most towards the bottom.

4.7: Approximately 7m from the western end of the trench a fourth ditch (F102) crossed it on a similar axis to those above, almost 2m wide at its edges but with uneven sides and a broad base over 400mm deep. A 1m long excavated sample of its dark grey-brown stony fill (1006) contained charcoal, an iron timber nail and some larger stone cobbles towards the bottom, but no animal bone was found. An assemblage of 35 sherds

of pottery was split almost equally between South Dorset Black Burnished ware and local Congresbury greywares, along with a handful of Samian, Oxfordshire red colour coat ware and New Forest colour coat ware. The pottery assemblage indicates a predominantly 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> century AD deposit.

4.8; A little more than 1m to the west of this ditch was another broader cut, F101, also aligned approximately northwest-southeast across the trench. At least 3m wide, its upper surviving edge to the east was a shallow sloping shelf down to a steeper-sided cut of unknown full depth within the gravel. Its western edge was much disturbed by the foundations of a later wall F100 and more recent disturbance and dumping seen at the western extremity of the trench. Only part of an upper mid-brown, stony clay soil fill (1007) could be sampled by hand excavation, from which was recovered a few fragments of animal bone, three sherds of local Romano-British greyware pottery, a sherd of 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century coarse pottery and another from a 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century green-glazed jug. The water table and subsequent flooding prevented a more complete excavation but the ditch was at least 0.5m deep.

4.9: Set into the fills of ditch F101 were the foundations of a mortared stone wall, F100, the bottom of which could not be reached in excavation below ground water levels. Almost 600mm wide and at least 1.3m high, this also crossed the trench on a northwest-southeast axis, apparently following the line of the earlier ditch. Six or seven mortared courses of dressed stone blocks survived, with further unmortared courses continuing below, the latter incorporating occasional fragments of brick and sherds from a large glazed earthenware pancheon of 18<sup>th</sup> – early 19<sup>th</sup> century type. At the point where the wall cut the fill 1007 of the underlying ditch a thin spread of mortar and small stone rubble (1012) eastwards marked a building level for the wall and its contemporary ground level.

4.10: The wall F100 survived another 0.5m above that level before its truncation beneath the makeup for the modern car park. Sealing the earlier levels and butting against the surviving east face of the wall was a layer of mixed dark brown silty soil (layer 1001), that spread eastwards with an average depth of 400mm along the full length of the trench. This deposit was removed wholly by machine but contained occasional fragments of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century, pottery, glass, metal, brick and tile, etc. The west face of the wall was butted by an extensive deposit of modern dumped stony soil and debris (layer 1011), including scrap metal, ceramics, glass, plastics, concrete, brick, etc. This continued down to the surface of the gravel and the western edge of the ditch F101 at over 1m below the modern tarmac and its thick hardcore base (layer 1000), which also extended east along the rest of the trench.

4.11: *Trench 2* (Fig. 3). This trench was cut to investigate the western side of the plot, although the presence of a foul water drain in its northwest corner limited the trench length northwards. Mechanical excavation to remove over 1m of overburden exposed a mixed, pink-orange coarse gravel with some clay (layer 2005) in several places at the lowest levels reached, approximately 1.2m below the modern surface. This is a deposit of

natural origin, almost identical in character to the gravel 1010 encountered in Trench 1 and of likely similar origin.

4.12: The gravel was sealed in most places by a continuous layer of mixed orange-buff/brown silty clay (layer 2003), averaging 300mm in depth and merging below into the gravel horizon. Its upper levels were flecked with grit and small stones, some charcoal and occasional small fragments of animal bone, but no other distinct deposits or features were seen within it. This deposit resembles the subsoil/silt layer 1008 sealing the gravel in Trench 1 and probably has a similar origin.

4.13: At the northern end of the trench a 2m wide band of buff-grey silty clay (layer 1004) sealed the subsoil horizon, marking the southern edge of a shallow cut (F200) into it. Neither the full depth nor width of this feature could be determined, despite a small extension of the trench here, but it appears to be part of a linear cut or hollow on a northeast-southwest axis. A few sherds of 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century local glazed earthenware pottery and animal bone fragments were recovered from sample excavation of its upper fills.

4.14: This feature and the subsoil horizon were sealed by a fairly homogenous darker brown silty soil (layer 2002), with occasional small stone scatters and one or two pieces of post-medieval ceramic and animal bone fragments. In places this soil was truncated or mixed and disturbed by a thick layer of modern dumping, incorporating scrap metal, concrete, brick, glass, plastics and other debris in a dark grey stony soil matrix (layer 2001). This averaged 500mm depth or more in places and appears to continue from the almost identical deposit 1011 encountered at the western end of Trench 1. Once again, this was capped by 300mm+ of hardcore below the modern tarmac surface (layer 2000) of the car park here.

4.15: *Trench 3* (Figs 3 and 4). This was the deepest excavated trench, across the northern entry to the site, cut to over 1.5m below the modern surface. Here, the lowest formation was a surface of mixed, coarse orange-pink gravel (layer 3006), of unknown full depth and only intermittently exposed. This deposit evidently corresponds with the gravels 1010 and 2005 in Trenches 1 and 2, with a similar natural depositional origin. Immediately above it was a silty buff-orange-brown clay deposit (layer 3005), much disturbed by later features but surviving up to 400mm deep in places. There were no finds beyond occasional flecks of charcoal in its upper levels, and this deposit equates to those of similar character and origin in Trenches 1 and 2 – layers 1008 and 2003.

4.16: Both of these primary deposits were extensively disturbed by a series of later man-made features, the earliest of which may have been a cut (F303) over 2m wide across the narrower eastern end of the trench. Only the upper edges of a sloping-sided cut aligned approximately northwest-southeast and at least 400mm deep were seen, suggesting part of a ditch whose alignment southwards could link it with the ditch F102 in Trench 1. The level of groundwater and subsequent flooding restricted the scope of further excavation, but a large sherd of local Roman-British greyware pottery and one



from a post-medieval glazed earthenware vessel were recovered from its upper level of dark brown silty soil fill (layer 3003).

4.17: Approximately 3m to the west was the edge of another broad cut (F302), approximately 2.5m wide and apparently on a similar alignment to F303. Similar groundwater and flooding problems hampered a fuller exposure of this steep-side ditch, whose full depth is unknown. Similarly limited excavation of its upper mid-brown silty claysoil fill (layer 3004) recovered a few fragments of animal bone and a 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century sherd of South Dorset Black Burnished ware. The alignment and character of this ditch suggests a link to the south with ditch F101 in Trench 1.

4.18: As in Trench 1, the ditch F302 was cut into by the foundations of a mortared stone wall (F300), along its western edge and apparently on the same alignment. Fragments of post-medieval brick were incorporated into the unmortared foundations, the bottom of which were not seen, while almost 1m of upper surviving mortared courses were truncated by makeup levels for the present car park. This wall was butted against the corner of another mortared stone wall to the east (F301), the north face of which was exposed for a length of almost 4m in the side of the trench. This survived up to 1m high in places, its eastern end removed by a modern concrete wall foundation and truncated above by makeup for the car park. A few fragments of tile and sherds of 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century glazed earthenware pottery were recovered from the unmortared foundations set into the top fill of the ditch F302. These remains suggest the foundations of a small post-medieval stone building lying immediately to the south of Trench 3, that pre-dates the construction of the wall F300.

4.19: Both walls were butted by a fairly homogenous layer of mid-dark brown soil (layer 3001), surviving to a depth of over 500mm to the east but thinner and more disturbed to the west by modern dumping. Occasional fragments of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century pottery and earthenware flowerpots were present at the west end of the trench. Further east this soil and the wall foundations were disturbed and buried by progressively deeper deposits of mixed dark stony soil and rubble (layer 3002) containing modern scrap metal, concrete, brick/tile, plastics, glass, etc. This dumped material evidently continues from the equivalent deposits 1011 and 2001 encountered in Trenches 1 and 2, and was sealed by the hardcore foundation (layer 3000) for the modern car park tarmac surface.

## **5.0 Conclusions**

5.1: The location of gravel deposits at the lowest levels reached in all three evaluation trenches (layers 1010, 2005 and 3006) represents a natural substrate beneath the whole site, with its surface at around 9.5-9.6m AOD. The full depth of this deposit is unknown, although during excavations on the Kings of Wessex School site over 1m of similar gravel sealed a base geological formation of Triassic Mercian Mudstone (Rahtz 1979, 29-31). This material was deposited at a time of rapid and high-volume water flow by a much larger river exiting from Cheddar Gorge, probably during or at the end the last ice

age. These periglacial deposits underlie much of Cheddar, and deposits of similar origin exist further east along the foot of the Mendip Hills at Wookey and Wells.

5.2: Above the gravels a thin silty clay, rarely more than 300mm thick (layers 1008, 2003 and 3005) may also be of primarily natural origin, the remains of finer alluvial silting and weathering material mixed with the remnants of a buried soil. This incorporated only occasional traces of human activity but could in part have formed during periods of pre-Roman land clearance and cultivation. The recovery of a flaked flint from Trench 1 hints at prehistoric activity in the locality, such material having been recovered in small quantities from several other nearby sites investigated. A relatively level, well drained gravel terrace such as this would be attractive for early settlement, as an alternative or complement to the better known prehistoric use of nearby Cheddar Gorge. Doubtless this situation was equally significant thereafter in attracting more extensive Romano-British and medieval settlement.

5.3: Most of the evidence for Romano-British activity within the site was found in its eastern half in Trench 1. From limited exposures it is not possible to reconstruct a layout, although the most westerly ditch F102 may be continued for over 20m northwards as F303 in Trench 3. This may have been a boundary functioning in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, while further east the series of ditches F103 – F105 suggest earlier 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> century arrangements. The profile and content of the ditches show that they were subject to prolonged weathering, further indicators of a relatively long-lived settlement.

5.4: The volume of pottery and animal bone recovered, and its character, indicate the close proximity domestic occupation – the content of F103 in particular suggesting dumping of hearth debris, including butchered and burnt bone, charcoal, burnt stone and pottery. Over 1 kilo (112 sherds) of Roman pottery was recovered from the site, almost all from contemporary contexts, which divides roughly as almost 60% local greywares (primarily from the North Somerset Congresbury kilns) and almost 40% South Dorset Black Burnished ware, with just a handful of oxidized wares including Samian and 4<sup>th</sup>-century colour coat wares. The only other structural evidence for this occupation was the spread of rubble 1002 and possible postholes 1013a & b that could represent the remains of a building, although a direct association between it and the better dated ditches is not certain.

5.5: From evidence recorded in previous excavations and watching briefs (2.5 & 2.6 above) it is evident that these remains belong within the context of an extensive Romano-British settlement postulated in the locality of Cheddar (Webster 2000). Some of the most detailed discoveries to date were made during excavations and watching briefs between this site and St Andrew's church in the 1960s (Rahtz 1965 and Hirst and Rahtz 1973), less than 50m south of Saxon Place. Despite difficulties in effective recording of archaeological evidence in the foundations of houses built at that time on the north side of Parsons Piece, it is very likely that some of the remains at Saxon Place could be linked directly to those found further south.

5.6: Despite the proximity of the Late Saxon/medieval royal centre immediately to the west, evidence of this period was much less apparent. The only major feature suspected was the 3m wide ditch F101, that appears to be continued northwards by F302 in Trench 3. It was unfortunate that ground and weather conditions at the time of investigation were inimical to a more complete excavation sample. The occasional sherds of medieval pottery from the upper fills of F101 at least, suggest that the ditch was still open in the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries, although it could have much earlier origins. However, it may be no coincidence that the much later stone walls F100 and F300 follow and are set within this ditch, effectively maintaining its line well into the post-medieval period. Examination of both the earliest detailed 19<sup>th</sup> century and more modern maps of Cheddar, show a line of property boundaries extending south from Bath Street as far as the western boundary of St Andrew's church vicarage garden. Excavations on the palace site demonstrated some later expansion eastwards of structures (in Period 3), probably by the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The earlier eastern ditched boundary to the late Saxon palace complex was then built over, but no later eastern boundary to the site was found (Rahtz 1979). Given its location and probable scale, the ditch F101/F302 below Saxon Place must be a strong candidate for that redefined eastern boundary, probably excavated in the later 11<sup>th</sup> or early 12<sup>th</sup> century and marking the separation between the royal palace site and the village settlement of Cheddar.

5.7: The walls F100/F300 are almost certainly parts of the same structure, probably built sometime around 1800 as a property boundary, and as suggested above, perpetuating a much earlier division between palace and village. There was no clue as to the nature of any earlier marker, the ditch having filled up, but its line had probably been maintained since medieval times. A limited excavation on 1999 within the school playing fields west of the vicarage gardens and due south of this site, encountered a 70m length of wall foundation parallel with the present west garden wall, that continues the alignment of the walls in Saxon Place (Grove, *et al*, 2007).

5.8: In Trench 3 the stone wall was built against the foundations (F301) of an earlier stone building. Map evidence suggests that this had been demolished before the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and it could have been an outhouse built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century at the western extremity of the plot belonging to premises on Church Street. This building and the boundary wall had certainly gone well before the extensive dump of modern rubbish and mixed soils spread to raise the level of the yard, possibly linked to its use as commercial/industrial premises during and after World War II. Most of this material lies on the west side of the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century demolished boundary wall, where evidence for significant earlier archaeological remains is sparse, although there was no indication that this 20<sup>th</sup> century deposition event had significantly reduced its potential to survive.

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## Appendix

### Table of archaeological contexts

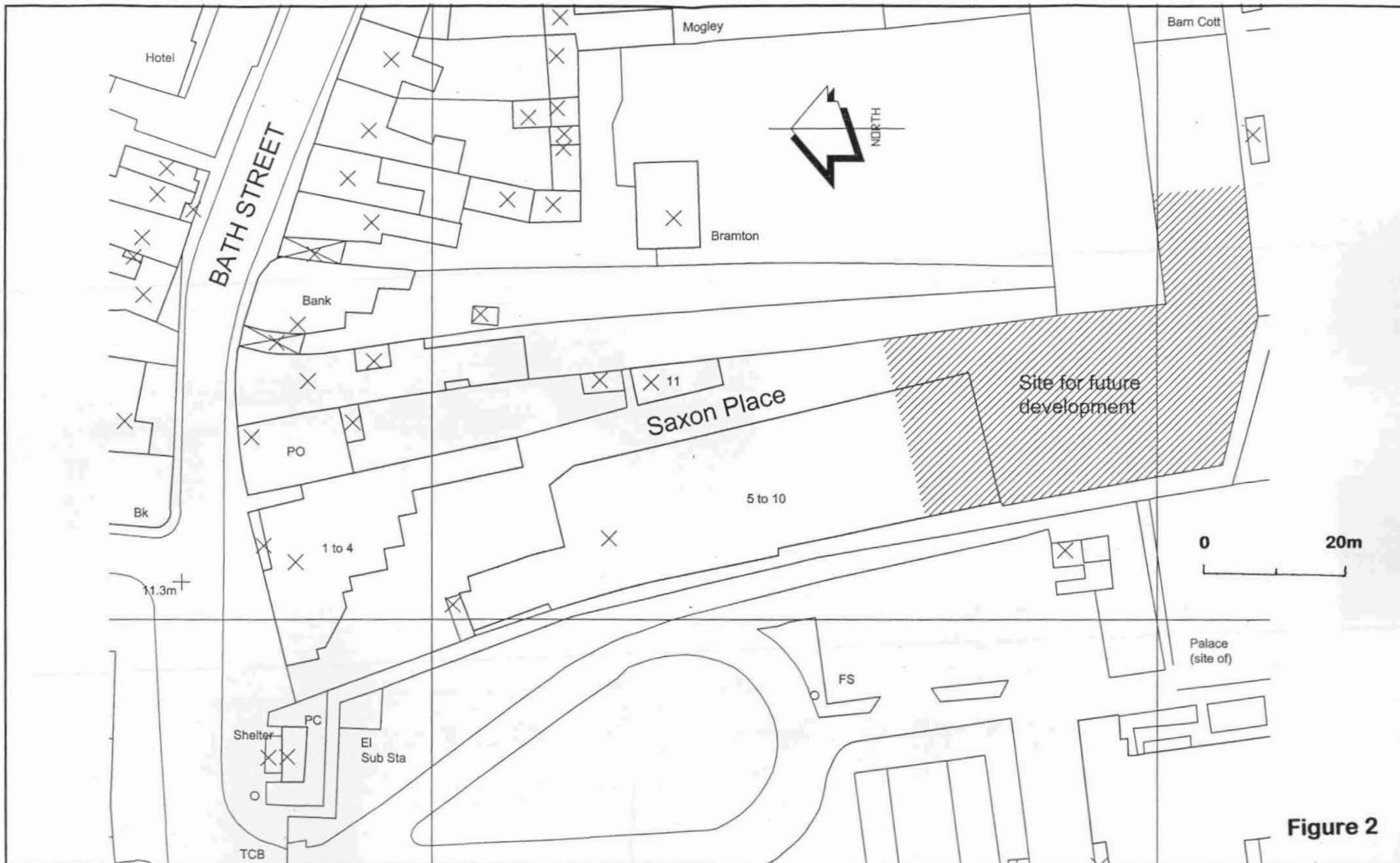
Context	Description	Finds	Interpretation
Tr1.1000	Tarmac and hardcore	None	Modern carpark
1001	Dark brown humic soil layer	C19th-20 <sup>th</sup> ceramics, etc	Buried topsoil
1002	Stone blocks and rubble spread	R-B pot, flint	R-B building? debris
1003	Dark grey-brown stony silts, charcoal, burnt stone	C2nd-C3 <sup>rd</sup> R-B pot, animal bone	Fill of ditch F103
1004	Dark grey-brown stony silt with charcoal	C2nd-C3 <sup>rd</sup> R-B pot, animal bone, iron nail	Fill of ditch F104
1005	Dark grey-brown stony silt with charcoal	C2nd-C3 <sup>rd</sup> RB pot, animal bone	Fill of ditch F105
1006	Dark grey-brown stony silt with charcoal	C3rd-C4 <sup>th</sup> RB pot, iron nail	Fill of ditch F102
1007	Mid brown silty soil with pebbles	R-B pot, C11th-13 <sup>th</sup> Medieval pottery, animal bone	Upper fill of ditch F101
1008	Buff-orange silty clay layer with pebbles	No finds	Prehistoric(?) subsoil formation
1009	Stone blocks, stone rubble and mortar	C18th-19 <sup>th</sup> earthenware pot and brick	Matrix of wall F100
1010	Layer of mixed pink-orange gravel with clay	No finds	Naturally deposited alluvial gravel
1011	Very mixed dark grey-brown stony dumped deposits	Modern metal, concrete, glass, brick, plastic, etc.	C20th landfill deposit
1012	Thin layer of mortar & stone	None	F100 building level
1013a&b	Buff-grey gritty soil deposits	None	R-B(?) postholes
F100	Mortared stone wall foundations	See 1009	Post-medieval boundary wall = F300
F101	Top of NW-SE aligned ditch	See 1007	Medieval boundary ditch, with F302
F102	NW-SE aligned ditch cut	See 1006	C3rd-C4 <sup>th</sup> ditch
F103	NW-SE aligned ditch cut	See 1003	C2nd-C3 <sup>rd</sup> ditch
F104	NW-SE aligned ditch cut	See 1004	C2nd-C3 <sup>rd</sup> ditch
F105	NW-SE aligned ditch cut	See 1005	C2nd-C3 <sup>rd</sup> ditch
Tr2.2000	Tarmac and hardcore	None	Modern car park
2001	Very mixed dark grey-brown stony dumped deposits	Modern metal, concrete, brick, glass, plastics, etc.	C20th landfill deposit
2002	Dark brown humic soil layer	C19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> ceramics, etc.	Buried topsoil
2003	Buff-orange silty clay layer with pebbles	No finds	Subsoil formation
2004	Light buff-grey silt deposit	C17th-18 <sup>th</sup> ceramics	Fill of F200 cut
2005	Layer of mixed pink/orange gravel with clay	None	Naturally deposited alluvial gravel
F200	S. edge of E-W linear cut	See 2004	Post-medieval ditch(?)

Tr3.3000	Tarmac and hardcore	None	Modern car park
3001	Dark brown humic soil layer	C19th-20 <sup>th</sup> ceramics, etc.	Buried topsoil
3002	Very mixed dark grey-brown stony dumped deposits	Modern metal, concrete, brick, glass, plastics, etc.	C20th landfill deposit
3003	Dark-brown silty clay layer with few stones	RB pottery	Upper fill of ditch F303
3004	Mid-brown silty clay layer with scattered stone	RB pottery, animal bone	Upper fill of ditch F302
3005	Buff-orange silty clay layer with pebbles	No finds	Subsoil formation
3006	Layer of mixed pink-orange gravel with clay	No finds	Naturally deposited alluvial gravel
3007	Dressed and irregular stone blocks + rubble with mortar	C18th ceramics	Matrix of wall F301
3008	Dressed stone blocks with mortar + unmortared stone and brick rubble	C18th-19 <sup>th</sup> ceramics	Matrix of wall F300
F300	Mortared stone wall foundations	See 3008	Post-medieval boundary wall = F100
F301	Mortared stone wall foundations	See 3007	Post-medieval N. wall building foundation
F302	Top of NW-SE aligned ditch cut	See 3004	Medieval boundary ditch with F101
F303	Top of NW-SE aligned ditch cut	See 3003	R-B boundary ditch









**Figure 2**



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Client: E E Lanes and Sons (Holdings) Ltd  
Job: Proposed Development to rear of Lanes of Cheddar  
Title: Location Plan

Scale: 1:500  
Date: June 2007  
Drawn: FDV

Drg No: **S4387 / LOC**



# SAXON PLACE, CHEDDAR

## Archaeological evaluation 2007

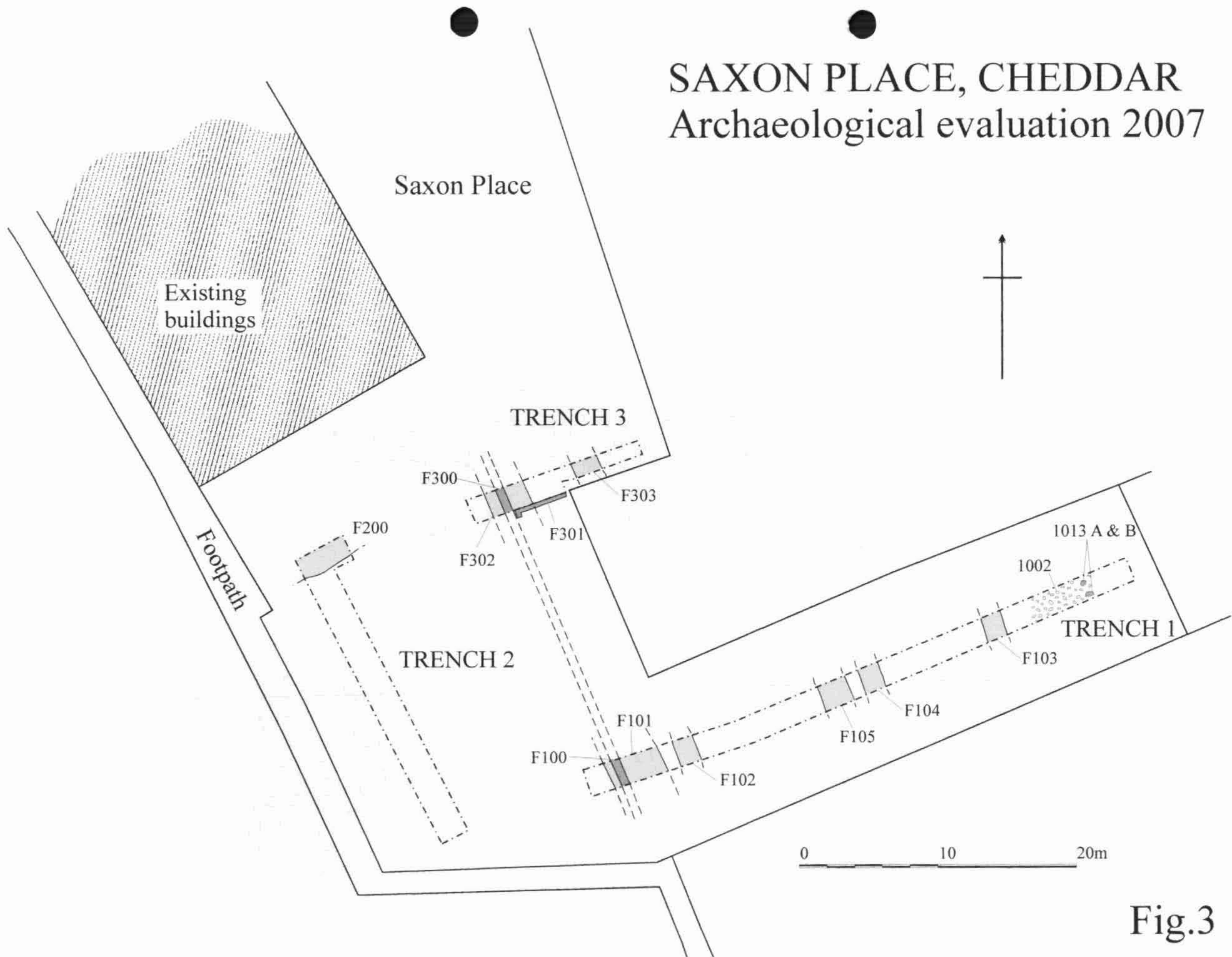


Fig.3



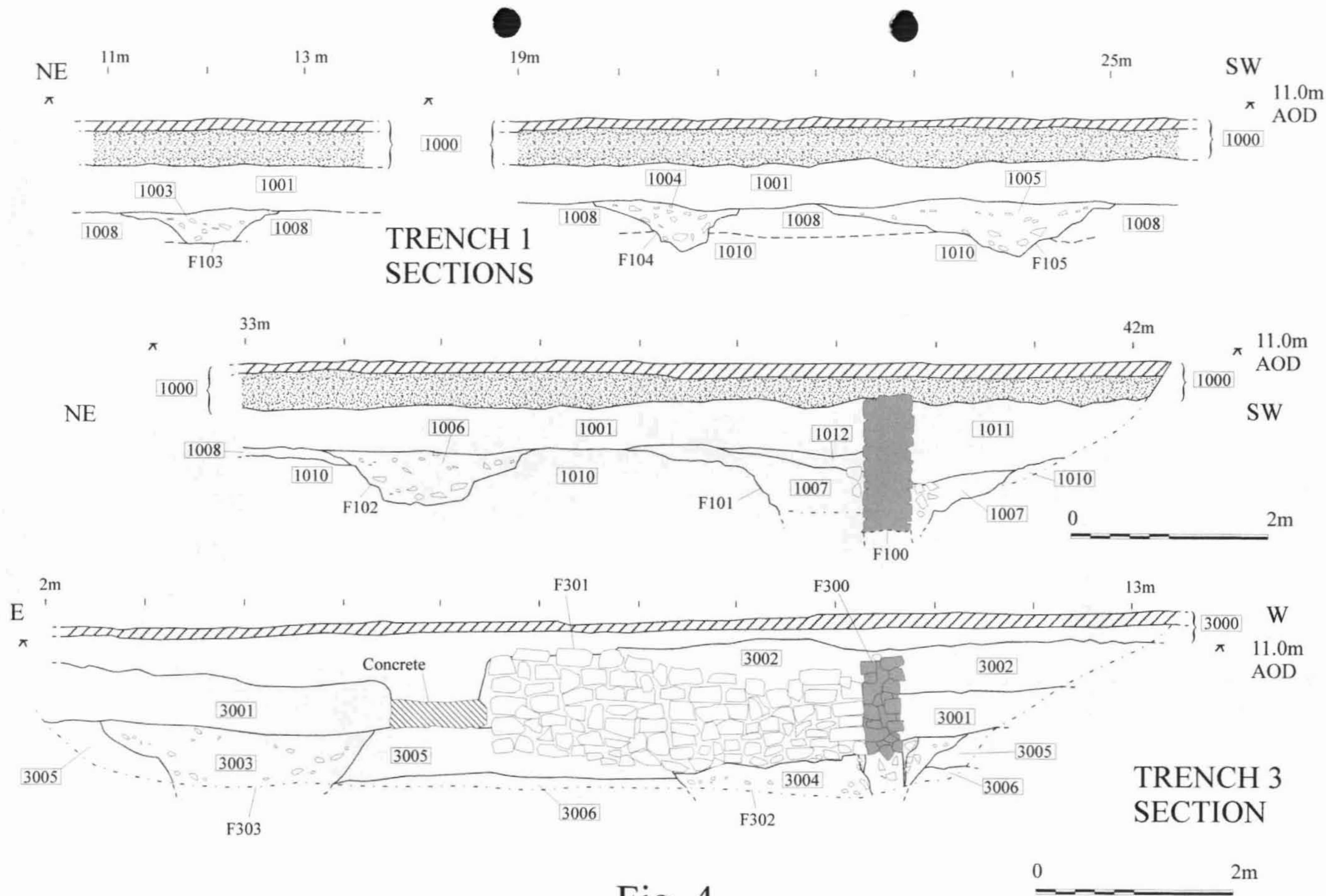


Fig. 4