Archaeological Investigations at Shepherd's Mead, Hinton Charterhouse (ST 7675 5813)

by

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1. Summary

1.1. A proposal for the construction of new farm buildings and an associated access road at Shepherd's Mead, Hinton Charterhouse, led to the commissioning of Bath Archaeological Trust to conduct a phased programme of archaeological investigations. A fieldwalking exercise conducted on site by the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society in advance of the development had demonstrated the former presence of a high status medieval building within Shepherd's Mead, which necessitated an amendment to the proposed route of the access road. It was anticipated in advance of the archaeological investigations that the medieval remains would provide the main focus of archaeological interest, but observations made in 1820 and 1821 by a former rector of Camerton, the Reverend Skinner, suggested that the remains of a high status Roman building, possibly a villa, might also be encountered.

1.2. In the event very few medieval remains were revealed, but the remains of a Roman-period building equipped with an underfloor heating system (*hypocaust*), lying at the intersection of two well-constructed enclosure walls, were recorded. This would have formed part of the residential quarters or associated amenities of a high status Roman dwelling, or villa, and would have functioned as a heated living or dining room, or was possibly part of a bath house. Being a fire hazard bath houses were often detached- and sometimes by a considerable distance- from the main residential quarters of villas. This means that if the hypocausted room identified on site was part of a bath house it is no reliable guide to the location of these. The earliest demonstrated occupation on site dates to the mid-late third century, and a second phase of construction was initiated in the second half of the fourth century AD. When precisely the structures were abandoned and collapsed could not be ascertained within the narrow limits of excavation. The Roman remains were found to be reasonably well preserved and thereby constitute a valuable archaeological resource, the further investigation of which would allow the date range, form, function and landscape setting of the buildings to be more securely established. The Roman- and particularly the medieval remains are, however, a fragile resource, vulnerable to plough damage, and would benefit from a sensitive management strategy.

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2. Introduction

2.1. Bath Archaeological Trust was commissioned by Hinton Farm Estate to implement a programme of archaeological work during the groundworks phase of a development at Shepherds Mead, Hinton Charterhouse. This programme was commissioned in order to discharge an archaeological condition placed upon planning permission by Bath and North East Somerset Council.

2.2. The development comprised the construction of a new grain store, Dutch barn, covered yard and associated hard standing on land to the south of Tuggy's Lane, and an associated road giving access to these buildings from Wellow Lane, via Shepherd's Mead. These structures were designed to replace the derelict Lower Barn and its access track, which is inconveniently situated for the new structures.

2.3. The archaeological condition applied only to the groundworks associated with the construction of the new access road. Those associated with the construction of the farm buildings were not covered by the condition, and consequently these were not subject to close archaeological monitoring.

2.4. The route of the track as originally proposed was amended prior to the commencement of the archaeological scheme of works, in order to skirt around the eastern limit of a concentration of medieval building materials and pottery sherds collected from the ploughsoil during a fieldwalking exercise conducted by Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society during the Spring of 1998 (see sections 6.4.-6.8., below).

2.5. The programme of archaeological work was implemented between 29th June and 10th July, 1998. Prior to the commencement of the development, it was estimated that this would take five days to complete. However, the significance of the archaeological deposits revealed during the initial watching brief necessitated an additional five days of fieldwork. Hinton House estate generously consented to fund this extension. The archaeological fieldwork was conducted by Robert Bell, Derek Cater, Leslie Cross, Andrew Crutchley and Marek Lewcun of Bath Archaeological Trust, with the kind assistance of members of the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society and local residents: Charles Drew, Steve Drew, Andrew Gillan, Rebecca Gillan, Colin Knowles, Ian Marlow, John Matthews, Margaret Nuth, John Oswin, Anne Tod and Isla Tuck. Robert Bell was the project manager and Derek Cater the project officer.

2.6. This report details and discusses the results of this programme of archaeological work. The results of a fieldwalking exercise conducted by Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society in April 1998, prior to the development, are also documented and discussed.

3. The Site

3.1. Location

3.1.1. Shepherd's Mead is situated immediately to the west of Hinton Charterhouse village, and is bounded by Wellow Lane to the north and Tuggy's Lane (a green lane) to the south. Historically, a field with the name of 'Worthays' lay between Shepherd's Mead and Hinton Charterhouse village (see Fig.1 and Plate 1). At some date subsequent to the 1982 edition Ordnance Survey 1:10 000 map (Sheet ST 75NE), the boundary between Shepherd's Mead and Worthays was removed, subsuming the latter into the former. Shepherd's Mead as historically defined is approximately centred upon ST 76755813.

3.1.2. For the location within Shepherd's Mead of the new access road, see Fig.2, below.

3.2. Topography and Landuse

3.2.1 Shepherd's Mead is situated on the upper north-facing slope of the valley of the Wellow Brook. Tuggy's Lane, which bounds the field to the south, runs along the crest of this slope. The new track rises from approximately 119.4m OD adjacent to Wellow Lane, to the North, to approximately 123.8m OD at its junction with Tuggy's Lane, to the South. At present Shepherds Mead is under arable cultivation but, as its name implies, historically Shepherd's Mead was meadow land.

3.3. Geology

3.3.1. The Geological Survey of Great Britain (England & Wales)- Solid and Drift, Sheet 281, Frome, 1968- indicates the underlying solid geology of the site to be Forest Marble (mainly clay with shelly limestone and sandstone), overlying limestone, both of the Jurassic Great Oolite Series.

3.3.2. On-site observations revealed that at the extreme northern limit of the site the natural subsoil was a pale greenish-grey silty clay, which ran under Wellow Lane and extended, in an irregular band, approximately 2m southwards to the present northern boundary wall of Shepherd's Mead. The same pale greenish-grey silty clay was present in the field to the south of Tuggy's Lane, in which the new structures are now sited.

3.3.3. Between these deposits the subsoil was a mid-brown silty clay, which contained very frequent small angular limestone brash to the north of Area A, but which declined in frequency southwards. To the South of Area D the natural clay subsoil was almost entirely brash-free.

4. Project Aims and Objectives

4.1. To meet the requirements of the Built Heritage Group design brief by:

4.1.1. Carrying out on-site monitoring of mechanical topsoil stripping.

4.1.2. Systematically recovering and plotting all artefacts revealed during this process.

4.1.3. Recording in detail and to an appropriate scale, all archaeological features and structures revealed by topsoil removal.

4.1.4. Excavating a judgement sample of these (including all remains vulnerable to destruction) to ascertain their date and function.

4.1.5. Analysing the results and integrating the fieldwalking data, as far as possible, and producing an archive report and an appropriate SMR report

4.1.6. Creating an ordered, stable and accessible archive of recovered materials and records, deposited with The Roman Baths' Museum, Bath.

5. Methodology

5.1. Fieldwork

5.1.1. At the commencement of the programme of archaeological investigations the site was under arable cultivation. The standing crop was at too advanced a stage of growth to allow effective examination of the plough soil for further artefact recovery prior to topsoil stripping. Therefore, despite the recommendations of the Built Heritage Group design brief, no fieldwalking additional to that conducted by the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society was carried out.

5.1.2. The stripping of topsoil along the route of the new access track (the line of which had been surveyed and marked in advance) was conducted by means of a mechanical back-hoe excavator (JCB), using a toothless ditching bucket. This process was closely monitored by the author.

5.1.3. The surface of the stripped area and the removed plough soil were scanned by eye and by an approved metal detectorist. Artefacts were collected in 10-metre stints, measured from a fixed origin point at the northern end of Shepherd's Mead, at the point where the projected eastern edge of the access road butts Wellow Lane. Measurement then followed the eastern edge of the cleared strip. These 10-metre stints were subsequently given context numbers for ease of administration. Thus the stint from the origin point to a point 10 metres south was numbered 500, the second stint 501, the third 502, etc. The stripped topsoil was mounded at the side of the track, adjacent to the point from which it was stripped. The artefacts contained in the topsoil were therefore not relocated by a greater distance than would be effected by ploughing, and certainly not far enough to skew the results obtained with a 10-metre collection interval. Consequently, no distinction was made between unstratified material collected from the surface of the cleared strip and that collected from the stripped topsoil.

5.1.4. The surface of the stripped area was shovel-scraped and selectively trowelled clean, in order to reveal any archaeological structures, features or deposits.

5.1.5. Revealed archaeological remains were investigated to a degree consonant with the clarification of their date and function.

5.1.6. All revealed archaeological structures and features were recorded using elements of the B.A.T. recording system of complementary written, drawn and photographic records. All contexts were allocated a unique identification number and the physical characteristics and stratigraphic relationships of each were recorded on pro-forma context sheets. In addition, all significant archaeological features were recorded on one of a series of 1:20 scale plans and 1:20 section drawings, each accurately located within the development area. All recorded features were accurately related to Ordnance Survey datum. A photographic record, comprising monochrome and colour prints in 35mm format and colour slides, was compiled.

5.1.7. An overall location plan showing the maximum extent of the stripped area, the revealed archaeological features and structures, and the artefact collection stints was compiled at an appropriate scale.

5.1.8. All recovered artefacts were retained.

5.2. Post Excavation

5.2.1. All artefacts were cleaned, marked and appropriately packaged prior to the commissioning of specialist analyses. The coins were examined by Mark Corney, the small finds by John Clarke, and the pottery by Rod Burchill.

5.2.2. All stratigraphic relationships were checked and the fieldwork results analysed in conjunction with the results of the specialist analyses.

5.2.3. All readily available documentary sources were consulted. These include the Roman Baths' Museum-, and the Built Heritage Group Sites and Monuments Records, printed sources and historical documents held in the collections of the Somerset Records Office, Taunton, and the report on a fieldwalking exercise conducted on site by the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society in advance of development, kindly supplied to the author by Ms Jayne Lawes.

5.2.4. This report presents the results of the programme of archaeological works and places these in their historical and archaeological context.

6. Previous Archaeological Investigations and Existing Documentation

6.1. There is a single entry in each of the two Sites and Monuments Records relating to Shepherd's Mead. Both record a possible Roman building to the north of Lower Barn, at ST768581. In the Built Heritage Group SMR this is numbered 1624, whilst in that held by the Roman Baths' Museum it is recorded as HC11. This entry derives from a series of observations made by the Rev. J. Skinner, Rector of Camerton, and recorded in his journal between 1820 and 1821. Skinner's notes do not allow the accurate location of the putative structures (he did not produce a measured plan, merely recording that they were located 'to the right of the road from Wellow to Hinton'- VCH 1, 315). As a result, in each of the SMRs these have been given a grid reference central to Shepherd's Mead.

6.2. Under July 29, 1820, Skinner records in his journal that, in association with a Bath apothecary, 'Old Cranch', he mounted an excavation in Shepherd's Mead, where 'linchets and small lines of enclosure...and where the blackness of the soil seemed to indicate habitations' (B.M.Add.MSS.33656 f.5). 'Building stones', pottery then identified as Romano-British, and a coin of Gallienus suggested Romano-British structures. Subsequent entries record the recovery of a sherd of Samian ware and three further coins of the late Empire (B.M.Add.MSS.33668 f.41), and the observation of an irregular oblong earthwork, then still visible, which appeared to enclose 'an assemblage of small habitations' (B.M.Add.MSS.33668 f.42). For a fuller transcription of journal entries relating to Shepherd's Mead see section 12.3, below.

6.3. Other Romano-British sites recorded on the Roman Baths' Museum SMR allow a tolerably complete picture of the settlement geography and some of the road network of the area to be established. These include a Romano-British villa at Wellow, ST728580 (SMR W6); a probable Romano-British villa at Iford, ST797583 (SMR HC12); and a Romano-British building at White Ox Mead,

ST720582 (SMR W8). A Romano-British Coin to the east of Shepherd's Mead at ST771582 (SMR HC13), Romano-British coins and pottery sherds at ST 773583 (SMR HC10), Romano-British pottery sherds at ST750594 (SMR W3) and at ST745600 (SMR W13), are all perhaps indicative of (as yet) undiscovered settlement sites- as presumably is the Romano-British stone coffin found at ST768597 (SMR HC1). The Roman Road from Bath to Frome (Margary's Road No. 52- Margary 1973, 127-128; SMR HC6) passes through the parish of Hinton Charterhouse. The projected line of a recorded section of this road runs within approximately 600 metres of the Romano-British structures under discussion in this report.

6.4. In order to more accurately locate the structures identified by the Rev. Skinner, the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society fieldwalked the enlarged Shepherd's Mead during the Spring of 1998 (Lawes 1998). A grid of 15m squares was surveyed within the field and each square was walked for a period of 10 minutes. Surface artefacts were bagged by grid square. Recovered artefacts were placed into one of five categories: Roman finds, medieval building material, medieval pottery, post-medieval finds and clay tobacco pipes, and the results were displayed on five location plots (see section 12.5, below). It should be noted that the grid intervals (and hence the plotted distributions) relate to slope- and not horizontal distance. This means that the finds plots cannot be reduced and accurately superimposed onto an Ordnance Survey map without prior correction. No such correction has yet been attempted.

6.5. Two discrete concentrations of Romano-British material were revealed (see section 12.5.1., below). An even but light scatter of material was recovered from the approximately level land that historically lay within Worthays, to the east, while a diffuse, light scatter of material, weakly concentrated on the relatively level upper slopes in the centre and at the south, was recovered from Shepherd's Mead proper. These concentrations were separated by relatively steeply sloping ground, almost completely devoid of Romano-British surface finds, in the centre of the current amalgamated land parcel. This has been plausibly interpreted as indicating a restriction of Romano-British settlement to these relatively level areas (Lawes 1998). The low density and the weak concentration of recovered finds from Shepherd's Mead proper did not allow the structures observed by Rev. Skinner to be more precisely delimited and located.

6.6. There were marked concentrations of medieval ceramic building material and pottery in the northwestern quarter of the historic Shepherd's Mead (see section 12.5.2., below). Very little ceramic building material was present beyond the main concentration, whereas an even but light spread of medieval pottery was present throughout the enlarged Shepherd's Mead.

6.7. The glazed ceramic ridge tile fragments and fragments of glazed floor tiles are indicative of the earlier presence of a high-status medieval building in the immediate vicinity of the concentration. The secondary spread of pottery throughout Shepherds Mead almost certainly derives from medieval manuring practices centred upon this building. It was probably this building (or possibly one of a group of buildings of which this was a part) that became the 'Sheepe House', present in Shepherd's Mead in 1638 (see sections 6.9. & 6.10., below).

6.8. A concentration of post-medieval finds, and specifically of clay tobacco pipes, was revealed in the centre of Shepherd's Mead, as currently defined. There was also an even but lighter spread of material throughout the field. It has been suggested that this concentration could be indicative of the former presence of a sixteenth/seventeenth century dwelling or agricultural building at that location (Lawes 1998).

6.9. Shepherd's Mead is included in a survey of the manors of Norton St Phillip and Hinton, of 1638 (SRO DD/RG 36). It is recorded as 'Sheepe house Croft', plot 15, within the 'Meadow grounds' of 'The Grange', part of the 'Manor of Henton'. The entry reads as follows:

> One close of meadow ground lying below henton's Towne. Called Sheepe house Croft with a very large Sheepe house there on standing. Cont. 7-3-35. Val. 10.00.00.

6.10. It was suggested in the fieldwalking report (Lawes 1998) that the position of the large *Sheepe house* mentioned in the 1638 survey is indicated by the concentration of medieval building material recovered from the plough soil, and that the Sheep house may in origin have been a high-status medieval dwelling or associated agricultural building. In support of this contention it was observed that later surveys of the field (made after the demolition of the building) consistently record the field as containing one extra acre of land than did earlier surveys, suggesting that the *Sheepe house* had been a sizable building (Lawes 1998, 3).

7. Results

7.1. Location of Archaeological Areas

7.1.1. Archaeological remains were recorded in four discrete areas (**Areas A** to **D**) along the length of the cleared strip (for the location of these see fig. 2, below). Description and discussion of the revealed archaeological remains will be by area.

7.2. Phasing

7.2.1. The archaeological remains investigated on site indicate a minimum of four periods of activity (Roman, early medieval, medieval/early modern and modern), subdivided into five phases (Phases 1 and 2, Phase 3, Phase 4 and Phase 5, respectively). Approximate dates for some of these phases can be established with reference to the recovered ceramics and small finds (see section 10, below), although it should be borne in mind that only a very small (and perhaps unrepresentative) sample area was excavated, and that fuller investigation might necessitate a revision of the proposed phasing and its absolute chronology.

7.2.2. On the pottery evidence **Phase 1** would appear to span the period from the mid-late third- to an uncertain point in the fourth century. The coin evidence allows us to date the end of this phase more accurately, to some point after AD364.

7.2.3. No certain **Phase 2** artefacts were recovered, so we cannot accurately date the end of this phase of activity. We know that it post-dates AD364, and we can be sure that the walls of this phase were of Roman-style construction. But whether the structures remained in use to the end of the fourth- and into the fifth century could not be established. No specifically early-medieval artefacts were recovered during the excavations.

7.2.4. **Phase 3** comprised a period of decay, collapse and purposive robbing, the onset of which, as outlined above, is poorly dated. It is almost certain that more extensive excavations would indicate a more complex sequence of activity, with periods of disuse and collapse being followed by periods of purposive robbing, occasioned by building activity in the vicinity. Such a sequence would necessitate the subdivision of this undifferentiated phase. The data recovered so far, however, will not sustain a finer subdivision.

7.2.5. **Phase 4** comprises a group of stratified features and deposits of medieval and early post-medieval date. Recovered pottery sherds indicate activity from the 12th to the 16th centuries, with a concentration of material dating to the 12th to 14th centuries. The green-glazed ceramic roof tiles recovered during the fieldwalking exercise were almost certainly manufactured at some time during this latter period (though they have yet to be subject to specialist analysis). Very few contexts of this phase were excavated and, once again, wider excavations would almost certainly necessitate the subdivision of this broad phase.

7.2.6. **Phase 5** comprises a small group of features in Area A. These broadly relate to the contemporary geography of the site and therefore almost certainly are of early-modern or modern construction.

7.3. Area A

7.3.1. The earliest feature identified within Area A comprised a diffuse linear arrangement of limestone rubble (104), probably the fragmentary foundations of an earlier northern boundary wall of Shepherd's Mead. These lay approximately 0.5m north of the present boundary wall, and were partly concealed beneath the carriageway of Wellow Lane.

7.3.2. A 13m section of the current northern boundary wall of Shepherd's Mead had been removed prior to the commencement of the programme of archaeological work. A 5.8m length of the lowest course of wall footings (102) remained *in situ*. These comprised a double row of well-laid roughly-squared limestone blocks of dry-stone construction, with an approximate overall width of 0.4m.

7.3.3. In defining the current northern boundary of Shepherd's Mead and in its mode of construction, wall 102 is clearly of modern (Phase 5) construction. Wall 104 survived in too attenuated a form for its mode of construction to be characterised, nor were any associated finds recovered, which makes it difficult to phase this feature. However, in approximately relating to the boundaries of the modern fieldscape this wall too is probably of Phase 5 construction.

7.4. Area B

7.4.1. A 12 metre length of drain 201, running diagonally across the cleared strip in Area B, was exposed. This took a sinuous course and was oriented with the slope, approximately north-south. It was constructed of limestone basal slabs, limestone rubble sides and a limestone cap. Externally it was 0.84m wide x 0.24m deep, but the dimensions of the void, which was rectangular in section, were only 0.28 x 0.10m. The drain cut (200), which could not be fully investigated due to time constraints, contained a silty clay backfill (205).

7.4.2. The silty clay fill (202) of the drain void contained a single Romano-British pottery sherd. Whether this is indicative of a Phase 1 or 2 construction date for this structure, or whether it was a residual pot sherd when it entered the void, is uncertain. The form of the drain is undiagnostic as to its date: it was certainly not of modern construction but could have been constructed at any time from the Roman to early-modern periods. It does not conform to known types of field drain and so presumably drained a building.

7.4.3. Two shallow post-holes, one (203) immediately adjacent to the east of the drain, and a second (207) adjacent to the west, may have been associated. Post-hole 203 had been packed with angular limestone pieces and a small diameter post-pipe was evident in plan. Its fill (204) contained a single sherd of 12th -century pottery. This gives a date after which the post-hole was dug and perhaps after which the drain

was constructed. This might indicate that the drain and post-holes are of Phase 4 construction.

7.5. Area C

7.5.1. An oval pit (301), not fully exposed within the cleared strip, was cut into the natural clay subsoil. It had a clay fill (300), which contained fourteenth-century pottery sherds.

7.5.2. Topsoil stripping revealed a spread of limestone rubble (303). A sondage was excavated through this, against the western edge of the cleared strip. Overlying the natural substratum was a clay subsoil (308/309) containing medieval pottery sherds, the upper surface of which had in part been burnt reddish-brown (310) by a bonfire. This had deposited an ash-rich layer (307), which contained post-medieval ceramics and a possible Romano-British box flue-tile iron wall clamp.

7.5.3. The remains of the bonfire were sealed by rubble spread 303, which was cut by a shallow, flat-bottomed pit [306]. This had not been observed in plan but was recorded in section in the excavated sondage. The feature was much wider in the western- than the eastern section of the sondage, confirming its identification as a pit rather than a linear feature, such as a ditch. Pit 306 had two fills: a crushed limestone mortar (305), sealed by a silty clay (304).

7.5.4. This group of features, of medieval or early post-medieval date (Phase 4), was sealed by a modern ploughsoil.

7.6. Area D

7.6.1. Phase 1

7.6.1.1. Although the small-scale nature of the excavations precludes certainty, it would appear that the first action of this phase was the cutting of a terrace (449) into the hillside. The modern ground surface slopes down from 124.35m OD above the Phase 2 wall 415, which defines the southern end of Area D, to 124.08m OD above wall 401, which marks the area's approximate northern limit. Conversely, the natural substratum was observed at 123.21m OD at the former location (in Sondage 2), and 123.26 at the latter (in Sondage 1)- for the location of the sondages please see Fig. 8, below. It would appear that the Phase 1 and 2 structures and features were constructed upon this negative terrace. How extensive this terrace might have been could not be ascertained.

7.6.1.2. In Sondage 1 a linear feature [439], possibly a ditch, with an approximate north-south orientation, was cut into this putative terrace. Its partial excavation

demonstrated it to be 0.75m wide at the top, but of uncertain depth. It had a very firm clay fill (438) which contained some charcoal but no artefactual material.

7.6.1.3. Immediately adjacent to the west was a more massive ditch [417], with a similar alignment. This was 1.20m wide at the top, 0.34m at the base, and 0.54m deep. It was cut into the natural Forest Marble brash, which formed the base and western side of the ditch. It had a stiff clay primary fill (416), devoid of cultural material. A small, shallow sub-circular hollow (408), cut into the natural substratum in Sondage 1 and filled with a mid-brown clay (407) containing infrequent charcoal fragments and a single piece of burnt bone, was probably also of this phase.

7.6.1.4. Ditch 417 was subsequently recut [437], truncating the upper surface of its primary fill and completely removing this layer along the eastern side of the ditch. The recutting also truncated the fill of ditch 439, obscuring the stratigraphical relationship between ditches 439 and 417. The eastern side of the recut ditch was composed of a firm clean yellowish-brown clay, rather than limestone brash as elsewhere. This clay was cleaner and more plastic than the silty clay subsoil observed throughout the site and must have been deliberately selected and imported, possibly for waterproofing the ditch subsequent to its recutting.

7.6.1.5. The recut ditch contained two silty fills- 436 sealed by 435. The first fill contained frequent-, and the second moderate charcoal-rich lenses, in addition to lenses of burnt clay. These features were sealed by a very-dark charcoal-rich layer (405), which extended throughout Sondage 1. The charcoal was far more concentrated in this layer than in the two ditch fills. Layer 405 also contained bent iron nails and several fourth-century coins. That the charcoal in the ditch fills was deposited in a series of lenses suggests that it derived from an ongoing, controlled process. Layer 405, however, apparently resulted from a fire that damaged or destroyed a structure or structures in this area. Layer 405 was sealed by a silty clay layer (409), which contained charcoal and small limestone and pennant sandstone rubble.

7.6.1.6. A similar sequence was observed in Sondage 2. The earliest feature here was a curved cut [445] approximately 0.2m deep, containing a possibly integral pennant slate set on edge in its base. It was only partially exposed in the sondage, but it would appear to be part of a substantial curvilinear feature.

7.6.1.7. This was filled with a charcoal-rich silt (431), which was sealed by a mortar-rich clay (430), containing limestone blocks and broken pennant roofing slates, which (as with layer 405 excavated in Sondage 1) would appear to derive from a collapsed or levelled structure in the immediate vicinity.

7.6.2. **Phase 2**

7.6.2.1. A wall (401), with an approximate north-south orientation, was subsequently constructed. It comprised two faces of squared, coursed rectangular limestone blocks, containing a core of mixed angular limestone rubble in a firm brownish-yellow mortar (*opus vittatum* with an *opus caementicium* core), and was on average 0.6m wide. In Sondage 1, excavated against the eastern face of this wall, three courses, with a combined height of 0.42m, were seen to have survived. It was founded upon a single offset course of footings (402), composed of mortared, pitched limestone blocks of small but regular size. There was no evident foundation trench, and it would appear that the foundations were constructed directly upon the surface of layer 409.

7.6.2.2. No associated floor surfaces or certainly contemporary deposits survived to be recorded in Sondage 1. It is possible that layer 409 remained current throughout the life of the wall, but if this was the case then it is surprising that there was no build up of material against the face of wall 401: layer 409 was clearly seen to run under- and not butt up against wall 401. This possibly indicates that the Phase 2 structures had a short period of use before dereliction and collapse set in. Alternatively, it is possible that at least some of the dark-brown silty clay matrix of the Phase 3 collapse layers 400, 404 and 410 may have originated as a Roman topsoil. Whichever (if any) of these suppositions is correct, it would indicate that the eastern face of wall 401 was not internal to a building.

7.6.2.3. Unequivocal internal floor surfaces were also absent from Sondage 4, excavated against the western face of wall 401 a short distance to the south. This demonstrated a sequence of five mid-brown silty clay layers, 441, 442, 440, 427 and 424 respectively, sealed by a Phase 3 collapse layer (423). The stratigraphic relationship of these layers with wall 401 was not established (though layers 424 and 423 were seen to be cut by the Phase 3 robber trench 419). It is therefore not possible to say which (if any) of these layers was contemporary with wall 401. As in Sondage 1, it is possible that the mid-brown silty-clay matrix of the Phase 3 collapse layer originated as a Phase 2 topsoil. Alternatively it is possible that, although no evidence in support of this was recorded, one or more of the above silty-clay layers had once been part of an earth floor, or that a higher status floor surface had originally been in place but had subsequently been robbed away. On balance, given the absence of unequivocal internal floor surfaces on either side of the wall and given the shallowness of its foundations, wall 401 is probably best interpreted as an enclosure- rather than a structural wall. However, in neither Sondage 1 nor 2 did the evidence survive to determine which wall face was internal to the putative enclosure (although the position of wall 415/453 relative to 401 suggests that the western face of wall 401 was the internal face).

7.6.2.4. Wall 401 extended northwards beyond the limit of excavation, while to the south it was bonded to a wall 447. Time constraints allowed little more than the sighting

of this latter wall, though it was possible to ascertain that it was of *opus caementicium* construction and that it extended beyond the eastern and western faces of wall 401.Taken together this probably indicates that wall 447 had an east-west orientation and that only wall core material was observed (though facing stones are likely to have been used).

7.6.2.5. On its south side wall 447 was bonded to an arched furnace (432), investigated in Sondage3. This was aligned northwest-southeast, which meant that the furnace and wall bonded at an oblique angle. The southwestern side of the furnace survived to the springing point of its vault and was approximately 0.64m tall, while only the three lowest courses of the northeastern side remained *in situ*. The sides were constructed of bricks measuring approximately 200 x 200 x 40mm thick, which puts them well within the range of natural variation within one of several standardised Roman brick types, defined by size: the *bessalis*. *Bessales* measured two thirds of a Roman foot square, which equates to 197mm, and were on average 43mm thick (Brodribb 1987, 34). They were the brick of choice when constructing hypocaust *pilae*, and undoubtedly some of the tile fragments found in the collapse layers in the vicinity of the furnace would have been used in the construction of these. The vault of the furnace was constructed of fanned pennant slates, mortared into place, seven of which remained *in situ*. The *in situ* fabric survived to a combined height of 0.9m, though the angle of inclination of the pennant slates would indicate an operational furnace height of approximately 1m. Internally the furnace was 0.53m wide.

7.6.2.6. On its southwestern side the furnace was bonded to wall 434, which returned south as wall 451. Both were constructed in *opus vittatum* with an *opus caementicium* core. The furnace projected to the north of wall 434 (the western projection of wall 447 was also probably part of the furnace structure), which would have been stoked from the northwest. The room which it heated lay almost entirely beyond the eastern limit of excavation. No contemporary floor surfaces were seen to survive *in situ*, though the furnace indicates the original presence of a suspended floor, raised on *pilae* stacks, with a *hypocaust* beneath. The top of the furnace vault marks the point above which the suspended floor must have been constructed. A light-greyish brown silt (446) containing charcoal and ash, excavated from the base of the furnace, was possibly furnace waste that accumulated during the currency of the hypocaust system.

7.6.2.7. The cleanness of the junction of furnace 432 with walls 434 and 447 (which together with wall 451 formed structure 452), together with the seamless junction of walls 447 and 401, would suggest that each of these building elements formed part of a unified construction, built during a single phase of works. Certainly nothing was seen to suggest that the furnace was a later insertion.

7.6.2.8. Subsequently, wall 415/453 was constructed to butt and run west from the northwestern corner of structure 452. This wall ran at approximate right angles to

wall 401, structure 452 being located at the projected point of intersection of these. A 3.6m length of wall 415/453 was exposed in the cleared strip. The westernmost 3.2m of this, context 415, was constructed of thin limestone rubble laid in herringbone (*opus spicatum*) fashion, bonded in a gritty mortar. A sondage excavated against the southern face of this wall (Sondage 2) revealed a single foundation course (447) of small rectangular blocks, laid horizontally. This supported five full and a partial sixth course of surviving stonework. These comprised a combination of pitched- and horizontal courses. The exposed fifth (horizontal) course was constructed of two parallel rows of stonework, rather than a single row extending to the full width of the wall. This presumable indicates that the horizontal courses were applied to level up the wall under construction rather than to tie together the parallel courses of pitched masonry.

7.6.2.9. It would appear that the foundations of wall 415 were built directly upon the then current ground surface (430), rather than within a foundation cut, no trace of which was present. A mortar-rich orangish-brown silt (429), which butted the southern face of the wall foundations, probably derived from the construction of wall 415/453. Despite favourable conditions, no internal floor surfaces were observed in Sondage 2, and there was no build up of post-construction occupation debris against the southern face of wall 415. It is possible here also that at least part of the mid-grey silty clay matrix of the Phase 3 collapse layer 428 (which directly overlay the Phase 2 construction layer 429) was originally a Phase 2 topsoil.

7.6.2.10. Time did not allow the excavation of a sondage against the northern face of wall 415/453 to investigate the possibility of the presence of surviving internal floor surfaces at that location. We may observe, however, that the relative positioning of the furnace and structure 452 indicates that the furnace must have been stoked from the northwest, within the angle of walls 415/453 and 401. It is perhaps more likely (though by no means certain) that the stoke hole would have been accessed from an external location, rather than from within a building. If this obtained here, it would suggest that the northern face of wall 415/453 was also not internal to a building, indicating that it too was an enclosure- rather than a structural wall. Such an interpretation is at the very least not contradicted-, and is perhaps supported by, the shallowness of the wall's foundations. This notwithstanding, as with wall 401, given the absence of any surviving yard surfaces it was not possible to ascertain with certainty which wall face was internal to the putative enclosure (although the position of wall 401 relative to 415/453 suggests that the northern face of wall 415/453 was the internal face).

7.6.2.11. The easternmost 0.4m of walling (453) was constructed of *opus vittatum/opus caementicium*, rather than the *opus spicatum* of wall section 415. It is not clear why this should have been the case. It is possible that it was thereby easier to construct a sound junction with wall 434/451. However, if the above interpretation of this wall being an enclosure- rather than structural wall is correct, this junction

would not have been heavily stressed and therefore a particularly sound junction would not have been required. Being only 0.4m wide, and given the ragged join of the two wall sections, the possibility that 453 derives from the blocking of a doorway at this point can also be ruled out. We can be reasonably certain that structure 452 predated wall 415/453: if they had been constructed at the same time or if wall 415/453 had predated structure 452 then it is likely that they would have been bonded together when the latter was constructed. This was not the case; they met at a straight join. Given the precedence of structure 452, it is possible that a strong join at this point would have been required to buttress the corner of structure 452- particularly if the hypocaust system is indicative of a (vaulted) bath house- though this is pure speculation.

7.6.3. **Phase 3**

7.6.3.1. The hypocaust system fell into disuse, the vault of the furnace fell and its northeastern side slumped. The void filled with a mid-brown silt (433), which partly overlay the slumped sides and which contained frequent building rubble. This was sealed by a layer of concentrated large limestone rubble, broken pennant roof tile, box-flue and *pilus* tile (444), which in turn was sealed a clay subsoil (443) containing moderate small fragments of rubble and tile.

7.6.3.2. Layers equivalent to collapse layer 444 were recorded in Sondage 1 (layers 400, 404 and 410), Sondage 2 (layer 428), and Sondage 4 (layer 423). Rubble layer 420, located within the internal angle of walls 401 and 415/453, was seen to contain a large amount of box-flue and probable *pilus* tile. This presumably indicates that much of this rubble was derived from structure 452. Unfortunately, time constraints prevented its further investigation. They also prevented investigations of a second area of rubble collapse (411), located approximately 2m to the north of Sondage 1.

7.6.3.3. Collapse layer 423, investigated in Sondage 4, was subsequently cut by trench 419, dug to rob the stone fabric of wall 401. This trench was filled with a rubbly clay (413), containing 11 sherds of fourth-century pottery.

7.6.3.4. A gritty subsoil, recorded in Sondages 2 & 3 (layers 422 and 443 respectively), accumulated over the collapsed building remains. This was sealed by a cleaner subsoil (421), present throughout Area D. The accumulated subsoil was much thicker in the southern- than the northern parts of Area D. In the vicinity of Sondage 1 it was of notional thickness (and wall 401 was sealed only by the modern topsoil). It had a combined depth of 0.66m above the collapsed furnace, and of 0.25m to the south of wall 415. This variation is possibly the result of the natural infilling of the Phase 1 terrace (449), and the re-establishment of a graded slope. The area was sealed by a modern plough soil (448).

8. Discussion

8.1. Roman Structures

8.1.1. The excavations sampled an unknown but undoubtedly very small proportion of the structural remains present on site. Consequently it is not yet possible to arrive at anything other than a very tentative understanding of the Roman-period occupation.

8.1.2. Two phases of Roman activity could be discerned. Phase 1 apparently started with the cutting of a terrace into the hillside, into which was cut a number of features (recorded in Sondages 1 & 2). The charcoal-rich fills of these features indicate that they were associated with a process involving combustion. Although no associated Phase 1 structures were observed, the prior cutting of a terrace suggests that they must have been present. The composition of the feature fills, coupled with the later presence of a building with a hypocaust in the immediate vicinity, might lead one to speculate that these features were associated with an earlier structure of similar form. This phase apparently ended with a fire that destroyed a structure or structures in the near vicinity.

8.1.3. In Phase 2 these were replaced by two probable enclosure walls, at the intersection of which was constructed a room (or possibly a suite of rooms) equipped with a hypocaust. The remains of the furnace alone were observed, but this will have been part of a system comprising a suspended floor heated by hot air drawn from the furnace and channelled through wall cavities, thereby heating the wall surfaces, prior to venting at wall plate level. Fragments of box flue- and possible *pilus* tile, attesting to the presence of the other elements of this system, were recovered from the Phase 3 collapse layers within Area D.

8.1.4. The material culture and the mode of construction and amenities of the structures are indicative of high status occupation. No artefacts indicating a religious function for the site were recovered, and being located approximately 600m from a major Roman road it is also unlikely that the excavated structures were part of an overnight stopping place associated with the imperial postal service (a *mansio*). This almost certainly indicates that these are the remains of a villa (only excavation of a larger sample of the remains will allow the function of the structures to be ascertained with complete certainty).

8.1.5. Villas were high-status Romanized residential buildings, usually associated with an agricultural estate. As such they can be divided into two parts: a suite of residential rooms and associated amenities (the *pars urbana*), and associated farm buildings (*pars rustica*). The heated room excavated in Area D was clearly part of the *pars urbana*, but its precise function is uncertain. It might have been a heated living or dining room (*triclinium*), and as such would mark the location of the domestic quarters. Alternatively it might have been part of a bath suite (with structure 452

being the hot room or *caldarium*). Bath suites were frequently detached from the domestic ranges which they served, because of the fire risk which they posed. Consequently it cannot be taken for granted that structure 452 marks the precise location of the main villa building.

8.1.6. In the date of their construction the excavated remains follow the pattern demonstrated by the vast majority of villas within the hinterland of Bath. Whenever these are tested by excavation they are almost invariably found to have been initially constructed within the third or fourth quarter of the third century. The Phase 1 remains excavated on site would appear to date from this period. What is interesting is that a major redevelopment (Phase 2) was initiated and completed subsequent to AD364. Clearly this villa owner had not lost confidence in the strength of the economy and polity at this late date in the fourth century. It would be interesting to know whether the absence of unequivocal Phase 2 deposits (as distinct from the structural remains) in Area D implies that this confidence was entirely misplaced.

8.1.7. The thin spread of Roman material revealed by the earlier fieldwalking exercise suggested that any Roman remains present on site had not sustained significant plough damage. Subsequent excavations within Area D confirmed that, despite being used as a quarry for re-usable building materials (probably largely in the medieval period), the Roman remains are indeed reasonably well preserved. This is almost certainly because the steepness of its slope has meant that Shepherd's Mead has always been marginal land for cultivation, and hence has usually (though not invariably- witness the spread of medieval pot sherds) been put down to grass. If, as it would appear, the site was terraced prior to construction, then its subsequent infilling due to natural processes (which might have included the collapse of the back face of the terrace) might have partially engulfed the archaeological remains, offering additional protection. If this did obtain then it is likely that structures and deposits towards the rear of the terrace (at the southern end of the site) will be relatively well preserved. Evidence of the earlier investigations conducted by the Rev. Skinner and 'Old Cranch' was not observed during the current scheme of works, which might suggest that they were of limited scope and caused little destruction. The attested degree of preservation of the remains means that they form a valuable archaeological resource, the investigation and study of which offers the potential to answer, *inter alia*, questions of the form and function of the buildings, the date range of their use and whether they continued to function as an estate centre into the early medieval period. As such it might have the potential to cast light on the nature of the final years of other villas in the region.

8.2. Medieval and Later Remains

8.2.1. Prior to the commencement of the fieldwork, the fieldwalking results obtained by the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society had led to the anticipation that medieval remains would form the main area of archaeological interest. In the event very few certain medieval features were encountered. The drain and adjacent post-holes in Area B were possibly of this date (Phase 4), as was pit 301 and subsoil 308/309, both in Area C. All other recorded contexts in Area C were of early post-medieval date (also Phase 4). All contexts in Area D were Roman, and all of those in Area A were modern.

8.2.2. The course of the access road was adjusted in advance of the groundworks to skirt around the concentration of medieval building materials revealed during the fieldwalking exercise. Given the paucity of medieval remains encountered during the subsequent fieldwork, the mitigation strategy was clearly successful. This does mean, however, that little more was learnt of the condition of the medieval remains on site, and therefore their potential for further study remains unclear. The greater concentration of medieval material in the plough soil does suggest, however, that archaeological remains of this phase, being higher in the archaeological sequence, are particularly vulnerable to plough damage. Both the medieval and the Roman remains would clearly benefit from the adoption of a sensitive management strategy.

9. References

9.1. Primary Sources

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9.2. Secondary Sources

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10. Material Culture

10.1. The Pottery
by Rod Burchill

10.1.1. The pottery assemblage comprised 548 sherds ranging in date from the Romano-British to the modern period. Romano-British fabrics, mostly of 3rd and 4th century date, accounted for 72 % (394 sherds) of the total assemblage. 21 % (116 sherds) were of medieval and 38 sherds (7%) were of post-medieval date.

10.1.2. Black-burnished wares and grey wares (mostly Congresbury fabrics) dominated the Romano-British material, along with products of the Oxfordshire industry and Severn Valley/Gloucester wares.

10.1.3. Medieval wares were mostly represented by South Somerset (Donyatt) products and fabrics from west and northwest Wiltshire. There were a small number of vessels from the Ham Green and Bristol industries.

10.1.4. Post-medieval vessels were mostly the products of the east and south Somerset kilns (Wanstrow and Donyatt respectively) along with a smaller number from the Bristol and Staffordshire industries.

10.1.5. Residuality was medium to high. None of the material was unusual or intrinsically interesting and none warrant illustration.

10.1.6. Chronology of Contexts

Context	Chronology
202	Romano-British
204	12th century
300	14th century
304	Late 16th/17th century
307	Late 16th century
308	15th/early 16th century
400	Later 3rd/4th century
404	Romano-British
405	Late 3rd/4th century

406	Early medieval
409	Mid 3rd/4th century
410	4th century
411	Late 3rd/4th century
413	4th century
420	4th century
421	Romano-British
422	3rd century
423	4th century
424	N/D
427	Late 3rd/4th century
429	4th century
430	Later 3rd/4th century
431	4th century
432	N/D
433	Romano-British
435	Later 3rd century
438	3rd/4th century
440	Later 3rd/very early 4th century
444	Romano-British
500	3rd/early 4th century
501	Post-1780
502	18th century
503	17th century
504	Post-1780
505	17th century
506	Post-1780
507	Late 16th/17th century

508	18th century
510	13th/early 14th century
511	Romano-British
512	18th century

10.1.7. Pottery by Context

Context	Pottery Type
202	Miscellaneous R-B x1
204	Bath A x1
300	BB1 x2; Greyware x2; Bristol/Redcliffe x1; miscell. Med x1
304	Wanstrow jar x1; Donyatt medieval fabric x1
307	Unsourced medieval jug fabric x2
308	BB1 x8; Greyware x18; miscell. R-B x1; medieval Donyatt x9
400	BB1 x7; Greyware x1; Gloucester buff C/C x1; native ware x2; amphora x1
404	BB1 x1; Greyware x8; miscell. R-B x5
405	BB1 x2; Greyware x8; Gloucester C/C (?) x2; native x3
406	Medieval limestone tempered ware x1
409	BB1 x9; Greyware x17; New Forest ware x1; Oxford C/C x2; Oxford White Ware mortarium x1; miscell. R-B x6
410	BB1 x6
411	Amphora x1; BB1 x6; Greyware x1; orange sandy ware x14; Oxford C/C x1; native ware x3
413	BB1 x11
420	BB1 x1
421	BB1 x6; Severn Valley x3
422	BB1 x2; Greyware x1; Gloucester x1; native ware x1

423	BB1 x5; Greyware x2; Shepton Mallett x1; miscell. R-B x5
424	BB1; oxidized sandy ware x2
427	Greyware x2; BB1 x1; Gloucester x4
429	Greyware x1
430	BB1 x6; Greyware x8; Oxford C/C x1
431	Greyware x8; miscell. R-B x3
432	BB1 x1
433	BB1 x1; Greyware x1
435	BB1 x4; Greyware x2; Severn Valley x3; miscell. ?local x3
438	BB1 x5; Greyware x4
440	BB1 x2; Greyware x20; miscell. ?local x4
444	BB1 x1
500	Miscellaneous R-B x 2
501	Transfer-printed ware x 1
502	BB1 x4; Greyware x6; miscell R-B x 4 frags; Bath A x1; Ham Green cookpot x1; medieval Donyatt x1; Donyatt P-M redware x1: white china x1
503	Greyware x4; miscell R-B x1; medieval limestone tempered ware x1; Somerset P-M redware x2
504	BB1 x1; Greyware x1; Severn Valley x2; native ware x5; medieval quartz gritted jug fabric x1; Donyatt late-med ware x6; Creamware x2
505	Residual R-B x9; Bath A x7; Bristol/Redcliffe x1; late-med Donyatt x1; Donyatt P-M redware x3
506	Residual R-B x6; Bristol/Redcliffe x10; Bath A x14; Lime tempered ware x2; Ham Green cookpot x1; Cistercian type ware x1; late P-M redwares x27, Transfer-printed ware x1; English stoneware x1
507	Residual R-B x17; Bath A x2; SE Wilts quartz gritted jug x1; Bristol/Redcliffe ware x6; Donyatt late med jug x5; Donyatt P-M redware x6; Wanstrow P-M redware x12

508	Medieval quartz gritted x1; Bristol/Redcliffe x1; English stoneware x1; White china x1
510	BB1 x27; Greyware x19; Oxford C/C x1; Oxford C/C mortarium x1; Oxford white ware x1; Shepton Mallet x1; miscell. R-B x10; limestone tempered ware (med) x1; quartz gritted medieval jug x1
511	BB1 x2; Severn Valley x1
512	Unsourced mortarium (poss Gloucester) x1; Staffordshire china x1

10.2. A Provisional Identification of the Roman Coins by Mark Corney

10.2.1. All identifications on the list were made prior to cleaning and conservation and only give context information, emperor, date range and, if visible, the reverse type and mint-mark. All other details, i.e. legends, quantification by Reece periods and statistical analysis are left until full cleaning and conservation has been undertaken.

10.2.2. Roman

Small Find No.	Context No.	Description
12	504	AE3 ?House of Constantine ? c.340-360
18	507	AE Antoninianus of Claudius II Gothicus. AD268-270. Rev. VIRTVS AVG.
20	509	AE 'Barbarous Radiate'. c. AD270.
21	509	AE 'Barbarous Radiate'. c. AD270.
23	509	AE3 House of Valentinian. AD364-378. Rev. Gloria Romanorum type.
24	509	AE3 House of Valentinian. AD364-378. Rev. Gloria Romanorum type.
25	509	AE3/4 Constantine II as Caesar. AD335-7. Rev. 'Legionary Standard'.
26	509	AE3/4 House of Constantine. C. AD335-40. Rev. 'Legionary Standard'.
27	509	AE3 House of Valentinian. AD364-378.
29	509	AE3 House of Valentinian. AD364-378.
32	510	AE3 House of Valentinian. AD364-378.
44	509	AE4 illegible. NB. Could be House of Theodosius- late fourth to early fifth century.
47	510	AE3/4 House of Constantine. AD340-348. 'Two Victories' type.
49	509	AE3/4 House of Constantine. C. AD340-360.

53	511	AE3/4 House of Constantine. C. AD335-40. Rev. 'Legionary Standard'.
54	511	AR Denarius. Severus Alexander. AD222-235. Rev. PAX AVG.
55	409	AE3/4 House of Constantine. C. AD335-40. Rev. 'Legionary Standard'.
56	405	AE3 Valentinian I. AD364-378. Rev. SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE.
58	405	AE Nummus of Magnentius. c. AD350-353. Rev. GLORIA ROMANORUM.
59	405	AE Nummus of Constans. Mint period AD348-350. Rev. Soldier dragging captive type.
60	405	AE3/4 Constans. Mint period AD340-348. Rev. 'Two Victories' type.
61	405	AE3 Constantine II as Caesar. Mint period AD330-335. Rev. 'Legionary Standard'.
62	308/309	AE3/4 House of Constantine. C. AD335-40. Rev. 'Legionary Standard'.
64	512	AE 'Barbarous Radiate'. c.AD270.
65	510	AE3 House of Valentinian. AD364-378.

10.2.3. Medieval

Small Find No.	Context No.	Description
13	504	AR? Penny.
46	514	AR Penny. One of the early Edwards (I-III). Minted at London.

10.2.4. Despite the relatively small sample, the pattern of Roman coins appears to be fairly typical for a late Romano-British rural site: 5 third-century coins; 12 House of Constantine and 7 House of Valentinian.

10.3. Small Finds
by John Clifton Clarke

10.3.1. COPPER ALLOY

10.3.1.1. Bosses

Small Find No.	Context No.	Description
33	510	Domed, circular boss with the remains of ?lead solder on the inside. The outer surface appears to be tinned. Diam: 45mm.
50	509	As no.28, but cracked and partly crushed. No tinning evident. Diam: 45mm. Many bosses were attached to metal surfaces by means of ?lead solder (Crummy 1983, 119). Smaller examples from Colchester are dated between c.100/125 & c.320-c.450 (ibid. 119, nos 4036, 4037, 4044 & 4045).

10.3.1.2. Strips

Small Find No.	Context No.	Description
2	512	Bent and twisted strip, probably modern. Length: c.145mm, width: 5mm, thickness: 1mm.
19	508	Tinned strip widening slightly at one end. Length: 111mm, max. width: 9mm, thickness: 2mm. This may be one arm of a large pair of tweezers, although there is little evidence of damage or curvature at either end. A somewhat similar pair was found, unstratified, at Caerleon (Brewer 1986, 189, no.188).

10.3.1.3. **Sheet**

Small Find No.	Context No.	Description
36	509	Three sheet fragments, apparently from the same object, one having a straight edge.
51	514	Folded sheet, now in two pieces. Length: 28mm, max. width:18mm, thickness: c.1mm.

10.3.1.4. **Fittings/ Mounts**

Small Find No.	Context No.	Description
1	502	Small, plain, rectangular fitting or mount with a rivet at either end. Length: 15mm, width: 4mm.
67	510	Small fitting or mount consisting of a circular, domed central part, with three rather crude, longitudinal grooves. On either side is a smaller, almost circular, domed lug, one retaining the remains of a rivet. Length: 14mm, max. width: 8mm, height: 4mm. Rectangular mounts such as no.34 are fairly common on Roman sites, usually larger and decorated. Similar examples from Gorhambury (Wardle 1990, 129, nos 183 & 184) are from ploughpan and a 4th century level respectively.

10.3.1.5. **Miscellaneous**

Small Find No.	Context No.	Description
4	514	Rivet with circular-sectioned, slightly bent shank and countersunk head. The other end has a circular washer held in place by the end of the shank having been hammered over. Length:18mm, diam. of head & washer: 12mm, diam. of shank: 5mm. Somewhat similar examples, but apparently of one-piece construction, have been found at South Shields (Allason-Jones & Miket 1984, 234, nos 868 & 869). Cruder and smaller examples from Caerleon (Brewer 1986, 173, nos 3 & 4) and with rectangular washers are dated before c.100/110. An example with much larger washers and again of one-piece construction from Vindolanda (Bidwell 1985, 122, no.34) is dated c.275-300 and interpreted as a strap fastener of military origin.
39	509	Tube fragment of D-shaped section, split and broken down one side. Max. length:22mm, width: 12mm, height: 6mm. An example with thicker walls has been found at South Shields (Allason-Jones & Miket 1984, 265, no.1274).
50	511	Part of a convex fitting with all edges broken. Width: 11mm, height: 10mm. A similar, decorated example from Colchester (Crummy 1983, 165, no.4641) is dated c.300-400+.
52	514	Two-piece, rectangular, hooked strap end, with ?leather surviving between the two plates. The hooked side has a step at the broken end and asymmetrical shoulders where it narrows to form the now broken hook. This turns back away from the now separated opposite plate, which is slightly wider with a round end. The object was held together by two rivets. Length: 30mm, max. width: 8mm, max. thickness: 5mm.

10.3.2. Iron

10.3.2.1. Knives

Small Find No.	Context No.	Description
6	505	Knife with a rectangular-sectioned tang and tapering, rectangular-sectioned shaft leading to a parallel-sided, broken blade. The top of the blade and shaft are in line. The edge of the blade joins the shaft in a shallow curve. Length: 118mm, width of blade: 12mm, length of shaft: 35mm, max. width of shaft: 12mm, max. thickness of shaft: 9mm, length of tang: 42mm.
42	506	Knife with a rectangular-sectioned tang joining the straight top of the broken blade by a right-angled notch. The edge of the blade joins the tang in a shallow curve. Length: 94mm, max. width: 17mm, length of tang: 32mm. Neither of these knives seem to fit the recognised Roman or medieval forms, and apart from the blades being broken, show little sign of damage or wear. The degree of corrosion also suggests a relatively modern date.

10.3.2.2. Ox Shoes

Small Find No.	Context No.	Description
37	500	Flat object with one curved and one straight side and four square nail holes along the curved side at one end. Length: 98mm, max. width: 38mm, thickness: 4mm.
38	507	Curved, flat object with a lobe at one end and some damage at the other. It has a square nail hole and evidence of two others, one with the remains of a nail, along the outer curve. Length: 92mm, width: 34mm, thickness: 3mm. Both of these objects appear to be complete, apart from the slight damage to no.43, so cannot be normal horseshoes. The only possible alternative seems to be that they are ox shoes, although no reference to such objects has been found.

10.3.2.3. Miscellaneous

Small Find No.	Context No.	Description
5	501	Rectangular or square buckle fragment. The end section is of more substantial rectangular-section than the remains of the other sides. Width: 29mm.
17	507	Square-sectioned rod, tapering to a slightly curved, flattened end. Possibly a small chisel. Length: 155mm. Similar examples are from Colchester (Crummy 1983, 169, no.4666) dated c.150-c.275/300, from Nettleton (Wedlake 1982, 232, no.87) from a 4th century context, Camerton (Jackson 1990, pl.23, no.240), a socketed version of 1st century date and a number of examples cited by Manning as mortise chisels from Hod Hill of mid-1st century date (Manning 1985, pis 10 & 11, B35-B42).
22	423	Ring with double spiked loop attached, the surviving arm of which is bent outwards. Ext. diam: 40mm, int. diam: 30mm, thickness: 5mm, length Of loop: 30mm. The examples cited by Manning have proportionately much larger loops than this one and are of mid-1st century date (Manning 1985, pl.61, R34-R38). Other examples from Kingscote (Scott 1998, 195, nos 80 & 81) are unstratified, and from Vindolanda (Jackson 1985, 150, no.115) dated c.223/5-235.
30	509	Tapering strip with the remains of a possible rivet at the narrow end. Possibly part of a hinge. Length: 56mm, width: 33mm, thickness: 4mm.
31	509	Tapering strip with an almost right-angled bend at the broad end. Length: 40mm, max. width: 30mm, thickness: 4mm.

35	502	Object with a tapering, rectangular-sectioned tang with the remains of a flat "blade" curving from it at right angles. It is set at a slight angle to the tang. Length: 66mm, width: 39mm. This is somewhat similar to two examples cited by Manning as slickers (Manning 1985, pl. 15, El & E2), tools used to scrape off dirt and other impurities from tanned hides (ibid. 39). However, the edge of the blade seems to be on the inner side, unlike these two examples, suggesting use as a draw blade or spoke shave. An example from Nettleton (Wedlake 1982, 230, no.73) is from a 4th century level.
41	506	Parallel-sided strip ending in a point, with a small lobe at the change of angle. There is a rivet just in from the pointed end. Probably a hinge. Length: 78mm, width: 43mm, thickness: 2mm.
43	510	L-clamp with a circular-sectioned shank changing to square- sectioned towards the point, now bent. The head is flat, with a damaged, down-turned tip. Length: 256mm, diam: 12mm, length of head: 55mm, width of head: 19mm, thickness of head: 5mm. L- and T-clamps were used mainly for attaching tiles, particularly box tiles, to bath house walls (Manning 1985, 132). The example from Risingham cited by him held flagstones on the side of the bath (ibid. p1.62, R73). Examples from Gorhambury (Wardle 1990, 151, no.708) is dated c.250-350, from Exeter (Scott 1991, 265, no.17) is dated 2nd/3rd century and from Colchester (Crummy 1983, 121, no.4080) is dated c.250-400+. A further example from Exeter (Goodall 1984, fig.189, no.14) is dated 1550-1600. It is possible that the Hinton example is of fairly modern date.
45	509	U-shaped, square-sectioned staple with one arm broken. Length: 61mm, width: 47mm, max. thickness: 9mm. Unstratified examples have been found at Kingscote (Scott 1998, 196, no.101) and Vindolanda (Jackson 1985, 150, no.119).

10.3.3. Lead

10.3.3.1. Stoppers

Small Find No.	Context No.	Description
28	509	Irregular disc with a raised, irregular area on one side. Length: 63mm, width: 55mm, max. thickness: 13mm.
57	409	Irregular sheet with a roughly oval protuberance on one side. Length: 32mm, max. width: 26mm, max. thickness: 9mm. It is possible that these two objects are stoppers or plugs for the repair of pottery or use as lids. Examples similar to no.54 are from Chew Park (Rahtz & Greenfield 1977, 294, no.17) dated late 3rd-4th century and from Castleford (Mould 1998, 124, no.15) unstratified, but likely to be 1st century. Examples similar to no.53 are from Castleford (ibid. 124, no.16) unstratified, but likely to be 1st century, Dalton Parlours (ibid. 1990, 97, nos 10-14) unstratified and late 4th century and from Gorhambury (Wardle 1990, 155, no.922) of 2nd century date.

10.3.3.2. Miscellaneous

Small Find No.	Context No.	Description
3	501	Small, battered lump. Length: 13mm, max. width: 8mm, max. thickness: 6mm.
8	503	Two sheet fragments. Length: 17mm, max. width: 10mm, max. thickness: 4mm; length: 11mm, width: 8mm, thickness: 1mm.
9	509	Deeply gouged and battered fragment, with a collar at one end. Possibly a pipe that has been cut and partially opened out. Length: 58mm, max. width: 38mm, max. thickness: 8mm. A length of pipe from Lullingstone (Meates 1987, 93, no.221) is dated to the 4th century.
10	507	Dribble. Length: 26mm, max. width: 11mm, max. thickness: 6mm.

11	503	Sheet fragment. Length: 14mm, max. width: 14mm, max. thickness: 3mm.
14	505	Triangular lump. Length: 27mm, width: 24mm, thickness: 8mm.
15	506	Dribble. Length: 19mm, max. width: 16mm, thickness: 4mm.
16	506	Irregular fragment. Length: 20mm, max. width: 13mm, max. thickness: 4mm.
34	510	Folded and flattened strip. Length: 39mm, width: 16mm, thickness: 8mm.
66	509	Two fragments, the larger strip with a right-angled bend. Length: 19mm, max. width: 17mm, thickness: 3mm; length: 15mm, width: 10mm, thickness: 5mm.

10.3.4. Ceramic/ Stone

Small Find No.	Context No.	Description
7	414	Pottery counter roughly chipped into shape from a coarse, dark, shelly ware. Diam: c.22mm, thickness: 9mm. Ceramic and stone counters are fairly common finds on Roman sites. For a fuller discussion, see Crummy 1983, 93-94.
63	509	Possible loomweight of coarse tile. It is broken through the hole and only two undamaged surfaces survive, but it is asymmetrical about the hole. Height: 60mm, width: 72mm, max. thickness: 35mm, diam. of hole: 10mm. A circular tile loomweight from Dalton Parlours (Clarke 1990, 121, no.19) is dateable to the late 4th century.
40	500	Old Red Sandstone (Lisa Brown pers. comm.) whetstone fragment with both narrow sides and one broad side smooth through use. The broad side has been worn down so that one narrow side is thinner than the other. Length: 50mm, width: 23mm, max. thickness: 14mm, mm. thickness: 11mm.

10.3.5. Bibliography

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11. Illustrations

11.1. Figures:

11.2. Plates:

Fig. 1 Site Location Plan

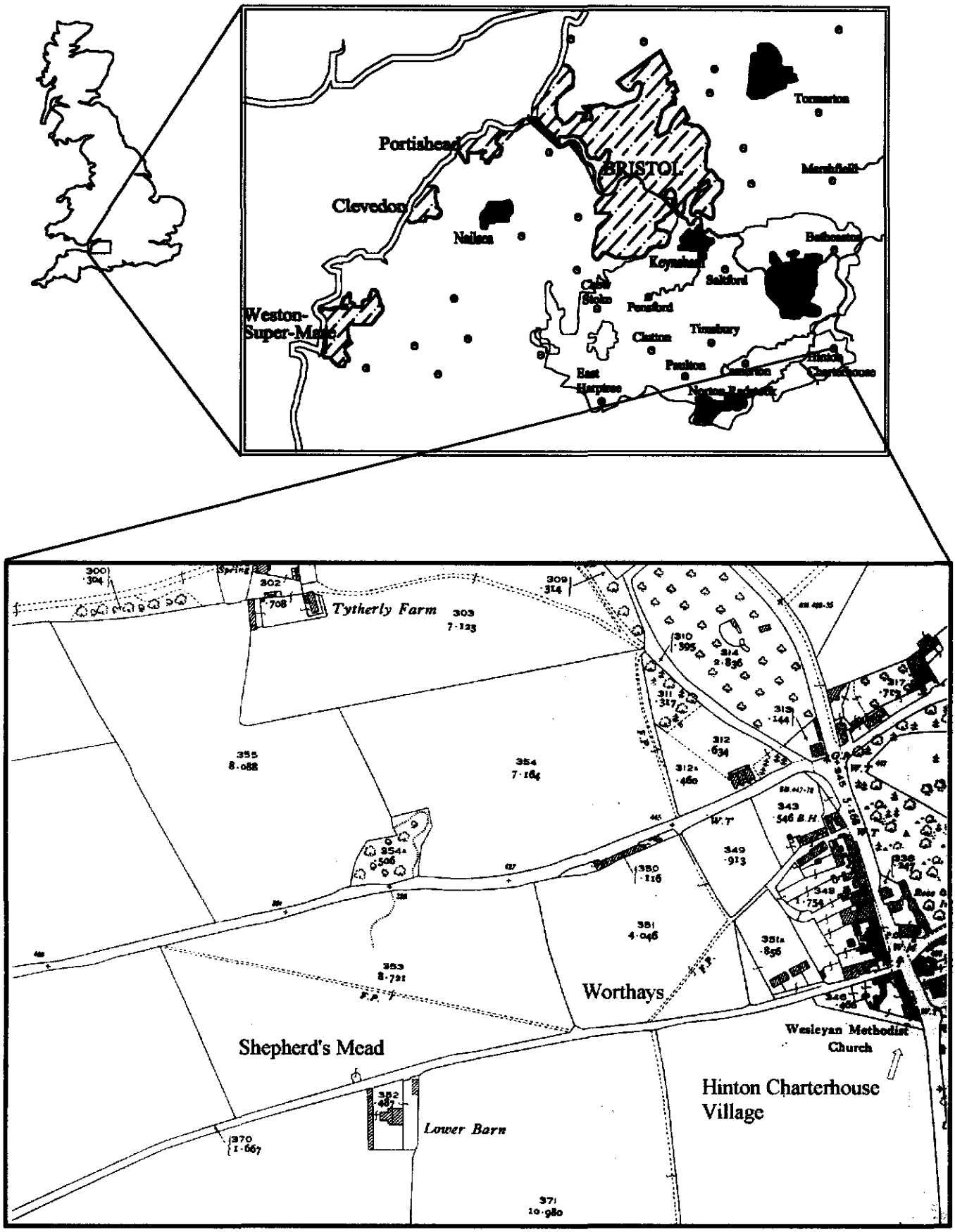


Fig. 2 Site Plan

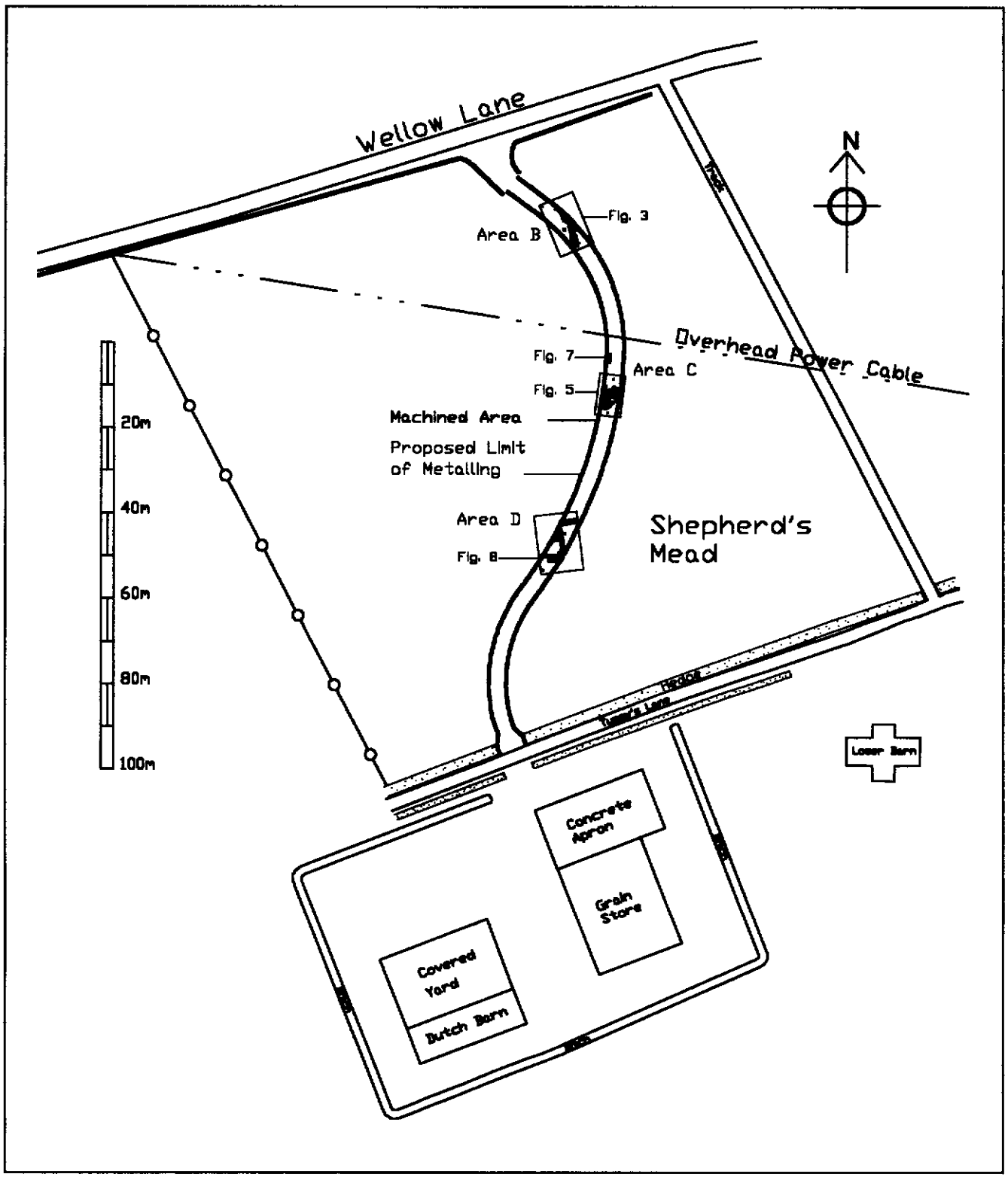


Fig. 3 Plan of Drain 201, Area B.

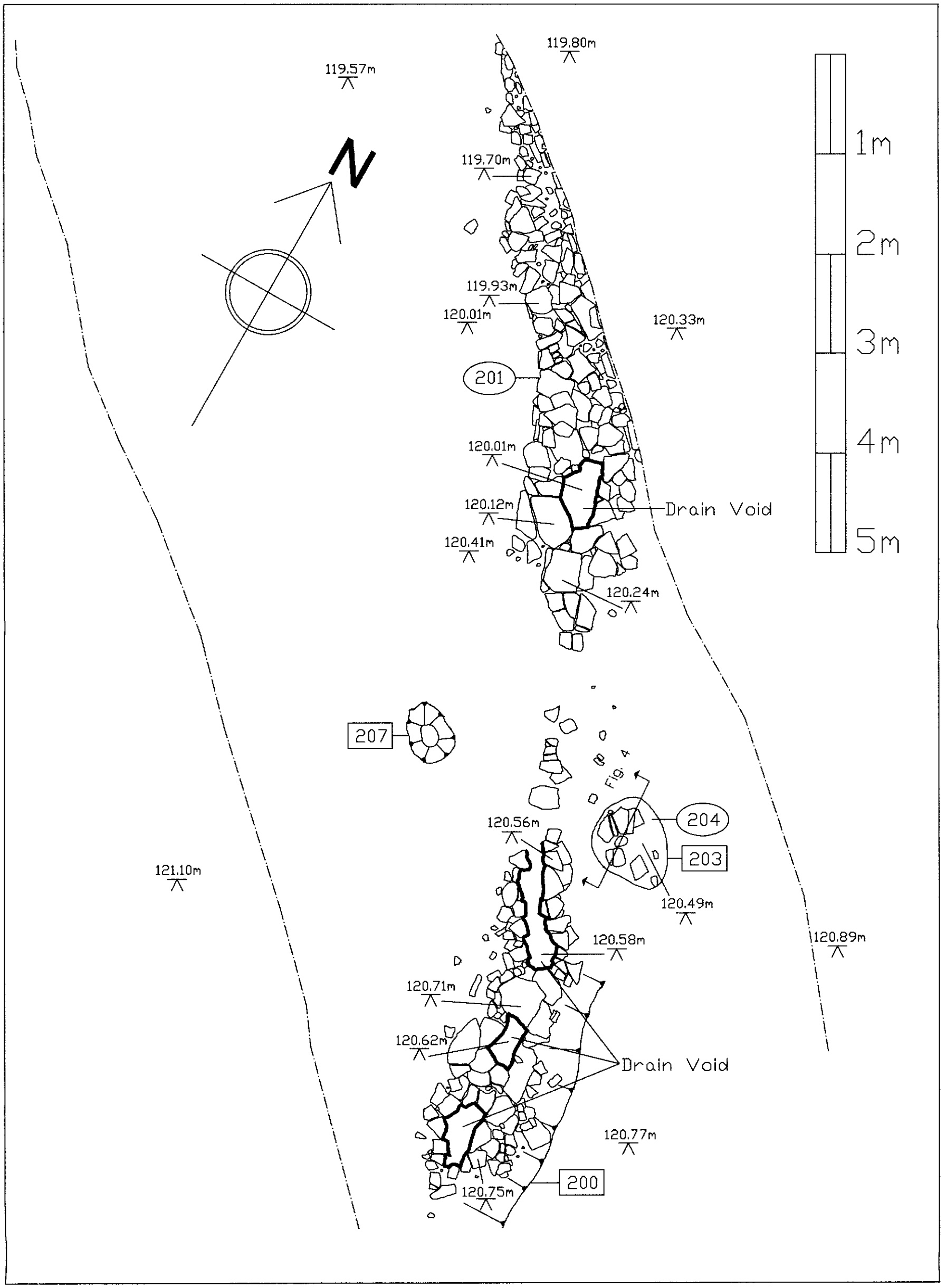
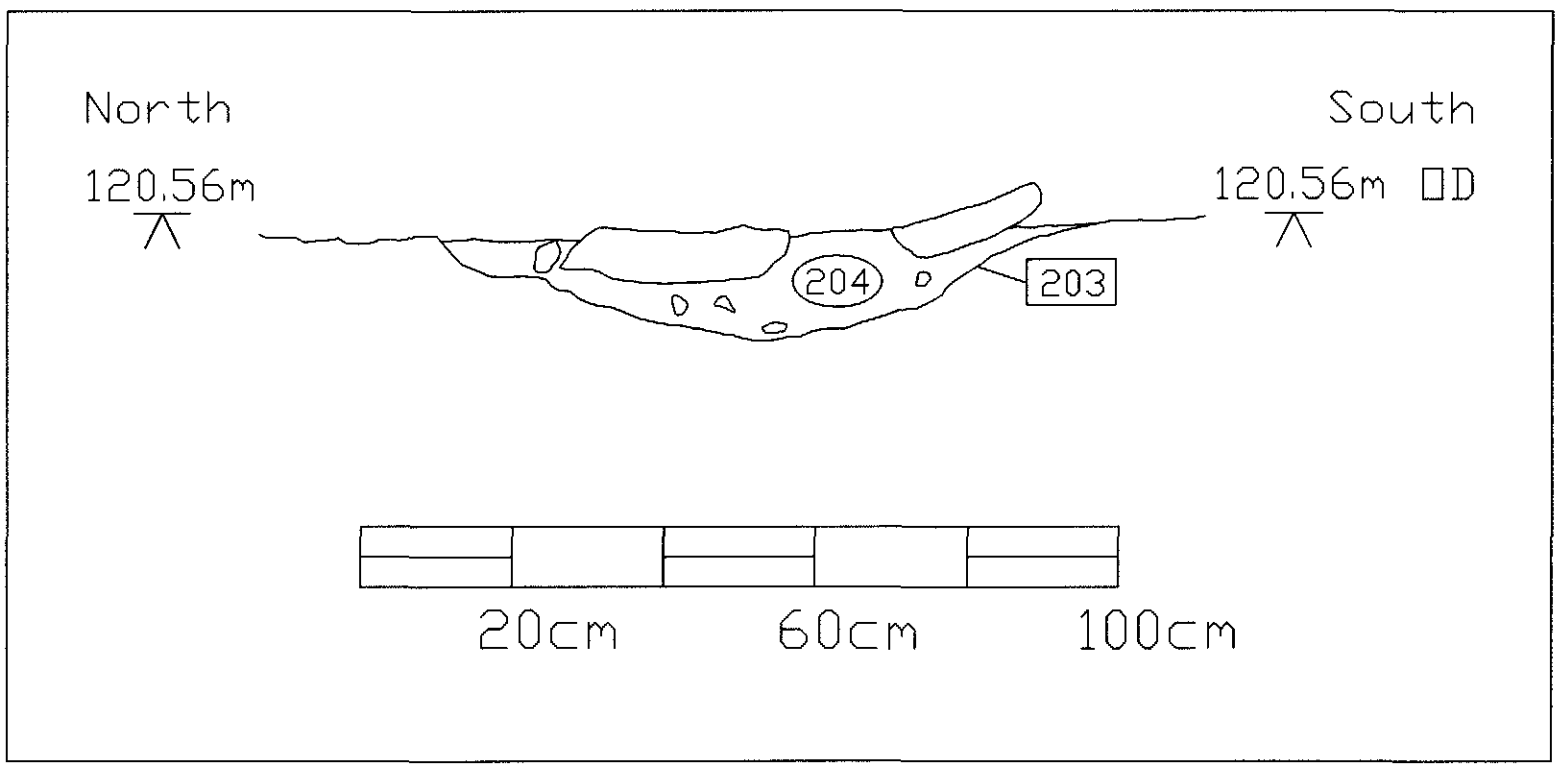


Fig. 4 Section Through Post-Hole 203, Area B.



5 Plan of Rubble 303 and Excavated Sondage, Area C.

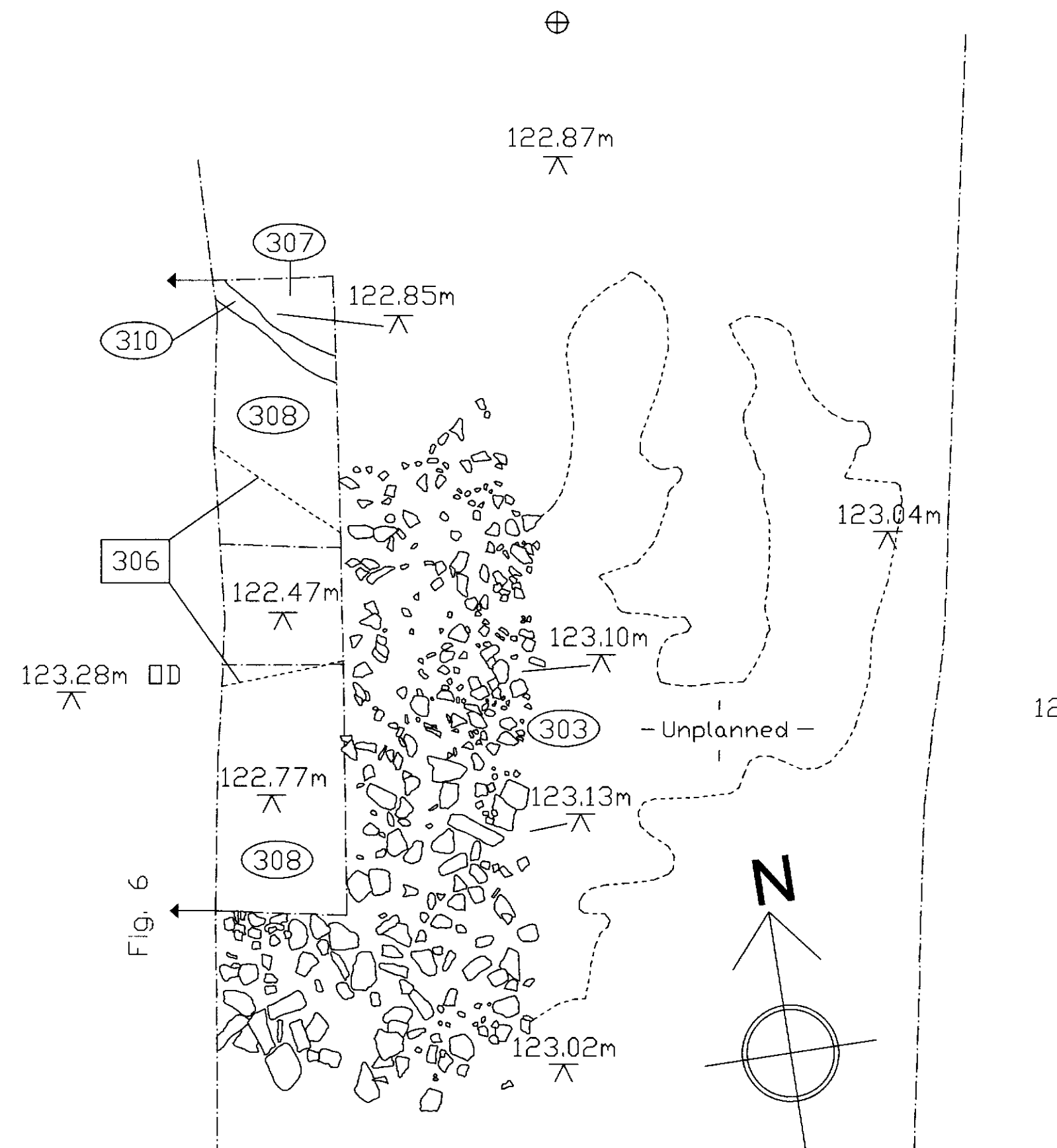


Fig. 6

Fig. 5 Plan of Rubble 303 and Excavated Sondage, Area C.

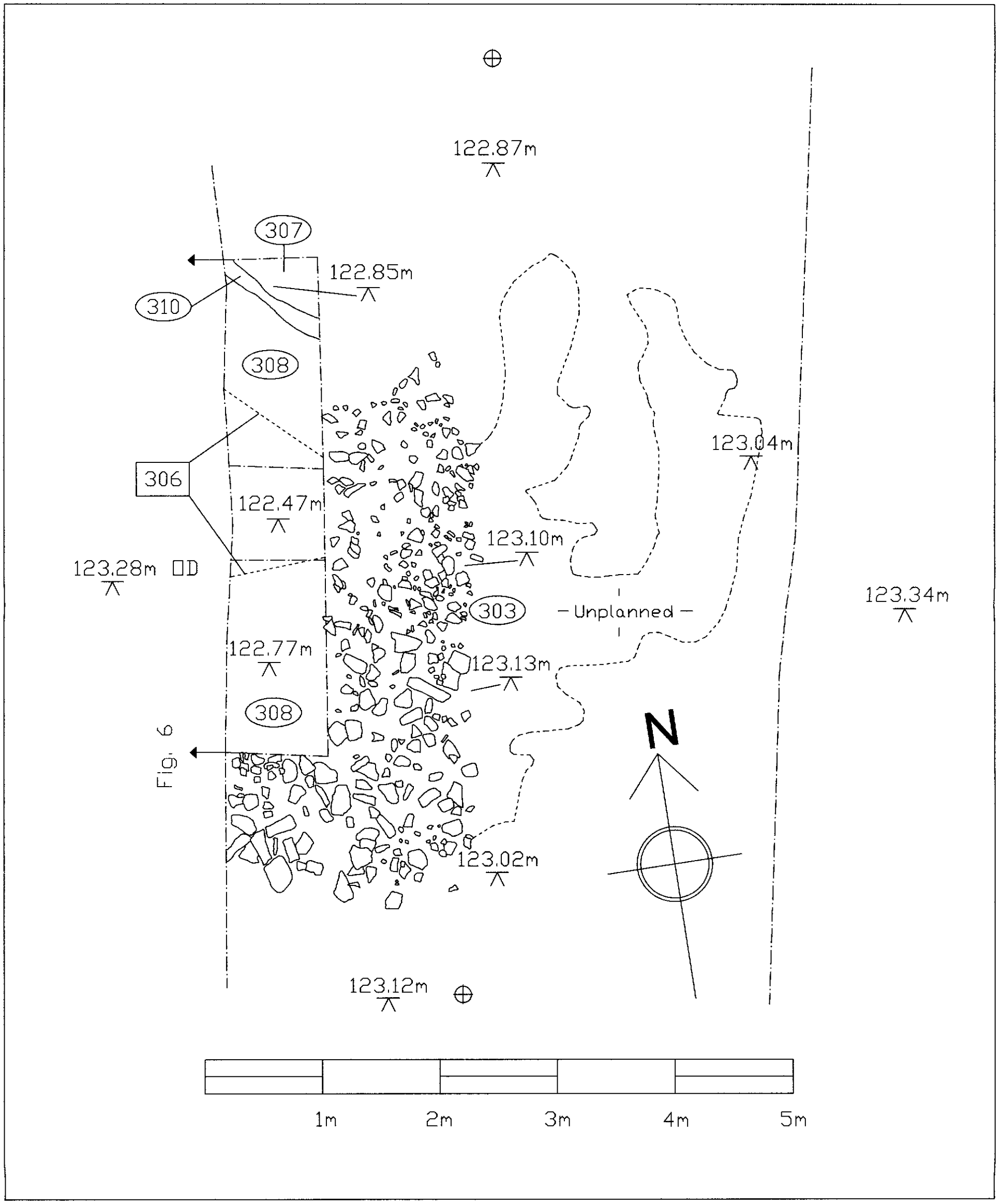


Fig. 6 Western Section of Sondage through Rubble 303, Area C.

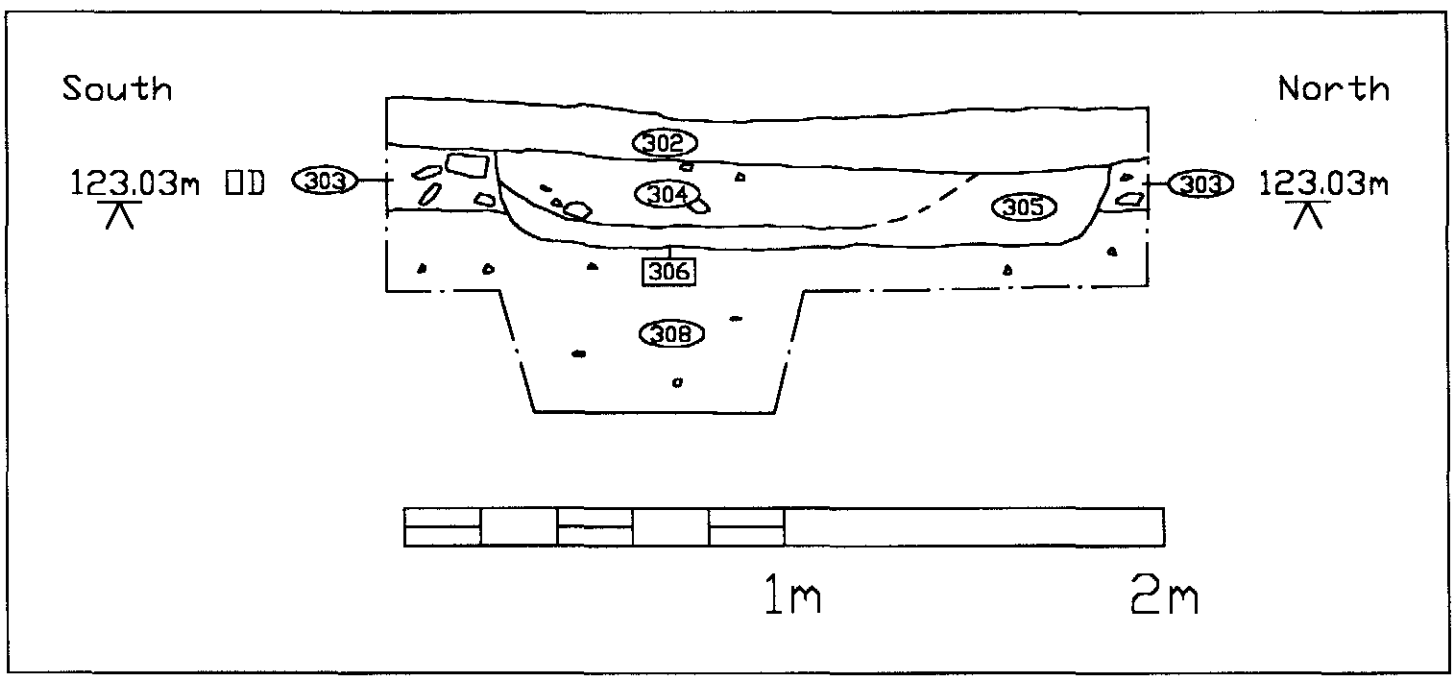


Fig. 7 Plan & Section Drawing of Pit 301, Area C.

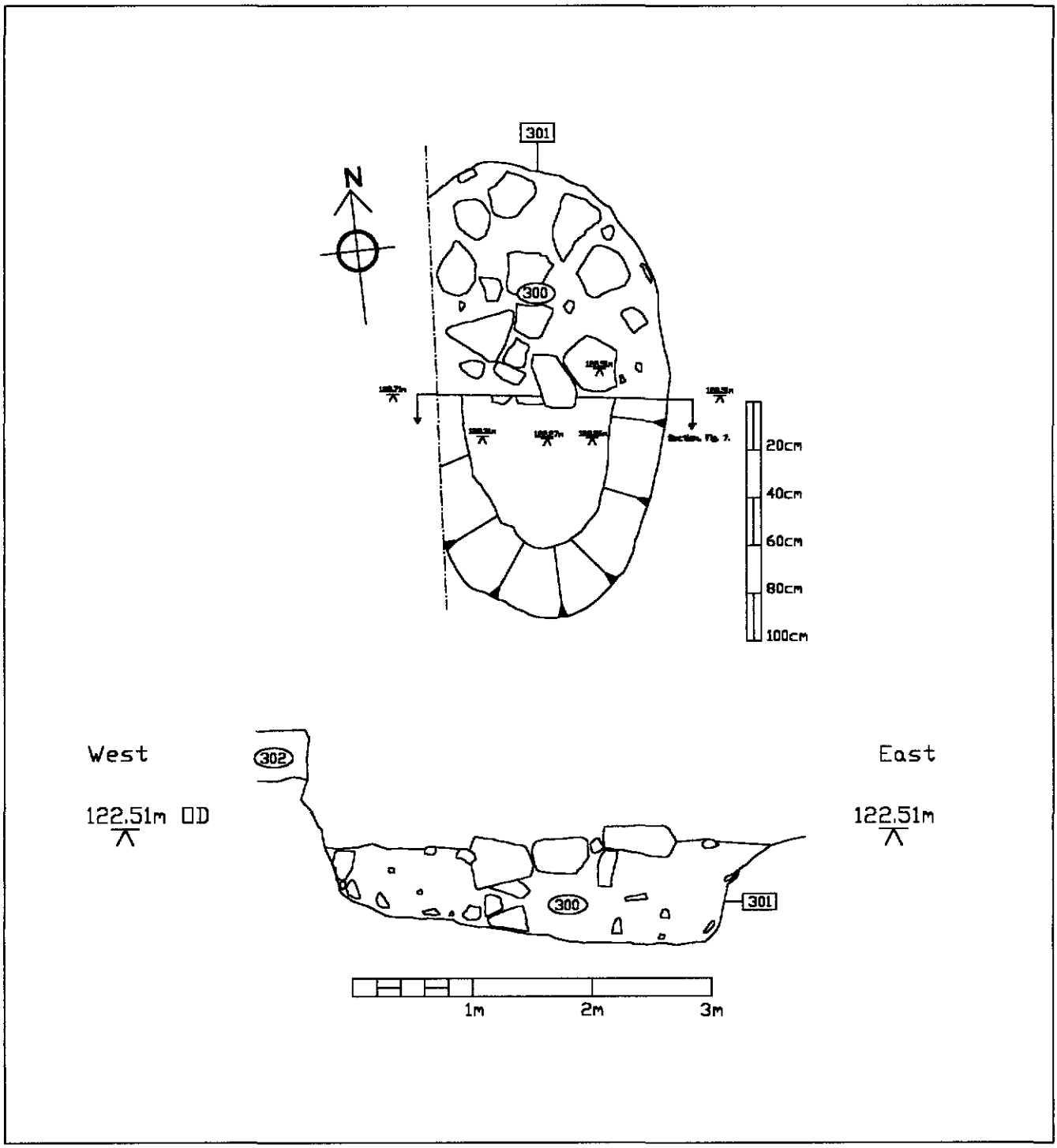


Fig. 8 Roman Structures in Area D

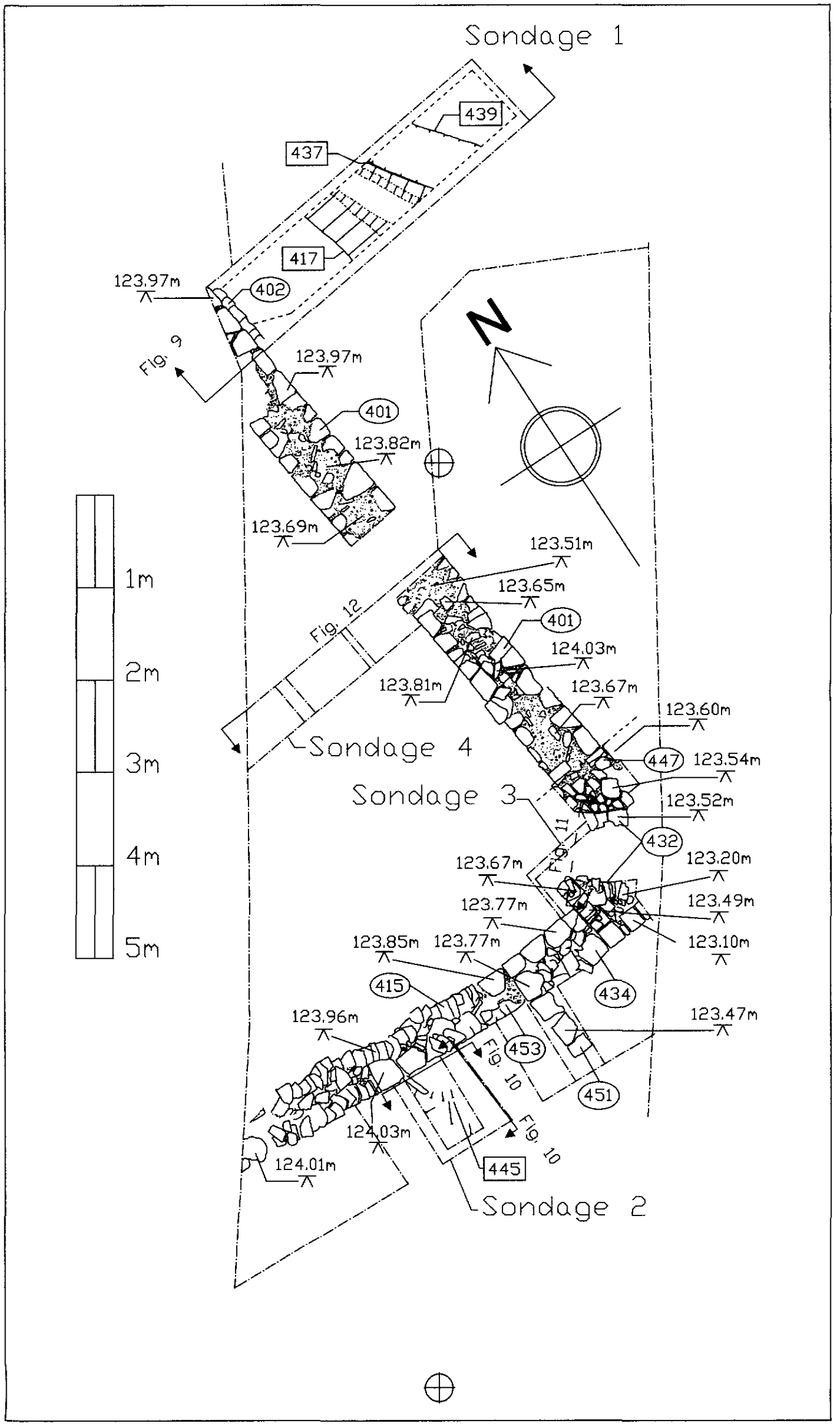


Fig. 9 Southern Section of Sondage 1, Area D.

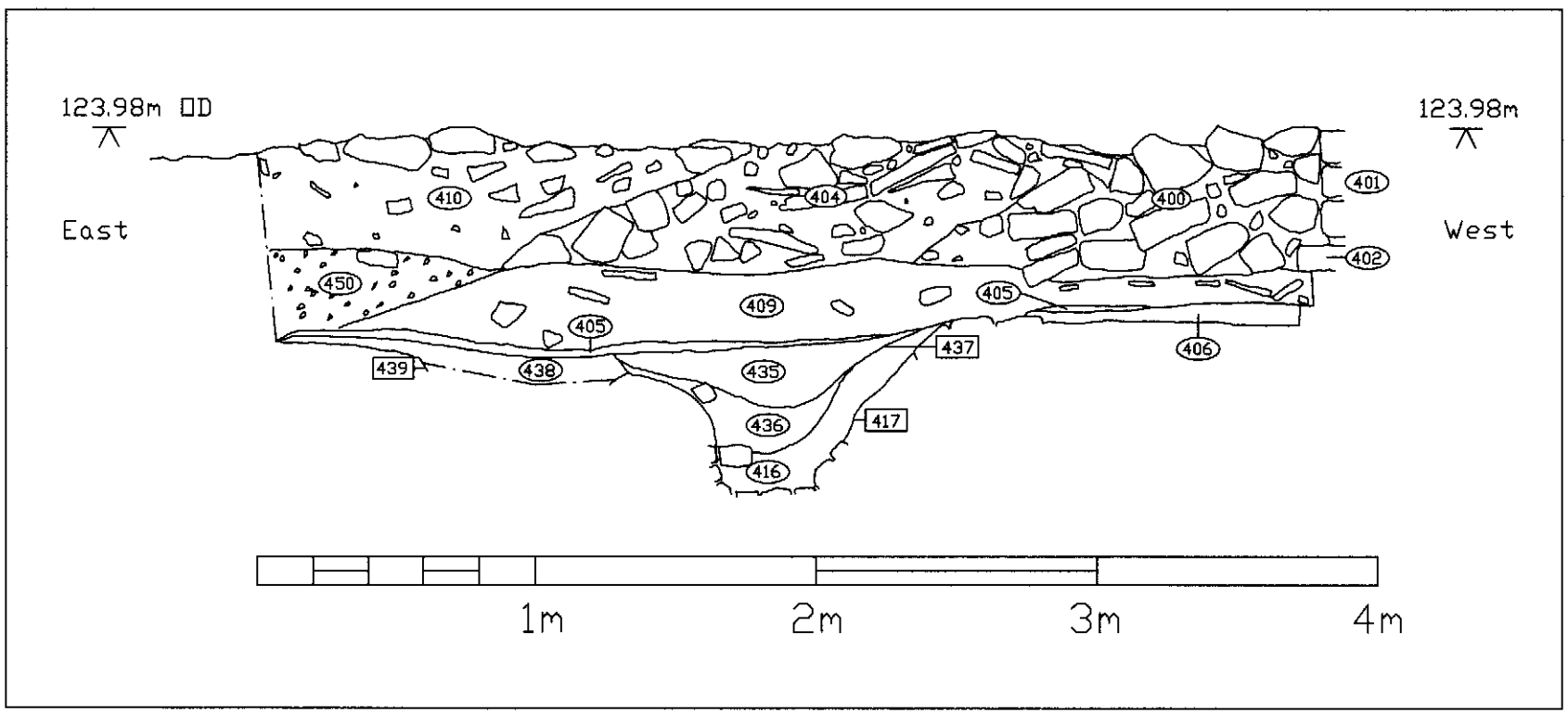


Fig. 10 Northern and Eastern Sections of Sondage 2, Area D.

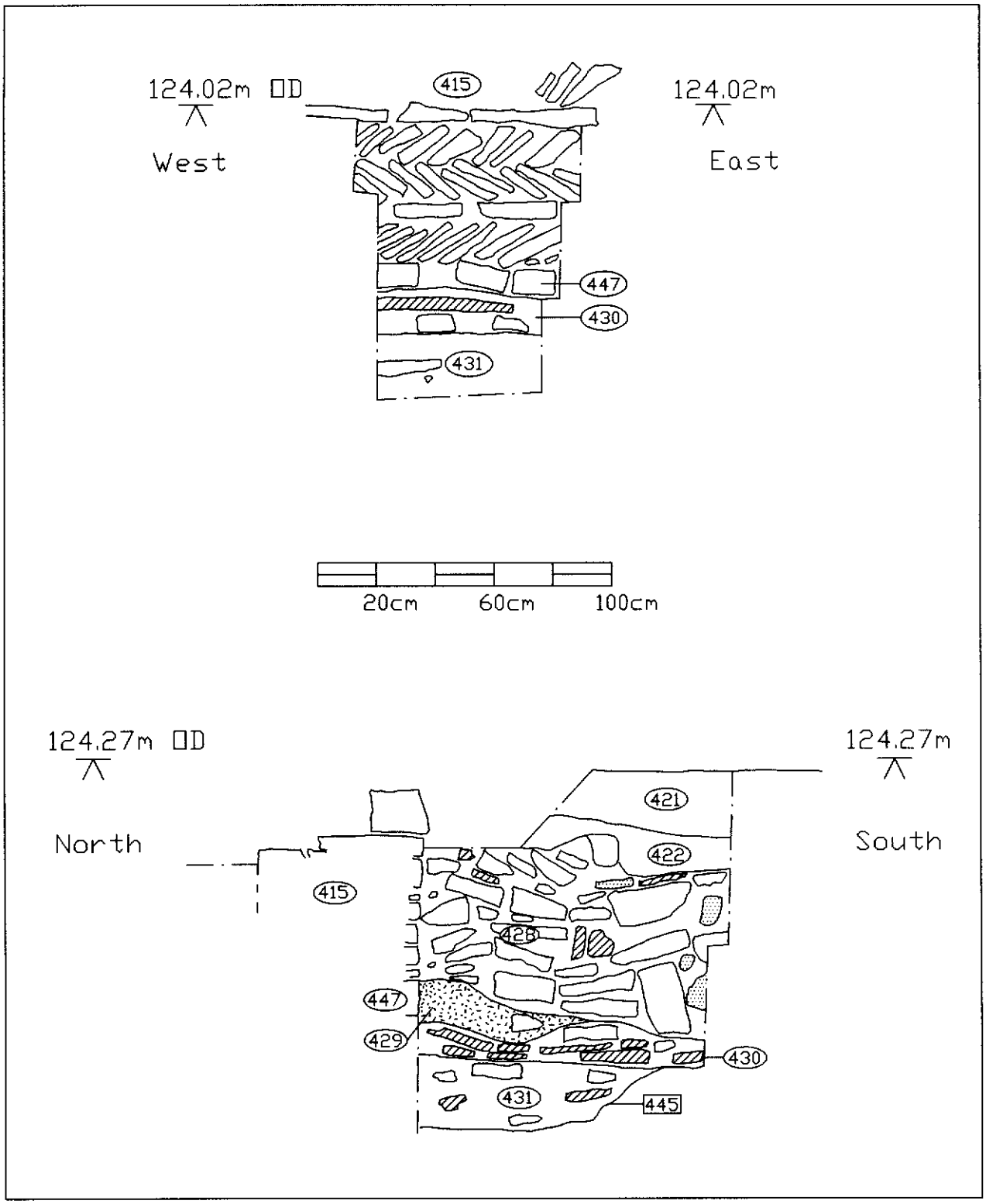


Fig. 11 Section through Furnace 432 in Sondage 3, Area D.

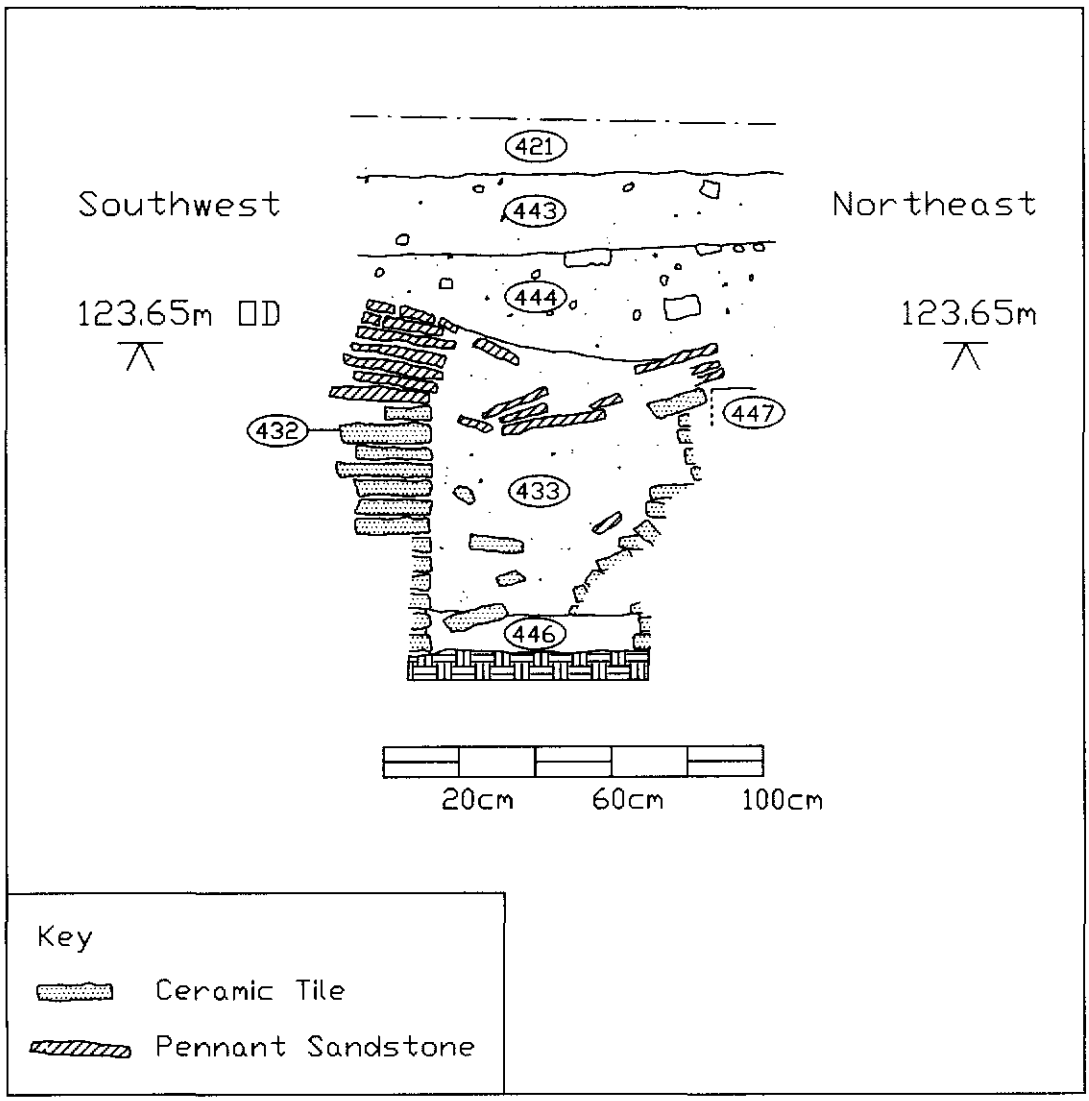


Fig. 12 Northern Section of Sondage 4, Area D.

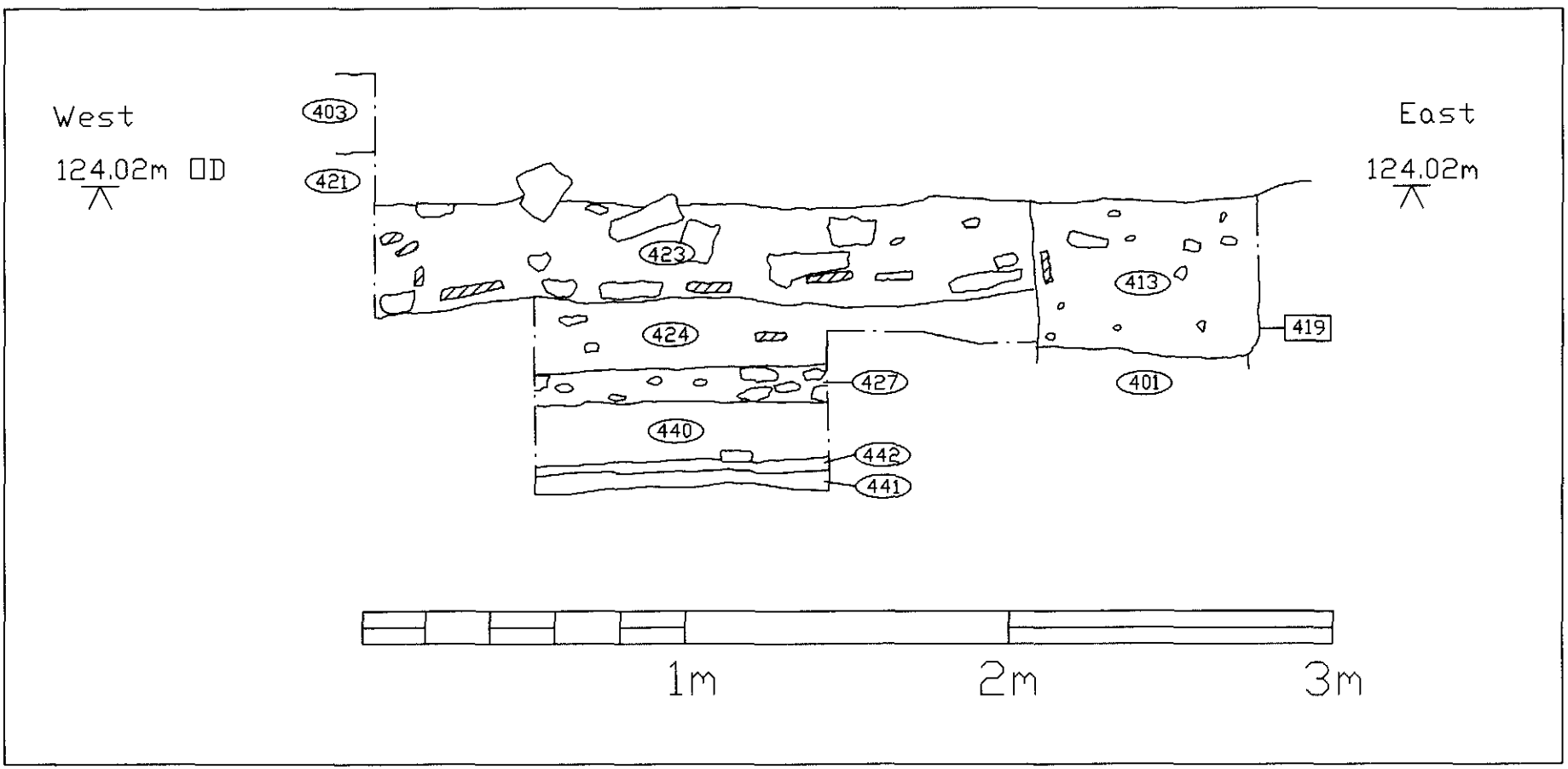
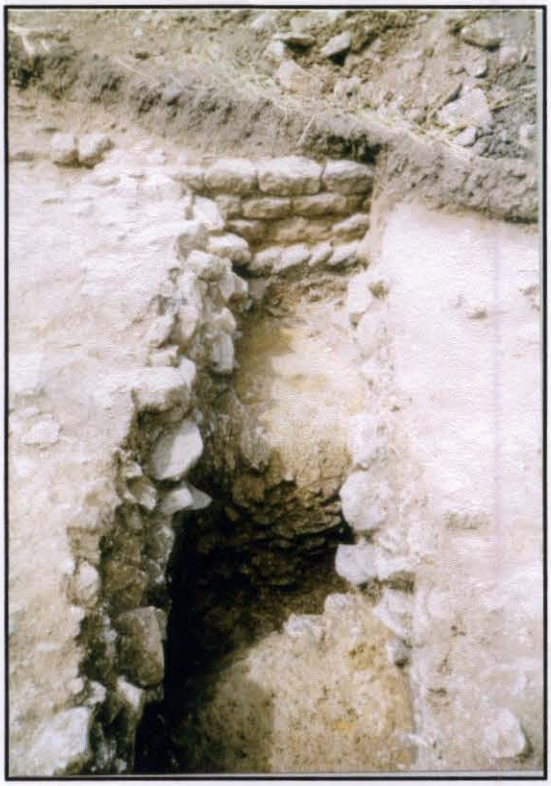


Plate 1 Vertical aerial photograph showing Shepherd's Mead and its surroundings. (Shepherd's Mead is outlined in red and south is towards the top of the photograph).

Plate 2 Drain 201, Area B. Looking south.

Plate 3 Walls 401 to right and 415 to left, with furnace in foreground. Area D, looking west.

Plate 4 Wall 415, with Phase 1 deposits beneath. Seen in Sondage 2, Area D. Looking north.
Plate 5 Wall 401, with ditch 417 in foreground. Seen in Sondage 1, Area D. Looking west.



12. Appendices

12.1. Context Descriptions by Area

Area A Context Descriptions		
100		Unstratified
101	Topsoil	Dark-brown silty loam topsoil 0.14 -0.24m thick.
102	Wall Footings	Footings of present northern boundary wall of Shepherd's Mead. The length of wall across the splayed northern end of the track, at its junction with Wellow Lane, had been removed in advance. This revealed the lowest course of the footings. These were composed of two well laid rows of roughly squared limestone blocks, with a total width of approximately 0.42m. The top of this final course was at a level varying from 119.24 to 119.34m OD.
103		Unallocated
104	Wall Footings	Diffuse linear arrangement of pitched limestone cobbles, on average 0.21 x 0.15 x 0.06m, seen at 118.72m OD. An approximately 3 metre length was observed at the north-eastern junction of the splayed track and Wellow Lane. Probably the fragmentary footings of an earlier northern field boundary to Shepherd's Mead. The full width of the footings could not be ascertained as all but 0.14m of these lay concealed beneath the carriageway of Wellow Lane.

Area B Context Descriptions		
200	Drain Cut	Cut for drain 201. Shallow sinuous linear cut with shallowly sloping, slightly concave sides. Top of cut truncated by machining and base of cut not fully investigated. Thus full depth of cut unknown but greater than 150mm. Minimum width at top of cut 1.60m. Filled with 201.
201	Drain	Drain, 12m of which exposed, oriented approximately north-south. Exited the cleared strip to the north, terminated before it reached the limit of excavation to the south and survived in fragmentary form in the centre. Composed of limestone basal slabs with limestone rubble sides and limestone capping slab. Exact external dimensions masked by tumble and packing stones but were approximately 0.84m wide by 0.20- 0.24mm deep. The internal void varied in size from 0.20- 0.28m in width and 0.08- 0.10m in depth. Its form was not that of a modern field drain and it was not of recognizably modern construction. It probably drained waste liquids from a building situated up slope, however the possibility that this was a conduit supplying water to structures further down slope can not be ruled out. Filled cut 200.
202	Fill	Mid-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and occasional flecks of decayed limestone. Fill of internal void of drain 201.
203	Post-hole	Post-hole adjacent to the eastern side of drain 201. Oval in plan, with maximum dimensions of 0.94 x 0.80m. Minimum depth of 0.14m, though the top possibly truncated during machining. Shallowly sloping sides with a concave base. Filled with 204.

204	Fill	Mid-brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and small pieces of decayed limestone of average size 3 x 2 x 1mm. Large angular limestone pieces up to 200 x 120 x 30mm used as packing stones. An oval patch of darker-brown silty clay, with an approximate diameter of 150mm, seen in plan and apparently revetted by the packing stones may be a post-pipe. This latter was not recorded in section. Fill of post-hole 203.
205	Fill	Mid-brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments. Backfill of cut 200, for drain 201.
206	Fill	Mid-brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and small pieces of decayed limestone of average size 3 x 2 x 1mm. Fill of Post-hole 207.
207	Post-hole	Post-hole adjacent to the west side of drain 201. Oval in plan, measuring 0.60 x 0.44m. Minimum depth of 0.15m, though top may have been truncated during machining. Slightly sloping concave sides and a concave base.
208	Topsoil	Mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil.

Area C Context Descriptions		
300	Fill	Mid-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal fragments and moderate angular limestone pieces up to 160 x 110 x 50mm. Fill of pit 301.
301	Pit	Pit not fully excavated as it exited the western edge of the cleared strip, though apparently oval in plan. Dimensions 1.90m x a minimum of 0.96m, with a minimum depth of 0.42m. Cut into the natural subsoil. Filled with 300.
302	Topsoil	Mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil.
303	Rubble Spread	Spread of limestone rubble. Approximate layer dimensions: 5.40m north-south by a minimum of 4.70m east-west (the rubble spread continued beyond the western limit of excavation). Some isolated limestone pieces to the north of the spread may be part of the same feature, though time constraints precluded their investigation. Maximum block size 0.35 x 0.35 x 0.05m. Some show evidence of burning. Cut by feature 306. Seals layers 307 and 310.
304	Fill	Second fill of cut 306. Light to mid-brown silty clay . Moderate limestone fragments and crushed limestone patches. Maximum thickness, 0.16m. Sealed by topsoil.
305	Fill	First fill of cut 306, sealed by 304. Concentrated brownish-yellow crushed limestone mortar, becoming more diffuse in the northernmost third of the fill where it appears to have been disturbed and mixed with 304. Approximately 30% mortar, 70% light to mid brown silty clay. 60mm thick.
306	Cut	Feature cutting rubble spread 303. Only partially revealed within the stripped area and not seen in plan prior to the excavation of sondage through 303. Cut was 1.6m wide and 0.24m deep in western section, and was very flat-bottomed. It had narrowed to 0.84m wide at the eastern section, 0.78m to the east. This suggests that 303 was a pit rather than a linear feature such as a ditch. It had steeply-sloping, slightly concave sides and a flat base. In section it had a maximum width of 1.60m and a maximum depth of 0.24m. Cuts rubble spread 303, filled with 305 and 304 successively.

307	Layer	Dark to very dark greyish-brown silty clay layer with frequent concentrated patches of ash and charcoal fragments. Approximately 10mm thick. Contained many medieval and post-medieval pot sherds and a possible iron box flue-tile wall staple. Probably the remains of a bonfire. Sealed by 303; above 310.
308/ 309	Layer	Layer revealed in sondage excavated through rubble spread 303. Mid-brown silty clay with moderate limestone fragments, circa 40 x 40 x 20mm, and occasional charcoal smears. Contained medieval pot sherds. Probably a medieval soil horizon. Truncated by 306; above natural.
310	Layer	Reddish-brown silty clay layer, approximately 10mm thick. Underlies 307, interpreted as a bonfire, and is above 308/309. Essentially burnt 308/309.

Area D Context Descriptions		
400	Layer	Collapse layer butting the easternmost face of wall 401, revealed in Sondage 1. Composed of squared facing stones of representative size 0.27 x 0.13m and limestone rubble averaging 100 x 90 x 70mm. This was bedded in a mid-greyish brown silt/small gravel matrix. Layer 90% stone, 10% matrix. Essentially the collapsed remains of wall 401.
401	Wall	Wall oriented approximately north-south, running diagonally across the cleared area. A 6.5m length of wall was uncovered. It exited the cleared area to the north and at its southern end was joined to wall 443. Constructed of inner and outer faces of well coursed squared limestone blocks of average size 0.30 x 0.13 x 0.17m. These faces contained a core of angular limestone rubble, all bonded by a firm brownish-yellow mortar. In Sondage 1 three courses of masonry survived, to a height of 0.40m. It had an average width of 0.64m. Founded upon a single course of pitched offset limestone footings (402).
402	Wall Footings	Offset footings of wall 401, revealed in Sondage 1. Offset from wall face by approx. 0.1m, and composed of a single course of limestone blocks measuring 0.18m x a minimum of 0.12m x 0.04m, regularly pitched at an angle of approximately 35 degrees and set in a hard brownish-yellow mortar. 0.10m deep.
403	Topsoil	Mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil.
404	Layer	Collapse layer to the east of wall 401, investigated in Sondage 1. Masonry less concentrated than in layer 400: approximately 70% stone to 30% matrix. Masonry predominantly smaller angular limestone of average size 0.12 x 0.08m with some facing blocks and a concentration of pennant roofing slates with a maximum size of 0.30m x a minimum of 0.17m x 0.02m at the western end of the layer. Above collapse layer 400.
405	Layer	Greyish-black to black silty, very charcoal-rich layer with a variable thickness of 20-40mm, which extended throughout all but the western 0.57m of Sondage 1- though not continuously throughout the drawn section. It is possible that this layer may derive from an ongoing controlled process, such the firing of a hypocaust system, however its extent, the concentrated nature of the charcoal and the bent nails contained within it argue for it being the product of the destruction by fire of a previous structure or structures in the vicinity. Above 435, sealed by 409.

406	Layer	Reddish-brown very firm clay layer with no inclusions and with a maximum depth of 80mm, revealed in Sondage 1. Sealed by burnt layer 405 and above natural. Possibly burnt natural resulting from fire that produced 405.
407	Fill	Mid-brown clay fill containing infrequent charcoal fragments and a single piece of burnt bone. Fill of shallow hollow 408, revealed in Sondage 1.
408	Cut	Sub-circular hollow revealed in Sondage 1. 190mm in diameter and 80mm deep. Cut into natural and filled with 407.
409	Layer	Mid-greyish brown silty clay with frequent small gravel, moderate charcoal smears and fragments, moderate small limestone fragments, and, at the western end of Sondage 1, pieces of pennant roof tile, one of which clearly ran under the footings (402) of wall 401. The layer varied in thickness from 0.12m where it runs under wall 401 to 0.3m in the eastern half of Sondage 1. It lensed out approximately 0.22m from the eastern limit of Sondage 1. Above layer 405; beneath footings 402.
410	Layer	Collapse layer composed of approx. 60% matrix to 40% stone. Matrix a greyish-brown silty clay. Stone fraction composed mainly of angular limestone fragments with a maximum size of 200x 120 x 50mm, though also some larger blocks up to 320 x 120mm were present. Maximum depth 0.5m. Revealed in Sondage 1, which it exited to the east. Above 404; beneath topsoil 403.
411	Layer	Mid-brown silty clay with frequent small limestone fragments (with an average size of 60 x 50 x 30mm) and frequent small gravel. Layer approximately 60mm thick. Seen approximately 2m to the north of Sondage 1. Sealed by topsoil 403; above layer 412.
412	Layer	Mid to dark-brown silty clay with orangish-yellow mortar and small limestone fragments. Layer only seen in plan, so of unknown thickness, approximately 2m to the north of Sondage 1. Beneath 411.
413	Robber Trench Fill	Mid-greyish brown silty clay with frequent small gravel and small limestone fragments (with a maximum size of 120 x 40mm) and occasional small pennant tile fragments. Layer 0.70m wide and 0.49m thick. Revealed in Sondage 4. Fill of robber trench 446, above wall 401.
414	Layer	Mid-greyish brown silty clay with frequent angular limestone fragments (with a maximum size of 0.30 x 0.20m), frequent small gravel, and some fractured pennant roof slate. Layer 0.30m deep. Excavated from above robbed out wall 434 and seen in section. Possibly robber trench fill though time constraints precluded certainty here.
415	Wall	An approximately 3.2m length of wall on an east-west alignment. It exited the cleared area to the west and was joined to wall 434/451 by bridging wall 453. In Sondage 2 it was seen to have survived to a height of 0.7m, and had an average width of 0.5m. Constructed of alternate lacing courses of flat limestone slabs, each stone averaging 260 x 60mm, and a single or double herringbone course of limestone slates averaging 220 x 30mm, pitched at an angle of approximately 40 degrees. The bonding material was a mid-brown very gritty material (? mortar). It would appear that the footings (447) of wall 415 comprised a single course of limestone blocks. No foundation cut was observed and the wall foundations were apparently laid upon the contemporary ground surface, formed by layers 429 and 430.
416	Fill	Stiff mid-brown clay, devoid of inclusions and finds. Primary fill of ditch 417, excavated in Sondage 1. Layer 0.13m thick (though subsequently truncated by ditch recut 437. Recut entirely removed layer 416 from the eastern side of the ditch.

417	Ditch	Linear cut feature oriented approximately north-south, Investigated in Sondage 1. Approximately 1.20m wide at the top and approx. 0.34m wide at the base. Westernmost side slightly convex and cut into natural brashy clay. The base is cut down to tabular brash and hence flat bottomed. The eastern side was truncated when the ditch was subsequently recut. Ditch had an approximate depth of 0.54m. Cuts natural; filled with 416.
418	Layer	Same as 428.
419	Robber Trench	Robber trench associated with wall 401, revealed in Sondage 4. The westernmost side of the cut was revealed in its entirety. It was straight-sided and little wider than the wall. The lowest 0.20m of the eastern side of the cut was located and this was set back from the eastern face of the wall by 40mm. The cut survived to depth of 0.44m. Allowing for the fact that the upper part of the eastern side of the cut was not located, the robber trench would have been approximately 0.70m wide at the top. Cuts collapse layer 423.
420	Layer	Collapse layer, recorded in plan, composed of roughly squared limestone facing blocks averaging 250 x 250 x 90mm and smaller angular limestone pieces. Located within angle of walls 401 and 415.
421	Layer	Mid-brown silty clay subsoil layer with occasional very small limestone fragments. Revealed in Sondages 2&3. Sealed gritty subsoil 443 & 422. Sealed rubble collapse at southern end of Zone D, but of notional thickness only at northern end of Zone. Sealed by topsoil 403.
422	Layer	Mid-brown silty clay with moderate very small gravel and small limestone fragments. Lower subsoil layer revealed in Sondage 2. Sealed collapse layer 428; sealed by 421.
423	Layer	Collapse layer investigated in Sondage 4. Comprised 75% matrix and 25% masonry. Matrix composed of mid-greyish brown silty clay with frequent small gravel and moderate mortar patches . Stone fraction comprised angular limestone fragments up to 240 x 100mm and fragments of pennant roofing slates. Layer had an average thickness of 0.28m. This layer is a subdivision of the rubble spread given the overall number 420 when seen in plan. Sealed 424; cut by 413.
424	Layer	Firm dark-brown silty clay with infrequent tile fragments. 0.24m thick. Seen in Sondage 4. Cut by robber trench 419; above 427; sealed by 423.
425	Layer	Patch of brownish-yellow clay, c. 25mm thick, revealed in Sondage 4. Beneath 424; above 427.
426	Layer	Mid-brown, silty clay , with frequent grit and mortar patches and moderate limestone pieces with a maximum size of 100mm x 60mm. Visible in western section of Sondage 2 (where 0.15m thick) but not present in eastern section. Uppermost collapse layer.
427	Layer	Firm dark-brown silty clay with frequent limestone pieces of average size 120mm x 60mm x 30mm, revealed in Sondage 4. Beneath 424; above 440.
428	Layer	Collapse layer revealed in Sondage 2. Layer 0.64m thick and sloped down at an approximate angle of 15 degrees from north to south, but at a much steeper angle of approximately 40 degrees from east down to west. Composed of 90% stone and 10% matrix. Stone fraction composed of 80% angular limestone blocks and pieces with an average size of 250mm x a minimum of 150mm x 60mm, 10% broken pennant slates and 10% red brick fragments. Matrix a mid-grey silty clay with frequent gravel and mortar fragments. Above 429; sealed by 422.

429	Layer	Mid orangish-brown silty, mortar-rich layer, butting the south face of footings 447, of wall 415. Layer 140mm thick and lensed out 0.58m to the south of the face of 447. Layer probably derived from the construction of wall 415. Above 430; sealed by 428.
430	Layer	Limestone blocks up to 180mm x 60mm and frequent pennant roof slate in a matrix of mid-grey silty clay, with frequent mortar patches- 60 % masonry to 40% matrix. The layer clearly ran under the footings (447) of wall 415. Probable collapse layer associated with an unlocated structure in the immediate vicinity. Predates construction of wall 415. Above 431; beneath 429.
431	Fill	Dark-greyish brown ashy silt with frequent charcoal smears and limestone fragments up to 90 x 50 x 20mm. Fill 40mm thick. Revealed in Sondage 2. Fill of cut 445; sealed by 430.
432	Furnace	Arched furnace the central axis of which was oriented approx. northwest-southeast, revealed in Sondage 3. Sides composed of stacked reddish-orange clay tiles each measuring 200 x 200 x 40mm and an arched vault composed of pennant slates each approx. 260 x 200 x 20mm. The southwestern side to the furnace survived to its full height, to the springing point of the vault (0.64m high). Only the lowest three courses of the northeastern side remained *in situ*. However, this was enough to allow the width of the furnace to be ascertained: 0.53m. Seven inclined courses of the pennant slate vault remained *in situ* above the southwestern furnace wall, and indicated a minimum furnace height of 0.9m- though an operational height of approximately 1m seems likely. The furnace was clearly part of the same constructional phase as walls 434 and 447 and served a hypocaust system associated with a building oriented approximately east-west (structure 452). The external stoke hole or any associated housing would have been situated within the internal angle of walls 415 and 401. Bonded with walls 434 & 447.
433	Fill	Mid-brown mortary silt with frequent broken pennant slates and fragments of furnace tiles and occasional small fragments of limestone, filling furnace. It overlay the slumped and robbed sides of furnace 432 and of wall 434, showing that its deposition post-dated the robbing process. Fill of 432; sealed by collapse layer 444.
434	Wall	East-west oriented wall, 1.06m long x 0.60m wide, at southern end of Zone D. Joined to furnace 432 and returning south at its western end as wall 451. Subsequently butted by wall 453/415. Constructed of faced limestone blocks up to 0.30 x 0.30m in plan, containing a core of limestone pieces bonded in a firm brownish-yellow mortar. Survived to a height of 0.64m. The interior facing blocks at the junction with wall (451) were clearly curving round to the south. However, contrary to the original interpretation, this cannot indicate a building whose western end wall was straight sided externally, but apsed internally: the point from the curve springs means that the apse would need to be accommodated within the thickness of the wall, which was not thick enough for this.
435	Fill	Second and top fill of recut ditch 437, investigated in Sondage 1. Soft mid-brown silty clay with moderate charcoal patches, patches of burnt clay and occasional charcoal fragments. Layer 0.22m thick and 1.1m wide. Seals 436, fills 437, and is sealed by 405.
436	Fill	First fill of recut ditch 437, investigated in Sondage 1. Soft dark -greyish brown silty clay with frequent black charcoal-rich lenses and patches. 0.16m thick. Fills 437; sealed by 435.

437	Ditch Recut	Recut of broadly north-south oriented ditch 417, investigated in Sondage 1. Recut ditch approximately 0.4m deep and 1.12m wide at the top, flat u-shaped base and compound curve sides. The recut ditch was 0.14m shallower than the earlier ditch 417. It truncated the first fill (416) of 417 and completely removed it on its eastern side. In completely removing fill 416, recut 437 possibly truncated the original eastern side of ditch 417. The upper half of the eastern side of cut 417/ 437 was composed of a clean brash-free clay unseen elsewhere on site. It is possible that this was redeposited to reinstate the integrity of the ditch after recutting. 437 also truncated the fill (438) of cut feature 439. Filled by 435 and 436; cuts 416.
438	Layer	Very firm mid-brown clay with occasional small limestone fragments and charcoal flecks and smears. Fills cut 439 (not fully excavated) but extends a further 0.5m to the east of 439. To the immediate west of 439 the layer has been truncated by recut 437.
439	Ditch	Linear cut, only partially excavated in Sondage 1. Oriented approx. N-S, to the immediate east of ditch 417. The relationship between ditches 439 and 417 is unknown, though the recut of 417[437] cut the fill (438) of 439, and therefore postdates it. 439 has a minimum depth of 50mm and a minimum width at the top of 0.75m. Cuts natural, filled with 438.
440	Layer	Dark-brown silty clay layer with occasional charcoal smears and very occasional limestone pieces with a maximum size of 100 x 40 x 30mm. Excavated in Sondage 4. Sealed by 427; above 442.
441	Layer	Dark-brown silty clay layer with occasional charcoal smears. Beneath 442, above natural.
442	Layer	Dark-brown silty clay layer with occasional charcoal smears. Beneath 440, above 441.
443	Layer	Light-greyish brown silty clay with very frequent small limestone gravel and occasional small limestone fragments and flecks of tile. Layer had a minimum depth of 0.20m. Seen in Sondage 3 where it overlay the collapse layer 444 and was sealed by the subsoil 421.
444	Layer	Collapse layer investigated in Sondage 3. Composed of 70% masonry, 30% matrix. Masonry composed predominantly of angular limestone rubble with an average size of 140 x 90 x 80mm, with some pennant broken pennant roof slates and some box-flue and *pilae* tile. Matrix a mid-brown silty clay. Layer 0.4m thick. Above 433, sealed by 443.
445	Cut	Feature of unknown function cut into natural, revealed in Sondage 2. It comprised a cut running down from southwest to northeast though there were multiple changes of angle. Although only a small part of the feature was examined, the cut was curved and apparently part of a large curvilinear cut. It had a minimum depth of 0.20m and had a pennant slate set on edge within it, butting the northern limit of excavation, seemingly part of its construction rather than deriving from its later infilling. It was filled with 431. 445 disappears under later wall 415 and clearly derives from an earlier phase of activity on the site.
446	Layer	Light-greyish brown silty clay containing moderate charcoal smears and fragments and occasional ash and box flue-tile, revealed in Sondage 3. Possibly furnace waste accumulating during the operational life of the *hypocaust* system. Sealed by 433.

447	Wall	Wall constructed of angular limestone blocks averaging 140 x 80mm with some pennant fragments set in a firm brownish-yellow mortar. No facing blocks were located though it is probable that only wall core material was revealed. To the north it was bonded to wall 401 and to the south to furnace 432, and was apparently of the same constructional phase as these. Only a small section of wall was exposed, which measured 0.56m north-south and 0.7m east-west. However, the limited excavation established that it extended beyond both the east and west faces of wall 401. This would seem to indicate that 447 was part of an east-west oriented wall.
448		Unallocated
449	Cut	The current ground surface is located at 124.35m OD above wall 415; above 401 at 124.08m OD. Conversely, natural sighted at former at 123.21m OD, and at the latter at 123.26m OD. It would thus appear that the first event of Phase 1 was the cutting of a terrace into the hillside.
450	Layer	Greyish-brown gritty silty clay, containing frequent small angular limestone fragments and occasional limestone blocks up to 150x60mm. Revealed in Sondage 1. Above 409; below 410.
451	Wall	Phase 2 north-south oriented wall revealed in Sondage 3. Bonded with and running south from wall 434. Only three limestone external facing blocks were revealed, and these indicated a straight external wall face. Two facing stones at the internal angle of walls 434 and 451 were seen to be slightly curved. It was initially thought that this might indicate an internal apse to this room, but further examination of the evidence suggests that such an apse could not have been accommodated within the thickness of wall 451. Part of structure 452.
452	Structure	East-west oriented building composed of walls 447, 434 & 451 and served by furnace 432. The majority of the building lay beyond the eastern limit of excavation.

12.2. A Proposal for A Programme of Archaeological Works to Meet the Requirements of An Archaeological Design Brief Supplied by Bath and North East Somerset Council Built Heritage Group on Construction Works At Tuggy's Barn, Hinton Charterhouse.

1. Background

i. In May 1998, the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society fieldwalked the site of the proposed access road to the proposed barns at Tuggy's Barn, Hinton Charterhouse. This revealed substantial quantities of late-medieval (fourteenth to sixteenth century) and early post-medieval pottery, glazed roofing tile and building stone towards the north-west corner of Shepherd's Mead, possibly indicative of surviving medieval structural remains and deposits in this area. Some Romano-British sherds were also recovered. The proposed route of the access road was relocated to the east of the artefact concentration in mitigation of the potential destructive effects of the development. This amended proposal was subsequently approved, subject to a condition requiring an appropriate programme of archaeological monitoring and recording.

ii. Bath Archaeological Trust have proposed the following programme of works in response to the design brief provided by B&NES, BHG.

2. Archaeological Remains

i. There is a single SMR entry relating to archaeological features and deposits that will potentially be affected by the proposed development: SMR no: 1624; Parish: Hinton Charterhouse; Grid Reference: ST768581; Name: Possible Roman building, North of Lower Barn.

ii. The above SMR entry is based upon Skinner's reference (Add. Ms. 33657) to Roman foundations, potsherds and a coin of Tetricus, noticed in Shepherd's Mead, "to the right of the road from Wellow to Hinton"- referenced in *VCH* 1, 315. Also, a previous owner, Mr. Robertson, communicated that, "what appear to be the remains of two long stone walls are visible, altogether over 50 yards in length and joined at right angles. They bear no relation to existing field boundaries and could, perhaps, have formed some older boundary". The precise location of the features and deposits referred to in these two instances is unknown.

iii The Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society fieldwalked the site of the proposed development in May 1998 and produced a 1:500 plot of the finds densities. This revealed substantial quantities of late-medieval (thirteenth- sixteenth century) and early post-medieval pottery, glazed roofing tile and building stone towards the north-west corner of Shepherd's Mead, possibly indicative of surviving medieval structural remains and deposits in this area. Some Roman-British pottery shreds also were recovered.

3. Impact of Development

i. The access route was originally planned to take a more direct north-south course

through the centre of the subsequently revealed artefact concentration. However, the fieldwalking results- which revealed the potential presence of medieval structural remains and deposits- necessitated a relocation of the access way to mitigate the potential damage to any present archaeological remains. This will now take a more sinuous route to the immediate east of the artefact concentration.

ii. Although the mitigation strategy has safeguarded the probable archaeologically most sensitive area, it is not known how far eastwards any potentially surviving medieval structures, features and deposits might extend. These might be damaged or destroyed during the development.

iii. Although only a small amount of Romano-British material was recovered during the recent archaeological survey, archaeological structures, features and deposits relating to this period are potentially present and also could be damaged or destroyed during the development.

4. Monitoring and Recording

4.1. Aims

To meet the requirements of the Built Heritage Group design brief by:

viii. Carrying out on-site monitoring of mechanical topsoil stripping.

ix. Systematically recovering and plotting all artefacts revealed during this process.

x. Recording in detail and to an appropriate scale, all archaeological features and structures revealed by topsoil removal.

xi. Excavating a judgement sample of these (including all remains vulnerable to destruction) to ascertain their date and function.

v. Analysing the results and integrate the fieldwalking data, as far as possible, and to produce an archive report and an appropriate SMR report

vi. Creating an ordered, stable and accessible archive of recovered materials and records deposited with an appropriate local museum.

4.2. Strategy

4.2.1. Fieldwork

i. The site of the proposed development is currently under arable cultivation. The standing crop is at too advanced a stage of growth to facilitate effective examination of the plough soil for further artefact recovery, prior to development. No further fieldwalking will therefore be conducted.

ii. The topsoil will be mechanically stripped using a back-hoe excavator (JCB), under close archaeological supervision.

iii. The stripped plough soil and the area stripped will be systematically examined by eye and with the aid of a metal detector (the process of metal detecting will be under close archaeological supervision) and all recovered artefacts will be retained. These will be collected in 10 metre stints, measured from a fixed origin point at the northern or southern end of Shepherd's Mead, which will be determined by the direction of stripping.

iv. The stripped surface will be shovel scraped/ hand cleaned (as deemed appropriate) to reveal any archaeological structures, features or deposits.

v. Revealed archaeological remains will be investigated in a manner limiting intrusion to a minimum whilst allowing the clarification of their nature and date. Wherever remains are likely to be destroyed during development, a fuller investigation, to recover the maximum amount of data, will be conducted.

vi. All revealed archaeological structures and features will be recorded using elements of the *BAT* recording system of complementary written, drawn and photographic records. The minimum record for each feature would be: location recorded on a site outline plan; a 1:20 scale plan with features related to OS datum; a 1:20 scale section drawing, related to OS datum; a context record recording physical characteristics and stratigraphic relationships; and black and white photographs in 35mm format.

vii. An overall location plan, at an appropriate scale will be produced, showing the maximum extent of the area of stripped topsoil and the location of the track, as constructed, any revealed archaeological features and structures and the collection stints for the artefacts recovered from the stripped topsoil.

viii. The fieldwork will be conducted by Derek Cater and Leslie Cross.

5. **Post Excavation**

i. Recovered artefacts will be examined by the relevant specialist:

Finds: John Clarke
Pottery: Rod Burchill
Clay tobacco pipes: Marek Lewcun

ii. The fieldwork results will be analysed and, as far as possible, the fieldwalking data integrated.

iii. An archive report will be prepared, incorporating context descriptions, site matrix, location plan, feature plans and sections, and a discussion of the fieldwork results (incorporating the fieldwalking data, as far as possible), placing them in their historical context.

iv. An ordered, stable and accessible archive of recovered materials and records will be produced and deposited with an appropriate local museum.

v. An appropriate SMR report will be produced.

vi. A note of the results will be published in *Medieval Archaeology*.

12.3. Transcription of Rev. Skinner's Notes Relating to Shepherd's Mead, Hinton Charterhouse (by A.T. Wicks).

NB. These notes are included as supplied to the author by Mrs Isla Tuck. Their accuracy has not been validated.

MS.33656 f.5.July 29 1820: *(Shepherds Mead)* the linchets and small lines of inclosure in the vicinity indicate the Hentun, or ancient settlement of the Britons;.... Being anxious to examine a ground to the North West of Hinton, bordering on the Wellow road, which I noticed some time ago with Mr. Richardson[1], we procured permission of the Farmer to whom the field (Shepherd's Field) belonged and set the men to dig where the blackness of the soil seemed to indicate habitations; they soon turned up building stones and Roman pottery and from the appearance of the lines of the enclosures, extending across the field, we had every reason to believe a settlement of the Romanized Britons occupied it ...as soon as dinner was over we went to the scene of action and soon came to greater quantities of pottery and a coin of Gallienus.

f.23. *Sketch* "Shepherds mead" *the sketch indicates* "Roman remains and a coin found here" *in the middle of the field and at the S.E. angle of an enclosure labelled* "Earth bank" *also* "R. .pottery found" *on the N side of the field near some small rectangular banks. There is a building of some sort to the South side 0f the field.*

f. 27 *Sketch.* Roman Remains found in Shepherd's Mead. *The sketch shows* "Present Road from Wellow to Hinton". *Crossing Shepherds Head is* "Supposed line of old Road from Wellow to Hinton and Farley". *On South side of this track is* "Banks of Old Inclosures". "Roman Pottery and Coin of Tetricus". *Also on S. Side of' the inclosure a tree (elm?) in middle of the field and a barn or house in the next field.*

*There are still banks in Shepherds Mead. * They appear to be of the same type as Celtic field-banks (or Celtic linchets). As these were probably in many cases contemporary with the Romans, it is not improbable that they were associated with the Roman pottery Mr. Skinner found.*
*This was written by Mr. Wicks in about 1951.

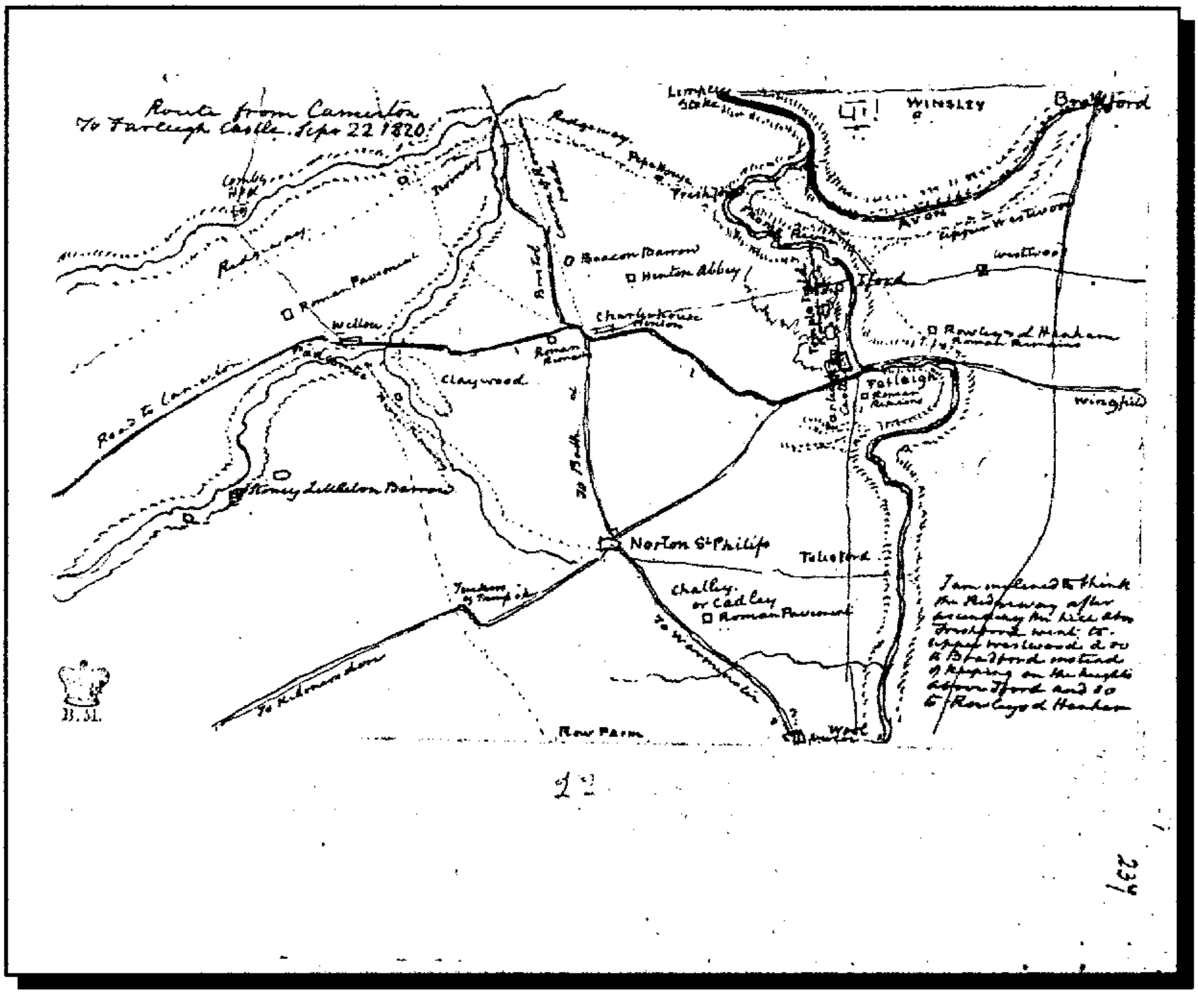
B.M.Add.MSS 33668. The Rev. J. Skinner's Journals F.41. March 21 1821 *[Mr. Skinner, accompanied by the Rev. B. Richardson, rides from Camerton to Farleigh]* ... Shepherd's Mead, where Pottery and Coins were found by the men digging there about three months since, under the direction of Old Cranch,...dismounting in order to examine the places the men had opened, I picked up a piece of Samian Pottery, also several fragments of the grey ware; and many kinds of a more recent date; the coins I understand, three in number were of the Lower Empire. *[Mr. Cranch was an apothecary of Bath. He seems by Mr. Skinner's references to him to have been a dealer in antiquities*].

f 42 There seems to have been an assemblage of small habitations at Shepherd's Mead, enclosed by an earthwork of an oblong irregular form, which may still be traced along the field.... that the spot was inhabited till these last hundred years, may be seen from the variety of coloured pottery, also fragments of tobacco

pipes mixed with the Roman Ware.

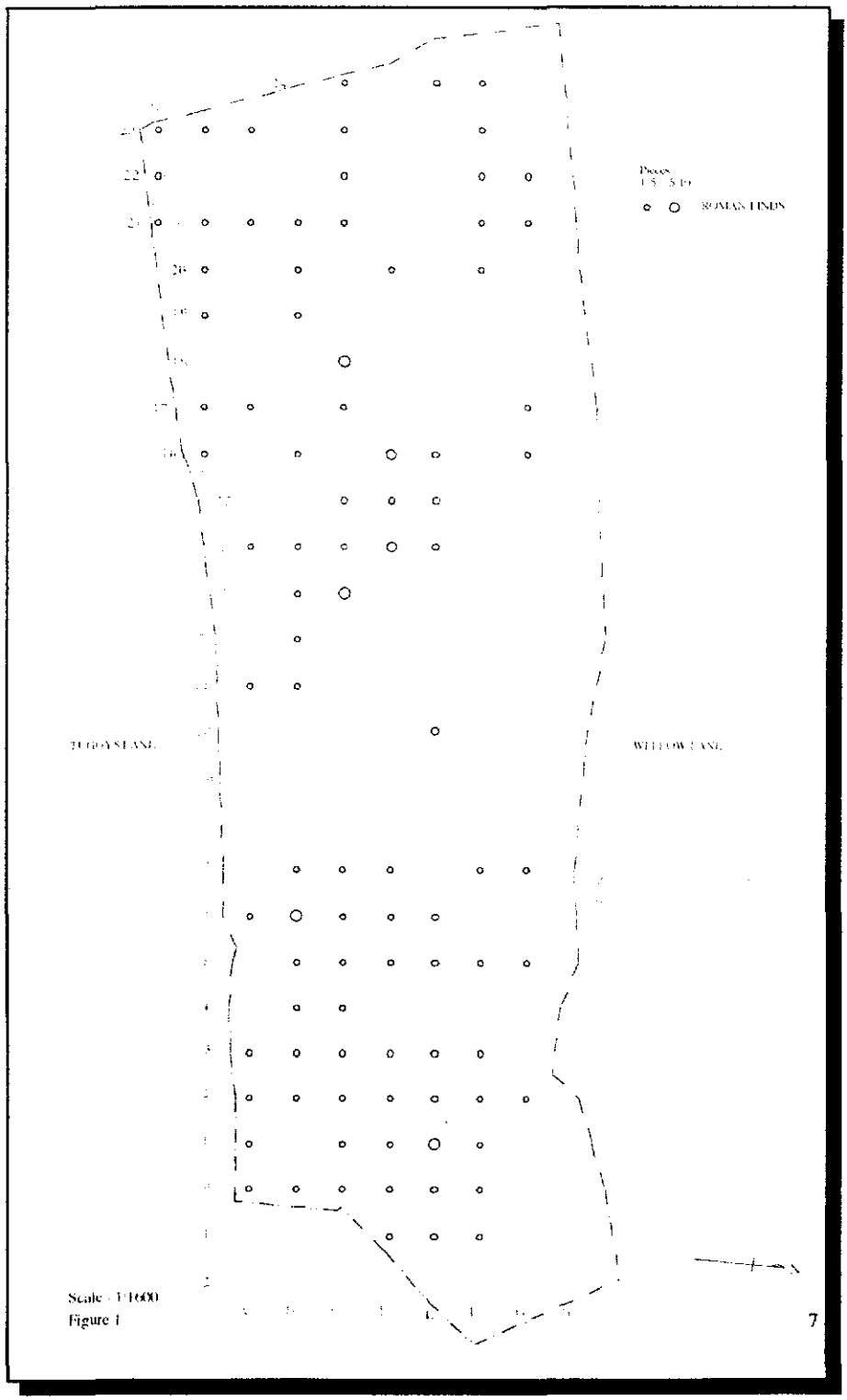
[1]The Rev. Benjamin Richardson, Vicar of Farleigh Hungerford.

12.4. **Sketchplan of Archaeological Remains in the Area of Hinton Charterhouse, taken from the Notes of the Rev. Skinner (B.M. ADD. MSS. 33,656).** (Supplied by Mrs Isla Tuck).

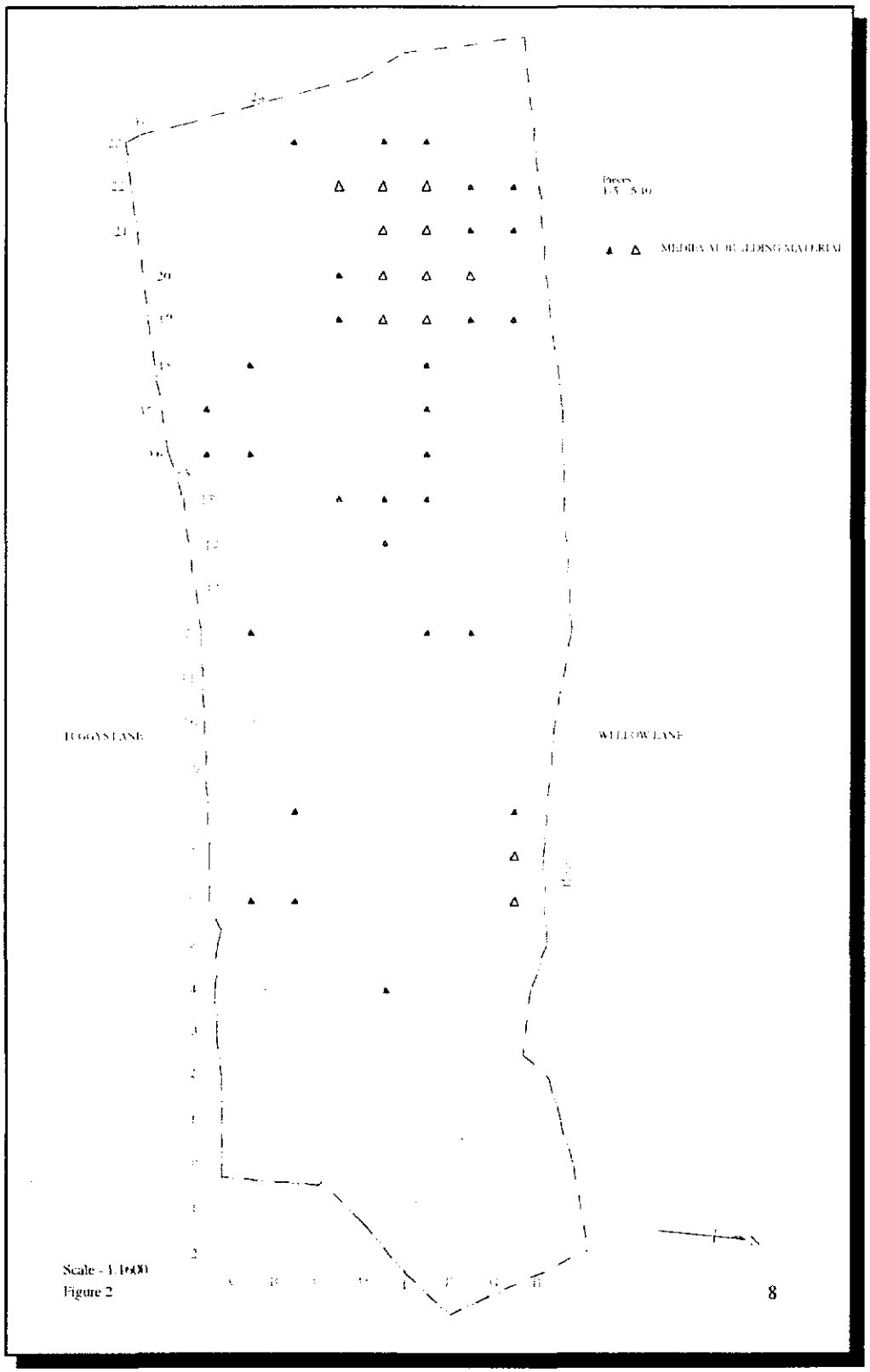


12.5. Distribution Plots of Artefacts Recovered During Fieldwalking Exercise Conducted by the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society during Spring 1998 (Lawes 1998).

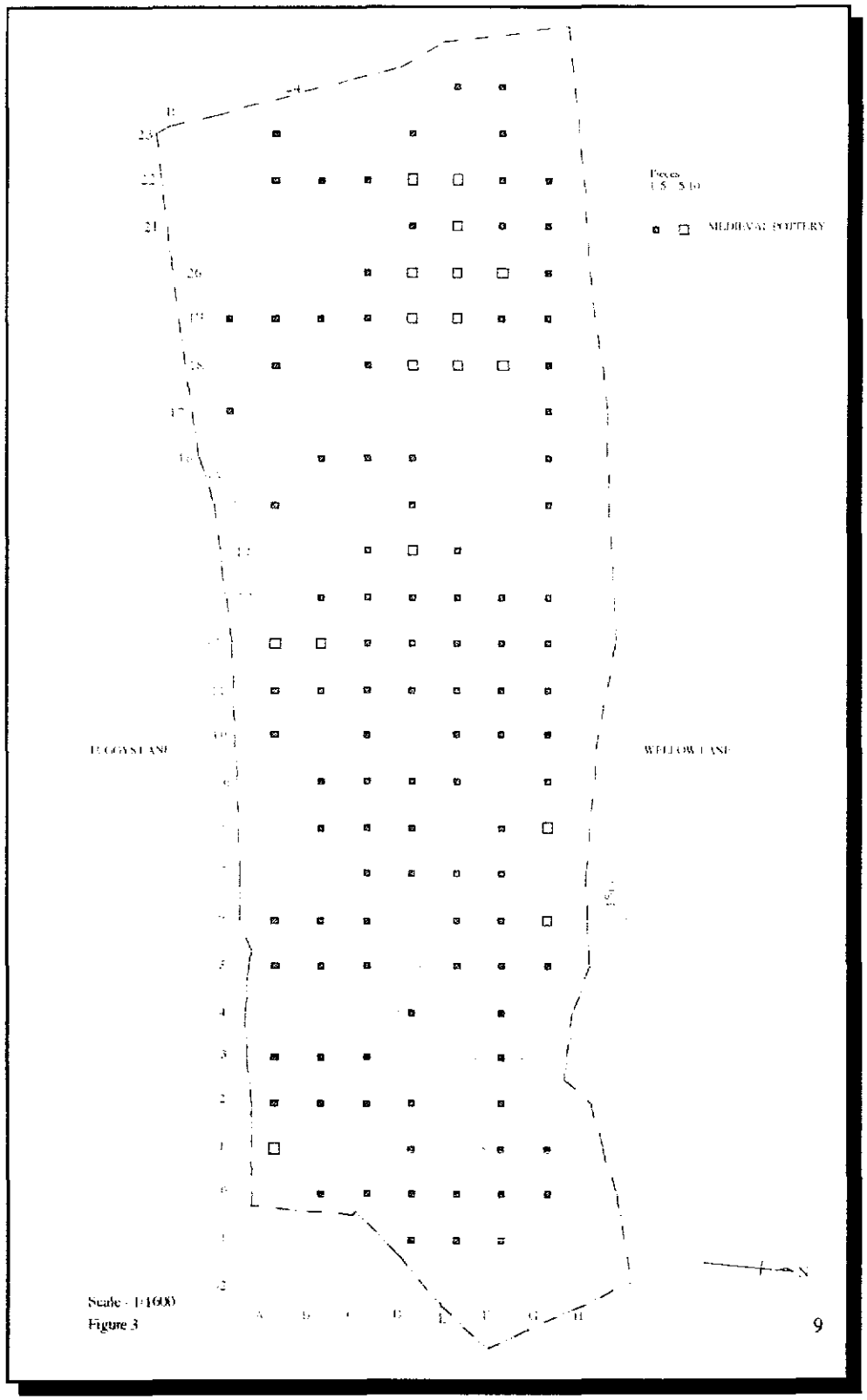
12.5.1. Roman Finds



12.5.2. Medieval Building Material



12.5.3. **Medieval Pottery**



12.5.4. Medieval Building Material & Medieval Pottery

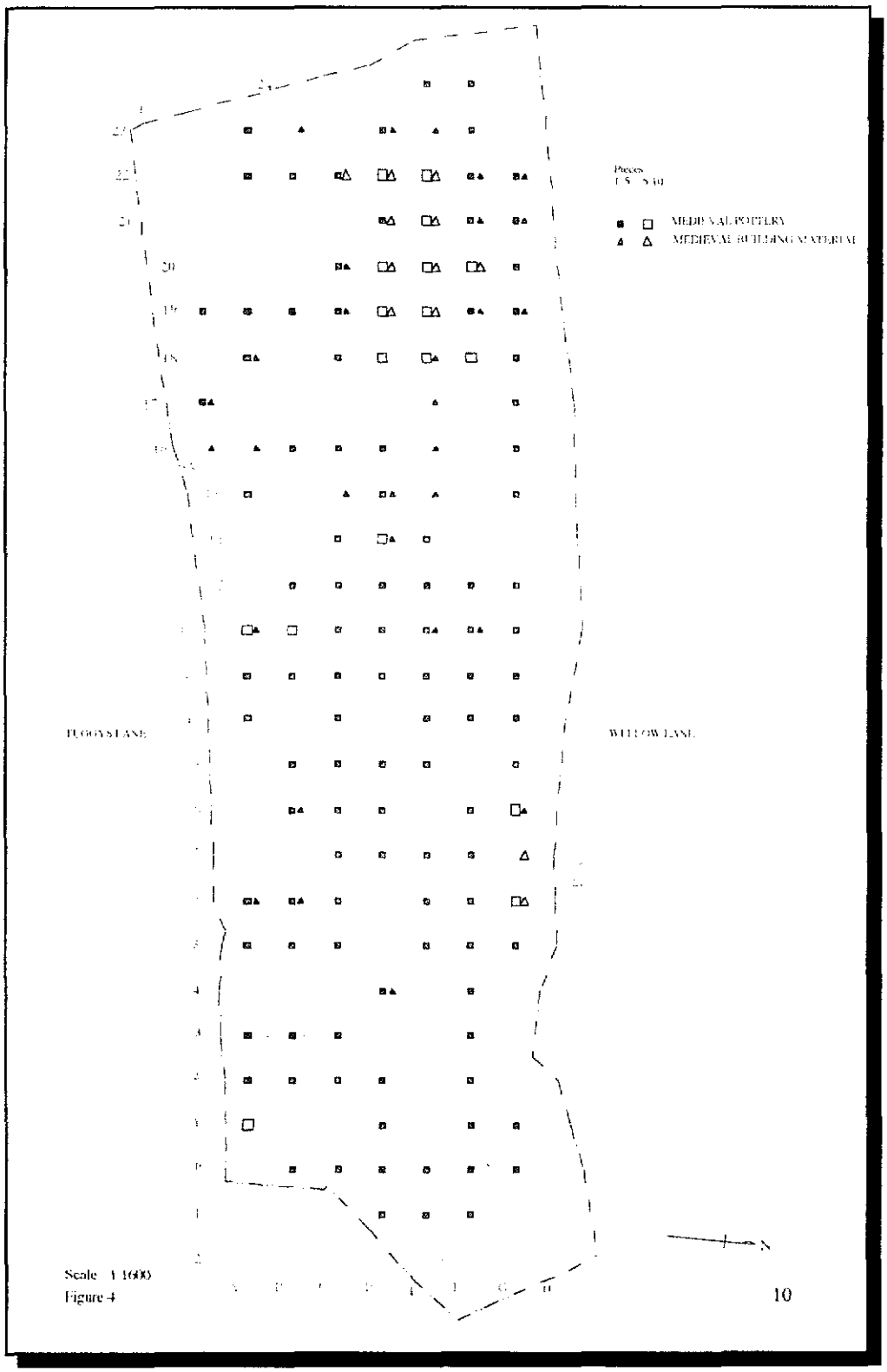


Figure 4

12.5.5. Post-Medieval Finds (Including Clay Tobacco Pipes)