

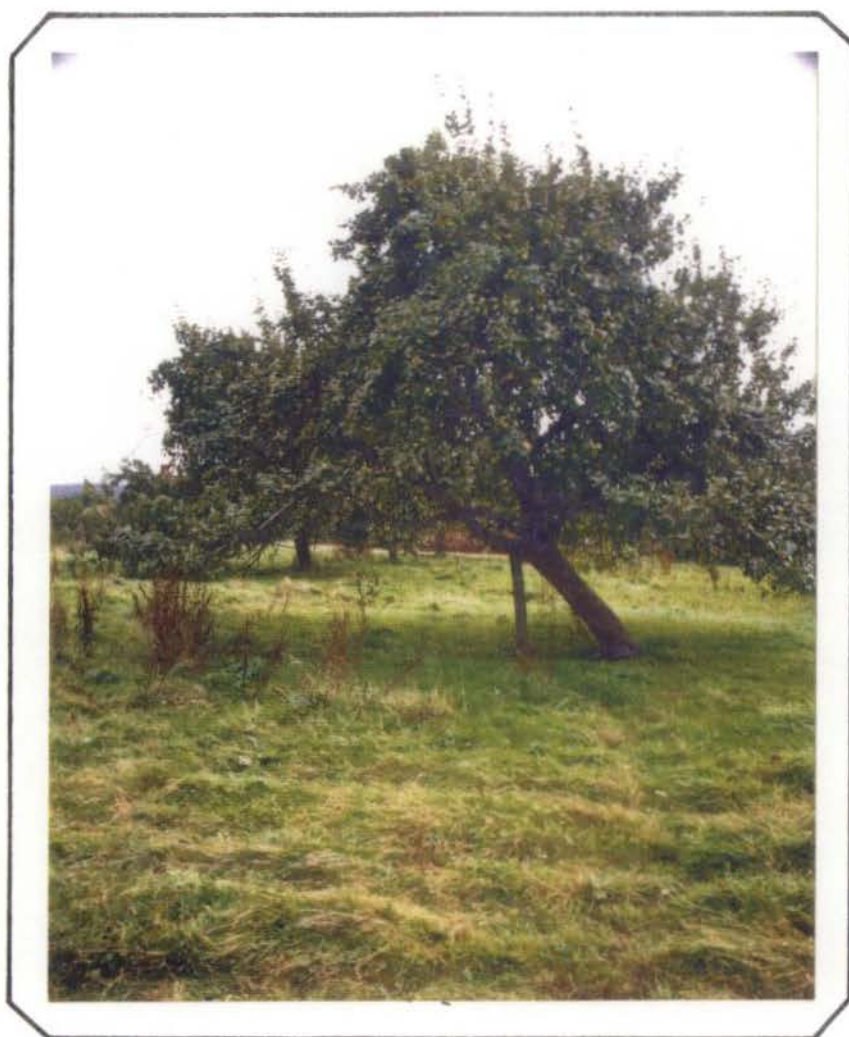
CONGRESBURY, WOODSPRING,

AVON

VENUS STREET

AVON SMR 8706

Site Specific Archaeological
Evaluation and Excavation



Jonathan G P Erskine

B A M B I M

Avon County Planning Department

Archaeological Unit

October 1992

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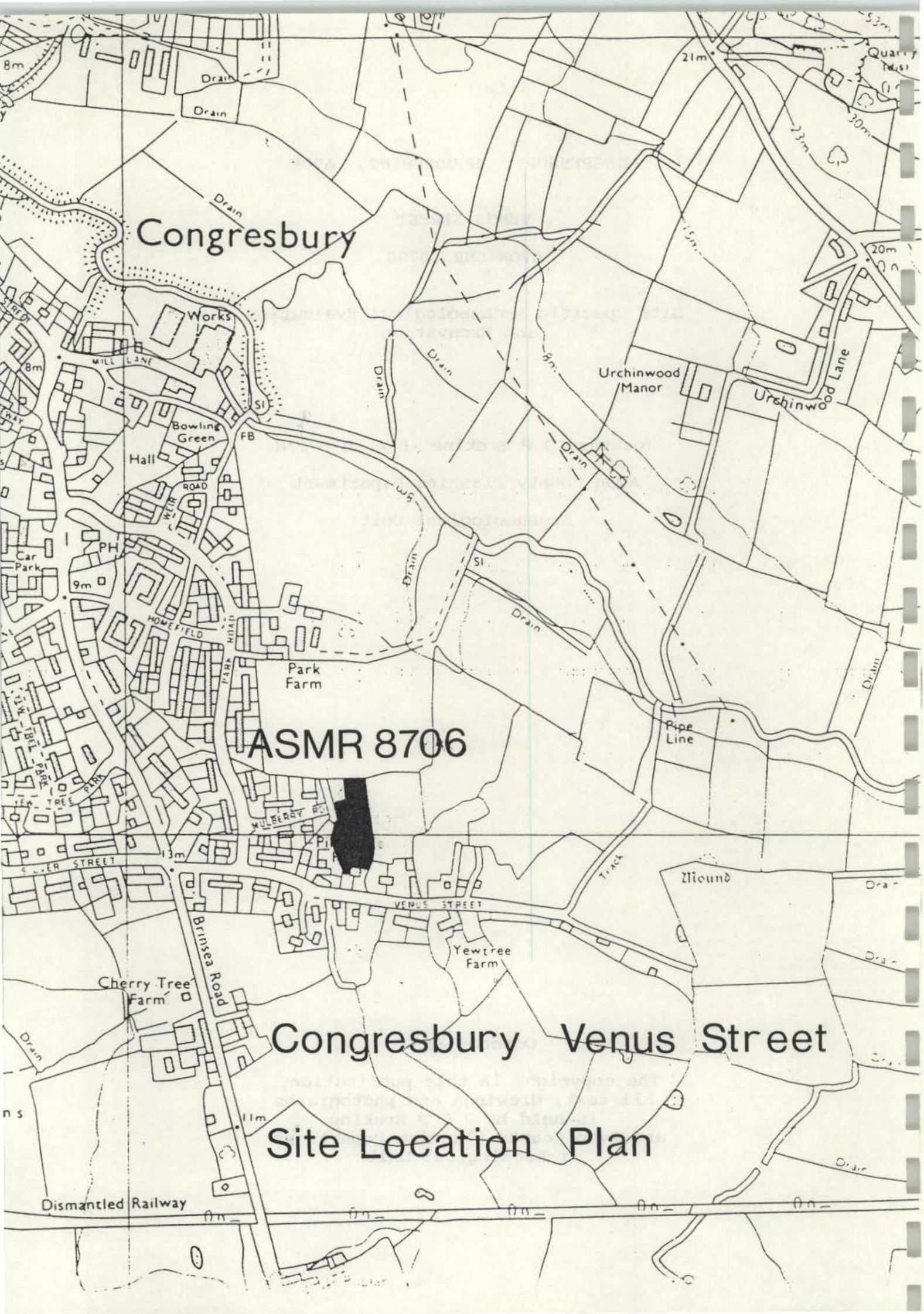
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Archaeological Unit



Congresbury

ASMR 8706

Congresbury Venus Street

Site Location Plan

PINEAPPLE FARM

MULBERRY ROAD

DROVEWAY

t.b.m.1

t.b.m.2

N

st 4431 6296

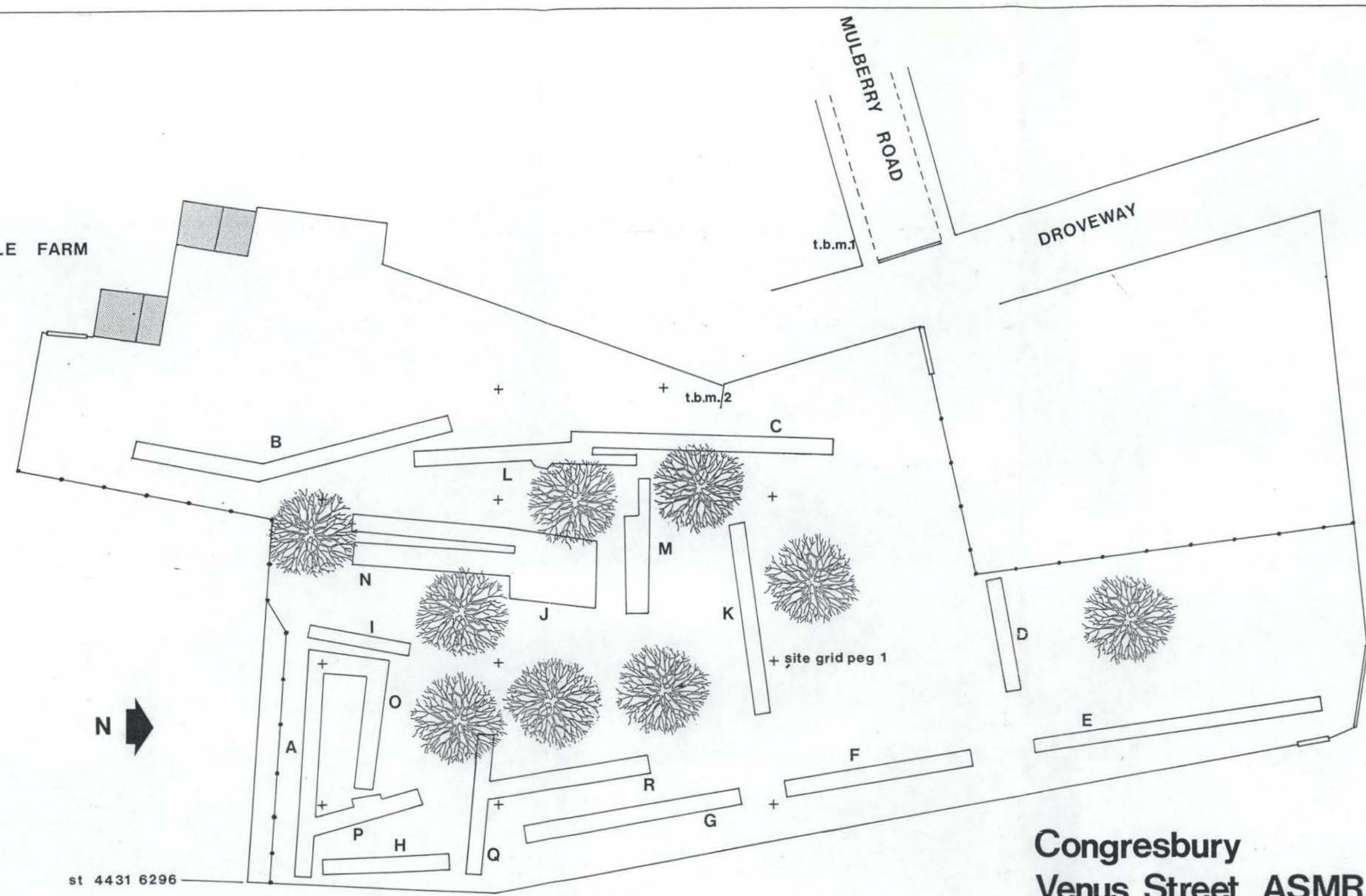
+ site grid peg 1

Congresbury
Venus Street ASMR 8706

Trench Location Plan

J.G.P.E R.E.E.C 1992

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CONTENTS

ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION SECTION 1

METHODOLOGY SECTION 2

GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY SECTION 3

HISTORICAL SUMMARY SECTION 4

STRUCTURAL EVIDENCE SECTION 5

FINDS REPORT AND
ILLUSTRATIONS SECTION 6

INTERPRETATION SECTION 7

I PREHISTORIC

II ROMANO-BRITISH

III MEDIEVAL

IV MODERN

PLANS AND SECTIONS SECTION 8

SUMMARY SECTION 9

PHOTOGRAPHS SECTION 10

BIBLIOGRAPHY SECTION 11

APPENDIX 1 EXCAVATION ARCHIVE

APPENDIX 2 PROJECT DESIGN

APPENDIX 3 STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX
SCHEMATIC SECTION

ABSTRACT

1. After an evaluation exercise, followed immediately by a sample excavation of the proposed development site in the grounds of an orchard to the rear of Pineapple Farm, Venus Street, Congresbury, Avon, (NGR ST 443630) 344261 various archaeological features, cut into the 162989 natural underlying marl, were identified and dated.
2. Two groups of small pits and/or postholes were characterised as Romano-British, probably associated with the known Romano-British kiln and waster heap in the vicinity (ASMR 398). It was not possible to determine the exact function of any of the possible structural features.
3. Two other small ditches which contained exclusively Romano-British pottery sherds were considered to be Romano-British. These ditches were located close to three small beam slots also containing exclusively Romano-British pottery, and therefore dated to that period.
4. Two ditches and an area which possibly represented a pond, were identified as being probably medieval to post-medieval in date, associated with the medieval settlement in Venus Street and the driveway which still partially survives to the north of the site.
5. A single ditch, although containing only abraded Romano-British pottery, and an iron sickle (see Finds Report, Section 6, below), was considered to be medieval. This ditch cut the Romano-British beam slot in trench M.
6. One ditch and other postholes were characterised as modern in date, almost certainly twentieth century.
7. A purpose built pig sty, ASMR 7816, adjoining the south-west boundary of the site was photographed and recorded. It is illustrated in Photograph 10.8, below.

SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 25th February 1992, Ronald Edwards Partnership of Dursley, Gloucestershire sought the advice of Avon County Archaeological Officer concerning a proposed development on land to the north of Pineapple Farm, Venus Street, Congresbury, Avon.
- 1.2 Part of this land parcel (OS 2800) ASMR 6384, had been previously evaluated (Russett, 1990), but the Archaeological Officer considered that an evaluation exercise would be required in line with central government advice PPG 16 (DOE 1990), and a project design was accordingly prepared in March 1992.
- 1.3 This design and costing was accepted by the agents for the developers in August and the evaluation exercise commenced in September 1992, directed by the present writer.
- 1.4 Archaeological features were recorded cut into the natural marls at a level of approximately 350mm below the present ground surface, restricted to the southern half of the site. It was therefore recommended by the Archaeological Officer and the present writer that the most appropriate consequent course of action would be that embodied in paragraph 3.4 of the Project Design (Appendix 1):
 - preservation of the site "by record" (ie by the full recording of archaeological data prior to its destruction, on a scale commensurate with its significance).
- 1.5 This was agreed with the agents on 23rd September and the second stage of the exercise commenced immediately. The full archaeological record and report is now embodied in this publication which combines the findings of both evaluation and excavation exercises, which are not separately detailed.
- 1.6 Thanks are due to Mr David Barnes of Ronald Edwards Partnership, and to the proposed developers Cheltenham Builders Limited, who wholly funded the archaeological programme, to C.T. Plant Hire of Weston-super-Mare and to the site project assistants, Ruth Cullen, John Turner, Lionel Smith and Jonathan Norris who worked in sometimes arduous conditions. Ruth Cullen prepared the Archive drawings from the site drawings made by the present writer.

SECTION TWO: METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 A search was made of the Avon Sites and Monuments Record and the collection of Ordnance Survey maps and plans and aerial photographs held by Avon County Planning Department. Due to the site's proximity to known Romano-British pottery kilns and a waster mound (ASMR 398), and the medieval tenements known to exist along Venus Street, and as no geo-technical test-pits or other ground investigations had been planned at that time, it was agreed with the developers to evaluate the site by means of trial trenches opened by a JCB and further cleaned and recorded by hand.
- 2.2 The target area to be evaluated was 1% of the site, but this figure was complicated by the presence of overhead power cables and also the presence of nine apple trees still standing in the heavily grassed orchard. In all, nine trenches were opened, designated Trenches A-K inclusive (see Trench Location Plan, above) covering approximately 350 square metres.
- 2.3 Trenches A, B, G, H, J and K revealed significant archaeological features surviving, which were cut into the underlying weathered Keuper Marls, containing Romano-British and Medieval pottery and other finds. These trenches were restricted to the southern half of the site and therefore the northernmost trenches, which did not reveal archaeological evidence, were recorded and immediately backfilled.
- 2.4 It was agreed that the archaeological features did not justify preservation in situ, but that they did merit full recording prior to destruction (See Appendix 1, below). It was then agreed with the developers that further trenches be opened to enable a fuller characterisation and dating of the features to be made. Therefore trenches L-R inclusive were opened, in the hope of tracing the limits of the features, but again their siting was restricted by the presence of the trees. The total area excavated was approximately 580 square metres.
- 2.5 Detailed plans and sections of all archaeologically significant features were drawn at scales of 1:50 and 1:20, as appropriate, which were tied to the Ordnance Survey grid and levelled to the Ordnance Datum. All trenches and features were photographed,

and the prints and negatives are included in the Excavation Archive (Appendix 3, below).

2.6 All finds were washed and bagged up after analysis and marked with Avon Sites and Monuments Record number (ASMR) 8706 and the context number. The finds report, including selected drawings, are in Section 6, below. Context numbers match the trench letters, for example, all contexts in Trench B are in the range 201-299. All archaeological contexts were fully recorded on individual context sheets stored in a loose-leaf file. All photographs and negatives are stored in plastic sleeves also in a loose leaf file.

2.7 Published plans and sections appear in Section 8, below, and the photographs in Section 10.

2.8 The maps and plans have been reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Maps with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

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SECTION THREE: GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 Congresbury Village (NGR ST 4463), is situated some thirteen miles south-west of Bristol on a low alluvial river terrace of the River Congresbury Yeo which drains west-north-west into the Bristol Channel at Wick St Lawrence. The alluvium lies directly above the Keuper Marls. Both of these subsoils can and have been used for the production of pottery and bricks in the general areas of Avon, Somerset and Gloucestershire (Kellaway and Welch, 1948) (Finberg, 1972).
- 3.2 The village is open to the west across Puxton Moor, but it is sheltered by the higher ground at Cleeve and Brockley Coombe to the north and to the south and east by the Mendip Hills. The village lies in the only natural gap for easy communications to the south-west from Bristol, followed by the road, railway and partially by the M5 motorway.
- 3.3 The River Yeo was navigable up to the village and a wharf (ASMR 2964) behind the Ship and Castle public house was destroyed during recent river realignment. This river access could well have served the pottery industry (Fowler 1968), distributing its products through the Severn and Avon valleys.
- 3.4 The present day village is centred on a 13th century parish church and 15th century market cross adjacent to the A370 and the modern bridge over the Yeo, but has several population centres covering an area of approximately one square mile. The majority of the housing, apart from that built directly facing the north-south and east-west roads, dates from the late 20th century and accommodates commuters working in either Bristol or Weston-super-Mare.
- 3.5 Venus Street (see Site Location plan, above), runs roughly parallel to the river at a distance of about a quarter of a mile and is approximately half a mile south-east of the parish church. It is now a dead-end road, lined by a mixture of late medieval farm buildings and 20th century developments (see Historical Summary, below). The eastern end of Venus Street once branched to the north and crossed the Yeo towards Urchinwood Manor. The bridge is still well preserved, and the line of the road still preserved by the hedge lines.
- 3.6 The village was once served by a branch lines of the Great Western Railway and the Wrington

Vale Light Railway from Yatton to Blagdon, and Cheddar and Wells, both now closed. Brinsea Road, the main north-south road through the village, serves as a useful cut off between the A370 and the A38 at Churchill.

SECTION FOUR: HISTORICAL SUMMARY

4. HISTORICAL SUMMARY by Richard Broomhead

4.1.1 Venus Street

Venus Street is first recorded by name in 1567 (Bristol Record Office BMC 04235) and has been the focus of archaeological investigation since the discovery of a series of Romano-British pottery kilns to the east of Yew Tree Farm in 1965 (ASMR 398). Excavation and field work has shown the extensive nature of Romano-British occupation in the immediate area. At least two substantial waster heaps of rejected kiln material are locateable in fields at the western end of Venus Street, whilst heavy stone spreads containing occupation debris, indicative of potential structures, have been located in gardens on its southern side (Wright, pers. comm.). Romano-British pottery, both local and imported in origin, has been derived from many gardens throughout the length of the street (including Pineapple Farm) and the potential for associated structural remains as yet undetected, is significant.

4.1.2 Pineapple Farm

First documented by name as a coaching inn in the nineteenth century, Pineapple Farm is clearly shown on a map of Congresbury dating from 1739 (BRO BMC4/PL 2). Although not to a modern scale and somewhat pictorial in its representation of buildings, this map can be shown to be substantially accurate in its representation of field boundaries, features and land use.

4.1.3 The present dwelling house is almost certainly that shown at this date, having internal features suggesting early seventeenth century construction. The leaseholder of the property in 1739 was William Hurditch, but the tenancy can be traced back to an earlier written survey of 1567 when the lands associated with the farm comprised one of the several holdings of John Sprudd (BRO BMC 04235).

4.1.4 Recent study has shown that the tenural form of John Sprudd's landholding, described as a Yardland in 1567, may be equated with a system of landholding that was in existence in 1086 (Broomhead, forthcoming). It is thus possible that Pineapple Farm lies on, or adjacent to, a

site that has been continuously occupied since the Norman Conquest. However, prior evidence of medieval occupation from the present farm has been confined to limited finds of thirteenth and fourteenth century pottery from the area of the existing garden made by members of the local history society (Short, pers. comm.). Further, though restricted finds of similar material from the adjacent garden of 'The Stycks', which formerly comprised part of the same property, does however, tend to increase the probability of medieval occupation within the immediate area. Additional evidence from both documentary sources and archaeology suggests that Venus Street itself comprised one of the principal foci of medieval village development within Congresbury (Broomhead, op. cit.).

4.1.5 The Excavation Site

The site of the present excavation as shown by the map of 1739 appears somewhat different at this earlier date. Most of the area is contained within a single, large pasture enclosure which extended westwards to the present Park Road and eastwards to the boundary shared with 'Apple Garth'. A small orchard is shown to the east of Pineapple Farm obscuring the area now occupied by 'The Stycks' and extending northwards partially to fill the area of the present excavation. The irregular outlines of this orchard, as shown in 1739 are confirmed by aerial photographs taken prior to modern development (RAF CPE UK/2472, 4037. 9th March 1948). It seems probable that this orchard is also that which is described by the survey of 1567.

4.1.6 By 1840, by which time Pineapple Farm formed part of the Braikenridge Estate, the orchard had been extended to fill virtually the entire extent of the large pasture enclosure, which had now been divided in two by a droveway forming part of the western boundary of the present site (Somerset Record Office D/D/Rt 317). This situation remained unchanged in 1896 (Ordnance Survey 1st Edition), but a large pond and linear ditch is shown by this map extending southwards from the droveway, terminating behind the present stable. The same features are not shown on the OS 25" map, revised in 1974, currently the most recently available plan of the area.

SECTION 5: DETAILED SITE OBSERVATIONS

5.1 TRENCH A 21.60M X 1.60M Figure 1

- 5.1.1 This trench was opened in the far south east corner of the site (see Trench Location Plan, above), and revealed nine archaeologically significant features; 150, 151, 152, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158 and 159. Cut 153 was interpreted as a natural soil feature, possibly caused by root activity.
- 5.1.2 Cut 150, filled by context 105, a brown clay, was a small pit or posthole, measuring 0.29m x 0.23m x 0.17m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 103. It presented a flat U shaped profile. The single fill contained no archaeological finds, but it formed part of a group of associated features. It was not completely exposed in the excavation and was provisionally dated as Romano-British.
- 5.1.3 Cut 151, filled by context 112, a brown loamy clay, was a small posthole measuring 0.22m x 0.22m x 0.06m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 103. It presented a flat U shaped profile. The single fill contained no archaeological finds, but it formed part of a group of associated features. It was not completely exposed in the excavation and was provisionally dated to the Romano-British period.
- 5.1.4 Cut 152, filled by context 110, a brown clay loam was a small pit, measuring 1.50m x 0.80m x 0.14m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 103 and was sealed only by the subsoil, context 102. The cut presented a shallow U shaped profile. The single fill contained five sherds of Romano-British pottery. The feature was not completely exposed in the excavation and was provisionally dated to the Romano-British period.
- 5.1.5. Cut 154, filled by context 111, a brown loamy clay, was a small pit measuring 1.00m x 0.45m x 0.11m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 103 and it was sealed only by the subsoil context 102. The cut presented a flat U shaped profile. The single fill contained one sherd of Romano-

British pottery. It was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally dated to the Romano-British period.

5.1.6 Cut 155 filled by context 109, a brown loamy clay was a small pit measuring 1.70m x 0.60m x 0.20m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 103 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 102. The cut presented a flat U shaped profile. The single fill contained no archaeological finds. It was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally dated to the Romano-British period by its spatial association with similar features containing Romano-British pottery.

5.1.7 Cut 156 filled by context 107, a dark yellowish brown loamy clay, was either the edge of a large pit or possibly a gully measuring 2.80m x 0.43m x 0.26m deep as excavated. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 103 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 102. The cut presented a steep V shaped profile. The single fill contained 3 sherds of Romano-British pottery and one sherd of medieval pottery. It was not completely exposed in the excavation and was provisionally dated to the medieval period.

5.1.8 Cut 157, filled by context 108, a brown loamy clay, was a small pit or posthole measuring 0.90m x 0.72m x 0.12m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 103 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 102. The cut presented a shallow U shaped profile. The single fill contained one Romano-British pottery sherd and fragment of a burnt flint blade. It was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally dated to the Romano-British period.

5.1.9 Cut 158, filled by context 106, a dark yellowish brown loamy clay, was a small pit measuring 1.35m x 0.70m x 0.10m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 103 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 102. The cut presented a shallow U shaped profile. The single fill contained one small unclassifiable pottery sherd. It was not completely exposed in the

excavation and the feature was provisionally dated to the Romano-British period.

- 5.1.10 Cut 159, filled by context 114, a very dark greyish brown loamy clay was a posthole measuring 0.45m x 0.26m x 0.12m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 103 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 102. The cut presented a U shaped profile. The single fill contained no archaeological finds. It was totally exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally dated to the Romano-British period by its association with similar features.

5.2 TRENCH B 30.00m x 1.60
Figure 1 Section S6

This trench was opened immediately to the west of the western boundary of "The Stycks" in the southern part of the site. The area to the west of Trench B was inaccessible due to the presence of overhead power cables. The trench consisted of two straight sections joining at an angle (See Trench Location Plan, above). Apart from a layer of very recent domestic rubbish, context 214, the only archaeological feature exposed in the trench was a linear ditch running for 20.00m in a north-south direction.

- 5.2.1 Cut 251, filled by context 205 a dark yellowish brown sandy clay, was a ditch measuring 20.00m x 0.95m x 0.48m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 203 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 202. The cut presented a steep sided, flat bottomed profile. The single fill contained seven sherds of Romano-British pottery and some bone fragments. It was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally dated to the medieval period.

5.3 TRENCH C 24.00m x 1.60m
Figure 2 Section S5
Photographs 10.1 and 10.2

This trench was opened to the north-west of the evaluation site, avoiding the standing apple trees and allowing access to the site through the temporary gate. Three features were located

in this trench, one small pit, cut 352, and two linear ditches, cuts 351 and 353.

5.3.1 Cut 352, filled by context 307 a dark yellowish brown sandy loam, was probably the extreme edge of a large pit measuring at least 3.20m x 0.50m x 0.07m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 303 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 302. The cut presented an indeterminate profile. The single fill contained one Romano-British pottery sherd and a group of animal bones. It was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was not dated or further investigated or identified.

5.3.2 Cut 351 was a segment of a ditch measuring 4.00m x 1.60m x 0.60m deep. The ditch was filled by contexts 304, 305 and 306 (see also Trench L, below). The upper layer, 305, was discontinuous, sealed below the subsoil, 302. Context 305 was a very dark greyish brown loam and stone layer. This layer contained seven sherds of Romano-British pottery. The main fill of the ditch, context 304, a very dark greyish brown clay loam, filled a cut into the natural mottled red/green marl and gravel substratum, context 303 and it was below the subsoil, context 302 and layer 305. The cut presented a shallow V shaped profile with a flat base. The main fill contained a sherd of Romano-British pottery and a lens of clay 306, which was possibly natural in origin. This cut was not completely exposed in the excavation but was found to continue into Trench L (q.v.) and the feature was provisionally dated to the Romano-British period.

5.3.3 Cut 353, filled by context 308, a brown clay loam, was a ditch segment measuring 2.30m x 1.60m x 0.48m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 303 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 302. The cut presented a steep sided, flat based profile. The single fill contained fragments of modern brick and tiles and some Romano-British sherds. It was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally dated to the 19th or 20th century.

5.4 TRENCHES D, E and F
Not illustrated

5.4.1 These three trenches, which were opened in the area to the east of the new house recently constructed in the northwestern corner of the site, produced no archaeologically significant features and were therefore backfilled immediately after recording. They are not further described, and the details can be found in the excavation archive.

5.5 TRENCH G 20.20m x 1.60m
Figure 1

5.5.1 Trench G was opened alongside the eastern boundary of the site (see Trench Location plan, above). It contained seven archaeologically significant features, 751 to 757 inclusive.

5.5.2 Cut 751, filled by context 707, a yellowish brown sandy clay, was a narrow gully or beam slot, measuring 2.00m x 0.28m x 0.14m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 703 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 702. The cut presented a flat V shaped profile. The single fill contained six Romano-British pottery sherds and a snapped section of a thick flint flake, retouched and used as a tool (see Finds Report, below). The gully was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally dated to the Romano-British period.

5.5.3 Cut 752, filled by context 711, a dark yellowish brown sandy clay, was a well cut ditch measuring 2.50m x 0.90m x 0.23m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 703 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 702. The cut presented a shallow U shaped profile. The single fill contained 31 sherds of Romano-British pottery. It was not completely exposed in the excavation and it could not be traced in Trench R. The feature was provisionally dated to the Romano-British period.

5.5.4 Cut 753, filled by context 710, a sandy loam, was a posthole measuring 0.50m x 0.30m x 0.10m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 703 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 702. The cut presented a U shaped profile. The single fill contained two sherds of Romano-

British pottery. It was not completely recorded due to bad flooding and the feature was provisionally dated to the Romano-British period.

5.5.5 Cut 754, filled by context 709, a sandy loam, was a posthole measuring 0.22m in diameter x 0.12m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 703 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 702. The cut presented a U shaped profile. The single fill contained no archaeological finds. It was not completely recorded due to flooding and the feature was provisionally dated to the Romano-British period.

5.5.6 Cut 755, filled by context 706, a yellowish brown sandy clay, was a shallow scoop measuring 0.45m x 0.35m x 0.08m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 703 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 702. The cut presented an indeterminate shaped profile. The single fill contained no archaeological finds. It was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally undated.

5.5.7 Cut 756, filled by context 708, a yellowish brown sandy clay, was a shallow depression measuring 0.56m x 0.50m x 0.08m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 703 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 702. The cut presented an indeterminate shaped profile. The single fill contained no archaeological finds. It was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally undated.

5.5.8 Cut 757, filled by context 704, a yellowish brown sandy clay, was a large pit measuring 3.50m x 0.90m x 0.10m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 703 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 702. The cut presented an indeterminate shaped profile. The single fill contained seven sherds of Romano-British pottery. It was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally dated to the Romano-British period.

5.6 TRENCH H 11.50m x 1.60m
Figure 3

5.6.1 This trench was opened in the extreme south east corner of the site, alongside the eastern boundary hedge. It contained five archaeologically significant features, 851, 852, 853, 855 and 856. Cut 854 was an indeterminate depression within cut 853 and is not further described.

5.6.2 Cut 851, filled by context 807/8, a dark yellowish brown sandy clay, was an indeterminate feature which was not fully excavated, measuring 1.30m x 0.40m. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 803 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 802. No profile was determined. The single fill contained one copper alloy pin (see Finds Report, below). It was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally dated to the Romano-British period by its association with similar features in Trench A (q.v.).

5.6.3 Cut 852, filled by context 809, a greyish brown clay, was a posthole measuring 0.70m x 0.42m x 0.14m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 803 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 802. The cut presented a U shaped profile. The single fill contained four sherds of Romano-British pottery. The feature was provisionally dated to the Romano-British period.

5.6.4 Cut 853, filled by context 810, a dark yellowish brown sandy clay, was a large, shallow pit measuring 3.00m x 1.40m x 0.10m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 803 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 802. The cut presented a flat U shaped profile. The single fill contained 31 sherds of Romano-British pottery. It was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally dated to the Romano-British period.

5.6.5 Cut 855, filled by context 805, a dark brown clay loam, was a posthole measuring 0.80m x 0.42m x 0.08m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 803

and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 802. The cut presented a flat U shaped profile. The single fill contained one sherd of Romano-British pottery. It was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally dated to the Romano-British period.

- 5.6.6 Cut 856, filled by context 812, a dark brown sandy loam, was an unexcepted pit measuring 1.30m x 0.55m. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 803 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 802. The single fill was not excavated. The pit was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally undated.

5.7 TRENCH I 9.60m x 1.60m
Figure 3

This trench was opened to the west of Trench A, in a north-south alignment. It contained two archaeological features, 950 and 951.

- 5.7.1 Cut 950, filled by context 904, a dark brown sandy loam, was a shallow pit measuring 1.20m x 1.05m x 0.12m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 903 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 902. The cut presented a very flat U shaped profile. The single fill contained two sherds of Romano-British pottery and a bone fragment. It was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally dated to the Romano-British period.

- 5.7.2 Cut 951, filled by context 905, a dark brown sandy loam, was a narrow gully or beam slot measuring 1.60m x 0.28m x 0.10m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 903 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 902. The cut presented a U shaped profile. The single fill contained two sherds of Romano-British pottery. It was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally dated to the Romano-British period.

5.8 TRENCH J 24.00m x 6.50m
Figure 4 Sections S2 and S3
Photographs 10.5 10.6 and 10.7

5.8.1 This trench was opened in the centre south of the area, avoiding the standing apple trees. This trench contained five features. These were one linear ditch running north-south, context 1054, one running east-west, context 1053, a beam slot running approximately east-west, context 1055 and two pits, contexts 1052 and 1051.

5.8.2 Cut 1051, filled by contexts 1006, a dark olive brown sandy clay, and context 1011, a thin layer of stones, was a possible pit or natural depression, very truncated by later activity, measuring 3.40m x 0.70m x 0.03m deep. It was cut into the natural red/green marl layer context 1003, sealed only by the lower subsoil, context 1012. The cut presented a very flat U shaped profile. The fills contained no archaeological finds. This feature was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally undated.

5.8.3 Cut 1052, filled by context 1010, a dark yellowish brown sandy clay, was a small pit measuring 1.80m x 0.50m x 0.12m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 1003 and it was sealed by the lower subsoil, context 1012. The cut presented a flat U shaped profile. The single fill contained one sherd of Romano-British pottery. It was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally dated to the Romano-British period.

5.8.4 Cut 1053, filled by context 1007, a dark yellowish brown clay loam, was a well cut linear ditch which was traced into the adjoining trenches L and N (q.v.). The total length of this ditch was measured at 10.40m. Its width was 1.30m and its maximum depth was 0.60m. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 1003 and it was sealed only by the subsoil and lower subsoil, contexts 1002 and 1012. The cut presented a smooth U shaped profile. The single fill contained Romano-British and medieval pottery sherds, coal and tobacco pipe. It was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally dated to the Post-medieval period.

5.8.5 Cut 1054, filled by context 1008, a dark brown sandy loam, was a linear ditch measuring 16.00m x 1.00m x 0.48m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 1003 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 1002. The cut presented a steep V shaped profile with a flat base. The single fill contained four abraded Romano-British pottery sherds, an iron sickle in very fragmentary condition (see Finds Report, below), and some bone fragments. This ditch was not completely exposed in the excavation but was traced to the north in Trench M and the feature was provisionally dated to the Medieval period.

5.8.6 Cut 1055, filled by context 1009, a greyish brown sandy clay, was a small beam slot probably truncated by agricultural activities, measuring 3.70m x 0.36m x 0.26m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 1003 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 1002. The cut presented a U shaped profile. The single fill contained three Romano-British pottery sherds. It was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally dated to the Romano-British period.

5.9. TRENCH K 17.65m x 1.60m
Figure 3

5.9.1 This trench, opened in the extreme north-west of the site, was aligned approximately east-west. It contained six archaeological features, 1151, 1152, 1154, 1155, 1156 and 1157. Two of these features, 1151 and 1152, were postholes, and of very recent date. Descriptions of these are not included here. There were also three pits 1154, 1155 and 1157 and one gully or ditch 1156.

5.9.2 Cut 1154, filled by context 1109, a dark brown sandy clay, was the edge of a small pit measuring 2.10m x 0.60m x 0.45m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 1103 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 1102. The cut presented a steep V shaped profile. The single fill contained no archaeological finds. It was not

completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally undated.

5.9.3 Cut 1155, filled by context 1107, a dark yellow sandy clay, was a large pit measuring 3.60m x 0.80m x 0.27m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 1103 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 1102. The cut presented a shallow U shaped profile. The single fill contained a single sherd of Romano-British pottery. It was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally dated to the Romano-British period.

5.9.4 Cut 1156, filled by context 1106, a layer of brown clay and stones, was a small gully measuring 1.60m x 0.52m x 0.12m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 1103 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 1102. The cut presented a shallow U shaped profile. The single fill contained three Romano-British sherds and one modern sherd. It was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally dated to the Modern period.

5.9.5 Cut 1157, filled by context 1105, a brown sandy clay, was a small pit measuring 2.10m x 0.60m x 0.38m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 1103 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 1102. The cut presented a flat U shaped profile. The single fill contained no archaeological finds. It was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally undated.

5.10 TRENCH L 19.60m x 1.60m
Figure 2
Photographs 10.1 and 10.2

This trench was opened immediately east and south of the south end of Trench C in order to check the alignments and extent of ditches 351 and 1053. Trench L contained three archaeological features, 1251, 1252, and 1253/4.

5.10.1 Cut 1251, filled by context 1204, a dark brown clay loam, was a ditch terminal, aligned exactly with ditch 1053 in Trench J. It measured 0.80m x 0.66m x 0.40m deep. It was

cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 1203 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 1202. The cut presented a U shaped profile. The single fill contained Romano-British pottery sherds, medieval and post-medieval pottery and bone fragments. It was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally dated to the Modern period.

5.10.3 Cut 1252, filled by context 1205, a black loam, very rich in charcoal, was a circular patch measuring 0.80m in diameter and 0.40m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 1203 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 1202. The cut presented a very flat U shaped profile. The single fill contained only charcoal fragments. It was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally dated to the modern period.

5.10.4 Cut 1253, filled by context 1212, a dark reddish brown clay, was a ditch measuring 3.20m x 1.20m x 0.65m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl and gravel substratum, context 1203 and it was sealed by the silt layer context 1206 and the stony layer context 1210. An irregularity in the base has been described in the Excavation archive as 1212 (slot). The cut presented a steep V shaped profile. The single fill contained 14 sherds of Romano-British pottery and one possible medieval sherd. It was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally dated to the medieval period.

5.10.5 Cut 1254 is a northern extension of and identical to 1253.

5.11 TRENCH M 12.40M 2.40M
Figure 3 Section S7
Photographs 10.3 and 10.4

This trench was opened between trenches K and J to investigate the northern line of ditch 1054 and eastward limits of ditch 353. This trench contained three archaeological features, 1351, 1352/3 and 1354/5.

5.11.1 Cut 1351, filled by context 1304, a brown sandy, loamy clay, was a ditch measuring 1.90m

x 0.90m x 0.29m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 1303 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 1302. The cut presented a steep U shaped profile. The single fill contained three sherds of Romano-British pottery and some bone fragments. The limits of this ditch were not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally dated to the later Romano-British period as it was on an identical alignment to ditch 1054 (q.v. Trench J).

- 5.11.2 Cut 1352/3, filled by contexts 1305/6, a dark greyish brown clay, was a beam slot, measuring 5.20m x 0.35m x 0.28m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 1303 and it was sealed by the subsoil, context 1302, at its west end, but by 1309, a brown clay 0.10m thick, possibly an old turf line, at its eastern end. The cut presented a steep V shaped profile. This feature had itself been cut by the later ditch 1351 (above). The single fill contained five sherds of Romano-British pottery. It was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally dated to the Romano-British period.

- 5.11.3 Cut 1354/5, filled by contexts 1307/8, a dark yellowish brown sandy clay, was an area immediately adjacent to 1352/3 (above) measuring 4.40m x 0.20m x 0.12m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 1303 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 1302. The cut presented a steep V shaped profile. The single fill contained five Romano-British sherds and a worked secondary flint, a crude tool with some retouch (see Finds Report below). This feature was possibly a secondary fill of 1352 (above). It was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally dated to the Romano-British period.

- 5.12 TRENCH N 14.40m x 2.00m
Figure 4 Section S4
Photograph 10.6

This trench was opened immediately to the east of Trench J to investigate the ditches 1054 and 1053 and the possible pond area. No new archaeological features were recorded, but

additional details were recovered to add to the information on the Trench J features (q.v.).

5.12.1 Cut 1451, identical to and a continuation of, cut 1053 (Trench J, above) was filled by contexts 1404 and 1406. The secondary fill, 1404, a dark brown mixture of clay and loam, measured 4.50m x 1.20m x 0.45m deep. The feature was cut into the natural mottled red/green marl substratum, context 1403 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 1402. This upper fill contained pottery sherds of all periods, Romano-British, medieval, post-medieval and modern. There were also fragments of brick and glass, bone and a buckle (see Finds Report, below). The cut presented a U shaped profile.

5.12.2 The primary fill, context 1406, a dark yellowish brown clay, was not recorded in whole length of the excavated ditch. It was 0.12m deep and contained six sherds of Romano-British pottery. The limits of the ditch were not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally dated to the modern period. Cut 1451 had removed the southern end of ditch 1054, and as ditch 1054 was not recorded south of ditch 1451, it seems probable that the area cut by ditch 1451 represents the southern terminal of ditch 1054.

5.13 TRENCH O 11.80m x 5.90
TRENCH P 10.40m x 1.60M
Not illustrated.

These trenches, opened to the north of Trench A contained no archaeological features, and are therefore not further described. The details can be found in the excavation archive.

5.14 TRENCH Q 12.70m x 2.00m
Figure 2

This trench, opened to the north of trench P, aligned approximately east-west, contained one small archaeological feature, a small pit or posthole, context 1751.

5.14.1 Cut 1751, filled by context 1704, a dark yellowish brown sandy clay, was a small pit or posthole measuring 0.96m x 0.30m x 0.22m deep. It was cut into the natural mottled red/green

marl substratum, context 1703 and it was sealed only by the subsoil, context 1702. The cut presented a U shaped profile. The single fill contained no archaeological finds. It was not completely exposed in the excavation and the feature was provisionally undated.

5.15 TRENCH R 15.20m x 2.00m
Not illustrated

This trench, opened to the north of Trench Q and immediately to the west of Trench G was placed to investigate the possible continuation of the ditch context 752 and the gully or beam slot context 751. In the event, no archaeological features were recorded in the trench. All recorded details can be found in the archive.

5.16 THE POND FEATURE TRENCHES J AND N
Context 1057
Figure 4 Sections S1, S2, S3 and S4
Photograph 10.6
Appendix 3

5.16.1 The south end of both trenches J and N presented a different stratigraphic profile from the remainder of the site (see sections S5 S6 S7). The topsoil and upper subsoil were similar, but between the natural marl, context 1003 and the subsoil, context 1002, was a layer of homogeneous greyish silt, context 1012, some 0.60m thick, decreasing in thickness towards the east and the north. The northern lip of this layer was underlain by a very thin loam layer, context 1014 and a charcoal and clay layer, context 1013. These two layers were both cut by ditch 1153. The silt layer had a stony layer between it and the subsoil at the far south end only (see sections). The silt layer, context 1012, contained no archaeological finds.

5.16.2 Below layer 1012 there were two very shallow pits or depressions, contexts 1151 and 1152, containing a silty fill above a shallow gravel layer (contexts 1006 and 1011).

5.16.3 It is proposed that this area is the site of the pond (indicated by Broomhead, above) or possibly merely a very waterlogged area, gradually filled up with silt and other natural

downwash. The loam layer could represent a pondside vegetation and the charcoal layer, a bonfire or tipped burnt material. The stony layer could be final tipping of hard-core to level the ground before the planting of the orchard.

5.16.4 The east-west ditch 1153, of a modern date, is interpreted as either a drainage system for the waterlogged area or excavation to assist in planting the cider apple trees (Broomhead, pers.comm.).

5.16.5 A schematic section is appended with the Stratigraphic Matrix in Appendix 3 to elucidate the published section.

5.17 **ASMR 7816 Pineapple Farm Pig sty.**
Illustration 10.8

A small purpose built pig sty, with accommodation for one sow and her litter, adjoined the south east boundary of the site. It had very recently been used (September 1992), but was unoccupied at the date of recording (see Illustration 10.8).

5.17.1 The overall dimensions of the sty were 4.90m wide by 5.90m, including the concrete yard. The covered portion measured 4.90m x 2.50m x 2.50m high. It was constructed of mixed sandstone and limestone roughly coursed rubble, with a pitched roof behind a parapet with ashlar coping. The stones were bonded with a lime mortar with large lumps of coal included. The roof was constructed from clay pantiles over rafters.

5.17.2 The yard, now concreted, was accessed through a wooden ledged and braced gate to the southeast and contained a dung channel leading to a clearance hole in the western wall and a concrete feeding trough supplied through a chute in the southern wall. This feature appeared to be of twentieth century date.

5.17.3 The western access to the sheltered portion had been blocked in, leaving the single entrance, and the main structure bore evidence of recent repointing. The overall condition was very good.

5.17.4 The sty appears on the 1880 OS map, but not on the 1840 Tithe map (SRO D/D/Rt 317). The date of construction, therefore, can be placed in the second half of the nineteenth century.

6. FINDS REPORT

6.1.1 The great majority of the finds from this site consisted of pottery, the details of which are in the text and the Excavation Archive. The Romano-British forms represented included rims of large and small storage jars in a grey fabric. There was also a body sherd of a jar in a black ware with an incised small lattice decoration and the handle of a small flagon. Context 1208 also produced a rim sherd of a flanged dish in a coarse grey ware.

6.1.2 The majority of the Romano-British sherds were unidentifiable body sherds, most of which were in a grey ware, but some 25% were orange. A small sample was collected from the waster heap and parallel fabrics were identified. The main difference was that the waster heap, as could be expected, consisted of unworn and over fired sherds.

6.1.3 The medieval sherds included a neck and handle from a pitcher and a frilled base, both in a fabric very similar to Ham Green. There was also a heavy very sandy rim sherd from a large jar. Other sherds were unidentifiable body fragments.

6.2 There were a few other finds of artefacts which are detailed here. The flints have been kindly identified by Vince Russett. None of the flints provided any unique dating evidence and are therefore attributed to the late Neolithic-early Bronze Age. None were recovered from prehistoric deposits and are considered residual.

6.2 OBJECTS OF STONE AND FLINT

Context 108	one tertiary flint flake 11mm
<u>and</u>	one snapped piece of flint blade heated and damaged 14mm
Context 707	one snapped section of a thick flint flake retouched and used medium patination 26mm Illustration 6.3
Context 802	one heavily used knife from a secondary flint flake 22mm

- Context 1212 one worked flint forming a
waisted implement 42mm
Illustration 6.2
- Context 1308 one worked secondary flint flake
crudely retouched tool 34mm
- Context 1405 two unworked fragments of chert
- Context 1802 one heavily used knife from a
secondary flint flake 22mm
Illustration 6.1
- Context 701 one snapped section of whetstone
fine sandstone used on one
surface 62mm x 30mm x 22mm
Illustration 6.4
- Context 1208 one fragment of naturally split
fine sandstone one smooth edge
possible broken whetstone

6.3

OBJECTS OF COPPER ALLOY

- Context 1208 one pin, sharpened end broken
top flattened and perforated
rectangular section 60mm
Illustration 6.6
- Context 808 one pin from fibula?
bent, sharpened end complete 37mm
Illustration 6.5

6.4

OBJECTS OF IRON

- Context 211 one horseshoe undated
- Context 1008 one iron sickle very corroded but
probably complete 420mm
Illustration 6.7

The balanced sickle design has parallels in the Romano-British period (Finberg 1972,p 75) and the medieval period. This design does not seem to have changed radically since the Romano-British period and is therefore very difficult to date. It is considered that this sickle is unlikely to date from before the medieval period.

Context 1402 one cut iron nail
 one iron fragment,
 unidentified

Context 1404 one iron buckle with tongue
 undated 35mm
 Illustration 6.8

6.5 OTHER OBJECTS

Context 103 one fragment of shale, burnt

Context 106 one fragment of shale

Context 211 one flint fragment, unworked

6. Finds

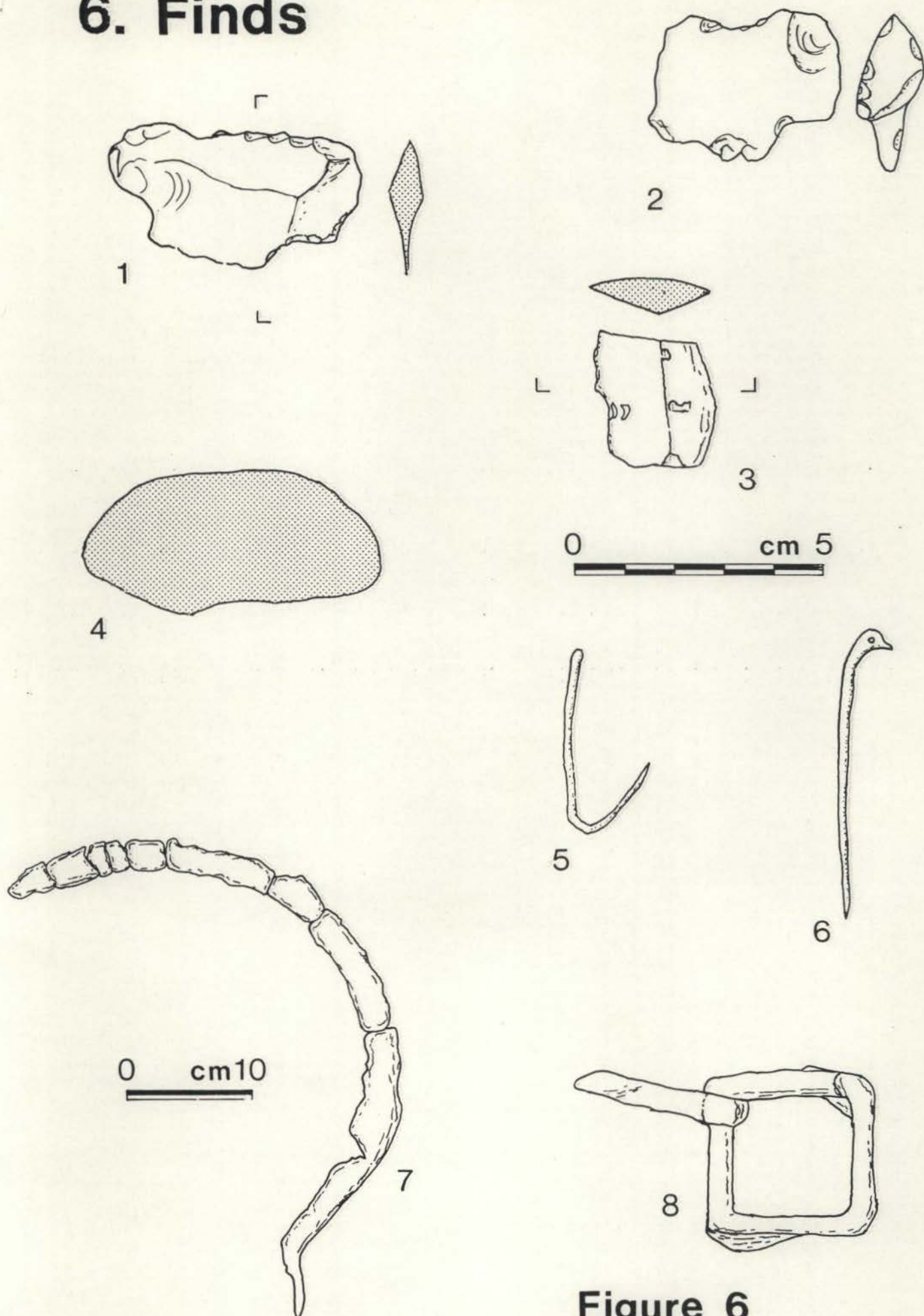


Figure 6

7. INTERPRETATION OF THE SITE

- 7.1 Prehistoric
- 7.2 Romano-British
- 7.3 Medieval
- 7.4 Modern

7.1 PREHISTORIC ACTIVITY

The presence of a few flint and chert tools and flakes indicates prehistoric activity on or near this site, but no structural features attributable to the pre-Roman period were located and therefore the finds are presumably residual.

7.2 ROMANO-BRITISH FEATURES

Evidence of Romano-British activity on the site consisted of two groups of pits and postholes in Trenches A and H, and Trench K. Added to this list are a ditch and beam slot in Trench G, a pit in Trench Q and two beam slots in Trenches J and M.

7.2.1 The group of pits and postholes in Trenches A and H evoked no pattern of a possible single structure, and the features were so shallow that they possibly represent merely day to day agricultural or domestic activity on the fringe of the pottery making area now known at Yew Tree Farm and at the waster mound located in the field at the eastern end of Venus Street (ASMR 398) (NGR ST 447629).

7.2.2 The pits in Trench K produced only one sherd of Romano-British pottery, but no evidence of later activity. They are grouped with features identified in Trench A on grounds of morphology and lack of any later evidence.

7.2.3 The topsoil and subsoils, while being machine excavated, produced quite large quantities of post-medieval pottery, but this was not reflected in the fill of the stratified archaeological features which contained almost exclusively Romano-British sherds, albeit usually very abraded.

7.2.4 It is therefore probable that these features should be dated to the early medieval period at

the latest, and more likely to the Romano-British period.

- 7.2.5 The ditch (context 752) in Trench G, although only partially excavated, contained 31 sherds of abraded Romano-British sherds and no other pottery. Its extent and function could not be determined.
- 7.2.6 The beam slot (751) again was only partially excavated, but contained seven Romano-British sherds and a flint tool (context 707) which had been retouched and used. The overall extent and function of this beam slot could not be determined.
- 7.2.7 There is no archaeological reason why both of these features should not be assigned to the Romano-British period, together with the small pit (1751) in Trench Q.
- 7.2.8 The beam slot (context 1352/3) in Trench M, cut by a later, possibly medieval, ditch, context 1351, contained five sherds of Romano-British pottery in its primary fill and its secondary fill also contained five similar sherds and a crude flint tool (see Finds Report 1308, above).
- 7.2.9. The beam slot in Trench J (context 1055), of similar dimensions and fill, a greyish brown clay, to that in Trench M, contained three sherds of Romano-British pottery.
- 7.2.10 The extent and function of these features could not be determined, but there is no archaeological reason why they should not be assigned to the Romano-British period.

7.3 MEDIEVAL FEATURES

Evidence of activity on the site of medieval date consisted of two ditches in Trenches B, C and L, and a ditch in Trenches J and M.

- 7.3.1 The two ditches in Trenches B, C and L (features 251, 351 and 1253/4), were on a similar alignment and appeared to represent the roadside ditches for the driveway still extant to the north-west of the site. This hypothesis would complete the symmetry of the layout of the land parcels behind Venus Street. This southern part of the driveway would have been abandoned before the large orchard was put in place sometime before 1739 (Broomhead, above).

7.3.2 The most common sherds recovered were abraded Romano-British sherds, but there were Medieval and early medieval sherds found in contexts 1206 and 1212 and an unclassified sherd in context 205, probably not Romano-British.

7.3.3 The conclusion reached, therefore, is that these ditches date from the Medieval period.

7.3.4 The ditch in Trench J (context 1054) led, in a north-south alignment, directly into the pond area (q.v.) to the south. It was traced northwards into Trench M (context 1351), giving a known length of some 18.00m. It had been cut at its southern end by modern ditch 1053, but this point appeared to be its terminal. Its width appeared to vary slightly between 0.80m and 1.20m and its original depth was approximately 0.60m (see section S2).

7.3.5 The base of this ditch as excavated, had no appreciable difference in level or slope, but could possibly have assisted in draining the orchard or field into the pond area. The orchard itself now is very level and the ground almost impermeable below the subsoil. During the excavation, heavy rain did not drain naturally from the trenches.

7.3.6 The fills of this ditch (contexts 1008, 1008A and 1008B and 1304) contained half a dozen very abraded sherds of Romano-British pottery, some bone fragments and an iron sickle in a very corroded condition (see Finds Report, 6.7, above). The basis for the medieval dating is the comparatively very small quantity of abraded Romano-British sherds, considered to be residual. The date of the sickle could cover a very wide range from Romano-British to the modern era.

7.3.7 The Pond Feature Context 1057

This feature (see 5.15, above) was identified only by its morphology and contents. The layer of silt 1012, was a very clean layer with no archaeological finds. The cut, sloping to the north and east, indicated the presence of a shallow depression later both naturally and artificially filled (see Section S1-4, inclusive).

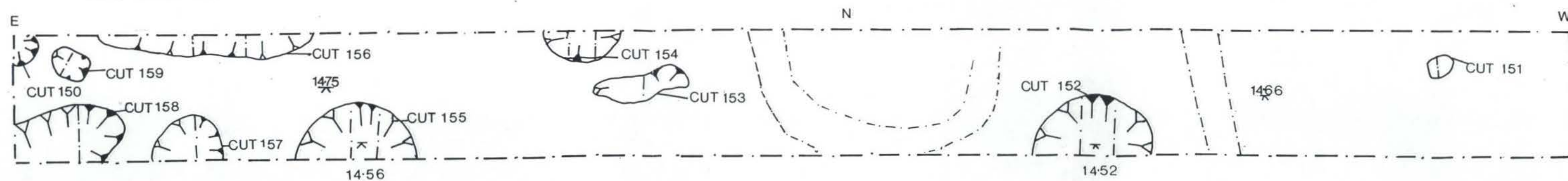
7.4

MODERN FEATURES

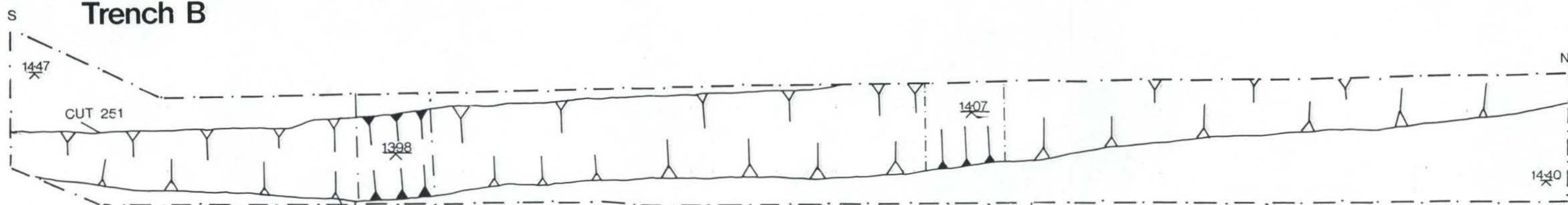
Evidence of modern, that is 19th or 20th century, activity on this site consisted of ditches in Trench C and J, L and N.

- 7.4.1 The ditch to the north end of Trench C (353), contained fragments of modern pantiles as well as abraded Romano-British pottery and late medieval internally glazed sherds. The limits of this ditch could not be determined due to the presence of trees, but it has been assigned to the 20th century, possibly associated with tree planting and/or orchard management (Broomhead, pers.comm.).
- 7.4.2 Ditch 1053 in Trench J was traced to the east into Trench N and to the west to its terminal in Trench L, giving a total length of 10.50m. The ditch had a constant width of 0.90m and a depth below present ground level of approximately 0.60m. It had been cut from a comparatively high level adjacent to the topsoil and was considered to be a modern feature.
- 7.4.3 The fills of this ditch, 1007, 1204, 1404 and 1406, contained quantities of medieval and post-medieval sherds, coal and tobacco pipe as well as fragments of glass, brick and slate, and modern pottery. There was also one undated iron buckle complete with its tongue (Illustration 6.8, below).
- 7.4.4 This ditch, 1053, was therefore considered to be of comparatively modern origin, possibly associated with tree planting or orchard management. It is also possible that it had been dug to assist in the draining of the pond area (q.v.).

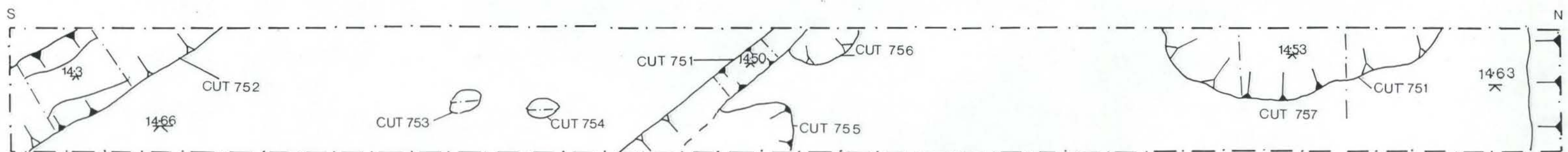
Trench A



Trench B



Trench G



Congresbury
Venus Street ASMR 8706

Trench Plans

J.G.P.E R.E.E.C 1992

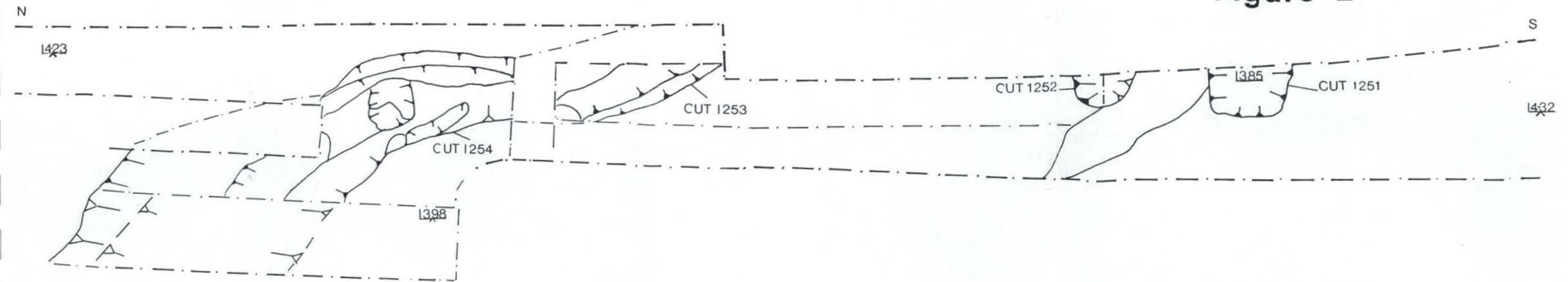
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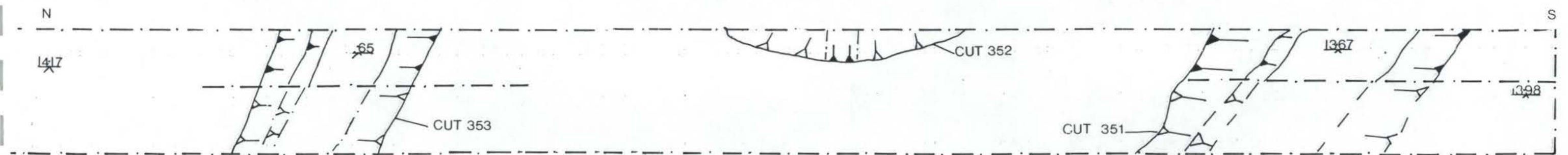
Figure 1

Trench L

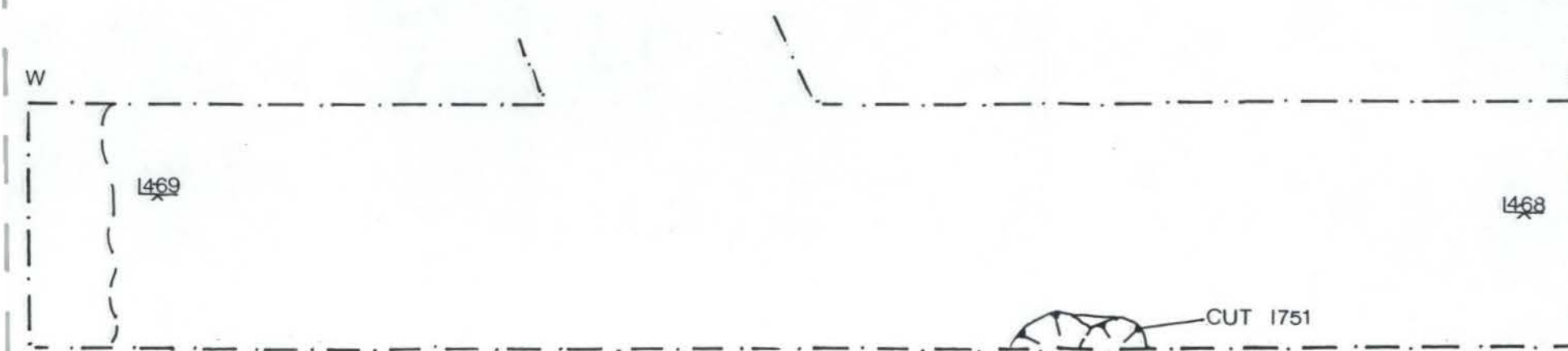
Figure 2



Trench C



Trench Q



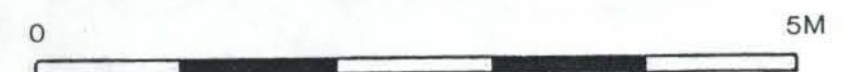
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ASMR 8706

**Congresbury
Venus Street**

Trench Plans

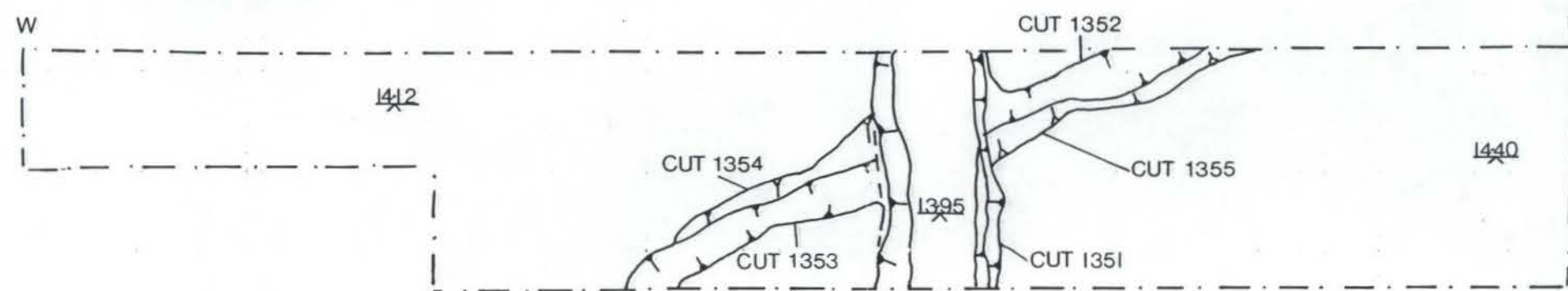
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Trench K



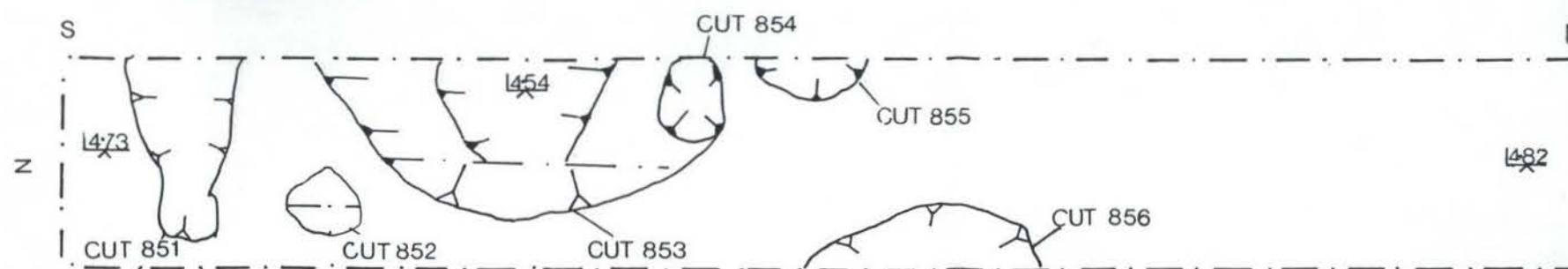
Trench M



Trench I



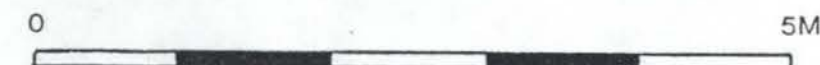
Trench H



Congresbury Venus Street ASMR 8706

Trench Plans

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X heights metres a.o.d.

Figure 3

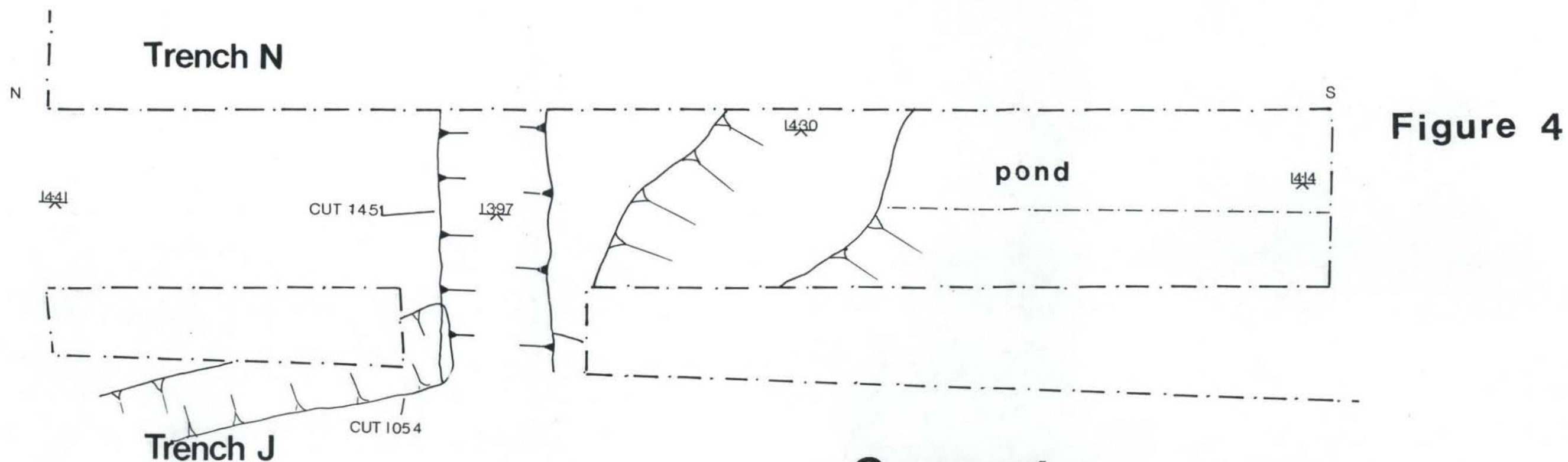
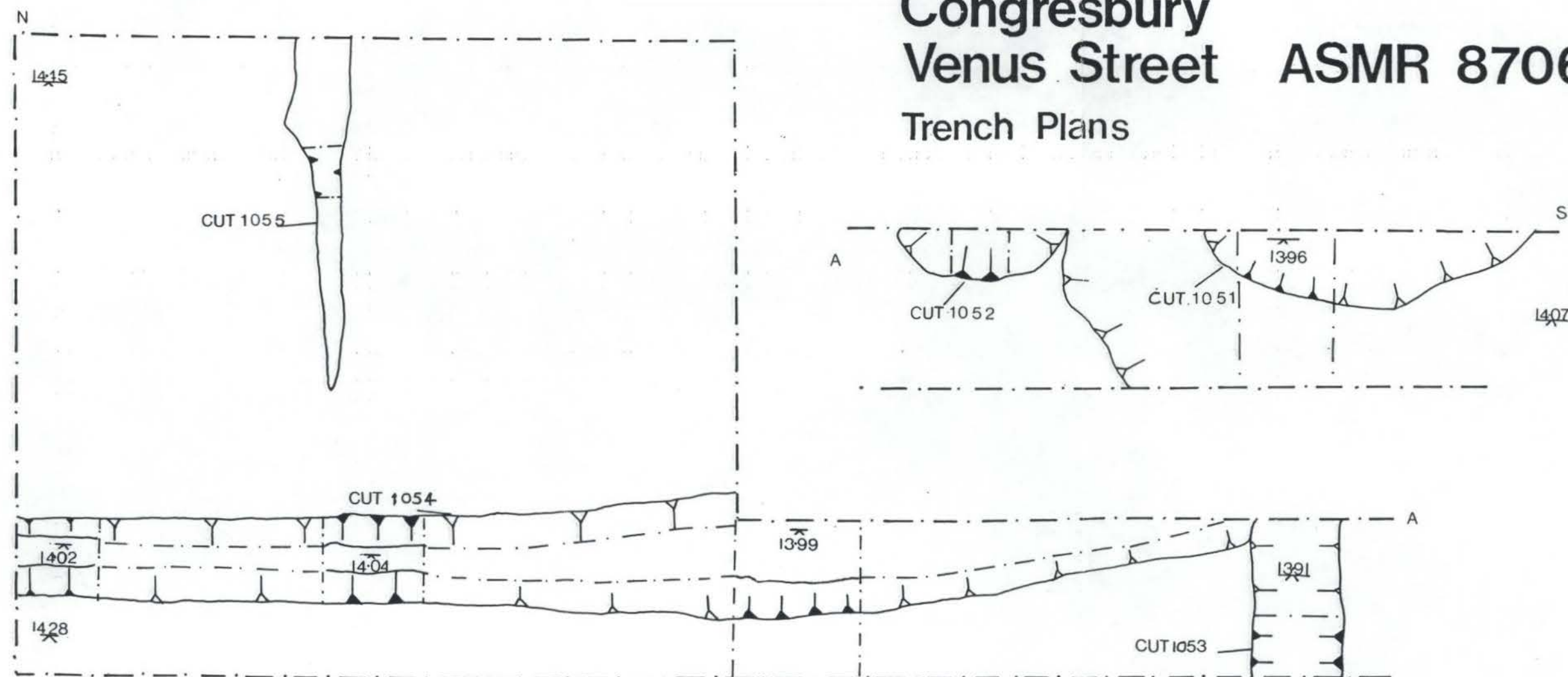


Figure 4

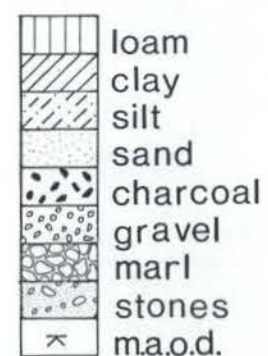
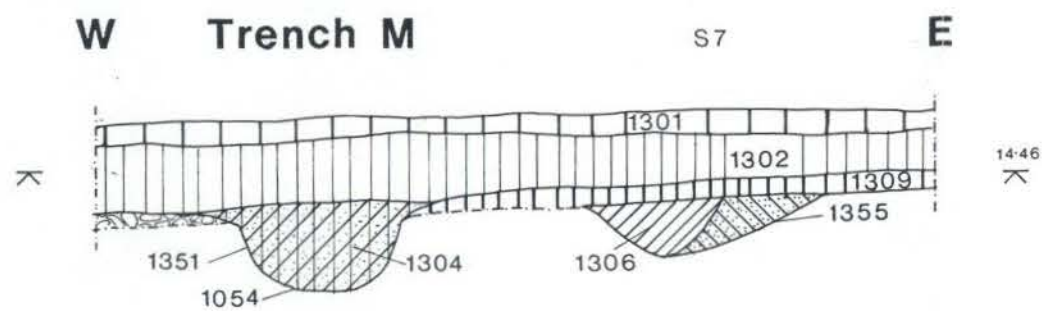
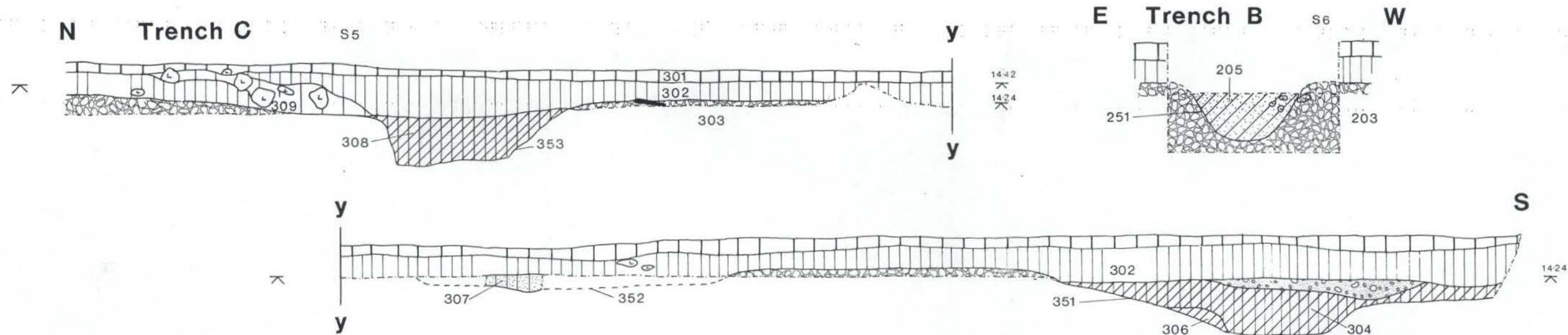
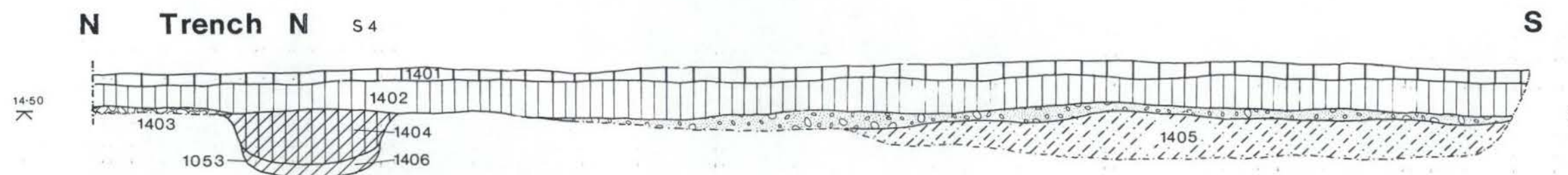
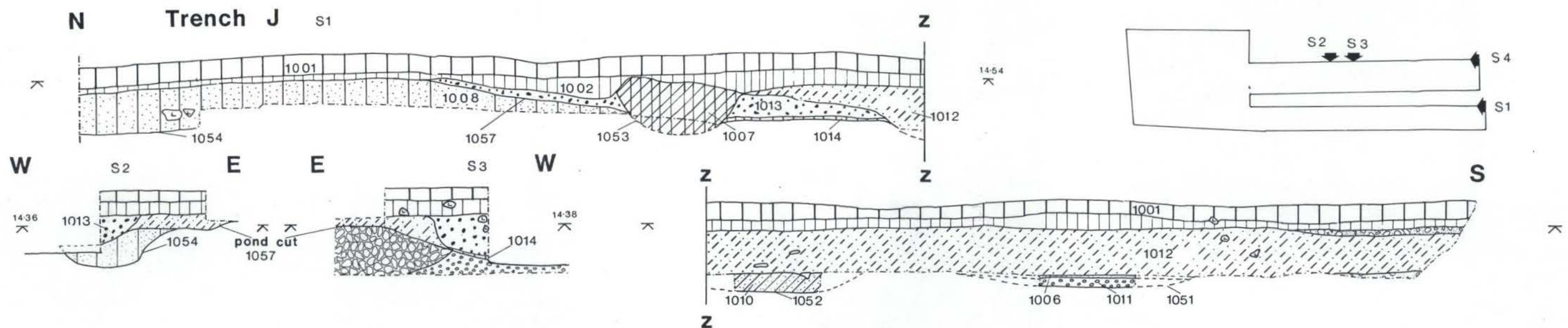
Congresbury
Venus Street ASMR 8706
Trench Plans



J.G.PE R.E.E.C 1992

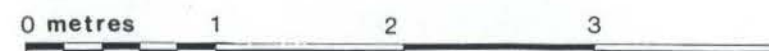


✕ heights metres a.o.d.



Congresbury **Venus Street ASMR 8706**

Sections JGPE 1992



SECTION 9: SUMMARY

- 9.1 Evidence, in the form of soil features and finds, has been obtained on this site of human activity over a wide range of time. Prehistoric flints have been found in contexts with Romano-British and Medieval pottery, and other features contained early medieval, medieval and post-medieval finds.
- 9.2 The evidence for pre-historic activity was confined to a small number of flint implements and waste flakes, which, on the basis of their residual context, can only be interpreted to reflect the presence of possibly neolithic or bronze age activity within the general area of the site.
- 9.3 Structural stratified features included Romano-British postholes, ditches, pits and beam slots. Ditches were located dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods which have been associated with features found in documentary and historical sources (Broomhead, Section 4, above). The pond feature, of possibly post-medieval date, was cut by a later, modern ditch whose function is unknown.
- 9.4 Although it was not possible to identify individual buildings, the structural evidence clearly indicated that timber structures, possibly representing dwellings or buildings associated with the nearby pottery kilns were built on the site during the Romano-British period.
- 9.5 Ditches dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods appear to reflect a change in the site organisation and in land use from Roman times. Recent work (Broomhead, Section 4, above) suggests that the land adjacent to Venus Street is likely to have been occupied since the eleventh century. Medieval ditches identified during the investigations may represent the boundaries of individual landholdings and tenements which extended off Venus Street and which are likely to have been established during the early medieval period.
- 9.6 Despite this excavation, there are several major questions left, not unexpectedly,

unanswered concerning the archaeology of Congresbury. Firstly, the extent and importance of the Romano-British pottery industry and its associated domestic settlement has not been defined. Secondly, the dating and extent of the initial medieval settlement and its organisation is yet to be determined archaeologically.

- 9.7 This excavation and report, however, is a foundation for similar work to be carried out in the future in this very significant and important area which may result in progress towards answering these questions.

10. Photographs



1

2

3

4



10. Photographs



5

6

7

8



SECTION 11: BIBLIOGRAPHY

- BRO Bristol Record Office, *passim*
- Broomhead (forthcoming) R Broomhead, *Congresbury, The History of a Landscape*, forthcoming
- DOE 1990 Planning Policy Guidance number 16, *Archaeology and Planning*, Department of the Environment, 1990
- Finberg 1972 Finberg (Ed) *The Agrarian History of England and Wales*, Cambridge 1972
- Fowler 1968 P Fowler et al, *Cadbury Congresbury*, 1968
- Kellaway and Welch 1948 Kellaway and Welch, *British Regional Geology, Bristol and Gloucester District*, Second Edition, London 1948
- OS 1931 Ordnance Survey, 1:2500 plan, *Somerset Sheet 10/8*, Southampton 1931
- OS 1974 Ordnance Survey, 1:2500 plan, *Sheets 4662, 4663*, Southampton 1974
- Russett 1990 V J Russett, *Pineapple Farm Congresbury Bristol*, 1990
- SRO Somerset Record Office, *passim*

APPENDIX 1: EXCAVATION ARCHIVE
ASMR 8706

- 1 18 sheets photocopy of Site Field Notebook
- 2 20 sheets photocopy of Site Level Book
- 3 7 Site field drawings on film
Scale 1:100, 1:50 and 1:20
- 4 21 Archive and publication Drawings
on film: various scales
- 5 1 Index to all drawings
- 6 131 Context Sheets in loose-leaf file
- 7 6 Colour negative films and prints
CN 1-5, CN 13 in plastic sleeves
- 8 72 Plastic bags of pottery by context
16 Plastic bags of other finds
labelled by Site number and context number
- 9 1 copy of the historical summary with
4 photocopy maps
- 10 2 bags of unmarked pottery from waster mound
ASMR 398
- 11 1 copy of the final report
- 12 This archive is deposited at the offices of Avon
County Planning Department Archaeological Unit

APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN

PLANNING CONSULTATION

LAND OFF VENUS STREET, CONGRESBURY, AVON

Summary Project Design for an archaeological evaluation of land off Venus Street, Congresbury, Avon for the purpose of advising the Local Planning Authority on the appropriate archaeological response to any proposal for development by clients of the Ronald Edwards Partnership. Attention is drawn to paragraphs 2.5 (backfilling) and 5.1 (access).

1 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of the assessment is to determine the extent to which significant archaeological features (both subterranean stratigraphy and standing structures) survives on the site; to define the extent to which it would be affected by any development; and to recommend either physical preservation in situ (where this might be feasible) or a programme of archaeological recording suitable to the nature of the surviving evidence, as appears appropriate.

1.2 The assessment will be undertaken by means of the trial archaeological excavation of areas to be agreed in detail with the potential developers and/or owners of the site. A specimen series of trial trenches are shown on the attached plan. However, it should be appreciated that, while these may be understood to indicate the general scale of the proposed work, it is in the nature of archaeological evaluation that there should be the possibility for modification of the details of a trial excavation during the course of the work as new information is revealed.

1.3 The areas for trial excavation will be selected to provide samples of the range of possible archaeological deposits expected to be present on the site and of variations in existing topography and ground conditions.

2 PROJECT DESIGN- FIELD EVALUATION AND RECORDING

2.1 Machine excavation of each area to remove recent overburden: including such deposits as hard surfacing, topsoil, the debris of any demolished structures, material which appears to have been tipped recently, etc.

2.2 Excavation of the minimum of the underlying archaeological deposits thus exposed,

commensurate with achieving an understanding of the nature of the past human activity represented on the site, its extent, its condition and its date. This will be undertaken in each area excavated.

2.3 Recording, by written, drawn, photographic and all other appropriate means, of the archaeological evidence revealed in excavation.

2.4 Collection of artefacts recovered during excavation and appropriate cleaning, marking and packaging of these in preparation for long-term storage.

2.5 All trenches will be backfilled with the excavated spoil to ensure safety but not consolidated or otherwise reinstated.

3 PROJECT DESIGN- POST EXCAVATION ANALYSIS AND REPORTING OF DATA

3.1 Compilation of a stratigraphic matrix for the site.

3.2 Preparation of an archive of the site, to include descriptions of all deposits and features; fully labelled drawings (plan, elevation and section as appropriate) and photographs; descriptive lists of all artefacts by material and type; indices to the archive.

3.3 Preparation of a summary of the archaeological conclusions which can be drawn from the excavated and analysed data.

3.4 Statement of recommendations for the future treatment of the archaeology of the site (including that of the standing buildings), involving one of the following options:

-physical preservation of the site *in situ* and, if appropriate, its addition to the Schedule of Ancient Monuments by the Secretary of State for the Environment.

-preservation of the site "by record" (ie by the full recording of archaeological data prior to its destruction, on a scale commensurate with its significance.

-no further work (if the quality of the surviving archaeological deposits does not warrant it).

-an appropriate combination of the above (eg; by siting development or designing foundations

to avoid archaeological deposits as far as is possible and recording what cannot be avoided).

- 3.5 Compilation of a report incorporating, as appropriate, the above.
- 3.6 Preparation of data (to include one copy of the site archive as in 3.2 above) for accession to the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 3.7 Preparation of the material archive (artefacts, samples, etc.) and one copy of the site archive for accession to the appropriate museum authority (in this case the Woodspring Museums Service).
- 3.8 Preparation of one microcopy of the site archive for accession to the National Archaeological Record of the Royal Commission for the Historical Monuments of England.

4 STAFFING AND FUNDING OF THE PROJECT

- 4.1 The archaeological assessment described above would require the following programme:

site work;	3 weeks
post site analysis and report preparation:	3 weeks

A preliminary statement of the conclusions would be made available to the Local Planning Authority at the completion of the fieldwork part of the project (sufficient for them to determine their attitude to the archaeological aspects of the planning application).

- 4.2 Avon County Council would be able to recruit, employ, manage and supervise temporary members of staff to undertake the evaluation and produce a report as outlined above. The developers may, however, wish to engage other archaeological contractors, and clearly would be free to do so.
- 4.3 Funding would be necessary from the potential developers to enable the County Council to undertake the evaluation (and any other work that was required).
- 4.4 Upon receipt of written allocation of funds by the prospective developers of the site (or their authorised agents) Avon County Council would be in a position to set up an archaeological evaluation as described.

5

IMPORTANT NOTES

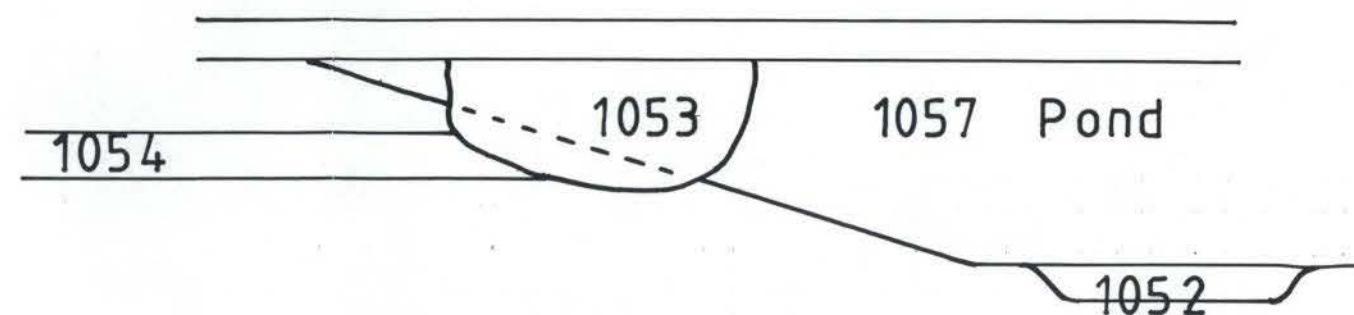
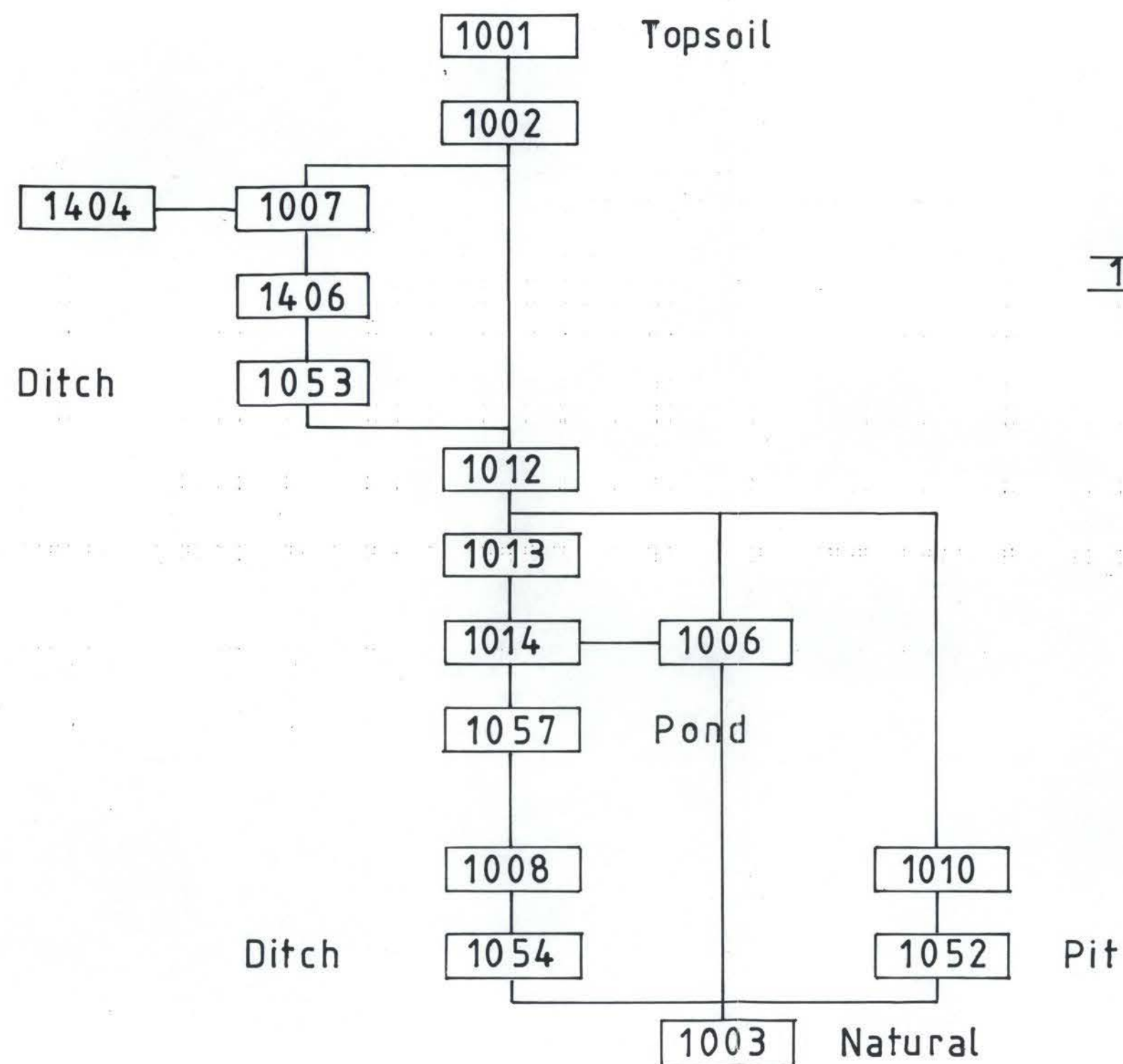
5.1

Arrangements for access to the site and the securing of all necessary permissions is to be undertaken by the commissioners of this project: the developers or their agents. The costing consequently contains no element of provision for making access to the site or for making good any temporary access subsequent to the evaluation.

5.2

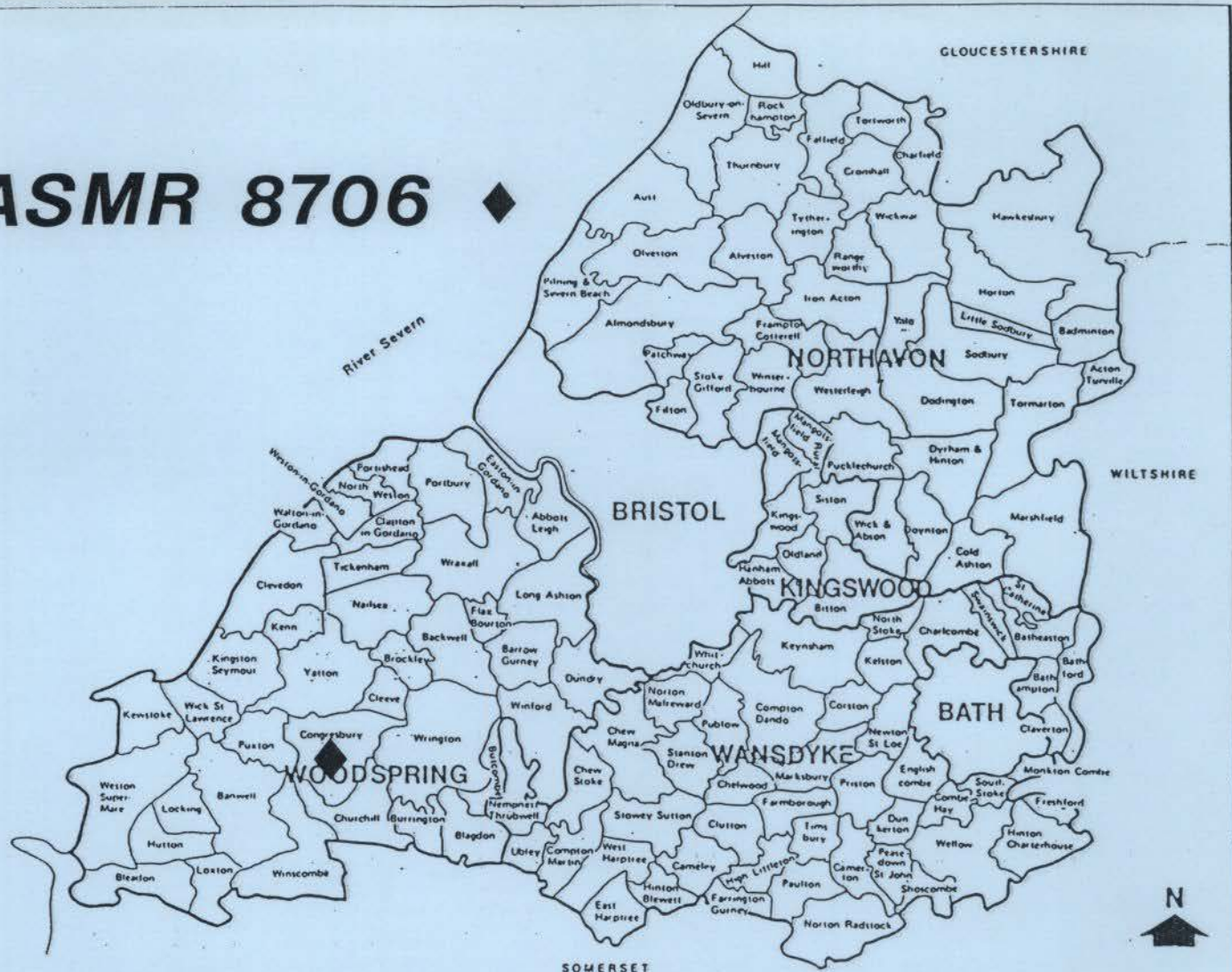
The costing makes no allowance for any backfilling more complex than that indicated in paragraph 2.5 above.

Appendix 3 Stratigraphic Matrix



Schematic Section

ASMR 8706 ♦



Avon
COUNTY COUNCIL