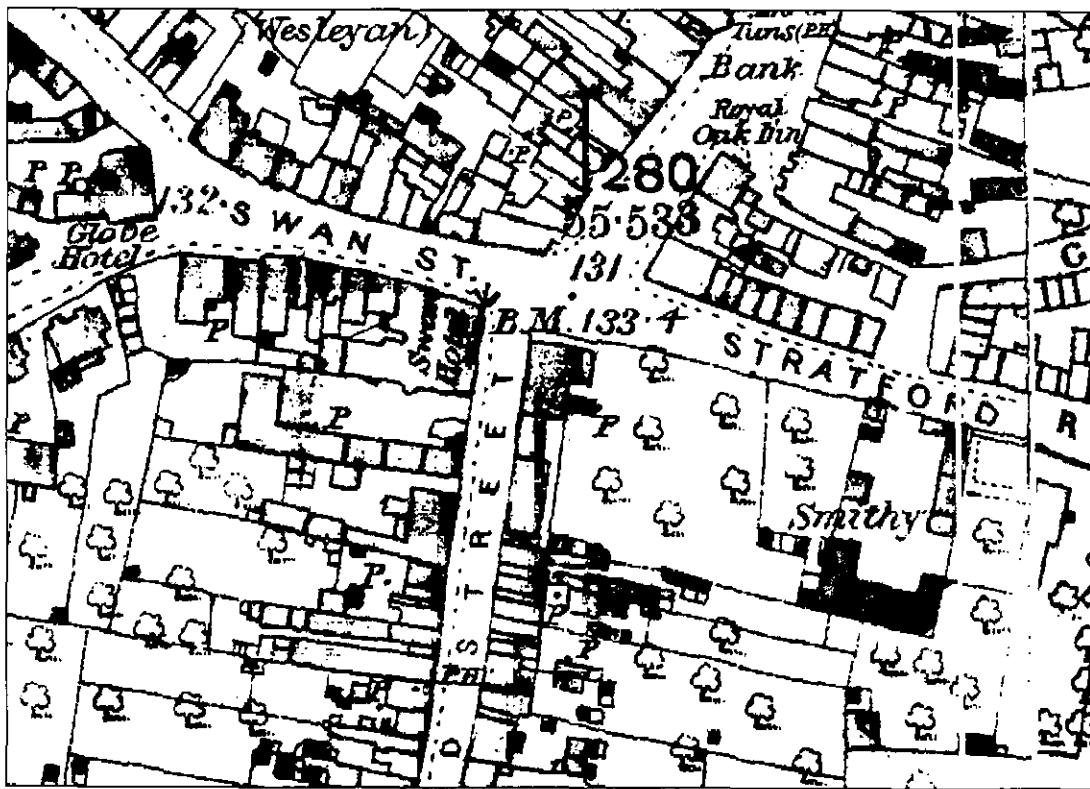


Archaeological excavation and  
observation at Lloyd's Bank,  
Alcester, Warwickshire, 1997



Report 1047

October 2010

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## Contents

- Summary
  - 1. Introduction
  - 2. Location
  - 3. Archaeological and Historical Background
  - 4. Methods
  - 5. Excavation and Observation
  - 6. The Finds
    - The Pottery: initial assessment *by Jerry Evans*
    - The Anglo-Saxon pottery: additional comments *by Catherine Coutts*
    - The medieval ridge tile: *identified by Jerry Evans with additional comments by Ian Greig*
    - The charred plant remains *by Lisa Moffett*
    - The animal bone *by Pat Collins*
  - 7. Conclusions
- Acknowledgements  
Bibliography  
Appendix A: List of Finds  
Appendix B: List of Contexts

## List of Tables

- 1. Pottery
- 2. Plant and other remains from Roman pits

## List of Figures

Cover: Detail from the 1886 Ordnance Survey Map

- Fig. 1: Site location
- Fig. 2: Areas excavated and observed
- Fig. 3: Trench plan and sections
- Fig. 4: Excavated trench looking south
- Fig. 5: Decorated Anglo-Saxon pottery from context 109/1 and medieval crested ridge tile

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## Summary

An archaeological excavation and observation of groundworks to the rear (south) and east side of Lloyd's Bank, Alcester, in 1997 revealed irregular pits and a cess-pit of 3rd- to 4th-century date containing environmental evidence in the form of plant and faunal remains. The Roman features were cut and overlain by post-medieval features, including a brick-built well. Five sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery were also recovered from the fill of a modern gully. The only medieval evidence was a fragment of decorated glazed ridge tile. Recommendations for further work and publication of a short report are made, but cannot be implemented at the time of writing (2010).

## 1. Introduction

1.1 Planning permission was granted by Stratford-on-Avon District Council for a housing development at Lloyd's Bank, Bleachfield Street, Alcester, Warwickshire (Planning Ref. S97/0160). The site of the proposed development lies within the extent of the Roman and medieval towns of Alcester, and previous archaeological work has shown that significant archaeological remains belonging to the Roman and medieval periods were likely to survive (Fig. 1).

1.2 A condition of planning permission was that before the development commenced the applicant should secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by the Local Planning Authority. Warwickshire Museum Archaeology Projects Group were commissioned to undertake the archaeological work in accordance with a brief provided by the Planning Archaeologist.

1.3 Four test pits were excavated in advance of development in order to help in the design of the new development (Fig. 2). The two test pits to the east of Lloyd's Bank (T1 and T2) recorded potential Romano-British or medieval deposits at a depth of c.0.50m below the existing ground surface. The two test pits to the south of the bank (T3 and T4) were 0.50m deep and did not encounter significant archaeological deposits (Warwickshire Museum 1997, 3).

1.4 An archaeological excavation, measuring 5.0m x 7.0m, was subsequently carried out along the Bleachfield Street frontage in advance of the development. Ground disturbance associated with the development elsewhere on the site was subsequently observed and recorded.

1.5 Full excavation along the Stratford Road frontage was not necessary. One of the plots was within the area previously fully excavated in 1975. The building on the second was designed with foundations that minimised disturbance to archaeological deposits, and observation and recording of disturbance associated with the development was considered acceptable.

1.6 Excavation work was carried out in August-September 1997 followed by the required observation of the groundworks. It was originally intended to prepare a post-excitation assessment, to be followed by further analysis and publication. Much of the present report was drafted as the assessment, but unfortunately it was not possible to carry out the full programme at that time. As now completed, this report therefore presents a description of the site sequence, with assessments of the most significant artefact assemblages, the charred plant remains and the animal bone. Brief recommendations are made, but no detailed analysis has been undertaken. The project archive, including the finds and environmental material, is stored at the Warwickshire Museum under site code ALB97 and is available for more detailed work in the future should this become feasible.

## 2. Location

2.1 The development area is located adjacent to Lloyd's Bank, Alcester, Warwickshire, centred on national grid reference SP 0891 5726 (Fig. 1). The bank is on the corner of Bleachfield Street and Stratford Road, and development took place on both frontages, to the south and east of the existing building. The total area of the development covered some 1550 square metres which was formerly garden and car parking.

2.2 The underlying geology of the site 1st-2nd River Terrace Gravels (British Geological Survey 1974).

## 3. Archaeological and Historical Background

### *Romano-British*

3.1 The site of the development lies in the southern suburbs of the Romano-British town of Alcester (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record MWA 4495), which was probably known as *Alauna* at this time (Fig. 1). Three areas within the town which have remained relatively undeveloped are Scheduled as an Ancient Monument (SAM 128). The original Roman presence was military with a fort originally established on the hill south of the river and succeeded by another in the Bleachfield Street area. The town seems to have first grown around the latter fort, and then continued to expand as a civilian settlement after the army moved northwards, the occupation lasting through the Roman period until the end of the 4th century at least. The core of the town, which was defended by a rampart in the 2nd century and by a wall in the 4th century, lay on either side of Henley Street and High Street. There was also a large suburban area to the south extending from east of Bleachfield Street, over the former fort, to north of Evesham Street and Seggs Lane (Warwickshire Museum 1995, 3). The town was at the junction of three major Roman roads. Ryknild Street (HER MWA 445) was a major north-south route from Bourton-on-the-Water on the Fosse Way to Templeborough in South Yorkshire. A second road (HER MWA 495), later known as the Salt Way, ran north westwards along the line of Cold Comfort Lane to Droitwich, a centre of the salt industry. A third road (HER MWA 446, Fig 1) ran eastwards to Stratford and the Fosse Way.

3.2 In 1975, excavations to the east of the site, in the former gardens of Lloyd's Bank (Fig. 2), uncovered evidence of archaeological activity dating from the early Romano-British period (HER MWA 501). Late 1st- to early 2nd-century boundary features on a NW-SE/SW-NE alignment had been re-used throughout the Romano-British period. These enclosed what appears to have been a yard area which contained successive wells (one with part of its wood lining still intact) in the early period. From the late 3rd/early 4th century the area was reused as a children's cemetery from which a cremation within a Severn Valley ware pot was recovered, along with sixteen inhumations spread over the western half of the site. Two of the burials were cut into a partially silted up boundary ditch.

3.3 An area immediately west of Bleachfield Street, near the development, was the subject of an archaeological excavation in 1976-77 (HER MWA 499). The site was excavated down to early 2nd-century deposits and revealed well-defined stratigraphy, with associated artefacts, from throughout the Roman period. This included evidence for successive stone and timber structures built around a yard, and both domestic and industrial activities. The latter included iron-smithing,

bronze- and bone-working and in the later Roman period there was extensive evidence for the slaughtering and butchery of cattle (Booth and Evans 2001, 3, 299). An archaeological observation carried out over the same general area in 1993 recovered further evidence for Romano-British activity along the present Bleachfield Street frontage. No evidence was recovered for the Roman road whose line was thought to run through the area (Warwickshire Museum 1994, 6).

3.4 Another large excavation to the south west on Bleachfield Street (the Baromix site) in 1969 and 1972, recovered evidence of further Roman activity from throughout the occupation period (HER MWA 500). Construction in timber took place in the 1st century, some of it suggestive of military occupation, before the buildings were destroyed and the area re-built in the first half of the 2nd century. From this time the area lay on the outskirts of the town, with a few wooden buildings and yards containing pits, but from the late 3rd century until the end of the Romano-British period it appears to have become part of a market area with stone structures and gravel surfaces. Further excavations took place in 2005 but are not yet fully published (Arch Inv 2005; not on plan).

3.5 To the east of the present site small trial excavations in 1982 and a watching brief in 1983 recorded gravel surfaces of the 1st to 2nd centuries. The 1982 excavations also recovered evidence for a structure of possible Romano-British date, including a beam-slot, a posthole and a clay floor (HER MWA 3787; Cracknell 1983, 81). Further archaeological evaluations in this area in 1989 and 1993 confirmed the presence of Romano-British deposits, the latter including *tesserae* from a possible villa or other substantial building (HER MWA 7196; Warwickshire Museum 1989; Warwickshire Museum 1993, 9). Previous archaeological work in this area and immediately to the south in 1965 had recorded the remains of late 1st/2nd-century timber buildings and ditch, and a stone building with a hypocaust dating to the late 3rd-4th century (Mahany 1965, 3; Mahany 1994, 136-140; not on plan). Earlier work on a cable trench in the same vicinity had unearthed Roman pottery and two human skulls (HER MWA 513; not on plan).

3.6 From archaeological excavation and the known alignments of Roman roads it was suspected that a Roman road (HER MWA 451) ran NE-SW under the current frontage of the west side of Bleachfield St, in the area of the current development.

3.7 A number of other Romano-British finds and features have been recorded from the north end of Bleachfield Street (none shown on Fig. 1). These include: post-hole buildings, stone buildings, pits and 1st-2nd century finds from excavations west of the street in 1959 (HER MWA 3883); a Romano-British gravel surface west of the street on a 1984 excavation (HER MWA 4874); Romano-British feature, coins, pottery and animal bone from archaeological observation west of the street in 1992 (HER MWA 7325); a stone building and Romano-British pottery and coins to the south of the current development from test pitting in 1985 (HER MWA 4899).

#### *Anglo-Saxon*

3.8 A sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery recovered from one of the ditch fills in the excavations of the Lloyd's Bank gardens (Booth and Evans 2001, 116-123) has been interpreted as suggesting that the boundary lines were preserved into at least the 6th/7th century, although this is perhaps questionable (see below). In 1964 Hughes recovered a 7th-century silver bracelet from his excavation south of the former Almshouses on Bleachfield Street (HER MWA 6461). Following this the area came under the plough and the next main phase of activity did not occur until after the Norman conquest.

## *Medieval and Post-medieval*

3.9 The medieval town was centred on the present High Street and the former Roman defended area, with an extension to the south-west (HER MWA 9585). The excavations in the former gardens of Lloyd's Bank in 1975 uncovered evidence of archaeological activity dating into the medieval period. This included a rectangular oven to the south (HER MWA 5492) and an alignment of stone-lined postholes next to a stone-lined cistern (HER MWA 5493). From the 12th to the 14th centuries there appears to have been a sequence of three structures on the site and two contemporary stone-lined tanks suggest that some form of industrial activity was taking place. After this little evidence appears other than a few pits, and it has been assumed that the area was occupied by rear tenements of structures fronting onto Bleachfield Street in the later medieval and early post-medieval periods (Booth and Evans 1975, 50; Booth and Evans 2001, 111-115).

3.10 To the west of Bleachfield Street, excavation in 1976 recorded evidence for the medieval and post-medieval periods pre-dating the construction of the 17th-century house which formerly occupied the street frontage. This included 13th- to 15th-century pit-digging, and a hearth and associated structure succeeded by a 14th century building (HER MWA 5490). An archaeological observation carried out over the same general area in 1993 recovered further evidence medieval activity along the present Bleachfield Street frontage.

3.11 Work at the Baromix site further south on Bleachfield Street showed that the area was re-occupied during the medieval period, when 12th/13th-century industrial activity is evidenced by stone ovens, probably malting kilns (HER MWA 4493).

## **4. Methods**

### *Excavation*

4.1 The topsoil and recent deposits were removed by a machine using a toothless ditching bucket and excavation then proceeded by hand. Archaeological deposits and features thus revealed were excavated, and all features and deposits recorded using the standard Warwickshire Museum system. Features were photographed in monochrome and colour, and plans and sections drawn at suitable scales.

### *Observation*

4.2 Topsoil and other overburden was removed by machine, followed by the machine-excavation of foundation trenches. The ground reduction and trench excavation were archaeologically monitored and any features observed were recorded.

## **5. Excavation and Observation**

### *Excavation*

5.1 The trench measured 5.0m x 7.0m and was aligned NE-SW in the southern part of the footprint of the proposed development (Figs. 3, 4). Within the trench the tarmac and other modern deposits were removed by JCB-type machine using a toothless ditching bucket. Further excavation was carried out by hand.

### *Romano-British*

5.2 At the south and west sides of the trench the geological natural gravel (123, 127, 128) was cut by a series of large pits (116, 117, 118). Pit 116 lay in the south-western side of the trench and was c.2m across, roughly rectangular in shape with sloping sides and a fairly flat base. Environmental evidence suggests that it was a cess pit. Pits 117 and 118 lay in the southern part of the trench. The precise extent of each, and the relationship between the two, could not be established. Both were irregular in shape with steeply-sloping sides and a flat base. It is conceivable that they are actually a single very large and irregular pit. The fills of all three contained pottery from the 2nd to 4th centuries.

5.3 In the northern corner of the trench the geological natural clay (111) was cut by an oval posthole with near-vertical sides, measuring 0.16m deep (115). The posthole contained 2nd-century samian pottery as well as animal bone and a fragment of iron.

### *Medieval*

5.4 No medieval features were noted in the excavation, but a single fragment of green-glazed, decorated roofing tile of medieval date was recovered from the cleaning of the site.

### *Post-medieval and modern*

5.5 Most of the northern and eastern part of the trench was occupied by features of post-medieval date, including a deposit of mixed green clay that was probably an 18th-century make-up layer (122). In the centre of the trench was an 18th-century well (104), made of thin bricks held together by a matrix of red-brown sand. The bricks measured 0.23m x 0.11m x 0.05m, considerably thinner than modern bricks and probably pre-dating the brick tax of 1784. The well had an internal diameter of 0.85m, and was constructed within a circular construction trench (108) that cut clay 122. The fill of the well contained fragments of 18th/19th-century and modern pottery as well as glass, iron fragments, stucco, tile and slate. It seems likely that the well was backfilled during the middle of the 20th century.

5.6 A series of post-medieval walls (105, 112, 113, 114), a stone surface (106) and drains (109) were also recorded along the south-east facing section of the trench. These can be related to buildings shown on 19th- and early 20th-century Ordnance Survey maps. The cut (107) for a modern ceramic drain (110) and another post medieval wall (120) were also recorded in the north-east corner.

5.7 The fill of Romano-British cess pit 116 had been cut by a smaller pit (126), with a series of fills containing post-medieval tile and 16th/17th-century Blackware pottery.

5.8 The majority of the features were covered by a modern demolition layer (102) and make-up layers (101, 119) for the modern tarmac surface (100).

### *Undated*

5.9 A small post hole (121) produced no dating evidence.

### *Observation of trenches*

5.10 Observation of trenches adjacent to the excavated area produced no significant new evidence.

5.11 Topsoil stripping was observed in the north-eastern part of the site, on the Stratford Road frontage, before the house foundations were excavated. A quantity of post-medieval metalwork was recovered, including a 17th-century coin. The

foundation trenches for the houses were 1.3m deep of which the lower 0.50m was natural sand and gravel. No features were noted but a small amount of Roman pottery and a Roman glass bead were recovered.

## 6. The Finds and Environmental Evidence

6.1 The following summaries were produced c.1998 as assessments only, and do not constitute full analytical reports. Additional comments by Catherine Coutts and Ian Greig were added in 2010. Recommendations for further work, should this become possible, are summarised in section 7.6 below. Only the most significant finds and assemblages were assessed; a full list of finds by context is given in Appendix A.

### The pottery: initial assessment by Jerry Evans

6.2 Roman and later pottery was recovered from the site (Table 1). The Roman sherds span a 1st- to 4th-century date range with most of the material being of 2nd- or 3rd-century date with the peak being in the 2nd century. The collection is small and does not merit full quantification or publication.

6.3 There are also five sherds from a 6th/7th-century Anglo-Saxon vessel from the site, an item of some significance being only the third such vessel from Alcester, and emphasising the importance of this location in the period (Fig. 4). One of the two previous Anglo-Saxon vessels, and the only feature thought at the time to date from this period, came from the 1975 excavations at Lloyd's Bank (Evans 2001, 121).

Table 1: Pottery

	A	B	C11	F	F51	G	Mal	Sav	M	O	O20	Q	R	R31	S	W	Z10	Z30
T1											1							1
T2										1								5
u/s		2		1							3		1					
102											1		1		1			
104																		4
109											1		1				5	
115											1				1			
116	1	23			1?	4			1	4	58	1	11		14			
117		33					1		1	2	3		3		2			
118	1	15				4		1		7	24	10	48	1	12	3		
125		1											3		2			
126		2																1
200		2	1		2	2					2	1	1					20
TOT.	2	78	1	1	3	10	1	1	2	14	94	12	69	1	32	3	5	31
%	0.6	24.1	0.3	0.3	0.9	3.1	0.3	0.3	0.6	4.3	29.1	3.4	21.4	0.3	9.9	0.9		

A	Amphorae	M	Mortaria
B	Black burnished ware	O	Oxidised
C	Calcareous tempered	Q	White slipped flagon
E	Early wheel made	R	Reduced
F	Colour coated wares	S	Samian
G	Heavily gritted	W	White ware
Mal	Malvernian	Z10	Anglo-Saxon
Sav	Savernake	Z30	Post-medieval pottery



## **The Anglo-Saxon pottery: additional comments by Catherine Coumts**

### *Description*

6.4 ALB97, context 109/1: six sherds in grey fabric, some internal oxidisation, with cross-cross burnishing on shoulder (Fig. 5). All sherds from the same vessel, four adjoining rim/shoulder fragments and two adjoining body fragments. The vessel has a simple everted rim and round shoulder. Fabric slightly rough with hackly fracture. Hand-made with abundant, moderately well-sorted, sub-rounded quartz sand 0.3-0.5mm and occasional rounded ?limestone up to 5mm. No voids.

### *Comparison with material from the 1975 excavations*

6.5 A brief re-examination of the material from the 1975 excavations was carried out for this report, with the intention of comparing the form and fabric with those from the present excavation. In the published report, Evans does not describe the Saxon pottery found at Alcester in 1975, simply noting 'a Saxon rimsherd' 'presumably 6th or 7th century' in date. The illustrated sherd is from a vessel with a c.150mm diameter rim and undecorated shoulder form (Evans 2001, 120, 121). Two Anglo-Saxon sherds from the 1975 excavations were located in the archive and re-examined for this report: sherd G2 (ALB75 I 4) and sherd G3 (ALB75 3). No other sherds could be found.

6.6 Neither of these appear to be the sherd illustrated (Evans 2001, 120), which is larger, thicker and has a much more sloping shoulder and upright rim than the sherds examined for this report. Both are in the same fabric and one (G3) has a slightly beaded rim internally, smooth black surfaces and grey core. G2 has a slightly thickened rim and is grey throughout. They may even be from different sides of the same vessel. The fabric is hard and coarse, and contains poorly sorted, rounded quartz sand from 0.3mm to 2mm across and moderate limestone fragments ranging in size from c.0.1mm to 1-2mm, and occasional mica. There are no voids.

6.7 The Anglo-Saxon sherd(s) from ALB75 were recovered from Beam Slot 2 (ALB75 I (4) F1), a beam slot at the south-east end of the site parallel to Beam Slot 4. The beam slot was 0.60m wide and 0.20m deep, with straight, upright sides and a flat bottom. The report dates it as Anglo-Saxon, representing a 'continuation of' the property boundary represented by Beam Slot 4, which was dated to the late 3rd/4th century (Phase III).

6.8 However, it would seem unlikely that Beam Slot 2 should be seen as a 'continuation of' the property boundary represented by Beam Slot 4, 200-300 years later. The remainder of the pottery from Beam Slot 2 was 1st- to 4th-century Roman material. It is perhaps more likely that Beam Slots 2 and 4, which lie about 0.20m away from each other, are contemporary and both belong to ALB75 Phase III (late 3rd/4th century), the Anglo-Saxon material being intrusive.

### **The medieval ridge tile identified by Jerry Evans with additional comments by Ian Greig**

6.9 A green-glazed crested medieval roof ridge tile was recovered from the cleaning of the site after the upper, modern layers had been removed by machine. The decoration is in the form of upstanding triangles, sometimes described as 'cock's comb' (Fig. 5). Evans considered (writing c.1998) that this may represent the first evidence of production of these in Alcester.

6.10 Cherry (1991) notes that the earliest medieval ridge tiles date from the 13th century. A similar, though unglazed, example from York is illustrated by Spall and Toop (2005), who refer to comparable tiles from Southampton being dated from the 13th to 14th centuries.

## The charred plant remains by Lisa Moffett

6.11 Samples for plant macrofossil remains were taken from three Roman pits during the excavations. One of the pits was of interest because it was a 3rd-century cess pit.

6.12 The samples were processed by water flotation decanting onto a 850 $\mu$  mesh sieve. The resulting flots were dried, bagged and labelled and given to the author to assess their potential for further analysis. The flots were assessed by scanning under a low power binocular microscope at x10 magnification. The items present were noted and a rapid identification made.

6.13 Two of the three flots (116/4/1 and 118/1/1) produced fairly abundant plant remains. The third (117/1/1) did produce some remains, though less abundantly, and also had a fair amount of wood charcoal. The cess-pit (116/4/1) had both charred and mineralised seeds, as well as mineralised fly puparia, small fragments of bone and fish scales, all suggestive of cess-pit material. The mineralised seeds were difficult to identify and more time would have been needed to take the identifications further. The other pit (118/1/1) produced fairly abundant grain which seemed to have germinated.

**Table 2: Plant and other remains from Roman pits**

Sample:	116/4/1	117/1/1	118/1/1	
Context type:	cesspit	pit	pit	
Sample size:	8kg	14kg	14kg	
Flot size:	18ml	31ml	17ml	
% scanned	100	30	100	
Recommended for further analysis	yes	no	yes	
+ present; items charred unless noted otherwise				
M mineralised				
				<b>Common Name</b>
<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i> glume bases	+	+	+	emmer/spelt
<i>Triticum</i> sp. grains	+	+	-	wheat
<i>Triticum</i> sp. germinated grains	-	+	+	sprouted wheat
Cereal indet. coleoptile	-	+	-	cereal sprout
Cereal indet. embryo M	+	-	-	cereal embryo
Cereal/Poaceae culm node M	+	-	-	cereal/grass stem node
cf. <i>Pisum sativum</i>	-	-	+	pea
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	+	-	-	hazel
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	+	-	-	fat hen/goosefoot
<i>Rumex/Carex</i> M	+	-	-	dock/sedge
<i>Maloaceae</i> M	+	-	-	marrow family
<i>Conium maculatum</i> M	+	-	-	hemlock
Dicotyledonous taproot fragments	-	-	+	dicot. root fragments
<i>Bromus</i> sp.	-	-	+	brome grass
?bran/testa fragments M	+	-	-	
unidentified seeds M	+	-	-	
fish scales	+	-	+	
fly puparia M	+	-	-	
small bone fragments	+	-	-	

## **The animal bone by Pat Collins**

6.14 The small amount of animal bones recovered were identified. All contexts which produced animal bone were studied, although the cleaning layer was merely scanned for anything unusual.

6.15 Seventy-three fragments were identifiable and comprise mixed body parts, mainly of cow and sheep/goat, plus a few pig and unidentified bird bones. In addition, a sieved sample from one context produced a large number of frog/toad bones. Around one third of the identifiable fragments were gnawed, indicating that the material had been subject to heavy carnivore attrition. Aside from this, the bones were well preserved, with no signs of burning other than on a few unidentifiable fragments, and no indication of erosion other than on a single red/fallow deer antler. Twelve pieces showed traces of butchery, but there was nothing else of note.

6.16 The general picture indicated by the assemblage is that it consists of typical kitchen/table waste. It would be possible to undertake more detailed analysis of the bone assemblage, including a more thorough identification of body part, species, butchery, pathology, gnawing, burning etc, and it is possible that more useful information concerning diet in this part of Roman Alcester could be obtained by such a study.

## **7. Conclusions**

7.1 A series of inter-cutting Romano-British pits (or possibly one very large irregular pit), postholes and a cess-pit were excavated. Pottery in their fills dates them all to the 3rd/4th centuries. The cess-pit contained charred and mineralised seeds, mineralised fly puparia, numerous frog/toad bones and fish scales, all suggestive of cess-pit material. The irregular nature of the other pit(s) suggests quarrying.

7.2 The cess pit was probably associated with a nearby building, although no structural evidence was identified apart from the single post-hole in the north-east part of the excavated area. It presumably lay beyond the excavated area, although no evidence for such a building (or indeed anything else) was recorded from any of the trench observations, possibly reflecting site conditions rather than a true absence of features.

7.3 Five sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered from the fill of a modern gully. While these were certainly redeposited, they do attest to activity in the area during the 6th/7th centuries, and complement a small amount of similar material found in the 1975 excavations. The 1975 sherds were interpreted as dating a beamslot on that site to the Anglo-Saxon period. Coutts (above) suggests that they are more likely to be intrusive in an otherwise Roman assemblage, and the feature actually to be of late 3rd/4th-century date.

7.4 Surprisingly, given its location in an area of known medieval development, no medieval evidence was found other than the fragment of decorated roof tile. This is a rare find and, although its origin cannot be stated with any certainty, Evans (above) suggested that it may represent the first evidence of production of these in Alcester.

7.5 The Romano-British elements of the area excavated were heavily disturbed by post-medieval and modern features over most of the northern two-thirds of the site. The most prominent of these was a brick-lined well of 18th-century date that was backfilled during the 20th century. Other features included wall foundations and a pit with post-medieval pottery in its fill.

## Recommendations

7.6 Should further work on the material archive become possible, the two environmental samples from the cess pit (116) and pit (118) are most worthy of attention. The Anglo-Saxon sherds are significant because of the rarity of pottery of this date from Alcester. A more detailed comparison could be carried out if other sherds from the 1975 excavations were available. The Romano-British pottery could be studied in more detail and compared with the much larger nearby assemblages from the 1976 excavations and also the 2005 excavations on the western side of Bleachfield Street (Arch Inv 2010), although the assessment suggests this would be unlikely to add significant new information. The animal bone could also merit some attention. The stratigraphic sequence does not merit detailed study as the area examined was too small to interpret in isolation.

7.7 If such work is carried out, a short note or summary report on the excavation, highlighting the Romano-British environmental evidence, the Anglo-Saxon sherds and the medieval crested roof tile should be submitted for publication in *Transactions of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society*.

## Acknowledgements

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## Appendix A: List of Finds

<i>Context</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Date/comments</i>
0	Pottery	7	2nd-century or later
0	Roof tile	1	Medieval glazed ridge tile
0	Tile	1	
0	Animal bone	24	
0	Iron obj.	1	
102	Pottery	3	later 3rd- to 4th-century
104/1	Pottery	1	18th/19th-century
104/1	Pottery	3	Modern
104/1	Tile	4	Post-medieval
104/1	Window glass	9	Modern
104/1	Bottle glass	4	Modern
104/1	Slate	1	
104/1	Iron fragments	4	Modern, many others discarded
104/1	Stucco fragments	4	From chimney
109/1	Pottery	2	
109/1	Pottery	5	Anglo-Saxon
109/1	Animal bone	22	
115/1	Pottery	2	2nd-century
115/1	Tile	2	
115/1	Animal bone	1	
116/1	Pottery	93	3rd- to 4th-century
116/1	Tile	3	
116/1	Animal bone	49	
116/1	Worked bone	1	pin
116/1	Shell	17	oyster shell fragments
116/1	Iron	1	
116/1	Lava quern	1	fragment
116/1	Coal	1	
116/3	mineralised cess	sample	
116/2	Pottery	14	2nd- to 4th-century
116/2	Animal bone	29	
116/2	Shell	2	
116/2	Iron nail	1	
116/4	Pottery	12	3rd-century
116/4	Tile	7	
116/4	Animal bone	sieved sample	
117/1	Pottery	45	2nd- to 3rd/4th-century
117/1	Tile	5	
117/1	Animal bone	3	
118/1	Pottery	70	2nd- to 3rd/4th-century including gaming counter
118/1	Tile	8	
118/1	Animal bone	22	

118/1	Shell	6	Oyster shell fragments
118/1	Slag	1	
118/1	Mortar	2	
118/2	Pottery	17	1st- to 2nd-century
118/2	Tile	6	
118/2	Animal bone	4	
118/2	Iron obj.	1	
118/2	Slag	1	
118/3	Pottery	29	1st- to late 3rd-/early 4th-century
118/3	Tile/brick	11	
118/3	Mortar	1	
118/3	Animal bone	9	
118/3	Slag	2	
118/4	Pottery	10	2nd-century or later
118/4	Tile	1	
118/4	Animal bone		
119	Stone	1	Post-medieval wig-curler
125	Pottery	6	2nd-century
125	Animal bone	5	
126/1	Pottery	2	2nd-century
126/1	Tile	7	
126/1	Animal bone	7	
126/1	Stucco	1	Post-medieval
126/2	Tile	2	
126/2	Animal bone	2	
126/4	Pottery	1	mid 16th- to 17th-century Blackware
126/4	Tile	2	Post-medieval

#### Finds from topsoil stripping and the excavation of foundation trenches

200	Pottery	11	2nd- to later 4th-century
200	Pottery	20	19th/20th-century
200	Glass	1	possible Roman
200	Glass bead	1	Roman
200	Glass	9	Modern
200	Shell	1	
SF 23	Cu alloy	1	small ring
SF 24	Cu alloy	1	ring - 40mm diameter
SF 25	Cu alloy + Fe	1	object - modern
SF 26	Cu alloy	1	ring - 40mm diameter
SF 27	Silver	1	coin of William III, dated 1696 bent into love token
SF 28	Cu alloy	1	corroded coin
SF 29	Cu alloy + Fe	1	modern object
SF 30	Cu alloy	1	coin - 1862 ha'penny
SF 32	Cu alloy	1	decorated strip
SF 33	Cu alloy	1	decorated finger-ring

## Appendix B: List of Contexts

0	cleaning layer across the site
100	car park tarmac
101	make-up for car park
102	general spread of demolition debris
103	modern limestone rubble
104	18th century well
104/1	upper rubble fill of well
104/2	dark grey silty fill of well
105	post-medieval wall
106	stone paving remnant
107	cut for ceramic drain 110
108	construction cut for well 104
108/1	red brown sandy silt fill of well construction cut
109	modern drain cut
109/1	dark grey brown silt fill
110	ceramic drain pipe
111	red silty clay in NE of trench, geological natural
112	stub of brick wall in section
113	stub of brick wall in section
114	stub of brick wall in section
115	posthole
115/1	dark grey silty posthole fill
116	large cess-pit
116/1	upper fill of pit 116 - dark brown silty loam
116/2	charcoal fill within pit 116
116/3	layer of mineralised cess pit fill
116/4	lowest pit fill of 116 -grey silty clay
117	pit
117/1	dark grey brown silt with pebbles pit fill
117/2	dark silty clay loam pit fill
118	large pit
118/1	dark silty clay loam pit fill
118/2	brown silt pit fill
118/3	grey brown silty loam pit fill
118/4	lighter brown silty loam pit fill
119	modern make-up layer
120	post-medieval wall foundations
121	posthole
122	green clay, 18th century levelling layer
123	gravel layer, cut by 116 and ?117, geological natural
124	construction cut for wall 112
125	thin layer
126	post-medieval pit
126/1	pit fill
126/2	brown loam pit fill
126/3	orange sand pit fill
126/4	pit fill
126/5	pit fill
127	geological natural/redeposited gravel
128	greyer gravel below 128 / 127, geological natural
129	gravel pit fill of 117 and/or 118



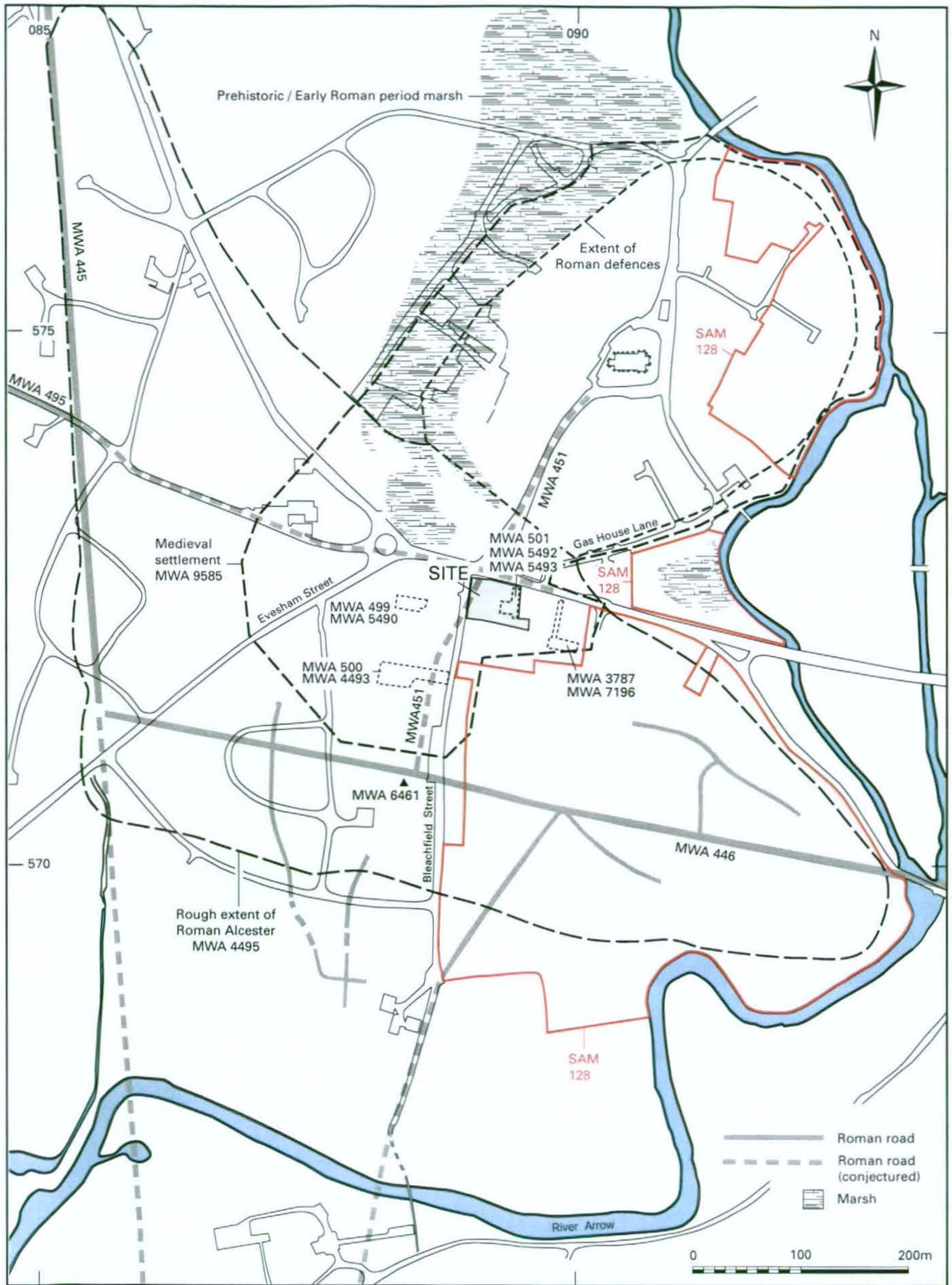


Fig. 1: Site location

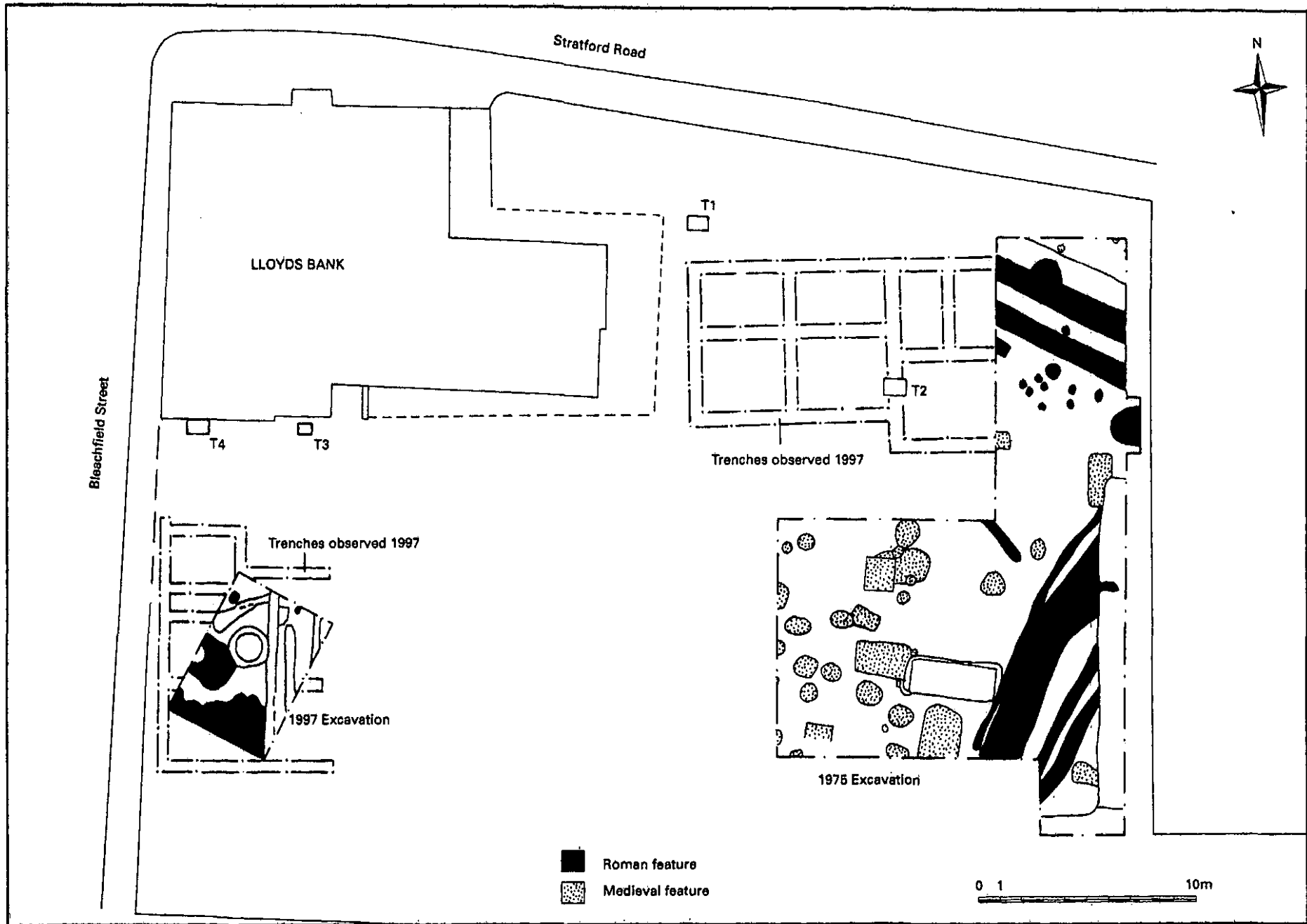


Fig. 2: Areas excavated and observed

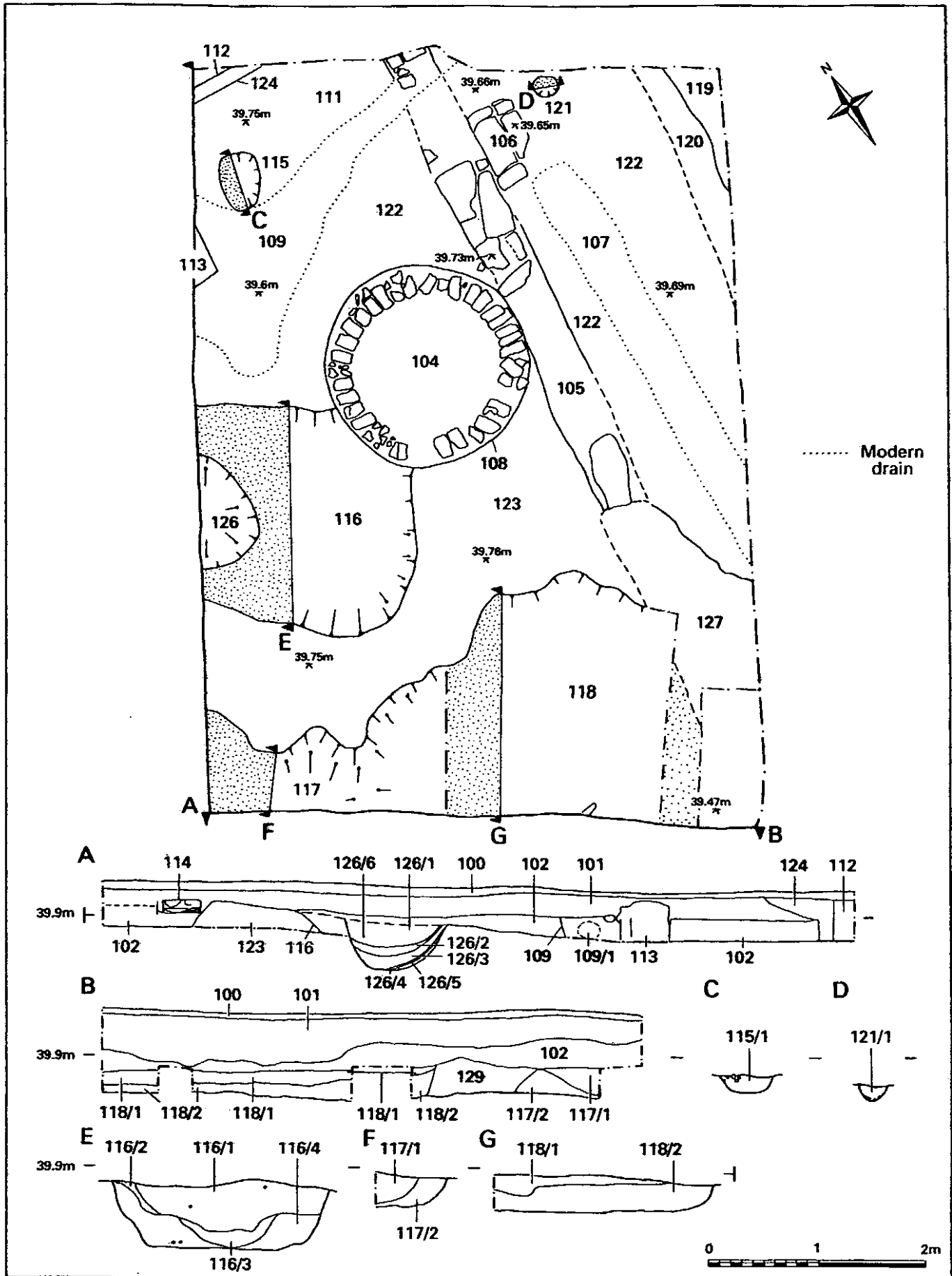


Fig. 3: Trench plan and sections



Fig. 4: Excavated trench looking south

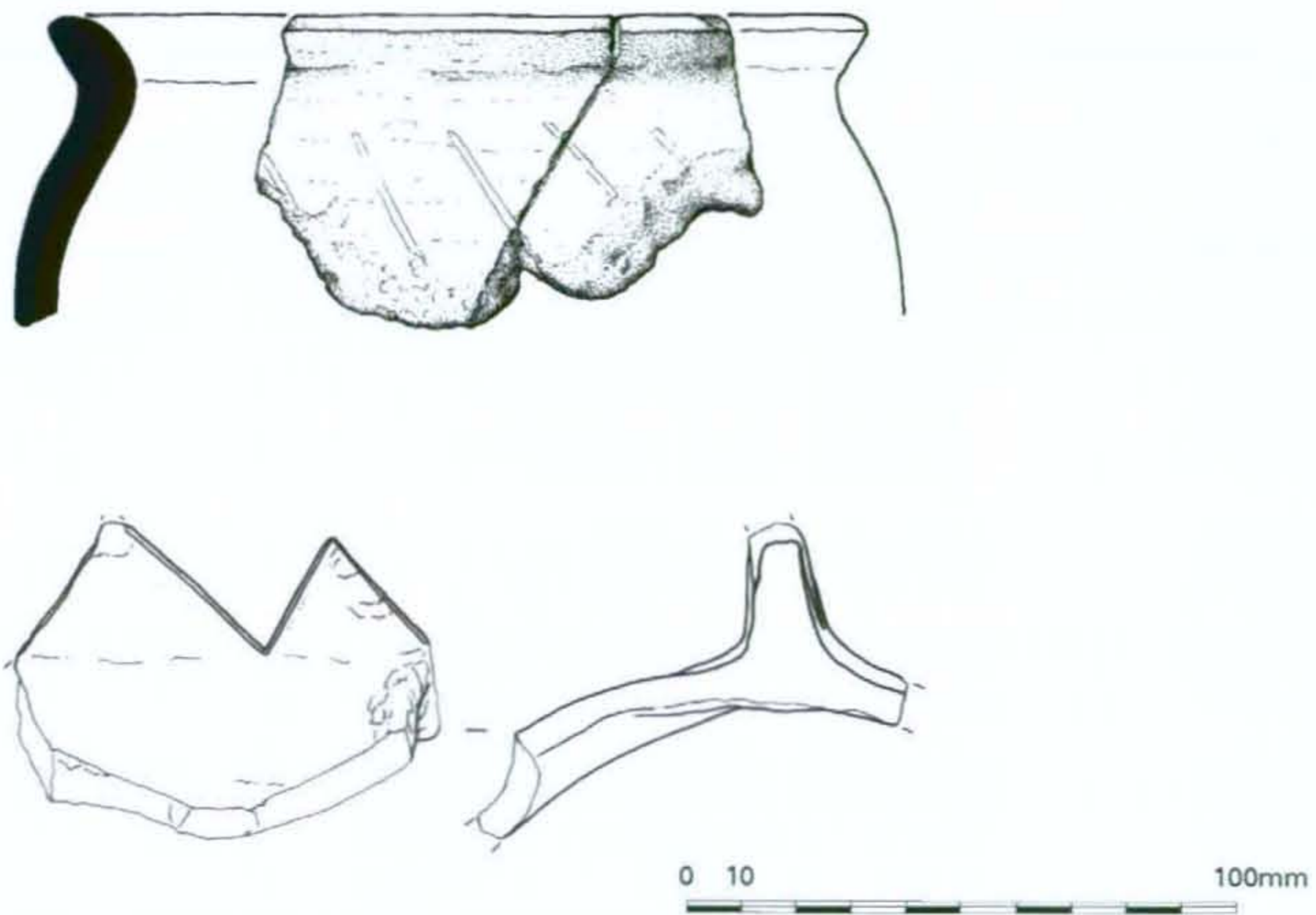


Fig. 5: Decorated Anglo-Saxon pottery from context 109/1, and medieval crested ridge tile

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