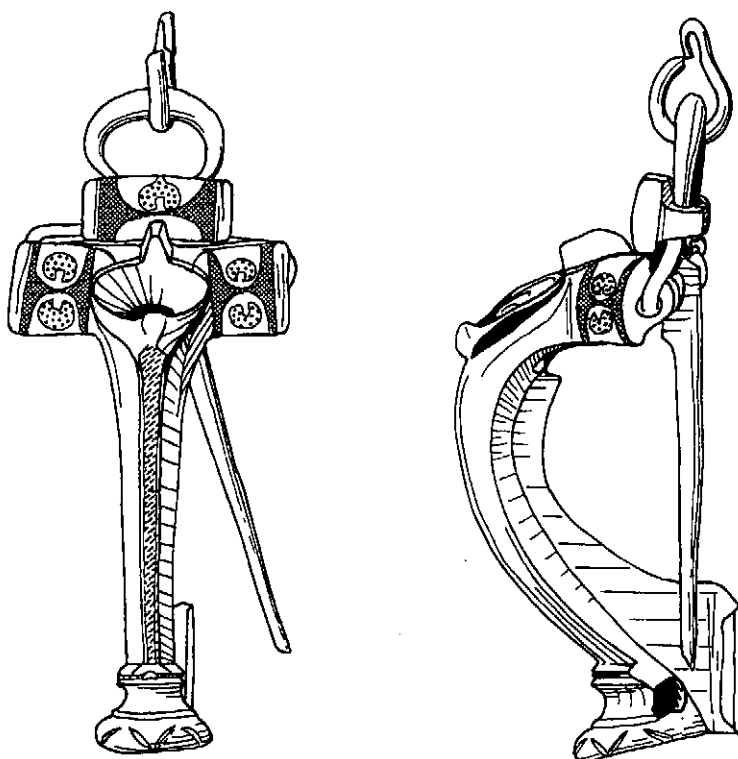


SWA 19555
EWA 7642
MWA 10263

Archaeological Evaluation at Ennersdale Road, Coleshill, Warwickshire



Report 0563

December 2005



Warwickshire
County Council

Archaeological Evaluation at Ennersdale Road, Coleshill, Warwickshire

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Summary

Archaeological evaluation of land around Ennersdale Road, Coleshill to the south of the known Roman settlement, recorded a wide distribution of occupation and possible boundary features across the eastern part of the site. This included a large ditch or pit and various domestic rubbish pits containing 2nd- to 4th-century pottery. Other gullies and pits were also recorded and a single hearth or oven and a pebble surface were revealed. The distribution of features and finds suggest that the site lies within or on the edge of a Romano-British settlement. No evidence of medieval activity was recorded.

1. Introduction

1.1. Planning permission has been granted by North Warwickshire Borough Council for a residential development consisting of the erection of 46 houses and bungalows and associated parking and other services on land on either side of Ennersdale Road, Coleshill, Warwickshire (Planning Ref. PCOLT/1147/98/FAP). Since the site of the proposed development lies within an area of potential archaeological importance, adjacent to a known Romano-British settlement, it was a condition of the planning permission that a programme of archaeological evaluation should be carried out prior to the start of development.

1.2. A programme of fieldwork was carried out by Warwickshire Museum Field Archaeology Projects Group at the edge of the residential area around Ennersdale Road in accordance with a Brief prepared by the Planning Archaeologist (May 2005) on behalf of the Planning Authority. Fieldwork was carried out during October and November 2005. This report presents the results of the fieldwork. The project archive will be stored at the Warwickshire Museum under site code CE05.

2. Location

2.1. The site of the development lies on either side of the north end of Ennersdale Road and Ennersdale Bungalows in the parish of Coleshill, Warwickshire, centred around national grid reference SP 198 902 (Fig. 1). The total area of the current proposal covers some 0.95 hectares, which is currently rough ground between existing housing. The open parts of the site were previously occupied by a number of prefabricated bungalows.

2.2. The site lies to the west of the River Cole on the eastern side of a small ridge and the site slopes gradually from west to east. This rises to a maximum of 95m OD beyond the site and drops to 76m OD at the eastern limits of the site. The underlying geology of the development area is Mercia Mudstone (British Geological Survey 1955).

3. Archaeological Background

3.1. The first indication of human activity in the vicinity comes from the discovery of a number of Mesolithic and late Neolithic/early Bronze Age flints and late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pottery from a pit (Magilton 2005) unearthed during excavations in 1978 (Warwickshire Sites and Monuments Record No. WA 5129). These were, however, stray finds and may only suggest a presence in the general area.

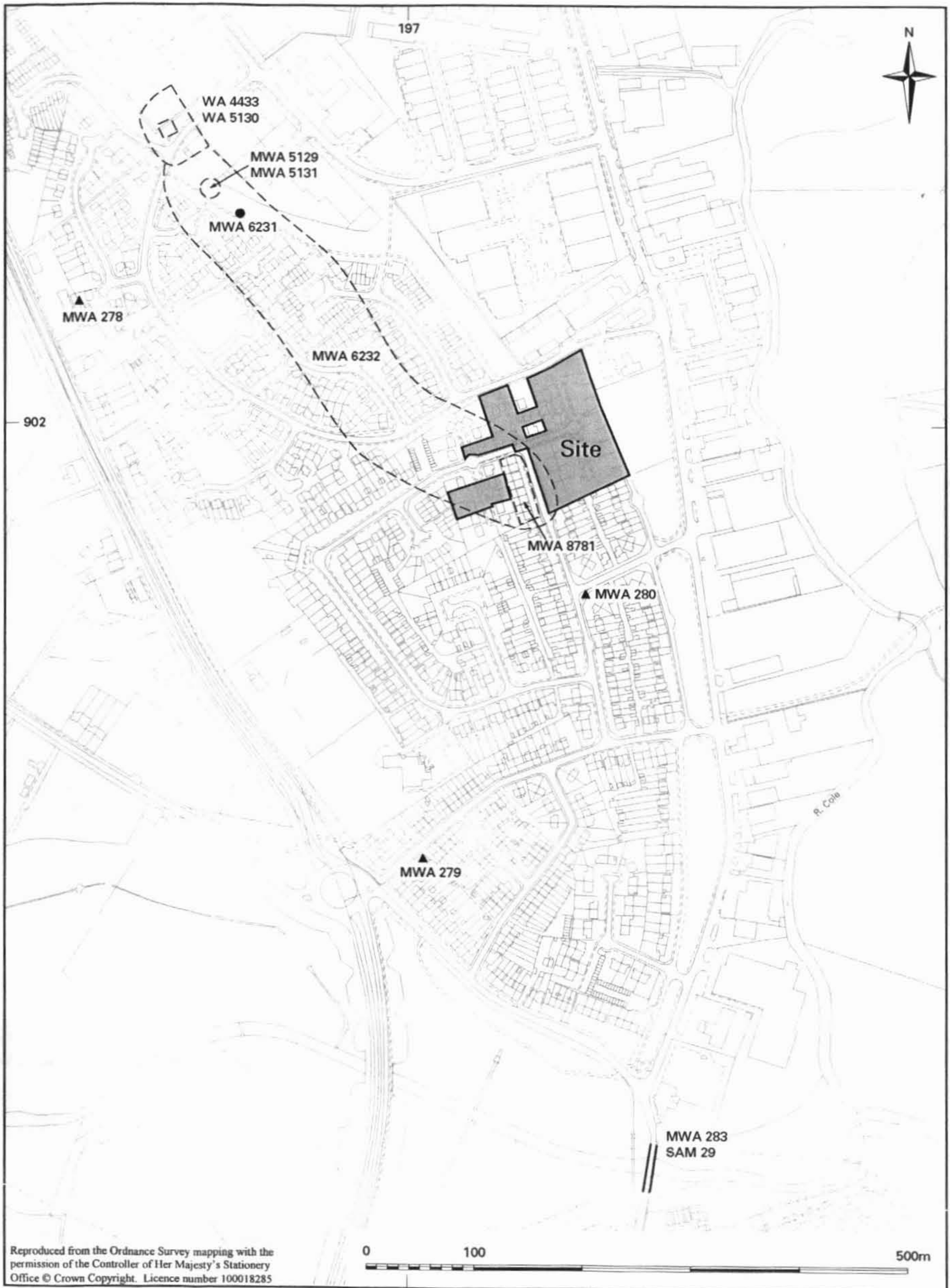


Fig. 1: Site Location

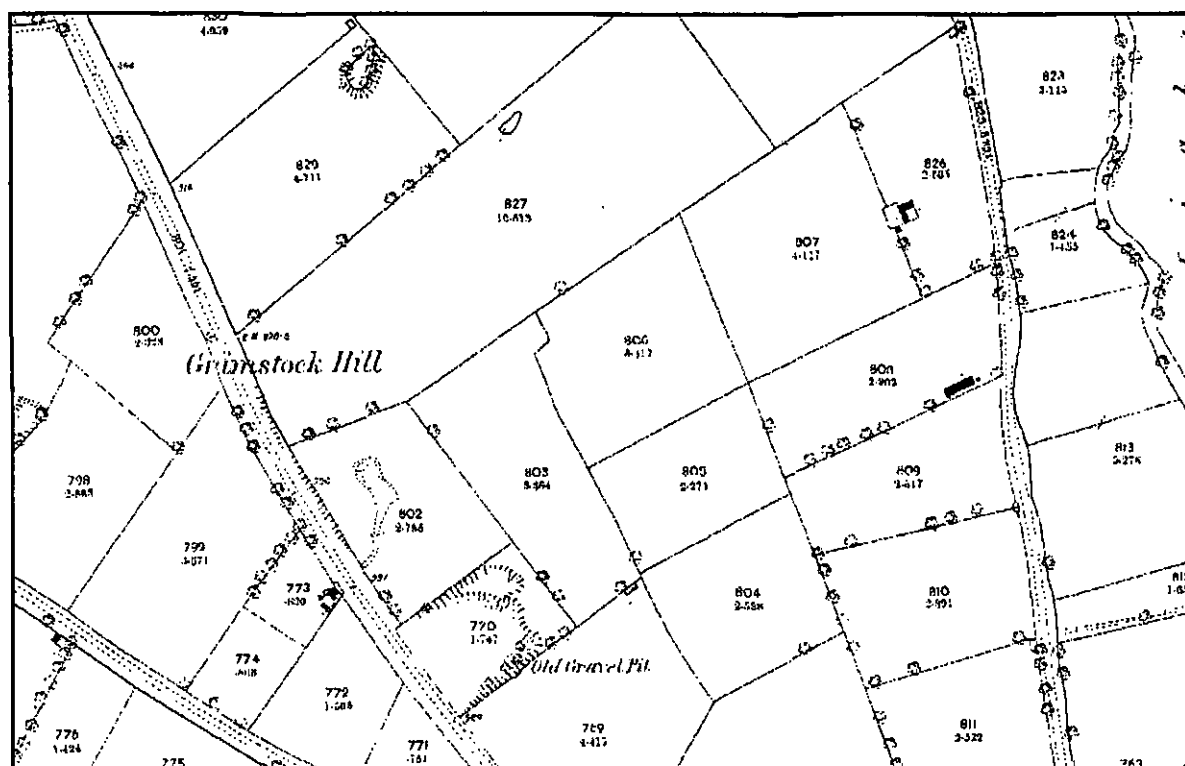


Fig. 2: Detail from Ordnance Survey First Edition 1:2500 map of 1884

3.2. The first evidence for occupation was a late Iron Age/early Roman settlement of 1st century AD date to the north of the development area (SMR WA 5130) just beyond the edge of the flood plain of the River Cole. This was made up of a number of round houses, one with a central hearth, bounded by a ditch with evidence for an associated palisade. Amongst the finds, along with hand-made and better quality imported pottery, were clay loom weights, spindle whorls and quern stones (Magilton 1980, 31-32).

3.3. The settlement was overlain by a later Romano-British temple (SMR WA 4433) which itself originated in the early 2nd century AD. The temple was initially made of wood, but the building was later replaced in stone, within a stone-walled enclosure (*temenos*). The temple continued in use, with various alterations, through until the 4th century (Magilton 1980, 32-5; 2005). A bath house (SMR WA 5131) and well (SMR WA 6231) immediately to the south of the temple may have been associated with it. However, the site was disturbed by modern development with only limited recording and little dating evidence survived (Magilton 1980, 36-8; 2005).

3.4. Further to the south of the temple was evidence for a Romano-British settlement of 2nd- to 4th-century AD date (SMR WA 6232), which would have succeeded that to the north. The evidence for this settlement, however, comes largely from salvage recording and its extent is therefore somewhat uncertain (Magilton 1980, 38). There have been other Romano-British finds from the vicinity in the form of coins. Usually these are individual finds (SMR WA 278) or perhaps up to three or four (SMR WA 279), but in 1939 a hoard of 3,250 bronze coins, of which those identified dated from 310-353 AD were unearthed in Ennersdale Close (SMR WA 280). These were found in the remains of a late Romano-British ceramic jar and would have been deposited perhaps during a period of political and/or economic uncertainty, in all likelihood outside the main area of the settlement (Magilton 1980, 38; 2005).

3.5. Archaeological observation work was carried out at Ennersdale Road in 1999 (SMR WA 8781) when the foundations of a Roman wall and a spread of Roman and

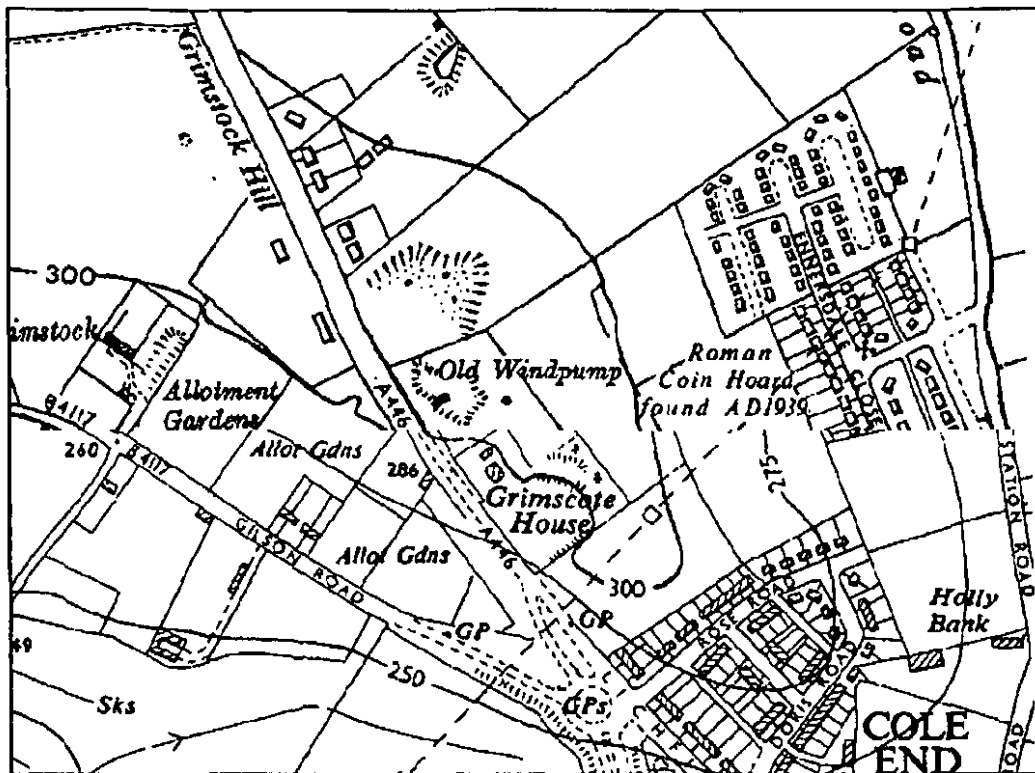


Fig. 3: Detail of Ordnance Survey 1:10000 map of 1955

medieval finds were recorded (Warwickshire Museum 2000). Other archaeological work was carried out in the vicinity included a watching brief to the north at Global Trading (Packaging) Ltd. carried out in 1998 on a warehouse extension (SMR WA 8206 not shown on Fig. 1); although no evidence for any archaeological activity pre-dating the 20th century was recorded during the work.

3.6. There is no evidence for occupation following the Romano-British period up until post-medieval times, the area having been farmland during the medieval period. At this time the main settlement of Coleshill lay in the area of the present town centre to the south of the river on the far side of the bridge, the existing structure of which is itself of 16th century origin (Scheduled Ancient Monument County No. 29; SMR WA 283).

3.7. Maps of the area show that it remained farmland into the post-medieval period, the area forming part of a single large field in the late 18th century when the proprietor was one Sarah Mason (Snape 1783). The area was divided up into smaller fields in the 19th century and what appears to be a barn or other farm outbuilding is shown from 1884 (Ordnance Survey 1884; Fig. 2, Ordnance Survey 1903).

3.8. At least one gravel extraction pit is shown on the 19th-century maps (Fig. 3) and it is likely that gravel was being dug from several locations to the west of the site during the 19th century.

3.9. Residential development started during the 1930s with the creation of Ennersdale Close and the southern end of Ennersdale Road (Ordnance Survey 1938) and this expanded further post-war with the whole area being developed by the 1970s.



Fig. 4: Location of evaluation trenches 1-12

4. Evaluation Trenches

4.1. A series of 12 evaluation trenches (numbered 1-12) were located across the site in positions agreed with the Planning Archaeologist (Fig. 4). Several trenches were subject to slight variations in order to avoid live water and electricity services. Several trenches were extended and a total of 330m of trench was excavated.

4.2. The trenches were excavated by a JCB-type machine removing topsoil, modern concrete and extensive deposits down to the top of significant archaeological

deposits. A temporary benchmark was established on site from an Ordnance Survey Bench Mark on Station Road (value 73.75m OD). Hand excavation and recording took place in the trenches and the results from the trenches are provided below.

Trench 1

4.3. The trench was located at the south end of the site and was orientated parallel to Ennersdale Road (Fig. 4). The position of the trench was adjusted slightly on several occasions in order to avoid a 'live' water service pipe. The trench totalled 30m in length and was between 1.6m and 1.8m wide and natural deposits occurred at several points along the trench. The natural sand and gravel (110) was revealed at the base of the trench at between approximately 80.20m OD and 79.66m OD.

4.4. No Roman or other early features were recorded. A modern service trench (102) extended along much of the length of the trench and was revealed to be at least 0.8m wide. Three brick-lined manholes (104, 105, 106) were also revealed at regular intervals on the eastern side of the trench. The brick manhole chamber (105) was at least 0.6m deep and cut into the natural deposits. These disused services were probably constructed for drainage from the previous bungalows fronting onto Ennersdale Road.

4.5. A lead water pipe (107) was also revealed and this 'live' pipe extended along the line of the western part of the trench. No trench cut was apparent for the pipe and it was most probably laid down at the same time as were the foundations for the bungalows. Several ceramic pipes (108, 109) were also revealed crossing the trench. These drains probably fed into other main sewer pipes. Concrete slabs for foundation bases of previous pre-fabricated bungalows and also rear yard areas were present across the line of the trench or immediately adjacent to it

Trench 2

4.6. Trench 2 was 28m long and 1.6m wide and excavated to approximately 1m deep (Fig. 6). Natural sandy clay (207) was revealed at the western end of the trench at approximately 79.96m OD. The natural layer contained increasing quantities of clay towards the eastern half of the trench and was recorded as layer (208). These deposits most likely represent variations in the geological natural. The natural layer sloped from west to east and at the eastern limit of the trench was at 78.39m OD (Fig. 6).

4.7. At the eastern limit of the trench a small gully or ditch (205) extended across the trench (Fig. 5). This was 0.8m wide and was aligned roughly south to north. The 0.24m deep gully was filled with a grey silty clay (206), but this contained no finds (Fig. 11, Section A).

4.8. An extensive layer of greyish brown silty sand with frequent pebbles (209) was recorded over much of the trench. This was 0.3m thick and contained no archaeological finds.

4.9. A thin make-up layer of brick fragments (202) was sealed by a 0.25m thick concrete slab (201), which was located at the western end of the trench and extended for 6.5m. A further make-up layer (204) and concrete slab (203) were revealed at the eastern end of the trench. These slabs formed a foundation base for previously existing prefabricated bungalows. The concrete was generally 0.1m to 0.25m thick. Elsewhere the ground surface was formed by a grey brown sandy loam topsoil deposit (200) and rough turf.



Fig. 5: Ditch (205)

Trench 3

4.10. The trench was located in the south-east corner of the site (Fig. 4). The trench was 25.5m long and 1.6m wide and natural sandy clay was revealed at the northern end and centre of the trench between 76.79m OD and 76.72m OD.

4.11. At the southern end a 0.1m thick layer of greyish brown silty sand containing Roman pottery (313) was revealed at the southern end of the trench (Fig. 6). This was possibly an occupation layer within a hollow or depression. A 0.95m wide pit (309) cut into layer (313) and natural. The pit was at least 0.25m deep and contained a dark brown silty sand fill with Roman pottery (310). The fill contained several fragments of rough sandstone (312), which varied in size and were probably used as packing stones for a post. A rubbing stone and a quern fragment were recovered from amongst the packing stones and fill.

4.12. Two parallel gullies were revealed in the middle of the trench. These extended for 1.6m across the trench in a rough west east alignment. Gully (305) to the north was 0.5m wide and 0.3m deep with a flattish base (Fig. 11, Section C). It was filled by dark brown silty sand (306) which contained Roman pottery and fragments of slag. The slag may be waste from nearby metalworking. The adjacent gully (307) occurred immediately to the south and was 0.5m wide and 0.22m deep. The gully had a U-shaped profile and was filled by dark brown silty sand (308), which contained 15 sherds of Roman pottery.

4.13. Further to the north a larger gully or ditch (303) was revealed. This also extended across the trench on a rough west to east alignment. It was up to 0.9m wide and 0.25m deep with a flattish base (Fig. 11, Section D). A dark brown silty sand (304) filled the ditch and contained 29 sherds of Roman pottery. Several fragments of metalworking slag and furnace lining were recovered.

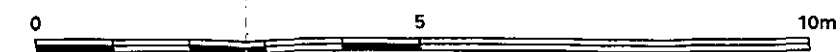
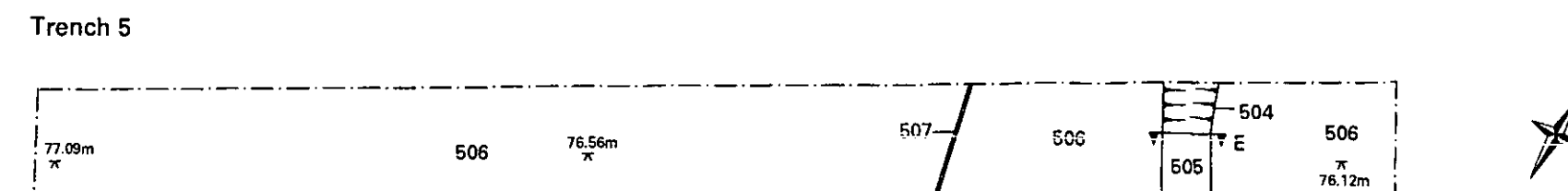
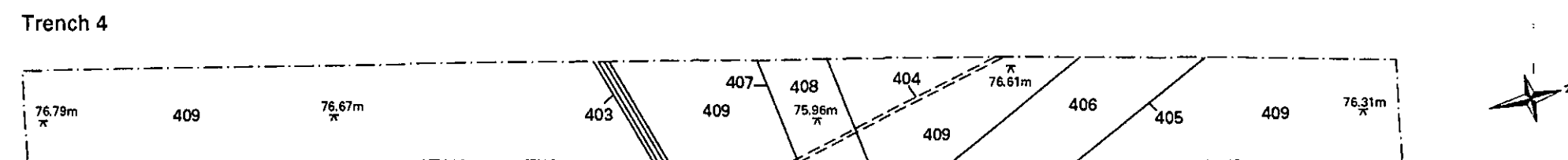
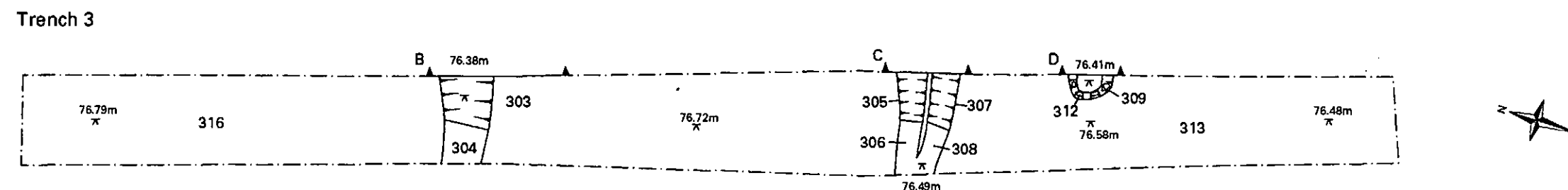
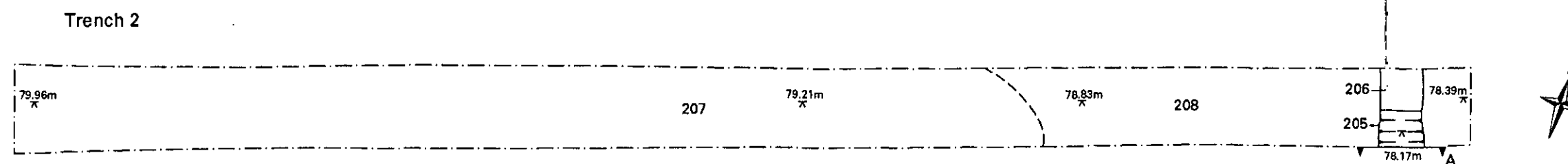
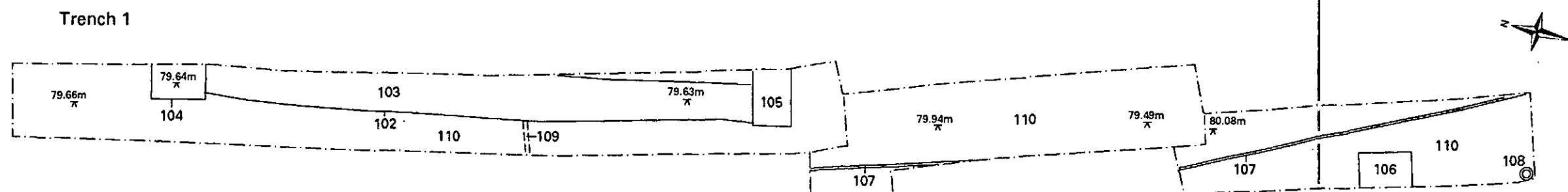


Fig. 6: Trench plans 1-5



Fig. 7: Gullies (306) and (307)



Fig. 8: Pit (309)

4.14. An extensive layer of grey brown silty clay (302) extended over the trench and sealed the revealed features. This layer was between 0.3m and 0.45m thick and contained occasional abraded non-diagnostic fragments of tile and brick (not retained). This was covered by a 0.1m thick layer of grey brown silty loam (314), which was probably a previous topsoil deposit.

4.15. The topsoil was covered by an extensive layer of orange brown sandy clay (301). This was 0.25m thick and included a lens of yellow sand. This and a deposit of ash and cinders (315) formed make-up layers and were sealed by a concrete foundation slab (300). The concrete was up to 0.1m thick and modern brick rubble and demolition material occurred adjacent to the slab. A dump of modern brick rubble (311) may be demolition debris, possibly filling a modern trench.

Trench 4

4.16. Trench 4 was located at the eastern edge of the site (Fig. 4) and was 23m long and 1.6m wide. The trench was crossed by various modern services and contained no early archaeological features.

4.17. Natural sandy clay (409) was revealed across much of the trench at between 76.79m OD and 76.31m OD.

4.18. A large sewer trench (405) extended north-west to south-east across the trench (Fig. 6). The cut was 1.3m wide and at least 2.6m long. This was backfilled with a deposit of brown sandy clay (406). A second service trench (407) crossed the trench along a west to east alignment. This was 1.1m wide and backfilled with an orange brown clay deposit (408). A fragment of sandstone with cut or scored marks, which was probably used for sharpening, was recovered, but this was undated. Other modern services included lead water pipes (403) and (404) running down the slope. These features formed part of the water and drainage services provided for previously existing buildings on site. It is possible that these service trenches may have caused some truncation of archaeological deposits.

4.19. A 0.3m to 0.4m thick layer of greyish brown silty sand (402) sealed some of the services and overlaid the natural. This was covered by brick rubble make-up deposits (401) for concrete foundation slab (400).

Trench 5

4.20. The trench was 19.5m long and 1.6m wide, orientated roughly south-west to north-east and was located at the eastern side of the site (Fig. 4). Natural sandy clay (506) was revealed at the base of the trench at between approximately 77.09m OD and 76.12m OD.

4.21. A small ditch or gully (504) was cut into the natural deposit and extended across the trench orientated roughly south-east to north-west. The ditch was 0.8m wide and at least 0.3m deep and filled with a greyish brown silty sand fill (505) (Fig. 11, Section E). Six sherds of 2nd- to 4th-century pottery, including samian and a mortarium rim, were recovered from the ditch.

4.22. An extensive layer of greyish brown silty sand (503) was recorded along much of the trench. This was between 0.4m and 0.55m thick and increased in thickness towards the eastern end of the trench. This was covered by a layer of dark grey sandy loam (502). This appeared to be a 0.15m thick topsoil deposit.

4.23. A 0.2m thick layer of small brick and tile fragments (501) formed a make-up deposit for a concrete foundation slab. A modern water pipe crossed the middle of the trench.

Trench 6

4.24. Trench 6 was located in the north-east corner of the site and was aligned roughly south-east to north-west. The alignment of the 35m long trench was changed slightly in order to avoid a 'live' electricity service. The southern end of the trench was extended by 3m-4m south and west in order to reveal the extent of a large pit.

4.25. Natural sandy clay (629) was revealed in the trench at approximately 76.55m OD. The natural deposit varies slightly within the trench and the site with areas of increasing sand or clay encountered.

4.26. A large pit (605) at the southern end of the trench was at least 2-3m wide. As originally revealed it appeared to be sub-circular in plan and extended beyond the limits of the trench. The trench was extended in order to reveal the full extent and nature of the pit, which was initially interpreted as a possible cess pit. The subsequent extension to the trench revealed the pit to be roughly circular and at least 4m in diameter. A segment of the pit was excavated and this revealed the pit to be 0.8m deep (Fig. 11, Section H) and contained a lower fill of light grey sandy silt (628). The lower fill contained five sherds of Roman grey ware and several fragments of *tegula* roof tile. Upper fills of grey silty sand (627) and dark grey (606) were also recorded. Roman pottery and over 30 fragments of roof tile were recovered from the fill. The sample excavated suggested from the fills and relatively shallow profile that this was most probably a large rubbish pit.

4.27. Immediately north of the pit was a ditch or gully (607), which extended across the width of the trench and was aligned south-west to north-east. The ditch was 0.9m wide and 0.3m deep and had a u-shaped profile (Fig. 11, Section G).

4.28. A deep ditch or pit (609) was revealed at the northern limit of the trench. The



Fig. 9: Large pit or ditch (609)

cut was in excess of 2.15m wide and was at least 1.35m deep. The south-western edge was revealed and this was steep-sided and apparently becoming more gradually sloping towards the base of the pit or ditch. The full profile and base of the feature was not revealed in the trench due safety reasons. The feature appeared to extend well beyond the limits of the trench.

4.29. Lower fills included a mottled reddish brown sand (623), a reddish brown sand (624) and a dark greyish brown silty sand (619). These may include natural silting and primary deposition in the base of the feature (Fig. 11, Section F). These were sealed by a thin reddish brown silty sand fills (621) and (620). These were overlaid by a 0.45m thick deposit of greyish brown silty sand (618), which appeared to contain two thick lenses of pale reddish brown sand (617) and yellowish brown sand (622) within it. A lens of charcoal (613) was also revealed within fill (618), but not recorded in section. The charcoal lens contained 2nd-/4th-century pottery.

4.30. The upper fills, which may also represent a recutting of the feature included greyish brown silty sand (615) and (610). These fills contained a large assemblage of 2nd- to 4th-century pottery, including fragments of decorated samian, *mortaria*, amphora and other fine and coarse wares. These were sealed by the uppermost fills of mixed red clay and greyish brown silty sand (612) and dark greyish brown silty sand (614). Two fragments of amphorae handle and over 20 fragments of 2nd- to 4th-century pottery were recovered from fill (614).

4.31. The ditch or pit extended across the width of the trench and the possible alignment was not clear due to the lack of fully revealed edges. It is possible that due to the size and extent of the feature it does represent a large pit rather than a ditch.

4.32. A 0.4m to 0.7m thick layer of greyish brown silty sand (611) extended across virtually the whole of the trench. This contained occasional tile fragments (not retained), but no datable finds. A similar deposit (625) sealed the top of pit (609).

4.33. The northern end of the trench was covered by an ashy cinder layer (601), which formed a make-up layer for a concrete foundation slab (600).

Trench 7

4.34. The trench was located in a wide grass verge area at the north-east corner of the site and was the northernmost evaluation trench in the programme (Fig. 4). The trench was moved slightly southwards in order to avoid an existing tree. The trench was 16.5m long and 1.6m wide.

4.35. Natural sandy clay (705) was revealed at the base of the trench between 76.86m OD at the west end and 76.24m OD at the eastern end of the trench.

4.36. A small amorphous feature, possibly a pit or end of a gully (702) was cut into the natural. The pit was at least 1.5m long and between 0.5m and 0.6m wide. The 0.18m deep feature contained a lower fill (704) of pale greyish brown silty sand (Fig. 11, Section I). This was sealed by the upper fill (703), which contained two sherds of Roman pottery. A deposit of greyish brown silty sand (701) extended along much of the length of the trench and sealed the possible pit.

4.37. A concrete slab (707) was 0.3m wide and at least 1.6m long extended across the trench. This appeared to be a capping for a possible service. As this was probably a 'live' service the concrete was not excavated. The trench was also crossed by an electricity cable (706), which probably served the adjacent street lighting. This and associated underlying deposits were left undisturbed.

4.38. A 0.2m thick layer of grey brown silty clay (708) contained modern debris including brick and a lens of ash. This layer was sealed by a topsoil deposit (700) with overlying turf.

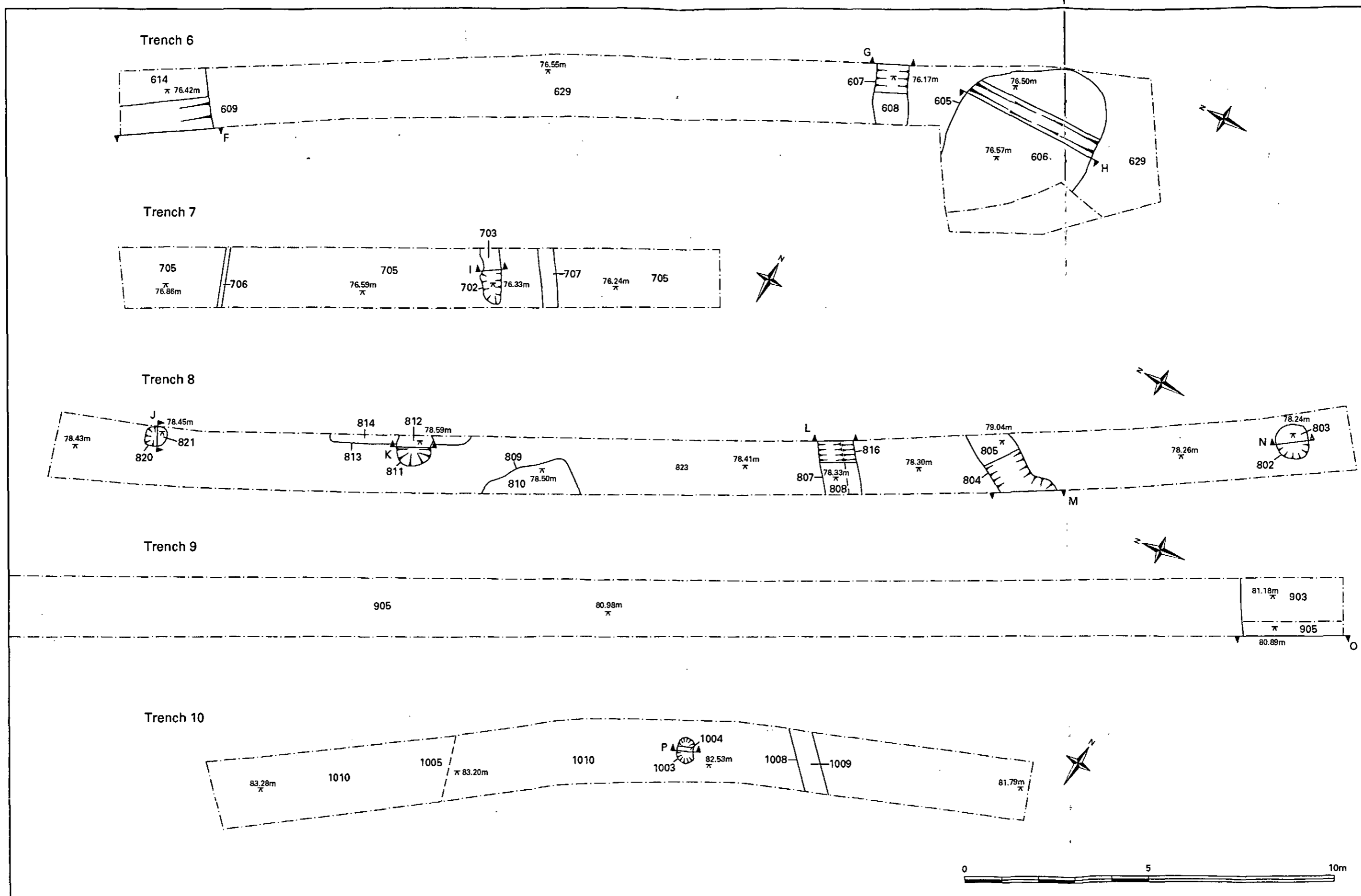


Fig. 10: Trench plans 6-10

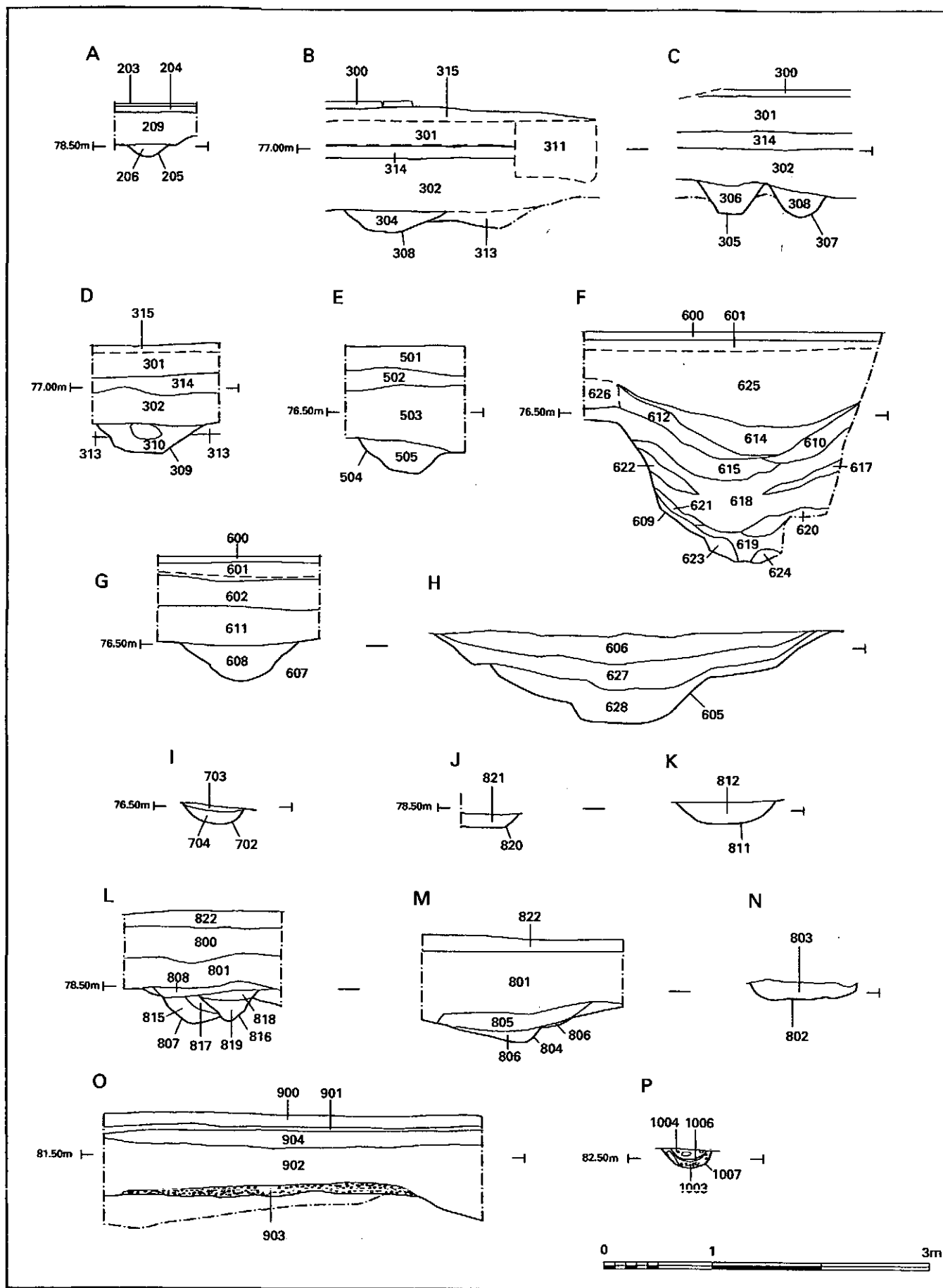


Fig. 11: Sections A-P

Trench 8

4.39. Trench 8 was 35.8m long and 1.6m wide and was aligned south-west to north-east at the northern end of the site (Fig. 4). The trench was excavated to a depth of approximately 0.7m and natural sandy clay (823) was revealed at the southern end of the trench at 78.26m OD. This became increasingly sandy at the northern end at approximately 78.43m OD.

4.40. A group of features cut into the natural deposits throughout the trench (Fig. 10). The western edge of a possible gully or pit feature (813) was revealed against the eastern edge of the trench. This was filled with a brown sandy loam (814) and cut by pit (811). At the southern end of the trench a circular pit (802) was revealed. The pit was approximately 0.95m in diameter and 0.15m deep (Fig. 11, Section N) and filled with a dark brown silty sand (803) containing Roman pottery.

4.41. To the north of pit 802 was a large ditch (804), which was orientated roughly north to south. This was at least 2.5m long, 1.15m wide and 0.3m deep (Fig. 13). The ditch contained a lower fill of light grey silty sand (806) and an upper fill of dark grey silty sand (805) (Fig. 11, Section M). The lower fill contained 2nd-/3rd-century pottery including a fragment of mortaria base. Further north were two gully features (807) and (816) which crossed the trench orientated south-west to north-east. Gully (807) was at least 0.45m wide and 0.25m deep (Fig. 11, Section L) and contained a lower fill of compacted pale brown sand (815). This was sealed by an upper fill of dark brown silty sand (817), which contained fragments of Black Burnished ware pottery. The gully was on a similar alignment and may be a continuation of a similar gully feature identified in Trench 6 (607). The fills were cut by gully (816), which was 0.55m wide and 0.3m deep. The gully contained a lower fill of light brown sand (819) and an upper fill of greyish brown silty sand (818). Both gullies were sealed by a layer of dark greyish brown silty sand (808).

4.42. A possible pit (811) was partially revealed at the eastern edge of the trench and it extended beyond the limit of excavation. This was probably circular in plan, approximately 0.9m wide and 0.2m deep (Fig. 11, Section K). The pit contained a single fill, a dark brown silty sand (812) from which part of an *imbrex* roof tile and two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered.

4.43. Towards the northern end of the trench a further pit (820) was revealed. This was at least 0.55m wide and 0.15m deep (Fig. 11, Section J). The pit was partially excavated and was probably circular in plan. The pit was filled with a dark grey silty sand fill (821) that contained a single sherd of samian pottery. A probable tree hole (809) in the middle of the trench was not excavated, but this was filled with a brown sandy silt (809).

4.44. An extensive layer of grey brown silty clay (801) extended over most of the trench. The layer sealed the Roman features revealed in the trench. This was 0.45m to 0.55m thick and contained no dateable finds. (Fig. 11, Section L). This layer was sealed by a 0.3m thick layer of dark greyish brown sandy loam; a topsoil deposit which occurred across the trench.

4.45. The brick rubble make-up deposit (822) for two foundation slabs (824) were recorded at the southern and northern ends of the trench.

Trench 9

4.46. The trench was located at the north end of Ennersdale Road and was 38.5m long and 1.6m wide and was aligned roughly south to north at the northern end of the site (Fig. 4). The trench was excavated to a depth of approximately 0.8m and natural sandy clay (905) was revealed across the base of the trench at between 80.98m OD and 80.89m OD. At the northern end several possible small pits were identified during supervision of machining, but further investigation proved these to be



Fig. 12: Pit (811)



Fig. 13: Ditch (804)



Fig. 14: Pebble surface (903)

variations in the natural deposit. The natural deposit varied considerably in this area between sands and clays.

4.47. No cut features were identified in the trench, however at the southern end of the trench an undated layer of pebbles (902) was revealed (Fig. 10, Trench 9). The fairly loose rounded pebbles formed a layer 0.12m thick and this extended across the 1.6m width of the trench and was 2.7m long (Fig. 14). The layer, which was not particularly compacted, probably represents a surface for a yard or working area.

Trench 10

4.48. The trench was aligned west to east and roughly parallel to Ennersdale Road (Fig. 4). The trench included some variations in alignment in order to avoid several mature trees, it was 22m long and 1.6m wide and sloped from west to east.

4.49. A layer of natural sandy clay (1010) was revealed across much of the base of the trench. The natural sloped from 83.28m OD at the western end to 81.79m OD at the eastern end of the trench (Fig. 10).

4.50. An oval shaped pit (1003) was cut into the natural and was 0.7m long and 0.45m wide. The pit was 0.18m deep and the lower fill of dark grey silty loam (1007) contained a significant quantity of charcoal (Fig. 15). This would suggest that this might have been a hearth pit or oven for domestic or possibly industrial purposes. A sample of the excavated fill was taken for assessment and examination of the sieved and floated remains indicated a potential for charred plant material. A yellowish brown clay loam (1006) overlaid fill 1007 and the upper fill was a greyish brown sandy silt loam (1004). Three fragments of a large Roman tile were present in the fill and a tile of these dimensions may possibly have formed part of a *pila* or hypocaust stack.

4.51. An extensive layer of brown silty loam (1002) was recorded over the majority of the trench. This was 0.4m thick and sealed the single hearth feature and natural.



Fig. 15: Possible hearth pit (1003)

4.52. The trench was crossed by various services, which cut through soil deposits and into natural. At the west end lead water pipes were encountered. The main pipe (1005) extended west to east with other feeder pipes probably servicing a previous bungalow. Ceramic pipes were revealed in the centre of the trench and at the east end where a sewer pipe (1009) crossed the trench.

4.53. The trench was overlaid by a topsoil deposit (1000) and at the western end a 0.25m thick layer of concrete, which was a foundation slab for a previously existing building. Much of the concrete slab was broken, but the rear portion was left intact due to the likely proximity of live services to an adjacent occupied house.

Trench 11

4.54. Trench 11 was 14.6m long and 3.2m wide due to restrictions encountered in the original location of the trench which included overhead telephone lines, live water and electricity services. In order to avoid damage to any service the trench was altered following the agreement of the Planning Archaeologist.

4.55. Natural sandy clay and orange clays (1103) were revealed across the trench at approximately 84.70m OD. No archaeological features were revealed in the trench and no finds were recovered.

4.56. A layer of light brown silty sand (1102) extended over the trench and sealed natural deposits. No archaeological features were identified in or immediately below this deposit.

4.57. Several concrete foundation slabs were crossed by the trench. A make-up deposit of brick rubble (1101) occurred beneath the concrete slabs (1100).

Trench 12

4.58. Trench 12 was positioned opposite to Trench 11 (Fig. 4) and its original location was also affected by the presence of overhead and buried live services. The position of the trench was altered slightly with the agreement of the Planning Archaeologist in order to avoid any damage to existing services. However the trench was widened to 3.3m and was 14.4m long.

4.59. Natural orange clay and sandy clay (1203) was revealed across the trench at between approximately 83.23m OD and 83.35m OD.

4.60. A layer of light brown silty sand (1202) extended over the trench and sealed natural deposits. No archaeological features were identified in or immediately below this deposit.

4.61. Concrete foundation slabs occupied part of the location of the trench. A make-up deposit of brick rubble (1201) occurred beneath the concrete slabs (1200).

5. Conclusions

5.1. The evaluation revealed a wide distribution of features containing Romano-British pottery across much of the eastern side of the site. The features included a series of gullies, ditches and large pits. The presence of domestic rubbish pits and a large quantity of largely unabraded 2nd- to 4th-century pottery would suggest that the site lay within, but possibly at the edge of the settlement, and in reasonably close proximity to buildings. No buildings or structural evidence were revealed in the evaluation, but the position of such a building or structure was indicated by the wall foundation recorded during observation work in 1999 (Warwickshire Museum 2000).

5.2. A hearth or oven feature and a possible pebble surface were also revealed and these may be related to industrial activity within the settlement. Slag and furnace lining from the site would suggest that metalworking was taking place.

5.3. The quantity of roof tile recovered and the evidence of a *pila* tile may indicate the presence of a large or well-appointed building in the vicinity. The quality of preservation of the Romano-British pottery was affected by due the acid nature of the soil, but over 350 sherds were recovered during the evaluation. The majority of the pottery found was probably made in the region and there were sherds from mortaria and flagons from Mancetter. Samian ware including decorated fragments from Gaul dating from the later 1st to the mid 3rd century AD were also recovered. Handles and body fragments of amphora from Spain, probably used to import olive oil or wine, were also found in several features.

5.4. In most parts of the site the Roman features appeared to be sealed by an extensive layer of soil. This contained few dateable finds, but it could incorporate a later Roman or immediately post-Roman phase of ploughing activity. However this layer may simply represent post-medieval or modern dumping.

5.5. An area at the western side of the site appeared to lack archaeological features, including Trenches 1, 11 and 12. In part this may be the result of modern truncation, such as the modern sewer identified in Trench 1. Parts of the site were possibly subject to some terracing in order to create a formation level for the construction of the bungalow foundations. The extensive deposit across much of the site may have been deposited as a single event and in many cases this appeared to seal recent services such as water pipes, which had no apparent cuts.

5.6. Many of the evaluation trenches were located in positions coinciding with concrete foundation slabs for the pre-existing prefabricated bungalows. The evaluation showed that the slabs were generally 0.25m thick and that survival of

archaeological remains beneath the concrete slabs and associated brick foundations was at least as good as elsewhere. However, potential archaeological remains were likely to have been truncated by localised deeper service trenches for sewerage and other service pipes immediately adjacent to the bungalow plots.

5.7. Overall the evaluation provides additional evidence for the continuation of the settlement associated with the temple at Grimstock Hill further to the south and east. The settlement evidence appears to extend over a greater area to the east than previously recorded. Although this may reflect the limited observation carried out on the eastern side of the settlement during previous work. The settlement was probably in existence from the 2nd century AD onwards and may have occupied much of the east facing slope overlooking the River Cole. It is most likely that this was a roadside settlement and the lack of evidence for a road from the evaluation suggests this may have been positioned on higher ground to the west.

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Appendix A: List of Finds

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Date/Comments</i>
Trench 2			
Unstratified	Pottery	1	Roman
Trench 3			
Unstratified	Tile	1	
	Pottery	10	Roman
300	Pottery	10	2nd/4th century
304	Pottery	29	2nd-4th century
	Slag	4	Furnace bottom
	Fired Clay	5	
306	Pottery	5	Roman
	Slag	4	furnace lining
308	Slag	9	?metalworking
	Pottery	16	Roman
310	Pottery	3	Roman
	Slag	2	?metalworking slag
312	Stone	8	Rubbing stone, quern (1)
313	Pottery	5	Roman
	Tile	4	
Trench 4			
408	Stone	1	undated with sharpening grooves
Unstratified	Pottery	1	samian
Trench 5			
505	Pottery	6	2nd-4th century
	Tile	1	Roof- tegula fragment
Trench 6			
Unstratified	Pottery	39	2nd to 4th century
606	Pottery	8	Roman
	Tile	34	
608	Pottery	10	Roman
610	Pottery	10	Roman
612	Pottery	10	Roman
613	Pottery	14	2nd-4th century
614	Pottery	28	2nd/3rd century, amphora handle fragments (2)
	Tile	2	Roof
	Slag	1	
615	Pottery	73	2nd-4th century
	Slag	1	
616	Pottery	23	2nd-4th century
	Iron	1	
618	Pottery	22	2nd-4th century
618	Nails	1	
619	Pottery	5	Roman
	Slag	4	Furnace bottom
620	Pottery	4	Roman
628	Pottery	5	Roman
	Tile	2	Roof

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Date/Comment</i>
Trench 7			
700	Pottery	1	Roman
701	Pottery	1	Roman
703	Pottery	2	Roman
Trench 8			
803	Pottery	2	Roman
805	Pottery	2	
806	Pottery	4	2nd century
808	Pottery	3	Roman
	Charcoal	6	
812	Pottery	2	Roman
	Tile	3	Roof -imbrex
815	Pottery	4	Roman
819	Pottery	3	Roman
820	Pottery	1	Samian
Trench 10			
1004	Iron	3	
	Fired Clay	11	
1007	Tile	3	?Pila tile

Appendix B: List of Contexts

Trench 1

101	Layer
102	Drain cut
103	Fill of drain 102
104	Drain
105	Drain
106	Drain
107	Water pipe
108	Soil pipe
109	Soil pipe
110	Natural

Trench 2

200	Topsoil
201	Concrete
202	Layer
203	Concrete
204	Layer
205	Gully
206	Fill of gully 205
207	Natural
208	Natural
209	Layer

Trench 3

300	Concrete slab
301	Layer
302	Layer
303	Gully
304	Fill of gully 303
305	Gully
306	Fill of gully 305
307	Gully
308	Fill of gully 307
309	Pit?
310	Fill of 310
311	Brick rubble
312	Stone packing
313	Layer
314	Topsoil

Trench 4

400	Concrete slab
401	Layer
402	Layer
403	Water pipes
404	Water pipe
405	Cut for modern sewer
406	Pipe fill
407	Pipe cut
408	Fill of pipe cut 407
409	Natural

Trench 5

500	Concrete
501	Layer

Trench 5 (cont)

502	Topsoil
503	Layer
504	Gully
505	Fill of gully 504

Trench 6

600	Concrete
601	Layer
602	Layer
603	Pipe cut
604	Fill of 603
605	Pit
606	Fill of pit 605
607	Gully
608	Fill of gully 607
609	Ditch
610	Fill of ditch 609
611	Layer
612	Fill of ditch 609
613	Fill of ditch 609
614	Fill of ditch 609
615	Fill of ditch 609
616	Fill of ditch 609
617	Fill of ditch 609
618	Fill of ditch 609
619	Fill of ditch 609
620	Fill of ditch 609
621	Fill of ditch 609
622	Fill of ditch 609
623	Fill of ditch 609
624	Fill of ditch 609
625	Layer
626	Layer
627	Fill of pit 605
628	Fill of pit 605
629	Natural

Trench 7

700	Topsoil
701	Layer
702	Gully
703	Fill of 702
704	Fill of 702
705	Natural
706	Modern service trench
707	Modern service trench
708	Layer

Trench 8

800	Topsoil
801	Layer
802	Pit
803	Fill of pit 802
804	Ditch
805	Fill of ditch 804

Trench 8 (cont)

806	Fill of ditch 804
807	Gully
808	Layer
809	Tree hole?
810	Fill of 809
811	Pit
812	Fill of pit 811
813	Gully
814	Fill of gully 813
815	Fill of gully 807
816	Gully
817	Fill of gully 807
818	Fill of gully 816
819	Fill of gully 816
820	Pit
821	Fill of pit 820
822	Layer
823	Natural
824	Concrete

Trench 9

900	Concrete
901	Layer
902	Layer
903	Layer
904	Topsoil
905	Natural

Trench 10

1000	Topsoil
1001	Concrete
1002	Layer
1003	Hearth pit
1004	Fill of pit 1003
1005	Water pipe
1006	Fill of pit 1003
1007	Fill of pit 1003
1008	Pipe cut
1009	Fill of 1008
1010	Natural

Trench 11

1100	Concrete
1101	Make-up layer
1102	Layer
1103	Natural

Trench 12

1200	Concrete
1201	Make-up layer
1202	Layer
1203	Natural

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