

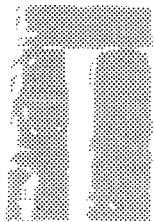
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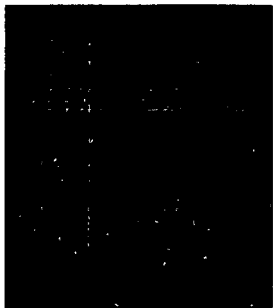
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Wessex  
Archaeology



**LINK FARM, PULBOROUGH, WEST SUSSEX  
BARN CONSTRUCTION 1996 - PR/3/96**

**Archaeological monitoring and recording**

**Wessex Archaeology  
June 1996 - Reference 38547.b**

*Prepared for:*

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## SUMMARY

In June 1996, Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Alan Barratt of Link Farm, Pulborough, to monitor the machine-excavation of a series of foundation pits for the erection of a steel-framed Dutch barn at Link Farm (TQ 0640 1733). The archaeological monitoring and recording was required as a condition of planning consent following the advice of the County Archaeological Officer. The presence of extensive Romano-British activity in the vicinity of the development area is known as a result of archaeological investigations in the immediate area from the 1920s onwards, and most recently a watching brief maintained by Wessex Archaeology during the construction of a similar barn in 1995.

The monitoring work recorded a range of archaeological deposits including discrete features such as pits, postholes and ditches. All these features were sealed by a humic overburden. Both the features and the overburden produced Romano-British finds dated later 1st to 3rd century AD. Most of the finds were pottery and the assemblage includes local and non-local wares, the latter including imported olive oil amphora from southern Spain. The features and finds are indicative of domestic activity.

The identification of further Romano-British deposits, features and finds at Link Farm is not unsurprising in view of similar features recorded in the immediate area in 1994 and 1995, and the findings further north from an evaluation in 1991. The apparent high density of features supports the view that there was widespread and intense occupation throughout the 'Wiggonholt peninsula' during the Romano-British period.

Finds of non Roman date consisted of a single piece of worked flint, a small collection of medieval and later pottery, and brick/tile.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The monitoring and recording work was commissioned by Mr Alan Barratt, Link Farm, and his assistance and co-operation during the course of the project is acknowledged. Wessex Archaeology also acknowledges the collaborative role of the Archaeology Section of West Sussex County Council during the project and particularly of Mr John Mills, Assistant Archaeologist.

The fieldwork was undertaken on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Michael Heaton, who prepared this report. The finds were assessed by Rachel Seager-Smith. The illustrations were prepared by Julian Cross and Linda Coleman. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Carrie Hearne.

**LINK FARM, PULBOROUGH, WEST SUSSEX  
BARN CONSTRUCTION 1996 - PR/3/96**

**Archaeological monitoring and recording**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In June 1996, Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Alan Barratt of Link Farm (formerly part of Lickfold Farm), Pulborough, to monitor the machine-excavation of a series of construction pits for the erection of a Dutch barn at Link Farm (TQ 0640 1733).
- 1.2 The archaeological monitoring and recording was required as a condition of planning consent following the advice of the County Archaeological Officer to the local planning authority. The presence of extensive Romano-British activity in the vicinity of the development area is known as a result of archaeological investigations in the immediate area from the 1920s onwards, including a watching brief maintained in 1995 during foundation work for a similar barn. The development site lies within an area of archaeological constraint identified by Horsham District Council.
- 1.3 The archaeological monitoring of the excavation of the construction pits was recommended by the County Archaeological Officer as a means of ensuring the adequate investigation and recording of any archaeological features or deposits revealed. Such work is in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance 16 (Department of the Environment 1990).
- 1.4 The work was carried out in accordance with a written *Scheme of Investigation* produced by the Archaeology Section of West Sussex County Council (14th April 1996), and a *Method Statement* produced by Wessex Archaeology (June 1996 - Ref. 38547).

**2 THE SITE**

- 2.1 The development site covers an approximate area of 20m x 37m to the north of the existing buildings of Link Farm and to the west of the A283 Storrington Road (**Figs 1 and 2**). The farm occupies a gentle north-facing slope around the 12 m OD contour, on sandy soils on Lower Greensand which are sealed by river terrace deposits to the north and Head deposits to the south. The site of the present observations lies approximately 20m south of those maintained in 1995, within a recently excavated level terrace that rests at approximately 0.5m higher than the finished floor level of the 1995 barn.
- 2.3 The archaeological potential of the barn site is set out in the *Scheme of Investigation* prepared by the County Archaeological Officer, which states:

*'The application area lies within an area of archaeological constraint identified by the County Sites and Monuments Record and notified to Horsham District Council. This area of constraint is based on recorded remains of an extensive Roman settlement and industrial activity located to the north of Lickfold Farm...incorporating Roman Buildings, a bath-house, pottery kilns and metalworking areas...'*

*'Ground excavations for construction of the barn may cut through buried Roman remains forming part of the settlement/industrial site'*

- 2.4 Observations maintained by Wessex Archaeology in 1995 approximately 20m north of the present site recorded the presence of a minimum of two pits, two linear features and a possible foundation trench. Finds of Early Roman date (1st and 2nd century AD) were recovered from three of these features and it is likely that they are all broadly contemporaneous. The finds recovered in 1995 are indicative of domestic activity and further support the view that there was widespread and intense occupation throughout the 'Wiggonholt peninsula' during the Romano-British period.

### 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The aim of the archaeological monitoring and recording was to ensure the monitoring of all invasive groundworks and the adequate investigation and recording of any archaeological features or deposits revealed.
- 3.2 The project archive, including the finds, has been prepared for preservation in a usable and accessible form and arrangements will be made for its long term storage in Worthing Museum.

### 4 METHODS

- 4.2 Sixteen construction pits were machine excavated: two extending the east end of the 1995 barn by some 6m (not illustrated), and the remaining 14 at regular intervals along the north and south sides of the construction site for the barn (**Figure 3**). The pits were excavated under archaeological supervision using a tracked-machine with a 1.4 m wide toothless bucket. The pits were all c. 2 m<sup>2</sup> with an average depth of 1m. The pits were assigned numbers continuing the sequence established in 1995, that is, 13 to 28.
- 4.3 Pits 21 and 22 were considered too hazardous for safe working: pit 21 because it filled immediately with effluent from a septic tank run-off, and pit 22 because the west edge had cut through a 2m high bank of unconsolidated made ground. The remaining pits were investigated by hand for archaeological deposits to a maximum depth of 1.2m below ground level. Numbered contexts were attributed to layers in each of the construction pits from which archaeological components were recovered, and to all archaeological features. All context numbers are prefixed by the pit number (e.g. context 1602 is from pit 16, context 2803 is from pit 28 etc.).

- 4.4 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets, accompanied by scale drawings and photographic records where appropriate.

## 5 RESULTS

### 5.2 Monitoring and Recording

- 5.2.1 The location of the construction pits and the archaeological features is presented in **Figure 3**. A description of the deposits revealed, grouped by site specific criteria is presented in the following text accompanied by a summary in on **Table 1**, with detailed trench summaries presented in appendix form at the end of this report. Full context records are available in the archive.
- 5.2.2 There was no developed turf level. All pits revealed a recently deposited layer of rubble ('thermalite' blocks, concrete, chalk etc.) of varying thicknesses, to a maximum of 0.45m. Although uneven, the upper surface was more or less level.
- 5.2.3 In all pits the rubble sealed a dark brown sandy loam, varying in depth below surface from 0.45 to pit base. It contained frequent charcoal flecks; and artefacts including pottery, ceramic building material and worked flint were recovered from this soil layer in seven pits (see **Table 1**).
- 5.2.4 Archaeological features were observed and recorded in the bases of four pits (**Figure 3**). The upper soil fills of these features were indistinguishable from the dark brown sandy loam which sealed them.
- 5.2.5 Features 1603, 2603 and 2604 appeared to be post settings. They comprised tight clusters approximately 0.2m in diameter of large flint nodules, and in the case of 2603 they were clearly set into a well defined columnar post hole from which fragments of Romano-British pottery were recovered.
- 5.2.6 Features 2303 and 2403 were only partially revealed within their respective pits and it is therefore difficult to interpret their function. Feature 2303 may represent a pit and Feature 2403 a linear feature. Both these features had well-defined edges; that of 2303 being slightly curved around the north-east corner of the pit, that of 2403 aligned north-south, straight across the eastern edge of the pit. Romano-British pottery was recovered from the upper layer of feature 2303 and both are interpreted as of Roman date.
- 5.2.7 All pits revealed a soft, yellowish brown sand which was generally encountered directly below the sandy loam layer, cut by all archaeological features, at approximately 0.7-0.9m below present ground levels.

**Table 1: summary of results**

\* = present; \*\* = present, with finds

Pit No.	Made-ground	Humic overburden	Pit	Posthole	Linear
13	*	**			
14	*	**			
15	*	**			
16	*	**		*	
17	*	**			
18	*	*			
19	*	*			
20	*	*			
21	*	*			
22	*	*			
23	*	*	**		
24	*	*			*
25	*	*			
26	*	*		**	
27	*	**			
28	*	**			

## 6 THE FINDS

- 6.1 All finds collected have been cleaned and quantified, both by number and weight, according to material type within each context and this information is summarised in **Table 2**. The finds have been scanned to establish the nature and broad date range of the assemblage and this information is presented by material type below.

**Table 2: number and weight of finds by material type from each context**

Context	Pottery		Ceramic Building Material		Struck Flint	
	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.
1304 - humic overburden	3	19g	1	18g	-	-
1402 - humic overburden	1	2g	-	-	-	-
1502 - humic overburden	7	57g	-	-	1	3g
1602 - humic overburden	2	18g	-	-	-	-
1702 - humic overburden	1	4g	-	-	-	-
2302 - overburden/feature fill	6	312g	1	119g	-	-
2603 - overburden/feature fill	3	34g	1	16g	-	-
2702 - humic overburden	3	80g	-	-	-	-
2802 - humic overburden	2	12g	1	151g	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>538g</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>304g</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3g</b>



## **6.2 Pottery**

6.2.1 The pottery assemblage is dominated by sherds of sandy grey coarseware, characterised by the presence of moderate to common amounts of fine quartz sand or white mica in addition to the larger quartz grains (up to c. 0.5mm across) typical of sandy greyware fabrics in general. Only one rim was present, from a jar with a flared neck and a very slightly everted rim, although two-wedge shaped base sherds, also from jars, were recognised. A sherd from the shoulder of an indented beaker/flagon, made in a fine oxidised fabric containing the fine sand/mica, was found in (context 1502). At least some of these wares are likely to be local products; kilns producing a variety of fabrics and vessel forms are known or suspected at several locations around Pulborough (Evans 1974). One sherd, from the shoulder of a jar, of Black Burnished ware from the Wareham/Poole Harbour region of Dorset (BB1) was also recognised. This may indicate a date after the expansion of the Black Burnished ware industry in AD 120 (Gillam 1976, 58); the precise dating of the assemblage is hampered by the paucity of featured sherds, although, in general, a date from the late 1st/2nd into the 3rd century AD would appear to be appropriate. One sherd from a Dressel 20 amphora, made in southern Spain and used in the transportation of olive oil was also found. No samian or other imported finewares were recovered but otherwise the assemblage is broadly comparable with material found during earlier fieldwork in this area (Wessex Archaeology 1991; 1994; 1995).

6.2.2 One abraded rim sherd, probably from a red ware bowl, was recovered from the soil overburden in pit 27. This sherd is probably of post-medieval date (18th century onwards).

## **6.3 Ceramic Building Material**

6.3.1 Four fragments of ceramic building material were found. One small featureless fragment from pit 13 is probably of Roman date. The remaining three, comprising a featureless fragment, a piece of a brick and a piece of roof tile, are all likely to be of medieval or later date, even though all were found in association with sherds of Roman pottery.

## **6.4 Worked Flint**

6.4.1 One piece of struck flint was recovered; a waste flake from pit 15. The date of this flint cannot be ascertained, although it may be indicative of limited prehistoric activity in this area.

## **7 COMMENTS**

7.1 The archaeological monitoring work at Link Farm recorded five well-defined archaeological features below a humic overburden horizon (which was revealed in all pits). Finds, predominantly of Romano-British date (later 1st to 3rd century AD) were recovered from these deposits and it is likely that the features recorded are all broadly contemporaneous. The finds recovered from these features are indicative of domestic activity and the presence of local and non-local wares (the latter included imported material) may be noted.

- 7.2 Although features revealed in pits 23 and 24 were only partially exposed in the construction pits, feature 2403, at least, displayed a straight alignment and is therefore probably a linear feature such as a ditch, whilst the curving south-west end of feature 2303 suggests that it is either a pit or a ditch terminal. For the purposes of this report it is interpreted as the former.
- 7.3 The identification of further Romano-British deposits, features and finds at Link Farm is not unsurprising in view of similar features recorded 20m to the north (Wessex Archaeology 1995), 30 m to the south (Wessex Archaeology 1994), along with the findings further north from the 1991 evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 1991). The number of features recorded in 1994 and 1995 across a relatively small area suggests a high density of features and supports the view that there was widespread and intense occupation throughout the 'Wiggonholt peninsula' during the Romano-British period (Evans 1974, 117).
- 7.4 The single piece of worked flint indicates some level of prehistoric activity in the vicinity and add to the small collections of similar material recovered during previous phases of work (Wessex Archaeology 1991; 1994).
- 7.5 The small collection of medieval and later pottery and brick/tile may well derive from former agriculture, for example manuring of the fields.

## 8 REFERENCES

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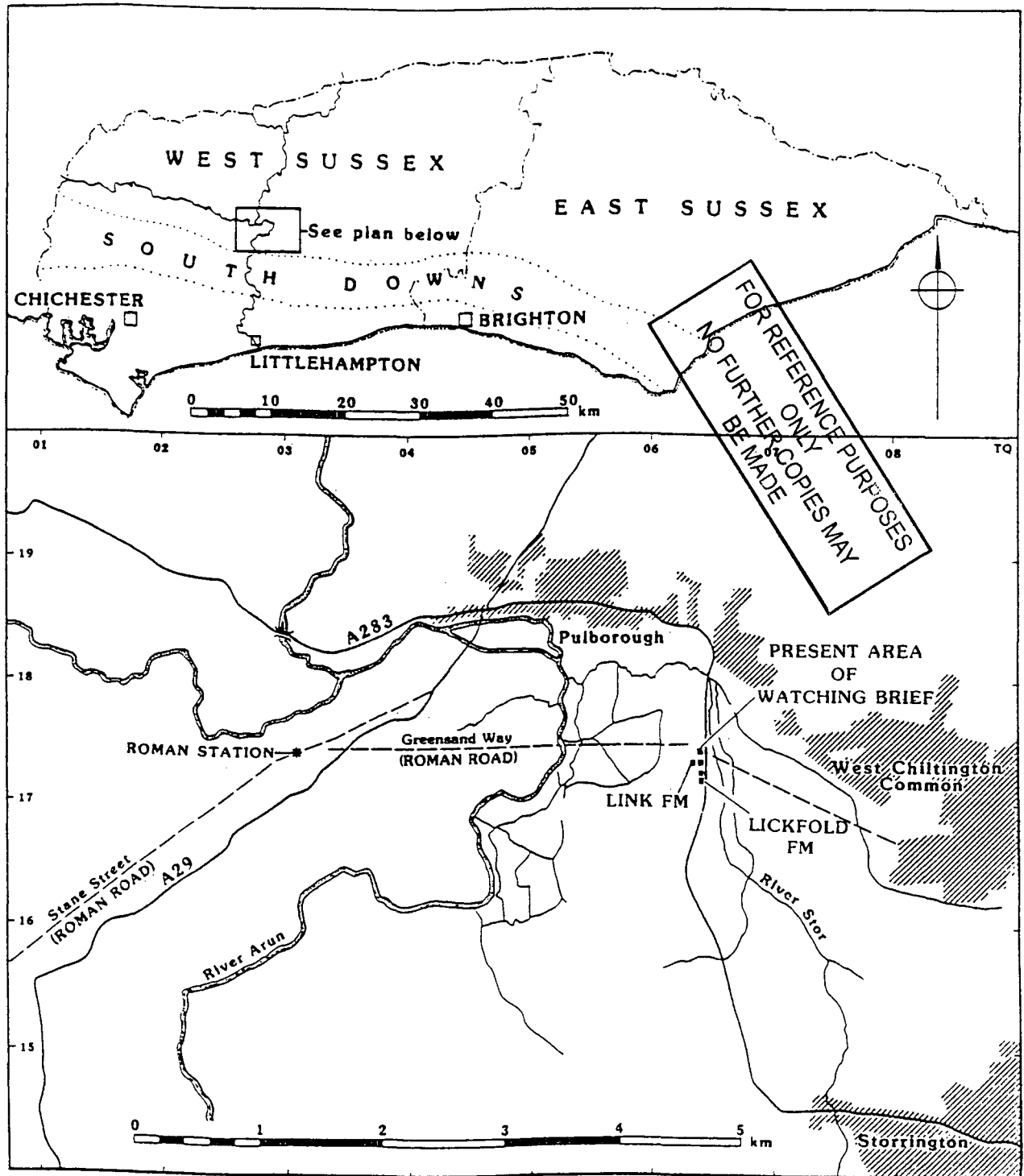


Fig. 1. Site location

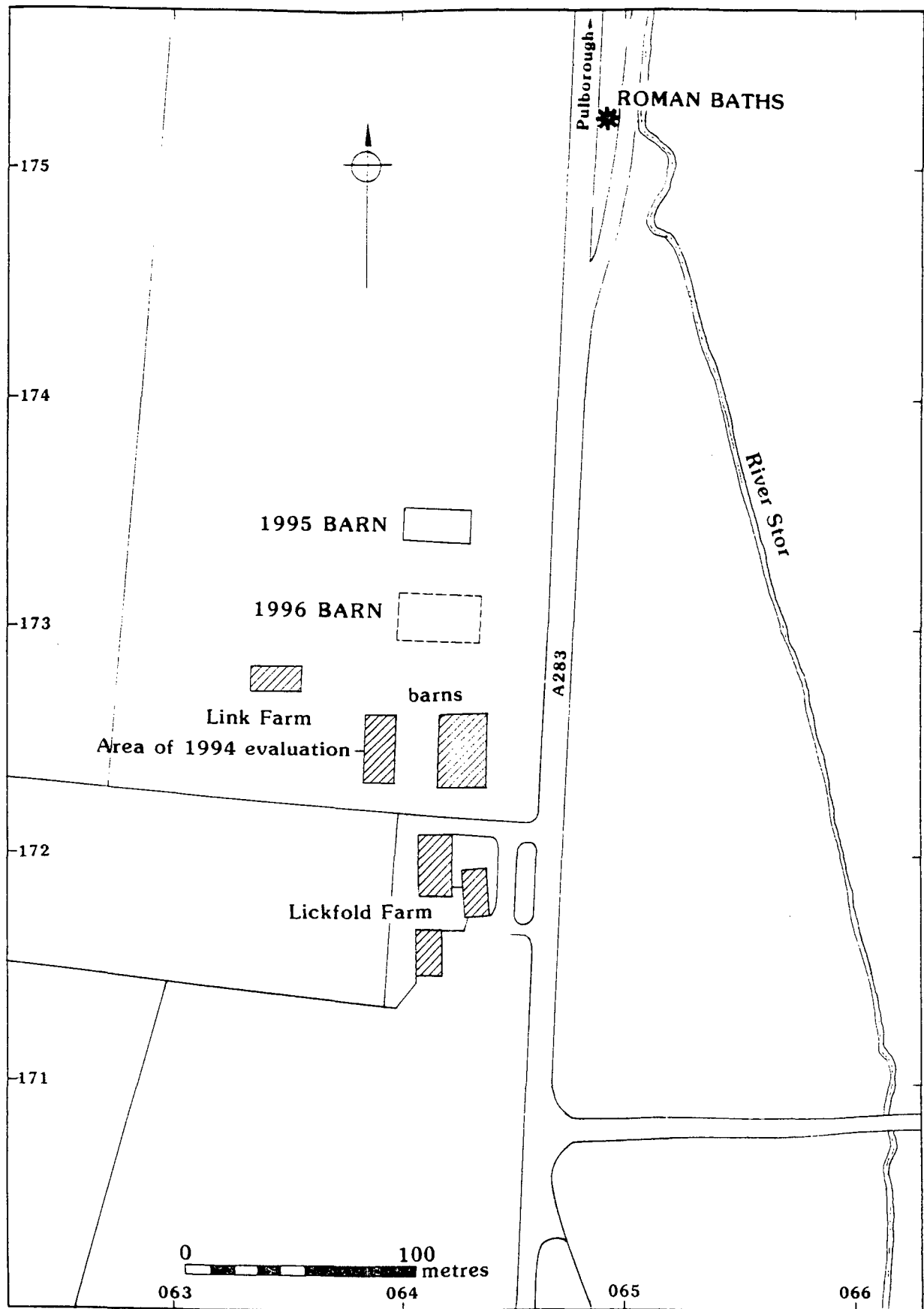


Fig.2: Location of 1996 barn

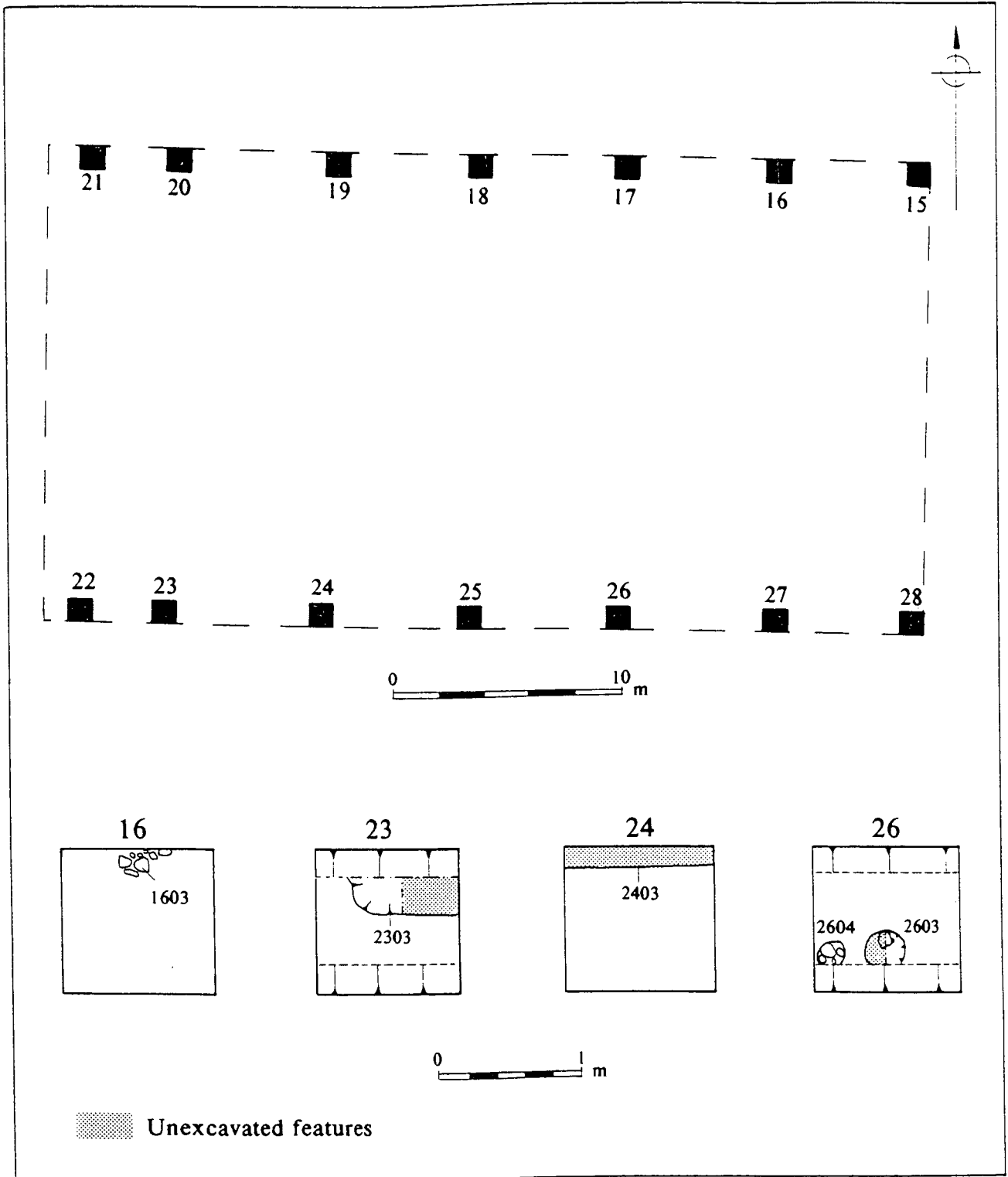


Fig. 3: Location of construction pits and archaeological features

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