



ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
WYAS

**Land to the rear of Glovers Garage, Bridge Lane
Ilkley
West Yorkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

December 1998

Report No. 667

C L I E N T

Dodd Frankland Stocks Partnership Ltd.

**Land to the rear of Glovers Garage,
Bridge Lane, Ilkley
West Yorkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

Archaeological Services (WYAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation within a yard area to the rear of Glovers Garage, Bridge Lane, Ilkley. Two evaluation trenches revealed archaeological remains including part of a ditch and a wall foundation overlying earlier deposits. The majority of artefacts recovered from the evaluation were of Roman date, and included pottery, tile, bone, glass and iron. The features and deposits observed during the evaluation are probably associated with the Roman fort which lies to the immediate east of the development site.

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Archaeological Services WYAS

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Archaeological Services (WYAS) were commissioned by Mr R. Stocks of Dodd Frankland Stocks Partnership Ltd, acting on behalf of Mr P. Bourgeois of Glovers Garage, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of Glovers Garage, Bridge Lane, Ilkley (Fig. 1). Following a planning appeal, Glovers Garage Ltd. received full planning permission to erect an M.O.T testing centre on the site of an existing garage and yard area (planning application numbers 97/00821/FUL and 97/0324FUL). The work was undertaken between 3rd and 6th November 1998.
- 1.2 The development site covers an area of approximately 170sq. metres to the east of Bridge Lane, to the south of Castle Hill, and to the north of Church Street, Ilkley (SE 115 478) (Fig. 2).
- 1.3 The underlying geology is boulder clay overlying millstone grit.

2. Archaeological Background

- 2.1 An archaeological specification was prepared by Jenny Marriot of the West Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record (WYAS SMR) to provide a basis for establishing and recording the degree of below ground archaeological survival within the proposed development site.
- 2.2 The development site lies within the core of Roman and medieval Ilkley. The five phase Roman fort to the east of the development has been investigated on several occasions this century and its location and dimensions are well established (Woodward 1925, Hartley 1966 and 1987). Much of the fort now lies below modern building; Church Street and New Brook Street overlie part of the eastern and southern areas; All Saints Church and churchyard occupy much of the central southern half, whilst the Manor House Museum and Castle Yard overlie large parts of the western side. The nineteenth century cutting of Castle Road resulted in the partial destruction of the fort's northern defences.
- 2.3 The fort was investigated by Brian Hartley during excavation work in 1962. Immediately outside the western wall three defensive ditches were identified, each associated with different phases of the fort's construction (Hartley 1966). More recent investigations by WYAS, identified part of the western wall and rampart (Brown 1996). A drop in the level of the land from Castle Yard down Castle Hill was utilised as a defensive embankment on which a rampart was constructed. Given that the eastern edge of the development site lies approximately 15-20m from the western edge of the fort, the western defences were of particular relevance to this evaluation. A stream, which appeared to run under the western side of the development site, may also have formed a boundary associated with the fort.

- 2.4 The core of medieval occupation in Ilkley lay along Church Street, with farmsteads clustered around the parish church and manor house. Map regression has indicated that the yard area within the development site may not have been built on since the 19th century, and therefore the potential for survival of Roman and medieval archaeology is high.

3. Method

- 3.1 The evaluation work involved the hand excavation of two 1.5m square trenches (Trenches 1 and 2) to a depth of 1.2m. The presence of existing buildings and live services restricted the location of the trenches to the south-eastern corner of the development site. The trenches were positioned east of a drain/culvert which ran roughly north-south along the western side of the development site, and south of existing garages (Fig. 2).
- 3.2 In accordance with the archaeological specification drawn up by the WYAS SMR, the evaluation trenches were hand-excavated, and a full drawn, written and photographic record was made of all observed archaeological features and deposits. Non-modern artefacts were retained and were removed from the site for conservation, and a number of environmental samples were also taken. The trenches were located with reference to permanent structures and to scale plans supplied by the client, Dodd Frankland Stocks Partnership Ltd.
- 3.3 The on-site recording was undertaken in compliance with the standard Archaeological Services WYAS method (Boucher 1995). Archaeological Services WYAS currently holds the written, drawn and photographic record from the evaluation, in addition to the artefacts and environmental flots and retents. These are stored in controlled conditions where appropriate.

4. Results

4.1 Summary

- 4.1.1 A total of thirteen contexts were allocated during the evaluation. An inventory of the contexts is presented in Appendix II.

4.2 Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

- 4.2.1 Part of a north-south aligned ditch feature and an associated deposit of compacted stone were identified in Trench 1. The overall dimensions of the feature were not established within the confines of the small trench, and no clearly natural deposits were identified. Waterlogging and partial flooding became a problem when the lower levels of the trench were excavated.
- 4.2.2 Beneath the earth and gravel yard surface 100, was a deposit 101 of dark grey clay loam, similar to topsoil material. The deposit measured 0.75m

in depth, and probably represented a dump of material used to level sloping ground. Artefacts recovered from this deposit included pottery ranging from Roman to post-medieval in date, and fragments of tile, animal bone and quern stone. The disturbed nature of this deposit suggests that the Roman pottery is residual.

4.2.3 Below the levelling deposit 101, a deposit 102 of yellow brown silty sand, measuring 0.36m in depth, was identified. Artefacts recovered from deposit 102 included pottery of Roman date and animal bone fragments. Deposit 102 in turn overlay a dark grey water-logged organic silty deposit 103, which was only partially excavated. Artefacts recovered from this deposit included pottery of Roman date, and fragments of brick, tile, animal bone and glass. Beneath deposit 103, a deposit 104 of compacted stone, 0.7m wide, sloping steeply from east to west, was observed towards the base of the trench.

4.2.4 It seems likely that deposit 104 represented a revetment, reinforced with river worn stones and gritstone fragments set into clay, on the edge of a ditch or embankment. Deposits 102 and 103 may represent the upper fills of the ditch, with material slumping in from the eastern edge of the feature. The only possible natural material observed in the trench was the clay into which the stones of the revetment 104 were set, and excavation of the trench was halted at a depth of 1.2m.

4.3 Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

4.3.1 Trench 2 was situated to the immediate south-east of Trench 1. A wall and an associated pit or post-hole overlying a compacted yellow stony deposit were identified in this trench. Deposits of water-logged silt and organic material were also observed towards the base of the trench.

4.3.2 Beneath the yard surface 200 of compacted earth, stones and gravel, was a deposit 201 of dark grey clay loam. Deposit 201 measured 0.4m in depth, and appeared similar to the levelling deposit 101 in Trench 1. Artefacts recovered from deposits 200 and 201 included pottery of Roman and post-medieval date, and fragments of bone, oyster shell and clay pipe. Beneath deposit 201 was a deposit 202 of mixed grey and yellow clay silt, measuring 0.14m in depth, and containing gritstone fragments. Artefacts recovered from this deposit included Roman pottery and tile, in addition to fragments of bone, shell and ferrous nails.

4.3.3 An L-shaped wall 203 was exposed following the removal of deposits 200, 201 and 202. The wall was aligned north-south along the western edge of the trench, before turning through 90° and continuing east along the northern edge of the trench. The north-south section of the wall measured 0.22m in width, 0.3m in depth, and was made up of three courses of coarse gritstone. A yellow clay bonded the wall in places but there was no evidence of mortar. The east-west section of the wall survived at a lower level and appeared more disturbed, perhaps the result of robbing. The make-up of the wall comprised coarse gritstone and large water worn stones. The east-west section of the wall was partially

obscured by the northern trench edge, thus precluding a determination of its dimensions. No construction cut for the wall was observed, either in plan or in section.

- 4.3.4 The wall was constructed above a deposit of mixed grey and yellow silty clay 204, measuring 0.18m in depth, and containing fragments of gritstone and sandstone. A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from this deposit. Deposit 204 was cut by a possible post-hole 209, perhaps indicating that the post-hole and the wall 203 were contemporary. Post-hole 209 was partially obscured by the eastern trench edge, although the visible dimensions indicated an approximate diameter of 0.4m and a depth of 0.32m. The post-hole 209 was filled by a single deposit 208 of grey silty clay, with large stone inclusions perhaps utilised as post packing. A number of bone fragments were recovered from this deposit during the processing of environmental samples. The wall and post-hole clearly formed part of a structure, although the size of the trench and the lack of datable artefactual evidence precluded a more exact determination of its form, function and date.
- 4.3.5 A deposit 205 of compacted yellow sand and stone was observed beneath deposit 204. The function of this deposit was uncertain although it may have formed a layer of levelling with deposit 204, prior to the construction of the structure associated with the wall 203 and post-hole 209. The wall 203 was left in-situ to inform any further investigations that may take place on the site, and a 0.4m wide slot was excavated along the eastern side of the trench to investigate the depth of archaeological deposits in the rest of the trench. Two further deposits were identified below deposit 205. A deposit of pale grey silt 206 with few inclusions overlay a dark brown organic deposit 207, which contained small fragments of wood and fibrous material. Both deposits were waterlogged and may have represented lower ditch or drain fills. No natural material was identified during the excavation of the slot and work was halted at a depth of 1.2m.

5. Artefact Record

5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 A variety of artefacts were recovered from the trenches including pottery, tile and brick, clay pipe, animal bone, shell, glass, iron nails and a fragment of quernstone. The majority of the pottery recovered was of Roman date, although medieval and post-medieval material was also present in the thick levelling deposits 101 and 201. An inventory of the artefacts is presented in Appendix III.

5.2 Trench 1

- 5.2.1 Finds of post-medieval and Roman pottery, animal bone fragments and part of a quernstone were recovered from the upper levelling deposit 101 in Trench 1. The Roman pottery and quernstone are likely to be residual.

- 5.2.2 Finds from the upper ditch fill 102, included a small quantity of Roman pottery and animal bone fragments. Numerous pottery sherds of Roman date were recovered from the ditch deposit 103, including Samian ware and amphorae. The deposit also yielded fragments of Roman tile and brick, some of which were patterned, animal bone and glass.
- 5.2.3 A few finds were extracted from environmental samples and included fragments of pottery and animal bone from deposit 103.

5.3 Trench 2

- 5.3.1 Finds of oyster shell, post-medieval and Roman pottery, clay pipe, flint, glass and animal bone fragments were recovered from the upper deposits 200 and 201 in Trench 2. The Roman pottery is likely to be residual.
- 5.3.2 Sherds of Roman pottery, representing a variety of vessel and fabric types, and fragments of brick and tile, some of which are patterned, were recovered from deposit 202. Fragments of animal bone and shell, and ferrous nails were also recovered from this deposit. A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from deposit 204.
- 5.3.3 A number of finds were extracted from environmental samples including fragments of pottery and burnt bone from deposit 206, animal bone from deposit 208, and pottery and animal bone from deposit 204.

6. Environmental Record

- 6.1 A total of five environmental samples were taken and were processed by means of wet sieving and flotation, in the WYAS laboratory. An inventory of the samples is presented in Appendix IV. Charcoal and carbonised material was identified in four of the samples as well as a large quantity of small wood and fibrous fragments within the organic waterlogged context 207. A number of finds were extracted from the samples (see paragraphs 5.2.3 and 5.3.3 above).

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 The evaluation trenches identified archaeological features and deposits within the development area, although the restricted size of the trenches precluded a fuller interpretation of these remains.
- 7.2 Trench 1 identified part of a possible ditch filled with deposits of waterlogged silt and organic material. A possible revetted embankment was constructed on the eastern edge of the ditch. Artefacts recovered from the ditch fills all appeared to be of Roman date, suggesting an association with the fort to the east. At least three ditches, are known to have encompassed the fort, each associated with different phases of construction (Hartley 1966). The ditch identified within Trench 1 may represent one of these defensive features.

- 7.3 Trench 2 identified at least two phases of archaeological activity. This included a possible structure of unknown date formed by part of a wall and a post-hole, with associated layers of levelling. The structure and associated deposits overlay earlier silt and organic waterlogged deposits, the origin of which was not clear.
- 7.4 The majority of the finds recovered during the evaluation suggests the presence of deposits and features of Roman date sealed by later medieval and post-medieval ground levelling deposits.



Fig. 1. Site Location



- Proposed building
- Existing buildings as derived from architects plans
- Evaluation trenches
- Limits of roman fort, approximate location



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Fig. 2. Trench location plan, 1:500

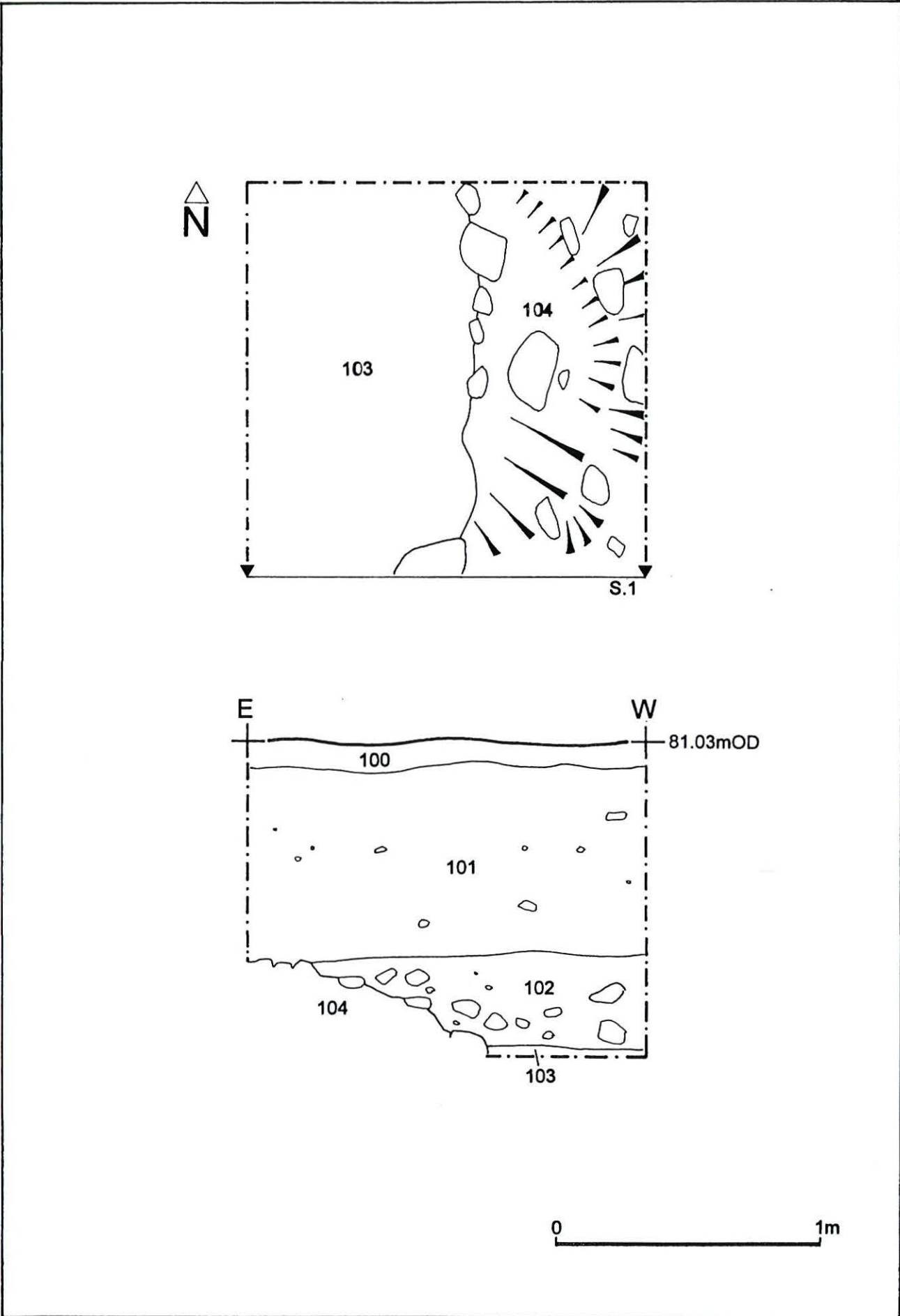


Fig. 3. Post-excavation plan and section, Trench 1

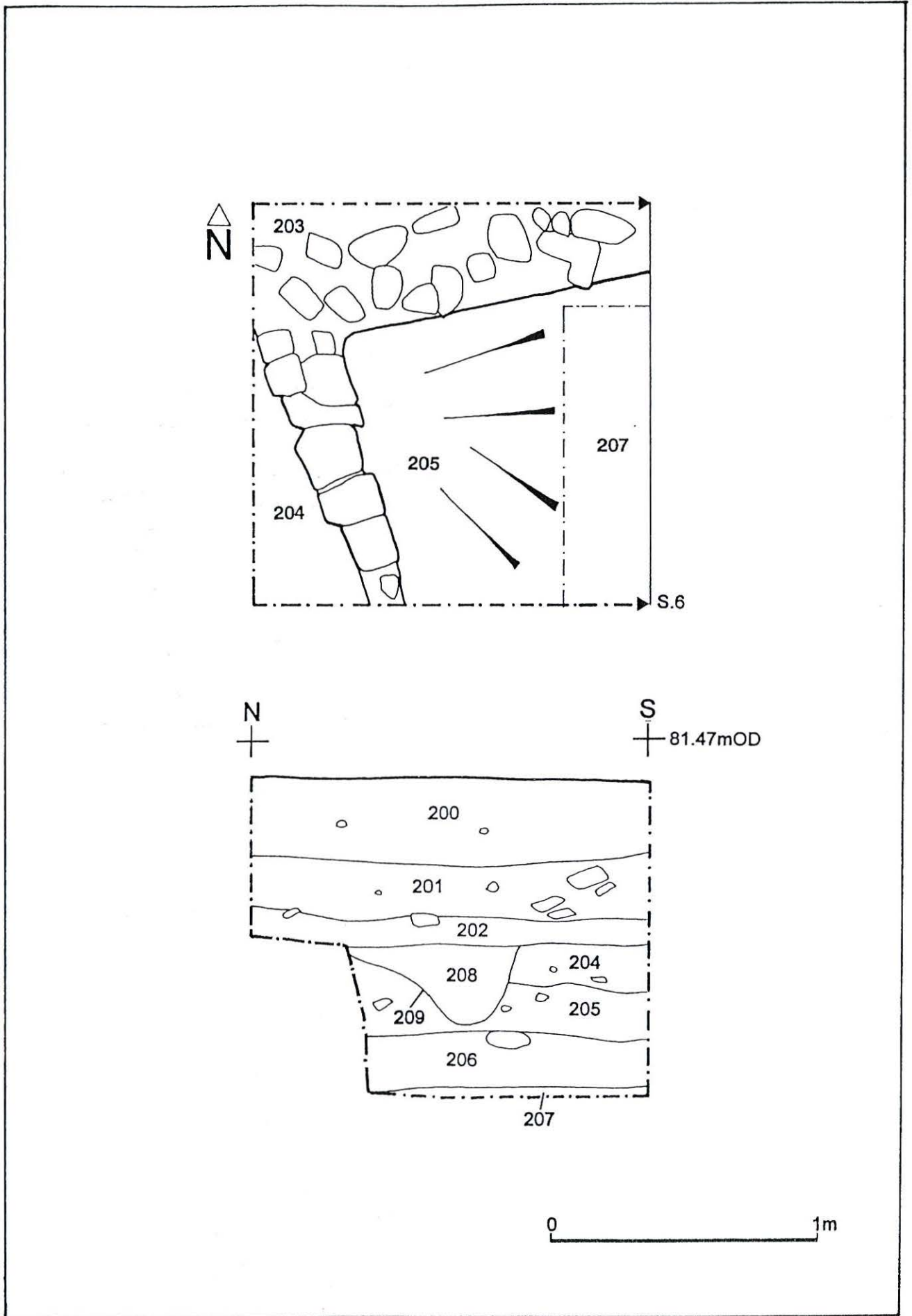


Fig. 4. Post-excavation plan and section, Trench 2

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- Report:*** Charlie Morris BA (Hons)
- Illustration:*** Shaun Prickett BA (Hons), Andy Swann MAAIS

Appendix I Primary Archive inventory

File No.	File	Description	Quantity (A4)
I	Contexts, Artefacts & Environmental Samples	Context sheets (Trench 1)	5
		Context sheets (Trench 2)	8
		Group trench sheets	2
		Finds register	2
		Environmental sample register	1
		Environmental sample sheets	5
		Environmental laboratory sheets	5
		Summary and Inventory	2
		Site Location Plan	1
		Archaeological specification	1 document
		II	Drawings & Photographs
Drawings	6 (A3)		
Architects plan	1		
Photographic record sheets	2		
Monochrome prints	1 film (5588)		
Colour transparencies	1 film (5602)		

Appendix II Context Inventory

Context No	Description
Trench 1	
100	Yard surface
101	Levelling deposit
102	Ditch fill
103	Ditch fill
104	Stone revetting
Trench 2	
200	Yard surface
201	Levelling deposit
202	Deposit
203	Wall
204	Deposit
205	Deposit
206	Water-logged silt deposit
207	Water-logged organic deposit

Appendix III Artefact Record

Context	Description	Quantity
Trench 1		
101	Quern stone fragment	1
101	Pottery fragments	5
101	Animal bone fragment	1
102	Pottery fragments	5
102	Animal bone fragments	4
103	Glass fragment	1
103	Brick/Tile	8
103	Animal bone fragments	8
103	Pottery fragments	21
Trench 2		
200	Oyster/shell fragments	3
200	Pottery fragments	13
200	Flint fragment	1
200	Animal bone fragments	3
201	Pottery fragment	1
201	Animal bone fragments	2
201	Glass fragment	1
202	Animal bone fragments	27
202	Nails	2
202	Shell fragment	1
202	Brick/Tile	4
202	Pottery fragments	11
204	Pottery fragment	1

Appendix IV Environmental Sample Record

Context No	Sample No	Description	Contents
103	1	Fill of ditch	Charcoal flecks
204	2	Deposit	Charcoal flecks
208	3	Deposit	Charcoal flecks
206	4	Silt deposit below wall foundation	Charcoal and wood fragments
207	5	Organic deposit below 206	Wood and fibre fragments