

# Maryvale, East Street, Long Compton, Warwickshire

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING



*understanding heritage matters*

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1593  
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*Working for  
Warwickshire*

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**Team:**  
**Project Manager:** Stuart Palmer MCIfA  
**Fieldwork:** Laurence Jones MCIfA, Dr Catherine Coutts,  
Caroline Rann BA  
**Author:** Dr Cathy Coutts  
**Illustrations:** Candy Stevens  
**Report checked by:** Stuart Palmer MCIfA  
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Archaeology Warwickshire

Unit 9

Montague Road

Warwick

CV34 5LW

01926 412278

[fieldarchaeology@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:fieldarchaeology@warwickshire.gov.uk)

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/archaeology](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/archaeology)

<b>CONTENTS</b>		<b>Page</b>
	Summary	2
1	Introduction	2
2	Site Location	3
3	Archaeological and Historical Background	3
4	Aims and Methods	5
5	Results	6
6	Conclusions	8
	Acknowledgements	9
	References	9

## **APPENDICES**

A	List of Contexts	11
B	List of Finds	13

## **PHOTOS**

1	General view of foundation trenches excavated for new house	14
2	Ditch 112 running down trench	14
3	Ditch 119	15
4	Section through pit 108	15
5	Wall 117	16
6	Wall 118	16
7	Brick wall 132 in ST2 with rubble 130 of stone walling	17
8	Soakaway pit	17
9	Excavation of ST3 and ST4	18
10	Excavation of trenches for new garage	18
11	Stone wall 146	19

## **FIGURES**

1	Location of application area and Historic Environment information
2	Detail from First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885
3	Trenches Observed
4	Sections A to I

## SUMMARY

*A programme of archaeological observation and recording was carried out during the groundworks stage of work for the erection of a new house and garage at Maryvale, East Street, Long Compton, following on from an archaeological evaluation earlier in the year. The two medieval ditches recorded in the evaluation were seen to continue, to the south, and to the east, and a large medieval pit was also recorded. Further stone walls were recorded, some of which correspond to buildings or boundaries on the first edition map, while others may be of earlier date.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Stratford-on-Avon District Council for the demolition of a dwelling and garage and the erection of a new dwelling and garage, including alterations to the boundary at Maryvale, East Street, Long Compton. An archaeological evaluation by Archaeology Warwickshire in April 2015 established that some significant archaeological deposits survive on the site (Gethin and Jones 2015). Warwickshire Planning Archaeologist Anna Stocks, in her capacity as archaeological advisor to the District Council, subsequently required additional mitigation to be undertaken in accordance with a brief (May 2015) which set out a programme of archaeological work.

1.2 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological fieldwork in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation to include:

- *The area to be disturbed by the development (including the patio) is to be reduced to the required development levels under the direct charge of the archaeological contractor. Any archaeological deposits exposed are to be archaeologically excavated and recorded, unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Archaeologist*
- *Observation of all other ground disturbance by archaeological staff in order to identify any deposits of archaeological importance; the archaeologists must have the authority to halt any earth moving activity if necessary to define and record areas of archaeological interest;*

This report presents the results of that work. The archaeological archive will be deposited at the Warwickshire Museum under Site Code LE15, temporary accession number T/1461.

## 2 LOCATION

2.1 The development site is located on the north side of East Street in the centre of the village at national grid reference SP 2895 3265.

2.2 The underlying geology of the site is recorded as Second Terrace River Gravels (British Geological Survey 1968).

## 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Medieval Long Compton can be traced as far back as Domesday (1086) when the manor was held by Geoffrey de Mandeville for the King (VCH 1949, 52-58). Before the conquest it was held by Asgar the Staller and legend has St Augustine performing a miracle in the church here. As St Augustine came to Britain in the late 590s and early 600s AD, a time when it is very unlikely there was a church here, the legend probably implies the existence of a later Saxon church on the site. In 1086 Long Compton was a large settlement and very valuable, with 30 hides and land for 20 ploughs, the lord being responsible for 25 slaves, 45 villagers with a priest, 13 smallholders and 2 men-at-arms with 10 ploughs. A licence to hold a market on Mondays was granted on the 15th of May 1231. This shows Long Compton to have been a more important village and could have been an attempt at turning it into a small town. It is possible to recreate the likely outline of medieval Long Compton (MWA 8968) by studying early maps and aerial photographs. These depict the village as over a mile in length with the parish church (MWA 2367) and the site of the manor house (MWA 2370) both being at the northern end of the village.

3.2 The earliest map of the area, of Lord Northampton's Estate, dates to 1812 (Insall 1838). This shows the current application area containing at least one building on the boundary of a defined property although its accuracy precludes absolute plotting. A map book of 1832 (Insall 1832) suggests that the building may lie on the western side of the current area which is otherwise divided as part of a large 'close' and two small yards at the then end of what became East Street. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885 however clearly depicts a small yard with agricultural buildings on the north and east sides. East Street by this date extended to the back of the village.

### MONUMENTS

<b>MWA</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
2372	Primitive Methodist	Imperial	Broad Street

	Chapel		
2373	Methodist Chapel	Imperial	East Street
2376	Congregational Chapel	Imperial	Butlers Road
2377	Gaol on Broad Street	Post-medieval	A gaol or prison, built of stone in the late 17th century. It is now a private house but retains some of the original features.
8572	Old Vicarage grounds	Post-medieval to Imperial	A garden associated with Old Vicarage. It is marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1885.
3802	Site of Possible Pound	Medieval to Post-medieval	Site of a pound which was used for penning livestock.
5446	Site of Milepost	Imperial	by Village Cross
5260	Water pump	Imperial	50m SE post office
2368	Village Cross	Medieval to Imperial	The remains of a Medieval wayside cross preserved within a modern village pump. Its original location may have been on the other side of the road on a small green.
8968	Long Compton Medieval Settlement	Medieval	Probable extent of Medieval settlement in Long Compton as indicated on the Ordnance Survey map of 1886.
12185	Ridge and furrow ploughing	Medieval	To the east of Weston Gardens is apparent as earthworks on aerial photographs taken in 1996.
12190	Ridge and furrow ploughing	Medieval	
12183	Ridge and furrow ploughing	Medieval	To the west of Long Compton earthworks photographed in 1947 but now levelled
4829	Turnpike road from Stratford to Andoversford	Imperial	A toll road running from Stratford to Andoversford. Travellers would have had to pay a toll to use the road during the Imperial period.

3.4 Recent archaeological work around Long Compton includes archaeological evaluations undertaken at Ashby Farm, in 2010 and South Hill Farm in 2011. Neither revealed any significant archaeological remains, both sites apparently being within medieval agricultural fields (Archaeology Warwickshire 2010, 2011a and 2011b). An archaeological evaluation in 2012 at Wheelwright House at the south end of the village exposed a medieval stone wall and drain along with pottery dating from the 11th to 13th century. A subsequent

watching brief during the construction of new housing failed to reveal any further evidence of medieval activity. An evaluation at Clarks Lane in 2014 identified substantial and significant archaeological remains associated with the medieval village.

## EVENTS

<b>EWA</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
9023	INT	English Heritage National Mapping Project HEEP 5191
9482	WB	Watching Brief at The Old Gaol, Broad Street, Long Compton
6649	FO	Site visit to Long Compton Old Vicarage by J. Lovie c1996

3.5 Three archaeological evaluation trenches were excavated on the East Street frontage in 2015. One ditch, together with another ditch or pit, was revealed in Trench 2 and another ditch was recorded in Trench 1 and all were of probable 12th- to 13th-century date. These features may represent a former property boundary or subdivisions within a plot and associated activities. The northernmost ditch recorded in Trench 1 and a stone wall in Trench 2 appear to coincide with boundaries shown on maps from 1885-1922 but are otherwise undated (Gethin and Jones 2015).

## 4 AIMS AND METHODS

4.1 The main aim of the work was to record any archaeological remains disturbed by the development, to collate the records in an archaeological archive and present the significant aspects of the archive in a report for dissemination.

4.2 The secondary aim was to form an understanding of the remains recorded in terms of their character and date, and to place the evidence in its local and regional context.

4.3 The objective of the work was a programme of controlled excavation to development formation levels, or the geological natural, whichever the higher.

4.4 The work undertaken involved the examination of early map evidence as well as records of archaeological remains in the area and local historical journals and other publications.

4.5 An experienced archaeologist was made available for each day of ground disturbance when notified by the client in accordance with WSI/Brief planning condition.

## 5 RESULTS

5.1 The context numbers used during the archaeological recording continued from those used in Trench 1 of the evaluation. The foundation trenches for the new house were excavated to a depth of 0.60m and were 0.60m wide. Ground reduction within the footprint was less than 0.10m. The natural brownish yellow sandy clay (103) was recorded at a depth of c.0.30m and was cut by a number of features, some of which were continuations of features recorded in the evaluation. Ditch 106 continued to the east (recorded as 112, fill 113) and ditch 207 continued to the north and south (recorded as 119, fill 120, which produced a sherd of medieval pottery). Ditch 107/112 was seen to terminate with a butt-end just to the west of where it had been recorded in the evaluation and 207/119 had a butt-end to the north of the former evaluation trench. Medieval pit 108, over 0.74m deep, was also recorded in the northernmost foundation trench, its fill (109) contained 12th/13th-century pottery, animal bone and a piece of slag.

5.2 Parts of a number of stone walls were recorded (115, 117, 118 and 142), some of which appear to relate to parts of buildings shown on the first edition, and later Ordnance Survey maps. Wall 115 was overlain by a spread of limestone (114) that probably resulted from its demolition; this had been cut into, probably in recent times (144) and the fill of this cut (145) was similar to the topsoil above. Wall 117 had a fragment of 19th-century pottery within its make-up. Stone wall 118 was made up of blocks up to 0.45m x 0.50m, and did not appear to relate to 19th-century mapping but a fragment of slipware in its make-up suggests it may be 18th-century in date. Ditch 104 was seen to continue to the south-east (as 110, fill 111). The ditch fill contained a fragment of white tile and residual medieval pottery.

5.3 A number of modern features were also noted, including two water pipes, a concrete slab and a possible modern posthole (143).

### **Service trench 1 (ST1)**

5.4 The first service trench was excavated between the new house plot and the southern boundary wall without an archaeologist on site and gravel had been laid along the bottom of the trench and the pipework was already in place when the trench was inspected. The trench was 0.60m wide and mostly 0.65m wide. Ditch 205, here numbered 119, was recorded crossing the trench although here it was only 0.60m wide. No finds were recorded from the fill. In the centre of the trench a 0.65m wide small pit or gully 122 was filled with very dark grey stony clay (123); no finds were recovered from it. The only other feature



noted in this trench was a single skin brick wall 121, c.0.50m below the former ground level. This wall was cut (124) into the natural clay.

### **Soakaway**

5.5 A soakaway pit was excavated in the north-west part of the site, measuring 1.70m x 2.00m. Natural clay was recorded at a depth of 0.70m, overlaid by a 0.35m thick layer of brown clay loam with pebbles (128), which was in turn overlain by 0.15m of very dark brown clay loam (127). A thin lens of modern reddish yellow sand, 50mm deep, overlay layer 127 in the eastern part of the pit and this, and layer 127 were overlaid by 0.15m of modern topsoil (125), which had been covered in terram and pea gravel.

### **ST 2**

5.6 Service trench 2 ran from the north-west corner of the new building footprint to the soakaway pit. The trench was 10.90m long and 0.45m wide. A length of c.2m of stone wall footing 130, appeared to be the return to an extant but truncated stone wall on the edge of the site and is shown on First Edition and later mapping. Some of the blocks measured 0.70m across, but the majority were in the region of 0.50m x 0.30m. Unfrosted bricks in the spoil in the vicinity may have been from demolished upper walling. Brick wall footing 132, two bricks wide (0.24m) was aligned parallel some 1.80m from the standing wall to the west. The relationship with stone walling 130 was uncertain; it may have been overlain by it or to the side but must have been truncated by the building footing to the south. An electric cable (131) was also recorded, crossing the trench at a depth of 0.30m and covered with yellow hazard tape. In the majority of the trench the lowest layer recorded was the same pebbly layer noted in the soakaway (128), overlain by a clean layer of brown clay loam (133), itself overlain by 0.15m of grey brown sandy loam topsoil (129).

### **ST 3**

5.7 This trench ran from the north-west corner of the northern wing to the soakaway and was only excavated to a maximum depth of 0.40m, at the soakaway. The deeper part of the trench cut into layer 128. The majority of the trench only cut into topsoil and no features were recorded.

### **ST 4**

5.8 This trench was excavated from the soakaway to the north of the north-east corner of the northern wing of the house and was 11.8m long, varying in depth between 0.45m and 0.60m. The sequence in Trench 4 was similar to that in the service trench and an area of

stonework, possibly a wall or path remnant c.2m wide (134) was recorded above the level of the dark soil 127. At a similar level in the trench, but further to the east, a thin layer of brownish yellow sand and small stones was recorded, c.3.50m long and 50mm thick, overlying layer 127 and itself overlain by topsoil.

## **ST 5**

5.9 Service trench 5 ran down the eastern side of the building, to join with the existing manhole to the south-east of the new building footprint. In the northern part of the trench a shallow sloping pit or ditch cut (136) was recorded, further north than the line of ditch 110 recorded during the excavation of the foundation trenches. This was filled with a grey brown sandy clay with occasional pebbles (137) and probably merged with the fill of ditches 104/110 and 106/112 the fill of the latter looks to be slightly darker on the projected line. The southern part of the trench coincided with the line of an existing ceramic drain (138), running between two manholes. The cut for this drain (139) was filled with stone rubble and some bricks which is probably demolition material from the building shown on historic mapping.

## **Garage**

5.10 The foundation trenches for the new garage were 0.60m wide and 0.80m deep. A stone wall was recorded at the base of the trenches, running west-east (146), 0.60m-0.75m wide which appeared to correspond with the line of wall 118 recorded in the foundation trenches to the west. A large cut was recorded at the rear of the area excavated (147), the fill of which (148) did not contain any dating material. However, it appears to coincide with a curving field boundary that can be seen on the first edition map.

5.11 The fill and walling were covered by a similar layer of subsoil seen in the house foundation trenches (116) itself overlain by topsoil (101)

## **6 CONCLUSIONS**

6.1 Several medieval features of 12th/13th-century date were found during the evaluation and subsequent observations during the foundation and service trenching. A number of stone walls of post-medieval date were also recorded, and some of these appear to belong to buildings shown on historic mapping, with others likely to be older. A curving field boundary, shown on the first edition map, was recorded as the side of a ditch in the north-eastern part of the garage foundations.

6.2 The medieval activity appears to relate to settlement features with a distinctive cellular or coaxial arrangement. Given that the post-medieval walls seem to respect the medieval activity it might be supposed that the 12/13th-century features were somehow extant in the post-medieval period. The absence of later medieval finds suggests discontinuity in use and even perhaps a period of disuse. Although tempting to attribute this to plague and depopulation there may actually be may less prosaic reasons for a part of a property to enter a period of disuse.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## APPENDICES

### **A List of contexts**

- 100 Modern pea gravel surface (in evaluation)
- 101 Dark brown clay loam topsoil
- 102 Layer of yellow brown clay loam (in evaluation)
- 103 Brownish yellow natural sandy clay
- 104 Ditch, running W-E (in evaluation)
- 105 Fill of ditch 104 (in evaluation)
- 106 Ditch running west –east (in evaluation)
- 107 Fill of ditch 106
- 108 Cut of possible pit
- 109 Fill of pit 108
- 110 Cut of ditch (= 104 in evaluation)
- 111 Fill of ditch 110
- 112 Cut of ditch (= 106 in evaluation)
- 113 Fill of ditch 112
- 114 Demolition layer, limestone and bricks
- 115 Limestone wall (= 202 in evaluation)
- 116 Layer below topsoil
- 117 Limestone wall foundations, N-S
- 118 Limestone wall, W-E
- 119 Ditch cut, N-S
- 120 Fill of ditch 119
- 121 Brick wall, N-S
- 122 Pit or gully cut
- 123 Fill of 122
- 124 Foundation cut for brick wall 121

- 125 Modern topsoil to rear of site below Terram
- 126 Thin lens of modern sand
- 127 Layer of very dark grey brown clay loam, former garden soil?
- 128 Layer of brown clay loam with lots of pebbles, very compact
- 129 Grey brown sandy loam topsoil
- 130 Limestone wall footings
- 131 Electric cable
- 132 Brick wall, parallel to standing wall to west
- 133 Layer of clean brown sandy clay loam
- 134 Remnant of wall footing?
- 135 Thin layer of brownish yellow sand
- 136 Shallow sloping cut
- 137 Fill of 136
- 138 Modern ceramic drain running N-S
- 139 Cut for drainpipe 138
- 140 Fill of drain trench 139, large quantities of stone demolition rubble
- 141 Stone wall in east section of ST5
- 142 Stone wall
- 143 Modern posthole
- 144 Cut in 114
- 145 Fill of 144
- 146 Stone wall in garage trenches
- 147 Cut – ditch?
- 148 Fill of 146

## B List of Finds

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Comments</i>
105	Pottery	1	18thC black-glazed coarseware
109	Pottery	4	12th/13th-century
109	Slag	1	
109	Bone	3	Small mammal bone fragments
111	Pottery	1	12th/13th -century
111	Tile	1	Modern glazed white tile fragment
111	Bone	1	Mammal long-bone fragment
113	Pottery	3	12th/13th-century
113	Bone	1	Small mammal bone fragment
117	Pottery	1	19thC
118	Pottery	1	Feathered slipware (1680-1730)
118	Glass	1	Pale green window glass
120	Pottery	1	Medieval
ST4 U/S	Pottery	8	2 x 12th/13thC, 1 abraded medieval; 3 x black-glazed coarseware, 1 x Mocha, 1 x German stoneware – Frechen (1550-1690)
ST4 U/S	Iron	2	Very large nails with rectangular shanks
U/S	Pottery	2	12th/13th-century



1. General view of foundation trenches excavated for new house



2. Ditch 112 running down trench





3. Ditch 119



4. Section through pit 108



5. Wall 117



6. Wall 118



7. Brick wall 132 in ST2 with rubble 130 of stone walling



8. Soakaway pit



9. Excavation of ST3 and ST4



10. Excavation of trenches for new garage



11. Stone wall 146

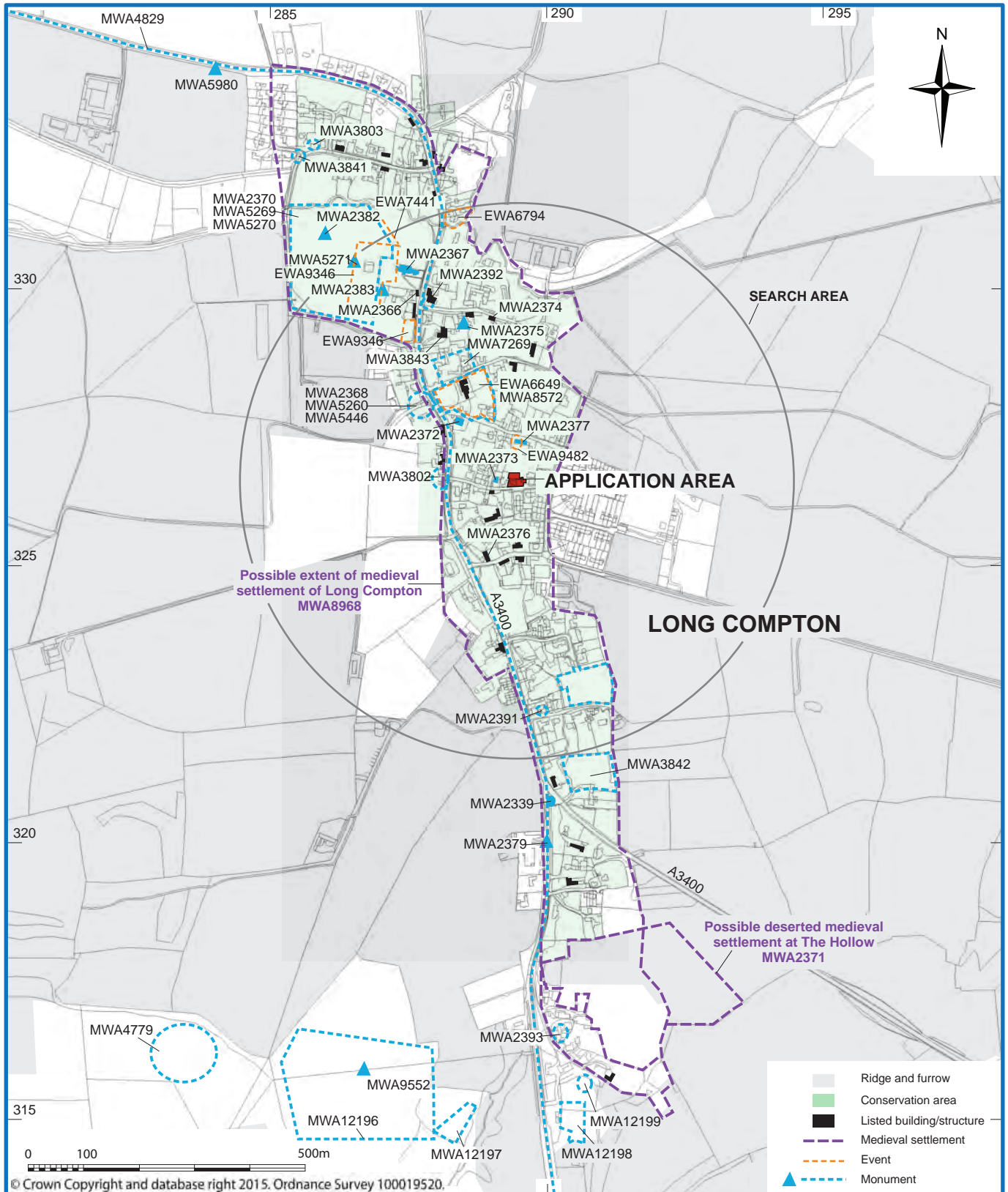


Fig 1: Location of Application Area and Historic Environment Information

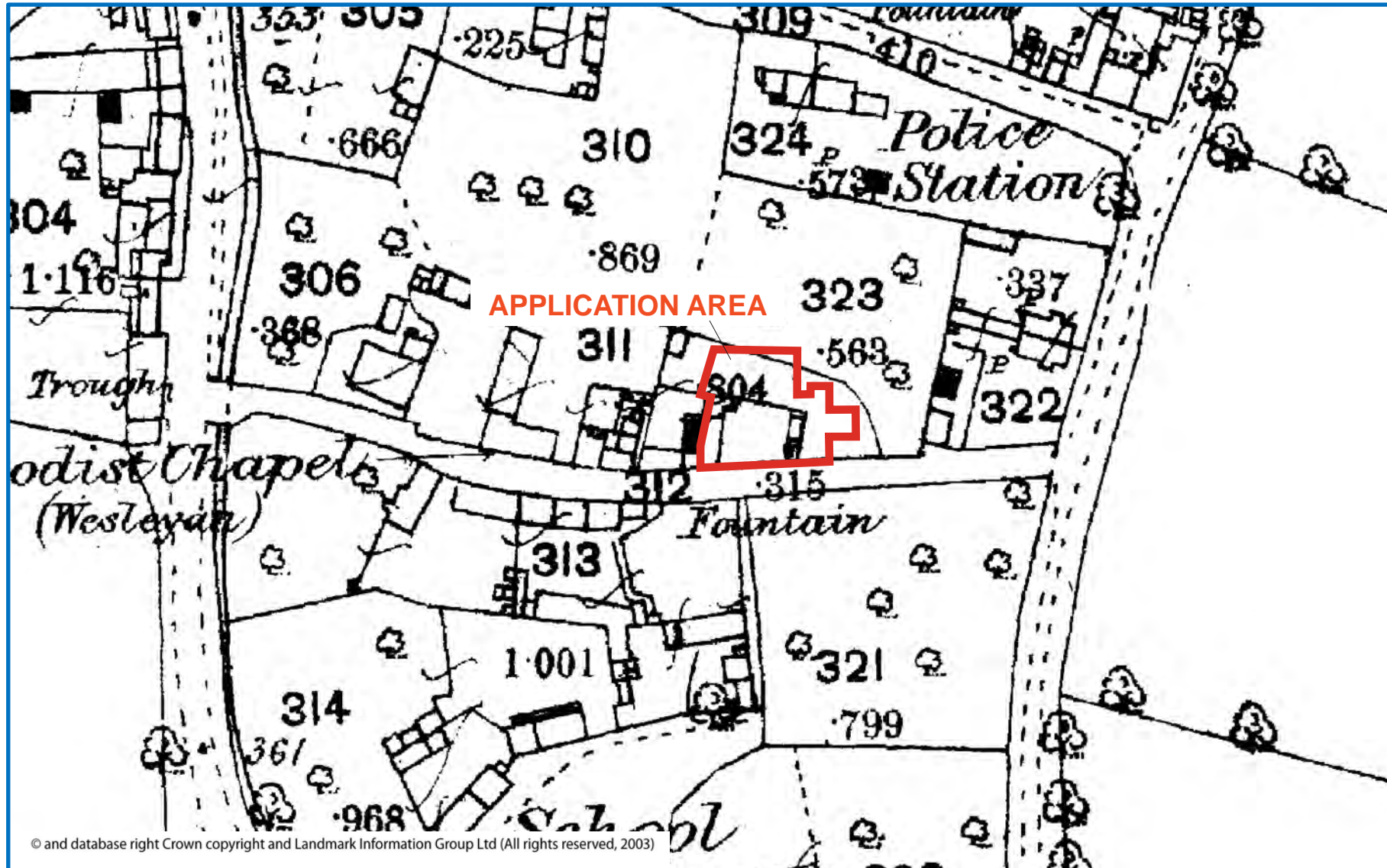


Fig 2: Detail from First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885

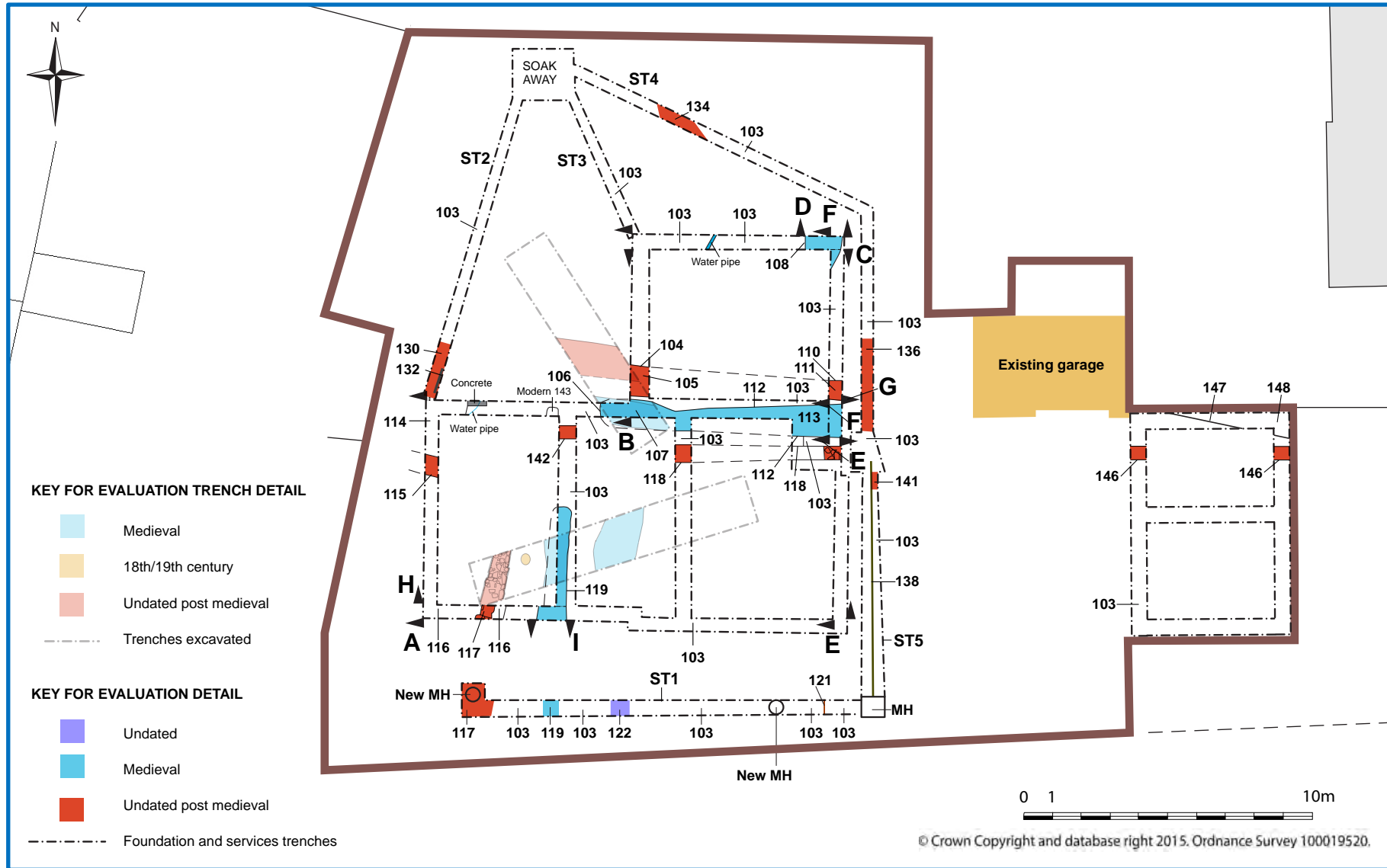


Fig 3: Trenches observed



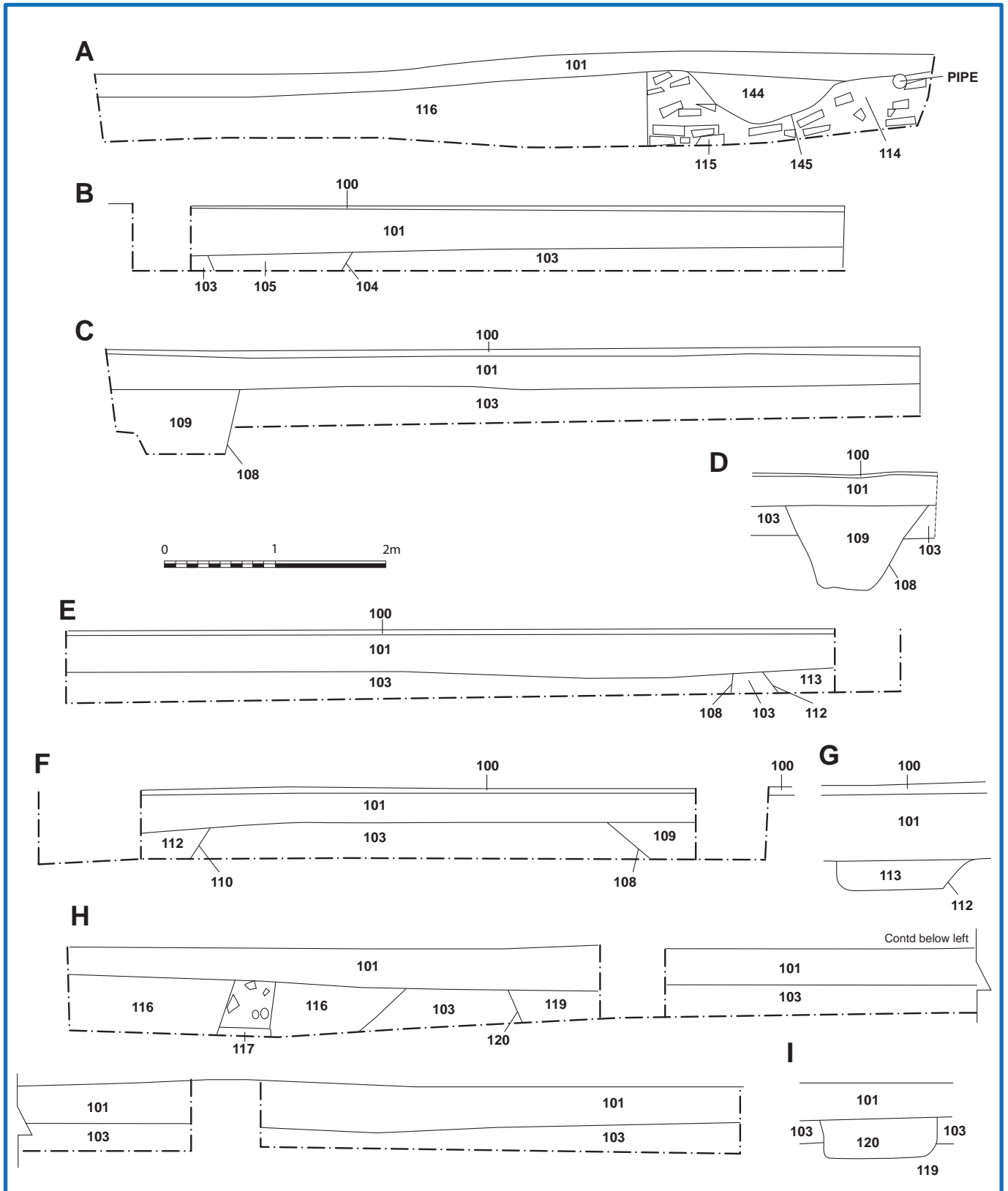


Fig 4: Sections A to I