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Archaeology Unit

Report 1139

**Archaeological Watching Brief at 29-33 Market Street,
Poole.**

POOMS: AR 1927

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Archaeological Watching Brief at 29-33 Market Street, Poole.

By AD Russel BA PhD MIFA & A Fedorowicz

Site code / Accession Number	POOMS: AR 1927
Archaeology Unit report	1139
National grid reference	NGR SZ 009905
Planning Reference	APP/12/00067/L

1. SUMMARY

MITIE Property Services carried out construction works on 29-33 Market Street, Poole, a listed building dating back to the 17th century. Part of the works was to underpin a boundary wall and this was subject to an archaeological watching brief under a planning condition. The underpinning method was changed to piling rather than excavation so the watching brief was not carried out, but the clearance of a previously unknown cellar revealed historic timbers and the local planning authority requested that these were archaeologically recorded.

2. INTRODUCTION

The Archaeology Unit of Southampton City Council carried out an archaeological watching brief at 29-33 Market Street, Poole, on behalf of MITIE Property Services (UK) Limited of Fareham. The client had obtained planning permission to demolish and rebuild the rear wall of a lean-to extension, under Application APP/12/00067/L. Observations were made by A Fedorowicz on 21st and 22nd January 2013. The project was managed by Dr AD Russel.

3. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The site lies in the historic centre of Poole, to the south of Market Street, at NGR SZ 009905 (Fig 1).

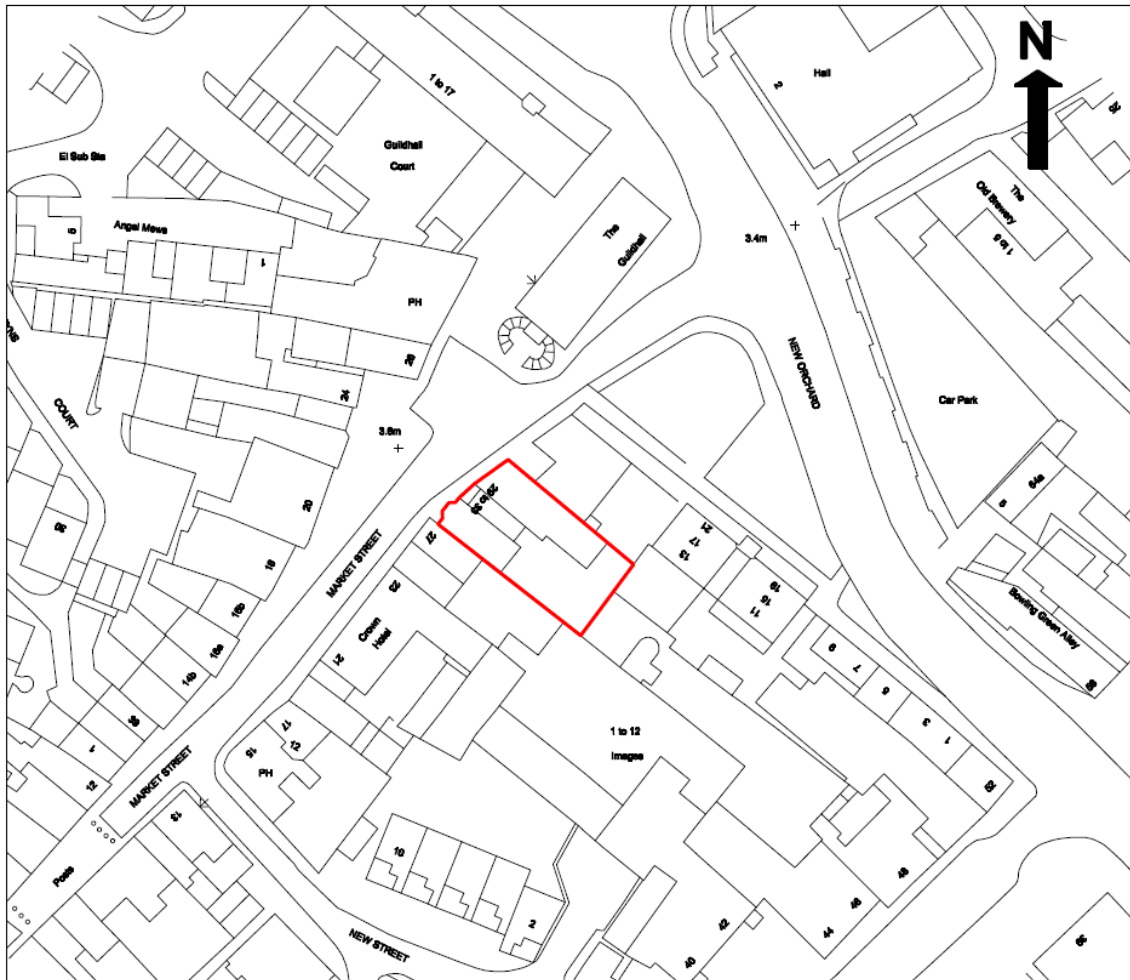


Fig 1. Site location in red.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies in the historic centre of Poole, which was granted its charter in 1248. The building is listed Grade II, no 412552, and is described as a *seventeenth century house and shop in rendered brick, seventeenth century bay in painted header bond, Flemish bond brickwork rendered on left side, rendered left-hand lateral stack, tiled half-hipped mansard roof*. (Heritage Gateway accessed 3/8/12).

5. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the work was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within the area of the site, and to record such evidence.

6. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

The archaeological work consisted of the observation of the clearance of a 17th century cellar, exposed during renovation works. Artefacts and historic timbers were recorded. The presence of asbestos meant that the timbers were sent to a controlled tip. The historic timbers and deposits within the cellar were recorded using the Southampton City Council Archaeological Recording System. The contexts were numbered 1 to 5. Written, drawn and photographic records have been taken.

7. RESULTS OF THE WATCHING BRIEF

Clearance of the cellar was limited to removing up to 300mm of demolition material (Context 5), deposited within the room (Fig 2). Context 5 was very loose, dusty silt, dark grey in colour with very common inclusions of 20th century material. Four beams, not in situ, were found in the cellar and retrieved before closure of the room due to the presence of asbestos. All the beams were cut in half to enable them to be removed from the building and recorded.

Context 5 contained the following finds:

1 Pint milk bottle M+P Dairies LTD. Est.1874
2 ½ Pint milk bottle M+P Dairies LTD. Est.1874
Glass flask No.3
Glass phial
Fragment of chimney pot. White fabric
Fragment of roof tile. Pink Fabric
Glass tube
Glass medicine bottle (marked in spoons divisions)
3 fragments of 2 brown teapots
Haired plaster
Stoneware jam jar
Iron pintle from garage door (modern)
1 fragment of Verwood dish
1 bone (pig)
2 bricks : 1 frogged, 1 floor
1 fireplace tile, bright blue

1 fragment of Welsh slate
1 red fabric roof tile.
2 fragments of china
1 fragment of curved wood (? From a chair)



Fig 2. Cellar filled with context 5.

The beams recorded were as follows:

Beam 1 (Context 1) was 4.35 m long, 240mm wide and 190mm thick (Fig 3). It was made of oak, partly rotten, with traces of hand sawing and adzing. There were no carpenter's marks. One damaged mortice hole (250mm long x 60mm wide x 30mm deep) was present at the very end of the beam. The beam had been reinforced by a 1.45 m long, 80mm wide and 50mm thick, machine sawn, softwood plank. It had been nailed to the timber with modern nails.

Beam 2 (Context 2) was 3.75 m long, 210mm wide and 200mm thick (Figs 4 & 5). It was made of oak, partly rotten, with evidence of hand sawing. It was partly adzed on the sides and trimmed by adze at one end. It had been lime washed. Two carpenter's marks (VIII) and three damaged mortises (260mm long x 60mm wide x 30mm deep)

were present on the beam. A number of lengths of machine sawn, softwood joists had been attached with modern nails.

Beam 3 (Context 3) was 3.9 m long, 230mm wide and 210mm thick (Fig 6). It was made of oak. Three sides were hand sawn and was one adzed. Four carpenter's marks (2 of VII and 2 of IXI) (Fig 7) and one mortise (80mm long x 20mm wide x 15 mm deep) were present. Context 3 was reinforced with a machine sawn, softwood plank.

Beam 4 (Context 4) was 4.0 m long, 270mm wide and 120mm thick. It was made of oak, partly rotten, hand sawn, with no carpenter's marks. It bore seven mortices and numerous peg-holes (Fig 8). The mortices varied from 200mm to 250 mm in length, 30mm to 100mm in width and 20mm to 120mm in depth. A modern, machine sawn, softwood plank had been nailed to it at one end.



Fig 3. Beam 1



Fig 4. Beam 2, under side.



Fig 5. Beam 2, upper side.



Fig 6. Beam 3.



Fig 7. Carpenters Mark VII on Beam 3.

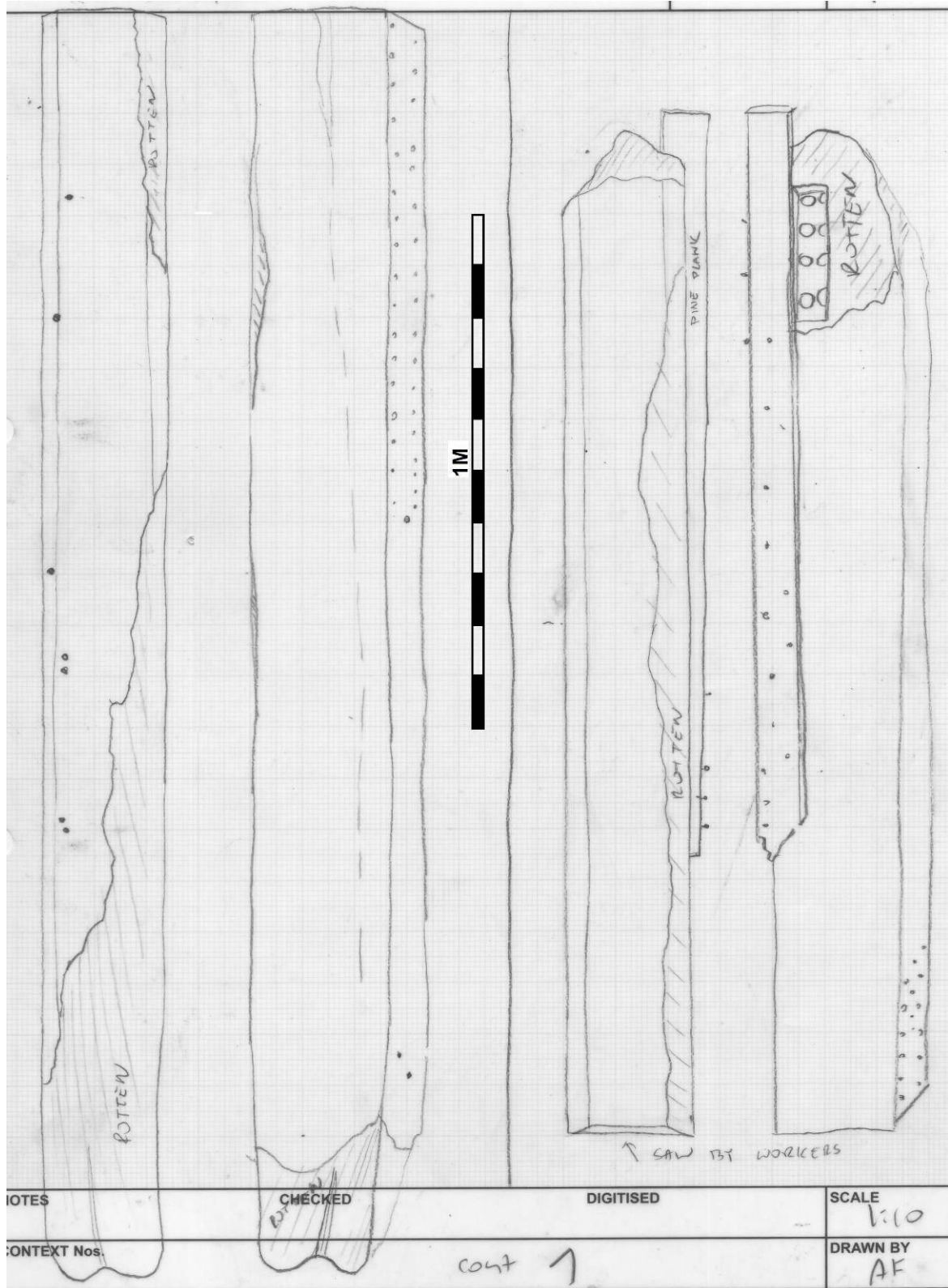


Fig 8. Beam 4.

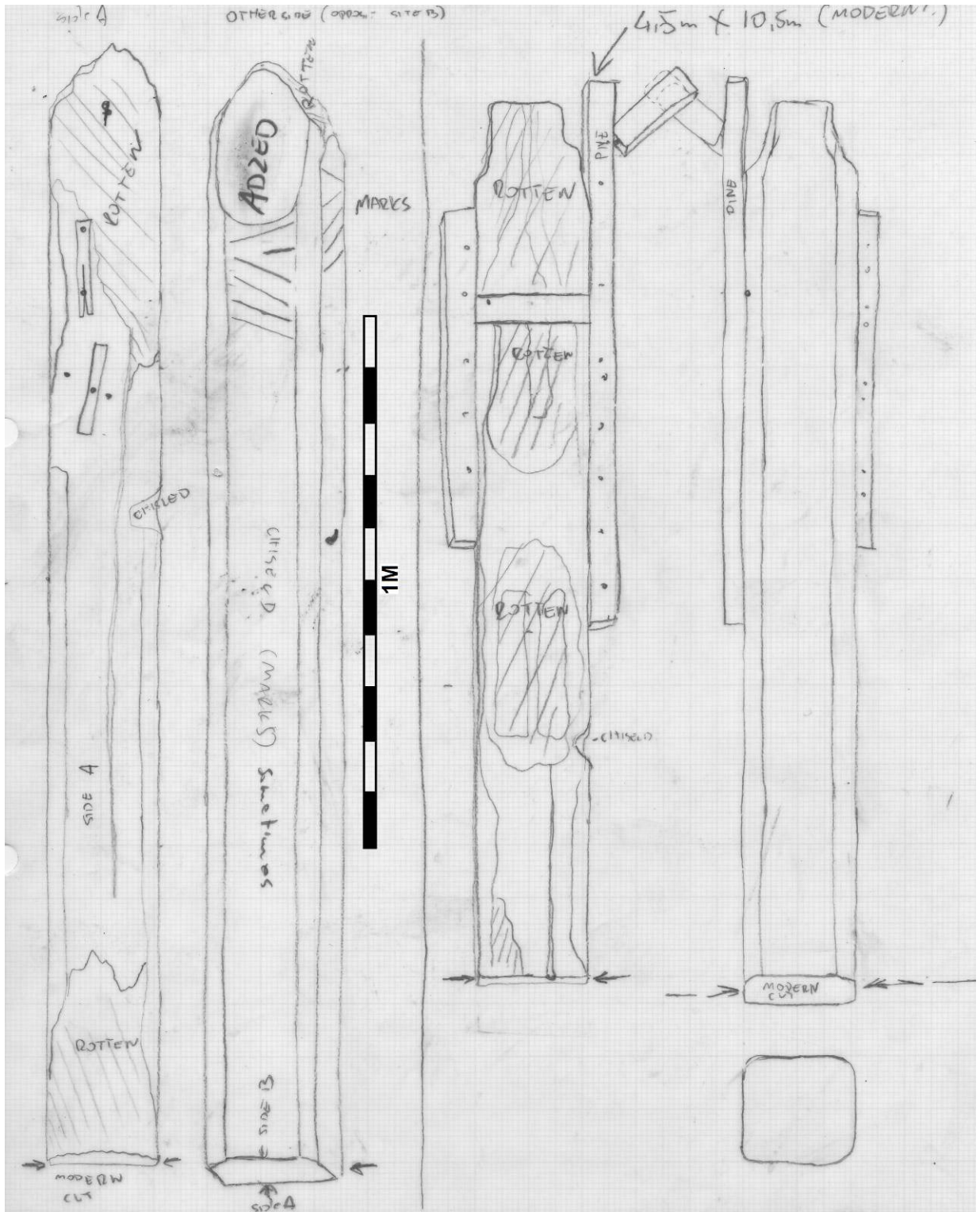
8. CONCLUSIONS

The beams in the cellar were probably parts of the floor/ceiling above the cellar, removed when the building was last refurbished. The artefacts retrieved from the cellar backfill suggest that the cellar was being used to dispose of rubbish in the early 20th century. Due to the unexpected discovery of asbestos, only a small proportion of the artefacts and timbers were recorded but they provide useful information about the building and its construction.

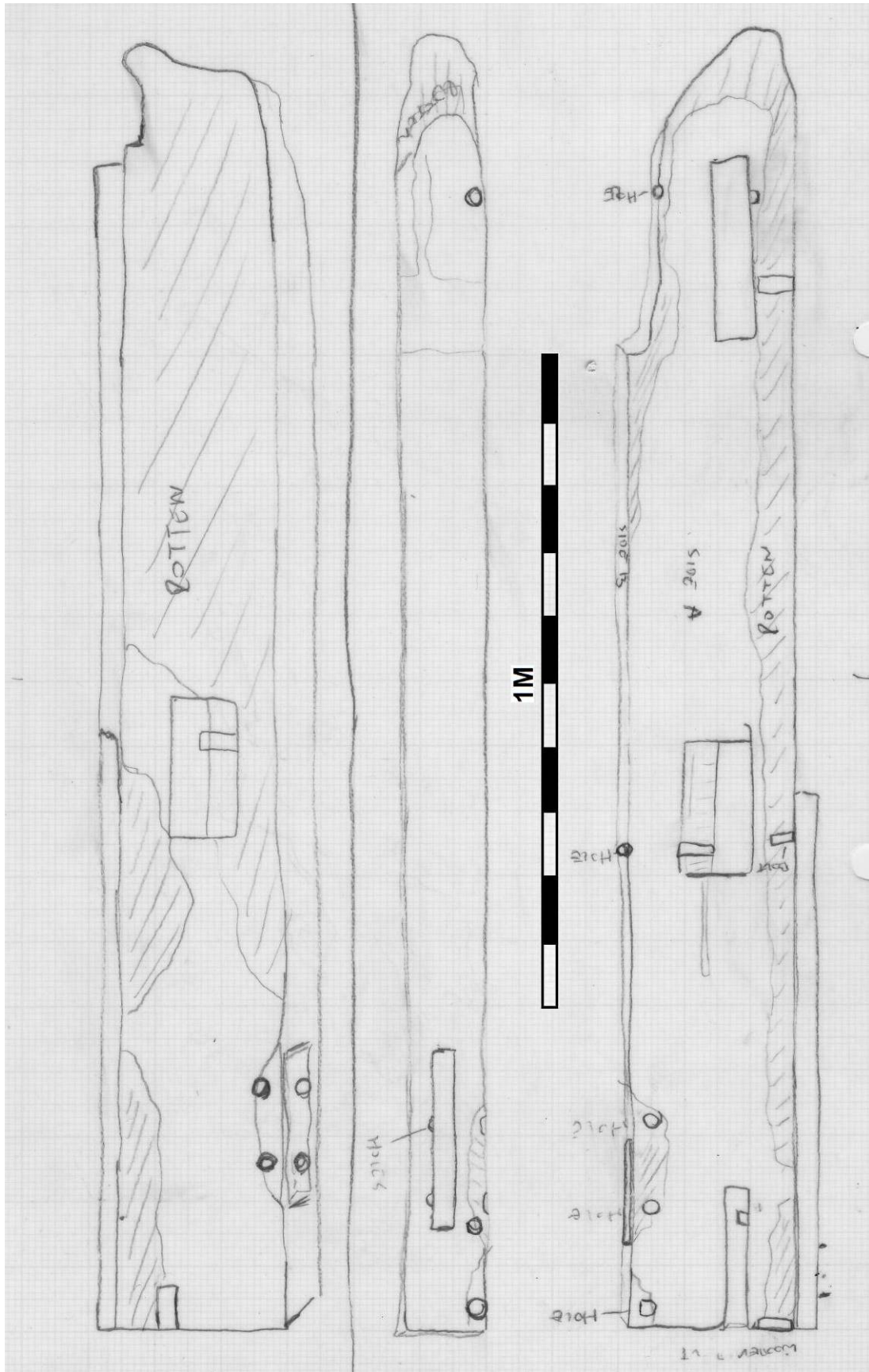
APPENDIX 1: DRAWINGS OF THE TIMBERS



Beam 1



Beam 2



Beam 4