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**The Friary
Richmond
North Yorkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

December 1997
MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.

**The Friary, Richmond
North Yorkshire**

Arcaheological Evaluation

Contents	Page
Figure list	2
Plate list	2
Introduction	3
Excavation Methods	3
Historical Summary	3
Excavation Results	3
Conclusions	5
Appendices	
1. Context listing	5
2. Finds catalogue	6
3. Archive summary	6
4. Photographic listing	7

Figure list

	Page
1. Site location	9
2. Trench location	10
3. Trench 1 - plan & section	11
4. Trench 2 - plan & section	12
5. Trench 3 - plan & section	13
6. Trench 4 - plan & section	14
7. Trench 5 - plan & section	15

Plate list

1. Trench 1. Facing north.	16
2. Trench 2. Facing west.	16
3. Trench 2. Architectural fragment.	17
4. Trench 3. Facing south.	17
5. Trench 4. West facing section. Facing east.	18
6. Trench 5. Facing west.	18

The Friary, Richmond North Yorkshire

Archaeological Evaluation

Introduction

During October 1997 a series of trenches (Trenches 1-5) were excavated within the grounds of The Friary, Richmond (NZ 170 010 : Fig. 1). The purpose of the scheme of works was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological features within an area which is to be re-developed in association with the refurbishment of The Friary building. Exterior development would consist of car parking areas, footpaths, landscaping and service trenches.

Historical Summary

In 1285 Ralph FitzRandal founded a Franciscan Friary elements of which, such as the accommodation and graveyard, are believed to lay within the proposed development site. The only surviving above ground structural element of The Friary is the 15th century bell tower (Greyfriars Tower).

Excavation Methods

Five trenches were laid out, four of which (Trenches 1-3 and 5) were in lawned areas to the east and south-east of The Friary and one (Trench 4) was to the rear of the building in an area of hard standing. All the trenches measured no more than 6m in length and 2m in width. In each trench the overburden was removed by machine using a toothless bucket under archaeological supervision. Excavation continued when the first archaeological deposits were encountered. Archaeological horizons thereafter were hand cleaned and features sampled and recorded at appropriate scales. Plans were drawn with reference to surrounding property boundaries and buildings. Archaeological features were recorded on proforma record forms (Appendix 1). Plans and sections were drawn at 1:20 and 1:10 respectively (Appendix 3). A photographic record was also maintained (Appendix 4).

Excavation Results

Five trenches were excavated in total.

Trench 1

Situated in the north-eastern area of the Friary Grounds, excavation showed that beneath the topsoil and subsoil (contexts 1001 and 1002) was a deposit of silty sand with limestone (context 1004). Excavation ceased at a depth of 0.40m. At this depth context 1004 was still visible in the north of the trench but was separated from a deposit very similar to 1004 (context 1005) by a ridge of natural sand (context 1003). The nature of contexts 1004 and 1005 suggested that they represented demolition dumps.

Finds from this trench consisted of pottery and animal bone from context 1003, animal bone from context 1004 and 13th -14th century pottery from context 1005.

Trench 2

Removal of the turf and topsoil (context 2001) immediately revealed contexts 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 at a depth of 0.42m from present ground level. Context 2002 represented a linear structure aligned north to south, constructed of limestone with a rubble core. On the western face traces of plaster were seen adhering to the stonework.

To the west of wall 2002 was a deposit of mortar with small limestone inclusions. As this deposit butts up to the wall it is likely that it represents an associated floor surface. On the eastern side of Wall 2002 was a similar deposit (context 2004). The absence of any cut for a foundation trench for Wall 2002 in either contexts 2003 or 2004 suggests that Wall 2002 was not inserted into these deposits, but was contemporary.

In the eastern portion of the trench was a fairly substantial deposit composed of limestone blocks (context 2005). The angle of deposition (c. 30°) suggests that it represents tumble from a wall, but it is not possible to say for certain that this material came directly from Wall 2002.

Within deposit 2005 excavation located a piece of worked stone, possibly part of a window mullion (SF 1). No other finds were recovered from this trench.

Trench 3

Excavation in Trench 3 provided the deepest stratigraphical sequence within the test trenches (0.98m). A series of contexts were recorded (contexts 3001-3004) which represented modern path make-up (3001), a possible demolition layer (3002), further demolition or levelling (3003) and a deposit of natural silting (3004). This final deposit covered an area of limestone paving (context 3005). Excavation ceased at this level.

Finds from this trench were confined to context 3004 and consisted of brick/tile, shell, animal bone and pottery of 14th-16th century date.

Trench 4

Trench 4 revealed that beneath the modern concrete were two courses of limestone mortar bonded walling set into a foundation trench (context 4003). This wall lay directly upon a deposit of dark silty sand (context 4004) which may represent an old turf line.

Excavation ceased at 0.70m at context 4005, a deposit of dark silty sand which may represent household waste redeposited in a yard area. Approximately 0.34m had been removed of this deposit, sufficient to determine its nature. The true depth of 4005 is unknown and the absence of finds makes accurate dating difficult.

No finds were recovered from this trench.

Trench 5

Below contexts 5001 and 5002 excavation located a linear feature (context 5005). Aligned north to south it cut through deposit 5006 (natural) and was filled with a silty sand (context 5004). Although it was not excavated medieval pottery of 12th - 13th century date was recovered from the uppermost fill (Appendix 2).

Conclusions

There is evidence of medieval activity in Trenches 1, 3 and 5. The high quality of wall construction in Trench 2 and the presence of the architectural fragment suggests a prestige building, and one most probably part of The Friary complex. A number of demolition deposits recorded within the trenches also indicated the possibility of further buildings within the grounds of the Friary.

APPENDIX 1

Context listing

Context	Description
1000	Trench 1
1001	Topsoil; 10YR 3/1, friable clay/ silt/ sand with < 5% limestone frags.
1002	Subsoil; 10YR 5/1, friable silt/ sand with clay < 5% limestone frags.
1003	Natural; 2.5YR 8/6, loose sand
1004	Deposit; 10YR 5/3, friable silty sand with 10% limestone.
1005	Deposit; 10YR 5/3, friable sand/silt with 10% limestone.
2000	Trench 2
2001	Deposit; 10YR 3/2, friable silt/ sand/ clay with > 5% limestone.
2002	Wall; white > yellow, hard limestone.
2003	Deposit; 2.5YR 8/2, friable mortar < 55 limestone fragments.
2004	Deposit; 2.5YR 8/2, friable to loose mortar.
2005	Deposit; yellow/ white, firm to hard limestone blocks.
3000	Trench 3
3001	Deposit; 10YR 7/4, gritty with very small pebbles < 5mm diameter.
3002	Deposit; 10YR 3/1, loose silty clay with > 5% limestone.
3003	Deposit; 10YR 2/1, loose silty clay with < 10% mortar.
3004	Deposit; 10YR 2/1, plastic silty sand.
3005	Deposit; 10YR 5/2, firm limestone cobbling.
4000	Trench 4
4001	Deposit; 2.5YR 8/3, hard concrete.
4002	Wall; white hard limestone blocks bonded with mortar.
4003	Cut; for modern wall 4002, shallow 'u' truncated by concrete.
4004	Deposit; 10YR 2/1, soft silty sand.
4005	Deposit; 10YR 4/3, silt/ sand soft to friable.
5000	Trench 5
5001	Topsoil; 10YR 2/1, loose silt/ sand/ clay.
5002	Deposit; 10YR 2/3, loose silt/sand/clay with limestone inclusions
5003	Subsoil; 10YR 6/8, firm plastic clay silt.

5004 Deposit: 10YR 5/3, plastic silty sand.
 5005 Ditch.
 5006 Natural; 10YR 8/8, plastic clay.

APPENDIX 2

Finds catalogue

Context No	Description
1003	Total pottery- 7 sherds. 3 Tees valley ware 3 Humberware 1 Post medieval coarseware 13th to 18th Century 2 fragments sandstone, 1 burnt. Total bone fragments- 11 1 burnt fragment, 2 teeth
1004	1 fragment worn bone. Small find 2
1005	Total pottery- 5 sherds. 5 Tees valley, including 1 base with incised criss- cross lines- green glazed. 13th to 14th Century Total bone fragments- 2.
3004	Total pottery- 4 sherds. 1 Tees valley 'Hartlepool type' jug neck sherd 1 ? Medieval sherd 1 decorated Cistercian ware 1 Purple glazed ware 14th to 16th Century Brick and Tile-3 fragments Total bone fragments- 11 2 fragments burnt shell.
5003	Total pottery 1 sherd. 1 Tees valley ware 12th to 13th Century

APPENDIX 3

Archive listing

Plan No.	Description	Scale	Initial
1.	Plan - Trench 1	1:20	EJB
2.	Section - Trench 1	1:10	EJB
3.	Plan - Trench 2	1:20	ANB
4.	Section - Trench 2	1:10	ANB
5	Plan - Trench 4	1:20	ANB
6.	Plan - Trench 4	1:20	EJB

7.	Section - Trench 5	1:10	EJB
8.	Section - Trench 3	1:10	EJB
9.	Plan - Trench 3	1:20	EJB
10.	Plan - Trench 2	1:20	EJB
11.	Plan - Trench 5	1:20	EJB

APPENDIX 4

Photographic listing

Film 1. Colour Slide

No	Context	Scale	Facing	Comments	Initial
17				Site ID shot	PAG
18				Site ID shot	PAG
19	Location		West	Location shot	PAG
20	Location		West	Location shot	PAG
21	Location		West	Location shot	PAG
22				Miss fire	
23				Miss fire	
24	Tr.2	2m and 1m	West	All trench 2	PAG
25	Tr.2	2m and 1m	West	All trench 2	PAG
26	Tr.2	2m and 1m	East	All trench 2	PAG
27	Tr.2	2m and 1m	East	All trench 2	PAG
28	Tr.2	2m	South	Wall	PAG
29	Tr.2	2m	South	Wall	PAG
30	Tr.2	1m	East	Sculpture	PAG
31	Tr.2	1m	East	Sculpture	PAG
32	Tr.2	2m x 2m	North	Section	PAG
33	Tr.2	2m x 2m	North	Section	PAG
34	Tr.4	0.50m	East	West facing section	ANB
35	Tr.4	0.50m	North	Plan	ANB
36	Tr.4				
37	Tower				PAG
38	Tower				PAG

Film 2. Colour Print

25	Tr.1	1 x 2m	North	Plan shot Tr 1.	EJB
26	Tr.1	1 x 2m	North	Plan shot Tr 1.	EJB
27	Tr.2	1 x 2m	West	All trench.	PAG
28	Tr.2	1 x 2m	West	All trench.	PAG
29	Tr.2	1 x 2m	East	All trench	PAG
30	Tr.2	1 x 2m	East	All trench	PAG
31	Tr.2	2m	South	Wall	PAG
32	Tr.2	2m	South	Wall	PAG
33	Tr.2	1m	East	Sculpture	PAG
34	Tr.2	1m	East	Sculpture	PAG
35	Tr.2	2 x 2m	North	Section	PAG
36	Tr.2	2 x 2m	North	Section	PAG
37	Tr.4	0.50m	East	West facing section	ANB
38	Tr.4	0.50m	North	Plan	ANB

Film no 3. Colour Print

No.	Context No.	Scale	Facing	Description	Initial
1.				Miss fire	
2.	Tr.3	1 x 2m	North	Plan trench 3	EJB

3.	Tr.3	1 x 2m	North	Plan trench 3	EJB
4.	Tr.3	2m	West	TR 3 section	EJB
5.	Tr.3	2m	West	Tr 3 section	EJB
6.				ID shot	
7.	Tr.5	2m	West	East facing section	ANB
8.	Tr.5	2m	North	Plan	ANB
9.	Tr.2	2m	North	South facing section	ANB
10.	Tr.2	2m	North	South facing section	ANB
11.	Tr.3	2m	East	West facing section	ANB

Film no 4 Black and white

6.	Tr.1	1 x 2m	North	North facing plan shot	EJB
7.	Tr.1	1 x 2m	North	North facing plan shot	EJB
8.	Tr.1	1 x 2m	North	North facing plan shot	EJB
9.	Tr.2	1 x 2m	West	Overall shot	PAG
10.	Tr.2	1 x 2m	West	Overall shot	PAG
11.	Tr.2	1 x 2m	East	Overall shot	PAG
12.	Tr.2	1 x 2m	East	Overall shot	PAG
13.	2002	2m	South	Wall	PAG
14.	2002	2m	South	Wall	PAG
15.	Tr.2	1m	East	Sculpture	PAG
16.	Tr.2	1m	East	Sculpture	PAG
17.	Tr.2	2m x 2m	North	Section	PAG
18.	Tr.2	2m x 2m	North	Section	PAG
19.	Tr.4	0.50m	East	West facing section	ANB
20.	Tr.4	0.50m	North	Plan	ANB
21.	Tr.3	1m x 2m	North	Plan of trench 3	EJB
22.	Tr.3	1m x 2m	North	Plan of trench 3	EJB
23.	Tr.3	2m	West	Section trench 3	EJB
24.	Tr.3	2m	West	Section trench 3	EJB
25.	Tr.5	2m	West	East facing section	ANB
26.	Tr.5	2m	North	Plan	ANB
27.	Tr.2	2m	North	South facing section	ANB
28.	Tr.2	2m	North	South facing section	ANB
29.	Tr.1	2m	East	West facing section	ANB

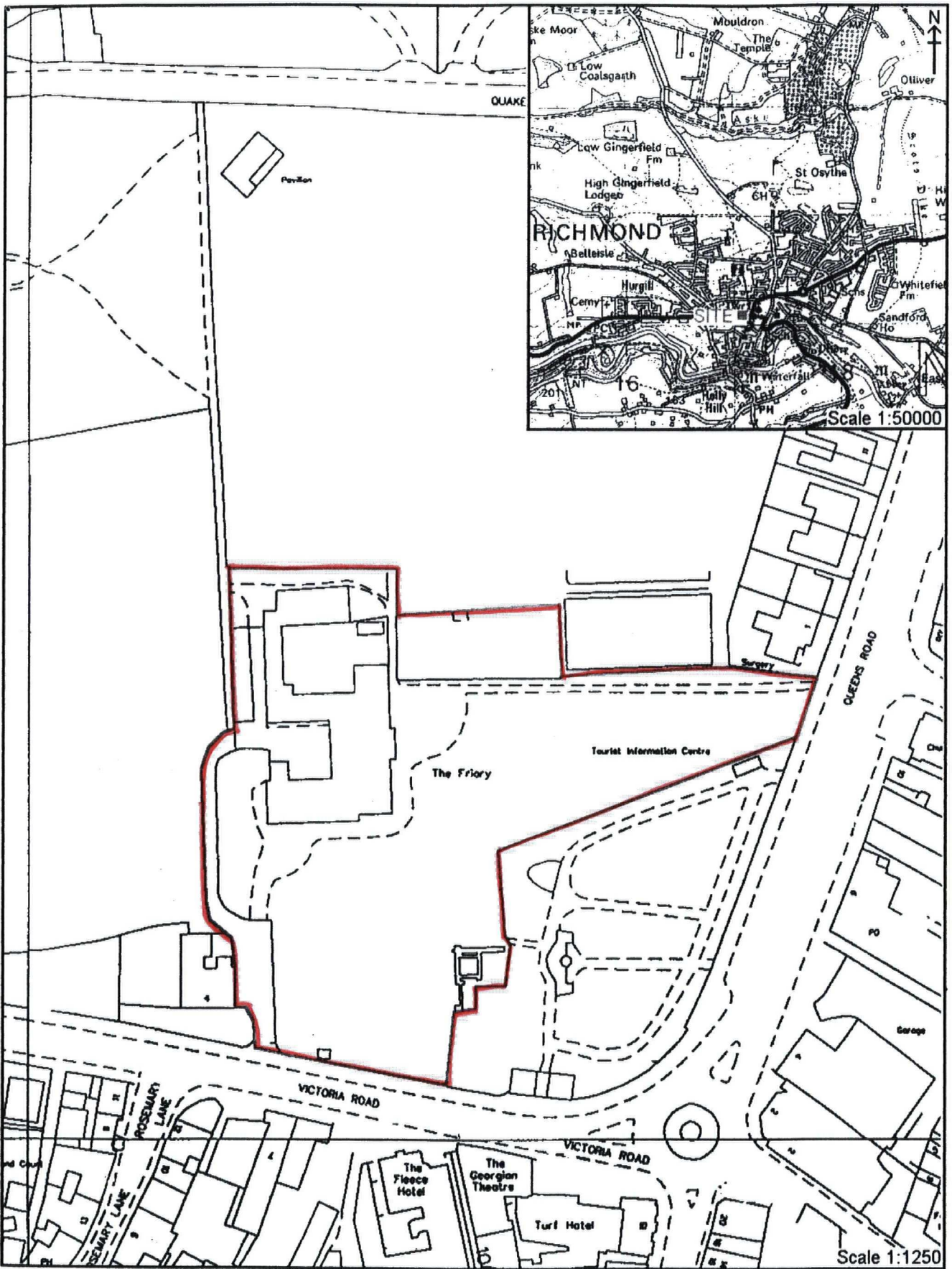


Figure 1. Site Location.

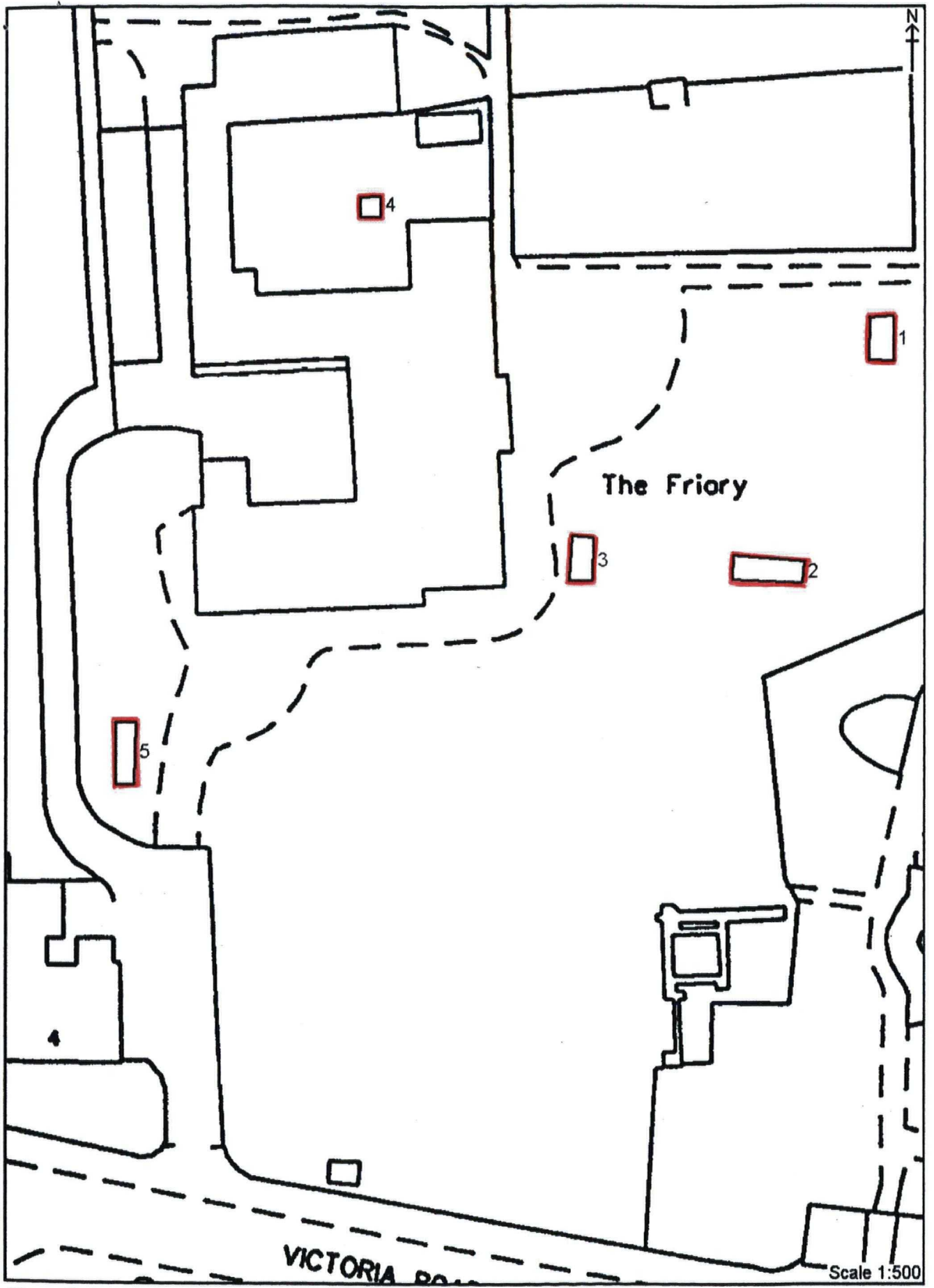


Figure 2. Location of Trenches 1 to 5.

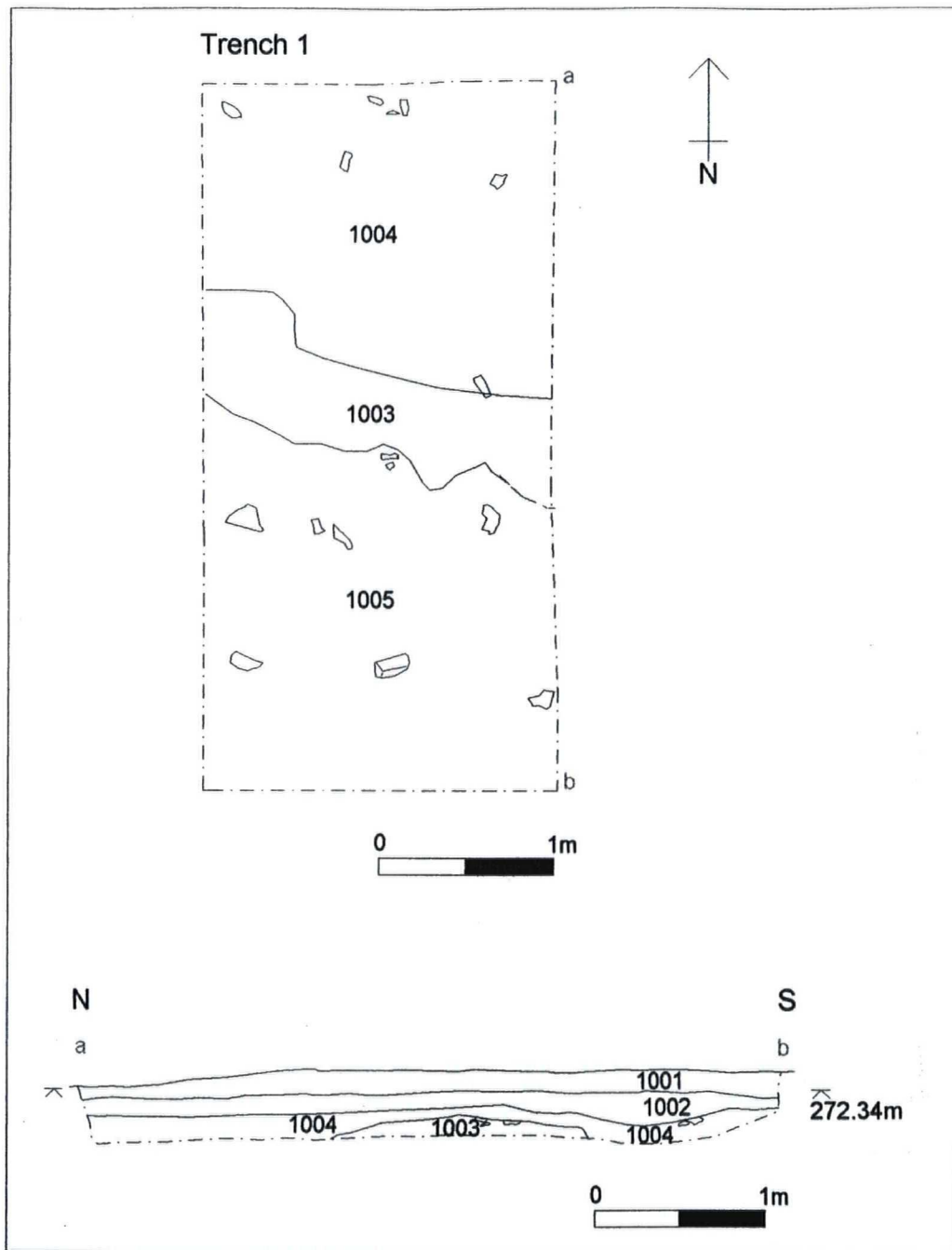


Figure 3. Trench 1 - plan and section.

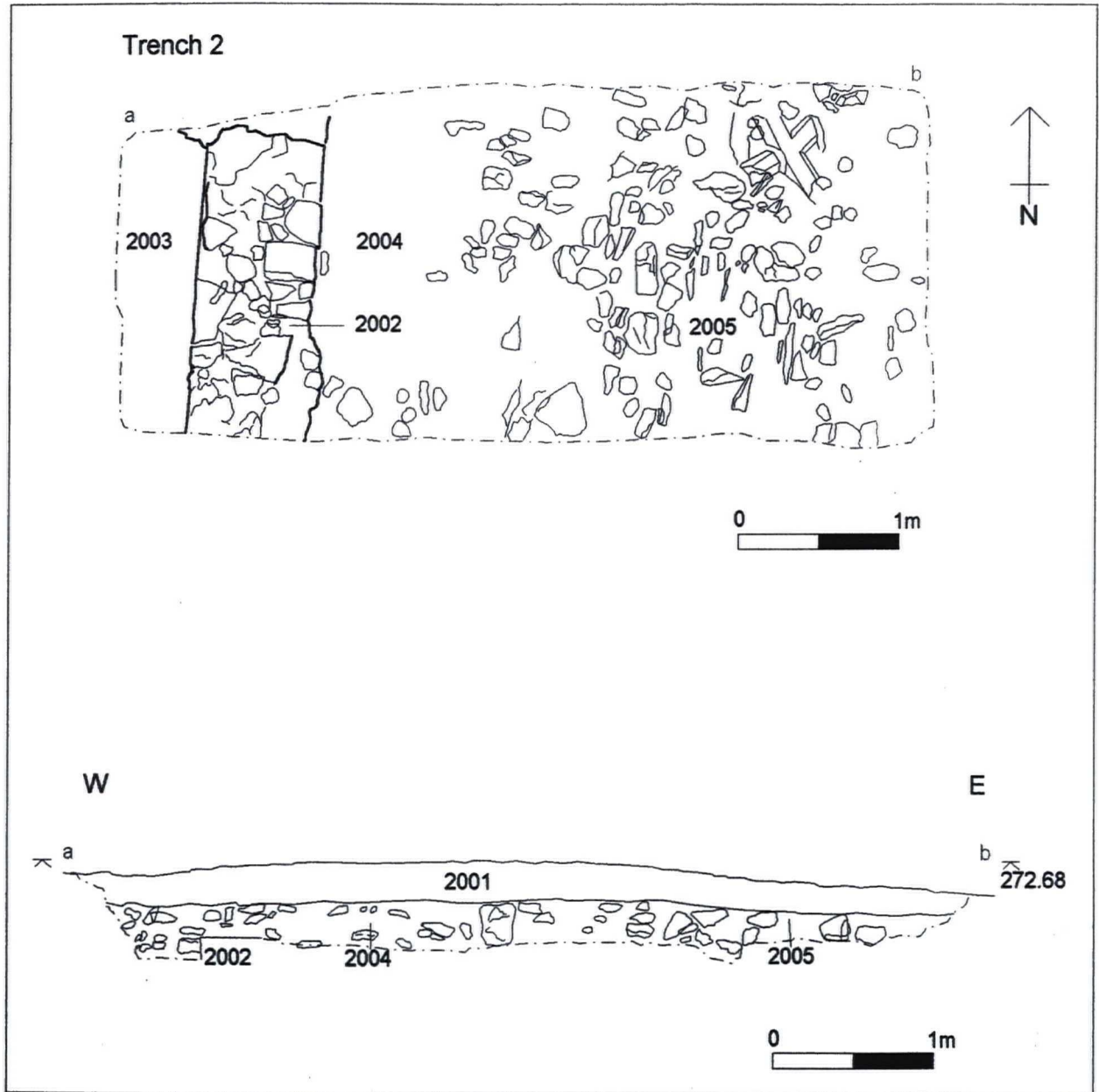


Figure 4. Trench 2 - plan and section.

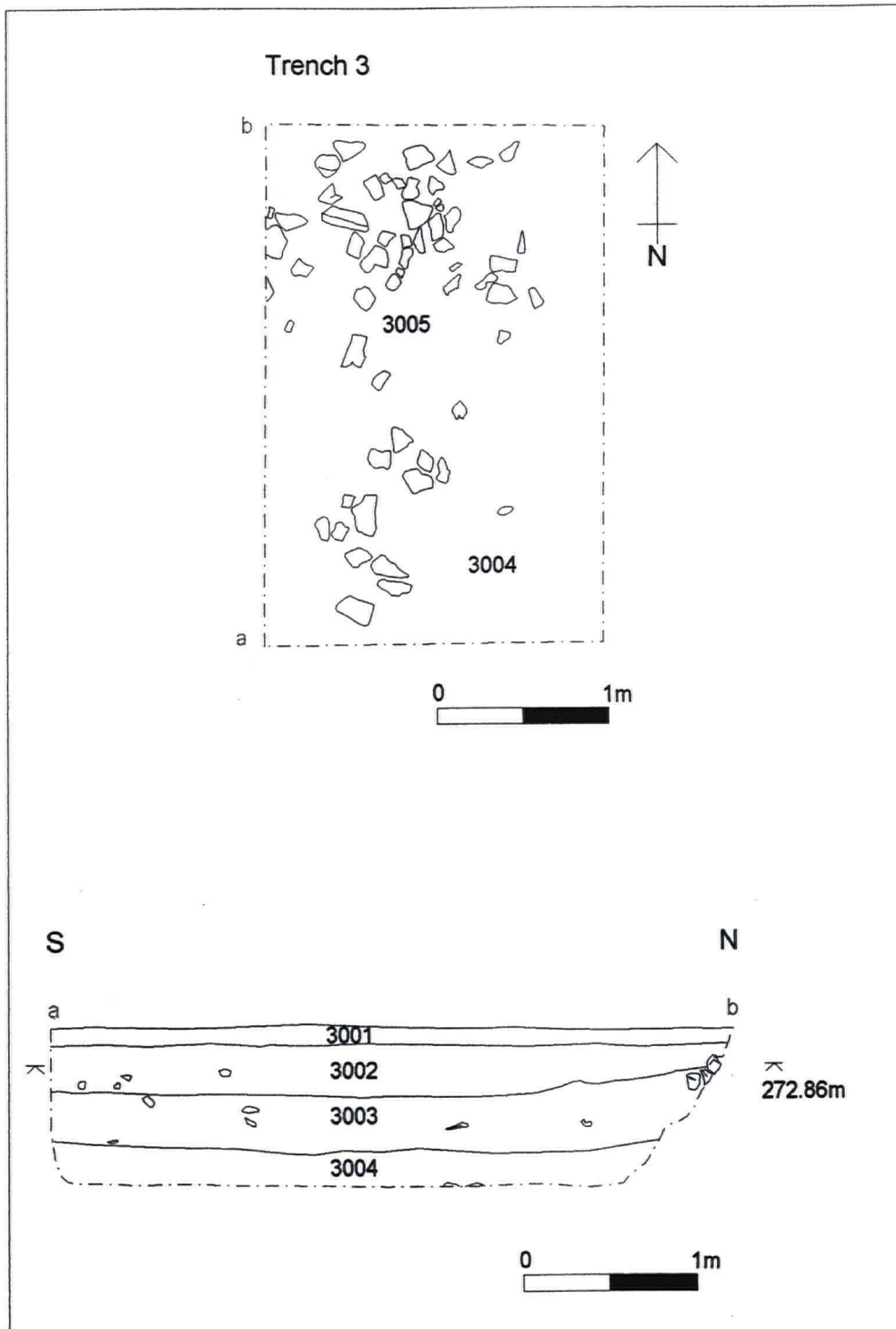


Figure 5. Trench 3 - plan and section.

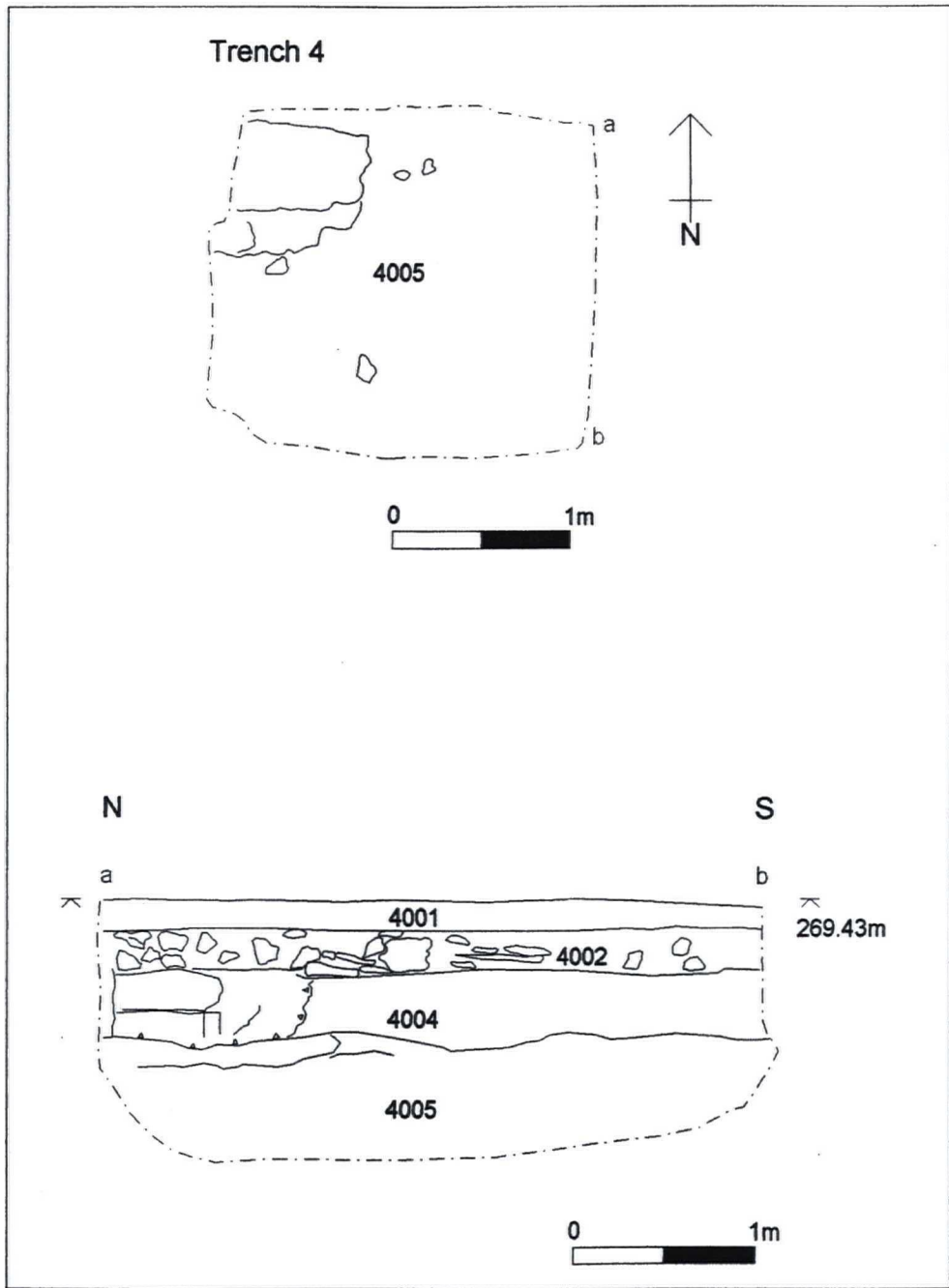


Figure 6. Trench 4 - plan and section.

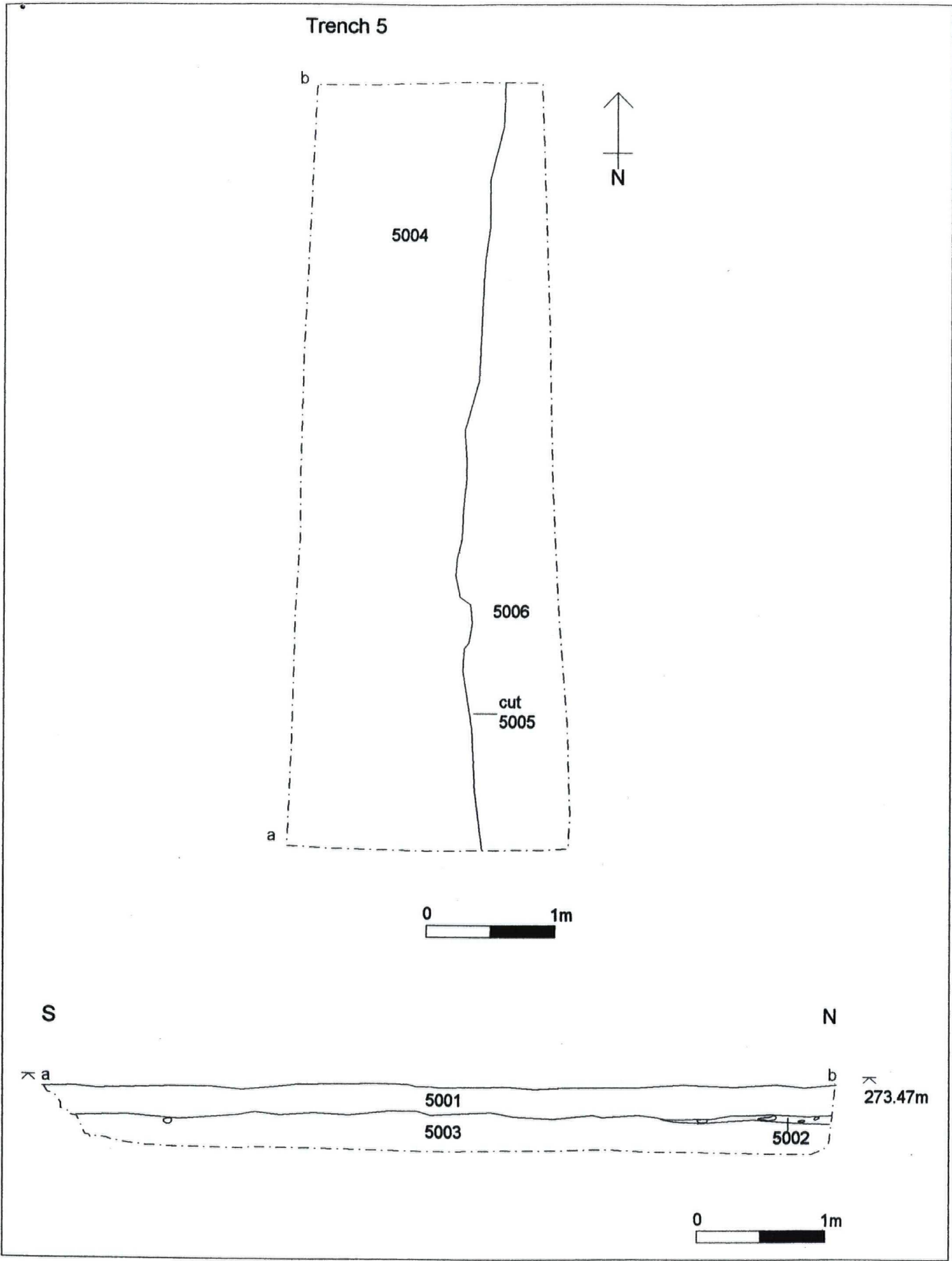


Figure 7. Trench 5 - plan and section.

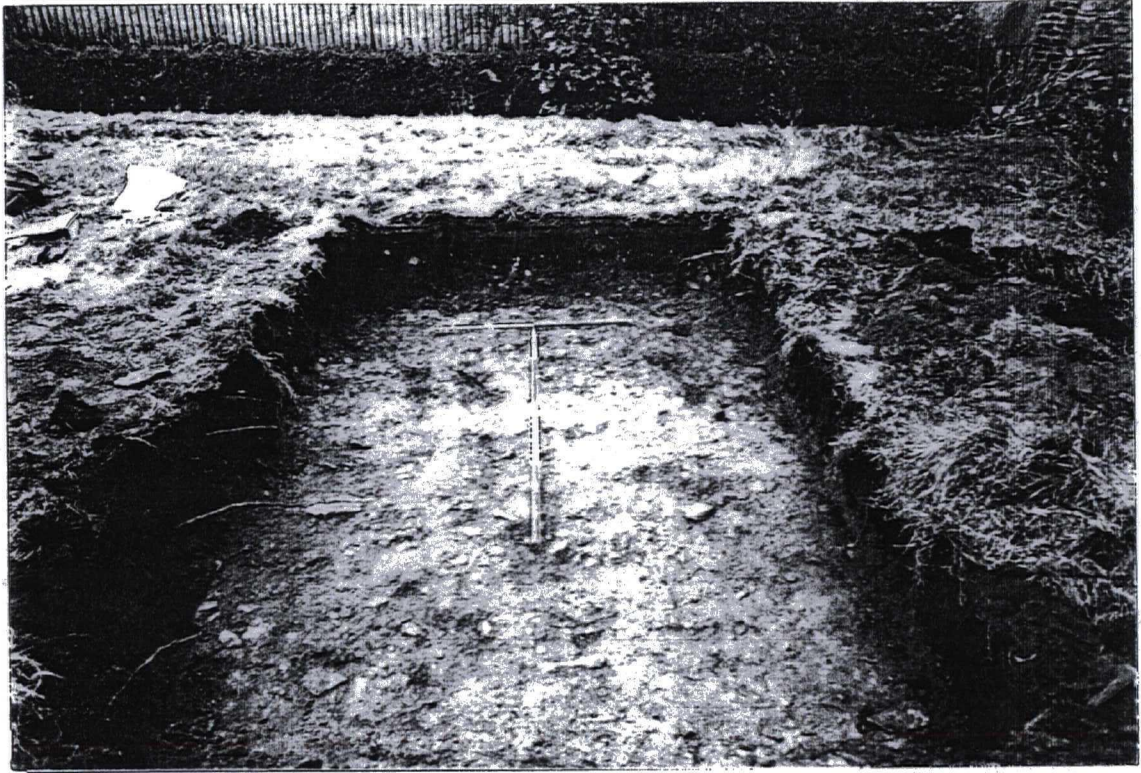


Plate 1.
Trench 1. Facing north.



Plate 2.
Trench 2. Facing west.

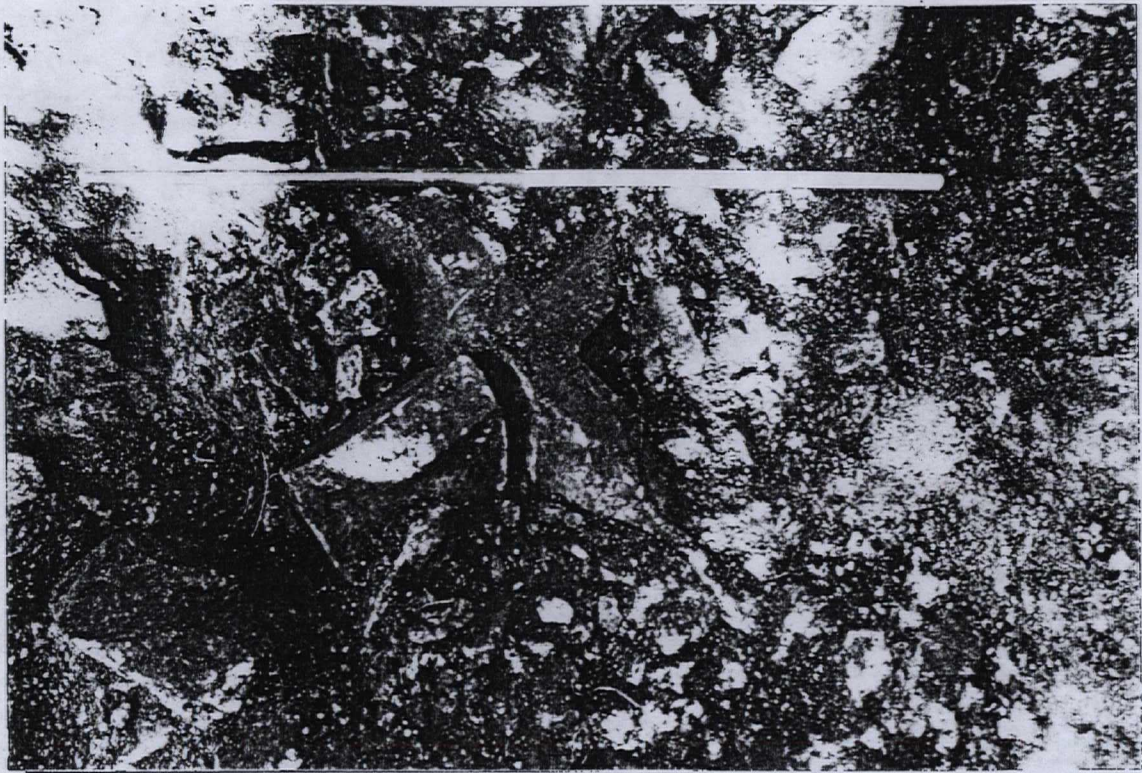


Plate 3.
Trench 2. Architectural fragment.

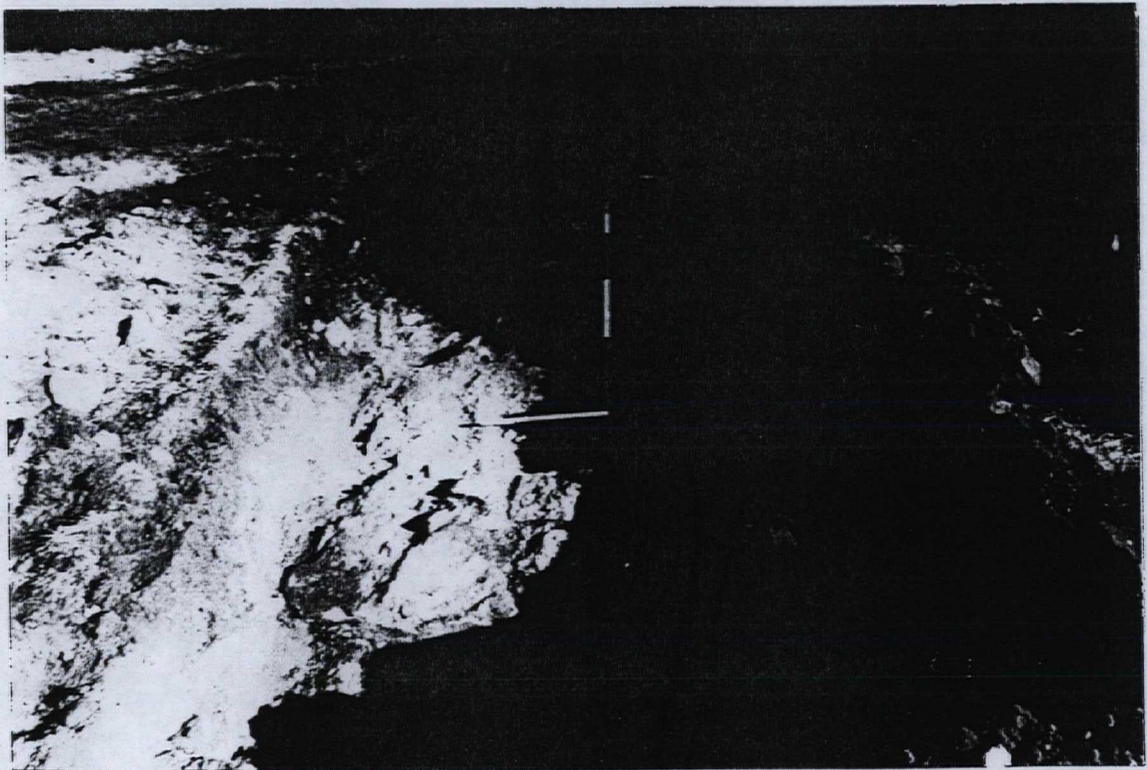


Plate 4
Trench 3. Facing south.



Plate 5.
Trench 4. West facing section. Facing east.



Plate 6.
Trench 5. Facing west.