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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AND WATCHING BRIEF
SCARBOROUGH CASTLE
NORTH YORKSHIRE**

SITE CODE: SCC01
NGR: TA 04945 89245
Monument No: 13300

REPORT
November 2001

On behalf of:

ENGLISH HERITAGE
Yorkshire Region
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Summary

Field Archaeology Specialists was commissioned by English Heritage to undertake two phases of watching brief and an evaluation in the Outer Ward at Scarborough Castle, NGR TA04949 89231, between 29th August and 25th October 2001,

The work involved monitoring the excavation of trenches for new sewer pipes, following the failure of the existing drainage system. Having encountered the remains of buried archaeological features interpreted as possible medieval and eighteenth-century walls, monitoring was halted pending an archaeological evaluation.

A large enclosure wall, detected as a strong linear anomaly on the geophysical survey of the Outer Ward (FAS_scc02), was found running N-S in front of the Master Gunner's House. It is believed to return to the west, north of the north magazine, linking with the medieval curtain wall, and has been dated to c.1745. Another wall, dated 1746-1819 and running west towards the curtain wall beneath the old toilet block, abutted this earlier feature, closing off the yard of the Master Gunner's House on the north. A brick surface was also found, apparently respecting the line of both walls and contemporary with the latter, probably formed a lower courtyard to the Master Gunner's House.

Following the evaluation, portions of these features were archaeological^{ly} dismantled to make way for the new drainage pipes, and monitoring resumed on further service trenches, the results of which confirmed earlier observations.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an evaluation (Int.5) and two watching briefs (Int.4 and Int.6) undertaken by Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd (FAS) within the Outer Ward of Scarborough Castle, North Yorkshire, on behalf of English Heritage, during the replacement of a failing foul sewer pipe. Permission for the evaluation was covered by the existing Scheduled Monument consent granted for a new toilet block, constructed against the curtain wall to the north of the Master Gunner's House. An initial watching brief was carried out on the 29th August 2001. The resulting evaluation and a further watching brief were carried out between the 12th and 13th September and on the 25th October 2001.

1.1 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The fall of the recently laid sewer pipes for the new toilet block had proved to be insufficient. The purpose of the watching brief was to monitor groundworks in order to record any significant archaeological remains revealed during the relaying of these pipes on an increased slope. The nature of the remains thus encountered resulted in ground works being suspended, and a strategy for avoiding or dealing with these remains, involving an archaeological evaluation, was implemented.

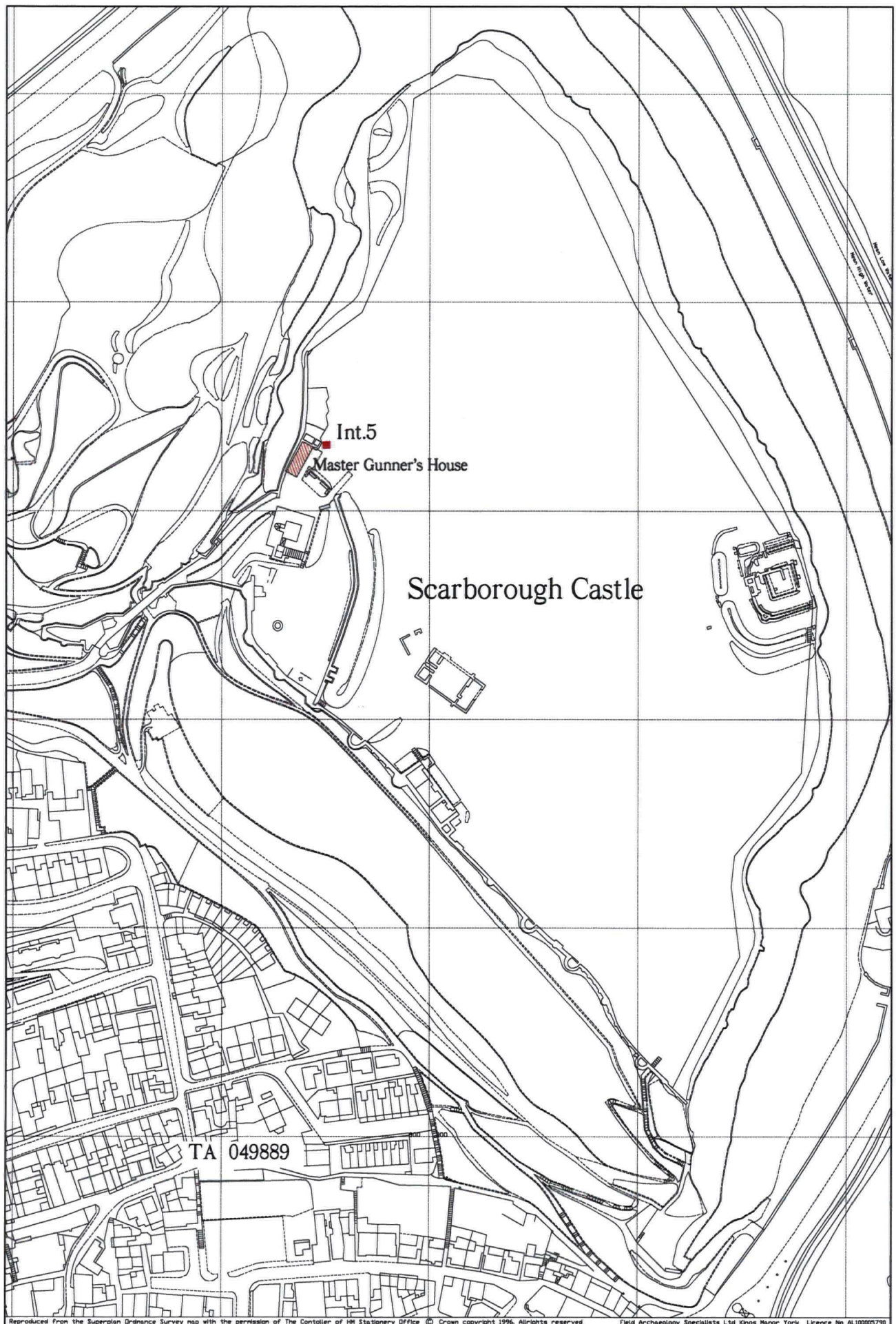
The aim of the evaluation was to investigate, characterise and record deposits and probable wall lines predicted by earlier geophysical survey and located during the first session of watching brief (Int.4), and to identify an appropriate route for a replacement sewer pipe which would avoid damage to any significant archaeological remains.

Upon completion of the evaluation, and after an alternative drainage scheme had been agreed, a further watching brief (Int.5) was required in order to remove specific stones from the walls uncovered during the evaluation and to continue monitoring the excavation of the service trenches. Once the replacement pipe was installed, FAS was requested to backfill Int.5 by hand in order to reduce any further damage to the upstanding remains. The pipework for the new drain was left exposed pending a final inspection by English Heritage and by the local authority buildings inspector.

1.2 LOCATION AND LAND USE

The excavations, located at NGR TA04949 89231, were situated within the Outer Ward of Scarborough Castle, approximately five metres to the north and east of the Master Gunner's House, and within a few metres of the old, prefabricated toilet block (Fig.1).

Ground cover consisted predominantly of turf, which extended across most of the Outer Ward area. Since a previous evaluation stage (FAS_scc03), part of a large fenced area had been removed to the north of the new toilet complex; however, current Ordnance Survey maps indicate that the compound fence had once extended much further south to enclose the old toilet block.



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Location map

Scale 1:2500



Figure 1

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The area subject to drainage works is situated in the Outer Ward of the castle. Although the curtain wall in this area has undergone numerous reconstructions, it is essentially early 13th century in date, built on the line of the original early 12th century curtain wall. However, the surveys of 1361 and 1538 appear to indicate that buildings were not present within the affected area, although it witnessed a significant amount of development during the 17th and 18th centuries.

The Master Gunner's house formed the core of a post-medieval complex of structures in this area of the castle. These included the Storehouse Range and a building at right angles to the Master Gunner's house, built against the northern stretch of the inner bailey curtain wall. A further building existed by 1746, built against the west gable wall of the Master Gunner's house and referred to in the early 19th century as the Royal Invalid Artillery Barracks. Two further structures existed within an enclosure extending from the north of the Master Gunner's house. One of these was the North Magazine which is thought to have been built in c.1745, possibly as a result of the 'old magazine' in the Mosdale hall being converted into a barracks block. A further building which was described in 1823 as the 'Shifting Room' was located immediately to the north of the North Magazine. This building was constructed by the Ordnance in 1813 and was designed for the airing of ammunition. Both the 'Shifting Room' and North Magazine appear to have been demolished during the later 19th century.

Unpublished excavations carried out by T. Pacitto in 1977-8 before the construction of toilets immediately to the north of the Master Gunner's house did not apparently discover evidence for any other buildings. They did, however, suggest the preservation of good 18th century deposits c.1.3m below the present ground surface. A recent evaluation and watching brief (FAS_scc03) uncovered the southern remains of the North Magazine as well as a small segment of yard wall (F11) running east-west from the curtain wall.

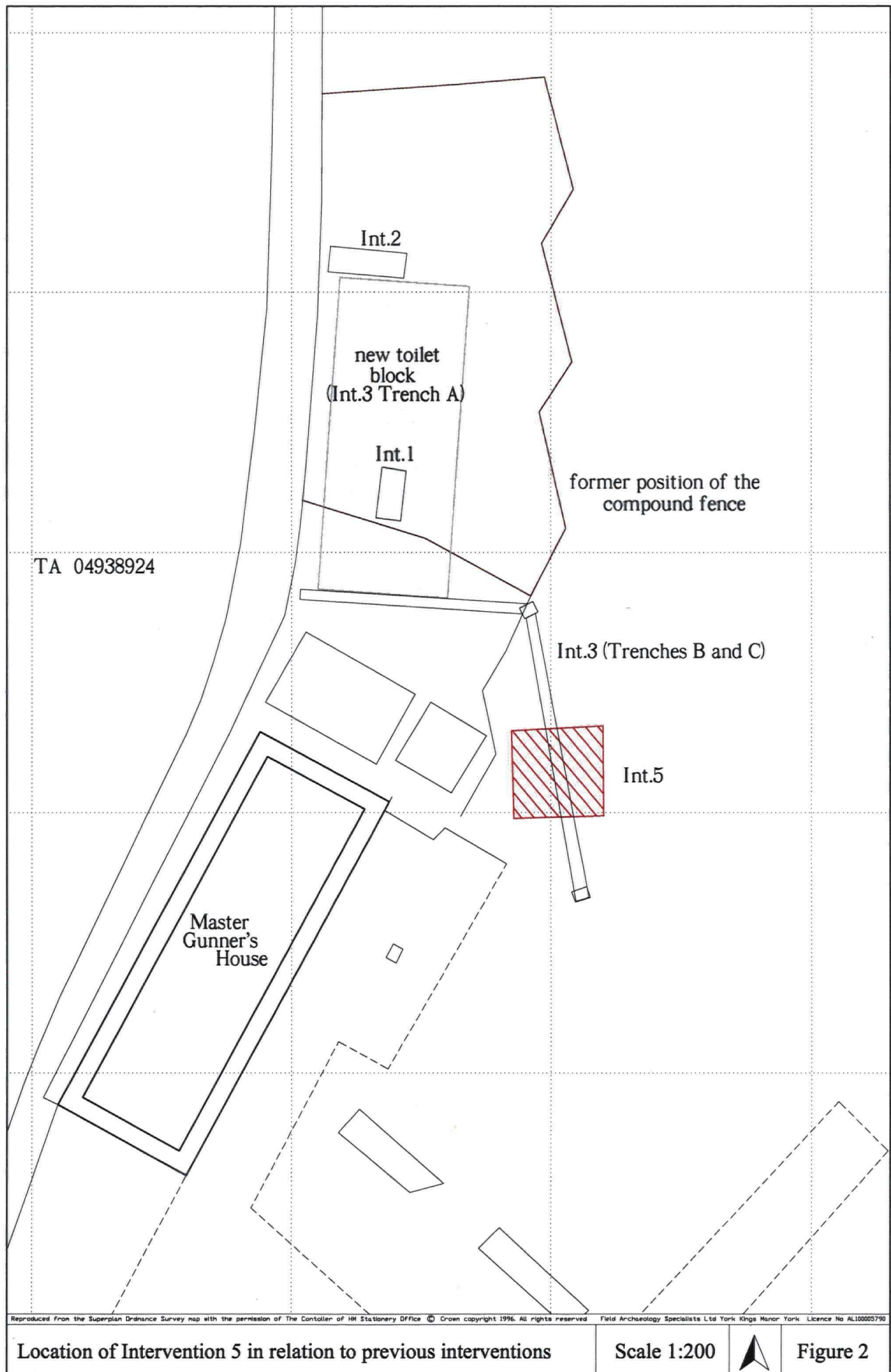
Limited resistivity survey undertaken in May 2000 located four geophysical anomalies from inside the compound, although none of the anomalies could be characterised because of the presence of substantial amounts of ferrous debris. It did, however, suggest that considerable building rubble may have been used to level up the ground surface (FAS_scc02).

2.0 EVALUATION (Int.5)

2.1 EVALUATION PROCEDURE

A square trench, 3.5 x 3.5m (Fig.2), was set out covering two pilot trenches, E and F (Int.4), which had been mechanically excavated and monitored during an earlier watching brief (see Fig.5).

Once the turf cover had been removed by spade from Int.5, a sequence of archaeological layers were



Location of Intervention 5 in relation to previous interventions

Scale 1:200



Figure 2

hand excavated at Recovery level C, to a depth of 0.80m. Walls and floor surfaces were exposed and mapped but were not dismantled, resulting in only 0.30m of strata being removed on the western side of Int.5, where a brick floor surface was uncovered (F12).

A local site grid was adopted based on a bearing to the north, but all heights refer directly to Ordnance Datum established from a benchmark on the Master Gunner's House. The grid was later re-aligned with OS data and all references on drawings refer to the OS grid. A full written, drawn and photographic record was made of all deposits, features and structures encountered. All drawings were made at a scale of 1:20, and retained materials were appropriately processed and recorded.

Two sections of Int.5 were drawn in order to represent the principle deposit sequence.

The recording system employed followed Field Research Procedure (Carver 1990), the standard operating system used by FAS, in which contexts are numbered from C1000 and features from F1. The field record index continued the sequence begun during earlier stages (Int.1, Int.2 and Int.3, FAS_scc03).

2.2 EVALUATION RESULTS

The small evaluation area contained numerous modern services, a sequence of layers representing made up ground, two walls of massed wall construction which had been identified during the watching brief, and a brick floor surface (Fig.3).

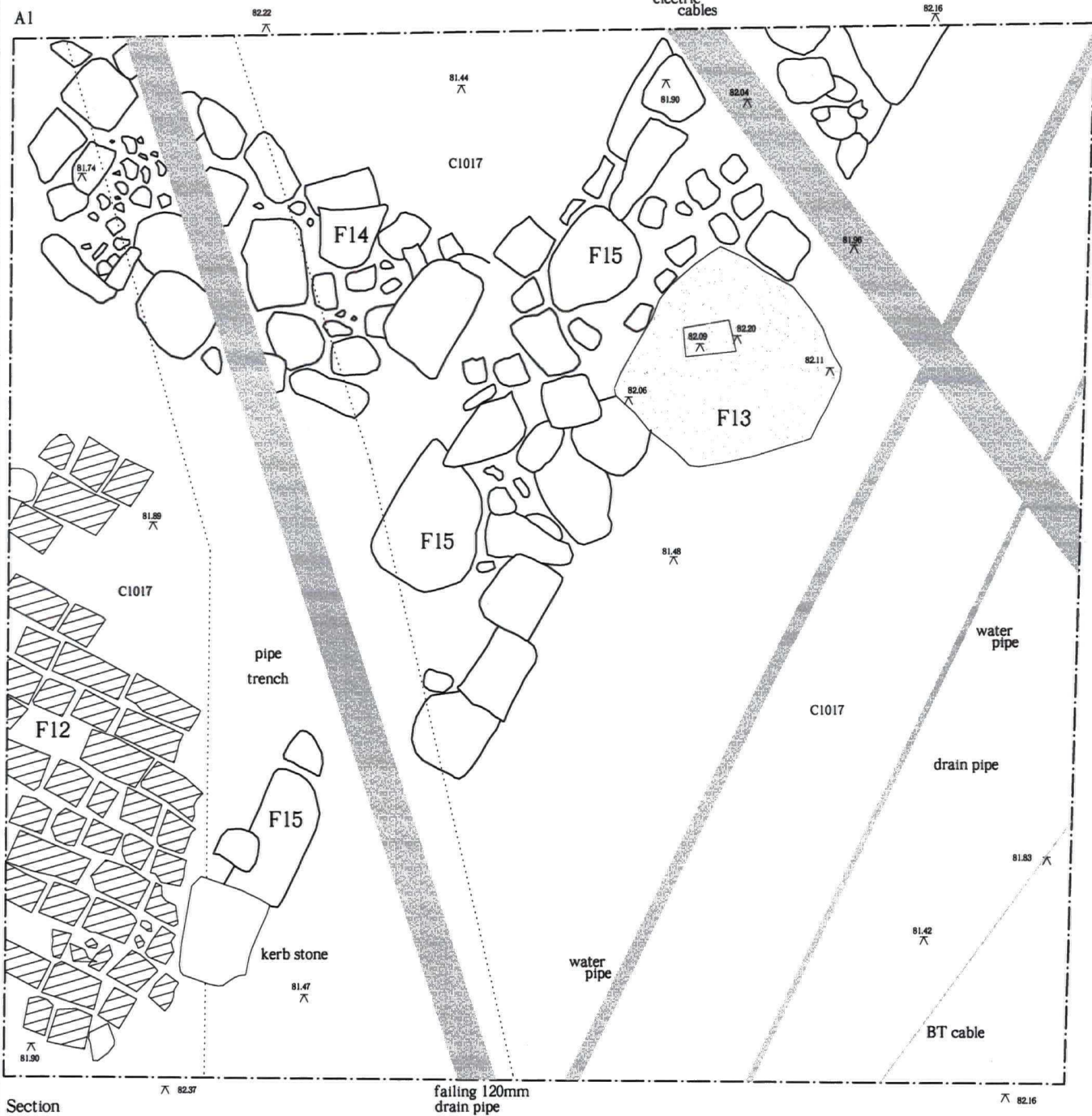
A relatively well-developed topsoil (C1015) covered the entire area, incorporating well broken-up building material and modern refuse. On the north side, the topsoil covered C1018, a sterile dump of loose sandstone and mortar, which was up to 0.20m thick, itself situated above the junction of two walls. C1018 had been tentatively identified as part of an exposed wall in Trench E (Int.4) during the watching brief (see below).

Elsewhere, the topsoil covered C1016, a mixed layer comprising further sandstone, some pockets of distinct clayey silt with moderate amounts of building material and general domestic rubbish. Most of the services were discovered within C1016, although they had presumably cut through C1015. Apart from the 120mm ceramic drain pipe along the western side, part of the installed drainage works for the new toilet block, the other services were all situated on various alignments on the eastern side of the excavation. These services included two metal water pipes (1" and 1¼"), a BT cable, all on a NE-SW alignment, and a collection of over forty unconsolidated electric cables running NW-SE, which probably serviced the old toilet block. The services were assumed to be live and were left *in situ*, although a few of the cables had been cut during the watching brief.

C1018 sealed C1016 where it occurred on the northern side of the excavation area, although here C1016 was only approximately 0.10m thick.

Section B

B1



Intervention 5 features in plan

Scale 1 : 20



Figure 3