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ENY	2753
SNY	3880
Parish	3102
Rec'd	16/6/05

**No. 4 The Market Place
Pickering
North Yorkshire
SE 7927 8443**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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May 2005



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Archaeological Watching Brief

Non Technical Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd on land to the rear of No. 4, The Market Place, Pickering, North Yorkshire (SE 7927 8443) during April and May 2005. The work involved monitoring groundworks associated with the erection of commercial properties on the site.

No archaeological features were observed during the Watching Brief

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. on a plot of land to the rear of No. 4, The Market Place, Pickering, North Yorkshire, (SE 7927 8443) during April and May 2005.
- 1.2 The site code for the project was MAP 01 03 05
- 1.3 All work was funded by Atkinson Builders Ltd
- 1.4 All maps within this report have been produced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright, Licence No. AL 50453A.

2. **Site Description**

- 2.1 The site lies in the market town of Pickering, on the eastern bank of the Pickering Beck, at SE 7927 8443 (Figs. 1 and 2). The site is bounded to the north by Castle Bank, to the south by Market Place and to the east and west by commercial properties. The site consists of a series of run-down buildings, used for storage, and a gravel surface that, at the time of the Watching Brief, was being used as a temporary parking area by the staff of the White Swan Hotel. The excavation area was situated to the rear of No. 4, The Market Place, to west of the The White Swan Hotel.
- 2.2 The site was approximately 10m x 8.50m in size and at the time of the Watching Brief was covered by a Tarmac and concrete car-park surface (Pl.1).
- 2.3 The site stands on soils of the Rivington 1 Association, which are well-drained coarse loamy soils, on gentle or moderate slopes, over a geology of Carboniferous and Jurassic sandstone. (Mackney et al 1983).

3. **Historical and Archaeological Background**

- 3.1 The earliest known occupation in the vicinity of Pickering is represented by Iron Age pile-dwelling structures discovered near Keld Head, in the Costa Beck, which flows to the west of Pickering. According to Professor A.H. Smith, the name of Pickering in old English was *Piceringas*, the settlement of Picer and his descendants. (Smith 1928).
- 3.2 Pickering became part of the Kingdom of Deira around 500-540 and during the conversion of King Edwin in 627 a Saxon Church is believed to have been constructed in the town. The Saxon church stands on the site of St. Peter and St. Paul's to the east of the site. The font in the modern church is believed to be of Saxon origin, and there is a carved stone on a bracket at the west end of the south aisle, which is a fragmented piece of a Saxon cross.

- 3.3 The mound on which the castle stands can also be dated to the Saxon or even a earlier period and it may have been used as either a Saxon home of the Lord of the manor, or the site of a moot house/local meeting place.
- 3.4 At the time of the Norman Conquest of 1066, Pickering was the property of Morcar, Earl of Northumberland, and the manor was valued at £88.00. By 1086 the manor of Pickering's value has been reduced to £1.00.2d due to the heavy taxes forced on the north by William the conqueror after the rebellion of that year. Most of the buildings in the town during that era would have been constmcted out of wood with thatched roofs.
- 3.5 By the early 12th century the name of the town was changed to *Pickering's* and a charter was granted to the town by King John allowing Pickering to have a market, during this period a Borough was formed and shops began to appear in the market place (Snowden 1988).
- 3.6 At the beginning of the 18th Century the old thatched cottages still prevailed and the shambles was constmcted at the top of the market place, alongside the pillory.
- 3.7 Considerable redevelopment of the town began during the Georgian period, stone became widely used for the building of new cottages, and red pantiles replaced many of the old thatched roofs.
- 3.8 The redevelopment of the town continued throughout the Victorian period. In 1836 a light railway line was opened up between Pickering and Whitby, but because of an Act of Parliament forbidding the use of steam the trains were horse-drawn.
- 3.9 1838 saw the construction of the first workhouse in Pickering, it served not only the town but also the surrounding area a total population of 10,678; the building itself had accommodation for 100 paupers,

- 3.10 In 1845 the hospital of St Nicholas, which has been seen in records from the 12th Century, was discovered in Marton Lane and was excavated in 1938.
- 3.11 The Pickering to Whitby Railway was sold off and the new owner relayed the track and linked it to London via Rillington. In 1846 the Pickering railway station was rebuilt using stone and the first steam locomotive enters the town.
- 3.12 The Old Shambles at the top of the market place was finally removed in 1856; a replacement building was constructed in 1868. This building was used as a bank, spirit vaults, cheap stores, com merchant's warehouse, farmer's union office, and a barbershop during its lifetime. It became locally known as the Vaults. The Building known as the Vaults was demolished in 1958 to widen the road (Snowden 1988).
- 3.13 In 1887 there were a number of alterations in the area surrounding No 4 The Market place, the White Swan Hotel to the east of No4 was converted from a coaching inn to a more multi purpose commercial property this may included No4 the Market place. J and W Coverdale had their own brewery on site, and the landlord of the White Swan supplied wedding carriages, funeral coaches and a hearse. Parts of these Outbuildings can still be seen on site (Clitheroe 2002).
- 3.14 Cartographic evidence for the site illustrates the progressive development of the site from the mid 19th century onwards. The 1928, Ordnance Survey records a series of buildings, outbuildings and boundary walls on the site (Fig. 3).
- 3.15 Modern day development of the site shows the location of the former stables/outbuildings, which were constructed in the 1800s still in use at the time of the Watching Brief

4. **Methodology**

- 4.1 The foundation trenches were excavated in shallow spits by a 360° mechanical excavator, operating under close archaeological supervision.
- 4.2 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1998).
- 4.3 All deposits were recorded according to correct principles of stratigraphic excavation on MAP's *pro forma* context sheets, which are compatible with the MoLAS recording system.

5. **Results**

- 5.1.1 The excavation area measured 10m x 8.50m and was located to the north (rear) of the No. 4 Market place (Fig. 3, Pl. 1). The foundations were excavated to a depth of 2.70m below existing ground level (Pl. 2).
- 5.1.2 Excavations revealed a brick water tank (Context 1002, Fig 3, Pl. 3) that rested directly on the natural bedrock (context 1006, Pl. 4). A number of deposits containing 20th century pottery had built up against the sides of Tank 1002. (contexts 1003, 1004, 1005,1007). Finds from Deposit 1003 dated this layer to the 1940s. Deposit 1003 was sealed by a 0.50m deep silt deposit (context 1001), which was in tum sealed by a modern street surface made up of tarmac and concrete (context 1000).

6. **Conclusions**

- 6.1 Natural deposits were reached in the excavation at a depth of approximately 2.70m. No subsoil deposits were observed. No archaeological features were recorded, and the lack of any pottery other than the 20th century factory-made

Earthenwares, suggests that the only deposits surviving on the site site belonged to this period.

7. Bibliography

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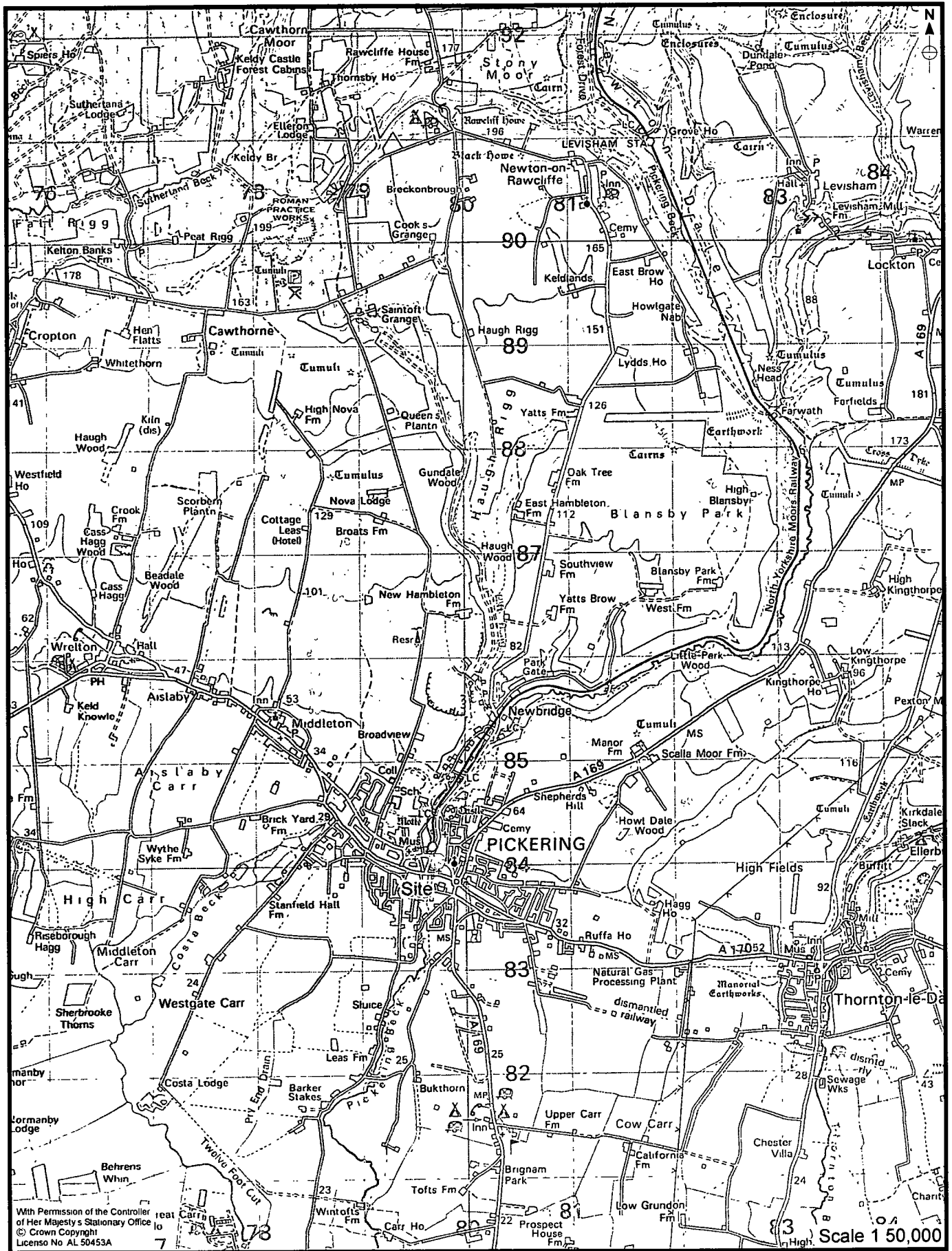


Figure 1 Site Location



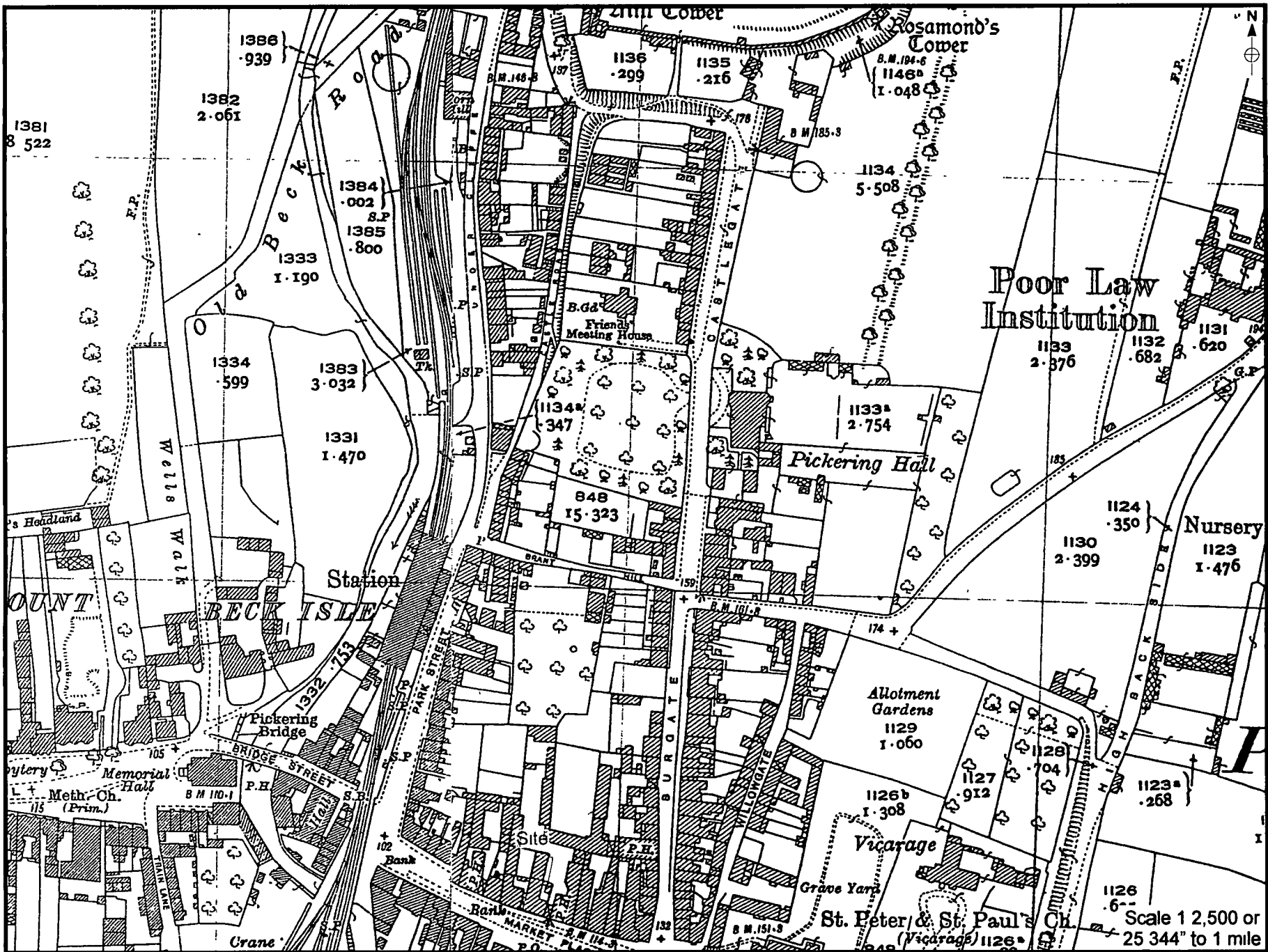


Figure 2. Extract from Ordnance Survey Map, 1928



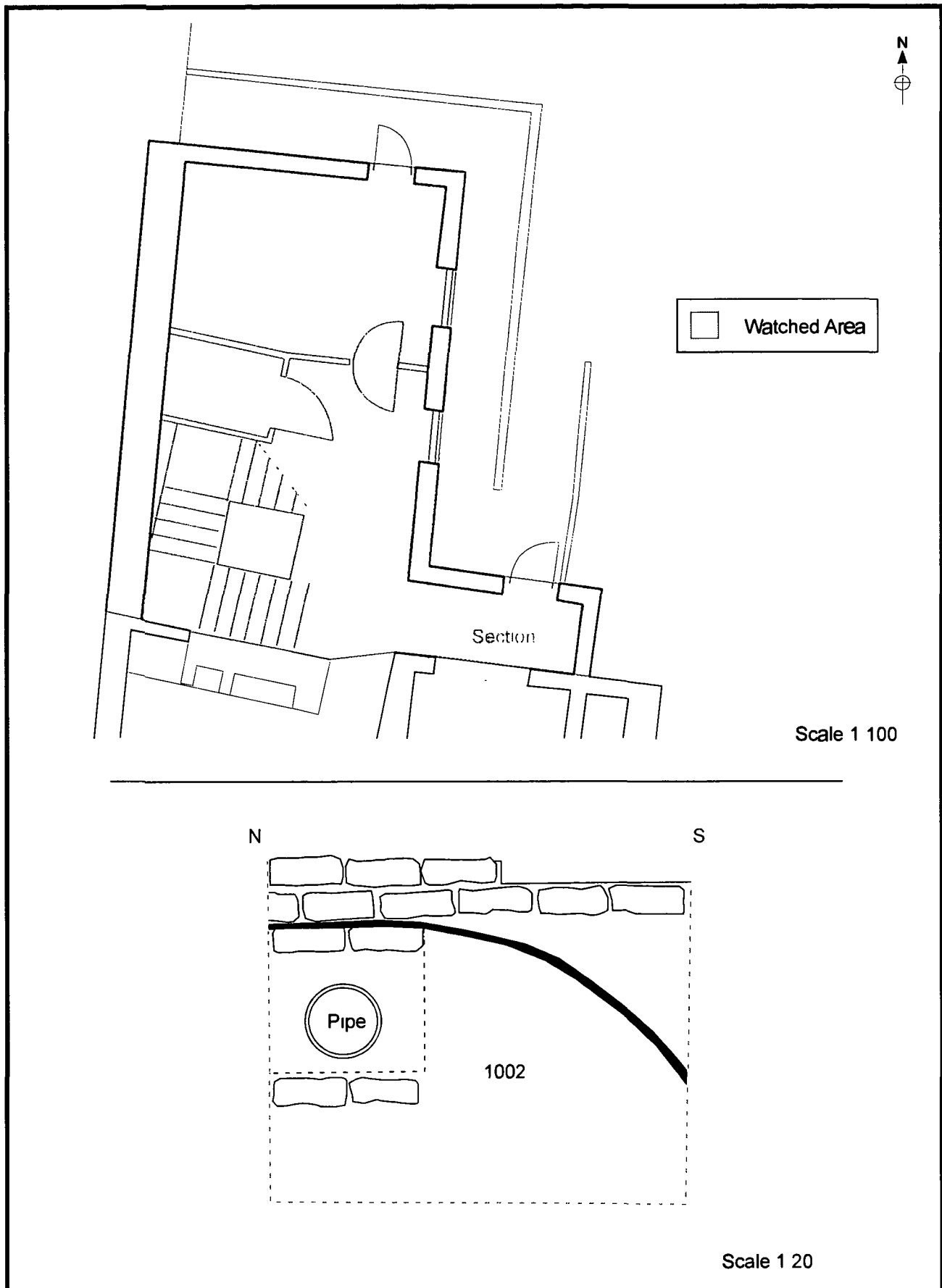


Figure 3. Plan and Section of Watching Bnef Features





Plate 1 Pre-Excavation View of Site, Facing South



Plate 2 General View of Excavation in Progress, Facing South





Plate 3 Water Tank 1002, Facing East



Plate 4 View of Final Level of Excavation Showing Natural Bedrock, Facing South

