

**291-293 Pershore Road
South, Kings Norton,
Birmingham**

**An Archaeological
Watching Brief 2001**

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
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291-293 Pershore Road South, Kings Norton, Birmingham
An Archaeological Watching Brief 2001

by
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1.0: SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in September 2001 at 291-3 Pershore Road South, Kings Norton, Birmingham (centred on NGR SP 04987882) during the extension and alteration of existing buildings. The site is located on the eastern side of the triangular village green which formed the centre of the medieval village of Kings Norton. The only features and deposits observed related to modern building activity. The watching brief was commissioned by Formah Limited, and was carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit.

No features or artifacts of archaeological interest were observed during the ground works, and no finds of pre-19th century date were recovered.

2.0: INTRODUCTION

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) were commissioned by Formah Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief at 291-3 Pershore Road South, Kings Norton, Birmingham (centred on NGR SP 04987882: Figs. 1-2) in September 2001. The watching brief monitored groundworks preparatory to new construction, which involved the lowering of the ground surface behind the existing frontage of 293 Pershore Road South to street level, and the excavation of foundation trenches. The watching brief was required in accordance with Policy 8.36 of Birmingham City Council Unitary Development Plan, and government advice in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16. The work was conducted in accordance with an Archaeological Brief issued by Birmingham City Council (Birmingham City Council 2001) and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by BUFAU (BUFAU 2001).

3.0: LOCATION AND BACKGROUND (Fig. 2)

The site is located on the eastern side of the triangular village green which formed the centre of the medieval village of Kings Norton. Surviving medieval buildings in the vicinity include St Nicholas' church (SMR 01236) on the northern side, The Saracens Head Public House (SMR 01237) and Hiron's Bakery (SMR 03434). Excavation on the southeastern side of The Green has revealed traces of medieval timber framed buildings of 12th 13th century date (Jones in press), and a stone wall-base was recorded at 2-3 The Green.

4.0: AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

The aim of the archaeological watching brief was to identify and record any archaeological features revealed during contractors' groundworks, paying particular attention to the potential of the site to contain features associated with the medieval village of Kings Norton, including traces of structures, property boundaries, and evidence of industrial activity or waste disposal. The area within which the watching brief was maintained is outlined in Fig. 3.

All below-ground excavations were monitored by a member of BUFAU staff. Features and deposits within each of the trenches dug below existing ground-level were recorded, even when no stratigraphy of archaeological interest was present. Recording was by means of pre-printed pro-formas for contexts and features, supplemented by scaled plans and sections, and colour slide and monochrome print photography. Subject to permission from the landowner, it is proposed to deposit the site archive with Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

5.0: RESULTS (Fig. 4)

The natural subsoil consisted of red clay (1004) which was exposed only minimally in the northern and eastern sections at a depth of 1.42m below the existing concrete ground surface. This was overlain by a mixed deposit, mainly comprising mid-brown slightly silty-clay (1003), which contained a few pebbles and some small coal flecks, and was recorded at a maximum depth of 0.94m below the modern ground surface. This was sealed by a layer of very dark brown topsoil (1001), which in some areas contained small stones and traces of root disturbance. This layer was cut by a small pit (F100), cut to a U-shaped profile. This contained some fragments of clay pipe, and modern pottery. The topsoil and the backfilled pit were sealed by a modern concrete hardstanding.

The eastern and southern foundation trenches of the new build revealed earlier, brick-built walls below the modern hardstanding. The subsoil was not revealed in these new foundation trenches.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed, and no finds (other than artifacts of purely modern date), were collected.

It is likely that any features or deposits of archaeological interest may have been scoured-out during the construction and alteration of the adjoining properties.

6.0: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

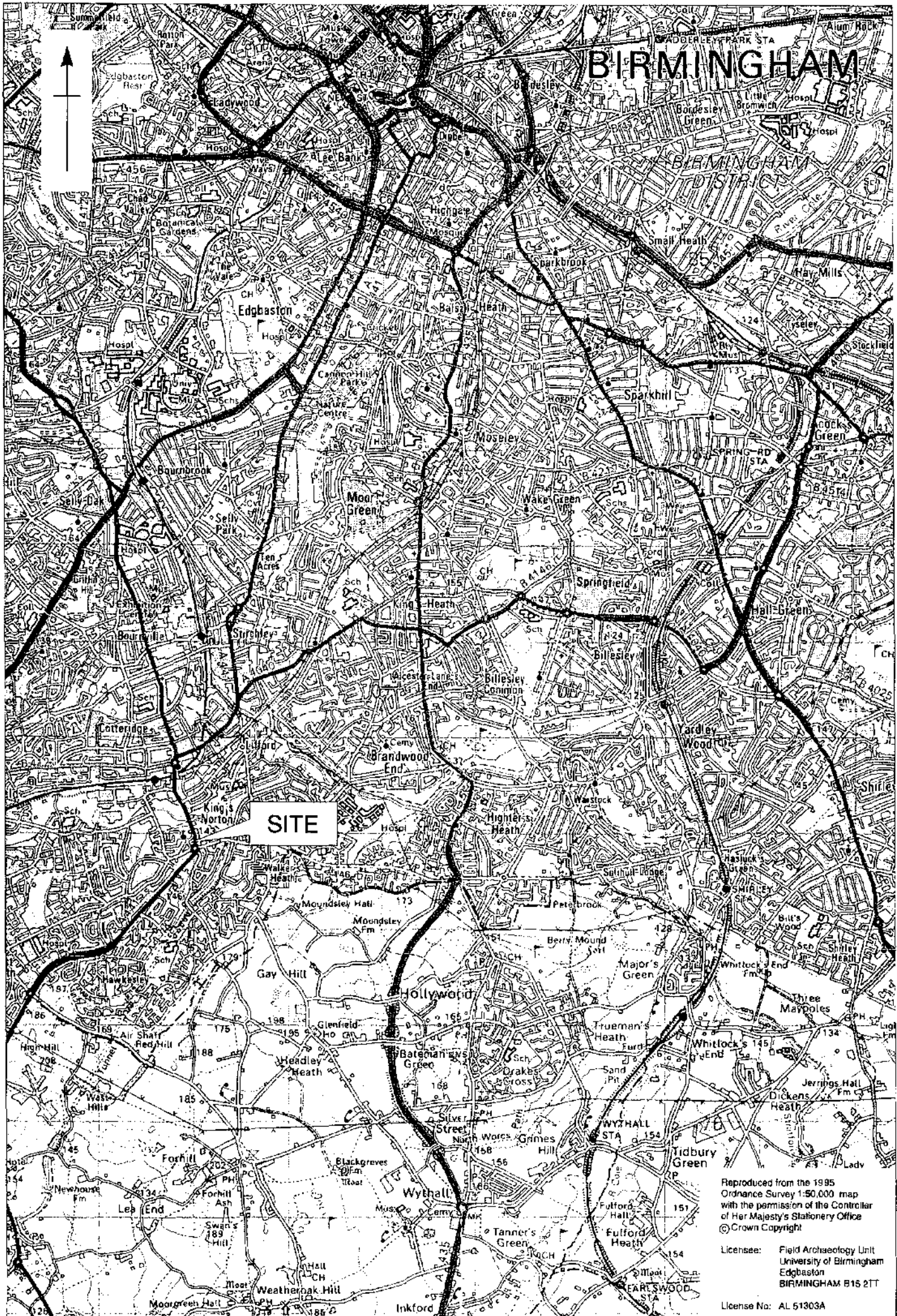
The watching brief was carried out by Kate Bain and managed by Alex Jones who also edited this report. The illustrations were prepared by Nigel Dodds. Thanks are due to Alan Man of Formah Limited who commissioned the watching brief.

7.0: REFERENCES

Birmingham City Council. 2001. *Brief for Archaeological Observation and Recording during development. 291-3 Pershore Road South, Birmingham.*

BUFAU 2001 *291-3 Pershore Road South, Birmingham. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.*

Jones, L. in press. Excavations at No. 15 The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham. *Transactions of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society.*



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Fig.1

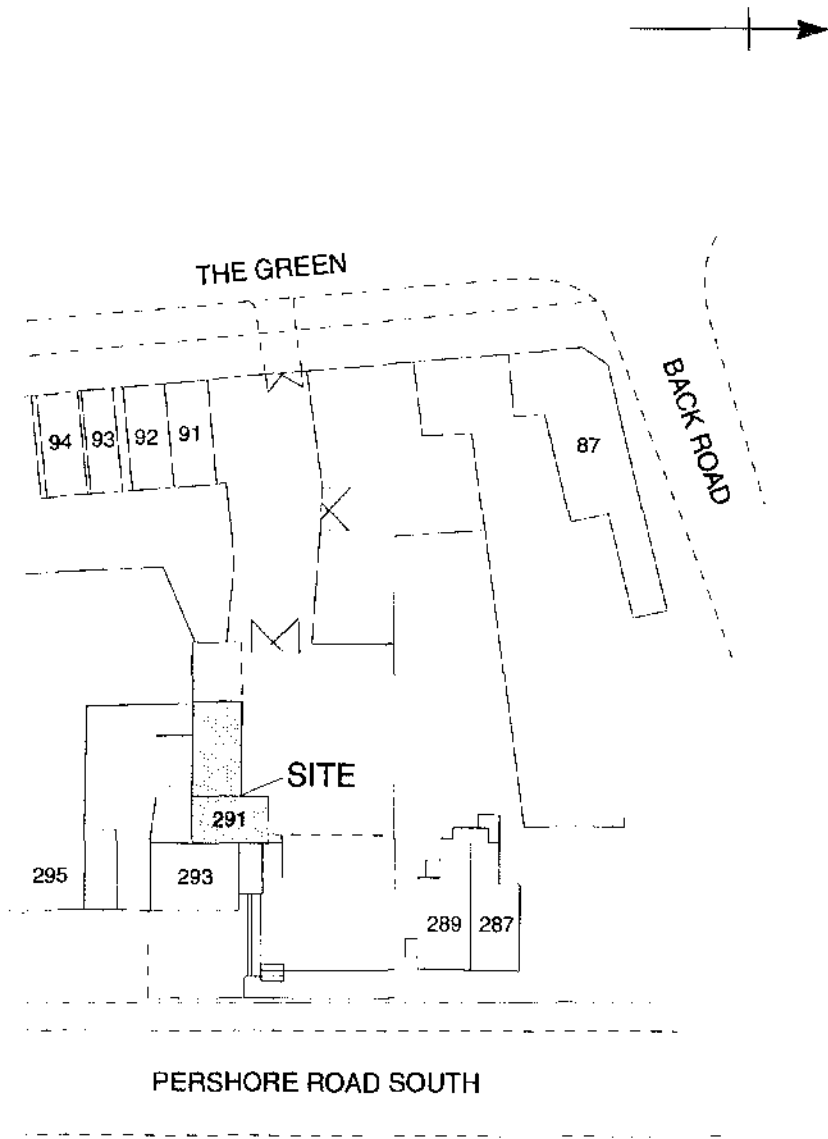


Fig.2

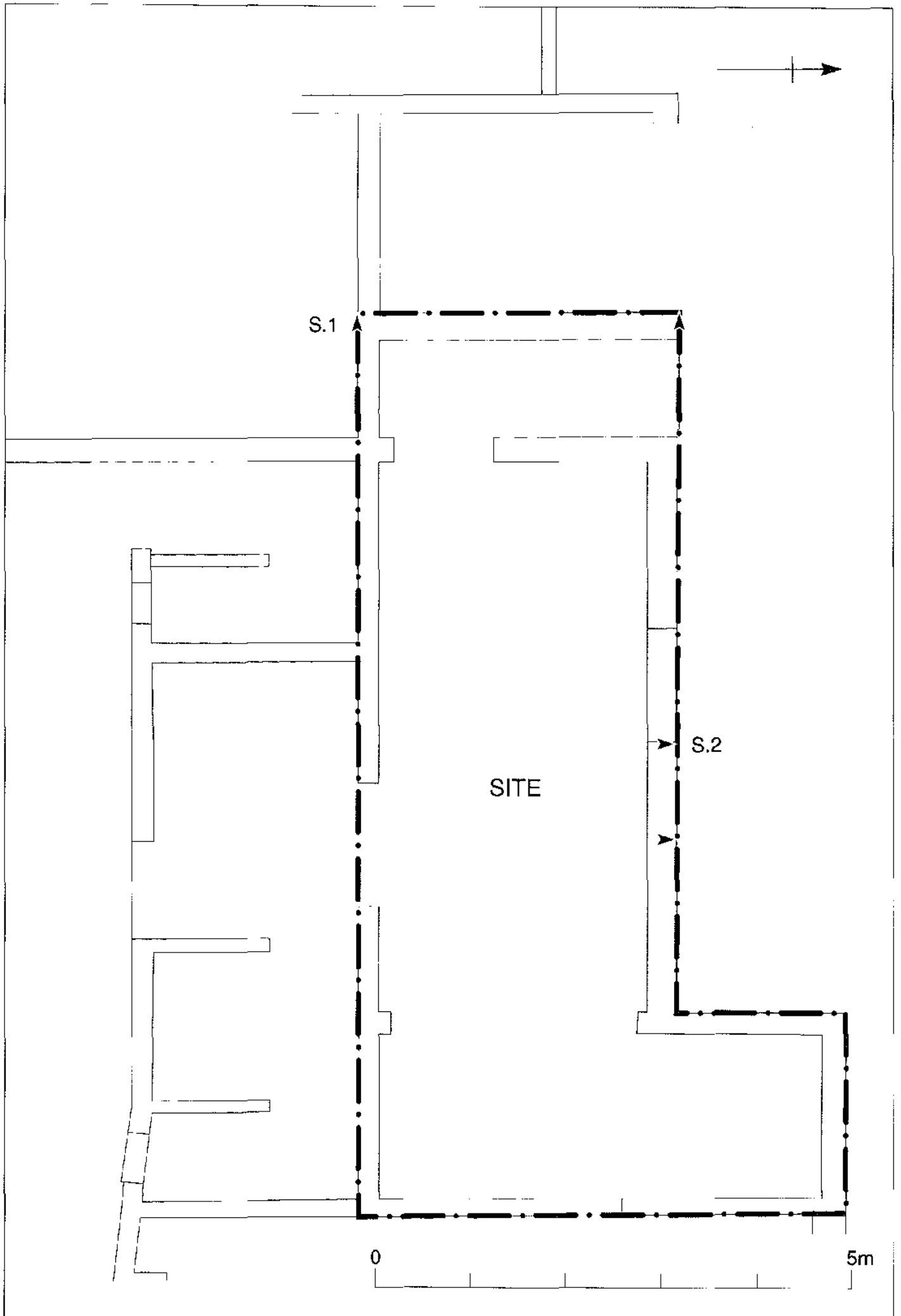
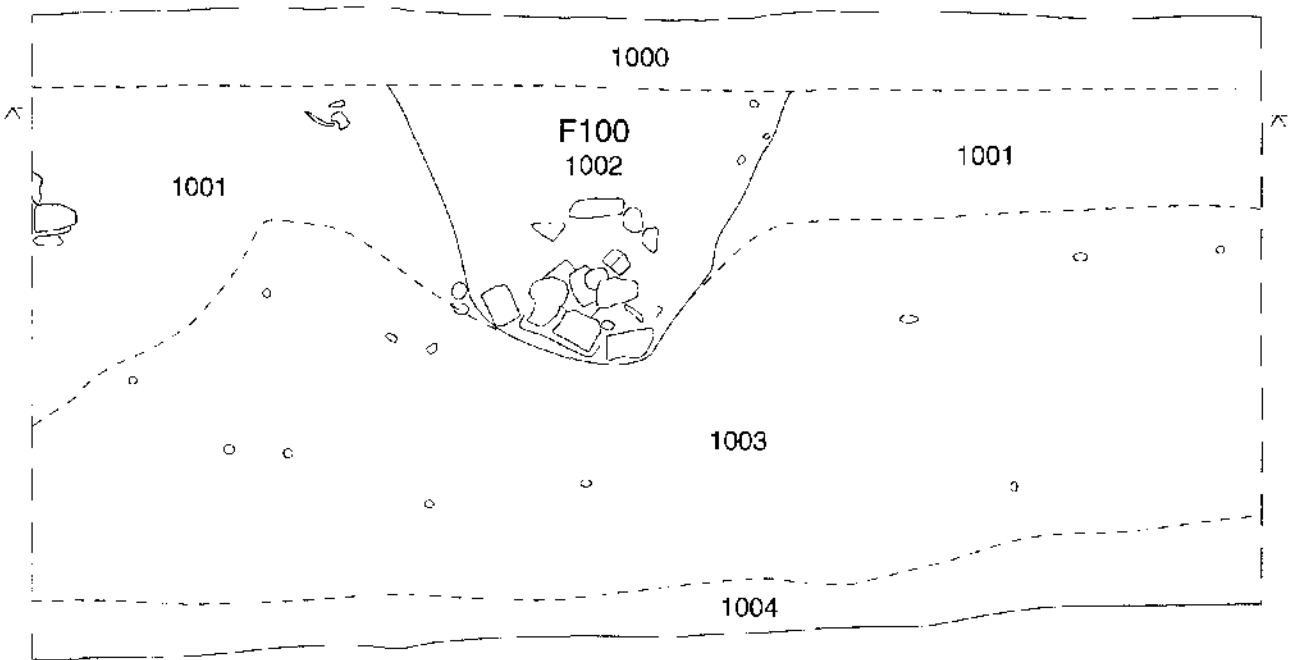


Fig.3

S.1



S.2

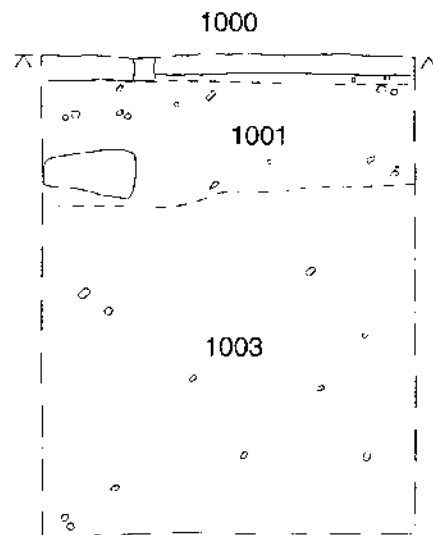


Fig.4