

**Castlefields Mount,
Bretby, Derbyshire**

**Archaeological
Evaluation 2006**

Checked by	
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Project No.1530

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CASTLEFIELDS MOUNT, BRETBY, DERBYSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2006.

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SUMMARY

The evaluation has proved successful in characterising the archaeological remains across the site. Two archaeological features were identified, although both were truncated by modern services.

The natural geology was identified throughout the trench at a depth of 0.20m below present ground level. One small ditch and the truncated remains of a cobbled surface were revealed cutting the natural geology. These features cannot be directly linked to the Scheduled Monument immediately to the south, although it is possible that they may be associated with garden features or out-buildings contemporary with Bretby Castle which were extant on the site prior to the construction of Castlefields Mount.

CASTLEFIELDS MOUNT, BRETBY, DERBYSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2005.

INTRODUCTION

Background to the project

Birmingham Archaeology was commissioned by MacPherson Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation ahead of a proposed extension to Castlefields Mount, Bretby, Derbyshire (hereinafter referred to as the site, Planning Application Number SD/9/2006/0934/FH).

This report outlines the results of the field evaluation carried out in November 2006 and has been prepared in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (IFA 2001).

The evaluation conformed to a brief produced by Derbyshire County Council (Myers 2006), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (Birmingham Archaeology 2006) which was approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to, in accordance with guidelines laid down in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (DoE 1990).

Location and geology

The site is located in Bretby, Derbyshire, approximately 3km east of Burton-on-Trent (NGR SK 29313 23260: Fig. 1). The proposed extension is adjacent to the west wing of Castlefields Mount and lies immediately north of the Scheduled Monument of Bretby Castle fortified manor (SM23306: Fig. 2). The present character of the site is gardens associated with Castlefields Mount.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Although no archaeological work has been previously carried out on the site, the proposed extension is situated close to the northern boundary of the remains of Bretby Castle fortified manor (SM23306). This Scheduled Monument consists of the core area of Bretby Castle that dates from the 13th to 17th centuries. The visible earthworks date to the 16th century, with earlier archaeological structures and features surviving below ground. It is probable that further associated structures and features survive beneath present ground level outside of the scheduled area.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The principle aim of the evaluation was to determine the character, state of preservation and the potential significance of any buried remains.

More specific aims were to:

- investigate and understand any structures or features associated with the manor that falls outside of the scheduled area
- identify any archaeological evidence that pre-dates the medieval period

METHODOLOGY

Fieldwork

The proposed development area covers approximately 75m². One trench, measuring 10m by 2m, was excavated across the site providing a 15% sample of the total area.

All topsoil and modern overburden was removed using a mechanical mini-excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, under direct archaeological supervision, down to the top of the uppermost archaeological horizon or the subsoil. Subsequent cleaning and excavation was by hand.

All stratigraphic sequences were recorded, even where no archaeology was present. Features were planned at a scale of 1:50, and sections were drawn through all cut features and significant vertical stratigraphy at a scale of 1:20. A comprehensive written record was maintained using a continuous numbered context system on *pro-forma* context and feature cards. Written records and scale plans were supplemented by monochrome and colour print photography. Although assessed for their palaeo-environmental potential, no samples were taken.

The full site archive includes all artefactual and/or ecofactual remains recovered from the site. The site archive will be prepared according to guidelines set down in Appendix 3 of the Management of Archaeology Projects (English Heritage, 1991), the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage (UKIC, 1990) and Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological collections (Museum and Art Galleries Commission, 1992). Finds and the paper archive will be deposited with the Derby Museum and Art Gallery subject to permission from the landowner.

RESULTS

The natural geological substrate (**1000**), consisting of red clay, was identified throughout the trench at a depth of 0.20m below present ground level. One small ditch (**1005**) and the truncated remains of a cobbled surface (**1003**) were revealed cutting the natural geology (Fig. 3). Ditch **1005**, aligned east-west, was filled by silty clay **1006**, which produced fragments of ceramic tile. Cobbled surface **1006** consisted of one course of well-rounded cobbles cut slightly into the upper surface of natural clay **1000**. Two modern service trenches were identified. All of the above was sealed by 0.20m of topsoil

THE FINDS BY ERICA MACEY-BRACKEN

A small assemblage of finds was recovered from the site. The assemblage consisted of ceramic tile and drain fragments, a metal pipe fragment and a clear glass phial.

Most of the material was recovered from the spoil heap, including twelve fragments of ceramic drainpipe, four undiagnostic pieces of ceramic tile and eleven pieces of indeterminate fired

clay. The most interesting finds from the spoil heap were a fragment of patterned yellow and red tile, probably of Victorian date, and a near-complete clear glass phial of early 20th century date. The phial was mould-made, and the base was embossed with an anchor and the letters 70 CEAR 867 NICO.

The remainder of the finds recovered from the site came from context 1006, which yielded eight fragments of undiagnostic post-medieval ceramic tile. One of the fragments had the same fabric and the same external appearance as an engineering brick, whilst another had a very pale, poorly-levigated orange fabric. The other fragments recovered from this context had a very dense, well-made dark orange fabric, similar to that of the tile fragments recovered from the spoil heap.

DISCUSSION

The evaluation has proved successful in characterising the archaeological remains across the site. Two archaeological features were identified, although both were truncated by modern services. These features cannot be directly linked to the Scheduled Monument immediately to the south, although it is possible that they may be associated with garden features or out-buildings contemporary with Bretby Castle which were extant on the site prior to the construction of Castlefields Mount.

When considering the shallow depth of topsoil and the number of modern services, both in the evaluation trench and further to the east, it is recommended that no further archaeological work is necessary on this site.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The project was commissioned by MacPherson Homes. Thanks are due to David MacPherson for his co-operation and assistance throughout the project. Thanks also go to Andrew Myers, Development Control Archaeologist, Derbyshire County Council, who monitored the project. Work on-site was supervised by Mark Charles, assisted by Shaun Daly. This report was completed by Kevin Colls, who also managed the project for Birmingham Archaeology.

REFERENCES

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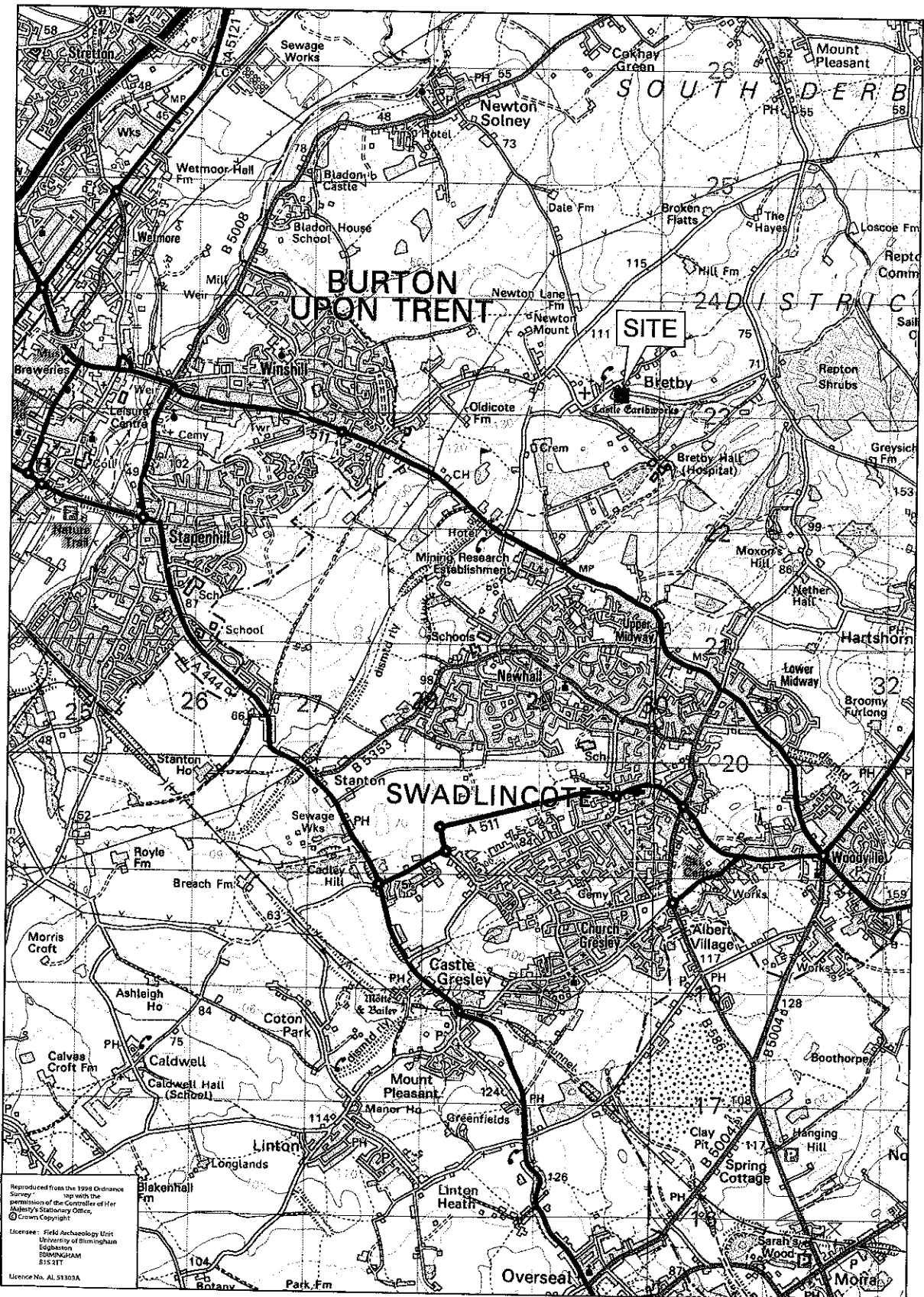


Fig.1

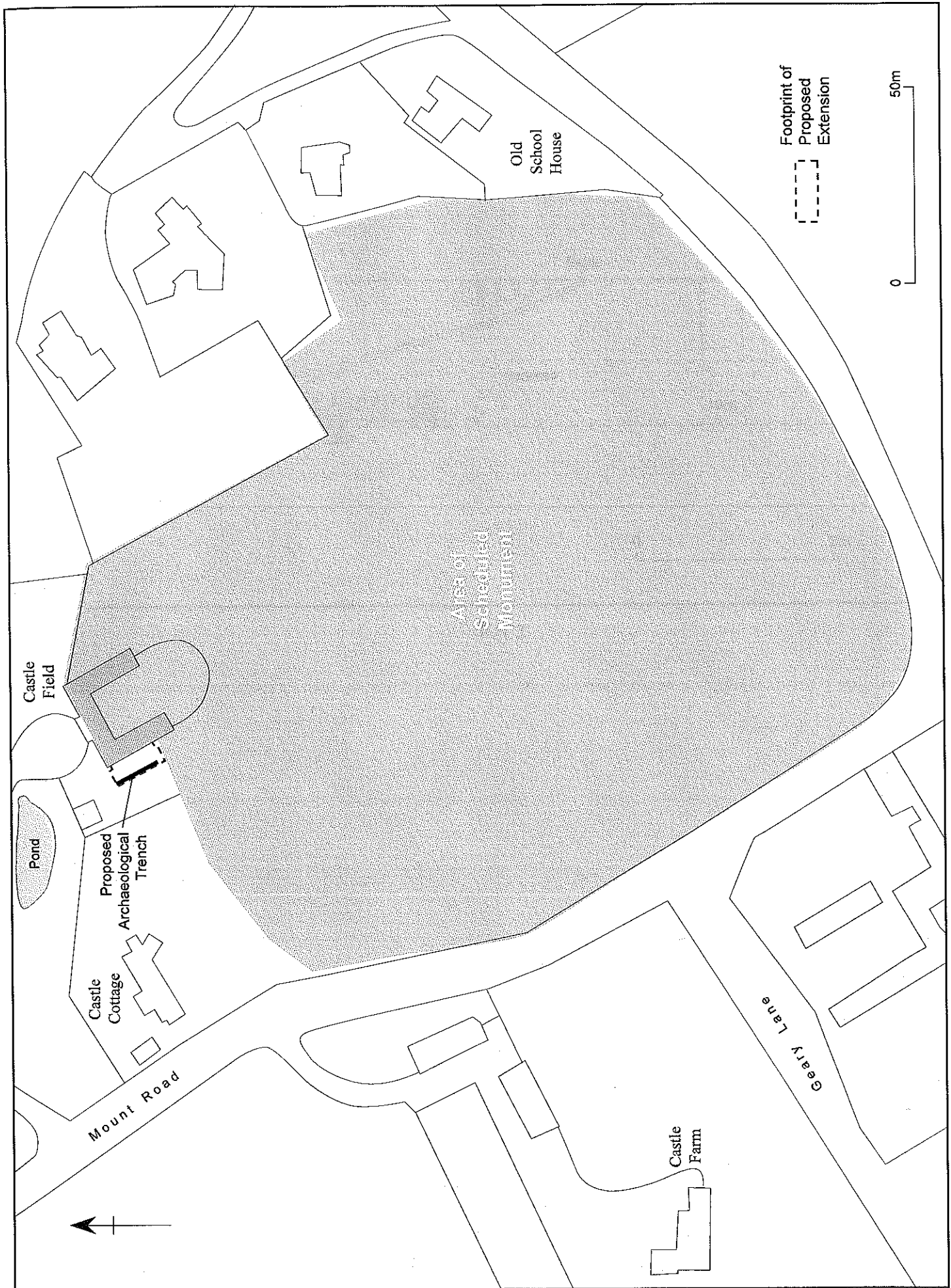


Fig.2

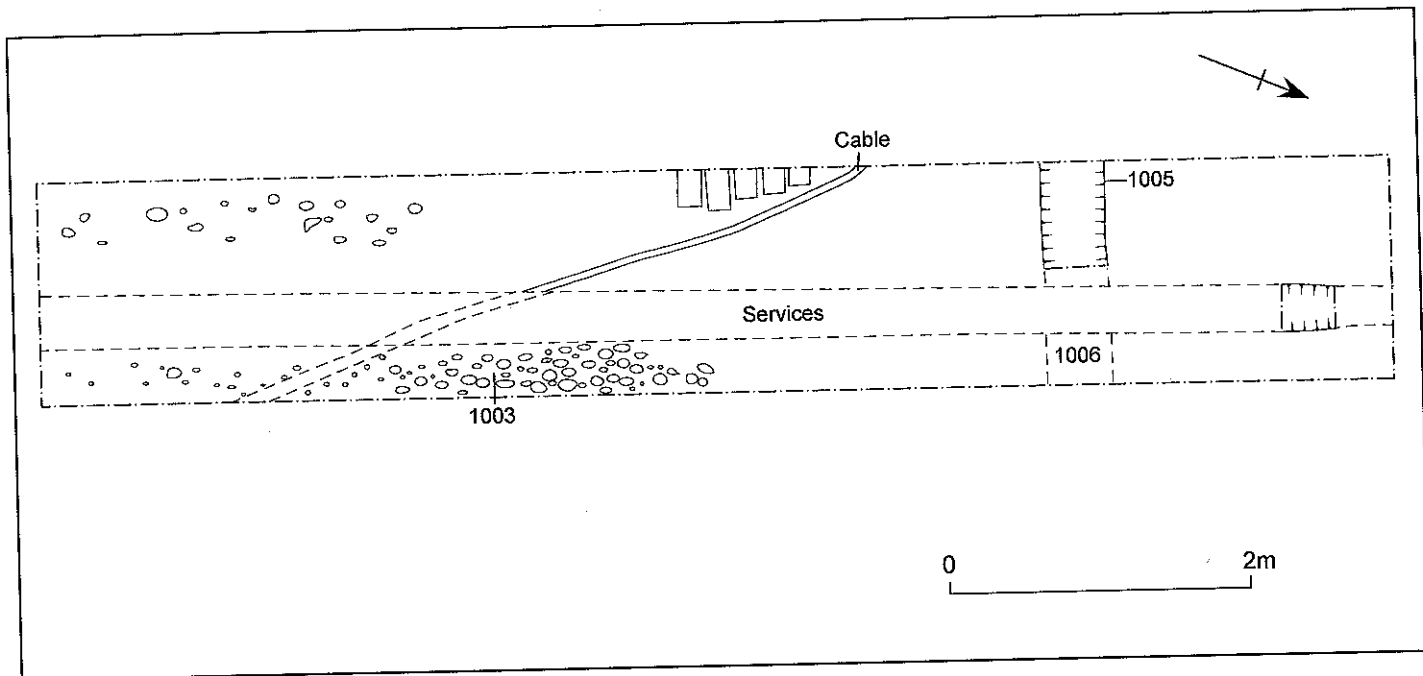


Fig.3