

Archaeological Observation,
Investigation & Recording:
Land at Dychurch Lane
Bozeat, Northamptonshire
(NGR SP 90815 58976)

(Planning Application WP/2011/0366)

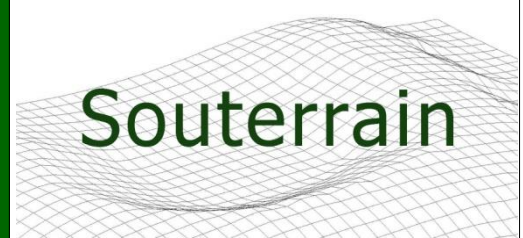


May 2014

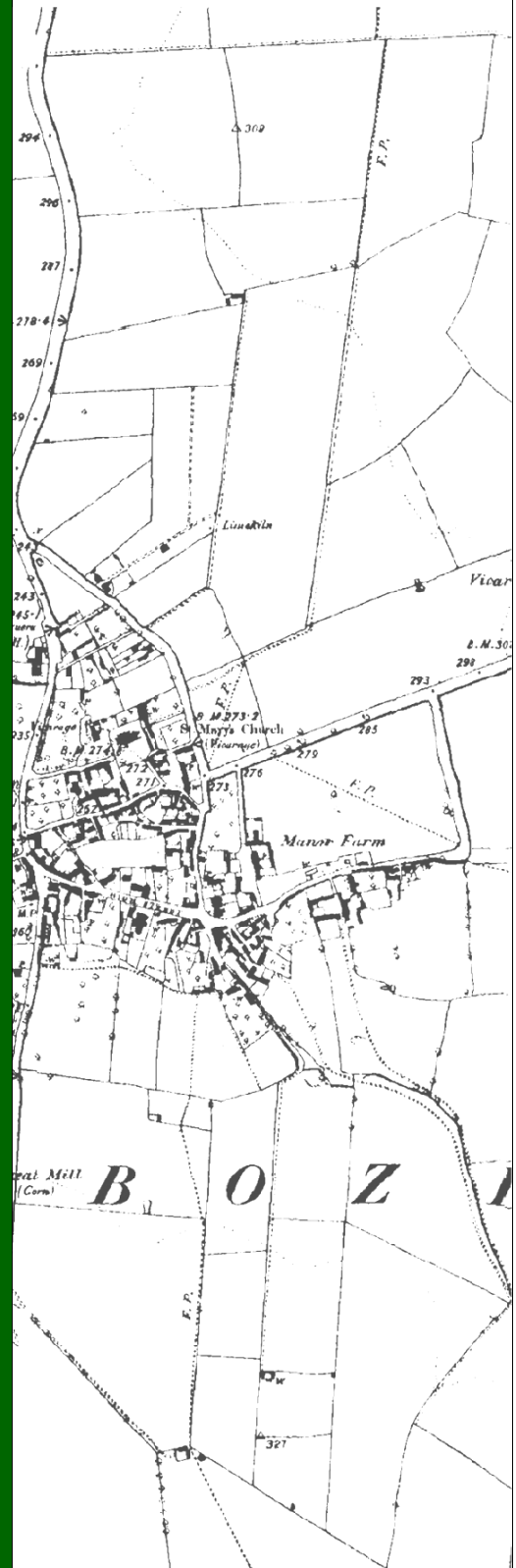
Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd

for

Mill Court Developments (Cambridge) Ltd



Archaeological Services Ltd



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Souterrain Project: SOU14-328

Produced for:

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(Illustrations follow the main text)

Preface

All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd (Souterrain) cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

Fieldwork & Report:

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SUMMARY

Archaeological observation and investigation was carried out during the preparation of foundations for a new building on land adjacent to No 5, Dychurch Lane, Bozeat, Northamptonshire.

The removal of topsoil and overburden revealed that approximately two thirds of the site had suffered truncation in the late 20th century. No archaeological features were present. A small assemblage of 18th and 19th century pottery sherds were recovered from the topsoil.

1. SCOPE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report documents the results of archaeological observation and investigation carried out during ground preparation for a new building (the Application Site) at land adjacent to No. 5 Dychurch Lane, Bozeat, Northamptonshire (Fig. 1) on the 24th April 2014, in compliance with a condition attached to the planning consent. The work was commissioned by Mr J Brown, Valley Farm, Lower Road, Croydon, Royston, Hertfordshire SG8 0HF.
- 1.2 The archaeological investigation was undertaken by Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd (Souterrain) in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation¹.

2. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission (WP/2011/0366) was granted subject to Conditions on the 12th of January 2012 to Mr J Brown for the erection of a single detached dwelling.
- 2.2 In view of the archaeological potential of the site, planning consent has been granted with a Condition (No.12) attached for an archaeological programme of works, to be approved in advance of works by Northamptonshire County Council's Assistant Archaeological Advisor (AAA). The reason for the Planning Condition is to ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 2.3 The development entails the construction of a three-bedroom dwelling, as defined on the drawing associated with the planning application: *Land at Manor Farm Dychurch Lane Bozeat Northants NN29 7JP*, RBV Failes RF-111426A July 2011. The area of the proposed building footprint is approximately 94 sq.m.

3. SITE LOCATION AND ASPECT

- 3.1 The Application Site is located on the southeast side of the village of Bozeat (Fig.1). It is centred on national grid reference 490815, 258976. It is bordered to the east by Manor Close, to the south by Dychurch Lane, and to the west by a private residence and garden. On the north side there is a private access road, beyond which are modern residential properties and gardens of Manor Close. The underlying geology is Great Oolite Limestone
- 3.2 The topography of the site has a slight slope down north to south from around 77m to 75.50m OD. Prior to the ground-works the central and eastern part of the site was grass covered. A former property boundary ran north-south through the site, demarcated by a stone wall of irregular limestone (Figs.2 and 3) which appears to be shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1889. An asphalt track ran north-south along the west side of the site (Fig.2).

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In the course of the preparation of the Written Scheme of Investigation for this project, a search was carried out of Northamptonshire's Historic Environment Record (HER) within a 500m radius

¹ Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd. 2013. *Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Works at: Land at Dychurch Lane, Northamptonshire (NGR 490815 258976) (Application Reference WP/2011/0366) V. 1. 27th January 2014*

of the Application Site. The HER numbers in the footnotes refer to the specific record for each monument, find spot, archaeological site or archaeological event.

The Prehistoric period

- 4.2 Evidence of the prehistoric periods is sparse in the village of Bozeat. There has been a single recorded find of a Late Iron Age gold coin, found in 1991². There are however, at least five Iron Age settlement sites known in the parish from either aerial photography or pottery scatters³; these are between 1.4 km and 2.3km of the Application Site⁴.

The Roman period

- 4.3 Three first century Romano-British pottery kilns were found during the construction of Wyman Close⁵ in 1968, about 29m to the SW of the Application Site. In addition, there were three rectangular and two circular stone buildings dated to the mid third century. Further evidence of Romano-British settlement is known over an extensive area on the north edge of the parish, about 1.6km NW of the application site.

The Saxon period

- 4.4 The nature and extent of early Saxon activity at Bozeat is poorly understood. The location and layout of the Saxon village is not known. At the Wyman Close⁶ site in 1968, three Anglo-Saxon burials of probable 6th century date were found within Roman remains. An unstratified Saxon brooch was found in a back garden in the same road in 1991⁷. The Historic Environment Record identifies it as a 'site of uncertain early Saxon activity'⁸. A large number of undated earthworks exist around the village that are believed to be of Saxon or medieval origin, although without excavation it is hard to ascribe a date with any certainty. The 6th century evidence found at Wyman Close may point to the origin of the settlement, although the village, in its more recognizable form, may have been formally laid out in the mid-10th century during a period of widespread reorganization, whereby dispersed settlements were brought together to be centralized around church and manor surrounded by a planned open field system⁹. The church (St. Mary's)¹⁰ is located c.300m to the NW of the Application Site. The earliest extant fabric of the church appears to have originated in the 12th century. The Domesday record of Bozeat in 1086¹¹ is probably a reasonable indicator of the size of the late Saxon village. There were ten heads of households (6 villagers, 2 smallholders and 2 slaves), possibly sixty to seventy persons in total. The cultivable land was assessed at 4 ploughlands with the village possessing three mens' plough teams and one team belonging to the lord. Other resources comprised ten acres of meadow and woodland. At the time of the conquest the Saxon lord was Stric, who held the land of Earl Waltheof.

The Medieval period

- 4.5 The extent of the medieval village of Bozeat was defined by the Northamptonshire Field Group¹² in 1973. The present Application Site is located within the south-east part of the medieval village. The outline of modern village does not exactly correspond to that of the medieval settlement and there are a number of modern fields which contain earthworks pertaining to the ancient

² HER 0/0/110 (NGR SP 9060 5932)

³ 'Bozeat', *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the County of Northamptonshire, Volume 2: Archaeological sites in Central Northamptonshire* (1979), pp. 3-5;

⁴ NGR SP9115 6034, NGR SP906576, NGR SP909575, NGR SP911579, NGR SP900566

⁵ HER 3268 Event No. ENN10493 (NGR SP 9065 5880)

⁶ HER 6528/0/1 (NGR SP 9065 5880)

⁷ HER 6528/0/0 (NGR SP 9064 5885)

⁸ HER 6528

⁹ *ibid*, 191

¹⁰ (HER 3272/1 NGR SP 9062 5919)

¹¹ <http://domesdaymap.co.uk/place/SP9059/bozeat/>

¹² Hall, D.1973. *South Midlands Archaeology*, 3,32

village¹³. The Group's study entailed a comprehensive field-by-field survey of Bozeat's medieval open fields, the remains of which survive as either earthworks or crop-marks. A three-field system of cultivation was still in operation in the 17th century. Notably, the whole of the parish surrounding the village (2113-2136 acres; 855-864 hectares) appears to have been under cultivation in the medieval period except for flooding meadows. There was no medieval woodland¹⁴. The common fields of the parish were enclosed by Act of Parliament of 1798. The fields around the southern and eastern periphery of the village still contain extensive earthwork remains of the medieval field system, in the form of ridge and furrow¹⁵, some in proximity to the Application Site: 80m to the NE and 150m to the SE¹⁶.

- 4.6 Significantly, on the NW side of the village are the earthwork remains of part of the medieval manor of Bozeat¹⁷; known as the Bery Yard¹⁸ in the 18th century. In 1086, the overlordship of the manor was held by Countess Judith, niece of William I and wife of Waltheof, the Saxon Earl of Huntingdon and Northampton. The Countess' tenant lord was Lanzelin (Lancelin). The overlordship became known as the manor of Latimers. It descended with the earldom and honour of Huntingdon¹⁹. The site now consists of three closes bounded by banks of limestone rubble which cover an area of just over one hectare, but most of the earthworks are of indeterminate form and there are no signs of associated buildings. The manor house²⁰ was demolished in the course of quarrying for limestone. Some confusion prevails about the location of the Latimers manor house. The Historic Environment Record gives a second location, on the south side of Dychurch Lane²¹, about c.65m SE of the Application Site. This is the site of a distinct building platform c.15m x 5m, which is recessed in the side of a slope. Early 18th century documentary evidence shows the Berry Yard (i.e. Latimers) was on inclosed pasture held by Elizabeth Wiseman who also occupied an existing manor house referred in the eastern part of the village. It was noted in 1978 that the RCHME had apparently mistook the Berry Yard for the site south of Dychurch Lane²². There have been no medieval finds in the vicinity of the Application Site.

5. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- 5.1 In view of the deemed archaeological potential of the Application Site, given the range of discoveries in Bozeat, the Written Scheme of investigation advocated a series of research objectives with particular emphasis on regional research themes. In brief, the key objectives of the investigation were as follows:

1. To establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation in the development site.
2. To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes.

¹³ *ibid.*32

¹⁴ *ibid.*32

¹⁵ HER 8344 - MNN761

¹⁶ HER 8344/0/4 and 8344/0/2, respectively

¹⁷ HER 3272/3/1 SP 9038 5913

¹⁸ 'Bozeat', *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the County of Northamptonshire, Volume 2: Archaeological sites in Central Northamptonshire* (1979), pp. 3-5; Bridges, J. 1791, *Hist. of Northants.*, II, 158; Marlow, JH, 1936, *The History of Bozeat Village*

¹⁹ Salzman, L.F. 1937. 'Parishes: Bozeat', *A History of the County of Northampton*: 4, 3-7. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=66304> Date accessed: 26 January 2014.

²⁰ HER3272/3/2 (NGR SP 9037 5910)

²¹ HER 3272/2/1

²² i.e. Royal Commission on The Historical Monuments of England. 1979. *An Inventory of The Historical Monuments in The County of Northampton*. p. 4 site 15; see HER record 3272/3

3. To recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region.
4. To recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.
5. To contribute to the significant research areas, themes and priorities addressed by the regional Archaeological Research Assessment and Research Agenda.²³
6. To attempt to recover evidence that may contribute to understanding of the origin of the nucleated settlement at Bozeat.
7. To clarify whether there was Saxon activity or occupation in this part of Bozeat.
8. To attempt to determine the function of this part of the landscape in the medieval periods.
9. To identify deposits which have the potential for the recovery of environmental data that may contribute to research themes such as pertain to agrarian economy, changes in animal husbandry, diet and living conditions and land-use.

6. FIELD PROCEDURE & OBSERVATIONS

- 6.1 The investigation was conducted with due consideration to Health and Safety and in accordance with the requirements of the Written Scheme of Investigation and the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2008).
- 6.2 In advance of the excavation of foundation trenches, the developer decided to reduce the ground across the entire building footprint (Figs, 1 and 3) in order to enable archaeology, if present, to be investigated and recorded in a timely manner. The ground reduction was monitored throughout by an archaeologist. Due to the confines of the site it was agreed to strip the site in stages, whereby soils could be mounded in areas that had been already investigated and recorded by the archaeologist. The former stone boundary wall (*ante*. 3.2) was dismantled by hand by the building contractor's team. A piece of a modern brick (19th/20th century) was present at the base of the wall, but other than this there was no dating evidence for its construction.
- 6.3 While the work on the wall progressed, topsoil was removed from the building footprint on the east side of the stone wall by a mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth ditching bucket. This area was about 2m wide. A strip of undisturbed geological stratum of limestone, approximately 1m wide, was encountered at a depth of c.0.2m alongside the wall. There was no subsoil layer discernible (Fig 4). A small number of pieces of 18th century pottery (Table 1) were recovered from the topsoil. Beyond this narrow strip of ground, the remainder of the site to the east had suffered recent truncation. It comprised an area of hard-standing formed of shingle and 'MOT Type 1' (Fig.4). The nature of building material waste and plastic brick bands suggests that this was possibly part of a site compound during the construction of the Manor Close housing estate at the turn of the 21st century.
- 6.4 Top soil was then removed on the west side of the stone wall, up to the asphalted track. This revealed extensive disturbance by modern drainage (Fig.5). The topsoil was c. 0.15m-0.20m deep. Again, there was no discernible subsoil. Fragments of modern sweet wrappers were observed above the geological stratum. There were no finds of archaeological interest. On the

23 Knight, D, Vyner, B. & Allen, C. 2012. Research Agenda and Strategy For The Historic Environment Of The East Midlands, East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands (Nottingham/York). Cooper, NJ (ed), 2006. The Archaeology of the East Midlands: an archaeological resource assessment and research agenda (University of Leicester/ English Heritage)

west side of the site the asphalted track and underlying hardcore had been laid directly upon the bedrock. There were no archaeological features present.

Table 1. Pottery: Types and chronology

(Note: Fabric codes used in descriptions refer to those of the Northamptonshire Ceramic Type Series).

Context	Description	Fabric code	Approx. date
Topsoil	4 sherds creamware vessel, with brown and white decorated stripes	415	C18
	1 body sherd. Transfer printed ware.	416	Mid-late C19

7. REVIEW OF RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The investigation proved to be 'negative' in terms of significant archaeological remains being present. A one metre wide strip of ground along the east side of the former boundary wall contained topsoil which may have remained undisturbed since the 19th century, but other than this the entire area of the proposed building footprint had suffered modern disturbance.
- 7.2 The investigation was unable to contribute any of the defined archaeological research objectives (*ante* 5). It is not possible to infer the cultural status or function of this part of the landscape in antiquity from the results of the investigation.
- 7.3 A photographic record was made and the site was surveyed to Ordnance Survey National Grid co-ordinates and height datum (Fig. 3). The top of the geological stratum was recorded across the stripped area, which showed a fall in height of just over 1m, north to south, over a distance of c.12m.

8. ARCHIVE

- 8.1 The site archive is to be prepared and deposited in accordance with the policy set out in "Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition with Registered Museums".
- 8.2 The OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations: www.oasis.ac.uk) identification number for this project is **souterra1-178027**.

9. COPYRIGHT AND CONFIDENTIALITY

- 9.1 Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it will provide an exclusive licence to the Owner in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the WSI. Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd retains the right to be identified as the author of all project documentation and reports as defined in the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. A licence is to be also granted to Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record for the use of all reports arising from projects for planning purposes and *bona fide* research requests.
- 9.2 Souterrain undertakes to respect all requirements for confidentiality about the Applicant's proposals provided that these are clearly stated. It is expected that owners respect Souterrain's and the Institute for Archaeologists' general ethical obligations not to suppress significant archaeological data for an unreasonable period.



Figure 1.
Location of Site
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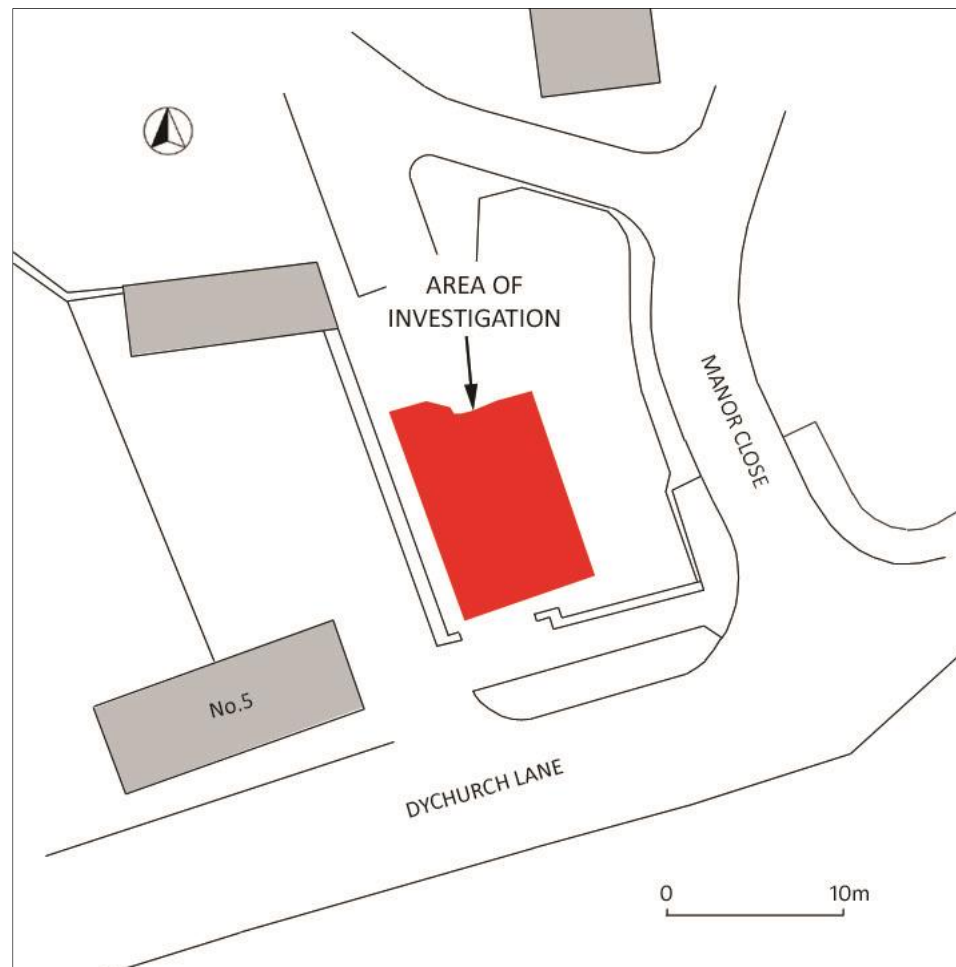




Figure 2. Pre-excitation overview of the development area. Facing SE

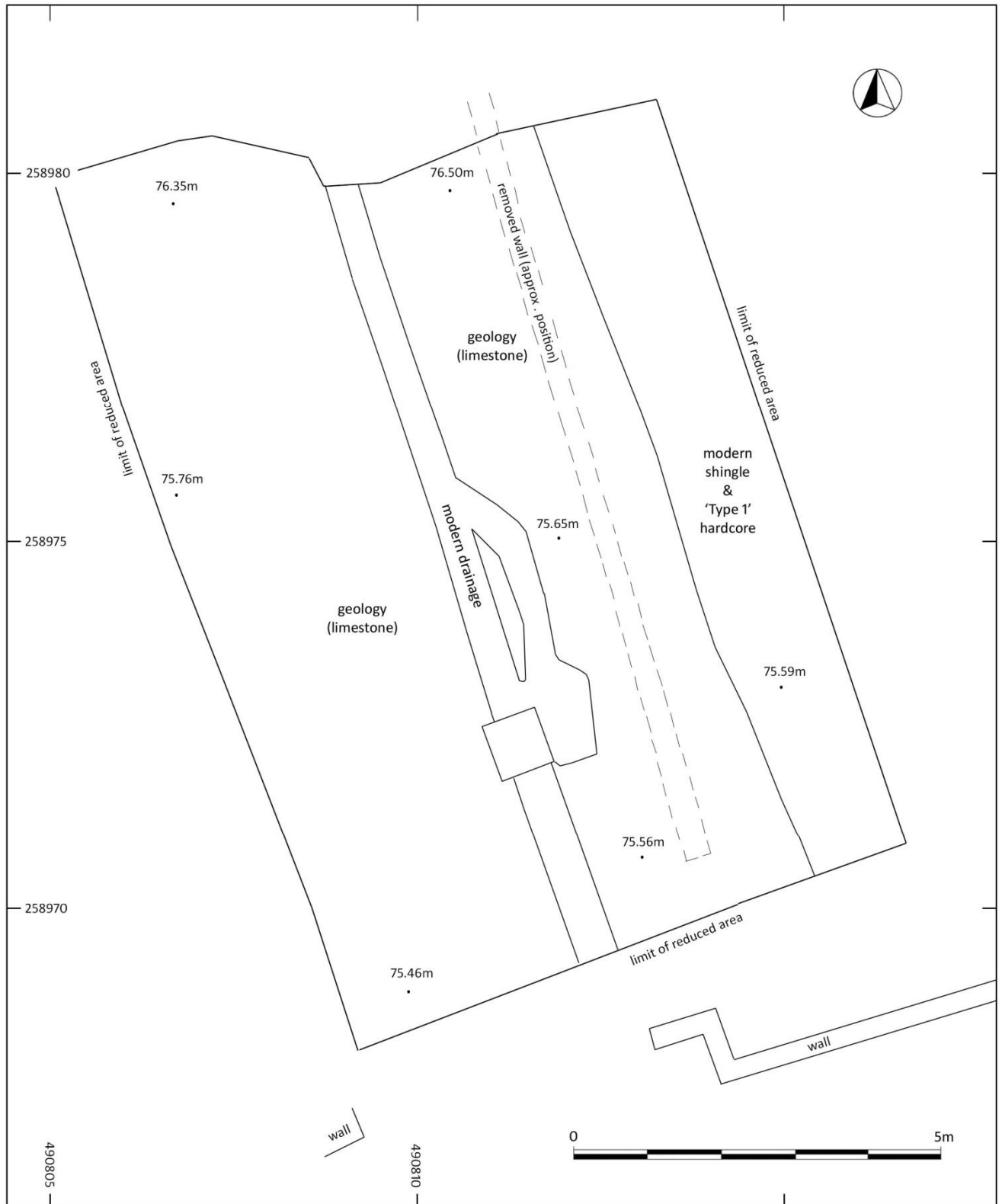


Figure 3. Plan of stripped area with height (OD) of geological stratum

Figure 4. Overview of initial strip on east side of dismantled wall, facing NW, showing extent of modern truncation (hard-standing)



Figure 5. Overview of central strip facing N, showing extent of modern drainage disturbance

