

NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Report No. 573

**Report on an Archaeological Evaluation at
Fitzwilliam College, Huntingdon Road
Cambridge**

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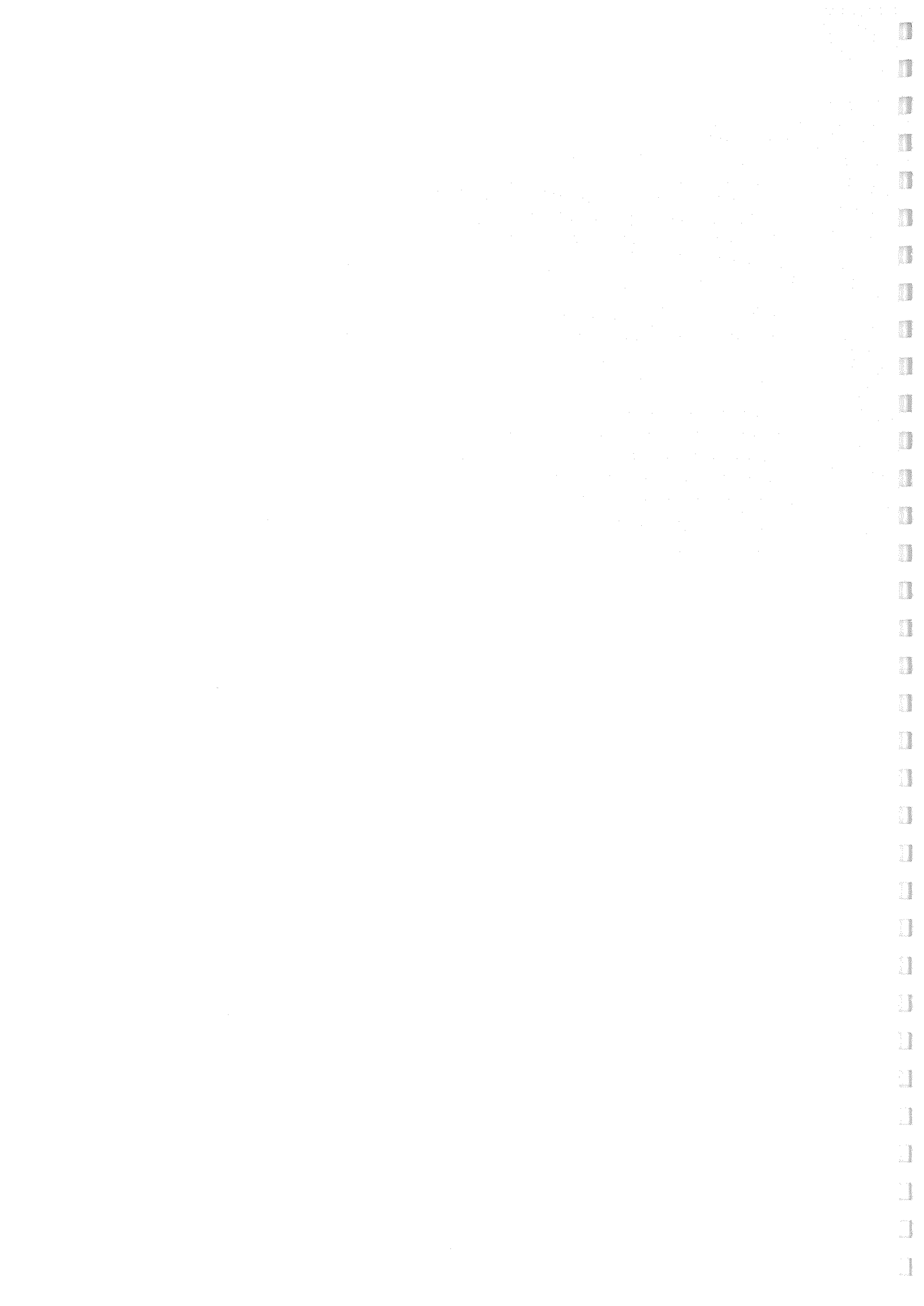
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Summary

In January 2001 the Norfolk Archaeological Unit undertook an archaeological evaluation within the grounds of Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge (TL 4392 5945) in advance of proposed redevelopment of the site. The aim of the investigation was to record and assess the nature and character of any archaeological remains encountered prior to grounds works.

The Brief issued by Cambridge County Archaeological Office required a series of evaluation trenches, the location of each of which (Fig. 2) was determined by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit. The client, Fitzwilliam College, was responsible for funding the works.

The evaluation revealed that a large cut feature, possibly a quarry, had been excavated in the north-east part of the site and this had subsequently been in-filled, perhaps to allow the construction of an extensive garden feature, possibly an ornamental lake. The recovery of clay tobacco pipe from these features suggests that they are post-17th-century in date. Elsewhere, extensive landscaping of the site had taken place during the post-medieval period, demonstrated by tips and dumps of soils. Artefactual evidence suggests that this occurred during the 18th to 19th centuries. A small quantity of medieval pottery was recovered, and this is taken to represent a small, unfocused residual presence. This may have resulted from either agricultural practice or importation of soils as part of landscaping. No evidence of either Iron Age or Roman activity was encountered.



1.0 Introduction

In January 2001 the Norfolk Archaeological Unit (NAU) undertook an archaeological evaluation within the grounds of Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. The work was carried out to satisfy a planning condition in advance of proposed redevelopment. The site lies within the grounds of a 19th-century building (Site 05093) and previous archaeological investigations have revealed 19th-century landscaping. Saxon and medieval pottery was also recovered (Site 10092). Archaeological investigations at nearby New Hall demonstrated extensive prehistoric and Roman occupation (Site 11965).

1.1 Planning background

This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Project Design produced by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit (NAU Ref: AS/1052/A) in response to an Archaeological Brief issued by Simon Kaner, Senior Archaeologist (Development Control), of Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Office (CAO Ref: 30/10/2000/SK). The Project Design was prepared in line with instructions issued by Allies and Morrison, architects for the client.

The proposed development comprises two new buildings, to be constructed in two phases. Phase 1 comprises the construction of a basemented auditorium with a footprint area of *c.* 535 m². Phase 2 will consist of a new gatehouse building with a footprint area of *c.* 800 m². The basement will extend *c.* 3m below the present ground surface.

The work was undertaken on behalf of the client, Fitzwilliam College. The archaeological team consisted of a Research Assistant with two Experienced Excavators. A Senior Project Manager was in attendance on the first day of evaluation, and another Research Assistant was responsible for the setting out of the trenches and recording their position with a total station theodolite.

2.0 Background

2.1 Geology and Topography

Cambridge lies on the River Cam, on a long arm of the fens, between higher chalk to the south-east and a clay plateau to the north-west. Much of the solid geology is masked by thin drift deposits, mostly associated with glacial phases, lying in the main to the north-west and south-east as Boulder Clay. The river valleys contain solifluction material, aggregates of head over chalk, and gravels (Sheail 2000).

The site lies a little above 20m OD, towards the end of a low east-to-west ridge or promontory, overlooking the River Cam to the east. The excavated trenches directly overlie the Lower Chalk, seen in other excavations locally, with Gault Clay appearing as redeposited material in this excavation. The site rises gently from west to east and is presently covered by lawns with mature deciduous trees.

A site investigation, incorporating a borehole survey, has previously been undertaken by Whitby, Bird and Partners (Site Investigation Report 2001). This is primarily a geological survey, though it records the levels of made ground.

2.2 *Archaeological and Historical Background*

2.2.1 Introduction

Fitzwilliam College lies in suburban Cambridge, on a plateau above the valley of the River Cam. The College is a product of the reform movement of the 19th century and moved to its present site between Huntingdon Road and Storey's Way in 1960. Archaeologically it lies between an early Roman road to St Neots (the 'New Hall road') and another Roman road (to Godmanchester), some 400m north-west of the north gate of the defences of the Roman town (Duroliponte) and close by the Castle Hill area. The latter road is now represented by the modern Huntingdon Road. Excavations in Cambridge reveal that the town itself was preceded by an Iron Age settlement and a Roman military fort on the same site within the town (Alexander and Pullinger 2000).

This location, by the river crossing, continued to be important in the Early Saxon period, when cemeteries were established in the area around the Roman walls. The town was re-occupied and redefended in the late 8th century and was extended south of the river around 900 by the construction of further defended areas (burhs). The Fitzwilliam site, however, appears to have remained outside the Saxon and medieval town, and lay within the West Field.

Outside the walled area, excavations at New Hall close to the present site suggest an important Late Iron Age system of enclosures, an early Roman enclosure and several late Roman burials (Evans 1996, Evans 2000, 257-8).

2.2.2 Iron Age

The river valleys have seen prehistoric activity since the Neolithic period, although the major monuments were usually located on higher ground. It is likely that this concentration of activity in the valleys became more intense in the Iron Age, with many sites known along the River Cam in the vicinity of Cambridge, including three hillforts or defensive sites, including Arbury, near Histon, to the north-east (Hill 2000; Taylor 2000).

Iron Age sites include La Tene III cremations of 1st century BC date, there being a marked concentration around Cambridge. These include a number of pottery vessels from around the town, their concentration suggesting burials (Fox 1923, 91-9; Whimster 1981, catalogue 23-7) and a butt-beaker from Madingley Road (at TL 4359)(Fox 1923,91; Whimster 1981, catalogue 23).

An extensive Iron Age settlement lay on the crest of the slopes overlooking the river (at TL 443 594) some 300m south-east of the site, within the area of the Roman town. This is represented by ditched enclosures, extending over two acres (Alexander and Pullinger 1999; Frere 1984, 296-7), succeeded on the same site by a Roman 'fort' or enclosure (see below).

Excavations at New Hall (Evans 1996) revealed extensive Iron Age occupation on the plateau above the valley, succeeded by Roman occupation. More recently, excavations have recorded an Iron Age enclosure at 138 Huntingdon Road. These revealed a ditch of 2.3m depth and 6m width, about 700m west of the Roman town. Only part of its circuit has been found. The finds suggest a Mid-Late Iron Age date (Mortimer and Evans 1997).

2.2.3 Roman

The Roman town of Durolipons or Duroliponte appears to have continued the large Iron Age settlement on the north bank of the river, at an important crossing point which provided links to the major Iron Age kingdoms (Alexander and Pullinger 1999). In the early Roman period c.70AD, a small fort or defensive enclosure which may have served as a supply depot (Taylor 2000) was built. This replaced the existing Iron Age settlement and enclosed the crossroads itself. The alignment of the roads determined the alignment of the 'fort' and subsequent early roads *e.g.* the New Hall road. At the beginning of the 2nd century, the fort was removed and civil settlement begun, perhaps to serve the *cursus publicus*, which is evidenced by the excavation of a possible *mansio* (Alexander and Pullinger 1999). The civil settlement was laid out according to a grid plan with streets aligned with the main north-west-to-south-east road. The town was unwallled and the large size of the 'plots' may indicate a semi-rural settlement, with large open spaces and quarry pits within the town.

Central to the growing settlement in the 2nd and 3rd centuries were unusual religious or ceremonial sites, in which the sacrifice and ritual deposition of animals took place. These sites may have been established as early as 55AD (Alexander and Pullinger 1999, 78).

The town was never very large, was never an administrative centre (*civitas capital*) or centre of population, and had no public buildings such as forum/basilica, the only 'public' buildings being the 'shrine' mentioned above, and contained few buildings or houses of much real substance or status (Taylor 2000). It may even have been some sort of centre or depot for the collection of tax, corn or other commodity. The town remained unenclosed until some time in the 4th century when walls were built, these enclosing a reduced area of some 21 acres. As occupation seems to have thinned out towards the walls, extensive tracts of low density habitation were included in this area. Until it was enclosed, the town had apparently been just one of several Roman settlements in the area. The settlement discovered at New Hall may have begun through some military activity or presence, evidenced by Enclosure B (and its V-shaped ditches) and continued with Enclosures C-H. The only military find however, was a belt-buckle (Evans 1996).

Several burials or groups of burials of likely Roman date have been found in and around the Roman town (unwallled for most of its existence) and these lie along the main approach roads (Taylor 1985, 214-5). On the north-west side of the town, a little distance from the Fitzwilliam College site, the following finds of human remains have been found: at TL 442 593 skeletons found in rubbish pits (RCMH 1 1959); at TL 443 594 burials with pottery and at TL 442 599 (on the road to Histon) two burials with stone coffins, the furnishings of which included vessels.

Burials have also now been found at New Hall (Evans 1996) and St Edmund Hall (a 'rural-type' cemetery). A further group of burials lie to the north-east along Akeman Street, the approach road from that quarter, and more recently, excavations at St Edmund's College, just to the east of the site, revealed a probable Roman inhumation (Dickens 1996).

More importantly, archaeological work has revealed the existence of Roman occupation sites locally. These discrete places lay at New Hall, Gravel Hill and Vicar's Farm (Evans 1996; Whittaker and Evans 1998) and suggest that occupation in the valley was not directly related to or dependent upon the Roman town.

In common with nearly all Roman towns, little is known of the end of the settlement although the number of Early Saxon cemeteries along the river and around the walls suggests a rapid re-use of the crossing at least.

It is suggested that the early parish boundaries of Cambridge represent the extent of the Roman *territorium* of Duroliponte, pointing to continuity of occupation, not necessarily of any particular site, but of the location and territorial institution (Haslam 1981, 15).

2.2.4 Anglo-Saxon

Early Saxon settlement in the fenland basin appears to have begun by the mid-5th century on the basis of the numbers of cremation cemeteries found around the fen margins. These include two burials on Madingley Road (at TL 43 59) (Fox 1923, 244; Meaney 1964, 63), cremation cemeteries at Girton and at St John's Cricket Field (at TL 441 558) where many hundreds of burials were recorded, including c.100 cremations (Meaney 1964, 62), and elsewhere around the town (Meaney 1964).

The notable concentration of these cemeteries around the walled area and the river crossing (Fox 1923, 237; Meaney 1964) points to some reuse of the enclosed settlement. Coin finds from here suggest that by the 8th century a market function was developing (Haslam 1981, 125). However, there is some evidence to suggest that the town area was not reoccupied until later in the 8th century. Bede, writing in 731, refers to the monks of Ely in 694 salvaging a stone coffin from 'near the walls of a little deserted city called by the English 'Granta Caestir'.

Cambridge possibly lay in East Anglia at first, falling into Mercian hands in the earlier 8th century. It is argued by Haslam that whilst the walled area was important, the royal centre or manor, lay at Chesterton, whose name shows that it 'inherited' the Roman identity, whilst Cambridge was named anew from its location and function.

The way in which the walled area came back into full 'urban' use has exercised the minds of a succession of scholars. Their work and the most recent evidence was reviewed and reconsidered by Haslam (1981, 1984). Haslam set out the argument for the reuse of Cambridge by the Mercian kings as a frontier town and royal burh, making use of its Roman defences and its position controlling the road and river crossing. Whilst Cambridge lay on the Mercian bank of the River Cam, facing East Anglian territory on the south-east bank, creation of a system of fortified 'burhs' by the Mercians probably took place in the later 8th century under Offa (756-795), and was as much to protect a trade centre as establish a military strongpoint according to Haslam. Certainly by 875, when it fell into Danish hands, it was known as Granta Brcge in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. In 917, Cambridge and its territory submitted to the West Saxon King, Edward the Elder.

Middle Saxon (c.9th-century) pottery found at Rigeons Gardens apparently represents the earliest archaeological evidence of a real 'urban' character being attained by the walled area (Evans 2000, 255).

There is some slight evidence for an early market, possibly, pre-Danish, outside the north gate of the walled area. This fell out of use in the Late Saxon period, possibly under the supervision of a royal reeve (Haslam 1981, 17-8). There may also have been an open-air meeting-place (portmoot) somewhere outside the walls in St Giles parish (Lobel 1974, 9). The Fitzwilliam College site lay within the West Field, which came right up to the walls of the Late Saxon and medieval town, this part of Storey's Way being 'Grit How Way'.

2.2.5 Previous archaeological observations

Extensive archaeological work has taken place in the area to the north and north-west of the Roman town and the most significant are mentioned here.

- 1 At Site 11965, New Hall, which is situated to the immediate east of Fitzwilliam College, an excavation of some 2000m² was undertaken by Cambridge University Archaeological Field Unit in 1994 (Evans 1996; Evans 2000, 257-259). This work, 250m west of the walled town, revealed significant Iron Age and early Roman occupation, aligned more closely with a previously unknown Roman road to the south (the 'New Hall road') than with the Huntingdon Road. This was generally assumed to have been the approximate line of the major Roman approach road from the north-west.

The Roman fort and town lay at a crossroads on a pre-existing route and river crossing, the Roman presence creating or regularising these routes, in particular that from the north-west to south-east, represented by the New Hall road and the present Huntingdon Road or its approximate line (the precise line lies to the side).

The various excavation trenches revealed a dense mass of ditches, gullies, enclosures and fragments of roadways. From the remains found within the deposits of the various features there appears to have been occupation on the site during the Bronze Age, the Late Iron Age and the Romano-British period. Finds included worked flint and Bronze Age pottery, possibly associated with a large ditched enclosure. Evidence of Bronze Age activity was restricted to finds from this ditch, including a cow skull with a pair of pig jaws on its forehead, two cow leg bones and a fine stone pebble hammer. Although few features could be dated to the Bronze Age, settlement in the vicinity seems likely.

A Late Iron Age enclosure was also recorded and this was overlain by the New Hall Roman road, interpreted as an approach road to the putative settlement pre-dating the fort), to which another large enclosure (B) was aligned (with V-shaped ditches - possibly military). Other evidence suggests that the New Hall road was primary and superseded by the Roman road represented by Huntingdon Road.

In this area, much quarrying for gravel had obscured some archaeological details. A series of late 1st/early 2nd-century paddocks - possibly connected with the military base of c. 70AD onwards, was recorded.

A later Iron Age ditched enclosure was also recorded overlying the New Hall Roman road. Roman evidence included a range of ditches and roads, some of which were aligned to the Huntingdon Road, and others which continued beneath it. The overall activity in the area to the west of the Roman town was intense and, whilst none was clearly domestic in nature, there was evidence to suggest that this area was important for industrial activities. The only find potentially indicating a military association was a belt-buckle.

The excavations revealed a major early Roman road also running north-west-to-south-east just to the south of Huntingdon Road. This appeared to be 7m across and headed for a junction with Akeman Street to the east (within the area of the town) and close to the fort (Evans 2000, 257). This was seen for some 25m only. This road appears to have been replaced by the Huntingdon Road, which represents the road to Roman Godmanchester.

A late Roman cemetery represented by six individuals, including one skeleton that was accompanied by a fine bone comb, was also discovered. Nearby, a well on top of which the complete skeleton of a calf had been placed, was found. At Site 11786 New Hall, next to the Huntingdon Road, Roman features produced environmental remains, indicative of weeds and wetland species.

No Anglo-Saxon features or finds were recorded.

- 2 Small-scale work was carried out in 1999 at Site 10092 (Buckingham House *i.e.* south of The Grove). This work, close to the present site, revealed extensive post-medieval quarrying and landscaping. Extensive 19th-century landscaping had removed any early occupation evidence here.

- 3 Excavations at Site 11970 (No.138 Huntingdon Road) failed to find any trace of the putative Godmanchester Roman road, raising the question: was the New Hall road the main Roman road? (Alexander 1983).

This work revealed a major mid-late Iron Age enclosure complex, associated with pottery of 1st-2nd century BC date (Mortimer and Evans 1997), the enclosure possibly comparable in form and function to Arbury Camp (Evans 1992).

- 4 Excavations at Mount Pleasant House, 1-10 Huntingdon Road and 9-19 Mount Pleasant Walk show that the site had been used for gravel quarrying and agriculture before houses were built here in the 18th and 19th centuries (Alexander and Pullinger 1999, 13).

- 5 Excavations at Site 11930 (St Edmund's College) in 1996 revealed little evidence of Roman occupation. The few features included the burial of a child, undated but possibly Roman (Dickens 1996). This may hint at a zone of burials close to the town, with none beyond.

Two major sites that lie further away from the Roman town may be associated with Iron Age and Roman evidence at New Hall and represent further discrete settlements on the plateau overlooking the river valley, not directly related to the town.

- 6 At Site 8965, about 1km to the north-west of New Hall, air photographs reveal the existence of a large complex of cropmarks, undated but possibly Iron Age/Roman in date.

- 7 At Vicars Farm, about 1km to the south-west, fieldwork recorded an early Roman cremation cemetery and a later Roman settlement, mostly of 4th-century date, on the plateau overlooking the river valley (Whittaker and Evans 1999).

- 8 To the south-west of the Fitzwilliam College site at Shelley Row (at TL 444 592), excavation revealed a series of Iron Age huts and enclosures, succeeded by enclosures of early Roman date. A large enclosure (*c.* 70AD-early 2nd century) was superseded by streets and domestic settlement with yards and huts (Wilson 1973).

- 9 At Jordan's Yard, numerous large pits of the 2nd to 3rd century suggest settlement alongside the Roman road (Wilson 1974).

- 10 At Castle Street, excavators found remains of Iron Age ditches, the ditches of the early Roman 'fort' and minor roads. A number of pits seem to represent a religious site, other observations including infant burials and wells (Goodburn 1976).

Archaeological evidence indicates intense activity in the immediate area including perhaps three Iron Age? forts (Arbury Camp, below the Roman town, and 138 Huntingdon Road at Marion Close).

2.2.6 The modern site

The modern site is currently occupied by the landscaped gardens of The Grove and College buildings. The general area once lay within the grounds of The Grove (built in 1813) and open land to the west (Storey's Charity Lands). This area had been, in parts at least, quarried in Roman and recent times for gravel and coprolites, certainly to the east, in the gardens of New Hall (on its east side) (Evans 2000, 257; Lucas 1999). Excavations have also shown that there has been extensive landscaping here, in the grounds of The Grove (Gdaniec 1991).

Expansion of the town in the 19th century took place on the north-east side of Huntingdon Road, the south-west side being developed by the building of The Grove and laying out its grounds. Construction of Fitzwilliam College on the site took place in the 1960s.

2.2.7 Cartographic evidence

The site lies outside the Roman and medieval walls and appears to have remained open until modern times, when the site was at first developed for a large suburban villa, The Grove. The site lay well within the putative Roman territorium, as suggested by Haslam. The road to Huntingdon formed the boundary between the parish of St Giles and Chesterton and therefore was probably in existence in the 8th century (Haslam 1981, 17). Any early (? Roman) road at New Hall, if visible or surviving in some way, was disregarded in these arrangements.

Cambridge is depicted in a series of early maps, beginning in 1574; these show that the present site remained uncultivated from at least this date, and was first developed in the early 19th century with the building of The Grove. These maps were printed in Clark and Gray (1921) and are:

1. 1574 Richard Lyne
2. 1575 G Braun
3. 1592 John Hamond
4. 1634 T Fuller
5. 1688 D Loggan
6. 1798 William Custance

In nearly all these maps, the castle is shown as the most northerly feature of the built-up area, with nothing beyond but open fields, and even here the depiction of low 'hills' by Hamond 1592 rather than cultivated 'strips' (as shown elsewhere) suggests that it remained as open grazing. This is consistent with the known existence of quarry pits in this area.

The Ordnance Survey First Edition one inch map of the 1830s depicts The Grove and its landscaped grounds, which remained until construction of the College in the 1960s. The Ordnance Survey First Edition map of 1883 shows the open land to the south of the Huntingdon Road as enclosed and the college site occupied by the grounds and orchards of The Grove, which lay just to the west.

3.0 Methods and Aims

The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in Planning and Policy Guidance 16 — Archaeology and Planning (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area. The three trenches were excavated as specified by Norfolk Archaeological Unit's Project Design.

Machine-excavation was carried out with a wheeled JCB-type excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Spoil exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds, other than those which were obviously modern, were retained for inspection.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using the Norfolk Archaeological Unit's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

Due to the lack of suitable deposits, no environmental samples were taken. Survey work was undertaken using two temporary benchmarks, their values having been transferred from an Ordnance Survey benchmark of 16.97m located on Storeys Way.

The site archive will be submitted to Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Office following the relevant policy on archiving standards.

4.0 The Investigation

4.1 Introduction

Contexts were allocated as following: Trench 1 contexts 100+, Trench 2 contexts 200+, Trench 3, 300+. The following conventions are used: - Cut features [], deposits ().

4.2 Trench Descriptions

4.2.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

Trench 1 measured 20m by 1.60m in plan, and was aligned approximately north-west to south-east. It was located within the proposed Phase I redevelopment footprint. The present ground level varies from a low point of 18.55m OD (western end), to a high point of 18.75m OD (eastern end). Naturally derived soils (108) were observed at a depth of 18.20m OD. These consisted of light cream-coloured chalky clays, with sparse orange sand patches. Inclusions of small flints were present.

A cut feature, [109], was present over a large part of the trench. This shallow sloping cut measured 16.50m in length and appeared to continue eastwards beyond the limits of the trench. It was examined by hand excavation. Its lower fill (104), which was 0.35m thick, consisted of a yellow green to buff chalk clay with frequent lumps of chalk and small pebbles. Fragments of brick were recovered from this deposit. Overlying this was a mid

grey brown silty soil (102) of 0.44m thickness. Brick fragments were recovered from this deposit, which also contained inclusions of coal and charcoal with occasional medium flints. This appears to represent a dumped soil and the small quantity of pottery recovered suggests it dated from the 18th to 19th centuries. This deposit in-filled two shallow "scoop" like cuts, [101] and [103], which were observed at the west of the trench. These are interpreted as tree boles. To the west, deposit (102) was overlain by a thin tip (107), 0.10m in depth. This deposit consisted of a mid brown grey silt clay soil. This was similar in appearance to deposit (102), and also contained fragments of brick. Pottery recovered from this context dates it from the 16th to 18th centuries.

Context (107) was overlain by an olive grey silt (105), which had a small sand and clay content. This compacted layer had numerous dendritic roots, and horizontal lamination was visible. The maximum thickness of this deposit at its eastern limit was 0.72m. This context was initially thought to be an *in situ* naturally derived soil, and its homogenous appearance in combination with a lack of inclusions supported this. The recovery of brick from deposit (107) lying below indicated it the redeposition of a natural soil. One interpretation is that it forms the lining of a Victorian garden feature, perhaps an ornamental lake. Sealing this widespread deposit was topsoil (106), a dark brown soil 0.30m in depth.

4.2.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

Trench 2 measured 10m by 1.60m in plan, and was aligned approximately north-east to south-west. It was located within the north-eastern part of the proposed Phase 2 redevelopment footprint. The present ground level varied from a low point of 18.60m OD, (western end) to a high point of 18.81m OD (eastern end). Naturally derived soils were observed at a depth of 17.86m OD, at the western end. These natural soils consisted of a mixed off-white weathered chalk with occasional inclusions of flint (209). To the west a light orange-brown silt sand (208) was present.

Overlying these natural soils, a series of tipped deposits was observed. These were most clearly defined in the eastern part of the trench. The earliest in the sequence comprised a band of mid grey silt clay (201), with occasional chalk and charcoal inclusions. This measured 0.12m in depth. A fragment of clay tobacco pipe was recovered from this deposit, indicating a post-17th-century date. A pottery sherd of 12th- to 14th-century date was also retrieved from this context. This was overlain by a dirty white chalk (211) with a small quantity of flint. This measured 0.25m in depth and would seem to represent the deliberate tipping or dumping of material. This was then overlain by a similar chalky tipped deposit, (210). The other deposits visible in section ((206), (205) and (207)), consisted of dark brown soils with frequent clay or silt lenses. These are interpreted as 19th-century tips of soil resulting from landscaping of the gardens. Cutting through these deposits was a modern narrow slot [202] that appears to have been machine-excavated. Cut on the same alignment as the trench, it measured 5.40m in length, 0.50m in width and 0.12m in depth. This was sealed below topsoil (204), a mid brown humic soil of 0.30m in depth. Borehole BH4 of the survey undertaken by Whitby Bird and Partners was located within this trench.

4.2.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 5)

Trench 3 measured 10m by 1.60m in plan and was aligned approximately east-to-west. It was located in the western part of the proposed Phase 2 redevelopment footprint. The

present ground level varied from a low point of 17.85m (western end) to a high point of 18.13m OD (eastern end). The naturally derived soils were present at a depth of 17.13m OD to 17.33m OD. These consisted of a mixed off-white chalk and silt, with frequent small stones and occasional flint nodules. Two gullies parallel and aligned approximately north-east to south-west, cut the natural soils to the west of the trench. These gullies ([305] and [307]) had similar, shallow U-shaped profiles and measured 0.12m in depth and 0.45m in width. Their fills, (304) and (306) respectively, were also similar, consisting of a weathered mid grey silt clay. Inclusions of occasional charcoal, chalk flecks and small stones were present. The pottery recovered from these deposits indicates these features date from the 17th to 19th centuries. Overlying these gullies was a deposit of tipped soil (303). This measured 0.40m in depth and contained 19th-century pottery. It consisted of a dark, grey-brown clay silt soil containing occasional brick fragments. To the east of the trench this was overlaid by deposit (302), a chalk tip, which was in turn overlain by topsoil (301), measuring 0.30m in depth. Tree roots had disturbed many of these deposits.

5.0 The Finds

5.1 Pottery

5.1.1 Introduction

A total of thirteen fragments of pottery was recovered from the above evaluation, weighing 257 grammes. The pottery was mainly post-medieval in date, although a small quantity of medieval sherds was also present.

5.1.2 Methodology

The pottery was recorded by individual fabric and form, and quantified by the number of sherds present, the estimated number of vessels and the weight. Other characteristics concerning condition such as abrasion (A) were also noted. Further comments noted, and an overall date range for each context was given. The fabrics were codified mainly under the fabric categories established by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit, which are based on the typology established for Norwich (Jennings, 1981), with the addition of other fabric-types which have been published from other excavations in Cambridgeshire.

5.1.3 Medieval

Three sherds of pottery of medieval date were recovered, one of which was residual in a late post-medieval context. Two fragments of sandy unglazed wares were identified, including a base fragment from context (200). Both sherds had grey cores with oxidised margins, and are likely to belong to the fabric group of Brown Gritty ware, identified from the excavations at Denny Abbey, which was founded in 1159 (Coppack, 1980). No actual reference sherds of this fabric type have been seen, and the provisional identifications were made on a written description. A third fragment, which was very abraded, was recovered from a context containing post-medieval pottery (304). The small body sherd had a fabric, which contained moderate shell inclusions up to 2mm in length, with a grey core and oxidised external surface. It was catalogued by the generic term of an early medieval shell-tempered ware, as identified at Denny Abbey (Coppack, 1980, 226).

5.1.4 Post-medieval

Ten fragments of pottery of post-medieval date were identified from six contexts. Several fragments of redware vessels were identified, including two bowls. These have been catalogued as glazed red earthenware, although they are likely to be the equivalent of developed orange sandy ware (Coppack, 1980, 224). Two of the redware fragments from context [206] formed part of a panchion or large bowl of a type used in the kitchen and the dairy. A fragment of a cauldron or jar of red earthenware was identified in (303) with a thin lead glaze present on the interior and exterior of the vessel. The fabric is moderately sandy with some mica and has been categorised as orange sandy ware, although the fabric bears a resemblance to Hedingham ware (McCarthy and Brooks, 1988, 438-9). The sherd was residual accompanied by pottery of a 19th-century date.

The remainder of the pottery consisted of small fragments of mass-produced ceramics of late 18th- to 19th-century date such as English creamware and pearlware, although a single abraded fragment of Staffordshire slipware from (306) was of a slightly earlier date. In addition the upper part of a 19th-century English stoneware bottle made for the storage of ink or ginger beer was found in (303). The only fragment of imported pottery — a single rim sherd from a Westerwald jug from the Rhineland — was also recovered from this context. The pottery was glazed in an overall blue-grey cobalt salt-glaze and had a blue band around the neck. The surviving fragment is similar to a published example dated c1665-1700, although it has no indication of purple decoration (Hurst et al, 1986, 223).

5.1.5 Conclusions

The small quantity of pottery recovered from this evaluation covered a wide timespan from the medieval through to the late post-medieval period. The ceramics consisted for the most part of small abraded sherds, which for the earlier material are likely to be of local origin. The later pottery consisted of mass-produced wares manufactured in England, apart from the German stoneware jug.

5.2 Ceramic Building Material

Nine pieces (250g) of late brick, made of an orange heavily sanded fabric with flint, ferrous and chalk inclusions, were recovered from contexts (102), (104), (107), (206) and (304).

Four fragments (80g) of medieval flat roof tile were collected from contexts (100) and (102). These pieces were of pink and yellow fabrics, which were very fine and dense with few inclusions.

5.3 Clay pipe

Four fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem (13g, contexts 102, 107, 200 and 201) were retrieved.

5.4 Shell

Oyster and mussel shell fragments (10g, contexts (102) and (201) were recovered.

6.0 Discussion

The evaluation provided no evidence of Iron Age and Roman activity in this location. This is surprising, as the site lies close to recent excavations at New Hall where significant traces of occupation in these periods has been recorded. Chris Evans of Cambridge

University Archaeological Field Unit has predicted, on the basis of recent work '...extensive Roman settlement under and around Fitzwilliam College' (Evans 2000, 259). However, he provides a caveat by suggesting that 'the hinterland of Roman Cambridge was a localised phenomenon at best (at least on its western side)' so that settlement took the form of dispersed semi-rural enclaves rather than intense strip-style suburban development. The localised nature of settlement, as proposed here, may provide an explanation for the negative results of the evaluation.

The large cut located in Trench 1 can be interpreted as a quarry pit, and would have removed by truncation any pre-existing archaeological deposits. Although Roman quarries are present within the historic core of Cambridge, the nature of the fills and artefacts recovered suggest a later, post-medieval date for this feature. Overlaying this was the large silt clay deposit that may represent the construction of a large ornamental feature. This material was microscopically examined and found to be consistent with redeposited Gault clay, containing a small percentage of marine glauconitic sands, and a high percentage of marine nannoplankton, (Coccoliths), (Dr Green pers comm). It is conceivable that this feature took advantage of the pre-existing hollow produced by quarrying.

The evaluation demonstrated that considerable landscaping had occurred during the 18th to 19th centuries, and that this was evident in all of the trenches. This is consistent with the findings of Site 10092, Buckingham House (south of the Grove), excavated in 1999, where evidence of post-medieval quarrying and extensive landscaping was also encountered. This is most likely to have associated with the construction of Grove House in the early 1800s (Gdaniec 1991).

The lack of any developed soils buried below this later landscaping activity was noted. This suggests that landscaping resulted in considerable truncation of earlier, surviving horizons. The redeposition of chalk and silt 'natural' soils also indicates that the site might have suffered truncation, away from areas that have been quarried.

Recommendations for future work based upon this report will be made by Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Office.

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Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context No.	Category	Description/interpretation	Trench
100	U/S	Unstratified	1
101	Cut	Tree Bole	1
102	Deposit	Soil tip	1
103	Cut	Tree Bole	1
104	Deposit	Dump	1
105	Deposit	Grey silt tip	1
106	Deposit	Topsoil	1
107	Deposit	Dumped soil	1
108	Deposit	Natural soils	1
109	Cut	Garden feature	1
110	Cut	Tree pit cut into (105)	1
200	U/S	Unstratified	2
201	Deposit	Soil tip	2
202	Cut	Machine cut trench	2
203	Deposit	Fill of [202]	2
204	Deposit	Topsoil	2
205	Deposit	Dump	2
206	Deposit	Dump	2
207	Deposit	Dump	2
208	Deposit	Dump	2
209	Deposit	Natural	2
210	Deposit	Dump	2
211	Deposit	Dump	2
212	Deposit	Dump	2
300	U/S	Unstratified	3
301	Deposit	Topsoil	3
302	Deposit	Tipped Clay/chalk	3
303	Deposit	Soil below (302)	3
304	Deposit	Fill of [305]	3
305	Cut	Gully	3
306	Deposit	Fill of [307]	3
307	Cut	Gully	3
308	Deposit	Natural soils	3

Appendix 2: Finds by context

Context No.	Material	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
100	Drainpipe	Fragment	1	90
	CBM	Roof tile fragments	2	60
102	Pottery			
	CBM	Brick fragments	5	114
		Roof tile fragments	2	20
	Clay pipe	Stem fragment	1	2
	Iron	Nail SF1	1	
	Shell	Mussel		2
104	CBM	Brick fragment	1	4
107	Pottery			
	CBM	Brick fragment	1	30
	Clay pipe	Stem fragment	1	4
200	Pottery			
	Clay pipe	Stem fragment	1	4
	Copper alloy	Button SF2	1	
201	Pottery			
	Clay pipe	Stem fragment	1	3
	Shell	Oyster		8
206	Pottery			
	CBM	Brick fragment	1	100
303	Pottery			
304	Pottery			
	CBM	Brick fragment	1	2
306	Pottery			
	Glass	Window fragment SF3	1	

Key: CBM - Ceramic building material

SF - Small find

Appendix 3: Pottery

Ctxt	Ceramic Period	Fabric	Form	Sherd No	ENV	Condition	Wgt (Gms)	Overall Date Range	Comments
102	PM	CREA	BODY	1	1	A	4	1740 to 1880	
107	PM	GRE	BOWL	1	1	A	8	16th to 18th centuries	Small panchion, collared rim, glazed int/ext
200	M	BGW?	BODY/ BASE	1	1	A	4	12th to 14th centuries	Sl sagging base, grey core w oxid margins, sandy fab with sp mica, poss Brown Gritty ware.
201	M	BGW?	BODY	1	1	A	3	12th to 14th centuries	Grey core w oxidised margins, sandy w sp flint
206	PM	GRE	PANCH	2	1	A	101	16th to 18th centuries	2 joining, v abr edges, prob Developed Orange Sandy ware (Coppack 1980), prob 17th-18th C.
303	PM	ENGs	BOTT	1	1	A	56	19th century+	Upper pt of stoneware bottle
303	PM	WEST	JUG	1	1		14		Blue band decoration, prob 17th C form
303	PM	OSW	CAUL/ JAR	1	1		60		Sandy redware w iron oxide incs, patches of lead glaze, rim and part of handle
304	PM	PEARL	BODY	1	1	A	1		Blue & white decoration
304	PM	CREA?	BODY	1	1	A	3		V abraded, int surface destroyed, late creamware
304	M	EMWS	BODY	1	1	A	1	1770 to 1850	Very abraded, shell temp, oxidised margin.
306	PM	STSL	BODY	1	1	A	2	1680 to 1800	Abraded internally, small fragment

Key to pottery codes

BGW	Brown Gritty ware 11th to 14th centuries
EMWS	Early medieval shell-tempered ware 11th to 12th centuries
OSW	Orange sandy ware 14th to 16th centuries
GRE	Glazed red earthenware 16th to 18th centuries
STSL	Staffordshire slipware 1650 to 1800
ENGs	English stoneware 1700 to 1900
WEST	Westerwald stoneware 1590 to 1800
PEARL	Pearlware 1770 to 1850
CREA	Creamware 1740 to 1880

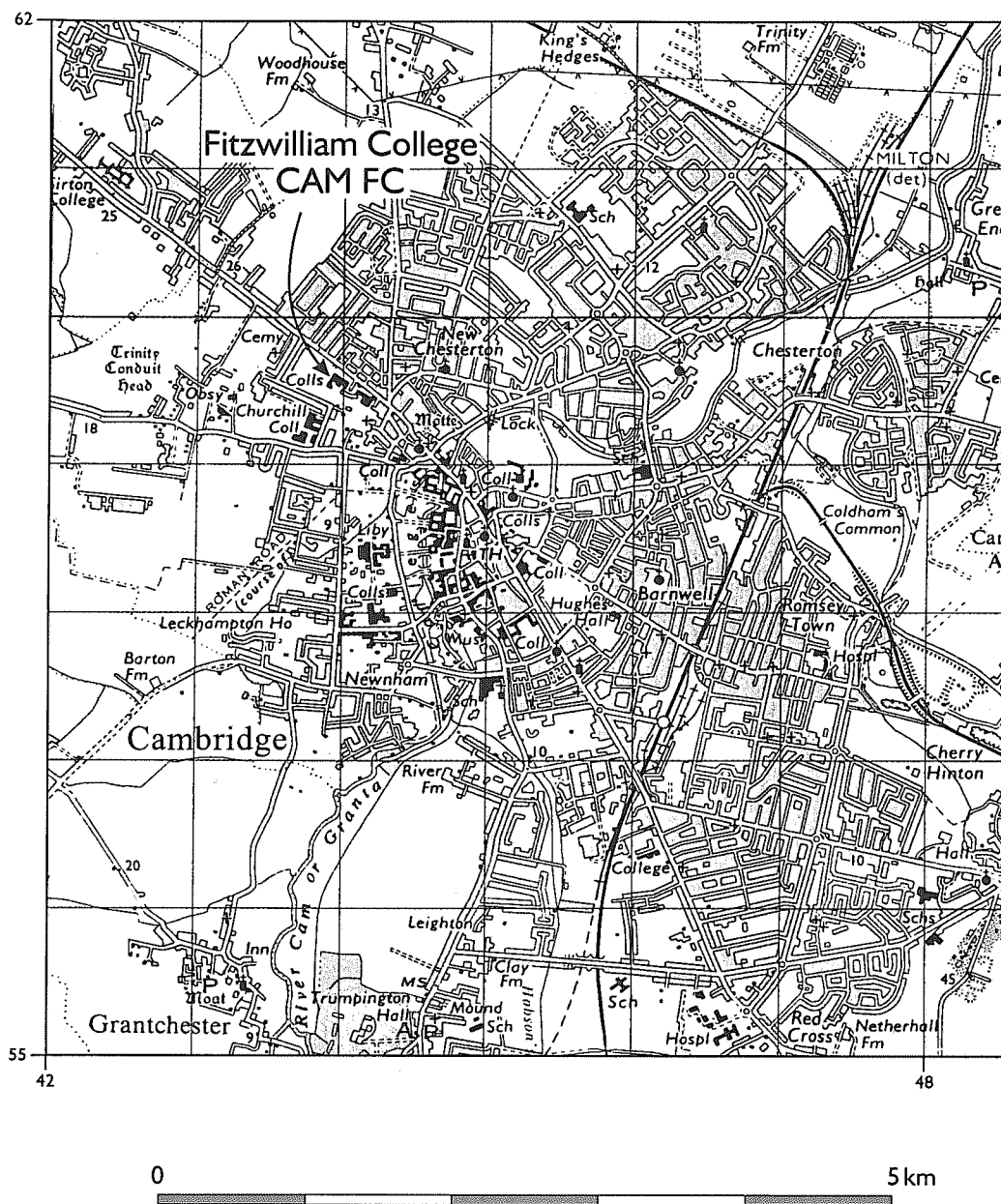


Fig. 1 Site location. Scale 1:50 000

Local Authority No. 076759

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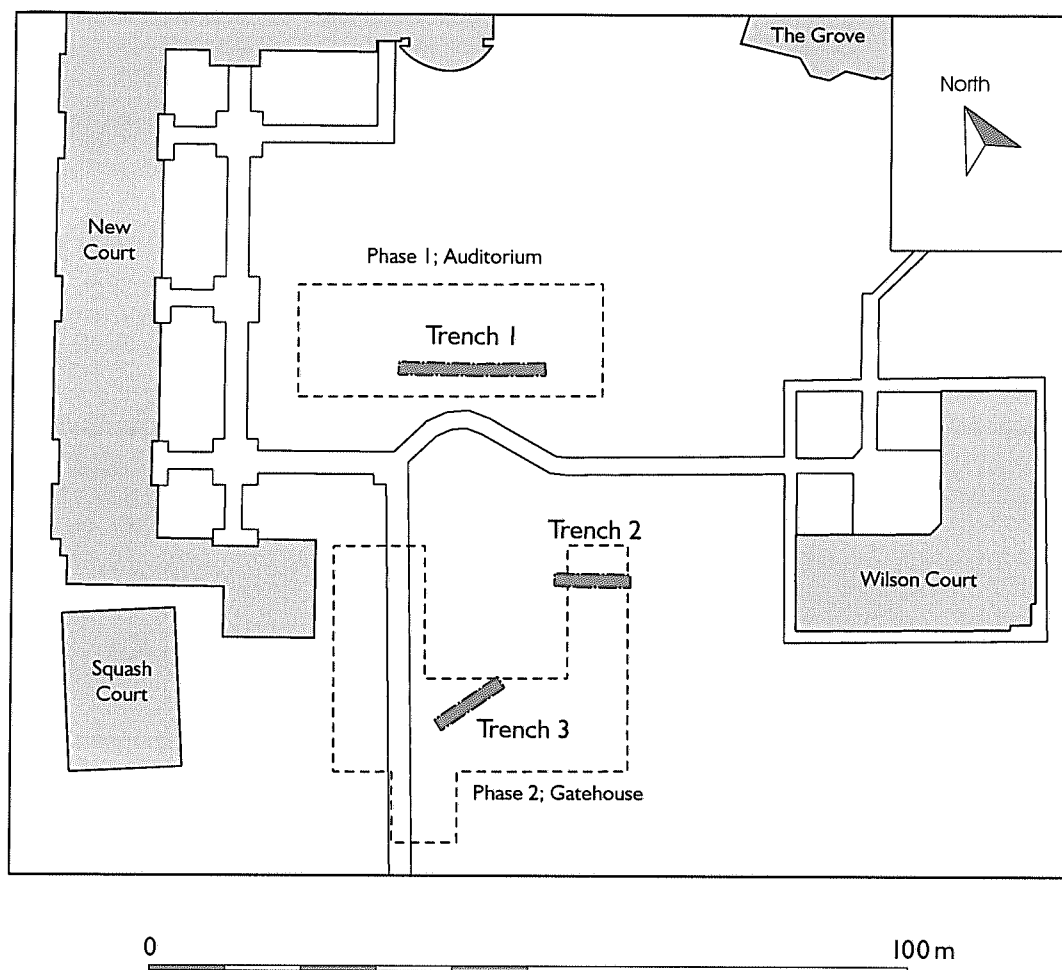


Fig. 2 Trench location. Scale 1:1000

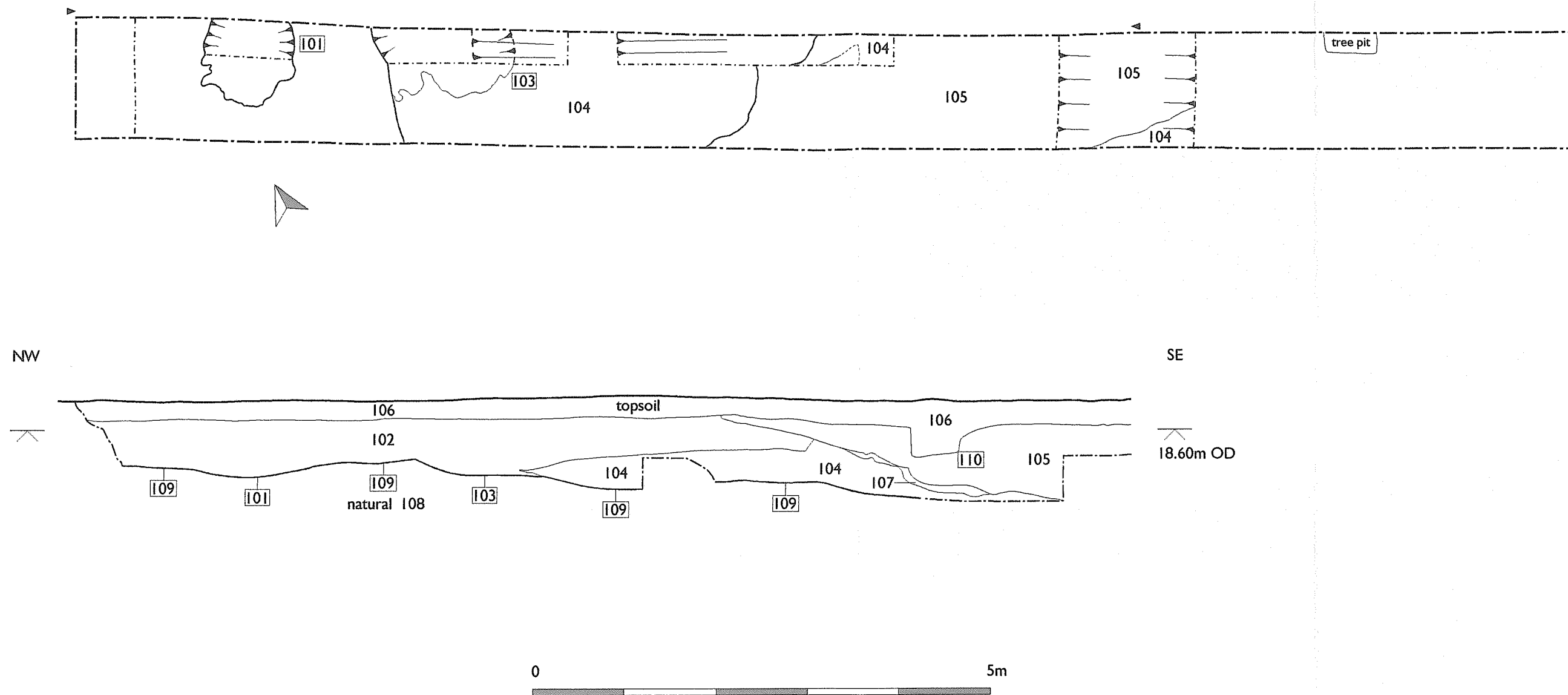


Fig. 3 Trench 1: Plan and south-west facing section. Scale 1:50

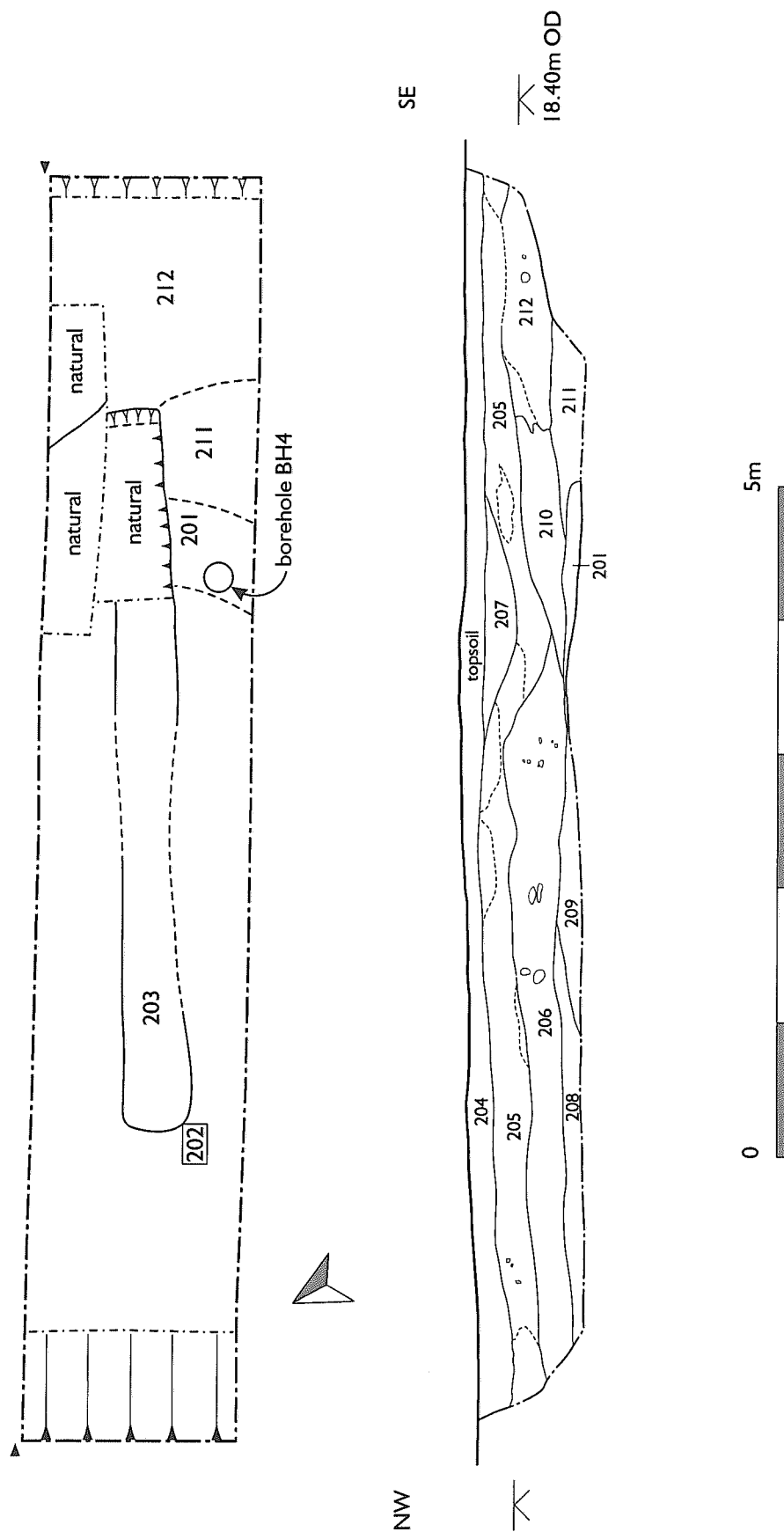


Fig. 4 Trench 2: Plan and south-west facing section. Scale 1:50

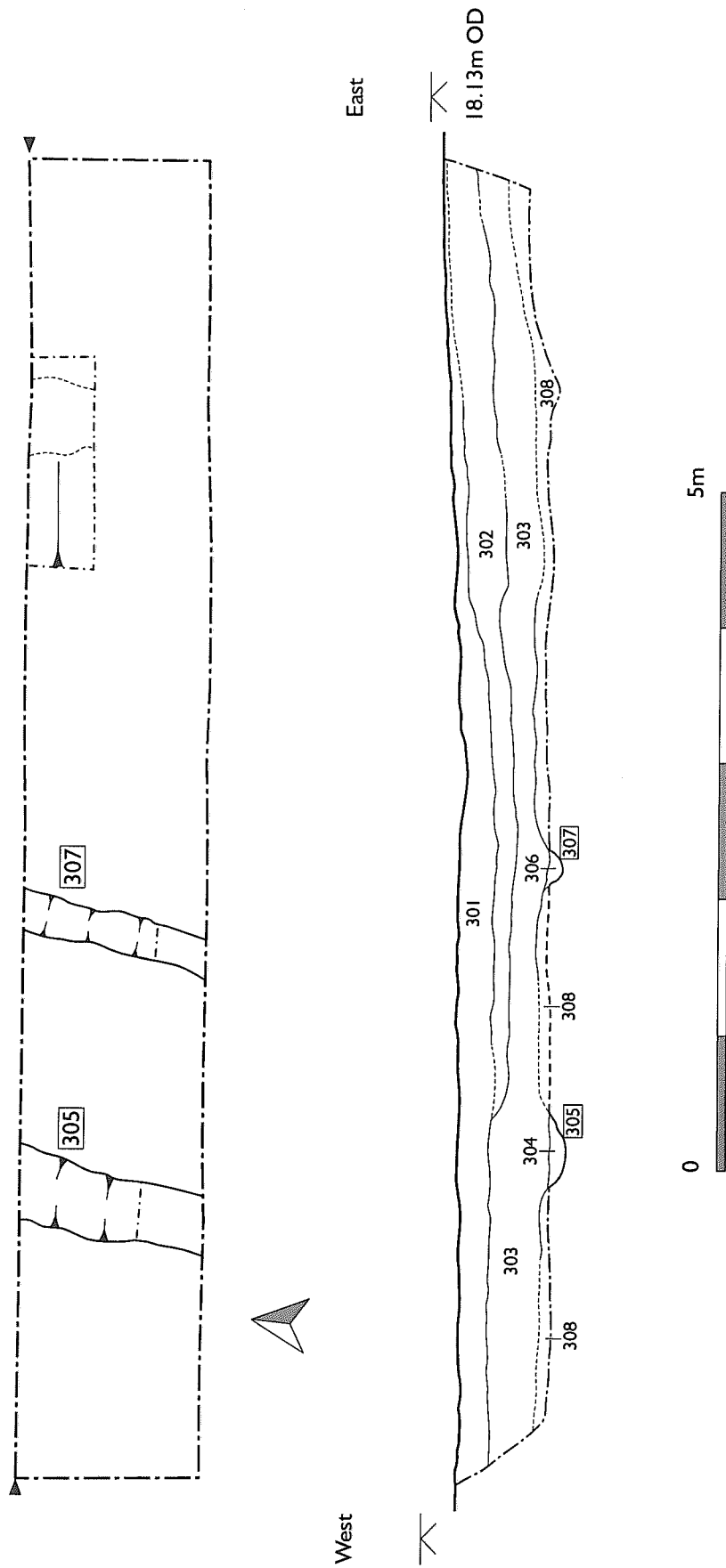


Fig. 5 Trench 3: Plan and south facing section. Scale 1:50