
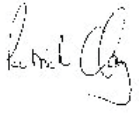


**An Archaeological Watching Brief
At 7 Upper Green Place, Great Bowden,
Leicestershire
NGR: SP 739 890**

Andrew Hyam

For: Mr and Mrs Van Herrewage

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An Archaeological Watching Brief at 7 Upper Green Place, Great Bowden, Leicestershire (SP 739 890)

Andrew Hyam

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken for Mr and Mrs Van Herrewage on the 20th and 21st of August 2007 in advance of a ménage being constructed on land to the west of 7 Upper Green Place, Great Bowden (planning application number 07/00638/FUL). This work was as a result of an earlier archaeological evaluation carried out in April 2007 as requested by Leicestershire County Council as archaeological advisors to Harborough District Council. Stratified deposits of late medieval date were recorded during the evaluation necessitating a watching brief during the development work. Once the archive is deposited the watching brief forms the final piece of work to fulfil the planning condition required by Harborough District Council.

The watching brief revealed a number of archaeological features in the form of a shallow ditch or gully running in an east to west direction along with a number of pits. Pottery finds from the features indicate occupation from the 12th to the 16th century whilst unstratified finds are evidence of prehistoric and Roman activity within the area.

The report will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council under Accession Number X.A.190.2007.

1. Introduction

In accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning), para.30, this document forms the report for an archaeological watching brief for land at 7 Upper Green Place, Great Bowden in the Harborough district of Leicestershire (SP 739 890). The present owners proposed to build a ménage on an open paddock (Planning application number 06/01196/3).

The village of Great Bowden lies on the north-eastern side of Market Harborough which is in the south-eastern corner of Leicestershire (fig. 1). Upper Green Place is located towards the western edge of Great Bowden with the proposed site of the ménage being in a small paddock, of approximately 0.6ha, to the west of Number 7. Green Lane, which is unadopted, forms the southern boundary of the paddock with hedges forming the remaining northern and western boundaries, beyond which lie open fields (fig.2).

An archaeological evaluation in April 2007 (ULAS report 2007-074) revealed a number of archaeological features in the form of gullies and a possible surface. These were dated to the later medieval period with some evidence of earlier 12th or 13th century occupation. In view of the potential for uncovering and disturbing more archaeological deposits the Senior Planning Archaeologist recommended that there

should be an archaeological watching brief in order to record any archaeological features which would be destroyed by the works.

The ménage, measuring 20 metres by 40 metres with additional surrounding groundworks for fencing, was originally planned to be located in the south-west corner of the paddock with the longer side running parallel to the adjacent Green Lane. However, in this position the ground falls away to the east by at least 2 metres which would require a large amount of excavation at the top of the slope at the western extent and a similar amount of ground to be made up at the eastern end. By rotating the ménage round by 90 degrees to run along the contour of the slope a much smaller area needed to be excavated with consequently less damage to any surviving archaeology (fig. 2). Most of the area in the south-western corner of the paddock is flat although the ground drops down over a slight bank at the northern extremity of the relocated ménage. It is possible that this corner of the development site contains the remnant of an earthwork relating to a house platform.

2. Background

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain indicates that the underlying geology of the site lies on a projection of Dyrham formation bedrock which extends eastwards from Market Harborough. Much of the rest of Great Bowden overlies a formation of Blue Lias mudstone.

The medieval historic core of Great Bowden appears to include the application area; the nearest known site consists of the standing village earthworks immediately to the west in the adjoining field. Great Bowden has been subject to shrinkage since the medieval period and the earthworks of demolished medieval buildings can be found on the outskirts of the village to the east and north of the present-day village core. The identification of standing earthworks in the field adjoining the proposed development area and flanking Green Lane is of direct relevance in this respect. Further examples are situated on the eastern edge of the village, including the earthworks at Knight's End and along Dingley Road, east of the Church. Further earthworks lie *c.* 250m to the west of the application area north of The Royal Oak. Medieval ridge and furrow field systems are visible in fields surrounding the village, although none is located in the application area itself.

The watching brief area lies at a height of approximately 90m O.D. The ULAS desk-based assessment and evaluation report (ULAS reports 2006-156 and 2007-074) identified a number of earthworks within the paddock area that probably relate to quarrying activity. It is also possible that some low linear banks can be attributed to medieval settlement as there are known earthworks relating to the medieval village located on adjoining land to the west.

A single evaluation trench earlier in 2007 concluded that there was high potential for surviving archaeological features that were likely to relate to the later medieval period. During the course of trial trenching a number of features were exposed, including possible surfaces and a number of gullies and post holes/pits. Most of the features produced pottery that suggested activity of a medieval date. Some earlier medieval pottery was collected from the subsoil and from a suspected tree throw pit indicating the presence of earlier activity within the vicinity. A gully feature

contained stratified late medieval pottery whilst a pit and possible surface produced 12th century pottery.

The deposits seen during the evaluation phase appeared to be fairly disturbed but were not more than 0.5m below the surface of the field. Therefore any intrusive work to a greater depth in the area would be likely to have an impact on the archaeological deposits.

3. Archaeological Objectives

The objectives of the archaeological work were:

To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.

To excavate and record a sample of any archaeological deposits found during the watching brief and affected by the groundworks.

To establish the character, extent, date range and significance of any archaeological deposits affected by the proposed ground works.

To produce an archive and report of any results.

4. Methodology

The topsoil and some subsoil covering the entire footprint of the ménage and surrounding fences was carefully stripped in level spits using a 360° mechanical excavator (fig. 3). Additionally the highest, south-western, corner of the site was stripped to the natural substratum under continuous archaeological supervision. Because of the nature of the slope and the way that the ménage is constructed it was only necessary to expose approximately 16m² of natural. The rest of the site was to be built up with stripped material and additional imported material that should protect any surviving archaeological features that may be present. The exposed natural substratum was inspected for any archaeological features or deposits and the spoil checked for unstratified finds.

All deposits were recorded by notes and sketches using the standard ULAS pro-forma watching brief recording forms and context record forms. Plans and sections of any archaeological features were also made at the appropriate scales. Digital colour and 35mm black and white photographs were taken throughout the work.

All work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

5. Results

Removal of the turf and mid grey-brown clay silt topsoil (1) revealed a brownish-grey silty clay subsoil (2) beneath. No archaeological features or deposits were seen during this initial strip. The lip of the earthwork at the northern edge of the development plot was also stripped of turf but again did not reveal anything of an archaeological nature. Most of this area was then left untouched as it was to have material imported to build the height of the land up to match that in the south-west corner.

The highest part of the development area, in the south-west, was then stripped down to reveal an area of approximately 16m² of pale brown clay with bands of slightly

greyer clay natural substratum running throughout (figs. 4 and 5). Sections of all features discussed below can be found in figure 6.

Entering the stripped area from the western boundary was a shallow gully [3] between 0.5m and 0.6m wide and with a maximum depth of 8mm. It extended into the area for approximately 7m before ending in a very shallow butt-end. The fill (4) of this gully consisted of a mid grey-brown silty clay from which a single sherd of early Roman calcite gritted ware was recovered along with a sherd of 11th century Stamford ware. A range of Lyvedon/Stanion wares from the 12th to the 15th centuries and a sherd of Bourne ware from between 1250 and 1400 were also recovered from gully [3]. At the eastern end of the gully was a wide but shallow pit [5] measuring 1.4m across at its widest but only around 0.1m to its irregular base. The fill (6) was a dark brown clay-silt but did not contain any datable finds.

At the eastern end of the fully stripped area were two pits [7] and [9]. Pit [7] was an oval shaped feature measuring 0.9m across at its widest point and was 6mm deep. It had a mid brown silty clay fill (8) with small pockets of natural pale brown clay throughout. Three sherds of 11th or 12th century Stamford ware, two with sooting on the outside, were recovered from this fill. Pit [9] partially extended beneath the remaining subsoil but was fairly square in plan and was the deepest feature seen during the evaluation. It measured 1m across and 0.45m deep and was filled with a pale orangey grey-brown sandy silty clay. Thirteen sherds of 11th or 12th century Stamford ware representing at least four vessels were recovered along with five sherds of Lyvedon/Stanion ware from the late 12th century.

No other features or deposits were noted within the stripped area but a significant number of unstratified sherds were recovered from the topsoil. Of note was a highly decorated Iron Age Shelly ware sherd with fingernail decoration. A range of medieval pottery types was also recovered as was a post-medieval Tudor Green fine ware fragment. Later pottery types up to the 19th and 20th centuries were also represented.

6. Discussion

The features exposed during this phase of archaeological work confirm the results from the earlier evaluation with more gullies and pits being recorded. This work has produced rather more evidence of earlier features from the medieval period and has shown that there is evidence of probable settlement activity within the locality at least as early as the later Iron Age.

The gully [3], whilst not actually corresponding to any features seen in the evaluation, does seem to be of similar size and on a similar alignment. Whether these are the remains of property boundaries is hard to say especially due to the limited amount of activity noted within the area. Despite the area beneath the ménage potentially resembling a house platform the pits, or post holes, do not form any recognisable patterns that may relate to structures and may simply be rubbish pits from backyard activity.

7. Archive

The archive consists of:
this report,

2 pro-forma watching brief forms,
10 context recording sheets,
1 context index sheet,
1 A3 drawing sheet,
1 digital photograph record form,
1 contact sheet of digital photographs,
one cd of digital photographs,
1 35mm black and white photograph record form,
35mm black and white negatives (9 pictures),
35mm black and white contact sheet,
52 pottery sherds,

It is to be held by Leicestershire County Council under accession code number X.A.190.2007

8. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. A record of the project will also be submitted to the OASIS project. Oasis is an online index to archaeological grey literature reports.

9. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was undertaken by A R Hyam. The project was managed by Dr P Clay.

10. Bibliography

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Appendix I. The pottery report

The medieval and later pottery from a watching brief & excavation at 7 Upper Green Place, Great Bowden, Leicestershire.

D. Sawday

The pottery, comprising 52 sherds, weighing 0.565 kg., was examined under a binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Davies and Sawday 1999). The results are shown below, (table 1).

Fabric/Ware	Sherd Nos.	Weight Grams	Average Sherd Weight
Iron Age			
Shelly ware	1	13	
Sub Total	1	13	
Early Roman			
CG – Calcite gritted ware	1	5	
Sub Total	1	5	
Medieval			
Late Saxon ...			
ST3/2 – Coarse/Fine Stamford ware	17	92	
OL – Oolitic ware	7	35	
LY4	6	45	
LY1 – Lyveden/Stanion B ware	4	89	
BO3 – Bourne B ware	1	8	
CC1 – Chilvers Coton ware 1	1	12	
MS – Medieval Sandy ware	2	46	
TG – Surrey White ware/type ware	1	13	
LY6 – Lyveden/Stanion D ware	2	28	
Sub Total	41	368	
Post Medieval/Modern			
EA1/EA2 – Earthenwares 1 & 2	7	155	
EA8/EA(- Cream ware/Pearl ware	2	24	
Sub Total	9	179	
Totals	52	565	

Table 1: The pottery totals by fabric sherd numbers and weight (grams)

The assemblage includes an unusual Iron Age fragment with both scored and impressed finger nail decoration from an unstratified context, and another residual sherd in a transitional early Roman form (N. Cooper pers. comm.). These finds are not unexpected given that Iron Age and Romano-British material has previously been recorded in the area.

The earliest stratified medieval pottery was recovered from contexts [7](8) and [9](10), which both produced Stamford ware probably dating from the 11th or 12th centuries. A sherd of Oolitic ware of possible 12th century date was also found in the latter context. Context [3](4) produced a range of medieval pottery dating generally from the 11th or 12th to the 13th or 14th centuries, with one sherd possibly dating to *circa* 1400. The unstratified material included Chilvers Coton ware from Nuneaton near Coventry and a fragment of fine ware, a Tudor Green type – from Oxford or the Surrey - Hampshire borders.

Most of the medieval wares are typically fairly local in origin, Stamford, Stanion and Lyveden and Bourne to the north and east, and the Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton, to the west – were all major centres of pottery production at this time. The only regional import was the single fragment of fine ware noted above.

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Northamptonshire County Council 1996, County Type Series.

Site/Parish: 7 Upper Green Place, Great Bowden Accession No/ Doc Ref: XA190 2997/great bowden2.doc Material: pottery Site Type: village earthworks	Submitter: A. Hyam Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Id: 24.8.07. Method of Recovery: wb & limited ex. Job No. 08 102
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Context	Fabric/ware	Sherd nos.	Grams	Comments
[3] 4	Calcite Gritted ware	1	5	A transitional early Roman ware.
[3] 4	ST3/2 – Coarse/Fine Stamford ware	1	5	Abraded, thin glaze, 11C +
[3] 4	LY4 – Lyveden/Stanion A ware	4	19	c.1150+, externally sooted
[3] 4	LY4 – Lyveden/Stanion A ware	1	9	Externally thickened bowl rim - similar at Stanion kilns, (Bellamy 1983, fig.4.33), late 13th – early 14th C.
[3] 4	LY1 – Lyveden/Stanion	1	22	Jug neck, yellowish green

	B ware			glaze on exterior, <i>c.</i> 1225-1400
[3] 4	BO3 – Bourne B ware	1	8	<i>c.</i> 1250-1400
[3] 4	LY6 – Lyveden/Stanion D ware	1	11	Clearly wheel thrown, no glaze (kept for type series), <i>c.</i> 1400-?1500
8 [7]	ST3/2	3	5	2 sooted ext ?11th – 12th C
10 [9]	ST3/2	13	82	Min of 4 vessels. One externally glazed with thin lead, convex knife trimmed base, internally burnt. Another sooted ext, Thin walled, pale bodied, ?late 11th – 12th C
10 [9]	OL – Oolitic ware	5	14	Formerly LY2, pos a South Lincs. product, Northampton fabric 209, (Northants CTS, 1996), 12th c. +
U/S	Iron Age – Shelly ware	1	13	Highly decorated – with scored & impressed finger nail decoration. (Marsden 1998).
U/S	OL - Oolitic ware	2	21	Jar rim & neck, ref, collection
U/S	LY4	1	17	
U/S	LY1	3	67	
U/S	LY6	1	17	
U/S	MS – Medieval Sandy ware	2	46	Includes a jug rim & ?jar or cistern base, pos Chilvers Coton products
U/S	CC1 – Chilvers Coton ware 1	1	12	Highly fired – going into Midland Purple
U/S	TG – Surrey White ware/type ware	1	13	Possibly Oxford fabric BC
U/S	EA1 – Earthenware 1	2	18	16th c+
U/S	EA2 – Earthenware 2	5	137	Post medieval/modern
U/S	EA8/EA9 – Cream ware/Pearl ware	2	24	<i>c.</i> 1730, 1780+
Bone				
10 [9]	Animal tooth			

Appendix II. ULAS Design Specification for Archaeological Work

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

7, Upper Green Place, Great Bowden, Leicestershire SP 739 890

Planning Application: 06/01196/3

For: Mr and Mrs P. Van Herrewage

1 Definition and scope of the specification

1.1 In accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and planning), para.30, this specification provides a written scheme for archaeological attendance as required by the Planning Authority, of any ground works on the site which may disturb areas of archaeological potential in connection with a planning application for the construction of a ménage at 7, Upper Green Place, Great Bowden, Leicestershire (SP 739 890) Planning Application: 06/01196/3 for Mr and Mrs P. Van Herrewage

It addresses the requirements from Leicestershire County Council as archaeological advisors to Harborough District Council. It forms part of a scheme of work to fulfill a planning condition required by Harborough District Council.

1.2 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland (LMARS)*.

2 Background

2.1 Requirement for archaeological work

2.1.1 The archaeological watching brief involves attendance for inspection and recording during ground disturbance to identify any deposits of archaeological importance.

2.2 Archaeological potential

2.2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS (Report 2007-074). This revealed archaeological deposits of medieval date. The site lies within the medieval core of Great Bowden close to medieval earthworks.

3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological supervision of existing overburden stripping and groundworks by the client's contractors:

1. To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or archaeological deposits.
2. To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
3. To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
4. To produce an archive and report of any results.

4 Methods

4.1 The project will involve the supervision of overburden and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. During these ground works, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest.

4.2 The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.

4.3 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) where appropriate.

4.4 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

4.5 All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.5 Any human remains encountered will be initially left *in situ* and only be removed under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The developer, Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.6 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site from the project manager. These will ensure that professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for monitoring visits with representatives of the owners, Leicestershire County Council and Harborough District Council.

4.7 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the watching brief there may be the need for contingency time and finance to be provided to ensure adequate recording is undertaken. On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer, the Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council and the planning authority. If the archaeological remains are identified to be of significance additional contingent archaeological works will be required.

5 Recording Systems

5.1 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets.

5.2 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map, (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a plan at 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated.

5.3 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made on drawing film, related to the OS grid and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Elevations and sections of individual layers of features should be drawn where possible. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.

5.4 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

5.5 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the watching brief.

5.6 All site records and finds will be kept securely.

6 Report and Archive

6.1 An accession number will be drawn before the commencement of groundworks. A report on the watching brief will be provided following the groundworks. Following the fieldwork the work will be entered on to the OASIS project database.

6.2 Copies will be provided for the client, Sites and Monuments Record and planning Authority. The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

6.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in the 'Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage' (UKIC 1990), and Standards in the Museum care of archaeological collections (MGC 1992) and 'Guidelines for the preparation of site archives and assessments for all finds (other than fired clay objects) (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993) will be presented to Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services normally within six months of the completion of analysis. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

7 Publication

7.1 A summary report will be submitted to a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork. A full report will be submitted if the results are of significance.

8 Timetable and Staffing

8.1 The watching brief is scheduled to commence at the inception of the contractors groundworks. An experienced archaeologist will be present during this work. It is proposed to watch all works, as specified above, with appropriately timed visits during the work in consultation with the contractors.

9 Health and Safety

9.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (2001) with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is in the Appendix. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate.

10 Insurance

10.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with Gerling Insurance Services Policy No. 62/99094/D, Risk Reference LT 35101 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Sun Alliance Insurance Policy No. 03A/5A 001 05978, Risk Reference LT 27229.

11. Bibliography

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Figures



Figure 1 Location map of Great Bowden. Site highlighted.

Reproduced from the Landranger 140 Leicester area 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 10009495.

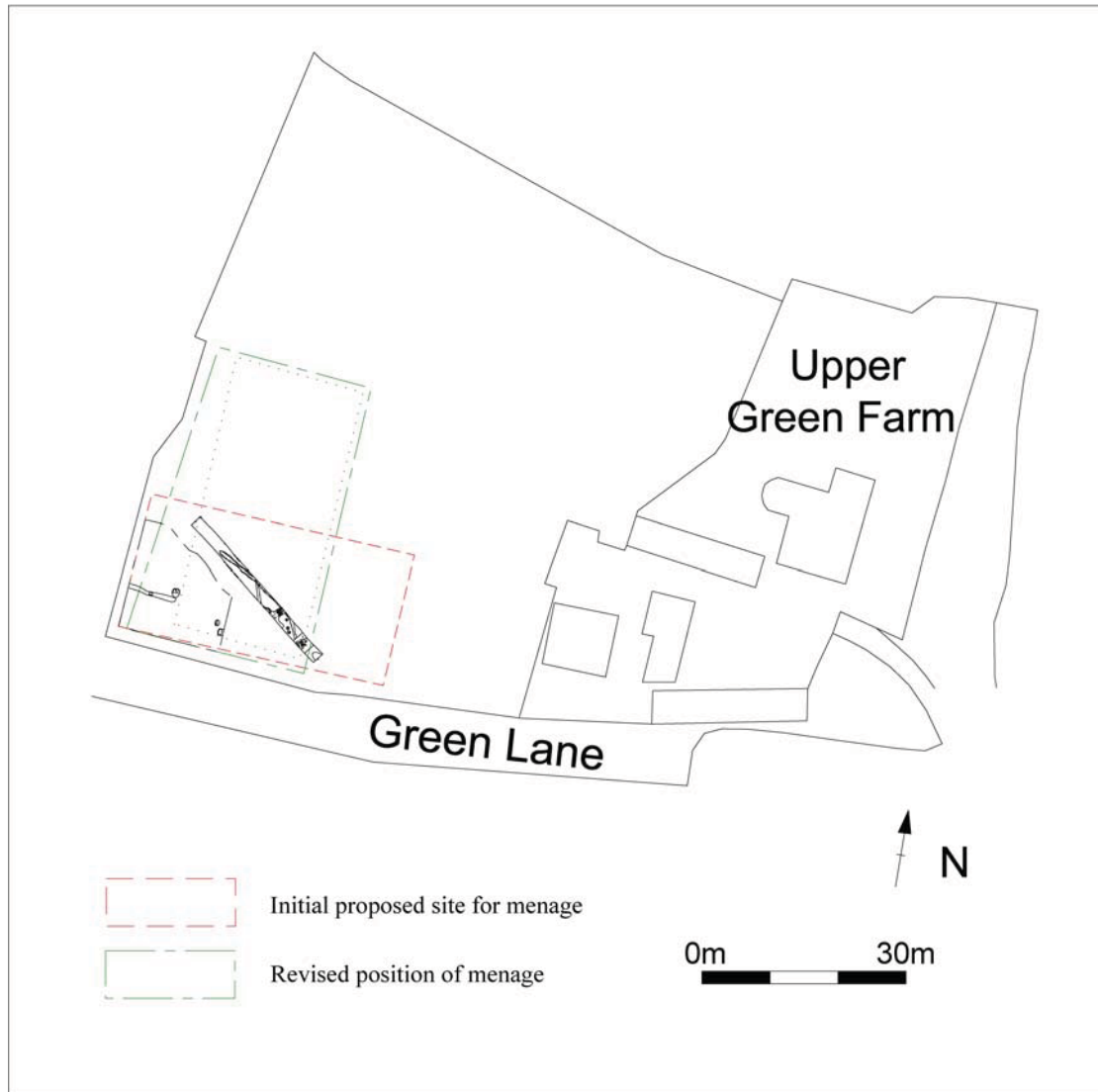


Figure 2 Site plan showing evaluation trench and adjustment of ménage layout.



Figure 3 Turf strip of ménage area.



Figure 4 Gully [3] extending from foreground of picture.

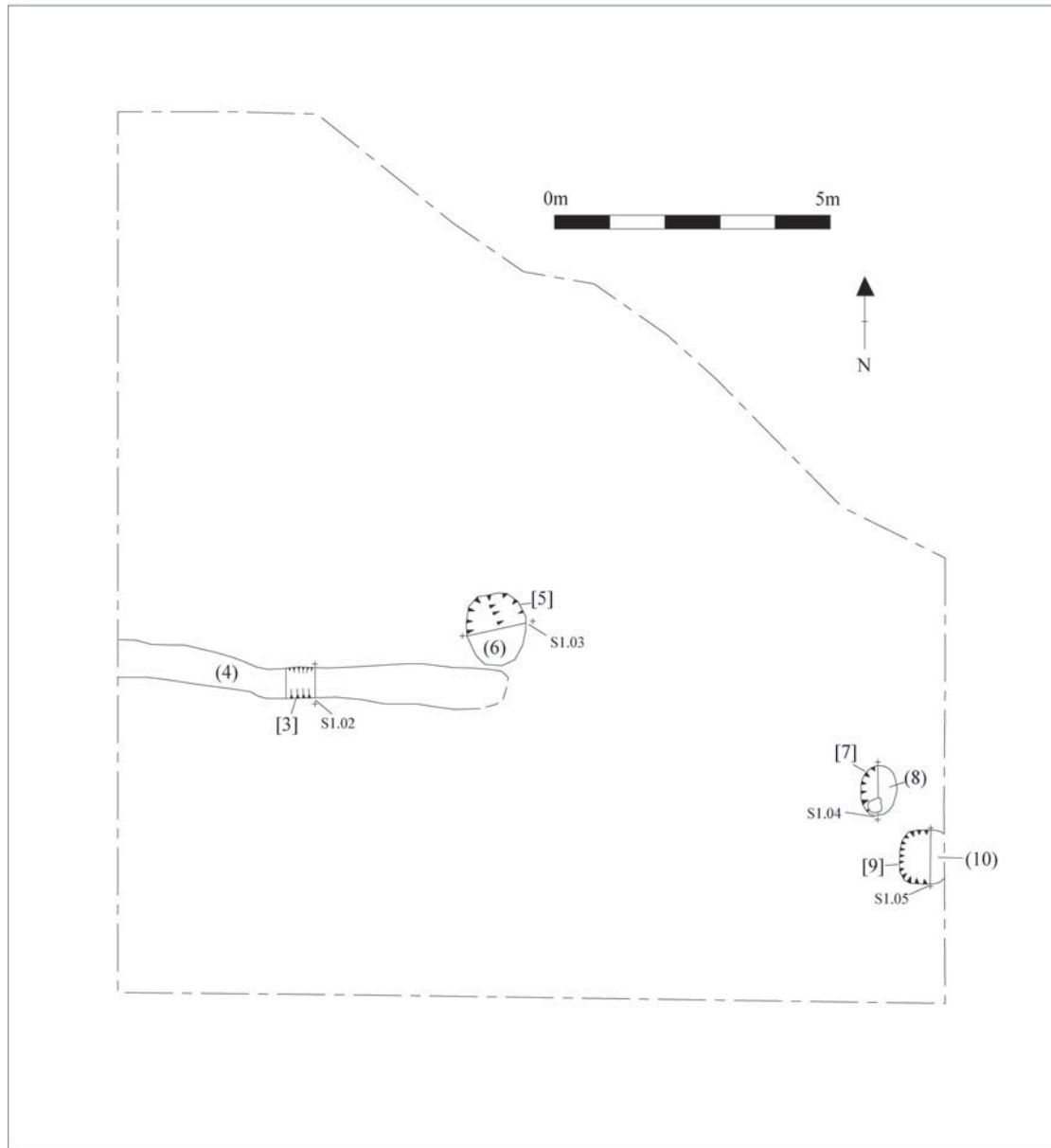


Figure 5 Plan of stripped area in south-west corner of ménage.

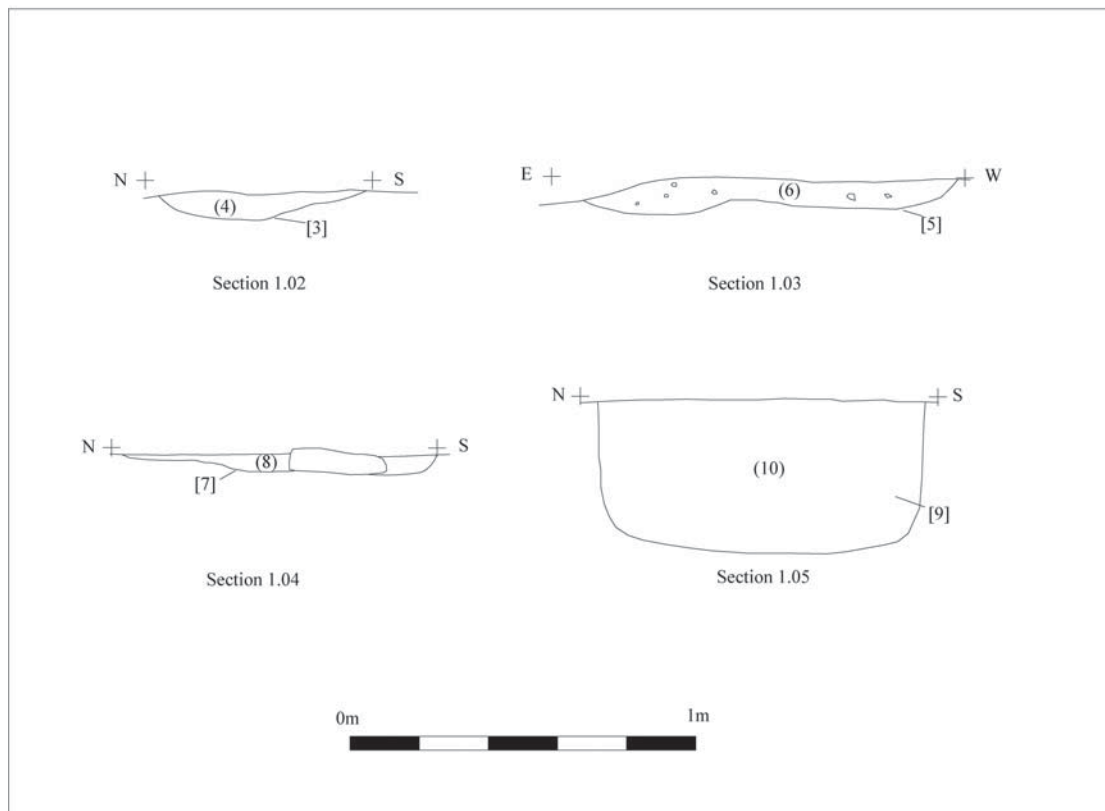


Figure 6 Sections of features.