

**CASTLE HILL TENNIS CLUB
SAFFRON WALDEN
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING



**Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit**

JANUARY 2011

CASTLE HILL TENNIS CLUB

SAFFRON WALDEN

ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

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As part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or the presentation of this report. Please contact the Archaeological Fieldwork Manager, at the

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**CASTLE HILL TENNIS CLUB
SAFFRON WALDEN
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Client: Castle Hill Tennis Club

NGR: TL 53806, 38667

Site Code: SW 55

Scheduled Monument No.: 20671

OASIS No.: essexcou1- 86149

Date of Fieldwork: 12th, 13th and 15th October 2010

SUMMARY

Archaeological monitoring was carried out during groundworks for the construction of a new toilet, septic tank and drainage system at Castle Hill Tennis Club, Saffron Walden.

Cut into natural chalk in the base of the septic tank trench was an undated post-hole and a linear foundation with a squared end (pier base). The foundation was filled with compacted yellow, chalk-flecked clay that in one oval area had been subject to intense heat presumably during demolition. The foundation would appear to be part of a truncated and robbed building. Although no dating evidence was recovered the recovery of unabraded late medieval roof tile and fragments of architectural stone from the backfill suggests that the building might be of medieval date.

An undated pit was recorded in the drainage field trench to the north of the area and a sequence of undated demolition or make-up deposits, including crushed Limestone and plaster-like material, noted in the soakaway to the west. Buried topsoil at a depth of 1.5m in the base of the soakaway was overlain in the south-west corner by small flints embedded in chalk. These were similar to those recorded in the excavation to the rear of the retaining wall (Ennis 2010), which were also laid upon buried topsoil and interpreted as part of the foundations for the mid 14th-century inner bailey curtain wall. As both investigations were located in similar positions relative to the modern day castle boundary with the soakaway being perhaps 2m further distant, it is possible that the embedded flints in the soakaway were also part of the foundations of the curtain wall circuit.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring undertaken during groundworks for the construction of a new toilet, septic tank and drainage system at Castle Hill Tennis Club, Saffron Walden. The fieldwork was undertaken by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of Castle Hill Tennis Club.

The tennis club is located within the inner bailey of the medieval Saffron Walden Castle, designated a Scheduled Monument under the Ancient Monuments Act 1979 (SM 20671). The archaeological works were undertaken according to the terms of a Scheduled Monument Consent obtained from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, as advised by Debbie Priddy, Inspector of Ancient Monuments for English Heritage.

A planning application (UTT/0873/09/FUL, UTT/0874/09/LB) for the new toilet works was submitted to Uttlesford District Council in July 2009. Because the development is located within the grounds of Saffron Walden Castle, the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM) recommended that a full archaeological condition be placed on planning consent, following advice given in Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning. As a result of this, and to comply with the requirements of scheduled monument consent, ECC HEM prepared a design brief (ECC HEM 2010) for the monitoring of the groundworks. In response the ECC FAU submitted a Written Scheme of Investigation (ECC FAU 2010) which formed the basis upon which the archaeological fieldwork was subsequently undertaken.

Copies of this report will be supplied to Castle Hill Tennis Club, English Heritage, ECC HEM, and the Essex Historic Environment Record. A digital version of this report will be submitted, along with a project summary, to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>). The site archive and copies of the report will be deposited at Saffron Walden Museum.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and Geology (Fig. 1)

The tennis club occupies the south-western part of the inner bailey of Saffron Walden Castle (TL 53806 38667). Also located within the inner bailey are Saffron Walden Museum, its car park, and the standing remains of the castle's stone keep. The tennis club itself consists of

one hard and two grass tennis courts, associated fencing and a wooden pavilion. The area of to the north of the pavilion consisted of short grass, whilst that to the west was overgrown with shrubbery, removed prior to the groundworks, and several large trees.

The castle and tennis club are situated on the top of a promontory known as Bury Hill. The uppermost geology is Chalk of the Lewes and Seaford Formations patchily overlain by grey glacial clay.

2.2 Archaeology and History (Fig. 1)

The following archaeological and historical background makes use of the historic town survey for Saffron Walden (Medlycott 1998) and a published report on previous archaeological excavations of the town and castle (Bassett 1982). Reference is also made to site investigation reports on small trenches excavated more recently in the castle's inner bailey (Andrews 1987; Ennis 2009 and 2010).

Saffron Walden had its origins in the later Saxon period and developed into a prosperous market town during the early medieval period. In the 13th-16th centuries the town was a major centre for the cloth trade and was famous for the production of saffron dyestuffs, from which its name is derived.

The castle, around which the town developed, was built by the mid 12th century, as in 1141 Geoffrey de Mandeville was given permission to remove the market at nearby Newport to his castle at Saffron Walden. It is assumed that by 1141 the keep and its earthworks were well advanced and probably substantially finished by 1143 (Bassett 1982, 15). The castle had inner and outer baileys, with the outer bailey to the west of Museum Street containing the parish church of St Mary and the original market place. In 1157 the castle was ordered to be slighted but was possibly refortified after 1167. The castle keep and inner bailey are designated a scheduled monument (SM 20671).

The town expanded in the early to mid 13th century, with a planned rectilinear street grid and a new market place added to the south of the castle's outer bailey. The enlarged town area was enclosed within a new defensive earthwork, the *magnum fossatum* (great ditch), although the northern length of the town defences used the existing outer bailey ditch. The castle's keep and inner bailey were still intact in 1347, when Humphrey de Bohun, 7th Earl of Essex, was given permission to crenellate, and the entire inner bailey was provided with a stone curtain wall (Bassett 1982, 16 and 18).

A small trench excavated for a time capsule some 21m north of the tennis club recorded a vertical-sided pit or cellar sealed by chalk rubble and floor surfaces, undated, but probably medieval. These were sealed by a further chalk rubble levelling layer containing a sherd of pottery dating to the 16th or 17th century (Andrews 1987). Layers of post-medieval levelling and landscaping were also recorded in percolation trial pits (TP1-3) excavated within the tennis club grounds in February 2009 during preliminary works for the proposed new toilet (Ennis 2009). The pits contained residual sherds of 12th- and 13th/14th-century pottery most likely derived from occupation within the castle's inner bailey. In the base of Test Pit 3 were two small patches of mortared flint (context 9) of possible medieval date.

In August 2009 excavation and monitoring work carried out during rebuilding of the retaining wall to the rear of 30 Castle Street (Ennis 2010) revealed a by a series of compacted sand, flint and chalk deposits, laid upon buried medieval topsoil and interpreted as the foundations of the mid 14th-century inner bailey curtain wall. The surviving foundations were sealed beneath c.1.5m of levelling deposits which had built up when the castle grounds were landscaped in the 19th century.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

The general aim of the archaeological monitoring was to record any archaeological deposits threatened by the construction of the new toilet, septic tank and drainage system.

3.2 Objectives

Research objectives for the project were in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000). An additional objective was to assess the potential for the survival of remains of medieval and post-medieval date within the western part of the inner bailey.

4.0 METHOD (Fig. 1)

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken on the machine excavation of groundworks for the construction of the new toilet, septic tank and drainage system. The total monitored area was approximately 19 square metres. Wherever possible machine excavation was undertaken with a machine fitted with a flat-bladed bucket.

All of the groundworks were located to the west and north of the tennis club pavilion. The two largest elements were the trench for the septic tank which was initially 2.4m square (later slightly widened) and in excess of 2m deep, and the new soakaway which was 1.2m square and 1.5m deep. With the exception of the soakaway all of the groundworks to the rear (west) of the pavilion were shallow (less than 0.5m), cutting only root-disturbed topsoil. The only groundworks not observed were those for the rainwater run-off pipes leading from the pavilion to the new soakaway as these were to be only c. 0.2m deep and intended to cross above the already monitored main drainage run.

Standard ECC FAU excavation, artefact collection and recording methodologies were employed throughout. ECC FAU is a Registered Archaeological Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) and all work was carried out in accordance with IfA by-laws and guidelines (IfA 1997; 2001) and complied with Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003).

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS (Figs 2 and 3)

Archaeological deposits of probable medieval, post-medieval and modern date were present within the monitored area and are described below. Detailed context information is presented in Appendix 1.

Archaeological features and deposits were recorded in the septic tank trench, the soakaway, the drainage field and in the northern part of the main drainage run.

5.1 Septic tank trench (Centre grid ref: TL 53809 38664)

At the base of the excavated sequence was natural chalk. This was exposed at a depth of 0.8m below the surface in the northern side of the trench, but elsewhere, particularly to the south and west, had been truncated to a depth of c. 1.2m. In the eastern section (Fig. 3, Section 1; Plate 1) a small patch of solid, chalk-flecked, yellowish buff clay silt (22) may have been the only surviving remnant of undisturbed subsoil.

Cutting the truncated chalk in the base of the trench were two features (16 and 18). Feature 16 consisted of a north-east/south-west aligned flat-bottomed slot over 1.16m long by 0.55m wide. To the west, the slot widened-out to form a square end approximately 1.04m long by 0.95m wide (Plate 2). Both elements were about 0.08m deep and filled with compacted

yellow clay containing frequent flecks and lumps of chalk and rarer small lenses of yellow sand (17). The fill in the narrower part of the feature had been subjected to intense heat visible as an oval patch 1.08m long. The centre of this oval was very dark brown in colour and had a slightly shiny/glassy appearance whilst around the edges it was a lighter orangey red.

Feature 18 was a possible post-hole, 0.62m long by 0.14m deep, of irregular shape, having a squared east end and a rounded west end. It had a flattish bottom and was filled with a mix of light grey silt and loose chalk rubble (19). Given the nature of the fill and lack of any finds it is possible that this was a natural feature, however the squared-end looked deliberately shaped implying that it was a feature of man-made origin.

The entire length of feature 16 was overlain by a 0.03-0.04m thick deposit of dark grey silt infested with small roots (15) which removed virtually as a single mat upon investigation. Further grey silt was noted continuing beyond the trench in the base of the western section and may also have thinly overlay part of post-hole 18.

Sealing the silt was a thick deposit of mixed greyish light brown clay silt containing common flecks of chalk and flint (14). Finds included fragments of roof tile and a fragment of (architectural) worked stone. Above layer 14 and filling a large irregular depression (13) in its top was a very loose deposit of brown and greyish brown silt (12) containing common flints and occasional chalk flecks and fragments of yellowish/buff mortar (Plate 3). Numerous fragments of roof tile dated to the late 13th to 15th century were present (of which only a sample was retained) along with a few fragments of animal bone and a further fragment of worked architectural stone. The edge of a similar but physically separate tile-rich deposit was recorded as context 21 in Section 1 (Fig. 3, Section 1).

Deposits 12 and 21 were overlain by a layer of light yellowish brown clay silt with occasional flints and chalk (20). No finds were recovered from this layer which was variable in depth, being deepest in the east of the trench above deposit 21. The top 0.40m of the sequence was heavily root-disturbed and roughly divided between a layer of mixed mid to dark grey silt (2) overlain by darker brownish grey topsoil (1), both previously recorded in the test-pitting (Ennis 2009).

A few deposits were noted in the northern part of the main drainage run to the immediate south of the septic tank trench. The drainage run was about 0.90m deep where it joined the septic tank trench, shallowing to 0.55m deep once it became level with the north-west corner

of the pavilion. Very heavy root disturbance was noted throughout the length of the run. The deposits in the drainage run closest to the septic tank appeared similar to those previously recorded, with 0.45m of light brown chalky clay-silt, probably representing parts of deposits 14 and 21, overlain by darker grey deposits 1 and 2 which by now had become indistinguishable through the intensity of the root activity. To the south the light brown silt (21) was sandier and more mixed and after about 2m gave way to a thick deposit of yellowish chalk rubble which was visible until the corner of the pavilion.

5.2 Drainage field

Natural chalk was exposed in the base of the drainage field trench at an approximate depth of 0.85m below the surface. Above the chalk was 0.38m of brownish yellow silty clay (30) containing occasional flints and frequent flecks and small pieces of chalk. This was overlain by 0.28m of brown sandy silt (29) which in addition to flints and chalk also contained a few fragments of roof tile. In the north-east corner of the drainage field was a poorly defined vaguely oval shaped pit (32) that definitely cut through layer 30 and probably also layer 29. Definition was poor due to heavy root disturbance. This pit was in excess of 0.75m long by 0.5m wide and 0.90m deep and was filled by brownish yellow silty clay (31). At the top of the sequence was 0.15m of topsoil (1).

5.3 Soakaway

The soakaway was approximately 1.5m deep (Fig. 3, Section 2; Plate 4). Exposed at the required limit of excavation in the base of the trench was a layer of mid greyish brown chalk-flecked silt (28) which had the appearance of buried topsoil. In the south-west corner of the trench this was overlain by a localised thin layer of small flints embedded in chalk (27). Sealing the flints were two fairly dry deposits (25 and 26) of unusual character (Plate 4). Deposit 26 was pale pinkish yellow in colour, 0.18m thick, and appeared to consist of mixed crushed Limestone, some fine and some coarser with small pieces. Deposit 25 was up to 0.5m thick and consisted of compacted predominately fine-grained material which was light grey in colour with a slight greenish tinge and a consistency best described as plaster-like. Above was a more readily identifiable layer of grey silt and chalk rubble (24), which appeared to become more chalkier to the east, in turn overlain by a layer of mid grey clay silt (23). At the top of the sequence was 0.5m of dark greyish brown, root disturbed, organic topsoil the lower half of which was *in situ* and the upper part built-up from recent groundworks. No dating evidence was recovered from any of these deposits.

6.0 FINDS by Helen Walker

Finds were recovered from two contexts, 12 and 14, in the septic tank trench. All of the material has been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context and tabulated below. The finds are described by category.

6.1 Tile

Roof tile amounting to eight pieces, weighing 2381g, was recovered. Most were fragments, but three part tiles (occurring in both contexts) are present. All are similar, flat with two cut out pegholes and widths of around 160/170mm and depths of 13mm. Tiles of this size were made at the late 13th to 14th century tile factory at Danbury, near Chelmsford (Drury and Pratt 1975) and continued to c.1500. After this time tiles were not flat but manufactured with a slight camber. One of the part tiles (from context 14) is deeply encrusted with mortar on the reverse side and shows the outline of where the adjacent tile was placed. All of the tile fragments are unabraded.

6.2 Animal bone

Three pieces of animal bone, weighing 39g was excavated from fill 12. All comprise sheep-sized long bone fragments including a socket joint, probably part of a pelvis. The end of one bone has a bevelled edge and must have been worked. All the pieces of bone are smooth and unabraded perhaps due to the favourable conditions for preservation provided by the pieces of chalk/limestone also in the fills, keeping the environment alkaline.

6.3 Worked stone

Single pieces of worked stone (together weighing 7.5kg) were excavated from contexts 12 and 14. Both appear to be of the same stone, a fine-grained chalk or limestone. The example from context 14 shows little detail apart from two chiselled surfaces. That from fill 12 however is a piece of architectural moulding and may be the base of a doorway or window frame. The upper face of the moulding is bevelled, suggesting that the door or window frame was arched.

6.4 Comments on the assemblage

The finds of architectural stone represent the remains of a substantial building, almost certainly the remains of the castle. The roof tile is late medieval in date, although the building could have been earlier as buildings would have been periodically re-roofed. Previous recording of this site, in March 2009 also produced animal bone and roof tile. In addition, these earlier excavations produced 12th to early 13th century pottery, which would

have been contemporary with the earliest phases of the castle, and one sherd of 13th to 14th century pottery.

An example of roof tile (with mortar attached), the piece of worked bone and the architectural moulding have been retained and occupy less than one box. All other finds have been discarded.

7.0 DISCUSSION

The archaeological monitoring has recorded several deposits and features of archaeological interest, the most significant of which is the linear foundation and square pier base revealed in the base of the septic tank trench. This appears to be part of a major structure that has been severely robbed. The original foundation had been cut into the chalk bedrock and consisted of compact chalky clay which had been burnt *in situ* presumably when the structure was demolished and robbed. The grey silt overlying the foundation may indicate that the trench was open for short while between robbing and backfilling. The date and function of the structure is hard to determine from a comparatively small investigation and the lack of dating evidence. Although it is possible that the structure is of post-medieval date the natural assumption is that it dates to the medieval period and is part of an outbuilding within the western half of the inner bailey. Bassett (1982, 18) intriguingly makes reference to a masonry hall situated in this part of the inner bailey but it is not certain if this is that same building. The recovery of two pieces of architectural stone and several larger than usual pieces of broken roof tile from the backfill do however point to the existence of a major medieval building in the vicinity.

The crushed limestone and thick plaster-like material recorded near the base of the soakaway were unusual and appear to be demolition or make-up deposits derived from a building. As the soakaway was only located 10-12m from the septic tank trench their presence adds further weight to the suggestion of a near-by substantial building. The flints embedded in chalk in the base of the soakaway were very similar to those recorded in the excavation to the rear of the retaining wall (Ennis 2010), located approximately 60m to the north, which were interpreted as part of the foundations for the mid 14th-century inner bailey curtain wall. The curtain wall foundations were laid upon buried topsoil as also were the embedded flints in the base of the soakaway. Both investigations were located in similar positions relative to the modern-day boundary of the inner bailey, with the soakaway being perhaps 2m further distant.

8.0 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

Although the groundworks for the new toilet were relatively small-scale they have still provided a useful window into the interior of the scheduled monument and have shown that potential medieval and post-medieval strata survive intact in places to a depth exceeding 1m in wester part of the inner bailey. The discovery of the structural foundation is particularly important as no other buildings have been identified within the inner bailey other than the keep itself. The date of the building is unknown but the recovery of architectural building stone fragments and late medieval roof tile from the backfill suggest that it may be of medieval origin. Similarities between the deposits revealed in the soakaway with those found in the retaining wall excavation have further confirmed the theory that the present day edge of the castle grounds, particularly to the north and west, reflects the position of the 14th century curtain wall.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Essex CC FAU would like to thank of Castle Hill Tennis Club for funding the archaeological work, and especially Peter Riding for his help and support. The archaeological work was undertaken by Trevor Ennis and Mark Germany of the ECC Field Archaeology Unit. Finds were analysed by Helen Walker. The report was prepared by Trevor Ennis with illustrations by Andrew Lewsey. The project was managed by Patrick Allen and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority and English Heritage by Richard Havis of ECC HEM.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

All dimensions given in metres

Context	Location	Type	Description	Period
1	All (except Soak.)	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clay silt, 0.15-0.22m thick	Modern
2	TP1 & Sept	Layer	Mid-dark grey clay silt with brown speckles, 0.18m thick	Modern
3	TP1	Layer	Light brown clay silt, 0.15m thick	Post-med
4	TP1	Layer	Light brown silty clay, 0.08m+ thick	Post-med
5	TP2	Layer	Mid-dark greyish brown clay silt, 0.15m thick	Modern
6	TP2	Layer	Dark brownish grey to brown clay silt, 0.27m+ thick	Post-med
7	TP3	Layer	Light brownish grey clay silt, 0.21m thick	Post-med
8	TP3	Layer	Orangey yellow sandy mortar, 0.11m thick	Post-med
9	TP3	Layer	Light grey buff mortar & flint, 0.10m thick	Medieval?
10	TP3	Layer	Solid chalk (lump or bedrock?), 0.11m+ thick	Natural?
11	TP3	Layer	Greyish brown pea gravel (not excavated)	Natural?
12	Sept.	Fill of 13	Brown to greyish brown silt with large flints, tile frags, occasional chalk flecks and small lumps of yellowish/buff mortar	Post-med
13	Sept.	Cut	Irregular depression filled with 12 2.2m+ x 1.7m+ x 0.3m deep	Post-med
14	Sept.	Layer	Mixed greyish light brown silt with tile. 0.50m thick	Post-med
15	Sept.	Layer	Dark grey silt, root infested. 0.04m thick	Post-med
16	Sept.	Cut	Linear foundation with square end (pier?). Sq. end 1.04m x 0.96m, linear 1.16m x 0.55m, both 0.08m deep	Medieval
17	Sept.	Fill of 16	Compact yellow clay with freq flecks and lumps of chalk, rare small yellow sandy lenses. Oval burnt patch 1.08m long, top 3cm burnt. Central very dark brown patch with redder outer ring	Medieval
18	Sept.	Post-hole	Irregular (part circular, part square) 0.62m x 0.54m x 0.14m deep, flattish bottom	Medieval?
19	Sept.	Fill of 18	Chalk rubble and light grey silt, rooty	Medieval?
20	Sept.	Layer	Light yellowish brown clay silt with occasional flints and chalk. 0.36m thick	Post-med
21	Sept.	Layer	Slightly greyish brown clay silt with common tile frags and occasional flints. 0.23m thick	Post-med
22	Sept.	Layer	Yellowish buff clay silt, solid, common chalk flecks, possible natural subsoil, 0.23m thick	Nat Subs?
23	Soak.	Layer	Mid grey clay silt with greenish brown tinge, occasional chalk and flint flecks. 0.23m thick	Post-med
24	Soak.	Layer	Mixed chalky rubble and grey silt. 0.16m thick	Post-med
25	Soak.	Layer	Fine grained light grey with green tinge – plaster like?. 0.50m thick	Post-med
26	Soak.	Layer	Pale pinkish yellow mixed crushed Limestone, some fine, some coarse plus small pieces. 0.18m thick	Post-med
27	Soak.	Layer	Small flints embedded in chalk. 0.05m thick	Medieval
28	Soak.	Layer	Mid greyish brown chalk-flecked silt – buried topsoil?	Medieval
29	Drain F.	Layer	Brown sandy silt, occasional flints, flecks and lumps of chalk. 0.28m thick	Post-med
30	Drain F.	Layer	Brownish yellow silty clay, with occasional flints and frequent flecks and lumps of chalk. 0.38m thick	Post-med
31	Drain F.	Fill of 31	Brownish yellow silty clay, frequent chalk flecks	Post-med
32	Drain F.	Pit	Vaguely oval, c. 0.75m x 0.5m x 0.9m deep. Steep sides, concave base	Post-med

APPENDIX 2: FINDS DATA

All weights in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
12	13	3	39	Animal bone; long bone fragments including a socket joint, sheep sized, all unabraded; the end of one bone has a bevelled edge and must have been worked	Medieval? Late 13th to beginning of the 16th C
		1	2533	Chalk/limestone architectural moulding fragment	
		6	1151	Roof tile: comprises part tile, width 160mm, depth 13mm, two cut-out pegholes 13mm diameter, slightly off centre, uniform orange fabric, no camber, patch of mortar on underside; large fragment with cut out peghole 12mm diameter, depth 17mm thick grey core no camber; the remainder are smaller unfeatured fragments, depth 13mm; all unabraded	
14		1	5006	Chalk/limestone architectural fragment, two surfaces show chisel marks, otherwise there is no detailing	Medieval? Late 13th to beginning of the 16th C
		2	1230	Roof tile: part tiles; both of around 170mm width and both with a depth of 13mm, one shows two cut out pegholes 11mm in diameter and 65mm apart, equidistant from the edges, the reverse is deeply encrusted with mortar, showing the outline of where the adjacent tile was placed, the second is unfeatured apart from a thin patch of mortar on the reverse; both are flat, without a camber; the tile with the pegholes has a grey core, the plain tile is a uniform orange	
		13	9959		

APPENDIX 3: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

Site Name: Castle Hill Tennis Club, Saffron Walden, Essex

Site Code: SW 55

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- 1.2 Written Scheme of Investigation

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- 2.2 Finds Reports

3. Site Archive

- 3.1 Context Record Register
- 3.2 Context Records (1 to 32)
- 3.3 Plan Register
- 3.4 Section Register
- 3.5 7 A4 plan/section sheets
- 3.6 Trench location plan
- 3.7 Photographic Registers
- 3.8 Site Photographic Record (1 set of Black & White prints, 1 Set of colour contact prints + digital images on disk)
- 3.9 Miscellaneous notes/plans

Not in File

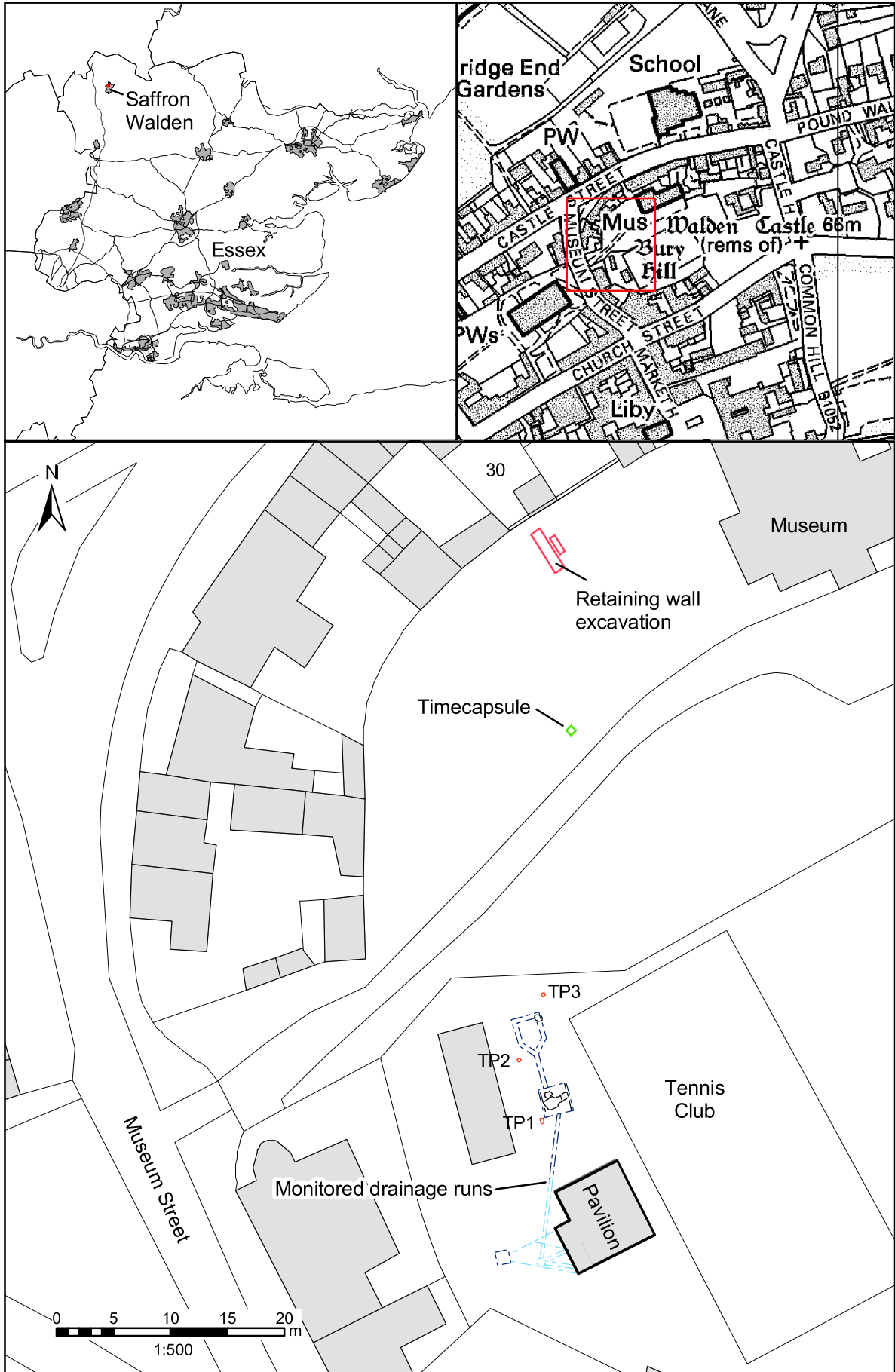
One large section drawing

Finds

The retained finds occupy one box.

APPENDIX 4: ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY

Site name/Address: Castle Hill Tennis Club, Saffron Walden, Essex	
Parishes: Saffron Walden	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 53806, 38667	Site Code: SW 55
Type of Work: Archaeological Monitoring	Site Director/Group: T. Ennis, ECC Field Archaeology Unit
Dates of Work: 12th, 13th and 15th October 2010	Size of Area Investigated: c. 19 sq m
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Saffron Walden	Funding source: Castle Hill Tennis Club
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER Nos.: - 411
Final Report: EAH Shorter Note	Oasis No.: essexcou1- 86149
Periods Represented: Medieval, post-medieval, modern	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>Archaeological monitoring was carried out during groundworks for the construction of a new toilet, septic tank and drainage system at Castle Hill Tennis Club, Saffron Walden.</p> <p>Cut into natural chalk in the base of the septic tank trench was an undated post-hole and a linear foundation with a squared end (pier base). The foundation was filled with compacted yellow, chalk-flecked clay that in one oval area had been subject to intense heat presumably during demolition. The foundation would appear to be part of a truncated and robbed building. Although no dating evidence was recovered the recovery of unabraded late medieval roof tile and fragments of architectural stone from the backfill suggests that the building might be of medieval date.</p> <p>An undated pit was recorded in the drainage field trench to the north of the area and a sequence of undated demolition or make-up deposits, including crushed Limestone and plaster-like material, noted in the soakaway to the west. Buried topsoil at a depth of 1.5m in the base of the soakaway was overlain in the south-west corner by small flints embedded in chalk. These were similar to those recorded in the excavation to the rear of the retaining wall (Ennis 2010), which were also laid upon buried topsoil and interpreted as part of the foundations for the mid 14th-century inner bailey curtain wall. As both investigations were located in similar positions relative to the modern day castle boundary with the soakaway being perhaps 2m further distant, it is possible that the embedded flints in the soakaway were also part of the foundations of the curtain wall circuit.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports:	
<p>Ennis, T. 2009, <i>Castle Hill Tennis Club, Saffron Walden, Essex. Archaeological Monitoring Summary</i>. ECC FAU report 1967</p> <p>Ennis, T. 2010, <i>Retaining Wall, Saffron Walden Castle: Archaeological Excavation and Monitoring</i>. ECC FAU report 1966</p>	
Author of Summary: T. Ennis	Date of Summary: January 2011



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Fig.1. Location of castle grounds and tennis club

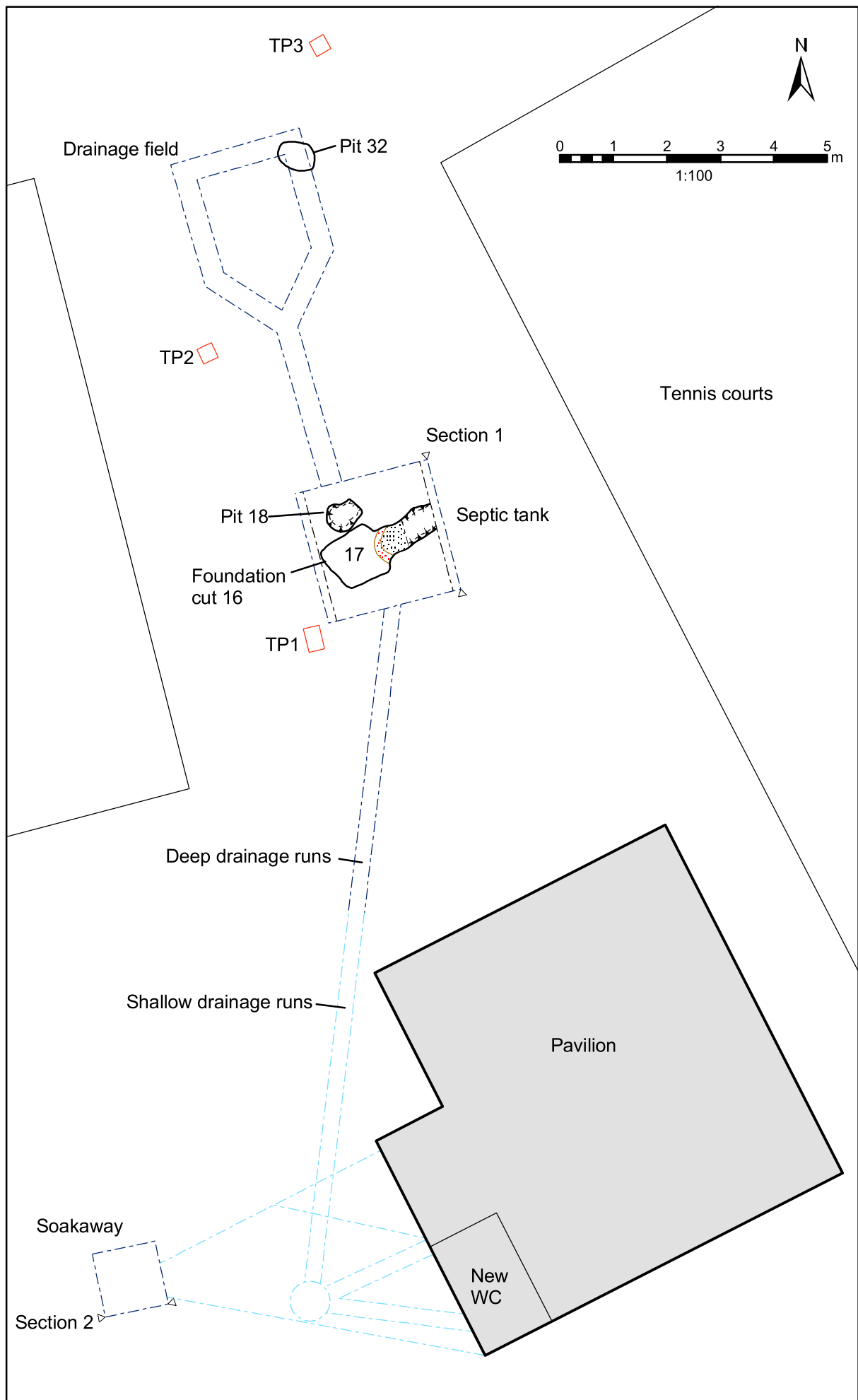


Fig.2. Location of test pits and monitored drainage runs

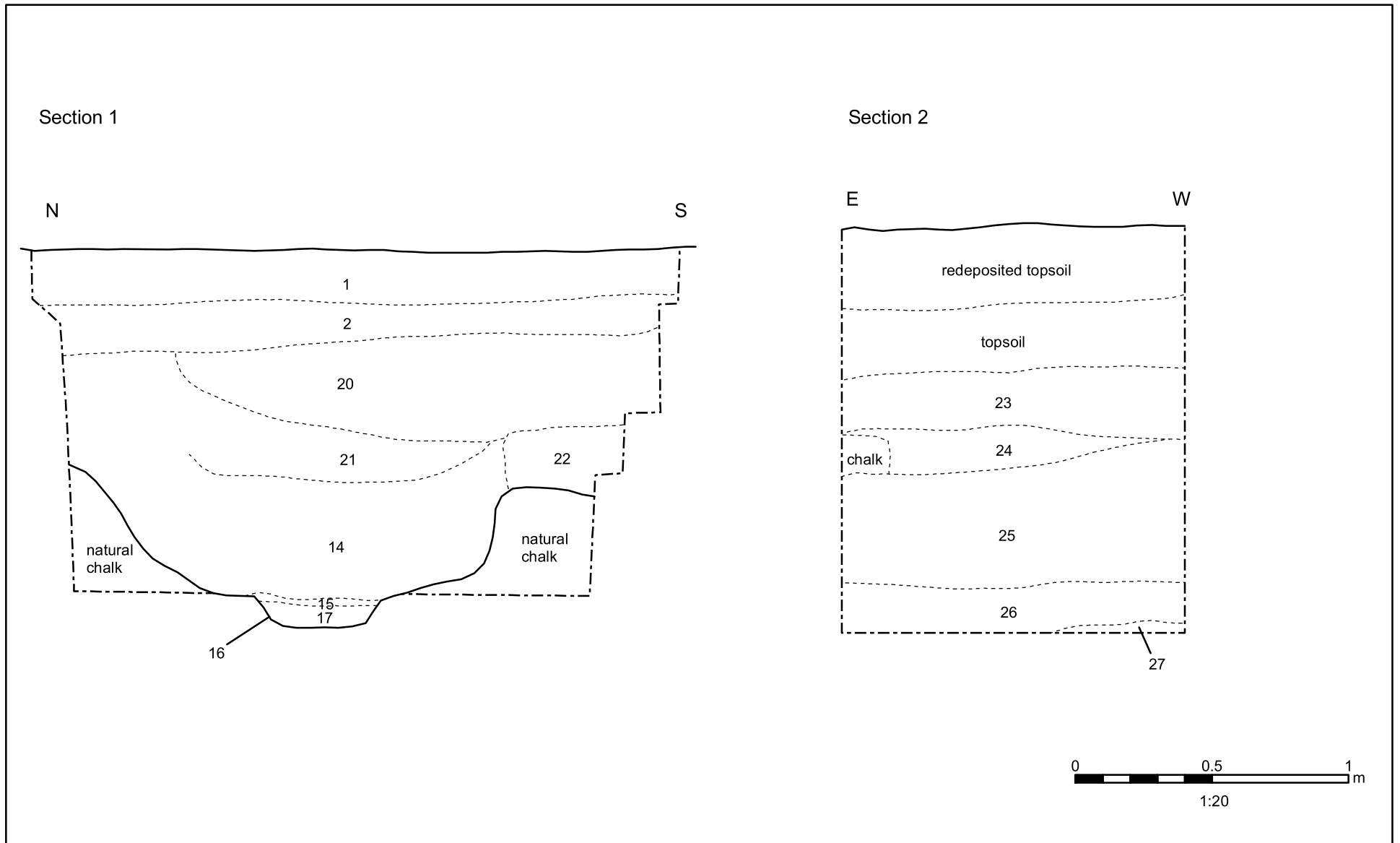


Fig.3. Sections



Plate 1. Section 1 (1m scale)



Plate 2. Feature 16 (1m scale)



Plate 3. Tile rubble fill 12 (1m scale)



Plate 4. Section 2 (1m scale)