

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AT 35 EAST STREET
CREDITON, DEVON**

by

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Exeter Archaeology

Report No. 06.15

February 2006

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of building recording and archaeological field evaluation undertaken by Exeter Archaeology (EA) during December 2005 at 35 East Street, Crediton, Devon (SS 83720016). The investigation was undertaken in advance of a proposed residential development, and commissioned by Edward Holden (architect) on behalf of Cheldon Construction.

1.1 **The site** (Figs 1 and 2)

The site is located within the *Eastern Town* or *Church Town* part of Crediton, 90m to the south-east of the parish church. The site fronts East Street to the south, is bounded by terrace houses to the east, terrace houses and the Boniface Centre to the west, and a dairy to the north.

Prior to the evaluation the main building consisted of three ranges. The south range fronted East Street, incorporating an integral archway giving access to the rear of the property. The west range projected back from this range alongside the access track, and was demolished before the evaluation commenced. The eastern range flanks the eastern boundary of the site and comprised of a series of small outbuildings. At the northern end of the property was an outside lavatory, and garage flanked by a raised garden containing grass and small trees.

1.2 **The development**

The proposed development involves the demolition of the buildings to the rear of the site and the construction of new residential buildings along the eastern and southern boundaries. The remainder of the area will be landscaped.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 **Historical background** (based on Exeter Archaeology 1998)

Crediton lies within the band of fertile red soils produced by the ridge of Permian sandstone that runs west from Exeter. In recent years aerial reconnaissance and excavation have revealed evidence of extensive prehistoric and Romano-British activity in this area, although little is known of the immediate area of modern Crediton during the Roman period. A Roman coin, on display in the church museum, was found at Fordton approximately 0.8km south of the current site, and a fragment of Roman tile was recovered from the vicarage excavation (Henderson & Weddell, 1985). A Romano-British villa has been located through aerial photography and subsequent trial trenching, lying approximately 1.6km south-east of the current site beside the river Yeo at SX 850 992 (Griffith 1988). The lines of two Roman roads, one running west from Exeter towards the Roman military complex at North Tawton and beyond towards Cornwall, the other running north west towards the Taw-Torridge estuary, are likely to have passed through the environs of modern Crediton, however, their precise courses are still uncertain.

This part of Devon came under West Saxon control during the 7th century. The first historical records for Crediton date from 739 when King Aethelheard granted to Forthhere, Bishop of Sherborne or West Wessex, a large estate as the endowment for a new minster and a monastery served by canons with a pastoral responsibility for a large parish. The minster became the seat of a bishop in 909, following the creation of a separate diocese for Devon and Cornwall. In 1050 the see was moved to Exeter. The Crediton estate remained Episcopal property throughout the medieval period, and the bishops maintained a palace there

down to the reformation (Orme 1980, 97-99). The history and development of the Collegiate Church, which succeeded the minster, is described in detail by Orme (*ibid.*, 100-24).

The town of Crediton has developed from two distinct settlement areas. *Eastern Town* or *Church Town*, in which the current site is located, is the earlier of the two having grown up around the ecclesiastical centre. *Western Town*, or *Borough Town*, is thought to have been established in the early to mid 13th century, around the time of the creation of a borough at Crediton by the Bishop of Exeter shortly before 1238. One of the earliest documentary references is dated *c.* 1293, and refers to a tenement in the ‘new borough of Crediton’ (i.e. Western Town). A document of 1489 interestingly refers to a messuage in ‘the old ville of Crediton (i.e. Eastern Town)’. The terms East and West Towns seem to have been in regular use from the 16th century. The two parts of the town retained separate identities right up until the last century.

2.2 Archaeological background

Prior to this evaluation, a number of archaeological investigations have taken place within *Eastern Town*. Trial excavations were undertaken in 1984 by the Exeter Museums Archaeological Field Unit (EMAFU; now Exeter Archaeology) in advance of the construction of the new vicarage. This was undertaken in the grounds of the Old Vicarage (SS 8362 0035), to the north-west of the current scheme. A subsequent archaeological watching brief was maintained during the excavation of a sewer trench. These excavations revealed the remains a structure interpreted as a timber-built building of Saxo-Norman date. Waterlogged deposits of a similar date were also located in the sewer trench. A stone-lined pit interpreted as a garderobe or latrine, possibly an internal feature within an earlier vicarage, was also uncovered. The excavation also revealed the diverted and culverted course of a stream running east-west across the southern edge of the vicarage grounds. This stream is thought to have originally run along the northern edge of the churchyard.

An excavation was carried out by the EMAFU in 1986 on the site of the new church hall (SS 8368 0021), immediately west of the present site. These excavations identified several phases of occupation, showing the development of the site from agricultural land in the 13th century, through five main phases of occupation until its abandonment as a domestic site in the early part of this century. The earliest activity was represented by an east-west orientated field boundary ditch at the north end of the site. Pottery from the infill of the ditch indicated that it went out of use after 1500.

In 1991, fieldwork was undertaken by the EMAFU along the line of a pipeline running east-west between the churchyard and the vicarage grounds. These excavations located the remains of the medieval collegiate buildings, in addition to a further length of the culverted and diverted stream. The pipeline continued to the east into the dairy and supermarket premises. Evidence of stream deposits was seen just to the east of the car park but the stream itself appears to have turned north before the boundary with the supermarket. No significant archaeological deposits were observed within this area, although there was some evidence of alluvial material.

In 2002, Exeter Archaeology undertook the evaluation of a proposed new teaching block at Hayward’s School, located on the south side of East Street, opposite the site. Part of a building of 14th-15th century date was uncovered, along with a pit of possibly the same date. Evidence for the working of horn cores and metal was also recovered (Exeter Archaeology proj. no. 4398).

3. AIMS

3.1 *Building recording*

The aim of the building recording was to prepare a record of the buildings prior to their demolition.

3.2 *Evaluation*

The aim of the evaluation was to determine whether archaeological deposits were present within the area affected by the proposed development, and if located, to establish their age, character and extent. The information gained from this evaluation can be used to inform discussion regarding the impact of the development on any remains, and to determine the nature and extent of further archaeological monitoring, investigation and recording that may be required.

4. METHOD

Both elements of the project were undertaken in accordance with a Written Statement of Investigation prepared by Exeter Archaeology (2005).

4.1 *Building recording*

A written record of the building was prepared, accompanied by a photographic record comprising black and white prints and colour transparency. A summary description of the buildings is presented in section 5. A full description, along with some notes on the south range is held in the archive.

4.2 *Evaluation*

Two 1.20m wide trenches were excavated. They were positioned to investigate the raised area in the northern part of the site and the lower, central area. Modern surfaces and overlying soils were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket to the surface of *in situ* natural geology or the top of archaeological deposits, whichever was higher. Once excavated, trenches were cleaned by hand and features were hand excavated. Recording was undertaken in accordance with standard EA procedures. A written record was produced on single *pro forma* context record sheets, a drawn record was compiled at scales of 1:20 and 1:50, and a photographic record was made using black-and-white film and colour transparency. All artefacts were retained, with the exception of unstratified post-medieval material from modern deposits. Full context and finds listings are presented in the Appendices 1 and 2.

5. THE BUILDINGS

The three ranges of buildings appear to have been constructed in a single phase, although it is possible that the west range was added soon after the south range was erected. All three ranges were constructed of large red-orange bricks, laid in Flemish Bond.

5.1 **The west range**

The east façade was very simple and contained a door to the south and a tall four-paned sash window at the centre. This window had shaped horns matching those of the main range, and a segmental arched head. High up, to the south, a small oblong, horizontal casement window lit the loft. The lower part of the north façade retained some early fabric with toothing for a,

removed, projecting extension. The remainder had been rebuilt with concrete blocks. The upper part was clad with corrugated iron, although the inside was timber-framed and contained two casement windows with elongated ovolo moulding. The west façade was largely obscured by the east range, but was supported by two pairs of projecting plaster buttresses or responds.

Internally, the ground floor was divided into three rooms by brick walls. The larger room had a floor of large pale cream bricks, with a staircase rising steeply to a first floor loft. In the north-east room the floor incorporated a large concrete platform in the north-east corner. The western part of the ceiling was clad with tongue and grooved boards, but a large rectangular area to the east appeared to have had asbestos cladding and contained a void for a stove pipe.

The loft had a roof of three bays supported on two large A-frame trusses consisting of low-pitched principal rafters meeting in the flanks of a short king-post. The king-post had an expanded head and foot, bolted vertically to the centre of the collar beam. The joints of the collars and the principle were reinforced by diagonal straps of iron and there were 'gussets' or short braces at the angle. Two of these braces were held in place by iron straps, the others, in the northern truss, by short vertical posts, apparently resting on the floor. The north gable incorporated an identical truss without any gussets. The purlins are trenched and scarfed in each bay, supported by cleats. The south-eastern corner of the loft had been adapted to form a lavatory. A large winch mechanism, operated from the first floor, and serving a hatch into the through passage below, sat in the south-west corner.

5.2 The east range

The east range is a long two-storey building, divided into three distinct sections. The south section had a door into the south range in its south elevation, and a small porch at the south-west corner disguised an offset where the range chamfers back. The west elevation displayed small casement windows with horizontal, moulded glazing bars flanked by a small doorway, now blocked. Internally this section was divided by a low brick partition, adjacent to which was a ladder to the first floor loft. In this northern room the walls and ceilings were clad with horizontal boards, the joints being concealed by fillets, probably used to prevent dust dropping down from loft.

The walls of the first floor were clad, and had long, horizontal windows, one with inward pivoting casements in the west façade. As on the ground floor, the first floor was divided into two rooms, although it may have originally only contained one long example. The roof over this section was of one phase. It was divided into three bays with two tie beams and central king posts with dovetail heads receiving the principals. It had one set of trenched purlins and a plank ridge. The common rafter trusses had (contemporary) applied collars above the level of the purlins to support a ceiling hiding upper parts of the trusses. The entire ceiling at eaves level was modern and the roof seemed originally to have been open. It was later ceiled at the level of the collars of the common rafter trusses, and the exposed timbers painted. One of the kingposts, in the southern truss, was also truncated at this time, but it is difficult to see why, since the tie beam was left intact and unpainted below the ceiling. The roof was covered in pan tiles.

The central section of the building was largely timber framed, with timber cladding and boarding to the loft above. The ground floor was divided into four rooms, the northern room containing a ladder to the loft above. The adjacent room, a store, had a plastered ceiling. The

adjoining room to the south was a workshop, containing workbench, with double doors to the yard. It contained a curious pen, perhaps a fuel store.

The first floor loft may have been a servants dormitory. It had a timber front supported by two vertical studs braced by diagonal braces, one of which was truncated, then vertical studs. These had a central, now removed, loading door/window. The outside had overlapping weatherboarding. The roof has been renewed.

The northern section of this range may have been used for domestic purposes. It was taller than other section, with rendered walls, last used as a garage. It had sliding doors and an inspection pit set into a concrete floor. On the first floor, the room, with plastered walls, had a picture rail, and was ceiled at eaves level.

6. THE EVALUATION

6.1 Trench 1

This trench was located on the raised area at the northern end of the site and was 9m long and 1.2m wide.

Undisturbed gravelly red clay was exposed at a depth of 0.6m from the surface (52.37m AOD). In the centre of the trench, this natural clay was cut by an east-west aligned ditch (514). The ditch was 2.45m wide and 0.75m deep with steep sides and an undulating base. The ditch, contained a single fill, an orange brown silty clay (515), containing fragments of Salcombe stone and 14th-15th century pottery. Immediately to the south of this ditch, a second feature (516) had been heavily truncated by a modern concrete ring. These features were sealed by a reddish brown silty clay (513) interpreted as a garden soil. This layer was also exposed to the south of the modern concrete ring. No finds were recovered from this layer.

At the north end of the trench layer 513 was truncated by an east-west aligned ditch (503). The ditch continued beyond the northern limit of the trench but was a minimum of 2.6m wide and 0.90m deep. A small band of orange brown gritty silty clay (535) containing occasional roof slate fragments lay at the base of the ditch, interpreted as a silting of the open feature. In the centre of the ditch silting 535 was truncated by a steep-sided cut (533). This feature continued below the base of the excavation and beyond the northern end of the trench. This feature was filled by a reddish-brown silty clay (534) containing medieval and post-medieval pottery. This fill was sealed by a dump of reddish-brown silty clay (502) that had been deposited within the remaining open part of ditch 503. This fill contained clay tobacco pipes dating to 1690-1720 as well as medieval and post-medieval pottery and a piece of slag.

The infilled ditch was overlaid by a thin layer of silty clay containing abundant yellow lime mortar (512), then a thin layer of 511 gritty silt (511), in turn sealed by topsoil (510). Layers 510-512 relate to 20th-century activity on the site.

6.2 Trench 2

This trench was located on the lower central area of the site, to the north of the demolished north-west range, and was 7m long and 1.5m wide.

Undisturbed stiff red clay was exposed at a depth of 0.4m from the surface (51.85m AOD). In the central of the trench this was truncated by a north-south aligned terrace (537). This terrace

was shallow, and extended through the eastern part of the trench, where it became deeper (to a maximum depth of 0.28m). The terrace was filled by a brown silty clay (536) containing animal bone and a single sherd of 11th-15th century pottery.

A small rounded posthole (526) was partially exposed to the west of this terrace. This had a fill of dark reddish brown silty clay with slate and charcoal flecks (527).

At the east end of the trench three pits were partially exposed (506, 508 and 504), the earliest of which, 506, had been dug through fill 536 of the terrace. The profile of the pits was generally steep, with some undercutting near the tops, possibly a result of natural weathering. The bases, where surviving, were flat or gently undulating. Pit 506 had a maximum depth of 0.65m, whereas pit 504 had been excavated to a depth of 1.2m.

These pits contained distinctive fills, most of which consisted of reddish grey or brown silty clays containing frequent charcoal and slate, and abundant cauldron mould fragments. Other fills contained charcoal and a small quantity of cauldron mould, whilst some contained or consisted of redeposited red clay. As well as the cauldron mould, other finds from these pits included a small quantity of animal bone, a complete copper alloy pin, metalworking debris, and ironwork. Pottery from the pits dated to the 15 and 16th centuries.

These pits were sealed by a 0.4m thick layer of dark grey silty clay containing rounded stone, and occasional roof slate and ceramic tile fragments. No dating evidence was recovered from this layer.

The other features within this trench relate to the late 19th and early 20th-century expansion of the property. Part of the demolished north-west range was exposed, as brick wall 532. This was abutted to the north by another brick wall (531). This wall marks the western side of the access track to the rear of the property. The area between wall 531 and the north-west range contained the remains of a yard surface (523). This consisted of a thin skin of concrete (524) laid over bricks (525) set on a make-up layer compact silty clay with rubble. Another brick (528) wall lay to the east of wall 531. This was on an east-west alignment, and probably formed the eastern side of the yard 523. This wall incorporated a (partially exposed) large brick plinth on a concrete base.

7. FINDS (Appendix 2).

7.1 General discussion

The finds assemblage is dominated by the large quantity of cauldron mould. An assessment of this material is presented in section 7.2 below. All of the pottery is local, with bulk, of 14th to 16th-century date, deriving from the North Devon pottery kilns. This differs from the earlier pottery, the Exeter fabric series of 11th to 14th century date, which derives from the east of the county.

Although small, the assemblage of faunal bone is interesting, in that a bird or fish bone has been identified. It is also interesting that, along with a small quantity of pottery, the bone had been deposited in the pits containing the cauldron mould. This probably implies that in addition to the metalworking taking place there was also some form of domestic occupation on the site.

7.2 The cauldron mould (Preliminary assessment) by S.R. Blaylock

The collection comprises c.25kg of broken clay mould fragments recovered from the evaluation excavations of December 2005. This represents waste material from a bronze-founder's workshop, probably of the 16th century, used to make tripod cauldrons and possibly other vessels or artefacts (nearly all of the recognisable features in the mould relate to cauldrons, but it is not impossible that other items are represented). The fragments had been backfilled into quarry pits cut in the natural clay, itself probably therefore the raw material of mould-making.

The casting of cauldrons and other vessels (skillets, mortars, etc.), was the trade of brasiers (often also referred to as potters in the medieval period) and bellfounders (Blaylock 2000, 20). The alloy used was a lead-bronze which permitted ready casting at a low temperature, although it was too brittle and temperamental a material for other purposes. Where metallurgical analysis of the alloys used has been carried out, relatively high amounts of arsenic and antimony, plus other trace metals, are often seen, and this has been attributed to the use of a particular type of ore for this purpose, or even that the alloy used for vessels was a by-product of silver refining (Dungworth in Blaylock 2000, 76-8; Dungworth and Nicholas 2004).

Mould fragments were recovered from five contexts: substantial amounts from two main pit fill layers (contexts 501 [fill of pit 504: below, Appendix 1]: 12.699kg and 509 [fill of 508]: 9.866kg); lesser amounts from three further deposits (contexts 505 [lower fill of pit 504]: 1.131kg; 507 [fill of a third quarry pit, 506]: 983g; and 500 [upper fill of pit 504]: 465g). A total weight of 25.144kg.

This assessment is based on a very rapid examination of the material in March 2006, consisting of a sort through the four boxes in which the collection is stored in bags, and the closer visual examination of those fragments that appeared to be diagnostic. The material has been weighed, but no other measurement or other quantification has been done.

Description of the collection

In many ways the mould fragments are typical of collections of late-medieval and early post-medieval cauldron mould, now familiar from an increasing number of sites throughout England (Blaylock 2000, 94-95; Dungworth and Nicholas 2004, 32). A large majority of the fragments are undiagnostic, although they can often be generically attributed to core (the inside section of the mould) or cope (the outside mould) on the basis of their curvature and pattern of colouring (hence the need for quantification of all fragments recovered: below). Because the moulds had to be broken in order to extract the finished casting much of the collection is typically broken into small fragments, often too small for their curvature (and therefore the diameter of the vessels cast from the mould) to be measured. In any given group, however, there are invariably a few larger fragments, and these are of key value in the study of the mould, both because they permit such measurements to be made, and because of their contribution to the reconstruction of the form of vessels cast (below). Rim fragments possessed a moulded profile (as a means of registering the inner and outer moulds), and these are both durable and measurable, with the result that many such fragments figure in the collection of diagnostic fragments. There are a small number of body fragments with substantial sections of profile; more with one or two parallel grooves, representing the single or double moulding wires on the body of the vessel; several examples of vertical and diagonal ribs running from the top of the legs to the moulding wires; and a small number of 'exotics' representing handles and legs of cauldrons. The legs are of two types: the clustered

'ribbed' leg, broadly triangular in plan, and the flat leg with a central rib, flanges to either side, and a splayed 'foot'. Both are types known from surviving vessels and other foundry collections.

Distinctive aspects of this collection are that the Crediton mould is relatively well baked by the heat of drying of, and casting in, the mould. It is also generally rather thinner than average. As a result it is more durable than the average for Exeter mould (which is very poorly baked and friable in consequence) and it has proved possible to wash the fragments (making handling and study considerably easier and cleaner). This difference although in a sense superficial, must also reflect differences in the properties of the clay used and possibly also in aspects of the mould-making process. The profile of the vessels is also very distinctive. Those pieces that are large enough to yield a comprehensible section of profile show (a) a straight upper body rising from a pronounced break in profile at the turn of the base, a point often articulated by a projecting rib or wire; (b) below this carination a strongly convex base profile. The typical profile (inasmuch as it can be gauged from an initial inspection of the mould), is therefore distinctive and unlike the typical profile recorded in Exeter (which is convex at the shoulder of the vessel, more curved at the widest point, and therefore less markedly convex in the base), and for that matter in the majority of surviving vessels (e.g. Butler and Green 2003, *passim*). The collection of mould from Taunton, however, does contain some fragments of similar profile (author's work in progress: as yet unpublished), so it can be provisionally concluded that the Crediton mould shows some distinctive characteristics that link it to products suggested as coming generally from Somerset, and specifically from the Taunton foundry. This foundry is neither closely dated nor connected firmly with a known founder, so the usefulness of this information is limited at present. It does, on the other hand, demonstrate that even a cursory inspection of mould material can yield some observations and results of interest.

Recommendation for further treatment

The mould should be laid out and the collection inspected as a whole. This will facilitate quantification, then enable the material to be weeded; finally the material selected for retention can then be marked.

Quantification: Basic quantification should include counting and classifying the collection according to mould type and position of fragments, measuring of the size of as many fragments as possible (using forms designed for the purpose, but based on those used previously at Exeter and Taunton), plus additional weighing by group and type within contexts.

Drawing: Selected fragments should be drawn (a) as a record of the key features of the collection (and thereby of the nature of this foundry assemblage); (b) as the means of reconstructing typical vessel(s) form(s) from this foundry. My preliminary look at the collection resulted in my noting some 25-30 fragments that would be obvious candidates for drawing, to this should be added those that would provide routine records of ranges of sizes (mainly measurable rim fragments), plus a handful of other distinctive pieces: giving a (very) rough guess at a total of perhaps 50-60 fragments likely to merit drawing.

Photography: Group photographs of selected mould fragments will supplement the drawings and provide additional means of illustrating the material in interim and final reports (compare the illustrations in recent reports on collections of mould from Taunton and Chester: Blaylock 2001; 2005).

Metallurgical analysis: A small number of mould fragments have traces of waste metal (no more than three). In addition two scraps of possible casting waste or scrap metal are recorded from context 509. Past experience has shown that metal traces in mould often consists of little more than corrosion product, but it would be worth attempting quantitative analysis on these and the waste fragments in the hope of identifying the alloy(s) in use in this foundry. David Dungworth (English Heritage Centre for Archaeology, Portsmouth) would be the ideal person to do this.

Documentary research: No known bronze founding (or, for that matter, bell-founding) activity had been associated with Crediton in the past, and the find of waste moulds and quarry pits therefore comes as a surprise. It is conceivable, however, that further research will be able either to identify the occupants of this property through the relevant period (and thereby suggest possible identities of founders), or to identify named craftsmen in Crediton (who might then be linked with the foundry site).

Written report: For initial purposes this assessment is intended to provide an overview of the mould material and recommendations for its treatment. Initially this is enough as a preliminary account of the material, but if nothing more is done on the site consideration should be given to publishing this collection as a stand-alone find. This would need to contain an illustrated account of the material and its affinities, cover the historical and documentary context, and consider the implications of the survival of foundry deposits for any future work on the site. If further archaeological work does take place, then the material recovered from the evaluation will best be studied, reported on and published in association with any further finds from that work. Thus a decision on the best way forward is dependent on the future work on the site.

Conclusion

Any finds of mould material are significant: this was one of the major industries of the later medieval and early modern period, closely allied to bell founding (indeed often carried out by the same craftsmen), and often on the same sites as well (although because of the different alloys involved probably using separate foundry installations). Although some bronze foundry sites have been known archaeologically for many years, this is an emerging subject, reflecting partly increased coverage in modern archaeological work, but also a greater awareness of this as a class of material, with publication and dissemination of the results of earlier work (e.g. Blaylock 1996; *idem* 2000; Butler and Green 2003).

In summary, this is an important find that will eventually require publication (whether as a stand-alone piece or in the context of reporting of any further archaeological work on the site in the course of its development). The Crediton foundry joins three excavated foundries from Exeter (Mermaid Yard: late medieval; Cowick Street: c.1525-1625; and Paul Street (c.1625-1720), one from Taunton and one from South Petherton in demonstrating the physical remains of this important industry in the South-West peninsula.

8. DISCUSSION

8.1 General discussion

The earliest features on the site date to the medieval period, after the 11th century. No earlier finds were found.

The rear boundary was at first delineated by ditch 514. This ditch went out of use by the 14th or 15th century. This was replaced by ditch 503, which was dug slightly to the north extending the length of the plot. Following a period when the ditch partially silted up, the boundary was re-established. This latest boundary fell out of use after the 16th century, and was deliberately infilled c. 1700.

The earliest activity within the plot took the form of terrace 537 that dated to between the 11th to 14th centuries. This terrace was situated within what is now the eastern part of 35 East Street, possibly indicating at that date the site was divided into two properties.

During the 15th century, or perhaps more likely the 16th century, the site was used for metalworking, specifically the manufacture of cauldrons. This activity may be contemporary with ditch 503. Again, evidence for the metalworking, was restricted to the eastern part of the site, again indicating that the site was divided into two properties. This division may have continued until the 19th century when the title map of 1839 depicts the rear of the site as being divided into two properties.

The evidence for the manufacture of cauldrons took the form of pits backfilled with broken mould fragments. These pits are characteristic of quarry pits dug for the extraction of clay used in the manufacture of the moulds (Blaylock 1996, 74-5). No evidence for structures or installations such as casting pits were found, and it is assumed that these are located elsewhere on the site.

If the animal bone, and perhaps the pin, is evidence of domestic activity, then it is likely that a dwelling would have occupied the street frontage, as depicted on John Norden's map of 1598. To the rear would have been foundry workshops, as well as quarry pits. This layout would compare with the foundry at Cowick Street, and probably also at Paul Street, both in Exeter (*ibid.*, figs 3 and 10). Interestingly, no quarry pits were located at the north end of the site, in trench 1, where the natural clay contained a significant proportion of gravel. This material was presumably too stony for use in the moulds.

Only a single archaeological deposit for the post-medieval period after c. 1700 and the late 19th century-early 20th century survived, a later overlying the quarry pits. The existing property was constructed between 1888 and 1904 and replaced three earlier buildings along the street frontage. The new property included dwellings, an industrial building and other outbuildings.

8.2 Impact and mitigation

The evaluation has demonstrated the presence of important archaeological deposits within the east and north ends of the site where development is proposed. Any deposits within the west side of the site, and most later post-medieval deposits, had been truncated by the construction of the 19th/20th century buildings. In the eastern of the site (trench 2), the 16th-century and earlier deposits were present at a depth of 0.36m below the existing surface (51.90m AOD).

At the north end of the site the deposits are buried by up to 0.50m of soils relating to the *raised* garden. The level of natural ground is similar to that in trench 2, although the later deposits survive at a higher level than in trench 2 (at 52.50m AOD).

Surviving *in situ* remains of bell and cauldron production sites in Exeter, although well preserved, has been shown to be fragile. Here hand excavation was required. Machine

excavation has been used where only large quarry pits have been identified. A suitable environmental sampling procedure should also provide additional evidence on the domestic occupation of the site.

9. ARCHIVE

A fully integrated and indexed site archive has been prepared using the project number 5552 and is currently held at Exeter Archaeology offices at Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter EX4 3LS.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The project was commissioned by Edward Holden Architect, and managed for EA by T.H. Gent. Fieldwork was undertaken by T.H. Gent and A.J. Passmore. J.P. Allan, S.R. Blaylock and J. Wheeler processed the finds, and the report illustrations were prepared by A.J. Passmore, J. Read, and G. Young (photographs).

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Appendix 1: Context descriptions

Trench 1			
No.	Description	Dating Evidence	Interpretation
502	Reddish brown silty clay containing very occasional slate, occasional charcoal, and very rare oyster shell and yellow lime mortar.	Clay pipe bowl fragments (1690-1720).	Dump of material over cut feature 533 'infilling' open ditch 503.
503	Linear ditch with gentle sides and a flat base.		Late medieval/early post-medieval property boundary at rear of site replacing an earlier ditch 514.
510	Mid grey loose humic clay silt.		Turf and topsoil associated with 20th-century raised garden area.
511	Dark grey gritty silt.		Topsoil layer/levelling associated with 20th-century raised garden area.
512	Reddish brown silty clay containing abundant yellow lime mortar.		Possibly an upper fill of 503/533 or levelling associated with 20th-century raised garden area.
513	Reddish brown silty clay		Layer sealing early features 514 and 516, possibly a late medieval cultivation soil.
514	Irregular but linear ditch with steep sides and a generally flat base that deepens adjacent to south edge.		Medieval property boundary at rear of site.
515	Orange brown silty clay containing occasional fragments of Ham or Salcombe stone, occasional charcoal and very occasional degraded bone.	14th-15th- century coarsewares	Fill of ditch 514, and probably contains some naturally silting.
516	Linear curt feature with vertical north side – feature is heavily truncated.		Unknown – heavily truncated
517	Not recorded		Fill of feature 516 – heavily truncated.
533	Steep-sided up – south edge only exposed.		Cut into base of ditch 503 forming re-establishment of the boundary.
534	Reddish brown silty clay containing abundant roof slate, occasional charcoal and very rare small fragments of oyster shell and animal bone, some stones more frequent with depth.	16th century coarsewares	Fill of cut 533.
535	Orange brown gritty silty clay containing occasional roof slate.		Natural silting of the base of ditch 503.

Trench 2			
No.	Description	Dating Evidence	Interpretation
500	Dark reddish grey firm silty clay containing frequent charcoal, occasional mould fragments, animal bone and roof slate fragments		Upper fill of quarry pit 504.
501	Dark reddish brown very compact silty clay containing frequent charcoal fragment and abundant mould fragments, rare redeposited clay and animal bone.	15th-century coarsewares	Fill of quarry pit 504.
504	Sub-circular pit with vertical or near-vertical sides and some undercutting, with a rounded base.		Latest of three quarry pits dug to extract clay.
505	Reddish grey firm silty clay containing frequent mould fragments, rare charcoal and roof slate fragments, angular local stone, and animal bone.		Full of quarry pit 504.
506	Sub-circular pit with steep sides and a little undercutting with a flat base		Earliest of three quarry pits dug to extract clay.
507	Reddish grey firm silty clay containing frequent charcoal and mould fragments/.	15th or 16th-century coarsewares	Lower fill of quarry pit 506.
508	Circular pit with upper part of sides undercut, then steeply sloping sides.		Second of three quarry pits dug to extract clay.
509	Reddish brown firm silty clay containing mould and charcoal fragments.	16th century coarseware	Fill of quarry pit 508
518	Dark grey firm silty clay containing frequent rounded stone and occasional roof slate and ceramic tile.		Post-medieval levelling over eastern part of site.
519	Reddish grey soft silty clay containing frequent mould fragments and rare charcoal fragments and roof slate.		Upper fill of quarry pit 506.
520	Dark reddish grey firm silty clay containing occasional mould and charcoal fragments, roof slate fragments and a large band of redeposited clay.		Fill of quarry pit 504.
521	Band of redeposited red compact clay containing frequent moulds, charcoal fragments and roof slate..		Fill of quarry pit 504.
522	Reddish brown firm silty clay containing frequent mould waste, and occasional charcoal.		Fill of quarry pit 504.
523	Surface between walls 528 and 532 composed of 524, 538 and 525.		Late 19th century or early 20th century yard surface.
524	Concrete forming surface of yard 523.		
525	Layer of bricks laid in rows aligned north-south – part of 523.		Brick surface, possibly a surface earlier than 524.
526	Posthole with vertical sides and a curving bottom edge with an undulating base.		Possibly part of a property boundary.
527	Dark reddish brown firm silty clay with slate and charcoal fragments.		Fill of posthole 526.
528	Brick wall laid in English bond with		Late 19th century or early

Trench 2			
No.	Description	Dating Evidence	Interpretation
	yellow soft mortar, with an integral brick plinth on a concrete base.		20th century boundary wall to yard 523.
529	Linear cut with near vertical sides – base not exposed.		Construction trench for wall 528.
530	Soft yellow mortar.		Backfill of construction trench 529.
531	Brick wall laid in Flemish bond with soft yellow mortar.		Late 19th century or early 20th century boundary wall to yard 523.
532	Brick wall laid in Flemish bond.		Rear wall of demolished west range.
536	Brown soft silty clay containing frequent charcoal, occasional roof slate and animal bone.	11th-14th-century coarseware	Occupation deposit or soil layer within terrace 537.
537	North-south aligned terrace with a gentle slope and a flat base gently sloping down to east.		Terrace within the eastern part of the site.
538	Dark reddish brown compact clayey silt containing brick, charcoal, mortar and slate fragments.		Make-up material for surface 523.

Appendix 2: Finds listing, by *J. Wheeler*

What follows is an alphabetical finds listing for the evaluation at 35 East Street, Crediton. All weights given are in grams (to the nearest 2 grams). SF denotes small finds number and qty denotes quantity. The following site code was used to mark artefacts & ecofacts: DCES 05

Context Dating

<i>context</i>	<i>date/period</i>
501	?16C
502	Clay pipe: 1690-1720 Pottery: 17C, resid med
505	Late med (?15-16C)
507	?15-16C
509	15-16C
515	?14-15C
534	?14-16C
536	11-14C

Bone-faunal

<i>context</i>	<i>qty</i>	<i>comments</i>
501	9	Fragments
505	3	Fragments
507	2	Fragments (?cattle)
	1	?bird ?fish bone
509	8	7 fragments bone, 1 tooth (?cattle)
536	2	1 fragment bone, 1 ?tusk

Cauldron mould

<i>context</i>	<i>weight</i>
500	465
501	12,699
505	1,131
507	983
509	9866
Total	25,144

weight:

Clay Pipe

<i>context</i>	<i>bowls</i>	<i>stems</i>	<i>dates/comments</i>
502	1	-	2 fragments same bowl (1690-1720)

Copper Alloy

<i>context</i>	<i>SF</i>	<i>qty</i>	<i>comments</i>
501	401	1	Pin, complete (post-14- 15C)
509	-	2	?Metalworking debris, scraps

Ironwork

<i>context</i>	<i>qty</i>	<i>comments</i>
501	1	?object
509	2	Nails

Pottery & Dating Evidence*Abbreviations Listing*

C	Century
Cal	Calcareous
Cp	Cooking pot
Cw	Coarseware
Exe	Exeter
Fab	Fabric
Gd	Granite-derived
Gfw	Gravel-free ware
Gn	Green
Gtw	Gravel-tempered ware
Hnd	Handle
Jg	Jug
L	Late
Med	Medieval
ND	North Devon
Sgraf	Sgraffito
Slp&cop	Slip and copper
SS	South Somerset
Unc	Unclassified

<i>context</i>	<i>contents/dating evidence</i>	<i>sherds</i>	<i>vessels</i>
501	Gd ?ND (?16C) ?ND (?16C)	3 1	3 1
502	Exe fab 20 cp (11-14C) Exe fab 40 jg (L13-14C) ?ND cw (Med) ND gfw (16- 19C) ND gtw (16- 19C) SS (17C) SS slp&cop gn sgraf (17-18C) Unc (?ND) jg (?14-15C)	1 1 3 3 17 1 1 1	1 1 3 3 3 1 1 1
505	ND, cp (LM)	1	1
507	Gd ?ND (?L15- 16C)	2	2
509	ND cal, hnd (?16C) ND cw (Med) ND jgs (LM)	1 1 2	1 1 2

515	GD cp (?14-15C)	2	1
	ND cw, cp (Med)	4	1
	?ND ?SS jg (14- 15C)	1	1
534	Exe fab 40 jg (L13-14C)	1	1
	ND gtw (16- 19C)	13	5
	?ND cw, cp (Med)	6	2
	?ND cw (?16C)	5	3
	Unc jg (Med)	4	2
	Unc (?16C)	1	1
536	Exe fab 20 cp (11-14C)	1	1

Statistics

total number of sherds: 76

minimum number of vessels: 42

Slag

<i>context</i>	<i>qty</i>	<i>comments</i>
502	1	?slag

Small Finds

<i>SF</i>	<i>context</i>	<i>qty</i>	<i>material</i>	<i>comments</i>
40	501	1	Cu A	Pin, complete
1				(14-15C)

Tile

<i>contex t</i>	<i>qty</i>	<i>comments</i>
507	2	Roof tile (?16C)



Fig. 1 Location of site. Reproduced from the 1:25000 Outdoor Leisure™ map 114 by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1997. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL 10016685.

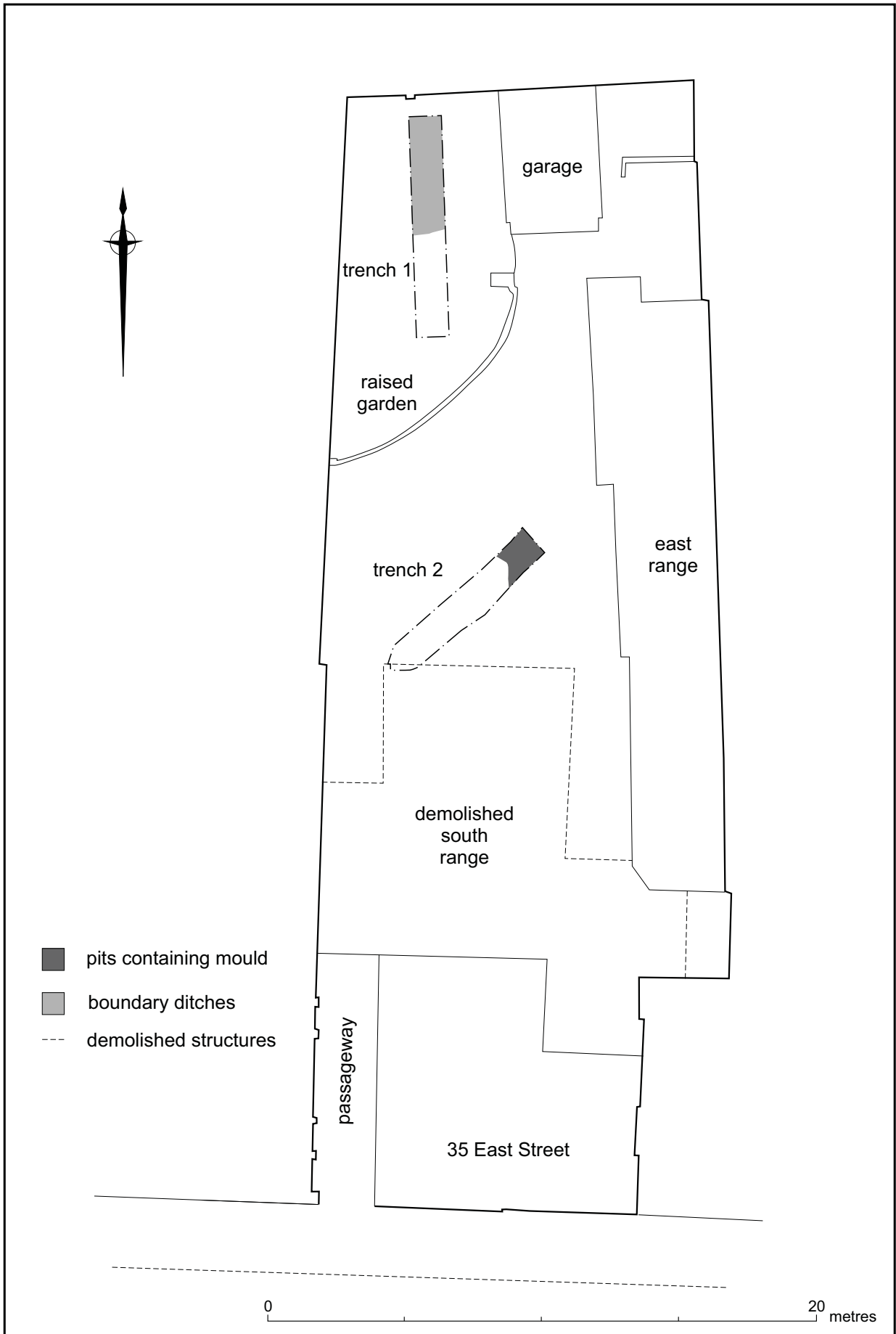


Fig. 2 Site plan, showing location of buildings and trenches. Scale 1:200.

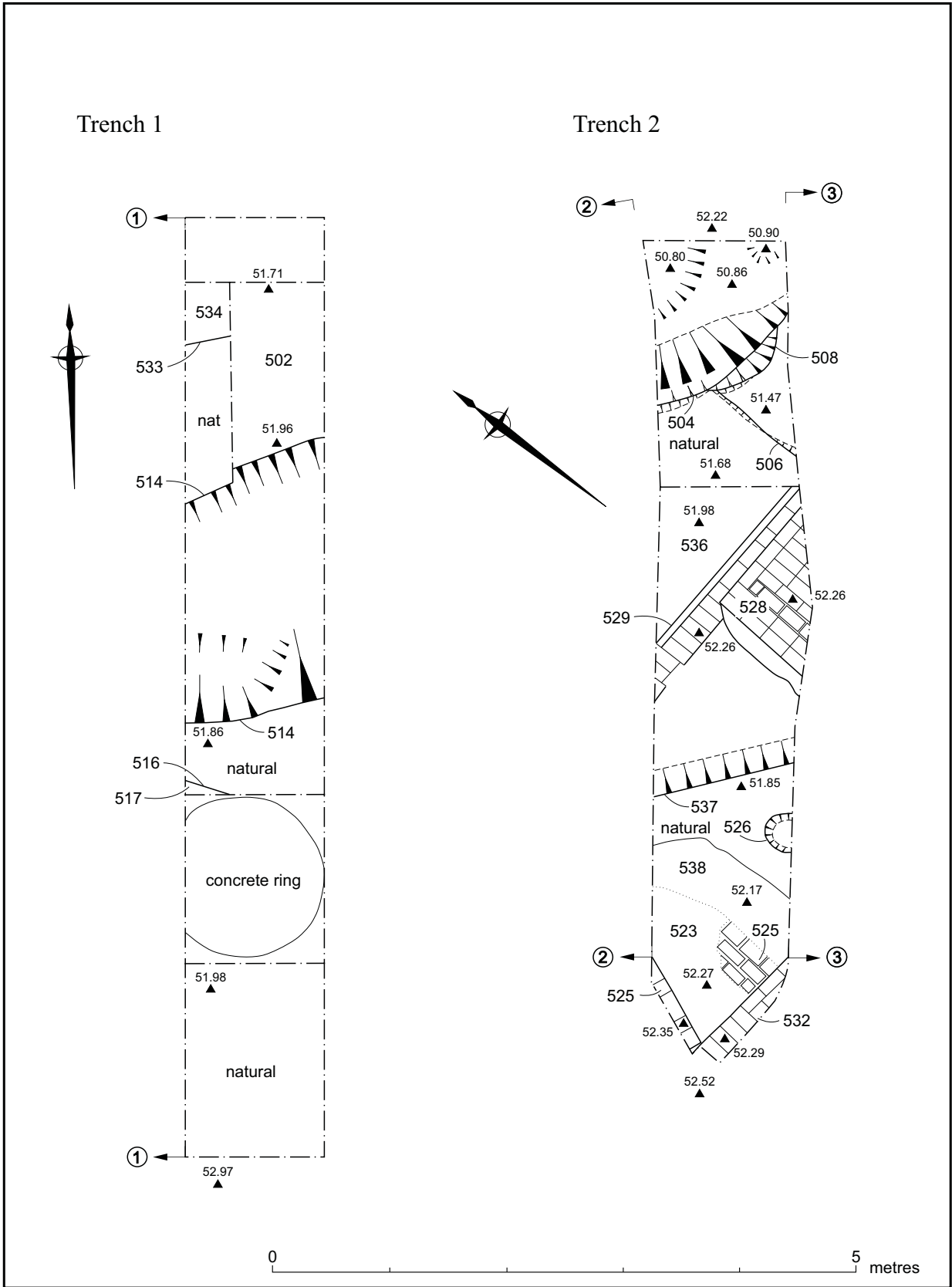
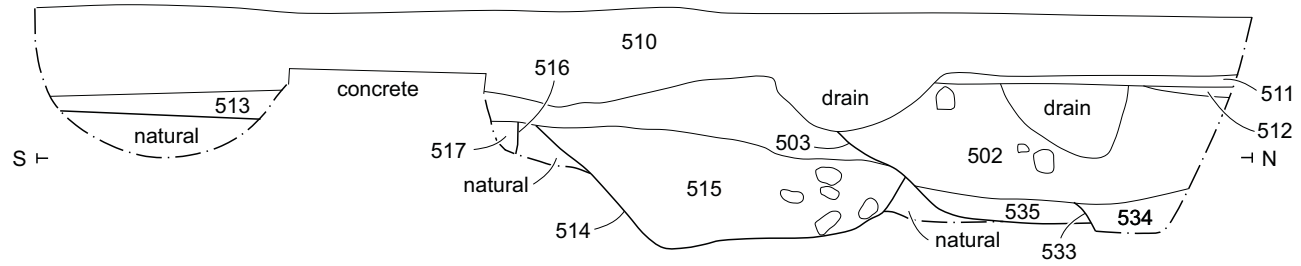
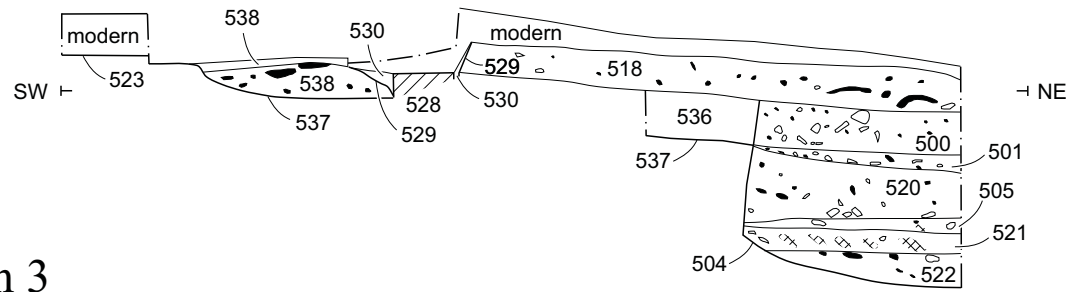


Fig. 3 Trench plans. Scale 1:50.

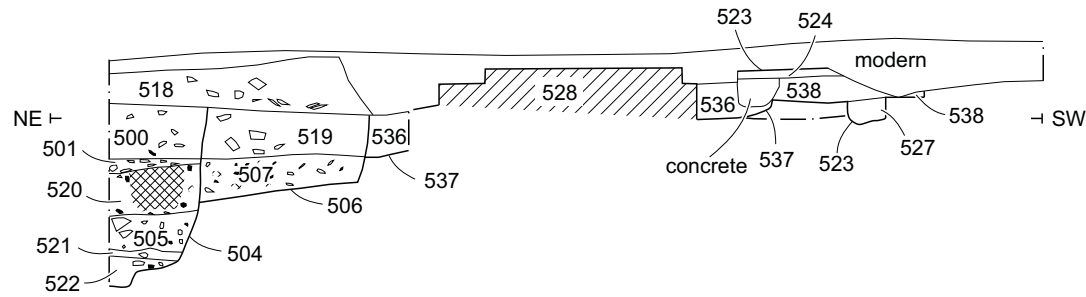
Section 1



Section 2



Section 3



datum heights 52m aod

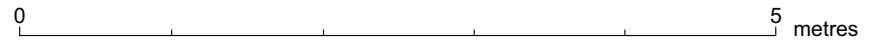


Fig. 4 Sections. Scale 1:50.