

## Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Upottery, East Devon	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> ST 2021 0750	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording at The Old Vicarage, Rawridge Road, Upottery		<b>Photo attached:</b> N
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 10/0186/FUL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Royal Albert Memorial Museum	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> exeterar1 78664	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> 110/2010	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> EA 7243	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 02/06/10 – 03/06/10	
<p><b>Background (Fig.1)</b> The site is that of the Old Vicarage, Upottery which lies approximately 50m south of the Grade II* Listed parish church of St Mary the Virgin which has origins dating back at least to the Norman period. A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was required by East Devon District Council as advised by Devon County Council Historic Environment Service (DCHES), as a condition of planning consent, during works to create a new patio terrace with associated retaining walls on the northeast side of the house. Given the proximity of the site to the church, with its medieval antecedents, the archaeological potential of the site was recognised and a brief prepared by the DCHES Arch/dc/ed/15926.</p> <p><b>Description of works: (Fig. 2)</b> The creation of the terrace on the NE side of the house involved the removal of topsoil and subsoil over an area of 13m x 20m to formation level (typically 500mm below the existing ground surface). The works also involved the excavation of two foundation trenches for a retaining wall. These works were monitored for archaeological purposes. The initial reduction revealed a topsoil (4) with a minimum depth of about 0.60m thickening to 150mm and upwards to the north east. The topsoil was a dark black-brown silty clay with frequent brick and slate fragments and pottery sherds of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. Below the topsoil on the NE side of the wall was a deposit of mid-brown silty clay (2) which was observed across the whole site. The only feature apparent in the ground reduction was what appeared to be a revetment wall (wall 5) on a NW-SE alignment which was revealed just below the topsoil – a length of 4.6m was exposed (Fig. 3); this wall was between 200 and 400mm wide. At its eastern end the wall appeared to terminate and it was not seen in Trench 2 where it might have been expected to appear; however some stones which may have derived from the wall were observed a short distance further to the east. The wall was of flint and quartz construction with alternate courses bonded with yellow sand. Where seen in section (Fig. 3 section 1) the wall appears to have functioned as a revetment wall with a terraced 'inner' level having been created to the SW of the wall. The revetted material (2) comprised a mid-brown silty clay, in excess of 400mm deep where recorded behind the wall. The terrace to the SW of the wall appears at a later date to have been raised to the existing ground level by deposit (1) a dark black-brown silty clay containing 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery</p> <p>Trench 1 for the proposed retaining wall bounding the patio was aligned with the SE wall of the present house (Fig. 2); it was 13m in length. A wall (6) on a near north-south alignment was observed in Trench 1 about 5.6m from the SE corner of the house. This wall was flint stone with a random rubble core and was at least 1.4m wide; it cut through layer 2 the thick layer of silty clay which had been terraced away further to the northwest. The foundation of the wall was not bottomed – it was recorded to a depth of 1.04m which was the required formation level for the proposed revetment wall. Running down within the body of the wall on the same alignment was a brick-built culvert (7) which is 400mm deep and 300mm wide; one surviving capping stone was visible within the limits of the excavated trench (Fig.3). After it had gone out of use the culvert became filled with a silty clay (8) containing brick fragments and 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery fragments.</p>		

The typical deposit sequence in Trench 1 was as follows:

00 -640mm dark black-brown silty clay topsoil (equivalent to layer 4)

640-750mm mixed topsoil as above but with inclusions of frequent brick and slate fragments

750-940mm deposit of mid-brown silty clay (equivalent to layer 2)

Trench 2 for the proposed retaining wall bounding the patio was aligned parallel with the northeast wall of the house; it was 17m in length. Wall 5, which had previously been observed immediately to the south, was not located in this trench

The typical deposit sequence in Trench 2 was as follows:

00 -640mm dark black-brown silty clay – topsoil (equivalent to layer 4)

640-840mm mixed deposit of yellow silty clay – redeposited natural

840-1.2m deposit of mid- to dark-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks – made ground - (equivalent to layer 2); maximum formation depth reached.

Differing natural subsoils were viewed on occasion and these comprised either a mid- to light-brown clay or a yellow sandy gravel

#### **Summary**

The deposits below topsoil (which contained 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery) are undated. No prepared surface was found associated with wall (5) and it may represent a garden revetment wall of probable post-medieval date although on a different alignment to the present house. The brick-built culvert (7) within a stone base is post-medieval in date. It would appear unlikely, from its alignment and construction, that the brick culvert is a later and separate feature post-dating the stone wall (6) which supports it.

No significant dateable archaeological deposits or artefacts were recovered and no pottery finds earlier than the 19<sup>th</sup> century were recovered.

#### **Recorder:**

J. Austin (Exeter Archaeology)

J. Pamment Salvatore (Exeter Archaeology)

#### **Date sent to HER:**



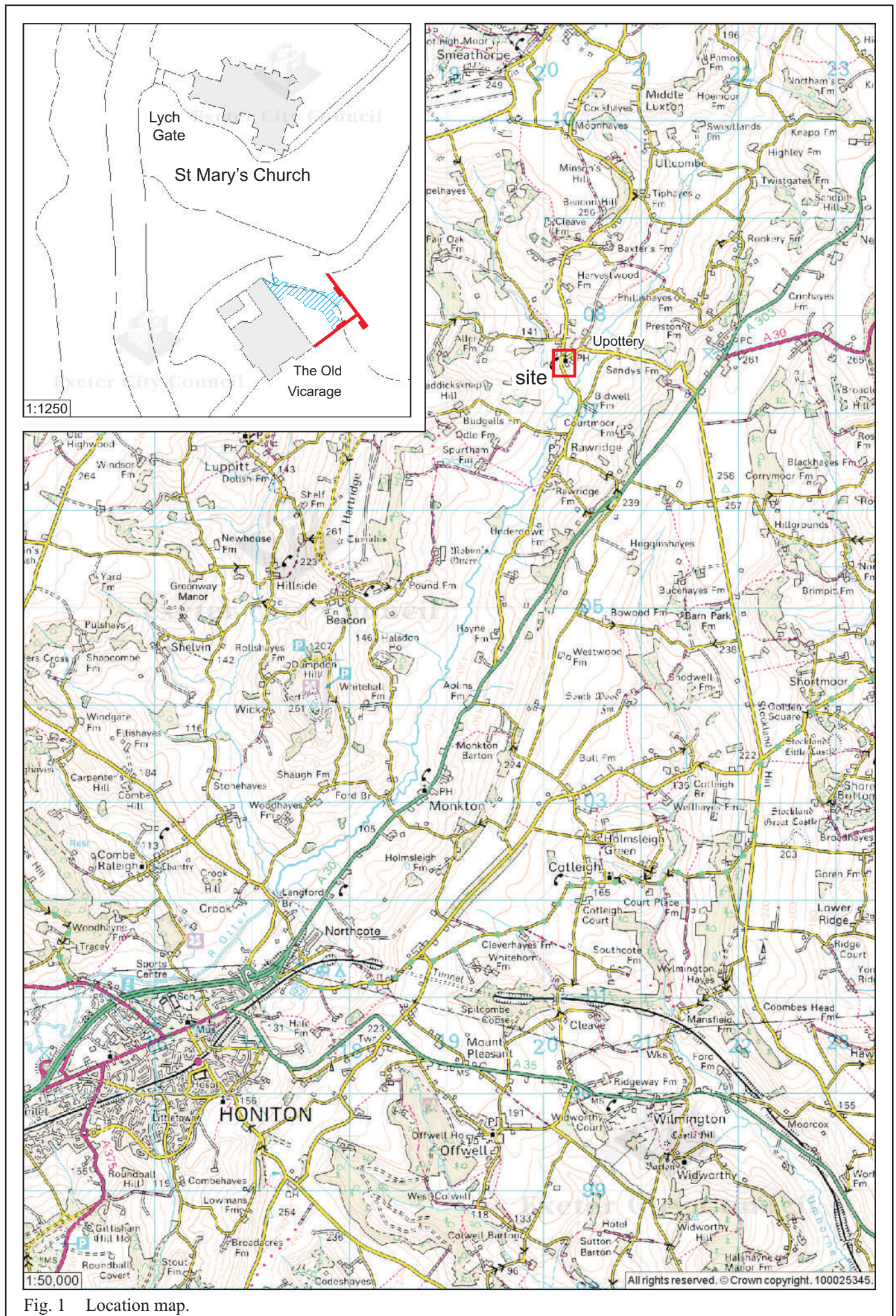


Fig. 1 Location map.



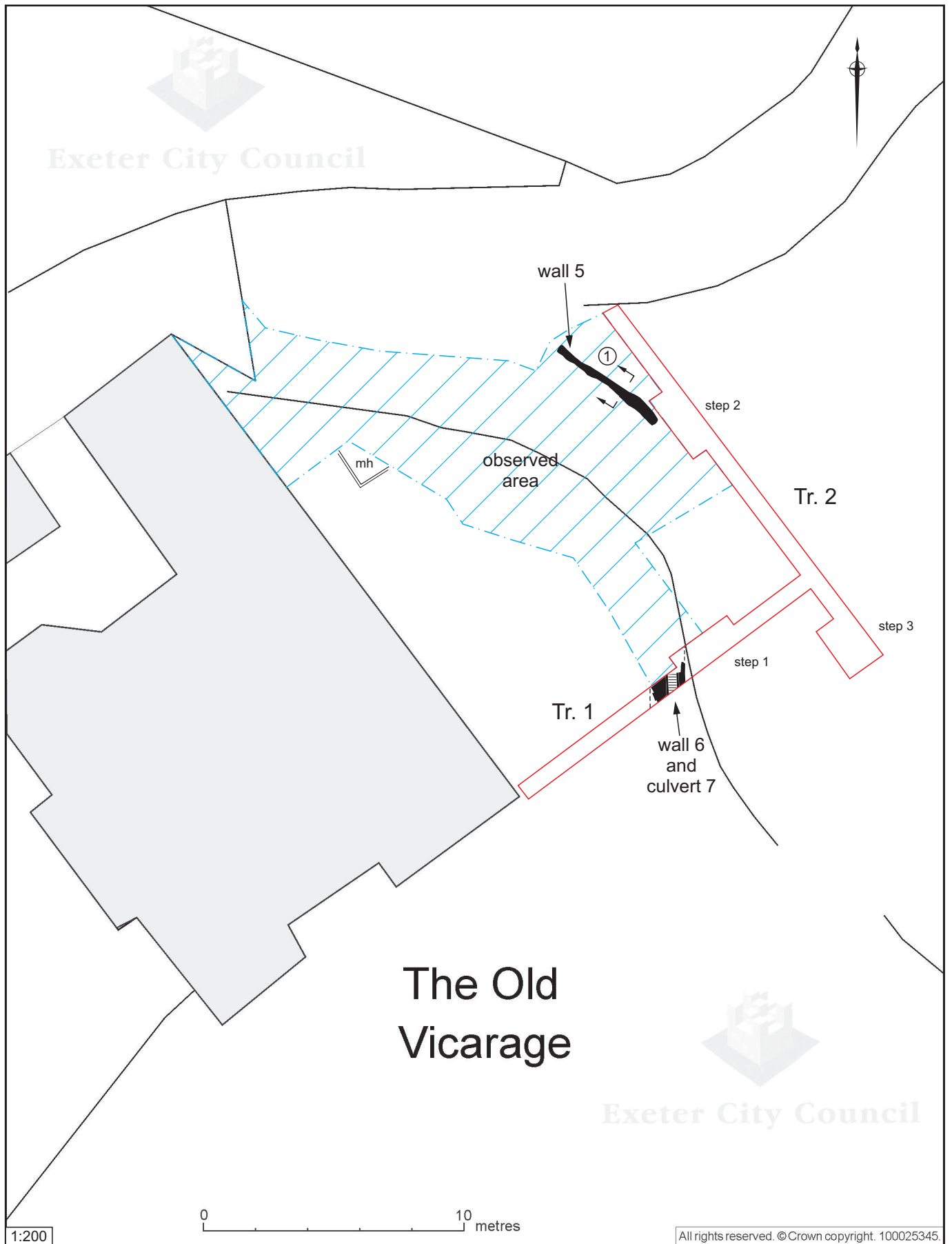
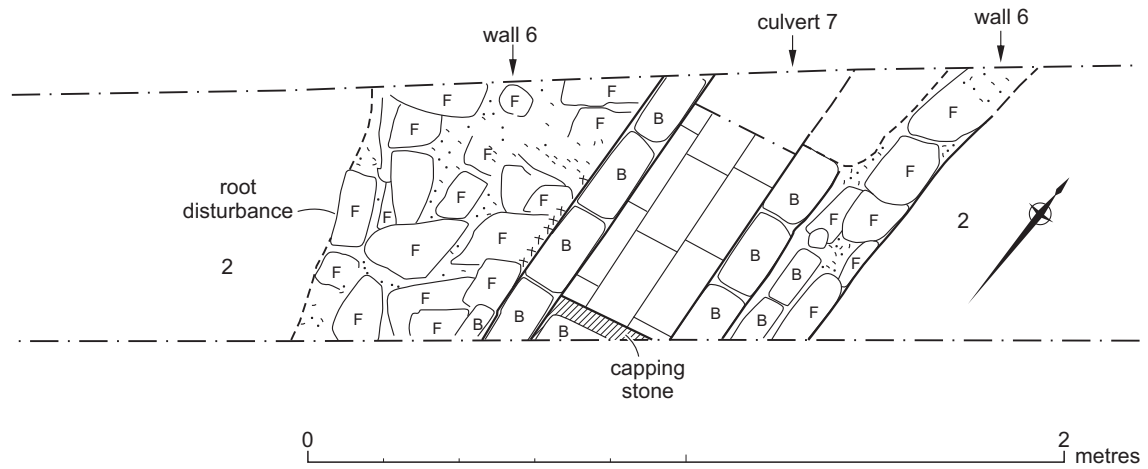


Fig. 2 Trench location plan.

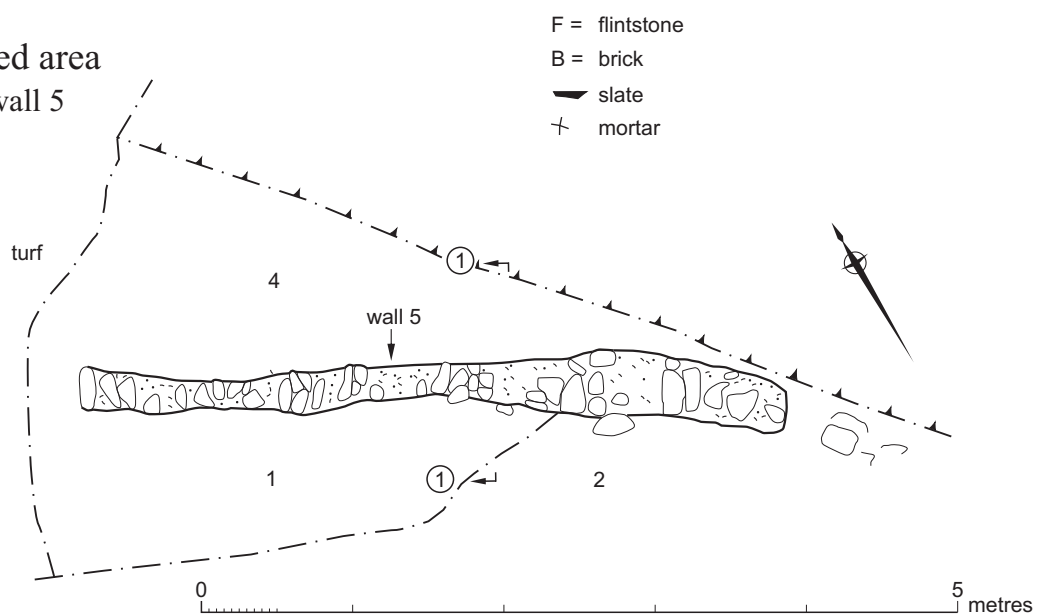
## Trench 1

### Plan of wall 6 and culvert 7



## Observed area

### Plan of wall 5



## Section 1

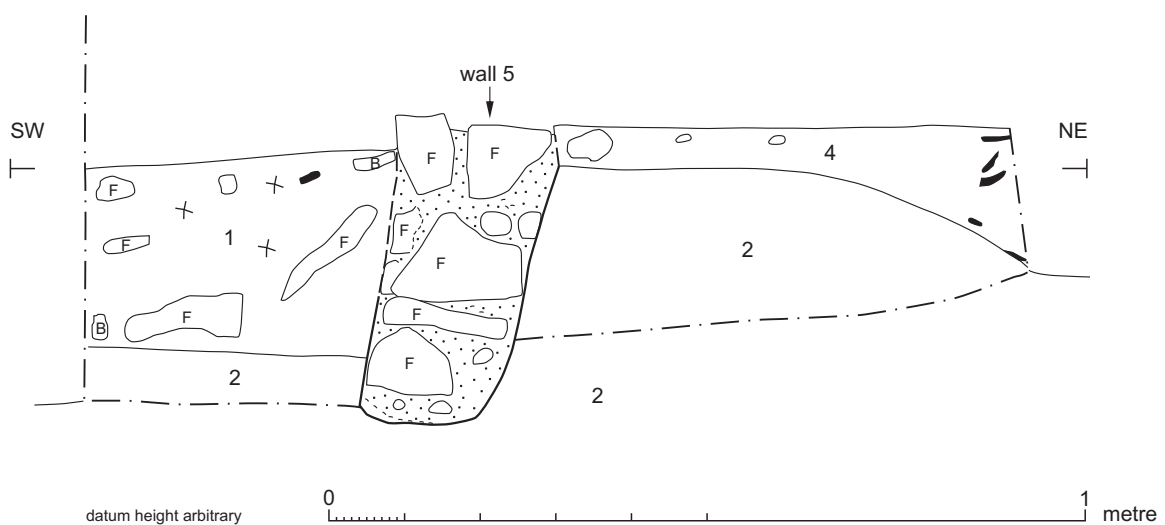


Fig. 3 Trench 1: plan of wall 6 and culvert 7, and observed area: plan and section through wall 5.