

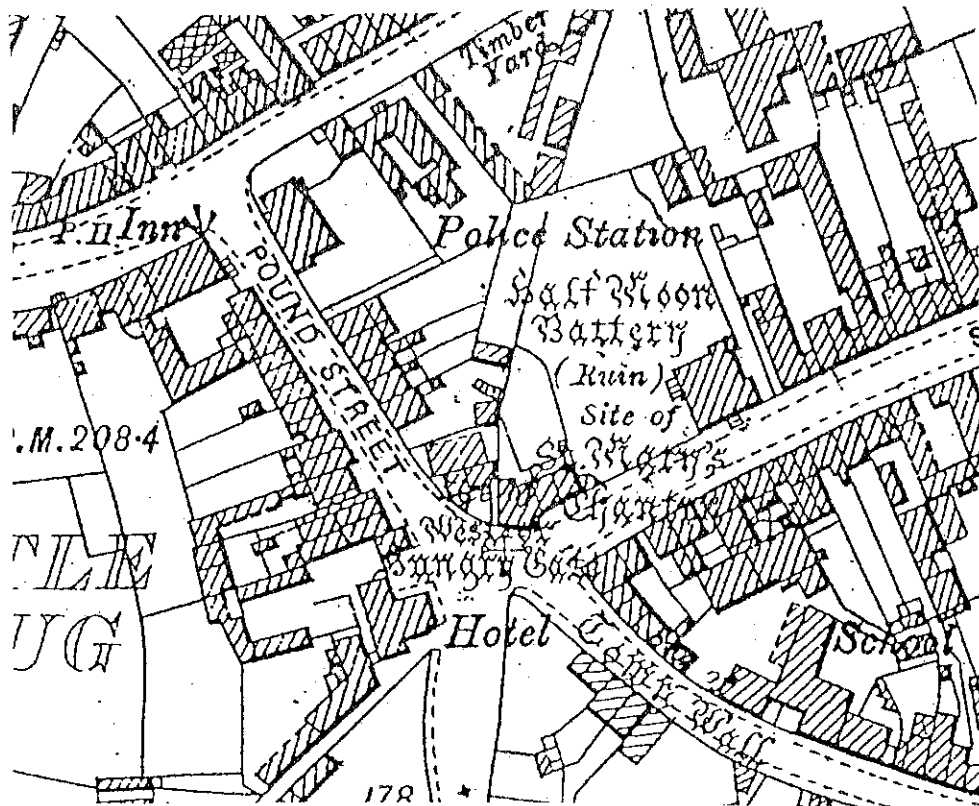
Archaeological Evaluation of the former Tobacco Clay Pipe Factory, Whitburn Street, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

to include:

Archaeological Evaluation Programme

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Cover: Detail of the 1884 OS

Archaeological Evaluation of the former Tobacco Clay Pipe Factory, Whitburn Street, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Border Archaeology was commissioned by Huramic Ltd., Salop Street, Bridgnorth, to undertake an archaeological programme of work at a site on the junction of Pound Street and Whitburn Street, Bridgnorth, Shropshire (NGR SO 7133 9312) prior to development. For the purposes of this report, the development site will be referred to as the site of the former tobacco clay pipe factory. The site was last used commercially as a watch factory.
- 1.2 An archaeological brief was prepared by Shropshire Archaeology Service (monitor: Mr Michael Watson), outlining an archaeological programme of work. The purpose of the work was to assess the nature of any archaeological remains and to record any such remains. Shropshire Archaeology Service considered it likely that significant remains would be found within the site area. The brief states that the site 'lies within the historic core of the Medieval town of Bridgnorth.' From the map regression, the site lies close to the site of a half moon battery of the 13th century (PRN 00127). The site is also within the Medieval core of the town, an area referred to as Little Brug (PRN 06044).
- 1.3 The archaeological programme of work is incorporated into guidelines of Planning Policy Guidance 16 (PPG 16). The proposed development of the site is to include housing units. Development of the site is to include an archaeological investigation comprising groundworks in the form of trenching. Included within this report is a brief study outlining the history and archaeology of the immediate area.
- 1.4 A copy of this report will be submitted to the client and to Shropshire Archaeology Service. Further copies will be deposited with the county Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).
- 1.5 The evaluation required stringent on-site procedures that complied with present Health and Safety standards set by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).
- 1.6 The site was managed by George Nash and James Archer (Project Archaeologist) and project managed by Neil Shurety. The project archaeologists included Steven Binnersley, Steven Phillips and Michael Shurety.

2.0 BRIEF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The place-name evidence is complex. There is no mention of a settlement of Bridgnorth in Domesday Book (Thorn & Thorn 1986). However, reference to the settlement of *Cwatbrycge* (or *Brycge*) in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle has been noted. It has been suggested that the first element refers to a pre-conquest 'bridge' (Gelling 1990:58). A *burh* (or fortification) may also have been present at Bridgnorth. The first real documentary evidence occurs in the 1156 Pipe Rolls, when Bridgnorth is referred to as *Brug*. In the Close Rolls of 1282, the town is known as *Brugg'Norht* (Mason 1957). The present name was not used until the 18th century.
- 2.2 According to the archaeological assessment of Bridgnorth in the *Central Marches Historic Towns Survey* (Buteux 1996), the research area falls outside the influence of the castle and the early Medieval settlement (located within the outer bailey). The research area, which includes Listley Street, Pound Street, St Mary's Street, Salop Street and Whitburn Street, abuts the western extent of the

outer bailey. The site, formerly an 18th and 19th century tobacco clay pipe works, and the adjacent plot, are given SMR numbers of SA 6028 and 6029.

- 2.3 Although the research area lies outside the Medieval urban form, a number of Medieval sites suggest the parish of Little Brug (also referred to as *Brugg*) was important to the growth of the Medieval town. For example, the line of Listley Street appears to follow the line of the Medieval town defences. In a yard behind No.16 Pound Street, 50m east of the site, there is the semi-hexagonal section of a 13th century half moon battery (PRN 00127) (NGR SO 7137 9309) formerly attached to the town walls. The SMR states that the [red] sandstone masonry is roughly coursed and survives in places to a height of 4m. Urban settlement probably extended along this section of the wall during the late Medieval period, when the defences fell into disrepair. Associated with the half moon battery are sections of the [stone] town wall at the rear of No.93 Cartway (PRN 00374). The wall, including sections within the research area, are shown on a 17th century map of the town to be in a fragmentary state. Also associated with the town walls, and located within the research area, are the sites of the main Medieval town gates: Listley Gate (SA 376) and Whitburn Gate (SA 380, PRN 00380). Listley Gate stood at the junction of Listley Street and Pound Street, immediately south of the half moon battery. Whitburn Gate was located between Nos.34-5 and 52 Whitburn Street. The gate stood until 1761, prior to which it had been used as a dwelling.
- 2.4 Survival of the Medieval and later Post-Medieval tenement plots within the research area is good. The SMR lists plots in Listley Street (PRN 05643 & 06053), Pound Street (PRN 05682 & 06052), St Mary's Street (PRN 05643), Salop Street (PRN 05681, 06040, 06041 & 06042) and Whitburn Street (PRN 05642 & 05644). These form part of the planned town layout. According to the SMR, no Medieval buildings survive within this area but a number of Listed buildings date from the 16th century. No Medieval buildings survive in St Mary's Street or Listley Street.
- 2.5 Along with the tenement plots, the research area contains a section of the Medieval street plan (PRN 05647). Croom (1992) suggests that the urban form dates to the 13th century. Part of that plan includes Listley Street, Pound Street, St Mary's Street and Whitburn Street. These streets form the parish of Little Brug. The area around the site probably contained tenement plots dating from the 13th century. An identical layout is repeated after 1600, when new buildings were constructed within existing Medieval plots (PRN 05681).
- 2.6 The research area contains a large number of Post-Medieval (post-1600) sites. Of the 23 sites identified, 11 are Grade II Listed Buildings. The Post-Medieval buildings are mainly residential and date from the 16th century. Two public houses - the *Bell & Talbot Inn*, Salop Street (PRN 11691), and the *Carpenter's Arms*, Whitburn Street (PRN 11710) - are the only two purpose-built buildings surviving within the research area. The late 16th century *Carpenter's Arms* is timber-framed.
- 2.7 Representing industrial activity within the research area, a timber yard in Whitburn Street (PRN 06027) is marked on the 1884 Ordnance Survey map, along with the tobacco clay pipe factory (PRN 06028) (NGR SO 7135 9312). The factory is marked on the 1884 Ordnance Survey (Map 1). No 19th century trade directory refers to the factory. Kelly's Trade Directory for Shropshire (1891), suggests the site may have belonged to Jeffrey Phillips, who owned a foundry in Mill Street. The directory states that six families live in Whitburn Street, whereas 23 commercial businesses are listed, including shopkeepers, a beer retailer, a builder, a cooper, a house decorator, a tailor and a wine and spirit importer.

- 2.8 A pipeworks in Pound Street was established by 1822/3 by Thomas Parsons Southorn Jr, who was probably pipe-making c1785(?) - 1845. He is the earliest Southorn known to have been a pipe-maker and may be related to two of the 18th century pipe-making families of Broseley. The Southorn family of Broseley closed their factory in the 1960s. Thomas Parsons Southorn Jr probably learnt the trade there and worked there as a pipemaker around the turn of the century (Higgins 1987).
- 2.9 Around 1832, he married Elizabeth, a native of Bridgnorth, who ran the works from around 1831 until her death in 1875, aged about 86 or 87. In 1871, she employed three men and two women. She ran the business during its most productive period, although in later years she handed more responsibility to sons Thomas and John. John is recorded in the 1881 Census as a master pipemaker, employing one man and one woman. He probably ceased pipe production and/or died during the late 1880s (ibid.).

3.0 GEOLOGY

- 3.1 Whitburn Street/Pound Street lies within the Little Brug area of Bridgnorth. Topographically, the site lies within the western flood plain of the River Severn, at around 105m AOD. The soil associations overlie a series of mudstones and sandstones that were formed between the Carboniferous and Permo-Triassic periods (British Geological Survey 1971).
- 3.2 Due to the site being located within an urban centre, the Soil Survey of England and Wales (1983) has not assigned a soil association description. However, the neighbouring soil associations are 572c HODNET and 713a BARDSEY. The former soil association can be described as reddish fine and coarse loamy soil with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. The Soil Association also has similar well-drained, reddish fine loamy soils which have a slight risk of water erosion. The BARDSEY Soil Association, overlying mudstones, consists of a slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged loam which overlies clayey and finer silty soils. Some soils are well-drained, coarse loams over clayey soils. These soils were exposed in Trench 1.

4.0 EVALUATION STRATEGY

- 4.1 Three trenches were located within the proposed development area. Each trench was tied into existing architects' plans. Recording of the trenches in plan and section was at a scale of 1:20 (including archaeological deposits, features and structures). Features and structures within all trenches were photographed using monochrome and colour transparency film.
- 4.2 The evaluation of each trench included a detailed stratigraphic record using a context number system (001)-(013) [Trench 1]; (201)-(207) [Trench 2] and (301)-(312) [Trench 3]. Trench 1 was excavated manually. Trench 2 was initially machine excavated and then excavated by hand. After the modern floor had been broken up, Trench 3 was excavated by hand. All three trenches were excavated to natural deposits.
- 4.3 Spoil was scanned for artefacts, recorded as unstratified. Artefacts recovered from all trenches included clay pipe stems and bowls and kiln and building debris (ceramic building material - [CBM]). Artefacts of a later date or considered not important were recorded but not retained. All other artefacts were cleaned, labelled and recorded and will be incorporated into the site archive.

- 4.4 Full written and drawn records of all excavated contexts were made in accordance with archaeological practices set out by the IFA and using the MoLas single-context planning system (where applicable).
- 4.5 Temporary bench marks (TBMs) were established on the site - values 62.43m OD (Trench 1), 64.30m OD (Trench 2) and 64.22m OD (Trench 3). All surveying values were taken from a spot height located in the centre of a traffic island at the junction of Pound Street and Whitburn Street. The value of the spot height was 62.36m OD.

5.0 TRENCH DESCRIPTION

- 5.1 Trench 1 was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.90m below existing ground level. Within this trench 13 contexts were recorded.
- 5.2 A moderately-to-loosely compacted, mid-brown sandy soil (001) with occasional small-stone inclusions measured 0.12m in thickness and was interpreted as a modern garden soil. The deposit extended across the trench.
- 5.3 Underlying (001) was a very loosely compacted, orangey-brown and grey debris deposit (002) with frequent brick, cement, mortar, tile and moderate clay pipe inclusions. The deposit measured a maximum of 0.71m in thickness (although not fully excavated) and 1.75m wide, extending into the section wall. The deposit was interpreted as a backfilled 20th century building debris deposit, within [003].
- 5.4 A cut [003] measured 1.75m (width) x 0.71m (depth). The overall shape could not be established, as part of the feature was lost in the section. The break of slope at the top of the cut was gradual at the northern end and sharp at the southern. The sides sloped gradually at the north and vertically at the southern end. The break of slope at the base was gradual. The base was concave, however, the feature was only partially excavated at the southern end. The feature, a probable 19th century dumping pit, cut (004) and was filled by (002).
- 5.5 Also underlying (001) was a very loosely compacted, greyish ash deposit (004) with moderate burnt CBM, slag and occasional saggar debris. The deposit overlaid (006) and was cut by [003]. The deposit measured 0.56m thick and was interpreted as a 19th, or possibly 18th century dump.
- 5.6 Again underlying (001) was a loosely-to-moderately compacted, yellow-to-grey CBM (005) with frequent mortar and vitrified brick inclusions and occasional clay pipe inclusions. The deposit measured 0.35m thick and was contemporary with (002). It appeared to be a dump of 19th/20th century building debris.
- 5.7 Underlying (004) was a moderately compacted, dark-brown, clayey loam (006) with frequent grit and occasional charcoal flecking. The deposit measured 60mm thick and was interpreted as a redeposited 18th or 19th century garden soil.
- 5.8 Underlying (006) was a loosely-to-moderately compacted, grey building debris and ash deposit, (007) with occasional pieces of clay pipe stem. The deposit measured 80-90mm thick and extended into the north and east section wall. It was interpreted as an 18th or 19th century building debris dump deposit.

- 5.9 Underlying (007) was a tightly compacted, dark-brown, sandy loam (008) with moderate charcoal flecking and occasional CBM inclusions. The deposit measured 0.15m thick and extended across the northern half of the trench (2.0m). It appeared to be an 18th or 19th century redeposited garden soil.
- 5.10 Underlying (008) was a moderately compacted, grey, mortar, ash and burnt brick deposit (009). The deposit measured 60-70mm in thickness and extended into the section. The deposit was interpreted as an 18th century dumping deposit.
- 5.11 Underlying (001, (008) and (009) was a moderately-to-loosely compacted, orangey-brown sandy loam (010). The thickness of the deposit was unknown. The deposit extended across the trench and was interpreted as the natural soil horizon.
- 5.12 Underlying (001) was an alignment of three large and two smaller stones (011) running east-west. The stones defined the edge of both (008) and the northern extent of [013]. It is suggested that the stones may be the remains of a 19th century boundary wall.
- 5.13 Underlying (001) was a loosely compacted, greyish-brown ash deposit (012) with frequent burnt coal particles and occasional CBM inclusions. The deposit measured 1.32m x 0.86m x 0.16m and filled [013]. It was interpreted as a 19th century burnt layer.
- 5.14 Cutting (010) was a pear-shaped cut [013], tapering to the south, forming a pit measuring 1.32m x 0.86m x 0.16m. The break of slope at the top of the cut was gradual. The sides were sloping/concave. The break of slope at the base was gradual and the base was concave. The cut was interpreted as a 19th century ash pit. The pit was filled by (012).
- 5.15 A total of seven contexts were recorded within Trench 2. The floor surface of the present building was a tightly compacted, light grey, concrete deposit (201) 0.15-0.20m thick extending over the trench.
- 5.16 Underlying (201) was a loosely compacted, dump deposit consisting of 20th century CBM and concrete (202), with frequent sand, grit, brick and charcoal flecking. The deposit measured 0.40-0.70m thick and was interpreted as a dump layer for the foundation of the modern floor (201).
- 5.17 Underlying (202) was a moderately compacted, greyish-black charcoal deposit (203) 50-100mm thick. It was interpreted as part of a dump deposit for the modern floor foundations.
- 5.18 Underlying (203) and (202) was a moderately compacted, mid-brown sandy loam [204] with occasional charcoal flecking measuring 20-100mm thick. This was interpreted as part of a dump deposit for the modern floor foundations.
- 5.19 Underlying (203) and (204) was a loosely compacted deposit (205) of 20th century CBM and concrete with frequent sand, grit, brick and charcoal flecking, measuring 0.10-0.55m thick. The deposit was the same as (202), i.e. part of a dump deposit for the modern floor foundations.

- 5.20 Underlying (205) was a tightly compacted, dark-brown sandy loam (206), with moderate charcoal and occasional mortar, animal bone and clay pipe stems. The deposit measured 0.20-0.50m thick and extended across the trench. It was interpreted as a 19th or 20th century redeposited soil.
- 5.21 Underlying (206) was a tightly compacted, orangey-brown sandy loam (207). This was identified as the natural soil horizon.
- 5.22 A total of 12 contexts were recorded within Trench 3. The first context was the wooden flooring of the current building (301).
- 5.23 Underlying (301) was a tightly compacted, concrete and brick deposit (302) 80mm thick and extending across the section. This was interpreted as the sub-base for the floor of the current building.
- 5.24 Underlying (302) was a moderately compacted, mid-brown sandy loam (303) with moderate clay pipe stem fragments and occasional charcoal and brick flecking. The deposit measured 0.16-0.18m thick and was interpreted as a redeposited soil directly underlying the modern sub-base and forming part of the foundation of the floor.
- 5.25 Underlying (303) was a moderately compacted, black, burnt coke deposit (304) with occasional slag inclusions measuring 45-60mm thick. This was interpreted as a 20th century dump deposit associated with materials from clay pipe production.
- 5.26 Underlying (304) was a tightly compacted, purplish-brown slag/ash deposit (305) 20-60mm thick. This was interpreted as a 19th or 20th century dump deposit associated with materials from clay pipe production.
- 5.27 Underlying (304) and (305) was a moderately compacted, mid-brown sandy loam (306) with moderate clay pipe stem and bowl fragments, charcoal and brick flecking. The deposit measured 0.65-0.80m thick. This was interpreted as 20th century redeposited natural soil.
- 5.28 A U-shaped cut [307], oriented north-south, for a ceramic water pipe measured 0.87 x 0.64m, with a sharp break of slope at the top of the cut and vertical sides. This was interpreted as a cut for a 20th century drain and water service.
- 5.29 Underlying (303) was a loosely compacted, mid-brown sandy soil (308) with frequent brick and broken pipe inclusions. The deposit measured 0.85-0.90m thick and filled [307].
- 5.30 Underlying (302) was a moderately compacted, blackish-brown sandy soil (309) with moderate clay pipe stem and bowl fragments, charcoal and brick flecking. The deposit was 0.10-0.50m thick and was interpreted as a 19th or 20th century dump deposit associated with materials from clay pipe production.
- 5.31 Underlying (309) was a U-shaped cut [310]. The cut measured 0.35m wide and extended into the section. The depth was not established. The break of slope was

sharp at the eastern and western end and the sides were vertical. The base was not found. This was interpreted as a cut for a 19th or 20th century rubbish pit.

- 5.32 Underlying (309) was a loosely compacted, blackish-brown sandy loam (311) with frequent amounts of charcoal, slag, pipe stems, glass bottles, brick; and moderate amounts of brick and mortar flecking. The deposit extended across the north- and west-facing sections and filled [310].
- 5.33 Underlying (306) and [307] was a medium-loosely compacted, orangey-brown sandy soil (312) identified as the natural soil.

FIGURE 1 SITE AND TRENCH LOCATION

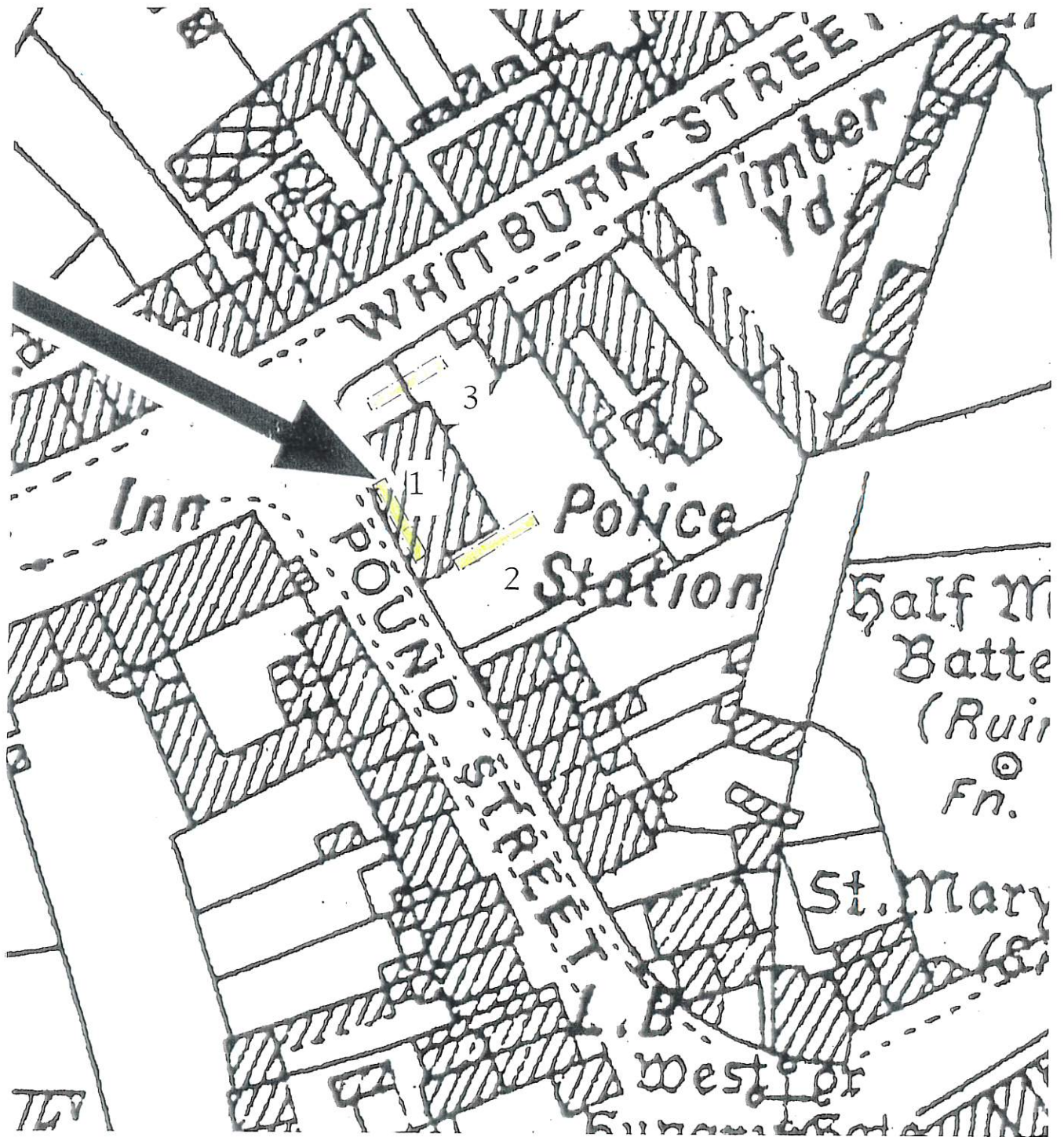
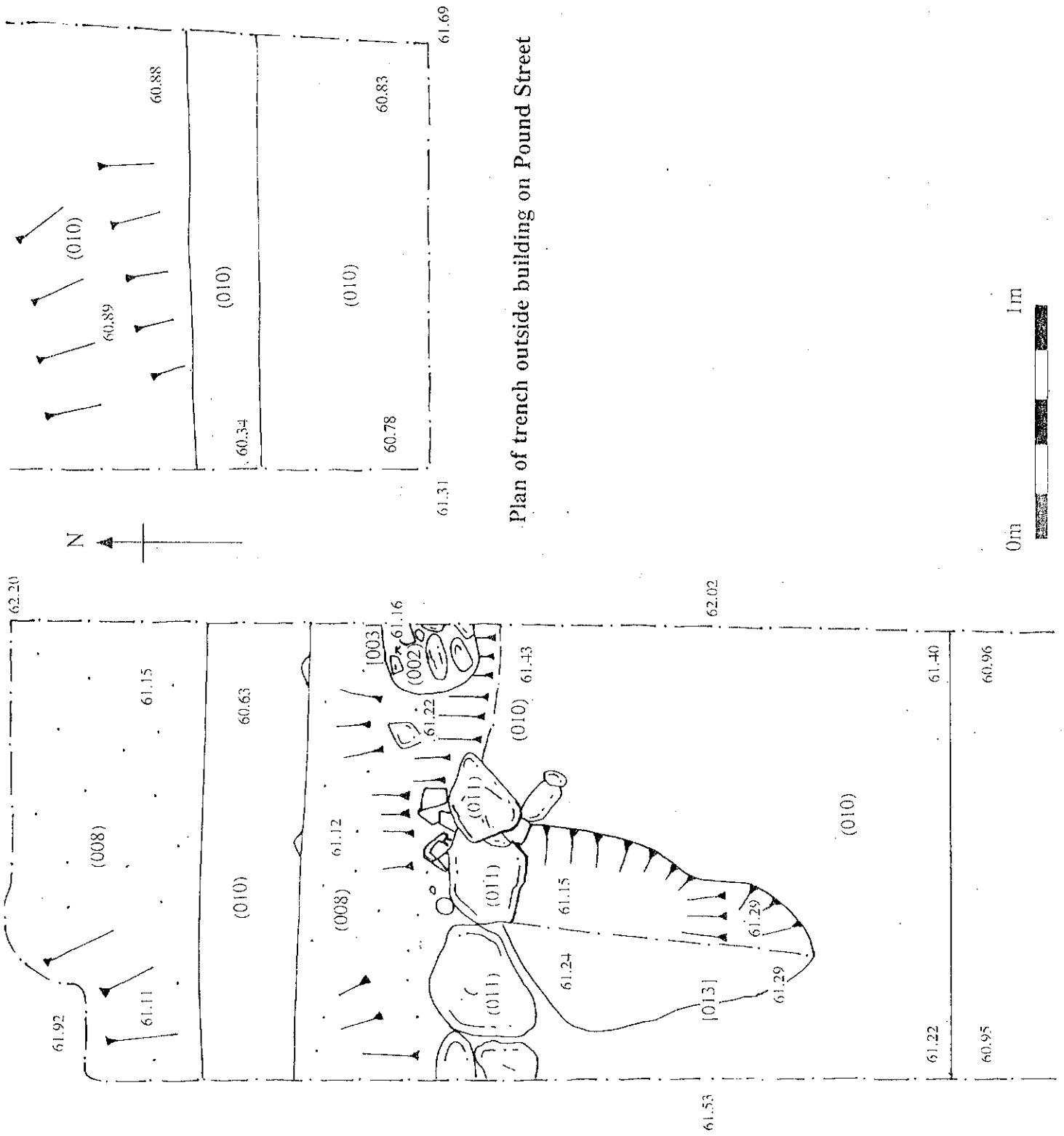


FIGURE 2 TRENCH 1 (PLAN)



Plan of trench outside building on Pound Street

FIGURE 3 TRENCH 1 (WEST-FACING SECTION)

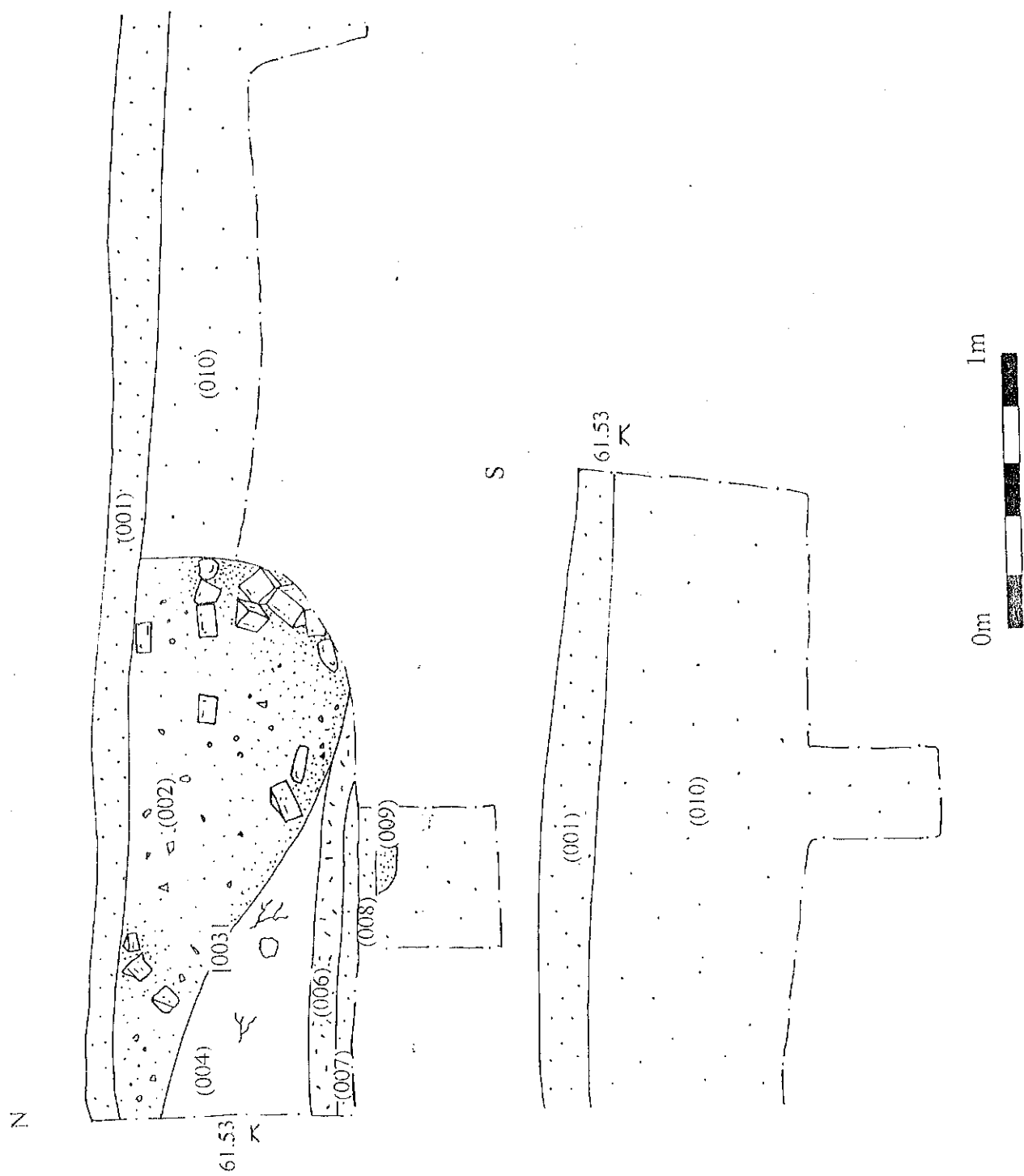


FIGURE 4 TRENCH 2 (PLAN)

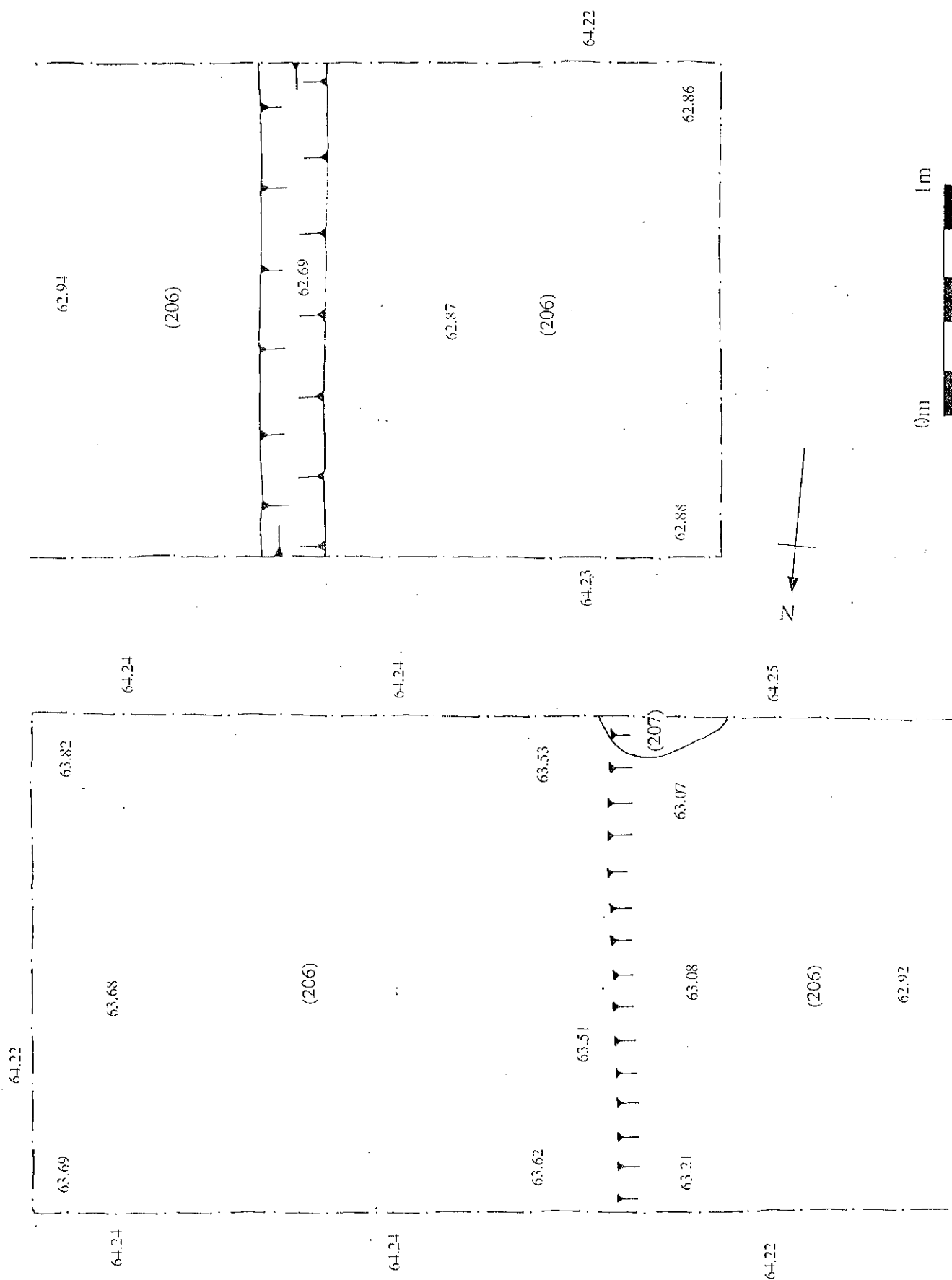


FIGURE 5 TRENCH 2 (NORTH-FACING SECTION)

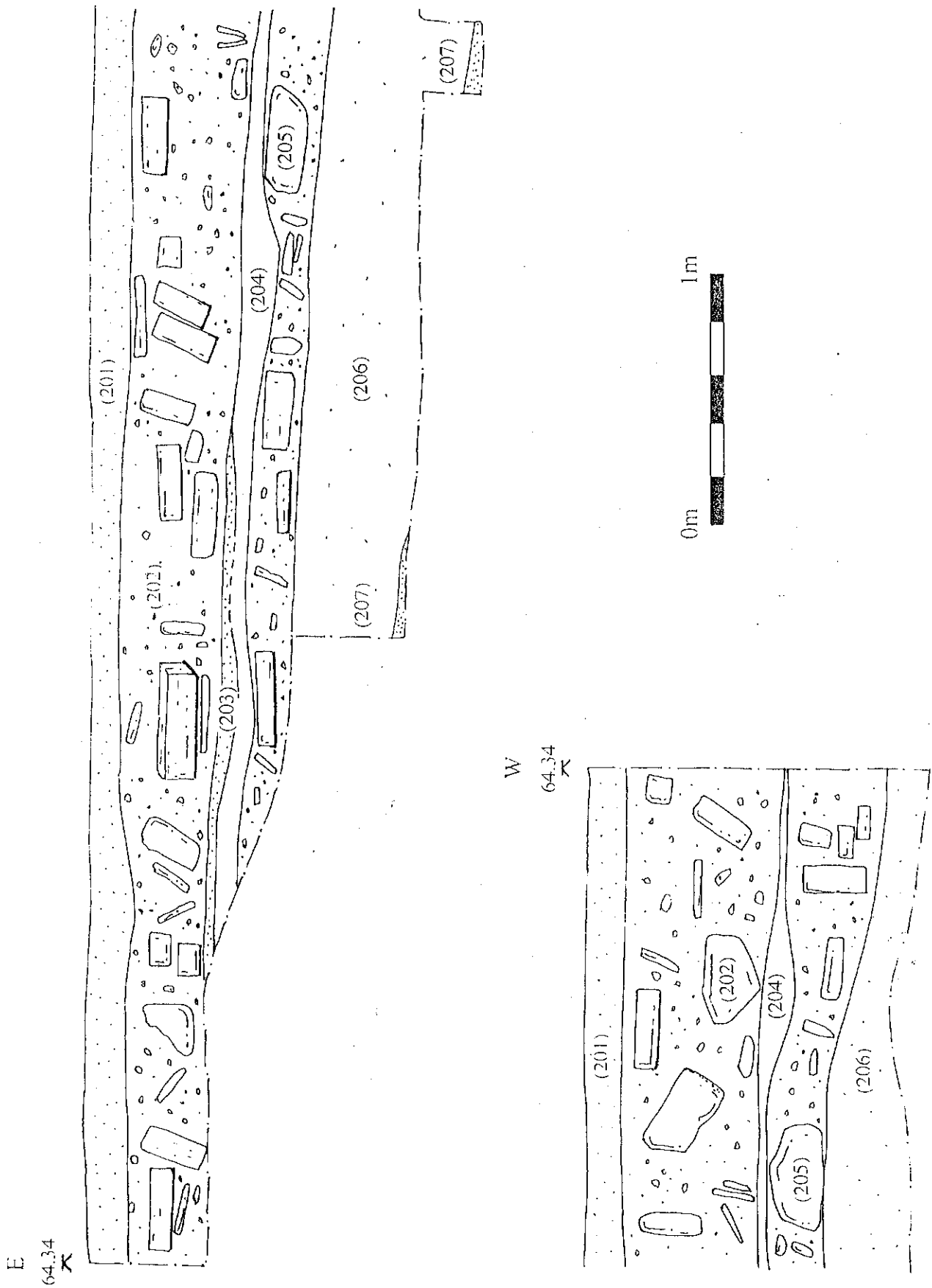


FIGURE 6 TRENCH 3 (PLAN)

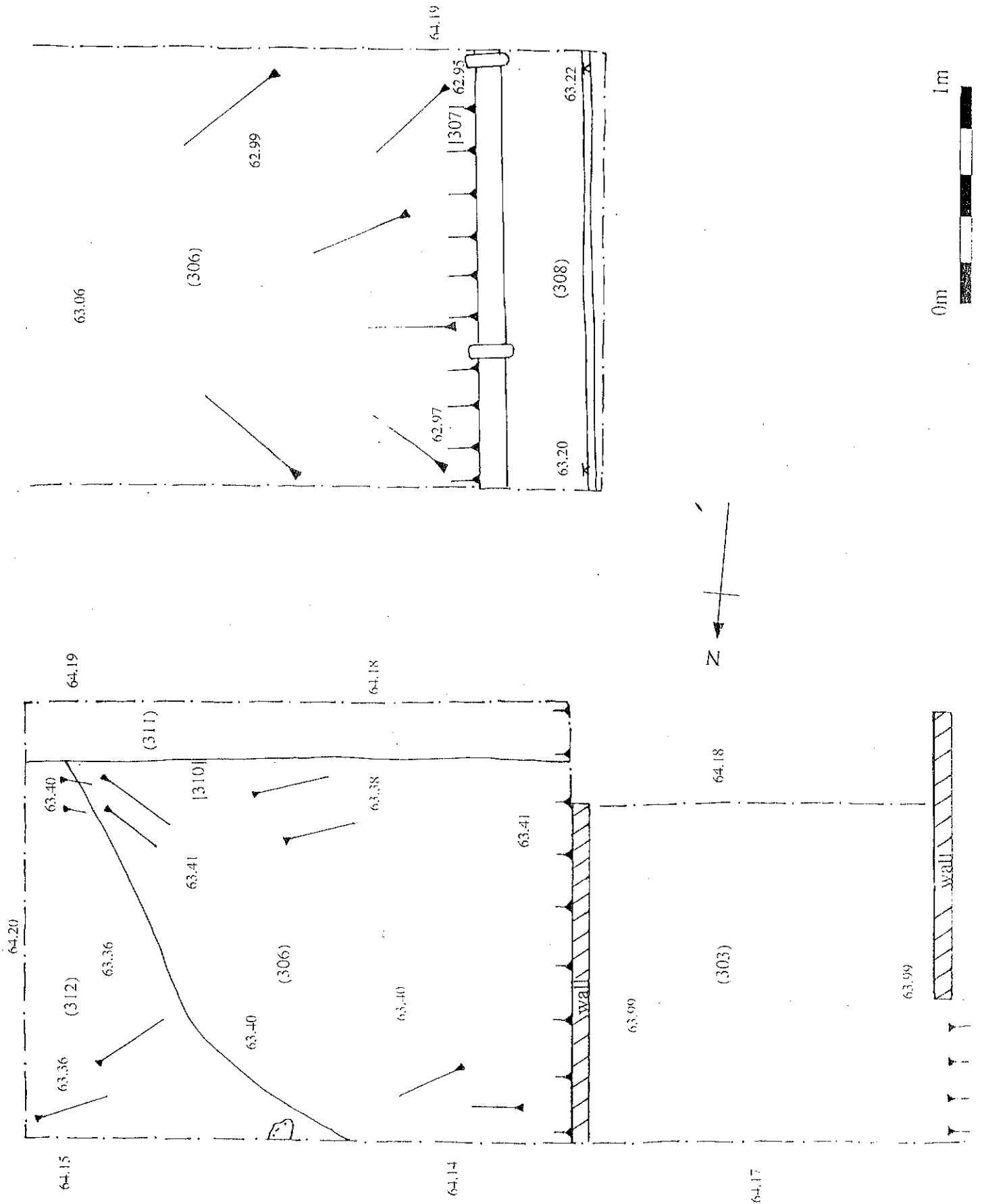
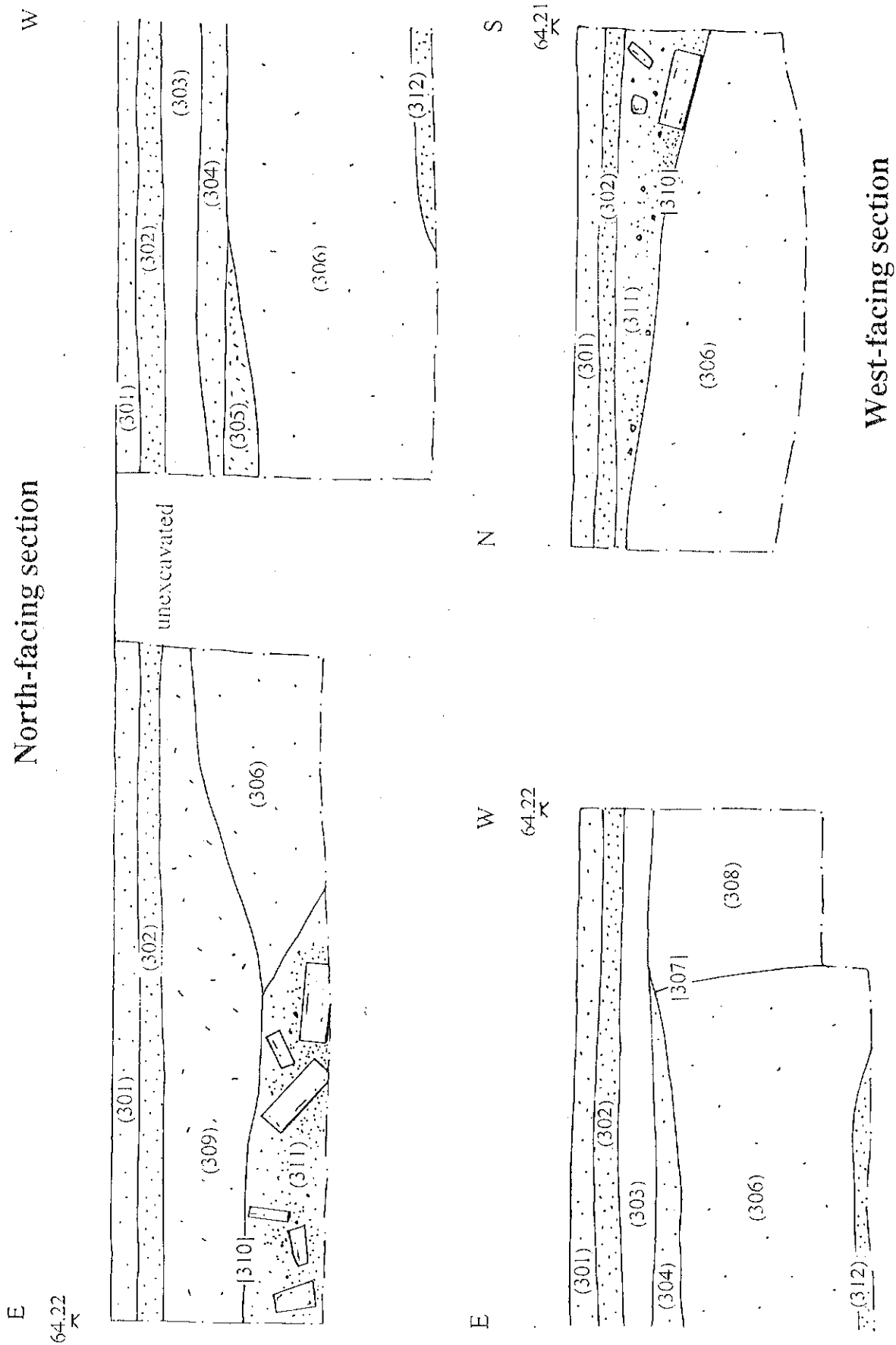


FIGURE 7 TRENCH 3 (NORTH-FACING SECTION & WEST-FACING SECTION)



6.0 SUMMARY

- 6.1 The area around the development site contains a number of important early Medieval sites. These include a half moon battery, the Medieval town defences, the sites of two town gates and the remnants of Medieval and Post-Medieval tenement plots. During the 19th century, a tobacco clay pipe factory was established on the development site. The factory site is clearly indicated on the 1884 Ordnance Survey map.
- 6.2 A pipeworks existed in Pound Street by 1822/23. This was founded by Thomas Parsons Southorn Jr, who was responsible for introducing Broseley influence into the Bridgnorth pipemaking trade. This branch of the family ran the Pound Street works for more than 60 years. Some of the clay pipe bowls and stems found during the evaluation bore the initials 'WS', probably referring to William Southorn, of Broseley, a pipemaker until the mid 20th century.
- 6.3 The evaluation revealed pits underlying the modern ground surface and foundation deposits. These contained a variety of manufacturing debris - including ash and building debris, slag, saggars, clay pipe muffle and clay pipe fragments - of 19th/20th century date. A series of redeposited soils were dated to the 19th century. An east-west alignment of stones discovered in Trench 1 may be the remains of a 19th century boundary wall.
- 6.3 The evaluation revealed no evidence of Medieval activity. The assemblage contained a small quantity of late Post-Medieval pottery and a large amount of clay pipe dating to the 19th and 20th centuries. The pottery does not reflect a high-status site. In comparison, the clay pipe assemblage is relatively important to this period, due to the well-preserved and large number of clay pipe bowls and stems.

7.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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PLATE 1 TRENCH 1 (LOOKING NORTH)



PLATE 2 TRENCH 2 (LOOKING NORTH)

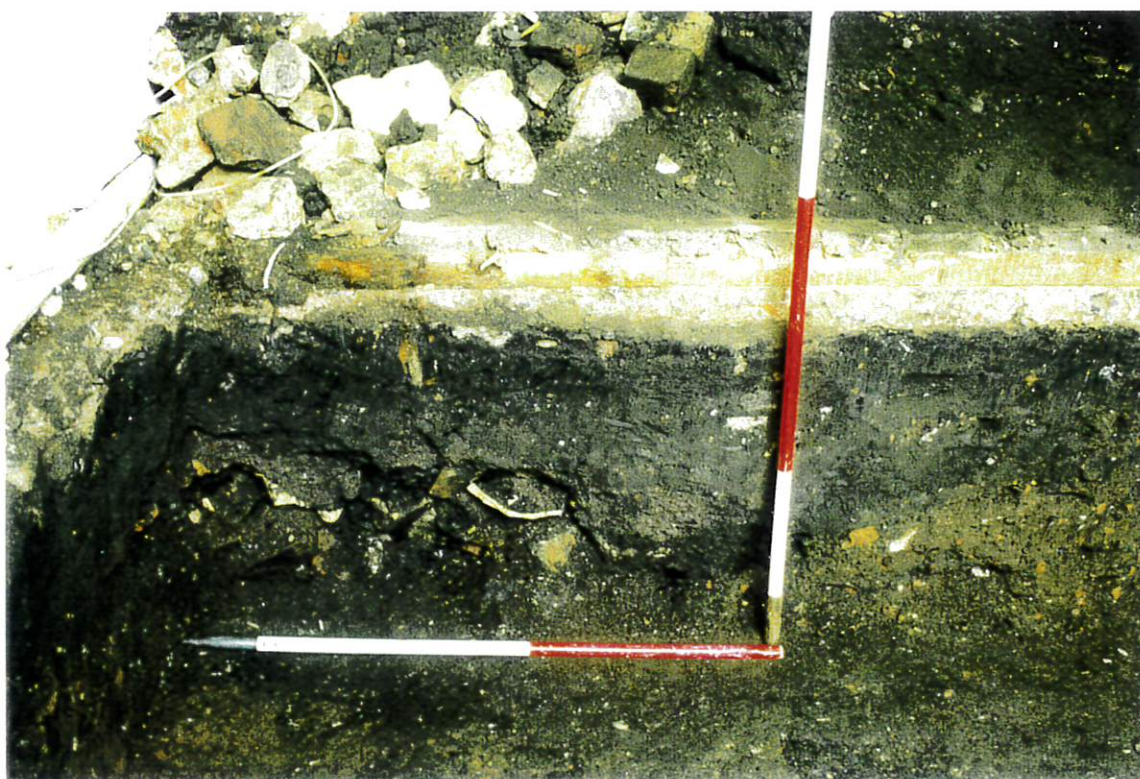


PLATE 3. TRENCH 3 (LOOKING NORTH)



APPENDIX 1 - CONTEXT REGISTER

Trench 1

CONTEXT (001)	Moderately-to-loosely compacted, mid-brown sandy soil with occasional small stone inclusions.
INTERPRETATION:	Modern garden soil deposits.
CONTEXT (002)	Loosely compacted, orange, brown and grey debris with freq. brick, cement, mortar, tile and mod. clay pipe inclusions.
INTERPRETATION:	Backfilled 20th century building debris deposit.
CONTEXT (003)	Cut for (004)
INTERPRETATION:	19th century rubble dump pit
CONTEXT (004)	Very loosely compacted, greyish ash deposit with moderate burnt CBM, slag and occasional saggard debris.
INTERPRETATION:	19th/20th century dumping deposit.
CONTEXT (005)	Loosely-to-moderately compacted, yellow-to-grey CBM with freq. mortar and vitrified brick inclusions and occasional clay pipe inclusions.
INTERPRETATION:	19th/20th century building debris dump.
CONTEXT (006)	Moderately compacted, dark-brown, clayey loam with freq. grit and occasional charcoal flecking.
INTERPRETATION:	Redeposited garden soil - 19th century.
CONTEXT (007)	Loosely-to-moderately compacted, grey building debris and ash deposit, with occ. clay pipe stem.
INTERPRETATION:	19th century building debris dump.
CONTEXT (008)	Tightly compacted, dark-brown, sandy loam with mod. charcoal flecking and occ. CBM inclusions.
INTERPRETATION:	Redeposited 19th century garden soil.
CONTEXT (009)	Moderately compacted, grey, mortar, ash, burnt brick deposit.
INTERPRETATION:	19th century dump.
CONTEXT (010)	Moderately-to-loosely compacted, orangey-brown sandy loam.
INTERPRETATION:	Natural soil
CONTEXT (011)	Alignment of three large and two smaller stones running east-west defining N. extent of [013]
INTERPRETATION:	Boundary wall
CONTEXT (012)	Loosely compacted, greyish-brown ash deposit with freq. burnt coal particles and occ. CBM inclusions.
INTERPRETATION:	Fill of [013]
CONTEXT (013)	Pear-shaped ash pit, filled by (012).
INTERPRETATION:	19th century.

Trench 2

CONTEXT (201)	Tightly compacted, light grey, concrete deposit 0.15-0.20m thick.
INTERPRETATION:	Floor surface for present-day building.
CONTEXT (202)	Loosely compacted 20th century CBM and concrete with freq. sand, grit, brick and charcoal flecking. 0.40-0.70m thick.
INTERPRETATION:	Dumping layer for foundation of modern floor (201).

CONTEXT (203) Moderately compacted, greyish-black charcoal deposit 50-100mm thick.

INTERPRETATION: Part of dumping deposit for modern floor foundation.

CONTEXT (204) Moderately compacted, mid-brown sandy loam with occ. charcoal flecking. Deposit 20- 100mm thick.

INTERPRETATION: Part of dumping deposit for modern floor foundation.

CONTEXT (205) Loosely compacted 20th century CBM and concrete with freq. sand, grit, brick and charcoal flecking. Deposit 0.10-0.55cm thick. Same as 202.

INTERPRETATION: Part of dumping deposit for modern floor foundations.

CONTEXT (206) Tightly compacted, dark-brown sandy loam, with mod. charcoal and occ. mortar, animal bone and clay pipe stem.

INTERPRETATION: Redeposited soils. 19th/20th century disturbance.

CONTEXT (207) Tightly compacted, orangey-brown sandy loam.

INTERPRETATION: Natural soil

Trench 3

CONTEXT (301) Wooden flooring

INTERPRETATION: Flooring of current building.

CONTEXT (302) Tightly compacted, concrete and brick deposit.

INTERPRETATION: Sub-base within floor of current building.

CONTEXT (303) Moderately compacted, mid-brown sandy loam with mod. clay pipe stem fragments and occ. charcoal and brick flecking. Deposit 0.16-0.18m thick.

INTERPRETATION: Redeposited soil directly underlying modern sub-base.

CONTEXT (304) Moderately compacted, black, burnt coke deposit with occ. slag inclusions. Deposit 45-60mm thick.

INTERPRETATION: Dumping deposit associated with materials from clay pipe production.

CONTEXT (305) Tightly compacted, purplish-brown slag ash deposit 20-60mm thick.

INTERPRETATION: Dumping deposit associated with materials from clay pipe production.

CONTEXT (306) Moderately compacted, mid-brown sandy loam with mod. clay pipe stem and bowl fragments, charcoal and brick flecking. Deposit 0.65-0.80m thick.

INTERPRETATION: Redeposited soil.

CONTEXT (307) U-shaped cut.

INTERPRETATION: Cut for 20th century drain and water service.

CONTEXT (308) Loosely compacted, mid-brown sandy soil with freq. brick and broken pipe inclusions. Deposit 0.85-0.90cm thick.

INTERPRETATION: Fill of [307].

CONTEXT (309) Moderately compacted, blackish-brown sandy soil with mod. clay pipe stem and bowl fragments, charcoal and brick flecking. Deposit 0.10-0.50m thick.

INTERPRETATION: Dumping deposit associated with materials from clay pipe production.

CONTEXT (310) U-shaped cut.

INTERPRETATION: Cut for 19th/20th century rubbish pit.

CONTEXT (311)

Loosely compacted, blackish-brown sandy loam with freq. charcoal, slag, pipe stem, glass bottles, brick; mod. brick and mortar flecking.

INTERPRETATION:

Fill of [310].

CONTEXT (312)

Moderately-loosely compacted, orangey-brown sandy soil.

INTERPRETATION:

Natural soil.

APPENDIX 2 SUMMARY OF FINDS FROM BRIDGNORTH

1.0 CERAMIC FINDS

The pottery was examined using x 20 magnification then divided into the 17 different fabric types. The type series were then quantified by a sherd count and sherd weight (in grammes). Notes were then taken on each type series in regard to colour, glaze or non-glazing, on production methods (wheel-thrown or hand-made), firing technique (oxidised or reduced firing methods) and inclusions.

1.1 CERAMIC REGISTER

Fabric type 1

Buff fabric. Polychrome tableware. Creamware glazed with various coloured borders and designs. Wheel-thrown. Dating from the late 18th century.

Fabric type 2.

Buff fabric. White glazed tableware in cups, plates and saucers. White ware creamware.c.1750s onwards (Draper. 1984. 47). Wheel-thrown. Well fired with some pieces containing lustre.

Buff fabric with rare limestone and pebble inclusions. Streaky tan glazes on exterior and interior of vessels. In the form of cup and storage pots. Coarse earthenware. Post-Medieval.

Fabric type 3

Buff fabric. White glazed tableware with forms such as cups, plates and saucers with cobalt blue and green transfer paintings in Chinese Willow Pattern. Creamware. Wheel-thrown. Dating from the mid 18th century (Draper 1984:48).

Fabric type 4

Buff-pink oxidised fabric with shell and sandstone inclusions and voids. Brown and black iron-rich glaze on exterior and interior of vessels. Coarse earthenware storage vessels. Wheel-thrown. Staffordshire type. 18th century onwards

Fabric type 5

Buff fabric with rare black pellet inclusions. Brown streaky lead glaze on the interior and exterior of a cup/beaker. Staffordshire type. Wheel-thrown. Post-Medieval, 18th century onwards.

The ceramic assemblage consisted of 28 sherds weighing 580gm. The assemblage consisted of fine tablewares and coarse earthenware storage vessels. The fine tablewares included polychrome creamwares, blue and green transfer printed creamwares and whiteware creamware in the form of cups, plates, saucers and teapots. The coarse earthenwares consisted of Staffordshire-type storage vessels and one sherd of a streaky tan glaze cup. The pottery dated from the mid 18th century to the mid 20th century. It is likely that the pottery dates to the latter part of the 19th century and early part of the 20th century, as shown in the clay pipe assemblage, due to the large quantity of creamwares and, in particular, more modern polychrome creamware.

TABLE SHOWING QUANTIFICATION OF TYPE SERIES BY SHERD COUNT AND WEIGHT (gm)

Context	Fabric	Trench 1	Trench 3	Subtotals
Unstratified	1	1 sherd (6gm)		6 (44gm)
	3	3 sherds		
	4	(22gm)		
		2 sherds		
		(16gm)		
(004)		No pottery		-
(008)	1	4 sherds		7 (205gm)
	4	(107gm)		
		3 sherds		
		(98gm)		
(012)	3	2 sherds (8gm)		3 (11gm)
	5	1 sherd (3gm)		
(301)	1		3 sherds (17gm)	3 (17)
(302) east	1		2 sherds (61gm)	4 (148)
	3		1 sherd (15gm)	
	4		1 sherd (72gm)	
(303) east			No pottery	-
(305)	2		2 sherds (21gm)	5 (155gm)
	4		3sherds(134gm)	
Total sherds				28
Total weight				580gm

1.1.1 CERAMIC DECORATED TILE.

One ceramic decorated tile weighing 35gm was collected from Trench 3, context (301). The tile was decorated with a black transfer print, probably a Willow Pattern design, on a white background. The tile was Post-Medieval in date, probably dating from the 18th century onwards, and would have been previously located around a fireplace.

1.1.2 CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

Three pieces of ceramic building material were retrieved unstratified from Trench 1. They were all modern roof tile.

Trench 1 (Unstratified)

Three oxidised red modern roof tile sherds weighing 529gm.

2.0 NON CERAMIC FINDS

2.1 ANIMAL BONES

Thirteen pieces of animal bone were retrieved from the excavation, weighing 280gm. The bones were from domesticated cattle and chicken. Butchery marks were found on the cattle bone in context (302).

Trench 1 (Unstratified)

Six bones from domesticated animals, weighing 145gm

Trench 3

Context (302): Three pieces of animal bone were retrieved, including two cattle bones and one chicken leg bone, weighing 44gm.

Context (303): Four pieces of cattle bone were recovered, weighing 91gm.

2.2 GLASS

The assemblage contained two glass octagonal bottles, five lids/stoppers and six glass body sherds of late Post-Medieval and modern glass. The assemblage weighed 940gm.

Trench 1 (Unstratified)

One sherd of a green-tinted bottle glass base, weighing 20gm.

Trench 3

Context (301): One modern body sherd of a soft drink bottle, weighing 11gm.

Context (302) East: Two octagonal bottles weighing 189gm and two bottle stoppers, weighing 150gm.

Context (303): Three glass bottle lids/stoppers, weighing 233gm.

Context (305): Four pieces of black bottle glass, weighing 337gm.

2.3 CLAY PIPE

The clay pipe assemblage consisted of 428 pieces of clay pipe, weighing 2516gm. The assemblage can be further split into 297 stems, weighing 1257gm and 133 bowls, weighing 1259gm. There were 12 decorated bowls and five decorated stems. Seven of the bowls and all marked stems contained the clay pipe manufacturer initials 'WS' that is probably William Southorn of Broseley, a pipe manufacturer until the mid 20th century. The design consists of a vine-leaf decoration on the front join of the bowl, with flower decoration on the sides. Above the flowers is a bordered design containing small diamond motifs. On the back of the bowl are the letters 'WS' within a shield. The other designs consisted of five bowls with vine-leaf decoration along the joins of the pipe, two with circle-and-dot designs on each side of the foot of the stem and a pair with stippling along the joins and bowl rims and rose motifs on the bowl sides. The shapes of the bowls were all very similar and consisted of a large and wide bowl with a small semi-circular foot under the bowl. The bowl shapes were very common in the 19th/20th century, which provides a relative date for the bowls.

Included in the context was also clay pipe manufacturing furniture. A saggar was retrieved from context (303) in Trench 3 and five pieces of clay pipe muffle were found unstratified in Trench 1. This suggests that the site was either a dumping ground for clay pipes or there was a kiln nearby.

Trench 1 (Unstratified)

One hundred and thirty-four pieces of clay pipe bowl and stem, weighing 789gm. The unstratified clay pipe assemblage can be broken down into 71 stems, weighing 195gm and 63 bowls, weighing 594gm. There were seven decorated William Southorn bowls and three clay pipe stems with the William Southorn marked stems. There were also three other marked bowls with vine-leaf decoration along the joins of the bowls. The clay pipe bowls were all large and wide with a small semi-circular foot at the stem/bowl intersection, a style indicative of 19th/early 20th century clay pipe bowls. Three of the bowls were vitrified.

Clay pipe furniture was also retrieved from the spoil heaps. A total of five pieces of clay pipe muffle, weighing 186gm, represents either a dumping on the site of clay pipe furniture or a clay pipe kiln nearby. Three pieces of clay pipe muffle were vitrified green.

Context (004): A total of 273 pieces of clay pipe stem was recovered, weighing 1541 gm. Of the total, 220 pieces, weighing 1053 gm, were stem and 53 pieces, weighing 488 gm, were bowl. Included in the assemblage were five decorated William Southorn bowls and five marked stems with the name William Southorn. The assemblage also contained two bowls with vine-leaf decoration on the joins. The bowls were, again, all of the same style - large and wide with a small semi-circular foot - a style common in the 19th/early 20th century.

Context (012): Three clay pipe stems, weighing 8 gm.

Trench 3

Context (302): Nine clay pipe bowls, weighing 92 gm. One bowl contained vine-leaf decoration on both sides of the join. 19th/20th century type.

Context (303) East side: Seven pieces of clay pipe, weighing 60 gm, and one white clay pipe saggar, weighing 12 gm. The context contained one stem, two plain bowls and two pairs of decorated bowls. One pair contained very small makers' marks on each side of the foot. The design featured a dot within a circle. The other pair contained stippling along the bowl rim and joins and a rose decoration on each side of the bowl. The shapes of the bowls were of the style common in the 19th/20th century, with a large wide bowl and small semi-circular foot.

Context (305): Two plain clay pipe bowls, weighing 26 gm. 19/20th century type bowls.

2.4 SLAG

Two pieces of iron slag were retrieved, weighing 80 gm.

Trench 1

Context (008): One small piece of iron slag, weighing 13 gm.

Context (012): One piece of iron slag, weighing 67 gm.

3.0 DISCUSSION

The ceramic assemblage consists of cream fabric tablewares and a few sherds of coarse earthenware domestic vessels indicative of assemblages of the 19th and early 20th centuries. The bowls date approximately to the 19th/20th centuries and contain 12 pipes and bowls from the local manufacturer William Southorn. Of particular note is context (004), which contained 53 bowls (seven decorative) and 220 stems. The context probably represents a dump of clay pipes at a particular date. The presence of clay pipe furniture on site represents either the presence of a kiln in the surrounding area, or perhaps a dumping ground for the William Southern clay pipe manufactures.

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