

THE FRENCH HORN PUBLIC HOUSE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

Site code:	UFHM 13
NGR:	SK 7380 5439
LPA:	Newark & Sherwood District Council
Planning Ref:	10/01663/FUL
PCA Ref:	1160

Report prepared for
Guy Taylor Associates

by

J. Payne

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Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
47, Manor Road
Saxilby
Lincoln
LN1 2HX

Tel. (01522) 703800
e-mail info@pre-construct.co.uk

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during contractors groundworks for the conversion of the former French Horn Public House and associated Coach House into two detached dwellings, with the addition of two new dwellings on land to the rear of the French Horn itself.

The monitoring programme revealed no significant archaeological deposits, with only a single feature of fairly modern date being recorded.



Fig. 1. Site location based on the 2000 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 Explorer map, sheet 271.
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1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd, were commissioned by Guy Taylor Associates, to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring at the site of the former French Horn Public house. The aims of this were to preserve by record any archaeological remains that were impacted by the redevelopment.

Planning Permission was granted by Newark & Sherwood District Council (N&SDC), for the development of the former French Horn Public House, Main Street, Upton, Nottinghamshire. This involved the conversion of the former Public House and Coach House into two detached dwellings, plus the construction of two new dwellings on land to the rear of the French Horn itself.

The Assistant Archaeological Officer for NCC advised Newark & Sherwood DC that the site was located within the historic core of the medieval village of Upton and that there was a medium to high potential for archaeological remains to exist within the proposed development area.

2.0 Site Location and Description (fig:- 1)

Upton is a small village located approximately 3.5km to the east of Southwell and 6km west of Newark-on-Trent. The French Horn former public house has a north facing street façade that faces directly onto the A612 Main Road. To the rear of the Public house and aligned perpendicular with this building stood a brick and pantile coach house that provided garage storage on the ground floor and accommodation above. At the time of the development, these two structures were connected by a modern flat-roofed extension that allowed access between the two buildings at first floor level (Guy Taylor Associates. 2010).

The site is bounded to the north by the A612 Main Street, to the west and east by adjacent properties and to the south by orchards and fields. Within the confines of property boundary itself the public house was located in the north and west, whilst the south and east was given over to customer parking.

3.0 Topography and Geology

The solid bedrock geology of the area in the vicinity of the site is Gunthorpe Member Mudstone. This is overlain by the superficial drift geology which here comprises Quaternary deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel that are likely to be associated with post-glacial depositional processes (BGS online geology viewer).

Upton is situated on the south-facing side of a hill overlooking the Trent Valley; the river itself is slightly less than 3km to the south. The site elevation is approximately 30m OD; its location is centred on NGR SK 7380 5439.

4.0 Planning Background

Full planning Permission was granted on 14 February 2011 for both the conversion of the former French Horn public house and Coach House into two detached dwellings, plus the addition of two new dwellings to the rear of the French Horn, on the site of the associated car park. As an integral part of this development, a flat roofed extension located to the rear of the property and a link block that conjoined the French Horn and the Coach House were removed, creating two separate buildings. Application No.: 10/01663/FUL.

5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

To the south-east of the village (SK 7430 5369) cropmarks, visible from aerial photographs show a group of ditched features of possible Iron Age/Roman date. These consist of a probable trackway, orientated north-west/south-east plus a system of what are likely to be boundary ditches, one of which appears to cross the trackway. Additionally, visible at approximately SK 7426 5370 are two circular, ditched features with diameters of c.10m and c.8m that may possibly represent hut circles.

Early in the 18th century, a Roman burial urn containing glass beads, silver coins plus artefacts associated with horsemanship were discovered on the side of a hill at Upton during ploughing. As the exact location of these finds is unknown, they are now classed as unprovenanced (Page, W, 1910, 35).

Written records of Upton village date from 1291 AD. The earliest records of buildings on the site of the French Horn date from 1716 and describe the property as a domestic dwelling with stables and gardens, whilst the building was first recognised as a public house nearly a century later. The property, which comprised a yard, garden, outbuildings plus a bake house to the rear, was sold by auction to a William Kitchen in 1838. When this was later purchased by Davy's Brewery, extensive outbuildings, stabling for six horse and carts, an orchard and a paddock were also included in the itinerary. Above the cart house was a club room used as a venue for village feasts and celebrations. This later became known as 'The Blue Room' and was used for dinner dances. The 1930s saw a development of small cottages situated close to the French Horn with an ice cream shop to the rear (Guy Taylor Associates. 2010).

The application site was within the historic core of the medieval village of Upton. This village is listed several times in the Domesday Survey of 1086, which notes that it contained both meadow and woodland pasture. This early reference strongly suggests that the origins of the village date back to the Anglo-Saxon period, as it appears to be relatively well established just twenty years after the Norman Conquest. Furthermore, it appears that parts of the medieval plan of this village are preserved within the modern pattern of property and field boundaries as the layout is characterised by long, thin property plots running perpendicular to the main road, with a house fronting the plot. Ancillary buildings that are positioned further down the plot, within the rear area (furthest from the road) are likely to have been used for industrial activities, as well as horticulture and the for the disposal of waste. The size of the development area does suggest that it may comprise an amalgamation of a number of medieval properties, giving rise to the possibility that remains of a number of houses and associated occupation areas may exist within the site boundary. Sanderson's map of 1835 also shows a building on the site of the two new dwellings.

6.0 Methodology

The archaeological monitoring comprised the excavation of three 2.00m deep soakaway trenches, each measuring approximately 2m wide by between 2 to 3m in length, plus the monitoring of numerous drainage runs and the foundation trenches for two separate garden walls. These were excavated to depths of between 0.50 to 0.86m and measured approximately 0.60m in width. All trenches were machine excavated using a flat-bladed bucket.

All exposed deposits were recorded on standard PCAS context recording sheets, and the progress of the groundworks noted on a standard PCAS site diary sheet. Sample sections were drawn at intervals at a scale of 1:20, and plotted on a base plan. A digital photographic record was maintained: a selection from this is reproduced as Appendix 1.

The monitoring of the groundworks was carried out intermittently between 07/04/2014 and 31/03/2015, involving five separate site visits. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Simon Savage, Richard Mandeville James Coles.

7.0 Results (Fig:- 3-6)

Deposits identified as undisturbed natural geological drift were revealed in all three of the soakaway trenches and comprised loose orange sand with frequent rounded pebble inclusions (context [103]). The top of the deposit was reached at 0.80m below the pre-excavation ground surface. A similar deposit was identified in three of the service trenches where its surface was revealed at between 0.68 to 0.76m below the pre-excavation ground surface (contexts (003), (005) and (109)).

Although within the remaining trenches natural drift deposits were not identified with certainty, it is probable that all but one did reveal disturbed natural drift. These deposits were individually allocated contexts (114) and (117) and were revealed at a depth of 0.44 and 0.56m below the pre-excavation ground surface. The deposit here appeared as a reddish to orange brown sand. Both these and the previously described deposits clearly represent glacial drift and are likely to have formed during the immediate post-glacial period, behind the retreating ice sheets.

Directly overlying natural deposits, in all of the excavated areas were a series of soils that varied in hue from mid to dark and in colour from brown to greyish-brown. Their composition was generally silty sand, with variable quantities of pebble inclusions (contexts (002), (101), (103), (108), (113), (116) and (121)). They also varied considerably in thickness from between 0.08 through to 0.50m and are believed to represent the remnants of an in-situ subsoil, although the variation in both colour, composition and thickness does suggest that they have undergone much post-depositional disturbance. The original formation process is likely to have been natural, probably gradual degradation of drift geology through both chemical and physical weathering processes.

Truncating the subsoil in one of the service trenches, a steep sided cut was partly revealed (context [009]). The extent as seen measured 2.20m NW-SE x 0.60m NE-SW, whilst an excavated depth of 0.12m represents only the base level of the trench. The exposed portion of the cut feature contained a single fill that comprised a mid to dark grey sand with tile, brick and mudstone fragments (context (008)). Both the cut and associated fill are believed to represent a post-medieval soakaway, likely to be directly related to the existing adjacent properties.

Overlying the previously described subsoil deposits in all three of the soakaway trenches and periodically within the remaining trenches were a series dark organic soils that comprised silty sands, with variable quantities of pebble inclusions (contexts (001), (100), (112), and (120)). These appeared thickest within the area of the soakaway trenches, here measuring around 0.34m where they represented the existing pre-excavation ground surface. Elsewhere the deposit was observed to be sealed by deposits of recent date and here they measured between 0.20 to 0.08m in thickness. These thinner soils are likely to represent either truncated or compressed topsoils, which have subsequently been sealed by levelling and surfacing deposits associated with modifications to the property prior to this phase of redevelopment. As with the underlying subsoil, the original formation process is likely to have been natural, probably gradual degradation of drift geology through both chemical and physical weathering processes, with greater degrees of bioturbation.

The remaining deposits encountered during the monitoring exercise comprised levelling and hard surfacing associated with the previous use of the property. These deposits were only witnessed within the service and foundation trenches and varied in thickness from between 0.10 to 0.34m. However, this differential in thickness is more representative of the on-site

recording, as some mixed deposits were recorded in groups. Stratigraphic modern sequences comprised the following contexts:

mixed rubble (007), overlain by levelling with asphalt capping (004) and with a combined thickness of 0.68m;

levelling with asphalt capping (006) with a combined thickness of 0.30m;

levelling deposit (107), overlain by levelling, demolition/levelling deposit (106), overlain by mixed rubble deposit (105), sealed by un-bonded surfacing (104) and with a combined thickness of 0.66m;

mixed rubble (111), overlain by un-bonded surfacing (110), with a combined thickness of 0.30m;

mixed levelling (115) measuring 0.20m thick;

mixed rubble (119), overlain by un-bonded surfacing (118) and with a combined thickness of 0.34m.

8.0 Conclusion

The fact that no finds or features pre-dating the early modern period were encountered during the monitoring and recording programme, suggests that the site has undergone fairly extensive disturbance during the earlier construction phases. Whether this occurred when the earliest recorded buildings on the site were constructed in around 1716, or whether it was associated with the subsequent phases of development and expansion is unclear. Additionally the limited extent of the excavated areas monitored would reduce the probability of deeper features of archaeological interest being seen and it is possible that such features could still remain largely undisturbed within the site boundaries.

9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

The lack of any tangible archaeological remains encountered during this project make any definitive assessment of the effectiveness of the methodology difficult to judge. However in regards to disruption of the construction process, it is clear that the methodology employed resulted in little or no delay to the planned sequence of construction works.

10.0 Acknowledgements

PCAS Ltd would like to thank Guy Taylor Associates for commissioning the work.

11.0 Site Archive

The project archive is currently held at the offices of PCAS Ltd. in Saxilby, Lincolnshire while being prepared for deposition, and will remain there until transference to a suitable receiving museum can be arranged, with the exception of the finds, which are to be discarded.

12.0 References/Bibliography

Guy Taylor Associates. 2010. *Heritage Assets Report: 'Conversion of French Horn Ph Into Two Detached Dwellings, With Two New Dwellings To The Rear Of The French Horn'*. On Behalf Of Gascoine Group Ltd, Southwell.

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Perrett, C. J. 1999. *Upton: an appraisal of the character & appearance of the Conservation Area. Virtual Catalogue Entry to support E.I. Migration.*

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ULHG: Upton Local History Group. Nd. *A Lingering Look Behind – A History of Upton-by-Southwell in the Twentieth Century,*

Figure 2:- 1:500 scale plans of architectural project design and areas of excavation monitored archaeologically

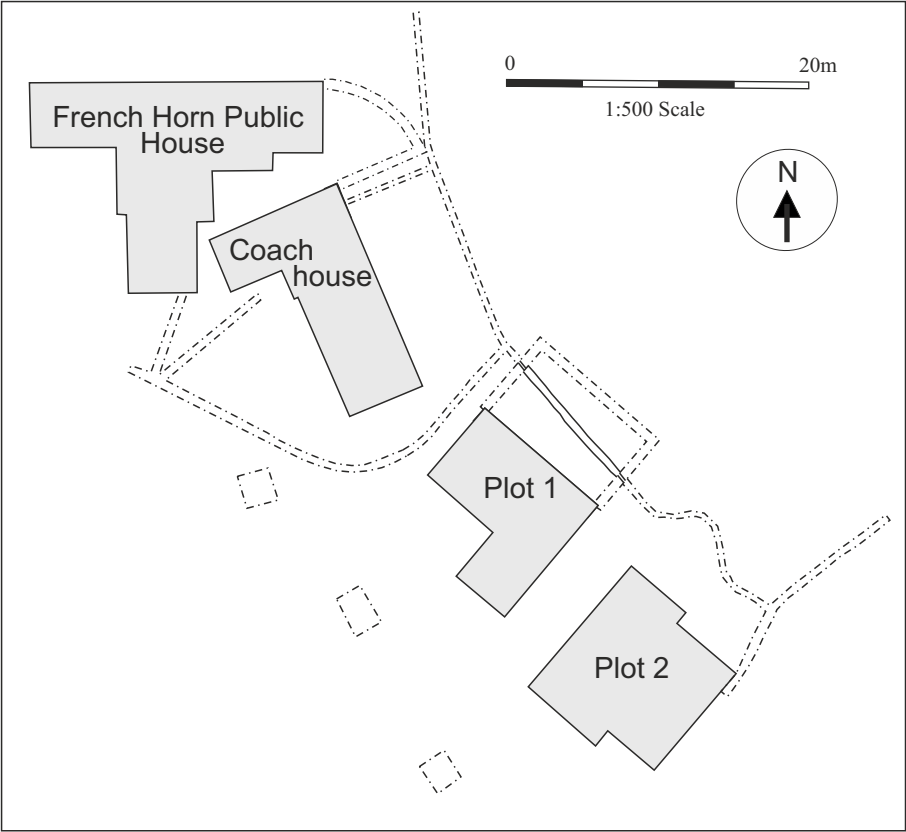
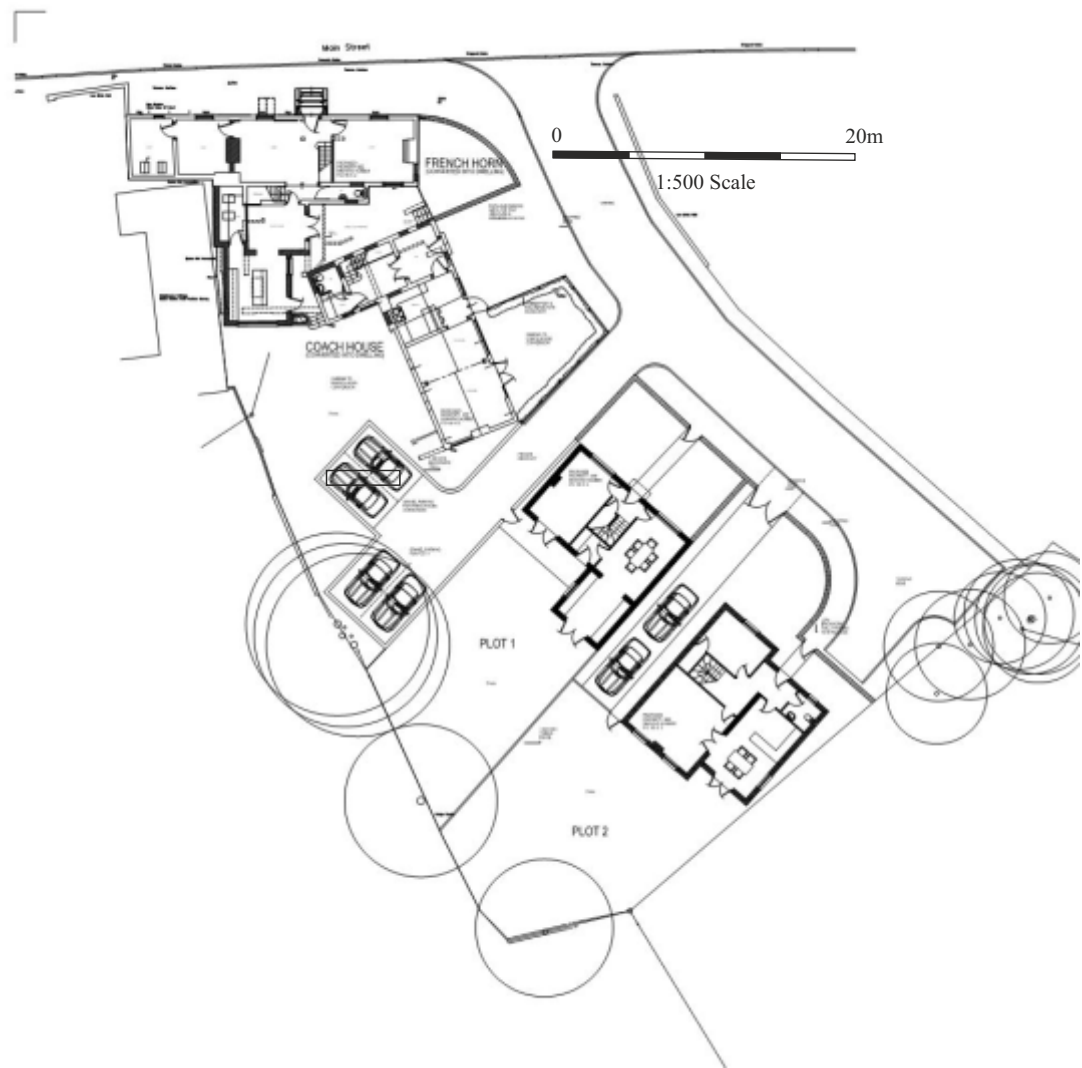
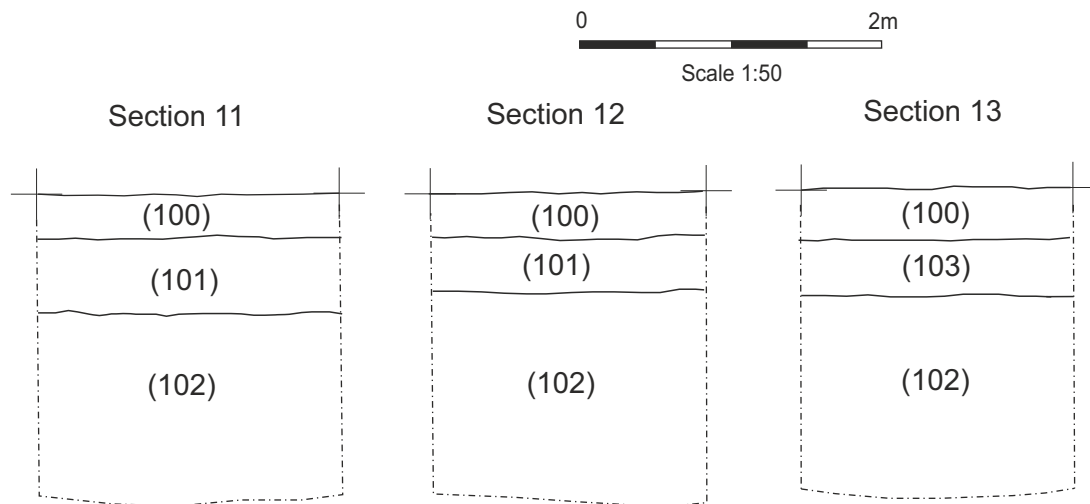


Figure 3:- sections and location plan for soakaway pits 1, 2 and 3 (sections 11-13)



Location plan for soakaway pits 1, 2 and 3 with associated sections

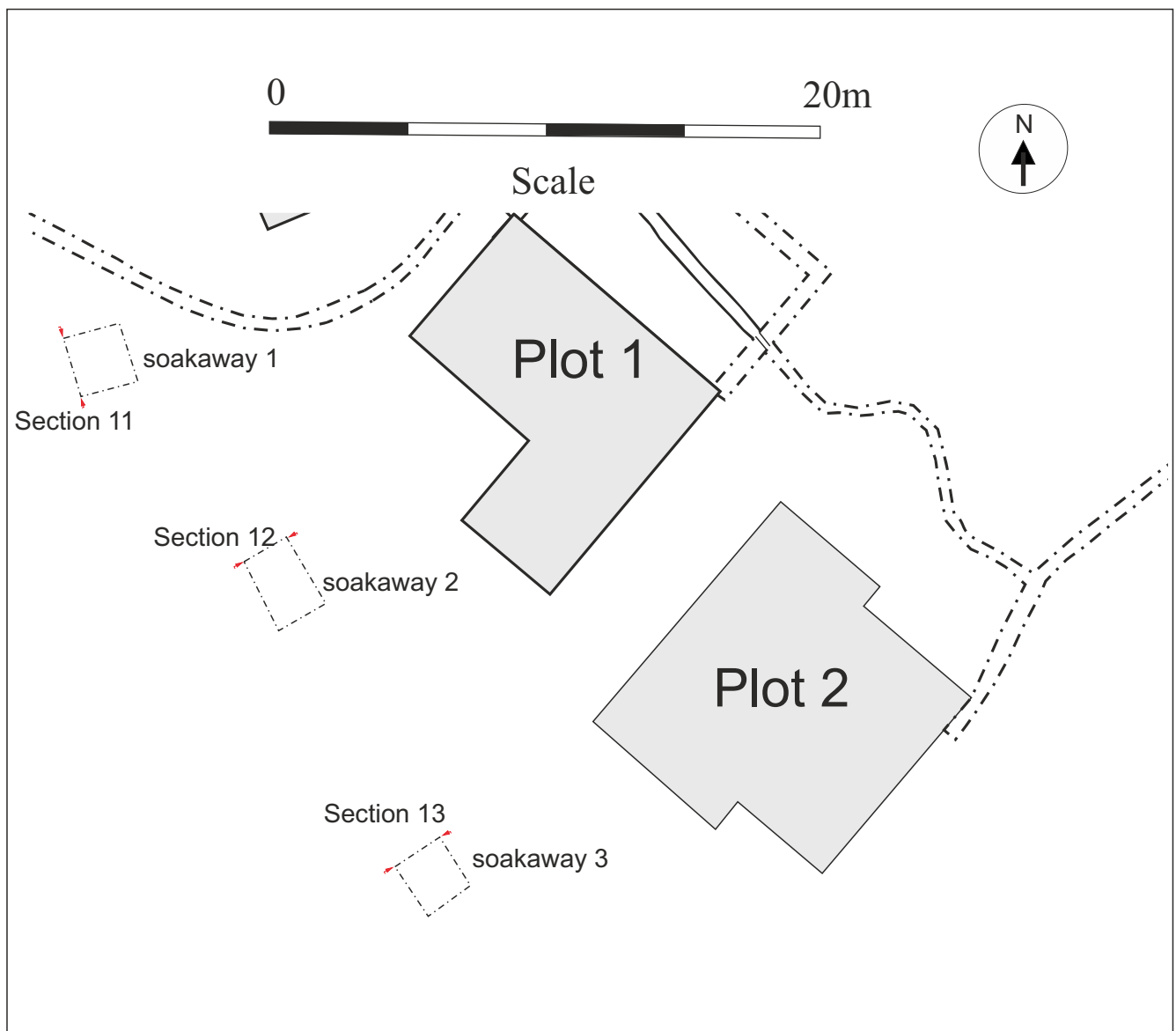
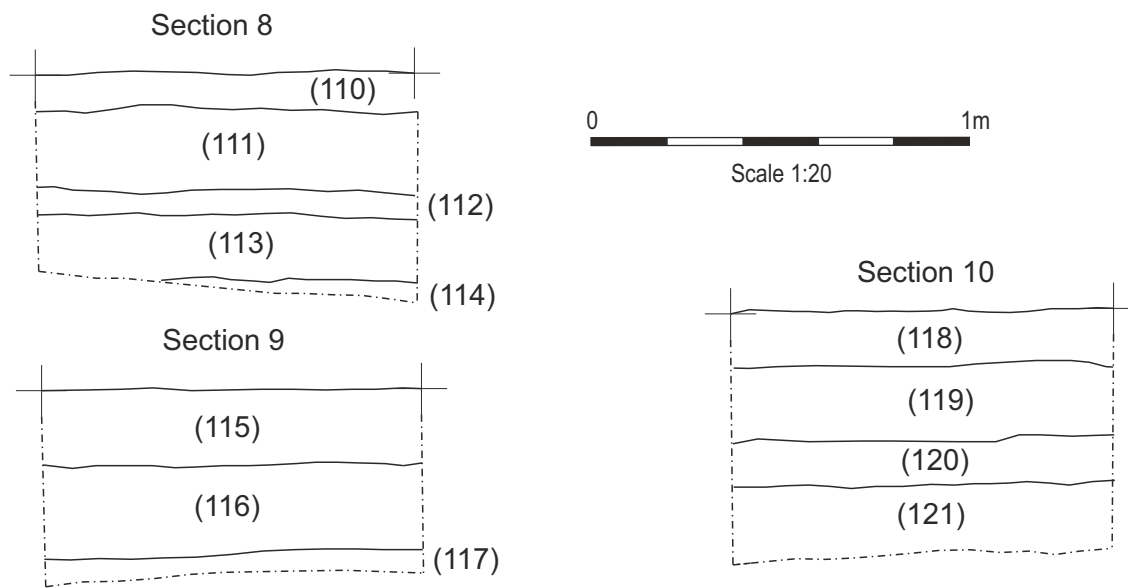


Figure 4:- Sections and location plan for wall foundation trenches (sections 8-10)



Location plan for sections 8, 9 and 10

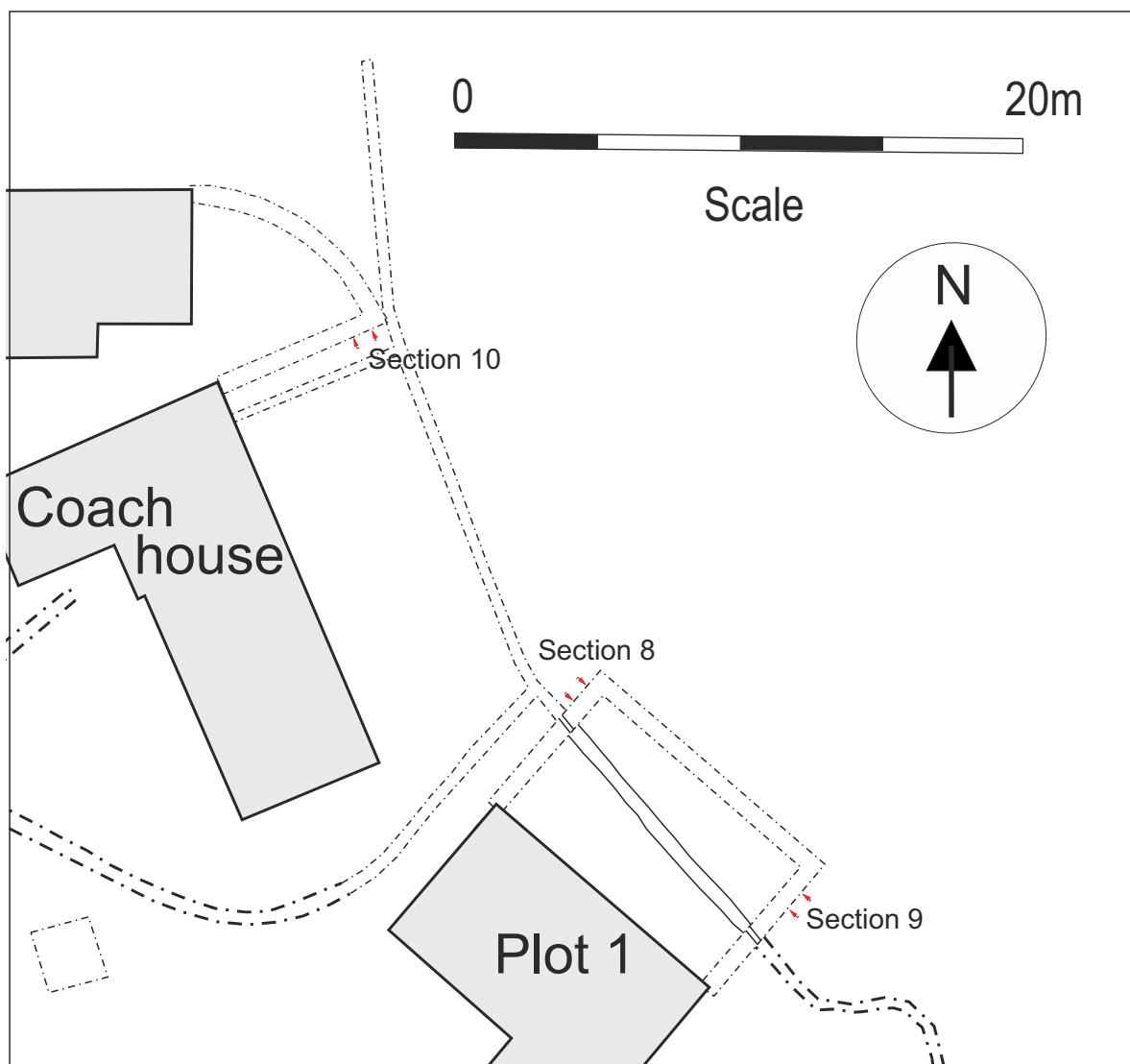
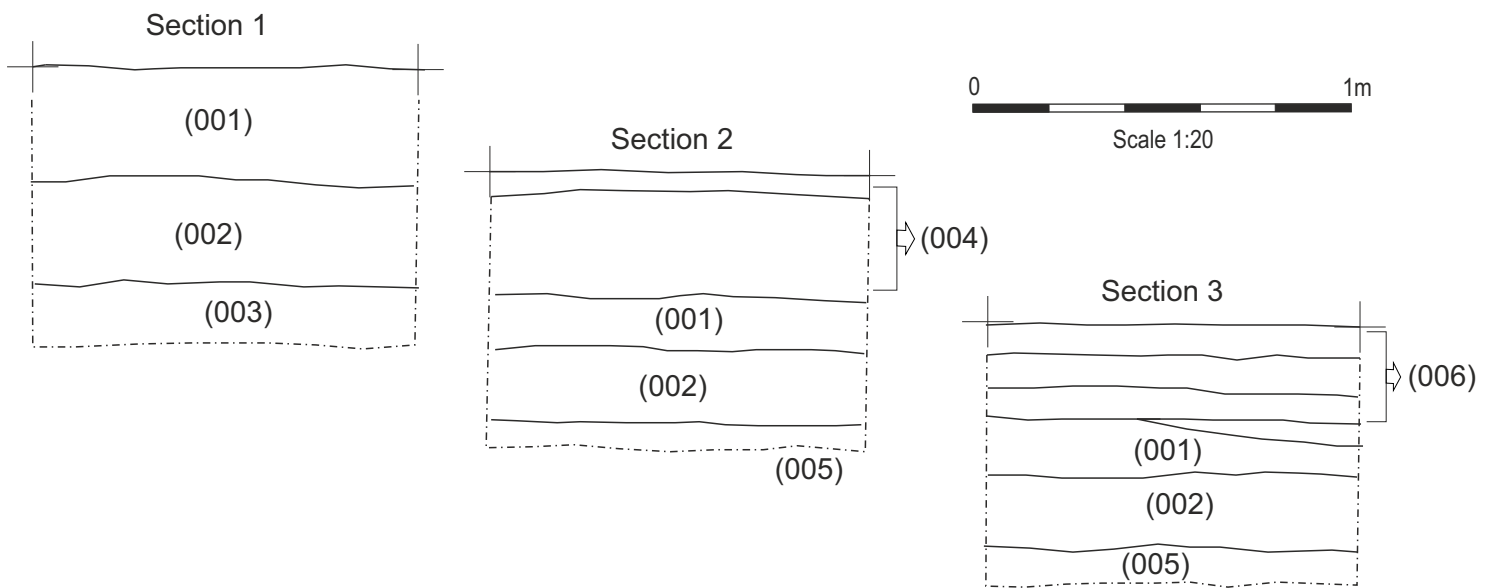
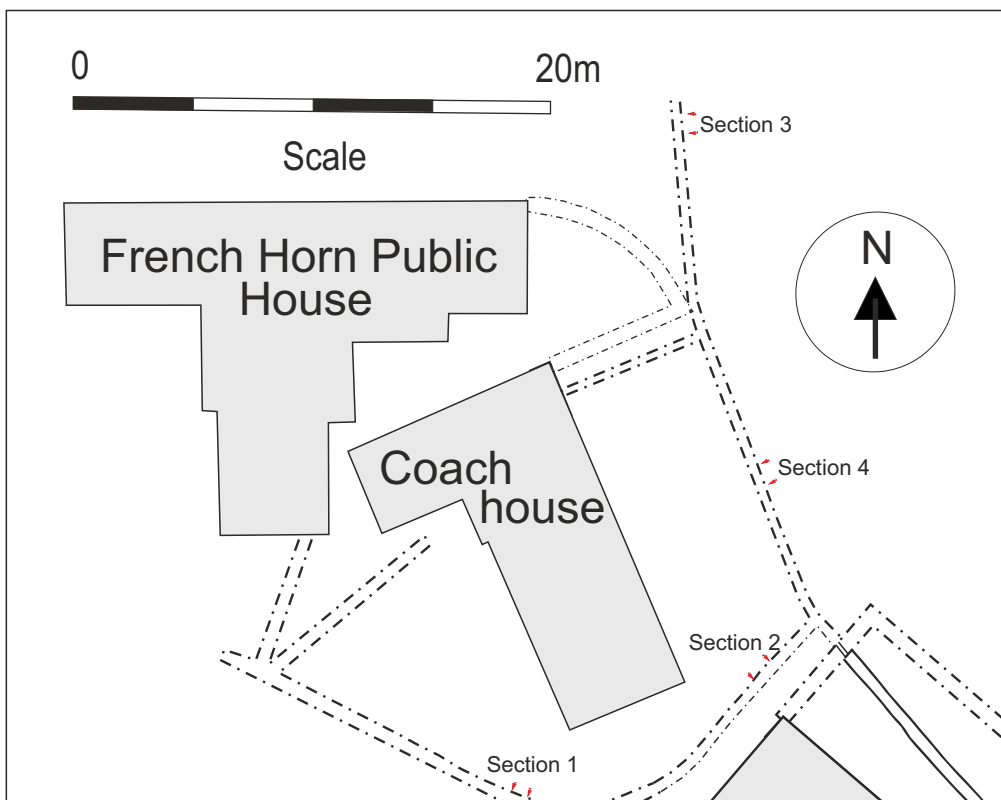


Figure 5:- Sections and location plan for northern part of service trenches (sections 1-3)



Location plan for sections 1,2, 3 and 4



Section showing unexcavated cut [009]

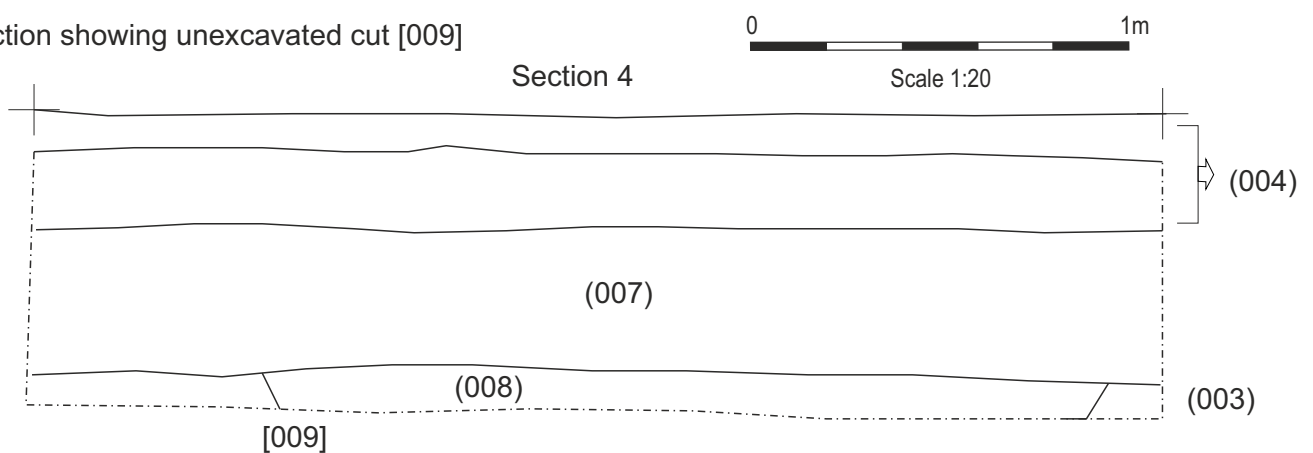
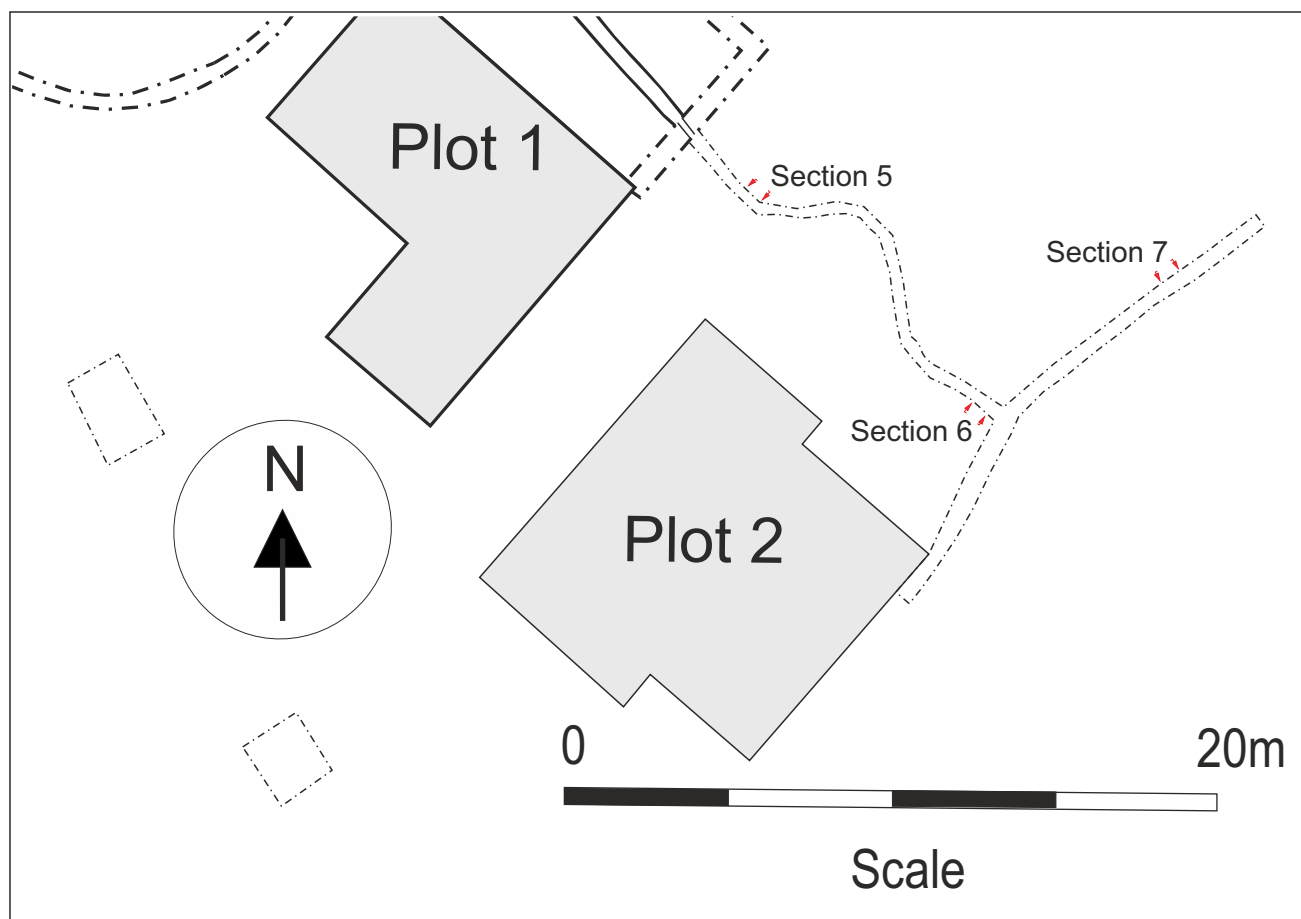
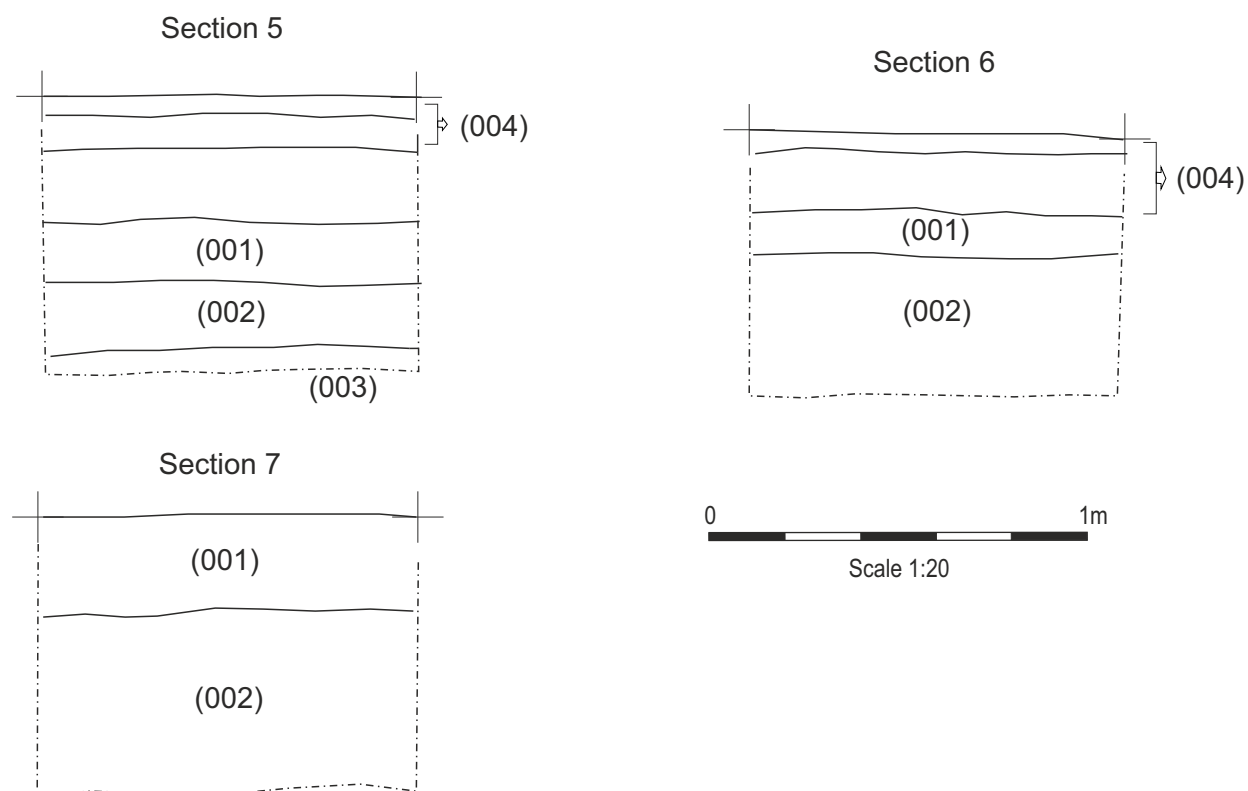


Figure 6:- Sections and location plan for southern half of service trenches (sections 5-7)



Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1

General shot of French Horn from street, looking WSW



Plate 2

General shot, rear French Horn, looking North



Plate 3

General shot of excavated service trench, looking SSE



Plate 4

Shot of service trench, looking NE and showing unexcavated cut [009].

Appendix 2: Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
001	Layer	Dark-brown silty sandy, topsoil	Modern
002	Layer	Mid-Dark Greyish-brown silty sand, possible sub-soil	None
003	Layer	Mid-Orange- brownish, coarse sandy gravel, disturbed natural drift geology	None
004	Layer	Combined asphalt and underlying levelling deposit	Modern
005	Layer	Mid-Orange- brownish, coarse sandy gravel, disturbed natural drift geology	None
006	Layer	Combined asphalt and underlying levelling deposit	Modern
007	Layer	Levelling deposit	Modern
008	Fill	Fill of cut [009]	Modern
009	Cut	Soakaway, filled by [008]	Modern
100	Layer	Dark-brown silty sandy, topsoil	Modern
101	Layer	Mid-Dark Brown silty sand, sub-soil	None
102	Layer	Mid-Orange- brownish, coarse sandy gravel, natural drift geology	None
103	Layer	Mid-Dark Greyish-brown silty sand, possible sub-soil	Modern
104	Layer	Un-bonded surfacing	Modern
105	Layer	Mixed rubble deposit	Modern
106	Layer	Demolition/levelling deposit	Modern
107	Layer	Levelling deposit	Modern
108	Layer	Mid-Dark Greyish-brown silty sand, possible sub-soil	None
109	Layer	Mid-Orange- brownish, coarse sandy gravel, disturbed natural drift geology	None
110	Layer	Un-bonded surfacing	Modern
111	Layer	Mixed rubble	Modern
112	Layer	Dark-brown silty sandy, topsoil	Modern
113	Layer	Mid-Dark Greyish-brown silty sand, possible sub-soil	None
114	Layer	Mid-Orange- brownish, coarse sandy gravel, disturbed natural drift geology	None
115	Layer	Mixed levelling	Modern
116	Layer	Mid-Dark Greyish-brown silty sand, possible sub-soil	None
117	Layer	Mid-Orange- brownish, coarse sandy gravel, disturbed natural drift geology	None
118	Layer	Un-bonded surfacing	Modern
119	Layer	Mixed rubble	Modern
120	Layer	Dark-brown silty sandy, topsoil	Modern
121	Layer	Mid-Dark Greyish-brown silty sand, possible sub-soil	None

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