

30 Waylands Cricklade Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Mr and Mrs PHJ Hankins

CA Project: 5529
CA Report: 15661

August 2015



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Cricklade
Wiltshire

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A	26 August 2015	Tom Weavill	Cliff Bateman	Internal review		Simon Cox

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SUMMARY

Project Name: 30 Waylands
Location: Cricklade, Wiltshire
NGR: SU 1018 9331
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 24 August 2015
Planning Reference: 15/02300/FUL
SMC: National Monument 1002997
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery
Site Code: WAY 15

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a single storey extension to the rear of the current property at 30 Waylands, Cricklade, Wiltshire.

Three undated deposits, possibly relating to the razed remains of the *Cricklade Town Banks*, were partially revealed within the groundworks.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Mr and Mrs PHJ Hankins at 30 Waylands, Cricklade, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: SU 1018 9331; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) following a planning application to Wiltshire Council for the construction of a single storey extension to the rear of the current property (Planning ref: 15/02300/FUL).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by Hugh Beamish, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation* (WCC Archaeology Service 1995) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). It was monitored by Hugh Beamish.

The site

- 1.3 The development area, which comprises the rear garden of the current property, lies at approximately 83m AOD. It is bounded to the south-west and south-east by grassland forming part of the *Cricklade Town Banks* (National Monument 1002997). The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Oxford Clay Formation (BGS 2015). A yellow clay natural substrate was encountered during the current groundworks.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site lies within Scheduled Monument *Cricklade Town Banks* (National Monument 1002997). The survival of the former bank and external ditches of the Saxon and Norman town have been demonstrated by previous archaeological investigations, notably in the south-west corner of the town, and there is a high potential for the preservation of currently unrecorded archaeological remains of national importance to survive within the current site.

- 2.2 No prehistoric features are recorded within, or in close vicinity to, the current site. The Cricklade Urban Assessment records that there are 'no prehistoric finds from the town itself, although an Iron Age spearhead was found near the route of the Roman road to the north and two unlocated Iron Age coins are recorded from the parish' (WCAS 2004, 7).
- 2.3 The nature of the Roman settlement at Cricklade remains uncertain. It is possible that it was a staging post on Ermin Street near the crossing of the Thames. There is also evidence for Roman occupation at Cricklade itself, including occupation layers recorded from St Sampson's School playing fields, and pottery and building debris at other locations in the town. A large ditch excavated in the north-east part of the town by Cotswold Archaeology has been interpreted as a possible western boundary to Roman settlement (King 1993).
- 2.4 Cricklade was chosen as the site for a defended settlement or 'burh' in the late 9th century during the reign of King Alfred. Haslam (2006) defines several periods of construction of the defences, these are summarised below.

Period 1 – c. AD 879-880 (Saxon)

- 2.5 Period 1 comprised the major construction of the Saxon town defences in c. AD 879-880. The defences included a large 6m wide clay bank (its original height is not known) with three shallow ditches on its exterior. The highly regular layout of the defences indicates that they were contemporary with the streets within the defences, and thus part of a fortress and new settlement.

Period 2 – early 10th century (Saxon)

- 2.6 In the early 10th century the defences were strengthened with a substantial stone wall on the exterior side of the bank, and the bank itself was most probably heightened. A small revetment wall was also constructed towards the inner side of the bank.

Period 3 - early 11th century (Saxon)

- 2.7 Possibly around AD 1016, an episode of widespread destruction of the defences occurred. The walls to the front and rear of the bank were destroyed, and the inner ditches filled with stones. There is evidence from other Wessex fortresses (such as

Wallingford, Christchurch and Lydford) that this formed part of a general policy of destruction by King Cnut.

Period 4- Mid 12th century (Norman)

2.8 This period marks the re-defence of the town. A substantial wooden palisade was built along the line of the former wall, and a further shallow ditch excavated. The innermost Saxon ditch was also re-excavated. Pottery evidence from archaeological excavations suggests that this took place in the mid 12th century, and documentary evidence also supports this date. A medieval document, *Gesta Stephani*, mentions the construction of a 'castellum' at Cricklade by William of Dover in AD 1144, which may actually refer to the re-fortification of the whole town.

2.9 The current site, along with much of the south-eastern quadrant of the town, remained as agricultural land until residential development in the last quarter of the 20th century.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2015). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of a foundation 'L-shaped' foundation trench measuring a total of approximately 5m in length, 0.7m in width and 1m in depth (Fig. 2).

4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

5.1 Natural geological substrate 105, consisting of yellow clay, was revealed throughout the foundation trench at an average depth of 0.85m below present ground level (bpgl). It was overlain by a greyish blue silty clay deposit, 104, which measured a maximum of 0.29m in thickness and produced a fragment of animal bone. Deposit 104 was partially covered to the south-west by deposit 103, a dark greyish blue silty clay which contained frequent flat stones. This, as well as deposit 104, was sealed by deposit 102 a sterile brown clay that was in turn overlain by modern gravel make up 101 for concrete slab 100.

6. THE FINDS

Animal Bone

6.1 A single, animal bone (303g) was recovered from layer 104. The bone was fragmented but well preserved enough to be identified as the femur of a cow (*Bos taurus*). No butchery marks were observed to suggest an origin in domestic waste. No further useful interpretative data beyond species identification was obtainable and it is more than likely that the fragment is residual in nature.

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 Deposit 104, whilst not forming an extant bank, may represent levelled bank material associated with the former Saxon and/or medieval defences, although such an interpretation must remain tentative due to the small exposure of the deposit during the current works. Deposit 103 contained frequent stone fragments and may form

part of a subsequent consolidation layer covering the south-western part of deposit 104. Deposit 102 is distinctly different in appearance to earlier deposits 103 and 104 and may form a later levelling layer or evidence for ploughing.

- 7.2 Although unproven, and certainly hampered by the paucity of dateable material, it is tempting to suggest that the identified stratigraphic sequence can be placed within the known chronology of the town defences. Deposit 104 may represent the documented destruction of the Saxon defences in the early 11th century with deposit 103 being indicative of the subsequent re-fortification of the town in the mid 12th century. Deposit 102 may therefore be indicative of subsequent ploughing during the agricultural use of the land in the post-medieval/modern periods.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Weavill, who also wrote the report. The finds/biological evidence report was written by Andy Clarke. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. The archive has been compiled by Tom Weavill, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

9. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 22 July 2015

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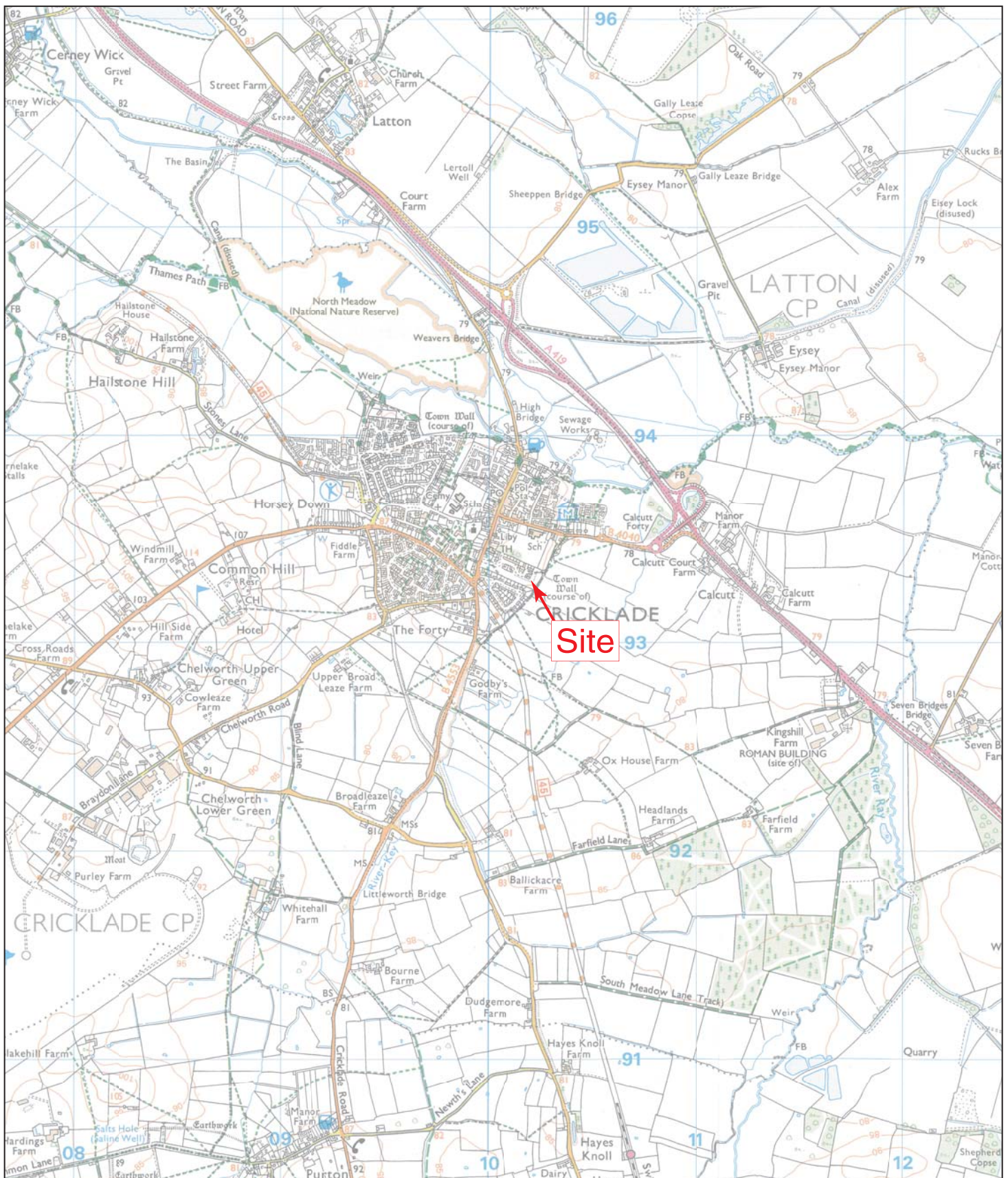


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer		Surface	Concrete slab			0.08	
101	Layer		Made ground	Make-up for concrete slab			0.25	
102	Layer		Levelling deposit?	Sterile light brown clay			0.3	
103	Layer		Consolidation deposit?	Grey blue silty clay with frequent flat stones			0.12	
104	Layer		Levelled bank material?	Grey blue silty clay with rare charcoal flecks			0.29	
105	Layer		Natural substrate	Yellow clay				

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	30 Waylands, Cricklade, Wiltshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a single storey extension to the rear of the current property at 30 Waylands, Cricklade, Wiltshire.</p> <p>Three undated deposits, possibly relating to the razed remains of the <i>Cricklade Town Banks</i>, were partially revealed within the groundworks.</p>	
Project dates	24 August 2015	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	30 Waylands, Cricklade, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	3.4m ²	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 1018 9331	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Tom Weavill	
MONUMENT TYPE	<i>Cricklade Town Banks</i> (National Monument 1002997)	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	Animal bone
Paper	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	Trench sheets, permatrace drawings, context sheets, photo registers
Digital	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>30 Waylands, Cricklade, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report 15661</p>		



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PROJECT TITLE

**30 Waylands, Cricklade
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FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan




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DATE 04/09/2015
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FIGURE NO.

1



-  observed groundworks
-  Scheduled Monument
-  section location



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PROJECT TITLE

**30 Waylands, Cricklade
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FIGURE TITLE

**The site, showing the location of
groundworks**

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FIGURE NO.

2

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DATE

04/09/2015

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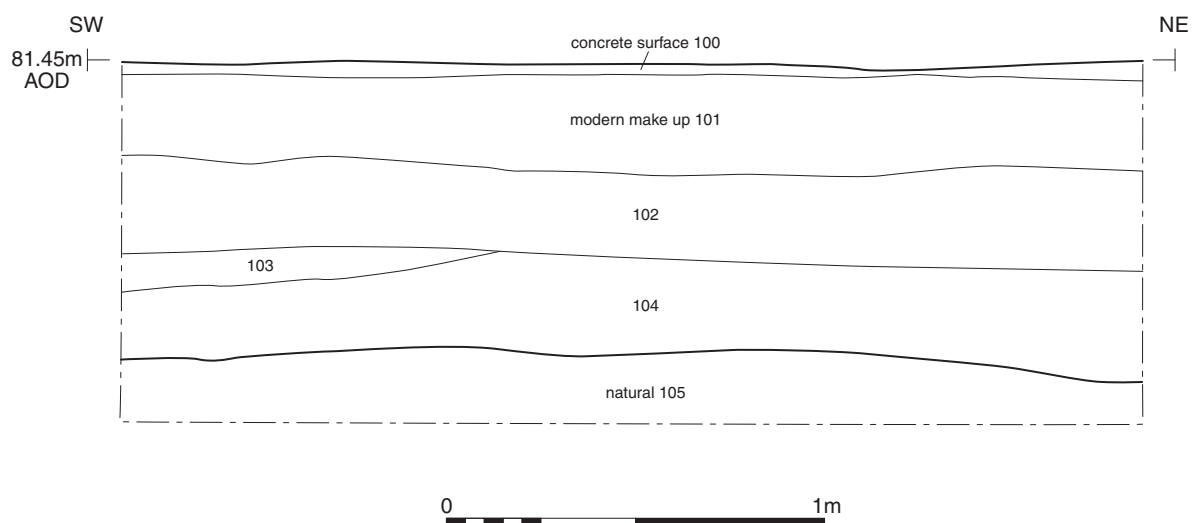
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1:350

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SU

Section AA



South-east facing section of foundation trench (1m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

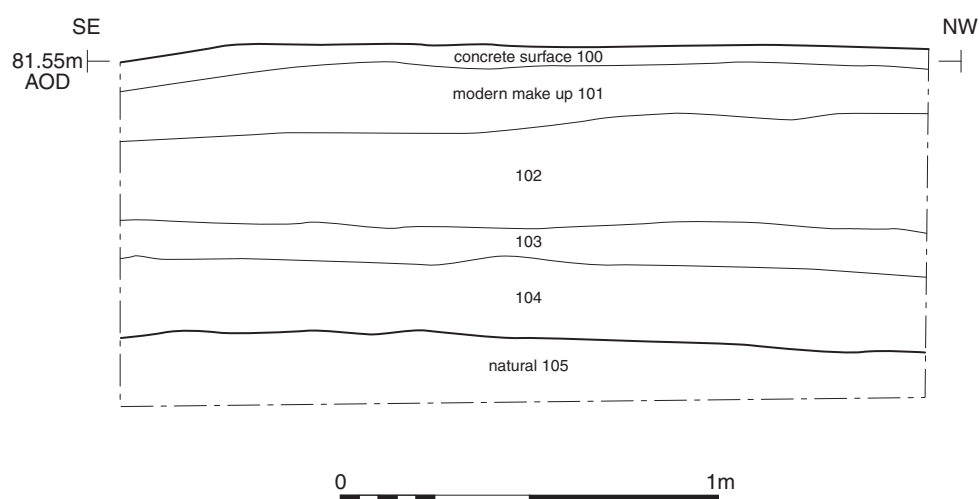
South-east facing section and
 photograph of foundation trench

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FIGURE NO.

3

Section BB



North-east facing section of foundation trench (1m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

North-east facing section and
 photograph of foundation trench

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FIGURE NO.

4

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