

of land at

**SILVERHILL SCHOOL,
SWAN LANE, WINTERBOURNE,
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**

for

Mr Rick Tanton



Report No. 2242 / 2010
SGSMR No. 18604



Bristol and Region Archaeological Services

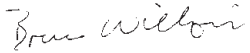

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Archaeological Evaluation
of land at
SILVERHILL SCHOOL,
SWAN LANE, WINTERBOURNE,
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Centred on
N.G.R. ST 64964 81345

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Agent: David Daw

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<i>Date Issued:</i>	18 February 2010 

CONTENTS

1.	Introduction.....	1
2.	The Site.....	2
3.	Archaeological and Historical Context.....	3
4.	Aims and Methodology	4
5.	Results.....	5
6.	Conclusion.....	6
7.	Project Team.....	7
8.	Bibliography and Sources Consulted.....	7
9.	Acknowledgements.....	7
	Appendix 1: Policy Statement	
	Appendix 2: Context Descriptions	
	Illustrations and Plates	

Abbreviations

AD	Anno Domini	Km	Kilometre
aOD	Above Ordnance Datum	m	Metre
BaRAS	Bristol & Region Archaeological Services	NGR	National Grid Reference
BC	Before Christ	NMR	National Monuments Record
HER	Historic Environment Record	OS	Ordnance Survey
c.	Circa		

NOTE

Notwithstanding that Bristol and Region Archaeological Services have taken reasonable care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known and recorded archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

February, 2010.

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SUMMARY

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the former principals house within the walled garden at Silverhill School, Winterbourne prior to the construction of a new single storey dwelling containing an undercroft garage. The site is centred on NGR ST 64964 81345, lies on the west side of the village of Winterbourne and is quadrilateral in shape, being bounded by high stonewalls formerly surrounding the garden of the principal's house. The site was formerly occupied by a house built in the 1980s that has subsequently been demolished. The site is bordered to the north and west by Green Lane, a track which runs off from Swan Lane, and to the south and east by the grounds of the school.

Winterbourne House was probably built in the 17th century and it became a school in 1945. All of the deposits and features observed within the trenches were either the result of modern disturbance or associated with the use of the site as a garden or orchard. No significant archaeological deposits or features were found within the site.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS**Figures**

Figure 1	Site location plan, 1:2500
Figure 2	Trench location plan, 1:250
Figure 3	Trench A plan
Figure 4	Trench A east-facing section
Figure 5	Trench C plan
Figure 6	Trench C south-facing sample section

Plates

Cover	View of the site from the south
Plate 1	View of trench A from the south
Plate 2	East-facing section of trench A
Plate 3	View of Trench B from the east
Plate 4	View of Trench C from the east

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) were commissioned by architect David Daw on behalf of Mr Rick Tanton to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the former principal's house within the walled garden at Silverhill School, Winterbourne, South Gloucestershire prior to the construction of a new single storey dwelling containing an undercroft garage.
- 1.2 The evaluation was commissioned to comply with the condition of planning proposal (PT09/1045/F) and in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS 2009). The work was carried out in accordance with the brief issued by David Evans (Historic Environment Record Officer of Planning and Environment at South Gloucestershire Council).
- 1.3 The fieldwork was undertaken between 17 and 18 December 2009 under the supervision of Simon Roper who also compiled this report.
- 1.4 The project archive will be deposited with Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery under the Accession Number BRSMG 2009/85 and a digital copy of the report will be sent to the National Monuments Record maintained by English Heritage. The project has been entered in the South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record as: SGSMR 18604 and in the OASIS Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations as: bristola1- 69251.

2. THE SITE

- 2.1 The site (centred on NGR ST 64964 81345) lies on the west side of the village of Winterbourne and is quadrilateral in shape, being bounded by high stonewalls formerly surrounding the garden of the principal's house (**Fig. 1**). The site was formerly occupied by a house built in the 1980s that has subsequently been demolished. The site is bordered to the north and west by Green Lane, a track which runs off from Swan Lane, and to the south and east by the grounds of the school.
- 2.2 The study area lies at approximately 62m aOD and the site slopes down to the north and north-west. The geology of the study area comprises Pennant sandstone (British Geological Survey).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Prior to the present project the study area formed part of an archaeological desk-based assessment (BaRAS 2008). The full historical and archaeological background to the site is contained within this document. Relevant details are summarised below:
- 3.2 The earliest indications of settlement within Winterbourne parish are a collection of flint tools, including a Palaeolithic blade, found within Bury Hill hillfort near Hambrook. The hillfort itself is a bivallate contour hillfort covering an area of 5.5 acres, which may date to the late Bronze Age and was probably occupied throughout the Iron Age.
- 3.3 In the Roman period the Bury Hill was reoccupied, and used as a link between the line of Roman forts along the Severn and their camps on the Cotswolds.
- 3.4 The earliest written record of Winterbourne occurs in the Doomesday book of 1086, the entry of which reads: "In Swinehead Hundred in the time of King Edward there were in the revenue 36 hides in Bitton, with its two members, Wapley and Winterbourne. In lordship there were 5 ploughs; 41 villagers and 29 smallholders with 45 ploughs. 18 slaves with 1 mill. In the time of King Edward this manor paid one night's revenue; now it does likewise."
- 3.5 In the late twelfth century the manor was no longer held by the king but by Reginald de Cahoine and Ralph Fitstephen. The manor changed hands throughout the medieval period during which the settlement of Winterbourne continued to grow. The present church of St Michael the Archangel dates from at least the 13th century and in 1393 the King granted the right to hold a weekly market and two fairs yearly "in the town of Winterbourne".
- 3.6 Winterbourne House was probably built in the 17th century (by at least 1698) although possibly much earlier, the earliest recorded resident being Hezekiah Cole who is listed as a resident of Winterbourne in the records of the Society of Friends (Quakers) in 1654. The house was passed down to his grand-daughter Hester Donne and her husband William Donne (Dunne), and after William's death in 1766 the house was sold by his daughters in 1768. The house and grounds were subsequently lived in by a succession of owners and tenants, including from 1940 to 1944 the RAF in the form of No. 935 Balloon Squadron, and in 1945 it became a school for the first time.
- 3.7 The earliest detailed map evidence for the site is the Tithe map of 1844, with the house, outbuildings, the drive and internal divisions of the grounds depicted. The study area is depicted as a separate area, with the road now known as Green Lane bordering it to the west and north, and an internal division forming its east and south boundaries with the gazebo depicted at the south-east corner of the study area.
- 3.8 In the 1980s a modern house was built within the area of the walled garden for use by the school's principal. This house was demolished and the made ground it was built upon removed prior to the archaeological evaluation taking place.

4. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork complied with the methodology contained within the Written Scheme of Investigation (BaRAS 2009) and the brief prepared by David Evans (Historic Environment Record Officer of Planning and Environment at South Gloucestershire Council). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the IFA's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (IFA 1999) and Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP II) issued by English Heritage (EH 1991).
- 4.2 It was the aim of the evaluation to establish if archaeological deposits lay within the application area and to determine their extent, date, preservation and character.
- 4.3 A total of three evaluation trenches were excavated using a JCB mechanical excavator utilising a toothless grading bucket to the first significant archaeological or geological strata. After the machine excavation the trenches were cleaned using hand tools.
- 4.4 Geological and archaeological features were excavated and recorded in accordance with the BaRAS Site Recording Manual (BaRAS 2005). Recording was carried out using the BaRAS single context recording system. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and 1:50, sections at scales of 1:20 and 1:50. A full photographic record comprising all stratigraphic units and working shots was kept on 35mm monochrome film supplemented by colour digital images taken at a resolution of 5 megapixels.
- 4.5 All levels were taken from a Temporary Benchmark established with the use of a Topcon GRS-1 GNSS RTK network receiver GPS unit.

5. RESULTS

Trench A

- 5.1 Trench A was situated on the west side of the site (**Fig.2**). The trench measured 10m x 1.4m and was orientated in a north/south direction (**Plate 1**).
- 5.2 The natural substrata was encountered at 61.64m aOD and was overlain by subsoil layer (1002) a clayey sand which contained modern fragments of pot and glass. At the north end of the trench the subsoil was cut by (1006) a probable tree bole, the fill of which (1007) comprised yellow clay. Context 1002 was also cut by an area of modern disturbance which included within it the bands of red and yellow sand, (1004) and (1005) respectively. This was identified as the area through which a gas main had run, which had been removed prior to the archaeological work. Much of the topsoil (1001) had also been removed prior to the archaeological work, however a small section of it remained at the south end of the trench overlying (1002) (**Figs. 3 & 4**). No significant archaeological remains or features were found within trench A.

Trench B

- 5.3 Trench B was situated on the east side of the site (**Fig.2**). The trench measured 10m x 1.4m, and was orientated in an east/west direction (**Plate 3**).
- 5.4 The undisturbed natural substrata was encountered at 60.09m aOD and was overlain by disturbed natural the result of demolition activity on the site. A mixed and disturbed topsoil layer sat above this, the result of the topsoil having been stripped across the site and stockpiled in the location of the trench. No archaeological deposits were present within this trench.

Trench C

- 5.5 Trench C was situated in the north-east corner of the site (**Fig.2**). The trench measured 8m x 1.4m, and was orientated in an east/west direction (**Plate 4**).
- 5.6 The undisturbed natural substrata was encountered at 59.67m aOD and was overlain by subsoil (3002), a buried soil associated with the use of the site as an orchard and garden. A thin current topsoil layer (3001) sat above this, the thinness the result of the topsoil having been stripped across much of the site (**Fig. 5**). No archaeological features were observed within this trench.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Trench A contained a topsoil and subsoil layer above the natural substrata, with an area of modern disturbance associated with a gas main, and a single irregular feature probably a tree bole. Trench B was located in the area of the demolished house and contained only recently disturbed deposits overlying the natural substrata. Trench C was similar to trench A, with a topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural substrata.
- 6.2 All of the deposits and features observed within the trenches were either the result of modern disturbance or associated with the use of the site as a garden or orchard. No significant archaeological deposits or features were found within the site.

7. PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by Hefin Meara and Simon Roper who also produced this report. The illustrations were prepared and the report compiled by Ann Linge. The archive was compiled and prepared for deposition by Simon Roper. The project was managed by Bruce Williams.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES CONSULTED

- BaRAS, 2008 *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of The Walled Garden Of Winterbourne House, Swan Lane, Winterbourne, South Gloucestershire*. Report No. 18604/2008
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9. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

BaRAS would like to thank Mr Rick Tanton, David Daw and Leigh Farmer for their assistance and co-operation and David Evans for his advice.

APPENDIX 1: Policy Statement

This report is the result of work carried out in the light of both national government and local authority policies.

NATIONAL POLICIES

Statutory protection for archaeology is enshrined in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), amended by the National Heritage Act, 1983. Nationally important sites are listed in the Schedule of Ancient Monuments (SAM). Scheduled Monument consent is required for any work that would affect a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

LOCAL POLICIES

The Planning Policy Guidance of Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16) consolidates advice to planning authorities. The Guidance stresses the non-renewable nature of the archaeological resource, details the role of the Local Authority Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), encourages early consultation with county and district council archaeological officers and sets out the requirement for developers to provide sufficient information on the impact of a development on the archaeological resource to enable a reasoned planning decision to be taken.

PPG 16 also indicates the circumstances where further work would be necessary and outlines the use of agreements and conditions to protect the archaeological resource.

South Gloucestershire's Local Plan (adopted January 2006) states:

Archaeology L11

Development which would not physically preserve sites of national archaeological importance, whether scheduled or not, or would have a significant impact on the setting of visible remains, will not be permitted.

Planning permission will not be granted for development on sites or landscapes of archaeological interest or of high archaeological potential without an archaeological assessment and if necessary a field evaluation.

Where the assessment indicates that the proposed development would harm a site, structure or landscape of archaeological or historic importance or its setting, development will not be permitted unless applicants can demonstrate a satisfactory scheme indicating how the impact of the proposal on the archaeological resource can be mitigated. The council will negotiate agreements to preserve and manage archaeological remains.

APPENDIX 2: Context Descriptions

Context No.	Description
1001	Dark brown topsoil deposit
1002	Reddish brown subsoil deposit
1003	Reddish brown clayey sand and bedrock
1004	Red sand
1005	Yellow sand
1006	Cut associated with a tree bole
1007	Clay fill of cut 1006
2001	Disturbed redeposited topsoil
2002	Disturbed reddish brown clayey sand and bedrock
2003	Reddish brown clayey sand and bedrock
3001	Dark brown topsoil deposit
3002	Reddish brown subsoil deposit
3003	Reddish brown clayey sand and bedrock

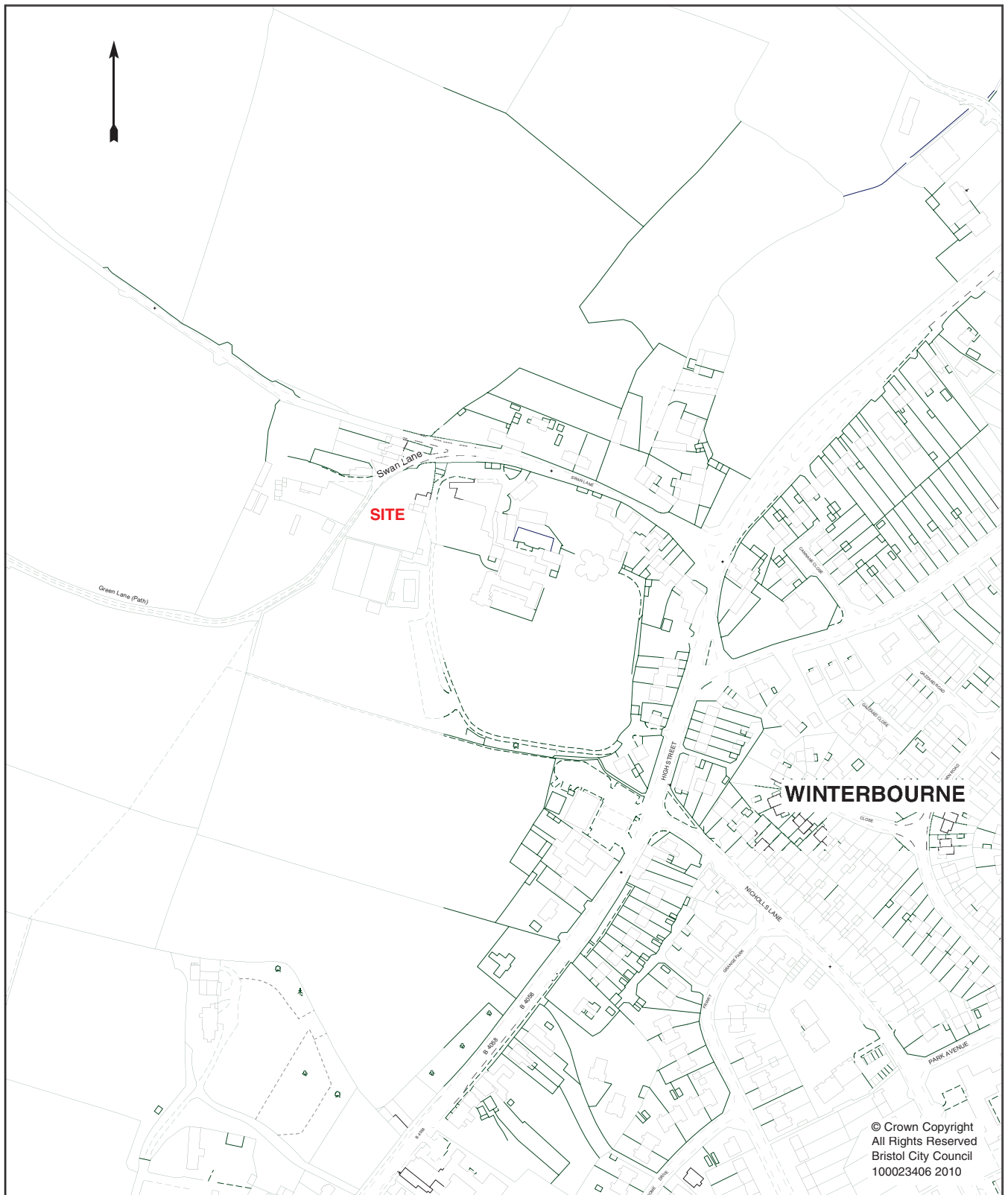


Fig.1 Site location plan, 1:2500



Fig.2 Trench location plan, 1:250

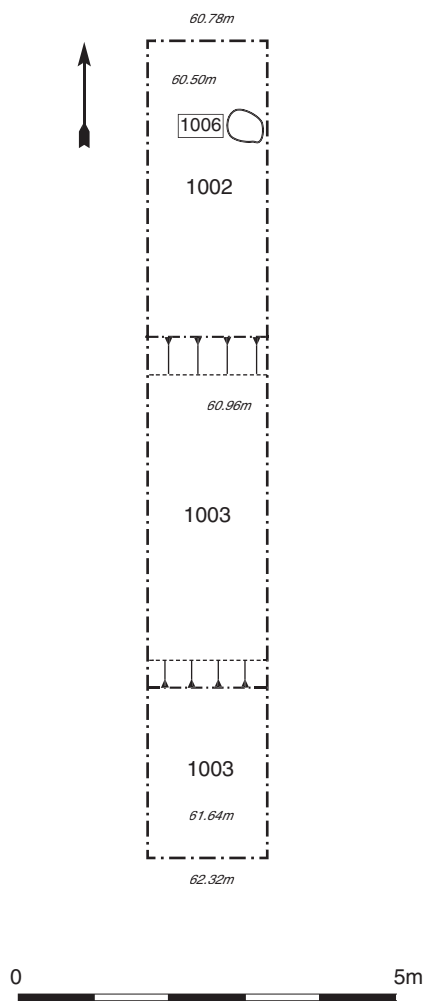


Fig.3 Trench A plan, scale 1:100

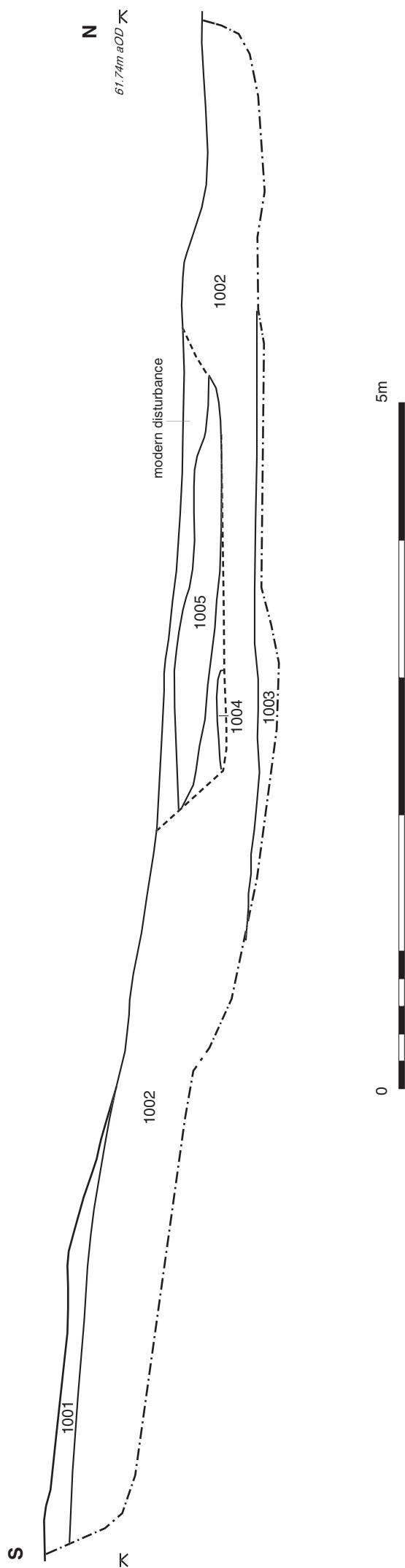


Fig.4 Trench A east-facing section, 1:40

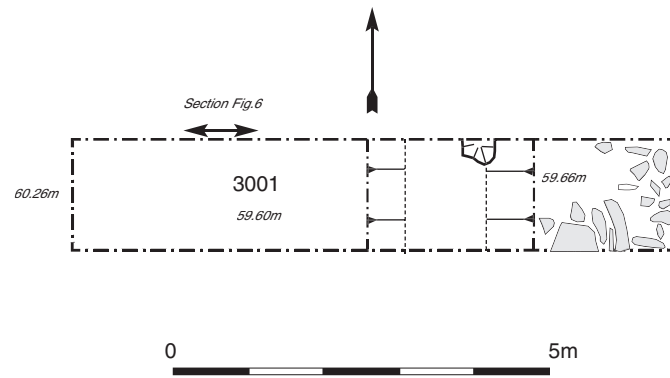


Fig.5 Trench C plan, 1:100

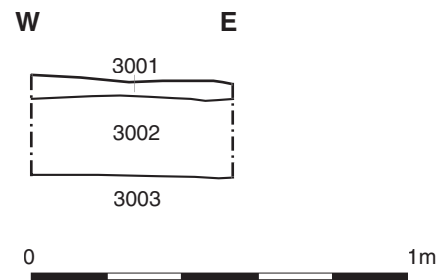


Fig.6 Trench C south-facing sample section
scale 1:20



Plate 1 View of Trench A from the south



Plate 2 East-facing section of Trench A



Plate 3 View of Trench B from the east



Plate 4 View of Trench C from the east