

**Programme of archaeological work
at Whitehouse,
Church Street,
Eckington,
Worcestershire**

Martin Cook BA MCIfA

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WSM 46071 and 46072

The School House
Church Lane
Tardebigge
Worcestershire
B60 3AH

07850 918755

Programme of archaeological work at Whitehouse, Church Street, Eckington, Worcestershire

Introduction

A programme of archaeological work was carried out at Whitehouse, Church Street, Eckington, Worcestershire (SO 9214 4138; Fig 1). It was undertaken as a condition of planning consent (W/10/2313, condition no.8) at the request of Mr Phil Williams according to a written scheme of investigation provided by Martin Cook BA MCIfA and approved by Mike Glyde of Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service. During the course of the project the historic western boundary of the plot was extended to be co-terminal with the eastern boundary of the railway line.

The project was undertaken in advance of the conversion of the building to domestic accommodation and the construction of an extension and detached garage.

The documentary material

Documentary research at the Worcestershire County Record Office took place on the 13th June 2014 and a search of the Historic Environment Record was commissioned and received on the 13th June 2014.

Historic mapping

The Eckington enclosure map of 1813 (Fig 2.1) shown the site occupied by two substantial buildings, one on the street frontage and an 'L' shaped one in the back plot. By the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886 (Fig 2.2) the building on the street frontage has been extended to approximately its modern extent. The large building in the back plot has gone but there is a rectangular building in the north-west corner of the original plot (the original plot boundary lay immediately to its west) which is the subject of the building recording element of this project. There is also a very small structure in the south-west corner of the original plot which is no longer extant. The Ordnance Survey maps of 1904 (Fig 2.2) shows little change but the Ordnance Survey map of 1923 (Fig 2.3) shows that the small structure in the south-west corner of the site is no longer extant.

The Worcestershire Historic Environment Record

An HER search was carried out on a 500m diameter search area around the proposed development and received on the 8th December 2011. The building to be recorded is described as an outbuilding west of Whitehouse, Church Street, Eckington (WSM 42238) and is dated to the 19th century. It lies within the same plot as the White House, which has given this project its name, and which is described as:

an 18th and early 19th century house with stucco; of two-storeys, four windows being sashes with glazing bars and a panelled door with a fanlight. The left hand return wall has old casements, a bay window and two gabled dormers. It has a hipped tile roof (WSM 40302).

Other buildings in the immediate vicinity are:

12th century

WSM 07714

Holy Trinity Church: a Grade II* listed. 12th century church with a 15th century tower and additions of the 1830s, restoration and enlargements of 1887.

17th century

WSM 20505

Post Office Stores, Golden Cross House, (formerly an inn), of 17th century origins

WSM 31230

Three cottages, Sunnycot, Peace Haven and another, Grade II listed row of three timber framed cottages. Black and white elevations with a tiled roof 17th century origins.

WSM 42074

North House, Church Street: an unlisted possibly 17th century house.

WSM 40300

The Farmhouse, Church Street: 17th and 18th century, roughcast with projecting gabled wing on left. Two-storeys. Casements. Two gabled dormers. Flush panelled door. Machine tile roof. Modern chimneys

18th century

WSM 17808

Bell Inn: an unlisted inn, shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map; most probably of the 18th century

WSM 20510

Orchard Cottage: a 17th/18th century timber framed cottage with white brick nogging

WSM 40303

Crown Inn, Village Street: Grade II listed 18th century inn

19th century

WSM 42072

Mapleton, Drakes Bridge Road: an unlisted 19th century red brick house

WSM 42073

Wakefield House, Church Street: an unlisted late 19th century red brick dwelling with a tiled roof

WSM 42075

Outbuilding, North House, Church Street: an unlisted 19th century brick outbuilding.

WSM 42077

Three Church Cottages and The Cottage: unlisted 19th century red brick cottages

WSM 42079

Cambridge House, The Old Forge and The Stores: unlisted 19th century brick house and shop

WSM 40301

Trinity House, Village Street: early 19th century. Red brick.

WSM 40304

Church Gate House and Cottage, Village Street: early 19th century, red brick. Two-storeys

WSM 40305

Ilex House, Village Street: Grade II listed early 19th century. Red brick with two-storeys

20th century

WSM 42078

Belldene Cottage, Church Street: unlisted, undated house. Mainly 20th century brick work, but possibly an older timber framed building inside

In the general vicinity Roman remains and artefacts have been identified and recorded (eg WSM 05905, 07724 and 32865).

Commentary

There is clear evidence of activity and occupation going back to Roman times (and earlier) in the vicinity. There are a few 17th and 18th century buildings surviving but most extant structures belong to the 19th century. This is the period within which the building recorded by this project falls.

The fieldwork

General

Fieldwork took place intermittently between the 14th December 2011 and the 7th February 2015. The building survey took the form of a walk-over survey with architect's plans and elevations; notes of historic information relating to the construction and sequence of development of the building and photographs were taken as appropriate. Six test pits were excavated and recorded across the site and there was a watching brief on all ground works.

The building recording; description and commentary

General

The building was of a single phase but approximately half of it had collapsed and had been removed prior to the project commencing. It is believed that the missing half was similar, if not identical, to the surviving part.

Description of the building

The surviving part of the building was a single cell structure of two storeys (Figs 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 14, 15 and 16). The east and west elevations were constructed in Flemish garden wall bond with cogs at the eaves. The north elevation and (originally) dividing south wall were in stretcher bond. The east elevation was the principal one, facing the White House and having doors at both ground and first floor level, in line vertically. There is a glazed window to the north of the door at ground level. The north elevation has a window in the centre of the elevation at first floor level.

The interior was plain except for a hay basket in the north-west corners of both cells (Figs 4.3, 17 and 18). The hay basket in the northern cell (Figs 4.3 and 17) had a small, closable trapdoor in the floor above it.

Commentary and interpretation

The building was clearly a stable and falls into Type 3 (loose boxes) of Peters' classification (Peters 1969).

The loose box was a form of stable in which a horse was not tied up, but free to move about. It was thus much larger than a stall. Denton suggested that such boxes should be about ten feet square. The recorded example exceeds this by some margin. This may be explained by the fact that this (and its lost companion) were the only stable accommodation and were intended to accommodate a riding or carriage horse. For this type of horse, loose boxes were considered them better than stalls for the riding and carriage horses were generally only used for a small part of the day. If tied up in a stall they were unable to move about and so exercise their feet. Which in consequence were liable to become 'deranged'.

The form of the rack and manger were the subject of some discussion. The normal sloping rack was generally condemned, as it allowed seeds to fall into the horses' eyes and ears. The difficulty was avoided if the rack were vertical. There were objections to the racks and mangers being carried across the stalls as they were always filled, providing more than the horse needed and so wasting hay. There was also the danger of poll-fever from having the smell of hay under their noses all the time. To resolve this issue corner racks were proposed which contained only enough for feeding. This was the arrangement at the White House.

Lofts are found in all stables surviving from before 1773 in lowland Staffordshire. They were generally provided to contain hay or straw, which was dropped into the rack from above, provision for which was made at the White House. The loft helped to keep the stable warm. The reason for this was that whilst cows would probably be tied up most of the winter and so keep the cowhouse warm, horses were out during the day and would return warm to a cold stable. Charles Waistell, an agricultural commentator of the early 19th century, while objecting to a ceiling over a waggon stable, preferred one over the hackney, as these horses were more susceptible to cold (Waistell 1827). The floor of the loft was generally well-made to prevent dust falling onto the horses below. Sometimes a plaster floor or ceiling was used.

Assessment of the building's significance

The stable is typical of small stables erected in association with rural houses of the 'well-to-do'. Although not the case with this example, they often included accommodation for a dog cart or trap: light, horse-drawn vehicles with two wheels, accommodating two to four people in various seating arrangements (wikipedia). They were the domestic garage of their day, accommodating the equivalent of the family car.

The test pits and watching brief; description and commentary

Six test pits were excavated across the site in the positions shown on Fig 3.1. Within the test pits, the topsoil, a very dark brown sandy clay loam and the subsoil, a mid orange-grey sandy clay were constant across the site (contexts 001, 004, 010, 016, 019 and 025 and 002, 005, 013, 017, 020 and 026 respectively). The remaining deposits are described according to the test pits in which they were identified.

Test pit 1 (Figs 3.1, 3.2, 5 and 7)

Beneath the subsoil (context 002; 20th century) the corner of what was believed to be a vertically-sided rectangular pit was found (context 007). This was filled with a mid orange-grey sandy clay (context 003) which contained the articulated skull of a horse or pony. Given its proximity to a 19th century stable and its orientation, which appeared to be the same as the stable, it was considered that this required no further investigation. This feature was cut into the natural subsoil, a light yellow-orange clayey sand (context 009).

Test pit 2 (Figs 3.1, 3.2, 6 and 8)

Beneath the subsoil (context 005) was a shallow linear cut (context 008) running approximately north-north-east to south-south-west. This was filled with a light orange-grey clayey sand (context 006). The finds from this fill were of the late 2nd to 4th century. This feature was cut into the natural subsoil, a light yellow-orange clayey sand (context 009).

Test pit 3 (Figs 3.1, 3.3 and 9)

Beneath the topsoil (context 010) was a vertically sided cut (context 012). This was filled with a light orange-grey clayey sand (context 011) which contained very many glass bottles. The nature of these bottles which included pharmaceutical containers of the late 19th to 20th centuries suggested that this was a rubbish pit associated with the 19th century stable. Adjacent to this pit, the subsoil (context 013) had clearly been redeposited and beneath it was a layer of ash and charcoal (context 014) suggestive of a bonfire. Beneath this was the subsoil (context 015). The excavation of this test pit was terminated when its depth reached 1.1m beneath existing ground level.

Test pit 4 (Figs 3.1, 3.3 and 10)

Beneath the subsoil (context 017) was a layer of dark green-grey silty sand with occasional small rounded stones (context 018) whose interpretation is unknown. The excavation of this test pit was terminated when its depth reached 1.1m beneath existing ground level. No features were encountered in this test pit at the depth that was reached.

Test pit 5 (Figs 3.1, 3.4 and 11)

Beneath the subsoil (context 020) was a sub-circular, vertically-sided cut (context 024). The general morphology of this feature, its proximity to the existing house on the street frontage and its fill of brick, tile and plaster rubble (context 023; indicative of material imported to fill an inconvenient hole in the ground) suggests that this cut feature was a well.

Test pit 6 (Figs 3.1, 3.4 and 12)

Beneath the subsoil (context 026) was the natural subsoil, a light yellow-orange clayey sand (context 009).

A watching brief was maintained on the excavation of the footings for the new-build elements of the project.

A new garage was built on the northern boundary of the site (Fig 3.5). Beneath the topsoil (context 028), against the northern boundary, was found the footing of a stone wall (context 027; Figs 3.5, 3.6 section 1 and Fig 13). This was a particularly well constructed wall, the lowest courses of which were founded not just upon the top of the natural subsoil, as is quite common with early construction, but were cut into the natural subsoil itself (contexts 030 and 032) in a manner reminiscent of modern work. The only building with which this wall can be identified is the 'L' shaped structure shown on the Eckington enclosure map of 1813 (Fig 2.1). However, the finds from this context dated to the late 19th to 20th centuries.

Within the footings of the new build extension to the stable, the topsoil, subsoil and natural subsoils reflected the deposits recorded in test pits 1 and 2 (see above). A single feature was recorded cut into the natural subsoil. This was a narrow, shallow ditch or gully (Fig 3.5 and 3.6 section 4; context 034) which ran approximately north-north-west to south-south-east and was filled with a dark green-grey slightly clayey sand (context 033).

Two sections of the services trenches for the new build (Figs 3.5 and 3.6 sections 2 and 3). The deposits in these were unremarkable, consisting (section 2) of a stoning-up layer (context 035), overlying the topsoil (context 036) which in turn overlay the natural subsoil (context 037). In the other section (section 3) the stoning-up layer previously encountered in section 2 was identified again (context 035) which overlay a dark green-grey silty sand with occasional small rounded stones (context 038) whose interpretation is uncertain.

The finds

Roman

A total of five sherds of pottery could be dated to the Roman period and one feature (trench 2, context 6) could be allocated a *tpq* of late 2nd-4th century. The sherds from this feature consisted of two adjoining body sherds of locally produced wheel made Malvernian ware (fabric 19) and a large sherd from a Black-burnished ware 1 (fabric 22) flanged bowl. The Malvernian ware was undiagnostic could only be dated to the general production span of late 2nd-4th century. However, the Black-burnished ware rim was from a commonly identified form which could be dated early-late 2nd century.

Two residual sherds of oxidised Severn Valley ware (fabrics 12 and 12.2) were also retrieved from the site (trench 4, context 17). One of these was from an early storage jar form which could be dated late 1st-early 2nd century.

Post-medieval

All post-medieval material within the assemblage was residual. Pottery of this period consisted of six sherds of post-medieval red ware (fabric 78), all of domestic forms commonly identified within assemblages of this date in Worcestershire. Diagnostic sherds included a fragment of press-moulded plate with inlaid slip decoration (trench 1, context 1) and the base of a cup (trench 4, context 17) both of mid 17th-18th century date. Remaining sherds came from large bowl or pancheon forms more commonly associated with 18th century assemblages (trench 2, context 4 and trench 3, context 10).

Three pieces of roof tile and two fragments of clay pipe stem were also of post-medieval date.

Modern

All remaining finds were of late 18th to 20th century date and included fragments of ceramic building material, domestic pottery and bottle glass. The pottery included a variety of sherds of modern glazed wares including modern china (fabric 85), creamware (fabric 84) and porcelain (fabric 83). Where diagnostic, sherds came from domestic tablewares, primarily plates, dishes and cups and many were transfer decorated or had a single painted line around the rim in a variety of colours. In addition to these tablewares, a large number of terracotta flowerpot sherds were also identified (fabric 101).

Perhaps the most interesting feature of the modern assemblage, was the large number of complete or near complete glass bottles. The majority of these were of plain pale green or colourless moulded glass and included both pharmaceutical and condiment containers. Some of the more interesting of

these had moulded wording describing the contents which they originally held. Examples included 'Kilmer's Swamp root, kidney, liver and bladder cure' (trench 2, context 5), 'Veno Light Night Cough Cure' (trench 5, context 19) and 'Daddies sauce' (trench 5, context 20). A small number of glass stoppers were also identified alongside these bottles (trench 3, context 11). The majority of these bottles are of late 19th- early 20th century date.

The animal bone

The animal bone was all from modern contexts and the environmental specialist recommended that no further work on it was necessary (Elizabeth Pearson; Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service, pers comm).

Site formation processes

Although a considerable area has been designated as the medieval area of Eckington (WSM 25914), within which the site falls, it is acknowledged that this is conjectural. Domesday gives the following account of the numbers of people:

Six freedmen [and their families], four male slaves, one female; held by Urso; five villagers and eight smallholders [and their families], four male and three female slaves. A mill [the miller and his family]; seven villagers and four smallholders [and their families], four male and three female slaves.

A rough and ready figure for the total number of households might be thirty-one giving a total peasant population of around one-hundred and fifty or possibly two hundred. Even in 1550, it is likely that most of the families were living in cottages comprising only two rooms built with a timber frame with walls of reinforced mud (Hoskins 1955). It is likely that these had no significant footings, merely sitting on the ground. It is unlikely that the remains of such slender structures would be detectable in a watching brief.

The few survivals from this time comprise a 12th century element of the church (WSM 07714), its churchyard (WSM 2285), the late 11th century village cross (WSM 40299) and two 16th century timber framed buildings (WSM 20522 and 40298). With the exception of the church and churchyard, which are opposite the site, the remaining survivals are scattered around the village. As noted above (**The Worcestershire Historic Environment Record**), the majority of the neighbouring buildings date to the 17th and 18th centuries. This corresponds to a period of countrywide rebuilding identified by Hoskins that could have swept away, without trace, the peasant shacks and shanties of earlier centuries.

In addition, a deep cutting of the Birmingham and Gloucester Railway (WSM 44917) is located at the western end of the site. The substantial earth-moving activities associated with this enterprise may have had a deleterious effect upon adjacent archaeological deposits.

Summary

The project recorded a small stable, originally accommodating two horses in loose boxes with a hayloft, dating to the mid to late 19th century, associated with the house on the same plot on the street frontage.

The excavation of the trial pits and the watching brief identified a mixture of features including a horse burial and rubbish pit, both probably associated with the stable and dating to the late 19th century, two shallow linear ditches or gullies of similar profile, one of which could be dated to the late 2nd to 4th century, a possible well associated with the existing house on the street frontage and a substantial stone wall associated with a building, now gone, in the back plot.

Bibliography

Hoskins, W G 1955 *The making of the English landscape*

Peters, J E C, 1969 *The development of farm buildings in western lowland Staffordshire up to 1880*

Waistell, C, 1827 *Designs for agricultural buildings*

Internet sources

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dogcart>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trap_%28carriage%29

Acknowledgements

The author would particularly like to thank Mr Phil Williams and his team and Mr Mike Glyde of Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service for their kind co-operation.

Archive

The archive consists of:

- 6 Annotated scale drawings
- 1 DVD-ROM
 - on which are recorded:
 - the text of the report
 - the illustrations for the report

The physical archive has been deposited at Worcestershire County Museum, Hartlebury.

The digital archive has been deposited with the Archaeology Data Service.

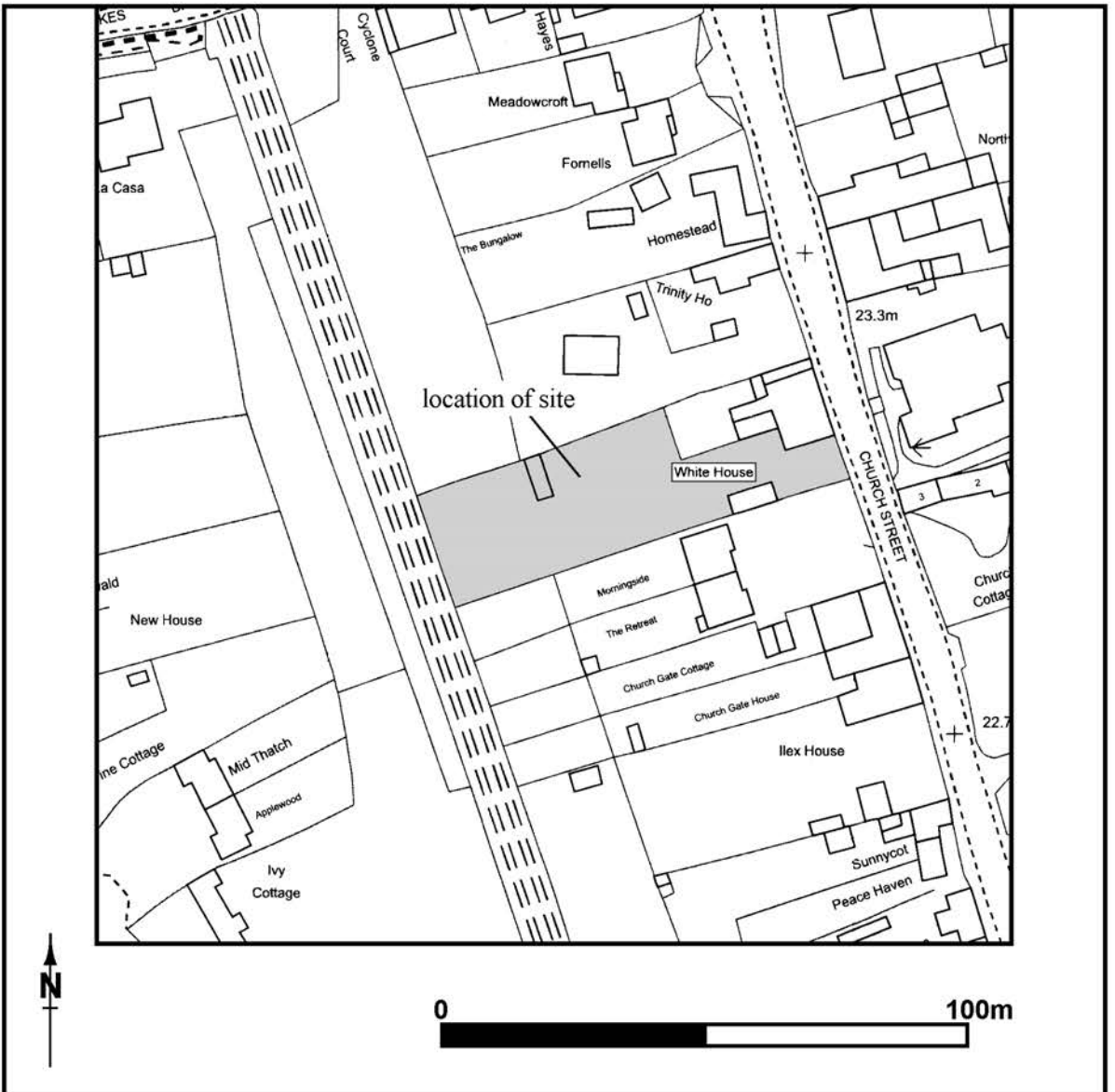
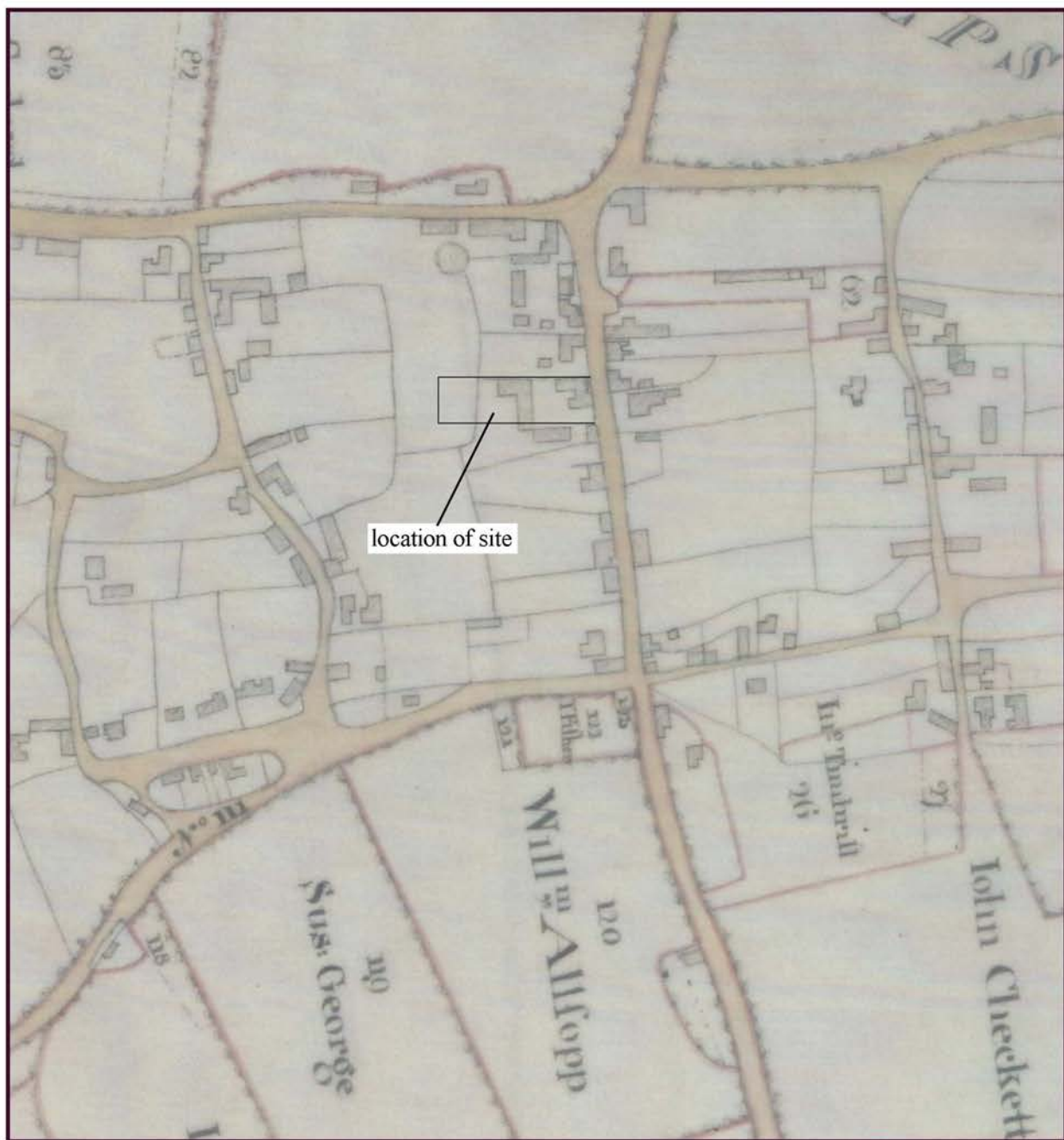


Fig 1: Location of site

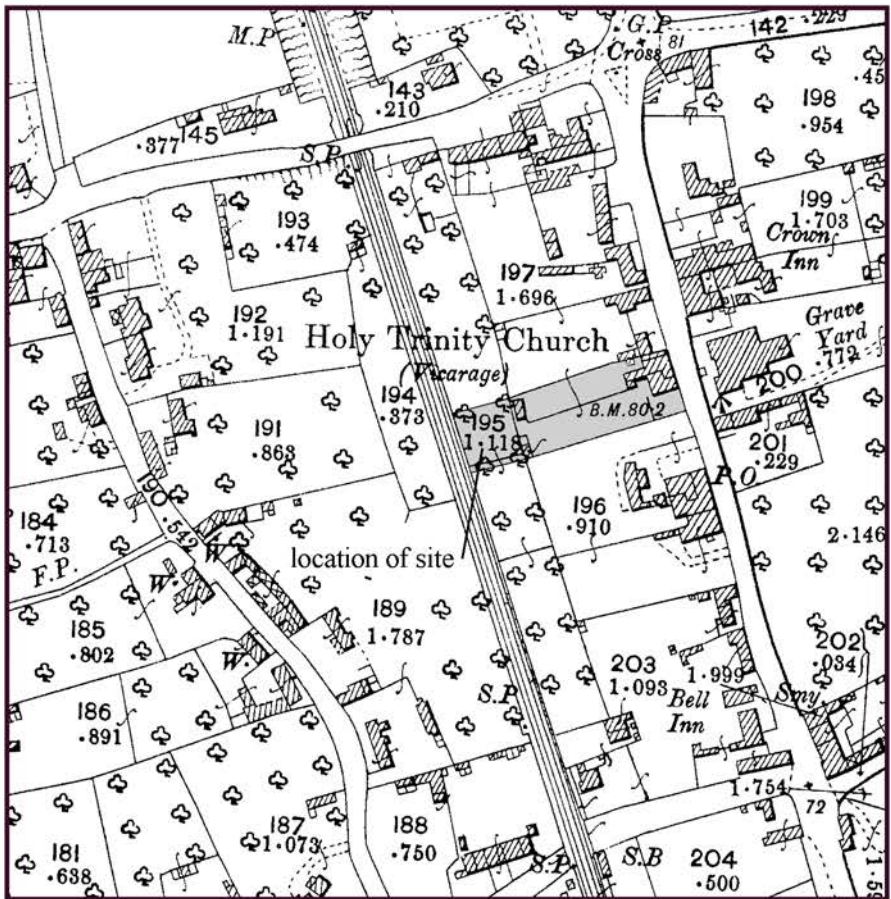
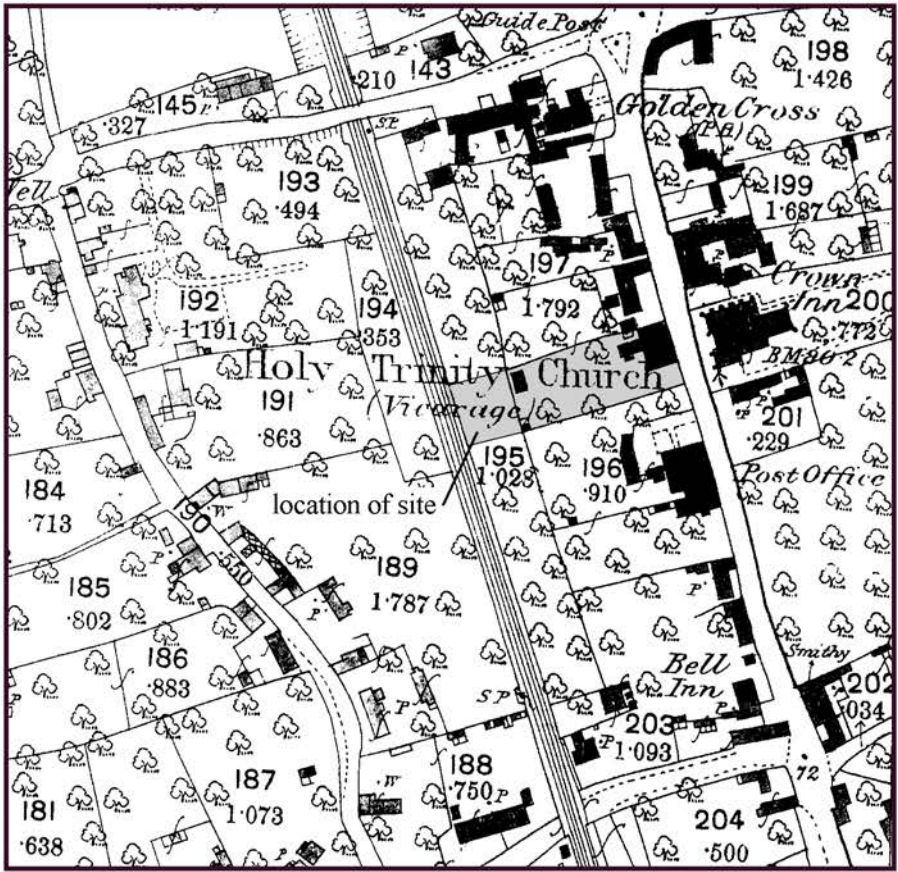
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not to scale



Fig 2.1: Eckington inclosure map; 1813



0

200m



Fig 2.2: Historic Ordnance Survey mapping

1923



0

200m



Fig 2.3: Historic Ordnance Survey mapping

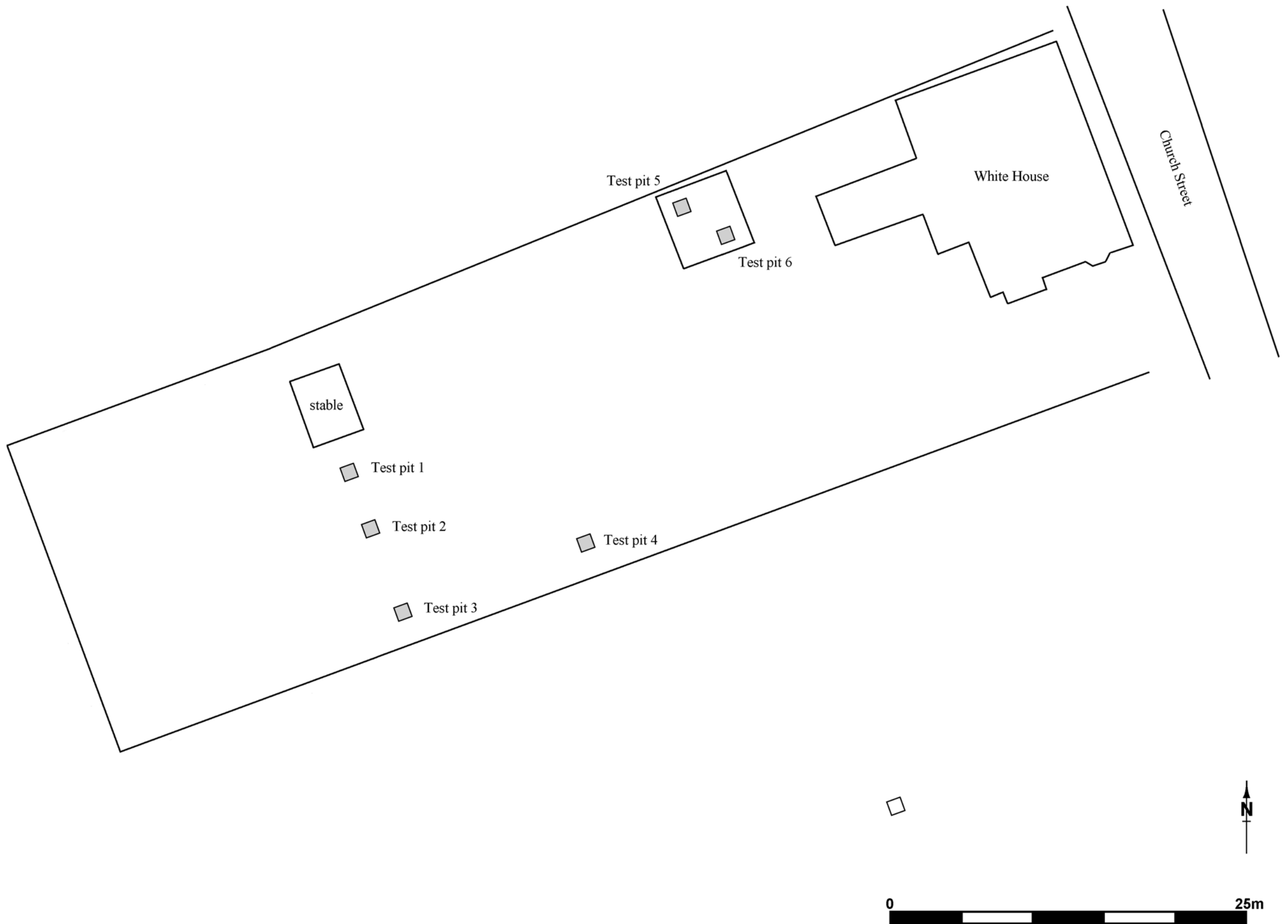
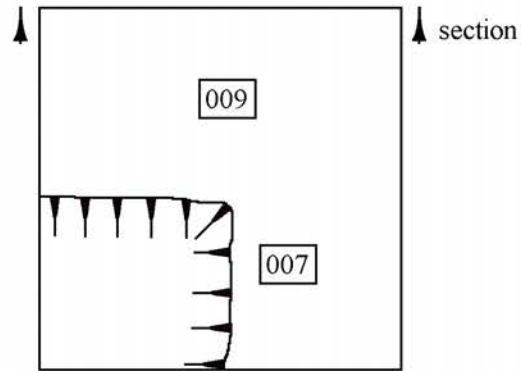


Fig 3.1: Location of test pits

Test pit 1



Test pit 2

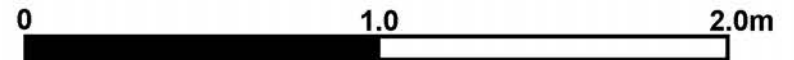
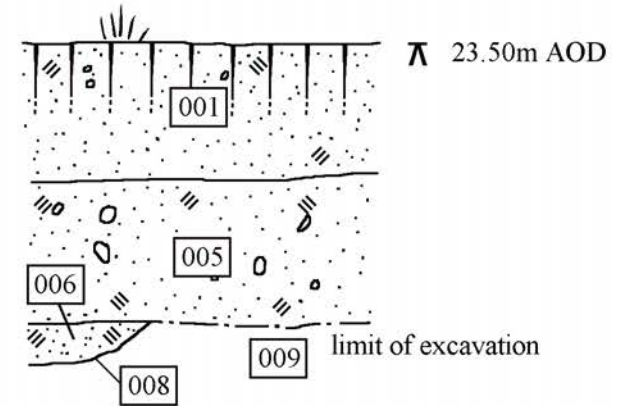
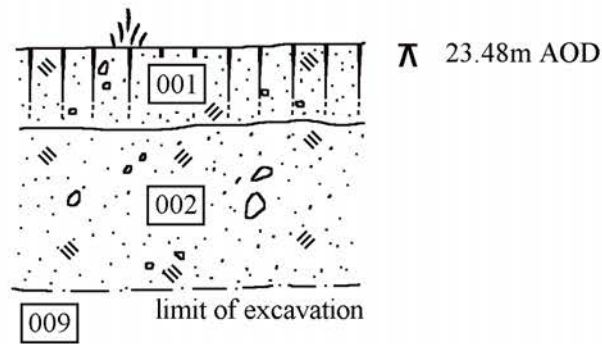
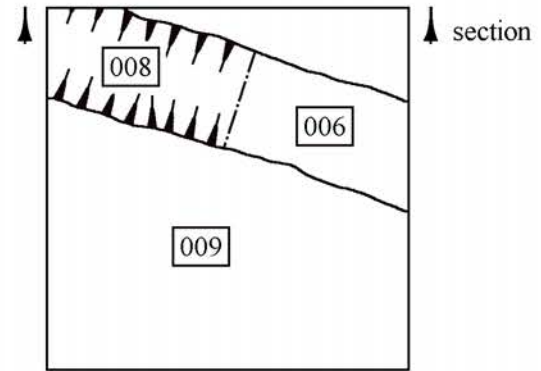


Fig 3.2: Test pits 1 and 2

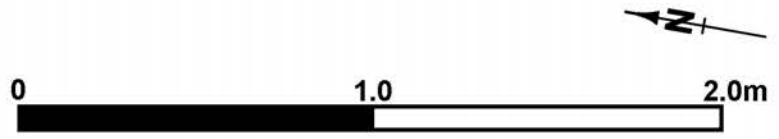
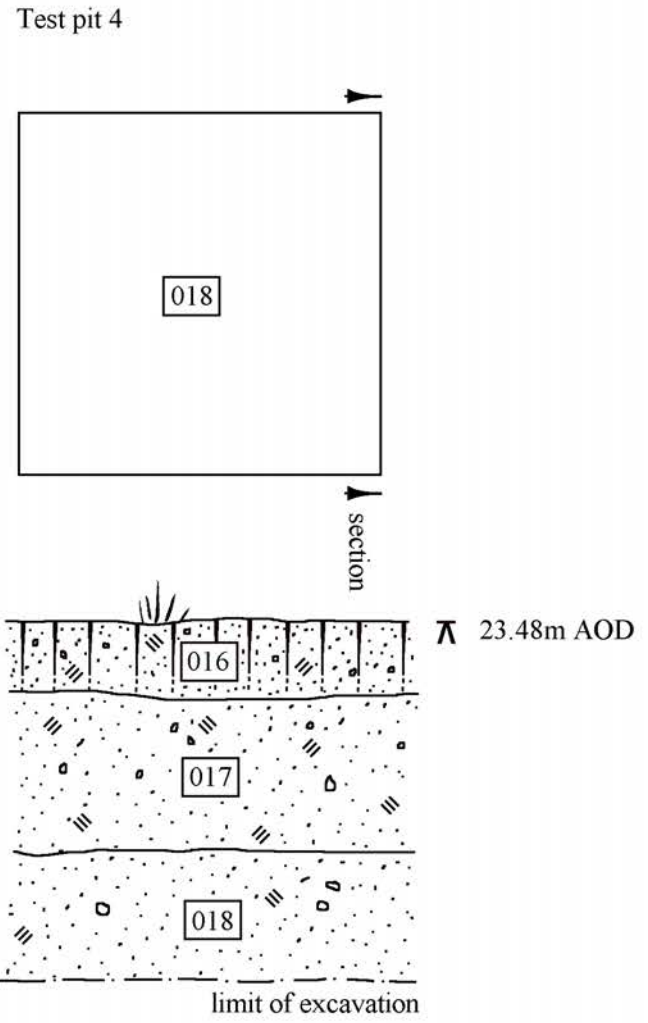
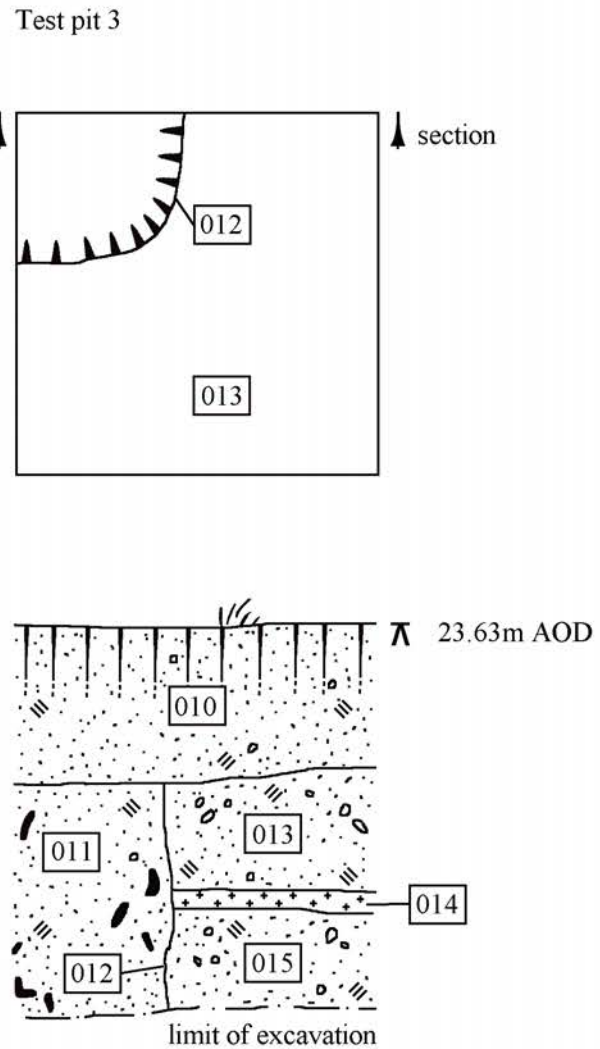


Fig 3.3: Test pits 3 and 4

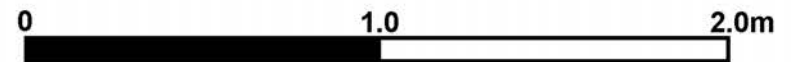
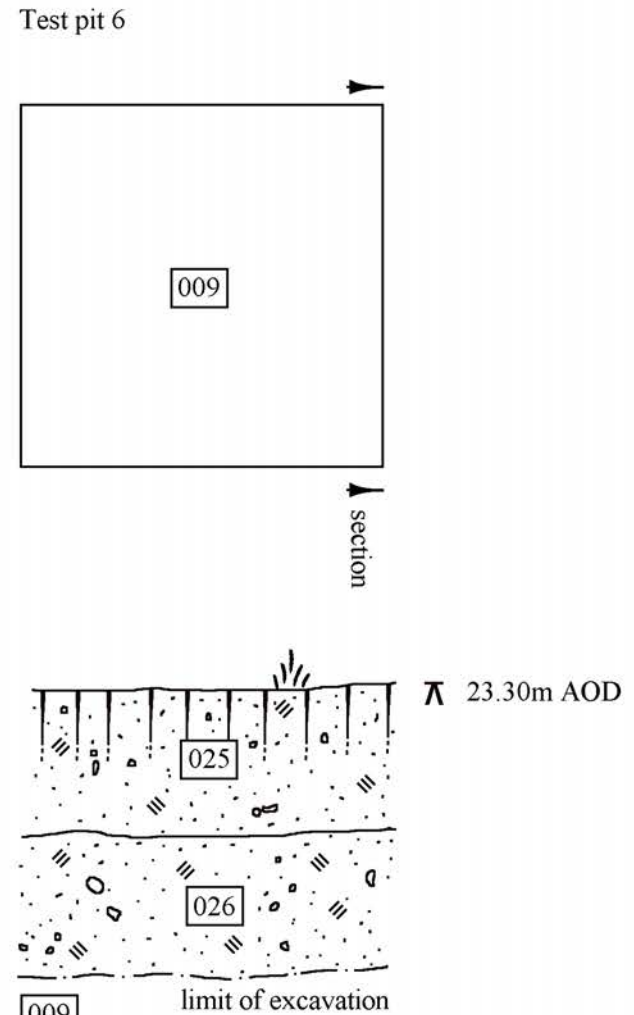
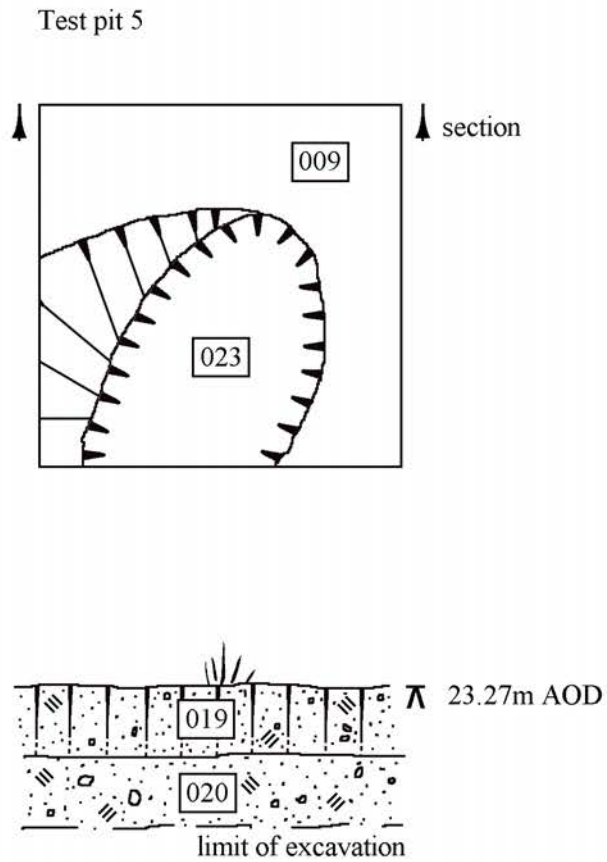


Fig 3.4: Test pits 5 and 6

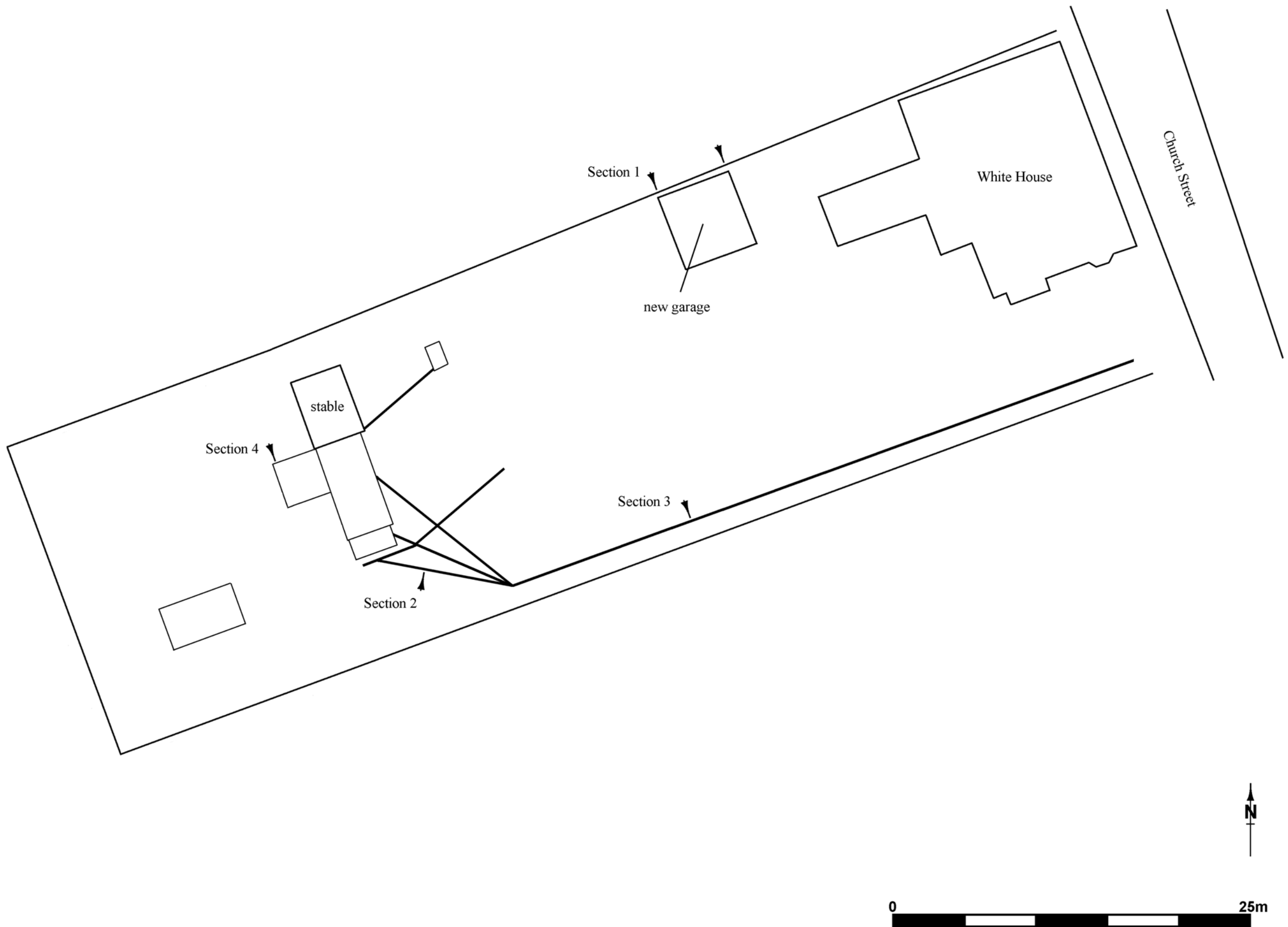
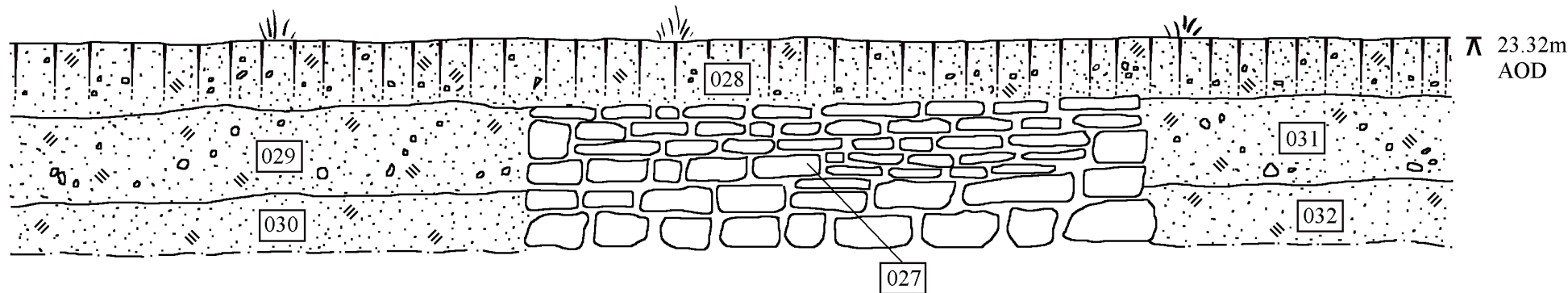


Fig 3.5: Location of deposits recorded during watching brief

Section 1

east

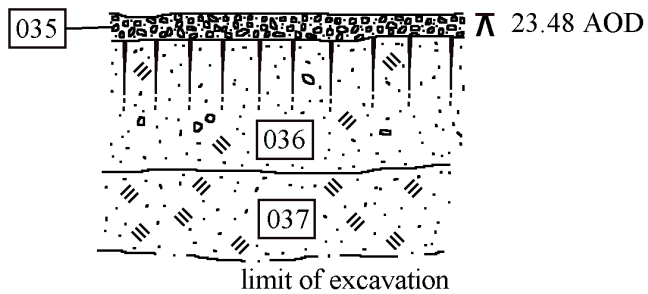
west



Section 2

north-west

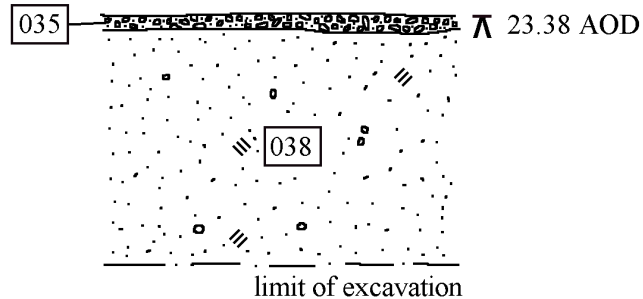
south-east



Section 3

east

west



Section 4

west east

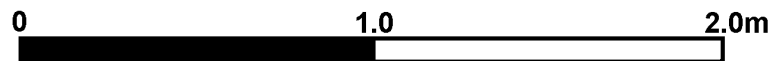
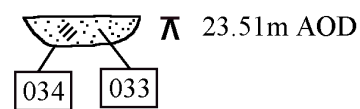
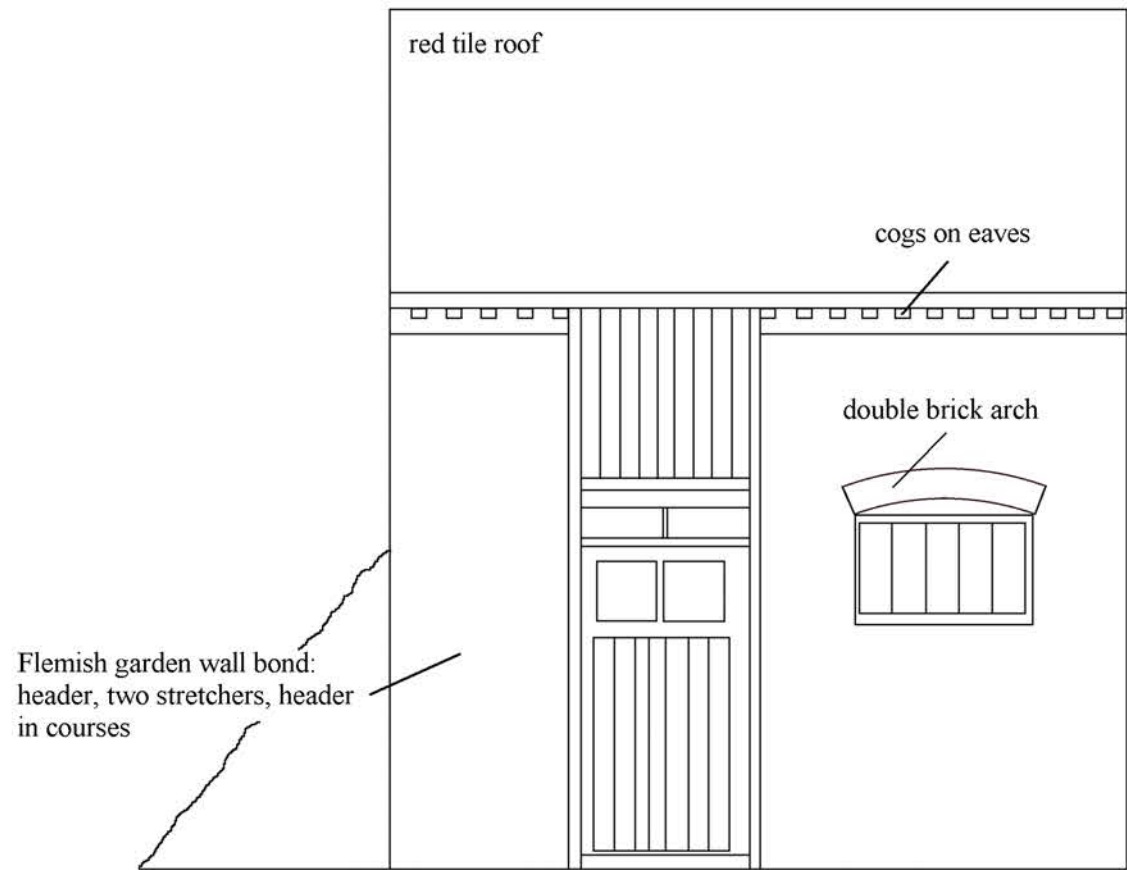


Fig 3.6: Sections of deposits recorded during watching brief

East elevation



South elevation

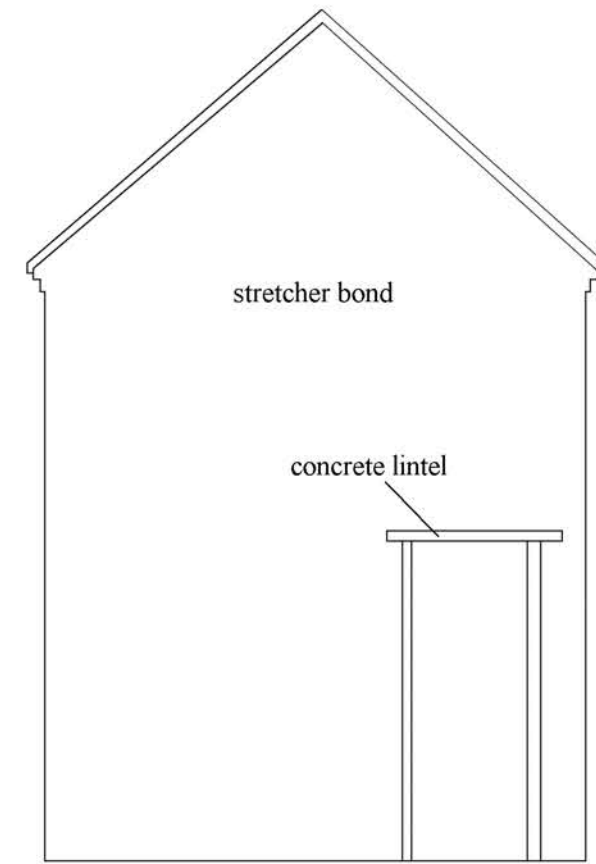
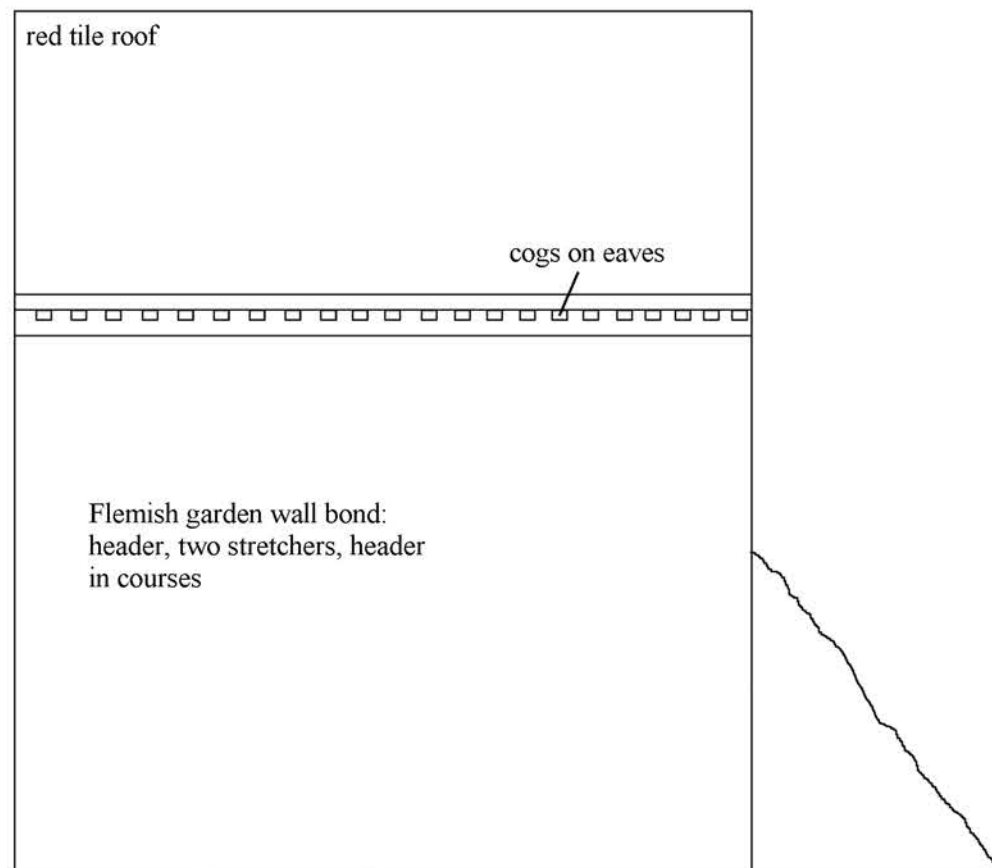


Fig 4.1: East and south elevations



West elevation



North elevation

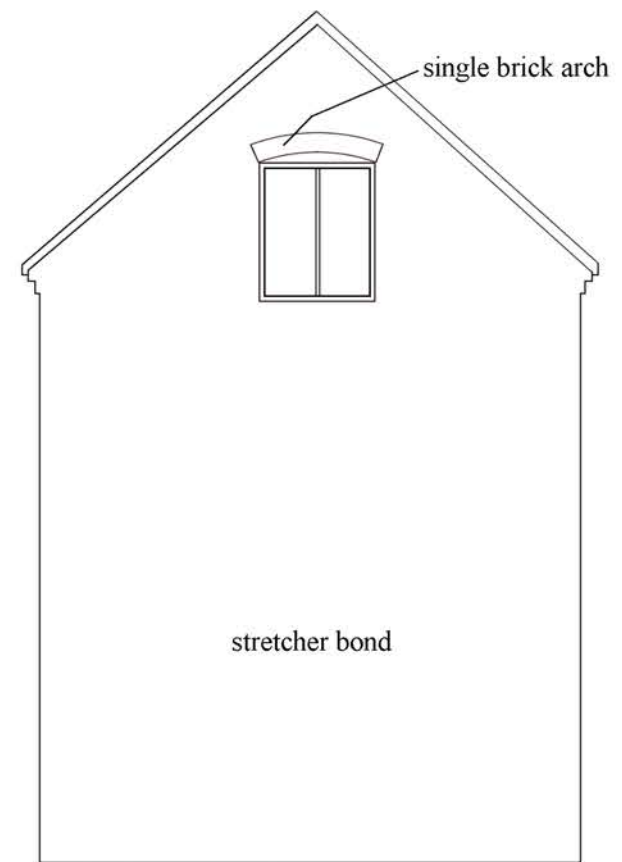


Fig 4.2: West and north elevations

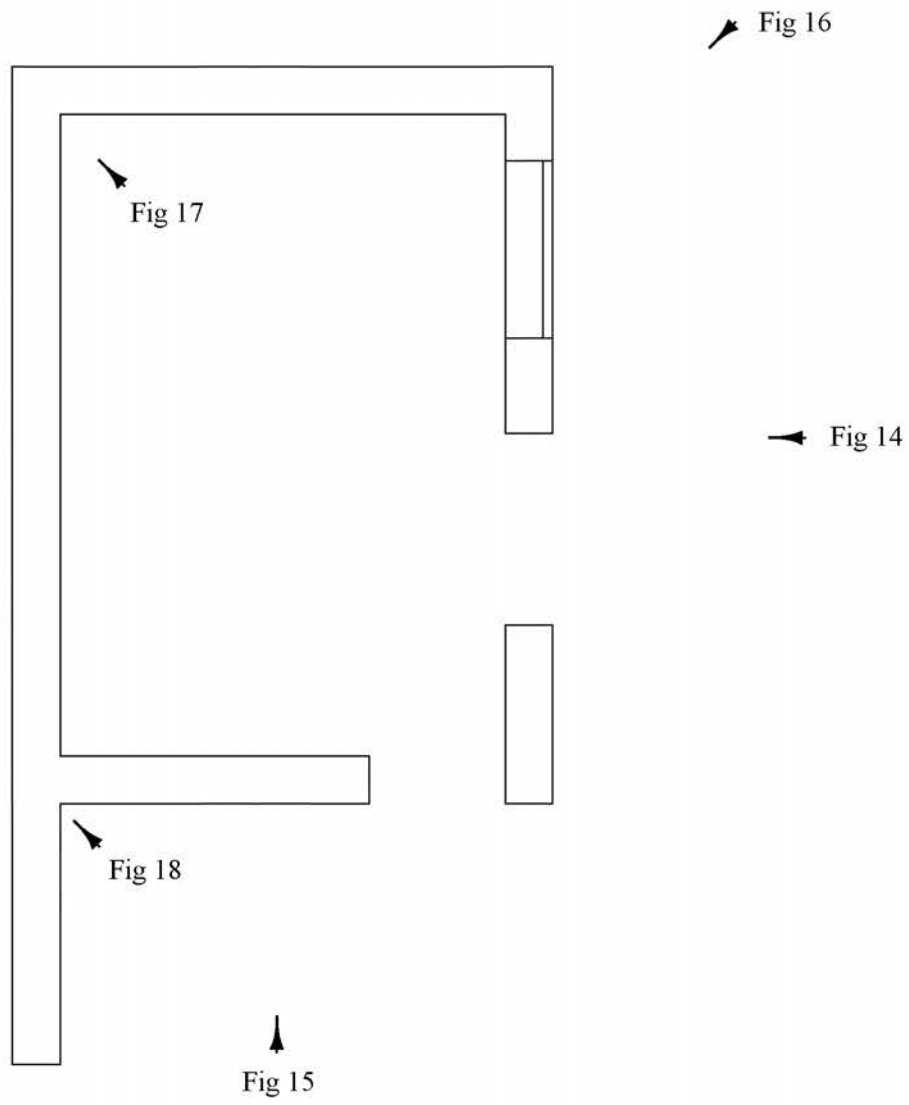


Fig 4.3: Plan



Fig 5: Test pit 1



Fig 6: Test pit 2



Fig 7: Test pit 1; context 007



Fig 8: Test pit 2; context 008



Fig 9: Test pit 3



Fig 10: Test pit 4



Fig 11: Test pit 5



Fig 12: Test pit 6



Fig 13: Section 1



Fig 14: East elevation



Fig 15: South elevation



Fig 16: North elevation



Fig 17: Feeding basket showing hatch in hayloft floor for replenishment



Fig 18: Feeding basket in collapsed part of stable

Appendix 1: List of the contexts

Context number	Description	Interpretation
001	Very dark brown sandy clay loam	Topsoil
002	Mid orange-grey sandy clay	Subsoil
003	Mid orange-grey sandy clay	Fill of 007
004	Very dark brown sandy clay loam	Topsoil
005	Mid orange-grey sandy clay	Subsoil
006	Light orange-grey clayey sand	Fill of 008
007	Rectangular, vertically sided cut	Excavation for horse burial
008	Linear cut, sides slope to a flat bottom	Ditch or gully
009	Light yellow-orange clayey sand	Natural subsoil
010	Very dark brown sandy clay loam	Topsoil
011	Light orange-grey clayey sand with abundant glass bottles	Fill of 012
012	Vertically-sided cut	Rubbish pit
013	Mid orange-grey sandy clay	Disturbed and redeposited subsoil
014	Black ashy deposit	Charcoal layer – site of bonfire
015	Mid orange-grey sandy clay	Subsoil
016	Very dark brown sandy clay loam	Topsoil
017	Mid orange-grey sandy clay	Subsoil
018	Dark green-grey silty sand with occasional small rounded stones	Uncertain
019	Very dark brown sandy clay loam	Topsoil
020	Mid orange-grey sandy clay	Subsoil
021	Not used	
022	Not used	
023	Brick, tile and plaster rubble	Fill of 024
024	Vertical cut	?well
025	Very dark brown sandy clay loam	Topsoil
026	Mid orange-grey sandy clay	Subsoil
027	Semi-coursed limestone wall; returning walls run to north towards existing property boundary (noted that the existing property boundary adjacent to 027 is limestone of similar size – probably re-used from demolished building)	Footing of building
028	Very dark brown sandy clay loam	Topsoil
029	Mid orange-grey sandy clay	Subsoil
030	Light yellow-orange clayey sand	Natural subsoil
031	Mid orange-grey sandy clay	Subsoil
032	Light yellow-orange clayey sand	Natural subsoil
033	Dark green-grey slightly clayey sand	Fill of 034
034	Shallow, flat-bottomed cut	Ditch or gully
035	Stone and crushed concrete rubble	'Stoning-up' layer
036	Very dark brown sandy clay loam	Topsoil

037
038

Light yellow-orange clayey sand
Dark green-grey silty sand with occasional small rounded stones

Natural subsoil
Uncertain

Appendix 2: The finds

The Artefacts by Laura Griffin

Aims

The brief required an assessment of the quantity, range and potential of artefacts from the excavation.

The aims of the finds assessment were:

- a) to identify, sort, spot date, and quantify all artefacts
- b) to describe the range of artefacts present
- c) to preliminarily assess the significance of the artefacts

Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* date range was produced for each stratified context. All information was recorded on a Microsoft Access 2007 database.

The pottery was examined under x20 magnification and recorded by fabric type and form (see table 2) according to the fabric reference series maintained by the Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service (Hurst and Rees 1992 and www.worcestershireceramics.org).

Results of analysis

The artefactual assemblage came from five trenches and totalled 134 finds weighing 5070g (see tables 1 and 3). The standard of preservation was generally fair, with finds displaying moderate levels of abrasion. The assemblage could be dated from the Roman period onwards.

Material	Total	Weight (g)
Roman pottery	5	211
Post-medieval pottery	6	273
Modern pottery	66	939
Vessel glass	43	3082
Window glass	2	1
Roof tile	6	477
Brick	3	82
Clay pipe	2	4
Plastic	1	1

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

Discussion

The discussion below is a summary of the artefacts and associated context by period. Where possible, dates have been allocated and the importance of individual finds commented upon as necessary.

Roman

A total of five sherds of pottery could be dated to the Roman period and one feature (trench 2, context 6) could be allocated a *tpq* of late 2nd-4th century. The sherds from this feature consisted of two adjoining body sherds of locally produced wheelmade Malvernian ware (fabric 19) and a large sherd from a Black-burnished ware 1 (fabric 22) flanged bowl. The Malvernian ware was undiagnostic and could only be dated to the general production span of late 2nd-4th century. However, the Black-burnished ware rim was from a commonly identified form which could be dated early-late 2nd century.

Two residual sherds of oxidised Severn Valley ware (fabrics 12 and 12.2) were also retrieved from the site (trench 4, context 17). One of these was from an early storage jar form which could be dated late 1st-early 2nd century.

Post-medieval

All post-medieval material within the assemblage was residual. Pottery of this period consisted of six sherds of post-medieval red ware (fabric 78), all of domestic forms commonly identified within assemblages of this date in Worcestershire. Diagnostic sherds included a fragment of press-moulded plate with inlaid slip decoration (trench 1, context 1) and the base of a cup (trench 4, context 17) both of mid 17th-18th century date. Remaining sherds came from large bowl or pancheon forms more commonly associated with 18th century assemblages (trench 2, context 4 and trench 3, context 10).

Three pieces of roof tile and two fragments of clay pipe stem were also of post-medieval date.

Modern

All remaining finds were of late 18th to 20th century date and included fragments of ceramic building material, domestic pottery and bottle glass. The pottery included a variety of sherds of modern glazed wares including modern china (fabric 85), creamware (fabric 84) and porcelain (fabric 83). Where diagnostic, sherds came from domestic tablewares, primarily plates, dishes and cups and many were transfer decorated or had a single painted line around the rim in a variety of colours. In addition to these tablewares, a large number of terracotta flowerpot sherds were also identified (fabric 101).

Perhaps the most interesting feature of the modern assemblage, was the large number of complete or near complete glass bottles. The majority of these were of plain pale green or colourless moulded glass and included both pharmaceutical and condiment containers. Some of the more interesting of these had moulded wording describing the contents which they originally held. Examples included 'Kilmer's Swamp root, kidney, liver and bladder cure' (trench 2, context 5), 'Veno Light Night Cough Cure' (trench 5, context 19) and 'Daddies sauce' (trench 5, context 20). A small number of glass

stoppers were also identified alongside these bottles (trench 3, context 11). The majority of these bottles are of late 19th- early 20th century date.

Fabric no.	Fabric name	Total	Weight (g)
12	Oxidised Severn Valley ware	1	38
12.2	Organically tempered oxidised Severn Valley ware	1	29
19	Wheelmade Malvernian ware	2	54
22	Black-burnished ware 1	1	90
78	Post-medieval red ware	6	273
81.4	Miscellaneous late stoneware	1	27
83	Porcelain	7	39
84	Creamware	7	34
85	Modern china	25	276
101	Miscellaneous modern wares	26	463

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric type

Significance

Despite the presence of Roman pottery, there does not appear to be any significant activity of this period on the site. Rather, the size and relatively good condition of the sherds would suggest settlement in the near vicinity.

The main period of activity on the site would appear to be between the later 19th and earlier 20th centuries due to the large amount of domestic pottery and vessel glass recovered. The presence of such large numbers of complete or near complete bottles would indicate deliberate disposal of this material in this location.

References

Hurst, J D, and Rees, H, 1992 Pottery fabrics; a multi-period series for the County of Hereford and Worcester, in S G Woodiwiss (ed), Iron Age and Roman salt production and the medieval town of Droitwich, CBA Res Rep, 81, 200-9

Trench	Context	Material	Type	Fabric	Total	Weight (g)	Start Date	End date	Finds <i>tpq</i>
1	1	pottery	modern	85	6	21	L19C	20C	20C
1	1	pottery	modern	83	3	8	L19C	20C	
1	1	glass	bottle		2	20	18C	20C	
1	1	pottery	modern	101	8	38	L18C	20C	
1	1	pottery	post-medieval	78	1	27	M17C	18C	
1	2	tile	roof		2	189			20C
1	2	brick			2	19			
1	2	pottery	modern	85	1	1	19C	20C	
1	2	pottery	modern	101	1	42	L18C	20C	
2	4	pottery	post-medieval	78	1	64	18C		20C
2	4	pottery	post-medieval	101	1	19	18C	20C	
2	4	pottery	modern	83	1	16	L18C	20C	
2	4	pottery	modern	85	1	33	19C	20C	
2	4	brick			1	63			
2	4	tile	roof		1	171	19C	20C	
2	5	glass	bottle		3	280	L19C	20C	20C
2	5	glass	bottle		5	427	L19C	20C	
2	5	glass	bottle		1	218	L19C	20C	
2	6	pottery	roman	22	1	90	E2C	L2C	L2-4C
2	6	pottery	roman	19	2	54	L2C	4C	
3	10	pottery	post-medieval	101	3	86	18C	20C	20C
3	10	tile	ridge		1	25	18C		
3	10	plastic			1	1		20C	
3	10	pottery	modern	85	3	21	L19C	20C	
3	10	pottery	modern	84	3	23	L18C		
3	10	pottery	modern	83	1	5	L18C	20C	
3	10	pottery	modern	81.4	1	27	19C	20C	
3	10	pottery	post-medieval	78	1	21	18C		
3	10	tile	roof		1	31	19C	20C	
3	10	pottery	modern	101	13	278	L18C	20C	
3	10	glass	vessel		2	212	19C	20C	
3	10	pipe	stem		1	3			
3	11	glass	bottle		23	929	L19C	20C	
3	11	pottery	modern	85	3	43		20C	
3	11	pottery	modern	84	1	4	L18C		
4	16	pottery	modern	84	1	1	L18C		20C
4	16	pottery	modern	85	1	1	L19C	20C	
4	16	glass	window		2	1			L18C
4	17	pottery	roman	12.2	1	29	M1C	2C	
4	17	pottery	roman	12	1	38	M1C	4C	
4	17	pottery	post-medieval	78	3	161	L17C	18C	
4	17	pottery	modern	84	2	6	L18C		
4	17	pipe	stem		1	1			
4	17	pottery	modern	85	1	39	L19C	20C	
5	19	glass	bottle		2	460	L19C	20C	
5	20	glass	bottle		2	319		20C	
5	20	pottery	modern	85	1	68	L19C	20C	
5	20	glass	bottle		3	217	19C	20C	
5	20	pottery	modern	85	5	135	L19C	20C	
5	20	pottery	modern	83	2	10	L19C	20C	
5	21	pottery	modern	85	1	39	L19C	20C	
5	21	tile	roof		1	61	19C	20C	20C
5	22	pottery	modern	85	1	1	L19C	20C	20C
5	27	pottery	modern	85	2	13	L19C	20C	20C

Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts