

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION  
AT  
67 NEWLANDS, PERSHORE,  
WORCESTERSHIRE

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With a contribution by Alan Jacobs

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

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Project 2715  
Report 1332  
WSM 34266



# Contents

## Part 1 Project summary

1

## Part 2 Detailed report

1.	<b>Background</b> .....	<b>2</b>
1.1	Reasons for the project.....	2
1.2	Project parameters.....	2
1.3	Aims.....	2
2.	<b>Methods</b> .....	<b>2</b>
2.1	Documentary search.....	2
2.2	Fieldwork methodology.....	3
2.2.1	Fieldwork strategy.....	3
2.2.2	Structural analysis.....	3
2.3	Artefact methodology.....	3
2.3.1	Artefact recovery policy.....	3
2.3.2	Method of analysis.....	3
2.4	Environmental archaeology.....	3
2.4.1	Sampling policy.....	3
2.5	The methods in retrospect.....	3
3.	<b>Topographical and archaeological context</b> .....	<b>4</b>
4.	<b>Results</b> .....	<b>4</b>
4.1	Structural analysis.....	4
4.1.1	Medieval deposits.....	4
4.1.2	Post-medieval.....	4
4.1.3	Modern.....	4
4.2	Artefact analysis, by Alan Jacobs.....	4
4.2.1	Discussion of the pottery.....	5
4.2.2	Significance.....	6
5.	<b>Synthesis</b> .....	<b>7</b>
5.1	Medieval.....	7
5.2	Research frameworks.....	7
6.	<b>Significance</b> .....	<b>7</b>
7.	<b>Publication summary</b> .....	<b>7</b>
8.	<b>The archive</b> .....	<b>8</b>
9.	<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	<b>8</b>
10.	<b>Personnel</b> .....	<b>8</b>
11.	<b>Bibliography</b> .....	<b>8</b>
12.	<b>Abbreviations</b> .....	<b>9</b>

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## **Archaeological evaluation at 67 Newlands, Pershore, Worcestershire**

**James Goad**

**With contributions by Alan Jacobs**

### **Part 1 Project summary**

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 67 Newlands, Pershore, Worcestershire (NGR SO 9440 4596). It was undertaken on behalf of Berry and Young Chartered Building Consultants, who intend to develop the property, for which a planning application has been submitted. The project aimed to determine if any significant archaeological site was present and if so to indicate what its location, date and nature were.*

*The project succeeded in locating a number of archaeological features including several post holes and a possible well. One of the post holes and the well were both securely dated to the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries and were indicative of domestic activity in this area during the medieval period. Previous archaeological investigation in the Newlands area had failed to locate any significant archaeology from this period, so the presence of these features is highly significant for this part of the town, confirming the origins of the suburb that is strongly believed to have originated during the 12<sup>th</sup> century.*

## Part 2 Detailed report

### 1. Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 67 Newlands, Pershore, Worcestershire (NGR SO 9440 4596; Figure 1), on behalf of Berry and Young. The client intends to develop the property and has submitted a planning application to Wychavon District Council (reference W/04/0210), who considered that a site of possible archaeological interest would be affected.

#### 1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 1999) The project also conforms to a brief prepared by Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service (WHEAS 2003) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (WHEAS 2005).

#### 1.3 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were from the brief - locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability and documentation. The purpose of this was to establish their significance, since this would make it possible to recommend an appropriate treatment which may then be integrated with the proposed development programme.

### 2. Methods

#### 2.1 Documentary search

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (HER) Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). In addition the following sources were also consulted:

##### *Cartographic sources*

- 1885 Ordnance Survey 1:2500

##### *Documentary sources*

- Cook, M 1998 *Salvage recording at 96 Newlands, Pershore, Worcestershire*
- Dalwood, H 1996 *Archaeological assessment of Pershore, Hereford and Worcester*
- Shaw, T M, 1977 *Excavations at Newlands, Pershore*, C J Bond and A M Hunt (eds)
- Wichbold, D, 1997 *Salvage recording at former council yard, Newlands, Pershore*

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## 2.2 **Fieldwork methodology**

### 2.2.1 **Fieldwork strategy**

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2005). Fieldwork was undertaken between 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2005. The site reference number and site code is WSM 34266.

One L-shaped trench, amounting to just over 33.0m<sup>2</sup>, were excavated over the open excavatable site area of 519m<sup>2</sup>, representing a sample of over 6%. The location of trenches is indicated in Figure 1, with Figures 2 and 3 showing the site plan and the features excavated.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a JCB 3CX wheeled excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995).

### 2.2.2 **Structural analysis**

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was effected through a combination of structural, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

## 2.3 **Artefact methodology**

### 2.3.1 **Artefact recovery policy**

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 2).

### 2.3.2 **Method of analysis**

All hand-retrieved finds were examined and a primary record was made on a Microsoft Access 2000 database. Artefacts were identified, quantified and dated and a *terminus post quem* date produced for each stratified context.

Pottery was examined under x20 magnification and recorded by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by the service (Hurst and Rees 1992).

## 2.4 **Environmental archaeology**

### 2.4.1 **Sampling policy**

The environmental sampling strategy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 4). However, none of the contexts excavated were considered to have a potential for environmental sampling.

## 2.5 **The methods in retrospect**

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

### 3. **Topographical and archaeological context**

A general archaeological, geographical and topographical background to Pershore can be found in the Archaeological Assessment of Pershore (Dalwood 1996). This Central Marches Historic Town Survey identified the site as lying within an area identified as medieval tenement plots. This is primarily based on documentary and cartographic sources, as little archaeological investigation has been conducted in this area of the town. The street name “Newlands” is strongly associated with 12<sup>th</sup> century urban expansion, but it’s not known in this instance whether the land was used for residential, industrial or mixed use.

The archaeological work that has been conducted in the immediate vicinity of the site can be summarised thus: excavations at 14-16 Newlands revealed 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century pits with artefacts and animal bone assemblages (Shaw 1977). At 96 Newlands, a pit dating to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and a well dating to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century were recorded (Cook 1998; WSM24760). Salvage recording at the former council yard in Newlands revealed a probable medieval garden soil layer (Wichbold 1997; WSM29621).

## 4. **Results**

### 4.1 **Structural analysis**

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figures 1-3. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

#### 4.1.1 **Medieval deposits**

There were two features that were dated to the medieval period. The larger of the two features was a large pit or possible well (context 105; Figures 2 and 3), which due to its size and position within the trench was only partially excavated. This feature produced a relatively large assemblage of medieval pottery dating the disuse of the feature to the late 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century.

Approximately 3 metres to the south of 105 (Figure 2) was a posthole (context 110) dating to the same period. The presence of this feature indicates the presence of a structural feature in the vicinity. Potentially this means the presence of a building or fence line.

A number of other post holes were found within the trench at various points (Figure 2). However, no artefacts found in them to date them. It is possible however, that given the date of post hole 110 that these similar features date to the same period.

#### 4.1.2 **Post-medieval**

There were no features of significance that were dated to this period. A small amount of residual pottery was located within the overburden soil layers within the trench.

#### 4.1.3 **Modern**

Modern pottery of late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century date was found within the material machine-excavated from the trench.

### 4.2 **Artefact analysis, by Alan Jacobs**

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1 and 2.

The pottery assemblage retrieved from the excavated area consisted of 59 sherds of pottery weighing 887g, eighteen bones, eight fragments of glass, one piece of mortar roof tile, four pieces of metal and five clay pipe stems (See Table 1). The group came from 2 stratified contexts dating from the medieval period and the later post-medieval and modern finds were all residual. Level of preservation was generally fair with the majority of sherds displaying only moderate levels of abrasion.

All sherds have been grouped and quantified according to fabric type (see Table 2). A total of three diagnostic form sherds were present and could be dated accordingly. The remaining sherds were datable by fabric type to the general period or production span. Where mentioned, all specific forms are referenced to the type series within the report for Deansway, Worcester (Bryant 2004).

**Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage by material**

Material	Number	Weight (g)
BONE	16	86
MORTAR	1	284
GLASS	8	804
METAL	4	125
TOBACCO PIPE	5	21
POT	59	887
TOTAL	93	2207

**Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric**

Fabric	Fabric common name	Sherds	Weight (g)
55	Worcester-type unglazed ware	21	270
64.1	Worcester-type sandy glazed ware	8	63
69	Malvernian glazed-ware	16	324
78	Post medieval red sandy ware	5	26
81	Stoneware (Basalt ware)	1	13
83	Porcelain	3	31
85	Modern stone china	5	160

#### 4.2.1 Discussion of the pottery

The discussion below is a summary of the finds and associated location or contexts by period. Where possible, *terminus post quem* dates have been allocated and the importance of individual finds commented upon as necessary.

##### ***Medieval pottery***

The medieval pottery comprised the largest element of the ceramic assemblage, 75% by sherd count and 74% by weight. Preservation was good with sizeable sherds from the two stratified features and little residual material in later contexts. The medieval assemblage had a limited range of fabrics consisting entirely of Worcester-type wares (fabrics 55 and 64.1) and glazed Malvernian ware (fabric 69). Forms were primarily glazed jugs (Bryant 2004, 294, no 7) dating from the late 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century in Malvernian glazed ware (fabric 69) and Worcester-type ware cooking pot of 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date range. This would indicate a *terminus post*



*quem* date of the 13<sup>th</sup> century for context 106. A single sherd of Worcester-type glazed ware (fabric 64.1) gives a late 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century *terminus post quem* date for context 110.

### ***Post-medieval pottery***

The post-medieval pottery comprised the smallest element of the ceramic assemblage, 8% by sherd count and 3% by weight. Only post-medieval red sandy ware (fabric 78) was represented in the assemblage, in the form of a small cup or vessel. All post-medieval material was residual associated with modern fabrics in residual context (104).

### ***Modern pottery***

The modern pottery comprised the second largest element of the ceramic assemblage, 17% by sherd count and 23% by weight. The modern assemblage had a limited range of fabrics. A base fragment of Basalt ware (fabric 81.4) in the form of a small bowl or vessel dating from 1760 onwards was located in unstratified context. Three fragments of porcelain (fabric 83) were present in the form of a small cup and saucer again in unstratified context (104) dating from the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century. Modern stone china was represented in the assemblage, in the form of a variety of plates or dishes dating from the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century. No forms specific to the later 20<sup>th</sup> century are present indicating a general late 19<sup>th</sup> early 20<sup>th</sup> century *terminus post quem* date for the site.

### ***Pipe clay***

Five fragments of pipe clay were present in unstratified context (104) but not definable to more than a post-medieval to modern date range.

### ***Mortar***

A single fragment of lime mortar was recovered from a medieval context (106).

### ***Glass***

A total of eight shards of glass bottles were recovered from context 101 and 104. These included a codd bottle and a variety of small condiment bottles of late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

### ***Metal***

Four indefinable iron objects were recovered from medieval context (106) and are most probably nails.

### ***Bone***

A total of 16 fragments of bone were recovered from the excavation, 14 from medieval context (106) which were too fragmentary for identification. Two fragments were recovered from unstratified context (104) comprising of a cow metacarpal distal end and an unidentifiable fragment.

## **4.2.2 Significance**

The artefactual evidence does not indicate any pre-medieval activity on the site. The stratified contexts are of medieval date, indicating general domestic activity datable to the late 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century. Post-medieval and modern pottery is located only in unstratified contexts, indicating general rubbish deposition during this period.

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## 5. **Synthesis**

### 5.1 **Medieval**

The evaluation succeeded in discovering a couple of features of medieval date, including a probable well and a post hole. These features and the nature of the finds assemblage point to a domestic scenario of 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century date on the site. The date of the finds assemblage ties in closely with the documentary evidence for the establishment of Newlands, which seems to have been a deliberately planned medieval suburb of the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

The presence of a pit or well and the structural evidence supported by the post hole indicates a domestic presence in the area that is probably consistent with the nature of the settlement that occupied the site from the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Given that context 105 was a probable well, there is also the potential for significant environmental remains existing within it.

### 5.2 **Research frameworks**

This project and any succeeding investigation on the site will feed directly into the local and regional research frameworks eg The West Midlands Research Framework. The information garnered from the project also adds to the broader picture of the town presented in the Central Marches historic towns survey (Dalwood 1996).

## 6. **Significance**

The evidence for the presence of medieval domestic activity is highly significant for this area of Pershore. Previous archaeological work in the Newlands district had failed to find any actual features securely dating to the medieval period. Whilst being quite rich in known post-medieval archaeology and buildings, the only evidence for medieval occupation seems to have been a garden soil (Wichbold 1997). This discovery of the medieval remains supports the documentary evidence for the origins of the medieval suburb of Newlands.

The medieval occupation on the site was visible at a depth of roughly 0.80 metres from the top of the present ground surface. The depth of the significant archaeology makes it potentially vulnerable to construction activity below or immediately above this depth.

## 7. **Publication summary**

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Berry and Young at 67 Newlands, Pershore, Worcestershire (NGR SO 9440 4596; WSM 34266). The evaluation revealed a number of archaeological features, two of which, a probable well or pit and a post hole, were dated securely to the 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. The dating of these features is highly significant as it is the first physical evidence of the establishment of the medieval suburb of Newlands in the medieval period. A number of undated post holes were also found in the trench, pointing to further evidence for possible medieval structures. The features pointed to domestic occupation, which is consistent with the nature of a medieval suburb.*

## 8. **The archive**

The archive consists of:

- 1 Context records AS1
- 2 Fieldwork progress records AS2
- 26 Digital photographs
- 3 Scale drawings
- 1 Box of finds

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcestershire County Museum

Hartlebury Castle

Hartlebury

Near Kidderminster

Worcestershire DY11 7XZ

Tel Hartlebury (01299) 250416

## 9. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Berry and Young and Mike Glyde.

## 10. **Personnel**

The report preparation was undertaken by James Goad. The fieldwork was led by Tom Vaughan. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Simon Woodiwiss. Fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Vaughan and Angus Crawford, finds analysis by Alan Jacobs, with illustration by Carolyn Hunt.

## 11. **Bibliography**

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WHEAS 2005 *Proposal for an archaeological evaluation at 67 Newlands, Pershore, Worcestershire* Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2005, **P2715**

Wichbold, D, 1997 *Salvage recording at former council yard, Newlands, Pershore* County Archaeological Service, Hereford and Worcester County Council, report **563**

## 12. **Abbreviations**

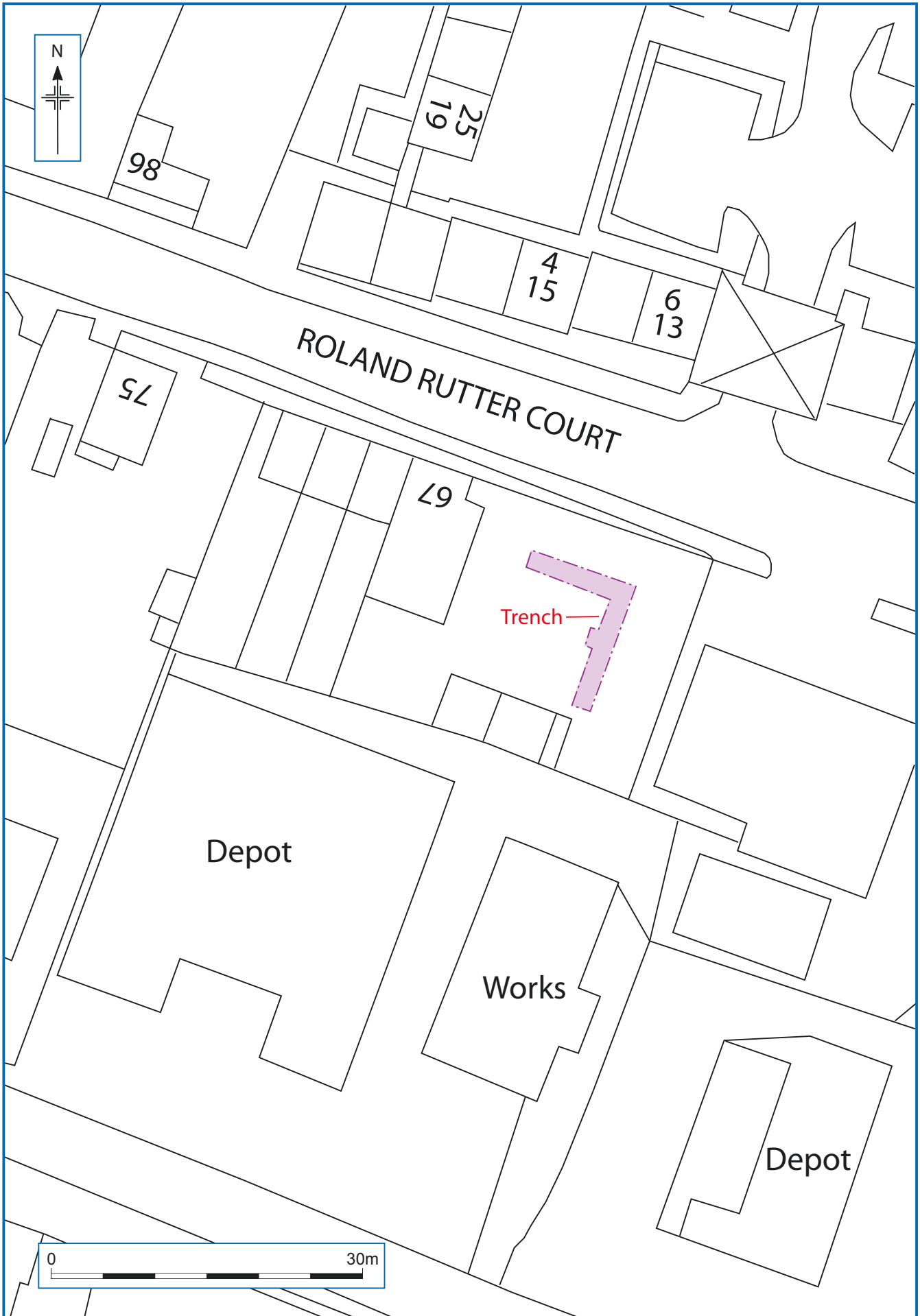
NMR National Monuments Record.

SMR Sites and Monuments Record.

WCRO Worcestershire County Records Office.

WSM Numbers prefixed with 'WSM' are the primary reference numbers used by the Worcestershire County Historic Environment Record.

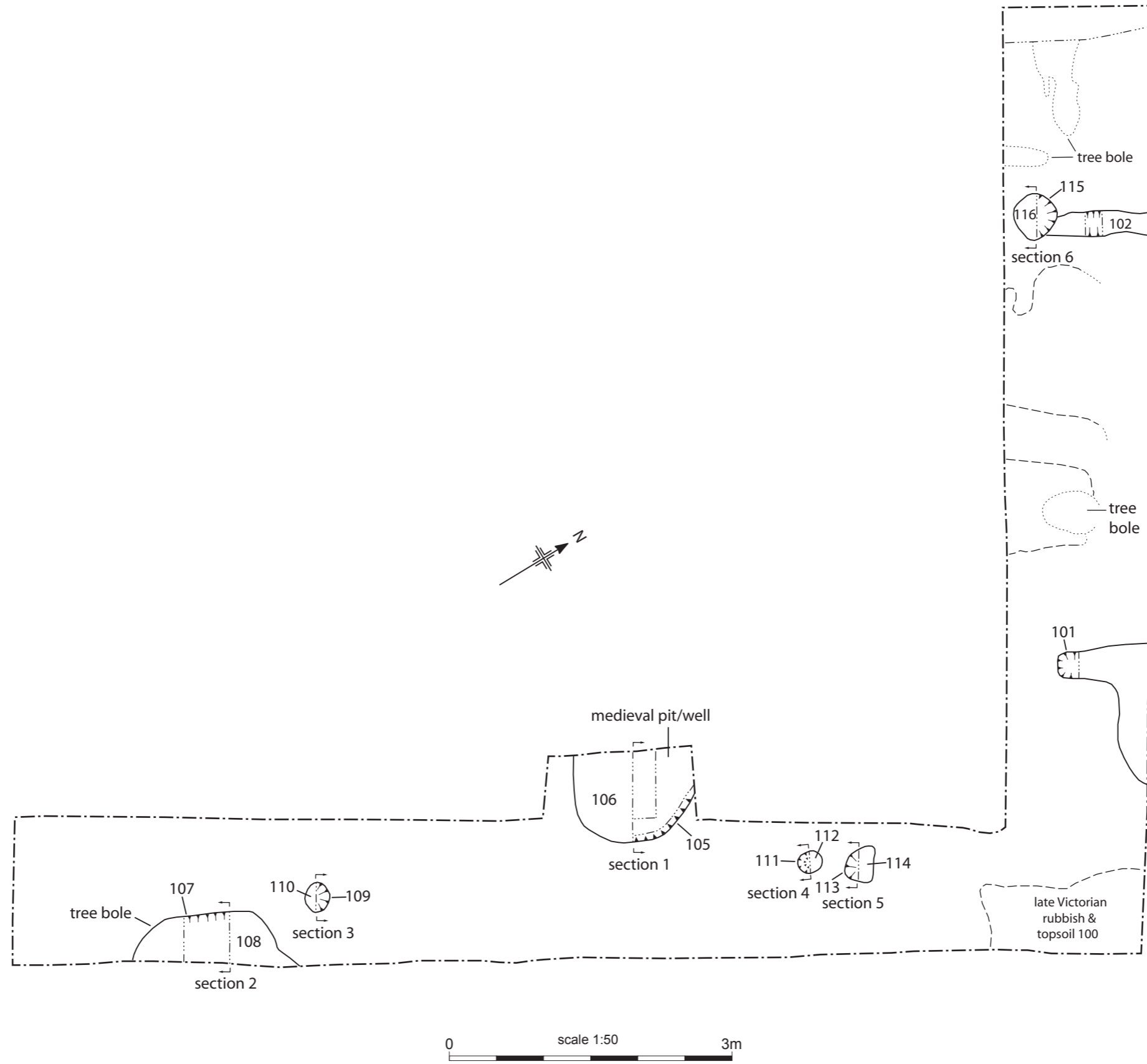
## **Appendix 1 Context register**



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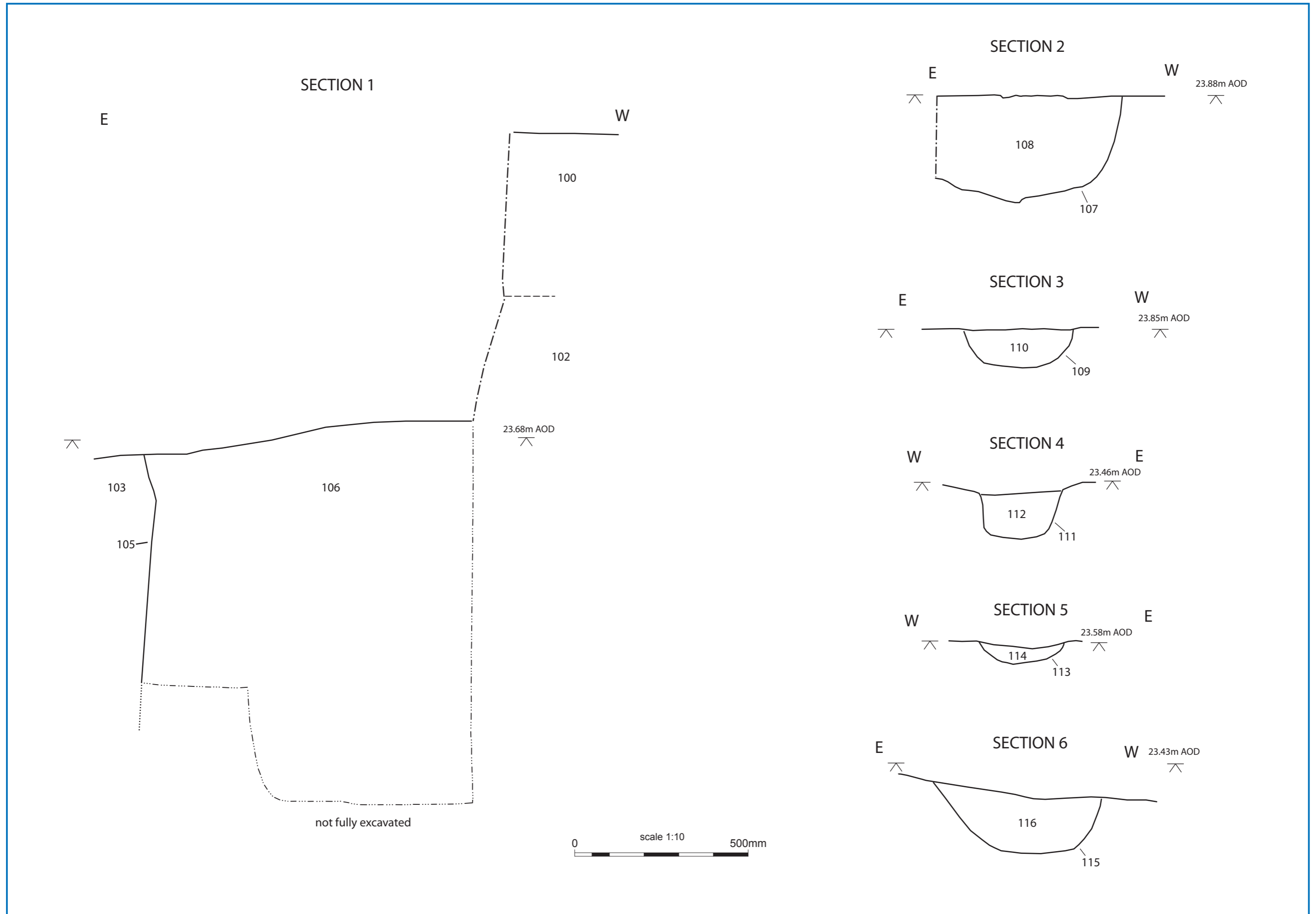
Trench location plan

Figure 1



Plan of Trench

Figure 2



Sections

Figure 3





*Plate 1: Looking west*

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*Plate 2: View north, with pit 107 in foreground*

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*Plate 3: Pit or well 105*



*Plate 4: Pit or well 105, looking west*

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