

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

**THE SOUTH PAVILION**

**WOTTON UNDERWOOD, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

**SP 6856 1608**

*On behalf of*

*Mrs E Lecky*

**OCTOBER 2007**

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**Summary**

*An evaluation was carried out by John Moore Heritage Services on behalf of Martin Lane Fox prior to the relaying out of the gardens at South Pavilion, Wotton Underwood, Buckinghamshire. Medieval ploughsoil and residual pottery was recovered from an early modern formal garden area. A number of negative features were identified, but cannot be dated.*

**1 INTRODUCTION****1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)**

The site is located in the western part of Buckinghamshire, approximately 13 kilometres west-north-west of Aylesbury. The South Pavilion is situated in Aylesbury Vale District in the Civil Parish and village of Wotton Underwood. It is the detached south wing of Wotton House with a garden extending to the south and west centred on National Grid Reference SP 6856 1608.

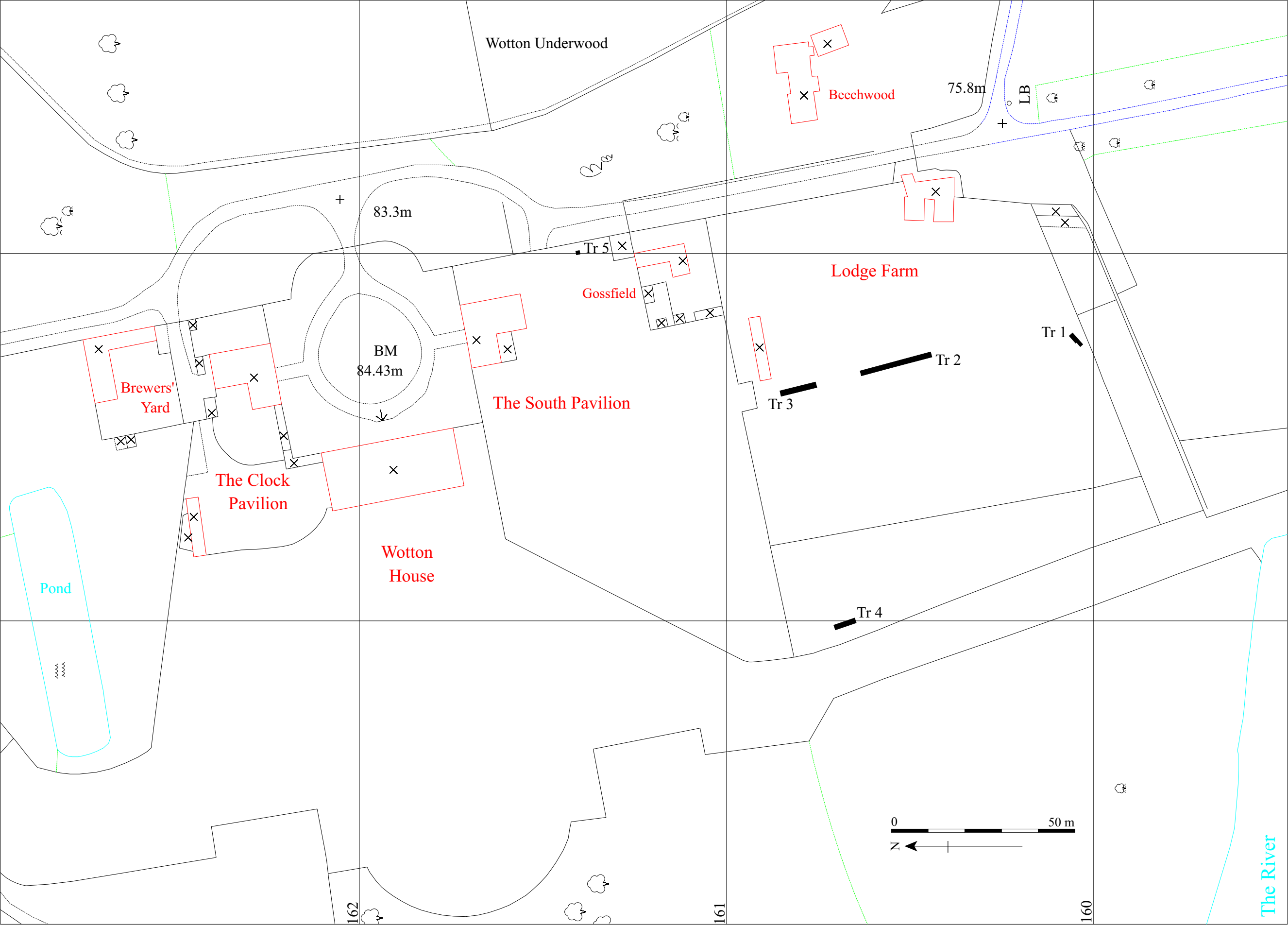
**1.2 Archaeological and Historical Background**

There are no scheduled ancient monuments or battlefields listed by English Heritage in the South Pavilion garden, which, is however part of the Wotton House gardens and park listed in the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Interest as Grade II\* (English Heritage n.d.). Many of the standing buildings at Wotton House have been listed by English Heritage, including the South Pavilion, which is a Grade I listed building and the walls surrounding the rectangular parterre forming Area 1, which together with the central pavilion in the south wall are listed as Grade II.

The South Pavilion garden and its immediate hinterland have not been the subject of archaeological fieldwork.

The earliest documentary reference to Wotton Underwood is from a charter of AD 840-52 which concerns the transfer of a royal estate at Wotton (Gelling 1979). After the Norman Conquest of AD 1066 the Manor of Wotton, which later became Grenville's Manor, was in the hands of Walter Giffard (Calthrop 1927). The tradition that Grenville was lord of Wotton from the eleventh century onwards does not appear to be correct, although the family owned land in the parish from an early date (ibid.). The documents indicate that the Grenvilles first gained possession of the Manor of Wotton in AD 1255.

It is probable that the land around the church was the focus for the earliest of the medieval houses. The origins of All Saints Church, some 250 metres to the south-west of the South Pavilion Garden, are thought to date back to the twelfth century. A lintel over the west doorway of the nave is the only surviving architectural element of this period and has clearly been re-used (RCHME 1912). The chancel is thought to have been built around AD 1320 (Calthrop 1927) and here some fourteenth century features still survive along with fifteenth century work in the nave (RCHME 1912; Pevsner and Williamson 1960). Otherwise the nineteenth century restoration and rebuilding has removed most of the early fabric of the church (Calthrop 1927).



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Figure 1. Site and Trench Location

The outlines of the crofts mapped in AD 1649 appear on aerial photographs to the south-west, west and north-west of Wotton House. Traces of earthworks including building platforms have been noted close to the church, at the north end of the park (Thorpe 2001) and alongside the track between Middle and Yeat Farms. Nothing of this kind is visible in the South Pavilion's garden either on the aerial photographs or on the ground, but this is not surprising given the subsequent landscaping and land-use. Traces of a medieval moat and associated earthworks have been recorded within the area of the village mapped in AD 1649. This site is approximately 550 metres to the north of the South Pavilion's garden. Areas of ridge and furrow marking land under medieval and later cultivation have been recorded in Wotton Underwood. The closest are mostly to the east, south-east and south of the South Pavilion's garden and are at least 150 metres from its boundaries. Medieval pottery has been collected from a field to the south of Wotton village as mapped in AD 1649. The find-spot is 400 metres to the south-west of the South Pavilion's garden.

The earliest view of the area of investigation is provided by two Elizabethan maps thought to have been made at some time between AD 1564 and AD 1586, when there were a series of land disputes at Wotton Underwood (Schulz 1939). These are far from being accurate surveys and are rather broadly representative sketches providing an impression of the village layout.

The Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies holds copies of both maps. The most detailed shows two villages: Wotton Underwood at the bottom and Ludgershall towards the top right hand side. The map is oriented with west to the top so that the windmill on the right hand side between the two villages corresponds with the mill mound on Windmill Hill. All Saints church is shown in the bottom left hand corner with the manor house above and slightly to the left (Schulz 1939). This places it to the west and slightly south of the church, suggesting a location outside the South Pavilion's garden. However, distortions in the mapping preclude such a literal interpretation so that the precise location of the manor cannot be determined from this map. The other houses extend northwards from the manor house and although this provides an impression of the linear character of the village, the exact alignment and position of the street remains uncertain. A graphic illustration of the possible pitfalls of a too literal interpretation of these early maps is provided by the contemporary plan of Wotton and the surrounding countryside. In this case south is to the top and again All Saints church is clearly identifiable above the legend 'Woten'. 'Moat Farm' is labelled a short distance below the church and to the left. On this map the manor house is placed to the north-west of the church and forms part of a row of houses running west-north-west, before swinging to the north and then north-eastwards. The alignments broadly follow that of the public footpath running parallel to and slightly to the east of the north and south avenues through Middle Farm to Yeat Farm. Again the position of the row of village houses cannot be determined.

A more precise survey than the Elizabethan plans was produced around AD 1649, but again includes an element of sketching with buildings shown in three dimensions and not entirely to scale. The outline of Wotton House, its grounds and of the avenues has been added to the original in red at a later date and provides some orientation. The map shows a group of buildings broadly corresponding with the South Pavilion and the north-eastern part of its garden, focused on Area 2, and labelled 'Grenvilles gardens barne and house' clearly representing the old manor. The position of the manor house on the map would place it on the site of the South Pavilion, with the barns and other outbuildings coinciding with Area 2 and the eastern side of Area 1.

The boundaries of a series of closes lie to the west of the manorial complex, potentially coinciding with Areas 1 and 3 of the South Pavilion's garden. The eastern side of Area 4 seems to correspond to the 'Whites Greene part of the Common', while the western side is broadly congruent with further close boundaries and two cottages labelled 'Fran Hunt' and 'Greene' which lie somewhere near to the present garden's southern perimeter.

By AD 1649 the settlement, which included 65 houses, can be seen to have extended across the area of the South Pavilion's garden. The construction dates of the dwellings in this part of the village are unknown, but it seems likely that a number have medieval origins. These include the manor house which is thought to have been located to the south-east of Wotton House. Estimates based on the AD 1649 map place it in various positions including one coinciding with the southern edge of the South Pavilion garden.

The documents refer to a dovecote belonging to the manor of Wotton in AD 1618. A position for this close to the manor house, coinciding with the southern edge of the South Pavilion's garden has been suggested. The map of AD 1649 shows the minister's house and parsonage close just to the south of the churchyard, some 300 metres to the south-east of the South Pavilion's garden, which is mentioned in documents dating back to AD 1617. The construction of the new mansion (Figure 4, 9) to replace the old manor house began in AD 1704 and was completed in AD 1714 (Sheahan 1862). Wotton House was built for Richard Grenville in the style of Buckingham House, London, with two detached pavilions linked to the house by colonnades (Pevsner and Williamson 1960). The South Pavilion was originally used as a coach house and service pavilion (DOE n.d.).

The earliest formal design of the grounds including the radiating tree lined avenues was the work of George London (Pevsner and Williamson 1960), who is also thought to have designed the brick-walled parterre comprising Area 1 of the South Pavilion's garden, and the pavilion at the south end (English Heritage n.d.), although both elements were altered and repaired in the twentieth century (DOE n.d.). The steps and landing in the west wall are of 20<sup>th</sup> century date (DOE n.d.), while the pavilion was extensively restored around 1980. The early eighteenth century gate in the wall to the south-west of the pavilion leading into the kitchen garden has been replaced and has been removed from the listing (DOE n.d.). The entrance gates, gazebo and screen across the east front of Wotton House (Figure 6, 17) and the gate and railings to the north-west of the mansion (Figure 6, 18) are less than 100 metres from the South Pavilion's garden. In both cases the ironwork is thought to have been by Thomas Robinson (DOE n.d.). The wall and gate piers flanking the entrance to the former stable yard (Figure 6, 19) and the entrance gates to the north avenue are further to the north, being some 200 to 250 metres from the South Pavilion's garden. The entrance gates to the south avenue are located immediately to the east of the garden.

Capability Brown, who worked at Wotton in 1739, subsequently landscaped the park over an extended period of time between 1739 and 1760 (Pevsner and Williamson 1960). It is thought that much of the medieval and later village along the line of the north avenue was removed at this time (English Heritage n.d.).

Wotton House was severely damaged by fire in 1820, which left the South and Clock Pavilions untouched. The house was rebuilt by Sir John Soane between AD 1821 and 1822 (Pevsner and Williamson 1960).

## 2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the impact of the proposed development on any remains present.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation subject to any confidentiality restrictions.
- Particular objectives were:
  - Establish whether deposits associated with the medieval manorial and village structures are present, including the dovecot and nearby village holdings, boundaries and trackways. Relate any identified deposits to the available map evidence.
  - Establish whether deposits associated with the post-medieval gardens are present, including the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> century garden buildings and garden features (ponds, paths, planting schemes) relating to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century park and subsequent designs. Relate any to identified deposits to the available map evidence.

## 3 STRATEGY

### 3.1 Research Design

In response to a *Brief* issued by Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (BCAS) a scheme of investigation was designed by John Moore Heritage Services (JMHS) and agreed with BCAS and the applicants. The work was carried out by JMHS and was to involve the excavation of twelve trenches across the site.

Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in a *Written Scheme of Investigation* agreed with BCAS. The work was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994) and the principles of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991).

### 3.2 Methodology

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and sections drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was produced. The trenches were backfilled after recording.

## **4 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Field Results (Figure 2)**

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers in [ ] indicate cut features i.e. ditches; while numbers in ( ) show feature fills or deposits of material. Trench numbers precede context numbers e.g. (1/4) is deposit 4 in Trench 1. A general description of the feature fills is given. CBM refers to ceramic building material – brick and tile.

#### **Trench 1**

Trench 1 was located at the south end of the former walled garden and was oriented northeast-southwest; it measured 4.15m long, 1.40m wide and 1.12m deep. The top of the trench was between 75.72m OD (northeast) and 75.68m OD (southwest).

The trench was excavated to the natural, a friable, mid brownish yellow clay (1/07) which was at least 0.16m deep. The natural was overlain by a layer of friable, dark yellowish brown silty clay (1/06) which had 10% charcoal and 10% gravel within the soil matrix. The layer was 0.16m at its thickest and undulated: two dips and a peak were observed. The width of the dip was approximately 1.2m; that of the peak was c. 0.5m. This was initially believed to be traces of ridge and furrow, but is too narrow for it to have been this. Alternatively, the feature may well be part of beds associated with an earlier garden than the present one. The layer (1/05) was above (1/06). It measured 0.24m thick and a firm, mid yellow brown silty clay in colour and consistency, although there were patches of dark grey clay within it which were located where the underlying deposit (1/06) peaked.

It was overlain by (1/04) which was 0.42m thick and friable, mid-dark orangey brown, containing medieval pottery dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> century or later. This medieval pottery is believed to be redeposited, and associated with the raising of the ground level within the walled garden. At the southwest end a north-south aligned pipe-trench truncated the layer, as did a northeast-southwest aligned land-drain along the southern edge of the trench.

Above the layer (1/04) were two layers of modern dumping (1/03) and (1/02). The earlier layer (1/03) was a friable, mid-dark brownish grey clay (20% CBM, 10% charcoal, 10% gravel), while (1/02) was a friable, mid orangey red with white pebbles (80-90% CBM and mortar). The topsoil (1/01) was loose, greyish black silty clay (2% gravel). Modern horticultural earthenwares were also present within the three upper layers.

#### **Trench 2**

Trench 2 was 20m long, 1.40m wide and 1.40m at its deepest; the top of the north end was at m OD, the south was at m OD. The lowest layer was the natural clay that was more than 0.40m thick and firm, mid orangey green in colour (2/13). The natural was visible at both the north and south of the 20m of trenching except where the feature, a pond [2/08], was cut through it. The height of the natural was at 76.50m OD (north) and 75.56m OD (south); three metres to the north though, the natural was at c. 76m.



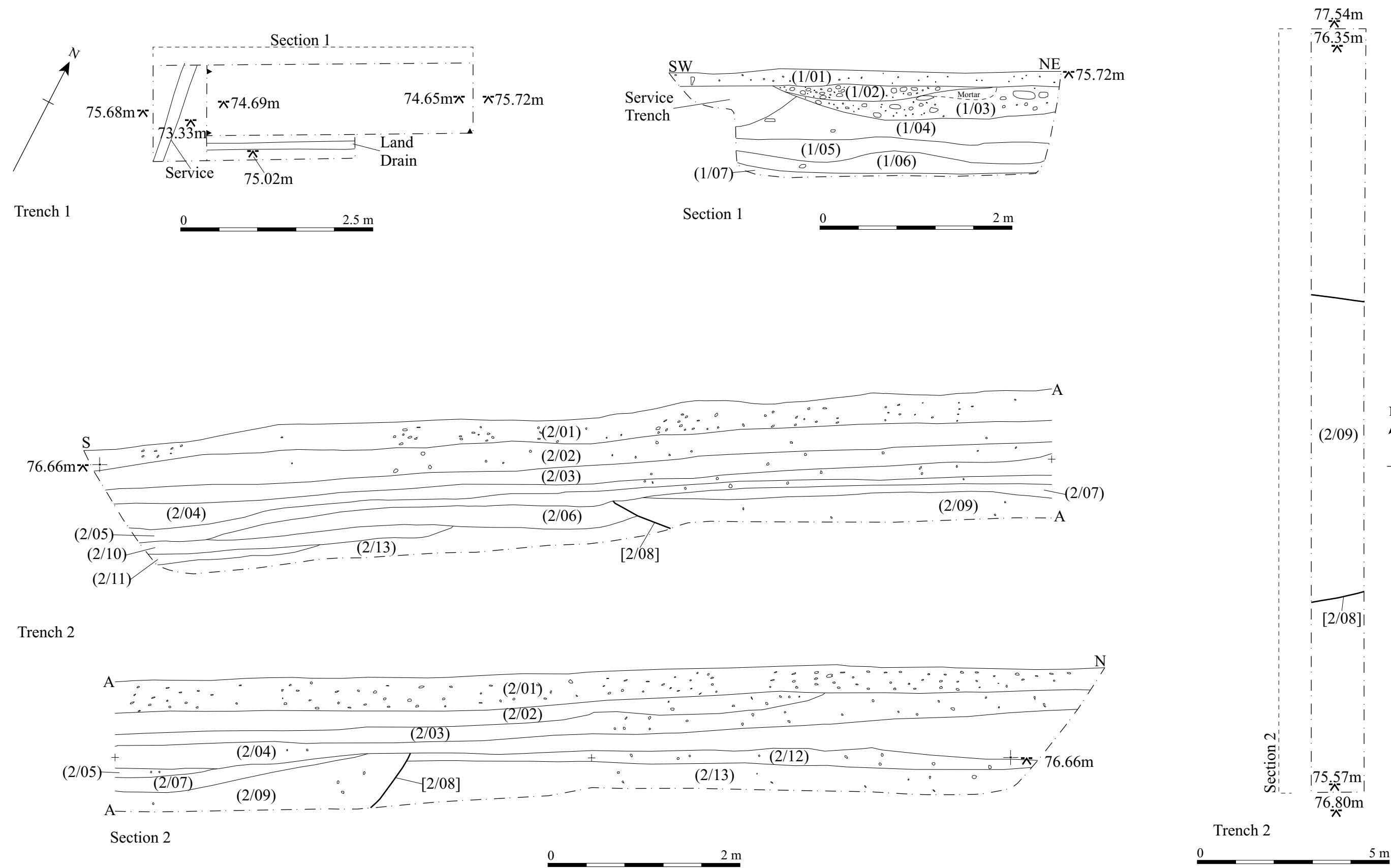


Figure 2. Trench 1 and section 1, Trench 2 and section 2

Overlaying the natural at the northern end of the trench was a 0.10m thick layer of firm, mid blueish grey clay with 1% chalk flecking (2/12), probably a medieval ploughsoil, which contained pottery dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> century or later. At the south end of the trench (2/13) was overlain by layers (2/11) and (2/10). These were both firm, mid orangey green clay in colour and composition with no inclusions; they are 0.07m and 0.16m thick respectively and due to their similarities can be considered to be largely the same as (2/12). The ploughsoil (2/10) had pottery within it, dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century, although this may indeed be a bit later. The layer (2/06), which overlays the natural (2/13) as well as the ploughsoil (2/10), was firm, mid greenish grey clay with 2% CBM and 1% chalk inclusions. The layer (2/06) would not appear to have been a ploughsoil, rather it was a layer of dumping or levelling up, predating the excavation of the pond [2/08]. It is clear that the underlying ploughsoil (2/10) was terraced away to the north, probably at about the same time that (2/06) was deposited, as the layer (2/06) sits directly onto the natural (2/13) where [2/08] truncates it.

The pond [2/08] was located c. 4.5m from the southern end of the trench and c. 7.75m from the north end of the trench. The cut was c. 7.75m (north-south), was greater than 1.4m wide and was observed to a depth of 0.60m deep, although this is not the full depth of the feature due to the trench depth exceeding 1.40m. The break of slope on both sides was sharp with sides at between 45° (north) and 60° (south), and slightly concave. Its fill (2/09) was firm, mid greenish grey clay with slight orange mottling and 1% chalk inclusions, containing pottery and CBM. The pottery dated from the late 11<sup>th</sup> century, although was evidently redeposited. It was overlain by (2/07) which was also firm, mid greenish grey clay but had 1% charcoal flecking inclusions differentiating it from (2/09).

The layer (2/05) overlay (2/07), sealing it to the south, and was also a mid greenish grey clay with 10% charcoal and 2% CBM. It was very similar to the overlying layers (2/04) and (2/03) which had differing percentages of charcoal, chalk and CBM inclusions; (2/04) contained 5% charcoal, 3% chalk, 1% CBM; whereas (2/03) contained 10% charcoal, 20% chalk and 5% CBM. Bone and pottery were present in layer (2/04). The dates produced by the pottery were 13<sup>th</sup> century, which indicates that the layers of dumping were redeposited, quite probably taken from the parterre area to the north when it was reduced and laid out. The layers (2/05), (2/04) and (2/03) sealed the pond and are visible along the full length of the trench indicating a dumping of material to level the ground up. This material is believed to be associated with the excavation of the parterre to the north.

Layer (2/02) was significantly different from the underlying layers, it was a firm, dark greyish black silty clay, with a high percentage of inclusions (30% charcoal, 20% chalk, 10% CBM). It was a heavily anthropogenic dump which served to level up the ground, and may be associated with the creation of the kitchen garden, although no evidence for beds or laying out was observed. To the south of the trench, an east-west path could be seen as an earthwork. The topsoil (2/01) was loose, dark brownish grey clayey silt with 2% small pebbles.

### **Trench 3**

The dimensions of Trench 3 were 10m long, 1.50m wide, and 1.80m deep; due to its significant depth it was not taken down to the natural ground. The sequence in Trench 3 is similar to that in Trench 2. Layers (3/06) to (3/04) comprise the result of

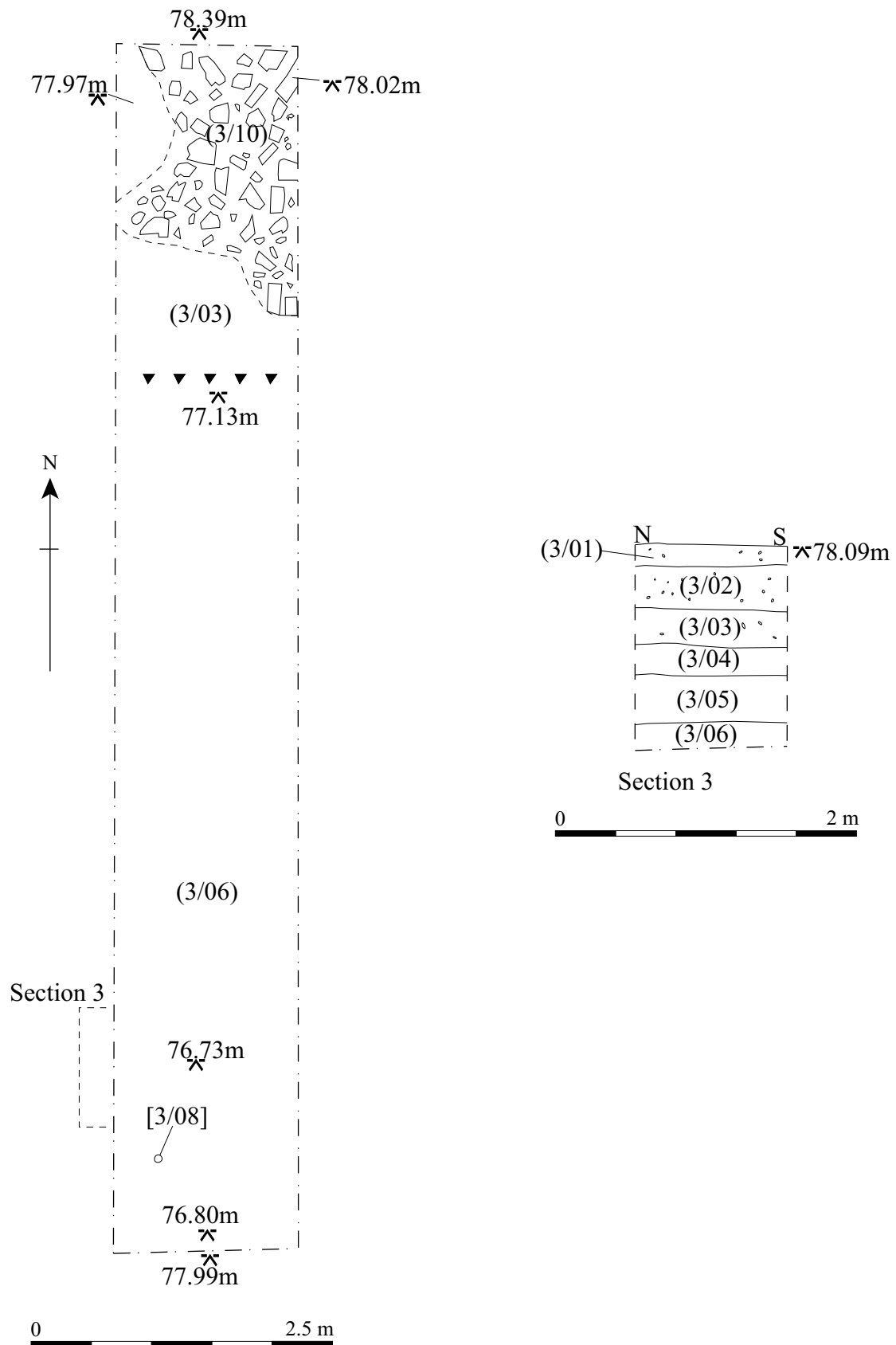


Figure 3. Trench 3 and section 3

landscaping the garden and have been dumped to progressively build up the level of the garden.

Machining was taken to (3/06), a layer of hard, mid greenish grey silty clay with 1% charcoal and 1% CBM. The top of the layer was at 76.74m OD. It was at least 0.14m thick and was overlain by (3/07) to the north and (3/05) to the south. The layer (3/06) is probably the same as the dump (2/04). A stake hole [3/08] was recorded at the southern end of the trench, cutting (3/06). It was not clear whether it also cut through layers above. It was circular in plan and unexcavated; its fill was hard, dark greyish brown silty clay, and was first visible at c. 1m and continued to be visible up to 1.8m at the bottom of the trench. Its location may be indicative of a surveying point fixed on either the pond or more likely the stone staircase south of Wotton House.

The layer (3/07) was a hard, mid greenish yellow grey silty clay with 5% CBM inclusions. This was 0.14m thick and associated finds also include bone and horticultural earthenware. The layer (3/05) was very similar to the layer (3/07), but had differing quantities of inclusions; 20% chalk, 5% charcoal and 3% CBM, and was 0.40m thick. Above (3/05) was the layer (3/04), a hard, medium greenish grey silty clay, c. 0.18m thick. Its similarity to the two previous layers is evident, although it includes 2% chalk, 1% charcoal and no CBM. The layers (3/05) and (3/04) can be equated with (2/03).

Upon this phase of dumping are layers (3/03) and (3/02). Both were hard, dark blackish grey silty clay loam, although (3/03) was 0.26m thick and contained 10% CBM, 5% charcoal and 2% small pebble, as opposed to 15% chalk flecking, 30% charcoal, 20% CBM, and 15% small stone present in (3/02). At the north end was an unexcavated layer of loose reddish orange brick and sand (3/10) at 78.02m OD; there was an abundance of red brick and tile laid as if the base of a path or to facilitate drainage. The layer (3/02) abutted (3/10). Both (3/03) and (3/02) were landscaping deposits to raise the ground-level within the walled garden. The topsoil for this trench was loose, dark brownish black sandy clay loam with 15% small stone, 10% CBM and 10% charcoal inclusion.

#### **Trench 4**

Trench 4 was 6m long, 1.40m wide and 0.94m deep; the lowest layer of the trench was the natural ground (4/08), firm, light greenish grey clay. Although not visible in section two features were cut into the natural, a small pit [4/04] and a shallow ditch [4/06], both of which were sealed by a dump of levelling and topsoil.

At the southern end of the trench was the shallow ditch [4/06] on a NE-SW axis, but only the northwest edge was visible. It had a gentle break of slope on its northern side of c.30°, and an uneven base. It was filled with firm, mid greenish grey clay (4/07). Cut [4/06] has been interpreted as a shallow ditch. To the north, the cut [4/04] was a sub circular pit. It was 0.9m wide (north-south), extended 0.9m into the trench (east-west) and 0.16m deep. It had a sharp slope on the northern side that became more gentle at c. 30° and a southern slope at c. 35°. The base was irregular. It had a single fill (4/05), a firm, mid greenish grey clay with no inclusions. It appears to have been a small, shallow pit; no finds were recovered.

Directly above the natural (4/08) and the two features [4/04] and [4/06] was a layer of mid greyish brown clay (4/03) with 4% charcoal and 1% chalk, c. 0.60m thick.

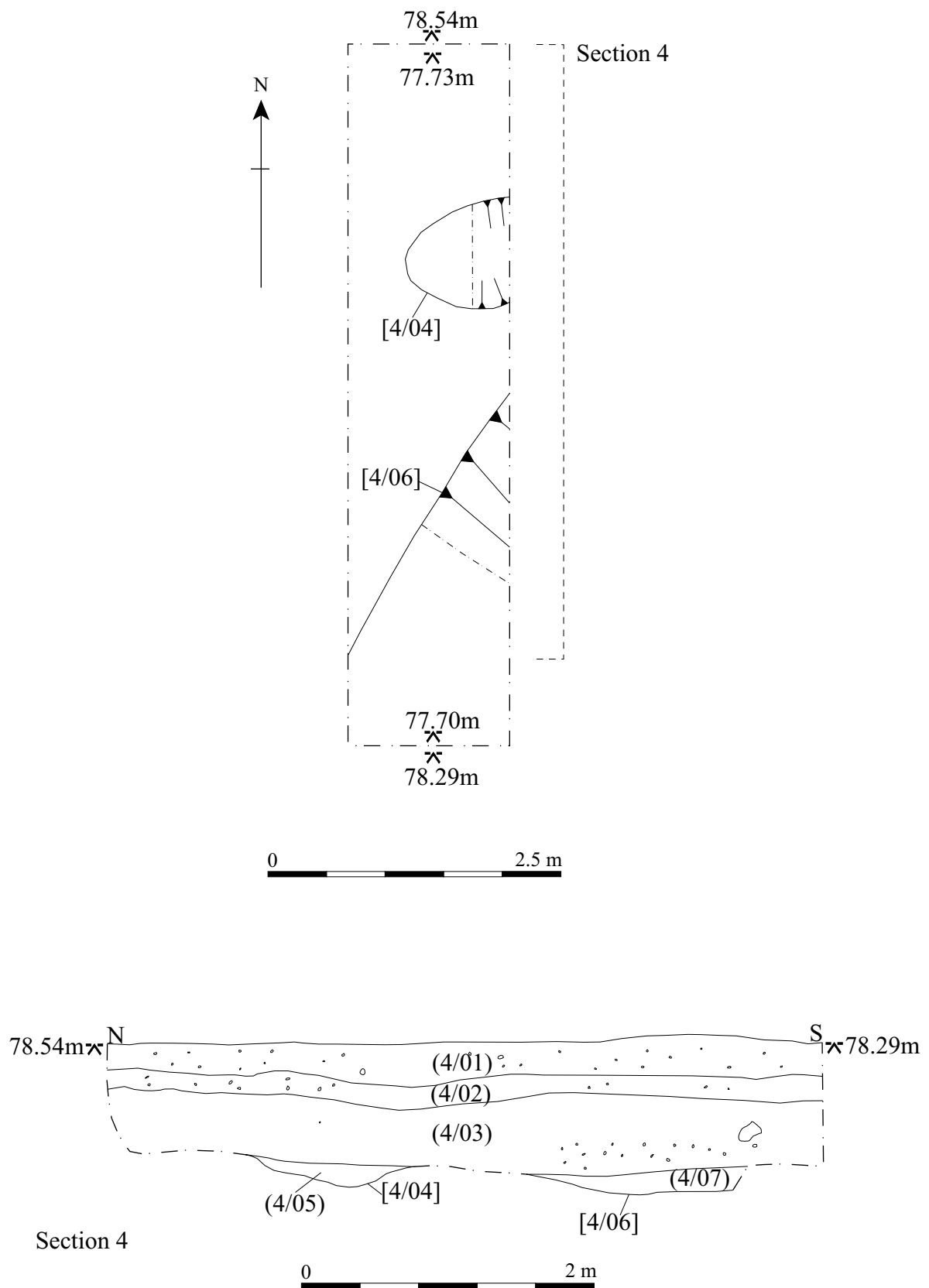


Figure 4. Trench 4 and section 4

The layer (4/03) was visible the full length of the trench, and would appear to have been a dump to level up the ground. Overlaying this was loose, mid black clay with 5% CBM inclusions (4/02) which was overlain by the topsoil, a loose, black silty clay with 1% small pebble. All three layers were present throughout the trench.

## **Trench 5**

Trench 5 measured 1m by 1m and 0.62m deep. The top of the trench was at 79.88m OD, and the base was 79.43m OD.

The lowest layer (5/06) observed was at least 0.20m thick – it was not fully excavated. The deposit was a hard, white/dark blueish grey stone and sand mixture consisting of c. 80% small stone; additionally, marked CBM and moderate charcoal flecking was observed in the deposit.

Brickwork (5/03), standing three courses high, was laid directly onto (5/06). It measured 0.57m (east-west), 0.24m (north-south) and 0.44m high. The bricks measured 240mm by 100mm by 60mm and were unfrosted. The bonding material was a yellowish hard limestone mortar, with peagrit gravel through it. No cut for the footing was observed; rather the layer (5/02) abuts the brick construction. Layer (5/02) was friable, mid orangey yellow sandy clay with 80% small stone inclusion and 1% CBM. The layer was a dump used to raise the level of the ground, to just below the top of the brick construction (5/03). Too little of the brickwork was observed to assert confidently what it was. There are no historic structures, shown on any maps, in the immediate area, so it can only be concluded that it represents part of a light garden feature, which would not be included in Ordnance Survey data. No pottery was recovered from either the brick construction or the stony dump (5/02).

A small modern pit [5/04] was excavated into the levelling layer (5/02), its dimensions were 0.62m wide and 0.34m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. Its fill (5/05) was a loose dark greyish brown silty sand with 40% small stone, 40% CBM and 10% charcoal. Glass, metal, pottery and CBM were found within the fill. It was sealed by (5/01), the topsoil, a loose, dark greyish brown sandy clay (60% small stone).

## **4.2 Reliability of Results and Methods**

The field evaluation was carried out in good weather. The extremely indurated condition of the clay deposits entailed two days of evaluation, instead of the proposed single days work. This also required the use of a narrower toothed bucket instead of a smooth ditching bucket, the initial use of which was abandoned following the breaking down of the mini-digger due to the soil conditions. As a consequence, Trenches 2 and 3 were partially over-excavated as the teeth ripped into the natural.

Trench 5 was initially optional, but following the breakdown of the digger, it was opened up in order to best use the site-personnel's time.

Rain on the second day of the evaluation did not impact significantly upon the recording of the archaeology, as most of the work had been carried out on the Thursday. Backfilling and re-instatement was carried out on the Friday in the rain, however.

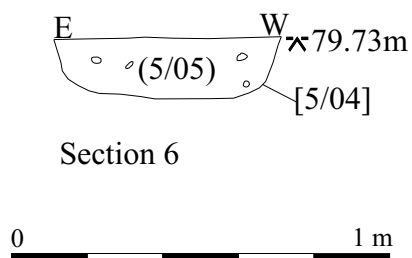
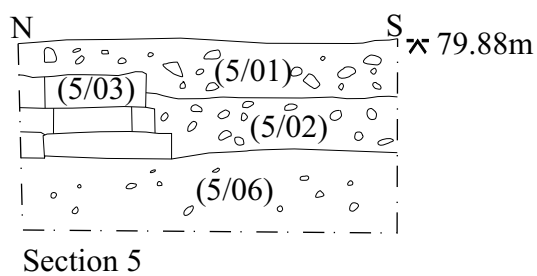
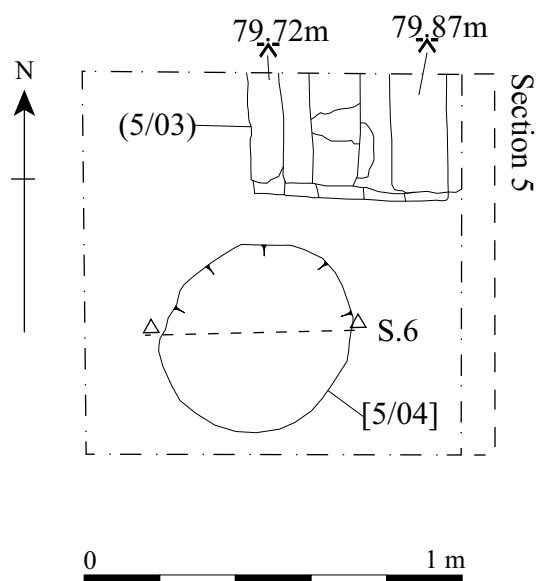


Figure 5. Trench 5 and sections

## 5 THE FINDS

### 5.1 Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 27 sherds with a total weight of 437g. The assemblage was recorded using the coding system of the Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit type-series (e.g. Mynard and Zeepvat 1992; Zeepvat et al. 1994), as follows:

MC1: *Shelly Coarseware*. AD1100-1400. 1 sherd, 8g.

MC9: *Brill/Boarstall Ware*. 1200-?1600. sherds, g.

MS2: *Medieval Sandy Ware*, late 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century. 8 sherds, 140g.

MS29: *Flint-gritted ware*, mid 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century. 4 sherds, 56g.

PM8: *Red Earthenware* mid 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century. 1 sherd, 24g.

In addition, five sherds (150g) of modern horticultural earthenwares (MOD) were noted.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of pottery types is typical of western Buckinghamshire, having more in common with nearby Oxford rather than that of the county in which it was found. The flint gritted ware, MS29, is typical of the OXBF tradition of Oxfordshire (Mellor 1994), and the medieval sandy ware appears to be Oxford ware (Oxford fabric OXY; *ibid.*).

The range of fabric types present suggest that the site was occupied from the immediate post-conquest period until the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, after which there was no activity at the site until the early modern era.

		MS29		MS2		MC1		MC9		PM8		MOD		
Tr	Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
1	U/S			1	15					1	24			U/S
1	1											1	6	MOD
1	2											1	24	MOD
1	3											1	8	MOD
1	4							4	26					13thC
2	4	1	4					3	16					13thC
2	9			2	34									L11thC
2	10	1	14	1	3			1	17					14thC
2	12	2	38	4	88	1	8							12thC
3	7											1	27	MOD
5	5											1	85	MOD
	Total	4	56	8	140	1	8	8	59	1	24	5	150	

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type.

### 5.2 Environmental Remains

No environmental samples were taken as the deposits observed did not warrant the taking of samples.



## 6 DISCUSSION

Although no archaeological remains of the medieval village of Wotton Underwood were recovered, possible plough or cultivation soils dating from the medieval period were identified in Trench 2 – pottery recovered from these deposits at a height of 76.66m OD in the northern part of the trench and 75.86m OD in the southern, dated from the 12<sup>th</sup> through to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. Moreover, the backfilling of the pond in Trench 2 contained residual pottery dating from the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> century or later. Trench 1 contained some 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery in a soil matrix (1/04) which is evidently a cultivation soil. It is believed that this was redeposited rather than *in situ*, as the underlying deposits appear to be sunken beds, (1/05) and (1/06), typical of the kind to be found in a kitchen garden after the 18<sup>th</sup> century (Campbell, 1998: 12). None of the other trenches evidenced traces of medieval activity.

The level of the northern part of the site had been raised by c. 0.9m with two phases of dumping; an early phase of clay dumping and a later more loamy dump. The earlier phase, comprising layers (2/07), (2/05), (2/04) and (2/03) sealed the negative feature [2/08], which itself cut through the medieval ploughsoils and which was filled with a similar deposit of greenish grey clay (2/09). No dating was recovered from these deposits although residual 13<sup>th</sup> century material was present in (2/04). It can be asserted that this was residual as it sealed the 14<sup>th</sup> century ploughsoil at the south end of the trench. The layer (2/04) also sealed the fill (2/09), containing residual 11<sup>th</sup> century pottery, of the negative feature [2/08].

The presence of occasionally very significant proportions of CBM within these dump layers adduces to the assertion that these layers were probably post-medieval, and probably associated with either the construction of Wotton House, South Pavilion and Clock Pavilion, or the demolition of the earlier manor house before 1704. If this is the case, then it is clear that these may indeed date from the slightly later remodelling of the grounds by Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown. The terracing to the north of the walled garden would be an ideal location from which to have excavated such spoil.

The north side of the negative feature [2/08] was at 76.66m OD, the south at 76.26m OD. This corresponds approximately to the height of the middle of the five ponds, which is located between 77m OD and 76.66m OD. This is marginally higher than observed within Trench 2. Nonetheless, it may well be that originally the ponds – or a similar string of ponds – were located further to the east, beneath the trenches excavated during the evaluation. As it had been necessary to limit the excavation in Trench 3 due to the depth and possibility of collapse it is not clear whether a pond might have been below the level to which the trench was machined.

It was noticeable that the ponds to the west also showed marked drops on their downslope sides. This has been interpreted as possible evidence for drainage from the most northerly to the south. Nonetheless, as can be seen on Figure 6, the drop from east to west is significant. It is possible that the line of Trenches 2 and 3 follows the line of a path – or similarly flat surface, aligned on the entrance to the terrace; the 1898 Ordnance Survey appears to suggest so, though it is not easy to entirely rely on the map’s accuracy. Certainly, a late feature, (3/10) a brick surface, was located just to the south of the gate into the terrace, although no evidence for a path was found during the evaluation. To the southwest of Trench 2, running east-west, was the earthwork of a raised path, which was not shown on any map, although it appeared to

be in line with the path southeast of Trench 2. The line of five ponds running north-south is also clearly indicative of a division within the walled garden.

Certainly to the west Trench 4 revealed no evidence of medieval activity. The features excavated were undated, and apparently heavily truncated, as the dump of levelling material sat directly onto the fills of the features and the natural into which they were cut. It is not possible to assert whether they were medieval (or earlier) features or part of the walled garden. The 1898 Ordnance Survey map shows there to have been a path in the vicinity which may the edge of the cut [4/06].

Trench 5 revealed a brick footing or possible structure – although nothing is visible on any of the earlier maps or plans of the Wotton House. It was located within a dump of rubble and sand. It may be a garden feature – although the poor quality of brick-laying would seem to indicate that it was not a substantial structure.

The remains from the site at South Pavilion indicate that there are ephemeral traces of medieval activity. These would not seem to be very significant, as they have been heavily truncated across the site. The post-medieval gardens of Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown may well be, in part, that visible today; it is however clear that extensive works have been carried out on the ponds, for example, which today are concrete lined. It is reasonable to assume that they have been equally maintained where they are below ground today.

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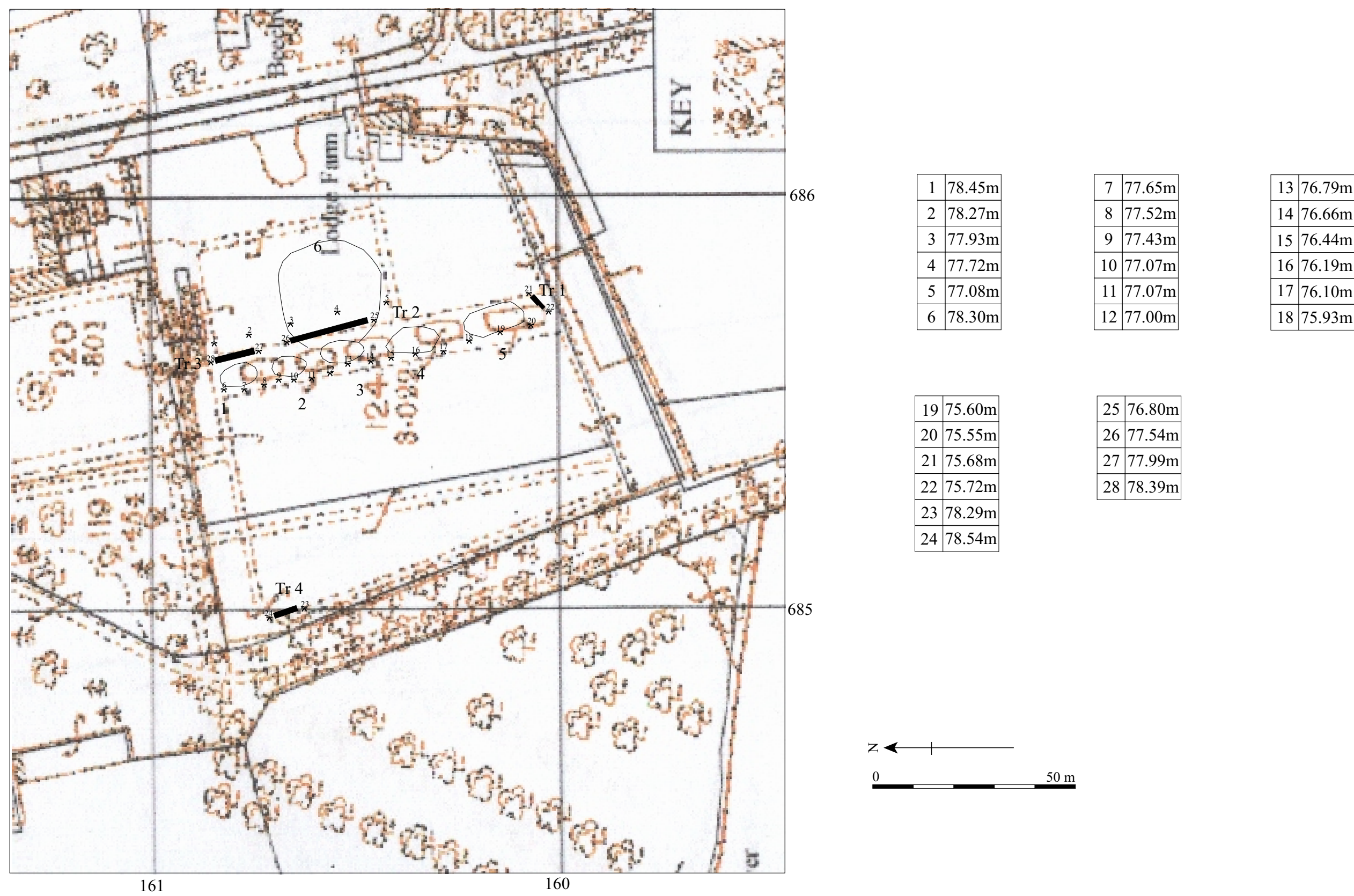


Figure 6. Location of evaluation trenches and 1847 garden features superimposed on 1898 OS map

**APPENDIX 1****ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Length (m)</b>	<b>Findings</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
<b>Trench 1</b>							
1/01	Layer	Top Soil 2% Small Pebble	0.14	Tr.	Tr.	-	Modern
1/02	Layer	Mid-Orangey Red With White Pebble Sandy Silt. 80-90 % CBM	0.12	2.30	1.40	Pottery, CBM	Modern Layer
1/03	Layer	Mid-Dark Brownish Grey Clayey Silt. 20% CBM, 10% Charcoal, 10% Gravel	0.13	3.00	1.40	-	Modern Layer
1/04	Layer	Mid-Dark Orange Brown Silty Clay. 5% CBM, 5% Charcoal	0.46	3.30	1.40	Pottery, CBM	Modern Layer cut by Service Pipe
1/05	Layer	Mid Yellowish Brown Silty Clay.	0.24	Tr.	1.40	-	Layer of Water Feature
1/06	Layer	Mid-Dark Yellowish Brown Silty Clay. 5% Charcoal, 5% Gravel	0.21	Tr	1.40	-	Possible Ridge and Furrow
1/07	Natural	Light Brownish Yellow Silty Clay.	0.08	Tr	1.40	-	Natural
<b>Trench 2</b>							
2/01	Layer	Top Soil. 2% Small Pebble	0.30	Tr.	1.40		Modern Layer
2/02	Layer	Dark Greyish Black Silty Clay. 40% Chalk, 70% Charcoal, 10% CBM	0.28	Tr.	1.40	Pottery	Modern Layer
2/03	Layer	Mid Greenish Grey Clay. 20% Chalk, 5% CBM, 10% Charcoal	0.26	Tr	1.40	-	Modern Layer
2/04	Layer	Mid Greenish Grey Clay. 5% Charcoal, 3% Chalk, 1% CBM	0.28	Tr	1.40	Pottery, Bone	Modern Layer

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Findings	Interpretation
2/05	Layer	Mid Greenish Grey Clay. 10% Charcoal, 2% Chalk	0.16	16.10	1.40	-	Modern Layer
2/06	Layer	Mid Greenish Grey Clay. 2% CBM, 1% Chalk	0.20	5.56	1.40	Pottery, CBM	Modern Layer
2/07	Layer	Mid Greenish Grey Clay. 1% Charcoal	0.18m	7.20	1.40	-	Modern Layer
2/08	Cut	Cut of Pond	0.60	7.92	1.40	-	Cut of Pond
2/09	Fill of [2/08]	Mid Greenish Grey Clay with Orange Mottling. 1% Chalk	0.60	7.92	1.40	Pottery	Fill of Pond
2/10	Layer	Mid Orangey Green Clay	0.16	3.22	1.40	Pottery	Modern Layer
2/11	Layer	Mid Orangey Green Clay	0.07	1.73	1.40	-	Modern Layer
2/12	Layer	Mid Blueish Grey Clay. 1% Chalk	0.10	6.70	1.40	Pottery	Modern Layer
2/13	Natural	Mid Orangey Green Clay. 1% Chalk	0.40	Tr	1.40	-	Natural
<b>Trench 3</b>							
3/01	Layer	Top Soil. 15% Small Stone, 10% Charcoal, 10% CBM	0.14	Tr.	1.50	-	Modern
3/02	Layer	Dark Blackish Grey Silty Clay. 15% Charcoal, 30% CBM, 15% Small Stone	0.28	Tr.	10.0	-	Modern Layer
3/03	Layer	Dark Blackish Grey Silty Clay. 10% CBM, 5% Charcoal, 2% Small Stone	0.26	Tr.	1.50	-	Modern Layer
3/04	Layer	Medium Greenish Grey Silty Clay. 2% Chalk, 1% Charcoal	0.18	Tr	1.50	-	Modern Layer Used For Levelling Ground
3/05	Layer	Medium Greenish Grey Silty Clay. 20% Chalk, 5% Charcoal, 3% CBM	0.40	Tr	1.50	-	Modern Layer Used For Levelling Ground
3/06	Layer	Medium Greenish Grey Silty Clay. 1% Charcoal, 1% CBM	0.14	Tr	1.50	Bone, CBM	Modern Layer Used For Levelling Ground
3/07	Layer	Mid Greenish Yellow Grey. 5% CBM	0.14	Tr	1.50	Pottery, CBM	Modern Layer Used For Levelling Ground
3/08	Cut	Stake Hole	0.10	N/A	0.10	-	Small Stake Hole

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Find	Interpretation
3/09	Fill of [3/08]	Dark Greyish Brown Silty Clay	0.10	N/A	0.10	-	Fill Of Small Stake Hole
3/10	Layer	Mid Reddish Orange	N/A	2.30	1.50	-	Layer of Bedding For Garden
<b>Trench 4</b>							
04/01	Layer	Topsoil. 1% Small Stone	0.33	Tr	1.40	-	Modern Layer
04/02	Layer	Mid Black Clay. 5% CBM	0.20	Tr	1.40	-	Modern Layer
04/03	Layer	Mid Greyish Brown Clay. 4% Charcoal, 1% Chalk	0.60	Tr	1.40	-	Modern Layer
04/04	Cut	Shallow Pit	0.16	1.20	0.85	-	Shallow Pit
04/05	Fill [04/04]	Mid Greenish Grey Clay	0.16	1.20	0.85	Glass, Clay Pipe, Pottery	Fill of Shallow Pit
04/06	Cut	Shallow Ditch	0.14	1.44	0.75	-	Shallow Ditch
04/07	Fill [04/06]	Mid Greenish Grey Clay	0.14	1.44	0.75	-	Fill Of Shallow Ditch
04/08	Natural	Light Greenish Grey Firm Clay	N/A	Tr	1.40	-	Natural
<b>Trench 5</b>							
05/01	Layer	Top soil. 60% Small Stone	0.16	Tr	1.00	CBM	Modern Layer
05/02	Layer	Mid Orangey Yellow Sandy Clay. 80% Small Stone	0.12	Tr	1.00	-	Modern Layer
05/03	Masonry	Red Brick	0.06	0.10	0.24	-	Old Boundary Wall
05/04	Cut	Small Modern Pit	0.17	0.50	0.48	-	Small Modern Pit
05/05	Fill [05/04]	Dark Greyish Brown Silty Clay. 40% Small Stone, 40% CBM, 10% Charcoal	0.17	0.50	0.48	Glass, Metal, CBM	Fill of Small Modern Pit
05/06	Layer	White with Dark Blueish Grey Sand And Clay. 20% Small Stone, 30% CBM, 10% Charcoal	0.20	1.00	1.00	-	Man Made Ground