

**JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES**

**AN**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**AT**

**GRANGE FARM, SHIPTON LEE,  
QUAINTON, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

**SP 735 208**

*On behalf of*

*Corpus Christi College*

**JULY 2007**

<b>REPORT FOR</b>	Corpus Christi College c/o Savills Wytham Court 11 West Way Oxford OX2 0QL
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## CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
<b><i>SUMMARY</i></b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Site Location	
1.2 Planning Background	
1.3 Archaeological Background	3
<b>2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3 STRATEGY</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1 Research Design	
3.2 Methodology	
<b>4 RESULTS</b>	<b>6</b>
Trench 1	
Trench 2	9
Trench 3	9
Trench 4	9
Trench 5	12
Trench 6	12
Trench 7	12
Trench 8	15
Trench 9	17
Trench 10	17
Trench 11	19
Trench 12	19
<b>5 FINDS</b>	<b>21</b>
5.1 The Medieval Pottery	21
5.2 Environmental Remains	21
5.3 Animal Bone	21
5.4 Clay tobacco Pipes	22
<b>6 DENDROCHRONOLOGY</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>7 DISCUSSION</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>8 BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>APPENDIX Archaeological Context Inventory</b>	<b>25</b>

<b>FIGURES</b>		<b>Page</b>
Figure 1	Site and trench location	2
Figure 2	Trench 1 Plan and Section	7
Figure 3	Trench 2 Plan and Section. Trench 3 Section	8
Figure 4	Trench 4 Plan and Section	10
Figure 5	Trench 5 Plan and Sections	11
Figure 6	Trench 6 Plan and Section	13
Figure 7	Trench 8 Plan and Sections. Trench 7 Section	14
Figure 8	Trench 9 Plan and Sections	16
Figure 9	Trench 10 Plan and Sections	18
Figure 10	Trench 12 Plan and Section. Trench 11 Section	20

## **Summary**

*The evaluation revealed that the main area of the farmyards and buildings were void of any significant archaeological remains other than a few post holes, driven stake alignments, and several stone drains that are probably associated with the post medieval farm. No evidence for the medieval grange or associated buildings was seen.*

*Limited dating evidence was forthcoming although it is argued that barn B7 was originally of 17<sup>th</sup> century date, rebuilt in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is also argued that the 'Old Barn' B1 is more likely to be of later 17<sup>th</sup> century, or possibly even later, date. The similarity of the flooring in the barns examined and the farmyards suggests a refurbishment of the farm complex in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.*

*No medieval remains were encountered.*

*Dendrochronological dating was not possible on the 'Old Barn' B1 and the tree ring sequence on a timber from Trench 9 within barn B7 was too distorted to date.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

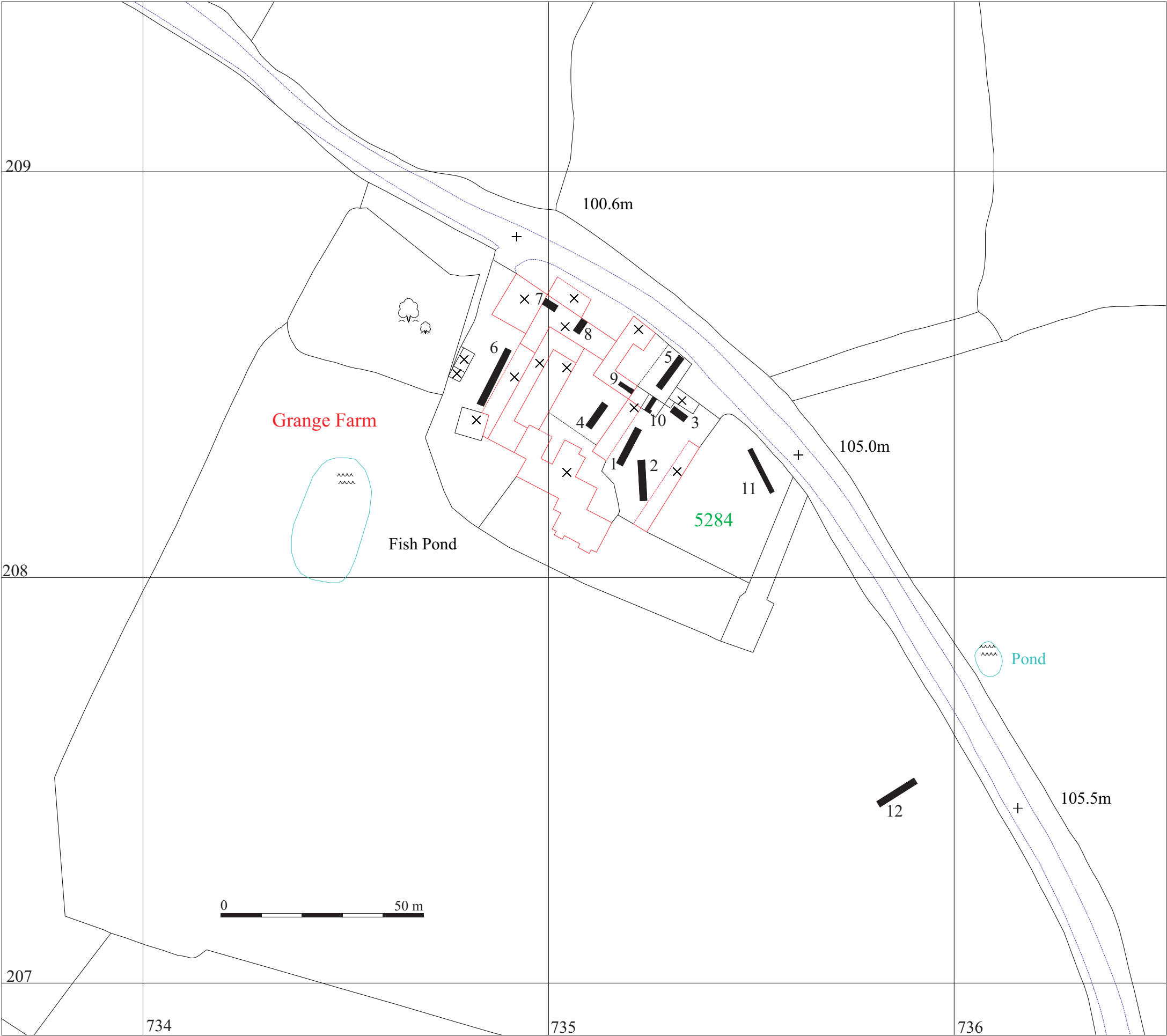
It is proposed to redevelop the farm by the demolition of five buildings and two stretches of the curtilage wall, the renovation of existing buildings and the construction of new residential properties. An archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of the site (JMHS 2006) and a Historic Building Assessment (Rodwell 2006) have been prepared. Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (BCAS) advised that an archaeological evaluation should be undertaken due to the site's potential to contain archaeological remains of significance. BCAS prepared a *Brief* for the work recommending that the site should be investigated by trenching totalling up to 91m in length, with contingency for a further 20m of machine-dug trenching. In addition dendrochronological dating was also required to establish the date of the listed barn.

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

The site is located in the northern part of Buckinghamshire approximately 11 kilometres north-west of Aylesbury. Grange Farm is situated in Aylesbury Vale District in the Civil Parish of Quainton and lies approximately one kilometre to the north-west of Quainton Village, where it is centred on National Grid Reference SP 735 208. The underlying geology is West Walton Formation mudstone (Sheet 219, Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales)).

### **1.2 Planning Background**

An archaeological evaluation was considered necessary for the site because of the potential for medieval and post medieval deposits associated with the Cistercian Grange founded in the 13<sup>th</sup> century (CAS00762) and later farm. A Desk-Based Assessment of the site has been carried out over a study area within a 1km radius of the site (JMHS 2006). This research incorporated the examination of material held by



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Figure 1. Site and Trench location

the County Sites and Monuments Record as well as historic maps at the County Record Office.

### 1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

The hamlet of Shipton Lee was recorded in the Domesday Book at which time it was divided into three holdings of one, two and seven hides (Morris 1978). The Place name Shipton derives from “Sheep hill” and has become conflated with Lee or Lee Grange, the former name of Grange Farm (Mawer and Stenton, 1925, 110-111). Shortly before 1146 the manor at Shipton Lee was given to Thame Abbey, a Cistercian house founded in 1137 by William Fitz Otho, brother of the first abbot. Lee Grange itself appears to have been acquired by the Abbey by the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century. In 1291 a mill and court are mentioned along with the land. In 1365 the Abbot obtained a grant of free warren. Shipton Lee remained with Thame Abbey until its dissolution in 1539 (Page, 1927, 93, 95-97; Rodwell, 1999) and in AD 1540 its possessions in Quainton were granted to Michael Dormer (Page 1927). A chapel appurtenant to Lee Grange was demolished before the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

A survey of the manor from 1624 records a total of 1661 acres with manor house, orchards, garden, 2 barns, stables and yards, a warren, dovehouse and fishponds. In addition to the manor itself the manor comprised one messuage, 15 tenements, 2 “little cottage houses” and a “house” unoccupied (Rodwell, 1999, 60-67). In the post medieval period it appears to have become a gentry farm and was subject to architectural embellishment and landscaping of the grounds. Traces of an avenue on Quainton Hill running down towards the farm can be seen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> surveyors map from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The site of the Cistercian Grange, which was to become the residence of the Dormers, is thought to have been located in the vicinity of the present farmhouse and buildings at Grange Farm (Page 1927; Kidd 2006; Figure 3, 7). The documents mention a chapel at Lee Grange, which was endowed with a chancel in AD 1312 (Page 1927). This was destroyed before the end of the eighteenth century and its location is unknown. The positions of the demolished buildings of the monastic grange and mansion house occupied by the Dormer family are similarly uncertain. The only standing early structure is the barn in the northern part of the proposed development area (JMHS 2006, Fig. 2, B1). Rodwell (2006) considered that the barn is likely to be of later 16<sup>th</sup> or earlier 17<sup>th</sup> century date.

Otherwise features attributed to the medieval period are mainly confined to the fields immediately west and south of the proposed development which were surveyed in 2004 (Kidd 2006; Figure 4). A flight of four fishponds (Figure 4, a to d) fed by an embanked leat (Figure 4, e) occupies the western side of the complex (ibid.). The southernmost pond (Figure 4, d) may be later in date, while it has been suggested that an area of depressed ground to the east of the ponds (Figure 4, i) may represent an earlier pond bay (ibid.). Two large platforms are located to the east of this, one immediately to the south of the proposed development area (Figure 4, f) and the other extending into the south-eastern part of the site (Figure 4, g). The alignment of the surviving scarp on an existing boundary wall in the farm complex has raised the possibility that this easternmost platform (Figure 4, g) may mark the site of the demolished buildings of the monastic grange (ibid.). The only other earthworks on the eastern fringes of the complex are two low embankments linked to a roughly oval

mound (Figure 4, h). These are thought to be pillow mounds marking the site of a medieval rabbit warren, an interpretation supported by the historic field name of 'The Warren Close' (Kidd 2006; Section 4.4.2).

This application will affect three Grade II listed structures and associated curtilage structures on the site of a medieval grange. The farm complex encompasses a diverse and complex range of buildings, which vary considerably in terms of plan form, architecture, date and materials. The earliest extant building within the current complex is a Grade II listed timber framed barn attributed to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Cut masonry blocks that form the base of the eastern wall of the barn also form the northern wall of an unlisted barn abutting the south-east corner of the barn. These may represent the remains of earlier medieval buildings or boundary wall, or may be re-used elements from the earlier grange buildings. The 16<sup>th</sup> century barn has 5 bays, massive queen post trusses and ogee wind braces. A late 18<sup>th</sup>-early 19<sup>th</sup> century block is attached to the west end is of chequered brick, two stories with high unusually high quality timbers for an agricultural building including use of beams with chamfered stops (Rodwell 2006).

The Grade II listed Grange Farmhouse, timber-framed with brick in-fill, is attributed to the 17<sup>th</sup> century with much 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century alteration. The house is notable for the rare survival of c18th century blinds. There is also Grade II listed dovecote 10m west of the farmhouse, a square brick building attributed to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. The modern farm comprises of three courtyards delimited by a combination of the above listed structures and a number of 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century farm buildings linked by distinctive red brick walls. A kitchen garden lies to the east of the farm, enclosed by a red brick wall with brick store attached.

The above derives from the two assessment reports (JMHS 2006, Rodwell 2006) and the BCAS's Brief.

## **2 AIMS OF THE EVALUATION**

The aims of the trial trenching and dendrochronological dating as laid out in the Written Scheme of investigation were to gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character, date, state of preservation and depth of burial of important archaeological remains within the study area. Particular objectives were:

- Undertake dendrochronological dating to establish the date of the earliest components of the barn. The purpose of employing this technique is to establish the date of the barn and clarify whether or not its origins lie in the medieval period. The results may have a bearing on the character and level of further recording undertaken on the structure.
- Trenching should seek to establish the character and extent of any Saxon, medieval or post medieval deposits likely to be impacted by the development, paying particular attention to information that can shed light on the origins of the complex and its association with a Cistercian Grange.



- Trenching within the Calf Box and Timber framed Barn (Buildings B1 and B7 fig 1, JMHS 2006b): are any traces of earlier structures or earlier phases of building present within these buildings. If so establish the date and character of deposits, what can these tell us about the evolution of the complex?

### 3 STRATEGY

#### 3.1 Research Design

In response to a *Brief* issued by 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 involved the excavation of twelve trenches across the site (Fig. 1) supplemented by limited hand investigation of archaeological deposits.

Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in a *Written Scheme of Investigation* agreed with the 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

Mechanical excavation was carried out by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  tonne and a 3 tonne excavator using a ditching bucket. Mechanical excavation was taken down to the top of “natural” deposits or any higher archaeological horizon. Ten of the twelve trenches were machine-excavated; the remaining two trenches were excavated by hand.

The dimensions and reasoning for each trench is set out below.

- Two 4m trenches dug within the listed barn (B1) at 90 degrees and abutting the walls to establish the character of any archaeological deposits within the barn and their relationship with the standing structure. Required because of proposed re-flooring works. Trenches 7 – 4.2m x 1.05m, and Trench 8 – 4.2m x 1.2m.
- Two hand-dug trenches within building B7, to establish the character of any archaeological deposits within the barn and their relationship with the standing pre 18th century north wall. Required because of proposed re-flooring works. Trench 9 – 4m x 1.0-1.3m, and Trench 10 – 3.7m x 1.2-1.65m.
- A 10m trench in the yard to the north of B7 (required as new wall is proposed here). This will be orientated N/S in order that the access is not restricted. This trench will be in two sections to avoid a drain. Trench 5 – 9.4m x 1.7m.
- Two 10m trenches in the yard east of B8 where resurfacing works and new walls are proposed. One trench will be placed adjacent to B8. Trench 1 – 10m x 1.7m, and Trench 2 – 10m x 1.7m.

- Two 10m trenches located on the line of the proposed hedge east of the farm, one to test for any settlement deposits that may be located immediately to the east of the existing farm complex and one to test the earthworks identified further to the east. One trench within the kitchen garden (Trench 11 – 10m x 1.7m). The other located in the field to the east Trench 12 – 10.8m x 1.6m.
- A 10m trench in the central courtyard (east of B13) where a garden is to be established and tree planting proposed. This was reduced to 7m to avoid blocking the access between this courtyard and those to the east and west and to avoid a drain at the southern end. (Trench 4 – 7m x 1.7m.
- A 10m trench to the west of B5 to test area where new floors to be added to B5 and resurfacing work done to the yards. Trench 6 – 12m x 1.25m.
- A 5m trench in small plot east of B2 marked 'Access and parking' on Savills' Site Plan (Drawing No 05/13/sk1B) where surfacing and new wall proposed. This location was not possible due to the presence of a water tank and service pipes. It moved to a position west of B7 and south of B9. Trench 3 – 4.2m x 1.7m.
- A contingency for an additional 20m of trenching was allowed for. Some of this was utilised for extending Trench 6.

Dendrochronological samples were to be taken from appropriate timbers in Barn 1 for dating by the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory. However this was not possible as the principal timbers were either of elm, which is not dateable, or too fast grown for dating purposes.

## 4 RESULTS

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. (1/04) is deposit 04 in Trench 1. A general description of the feature fills is given. CBM refers to ceramic building material.

### **Trench 1 (Figure 2)**

The underlying geology in this trench was a mottled yellow orange light grey silt clay (1/6). It was encountered at a height of 101.54m OD at the northern end of the trench, sloping down to 101.06m OD at the southern end. Two features [1/8] & [1/10] were cut into this at the southern end of the trench. [1/8] was a probable post hole measuring 0.36m in diameter and 0.20m deep. It contained a very rotted and degraded stake which appeared to be driven in at a 45° angle and was surrounded by (1/7) the fill of the posthole which was a mid blueish grey silt clay. [1/10] was seen at the far end of the trench. Originally this was thought to be a cut feature orientated NW/SE, but upon further investigation this is now thought to be a layer tipping southwards; (1/9) which was a mid blueish grey silt clay. This may be a colluvial layer or a levelling layer.

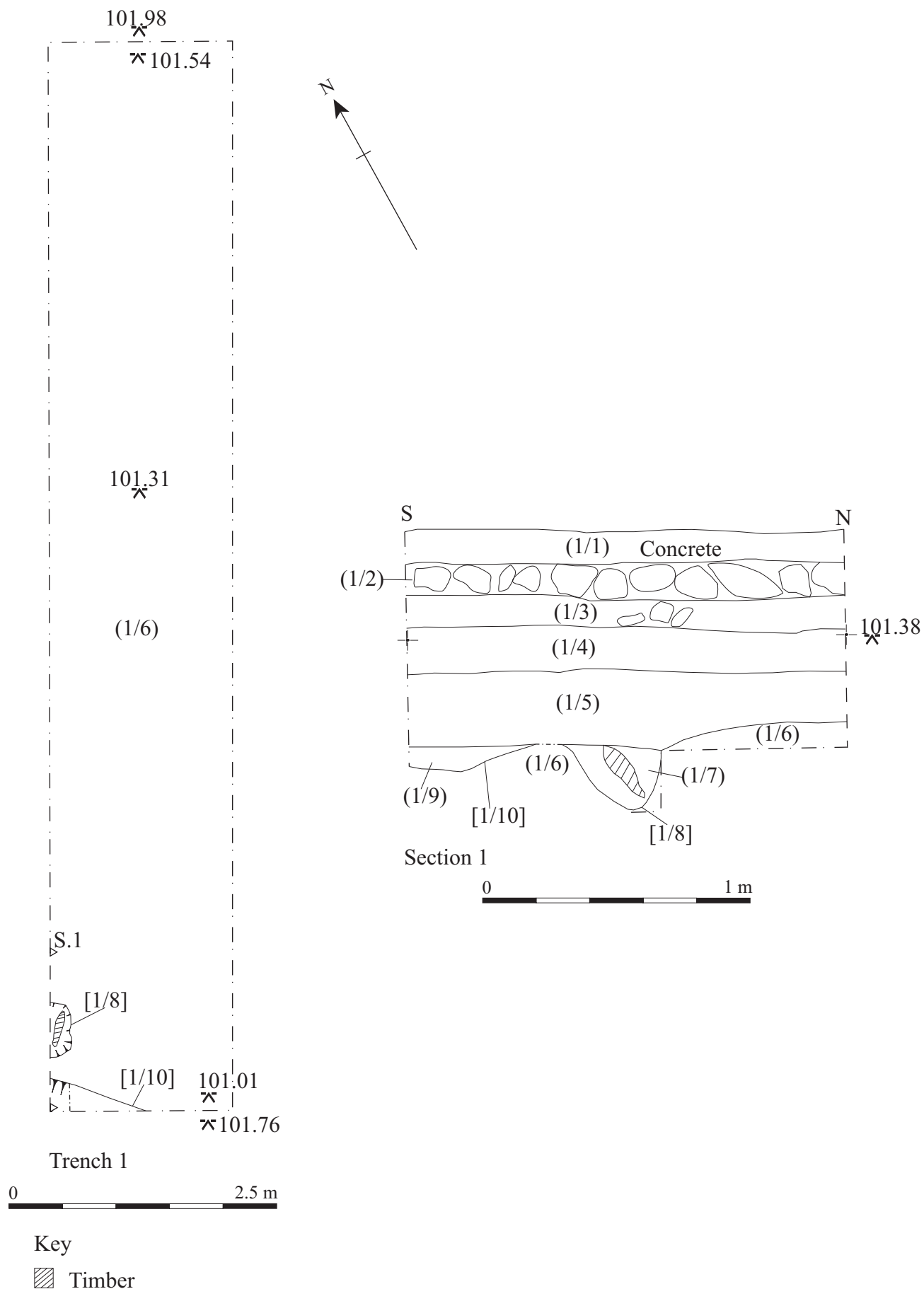


Figure 2. Trench 1 Plan and Section

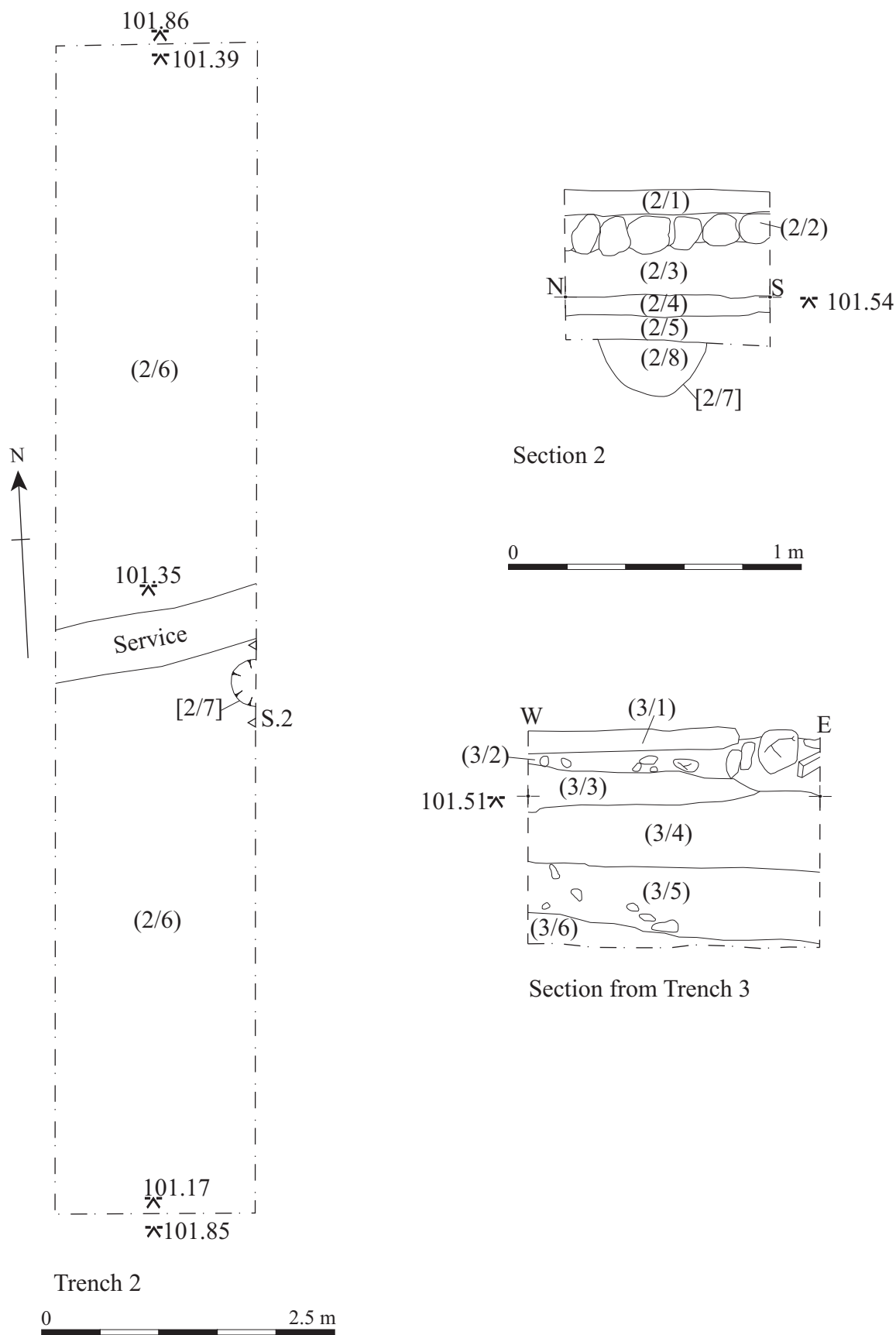


Figure 3. Trench 2 Plan and Section. Trench 3 Section

Sealing these two features/deposits and overlaying the natural was deposit (1/5) a 0.18m thick deposit of mottled dark grey green black sandy clay with 5% mixed gravels which in turn was overlain by (1/4); a mottled light bluish grey green silt clay 0.16m thick. This in turn was overlain by (1/3) a dark grey black with green mottled silt clay with 5% gravels 0.10m thick. This deposit was overlain by (1/2) which consisted of large limestone blocks and pieces, which form the earlier farmyard surface and was topped by a 0.12m thick layer of concrete (1/1).

### **Trench 2 (Figure 3)**

The underlying geology in this trench was the same as in Trench 1, (2/6). It was encountered at a height of 101.39m OD at the northern end of the trench sloping south to 101.23m OD at the southern end of the trench. In the centre of the trench against the eastern trench edge cutting into the natural was a single posthole [2/7]. This measured 0.40m in diameter, 0.32m deep and was filled by (2/8) a pale brownish black, grey silty clay with quantities of charcoal flecking. The posthole [2/7] was sealed by (2/5), a 0.19m thick deposit of dark grey silty clay with yellow silt clay mottling and 20% gravels. Overlaying this was deposit (2/4) a dark grey bluish silt clay 0.11m thick. This was then overlain by (2/3), a dark yellow very sandy loam 0.18m thick. The last was the bedding make up for the old farmyard surface of large cobbles (2/2) which was seen below a 0.10m thick layer of concrete (2/1).

### **Trench 3 (Figure 3)**

The underlying geology in this trench was encountered at a height of 101.99m OD and was a mottled light green yellow grey silt clay (3/6). This was overlain by (3/5), a 0.25m thick deposit of green-grey silt clay, which in turn was overlain by (3/4) which was a 0.24m thick deposit of dark black-grey silt clay with frequent inclusions of charcoal. This deposit was then overlain by (3/3) a 0.12m thick layer of orange silty sand, which is the bedding for the earlier farm yard surface (3/2), under the existing concrete surface.

### **Trench 4 (Figure 4)**

The underlying geology in this trench was encountered at a height of 101.12m OD at the northern end of the trench sloping down to 100.88m OD at the southern end of the trench; this was a mottled yellow mid blue-grey silt clay with 5% pea grit (4/6). Into this were two separate lines of driven stakes. One line was orientated N/S and consisted of stakes [4/8] & [4/9] and the tip of another that was removed by the process of machining the trench, the other line was orientated NW/SE and was made up from stakes [4/10], [4/11], [4/12] & [4/13]. It was not possible to establish from where these stakes were driven. Overlaying (4/6) was a layer of yellow-brown silt clay with 10% pea grit 0.12m thick (4/5), which was then overlain by (4/4) a dark blue-grey silt clay with 10 – 15% gravels 0.14m thick. This appears to truncate (4/5) and (4/6) in the northern end of the trench. This may represent ground clearance/levelling prior to the construction of the farmyard or for an earlier building. Overlaying (4/4) was (4/3) a 0.08m thick deposit of brown yellow sandy loam, which as elsewhere is the make up for the laying of the stone farmyard surface (4/2) under the current concrete surface (4/1).

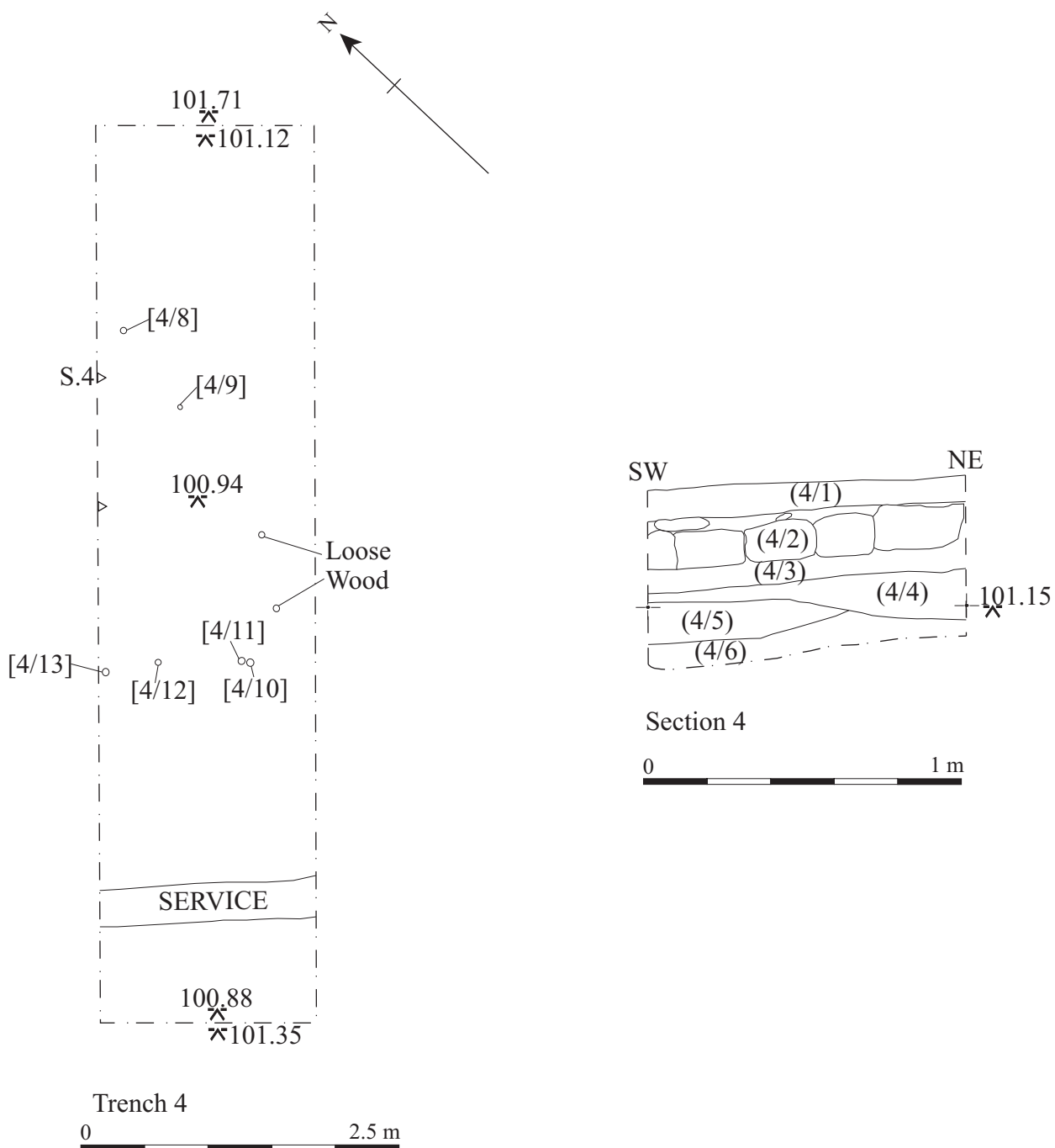


Figure 4. Trench 4 Plan and Section

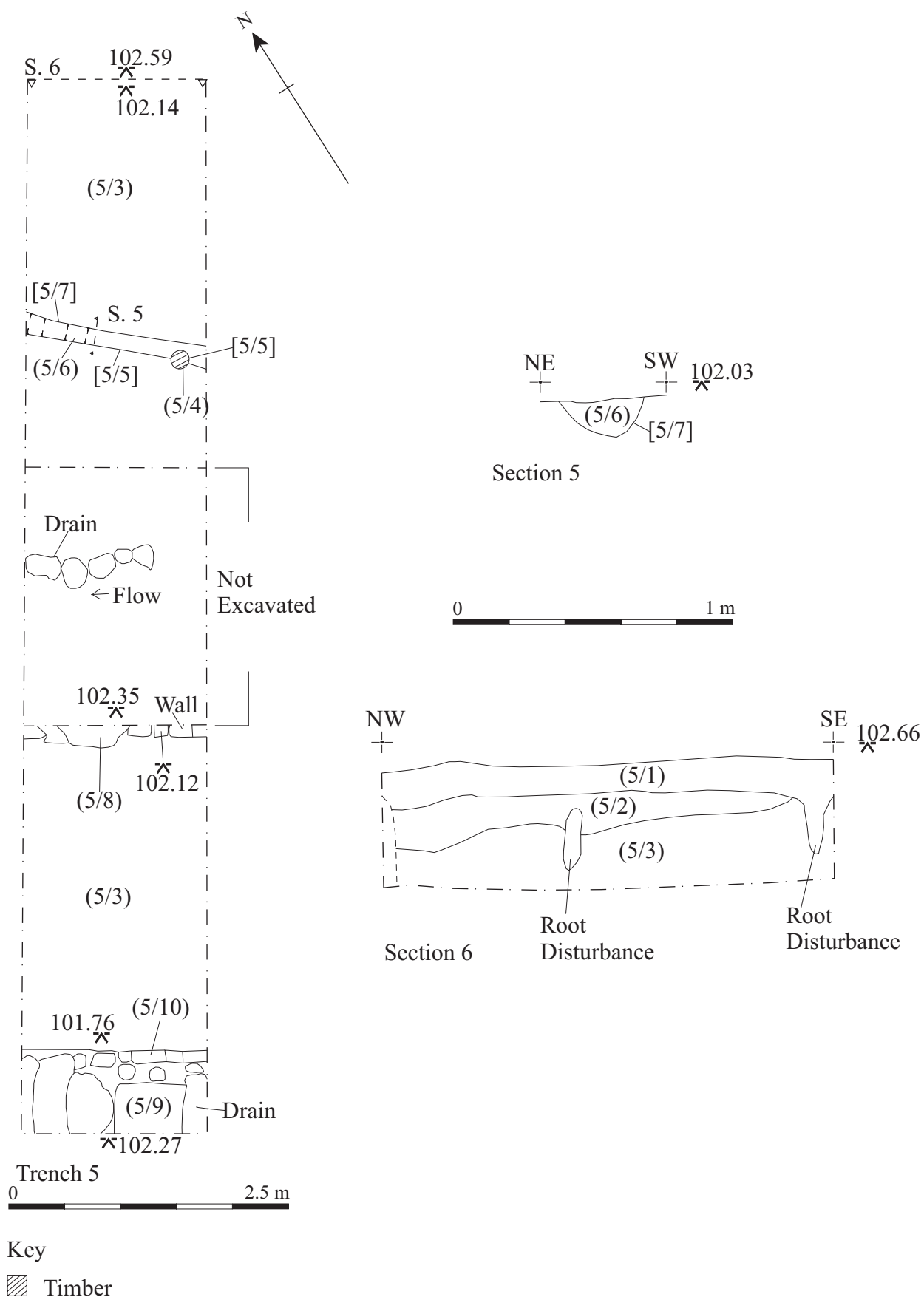


Figure 5. Trench 5 Plan and Sections

**Trench 5 (Figure 5)**

This trench was split into two, so as not to disturb the existing running water channel. The underlying geology in this trench was encountered at a height of 102.28m OD and was a light orange grey silt clay (5/3). Overlaying this deposit was (5/2) a light grey brown clay with inclusions of brick and limestones.

A small gully or beam slot [5/7] 0.36m wide, orientated NW/SE was present in the northern part of the trench. It measured 0.36m wide, 0.15m deep and was filled with (5/6), a soft grey clay. The gully was cut into, near to the eastern baulk, by a posthole [5/5] which held the remains of a post (5/4). The posthole [5/5] measured 0.30m in diameter, with the post having a 0.28m diameter. The gully contained a piece of bottle glass dating to the post-medieval period.

A single brick thick wall [5/8] orientated NW/SW was recorded at the northern end of the southern trench. This was constructed from red bricks measuring 200mm x 100mm x 50mm, set with a red sandy mortar. This may represent the southern retaining wall for the existing running drain.

The southern end of this trench also revealed a brick lined drain (5/10) that was capped with limestone slabs (5/9). This was recorded at a height of 101.97m OD. As this drain was only a few meters from an existing sheep dipping tank, no further work continued on H & S grounds. This drain is on the same alignment as that in Trench 8.

**Trench 6 (Figure 6)**

This trench was only 1.25m wide, due to its location and access factors.

The natural geology was a mottled mid brown grey silt clay (6/4) through most of the trench, although at the southern end it was a mid blackish brown silt clay due to contamination from fuel. At the northern end of the trench a palaeo-channel was recorded. Only the southern edge of the feature was seen, aligned E/W across the trench [6/6]. It was in excess of 3.5m wide. The fill of the channel was a mid grey blue silty clay with 5% mixed gravels (6/7).

Overlaying the natural was (6/3), a mid brown, with yellow mottling, clay some 0.22m thick. The deposit (6/5) at the southern end on the trench is interpreted as the same as (6/3) but was of a different colour due to the fuel contamination. A sherd of red earthenware of mid 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date was recovered from (6/05). This was overlain by (6/2), a mid grey, with red mottling, silt clay with quantities of CBM and brick rubble. This deposit is interpreted as the make-up for the existing limestone cobbled yard surface (6/1).

**Trench 7 (Figure 7)**

This trench was excavated within the “Old Barn”. The underlying geology was a mid brown grey silt clay at a height of 101.05m OD (7/4). This was overlain by (7/3) a mid blue grey silt clay with 5% mixed gravels 0.24m thick. This was then overlain by



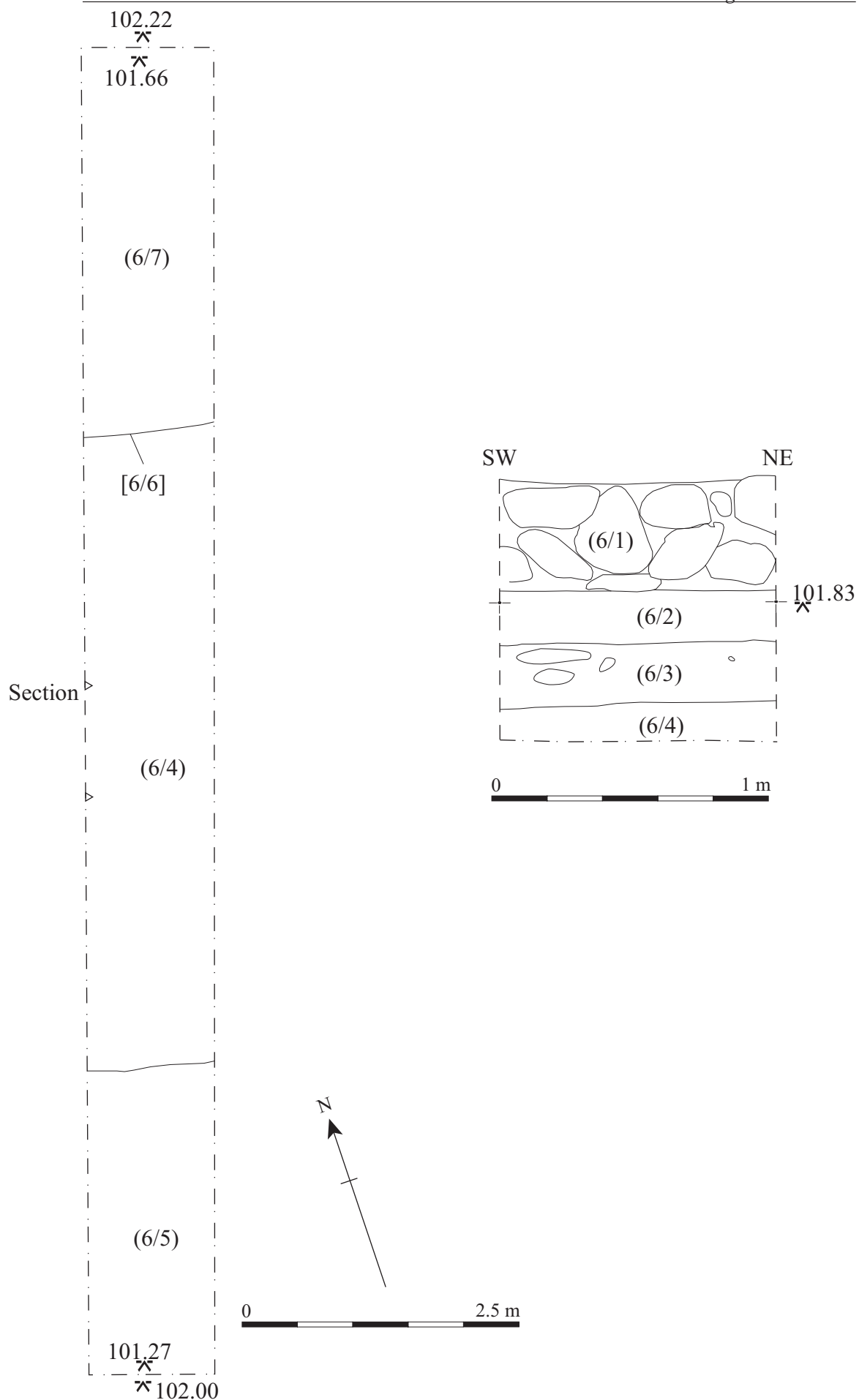


Figure 6. Trench 6 plan and Section

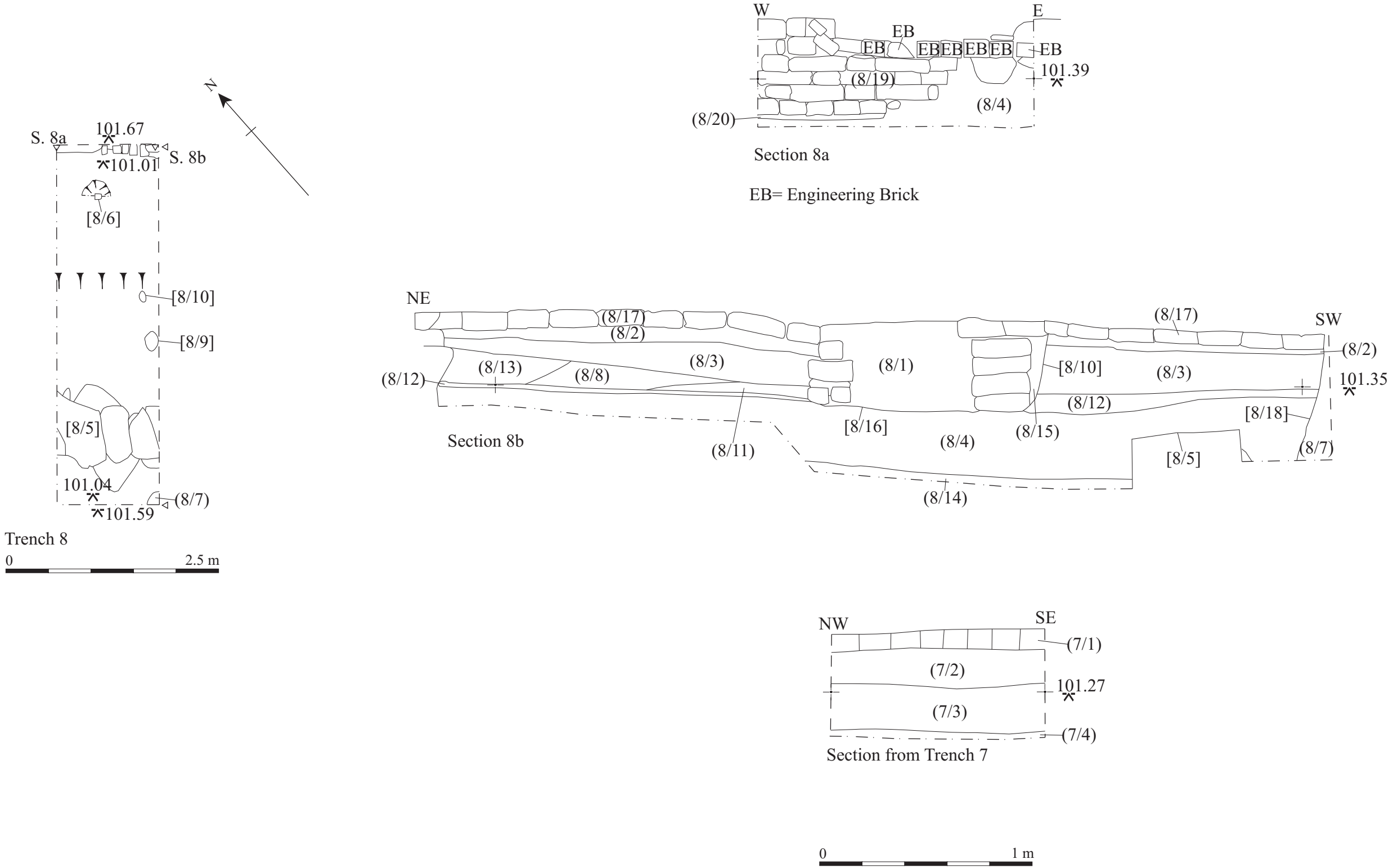


Figure 7. Trench 8 Plan and Sections. Trench 7 Section

(7/2) a 0.15m thick deposit of yellow brown sandy loam, which has been interpreted as the make up layer for the existing brick surface (7/1) within the barn.

At the western end of the trench the brick footings [7/5] of the existing barn wall were exposed, down to a depth of 101.46m OD, where the bricks were seen to be laid on a double bed of roof tiles. This additional depth of foundations is due to the drop in ground level to the west outside the barn.

### **Trench 8 (Figure 7)**

This trench was also excavated within the “Old Barn”. The natural geology was (8/14) a dark blue grey clay recorded at a height of 100.94m OD.

Overlaying the natural was a 0.31m thick deposit (8/4) of mottled yellow, grey brown silt clay. Driven into this deposit were three post/stake holes. [8/6], [8/9] and [8/10]. These do not appear to be on the same alignment. All three posts were too rotten to remove. Within this deposit was a stone-lined drain [8/5]. It was orientated NW/SE through the trench, and was constructed from roughly hewn limestone blocks; the largest measured 560mm x 420mm x 110mm bonded with a cream, white (lime?) mortar. The drain measured 0.75m wide with internal measurements of 0.24m wide and 0.23m deep.

Overlaying deposit (8/4) was deposit (8/12), a 0.10m thick deposit of yellow sand. This was present across the whole of the trench except where cut by [8/16] and probably represents a construction level/bedding material for a floor within the barn. This surface was probably of large limestone blocks similar to the yard surfaces as seen in the doorway at the north-east end of the trench (Figure 6, section 8, above 8/4).

At the northern end of the trench several deposits were recorded tipping towards the north-eastern wall of the barn, these were (8/8), (8/11) and (8/13).

Deposit (8/11) was the earliest in the sequence, it was a 0.08m thick and consisted of a mid to dark reddish brown sandy silt clay. This was overlain by (8/8) which was a yellow brown sandy silt clay with 5% mixed gravels and charcoal flecking, up to 0.12m thick. This was then overlain by (8/13), a yellow grey sandy silt clay with 40% CBM and brick rubble.

These deposits were all overlain by (8/3) which was 0.05m to 0.22m thick deposit of mid brown yellow silt clay with 15% gravels. This deposit appeared to be cut into for the construction of a sunken trough that can be seen in the existing floor of the barn. Deposit (8/03) along with deposits (8/13, 8/8, 8/11) appear to be levelling up for the present floor replacing the postulated limestone block floor.

At the far northern end of the trench the footings of the north-eastern wall of the barn [8/19] were exposed and recorded. They were red brick measuring 240mm x 120mm x 60mm sat on a thin bed of orange sand (8/20) 0.04m thick at a height of 101.17m OD. The absence of brick in the south-eastern part of the doorway is probably due to a drain flowing out from the barn into the drain seen in the northern part of Trench 5 that would flow immediately along the outside of the barn. Subsequently it must

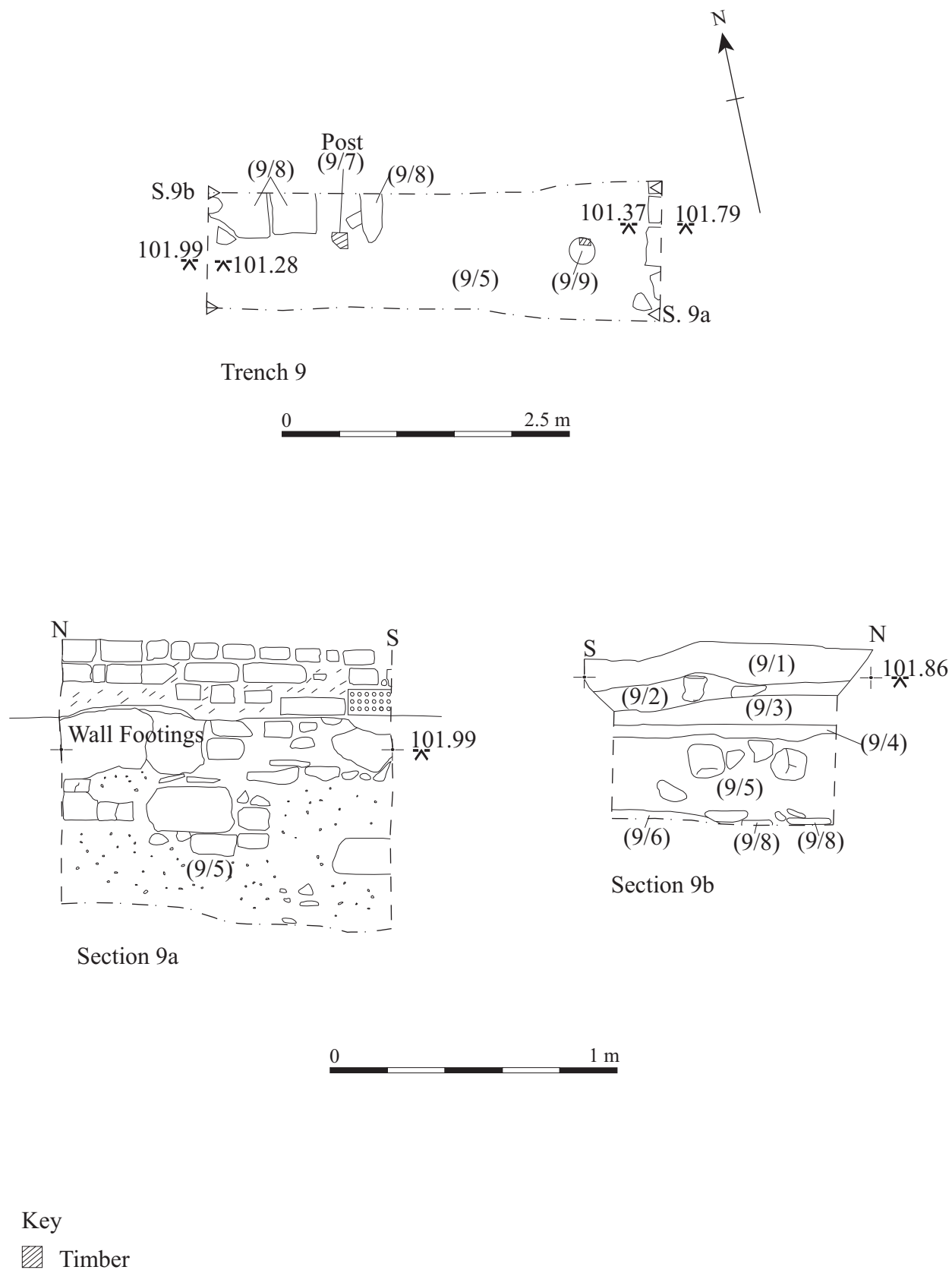


Figure 8. Trench 9 Plan and Sections

have been infilled with re-deposited natural clay. The engineering bricks have been incorporated into the threshold to raise the height to that of the present floor.

### **Trench 9 (Figure 8)**

This trench was hand dug within the cowshed B7. The lowest deposit was the natural geology at a height of 101.40m OD, a light blue grey clay (9/6). Two driven posts were recorded in the bottom of the trench; (9/7) and (9/9). Post (9/9) was too rotted to be removed; it measured 0.10m in diameter. Post (9/7) however was sturdy enough to be lifted from the ground, it measured 0.19m x 0.12m. Post (9/7) was seen to cut deposit (9/5) while post (9/9) was found under (9/5) although this may be misleading and the rotted state it was in may have prevented its recognition at a higher level.

Overlaying the natural was 0.30m thick deposit (9/5); a dark black silty clay with brick and limestone fragments throughout. CBM, glass, worked wood, animal bone and pottery dating to the late 17<sup>th</sup> or 18th century was recovered from it. At the western end of the trench was part of a limestone drain [9/8]. This was similar to the other drains seen in Trenches 5 and 8, in that it was constructed from roughly hewn limestone blocks. The part seen, may be part of the southern edge, slightly wider than that further east. The drain in Trench 8 was irregular in width. The farmer stated that a drain does run through this barn. The drain appears to have deposit (9/5) overlaying it.

Overlaying (9/5) was a 0.07m thick layer of reddish brown silt sand that contained a fragments of clay pipe and a single sherd of mid 16<sup>th</sup> – 19th century pottery (9/4). A clay tobacco pipe bowl appears to date this deposit towards the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The last deposit was overlain by a 0.12-0.18m thick bedding layer of sand (9/3) for a limestone cobbled surface (9/02), which was below the 0.15m thick concrete surface. The floor surfaces abutted the barn wall.

The footings to the cow shed were exposed at the east end of the trench where they were seen to a depth of 101.55m OD.

### **Trench 10 (Figure 9)**

This trench was hand dug within the eastern part of the cow shed B7. The lowest deposit was the natural geology (10/4) at a height of 101.53m OD; a dark blue grey clay with 5% small stones. This was overlain by (10/3) which was a 0.15m thick deposit of CBM and brick rubble.

Three postholes and a driven stake were recorded within the trench. Rectangular post (10/5) was seen in the western section of the trench; it was unexcavated, it measured 0.20m x 0.10m as seen. It appeared driven with no post-hole visible. Rectangular post (10/6), measuring 0.20 x 0.10m, was within a post hole [10/10] measuring 0.42m in diameter and 0.70m deep. The fill of the post hole (10/16) was a dark blue grey silt clay. Posthole [10/14] was rectangular measuring 0.25m x 0.25m and was filled by (10/13) a dark black silty clay. A small area of probable animal disturbance was

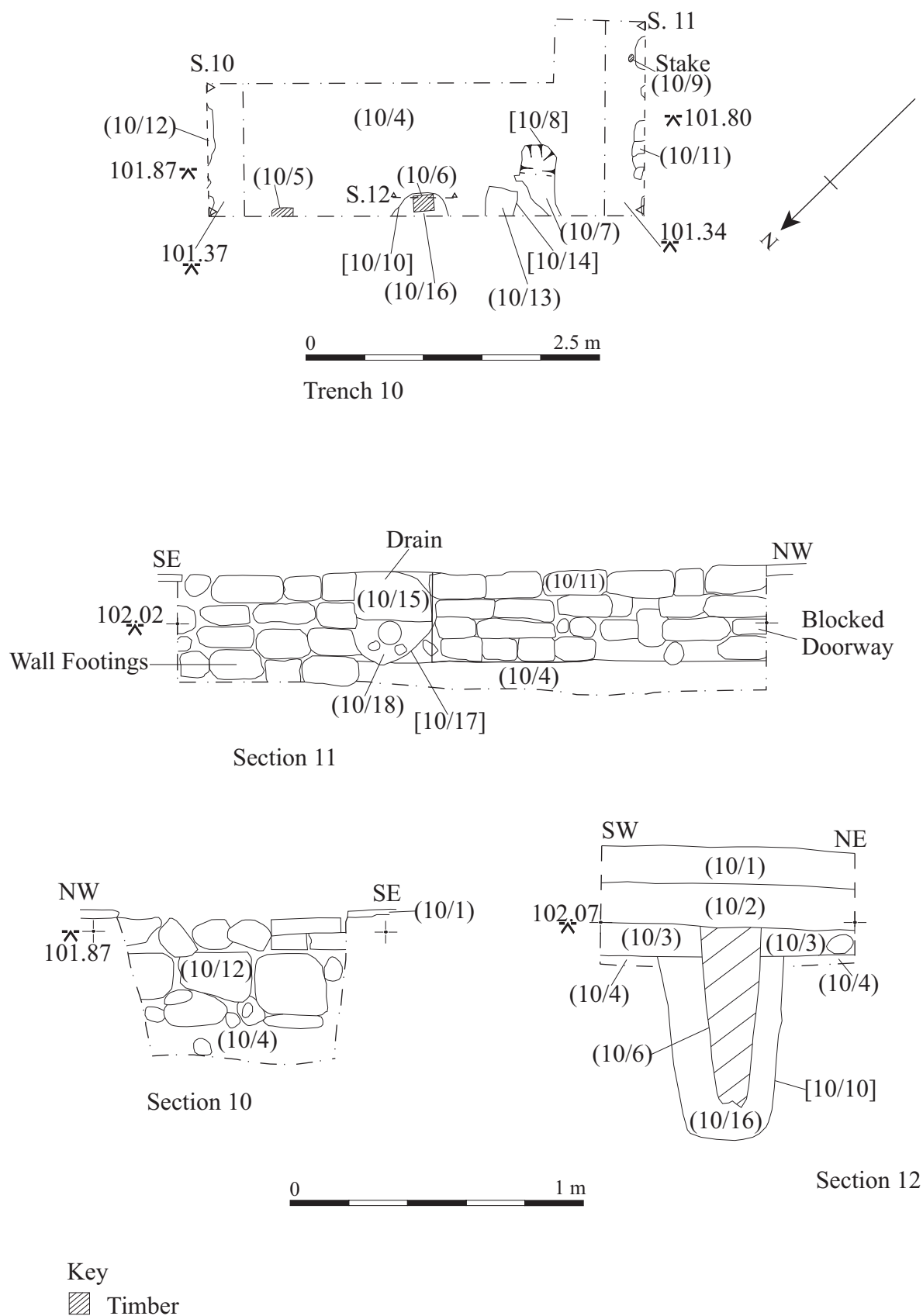


Figure 9. Trench 10 Plan and sections

recorded [10/8]. A small stake [10/9] of 0.03m diameter was located close to the south wall of the barn.

Above the posts and stake was a 0.15m thick deposit of light white-grey mortar pieces, red brick fragments, sand and CBM (10/3). This is interpreted as a make-up for a floor, level with the base of the blocked doorway in the south wall (see below). Post 10/16 was seen extending through this layer. It appears that when this present barn was built make-up (1/03) was laid down around a cut off post with a floor over (subsequently removed before the present floor was laid). The removed floor may well have been a limestone block surface similar to that seen elsewhere. Above deposit (10/3) was a 0.04m thick make-up layer of silty clay (10/2) covered by modern concrete floor (10/1).

At both ends of the trench the wall footings were exposed and recorded. At the north end the footings were seen to a depth of 101.55m OD, they were of un-worked limestone blocks measuring 0.20m x 0.10m (10/12), which were 0.25m deep. Above this was the wall of red bricks. At the other end of the trench the footing of the wall and of the blocked doorway were recorded. The wall footings were at 101.80m OD and the blocked door way footings were seen at 101.90m OD. The original wall foundation of three courses of brick below the present floor was founded on a single course of limestone c. 0.11m high cut into the natural clay. The blocked doorway (10/11) was to a depth of four courses of brick below the modern floor. A concrete pipe drain [10/15] had been cut [10/17] through the wall.

### **Trench 11 (Figure 10)**

This trench was dug through the existing vegetable garden. The natural geology (11/3) was recorded at a height of 103.01m OD, it was a mottled mid blue grey yellow silt clay. This was overlain by (11/2) a yellow brown silt clay 0.17m thick with 10% gravel and small stones. This was immediately below the existing 0.27m of topsoil, (11/1) a mid brown black sandy silt loam with 5% gravels.

### **Trench 12 (Figure 10)**

This trench was dug through the tentative "Pillow mound" in the field called The Warren, to the east of the farm.

The natural geology (12/6) was a mid brown slightly sandy clay, it was recorded at a height of 104.12m OD. Several geological features [12/8] & [12/9] were seen and investigated. These had the appearance of cut features but they were filled with natural. The top of the natural was undulating before material was dumped. It appears that a topsoil or ploughsoil was removed before the dumping.

The earliest in the sequence was deposit (12/10), which was a grey brown clay 0.75m thick that contained CBM, animal bone and glass. This was overlain by (12/4) which was a mottled light green yellow grey brown sandy clay with 15% mixed gravels, 10% CBM fragments and 1% limestone fragments. A sherd of pottery dating to the late 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century was recovered from this layer but subsequently has been misplaced. The very bottom of this deposit consisted of a thin lens of orange brown

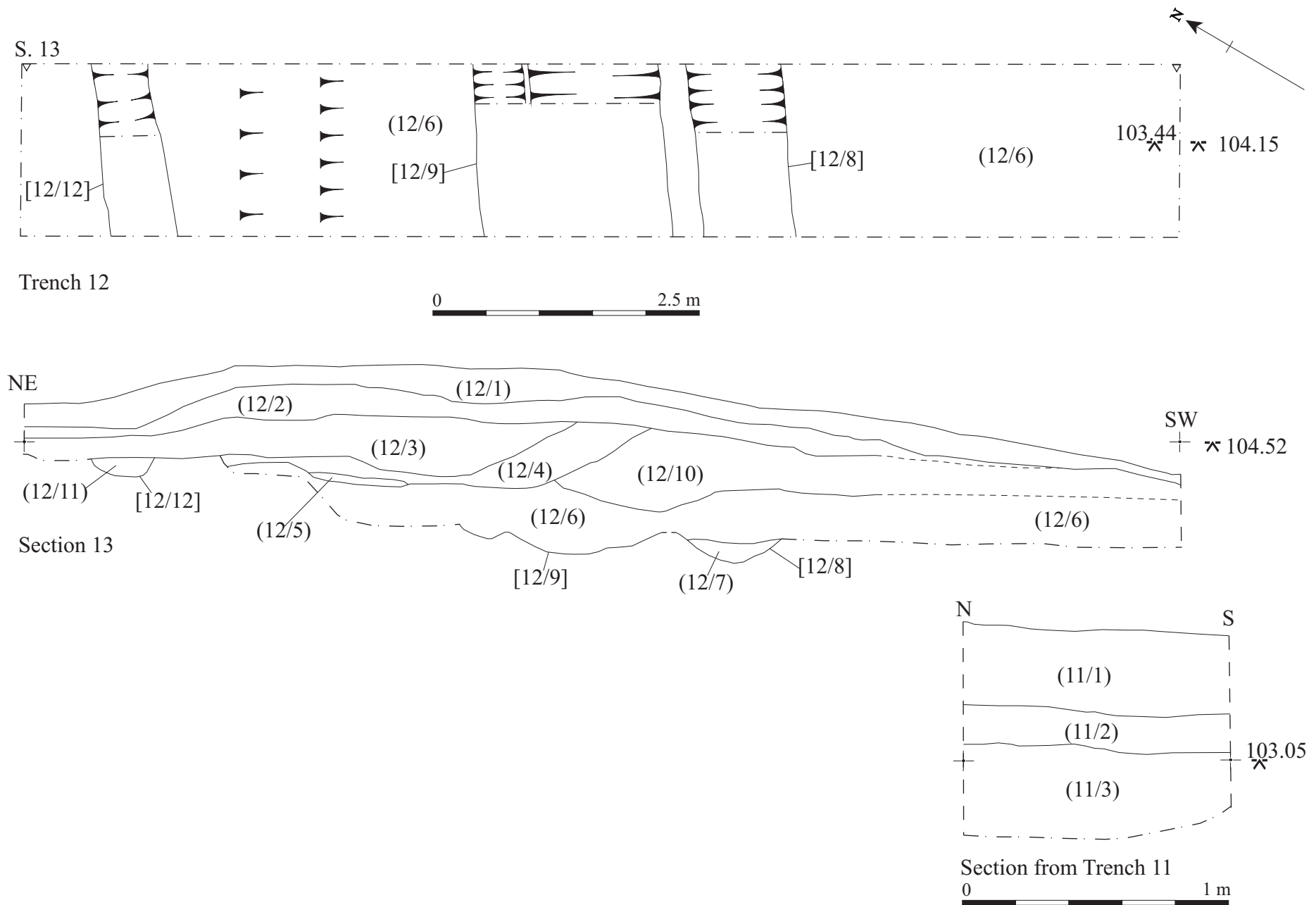


Figure 10. Trench 12 Plan and Section. Trench 11 section



sandy clay (12/5). Cutting into the top of (12/4) was a small ditch or gully [12/12]. It was orientated NW/SE and measured 0.60m wide and 0.20m deep. The feature was filled by (12/11) a grey brown silt clay with 40% CBM rubble throughout. Sealing this feature was deposit (12/3), a 0.50m thick dump of light grey brown clay with 20% CBM, 10% mortar fragments and 5% small fragments of limestone and flint gravel. The layer contained very large coping bricks from a wall. These are also seen edging a pond and elsewhere around the farm. A 0.30m thick spread of light grey brown silty clay with 5% CBM, 20% mortar flecking and 1% limestone fragments, (12/2) seals the whole mound before the existing 0.19m of topsoil.

## 5 FINDS

### 5.1 Medieval Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 11 sherds with a total weight of 380g. It comprised a range of post-medieval wares, with the range of fabrics present suggesting that there was activity at the site during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

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:

PM8: *Red Earthenware* 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century. 7 sherds, 186g.

PM21: *English tin-glazed earthenware*, 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century. 1 sherd, 64g.

PM29: *Rhenish Stoneware* 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century. 1 sherd, 95g.

PM56: *Manganese Glazed Ware*. Late 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century. 2 sherds, 35g.

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*.

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

Tr	Ctx	PM29		PM8		PM21		PM56		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
6	5			1	24					M16thC
9	4			1	15					M16thC
9	5	1	95	5	147	1	64	1	25	L17thC
12	4							1	10	L17thC
	Total	1	95	7	186	1	64	2	35	

### 5.2 Environmental remains

No deposits were worthy of sampling.

### 5.3 Animal bone

Animal bone survives in good condition although in limited amounts.

#### 5.4 Clay tobacco pipes *by J Moore*

Five pieces of clay tobacco pipes were recovered from deposit (9/4). Four were stem parts while the other was part of a bowl. The bowl appears to be a transition from Oswald (1975) type G18 (dated *c.* 1660-80) to type G19 (*c.* 1690-1710).

### 6 DENDROCHRONOLOGY

The 'Old Barn' B1 was examined by the Michael Worthington of the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory. The principal original timbers were found to be of either of elm, which is not dateable, or too fast grown for dating purposes.

Timber post {9/07} was taken for dendrochronological dating. However on examination at the laboratory, by two specialists, there appears to be distortion and it is not possible to place it in a dateable sequence.

### 7 DISCUSSION

The layers above the natural in Trenches 1-4 are either levelling material for the post-medieval farmyards or original farmyard surfaces. The lack of finds of any type suggests the former. In this case any earlier surfaces are not present and it is questionable whether this part of the farm was occupied in the medieval period. Due to the state of their survival, the timber stakes and the post holes are considered to be of post-medieval date with the rows possibly belonging to fences or hurdles for containing animals.

It is possible that at the northern end of Trench 4 where deposit (4/5) and natural (4/6) have been truncated and filled by later deposit (4/4) an area has been levelled for a building although no remains for it survived within the trench.

The only closely dated deposit was within Trench 9 (9/04), which is dated towards the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century by the smoking pipe fragment. However the underlying deposit is dated at the earliest, as late 17<sup>th</sup> century by the sherd of Manganese Glazed ware. This suggests that the clay tobacco pipe in (9/04) is residual and the deposit is later. This last deposit is probably a levelling up deposit for the limestone cobble floor. Rodwell (2006, 20) argues that this building (B7) may date wholly to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century or may be a rebuilding of a somewhat earlier building of similar dimensions dating to the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. From the pottery in deposit 9/05 it seems likely that there was a building in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century here and that it was rebuilt with a new floor sometime in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The drain would also belong to this first phase along with at least post (9/7).

Within Trench 10 there is evidence for rebuilding. Post (10/16), and possibly posts (10/13) and (10/5), may belong to the early phase although their position opposite the doorway suggests that the south wall was rebuilt and foundations were removed for a new doorway in the rebuild. A subsequently removed floor was laid level with the doorway, which was blocked at a later stage.

From the above it would appear that the limestone cobbles/block surfaces belong to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The earliest surface in the 'Old Barn' B1 is thought to be of similar

material from the remains of cobbles seen in the doorway at the northeast end of Trench 8. The missing floor was founded on sand similar to the limestone floor in barn B7 although the colour is not the same. This suggests that B1 is also of post-medieval date and probably of later 17<sup>th</sup> century date or even later. Rodwell (2006, 16) argues that the barn has more in common with post-Reformation 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century barns in the region than it does with known pre-Reformation examples. There is a slight possibility that the 'missing' floor is a later floor and that to keep the same levels through the doorways an earlier floor has been removed. While the sand bedding layer was not seen in Trench 7 this may have been due to the poor lighting at this end of the barn.

The use of similar flooring within the barns and the farmyards suggests a refurbishment of the farm. There is no reference in documentary sources to suggest when this happened but from the postulated dating of barn B7 this may have been in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The timber post, stakes and post holes in Trenches 1, 2, and 4 predate this.

Possible remains of a minor structure were found in Trench 5 and are dated to the post-medieval period.

No activity was found in the vegetable garden in Trench 11.

The postulated pillow mound sectioned by Trench 12 is not such a feature. The material appears to have been dumped in more than one episode. This is clearly shown by the small ditch/gully [12/12] cutting through a lower part of the dumped material. What this ditch/gully was for is not understood. It is likely that this area was just used as a dump for surplus spoil and demolition rubble. Therefore the finds within the material are residual and cannot be used as dating except as a *terminus post quem* with the dumping after the late 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century. The distinctive wall coping bricks have not been paralleled but must date from the post medieval period when the site appears to have become a gentry farm and was subject to architectural embellishment and landscaping of the grounds (JMHS 2006).

Remains of the early grange appear to be limited to occasional timbers and post holes. Wholesale scouring of earlier surfaces appears to have been carried out during the 'refurbishment' of the farm. No evidence of medieval activity was forthcoming.

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