

**LAND AT 330-336 LONDON ROAD
HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

Archaeological Evaluation

NETWORK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD.
for
WESTMORELAND SECURITIES LTD.

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SUMMARY

Two evaluation trenches were excavated on the site of a proposed superstore at 330-336 London Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

The site lies to the east of the historic core of High Wycombe on the flood plain of the River Wye. An archaeological desk based assessment identified that the site had been occupied by medieval and post-medieval mills, forming part of an extensive network of mills along the valley. The locations of post-medieval mill buildings and associated watercourses were plotted from tithe and Ordnance Survey maps. Some of these remains were shown to be deeply buried.

The evaluation trenches were positioned to assess the depth and level of survival of known post-medieval building remains, as well as to look for evidence of any medieval mill remains.

The evaluation trenches established evidence of:

- post-medieval mill buildings ('I', 'F' and 'C'), and associated watercourses ('J', 'H' and 'M'), which had been identified by the desk based assessment;
- walls belonging to buildings 'I' and 'F';
- walls, floors and internal structures belonging to building 'C';
- an offshoot of watercourse 'H' or 'J', located to the west of building 'C';
- a man-made terrace over the north half of the site, which had been created in two phases, by a series of modern dumps, and
- an absence of medieval remains.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Westmoreland Securities Ltd. are planning to build a new superstore at 330-336 London Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire (Figure 1).

In fulfillment of a condition of planning permission (00/05528/OUT) for the development, archaeological investigations have included:

- an archaeological desk based assessment (Network 2001), and
- an archaeological evaluation, the results of which form the basis of this report.

1.2 Reasons for the evaluation

The evaluation is considered necessary because the proposed development area:

- incorporates several post-medieval mill buildings and their associated watercourses, and
- may incorporate medieval mill remains.

1.3 Proposed Development

The proposed development area (PDA), covering *c.* 0.56 ha, is to be the site of a new superstore, service yard, car park and access roads. The development will result in lowering ground level over the northern half of the PDA by *c.* 0.8m, and raising ground level over the southern half by *c.* 2m.

1.4 Description of the PDA

The PDA is situated on the flood plain of the River Wye (*c.* 60m AOD), in an area called Wycombe Marsh, on the south east side of High Wycombe (NGR 488300 192200) (Figure 1).

The sequence of strata at the site is 'made ground' over Quaternary Alluvium, over River Gravel, over Cretaceous Middle Chalk. The Alluvium and Gravel thin out towards the north of the PDA (Listers 1996, 2000; BGS 1974, 1979). The overlying soils have not been surveyed as they are within an urban area (SSEW 1983).

The northern half of the PDA has been raised, by up to 2-3m, by a man-made terrace (Listers 1996).

Two modern buildings had been demolished immediately prior to the start of the evaluation (Buildings Z and AB, Network Archaeology Ltd. 2001)

1.5 Archaeological and historical background

The archaeological desk based assessment identified that:

- a medieval mill, known as Bowden Mill stood in the area of the PDA, and that through the 18th and 19th centuries the south and north east parts of the PDA developed with the construction of further mill buildings and their associated watercourses. The north west part of the PDA was used as an orchard and pasture.
- in the 20th century the last mills on the site closed and were demolished. The site then became used for industrial units and storage facilities until the present day.
- no previous archaeological fieldwork had been carried out on the site.

2. OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the potential impact of the proposed development upon significant archaeological remains.

Specific objectives were to:

- gather sufficient information to establish the presence or absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains;
- clarify the level of survival of the buried remains of the mills and their associated water management features.
- determine palaeo-environmental and palaeo-economic potential;
- recover artefacts to assist with local type series;
- assess the potential impact of the proposed development, and
- produce a report that addresses the above.

3. PROCEDURES

3.1 Evaluation trenches

Two trenches, totaling 76.5m², were excavated using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching blade (Figure 2):

- Trench 1 was 'L' shaped (27.5m long), located in the southern half of the site and positioned along the south east corner of the proposed superstore building. The trench was intended to investigate the buried remains of Buildings 'I' and 'F' and watercourse 'M' (Network Archaeology Ltd. 2001).
- Trench 2 (15m long) was located over the northern terrace. This trench was intended to investigate the buried remains of Buildings 'A' and 'C' and also the depth of the overlying man-made terrace.

Layers which were not deemed significant, and which extended beyond the confines of the evaluation trenches, were removed by machine.

Significant archaeological deposits were sample excavated, and a written, drawn and photographic record made, in accordance with the brief (but see 4.2). Finds were retained, washed and then examined by appropriate specialists.

3.2 Health & Safety Limitations

Oil contaminated groundwater and human effluent limited hand excavation and prevented environmental sampling in Trench 1.

The depth and instability of modern overburden limited access to archaeological remains exposed at the base of the Trench 2.

3.3 Standards

Network Archaeology Ltd. is a *Registered Archaeological Organisation* (RAO) with the *Institute of Field Archaeologists* (IFA). All work has been undertaken in accordance with current health and safety legislation and in line with the IFA':

- *Code of Conduct* (2000)
- *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (2000)
- *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (1999)
- *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (1999)
- *Standard and Guidance for Finds and Ecofact Studies and Curation* (1999)
- *Guidelines for Finds Work* (1999)

The management of the project was in accordance with '*Management of Archaeological Projects*', second edition (English Heritage, 1991).

4. RESULTS

The evaluation trenches are discussed in numerical order. Refer to:

- Appendix A - Gazetteer of contexts
- Appendix B - Specialist reports
- Appendix C - Figures 1 - 6

4.1 Trench 1 (Figures 3 and 4)

This evaluation trench contained five post-medieval walls, a watercourse, and a series of modern drainage structures:

Post-medieval remains

Brick wall 110

This wall consisted of two courses of mortared bricks, *c.* 0.3m wide, oriented NNE-SSW. This wall was aligned parallel with wall 112. Its position accorded with that of the west wall of Building 'I', dating to the late 19th century.

Brick wall 111

This wall consisted of one course of mortared bricks, *c.* 0.3m wide, oriented NNE-SSW. On its eastern side was a bed of large mortared flints, while butted against its west side were granite setts, similar to those (226) found beneath the concrete floor of building 'C' in Trench 2. The position of the brick wall accorded with that of the west wall of building 'F', dating from the early half of the 19th century.

Brick wall 112

This wall consisted of one course of mortared bricks, *c.* 0.22m wide, oriented NW-SSE. This wall was aligned parallel with wall 110. The wall was truncated by a modern inspection chamber (121). The position of the brick wall did not accord with that of the west wall of Building 'F', dating from the early half of the 19th century.

Brick wall 114

This wall consisted of two courses of mortared bricks, *c.* 0.3m wide, oriented E-W. This wall was aligned parallel with wall 117. The wall was truncated by two modern service pipes (113 and 116). The position of the brick wall accorded with that of the north wall of Building 'I', dating to the second half of the 19th century.

Brick wall 117

This wall consisted of three courses of mortared bricks, *c.* 0.25m wide, oriented E-W. This wall was aligned parallel with wall 114. The primary course had been laid 'on-edge', providing a broader foundation (0.4m wide). The position of the brick wall accorded with that of an apparently non load-bearing boundary wall associated with Watercourse 'M', dating to the late 19th century.

Watercourse 103

This consisted of a channel, 1.65m wide, oriented east to west, lined with 0.15-0.25m of concrete (108, 118 and 119), and filled with a fine, waterborne dark grey humic silt (103). The position of the watercourse accorded with that of Watercourse 'M', dating to the late 19th /20th century. The absence of any dumped building debris within the watercourse suggests that it had been left to silt up after the surrounding buildings fell into disrepair, and also that this occurred prior to any redevelopment of the site, in the 20th century.

Layer 106

This ubiquitous, mottled grey gravelly silty clay, overlay the natural gravel (107), and was cut by all of the brick walls and the watercourse. The layer is thought to have formed as a result of extensive landscaping of the site immediately prior to the construction of the post-medieval mills.

Modern remains

Layer 104

This grey silt, 0.20-0.25m deep, overlay Layer 106, and covered all of the post-medieval remains apart from Watercourse 103. The layer may represent overbank spill from the adjacent River Wye, and probably post-dates the disuse of the mills.

Cess pit 109

This pit, located immediately to the east of the concrete-lined watercourse, was fed by a modern plastic pipe containing human effluent.

Service trenches 113, 115 and 116

Three trenches, oriented NNW-SSE, contained ceramic pipes (5" diam.), and truncated Wall 114.

Metal tank 120

This tank was located against the concrete-lining (119) on the north side of Watercourse 103, and was filled with black silt contaminated with oil and diesel fuel. A similar feature, exposed at the south west end of the evaluation trench, was backfilled in an attempt to prevent diesel contamination of the trench. These two features may have been part of a single large metal tank, and this is the most likely source of the site's ground contamination (Listers 1996, 2000).

Brick inspection chamber 122

This brick structure, measuring 2m by 1.25m, truncated the south end of Wall 112.

Natural gravels 107

Natural, waterlogged gravels were exposed at 58.90m AOD, approximately 1m below the existing ground surface.

Water-table

This was encountered at c.59.10m AOD.

4.2 Trench 2 (Figures 3, 5 and 6)

This evaluation trench contained two walls, two floors, two brick structures and a watercourse of post-medieval date, and a series of modern dumped layers and a service trench.

Post-medieval remains

Brick walls 208 and 211

These walls consisted of seven courses of mortared bricks, c. 0.25m wide, oriented NNW-SSE. The position of the brick walls accorded with that of the outside walls of Building 'C', dating to the mid 19th century. The building was buried up to 1.4m below the existing ground surface.

Floors 210 and 226 and Floor make-up 225 and 227

In between the brick walls (208 and 211) was a concrete slab (0.25m thick) resting upon a thin layer of bedding sand (225). Beneath this lay the building's original floor surface, constructed of granite setts (226), each measuring c. 0.2 x 0.2 x 0.2m. The setts were bedded into the top of a deep make-up layer (227). This layer may also be the result of general site landscaping (see below).

Brick structures 220 and 222

Two small rectangular brick structures butted against the south west wall (208). The exact purpose of these structures is unknown, but they may have been built for storage or to support storage tanks off the ground.

Watercourse fill 224

A hole in a slab of modern concrete (203) at the south west end of the trench was opportunistically excavated by machine, revealing a fine waterlogged grey silt (224), at a comparative depth to that of the building remains at the opposite end of the trench. Health and safety restrictions and a contaminated water table prevented full examination and recording of this deposit, but its nature suggested it was the fill of a watercourse.

The location of this deposit did not correspond with Watercourse 'J', and so the grey silt (224) is either the fill of an unknown watercourse, or possibly an offshoot of Watercourse 'J'. It probably dates to the late 19th/ 20th century. As with the watercourse in Trench 1 (103), the absence of any dumped building debris within the watercourse suggests that it had been left to silt up after the surrounding buildings fell into disrepair, and also that this occurred prior to any redevelopment of the site, in the 20th century.

Landscaping/ leveling layers 227 and 228

Overlying the natural gravels was a silty clay layer containing flint cobbles and gravels, and no archaeological components (228). The deposit is alluvial in origin, but the non-graded distribution of stones within it suggests that it may have been humanly redeposited. The overlying layer (227), by contrast, was a mix of several sediments containing large quantities of archaeological building debris, and was either make-up for the overlying cobbles floor (226), and/or a general site landscaping layer.

Modern remains

Recent terrace (landscaping) layers 200-202

The three uppermost layers comprised imported aggregates and building demolition debris, laid horizontally over the initial terrace dumps.

Initial terrace dumps 204-207 and 214-219

The initial terrace was created by a series of large scale dumps represented by grey and brown silty clays, concrete, tarmac, aggregates and sand. These deposits had been dumped successively from the north east side of the site across to the south west, thereby raising the site by *c.* 1m. Each dump was differentiated by a roughly 45° tip line. A range of artefacts, including bottle glass and ceramic fragments were recovered from these dumps.

The top of the initial terrace was ground surface for the erection of a concrete structure (203) and the excavation of a service trench (212).

Concrete 203

A 0.35m thick concrete slab, encountered *c.* 1m below the existing ground surface, was too large to be removed. If, as seems likely, it is the floor of a 20th century structure, its lifetime was so short that it was never mapped by the Ordnance Survey.

Service trench 212

A vertical trench (0.75m wide) cut through the terrace dumps and underlying building floor levels of building 'C'.

Natural gravels 229

Natural, waterlogged gravels were exposed at 58.65m AOD, approximately 2.3m below the existing ground surface at the eastern end of the evaluation trench.

Water-table

This was encountered at *c.*59.15m AOD.

4.3 Artefacts

No artefacts were found in Trench 1. The dumped terrace deposits in Trench 2 produced many artefacts, but none were retained, as they were evidently of post-war date, and had been imported to the site.

Artefacts including a whiteware chamber pot, a transfer-printed plate, a red earthenware flowerpot, and an English stoneware flagon were recovered from Layer 223. All of the artefacts were large, unabraded sherds and had the appearance of refuse which has not been recycled through gardening, dumping or other processes (Vince 2001).

Context	Early modern pottery		Ceramic building material	
	count	weight (g)	count	weight (g)
223	7	645	1	28

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 Introduction

The desk based assessment showed that there had been several phases of construction and demolition during the expansion of the site in the post-medieval period. This development had been particularly focused on the southern half of the site, in the area of the presumed medieval mill. This sequence of events has been corroborated by the results of the evaluation, which are discussed in chronological order below:

5.2 Development of the site

Prior to 19th Century

Although the desk based assessment indicated that there was medieval activity on the site prior to the middle of the 19th century, no archaeological evidence for this was found by the evaluation. This may have been due to extensive redevelopment of the site in the 19th and 20th centuries.

19th Century

Buildings

The evaluation uncovered evidence of two of the earliest known buildings to survive at the site ('C' and 'F'). Building 'C' was the southern extension of an earlier building 'A', believed to be a paper mill constructed some time between 1814 and 1840.

The evaluation investigated the north end of Building 'C'. Walls 208 and 211 in trench 2, corresponded exactly to the outside footprint of Building 'C', although the building was found approximately 3-4m north east of its mapped location. The building had two phases of flooring. The original, granite floor of Building 'C' (226) provided a direct link with Building 'F' (see below).

Wall 111 in trench 1 roughly corresponded to the position of the west outside wall of Building 'F'. Significantly, granite setts associated with this wall (111) were identical to those used in the construction of the original floor surface (226) in Building 'C', suggesting that the two buildings ('C' and 'F') belonged to the same phase of construction. This accords with the desk based evidence for both buildings being constructed in the first half of the 19th century.

It had been uncertain whether the Tithe map's depiction of mill building 'F' was correct, but the evaluation results support the interpretation that Building 'F' did exist as a separate building from its successor 'I', which was not built on the same foundations. However, no evidence for the return (east wall) of building 'F' was found, although it could conceivably have been destroyed or concealed by later walls and/or service trenches.

Three of the remaining walls in trench 1 (110, 112 and 114) are thought to relate to Building 'I', which superseded Building 'F' in the late 19th century. Walls 110 and 114 were substantial, probably load-bearing, and corresponded to the footprint of

Building 'I', while wall 112 corresponded to a projected alignment of one of the north outside walls of Building 'I', and is probably therefore an internal wall of the same building.

Wall 117 corresponded to the position of a boundary wall connecting Building 'I' to watercourse 'M'. This wall and the watercourse (see below) were built at the very end of the 19th century.

Watercourses

Water for the mill buildings was supplied by a series of watercourses ('H', 'M' and 'J'), of which the evaluation found evidence of two.

The earliest known watercourse ('H') was associated with mill buildings 'F' and 'G'. No positive evidence was found for this watercourse, but this may have been due to the lack of visibility caused by effluent/diesel contamination of evaluation trench 1. Alternatively, it is conceivable that the watercourse's depiction on the tithe map was inaccurate (i.e. it never existed as a separate watercourse to 'M').

The watercourse found in trench 1 (103), corresponded exactly to the position of Watercourse 'M', which is thought to have superseded watercourse 'H', in the late 19th century, soon after building 'I' replaced building 'F'.

The watercourse (224) found adjacent to Building C, in trench 2, was probably an extension or offshoot of either watercourse 'H' or 'J', both of which were built in the late 19th century. The location of this watercourse in the northern half of the site, suggests that it served the papermill (buildings 'A' and 'C').

Landscaping

Beneath building 'C' in trench 2 was possible evidence of a substantial landscaping event. Overlying the natural gravels was a layer of redeposited alluvium and river cobbles (228), which may have been deliberately placed to provide a platform for building 'C', countering the natural slope of the site down to the river.

20th Century

Buildings

Buildings 'A' and 'C' are known to have stood into the early half of the 20th century. At some point building 'C' underwent renovation.

The floor of Building 'C' was raised (by 20cm) and replaced by a concrete slab. This may have been due to wear, or could have been in response to rising water levels and/or periodic flooding of the site via its numerous watercourses.

As Building 'C' appears to have been demolished by 1944, the concrete floor was probably inserted at some point in the early 20th century.

Watercourses

By 1944, watercourse 'J' appears to be little more than a field boundary and hedge, indicating that the channel was perhaps partially filled in by this date, and that it no longer functioned as a watercourse. The watercourse had certainly gone out of use prior to the construction of the terrace over the north part of the site

Watercourse 'M' (103) probably began as an open cut channel, but at some point, it became necessary to reinforce it with concrete. This may have been to facilitate its cleaning and so alleviate flooding. This watercourse must have been in use around 1925, when a new sluice was built at its west end. Presumably, the watercourse had been abandoned by 1944, as this was when the buildings ('A' and 'C') it fed with water were demolished. The fact that the channel was completely filled with silt and contained no dumped debris indicates that when it became disused it was allowed to 'choke-up' naturally. The silt probably accumulated over several decades into the 1970s, the next phase of the site's redevelopment.

Landscaping

The northern half of the site was raised by a large terrace. Trench 2 revealed that this terrace had been created in two phases. Initially, the ground level had been raised, by c.1m, by imported material dumped successively across the site (204-207 and 214-219). This took place at some time between 1944 and 1968.

A concrete surface or structure (203) was built on top of the terrace, and a service trench dug through it. This may have taken place during the next known phase of redevelopment of the site, the erection of Building Z (by 1974).

The terrace was subsequently raised by a further 1m by the addition of three layers (200-202), and also enlarged to accommodate Building AB (by 1989). The construction of these later, horizontal layers are in stark contrast to the angled tip lines observed in the initial construction phase below.

Services

Service trenches 113, 115-116 and inspection chamber 123 are assumed to be associated with Buildings 'Z' and 'AB', and probably therefore date to the 1970s and 1980s.

Service trench 212 may also have been associated with building 'Z'.

5.3 Significance

This site is not unique within the locality, as there are eight other mill sites on the River Wye within a two and a half kilometre radius of the site. Four of the mills (Pan Mill - CASS 2278, Marsh Mill - CASS 2864, Rye/Saunders Mill - CASS 2881, and a mill adjacent to Bassetsbury Manor - CASS 2868) have a similar history of development, with origins in the medieval period. The remaining four mills (Marshgreen Mill - CASS 2880, Beech Mill - CASS 2484, Kings/Byrants Mill - CASS 4444, and Chapel Mill - CASS 2279) have origins in the Post Medieval period.

The absence of surviving medieval remains limits the potential significance of the site, which is thought to be of *local* interest.

5.4 Impact of development

The development consists of three main phases of activity: Demolition, Groundworks and Construction:

Demolition

- the two existing buildings (*Z* and *AB*) and internal floor slabs

Impact of Demolition

The demolition of the two modern buildings had no impact on buried archaeological remains.

Groundworks

- removal of external ground surfaces
- removal of contamination source
- ground reduction of up to *c.* 0.8m over north western half of site
- raising of ground by up to *c.* 2m over south eastern part of site
- landscaping around perimeter of site involving raising of ground levels, and planting
- services - water supply, sewerage, drainage, electricity, *etc.*

Impact of Groundworks

The evaluation has shown that the proposed reduced levels over the north western part of the site will not affect significant buried archaeological remains.

Proposed raising of the ground surface level over the southern part of the site will mitigate the impact of any works outside the footprint of the proposed superstore.

The removal of contaminated soil could disturb buried archaeological remains, but such deposits would be unsuitable for further dating or environmental assessment.

Construction

- superstore
- service yard and car park
- access road and footpath

Impact of Construction

Piles for the new superstore will impact on surviving deposits found within trench 1. However, the linear nature of the deposits encountered in this area by the evaluation, means that the piling will not remove them entirely. The construction of a service yard, carpark, access road and pathways will have no impact on any buried archaeological remains.

6. CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation has successfully located buried remains of several post-medieval mill buildings and watercourses identified by the desk based assessment. The absence of any surviving medieval remains is probably due to the substantial post-medieval development of the site.

A number of conclusions can be drawn from the evaluation:

- The proposed development (demolition, groundworks and construction) will have no impact upon significant archaeological remains in areas outside the footprint of the proposed superstore.
- Piles for the new superstore will have a limited impact upon surviving post-medieval archaeological remains.

7. ARCHIVE

The project archive has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in *Management of Archaeological Projects*, Appendix 3, English Heritage, 1991. It is currently held at the Buckinghamshire office of Network Archaeology Ltd. It will be deposited at the Buckinghamshire County Museum. The Accession number for this project is AYBCM: 2001.24

8. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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10. STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY

Every effort has been taken in the preparation and submission of this report in order to provide as complete an assessment as possible within the terms of the brief, and all statements and opinions are offered in good faith. Network Archaeology Ltd cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for any loss or other consequences arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this report and any supplementary papers, howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived, or as a result of unknown and undiscovered sites of artefacts.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A	Gazetteer of context descriptions
Appendix B	Specialist reports
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APPENDIX A

Gazetteer of Contexts

Context	Context type	Trench	Description	Dimensions	Height m AOD	Interpretation	Context date
100	layer	1	light grey silt	0.3m D	59.61	demolition layer	modern
101	layer	1	mixed dark grey silt	0.5m D	59.50	demolition layer	modern
102	layer	1	concrete and brick rubble	0.45m D	59.58	demolition layer	modern
103	layer	1	fine dark grey sandy silt	0.7m+ D	59.30	sitting of water course 'M'	late 19th /early 20th C.
104	layer	1	grey silt with ash, and post med debris	0.3m D	59.35	demolition layer	late 19th /early 20th C.
105	layer	1	lens of post med tile and grey silt	0.15m D	59.25	demolition debris from building 'I'	late 19th C.
106	layer	1	dark grey silt in the water table	0.65m D	59.05	occupation horizon	post-medieval
107	layer	1	greyish white sandy gravels	-	58.45	natural gravels	Quaternary
108	structure	1	concrete lining at 45° angle	0.2m W	59.11	southern side of water course 'M'.	19th C.
109	cut	1	plastic pipe running into a pit	0.35m Dia.	59.10	human waste pipe	modern
110	structure	1	red brick wall, white friable mortar. each brick 0.24 x 0.11 x 0.07m. survives to 2 courses.	0.16m H	59.00	west wall of building 'I'	late 19th C.
111	structure	1	red brick wall, pale white friable mortar. each brick 0.24 x 0.11 x 0.07m. survives to 1 course. granite floor blocks 0.19 x 0.16 x 0.12m	0.09m H	59.03	west wall of building 'F'	mid 19th C.
112	structure	1	red brick wall, creamy white friable mortar. each brick 0.24 x 0.11 x 0.07m. survives to 2 courses.	0.16m H	59.25	east wall of building 'F'	mid 19th C.
113	fill	1	yellow brown sandy silt.	0.30m W	59.35	service trench	modern
114	structure	1	red brick wall, creamy white friable mortar. each brick 0.24 x 0.11 x 0.07m. survives to 2 courses.	0.16m H	59.30	north wall of building 'I'	late 19th C.
115	cut	1	5" dia. ceramic pipe in trench	0.25m W	59.35	service trench	post-medieval
116	cut	1	5" dia. ceramic pipe in trench	0.30m W	59.35	service trench	post-medieval
117	structure	1	red brick wall, grey friable mortar. each brick 0.24 x 0.11 x 0.07m. survives to 2 courses.	0.16m H	59.30	boundary wall	late 19th C.
118	structure	1	concrete lining at 45° angle	0.20m W	59.33	southern side of water course 'M'	19th C.
119	structure	1	concrete lining at 45° angle	0.20m W	59.33	northern side of water course 'M'	19th C.
120	structure	1	rectangular metal lined tank full of diesel and oily silt		59.30	?diesel tank	modern
121	fill	1	yellow gravels and concrete;	1.80m+ W and 3.5m L	59.40	backfill around inspection chamber	modern

122	structure	1	modern bricks forming a rectangular wall over 1 course deep;	1.2m W, 1.90m L	59.40	inspection chamber	modern
123	fill	1	grey silty fill	0.98w and 1.68L	59.40	backfill of inspection chamber	modern
200	layer	2	gravel and grey silt	0.25m D	61.05	car park surface	modern
201	layer	2	grey silt and modern building debris;	0.40m D	60.85	demolition layer	modern
202	layer	2	pinkish red aggregate	0.40m D	60.50	bedding layer	modern
203	layer	2	concrete surface a rectangular hole (2.30m long and over 0.80m wide) was observed in this surface against the southern baulk	0.35m D	60.20	concrete surface	modern
204	layer	2	dark grey mixed silt	1m D	60.20	dump deposit for terrace	modern
205	layer	2	grey silt, tarmac and clinker	0.80m D	60.20	dump deposit for terrace	modern
206	layer	2	mid brown clay silt	0.80m D	60.20	dump deposit for terrace	modern
207	layer	2	grey silt	0.70m D	60.20	dump deposit for terrace	modern
208	structure	2	red brick wall, grey friable mortar. each brick 0.24 x 0.11 x 0.07m. survives 7 courses.	c.0.64m H	59.45	west wall of building 'C'	early 19th C.
209	layer	2	mortar, brick debris and grey silt	0.10m D	59.45	collapse of west wall of building 'C'	early 20th C.
210	layer	2	concrete floor	0.12m D	59.55	concrete floor surface for building 'C'	late 19th / early 20th C.
211	structure	2	red brick wall, grey friable mortar. each brick 0.24 x 0.11 x 0.07m. survives 7 courses.	c.0.64m H	59.55	east wall of building 'C'	early 19th C.
212	cut	2	steep sided trench cutting through dump deposits and concrete surface	0.75m+ D	60.20	service trench	modern
213	fill	2	mixed grey silty fill	0.75m+ D	60.20	backfill of service trench	modern
214	layer	2	grey silt and building debris	0.50m D	60.20	dump deposit for terrace	modern
215	layer	2	yellow sandy lens	0.10m D	60.05	dump deposit for terrace	modern
216	layer	2	mixed grey/ brown silt and clinker	0.40m D	60.20	dump deposit for terrace	modern
217	layer	2	dark grey ashy silt	0.20m D	59.80	dump deposit for terrace	modern
218	layer	2	reddish brown gravels	0.12m D	59.60	dump deposit for terrace	modern
219	layer	2	yellow sand	0.15m D	59.60	dump deposit for terrace	modern
220	structure	2	red brick wall, 0.55m length and over 0.40m wide. grey friable mortar. each brick 0.24 x 0.11 x 0.07m. survives over 2 courses.	0.15m H	59.45	outbuilding? butting onto building 'C'	mid-late 19th C.
221	structure	2	concrete wall butting walls 222 & 220	0.11m W	59.45	concrete wall between 220 & 222	mid-late 19th C.

222	structure	2	red brick wall, 1.20 length and over 0.55m wide. grey friable mortar. each brick 0.24 x 0.11 x 0.07m. survives over 2 courses.	0.16m H	59.45	outbuilding? butting onto building 'C'	mid-late 19th C.
223	layer	2	mixed dark grey sandy silt;	0.10m+ D	59.30	occupation horizon	19th C.
224	layer	2	fine dark grey silt; below the water table	0.20m+ D	59.10	water course silt?	19th/ 20th C.
225	layer	2	yellow brown sandy silt	0.04m D	59.40	bedding layer for concrete floor	19th/ 20th C.
226	layer	2	series of butting granite blocks; each 0.19 x 0.16 x 0.12m	0.12m H	59.35	granite block floor surface	early 19th C.
227	layer	2	mid greyish brown sandy clay with mixed sub-angular flints	0.28m D	59.20	levelling layer for building 'C'	early 19th C.
228	layer	2	mid brown silty clay gravels	0.30m D	58.95	construction layer for building 'C'	early 19th C
229	layer	2	greyish white sandy gravels	-	58.65	natural gravels	Quaternary

APPENDIX B

Specialist Reports

Assessment of Pottery and Ceramic Building Material

Alan Vince

A small collection of pottery and ceramic building material was recovered from context 223 at Curries, 330-336 High Street, High Wycombe (Site Code CHW01). The investigation was on the site of a Victorian Mill.

Early Modern Pottery

Fragments of four vessels were found. All are large, unabraded sherds and have the appearance of refuse which has not been recycled through gardening, dumping or other processes. The fragments include a red earthenware flowerpot, an English stoneware flagon with brown 'Bristol' glaze. This flagon is of a type which was current from the mid 19th century into the early decades of the 20th century. Two sherds from a whiteware chamber pot were found. This vessel was decorated with a freehand blue painted floral design. Finally, two sherds from a transfer-printed plate, marked 'Asiatic pheasants' on the base, were found. The finds are consistent with a mid 19th-century or later date.

Ceramic Building Material

A single fragment of flat roof tile was found. The tile has a red sandy fabric and is spalled on both sites, either during use or through frost damage after discard. The difference in character between this tile and the pottery finds might suggest that it is earlier in date.

Assessment

No finds earlier than the mid 19th century were present, with the possible exception of the flat roof tile fragment.

Catalogue of Ceramic Finds

Context	Cname	Form	No sh	NoV	Weight	Subfabric	Part	Description
223	MISC	FLAT	1	1	120	SANDY RED EARTHENWARE	BS	SPALLED ON BOTH SIDES
223	MISC	FLP	1	1	220	RED CLAY PELLETS BUT OTHERWISE FINE TEXTURED	B	
223	ENGS	FLAG	1	1	114		BS	BRISTOL-GLAZED FLAGON SHOULDER
223	WHITE	CHP	2	1	113		R	BLUE PAINTED DEC
223	TPW	PLATE	2	1	78		PROF	MARKED 'ASIATIC PHEASANTS'

APPENDIX C

Figures 1 - 6

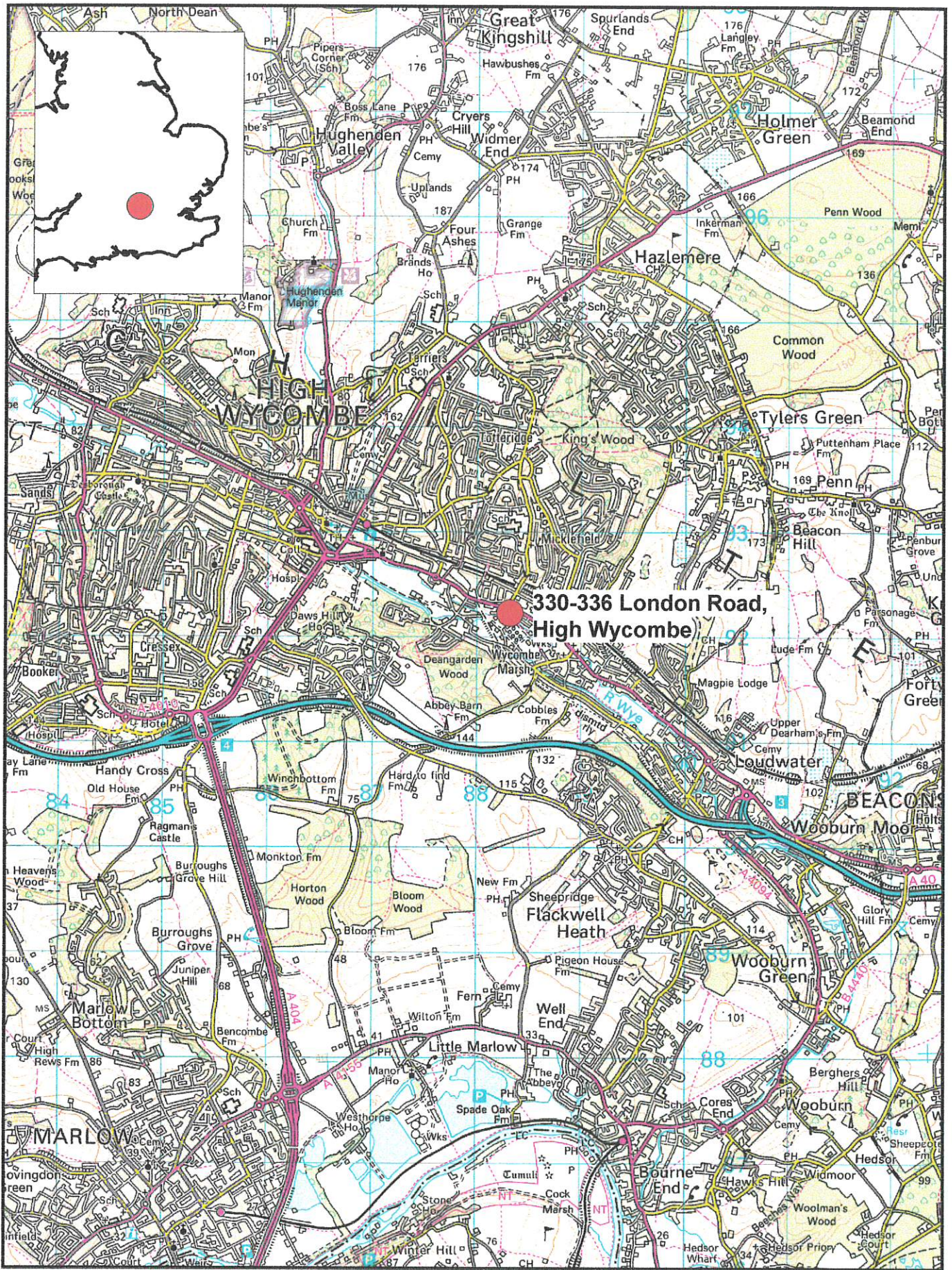


Figure 1: Location of 330-336 London Road, High Wycombe

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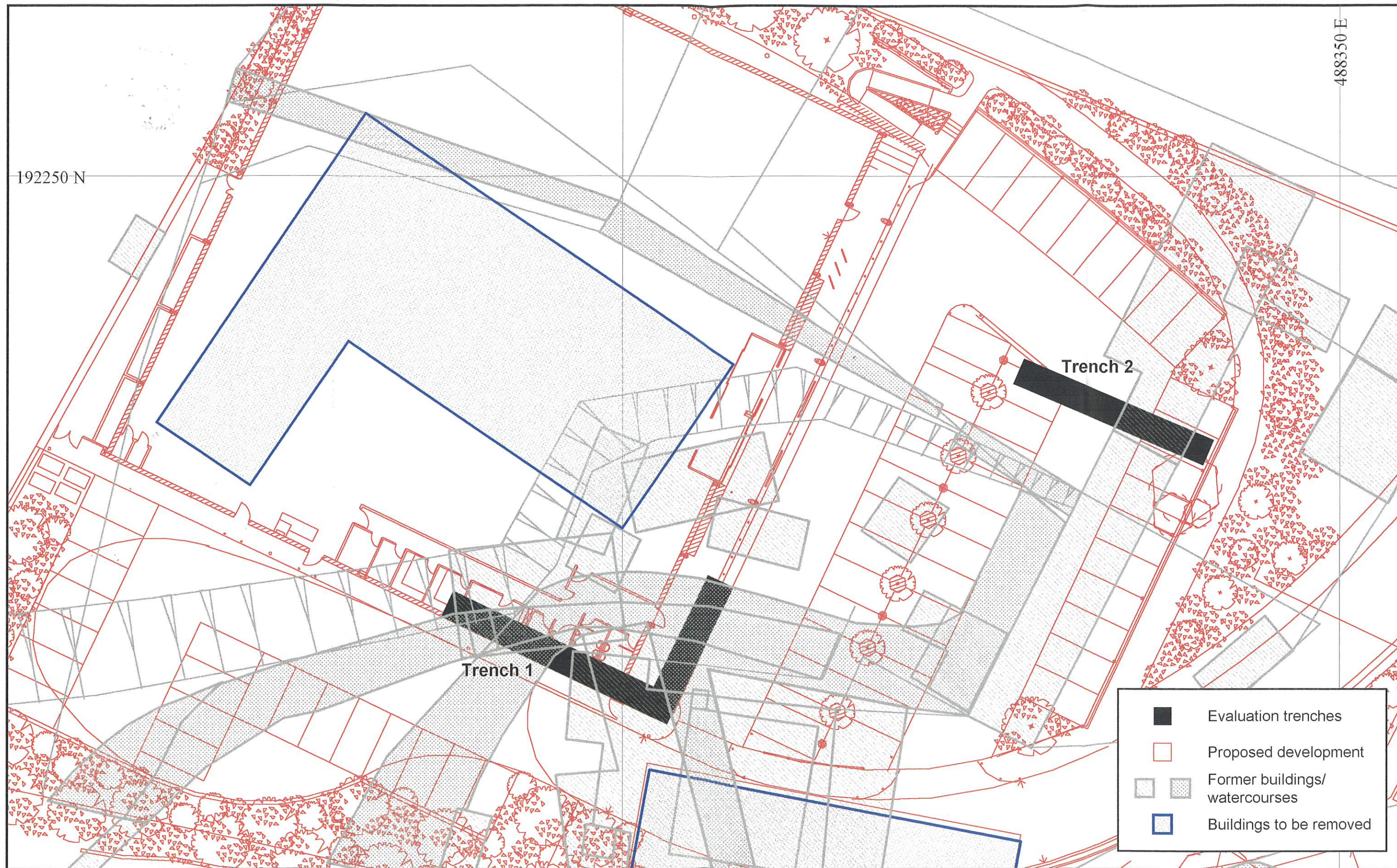


Figure 2: Location of evaluation trenches

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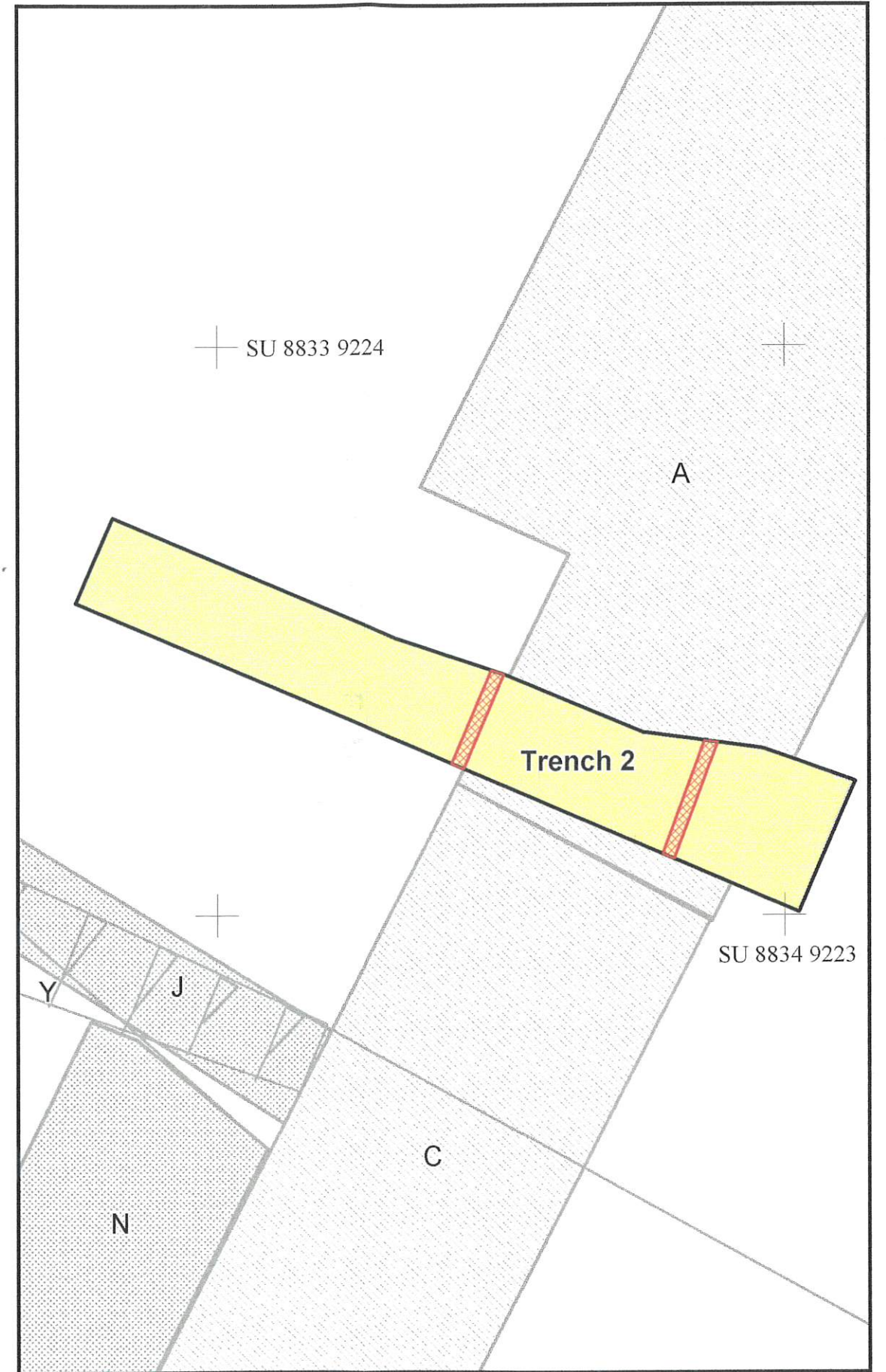
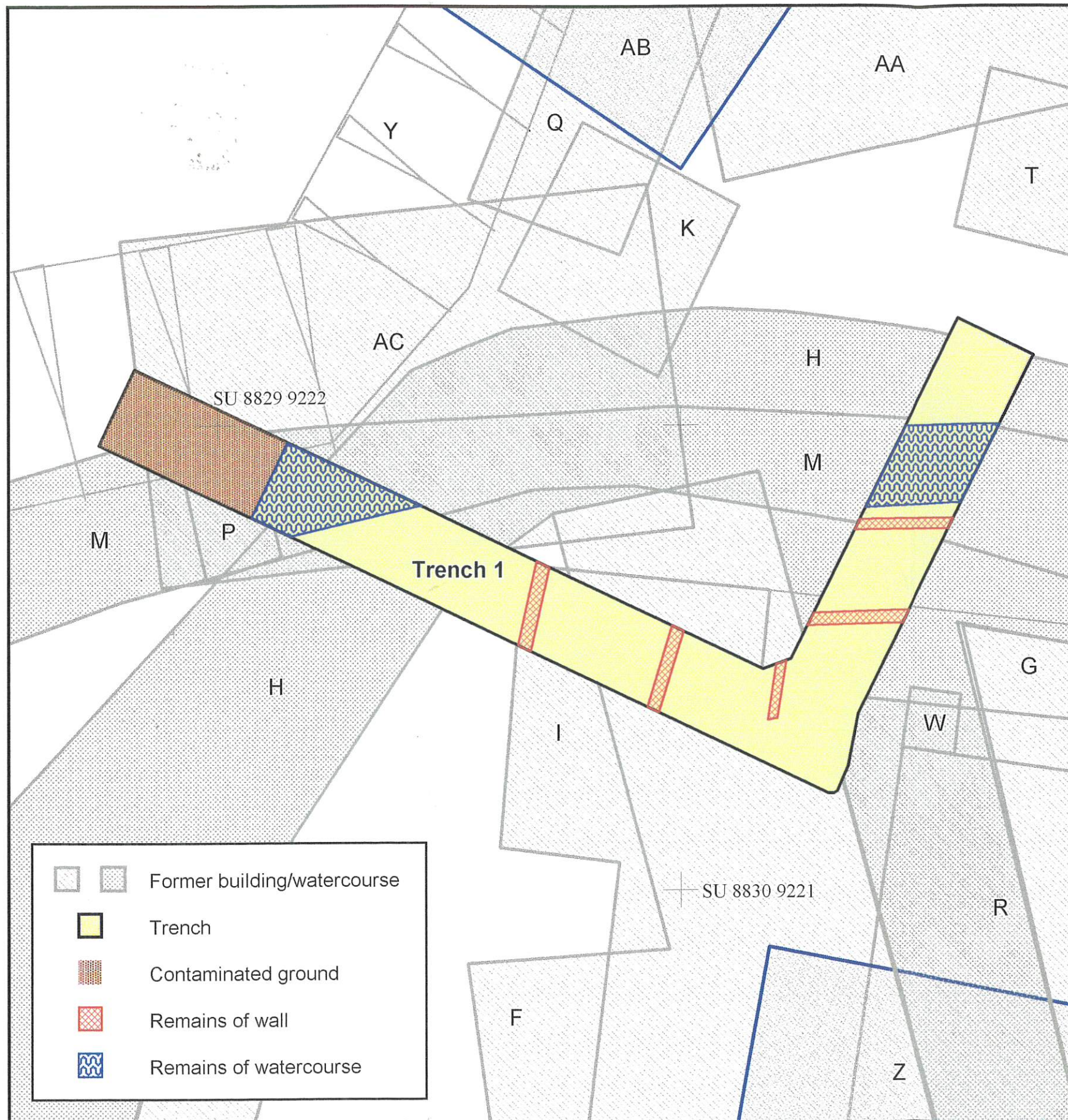


Figure 3: Archaeological features in evaluation trenches in relation to former buildings identified in Desk Based Assessment

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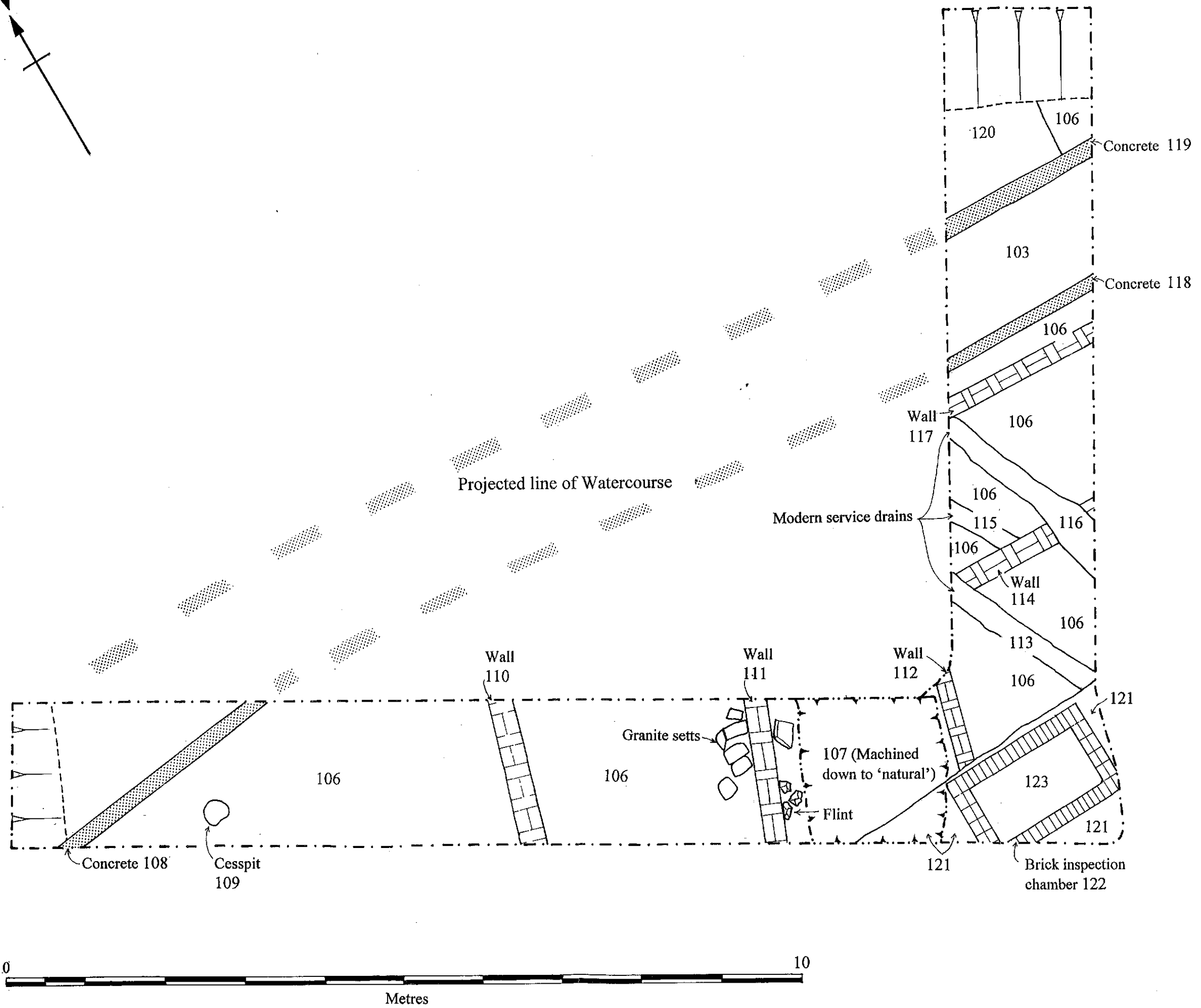
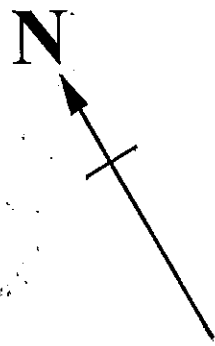


Figure 4: Plan of Trench 1 (1:50 scale)

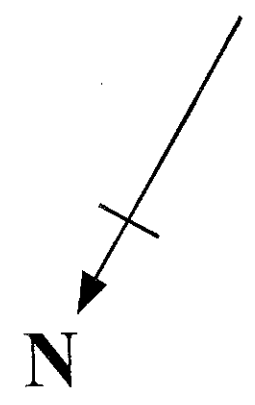
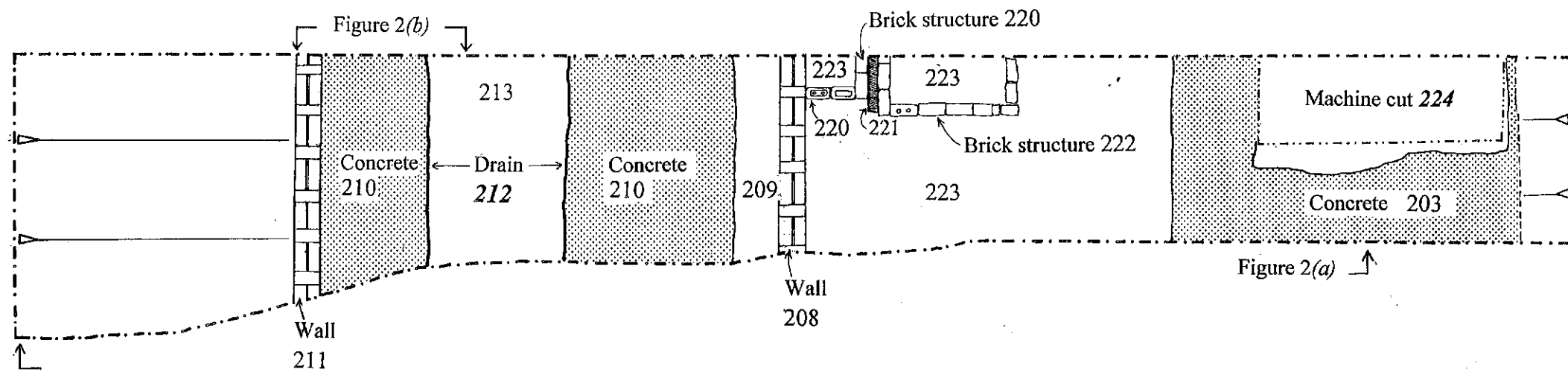
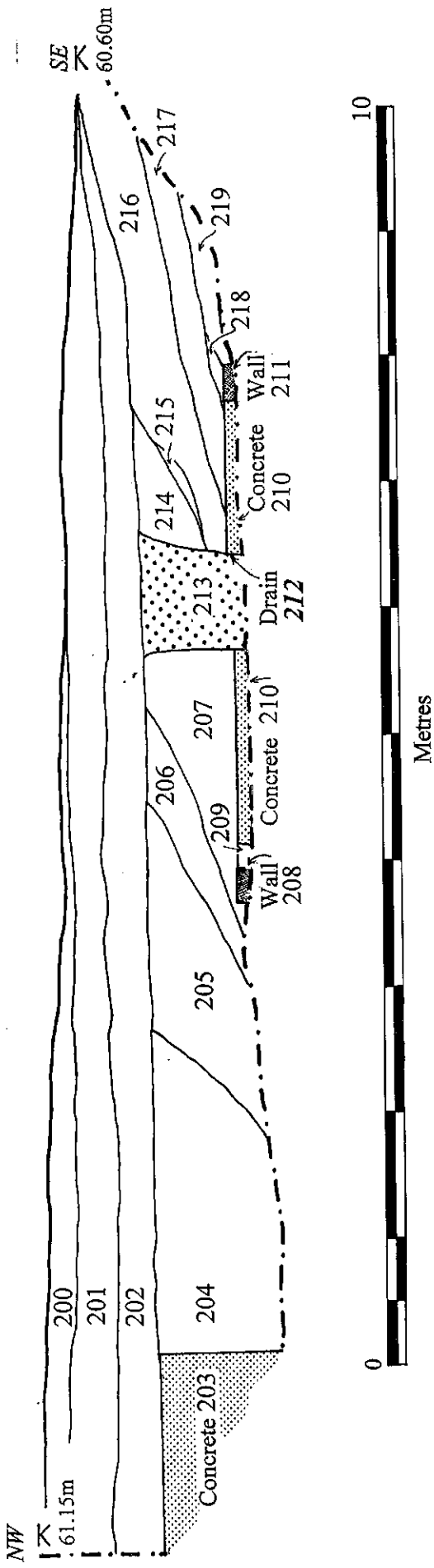


Figure 5: Plan of Trench 2 (1:50 scale)

(a) Trench 2: northern section



(b) Trench 2: detail of southern section

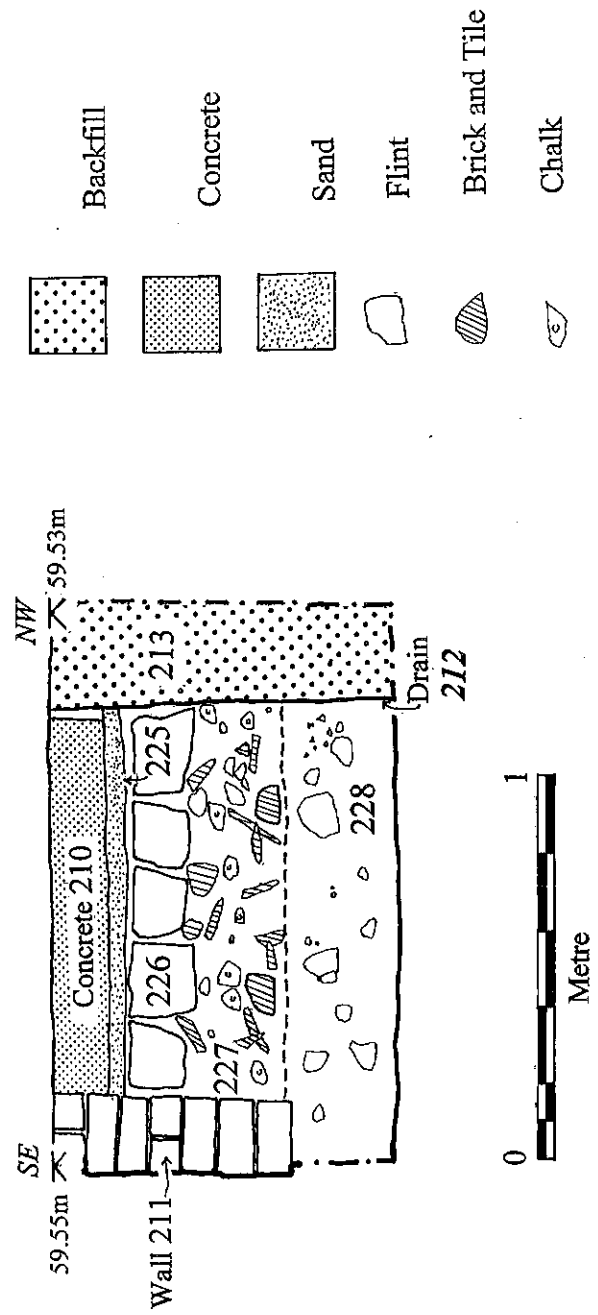


Figure 6: Trench 2 sections