

Silk Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme Stoney Wood Lake London Borough of Barnet



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



Oxford Archaeology

November 2004

**Client: Halcrow on behalf of
Environment Agency**



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Silk Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme Stoney Wood Lake, London Borough of Barnet

NGR: TQ 205 936

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

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SUMMARY

On the 27th October 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of geo-technical test pits at Stoney Wood Lake, Mill Hill Golf Course, London Borough of Barnet (NGR: TQ 205 936). The work was commissioned by Halcrow Ltd on behalf of the Environment as part of site investigations for the Silk Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme. The watching brief revealed 20th century deposits relating to the construction of the dam. No archaeological remains of significance were encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 On the 27th October 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Stoney Wood Lake, Mill Hill Golf Course, London Borough of Barnet (NGR: TQ 205 936) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Halcrow Ltd. on behalf of the Environmental Agency as part of site investigations for the Silk Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme.

1.1.2 An Environmental Statement was produced by the Environment Agency (EA 2000), which identified that the area was within a designated Area of Special Archaeological Significance (London Borough of Barnet, Interim Policy Guidance Note 6, 1993). An archaeological watching brief was commissioned as part of the Environment Agency's best practice policy in order to monitor ground intrusive works by the geotechnical investigation team.

1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (OA 2004) in line with requirements outlined by the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS). The watching brief was undertaken to this specification.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site is located immediately east of the M1 corridor within the grounds of Mill Hill Golf Course. The area of the ground investigation lies within a shallow sloping valley (Dean's Brook), now heavily overgrown with shrubs and mature trees, south of the dam wall at the southern end of Stoney Wood Lake.

1.2.2 The site lies at approximately 70 m OD and occupies an area of roughly 0.19 hectares. The underlying geology is London Clay.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological background of the site was prepared in the WSI for the project (OA 2004) and is reproduced below.

- 1.3.2 The area of the site is within a designated Area of Special Archaeological Significance (London Borough of Barnet, Interim Policy Guidance Note 6, 1993). No Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM) are located in the immediate area. The site of Stoney Wood Lake was farmland in the mid 19th century and became part of a country estate along with Scratchwood and Moat Mount. The site became a Golf Course in 1927 following the construction of the Barnet Bypass (A1) in the 1920s.
- 1.3.3 The area of the site investigations was part of the golf course itself prior to the construction of the M1 when it was abandoned.

2 PROJECT STRATEGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To preserve by record any archaeological remains (if present) that the development may remove or damage within the impacted area.
- 2.1.2 To signal, before the destruction of the material in question, the discovery of a significant archaeological find, for which the resources allocated are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.
- 2.1.3 To make available the results of the investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 It was proposed that two geo-technical trial pits be dug as part of the site investigations at Stoney Wood Lake in order to determine the depth and extent of the foundations of the dam wall at the southern end of the lake.
- 2.2.2 It was originally intended to excavate these using a mechanical excavator (JCB), however on examining the site the attending engineer decided to hand dig these pits. The pits were sited abutting the dam wall, one on either side of the Dean's Brook sluice way (Fig. 2). The pits, measuring 1 m by 1m were hand excavated until the depth of the foundations were established. Both the base and the sides of the excavation were closely observed during the work and the spoil was examined for finds and dating evidence.
- 2.2.3 After the excavation of Test pit 102 it was seen that both pits were located within the area previously disturbed during the construction of the dam wall (c.1930). In light of this finding it was deemed unnecessary to observe the excavation of Test pit 101 to the west.
- 2.2.4 A plan showing the location of the pits was drawn at a scale of 1:500 and a section of Test pit 102 showing stratigraphic horizons was drawn at a scale of 1:20. The drawn section was photographed using colour slide and black and white print film and a general photographic record of the work was made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OA Field Manual* (OAU 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

3.1.1 In Test pit 102 (Fig. 2) the toe of the footing for the concrete dam wall (3) was reached at a depth of 1.4 m below the current ground level (Fig. 3, Section 102). This was overlaid by a 1.2 m deep deposit of tenacious yellow-brown and grey-brown clays (2), representing a mixture of redeposited alluvial clays backfilling the construction cut for the dam wall (4). (This wall was not exposed during the excavation of the test pit.) This was overlain by a dark grey-brown silty loam topsoil layer (1), 0.2 m thick.

3.1.2 The depth and extent of the excavation was such that no undisturbed strata were exposed during the course of the watching brief.

3.2 Finds

3.2.1 The only finds recovered were 20th century plastic and glass bottles retrieved from within deposit 1. These were recorded on site but were not retained.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

3.3.1 No deposits were encountered that were deemed suitable for paleo-environmental sampling.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1.1 The location of the test pits was wholly within the construction cut for the foundations of the concrete dam wall. Any archaeological remains would therefore have been truncated to the level of the foundation trench. If any remains survive, they will be below this level.

APPENDICES**APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY**

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
1	Layer	0.0 m - 0.2 m	Modern topsoil	Plastic, Bottle glass	C20th
2	Fill	0.2 m - 1.4 m	Redeposited clays, backfill of construction cut	-	C20th
3	Structure	0.0 m - >1.4 m	Concrete dam wall	-	C20th
4	Cut	0.0 m - >1.4 m	Construction cut for foundations of dam wall	-	C20th

APPENDIX 2 REFERENCES

EA, 2000 *Silk Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme Environmental Statement Volume 1*

IFA, 1992 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

OA, 2000 *OA Environmental Guidelines for sampling*

OA, 2004 *Silk Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme, Stoney Wood Lake, London Borough of Barnet ; Written Scheme of Investigation*

OAU, 1992 *Field Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson)

APPENDIX 3 GLSMR/RCHME NMR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

1) TYPE OF RECORDING

Evaluation, Excavation, **Watching Brief**, Building Recording, Survey,
Geoarchaeological Evaluation, Fieldwalking, Other

2) LOCATION

Borough: **Barnet**

Site address: **Stoney Wood Lake, Mill Hill Golf Course**

Site Name: **Dean's Brook Sluiceway** Site Code: **SWL 04**

Nat. grid Refs: centre of site: **TQ 2048 9365**

Limits of site: N: **TQ 2046 9365** S: **TQ 2046 9363**

E: **TQ 2050 9364** W: **TQ 2052 9364**

3) ORGANISATION

Name of archaeological unit/company/society: Oxford Archaeology

Address: Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 OES

Site director/supervisor: **Mike Sims** Project manager: **Andrew Holmes**

Funded by: **Halcrow Ltd.**

4) DURATION

Date fieldwork started: **27th October 2004** Date finished: **27th October 2004**

Fieldwork previously notified? **NO**

Fieldwork will continue? **NOT KNOWN**

5) PERIODS REPRESENTED

Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Saxon (pre-AD 1066),
Medieval (AD 1066-1485), **Post-Medieval**, Unknown

6) PERIOD SUMMARIES **20th century relating to dam wall construction**

7) NATURAL

Type: **London Clay**

Height above Ordnance datum: **68.7 m**

8) LOCATION OF ARCHIVES

- a) Please provide an estimate of the quantity of material in your possession for the following categories:

NOtes x4	PLans x2	PHotos x6	Ngtives x6
SLides x6	CORrespondence	MScripts (unpub reports, etc)	
BULK finds	SMall finds	SOil samples	
OTHer			

- b) The archive has been prepared and stored in accordance with MGC standards and will be deposited in the following location: **Museum of London**
- c) Has a security copy of the archive been made?: **NO**

10) BIBLIOGRAPHY

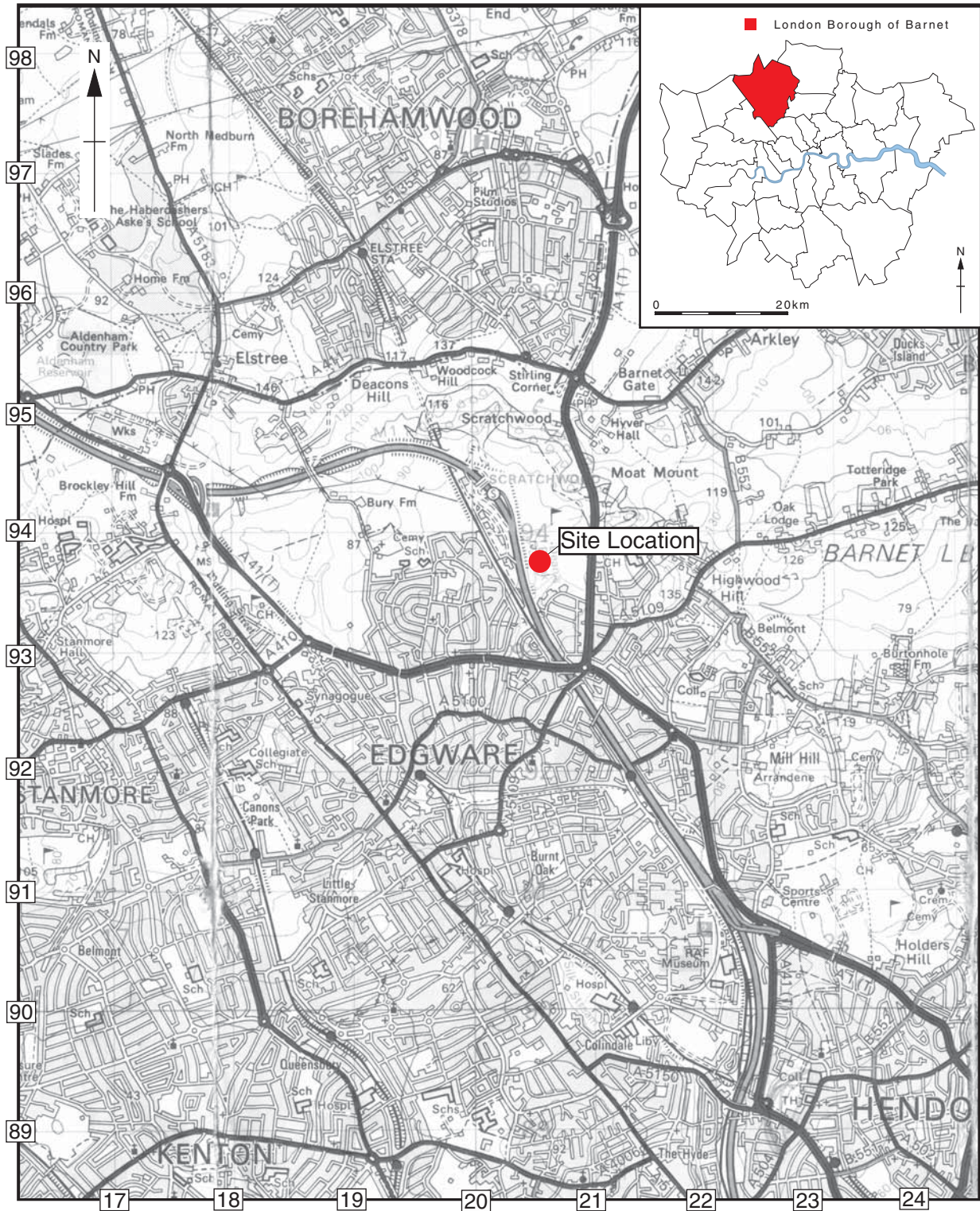
SEE

Appendix 2 References

SIGNED:

DATE:

NAME :



Scale 1:50,000

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Figure 1: Site location plan

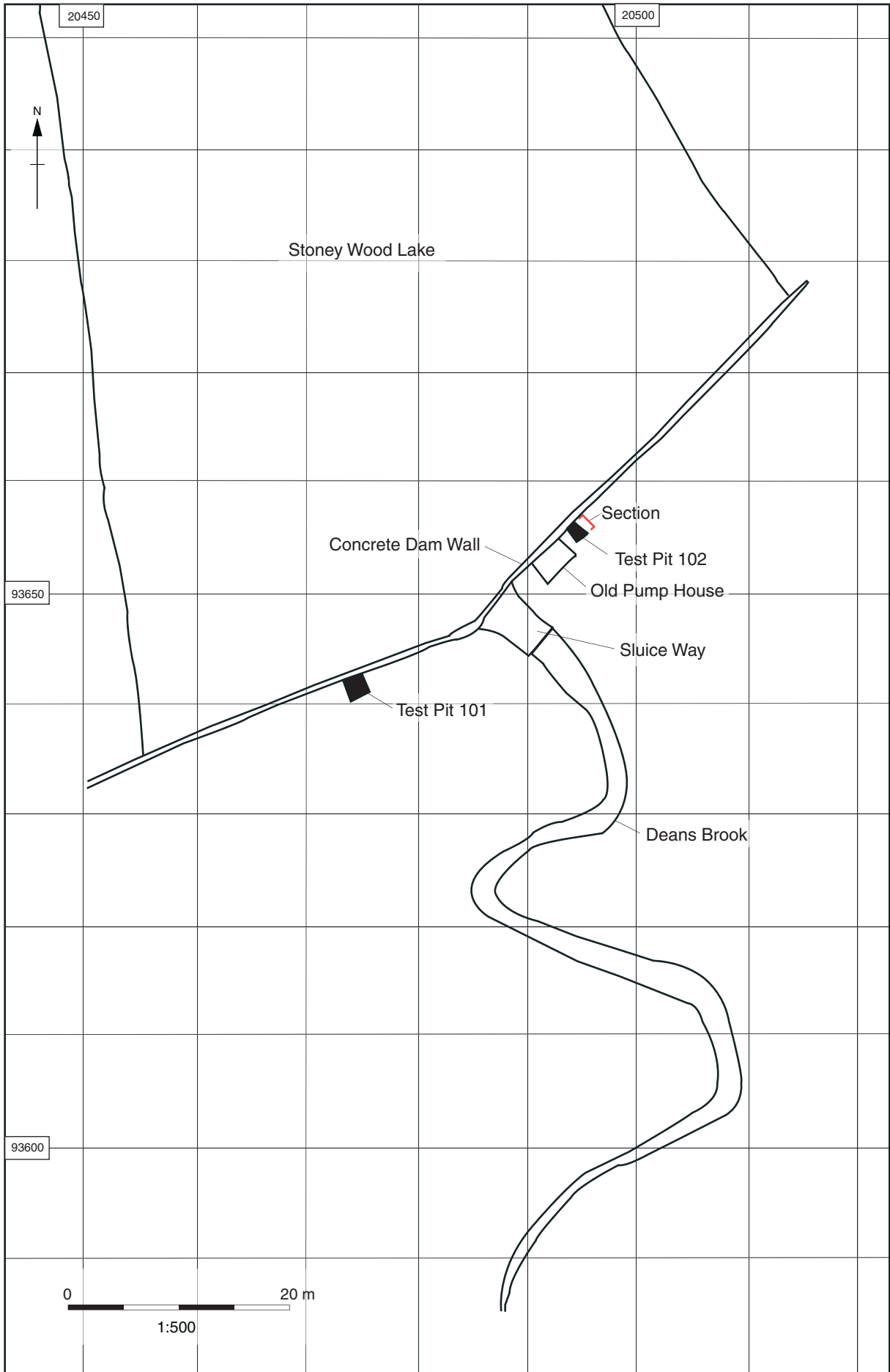


Figure 2: Plan of watching brief area

Test Pit 102 Section

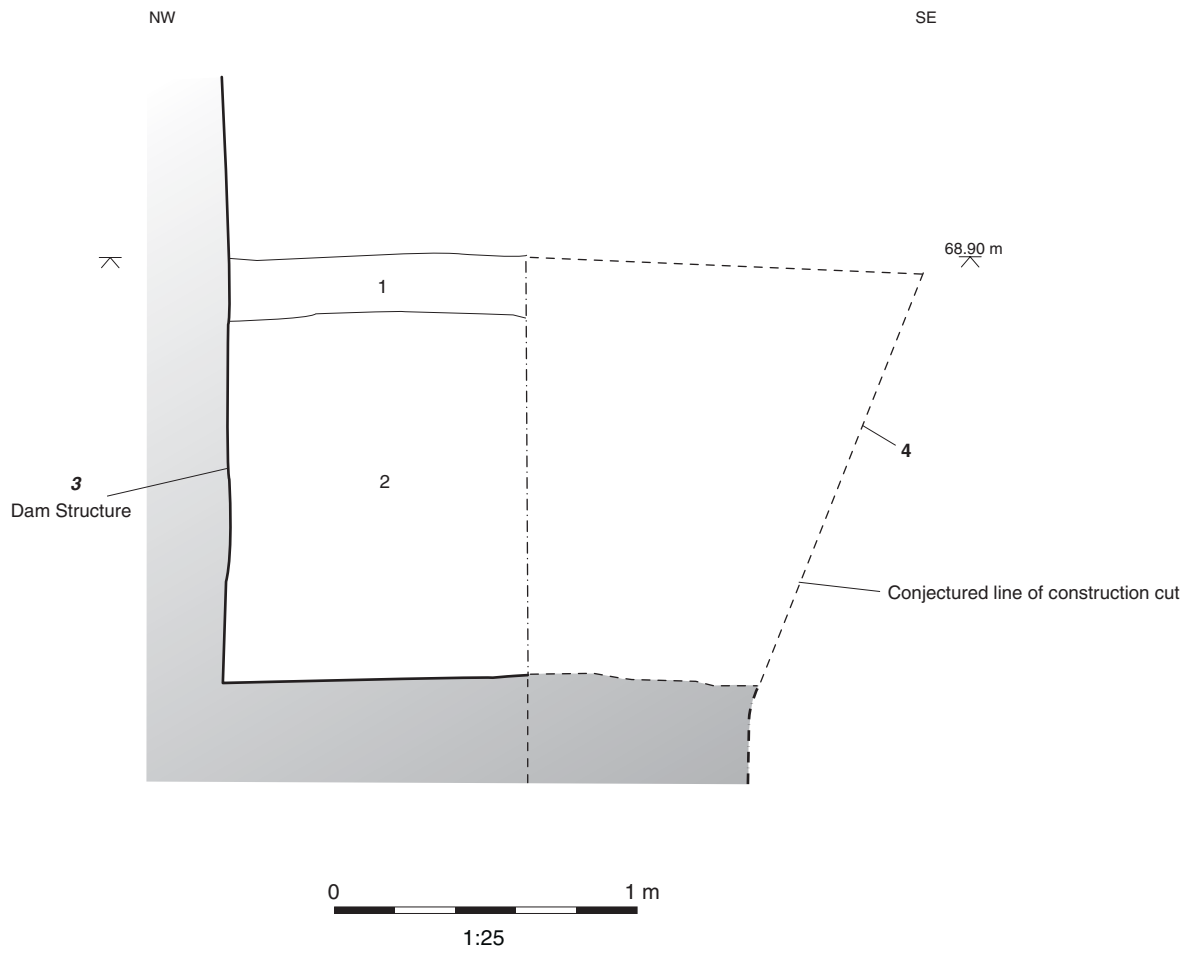


Figure 3: Test pit 102, section