

# Melrose Hound Street Sherborne Dorset



## Archaeological Evaluation



**Oxford Archaeology**

5th December 2001

**Client Name: John Stark and  
Crickmay Partnership**

Issue N<sup>o</sup>:2

OA Job N<sup>o</sup>: JN 1112

NGR: ST 640 167

**Client Name:** John Stark and Crickmay Partnership  
**Client Ref No:**  
**Document Title:** Melrose, Hound Street, Sherborne, Dorset

**Document Type:** Evaluation

**Issue Number:** 2

**National Grid Reference:** ST 640 167  
**Planning Reference:**

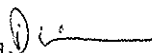
**OA Job Number:** JN 1112  
**Site Code:** SHMEL01  
**Invoice Code:** SHMELEV  
**Museum Accession No:** NN 0000 0000

**Prepared by:** Andy Simmonds

**Position:** Project Supervisor  
**Date:** 29th November 2001

**Checked by:** Jon Hiller  
**Position:** Senior Project Manager, Small Works  
**Date:** 30th November 2001

**Approved by:** Dave Wilkinson  
**Position:** Senior Project Manager  
**Date:** 3rd December 2001

Signed  .....

**Document File Location** Server 3\dan.poore\OAU\Dorset\Sherborne\SHMEL EV  
SHERBORNE EVAL REP.doc

**Graphics File Location** server  
4:/oapubs1/alldrawings\*SHMELEV\*Melrose\*43Hound  
St-Sherborne-Dorset\*RMS

**Illustrated by** Roz Smith

**Disclaimer:**

*This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.*

**Oxford Archaeology**

© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd 2001

Janus House

Osney Mead

Oxford OX2 0EA

t: (0044) 01865 263800

f: (0044) 01865 793496

e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk

w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

**Melrose, 43 Hound Street  
Sherborne, Dorset****NGR ST 640 167*****ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT*****CONTENTS**

Summary .....	2
1 Introduction.....	2
1.1 Location and scope of work.....	2
1.2 Geology and topography.....	2
1.3 Archaeological and historical background .....	3
2 Evaluation Aims .....	3
3 Evaluation Methodology .....	4
3.1 Scope of fieldwork.....	4
3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording .....	4
3.3 Finds .....	4
3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence .....	4
3.5 Presentation of results.....	4
4 Results: General.....	5
4.1 Soils and ground conditions .....	5
5 Results: Descriptions .....	5
5.1 Description of deposits .....	5
5.2 Finds .....	8
6 Discussion And Interpretation .....	10
6.1 Reliability of field investigation.....	10
6.2 Overall interpretation.....	10
Appendix 1 Archaeological Inventory .....	12
Appendix 2 Bibliography and references .....	14
Appendix 3 Summary of Site Details .....	15

**LIST OF FIGURES**

- Fig. 1 Site location (Ordnance Survey)  
 Fig. 2 Site location  
 Fig. 3 Location of test pits  
 Fig. 4 Section of Test Pit 1  
 Fig. 5 Plan and section of ditch 85 in Test Pit 8  
 Fig. 6 Sections of Test Pits 5, 6 and 9

## SUMMARY

*In November 2001, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological field evaluation at Melrose, 43 Hound Street, Sherborne, Dorset (NGR ST 640 167), in advance of proposals to extend and refurbish the property. The archaeological work was commissioned by Laurence Keen OBE, of John Stark and Crickmay Partnership on behalf of the property's owners, E and L W van Geest, Children's Settlement. The evaluation consisted of the excavation of ten exploratory geotechnical test pits in the garden of the 17th-century house, and one within the building itself.*

*A medieval possible boundary ditch was revealed, sealed beneath a soil layer, probably formed when the 17th-century garden was laid out. A possible cess pit of post-medieval date was identified cutting this soil. Traces of a gravel path and a former turf line were observed sealed by a later phase of soil landscaping, probably of 18th-century date or later.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Between 19 and 23 November 2001 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological field evaluation at Melrose, 43 Hound Street, Sherborne, Dorset (Fig. 1). The work consisted of the excavation of 11 geotechnical test pits, ten within the garden and one inside the house.
- 1.1.2 Melrose is a Grade II listed building with 18th-century additions to an original 17th-century structure. It is proposed to refurbish the present building and to construct two extensions to the rear, one at its southern limit and the other to the north-west.
- 1.1.3 This development site lies within an area of archaeological potential and the archaeological evaluation was carried out in order to help to inform decisions for an appropriate mitigation strategy to be undertaken in advance of the refurbishment and extensions.
- 1.1.4 OA was commissioned to undertake the evaluation by Laurence Keen OBE, of John Stark and Crickmay Partnership, on behalf of the E and L W van Geest Children's Settlement, the current owners of Melrose.
- 1.1.5 The work was carried out in accordance with a project brief set by and a Written Scheme of Investigation (OA 2001) agreed with the client and according to the requirements of PPG 16 and relevant County and District plans.

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located at NGR ST 640 167, in the northern part of Sherborne, on the west side of Hound Street at its north end (Fig. 2). The frontage of Melrose lies at 68.5 m OD on a south-facing slope.

- 1.2.2 The underlying geology of the area is Jurassic Oolitic limestone with inter-bedded clays, overlain by calcareous soils.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the evaluation has been the subject of a separate study (Keen 2001), the results of which are summarised below.
- 1.3.2 No prehistoric material has been found under the modern town of Sherborne, though excavations east of the town have revealed evidence of Neolithic settlement and Bronze Age and early Iron Age activity (Valentin 1995).
- 1.3.3 Romano-British sites are numerous along the Yeo Valley, and one under Sherborne would fit the known settlement distribution. Although Roman finds have been found in the town, there has been no conclusive evidence for a settlement. An evaluation immediately west of this development site produced Romano-British pottery, but the evaluation was not extensive enough to indicate whether these finds indicated *in situ* occupation.
- 1.3.4 Sherborne's origins begin in the Saxon period, when it was the site of a bishopric (founded in AD 705). Its history probably extends back to the 7th century. A number of burials from the town probably relate to an early ecclesiastical settlement. It has been suggested that Hound Street marks the east boundary of an early enclosure, although excavations behind 60 Cheap Street provided no evidence for this hypothesis (Barker 1977).
- 1.3.5 Evidence for medieval settlement is known in the vicinity of the development site. An evaluation to the west revealed post-holes and a truncated pit with large quantities of medieval pottery (Whelan 2000). On Hound Street, evidence for structures has been discovered on the street frontage opposite Melrose, together with pits and evidence of quarrying (Cox 1993a, 1993b). Further along Hound Street to the south-east, a stone pavement and a 12th-13th-century pit were revealed (AC Archaeology 1991).
- 1.3.6 Melrose consists of an original 17th-century range on the street frontage with an 18th-century extension to the rear, containing a stairwell and additional rooms.

## 2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1.1 To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the area of the proposed development
- 2.1.2 To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present
- 2.1.3 To establish the exigency for a mitigation strategy that would allow for the preservation of any archaeological remains *in situ* or by record.

2.1.4 To make available the results of the investigation.

### 3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Scope of fieldwork

3.1.1 The test pits were required for geotechnical purposes. They were excavated archaeologically to provide the maximum of archaeological information.

3.1.2 Test Pit 8 was located against the rear wall of the house. Test Pits 9-11 were excavated against the boundary wall with No. 49 Hound Street, to investigate the foundations of the walls.

3.1.3 The test pits measured 1 m<sup>2</sup> apart from Test Pit 11, which was 0.5 m<sup>2</sup>. Test Pits 9 and 10 were originally intended to be 0.4 m<sup>2</sup>, but had to be widened due to their depth.

#### 3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

3.2.1 Test Pits 1 to 7 were excavated by a mini-mechanical excavator. Test Pits 8 to 11 were excavated by hand in order to avoid causing any damage to the adjacent walls. Each trench was excavated to the first archaeological horizon, or to the natural sub-soil if no archaeology was present.

3.2.2 The test pits were hand-cleaned and any revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. Any archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:20 and all of the test pit sections were drawn at the same scale.

3.2.3 Each archaeological context was individually recorded on a *pro forma* sheet. All test pits and features therein were photographed using colour slide and black-and-white print film. Levels were recorded for all features and sections, tied in to the site engineer's datum, which had an arbitrary value of 100 m, rather than Ordnance Datum. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OA Fieldwork Manual* (OAU 1992).

#### 3.3 Finds

3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context

#### 3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

3.4.1 No deposits appropriate for palaeo-environmental sampling were encountered.

#### 3.5 Presentation of results

3.5.1 The test pits are described below individually or, where appropriate are grouped for ease of description. The finds evidence is then summarised, after which the

stratigraphic and finds data are brought together in a discussion, which considers the significance and reliability of the evaluation results.

#### 4 RESULTS: GENERAL

##### 4.1 Soils and ground conditions

4.1.1 The site is located on Oolitic limestone bedrock, overlain by calcareous soils. Natural sub-soil was encountered in six of the test pits and was found to be a brash-like material weathered out of the underlying bed-rock, consisting of limestone clasts up to 200 mm across in a matrix of yellow clay.

4.1.2 The soils encountered in the excavation were generally silty clays or clay loam garden soils. The ground conditions were dry, with no waterlogging or other unusual conditions.

#### 5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

##### 5.1 Description of deposits

###### *Test Pit 1*

5.1.1 Test Pit 1 (Fig. 4) was located toward the south boundary of the garden. It was excavated to a depth of 1.45 m below ground level without encountering natural sub-soil, at which point excavation was terminated due to the unstable condition of the test pit sides.

5.1.2 The earliest deposit was an undated grey silty clay layer over 0.75 m thick (14). Because of the unstable test pit sides, this deposit could not be inspected for health and safety reasons. Nonetheless its substantial depth suggests that it was made ground rather than a buried former soil horizon.

5.1.3 Layer 14 was cut by a vertical-sided feature (13). Only part of the north side of this feature was present within the test pit, and so its shape and extent could not be established. It was at least 0.56 m across, and at least 0.8 m deep. The size of this part of the feature suggests that it was large, and may have functioned as a well or possibly a cess-pit.

5.1.4 This feature was filled with limestone rubble (12), among which was a piece of clay pipe and a fragment of brick, both of which are of post-medieval date. A distinctive layer of yellow clay (11) that was 0.5 m thick sealed this fill of feature 13. This type of deposit was not noted anywhere else on site, so it may have been deliberately selected for the task of sealing the upper fill of the feature.

5.1.5 A modern layer of limestone pieces, soil and coal (10), which formed the uppermost layer in this test pit, overlay clay layer 11.

**Test Pit 2**

- 5.1.6 This was located in a small walled garden to the rear of the garage at the south end of the property and was the shallowest pit excavated. The natural sub-soil (23) was encountered at a depth of 0.3 m below ground level. This was overlain by a brown-grey clay loam, a former garden soil (22) 0.2 m thick containing pottery of mid-16th-century date, over which was a sand make-up layer (21) and modern concrete paving slabs (20).

**Test Pits 3, 5 and 7**

- 5.1.7 These pits were excavated in the lawn area to the rear of the conservatory. They were less than 15 m apart, and exhibited a similar sequences of deposits. The natural sub-soil (33, 53, 74) was encountered below ground level at a depth of 1.05 m in Test Pit 3, 0.68 m in Test Pit 5 (Fig. 6) and 0.9 m in Test Pit 7.
- 5.1.8 A dark grey silty clay containing pieces of limestone (32, 52) overlay the natural horizon. In Test Pits 3 and 5 this was 0.3 m to 0.4 m thick and may represent either made ground or a buried soil. Layer 32 contained a sherd of medieval pottery, and layer 52 contained two sherds of possibly 12th-century pottery. This layer was sealed by a dark brown soil (31, 51) that was up to 0.35 m thick, over which lay the modern topsoil (30, 50). A stem from a clay pipe was recovered from layer 31, together with one sherd of mid-16th-century pottery.
- 5.1.9 In Test Pit 7 only a single layer of grey silty clay with limestone pieces was identified (73). The layer was 0.55 m thick, and probably corresponds broadly to the two layers seen in Test Pits 3 and 5, all of which presumably were make-up deposits. Garden soil (72) lay beneath flagstones in Test Pit 7. Layer 72 contained a piece of possible window glass together with a stem from a clay pipe, and pottery sherds of mid-16th-century date.

**Test Pit 4**

- 5.1.10 This pit was located adjacent to the conservatory and was 0.65 m deep to natural. The earliest deposit was a dark-brown silty clay layer (41) up to 0.45 m thick overlying the weathered natural limestone (42). Layer 41 contained 3 sherds of 13th century pottery. This layer was overlain by the modern topsoil (40).

**Test Pit 6**

- 5.1.11 This Pit 6 (Fig. 6) was situated on the higher terrace of the garden, in the north-east part of the site. It was excavated to a depth of 1.45 m below ground level without reaching the natural horizon.
- 5.1.12 The earliest deposit encountered was a layer of dark grey silty clay (63) over 0.75 m thick that contained a few pieces of cattle and sheep bone, and two sherds of ?13th-century pottery. This is probably the equivalent of the make-up deposits seen in Test Pits 3, 4, 5 and 7. It was overlain by a layer of sand and gravel (62) that was 0.12 m thick. This is interpreted as a gravel surface, probably a path or garden feature. This



surface had been buried by a further 0.6 m of silty clay (61) to create a terrace, represented by the modern lawn turf (60). Layer 61 contained 19th-century pottery.

### ***Test Pit 8***

- 5.1.13 At the base of Test Pit 8 (Fig. 5), natural limestone (86) lay 0.55 m below the current ground surface. The limestone was cut by a ditch (85) that was aligned north-east/south-west. The ditch was 0.55 m deep and more than 1.2 m wide. Its only fill (84) was a brown silty clay containing a large number of limestone pieces, together with 12th-13th-century pottery and a small quantity of animal bone, including those of cattle and sheep.
- 5.1.14 The ditch fill was overlain by a layer of grey silty clay that was 0.5 m thick (83), which probably represents a build-up or levelling deposit. A few pieces of animal bone were recovered from this context, together with two sherds of pottery possibly of 13th-century date.
- 5.1.15 The foundation cut (82) for the 18th-century extension to the rear of Melrose House cut layer 83 and a thin layer of trampled or levelling material (80) sealed its fill (81).

### ***Test Pits 9 and 10***

- 5.1.16 Test pits 9 (Fig. 6) and 10 were excavated against the boundary wall with No. 49 Hound Street, in order to investigate the wall foundations. Similar deposits were present in both pits. Test Pit 9 was 1.04 m deep and Test Pit 10 was 1 m deep.
- 5.1.17 The lowest deposit observed was a brown-grey silty clay layer (93, 104). In Test Pit 9 layer 93 contained several pieces of sheep bone and pottery of mid-16th-century date. This layer (93, 104) was overlain by a grey-brown silt (92, 103). Layer 92 contained two pieces of post-medieval tile and a stem from a clay pipe, together with 19th-century pottery. Layers 103 and 104 contained pottery of 13th-century date.
- 5.1.18 Both layers had a combined thickness of more than 0.6 m. These may represent make-up layers used to level the natural slope of the ground here. A grey-brown sandy loam, probably a former buried turf-line (91, 102) followed next in sequence. The level of this layer coincided with the lowest level of mortar on the wall, and is thus probably the ground surface contemporary with the wall construction.
- 5.1.19 The former turf line was buried beneath a layer of soil (90) up to 0.6 m thick, which had built up against the wall. Layer 90 contained 19th-century pottery. In Test Pit 10 this was recorded as two separate layers (101 and 100). Pottery of 19th-century date was recovered from layers 100 and 102.
- 5.1.20 The buried turf line may be contemporary with the gravel surface (62) in Test Pit 6, and the deposits sealing it appear to be equivalent to the made ground (61) observed covering surface 62 and elsewhere.

### *Test Pit 11*

- 5.1.21 This pit measured 0.5 m<sup>2</sup> and was located within the west range of the house, adjacent to the boundary wall with No. 40 Hound Street, in order to investigate the internal wall foundations. These were shallow, and the test pit was only 0.3 m deep below ground level.
- 5.1.22 At the base of the pit a layer of garden soil (113) was excavated to a depth of 0.23 m. Hand-augering of the layer indicates that a further 0.3 m depth of deposit was present below the base of the test pit.
- 5.1.23 This layer was overlain by a layer of bricks and stone make-up (112) for a concrete floor (113), overlain in turn by a layer of asphalt (110).

## 5.2 Finds

### *Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn*

- 5.2.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 105 sherds with a total weight of 715 g. The range of pottery types present suggests two main phases of activity, one in the medieval period (12th to 13th century), and the other during the early post-medieval (mid-16th to early-17th century). A small group of 19th-to-20th century material was also noted.

- 5.2.2 The range of fabric types was as follows:

*Sherborne 'B' ware* (Harrison and Williams 1979): Coarse, flint tempered ware, 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. 28 sherds, 182 g.

*Sherborne 'E' ware* (ibid.): Fine sandy ware, 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. 13 sherds, 65 g.

*South Somerset Glazed ware*: Fine sandy glazed wares, similar to wares from Ilchester and Taunton (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 343-7). 13<sup>th</sup> century. 34 sherds, 152 g.

*Cistercian Ware*: c AD1470-1550. Hard, smooth fabric, usually brick-red, but can be paler or browner. Few visible inclusions, except for occasional quartz grains. Range of vessel forms somewhat specialized, and usually very thin-walled (about 2mm). Rare white slip decoration. 1 sherd, 1 g.

*German Stonewares*: AD1480+. A range of hard, grey, salt-glazed fabrics produced at numerous sites in the Rhineland and beyond (cf Gaimster 1997). 2 sherds, 7 g.

*Red Earthenwares*: Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, occurring in a range of utilitarian forms. Such 'country pottery' was first made in the 16th century, and in some areas continued in use until the 19th century. 19 sherds, 282 g.

*Westerwald/Cologne stoneware*: German import (Gaimster 1997). Hard, dense white fabric, usually decorated with cobalt blue slip. Later examples can have manganese purple slip. First produced c.1680. 1 sherd, 4 g.

*Miscellaneous 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century wares:* Mass-produced white earthenwares, late English stoneware, horticultural earthenwares, etc. 7 sherds, 22g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in the table below. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

*Table 5.1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type*

Cntxt	Sherborne B		Sherborne E		South Somerset		German S'ware		Westerwald		Cistercian		Red Earthenware		19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup>		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
22													1	28			M16thC
31													1	3			M16thC
32					1	29											13thC??
41					3	16											13thC
52	2	13															12thC?
61													1	38	1	8	19thC
63					2	15											13thC?
72	6	21	6	41	10	39					1	1	2	18			M16thC
83					2	2											13thC?
84	8	64															12thC?
90													3	19	1	1	19thC
92									1	4			2	35	1	1	19thC?
93	9	68	4	14	3	12	2	7					2	61			M16thC
100													5	67	3	11	19thC
102													2	13	1	1	19thC?
103			2	6	6	22											13thC
104	3	16	1	4	7	17											13thC
Total	28	182	13	65	34	152	2	7	1	4	1	1	19	282	7	22	

### *The Animal Bone by Beth Charles*

5.2.3 A total of 42 fragment of bone were recovered, of which 15 were identified to species. The bone was in good condition, and many bones exhibited signs of butchery, with cuts and knife marks. Tooth marks made by a dog were identified on a sheep ilium blade. Only one fragment of bone (from context 83) had been burnt.

5.2.4 The table below shows that the majority of the bone came from cattle and sheep. Elements identified were mostly bones from the feet (metapodials and phalanges). One bird bone from context 102 is likely to be a fragment of a humerus shaft from a domestic fowl.

*Table 5.2 Total number of bones by context and species*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Bird</i>	<i>Unidentified</i>	<i>Total</i>
63	1	1	0	3	5
72	0	0	0	0	1
83	1	3	0	3	7
84	1	1	0	7	6
90	0	0	0	1	1

92	0	0	0	2	2
93	0	5	0	12	17
102	0	0	1	0	1
103	0	0	0	1	1
104	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	4	10	1	29	42

### ***Other finds***

- 5.2.5 A small collection of other finds was recovered. These comprise post-medieval tile fragments from contexts 90, 92 and 100, and a fragment of post-medieval brick from context 12. Stems from clay pipes were recovered from contexts 12, 31, 72 and 92. A sherd of possible window glass came from context 72 and part of a glass vessel was found in layer 92. Both pieces are of later post-medieval date.

## **6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION**

### **6.1 Reliability of field investigation**

- 6.1.1 The reliability of the evaluation was limited by the size of the test pits, which allowed only a small part of any deposit or feature to be seen and sampled. The dimensions of the test pits also placed a limit on the depth to which they could be excavated. In Test Pit 1, the large pit or possible well/cess pit (13) could not be bottomed. Similarly excavation of Test Pit 6 had to be terminated before reaching the bottom of the post-medieval made ground.
- 6.1.2 Test Pits 9, 10 and 11 were intended only to allow inspection of the footings of the boundary walls and so excavation of these pits only proceeded to the depth required to achieve this aim.
- 6.1.3 The make-up layers encountered indicate a considerable amount of activity during the post-medieval period, and are likely to have buried archaeological deposits on the site.

### **6.2 Overall interpretation**

- 6.2.1 No prehistoric, Roman or Saxon features or finds were recovered from the test pits. The earliest feature was a ditch (85) in Test Pit 8, dated by the pottery to the 12th or 13th centuries. This probably represents a boundary running at 90° to the line of Hound Street and suggests that further occupation evidence could occur locally, as revealed by excavations on the opposite side of Hound Street, where 12th-century and later structures are known (see section 1.3 above).
- 6.2.2 Medieval pottery was recovered from layers at the base of Test Pits 3, 4 and 5, which could suggest that these deposits represent the early medieval ground levels overlain by landscaping deposits in the post-medieval period (see below). A medieval sherd from layer 63 in Test Pit 6 is likely to be residual. In Test Pit 8 the ditch fill was

sealed by a layer containing sherds of 13th-century pottery, though whether the overlying layer is of this date is unclear.

- 6.2.3 The implication from the ceramic evidence is that soils of potentially early medieval date exist in parts of the garden, presumably contemporary with the ditch seen in Test Pit 8.
- 6.2.4 The post-medieval history of the site saw the raising of the ground level with layers of soil. This operation probably began when the original building was constructed in the 17th century, with the spoil created during construction being transferred over the garden area.
- 6.2.5 The large post-medieval pit, possibly a cess pit or a well? appears to post-date this period of landscaping, as it was cut through a thick layer of soil associated with the first landscaping phase.
- 6.2.6 The former turf line and the possible gravel pathway would appear to be contemporary with this phase of activity at the site, suggesting that there was a formal garden layout by this time.
- 6.2.7 The construction of the 18th-century extension to the rear may account for the second episode of soil re-deposition and ground raising, as the fill of the cess pit was covered with clay and the earlier turf line and gravel path were covered over with soil; the terracing of the garden is probably the result of more recent landscaping.
- 6.2.8 A limited quantity of animal bone recovered from the post-medieval layers reflects domestic waste. The remainder of the finds add little to the interpretation of the evidence.
- 6.2.9 The deep deposits of post-medieval soil overburden in the garden area appear to have preserved intact earlier features, for example the ditch and its fill in Test Pit 8. Since medieval occupation will have focused on the street frontage, any archaeology preserved under the garden will probably relate to back-yard activity, typically consisting of rubbish pits.

## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

Test Pit	Ctx No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment
1					
	10	Layer		0.2	Dump of stones
	11	Layer		0.5	
	12	Fill	> 0.56	> 0.8	Back-fill of (13)
	13	Cut	> 0.56	> 0.8	Well ?
	14	Layer		> 0.75	Made ground
2					
	20	Layer		0.05	Paving
	21	Layer		0.03	Sand make-up for (20)
	22	Layer		0.2	Buried garden soil
	23	Layer		n/a	Natural sub-soil
3					
	30	Layer		0.3	Topsoil
	31	Layer		0.2	Made ground
	32	Layer		0.4	Made ground or buried soil
	33	Layer		n/a	Natural sub-soil
4					
	40	Layer		0.15	Topsoil
	41	Layer		0.45	Made ground
	42	Layer		n/a	Natural sub-soil
5					
	50	Layer		0.15	Topsoil
	51	Layer		0.35	Made ground
	52	Layer		0.3	Made ground or buried soil
	53	Layer		n/a	Natural sub-soil
6					
	60	Layer		0.15	Topsoil
	61	Layer		0.6	Made ground
	62	Layer		0.12	Gravel surface

	63	Layer		> 0.75	Made ground
7					
	70	Layer		0.1	Flagstones
	71	Layer		0.15	Sand make-up for (70)
	72	Layer		0.2	Made ground
	73	Layer		0.55	Made ground
	74	Layer		n/a	Natural sub-soil
8					
	80	Layer		0.1	Trample or levelling
	81	Fill	> 0.5	0.77	Back-fill of construction cut (82)
	82	Cut	> 0.5	0.77	Construction cut for rear wall of Melrose
	83	Layer		0.5	Made ground
	84	Fill	> 1.2	0.55	Fill of ditch (85)
	85	Cut	> 1.2	0.55	Ditch
	86	Layer		n/a	Natural sub-soil
9					
	90	Layer		0.45	Topsoil
	91	Layer		0.1	Buried turf line
	92	Layer		0.3	Made ground
	93	Layer		> 0.3	Made ground or buried soil
10					
	100	Layer		0.4	Topsoil
	101	Layer		0.2	Made ground
	102	Layer		0.2	Buried turf line
	103	Layer		0.15	
	104	Layer		> 0.1	
11					
	110	Layer		0.01	Asphalt
	111	Layer		0.1	Concrete floor
	112	Layer		0.08	Rubble make-up for (111)
	113	Layer		> 0.55	Made ground

## APPENDIX 2                      BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

- AC Archaeology 1991                      Archaeological Assessment at Harper House, Hound Street, Sherborne
- Barker, K 1977                              The Origins of Sherborne: a preliminary note, *PDNHAS*, **99**, 127-128
- Cox, P 1993a                                 Foster's School, Sherborne, *PDNHAS*, **115**, 150
- Cox, P 1993b                                 Archaeological Evaluation of the former Foster's School, Hound Street, Sherborne, Dorset (ST 6401 1675), AC Archaeology
- Gaimster, D, 1997                            *German Stoneware*. British Museum Publications
- Harrison, B P and Williams D F, 1979    Sherborne Old Castle, Dorset: medieval pottery fabrics *PDNHAS*, **101**, 91-102
- Keen, L 2001                                 Melrose, Hound Street, Sherborne, Appendix 'B', Archaeological Assessment
- McCarthy, MR and Brooks, CM, 1988    *Medieval Pottery in Britain AD900-1600*. Leicester University Press
- OAU 1992                                      *Fieldwork Manual* (first edition, ed. D Wilkinson, August 1992)
- OA 2001                                         Melrose, 43 Hound Street, Sherborne, Dorset. Written Scheme of Investigation. Oxford Archaeology
- Valentin, J 1995                               Further Archaeological Evaluation of land adjacent to the former Foster's School, Tinney's Lane, Sherborne, Dorset (ST 664 170), AC Archaeology Report No. 1895/2/0
- Whelan, J 2000                                An Archaeological Evaluation on the Former Netball and Tennis Courts, Newlands, Sherborne, Dorset (ST 639 168), AC Archaeology Report no. 4500/1/0



**APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS**

**Site name:** Melrose, 43 Hound Street, Sherborne, Dorset

**Site code:** SHMEL 01

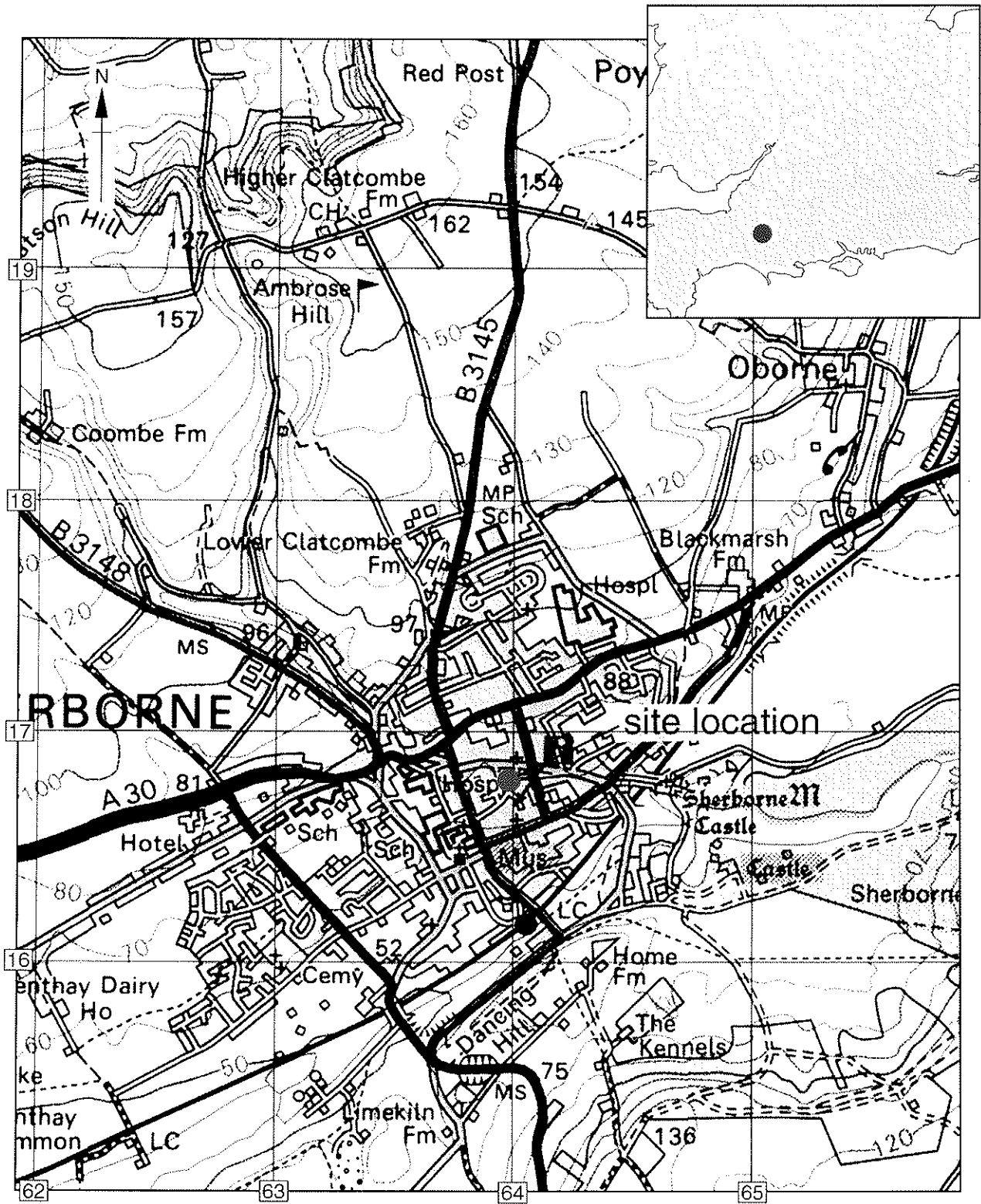
**Grid reference:** NGR ST 640 167

**Type of evaluation:** Eleven test pits

**Date and duration of project:** 19th-23rd November 2001

**Summary of results:** Medieval ditch identified beneath layers of post-medieval garden soil/landscaping. Post medieval cess? pit or well found at west side of the garden.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Dorset County Museum in due course.



Reproduced from the Landranger 1:50,000 scale by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office  
© Crown Copyright. 1996 All rights reserved. Licence No. AL 100005569

Figure 1: Site location



not to scale

Fig 2: Site Location

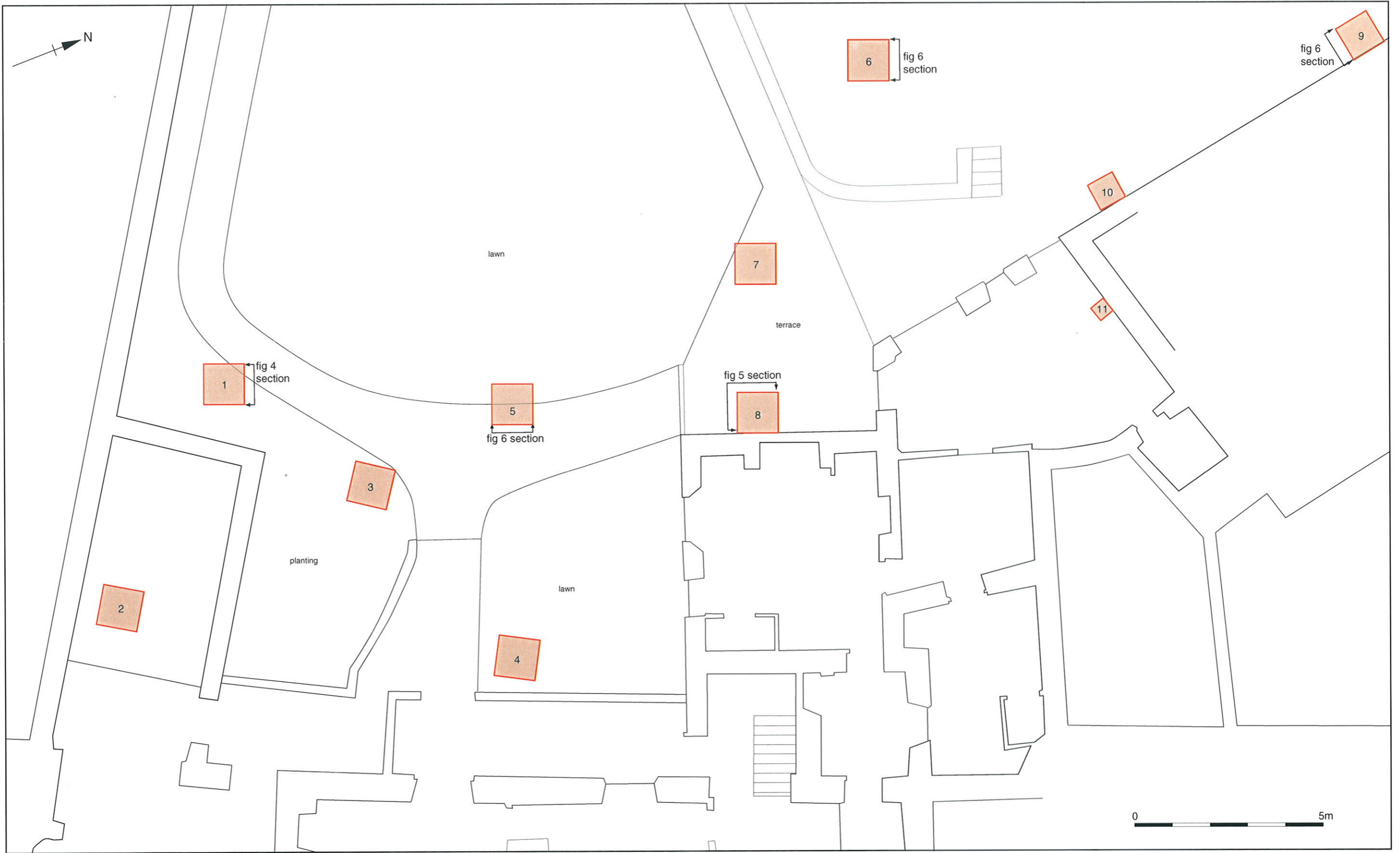


Figure 3: Location of Test Pits

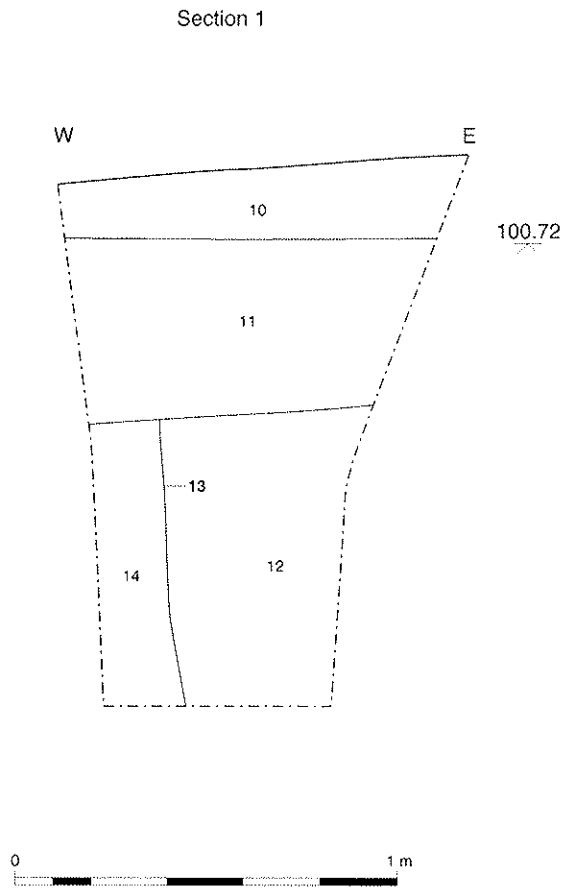
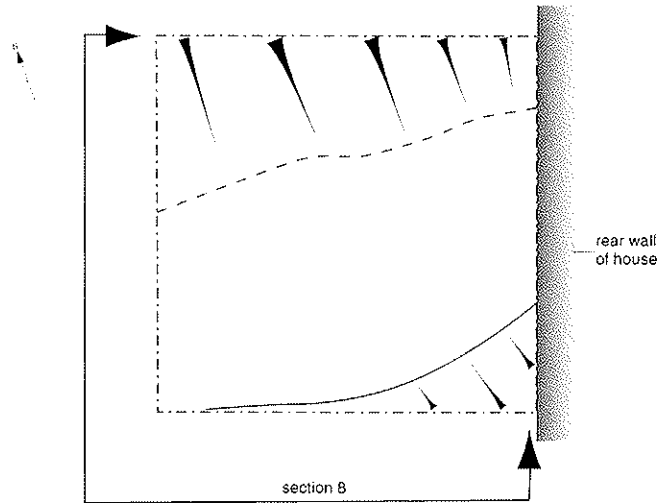


Figure 4 : South Facing Section of Test Pit 1

### Plan Test Pit 8



### Section 8

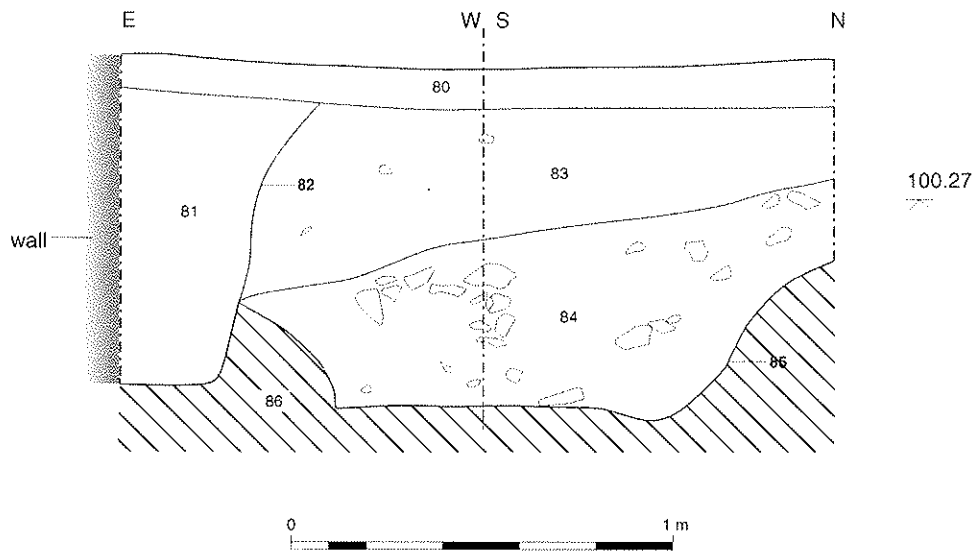


Figure 5: Plan and Section of Ditch 85 in Test Pit 8

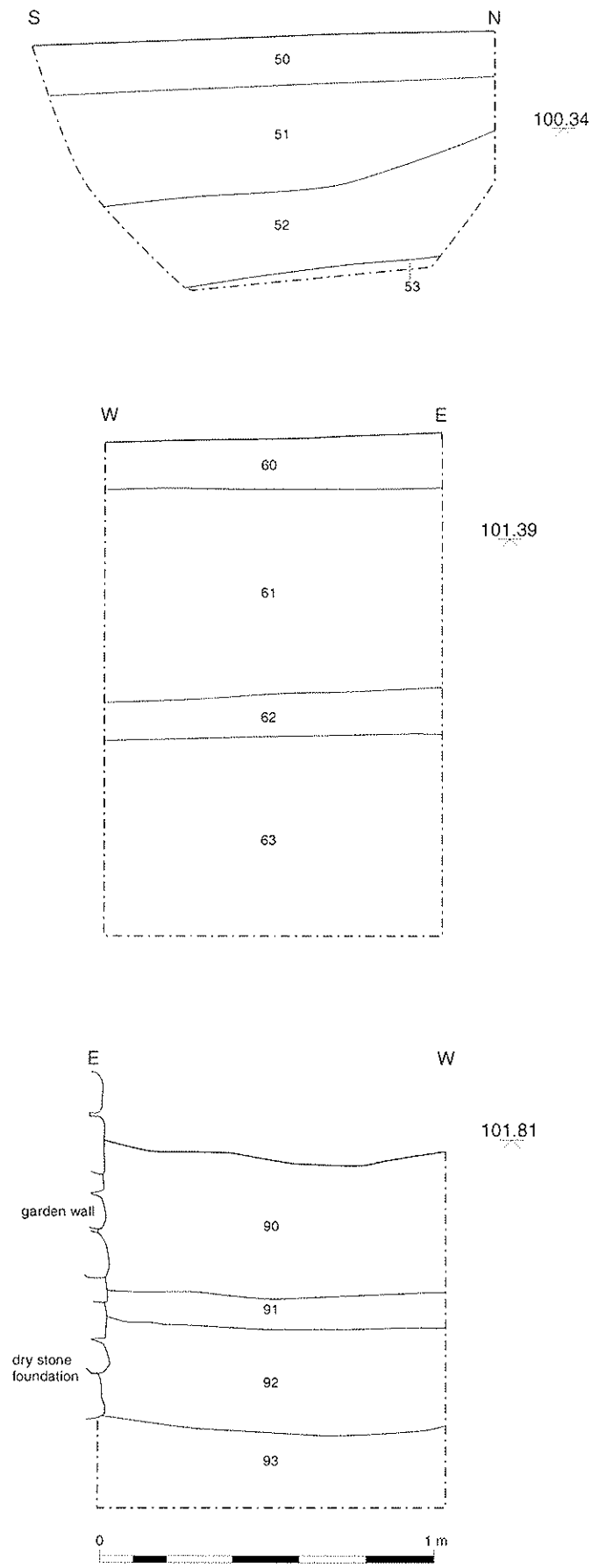


Figure 6: Sections 5, 6 and 9 of Test Pits 5, 6 and 9



### **Oxford Archaeology**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800  
f: (0044) 01865 793496  
e: [info@oxfordarch.co.uk](mailto:info@oxfordarch.co.uk)  
w: [www.oxfordarch.co.uk](http://www.oxfordarch.co.uk)



### **Oxford Archaeology North**

Storey Institute  
Meeting House Lane  
Lancaster LA1 1TF

t: (0044) 01524 848666  
f: (0044) 01524 848606  
e: [lancinfo@oxfordarch.co.uk](mailto:lancinfo@oxfordarch.co.uk)  
w: [www.oxfordarch.co.uk](http://www.oxfordarch.co.uk)

**Director:** David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA



Oxford Archaeological Unit is a  
Private Limited Company, N<sup>o</sup>: 1618597  
and a Registered Charity, N<sup>o</sup>: 285627

**Registered Office:**

Oxford Archaeological Unit  
Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES