

**Flowers Brook Recreation Ground  
& Caravan Park, Ventor  
Isle of Wight**

*SZ 5500 7700*

**Evaluation Report**

**Oxford Archaeological Unit  
1992**

FLOWERS BROOK RECREATION GROUND & CARAVAN PARK, VENTNOR.

Proposed Wastewater Treatment Works

NGR SZ 5500 7700



INTRODUCTION

Southern Water Services Ltd. has commissioned an Environmental Impact Statement of its proposals for a new wastewater treatment plant and long sea outfall at Ventnor. As part of these studies the Oxford Archaeological Unit conducted archaeological evaluations on the above sites in July and September of 1992. The aim of these evaluations was to establish the location, character and extent of any archaeological remains that exist and to define their quality and state of preservation.

The archaeological survey ran concurrently with an engineering geotechnical survey carried out by Rendel Geotechnics on behalf of Southern Water. Data where relevant has been integrated into the results of the archaeological evaluation.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Flowers Brook Recreation Ground

Stratified deposits of a late Saxon and early medieval settlement (10/11th Century to 13th Centuries) were discovered on the more gently sloping northern part of the site (possible extent shown on fig 2). These included well preserved structural remains. Documentary evidence indicates that there were cottages adjacent to Flowers Brook in the 18th and 19th Centuries.

Burials of uncertain date were recovered both in situ in graves and also in unstratified deposits. The burials appear to concentrate on the western half of the area.

Flowers Brook Caravan Park

Trench positions were constrained to the northern part of the outlined area in the vicinity of the modern culvert carrying Flowers Brook. These trenches, however, sampled the area of the proposed structures. First edition OS mapping (1866) indicates that Flowers Brook originally lay c 8 metres south of the culvert line thus locating the archaeological trenches to its north (fig 8).

A thick deposit of alluvium was encountered in trench 5 confirming that the position of Flowers Brook originally lay to the south of the present day conduit. Further north colluvium was sampled to a depth of 3.1 m (Geotechnical test pit CP4). No archaeological features were located although the colluvial and alluvial deposits contained Roman, Saxo-Norman, Medieval and post Medieval ceramics. A sherd of possible prehistoric pottery was also encountered at a depth of 2.5 metres.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Flowers Brook lies within the part of the area of Ventnor known as Steephill. Steephill is situated to the west of the main town with its northern boundary defined by the top of the downs and the southern boundary by sheer cliffs.

The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) lists three specific entries from the immediate vicinity (ie within 30 m) of the development area:

PRN 2149 (SZ 5535 7702) - a low burial mound just to the south of the development area, now destroyed, containing at least three inhumations.

PRN 754 (SZ 5540 7710) - a Roman coin of Magnus Maximus, dating from the 3rd Century AD, from the northern boundary adjacent to Flowers Brook.

PRN 771 (SZ 5533 7716) - a prehistoric midden deposit to the north of Steephill Road.

There are also unofficial reports by local workmen of further inhumations discovered during maintenance work to the path in the south west corner of the site. These may well be associated with PRN 2149.

There are 13 other references in the SMR to archaeological sites and finds within 400 m of the area ranging from Neolithic flint axes, early Bronze Age burials, late Bronze Age metal hoards, late Iron Age /early Roman burials and traces of a late Iron Age /early Roman settlement.

The first significant historical reference to the area by name appears in a subsidy roll dated 1327, where it is referred to as "Villata de steple". The term "Villata" denotes a settlement of at least several dwellings. A medieval settlement on Steephill thus appears to have been well established by the beginning of the 14th Century.

An estate map of the area dated 1729 (fig 3a) shows that the area Flowers Brook Recreation Ground originally formed part of Steephill Farm while the sampled area of the caravan park and putting green belonged to Cooks Farm. There are no indications of buildings on either site, although the scale is such that lesser buildings may not have been recorded. However, a print dating from 1821 (fig 3b) shows three cottages in the north eastern corner of the Flowers Brook Recreation Ground. The date of construction of these cottages is unknown but there is a reference to their demolition in 1834. No structures are indicated on the 1866 first edition 6" ordnance survey, though, significantly, the course of Flowers Brook is plotted some 8 metres to the south and west of the present day caravan park conduit (fig 8).

No further large-scale development has since taken place at Flowers Brook. The Recreation Ground has existed in its present form for most of the century. The area to the north west has only recently been converted into a caravan park with associated golf putting green and toilet block.

#### TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY

The site consists of two roughly triangular areas of land. The Recreation Ground measures c. 0.5 ha, while the area available for study within the caravan park measured c. 0.25 ha. The land falls sharply to the north-east from the south-western corner of the recreation ground and the south west and western edges of the putting green. The northern part of the site slopes more gradually to the south-east - this being the valley bottom. The drop in level from the south-east is in excess of 10 m. Flowers Brook itself forms the northern and north-eastern boundary of the recreation ground, appearing as a partially submerged conduit to the immediate north-east of the putting green. The land rises sharply again to the north-east of the recreation ground and the caravan park toilet block. The southern edge of the recreation ground is represented by a sheer cliff face continually eroding into the sea. The underlying geology of the site is landslip clays, alluvial clays and degenerated chalk.

#### STRATEGY

Four 15 m x 1.5 m trenches, one 17 m x 1.5 m trench and one 5 m x 1.5 m trench (together representing a 2% sample of the total area) were excavated down either to the top of archaeological deposits or in their absence to the top of the natural subsoil using a JCB mechanical excavator. The deposits were then sampled by hand to retrieve any finds. Archaeological features were described and photographed. Trenches containing archaeological deposits were planned at 1:100 and structural features were planned at 1:20.

The area available for study within Flowers Brook Caravan Park was severely restricted by the location of caravans, water pipes, electricity cables, sewers and Flowers Brook conduit itself. The total area open for archaeological and geotechnical evaluation was further reduced within the area of the park by the presence of the golf putting green to the south-west where access was prohibited. In an attempt to minimise damage to the green, whilst avoiding the dense mass of underground services to the north, the archaeological and geotechnical evaluation trenches were excavated at the north-eastern edge of the putting green, within the proposed area of building work (fig 8).

Significant structural deposits, where encountered, were left in situ and no attempt was made to lift human remains. These were recorded in situ and then reburied. Due to the circumstances at the time of the evaluation no trench was hand excavated deeper

than 1.20 m for reasons of safety. Soil from machine excavated (geotechnical) trenches cut to a depth greater than 1.2 m, was deposited away from the area of investigation and examined for archaeological material.

## THE EVALUATION

### Trench 1 (fig 4)

Trench 1 (15 m x 1.55 m) was aligned north-west - south-east on the northern part of the site. The maximum depth of excavation was 1.20 m. Archaeological deposits in the form of colluvium continued to a depth of c. 1.80 - 2.00 m. The first 0.50 - 0.75 of deposit was of post medieval date. Excavated horizons lower than this produced late Saxon and early medieval pottery. Mortared walls of medieval date occurred at a depth of 0.50 m. Some human remains were recovered at a depth of c. 1.00 metre but these appeared to be redeposited.

The earliest deposits were seen in the bottom of the sondages in the north west end and centre of the trench - layers 1/14 and 1/7. Layer 1/14 produced one sherd of medieval pottery. These were overlaid by a what appeared to be a layer of colluvium 1/6. Visible in the top of layer 1/6 were small fragments of human bone, one of which included a skull. Careful cleaning produced no grave cuts suggesting that the bone was redeposited material. Two sherds of early medieval pottery were recovered from the surface of 1/6.

At the south-east end of the trench was the remains of part of a stone built structure consisting of wall footings 1/11 and 1/12. The largest of these (1/11) was 0.60 m wide and was aligned north-east south-west, at right angles to the trench and 0.90 m from the south-west end. It was made of roughly faced, medium and large pieces of limestone, including one block measuring 0.35 m x 0.26 m x 0.24 m.

Perpendicular to 1/11 was a much narrower wall (1/12) which was only 0.40 m wide and which was bonded with the same mortar. These footings appeared to be a contemporary build. In the small area of the trench to the south east of wall 1/11 was a layer of silty clay loam (1/13), which overlaid wall 1/12 but abutted wall 1/11 indicating some structural development. Above layer 1/13 and also existing only to the south east of, but partially overlying wall 1/11 was an other layer of silty clay loam (1/9). This deposit contained one sherd of medieval pottery.

One metre to the north-west of wall 1/11 and overlying layer 1/6 was a small, roughly oval patch of clay loam containing large amounts of charcoal (1/5). Above 1/5 and 1/6 in a small area immediately north west of and abutting wall 1/11 was a compact layer mortar and sand (1/16).

Overlying all of these small deposits and the areas of 1/6 remaining in the south east third of the trench was a layer of silty clay loam (1/4). This layer, which contained frequent small and medium pieces of limestone also abutted wall 1/11.

In the north-west two thirds of the trench layer 1/6 was overlaid by a thick (0.40 m) deposit of soft, silty and slightly 'loamy' clay with a fairly high humic content (1/10). This layer possibly represents an old ground surface and produced a quantity of medieval pottery sherds (11th-12th Century) and animal bone.

Layer 1/10 was overlaid, but only in the north-west half of the trench, by a layer of small and medium size limestone rubble (1/17). Above 1/17 was a thick (0.30 m) layer of silty clay loam with occasional small pieces of limestone (1/2). This layer existed throughout the trench, and in the south west half was overlay directly layers 1/4, 1/9 and the top of wall 1/11. Layer 1/2 contained post medieval pottery.

### Trench 2 (fig 5)

Trench 2 (15 m x 1.55 m) was aligned north-east - south-west. It was positioned further east of trench 1 and perpendicular to Flowers Brook. As with trench 1 colluvial deposits were not fully excavated. In areas where there were no archaeological features sondages were machine excavated to a depth of 1.20 m, layers of colluvium containing medieval pottery sherds and charcoal continued down below this level.

Structural remains were also present and of similar early medieval date as trench 1. The top of a rubble wall lay at a depth of 0.50 m and possible ?floors at c 0.80 m. A midden deposit of shells was sealed by the wall at c 1.00 m depth.

The earliest layers 2/5 and 2/18 seen in the sondage at the north east end and in the centre of the trench respectively were silty clays with occasional charcoal flecks. Layer 2/5 was at least 0.40 m thick and produced several sherds of medieval pottery. Layer 2/18 This was cut by a small irregular feature, possibly a post hole (2/17) filled with a silty clay.

Overlying 2/17 and 2/18 in the middle of the trench was what appeared to be a stone surface or floor (2/16). The surface was made of limestone slabs, average size 0.38 m x 0.20 m x 0.06 m set in a sandy mortar. Above 2/16 was a layer of silty sand containing frequent shells and small pieces of limestone (2/11).

In the area to the north-east of but partially overlying the stone surface 2/16 and layer 2/11 was a midden of mainly Limpet shells (2/15). The shells were mixed with a slightly organic silty clay which also contained occasional Oyster shells and pieces of animal bone.

Overlying the midden was the remains of a rubble wall or wall footing 0.70 m wide (2/8). It ran at right angles through the trench and was made of large, crudely coursed irregular pieces of limestone and flint. The stones did not appear to be bonded by any type of mortar.

The wall was abutted on the north east side by two layers of silty clay: 2/9, which also contained pieces of limestone and medieval pottery sherds, and layer 2/19 below 2/9. At the north eastern limit of these two layers they had been cut away by a linear feature (2/6) running through the trench at right angles, 3 m from the north east end. The feature was also cutting into the top of the 2/5, and appeared to form a shallow gully. It was 1.30 m in width, 0.30 m deep and filled with a very silty, sandy clay containing sherds of medieval pottery.

Above feature 2/6, to the north east of, and abutting wall 2/8 were another two layers of silty clay: layer 2/14 which also contained lenses of fine gravel, and overlying 2/14 a much thicker (0.20 m) deposit (2/4), containing sherds of medieval pottery.

Existing only in the central third of the trench, south west of, but also partly overlying wall 2/8 was a thick (0.50 m) layer of silty clay with lenses of sand, gravel, pieces of limestone and shells (2/7). At the same level (but overlapping) 2/7 in the south western third of the trench was a thick (0.55 m) layer of slightly organic silty clay (2/12). This layer contained large amounts of animal bone and a few sherds of medieval pottery.

In the area of the trench above 2/12 was a thin (0.10 m) layer of small size limestone rubble (2/13) and above 2/4 (also partly overlying 2/7) a layer of clay loam 2/3.

Continuous throughout the trench and overlying layers 2/13, 2/7, 2/3 was a layer of silty clay loam (2/2). This was directly overlaid by the modern topsoil (2/1).

### Trench 3 (fig 6)

Trench 3 (15 m x 1.55 m) was aligned north-east - south-west. It lay at the south-east corner of the site adjacent to the recorded burials PRN 2149. The trench contained few archaeological deposits the most significant being two disturbed inhumations cutting into the bedrock. The top of the bedrock was reached at an average depth of 0.60 m throughout the trench.

The burials, which were at the south-west end of the trench were only partly within the trench and were not excavated. Actual grave cuts were difficult to define, but in one, 3/5, a human skull was clearly visible. Immediately to the south in what appeared to be a separate grave (3/4) an articulated human radius and ulna could be seen with other disturbed pieces of bone still further to the south.

The burials and the surviving areas of natural were overlaid by a layer of silty clay (3/3). Above 3/3 was a layer of silty clay loam containing 19th Century pottery sherds (3/2). This was directly overlaid by the modern topsoil (3/1).

#### Trench 4

Trench 4 (15 m x 1.55 m) was aligned north-south to the east of trench 3. The trench contained no archaeological features and was machine excavated straight down to the top of the "natural". This was reached at an average depth of only 0.40 m. There were two principal layers: a layer of silty clay with occasional small pieces of decayed chalk (4/2), and the modern topsoil (4/1).

#### Trench 5 (fig 9)

Trench 5 (17 m x 1.55 m) was aligned north-west - south-east and positioned at the very northeastern edge of the golf putting green. The transect area was constrained to the south-west by the putting green, the north-east by a hedge line and to the north-west and south-east by buried services.

The trench was first machine excavated to a depth of 1.2 m. No archaeological features were detected although deposits of alluvium and landfill, were recorded. The 0.5-0.7 m deep landfill deposit contained medieval-modern rubble, pottery and glass. Beneath the landfill deposit a 0.7-1.4/1.8 m deposit of alluvial/colluvial mix containing some medieval pottery was encountered. A 2.4 m deep sondage was cut at the south-eastern edge of the transect. A dense deposit of archaeologically sterile alluvium was traced to the base of the sondage.

The earliest layer (5/4) seen in the south-eastern sondage, consisted of a compact deposit of silt clay alluvium. No finds were recovered from this context. Overlying 5/4 was 5/3, a 0.7-1.1 m thick deposit of alluvial/colluvial mix containing the occasional water rounded sandstone fragment and cobble. Four sherds of medieval pottery were also recovered from this layer.

Above 5/3 was a 0.5 m thick 'landfill' deposit (5/2) containing post-medieval brick and tile, large blocks (0.2 x 0.4 m) of sandstone and concrete, small fragments of irregular shaped flint and sandstone, medieval and post-medieval pottery, post-medieval-modern glass fragments, animal bone and marine shell. This was directly overlain by the modern turf/topsoil 5/1.

#### Trench 6 (fig 9)

Trench 6 (5 m x 1.55 m) was aligned east-west. It was positioned the east-north-east of trench 5, on an area of slightly higher ground bordering the southern edge of Flowers Brook conduit. Attempts to place the trench to the north of the conduit failed, due to the high density of unrecorded electricity cables, water pipes and sewers encountered. The area of trench 6 was constrained to the east by an underground sewer, and to the west by a series of live electricity cables. Further trenching in this area proved impossible.

The trench was first machine excavated to a depth of 1.2 m. No archaeological features were detected, though deposits, in the form of colluvium, similar to those revealed from trenches 1 and 2, were recovered. A sondage, taking the depth to 1.7 m, was cut at the eastern end of the trench and revealed a thin (0.1 m) deposit of alluvium /colluvium mix containing medieval pottery. Geotechnic test pitting indicated that these deposits continued beyond 3 metres.

The earliest layer (6/13) seen in the eastern sondage consisted of a colluvial/alluvial mix of loam and silty clay. Six sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from this deposit. Layer 6/12 consisted of a 0.1 m thick deposit of archaeologically sterile alluvium. Layer 6/11 consisted of a 0.2 m thick deposit of hillwash. No finds were recorded from this layer.

Overlying 6/11 was 6/9, a thick (c. 0.6 m) band of colluvium containing single sherds of Roman and post Medieval pottery and a number of small animal bones, sandstone and marine shell fragments. Larger quantities of post medieval pottery and animal bone were recovered from 6/8, a final deposit of colluvial loam containing chalk, flint and cobble fragments. 6/8 was directly overlain by the modern turf/topsoil 6/7.

## THE GEOTECHNIC SURVEY (FIG 2)

Seven test pits were observed. These were machine excavated down to c. 4.0 m and were thus able to clarify depths of colluvial deposits. TF1, TF2, TF4 were located adjacent to the archaeological evaluation trenches. TF3 lay to the west between evaluation trenches 1 and 3. TF4 lay to the north-west of trench 5. TF5 and TF6 were, due to the limited area available for trenching, cut through the eastern sondages of transects 5 and 6 respectively.

### Geotechnical Test Pit TF1

Aligned north-west - south-east it was positioned immediately south-east of trench 1. There was an archaeological feature visible in the north east section. The feature fill was a soft, very orange brown silty clay sloping down 45% from west to east. The top of the feature was 1.10 m down from the present ground surface and at its deepest point the bottom was visible 1.80 m down.

Because of the depth physical access was not possible, but the top of the bedrock occurred at about 2 m down from the present ground surface.

### Geotechnical Test Pit TF 2

This was aligned east - west and was positioned immediately south of trench 2. This pit produced no extra archaeological data than that obtained from trench 2.

Fragments of pottery were visible at a depth of 1 m and the bedrock appeared to be at about 1.60 m down from the present ground surface.

### Geotechnical Test Pit TF3

Aligned east-west and was position on the slope in the south-west quarter of the site.

This pit produced on archaeological data and clearly showed the top of the bedrock to be 0.75 m down from the present ground surface.

### Geotechnical Test Pit TF 4

Aligned east-west and position on the slope to the south of trench 4.

This pit produced no archaeological data and clearly showed the top of the bedrock to be 0.60 m down from the present ground surface.

### Geotechnical Test Pit CP1

Aligned north-east - south-west this pit was positioned to the north-east of trench 5. The position of buried services ensured that the pit was not excavated below a depth of 2.85 m. Stratigraphy was similar to that recorded from trench 5, with a 0.8 m thick deposit of made ground, containing some post-medieval brick, marine shell and decomposed wood fragments, overlying a series of alluvial deposits.

### Geotechnical Test Pit CP2

Aligned north-east - south-west this pit was positioned at the north-eastern end of trench 5. The pit was excavated to a depth of 3.9 m but produced no extra archaeological data than that obtained from trench 5.



### Geotechnical Test Pit CP3

Aligned north-east - south-west at the south-western (sondage) end of trench 5. The pit was excavated to a depth of 3 m but produced no additional archaeological data.

### Geotechnical Test Pit CP4

Aligned east-west at the western (sondage) end of trench 6. The pit was excavated through colluvial and alluvial deposits to a depth of 3.1 m. Water seepage commenced at 2.9 m. A single sherd of Iron Age (?) pottery was recovered, together with seven fragments of marine shell, at a depth of 2.5 m.

### COMMENT ON THE RELIABILITY OF RESULTS

The conditions during the Flowers Brook Recreation Ground excavation were generally good, except on one day when constant heavy rain made the cleaning and photography of trench 2 very difficult. This, however, should not have affected the overall interpretation of the trench, only the quality of photographs. The conditions during the Flowers Brook Caravan Park evaluation were good and the light rain experienced did not hinder the excavation.

This type of trenching through colluvial and alluvial deposits does present problems of interpretation. It is felt that the results reflect a reasonable sample of the archaeological remains on the site. Due to the sample size, location of constraints and the overall depth of deposits in some areas, however, significant isolated archaeological deposits may have remained undetected especially beneath the area of medieval settlement within the Flowers Brook Recreation Ground

The area of putting green belonging to Flowers Brook Caravan Park was not accessible for evaluation and therefore it was not possible to test for the presence of the medieval structures in this area.

### CONCLUSIONS

It is clear from trenches 1 and 2 that in the more gently sloping and lower lying area (the north-eastern half of the site) there are deep and relatively undisturbed stratified archaeological deposits (fig 2). The extent of the disturbance from the later cottages within Flowers Brook Recreation Ground is not known. The upper layers of these reflect settlement activity from the late Saxon period onwards. Stone structures appear reasonably well preserved. Two main periods of occupation are perhaps hinted: i) a late Saxon & early medieval settlement with little activity beyond the 13th Century and then ii) the appearance of cottages along Flowers Brook from perhaps the 17th Century to their demolition in 1834 (v. above).

The lower horizons beneath this early medieval activity appear to be a sequence of colluvial and land-slip deposits containing some archaeological material - including human remains.

The evidence from trenches 1 and 3, and from previous reportings would indicate that there are a large number of inhumations on the higher ground, both to the north, west and south-west. The date of the burials discovered during the evaluation is uncertain but they appear to pre-date the early-medieval settlement. There have been other burials found in the close vicinity dating from the prehistoric and Roman periods. It would seem likely, therefore, that the burials on the site are of a similar date.

The evidence recovered from trench 5 (alluvial clay) and trench 6 (undisturbed hillwash deposits) confirm that the conduit recorded c. 15 m to the south-west of the modern toilet block, does not mark the original position of Flowers Brook (v fig 8).

Further archaeological deposits may, therefore, lie to the immediate south of the former stream bed, within the area now defined by the putting green. It was not possible to confirm whether the Medieval settlement extended into this area.

APPENDIX 1 : FINDS

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Pottery	Bone	Miscellaneous
<b>TRENCH 1</b>						
U/S	Machine spoil				11 pieces of animal bone and 22 pieces of human bone	
1/1	Topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam	0.14	2 sherds - Post-Medieval, 1 sherd - Medieval		
1/2	Layer	Medium to dark grey/brown clay loam with occasional small pieces of limestone	0.29	21 sherds - mixed Medieval and Post Medieval	18 small pieces of animal bone	4 pieces of shell, 1 piece of iron slag
1/3	Layer	Medium to dark grey/brown clay loam with 30% small limestone rubble	0.22			
1/4	Layer	Medium size limestone rubble mixed with a dark grey clay loam	0.20		6 pieces of animal bone	1 piece of iron slag
1/5	Deposit	Dark grey/brown clay loam containing large amounts of mortar	0.10	6 sherds - Medieval	12 pieces of bone including 1 burnt piece	3 pieces of shell, 2 Fe nails, 1 piece of slag (?)
1/6	Layer	Pale olive brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks	0.18	2 sherds - Early Medieval (10th-12th Century)	2 pieces of human bone	1 piece of shell

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Pottery	Bone	Miscellaneous
1/7	Colluvium	Medium to dark reddish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and shells	Unknown			
1/8	Layer	Dark brown clay loam with occasional pieces of limestone	0.12	2 sherds - Medieval		2 pieces of mortar
1/9	Layer	Dark brown silty clay loam with occasional pieces of limestone	0.22	1 sherd - Medieval		
1/10	Possible old ground surface	Very dark brown, soft and slightly peaty silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks	Unknown	25 sherds - Medieval (10th-13th Century)	1 small piece of bone	2 pieces of burnt stone and 4 pieces of charcoal
1/11	Wall	SE-NW aligned wall made of fairly large pieces of limestone bonded with a pale yellow sandy mortar				
1/12	Wall	SW-NE aligned wall made of medium size pieces of limestone bonded with a pale yellow mortar	Unknown			
1/13	Layer	Medium brown silty clay	Unknown			
1/14	Layer	Compact, dark reddish brown silty clay loam	0.15	1 sherd - Medieval		
1/15	Possible alluvium/colluvium	Light grey silty clay	Unknown	3 sherds - Medieval		
1/16	Possible floor/floor make-up	Compact, bright yellow mortar and sand with occasional charcoal and gravel	0.13			

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Pottery	Bone	Miscellaneous
1/17	Layer	Medium size limestone rubble	0.12			
1/18	Inhumation	Remains of human skeleton				
<b>TRENCH 2</b>						
2/1	Topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam	0.22			
2/2	Layer	Pale grey silty clay loam	0.14	1 sherd - Early Medieval (10th-12th Century)	1 piece of animal bone, 1 piece of human bone (?)	
2/3	Layer	Medium to dark grey/brown slightly silty clay loam	0.28	5 sherds - Medieval		
2/4	Layer	Dark grey/brown silty clay with occasional fragments of limestone and charcoal	0.20	3 sherds - Medieval		
2/5	Colluvium	Dark grey/brown silty clay	> 0.40	4 sherds - Medieval (10th-13th Century)		1 piece of shell
2/6	Ditch	Shallow ditch aligned N-S	0.28	19 sherds - Medieval (13th Century)	2 pieces of animal bone	2 pieces of iron slag
2/6/1	Fill of 2/6	Medium grey very silty clay with occasional pieces of limestone	0.28			
2/7	Layer	Medium grey/brown silty clay with frequent pieces of limestone, gravel and shells	0.55	3 sherds - Medieval	2 pieces of animal bone	

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Pottery	Bone	Miscellaneous
2/8	Wall	Two surviving courses of a crudely built wall, made of fairly large, irregular pieces of flint and limestone	0.25			
2/9	Layer	Dark grey silty clay and occasional pieces of limestone and charcoal	0.12	4 sherds - Medieval		1 piece of iron slag
2/10	Lens	Light grey clay silt	0.06			
2/11	Layer	Very mixed layer of silty clay sand, limestone and shells	0.16		35 small pieces of animal bone	
2/12	Old ground surface	Dark grey, soft and slightly organic silty clay, containing large amounts of animal bone and occasional charcoal	0.60		107 small pieces of animal bone	12 shells, 3 pieces of iron slag
2/13	Layer	Small limestone rubble	0.11			
2/14	Layer	Dark grey silty clay with lenses of fine gravel	0.11			
2/15	Midden	Midden of limpet shells in dark grey silty clay, also contains occasional animal bones and oyster shells	0.20			
2/16	Stone surface	Stone surface made of large but fairly flat pieces of limestone laid in a pale yellow sandy mortar	0.05			
2/17	Possible post-hole	Small irregular feature with one pitched stone in fill	0.07			

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Pottery	Bone	Miscellaneous
2/18	Alluvium/ colluvium	Light grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks	Unknown			
2/19	Layer	Very dark grey silty clay	0.14		10 pieces of animal bone	12 pieces of shell
2/20	Same as 1/15					
<b>TRENCH 3</b>						
3/1	Topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam	0.21	2 sherds - Post Medieval, 1 sherd - Medieval	2 pieces of animal bone	1 fragment of clay pipe stem, 3 pieces of brick
3/2	Layer	Medium to dark grey/brown silty clay loam	0.38	9 sherds - Post Medieval	25 pieces of human bone	1 piece of shell
3/3	Possible old ground surface	Pale grey/brown silty clay	0.14			
3/4	Inhumation	Very disturbed human burial				
3/4/1	Fill of 3/4	Light grey silty clay with large amounts of decayed chalk	Unknown			
3/5	Inhumation	Human burial which appears to be aligned N-S				
3/5/1	Fill of 3/5	Light grey silty clay with large amounts of decayed chalk	Unknown			

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Pottery	Bone	Miscellaneous
<b>TRENCH 4</b>						
U/S	Machine spoil			8 sherds - 18th/19th Century	19 pieces of animal bone	3 fragments of clay pipe stem, 4 pieces of brick
4/1	Topsoil	Dark brown clay	0.21			
4/2	Layer	Medium to dark grey/brown silty clay loam	0.15			
<b>TRENCH 5</b>						
5/1	Topsoil	Dark Brown clay loam	0.15			
5/2	Layer	Grey/Brown silt loam	0.50	11 sherds - 17th +	Bone frags	
5/3	Layer	Grey/Brown silt loam	1.20	4 sherds - Medieval		
5/4	Layer	Brown silty clay	0.50+			
<b>TRENCH 6</b>						
6/7	Topsoil	Dark Brow clay loam	0.22			
6/8	Layer	Brown silt loam	0.50	6 sherds - Medieval & post Medieval	Bone frags	
6/9	Layer	Lt Brown/Yellow silt loam	0.50	2 sherds - Roman grey ware; Post Medieval	Bone frags	



Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Pottery	Bone	Miscellaneous
6/10	Machine Spoil			19 sherds - Roman - > Post Medieval		
6/11	Layer	Orange clay loam	0.20			
6/12	Layer	Dark grey silty clay	0.10			
6/13	Layer	CP4 Brown silty clay	0.30	6 Sherds - Medieval		
6/14	Layer	CP4 Dark brown clay loam @ depth 2.30-2.50	0.20	2 Sherds - ? Late Saxon/Prehistoric		

## Pottery Finds (Cathy Underwood-Keevill)

A total of 125 sherds weighing 0.9 kg was recovered from four trial trenches. The material has been assigned to broad fabric types and vessel types and weighed and counted as context groups. The majority of the assemblage consisted of sandy fabric types with varying amounts of limestone, shell and flint added. These are mainly used in the manufacture of cooking pots, some with splashed glaze detail. The coarse limestone and flint fabrics MDDL and MDSL appear to date from the C11-C12 with long everted rim cooking pots and frilled thumbled rim cooking pots similar to Saxo-Norman types in Southampton (Platt and Coleman-Smith 1975). Saxo-Norman sherds were recovered from contexts 1/10, 2/3, 2/5 and 2/9 and 212. Another possible early fabric type, fabric type MDFL, was present in context 1/6 dated to the C10-C12 (Brown 1986). The main sandy fabric with limestone and occasional coarse flint appears from the bevelled rim cooking pot types to be mainly C13 in date and was present in contexts 1/2, 1/5, 1/5/1, 1/9, 1/8, 1/10, 2/5, 2/6 and 3/2. In some of these cases the sherds are clearly residual or in contaminated contexts. C17-C18 material is represented by sherds of red earthenware dishes and pancheons with internal green and yellow glaze from Verwood in Hampshire.

The second phase of the assessment produced 50 sherds of pottery weighing 0.835 kg from seven contexts in two trenches. There was a far higher proportion of Saxo-Norman type fabric MDDL from this site. The size and condition of the Saxo-Norman pottery was also notably better. The limestone tempered fabric was present in contexts 5/2, 5/3 and 6/10. As in site 1 the main sandy fabric type appears to be MDQL a sandy fabric with occasional limestone and flint dated to the C13. Fine wares such as Laverstock type jug sherds with incised line decoration (context 6/8) seem to be more prevalent. Late Medieval and Post-medieval pottery is also represented on this site with a baluster jug base in a sandy local Southampton fabric in context 5/3 dated to the C14/15 and imported Raeren and Westerwald tankard fragments dated to the C16 in context 6/8.

Two Roman sherds were also noted in context 6/9 and 6/10. One is a sherd of Black Burnished ware from Dorset and the other a wide mouthed rolled rim jar with high shoulder in grey sandy ware dated at Clausentum (Bitterne, Southampton) to the late C4 (Aylwin Cotton and Gathercole 1958, fig 29, no 19).

Post-medieval Verwood products consisting of large dish or creaming pan rims dated to the C17/18 were also recovered from contexts 5/2, 6/8, and 6/9 and in small quantities in context 6/10.

One sherd of possible prehistoric date was noted in context 6/14. It consists of a coarse shell tempered fabric similar to that recovered from context 1/15 on the first assessment.

## Bibliography

Aylwin Cotton M, and Gatherpole P W, 1958 *Excavations at Clausentum Southampton 1951-1954*.

Brown D, 1986 'The Pottery' in J Oxley (ed) *Excavations at Southampton Castle 85-103*.

Platt C and Coleman-Smith R, 1975 *Excavations in Medieval Southampton 1953-69, Volume 2. The finds*.

POTTERY ASSESSMENT

Flowers Brook Recreation Ground

CTX	FT1	FT2	FT3	FT4	VESSEL	NO	WT	COMMENTS
4	VERW	FREC	CREM		Dish rim	8	137	Verwood type C18 dish C19 fine wares
1/1	VERW	RAER	LAVE		Dish base	3	90	Yellow GL with BR flecks C18? C13 Laverstock W
1/2	MDQL	MDQ	VERW	MDDL	CP Rims	21	142	Everted bevelled CP Rim MDQL C13
1/5	MDQL	VERW			CP?	5	15	C13-C17/C18 FT
1/5/1	MDQL				?	1	1	Very small sherd similar to MDQL but coarse Med??
1/6	MDFL				CP	2	6	Poss C10-C12 CP wares flint T CP known Soton
1/9	MDQL				CP Rim	1	6	CP flat topped splayed rim lid sea C13/C14?
1/8	MDQL				CP?	2	8	MDQL one reduced version C13?
1/10	MDQL	MDSL			CP + PITC	25	218	Bevelled CP rim MDSL + Pinch lip PITC G/ GL
1/14	MDQ				CP?	1	2	Oxidised red local ware C12-C14 Soton
1/15	MDSL	MDQ	PRLQ			3	4	Worn Unus FT reduced round Limest and white quartz
2/2	MDSL				CP	1	8	Limest + red clay matter/grog shelly
2/3	MDSL	MDQL	MDFQ		CP base	5	19	
2/4	MDQF	MDQ			CP?	3	7	MDQF very small sherds/MDQ = local Soton Med
2/5	MDSL	MDQL			CP?	4	21	
2/6	MDQL				CP	2	13	G* G/ Int? one sherd reduced C13?
2/6/1	MDQL				CP rim	17	103	Flat topped traing section CP rim C13?
2/7	MDQL				CP?	3	27	
2/9	MDSL				CP?	4	64	Base frags?
2/12	MDSL	MDFQ			CP?	2	3	Large sherd MDSL/MDFQ
3/1	BWPW	MDQ	VERW		CP + Plate	3	23	MDQ maybe import
3/2	VERW	MDQL	UDQ		Panc	9	66	C17/C18 Panc/butter pot
Total						125	987	

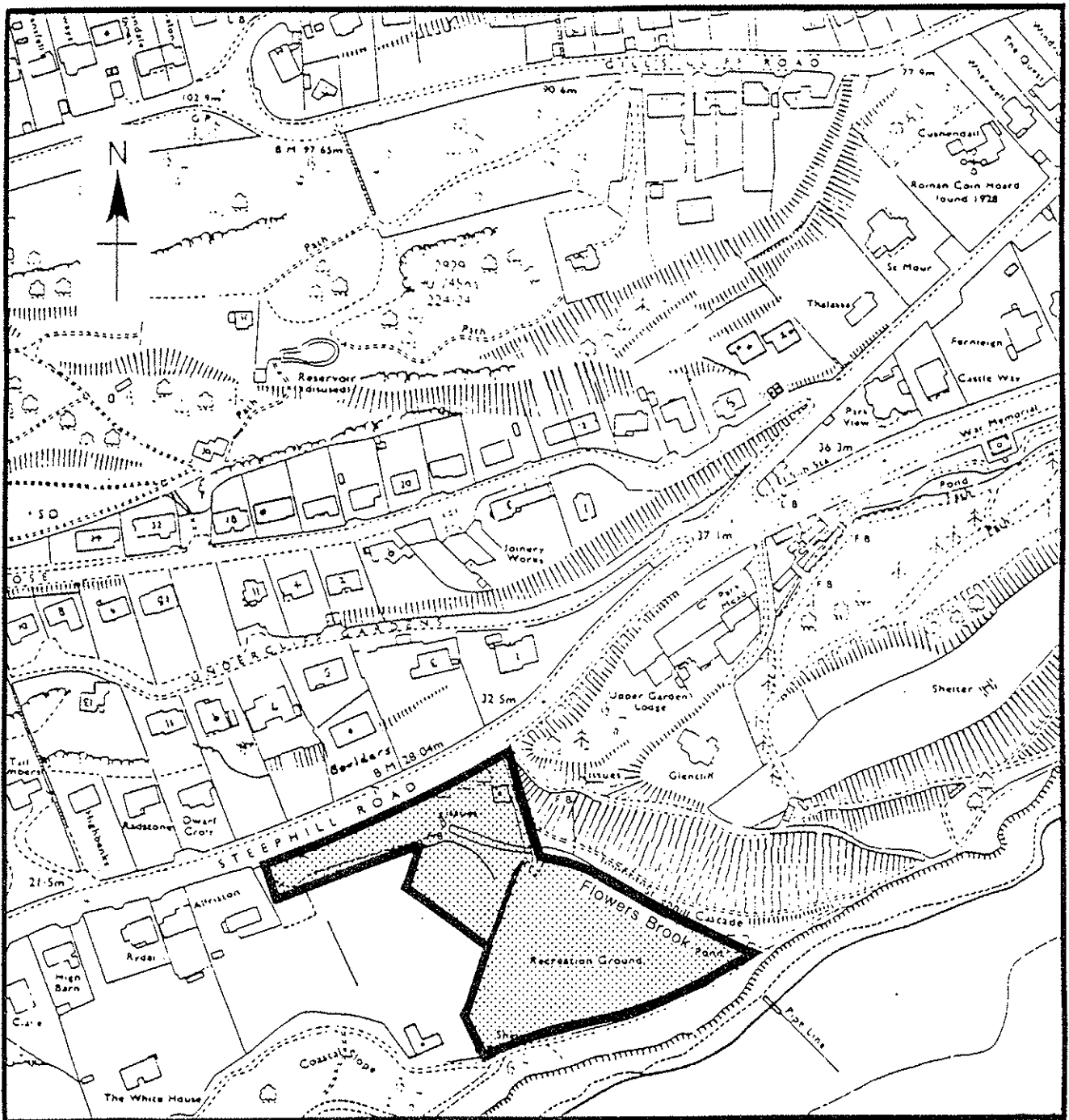
Flowers Brook Caravan Park

CTX	FT1	FT2	FT3	FT4	VESSEL	No.	Wt.	COMMENTS
5/2	VERW	MDDL	MDQF	MDQ	CRMPAN/CP	11	241	CRM/PAN RIM C17/C18+ PORR C17/MDST= Late Sax? C11
5/3	MDQ	MDDL	MDQL		CP/JUGB	4	90	Baluster Jug Base C14/C15 CP RIM MDQL C13?
6/8	VERW	RAER	WEST	LAVE	JUGD+TANK	6	160	CRMPAN C17/18+ Dec Jug C13/14 LAVE + RAER TANK C16
6/9	VERW	RMGW			STORJAR	2	76	Roman Greyw Inturned Bead Storage Jar + VERW Bowl
6/10	MDQF	MDQL	MDDL	LAVE	CP RIM/JUG	19	225	MDDL C11?/MDQL Rim C13/Lave/ROM BB1?/VERW C17/C18
6/13	MDQL	LAVE			CP/JUG	6	29	Laverstock Jug W very worn C13/C14
6/14	MDQL	PRLQ			CP?	2	14	Coarse shell (very like OXH Late Saxon??)
Total						50	835	

## FABRIC TYPE CODES

BWPW	Blue and white painted ware late C19.
CREM	Creamware 1860 ->
FREC	Frechen C15-C16-C17 drinking jugs.
LAVE	Laverstock kiln ware. Laverstock, Wilts C13-C14 (Context 1/1).
MDQL	Quartz, limestone and coarse flint occas local Southampton? product.
MDFL}	
MDSL}	Saxo-Norman?
MDDL}	Coarse med products?
MDQ}	
PRLQ	?Prehistoric Lmst/Quartz
RAER	Raeren C16 Tankard
RMGR	Roman Grey Ware
VERW	Verwood Kilns, Hants (New Forest) C17-C19 kitchen/storage products.
WEST	Westerwald C16 Tankard

Oxford Archaeological Unit  
October 1992



SCALE 1:2500  
 0 100 200 m.

Figure 1

# Trench Location plan

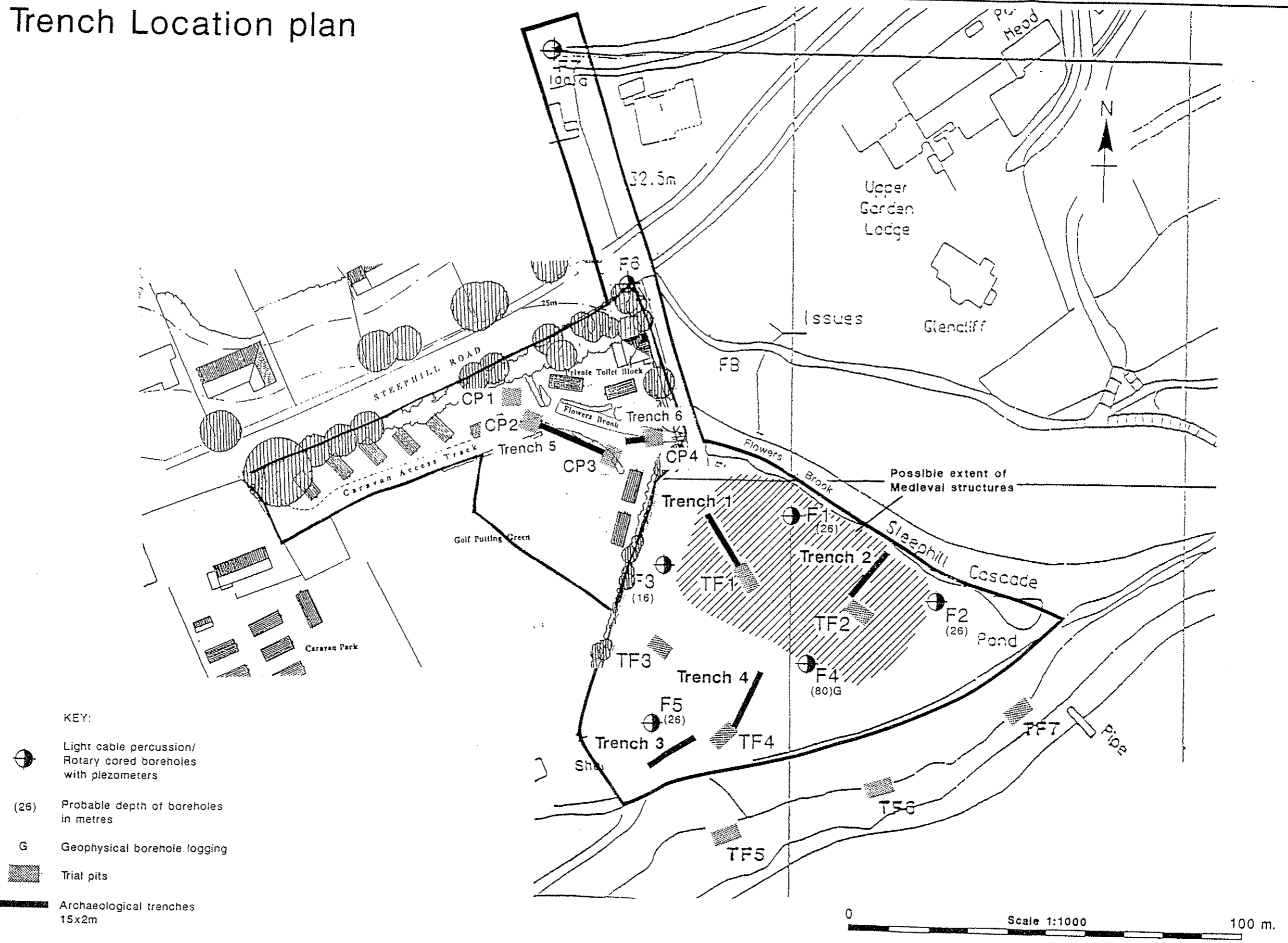
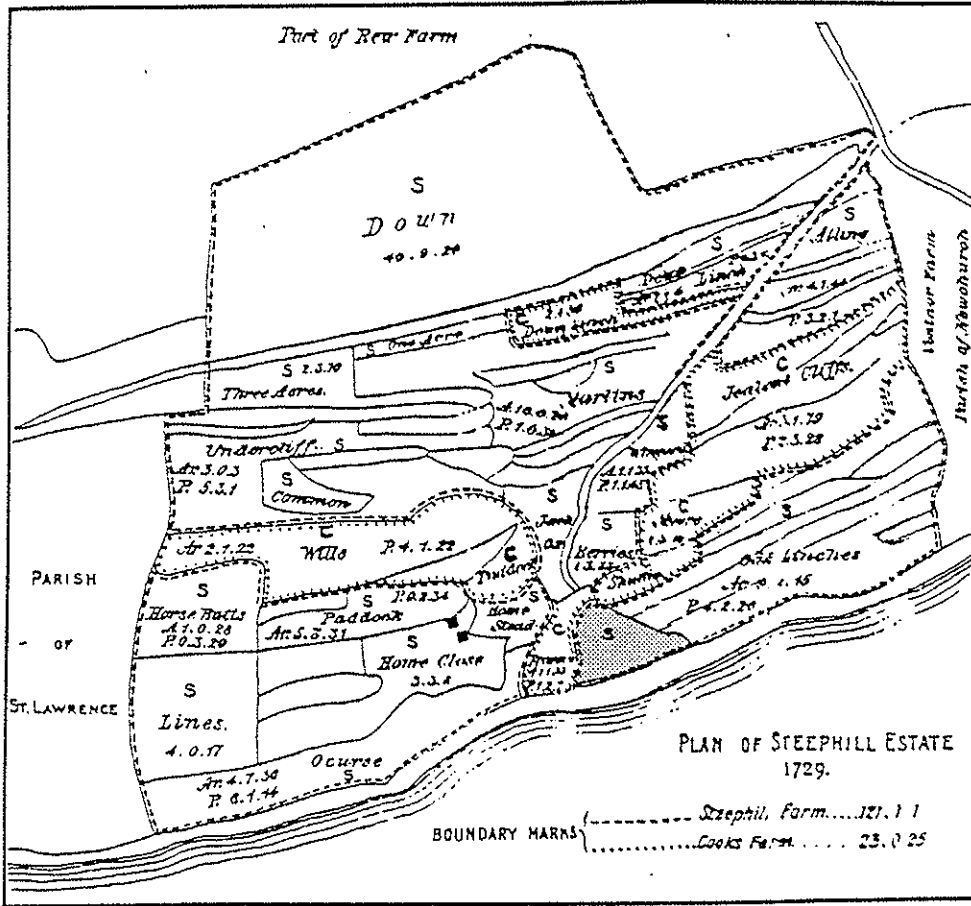
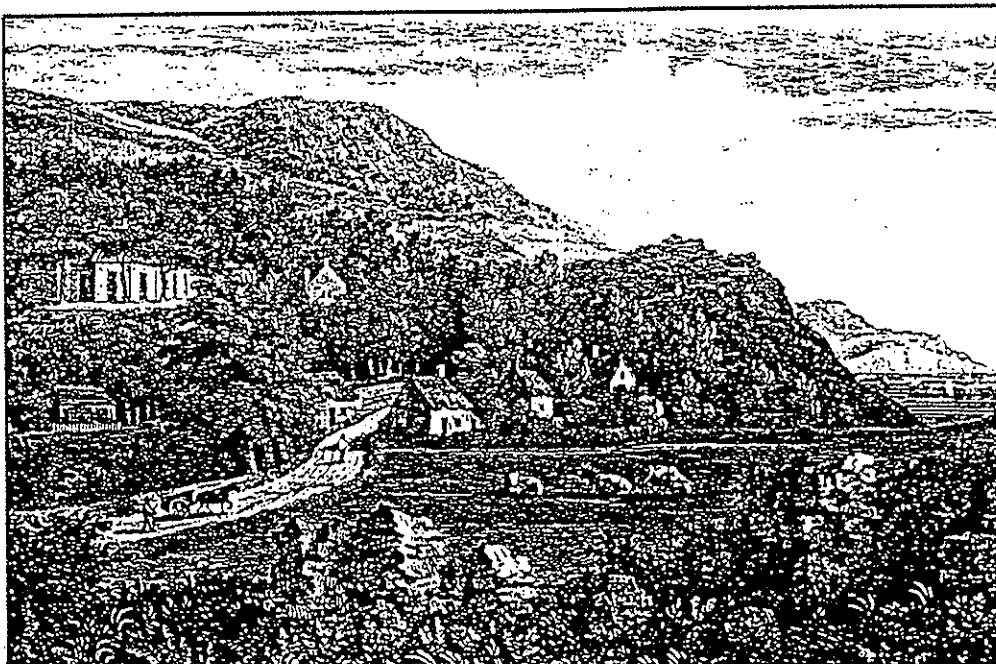


Figure 2



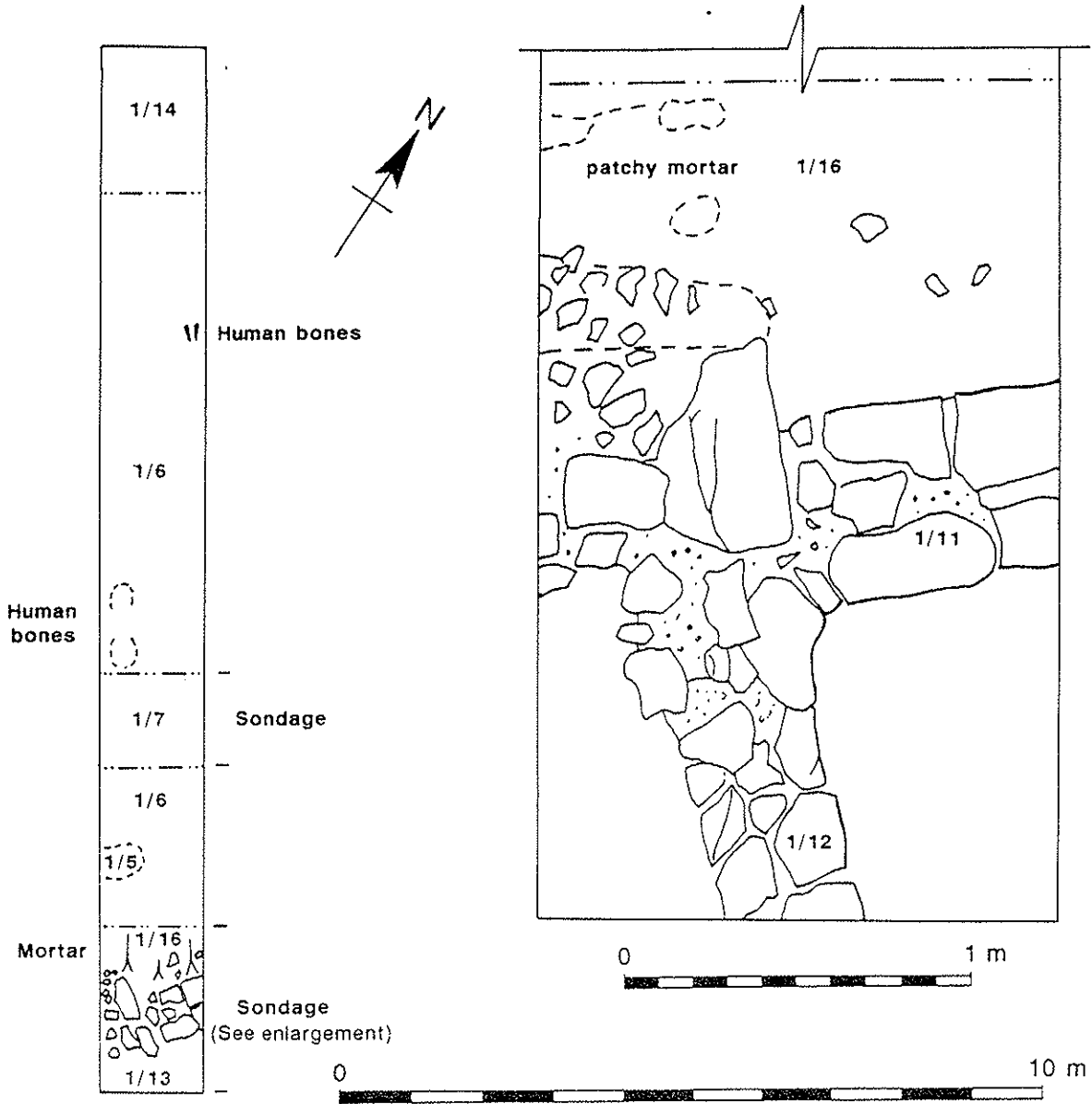


A. Map of Steephill 1729 showing Flowers Brook as part of Steephill Farm



B. Steephill in 1821 showing the Governor's house and three cottages on Flowers Brook

A. TRENCH 1: Plan



B. NW section

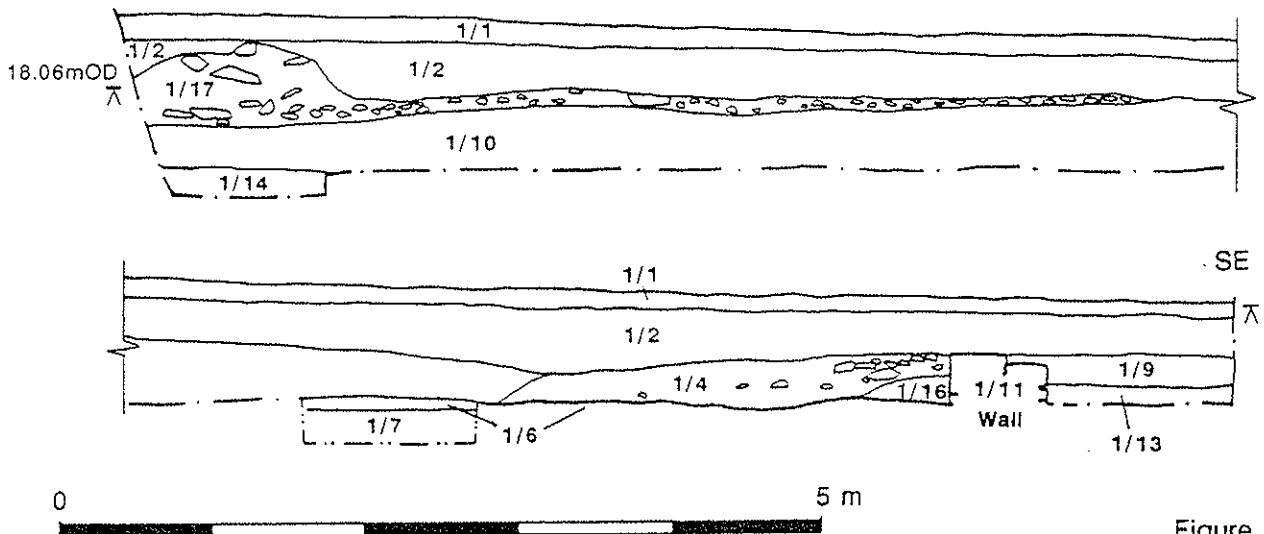


Figure 4

# TRENCH 2: Plan

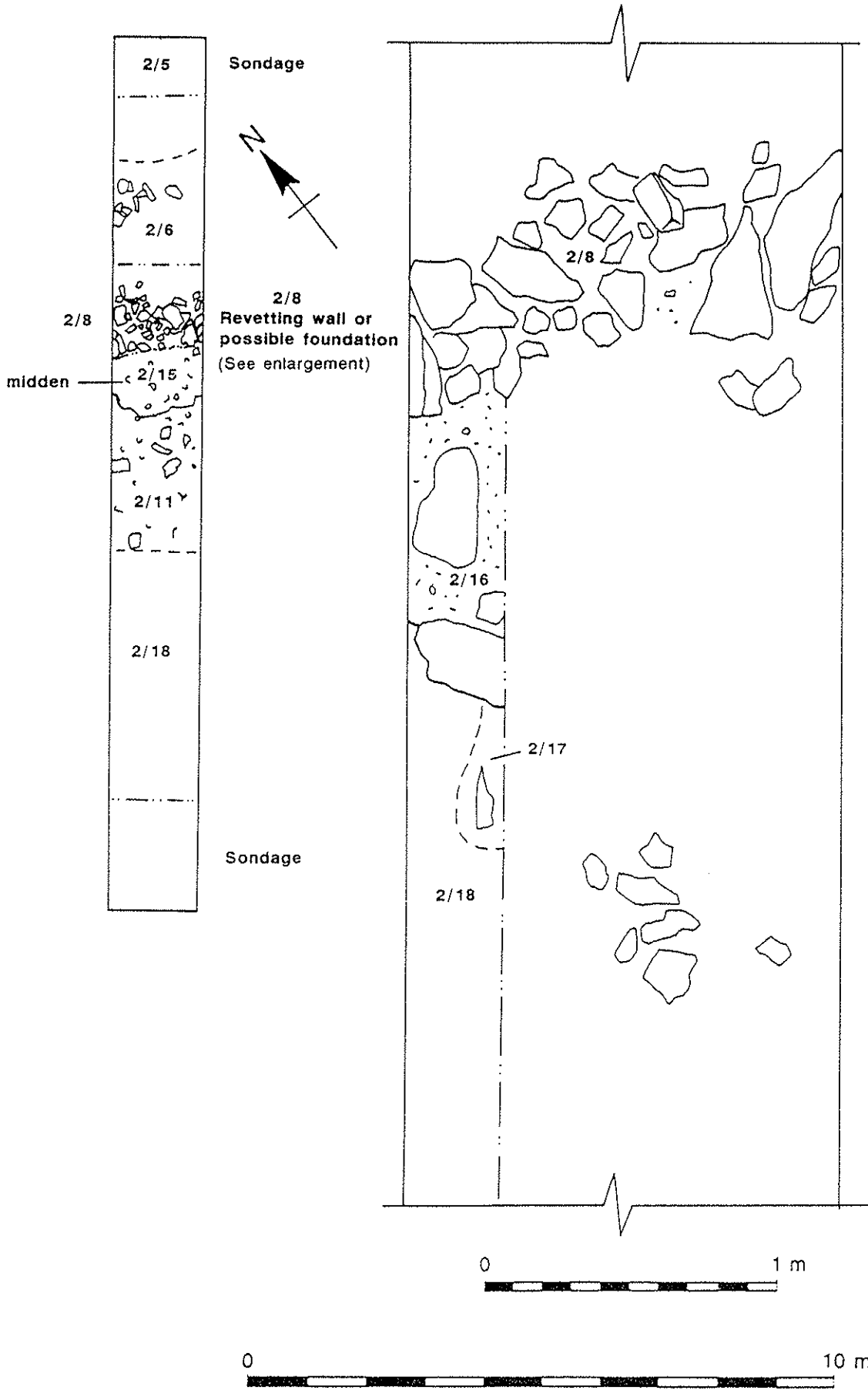


Figure 5

# TRENCH 2: Section

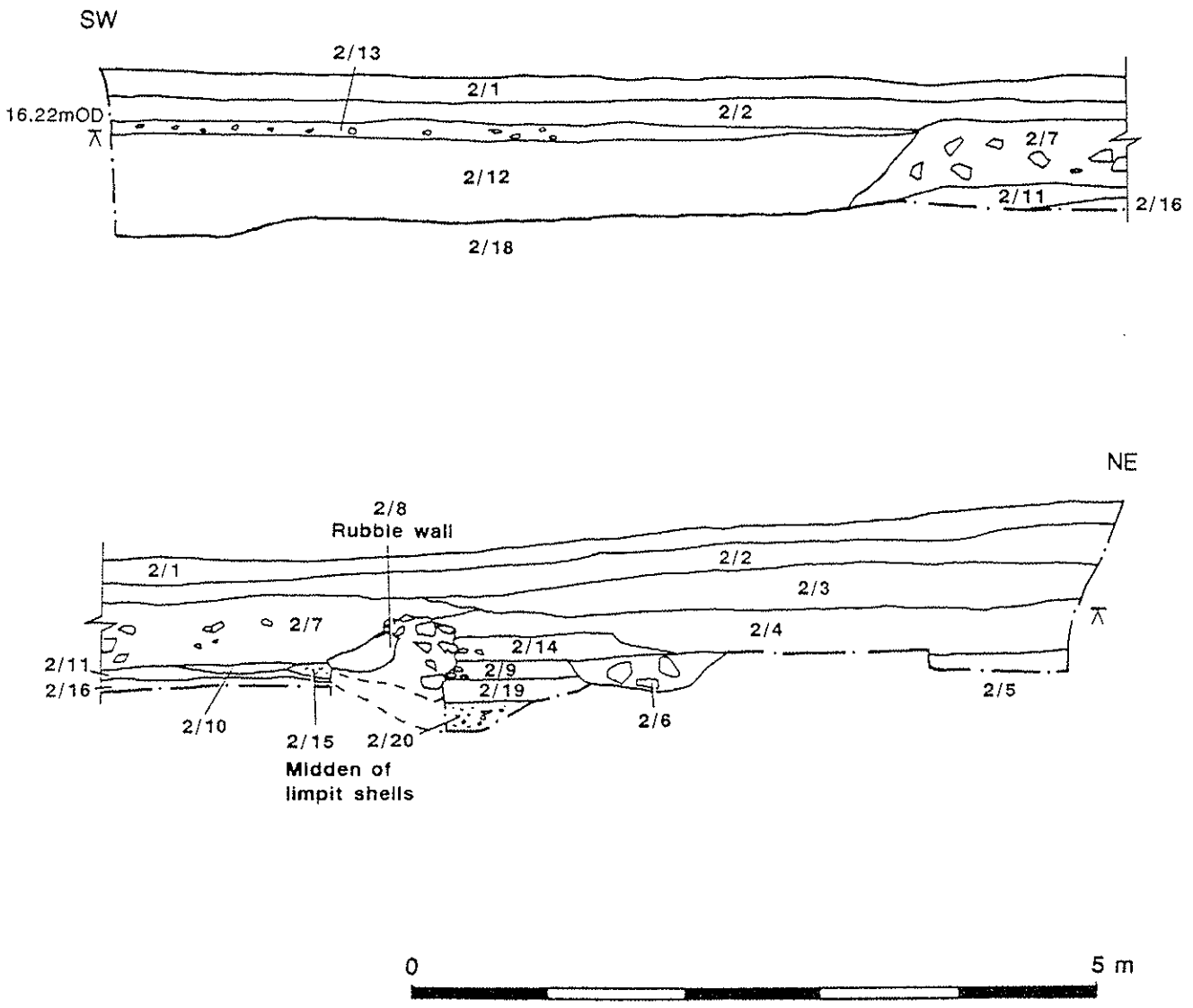
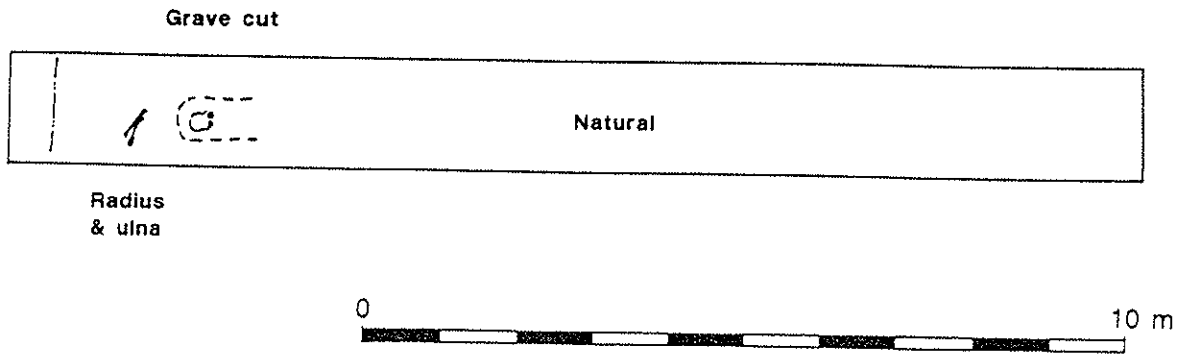


Figure 6

A. TRENCH 3: Plan



B. Section

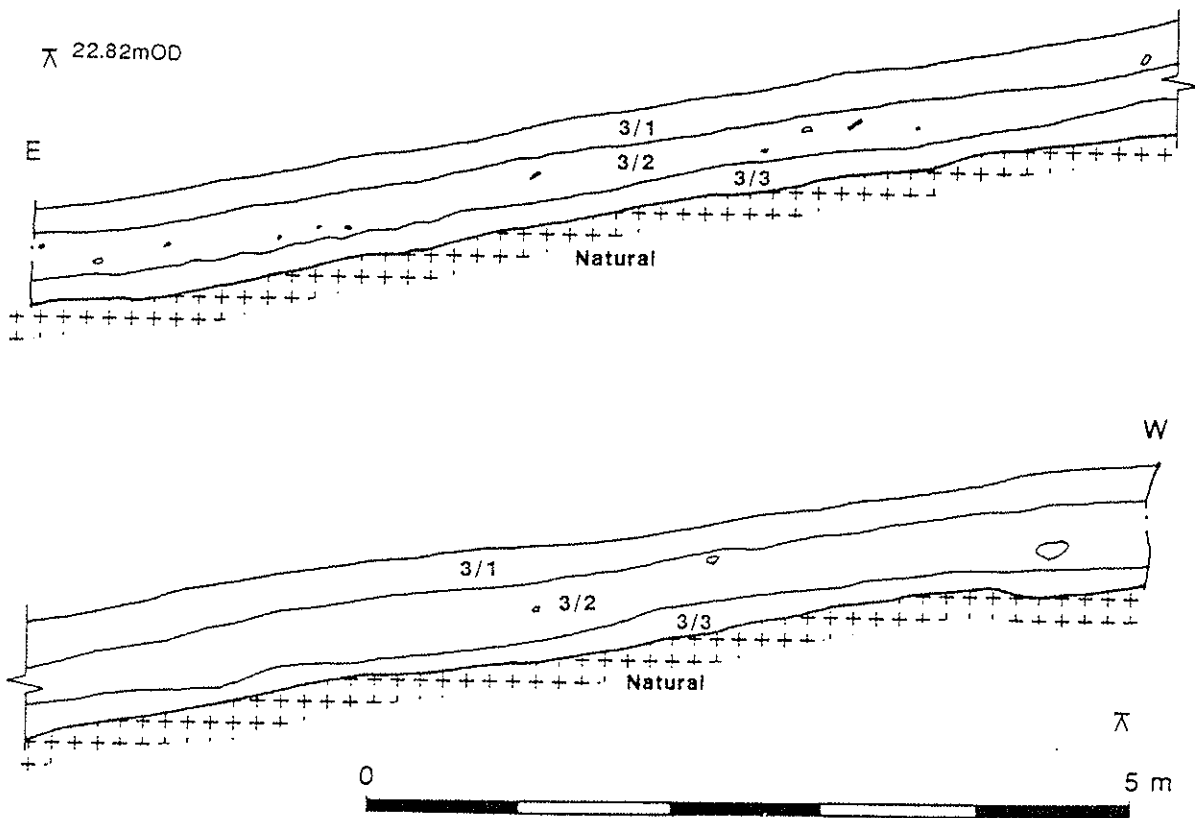
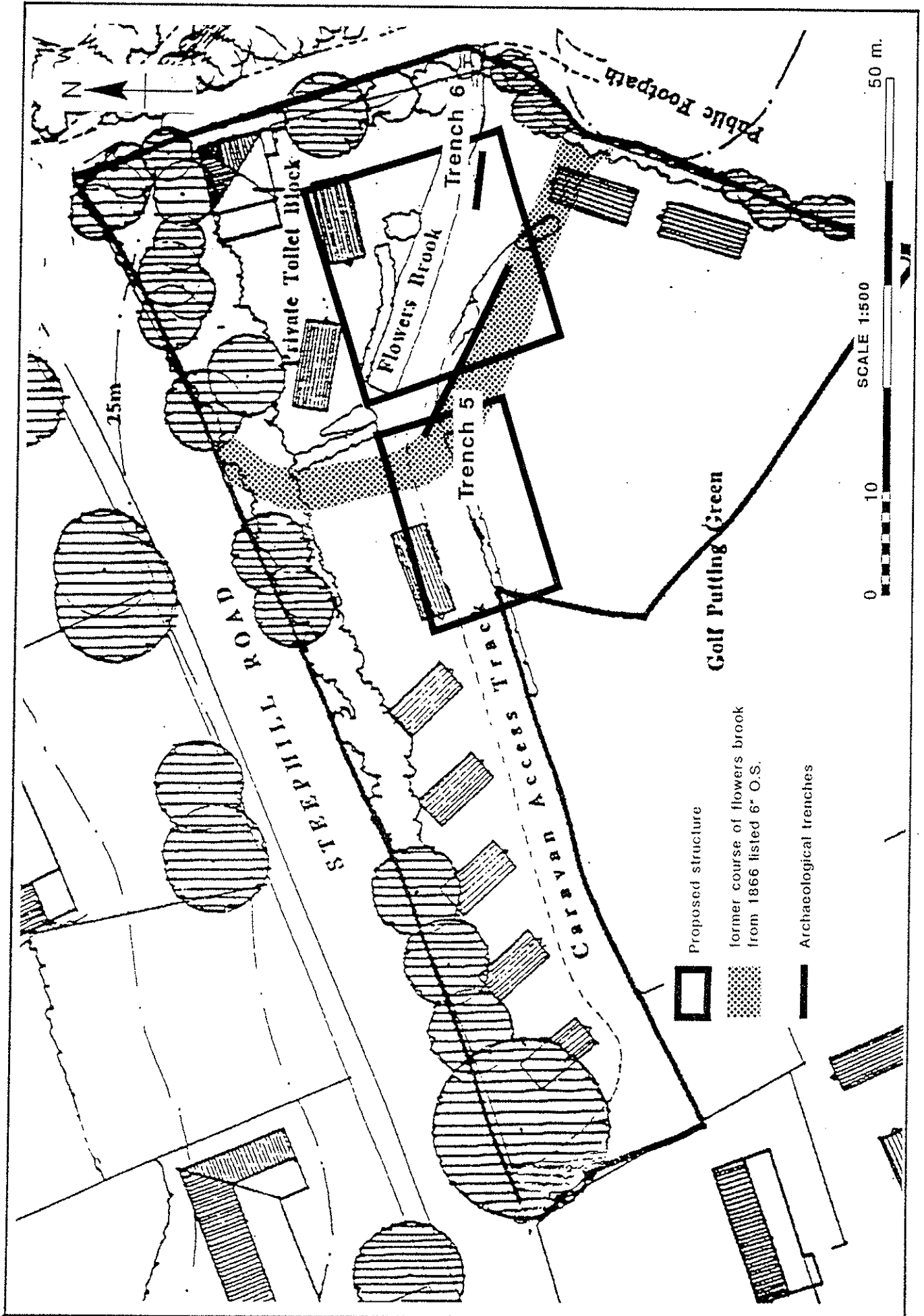


Figure 7



Proposed structure

former course of flowers brook  
from 1866 listed 6- O.S.

Archaeological trenches

Golf Putting Green

STEEP HILL ROAD

CARAVAN ACCESS TRACK

Private Toilet Block

Flowers Brook

Trench 6

Trench 5

Public Footpath

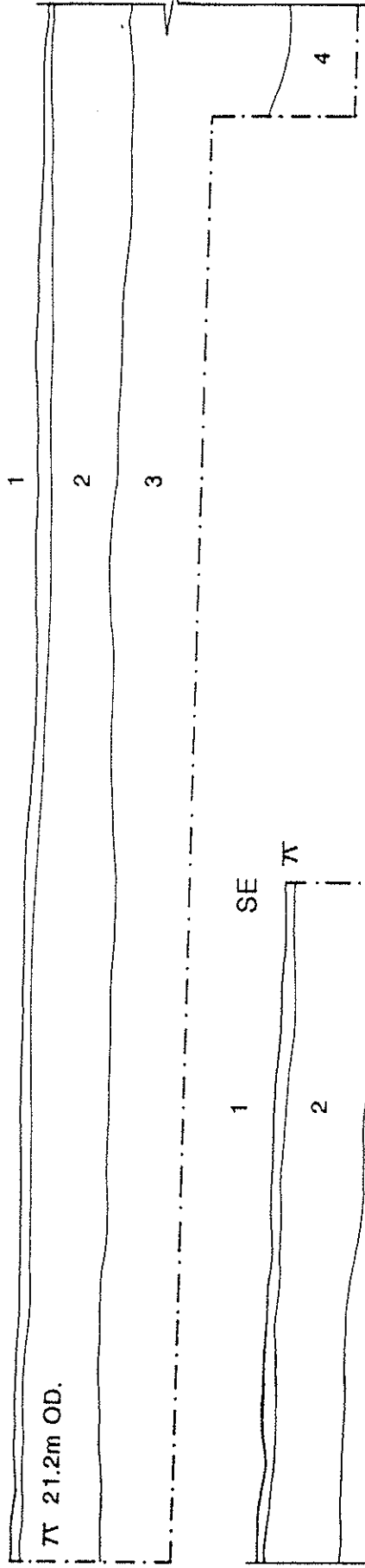
SCALE 1:500

50 m.

25m

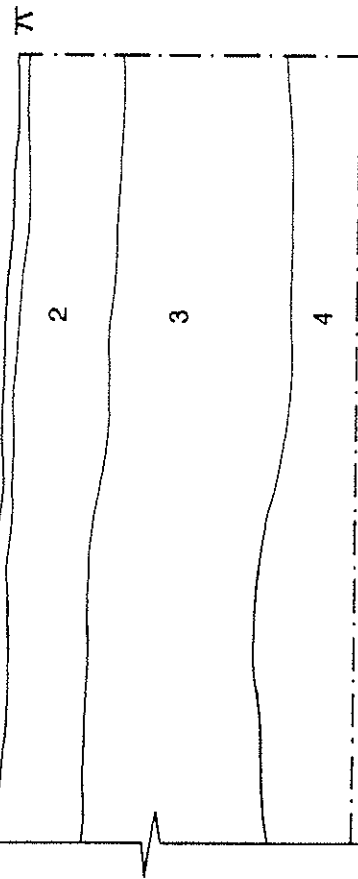
# Trench 5 Section

NW

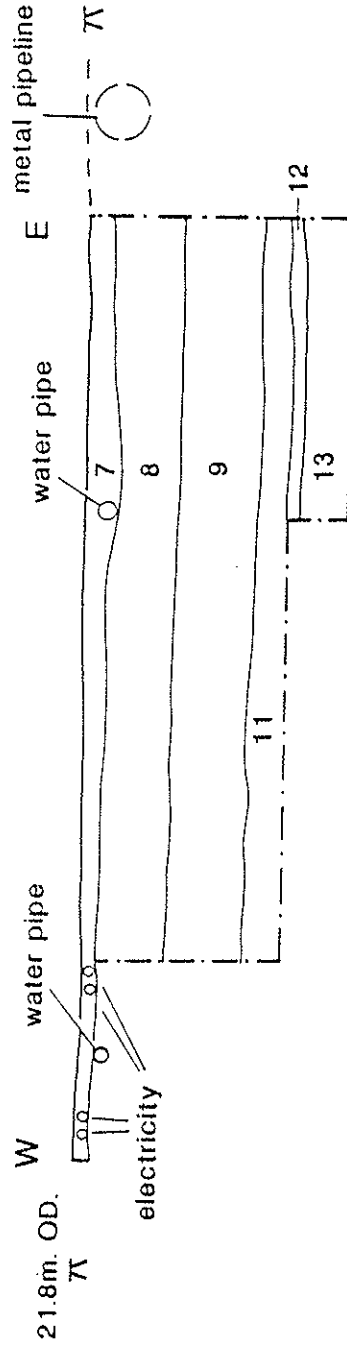


1  
2  
3  
4

SE



# Trench 6 Section



SCALE 1:50

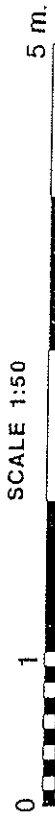


Figure 9