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Try Homes

St Andrew's House, Oakwood Hospital, Maidstone, Kent.

*ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT*

NGR: TQ 735 552

Planning Ref MA/96/0333 and MA/99/0630

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July 2000

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# St Andrew's House, Oakwood Hospital, Maidstone, Kent.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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## SUMMARY

*The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) carried out a field evaluation at St Andrew's House, Oakwood Hospital on behalf of Try Homes. The evaluation revealed extensive disturbance dating from the Victorian period but no earlier finds or features.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Location and scope of work (Figs 1 and 2)

1.1.1 In July 2000 the OAU carried out a field evaluation within the grounds of St Andrew's House, Oakwood Hospital, Maidstone, Kent (NGR TQ 735 552) on behalf of Try Homes in respect of a planning application (Planning ref MA/96/0333 and MA/99/0630) for redevelopment of the site for residential use based on a specification set by Kent County Council. The development site is situated north of St Andrew's Road and east of Hermitage Lane, Barming, which is to the west of Maidstone (Figs 1 & 2).

#### 1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The underlying geology is Hythe Beds. The evaluation was carried out within level ground formerly used for car parking, north of St Andrew's House at 79 m OD.

#### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The Sites and Monuments Record for Kent indicates that prehistoric remains have been found in the area of St Lawrence Chapel including a Bronze Age cremation and several Bronze Age beakers. An Iron Age cremation and brooch found north-east of the present evaluation at St Lawrence Chapel shows further evidence of prehistoric activity.

1.3.2 A previous evaluation at Queens House, Oakwood Hospital revealed Neolithic or Bronze Age flints and late Bronze Age or Iron Age pottery. Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery has also been found approximately 240 m from the Oakwood site and a late Bronze Age or early Iron Age cup only 100 m away.

1.3.3 Roman pottery has been found in the area of St Lawrence Chapel and at Glebe Farm to the south. While a Roman burial containing a glass bottle and pottery was discovered approximately 570 m to the north of the Oakwood site.

1.3.4 St Lawrence Chapel is believed to be a medieval chapel while Oakwood Hospital is considered to be of post-medieval date.

1.3.5 Designed by local architect John Whichcord in 1829 and opened in 1833, St Andrew's House was the original building for the Kent County Lunatic Asylum. The building originally housed 174 inmates and subsequently underwent substantial development in 1842 and 1847. In 1850 Queens House, north-east of St Andrew's House, was built to house the chronically insane.

- 1.3.6 St Andrew's House and Queens House are the subject of separate building surveys carried out by the OAU.

## **2 EVALUATION AIMS**

- 2.1.1 The objective of the evaluation was to establish whether any archaeological remains survive which may be affected by the proposed residential development, and in particular to ascertain their extent, depth below ground level, character, date and quality.

## **3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Scope of fieldwork**

- 3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of four trenches located to the north of St Andrew's House within areas of proposed car parking. The trenches measured between 12.2 and 15 m long by 1.8 m wide (Fig. 2). The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The location of Trench 1 was changed to avoid a service tunnel.

### **3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording**

- 3.2.1 The trenches were cleaned by hand and any revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds. The trenches and revealed features were planned at a scale of 1:50 and sample sections drawn at a scales of 1:20. All trenches and features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed D Wilkinson, 1992).

### **3.3 Finds**

- 3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context. Samples of brick were recovered as appropriate.

### **3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence**

- 3.4.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were uncovered.

### **3.5 Presentation of results**

- 3.5.1 The general results are followed by a description of individual trenches . This is followed by a brief description of the finds and a discussion of the results. A separate table detailing individual contexts is given in Appendix 1.

## **4 RESULTS: GENERAL**

### **4.1 Soils and ground conditions**

- 4.1.1 The site is located on part of the Hythe Beds and the underlying natural consists of sand and silty sands. Ground conditions were dry during the evaluation.

## 4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

- 4.2.1 No archaeological features were revealed and deposits earlier than the Victorian period were absent or completely truncated by Victorian and post-Victorian activity.

## 5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

### 5.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

- 5.1.1 Trench 1 was aligned east-west and measured 15m long by 1.8 m wide.
- 5.1.2 The trench was moved slightly to the east of its initial orientation to avoid a services tunnel seen running north-south at its western end.
- 5.1.3 A pale brownish-yellow natural sand, (107) was revealed at a depth of 78.14 m OD. This was overlain by an irregular band of orange sand (106) thought to be a natural variation within the geology of the Hythe Beds that underlay the site. This was overlain by natural deposit (105) and (Victorian) redeposited soils (103-104), which were sealed partly by a tarmac surface (100) and partly by topsoil (101). A small area of irregular stoney sand (109), exposed in the north-western corner of the trench, is also thought to be a natural variation within the Hythe Beds.
- 5.1.4 Two parallel brick built culverts (108) aligned northeast-southwest were revealed to the west of the trench. These are associated with the Victorian hospital and have a mixed ragstone rubble, mortar and soil backfill which contained 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery. The culverts were visible to a depth of 1.5 m and would have heavily truncated the underlying natural (107).

### 5.2 Trench 2 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 5.2.1 Trench 2 was aligned north-south and measured 12.2 m long by 1.8 m wide.
- 5.2.2 The underlying natural (206) was encountered at a depth of 77.33 m OD and varied from a clean orange sand to a stoney orange silty sand. This was cut by the insertion of a Victorian brick built culvert (208), a brick surround and stop-cock (207), a partially revealed system of metal piping (211) and pipeline (209). All of these features are associated with St Andrew's House and were overlain by backfill deposit (204). This was cut by modern pipeline (205) and overlain by made ground deposit (203), which was sealed by modern makeup deposit (202) and tarmac surface (200).

### 5.3 Trench 3 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 5.3.1 Trench 3 was aligned north-south and measured 15 m long by 1.8 m wide.
- 5.3.2 A light orange-yellow sand (306) and an orange-brown sandy clay (307) natural was encountered at a depth of 77.44 m OD. Naturals (306) and (307) were overlain by a disturbed subsoil (302) and makeup layer (301). These were cut by modern service trench (304) containing an east-west aligned concrete housed pipeline (305). This was

back filled by deposit (303). All deposits were then sealed by a sandy-silt topsoil (300).

#### **5.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 2)**

5.4.1 Trench 4 was aligned east-west and measured 12.5 m long by 1.8 m wide.

5.4.2 Two levels of natural were revealed, the upper natural consisted of an orange silty-sand (403) at a depth of 78.03 m OD and the lower natural of yellow-orange silty-sand (404) at a depth of 77.33 m OD. Natural (403) was overlain by Victorian and post-Victorian dumped waste deposits (402) and (401). These were sealed by a loam topsoil (400). No structures or features were encountered.

#### **5.5 Finds**

5.5.1 A single piece of a clay pipe stem, two pottery and two tile fragments were retrieved during the evaluation and dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, contemporary with the Victorian services and modern pipelines found within the trenches. Brick samples were taken of the culverts and have been dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION**

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

6.1.1 The evaluation revealed large areas of truncation by modern services and Victorian brick culverts and drainage pipelines. Extensive redeposited waste soils were also found overlying the natural. The effect of these works would have clearly had a major impact on the survival of earlier archaeological remains, if present.

#### **6.2 Overall interpretation**

6.2.1 The evaluation produced no evidence of prehistoric or historic remains earlier than the Victorian period. Expansion and development at Oakwood Hospital during 1842 and 1847 would account for the increase in drainage pipes and culverts seen in the trenches and would explain the extensive disturbance of deposits by Victorian and present day construction work. Unlike the residual prehistoric remains found in the previous evaluation at Queen's House, this site reflects a complete absence of prehistoric activity possibly due to the intrusive effects of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century activity.

## APPENDICES

## 7 APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i> Finds</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Date</i>
1								
	100	Deposit	-	0.07 - 0.27	Tarmac surface			
	101	Deposit	-	0.20	Topsoil			
	102	Deposit	-	0.40	Subsoil			
	103	Deposit	-	0.08	Redeposited soil			
	104	Deposit	-	0.28	Redeposited soil			
	105	Deposit	-	0.42	Sandy-clay natural			
	106	Deposit	-	0.42	Sand natural			
	107	Deposit	-	0.40	Silty-clay natural			
	108	Structure	-	1.5 - 2	Brick culvert	Brick	1	c.19 <sup>th</sup>
	109	Deposit	-	-	Sand natural			
2								
	200	Deposit	-	0.10	Tarmac surface			
	201	Deposit	-	0.20	Topsoil			
	202	Deposit	-	0.15	Makeup layer			
	203	Deposit	-	0.21	Made ground			
	204	Deposit	-	0.80	Backfill of 207,208	Pottery & Clay Pipe	1 1	c.19 <sup>th</sup> c.19 <sup>th</sup>
	205	Structure	0.075 diam	-	Modern pipeline			
	206	Deposit	-	> 0.28	Silty-sand natural			
	207	Structure	0.70	> 0.50	Brick culvert			
	208	Structure	0.40	> 0.50	Stop-cock & pipe	Brick	1	c.19 <sup>th</sup>
	209	Structure	0.20 diam	-	Victorian pipeline			
	210	Structure	0.05 diam	-	Modern pipeline			
	211	Structure	0.10 diam	-	Modern pipeline			



<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i> Finds</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Date</i>
3								
	300	Deposit	-	0.30	Topsoil			
	301	Deposit	-	0.24	Makeup layer	Brick	1	c.19 <sup>th</sup>
	302	Deposit	-	0.26	Subsoil			
	303	Deposit	-	0.79	Fill of 304	Brick	1	c.19 <sup>th</sup>
	304	Cut	1.15	0.79	Service trench			
	305	Structure	0.76	0.29	Concrete drain			
	306	Deposit	-	>0.43	Sand natural			
	307	Deposit	-	-	Sandy-clay natural			
4								
	400	Deposit	-	0.10	Topsoil			
	401	Deposit	-	1.0	Dumped layer			
	402	Deposit	-	0.20	Dumped layer	Tile	2	c. 20 <sup>th</sup>
	403	Deposit	-	-	Silty-sand natural			
	404	Deposit	-	-	Silty-sand natural			

**8 APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES**

- Clark, P and Murfin, L                    *The History of Maidstone* (1995)
- Hasted, E                                      *The History of the County of Kent* (Vol. IV 1798)
- OAU    *Queen's House Oakwood Hospital, Maidstone. Archaeological Desk  
Based Assessment* (OAU, June 1998)
- V.C.H.    *Victoria History of the County of Kent* (Vol. III. 1932)
- Wilkinson, D                                 *Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual*, (First edition, August 1992)

**9 APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS**

**Site name:** St. Andrew's House, Oakwood Hospital, Maidstone

**Site code:** MAOAK 00

**Grid reference:** TQ 735 552

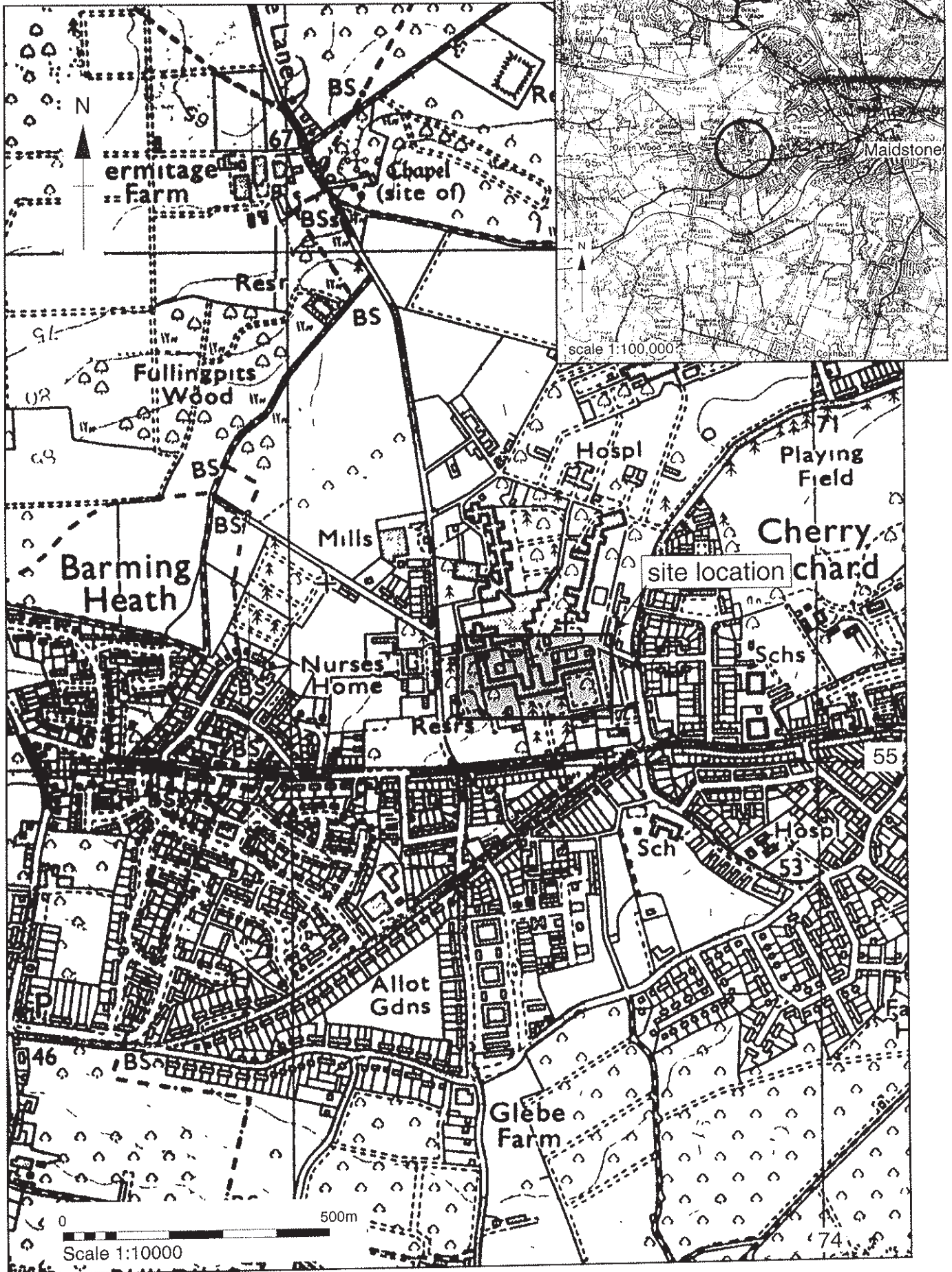
**Type of evaluation:** Four 12.2 - 15 m trenches

**Date and duration of project:** 11 - 12 July 2000

**Area of site:** 0.5 hectre

**Summary of results:** Victorian drainage system and related waste deposits.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OAU, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with an appropriate museum in due course.



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Figure 1: Site location

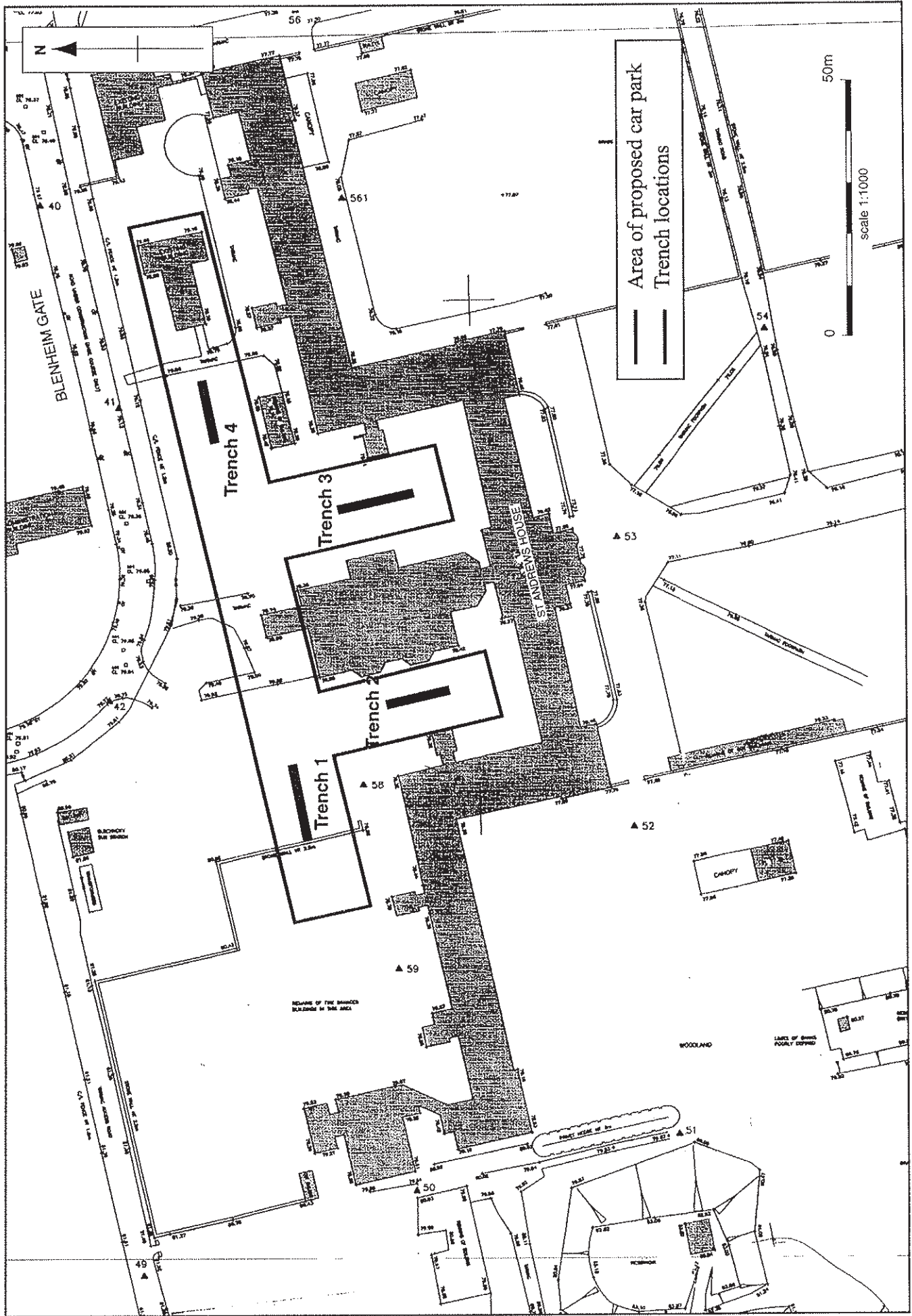
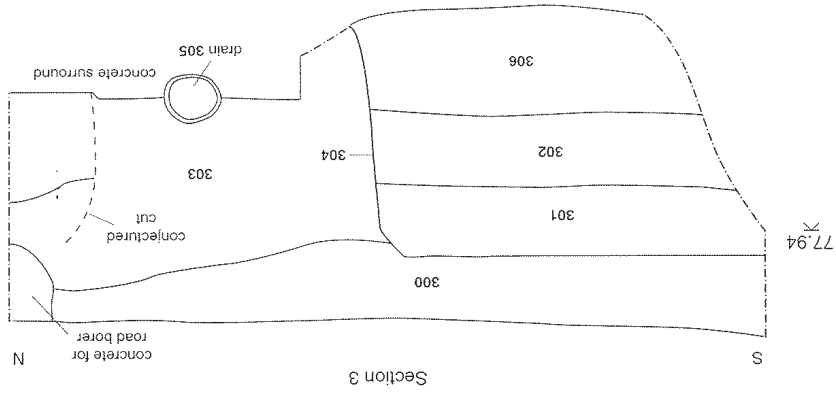
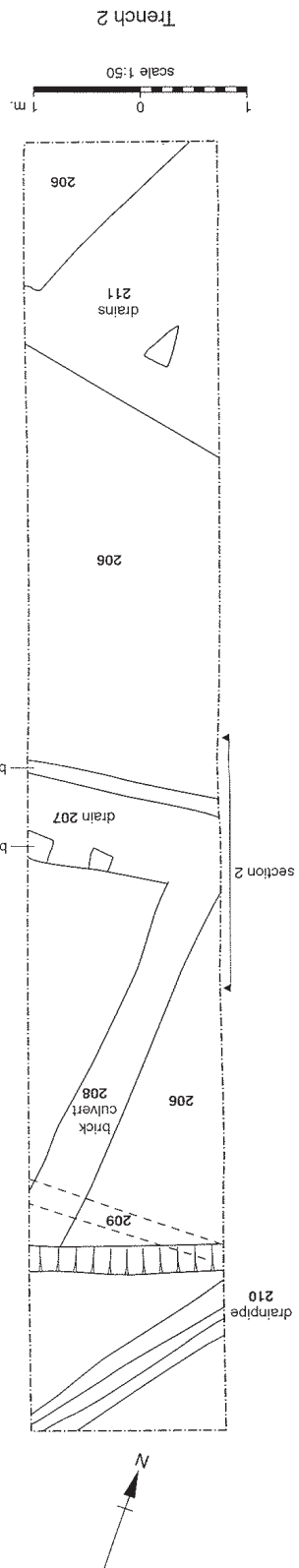


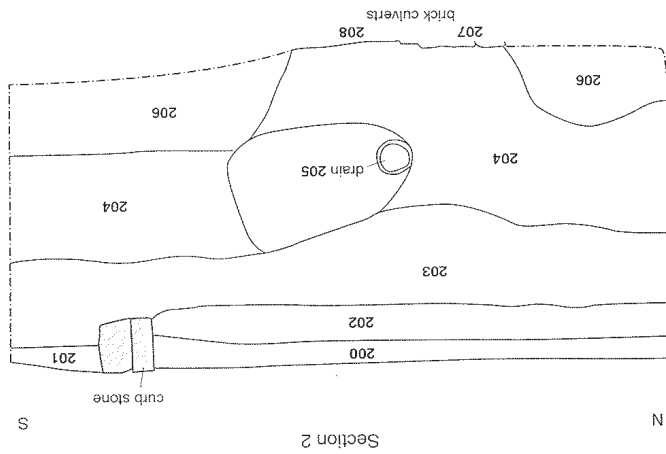
Figure 2: Trench location plan

Figure 3: Trenches 2 and 3, plans and sections



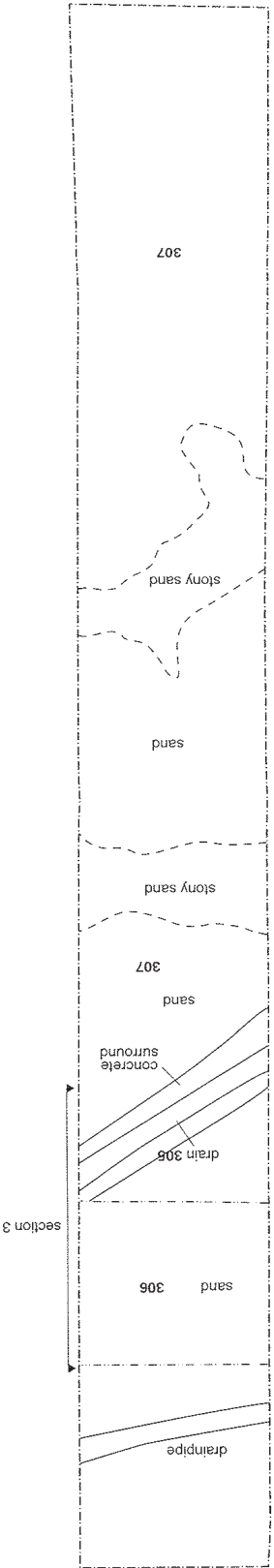
sections scale 1:20

0 1 m.



Trench 3  
scale 1:50

0 1 m.





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