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Barkham Lodge
Bearwood Road
Wokingham
Berkshire



**Archaeological Survey and
Recording Report**



Oxford Archaeology

May 2005

Client: Mr and Mrs Howe

Issue N^o: 1

OA Job N^o: 2638

Planning Ref N^o: F/2004/3046

NGR: SU 7830 6786

Mr and Mrs Howe

**Barkham Lodge
Bearwood Road, Wokingham
Berkshire*****ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND RECORDING REPORT*****CONTENTS**

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SUMMARY

Between the 6th and 7th March 2005 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological survey and recording scheme at Barkham Lodge, Bearwood Road, Wokingham, Berkshire (NGR: SP 7830 6786). The work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Howe in advance of the demolition of an existing bungalow and its replacement with a detached dwelling. The survey revealed structural remains of the former 19th century Barkham Lodge, of up to 1 m in depth, together with exterior pathways. There was also evidence of 20th century additions and structural alterations.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 In March 2005 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological survey and recording scheme at Barkham Lodge, Bearwood Road, Wokingham, Berkshire (NGR: SU 7830 6786). The work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Howe in respect of a planning application for demolition of an existing bungalow and its replacement with a detached dwelling (Planning Reference. F/2004/3046).
- 1.1.2 A project brief was set by Fiona Macdonald, Principal Archaeologist for Berkshire Archaeology (BA 2005). OA prepared and had approved a Written Scheme of Investigation (OA 2005) detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief.

1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located on the west side of Bearwood Road, Barkham, to the south-east of Wokingham (Fig. 1). The footprint of the former lodge exists just above ground in the south-east corner of the site, which lies at approximately 85 m OD. The underlying geology is London Clay (Institute of British Geological Sciences ed. 1979, Sheet 268).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared for the WSI for the project (OA 2005) and is reproduced below.
- 1.3.2 The Lodge is of early 19th century date and would have formed part of an important group of similar buildings around the parkland of the Bearwood Estate, which is a registered park (Grade II*). The lodge was demolished in the mid 1970s, but the footprint of the building, along with several courses of brickwork and piles of building and roofing materials, are still present within the site.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To identify the scope and scale of the surviving remains of Barkham Lodge.
- 2.1.2 To record the general site and any features of note.
- 2.1.3 To determine the nature of the construction techniques, materials and the exact footprint of the building in relation to the OS mapping of the area..
- 2.1.4 To determine the survival of any internal surfaces and floor treatments.
- 2.1.5 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 In order to comply with the requirements of the brief the survey was undertaken in two phases.
- 2.2.2 The first of these comprised a general characterisation of the existing lodge and its exact location. This was done using a tape measured survey of the footprint which was then related to the existing bungalow whose exact position had already been plotted on an electronic survey and tied in with the OS map of the area.
- 2.2.3 During the second phase the internal and external elevations of the building and any features of interest, including floor surfaces and the nature of the buildings construction, were recorded after the contractors plant had cleared the site of undergrowth.
- 2.2.4 Site plans were drawn at a scale of 1:100 and were transferred to CAD format tied in to the OS grid (Fig. 2). Elevations were drawn at a scale of 1:20. All excavated features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. 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 The site appeared to be been completely reduced in depth down to the surface of the natural gravel (7) prior to start of construction. This gravel was reached at a depth of 0.5 m below the current ground level. This layer was cut by a 0.4 m deep foundation trench (20), into which walls (2), (3), (4), (5) and (6) were built (Fig. 3). These walls were constructed using unfrogged red bricks measuring 228 mm by 113 mm by 70 mm laid in a lime mortar. A variety of bonds have been used, walls 2 and 6 had been laid using "Bastard English" bonding, walls 3 and 4 using "English Stretcher" bonding while the bonding within wall 5 was mixed. These walls appear to be

contemporary and of probable early 19th century date. These walls formed the body of the lodge at 8.5 m square with 2 m wide and 7.5 m long wings attached to the southern and northern walls. The material removed during the ground reduction; a gravel and clay mix together with construction debris (8), was spread and levelled between these walls in a layer measuring up to 0.4m in depth. A stone drain (14) located south of the lodge appears to have been laid within the surface of (8) at this time.

- 3.1.2 The brick surfaces (9), (12) and (17) located to the south, south-west and east respectively of the lodge, are laid directly upon the surface of (8), butting up to the exterior walls and represent yard or path surfaces associated with the lodge. A later gravel path (19) butts up to the eastern wall of the lodge and also against surface (12). The brick lined well (15) located 2 m to the east of the rear of the lodge also appears contemporary with this phase of activity.
- 3.1.3 Later activity and alterations to the lodge include the insertion of interior concrete floors within the south and north wings Floors (10) and (11) respectively, probably in the mid 20th century. The concrete apron (13) which butts up against (2), (4) and (12) and which leads into the original stone drain (14), and the brick and concrete manhole (16) probably also date to this period. The majority of the debris relating to the 1970's demolition of the lodge appears to have been removed from site, with the exception of a small dump, (18), against the eastern wall of the lodge. A layer of organic debris and windblown silts (1), up to 0.4 m in depth has since accumulated over the site.

3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 Samples of the handmade bricks used were recovered from wall (2). A very corroded Cu alloy coin tentatively dated as a George II (1727 - 1760) halfpenny was recovered from layer (8) predating the known construction date of the lodge. A pressed steel door lock was recovered from layer (18) together with roofing nails and a fragment of leaded window glass. These artifacts were retained as part as the archive.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The stratigraphy exposed suggests that any overburden within the area of the building was removed down to the top of the natural prior to construction. After excavation of the foundation trenches and construction of the brick foundations both the excavated material and the original overburden was then spread and levelled around the foundations. The variety of bonding styles observed within the wall foundations may reflect the activities of a number of bricklayers (and apprentices) or more likely the fact that since they were within the foundation trench and hence unseen, appearance was unimportant. Within the main body of the building there was no evidence for a floor surface such as tiles or stone slabs, these however, may have been removed during demolition. Within the two adjoining wings the original floor had been replaced by concrete floors each encasing modern service pipes. The presence of

small bore water pipes within the southernmost wing and waste pipes within the northernmost wing suggests a kitchen and bathroom respectively.

- 4.1.2 The small structure on the western side of the main body (17, 19) is a probable porch constructed with a brick floor and may be a later addition to the building.
- 4.1.3 The stone drains to the east and west of the southern wing of the lodge may well be contemporary with the main body of the building, while the salt glazed pipe and manhole connecting to the west of the wing is probably a later addition, possibly part of the same phase of work as the concrete floors and waste pipe previously noted and indicates a period of upgrading and use of the building during this time.
- 4.1.4 No original floors or surfaces were observed during the course of the work. The only rendering surviving was a cement render on the eastern side of the lodge. Where this rendering has fallen away a slate damp proof course has been exposed. The use of a cement render probably suggests that this was part of the 20th century repair and upgrading of the building.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth/Height</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i> Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
1	Layer	0.1 m to 0.4 m	-	General overburden /accumulated soils	-	C20th
2	Structure	0.9 m	0.22 m	South wing of lodge building	Brick	Early C19th
3	Structure	0.8 m	0.22 m	Wall between lodge and southern wing	Brick	Early C19th
4	Structure	0.5 m	0.22 m	Front wall of main lodge structure	Brick	Early C19th
5	Structure	0.6 m	0.22 m	North wing of lodge building	Brick	Early C19th
6	Structure	0.6 m	0.22 m	West wall of north wing of lodge	Brick	Early C19th
7	Layer	-	-	Natural gravel	-	-
8	Layer	0.5 m	-	Redeposited clays and gravel	Cu alloy coin	C19th
9	Structure	0.11 m	2.0 m	Brick floor	Brick	C19th
10	Structure	-	-	Concrete floor in southern wing	Iron pipes	C20th
11	Structure	-	-	Concrete floor in northern wing	Salt glazed waste pipe	C20th
12	Structure	0.11 m	1.0 m	Brick floor	Brick	C19th
13	Structure	-	1.0 m	Concrete surface	-	C20th
14	Structure	-	-	Stone built drain	-	C19th
15	Structure	>3.25 m	1.0m diameter	Brick lined circular well	Brick	C19th
16	Structure	-	1.0 m	Brick and concrete manhole	Brick	C20th
17	Structure	0.11 m	0.7 m	Brick floor in porch	Brick	C19th
18	Layer	>0.3 m	-	Spread of demolition debris	Brick, iron, glass	C20th
19	Layer	0.15 m	1.0 m	Gravel path	-	C19th
20	Cut	0.4 m	0.22m	Foundation trench	-	Early C19th

APPENDIX 2 REFERENCES

BA, 2005 *Barkham Lodge, Bearwood Road, Wokingham: Brief for an Archaeological Survey and Recording Scheme*

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

OA, 2005 *Barkham Lodge, Bearwood Road, Wokingham, Berkshire : Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Survey and Recording Scheme*

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Barkham Lodge, Bearwood road, Wokingham, Berkshire

Site code: WOBL 05

Grid reference: SU 7830 6786

Type of watching brief: Exposure and recording of remains of 19th century building.

Date and duration of project: 2 days, 06.03.05 and 07.03.05

Area of site: 260 m²

Summary of results: The survey exposed the footings of the original 19th century lodge together with possible contemporary external surfaces and later 20th century internal surfaces and services

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



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Figure 1: Site location

Server 10:/caupubst1_RioZ/VOBL04*WOBLV8*Bankham Lodge*LM*21.04.05

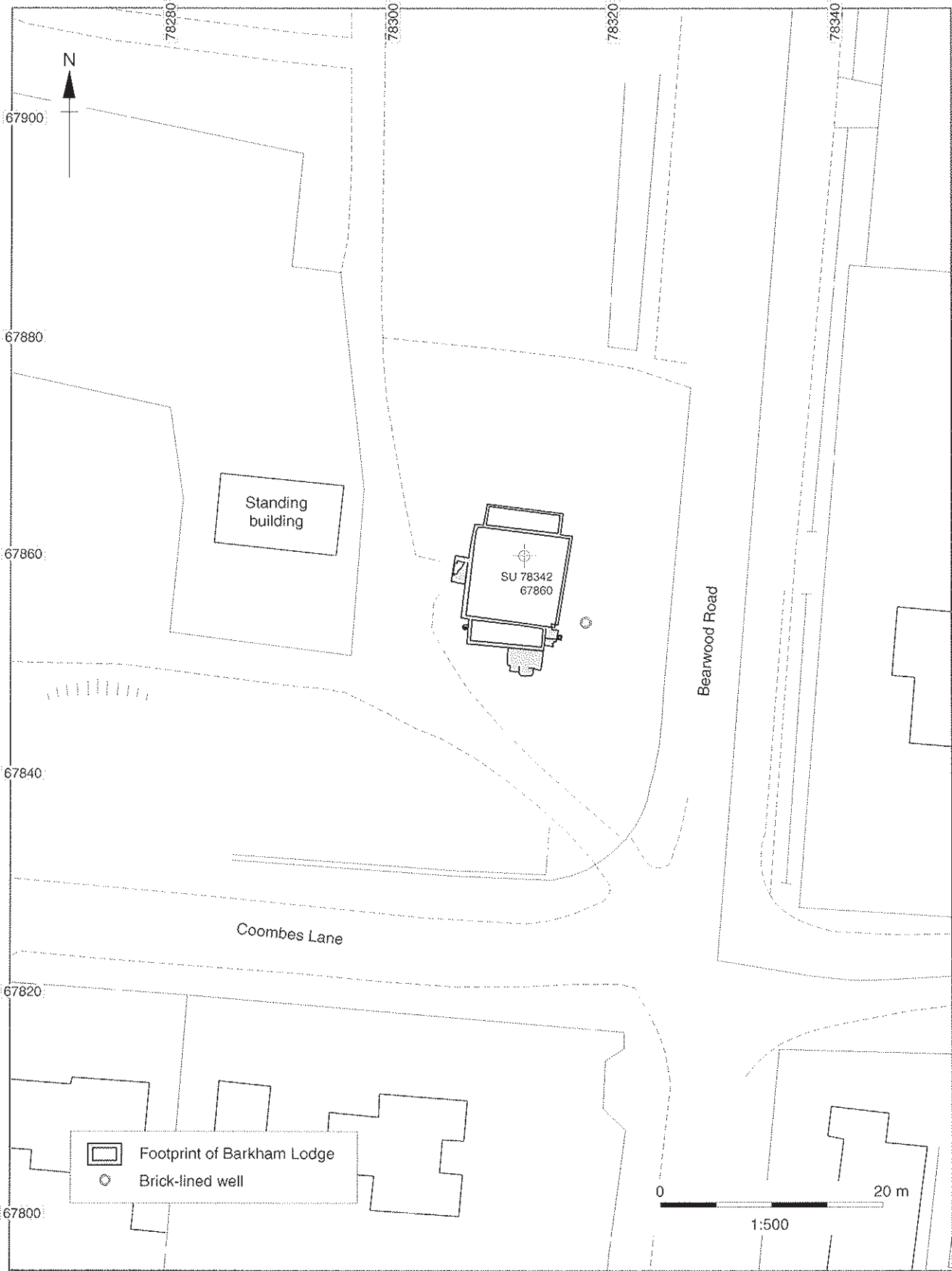


Figure 2: Location of Lodge in relation to standing building

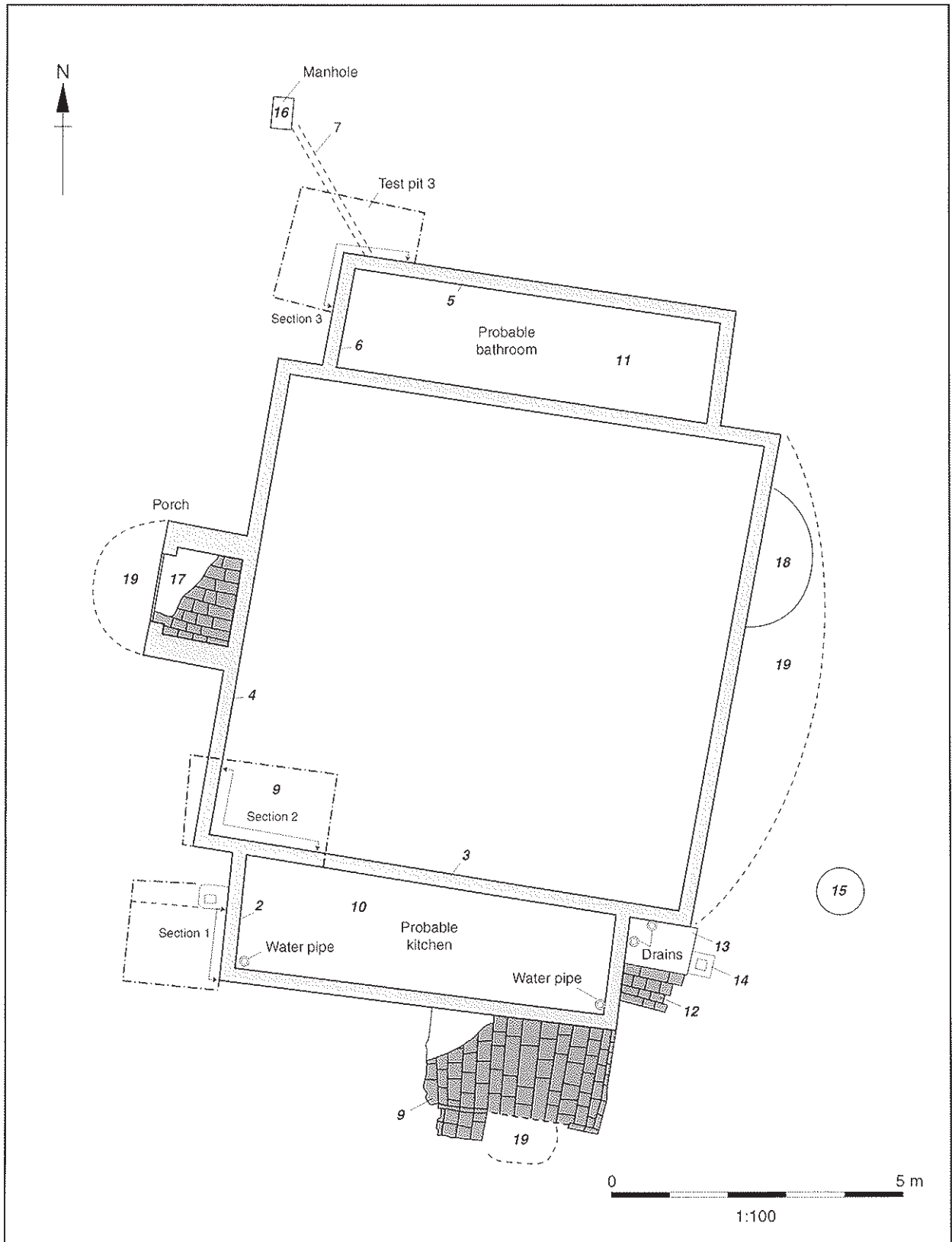


Figure 3: Plan of remains of lodge

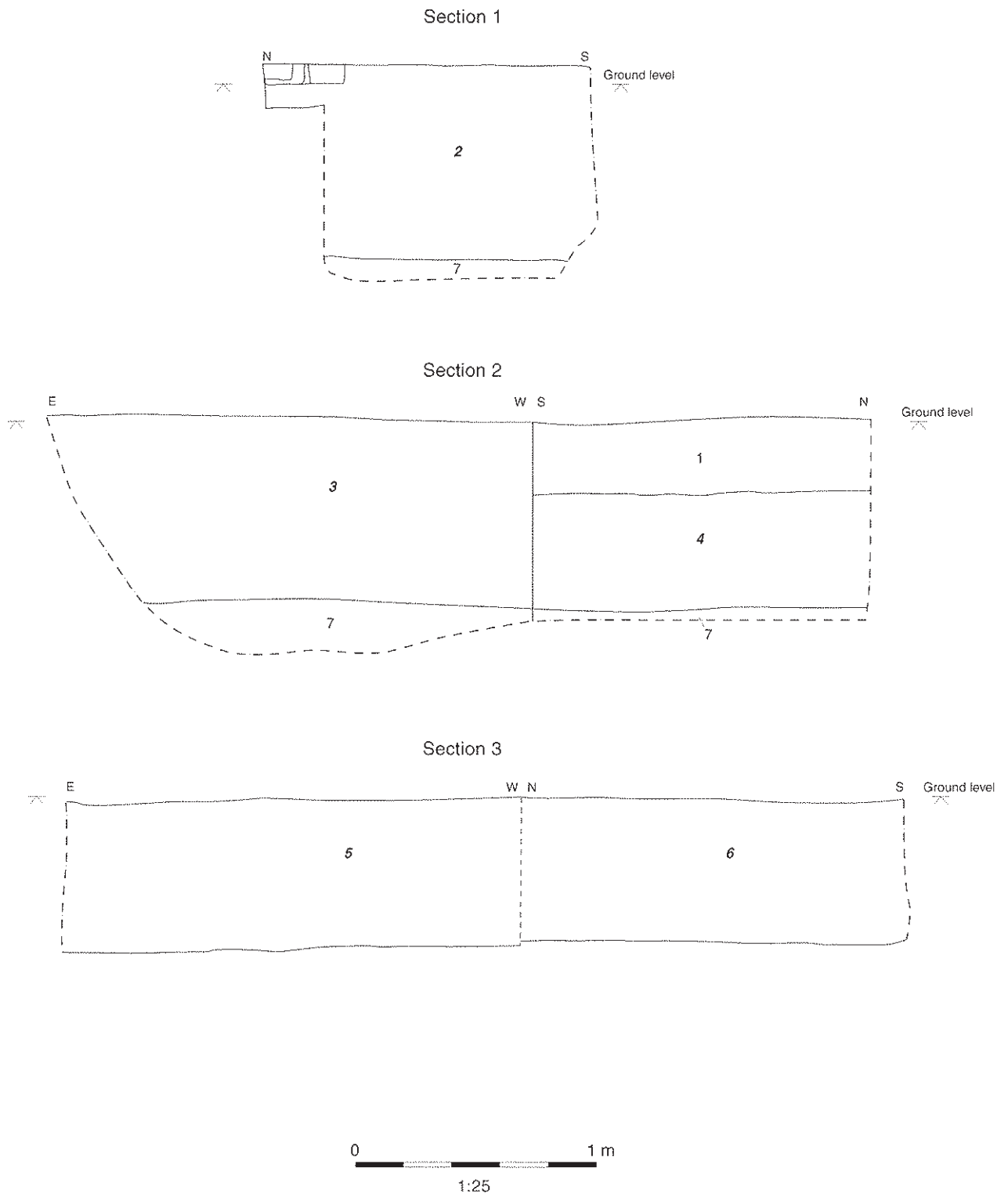


Figure 4: Sections 1, 2 and 3



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