CgMs/Chartwell Land

FORMER POST OFFICE
BIGGIN ST /PRIORY ST, DOVER, KENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

NGR TR3172 4162

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

July 1998

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NGR TR 3584 4162

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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SUMMARY

In July 1998 the Oxford Archaeological Unit undertook a field evaluation at the Former Post Office at the junction of Biggin Street/ Priory Street , Dover, Kent on behalf of CgMs/Chartwell Land. Five evaluation trenches were excavated. The evaluation revealed three potentially Roman features in Trench 2. These consisted of a NW-SE orientated ditch and two small pits. A layer of reworked alluvium containing Roman pottery was also found in Trench 4. A number of features of medieval and post-medieval date were also exposed. These comprised a late medieval brick wall and two pits in Trench 1, a well-constructed late medieval/early post medieval flint and chalk wall in Trench 2 and two stone lined wells of late medieval and post medieval date in Trench 5. Trenches 3 and 4 comprised mainly post-medieval cellar structures. Some Roman and medieval pottery was recovered from all of the trenches.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

From the 24th June to the 14th of July 1998 the Oxford Archaeological Unit undertook a field evaluation at the Former Post Office at the junction of Biggin Street/ Priory Street , Dover, Kent (Fig. 1) in respect of a planning application (ref. 98-445) for a retail development. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by the OAU following a specification set by the CGMS consultant (Chadwick, June 1998 B) acting for Chartwell Land. The development site was located between Biggin Street and Priory Road (Fig. 2) and measured approximately 65 m by 40 m and was 1495 m^2 in area.

1.2 Geology and topography

The site geology consists of brickearth overlying a buff chalk clay with shattered flint known as coombe rock. The base geology is Middle and Lower chalk. The site lies on the approximate edge of an inner basin on the west side of Dover and at the mouth of a west-east dry valley. Both of these topographical features have dictated the nature of the site drift geology which formed during the Devensian and mid Holocene (Martin Bates Pers. Comm.). Although *in situ* alluvial deposits relating to the inner basin were found during an archaeological evaluation (OAU, June 1994) approximately 20 m to the north of the present Biggin Street frontage none were noted during this evaluation. This suggests that the southern edge of the inner harbour basin is located approximately beneath the present line of Biggin Street, several metres further north than previously thought.

1.3 Archaeological background

A brief summary of the archaeological and historical background was included with the Written Scheme of Investigation (OAU June 1998) and in the desk based assessment (Chadwick May 1998 A). Roman pottery was found at the corner of Biggin Street/Priory Street during the construction of the post office in 1913 together with a tufa stone wall on the Priory Street frontage. The wall was probably medieval in date and may have related to the precinct boundary of Dover Priory. A substantial medieval building, probably a farmhouse, occupying the Biggin Street frontage is noted on a map of 1581 (Macdonald 1937, plate 2). In 1728 this building was demolished and replaced by what was known as Freeman's buildings (Haines 1930, 150). To the north of this building a substantial east-west boundary wall was apparently constructed of stones from

the demolished priory (Haines, 1930, 150). During the 19th century a series of workshops and dwellings were constructed around the 'Freeman's' buildings until the whole site was cleared in 1912-1913.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

As required by the specification set by CGMS consulting (Chadwick 1998), the aims of the evaluation were to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposal area. Additionally, the evaluation aimed to determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present, to establish the environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features, and to make available the results of the investigation.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Sample size and scope of fieldwork

The evaluation comprised five machine excavated trenches (Fig. 3), supplemented by hand-cleaning of the trenches and manual investigation of archaeological features. The trenches were excavated using a 3 ton tracked excavator equipped with a 0.50 m wide ditching bucket. Four trenches were approximately 3 m long by 2 m wide (Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4) with the fifth trench being 2 m square. The area examined represents a sample area of 28 square metres. This is 1.9 % of the total area, but the trenches were targeted on lift pit and pile cap positions, so that a higher percentage of the area to be impacted was examined.

3.2 Site recording and finds

The trench positions were surveyed in and related to the OS grid. Archaeological recording was undertaken using standard OAU methods (Wilkinson ed. 1992). Hand sorting was employed to recover any finds. Spoil heaps were carefully monitored for finds during and after mechanical removal of the overburden.

3.3 Environmental

One 10 litre waterlogged sample was taken from well 506 (Fill 504) in accordance with OAU sampling procedures. This sample was processed (Appendix 4).

4 RESULTS

4.1 Presentation of results

The descriptions of all five trenches are presented below. A summary of all contexts and finds is presented in the archaeological context inventory (Appendix 1

4.2 Trench descriptions

4.2.1 Trench 1: E-W 3 m long by 2 m wide (Fig. 4)

Three archaeological features were found cutting the natural brickearth at 5.25 OD approximately 2.20 .m below the present ground surface. The earliest of these was a large roughly circular pit. This feature was 1.35 m wide and was excavated to a maximum of 1.40 m. The feature was deliberately backfilled with a series of light coloured silty clays (earliest to latest 136, 135, 134, 133, 132, 131, 130, 126). Fills 126 and 131 contained a pottery assemblage dating to the 11th and 12th centuries. Two further pits (123 and 127) also cut the natural but were both shallow and devoid of finds. Immediately overlying these features were two clay loam deposits (113 and 114) both approximately 0.20 m thick. These probably represent late medieval cultivation soils, although no finds were recovered from them. The remains of a two course deep brick wall (115) overlaid the soils. The bricks were of a type typical of the late 16th century. A further clay loam (112) overlay the wall and above this was a series of chalk rubble dump deposits (111, 110, 118, 121) relating to a 19th century cobbled surface (120). Cutting this was a modern service trench (117) above which were a series of make up layers (122, 103) for the floor of the post office building.

4.2.2 Trench 2: NW-SE 3 m long by 2 m wide (Fig. 5)

Trench 2 was excavated to a depth of 3 m. Three archaeological features, containing similar fills, cut the natural brickearth at approximately 5.40 OD. These included a shallow NW-SE aligned linear feature (223) and two irregularly shaped features (225 and 227) possibly representing pits. The linear feature was greater than 2.80 m long and approximately 1.10 m wide. It had a maximum depth of 0.60 m and contained two clay silt fills (221 and 222) containing only Roman pottery. Of the two further cut features only one (227) was investigated. This feature extended beyond the trench edges but was greater than 1.00 m E-W and 0.80 m N-S. It contained a single clay silt fill (226). This was very similar to ditch fill 221, but devoid of finds. All three features were cut from the same level and contained similar fills. They are, therefore, potentially Roman in date and have been illustrated as such on the phase plan (Fig. 3). The three overlying contexts (215, 214 and 212) were clay silts with chalk fragments probably representing medieval cultivation soils.

Overlying the medieval cultivation soils in the north-west facing section (Fig. 6) was a substantial flint wall (217, 204) on chalk block foundations (218). No construction cut was noted but this was almost certainly due to later truncation (see 203 below) of two further silt clays (211, 210) to the north-east. The chalk foundation blocks (218) varied in size between 0.24 m long by 0.14 m wide and 0.44 m long by 0.24 m wide and were laid in both single and double courses (Fig. 6). This provided an initial foundation depth of between 0.30 m and 0.40 m. The blocks were loosely bonded with a light brown clay silt. Overlying the chalk was an additional foundation (217) of uncoursed knapped and unknapped flint together with roughly hewn Kentish ragstone bonded with a light grey sandy mortar. This constituted a further 0.40 m of foundation. The wall itself (204) consisted of six uneven courses of knapped flint bonded with greyish white mortar. The wall was battered slightly to the NW and had an overall depth of 0.70 m. A possible single rebuild or repair of the wall (219) and foundation (217) was apparent at the south western end of the section. This was similar in nature to the foundation 217 but had a more unevenly coursed structure.

Overlying two clay silts (211 and 212) to the north-west was a layer of construction debris relating to the wall (209). This was overlain by a mid brown clay silt with brick and tile fragments (208) possibly constituting the original ground surface relating to wall 204. The construction cut (206) of an east-west brick wall truncated this layer. This wall consisted of an offset concrete foundation (216) and partially demolished upper build of brick (203) approximately 1.0 m in depth. The wall extended along the entire north-west facing section butting the face of the flint wall (204). The wall was probably associated with a 19th century cellar. Overlying contexts (205, 207, 202, 220) comprised demolition debris and modern make up (201) for the Post Office floor.

4.2.3 Trench 3 E-W 3 m long by 2 m wide (Fig. 7)

Trench 3 was excavated to a depth of 2.90 m where natural brickearth containing unweathered flint (319) was noted at approximately 5.05 OD. This was overlain by three clay silts (318, 317 and 310) probably representing late medieval cultivation soils. The uppermost of these was cut by a construction trench (315) for the remains of an east-west post-medieval cellar wall (314). A make up layer (309) and NW-SE overlying wall (308) were overlain by a further foundation (307) and wall (306) acting as a NW-SE return to a NE-SW cellar wall (308). The cellar floor (312) was overlain by 1.70 m of rubble backfill (303, 302, 301) and make-up (316) for the post office floor.

4.2.4 Trench 4 E-W 3 m long by 2 m wide (Fig. 8)

Trench 4 was excavated to a maximum depth of 3.50 m. The natural brickearth with unweathered flint at 5.11 OD was overlain by a yellowish-brown silty clay (421) containing several large sherds of Roman grey ware pottery. This layer probably represents a reworked alluvium relating to natural infilling of the inner basin (Martin Bates pers. Comm.). However, the large fragments of unabraided pottery do not suggest heavy reworking of the deposit. This was cut by a NW–SE construction trench running across the north-east end of the trench (422). This feature had a maximum width of 0.70 m and was 0.55 m deep. It was filled with a greyish-brown silty clay containing lumps of mortar (423). The presence of mortar suggests the feature was a robber trench probably dating from the late medieval period. The disturbed remains of a chalk and flint surface (400, 401) overlay the backfill of trench 422. This context (not seen in section) was also probably medieval in date. A 0.70 m thick silt clay (402) overlay this and probably represented a late medieval cultivation soil. A post medieval cellar (412) cut this context. This was only seen in the north-west facing section (Fig. 7). The unbonded chalk block foundations (414) for a probable NW-SE return were trench built approximately 0.62 m deeper that those for the NE-SW wall (416). This wall was comprised of roughly hewn Kentish ragstone blocks approximately 0.24 m by 0.12 m by 0.12 m and unknapped flint. The wall was bonded with a whitish lime mortar. Two later additions (419 and 415) to the upper wall were noted. These were of a similar build to 416. A layer of tarmac (418) and make-up (404) relating to the post office overlay the upper surface of the final cellar build (415).

4.2.5 Trench 5 2 m by 2 m square (Fig. 9)

The fifth trench was located in the south-eastern basement floor. Natural brickearth at 4.29 OD lay immediately below approximately 0.50 m of hardcore rubble (503). The natural was initially cut for a circular well feature (502). The well consisted of weathered flint pieces in a clay matrix (508) internally faced with finely hewn curved

chalk blocks (507). The blocks measured between 0.30 m by 0.15 m by 0.10 m and 0.38 m by 0.20 m by 0.10 m and were bonded with a grey brown silty clay. The well had an overall circumference of 1.12 m with an inner void circumference of 0.78 m. The void was filled with a dark grey silty clay (505) containing flint pieces and organic debris. A single sherd of 17th century pottery was retrieved from this fill. It was excavated to the water table at a maximum depth of 0.60 m. A further well feature (501) was constructed immediately to the south and cutting through both builds and the backfill of 502. This later and slightly larger well was constructed of roughly hewn Kentish ragstone approximately 0.22 m by 0.16 m together with chalk blocks and a possible roman brick. The bond was a dark grey blue mortar with charcoal. The outer diameter of this well was 1.40 m. The inner diameter was 1.08 m. This well was backfilled with a silty clay containing chalk blocks and flint pieces. A single sherd of 15th century pottery was also recovered but was almost certainly residual in what was post-medieval backfill.

4.3 Finds

The finds recovered comprised 49 sherds of pottery (Appendix 2 and 3), some brick/tile fragments, a few corroded iron objects and several fragments of animal bone. Pottery sherds from the Roman, medieval and post medieval periods are all represented, though the collection is generally unremarkable.

4.3.4 Environmental Data

Well 502 showed waterlogged plant remains to be present, but not particularly abundant and in poor condition (Appendix 4). The range and type of species present are unremarkable for a post-medieval feature.

5 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

5.1 Reliability of field investigation

The evaluation was carried out inside a standing building and in generally dry conditions and the results are considered to be reasonably reliable indication of the range of deposits sealed beneath the modern building.

5.2 Summary of Results

The trenches were laid out in a broadly west-east line extending 45.00 m in between the mouth of a dry valley and the edge of a former estuarine basin. It has been demonstrated that the level of natural brickearth gradually falls by approximately 1.00 m towards the harbour (see levels, Fig. 3). A deposit of probable alluvial origin, which had been reworked to some extent containing Roman pottery was found immediately above the natural in Trench 4. This suggests the alluvium could have been truncated from other parts of the site. The fill of ditch 223 in Trench 2 contained two sherds of only Roman pottery. Two other pit features (225 and 226) contained a similar fill, but no pottery. Roman stratigraphy was not present in any of the other trenches. The large ditch/pit (125) cutting the brickearth in Trench 1 was deliberately backfilled in the early medieval period. This feature probably served as a rubbish pit. The only other likely medieval features were found in Trench 2. These were shallow and produced no finds. The flint and mortar wall in Trench 2 probably relates to the early to middle 18th century Freeman's building. However, since no dating was retrieved from the underlying

deposits it may also be associated with the late medieval farmhouse thought to have occupied the north east corner of the site (Haines, 1930, 150).

Also possibly associated with the late medieval farmhouse was a small, chalk-lined well in Trench 5. This was truncated by a well of post medieval date. The remains of an insubstantial early brick wall were discovered in Trench 1. The brick typology was typical of the late 16 th to early 17th centuries. Trenches 3 and 4 mainly comprised brick rubble cellar backfill. The cellars were 18th and 19th century in date and related to the several dwellings and workshops which were demolished prior to the construction of the post office building.

5.3 Significance

The presence of probable alluvium in Trench 4 may indicate that the site was originally part of the inner basin, becoming infilled during the late Roman period. However, the evidence is too sparse to be taken as conclusive, and it may be that the edge of the basin is further north, below Biggin Street. Aside from this important point, the significance of the evaluation results is that they accord reasonably well with the cartographic sources in showing sparse medieval roadside settlement, with denser use of the site in the post-medieval period.

Negative evidence from an evaluation must be used with great caution, but if the trenches are genuinely representative of the site as a whole, then there is no evidence of either Roman roadside settlements or burials, nor of any early medieval use of the site. Both of these assumptions, if correct, are very significant in terms of our overall knowledge of Dover.

5.4 Impact

It is proposed to found the new building on piles, using pilecaps and ground-beams. Pits will be required for two lift or elevator shafts. Much of the construction work could therefore take place within levels of low archaeological significance. However, if the edge of the inner basin is located along the Biggin St, then deposits relating to the basin could survive on the north-eastern edge of the development area albeit in areas already basemented. Such deposits may contain significant archaeology. Probing to remove obstructions before piling takes place is potentially the most destructive part of the construction process, and careful thought should be given to the probing method used, in order to minimise the impact.

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Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory

Trench	Ctxt	Type	Thick(m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
1							
	100	layer		Concrete floor			
	101	layer		Hardcore rubble			
	102	fill	0.65	f.o 109	Pot	3	19thc
	103	layer	1.30	Floor			
	104	struct	0.20	Wall			
	105	struct	0.38t	Wall			
	106	fill		Fo 117			
	107	cut	0.60	f.b 104			
	108	fill	0.60	f.o 107			
	109	cut	0.65	f.b 105, 102			
	110	layer	0.80	Make-up dump			
	111	layer	0.60	Dump			
	112	layer	0.13	Clay silt			
	113	layer	0.40	Clay silt			
	114	layer	0.40	Silt clay			
	115	struct	0.22	Brick wall			
	116	layer	0.35	Natural brickearth			
	117	cut	1.10	Pipe tr			
	118	layer	0.28	Chalk dump			
	119	layer	0.60	Natural brickearth /flint			
	120	floor	0.16	Cobbled surface			
	121	layer	0.30	Make-up for 103			
	123	cut	0.23	Pit			
	124	fill	0.23	Fo 123			
	125	cut	2.40?	Pit/ditch			
	126	fill	0.55	Fo 125	Pot	4	12thc
	127	cut	0.30	Pit			
	128	fill	0.30	Fo 127			
	129	layer	?	Natural (Coombe rock)			
	130	fill	0.30	Fo 125			

Trench	Ctxt	Type	Thick(m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	131	fill	0.50	Fo 125	Pot	1	12thc
	132	fill	0.05	Fo 125			
	133	fill	0.20	Fo 125			
	134	fill	1.10	Fo 125			
	135	fill	0.20	Fo 125			
	136	fill	0.20	Fo 125			
2							
	200	layer		Tarmac			
	201	layer	0.62	Make-up			
	202	layer	0.44	Make-up	Pot	1	12thc
	203	struct		Wall			
	204	struct	0.45	Wall			
	205	fill	?	Fo 206			
	206	cut	?	Fb 205,203,206			
	207	layer	?	Dumping			
	208	layer	0.44	Clay silt			
	209	layer	0.30	Clay silt			
	210	layer	0.20	Clay silt			
	211	layer	0.30	Clay silt			
	212	layer	0.30	Clay silt			
	213	layer	0.30	Clay silt			
	214	layer	0.30	Clay silt			
	215	struct	0.28	Clay silt			
	216	sturct	?	Concrete			
	217	struct	0.30	Wall foundation			
	218	struct	0.30	Wall foundation			
	219	struct	0.92	Wall repair			
	220	layer	0.28	Clay silt			
	221	fill	0.30	Fo 223	Pot	2	Roman
	222	fill	0.18	Fo 223	Pot	1	Roman
	223	cut	0.60	Ditch			
	224	Fill	?	Pit			
	225	cut	?	Pit			
	226	fill	0.60	Fo 227			
	227	cut	0.60	Pit			
	228	layer	?	Natural brickearth and			

Trench	Ctxt	Type	Thick(m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
				flints			
3							
	300	Layer	?	Tarmac			
	301	Layer	0.90	Rubble b.f			
	302	layer	1.30	Rubble b.f			
	303	layer	0.70	Rubble b.f			
	304	struct	0.44	Wall			
	305	struct	0.75	Wall			
	306	struct	0.64	Wall			
	307	struct	0.57	Wall foundation			
	308	struct	0.70	Wall			
	309	layer	0.16	Clay silt			
	310	layer	0.26	Clay silt			
	311	layer	0.12	Silt & mortar			
	312	struct	0.10	Floor?			
	313	layer	0.28	Make-up for 312			
	314	struct	?	Wall			
	315	cut	?	Fb 314			
	316	layer	0.24	Clay silt			
	317	layer	0.20	Clay silt			
	318	layer	0.30	Clay silt			
	319	layer	?	Clay silt			
4							
	400	struct	?	Wall foundation			
	401	layer	0.05	Surface			
	402	layer	0.43	Dumping			
	403	layer	0.30	Concrete			
	404	layer	?	Make up			
	405	layer	0.07	Floor			
	406	layer	0.02	Clay/mortar			
	407	layer	0.10	Floor			
	408	fill	0.60	Fo 409			
	409	cut	0.60	Pipe tr			
	410	layer	0.18	Clay silt			
	411	struct	0.60	Wall			

Trench	Ctxt	Type	Thick(m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	412	cut	0.58	Cut			
	413	struct	?	Foundation			
	414	layer	0.20	Fo 412			
	415	struct	0.34	Wall			
	416	struct	0.15	Foundation			
	417	struct	0.60	Wall			
	418	layer	0.10	Tarmac			
	419	layer	0.20	Silt & mortar			
	420	layer	0.02	Make up			
	421	layer	0.65	Silty clay			
	422	cut	0.56	?robber tr			
	423	fill	0.56	Fo 422	Pot	11	Roman
	424	layer	0.30	Natural brickearth			
5							
	500	layer	0.52	Hardcore rubble			
	501	cut	>0.70	Cf Stone Well			
	502	cut	>0.70	Cf Chalk Well			
	503	dep	0.02	Silt clay	Pot	1	20thc
	504	fill	0.70	Fo 501	Pot	2	17thc
	505	fill	0.60	Fo 502	Pot	3	15th
	506	struct	0.70	Stone well lining			
	507	struct	0.70	Chalk well lining			
	508	dep	?	Clay			
	509	layer	?	Silty clay			

Appendix 2

Prehistoric and Roman pottery

One prehistoric and 21 Roman sherds (790 g) were recovered in the evaluation.

The single prehistoric piece was a large base sherd (62 g) in a hard-fired, heavily flint-tempered fabric probably of Middle to Late Bronze Age date. This occurred residually in context 124.

The Roman material was identified in terms of ware groups (using codes employed in the OAU Roman pottery recording system), but not usually to the level of individual wares/fabrics which could be associated with known production centres. Some identifications are tentative, and the sherd assigned to fabric R25 could perhaps have been of medieval date. The wares present were:

A13. South Gaulish amphora fabric (Gauloise types). 1 sherd, 86 g.
A20. Fairly fine oxidised amphora fabric, uncertain source. 1 sherd, 94 g.
O52. Oxidised fabric with common fine sand temper – Canterbury? 1 sherd, 34 g.
O80. Oxidised fabric with moderate grog or clay pellet inclusions. 1 sherd, 6 g.
R10. Fine slightly sandy reduced fabric(s). 10 sherds, 451 g.
R16. Fine reduced ware – North Kent/Upchurch type. 2 sherds, 7 g.
R20. Sandy reduced fabric. 1 sherd, 8 g.
R25. Reduced fabric with common fine sand temper – Canterbury? 1 sherd, 10 g.
R30. Moderately sandy reduced fabric. 1 sherd, 5 g.
B20. Black-burnished ware category 2. 2 sherds, 27 g.

Diagnostic forms were lacking. Jars were represented only by simple everted rim sherds in fabrics R10 and O80 (one each). All the remaining R10 sherds were from a single vessel, probably a squat jar, from context 423, but the rim and shoulder were missing. The R16 sherds were from a poppyhead beaker and both B20 sherds were from a bowl or dish, probably (but not certainly) the same vessel.

Numbers of Roman sherds by fabric and context are shown below:

Context	A13	A20	O52	O80	R10	R16	R20	R25	R30	B20	Post-Roman
126			1	1	1	2			1		Y
202		1									Y
221										2	-
222								1			-
423	1				9		1				-

Only contexts 221, 222 and 423 are likely to have been of Roman date. The last of these contained a large fragment of post-medieval tile, but this was almost certainly intrusive. In the absence of diagnostic forms the assemblage cannot be dated within close brackets, but most if not all the sherds would be consistent with a 2nd-3rd century range and the likely Roman contexts can all be dated thus. Arguments from absence (e.g. of distinctive late Roman material) cannot be conclusive given the very small size of the group.

Appendix 3

Post Roman Pottery

The post-roman pottery assemblage comprised 27 sherds with a total weight of 547 g. Of these, six sherds (62 g) were of 19th or 20th century date. The occurrence per context by number and weight of sherds per fabric type is shown in table 1.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence per context by number and weight of sherds per fabric type

	Sandy Reduced ware (F1)		Late Medieval Sandy ware (F12)		Metropolitan Slipware		?Late Medieval Dutch Redwares		Post-Medieval Wares		Misc 19th/20th C types		TPQ
Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt			No	Wt	
102											3	3	19thC?
126	6	145											11th/12thC?
131	1	26	;1										11th/12thC?
202	1	13											11th/12thC
208									8	181	2	34	19thC
503											1	25	20thC?
504			1	56	1	14							17thC?
505							3	51					15thC??
Total	8	184	1	56	1	14	3	51			4	28	

The pottery fabrics are all types which can be paralleled on previous excavations in Dover and elsewhere. The two medieval fabrics were noted during excavations at the White Cliffs Experience (Wilkinson 1994) and the same fabric codes are used here (Underwood-Keevil 1994, 114-26). Fabric 1 (F1) is almost certainly a product of the Tyler Hill kilns on the outskirts of Canterbury (ibid. 117). The late medieval Redware is a distinctive, brick-red gritty fabric with a dark grey core, and appears very similar to the late medieval Dutch Redwares which are found in many North Sea ports and beyond during the 15th century, although a local source is not out of the question.

A selection of post-medieval imported wares occurred in context 208. These comprised two sherds of German Stoneware, a sherd of Chinese Porcelain and a single sherd of ?Dutch Tin-Glazed earthenware. The English wares comprised a sherd of Border ware, another of Staffordshire slip-trailed ware and two sherds of Red Earthenware of unknown provenance. All these wares are common finds on post-medieval sites.

Appendix 4.

Environmental samples

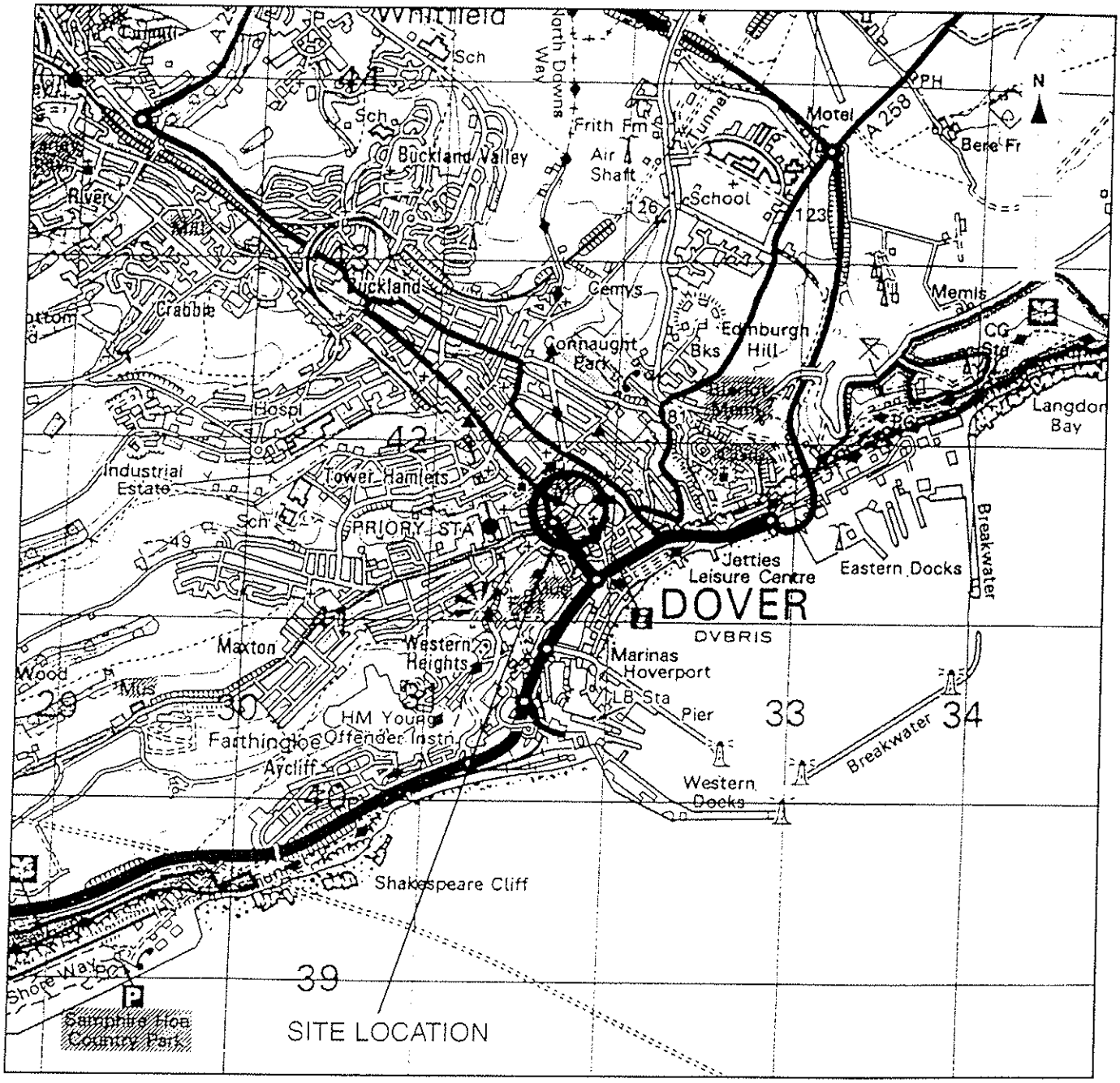
A single soil sample was taken from this evaluation, 10 litres of fill 505 in a late medieval chalk-lined well. This was processed by bucket-flotation with the flot collected on 0.25 mm mesh, and the mineral residue wet-sieved through 10, 4 and 2 mm sieves.

Artefacts recovered included a single shell of edible winkle, sherds of pottery, a piece of mortar, and several fragments of slate, probably broken roof-slate. Animal remains recovered were several fragments of large animal bones, fish scales, and very occasional pieces of feather.

Plant remains were dominated by wood charcoal, virtually all too fine to be identifiable. Other charred remains observed were rare, consisting of two grains and a single small weedy legume. Waterlogged plant remains present were dominated by seeds of elder (*Sambucus nigra*). Other waterlogged seeds were rare, including a single seed of a small grass.

The flot also contained in some quantity small fragments of an unidentified amorphous material, red-brown in colour. The most intact fragments appeared tubular in form and about 1.2 mm in diameter. This did not appear to have a cellular structure even at high magnification.

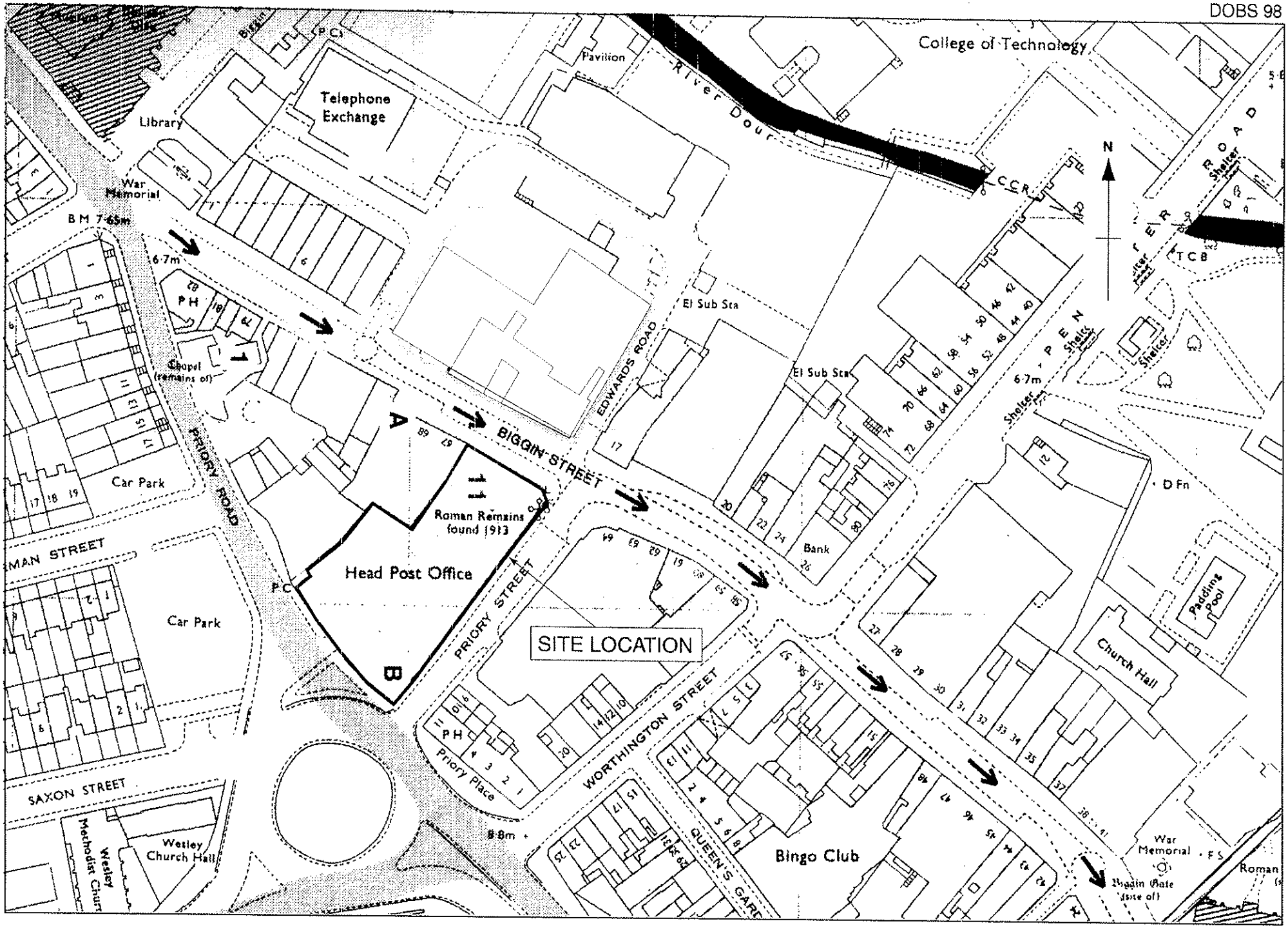
In conclusion, waterlogged preservation has been confirmed at this physical level at the site, and therefore materials preserved in these conditions (wood, leather, textile, plant leaves and products, insects etc) should be anticipated. The deposit itself includes materials which would not be out of place in a back-garden soil used to deliberately fill up a well in a medieval sea-side town.



1 km

Location of site

Figure 1



scale 1:1250

Location of site

Figure 2

DOBS 98

natural

Roman

11th - 12th Century

L.Medieval - E. Post-Medieval

Post - Medieval

N

TRENCH 1

127

125

123

natural level = 5.60m

TRENCH 2

natural level = 5.39m

225

223

227

204

PROJECTED LINE OF WALL

TRENCH 3

314

312

307

natural level = 5.05m

TRENCH 4

natural level = 4.50m

417

415

TRENCH 5

507

509

502

501

506

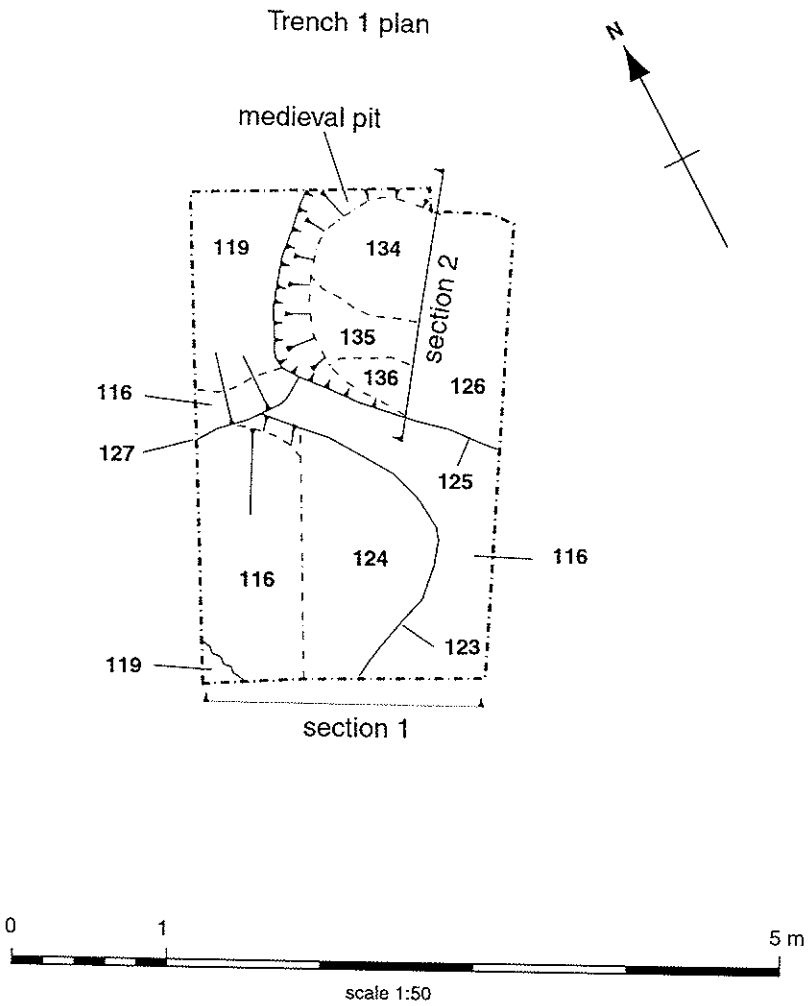
natural level = 4.29m

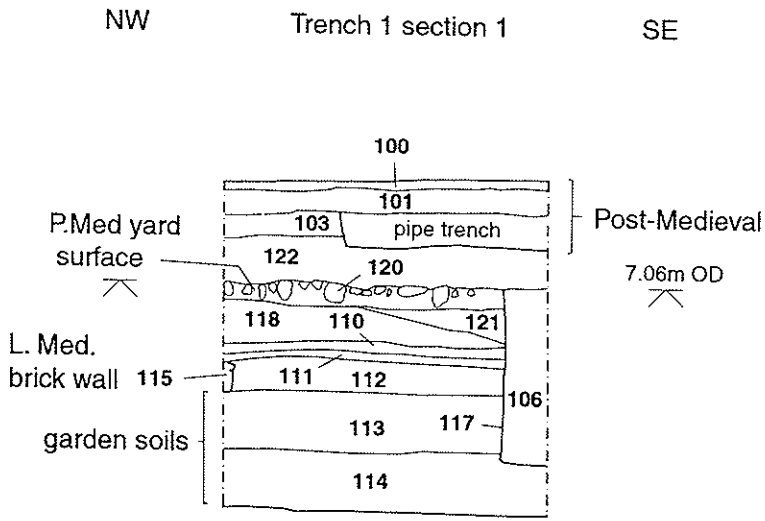
0 10 20 m

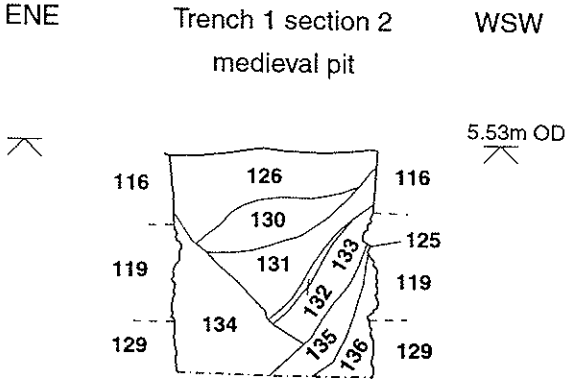
scale 1:200

Location of trenches

Figure 3



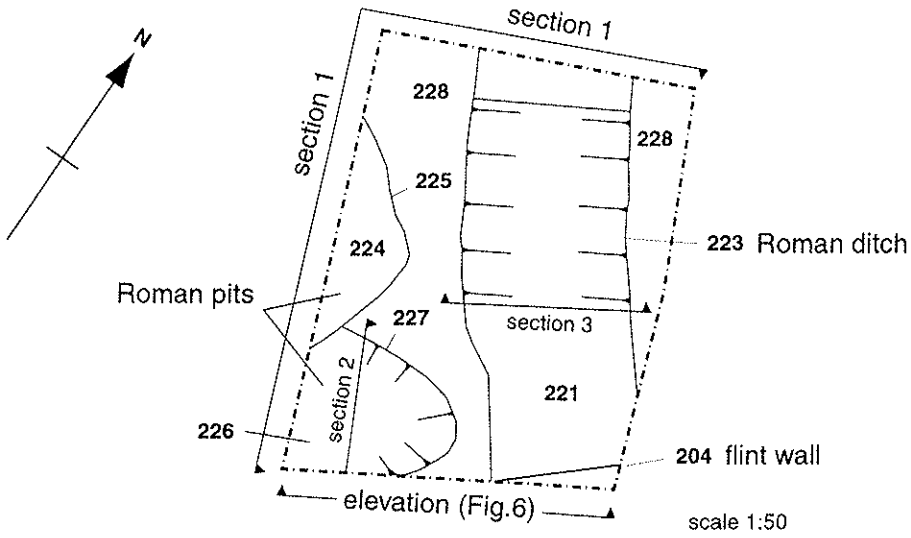




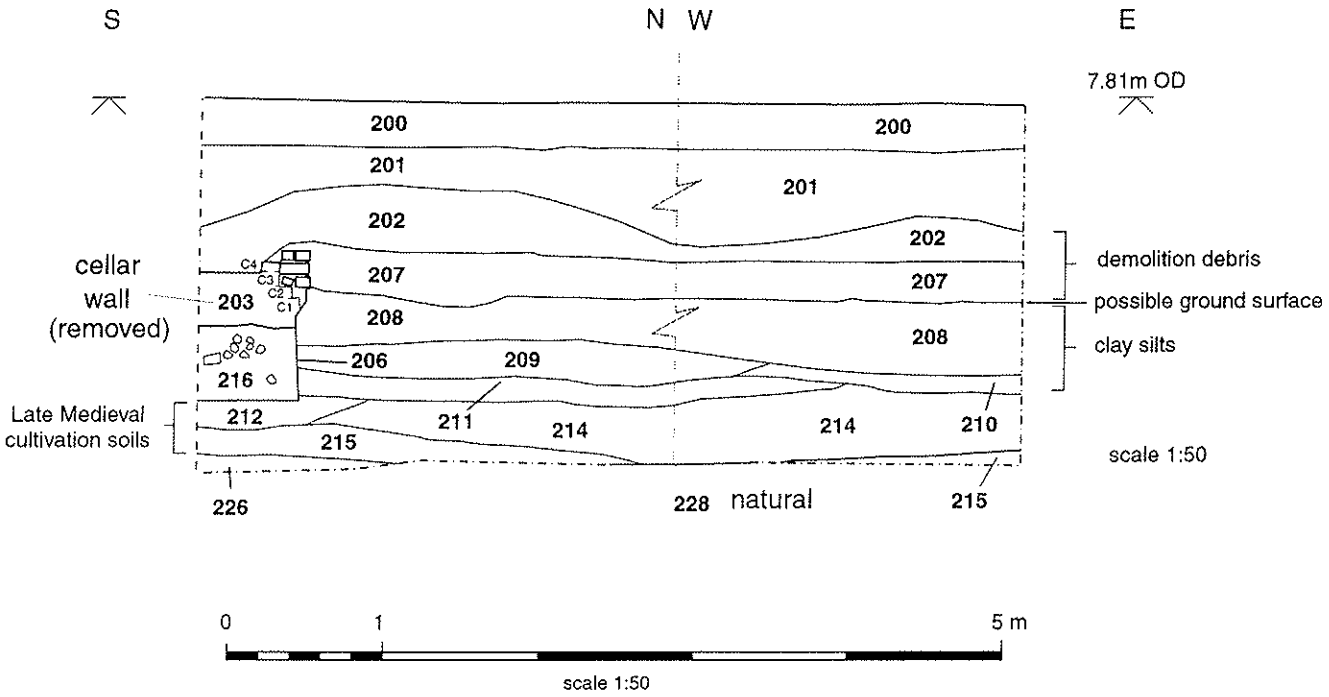
Trench 1 plan and sections

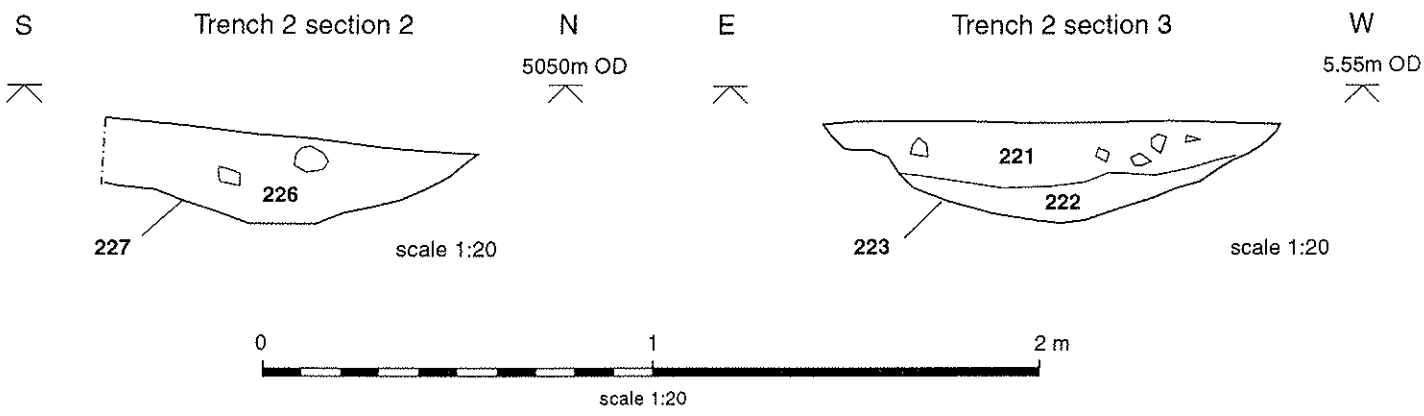
Figure 4

Trench 2 plan



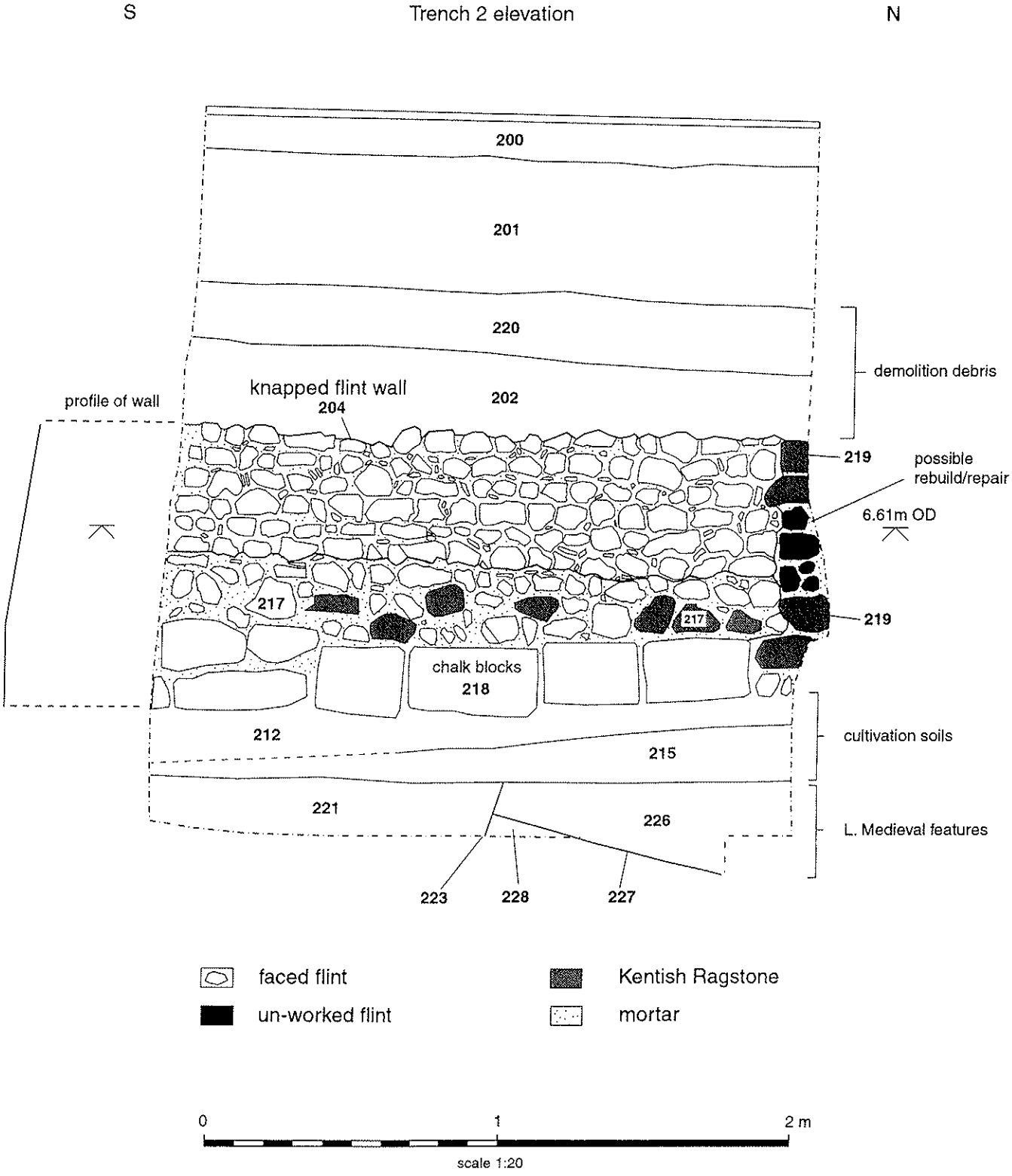
Trench 2 section 1





Trench 2 plan and section

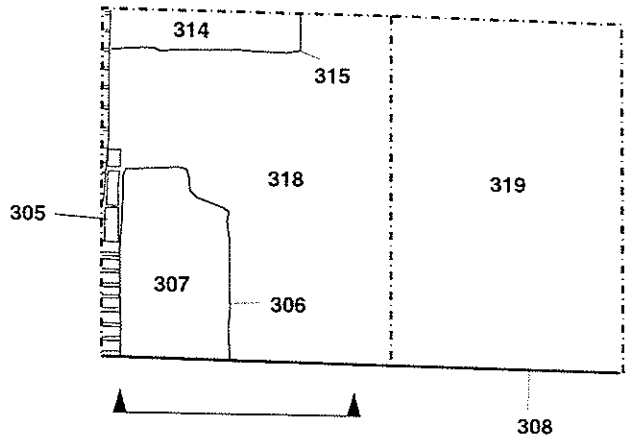
Figure 5



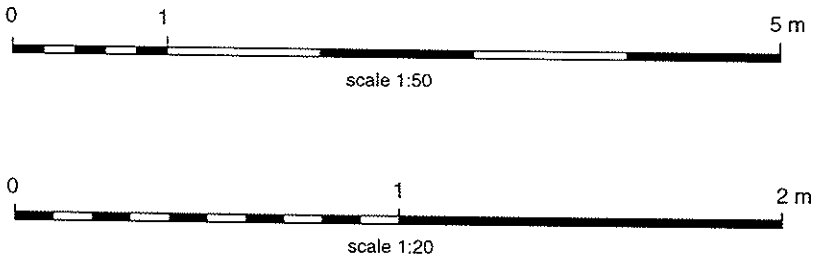
Trench 2 elevation of wall

Figure 6

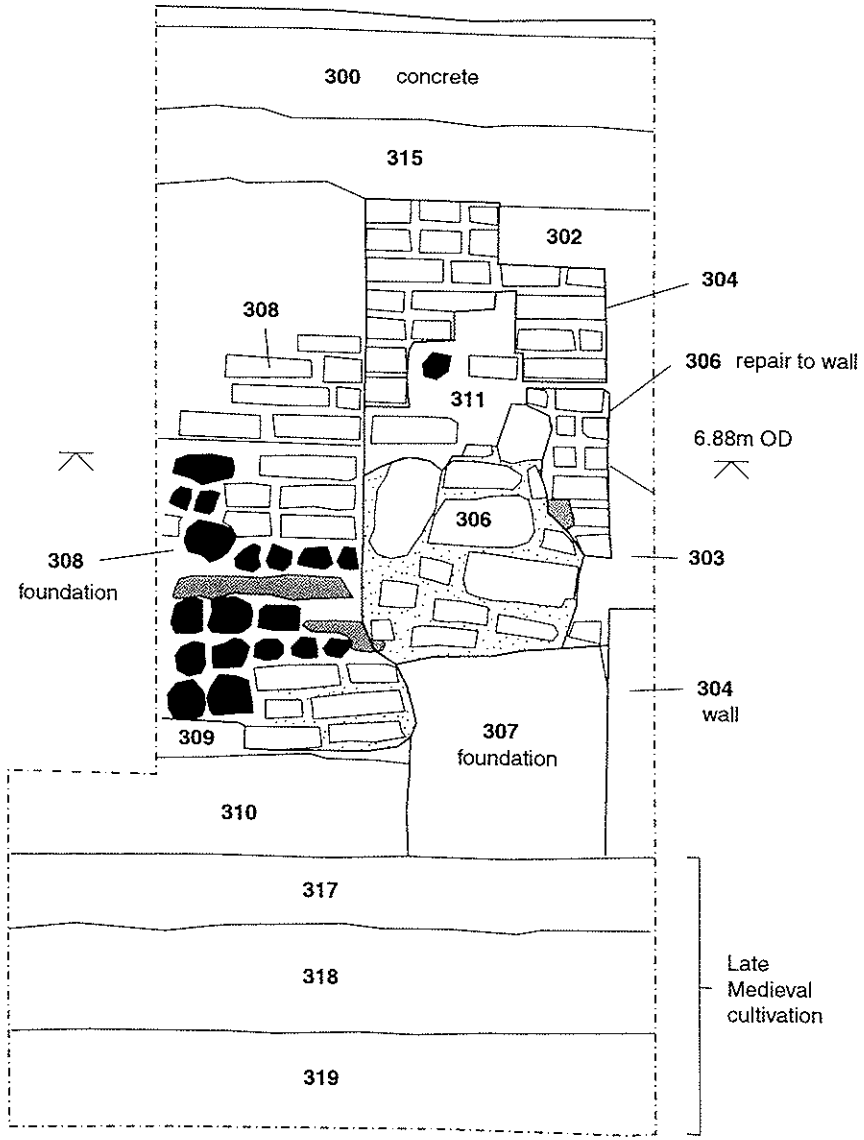
Trench 3 plan



scale 1:50



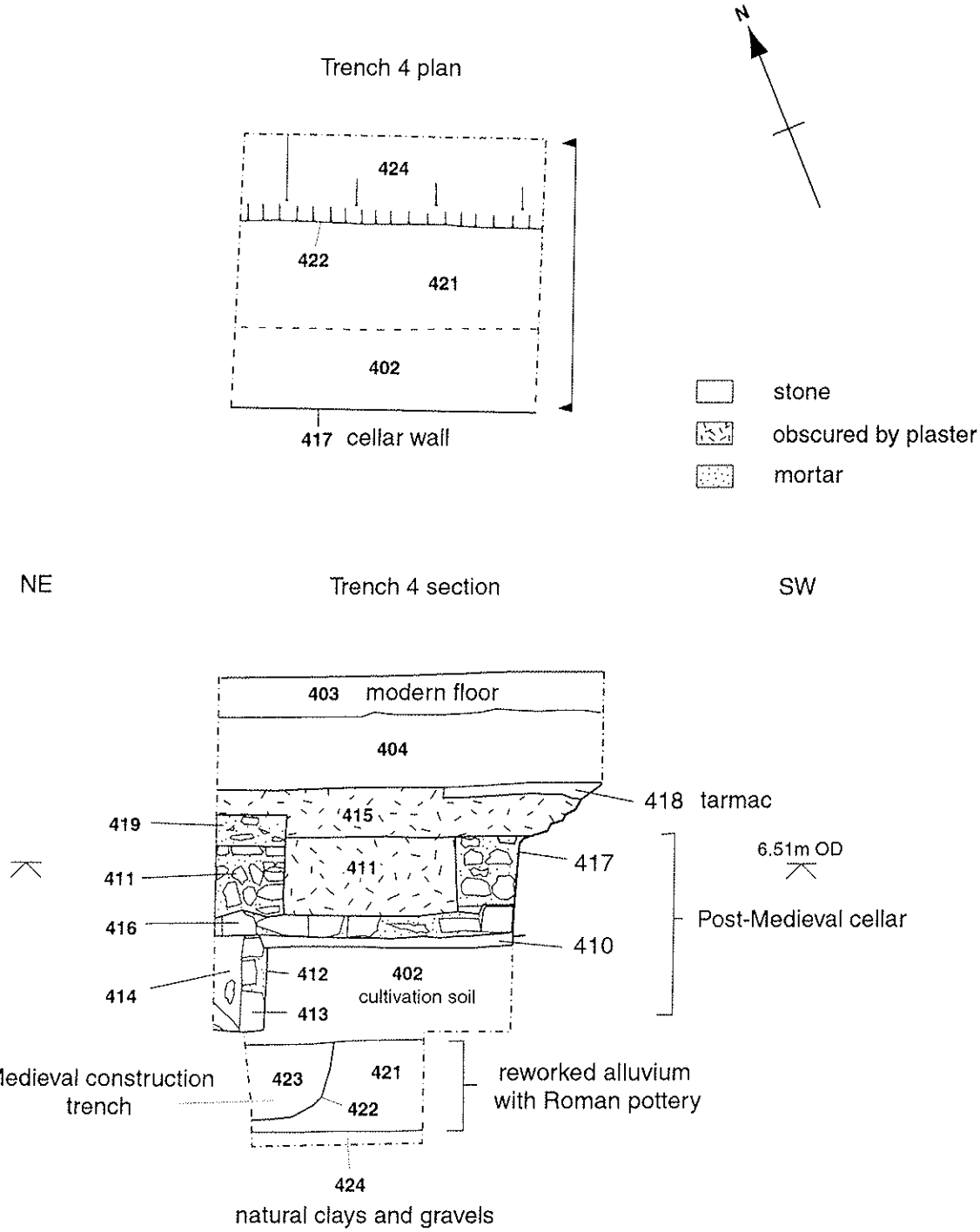
Trench 3 section



scale 1:20

Trench 3 plan and section

Figure 7



Trench 4 plan and section

Figure 8

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