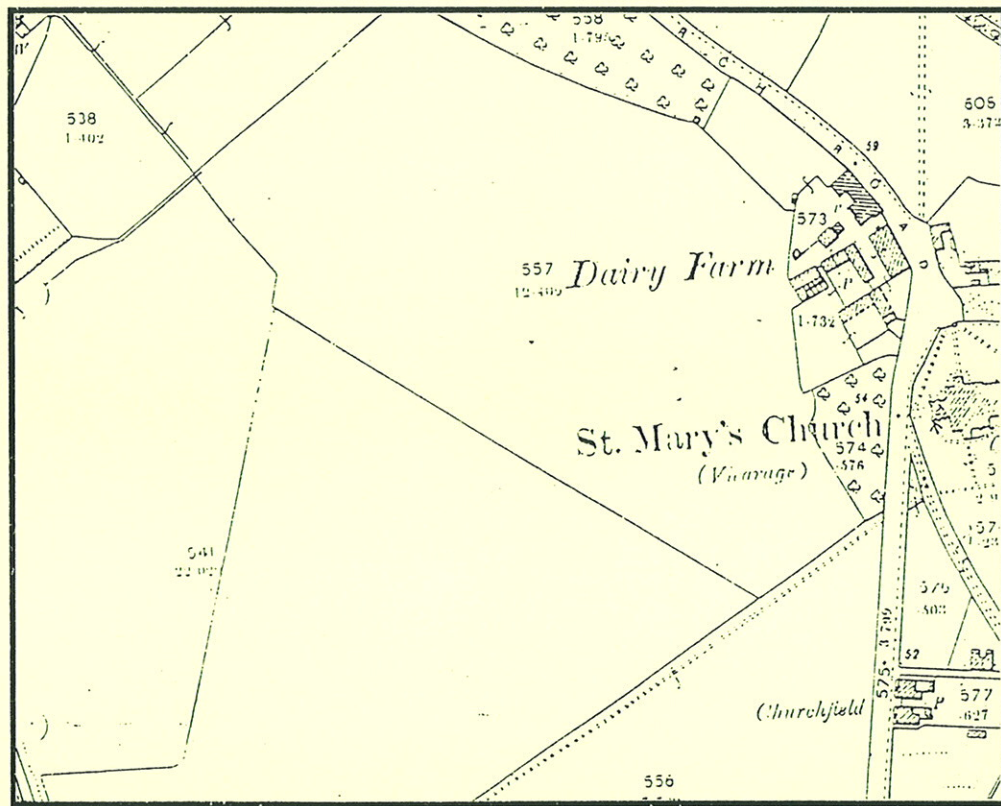


Dairy Farm, Lydney, Gloucestershire

NGR SO 6320 0255

Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation Report



Extract from 1902 Ordnance Survey map



Oxford Archaeological Unit

October 1996

**DAIRY FARM, LYDNEY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE
NGR SO 6320 0255**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND EXCAVATION REPORT

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1 SUMMARY

Limited evidence of medieval activity and some post-medieval features were identified during archaeological evaluation and excavation work undertaken by the Oxford Archaeological Unit at Dairy Farm, Lydney, Gloucestershire. A single medieval ditch, a trackway/hollow way (perhaps medieval in origin) and a post-medieval pit containing medieval architectural stone pieces were the most significant features. A number of undated possible post-holes were observed during the evaluation, but these did not form definite structures. Three post-holes which might have been of contemporary date were observed during the open area excavation. One of these features contained a single sherd of post-medieval pottery. The post-holes did not form a coherent structure.

A stone built drain associated with the recently demolished farm buildings on the site was also investigated. A number of recent animal burials relating to Dairy Farm were observed, but were not excavated. Most of the pit features examined were probably of Victorian or later date. The density of pottery and other artifacts recovered from the evaluation and excavation areas was very low, suggesting that human occupation and activity on the site has been limited, and that historically this site has been used for pasture.

2 INTRODUCTION

The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) carried out an archaeological field evaluation at Dairy Farm, Lydney (Fig. 1) in advance of the development of the site for a new housing estate. The evaluation was carried out in two phases (March 1996 and August 1996) on behalf of Robert Hitchens Homes. The evaluation was requested by Gloucestershire County Planning Department in accordance with PPG 16, as Dairy Farm lies in an area of archaeological interest. Additional excavation was required by the Gloucestershire County Planning Department in August 1996, owing to the presence of medieval features and finds located in some of the earlier evaluation trenches excavated in March 1996.

This report contains the results of the evaluation and excavation and includes a brief summary of previous archaeological work in the area of this development.

3 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The site of Dairy Farm on Church Road, Lydney is located to the south-west of the town to the immediate west of St. Mary's Church (NGR 632025). The site (Fig. 2), which encompasses an area of some 4.1 hectares, is bounded by Church Road along its east and

north-eastern extent, and by the playing fields and buildings of Whitecross School to the north-west. To the south lies a cemetery which is separated from the site by a hedgerow and small track. The former buildings of the farm were situated in the north-east corner of the site, and were demolished prior to the commencement of the evaluation. The site is generally flat, and lies at approximately 16.6 m O.D.

The 1:2500 Ordnance Survey Sheet (No. 47.6, Gloucester Record Office) shows the site being occupied by Dairy Farm consistently in editions of 1880, 1902 and 1921. The 1902 map shows the area to the south of the farm buildings as an orchard, and the area west of the farm as open fields.

The six inch to one mile geological map (Sheet SO 60 SW) shows the site to lie within the St. Maughan's Group which comprises a mixture of red marls and weak mudstones with subordinate sandstones and siltstones of the Old Red Sandstone series. A shallow covering of Kidderminster Severn Terrace Gravels is also sporadically present.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

There are no records of prehistoric and Roman activity within the area of the present town of Lydney, although an Iron Age promontory fort, later containing the well-known Roman temple complex, lies in Lydney Park to the west. In the late Saxon period Lydney came into the possession of the monks of Glastonbury Abbey, who presumably utilised the rich deposits of iron ore in the area (Finberg, 1975, 54). A survey drawn up in 1282 refers to considerable mining activity at the Earl of Warwick's mines in his wood at Lydney (ibid, 83).

In the medieval period ships were built at Lydney with oak from the Forest of Dean, and oak bark from the forest supplied tanneries in the town (Finberg, 1975, 98). A tramway was built from Lydney to Bishopswood in 1810, linking various collieries and ironworks in the region (Finberg, 1975, 116). The line of the tramway, followed by the later railway, lay just to the east of the parish church (GLSMR 5701).

The site of Dairy Farm lies to the immediate north-west of St. Mary's Church (GLSMR 5620), which was built in the thirteenth century. In common with many churches in the Victorian period the building was restored, including a rebuild of the church spire. A rectory was built in 1841 to the immediate north of St. Mary's Church (GLSMR 12675) which was surrounded by a boundary wall (GLSMR 12676).

To the west of Dairy Farm at Whitecross School, the southern boundary wall of Whitecross Manor (demolished during the Civil War) was identified during an archaeological field evaluation at the school (Reilly 1995). In addition several channels containing silty deposits were recorded, which possibly relate to the use of Lydney furnace during the post-medieval period (GLSMR 13680). Further post-medieval industrial features (GLSMR 16656) were identified in the playing fields of Whitecross School in 1991, during an evaluation by the Gloucestershire Archaeology Section on the proposed route of the A48 Lydney Bypass (Hoyle 1991).

North of Dairy Farm medieval finds were recovered during excavation work for the construction of council houses in 1932 (GLSMR 6501). South of Dairy Farm is the site of a large paper mill and boiler works. The site was formerly used for tin plate production and was known as Lower Forge (GLSMR 5659). Tin plate production began here in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, and became the focus of tin plate production for Lydney in the 1890s. The works were closed in the 1950s, and by the 1970s the buildings were used by the Watts Tyre and Rubber Company.

5 STRATEGY AND METHODOLOGY

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the evaluation was drawn up by the OAU in December 1995 (OAU 1995). Prior to the commencement of fieldwork, the Gloucestershire Sites and Monuments Record office was consulted to provide background information relating to the area surrounding Dairy Farm (Fig. 3, see summary above). Geological and historical Ordnance Survey maps were also studied. A report on the soils and geology of the site prepared by E.J. Wilson & Associates, Consulting Engineering Geologists (for Robert Hitchins Homes) was made available to the OAU.

The proposed evaluation strategy involved the excavation of twenty-three machine dug trenches (Fig. 4). The evaluation was divided into two phases of work owing to the presence of a large power cable aligned north-east - south-west which extended across the development area. For reasons of health and safety, it was agreed that the developer would remove the cable prior to evaluation of the north-west part of the development area. Consequently the first phase of the evaluation (Trenches 1-13, excavated March 1996) was confined to the south-east part of the site.

Upon instruction that the power cable had been removed, the OAU returned to the site in August 1996. However, by this time building work on the site had commenced and it was not possible to excavate all the phase two trenches in their proposed locations. As a result trenches 17, 18, and 19 were not excavated. All of the remaining trenches were located as near as possible to their proposed positions, within the constraints of the ongoing building site work. In some instances the lengths of the trenches had to be reduced.

Twenty of the proposed twenty-three trenches were opened, the majority of which measured 20 m by 2 m. The total area investigated consisted of approximately 2% of the development site.

The trenches were excavated using a 360° Hymac mechanical excavator, which excavated down to the first significant archaeological horizon, or in its absence, to the natural geological horizon. Each evaluation trench was issued with a block of context numbers, and each feature or deposit given a unique context number. These are summarised in table form at the end of this report (Appendix 1). The excavated spoil from the trenches was carefully monitored for the presence of artifacts. All field recording was undertaken in accordance with the OAU's Field Manual (Wilkinson 1992).

6 THE EVALUATION: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND INTERPRETATION

The excavation areas are described separately in section 7 of this report below.

6.1 Phase 1: Trenches 1 - 13

Thirteen trenches were excavated during the first phase of work. A description of the deposits and features is given for each trench. Where features or archaeological significant deposits were present, the interpretation of these follows the descriptive text

Trench 1

Trench 1 (Fig. 5) was 20 m long, 2 m wide and was dug to a maximum depth of 0.65 m (Fig. 5, sections c and d). The trench was located in the south-east corner of the development area, and was aligned north-east - south-west.

At the base of Trench 1 was a layer of compact reddish-brown clean silty clay with inclusions of sandstone (102), which was interpreted as the natural subsoil horizon. This layer was observed consistently along the base of the trench.

At the level of 102, and cut into it, was a north-west - south-east aligned feature (103, Fig. 5, section b), which extended fully across the width of the centre of the trench. Ditch 103 was at its widest point 1.06 m wide, 0.25 m deep, and had a concave base with steep, near vertical sides. The ditch curved slightly to the west. The fill of 103 was greyish-brown silty loam (104) which contained two sherds of medieval pottery (see pottery report, section 8 below).

Fill 104 was sealed by 101, a compact reddish-brown silt loam which was 0.24 m thick, and was observed along the length of the section. A linear feature, 105 (Fig. 5, section a), was cut from the top of 101. Feature 105 was 0.70 m wide, 0.46 m deep and had vertical sides. It extended across the trench at its south-west end. The fill of 105 was a red-brown silt loam (106) which contained twentieth century pottery.

At the north-east end of the trench was a ceramic drainage pipe, 107. The pipe (107) and the upper fill of 105 were sealed by the present topsoil 100.

Interpretation of deposits in Trench 1

Ditch 103 dates to the medieval period, although its function was not clear. It may have been a field boundary or drainage feature. Linear feature 105 may be an aborted modern drainage trench, as no pipe was found within the cut. Pipe 107 served as a field drain, although its exact date was not known. Layer 101 was a developed soil horizon below the topsoil/pasture surface.

Trench 2

This trench was 20 m long, 2 m wide and dug to a maximum depth of 0.72 m. The trench was located at the extreme south of the site adjacent to the field boundary and aligned north-east - south-west.

The lowest deposit within Trench 2 was a compact layer of whitish red sandstone (204), which was interpreted as the top of the natural geological horizon. Above 204 was layer 203, a 0.23 m thick deposit of brown-red clay which extended fully along the length of the trench. Layer 203 was sealed by 202, a 0.16-0.26 m thick layer of dark reddish grey silty clay which included charcoal flecks. Layer 202 extended fully along the length of the trench. Above 202 was the present topsoil, 201, which was 0.16-0.24 m thick. Layer 201 produced a single sherd of post-medieval pottery.

Interpretation of deposits in Trench 2

Above the bedrock (204) layer 203 represented the natural clay subsoil, which in turn was sealed by the developed soil (202) beneath the topsoil/pasture surface layer (201). No archaeological features were observed in this trench, although a single pottery sherd was recovered from the topsoil.

Trenches 3, 4, and 5

All of these trenches were 20 m long and 2 m wide. Trench 3 was aligned north-east - south-west and was dug to a maximum depth of 0.92 m. Trench 4 was aligned north-west - south-east and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.04 m. Trench 5 was orientated north-west - south-east, and was machined to a maximum depth of 1.19 m. The sequence of natural deposits and soil horizons in these trenches was the same as within Trench 2, although the depths of the deposits varied slightly. No archaeological finds or features were observed within these trenches.

Trench 6

Trench 6 (Fig. 6) was 20 long, 2 m wide and was dug to a maximum depth of 1.01 m. The trench was orientated north-west - south-east and was located to the centre of the evaluation area.

The lowest deposit at the base of the trench was 609, a compact layer of sandstone which represented the top of the natural geological horizon. Above 609 was a layer of light reddish-brown clay (608) with sandstone inclusions which was 0.25 m thick, and extended the length of the trench. Layer 608 was sealed by another deposit of yellowish-brown clay (610) at the south-east end of Trench 6.

In the centre of Trench 6 was a linear feature (605 Fig. 6, section a) aligned north-east - south-west. This feature, interpreted as a ditch, was cut from the level of layer 608. The ditch extended across the width of the trench. Ditch 605 was 1.25 m wide at its

widest point, and 0.50 m wide at its base. The feature had a concave profile and a flat base. The lower fill of 605 was a 0.34 m thick deposit of tenacious reddish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and sandstone inclusions (604). No finds were recovered from the fill. The upper fill of the ditch was a 0.36 m thick deposit of reddish brown silty clay with 2% charcoal flecks and occasional sandstone inclusions. This fill contained no dating material.

At the south-east end of the trench and cut from the level of clay layer 610 was an irregular linear feature (606 Fig. 6, section b) crossing the trench aligned approximately north-south. The feature was steep sided with a flat base, c. 2.5 m wide and 0.74 m deep (maximum). The fill of 606 was a brownish-pink clay which contained 2% charcoal flecks and 5% sandstone pieces (607). No finds were recovered from this deposit.

To the north-west of ditch 605 and 1.7 m distant from it was a shallow ?circular feature (612) which extended under the east baulk of the trench. The feature was 1 m wide, 0.30 m deep and had gently sloping sides and a flat base. The fill of 612 was a deposit of brownish-pink clay (611) with 2% charcoal inclusions and sandstone pieces but no artifacts. The fills of features 606 and 612 were similar, suggesting perhaps that they infilled at broadly the same time.

The upper fills of all of the features in Trench 6 were sealed by a 0.18-0.26m thick layer of dark reddish brown silty clay (602), which was in turn overlaid by the topsoil layer 601.

Interpretation of deposits in Trench 6

Ditch 605 was undated, but presumably functioned as a field boundary. The ditch forms an approximate right angle with the ditch and hedge boundary that was present in the centre of the site at the time of the evaluation. This boundary was perhaps of fairly recent date (Victorian?) and might therefore suggest that ditch 605 dates to that period.

The feature at the south-west end of the trench, 606, was perhaps a former watercourse, although again was not dated. Alternatively it may have been a channel similar to those observed in Whitecross School fields, and associated with the Lydney furnace. Feature 612 had an unclear function: the similar nature of the fill to the ?watercourse feature 606 might suggest that both features were of contemporary date. The evidence is, however, inconclusive. No finds were recovered from any of the features or from the overlying layer (602). The topsoil similarly contained no artifacts.

Trenches 7 and 8

Both trenches were 20 m long and 2 m wide, and were located to the east of Trench 6. Trench 7 was aligned north-west - south-east, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.64 m. Trench 8 was aligned south-west - north-east, and was dug to a maximum depth of 1.04 m. The soil profiles in both trenches were similar to those in Trenches 2-5 and are not further discussed. No archaeological features or finds were recovered from these trenches.

Trench 9

Trench 9 (Fig. 7) was 20 m long and 2 m wide and was orientated north-west - south-east in the northern part of the evaluation area. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.55 m at its north-east end and 1.06 m at the south-west end (Fig. 7, sections a and c).

The lowest deposit within Trench 9 was a compact layer of sand and sandstone gravel (904), which was interpreted as the natural geological horizon. Above 904 was a 903, a layer of compact reddish brown clean sandy clay which was 0.18 m thick. This deposit was interpreted as the natural subsoil. Layer 903 was sealed by 902, which was similar to 903 but heavily disturbed by root activity.

At the level of the top of layer 902 were three cut ovoid features 905, 909 and 911. All of the features were infilled with white lime, and in 907, the bones of an animal were partly visible. The features were all modern animal burial pits, probably for calves. For health and safety reasons the features were not further investigated.

At the north end of the trench a modern metal service pipe (909) was aligned east-west. The pipe was not removed.

Sealing the pit fills and the service pipe was a layer of compact light-brown silt loam (901) 0.15 m thick. Above 901 was 900, a mixture of topsoil and gravel. A recent feature (913) was cut from the level of 900. This was 0.28 m deep, 0.32 m wide and was circular with vertical sides leading to a rounded base (Fig. 7, section b).

Interpretation of deposits in Trench 9

The animal burials which were not excavated presumably derive from Dairy Farm itself, and perhaps date to this century. Feature 913 was a modern post-hole, recently dug, and probably held a telegraph pole. No significant archaeological features were present within the trench.

Trench 10

Trench 10 (orientated north-west - south-east) was 20 m long, 2 m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.70 m. The trench was moved 5 m to the south-east of its proposed location in order to avoid the central power line which extended across the site. The sequence of soils in the trench was similar to that of Trenches 2-5 and 7-8. No archaeological features or finds were observed in the trench.

Trench 11

Trench 11 (Fig. 8) was 20.7 m long, 2 m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.60 m. The trench was aligned north-west - south-east and was situated at the north-east corner of the evaluation area.

The earliest deposit identified within the trench was a layer of compact sandstone (1117) at the north-east end of the trench. This layer was interpreted as the natural geological horizon and was sealed by 1105, a tenacious reddish-brown clay including sandstone fragments, which was interpreted as the natural subsoil.

At the north end of the trench was a cut feature which was mostly removed by the machine and was seen in section only. Feature 1112 (Fig. 8, section a) was at least 0.40 m deep, 1.1 m wide and had a concave south edge. The fill of 1112 was a reddish-brown silty clay (1111) which contained modern brick fragments.

Towards the centre of Trench 11 and against the east baulk was a substantial pit feature (1104) which was cut through the subsoil 1105. Pit 1104 (Fig. 8, section b) was circular with a concave base and steep sloping sides. The pit was 0.82 m deep and 1.90 m in diameter. The base fill of the pit was a loose dark brown clay loam with some stone inclusions (1103), 0.10 m thick. Above 1103 was a deposit of loose light grey-brown sandy silt (1102) which was 0.30 m thick. The final fill of 1104 was a loose light grey silty sand (1101) 0.36 m thick. Within this fill were stone architectural fragments and one sherd of late medieval pottery. (See finds reports below).

At the south-east end of the trench were three possible post-hole features, all of which were undated. All three features were cut from the level of the subsoil 1105. Feature 1109 (Fig. 8, section d) was oval in plan with a concave profile and a rounded base. The feature was located 1.3 m south-east of pit 1104. The cut was 0.30 m wide and 0.09 m deep. The fill (1108) was a loose light grey silty clay.

Feature 1107 (Fig. 8, section e) was oval in plan and had a concave profile and rounded base. The feature was situated 2.5 m due south of 1109. The cut was 0.10 m deep and 0.32 m in diameter. The fill (1106) was a loose light grey silty clay.

A third possible post-hole was located at the south-east end of the trench. Cut 1115 was circular, 0.03 m deep with a flat base and gently sloping sides. The fill (1116) was a tenacious light-grey sticky clay.

Located between 1107 and 1115 was a pit feature, 1113. This was circular with vertical sides and a rounded base (Fig. 8, section c). The pit was 0.32 m deep and had a diameter of 0.74 m. The fill of the feature was a very dark grey clay loam (1114) which contained charcoal, several large limestone blocks and sherds of eighteenth and nineteenth/twentieth century pottery. It was unclear what level the pit was cut from, but the relatively modern finds suggest it was a recent event.

The upper fills of these features were sealed by a general layer of grey-brown silty clay (1110) which included charcoal, stone fragments and mortar. The layer was 0.40 m thick and extended across the length of the trench. Above 1110 was layer 1100, a general mixed deposit of brick and stone rubble, clay, charcoal and bricks up to 0.60 m thick.

Interpretation of deposits in Trench 11

The post-holes at the south-east end of trench perhaps formed part of a structure

although this cannot be proved. The date of the features is unknown. Pit 1104 contained late medieval pottery in its upper fill, although the feature could have been dug in an earlier period. The worked stone from the upper fill is medieval in style and date, and is discussed fully below (section 8.2 of this report).

Pits 1112 and 1113 probably date to the Victorian period, although their function was not clear. The upper layers in Trench 11 relate to the use and demolition of the farm and its buildings.

Trench 12

Trench 12 (Fig. 9) was 24.5 m long and 2 m wide, with additional areas opened at the east side of the trench in order to investigate structural features found within it. The trench was orientated north-east - south-west and was located at the extreme north-east side of the evaluation area, in the area formerly occupied by the Dairy Farm buildings.

The earliest deposit identified in Trench 12 was a layer of tenacious reddish brown clay with sandstone inclusions (1200) which was interpreted as the natural subsoil. Above 1200 was a layer of tenacious brownish-grey clay loam (1201) with a few stone inclusions. This layer was 0.30 m thick. At the level of layer 1201 a stone-built structure (1207) had been built within a shallow construction trench (1206). Trench 1206 (Fig. 9, section a) was 0.35 m deep and 0.50 m wide and was aligned north-east - south-west. The base of the trench was flat and it had vertical sides. Structure 1207 consisted of large limestone blocks placed as two parallel alignments within the construction trench. A row of limestones laid flat formed the cover of the structure. The structure was 0.55 m wide, and formed a drain associated with the farm. The drain was at least 13 m long, and extended under the north baulk of the trench. Five sherds of nineteenth-twentieth century pottery were recovered from the drain. An additional part of the structure was a smaller stone-built gully which was aligned east-west and joined 1207 on its east side.

Above drain 1207 lay a general layer of reddish-brown clay (1205) containing limestone rubble, sandstone and flecks of charcoal. Layer 1205 was 0.35 m thick, and extended for the length of the trench. This deposit was sealed by 1204, a large slab of concrete associated with the surface of the farm. Layers 1202 and 1201 at the top of the trench derived from the recent demolition of the farm buildings.

At the extreme south-west of the trench was a modern drainage trench (1208), again probably associated with the farm buildings. The fill of the trench (1209) contained brick and sandstone rubble. The feature was not excavated.

Interpretation of deposits within Trench 12

Layer 1201 represents the soil horizon prior to the construction of the drain. Layer 1201 was not datable but may represent the remains of the medieval (or earlier) ground surface. The stone built drain was used during the lifetime of Dairy Farm but the date of its construction (although certainly post-medieval) is not precisely known. The remaining deposits within the trench post-dated the construction of the drain. No

medieval or earlier features or finds were observed within Trench 12.

Trench 13

Trench 13 was 20 m long, 2 m wide and was located at the east side of the evaluation area on a north-west - south-east alignment.

At the base of Trench 13 was a layer of reddish-brown silty clay (1300) which formed the natural subsoil horizon. Overlying 1300 were further clay layers of slightly greyer colour (1301 = 1302 = 1306), which were also thought to be natural clays. Layer 1303 which followed contained charcoal flecks and was 0.20 m thick. This layer was undated and probably represented the developed horizon below the topsoil/pasture level.

A large deep pit feature (Fig. 10, section a) at the north-west end of the trench had been dug from the level of the ground surface. Pit 1304 was at least 1.04 m deep, 2.6 m+ wide and was infilled with a homogenous deposit of loose grey sandy silt (1305) with up to 60% gravel inclusions. The feature was clearly recently dug, and was not investigated below the level of the base of the trench.

Towards the centre of the trench and adjacent to the east baulk were two roughly circular features which were shallow and were cut into the natural subsoil. Feature 1307 was the more northerly of the two, and extended under the east baulk. Feature 1307 was 0.15 m deep, 0.45 m wide and had a gently curved profile. The fill of the feature was a dark grey-brown silty clay (1308), which contained no dating material.

South of 1307 was 1309, a shallow ovoid feature which was 0.34 m wide but only 0.03 m deep. The fill of the feature (1310) was a dark grey-brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from the fill.

Above the fills of features 1307 and 1309 and over the natural subsoil was a layer of loose grey-brown sandy loam (1311 = 1314 = 1315) which was distinctly different from other layers on the site at a comparable level. The layer may have been a recently dumped layer of redeposited topsoil. Layers 1311 and then 1312 at the top of the trench contained recent rubbish and building demolition debris.

Interpretation of deposits within Trench 13

The two small features were perhaps post-holes, although the full profile of the features had been lost due to later truncation. The features were undated, but may have been structural. The pit feature was very recently dug, although its function was not apparent. The distinctive loamy soils may have derived from the digging of a ?pond/sunken feature which was situated to the immediate east of Trench 13. The absence in this trench of the reddish-brown horizon below the topsoil was noticeable, and might suggest that landscaping of this part of the site has taken place.

6.2 Phase 2: Trenches 14-16 and 20-23

Seven trenches were excavated during the second phase of the evaluation.

Trench 14

Trench 14 was 19.8 m long and 2 m wide, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.01 m (Fig. 11, sections a, b, c). The trench was aligned north-east - south-west and was located at the extreme north of the evaluation area.

At the base of the trench was a compact layer of light reddish-brown sandy silt (1403) with c. 30% sandstone inclusions, which was interpreted as the top of the natural geological horizon. Above this layer was 1402, a 0.35 m thick deposit of reddish-brown sandy silt with occasional sandstone. This layer extended for the whole length of the trench, and formed the natural subsoil horizon. Layer 1402 was sealed by 1401, a 0.28-0.32 m thick deposit of greyish brown silt and sand, representing the horizon underlying the topsoil/pasture soil, as seen elsewhere during this evaluation.

At the level of 1401 a large modern pit (1404, Fig. 11, section d) had been dug, although the function of the feature was not clear. The feature was at least 1.16 m deep and was at most 2.8 m wide near the top. The east edge of the feature sloped at 75°, whilst the west edge of the cut was very irregular. The feature was not fully excavated owing to safety reasons. The lower observed fill of 1404 was a deposit of compact reddish brown sand and gravel (1406) which was 0.45 m thick. The upper fill of the feature was a 0.60 m thick deposit of reddish-brown loam (1405) with up to 40% sand and gravel inclusions. One sherd of modern glass was recovered from this deposit.

The upper fill of pit 1405 was sealed by the topsoil (1400). The only other feature of note was a recent water pipe (1407) located at the north-west end of the trench.

Interpretation of deposits in Trench 14

Pit 1404 was a modern feature, cut from just below the present topsoil. No medieval or earlier features or finds were observed in this trench.

Trench 15

Trench 15 was 20 m long, 2 m wide, and was dug to a maximum depth of 0.92 m. The contractors had built their site compound over the proposed location of this trench, and as a result the trench was re-positioned 20 m to the north. The trench was aligned north-west - south-east.

The sequence of soils above the sandstone bedrock was the same as for Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8, with some variations in the depths of the layers. No archaeological finds or features were observed within this trench.

Trench 16

Trench 16 was 15.5 m long, 2 m wide and was orientated north-east - south-west. The trench had to be located within an area where building work was already in progress. As a result the length of the trench was reduced by 4.5 m. The trench was located as near to the proposed location as was possible.

The trench was dug to a maximum depth of 1.06 m. The sequence of soils above the sandstone bedrock was the same as in Trench 15, with some variations in soil depths. No features or finds were seen in this trench.

Trenches 17-19 were not excavated (see above)

Trench 20

Trench 20 was 22 m long, 2 m wide and was located to the south-east of its proposed location in order to avoid building work that was in progress. The trench was aligned north-east - south-west, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.96 m (Fig. 12, sections a and c).

The sequence of soil accumulation was the same as within Trenches 15 and 16. A single feature was located towards the centre of the trench, and extended under the west baulk of the trench. Feature 2004 was cut from the level of the natural subsoil (2002). The feature was 1.90 m wide, 0.84 m deep and had curving sides leading to a rounded base (Fig. 12, section b). The only fill of 2004 was a deposit of loose light grey-brown sandy silt (2005) which included some sandstone pieces and 5% charcoal flecks, but no dating evidence. This feature is likely to have been a tree hole. No further features or finds were recovered from this trench.

Trench 21

Trench 21 was aligned north-east - south-west and was located in the western corner of the evaluation area. The trench was 20 m long, 2 m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.73 m.

The lowest deposit within the trench was layer 2103, a compact layer of sandstone pieces and sand. This deposit formed the top of the natural geological horizon. Towards the east end of the trench was a possible linear 'cut' (2104) which was set into 2103. The feature was filled by a deposit of reddish-brown sandy silt (2105) with some sandstone inclusions. When investigated the feature was 0.06 m deep and was directly sealed by the overlying layer 2102, which was of identical colour and type.

Above 2103 and 2104 was 2102, a compact reddish-brown sandy silt with occasional sandstone pieces and patches of sand. This layer was 0.15-0.20m thick and represented the natural subsoil horizon. Layer 2102 was sealed by 2101, a 0.25-0.33m thick layer of

reddish-brown sandy loam which extended the length of the trench. This layer represented the developed horizon underlying the topsoil/pasture soil, although it produced no dating material. At the south-west end of the trench above 2101 was a 0.12 m thick deposit of quite compacted reddish-brown sand (2106). This layer extended for a length of 6.8 m before fading out. Topsoil 2100 covered layer 2106.

Interpretation of deposits in Trench 21

It was not thought that 'feature' 2104 was man-made, and it seems to have been a localised irregularity in the upper surface of the sandstone strata. The sandy layer 2106 seems to have been a localised dump of ?building sand and is fairly recent in origin. No archaeological features or finds were observed in Trench 21.

Trench 22

Trench 22 was orientated north-west - south-east, and was positioned at the east side of the evaluation area as near as possible to the proposed location. The trench was 20 m long, 2 m wide and was dug to a maximum depth of 1.02 m.

The sequence of soils above the natural bedrock was identical to those observed in Trenches 7, 8, 15 and 16. No archaeological features or finds were observed within this trench.

Trench 23

Trench 23 was aligned north-east - south-west, and was located to the south-east of Trench 22. The trench was reduced in length to 14 m in order to fit the trench in between contractors' excavations and the site boundary. The trench was dug to a maximum depth of 0.84 m. The sequence of soil horizons above the natural bedrock was the same as in Trench 22, and no archaeological features were observed within the trench. A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from layer 2301 which lay below the topsoil 2300.

7 THE AREA EXCAVATIONS

7.1 Introduction

Two larger trenches were examined in the south-east corner of the development area. A trench (Area A) measuring 41.5 m by 9 m was excavated by a 360° Hymac mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision. Area A was located to the south and south-east of an extant building (a garage) constructed for the use as a show room for the housing development. A temporary car park surface was removed together with topsoil down to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon. This surface was hand cleaned and features hand excavated as appropriate. Each deposit and feature was

issued with a unique context number, and these are summarised in table form below (Appendix 2).

A second smaller trench (Area B) was excavated by machine to the north of the show room building. This trench measured 6 m by 8 m, and was excavated to the level of the natural subsoil, in the absence of significant archaeological deposits.

All the features were drawn and recorded in accordance with standard OAU procedures. The site description for Areas A and B is presented first followed by an interpretation of the features and deposits investigated.

7.2 Area A: Site Description

The earliest deposit identified in Area A (Fig. 13) was the natural loose sandstone bedrock (8) which was mixed with patches of silty sand. Above this was a subsoil layer of reddish-brown clay silt which extended across the whole site (52). This layer was only partly removed in the machine stripping of the area and it was not given a separate context number on site. Parts of it were seen as layer 8 and parts as the overlying general layer (7). Most features appeared to have been cut from at least the top of layer 52 and some recent features were cut from the top of layer 7.

The most noticeable early feature was a linear hollow (42 = 43 = 47) which crossed the trench at its east end. The hollow (Fig. 13, sections a and b) was aligned north-west - south-east, and extended under the north and south baulks of the excavation area. Two slots were hand excavated through the feature. At the north baulk of the trench the hollow was 6.6 m wide and had a broad flat base which deepened to a concave ditch-like profile towards the east. The point at which the hollow was cut or formed is not entirely clear. It appears, however, only to have cut layer 8.

The earliest fill of 42 = 43 = 47 was a deposit of tenacious reddish-brown clay silt (45) which contained occasional sandstone pieces, and was 0.2 m thick. Above fill 45 was a general deposit of very similar silty clay material (44 = 46) which contained occasional sandstone blocks. Towards the upper surface of the deposit were inclusions of brick, tile and iron slag. At its deepest point fill 44 = 46 was 0.5 m thick. A single piece of clay pipe was recovered from 44 at the north baulk of the site.

The upper fill of the hollow (44 = 46) was sealed by a 0.38 m thick general layer of light reddish brown sandy silt, which extended across the excavation area. This consisted of two separate deposits (52 overlaid by 7, see above), both of which were cut by subsequent features. Machining removed all of layer 7 (in the sense in which it is used here) as well as parts of layer 52.

A number of features were located to the west of hollow 42 = 43 = 47. A group of three small features were located towards the north baulk of the trench, and were interpreted as post holes. All cut layer 52 and their fills were probably sealed by layer 7.

The most northerly of the features was a small circular feature, 22 (Fig. 14). This feature was 0.3 m wide, 0.24 m deep and had a diameter of 0.4 m. The cut was steep sided with a flat base. The fill of 22 was a friable grey-brown silty clay (21), from which one sherd of nineteenth/twentieth century pottery was recovered. To the east of 22 and 1 m distant from it was another feature, 16 (Fig. 14). Post-hole 16 was square in plan and had near vertical sides and a slightly concave base. The feature was 0.42 m wide and 0.17 m deep. The fill of 16 was a reddish grey clay silt (15), which contained one sherd of late medieval pottery.

Immediately south of 16 was a third small feature, again possibly a post-hole. Feature 20 (Fig. 14) was circular in plan and was 0.46 m wide and had a diameter of 0.19 m. The fill of the cut was at most 0.14 m deep, owing to truncation of the feature and its fill during the machining of the site. The fill at the side of feature was a pinkish grey loam (19) which contained charcoal inclusions. A vertical band of darkish-brown clay silt (17) in the centre of the feature may have been the remains of the wooden post. Fill 17 butted a similar vertical band of pinkish grey sandy silt (18), perhaps the remains of packing material for the post.

Three further features, all cutting layer 52, were located west of hollow 42 = 43 = 47. A sub-rectangular feature (12) was located towards the south of the trench and 2 m west of the hollow (Fig. 14). This was a post-hole 0.2 m deep, 0.51 m wide and with near vertical sides and a flat base. The base fill (11) was a compact reddish brown clay silt which contained up to 25% stone inclusions. The stones perhaps acted as packing for a post, whose decayed remains were represented by a distinct vertical band of dark grey-brown clay silt (9) which butted fill 11. The upper fill of the post-hole (10) was a thin deposit grey clay silt with fewer stone inclusions than fill 11. No finds were recovered from the fills of post-hole 12.

To the west of 12 was an irregular shaped shallow ovoid feature (14) which had an uneven base. The fill (13) contained no dating material and the feature was assumed to be a natural feature or animal disturbance.

To the north of 14 was a large rectangular pit (30) which contained recent soil and roots in its fill (29). The pit corresponds with the location of test pit 2 dug by E.J. Wilson Consulting Engineering Geologists in their recent survey. Pit 30 was not further examined.

To the east of hollow 42 = 43 = 47, and at the extreme south-east of Area A was an irregularly shaped possible gully feature (24 = 26) which was cut from the level of layer 52. The feature (Fig. 14) extended north-west - south-east for a length of 6 m, before possibly returning to the north-east as feature 28. Gully 24 = 26 was 0.32-0.66m wide, and was between 0.10-0.16m deep. The base of the feature was uneven, with the sides sloping gently. Part of the feature extended under the site baulk. The fill of 24 = 26 was a reddish grey silty clay (23 = 25) which contained no dating evidence.

East of 24 = 26, feature 28 (Fig. 14) also cut layer 52 but was poorly understood as it extended under the site baulk. A hand dug section through the feature revealed that it was at least 0.74 m wide and 0.18 m deep. The fill of 28 was grey-brown silty clay (27)

which was undated.

At the level of layer 7 and at the east and west edges of the former hollow way were two linear features. The westerly of the two (50) was poorly defined in plan and section (Fig. 13, section a), whilst the more easterly (31) extended fully across the excavation area. Feature 50 extended parallel to ditch 31, and was located 7.5 m to the west of it.

Feature 31, a ditch, was 2.2 m wide at its fullest extent and was 0.8 m deep. The ditch had a broad concave profile with a 45° sloping east edge and 35° sloping west edge (Fig 13, sections a and b). The base fill of 31 was a 0.65 m thick deposit of dark grey-brown silty clay (34), which contained limestone pieces and a single sherd of nineteenth/twentieth century pottery. Above 34 at the south section of the excavation area was a deposit of dark grey-brown silty clay with limestone inclusions. This fill was 0.13 m thick. Further north fill 34 was sealed by 33, a distinctive fill of dark grey-black silt which contained a high concentration of coke, and also included fired clay fragments, glass, and modern metal wire pieces. Fill 33 was 0.17 m thick. The final fill of ditch 34 at the north end of the site was 32, a clean layer of light grey-brown silty clay 0.08 m thick.

Feature 50 was identified in the north baulk section cutting layer 7, and it also cut through the fill of the underlying hollow (44 in 43 = 42 = 47). Feature 50 was 0.54 m deep, 0.38 m wide and had vertical sides and a curved base. The feature was only traced in plan 1.4 m south from the site baulk. Its fill was a tenacious grey-brown clay silt, which contained no dating evidence. The function of the feature was unclear.

Both 31 and 50 may have been associated with the trackway which led to Dairy Farm from Church Road. The trackway was machined away in the course of stripping the site but was observed in section at the north and south sides of Area A. The trackway (Fig. 13, sections a and b) consisted of large blocks of sandstone and limestone (5) which formed the surface. It was unclear whether ditch 31 was open when the trackway was in use, as some of the stones forming the trackway appeared in section to overlie one of the fills of the ditch (34).

To the west of trackway 5 and at the same level was a layer of greyish brown loam (51) which contained a lower proportion of stone. This layer sealed the fill of feature 50.

The remaining deposits above layers 5 and 51 (layers 22, 3, 4, 35, 36) related to recent dumping to form the temporary tarmac car park surface (1). To the west, layer 7 was sealed by a mixture of topsoil (6) and general building site debris. To the east of trackway 5 the topsoil had recently been landscaped in the area of the showroom.

7.3 Area B: Site Description

This area was excavated to the top of the natural silty clay subsoil (41) which overlaid the sandstone bedrock. Above 41 was a 0.3 m thick layer of clean brown silty clay (40), in turn sealed by layer 39, a layer of recently placed stone rubble used to consolidate the ground level. Layer 38 above 39 was similarly recently formed. No archaeological

features or finds were observed within Area B.

7.4 Interpretation of Excavation Results

Hollow 42 = 43 = 47 was probably an ancient thoroughfare or trackway, perhaps originally of medieval date. Within the trench its line coincided with that of the more recent trackway leading to the farm from Church Road, but was in fact distinctly different from it, apparently heading in a north-westerly direction. The three post-holes to the west of the hollow were possibly associated with a structure, although this could not be proved. Post-hole 12 adjacent to the hollow was not obviously associated with any other features.

The gully at the south-east end of the site was similarly problematic. It had been hoped that the medieval ditch observed in evaluation Trench 1 (ditch 103) would be identified in this area of the excavation, and although it is possible that feature 28 and perhaps the gully 24 = 26 represent the continuation of ditch 103, curving slightly to the south and then to the west, this cannot be proved. Otherwise, the function of these gullies is unclear.

Trackway 5, an access to Dairy Farm, was in use up until this year and was apparently constructed after 1902 as it is not shown on the Ordnance Survey map of that date. Ditch 31, of recent date, was clearly a drainage ditch associated with the trackway. The same may have been true of feature 50, but if so, it is unclear why it was so different in character from 31.

The deposits above trackway 5 relate to the recent building site work.

No archaeological features or finds were identified in Area B.

8 THE FINDS

The evaluation and excavation were both remarkable for the scarcity of finds recovered. Pottery and worked stone are reported below, followed by a summary of other finds types.

8.1 Medieval and later Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

Pottery by number and weight (g) of sherds

Context	Medieval Sandy Coarseware	Medieval Glazed Ware	Late Medieval Transitional Earthenware	Cistercian Ware	Staffordshire Slip-Trailed Ware	Misc 19th/20th C Wares
U/S				1 (2)	1 (6)	
A 15					1 (2)	
A 21						1 (1)
A 34						1 (2)
104	1 (6)	1 (1)				
106						1 (3)
201					1 (22)	
1101			1 (10)			
1114					1 (43)	1 (2)
1207						5 (48)
2301	1 (17)					
Total	2 (23)	1 (1)	1 (10)	1 (2)	4 (73)	9 (56)

Medieval Wares: c. AD 1100-1400

Glazed Ware: Soft grey fabric with orange surfaces, few visible inclusions except for sparse sub-rounded orange and clear quartzite generally less than 0.5 mm diameter. Patchy, glossy green 'orange peel' glaze. Sherd is a very small fragment from a jug rim.

Coarseware: Contexts 104 and 2301. Orange fabric with grey core. Moderate to dense sub-rounded white quartzite up to 1 mm. Sparse to moderate red and black sub-rounded ironstone up to 1 mm. Sherd from context 2301 is heavily abraded.

Late Medieval Transitional Wares: c. AD 1400-1500

Cistercian Ware: c. AD 1470-1550

Staffordshire Slip-Trailed Ware: c. AD 1680-1750

8.2 The Worked Stone by Julian Munby

Three pieces of worked stone were recovered from the upper fill (1101) of pit 1104 in Evaluation Trench 11. Two of these deserve comment. They were of local sandstone, and appeared to form part of a pointed opening but also had a sloping face and slightly hollowed back. They are most likely to have come from a niche or perhaps a pinnacle in the nearby church. If they were part of a small window opening or lucarne it is possible that they formed some part of the medieval spire. However the spire was rebuilt in the Victorian period and in its present form has no windows, and it is speculative at best to suggest that the earlier spire had such a feature.

8.3 Other finds

Ceramic building material of recent date was recovered from 1207, the infill of a drain in Trench 12, and a small tile fragment of medieval or post-medieval date came from fill 46 of the hollow feature in Area A.

Fragments of modern glass came from evaluation Trench 12 (unstratified, plus vitreous fragments from 1207) and Trench 14 (pit fill 1405). A further piece on the machined surface of the upper fill of hollow 43 in Area A was not collected. Other finds from the upper fill of the hollow were a fragment of clay pipe and two lumps of slag. A small fragment of a possible vitreous slag came from Trench 1 (pit fill 106).

Two cattle bones were recovered from the fill of stone drain 1207 in Evaluation Trench 12. A pig jaw bone was recovered from fill 1101 in pit 1104 (Evaluation Trench 11). These bones probably represent domestic refuse from the occupation of the farm. No further animal or other bone was recovered during the excavations.

9 DISCUSSION

The recent investigation is the first archaeological work carried out on the site of Dairy Farm. Previous work in the grounds of Whitecross School (to the north-west of this site) located the southern boundary wall of Whitecross Manor. The Dairy Farm site therefore lies outside this area of potential activity, but is close to the location of St. Mary's Church which in its present form is basically thirteenth century in date.

No datable evidence of prehistoric land use or activity was observed. It is possible that the shallow ?post-holes located in Trenches 11 and 13 date to this period, but the absence of associated artifacts or soil horizons makes this suggestion very speculative. No Roman or Saxon pottery was recovered from the excavated layers and features in the evaluation trenches or in excavation Areas A and B. The earliest evidence of land use was demonstrated by the medieval ditch (103) in the south-east corner of the site. This was, however, the only ditch feature observed to definitely date to this period. The hollow identified in Area A is interpreted as a hollow-way or trackway and may have been of medieval date, although the only dating evidence recovered from the lower fills was a single piece of tile of uncertain date. The finds from the upper parts of 44 and 46 indicate that the feature was filling up in the post-medieval period. The alignment of

the hollow-way might suggest that it was aimed in the direction of Whitecross Manor to the north-west. If this is so, and if the alignment was reasonably straight, it might have been expected to occur in evaluation Trench 8. In fact no such feature was observed there, but it is noticeable that the depth of deposits recorded was rather greater than the average for the site, and it is possible that this could be explained by the presence of a very poorly defined hollow without distinct edges of the type seen in Area A.

If the hollow and the ditch (103) were contemporary their relationship is unknown. Alternatively the ditch may have been a boundary associated with the church to the north-east, or with other unknown features.

The recovery of medieval architectural fragments from the post-medieval pit in Trench 11 is slightly puzzling. The likely explanation is that they derive from the nearby church, perhaps at a time of restoration work, although it is not clear how or why they came to fill the upper part of pit 1104.

The low density of medieval pottery from the soil horizons suggests that there was no intensive land use here in that period, either for agricultural or domestic purposes. Together the evidence indicates that there was no significant medieval activity on the site, despite the proximity of the church. Medieval occupation must have been quite closely defined, presumably concentrating in the area of Whitecross Manor and to the north of the present Church Road.

Deposits and features relating to Dairy Farm itself were found in Trenches 11 and 12, but not significantly beyond. The modern track approaching the farm from the south was located in Area A, and it is possible that the scattered features to the west of this were broadly contemporary. The soils observed in the trenches were generally very light and compacted with few inclusions of charcoal or evidence of ploughing. It seems likely that this area of land was pasture up until Dairy Farm was built, and probably continued as pasture during the lifetime of the farm.

10 CONCLUSIONS

The sequence of deposits and low density of features and finds of any period suggest that this development area has been historically pasture land. No obvious truncation of deposits or features by ploughing or quarrying was observed to account for the paucity of features and material. The majority of the features were located at the east of the site, near the location of the church. Further west, localised features could have existed outside the excavated trenches, although there was no evidence suggesting activity of any period.

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October 1996

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APPENDIX 1: EVALUATION TABLE OF CONTEXT INFORMATION

Context	Type	Depth m	Width m	Comments
100	Layer	0.22	-	Topsoil
101	Layer	0.24	-	Layer below topsoil
102	Layer	0.12	-	Natural subsoil layer at base of Trench 1
103	Cut	0.25	1.06	Medieval ditch
104	Fill	0.25	-	Fill of ditch 103, contained medieval pottery
105	Cut	0.46	0.70	Modern feature, possibly a land drain
106	Fill	0.46	-	Fill of 105, modern finds from this fill
107	Cut	0.07	0.18	Ceramic land drain and trench cut
108	Service	0.07	-	Fill (silt loam) of land drain 107
200	-	-	-	Number assigned for Trench 2
201	Layer	0.23	-	Modern topsoil
202	Layer	0.25	-	Layer below topsoil
203	Layer	0.23	-	Natural clay and sandstone
204	Layer	-	-	Natural sandstone gravel and pebbles
300	Layer	0.26	-	Modern topsoil
301	Layer	0.21	-	Layer below topsoil
302	Layer	0.20	-	Undated clay loam ?medieval soil horizon
303	Layer	0.14	-	Natural sandy clay subsoil
304	Layer	-	-	Compact clay sand and sandstone
400	Layer	0.22	-	Present topsoil
401	Layer	0.38	-	As 301
402	Layer	0.14-0.26	-	Natural clay subsoil
403	Layer	-	-	Natural sandstone, sand and gravel at base of Trench 4
500	Layer	0.19-0.22	-	Topsoil
501	Layer	0.13-0.16	-	Same as 301 and 401
502	Layer	0.23-0.59	-	?Natural layer of dark reddish brown silty clay
503	Layer	0.19	-	Natural reddish brown clay and sandstone
504	Layer	-	-	Natural sandstone bedrock
600	Trench 6	-	-	Number issued for Trench 6 contexts
601	Layer	0.28	-	Present topsoil
602	Layer	0.24	-	Layer below topsoil
603	Fill	0.36	-	Upper fill of ditch 605
604	Fill	0.30	-	Lower fill of ditch 605

605	Cut	0.66	1.25	NE-SW aligned ditch, no dating evidence
606	Cut	0.70	c. 5.8	?Channel/watercourse
607	Fill	0.70	-	Brownish pink, silty clay in channel 606, no dating
608	Layer	0.25	-	Natural clay and sandstone at base of Trench 6
609	Layer	-	-	Natural sandstone bedrock
610	Layer	0.20	-	Natural clay subsoil over 608
611	Fill	0.30	-	Brownish-pink silty clay fill of 612
612	Cut	0.30	1.0	Shallow 'pool' adjacent to channel 606 and possibly associated with it
701	Layer	0.26	-	Present topsoil
702	Layer	0.18-0.32	-	Layer below topsoil
703	Layer	0.12	-	Natural clay subsoil
704	Layer	-	-	Natural sandstone at base of Trench 7
800	Trench 8	-	-	Trench 8 notes
801	Layer	0.26	-	Present topsoil
802	Layer	0.23-0.39	-	Layer below topsoil
803	Layer	0.15-0.18	-	Clean yellow clay, ?natural subsoil
804	Layer	0.36	-	Natural sandstone
900	Layer	0.32	-	Topsoil
901	Layer	0.15	-	Compacted topsoil mixed with subsoil
902	Layer	0.20	-	Top profile of natural subsoil, signs of worm and animal disturbance
903	Layer	0.18	-	Natural sandy clay subsoil
904	Layer	0.12	-	Natural sandstone gravel and sand
905	Cut	-	0.82 x 0.68	Unexcavated recent animal burial pit
906	Fill	-	-	Unexcavated fill of 905, contained lime
907	Cut	-	0.44 x 0.80	Unexcavated recent animal burial pit
908	Fill	-	-	Unexcavated fill of 907, contained lime
909	Cut	-	0.08	Modern service pipe and cut
910	Fill	0.10	-	Silt loam fill of pipe trench 909
911	Cut	-	0.82 x 0.50	Unexcavated recent animal burial pit
912	Fill	-	-	Fill of unexcavated pit 911
913	Cut	0.28	0.32	Modern pit for telegraph pole
914	Fill	0.28	0.32	Fill of 913
1000	Trench 10	-	-	Notes for Trench 10
1001	Layer	0.25	-	Topsoil

1002	Layer	0.18-0.26	-	Layer below topsoil
1003	Layer	0.14-0.20	-	Natural clay subsoil
1004	Layer	-	-	Natural sandstone and gravel
1100	Layer	0.50-0.60	-	Modern demolition layer of building debris from Dairy Farm buildings
1101	Fill	0.08	-	Upper fill of pit 1104, contained worked stone fragments
1102	Fill	0.30	0.82	Secondary fill of pit 1104
1103	Fill	0.10	-	Primary fill of 1104
1104	Cut	0.82	1.90	Large ?post-medieval pit
1105	Layer	-	-	Natural clay and sandstone
1106	Fill	0.10	-	Only fill of ?post-hole 1107
1107	Cut	0.10	0.32	Undated, truncated post-hole
1108	Fill	0.09	-	Fill of ?post-hole 1109
1109	Cut	0.30	-	Undated, truncated post-hole
1110	Layer	0.40	-	Surface layer associated with Dairy Farm
1111	Fill	0.70	-	Fill of modern pit 1112
1112	Cut	0.70	-	Modern pit seen in section
1113	Cut	0.75	0.85	Modern pit feature
1114	Fill	0.30	-	Fill of 1113
1115	Cut	0.03	0.30	?Truncated post-hole
1116	Fill	0.03	-	Fill of 1115
1200	Layer	-	-	Natural clay and sandstone subsoil
1201	Layer	0.30	-	Former ground level prior to construction of farm buildings
1202	Layer	0.26	-	Dumped layer of clay, stone and CBM associated with farm
1203	Layer	0.40	-	Demolition layer associated with farm
1204	Layer	0.07	2	Concrete slab and rubble sealing drain 1207
1205	Fill	0.35	-	Silty clay within drain cut 1206
1206	Cut	0.35	0.50	Cut for post-medieval stone drain 1207
1207	Structure	0.35	0.50	Limestone built drain associated with farm buildings
1208	Cut	-	-	Unexcavated modern drainage trench
1209	Fill	-	-	Unexcavated fill of modern drainage trench
1300	Layer	-	-	Natural silty clay and sandstone at base of Trench 13
1301	Layer	0.08-0.19	-	Natural clay deposit above 1300
1302	Layer	-	-	Same as 1301
1303	Layer	0.20	-	?natural clay above 1301
1304	Cut	1.0+	2+	Large modern ?quarry pit, cut from the top level of the trench
1305	Fill	1+	-	Fill of modern pit 1305

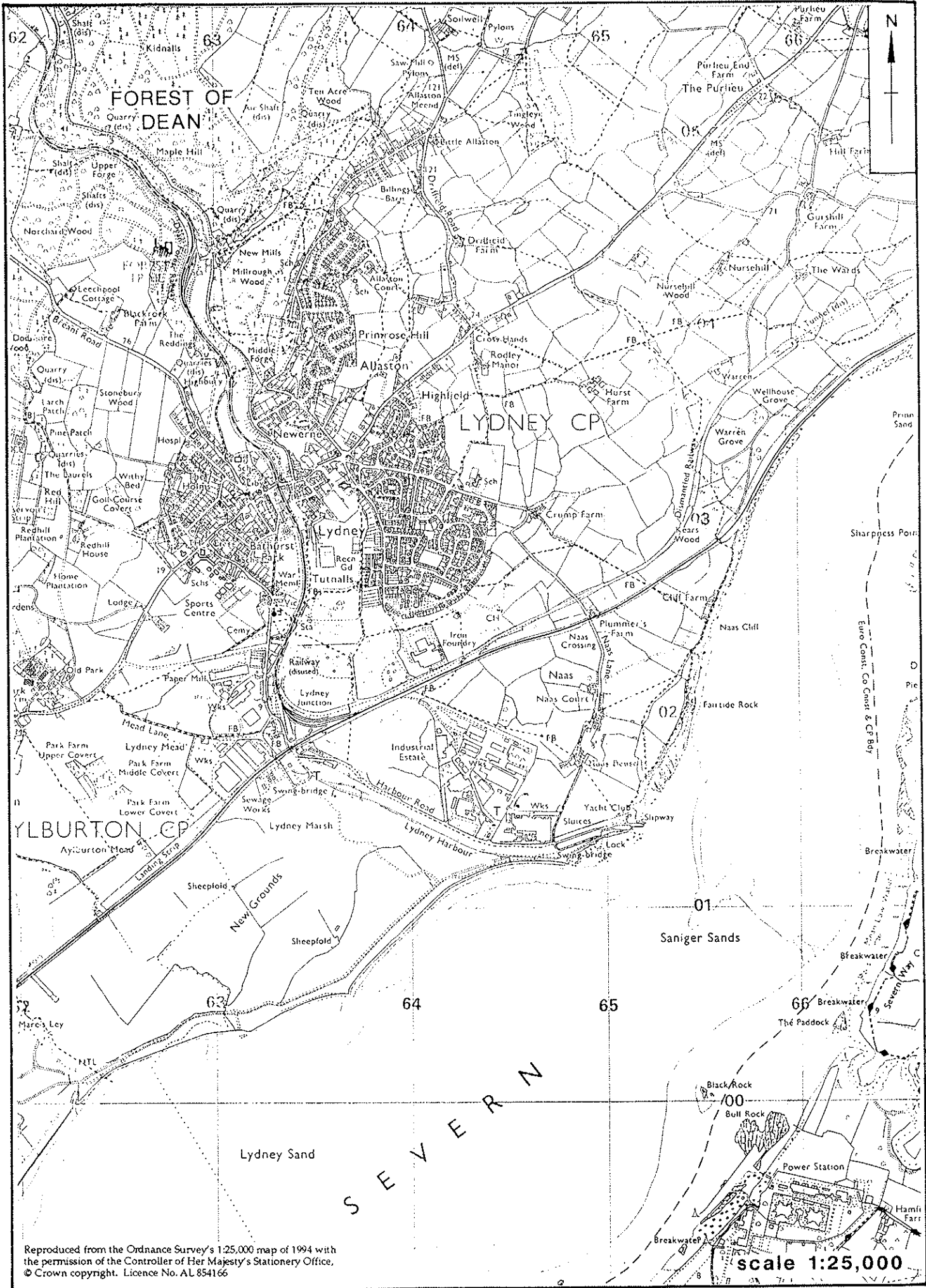
1306	Layer	-	-	Same deposit as 1303
1307	Cut	0.15	0.45	Base of shallow undated feature, ?post-hole or animal disturbance
1308	Fill	0.15	-	Only fill of 1307
1309	Cut	-	0.34	Base of possible post-hole, undated
1310	Fill	0.01	-	Base fill of undated feature 1309
1311	Layer	0.15	-	Modern disturbed topsoil
1312	Layer	0.30	-	Topsoil and modern debris forming upper deposit observed within trench
1313	Layer	0.15	-	Undated soil horizon at SE end of the trench
1314	Layer	0.48	-	Layer below topsoil mixed with gravel, undated
1315	Layer	0.24	-	Same as 1312
1400	Layer	0.26-0.32	-	Topsoil
1401	Layer	0.28-0.32	-	Layer below topsoil/pasture surface
1402	Layer	0.35-0.38	-	Natural silt and sandstone layer at base of Trench 14
1403	Layer	-	-	Natural sandstone and sandy silt
1404	Cut	1.0+	0.80	Modern pit feature cut from just below topsoil, ?small quarrying pit
1405	Fill	0.60	-	Upper fill of 1404
1406	Fill	0.45	-	Lower fill of 1404
1407	Service	-	-	Modern (1996) water pipe at NE end of trench
1500	Layer	0.24	-	Topsoil
1501	Layer	0.22-0.26	-	Layer below topsoil/pasture surface
1502	Layer	0.25-0.29	-	Natural subsoil mix of silt and sandstone
1503	Layer	-	-	Natural sandstone and sandy silt
1600	Layer	0.16-0.21	-	Topsoil
1601	Layer	0.30-0.33	-	Layer below topsoil/pasture surface
1602	Layer	0.12-0.16	-	Natural, mix of reddish-brown sand and decayed sandstone pieces
1603	Layer	-	-	Natural sandstone
2000	Layer	0.05	-	Topsoil
2001	Layer	0.28	-	Layer below topsoil
2002	Layer	0.26	-	Natural sandy silt subsoil
2003	Layer	-	-	Natural sandstone and silt at base of Trench 20
2004	Cut	0.80	0.34+	Probable tree throw hole, extends under north baulk of section
2005	Fill	0.80	-	Fill of 2004
2100	Layer	0.08-0.15	-	Topsoil
2101	Layer	0.25-0.33	-	Layer below topsoil
2102	Layer	0.15-0.20	-	Natural subsoil and sandstone

2103	Layer	-	-	Natural sandstone and silt
2104	?Cut	0.06	0.60	Possible linear E-W feature, more likely a dip in the rock strata filled with 2103
2105	Fill	0.06	-	Same deposit as 2103 within hollow 2104
2106	Layer	0.12	-	Layer of sand below topsoil at SW end of trench 21
2200	Layer	0.25	-	Topsoil
2201	Layer	0.35	-	Layer below topsoil/pasture surface
2202	Layer	0.39	-	Natural subsoil and sandstone
2203	Layer	-	-	Natural sandstone and sandy silt
2300	Layer	0.20	-	Topsoil
2301	Layer	0.18-0.23	-	Layer below topsoil/pasture surface
2302	Layer	0.23-0.37	-	Same as 2202
2303	Layer	-	-	Natural

APPENDIX 2: EXCAVATION TABLE OF CONTEXT INFORMATION

AREA	CONTEXT	TYPE	DEPTH	WIDTH	COMMENTS
A	1	Layer	0.08 m	-	Temporary car park tarmac surface laid 1996
A	2	Layer	0.05 m	-	Stone and cement make-up for 1
A	3	Layer	0.03 m	-	Make-up for 1 below 2
A	4	Layer	0.13 m	-	Crushed brick make-up layer above 5
A	5	Layer	0.22 m	c. 3.6 m	Sandstone and limestone blocks forming trackway
A	6	Layer	0.1 - 0.45 m	-	Topsoil and turf layer across site
A	7	Layer	0.3 - 0.5 m	-	Layer below topsoil
A	8	Layer	0.1 m+	-	Natural subsoil and sandstone
A	9	Fill	0.2 m	0.16 m	Post-pipe in centre of post-hole 12
A	10	Fill	0.06 m	-	Upper fill of post-hole 12
A	11	Fill	0.15 m	-	Base fill of post-hole 12
A	12	Cut	0.2 m	-	Post-hole with central post-pipe
A	13	Fill	0.15 m	-	Only fill of ?feature 14
A	14	Cut	0.4 m	0.4 m	Irregular feature, possibly natural or animal burrow
A	15	Fill	0.17 m	-	Only fill of post-hole 16
A	16	Cut	0.17 m	0.42 m	Post-hole
A	17	Fill	0.04 m	-	Post-pipe within centre of post-hole 20
A	18	Fill	0.06 m	-	Shadow of post packing deposit in post-hole 20
A	19	Fill	0.07 m	-	First infill of post-hole 20
A	20	Cut	0.03 - 0.07 m	0.48 m	Post-hole, perhaps associated with 16
A	21	Fill	0.25 m	-	Only fill of post-hole 22
A	22	Cut	0.25 m	0.3 m	Post-hole, perhaps associated with 16 and 20
A	23	Fill	0.12 m	-	Fill of ?gully 24 = 26, same deposit as 25
A	24	Cut	0.12 m	0.32 m	Possible gully aligned NW-SE, same as 26
A	25	Fill	0.18 m	-	Same fill as 23
A	26	Cut	0.16 m	0.62 m	Same feature as 24
A	27	Fill	0.2 m	-	Fill of ?gully feature 28
A	28	Cut	0.2 m	0.8 m+	Possible gully feature aligned NE-SW
A	29	Fill	-	-	Backfill of recent geological test pit
A	30	Cut	-	-	Modern geological test pit
A	31	Cut	0.8 m	2.2 m	Victorian or C20 ditch aligned NW-SE
A	32	Fill	0.08 m	-	Upper fill of ditch 31
A	33	Fill	0.18 m	-	Fill of 31, contains high concentration of industrial waste

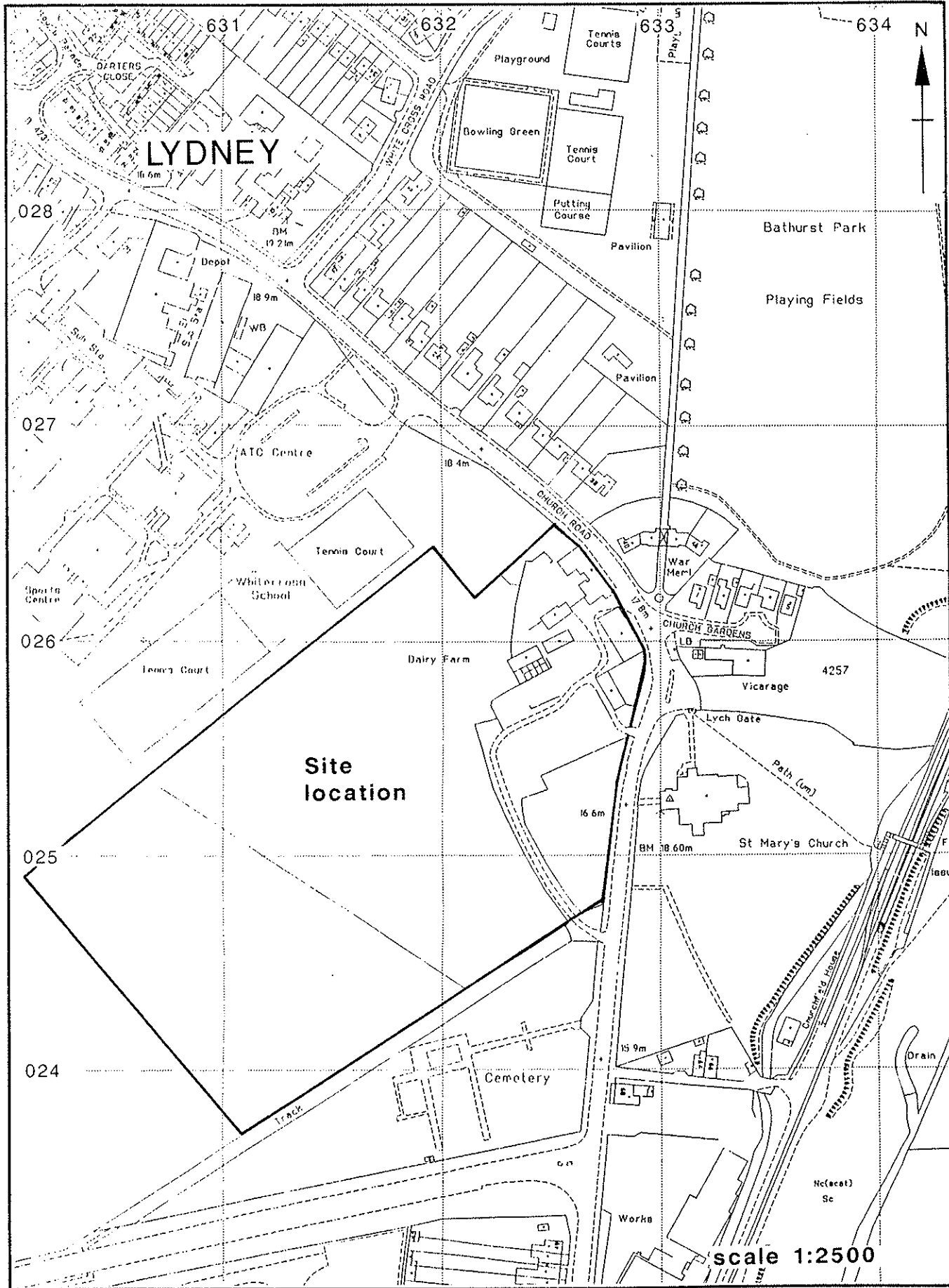
A	34	Fill	0.64 m	-	First fill of ditch 31
A	35	Layer	0.08 m	-	Make-up layer of gravel for tarmac 1
A	36	Layer	0.12 m	-	Layer of limestone below 35, lies above upper fill of ditch 31
A	37	Layer	0.14 m	-	Layer of silty clay adjacent to ditch 31
B	38	Layer	0.15 m	-	Recent building site make-up
B	39	Layer	0.1 m	-	Recent rubble layer below 38
B	40	Layer	0.3 m	-	Layer below topsoil
B	41	Layer	0.2 m	-	Natural subsoil over natural sand stone
A	42	Cut	0.8 m	c. 5 m	'Hollow Way' extending NW-SE across the trench, at slightly different alignment to recent trackway 5
A	43	Cut	0.8 m	c. 5 m	Same as 42
A	44	Fill	0.6 m	-	Upper fill of hollow 42 = 43 = 47
A	45	Fill	0.22 m	-	Base fill of hollow
A	46	Fill	0.4 m	-	Same as 44
A	47	Cut	-	-	Combined context for hollow 42 = 43
A	48	Fill	0.13 m	-	Upper fill of 34
A	49	Fill	0.54 m	-	Only fill of feature 50
A	50	Cut	0.54 m	0.38 m	Cut feature partially seen in plan and in section, function unclear
A	51	Layer	0.25 m	c. 3 m	Layer to W of 5, possibly 'demolition' of surface 5
A	52	Layer	c. 0.20 m		Assigned in post-excavation, lower part of layer 7



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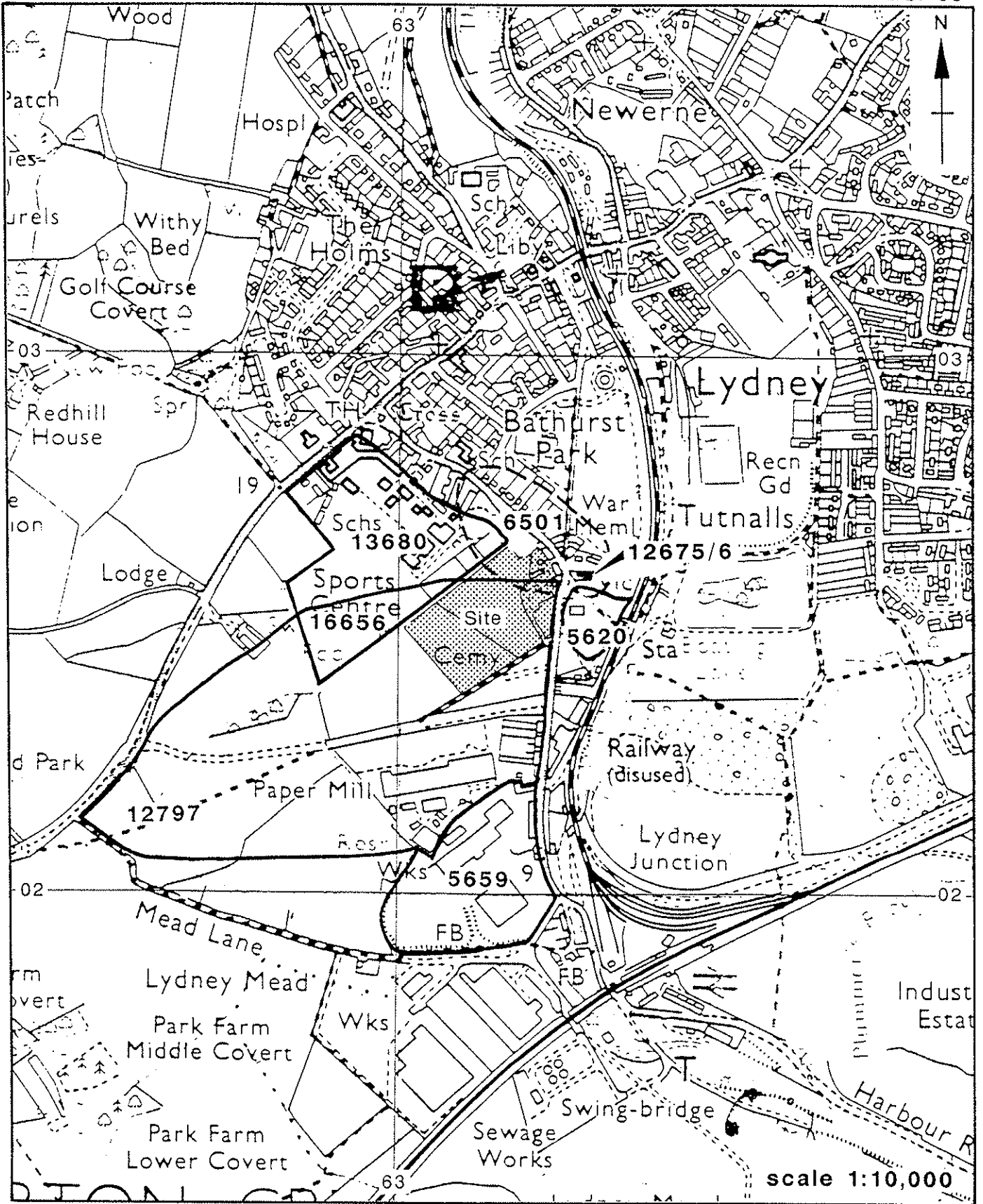
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Figure 1



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Figure 2



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Figure 3

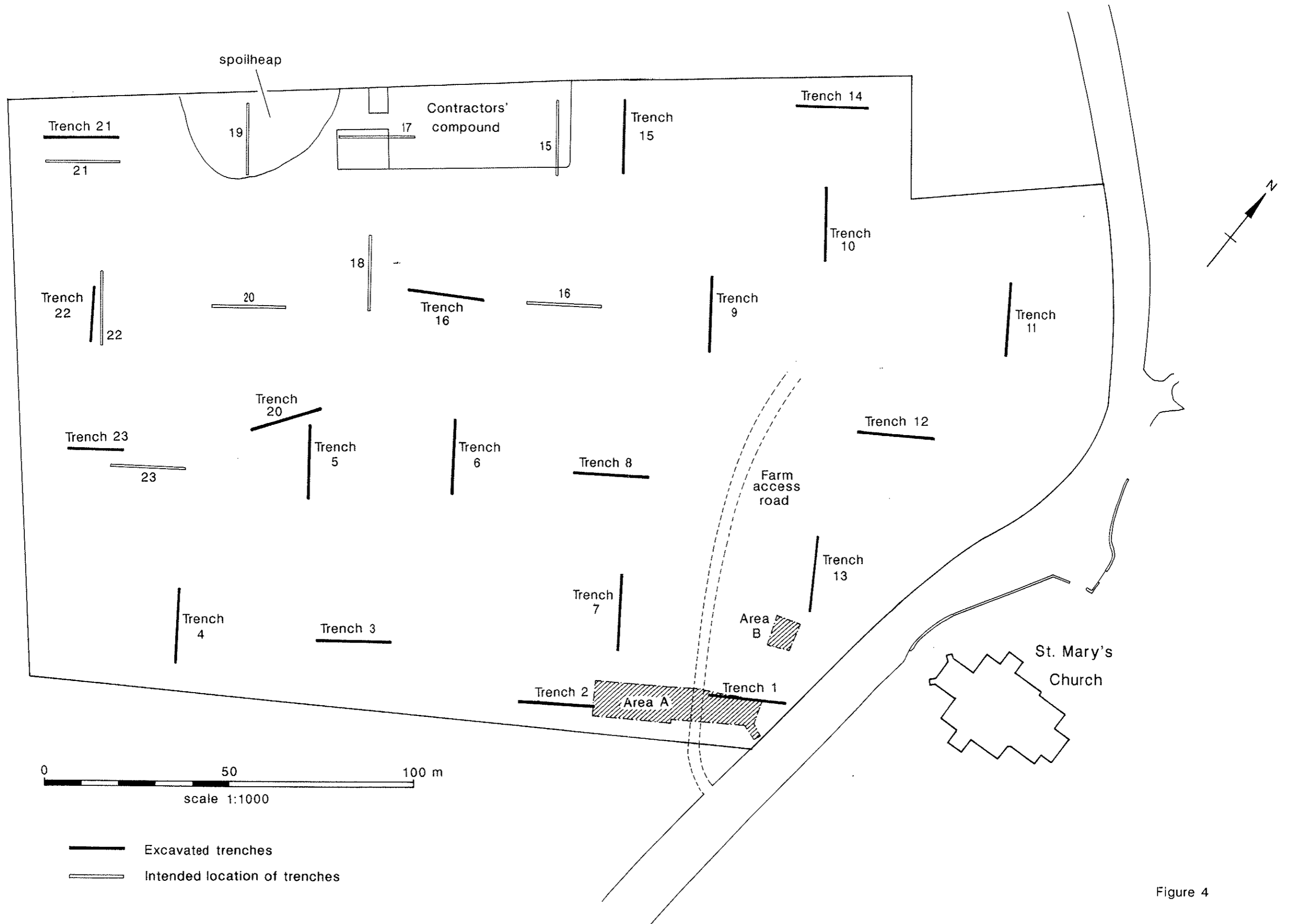


Figure 4

Trench 1 plan

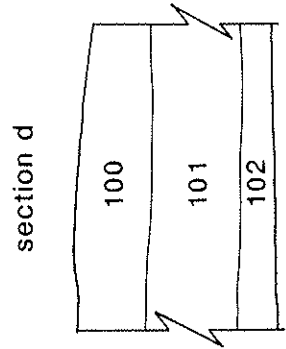
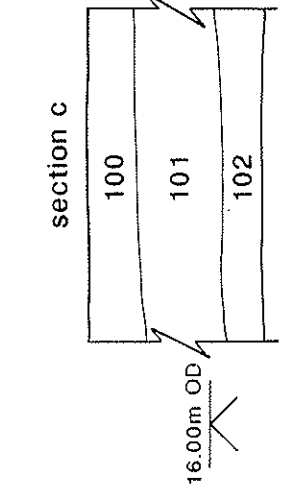
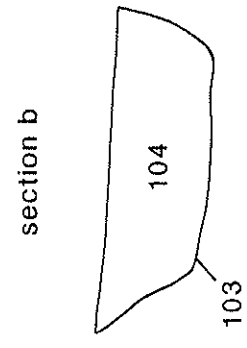
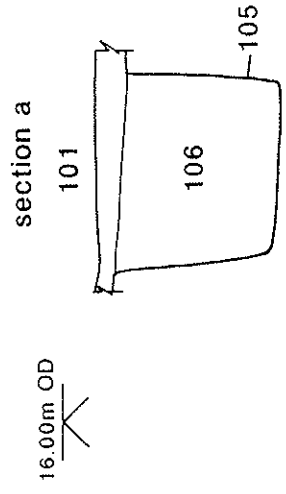
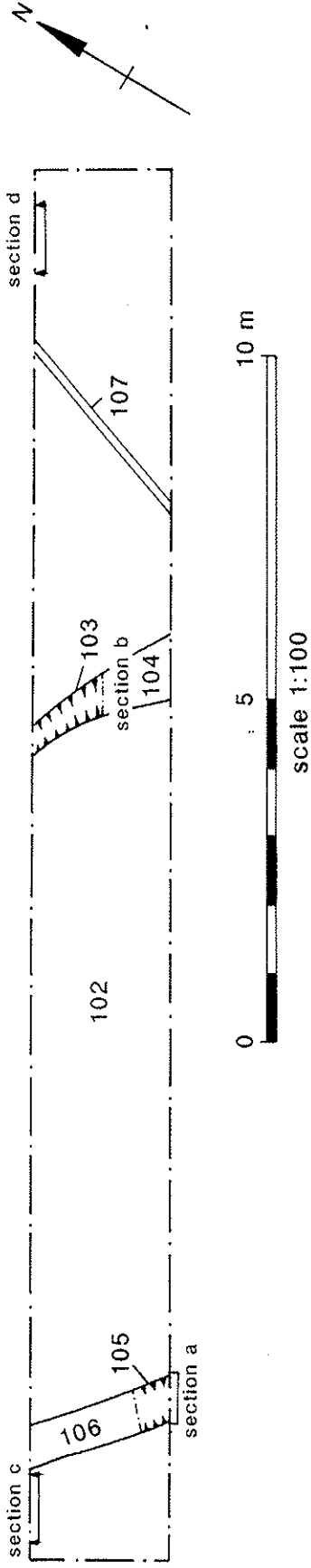


Figure 5

LYDF 96

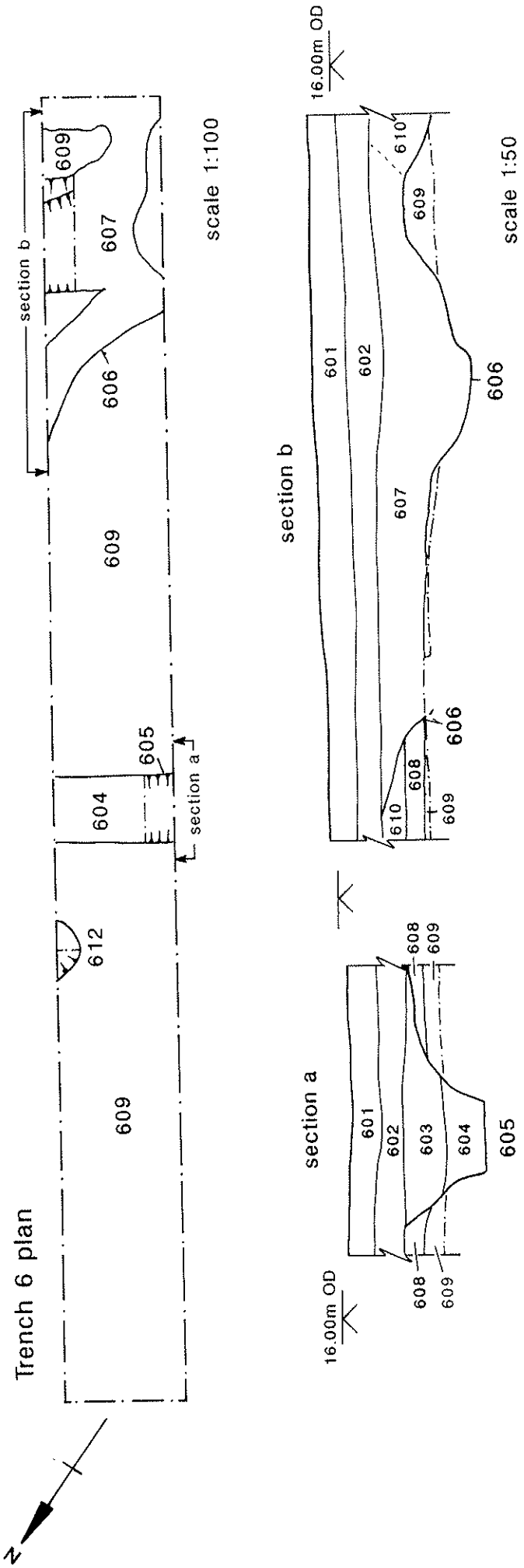
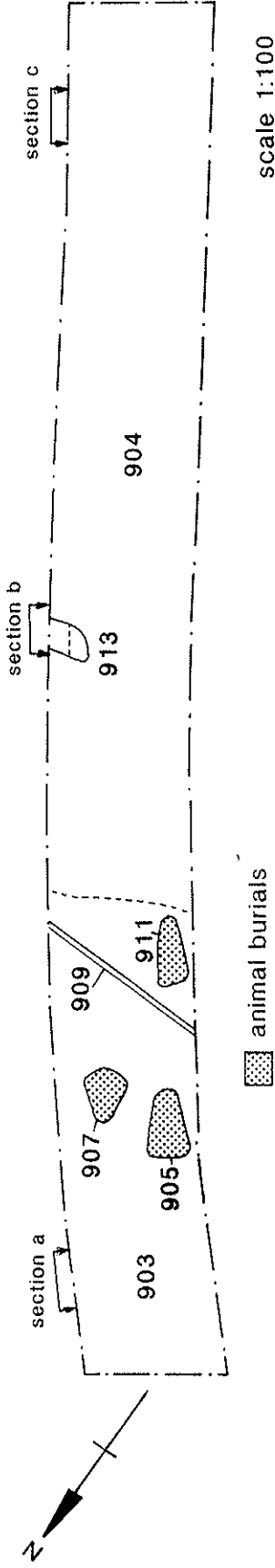


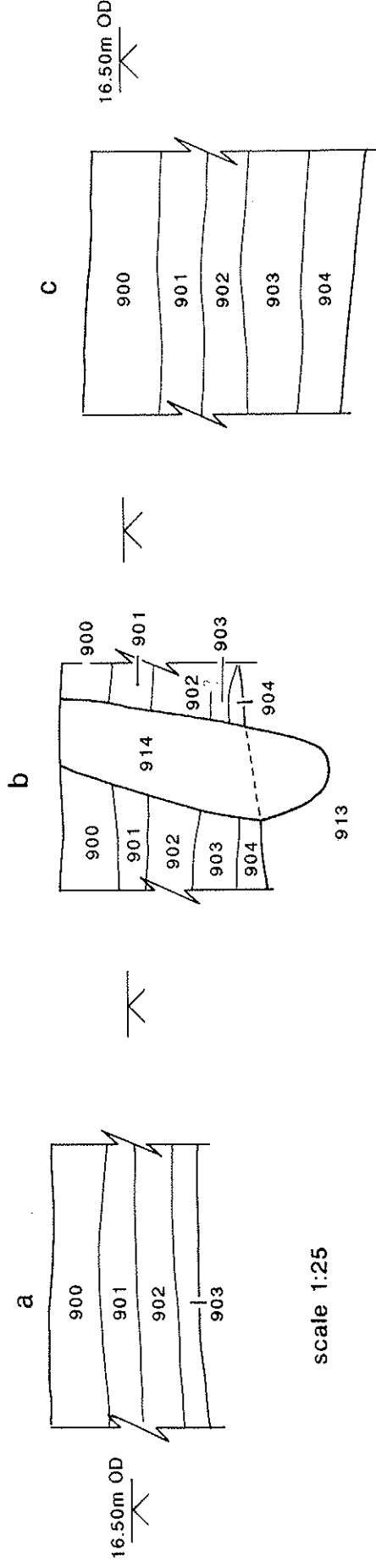
Figure 6

Trench 9 plan



scale 1:100

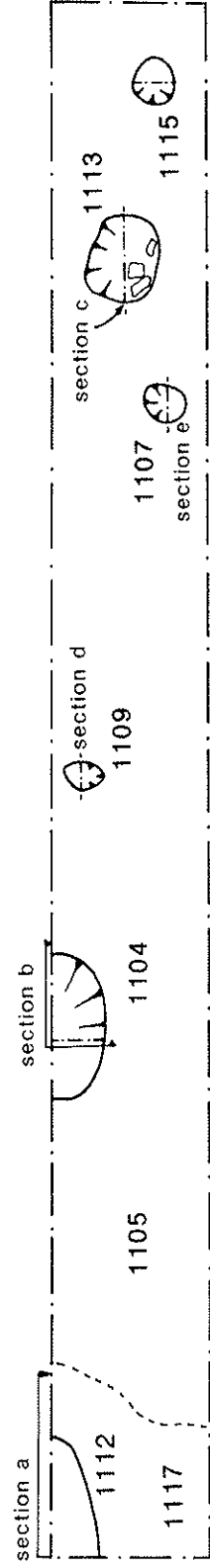
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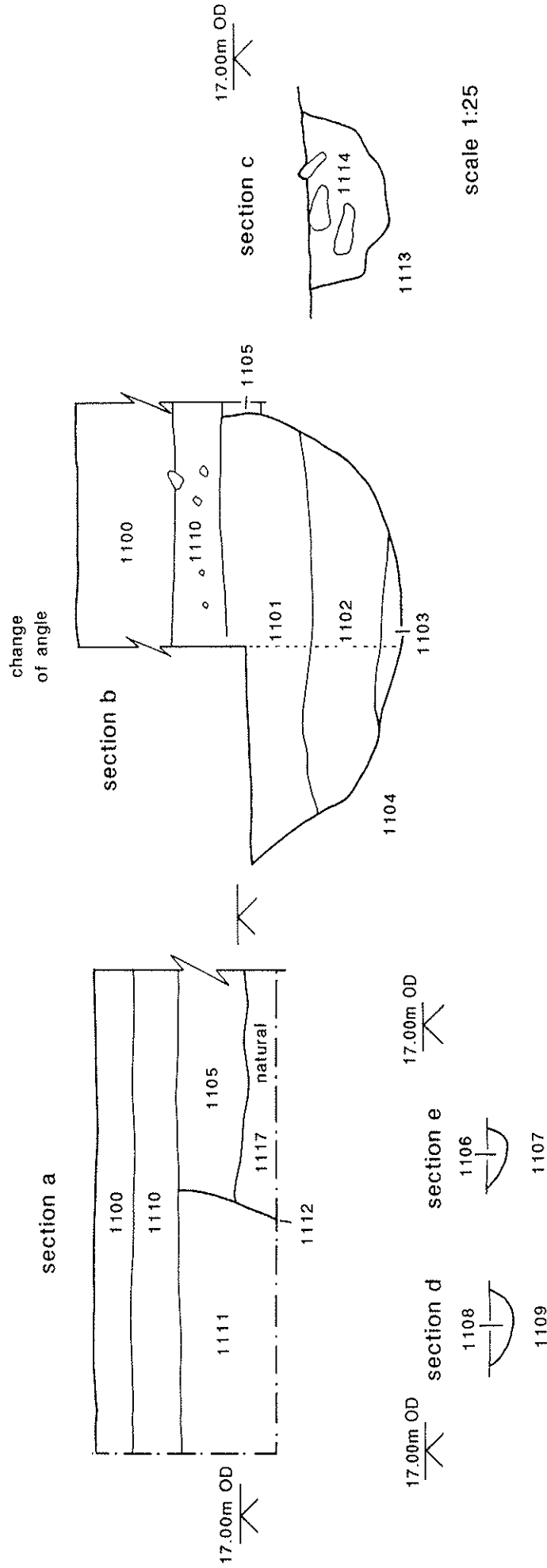
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Figure 7

Trench 11 plan



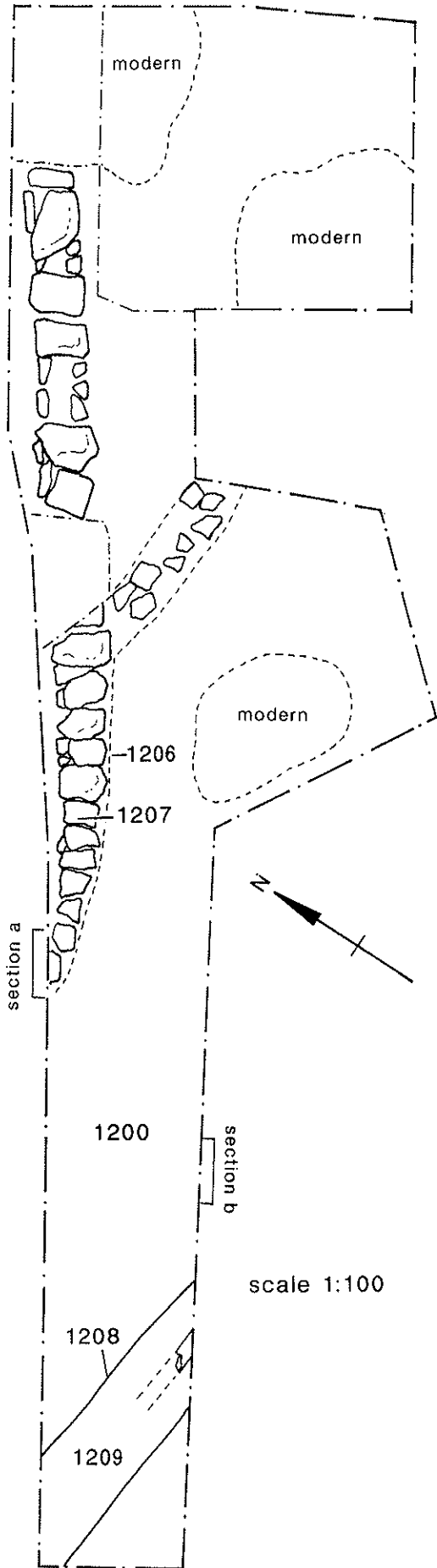
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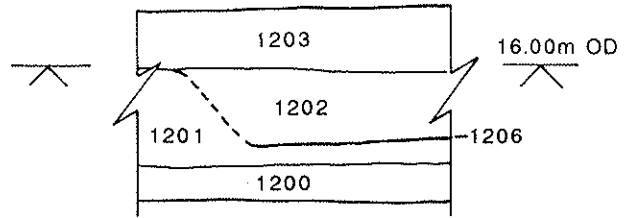
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Figure 8

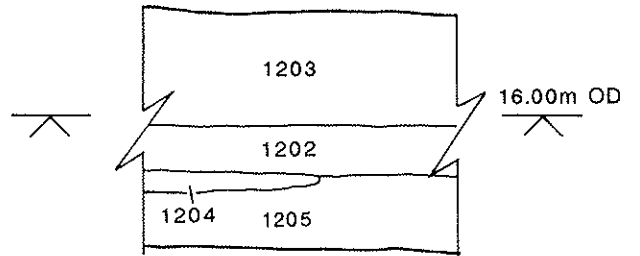
Trench 12 plan



section a



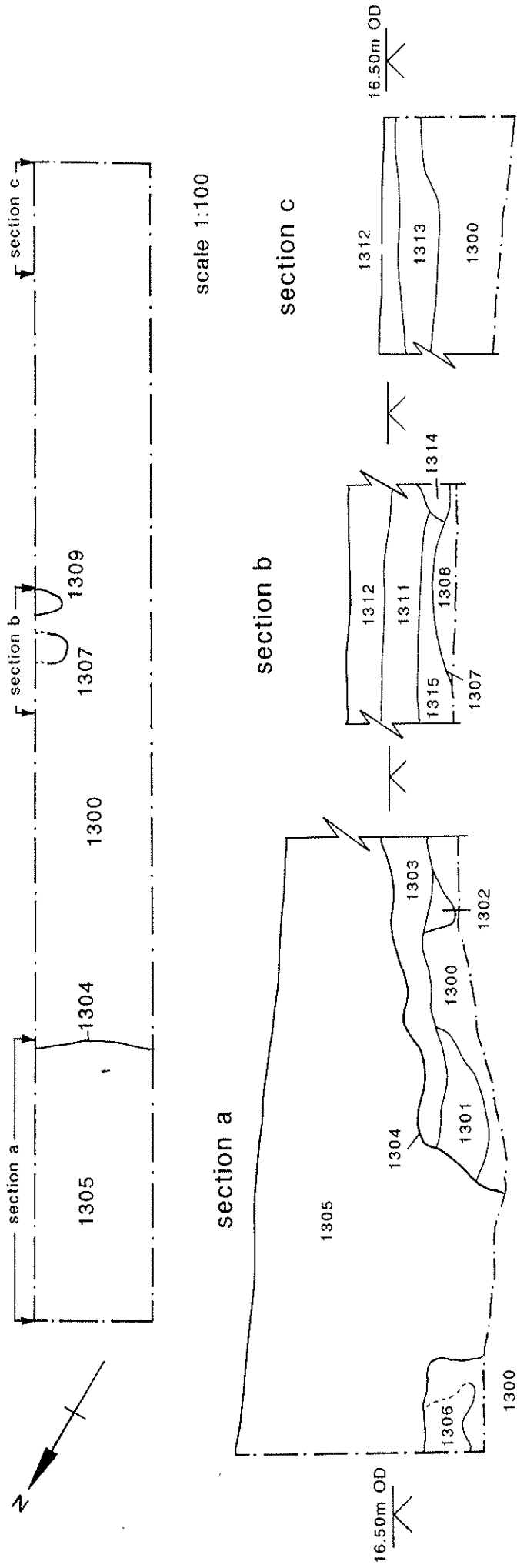
section b



scale 1:25

Figure 9

Trench 13 plan



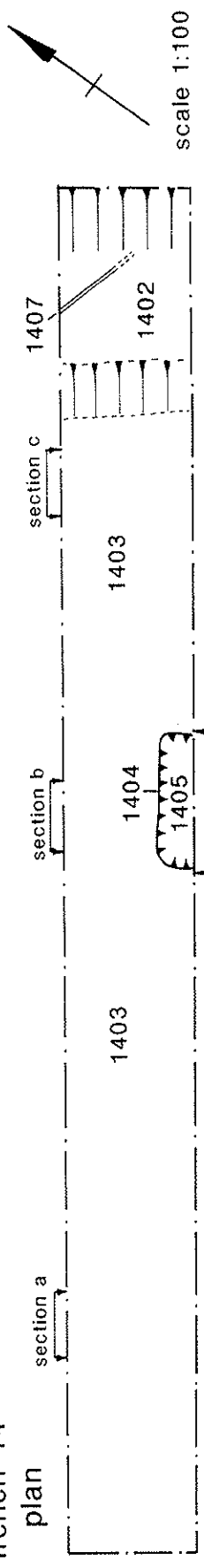
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Figure 10

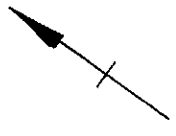
LYDF 96

Trench 14

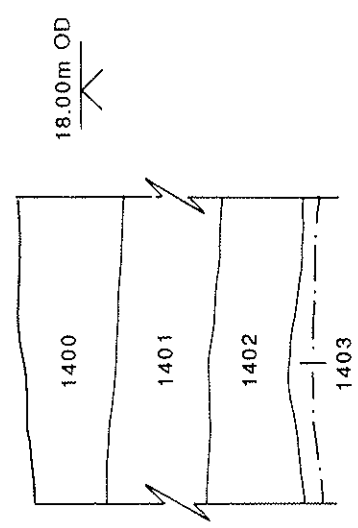
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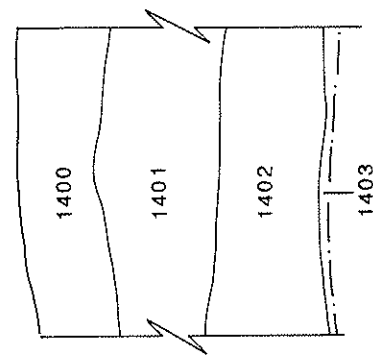
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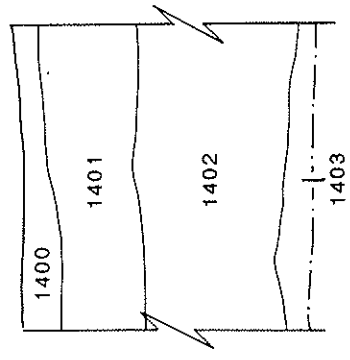
section c



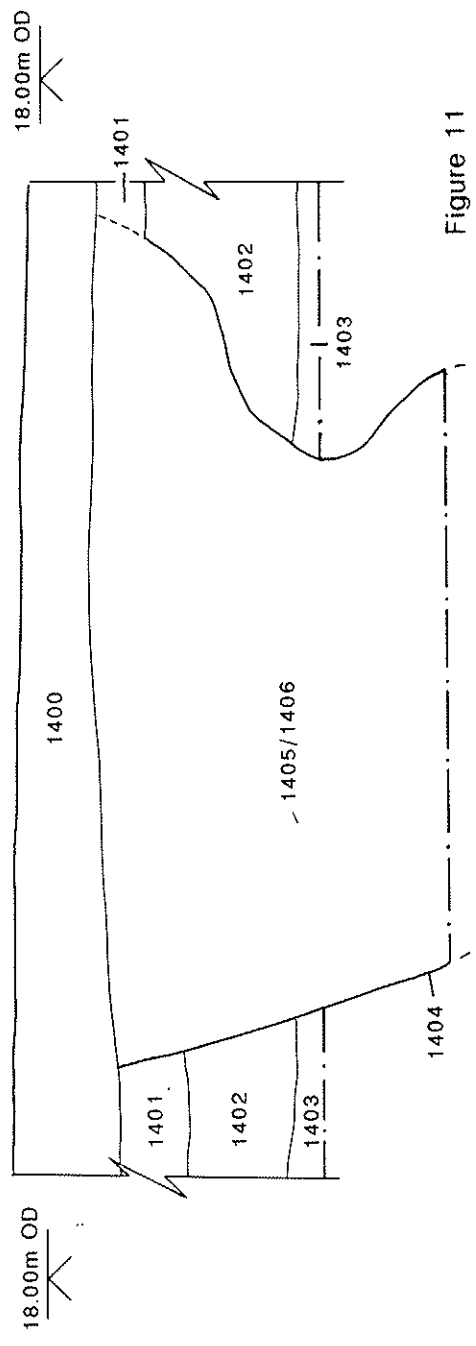
section b



section a



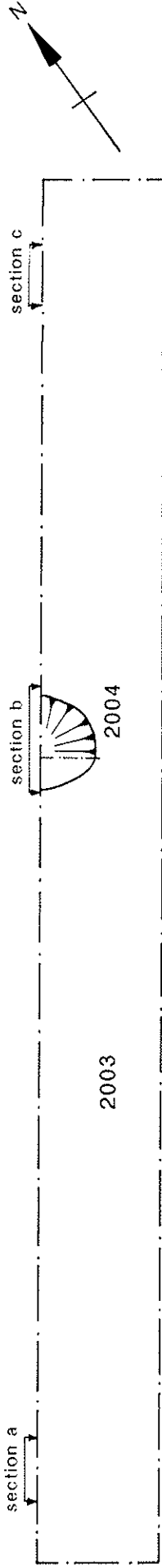
section d



scale 1:25

Figure 11

Trench 20 plan



scale 1:100

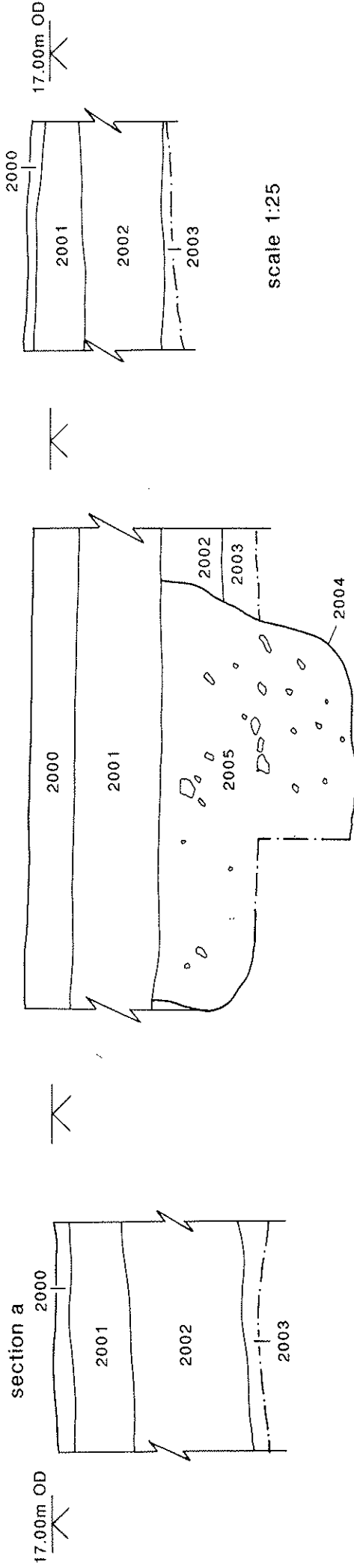


Figure 12

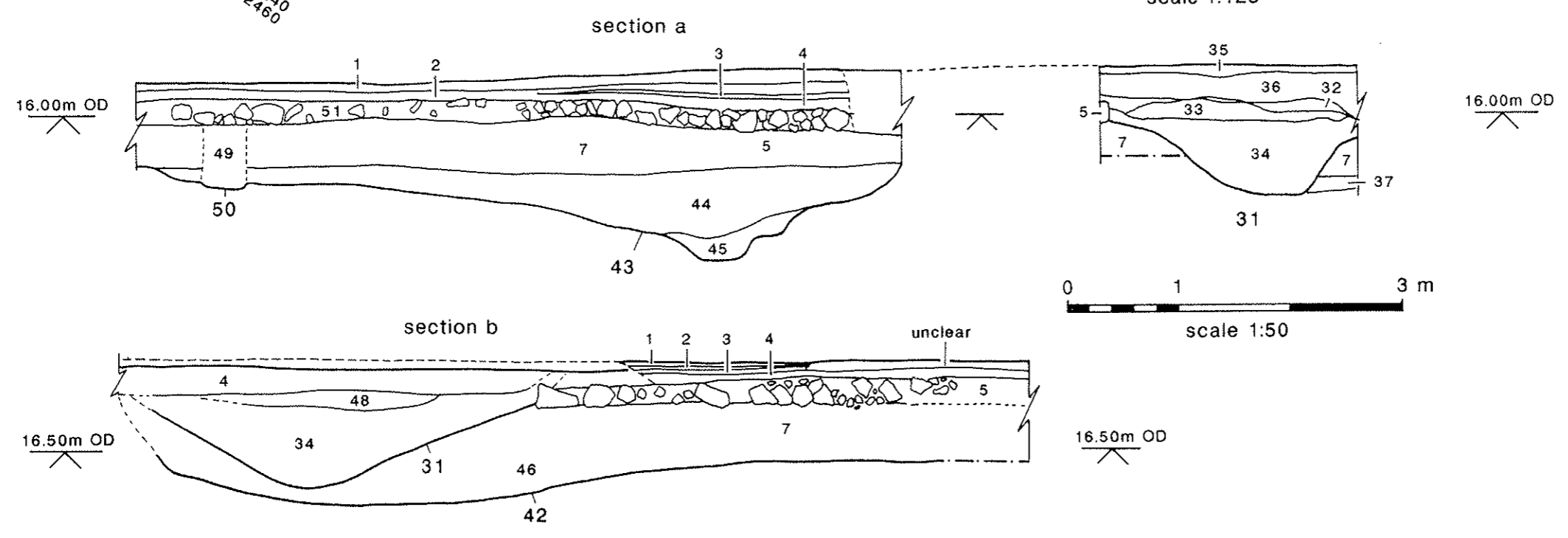
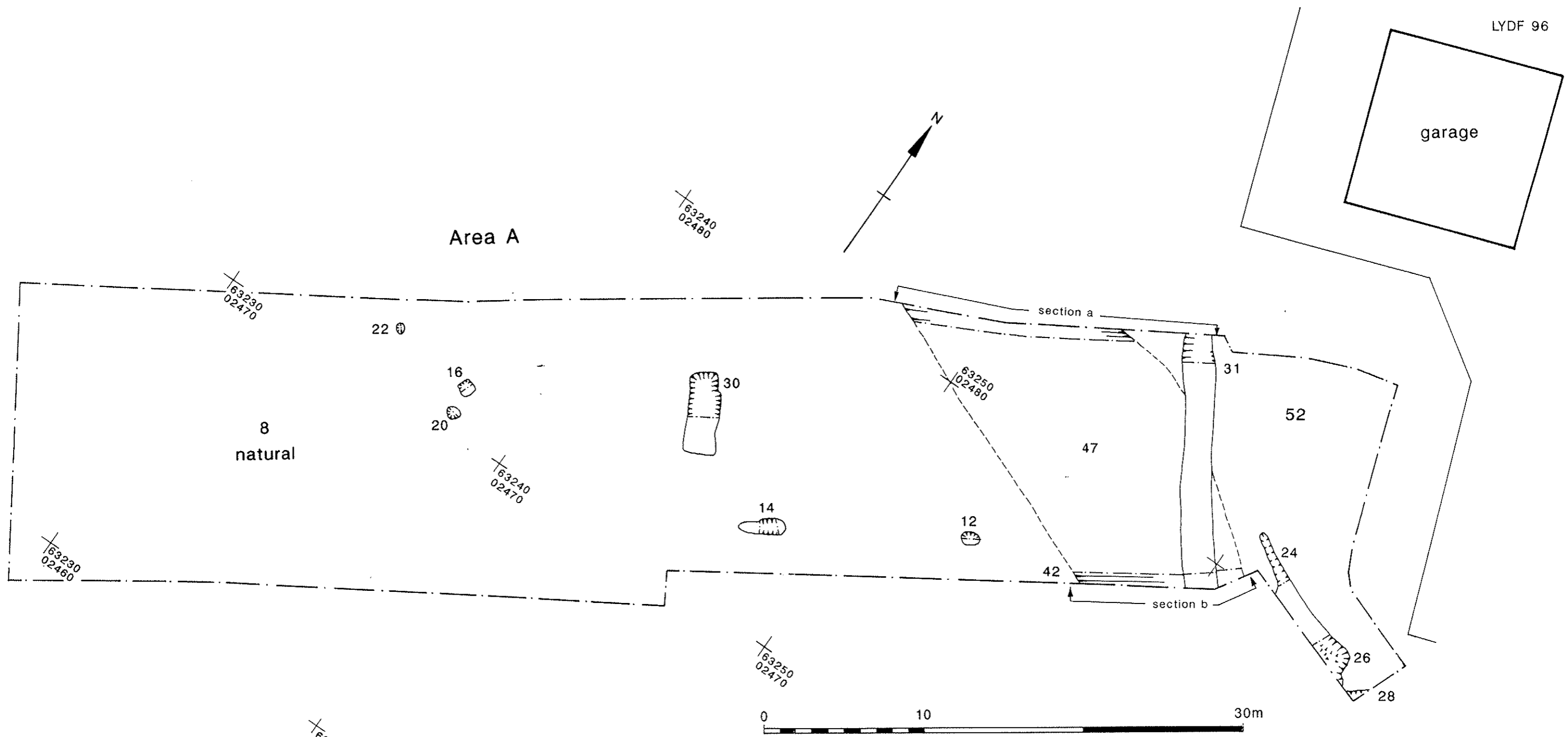


Figure 13

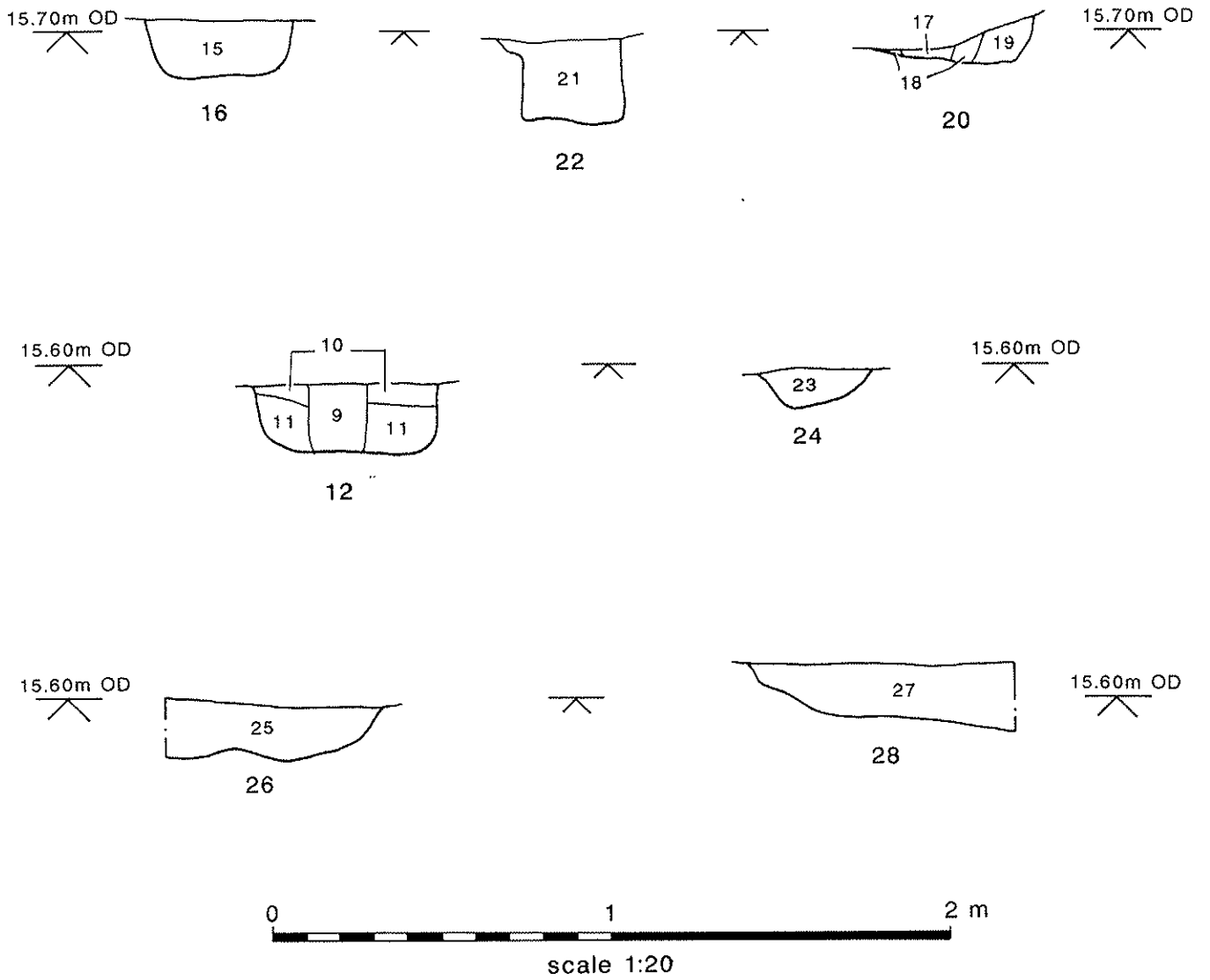


Figure 14



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