

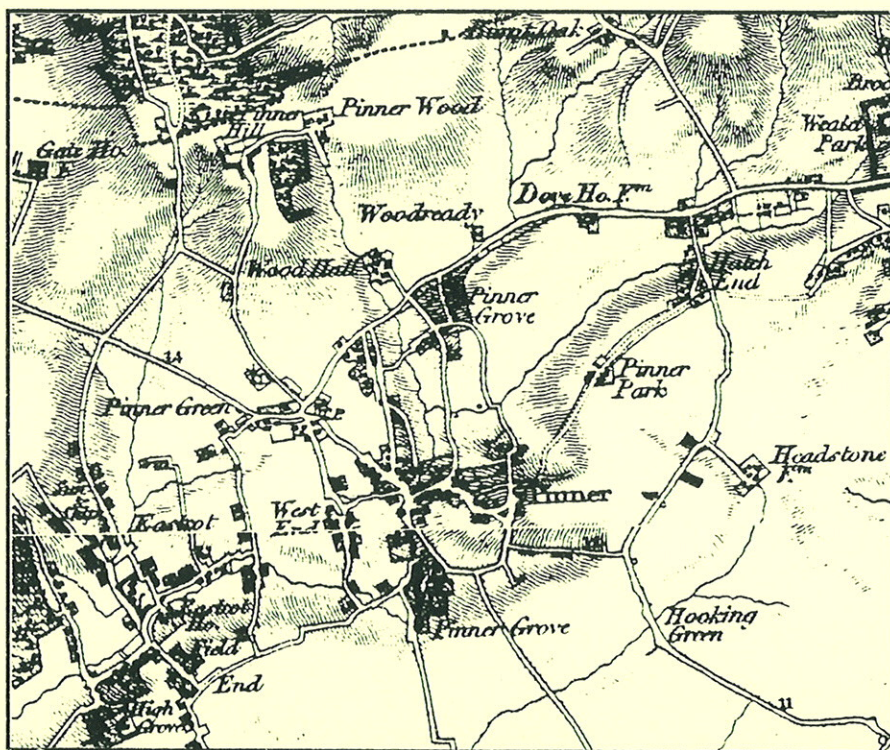
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3 - 6 Ingle Close, Church Lane, Pinner Middlesex

NGR TQ 125 896

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Oxford Archaeological Unit

August 1996

LAND AT 3-6 INGLE CLOSE, PINNER, MIDDLESEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

MUSEUM OF LONDON SITE CODE: ICE 96

**A report of the evaluation undertaken between 21/8/96 and 22/8/96 at Ingle Close,
Pinner, Middlesex.**

NGR TQ 1253 8968

**Oxford Archaeological Unit
August 1996**

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SUMMARY

The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook an evaluation in Plot 1, Ingle Close Pinner in the London Borough of Harrow on behalf of Berkeley Homes Ltd. in August 1996. Two trenches were located within areas that would be directly affected by the residential development and represent a 2 % sample of the development area. One trench was within the footprint of a proposed residential building and one within the access area of the site which was to be cut-in during the proposed scheme of works. No archaeological features of any period were identified during the evaluation. Natural London Clay was identified in both trench locations, and was overlain by a mixed clay colluvial layer, below more recent demolition deposits representing recent levelling.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook an evaluation at Ingle Close, Pinner in the London Borough of Harrow in August 1996. The evaluation was carried out on behalf of Berkeley Homes Ltd. as part of a condition of their proposal to redevelop a plot of land for new housing. The development proposal consisted of four new houses, in addition to the four houses which had previously been built. Two evaluation trenches were excavated within the area of the proposed location of house Plot 1. One trench was located within the limits of the building, whilst a second was sited along the proposed driveway for the building.

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The development site lies at NGR TQ 12538968 and comprises a rectangular plot of land covering an area of approximately 1500 square metres (figure 1). The proposed development area lies within the Pinner High Street Conservation Area at the rear of Pinner House. It forms half of a residential estate known as Ingle Close, of which four detached houses have already been built and occupied. The site adjoins the rear gardens of residential dwellinghouses in Church Lane, Paines Close and in Beechengrove. The proposed second phase development of the Ingle Close development comprises four detached houses and garages in addition to the four already built. This evaluation has been carried out within the area of Plot 1.

At the time of the evaluation the plot was partially overgrown with vegetation and in places contained debris from previous building work. The site is located at approximately 58.90 m O.D. and slopes gently from east to west, with a more pronounced downward slope at the north side of the plot. The underlying geology of the site is London Clay.

3 METHODOLOGY AND STRATEGY

Two trenches were excavated by a JCB excavator, using a 1.5 m toothless ditching bucket down to the first significant archaeological horizons, or in their absences to natural substrate. The resulting surfaces were cleaned, planned, levelled, and photographed. The finds strategy complied with the Carver finds retrieval strategy; a sample of finds from the overburden was kept for analysis, and all finds were to be kept from hand excavated contexts of potentially significant deposits. It was agreed that should palaeoenvironmental deposits of interest be located then advice on sampling would be sought from MOLAS Environmental Section.

Recording was carried out in accordance with English Heritage's London Region Archaeological Guidance Paper: 3 (Standards and Practices in Archaeological fieldwork) Nov. 1992 and the OAU field manual (edited David Wilkinson 1992).

Two trenches were excavated; trench 1 had dimensions of 10 x 2 m, and was positioned within the footprint of house Plot 1, and trench 2 had dimensions of 4.4 x 2 m, and was located within the access area of the plot (figure 2).

4 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

By Ianto Wain

4.1 Archaeological Background.

There is very little recorded archaeology in the immediate area surrounding the site and very little is known about the settlement pattern of the area prior to the 13th century. The site is situated on higher ground at Pinner, close to the river Pinn, and its siting would suggest a good location for early settlement. There is little evidence to support early settlement with only one prehistoric findspot of two undated flint spearheads (GLSMR 052019) found in the grounds of East House, recorded in the immediate environs of the development area. The principal archaeological site in the area is Grims Ditch the projected course of which runs approx 1 km to the north. This monument still remains something of an enigma and is usually ascribed to the 5th or 6th century (VCH 170), and described as either a defensive barrier or a political or hunting boundary. Excavations at Grims Ditch in 1957 uncovered a large amount of Late Iron Age ('Belgic') pottery which would date Grims Ditch to a much earlier period. Druett has also pointed out the existence of a sarsen stone at the corner of Elmpark Road and West End Lane, both of which are marked on the earliest detailed map of the area (Rocque 1756) which may suggest that they are of some antiquity.

There is very little evidence for Roman activity in the vicinity of the site. The VCH (169) mentions Roman coins, pottery and stonework from Waxwell, Bury Pond Hill and Pinner Road. None of the roads within the Pinner area are listed by Margary as having potential Roman origins.

Some of the lack of settlement evidence may be attributable to the heavily wooded character of the northern half of Middlesex. Campbell (1971) has argued that in 1066 much of the northern half of the County, where the base geology consists of clays, was covered with woodland, and this woodland was thickest towards the Hertfordshire boundary (which forms the northern boundary of the parish of Pinner).

4.2 Medieval Settlement

There is only very slight evidence of Saxon or early medieval activity at Pinner. A Saxon coin reportedly from Pinner was exhibited in a recent British Museum exhibition about Saxon England and one sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery has reportedly been found in Pinner (P. Clark *pers comm*). In addition 'early medieval pottery' was recovered from a layer of hillwash at no. 2 Grange Gardens, Pinner to the south of High St. The first documentary reference to Pinner comes in 1232 where it is used as a nominative (*de pinnora* 'of Pinner'). The Church of St John the Baptist which lies to the west of the development site had been constructed by

1240, although was rebuilt in 1321. The medieval settlement pattern of the area appears to have consisted of small hamlets and farms linked by a maze of lanes across a large common. The development site appears to be between the medieval settlements of Pinner, clustered around the High Street to the west and East End which lay along Moss Lane to the north.

Little evidence of medieval settlement has been uncovered in the immediate area of the development site, although excavations slightly further afield have produced evidence of activity. Excavations in the area of the development site have revealed some evidence of this medieval settlement. 'Early medieval pottery' (which Ian Grieg at the GLSMR has interpreted as meaning 12th or 13th century) was recovered from a layer of hillwash at no. 2 Grange Gardens Pinner, just to the south of High St. Trial trenching to the rear of nos 19-25 Pinner High St (GLSMR 052139) carried out by the Pinner and Hatch End Local History Society, revealed a V-shaped ditch running obliquely across the site (which contained 13th century grey ware) together with an 18th century mortar mixing pit. Excavations by the Inner London Archaeological Unit uncovered medieval pottery at a site to the south of High St (GLSMR 052177). A rescue excavation on the site of the new Sainsbury's store in Station Approach revealed the footings of a medieval rubble building (R Whytehead *pers comm*).

Both East End and Pinner High St are Conservation Areas which contain medieval or early post-medieval buildings. East End Farm cottage is a four bayed timber hall house, largely of the 15th century while just to its north lies the 16th century Tudor Cottage. Pinner High St contains a number of 16th century buildings including the Queens Head and Victory public houses and the 16th and 17th century Church Farm.

4.3 Map sources and the Development Area

The post-medieval history of the development site can be fairly accurately traced from the study of the 18th and 19th century map sources and from documentary sources. A map of Tudor Pinner (PLHS 1991), extrapolated from a 1547 land ownership survey of Pinner, shows the development site as lying in open fields and this general pattern is further reflected on all maps consulted between 1746 (Rocque) and 1913 (3rd edition 25"). The earliest detailed maps of the area (Rocque 1756, Messeder 1759) which probably reflect the medieval topography of the site, show settlement clustered along High St and Moss Lane with other centres of settlement lying further afield at Pinner Green and Pinner West End. The development site is shown as lying in open fields between the settlements at Pinner and East End and to the east of the church and churchyard. Most of the principal roads, including Church Lane which runs to the west and Moss Lane which runs to the east are in place. The later, more detailed maps, such as the Harrow Inclosure (1817) and 1834 maps which show even small structures and map landscape elements such as field parcels and field boundaries, show the development site as lying in the north-east corner of one a number of large fields bounded by Church Lane and Moss Lane.

This field pattern does not change on either the 1st edition (1864) or the 3rd edition (1913) OS 25". In 1864 all these fields are described as 'Pasture'.

5 EVALUATION RESULTS

5.1 TRENCH 1

Trench 1 had dimensions of 10 x 2 m and was 0.6 m deep at the south end and 0.7 m deep at the north. The deepest part of the trench was towards the centre, where it was 1 m deep. Five deposits were identified and recorded within the trench (Figure 3). These are summarised in Appendix 1.

A layer of tenacious light reddish-brown clay (104) which contained rounded pebbles and a quantity of flints was identified at the extent of excavation (1 m Below Ground Surface) and had a maximum recorded depth of 0.05 m. Layer 104 was overlain by a compact layer of mid-dark grey-brown clay (103), 0.1 m thick, which contained occasional stones and chalk flecks. One piece of modern roof tile was recovered from layer 103. A thick compact layer of light grey-brown clay (102) which included stones and flint pieces overlay layer 103 and contained two sherds of eighteenth or nineteenth pottery and one sherd of modern roof tile. A tenacious dark grey-brown loamy clay (101), which included substantial quantities of modern tile and glass and one sherd of seventeenth-eighteenth century pottery overlay layer 102. A thick deposit of clean sand localised at the south end of the trench overlay layer 101.

5.2 TRENCH 2

Trench 2 had dimensions of 4.4 x 2m and was excavated to a depth of 0.66 m. The trench was aligned east-west over the proposed access area of Plot 1 (figure 4).

A tenacious light yellow-brown clay (204) with up to 20% gravel inclusions and occasional flint pieces was identified at the extent of excavation. Layer 204 was overlain by a 0.12 m thick layer of tenacious yellow-brown clay (203) with 10% gravel inclusions. Layer 204 and 203 exhibited similar characteristics. Layer 203 was sealed by a compact yellowish-brown clay (202:0.16 m thick), which contained chalk flecks and fragments of brick. One sherd of nineteenth-twentieth century pottery was recovered from layer 202, together with several modern roof tiles. A thick (0.23) deposit of compact dark grey clay loam (101) with modern brick, tile and pottery inclusions sealed layer 202 and 203. This layer was sealed by a 0.12 m thick layer of greyish brown sandy topsoil (200).

6 POTTERY ASSESSMENT

by Lucy Whittingham

Fourteen sherds of late post-medieval pottery (eighteenth to nineteenth century in date) were recovered from the excavated deposits. This assemblage consisted of post-medieval fine red earthenware, creamware, pearlware and coarse earthenware garden flower pots. Seven sherds of modern roof tile were also recovered. No medieval or earlier pottery was recovered from the trenches.

7 CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological features were identified during the evaluation. Natural London Clay was observed in the base of both trenches. Clayey layers above the natural (103, 102, 203, 202) represent colluvial deposits that have accumulated due to the weathering of the ground surface of the hill-side. Modern tile fragments recovered from the colluvium are likely to be intrusive.

Layers 101 and 201 contained substantial quantities of modern building debris, probably derived from the construction of the houses in Ingle Close in the 1970's and 80s. The upper layers of both trenches (100, 200) were modern in date. Ancient soil horizons, as might have been expected from the documentary research, were not identified in neither of the trenches. It is possible that any ancient soil horizons that may have existed on the site, together with later topsoil/ploughsoil, were removed to level the ground during the construction of the existing houses in Ingle Close.

J. Hiller
Oxford Archaeological Unit
August 1996

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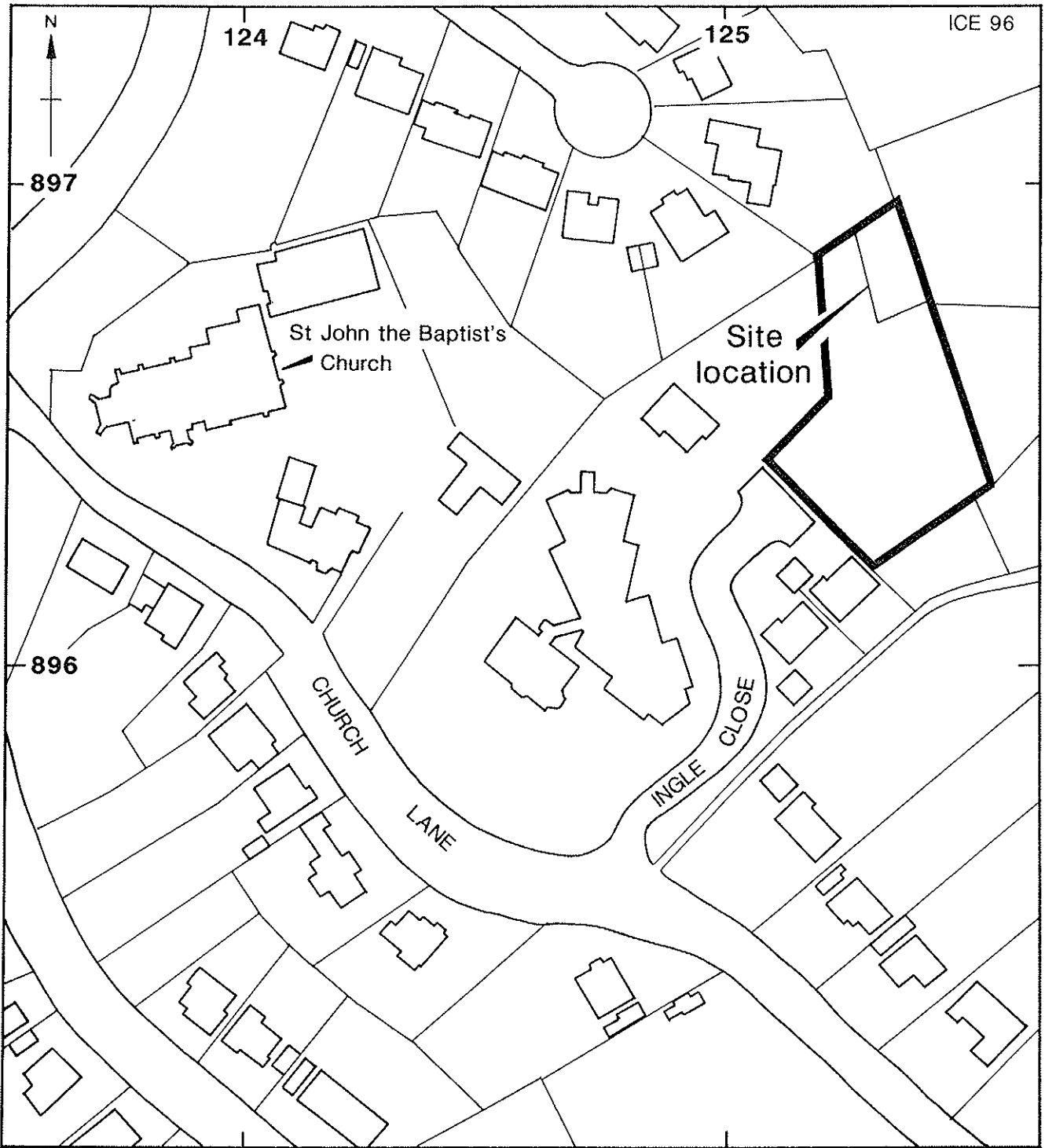
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- 1974 OS 1:1250 TQ 1289 SW

TABLE OF CONTEXT INFORMATION

Context	Type	Depth (m)	Comments
100	Layer	0.20-0.42	Modern layer of builders sand from recent construction on site. Seals 101
101	Layer	0.23	Modern dumped layer relating to recent construction, seals 102
102	Layer	0.22-0.29	Colluvial hillwash clay layer, seals 103
103	Layer	0.10	Interface between 102 and 104
104	Layer	0.05 +	Natural London clay with flints and stones
200	Layer	0.12	Modern topsoil including building debris
201	Layer	0.23	Former topsoil, mixed with building debris
202	Layer	0.16	Colluvial/hillwash silty clay
203	Layer	0.10	Colluvium and gravel mixture
204	Layer	0.05+	Natural London clay with gravel and flints



TQ 1289 NW/NE
Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey's 1:1250 map of 1991 with
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scale 1:1250

Figure 1

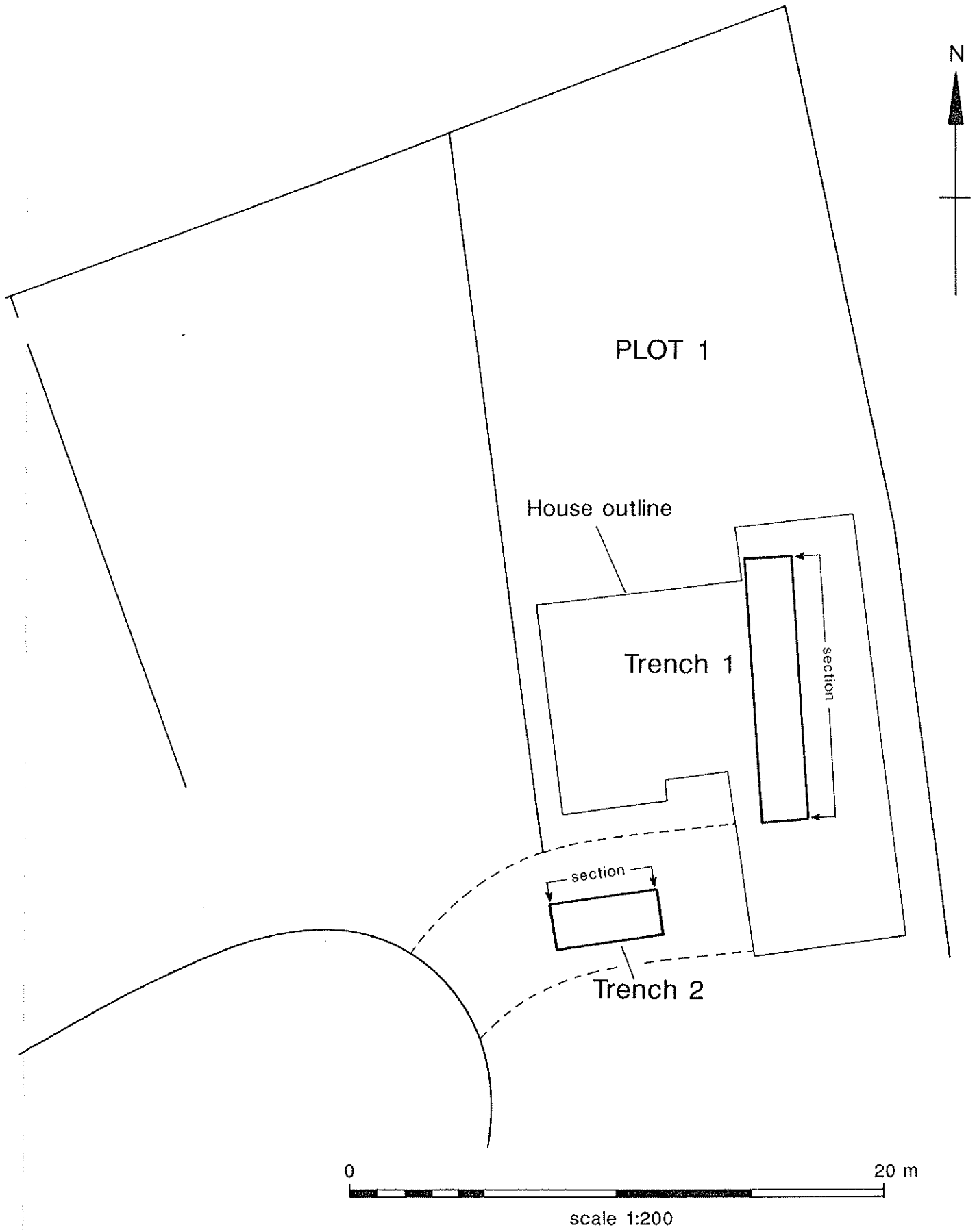


Figure 2

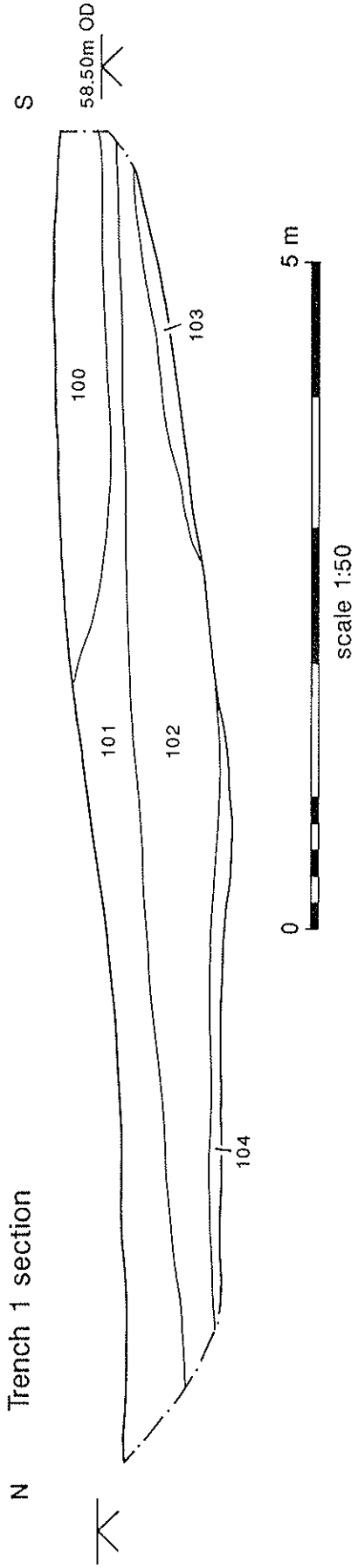


Figure 3

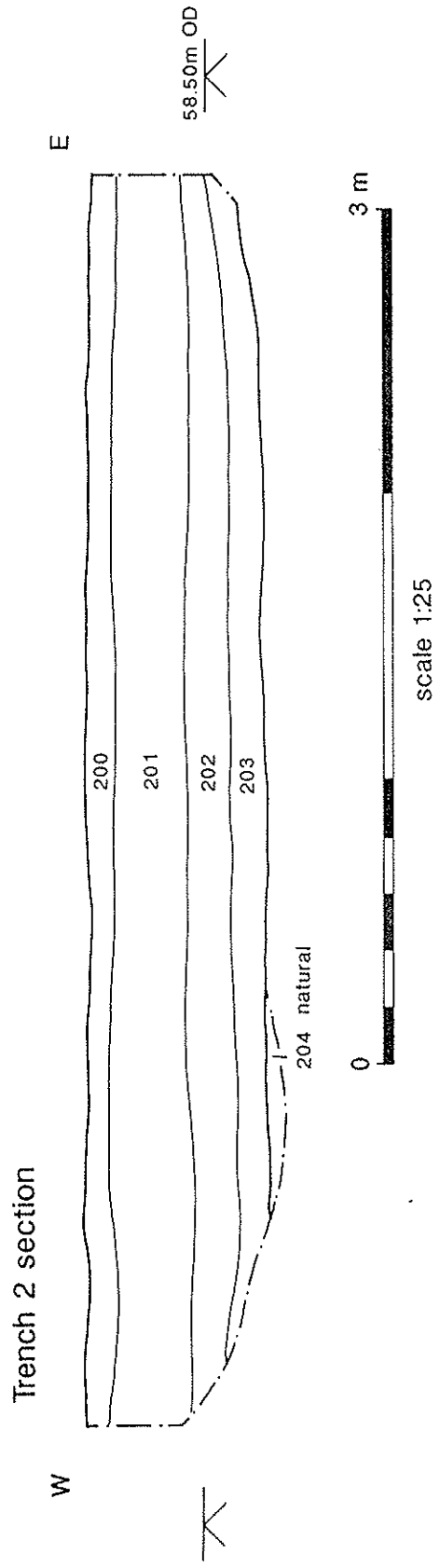


Figure 4



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