

# Warwick Road Kenilworth Warwickshire



## Archaeological Watching Brief Report



August 2006

**Client: Haswell**

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Watching Brief Report

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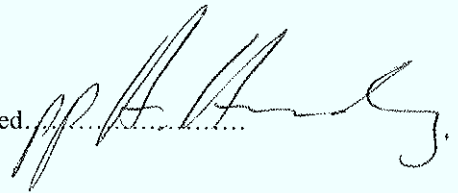
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**Warwick Road,  
Kenilworth, Warwickshire**

***ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT***

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## SUMMARY

*Between 12th June and 13th July 2006 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief on land east of Warwick Road, Kenilworth, Warwickshire (centred at NGR: SP 291 698). The work was commissioned by Haswell on behalf of Severn Trent Water, in advance of the installation of a new main sewer. The watching brief revealed stratigraphy indicative of earlier sewerage work and previous agricultural use of the area but no other deposits or features of archaeological significance.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Between 12th June and 13th July 2006 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief on land to the east of Warwick Road, Kenilworth, Warwickshire (centred at NGR: SP 291 698). The work was commissioned by Haswell, on behalf of Severn Trent Water, in advance of the installation of a new main sewer.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as part of the mitigation strategy agreed with Ed Wilson, the Warwickshire County Planning Archaeologist (WCPA). This is in line with PPG 16 and local planning policies.

### 1.2 Location, geology and topography

1.2.1 The works consisted of two sites located alongside the Warwick Road, running between Kenilworth and the village of Leek Wootton (Fig. 1). The overall topography is a gentle slope running down from the southern edge of Kenilworth to Cattle Brook in the south. The underlying geology was mudstone over undivided sandstone of the Enville Group (British Geological Survey sheet no. 184). Both the sites were in use as arable farmland.

#### ***Cattle Brook Discharge Pipe (Fig. 2)***

1.2.2 This site was located in the south-western corner of a field lying to the east of Warwick Road, sited approximately 450 m north of the Village of Leek Wootton (NGR: SP 2903 6968). The site was approximately 625 m<sup>2</sup> in area lying at a height of 68 m AOD.

#### ***Wootton Grange Farm (Fig.2)***

1.2.3 This was located on the east side of Warwick Road, 25 m south-east of the Wootton Grange Farm entrance (NGR: SP 2913 7016). The site was approximately 100 m<sup>2</sup> in area lying at a height of 85 m above OD.

### 1.3 **Archaeological and historical background**

- 1.3.1 A Desk Based Assessment (DBA) chronicling the archaeological background to the watching brief had been prepared prior to the start of the sewerage works within Kenilworth (OA, 2003), and an abridged form is reproduced below.
- 1.3.2 Palaeolithic flint artefacts have been recovered from the alluvium and gravels associated with the Finham Brook, although nothing of this period has been recovered from within the immediate area of the works. Only two finds of Neolithic or Bronze age date have been discovered within the area. This thin scatter of prehistoric finds is typical of the known distribution of archaeological remains across Warwickshire as a whole, although this is thought to be a reflection of the low level of past archaeological investigations in Warwickshire rather than a genuine absence of activity.
- 1.3.3 Kenilworth lies approximately 9 km west of the Fosse Way on which the major Roman settlements lay. The Roman fort at Baginton is 5 km to the north-east. Few villas have been identified in Warwickshire, but there is a distribution of rural settlements. The known sites on the east side of Kenilworth conform to this regional pattern.
- 1.3.4 A settlement was recorded at Kenilworth in the Domesday Book of 1086. By the early medieval period it formed part of the royal manor of Stoneleigh. In the 1120s Henry I granted a manor of Kenilworth to Geoffrey de Clinton who divided it between his castle and St Mary's Priory (later Abbey) which he founded. A town grew up around these foundations in two locations; a ribbon development on the north side and along the Warwick Road to the south. The town was granted a borough charter in 1125, with the right to a market and fair granted in 1268.
- 1.3.5 The later medieval town of Kenilworth developed on the northern boundary of the sites of the castle and abbey. The area of the current works is to the east of the historic town and lies on land which was used for agriculture during the late medieval period.
- 1.3.6 Agriculture has always formed the main industry for Kenilworth which did not expand far beyond its medieval core until the later 19th century, following construction of the railway. Some small scale tanning and horn comb industries were established, but these have disappeared. During the 20th century residential developments led to the expansion of the town towards the south and east.
- 1.3.7 Away from the medieval core of the town the archaeological potential for all periods appears to be generally low.

## 2 **PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY**

### 2.1 **Aims**

- 2.1.1 To identify and record the presence or absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas affected by the development.

2.1.2 To preserve by record any archaeological deposits or features that may be disturbed or destroyed during the course of the work.

2.1.3 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

## 2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The excavations were carried out using a 13 tonne tracked excavator fitted with a 1.5 m wide toothless grading bucket under continuous archaeological supervision.

2.2.2 A plan showing the extent of the excavations was maintained at a scale of 1:500 (Fig. 2) and any sections recorded were drawn at a scale of 1:20. All excavations were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was also made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OA Field Manual* (ed D Wilkinson, 1992).

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Description of deposits

3.1.1 The different areas of watching brief will be described separately, followed by an overall discussion and interpretation.

#### ***Cattle Brook Discharge Pipe***

3.1.2 An area approximately 25 m by 25 m was stripped by a 13 tonne machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket. The machine proceeded in spits until undisturbed deposits were encountered.

3.1.3 The underlying natural, a bright reddish-brown brickearth (2) was encountered at a depth of between 0.15 m and 0.20 m below the current ground level (Fig. 3, Section 1). This was overlaid by a layer of dark red-brown silt loam (1), the present day ploughsoil. No other features or deposits were observed during the machining.

#### ***Wootton Grange Farm***

3.1.4 A 3.5 m deep shaft was dug in order to intercept an existing sewerage pipe. The underlying solid geology, a fractured and laminated green sandstone (8), was encountered at a depth of 1.5 m below the current ground level (Fig. 3, Section 2). This was overlain by a 0.9 m deep layer of dark red-brown sandy clay silt (7). This contained numerous small fragments of sandstone and represents a layer of decomposed natural. Sealing this was a 0.3 m deep layer of red-brown silt clay (6), a subsoil, possibly alluvial in origin. This layer was cut by a 1.0 m wide, vertical sided trench (5), a modern sewer pipe trench. This had been backfilled with a red-brown clay silt (4), containing sandstone fragments and many tree roots. This was a mixture of redeposited material from its excavation and is known to be approximately 3.5 m in depth.

3.1.5 Both the sewer trench and the subsoil were overlain by a 0.3 m deep layer of dark red-brown clay loam (3), the present day ploughsoil. No other deposits or features of archaeological significance was observed.

### 3.2 **Finds**

3.2.1 No artefacts were recovered during the course of the watching brief.

### 3.3 **Palaeo-environmental remains**

3.3.1 No deposits suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling were observed during the course of the watching brief.

## 4 **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

4.1.1 The brickearth, Layer (2), is probably the result of migration of the decomposition products of the underlying mudstone down slope while Layer 6 may be the truncated remains of a prehistoric alluvial deposit. The ploughsoil (1) and (3), is the result of modern agricultural practises.

4.1.2 No significant archaeological deposits or features were observed during the course of the watching brief.



## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
Cattle Brook Discharge Pipe					
1	Layer	0.15 m - 0.2 m	Ploughsoil	-	C20th
2	Layer	> 0.1 m	Brickearth, decomposed mudstone	-	-
Wootton Grange Farm					
3	Layer	0.3 m	Ploughsoil	-	C20th
4	Fill	3.5 m	Backfill of 5, redeposited material	Tree roots	C20th
5	Cut	3.5 m	Modern sewer trench	-	C20th
6	Layer	0.3 m	Subsoil, possibly alluvium	-	-
7	Layer	0.9 m	Weathered natural	-	-
8	Layer	> 1 m	Green sandstone	-	-

## APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

IFA, 2001 *Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluations*

OA, 2000 *OA Environmental Guidelines for sampling*

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

OA, 2003 *Kenilworth Sewerage Strategy (Phase 3): Archaeological Desk Based Assessment for Severn Trent Water*

## APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** Warwick Road, Kennilworth, Warwickshire

**Site code:** KENWA 05

**Grid reference:** Centred on SP 2904 6970

**Type of watching brief:** Machine stripping of topsoil and underlying deposits

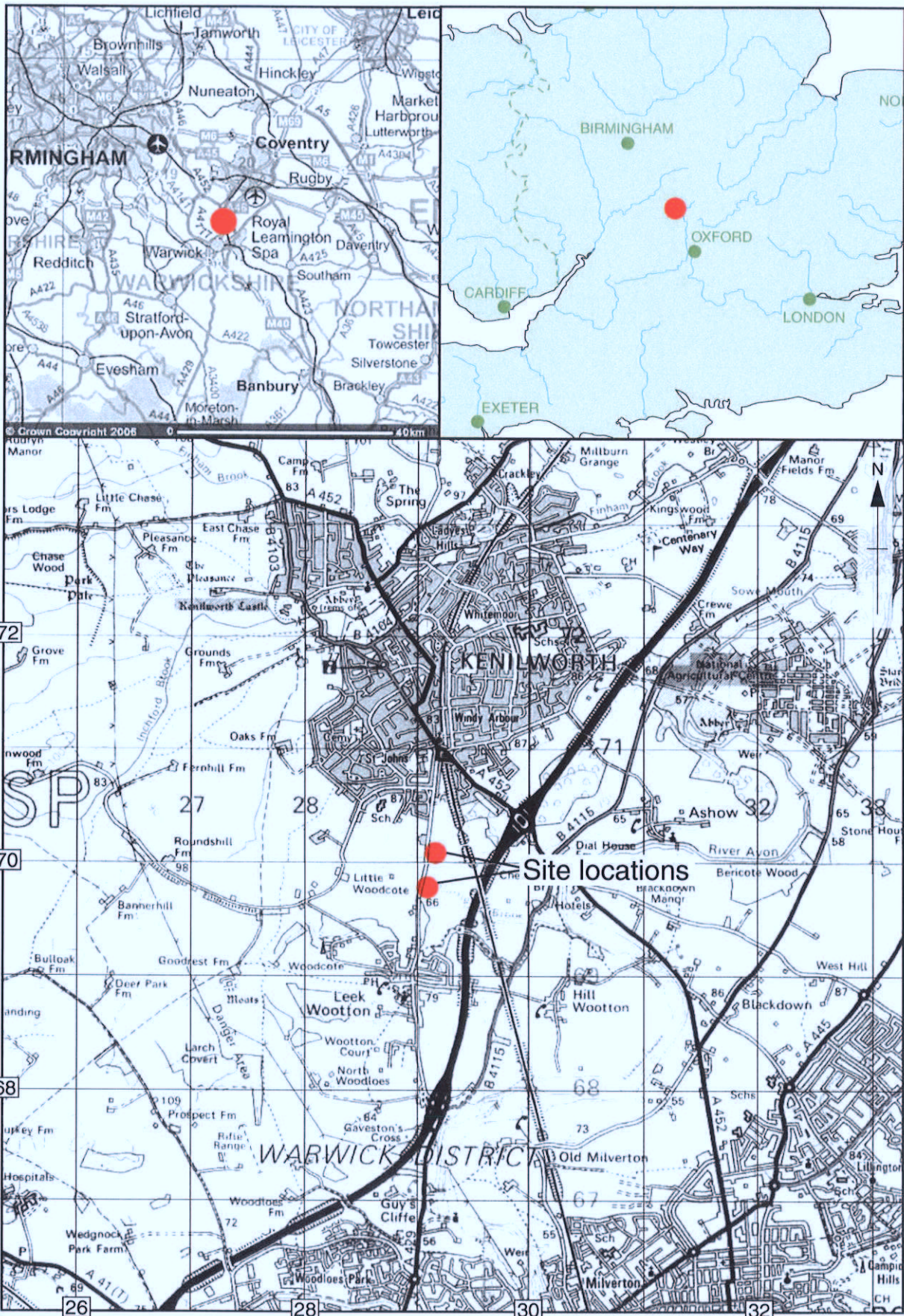
**Date and duration of project:** **Between** 12.06.06 and 13.07.06, 3 site visits

**Area of site:** Total area monitored, c.400 m<sup>2</sup>

**Summary of results:** The watching brief observed modern ploughsoil overlying natural deposits and earlier sewerage work. No significant archaeology was encountered

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





Scale 1:50,000

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Figure 1: Site location



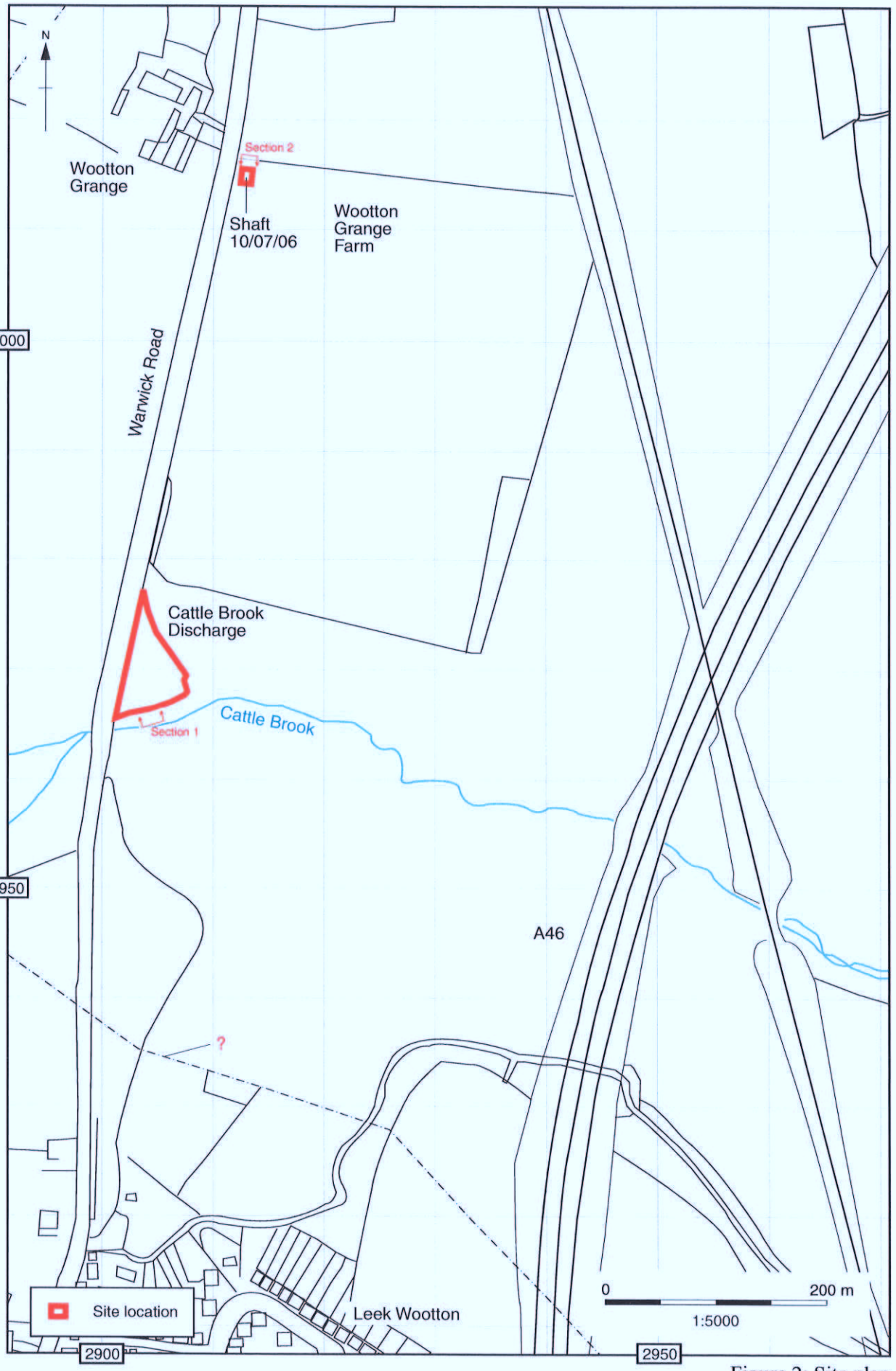


Figure 2: Site plan

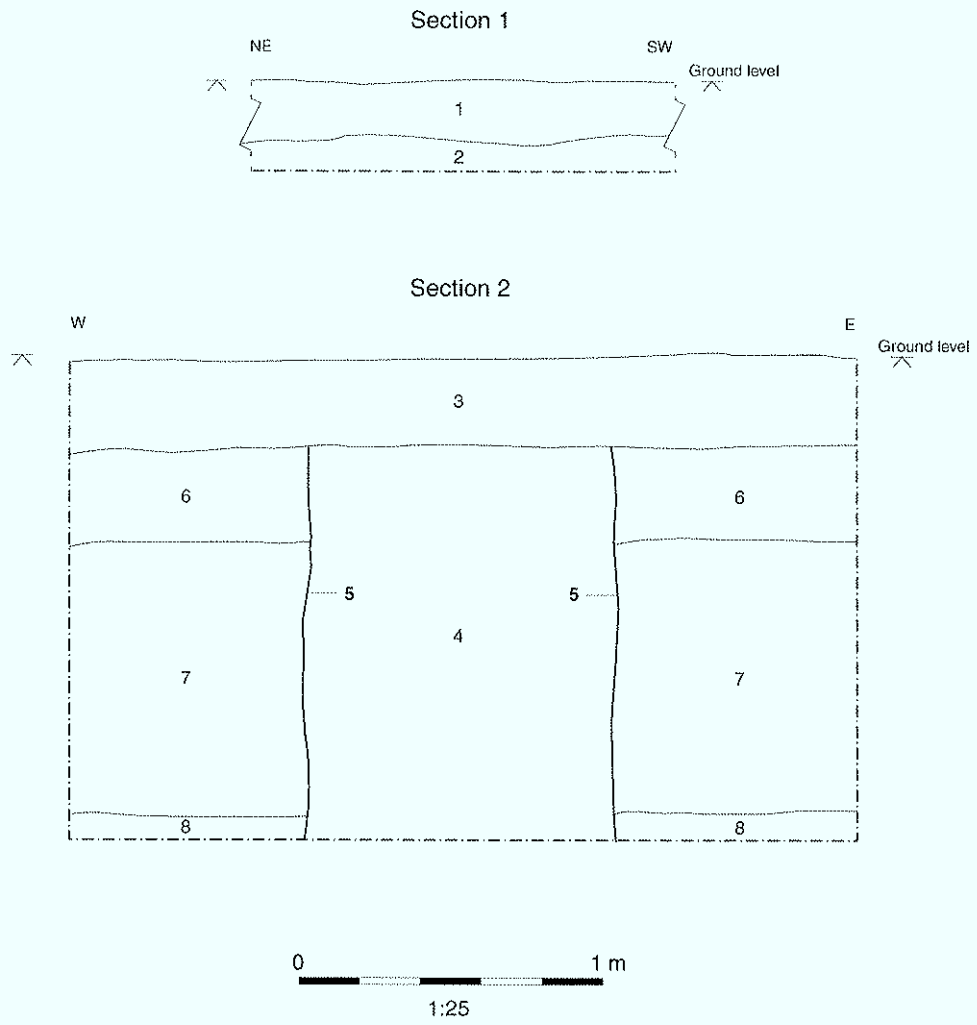


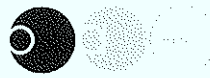
Figure 3: Sections



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