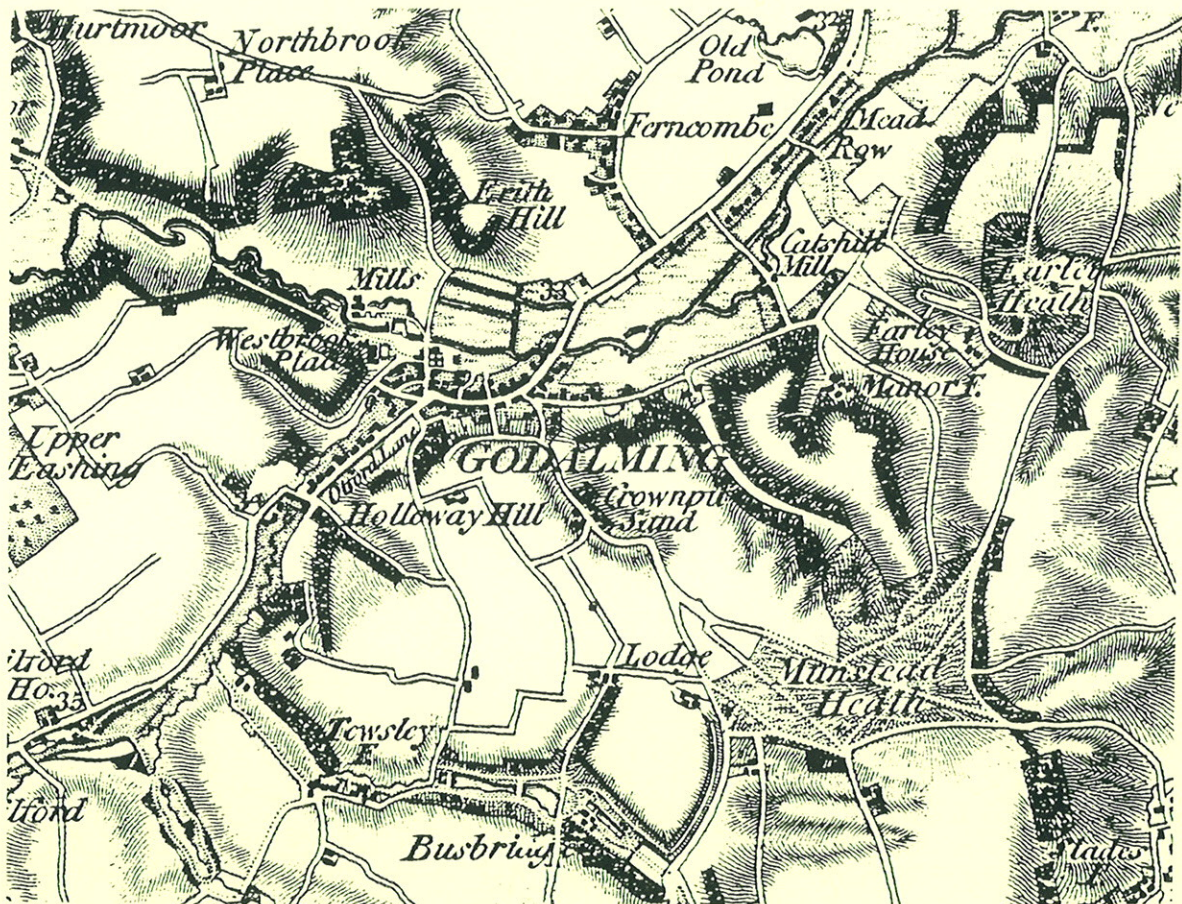


CARE UK COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

POUND LANE, GODALMING, SURREY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SU 9713 4375



OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

AUGUST 1998

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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SUMMARY

In July 1998, the Oxford Archaeological Unit undertook a field evaluation at Pound Lane, Godalming on behalf of Care UK Community Partnerships, in advance of a proposed development of the site as a nursing home. The evaluation comprised two machine-cut trenches, which were hand cleaned. These revealed slight tree root disturbance sealed beneath cultivation levels including substantial deposits of possible garden soil of 19th-century date. The soils were cut by a number of recent features including the foundations of buildings, which date from the 20th century. No significant earlier archaeological features were found. The small quantity of pottery recovered from the site included a single small sherd of Tudor Green and four sherds of Border Ware, but consisted overwhelmingly of 19th- and 20th-century ceramics. Other finds were limited in quantity.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning background and the location and extent of the site

The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) carried out a field evaluation between 13th-15th July 1998 at Pound Lane, Godalming, Surrey on behalf of Care UK Community Partnerships in respect of a planning application for a nursing home, car parking and landscaping (Planning Ref. WA98/ 0042). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a WSI prepared by the OAU and approved by Surrey County Council. The development site is 1920 sq. m in area and lies in the centre of Godalming (Fig. 1), c. 45 m south of the High Street and c. 55 m north of Croft Road at NGR SU 9713 4375 (Fig. 2).

1.2 Geology and topography

The underlying geology comprises cretaceous Lower Greensand of the Hythe Beds. On site the exposed geology consisted of beds of sand and sandstone. The site typically slopes down gently to the north, but is locally terraced with supporting retaining walls. The site is currently occupied by a small derelict steel-framed workshop building, together with a row of five disused garages, and is generally covered with a loose tarmac surfacing, with concrete around the garage/workshop building.

1.3 Historical and archaeological background

The archaeological background to the evaluation has been the subject of a separate desk study (OAU 1998), which covered an area 1 km around the development site. The results of the desk-top study are summarised below.

- 1.3.1 The site itself has produced no archaeological evidence. There are no known prehistoric occupation sites within 1 km of the site. Although there are several prehistoric findspots within Godalming their exact location is unknown. They include Mesolithic worked flint, two Bronze Age axes, Bronze Age and early Iron Age pottery and five Iron Age coins. There is little evidence of Roman activity in Godalming: a single coin has been recovered within the area covered by the desk-top study, and archaeological investigations at 'The Wharf', c.450 m to the north - east of the site, revealed evidence of a possible Roman waterfront.
- 1.3.2 Godalming is first mentioned in c. AD 880 in the will of King Alfred when the manor was bequeathed to his nephew Ethelwald, but the place name element *-ingas* in Godalming suggests a possible origin in the 7th century. In 1990, excavations at Mint Street, c.350 m to the west of the development site, recovered late Saxon pottery, while excavations in 1991 at Bridge Street, c.150 m north – east of the site, found evidence of Late Saxon settlement. This consisted of a complex of pits, post holes, gullies and a large quantity of pottery. A possible Saxon waterfront was uncovered at 'The Wharf' (see 1.3.1 above).
- 1.3.3 Godalming was royal manor at the time of the Domesday survey. In 1221 the manor was granted to the Bishop of Salisbury, reverting to the crown in 1541-2. Excavations within the area of Godalming have produced much evidence of medieval occupation. This is often in the form of cess and rubbish pits in the gardens or back yards of what would have been street front properties near the centre of the town to the west of the site.

Excavations in 1989 on Flambard Way, produced shallow foundations of a 16th-century building and hillwash containing pottery of 12th-century date. It was suggested that this represented the edge of medieval settlement along the High Street.

- 1.3.4 Evidence for post-medieval activity is largely gleaned from maps and other historical data. The earliest map consulted is Roque's 1768 map of the County of Surrey, on which the development site appears as open ground behind the back gardens of properties fronting onto the High Street. A lane on the line of Pound Lane is shown but does not veer to the east as does the present lane. The site is still shown as open land on the 1793 Lindley and Crosley map of Surrey and on the Godalming Enclosure Map of 1808.
- 1.3.5 The 1st Edition 25 inch OS map shows that the site was part of the gardens of 'Brighton House', which is now called 'Highfield House'. The Penfold Map of c. 1865 and the 1st Edition 6 inch OS map show buildings within the development site.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

The aims of the evaluation were: -

- 2.1 To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the proposal area.
- 2.2 To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present.
- 2.3 To determine the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features.
- 2.4 To make available the results of the investigation.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Sample size

The evaluation was based upon a 3.2 % sample of the development area, and consisted of 2 stepped trenches measuring 28 m long by 1.6 m wide and 10.6 m long by 1.6 m wide at their deepest sections (Fig. 2). The overburden was removed by a JCB mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

Both trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed D Wilkinson 1992).

3.3 Finds

The spoil excavated by machine was closely monitored for finds, and finds from hand excavation were hand sorted. Spoil tips were continually monitored for finds.

3.4 Environmental data

No samples were taken, because no deposits suitable for environmental sampling were located. Significant archaeological features were absent, and the site was characterised by the presence of garden soils and modern features.

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

The general soil type varied from silty sand to clayey sand with underlying sandy beds. Ground conditions were dry.

4.2 Distribution of Archaeological Deposits

The foundations of modern buildings were located within both trenches cut into earlier garden soils. Two irregular features were located within Trench 2 beneath the probable garden deposits, but these were thought to be the result of tree root disturbance. No other significant archaeological features were located.

4.3 Presentation of Results

Trenches 1 and 2 are individually described in stratigraphic sequence from underlying natural to the present ground surface. This is followed by a brief description of the finds and a discussion and interpretation of the results.

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of deposits

5.1.1 *Trench 1* (Fig. 3) was orientated east – west within the northern part of the site and measured 10.6 m long and 1.6m wide at its base. The sides of the trench were stepped out to a total width of 2.5 m for safety reasons.

The natural substrate - a clean, slightly silty, yellowish brown sand (110) - was encountered at 45.75 m OD, at a depth of c. 1.1 m beneath the present ground level. A layer of orange brown silty sand (106) up to 0.65 m thick overlay the natural. This deposit was similar to the natural but had some mortar flecking and contained animal bone, ceramic building materials and 19th- century pottery.

A very large pit (109) cut layer 106 towards the eastern end of Trench 1. This pit, which was irregular in plan and poorly defined, had steeply concave sides and a flat base. It measured overall 4.5 m from east to west and at least 2.5m from north to south. It was

approximately 1 m deep (1.35 m deep from the present ground surface). Its fills (107 and 108) varied from orange brown silty sand to dark brown clayey sand and contained much pottery, tile and brick dating from the 19th century, as well as scattered tarmac pieces.

The fill of the pit was sealed by layer 104, which comprised dark red brown sandy clay with charcoal flecking and contained ceramic building materials. This layer was contemporary with two roughly built stone wall footings (103 and 104) running north – south. These walls survive to a height of 0.5 m and are approximately 4.3 m apart. Thin layers of make-up material and a tarmac surface were noted between these two walls. Further make-up levels overlay these walls and associated layers and were sealed beneath the present concrete surface which covers the site. A series of modern concrete beam footings was also noted along the southern and northern extent of trench one (Fig. 3) and it is very likely that these are the remains of a former prefabricated building noted in previous surveys of the site (Context Melbourne Weeks Ltd 1996; OAU 1998).

5.1.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 4) was orientated north – south within the central southern area of the site. The trench measured 28 m by 1.6 m at its base. The sides of this trench were stepped out to a maximum width of 5.4 m because of safety considerations.

The natural sand – a clean orange/yellow fine silty sand (221) - was found between 47 and 47.5 m OD, at a depth between 1.5 to 1.8 m below the present ground surface. Two irregular features (222 and 224) cut the natural. The smallest of these features (224) measured 0.35 m x 0.15 m and was 0.1 m deep. Its fill contained a single clay tobacco pipe bowl fragment. Feature 222 was considerably larger and measured at least 4.5 m x 1.4 m and was 0.3m deep. This was also irregular and its fill contained a single sherd of early post – medieval Border ware. Feature 224 is likely to be the result of tree root disturbance whereas feature 222 was probably a treehole.

A layer of red brown sandy silt (220) 0.6 m deep overlay the natural and the fills of both tree disturbances. It contained clay tobacco pipe stem fragments and 19th- and 20th-century pottery, thought to date from the 19th century. The boundary between layer 220 and the natural 221 was gradual and indistinct. Sealing 220 was a layer of mid to dark brown sandy silt (219), which contained 19th-century pottery and occasional brick and tile. The boundary between 220 and 219 was poorly defined. The concrete and brick foundations of two buildings (209 and 210; 212, 213, 214 and 218), were found on the western side of Trench 2. These were clearly of modern construction.

5.2 Finds

The pottery recovered has been quantified and spot-dated and the results are presented in Appendix 2. The occurrence of other finds is noted in the Context Inventory (Appendix 1).

5.2.1 Pottery. The pottery recovered from Trench 1 included one sherd of Tudor Green ware incorporated into wall 103, and one sherd of Red Earthenware from the upper fill (107) of pit 109. Three sherds of Border ware and one sherd of Midland Black ware also found. The key sherds were the 19th- and 20th-century ceramics from contexts 106 and 108. Apart from one sherd of Border ware of 16th-century date, the ceramics from Trench 2 were all of 19th- and 20th-century date.

- 5.2.2 *Ceramic building materials* were found in Trench 1 in the fills of pit 109 and in layer 106, as well as in the upper layers of the trench. No ceramic building material was recovered from Trench 2.
- 5.2.3 *Clay tobacco pipe* was recovered from the fill 225 of the tree root disturbance 224 and from layer 220, which may have been a garden soil and from wall 103. The pipe from 225 could be intrusive, give the likely nature of the feature.
- 5.2.4 *Other finds* were very limited and included 1 piece of bone and 14 sherds of glass from Trench 1.

5.3 Environmental data

No environmental samples were taken (see 3.4 above)

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

The stratigraphic evidence was unambiguous. In both trenches the natural is sealed by a good depth of deposit which is interpreted as garden soil (Trench 1 layer 106; Trench 2 layer 220). All but two features cut these deposits and are therefore late in date. The few earlier potsherds could be residual or re-deposited and are small in size in contrast to the sherds of 19th- and 20th-century date.

6.2 Overall interpretation

- 6.2.1 *Summary of Results.* With the exception of the tree disturbances 222 and 224, all the features cut the layers which can be interpreted as garden deposits (Trench 1 layer 106; Trench 2 layer 220) and are dated from the 19th century onwards. These deposits may relate to the laying out of the garden of 'Brighton House'. The tree root holes were sealed beneath the garden deposits in Trench 2, and both were probably post-medieval in date. The large pit 109, and two north-south aligned stone walls 102 and 103, within Trench 1, post-date the suggested garden deposit, layer 106, and are likely to be of 19th century or later date. The foundations of the two buildings located in the western side of Trench 2 are of recent construction.
- 6.2.2 *Significance.* There were no archaeological features of archaeological significance. The two irregular features found within Trench 2 are probably of earlier post-medieval date but their irregular shape and profile suggests that these were probably tree disturbances.

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Wilkinson, D (ed.) 1992 *Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual*, (First edition, August 1992)

Maps

Lindley, J and Crosley, W, 1793 *Map of the County of Surrey*.

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6" Map 1871 Sheet XXXI. SE

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 25" Map 1871 Sheet XXXI. 15

Penfold Survey c. 1865 Map and survey based on the Tithe Map and Apportionment for Godalming (1845)

Rocque, 1768 *A Topographical Map of the County of Surrey*.

Appendix 1: Archaeological Context Inventory

Trench 1							
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
100	Surface	Concrete/brick	0.12				Modern
101	Surface	Tarmac	0.1				Modern
102	Wall	Limestone wall	0.5	0.6	2.5+	CBM x 1, Glass x 2,	Modern
103	Wall	Limestone wall	0.6	0.58		Pot, Clay pipe x 1, Glass x 1	Modern
104	Fill	Fill of 105	0.6				Modern
105	Cut	Construction cut	0.6	8.5			Modern
106	Fill	Cultivation layer	0.65			Pot, CBM x 1, Bone x 1	Modern
107	Fill	Fill of 109	1.25			Pot	Modern
108	Fill	Primary fill of 109	1.25			Pot, CBM x 4, Glass x 11	Modern
109	Cut	Large pit	1.25	4.5+	2.5+		Modern
110	Layer	Natural sand					
Trench 2							
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
200	Layer	Tarmac	0.2				Modern
201	Layer	Make-up	0.15				Modern
202	Layer	Garden soil & rubble	0.3				Modern
203	Layer	Garden soil	0.45				Modern
204	Pipe	Water pipe					Modern
205	Layer	Gravel surface	0.1				Modern
206	Layer	Gravel surface	0.12				Modern
207	Structure	Concrete block	0.45	0.35			Modern
208	Structure	Concrete capping	0.15				Modern
209	Structure	Remains of wall	0.4+				Modern
210	Structure	Concrete foundation	0.22				Modern
211	Structure	Concrete capping	0.3				Modern
212	Wall	Concrete wall	0.7	0.15	2.75		Modern
213	Structure	Remains of wall	0.5	5.75			Modern
214	Structure	Concrete foundation	0.15				Modern
215	Layer	Made ground	0.1				Modern
216	Layer	Garden soil & rubble	0.3				Modern
217	Services	Electricity cable					Modern
218	Layer	Mortar foundation	0.45				Modern
219	Layer	Garden soil	0.45			Pot	19th C.+
220	Layer	Garden soil	0.6			Pot, Clay pipe x 3	19th C.+
221	Layer	Natural silty sand					
222	Cut	Tree bole?	0.3	1.4+	4.5+		16th C.?
223	Fill	Fill of 222	0.3	1.4+	4.5+	Pot	16th C.?
224	Cut	Root hole	0.1	0.15	0.35		16th C.?+
225	Fill	Fill of 224	0.1	0.15	0.35	Clay pipe x 1	16th C.+

Appendix 2: Post-Roman pottery

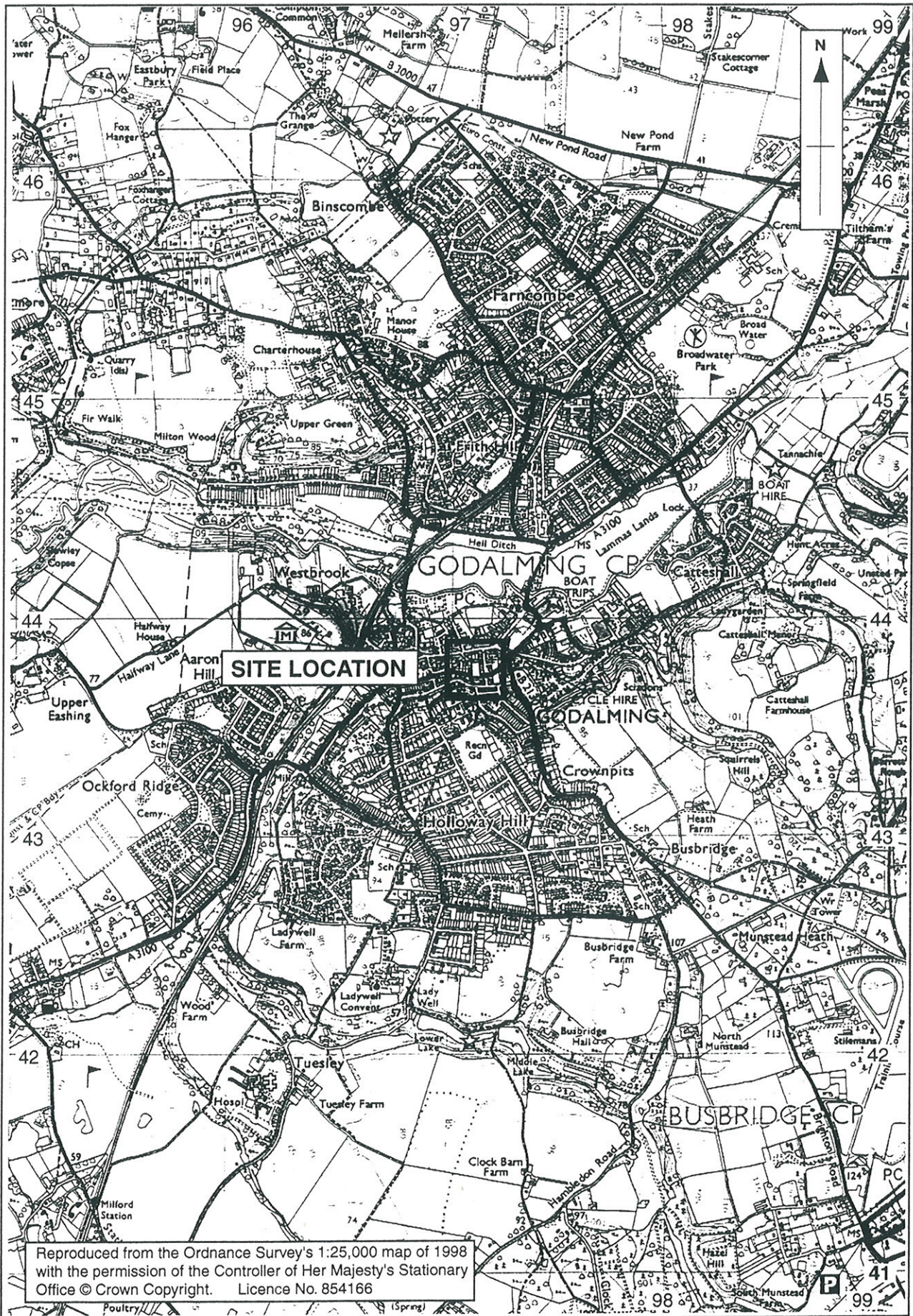
By Paul Blinkhorn

The post-Roman pottery assemblage from Godalming Pound Lane comprised 21 sherds with a total weight of 686 g. All the wares are types which are well-known throughout the south of England. The occurrence per context by number and weight (in g) of sherds per fabric type is shown in the table.

Pottery occurrence per context by number and weight (in g) of sherds per fabric type

Fabric	Tudor Green		Red Earthenware		Border ware		Midland Blackware		Misc 19 th /20 th C		TPQ
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
103	1	6									15thC?
106					2	9			4	30	19thC
107			1	9							16thC?
108			2	35	1	7	1	23	4	450	19thC
219									2	90	19thC
220									2	25	19thC?
223					1	2					16thC?
Total	1	6	3	44	4	18	1	23	12	595	

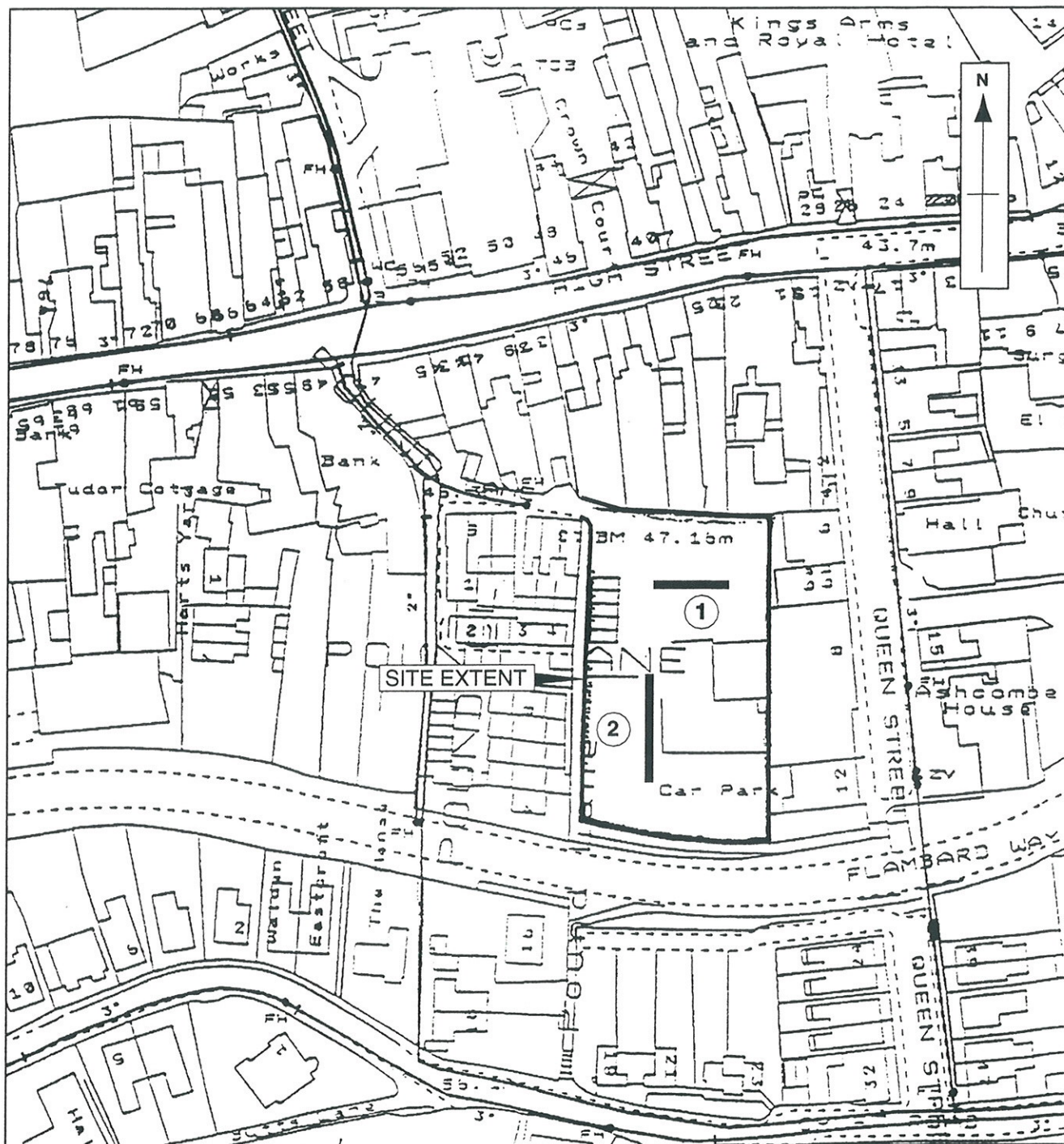
The majority of the assemblage (12 sherds, 595 g) comprised miscellaneous 19th century wares, and the rest of the assemblage consisted of early post-medieval types with a *terminus post quem* of the 16th century. The exception was the sherd of Tudor Green ware, which could be as early as the late 14th century, but the tradition had a currency which also encompassed the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.



scale 1:25,000

Location of site

Figure 1

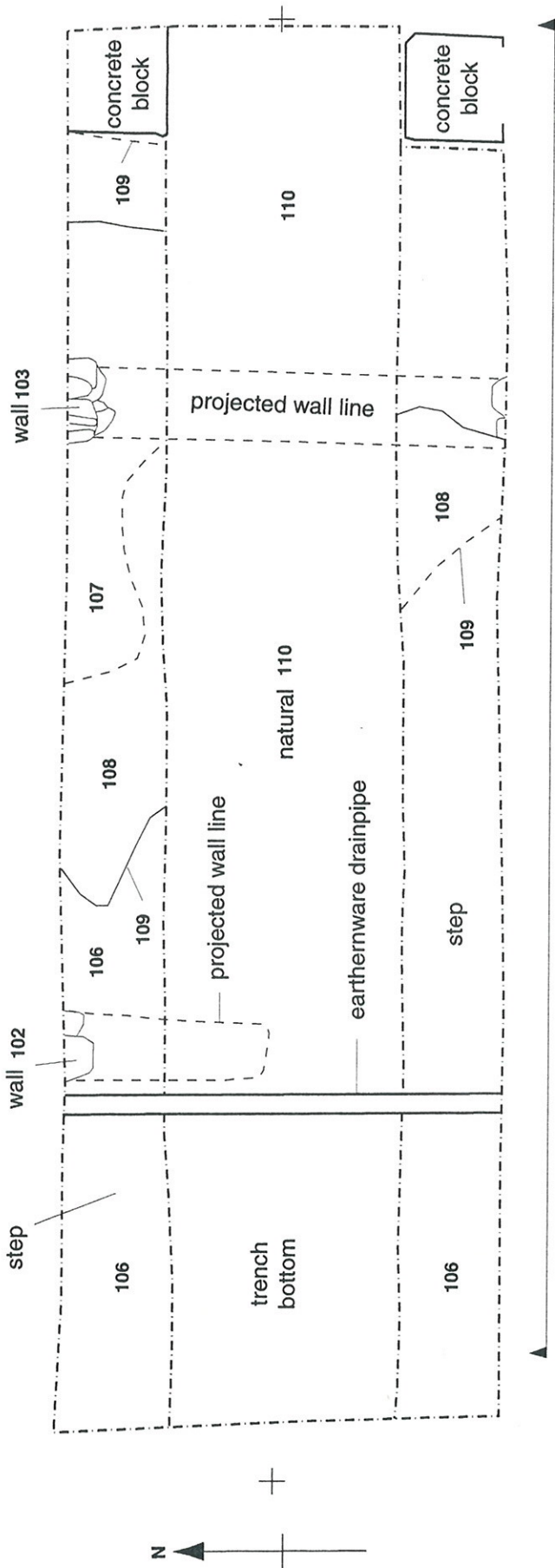


scale 1:1250

Location of trenches

Figure 2

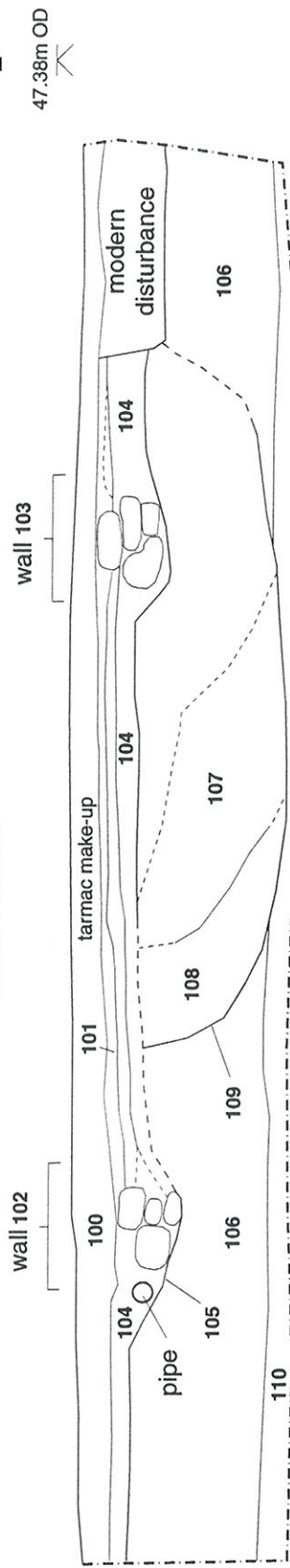
Trench 1 plan



section

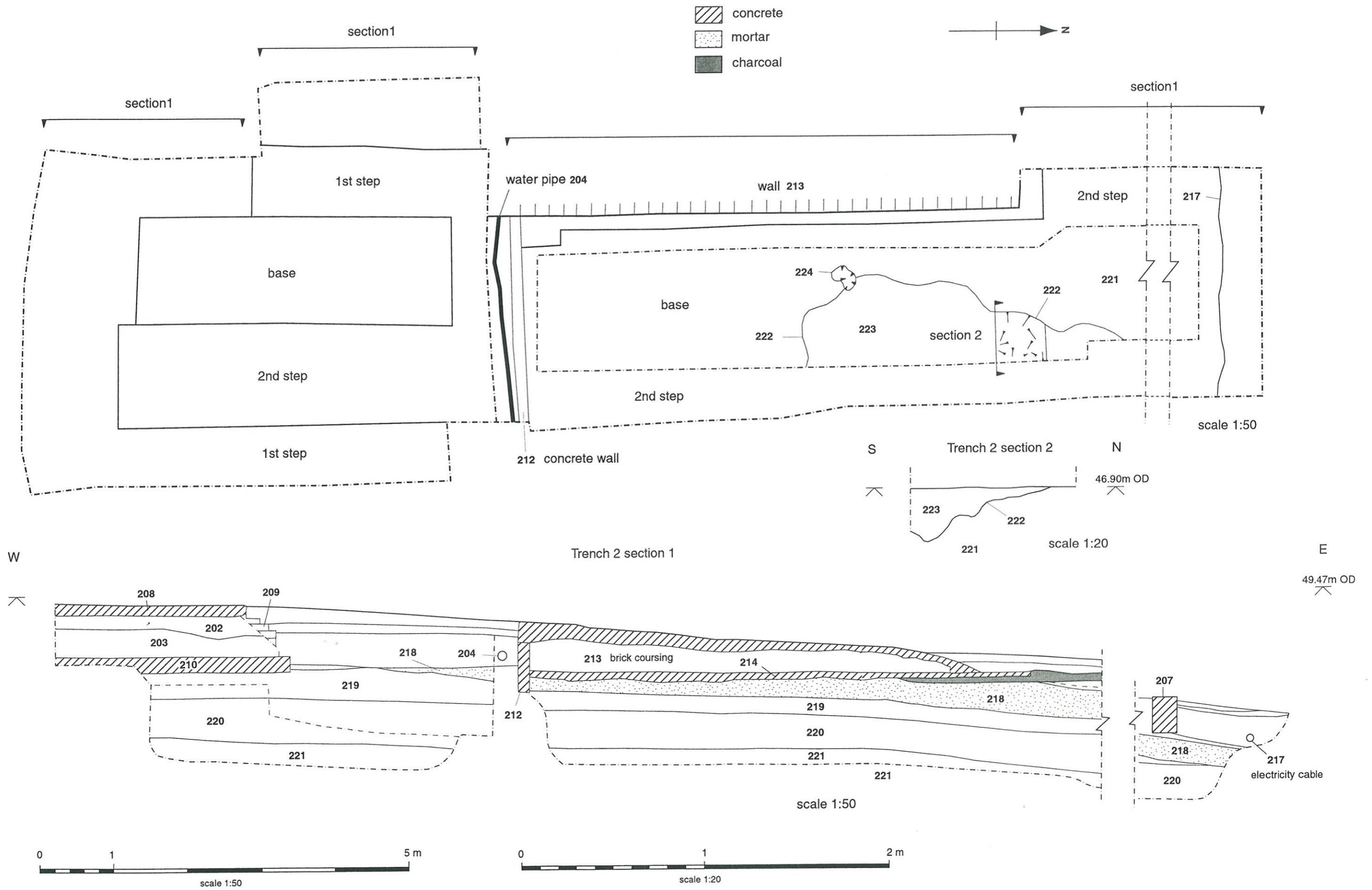
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Trench 1 section



Trench 1 plan and section

Figure 3



Trench 2 plan

Figure 4



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