

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Tipping Street car park, Stafford, Staffordshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SJ 92352315

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

October 1999

Staffordshire County Council

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SUMMARY

The Oxford Archaeological Unit carried out a field evaluation in September 1999 at Tipping Street Carpark, Stafford on behalf of Staffordshire County Council. The evaluation revealed the presence of a substantial east-west ditch, located in the southern part of the site, interpreted as possibly part of the medieval town ditch. Other features included a series of medieval pits and linear features, some of which contained pottery of 13th- to 15th-century date.

These features were sealed by a substantial soil horizon found over most of the site. This soil horizon produced pottery ranging in date from the late medieval period to the 19th century. It is suggested that this was a garden soil and that the site was given over to horticulture in the post-medieval period. No earlier material was identified during the evaluation. The brick footings and cellars of a number of post-medieval buildings were identified cutting into the garden soil. These were mainly located on the north and south frontages of the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

In September 1999 the Oxford Archaeological Unit carried out a field evaluation at the land off Tipping Street, Stafford (Fig. 1) on behalf of Staffordshire County Council to a brief set by and a WSI agreed with Christopher Welch, County Archaeologist. There is a proposal to sell the land for development. The development site is bounded to the north by Tipping Street, to the south by South Walls, to the east by Appleyard Court and to the west by Greengate Street. The development area measures 0.74 hectares.

1.2 Geology and topography

Stafford is located in the River Sow valley, above its confluence with the River Trent. The site lies on the sand and gravel river terraces, which seal the Mercian Mudstone, rising to a height of 76.00 m OD. Evidence from earlier excavations suggests that use of the terraces dates back to the Roman period and continues through to the present day.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

The archaeological background to the evaluation has been the subject of a separate desk study (Staffordshire Borough Council Archaeology Section Report 11), the results of which are a desk study summarised below.

The site itself has produced limited archaeological evidence. There are some known sites and locations with archaeological finds adjacent to the development site:

- (i) Aethelflaeda, King Alfred's granddaughter had founded Stafford as a burh by 913 AD, and by the time of Domesday in 1086 Stafford is recorded as being the main town of the county. In 1206 King John granted a charter to the town, however, this is thought to represent regranting of earlier rights, as opposed to new rights.
- (ii) Professor Martin Carver and Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit carried out a number of investigations between 1975-83. These include excavations at Clark Street (SJ 925232) where Roman and 10th- to 12th-century Saxon waterlogged deposits and pottery were identified. The natural sand exhibited signs of organic decay, suggesting the limits of a pre-Roman marsh encroached onto the site to the south-east. It was clear from Carver's excavation that deliberate dumping had taken place periodically in order to re-claim the land (Carver, 1975, 55-6).
- (iii) A one-day salvage excavation at Eastgate Street (now the site of the Police Station) (SJ 92442315) in May 1977 identified a late-Saxon kiln

and a series of associated pits that contained wasters. The pottery recovered from this is described as Stafford Ware (Carver 1977, 73).

- (iv) Excavation at Tipping Street, which comprised an evaluation trench and two excavation areas (ST 32 and 33), identified late-Saxon activity. The activity in ST 33 was divided into two provisional phases, the first phase comprised posthole structures and shallow pits and probably represented domestic activity. The second phase of activity related to the production of Stafford Ware. The Saxon deposits were recorded at depths of 75.60 and 74.50 OD. Late-Saxon activity was identified also on the site ST32. The features consisted of two kilns, a lined well, a wattle-lined-feature, and possible post-built structures. Finds from the area included large quantities of wasters which had been dumped into a pit (Wilkinson and Walters 1997, 7-8).
- (v) Excavations were undertaken in 1972 in the garden of St Chad's Vicarage under the direction of Ashley Carter, chairman of the Mid Staffordshire Archaeological Society. Five trenches were excavated. Stafford Ware pottery recovered was recovered from two trenches (2 and 3), but no structural elements were identified. The results of the excavation suggested that trenches 2 and 3 were located over a large feature, either a ditch, or an area which had been used as a rubbish dump. Stafford Ware pottery was recovered from depths of between *c.* 73.37 and 74.10 OD (Wilkinson and Walters 1997, 6-7).

1.4 Acknowledgements

The evaluation was undertaken for Staffordshire County Council, on behalf of Staffordshire Borough Council. Thanks are extended to the contractors and to Chris Welch and Chris Waddle (Staffs County Council), David Wilkinson and Lisa Walters (Staffs Borough Council), Bob Arnold and Marianne Allen (Staffs County Council) and Paul Boss (Staffs Borough Council).

2 EVALUATION AIMS

- To determine the presence of archaeological remains within the development area, and to determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality, date and depth below ground of any such remains.
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological deposits and features.
- To make available the results of the investigation.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Sample size and scope of fieldwork

The development site was 0.74 ha (1.74 acres) in extent. The evaluation was based upon a 5% sample of the development area (Fig. 2) and comprised 8 trenches all measuring 2 m in width. The length of the trenches varied from a minimum of 7 m to a maximum of 25 m.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

The overburden was removed by a mechanical excavator (JCB) under close archaeological supervision. The trenches were stripped to either the natural gravel or a depth of 1.40 m. A further four areas, located in Trenches E, G and H, were shored and excavated to a depth of up to 2.50 m below present ground surface. The 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

Finds were recovered from a number of contexts and comprised medieval and post-medieval pottery, animal bone, ceramic building material and a small quantity of worked stone. Only the pottery was analysed in detail because it was felt that this would provide the most significant information. A breakdown of contexts containing artefacts can be found in Appendix 1.

A total of 603 sherds (weight 14.9 kg) was recovered from evaluation contexts. The pottery included 10th- to 11th-century sandy wares, 13th- to 14th-century red sandy wares and reduced wares, 17th- and 18th-century Staffordshire mottled brown wares and slipped wares and brown stonewares as well as 19th-century factory wares.

3.4 Environmental data

The aim of the sampling strategy was to establish the nature of the material that filled the large ditch in Trench G. Environmental samples were only taken from datable deposits, which appeared to be rich in charred material. Two sets of 40 litre samples were taken from 628 (fill 624), and 640 (fill 634). Both of the sampled deposits were waterlogged (see section 5.2).

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

The general soil type was a dark-brown-loam and was acidic with poor preservation of bone. Ground conditions were predominantly dry with poor preservation of waterlogged materials. The lower levels encountered in the shored parts of Trench G were damp, and appeared to have been waterlogged. The thick deposit of garden soil, identified in all of the trenches, was sealed by a layer of hardcore and tar macadam.

4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

A number of pits and linear cut into the natural geology and were sealed by a substantial soil horizon which appears to have built up in the post-medieval period. Pits and linear features were found in Trenches A, B and C, D and E and I. There does not appear to have been any particular concentration of features. In Trench F the soil horizon sealed a deep deposit which may have been dumped material or the fill of a substantial and undefined cut feature. Two sections of an East-West aligned ditch were excavated in Trench G. This is interpreted as the medieval town ditch. Later post-medieval structures and pits were cut into the soil horizon. Post-medieval structural evidence was mainly located on the Tipping Street frontage (Trenches A, D & E), and on the South Walls frontage (Trenches F, G & H).

4.3 Presentation of results

The description of the trenches is presented below. A summary of the context data is presented in the archaeological context inventory (Appendix 1).

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of deposits

5.1.1 Trenches A, B and C (Figs 2, 3 and 4)

These three trenches were located towards the NW corner of the site, with Trench A parallel to Tipping Street and aligned approximately east-west. Trench C was parallel to Trench A and both trenches were 20 m long x 2 m wide and spaced c. 19 m apart. Trench B was aligned north-south, parallel to Greengate Street and linked Trenches A and B at their west ends. It measured 25 m x 2 m.

The earliest features were sealed beneath a deep soil horizon (21, 104, 301) and comprised nine pits, five postholes and five ditches or gullies. Both gully 306 and ditch

321 contained pottery of 12th- to 15th-century date. The remaining pits, postholes and linear features contained no datable material.

The garden soil horizon (21, 104 and 301) extended across all three trenches. The layer was homogenous, with no visible evidence of tip lines or layering. The range of pottery recovered from the features in the trenches suggested that the deposit had developed over a long period of time (see Underwood Keevill this report).

The later features cut into the garden soil and date to the post-medieval period and probably to the 18th and 19th centuries. They include a large quarry pit 102, probably for the extraction of gravel, and pit 107, which had a possible linear extension. The function of the latter feature remains unclear. A number of structural elements were exposed to the North in Trench A. These probably belonged to the building which had fronted Tipping Street during the 19th and 20th centuries. A demolition layer was identified in the upper parts of the trenches. This was probably derived from the demolition of buildings during the 1970s, prior to the construction of the car park.

Trench A (Figs 3 & 4)

Four pits (02, 14, 18, 20) which cut into the natural gravel 22 were located in two areas. In the western part of the trench, pit 14 appears to form a crude east-west alignment with the postholes 04, 06, 08 and 12. The pits were both oval in plan and had sloping sides and round bases. Pit 02 was partially cut away by a north-south orientated foundation. Pottery recovered from the fill ranged in date from the 12th to 15th century. The fills of the pits all comprised loose-mid-brown-loam with up to 10% sand and gravel inclusions. There were five postholes between pits 02 and 14 and these were roughly aligned east-west. Posthole 04 was circular with steep sides and a flat base, posthole 12 was also circular but with sloping sides and rounded base. Postholes 06 and 12 were oval with sloping sides. Posthole 10 was shallow with steep sides and flat bottom. The fills were all a similar friable mid-brown loam with some sand and gravel.

In the eastern part of the trench there were two oval pits (18, 20) with sloping sides and broke onto a flat base. Both pits contained a single fill of mid-brown loam with between 5-10% sand and gravel inclusions.

Post-medieval foundations were found through most of the length of the trench.

Trench B (Figs 3 & 4)

A large pit (115) was identified at the southern end of Trench B. It was only partly within the trench but measured at least 1.36 m wide and c. 1.10 m deep. The pit cut into the natural gravel and it had sloping sides and a flat base. The primary fill was a friable dark greyish sandy-silt with lenses of sand (119). The upper fill was a friable dark greyish-brown sandy-silt with manganese and charcoal flecking (114).

The fill of pit 115 was cut by ditch 118, which was aligned north-east to south-west. The ditch was round bottomed and 0.8 m wide and 0.5 m deep. Its fill was a friable dark greyish-black silty-clay with varying quantities of gravel up to 35% (117=120). Possibly sealing the ditch fills was a friable mid-grey brown sandy-silt with 20-30% gravel

inclusions (116). It was unclear whether layer 116 sealed the ditch or was cut by it. Layer 116 was sealed by the garden soil 104.

To the north of pit 115 part of another pit (124) was located. This was at least 1 m long but only 0.1 m deep. It was filled with loose sandy gravel mixed with dark grey brown silt (125). Cutting the pit was ditch or gully (126), which was aligned from just north of east to just south of west and measured 0.87 m wide and 0.36 m deep. The sides were uneven and base flat. The fill of the gully was a friable dark grey-brown sandy-silt with 15% gravel a little charcoal flecking (123).

Two pits (107 and 102), located to the northern end of the trench, were dated to the post-medieval period. Pit 107 was rectangular in plan with a rectilinear extension from its western edge. It was filled with a friable dark greyish-black silty-clay with moderate charcoal flecking (106). The second post-medieval pit 102, was only partially excavated. It was excavated to a depth of 2 m but not bottomed. Its fill (101) appeared to similar to the garden soil.

Trench C (Figs 3 & 4)

A length of gully (329/331/334) apparently with a terminal at one end and possibly at the east end too was found on a parallel alignment to ditch 126 in Trench B. It was c. 4 m long, 0.39 m wide and up to 0.28 m deep. The sides sloped steeply to a round base. The upper fill of the ditch comprised friable mid-brown sandy-silts with slight gravel inclusions (328/ 330/332). The primary fill was a friable mid-brown sandy-silt with sand and gravel inclusions (333) and was only identified in one part of the ditch (334).

To the north-east of 329/331/334 was an elongated pit or short gully (306/310) aligned east-west. It was 2.93 m long, 0.80 m wide and up to 0.53 m deep. The ditch (310) had three fills: two layers of friable dark grey-brown sandy-silt (309, 308) sealed by a layer of root disturbed dark grey-brown sandy-silt (307). The ditch cut the natural geology and was truncated by pit 304.

Part of another possible ditch 321 was located at the eastern end of Trench C. Only a small section of the feature was found, but it appeared to be part of a north-south orientated ditch at least 1 m wide and 0.9 m deep. The sides gently sloped to a round base. The primary fill was a tenacious to soft dark greyish-black silty-clay with slight charcoal flecking (322). Sealing this was a similar fill with more charcoal flecking (320=319). The ditch cut into the natural gravel and was overlain by the thick garden soil deposit

Three pits were located. Pit 304 cut ditch/gully 306/310 and was itself heavily truncated. It was sub-circular in plan and measured 1.10 m in diameter and 0.23 m in depth. The primary fill was soft-to-loose light greenish-white humic sandy-silt (303). The upper fill was a friable light- to mid-greyish-brown sandy-silt (302). Pit 304 was possibly the remnant of a cess pit. To the east in the centre of the trench was pit 326, which was 1.40 m long, at least 1 m wide and 0.64 m deep. The sides sloped to a concave base. Its primary fill was a compact dark greyish-black sandy-silt with slight charcoal flecking (327). The upper fill was a friable to loose dark greyish-black

sandy-silt. (325). The pit cut into the natural and was overlain by the garden soil deposit.

Only a small portion of the third pit (324) was located in the trench to the north of pit 326. Its sides were vertical and its base rounded. Its single fill was a soft loose dark grey to black humic sandy-silt with a little charcoal flecking (323).

5.1.2 Trenches D and E (Figs 2 and 5)

Trenches D and E were located in the NE corner of the site. Trench D measured 8 m x 2 m. Trench E was L-shaped measured and its two arms measured 20 m and 8 m long. The earliest deposits in this area comprise five pits (404, 409, 411, 414, 426) and a north-south orientated linear feature or ditch 407. The pottery from pits 404 and 409 and ditch 407 ranges in date from the 12th to 15th century. Pottery from pit 411 is dated 12th to 13th century. Pits 414 and 426 produced no datable finds. Substantial brick structures of late post-medieval date were identified in both trenches – the majority of Trench D had been truncated by the construction of a cellar. The brick structure at the east end of Trench E is thought to be part of a building shown on the 1881 OS map.

Trench D

The only archaeological feature was the remnant of a possible pit 206, the shape of which was not clear in plan; it may have been circular. The pit cut into the natural geology and was truncated by the cut for a cellar. Its single fill was a loose mid-brown sandy-silt, with 5% gravel inclusions (205). The date of the cellar, which occupied much of the trench, is uncertain, but it was demolished as recently as the 1970s.

Trench E (Fig. 5)

A total of five pits and a possible linear were cut into the natural gravels. These features are thought to be of a medieval date. A later brick-built-structure (421) was identified in the east part of the trench.

Four of the five pits and the possible linear were all located in the east part of the trench. Pit 411 was at the east end of the trench and was oval in plan and measured 0.55 m long, 0.51 m wide and 0.13 m deep. Its sides sloped steeply onto a flat base and it had one fill, a friable mid greyish-brown silty-clay with moderate amounts of charcoal (410). Pit 414 was also oval in plan and measured 0.85 m long and 0.36 m wide. It was not fully excavated but was *c.* 0.30 m deep. The fill was a friable mid greyish-brown silty-clay with no charcoal (413).

Adjacent to pits 411 and 414, were two intercutting pits (404, 409) and a ditch (407). The earliest of these features was pit 409, which was oval in plan and measured 1.70 m long, 1.20 m wide and 0.25 m deep. The sides were steep and the base flat. The pit contained one fill, a friable to tenacious mid dark greyish-brown clay-silt with limited charcoal flecking (408). It was cut by a north-south ditch 407. The latter was clearly truncated, but measured *c.* 0.70 m deep. It contained two fills, the primary fill was tenacious mid greyish-brown silty-clay with slight charcoal flecking (406) and was

sealed by a friable to tenacious dark greyish-brown silty-clay with moderate charcoal flecking (405).

The final feature in the sequence was pit 404, which was 1.48 m long, 1.28 m wide and 0.42 m deep. It had sloping sides and a round base. The pit had two fills. The primary fill was a tenacious dark brown-black silty-clay with moderate charcoal flecking (403) and the upper fill a friable to tenacious mid brown –black silty-clay limited charcoal inclusions (402).

Pit 426, not illustrated, was located within the brick-built structure 421. The pit was semi-circular in plan and measured *c.* 1.80 m long, 1.20 m wide and 0.68 m deep. The sides were shallow and the base was rounded. Three fills were identified: the primary fill was tenacious dark grey-black silty-clay that with a high frequency of charcoal (425); the primary fill was sealed by a layer similar material but with less charcoal (424). The final fill was a friable dark grey silty-clay with a slightly green tinge and moderate charcoal flecking (423).

A brick-built culvert 420 and brick-floor-surface represent later activity in this trench. The culvert comprised walls and vaulted roofs, was *c.* 3.60 m long and survived to a height of 0.80 m. The bricks measured 0.24 m long, 0.12 m wide and 0.07 m thick. The culvert was only seen in section and was partially removed during the excavation of the trench. No finds were recovered from the fill 419 of the culvert, but it is thought to have been built during the 18th or 19th century.

The layer of firm dark brown loam (416) sealed these deposits and was sealed by a brick-floor surface 415, which was partially removed during the excavation of the trench. The bricks were laid on end and measured 0.24 m long, 0.12 m wide and 0.07 m thick. It is thought that they were part of a yard surface which belonged with houses along the Tipping Street frontage.

5.1.3 Trench F (Fig. 6)

Trench F measured 20 m long and 2 m wide and was located in the SE corner of the site and aligned NNW to SSW. The main feature of this trench was a deep soil deposit (507), which was sealed beneath a thick layer of garden soil (506).

The later activity in this trench is represented by structural evidence, comprising brick walls and a brick floor, which almost certainly formed part of a 19th-century malthouse.

The earliest deposit 507 was up to 0.70 m deep and comprised a firm dark blackish-brown loam with 5% gravel inclusions. It sealed a layer of disturbed natural geology 508.

Also sealed beneath the garden soil 506 was part of a 19th-century malthouse, belonging to an adjacent brewery. The brick-built structure 511 (walls 509, 510) was located at the southern end of the trench and was orientated east-west. The bricks measured 0.24

m long, 0.12 m wide and 0.06 m thick and were bonded with a lime-based-mortar containing tiny fragments of ceramic building material and were laid in English bond.

An internal brick floor 503 butted against the north-south wall and extended from the southern section for *c.* 4 m. It had been partly removed by the excavation of a modern service trench.

5.1.4 Trenches G and H (Figs 2, 7 and 8)

Trenches G and H were located on the south side of the site. Trench G was 22 m long and 2 m wide, and aligned ENE to WSW. Trench H was set at approximately a right angle to Trench G and was 8 m long.

The most significant deposits were identified in Trench G in the two areas that were excavated to a deeper level. The two sondages, revealed the presence of a large east-west orientated ditch running approximately parallel with the course of the south section of the town wall. A post-medieval tannery pit was identified in the west end of the trench and a structure of approximately the same period was identified in the eastern end of the trench.

The deposits excavated in Trench H provide some evidence for activity in this area in the medieval period. A tanning pit 600, a circular brick-lined-well 701 and four walls represented the post-medieval activity and date to the 19th century.

Trench G (Fig. 7)

The most significant deposits were identified in Trench G. Two deeper excavations, or sondages, revealed the presence of a large ditch (628, 636) running approximately parallel with the course of the south section of the town wall. The two sections through the ditch (628, 636) suggest that it measured at least 2 m in width. The maximum excavated depth measured 0.80 m. The exposed ditch side sloped at an angle and the bottom was flat. The ditch was cut into natural gravel. The fact that the edge of the ditch was not picked up in the east sondage, indicates that it was on a slightly different alignment from the evaluation trench.

The western ditch section 628 contained four fills (Fig. 7, section 139). The primary fill was a loose yellowish-brown sandy-gravel (627) and most probably represented primary slumping of the exposed gravel sides. Sealing this was a friable dark greyish-black clay (626) which represents silting within the ditch. The pottery from 626 comprised 12th- to 13th-century wares. Layer 625 was a friable to tenacious mid yellow-brown clay-sand with more sand towards the base of the deposit. The upper fill was a tenacious dark brown silty-clay with some charcoal and pieces of waterlogged branches (624). It contained pottery ranging in date from the 12th to 15th century. An environmental sample was taken from this deposit in order to establish the nature of the material it contained (see Pelling this report, 5.3.1). A garden soil deposit 623 sealed these fills, and may well have represented a phase of deliberate dumping.

The eastern ditch section contained only three fills. The primary fill was a tenacious mid reddish-brown silty-sand (639), and was sealed by tenacious brownish-grey silty-clays with limited charcoal (638, 637). The primary fill 639 contained pottery of 12th- to 13th-century date. The ditch appears to have been recut. The recut 640 was only identified in the western section (Fig. 7, section 140). The cut followed the same orientation as the original ditch and measured at least 1.10 m wide and 0.84 m deep. There is a suggestion that the recut ditch was flat bottomed. It contained seven fills. The primary fill was a loose mid yellowish-brown silty-sand (635). This contained pottery ranging in date from 12th to 15th centuries and was sealed by a tenacious dark greyish-black silty-clay with occasional sandy lenses (634). Pottery of a similar date range was recovered from 634 and from 633. An environmental sample was taken from 634 deposit to establish its nature and potential. With the exception of layer 632, the upper fills (629, 630, 631, 633) were very similar and comprised predominantly friable mid to dark grey-brown-sandy clays with limited charcoal inclusions. Layer 632 was a firm mid grey-brown silty-sand with evidence of iron pan staining. Layer 631 had pottery ranging from 12th- to 13th-century wares to 16th- to 17th-century Cistercian type wares.

The alignment of the ditch would have been ENE to WSW. Because it is parallel to the town wall it is thought likely that the ditch represents the Elizabethan town boundary. The town wall was constructed in the 16th century.

A possible tanning pit (600) was located in the western part of the trench, 0.61 m below the present ground level. The cut was circular in plan, 0.94 m in diameter and 0.45 m in deep. The sides of the cut were vertical and the base flat. The pit had a clay lining 601, which was spread over the base and sides. The clay was 0.15 m thick and mid to light brown in colour. The primary fill was a friable-mid-dark-grey-silt with a substantial charcoal component (20%) and some stone (2%) (604). This was sealed by a tenacious mid-light greyish-brown clay (605), which may represent a collapse of the lining. The upper fill was a loose-light-grey-ash and silt deposit with 5% charcoal (603). The final deposit (602) was a loose mid brown-grey silt with 20% charcoal and very little stone.

The foundations of two separate later buildings (609, 611) were identified in this trench.

Trench H (Fig. 8)

A total of four layers were identified beneath the garden soil deposit 703 (Fig. 8, section 142). The primary layer 708 (not on section drawing) was a compact mid red-brown silty-clay with a sand component, presumably derived from its interface with the natural geology. The remaining three layers (704, 705, 706) were friable mid grey-brown silty-clays with low to medium frequencies of charcoal.

A post-medieval circular brick-built well 701 was identified in the southern area of the trench 0.70 m below the current ground surface. The bricks used were the same type and size as those noted in the other structures identified in the evaluation

5.1.5 Trench I (Figs 2 & 8)

Trench I was T-shaped and located towards the centre of the site. It measured 10 m x 7 m overall. Three pits and a north-south orientated ditch were cut into the gravel. No dating evidence was recovered from these features, but they were sealed by the garden soil deposit noted across the site. The foundations of a brick-built structure thought to be part of the 19th-century Assembly Rooms were found in the western part of the trench. They were cut into the garden soil horizon.

The three pits (804, 806, 812) seem to form a north-south alignment, but it is far from clear that this was deliberate because of the limited extent of the evaluation trench. Pits 804 and 812 were both oval and pit 806 circular. Pit 804 was 0.5 m long, 0.44 m wide and 0.26 m deep; pit 812 was 0.5 m long, 0.45 m wide and 0.11 m deep. Pit 806 was circular and 1.5 m in diameter and 0.22 m deep. All three had sloping sides. Pits 804 and 806 had flat bases whereas 812 had a round bottom. All three pits contained the same type of fill, a loose mid-brown loam some limited gravel.

The ditch (808) was orientated north-south, with a terminus located at the northern end. It measured 4.50 m long, 0.75 m wide and 0.21 m deep. It had sloping sides and flat bottom. The single fill was a loose mid-brown loam lenses of sand and 2% gravel.

A layer of garden soil 802 sealed all of the negative features in the trench. This was a deposit of loose dark-brown loam up to 1.10 m in depth.

A brick-built structure (813) was identified in the western arm of the trench. The structure comprised two walls: a north-south foundation and an east-west foundation. The latter wall measured 0.30 m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.60 m, at which level part of the off-set foundation was encountered and further excavation could not take place. The structure has been identified with the 19th-century Assembly Rooms which are shown on the 1923 OS map.

5.2 Finds

5.2.1 *The medieval and post-medieval pottery* (by Catherine Underwood-Keevill)

A total of 603 sherds (weight 14.9 kg) was recovered from evaluation contexts. The pottery ranged in date from 10th- /11th-century sandy wares to 13th-/14th-century red sandy wares and reduced wares to 17th- and 18th-century Staffordshire mottled brown wares, Staffordshire slipped wares and brown stonewares and 19th-century factory wares.

All of the pottery was divided into fabric types by reference to the Oxfordshire post-medieval pottery series and recorded on evaluation records by number and weight for each context. All decoration types and vessel types have been recorded and each fabric code described.

The medieval pottery was divided into six fabric types which consisted of mainly oxidised quartz tempered wares assigned to a fabric group dependant on the quantities and sorting and size of quartz additions. The fabric types are coded by the date of the fabric plus a code for the tempering or description of the fabric: EMQT, Early medieval quartz tempered-a soft fabric with medium-coarse (2mm) well-rounded white quartz and fine red quartz; MDQT, Medieval Quartz tempered with fine-medium (1mm) white sub-angular quartz; MDQS, Medieval quartz stoneware a very hard semi-stoneware with dense fine white and clear quartz; MDQD a very sandy dense hard fabric with fine-medium white quartz, MDRW MDWW are Medieval red ware and Medieval white ware with the red ware having prominent white quartz and the white ware a white-buff fabric with a mixture of orange, clear and black quartz which corresponds to Warwickshire and Nuneaton types (Mayes and Scott 1984). There were also two quartz and limestone types isolated: EMQL and MDQL.

Most of the medieval sherds were recovered from contexts 305, 322, contexts 402-424 inclusive and 624-639 inclusive and 707-709. The two early medieval fabric types have been provisionally assigned to this period due to the consistency of the fabric and the finish. There is no evidence of the rouletting or any diagnostic sherds that were evident on the Tipping Street kiln site (Cane and Carver 1983). The majority of the material consisted of Medieval Quartz tempered ware, Medieval dense sandy ware and Medieval red ware. The vessel types are similar to other types from Stafford with long necked everted rim cooking pots in Medieval red ware (context 305), a wide mouthed cooking bowl with incised line decoration (context 305), angular necked pitcher (context 402) a squat everted rim cooking pot (context 405) in Medieval quartz tempered ware. These types date from the 12th-mid 13th century but continue into the 14th century and possibly later due to their association with Medieval white wares in many of the contexts.

The post-medieval pottery dates from the 16th century with Cistercian types with applied yellow slip pads (context 631) and 17th century with Midlands Yellow wares (contexts 101 and 325 fabric PMWW and STWW), 17th century red wares (context 101 fabric PMCR) early 18th century Staffordshire Mottled Brown ware with a streaky brown glaze, Staffordshire Blackware, Staffordshire Brown Stoneware and Staffordshire Slipware. The most common wares are the Staffordshire Mottled Brown wares with small posset bowls/porrings dated to the late 17th to early 18th century (Kelly and Greaves 1974, 3) and straight sided tankards with reeded bands (context 301) which are dated in the salt glazed wares to the early to mid 18th century (Kelly 1973). The other main type such as the Slipwares consist of sliptrailed flatwares with combed through slip with scalloped rims (contexts 302, 303, 504) trailed slip designs and the more unusual embossed slip designs (context 303).

A notable feature of the post-medieval assemblage was the presence of saggar sherds including one with a stoneware tankard rim still adhering to it in context 301 and grog tempered red ware saggar base in context 603. There are waster sherds present in some contexts including stoneware tankard rim in context 301. It is suggested that the large grogged saggars date from the mid 17th century onwards (Greaves 1976, 6) and the salt

glazed saggars with the production of the stonewares in the early -mid 18th century (Kelly and Greaves 1974).

The remainder of the assemblage comprised early to mid 19th-century and later factory wares, such as Creamware shallow dishes and platters, large water jugs in Creamware and Pearlware and transfer-printed ware of various designs. There is limited evidence for the early 19th-century Staffordshire white salt-glazed ware. The 19th-century material was mainly found in contexts 21, 106, 301, 401, 603, 604 and 608.

The pottery from the Tipping Street site indicates an early medieval to late medieval sequence together with 16th-/17th-century to 18th-century material and the probability of an early 18th-century kiln site in close proximity to the site with kiln debris being incorporated into later layers.

Any further work should involve detailed cross-comparison between the medieval fabric and any Stafford fabric series and the examination of the presence of Medieval White wares in the sequence. At present the late medieval-post-medieval period is particularly ill-understood (Mellor 1994, 70) so the dating for the hard medieval stoneware fabric (MDQS) and the Medieval White wares may bear further investigation perhaps combined with the appearance of Cistercian-type ware. The kiln material and the waster sherds may indicate the presence of post-medieval kilns in the vicinity, together with 10th century kilns that were revealed (Cane and Carver 1983).

5.3 Environmental data

5.3.1 *Plant remains, insects and charcoal* (by Ruth Pelling, University Museum, Oxford)

Two samples were taken from the ditch 628 and the re-cut 640, thought to form part of the town defences. Sub-samples of ditch fill were submitted for evaluation of the potential of the waterlogged remains.

Method

Sub-samples of 500 g were processed by a wash over technique and the flot collected onto a 500 µm mesh. The flot was kept wet and scanned under a binocular microscope at x10 to x20 magnification. Any waterlogged seeds were provisionally identified and recorded as present (+) or frequent (++) . Insect fragments were noted but not identified.

Results (see Appendix 3)

Both samples contained well preserved waterlogged deposits in a silty matrix. The seeds identified are generally of species which are common in grassy ruderal habitats or hedgebanks, including *Rubus* sp., *Chaerophyllum temulentum* (rough chervil), *Polygonum aviculare* (knotgrass), *Urtica dioica* (stinging nettle) and *Galeopsis* sp. (hemp-nettle). The aquatic or semi-aquatic species include *Potamogeton* sp. (pondweed), *Ranunculus sceleratus* (celery-leaved crowfoot) and *Alisma plantago-*

aquatica (water-plantain) which suggests shallow muddy water. Some marshy or damp ground species are likely to have been growing within the vicinity of the ditch, including *Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus* (buttercup) and *Carex* sp. (sedge). The seeds do not suggest any sort of economic activity in the vicinity of the ditch and there is not indication of deposits of dietary refuse or sewage of the nature sometimes noted in similar urban deposits.

Insect preservation was quite good and the numbers were reasonable. The Caddis fly cases confirm the presence of aquatic conditions.

Occasional charcoal fragments and two charred cereal grains were present in sample 002. The preservation was good but the density very low.

Assessment

While the samples are not very informative in themselves they do indicate that waterlogged preservation is very good in the ditch. The evaluation samples suggest that there was little human activity in the area immediately surrounding the ditch although further excavations may revealed something different. It is therefore recommended that in the event of any future excavations the potential for finding further well preserved waterlogged deposits is taken into account.

5.3.2 Animal bone (identification by Bethan Charles)

A total of 4.53 Kg of animal bone was recovered from 20 contexts, which include the tanning pit (600) and the town boundary ditch (628). Cattle dominated the assemblage, which also included a low frequency of sheep and a pig bone. The bulk of the assemblage was recovered from the pit (404) and linear (407), which contained a number of horn-cores still attached to the skull. The majority of the bone was in moderate condition.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

The construction of a series of buildings around the edges of the site during the 18th and later centuries appears to have damaged a relatively limited area. The results suggest that the thick deposits of the garden soil material across the site may have protected a number of negative features from severe truncation. As a result the limited results of the field evaluation are thought to represent a reliable indication of the medium frequency of activity across the area.

6.2 Overall interpretation

6.2.1 Summary of Results

The presence of medieval activity in the northern area of the site is of some significance. As noted (section 1.3 above) previous excavations in the vicinity of the site have identified late Saxon deposits, which, when combined with the results of the evaluation, suggest significant activity taking place on the higher gravel terrace during the medieval period.

The activity on the southern side of the site is limited. The medieval activity in this area is characterised by the presence of a large east-west orientated ditch, which is thought to represent the medieval town boundary. The date of the pottery recovered from the ditch suggests that it was active prior to the building of the main town wall. The pottery dates from the re-cut indicate that the ditch was open during the 12th-15th centuries.

The fact that pottery ranging in date from the late medieval period up to the 18th and 19th centuries was recovered from the soil horizon found generally across the site suggest that the area was open. The depth of the soil horizon suggests some rubbish disposal and perhaps regular manuring. Systematic manuring might imply horticultural activity.

The historic maps (Wilkinson and Walters 1997) indicate that the central area of the site was not built on until the late 19th century. The 1881 OS map shows that a large part of the area was used as an ornamental garden

6.2.2 Significance

The results of the evaluation produced data of some archaeological significance.

The presence of pits in the northern area of the site, when combined with the evidence from previous excavations, indicates that the area around St Chad's was the focus for activity during the 12th century. The nature of the activity is not clear, however, the pits are thought to relate to domestic activity as opposed to having an industrial function.

The ditch identified in the southern area of the site is of high archaeological significance in relation to the growth of the town of Stafford. The fact that it appears to run the same course as the later town defensive wall suggests that by the end of the medieval period the town of Stafford is undergoing extensive growth, presumably as a result of economic activity.

The garden soil is of limited significance. Its presence suggests that the area was not a focus for intensive activity during the later part of the medieval period.

6.2.3 Impact of development

Any form of development in the northern area would impact on the post-medieval buildings identified in Trenches A, B, D and E at *c.* 0.20 m below the current ground surface. Archaeological deposits were identified at 0.80 m below the current ground surface in the trench group A, B and C, and at 1.20 m in Trench E.

The building in Trench F was located at 70.35 m OD, 0.25 m below the current ground level. Although no earlier features were identified in Trench F, archaeological deposits were identified at approximately 1.30 m below ground level.

The significant archaeological deposits in Trenches G and H were identified at *c.* 1.25 m below current ground level. Negative features were identified at the same depth in Trench I.

Any development that requires deep foundations would impact on archaeology. In the northern area where archaeology was identified at a depth of 71.21 m OD in the area around Trenches A, B and C, and 70.49 OD around Trenches D and E. Significant archaeological deposits were identified at *c.* 70.00 m OD around Trench G.

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Archaeological context inventory

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
A								
	01	Fill			FO (02)	Pot	2	C12-C15
	02	Cut			Pit			
	03	Fill	0.30	0.18	FO (04)			
	04	Cut	0.30	0.18	Posthole			
	05	Fill	0.50 x 0.30	0.11	FO (06)			
	06	Cut	0.50 x 0.30	0.11	Posthole			
	07	Fill	0.20	0.07	FO (08)			
	08	Cut	0.20	0.07	Posthole			
	09	Fill	0.58 x 0.16	0.20	FO (10)			
	10	Cut	0.58 x 0.16	0.20	Posthole			
	11	Fill	0.50 x 0.40	0.24	FO (12)	Worked stone		
	12	Cut	0.50 x 0.40	0.24	Posthole			
	13	Fill	0.94 x 0.58	0.27	FO (12)	Worked stone		
	14	Cut	0.94 x 0.58	0.27	Pit			
	15	VOID						
	16	VOID						
	17	Fill	1.00 x 0.70	0.40	FO (18)			
	18	Cut	1.00 x 0.70	0.40	Pit			
	19	Fill	0.58 x 0.48	0.20	FO (20)			
	20	Cut	0.58 x 0.48	0.20	Pit			
	21	Layer	20.00 x 2.00	0.80	Garden soil			
	22	Layer			Natural geology			
	23	Layer		0.30	"sub-soil"			
B								
	100	Layer	28 x 2	0.45	Tarmacadam			
	101	Fill	6.50 x 2	2.00	FO (102)	Pot, CBM, glass, clay pipe	21	C17-C19
	102	Cut	6.50 x 2	2.00	Quarry pit			
	103	Structure			N end of trench B			
	104	Layer	28 x 2	0.40	Garden soil			
	105	Layer			Natural gravel			

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	106	Fill	2.00 x 0.78	0.64	FO (107)	Pot, animal bone, glass, clay pipe	3	C18-C19
	107	Cut	2.00 x 0.78	0.64	Pit			
	108	Fill	1.59	0.12	FO (109)			
	109	Cut	1.59	0.12	Pit			
	110	Fill						
	111	Cut			SA (126)			
	112	Fill		0.30	FO (111)			
	113	Layer	1.60	0.44	Dump deposit			
	114	Fill	3.20 x 1.36	1.05	FO (115)			
	115	Cut	3.20 x 1.36	1.10	Pit			
	116	Fill	2.05	0.21	FO (115)			
	117	Fill	0.78	0.60	FO (115)			
	118	Cut	2.20 x 0.53	0.49	Gully			
	119	Fill	1.30	0.40	FO (115)			
	120	Void						
	121	Void						
	122	Void						
	123	Fill	1.00	0.34	FO (124)			
	124	Cut	1.00	0.34	Pit			
	125	Fill	0.32	0.12	FO (126)			
	126	Cut	0.32	0.12	Gully			
C								
	300	Layer			Tarmacadam			
	301	Layer			Garden soil	Animal bone, glass, clay pipe		
	302	Fill	0.58 x 0.45	0.08	FO (304)	Pot, CBM, clay pipe	6	C17-C19
	303	Fill	1.10 dia.	0.24	FO (304)	Pot, animal bone, CBM, glass, clay pipe	4	C17-C19
	304	Cut	1.10 dia.	0.23	? Cess-pit			
	305	Fill	1.50 x 0.60	0.49	FO (306)	Pot	9	C12-C15
	306	Cut	1.50 x 0.60	0.49	Gully SA (310, 315)			
	307	Fill	0.72 x 0.20	0.39	FO (310)	Pot, clay pipe	10	C17-C18

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	308	Fill			FO (310) ?			
	309	Fill	0.74 x 0.20	0.11	FO (310)			
	310	Cut	0.74 x 0.20	0.53	Gully SA (306, 315)			
	311	Fill			FO (315) SA (301)			
	312	Fill			FO (315) SA (307)	Pot, animal bone, CBM	4	C17-C18
	313	Fill			FO (315) SA (308)			
	314	Fill			FO (315) SA (309)	Pot, animal bone, clay pipe	4	C17-C18
	315	Cut	0.80 x 0.20	0.51	Gully SA (306, 310)			
	316	Layer			Natural gravel			
	317	Fill			FO (318)	Glass, worked stone		
	318	Cut			?Pit			
	319	Fill	0.71	0.74	FO (321)	Animal bone, CBM, worked stone, clay pipe		
	320	Fill	1.60 x 0.20	0.84	FO (321)			
	321	Cut	2.00 x 0.91	0.91	N-S Ditch			
	322	Finds ref			Within (320)	Pot, animal bone, CBM	8	C13-C15
	323	Fill	0.72 x 0.17	0.80	FO (324)	Pot, CBM, glass, clay pipe	2	C17
	324	Cut	0.72 x 0.17	0.81	?Cess-pit			
	325	Fill	1.40 x 1.15	1.00	FO (326)	Pot, animal bone	4	C17-C18
	326	Cut	1.40 x 1.15	1.00	Pit			
	327	Fill	0.64	0.40	FO (326)			
	328	Fill	0.31 x 0.30	0.24	FO (329)			
	329	Cut	0.31 x 0.30	0.24	Gully SA (331, 334)			
	330	Fill	1.05 x 0.24	0.31	FO (331)			
	331	Cut	1.04 x 0.24	0.28	Gully SA (329, 334)			
	332	Fill			FO (334) SA (330)			
	333	Fill			FO (334) SA (330)			
	334	Cut	0.50 x 0.39	0.19	Gully SA (329, 331)			

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
D								
	200	Layer			Tarmacadam			
	201	Fill			Cellar fill (203)			
	202	Structure			Cellar wall			
	203	Cut			Cellar construction cut			
	204	Layer		1.00	Garden soil			
	205	Fill	0.39 x 0.30	0.52	FO (206)	Pot	5	C17-C18
	206	Cut	0.39 x 0.30	0.52	?Pit			
	207	Layer			Natural gravel			
E								
	400	Layer			Tarmac			
	401	Layer			Garden soil	Glass		
	402	Fill		0.32	FO (404)	Pot, animal bone	5	C12-C13
	403	Fill		0.16	FO (404)	Pot, animal bone, worked stone	1	C12-C15
	404	Cut	1.48 x 1.28	0.42	Pit			
	405	Fill	1.50 x 0.70	0.53	FO (407)	Pot, animal bone	13	C13-C15
	406	Fill	1.50 x 0.27	0.18	FO (407)	Pot	2	C13-C15
	407	Cut	1.50 x 0.70	0.70	N-S ?ditch			
	408	Fill	1.70 x 1.20	0.25	FO (409)	Pot	1	C13-C15
	409	Cut	1.70 x 1.20	0.25	Pit			
	410	Fill	0.53 x 0.51	0.13	FO (411)	Pot	2	C12-C13
	411	Cut	0.55 x 0.51	0.13	Pit			
	412	Finds ref.			From cuts (404, 407, 409)	Pot, animal bone	4	C13-C15
	413	Fill	0.85 x 0.36	0.30	FO (414)			
	414	Cut	0.85 x 0.36	0.30	Pit			
	415	Layer			Brick floor surface			
	416	Layer	3.80	0.56	Demolition layer			
	417	Layer	0.81	0.10	Demolition layer			
	418	Layer	0.41	0.43	Demolition layer			
	419	Layer	3.30	0.60	Build-up below culvert			
	420	Structure	3.60 x 0.80	N/A	Remains of culvert			
	421	Structure	3.00 x 2.00		Foundation			
	422	Layer			Natural geology			

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	423	Fill	1.80 x 1.20	0.35	FO (426)			
	424	Fill	1.80 x 1.00	0.21	FO (426)	Animal bone, CBM		
	425	Fill	1.80 x 1.03	0.22	FO (426)			
	426	Cut	1.80 x 1.20	0.68	Pit			
F								
	500	Layer			Tarmacadam			
	501	Layer	20.00 x 2.00	0.45	Demolition deposit			
	502	Layer	3.00 x 0.85	0.20	Demolition deposit within cellar			
	503	Layer	4.00 x 1.20	0.06	Brick floor			
	504	Layer	3.00 x 2.00		Garden soil (not excavated)	Clay pipe		
	505	Layer	20.00 x 2.00	0.60	Demolition deposit			
	506	Layer	12.00 x 2.00	0.70	Garden soil	Glass		
	507	Layer	12.00 x 2.00	0.24	Lower layer of garden soil			
	508	Layer	12.00 x 2.00		Mixed garden soil and natural geology interface			
	509	Structure	8.00 x 0.60	-	N-S wall	CBM		
	510	Structure	2.00 x 0.40	-	E-W wall	CBM		
	511	Structure			Malt house: Comprises (509, 510)			
G								
	600	Cut	0.94 diam.	0.45	Tanning pit			
	601	Fill	0.94 diam.	0.15	FO (600)			
	602	Fill	0.80 x 0.40	0.12	FO (600)	Pot, animal bone, CBM, glass, clay pipe	10	C19
	603	Fill	0.80 x 0.45	0.10	FO (600)	Pot	3	C18-C19
	604	Fill	0.70 x 0.40	0.22	FO (600)	Pot, CBM	39	C18-C19
	605	Fill	0.70 x 0.40	0.18	FO (600)	Pot, animal bone, CBM	2	C12-C18
	606	Layer	21.50 x 2.00	0.18	Tarmacadam			
	607	Layer	-	-	Levelling layer			
	608	Layer	21.50 x 2.00	0.80	Garden soil	Animal bone, glass, worked stone, clay pipe		

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	609	Structure	3.60	0.94	Foundation			
	610	Layer		0.62	Demolition deposit			
	611	Structure			Building in east end of trench			
	612	Cut	2.00 x 1.80		Linear			
	613	Fill	0.35	0.73	FO (621)			
	614	Fill	1.01	0.16	FO (622)			
	615	Fill	1.14 x 0.58	0.62	FO (622)			
	616	Timber	0.48 x 0.11	-	Timber piling FO (622)			
	617	Fill	1.21 x -	0.80	FO (622)			
	618	Fill	0.57 x -	0.16	FO (622)			
	619	Fill	0.50 x -	0.07	FO (622)			
	620	Fill	1.26 x -	0.02	FO (622)			
	621	Cut	0.34 x -	0.71	N-S linear			
	622	Cut	3.18 x -	1.00	Construction cut for (609)			
	623	Layer						
	624	Fill	2.00 x 1.01	0.11	FO (628)	Pot, animal bone, CBM	7	C12-C18
	625	Fill	2.00 x 1.40	0.48	FO (628)	Animal bone, CBM		
	626	Fill	2.00 x 1.00	0.13	FO (628)	Pot, animal bone, CBM	1	C12-C13
	627	Fill	2.00 x 0.32	0.04	FO (628)	CBM		
	628	Cut	2.00 x 0.96	0.40	E-W ditch ?town boundary SA (636)			
	629	Fill			FO (640)	CBM		
	630	Fill	2.00 x 0.90	0.22	FO (640)			
	631	Fill	2.00 x 0.80	0.18	FO (640)	Pot	13	C12-C17
	632	Fill	0.73 x 0.24	0.04	FO (640)			
	633	Fill	2.00 x 0.92	0.36	FO (640)	Pot, CBM, fired clay	4	C12-C15
	634	Fill	2.00 x 1.00	0.42	FO (640)	Pot, CBM, fired clay	4	C12-C15
	635	Fill	2.00 x 0.66	0.08	FO (640)	Pot	3	C12-C14
	636	Cut	2.00 x 1.50	0.80	E-W ditch ?town boundary SA (628)	Worked stone		
	637	Fill			FO (636)			
	638	Fill			FO (636)			

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	639	Fill			FO (636)	Pot	2	C12-C13
	640	Cut	2.00 x 1.10	0.84	E-W ditch, re-cut of (636)			
H								
	700	Structure	2.00 x 0.36	-	Foundation			
	701	Structure	1.00 dia.		Circular-brick-well			
	702	Layer			Tarmacadam			
	703	Layer	1.30 x -	0.66	Garden soil			
	704	Layer	2.00 x 1.30	0.31	Lower garden soil			
	705	Layer	2.00 x 1.30	0.39	Lower garden soil			
	706	Layer	2.00 x 1.80	0.36	Lower garden soil			
	707	Layer	2.00 x 1.80	0.32	Lower garden soil	Pot	9	C13-C15
	708	Layer	2.00 x 1.80	0.12	Primary "garden soil"	Pot	11	C13-C15
	709	Layer			Natural gravels	Pot, animal bone, CBM	2	C13-C15
I								
	800	Layer	-	0.12	Tarmacadam			
	801	Layer		0.23	Make-up			
	802	Layer		1.10	Garden soil			
	803	Fill	0.50 x 0.44	0.08	FO (804)			
	804	Cut	0.50 x 0.44	0.08	Pit			
	805	Fill	1.50 dia.	0.22	FO (806)			
	806	Cut	1.50 dia.	0.22	Pit			
	807	Fill	4.50 x 0.75	0.21	FO (808)			
	808	Cut	4.50 x 0.75	0.21	N-S linear ditch			
	809	Fill	0.50 x 0.40	0.18	FO (804)			
	810	Fill	1.50 dia.	0.07	FO (806)			
	811	Fill	0.50 x 0.45	0.11	FO (812)			
	812	Cut	0.50 x 0.45	0.11	Pit			
	813	Structure			Foundations of the Assembly Rooms			

Appendix 2: Pottery data

CXT	Fabric	No	Wt	Fabric date	Cxt date	Comments
1	MDRW	1	11	C13-C15	C12-C15	similar date to MDWW
1	MDQT	1	9	C12-C13	C12-C15	Medieval Quartz Tempered ware
101	PMCR	1	62	C17-C19	C18-C19	Post-medieval coarse red ware
101	STRE	1	54	C17-C18	C17-C19	Staffordshire red ware
101	ENGS	1	9	late C17-C19	C17-C19	English stoneware
101	STSL	7	73	C17-C18	C17-C19	Staffs Slipware
101	STBRS	5	35	late C17-early C18	C17-C19	Staffs Brown Stoneware
101	PMWW	2	16	C17	C17-C19	Post-medieval White ware
101	STBL	5	191	C17-C18	C17-C19	Staffs Blackware/ Midlands type
101	MDWW	1	8	C13-C15	C17-C19	Medieval White ware/Warwickshire white
101	EMQT	1	15	C10	C17-C19	Early Medieval Quartz tempered
106	STBRS	1	28	late C17-early C18	C17 late-C18/19	Staffs Brown Stoneware
106	STRE	1	82	C17-C18	C17late-C18	Staffs Red ware
106	CREA	1	11	C18-C19	late C17-C18/19	Creamware
205	MDQD	1	27	C13-	C12-lateC17	Medieval Quartz Dense ware
205	MDQT	1	6	C12-C13	-C18	Medieval Quartz Tempered ware
205	STBRS	1	59	late C17-early C18	-C18	Staffs Brown Stoneware
205	STMB	1	22	C17-C18	C17-C18	Staffs Mottle Brown/ Manganese ware
205	STSL	1	11	C17-C18	C17-C18	Staff Slipware
302	TGW	2	10	C17-C18	C17-C18	Tinglaze ware
302	STSL	2	78	C17-C18	C17-C18	Staffs Slipware
302	STWW	1	17	C17	C7-C19	Midlands Yellow type
302	SWSG	1	15	mid C18-C19	C17-C19	Staffs White Saltglaze ware
303	STMB	1	3	C17-C18	C17-C19	Staffs Mottle Brown/Manganese
303	STSL	3	64	C17-C18	C17-C19	Staffs Slipware
305	MDQT	2	42	C12-C13	c12-c15	broad hammer head rim wavy line dec bowl/cp
305	MDWW	1	13	C13-C15	c12-c15	Medieval White ware

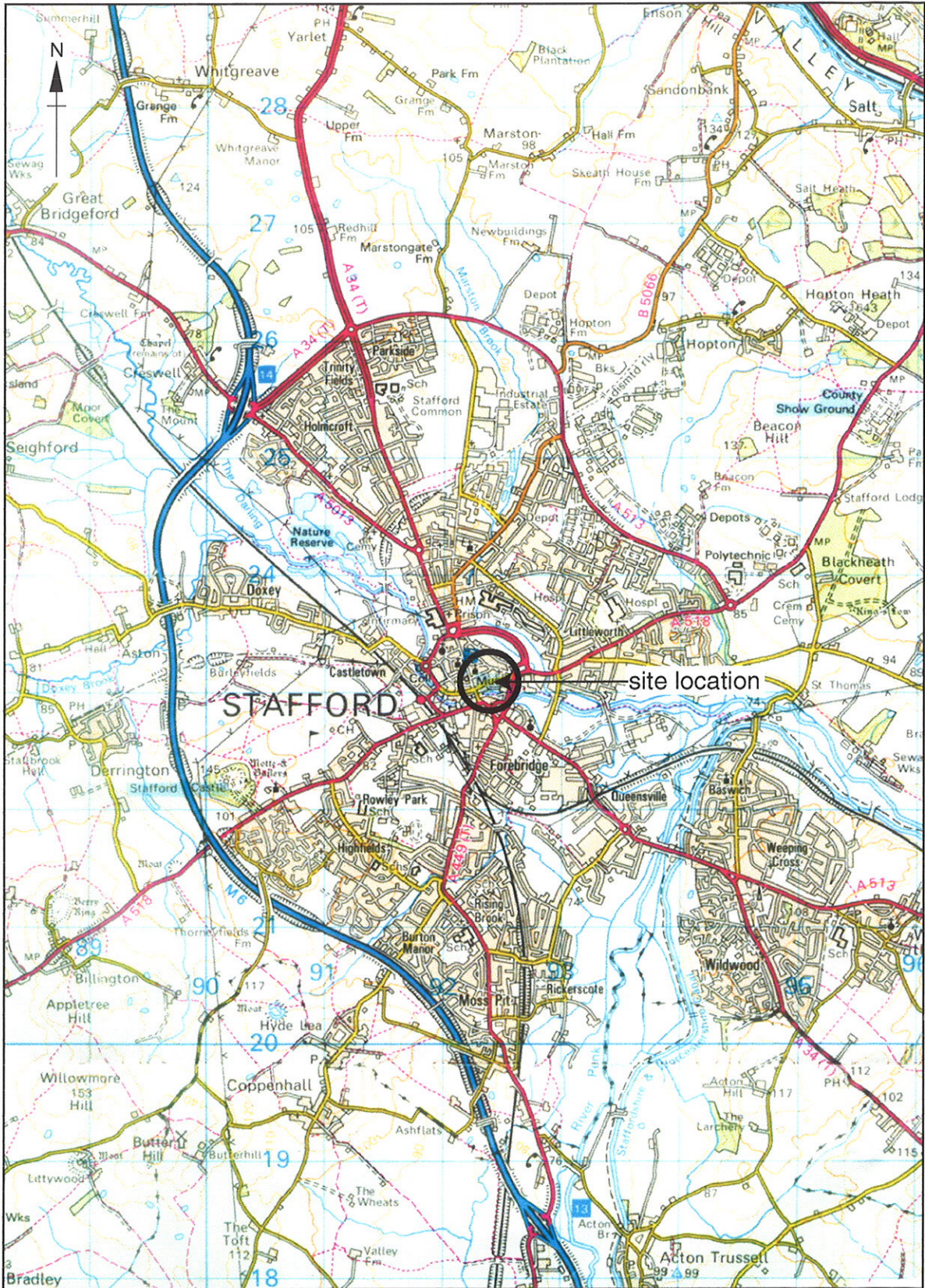
CXT	Fabric	No	Wt	Fabric date	Cxt date	Comments
305	MDRW	6	41	C13-C15	c12-c15	Medieval Red ware everted rim cooking pots
307	STSL	10	610	C17-C18	C17-C18	line and wavy line slip trailed dish and late c17 splashed slip bowl
312	MDQD	1	22	C13-	C17-C18	Medieval Quartz Dense ware thumbled strip dec and white slip surface
312	TGW	1	66	C17-C18	C17-C18	painted tin glazed plate
312	STMB	1	9	C17	late C17	straight sided cup
312	STBRS	1	2	C17-C18	C17-C18	
314	EMQL	1	30	C10-	C17-C18	Early Medieval Quartz and Limestone tempered ware
314	STSL	2	53	C17-C18	C17-C18	combed thro slipware plate
314	STBRS	1	3	C17-C18	C17-C18	
322	MDQS	5	78	C13-C15	C13-C15	Medieval Quartz Semi-Stoneware
322	MDQD	1	12	C13-C15	C13-C15	
323	STBL	2	75	C17-	C17	Staffordshire Blackware/ Midlands
325	STWW	2	34	C17	C17-18	Midlands Yellow
325	STSL	2	13	C17-C18	C17-C18	
402	MDQL	1	15	C12-C14?	C13?	Medieval Quartz and Limestone tempered ware Conical jug
402	MDQT	4	160	C12-C13	C12-C13	pitcher rim
403	MDQD	1	50	C12-C15	C12-C15	
405	MDQT	3	244	C12-C13	C13-c15	squat everted rim cooking pot profile
405	MDWW	7	83	C13	C13-C14	large jug/pitcher = decorated slip line jug sherds
405	EMQT	2	72	C10	C13-C14	Early Medieval Quartz Tempered ware
405	RO30	1	18			micaceous oxidised Roman type?
406	MDQD	2	22	C13-C15	C13-C15	
408	MDWW	1	17	C13-C15	C13-C15	
410	MDQT	2	14	C12-C13	C12-C13	yellow/green glaze
412	MDQD	2	30	C13-C15		
412	MDWW	1	18	C13-C15	C13-C15	light green glaze
412	MDQS	1	27	C13-C15	C13-C15	green/brown glaze
602	C19	10	67	C19	C19	

CXT	Fabric	No	Wt	Fabric date	Cxt date	Comments
603	PMCRW	2	875	C18-C19	C18-C19	Post-medieval coarse red ware NOTE Saggur Base
603	TPW	1	5	C19	C18-C19	Transfer-Printed ware
604	STBL	4	474	C17-C19	C18-C19	
604	CREA	20	1044	C19-	C18-C19	
604	SWSG	1	13	C18-C19	C18-C19	
604	PEAR	14	483	C19	C18-C19	Pearlware
605	MDQT	1	1	C12-C13	C12/13-C18	
605	STMB	1	21	C17-C18	C12-C18	
624	MDWW	2	33	C13-C15	C12-C18	
624	MDQT	5	45	C12-C13	C12-C18	
626	MDQT	1	7	C12-C13	C12-C13	
631	MDQT	5	33	C12-C13	C12-C17	
631	MDQD	1	19	C13-C15?	C12-C17	
631	MDQS	2	18	C13-C15	C12-C17	
631	MDWW	1	4	C13-C15	C12-C17	
631	CSTN	4	15	C16-C17	C12-C17	Cistercian type ware
633	MDQT	3	22	C12-C13	C12-C15	
633	MDWW	1	39	C13-C15	C12-C15	
634	MDQT	2	8	C12-C13	C12-C15	
634	MDRW	2	5	C13-C15	C12-C15	
635	MDQT	2	8	C12-C13	C12-C14	
635	MDQD	1	26	C13-C15	C12-C14	
639	MDQT	2	72	C12-C13	C12-C13	
707	MDQT	4	27	C12-C13	C13-C15	
707	MDWW	1	12	C13-C15	C13-C15	
707	MDQL	1	20	C13?	C13-C15	
707	MDQS	2	27	C13-C15	C13-C15	
707	MDQD	1	11	C13-C15	C13-C15	
708	MDRW	7	101	C13-C15	C13-C15	
708	MDQD	4	52	C13-C15	C13-C15	
709	MDRW	9	128	C13-C15	C13-C15	
709	MDQS	1	28	C13-C15	C13-C15	
709	MDQT	1	35	C12-C13	C13-C15	

Appendix 3:

Waterlogged Remains noted in the Samples

	Sample	001	002
	Context	624	634
	Volume	500g	500g
Waterlogged Remains			
<i>Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus</i>	Buttercup	+	++
<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>	Celery-leaved Crowfoot	+	-
<i>Brassica</i> sp.		-	+
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Chickweed	-	+
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat Hen	++	++
<i>Malva</i> sp.	Mallow	+	-
<i>Rubus</i> sp.	Bramble/Raspberry etc	++	+
<i>Chaerophyllum temulentum</i>	Rough Chervil	-	+
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock	+	-
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass	++	-
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i>	Bind Weed	-	+
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	Docks	+	++
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging Nettle	++	++
Solanaceae		+	-
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black Horehound	+	+
<i>Galeopsis</i> sp.	Hemp-nettle	+	-
<i>Plantago major</i>	Plantain	-	+
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	+	+
<i>Anthemis cotula</i>	Stinking Mayweed	+	-
<i>Carduus/Cirsium</i> sp.	Thistle	+	-
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Sow Thistle	+	-
<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>	Water Platain	+	+
<i>Potamogeton</i> sp.	Pondweed	-	+
<i>Carex</i> sp.	Sedges	+	-
leaf fragments		+	+
Insect fragments		++	+
Caddis fly case		-	+
Charred Plant Remains			
<i>Triticum</i> sp.	Wheat, free-threshing grain	-	+
Cerealia indet	grain	-	+
Charcoal fragments		-	+



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figure 1: site location

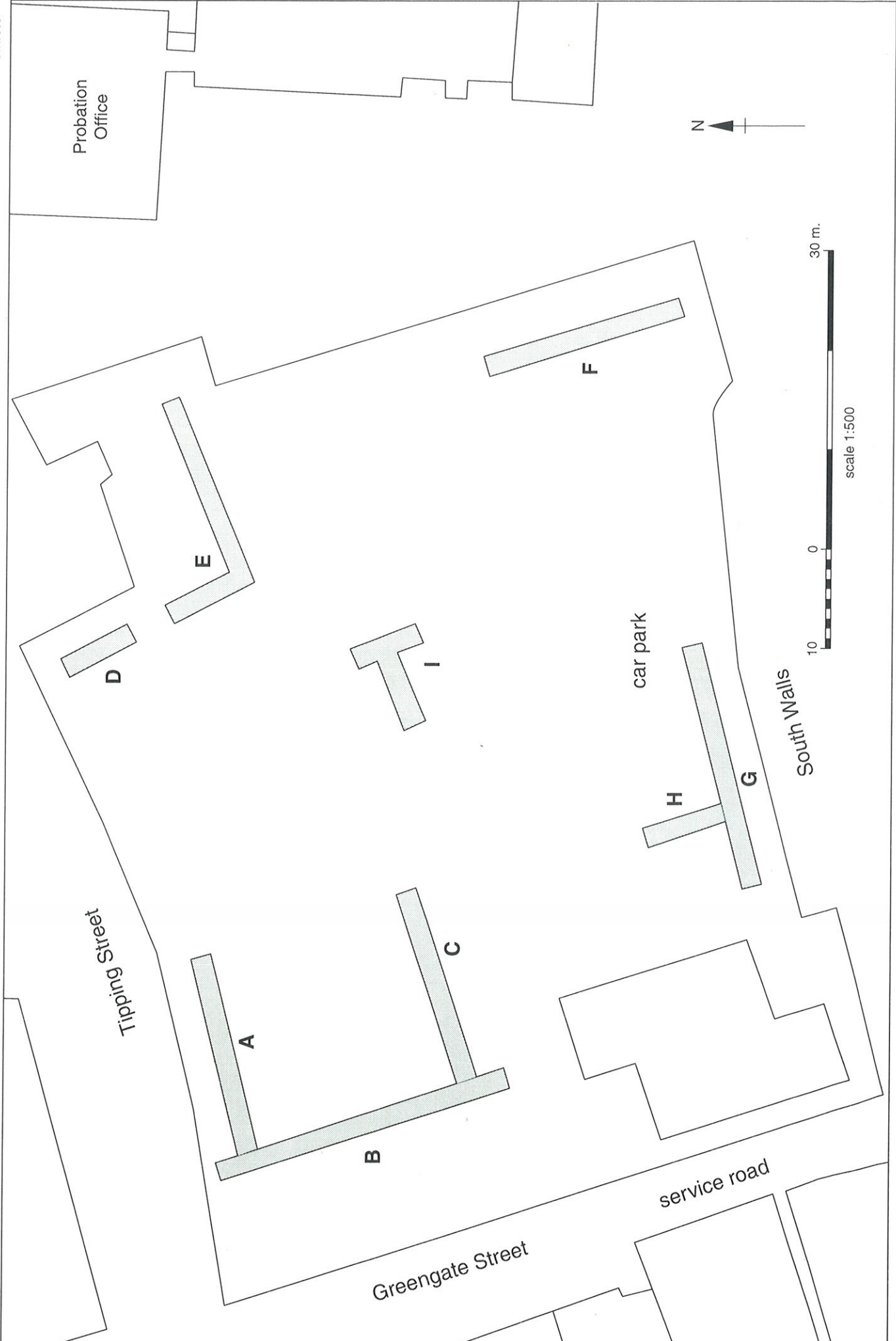


figure 2: location of trenches

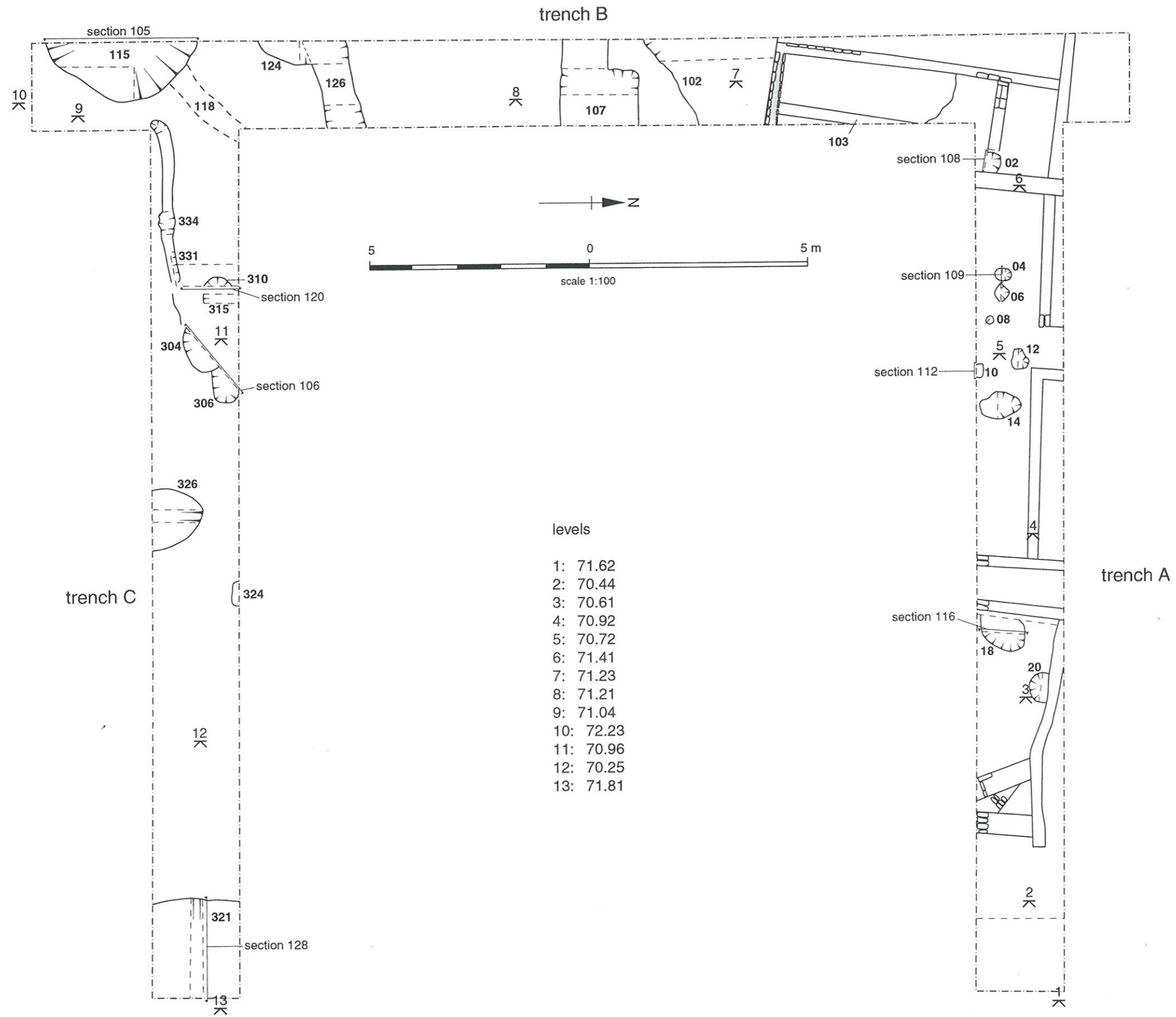
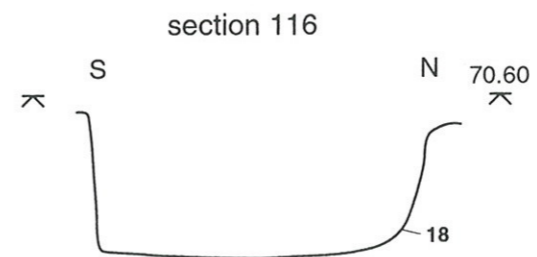
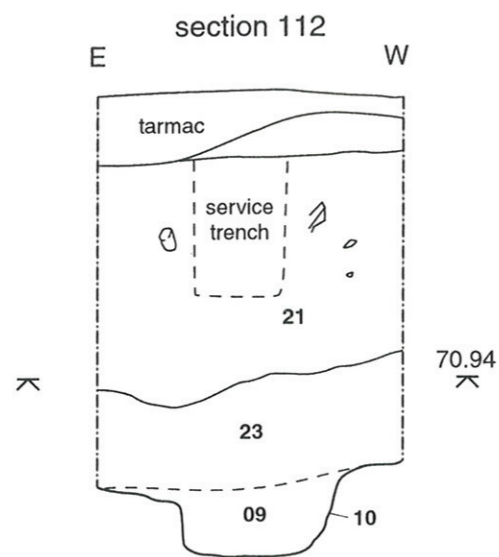
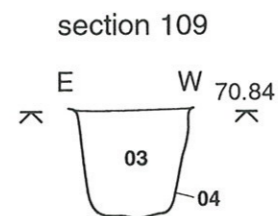
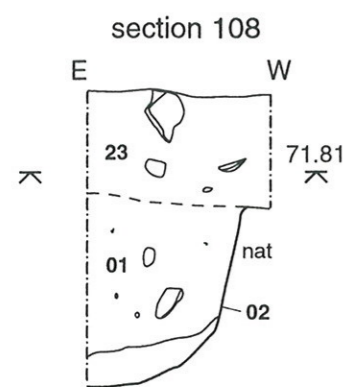
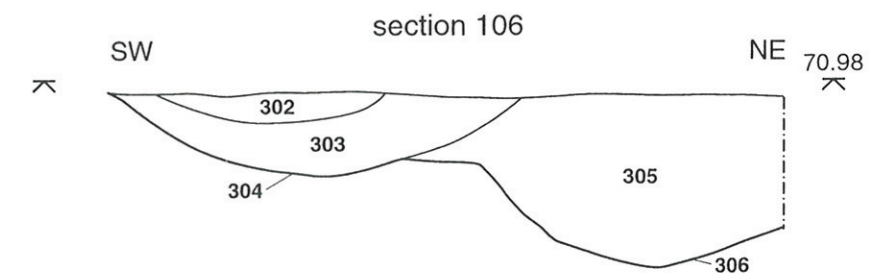


figure 3: trenches A, B & C, plan

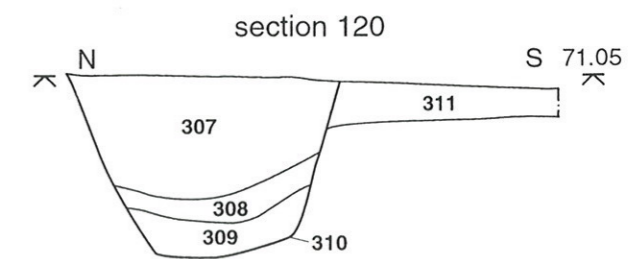
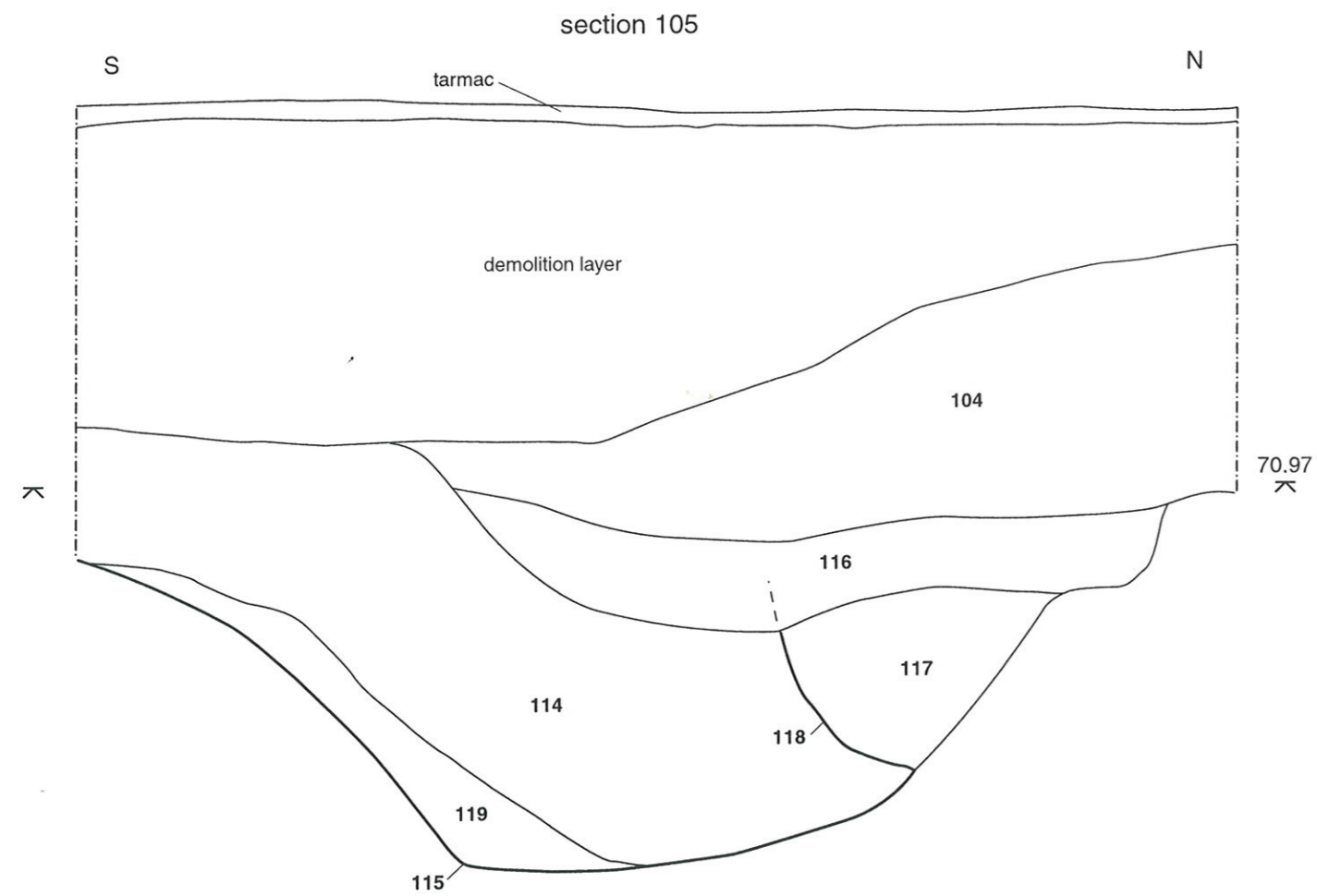
pits in trench A



pits in trench C



pit in trench B



ditch in trench C

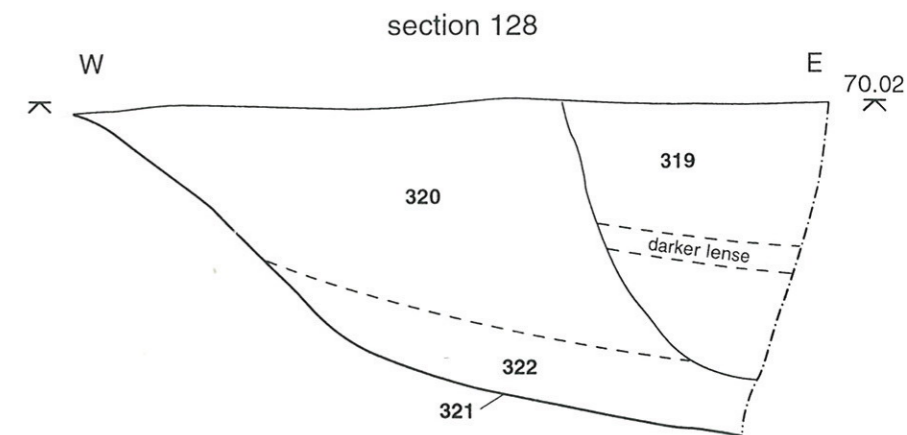


figure 4: trenches A, B & C, sections

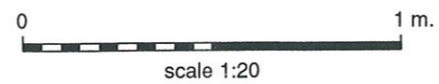
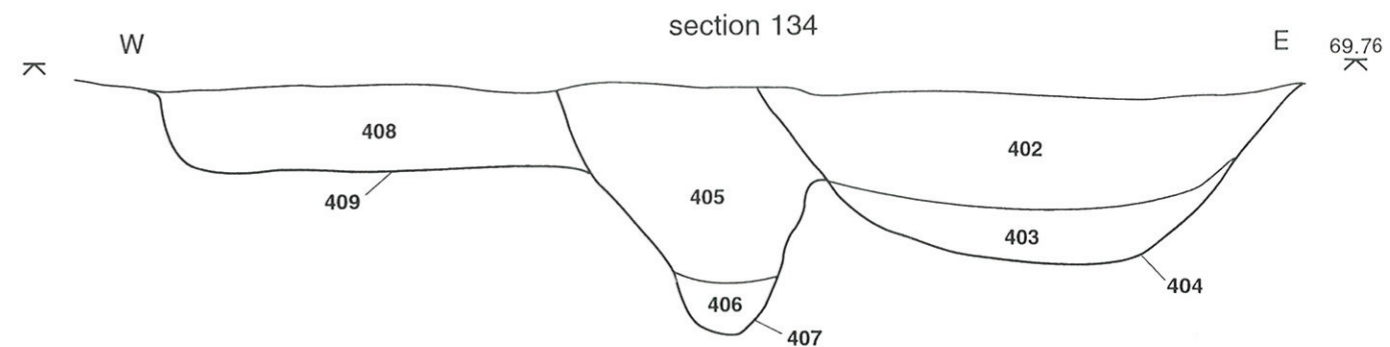
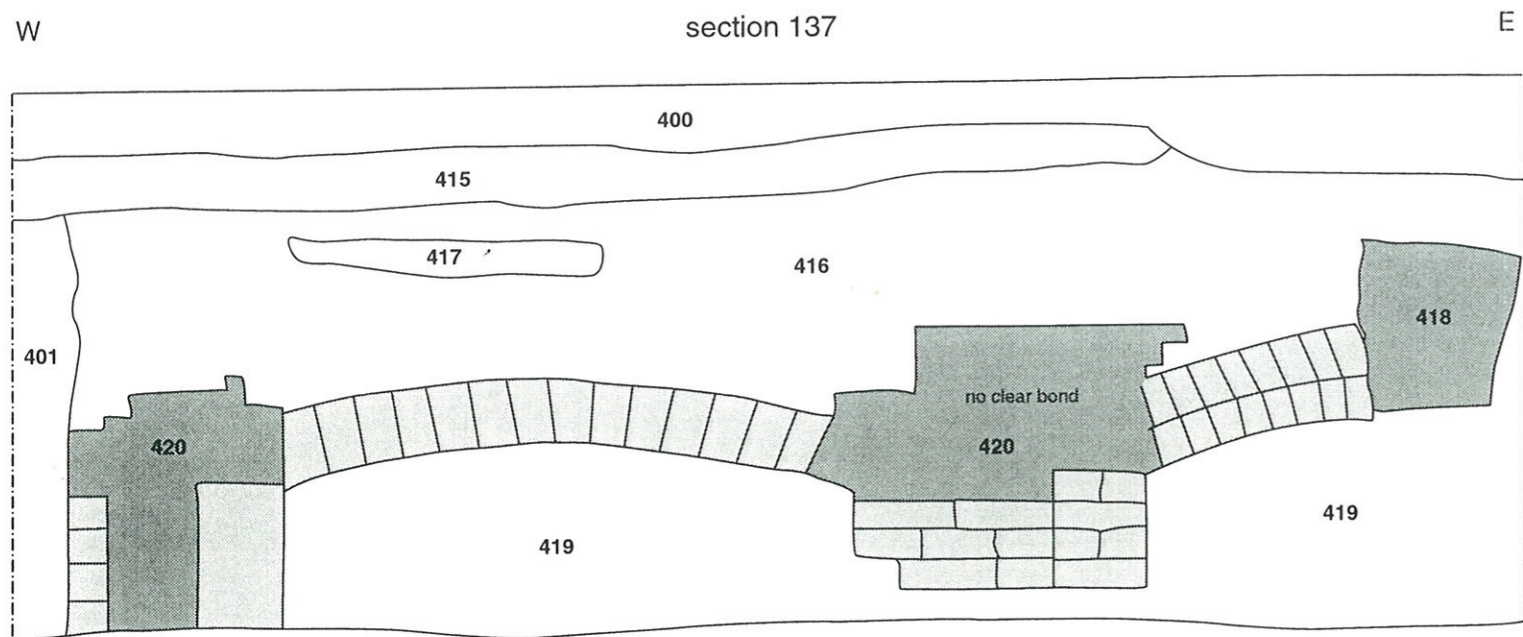
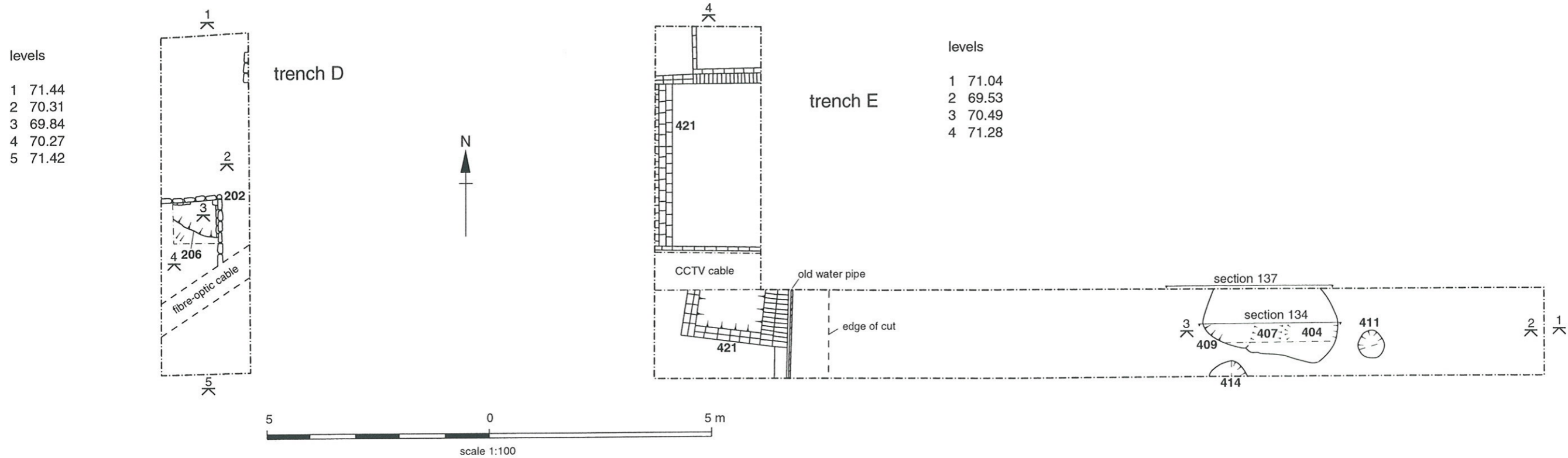


figure 5: trenches D & E, plans and sections

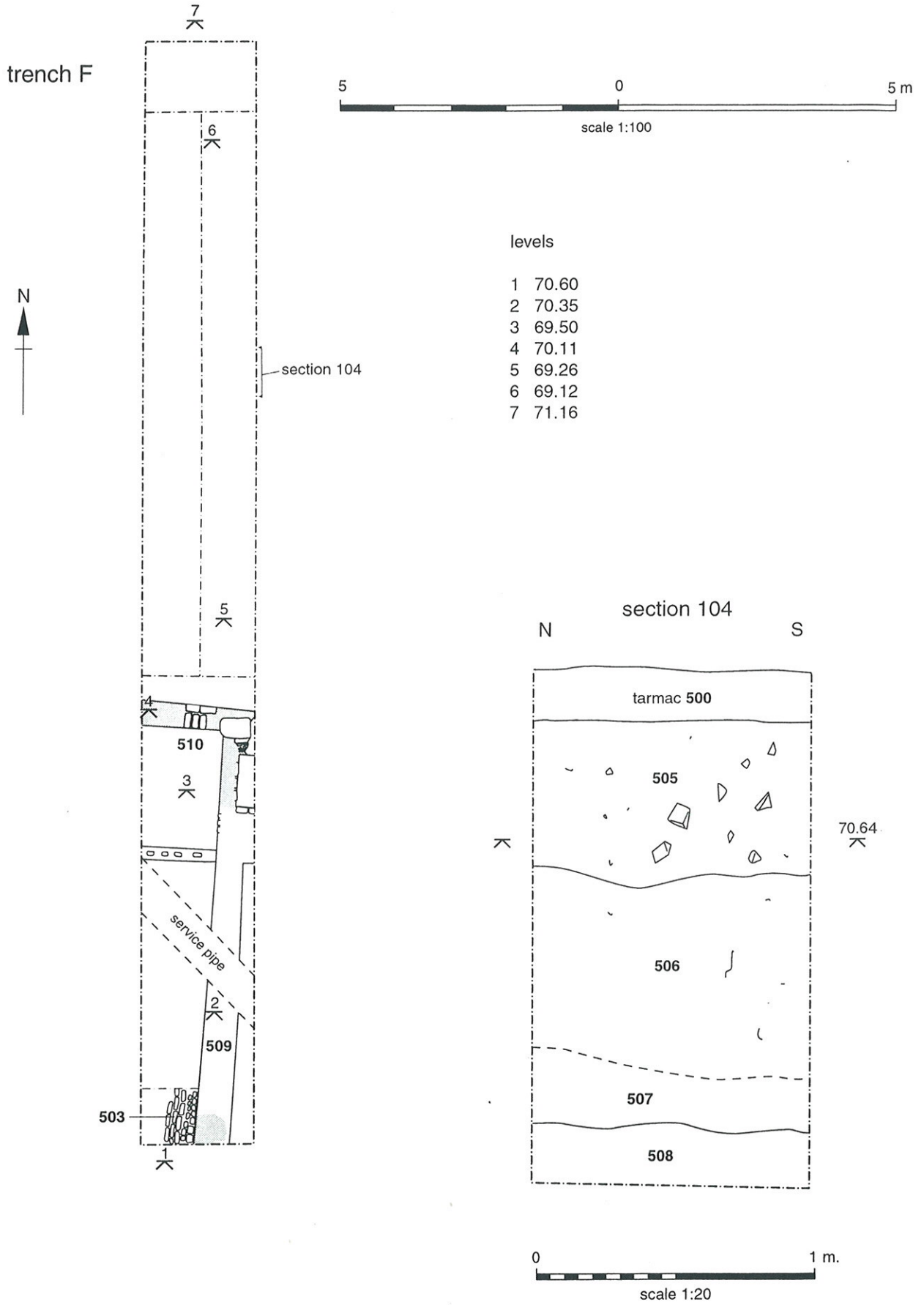
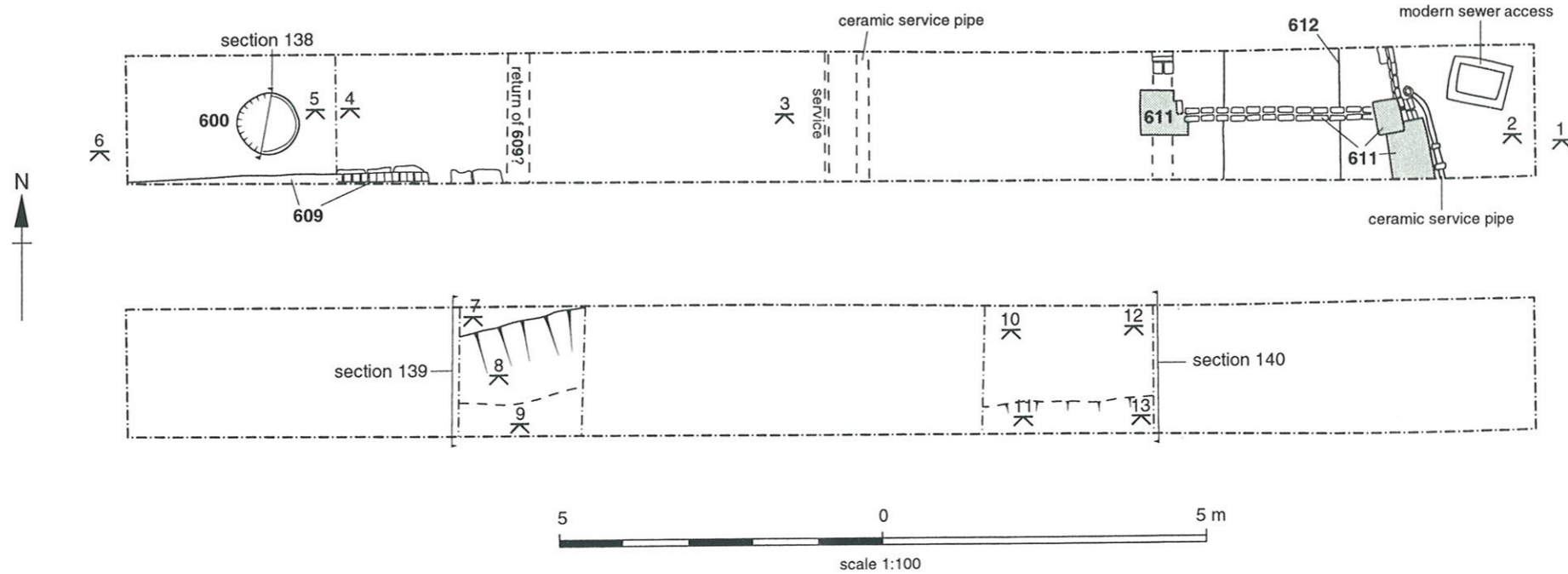


figure 6: trench F, plan and section

trench G



■ bond not discernable

levels

1	71.32
2	71.08
3	70.06
4	70.32
5	70.97
6	71.58
7	69.33
8	69.11
9	69.03
10	69.14
11	68.96
12	69.12
13	68.98

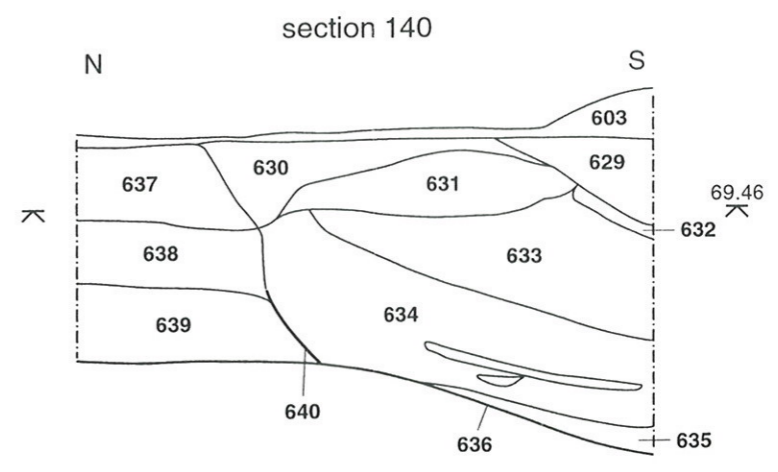
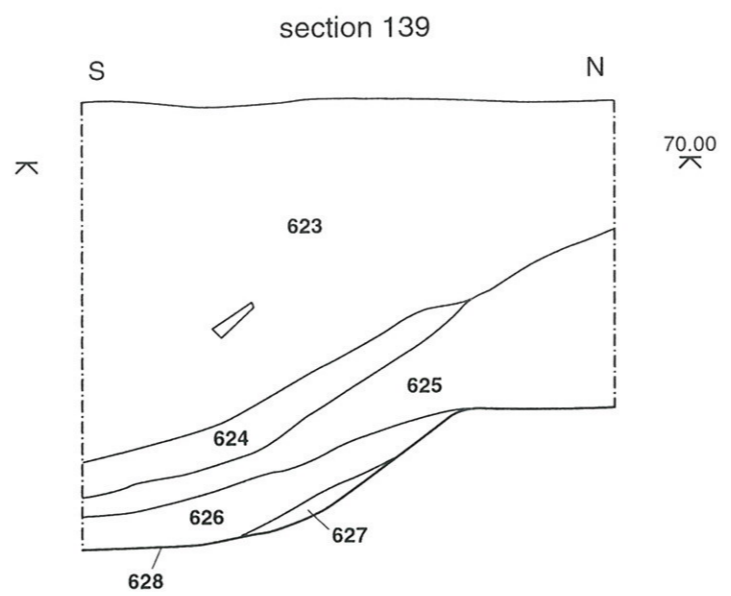
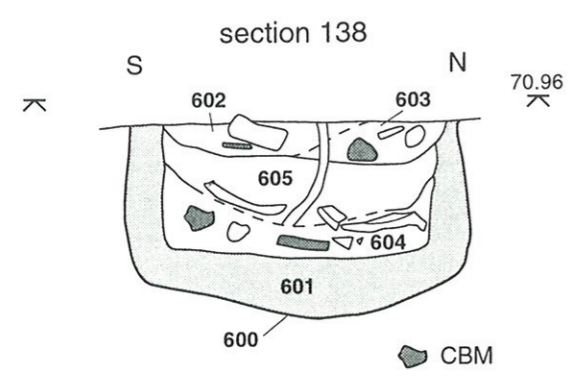


figure 7: trench G, plans and sections

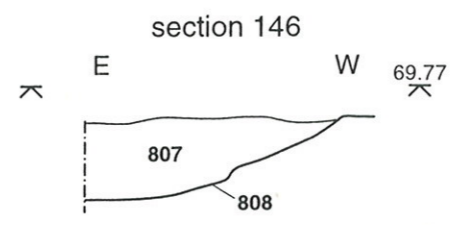
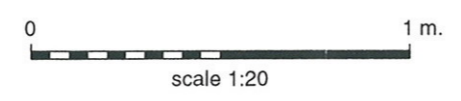
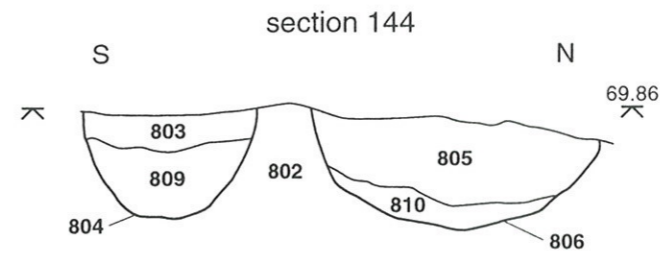
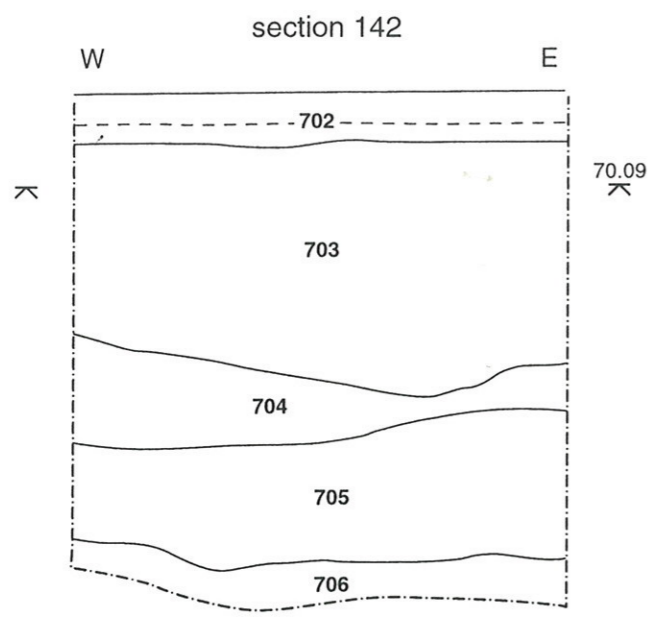
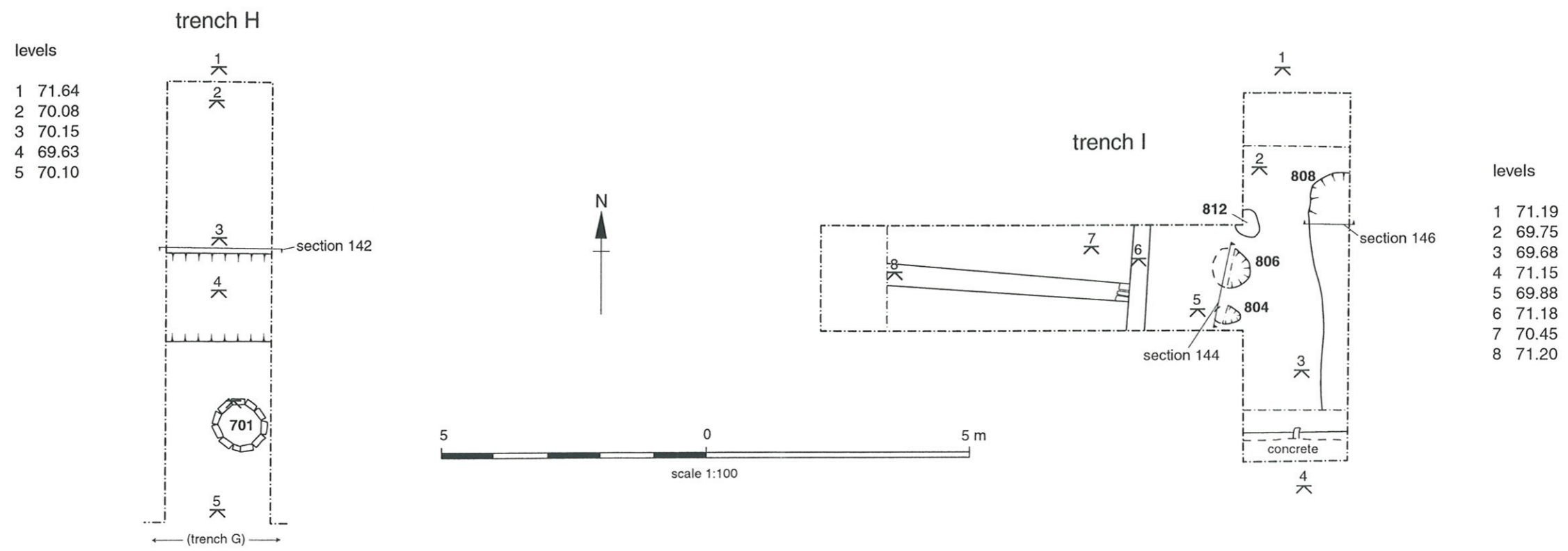


figure 8: trenches H & I, plans and sections



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