

**CgMs Consulting  
and McCarthy and Stone**

**Land at 23-29 Stockbridge Road, Chichester, West Sussex**

***ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT***

**SU 8580 0390**

**OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT**

**October 2000**

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Prepared by: Granville Laws AIFA Date: October 2000
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# Land at 23-29 Stockbridge Road, Chichester

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

### LIST OF CONTENTS

	SUMMARY .....	1
1	INTRODUCTION .....	2
1.1	Location and scope of work .....	2
1.2	Geology and topography .....	2
1.3	Archaeological and historical background .....	2
1.4	Acknowledgements .....	3
2	EVALUATION AIMS .....	3
3	EVALUATION METHODOLOGY .....	4
3.1	Scope of fieldwork .....	4
3.2	Fieldwork methods and recording .....	4
3.3	Finds .....	4
3.4	Environmental data .....	4
4	RESULTS: GENERAL .....	4
4.1	Soil and ground conditions .....	4
4.2	Distribution of deposits .....	5
4.3	Presentation of results .....	5
5	RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS .....	5
5.1	Trench descriptions .....	5
5.1.1	Trench 1 .....	5
5.1.2	Trench 2 .....	5
5.1.3	Trench 3 .....	6
5.1.3	Trench 4 .....	6
5.1.3	Trench 5 .....	6
5.1.3	Trench 6 .....	7
5.1.3	Trench 7 .....	7
5.2	Finds and Environmental data .....	7
6	DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION .....	8
6.1	Reliability of field investigation .....	8
6.2	Overall interpretation .....	8
6.2.1	Summary of results .....	8
6.2.2	Significance .....	8

## Bibliography and references

### *List of Appendices*

Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory

### *List of Figures*

- Fig. 1 Site location map
- Fig. 2 Trench location
- Fig. 3 Trench 1 plan and sections 1 and 2
- Fig. 4 Trench 4 plan and sections 3, 4 and 5

## SUMMARY

*The Oxford Archaeological Unit carried out an archaeological field evaluation of a proposed development site on land at 23-29 Stockbridge Road, to the south of Chichester in West Sussex. The work was undertaken for CgMs Consulting, acting on behalf of McCarthy and Stone. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed within the evaluation trenches. However, the evaluation identified made ground deposits across most of the land to the front and rear of the properties on the development site. In some trenches the remains of a truncated old plough soil was identified. A limited quantity of finds collected from the made ground deposits suggest a post medieval date. Finds from Trenches 5 and 6 included one sherd of pottery of Roman date, one of Saxon date and fourteen medieval sherds.*

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Location and scope of work

The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) carried out a field evaluation on land at 23-29 Stockbridge Road, Chichester, West Sussex from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2000. The work was undertaken for CgMs Consulting acting on behalf of McCarthy and Stone in respect of a planning application for further residential development.

The development site lies within the southern part of the City of Chichester and is 0.4 hectares in area (Fig. 1). The field evaluation was carried out in accordance with the *Specification for an Archaeological Field Evaluation* set by CgMs Consulting and approved by the Archaeological Officer for the District Council of Chichester.

## 1.2 Geology and topography

The site geology comprises made ground overlying gravel with occasional deposits of silty clay, and is at a height of 8 m above OD. The site slopes down towards the south-west of Chichester towards the harbour and consisted of dwellings with gardens and parking areas.

## 1.3 The archaeological and historical background

The archaeological and historical background to the evaluation has been the subject of a separate desk study (CgMs June 2000), the results of which are summarised below. The site itself has produced no archaeological evidence. However, the site is located within an area of demonstrated archaeological potential.

There are several known sites with archaeological finds adjacent to the development site:

- (i) About a 100 m west of the development site at Chichester High School for Girls a sherd of Iron Age pottery was found, possibly in association with features including ditches and a pit.
- (ii) The development site lies 450 m to the south-west of the Roman town of *Noviomagus* (Chichester), which was occupied from the first to fourth centuries AD. A Roman road aligned between Pulborough and the port of Chichester harbour, possibly close to the north end of the site was sought on the Girls' School site but the results were inconclusive. Another road which ran out of the South Gate of *Noviomagus* towards a known Roman villa site at Sidlesham was projected to pass to the east of the development site. Roman cemetery areas have been identified outside of the north, east and west gates of the town and it is possible that similar cemeteries could be sited outside the south gate.

- (iii) The Victoria County History refers to inhumation burials and a cremation discovered in 1819-1823 during construction of the Canal Basin immediately to the north west of the site. A Roman pot containing 700 silver coins of first and second century date was also found in the same area (SMR 2620). A well was excavated in Basin Road (in 1984) adjacent to the present site and was attributed to the Roman period.
- (iv) To the north of the development site an evaluation of the site of the former Gasworks in 1997 turned up evidence of Roman occupation. The features uncovered included boundary ditches, possible timber buildings with finds of pottery and 30 to 40 coins. Further occupation was located at Littlemead School to the east of the Stockbridge Road.
- (v) The town appears to have been abandoned after the end of the Roman period and not reoccupied until the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> century. The evidence for settlement during the Saxon period is limited.
- (vi) Evidence for medieval activity was recovered from the previously mentioned Gaswork investigations with large quantities of 13<sup>th</sup>- and 14<sup>th</sup>-century pottery. Stockbridge Road is also of medieval origin.
- (vii) The site itself does not appear to have been occupied during the medieval period, although sites close by have produced minor archaeological features.

#### 1.4 Acknowledgements

The OAU gratefully acknowledge the help and assistance of, Mr Rob Bourne of CgMs Consulting and the County Archaeological Officer James Kenny, who monitored the field evaluation.

## 2 EVALUATION AIMS

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

### **3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Scope of fieldwork**

The field evaluation comprised seven trenches within the development area (Fig. 2), one measuring 9 m in length, two measuring 10 m in length and four measuring 20 m in length. All trenches were 1.80 m wide. The trenches represented a 4 % sample of the proposed development area.

#### **3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording**

The topsoil and overburden was removed from the trenches by a JCB equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision, and the excavated spoil was closely monitored for archaeological artefacts. The trenches were hand-cleaned and recorded in plan. Features were sampled by hand excavation and sections were drawn. A colour and black-and-white photographic record was made. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed D Wilkinson, 1992).

#### **3.3 Finds**

Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the field evaluation and bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.

#### **3.4 Environmental data**

No deposits of potential paleo-ecological significance were located and therefore no environmental samples were taken.

### **4 RESULTS: GENERAL**

#### **4.1 Soils and ground conditions**

Although made ground and garden soils were apparent across much of the site, the general soil type was a dark-brown silt loam topsoil overlying a mid-brown yellowish silt clay subsoil. The underlying geology was a light coarse-angular flint gravel with patches of yellowish brown silt clay.

The ground conditions were fairly good despite wet weather conditions.



## 4.2 Distribution of Archaeological Deposits

No features or deposits of archaeological significance were located. The evaluation trenches revealed made ground over much of the site. In Trenches 1 and 2 on the west edge of the site the made deposits were c. 1.10 m deep. Trenches 4 and 5, located on the east edge of the site, also revealed made ground measuring c. 1 m deep. The remnants of a possible old plough soil, which has been truncated by modern activity, was located in Trenches 3, 6, 7 and at the north end of Trench 4.

## 4.3 Presentation of Results

The sequence of deposits in each trench is described. The plans of Trenches 1 and 4 are illustrated together with sections. Context details are given in Context Inventory: Appendix 1.

# 5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

## 5.1 Trench descriptions

### 5.1.1 Trench 1 (Fig.3, Section 1 and 2)

This trench was located on the Stockbridge Road frontage at the west end of the site and was orientated NNW to SSE approximately parallel to the street. The Trench lay across the front of two properties. Layers 101 and 102 contained finds of pot and tile of post medieval date, but none were retained.

The light brown silt gravel natural 103 was located at a depth of 1.15 m below the present surface (8.21 m OD) at the north end and at a depth of 0.82 m (8.08 m OD) at the south end of the trench. A layer of light brown grey silt clay with gravel (102) sealed the natural geology. This subsoil may be a truncated old plough soil. A layer of dark brown silt loam topsoil (101) sealed the truncated plough soil. To the north end of the trench, a dump layer of dark brown silt loam with ash (104) was capped by the topsoil.

A potential SW-NE aligned linear feature (106) was observed towards the southern end of the Trench but the irregular nature of the sides and base suggested a geological feature as did the sterile nature of the fill (105).

### 5.1.2 Trench 2 (not illustrated)

Trench 2 was located on the Stockbridge Road frontage at the west of the site and to the north of Trench 1. It was orientated north to south, parallel to the road. This trench was only excavated to a length of 9 m rather than 20 m because of access problems.

The light brown silt gravel natural 207 and 206 was located at a depth of 1.10 m below the present surface (8.26 m OD) at the south end. Natural was not located at the north end of the trench and excavation ceased at a depth of 1.20m (8.16 m OD). A light grey brown silt clay dump (205) overlay the natural. A layer of mid brown grey silt clay (204), possibly dumped material, overlay layer 205. A thick layer of made ground (203) comprising a dark brown silt clay mixed with building material, glass and post medieval pottery, overlay 204. Above layer 203 a light sandy mortar gravel, mixed with building material (202), was used as levelling and this was capped by tarmac (201).

Finds, which consisted of ceramic building material, glass, shell and pottery of post medieval date, were retrieved from contexts 205, 204 and 203.

### 5.1.3 Trench 3 (not illustrated)

Trench 3 was located close to the south boundary of the site in the rear of the buildings. It was orientated north to south and straddled two properties.

The underlying geology, which was a gravel with patches of yellowish brown silt clay (303), was found at a depth of 0.50 m below present surface (7.86 m OD) at the north end and at a depth of 0.42 m (7.92 m OD) at the south end of the trench. A mid-brown silt clay subsoil (302) overlay the natural and this layer in turn was sealed by a dark brown silt loam topsoil/garden soil (301).

### 5.1.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 4, Sections 3, 4 and 5)

Trench 4 was situated to the rear of the properties close to the east edge of the site and was orientated approximately north to south. The ground gently sloped down from the north to the south.

The underlying geology (404) comprised a gravel to the south and a yellowish brown silt clay to the north, and was found at a depth of 0.67 m below present surface (8.26 m OD) at the south end and 0.95 m (7.82 m OD) at the north end of the trench.

The gravel natural (404) to the south of the trench was cut by two tree throw holes, one of which (406) was hand excavated but produced no finds.

A mid brown silt clay subsoil (403) overlay the natural at the north end of the trench. This in turn was overlain by a dark brown clay silt dump and made material (402). This deposit was only located at the south end of trench. A dark silt loam topsoil (401) capped the subsoil (403) and the made ground material (402).

#### *5.1.5 Trench 5 (not illustrated)*

Trench 5 was located to the rear of the properties in the south-east corner of the site and was orientated ENE to WSW.

The natural (504) was located at a depth of 0.86 m below the present surface (7.60 m OD) at the east end and at a depth of 0.96 m at the west end of the trench. Overlying the natural was a made ground deposit comprising dark brown clay silt subsoil (503 -same as 402 in Trench 4). This layer was sealed by a dark brown silt clay garden soil (502) and capped by a dark brown silt loam topsoil (501).

Archaeological finds of pot, CBM and shell were retrieved suggesting medieval to post medieval in date from deposits 502 and 503.

#### *5.1.6 Trench 6 (not illustrated)*

Trench 6 was located to the rear of the buildings to the north of the site and was orientated north west to south east.

The gravel natural (603) was located at a depth of 0.96 m below present surface (8.21 m OD) at the north west end and at a depth of 0.78 m (8.15 m OD) at the south east end of the trench. Patches of a silt clay alluvial material (604) overlay the undulating gravel. A mid brown silt clay subsoil (602) overlay the natural and alluvium. Sealing the layer of subsoil was a dark brown silt loam garden soil (601).

A number of sherds of pottery dated to either the Roman, Saxon or medieval period were retrieved from deposits 601 and 602 along with CBM and shell.

#### *5.1.7 Trench 7*

Trench 7 was located to the rear of the buildings in the centre of the site and was orientated ENE to WSW.

The underlying geology, which was a light grey gravel 704 with inclusions of silt clay (703) was found at a depth of 0.92 m below present surface (7.86 m OD) at the east end and at a depth of 1 m (8.20 m OD) at the west end of the trench. Mixed with the gravel were deposits of grey to light brown clay (705) and (706) probably of alluvial origin. Overlying the natural geology is a mid brown silt clay subsoil (702), from which shell, CBM and a piece of burnt flint were retrieved. A dark brown silt loam topsoil/garden soil (701) overlay the subsoil.

## **5.2 Finds and environmental data**

The finds included pottery, ceramic building material, shell and burnt flint from made ground deposits, suggesting that the finds were not local to the site. The finds have been listed and quantified in the Context Inventory in Appendix 1.

No significant archaeological deposits were located and as a consequence no environmental samples were taken.

## 6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

### 6.1 Reliability of field investigation

The evaluation investigated 4% of the area of the development site. The trenches were positioned to investigate the site in general but with particular reference to the frontage of Stockbridge Road and rear of the site. Within the area excavated the results from the seven trenches were consistent, indicating the absence of any archaeological features or deposits and showing evidence in four trenches of made ground. A subsoil, possibly an earlier plough soil, which had been disturbed was identified in four trenches.

### 6.2 Overall Interpretation

#### 6.2.1 Summary of Results

No archaeologically significant deposits or features were located in the seven excavated trenches. The evaluation confirmed the existence of made ground over much of the site. In Trench 1 on the south-west edge of the site made deposits were 1.15 m deep. Trench 2 was located a little to the north, on the west edge of the site, and revealed made deposits of 1 m deep. To the rear of the properties on the development site where Trenches 3 to 7 were located, Trenches 4 and 5 showed made deposits between 0.90 m to 1m deep. In Trenches 3, 6, 7 and in the north end of Trench 4 a subsoil (possibly a truncated early plough soil) was located.

#### 6.2.2 Significance and impact

No deposits or features of archaeological significance were revealed in the seven evaluation trenches. Deposits of recent origin with ceramic building material were identified. The development is unlikely to have any impact on any significant archaeological deposits within the area investigated.

#### Bibliography and references

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| CgMs Consulting 2000   | Archaeological Desk Based Assessment Land at 23-29 Stockbridge Road, Chichester, West Sussex. |
| Wilkinson, D (ed) 1992 | <i>Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual</i> , (First edition, August 1992)                 |

### Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory

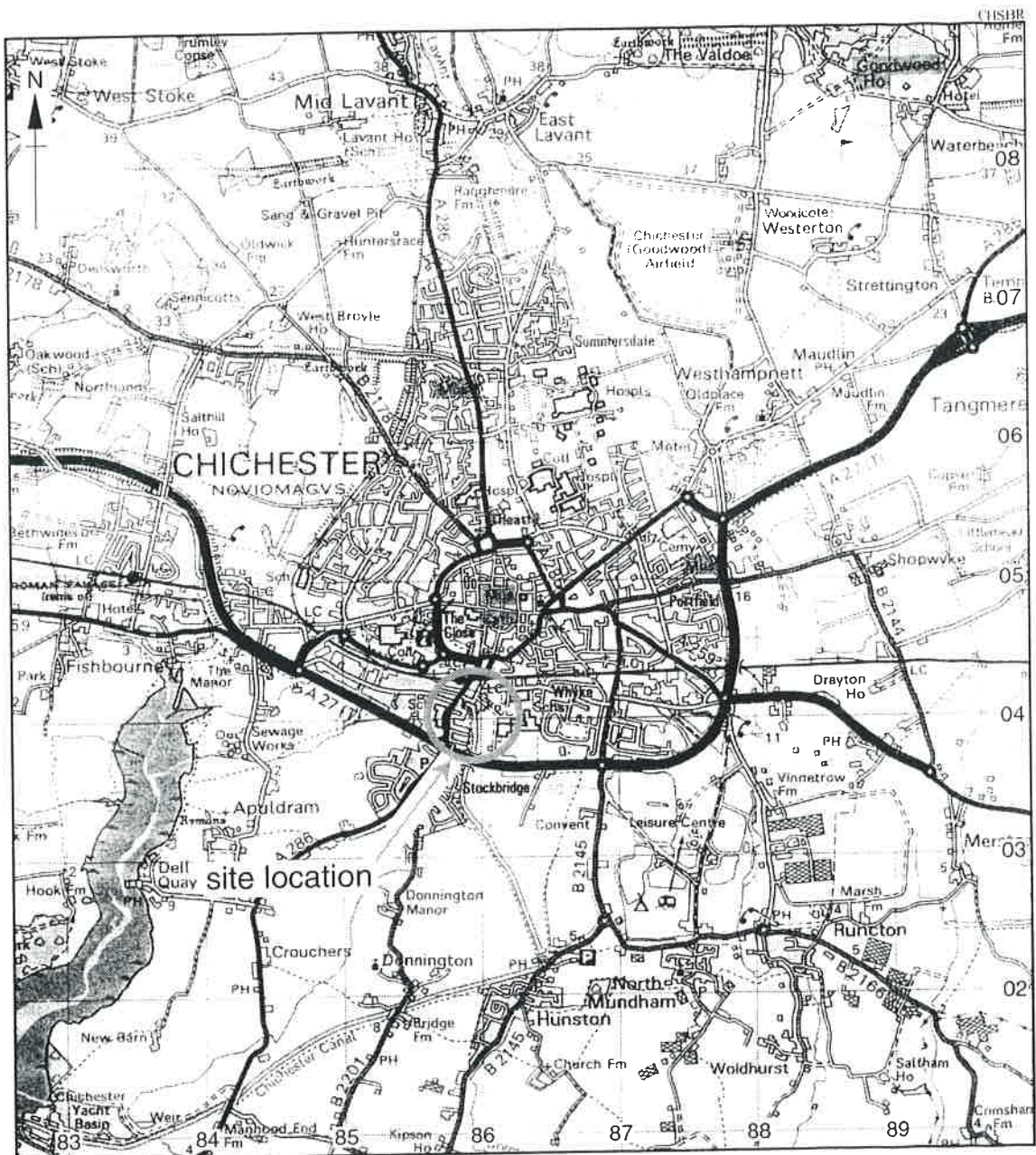
Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
001								
	101	Layer		0.50	Topsoil garden soil			
	102	Layer		0.40	Subsoil	Slag	1	
	103	Layer			Natural gravel			
	104	Layer		0.30	Dump garden soil			
	105	Layer		0.20	Subsoil / natural			
	106	Cut		0.30	Natural / subsoil			
002								
	201	Layer		0.08	Tarmac			
	202	Layer		0.25	Levelling deposit			
	203	Layer		0.60	Dump	Pot CBM Shell Clay pipe	11 / 1 2 1 2	PM/Med  Med
	204	Layer		0.45	Dump / old plough soil	Pot CBM Shell Metal	2 / 2 3 5 1	PM/ Med  PM
	205	Layer			Dump	Pot CBM Shell	1 2 1	PM
	206	Layer			Natural silt clay			
	207	Layer			Natural gravel			
003								
	301	Layer		0.30	Topsoil garden soil			
	302	Layer		0.20	Subsoil / old plough soil			
	303	Layer			Natural gravel			
	304	Layer			Natural silt clay			
004								
	401	Layer		0.44	Topsoil garden soil			
	402	Layer		0.42	Dump			
	403	Layer		0.22	Subsoil / old plough soil			
	404	Layer			Natural gravel / silt clay			

	405	Fill		0.40	Fill to tree throw hole			
	406	Cut	1 m	0.40	Tree throw hole			
005								
	501	Layer		0.24	Topsoil garden soil			
	502	Layer		0.36	Garden soil	Pot Pot CBM Shell	5 3 2 9	Med PM
	503	Layer		0.45	Subsoil dump	Pot CBM Shell	3 1 1	PM
	504	Layer			Natural gravel silt clay			
006								
	601	Layer		0.57	Topsoil garden soil	Pot Pot CBM Shell Burnt flint	4 3 8 5 2	Med 19 <sup>th</sup>  Prehist
	602	Layer		0.25	Subsoil / old plough soil	Pot Pot Pot CBM Shell Burnt flint	5 1 1 1 3 16	Med Roman Saxon  Prehist
	603	Layer			Natural gravel			
	604	Layer			Natural silt clay			
007								
	701	Layer		0.65	Topsoil garden soil			
	702	Layer		0.30	Subsoil / old plough soil	CBM Shell Burnt flint	1 5 1	Med  Prehist
	703	Layer			Natural silt clay			
	704	Layer			Natural gravel			
	705				Natural clay patches			
	706				Natural silt gravel			

## Illustrations

- Fig 1 Site Location
- Fig 2 Trench location
- Fig 3 Trench 1 Plan and section 1 and 2
- Fig 4 Trench 4 Plan and sections 3, 4 and 5





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Figure 1: Site location.

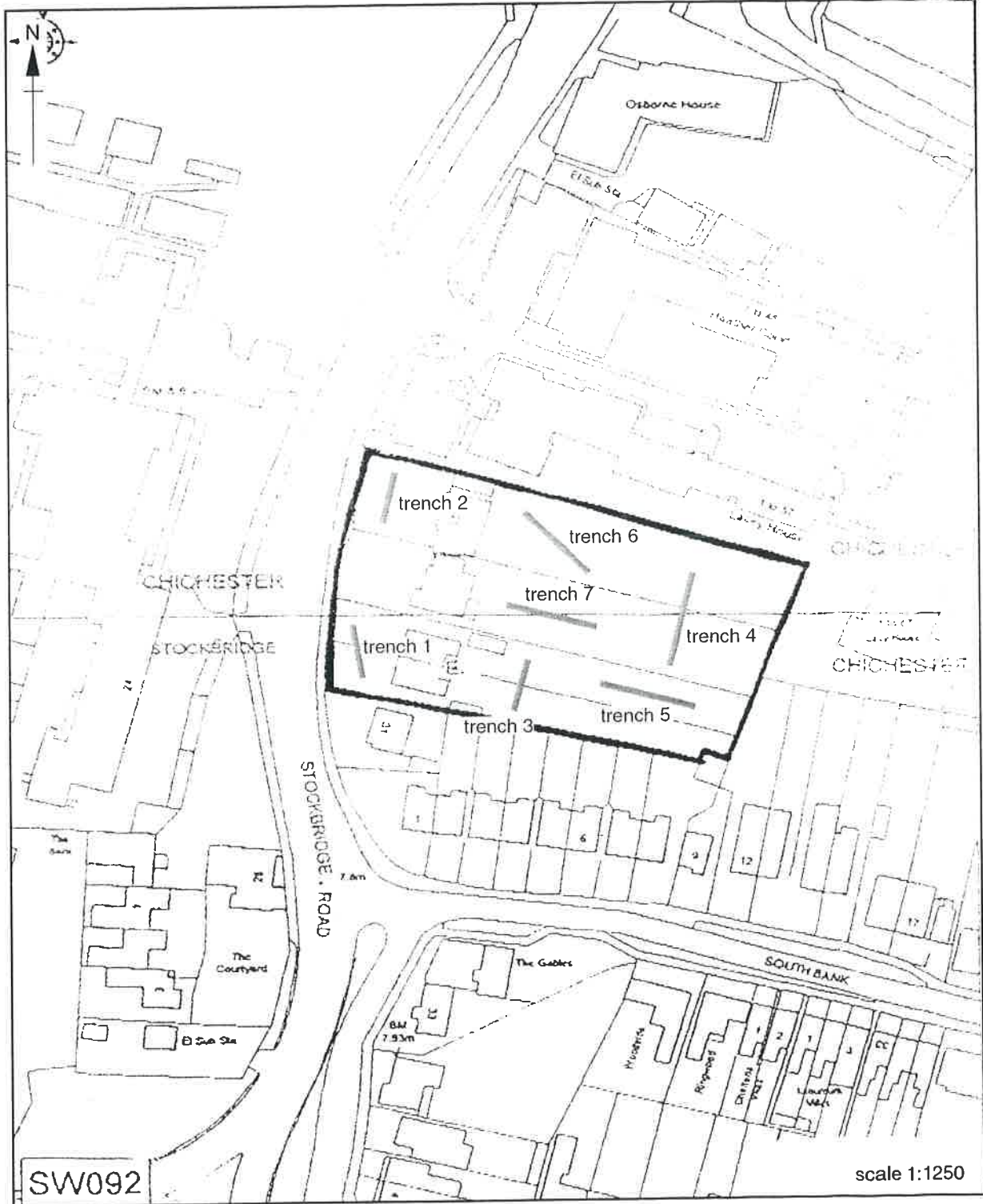


Figure 2: Trench location plan.

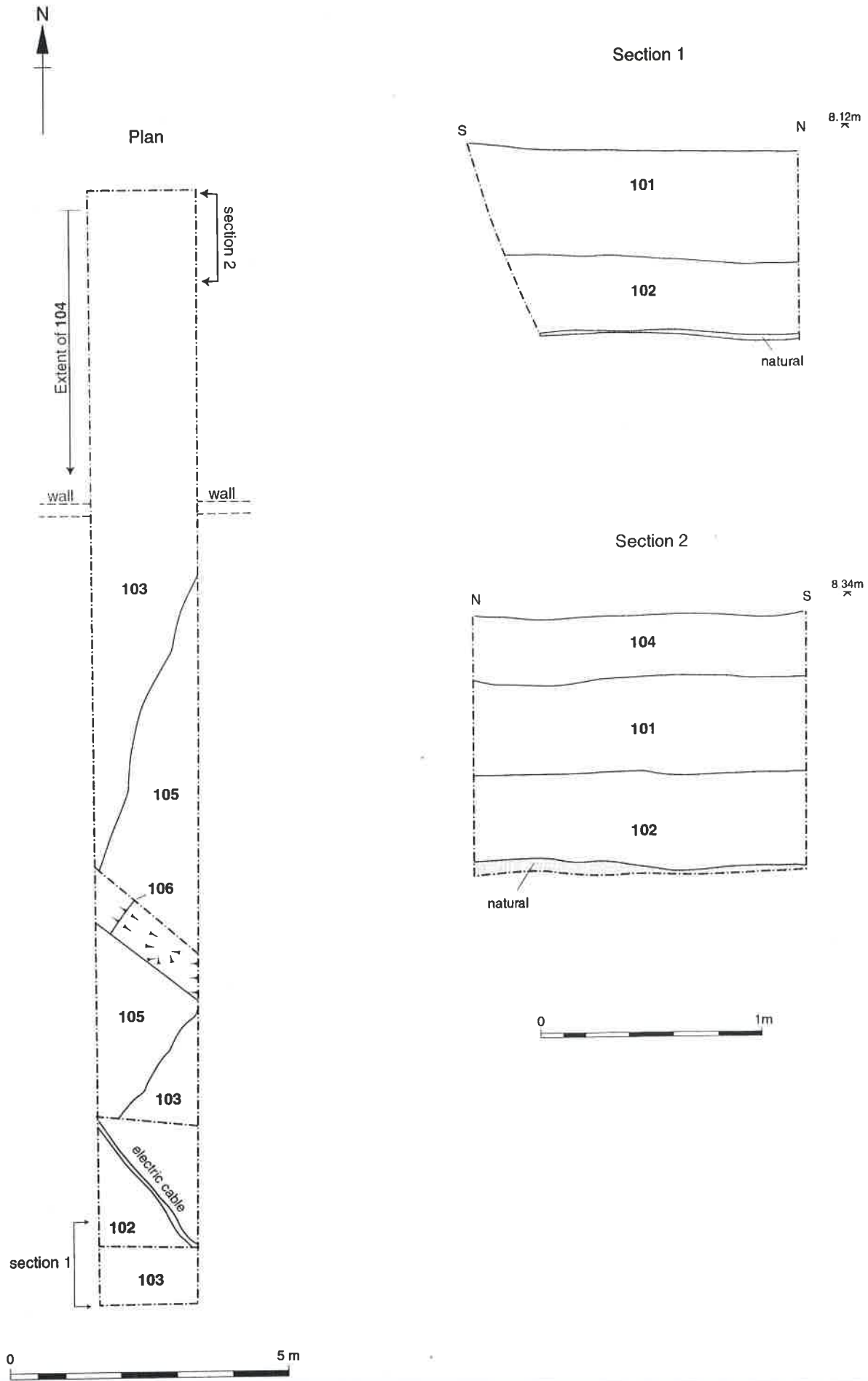


Figure 3: Trench 1, plan and sections.

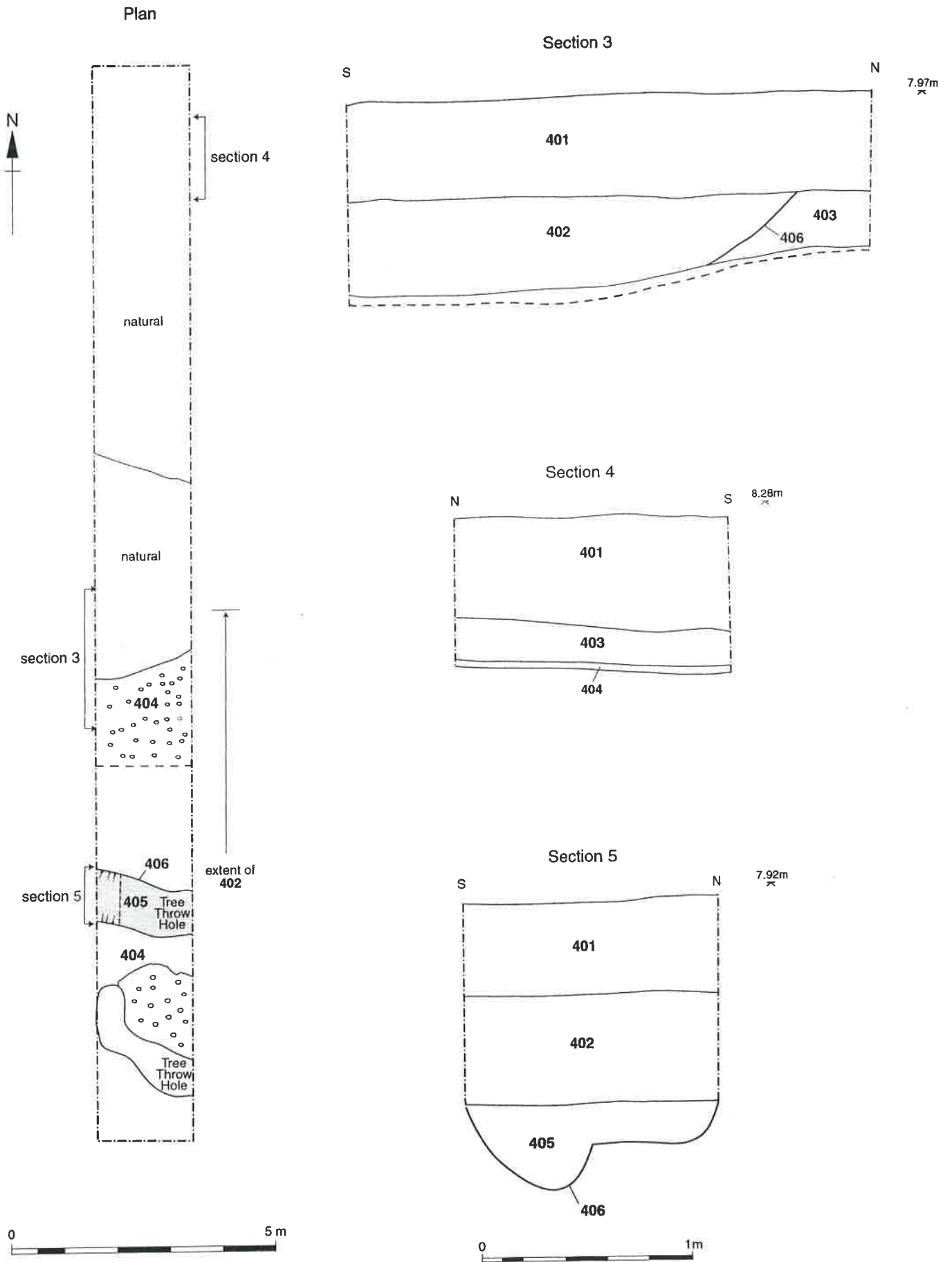


Figure 4: Trench 4, plan and sections.



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