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41-43 St Aldates & the Head of the River

Oxford

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

August 1994

Summary report on archaeological excavation at 41-43 St Aldates and the Head of the River car park, Oxford, June-July 1994

Summary

Three trenches were excavated to examine the character and chronology of deposits in areas due to be developed for student accommodation. Evidence for probable river channels and sequences of silting, some dating from the 13th century onwards, was recovered. Part of a waterlogged timber structure of medieval date was found relatively close to the line of the Trill Mill Stream, and medieval floor surfaces were encountered beneath 42 St Aldates. Otherwise, structural remains on the site were of 17th-18th century and later date. The project archive and finds will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museums.

Introduction

The site lies close to the medieval and earlier crossing of the Thames at Folly Bridge. The development of this crossing has been much studied, but mainly in excavations of limited extent, so many details remain unclear. The most recent and nearest work was in the British Telecom tunnel across St Aldates, the excavation of which was observed in 1991. Manhole One of this tunnel lies no more than c 30-35 m N of trench 3 on the present site.

The excavation was carried out in advance of development of the site by Knowles and Son as student accommodation for Hertford College. Planning permission for the main part of the site (the carpark area) had already been granted. The objectives of the excavation were to determine the character and state of preservation of archaeological remains on the site and to assess the impact of the proposed development upon these.

The excavation

Three trenches were excavated (Fig 1). Their siting was determined by the background historical and archaeological knowledge of the site, summarised in a desktop survey prepared by the Oxford Archaeological Unit, and to a lesser extent by practical considerations on the ground. Trenches 1 and 2 were located in the carpark area, respectively at right angles to the lines of the Trill Mill Stream (which forms the eastern boundary of the site) and the River Thames (on the S side of the site), in both cases approaching as close to the contemporary banks as was feasible. Trench 3 was sited in the front cellar of 42 St Aldates. Trenches 1 and 2 were partly excavated by JCB, with deeper excavation by hand in limited areas. In both cases the limit of machine excavation was (coincidentally) broadly equivalent to the depth of post-medieval deposits. Trench 3 was excavated entirely by hand.

Trench 1 (c 7.50 m x 1.80 m, aligned E-W) Figs 2-3

The E end of the trench lay some 6 m from the W edge of the Trill Mill Stream. It had been hoped to site the trench closer to the stream but this was not possible owing to the presence of a N-S sewer pipe. The trench was excavated by machine to a depth of from 1.30 m (E end) to 1.60 m (W end). A hand dug sondage 2 m in length was situated towards the E end of the trench. The total depth of excavation to the bottom of the sondage was c 3.60 m.

Natural gravel (127) was encountered across the bottom of the sondage at a consistent depth of c 52.80 m OD. This was overlaid by organic silty clay (126) and a layer of waterlogged organic fragments (125) with a total depth of 0.38 m. There were two sherds from 125, the later one dated 13th-14th century. Above these deposits were grey slightly organic silty sands and cleaner sand layers occasionally interleaved with lenses of sticky dark grey organic clay (124, 123, 119, 120). These deposits together produced 51 sherds, principally Brill/Boarstall products, mostly with a 13th-14th or 15th century date range. A small number of sherds must have belonged to the later half of this range. The top of these deposits was at about 54.08 m OD, at which level there was a steep sided cut (128) for a timber construction (118). Parts of two sides of this construction extended a short distance into the NE corner of the sondage. In this cramped space excavation was very difficult, and interpretation of such limited remains was also extremely problematical.

The main parts of the structure consisted of a W side formed of two substantial planks (129, 137) set on edge with their E faces held in position by vertical stakes. The total depth of the side as indicated by the planks was c 0.56 m. Deposits to the E of the timbers and laid against them sloped down deeper than the planks themselves, so the construction cut was clearly not flat bottomed but sloped down to the E. At the S end of the planks was a timber upright (132) which formed an internal corner with 129 and a much slighter plank (131) set roughly at right angles to it and running to the E. This formed the S side of the structure and like the W side was held in place by stakes against its internal (N) face. Further stakes also occurred just S of 131 at its E end and just W of 129 at its S end. These are presumed to have been part of the same overall structure, perhaps consolidating the sandy deposits to S and W, but there was no direct physical link between them and the planks. The line of the S side of the structure represented by 131 was continued eastwards by a fragmentary timber (150), only the extreme end of which was located within the trench.

The fills within structure 118 were very different from those through which it was cut. It is probable that the lowest fills were not encountered (because of the practical problems of excavation), but the lowest seen were lenses of dark brown organic silty clay and of grey sand (141, 140), sloping steeply down to the E. A similar organic clay deposit with sand lenses (139), up to c 0.36 m deep in the slot excavated through these deposits, had a roughly level upper surface. It was overlaid by a black organic clay layer (138), a further deposit with a very high

matted vegetable content (136) and a mixed gritty organic silty clay (135). 135 was in turn overlaid by a sticky dark grey organic clay (117) which extended across the top and just beyond the limits of structure 118. The lower fills of the structure produced no finds. The upper ones contained animal bone but no dateable material.

The sequence of fills of structure 118 and the sandy layers through which it was cut were all overlaid by three mixed clay layers (116, 115, 114) incorporating random limestone blocks, with a total depth of c 0.80 m. These are interpreted as dumping or levelling layers. All produced medieval pottery and 114 and 116 also contained a few sherds assignable to the 16th-17th century.

Above these layers was a further possible dump deposit (104) from 0.28-0.42 m thick, which contained almost entirely post-medieval material with a date range up to the 19th century. This in turn was overlaid by a layer of mixed limestone rubble and sand and gravel (103), incorporating along its S edge (which ran E-W along the trench) very large limestone blocks. This is almost certain to have been the foundation for the 19th century Kings Row, located on maps at precisely this point. These cottages were demolished as recently as the 1960s? Deposits above this level are therefore of recent date, including the present carpark surface and makeup.

Trench 2 (c 12.50 m x 1.80 m, aligned N-S) Fig 4

The trench was excavated by machine to a depth of c 1.10-1.30 m. Deeper sondages c 2 m long and situated c 1 m from each end of the trench were then excavated by hand. The maximum depth of excavation in the N sondage was c 2.40 m and in the S sondage c 2 m.

Natural gravel was encountered in both sondages at about 54 m OD. In both cases the upper surface of the gravel was concreted with calcareous material, consistent with the gravel having been the bed of a steadily flowing watercourse. In the southern sondage this deposit (232) was overlaid by a thin layer of looser gravel (231) stained dark grey by organic material in the overlying layer 227. This was of black sandy peat up to 0.16 m thick and contained small fragments of wood and other plant remains. Above this a lens of fairly clean gravel (230) was overlaid by a sequence of grey silty clays (229, 233, 228) with a total depth of c 0.40-0.50 m. The only finds from these deposits were a few fragments of animal bone. Above 228 was a layer of blueish-grey clay (210) up to 0.40 m in thickness, which contained sherds perhaps of 15th century date. All these deposits were approximately horizontally bedded.

In the northern sondage the natural gravel (222 with concreted surface 221) was overlaid as in the S sondage by a loose layer of dirty gravel (220) 0.20 m thick, which contained a single sherd dated late 11th-mid 13th century (fabric OXY). The earliest deposits above this layer appear to have been laid from the NW. The first of these, a brown silty sand (217), only extended c 0.38 m into the corner of the sondage. It was overlaid by 234, a substantial layer of dark grey silty sand up to c

0.34 m in depth which extended across the whole of the northern half of the sondage. Its edge sloped down considerably to the SSE. The edge was then overlaid by deposits of dark grey silty clay (219) and brown-grey fine gravel (218) with a maximum combined depth of c 0.40 m. These sloped downwards from W to E, approximately at right angles to the line of slope of the earlier deposit 234, but 219 extended over and beyond 218. They were overlaid by a blue-grey clay layer (225) up to c 0.20 m thick which also extended over the top of 234, still exposed to the N of the northern limit of 218 and 219. 225 sloped down from NW to SE. These deposits produced few finds, but the pottery was fairly consistently of 13th-15th century date. Two sherds from 219 give a terminus post quem of at least the 14th century for this deposit.

The sloping edge consisting of 219 and 225 was then overlaid by a lesser deposit (223) of dark grey silty sand, in turn overlaid by a very compact, thin deposit of brown gritty clay (213), confined to the SW corner of the sondage. This layer, the top of which sloped down to the E and to a lesser extent to the N, was thought to represent a consolidated bank or possible watercourse edge.

The sloping deposits, laid initially from the N and then from the W, thus defined a roughly right angled corner, the lower levels of which, to the SE, then filled in with 214, a mid grey fine gravel incorporating organic fragments. This deposit, up to 0.45 m deep, was then cut by the insertion of four wooden stakes 0.04-0.05 m in diameter. Two of these (224 and 226) were observed in the S and E sections respectively, so their relationships with 214 were clear. Further stakes to the SW probably occupied a similar stratigraphic position. The tops of the stakes were within 215, a dark grey silty sand with occasional lenses of organic peat, which overlaid them and layer 214. 214 and 215 contained pottery with an outside date range of 13th-15th century, but probably mainly falling within a late 13th-early 14th century bracket. Above 215 was an extensive layer of blue-grey silty clay (216) with a maximum depth of 0.25 m. This filled all irregularities adjacent to the bank edge 213 and overlaid the earlier (roughly E-W aligned) deposit 234. 216 was very similar and may have been equivalent to layer 210 at the S end of the trench, though the only sherd within it, dated 1150-1350, was probably residual, unless dateable right to the end of its range. 216 was almost indistinguishable from a further clay layer (207), some 0.35 m deep, which probably completed the medieval sequence in the N part of the trench.

Layer 207 extended across the whole of the trench. It contained three sherds dated to the 13th-15th centuries and a further sherd dated 1350-1500. A date in the 15th century would fit quite well with the evidence from the earlier layers, though it is possible that layer 207, which may have accumulated over a considerable time, extended into the post-medieval period.

The character of the deposits changed considerably above 207, which was overlaid by 206, an extensive, mixed layer of light greenish-grey clay silt on average some 0.25 m thick. This layer contained gravel and localised patches of limestone fragments. A horizontal wooden plank lay at the interface of 207 and 206, and the top of a vertical timber (212) some 0.15 m in diameter, apparently driven into 207,

would probably have extended upwards into layer 206 (it was slightly damaged by machining, which removed evidence for the relationship). The only finds from 206 were fragments of tile and glass and an iron nail, none of which was closely dateable. Above 206 at the S end of the trench were localised mid grey clay layers possibly of alluvial origin. These were marginally overlaid by a black silty clay layer (205) and further mixed dark grey silty clay layers (202, 204). These deposits terminated c 2 m N of the S end of the trench, but thickened steadily from that point to a maximum depth of c 0.95 m at the N end of the trench. These deposits are interpreted as possible dumping layers of relatively recent date. They were directly overlaid by the hardcore beneath the present carpark surface.

Trench 3 (2 m x 1.50 m, aligned E-W) Fig 5

This trench was situated in the front (W) cellar of 42 St Aldates. Excavation was entirely by hand in cramped conditions and for the most part in artificial light (a little natural light entered the cellar from the top of the opening onto St Aldates). Description of the deposits, particularly in relation to colour, was therefore less precise than would be considered ideal. Excavation of the lowest deposits in the trench was in a very narrow slot against the S baulk and reached a depth of 2.30 m below the floor level of the cellar.

The grey gravel subsoil (328) was encountered at c 53.10 m OD. It was overlaid by grey clays (327, 326), the lower quite gravelly, the upper with a very little gravel and some organic fragments and snail shells. These deposits, with a combined depth of c 0.42 m, were overlaid by a substantial layer of brown organic silty clay (325) up to 0.68 m thick (its top was therefore at about 54.22 m OD). 325 was in turn overlaid by a dark grey slightly gravelly silty clay (324) with a similar greenish grey layer (323) above. These deposits were horizontally laid and together some 0.18 m deep. They produced fragments of animal bone, the lowest layers in this sequence to contain anything except snails and waterlogged plant remains.

Above 323 was a further dark grey silty clay (321) up to 0.36 m thick. This was seen to extend across the whole trench. Like 323 and 324 it contained animal bone fragments. 321 lay beneath the lowest identified structural deposits, a series of probable floor layers (318, 317, 313) respectively of compact silty clay with patches of burning, a further silty clay and a coarse sandy gravel. 318 produced a small group of pottery with a terminus post quem of at least the late 12th century, and perhaps considerably later. Above 313 a roughly N-S aligned row of stones (316) might have formed a foundation. A possible continuation of this feature, also on a N-S alignment but offset some 0.35-0.40 m to the W, was represented by a straight sided and flat bottomed cut in 313 (319), 0.40 m wide and 0.24 m deep, which was better defined in section than in plan. Its fill (320) incorporated a few stones of similar character to those forming 316, but if it was a structural feature it is unclear if it represented a partly robbed wall line or a beam slot or similar feature. 316 was butted on its E side by 314, a patch of burnt red clay representing either a further (fragmentary) floor surface or possibly a hearth. To the W of 316 a similar burnt clay deposit (315) was broadly contemporary with 314 and may have

constituted a further floor layer. A patch of 315 partly overlaid 320, but could have been redeposited here.

These structural features were overlaid by a layer of grey brown gravelly clay (312) some 0.30 m thick, which produced a small mixed group of pottery, with at least one sherd assignable to the late 15th-16th century. Above this was a similar but much less gravelly and fairly soft clay layer (310/311), also dated late 15th century or later, into which was set a substantial stone foundation, the SE corner of which lay within the trench. The S and E faces (303 and 306 respectively) of the foundation were of large unmortared limestone blocks (up to c 0.70 x 0.35 x 0.55 m) with roughly flat outer edges. The area within these faces was filled with more irregular blocks and the whole structure was sealed with a layer of clay (305) containing small limestone fragments. The clay was very similar in character to 310/311 beneath the foundation, and was presumably derived from this deposit. The level of the top of 310/311 to S and E of the foundation E was up to c 0.30 m above the base of the foundation. While there was no evidence for a construction cut for the foundation it seems likely that such a cut must have existed, though it is just possible that the foundation was laid directly on top of 310/311 and was then pressed into it by the weight of the superstructure above. Part of a second layer of limestone blocks (302) survived above layer 305 in the NE corner of the trench, but had mostly been removed, presumably on the demolition of the structure (the removal was represented by a shallow cut (322) filled with loose mixed debris (304)). Butting the S face of the foundation (303) was the end of a N-S aligned brick feature (307). This was based on bricks measuring c 205 x 100 x 55 mm and was c 0.50 m wide. It was perhaps a wall which like the upper foundation layer had been largely removed by robbing (cut 308 filled by 309). The robbing deposits were directly overlaid by a superficial layer of black loam with small brick fragments and coal dust which represented the floor of the cellar of the existing structure of 42 St Aldates.

The finds

The principal finds from the site were animal bone, pottery and to a lesser extent ceramic building material. The waterlogged conditions in parts of Trenches 1 and 2 ensured good preservation of organic materials. The timber structure in Trench 1 was left in situ, but leather fragments, particularly of shoes, were recovered both here and in Trench 2. These, along with samples for plant macro-remains (etc) remain to be examined. Only the pottery is reported on here.

Medieval and post-medieval pottery, by Lucy Bown

The assemblage of 180 sherds (2.25 Kg) appears to be typical for a site in Oxford near to the commercial centre of the city. The predominant wares are local products but the number of regional and continental imports, represented sometimes by a single sherd, shows that a considerable variety of sources in pottery were available to the occupants of this site.

The earliest wares present in this assemblage are local Oxford Early Medieval Ware (Fabric AC) in which a 12th-century cooking pot rim and sherd are residual, and Oxford Medieval ware (Fabric Y). Two late 12th to 13th century cooking pot rims and two sherds from a tripod pitcher and a further two sherds in Oxford Medieval Ware are probably contemporary in contexts 312, 318 and 116 whilst the remaining four sherds occurred residually. The tripod pitcher sherds have a glazed external surface and decoration in the form of bands of horizontal incised lines around the body of the vessel.

By the mid 13th century the ceramic assemblage on this site is dominated by Brill/Boarstall Wares which form 70% of the total assemblage. Within this ware three fabric types are present; Fabric AM (56%), Fabric BX (9%) and Fabric AW (5%). The majority of the sherds in fabric AM are from well thrown highly decorated jugs with good quality mottled copper glazes which are characteristic of the mid 13th to early 14th century phase of production. Forms of decoration include applied grid stamped pads, applied and rouletted vertical strips of red clay, alternating red and white strips of clay, applied scales in red clay and various combinations of incised line decoration. Vessel forms include jugs of various sizes, from small rounded to tall "triple-decker" forms and a bottle. A small number of jug sherds are partially glazed with a clear lead glaze which is more characteristic of the late 14th and early 15th century production. A small number of thick, crudely made and poorly glazed sherds might also belong to the latest phase of this industry in the mid to late 15th century. The majority of sherds in fabric BX and AW belong to jugs and bottle forms, with the exception of two cooking pot rims which are found in the coarsely gritted Fabric AW. These undiagnostic sherds could belong to any phase of the Brill/Boarstall industry between the mid 13th to 15th century.

A small number of regional imports occur with the Brill/Boarstall products between the 13th and 15th centuries. These include one sherd of mid 12th to mid 14th London-type Ware, four jug sherds of mid 14th to late 15th century Surrey Hampshire Coarse Border Ware (Fabric OXBG), one jug sherd with white slip in Abingdon Fabric A (Oxford Fabric AG), and nine sherds in the late 12th to 15th-century East Wiltshire flint and limestone tradition (Fabric OXAQ). Within the East Wiltshire tradition two cooking pot rims support the evidence found at, for example The Hamel, where the larger cooking vessels are supplied in this tradition in the 14th century.

A small number of sherds of 15th to 16th century date represent the transition from the medieval to post-medieval period. 15th to 16th century local wares include three sherds of Fabric OXAX, six sherds of Fabric OXAY and Glazed Red Earthenwares, some of which might be Brill/Boarstall products of the 16th to 17th century and some mid 15th to early 17th-century Nettlebed products. Regional imports include one sherd from a 16th-century Cistercian Ware cup, one possible Reversed Cistercian Ware sherd, a lead glazed plate rim in mid 16th to early 18th-century Surrey Hampshire Borderware and the base of a bowl with internal copper green glaze in either Surrey Hampshire Borderware or a local copy of the same tradition. Continental imports include a Raeren/Aachen drinking jug imported to

this country in great quantity in the late 15th to 16th century, one sherd of a mid 16th-century Cologne/Frechen drinking jug and two sherds from a Cologne/Frechen Bellarmine of 17th or early 18th century date.

Late post-medieval wares include one sherd of 18th century white Tin Glazed Earthenware and one sherd of possible English Stoneware produced in imitation of the Rhenish Stonewares in the late 17th to 18th century.

Discussion

These small scale excavations have enhanced our understanding of the development of the riverside area of St Aldates, and can be compared with information from adjacent sites, particularly the British Telecom (hereafter BT) tunnel, to draw up an outline of the sequence of land reclamation and use on the east side of St Aldates.

The gravel subsoil was located in all three trenches, at c 53.10 m OD in the NW part of the site (Trench 3), at c 52.80 m in the NE (Trench 1) and at c 54 m across the southern part of the site (at both ends of Trench 2). The height of the gravel in this last trench is noteworthy, suggesting an island of gravel lying S of a channel aligned roughly E-W, or perhaps ENE-WSW. The high gravel in Trench 2 had, however, the character of a fast-flowing watercourse bed (M Robinson pers comm). This is difficult to reconcile with the evidence for a much deeper channel immediately to the N, unless it is assumed that this and the river bed represented in Trench 2 were of radically different date. Since a channel fill deposit in the base of the BT manhole to the N is dated by C14 to the mesolithic the Trench 2 river bed might by implication be even earlier than this. Gravel levels to the N of the present site at 33 St Aldates trench 1b and at 56-60 St Aldates, and the top of the early channel fill (layer 10) at the BT tunnel were all at about 52.50 m OD.

All trenches produced evidence of organic silty clays overlying the gravels, but these were much deeper in Trench 3 than elsewhere. Such deposits did not occur at the N end of Trench 2. The deposits in Trench 3 were almost 1 m thick. In terms of levels they were equivalent to layers 8 and 7 (brown silt clay and organic gravelly loam respectively) in manhole 1 of the BT excavation. The layer (9) of peaty silt beneath these deposits in the BT manhole does not have a real equivalent in the present site.

The earliest deposit dated by artefactual material is a loose gravel over the river bed deposit in the N end of Trench 2, which contained a single sherd of pottery not dateable before the late 11th century. In Trenches 1 and 3 there were no archaeologically dated deposits earlier than the 13th and the late 12th centuries respectively.

The first dated deposits in Trench 3, apparently floor surfaces, seem to represent the first use of this part of the site for occupation, which would have been sited

immediately to the E of the Grandpont causeway (the layers underlying the lowest floor contained some animal bone, perhaps suggestive of rubbish disposal, but no other material). The lowest building level was at 54.72 m OD. At least two phases of floors seem to have been represented, associated with a possible hearth and poorly preserved fragments perhaps of a partition wall foundation. There is almost no dating evidence for this sequence, but domestic activity seems to have been discontinuous, because the floors were overlaid by a gravelly clay ?levelling layer (312), perhaps of late medieval date, and the next structural evidence was certainly of post-medieval date.

On the eastern margin of the site the lowest archaeologically dateable stratum in Trench 1 was at c 53.15 m OD. This would have been contemporary with part of the occupation sequence in Trench 3 to the W, the difference in level reflecting the steady downslope of the site from W to E evident today. The organic peaty clays, here relatively shallow, were overlaid by a sequence principally of silty sands, some at least of which seem to have been water laid. These consistently contained mid 13th-14/15th century pottery, and the cut for the insertion of the timber structure 118 is unlikely to have dated before about the mid 14th century at the earliest. The level from which this structure was cut was c 54.08 m OD. The nature of the structure is unclear. On its W side it consisted of substantial timbers, but these only had a maximum depth of 0.54 m, and there was no indication of any lower timbers offset to the E. The southern side was on present evidence very flimsy.

The character of the deposits within 118 was very different from that of those through which it was cut, and included more organic clays and towards the top a compact deposit of waterlogged organic fragments up to 0.08 m thick (135). These deposits suggest that the area E of the edges of 118 remained wet for a considerable period. This would be consistent with an interpretation of the structure as a slight reinforcement of the W edge of the N-S Trill Mill stream, now some 7 m further E, but the form of the structure, with a near right angle return to the E at its southern end, is difficult to explain in this context, unless there was some effort to provide a slight quay or landing stage. The scale of the timbers, however, seems grossly inadequate for such a purpose. An alternative possibility is that structure 118 represented something much smaller in scale, perhaps a timber lined pit, but in this case the water-deposited character of the fills has to be explained. On balance a slight stream edge structure seems marginally the more likely interpretation.

Further S a rather different pattern of events is observed. In the northern end of Trench 2 the deposits above the gravel were not horizontally laid, so although they were typically silty they were presumably laid by human agency. The stratigraphy and the orientation of the deposits suggest that they represent a sequence of dumps, first from the N and then from the W, presumably laid as part of a process of consolidating the ground W of St Aldates. At one stage the E-facing edge became consolidated as a bank, but this was probably only a short-lived feature. There was no significant difference in date between material below and above the bank. The main part of the infilling process can be assigned broadly to the 13th and 14th centuries. At the S end of Trench 2 a rather different sequence of fills was

unfortunately not dated.

All parts of the site showed evidence of late medieval to early post-medieval deposits. These were generally gravelly clays (312 in Trench 3, 116-114 in Trench 1 and perhaps 207, a cleaner clay, in Trench 2). Except in Trench 2, where 207 may have been of alluvial origin, these deposits may be seen as part of a continuing process of dumping to consolidate ground levels across the site generally. Layer 206 above 207 in Trench 2 can certainly be seen in this way, but it is poorly dated (though certainly post-medieval) and may be later than 312 and 114, though in character it is quite similar to them, particularly to 114. The levels of these deposits are broadly comparable in all trenches at around 55 m OD.

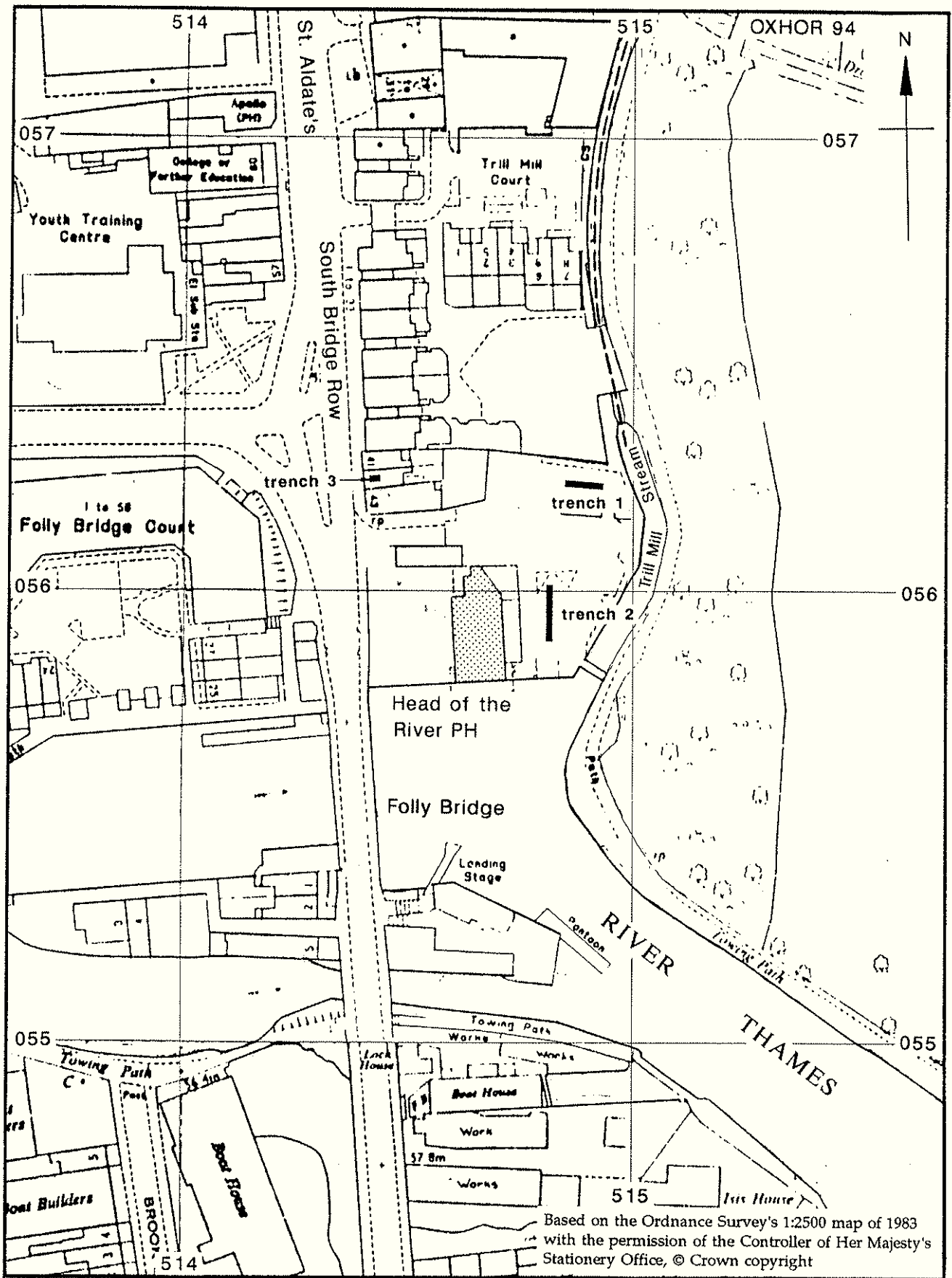
Post-medieval structural evidence occurred in Trenches 1 and 3. The substantial stone foundation in Trench 3 is not closely dated, but the layer beneath it (312) and the layer in/onto which it seems to have been set (310) both contained sherds dateable to the 15th-16th centuries, and possibly even a little later. It may be then that this foundation belongs to one of the buildings on the St Aldates frontage evident in Loggan's 1675 view. The brick wall which butted the foundation may be later in date. It is uncertain how long this building stood, however, for the SE corner of the foundation in Trench 3 does not seem to correlate closely with the outline plans of buildings shown on the approximate site on plans of 1750 (Taylor) and 1827 (Badcock). Moreover it is not clear that the buildings shown on these two plans are the same (there are several significant differences of detail). It may be, therefore, that there were several phases of building on the site between that represented by the Trench 3 foundation and the present (early 19th century) building. Evidence for these phases could have been completely removed by the excavation of the cellar for the present building.

There can be little doubt that the foundation located in Trench 1 was that of the SE corner of another 19th century building, Kings Row. The documented location of this row of cottages correlates very closely with the archaeological evidence. These buildings were only demolished in relatively recent times.

There was no evidence in Trench 2 for any of the buildings shown on Taylor's 1750 map to have been located in this part of the site. It is assumed that like later structures in the same general area (cf 1875 OS 1:500 plan) these were perhaps mainly boathouses which may have been relatively slight structures.

Paul Booth

25th July 1994



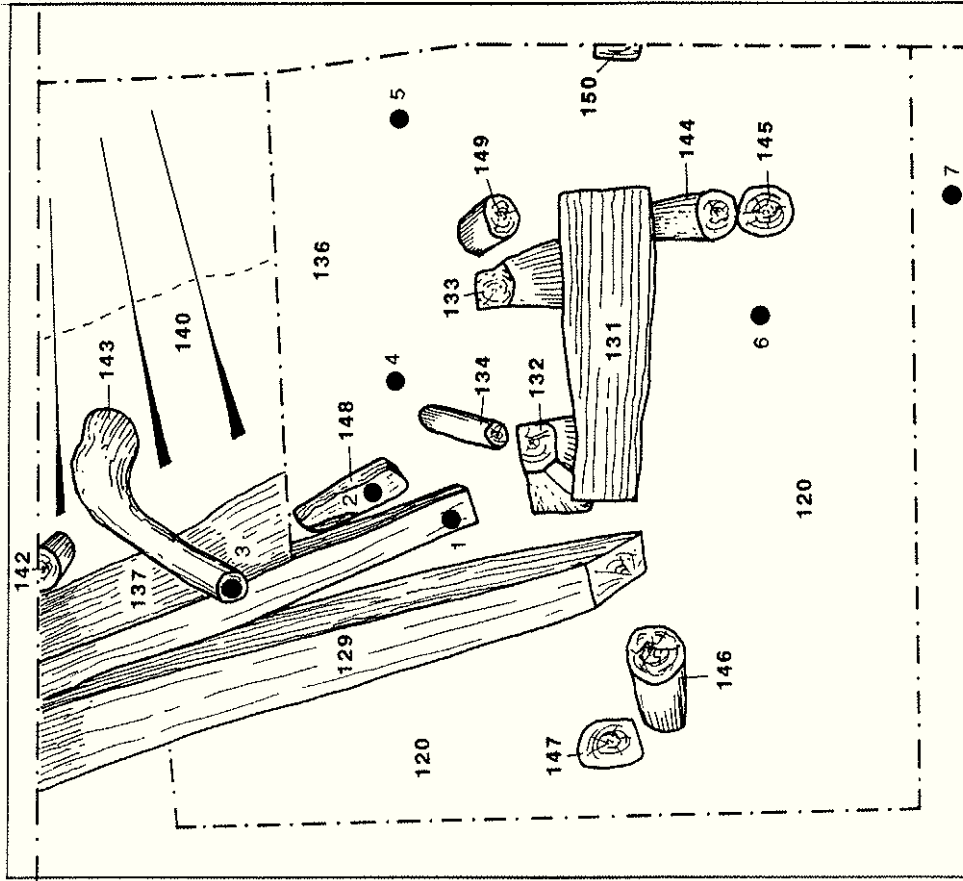
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Site location

figure 1

E

W



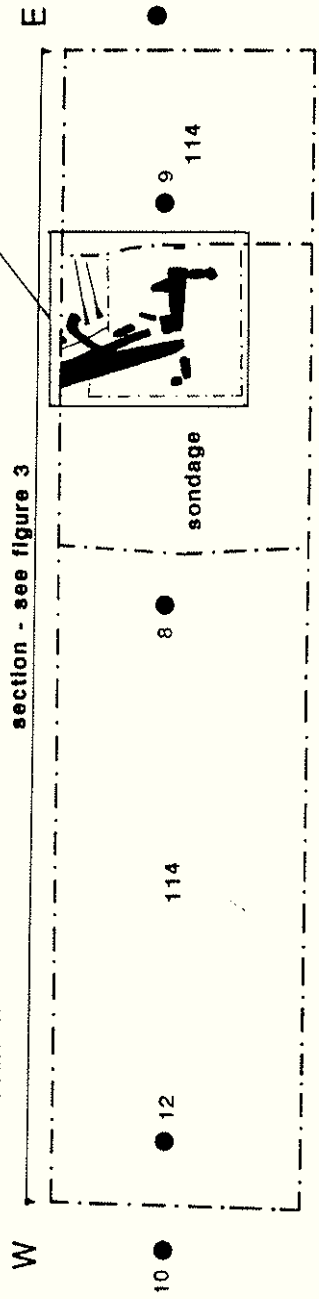
● levels in metres O.D.

- 1 53.83
- 2 53.90
- 3 53.89
- 4 53.78
- 5 53.78
- 6 53.72
- 7 53.36
- 8 54.98
- 9 54.82
- 10 56.60
- 11 56.32
- 12 54.92

Trench 1



scale 1:50



section - see figure 3

W

E

Trench 1 section

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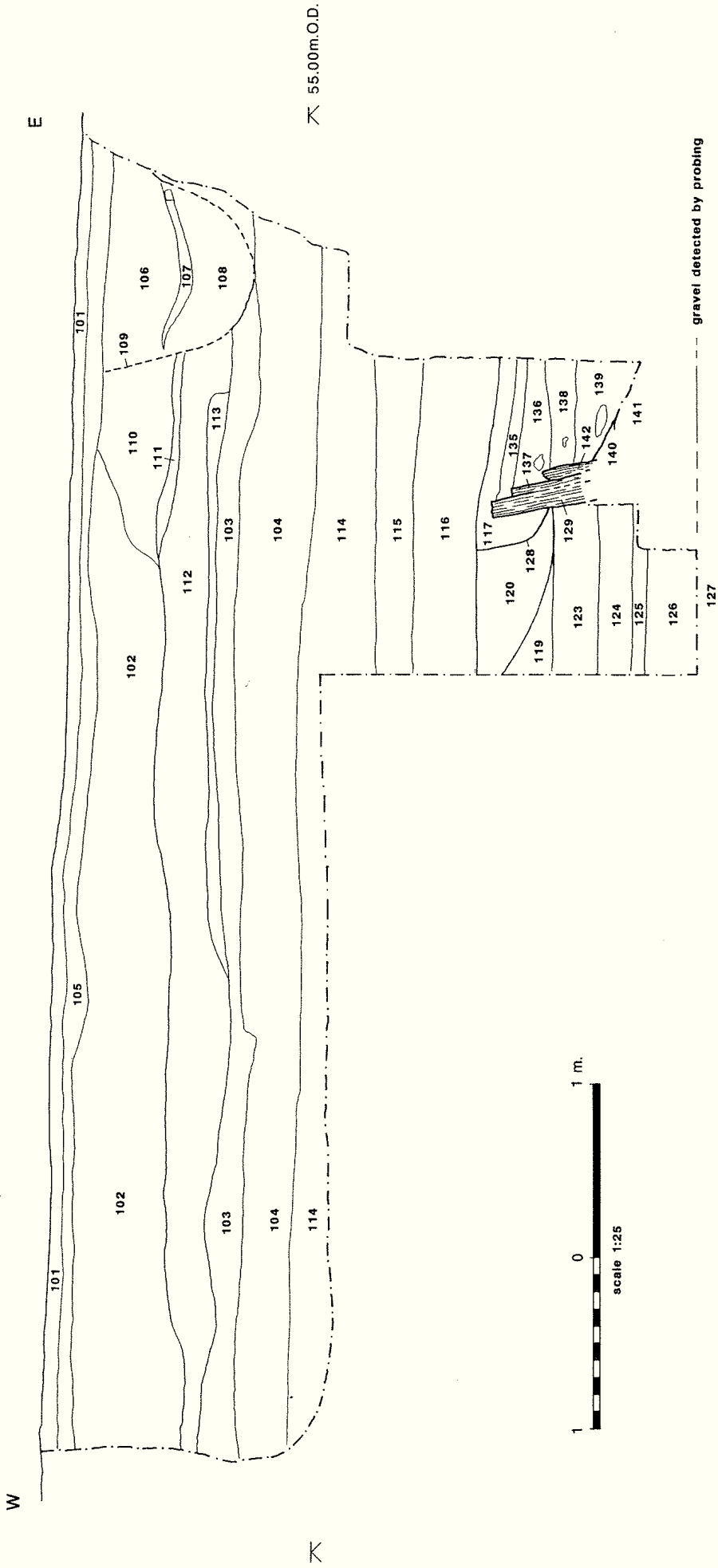


figure 3

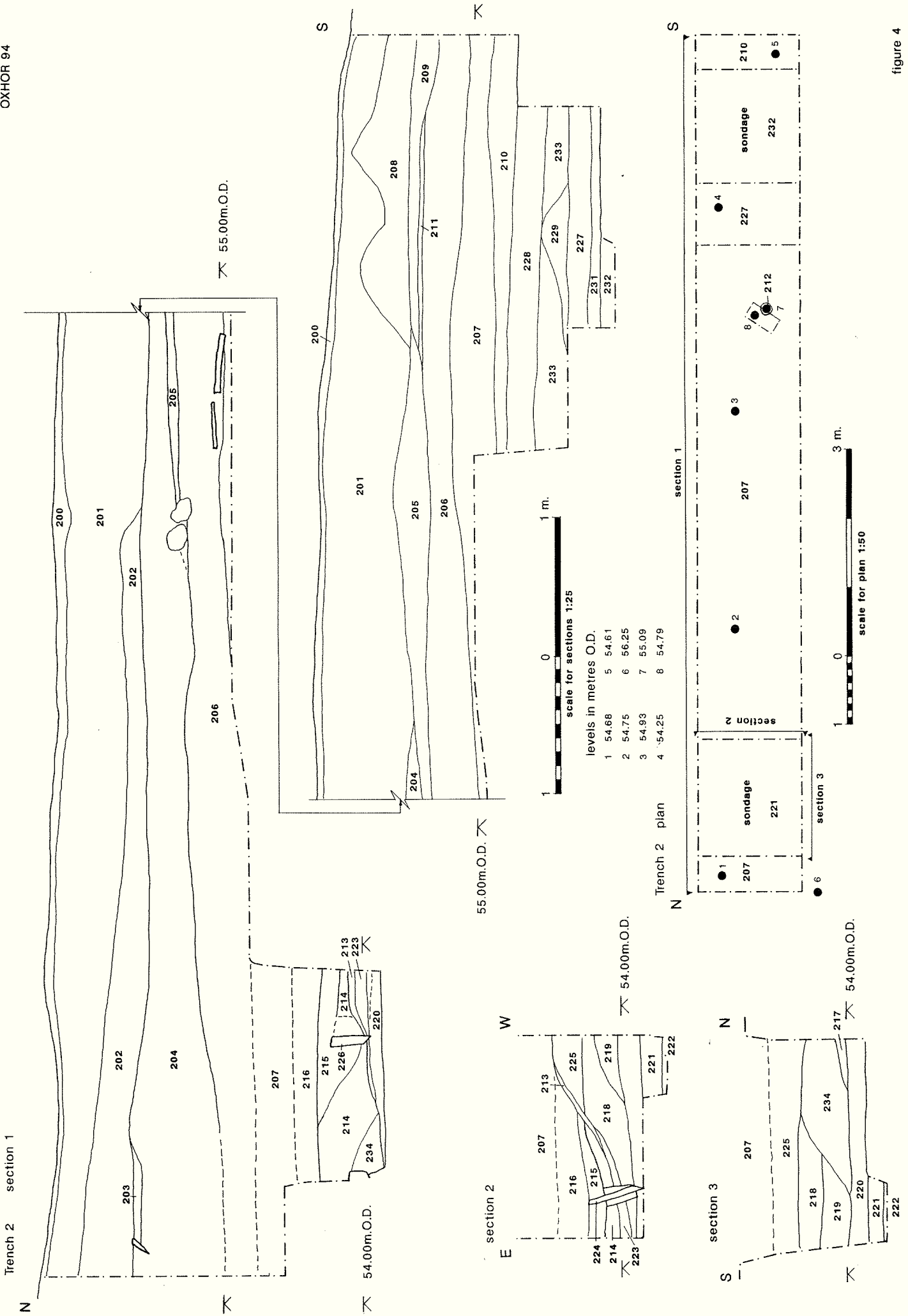
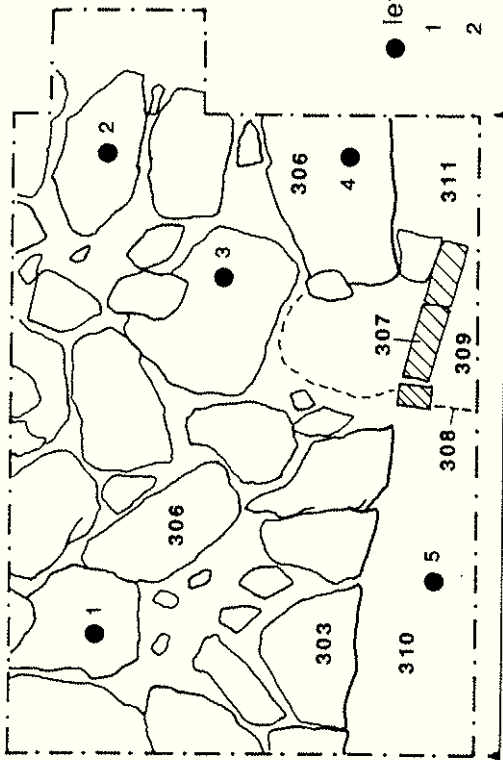


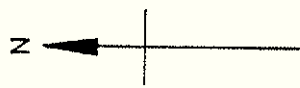
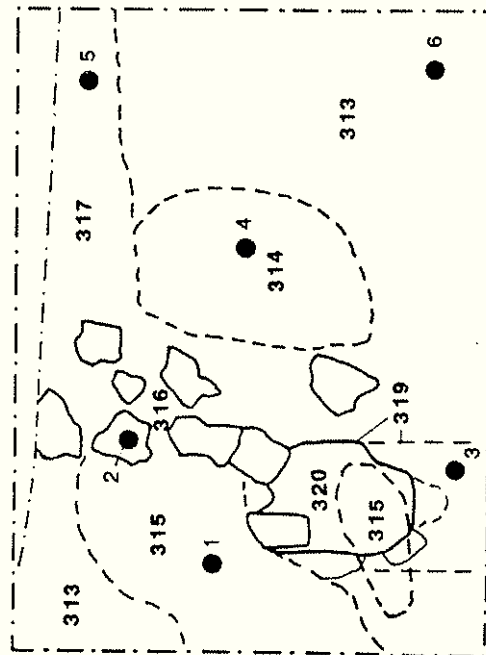
figure 4

Trench 3
plan 8

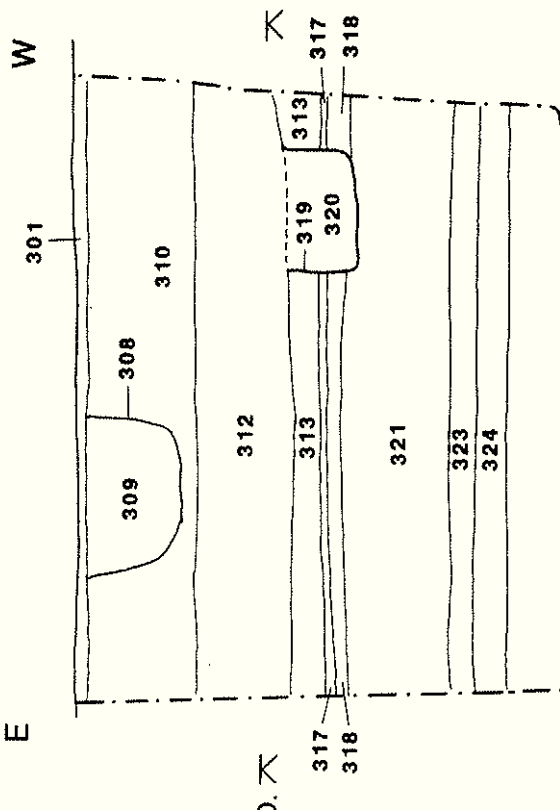


section

plan 9/10



section



55m.O.D. ↗

● levels in metres O.D.

- 1 55.40
- 2 55.33
- 3 55.38
- 4 55.40
- 5 55.34

- 1 54.97
- 2 54.92
- 3 54.91
- 4 54.93
- 5 54.79
- 6 54.87

gravel at this level



scale 1:25

OXHOR 94

figure 5

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