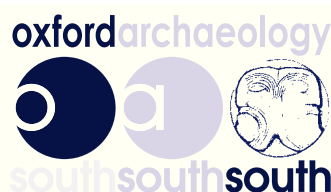


# Ven House Milborne Port Somerset



## Archaeological Watching Brief Report



April 2013

**Client: Slade Parry Ltd on behalf of  
Jasper Conran**

Issue No:1


OA Job No: 5095

NGR: Centred at ST 6814 1837





Client Name: Slade Parry Ltd on behalf of Jasper Conran  
Client Ref No:  
Document Title: Ven House, Milborne Port, Somerset  
Document Type: Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
Issue/Version Number: 1  
Grid Reference: Centred at: ST 6814 1837  
Planning Reference: 10/00674/FUL  
Invoice Code: MPSWIMWB  
OA Job Number: 5095  
Site Code: TTNCM56/2011  
Receiving Museum: Somerset County Museum Service  
Museum Accession No.: TTNCM56/2011

Issue	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by	Signature
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Document File Location: Projects on Server 1\Ven House, Milborne Port\Report  
Graphics File Location: Server 10:/oaupubs 1\_ItoQ\*TTNCM56/2011\*MPSWIMWB\*Ven  
House\*jc\*26.02.13  
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## Ven House, Milborne Port, Somerset

*Archaeological Watching Brief Report*

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Front cover: Approach to Ven House

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## Summary

*Between the 12th and 19th of February 2013 Oxford Archaeology conducted an archaeological watching brief during the excavation for a swimming pool at Ven House, Milborne Port, Somerset (centred at NGR: ST 6814 1837). The watching brief observed evidence for the initial landscaping and construction of the gardens in the 18th century, together with evidence for original garden features and two phases of cultivation. No evidence for any activity pre-dating the 18th century was observed.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA), was commissioned by Slade Parry Ltd on behalf of Mr Jasper Conran to undertake an archaeological watching brief on excavations related to the construction of a new swimming pool.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref: 10/00674/FUL). The Local Planning Authority did not set a brief for the work but indicated that a watching brief on ground works would be required.
- 1.1.3 OA produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) showing how it would meet the Planning Authority's requirements (OA 2011).
- 1.1.4 All work was undertaken in accordance with local and national planning policies (specifically PPS5 and South Somerset Local Plan, 2006).

### 1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is situated at Ven House which is to the south of the London Road on the south-eastern edge of the village of Milborne Port, nr Sherborne at NGR 368141 118370 (Fig. 1). The location of the proposed new swimming pool is to the south-east of the house at the end of the formal axis running along the centre of the walled kitchen garden and adjacent to a stone 'temple' or pavilion building.
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development is currently grassed with an area of flagstone paving in front of the pavilion building and is roughly level at approximately 69.7m OD.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is clay, sand and gravel alluvial deposits over Oolite Mudstone and Limestone.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 Ven House is an important Grade 1 listed House and the site of the new swimming pool is situated in its curtilage which also forms part of the listed park and garden. Details from the Somerset Historic Environment Record for the Ven House Gardens are reproduced below.

**Somerset Historic Environment Record.** 55173

**Site Name:** Ven House Gardens, Milborne Port

**HISTORIC LANDSCAPE REGISTER:** Parks and Gardens (Grade II)

**Civil Parish:** Milborne Port



**Grid Ref:** ST 68 18 (ST 61 NE)

**Details:** Remnants of early C18 formal gardens, together with remnants of a contemporary formal park landscape.

## HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Ven, or Fenn, existed as a hamlet in the mid C13 (VCH, 1999). By the C16, the manor belonged to the Carent family, who sold it to Sir Edward Carteret in 1679. When Sir Edward died c 1683, his son, Sir Charles Carteret first mortgaged the property to Thomas Medlycot and subsequently sold it to Thomas' brother, James Medlycot, the son of a lawyer and politician, and grandson of a City of London dyer (Bond, 1998; VCH, 1999). James Medlycot commissioned Nathaniel Ireson of Wincanton to build a new house at Ven in the early 1720s. Richard Grange was commissioned to lay out formal gardens and woodland walks. This work is recorded on a series of plans (CL, 1911) which show a formal approach from the north and a terrace and steps leading to a walled lawn and parterre to the south of the house. A plan of 1739 shows a walled kitchen garden beyond the stable court to the east of the house, while to the west of the house was an elaborate scheme of walks, serpentine paths, statues, pavilions and a canal. However, it is unclear whether the gardens to the west of the house were ever fully realised in the form shown by Grange (VCH, 1999). During the late C18 and early C19, the formal gardens were removed, leaving only the walled enclosure to the south of the house, the kitchen garden, and other vestiges. C19 views show the house standing among lawns and shrubberies (VCH, 1999). In 1835, Decimus Burton produced a scheme for remodelling the house, which included the construction of a conservatory to the south-west of the original house, together with a new service court to the east. During the C19 the park was extended to the south-west of the house, and axial avenues were planted, perhaps replacing early C18 features (VCH, 1999). Ven was cited as an example of a surviving formal garden by Reginald Blomfield (1892), and was described in *Country Life* (1898, 1911).

Ven descended through the Medlycot family throughout the C18 and C19. Between 1918 and 1925 much of the estate was sold, and from the early C20 the house was let to a succession of tenants. Sir Hubert Mervyn Medlycot sold Ven in 1957, and the house passed through several hands in the second half of the C20. In the 1990s new formal gardens were laid out within the surviving framework of the early C18 gardens, while further alterations were made to the house and service quarters. Today (2004), Ven remains in private ownership.

## SITE DESCRIPTION

### LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

Ven House is situated c 0.5km east of the centre of Milborne Port. The site is divided into two unequal areas by the A30 London Road, which passes from north-west to south-east c 80m north-east of the house. The c 70ha site comprises 6ha of formal gardens and pleasure grounds, and c 64ha of parkland. The site is enclosed by a variety of fences and hedges, and to the west adjoins domestic properties in Milborne Port. To the south-west the site adjoins a minor road leading south from Milborne Port to Goathill, while the south-eastern boundary is formed by the A30 London Road; elsewhere, the site adjoins agricultural land. The site is generally level, rising gently towards its south-western and north-eastern boundaries.



## ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

Ven House is approached from the A30 London Road to the north-east at a point c 0.5km south-east of its junction with High Street and East Street. The entrance is marked by a pair of C18 wrought-iron gates supported by a pair of rusticated Ham stone piers which are in turn flanked by stone balustrades terminating in cut and squared stone sweeps (all listed grade I). From the entrance a drive leads c 50m south-west between areas of level lawn, to reach a gravelled carriage turn beneath the north-east facade of the house. The stable and service court (listed grade I), rebuilt by Decimus Burton in 1823, is situated to the south-east of the house and is entered through an arch set in a two-storey pavilion. The court was altered in the late C20 (VCH, 1999). A service drive providing access to the kitchen garden, leads south-west from the A30 London Road at a point c 150m south-east of the principal entrance. A further entrance leads into the site from Brook Street to the west of the house, and is marked by an early C19 lodge.

The principal entrance was constructed c 1823 when the present London Road was formed, cutting through the early C18 formal approach. The early C19 entrance may make use of elements of the early C18 entrance which was situated on a road which ran through the park c 300m north-east of the house linking East Street, Milborne Port and The Old Road. This road survived to be shown on the Tithe map (1839), but had been removed by the late C19 (OS, 1887). Richard Grange's plan shows that the early C18 entrance comprised a pair of gates and piers flanked by pedestrian gates and concave quadrant walls surmounted by railings. The entrance led to a drive aligned on the north-east facade of the house, which extended between lawns surrounding simple geometrical ponds or planting beds. The lawns were enclosed to north-west and south-east by straight avenues which extended north-east to clairvoyees overlooking the road. The drive entered a walled forecourt north-east of the house through further gates supported by rusticated stone piers; these may correspond to the those at the present principal entrance. Grange's plan indicates that the forecourt was laid out with an elliptical carriage turn enclosing a lawn. The approximate line of the early C18 approach is marked in the park north-east of London Road by a late C19 avenue.

## PRINCIPAL BUILDING

Ven House (listed grade I) stands on an artificially raised terrace towards the centre of the site. The building is constructed in red brick with Ham stone dressings and ornaments under a hipped slate roof which is concealed by parapets. The house is rectangular on plan with curved wings extending north-east and north-west to a pair of two-storey rectangular pavilions (listed grade I). A further two-storey corridor (listed grade I) extends south-west to connect the house with an early C19 brick, Ham stone and glass conservatory (listed grade I). An early C19 service and stable court (listed grade I) is situated to the south-east of the house. The principal block comprises three storeys rising from a rusticated basement, while the entrance and garden facades to the north-east and south-west are articulated by giant pilasters rising through two storeys. The pilasters support a stone cornice and panelled pilasters which separate the attic windows. The balustraded parapet supports a series of terracotta urns. The south-east and north-west facades are of more plain design.





Ven House was constructed by Nathaniel Ireson of Wincanton for James Medlycot, and was completed c 1735. The building was altered in 1836 when Decimus Burton made changes to the interior and added the conservatory and linking corridor. Ven is considered to be an important example of an early C18 country house (listed building description).

## GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

Formal gardens are situated to the north-east and south-west of the house, with further areas of more informal pleasure grounds to the north-west and south-east.

To the north-east of the house, the drive is flanked by areas of lawn planted with mature specimen cedars. An avenue of clipped yews extends north-east on the axis of the entrance to the stable court (CL, 1911).

A stone flagged terrace (listed grade I) extends the full width of the south-west facade of the house, overlooking an enclosed lawn. The terrace is enclosed to the south-west by a low stone balustrade with piers capped by urns. To the south-east the terrace is terminated by broad flights of stone steps which descend to the pleasure grounds, while to the north-west it adjoins Burton's early C19 conservatory. A further broad flight of stone steps of sweeping design descends on the central axis of the house to the lower lawn, which is enclosed to north-west and south-west by early C18 brick walls (listed grade II). The walls are broken by a series of ashlar piers, while the south-east wall contains a gateway flanked by piers surmounted by ball finials. Stone steps descend at the southern end of each wall to the pleasure grounds. To the south-west the lawn is enclosed by a raised grass walk enclosed on its north-eastern side by a late C20 stone balustrade. A centrally-placed flight of stone steps descends from this walk to the level of the lawn, replacing, at the lower level, a C19 curved stone bench seat (listed grade II) which is shown in late C19 photographs (CL, 1898). Similarly, mop-headed Portugal laurels on the raised walk shown in early C20 photographs have been removed (CL, 1911). The enclosed lawn has a central circular pool containing a carved figure of Neptune, and a central gravelled walk extending from the terrace to the raised walk. The gravel walk is flanked by panels of lawn planted with topiary yew obelisks, and low yew hedged enclosures with centrally-placed stone urns on pedestals. The lawn was laid out in its present form in the late C20. Late C19 and early C20 photographs show a much simpler arrangement with cruciform walks converging at the central pool, which at that time contained a C19 two-tier stone fountain (CL, 1898, 1911). Richard Grange's plan (1739) shows the south garden laid out with ramped boundary walks, and a symmetrical arrangement of lawns containing serpentine flower beds flanking a central canal extending from north-east to south-west (CL, 1911).

To the west of the house is an area of informal pleasure ground, comprising lawns, shrubberies and mature trees, through which a serpentine stream flows from south-east to north-west. This replaces a complex baroque scheme shown by Grange (1739), with a wilderness with serpentine walks and groves to the north of the house, and a formal canal extending north-west from the house. The present serpentine pool is the remnant of this feature. The formal gardens, if ever fully completed (Bond, 1998), were removed by the time the Tithe map was surveyed in 1839.



A further area of informal woodland pleasure ground is situated to the south-east of the house. A walk extends south-east from a gate leading from the south-west walled garden to the boundary of the pleasure grounds. The axis of this walk is projected further south-east by an avenue in the park (OS, 1887). The walk is adjoined to the north-east by a stream, which flows through the pleasure grounds from south-east to north-west before entering a culvert passing beneath the south terrace and re-emerging in serpentine pool in the western pleasure grounds. At the southern corner of the kitchen garden the stream is crossed by a stone double bridge (listed grade II). Probably of C18 construction, the bridge is 'L' shaped on plan, and has two arches, the larger forming the entrance to the culvert. The area to the east of the house appears as an approximately square enclosure on Grange's plan (1739), but is not otherwise delineated (CL, 1911).

## THE PARK

The park is situated principally to the north-east of the house, beyond the A30 London Road, with a further area extending south-west from the house.

The north park rises gently towards its northern and eastern boundaries, where it is enclosed by a belt of mixed plantation. The park remains principally as pasture, with scattered specimen trees. An avenue extends north-east through the park to East Hill on the axis of the north-east facade of the house. With the exception of this avenue, which is first shown on the 1887 OS, the north park is shown on the Tithe map (1839) much as it survives today, with the boundary planting and scattered clumps of trees shown on the rising ground north-east of the house.

The south park also rises gently towards the south-western boundary. This area is in mixed agricultural use, with an avenue extending the south-western axis of the house and formal garden leading to the Goathill road. It is unclear when the south park was first enclosed, but it appears to have been extended to its full extent in the late C19 (OS, 1887; VCH, 1999).

## KITCHEN GARDEN

The kitchen garden is situated c 50m south-east of the house, immediately south-east of the service court. The garden is approximately rectangular on plan, and is enclosed to the north, south and west by red brick walls c 4m high (listed grade II). The walls are surmounted by ashlar coping. To the east the garden is enclosed by a lower rubble stone wall (listed grade II). Gateways in the centre of the north and south walls are closed by wrought-iron gates supported by brick piers surmounted by stone ball finials. A similar elaborate wrought-iron gate in the centre of the east wall is supported by ashlar piers surmounted by urn finials (piers and gates all listed grade II). The kitchen garden remains in cultivation, although now (2004) largely used as an ornamental garden. A summerhouse, said to be constructed from elements of the demolished house at Bowood, Wiltshire (qv) was constructed in the kitchen garden in the late C20 (VCH, 1999). A further, approximately triangular walled enclosure is situated to the north of the kitchen garden, and is similarly enclosed by red brick walls (listed grade II). This area has traditionally been used as a nursery garden (OS, 1887).



The kitchen garden was constructed in the early C18 as part of Grange's scheme for the gardens. It is recorded on the Tithe map (1839), but the Nursery garden to the north is not marked. This is first shown on the 1887 OS.

## REFERENCES

- R Blomfield, *The Formal Garden in England* (1892), p 111  
Country Life, 4 (29 October 1898), pp 528-32  
Country Life, 29 (24 June 1911), pp 924-34  
N Pevsner, *The Buildings of England: South and West Somerset* (1958), p 327  
J Bond, *Somerset Parks and Gardens* (1998), pp 70, 122, 133  
Victoria History of the County of Somerset, vii (1999), pp 143-5

## Maps

- Tithe map for the parish of Milborne Port, 1839 (Somerset RO: M5269/1)  
OS 6" to 1 mile: first edition, published 1887  
Revision of 1930

## Illustrations

- Watercolour view of Ven House from the north, 1843, published in VCH (1999), pl I27  
Late C19 and early C20 photographs published in CL (1898, 1911), and in *Gardens Old and New* (1906)  
C Holme, *Gardens of England in the Southern and Western Counties* (1910)

## Archival items

- Medlycot family archive including early C18 building and garden records for Ven House: Somerset RO DD/MDL  
R Grange, plans of the gardens at Ven House, 1739 (private collection; published in CL, 1911)

- 1.3.2 In June 2011 two boreholes were dug in the vicinity of the proposed swimming pool by South West Geotechnical to test ground conditions. These demonstrated that 0.3m of topsoil overlies 0.6m of tan silty clay made ground containing brick flecks. These deposits overlie a tan clay alluvium.

### **Potential**

- 1.3.3 The sites location within the formal gardens is such that there was the potential for deposits to be revealed which related to previous phases of the historic garden such as formal beds and planting holes, paths or statue bases. There was an unknown potential for archaeological features from earlier periods.



## 2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The general aims of the watching brief were:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area.
- To record the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains affected by the proposed works.
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features within the site and to take samples where appropriate.
- To make available the results of the investigation.

2.1.2 Specific aims of the watching brief were:

- To investigate and record any surviving evidence of the historic gardens.
- To determine if archaeology pre-dating the house and gardens survives below the historic gardens.

### 2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The proposed works included the removal of a paved area and steps located to the west of the pavilion and the excavation of a 13m by 6m rectangular pit, measuring up to 1.55m in depth for the installation of the swimming pool.

2.2.2 The watching brief was undertaken as a continuous archaeological presence during those works which had the potential to disturb or destroy archaeological deposits. The removal of the steps was undertaken without archaeological supervision, but the excavation of the pool was supervised.

2.2.3 The excavation was achieved using a small tracked excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. Where the work was undertaken within potentially archaeological deposits the material was removed in approximate 0.1m spits. Provision was made for the machining to be suspended where archaeological features needed to be cleaned and recorded. Where needed, hand excavation was undertaken in order to determine the extent and character of any features and to collect dating evidence.

2.2.4 Spoil generated by both the machine and hand excavations was examined for the presence of archaeological artefacts.

2.2.5 All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers, and context recording was in accordance with established OA practices and the standards and guidance presented in the Somerset County Council, Heritage Service Archaeological Handbook 2011. Bulk finds were collected by context. Black-and-white negative photographs and a digital photographic record was taken of all excavations, general settings and archaeological sections.

2.2.6 A site plan showing the location of excavations and any recorded sections was maintained and section drawings of features and sample sections drawn as required. Site plan and sample sections are illustrated on Figures 2 and 3.



### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 The underlying natural deposit, a layer of light yellowish grey fragmented and abraded limestone shale or gravel (6) was encountered at a depth of 1.4m below the current ground level (Fig. 3, Sections 1, 2 and 3). Within the northern half of the excavation this was overlaid by a layer of clean bluish grey silty clay (11) measuring between 0.35m and 0.5m in depth (Sections 2 and 3).
- 3.1.2 Running over the edge of layer 11 and overlying layer 6 elsewhere was a layer of clean light yellow-brown clay (5), up to 0.4m in depth (Sections 1 and 2). Above layer 5 was a 0.14m deep band of orangery brown silty sandy clay (4).
- 3.1.3 Layers 4 and 11 were covered by a deep layer of orangery yellow-brown silty clay (3) between 0.35m and 0.5m in depth. This deposit contained sand inclusions together with charcoal flecking and produced examples of both abraded and angular fragments of brick and tile, animal bone, oyster shells, a leather ladies shoe sole and a fragment of clay pipe stem. This deposit was homogeneous in composition and could be observed throughout the full extent of the excavated area.
- 3.1.4 Lying directly above layer 3 was a layer of grey-brown clayey silt loam measuring up to 0.28m in depth (2). This deposit ran the full width of the excavation. At the interface between layers 2 and 3 a number of faint parallel sided depressions filled with context 2 were observed (Fig. 2 and Fig. 3, Section 3). These are probable areas of deeper cultivation.
- 3.1.5 Layer 2 contained charcoal and mortar flecking and produced fragments of brick, tile, pottery, glass and metal.
- 3.1.6 Cut into the surface of layer 2 was a construction cut (10). This measured 4.1m wide, between 0.3m and 0.52m in depth and ran across the width of the excavation. Its centre line followed the axis running from the main entrance into the garden to the centre of the pavilion splitting the garden into two equal halves (Fig. 2 and Fig. 3, section 3). The base of the cut was irregular with 0.95m wide trenches, 0.18m deeper than the centre of the feature running down each side. Filling these trenches was a dark greyish brown clayey silt with charcoal flecking (9).
- 3.1.7 Above the fill of the trenches and running the full width of the feature was a layer of medium to large sized limestone fragments up to 0.33m in depth (8). These stones appear to have been carefully placed forming a compact and stable layer rather than just tipped. The upper surface of this layer had been formed to leave a 2.2m wide by 0.18m deep depression following the axis of the feature.
- 3.1.8 Filling this depression was a layer of coarse gravel within a dark yellow sandy clay matrix (7). This layer had been compacted and its upper surface formed with a pronounced camber.
- 3.1.9 Sealing 7, 8 and layer 2 elsewhere was an overall layer of dark grey-brown clayey loam (1). This was up to 0.25m deep and contained charcoal and mortar flecks and produced fragments of pottery, clay pipe, metal tubing, brick and tile.

#### 3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 Dating evidence or artefacts were collected from most of the contexts recorded which were not part of the natural geology of the site. This evidence includes fragments of flower pots, domestic pottery, animal bone, oyster shells, clay pipe, bottle glass, a



fragment of garden cloche glazing bar and numerous fragments of brick and tile. These finds were dated between the 18th and early 20th centuries.

### 3.3 Environmental remains

3.3.1 Given the nature and relatively modern date of the deposits recorded it was felt that little or no additional information would be produced by palaeo-environmental sampling.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The layer of fragmented limestone 6, observed at the base of the excavation represents the top of the underlying natural solid geology within the area. The composition of the layers of silty and sandy clay, 4, 5 and 11, suggests that they are all alluvial deposits, which is consistent with the sites location within the valley of the River Yeo. The positioning of layers 4 and 5 over layer 11 probably indicates that they were deposited in at least two separate events, the slope down to the south of layer 11 may indicate a period of erosion of this deposit.
- 4.1.2 The absence of any layers of organic stained material suggesting vegetation, or human activity such as cultivation, lying directly above these deposits may indicate that any such layers were stripped off prior to the landscaping of the gardens in the 18th century.
- 4.1.3 Layer 3 is a deep deposit of made ground, probably laid to level the area of the walled garden and also possibly to raise the area above the flood plain of the River Yeo. The kitchen garden itself is approximately 0.6m higher than the farmland immediately to the east. The deposit included fragments of both brick and tile, together with evidence of domestic refuse such as animal bone, oyster shell and charcoal flecking. It is probable that the fragments of brick and tile originate from the construction of either Ven House or its associated buildings during the early 1720s, while the presence of large numbers of workers would generate detritus from food preparation and cooking.
- 4.1.4 The bulk of the deposit itself may represent material removed during the excavation of the cellars for Ven House. The plan of Ven House from 1739 shows the kitchen garden already *in situ* which would suggest a date of deposition of between 1720 and 1739.
- 4.1.5 During the initial topsoil strip for the excavation of the swimming pool, faint traces of shallow soil filled linear depressions could be discerned within the surface of layer 3 (recorded within section 3). These probably represent the truncated remnants of deeper planting trenches associated with the working life of the kitchen garden.
- 4.1.6 The composition of layer 2 is indicative of a cultivated soil and it probably represents the original landscaping deposit of topsoil within the kitchen garden. It is possible that this material is the topsoil removed from the area prior to the deposition of layer 3 during the gardens initial construction and that it is then redeposited. Other than those associated with feature 10, no individual planting beds could be observed within the surface of this layer, although the homogeneity of the deposit would have made this difficult. Fragments of flower pot and a length of cloche glazing bar were recovered from this deposit which are in accord with its interpretation as a horticultural deposit.
- 4.1.7 Observed cut into this layer was the south-east to north-west linear feature (10). This ran along the centre line of the kitchen garden dividing it in two equal halves and forming the major access route or path through the garden. The feature itself appears to consist of two distinct phases.



- 4.1.8 The earliest phase consists of two deeper trenches running along either side of the feature filled with the silty loam, 9. These appear to be the truncated remnants of planting beds and it is possible that these originally contained box or yew hedging forming a formal edging to the side of the original path.
- 4.1.9 During the later phase these hedges, and possibly evidence of the original paths construction, have been removed and a compacted layer of limestone (8) laid across the full width of the path. The 2.2m wide layer of gravel, 7, probably formed the path surface itself. The presence of the limestone either side of the gravel path might indicate that there were originally low drystone walls (similar to that forming the eastern wall of the garden) flanking the path, but which have since been reduced in height below ground level. No dating evidence was found in any of the deposits within feature 10 making it difficult to fix these phases within the life of the garden. Conversations with the gardeners suggest that the gravel path was still visible in the latter part of the 20th century.
- 4.1.10 Layer 1 is the present day topsoil and turf. Since this layer seals the gravel path 7, it is probable that it is relatively late in date and may have been deposited when the garden underwent a major change in use from a kitchen garden to a more formal ornamental garden in the 1980s. During this change the present layout of yew hedges, pleached limes and grassed avenues was introduced and the temple/pavillion constructed. It is unclear if this deposit originated within the garden or if it represents material imported from outside.
- 4.1.11 No evidence of any activity pre-dating the construction of the kitchen garden was observed during the course of the watching brief. The sites location close to the River Yeo may have precluded any activity other than pastoral use due to flooding, but the truncation of the area during the construction of the garden (see paragraph 4.1.2) has destroyed any evidence to either confirm or refute any earlier use of the area.



## APPENDIX A. ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Type	Depth	Width	Length	Comments	Finds	Date
1	Layer	0.25m	> 13m	> 6m	Present day topsoil and turf	Brick, tile, pot, metal	C20th
2	Layer	0.28m	> 13m	> 6m	Earlier phase of cultivated soil	Brick, tile, pot, metal	C18th/ C19th
3	Layer	0.35m – 0.5m	> 13m	> 6m	Made ground	Brick, tile, bone, shell, clay pipe	C18th
4	Layer	0.14m	> 7m	> 6m	Alluvial deposit	-	-
5	Layer	0.4m	> 8m	> 6m	Alluvial deposit	-	-
6	Layer	> 0.1m	> 13m	> 6m	Fragmented natural limestone	-	-
7	Surface	0.18m	2.2m	> 6m	Gravel path	-	C18th/ C19th
8	Layer	0.18m – 0.3m	4.1m	> 6m	Hardcore base for path 7, possibly also foundations for truncated drystone walls?	-	C18th/ C19th
9	Fill	0.18m	0.95m	> 6m	Truncated backfill of planting trenches on either side of an earlier pathway	-	C18th
10	Cut	0.18m – 0.3m	4.1m	> 6m	Construction cut for pathway bisecting the kitchen garden	-	C18th/ C19th
11	Layer	0.3- 0.4m	> 8m	> 6m	Alluvial deposit	-	-
12	Layer	0.18m	4m	8m	Crushed stone base for steps and paving slabs fronting the pavilion	-	C20th





## APPENDIX B. REFERENCES

- OA 2011                      Ven House, Milborne Port, Sherborne, Dorset. Written Scheme of Investigation for a Watching Brief



## APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Ven House, Milborne Port, Somerset
Site code:	TTNCM56/2011
Grid reference:	Centred at: ST 6814 1837
Type of watching brief:	Watching brief on the machine excavation of a new swimming pool
Date and duration of project:	Between the 12 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> of February 2013, 4 days on site.
Area of site:	Area of pool excavation c.13x6m
Summary of results:	The watching brief observed evidence for the initial landscaping and construction of the gardens in the 18th century, together with evidence for original garden features (a path) and two phases of cultivation. No evidence for any activity pre-dating the 18th century was observed.
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at Janus House and will be deposited with the Museum Collection at Somerset Heritage Centre under the accession number: TTNCM 56/2011 following completion of the project.

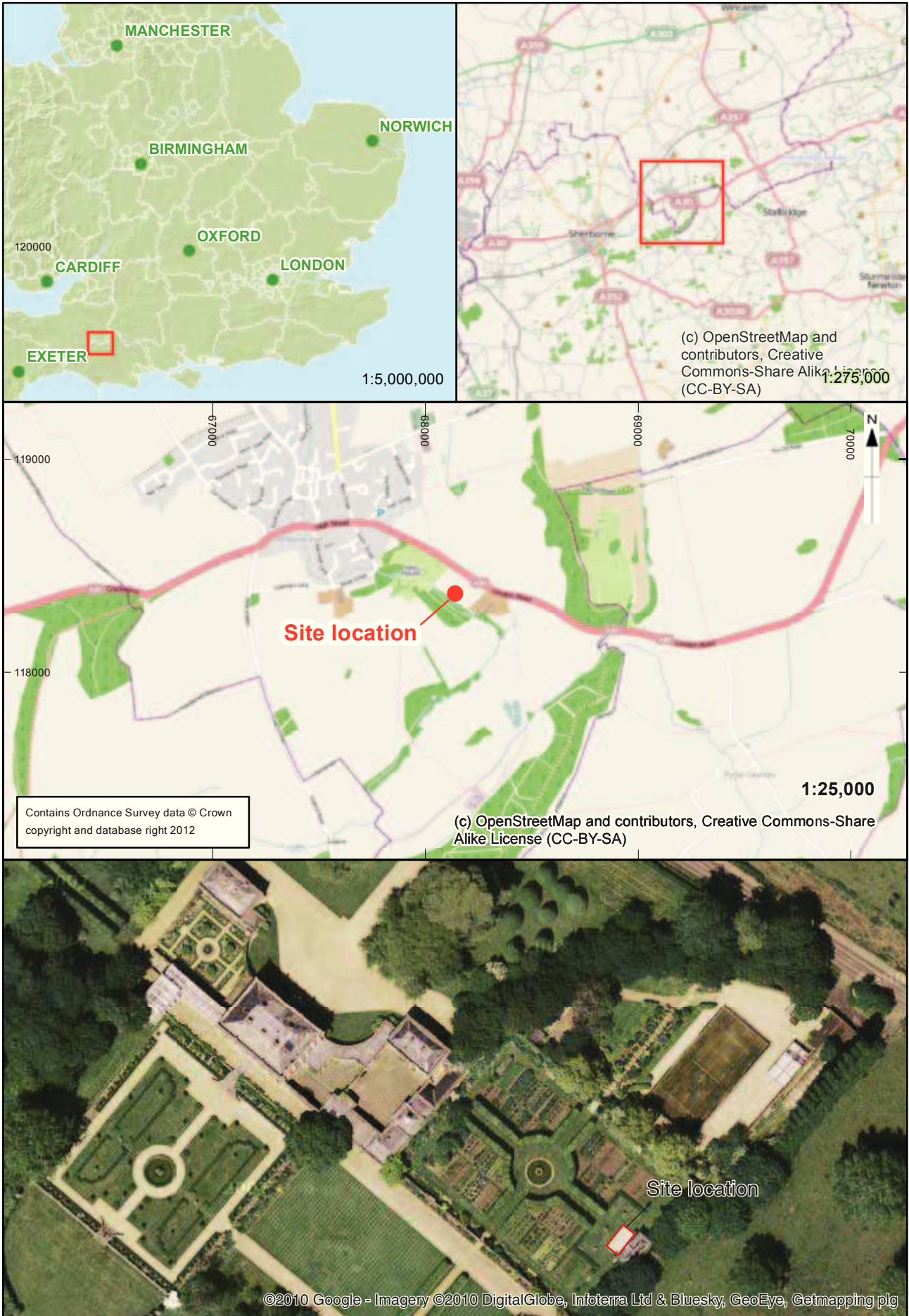


Figure 1: Site location



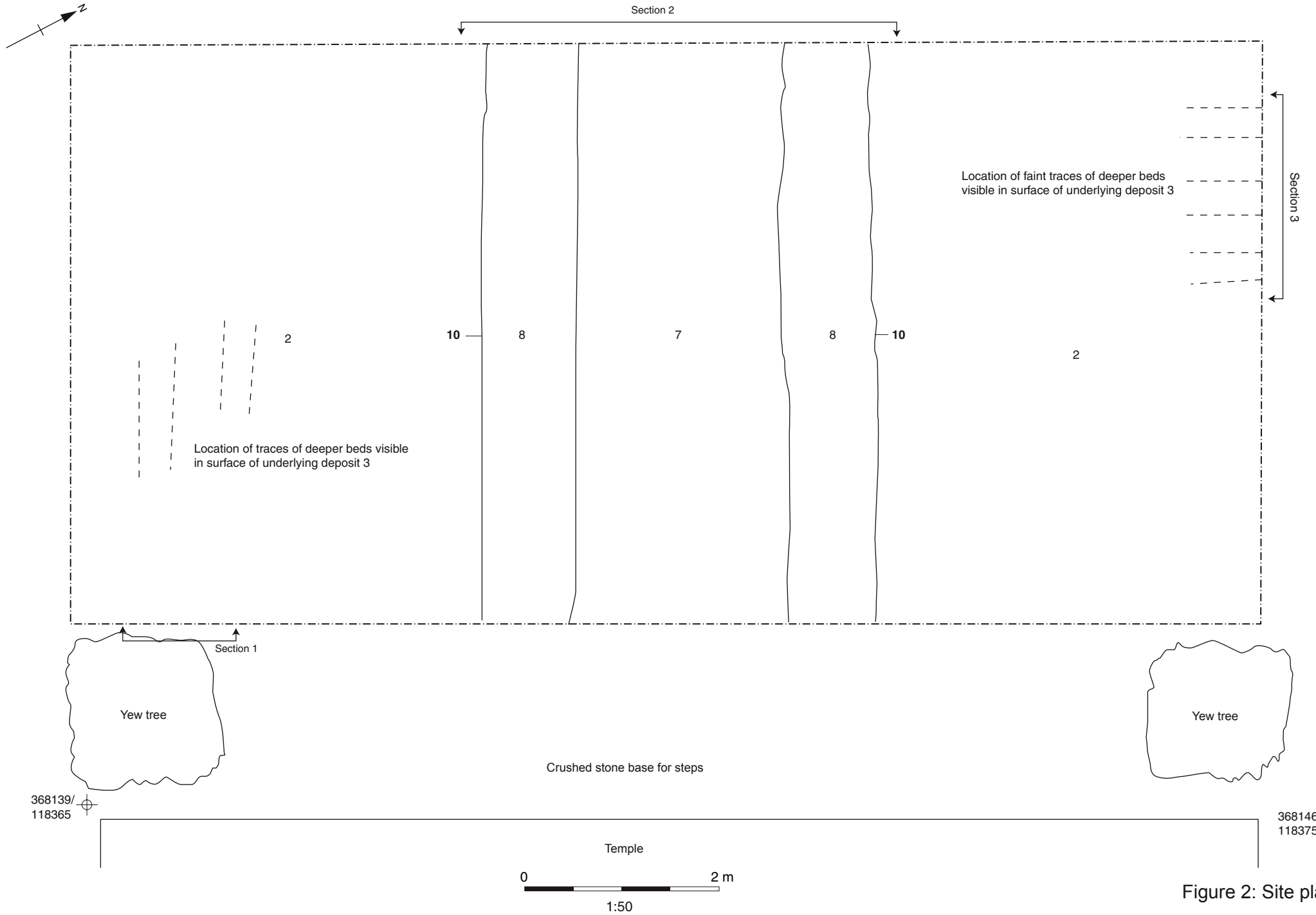
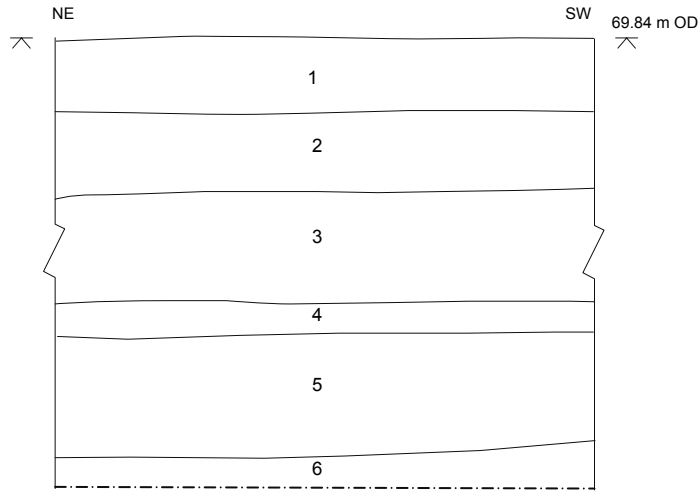


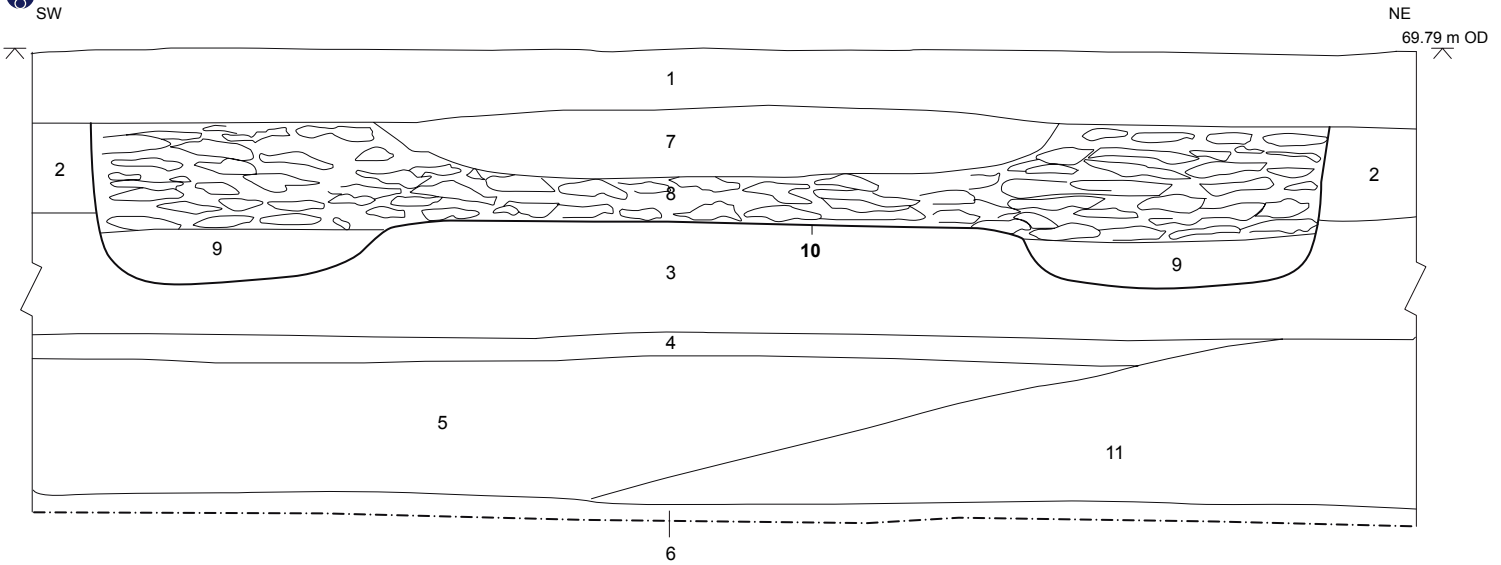
Figure 2: Site plan



### Section 1



### Section 2



### Section 3

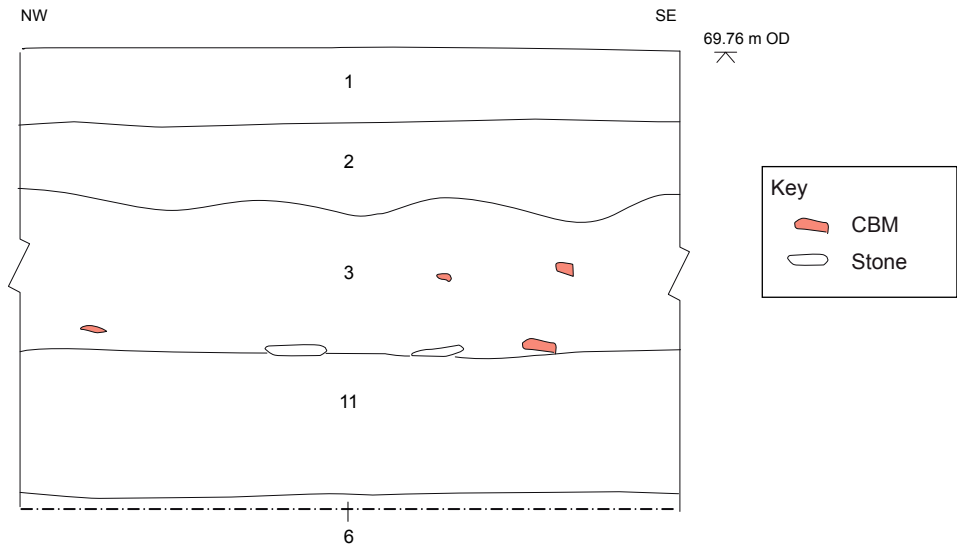


Figure 3: Sections







Plate 1: Path 7



Plate 2: Section 2







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