

Mentmore Towers

Mentmore

Buckinghamshire



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



November 2006

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SUMMARY

From 6th September 2006 to 25th September 2006 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Mentmore Towers, Mentmore, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP 9025 1963). The work was commissioned by EN-Plan on behalf of Buckingham Securities and involved a programme of archaeological monitoring of test pits being excavated in the park and house of Mentmore Towers. The watching brief did not reveal any archaeological features of major significance but the extent of made ground around the house and the level of the natural boulder clay was clarified. A gravel path to the north of the house was uncovered in clearance work for the borehole investigation. The foundations of a possible chimney or flue still extant in the wood to the north-east of the house were investigated but its function remains unclear and it is thought to be early 20th century in date. The construction and materials of the driveway to the south of the house were also recorded.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Between the 6th September 2006 and 25th September 2006 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Mentmore Towers, Mentmore, Buckinghamshire. The work was commissioned by EN-Plan on behalf of Buckingham Securities in respect of a planning application for the conversion of the house into a hotel and refurbishment and restoration of the garden (Planning Application No. 01/00922/APP).
- 1.1.2 The client intended to carry out investigations into the foundations of the house and ground around, by means of test pits, and into the construction and foundations of Cheddington Drive. These works fell under the conditions imposed by Buckinghamshire County Archaeology Service (BCAS) on the planning consent given in 2004.
- 1.1.3 Due to the short time-scale available, no project brief was set by BCAS. However, discussions between OA and BCAS informed the preparation of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing how OA would meet the requirements of the planning conditions that had been set.
- 1.1.4 The approved WSI indicated that these works should be subject to an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of the test pits both around the house and along the course of Cheddington Drive.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies on Gault and Boulder Clay at 110 m above OD. The site is approximately 10 hectares in area.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared for the WSI for the project (OA, 2006) and is summarised below.
- 1.3.2 The present house and gardens are a new creation of the mid 19th century, built partly on agricultural land and partly on the late 18th century and presumably earlier site of the village of Mentmore, part of which was moved to create the house and gardens.
- 1.3.3 Sir Joseph Paxton built the house and gardens between 1851 and 1854 for Baron Meyer Amschel de Rothschild. The house is now a Grade I listed building and the grounds, though much deteriorated from their prime, are registered as a Grade II* historic landscape.
- 1.3.4 Paxton also laid out Cheddington Drive, a long and indirect carriage approach to the house, giving opportunities to see the most dramatic views of the house, unlike the Main Drive, which is more direct and practical. The Drive also avoids the need to pass through the village. Cheddington Drive in large part utilises the line of the pre-1840 main road through the village. Part of the village, before it was moved by Paxton, lay along the road east of the house and south of the church. Archaeological remains of this part of the village may survive in this area.
- 1.3.5 One projected line for an early alignment or predecessor of Watling Street, currently favoured over the route north of Wing, runs directly under the house itself.
- 1.3.6 Roman/early Anglo Saxon inhumation and cremation burials were observed in the 19th century and an extensive cemetery may be located around 300 m east of the house.
- 1.3.7 The drive itself is of archaeological interest. It is an engineered route with indications of slight embanking and of lateral drainage. It is a gravel roadway and has clearly been given various top dressings of road stone and gravel at various times.
- 1.3.8 The house currently occupies a spur that is believed to have been artificially enhanced and terraced with the potential for early archaeological features surviving under the make up.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To monitor the excavation of all geotechnical test pits.
- 2.1.2 To identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas of the test pits.
- 2.1.3 Suggest appropriate archaeological mitigation for the effects of development on any archaeological deposits discovered.

2.1.4 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The watching brief was to observe the excavation of all the test pits being excavated around and inside the house as well as the test pits that were to be excavated along the length of Cheddington Drive. In addition, a number of bore holes were to be drilled on the footprint of the new Derby wing.
- 2.2.2 Test pits numbering twenty-four in total were excavated by hand around and inside the house. Nineteen test pits were excavated along the length of Cheddington Drive using a 180° mechanical digger.
- 2.2.3 During the works a brick pier or chimney was discovered in the wooded artificial mound immediately south of the churchyard. A small test pit was dug against it to investigate its foundations and function.
- 2.2.4 Any significant archaeological remains were planned at 1:20 or 1:50 and sections drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. All excavated features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

Outside the House

- 3.1.1 The test pits that were excavated around the outside of the house (Figs 3 and 6) revealed no ancient archaeological features and consisted entirely of a series of made layers, either laid down when the terrace the house sits upon was constructed or during the construction of the house itself. Natural clay was usually encountered at about a depth of *c* 0.7 m to 1 m below the made ground. However, the test pits dug alongside basements reached natural clay at a depth of *c* 2 m. The test pits dug alongside the basements therefore are more than likely situated in the foundation trenches dug when the basements were constructed. As no archaeological discoveries were made, only representative descriptions of a sample of the test pits excavated outside the house are reproduced below.

Test Pit 11

- 3.1.2 This test pit was situated along the southern facing elevation of the house and measured 1.3 m by 0.77 m and was excavated by hand to a depth of 1.38 m (Figs 3 and 6 section 1101). As with all the test pits dug around the outside of the house they were dug up against the side of the house in order to reveal the depth of the footings. The layers seen in section within this trench consisted of 0.16 m of topsoil (1100) overlying a 0.4 m layer of dark brown/grey silty made ground (1102) which in turn

overlies a soft silty clay dark brown/grey made ground layer (1103). Underneath the Yorkstone flags, which run around the entire house, a layer of pale yellow sandy mortar (1101) was visible, this layer most likely was laid down as a base for the York stones. No archaeological features could be seen in the Boulder Clay natural which was visible beneath the made ground layers at a depth of 1.3 m.

Test Pit 7

3.1.3 Test pit 7 was excavated along the west facing elevation of Mentmore Towers and measured 1.2 m by 1.35 m (Figs 3 and 6 section 701). This test pit was dug down alongside a known basement in order to reveal the depth of the basement footings. The trench reached a depth of 2.55 m. The wall foundations were 2.46 m deep and the layers within the trench consisted of layers of made ground *c* 2 m deep (702, 704) which then came down onto natural boulder clay (706). Service pipes could be seen within a service trench (705), which cut layer 704, running across the trench and were associated with the house. No archaeological features were visible within this test pit.

Test Pit 24

3.1.4 Among the trees on the artificial mound to the north-east of the house, and next to the churchyard, a large brick chimney structure was observed. A Test Pit 24 (Fig 5) was excavated along one side of this structure in order to ascertain whether it related to some buried structure, for example a kiln, or a bomb shelter. However foundations were uncovered that only reached a depth of 0.33 m, whilst no other structure of any kind was revealed. At the bottom of the trench running underneath the chimney and from the direction of the house, two large clay pipes were uncovered. It is possible that the pipes represented a method in which bad smells were directed away from the drains around the house and up into a flue/chimney that was situated away from the house. However, the origin of these pipes has not been traced so the theory remains unproved. In addition, the structure and its bricks look more typical of early 20th century work so may well represent a later alteration.

Inside the House

3.1.5 Seven test pits were hand dug within the basements of the house's servant quarters. It was anticipated that there was the possibility of the remains of an early Roman road running underneath the house and that one or more of the test pits, either inside or outside, might pick up some part of it. Excavation of the test pits revealed layers of made ground coming down onto natural boulder clay with no archaeological features present. Sample descriptions of the test pits excavated inside the house are reproduced below.

Test Pit 21

3.1.6 Test pit 21 was dug in a corridor in the lower part of the basement through a flag stone floor (Figs 3 and 6 section 2101). The test pit revealed a layer of made ground

(2100) 0.44 m deep overlaying natural boulder clay (2101). The test pit was excavated to a depth of 1.1 m. No archaeological deposits or remains could be seen within this test pit.

Test Pit 23a

3.1.7 Test pit 23a was hand excavated on an upper floor to the basements and was dug through a concrete floor (Figs 3 and 6 section 2300). The test pit was excavated to a depth of 1.16 m into a deep concrete layer (2303). The trench was not excavated any further on advice of the Geotechnical engineer and natural clay was therefore not reached. No archaeological deposits or remains were present in this test pit.

Cheddington Drive

3.1.8 Nineteen test pits were excavated by mechanical digger along the length of Cheddington Drive and were dug into the side of the driveway under archaeological supervision in order to recognise and record any archaeological features that may arise. Samples of the roadway gravels were also taken for geological identification. No archaeological features were seen in any of the test pits. A sample selection of the test pits excavated along Cheddington Drive are described below.

Test Pit (Road) 2

3.1.9 Test Pit (Road) 2 (Figs 4 and 7) was machine excavated to a depth of 0.4 m and was 1.57 m by 0.77 m in plan. The layers of the driveway were revealed and consisted of a dark pink/grey gravel top surface (211, gabbro-diorite from a northern or western igneous source) overlying a compact sandy yellow/orange stony layer (212, local gravels). Below the two overlying layers was a cobble stone layer (213, quartzite), which was not visible in any of the other test pits. The road then seems to sit upon natural boulder clay. The stone and gravel layers were sampled for geological identification (Table 1).

Test Pit (Road) 6

3.1.10 Test Pit (Road) 6 (Figs 4 and 7) was machined to a depth of 0.29 m and was 1.46 m by 0.65 m in plan. The layers of the drive way visible within this test pit consisted of a 0.10 m of a dark pink/grey gravel/stone surface (611; as 211, imported igneous rock) overlying a 0.15 m thick compact sandy yellow/orange stony sub-surface (612, local gravel). These road surfaces overlie natural boulder clay (613). No archaeological features were visible within the test pit. Geological samples were taken of the road surface layers (Table 1).

Test Pit (Road) 16

3.1.11 Test Pit (Road) 16 (Figs 4 and 7) was machine excavated to a depth of 0.4 m and measured 1.45 m by 0.54 m in plan. The road layers that were exposed consisted of an upper layer of dark pink/grey stone/gravel (1601, quartzite) overlying both a

compact orange/brown stony subsurface (1602, a mixture of quartz, sandstone, chalk and flint) and a compact yellow dried clay and crushed brick layer (1603). Natural boulder clay (1604) was reached at 0.28 m. The road surface layers were sampled for geological identification (Table 1). No archaeological features were encountered in the test pit.

Bore Holes

3.1.12 Six bore holes were sunk in the woods to the north-west of the house in the area of the proposed hotel accommodation building (Fig. 5). A 180° mechanical digger was employed to clear undergrowth and grade the area onto which the bore holes rig would sit.

3.1.13 An area of approximately 5 m x 5 m was cleared around the area of each bore hole. In most cases this involved the scrapping back of undergrowth and topsoil and only impacted into more topsoil. However in the area of bore hole 6 part of a gravel/ stone surface was revealed, composed of mid brown small stones. This surface represents the surface of the path that led from behind the house and down into the woods and despite being allowed to become overgrown over the years is still traceable on the surface.

3.2 Finds

3.2.1 Two pieces of animal bone were recovered from the made ground within Test Pit 15 and a single piece of clay pipe was recovered from the made ground within Test Pit 1. The animal bone was not further studied. The clay pipe stem fragment can be identified as a 19th century product but is missing further diagnostic features.

3.3 Geoarchaeology

Environmental Report on Gravels Sampled along Cheddington Drive

by Luke Howarth

Table 1

Sample / Context No.:	Description:	Comments:
<3> / (213) Test Pit Road 2	Three Cobbles (~15-20cm dia) of pale brown rock. Sub angular. Partly crystalline structure with some remnant sedimentary structure. Dominantly quartz with some Mica.	Quartzite
<10> / (1603) Test Pit Road 16	Many sub angular fragments of pale, friable material. Primarily composed of clay	Dried clay
<7> / (1101) Test Pit Road 11	Bag of residue containing pebbles of, flint (sub angular), chalk (sub rounded - rounded), sandstone (sub rounded - rounded). There is also a coarse sand component which is made up of the above.	

<3> / (213) Test Pit Road 2	Bag of residue containing pebbles of quartz, sandstone, flint, one fragment of tile and some fragments of crystalline aggregate of quartz crystals. (All sub ang - sub round)	
<4> / (611) Test Pit Road 6	Bag of sub angular - angular fragments. Made up of an intermediate igneous rock dominated by pink coloured phenocrysts of feldspar (~35%), crystals of quartz make up ~20%. The rest is made of mafic minerals, Amphibole and Pyroxene.	gabbro /diorite
<9> / (1602) Test Pit Road 16	Bag of residue made up of pebbles of quartz, sandstone, chalk and flint. Sub angular - sub round.	
<2> / (212) Test Pit Road 2	Bag of residue made up of pebbles of quartz, sandstone, chalk and flint. Sub ang - sub round.	
<5> / (612) Test Pit Road 6	Bag of residue made up of pebbles of quartz, sandstone, chalk and flint. Sub ang - sub round. Also some frags of marine shell, quite abraded.	
<1> / (211) Test Pit Road 2	Bag of sub angular - angular fragments. Made up of an intermediate igneous rock dominated by pink coloured phenocrysts of feldspar (~35%), crystals of quartz make up ~20%. The rest is made of mafic minerals, Amphibole and Pyroxene.	gabbro / diorite
<6> / (1100) Test Pit Road 11	Bag of sub angular - angular fragments. Made up of an intermediate igneous rock dominated by pink coloured phenocrysts of feldspar (~35%), crystals of quartz make up ~20%. The rest is made of mafic minerals, Amphibole and Pyroxene.	
<8> / (1601) Test Pit Road 16	A bag of residue primarily made up of fragments of a dark mauve coloured rock. Angular - sub angular, primarily quartz. Some remnant sediment structures	quartzite

3.3.1 The material described above falls into two categories material that is locally derived, which makes up the majority of the gravel i.e. the flint and the chalk. The quartzite and the gabbro/ diorite are not local to the region. Gabbro and Diorite are intermediate igneous rocks and are formed as part of igneous intrusion e.g. sills and dykes. These rock types are found in parts of Cornwall (Lizard, Bodmin), Wales (Pembrokeshire and Snowdonia) parts of the Lake District (e.g. round Cockermouth) also possibly from parts of the Scottish Highlands. There are also rocks of this type found around Brittany in France. The Quartzite (metamorphosed sandstone) has a similar distribution to that of the igneous material described, and was conceivably collected at the same time. Test Pit Road 11 was the only test pit sampled that produced only samples that were locally derived.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1.1 No ancient archaeological features were seen in any of the test pits dug either around the outside and inside of the house or along the length of Cheddington Drive. The

made ground that could be seen within the test pits in the vicinity of the house more than likely represents both the process of building up/levelling the terrace onto which the main house was built and material from construction trenches dug during the construction of the house itself.

- 4.1.2 The depths of made ground noted around the house would allow the reconstruction “on paper” of the pre-house ground levels.
- 4.1.3 The lack of archaeological features within the test pits along Cheddington Drive suggest an absence of activity in this particular area except for the laying down of the road surface itself. However, the area where it is believed part of the old village of Mentmore may have been situated and remains of Roman/early Anglo-Saxon cremations may be present was not examined during this phase of work.
- 4.1.4 The drive itself has a surprisingly slight structure. No obvious preparation of the substrate was noted other than the possible spread of crushed brick in Test Pit (Road) 16, although a general levelling is obvious on the ground. Test Pit (Road) 2 had a layer of quartzite cobbles as a foundation for the gravel spread forming the driving surface, but this was not seen elsewhere. In general, the drive was of one or two layers of local gravel thick, with an occasional top dressing of imported igneous roadstone.
- 4.1.5 The slight dip visible along the right hand side of the drive as the house is approached was the result of slumping of fill into a drainage ditch. In some of the Test Pits that extended this far, a ceramic drain pipe was seen.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Height</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Finds</i>
Test Pit 1						
100	Layer	0.20 m			Topsoil	No
101	Layer	0.12 m			Mortar Base	No
102	Layer	0.29 m			Made Ground	Clay Pipe
103	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit 2						
200	Layer	0.32 m			Topsoil	No
201	Layer	0.10 m			Made Ground	No
202	Layer	0.39 m			Made Ground	No
203	Structure	0.68 m			Foundation Wall	No
204	Layer	0.30 m			Mortar Base	No
205	Structure	1.07 m			Concrete Footing	No
206	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit 3						
300	Layer	0.29 m			Topsoil	No
301	Layer	0.16 m			Mortar Base	No
302	Layer	0.24 m			Made Ground	No
303	Layer	0.56 m			Made Ground	No
304	Structure	0.48 m			Foundation Wall	No
305	Structure	0.66 m			Concrete Footing	No
306	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit 4						
400	Layer	0.34 m			Topsoil	No
401	Layer	0.30 m			Made Ground	No
402	Layer	0.11 m			Made Ground	No
403	Layer	0.50 m			Made Ground	No
404	Layer	-	-		Natural	No
Test Pit 5a						
500	Layer	0.23 m			Topsoil	No
501	Layer	0.90 m			Made Ground	No

502	Layer	0.55 m			Made Ground	No
Test Pit 5						
503	Layer	0.55 m			Topsoil	No
504	Layer	0.62 m			Made Ground	No
505	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit 6						
600	Layer	0.11 m			Topsoil	No
601	Layer	0.21 m			Made Ground	No
602	Layer	1.34 m			Made Ground	No
603	Layer	0.08 m			Made Ground	No
604	Layer	0.26 m			Concrete Base	No
605	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit 7						
700	Layer	0.11 m			Topsoil	No
701	Layer	0.20 m			Made Ground	No
702	Layer	0.27 m			Made Ground	No
703	Fill	1.70 m			Service Trench Fill	No
704	Layer	1.70 m			Made Ground	No
705	Cut	1.70 m			Service Trench	No
706	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit 8						
800	Layer	0.15 m			Topsoil	No
801	Layer	0.25 m			Concrete Base	No
802	Layer	0.50 m			Made Ground	No
803	Layer	0.44 m			Made Ground	No
804	Fill	0.68 m			Service Trench Fill	No
805	Cut	0.68 m			Service Trench	No
806	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit 9						
900	Layer	0.14 m			Topsoil	No
901	Layer	0.21 m			Concrete Base	No
902	Layer	0.64 m			Made Ground	No
903	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit 10						
1000	Layer	0.16 m			Topsoil	No

1001	Layer	0.18 m			Concrete Base	No
1002	Layer	0.42 m			Made Ground	No
1003	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit 11						
1100	Layer	0.16 m			Topsoil	No
1101	Layer	0.26 m			Concrete Base	No
1102	Layer	0.40 m			Made Ground	No
1103	Layer	0.75 m			Made Ground	No
1104	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit 12						
1200	Layer	0.19 m			Topsoil	No
1201	Layer	0.26 m			Concrete Base	No
1202	Layer	0.77 m			Made Ground	No
1203	Layer	0.28 m			Made Ground	No
1204	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit 13						
1300	Layer	0.17 m			Topsoil	No
1301	Layer	0.22 m			Made Ground	No
1302	Layer	0.11 m			Made Ground	No
1303	Layer	2.09 m			Made Ground	No
1304	Layer	0.33 m			Concrete Base	No
1305	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit 14						
1401	Layer	0.31 m			Topsoil	No
1402	Layer	0.38 m			Concrete Base	No
1403	Layer	0.70 m			Made Ground	No
1404	Fill	0.57 m			Fill of service trench	No
1405	Cut	0.57 m			Service Trench	No
1406	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit 15						
1500	Layer	0.21 m			Topsoil	No
1501	Fill	0.84 m			Service trench fill	No
1502	Layer	0.38 m			Made Ground	Animal Bone
1503	Structure	0.50 m			Brick Foundation	No
1504	Structure	0.98 m			Concrete Foundation	No

1505	Cut	0.84 m			Service trench	No
1506	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit 16						
1600	Layer	0.26 m			Topsoil	No
1601	Layer	0.25 m			Made Ground	No
1602	Layer	0.97 m			Made Ground	No
1603	Layer	0.18 m			Concrete Base	No
1604	Fill	0.73 m			Service trench fill	No
1605	Layer	0.61 m			Made Ground	No
1606	Structure	0.49 m			Brick Foundation	No
1607	Structure	0.90 m			Concrete Foundation	No
1608	Cut	0.73m			Service trench	No
1609	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit 17						
1700	Floor	0.06m			Concrete Slab	No
1701	Layer	0.05 m			Concrete Base	No
1702	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit 18						
1801	Structure	0.26 m			Brick Foundation	No
1802	Layer	0.24 m			Concrete Base	No
1803	Structure	0.78 m			Concrete Foundation	No
1804	Layer	0.25 m			Solid stone/flint layer	No
1805	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit 19						
1901	Layer	0.31 m			Concrete Base	No
1902	Layer	0.14 m			Made Ground	No
1903	Layer	0.10 m			Made Ground	No
1904	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit 20						
2001	Structure	0.18 m			Cement Foundation	No
2002	Structure	0.31 m			Cement Foundation	No
2003	Structure	0.29 m			Cement Foundation	No
2004	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit 21						
2100	Layer	0.44 m			Concrete Base	No

2101	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit 22						
2201	Layer	-			Concrete Foundation	No
Test Pit 23						
2301	Layer	0.38 m			Rubble/Brick	No
2302	Layer	-			Concrete Layer	No
Test Pit 23a						
2303	Layer	-			Concrete Layer	No
Test Pit 24						
2401	Layer	0.12 m			Topsoil	No
2402	Layer	-			Subsoil	No
Test Pit Road 1						
110	Layer	0.11 m			Topsoil	No
111	Layer	0.11m			Road Surface	No
112	Layer	0.12 m			Sub Surface	No
113	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit Road 2						
210	Layer	0.10 m			Topsoil	No
211	Layer	0.07 m			Road Surface	No
212	Layer	0.09 m			Sub Surface	No
213	Layer	0.14 m			Cobbled Surface	No
214	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit Road 3						
310	Layer	0.12 m			Topsoil	No
311	Layer	0.04 m			Road Surface	No
312	Layer	0.09 m			Road Surface	No
313	Layer	0.10 m			Sub Surface	No
314	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit Road 4						
410	Layer	0.18 m			Topsoil	No
411	Layer	0.02 m			Road Surface	No
412	Layer	0.07 m			Road Surface	No
413	Layer	0.10 m			Sub Surface	No
414	Layer	-			Natural	No

Test Pit Road 5						
510	Layer	0.12 m			Topsoil	No
511	Layer	0.10 m			Road Surface	No
512	Layer	0.11 m			Sub Surface	No
513	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit Road 6						
610	Layer	0.11 m			Topsoil	No
611	Layer	0.10 m			Road Surface	No
612	Layer	0.16 m			Sub Surface	No
613	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit Road 7						
710	Layer	0.14 m			Topsoil	No
711	Layer	0.16 m			Road Surface	No
712	Layer	0.12 m			Sub Surface	No
713	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit Road 8						
810	Layer	0.17 m			Topsoil	No
811	Layer	0.08 m			Road Surface	No
812	Layer	0.16 m			Sub Surface	No
813	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit Road 9						
910	Layer	0.15 m			Topsoil	No
911	Layer	0.2 m			Road Surface	No
912	Layer	0.22 m			Sub Surface	No
913	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit Road 10						
1010	Layer	0.10 m			Road Surface	No
1011	Layer	0.32 m			Sub Surface	No
1012	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit Road 11						
1100	Layer	0.07 m			Road Surface	No
1101	Layer	0.27 m			Sub Surface	No
1102	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit Road 12						
1210	Layer	0.03 m			Road Surface	No

1211	Layer	0.34 m			Sub Surface	No
1212	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit Road 13						
1310	Layer	0.19 m			Road Surface	No
1311	Layer	0.17 m			Sub Surface	No
1312	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit Road 14						
1400	Layer	0.11 m			Topsoil	No
1401	Layer	0.08 m			Road Surface	No
1402	Layer	0.35 m			Sub Surface	No
1403	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit Road 15						
1500	Layer	0.10 m			Topsoil	No
1501	Layer	0.04 m			Road Surface	No
1502	Layer	0.27 m			Sub Surface	No
1503	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit Road 16						
1600	Layer	0.12 m			Topsoil	No
1601	Layer	0.07 m			Road Surface	No
1602	Layer	0.11 m			Sub Surface	No
1603	Layer	0.16 m			Sub Surface	No
Test Pit Road 17						
1700	Layer	0.10 m			Topsoil	No
1701	Layer	0.05 m			Road Surface	No
1702	Layer	0.20 m			Sub Surface	No
1703	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit Road 18						
1800	Layer	0.11 m			Topsoil	No
1801	Layer	0.10 m			Road Surface	No
1802	Layer	0.30 m			Sub Surface	No
1803	Layer	-			Natural	No
Test Pit Road 19						
1900	Layer	0.12 m			Topsoil	No
1901	Layer	0.08 m			Road Surface	No
1902	Layer	0.18 m			Sub Surface	No

1903	Layer	0.27 m			Sub Surface	No
1904	Layer	-			Natural	No

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

IFA, 2001 *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

OA, 1992 *Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson)

OA, 2006 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring*

APPENDIX 4 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Mentmore Towers, Mentmore, Buckinghamshire

Site code: BUMENT06

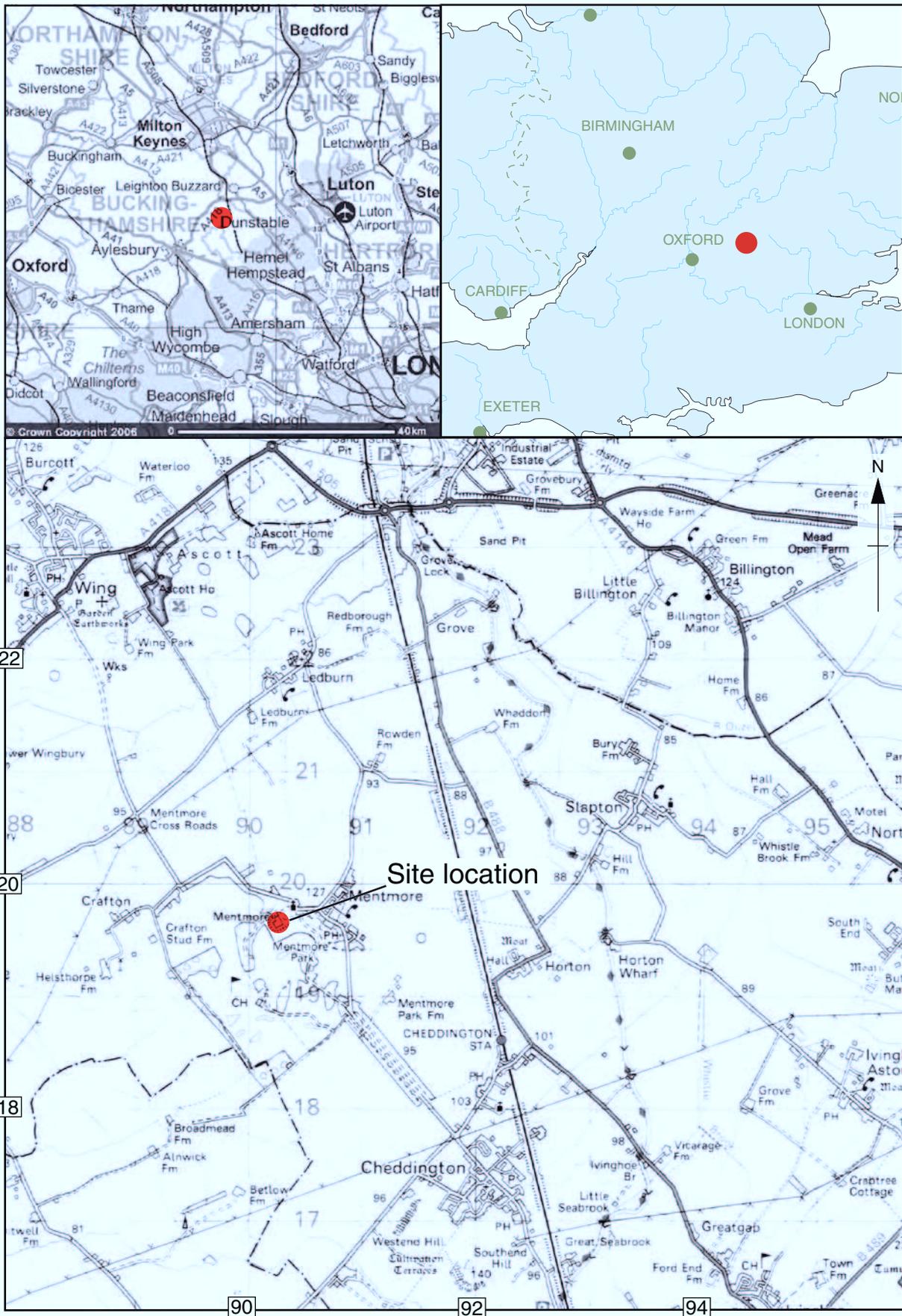
Grid reference: NGR SP 9025 1963

Type of watching brief: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 6th September 2006 to 25th September 2006

Summary of results: No archaeological features were observed in the test pits. Some topographical and geological information was collected.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Buckinghamshire County Museum in due course, under the following accession number: AYBCM: 2006.200.



Scale 1:50,000

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Figure 1: Site location

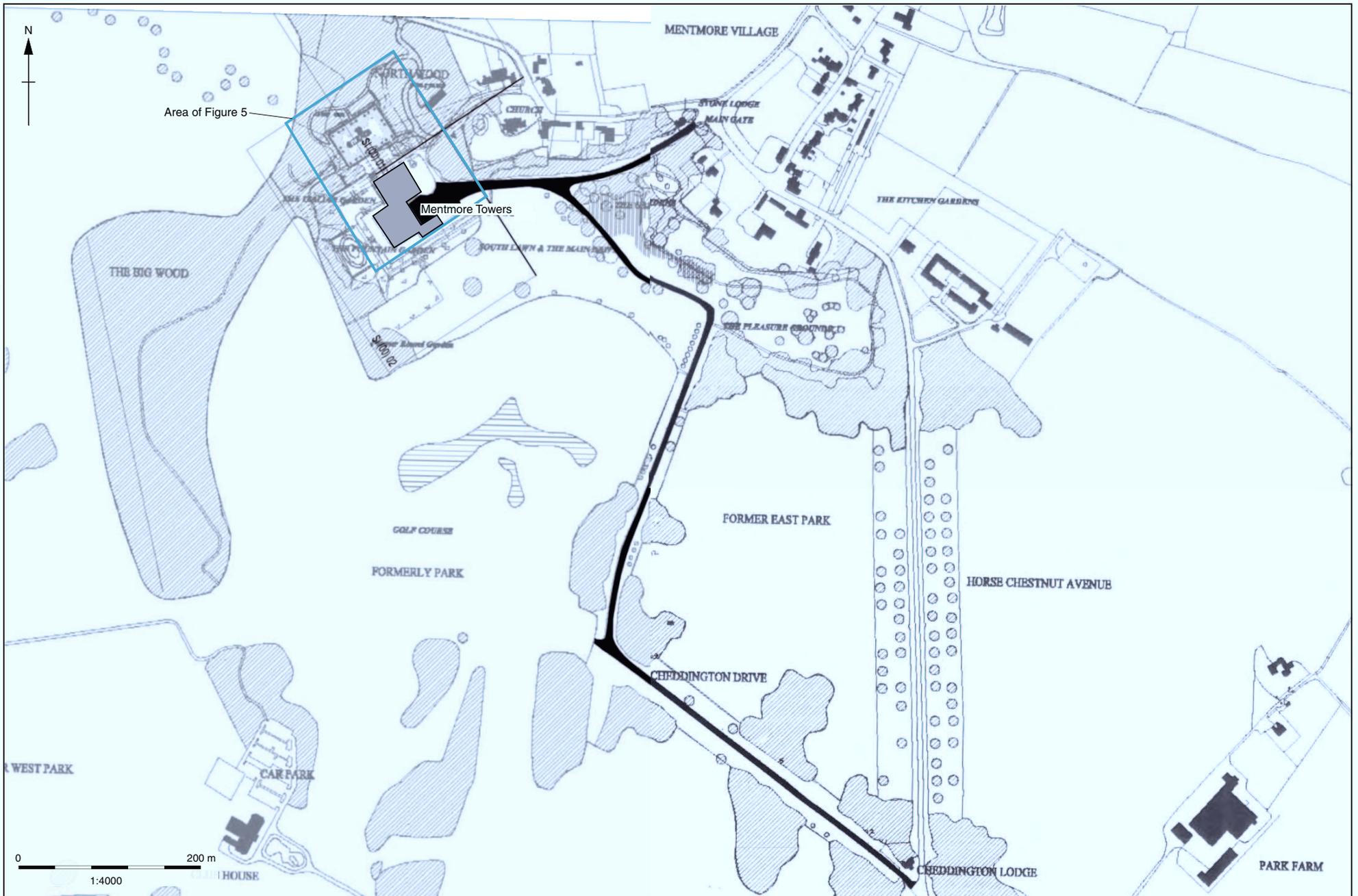
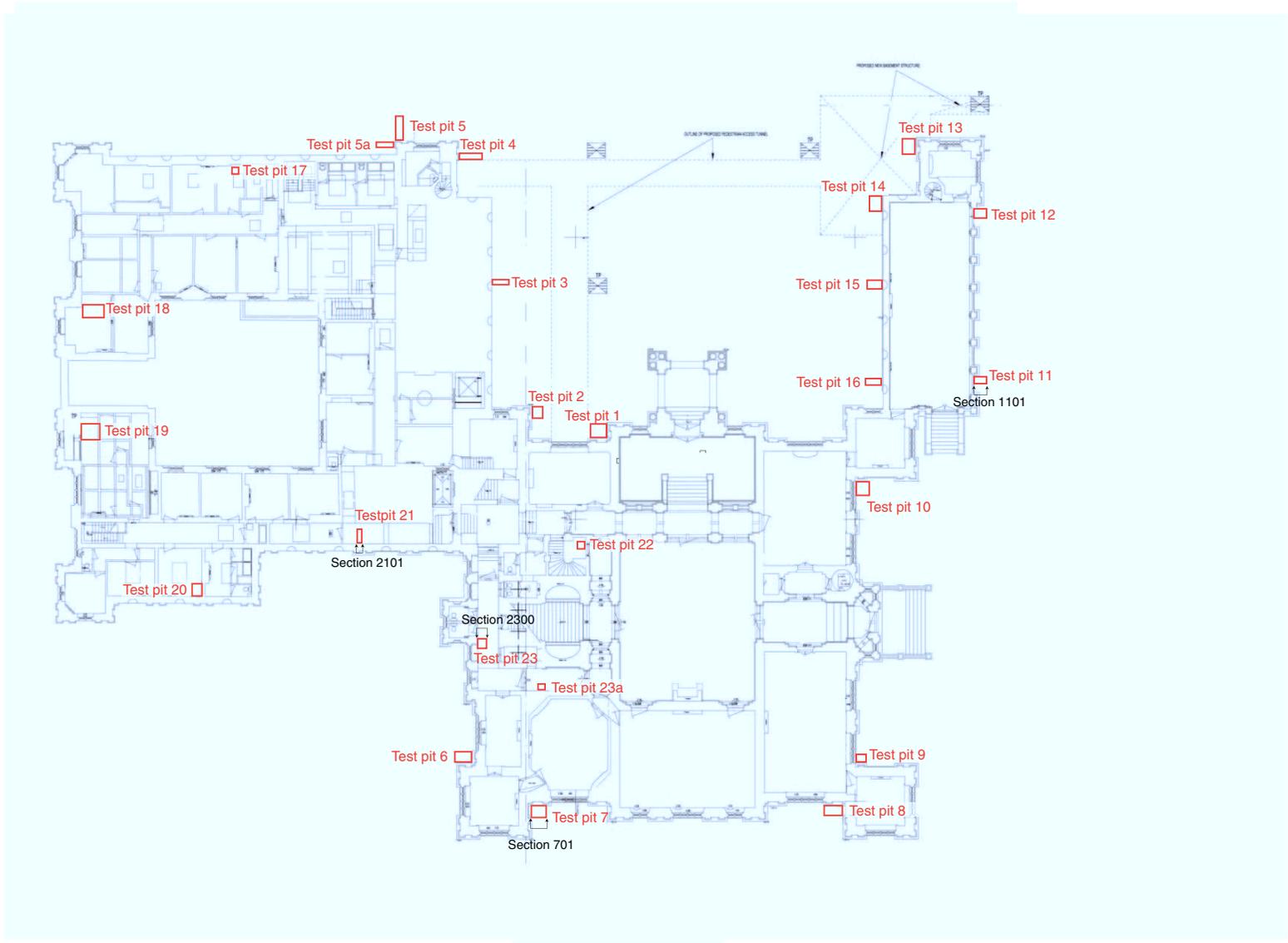
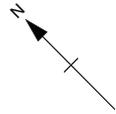


Figure 2: Site plan



Key

 Test pit



Figure 3: Plan of test pits in and around the house

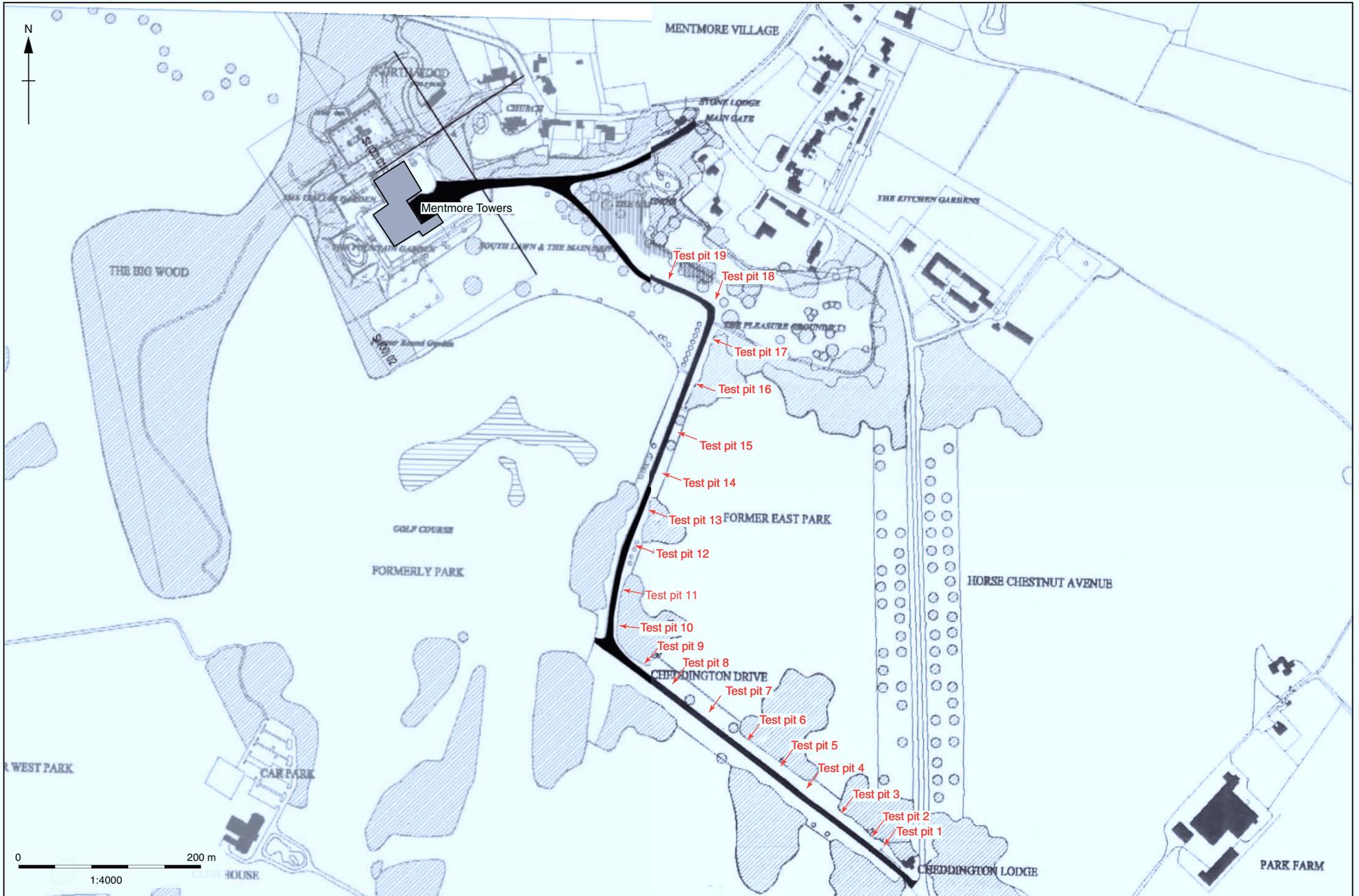


Figure 4: Plan of Test pits along Cheddington Drive

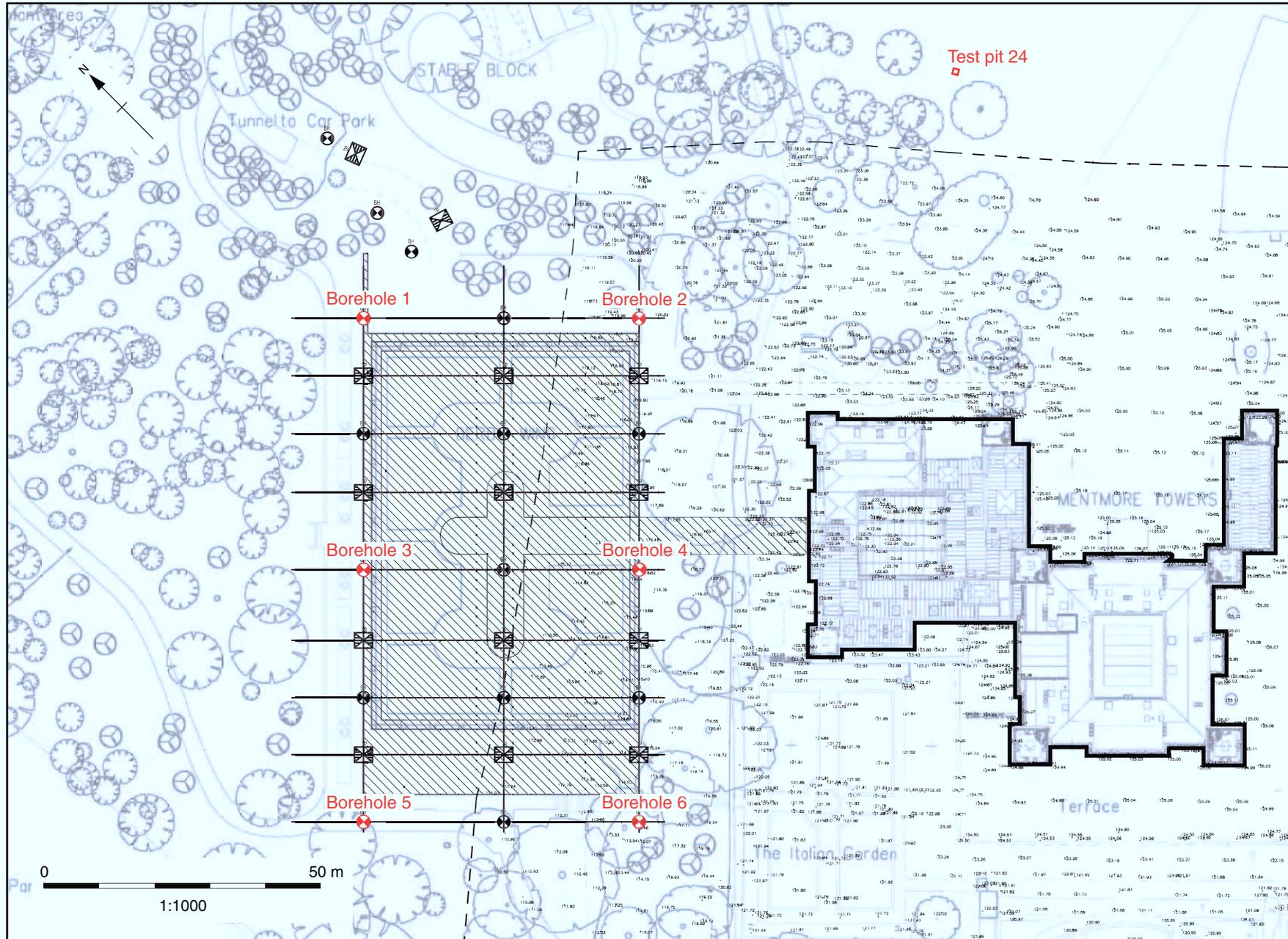


Figure 5: Plan of other interventions. Based on plan 3677L SI (00) 02 plan (1) by Packman Lucas

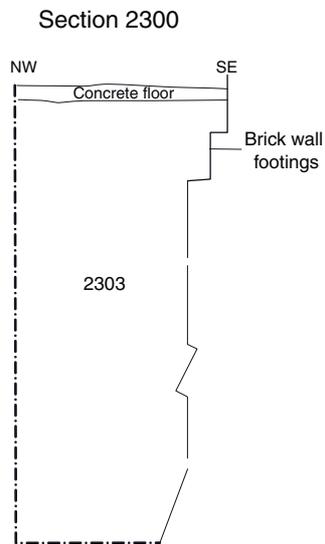
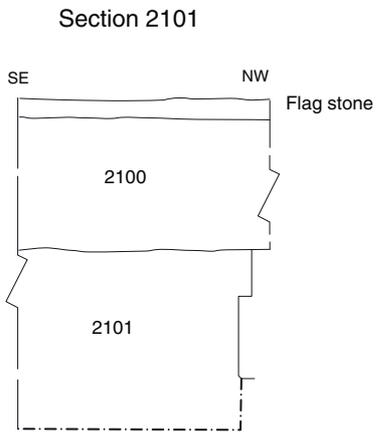
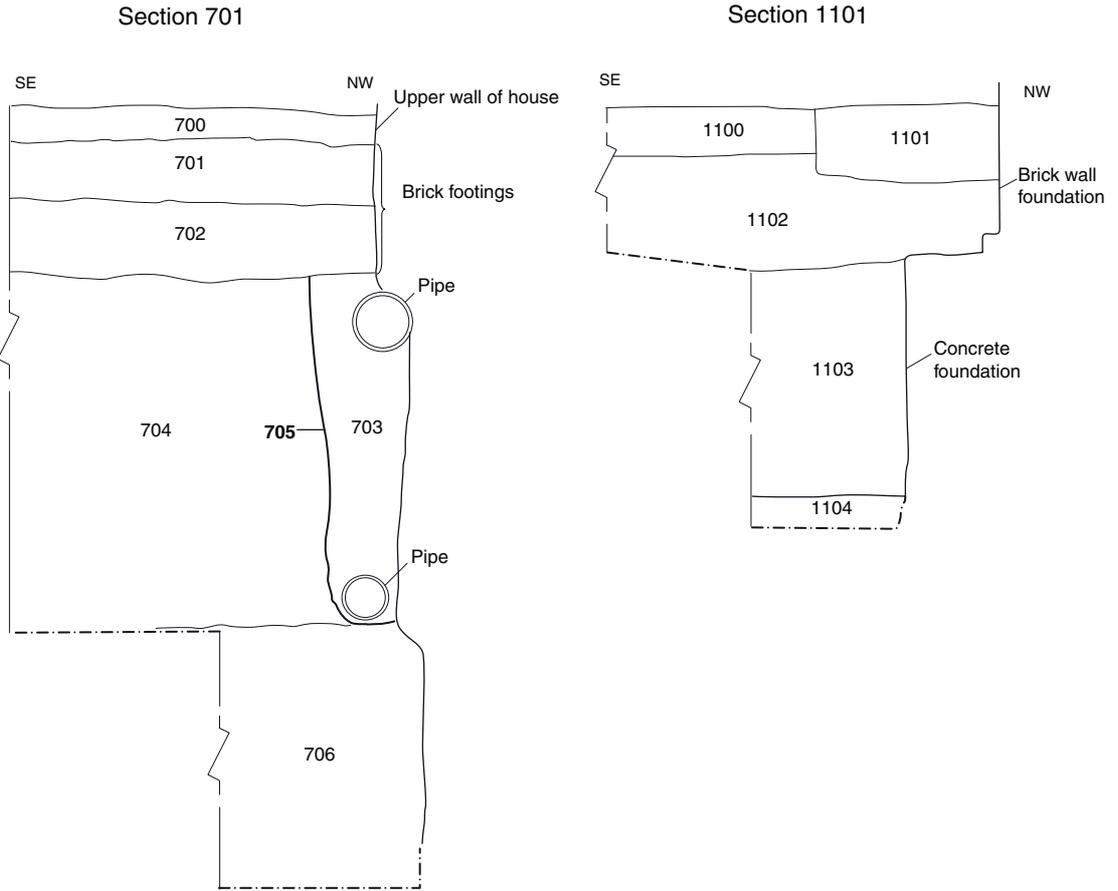


Figure 6: Selected sections from the house

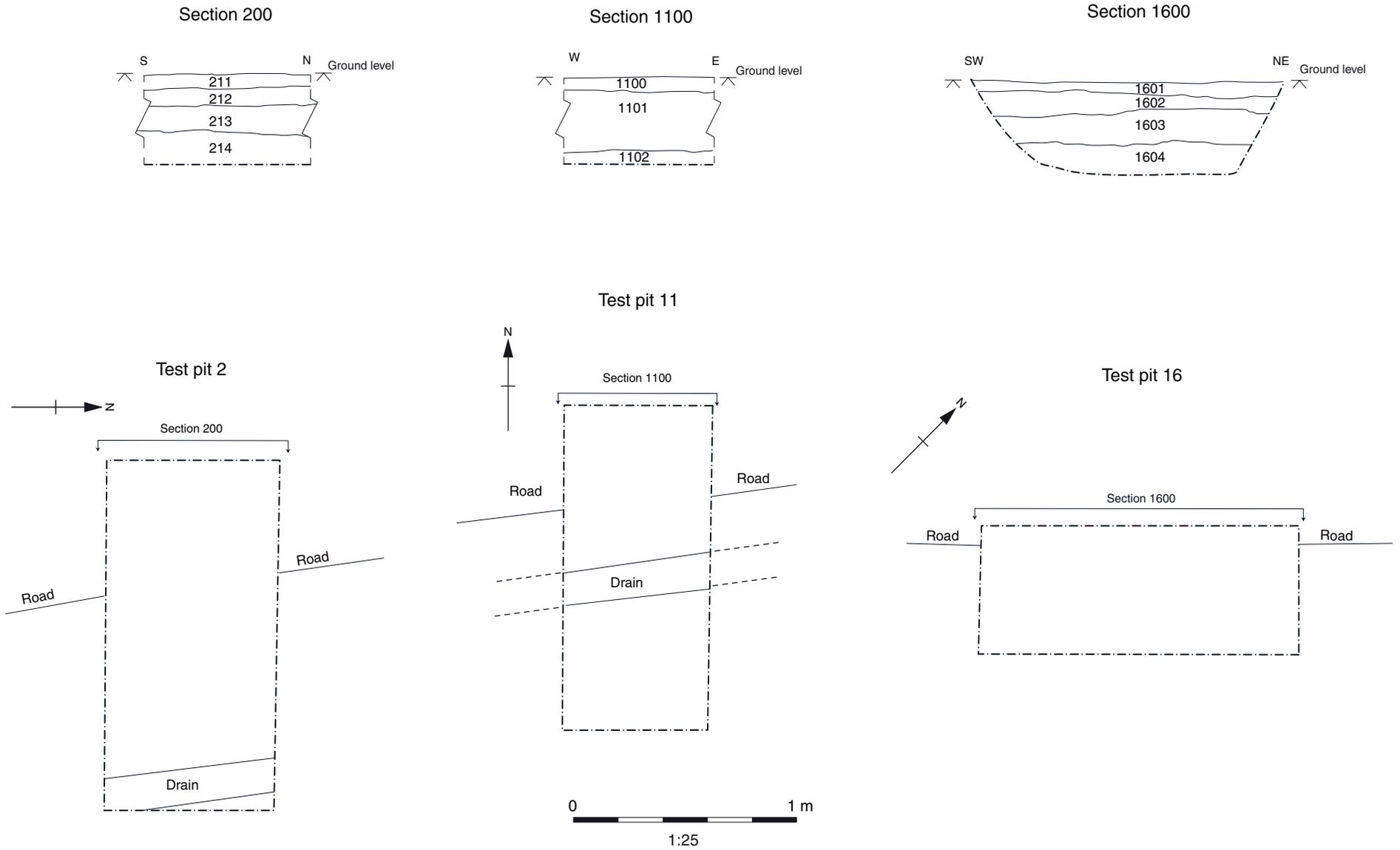


Figure 7: Selected sections from Cheddington Drive