

Little Barton  
Upper Dowdeswell  
Cheltenham  
Gloucestershire



**Archaeological Watching Brief**



**Oxford Archaeology**

27th June 2002

**Client Name:**  
**J B Jackson Associates**

Issue N<sup>o</sup>: 1

OA Job N<sup>o</sup>: 1306

Planning Ref N<sup>o</sup>: 01/CD7580/C

NGR: SP 4005 2190

**Client Name:** J B Jackson Associates

**Client Ref No:** JJ/552

**Document Title:** Little Barton, Upper Dowdeswell, Cheltenham,  
Gloucestershire

**Document Type:** Watching Brief

**Issue Number:** 1

**National Grid Reference:** NGR SP 4005 2190  
**Planning Reference:** 01/CD7580/C

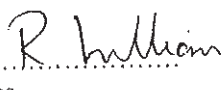
**OA Job Number:** 1306  
**Site Code:** UDLB 02  
**Invoice Code:** UDLBWB  
**Museum Accession No:**

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**Date:** 19th June 2002

Signed..... 

**Document File Location** U:\OAU\wbREPORTS\Gloucestershire\UDLB.doc  
**Graphics File Location** \\Server4\oaupubs1\All drawings\ \*UDLBWB\*Little  
Barton Upper Dowdeswell\*PL\*11.06.02

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# Little Barton, Upper Dowdeswell, Cheltham, Gloucestershire

## *ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT*

### CONTENTS

Summary.....	1
1 Introduction .....	1
1.1 Location and scope of work .....	1
1.2 Geology and topography .....	1
1.3 Archaeological and historical background .....	1
2 Project Aims and Methodology.....	2
2.1 Aims .....	2
2.2 Methodology.....	2
3 Results .....	2
3.1 Description of deposits .....	2
3.2 Finds .....	2
3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains .....	3
4 Discussion And Conclusions .....	3
Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory .....	4
Appendix 2 Bibliography and references.....	4
Appendix 3 Summary of Site Details.....	4

### LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1 OS Site location map  
Fig. 2 Site location, showing area of development.  
Fig. 3 Site plan and sections

## SUMMARY

*In May 2002 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Little Barton, Upper Dowdeswell, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire (NGR SP 4005 2190). The work was commissioned by J B Jackson Associates on behalf of Mr & Mrs Noakes in advance of a extension and alterations to the property. The watching brief revealed no archaeological features pre dating the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century and construction of the cottage. A post medieval soakaway and 18<sup>th</sup> century rubbish pit were recorded.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In May 2002 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Little Barton, Upper Dowdeswell, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by J B Jackson Associates on behalf of Mr & Mrs Noakes in respect of a planning application for an extension and alterations to the property (Planning Application No. 01/CD7580/C )
- 1.1.2 A project brief was discussed with Charles Parry Gloucestershire's Senior Archaeological Officer as to the best way to mitigate the impact of the construction works.
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief (OA, 2002).

#### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies on the Cotswold Scarp at 80 m above OD. The site is situated in the centre of the village of Upper Dowdeswell.

#### 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, 2002) and is reproduced below.
- 1.3.2 The main feature, aside from the Scheduled Camp nearby, is the location of the Manor House of Upper Dowdeswell, which was built c 1580-1620. It is unknown whether this manor lay on the site of an earlier manor house and if it did, if there was an associated settlement. It is possible that any settlement may have been destroyed by the levelling of the land during the construction of the post-medieval ornamental gardens.
- 1.3.3 The enclosure consisted of two parallel earthworks, both c 220 m long, running N-S, roughly 170-190 m apart. The N end of the W bank bends towards the manor house and is surmounted by a 17<sup>th</sup> century summerhouse. It had been damaged by landscaping of the grounds around the manor house and encroachment of allotments to its east side.

## 2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas affected by the development.
- 2.1.2 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The area at the rear of the property was reduced by a mini excavator with the old extension being demolished and the patio being lifted (Fig. 2).
- 2.2.2 All archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:100 and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. 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

- 3.1.1 The terrace at the back of the house was cut further back for the new extension. This exposed a 0.2 – 0.5 m thick layer of dark silty clay loam topsoil (103), which overlay the natural yellowish brown clay and limestone brash (102). This was cut by two features which were sealed below the topsoil and stone patio (104)(Fig. 3).
- 3.1.2 The first was a sub circular soakaway (100) at the rear of the house at the south east corner. It had irregular sides and base and measured 2 m x 0.5 m, with a limestone capped channel running from the house into it. It was sealed under the stone patio (104) and cut into the natural. The soakaway was filled by a dark grey clay (101). Finds were recovered from this fill (Fig. 3, section 1).
- 3.1.3 The second feature was observed in the south face of the terrace after it had been cut back. This was an 18<sup>th</sup> century rubbish pit (105), which was sub circular in shape with near vertical sides that started to round off to a base below impact level. It measured 1.1 x 0.5 x 1.1 m and was cut into the natural and contained a fill of dark brown silty clay (106) (Fig. 3, section 2).

### 3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 A number of finds were recovered from the two features exposed during the ground work. The fill (101) of the soakaway (100) contained four fragments of animal bone, a fragment of tile, a fragment of an 18<sup>th</sup> century glass bottle neck, three fragments of clay pipe stem and thirteen pieces of pottery. These pieces of pottery ranged from a

fragment of abraded late medieval sherd to fragments of 18<sup>th</sup> century glazed red wares and piece of salt glazed stone ware.

- 3.2.2 The fill (106) of the rubbish pit (105) contained a fragment of animal bone and four pieces of pottery. The four pieces were a fragment of Staffordshire slip ware, a fragment of cream ware and two pieces of iron glaze all dating from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### 3.3 **Palaeo-environmental remains**

- 3.3.1 No environmental samples were taken during the watching brief.

## 4 **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1.1 The watching brief revealed no archaeological features or deposits pre-dating the construction of the cottage, which had been terraced into the hill side. The two features which were recorded related to the occupation of the cottage in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.



## 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>
100	Cut	0.54 m	2 m		Soakaway	
101	Fill	0.54 m			Fill of soakaway	Pottery
102	Layer				Natural	
103	Layer	0.20 m			Topsoil	
104	Layer				Stone patio	
105	Cut	1.1 m	1.1 m		Post Medieval rubbish pit	
106	Fill				Fill of pit	Pottery

## APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

OA, 2002 *Little Barton, Upper Dowdeswell, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire* Written Scheme of Investigation

OA, 1992 Fieldwork Manual (ed. D Wilkinson, first edition August 1992)

## APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** Little Barton, Upper Dowdeswell, Cheltenham, Gloucester

**Site code:** UDLB 02

**Grid reference:** NGR SP 4005 2190

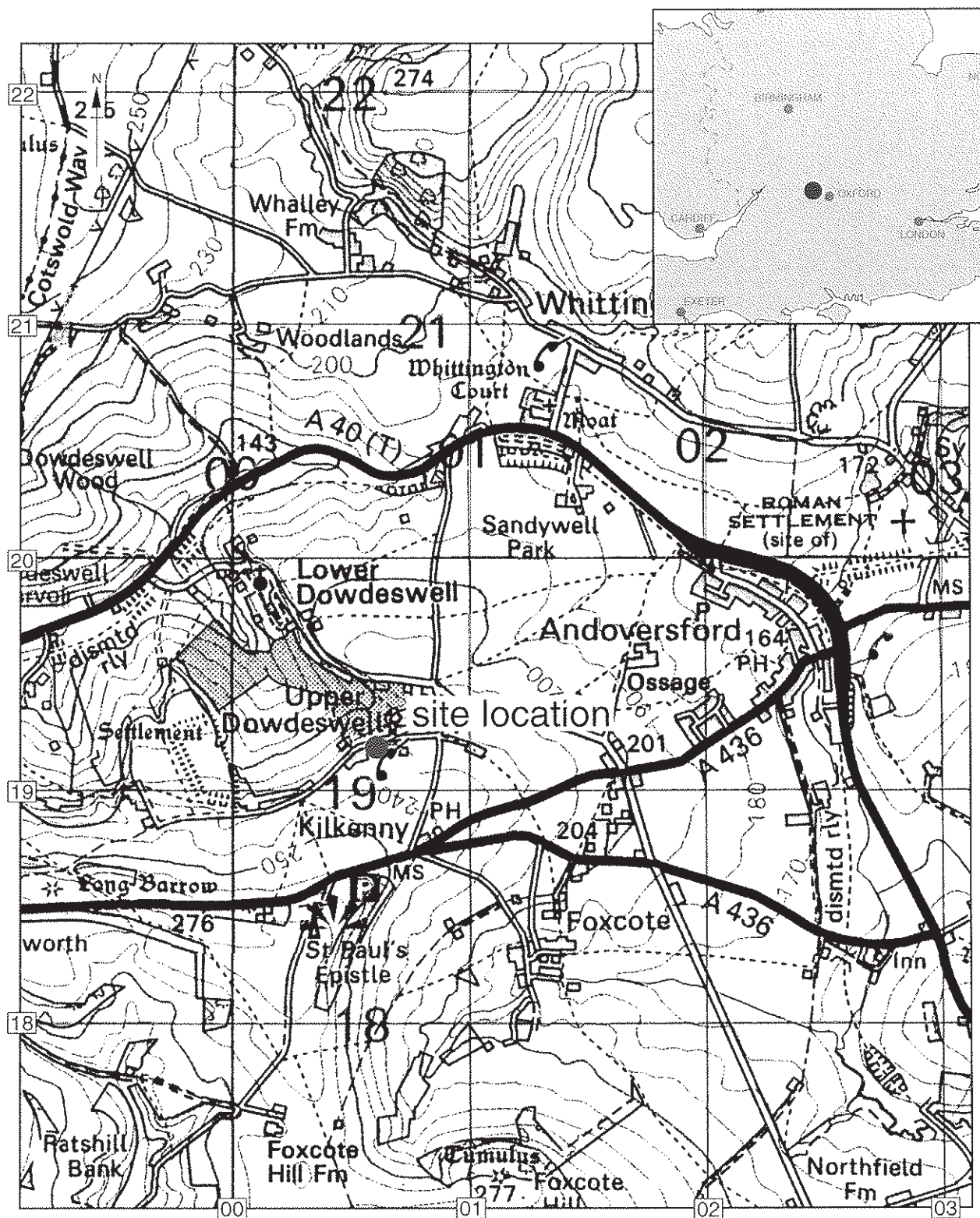
**Type of watching brief:** Extension and alterations to rear of property.

**Date and duration of project:** A total of four site visits from 15/05/2002 to 21/05/2002.

**Area of site:** 9 x 10 m approximately

**Summary of results:** The results from the watching brief revealed no archaeological features pre dating the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century and construction of the cottage. A post medieval soakaway and 18<sup>th</sup> century rubbish pit were recorded.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Gloucestershire County Museums Service in due course.



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Figure 1: Site location.



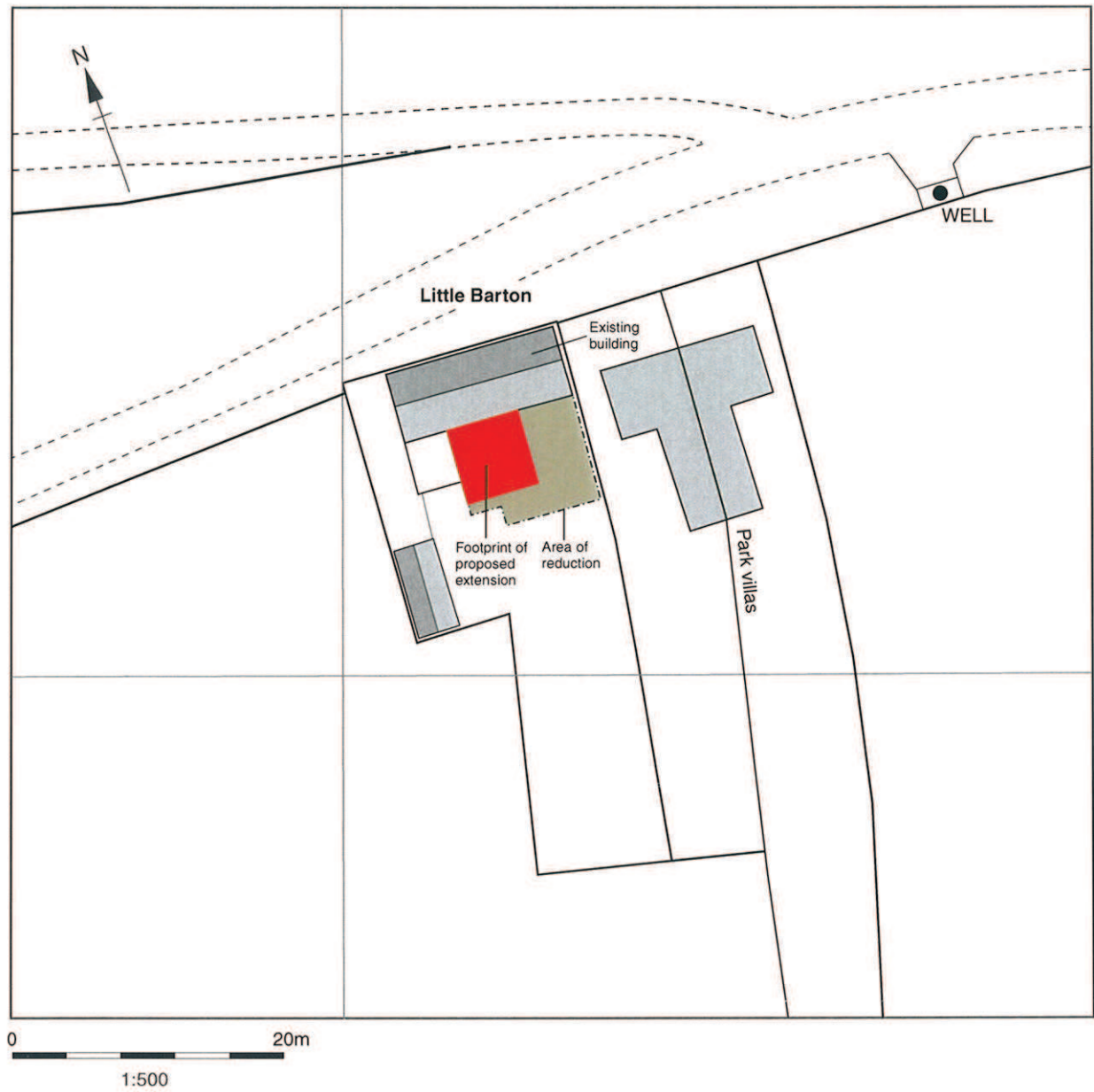


Figure 2: Site location, showing area of development.

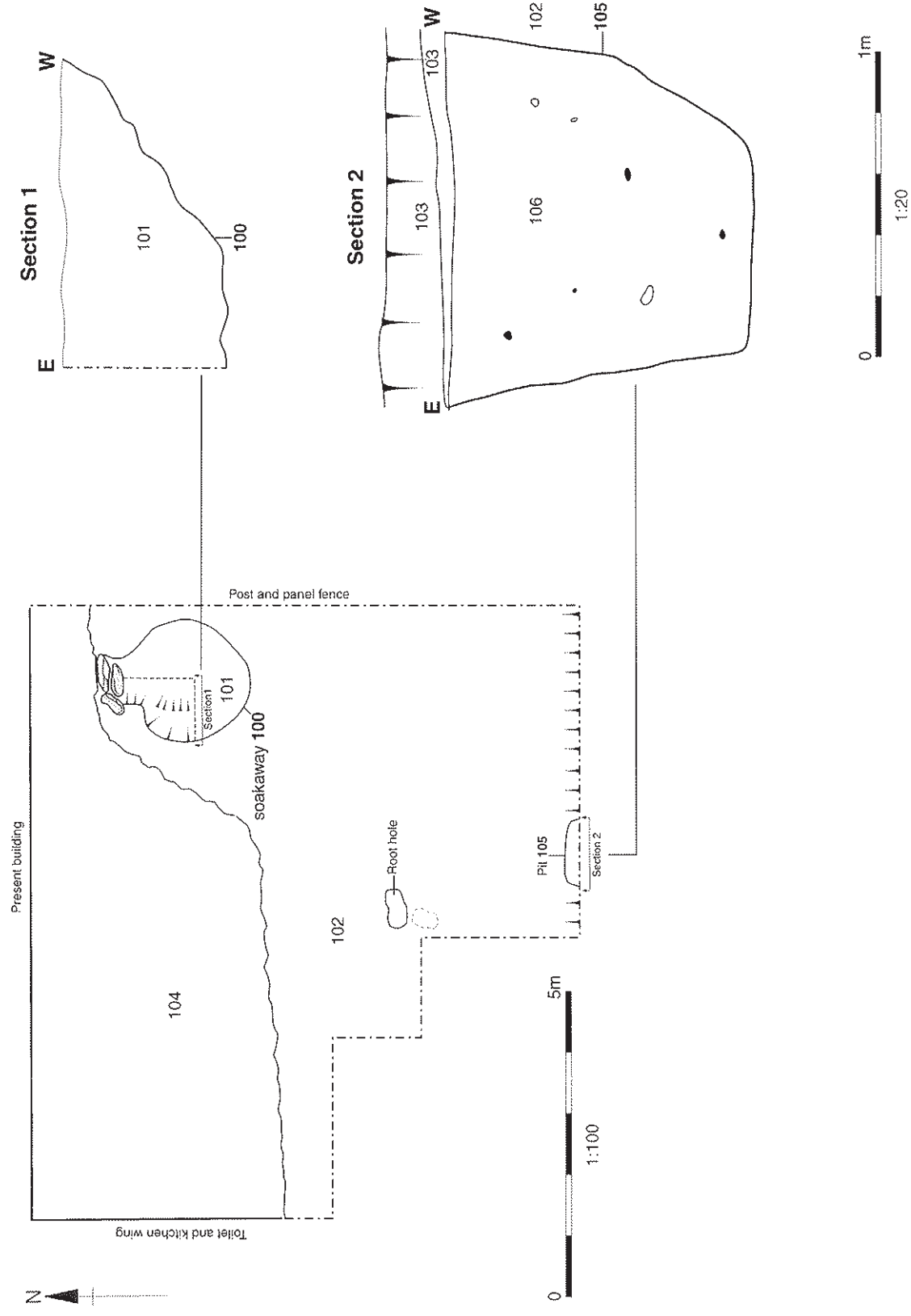


Figure 3: Site plan and sections.



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