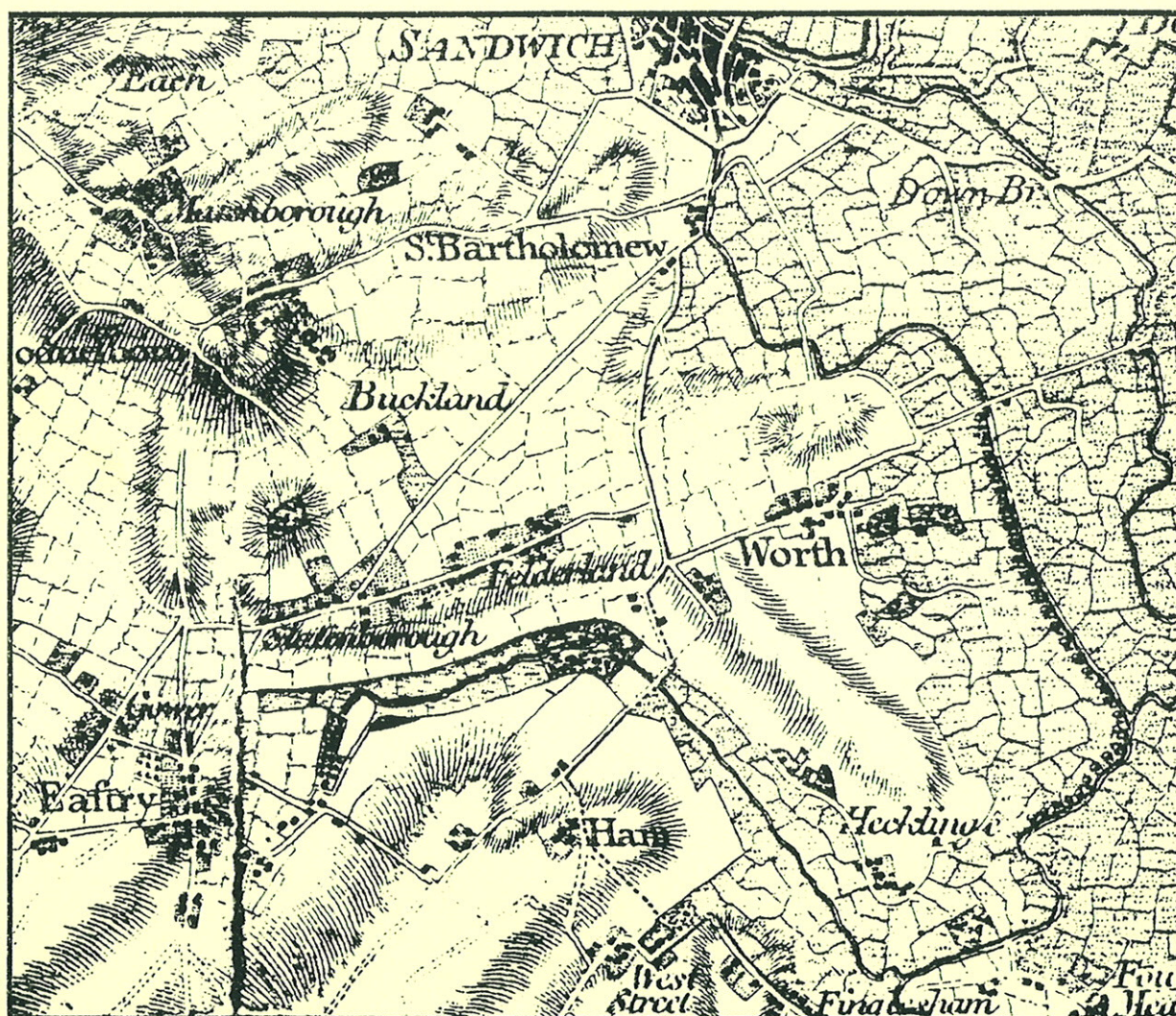


# FORMER KING'S CENTRAL GARAGE, EASTRY, KENT

## Archaeological evaluation



OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

JUNE 1993

**FORMER KING'S CENTRAL GARAGE, EASTRY  
KENT**



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NGR TR 3093 5471**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Oxford Archaeological Unit undertook an evaluation on behalf of Rolli Modern UK Ltd on the former site of King's Central Garage in Eastry. The proposed development consists of a disabled persons clothing centre. The work was carried out between the 15th and 17th of June 1993, according to a specification set by Kent County Council's Archaeological Officer.

## **LOCATION**

Eastry is situated about 4 miles S of Sandwich just off the Sandwich to Dover road. The development site is approximately 0.1 hectare in size, in the centre of Eastry village (see fig. 1) at about 27.75m OD. The former garage showroom faces The High Street and Mill Lane forms the southern boundary to the site.

## **GEOLOGY**

The geology of the area consists of Upper Chalk.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

A small scale evaluation c.100m N of the site located features thought to be Iron Age in date.

The High Street follows the line of the Roman road from Dover to the fort at Richborough.

Four cemeteries dated from 5th to 7th century AD are known in Eastry (Kent SMR TR 35 SW 1, 32 & 37).

### **Cemetery I**

Burials mostly dated to 6th century AD have been found adjacent to the Five Bells Inn, 40m SE of the development site. Burials were recorded for approximately a further 130m S along the E side of the road.

### **Cemetery II**

Situated 115m N of The Cross on the W side of the Dover to Richborough road.

### **Cemetery III & IV**

Located beyond the centre of the village. Cemetery III was partly excavated in 1977 and is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The site of an Anglo Saxon "palace" (Kent SMR TR 35 SW 2) is thought to be in an area adjacent to Eastry Court Farm to the N of St. Mary's Church. Despite small scale investigations close to the site in 1980-81 there was no clear evidence for an Anglo-Saxon palace.



## STRATEGY

Four trenches were excavated, comprising a 3.6% sample of the site. Trench 1 and 2 were positioned outside the existing garage buildings (see fig. 2). Trench 3 was located within the old garage workshop and trench 4 within the former showroom. All the trenches were positioned along the lines of walls for the proposed new buildings.

A JCB with a concrete breaker removed the concrete. The concrete and modern make-up layers were then dug using the JCB and a 1.00m wide bucket. The irregular trench shapes were the result of the concrete breaking. Any archaeological deposits were then excavated by hand to establish their depth, extent, character and quality.

## SUMMARY

From the four trenches, two archaeological features were identified within trench 2. Both these features appeared to be pits, one had been truncated by a soak-away. One of the pits produced a sherd of 13th/14th century medieval pottery. All other layers recorded were either related to the existing buildings or probably originated when the site was cleared prior to the construction of the garage.

## RESULTS

For dimensions of trenches, layers and features, see Appendix 1: Table of Contexts.

### Trench 1

Trench 1 was orientated E-W, just S of the former workshop. The reinforced concrete 101, overlaid a sandy gravel make-up 102. Below this a layer of disturbed chalk and brick fragments 103 overlaid the natural chalk. Layer 103 filled irregular depressions within the chalk, none of these depressions were dug features.

### Trench 2 (see fig. 3)

Trench 2 was orientated E-W, just W of the former workshop. The tarmac 201, overlaid a gravel make-up layer 202. Below this a shale layer 203, was exposed. Layer 203 overlaid a thin silt layer 204, which in places was just a thin film overlying the natural chalk.

In the middle of the trench a modern soak-away 205, contained galvanised corrugated iron, large lumps of concrete and rubble 206. The soak-away cut through layer 203 and was overlaid by layer 202. It was not fully excavated but due to voids in the fill 205, could be probed down to a depth of at least 0.85m below the present ground surface.

To the W of the soak-away two features 207 and 210, probably pits, were cut into the chalk (see fig. 3). Pit 207 was oval in shape and 0.50m in depth. When excavated the fill consisted of brickearth mixed with chalk, in roughly equal proportions. The fill was fairly uniform and clean with the occasional fine flecks of charcoal. The edge of 207 on the E was vertical, on the W the sides it was slightly stepped. A single sherd of 13th/14th century pottery, probably Tyler Hill ware, was recovered from the upper part of the fill 208.

The fill of pit 210 (211) was cut away by the soak-away so its exact original shape was unclear. The fill 211 was very similar to 208 although the brickearth and chalk in 211 tended to form distinct banding within the feature. Pit 210 cut the fill of pit 207 (208). No finds were recovered from 211 but it appears likely these two features are of a broadly similar date.

### Trench 3

Trench 3 was orientated N-S within the former garage workshop. The garage workshop although all one open area, consisted of an older workshop to the S and a later extension to the N. In both parts of the workshop the concrete floor overlaid make-up layers.

At the southern end of the trench a spread of redeposited chalk 307 was exposed for 5m along the trench. This overlaid a thin layer of fine grey silty material 308 which had formed a thin film on the natural chalk. This layer was very similar to layer 204 in trench 2.

There were no archaeological features in the trench. A dark area in the middle of the trench 1.25m in diameter was caused by diesel staining. At the N end of the trench, depressions in the chalk were filled with layer 303, which was probably related to the garage construction.

### Trench 4

Trench 4 was orientated N-S within the former garage showroom. Concrete layers 401 and 402 overlaid a make-up layer 403. Below this the natural chalk was exposed. There were no archaeological features within the trench.

## INTERPRETATION

The layers within the four trenches are all clearly related to the use of the existing garage buildings, or their construction. The character of the fine thin grey silt layers 204 and 308 suggest they had been deposited when the site was stripped down to the natural chalk and subsequent rain washed a very thin film of grey silty chalk across the area.

As the boundary to the W is marked by a retaining wall and the neighbouring property slopes up to the W; it seems likely the area was levelled during the construction of the garage. The garage is approximately level with the High Street and Mill Lane, which would be in contrast to some of the other properties facing the High Street which are higher than the street level.

The two features 207 and 210 are probably pits. The fills gave no indication of nearby domestic activity but the mix of brickearth and chalk suggest they were probably deliberately backfilled. The fill of 207 (208) produced one small 13th/14th century pottery sherd. The pits could well be positioned along the rear of a property which once fronted the High Street; in which case more pits may exist N & S of the two pits exposed in trench 2.

The levels of the Upper Chalk over the site varied by 0.12m. The lowest areas of chalk coincided with the later phase of the garage, identified by areas of reinforced concrete.

## CONSIDERATION OF METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS

The 3.6% sample is high enough to be representative of the site, considering not all the site will be directly affected by ground disturbance.

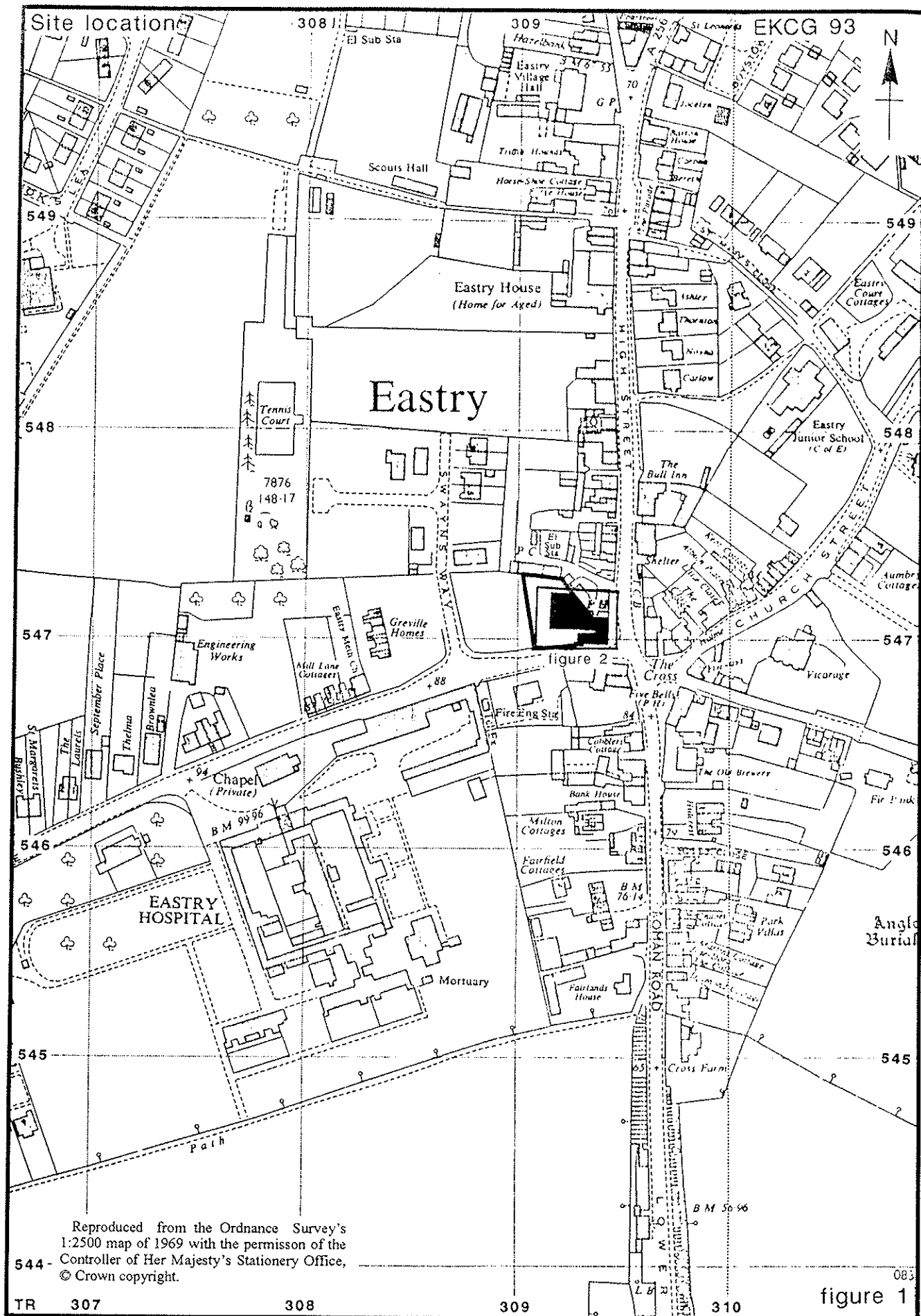
The recovery of a single sherd means the pits can only be tentatively ascribed a medieval date.

Even though levelling occurred on the site during construction of the garage two features were located in trench 2. Their survival would indicate that they were of some depth prior to levelling or that some of the higher ground is due to later build-up.

OAU  
A Parkinson  
June 1993

APPENDIX 1: Table of Contexts

EASTRY KING'S CENTRAL GARAGE EKCG 93					
Context	Type	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Comments
<b>TRENCH 1</b>		<b>0.28-0.35</b>	<b>4.90</b>	<b>1.10</b>	
101	Reinforced concrete	0.10			Modern
102	Make-up layer	0.14			Modern
103	Disturbed chalk	0.04			Probably related to time of garage construction
104	Natural chalk subsoil				
<b>TRENCH 2</b>		<b>0.27-0.75</b>	<b>6.50</b>	<b>1.10-1.20</b>	
201	Tarmac	0.02			Modern
202	Make-up layer	0.07			Modern
203	Coal-shale layer	0.25			Old surface outside garage
204	Layer	0.01			Probably resulted during construction of garage
205	Cut for soak-away	0.75 +		2.57	Modern
206	Fill of soak-away	0.75 +		2.57	Modern
207	Pit	0.50	1.14	0.84	Medieval?
208	Fill of 207	0.50			One pot sherd, 13th/14th century, probably Tyler Hill ware
209	Natural chalk subsoil				
210	Pit	0.29		0.70 +	Medieval?
211	Fill of 210	0.29			Medieval?
<b>TRENCH 3</b>		<b>0.23</b>	<b>16.10</b>	<b>1.00-1.10</b>	
301	Reinforced concrete	0.20			Floor of workshop extension
302	Make-up for concrete	0.12			Modern
303	Layer	0.11			Probably related to garage construction
304	Natural chalk subsoil				
305	Concrete	0.20			Surface of older part of workshop
306	Bitumen layer	0.06			Modern, damp proofing?
307	Redeposited chalk	0.03			Probably related to garage construction
308	Layer	0.001			Probably related to garage construction
<b>TRENCH 4</b>		<b>0.20</b>	<b>5.10</b>	<b>0.90-1.50</b>	
401	Concrete	0.03			Showroom floor
402	Concrete	0.08			Showroom floor
403	Make-up layer for concrete	0.10			Modern
404	Natural chalk subsoil				





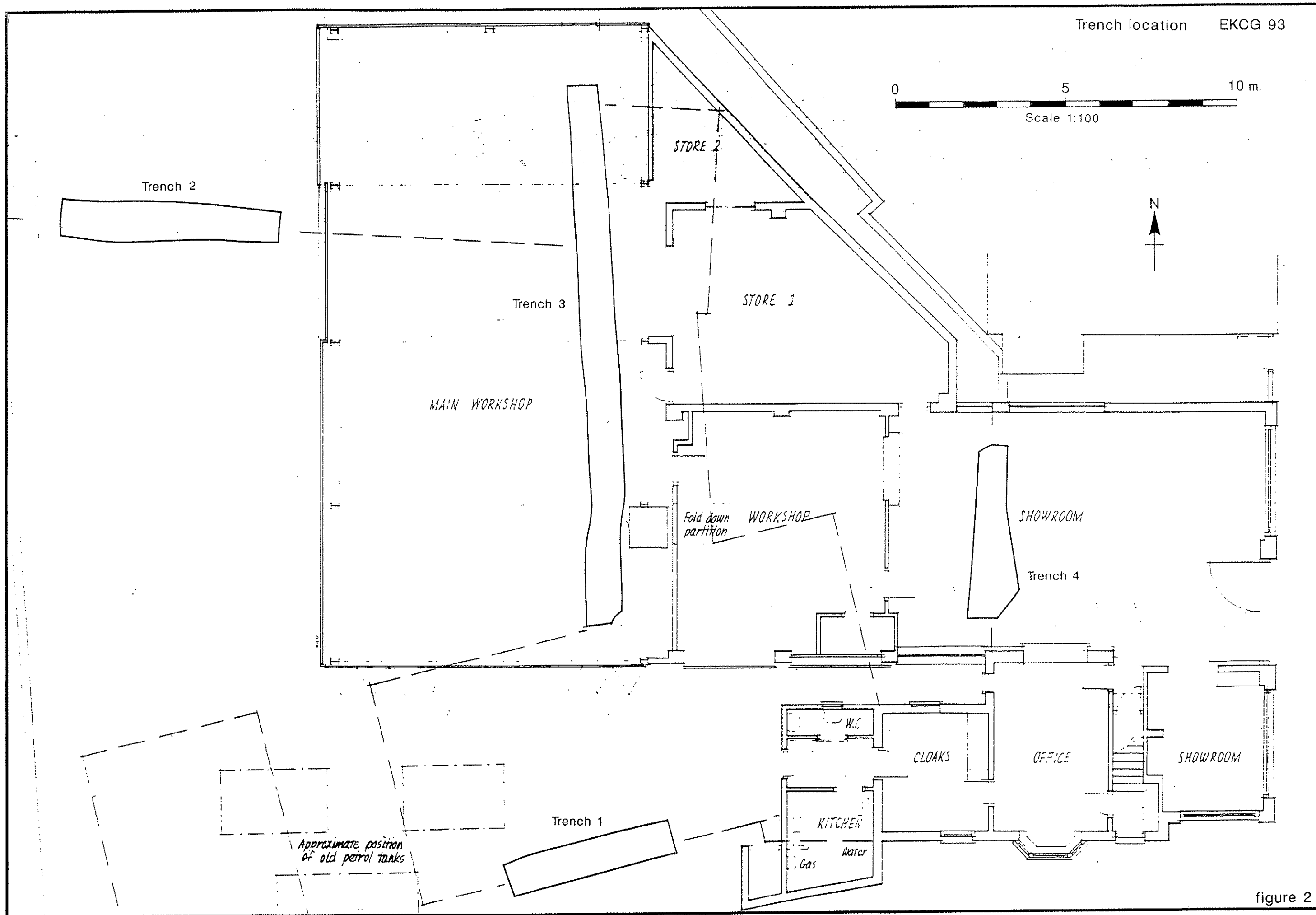
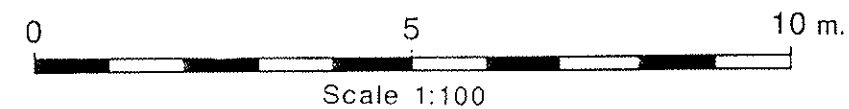
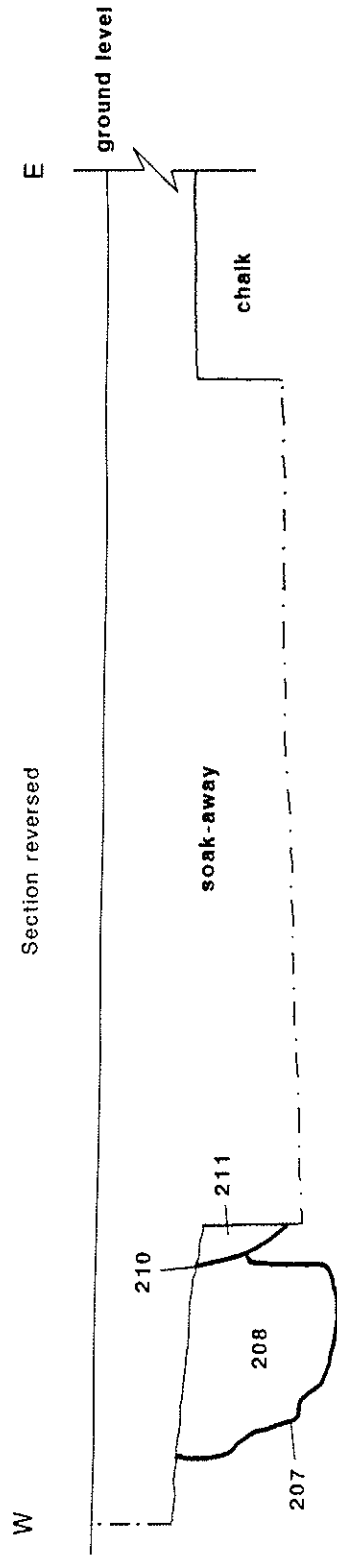
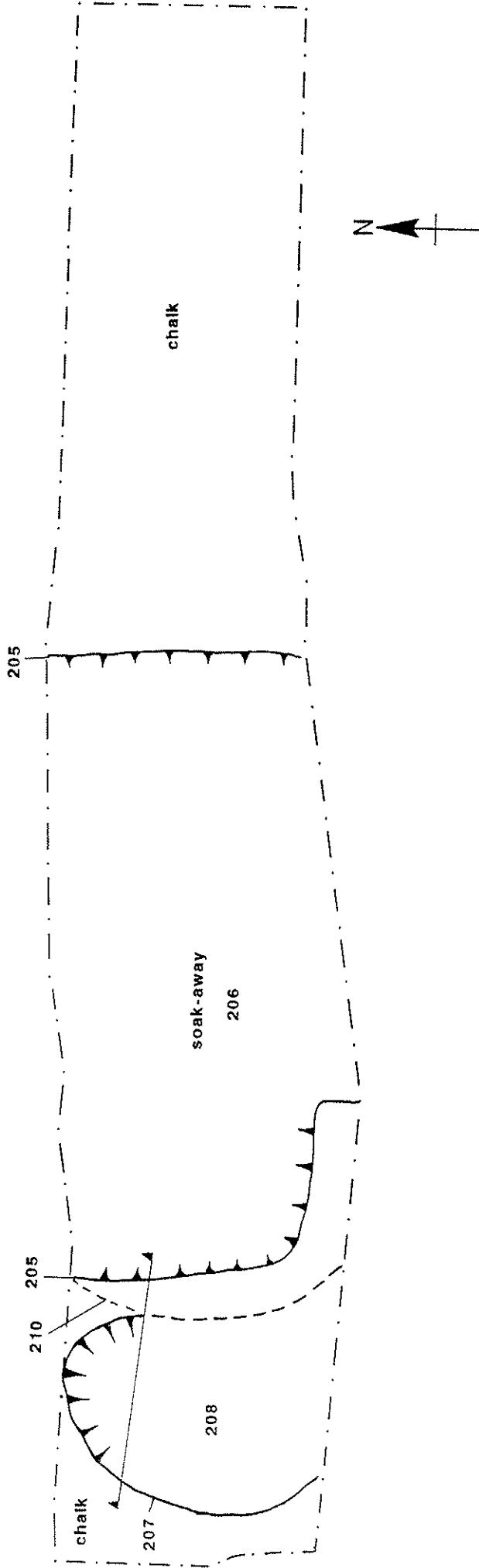


figure 2

# Trench 2

EKCG 93



Section of pits with profile of trench



figure 3