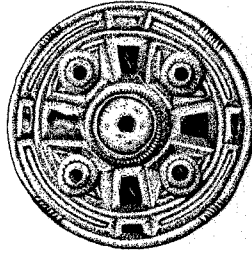


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Archaeological Field Unit

Burghley House, Ash Yard Archaeological Watching Brief

Andrew Hatton

1996

Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No. A98

Commissioned By Burghley House Preservation Trust

BURGHLEY HOUSE, ASH YARD

By Andrew Hatton

INTRODUCTION

On the 7th and 20th of May 1996 a member of the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit undertook a watching brief at Ash Yard, Burghley House (TF 0495/0611) on behalf of The Burghley House Preservation Trust, to observe and record archaeological evidence during ground preparations prior to the laying of a new drainage system

METHODOLOGY

Two new trenches were excavated by hand in Ash Yard in order to help alleviate water drainage problems. These works were monitored by an archaeologist.

RESULTS

Trench 1: length 14m
width 300mm
depth at western end 300mm
depth at eastern end 350mm

The difference in depth is the 'drop-off' to assist water movement.

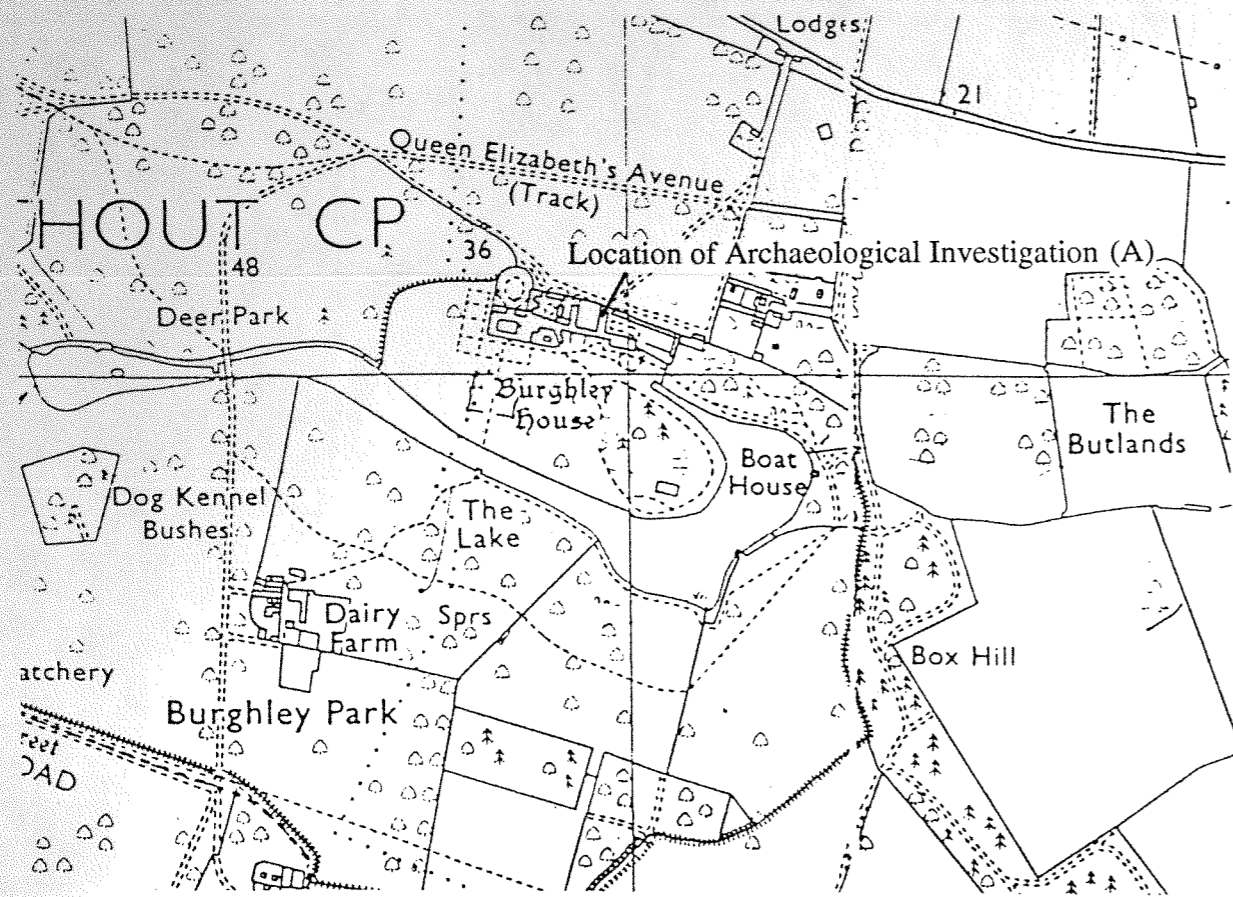
The excavation of trench 1 revealed no archaeological evidence due to the fact that the trench depth never exceeded the depth of modern over-burden, which consisted of coal, fragments of Collyweston slate and old roof laths.

Trench 2: length 9.5m
width 350mm
depth at south-western end 300mm
depth at north-eastern end 800mm

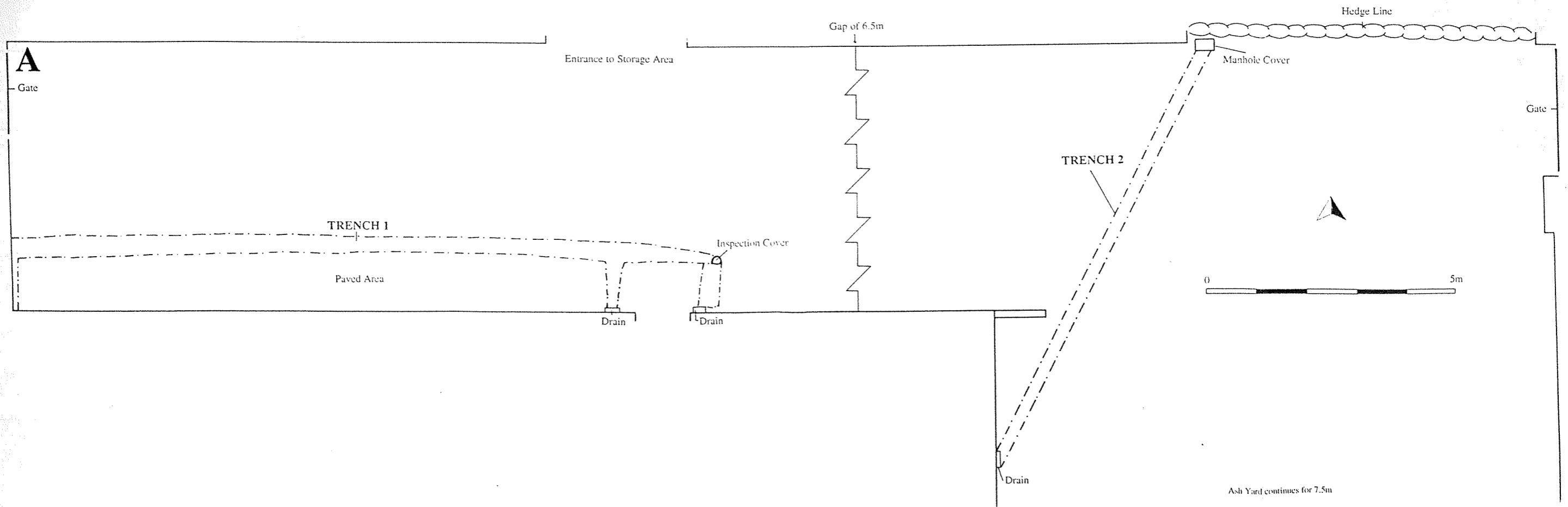
The excavation of trench 2 revealed a pattern similar to that identified during the excavation of trench 1: large amounts of modern debris or over-burden, plus the added factor of truncation attributed to the laying of previous drainage systems and modern high voltage electric cable. As a consequence of the aforementioned factors no archaeological remains were disturbed during the excavation of the trench.

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