

Archaeological Investigations at
The Holwood Estate, Bromley, Kent

TQ 422 635

Interim Statement

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Summary

Preliminary archaeological evaluation trenching within the grounds of Holwood House, on behalf of the Crest Nicholson Group, has traced part of the southern defences of the Iron Age hillfort. The position of the outer ditch and counterscarp bank along this part of its circuit was revealed to be located outside the current Scheduled Ancient Monument perimeter but exactly where indicated by a 1790 survey. During the investigations, the opportunity was taken to excavate a small section across the outer ditch-line with a view to retrieving new environmental samples from its basal deposits. Whilst offering an excellent opportunity to examine the hillfort's primary environmental setting, the sampling strategy may also offer up an interesting comparison with the pioneering environmental archaeology carried out in the late 50's by Nancy Piercy-Fox and colleagues elsewhere around the hillfort's circuit.

Further south another small ditch, containing small abraded pieces of Iron Age pot and occasional pieces of burnt flint, was identified and found to be of the same alignment as the southern boundary of the hillfort. Its location, north-east of the Redwood Building, places the ditch in the vicinity of an Iron Age ditch spotted in 1979 when the same building was under construction, although that is reported as much greater in size.

Otherwise, the majority of the trenching programme produced no significant archaeological deposits indicating that much of the investigated area is not archaeologically sensitive.

Introduction

In advance of a planning application for the redevelopment of parts of the Holwood Estate, Bromley (NGR: TQ422 635) an archaeological investigation was carried out between 19th and 26th of July, 1999, on behalf of the Crest Nicholson Group. Prior to finalising a masterplan the Developer wanted to determine whether three specific areas of the site were likely to prove too archaeologically sensitive to be considered within any future development plan. The Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) was commissioned to evaluate these areas as part of a limited exercise designed to answer specific questions prior to any application. An archaeological review of the site as a whole is in preparation and will be submitted as part of the application. This interim document considers specifically the three evaluation areas drawing on directly related background information only. For a more comprehensive background the reader is referred to the desktop study (Dickens 1999a) and the evaluation specification (Dickens 1999b).

The application to be submitted concerns the area around Holwood House. This includes part of the Iron Age Hillfort known alternatively as Caesar's or Holwood Camp which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (LO101). The site lies entirely within an area of Archaeological Priority as defined by the Local Authority and has been identified by English Heritage as an area of high archaeological potential.

The three areas with which this evaluation are specifically concerned are the car park immediately south west of the hillfort (Area A), the area to the north of the Redwood Building (Area B), and the area immediately south of "Five Islands" pond (Area C).

Geology and Topography

The 1:50,000 British Geological Survey map of the area (Sheet 271) indicates that four main geology types dominate the Holwood area. The sequence is underlain by Upper Chalk (white chalk with bands of flint), which surfaces to the south and west and in the development area is only in the narrow strip down to Downe Road. Above the chalk the Thanet sand beds occur as a narrow band running broadly west to east across the site from Keston Court to Farnborough. Above this are the Woolwich beds of clays sands and loams overlain by Blackheath beds of sand and pebbles. The Blackheath beds cover most of Holwood Park. Outside the development area the lower lying ground is filled with undivided gravels cut into the chalk.

Archaeological Background

Most of the early work, specifically investigations within the hillfort in the 1950s and 1960s, has been published. However, a significant block of work from the 1970s and 1980s has not. The known work is listed here.

1956-59: Excavations by Nancy Piercy Fox

These concentrated on the upstanding ramparts on the western side and were designed to answer specific questions about the nature of the defences and to identify if any of the gaps in the banks were original entrances. The main paper on the work was published posthumously in 1969. The south west entrance proved to be original and three phases of rampart construction were identified.

1962: Observations on a pipeline across the site by Nancy Piercy Fox

This indicated that the gap through which the existing driveway enters the monument is not an original feature, the roadway passing over the filled in ditch line. This work was not published but the archive is accessible as a notebook in the Piercy-Fox archive at Bromley Museum.

1973: Excavation of medieval tile kiln to south of the Redwood Building

Discovered by accident the kiln was excavated by members of the West Kent Group. A short note has been published in the *Kent Archaeological Review* (Philp 1973a;1982).

Further work was been carried out in and around the hillfort in the 1970s and 1980s, however little, if any, has been published. The following are entries from *Kent Archaeological Review* and *The London Archaeologist*:

1972: The West Kent Group discovered an "important Romano British site . .. [which] produced quantities of pottery and a fine quernstone" (Mynott 1972: 257; Bloice 1973: 40).

1978: The West Kent Archaeological Group reported that: "A pipe trenching operation at Holwood in December gave the group an opportunity to locate the inner ditch of the hillfort and part of the rampart was examined. During 1979 a massive building programme has been undertaken by Seismograph Ltd. and we are excavating trial trenches over 15 acres ahead of this development" (Grant 1979: 157).

1979: "... on a major office-construction within Holwood Park close to the Iron Age hillfort and the medieval tile kiln. The contractors stripped a large area and revealed one side of an unknown Iron Age enclosure. Rapid work on the edge of the contract area revealed a single large ditch, some 3m deep and more than 4m wide. Two corners of a sub-rectangular enclosure and an entrance causeway were then located, together with a small amount of late Iron Age pottery" (Grant 1980: 45; Richardson 1980: 46).

1979/1980: "During trenching for foundations for a large new office block near the Iron Age hillfort at Holwood House, Keston, an entirely new late Iron Age site was located. This was a ditched enclosure probably covering several acres. The ditch, about 5m deep and 3m wide could be defensive in character but does not seem to relate directly to the nearby Iron Age hillfort" (Grant 1981: 143).

Between 1987 and 1989: "Following the 1987 hurricane the group undertook extensive surveys of uprooted trees especially in the Keston - Hayes area. This revealed further information on the important Iron Age site at Holwood and, with the kind permission of Seismograph Ltd., trial excavations then took place" (Grant 1989: 106).

1990: "Archaeological work has continued at Holwood, Keston, with the kind permission of Seismograph Ltd. proving the importance of both the Iron Age and Roman sites, which covered an extensive area" (Johnstone 1990: 19).

Whilst some of this recent work is fairly small scale, some was apparently extensive and observed archaeology revealed by construction work and archaeology in evaluation trenches. None of the work can be closely located on the ground (no NGR references are given in the notes) and references to what was found are sketchy. Access to this information is currently denied. Until it is made available it will be difficult to quantify the impact upon the archaeological record.

1997: As part of a previous application for development at Holwood an aerial photographic survey and limited topographical and geophysical surveys were commissioned. The latter were outside the present application area, but will be included in the desktop review for completeness (1999a).

Iron Age

Substantial archaeological evidence of the Iron Age has been encountered within the development area and around the site. The most significant monument in the area is the hillfort within the grounds of Holwood House known variously as Holwood or Caesar's Camp. An early, and rather idiosyncratic, survey of 1774 is reproduced by Hasted (1797: opp. p38) but that conducted in 1790 by Milne can be considered quite accurate by modern standards and is plotted onto current maps with little difficulty. At that time the circuit was considerably more intact than today with only the southernmost ramparts no longer standing.

The banks enclosed an area of about 16.8ha making it only slightly smaller than Maiden Castle in Dorset and about one third the size of the Oldbury hillfort some 18km to the southeast (Hogg 1975). The hillfort is multivallate, with a double bank and ditch, the western side having the

additional protection of a natural counterscarp bank. In places the outer bank survives at 17m wide by 2.50m high, the inner 7m wide by 1.20m high; the ditches 9.80m by 4.50m original depth and 6.7m by 2.50m (measurements taken from Hogg 1975: 159). The northern side formerly extended round to the northeast and south, the line of the southern defences being suggested on the Milne plan. Piercy-Fox reports that it is possible to trace the southern ramparts on the ground (1969:186). The recently completed survey of the southern part of the paddocks indicated a series of low earthworks which may be the remains of the southern ramparts (Pattison 1997). It is very probably these features that were noted by Piercy-Fox. Pattison suggests that although the earthworks may be natural this would not explain their bank-like form with a fall away from the natural slope of the hill. As noted above Grant (1979) reports for the West Kent Group that in 1978 "A pipe trenching operation at Holwood in December gave the group an opportunity to locate the inner ditch of the hillfort and part of the rampart was examined". Unfortunately no indication is given of where this work took place.

Excavations in the 1950s and 1960s showed that at least the inner rampart of the hillfort had been constructed in three phases broadly during the middle and later Iron Age. The same work showed that the entrance on the northwest corner was an original feature whereas the gap on the western side nearer to the house was not (Piercy-Fox 1954; 1957; 1958; 1959; 1961b; 1969). The northwest entrance is described by Forde-Johnson as being "very slightly indented on either side otherwise of the simple gap type" (1976: 222). Excavations in 1958 revealed a causeway between the ends of the ramparts 12.20m (40') wide, the gateway itself being 4.75m (15') wide. Timber revetting had been burnt *in situ* (Piercy-Fox 1969). Observations on the 1962 north - south pipeline across the camp also indicated that the gap through which the existing driveway enters the monument is not an original feature, the roadway passing over the filled in ditch line (notebook in Piercy-Fox archive, Bromley Museum). Piercy-Fox has suggested, and others have followed, that the southern gap shown on the Milne survey indicates a probable entrance in the area now occupied by the house and garden of Holwood House and the former Seismograph office buildings around the stable block (1955: 96). The map printed with the 1955 paper also indicates a gateway on the northern side of the hillfort, to the east of the driveway entrance. The basis for this supposition is not discussed in the accompanying text.

No details of the interior of the hillfort are known with certainty, although the pipeline notebook indicates the presence of undated features, suggested to be pits and 'huts' along its line, particularly towards the southern end. The recent aerial photographic survey describes the paddock area, within the eastern part of the monument, as being a "very uneven area. This may be the result of former watercourses, but could be associated with settlement near the hillfort. Very tenuous evidence, but potentially archaeologically important". More detailed work indicated the

presence of low lying earthworks. These may constitute in part the Romano-British farmstead investigated by the Kent Group, of which no further details are known. The recent AP work also indicates features in the triangular grassy area between the drives. Results from any work inside the hillfort carried out by the West Kent Group are not currently available.

The possibility that the Holwood hillfort was part of something beyond the ramparts and the land enclosed by them has long been a subject of discussion. Early commentators considered the camp to be of Roman date, and some attributed to it the location of Noviomagus, listed in Antonius's Itinerary as being the first station on the route from London to Dover. The name appears on the OS map of 1869 and indeed as late as 1910, although Hasted had presented the arguments against the notion before 1800 (1797: 39 - 41). In 1880 Roach Smith explained why the camp should rightly be considered British and to pre-date the Roman invasion (1880: 3 - 4). He also specifically used the term *oppidum* in reference to Holwood and described the 'entire work' as occupying nearly one hundred acres (1880: 2), a far greater area than the 43 acres enclosed by the ramparts described by Milne.

In 1978 a substantial ditched enclosure of the late Iron Age was discovered immediately outside the western side of the hillfort (presumably near where the Redwood Building now stands, unfortunately no exact location is given (Grant 1979: 157; Richardson 1979: 262). The enclosure was large "probably covering several acres", with wide deep ditches (Grant 1981: 143). According to the brief report "two corners of a sub-rectangular enclosure and an entrance causeway were ... located, together with a small amount of late Iron Age pottery" (Grant 1980: 45; Richardson 1980: 46). The area stripped by the contractors during construction of the Redwood Building was plotted in the aerial photography survey but the overall extent of the archaeological investigations was not apparent.

Saxon and Medieval

No finds of the Saxon period are recorded from within the development area although evidence of settlement was found in the area of the Roman Villa excavations at Lower Warbank (Philp 1971, 1973). Piercy-Fox suggests that the Roman site at Warbank later became the Saxon Manor of Kestane or North Court, which included all of Holwood Hill, and is now represented by Keston Court Farm (NGR TQ417 634; Piercy-Fox 1955: 96). She does not reference the source of this information. Keston Church has Saxon origins and Saxon burials were found within the burial ground.

Although medieval settlement must have been extensive around the general Holwood and Keston areas, few individual items are recorded within the GLSMR. The principal site within the development area is an isolated tile kiln, dated to the later medieval period and excavated in 1972

(Philp 1973a, 1982). A possible context for the kiln is provided by Piercy-Fox's reference to "an interesting group of [medieval] tenements just outside the southern entrance to Caesar's Camp" (1955: 96). No further information or a source is given for the statement, however the recent topographical survey does appear to have found evidence of a small farm or settlement, hitherto unknown, within the southern Paddocks area (Pattison 1997). The kiln is a little over 400m away from this, to the southwest.

Post-medieval

The principal post-medieval structure within the development area is Holwood House itself, its antecedents and any ancillary buildings associated with its different phases. The original house was built around 1642. After several owners the Estate was purchased by William Pitt the Younger in 1785. He made only minor changes to the house (Watts 1982), but had a major effect on the surrounding park, including the Iron Age hillfort. In 1823 the new owner, John Ward, demolished the house and had a new one built in the Georgian style. With Victorian additions this is the house that stands today.

Aims and Methodology

The principal objective of the evaluation was to determine the degree of archaeological sensitivity of three particular parts of the application site, within the area of acknowledged archaeological significance. Deliberately limited in its initial approach, its aim at this stage was fairly limited, but will be more fully defined in the completed desktop and for any future work. The main purpose of the overall evaluation was to determine the location, extent, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains which may need to be taken into account when planning the development and preparing the masterplan. As outlined above, three areas were designated for this initial, pre-masterplan, phase of evaluation:

Area A The car park immediately south west of the hillfort.

Area B The area to the north of the Redwood Building.

Area C The area immediately south of the 'Five Islands' pond.

In Area A the principal objective was to determine whether elements of the hillfort itself extended to the west beyond the current SAM perimeter.

In Area B the principal objective was to determine whether the enclosure reported in 1978 extends to the north and if so attempt to identify its overall size and whether there are any internal features.

In Area C the principal objective was to determine whether any remains relating to the medieval tile kiln or associated activity extend beyond its known location.

To achieve these objectives a trenching plan was designed as follows:

Area A: One 40m trench running back from the perimeter of the SAM, with up to three 10m trenches at right angles to it along the length. This should allow a determination as to the south-westwards extent of the hillfort and whether there are any hillfort (or other) related features in the immediate vicinity.

Area B: The aerial photographic survey indicated an area to the east of the Redwood Building which was cleared during the construction work. Two trenches (initially) will test whether the area was entirely stripped and how far north that extends.

North of the Redwood, where it is possible that the Kent Group found a large Iron Age enclosure in 1979, the trenching plan is restricted to areas clear of trees (5 metres from any canopy) and utilises the woodland pathways.

Area C: Due to ecological constraints the trench positions in this area are restricted to clearances.

The Unit-modified version of the M.o.L.A.S. recording system was employed throughout. Excavated stratigraphic entities (e.g. a cut, a fill) were recorded as individual contexts ([001] – [071]), with interrelated stratigraphic events (e.g. a ditch cut and its fill) assigned feature numbers (F.'s 1 – 2; bolded upon introduction within the text).

Acknowledgements

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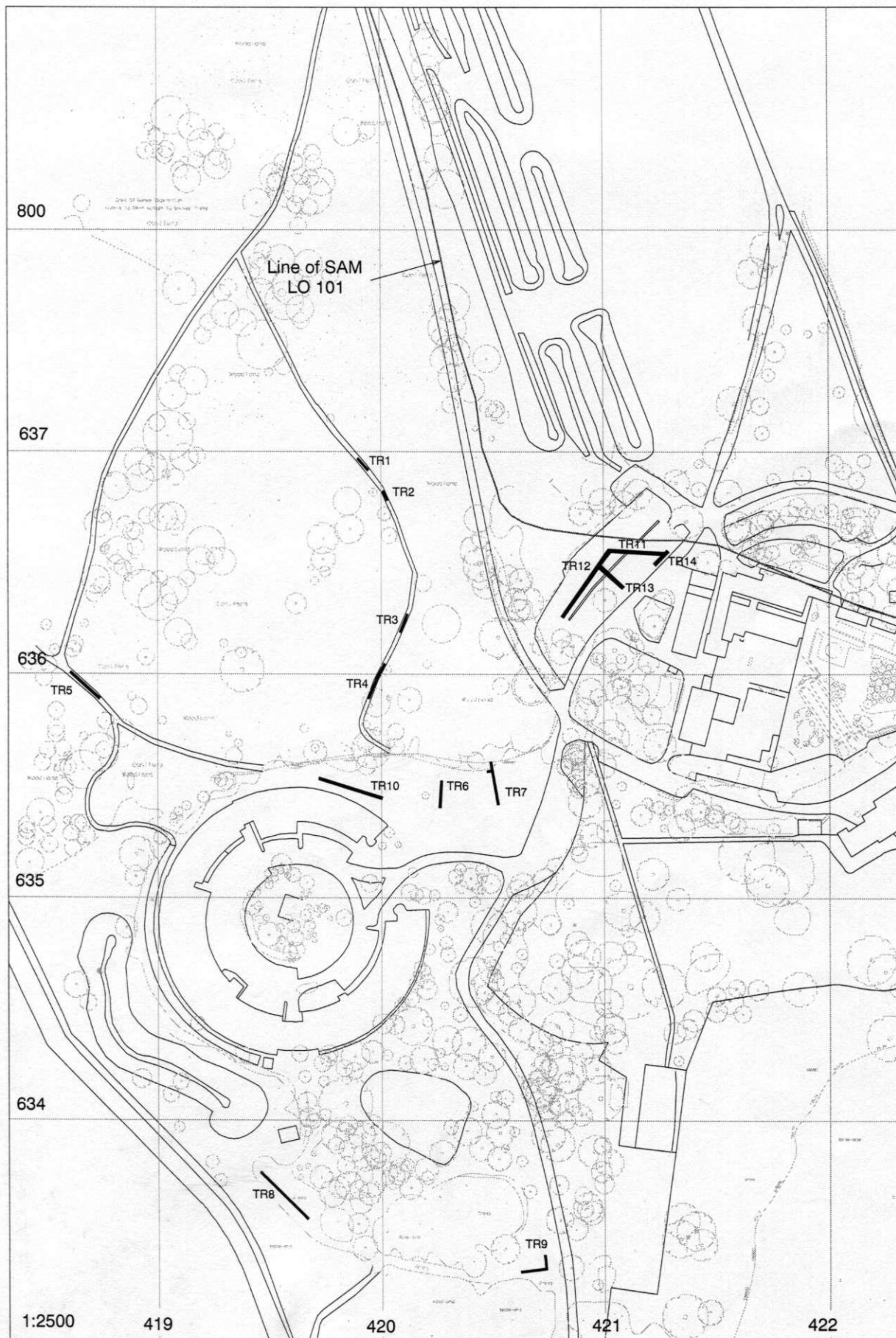


Figure 1 Trench Location

Excavation Results

Area A (Trenches 11-14)

Trench 11

Trench 11 was situated parallel with, but five metres outside of, the established SAM (LO 101) boundary of the hillfort. Nevertheless, its position revealed the actual line of the hillforts' southern boundary (outer ditch) to be further south than previously located. Once recognised, the external edge of the ditch, F.1, was partially excavated to confirm both its position and general alignment (E-W); this meant the removal of part of its upper (tertiary) fill. Immediately outside of the external edge of the ditch two broad horizons of reddish-brown, pebble-rich loam ([50] & [66]) were identified. The lower of the two layers, [50], was located directly over the natural subsoil and had the appearance of a palaeosol. Its survival would appear to be directly related to its location beneath a counterscarp bank represented by the upper layer [66]. The upper layer contained lenses of re-deposited natural and had a more mixed appearance as would be expected for a dumped deposit. Significantly the buried soil produced three pieces of Neolithic flint.

Beyond the buried soil and counterscarp bank the ground was by contrast heavily disturbed consisting of a deep dump (c. 0.50m) of re-deposited pebbles replete with rotting tree roots and all combined in a dark and sulphurous smelling, silty matrix. This in turn was topped by a black humic layer ([62]; depth: 0.19m) which appeared contiguous with the lower dump. Crucially the distinctive humic layer could be traced over the truncated counterscarp/buried soil horizon and upper ditch fills linking the pebble and tree root dump with the levelling of this part of the hillfort's defences.

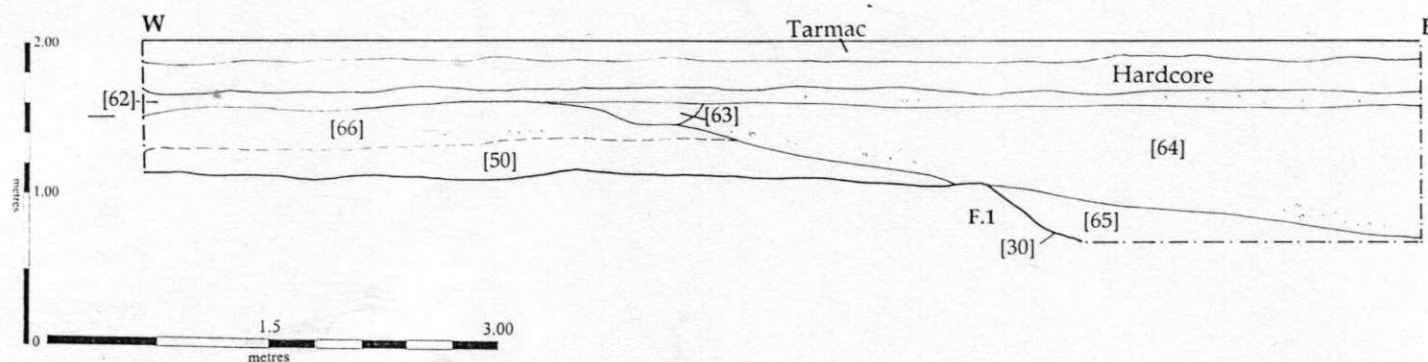


Figure 2: Trench 11; south facing section.

The excavation of the ditch edge (Cut [30]) revealed the beginnings of a steep profile (c. 60°). Its upper fills ([64] & [65]) consisted of a thick

homogeneous pebble layer with an olive grey sandy silt matrix overlaying a lighter sandy pebble band. At the base of the excavated slot the beginnings of a darker silty layer was observed to be dipping sharply away from the ditch edge. The edge of the ditch itself was interrupted by a 0.48m deep pit/posthole, F.3. This contained a clean re-deposited natural fill (compact orange sand and pebbles) which had been exposed by the erosion of the ditch edge.

Height (m OD)	Depth (cm)	Description
154.04	0-13	Tarmac (Car park surface)
	13-18	Hardcore (Car park make-up)
	18-37	Black humic layer (Soil horizon)
	37-90	Re-deposited pebbles
153.14	90	Natural

Table 1: Trench 11 Soil Profile (western end)

Trench 12

Trench 12 produced throughout its entire length (40m) the same sequence of deposits as recorded at the western end of Trench 11. The basal dump of re-deposited pebbles and tree roots was recorded as an uninterrupted horizon (c. 0.50m) overlaying undisturbed natural. Significantly the tree roots within the basal deposit showed evidence of cut marks attesting to the interpretation that the layer had been re-deposited.

Height (m OD)	Depth (cm)	Description
154.32	0-8	Tarmac (Car park surface)
	8-38	Hardcore (Car park make-up)
	38-45	Black humic layer (Soil horizon)
	45-93	Re-deposited pebbles
153.39	93	Natural

Table 2: Trench 12 Soil Profile (south-western end)

Trench 13

Trench 13 produced deposits consistent with those observed at the western end of Trench 11 and throughout Trench 12.

Height (m OD)	Depth (cm)	Description
154.42	0-14	Tarmac (Car park surface)
	14-23	Hardcore (Car park make-up)
	23-34	Black humic layer (Soil horizon)
	34-68	Re-deposited pebbles
153.74	68	Natural

Table 3: Trench 13 Soil Profile (south-eastern end)

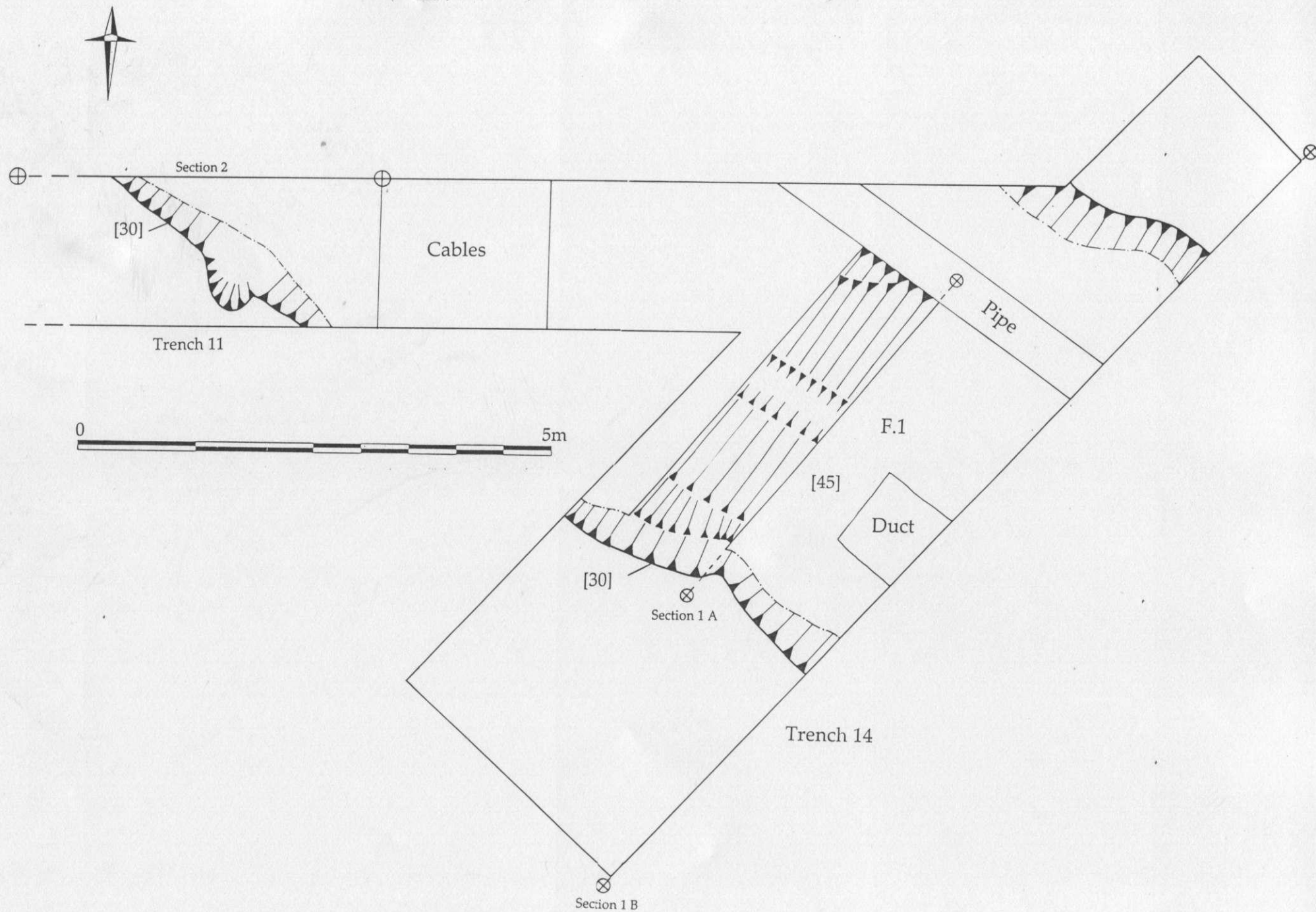


Figure 3: Plan of Trenches 11 and 14 showing outer ditch, F.1.

Section 1 A & B

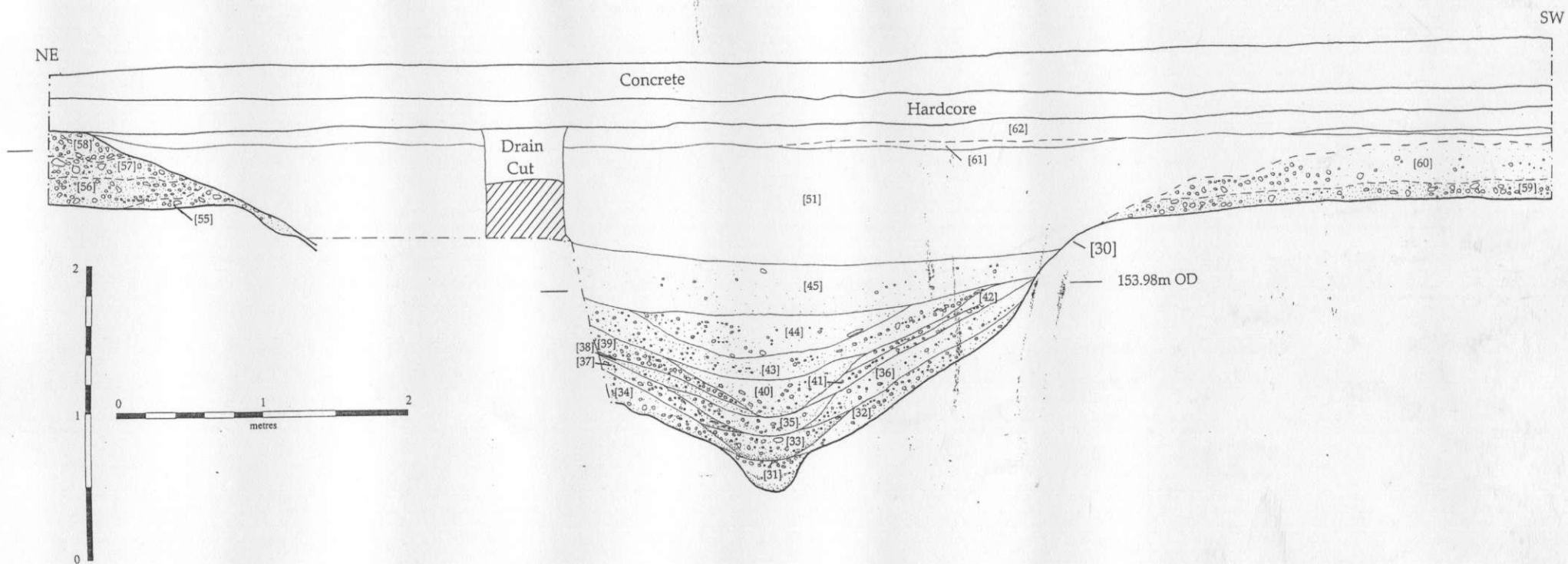


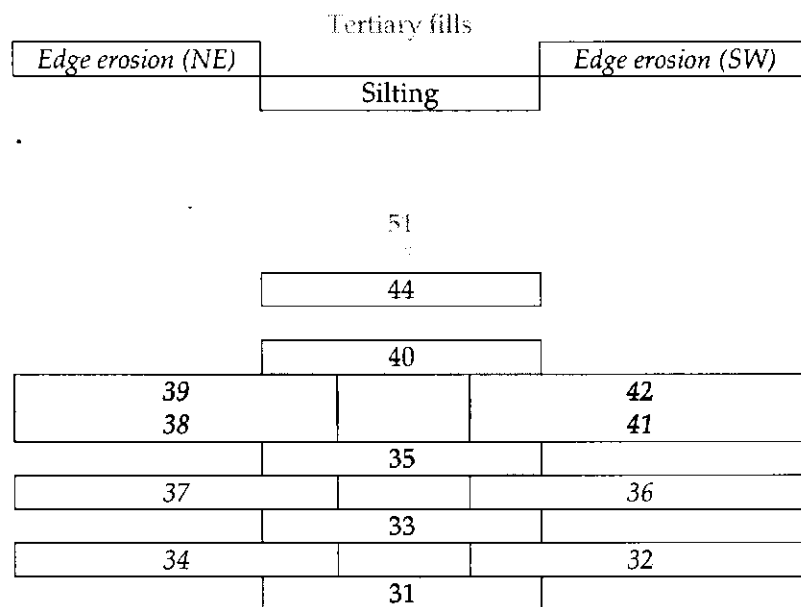
Figure 4: Composite section of outer ditch, F.1.

Trench 14

Using information on the alignment of the outer ditch, F.1, gained from Trench 11, Trench 14 was located to expose the whole width of the ditch to allow the excavation of a section perpendicular to its line. The opportunity to observe the ditch in another place also served to confirm its alignment. Importantly, excavation also created an opportunity to collect environmental samples.

As a result of excavation work, a composite section of the ditch was made which included parts of both the outer rampart and counterscarp bank. The ditch measured 5.80m in width and 1.84m in depth. Its profile was the same as the outer ditch profile reproduced by Piercy-Fox (1969), consisting of a broad V-shaped cut with a central 'ankle-breaker' or narrow V-shaped slot at its base. The fills were equally symmetrical and demonstrated a repeated sequence of periods of inactivity or stand-still (silting episodes) and active periods of slumping (edge erosion). The ditch profile would originally have been much sharper as the 'V' at the base of the profile indicates. Only the upper/tertiary fills ([45] & [50]) produced artefacts (1 piece of abraded Iron Age pottery, 2 pieces of flint and 1 piece of burnt flint).

The flanking earthworks were only partially investigated but the outer rampart appeared more complex and structured than the opposing counterscarp bank by being constructed out of a sequence of compacted dumps ([55]-[58]) as opposed to a single up-cast event ([60]).



Matrix 1: Fill sequence for F.1 showing deposition symmetry.

Matrix 1 Descriptions:

Primary/secondary silts:

- [31] Silvery grey silty sand (coarse) small angular gravels with sorted pebbles towards the top.
- [33] Thin greasy dark brown silty loam matrix around pebbles.
- [35] Dark black brown silty loam (rich and loose) around pebbles.
- [40] Dark grey brown 'peaty' silt around pebbles.
- [44] Grey brown silty matrix darker towards base; pebbles bedded horizontally.

Edge erosion fills:

- [34] Light creamy grey sand (some silt); less pebbles (smaller angular).
- [37] Creamy grey sandy silt around pebbles.
- [38] Light creamy grey sand (some silt); less pebbles.
- [39] Light grey brown sandy (little) silt (loam) around pebbles.
- [32] Light golden-brown very fine sand (some silt); less pebbles.
- [36] Light creamy grey sand (some silt); less pebbles.
- [41] Light brown loam pebble mix.
- [42] Dark grey brown silty loam; less pebbles.

Tertiary fills:

- [43] Brown-grey silty loam matrix (darker towards centre) around pebbles.
- [45] Yellow sand/grey silty sand matrix around pebbles (at all angles).
- [51] Homogeneous olive grey-sandy silt matrix around pebbles.

Area B (Trenches 1-7, and 10)

Area B can be separated into two groups of trenches: five cut along the woodland pathways north of the Redwood building (1-5), and a further three located within the cleared area immediately north-east of the same building (6, 7 & 10). Trenches 1-5 were cut using a mini digger with a 1.20m wide ditching bucket. Trenches 6, 7 and 10 were initially cut using the same machine but later re-cut using a larger wheeled digger because of the depth and compaction of the deposits encountered.

Trench	Length	Width	Depth	Observation
1	7.50	1.20	0.12	Natural: Pebble beds with grey/orange silty, sand matrix
2	5.00	1.20	0.11	"
3	9.00	1.20	0.12	"
4	17.75	1.20	0.12	"
5	18.00	1.20	0.12	"
6	12.50	1.20	0.70	Grey compacted pebbles with plastic inclusions over natural (Pebble beds with grey/orange silty, sand matrix).
7	20.00	1.20	0.60	(See trench description).
10	30.00	1.20	1.00	Mixed compacted pebbles with building rubble, plastic and other waste materials over natural (yellow grey pebble and sand beds).
$119.75 \times 1.20 = 143.70m^2$				

Table 4: Trench dimensions (m) and descriptions.

Trenches 1-5

The pathway trenches proved very shallow with natural being exposed almost immediately the turf cover was lifted. No archaeological features were encountered.

Trenches 6 and 10

The proximity of Trenches 6 and 10 to the Redwood building was reflected in the deposits found within them. Both contained dumps of building debris overlying truncated natural. No archaeological features were encountered.

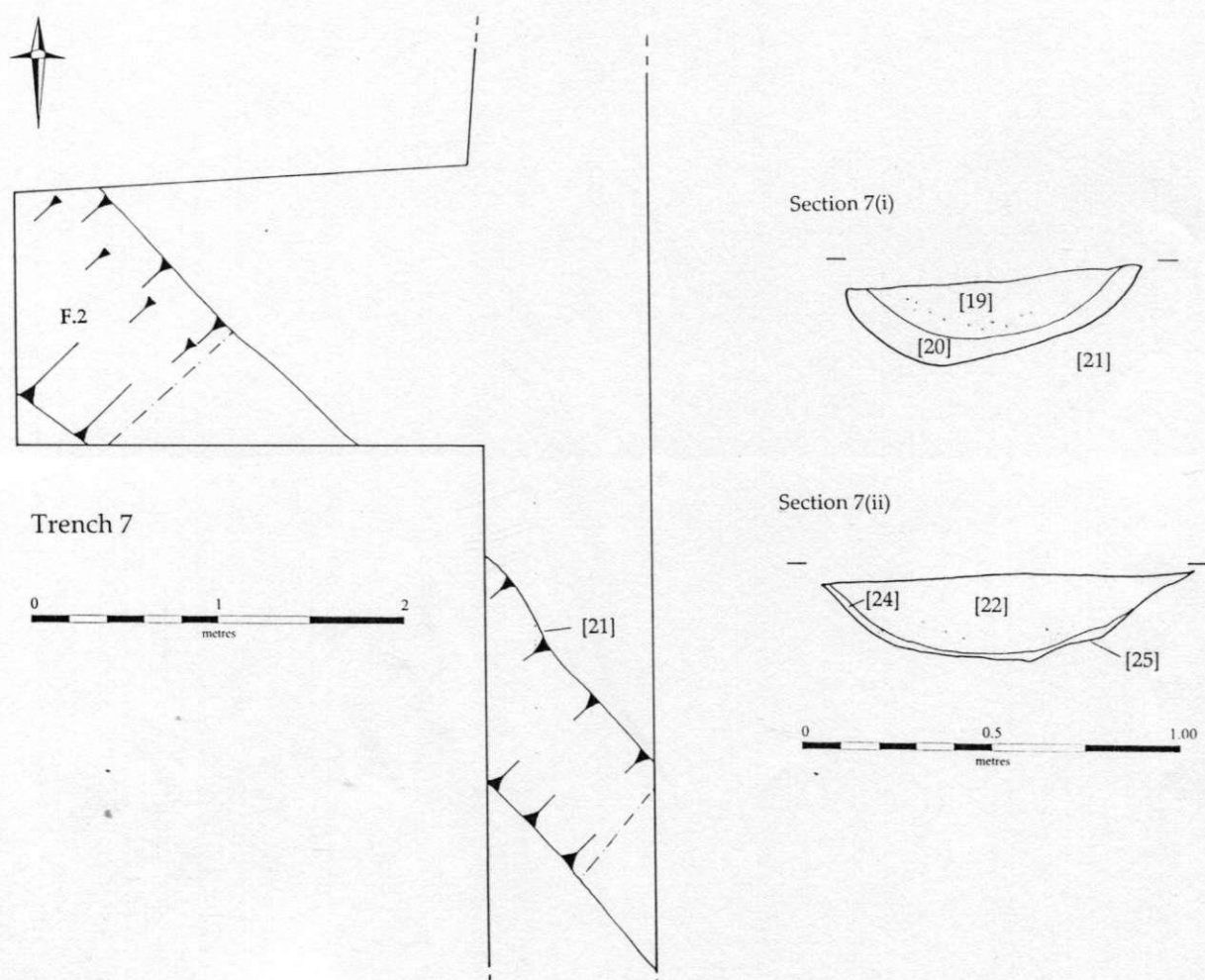


Figure 5: Plan of Trench 7 with sections of linear ditch, F.2.

Trench 7

Beneath a spread of re-deposited material ([70]), replete with plastic debris, a thick deposit of 'brick earth' was identified ([18]) which in turn sealed the line of a 1m wide, linear ditch, F.2. Its east-west alignment was similar to

that of the hillfort ditch seen in Area A which could indicate that the two features are contemporary. Although shallow (0.22m), the ditch contained two fills of which the upper ([19]/[22]) contained an abundance of burnt flint whilst the lower ([20]/[24]) produced several pieces of abraded Iron Age pottery. The ditch was traced over a distance of five metres and maintained its broad U-shaped profile throughout.

The 'brick earth' ([18]) consisted of mid grey-brown sandy clay with occasional rounded pebbles (increasing in density towards the surface), charcoal flecks and smudges of degraded pottery. The layer continued beyond the northern end of the trench but tapered to nothing 1m short of the southern end where the natural subsoil lay directly beneath the re-deposited material ([70]). Similarly a thin turf layer ([71]), which survived over the 'brick earth', tapered to nothing towards the south. The late dump ([70]), however, maintained a consistent depth throughout the length of the trench demonstrating that its deposition was directly related to the truncation of the lower deposits. The inclusion of plastic within the re-deposited layer presumably links it to the construction of the nearby Redwood building.

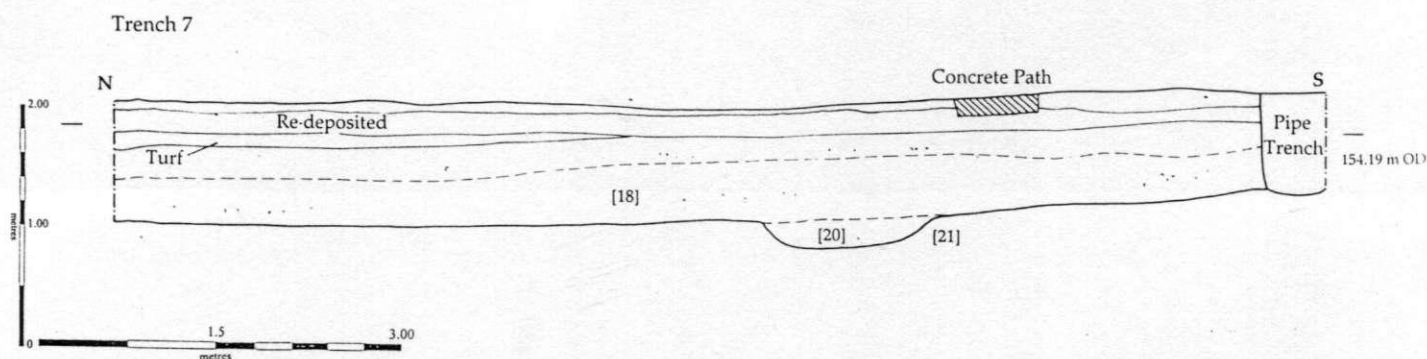


Figure 6: East facing section of Trench 7.

Area C (Trenches 8 and 9)

The two trenches in Area C were cut using a mini-digger with a 1.20m wide ditching bucket.

Trench	Length	Width	Depth	Observation
8	30.00	1.20	0.12	Natural?: Pebble beds with grey/orange silty, sand matrix
9	25.00	1.20	0.12	Three modern postholes and late burnt deposit over natural (Pebble beds with grey/orange silty, sand matrix)
$55.00 \times 1.20 = 66.00m^2$				

Table 6: Trench dimensions (m) and descriptions.

Trench 8

Trench 8's close proximity to the Medieval tile kiln (20m to the north) produced some related material. Six pieces of vitrified tile were recovered from the turf and top soil stripping, otherwise the natural observed within the base of the trench was only disturbed by a series of boreholes.

Trench 9

Again shallow, Trench 9 encountered three late postholes, one of which contained half a house brick as a post pad. At the eastern end of the trench a small burnt deposit was identified and this included pieces of electrical wire fragments of plant pots.

Discussion

The position of the outer ditch and counterscarp bank, as located within Area A, demonstrates the line of the southern boundary of the hillfort to be the same as that depicted by Thomas Milne in 1790 and serves to emphasise the surveys impressive accuracy. Indeed, at the time of the survey the southern defences had already gone and Milne was only able to record their line (Piercy Fox 1959), whereas throughout the rest of the circuit he managed to record the impressive earthworks in detail. Soon after the survey William Pitt the Younger had the earthworks from both the eastern and northern parts of the circuit removed making Milne's work all the more invaluable. Although not conclusive evidence, it would appear that the correspondence between what was seen in excavation and what is illustrated in the 18th century plan suggests that the rest of Milne's survey could be equally as accurate.

Interestingly, and in light of the excavation, a further observation of the line of the southern defences can be made. Immediately to the east of Trench 14 survive two massive (and therefore ancient) Oak trees, both of which appear to be situated upon raised areas. When the line of the outer ditch is projected, the more southern of the two Oak's along with its accompanying earthwork is located directly behind its inner edge in the position of the outer rampart. Furthermore, when measured, the distance between the two 'Oak tree earthworks' is comparable to the width of the inner ditch as reproduced by Piercy Fox (1969). The northern Oak would appear to be growing out of the inner rampart. Perhaps Milne's 1790 survey had used these subtle earthworks to plot the line of the hillfort's southern defences.

The new section cut through the outer ditch compares favourably with Piercy Fox's Site I section (Piercy Fox 1969). The symmetrical, broad V-shaped profile replete with basal slot or 'ankle-breaker' of both sections are virtually indistinguishable. Similarly the crescent-shaped silting lenses reproduced in Piercy Fox's article compare well with those recorded in Section 1A (see Figure's 4 and 7) indicating a matching symmetrical sequence of deposition. A symmetry caused by successive silting or 'standstill' episodes being interrupted by more energetic erosion events. When seen together (Figure 7) the two sections also give equal account of the outer rampart and counterscarp bank indicating that the southern defences were as elaborate as those still visible along the western perimeter.

Preliminary examination of the environmental bulk samples taken from the primary silts of the outer ditch have yet to be fully analysed. However, the initial indication is that they contain very fine and fragmented charred herbaceous material, possibly burnt grass seeds (Ballentyne forthcoming). Further environmental work will also examine a pollen core taken from the ditch sequence with a view to comparing any results with those

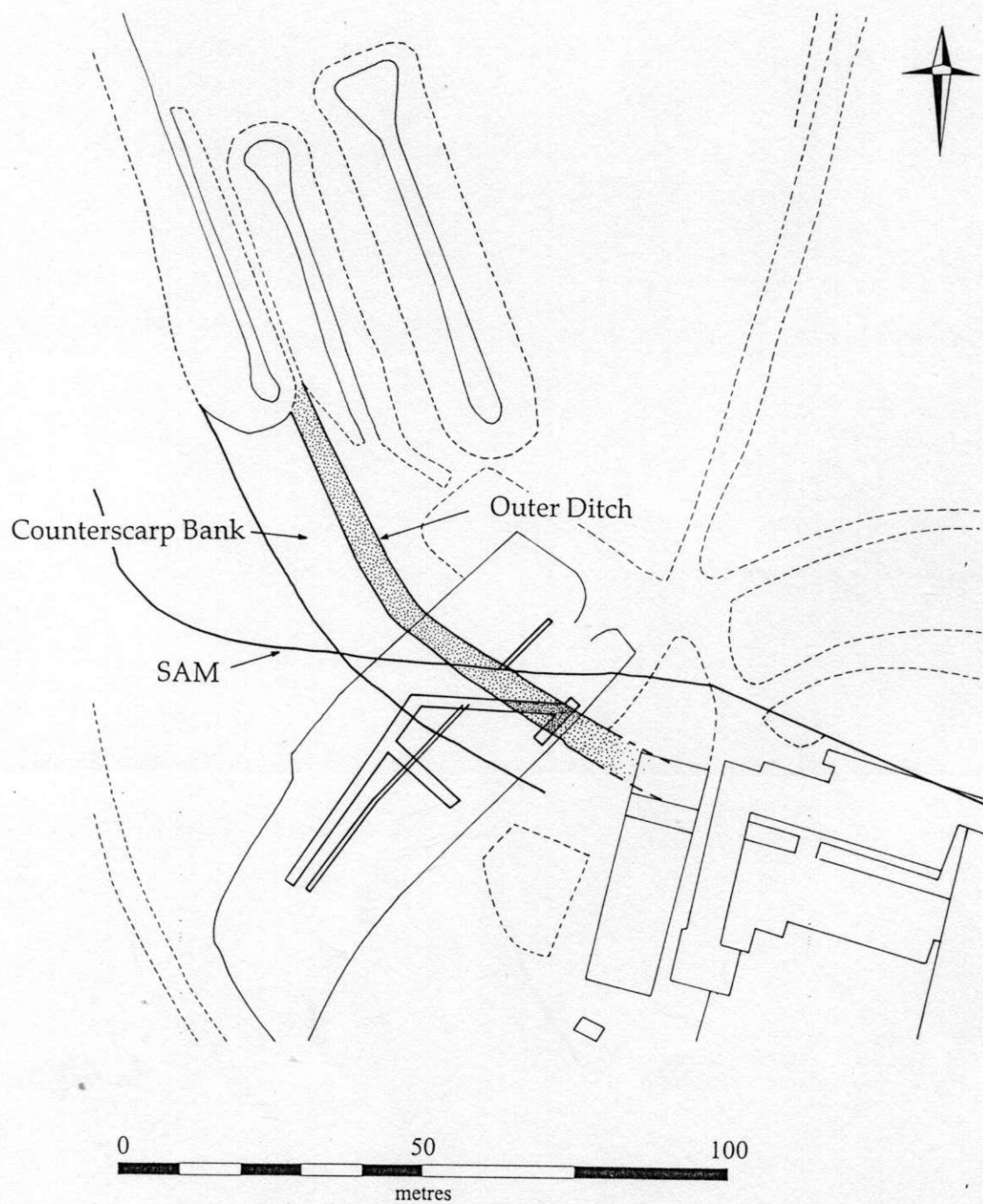


Figure 7: Projected line of outer ditch and counterscarp bank.

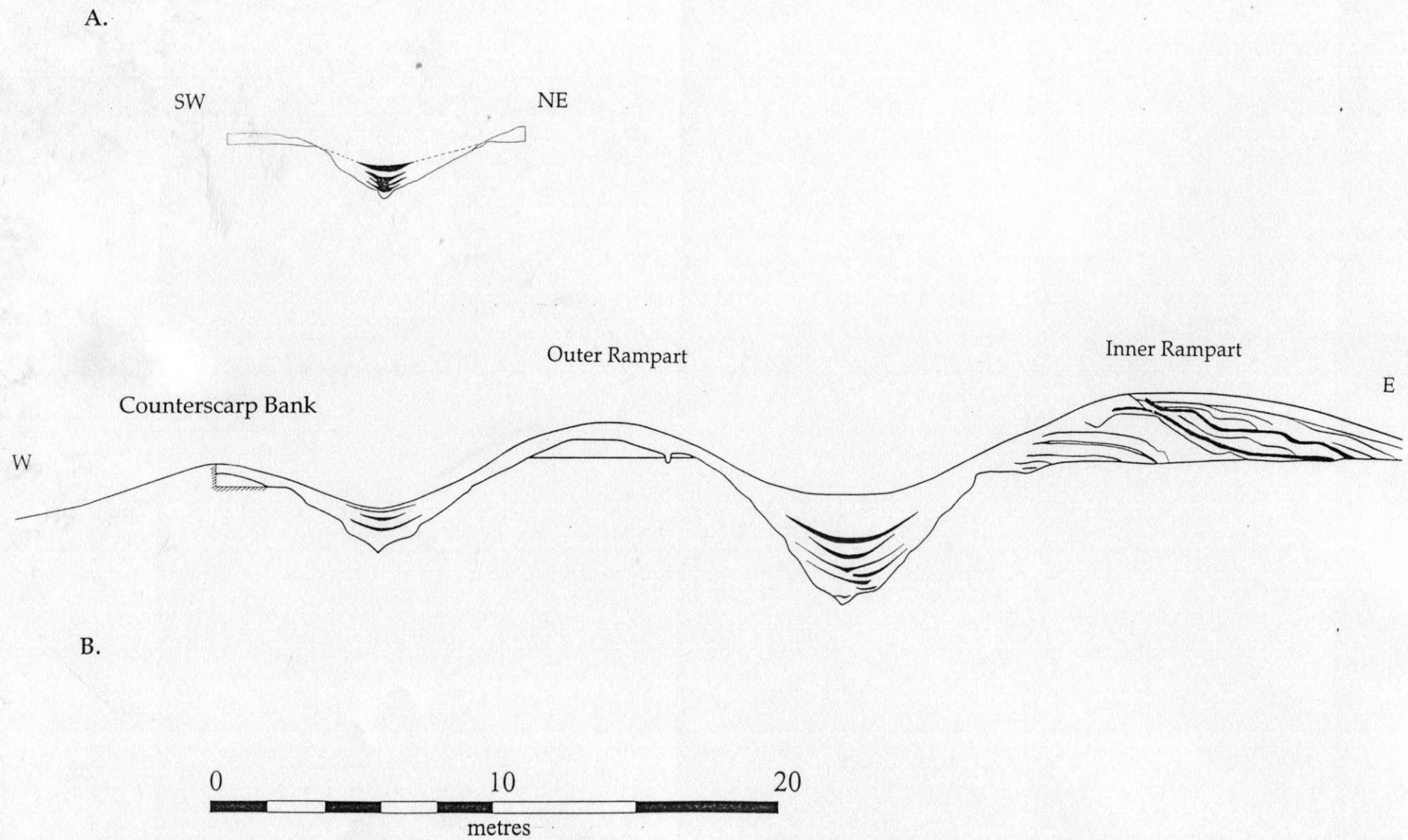


Figure 8: Comparative Sections: A - Trench 14, and B - Site I (after Piercy Fox 1969).

achieved by Professor G.W. Dimbleby in his pioneering analysis of pollen samples taken from rampart material (Piercy Fox 1969). The current investigation enabled samples to also be taken from the 'buried soil' located beneath the counterscarp bank (see Trench 11).

The trenching programme in Area B could not locate any part of the previously reported "sub-rectangular enclosure....together with a small amount of late Iron Age pottery" (Grant 1980: 45; Richardson 1980: 46) so unfortunately its exact location remains ambiguous (other than somewhere near the Redwood Building). The discovery of a small linear ditch of similar date in the same vicinity does however confirm an Iron Age presence to the south and outside of the main hillfort. Whether the small linear is inside or outside the 'sub-rectangular enclosure' is unclear but the ditch could equally represent part of an internal settlement feature or a minor external boundary.

The Medieval tile kiln (Philp 1982) in Area C remains isolated as both trenches south of the 'Five Islands' pond revealed archaeological blanks.

Appendix

Pottery and Flint

Context	Feature	Trench	Type	No.	Description	Wt (g)
17	Layer	9	Pt	1	Modern Pot	1
18	'Brick-earth'	7	Pt	1	Iron Age	6
19	2	7	Pt	4	Iron Age	11
19	2	7	BF	26		681
20	2	7	Pt	6	Iron Age	15
20	2	7	BF	5		139
22	2	7	Pt	6	Iron Age	15
22	2	7	BF	6		246
23	2	7	Pt	6	Iron Age	16
24	2	7	Pt	1	Iron Age	10
24	2	7	BF	2		107
45	1	14	FL	1		82
45	1	14	BF	1		48
50	Buried soil	11	FL	3	Neolithic?	262
50	Buried soil	11	BF	1	Neolithic?	77
51	1	14	Pt	1	Iron Age	2
51	1	14	FL	1		3

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