

88 Main Street Sedgeberrow Worcestershire



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



April 2006

Client: 21st Century Build

Issue N^o: 1
OA Job N^o: 3184
Planning Ref N^o: W/06/0076
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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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88 Main Street, Sedgeberrow, Worcestershire

NGR SP 0213 3829

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SUMMARY

In March 2006, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at 88 Main Street, Sedgeberrow, Worcestershire (NGR SP 0213 3829). The work was commissioned by Mr C Siller of 21st Century Build in advance of a new two-storey extension on the rear of the property. The watching brief revealed an undated probable field boundary ditch, a 19th-century rubbish pit, a feature of uncertain function or date and modern service features.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In March 2006 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at 88 Main Street, Sedgeberrow, Worcestershire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr C Siller of 21st Century Build in respect of a planning application for new two storey extension on the rear of the property (Planning Application No. W/06/0076).
- 1.1.2 A project brief was set by Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Advisor for Worcestershire County Council (WCC 2006).
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief.

1.2 Topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site is situated on the north side of Main Street to the west of the village centre of Sedgeberrow, which is situated on the west bank of the River Isbourne and lies at c 40 m OD and the underlying geology of the site is Lower Lias clays with bands of limestone and patches of gravel. The site is located at NGR: SP 0213 3829.

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 reproduced below.
- 1.3.2 The site of the development is situated on the west side of the village centre. The village church is situated to the east of the village centre and dates from the 1331. The church was remodelled in the 19th century (*Pevsner and Sherwood, 1974, 258-9*).
- 1.3.3 The Church of Worcester had held the manor of *Segcesbearnuue* since 778 AD, when it was granted to them by King Offa of Merica. The present village retains traces of the medieval landscape with plots on Main Street dating from this period.

1.3.4 Two other archaeological investigations and aerial photography suggest that Sedgeberrow and its environs was farmed and landscaped from the prehistoric period onwards. Material recovered from an area on the southern edge of the village suggest a scatter of Romano-British material from farming activity and the remains of a scattered - but established - agricultural Anglo-Saxon settlement (CBA Group, 1984). Just across the road to the south-east of the site, an archaeological watching brief and small excavations revealed a series of boundary ditches and ring ditches from the pre-historic to the Iron Age period. Overlying this was a more established Romano-British farmstead and field systems (WAS, 2000) (Fig. 2). In the 19th-century, a number of Neolithic stone axes, bronze spearheads and fragments of defensive armour were recovered during deepening of the River Isbourne at Sedgeberrow, but their exact location is unknown.

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 After the small conservatory was demolished, the ground was reduced to 0.3 m below floor level. The foundation trenches were then marked out and excavated with a mini excavator with a 0.5 m wide bucket. This was carried out under archaeological supervision.

2.2.2 All archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:50 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 *OA Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits (Fig. 3)

3.1.1 The groundworks for the new extension exposed the natural of compacted light brown gravel (7), which had been cut by a large boundary ditch (10) with sloping sides; the base of the ditch was below the depth of impact. It measured 4.2 m x 2.7 m x 0.8 m and contained a number of fills. The lowest fill was a compact reddish brown silty clay loam (11) with a thin lens of light reddish silty sand (14) sealing it. Overlying these was a compact dark reddish brown silty clay loam (15). No finds were recovered from the deposits.

3.1.2 Just to the north-east of the ditch, in the corner of the site, a feature (4) was partly exposed. It had a curving edge with very steep sloping sides rounding sharply to a flat base. It measured 0.8 m x 0.7 m x 0.6 and contained two fills. The primary fill was a compact dark grey silty clay (5) in the base, sealed below a reddish-brown silty clay (6). A late 19th-century circular pit (1) was also exposed with sloping sides and concave base. It measured 1.5 m x 1.2 m x 0.75 m and was filled by a loose, very dark grey brown silty sand loam (2) with tins, glass, an enamel bowl and pottery. None of these finds were retained. To the north of pit 1 was a service trench (8) measuring 0.3 m x 0.3 m x 0.3 m and running east-west, with a dark grey brown silty clay (9) covering a 4" ceramic drain pipe. All these features were sealed below a 0.3 m thick very dark grey silty clay loam (3) garden topsoil, which had been cut by a service trench (12) for a very recent plastic pipe.

3.2 Finds

3.2.1 No finds were retained from the watching brief.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

3.3.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the watching brief.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1.1 The watching brief revealed an undated boundary ditch (10) aligned north-south across the site and is part of one of the field systems which pre-date or surround the village of Sedgeberrow. The fact that the fills were absent of finds could suggest that it was a boundary feature on the edge of the field system.

4.1.2 Another feature (4) was observed in the north-east corner of the site, but its date and function remains unclear. The other features uncovered in the area of development were either of uncertain date/function or were of late 19th-century date or later and related to services. This included a rubbish pit from occupation of the present property.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1	Cut	0.75 m	1.20 m	1.50 m	19th/20th-century rubbish pit
2	Fill				Fill of rubbish pit
3	Layer	0.30 m			Topsoil of garden
4	Cut	0.60 m	0.70 m	0.80 m	Feature possibly pit or ditch
5	Fill				Fill of feature
6	Fill				Fill of feature
7	Natural				Natural gravel
8	Cut	0.30 m	0.30 m	3.20 m	Service trench
9	Fill				Fill of service trench
10	Cut	0.80 m	2.70 m	4.20 m	Ditch
11	Fill				Fill of ditch
12	Cut	0.40 m - 0.70 m	4.50 m	0.30 m	Service trench
13	Fill				Fill of service trench
14	Fill				Fill of ditch
15	Fill				Fill of ditch

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

CBA Group Eight, *1984 West Midland Archaeology No 27*

OA 1992 *Fieldwork Manual* (1st edition ed. D. Wilkinson)

OA 2006 *88 Main Street, Sedgeberrow. Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological watching brief*

Pevsner, N and Sherwood, J 1974 *The Buildings of England: Worcestershire*

WAS 2000 *Transactions of The Worcestershire Archaeological Society, Third series Vol. 17*

WCC 2006 *Requirements for an Archaeological Watching Brief at 88 Main Street, Sedgeberrow, Worcestershire*

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: 88 Main Street, Sedgeberrow, Worcestershire

Site code: SEMS 06

Grid reference: NGR SP 0213 3829

Type of watching brief: Ground works for new extension to rear of property.

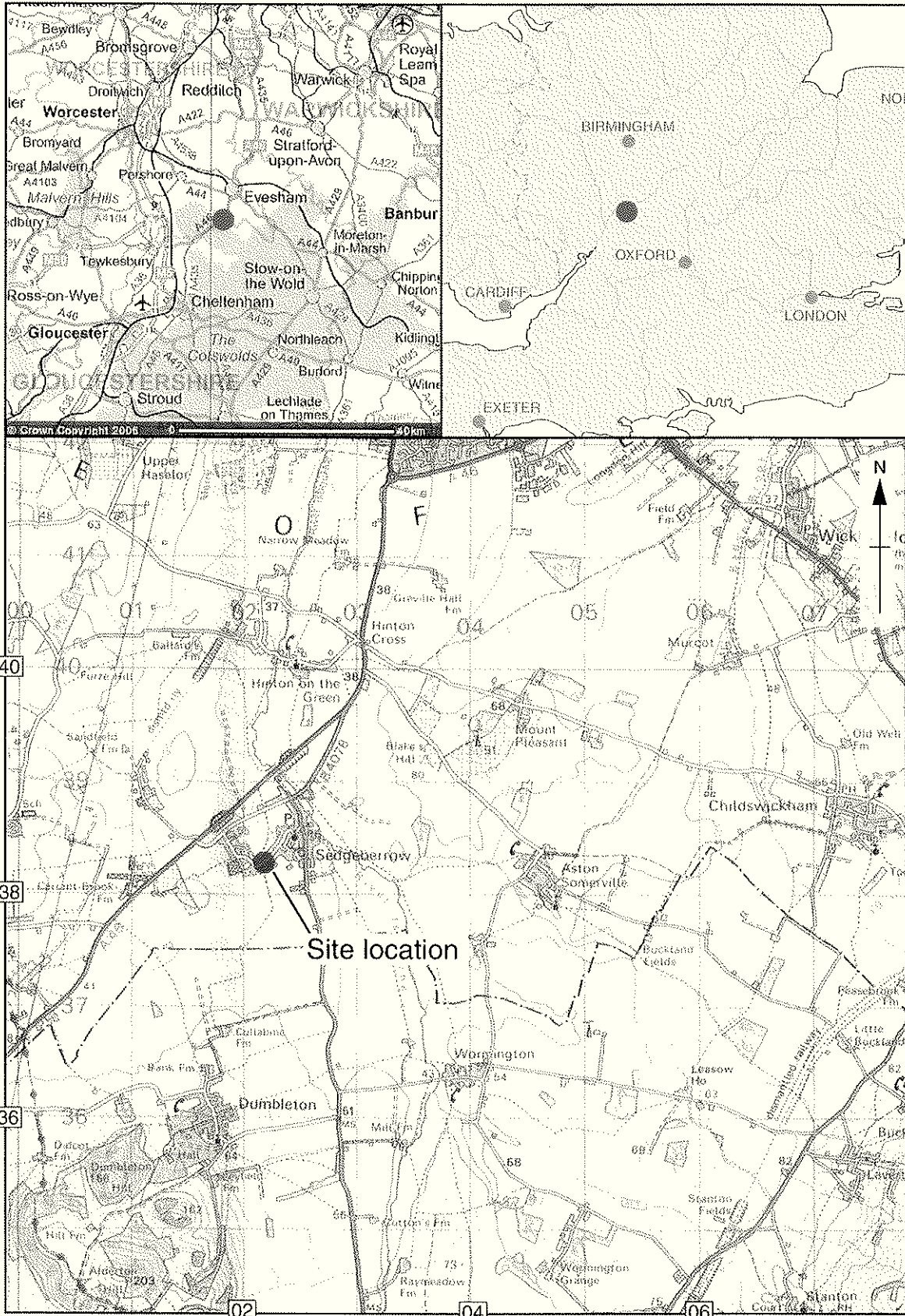
Date and duration of project: One site visit on the 30/3/2006.

Area of site: 4.7 m x 3.5 m

Summary of results: An undated boundary ditch and feature were uncovered together with a 19th-century rubbish pit.

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

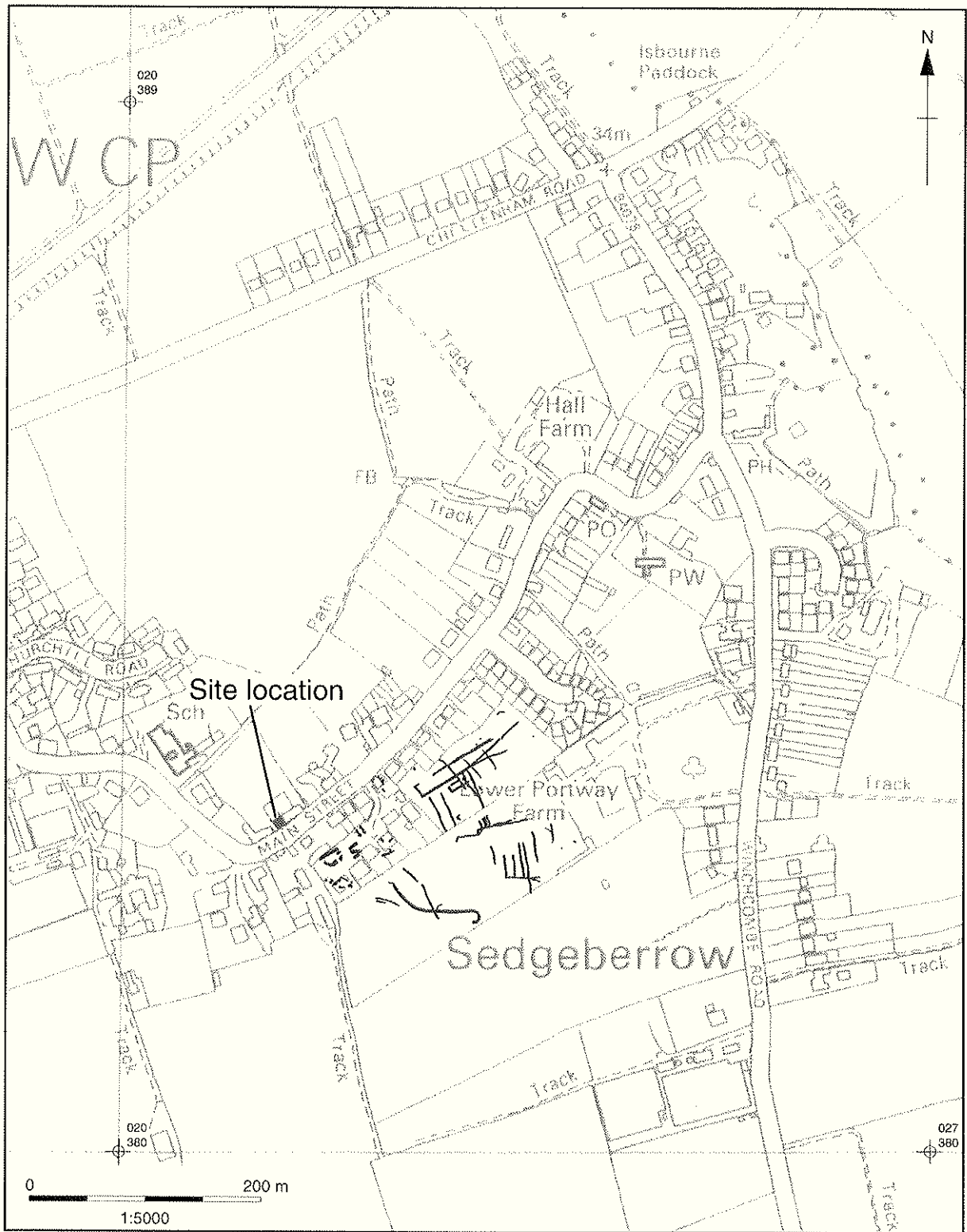
Server: /pubs/1_r/11/2/SEM506*SEM506*88 Main Street, Sedgberrow*HC*11: 04.06




Scale 1:50,000

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Figure 1: Site location

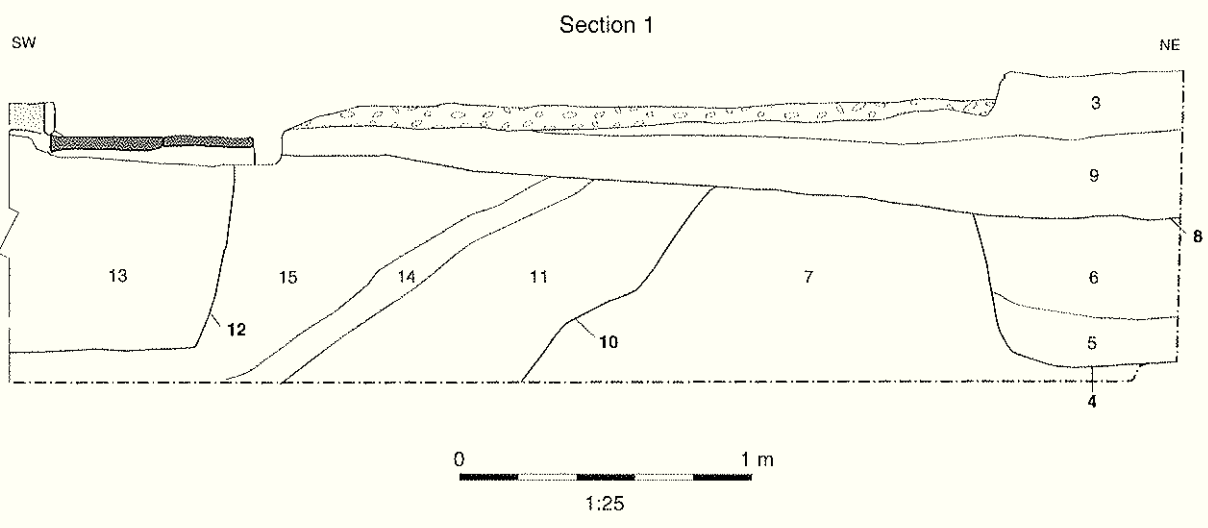
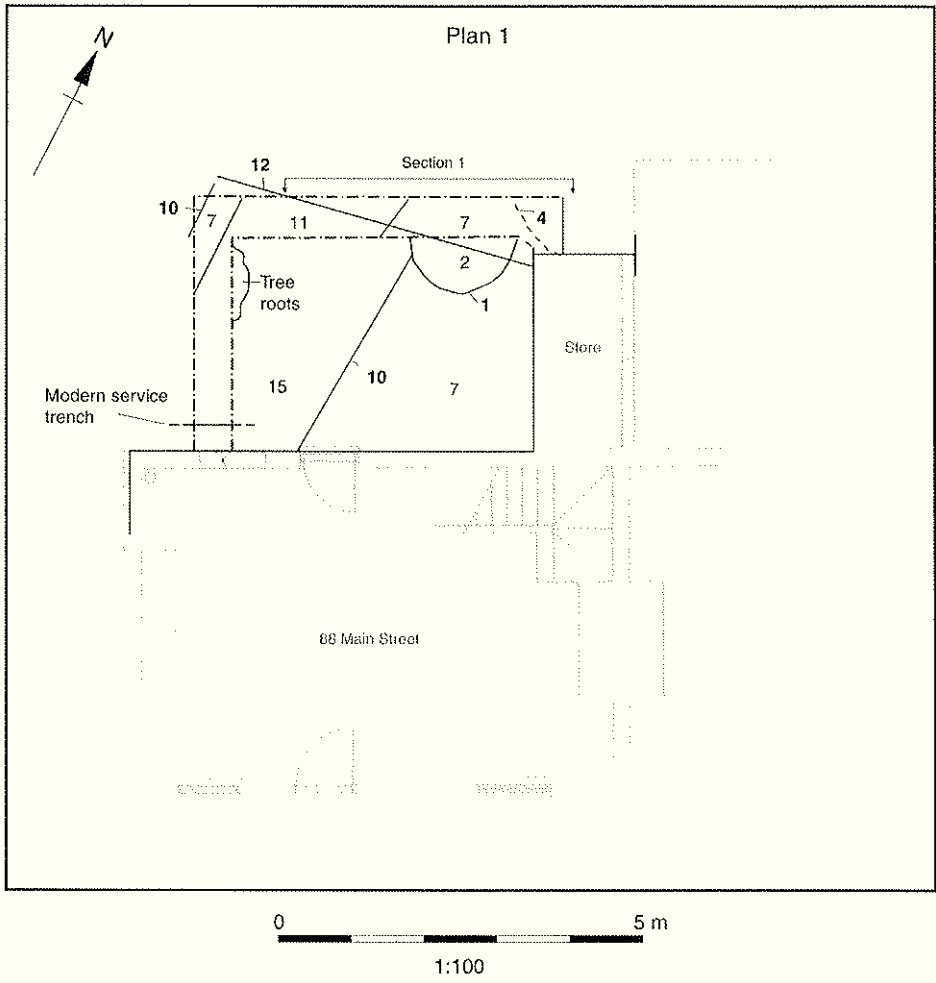


Key:



Archaeological features and cropmarks

Figure 2: Site location showing features and cropmarks from earlier excavations and aerial photographs



Key:

	Concrete patio
	Base of path
	Gravel bedding for slabs

Figure 3: Site plan and section



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