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CARDIFF ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS
(formerly Channel Archaeology)

**COBOURG GARAGE, FROG STREET,
TENBY, PEMBROKESHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



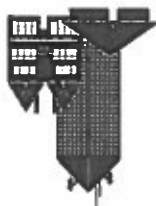
Planning Application no. NP 04/682

Client: Michael Evans

Report 2006/02

January 2006

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CARDIFF ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS

(formerly Channel Archaeology)

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30 January 2006

Dear Charles,

**COBOURG GARAGE, FROG STREET, TENBY,
PEMBROKESHIRE : ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Please find enclosed a copy of the evaluation report for the above, with apologies for the delay. I have sent copies to the client and planners via the architect. I will endeavour to send you a digital version. The archive will be going to Tenby Museum. I will be sending a specification for the second evaluation shortly.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely

M W Ponsford BA, MLitt, FSA, MIFA, Principal Consultant

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Prepared by M. W. Ponsford, BA, MLitt, FSA, MIFA

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Figure 4A Quantity of pottery by sherds

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Plate 1 The evaluation trench from the west, taken from the town wall.

Plate 2 The west end of the excavation showing sloping ground and depth of deposits over subsoil.

Plate 3 The trial trench to locate natural showing orange-brown subsoil developed over shattered sandstone rock.

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1 Summary

The evaluation was conducted in November 2005 in accordance with a written specification for archaeological work. In a trench measuring 10 x 2m the archaeological resource was excavated to a large extent entirely to natural. The lowest part of the trench was stratified in that the build-up of deposit had been undisturbed by later gardening. No features or evidence of structures were, however, found. The lowest deposit dates to the latter half of the 13th century and is contemporary with the construction of the town walls.

2 Introduction

2.1 The site that forms the subject of this evaluation report consists of the property known as the Cobourg Garage, formerly used for parking cars by the Cobourg Hotel at NGR SN 1320 0050 (Cover and Fig 1). This was a pre-determination evaluation to assess the effect of the development on the archaeological resource (planning application no. NP 04/682). The site is within the historic town of Tenby and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

2.2 Cardiff Archaeological Consultants have been commissioned by Michael Evans through Alan Francis Architects to undertake the evaluation in response to a planning condition. The site is part of the historic town of Tenby and should contain physical evidence for the history of the construction and development of this part of the town.

2.3 It is the opinion of the professionally retained advisers to the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, Cambria Archaeology - Heritage Management, that the site contains an important archaeological resource. The evaluation was requested in the light of paragraph 14 of WO Circular 60/96.

2.4 The specification (Ponsford 2005) was prepared in response to a brief written by Cambria Archaeology - Heritage Management of 22 August 2005 in which it should be noted that: 'The results of the evaluation will be used to assess the impact of the proposed development and will provide adequate information to identify the scale and scope of the necessary mitigation. This may result in the protection of areas of surviving sensitive archaeological remains through mitigation engineering or the prevention of development or in the full excavation, investigation and recording of archaeological remains prior to the commencement of development. Alternatively archaeological interests may be protected by the attachment of suitable conditions to a positive planning decision'.

3 The site of Tenby

3.1 The small historic town of Tenby (Dinbych-y-Pyscod) lies on the coast in the south-east corner of Pembrokeshire on rising ground composed of Carboniferous Limestone some 20-30m above sea level. Two small knolls lie to the east. Castle Hill and St Catharine's Island, both used for small fortifications at different times. A small harbour has been made on the north-facing coast.

3.2 The original town plan is based on a grid pattern drawn within the town walls. many parts of which still stand. The town did not expand significantly until the later 19th century, extending west onto former town lands (Ponsford 2005, fig 2). The town lay entirely within the parish of St Mary, divided into St Mary in Liberty (town) and St Mary out Liberty (outside the town lands). The church is centrally placed in the town.

3.3 The Anglo-Norman settlement of the Pembrokeshire region began in 1093 with the invasion of Dyfed under Roger de Montgomery, the Norman Earl of Shrewsbury, and the establishment of his castle at Pembroke. From this base his son, Arnulf, had by 1100 subdued the greater part of Cantref Penfro (in the southern part of the present county around Tenby), Cantref Rhos (west of Haverfordwest) and Cantref Daugledau (in the central part of the present county), which were reorganised as a county under Henry I - later a palatinate of the earls of Pembroke (Cambria Archaeology 2000).

3.4 The castle at Tenby was built from about then by Gerald de Windsor or Gilbert de Clare, first Earl of Pembroke (1138-48), and was probably mainly of timber as there are mentions of its destruction by burning in the 12th and 13th centuries (RCAHMW 1925, 395). The castle provided protection to this flank of the Norman penetration into Pembrokeshire and a safe harbour. The town would have been unwallled at this time.

3.5 That this was not a successful enterprise is shown by the capture of the town by Maredudd and Rhys ap Gruffydd in 1151. The Welsh again sacked the town in 1187. In 1260 Llewelyn ap Gruffydd put the town to the sword in protest against the Norman occupation of Wales.

3.6 To protect the Norman investment in Pembrokeshire and strengthen the defences of Tenby, William de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, began building new stone defences from 1264 to enclose the town and incorporated a new castle on Castle Hill into these. In 1328 Edward III granted Tenby the right to levy tolls and customs on goods entering the town for seven years for murage and quayage. This helped to pay for additional towers in the walls and the outer barbican tower for the west or St George's Gate, now the Five Arches.

3.7 In 1457 Jasper Tudor's Letters Patent made the mayor and Burgesses fully responsible for the upkeep of the walls and the defences of the town. Lower parts of the walls were increased to six feet in thickness and walls heightened and parapet walk added. In what is South Parade, South Pool and St Florence Parade, a dry ditch 30 feet wide was dug for further protection (called 'The Whale' in the 19th century). In 1588, the Armada a threat, the section of wall to the south of the West Gate was rebuilt and strengthened. The two main gates through the wall included the West Gate (Five Arches) and the North Gate at the end of High Street on the site of the Royal Lion Hotel. The latter was removed in 1781 as it was seen as an impediment - it had already been partly demolished in 1706-7. Other gates are shown on the OS first edition of 1890 (Ponsford 2005, fig 2)

3.8 Among the medieval institutions in the town, there was a chapel of St Julian at the foot of the castle, probably a sailors' chapel, and a 'Carmelite Friary' founded by John de Swynemore in 1399 on the west side of the parish church (RCAHWMW 1925. 398). This became the residence of Dr Richard Loughor, Chancellor of York. A mill of one of the windmills survived in 1925. The well of the Hospital of St John is said to have supplied the town with water (located north-west of the town on the OS plan of 1908 (Ponsford 2005, fig 3). There was also a small hospital (the Mawdlems) whose lands and possessions are referred to in the 16th century. The mayor and burgesses had the rents diverted and transferred to them as early as 1446. The town was then responsible for the care of the poor. The Mawdlems was turned into a brewhouse by Peter Vele, town bailiff in 1599 (RCAHWMW 1925, 399).

3.9 During the Civil War Tenby was held initially (1641-3) for Parliament by the mayor David Hammond. In 1643 it became the main Royalist stronghold in Pembrokeshire. The town was taken back after a fearsome bombardment from the sea by Colonel Richard Laugharne on March 7 1644. In 1648 Laugharne and the mayor, and commander of the fortress at Pembroke, Colonel Poyer, revolted against Cromwell, but were crushed in the subsequent sieges.

3.10 Tenby was badly hit by the plague of the early 1650s during which it is said that almost half the population of 1000 died. The general poverty of the area is shown by the lack of development outside the town even by 1840 when the Tithe Map was drawn up. It was only after the mid-19th century that the town developed, in response to the new needs of tourism and healthy seaside living. The extant mid-19th century fort on St Catharine's Island which protected the town from then is well preserved (Driver 2002, fig 5.3). The arrival of the railway in 1864 was an important flip to the new interest in holidays. Houses became small hotels and terraces of fine houses were built, some as second houses for summer holidays. Landscaping of promenades began and continued with the landscaping of Castle Hill when the Welsh national monument to Prince Albert was erected on the crest of the hill in 1865. Tenby continues to be one of the most important holiday towns in South Wales.

4 Previous archaeological work.

4.1 Much of the information on the SMR is concerned with standing post-medieval buildings. Only one piece of fieldwork (at St Mary's Church) is noted (PRN50649). There have been few opportunities to conduct excavations in the town, but work on the National Trust's 15th-century Tudor Merchant's House, Quay Street, in Tenby produced some useful environmental evidence from a cess pit (Murphy 1989 and 2002, 64; Nayling 2002, 31), while pottery from Iberia and north Devon showed the trading connections Tenby had with the rest of England and the Continent. emphasised by the grape and fig seeds found. From the evidence of bones and shell the diet included many types of fish and shell-fish.

5 Some research considerations

5.1 The site of the development is situated between a medieval street and the town wall of Tenby. Elements of occupation over the period from the first Norman contact with the area of the town in the 11th-12th century until the 20th should be expected. It is possible that earlier deposits belonging to a pre-Norman settlement are present.

5.2 The early (pre-1260s) defences of Tenby are likely to be of earth and timber but not necessarily in the same place as the later stone walls. The remains of an earth bank might account for the abrupt change in level between the levels inside and without the walls: it is unlikely, but possible, that a medieval population of 1000 could produce urban deposits on the scale suggested by the change in level (Fig 4). The change in level might also be caused by the presence of a knoll of limestone within the walls: on the OS 1st edition there is a rise from 85.5 feet (26m) AOD at the Five Arches to 102 feet (31m) AOD at the North Gate.

5.3 There might also have been an intra-mural lane or space behind the stone wall to allow freedom of movement along the wall during conflicts. This may have been in the form of a metalled surface. The evaluation trench was too far away to detect this (Fig 2).

5.4 On the street frontage housing would have developed back (west) towards the wall but with a space behind for garden, waste disposal and possibly drainage. The presence of pits and drains is to be expected and the most likely features to be found in an evaluation trench. The artefactual, environmental and industrial wealth of urban deposits makes it likely that a wide range of data will be found of all dates.

5.5 Post-medieval developments might provide evidence for such events as the Civil War sieges and the effects of the slightly earlier plague.

6 Impact of development proposals on the archaeological resource

6.1 It is inevitable that any archaeological remains that exist within the depth of the foundation in the development area will be destroyed by the ground works. The preservation *in situ* of the archaeological resource within the area of proposed development may only be possible in the area west of the proposed new building although the intrusiveness of service trenches should also be considered. It will be essential to establish the depth of the top of the medieval resource, although data of any period may be of importance in an urban environment. The assessed consequences of the development will need to be compared with the results of the archaeological evaluation to achieve a satisfactory mitigation strategy for the site.

7 Aims and objectives of the evaluation

7.1 The work of the evaluation examined and recorded the archaeological resource within the specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These satisfied the stated aims of the project and complied with the IFA *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* and the *Code of conduct, Code of approved practice for the regulation for contractual arrangements in field archaeology* and other relevant by-laws of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. It provided data towards an appropriate published accounts and an ordered, accessible archive.

7.2 The purpose of the evaluation was to examine the archaeological resource within a framework of defined research objectives (above, section 5), to seek a better

understanding of and compile a lasting record of that resource, to analyse and interpret the results and disseminate them through appropriate publication.

7.3 The work elucidated the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative importance.

7.4 The evaluation and its record provided sufficient information by which to determine the level of importance of surviving archaeological features and place them in an interpretative framework.

7.5 The evaluation report provides information which is sufficiently detailed to allow informed planning decisions to be made which can safeguard the archaeological resource.

7.6 The evaluation includes an assessment of the regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and aims to highlight any relevant research issues within a national and regional research framework.

7.7 The results of the evaluation can inform a detailed mitigation strategy, which may be required in the ongoing planning processes and for any required work to be appropriately designed and costed.

7.8 Artefactual, environmental and technological evidence from the excavated deposits has been recovered and provides cultural and chronological data towards an interpretation of the excavated site.

8 Methods statement

8.1 One evaluation trench measuring 10m x 2m oriented east–west was excavated in the garden (Figs 2 and 3). The exact location was agreed with Cambria Archaeology – Heritage Management before work commenced. The OS plans of 1890 and 1908 both show that the only buildings-free area is in the north-west of the site (Ponsford 2005, Figs 2 and 3) although even the 1st edition shows walling or a building here.

8.2 The evaluation was directed by M.Ponsford to the standards set by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994-2001). Assistance was provided by local people (Acknowledgements, section 15)

8.3 In the agreed trench sufficient excavation was undertaken to ensure that the minimum number of archaeological features were proven and that the character, distribution, extent and importance of the remains was elucidated. Sufficient excavation was undertaken to ensure that the natural horizons were reached and proven.

8.4 All archaeological contexts were recorded using a continuous numbered context system on *pro forma* context sheets using the Museum of London Archaeological Service's manual (Spence 1990, prepared in 1990 by the then Dept. of Urban Archaeology).

8.5 Written, drawn and photographic records (B/W and colour slide in 35mm format) to an appropriate level of detail were made. The written and drawn record included the context sheets, a site diary, special finds record of sequentially-numbered objects and the field drawings recorded in three dimensions. Plans and section drawings were at a minimum scale of 1:20. The drawings were cross-referenced to Ordnance Survey datum and fixed boundaries on the relevant OS plan.

8.6 Spoil storage was on site and backfilling undertaken by the client.

8.7 No sampling of environmental or technological data was required.

9 The evaluation

9.1 A trench measuring 10 x 2m east-west was laid out in the area agreed with Cambria Archaeology – Heritage Management to the north of the colonnaded pathway of the standing house and east of the standing remains of the town wall of Tenby (Figs 1 and 2). The trench avoided the remains of a rockery and a small tree at the south-west corner (Plate 1). The excavation was carried out entirely by hand due to the narrowness of the access passage to the south of the property.

9.2 Work commenced in the conventional manner with the removal of a rough turf and topsoil 150mm thick and the uppermost soft dark grey humic garden loam. This had an ashy, gritty texture with some slate and lime with much ash and many finds (context 01). This was excavated to a depth of 0.6m throughout the trench. Just below the turf, a line of concrete blocks measuring 150mm wide and 70mm deep and of differing lengths was encountered that evidently marked the edge of a bed to the west (Fig 3). The soil in the bed was noticeably more friable and less gritty and had a good tilth as if gardened regularly. Just west of the line and at about the same depth was a copper pipe (Fig 3; Plates 1 and 2). Work halted west of the line of blocks to avoid disturbing the copper pipe. An electrician though it possible the pipe contained an electrical supply (rather than a water supply) and it was decided to avoid further work in this area. Towards the east end a layer of loose stones up to 150mm in length formed a lens within this soil at a depth of 350mm. The lens was within the overall deposit rather than marking a significant change in the character of the deposit. The change seemed to occur at a depth of about 0.6m.

9.3 Further dark ashy soil (context 02) was removed to a depth of about 0.9m. The soil was slightly lighter in colour than context 01 and less gritty although there was plenty of cinder and coal fragments in it. There were also quite a lot of slate fragments within it, though no whole roof slates. Context 02 came down to a mid-brown silt clay soil (context 03) all over the trench. This was very thin at the east end – only 50mm or so in depth: the underlying orange soil began to show as soon as context 03 began to appear. Context 03 thickened to the west as the ground level sloped away towards the wall (Plate 2). The thicker deposit was excavated in two spits, the lower (50mm depth) towards the west (context 05; Fig 3). The upper (10mm depth; context 04) commencing at about 6.5m from the east end.

9.4 In order to establish the natural horizon, a trench 1m wide was excavated through the orange-brown clay-silt below context 03. This quickly came down to a layer of

10 The finds

10.1 The finds were all retained on site, with the exception of slate and oyster shell in the upper deposits as these were very frequent. In all 263 sherds, 81 fragments of animal bone, 48 fragments of stone, 25 shells, 25 samples of brick and tile, 13 bowls and stem fragments of clay tobacco pipe, 5 plaster samples, 13 glass sherds, 2 iron objects and 1 associated group of copper-alloy objects and two pieces of plastic were kept for the record and archive.

10.2 Pottery

10.2.1 The material was washed and marked with TEN05 plus the context number. The pottery was then categorised by type fabric and quantified by sherd and weight (Figs 4A and 4B; Slowikowski *et al* 2001). The medieval forms were described according to MPRG 1998. The types were allocated initially according to known ware type. If unrecognised, these were grouped by more general fabric type and period. A total of 263 sherds weighing 3.573kg was processed.

10.2.2 The types

1 Sandy off-white to buff fabric, often with grey core, and with occasional iron fragments 1-2mm, good green glazes, various greens with brown flecks where iron occurs below. Jugs. Filled bases, decoration of horizontal grooving. Bristol Redcliffe c1250-1350 (Bristol Pottery Type 118). Also reduced versions (BPT 125).

2 Sandy pale orange-red fabric, grey core. Inclusions of large rounded mixed quartz sandstone and iron grains and characteristic 'grainy' fracture. Rounded jars with everted thickened rims and internally concave necks. North Devon, precursors of 'gravel-tempered ware' (J Allan pers comm).

3 Sandy pale buff-pink-grey fabric, grey core. Inclusions of poorly distributed fine quartz sand. occasional iron, calcareous, with mica sparkle on surfaces. Softish surfaces compared with 2. Rounded jars, thickened rims. BPT 46 or Bath A. Cheddar J. Exact source still unknown but possibly North Wiltshire/Somerset border.

4 Similar to 2 but jugs. Slightly finer ware with dull green patchy glaze. Filled, downward-thumbed bases, stabbed strap handles. Jugs are not known in the Devon ware (eg Allan 1998, 47).

5 As 1 but jar form with internal glaze only accidental on outside. BPT 85.

6 Ham Green B jugs. BPT 127.

7 Green-glazed and part-glazed Saintonge jugs. BPT 156.

8 Coiswold/Minety jugs. BPT 18/84.

9 Ham Green jars. Sandy fabric, very even tempering dark red or grey surfaces, sometimes grey core but often oxidised right through. Pill vessels have occasional larger quartz grits.

10 North Devon gravel-tempered ware – post-medieval.

10B North Devon gravel-free ware

11 German stoneware.

12 Yellow slipware on buff fabric with feathered or dark decoration. Usually Bristol. 18th century.

13 Fabric as 12 but iron-glazed – 'tiger' ware. Bristol, same source as 12.

14 Tinglazed earthenware. Fabric often as 12 and 13. Blue and coloured painted decoration.

15 Merida-type wares. Often burnished to stripes, frequent mica, red fabrics.

16 Vitreous earthenwares. 19th-20th century, all.

17 Flower pots.

18 Banded and mocca wares.

19 English stonewares.

20 North Devon slipwares.

21 Other, probably W Somerset slipwares.

22 Miscellaneous post-medieval wares, usually internally glazed.

23 Blackware cups.

24 Misc unallocated medieval coarse and green-glazed wares.

25 Roof –crest, reduced fabric green glaze, small squared-off comb.

26 Devon gravel-tempered roof tile.

27 Borders/Midlands blackware, large vessels (? Buckley).

Most of the pottery was defined by its appearance in other collections, particularly those studied by the author in Bristol (see particularly Ponstord 1998). The medieval pottery (types 1–9 and 24), though limited in quantity, was useful for dating purposes and evidence of trade. There was no readily identifiable local pottery, although some of the unidentified sherds may be of local manufacture. There was, however, material from Bristol (glazed jugs and jars types 1 and 5), Bath area (type 3), Ham Green (Bristol area, types 6 and 9) and north Wiltshire (type 8). These are all well known from other sites on the south Welsh coast. Of some interest is the occurrence of medieval north Devon gravel-tempered ware (type 1). Less recognisable than the post-medieval product, this is the principal jar type on the site (20 sherds). Type 4 is also gravel-tempered but probably not from north Devon. It may be a more local product.

The occurrence of three sherds of south-western French jugs is not surprising as these are commonly found in ports in the south-west and south Wales or rather wherever the Gascon wine trade made landfall. The unglazed rim sherd in Context 03 is a typical 15th-century product.

The unallocated medieval sherds are nearly all glazed but single sherds make meaningful typing difficult.

The post-medieval types are also consistent with a flourishing port. The most common material is Devon gravel-tempered ware (type 10, 69 sherds) with thick glazes and large quartz inclusions rather than the more mixed gravel used in the medieval types. There is also a sherd of Devon gravel-free ware from a jug (type 10B). Also present are a few sherds of north Devon slipware (type 20, Barnstaple). As in the medieval period, there is still a strong link with Bristol in the yellow slipwares, tiger ware and tinglazed earthenware which all use the same potting clays for these quite different effects (types 12, 13 and 14). Type 21 represents probable Somerset slipwares and type 23 a blackware cup, probably from the Welsh borders or south Gloucestershire.

Early post-medieval imported wares include German stoneware such as sherds of Frechen and Westerwald (type 11), and Merida-type ware (15) from the south coast of Iberia. The north Devon wares and odd sherd of Iberian fabric are similar to the evidence from the Tudor Merchant's House (section 4.1).

The later English wares include large ranges of vitreous earthenware (type 16), banded and moccawares (type 18), stonewares (type 19) and flowerpots (type 17). There is a single sherd of blackware from the Midlands/borders (type 27 ? Buckley).

The roof tile consists of two sherds a medieval fragment with a squared-off comb and a piece of post-medieval north Devon unglazed gravel-tempered tile crest.

10.2.3 Dating

The earliest sherds are probably the Ham Green ones and possibly those of type 3. These could be as early as the later 12th century (see Ponsford 1991 where much Ham Green ware is now thought to be 12th century; it is unlikely that Ham Green ware would be used in preference to Bristol wheel-thrown jugs). They could therefore belong to the pre-town wall occupation. The north Devon material may be as early but is clearly associated with the Bristol jugs and the few sherds of type 3 in contexts 03–05 which are dated 1250–1300+. The Saintonge fragments would agree with this. The couple of sherds of type 10 and single sherd of German stoneware in context 3 show that the layer may continue to c. 1600.

Context 02 is pre-19th century as it contains no vitreous earthenware. It does contain a lot of 17th- and 18th-century material, however, such as the later Bristol wares and north Devon and Somerset coarsewares and slipwares and an occasional import. Context 01 is 19th century to present as it contains white and blue and white earthenwares and 19th-century banded wares.

10.2.4 Catalogue (Fig 5)

Context 05

1 Rim sherd of a rounded jar, thickened, type 2.

- 2 Rim sherd of a rounded jar, slight bead on interior, concave neck internally, type 2.
- 3 Rim sherd of a rounded jar, slight internal bead, type 2.
- 4 Rim sherd of a rounded jar, thickened, type 2.
- 5 Rim sherd of a rounded jar, thickened, type 2.

Context 04

6 Base sherd of a glazed jug with downward thumbing and strap handle, probably from same vessel, with central groove and stabbing down length and on body attachment, type 4.

7 Sherd represented by a whimsical face once sprigged to the side of a jug. The eyes are indicated by a red-firing clay giving a green hue on a dull yellow-green glaze. While the fabric is unusual with its mica fragments, the off-white clay, glaze and style of decoration are typical of Bristol. Because of the slight doubt here classified as type 24.

Context 03

- 8 Rim sherd of a rounded jar, concave internally, type 2.
- 9 Rim sherd of a rounded jar, external bevel, type 2.

10 Rim sherd of an externally glazed jar, probably 14th century, type 5.

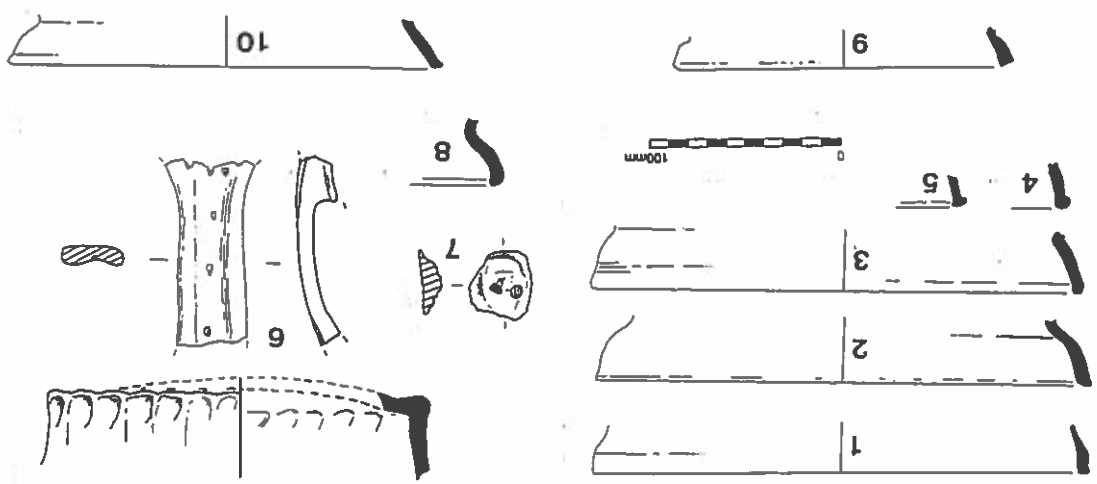


Fig 5

CONTEXTS		TYPES					
		5	4	3	7	5	20
		2	2	8	13	6	30
		2		1			4
				1			4
				1			3
			1	1	1		2
			1	1	1		3
							10
							4
				3	3		9
				3	3	1	4
							69
	10B						1
	11			1		1	3
	12				5	4	9
	13				1	1	2
	14				2	1	3
	15				4		4
	16				25	13	25
	17						13
	18					4	4
	19				1	3	4
	20				3		3
	21				5	1	6
	22				19	6	25
	23				1		1
	24				7	1	8
	25				1		1
	26					1	1
	27					1	1
		9	23	34	120	77	263

Quantity by sherds

Fig 4A

1 Bowl with rounded heel, milled top, later 17th century, Bristol.

Context 02

10.4 Clay tobacco pipes

All the glass was found in Context 01. This includes sherds of green wine and brown sherry bottles, and a few pieces of clear glass.

10.3 Glass

SH = sherds WT = weight

[illegible]

3 Incomplete but probably spurred pipe, 18th-century Bristol type (Jackson and Price 1974).

10.5 Metal

Context 03

1 Three associated copper-alloy objects consisted of two pieces of thin sheet measuring 300mm long x 8mm tapering to 5mm and a plate with two arms measuring 14mm at the top and 38mm at the base. These are parts of a single decorative object of uncertain use.

Context 01

2 Very corroded iron tin snips 150mm long.

3 Broken stainless steel blade with bone handle of bread knife made in Sheffield by Thomas Ward and Sons Wardonia brand also marked Granton patent no 322398.

10.6 Stone

Most of the stone fragments consisted of pieces of North Pembrokehire slate which was common in contexts 01 and 02 where broken roof slates were apparent. There was also a little cinder in 01, 02 and 03. Coal-using debris was found down to the surface of 03. There was also slate in 04, which might suggest early use of slate for roofing and large piece of Old Red Sandstone suitable for use as hone material. Also in 04 and well stratified was a small piece of coal.

10.7 Animal bone

The animal bone was very fragmentary. Of the nine fragments in context 05 only three fragments of pig's ribs were identifiable. In context 04 (17 fragments) a sheep molar was apparent and a couple of fragments of bird and a fragment of fish bone. In 03 (27 fragments) there were more sheep's teeth, bird fragments and a cow tooth. The bone in contexts 01 and 02 is not worth pursuing here because of its date.

10.8 Shell

The shell was of some interest as evidence of diet. In context 05 was found a single clam shell; in 04 10 winkles and limpet and oyster; in 03 a single limpet and a winkle; in 02 oyster and a winkle and 01 numerous oyster shells.

The shell from contexts 03-05 shows that clam, oyster, limpet and particularly winkle were probable food items.

11 Interpretation and discussion

The settlement here was established on a part of the Millstone Grit as found in the trial trench: expecting limestone, the material recovered was a sandstone. This may account for the difference in level between the inside and outside of the town wall

since Millstone Grit is a harder and, therefore, less easily eroded material than carboniferous limestone. An orange-brown subsoil developed over this. As the ground was sloping towards the town wall, it is likely that the difference in height was becoming less apparent towards the west.

The earliest deposit was 05, which was probably the lower part of 03/04. It contained pottery of the late 13th century and was therefore contemporary with the building of the town wall. That there was an earlier phase of settlement nearby dating to the time of the Clare earls of Pembroke is shown by the occurrence of two sherds of Ham Green ware. The accumulation of material continued in the garden area to the rear of Upper Frog Street with no evidence of pit-digging into the natural. The occurrence of slate and a piece of coal suggests that there may have been a trade developing in both commodities. The occurrence of a fragment of roof-crest and several perforated slates from post-medieval levels shows that the roofs may have been slate-covered from the medieval period.

The varied Tenby diet included the usual mammals but also the inclusion of shell-fish, particularly winkles. This is similar to the evidence found at the Tudor Merchant's House (section 4.1).

In common with many other ports in the Bristol Channel, Gascon wine merchants brought their distinctive wine jugs with them to Tenby, possibly via the staple port of Bristol. A large part of Tenby's trade may also have been concentrated on Devon and Somerset.

Further contact was maintained in the post-medieval period along the same lines with pottery from north Devon, Bristol, Midlands, Spain and Germany. Many of the earlier buildings were demolished or repaired, sometimes with north Devon roof crests, and their roofs stripped of their traditional slate. During the 19th century the building pattern settled down to resemble largely what is apparent today. The site is technically behind the Coach and Horses pub and represents the life of that property rather than the site of the Cobourne Garage itself.

Tenby's regional importance was greater in the Middle Ages than since because of its strategic fortified position in relation to the control of south Pembrokeshire. Its relative wealth can only be hinted at from imported wine jugs and Devon pottery but pottery never travels alone and is a sure indicator of the movement of other goods. It would be of great value to excavate larger areas of tenements in Tenby to obtain a fuller picture of town life.

12 Conclusion

The archaeological data from the evaluation shows that although the deposits are stratified in the trench, there are no cut features at this point and, therefore, no structures. The depth of the intervention was about 1m, showing that foundations cut to this depth would hardly damage the resource.

Having said this, the evaluation only assessed an outside area well to the rear of the street. Whether the picture is repeated at the front of the property, particularly under the garage, it is not possible to say.

13 Archive

13.1 A completed project archive is being prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in 'Appendix 3: site archive specification' of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

13.2 The site archive will conform to the National Museums and Galleries of Wales' agreed structure and be deposited within an approved store (Tenby Museum) on completion of site analysis and report production.

14 Monitoring

14.1 In their role as the professional archaeological advisors to the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Cambria Archaeology – Heritage Management are responsible for monitoring the work in order to ensure compliance with the planning requirements. The site was visited on 23 November by Charles Hill and Zoe Bevins of Cambria to discuss the results. The results of this report and that visit will be applied to the determination of the planning application.

15 Acknowledgements

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17 Appendix

A summary list of contexts

- 01 Soft dark grey garden loam, coal ash, gritty texture, slate, lime etc down to c 600mm
- 02 Softish dark grey loam, similar to 01 but below it, less ashy and gritty, few stones, small, depth of c 300mm. Under 01.
- 03 Soft, slightly stoney red brown loamy, some coal, small stones, molluscs, less slate. Under 02.
- 04 Soft and sticky, light brown clay silt, frequent charcoal, molluscs, a little slate, up to 100mm thick sloping to west. Under 03.
- 05 As 04 but last 50mm depth at west end. Under 04.
- 06 Orange-brown clay silt, few stones, natural subsoil below 03–05
- 07 Natural rock



Fig 1

213208

200370m

004

005

006

200520m

213208

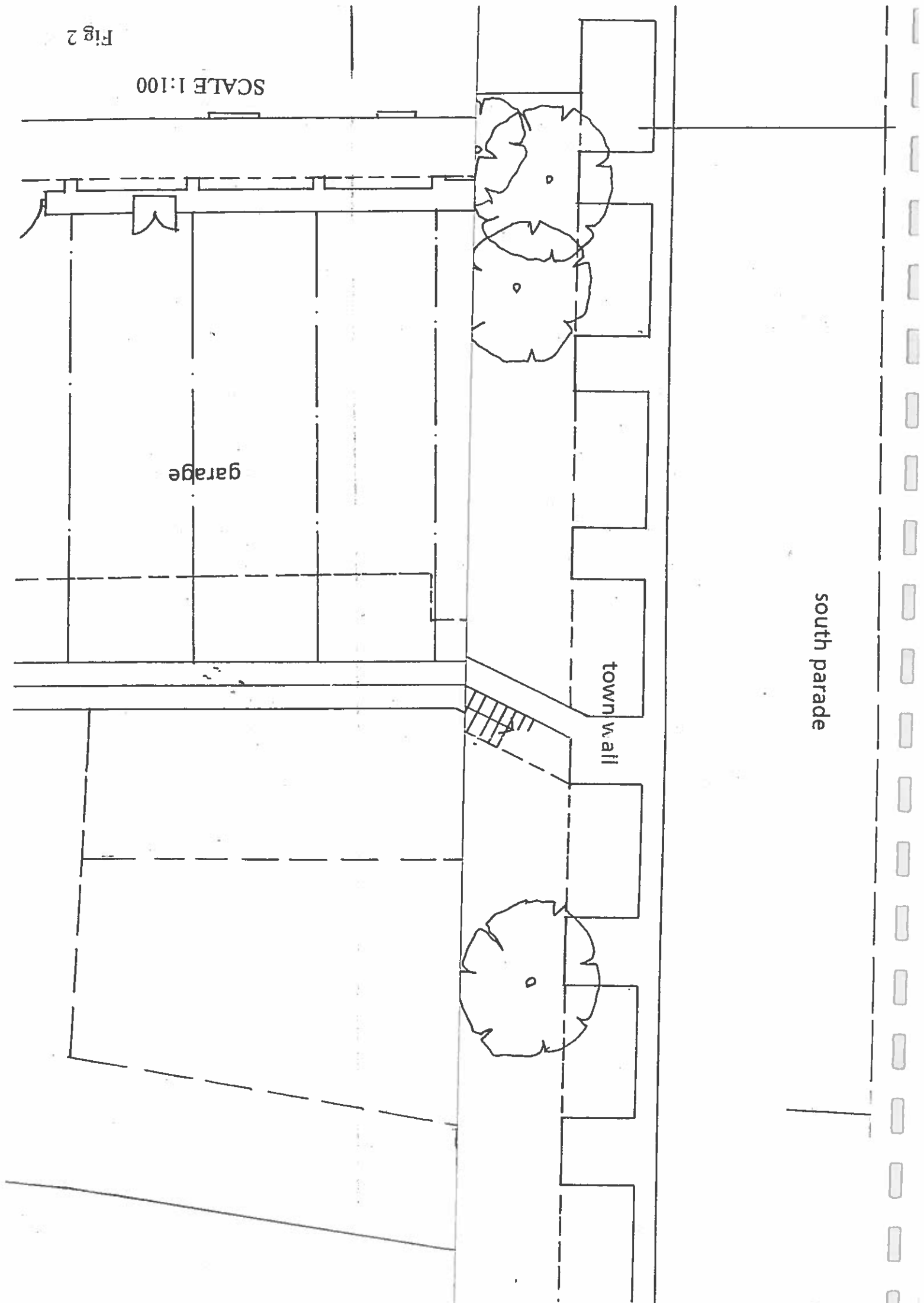
south parade

town wall

garage

SCALE 1:100

Fig 2



COBOURG GARAGE, FROG STREET, TENBY, PEMBROKESHIRE

Plan and section of evaluation trench

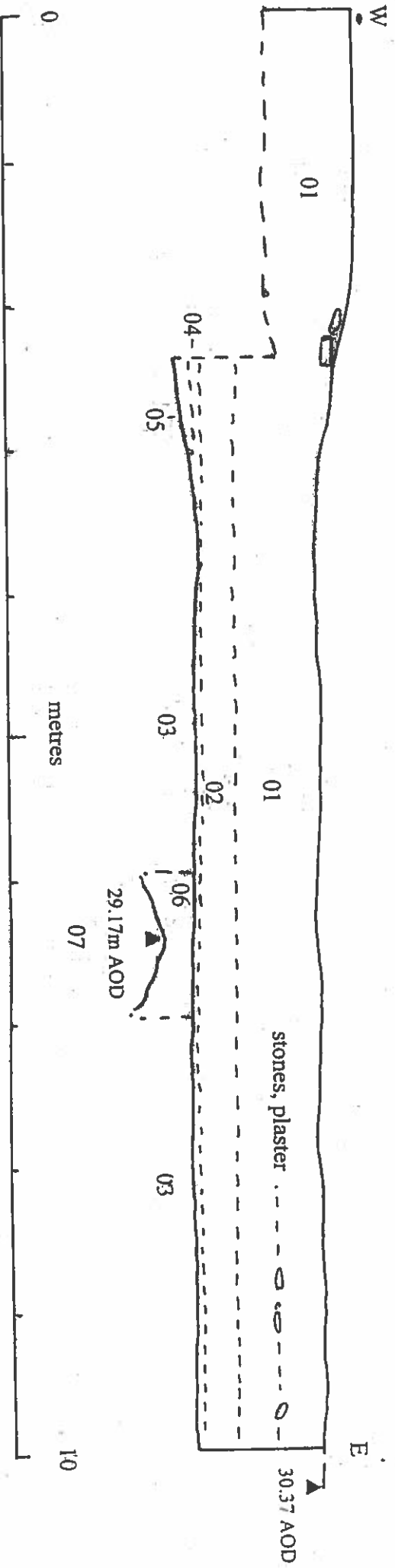
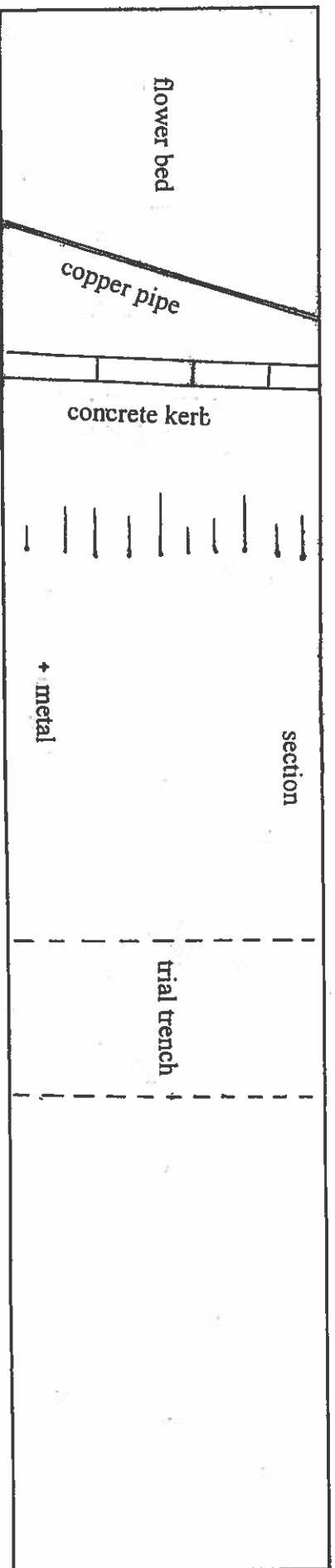


Fig 3



Plate 1



Plate 2

Plate 3

