

ENFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVE REPORT



EXCAVATIONS AND EVALUATIONS AT ELSYNG PALACE, FORTY HALL, ENFIELD, JANUARY TO JULY 2026

(SITE CODE FXY26)

(SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT LO 59)

**(EVALUATIONS TQ 3381 9895 and TQ 3385 9878;
EXCAVATION CENTRED TQ 337 989)**

MARTIN J. DEARNE

with contributions by

IAN K. JONES and NEIL PINCHBECK

Illustrators: Martin J. Dearne and Neil Pinchbeck; Digital Mapping: John Pinchbeck

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Cover: Features [26] and [30] Looking South West (photo MJD).

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FXY26: site director and project manager Martin J. Dearne; co project managers Neil Pinchbeck and John Pinchbeck.

Organisations' contact details:

www.enfarchsoc.org.uk

Secretary:	Chairman:	Research/Excavations Director:
Jan Metcalfe	Ian Jones	Martin J. Dearne
secretary@enfarchsoc.org	18 Corby Crescent	9 Junction Rd.
	Enfield EN2 7JT,	Edmonton N9 7JS
	Tel. 0208 363 4094	Tel. 0208 807 7079
	i.jones094@btinternet.com	martin.dearne@talktalk.net

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ABSTRACT

- Excavation identified substantial walls, at least one defining a cellared space containing a brick lined well and adjacent drainage channels, within the Inner Gatehouse of the palace, which were probably part of its late fifteenth century expansion. Later at least partial demolition of the walls was associated with construction of one or more previously encountered brick built features between them that may have encased more major drainage features. Further evidence was recovered for the creation of the platform occupied by the gatehouse having occurred in or after the twelfth to fourteenth centuries, the probable rear wall of the gatehouse and a possible moat sub-dividing the Inner Court of the palace were identified and the location of previous excavations in the 1960s was clarified.

INTRODUCTION

- On-going research into the site of Elsyng Palace by the Enfield Archaeological Society (EAS) since 2004 (Dearne 2004; 2005a; 2005b; 2006a; 2006b; 2007; 2008; 2009; 2011a; 2011b; 2012a; 2013; 2014; 2015; 2016; 2017c; 2018; 2019; 2021; 2022; 2023; 2024; 2025b) has significantly advanced our understanding of some aspects of the plan and developmental sequence of the palace. With the completion of the excavation of the south west range of the palace in 2019 the next priority appeared to be the location and characterisation of the moat fronted inner gatehouse which would have separated the inner and outer courts of the complex.
- The fronting moat was located in excavations in 2021 and 2022 (and further defined in 2023 and 2024 when it was shown to continue to the north around the west side of the inner court). This focused attention on a fairly prominent, tree encroached raised platform which it fronted and which excavations in 2023 confirmed held substantial built structures. Excavations in 2024 further explored these structures, confirming that they represented the inner gatehouse of the palace and defining at least two or three phases of its development, the latest incorporating a turret flanked entrance. Further work in 2025 demonstrated the existence of a substantial (probably stair) tower at the south end of the gatehouse, but excavation was not extensive enough to fully characterise additional structures and cellared areas running west from the tower or a substantial wall part of which was excavated towards the north end of the gatehouse.
- However, the 2023 and 2024 work having suggested that substantial structures identified by excavations in the 1960s lay unexpectedly close to this gatehouse raised significant doubts about the accuracy of the only surviving location plan from that work and in 2025 a test trench designed to re-encounter 1960s trenches demonstrated that the plan was indeed inaccurate. Consequently, at the request of the EAS, the LBE Parks Department undertook a widespread stripping of bramble growth (dense enough to make even LiDAR survey invalid) to the west of the 2003 – 5 excavations in March 2026, allowing topographic survey which identified a number of significant depressions in the ground surface, potentially caused by the settling of the backfill of the 1960s trenches.
- (Note that this also allowed a comprehensive total station re-surveying of the area which resulted in the identification and correction of cumulative surveying errors generated by the difficulties of surveying in woodland. Thus, trench and feature location plans in this report differ slightly from and are more accurate than those in Dearne (2022; 2023; 2024; and 2025b)).
- In July 2026 the EAS cut four further trenches (Fig. 1), in order to i) further elucidate the nature of the additional structures and cellared areas running west from the tower and the nature of the substantial wall towards the north end of the gatehouse; and ii) to establish whether the sunken landscape features represented the site of the 1960s excavations.
- Scheduled Monument Consent for the work was given by the Dept. of Culture, Media and Sport (Ref.: S00248788) following the submission by the author, acting as agent for the London Borough of Enfield (LBE; the owners), of an application, supported by a project design, for such consent. However, early results from the excavation made it desirable to recast the project design, which variation of Scheduled Monument Consent was granted by the Dept. of Culture, Media and Sport on 22/7/26, and further results of the excavation made it unnecessary to fully complete the programme of excavation as outlined in the project design as varied.
- The work was undertaken in the period 12th – 26th July 2025 and included a public open day on 18th July. It was allocated site code FXY26 by the Museum of London and was carried out in accordance with the project design (as varied) produced by, and under the direction of, the author. The work was project managed by Martin J. Dearne with the assistance of Neil Pinchbeck and John Pinchbeck of the

EAS and the site archive and retained finds generated by the work will be deposited in the LBE Museums Service/EAS archive (see Appendix 1).

- Also reported here are two evaluations of deposits revealed in tree throw pits (Fig. 2) created by the falling of a mature Oak tree c. 50 m to the north of the excavation site (Pit 1), which evaluation took place on 24/1/26, and a similar evaluation on 24/7/26 of deposits in a tree throw pit created by the falling earlier in 2026 of a large dead tree approximately 110 m east of the site of the inner gatehouse of the palace (Pit 2).

OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

The objectives of the excavation were:

- to establish whether significant depressions in the ground surface were caused by the settling of the backfill of the 1960s trenches, if so to specifically identify matchable features found by those excavations, and if not to excavate further trenches to try to isolate traces of those excavations;
- to further trace the plan of the west side of the inner gatehouse including to elucidate its date(s), extent(s) and constructional history.

The methodology of the excavation was (Figs 1 and 3):

- Trench 1, 7.00 x 1.50 m, was cut and partly excavated across the most prominent landscape depression thought possibly to be caused by the settling of 1960s trenches.
- Following confirmation that this was not the case, and the variation of the Scheduled Monument Consent, Trench 2, 3.00 x 1.50 m, was cut and partly excavated 13.00 m south west of Trench 1 beyond the area of landscape depressions to ascertain whether the 1960s trenches lay in this location.
- Following confirmation that this was not the case a projected nearby Trench 3 was not cut.
- Trench 4, initially 4.00 x 2.00 m and eventually expanded at its south east and north west corners to give a total area of 17.00 m², was excavated to further contextualise and trace elements of the plan of the south end of the inner gatehouse seen in FXX25 Trench 5, a small area of which was (more deeply) re-excavated as part of FXY26 Trench 4 to provide context for features encountered.
- Trench 5, 2.00 x 1.50 m was cut coincident with the west end of FXX25 Trench 3 to complete the recording of a large wall (FXX25 [19]), hypothesised to partly represent the back (west) wall of the site Phase 2 gatehouse.
- All excavation was by hand and none removed any *in situ* structures. Otherwise excavation was to the maximum permitted depth of 1.00 m where possible (excepting where areas had to be less deeply excavated to provide trench access points or where space and tree root constraints made this impracticable).
- However, extremely challenging ground conditions following multiple heat waves and an absence of rainfall made some deeper brickearth (Enfield silt) based deposits too hard baked to excavate and Trench 2 especially was only selectively excavated. Trench 1 was only selectively excavated as it was apparent that it contained only a single pre modern deposit of compacted rubble throughout.
- The excavations were single context recorded using EAS context sheets and other pro formas, digital photographs, plans and sections drawn at an appropriate scale and spot heights, all recording being with respect to existing fixed OS grid point markers.
- All non twentieth/twenty first century finds except cbm were collected from all contexts and spoil was metal detected (under a Section 42 licence (Ref.:SL00235027)).
- The trenches were seeded with modern coins and structural remains protected with mounded sieved topsoil before backfilling.

The objectives of the tree throw pit evaluations were:

- To evaluate and record the nature of the deposit(s) revealed in the tree throw pits and recover or record any archaeological material present.

The methodology of the Pit 1 evaluation comprised:

- Screening for archaeological material of upcast and limited loose material removed from within the pit to expose the lowest deposit revealed; the spade cutting, cleaning and recording of one section at the edge of the pit's ground disturbance; and metal detecting of the pit and all upcast/loose material and spoil (under a Section 42 licence No. SL00234949).
- The root ball of the fallen tree prevented access except on the east and north where loose material was cleared out of it and where on the north it was possible to expose the lowest deposit revealed and record a section at the edge of the already disturbed area.

- All screened material and brick/tile was redeposited in the tree throw pit after evaluation and recording; other finds were retained for further analysis.

The methodology of the Pit 2 evaluation comprised:

- Screening for archaeological material of upcast and limited loose material removed from within the pit to expose the lowest deposit revealed; the spade cutting, cleaning and recording of one section at the edge of the pit's ground disturbance.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- The historical evidence for Elsyng Palace was outlined in several published and unpublished sources (e.g. Jones and Drayton 1984, 8ff; Phillpotts 2002, 11ff; Dearne 2004, 3), but has now been the subject of a major new research initiative by the author and others which has established that many details in these, and other, accounts are highly challengeable. Therefore a definitive new account of the history of the site has recently been published (Dearne *et al* 2022).
- Relevant to the current work is that the estate is believed to have Medieval origins, that the first substantial brick house on the site is now believed to have probably been built by John Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester or his father Lord John Tiptoft in the early to mid fifteenth century and that under Sir Thomas Lovell this was adapted and substantially extended from c. 1486, by the early sixteenth century becoming his 'courtier's palace' with an outer and inner courts. Multiple visits to Lovell at Elsyng by Henry VII and VIII are known and on Lovell's death in 1524 it passed to his heir the Earl of Rutland who used it as a home and continued to entertain the king.
- It was acquired from him by Henry VIII in 1539 as a royal palace, primarily used as a residence for the royal children, and repaired but not rebuilt. Subsequently it may have been little used under Edward VI (except by Princess Elizabeth) and Mary, but was periodically used by Queen Elizabeth as a stop on royal progresses for the first decade of her reign. Despite several recorded phases of repair under these successive monarchs the palace may have been out of favour by the end of the sixteenth century and may partially have been used to accommodate royal favourites. Though there are recorded visits by James I early in his reign, in 1608 a warrant to demolish it and use the materials at Theobalds Palace was issued but not fully carried out. Repairs/remodelling followed in 1609 – 10 and repairs also continued under Philip Herbert (Earl of Montgomery, later Earl of Pembroke), whose family probably lived in the palace from ?c. 1612 to c. 1630, who was keeper of the palace and who subsequently purchased it from Charles I in 1641, but is unlikely to have lived there after 1630.
- The palace was still standing in 1656. Already though, by 1629, the Manor of Worcesters, formerly including parts of the palace estate but not the palace and its immediate environs, had passed to Sir Nicholas Rainton who built the standing Forty Hall at the top of the hill above the palace (Gillam 1997, 54) and by 1656 the palace estate had been acquired by a second Nicholas Rainton, who had inherited Worcesters and Forty Hall, and the palace is presumed to have been demolished shortly afterwards. The only contemporary reference to its site at the presumed time of demolition (in 1656) describes the palace as 'One very ancient Greate House called Endfield House with ye Courtyards Gardens Orchards and Courtyarde with ye field adjoining called ye Walks' (London Metropolitan Archives ACC/0016/008) and little more is known from documentary sources about the palace site until the existing double avenue of Lime trees which cross the site were planted sometime before Rocque's map of Middlesex was produced in 1754.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- The only archaeological excavation on the site prior to 2004 was in 1963 - 7 by the EAS. Elements of the work were summarised in Jones and Drayton (1984) and its main focus was an area of c. 25 x 10 m of the inner court where very substantial remains of the palace structure were encountered, often just below turf level; and the recording of a gas main trench across the northern edge of the palace complex. Trenches were also cut further east and what is known of them was summarised by the author in 2004 (Dearne 2004, 3f). However, a re-evaluation of the archive for all this work has recently been published (Dearne 2022b; Dearne and Drury 2022).
- As noted above and below the only surviving location plan for the main elements of this work is now known to be highly inaccurate.
- A conservation management plan for the Forty Hall estate was prepared by Broadway Malyan Cultural Heritage in 1999 and a desk top study of the site of Elsyng Palace (Phillpotts 2002) was produced by

Compass Archaeology Ltd in 2002 and drew on some of the geophysical and topographical surveys of all or parts of the site which have taken place.

- A resistivity survey in 1968 near the main 1960s excavations is known only from a slide of its results, but magnetometry and resistivity surveys were carried out in 1997 and 1998 and ground penetrating radar and topographical survey in 2000 (Horsley 1997; Bartlett 1989; and see Phillpotts 2002, *passim* and especially Fig. 28). However, many problems were subsequently identified with the magnetometry and resistivity surveys, including their inexact plotting against the OS grid and especially the fact that re-landscaping with gravel on palace demolition, the outcropping of natural gravel through the predominant brickearth natural and the widespread dumping of brick demolition rubble on palace demolition makes all but a few of their results of little or no value in assessing the plan of the palace.
- Subsequent to the desk top survey smaller magnetometry and resistivity surveys were undertaken for the EAS in 2003, 2004 and 2005 (Dearne 2005a; Black and Black 2004).
- Very extensive excavations and LiDAR/aerial photographic work by the EAS from 2004 to 2019 has been fully published (Pinchbeck 2013; Dearne *et al* 2022), established much of the plan of the outer court of the palace, revealed the entirety of the south west range of the palace (where not truncated on demolition) and identified many other features both within and peripheral to the palace complex including a brick clamp and large parterre garden. It also recovered evidence for site activity predating the establishment of the palace beginning as early as the ninth or tenth century.
- As outlined above excavation since 2019 has established the existence of a large moat between the inner and outer courts of the palace and of an artificial raised platform to its west on which the inner gatehouse of the palace was constructed (Dearne 2021; 2022; 2023; 2024; 2025b).
- Very extensive archaeological excavations and monitoring on the nearby site of Forty Hall were also undertaken by the EAS (and others) in 2009 – 11 (for details see Dearne 2012b) and further extensive excavations and watching briefs at Forty Hall and on the wider estate surrounding it were undertaken in 2013 – 18 (Dearne and Pinchbeck 2015; 2018; Dearne 2017a; 2017b). The latter included examination of areas peripheral to a brick clamp excavated in 2005 and examination of a midden area relating to the palace near to Maidens Brook (where relevant to the palace this work was published in Dearne *et al* 2022 and a full publication of other aspects of it has now appeared (Dearne 2025a)).

THE STRATIGRAPHIC SEQUENCE

Brick Morphology

- Bricks were hand made, relatively hard fired to shades of orange or red and unfrosted and many were marginally creased. Space/depth constraints, demolition damage and obscuring mortar limited the data that could be collected on bricks built into surviving structures. However, a small number of bricks in [20] and [26] measured 0.23 – 0.25 x 0.115 – 0.12 x 0.055 while in [15B] they were generally at the top of this length range and often a little thinner at 0.050 m. In features [11] and [18] brick dimensions appeared to be more variable and bricks a little larger, thus the length range was 0.24 – 0.25, widths were 0.11 to (more often) 0.12 m, but occasionally reached 0.15 m, and thicknesses were generally 0.06 m and occasionally 0.065 m.
- Amongst rubble deposits [23] produced one or two complete/near complete 0.24 x 0.115 x 0.05 - 0.06 m bricks.
- Cut bricks are considered in Appendix 3.

Site Phasing

- Although a scheme of phasing has been established for the site and been tentatively tied to an absolute chronology (see Dearne 2019; Dearne *et al* 2022, 138; Table 1 below) in terms of archaeology this largely relies on an also tentative differentiation of structures using softer yellow sandy mortars (believed to be of Phase 1b) from those using hard white mortars (believed to be of Phases 2 – 4). Though the following description is structured to reflect this site phasing, it should not therefore be taken as solidly established and in particular it should be stressed that differentiation between Phases 2, 3 and 4 is often impossible.
- Moreover, in the 2024 work (Dearne 2024, 6) it became clear that the ‘hard white mortars’ in fact comprised two recognisable variants, one still a lot whiter and harder than the ‘soft yellow sandy mortar’ which appears to be characteristic of the first structures on the site, but not as hard or white as those mortars that seem to more clearly belong to Phases 2 – 4. This variant may be described as moderately hard buff or off white coloured mortar and there is reason to believe that it represents at least one phase of structural modifications later in Phase 1b or perhaps early in Phase 2 since in one

instance at least a wall rebuilt with it was truncated when structures which used the hardest and whitest mortar, and clearly represented a major new construction project, were built and these in turn were argued to belong mainly to Phase 2. Thus a Phase 1b/2 was introduced into the provisional site phasing tabulated below.

Phase	Date	Nature of Activity
1a	Pre early/mid fifteenth century	Features likely to pre-date the first brick built house
1b	Early/mid fifteenth century	Features belonging to the first brick built house probably constructed by Lord John Tiptoft and or the Earl of Worcester
1b/2	?Mid/late fifteenth century	Modifications to Phase 1b structures
2	c. 1486 and later	Features belonging to the major remodelling by Sir Thomas Lovell (and possibly the Earl of Rutland)
3	Sixteenth – early seventeenth century	Modifications to the remodelled house under ?Lovell/Rutland and post 1539 under royal ownership
4	?Early/mid seventeenth century	Deposits and features probably belonging to some ?post Elizabethan decline in the maintenance of the house
5a	c. 1660	Demolition deposits
5b	c. 1660 or a little later	Re-landscaping deposits

Table 1: Tentative Site Phasing (from Dearne *et al* 2022, 138 with modification)

The Main Excavation (Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5; Figs 1 and 3 - 7)

? Site Phase 1b (early/mid fifteenth century)

- The earliest deposits encountered related to the structure of the artificial platform on (part of) which the inner gatehouse was constructed. A small exposure of this, [33], in Trench 4 between later features [15B] and [18] comprised brown/dark brown (7.5 YR 4/2) very clayey silt (brickearth) with occasional rounded and angular stones (to 0.03 m) and flecks of cbm (Fig 4). However, excavation here was severely limited by the space available and presence of large tree roots. Moreover, the upper boundary of the deposit was extremely hard to differentiate from an overlying one, [35], which may anyway have partly comprised redeposited [33].
- Consequently, no finds could confidently be assigned specifically to [33], but amongst a large amount of pottery recovered from undifferentiable deposits (contexted [35]/[33]) above certain [33] (which was at + 31.40 m OD and could not be excavated further) was one of the largest groups of South Hertfordshire-type Greyware (SHER; 1170 - 1350) to come from the site so far as well as a smaller amount of London-type Ware (LOND; 1080 – 1350) (see Appendix 3). As much of this material almost certainly derived from [33], even if some was residual in [35], this reinforces the evidence found in 2024 (Dearne 2024, 8) for the platform being created in or after the twelfth to fourteenth centuries and maybe from dumping containing residual pottery during Phase 1b when the first substantial house was built on the site. (However, the platform may also have been extended/augmented at a later date – see further below.)
- Only the (quite possibly truncated) surface (at +30.907 m OD) of a second exposure of the material forming the platform ([27]) in Trench 5 was seen and here it was a compacted, sterile, strong brown (7.5 YR 5/6) very clayey silt (brickearth) with occasional rounded stones (to 0.03 m) (Fig. 6). A possible third exposure in Trench 2 (not illustrated) was contexted [21] and was a light brown to brown (7.5 YR 6/4 to 5/4) very clayey silt (brickearth), seen at +31.373 m OD. However, it was quite unclear what this deposit represented and what its relationship to a probable Phase 5a rubble and brickearth dump, [13], was.

?Site Phase 2 (c. 1486 and later)

- Most likely in Phase 2, a deeply founded wall, [15B], which ran north west to south east through the northern end of Trench 4 had been built in a construction trench ([32]) cut through the platform dump [33] and may (? only in part) have formed the south wall of a cellared area within the inner gatehouse (Pl. 1). What was almost certainly a contemporary wall, [20], ran south west to north east further south in the same trench, had probably met wall [15B] in the adjacent FXX25 Trench 5 and formed the north wall of a second certain cellar within which lay a brick built well and associated structure/west wall

of the cellar ([26]) as well as a feature holding water channels ([30]) (Figs 4 – 5). Probably also to be allocated to Phase 2 and, like [15B] and [20], previously encountered in FXX25 trenches, was a third very substantial wall, [25], in Trench 5 (Fig. 6).

- There was, however, limited dating evidence for these walls and other structures. All used the hard white mortars thought to be indicative of Phase 2 onwards, but the only independent dating came from four sherds of pottery from the fill of construction trench [32]. This fill, [31], comprised very loose reddish brown (5 YR 5/3) brick and mortar dust with frequent rounded pebbles (0.01 – 0.03 m), but significant components of it were brick fragments (often to 0.05 m, but up to three quarter bricks) and peg tile fragments (to 0.10 m), concentrated towards the base of the cut; a large quantity of animal bones, concentrated in its upper levels; and very large quantities of oyster (and some muscle and cockle) shells. Thus, it appears to have been filled by construction rubble and then dumped midden material and brick dust. The pottery from it included two sherds of Frechen Bartmann Ware (FREC; 1550 – 1700), however, though in some areas [31] may originally have been capped by a thin layer of redeposited [33], much of the fill had also clearly been significantly disturbed by later construction work. Thus, concentrations of shells and bones from it underlay later feature [18], significant quantities of both were clearly residual in overlying deposit [33]/[35] and in Phase 5a rubble [16] above that,¹ which here was poorly differentiated from [33]/[35]. Especially given that [31] was so loose, the likelihood then that dateable material in [31] had also been intruded from ?Phase 3 dump [33]/[35] must be very high and it would be very unwise to rely on finds from [31] to date the construction of [15B].
- Wall [15B] itself was over 6.60 m long, its eastern continuation having been recorded in FXX25 Trench 5 as FXX25 [22], and was at least partly built in the straight sided construction trench [32], seen and possibly present only along its south face, from which the trench extended to a width of 0.32 m. The level from which the construction trench was cut was uncertain due to the possible truncation by subsequent construction work, but as excavated it was at least 0.39 m deep. The wall was 0.50 m wide, had some engaged rough brickwork broadening its lowest course within the construction trench and was otherwise well built² in English bond using hard white mortar. Its eastern part was shown to survive to at least nine courses (0.48 m) high and further west it was demolished to a lower level, but had evidently had a height of over 0.68 m.
- Although, where available for study, neither face was rendered, at the most westerly point examined its north face appeared to continue below the limit of excavation with no indication of a construction trench on this side of the wall despite the base of that on the south side laying at this level. This suggests that on the north here it formed the limit of a sunken area such as a cellar. That the small area available for excavation to its north at this western most point where the wall was exposed was also filled in Phase 5a with loose large (to three quarter brick size) brick and hard white mortar rubble ([34]) similar to that in other cellared areas (e.g. [23] below) reinforces this interpretation.
- However, further east on the north side of [15B] excavation encountered a more compacted deposit ([28]) of hard white mortar lumps (to 0.15 m) and up to whole bricks in a strong brown (7.5 YR 5/6) very clayey silt (brickearth) matrix with moderately frequent rounded stones (to 0.05 m) and some oyster shells. This matrix also formed a ‘cap’ (which only had smaller (0.01 – 0.03 m) pieces of cbm in it) to the deposit. [28] may have been a dump of construction debris relating to the building of [15B] and if so presumably equated to the exposure of FXX25 [16] in FXX25 Trench 4 nearby, which may have been part of more widespread deposits that extended to the south, or at least augmented, the platform on which the Phase 2 inner gatehouse was built and contained pockets of dumped materials associated with its construction (see Dearne 2025b, 6). Again if so, and given the exposure of [33] noted above, the boundary between any early and later extension (or augmenting) of the gatehouse platform probably lay in the area of the current Trench 4, but may well have been far from linear.
- That [28] (and FXX25 [16]) did represent augmentation of the platform rather than a cellar fill cannot though be certain as again no construction trench for [15B] was found on its north in the area occupied by [28]. Thus, an implication that only the western part of [15B] formed the south wall of any cellar (so that one might expect an east wall to it to lay north of the current Trench 4) should not be taken as established and would require further excavational confirmation.

¹ Where they were collected as [16]/[35].

² Though its demolished surface did slope slightly down to the south west, be it due to poor construction or, perhaps more likely, to slumping during its lifetime.

- Further south, wall [20] (Pl. 3) survived to over 1.32 m above the limit of excavation, was well built with hard white mortar in English bond, and had been white mortar rendered on its south face, but not (though little of it was seen) on its north which had probably been left relatively poorly finished at the level at which it was seen. Its western end was within Trench 4 and here it narrowed a little from its otherwise width of c. 0.75 m, while its demolished or damaged eastern end had been recorded in FXX25 Trench 5 as FXX25 [20] (though in part what was recorded then can now be seen to include a later rebuild described below). Thus its overall length was at least 3.20 m.
- Built against the north face of its west end and almost certainly contemporary, though the only junctions available for study were butt joints, were [26] and [30]. The former comprised a probably rectangular block of brickwork, over 1.30 x 0.70 m, that included a tile surfaced rebate and east of it, at a lower level, another rectangular block of brickwork (0.99 x 0.88 m) that held a brick built well. [30], comprised a 0.92 x (max.) 0.28 m construction attached to (? and built integrally with) the east side of [26] and containing two channels.
- [26] (Pl. 4 and report cover) consisted of good quality English bond brickwork using hard white mortar and its western element survived to over 11 courses (0.81 m) above the limit of excavation, forming the west wall of the cellar. Its probably undamaged upper surface almost certainly having lain approximately at ground level at the time of construction, it included a 0.57 m wide, 0.385 m deep, 0.22 m high rebate, which had been surfaced with two complete, two part and several fragments of mortared in 0.035 m thick greenish black glazed floor tiles (Pl. 5). The sides and back of the rebate had been rendered with hard white mortar and the leading edges of its sides had been built with cut and rubbed bricks to give a chamfered and then rendered finish, though brickwork to its south had only been rendered down to the level of the base of the rebate.
- The rebate may have formed either a waterproofed adjunct to the well (e.g. for standing a bucket in) or a step giving access to the well, which was set to its east and encased in brickwork with an upper hard white mortar rendered surface, 0.115 m lower than the base of the rebate, and a more roughly rendered south face. The well (Pl. 6) had an internal diameter of 0.58 m and was cleared to a depth of 0.80 m, showing that it was built of over 12 courses of neatly lain headers, and it was probed to a depth of 2.02 m. It showed at least three areas of ?damage/repair, two diagonally opposite (north east and south west) individual bricks appearing to be absent at a depth of 0.70 m and at a depth of 0.50 m on the south a hole might have been repaired by inserting two new bricks, but still leaving a void above them.
- The well had probably been covered with a lid as the rendered face of the area around the rebate and the south face of wall [20] bore traces of a mortar fillet at the level of the base of the rebate, which fillet ran east as far as the top of the (lost) west side of feature [30] (Pl. 7). This comprised a block of (more demolition damaged) brickwork over 0.40 m high, its top 0.115 m above the top of the well encasing block and broadening slightly and then at its (probably but not certainly complete) south end broadening a little more, if this was not just the result of careless bricklaying (Pl. 8). It was again built with hard white mortar, which had also been used to render its east face, and (at least at the level available for study) appeared to primarily serve to encase two water or drainage channels which sloped gently down to the north and ran as far as the south face of wall [20].
- The two channels lay above one another, separated by c. 0.09 m of mortar with brick fragments (Pl. 9). They were mortar lined and the upper's west side was only formed of a mortar 'wall' so that both had probably been built around formers. The upper, only 0.55 m of its length having survived demolition, was rectangular sectioned, 0.05 m wide and 0.10 m high, and at the point where it met the south face of wall [20] it had a 0.04 x 0.05 m square hole in its base giving into a descending channel and also had a small recess to the east. This recess held a small iron ?bar c. 0.05 m long which seemed to be set vertically in the face of wall [20] and just forward of it an L-shaped iron fitting projected to the west from the brickwork of [30] to its east in the manner of an upward pointing hook.
- The lower channel, with which the upper presumably communicated via the descending channel against the face of wall [20], was square sectioned, 0.10 m wide and 0.09 m high. It was probed as far as the solid face of wall [20], but it was impossible to tell if it too ended in a descending channel as one might suspect.
- Further north in Trench 5, [25] was a heavily demolished wall (Pl. 10) which ran south west from wall FXX25 [19] seen in 2025 (Dearne 2025b, 10). Taken together, the two exposures show that what was represented here was in fact a T-junction of two or three walls, but in both cases the relatively small

exposures obtained were at the limit of permitted excavation and little of the structure of [25] was apparent because of hard white mortar obscuring its surviving surface.

- One wall forming the T-junction and running north west to south east (FXX25 [19]) was over 1.90 m long, but its width, which could not be ascertained in 2025, remained uncertain as the south east edge of the exposure in Trench 5 was rather ragged, probably reflecting rather irregular foundations at this level. Running north east from, and integrally built with FXX25 [19], a probably c. 1.15 m wide return, which met it at an angle of c. 77°, was recorded in 2025, but whether [25] was a continuation of this or a separate wall was unclear.
- Thus, at the level to which it survived, [25] was 1.38 m wide and appeared to have an edge around 0.40 m further north west than the return to FXX25 [19]. Though together [25] and the return to FXX25 [19] could have formed one over 3.20 m long south west to north east wall (if the latter's north west side had been demolished to below the level of excavation in 2025), it therefore seems most likely that [25] was a separate, broader wall (whether built integrally with or butted on to the north west to south east section of FXX25 [19], which was not apparent).
- As in 2025 with FXX25 [19], the depth of the foundations of [25], and their width, suggest that this was a major structural wall supporting a multi storied construction. Whether it was an external wall was not certain and loose Phase 5a demolition rubble ([24]) continued below the limit of excavation to its west, raising the possibility that (as with the area bounded by FXX25 [19] and its return) it delimited a cellar. However, the very small exposure of the area beyond the wall and limit on excavation depth make it impossible to draw any reliable conclusion and it must be quite likely that [25] represented the western limit of the inner gatehouse at this point.

?Site Phase 3 (sixteenth to early seventeenth century)

- At a later date it was apparent that significant modifications had been made to the area of the inner gatehouse excavated in Trench 4 and previously in the adjoining FXX25 Trench 5 (Figs 4 – 5). Thus, wall [20] and parts at least of wall [15B] had been demolished to ground level or perhaps a little lower and between them had been inserted two large brick built features, [11] and [18]. Two more new features, [15A] and [14], appeared associated with [11] and had been built over parts of these demolished walls, in one case as a (narrower) rebuilding of one of them (Pl. 1). Whilst again often using hard white mortar (if in places a rather softer yellow tinged mortar), these new constructions appeared to use rather more orange coloured, probably less hard fired and often slightly more variably sized and slightly larger and thicker bricks than features allocated to Phase 2 (see above) while the quality of the brickwork in some of these features also appeared to be poorer than in ?Phase 2 structures.
- In detail, wall [20] had been demolished to a consistent level, if left with fairly rough surfaces, while further north wall [15B] appeared to have been treated similarly in the east of Trench 4. However, the lower level of demolition of [15B] and considerably rougher and less consistently level surface it was left with in the west of the same trench (Pl. 2) suggested that its demolition here might not have occurred (or been completed) until Phase 5a. Thus, as noted above, it could be that the western part of wall [15B] was retained as the south wall of a cellar (? and as a structural wall to at least first floor level), while the eastern part went entirely out of use.
- Between and abutting these partly demolished walls, but clearly utilising them as their edges, what may have been one large feature, but with two slightly different parts (one potentially subject to a later rebuilding) were constructed. The more southerly was an at least reasonably deeply founded brick feature, [11] (=FXX25 [21]), that ran south east to north west (Pl. 11). Taken together, FXX25 Trench 5 and FXY26 Trench 4 showed that in plan it was trapezoidal and ran north east from the north face of wall [20] for 2.36 m as far as a (?later) blocked ?channel or gap. At its south end [11] was probably over 1.90 m wide,³ narrowing to 1.10 m at the possible channel/gap. But [11]'s surface had also probably been extended to the north east, widening it at this south end to 1.50 m, by the construction of [15A]. This, a c. 1.10 m long, 0.55 m wide strip of single course brickwork and a mass of hard white mortar, had been built on only part of the width of the demolished surface of [15B] and on a slightly different alignment, possibly using a brick and otherwise part bricks salvaged from the demolition of it. That [15A] was not part of wall [15B] was emphasised by the fact that in FXX25

³ Though its eastern side in FXX25 Trench 5 (where it was contexted [21]) had been left ragged by later demolition and might have been incompletely represented.

Trench 5 the demolished stub of [15B] (=FXX25 [22]) had actually been overlain by [11] (=FXX25 [21]).

- The absence of any traces of mortar on the bricks forming the upper surface of [11], which also had a slope down to the east, strongly suggested that it had been an exposed surface and potentially a floor. However, limited excavation along its west edge showed that it was far too deeply founded to only be a floor, if it had acted as one at all. Thus, its upper course lay on two more courses of English bonded bricks using off white mortar and forming two (0.05 and 0.07 – 0.15 m wide) poorly aligned offsets, themselves above three very poorly lain courses of headers and at least another 0.19 m depth of mortar raft or mortar faced bricks, so that [11] was set a minimum of 0.57 m into the ground (Pl. 12). Its upper surface used part as well as whole bricks, increasing poorly lain as it ran east, and over the north side of the demolished surface of wall [20] the upper surface of [11] had been extended by mortaring bricks fragments, and further west little more than pieces of brick rubble,⁴ over it.
- Presumably also as part of the construction of [11] (=FXX25 [21]), a new, narrower (0.50 m wide) wall, [14] (=FXX25 [20]), had been built along the south edge of the partly demolished wall [20] and the south face of the still standing part of [20] as well as the south face of [14] (=FXX25 [20]) above it had been rendered in hard white mortar, obscuring the rebuild. This new wall appeared to have a butt end coincident with the west side of [11], survived at least to only a single course high and was 1.80 m long, though its east end had been left rough by later demolition so it may well have been longer.
- The possible c. 0.30 m wide channel or gap at the north west end of [11] (coincident with the western end of [15A]) separated it from [18] which had at least one offset where it formed the other side of this ?channel/gap. However, the ?channel/gap was obscured by [19], a mass of part bricks and complete peg tiles set angularly on their edges (Pl. 13) which had been secured with hard white mortar and only some of the peg tiles were removed (as the feature was deemed to be structural). Beyond this possible channel or gap [18], which was much more demolition damaged in Phase 5a making analysis of its structure problematic, appeared to extend the line of [11] against the south side of [15B] (whether here it had been partly demolished or not) for up to another 1.90 m. [18] though had a surface at least one brick course higher than [11] and had a north west butt end (built over earlier loose fill [31] which it had truncated) which had either been left protruding as rough brickwork or had been demolished before Phase 5a (Pl. 2).⁵
- Given the small exposure available for study and the degree of Phase 5a demolition damage it is difficult to be sure, but it may be that at this north west end [18] was subsequently rebuilt/modified (or overlain by a different construction) as at this point the feature turned west, its surviving surface laying three brick courses (0.19 m) higher than the rest of it and not appearing to respect the orientation of the lower section's brickwork. This western 'arm' of the feature was over 1.64 m long, probably over 0.60 m wide and its north face showed five courses of English bond brickwork above either further courses faced in mortar or a mortar raft (with no evidence for any construction trench wider than the feature), but at the west end of the trench there were only three or four courses over a ?raft of (??crushed) mortar and cbm fragments. Too little of this west running 'arm' of [18] was within the excavated area to be sure whether it was e.g. a wall or some other form of structure and whether it was a separate construction from the rest of [18] or not.
- Two dump deposits had almost certainly been introduced to the west of [11] and north of the west running 'arm' of [18] following their construction to conceal their foundations and restore the ground level; and these provided what limited evidence there was for the date of the modifications described above. One to the west of [11] was [22], a compacted brown (7.5 YR 5/4) very clayey silt (brickearth) with moderately frequent small (to 0.02 m) rounded and angular stones, moderately frequent small (to 0.03 m) cbm fragments and occasional charcoal smears. It produced a small group of mostly residual pottery, but the latest sherd was of Red Border Ware (RBOR; 1580 – 1800).
- The other, to the north of the west running 'arm' of [18] and probably present only as far north as the face of [15B], was [33]/[35]. It was also a compacted brown (7.5 YR 5/4) brickearth, but with very frequent rounded 0.01 – 0.03 m stones and occasional cbm fragments to 0.05 m. However, as noted above, it was very hard to differentiate from underlying [33], redeposition of which in to it had

⁴ Indeed, in the present work this 'rubble' beside [14] was initially contexted [17] as it appeared to be part of that probably Phase 5a spread of demolition rubble.

⁵ The mortar used at this point seemed particularly soft and yellow tinged.

probably also occurred,⁶ so that any finds could only be regarded as deriving from [33] or [35]; and much animal bone and shell if not pottery from disturbance of [31] had certainly been incorporated in [33]/[35] as well. Never the less, the much larger group of pottery from [33]/[35], even if again dominated by residual South Hertfordshire-type Greyware (SHER; 1170 - 1350) and London-type Ware (LOND; 1080 - 1350) deriving from [33] (see above), included Frechen Bartmann Ware (FREC; 1550 - 1700), a little more Red Border Ware (RBOR; 1580 - 1800) and a single London Area Post-Medieval Redware (PMR; 1580 - 1900) vessel.

Unphased Features

- Excavation of Trench 1 (Fig. 7) suggested the presence of an extremely large cut feature, presumably of palace date, but no part of the cut forming it was within the excavated area. The trench was fully excavated to or below the upper boundary of context [4] and selectively half its width was excavated to the maximum permitted depth of 1.00 m, but other than modern features and deposits (discussed below) it was found to be completely filled by a single deposit of compacted demolition rubble, [4]. Whether this deposit of brick (to half brick size), peg tile (to 0.07 m) and hard white mortar belonged to Phase 5a or some earlier demolition event it was impossible to say. However, that it had a vertical extent of (given that the trench crossed a deep surface depression (for which see further below)) over 1.13 m and an east west extent in excess of 7.00 m strongly suggests that it was filling a feature such as a large moat, ditch or subterranean space.

Site Phases 5a/b (c. 1660 Demolition and Relandscaping)

- In Trench 4, the Phase 5a final demolition of the palace had significantly impacted structure [18] and damaged some of [14], but otherwise it was only the western stretch of wall [15B] that may have been demolished to well below ground level as cellared areas and structures like [11] appear to have been left in tact while walls such as [20] and the eastern part of [15B] had already been reduced to something like ground level. Demolition here was though represented by a series of rubble deposits.
- Those occupying cellared or suspected cellared areas ([23] to the south of wall [20] and [34] to the north of the western part of wall [15B]) comprised loose rubble, often including large (up to three quarter complete) pieces of, sometimes rendered, brick and very occasionally whole bricks; semi complete mortared peg tiles; and generally 0.03 - 0.07 m sized pieces of hard white mortar. In the case of [23] though, directly over the well in [26] and to a degree in the rebate to its west, the rubble was smaller and it formed a 'roof' a little above the level of the top of the well, which itself was only partly rubble filled and otherwise formed a significant unfilled void in the stratigraphic succession. This seems likely to indicate that a wooden cover to the well had been left in place on demolition, the mortar lump and dust rich rubble that accumulated on it had solidified over time and remained reasonably solid after such a lid had rotted away.
- Generally rather smaller (0.05 - 0.12 m), mainly brick, fragments (with some peg tile fragments) formed two other much more compacted, relatively thin rubble deposits in Trench 4. One, [17], lay over and west of the demolished part of wall [20] west of [11] and [14] and another, [16], covered parts of the top of wall [15B], some of the adjacent deposit [28], parts of feature [18] and some of dump [35], but did not extend above the larger loose rubble [34].
- Over these rubble deposits and across much of [11], [18], [19], [15A] and [14] (but not throughout Trench 4) [10], a thin (0.01 m or less) layer of brown/dark brown (10 YR 4/3) fairly compacted very clayey silt (brickearth) with moderately frequent rounded stones (0.01 - 0.3 m) and small (0.01 - 0.02 m) pieces of cbm, almost certainly represented general site trample, probably suggesting the elapse of a reasonable period of time in this part of the palace between demolition and the relandscaping of Phase 5b.
- In Trench 4 this relandscaping, as over a great deal of the palace site, was represented by a deposit, [6], of loose to moderately compacted rounded 0.01 - 0.03 m and occasionally larger stones in brown/dark brown (7.5 YR 4/2) very clayey silt (brickearth). Here it was typically 0.26 - 0.36 m thick.
- The demolition and relandscaping evidence in Trench 5 was broadly similar (Fig. 6). Here a loose rubble, [24], similar to [23] and previously encountered in the adjoining FXX25 Trench 3 (FXX25 [11]), though it was considerably thicker there, covered the demolished wall [25] to a depth of 0.16 - 0.30 m, lay in a deeper cut or void than could be excavated and was mounded up to a thickness of at least 0.50 m to its west, but to its east just covered the platform creating dump [27]. Overlaying it (unlike immediately to the north in 2025) was [12], a 0.20 - 0.60 m thick very compacted, strong

⁶ Thus, the designation [33]/[35].

brown (7.5 YR 5/6) mottled very pale brown (10 YR 7/3) brickearth with frequent pieces of brick (and some worked stone) rubble generally to 0.08 m and sometimes half brick size. In turn above that and representing Phase 5b relandscaping here was [9] (=FXX25 [8] and [15]), a 0.22 – 0.28 m thick, moderately compacted deposit of 0.03 – 0.04 m rounded stones and occasional pieces of cbm in a brown/dark brown (7.5 YR 4/4) gritty, very clayey silt matrix with some pea shingle and a lower horizon with a slightly more yellowish matrix with less pebbles.

- Significantly different Phase 5a/b deposits were though present in Trench 2 (not illustrated). Here there was no evidence for activity or features predating Phase 5a except for the single exposure of [21] which may possibly have represented the dump creating the platform on part of which the inner gatehouse (and presumably other parts of the inner court of the palace) had been built. Rather the trench, though site conditions meant that only the southern half of it could only be excavated to a depth of more than 0.32 m (and no part of it was excavated to a depth of more than 0.71 m), contained only a single deposit, [13]. This strong brown (7.5 YR 5/8) moderately compacted, with depth becoming very compacted, very clayey silt (brickearth) with moderately frequent rounded pebbles (to 0.05 m) often contained only occasional cbm fragments to 0.07 m and larger cbm was rare at the east end of the trench. However, as it ran west its lower levels included an increasingly dense dump of brick demolition rubble (to half brick size).

Later Deposits and Features

- Preceding deposits in Trenches 4 and 5 were covered by topsoil, [5], a loose, very dusky red (2.5 YR 2.5/2) humic loam, 0.10 – 0.14 m thick in Trench 4, giving a modern surface at +32.213 m OD, and 0.12 – 0.20 m thick in Trench 5, giving a modern surface at +32.103 m OD, while in Trench 2 no topsoil development could be isolated from [13]⁷ which had a modern surface at +32.091 m OD.
- However, in Trench 1 (Fig. 7) the presumed palace phase rubble deposit [4] had been truncated by a modern, almost certainly machine made, cut, [7]. The cut itself was bowl shaped and extended beyond the limits of the trench to form a prominent oval landscape feature, overall 6.00 x 5.50 m, and within the trench included a significantly deepened area at its east end strongly suggestive of the machine removal of a reasonably large tree or of having been cut with the express purpose of creating a large deep rubbish pit. Comparison to less disturbed areas of modern surface in the vicinity suggested that the cut had a depth of up to 0.70 m away from this deepening and of 1.30 m in it.
- The cut had two dumped fills. In the deepened section there was an initial fill of up to 0.34 m of [8], a moderately compacted brown (7.5 YR 5/4) very clayey silt (brickearth) which contained quantities of nineteenth and early to mid twentieth century vessel and window glass and pottery together with a wide range of other modern material including clay pipe stems, copper alloy piping, battery cores, structural ironwork, parts from a bicycle, occasional plastic fittings, several lumps of structural concrete and part of a white sanitary ware sink.
- Overlaying [8] to a depth of 0.52 m, filling (only the base of) the rest of the cut, typically to a thickness of 0.20 m, and forming the modern surface at +31.700 to +32.000 m OD was [3]. It was a compacted dark brown (7.5 YR 3/2) clayey silt at the top of which a loose very dusky red (2.5 YR 2.5/2) humic loam had begun to develop. It included even larger quantities of similar nineteenth and early/mid twentieth century material such as a Victorian half penny, glass milk bottles, pieces of modern drain pipe and armoured electricity cable, part of a flagstone, a complete granite kerb stone, an iron dumbbell, a jubilee clip from industrial (?hydraulic) piping, pieces of aluminium and modern bricks. Disturbance by cut [7]⁸ had also introduced a modern flowerpot rim and sherds of window glass into the top of [4] and at one point [4] had been redeposited over a patch of [3] that included an industrial angle grinder's abrasive disc.

The Pit 1 Tree Throw Evaluation

- The sub-circular tree throw pit (2.60 x 2.44 m; max. depth 0.75 m) had slightly sloping sides, an irregular base and an area of disturbed ground to its north (Fig. 8).
- The earliest deposit available for study was [2], a fairly compacted, brown/dark brown (7.5 YR 4/2) very clayey silt with frequent large, mainly rounded pebbles (typically from 0.02 – 0.05 m), occasional cobbles (to 0.09 m) and frequent to, in an upper horizon, very frequent part bricks (to 0.12 m), brick

⁷ Though probably because of the very adverse weather conditions prevailing at the time of excavation and [13] produced small amounts of modern glass and ceramics.

⁸ Which had also introduced some palace phase finds into the modern dumps.

fragments and peg tile fragments (to 0.08 m). It was over 0.40 m thick with a denser horizon of demolition rubble at its top and a more sterile horizon at the base of the section recorded (though further excavation would be needed to fully characterise this).

- It was overlain by 0.20 m of topsoil, [1], a loose, friable, humic often black (7.5 YR N2) clayey silty loam, largely composed of leaf mould, which gave a ground surface at + 30.43 m OD.
- It was clear that [2] represented a dump of material almost certainly derived from the demolition of the palace c. 1660, as confirmed by quantities of part and fragmentary bricks, peg tile and glazed floor tile fragments recovered unstratified but obviously derived from [2] (see Appendix 3). However, the absence of mortar either adhering to cbm or in loose pieces (with the exception of two small fragments) tends to suggest that this material may have been dumped subsequent to some processing, probably to recover reusable/resaleable items.

The Pit 2 Tree Throw Evaluation

- The oval tree throw pit (1.80 x 1.10 m; depth 0.40 m) was bowl-like, with an irregular base and partly occupied by the bole of the tree so only a small exposure of it was available for study (Fig. 8).
- Cleaning of a section showed [29], a 0.30 + m thick deposit of yellow brickearth with small abraded pieces of cbm in it, but the cbm mainly concentrated in the upper 0.20 m and decreasing in frequency with depth.
- [29] seemed likely to represent the general spreading of limited palace demolition material to areas beyond its moated perimeter, though some more modern material had been intruded into it, probably by tree root action.

DISCUSSION

The Location of the 1960s Excavation Trenches and Damage to the Monument

- It is clear from the excavation of Trench 1 that the large and relatively deep surface depressions identified in surveying prior to the main excavations (Fig. 3) are not evidence for the location of the 1960s trenches, but rather have almost certainly been created by significant machine excavation damaging the site. The finds from [8] and [3] strongly suggest that this happened at some point in the mid twentieth century and the only occasion when heavy plant is known to have been in use in the area is in 1967 when the main North London Orbital Gas Main was installed a short distance to the north and severely damaged other areas of the palace site (see Dearne and Drury 2022). One may therefore strongly suspect that these depressions were cut to source backfilling material for the gas main cut.
- However, given the amount and nature of the finds from [8] and [3], it also seems certain that probably large quantities of rubbish from an urban location were imported to the site and illegally dumped⁹ and it is to be regretted that this has only now come to light so that there is no likelihood of any enforcement action being able to be taken against those responsible.
- To what degree others of the several deep depressions in the immediate vicinity represent cuts that may have damaged the monument and or conceal modern dumping only further excavation could certainly establish. But it must be likely that all do and, whilst current indications are that they may mainly lay in what were open areas of the inner court, this likelihood should inform future excavation and conservation strategy on the site.
- As to the location of the 1960s trenches, Trench 2 in the current work also demonstrated that it was not within their footprint. Whilst the single deposit within the trench, [13], could not in of itself be completely ruled out as excavation backfill, it was far too homogeneous and compacted to make that likely and the recovery of substantial sections of a Westerwald vessel (see Appendix 3, No. 13.6) and other finds from it represent items it would be almost inconceivable that excavators would not have removed if this location had been previously excavated.
- Together then the results of Trenches 1 and 2 appear to demonstrate that the anyway very poor records of the location of the 1960s trenches are in fact effectively worthless as this work must have occurred a significant distance from where what records exist would place it. This removes the immediate need to relocate the 1960s work, as it is apparent that the suspicion that the inner gatehouse lay far closer to the other inner court structures excavated in the 1960s than seemed believable was solely due to the inaccuracy of the 1960s records.

⁹ Almost certainly also explaining the modern disturbance noted at the east end of FXX25 Trench 3 (Dearne 2025b, 11).

- Where the 1960s trenches were actually cut, however, seems to be west or south west of the present Trench 2 (the east west extent of the 1960s work being c. 35 m it cannot have occurred between the present Trenches 1 and 2). There is though very little to more closely identify their location except for a single tree (see Fig. 1) of an age that it must have existed in 1963 (and was not in the excavated area) which does perhaps place a western limit on the area in which the work took place. LiDAR generated topographic survey (Fig. 9) also establishes the limits of the probable dry moat running to the south of the platform on which the inner gatehouse was built and best fit correlation of this with resistivity survey from Bartlett (1998, Plan 7) – though this is known to be mismapped with respect to the OS grid to a degree – may well identify a ?moat defined area to its west in which the 1960s trenches might have lain (Fig. 9). Any strategy for the relocation of the 1960s work would though still seem to require the excavational checking of a fairly large area, probably initially by the excavation of a large grid of e.g. 1.00 x 1.00 m test pits, followed by selective excavation of larger areas.
- Whilst this should be a medium term aim of the ongoing work on the site, completing the full understanding of the inner gatehouse should be prioritised over it, especially as the considerable thinning of the tree cover throughout the area that the palace covered, which is proposed under a recently adopted borough contractor's woodland management strategy, would make such a test pitting exercise somewhat easier.

The Inner Gatehouse (Fig. 10)

- The present work has added significantly to our understanding of the plan and nature of the inner gatehouse, but raises further questions that only additional excavation will be able to answer.
- In broad developmental terms it appears that parts at least of the Phase 1b gatehouse were retained as elements of the structure in Phase 2, but that this saw its modification (see Dearne 2024, 21) and considerable expansion to the south and north, which expansion also involved increasing its east west extent. At its south end, Phase 2 appears to have featured a new large stair tower (see Dearne 2025b) that also gave access to cellars including that partly excavated to the south of wall [20] in the present work. The orientation of these elements of the gatehouse was clearly at variance to that of the Phase 1b gatehouse, perhaps necessitated by the need to place as much of the tower as possible away from the edge of the platform that the gatehouse occupied. However, the Phase 1b axis was retained for the turret flanked entrance and eastern façade of the Phase 2 structure on the south (see Dearne 2024), making it appear on approach across the outer court to be more regular than it actually was.
- The likelihood is that wall [20] in the present work, left ragged by presumed Phase 5a demolition at its eastern end, in fact continued as far as FXX25 wall [9] which bounded the north side of the stair tower (contra Dearne 2025b, 7f) and if so the cellar to the south of [20] was probably of the order of 5.23 m east west ([26] forming its west wall). Its north south extent is unclear, but the edge of the platform on which the gatehouse was built probably sets a limit of 4.00 m for this if the cellar was rectilinear (though there is no inherent reason why it has to have been).
- Within this cellar, though there is no way of certainly knowing if the features within it were all of the same phase, clearly a (rather small diameter) well had been dug and brick lined, presumably to provide the inner gatehouse with its own water supply. If, as suggested below, the surviving top of [14], the ?Phase 3 rebuild of wall [20], marked ground floor level there would have been sufficient clearance for accessing it from within the (?relatively shallow) cellar and this would argue for the recess to its west being a waterproof storage space for e.g. a well bucket. An alternative would be to see the recess as a step providing access to the well from above (so presumably via a trap door in the boarded floor of a gatehouse room that lay above and west of the cellar). Especially without knowing the level of the cellar floor which of these interpretations is right cannot be certain, but the former probably has more to recommend it as e.g. a step would not need to be waterproofed and would make accessing the well fairly awkward.
- What the function of the channels in the feature ([30]) that was attached to the well was is more problematic. Clearly neither took a very heavy flow of water, but damage to the surface of the brickwork the well was set in and also to [30] itself prevents certainty about where those flows originated. One possibility is that the upper channel was open to the surface of the well setting further south than it was preserved and served as an overflow for spillages resulting from use of the well. The function of the iron fittings in the recess beside this upper channel is though also not immediately obvious. One might speculate that they formed parts of some form of mechanism, maybe using a leather flap and operated from a gap in the (lost) west side of the channel, by which the descending channel could perhaps be opened or closed off, but this can only be speculation.

- The lower channel clearly took a slightly greater flow and maybe it had served something like a small sump that waste water could be poured into, but the damage to [30] makes it impossible to be sure. Without deeper excavation it is also impossible to know if these channels communicated with, for instance, a larger ?drain that perhaps passed through wall [20], but they seem to make little sense unless they did (see further below).
- Wall [15B], which almost certainly originally met wall [20] in FXX25 Trench 5, appears, however, to have been built on a completely different axis to the stair tower and cellar, while further north wall [25] lay on a different axis again. One strongly suspects that wall [25] was the back (west) wall of the gatehouse at its north end and met wall [15B] somewhere immediately north of the present Trench 4's most north westerly point. A further cellar might have lain east and north of them respectively. However, this requires excavational confirmation while the precise line of [25] currently relies on too small an exposure to be confident of. The likelihood seems to be that south of wall [15B] there was some further realignment of any back (west) wall of the gatehouse and that it lay further west than the line given by wall [25], but again this requires confirmation.
- The putative plan of the Phase 2 gatehouse that seems to be emerging appears then to be quite irregular. However, how far walls [20] and at least the eastern part of [15B], were load bearing walls and represented the plan of the gatehouse above cellar level should be considered. Wall [20] especially appears to have been more substantial than would be required just to line a cellar, even if it may have been convenient to build it as a continuance of the equally broad FXX25 [9]. Yet, that it was subsequently demolished to around ground floor level in ?Phase 3 and at most replaced by a shorter and narrower wall, [14], may question how fully structural [20] was. In part this turns on the height of [14], which survived to only one course with no clear evidence such as mortar stains that further courses had existed. Thus, it is possible that [20] had never risen much higher than it survived to and that [14] was built to correct it being demolished to a slightly lower level than intended. Against this though is that [14] did not run the full length of the cellar to the south of [20], that [26] (which formed the west wall of the cellar, abutted [20] and again did not show evidence of having been demolished) was at the same level as the demolished surface of [20], and the likelihood that the top of [14] just lay at ground floor level where Phase 5a demolition stopped.
- Whether the somewhat narrower but still substantial [15B] could have been only a cellar lining wall is also problematic. If the deposit ([28]) to its north in the east of Trench 4 was filling a cellar then it might have been, but otherwise this eastern part of it was probably too deeply founded not to have been at least a ground floor dividing wall.
- In any event what appears to have been at least one if not more phases of alterations to the area between walls [20] and [15B] had clearly taken place. Finds from [22] and [33]/[35] probably date these broadly to the late sixteenth or seventeenth centuries and it might be attractive to link at least some part of them to the known phase of rebuilding of the palace in 1610/11 (Dearne *et al* 2022, 116). However, whether they changed the ground plan of the gatehouse at all depends on whether either or both of these now demolished walls had done more than just define the limits of cellars and how far the partial replacement of one with [14] was for a structural purpose. The likelihood seems to be that the demolition of at least the eastern part of [15B] did represent a change in plan (possibly a relatively limited one if the western part of the wall was retained) while the reconstruction of part of [20] as [14] may have resulted from another limited change, though one the details of which it is harder to reconstruct.
- As to the new constructions in ?Phase 3, which probably lay at or just below ground floor level, they seem likely to have had more to do with the provision of services than structural matters. Without deconstructing features [11] and [18] it is impossible to be sure what their function(s) were, but clearly they make no sense as (at least just) floors (especially as they seem to have had, in one case a sloping, surfaces at different levels and some form of channel or gap between them). Moreover, they were far too deeply founded. Yet equally they make no sense as walls, buttresses or the like, particularly since they were clearly inserted just to fit the space between the remnants of walls [20] and [15B], and the most attractive scenario is that they concealed and protected some form of culvert(s) or drain(s).
- That the channels in [30] ran up to, and then in at least one case down, the south face of wall [20] strongly suggests that some sort of water flow was being directed towards the lower part of this wall and if so its destination must surely have been a drain or pipe passing through it or it would just have flooded the cellar. Structure [11]/[18] then (be the different parts of it contemporary or representing modifications at different dates and whether or not it perhaps replaced an earlier similar arrangement)

might well have taken such a water flow from the cellar south of [20], initially north west and then west to run out of the gatehouse. If so it might have continued into the inner court, perhaps to meet one of the main palace drains that ultimately discharged into Maidens Brook. Moreover, its continuation up to the edge of wall [15B] might hint that [11]/[18] also functioned to drain any cellar north of that wall, while yet another inflow might be indicated by the channel/gap later blocked by [19].

- Though it might be objected that [11]/[18] did not appear to take the form of a culvert, which typically would have an arched roof, one of the main palace drains found in the 1960s work had been encased in brickwork leaving a flat surface above it so that its existence was not obvious (Dearne 2022b, 25) and that might well be the case here. Indeed, if the top of [11]/[18] was just below floor level it might have been intended to provide the bedding for the beams of floor(s) – perhaps one at a higher level than another - above it.

The Inner Court

- Though cut to answer other questions, Trenches 1 and 2 may have provided the first excavational evidence for the nature of the inner court of the palace (as opposed to the buildings surrounding it). If the Inner Gatehouse's western extent were to be partly indicated by wall [25], as is hypothesised above, Trench 2 might well be suspected to have lain in the open Inner Court, which would give it an east west extent of over c. 22 m. Moreover, Trench 1 would seem to imply the existence of a very large cut or subterranean feature close to the line of the same wall.
- Though unfortunately known to have been misplotted with respect to the OS grid (see Dearne 2024, 21f and Fig. 10), resistivity survey may well also show this feature (Bartlett 1998, Plan 7, marked 'H'; Fig. 9 herein). Thus, a broad band of resistivity anomalies as plotted would pass through the east end of Trench 1 and, taking into account the plotting error which probably means that the resistivity results should be shifted a little to the east, one suspects that they would pass through the centre of it. This and similar anomalies have previously been suggested to represent rubble filled moats or ditches subdividing the inner court (Dearne *et al* 2022, 213) and pending further excavational confirmation this would seem to be the most likely interpretation of the findings of Trench 1.

The Tree Throw Evaluations

- The tree throw evaluations largely reinforce previous more targeted archaeological interventions. Thus, Tree Throw Pit 1 showed similar results in terms of the dumping of quantities of processed demolition material to the north of the palace site to earlier test pits P45 and P46 (Dearne *et al* 2022, 209f). Similarly, Tree Throw Pit 2's evidence for a more limited spread of small and abraded demolition material to the east of the palace site would be in line with similar findings in test pits P1, P2, P10, P11 and P12 (op cit, 207) which lay east of the palace but further to the south.

CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH IMPLICATIONS

- Although Trench 4 was badly encumbered by tree roots, most features excavated in this work were too far away from substantial trees to be adversely impacted by them. However, the control of new tree and large bush growth across the whole of the raised platform area must continue to be a priority, given the importance of the evidently well preserved remains of major palace structures here. The whole area west of the Lime tree avenue, which has been allowed to become occupied by far more trees than in relatively recent times, should continue to be seen as requiring careful management to limit and eventually decrease tree density to protect the archaeological resource and facilitate what archaeological work it would be practical to undertake. Indeed, the evaluation of the tree throw pits demonstrates that damage to archaeological deposits may be occasioned by naturally falling mature trees and, whilst in the present instances no structural features were present, this should be a consideration in future management of the wooded areas of the site. It is therefore to be welcomed that a newly adopted woodland management plan by Maydencroft Ltd for the LBE envisages a considerable reduction in the tree cover across the palace site in the medium term.
- Clearly though previously unrecognised damage to the monument occurred almost certainly in 1967 and it seems highly likely that this damage is more widespread than just the cut recognised in Trench 1 of the present work. While on current evaluations some at least of the damage may fortunately have occurred in open areas of the palace and so not have impacted its structural remains, this cannot be certain.
- In terms of further research on the site, as noted above, the re-location of the 1960s trenches should no longer be seen as an immediate priority since they, and so the structures that they disclosed, clearly lay

some considerable distance from the inner gatehouse and no longer need to be taken into account in evaluating its extent and plan. However, the current work has narrowed down the location of these excavations to a fair degree and it should remain a medium term aim of work on the site to build on this and more exactly re-locate them.

- As to the ongoing exploration of the plan of the gatehouse, excavation should now focus on areas to the west, north and probably south of Trench 4 in the current work with the aim of establishing the full extent of the structure, further understanding the disposition of cellared areas within it, identifying the function(s) of [11]/[18] and recovering any further evidence for its phasing. A subsidiary aim might be to further investigate the size and nature of the substantial cut feature encountered in Trench 1 of the current work.

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APPENDIX 1: ARCHIVE NOTE

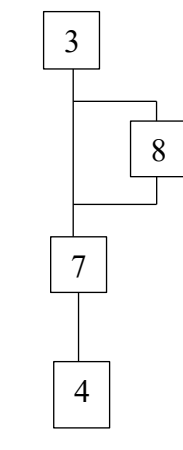
- The archive for FXY26 is held at the London Borough of Enfield Museums Service/EAS archive and includes:
- project design; ancient monument consent letter of grant and variation; inked copies of all plans and sections; context register and original context sheets; section, plan, find, architectural materials, bulk floor tile and sample registers; photographic image register; digital image archive; site diary; levels register; finds report; this report; and the retained finds and samples.

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX AND SITE MATRICES

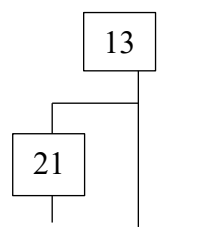
Context	Type	Description
1	Layer	Topsoil (Tree Pit 1)
2	Layer	Rubble Dump (Tree Pit 1)
3	Layer/Fill	Modern Dump/Fill of 7
4	Layer	Rubble Dump
5	Layer	Topsoil
6	Layer	Re-landscaping
7	Cut	Modern Pit
8	Fill	Of 7
9	Layer	Re-landscaping
10	Layer	Trample
11	Feature	?Drain
12	Layer	Rubble Dump
13	Layer	Rubble Dump/Topsoil
14	Feature	Wall
15A	Feature	Surface
15B	Feature	Wall
16	Layer	Rubble Dump
17	Layer	Rubble Dump
18	Feature	?Drain

19	Fill	Of Gap Between 11/18
20	Feature	Wall
21	Layer	?Platform Formation
22	Layer	Construction Backfill
23	Layer/Fill	Rubble Dump in Cellar
24	Layer	Rubble Dump
25	Feature	Wall
26	Feature	Cellar Structure
27	Layer	?Platform Formation
28	Layer	?Construction Backfill
29	Layer	Demolition Debris (Tree Pit 2)
30	Feature	Cellar Structure
31	Fill	Of 32
32	Cut	Construction Trench
33	Layer	Platform Formation
34	Layer/?Fill	Rubble Dump ?in Cellar
35 = [33]/[35]	Layer	Construction Backfill

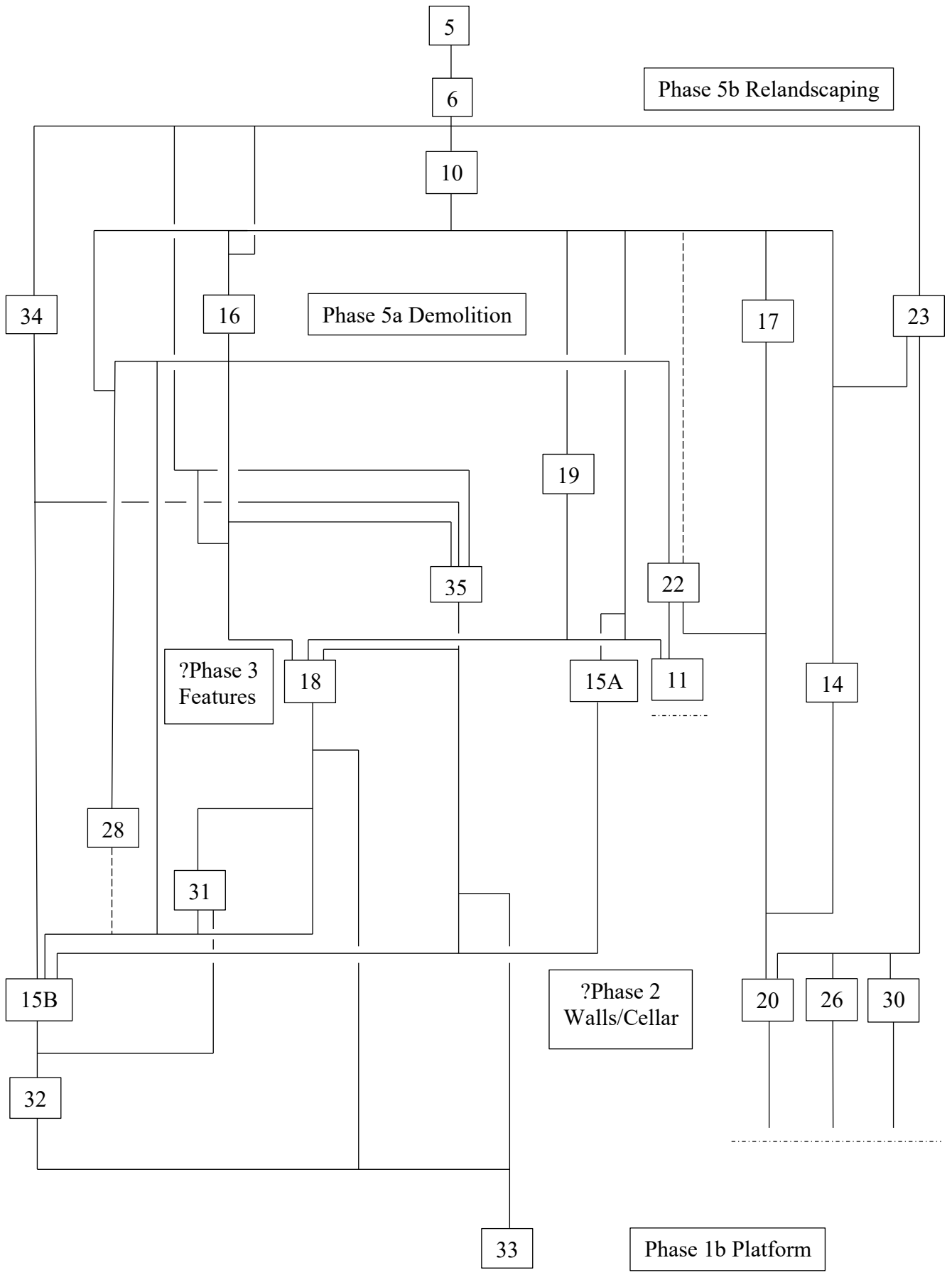
Trench 1



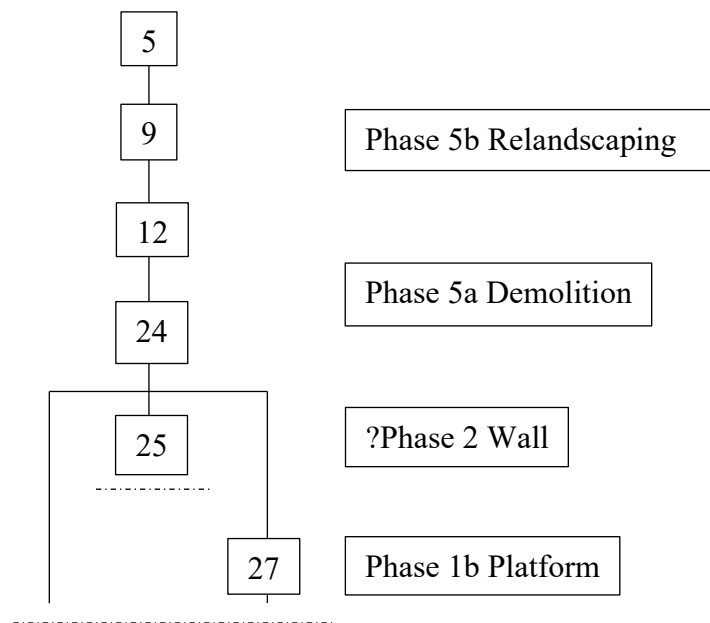
Trench 2



Trench 4



Trench 5



APPENDIX 3: FINDS SUMMARY

(MJD with contributions by Ian K. Jones and Neil Pinchbeck)

- The following summarises the main points of a fuller report available in the site archive. * denotes an item illustrated on Figs 11 - 12. Contexts appear at the end of catalogue entries thus: [7], with any small find number.

1 Building Stone

Edited and summarised by MJD from reports by Ian K. Jones

- Only four items of worked stone were recovered, all from disparate certain or probable Phase 5a demolition contexts, though one had probably been redeposited into [3] by disturbance to [4] in 1967.

Window element

- An irregular shaped fragment (Max. L. 10.3; Max. W. 6.5; Max. Th. 5.3 cm) from a small Greensand window frame preserving part (8.4 x 5.4 cm) of the top/end surface of the block and part (5.0 x 2.4 cm) of the inner face at right angles to it. The whole of the latter is heavily rust stained probably from being in contact with the iron frame of a small window, one edge of which is probably represented by a c. 3.0 cm long vertical groove. With no evidence for the cut slot which held the frames of larger windows this may be from a not necessarily glazed narrow slit window, as often used to light spiral staircases, latrines and small, minor rooms. [4]

Fireplace Element

(Where there is no indication from which side of the fireplace pieces came they are described as being from the left hand side.)

Fireplace Surround

- Probably part of an octagonal Greensand fireplace jamb (Max. L. 23.0; Max. Ht. 11.0; Max. Th. 12.0 cm) in two joining but badly damaged, heavily abraded and shattering pieces. Original faces all worked smooth to a good quality finish. A 4.5 cm wide, very burnt outer face is flanked either side by 3.5 cm wide 45° chamfers (but the inter-face angles abraded), that on the left (the side facing away from the fireplace opening) leading to an over 7.9 cm wide face. The chamfer on the right leads to a 1.7 cm wide inner face (at right angles to the outer face) and then a fragment of a moulding at 90° to it, all these surfaces being very burnt. The back of the block is lost and now heavily tool marked. Similar to Dearne (2023, 26 and Fig. 11, No. 2.6). [12]

Corbel or Boss Fragment

- *1.3 A very badly damaged fragment of a Greensand corbel/boss (Max. Ht. 11.3; Max. W. 8.3; Max. Th. 7.1 cm), ?? in the form of a shield. The very finely finished, laterally convex surface runs down for c. 9.0 cm from traces of a horizontal groove before describing a rounded 90° turn. The surface may be symmetrically divided by a horizontal groove, now obscured by a crack along it, and its lower part vertically divided by another 3 mm wide groove, which continues across the rounded turn. There are traces of a third 4 mm wide groove approaching this at an angle from the left across the turn. Faint smoke staining on the upper half. Both sides, parts of the underside and the back irregularly shattered and often delaminating. This appears to be a fragment from the bottom of a much larger piece of carved stone such as a corbel set into a wall to support a structural timber or even a stone vault or one of several supporting either a mantelpiece or the base of an overmantel from a fireplace. (Residual in) [3]

Floor Slab

- 1.4 Part of a floor slab (Max. L. 13.1; Max W. 11.8; Th. 4.0 cm) with parts of two edges (L.s 11.0 and 6.5 cm) surviving, in a cream coloured fossiliferous Jurassic limestone probably from the East Midlands (as Dearne 2022a, 13, No. 2.1). The slab is well finished and much of the surface has been additionally wear polished. [13]

Roofing slate (MJD)

- Small fragments of grey roofing slate came from [13] and [33]/[35].

2 Shaped Bricks

(Field Recording by Ian K. Jones and MJD)

- There were a small number (8) of loose brick axe cut and rubbed red bricks. Most were from [4] with single items from [13], [23] and [U/S].
- They included a small range of forms, several of them having previously been noted from the site, so the classification in Dearne *et al* (2022, 231) is used here for convenience. However, most fragments were relatively small, often quite battered and differentiation of forms, especially between King (or Queen) Closers, Multi-Angularly Cut bricks and Plinth bricks was often difficult. Some fragments classified as Concave bricks might also alternatively be fragments from Window Mullions.

Group c) – Plinth Bricks

- Three fragments were or may have been from Plinth bricks, cut with one angled side face, but, as noted, the condition of the material often prevented differentiation from other forms. Where measurable they showed a face cut at 45°, but none preserved evidence for whether the cut face occupied the full thickness of the brick (as Dearne *et al* 2022, Fig. 49, top right) or whether it left an uncut vertical face at the base of the side (op cit, second row left).

Group e) – Concave bricks

- One and possibly a second fragments were from, in one case 5.2 cm thick, bricks cut with a concave face. Both were small and poorly preserved, one might alternatively have been from a window frame and the other had as much of a curved surfaced rebate to it as a full concave cut so its original form was uncertain. But there was also:

- 2.1 A 23.5 cm long, over 7.50 cm wide, 5.69 cm thick brick, cut and rubbed to give a rounded end and the beginning of a (mostly lost) concave moulding behind it on the side of the brick. [23]

Group f) - Convex (?plinth) bricks or window/door mouldings

- One fragment had a convex moulding, but only comprised a battered fragment of a brick with a quarter round face.

Other Shaped Bricks

- The following is not represented in Dearne *et al* (2022):

- 2.2 A fragment only (9.6 x 6.8 x 7.4 cm) of a brick (fairly roughly) cut to give two surfaces meeting at c. 160°, one adjacent to a side/end/top/bottom face of the brick. [4]

3 Roofing (and Building) Tiles

(Field Recording by MJD)

- Peg tile fragments were reasonably common in demolition material contexts (and c. 50 fragments derived from Tree Pit 1 context [2]). Most were too small to establish more than their thickness (1.00 – 1.50 cm), but complete peg tiles forming parts of [19] were 0.28 m long and 0.01 m thick while in [23] and [24] some complete/near complete examples were over 0.26 m long, 0.165 to 0.18 m wide and 0.012 - 0.015 m thick, often with hard white mortar on both faces and blocking their holes so that they had been used in construction work.
- One or two ridge tile fragments were recovered from [24], the largest 10.0 x 9.5 cm (Th. 1.7 cm).

4 Flooring Tiles

Decorated Tiles

- *4.1 Tin glazed (Delft) floor tile fragment (4.00 x 3.18; Th. 1.76 cm) from a tile in a buff fabric and identical to Dearne (2025b) 23 No. 4.1, where it is noted that the source and date cannot be certain, but it is likely that these came from one of the Southwark pothouses such as Pickleherring and most likely date to the second or third decades of the seventeenth century. [13] SF1

Plain Glazed Tiles

(Field Recording by Ian K. Jones and MJD)

- Nineteen fragments of undecorated flooring tile/brick came mostly from [4] with a few from other Phase 5a demolition material deposits.
- A few showed marked edge chamfers restricted to the lower part of their sides (a form which dominated the far larger corpus recovered nearby in 2024 (Dearne 2024, 34) and 2025 (Dearne 2025b, 24). Tile thickness generally ranged from 2.20 to 3.50 cm, but was fairly variable, and the largest fragment, from [23], was 20.7 x 12.2 cm and unusually had a quarter round moulded edge.
- The only item worthy of further note (from [12]) was two joining fragments (overall 16 x 8.5 cm) from the corner of a 3.76 cm thick tile with both preserved edges vertical, the upper surface white slipped with just small traces of ?clear glaze. Its reverse (Pl. 14) carried parts of three c. 1.00 mm deep, 3.00 mm wide overlapping c. 10 cm diameter incised/impressed circles, but one of which evidently had not been fully completed/impressed. Whilst an apotropaic interpretation is perhaps possible, this may well just have resulted from the repeated resting of a heavy footringed bowl on the wet tile.
- Unstratified material recorded during the evaluation of Tree Pit 1 and clearly deriving from [2] comprised 10 fragments, five of which were sufficiently large to record further. Two corner fragments up to 0.12 x 0.08 m and one side fragment retained glaze and their full thickness (green glazed corner Th. 0.04 m, all sides chamfered to half tile thickness; purple black glaze Th. 0.025 m, all sides chamfered to full tile thickness; black glazed Th. 0.035 m, no chamfer to surviving side). Two probably joining fragments of a tile without glaze or where it was lost had no chamfers to the sides and were 0.032 m thick.

5 Structural and Possibly Structural Metalwork and Building Fittings

5.1 Lead cramp hole filling (L. 9.00; W. 2.10; Th. (max.) 2.40 cm). A block with smooth parallel sides and convex base (with some adhering mortar), below a longer thin 'plate' with a very rough surface containing small fragments of cbm. Probably from stonework. [23]

- Most iron finds were not further classifiable nails and nail shanks, many corroded and heavily concreted. All had or appeared to have square sectioned shanks and broadly (sub) square heads. Nail size varied, the longest example recorded being 7.50 cm long. Contexts producing nails/nail shanks were [5] (2), [6] (1), [12] (2), [13] (3), [23] (1), [24] (1) and [33]/[35] (1).
- Two iron joiners dog fragments were [U/S].

6 Window Glass

- Other than a small number of pieces of modern clear or blue green or greenish fragments of uncertain date from [13] (where topsoil could not be differentiated from earlier deposits) window glass was extremely rare and blackened, devitrifying and in fragments less than 2 cm². Pieces came from [4] (1) and [23] (1).

7 Weapons

- Three lead pistol balls (Di. s 1.22 cm) were [U/S].

8 Metalworking Residues and Fuels

- Metalworking was represented by Pb solidified splashes and sheet offcuts. Splashes, occasionally up to 4.00 cm, but generally under 2.00 cm, came from [12] (3), [33]/[35] (1) and [U/S] (1).
- There were two large pieces of lead sheet with cut edges from [23], a broad folded strip (est. straightened L. 19.30; W. 5.65; Th. 0.49 cm) and a squarer piece (L. 13.10; W. 9.30; Th. 4.90 cm) which retained hard white mortar on one face. Their similar thicknesses (which were too great for roofing lead) might suggest that they derived from the same source (e.g. the scrapping of a particular object such as a water tank), but there were no diagnostic features to identify such a source.
- Smaller lead sheet offcuts and trimmings came from [5] (4.20 x 1.30 x 0.65 cm) and [U/S] (1).
- Two lead sheet offcuts (L.s 5.00 and 6.00; Th. 0.27 and 0.13 cm) were also [U/S] in tree throw Pit 1.

9 Vessel Glass

- Very little vessel glass was present. There was a greenish chip from [6] and a small olive green wine bottle sherd from [13] (which, however, also produced a modern clear vessel glass sherd).

10 Clay Tobacco Pipes

- Stem and not further identifiable bowl fragments came from [4] (1), [13] (2) and [29] (1).

11 Lithics by Neil Pinchbeck

- *11.1 A convex side scraper (L. 6.90; W. 3.50; Th. 1.00 cm) made on a flake of very dark grey flint with pinkish grey cortex. Rolled. Late Upper Palaeolithic. [6]
- *11.2 A piercer (L. 4.00; W. 2.90; Th. 0.90 cm) made on a retouched flake of mottled very pale brown/light brownish grey flint with white/very pale brown cortex. Slightly rolled. Mesolithic. [9]
- *11.3 A parallel sided microlith blade (L. 2.30; W. 0.60; Th. 0.30 cm) in dark brown flint. Mesolithic. [13]
- 11.4 A microburin (L. 1.10; W. 0.80; Th. 0.15 cm) made on a small flake of very dark greyish brown flint. Mesolithic. (Cf. Stewart 2024, 40, Fig. 2.19) [U/S]
- *11.5 A small cortex backed blade (L. 2.56; W. 2.50; Th. 0.60 cm) made on a truncated flake of semi-translucent dark greyish brown/pale brown mottled flint with very pale brown cortex. Mesolithic. [Casual mole hill find from the centre of the Great Meadow]

12 WWII Find (ID Ian K. Jones)

- 12.1 Part of the copper drive band from a small calibre anti-aircraft shell (fitted round the base of the shell to engage with the rifling in the gun barrel to spin the shell and increase its accuracy). [5]

13 Pottery (by fabric)

- Only 210 sherds¹⁰ over 1 x 1 cm were recovered which, given the area and depth excavated, is a low figure compared to work in 2024, but a little higher than in 2025. As in 2023 - 5 the general scarcity of pottery in demolition deposits is especially notable as such deposits elsewhere on the site produce significant amounts of pottery. This may well reflect functional differences across the site, with outer court and most moat deposits, which have been those encountered before 2023, deriving from clearance of service buildings whereas deposits encountered in 2023 - 5 represented the demolition of high status accommodation and open areas of the inner court.

¹⁰ Not including modern material from [3] and [8].

- The most notable feature of the corpus was the amount of earlier Medieval material present, comprising 92 sherds of **South Hertfordshire-type Greyware** (SHER; c. 1170 – 1350) and lesser amounts (21 or 22 sherds) of **London-type Ware** (LOND; 1080 – 1350). Some sherds came from contexts in which they were clearly residual, but much came from one context ([33]/[35]) and, as in 2024 (Dearne 2024, 37), derived from the platform on which the inner gatehouse was constructed.
- As in 2023 - 5, the profile of the majority of the post-Medieval corpus was broadly similar to that from earlier excavations, but with a lesser dominance of **London Area Early Post Medieval Red Earthenware** (PMRE/PMR) and **London Area Post Medieval Red Earthenware** (PMR).¹¹ This is likely to reflect less of the large flagons, which generally account for a high proportion of PMRE/PMR on other parts of the site, and of large kitchen vessels, which PMR was predominantly used for.
- **Surrey/Hampshire Border Ware** (BORD; c. 1550 – 1700), also a common component of corpora from the Elsyng site, was present, but in small quantities, as was **Surrey/Hampshire Border Redware** (RBOR; 1550 – 1900).
- **Frechen Bartmann Ware** (FREC; imported c. 1550 – 1700) liquid storage/serving vessels (with single records of **Post Medieval Black Glazed ('Metropolitan') Ware** (PMBL; Post c. 1580) and possibly of **Raeren Stoneware** (RARE; 1480 – 1610)) were represented, as usual in Elsyng groups, but again in small quantities comprising a few jugs and slightly more drinking jugs or mugs.
- **Tin Glazed Earthenware** (TGW (Delft); mainly post c. 1613) was very rare, but a notable find was a large section of a **Westerwald Stoneware** (WEST; 1590 – 1900) jug and there was a single **Late Medieval/Transitional Sandy Redware** (LMSR; 1480 – 1600) bowl and the rim of a **Metropolitan Slipware** (METS; 1480 – 1900) vessel.
- The following are worth separate note:

London-Type Ware (LOND; 1080 – 1350)

*13.1 Rim (1), ?cooking pot. Out turned internally thickened rim. [33]/[35]

*13.2 Rim (1), jug. Flat topped, everted rim. [33]/[35]

Rim (1), jar or bowl. Flat topped everted rim. [33]/[35]

Body (1). White slipped with grooved decoration and traces of green glaze. Unusual light brown to grey (10 YR 5/3 to 10 YR 7/2) c. and m. with reddish brown (5 YR 6/4) s. Provisional ID. [13]

Base (1), small conical bottle or drinking jug (c. 1270 – c. 1350). [2]

South Hertfordshire-Type Greyware (SHER; c. 1170 – 1350)

*13.3 Rim (1), jar. Grey c., grey brown int. s. and rim; ext. s. and below rim int. burnt black and ext. spalling. Rim Di. 22 cm. Blackmore and Pearce (2010) rim form F1, but slight ?lid seating. Thirteenth – early fourteenth century. [33]/[35]

Rim (1), jar. Grey c. and s. Rim Di. c. 22 cm. Blackmore and Pearce (2010) rim form F3. c. 1200 to mid fourteenth century. [33]/[35]

Rim (1), jar. Ditto. Rim Di. c. 20 cm. Blackmore and Pearce (2010) rim form F3 (as Fig 71, No. 974). c. 1200 to mid fourteenth century. [33]/[35]

*13.4 Rim (2), bowl. Grey brown c., black int. and ext. s. Rim Di. c. 44 cm. Blackmore and Pearce (2010, Fig. 92) rim form F3, but slight groove int. at rim and thickened rim edge. c. 1200 to mid fourteenth century. [33]/[35]

Late Medieval/Transitional Sandy Redware (LMSR; 1480 – 1600)

*13.5 Rim, jar. Bead rim with lid seating. Rim slightly distorted and burnt black. [33]/[35]

Westerwald Stoneware (WEST; 1590 – 1900)

*13.6 Body and base, jug (20 mostly joining sherds and some chips giving around two thirds of the lower part of the vessel). White f., buff unglazed int., light grey glaze ext. with scored decoration partly

¹¹ As outlined in Dearne *et al* (2022, 263) in terms of fabric late sixteenth/seventeenth century PMRE and PMR cannot usually be differentiated (pers. comm. Jacqui Pearce) and at this date at least the separation between PMR and PMRE is therefore at best only a reflection of the evolving kiln technology and to a degree consistency of glazing in use at a given production centre at a given time. It therefore seems potentially misleading to try and differentiate PMRE (usually given a terminal date of c. 1600) from PMR (usually dated c. 1580 – 1900) at least on the Elsyng Palace site as much of the 'PMRE' may represent redwares produced well into the seventeenth century, but just at centres not yet at this date producing the more consistently oxidised and glazed products one might term 'PMR'. All London Area Redwares characterisable as 'PMRE' from the site may then be better listed as PMRE/PMR and be dated very broadly to the later sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, not to before c. 1600.

infilled with cobalt blue glaze. Decoration of vertical panels of irregular looping interlace, highlighted segments of overlapping circles and a foliate/arabesque pattern. [13]

- NB Modern material from [3] and [8] was not catalogued, but amongst items possibly residual from disturbance of [4] were a FREC handle sherd, the rim and handle of a flagon in PMRE and a greyware (possibly SHER) rim, perhaps from a bowl with a flat but ?slightly lid seated angled rim.

14 The Faunal and Environmental Evidence

by Neil Pinchbeck

(edited and with comments by Martin J. Dearne)

- 3.369 kg of animal bone and dentition, comprising 165 items, was recovered (plus three items from Tree Pit 1). The overwhelming majority of this material came from contexts [16]/[35] (1.251 kg), [33]/[35] (1.218 kg) and [31] (0.602 kg), but all or most in [16]/[35] and [33]/[35] almost certainly derived from disturbance of [31], the fill of the ?Phase 2 construction trench for wall [15B]. This material comprised bovine and ovicaprid bone representing non-meat bearing parts of the carcass removed by butchery in the preparation of joints of meat for the kitchen. However, only the larger diameter bovine longbones were broken or split for marrow extraction. Smaller groups of mainly ovicaprid bone, with some records of rabbit and pig, came from [4], [12] and [23].
- Whilst to a small degree the corpus probably reflects Phase 5a site clearance activities redistributing material e.g. from middens, in which connection the presence of three domestic dove (*Columba livia domestica*) bones in context [23] is of note, a relative paucity of faunal material from the current excavations is in line with previous work. Thus, the limited faunal material compared to groups from infilled moats and previously excavated rubble deposits in other areas of the palace almost certainly reflects the higher status of the inner gatehouse and inner court, more assiduous rubbish clearance here and the fact that the area excavated did not have kitchen/food storage functions.
- The exception is the corpus from [31], including the residual material in [33]/[35] and [16]/[35], which likely represents the convenient disposal of accumulated kitchen butchery waste (and shells from the consumption of oysters as noted below) from elsewhere on the site during a significant phase of rebuilding.
- Frequent oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) shell valves were noted in several contexts. They were not collected or recorded beyond context sheet notes in most cases. However, context [31] partly comprised an extremely large number of marine bivalve shells, further quantities of which were residual in [35] and [16]/[35] due to disturbance of [31]. A 1.28 kg sample of the marine bivalve material contained 125 oyster valves (*Ostrea edulis*), five valves of cockle (*Erastoderma edule*), four valves of mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) and a single example of the marine gastropod common whelk (*Buccinum undatum*).

OASIS Summary for enfielda1-545694

OASIS ID (UID)	enfielda1-545694
Project Name	Research Excavation at Elsyng Palace
Sitename	Elsyng Palace
Sitecode	FXY26
Project Identifier(s)	Elsyng Palace
Activity type	Research Excavation
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Academic research
Organisation Responsible for work	Enfield Archaeological Society
Project Dates	12-Jul-2026 - 26-Jul-2026
Location	Elsyng Palace NGR : TQ 33700 98900 LL : 51.67296822619543, -0.067883799116903 12 Fig : 533700,198900
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Enfield Local Authority District : Enfield Parish : Enfield, unparished area
Project Methodology	Excavation of four archaeological trenches and evaluation of two tree fall pits.
Project Results	•Excavation identified substantial walls, at least one defining a cellared space containing a brick lined well and adjacent ?drainage channels, within the Inner Gatehouse of the palace, which were probably part of its late fifteenth century expansion. Later at least partial demolition of the walls was associated with construction of one or more previously encountered brick built features between them that may have encased more major drainage features. Further evidence was recovered for the creation of the platform occupied by the gatehouse having occurred in or after the twelfth to fourteenth centuries, the probable rear wall of the gatehouse and a possible moat sub-dividing the Inner Court of the palace were identified and the location of previous excavations in the 1960s was clarified.
Keywords	Royal Palace - Medieval - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Royal Palace - Tudor - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Royal Palace - Post Medieval - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Royal Palace - Elizabethan - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Royal Palace - Jacobean - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Local society or group Enfield Archaeological Society
HER	Greater London HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Martin Dearne
HER Identifiers	

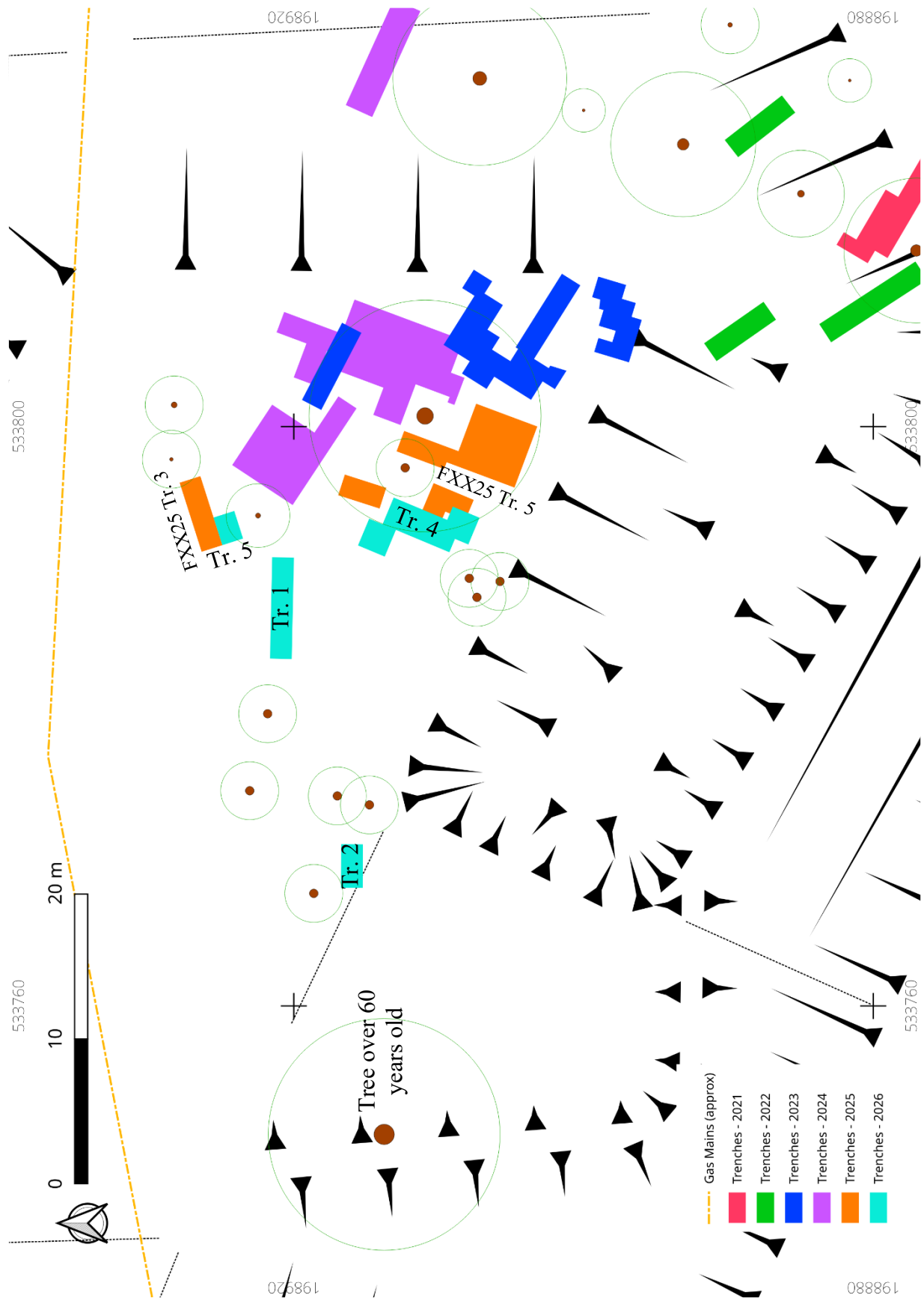


Fig. 1: Trench Locations in Relation to Previous Work and LiDAR Assessed Topography

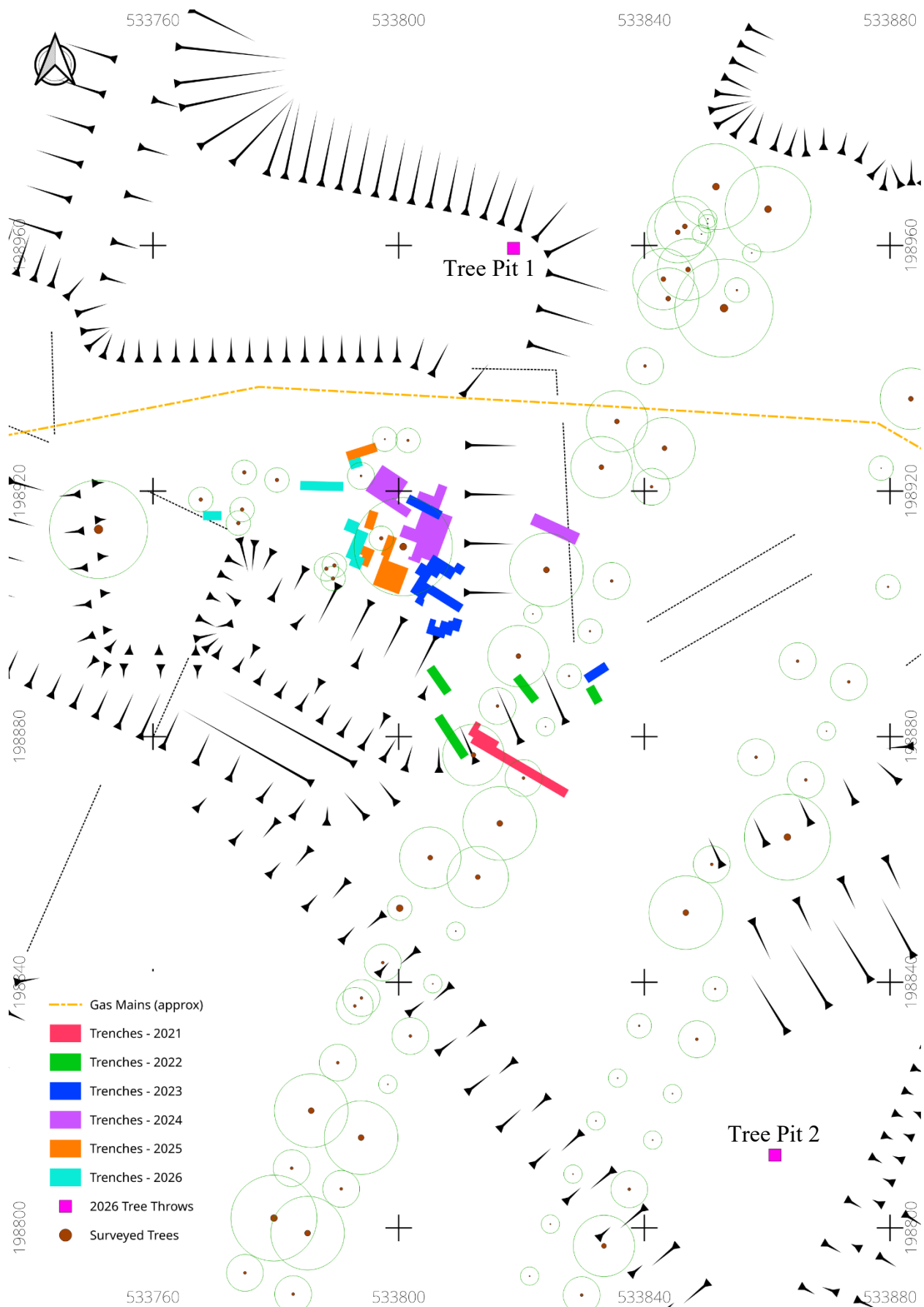


Fig. 2: Tree Pit Locations in Relation to Current and Recent Work and LiDAR Assessed Topography

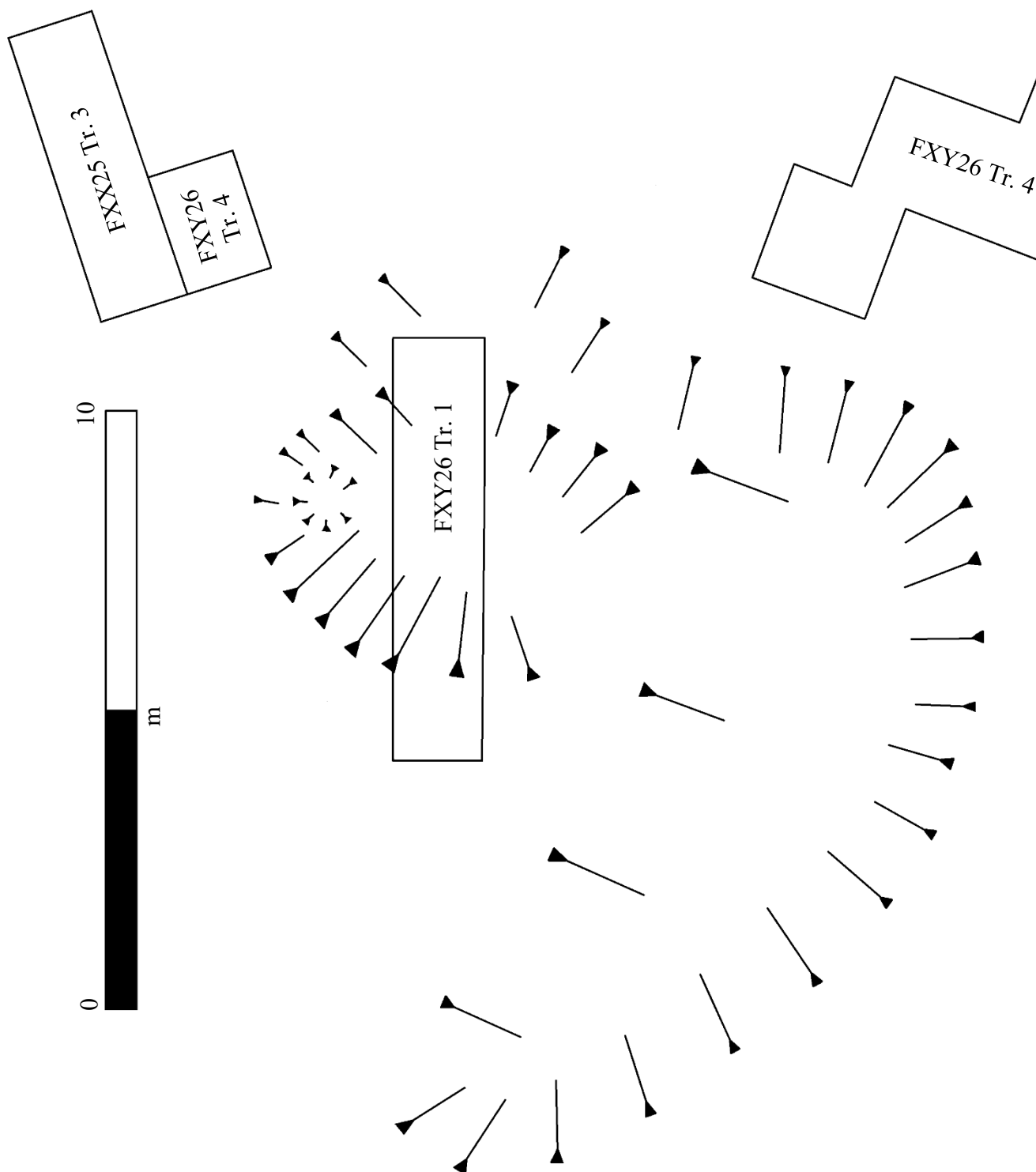


Fig. 3: Trench Location in Relation to Landscape Features

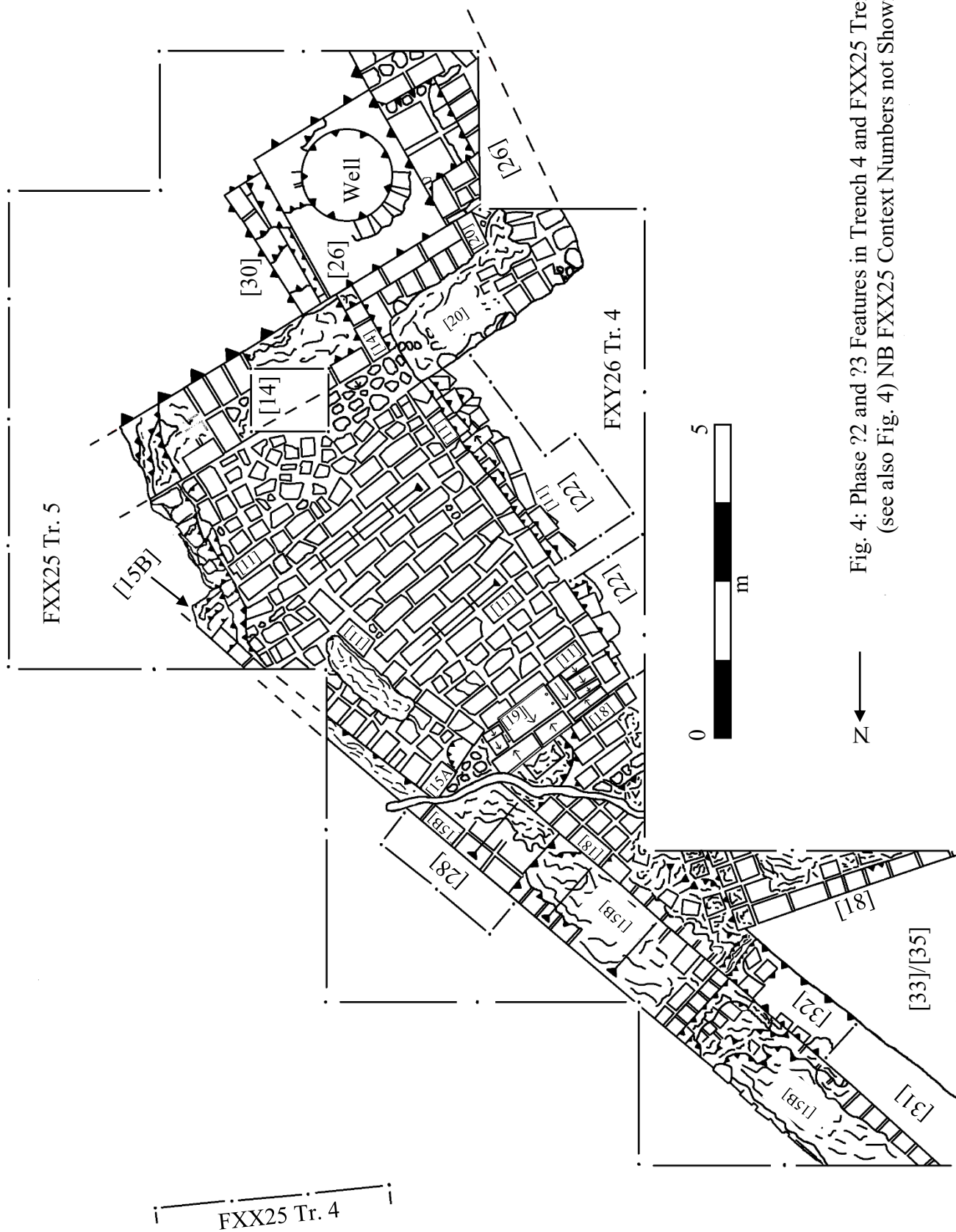


Fig. 4: Phase ?2 and ?3 Features in Trench 4 and FXX25 Trench 5
(see also Fig. 4) NB FXX25 Context Numbers not Shown

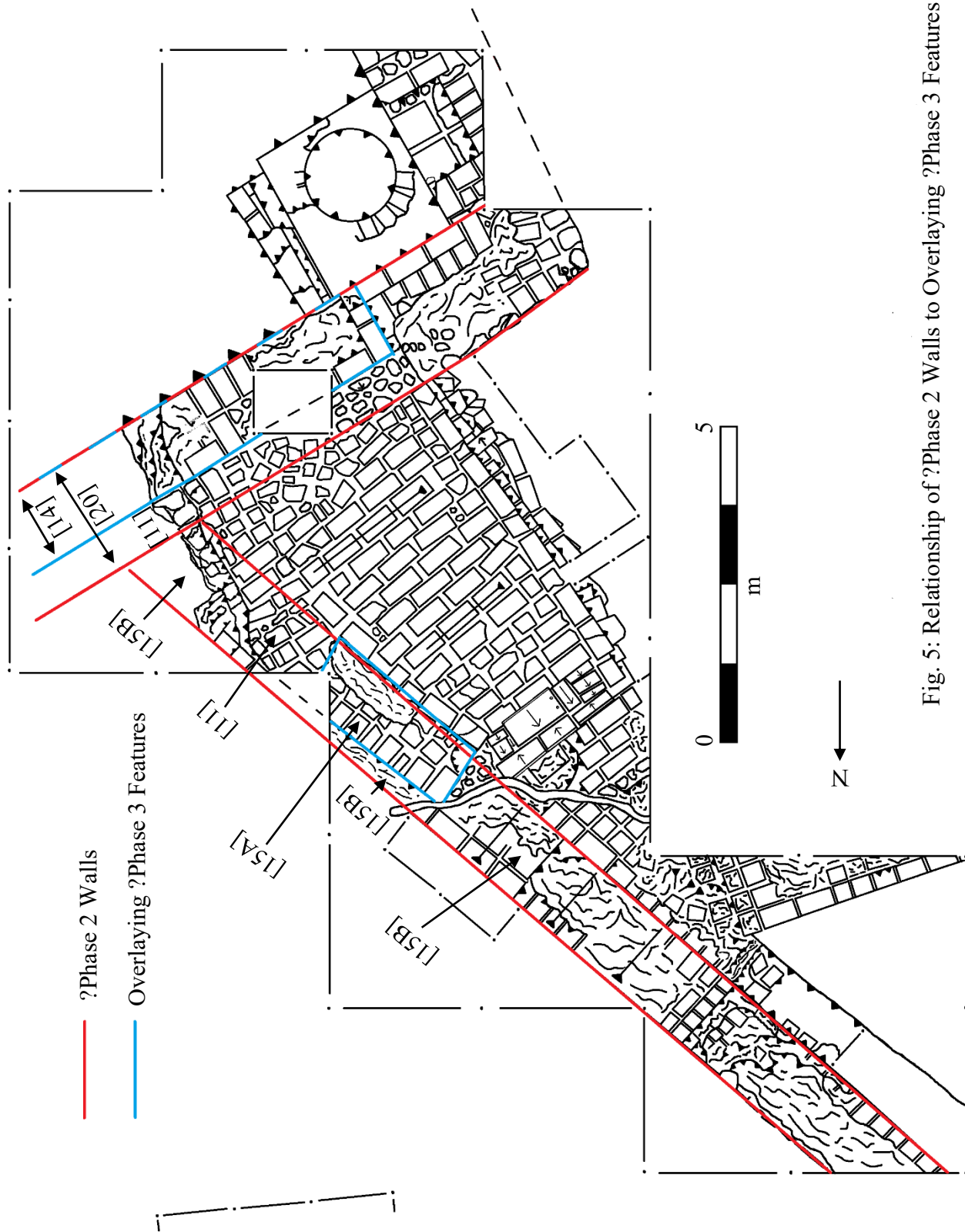


Fig. 5: Relationship of ?Phase 2 Walls to Overlaying ?Phase 3 Features

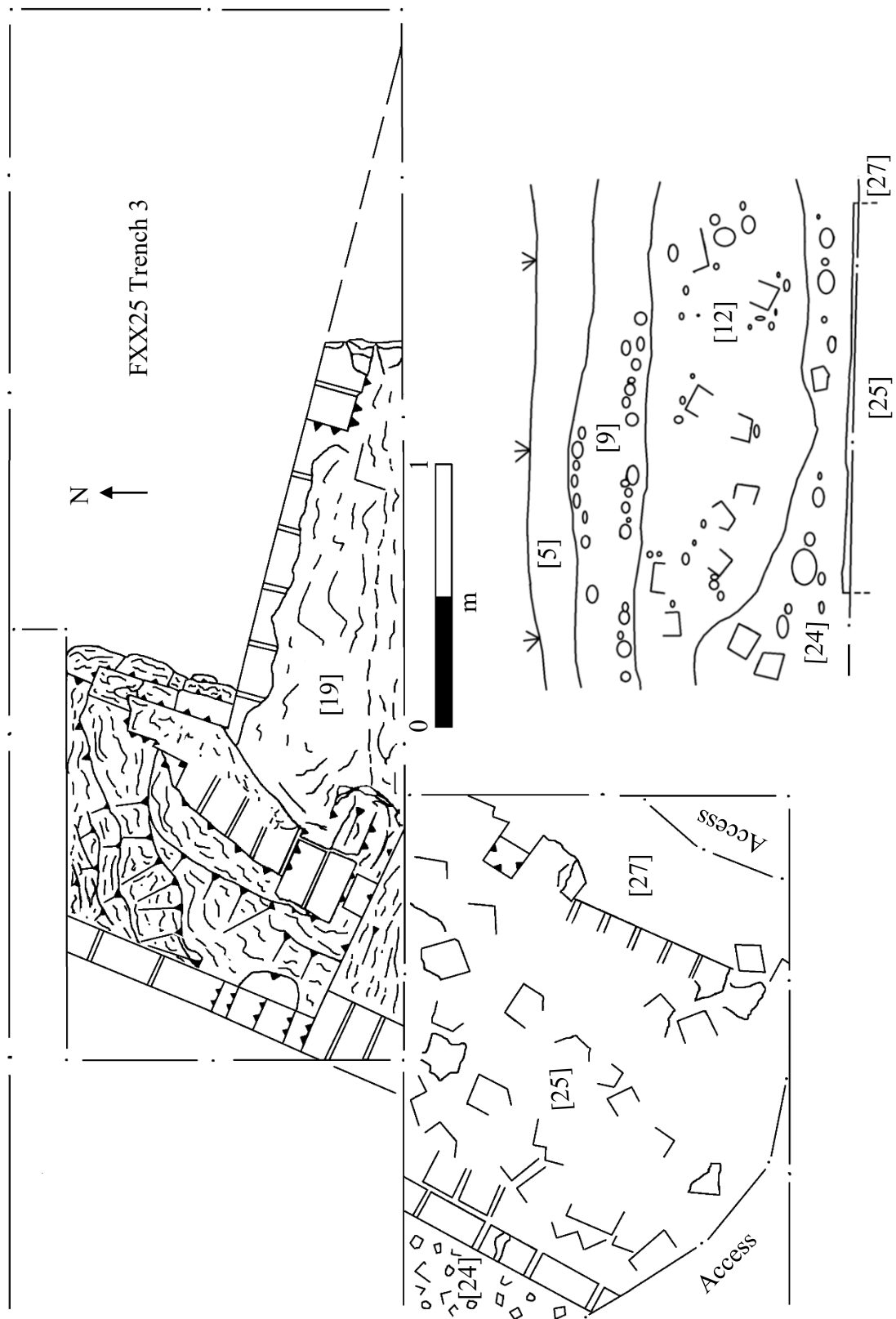


Fig. 6: Trench 5 and FXX25 Trench 3 Plan and Typical Trench 5 East West Section

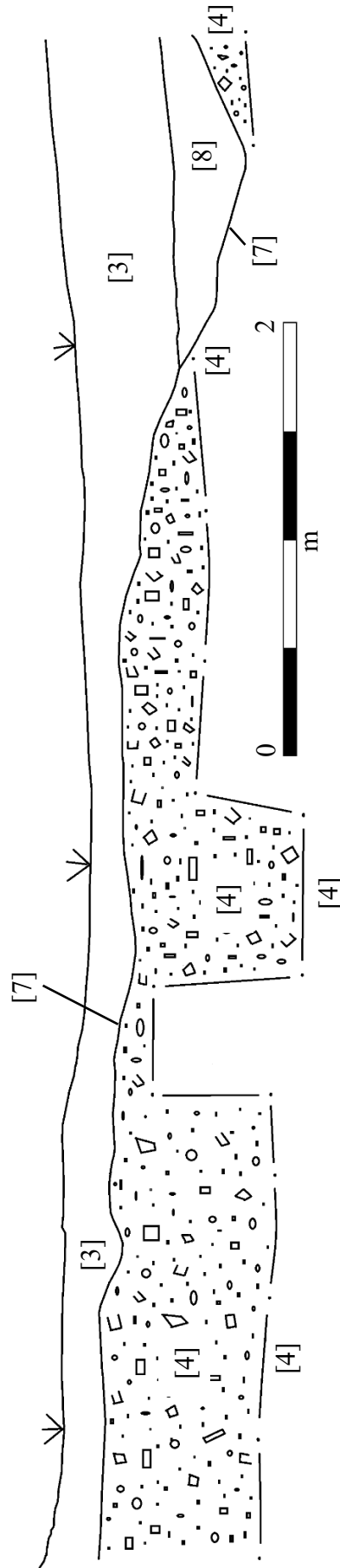


Fig. 7: Trench 1, North Section

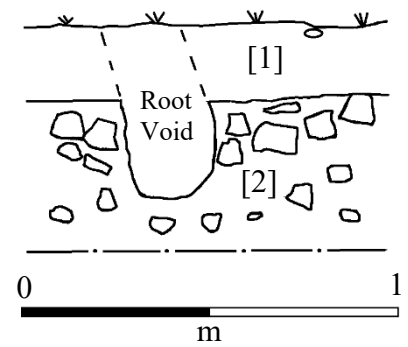
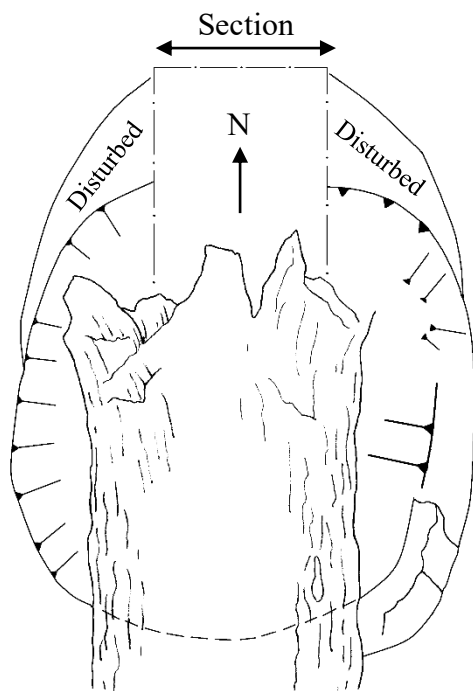
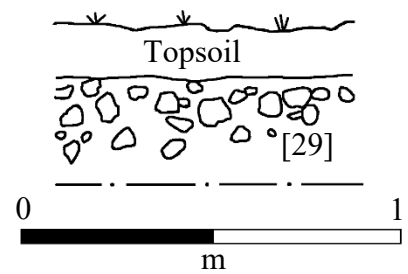
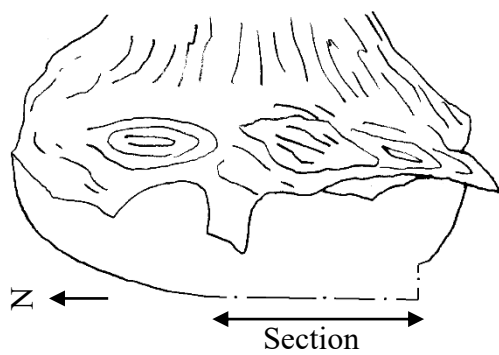


Fig. 8: Tree Pit 1 (Above) and Tree Pit 2 (Below)



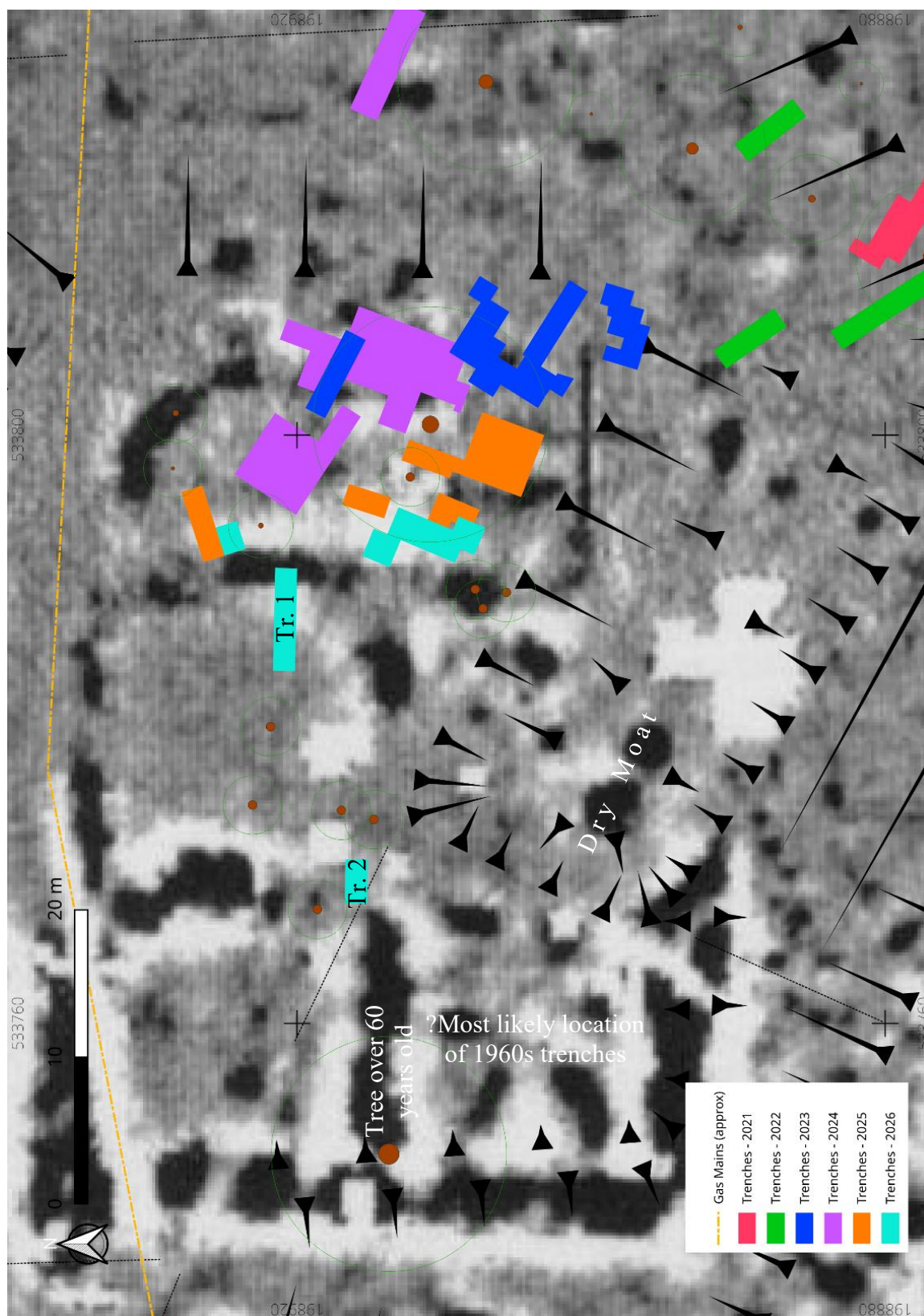


Fig. 9: Extract from Bartlett (1998) Plan 4 Superimposed on LiDAR Evidence (from Pinchbeck 2013) and 2021 – 2026 Trench Locations
 N.B. Superimposition has been Achieved by use of the OS Grid on Bartlett Plan 4 Which is Believed to be Imprecisely Positioned

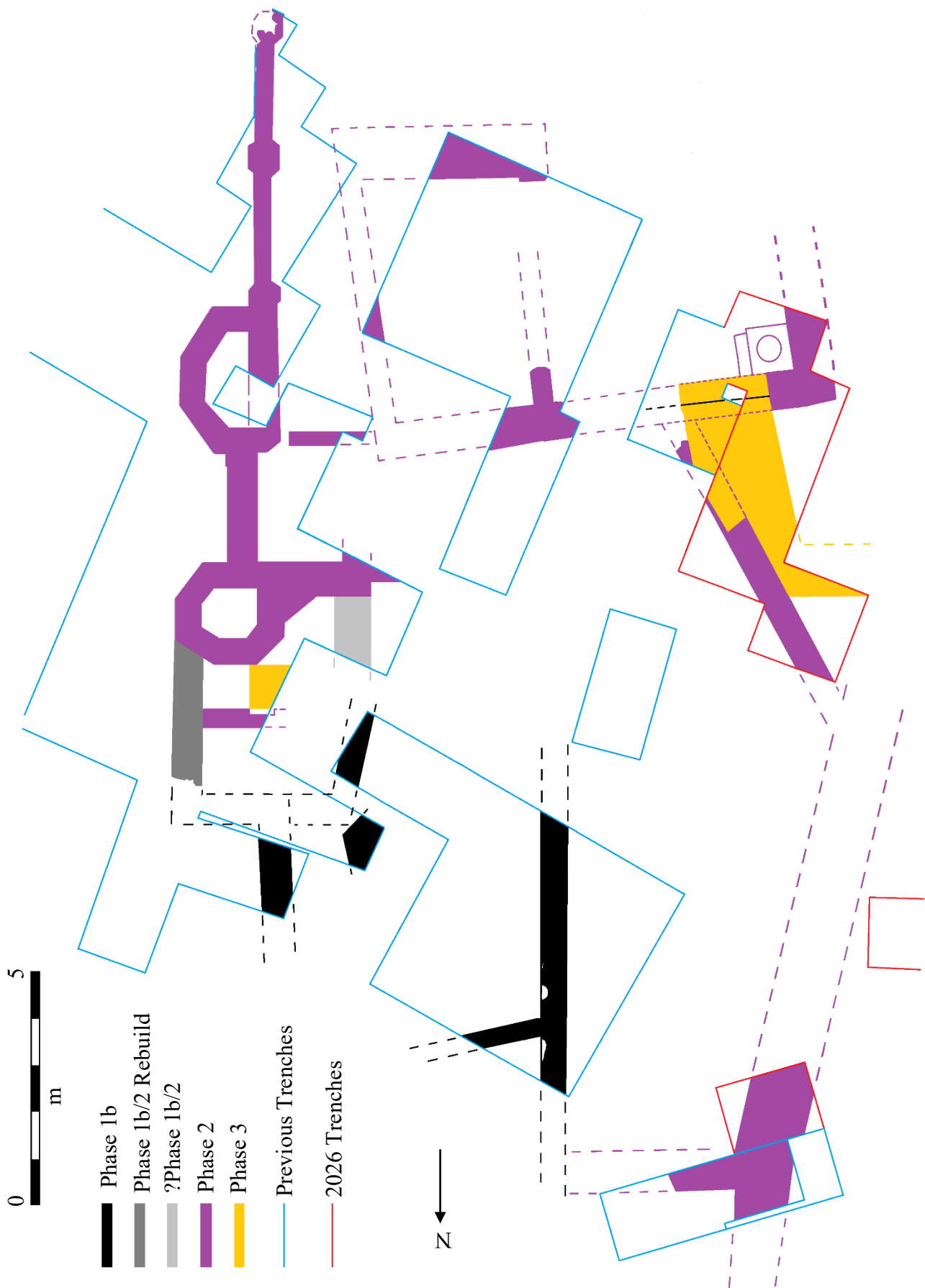


Fig. 10: Phased Plan of the Inner Gatehouse

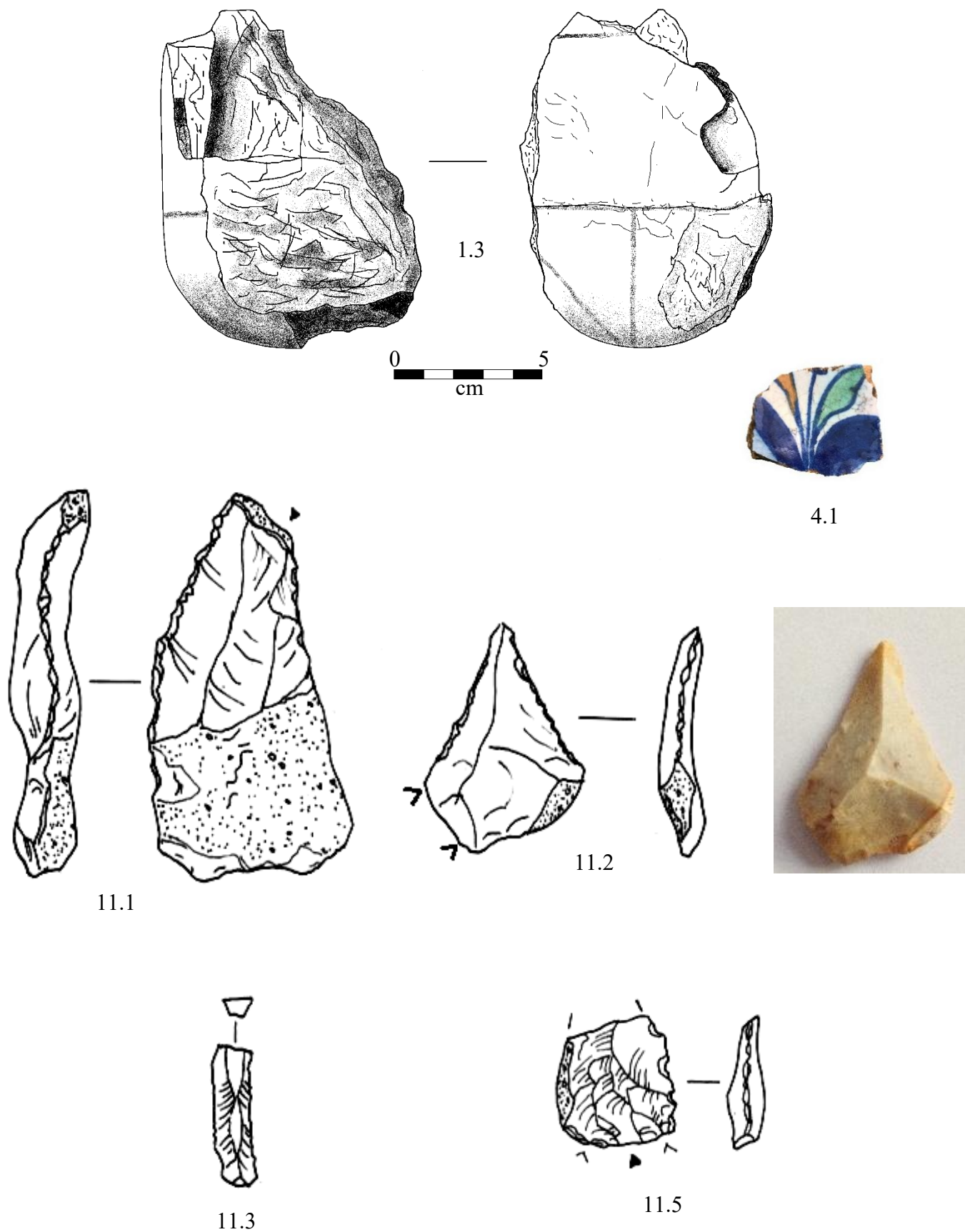


Fig. 11: Building Stone 1.3, Delft Tile 1.4 (not to Scale) and Struck Lithics (1:1)
(photos Neil and John Pinchbeck)

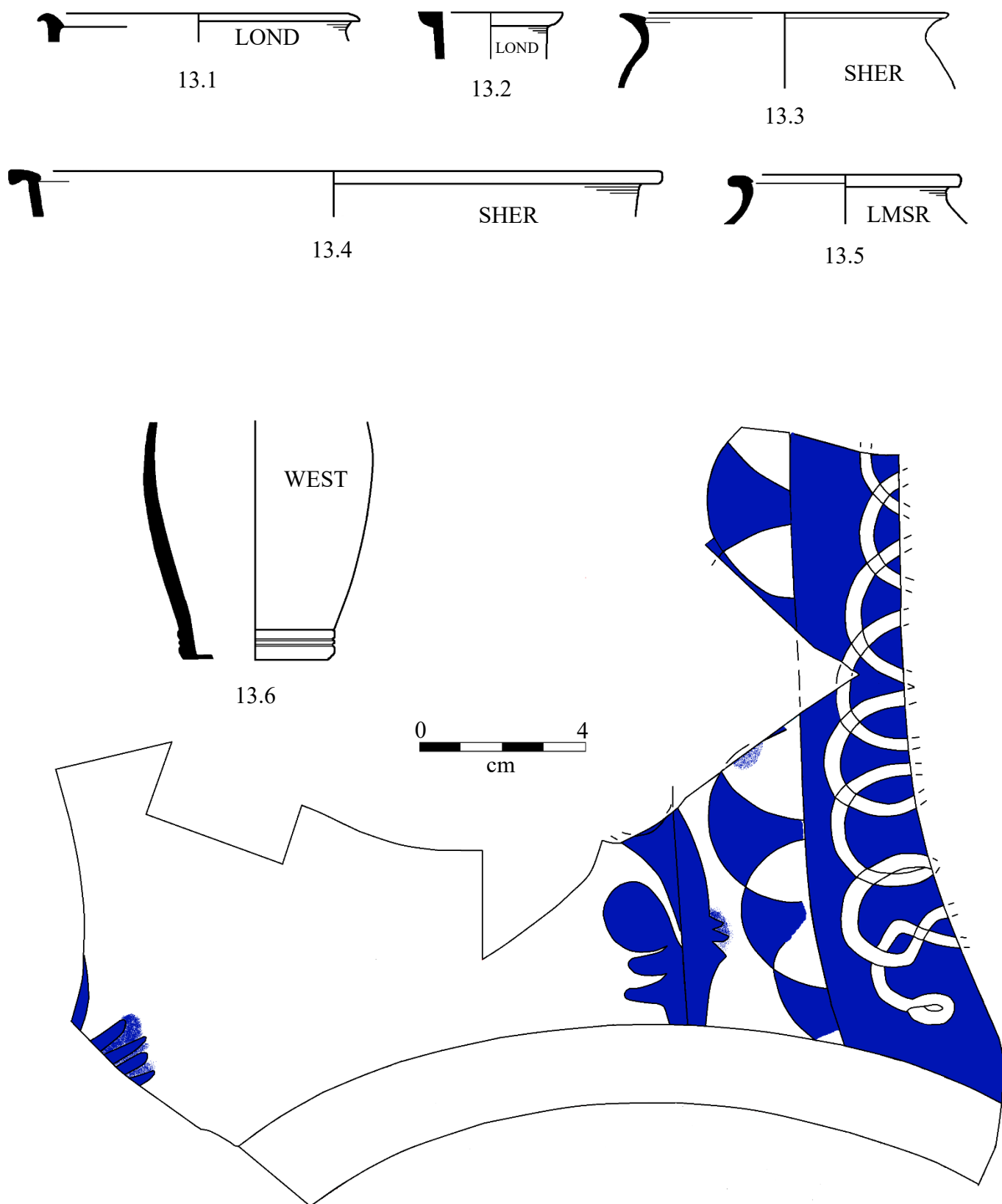


Fig. 12: Pottery (1:4 Except Exploded View of Decoration of 13.6)



Pl. 1: Composite Photogrammetric View of Trench 4 (John Pinchbeck)



Pl 2: Wall [15B] and Construction Trench [32] with Feature [18] to the Right, Looking East
(photo John Pinchbeck)



Pl. 3: Wall [20] ([26]/[30] to its Right) with Wall [14] Partially Overlaying and Elements of [11] Removed to the Left of [14], Looking East (photo MJD)



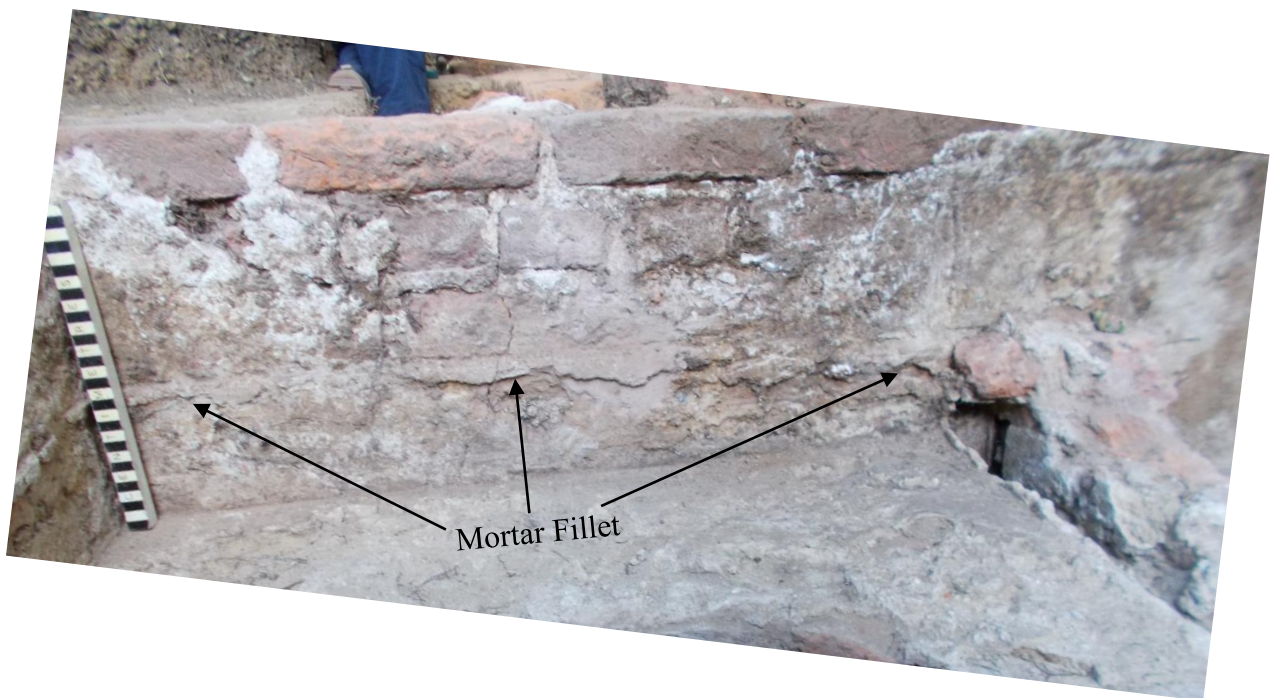
Pl. 4: Features [26] and [30] with Wall [20] to Right Overlain by Wall [14], Looking West
(photo John Pinchbeck)



Pl. 5: Detail of the Rebate in [26] (photo MJD)



Pl. 6: Detail of Well [26], Looking South (photo John Pinchbeck)



Pl. 7: Detail of Mortar Fillet above Well in [26], Looking North (photo MJD)



Pl 8: [26] and [30] Looking North (photo John Pinchbeck)



Pl. 9: Detail of Channels in [30] Looking North (photo John Pinchbeck)



Pl. 10: Wall [25] Looking North (photo John Pinchbeck)



Pl. 11: Feature [11] with [15A] to Top Left and the Channel/Gap Filled by [19] to Left, Looking East (photo John Pinchbeck)



Pl. 12: The foundations of [11] and its Meeting with [20] to the Right, Looking East (photo MJD)



Pl. 13: Detail of [19] Filling the Channel/Gap Between [11] and (at Bottom) [18] After Removal of One Layer of Peg Tiles, Looking South (photo MJD)



Pl. 14: Markings on Back of a Glazed Floor Tile (photo John Pinchbeck)