ENFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVE REPORT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND PLEISTOCENE DEPOSIT AND WWII AIR RAID SHELTER RECORDING AT ALBANY PARK, ENFIELD, AUGUST - OCTOBER 2020

(SITE CODE APB20)

(Centred TQ 361 982)

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Cover: The Gas Main Installation Pit (Photo Judith Stones) and the WWII Air Raid Shelter Entrance (Photo Neil Pinchbeck)

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ABSTRACT

- Monitoring of substantial contractor works to cut a new course for Turkey (aka Maidens) Brook, and of cuts for new wetland areas, allowed the detailed recording of Pleistocene Leyton (= Kempton Park) Gravels and early Holocene clays including evidence for paleochannels cut at different stages of the depositional sequence.
- There was little evidence for pre C19th human activity, but a single large sherd suggested a Medieval date for alluviation overlaying the early Holocene clays. Later activity was represented by a field boundary, C19th and later land drainage features and a WWII public air raid shelter.

INTRODUCTION

- At the commission of Ian Russell, Principal Engineer, Watercourses Team, Redevelopment and Environmental Works, London Borough of Enfield (LBE), the Enfield Archaeological Society (EAS) prepared an Archaeological Desktop Study for stream re-direction and wetland creation works in Albany Park, Enfield (Figs 1 and 2) in April 2018. Subsequently the EAS also prepared for him a WSI covering both the stream re-direction and wetland creation works.
- The EAS undertook, in accordance with the WSI, the monitoring of the works (which were delayed by the coronavirus crisis) between 6/8/20 and 9/10/20; and subsequently a programme of schools outreach work based on the C19th and later finds from the site.
- The work was allocated site code APB20 by the Museum of London, was directed by Martin J. Dearne and principally carried out by Neil Pinchbeck and Judith Stones.

OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

The objectives of the work were:

- To establish whether any archaeological features or deposits were present in the area to be modified into wetlands or the newly cut stream channel and if so to record them;
- to record the stratigraphic sequence revealed with particular reference to the Pleistocene and early Holocene deposits anticipated to be present;
- and to recover any archaeological artefacts or ecofacts revealed by the work.

The methodology of the work was:

- A ‘strip, map and sample’ exercise was undertaken at an early stage of the project. On completion of contractors’ flat bladed bucket machine removal of topsoil in the areas to be further excavated or re-landscaped any features were visually identified, planned and sample excavated to establish their form and date. These stripped areas (Fig. 3) were larger than the areas subsequently cut to a greater depth (below) and comprised Area 1, a northern area of approximately 2,380 m^2 (with an unmonitored extension to the east disturbed by earlier north south gas main installation); and two southern areas (the eastern, Area 2, c. 476 m^2 and the western, Area 3, c. 2,020 m^2).
- Within the stripped areas deeper contractor cuts made with a variety of sizes of flat bladed buckets to create the new stream channel and wetland cells 1 – 4 and in connection with works to redirect an existing gas main (and install a new electricity cable) were subsequently further monitored to identify and recover or sample any potentially significant finds/deposits and to record the full stratigraphic succession.
- Monitoring proceeded in stages, in Area 1 from west to east as contractors cut a broad corridor to a depth of 1.30 m, then the line of the new channel in further stages (most recording being at 1.30, 1.60 and 1.70 m depth stages) as well as cut a large new gas main installation pit in stages to depths up to 3.40 m (to +13.90 m OD) at the east end of this (Fig. 4).
- Recording here comprised drawn sections, and photographic records, which cumulatively allowed the full stratigraphic succession to be evaluated and documented.
- Subsequent monitoring of the cutting of the shallower wetland cells (maximum c. 1.95 m deep in the centre of wetland cell 2) comprised observation of a representative proportion of the contractor cuts to establish and record any variation from the stratigraphy observed in the stream cut/gas main installation pit (Fig. 5).
- Further monitoring focused on an electricity cable trench, especially east of the gas main installation pit where it encountered a WWII air raid shelter, further parts of which were recorded as they were cleared and then partially removed (Fig. 4).
- A representative proportion of the spoil from the cutting of the deeper parts of the site was also screened for artifacts and ecofacts.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- Albany Park lies just west of the flood plain of the River Lea in the east of the London Borough of Enfield (Fig. 1). It is situated between Bell Lane to the south, the pre-works course of Turkey (aka Maidens) Brook to the north and a north south railway line to the east in Enfield Lock/Enfield Wash (Fig. 2). The site is a publicly accessible park in the ownership of the LBE and does not lay in an Archaeological Priority Area.
- The land now forming Albany Park was part of a large common field called Eastfield, stretching from the Hertford Road east to the River Lea marshes, during the Medieval and Early Modern periods (Pam 1990, 67). By 1866 the land later to form the park comprised the fields of College Farm (OS 1866 edition).
- The course of Turkey Brook, prior to the current works forming the northern boundary of the park, represents a straight artificial channel cut c. 1821 to divert the brook from its original course which ran south from the east end of Turkey Street, followed the east side of the Hertford Road and then turned east at Bell Lane and flowed along its line to the River Lea. The diversion was necessitated by the fact that the section of the brook on the eastern side of the Hertford Road (known as Horsepoolstones) was subject to flooding which could render the road impassable (Pam 1990, 307, and Pl. 3).
- Albany Park was formed in June 1902 by Enfield Urban District Council who raised a loan of £4,100 to purchase 17.5 acres of College Farm land, bounded on the north by the new course of Turkey Brook, but not stretching as far on the south as Bell Lane or as far east as the Cambridge line operated by the Great Eastern Railways (Whitaker 1911, 344; Pam 1992, 84; Fig. 6). In the early twentieth century it was still bordered by small fields on the south, eastern and western sides (OS 1920 edition; Fig. 7)
- In the absence of any evidence of the use of the name Albany in the area before the creation of the park, the name is presumed to commemorate Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany (1853 - 1884), youngest son of Queen Victoria (Dalling 1982), or his own son.
- By 1913 the original area of the park had been furnished with a serpentine perimeter path and trees (Fig. 6). One of several small fields on the eastern side, adjacent to the railway, was being cultivated as allotment gardens (OS 1913 edition; Fig. 6). An enclosure in the north west corner of the park was also taken into use as allotments and a band stand built close to the western section of the perimeter path by 1920 (OS 1920 edition; Fig. 7).
- Between 1935 and 1938 the allotments fell into disuse and the area of the park was extended to take in the whole of the field area to the east of College Farm, giving access from Bell Lane. In 1937 College Farm was added to the park (Pam 1994, 245), although the buildings of the farm remained standing into the post war period from OS map evidence. A tennis court was also added on the western side of the park, together with public lavatories to the north of the bandstand, by 1938 (OS 1935/1938 edition, Fig. 7).
- However, a section of College Farm adjacent to the south west corner of the park was also developed as the site of Albany Secondary Modern School for Boys and Girls which opened in 1939. (VCH, 256; Fig. 5).
- There are no records of WWII structures in the park, but the records of WWII installations in this part of Enfield are poor (Ian Jones, EAS pers. com.) and the present work demonstrated that it was the site of at least one public air raid shelter; it is also thought to have been the approximate location of a gas decontamination centre.
- OS map evidence shows that by 1960 the perimeter path to the park had been extended to encompass the larger park area and the bandstand no longer existed (it may already have been moved south from its original position, to be level with the south edge of the bowling green, before its eventual removal). By 1967, the public lavatories had also been removed and embankments screening the eastern side of the park from the railway had been added. Pipeline markers confirm that the 1967 North London gas ring-main crosses the centre of the park from east to west and the appearance of the embankments ?in 1967 probably indicates that they are composed from the spoil of the gas main trench (OS 1967 edition; Fig. 2). (A double avenue of young trees has recently been planted running east west across the centre of the park flanking the line of the gas main (Fig. 2).)
- No previous archaeological work has occurred on the site.
- The most significant archaeological records in the immediate area relate to the former site of Moxey's Nursery at TQ 365 990 (now Prince of Wales Primary School which opened in 1950 (www.princeofwales.enfield.sch.uk)), approximately 450 m east of the park. Early twentieth century finds here in well digging included a group of woolly mammoth (*Mammuthus primigenius*) bones and an

almost complete tusk (GLHER 080580) together with a Levallois handaxe and flake. A second find (GLHER 080601) from the same site was a separate mammoth tooth and an unnumbered GLHER entry also records a Levallois flake recovered by Samuel Hazzledine Warren c. 1920.[1]

- Levallois lithics are very rare and may constitute evidence for the presence of *Homo neanderthalensis* in the area. Records of the finds are poor, constituting only brief notes in Warren *et al* (1934, 101f), but the principal archaeological interest of the present site was the opportunity it afforded to examine the Pleistocene to early Holocene deposit succession in the light of these early twentieth century finds.
- Later periods are not well represented by archaeological evidence in this part of Enfield away from the actual line of the River Lea. At Innova Science Park, 1 Km north east of Albany Park, late Pleistocene/early Holocene environmental deposits were recorded along with a Mesolithic (11,000 - 5,500 BP) flint scatter, a Middle Bronze Age (3,500 - 2,700 BP) channel revetment and middens and an Iron Age/early Roman (2,070 - 1,850 BP) roundhouse, pottery, ditches, post holes and trackways (Ritchie 2008). However, though this multi-period site suggests the exploitation of the margins of the River Lea, it may well not be directly relevant to areas such as the present site, further west and just beyond the river flood plain.
- Indeed, the EAS recently recovered evidence for an early Holocene peat bog being present at Prince of Wales Park, 600 m to the east of Albany Park (Pinchbeck 2017) during archaeological work also involving Museum of London Archaeology (Holloway 2017). Though two struck lithics were also recovered, this may suggest that much land west of the floodplain of the R. Lea saw less prehistoric if not early historic exploitation and often constituted marshland/water meadow at least into the early historic/Medieval periods, from which periods few finds are known in this area.

THE STRATIGRAPHIC SEQUENCE

The Pleistocene and Early Holocene Gravel and Clay Deposits

(Figs 8 – 16; for section locations see Figs 4 and 5)

- The earliest deposits contacted were in Area 1 and represented a complex of Pleistocene gravels and clays which varied in their details across the site and included filled paleochannels.
- The earliest deposit recorded was [26], a coarse brown (7.5 YR 4/4) gravel comprising mainly rounded flints (up to 0.04 m) with some coarse sand, over 0.74 m thick with an upper surface at +14.65 m OD in Section 1 at the east end of Area 1. It was overlain by [25], 0.30 m of compacted brown (7.5 Y 4/2) clay with some coarse sand (Section 1).
- Over [25] a loose yellowish red (5 YR 4/8) to dark reddish brown (5 YR 3/4) ferruginous gravel, [7], comprising rounded 0.02 – 0.06 m pebbles in a sand matrix, but with many of the pebbles cemented together, was 1.10 m thick (Section 1).
- The simplest succession above this was seen across much of the centre of Area 1 where the new stream channel was cut and where several sections were recorded (Sections 2, 6, 7 and 8 as well as Sections 9 and 10 (not illustrated)) and, with some differences, in wetland cells 1 – 3 in Area 3 (Section 11). It is here described principally as recorded in Section 2, viz:
- [7] had a sometimes slightly undulating surface at c. +16.80 m OD, dropping in Area 1 to the south and east of Section 2 to c. +16.50 m OD in Section 8 and c. +16.00 m OD e.g. in Section 4). Further south in Area 3 (Section 11) it was at + 16.70 to +16.90 m OD. It was generally covered by [11], a 0.02 – 0.10 m (sometimes in Area 3 up to 0.16 m) thick band of sterile compacted light grey (5 YR 6/1) clay (in Area 3 in places becoming a light brownish grey (10 YR 6/2) where present) which separated it from a second gravel deposit.
- This, [6], was a loose dark brown (10 YR 3/3) deposit, mainly of rounded pebbles (0.02 – 0.035 m) in a sand matrix and, in Section 2, 0.25 – 0.30 m thick (though it thickened towards the south and east of this and in places was up to 0.80 m thick in Area 1, while in Area 3 it thinned again to 0.20 – 0.40 m thick; Section 11). It often formed a fairly even deposit across the undulating surface of [11] and, like [7], suggested deposition in a relatively high energy fluvial environment.
- Above it was a third gravel layer, [4], 0.12 – 0.16 m thick in Section 2 (and thickening to the south of this section to c. 0.26 m, but not present in exposures in Area 3; Section 11). A loose dark greyish brown (10

[1] The mammoth remains were donated to the British Museum, Natural History and the Levallois lithics to the British Museum (though none are now isolatable for study).

YR 5/2 – 10 YR 4/2) deposit of angular and rounded stones (0.008 - 0.02 m), it comprised c. 50% flints retaining a chalky white cortex, in a matrix of sandy silt.

- In Area 1 the upper limit of the Pleistocene gravel was at c. +17.30 m OD in Section 2 (rising a little to the south at +17.42 m OD in Section 8), and in Area 3 at c. +17.10 m OD. In Area 1, 0.14 m of [10], a compacted dark brown (7.5 YR 3/2 to 3/4) sandy, humic clay with some darker (black) mottles, overlay it. However, this was absent in Area 3 (Section 11).
- Three further variations from this basic sequence of deposits were recorded, mainly in Area 1, viz:
- Firstly, at the east end of Area 1, in the gas main installation pit, Section 3 recorded a localised variation in [7]. Here it incorporated five irregular horizontal 0.04 – 0.14 m thick bands of [23], a very compacted deposit comprising 0.005 – 0.02 m frost spalled rounded flint pebbles in a matrix of very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) clay (Pl. 1).
- Secondly, towards the east end of Area 1, including in the same gas main installation pit (Sections 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6), the latest gravel deposit, [4], was absent (as it was in Area 3) and the overlaying humic clay [10] was replaced by [14], a compacted brown (10 YR 4/3) to light yellowish brown (10 YR 6/4) clay, 0.30 – 0.40 m thick (or by a possible channel fill [24]; see below). [14] here directly overlay [6] and also replaced [10] further to the south west (Section 8), where it had an upper surface at c. +17.00 – 17.70 m OD, but these two clay deposits ([10] and [14]) are likely to have been broadly equatable (perhaps just varying in organic content).
- Thirdly, across much of the south and east of Area 1 the thin clay band, [11], was absent between [7] and [6] (as it was in some parts of Area 3; Section 11).
- However, in some parts of Area 1 individual or sequences of, mainly broadly north south, paleochannels further complicated this basic stratigraphic succession. The nature of the recording precluded full details of all of them being ascertained, but they suggested shifting patterns of fluvial activity at different phases during the accumulation of the gravels and clays.
- One such paleochannel sequence occurred west of a high point in the lower gravels at the west end of Area 1. Here, as recorded in Section 7 at the north west edge of Area 1 and also in Section 9 (not illustrated), the upper surface of [7]/[7A][2] at +17.53 m OD (at the east end of the section) indicated that [7] generally rose in level as it ran west as far as the course of what may have been successive scoured channels, at least two phases of which were present in the exposure studied in detail. There also appeared to have been a hiatus in [7]'s deposition which was interrupted by the scouring of one of these broadly north south channels (conceivably into the base of a larger channel) which had two successive clay fills.
- The broad flat channel ([12]) was c. 2.30 m wide and c. 0.19 m deep with a base at +16.86 m OD. Its earlier and main fill ([9]) was a sterile, compacted light grey (10 YR 6/1) clay, likely identical to the more widely deposited [11], and its deposition (including a thin band west of the channel) left only a much shallower (0.10 m) and narrower (1.40 m wide) channel which was then filled by [8], a similar deposit but containing c. 50% of small stones and sand indistinguishable from the ferruginous matrix of, and suggesting erosion of, [7].
- It then appears though that deposition of [7] (or at least material indistinguishable from it, designated [7B] for clarity) resumed here above the west side of and west of [12] before another larger paleochannel ([13]) was scoured into the surface of [7] and the fills of the smaller earlier channel. This larger broadly north south channel, probably over 5.50 m wide and 0.70 m deep, had a base at +17.00 m OD and had initially been partly filled by 0.10 – 0.20 m of the gravel [6] (described above) which elsewhere to the east formed one of the main gravel spreads.
- Overlaying this was a 3.80 m wide, up to 0.30 m thick, slightly mounded loose greyish deposit, [5], comprising equal amounts of sandy silt and mainly rounded (but with some angular) stones (0.005 – 0.015 m). It probably represented the continuing filling of (the centre of) the paleochannel in a lower energy environment, but this was probably followed by a period of renewed ?more widespread scouring along and west of the line of the paleochannel, truncating parts of at least [5] and [6], before the deposition of the final gravel layer ([4], described above). Here this thickened to 0.30 m, completing the filling of the channel and leaving this west end of Area 1 at c. +17.69 m OD so that it may now have formed an elevated area, explaining an absence of the clay [10] here.
- Another north south paleochannel ([27]) cut into [6] was recorded further east in Section 6, in this instance rather more V-shaped, around 3.00 m wide and up to 0.60 m deep, it was filled by the clay [14].

[2] [7A] was differentiated on the basis of its slightly lighter colour compared to the rest of [7], but this may have been a function of the intensity of its iron staining due to the greater thickness of coarse gravel deposits above it.

- A third broadly north south paleochannel ([22]) was identified, again cut into [6] and down into the top of [7], at the east end of Area 1 in the gas main installation pit (Section 5). Overall 3.00 m wide and 1.00 m deep, its profile suggested a phase of recutting at some stage creating a c. 1.50 m wide and perhaps 0.50 m deep more steep sided basal channel much of which had been filled by 0.30 m of [21], a moderately loose greyish brown (10 YR 5/2) to light greyish brown (10 YR 6/2) gravel of rounded flint pebbles (to 0.04 m) in a sparse clay matrix.
- Above this [20], a 0.15 – 0.20 m thick band of moderately loose coarse brown (10 YR 3/3) flint pebbles (to 0.04 m) and some rounded and angular stones (0.005 – 001 m) in a humic sandy clay matrix, seems to have only been deposited on the west side of the channel, probably representing a phase of more marshy conditions before two further deposits filled its broader, less steep sided upper part. The earlier of these upper fills, [19], was a 0.40 m thick moderately loose fine dark brown (10 YR 3/3) gravel of white cortexted rounded and angular flints (0.005 – 0.01 m) in a sandy clay matrix, suggesting reinvigoration of the channel. Above it was [18], 0.18 m of very compacted very dark grey (10 YR 3/1) silty, probably humic, clay and fine grit.
- There was also partial evidence of what may have been the southern part of a ?much larger and relatively late ??channel, perhaps meandering east west, in the northern half of the gas main installation pit in Area 1 and in the electricity cable trench to the east of it. However, all that was seen of it was the edge of what could have been a channel cut into clay [14] at one point (Section 4) and filled by [24], a gravel deposit indistinguishable from [4] which was clearly of considerable east west extent from its presence in the vicinity of a WWII air raid shelter (see below) where [14] was again absent.
- At one point in Area 1 (Section 8) a more irregular negative feature, [15], was also identified in section. Penetrating gravels [4] and [6], it was c. 0.80 m across, 0.86 m deep, funnel shaped and appeared to have had a basal horizontal extension, but this could have represented staining through leaching. The feature suggested a void scoured in the gravels, but was only seen in section. It had initially been part filled by [17], a compacted dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) grit and gravel (of up to 0.02 m rounded white cortexted flint pebbles) in a clay matrix; then by [16], a compacted dark brown (7.5 YR 4/2 to 4/4) silty clay.

Later Deposits and Features (Figs 16 – 17)

- In Area 1 the gravel deposits/clays ([10] or [14]) were almost everywhere overlain (though at one point (Section 8) it seemed to be absent) by [3], 0.25 – 0.28 m (in Section 2) to 0.30 – 0.34 m (in Section 7) of dark greyish brown (10 YR 4/3) fairly compacted clayey silt, which thinned to c. 0.12 – 0.20 m towards the east end of Area 1.
- On the southern part of the site, in Area 3, [3] was again present (c. 0.25 m thick), but here directly overlaying the Pleistocene gravel [6]. A single large, abraded base sherd of a South Hertfordshire-type Greyware (SHER; 1170 – 1350) dish/bowl was (contractor) recovered from this deposit in the most south westerly part of Area 3.
- No Medieval or earlier features were identified in [3] and only a single probably Early Modern to Modern feature pre-dated [2], a later deposit described below.
- This included the only upstanding feature present (Figs 16 - 17) which still formed a 0.20 m high ridge in the park and ran north south (across wetland cell 2) in Area 3, as well as extending some distance north of the stripped area. The feature had two elements, a raised north south bank ([31]) and a flanking ditch ([30]). The bank had been constructed in a 0.24 m deep straight sided cut ([29]) through [3] so that it sat on the gravel [6] and was formed of a core of brick fragments covered and flanked by varying amounts of redeposited gravel and clayey silt, deriving from ?[6] and [3] and probably upcast from the ditch, so that in some exposures it appeared to be a compacted dump of rounded pebbles. The eroded brick fragments forming the core were fairly soft fired, dark red and probably unfrogged. The bank was 2.34 m wide basally where sectioned, but had probably spread to appear up to 3.80 m wide in places, survived to c. 0.60 m high at its centre and clearly represented a former field boundary bank, present before the park was expanded in 1920 (Fig. 6).
- On its west side a slightly irregularly profiled U-shaped ditch, [30], had probably been cut into [3] and [6] at the same time that it was built and was c. 1.70 m wide and 0.70 m deep. It had two fills, a basal very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) clayey silt ([32]) c. 0.30 m thick and above that a brown (10 YR 5/8) clayey silt, [33]. Below it the top of [7], which elsewhere here, where not overlain by the clay [11], showed an iron pan, appeared from a colour change (to 10 YR 6/1 – 10 YR 6/2) to have been affected by leaching from the drainage of the ditch above. The lower ditch fill produced a brick fragment and a base sherd of an off white glazed English Stoneware (ENGS; 1700 – 1900+) vessel.

- Above [3], and overlaying both the bank and ditch fill [33], all areas monitored showed [2], a 0.07 – 0.10 m (in Section 7 to 0.15 m) thick layer of fairly compacted mottled yellow (10 YR 8/8) and very pale brown (10 YR 7/3) clayey silt with very frequent rounded pebbles (typically 0.01 to 0.05 m), frequent modern cbm fragments (to 0.10 m) and very frequent charcoal staining. It and its machined surface produced a moderate scatter of sherds of transfer printed or plain Refined White Earthenware (REFW; 1805 – 1900+), some C19th/earlier C20th English Stonewares and a little Porcelain (ENPO; 1745 – 1900+), a less dense scatter of modern vessel glass and a few oyster shells.
- Although cbm and charcoal were less frequent in Areas 2 and 3, representing the part of the park not incorporated until 1920, [2] appeared to be homogeneous and all material recovered from it/unstratified on its machined surface belonged to the C19th/early C20th.
- Cut through [2] or at least (sometimes intermittently) detectable in its surface, were numbers of modern features, mainly relating to successive phases of land drainage. These features were summarily planned and sample excavated to establish their forms but were not formally contexted (full details available in archive).
- In Area 1 there were also three rammed pebble foundations for removed and unidentified modern park features (A, B and C on Fig. 17) cut into [2], but most features were land drains. Four styles of these were recognised.
- One example in Area 1 (Fig. 17) comprised red terracotta land drain sections lain in a cut no wider than the drain sections, cut down through [3] as far as the top of [4], and backfilled with sterile gravel/redeposited [2]/[3]. A second example, which showed an angular turn in its course (Fig. 17), comprised white extruded longitudinally ridged fired clay land drain sections similarly lain in a cut no wider than the drain sections and similarly backfilled. However, the other earlier (pre-later C20th) land drains in Area 1 (Fig. 17) comprised at least three parallel probably V-shaped c. 0.30 m wide cuts filled with sterile gravel.[3]
- Three examples of the white extruded longitudinally ridged fired clay land drain style were also recorded in Area 3 (Fig. 17), but presumed pre-later C20th land drains appeared to be less common here and absent in Area 2.
- The pre-later C20th land drains may well have related to drainage of the area prior to the formation of the park and been contemporary with probable disturbance of [2], though some could perhaps conceivably have related to initiatives to maintain drainage in the park in the earlier C20th.
- The fourth style of (later C20th/C21st park drainage) land drain comprised shallow V-shaped cuts containing late C20th or C21st corrugated black plastic pipes backfilled with sterile pea shingle. Multiple close set parallel examples (not illustrated) were recorded in two orientations (north south on the west and east west on the east) in Area 3. More widely spaced examples ran east west at the east and west ends of the southern margin of Area 1. A similar but larger width feature crossing Area 3 east west (not illustrated) was also recorded.
- All areas showed a c. 0.15 – 0.20 m thick (though sometimes thinner) dark yellowish brown (10 YR 3/6) largely sterile clayey silt loam topsoil, [1], above [2] and giving a relatively flat grassed surface at c. +16.80 – 18.20 m OD with gentle slopes down towards the east and south of the site.

The WWII Air Raid Shelter (Figs 4 and 18 – 20)

- One other modern feature was present, constructed in a cut down at least into the gravel [6]. This was a WWII public air raid shelter, [28]. It was cut through by the electricity cable installation trench to the east of the gas main installation pit in Area 1 (Fig. 4) and contractor clearance of further areas before the removal of much of the shelter allowed a largely complete plan of it to be recorded and some of its internal fittings to be recovered/recorded.
- The shelter had a relatively simple L-shaped plan, comprising an entrance stairwell, a vestibule and, at right angles to this to form a blast baffle, a main chamber.
- The entrance stairwell (cover photo) faced north, was 0.90 m wide and 2.85 m long, descending 1.76 m by 11 cast concrete steps (with 0.16 m high risers and 0.28 m broad treads), parts of six of which were seen. Its walls ([28A]) were 0.18 m thick and formed of un-reinforced concrete probably using locally (?on site) quarried gravel and clearly poured *in situ* as shown by their rough cast outer faces and shuttering marks, at c. 45º to the horizontal, on their smooth inner faces. There was no evidence for how the stairwell was roofed, but a ?timber superstructure above it is likely to have existed.

[3] Other land drains were clearly present in the eastern part of Area 1 (Section 5), but this area was not assessed at the topsoil stripping stage due to modern gas main installation disturbance.

- It led to a 1.00 m wide, 1.70 m long vestibule, though any evidence of a blast screen/doors at the base of the stairs was removed by the cutting of the electricity cable installation trench before the shelter was identified. Beyond the vestibule the main chamber (Pls 2 and 3), accessed by a 1.00 m wide entrance, was 2.10 m wide and 8.60 m long internally. The vestibule and main chamber walls ([28B]) were constructed of pre-cast concrete panels, 1.81 m high. They were 0.45 m wide and 0.05 m thick with five evenly spaced cast horizontal strengthening ribs, 0.30 m apart, to their inner faces. The strengthening ribs ran at an angle at each end where they met 0.10 m long tapering returns at each end of the panel, each with two embedded vertical steel reinforcing rods and a half hexagon rebate the length of the return's outer face (Fig. 18, inset). The floors were poured concrete slabs.
- The roofs of the vestibule and main chamber had been collapsed inwards and fragmented on decommissioning of the shelter so there was no clear evidence of their form. But photographic evidence from a similar shelter at Little Park, Enfield (Pl. 6) suggests that they were formed of pre-cast flat panels similar to those forming the walls (though with curved margins, probably effectively giving the chamber a height in its centre of c. 2.45 m). The Little Park panels had matching cast strengthening ribs; and steel reinforcing rods which remained protruding from the tops of the wall panels at Albany (Pls 2 and 3) presumably came from these roof panels, the wall and roof panels having evidently been cemented together. The upper surface of the roof will probably have been a little above contemporary ground level (here +17.39 m OD) and could have been additionally protected with mounded earth/excavated gravel.
- However, at the far (east) end of the main chamber the central wall panel had been omitted and replaced by a brick structure which is likely to have related to an escape hatch as its 0.685 m square iron cover was found in the vicinity. The cover's upper face (Pl. 4) had a cast relief lattice pattern and two concentric rings of eight ventilation holes, closable with a screw wheel mechanism mounted, with a boss topped bolt, on its under side (Pl. 5), which also had a flanged edge. The hatch was hinged by means of a lug projecting from each end of one side and opened by means of a cranked bar.
- There were few signs of other fixed internal features, but six concrete plinth blocks (Fig. 18, inset; 0.40 m high, 0.27 x 0.24 m at the base and tapering to 0.22 x 0.24 m at the top) were recovered from the south side of the main chamber. They had central 0.04 m wide, 0.06 m deep rectangular channels running across the centre of their top faces which retained traces of wooden beams and iron nails and they may well have formed the supports for e.g. benches, along the south wall of the chamber.

DISCUSSION

- The Pleistocene and early Holocene stratigraphy recorded, especially in Area 1, broadly corresponds to the borehole data and landscape modelling presented in Corcoran *et al* (2011, 128ff).
- The site lies on the eastern side of their Terrain 3/Landscape Zone 5.6, the low terrace above the western side of the floodplain of the Lea and formed by the Pleistocene Leyton (= Kempton Park) Gravels. These deposits, represented on site mainly by the gravels [26], [7]/[23] (with clay [25] intervening between them), [6] and [4], have also been recorded at similar levels in two nearby boreholes (tq39ne/161 and 226; Corcoran *et al* 2011, 116 Fig. 78) and were deposited c. 30,000 – c. 120,000 BP (Early to Mid Devensian cold stage).
- The on site succession suggests a change in deposition conditions at a relatively early stage as indicated by the clay [25] before gravel accumulation re-commenced. However, how widespread this was is unknown as contractor cuts to this depth were limited.
- Another (localised) hiatus in gravel deposition between [7] and [6] was indicated by the narrow clay band [11], this representing lower energy environment fluvial accumulation, perhaps in shallow bodies of fairly still water on an undulating land surface.
- More significant, but still localised, variations in the depositional sequence were represented in Area 1 by the broadly north south paleochannels [12] and [13], indicating fluvial scouring by shifting watercourses especially following the deposition of stratigraphic units [7] and [6]. Whilst [13] was itself filled by gravels indicating higher energy water flows, fills [9] and [8] of channel [12] suggest a less energetic depositional environment such as a partly cut off channel.
- The artefacts recovered from the former site of Moxey's Nursery clearly derived from these Pleistocene gravels and the current work recovered a single very rolled primary flake, conceivably deriving from the production of a late Upper Palaeolithic implement, from [6] (see Appendix 3). A small number of eoliths (flints superficially resembling humanly modified material but in fact the result of natural processes) were also noted along with two conceivably anthropogenic items (see Appendix 3) from [7], however, no other certainly humanly struck material was recovered and no environmental finds such as fragments of the so

called ‘Arctic Beds’ (rafts of frozen clay and organic material), which are sometimes present in a derived context in these gravels (e.g. Corcoran *et al* (2011, 145ff), were identified here.

- Never the less the recording of the Pleistocene deposits in an archaeological exposure rather than a borehole, relatively few opportunities for which now occur in this part of the Lea Valley, has in itself provided useful information on the detailed depositional history of the Leyton (= Kempton Park) Gravels. In particular it demonstrates the degree of variability in the presence or absence, and or thickness, of specific stratigraphic units (such as [4]) over relatively short distances, probably emphasising the effect of micro-topographic variations and localised erosional processes on the formation/survival of the gravels.
- In contrast to the succession sometimes recorded, the Pleistocene/Holocene transition at Albany Park was not represented by any peat deposits. Rather in Area 1 the gravels were directly overlain by Holocene clays[4] ([10] and [14]) as in the boreholes noted above. These, in some cases humic, clays may have been deposited by overbank flooding of the Lea in a marshy environment and here their deposition may have been limited by the slightly elevated ground then existing at the west edge of Area 1, explaining their absence in this area. Their absence from Area 3 in the southern part of the site, closer to the original course of Turkey Brook, might be due to riverine or run off erosion of them if, indeed, they had formed this close to a water course. They may have been deposited over a prolonged period starting in prehistory and also have filled minor watercourses such as [27] in Area 1, which could have been western outliers of the originally multi-channel course of the Lea (or possibly north south sections of otherwise east flowing tributaries of it).
- Another of these paleochannels in Area 1, [22], suggests the presence of a watercourse with a slightly more complex cutting and depositional history at the end of the Pleistocene and or an early stage of the Holocene before the deposition of the main Holocene clays. In this instance it may represent a transition from higher energy depositional environments to more variable conditions that included episodes of semi-marsh formation (fill [22]) as well as gravel deposition (fill [19]) before marshland (represented by fill [18]) became the predominant environment.
- However, towards the north east side of Area 1 gravel [24] replaced and at one point appeared to overlay the main Holocene clays (here [14]), filling either a natural cut or a relatively extensive void in them. The gravel’s origin is unclear, but it was absent on the south east side of Area 1 so it is likely that it represents a relatively discrete feature. Whether that might be a channel ancestral to Turkey Brook would require further evidence to determine, but the historic line of the brook lay over 200 m to the south.
- Later Holocene deposits comprised [3] and [2], the former a general layer of clayey silt perhaps deriving from increasing flooding (here presumably of Turkey Brook) which has been suggested as a factor in the probable decrease in occupation on the low terrace above the western side of the floodplain of the Lea from the Roman period (Corcoran *et al* 2011, 121f). The recovery of a fairly large but abraded section of the base of a South Hertfordshire-type Greyware dish/bowl from this deposit in Area 3, on part of the site which would have bordered the pre-1820 course of the brook, but of no other cultural material, might well suggest such a formation process and that it was in train during the Medieval period.
- A fairly thin overlaying deposit of [2], a clayey silt more closely resembling brickearth than [3], may suggest continuing but changing alluvial deposition, probably of cleaner brickearth-derived river sediment from Turkey Brook, through overbank flooding. It may be attractive to suggest that this change in alluviation should be correlated with increasing upstream deforestation. It overlay the filled ditch [30] and bank [31] and, whilst it could have begun to accumulate earlier if removed by the ditch and cut [29], this appears to demonstrate that it was at least in part accruing after these were created.
- Dating evidence from the bank and ditch was limited to a single English Stoneware (ENGS; 1700 – 1900+) sherd from the ditch and the presence of a brick core to the bank, but the brick fragments were consistent with an C17th/C18th or early C19th century date and it seems likely that the field boundary they comprised was created at least in part in response to flooding (which may have led to the formation of an iron pan at the top of [7]) as the ditch was deeply cut into, and the bank had been built in a trench that also contacted, the underlying better drained gravel. The evidence then tends to suggest that [2] was deposited by periodic flooding of farmland in relatively recent times.
- A single probably Mesolithic scraper was recovered from [2] (see Appendix 3), but was obviously residual and clearly this horizon had anyway been disturbed, likely during (?later) C19th farming/land drainage/improvement. The deposition of cultural material (conceivably including through night soiling),

[4] Formerly referred to by e.g. Warren *et al* (1934, 101) as ‘marsh clay’.

then, during the works to re-direct Turkey Brook in the earlier C19th or connected with any re-landscaping at the time that the park was created, or more likely c. 1920, also seems likely.

- There was therefore little evidence for intensive pre-Modern human use of the area and it is likely that it has always represented farmland, probably subject to periodic flooding at least well into the Modern period, before it became a public park.
- However, it is now clear, despite the absence of contemporary records, that Albany Park was the site of at least one public air raid shelter in WWII. Though only one was recorded in the present work, it could be that several were constructed and if so a line of them along the east side of the park might be suggested from parallels at other parks in the borough (e.g. Dearne 2015). That recorded though was in the north east corner of the park and evidently accessed from the north, so it at least presumably served residents in the Beaconsfield Road area who would have accessed the park via two nearby footbridges across Turkey Brook which it was equidistant between. An aerial photograph taken in 1947 (https://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/en/image/EAW007153) fails to show any definite trace of this or other shelters so it/they may have been decommissioned shortly after the end of the war.
- Comparison with other known shelters in Enfield by Ian K. Jones suggests that, given the relatively thin pre-cast panels used, the Albany example would have given only a degree of protection at least from a direct hit (as demonstrated at Enfield County School where a near direct hit burst the shelter open despite photographic evidence suggesting that its prefabricated panels were in fact thicker than here; Gillam and Jones 2019, 102). However, he notes that other shelters with relatively thin panels used in at least parts of their structures are known locally (e.g. at Oakwood School (op cit, 57) and at Little Park (Pl. 6)), and this emphasises that the construction details of WWII shelters could vary considerably from site to site, as did the permanence/elaboration of their internal fittings (cf Dearne 2015; Pinchbeck 2011).

CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH IMPLICATIONS

- There would only appear to be limited conservation and research implications for the site as there was no evidence for a significant pre-WWII archaeological resource existing here. However, the presence of, potentially several, WWII air raid shelters may be noted and the preservation/study of WWII installations is increasingly seen as desirable, so that any future developments in the park should take account of this.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- The author and the EAS are grateful to the London Borough of Enfield and especially Ian Russell for commissioning the work; and to their contractors, Aquamaintain Ltd, and especially Jamie Godson, for facilitating its successful execution. The authors are grateful to Judith Stones who undertook most of the on site recording with NP; to John Pinchbeck who assisted in its early stages and undertook background research on the site and the manipulation of remote sensing data; and to Ian K. Jones for advising on WWII air raid shelters.

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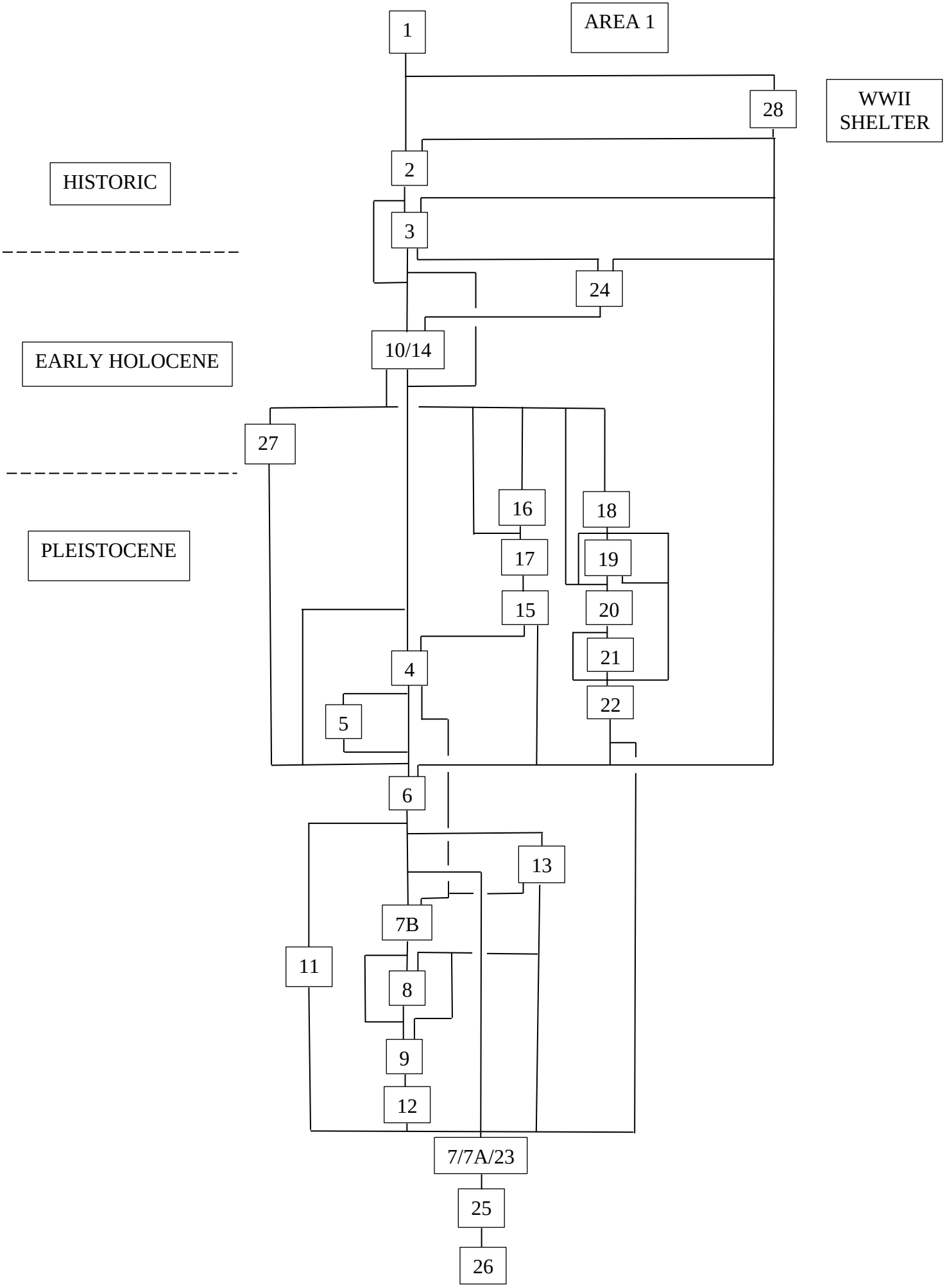
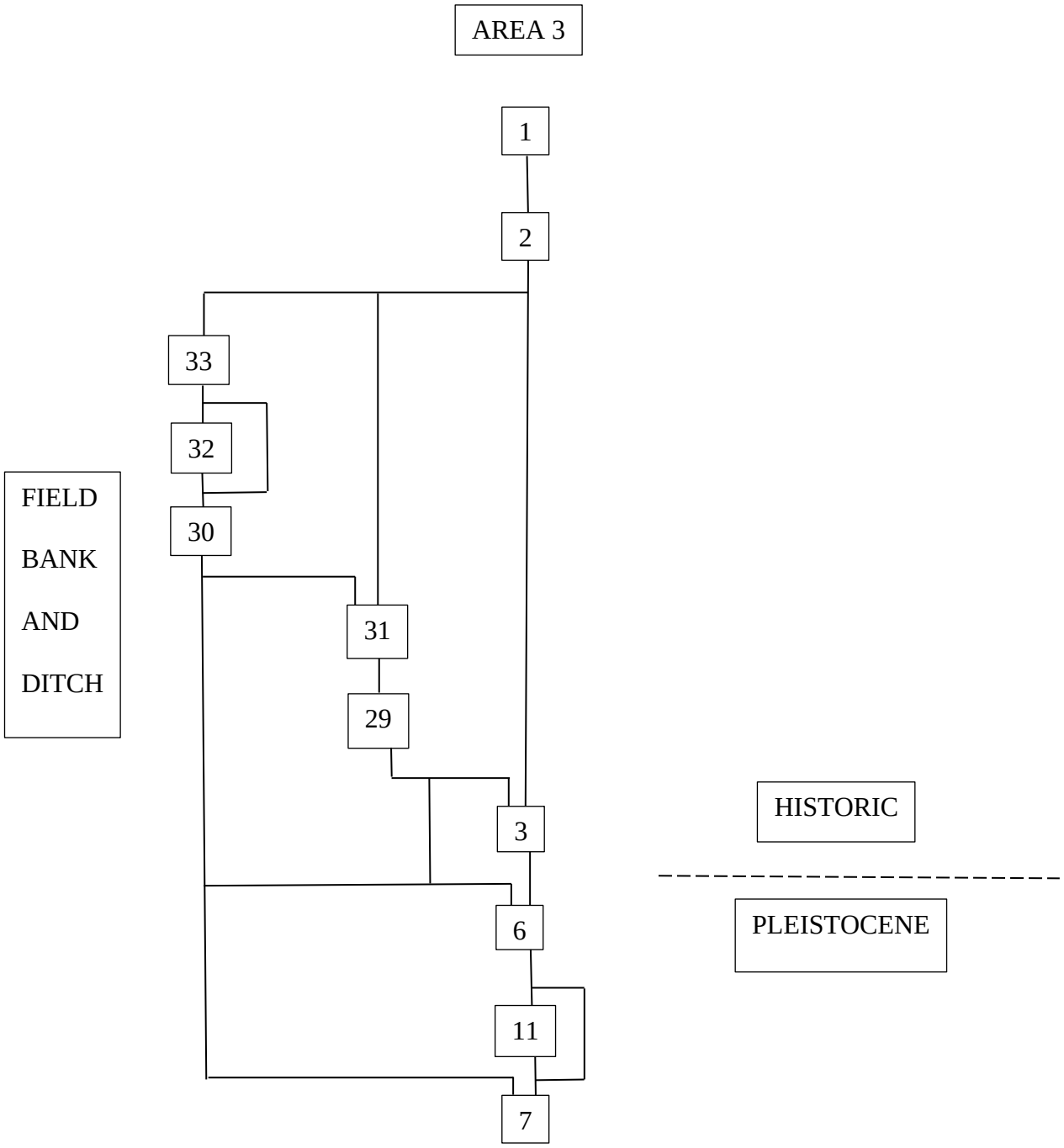
APPENDIX 1: ARCHIVE NOTE

- The archive for APB20 is held at the London Borough of Enfield Museum Service/EAS archive and includes:
- inked copies of all plans and sections; context register and original context sheets; photographic image register; digital image archive; the retained finds; and this report.

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX AND SITE MATRICES

Context	Type	Description
1	Layer	Topsoil
2	Layer	Alluvium
3	Layer	Alluvium
4	Layer	Gravel
5	Fill	Gravel
6	Layer and Fill	Gravel
7 and 7A and 7B	Layer	Gravel
8	Fill	Clay and Sand
9	Fill	Clay
10	Layer	Sandy Clay
11	Layer	Clay
12	Negative Feature	Paleochannel
13	Negative Feature	Paleochannel
14	Layer and Fill	Clay
15	Negative Feature	Uncertain
16	Fill	Clay
17	Fill	Gravel
18	Fill	Clay
19	Fill	Clay and Gravel
20	Fill	Gravel
21	Fill	Gravel
22	Negative Feature	Paleochannel(s)
23	Layers (Within 7)	Gravel
24	Layer or Fill	Gravel
25	Layer	Clay
26	Layer	Gravel
27	Negative Feature	Paleochannel
28	Feature	WWII Air Raid Shelter
29	Negative Feature	Field Boundary Construction Trench
30	Negative Feature	Field Boundary Ditch
31	Positive Feature	Field Boundary Bank
32	Fill	Clayey Silt
33	Fill	Clayey Silt


AREA 1
1
28
WWII SHELTER
HISTORIC
2
3
24
EARLY HOLOCENE
10/14
27
PLEISTOCENE
16
18
17
19
15
20
21
4
22
5
6
13
7B
11
8
9
12
7/7A/23
25
26


AREA 3
1
2
33
32
30
31
29
3
6
11
7
FIELD BANK AND DITCH
HISTORIC
PLEISTOCENE

APPENDIX 3: FINDS SUMMARY (Fig. 21)

Illustrated items are marked *

1 Struck Lithics (by Neil Pinchbeck)

*1.1 Scraper (L. 4.0; W. 1.4; Th. 0.5 cm). Primary flake from a pebble of yellowish red (5 YR 4/8) flint retaining a speckled pinkish grey (5 YR 7/2) cortex, the distal end retouched to form a narrow end scraper. ?Mesolithic. [2]

*1.2 Primary flake (L. 3.5; W. 1.7; Th 0.7 cm). Dark brown (10 YR 3/3) flint with similarly coloured cortex. Very rolled. Conceivably from the production of a late Upper Palaeolithic implement. [6]

- Two very rolled items from [7], one conceivably a knife/blade made on a crested flake of light grey chert (L. 7.80; W. 2.80; Th. 0.90 cm) and the other conceivably an ovate knife made on a flake of light brown flint (L. 6.30; W. 4.00; Th. 0.90 cm) were also recovered, but both were too abraded to have confidence in their identification as (possibly early to mid Upper Palaeolithic) struck lithics rather than eoliths.

2 Coins

AE ½d Edward VII 1902 [U/S]

AE 1d George VI [U/S]

AE 1d Illegible [U/S]

3 Ceramics

*3.1 Base, bowl/dish (c. ¼ of base/lower wall). SHER (1170 – 1350). Grey c. and s. with slightly oxidised int. s. at centre of base. Flaring wall and (thin) base, slightly concave underneath. Abraded, but traces of knife trimming at base of wall. Such bowls/dishes usually have convex or at least near flat bases, but the base here is unusually thin and this may have been a poorly potted bowl/dish in which the base sagged during drying. [3]

- There was also a base sherd from an off white int. and ext. glazed English Stoneware (ENGS; 1700 – 1900+) ?jar from [32].
- The only other ceramic material (not retained) comprised Transfer Printed or Plain Refined White Earthenware (*REFW; 1805 – 1900+*), some later C19th/earlier C20th English Stonewares, and a little Porcelain (*ENPO; 1745 – 1900+*) from [2] or its machined surface (so from [1] or [2]). Forms comprised mainly food serving vessels (plates/platters etc and a few bowls), often blue transfer printed, though examples of green and rose transfer printing were noted.
- Joining sherds of a transfer printed preserves jar with the lighthouse trademark of William P. Hartley and marked 'London' could be dated to post 1901 when this originally Liverpool manufacturer opened a factory in Bermondsey, but were U/S.
- Other vessels from/on the surface of [2] included an English Stoneware Brown Glazed ginger beer bottle.
- (An extensive collection of (archaeologically screened) U/S material from all stages of the works was subsequently used as the basis for an associated schools outreach project.)

4 Metal Objects

- The only metal finds (not retained) were a copper alloy band from a 'gypsy' clothes peg (retaining parts of the paired wooden arms) from the machined surface of [2] and a number of relatively little corroded iron pegs and rods (probably tent/marquee pegs) recovered by contractors during topsoil stripping.

5 Clay Tobacco Pipes

- A small number of stem fragments (not retained) came from [2] or its machined surface. No bowls were recovered.

6 Vessel Glass

- The only vessel glass (not retained) was modern and from [2] or its machined surface. Strongly coloured (blue and green) metal predominated and forms were mostly bottles including perfume/medicine bottles (a small complete vertically ribbed example in clear glass being recovered U/S by contractors). No window glass was present and wine bottle glass was rare, but occasional brown glass wine bottle sherds were noted.

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

Printable version

OASIS ID: enfielda1-408032

Project details

Project name	Albany Park
Short description of the project	Monitoring of deep cuts for redirecting Turkey Brook and wetland creation studied Pleistocene and Early Holocene gravels and clays. Later alluviation was dated by a single Medieval vessel base. A WWII public air raid shelter was also fully recorded.
Project dates	Start: 06-08-2020 End: 09-10-2020
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	APB20 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	LITHIC Palaeolithic
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Visual Inspection"
Development type	Amenity area (e.g. public open space)
Development type	Stream re-direction
Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON ENFIELD ENFIELD Albany Park
Postcode	EN3 5PJ
Study area	4876 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 361 982 51.665590822917 -0.03184587961 51 39 56 N 000 01 54 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 16.94m Max: 17.74m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Enfield archaeological Society
Project brief originator	London Borough of Enfield
Project design originator	Enfield Archaeological Society
Project director/manager	Dr. Martin J. Dearne
Project supervisor	Neil Pinchbeck
Type of sponsor/funding body	London Borough of Enfield

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	EAS / Enfield Museums Service Archive
Physical Archive ID	APB20
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	EAS / Enfield Museums Service Archive
Digital Archive ID	APB20
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	EAS / Enfield Museums service Archive
Paper Archive ID	APB20
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Stratigraphic","Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Matrices","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Monitoring and Pleistocene Deposit and WWII Air Raid Shelter Recording at Albany Park, Enfield, August - October 2020
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Dearne, M. J. and Pinchbeck, N.
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	Enfield Archaeological Society
Place of issue or publication	Enfield
Description	Loose Bound A4 and digital

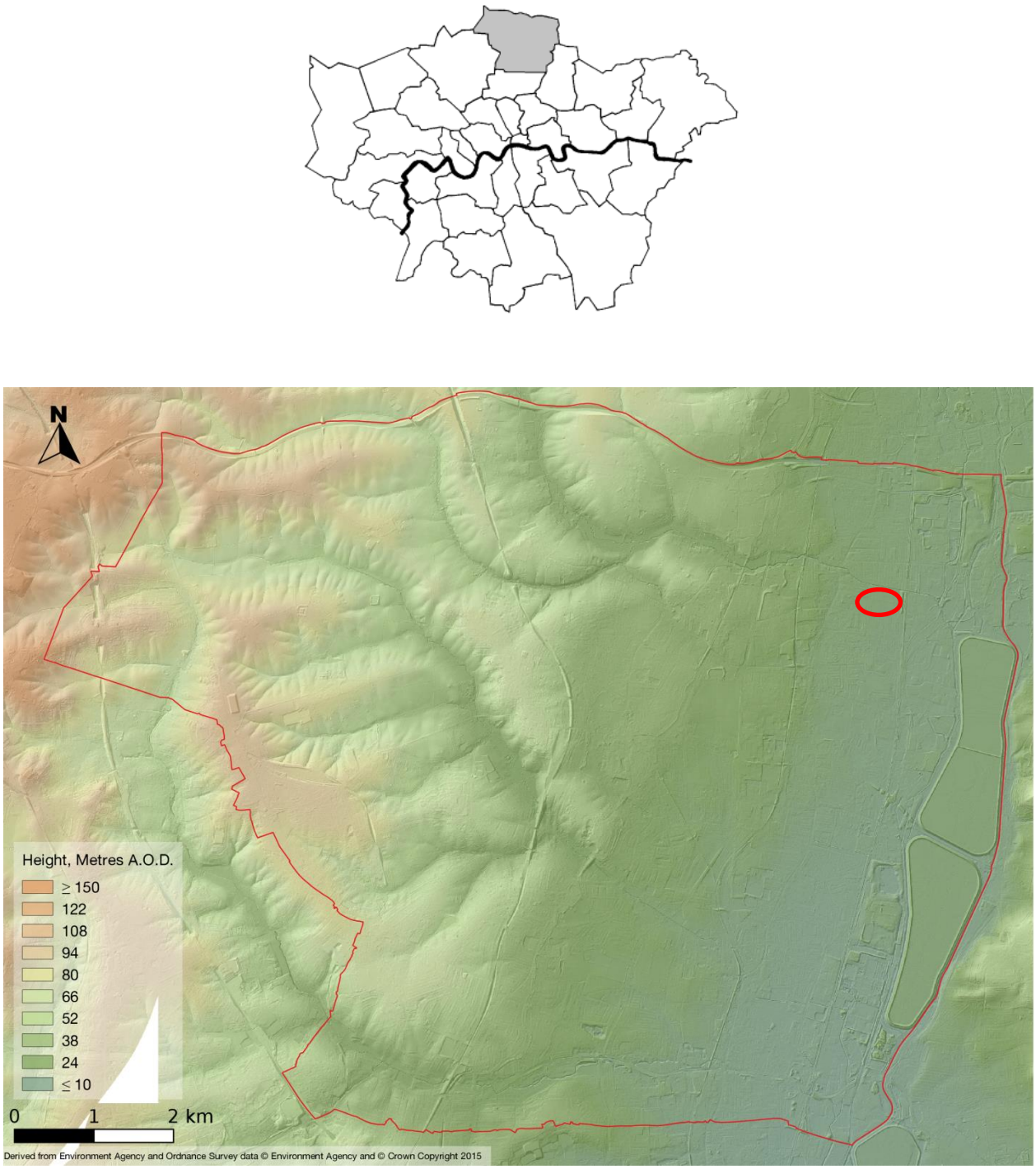


Fig. 1: Site Location (Ringed) in Relation to the Topography of the Borough

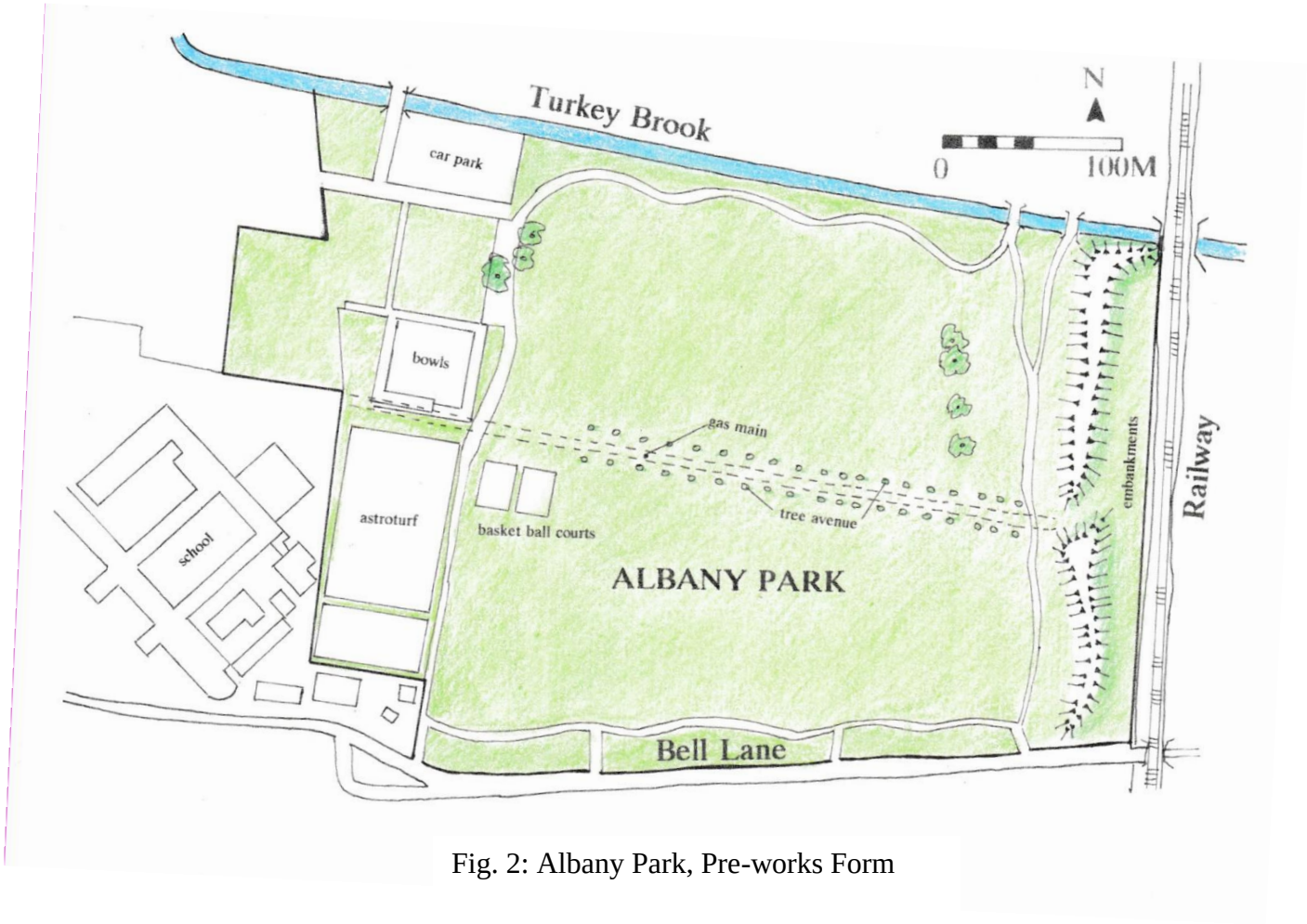


Fig. 2: Albany Park, Pre-works Form

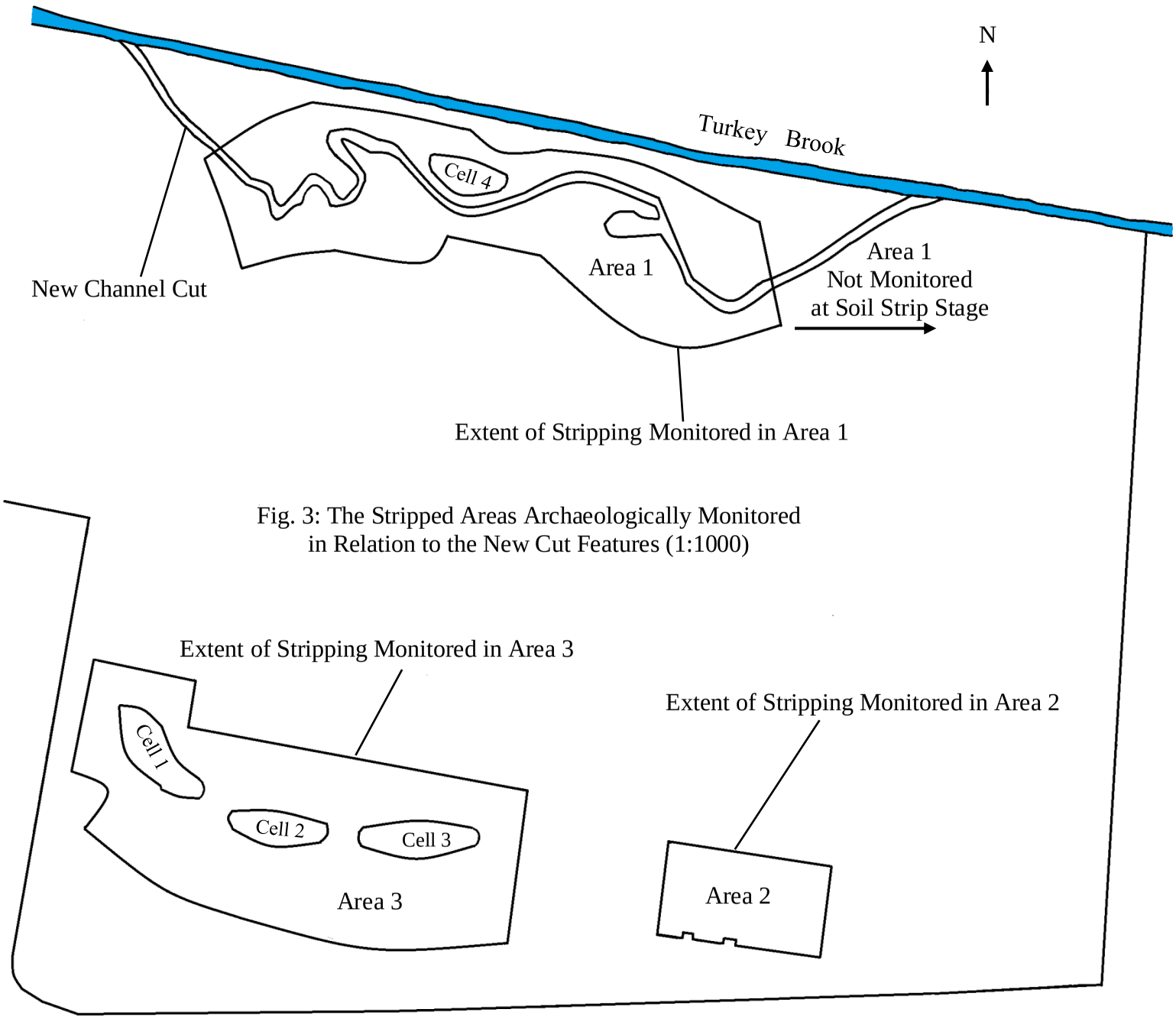


Fig. 3: The Stripped Areas Archaeologically Monitored
in Relation to the New Cut Features (1:1000)

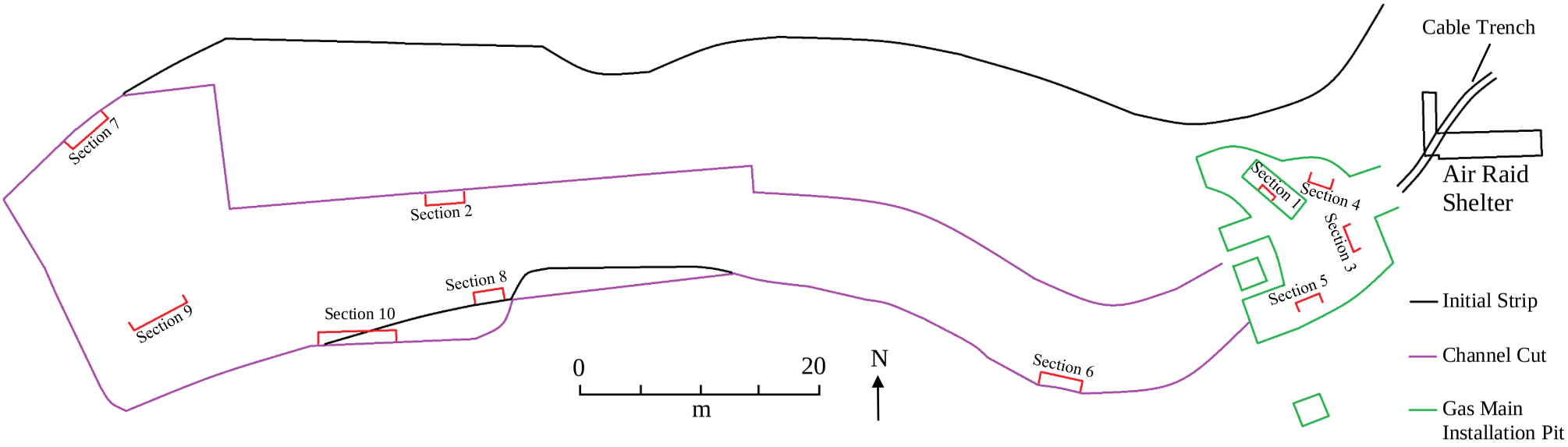


Fig. 4: Monitored Cuts and Features and Section Locations in Area 1

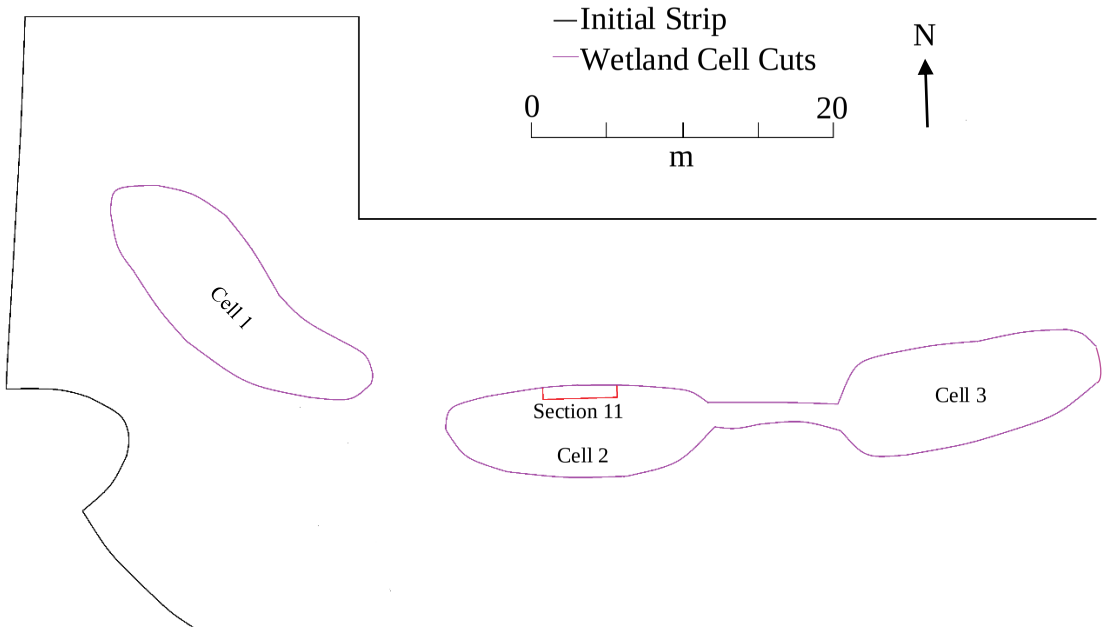


Fig. 5: Monitored Cuts and Section Location in Area 3

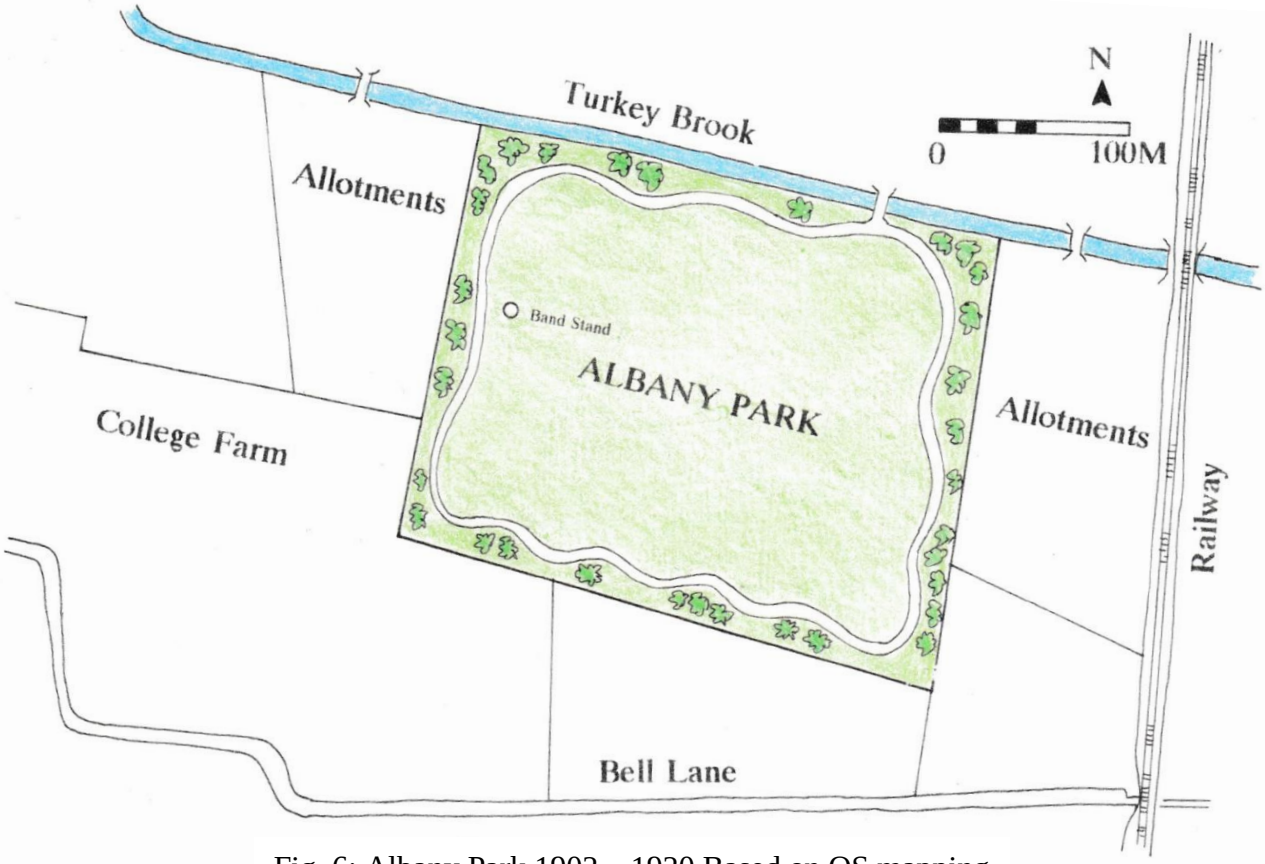


Fig. 6: Albany Park 1902 – 1920 Based on OS mapping

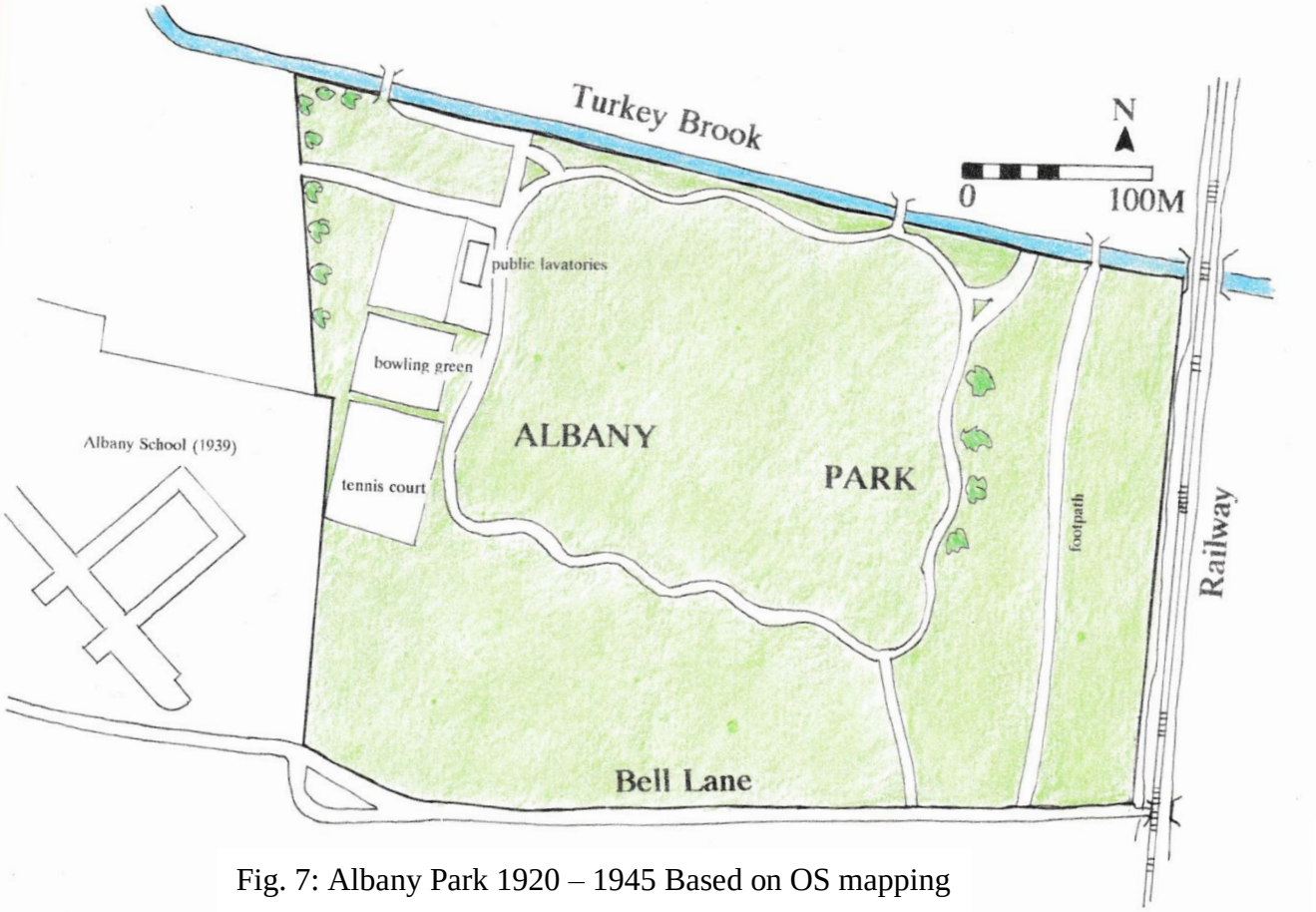


Fig. 7: Albany Park 1920 – 1945 Based on OS mapping

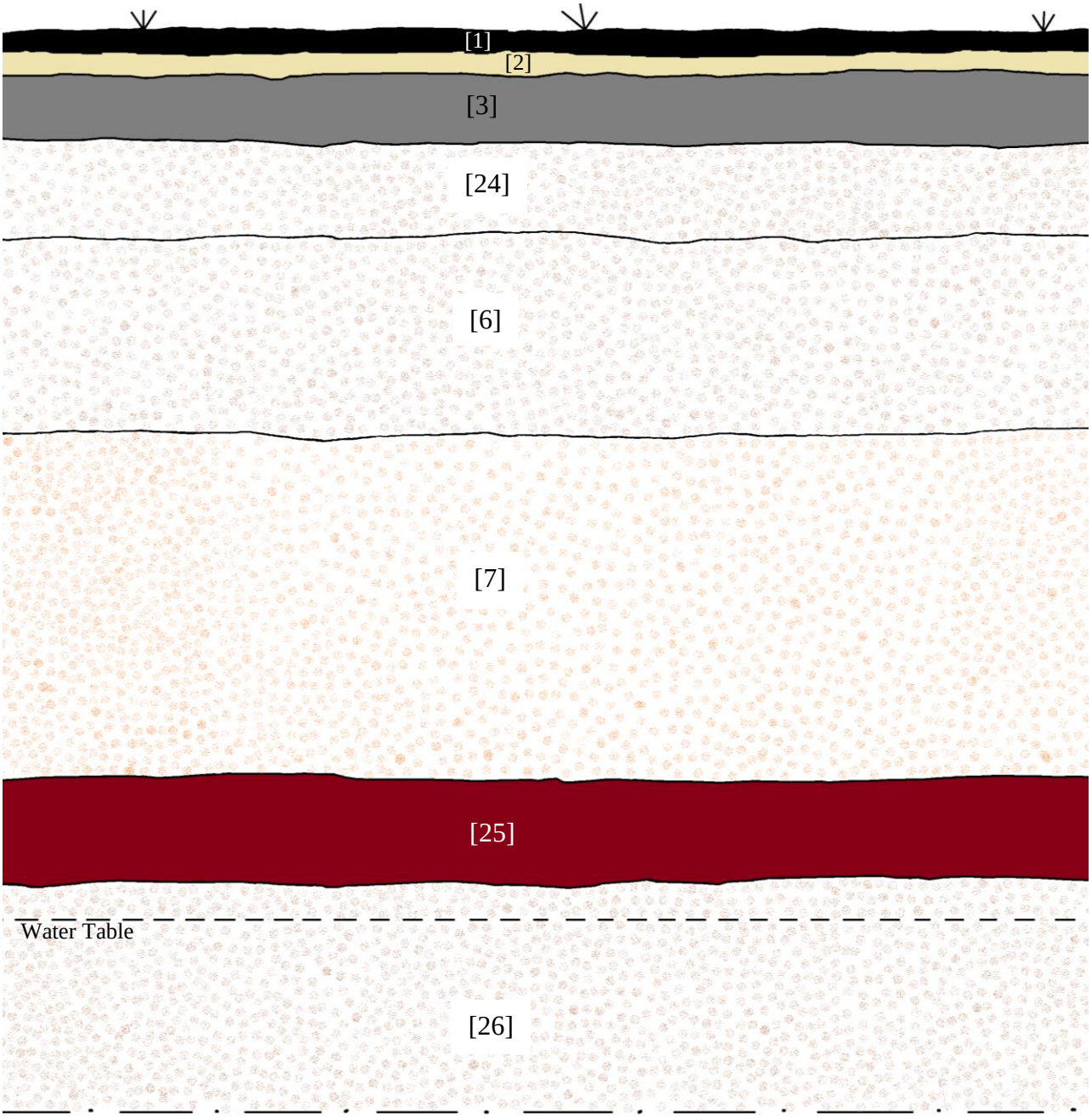


Fig. 8: Section 1 (1:20)

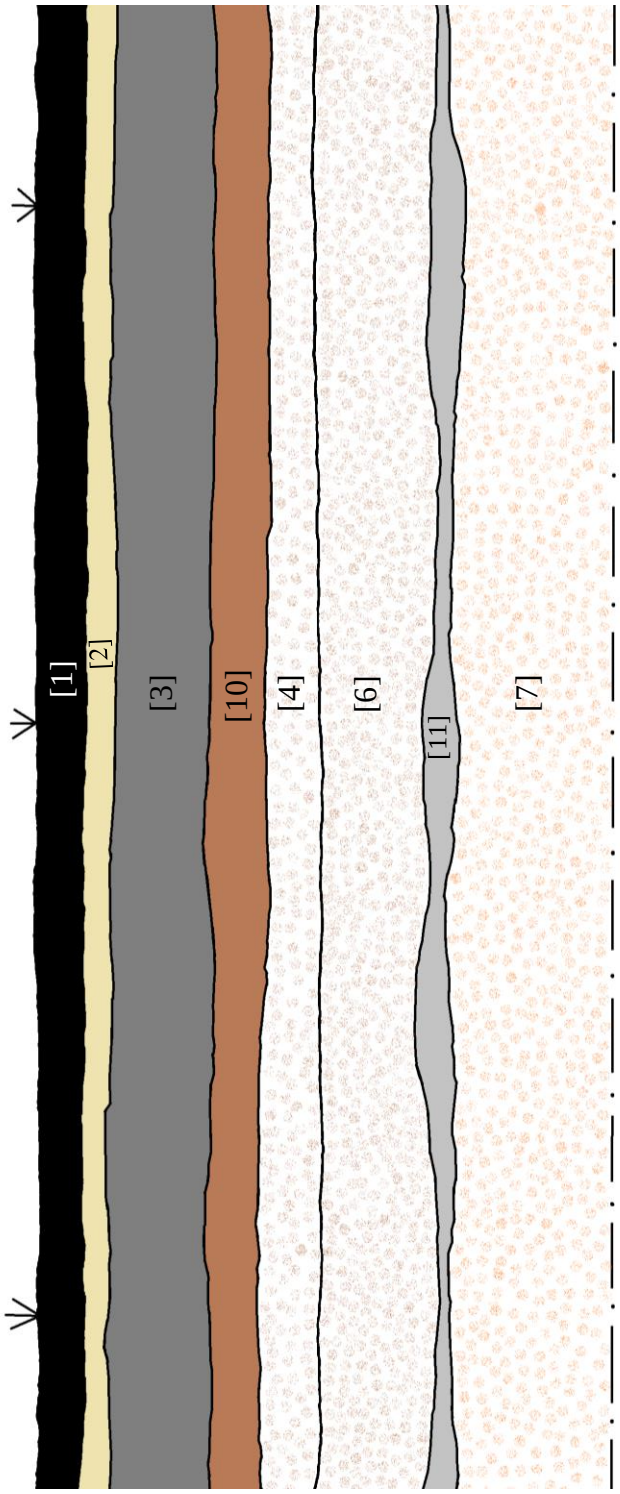


Fig. 9: Section 2 (1:20)

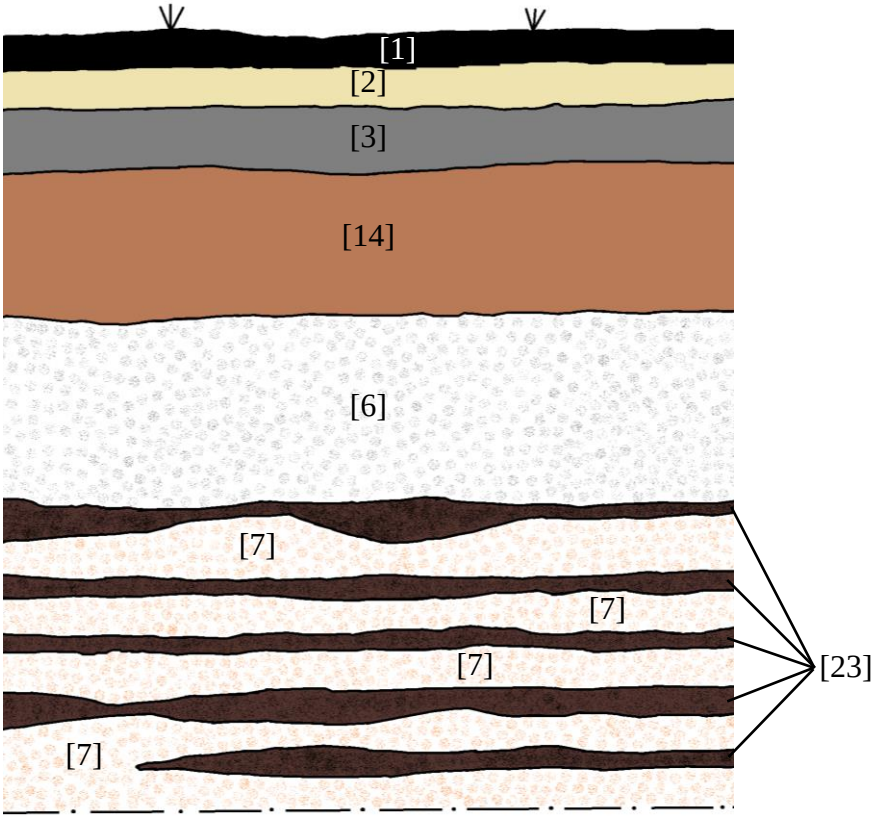


Fig. 10: Section 3 (1:20)

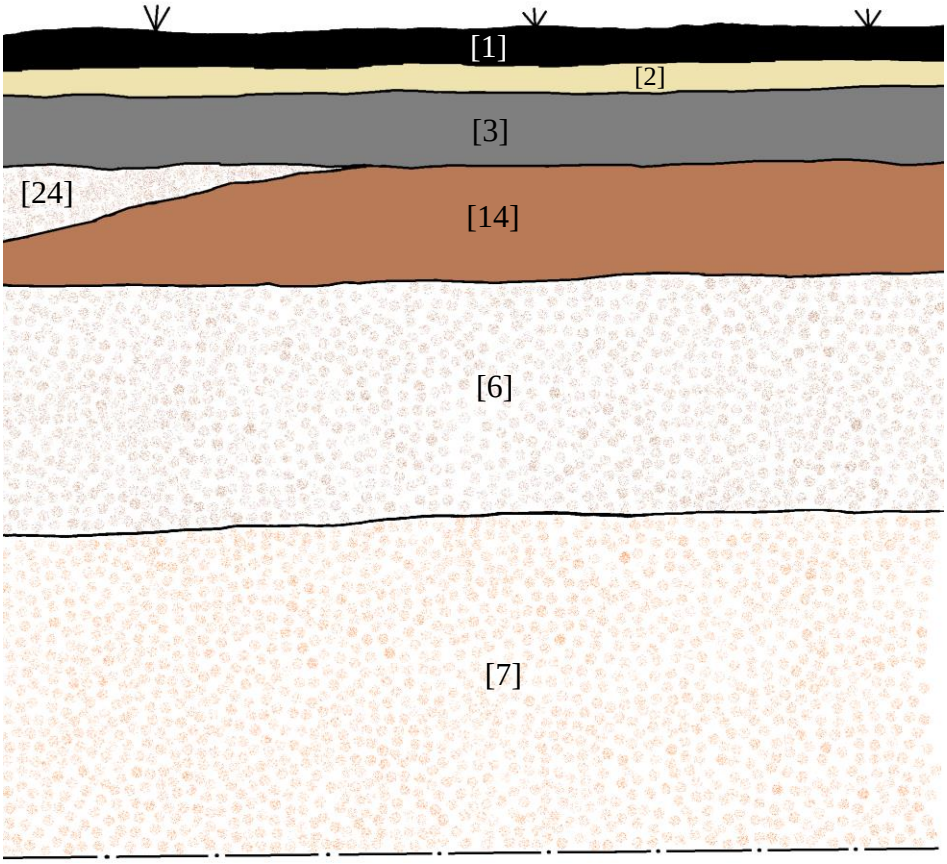


Fig. 11: Section 4 (1:20)

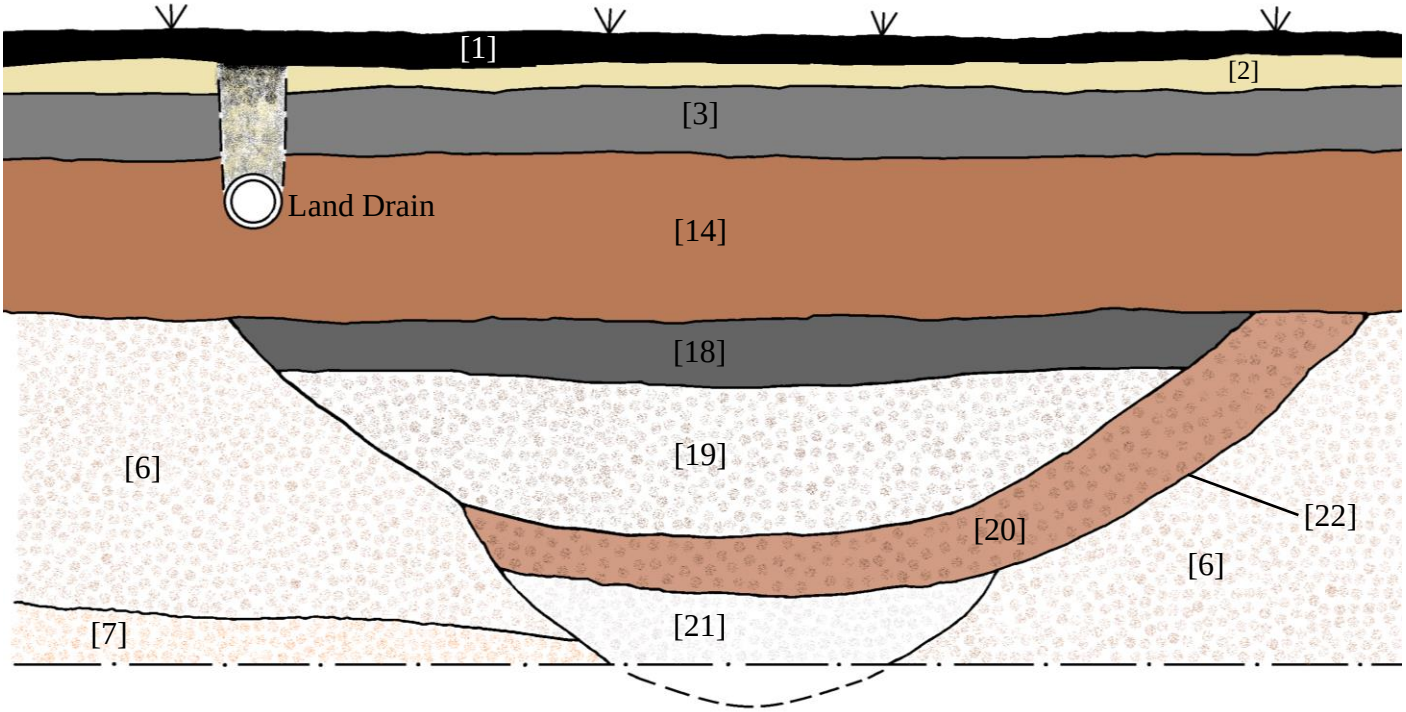


Fig. 12: Section 5 (1:20)

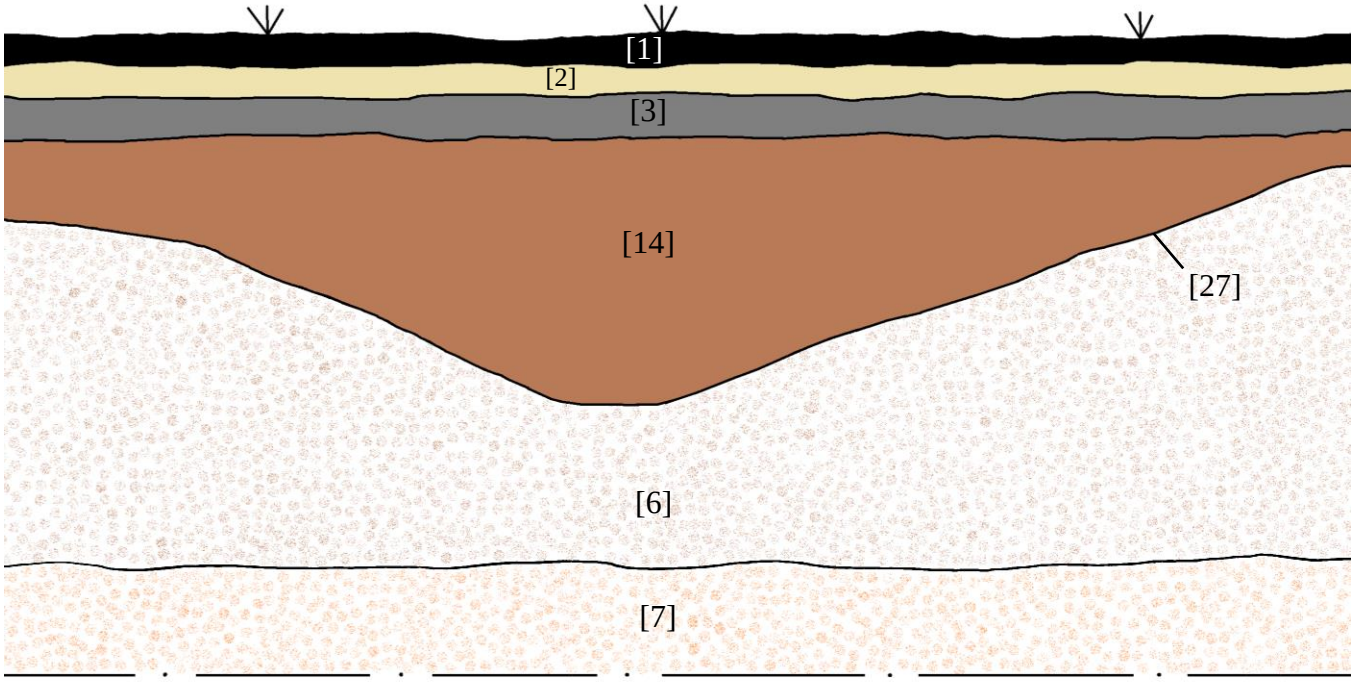


Fig. 13: Section 6 (1:20)

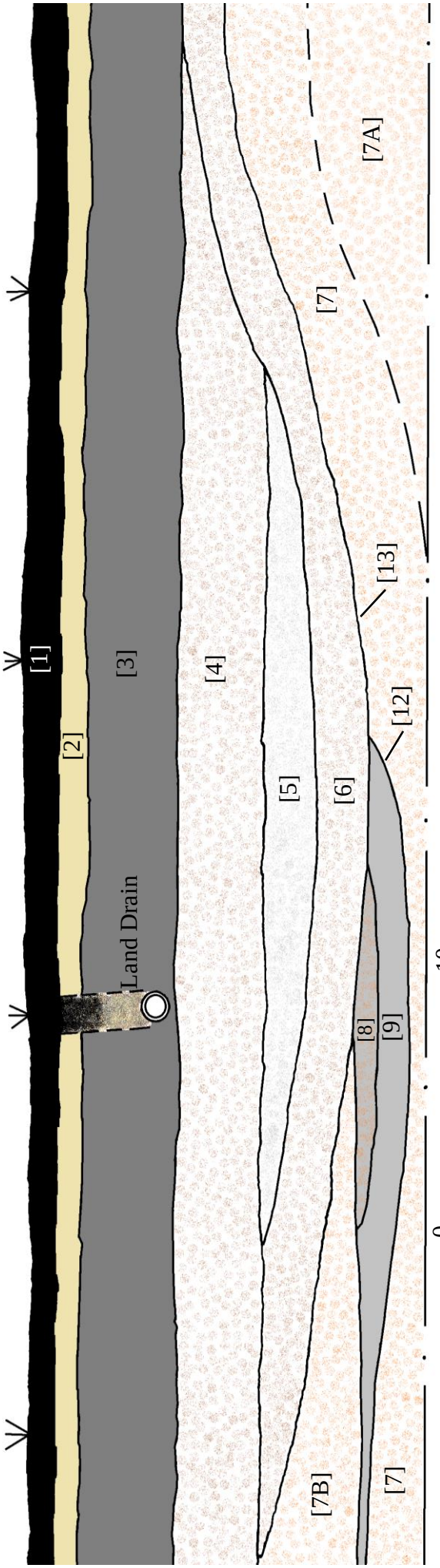


Fig. 14: Section 7 (Scale as Indicated)

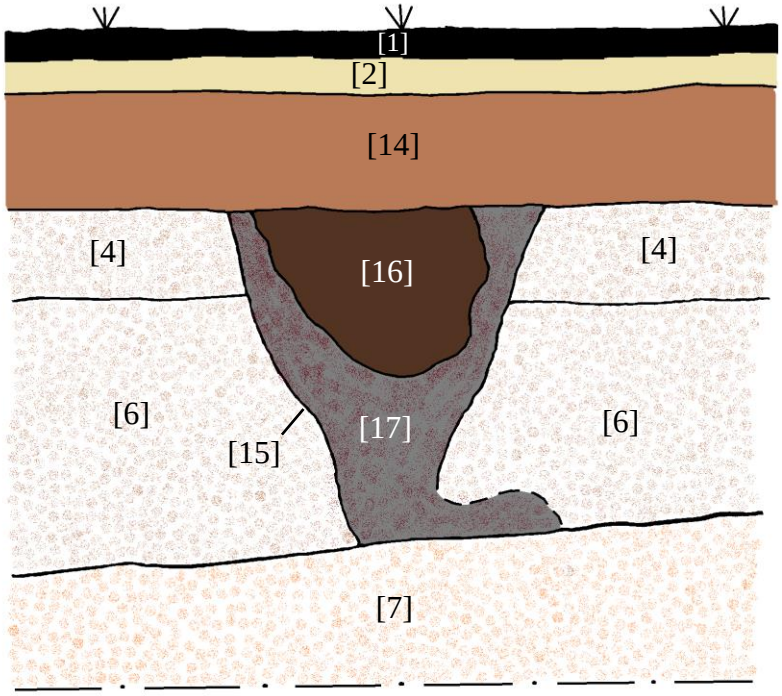


Fig. 15: Section 8 (1:20)

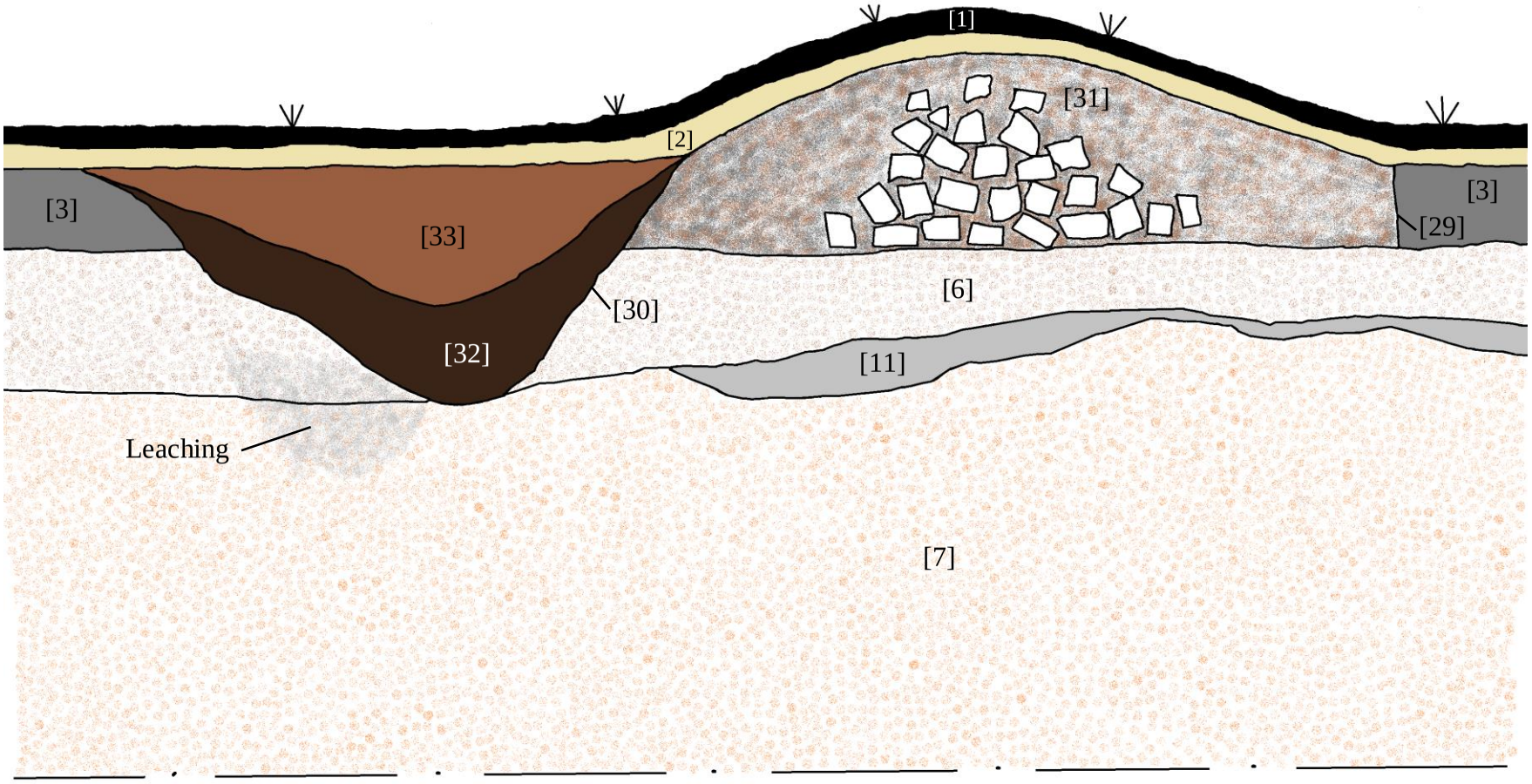


Fig. 16: Section 11 (1:20)

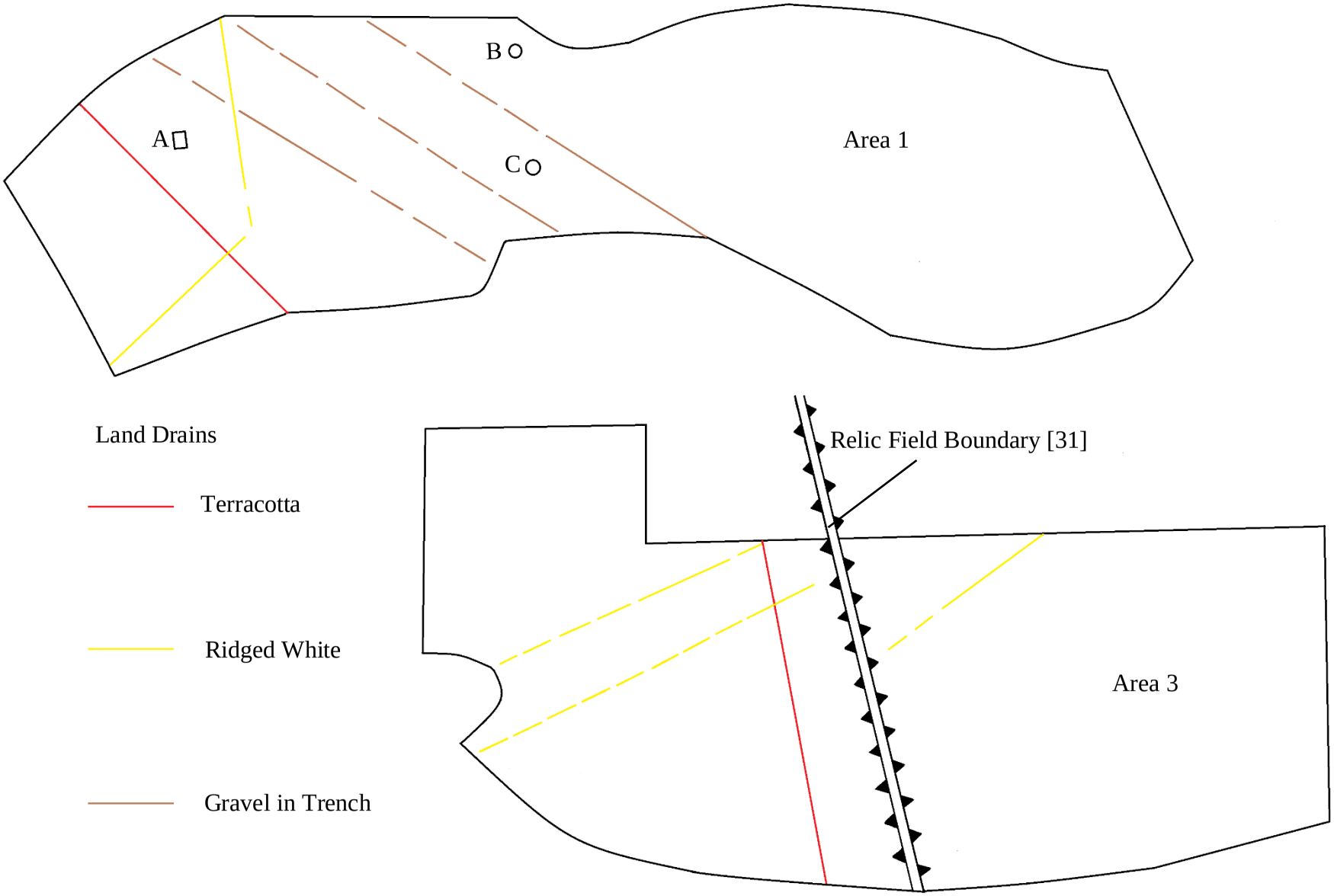


Fig. 17: Modern Features in Area 1 (Above) and Area 3 (1:500)

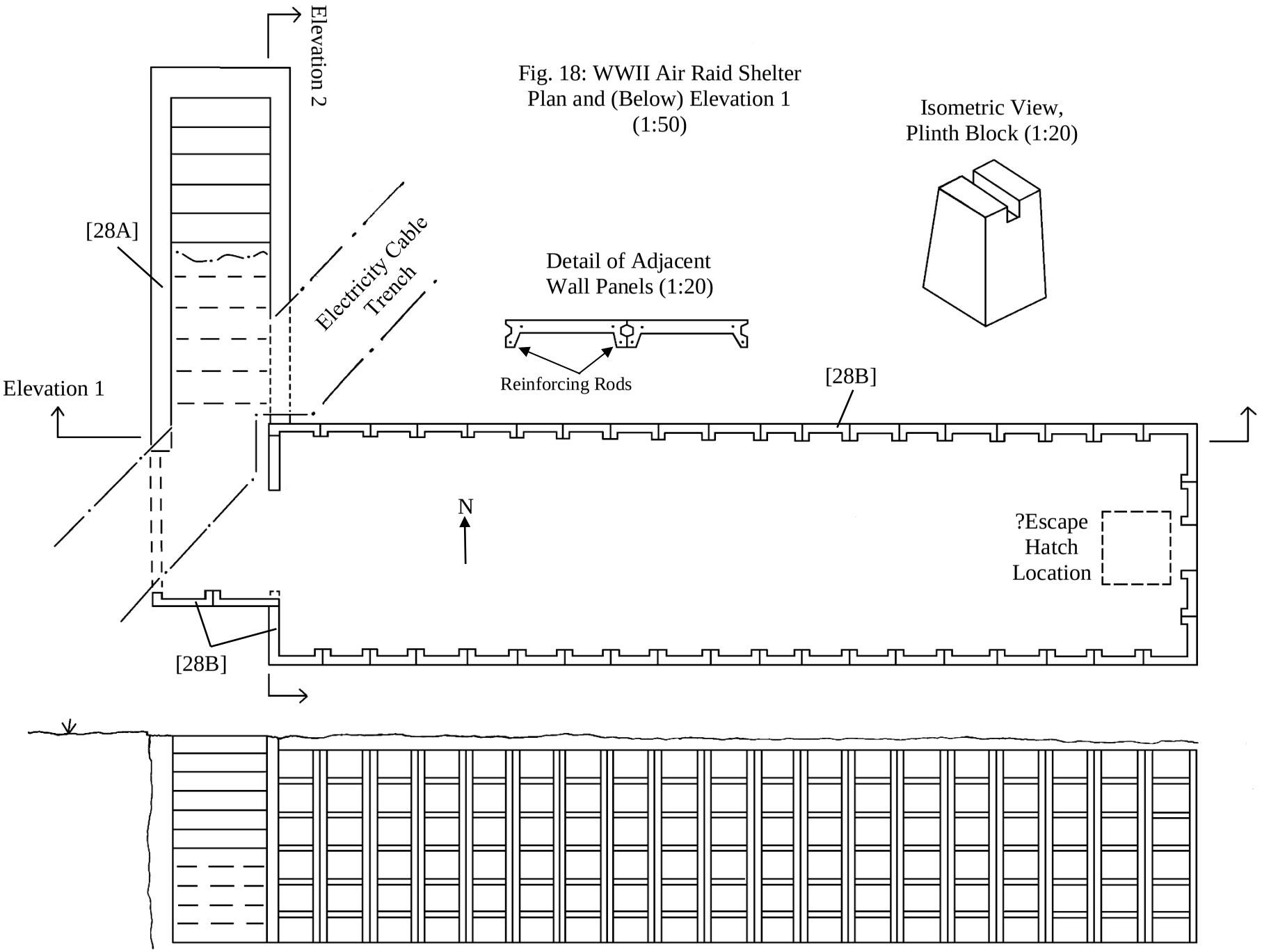


Fig. 18: WWII Air Raid Shelter Plan and (Below) Elevation 1 (1:50)

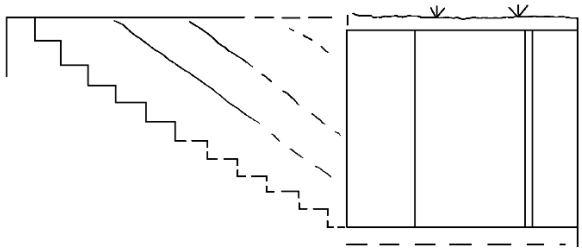


Fig. 19: WWII Air Raid Shelter Elevation 2 (1:50)

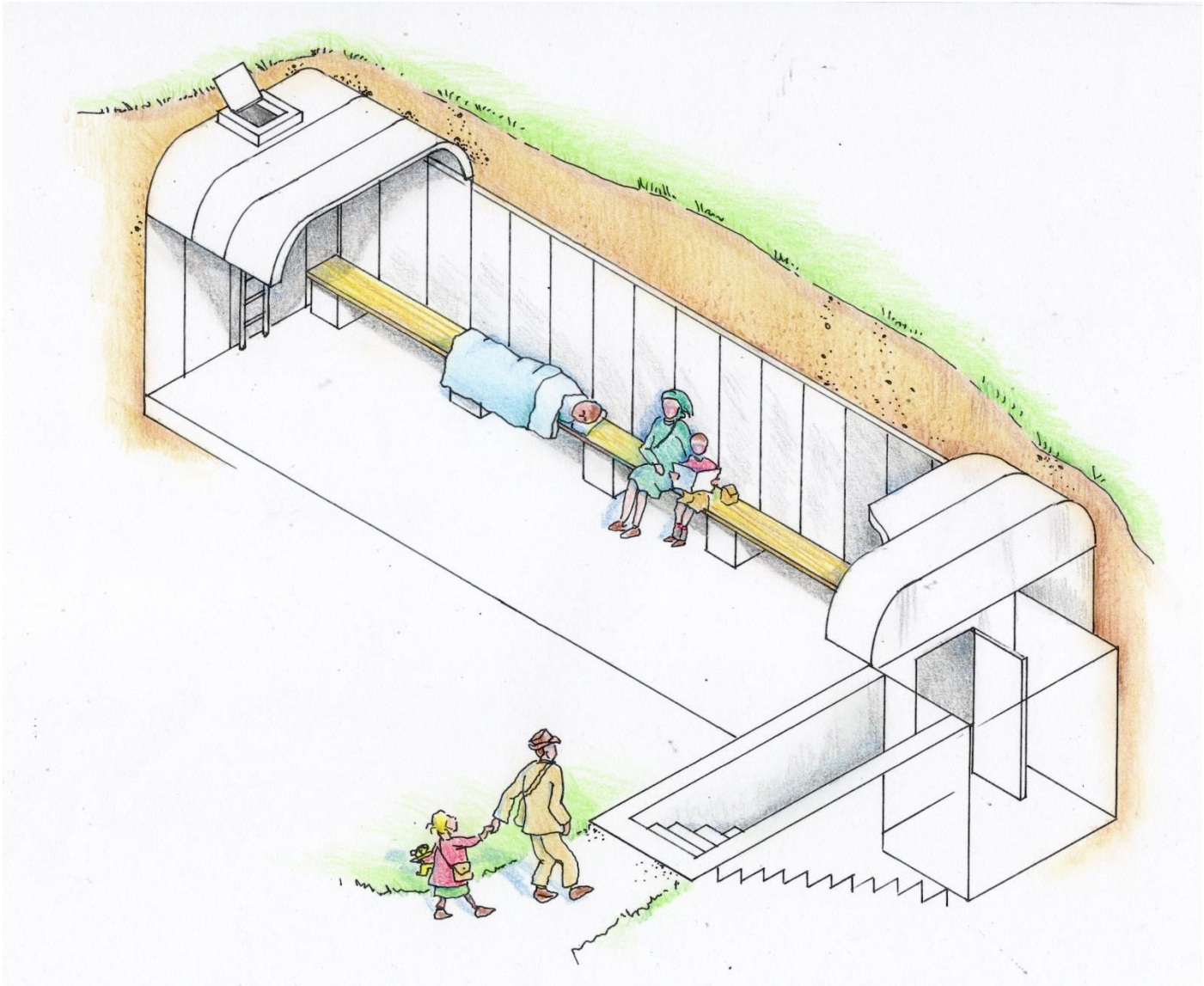


Fig. 20: Isometric Cutaway Reconstruction of the Air Raid Shelter by Neil Pinchbeck

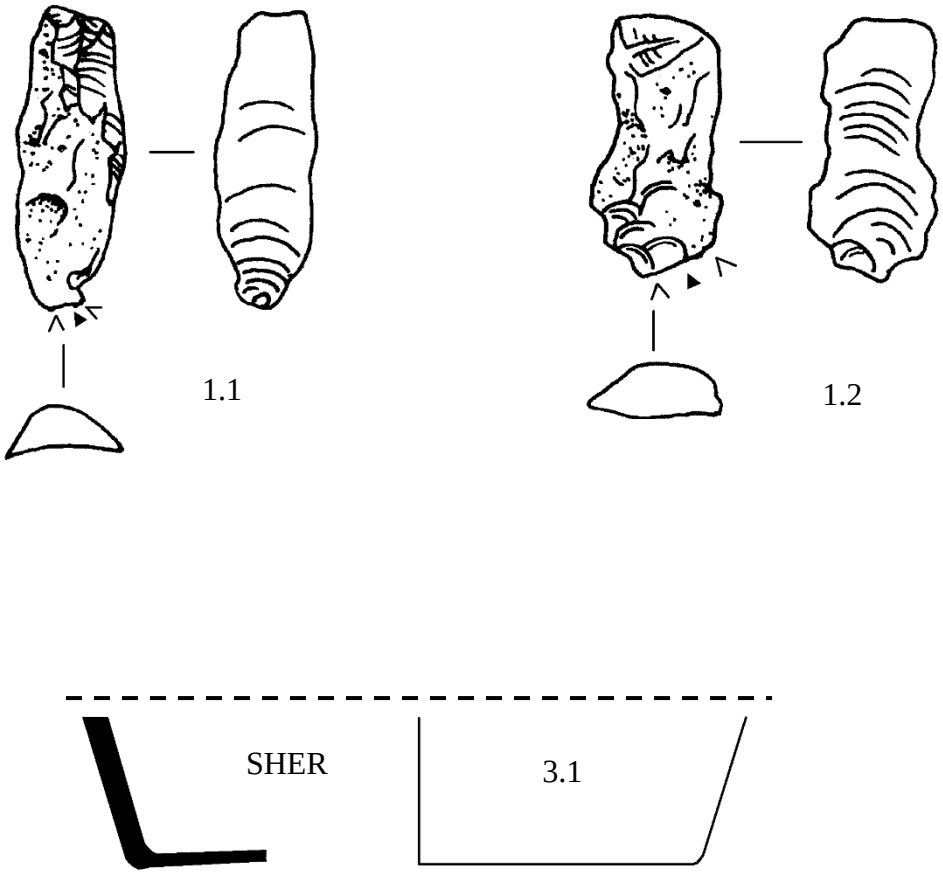
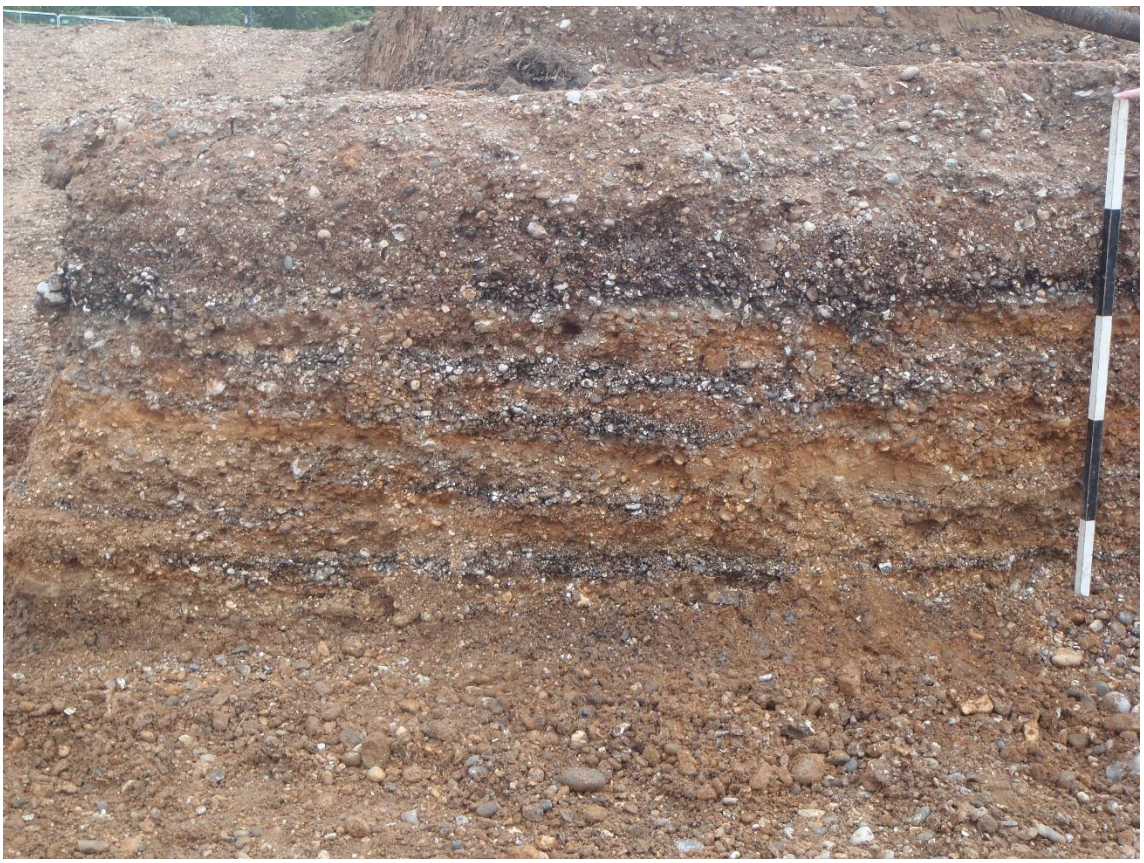


Fig. 21: Lithics (1:1) and Ceramics (1:4)



Pl. 1: Section 3, Detail of [23] Within [7] (Photo Judith Stones)

Pl. 2: Air Raid Shelter Main Chamber Looking North (Photo Neil Pinchbeck)

Pl. 3: Air Raid Shelter Main Chamber Looking South (Photo Neil Pinchbeck)

Pl. 4: Air Raid Shelter Escape Hatch Cover (Front) (Photo Neil Pinchbeck)

Pl. 5: Air Raid Shelter Escape Hatch Cover (Back) (Photo Neil Pinchbeck)

Pl. 6: WWII Air Raid Shelter at Little Park, Enfield (Interior, Probably Looking Towards the Vestibule) (EAS Geoffrey Gillam Archive)