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Your ref:
Our ref:94/38

2nd September 1994

Mr. T. Higgott,
Newbury Museum,
The Wharf,
Newbury,
RG14 5AS.

Dear Mr. Higgott,

**Leverton Stocks, Leverton Lane, near Hungerford.
Archaeological Excavation.**

This letter documents the results of the excavation carried out between 25th and 26th August 1994 on the site of the existing stocks at Leverton (SU 334700)(Site code LSH94). Figure 1 shows the location of the site. This excavation was commissioned by Mr. T. Higgott of Newbury Museum ahead of the replacement of the existing stocks by a modern replica. The objective of the excavation was to determine the presence or otherwise of any pre-existing stocks and associated furniture prior to the Victorian replacements which stood on the site before work commenced.

After removal of the Victorian stocks (dated 1898) an area c. 2 m. by c. 1.6 m. was opened up. Immediately beneath the topsoil was made-up ground (01) containing modern brick, tile and flint nodules. Figure 2 (i) shows the plan made at a depth of 0.4 m., indicating the post holes for the Victorian stocks (F3, F4, F5, F6) and a deposit in a cut feature (F2) comprising unmortared laid brick and flint nodules. This is probably a wall foundation.

Beneath layer 01 a layer of clayey loam was encountered (58) (Figure 2 (ii)). Cut through this layer were features F7 and F8. F7 was a post-hole containing the remains of a much decayed wooden post. This post had not received any preservation treatment, whereas the Victorian stocks had been coated with tar. F8 was a truncated shallow feature containing small traces of wood, and is possibly a post hole. Also present at this depth was F9, a much disturbed rectangular feature with unclear edges and filled with brick, tile and flint nodules. This feature was not investigated further. Finds from

this area included tile fragments, an iron peg and a fragment of glass, all of modern date (not retained). Figure 3 Sections 1 and 2 show the south-facing and west-facing sections drawn at this level.

The depth that the wooden post was encountered and the lack of protection from the elements indicates this was not a fragment from the existing Victorian stocks. However, no evidence was recovered to ascertain its function and given the amount of other disturbance on the site, this feature cannot necessarily be assumed to relate to any earlier stocks. The precise date of the wood is also unclear, although the presence of surviving wood suggests a date of no great antiquity.

Yours sincerely,

John C. Pressly

cc. P. Fasham, Babtics

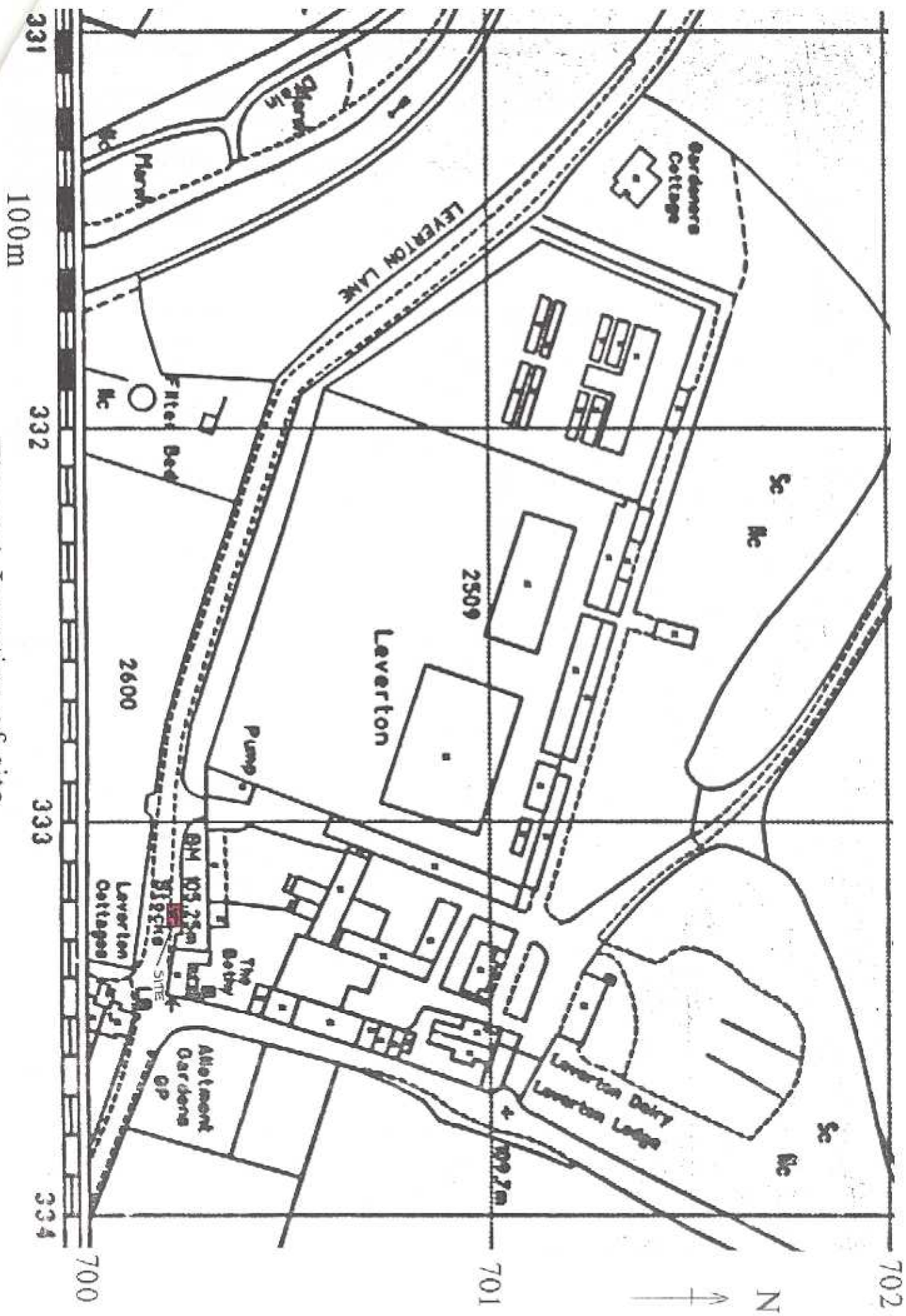


Figure 1 Location of site.

Leverton Stocks, near Hungerford Berkshire, 1994.

LSH94

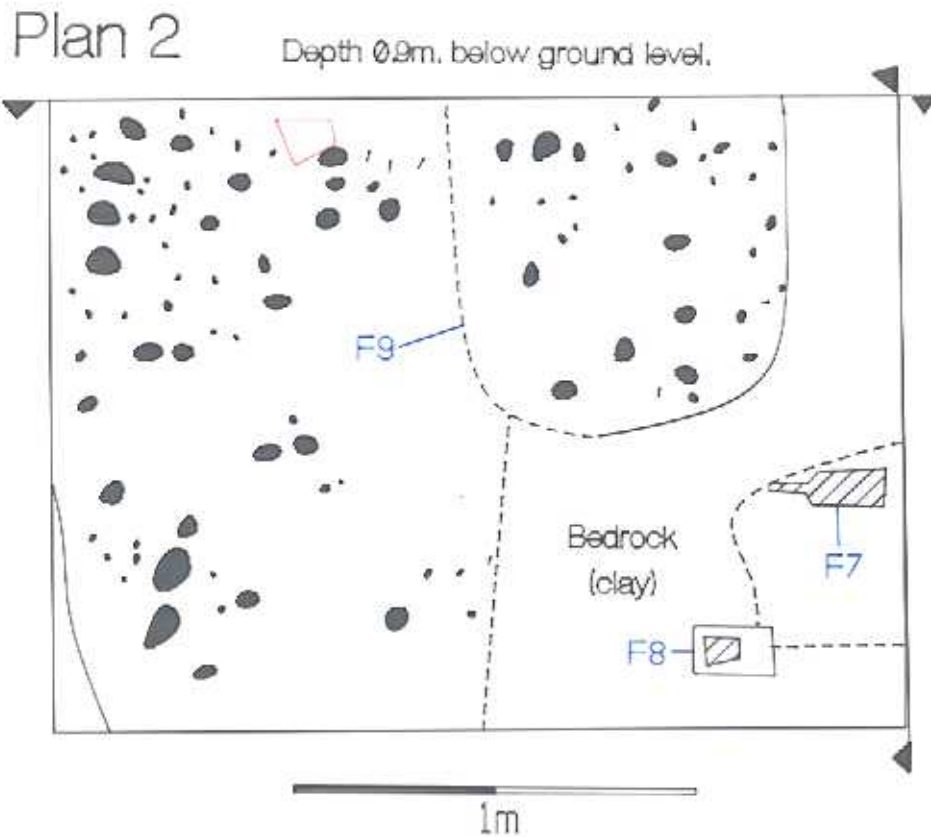
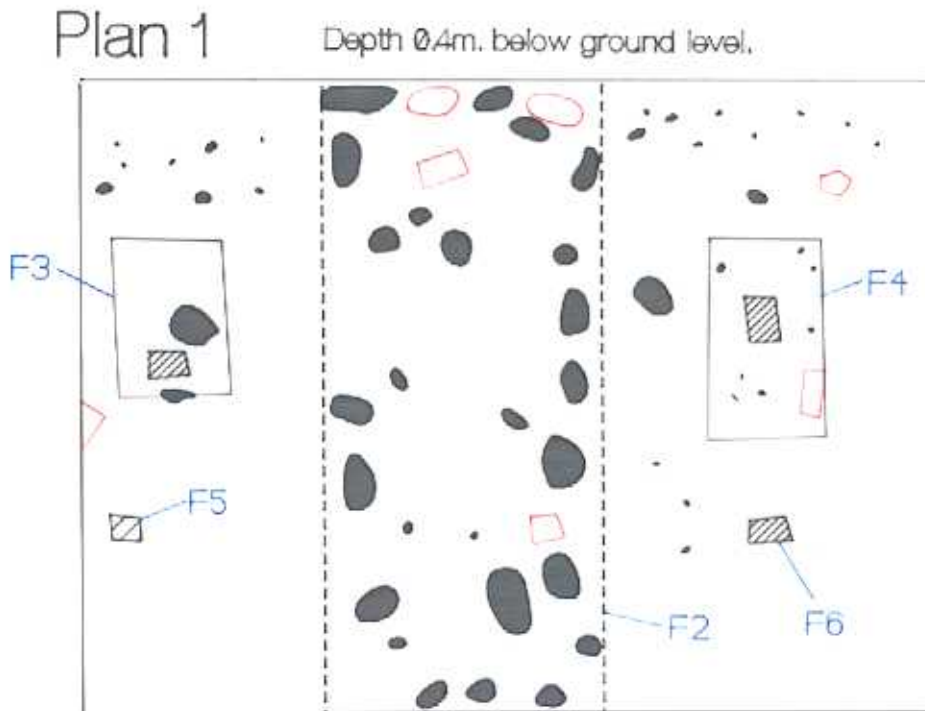
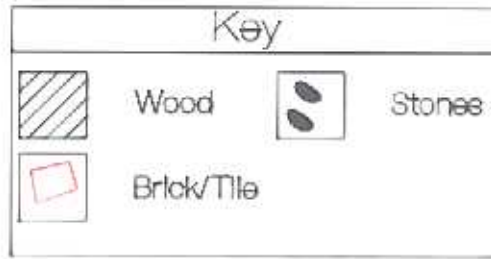


Figure 2. Plans of test pit.

Leverton Stocks, near Hungerford Berkshire, 1994.

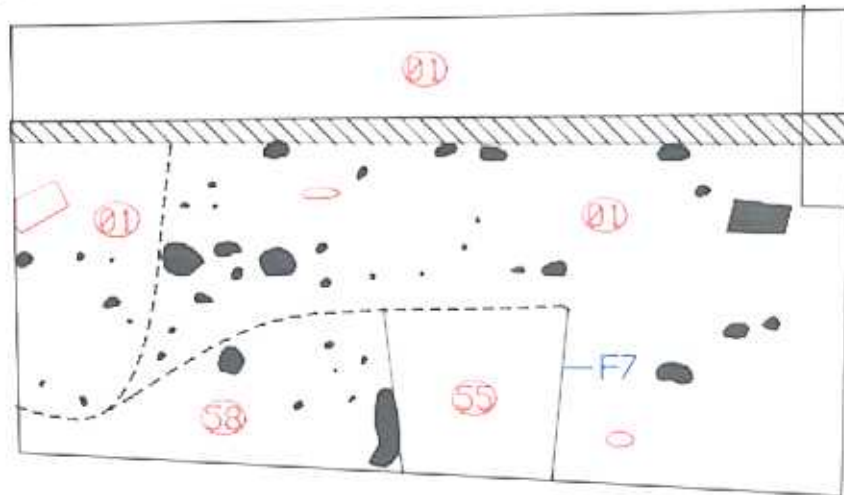
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Key	
	Gravel
	Brick/Tile
	Stones

Section 1

N

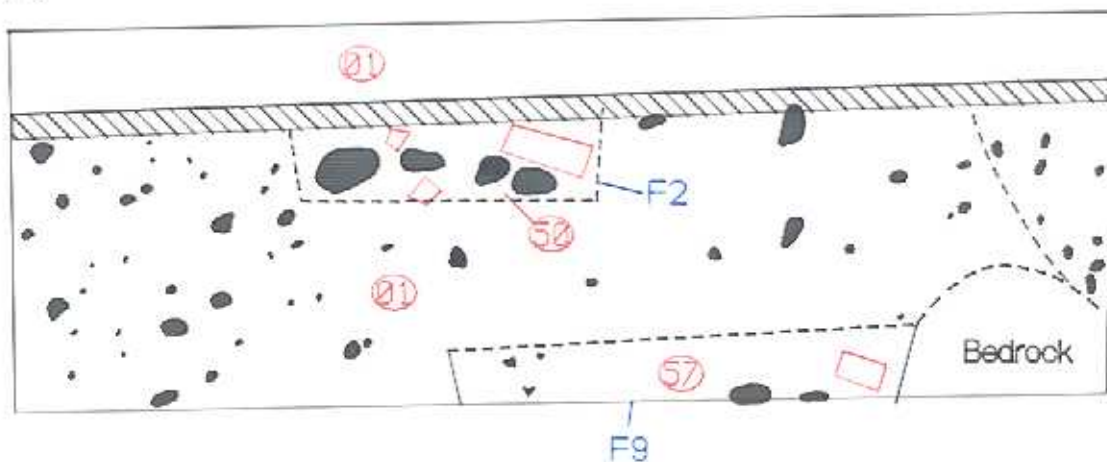
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Section 2

W

E



1m

Figure 8. Sections.