

**Swell Hill Farm, Swell, Stow-on-the-Wold,  
Gloucestershire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Mr B W Keswick**

by Jennifer Lowe

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SHF04/12

**August 2004**

## Summary

**Site name:** Swell Hill Farm, Swell, Stow-on-the Wold, Gloucestershire

**Grid reference:** SP 1525 2620

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 27th July and 10th August 2004

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Jennifer Lowe

**Site code:** SHF 04/12

**Area of site:** -

**Summary of results:** No archaeological finds or features were encountered

**Monuments identified:** None

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Cheltenham Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 13.08.04
	Steve Preston✓ 16.08.04

# **Swell Hill Farm, Swell, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire An Archaeological Watching Brief**

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**Report 04/12**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Swell Hill Farm, Upper Swell, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire (SP1525 2620) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr A C Carter-Lewis of Martin Elliott Partnership, Finials House, The Square, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire, GL54 1AF on behalf of Mr B W Keswick.

Planning consent (DF/4740/E) has been granted by Cotswold District Council to demolish an existing grain drier and to construct accommodation for agricultural workers. This consent is subject to a condition which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in the form of a watching brief during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the District's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Charles Parry, Gloucestershire County Archaeological Officer. The fieldwork was undertaken by Jennifer Lowe on the 27th July and 10th August 2004 the site code is SHF04/12

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Cheltenham Museum in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located to the west of the Stow-on-the-Wold close to the River Dikler (Fig. 1), on the western edge of Swell Hill Farm (Fig. 2), on the top edge of a steep south-west facing slope, at a height of 225m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is Chipping Norton Limestone (BGS 1981) which was recorded in the foundation trenches.

## **Archaeological background**

The site lies within an archaeologically rich area. The route of the Ryknild Street Roman road (Margary's route 18; 1955, 138), which is a branch of the Fosse Way (Margary's route 5d, connecting Cirencester with High Cross (1955, 137)) is located approximately 0.5km to the east of the site. To the west and south-west of the site

are several prehistoric burial mounds, Neolithic and Bronze Age in date. Also, a number of prehistoric struck flints, Roman pottery and coins have been found in close proximity to the site.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits which may be affected by the construction work. This included the monitoring of topsoil removal, landscaping, ground reduction and the digging of trenches for foundations.

## **Results (Figs 3 and 4)**

The previous building located on the site was demolished and the demolition debris removed under constant archaeological supervision (Fig. 3). The ground surface had been built up during the construction of this building and therefore the natural ground surface was not truncated during these works.

The excavation of foundation trenches for the new development were also monitored. These were approximately 1m wide and varied in depth from 0.60m at the south-east corner to 1m at the north-west corner. Three possible pit like features, approximately 2m wide were recorded during the excavations (Fig. 4). One of the features was excavated by hand, and fragments of plastic and rope (not retained) were retrieved from the fill, suggesting a modern date. A large piece of concrete slab was encountered at the base of the cut; concrete was also located at the base of the other two features, excavated by machine. These features correspond with the western edge of the demolished building and it is assumed that they are associated with this structure. No archaeological features or finds were recorded.

The eastern half of the foundation trench was located within the area occupied by the demolished building and in this area the natural limestone was encountered throughout. The western edge of the footings was located on previously undisturbed land. In this area the stratigraphy was topsoil, approximately 0.20m thick overlying an orange brown fine sandy silt subsoil, approximately 0.30m thick, which in turn overlay the natural limestone.

## **Finds**

No archaeological finds were retrieved. Modern finds were not retained.

## **Conclusion**

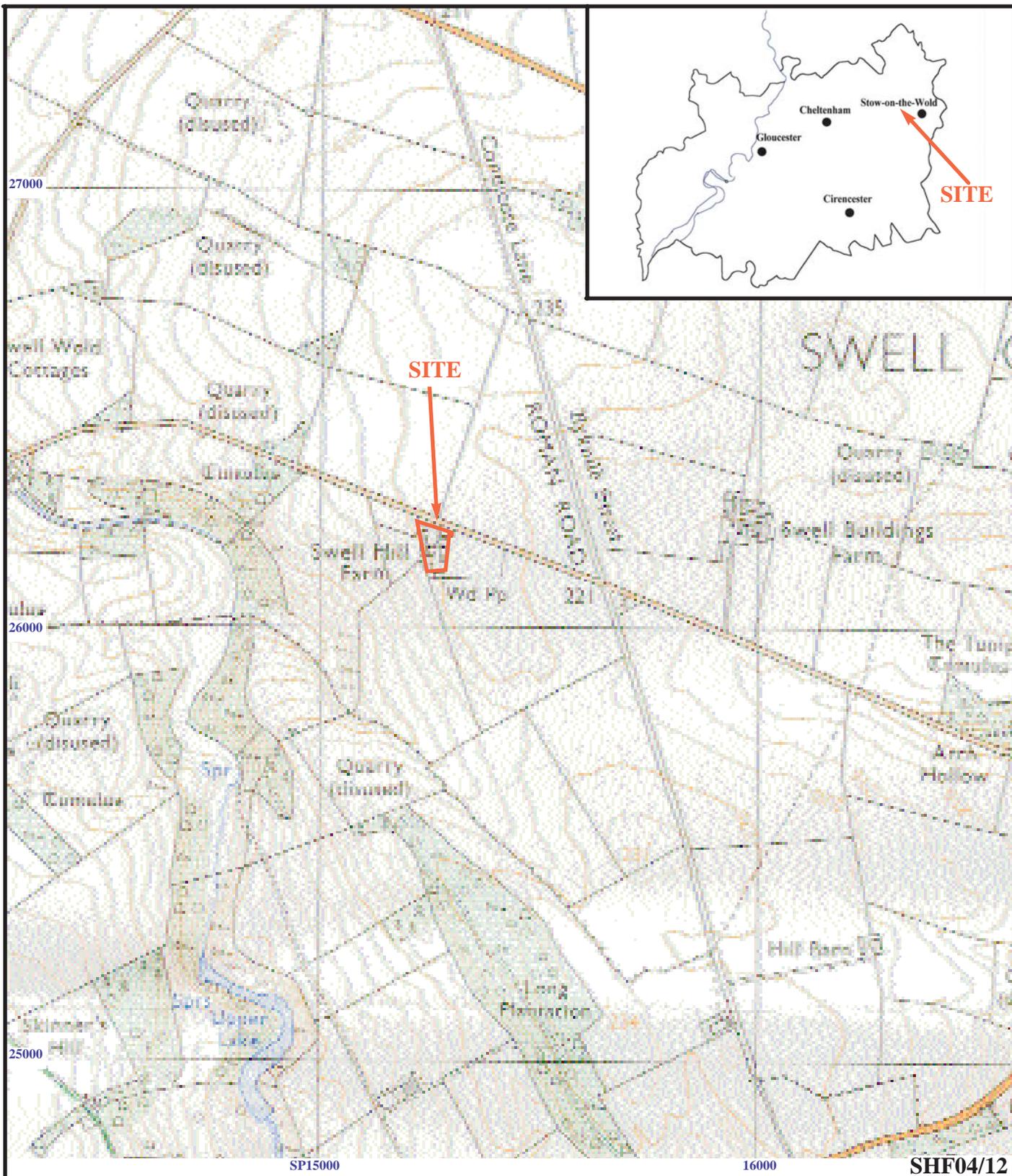
The site although located within an area of high archaeological potential, has yielded no archaeology. Three features were encountered but these were clearly recent in date and associated with the demolished building. No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the course of the groundworks.

## **References**

BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 217, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth

Margary, I, 1955, *Roman Roads in Britain*, London

PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO



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Figure 1. Location of site within Swell and Gloucestershire.

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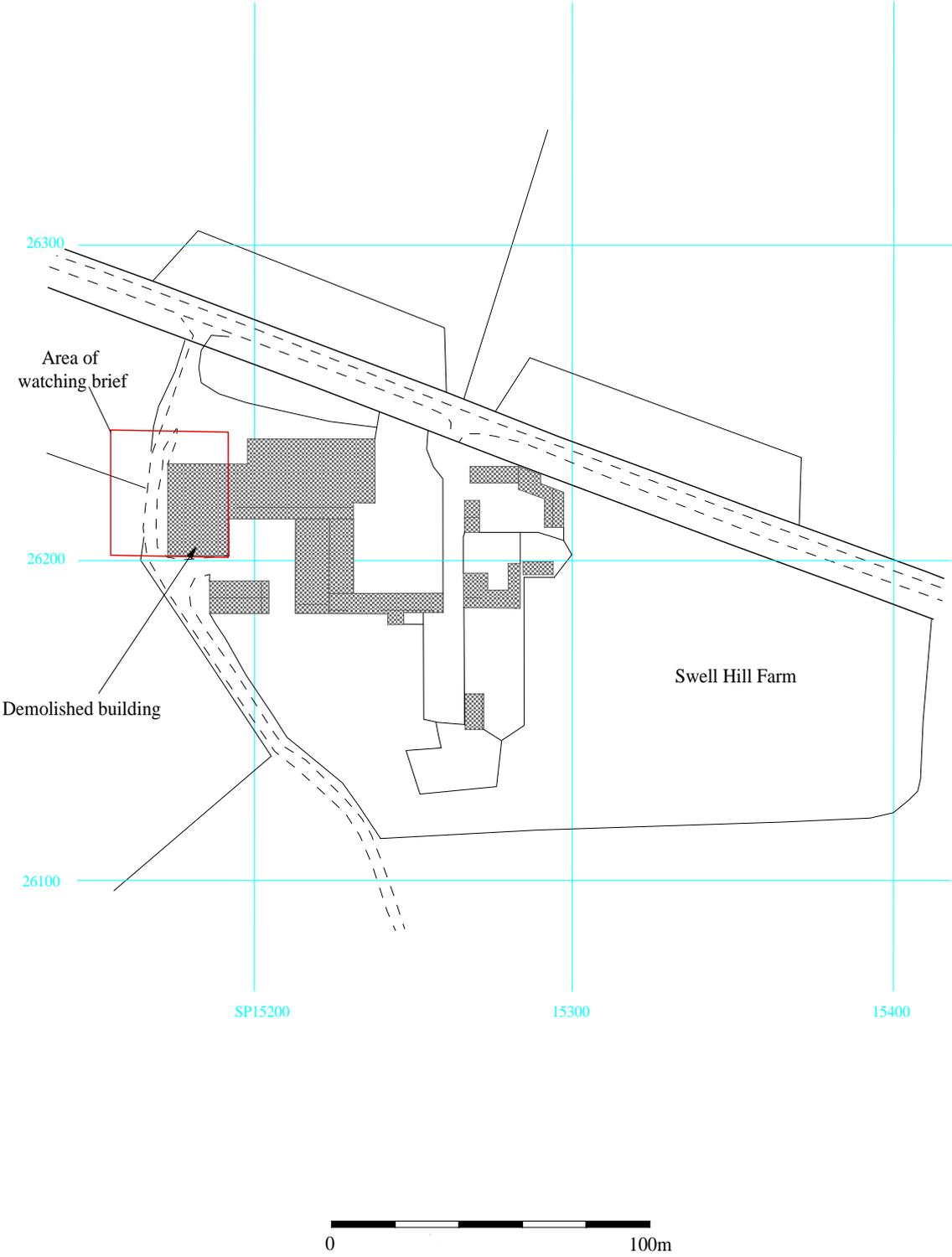


Figure 2. Detailed plan showing location of site within Swell Hill Farm.

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Gloucestershire, 2004

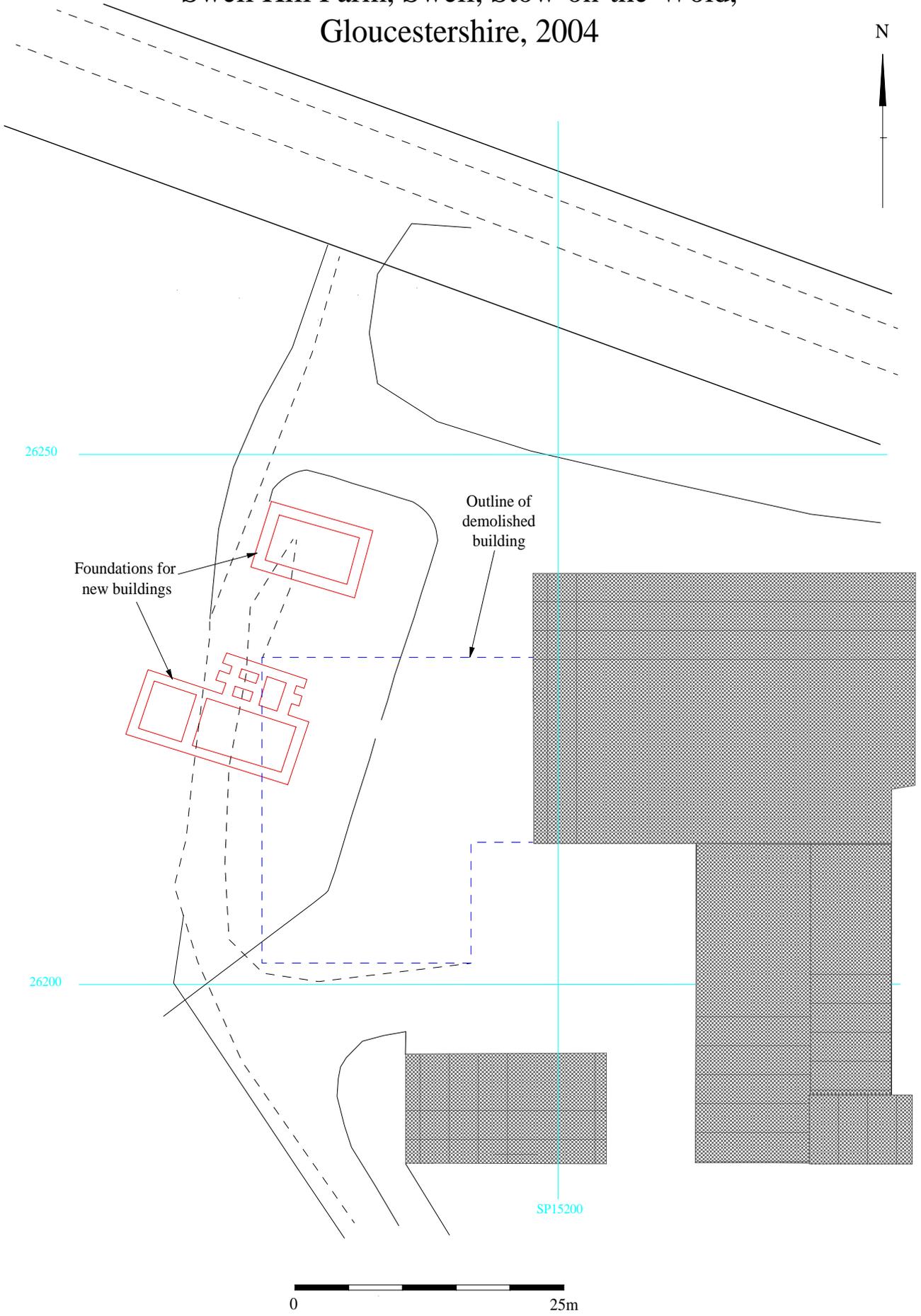


Figure 3. Plan showing location of foundation trenches

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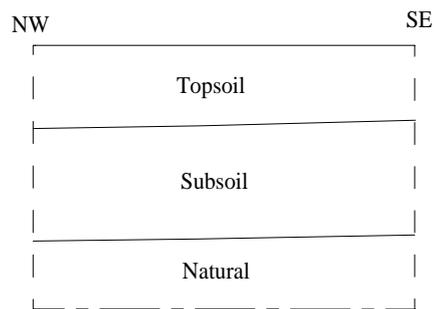
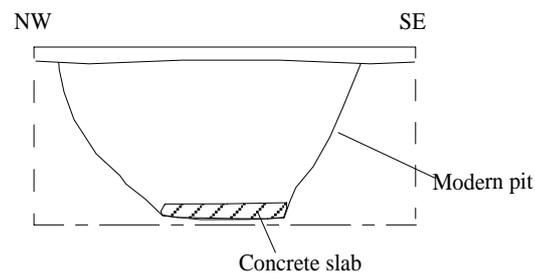


Figure 4. Representative sections