

Date: October 2003

Client: West Dunbartonshire Council

Project code: RSD 03

Archaeological Excavation at Risk Street, Dumbarton, West Dunbartonshire Data Structure Report

Richard Conolly

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET (RSD 03)

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Client | West Dunbartonshire Council |
| National Grid Reference | NS 3960 7547 |
| Project Manager | Simon Stronach |
| Project Supervisor | Richard Conolly |
| Text | Richard Conolly |
| Illustrations | Ross Murray |
| Excavation Team | Richard Conolly Kirsty Dingwall Colin Hewat Liz Jones |
| Schedule | |
| Fieldwork | 25 th August – 1 st September 2003 |
| Report | October 2003 |

Abstract

Headland Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological excavation at Risk Street, Dumbarton, West Dunbartonshire. The work was required as a condition of planning consent for an extension to an existing car park. An initial evaluation had demonstrated the potential for archaeologically significant deposits or features to survive within the application area, and that such deposits would be disturbed by the development.

College Street, which now terminates to the north, formerly ran along the site's eastern edge. Consequently, the eastern part of site had been heavily disturbed by the tenements that had formerly lined the street before they were demolished during construction of the A814. The remainder of the site had not been disturbed and was sealed under a thick layer of modern overburden. This overlay a cultivation soil, which contained pottery ranging in date from medieval to modern. A series of furrows running parallel to the former course of College Street was sealed below the cultivation soil. These again contained pottery with a wide date range.

The furrows overlay a ditch running perpendicular to the former line of College Street. The ditch had been subject to several episodes of cleaning-out and contained medieval pottery. The small finds assemblage recovered from the fills of the ditch is consistent with the area having been relatively undeveloped in the medieval period and the ditch probably served as a field boundary. It appears to have been backfilled in order to join two or more plots together to form a single large field.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned to undertake an archaeological excavation at Risk Street, Dumbarton, West Dunbartonshire. The work was carried out in advance of an extension to the existing car park at Risk Street and was commissioned by Ferguson McIlveen, acting on behalf of West Dunbartonshire Council.

The excavation was carried out in order to satisfy a condition of planning consent for the car-park, stipulated by the planning authority as advised by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service. The work followed an evaluation (Conolly 2003) that had established that the development might destroy or disturb archaeologically significant features and deposits.

2. SITE LOCATION, DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

The site (Figure 1) is located to the north of the existing car park at Risk Street, Dumbarton (NGR NS 3960 7547) and is bounded to its north by Glasgow Road (A814). The extension covered a roughly rectangular area of approximately 600 m² and is situated on the embankment of Glasgow Road. The site was under grass at the time of the excavation and several small trees were present within the area.

Risk Street car park lies at the northern edge of the medieval burgh of Dumbarton. Erected a burgh in 1222, the medieval settlement was focussed on the shore of the River Leven (Dennison & Coleman 1999). Modern High Street and Church Street follow the main medieval thoroughfare. College Street, which formerly ran to the east of the site, may also have had similarly early origins. It was formerly known as Cross Vennel, on account of its having joined the High Street near the Market Cross and the Scottish Burgh Survey for Dumbarton (Dennison & Coleman 1999) suggests that Cross Vennel may have originated as a trackway in the early medieval town. During the medieval period the site may have fallen into feued plots running back from the High Street or College Street.

Early maps of Dumbarton depict the site and its immediate surroundings as fields running between College Street and latterday Station Road (Ross 1777 and OS 1864) with buildings fronting onto the High Street.

A trial excavation carried out approximately 140 m to the south-west in 1973 (NMRS No. NS37NE 73) identified a series of rubbish pits, with nothing predating the 15th century. An excavation in 1997 at 94 – 102 High Street (Coleman 1997) identified the remains of a number of medieval and post-medieval buildings.

The evaluation (Conolly 2003) found that the ground level across the site had been raised with demolition material, presumably at the time of the construction of the A814 in the early seventies. This made ground overlay a buried soil horizon, which covered a series of cultivation furrows. Pottery ranging in date from medieval to early modern was recovered from the furrows and buried soil. The finds from the evaluation have been incorporated into the Finds Assessment presented in this report (Appendix2). The results of the evaluation indicated that archaeologically significant deposits and features might survive within the area of the development and that these would be disturbed or destroyed by the development.

3. OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

The excavation was intended to ensure that any archaeological deposits or features within the development area were adequately excavated and recorded before construction work began.

Topsoil, modern made-ground and modern foundations were removed using a 360° mechanical excavator operating under archaeological supervision and fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, with a toothed bucket being used where necessary. Exposed features cut into the surface of the cultivation soil were then hand excavated and recorded. The machine was then used again to expose the furrows identified by the evaluation beneath the cultivation soil. A sample of the furrows was excavated and recorded before machining continued, exposing natural subsoil and one further feature. The feature was cleaned, sample hand-excavated and recorded. Bulk soil samples were taken from a representative sample of the contexts excavated. The excavation was undertaken in line with a Written Scheme of Investigation, approved by the planning authority.

4. RESULTS

The site was covered by up to 0.9 m of imported topsoil and demolition debris. The latter contained a wide variety of architectural and general waste. The foundation walls of the demolished buildings of College Street, surviving in the eastern end of the site, were removed by machine, along with the made-ground.

A number of services were present on site: a gas main (along the site's southern edge); fibre optic cables (in the north-eastern corner) and a drain and inspection chamber for the A814 (running east – west across the site). The eastern end of the site had been disturbed by the buildings that formerly lined College Street.

Under the modern overburden lay a buried soil horizon (53). Other than the modern features noted above, the only feature identified cut into the soil was a barrel-lined cut (50). This contained 19th/20th century artefacts. Deposit 53 was sample excavated for finds retrieval. The finds assemblage was mixed, ranging in date from the 14th to 19th centuries.

Deposit 53 was then removed by machine to expose the furrows identified in the evaluation (Figure 2). These did not survive at the eastern end of the site but covered the rest. They were orientated NNE-SSW and were up to 0.9 m wide and sample excavation of seven furrows established that they were up to 0.08 m deep. As during the evaluation, the pottery recovered from these features was wide ranging in date, spanning the 13th to 18th centuries, though most of the pottery fell in the middle of this bracket. The character of the pottery assemblage is consistent with the use of household refuse for the manuring of fields.

The furrows cut a light greyish brown sandy silt (58) that spread across most of the site. This is interpreted as the slightly disturbed upper interface of the natural subsoil with the cultivation layer. Along with the furrows, this deposit was machine excavated exposing clean natural subsoil and a ditch, which ran WNW – ESE (Figure 3).

The ditch had been cut by a drain and the modern foundations at the eastern end of the site. Four slots were excavated across the ditch, equivalent to a sample of 20 % by length, to establish the feature's date, function and history.

The stratigraphic sequence in all the excavated sections (Figure 4) indicated that the ditch had at least partially silted-up before being cleaned out, with re-cuts being clear in most sections. Although the ditch was generally flat bottomed and steep sided there was some variation, with some sections having wider bases than others.

The basal fills were homogenous, slightly gleyed and contained quantities of iron-panning. These latter characteristics are indicative of a wet environment but environmental samples demonstrated that these deposits were not waterlogged.

In contrast to the homogeneity of the basal fills, the upper fills in all excavated sections were very mixed, with distinct lenses of differing materials present. The mixed, heterogeneous nature of the upper fills is perhaps indicative of the ditch having been deliberately backfilled rather than having silted up naturally.

The environmental evidence is in keeping with material derived from domestic midden being used for the manuring of land.

Pottery was recovered from only one context within the ditch. Four sherds of Medieval Redware, three of which dated to the 14th/15th century and one to the 13th/15th centuries, were recovered from Deposit 88 at the eastern end of the ditch, within Re-cut 90.

No features were found in association with the ditch.

5. CONCLUSION

The earliest feature on site was a north-west – south-east orientated ditch. The ditch appeared to have been re-cut, or perhaps more correctly cleared out, on several occasions. Given the variations between the recorded profiles of the ditch it seems likely that they are the result of repeated cleaning out where required. That cleaning-out of the ditch would have had to be undertaken frequently is unsurprising given the sandy nature of the subsoil. This would never stabilise particularly well and the ditch sides would quickly erode and so fill the ditch in.

This ditch is on an alignment perpendicular to College Street. Given the small quantity of artefacts within the ditch, it is probable that it was a field boundary rather than a boundary of a domestic plot. This suggests that College Street probably existed in the medieval period but the frontage remained undeveloped until the post-medieval period, as otherwise, given the site's proximity to the frontage, a far larger assemblage of domestic debris could be expected.

Ross (1777) shows the area of the site lying within a large field orientated at right angles to College Street. It is probable that this field was formed from several medieval plots being merged together and it is likely that the ditch was backfilled deliberately to form this new field. The post-medieval cultivation furrows, which were orientated almost at right angles to the ditch and cut across it, are probably contemporary with this new field. The presence of pottery dating from as early as the 13th

century in these furrows and the overlying soil suggests that the area was first cultivated at that time and the Burgh Survey's speculation that College Street/Cross Vennel originated as a trackway in the early medieval town is strengthened (Dennison & Coleman 1999).

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND OTHER REFERENCES

Coleman, R 1997 '94-102 High Street, Dumbarton' in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*, 1997, 82. CSA, Edinburgh.

Conolly, R J 2003 *Archaeological evaluation at Risk Street, Dumbarton, West Dunbartonshire*. Unpublished Headland client report.

Dennison, E P, & Coleman, R 1999 *Historic Dumbarton: the archaeological implications of development*. Historic Scotland, Edinburgh.

Maps

Ordnance Survey (1864) *Dunbartonshire* XX.6.

Ross, C 1777 *A Map of the Shire of Dumbarton*

Wood, J 1818 *A Plan of Dumbarton*

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APPENDIX 1: SITE REGISTERS

1.1 Context Register

| Context Number | Description | Dimensions (m) |
|----------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1-25 | Used in evaluation. | - |
| 26-49 | Not used. | - |
| 50 | Cut of barrel well. Sub-circular with vertical straight sides and flat base. | |
| 51 | Barrel. Wooden barrel, staves rounded to inside and flat to exterior. Base intact. Did not seem waterlogged. | - |
| 52 | Fill of Barrel 51. Dark brown and light yellowish brown bands of loose fine sandy loam, increasingly silty to base of deposit. Rare gravel < 0.05 m | - |
| 53 | Cultivation Layer. Dark brown firm silty clay loam with common coal fragments and rubble (concentrated at top of deposit). Rare pottery and glass fragments. | Depth: 0.3 m |
| 54 | Cut of furrow. Linear, orientated NNE – SSW, with shallow concave sides and wide slightly concave base. | Width: 0.9 m Depth: 0.06 m |
| 55 | Fill of Furrow 54. Dark brown clay loam with sparse small to medium gravel and coal fragments. | - |
| 56 | Cut of furrow. Shallow sides and broad slightly uneven base. | Width: 0.7 m Depth: 0.08 m, |
| 57 | Fill of Furrow 56. Dark brown clay loam with sparse small to medium gravel and coal fragments. | - |
| 58 | Ploughsoil. | - |
| 59 | Cut of furrow. Shallow sides and broad slightly uneven base. | Width: 0.6 m Depth: 0.05 m |
| 60 | Fill of Furrow 59. Dark brown clay loam with sparse small to medium gravel and coal fragments. | - |
| 61 | Cut of furrow. Shallow uneven sides breaking gently to slightly uneven base. | Width: 0.8 m Depth: 0.08 m |
| 62 | Fill of Furrow 61. Dark brown compact silt loam with moderate coal fragments and occasional small stones. | - |
| 63 | Cut of furrow. Shallow slightly irregular sides breaking gently to broad near flat base. | Width: 0.75 m Depth: 0.08 m |
| 64 | Fill of Furrow 63. Dark brown compact silt loam with moderate coal fragments and occasional small stones. | - |
| 65 | Cut of furrow. Shallow slightly irregular sides breaking gently to broad near flat base. | Width: 0.7 m Depth: 0.04 m |

| Context Number | Description | Dimensions (m) |
|----------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 66 | Fill of Furrow 65. Dark brown compact silt loam with moderate coal fragments and occasional small stones. | - |
| 67 | Cut of furrow. Shallow slightly irregular sides breaking gently to broad near flat base. | Width: 0.7 m Depth: 0.07 m |
| 68 | Fill of Furrow 67. Dark brown compact silt loam with moderate coal fragments and occasional small stones. | - |
| 69 | Fill of Ditch 75. Light yellowish brown soft clay silt with rare gravel <3 cm. Firmer and darker at southern side. Rare charcoal flecks. | - |
| 70 | Fill of Ditch 75. Mixed light yellowish and greyish brown silty sand with rare small grit and charcoal. | - |
| 71 | Fill of Ditch 75. Mid greyish brown firm silty sand with rare grit and gravel <1 cm. Yellowish brown lense following tipline at northern side. | - |
| 72 | Fill of Ditch 75. Dark yellowish brown organic silty loam with rare charcoal. Possibly derived from turves. | - |
| 73 | Fill of Ditch 75. Mid yellowish brown sandy loam with 2 stones < 10 cm at northern limit. Iron pan at top of deposit. | - |
| 74 | Basal fill of Ditch 75. Light brownish grey firm silty sand with common iron pan and moderate grey brown mottling. | - |
| 75 | Cut of ditch. Re-cut of Ditch 78. Aligned roughly east – west. Steep fairly straight sides breaking sharply to flat base. | |
| 76 | Fill of Ditch 78. Mid yellowish brown silty loam with rare grit < 1 cm. | - |
| 77 | Fill of Ditch 78. Light grey soft fine sand with sparse iron pan. | - |
| 78 | Cut of ditch. Aligned roughly east – west. Northern side very steep with sharp break of slope to broad flat base. Southern side slightly stepped, steep to very steep braking sharply. | Width: 1.05 m Depth: 0.51 m |
| 79 | Clean natural sand. | - |
| 80 | Cut of ditch. Aligned roughly east – west. Steep sides breaking sharply to flat base. | Width: 0.4 m Depth: 0.34 m |
| 81 | Fill of Ditch 80. Mottled mid grey brown silty clay with patches of mid grey brown organic silt and pal yellow - orange sandy clay with occasional charcoal and small – medium stones. | - |
| 82 | Re-cut of Ditch 80. Aligned roughly east – west. Moderate to steep sides breaking sharply to concave base. | |

| Context Number | Description | Dimensions (m) |
|----------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 83 | Fill of Ditch 82. Dark grey brown firm organic silty clay with patches of yellow sand and occasional charcoal and small to medium stones. Possibly decayed turves. | - |
| 84 | Possible re-cut of Ditch 82. Steep sides with step on northern side and slightly concave base. | Width: 0.65 m Depth: 0.3 m |
| 85 | Fill of 84. Dark grey, very firm clay, increasingly yellowish grey with patches of yellowish grey sand towards edge of deposit. | - |
| 86 | Upper fill of Ditch 80. Pale yellowish grey fine silty sand with occasional charcoal and patches mid brown sandy silt. | - |
| 87 | Fill of Ditch 82. Dark brown organic silty clay with patches of yellow sand. | - |
| 88 | Fill of Ditch 90. Very mixed: 50% mid greyish brown silty loam, 40% light greyish and yellowish brown sand and dark greyish brown organic silty sand. Less mixed to south of deposit. | - |
| 89 | Fill of Ditch 90. Light to mid yellowish grey silty sand. | - |
| 90 | Cut of ditch. Aligned roughly east – west. Moderate very slightly concave sides (S. side slightly stepped) breaking gently to broad flat base. | Width: 1.4 m Depth: 0.4 m |
| 91 | Fill of Ditch 94. Light greyish brown silty loam. | - |
| 92 | Fill of Ditch 94. Very dark brown organic silty loam. | - |
| 93 | Fill of Ditch 94. Light to mid yellowish grey silty sand. | - |
| 94 | Cut of ditch. Aligned roughly east – west. Southern side steep slightly concave breaking sharply to concave base. | Width: >0.65 m Depth 0.44 m |
| 95 | Fill of Ditch 96. Very mixed deposit. Mid yellowish brown firm silty loam with lenses of grey brown silty loam and light yellowish brown sand with rare gravel. | - |
| 96 | Cut of ditch. Aligned roughly east – west. Steep slightly concave sides breaking gently to concave base. | Width: 1.1 m Depth: 0.3 m |
| 97 | Fill of Ditch 98. Dark greyish brown firm silty loam with light grey sand lenses and rare charcoal flecks. | - |
| 98 | Cut of ditch. Slightly deeper re-cut of Ditch 96. Aligned roughly east – west. Step slightly concave sides, stepped on south breaking gently to near flat base. | Width: 1.1 m Depth: 0.35 m |
| 99 | Fill of Ditch 78. Light yellowish brown silty sand. | - |

1.2 Photographic Registers

Film 2: Colour Slide and Black & White

| Shot no. | Direction Facing | Description |
|----------|------------------|---|
| 1 | - | ID shot |
| 2 | W | Post-ex shot of Barrel Well 50 |
| 3 | E | Post-ex shot of Barrel Well 50 |
| 4 | E | Post-ex shot of Barrel Well 50 |
| 5 | W | General view of site, pre-ex Deposit 53. |
| 6 | W | General view of site, pre-ex Deposit 53. |
| 7 | E | General view of site, pre-ex Deposit 53. |
| 8 | W | General view of site, post-ex Deposit 53. |
| 9 | W | Post-ex view Furrow 54. |
| 10 | NW | General shot of furrows. |
| 11 | NW | General shot of furrows. |
| 12 | W | General shot of furrows. |
| 13 | E | General shot of furrows. |
| 14 | N | South facing section Furrow 56. |
| 15 | N | South facing section Furrow 56. |
| 16 | E | Furrow 59. |
| 17 | NE | Post-ex shot of Furrows 61, 63 & 65. |
| 18 | NE | Post-ex shot of Furrows 61, 63, 65 & 67. |
| 19 | W | East facing section Ditches 75 & 78. |
| 20 | SE | Overall shot of Ditch. |
| 21 | E | West facing section Ditches 75 & 78 |
| 22 | W | East facing section Ditches 90 & 94 |
| 23 | E | West facing section Ditches 80, 82 & 84. |
| 24 | W | East facing section Ditches 80 & 82. |
| 25 | S | South facing section Ditch 96. |
| 26 | NW | South and east facing sections Ditches 96 & 98. |
| 27 | N | South facing sections Ditches 96 & 98. |
| 28 | NE | South and west facing sections Ditches 96 & 98. |
| 29 | SW | North and east facing sections Ditch 98. |

1.3 Drawing Register

| Drawing No. | Scale | Description |
|-------------|-------|--|
| 50 | 1:10 | West facing section Barrel Well 50 |
| 51 | 1:20 | Post-ex plan Barrel Well 50. |
| 52 | 1:10 | Facing section of Furrow 54. |
| 53 | 1:20 | Post-ex plan of Furrow 54. |
| 54 | 1:10 | South facing section of Furrow 56. |
| 55 | 1:20 | Post-ex plan of Furrow 56. |
| 56 | 1:10 | Facing section of Furrow 59. |
| 57 | 1:20 | Post-ex plan of Furrow 59. |
| 58 | 1:10 | South facing section Furrow 61. |
| 59 | 1:20 | Post-ex plan of Furrow 61. |
| 60 | 1:10 | South facing section Furrow 63. |
| 61 | 1:20 | Post-ex plan Furrow 63. |
| 62 | 1:10 | South facing section Furrow 65. |
| 63 | 1:20 | Post-ex plan Furrow 65. |
| 64 | 1:10 | South facing section Furrow 67. |
| 65 | 1:20 | Post-ex plan Furrow 67. |
| 66 | 1:50 | Pre-ex plan of ditch. |
| 67 | 1:10 | East facing section Ditches 80 & 82. |
| 68 | 1:10 | West facing section Ditches 80 & 82. |
| 69 | 1:20 | Post-ex plan of Ditch 80. |
| 70 | 1:20 | Post-ex plan Ditch 75. |
| 71 | 1:10 | East facing section Ditches 75 & 78. |
| 72 | 1:20 | Post-ex plan of Ditches 90 & 94. |
| 73 | 1:20 | Plan of Ditches 96 & 98. |
| 74 | 1:10 | East facing section Ditches 90 & 94. |
| 75 | 1:10 | South facing longitudinal section Ditches 96 & 98. |
| 76 | 1:10 | East facing section Ditch 96. |
| 77 | 1:10 | East facing section Ditch 98. |

APPENDIX 2: FINDS ASSESSMENT (EXCAVATION & EVALUATION)**Julie Franklin**

The combined assemblage from the evaluation and excavation consists of 102 sherds of pottery, 11 pieces of clay pipe and 10 fragments of glass. All these are small and abraded sherds, consistent with finds from agricultural land. They probably derive from the ploughing of midden material into the soil.

The finds range in date from the 13th or 14th century to the 19th or 20th, showing apparent continuous, if low level, activity throughout. The Medieval pottery is all Scottish made, and is typical of the range of Medieval wares found in the W of Scotland. More exotic wares are not found until the 17th or 18th century, with some fragments of Anglo-Dutch tin glazed earthenware.

Most contexts are mixed, however some contain only earlier material, suggesting some degree of stratification (e.g. 21, 57, 60, 62, & 88) contain only 16th century and earlier finds).

The small sherd size and mixed nature of the assemblage means there is little more which can be gleaned from this assemblage.

Pottery Catalogue

| Context Number | Fabric | Qty | Rim | Hand. | Base | Body | Description | Spot Date |
|----------------|--------|-----|-----|-------|------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 5 | PMR | 3 | | | | 3 | Olive glazed fragments | 17 th /e.18 th |
| 5 | WG | 1 | | | | 1 | Olive glazed | 13 th /15 th |
| 5 | MedR W | 4 | | | | 4 | Tiny fragments, one olive glazed | 13 th /16 th |
| 21 | MedR W | 1 | 1 | | | | Everted rim, sooted interior, degraded glaze | 13 th /16 th |
| 25 | BGRE | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | 18 th /19 th |
| 25 | MedR W | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | Thumbled bas, smooth redware, orange glazed sandy body | 14 th /15 th |
| 25 | ModW E | 5 | 2 | | 1 | 2 | Including creamware, blue transfer printing etc | 18 th /20 th |
| 25 | PMO | 1 | 1 | | | | Dish rim, orange glazed | 17 th -e.18 th |
| 25 | PMR | 3 | | 1 | | 2 | Strap handle, combed decoration | 17 th -e.18 th |
| 25 | RGW | 6 | | | 1 | 5 | Green glazed sandy sherds | 16 th |

| Context Number | Fabric | Qty | Rim | Hand. | Base | Body | Description | Spot Date |
|----------------|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 25 | Slip Decorated Red Earthen-ware | 4 | 1 | | | 3 | Bowl rim?, various sherds, slip lined green glaze, slip strips, marbling | 18 th /19 th |
| 25 | WSGS W | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | Plate base | 18 th |
| 52 | ModS W | 1 | | | | 1 | Fragment, brown and grey glaze | 19 th /20 th |
| 52 | ModW E | 1 | 1 | | | | Fragment | 18 th /20 th |
| 52 | Porcelain | 1 | | | | 1 | Unglazed moulded porcelain fragment, from vessel of object | 18 th /20 th |
| 53 | BGRE | 2 | | | | 2 | Brown and near black glazed | 17 th /19 th |
| 53 | MedR W | 3 | | | 1 | 2 | Sandy, unglazed | 14 th /16 th |
| 53 | ModW E | 17 | 3 | | 3 | 11 | Various types, creamware, pearlware, transfer printed etc. | 18 th /20 th |
| 53 | PMR | 3 | | | 1 | 2 | Footed jug base | 17 th /e.18 th |
| 53 | RGW | 8 | | 2 | | 6 | Thumbed strap handle and handle/dripping dish rim? | 15 th /16 th |
| 53 | TGE | 5 | | | 1 | 4 | Hand panted in blue, cream and white bodies | 17 th /18 th |
| 53 | U/I | 1 | 1 | | | | Rim fragment, soft pale fabric, clear glaze | |
| 53 | WG | 1 | 1 | | | | Jug rim, red heat skin, glaze spots | 14 th /15 th |
| 53 | WSGS W | 3 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | 18 th |
| 55 | MedR W | 3 | | | | 3 | Unglazed, olive glazed, on sooty CP fragment | 12 th /15 th |
| 55 | PMR | 1 | | | | 1 | Fragment, olive | 17 th /e.18 th |

| Context Number | Fabric | Qty | Rim | Hand. | Base | Body | Description | Spot Date |
|----------------|--------|-----|-----|-------|------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | | glazed | |
| 57 | RGW | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | Jug bas, thumbled handle sherd | 15 th /16 th |
| 60 | MedR W | 1 | | | | 1 | Fragment, orange glazed | 13 th /15 th |
| 60 | RGW | 4 | | | 1 | 3 | Coarse jug sherds | 15 th /16 th |
| 62 | MedR W | 1 | 1 | | | | Coarse rim sherd, unglazed | 14 th /16 th |
| 62 | RGW | 2 | 1 | | 1 | | Jug sherds | 15 th /16 th |
| 68 | PMR | 1 | | | | 1 | Jug fragment | 17 th /e.18 th |
| 68 | RGW | 4 | | | | 4 | Jug sherds | 15 th /16 th |
| 88 | MedR W | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | Jug rim and two different strap handles, pale orange gritty fabric, olive glaze | 14 th /15 th |
| 88 <3> | MedR W | 1 | | | | 1 | Olive glazed, pale orange fabric | 13 th /15 th |

Abbreviations: BGRE=brown glazed red earthenware; MedRW=medieval redware; ModSW=modern stoneware; ModWE=modern white earthenware; PMO=post-medieval oxidised; PMR=post-medieval reduced; RGW=reduced greyware; TGE=tin glazed earthenware; U/I=unidentified; WG=white gritty; WSGSW=white salt glazed stoneware

Finds Catalogue

| Context Number | Material | Qty | Description | Spot Date |
|----------------|-----------|-----|---|--------------------------------------|
| 5 | Clay Pipe | 1 | Small bowl fragment, probably bulbous bowl (in pot bag) | 17 th /e.18 th |
| 5 | Glass | 1 | Fragment of green glass | 18 th /20 th |
| 25 | Bone | 2 | | |
| 25 | Clay Pipe | 4 | Stem sherds, 3 wide, 1 narrow | 17 th -19 th |
| 52 | Clay Pipe | 1 | Narrow bore mouthpiece, unglazed, teethmarks visible with hole worn or bored in one side to increase smoke inhalation | 19 th /e.20 th |
| 52 | Glass | 1 | Window sherd, fine clear | 19 th /20 th |
| 52 | Glass | 1 | Button. Opaque white glass button sherd with two, possibly four holes (in pot bag) | 19 th /20 th |
| 53 | CBM | 1 | Fragment of stoneware pipe sherd | 18 th /19 th |
| 53 | Clay Pipe | 5 | 1 bowl, large bell shaped, unmarked 4 wide bore stem fragments | 17 th -19 th |

| | | | | |
|--------|-------|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 53 | Glass | 4 | Window sherds, clear | 18 th /20 th |
| 53 | Glass | 1 | Bottle sherd, olive green | 18 th /20 th |
| 81 <2> | Glass | 1 | Tiny fragment, clear | 17 th /20 th |
| 88 <3> | Glass | 1 | Tiny fragment, green/brown? | 17 th /20 th |

APPENDIX 3: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| SITE CODE | RSD03 | SITE NAME | Risk Street Dumbarton |
| AUTHOR | T Holden/M Hastie | | |

SAMPLING STRATEGY

Bulk samples were taken from a representative cross section of the fills of the boundary ditch and a single sample was taken from one of the furrows to characterise the fills of these features.

METHODOLOGY

Sub-samples were taken and checked for waterlogged material. The samples were found not to be waterlogged and were processed as dry samples.

All samples were subjected to a system of flotation in a Siraf style flotation tank. The floating debris (flot) was collected in a 250 μ m sieve and, once dry, scanned using a binocular microscope. Any material remaining in the flotation tank (retent) was wet-sieved through a 1 mm mesh and air-dried. This was then sorted and any material of archaeological significance removed.

The results are summarised in Tables 1 and 2.

RESULTS

| Sample number | Context number | Pottery | Glass | Metallic cf. slag | Burnt Bone | Unburnt bone | Fish bone | Marine shell | Coal/cinders | Charcoal |
|---------------|----------------|---------|-------|-------------------|------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| - | 5 | + | + | + | ++ | ++ | + | | ++++ | |
| 1 | 83 | | | | + | | | + | ++++ | + |
| 2 | 81 | | + | | + | | | | + | + |
| 3 | 88 | + | + | | + | | | | +++ | + |
| 4 | 92 | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | 95 | | | | | | | | ++ | + |
| 6 | 93 | | | | | | | | ++ | + |

Table 1. Composition of retents.

Key: + = rare, ++ = occasional, +++ = common and ++++ = abundant

| Sample number | Context number | Total flot vol (ml) | Charred cereal grain | Charred weed seed | Coal/cinders | Charcoal | Comments |
|---------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------|------------------------------|
| - | 5 | 20 | | | + | ++ | |
| 1 | 83 | 10 | + | + | ++ | ++ | Oat + Spargula arvensis + |
| 2 | 81 | 10 | | | + | | Rhizome x 1 |
| 3 | 88 | 10 | + | | | + | Barley + |
| 4 | 92 | 15 | + | | + | + | Oat + |
| 5 | 95 | 10 | | | + | + | |
| 6 | 93 | 10 | | | + | + | Iron panning |

Table 2. Composition of flots.

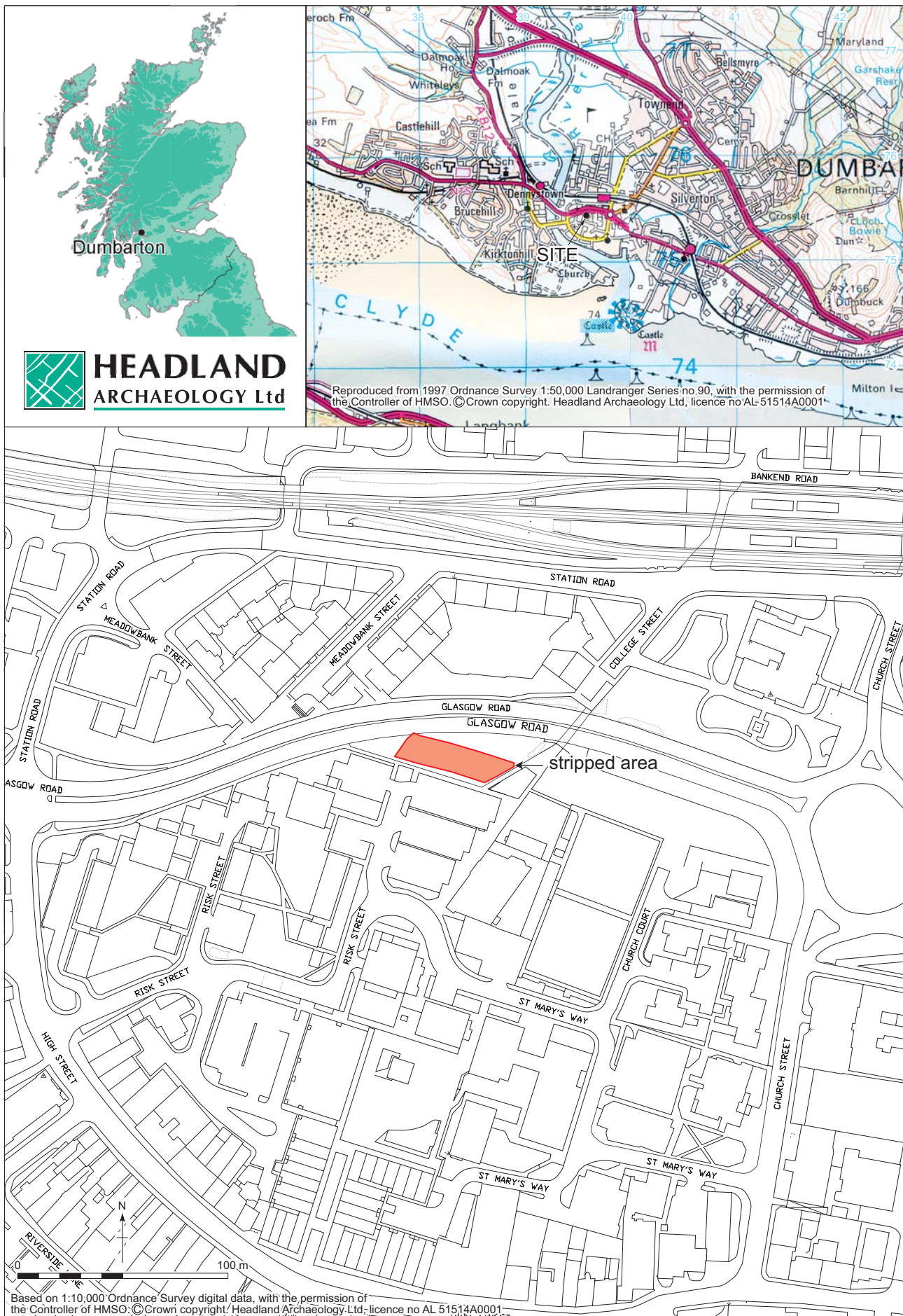
Key: + = rare, ++ = occasional, +++ = common and ++++ = abundant

DISCUSSION

The processing of the samples produced a broad range of material types. In most samples bone preservation was restricted to burnt material, although Context 5 contained small quantities of un-burnt mammal and fish bone. Botanical remains were restricted to those remains that had become charred. These included rare barley and oat grains, weed seeds and wood charcoal. The finds include pottery and glass.

With the exception of coal, cinders and wood charcoal, which were present in most samples, the distribution of remains was patchy. The general character of the remains, cereal grain, pottery sherds, fuel waste and animal bone is in keeping with material from a domestic midden. The recovery of such materials from agricultural features is most likely the result of the use of midden material as a manure in the fields. This practice has been commonplace since the pre-historic period and was regularly practised until recent times.

Apart from assisting in the characterisation of the sediments the remains offer little potential for further analysis.



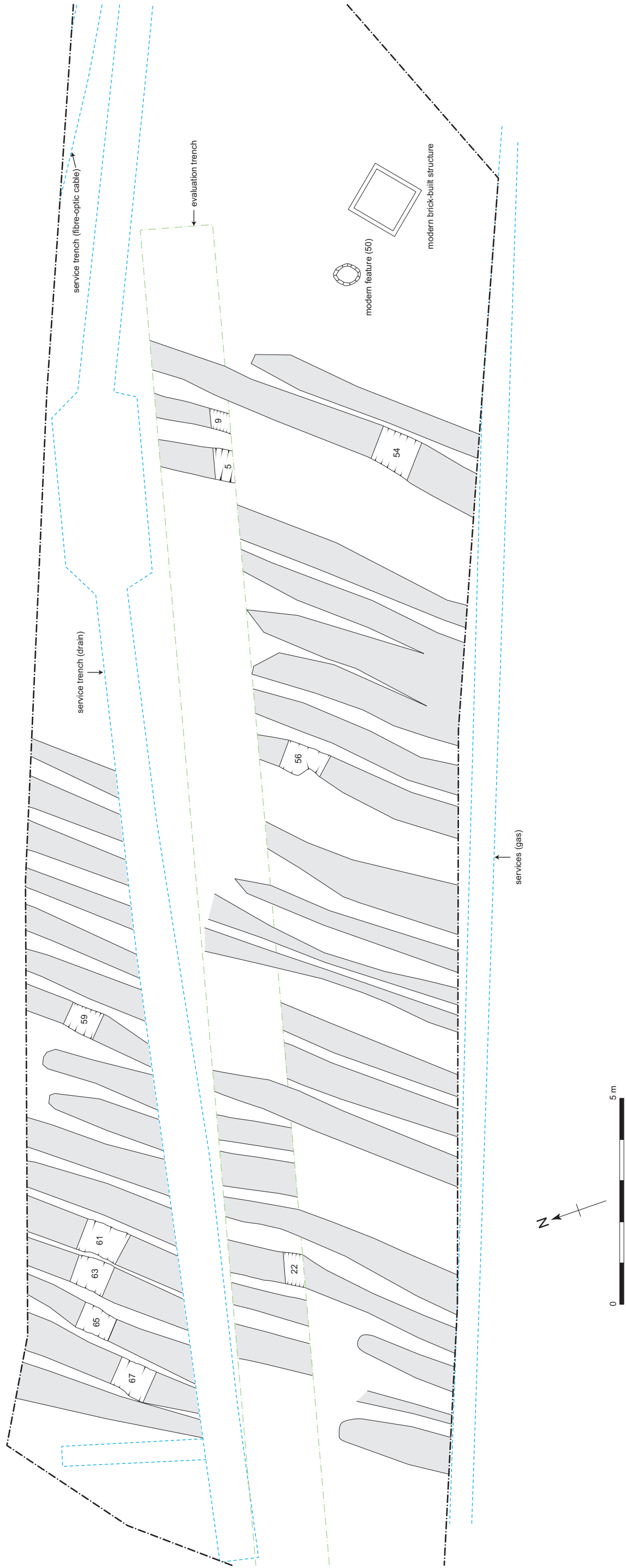


Figure 2. Risk Street, Dumbarton - furrows

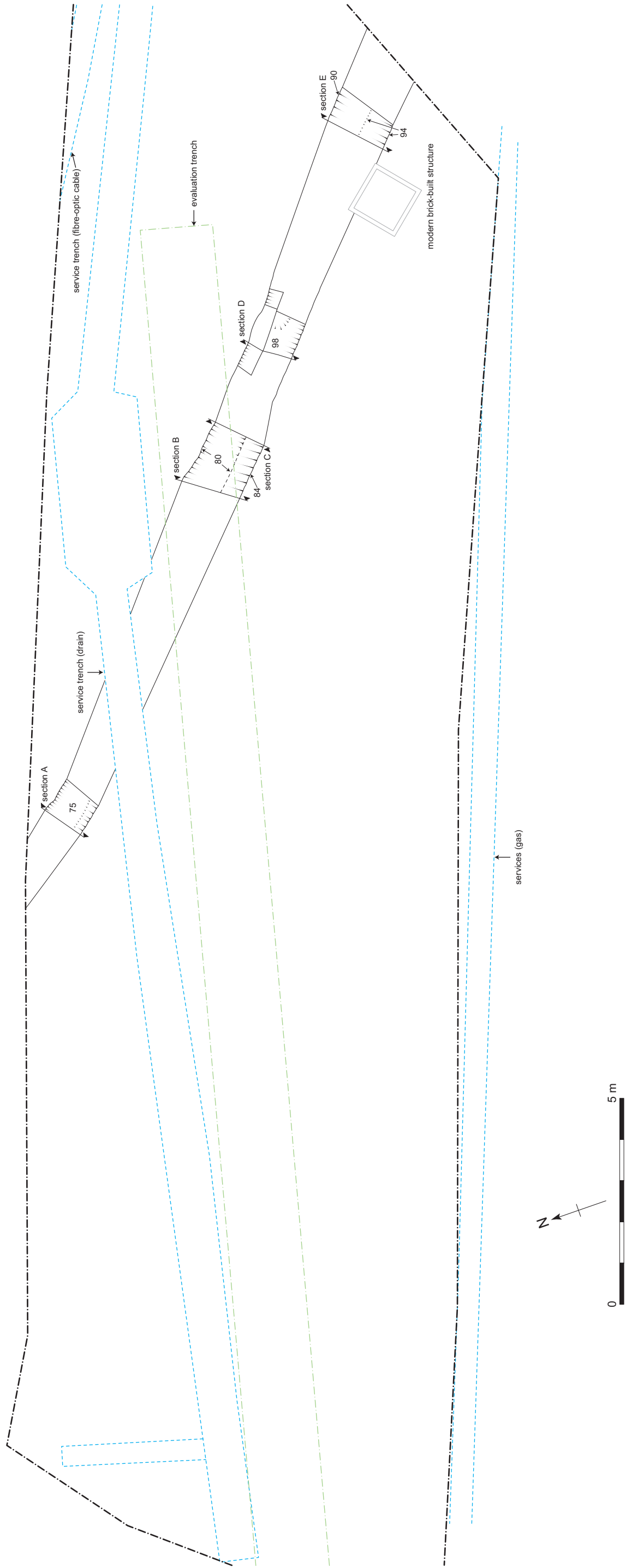


Figure 3. Risk Street, Dumbarton - Probable plot boundary ditch

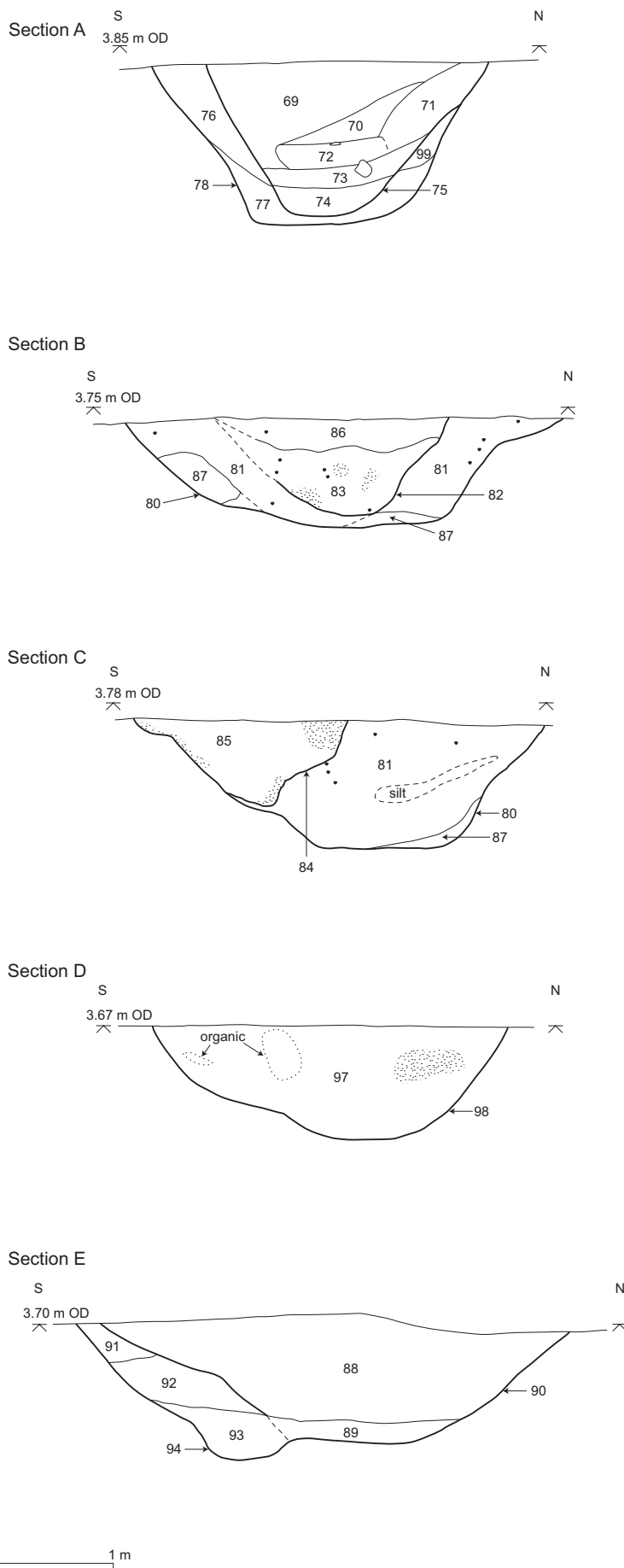


Figure 4. Risk Street, Dumbarton - sections across probable plot boundary ditch