

TIME FOR CHANGE

Do you like drawing trench plans in the rain and wind, trying to position drawing frames accurately, bending over all day. If you do, read no further, but if you don't then consider the following.

The photograph (Plate1) shows a 6m x 2m trench cut across a dividing wall and outer walls of a possible Anglo Saxon period dwelling. This photograph was taken using a photographic pole, a Panasonic lx3 digital camera with a 24mm wide lens, and a shutter firing device mounted on the flash holder. A wireless transmitter was attached to the A/V output on the camera which transmitted the signal to a pair of video goggles worn by the operator. Moving the pole around enabled the camera to be centred over the trench, thus removing parallax effect.

The trench area was cut out of the photograph using Photoshop, a sheet of clear acetate was placed over it and the stone wall remains were drawn. To assist the drawing of smaller detail the photograph can be enlarged on the computer screen which gives a clearer definition of the features although this was not needed in the example shown. The drawing could of course be done on a computer screen using drawing software, this is a matter of personal preference. Should different contexts need to be defined these could be outlined on the ground with coloured string or cord which could then be traced on to the acetate drawing, this is then placed on a scanner with a sheet of white paper over it. When the file is saved a north arrow and scale bar can also be added and any other symbols required, the finished drawing is shown in Fig1.



Plate1 Photograph

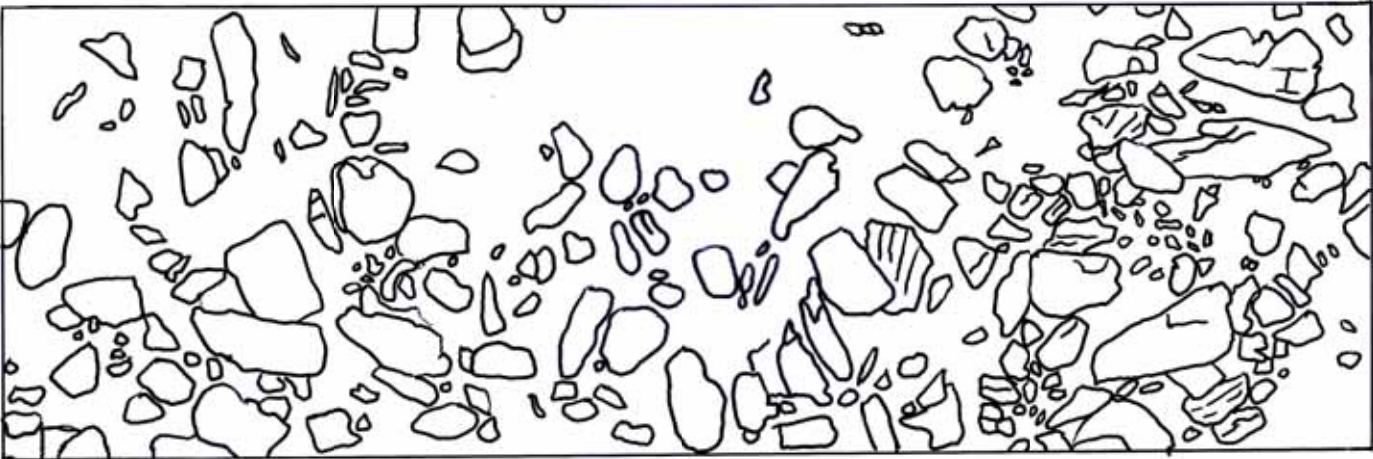


Fig1 Drawing