

DEVELOPMENT ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICES Ltd

SUMMARY NOTE ON THE RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION ON LAND AT LAND AT WANDLEYS FARM, WANDLEYS LANE, WALBURTON, WEST SUSSEX. PO203AA

PLANNING REFERENCE:

WA/76/17/PL

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

[Site Centred at National Grid Reference:
SU 953065 [E: 495338-N: 106554]

PREPARED FOR
Mr. K. Lillywhite



By

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June 2019

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation involving the excavation of seven trial trenches was carried out by Development Archaeology Services Ltd (DAS) on the 8th June 2019. The evaluation / investigation was guided by a previously submitted Written Scheme of Investigation [WSI].

A total survey area of 252m² was investigated representing > 5% of the potential impact area of the proposed development.

The archaeological trial trench assessment of this proposed development site provided a thorough and a comprehensive sampling of the survey area. The trial trenching of this site revealed a simple deposit sequence which consisted of a thin topsoil horizon which overlay a natural horizon of brickearth silts seen in association with granular 'armoured' natural flint solifluction gravels.

This deposit sequence was recorded throughout the whole survey area within a total of four representative sections.

In Trench 1 at the north of the site a modern dump / burnt area contacting modern ferrous debris was exposed.

Within Trench 6 a modern land drain was recorded. In Trench 7 a chalk land drain, tentatively assigned a late C1th / mid C20th date, was recorded.

This archaeological trial trenching did not identify any significant archaeological activity or finds within this assessment site.

It is suggested that the low level of signified of finds made during the investigation confirm that no additional monitoring / investigation within the site area is required.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Development Archaeology Services Limited (DAS) was commissioned by Mr. K. Lillywhite to undertake an archaeological field evaluation at the study / application site at Wandleys Farm, Wandleys Lane, Walburton, West Sussex, PO20 3AA. The archaeological evaluation was carried out at the development site on the 22nd September 2017.
- 1.2 This report documents the results of the archaeological evaluation, which was undertaken in accordance with a Brief and Specification prepared by Development Archaeology Services Ltd, DAS [Pine 2019]. This document was submitted to and approved by Mr James Kenny, the Archaeological Officer of Chichester District Council (in his capacity as archaeological advisor on planning issues to Arun District Council the Local Planning Authority (LPA)), prior to the commencement of the on-site works. This approach complies with the principles established in *NPPF: Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide* (Department of Culture, Media and Sport, 2010) and *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluations* (IFA, 2008).
- 1.3 Copies of this report will be deposited with the clients, Mr James Kenny of Chichester District Council, the designated recipient Museum [Littlehampton Museum] along with an ordered project archive for long term storage and curation.

2. Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The development / application site is situated on the upper -mid Sussex Coastal Plain, at National Grid Reference SU 953065 [E: 495338-N: 106554] and at a height of approximately +21.00m AOD. For site location see **Figure 1**.
- 2.2 Present site conditions: The gross site area site area is approximately 8,000m² in area. The proposed build / impact areas within the gross site area are estimated at c. 4,500m². The site is presently under rough grassland / pasture.
- 2.3 The site is bounded on its north western edge by Wandleys Lane. Wandleys Farm and associated residential building lie immediately to the north. To the south and east the site is bounded by hedgerows separating the site from surrounding farm land.

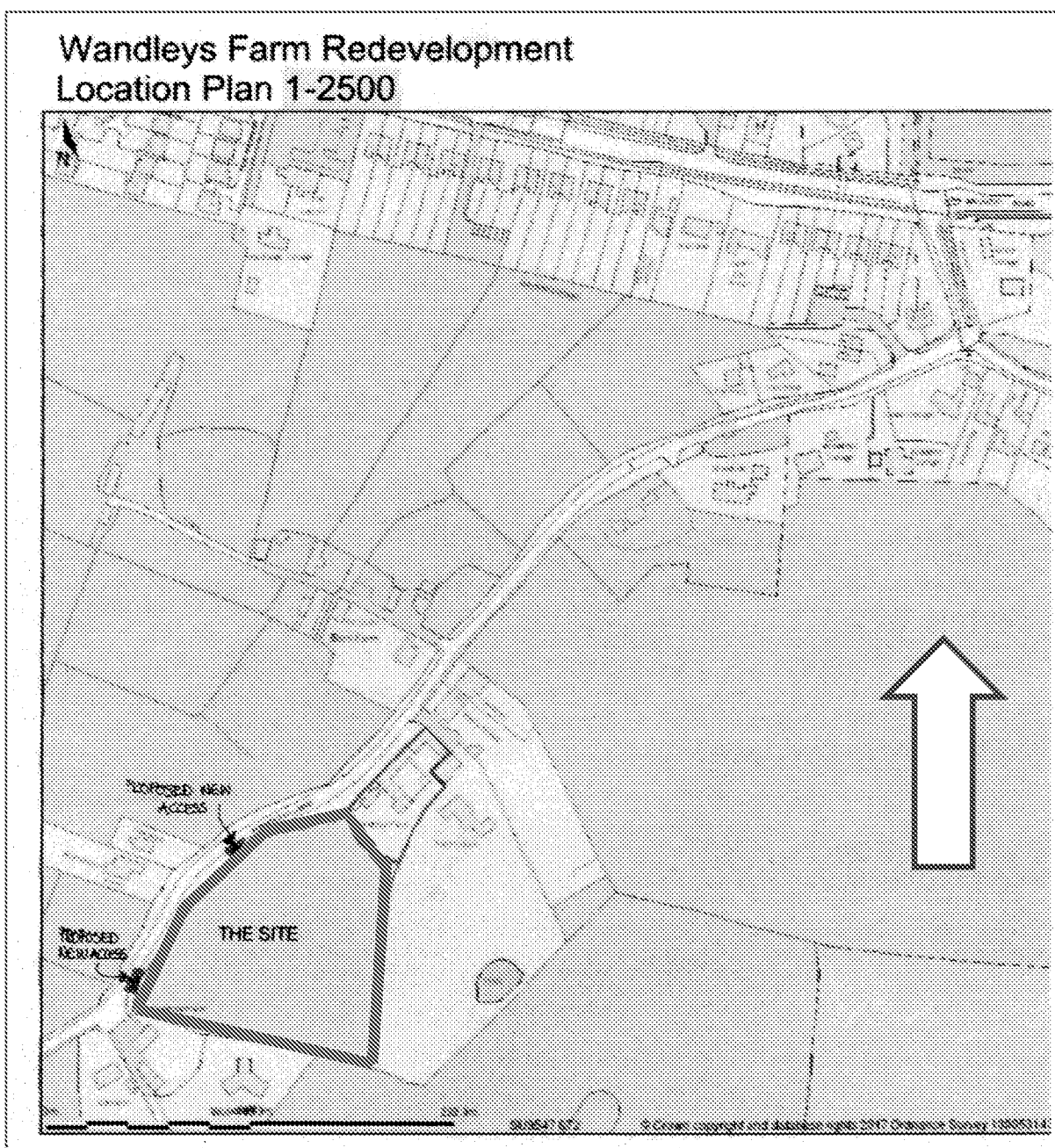


Figure 1: Site location.



Site centred at approximately SU 953065 [E: 495338-N: 106554]

Post code [nearest] PO203AA

3. Planning Background

- 3.1 Following the application for development at the site the following advice was given by J. Kenny [CDC's Archaeology Officer, as consultant to Arun District Council].

- 3.2 APPLICATION NO: WA/76/17/PL

This site lies on a part of the West Sussex coastal plain where archaeological deposits, particularly relating to utilisation of the land in the later prehistoric and Roman periods, have been demonstrated to concentrate. In the circumstances it would be appropriate for the site to be investigated prior to redevelopment in order that deposits of significance that are present might be properly preserved. I therefore recommend a version of standard condition ARC 1 as follows:

No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.

The intention would be to secure a limited evaluation of the footprints of the proposed buildings followed by further investigation if appropriate.

James Kenny
Archaeology adviser
12/12/2017

- 3.3 After discussion with the archaeological adviser [J. Kenny CDC] to the LPA [Arun District Council] it was agreed that the required program of archaeological investigation would be the implementation of a program of purposive archaeological trial trenching. The proposed 'evaluation' would sample, c. 5% of the impact development area with provision, subject to consideration of the results of first phase investigation, for an additional phase of investigation either pre-construction or intra construction as appropriate all subject to advice from Arun District Council's archaeological advisor [in this case J. Kenny Chichester District Council's archaeology officer]
- 3.6 As a result of all discussions and considering advice from J. Kenny DAS Ltd prepared and submitted the required Written Scheme of Investigation [WSI] for archaeological investigation for the site [Pine 2019]. All works were guided by the approved specification.

4. Topographical Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 Topographically, the site is situated on the upper -mid Sussex Coastal Plain, at National Grid Reference SU 953065 [E: 495338-N: 106554] and at a height of approximately +21.00m AOD. For site location refer to Figures 1.
- 4.2 Present site conditions: The gross site area is approximately 8,000m² in area. The proposed build / impact areas within the gross site area are estimated at c. 4,500m². The site is presently under rough grassland / pasture.
- 4.3 The site is bounded on its north western edge by Wandleys Lane. Wandleys Farm and associated residential building lie immediately to the north. To the south and east the site is bounded by hedgerows separating the site from surrounding farm land.
- 4.4 The site lies on the West Sussex Lower Coastal Plain, an area that has provided archaeological evidence for all periods [see 3.2]. Experience has shown that archaeological evaluation of sites of any size where no archaeological finds have previously been made can often produce significant hitherto unknown remains.
- 4.4 It is considered that at the study site the presence of archaeology of all ages should be considered as possible. Some disturbance from previous phases of landscaping may have compromised the archaeological resource.

5. Methodology

- 5.1 The archaeological evaluation was carried out at the development site on the 8th of June 2019. A total of seven evaluation trenches were excavated at space site locations as shown at Figure 2.
- 5.2 A total area of approximately 252m² of trenching was excavated equating to c. > 5% of the development impact area
- 5.2 Trenches were positioned at spaced site intervals to allow a thorough sample of the site to be undertaken. For trench distribution within the site area refer to Figure 2. Note Trench 3 was divided into 2 [Trench 3A & 3B] due to the presence of a predicted / advised service run in this site area.
- 5.2 The trenches were surveyed in and excavated under the supervision of a suitably qualified and/or experienced archaeologist(s). A contingency provision for an additional 75m² of trial

trenching for additional investigations was available though due to the negative results of preliminary trenching the contingency was not required / taken up.

5.3 The initial excavation of the trial trenches was undertaken by a c. 3.5 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a c.1.40-metre-wide toothless ditching bucket. The machine excavated in less than 10cm spits.

5.4 Four representative sections were prepared and recorded [see Plates 3,6,10 and 17].

5.5 A photographic record of trenches was made [See Plates 1-17 reproduced in this report].

6. Results:

6.1 All trenches exhibited a broadly similar sequence comprising of a thin poorly developed topsoil overlying brickearth silts seen in association with moderately to densely compacted flint gravel spreads.

6.2 Within Trench 1 a discreet area of debris within shallow modern cuts within the brickearth and gravels. These disturbed areas are commensurate with modern rubbish or domestic bonfire deposits and are considered to be of no archaeological significance. [See Plates 1 and 2]

6.3 Within Trench 6 a modern land drain was recorded [see Plate 14].

6.4 Within the north part of Trench 7 a chalk land drain was recorded. This drain is tentatively assigned a late C19th -mid C20th date.

6.4 No significant archaeological features and/or deposits were identified at this site and there were no archaeologically significant finds.

7.0 Confidence Rating:

7.1 The methodology employed demonstrated the absence of impact on any significant archaeology while providing sufficient time to record the deposit sequence observed.

7.2 Considering the results of the survey a more detailed level of archaeological investigation clearly would not have been necessary. It is considered that the implemented methodology was sufficient to record any archaeology present.

8. Acknowledgements

- 8.1 Thanks are gratefully extended to Mr. K. Lillywhite for commissioning this project and cooperation through all phases of work and to James Kenny [Chichester District Councils archaeology officer for his assistance and comments throughout.

Bibliography:

Pine C.A. 2019. *Brief and Specification for an archaeological investigation at Wandleys Farm, Wandleys Lane, Walburton PO203AA*. Grey literature submitted in response to imposed planning Condition Arun District Council Application WA/76/17/PL.

Museum of London, 1994. *Archaeological Site Manual: M.O.L.A.S. Over Wallop, Hants*. BAS Printers Ltd.9

Soil Survey of England & Wales, (1983), *Soils of South East England, map sheet no. 6, scale 1: 25,000*

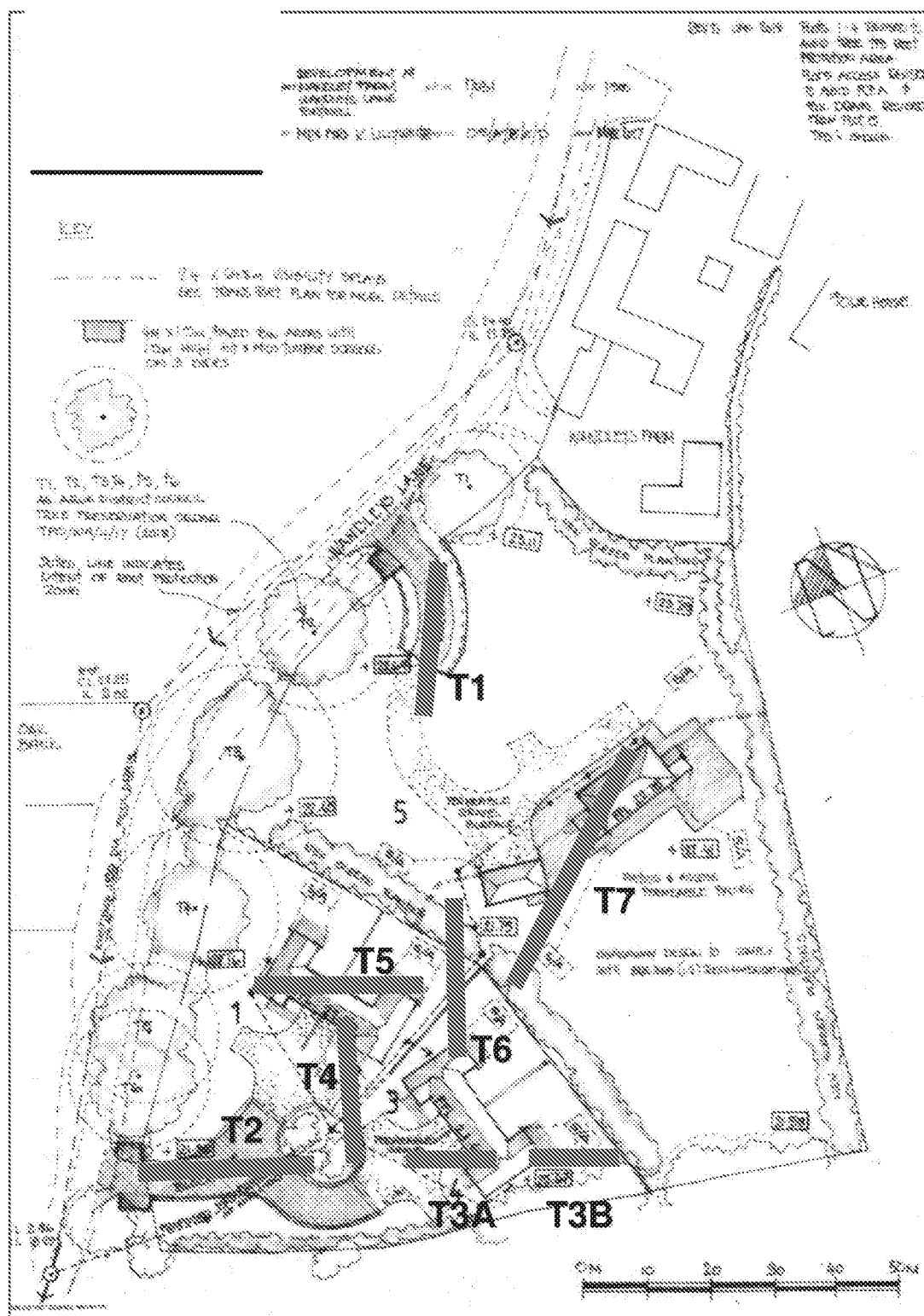


Figure 2: Location of evaluation trenches 1-7 relative to proposed build footprints [including access routes]

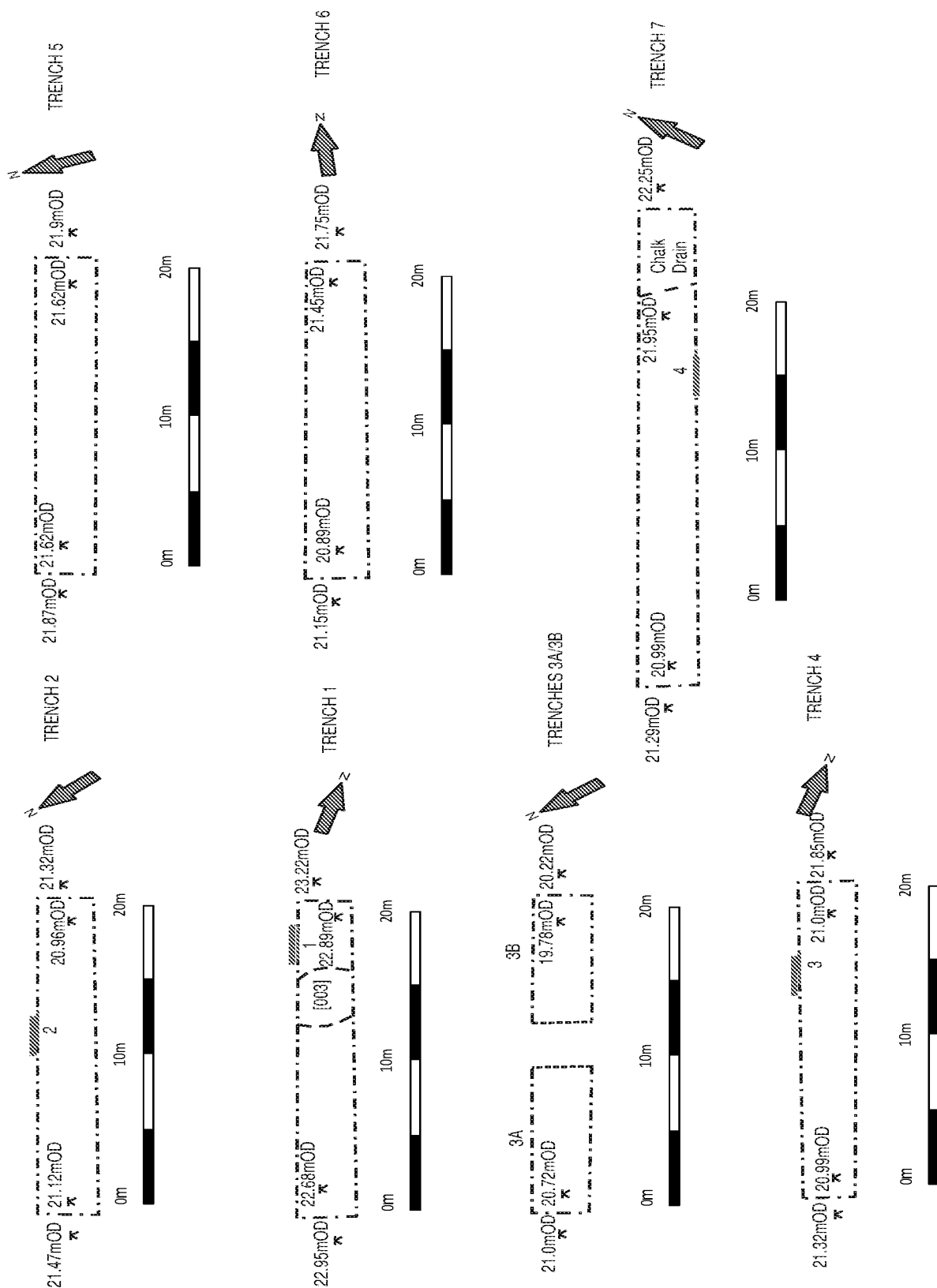


Figure 3: Trench plans 1-7. Shows location of representative Sections 1-4

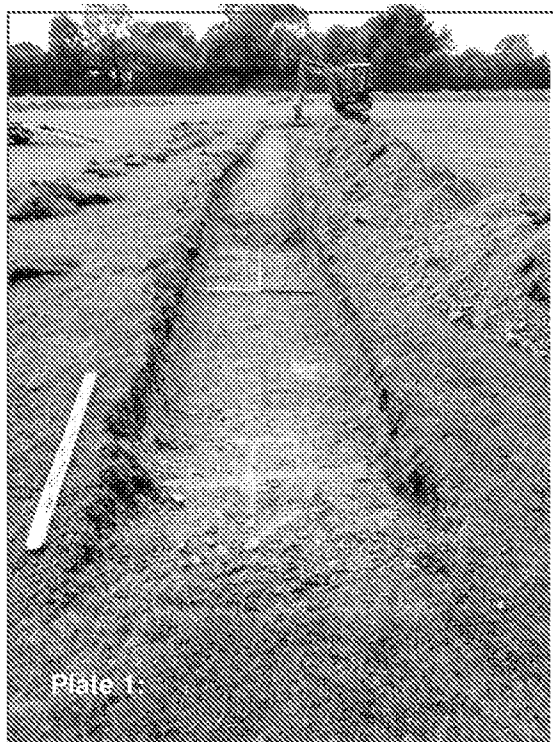


Plate 1: Trench 1 viewed from the north looking to the south

Plate 2: Showing; modern burnt spread [003] located at north end of Trench 1.

For trench location refer to Figure 2.

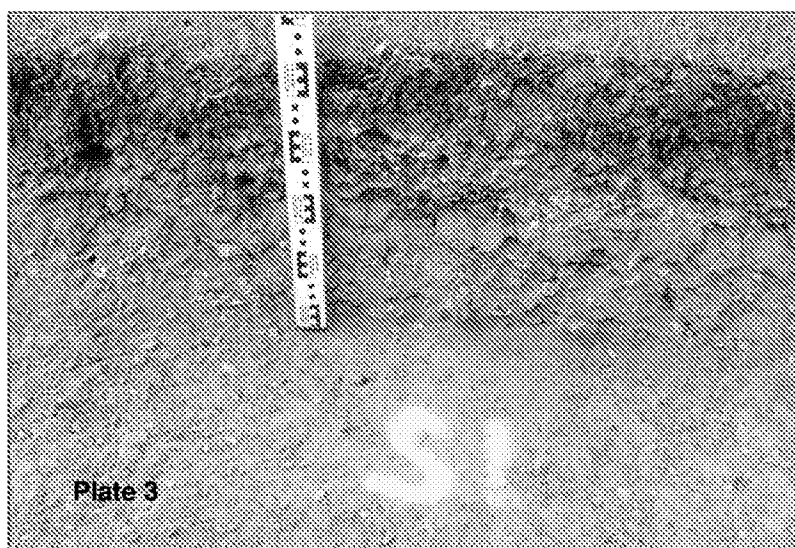


Plate 3: East facing **Section 1** within Trench 1

Shows contact to upper brickearth / gravel silts at c. 0.20m depth [c. +23.00m OD.

For location within Trench 1 refer to Figure 3.

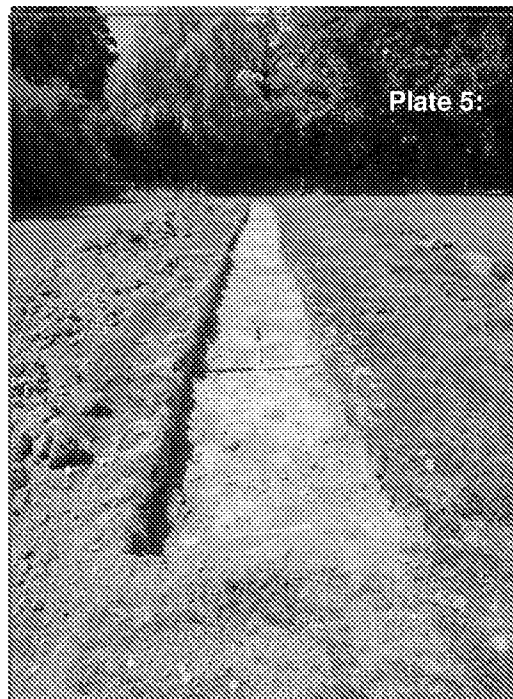


Plate 4: Trench 2 viewed from the west looking to the east.

Plate 5: Trench 2 viewed from the east looking to the west. Mottled patching attributed to previous shrub growth over this localised site area. [Selected discolouration area hand trowelled and confirmed a localised patch of heavy rooting [modern]]

For trench location refer to Figure 2.

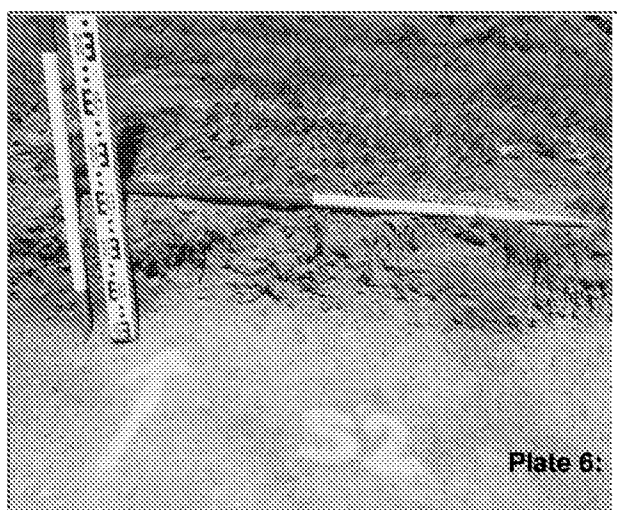


Plate 6: Section 2 within Trench 2. Shows contact to upper brickearth / gravel silts at c. 0.14m depth [c. +21.22m OD]

For location within Trench 1 refer to Figure 3.

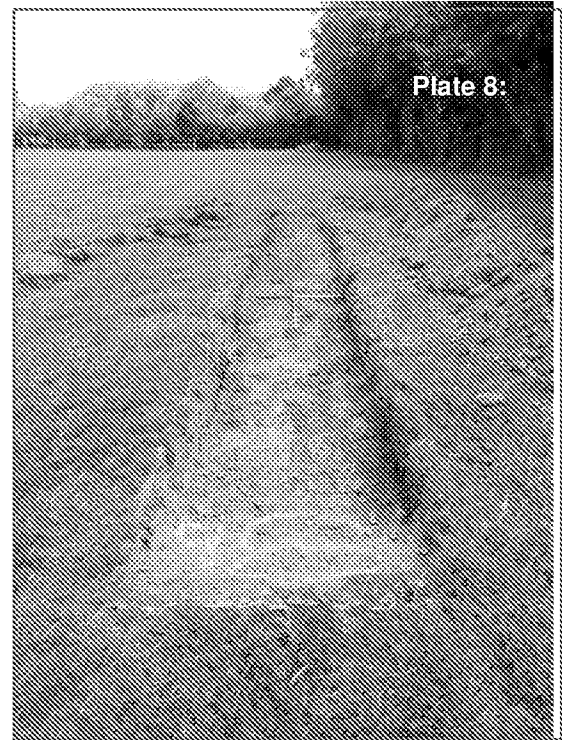
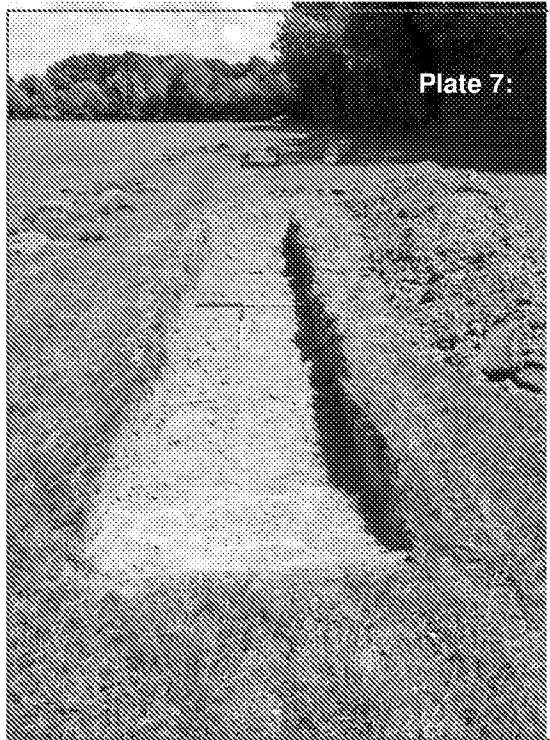


Plate 7: Trench 3A viewed from the west looking east.

Plate 8: Trench 3B viewed from the west looking to the east.

For trench location refer to Figure 2.

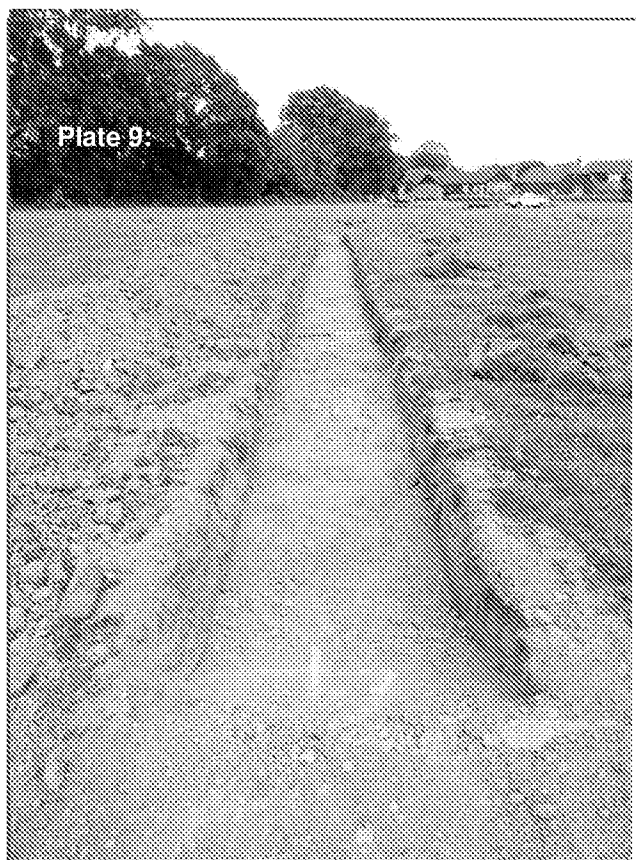


Plate 9: Trench 4 viewed from the south looking towards the north of the site area.

For trench location refer to Figure 2.

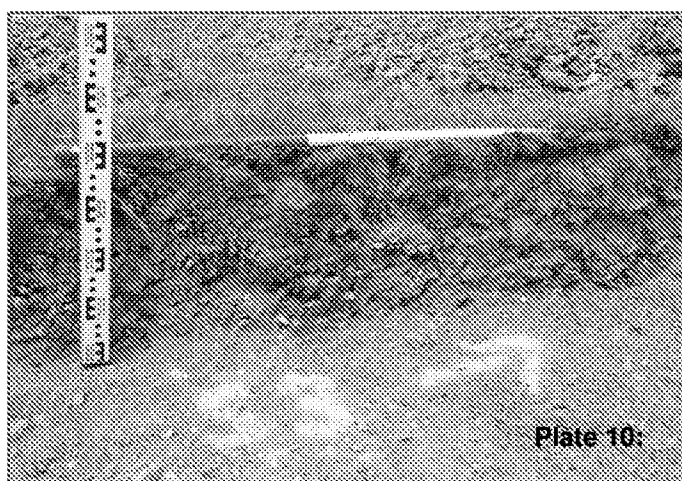


Plate 10: Section 3, within Trench 4. Shows contact to upper brickearth / gravel silts at c. 0.20m depth [c. +21.70m OD]

For location within Trench 4 refer to Figure 3.

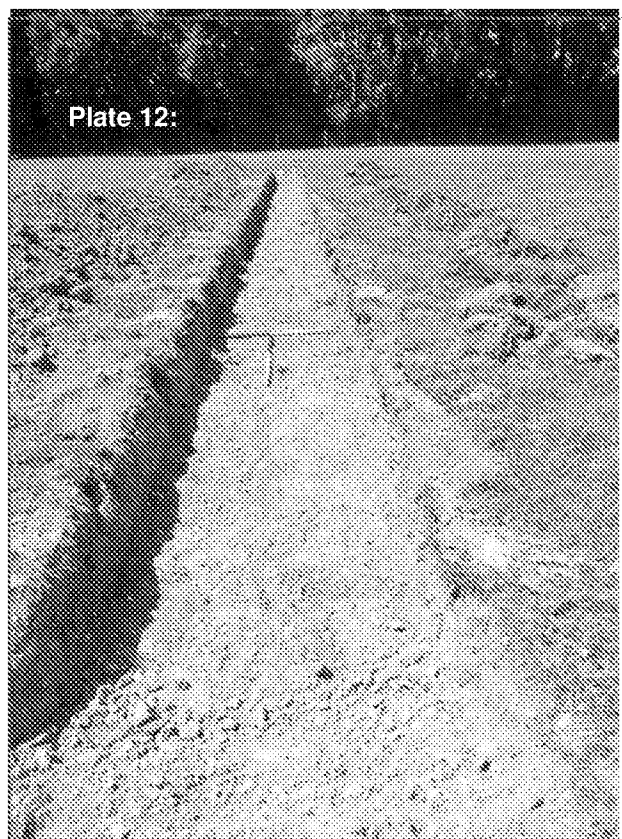
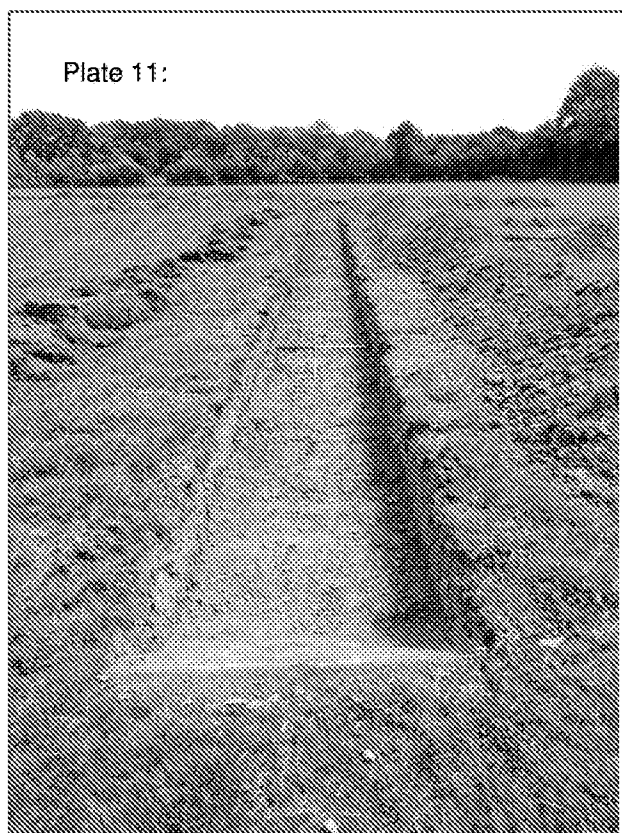


Plate 11: Trench 5 viewed from the west looking towards the east

Plate 12: Trench 5 viewed from the east looking towards the west.

For trench location refer to Figure 2.

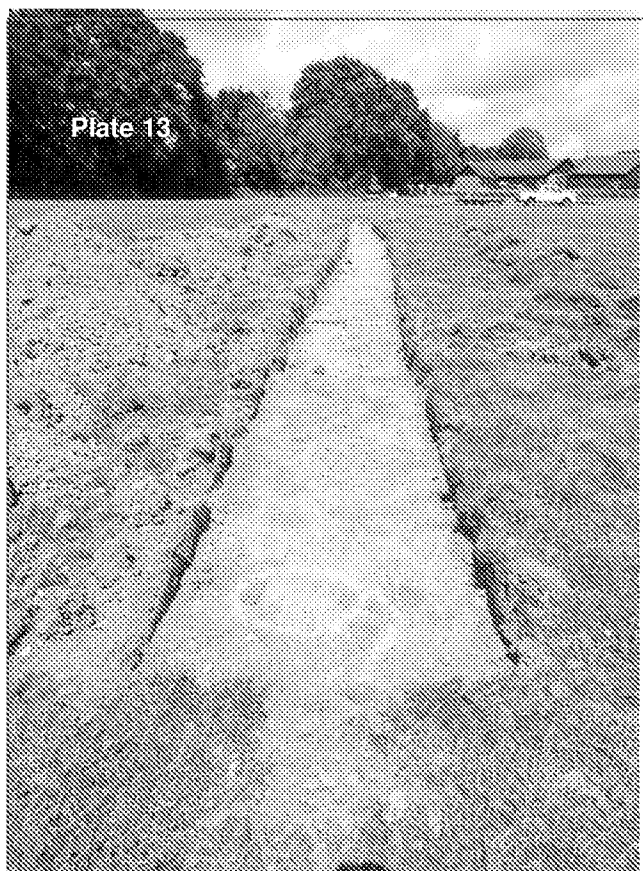


Plate 13: Trench 6 viewed from the south looking towards the north of the site area.

For trench location refer to Figure 2.



Plate 14: Southern end of Trench 6 showing line of modern land drain [not excavated, left undisturbed].

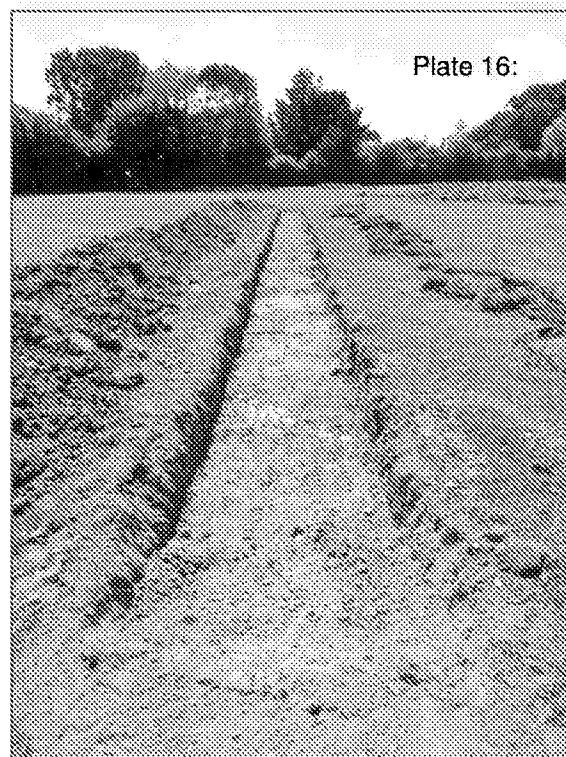
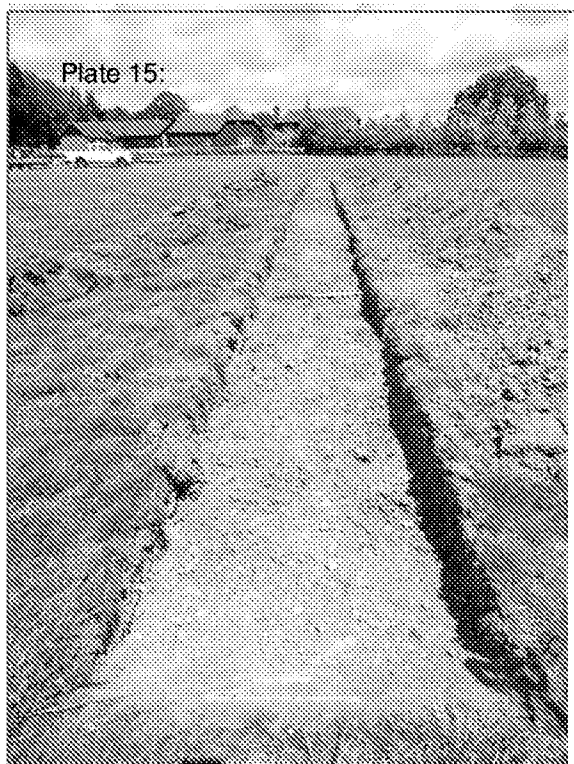


Plate 15: Trench 7 viewed from the south looking to the north

Plate 16: Trench 7 viewed from the north looking south. Shows location of chalk land drain.

For trench location refer to Figure 2.

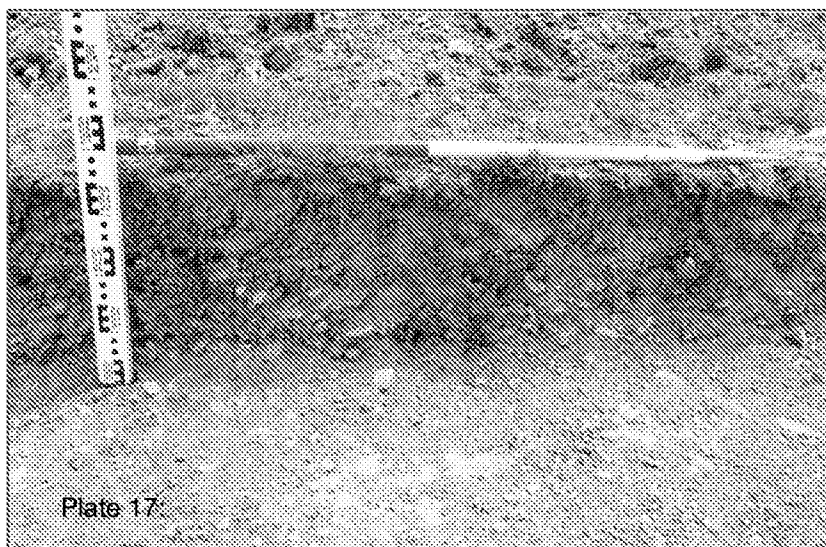


Plate 17: North facing Section 4 within Trench 7.

Shows contact to upper brickearth / gravel silts at c. 0.20m depth [c. +22.05m OD]

For location within Trench 4 refer to Figure 3.