

*Final Report of Archaeological Investigations at Broadgate
Road, Sutton St Edmund.*

(TF 369 132)

Planning application No: H19/0546/97
& H19/0547/97

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Litchfield County Council
Middletown, CT

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Contents

- 1.0 Summary**
- 2.0 Introduction**
 - 2.1 Planning history and circumstances of the project
 - 2.2 The client
 - 2.3 Archaeological Staff
 - 2.4 Project Dates
 - 2.5 Site Size
 - 2.6 Design Brief Specification
- 3.0 Archaeological Background**
- 4.0 The Archaeological Excavations**
 - 4.1 Aims and Objectives
 - 4.2 Project Constraints
 - 4.3 Methodology
 - 4.4 Results
- 5.0 Confidence Rating**
- 6.0 Discussion**
- 7.0 References**
- 8.0 Appendix A - Figures**
 - Figure 1 - Regional plan
 - Figure 2 - Site location plan
 - Figure 3 - Trench location plan
 - Figure 4 - Trench plans

Figure 5 - Profile 1

Figure 6 - Profile 2

Figure 7 - Profile 3

Appendix B - Plates

Plate 1. .View of the site from the southwest and northeast

Plate 2 - View of trench 1 and profile 1

Plate 3 - View of trench 2 and profile 2

Plate 4 - View of trench 3 and profile 3

1.0 *Summary*

Site name: Broadgate Road, Sutton St. Edmund.

Client: Mrs Greenacre, Gorefield, Wisbech.

Plant Contractors: DES Plant Hire Ltd, Whittlesey.

Archaeological Contractor: Soke Archaeological Services Ltd.

Archaeological Project Manager: Francis Pryor MBE MA PhD FSA MIFA

Planning Application Number: H19/0546/97 & H19/0547/97.

National Grid Reference: TF 369 132

Planning Authority: South Holland District Council.

Nature of Development: Development of private residence and double garage.

It was proposed that, prior to the development of a private residential building at Broadgate Road, Sutton St. Edmund, an archaeological evaluation would be carried out, in order to determine the impact upon any surviving deposits from the proposed works. Excavations commenced in July 2000 were carried out by Soke Archaeological Services Ltd, in communication with the client, Mrs Greenacre, and Lincolnshire County Council Archaeological Section (LCCAS).

The evaluation consisted of three trenches strategically placed across the site, in order to provide an adequate sample of the total development area. Unfortunately, the majority of the area excavated had been previously used as an infill site, probably in the 1950/60's. Due to this disturbance, development on the site will cause no impact on any archaeological deposits.

2.0 *Introduction*

2.1 *Planning history and circumstances of the project*

The site was the subject of two separate planning applications. The first of these was for five bungalows, lying adjacent to the proposed development. These had already been constructed at the time of the evaluation. The proposed development consists of a one-storey residential building, with a detached double garage.

2.2 *The client*

The client, Mrs Greenacre of Gorefield, Wisbech, commissioned the evaluation prior to the purchase of the land.

2.3 *Archaeological staff*

Project Director: Dr Francis Pryor MBA MA PhD FSA MIFA

Archaeological Supervisor: David Britchfield BA HNC OND

Archaeological Assistant: Paul Westron B.Sc.

Archaeological Assistant: Michael Bamforth

- (i) To determine the location, extent, date, character, phasing, function, status, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological material remains, liable to be threatened by the proposed development. The results will be subsequently placed in their local, regional and national contexts.
- (ii) To supplement and improve existing information to a level of confidence, at which the archaeological potential of the site can be assessed, and thus enabling reasonable planning recommendations to be made.
- (iii) Due to the nature of an evaluation, it is possible that features and/or finds may warrant physical preservation in-situ. However, sufficient work will be carried out to allow the resolution of the principal aims (above) of the project.

4.2 Project constraints

The positioning of trenches was limited, due to preservation orders on the existing trees (Mrs Greenacre *pers comm*). Initially, the design specification included two trenches. However, the close layout of the trees meant that the trench closer to the church had to be divided into two, and positioned further towards the east than would have been ideal.

4.3 Methodology

The initial brief, which was provided by LCCAS in 1997, included a requirement for fieldwalking and geophysical surveys. An inspection of the site prior to works, however, revealed that levels of vegetation would have severely restricted visibility. Similarly, geophysical techniques were not carried out. Experience has shown that the sequence of silts characteristic of Fenland sites produces unreliable results (Tony Johnson, Oxford Archaeotechnics *pers comm*).

Mechanical excavation of the topsoil was carried out using a JCB with a toothless bucket. Following this, excavation of spits no more than 20mm were removed until the maximum depth of impact had been reached. Trench 1, which was positioned as close to the proposed house as possible, rapidly revealed that the deposited modern waste would probably encroach into the foundation area. At the southern extent of this trench, a deeper slot was excavated in order to determine the maximum depth of the waste. However, due to health and safety considerations, excavation ceased 1300mm below the existing ground level (0.65OD). It was clear that the lower levels of this infill pit had not been reached.

Due to disturbance illustrated in trench 1, trenches 2 & 3 were first excavated to the maximum depth of impact (approximately 700mm). Following this, small test pits were hand dug, in order to determine the extent of the disturbance.

Profiles were drawn and photographs taken as a matter of course, thus providing an insight into the extent of disturbance in the area.

4.4 Results

From the outset of the excavation, it was clear that the area being examined had been previously disturbed. This was confirmed by deposits of modern rubbish in all three trenches, the majority of which was made up of broken glass and plastic.

5.0 *Confidence Rating*

Excavation was carried out in overcast conditions. Morale of all those concerned was high.

6.0 *Discussion*

This project was aimed towards answering particular questions associated with the Roman/Medieval settlement of Sutton St. Edmund (section 4.1). Unfortunately, due to the levels of modern disturbance, it was not possible to be as informative as one would like. However, it is possible that this disturbance is limited to the western end of the total site, thus leaving the remaining eastern end undisturbed, as illustrated in the borehole survey.

Therefore, in summary, archaeological excavations have clearly shown that development will have little, if any impact on underlying archaeology.

7.0 *References*

Association for Environmental Archaeology (1996) *Environmental Archaeology and Evaluation Guidelines*. Working papers of the Association for Environmental Archaeology 2.

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Soils Engineering Limited (1996) *Report on a Ground Investigation at Broadgate Road, Sutton St. Edmund, Lincolnshire*. Ref C6796.

8.0 *Appendix A - Figures*

Figure 1 - Regional plan

Figure 2 - Site location plan

Figure 3 - Trench location plan

Figure 4 - Trench plans

Figure 5 - Profile 1

Figure 6 - Profile 2

Figure 7 - Profile 3

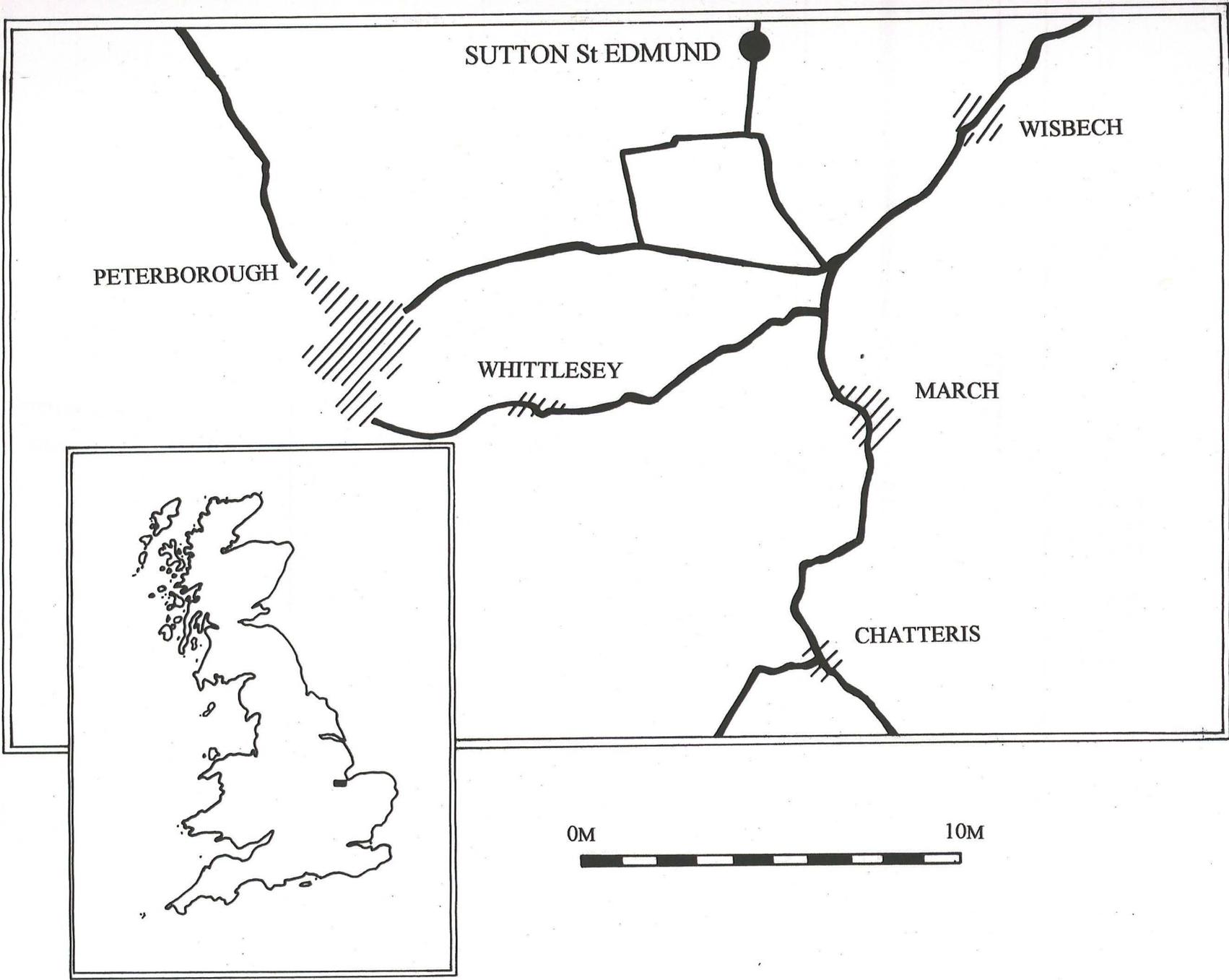


Figure 1-Regional location plan.

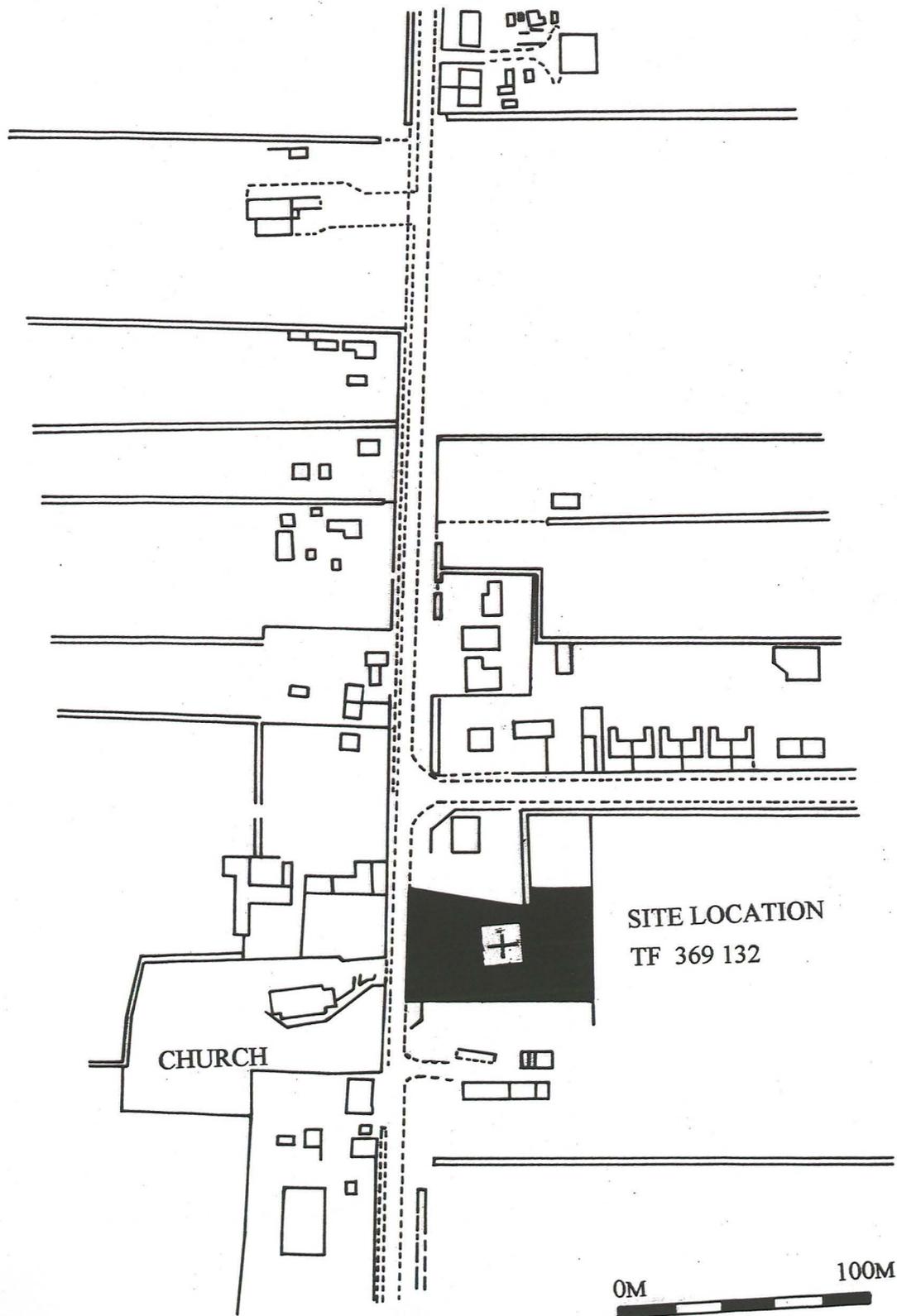


Figure 2-Site location plan.

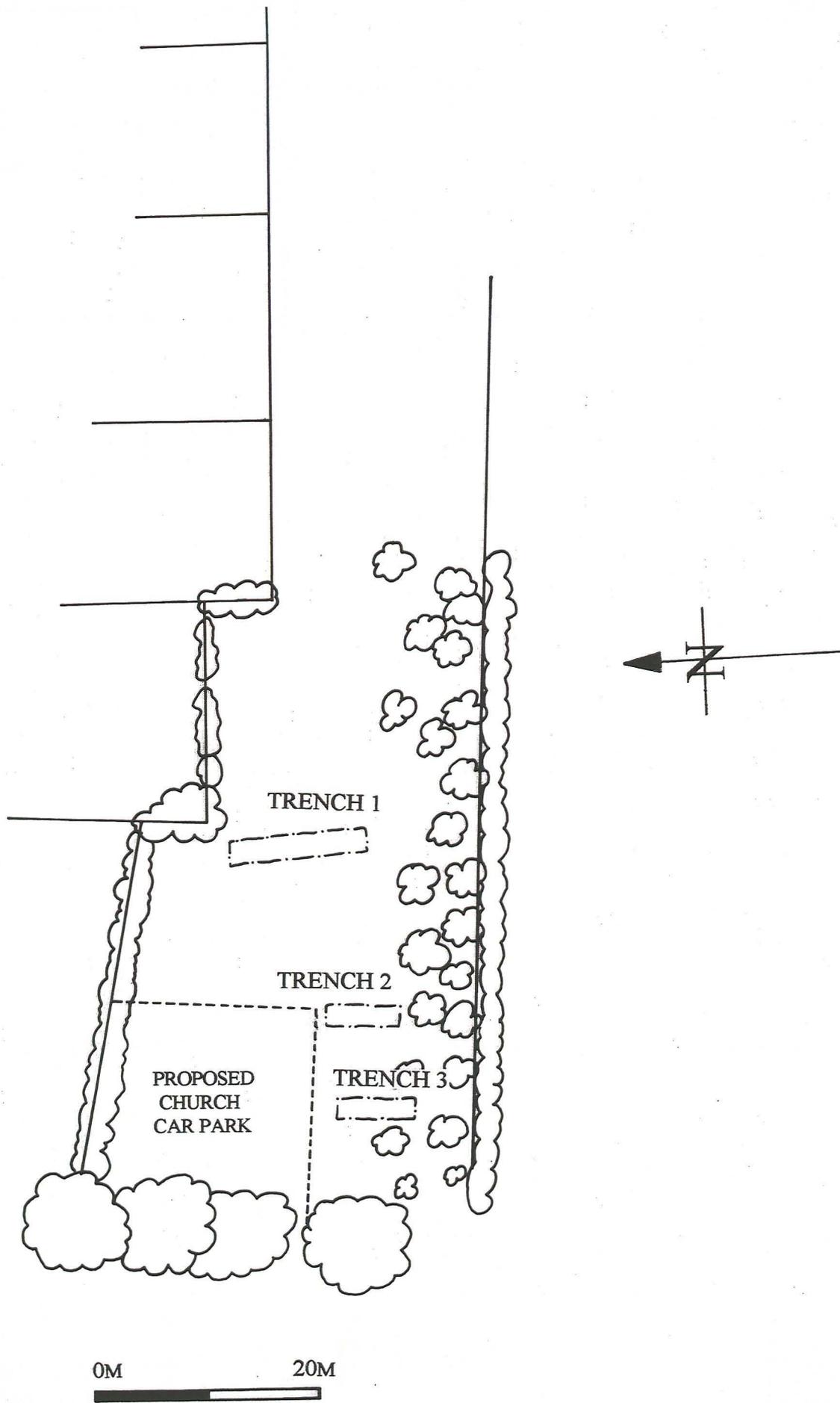


Figure 3-Trench location plans.

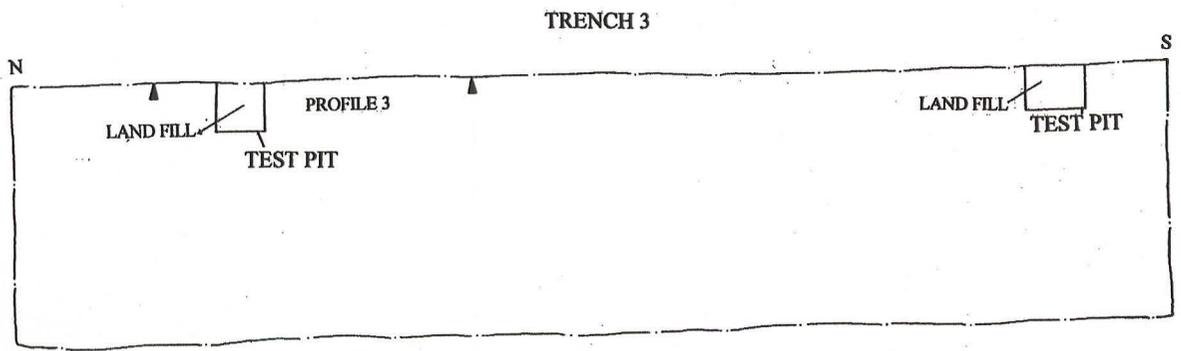
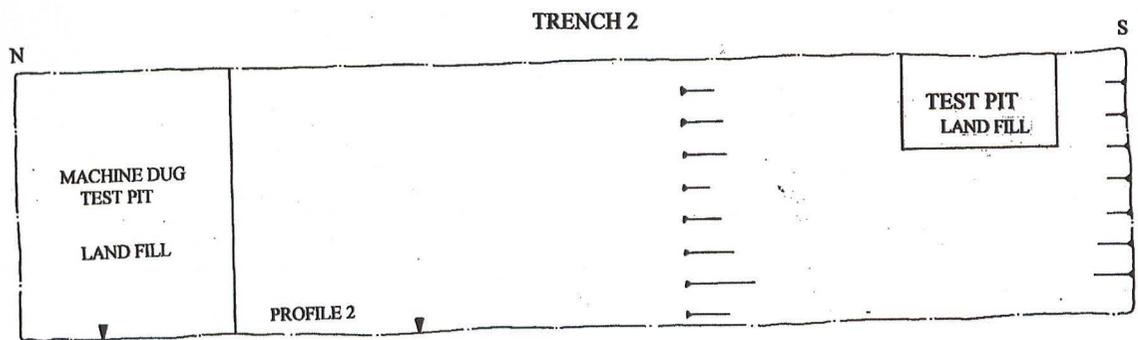
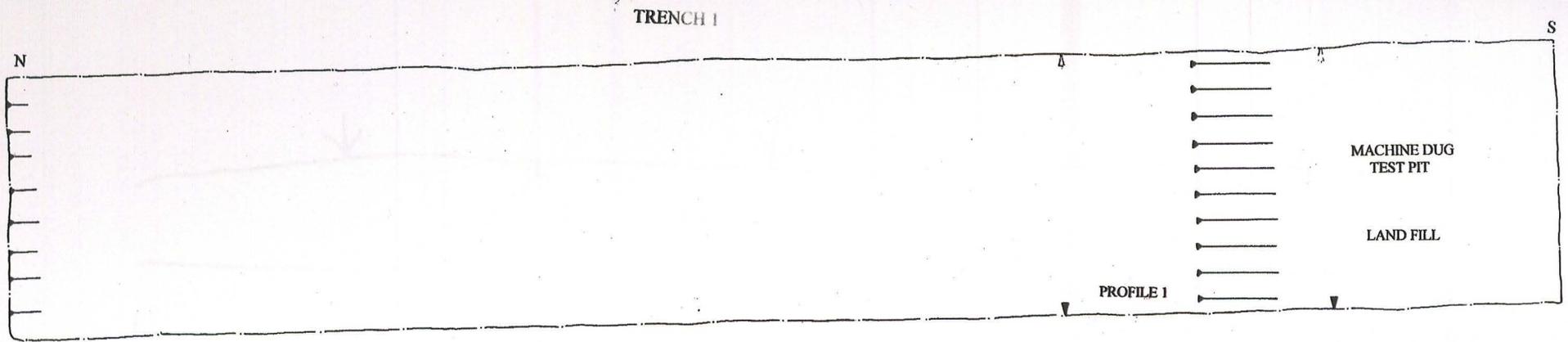


Figure 4-Trench plans.

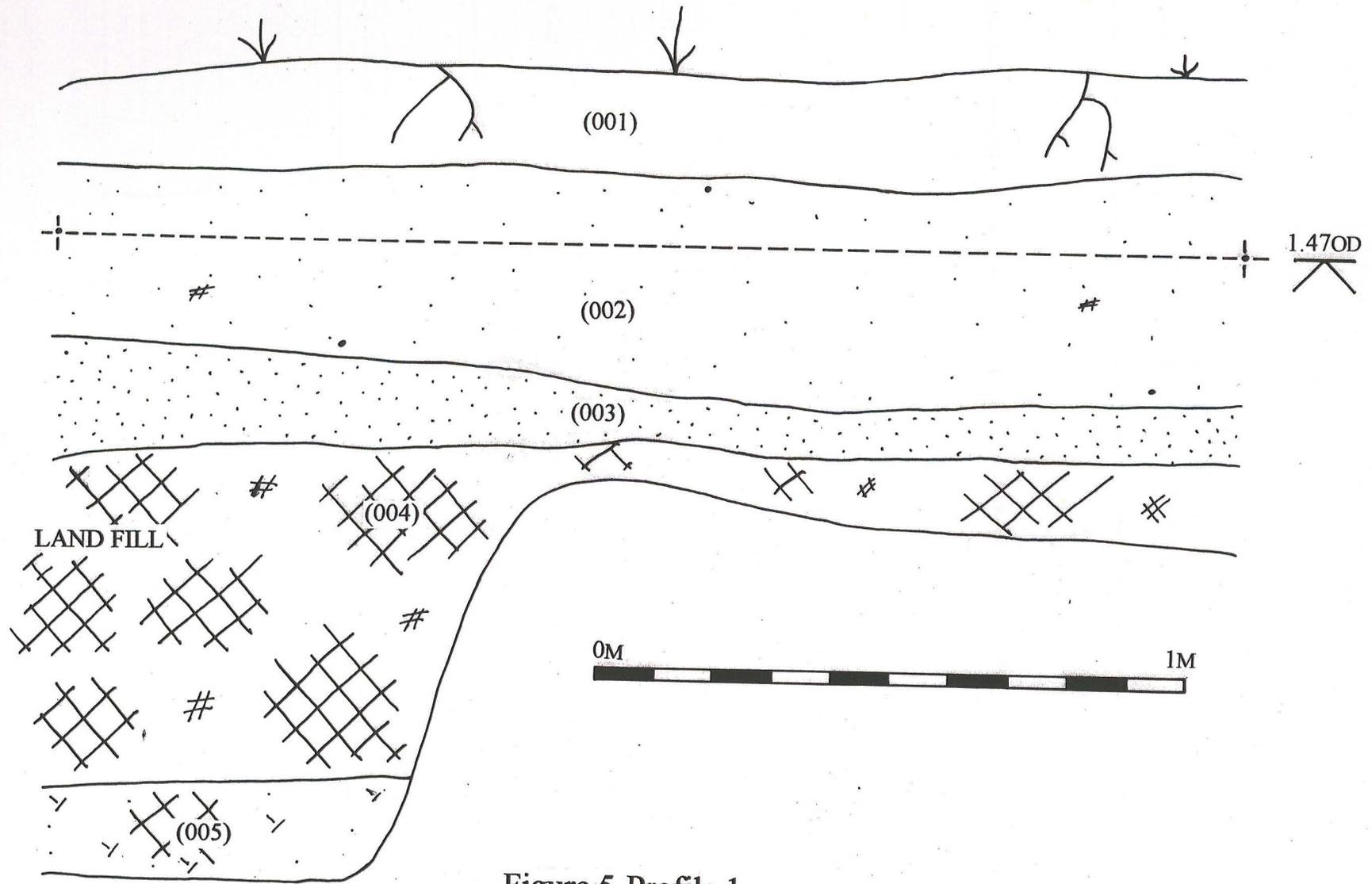


Figure 5-Profile 1.

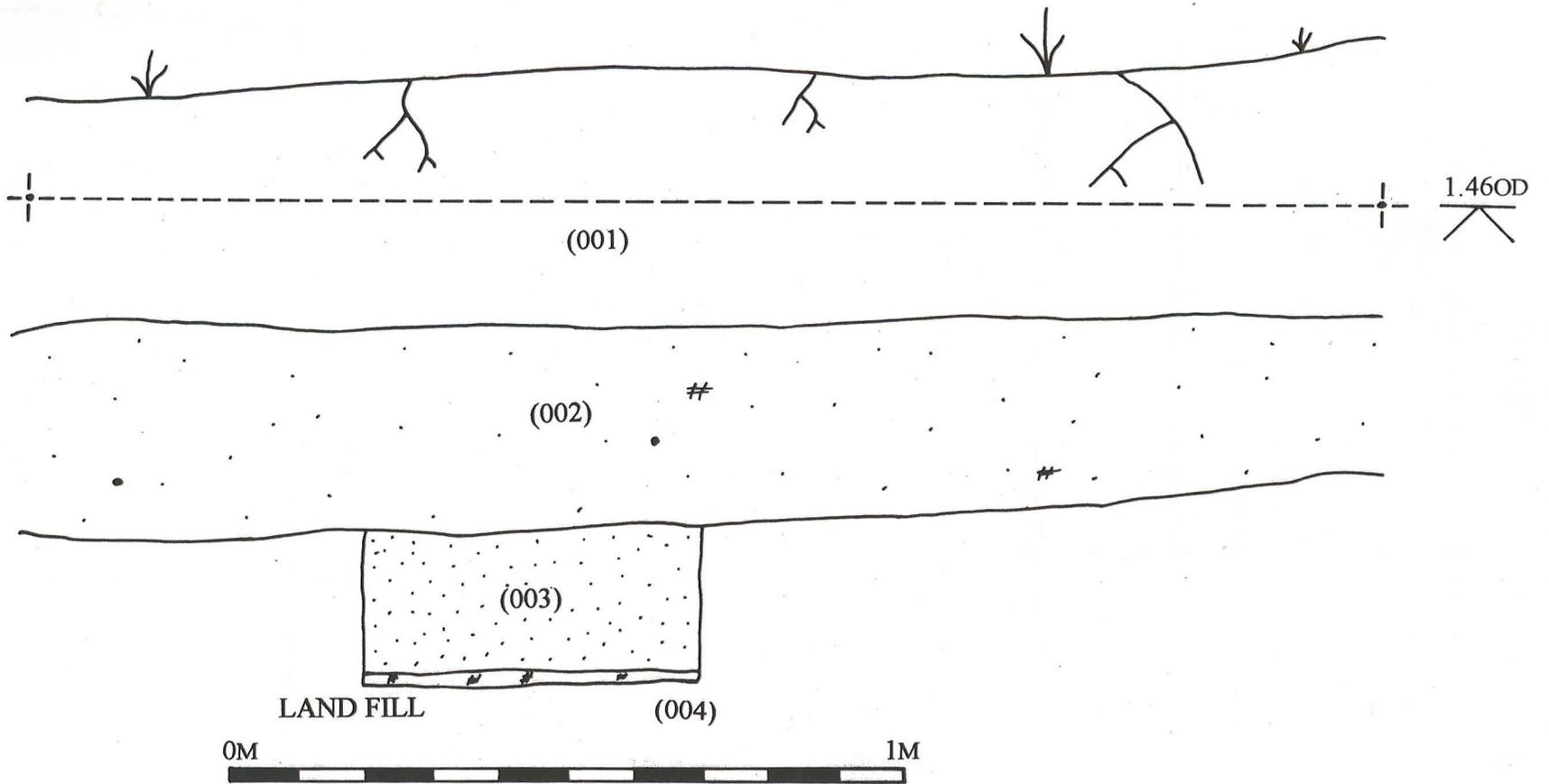


Figure 7-Profile 3.

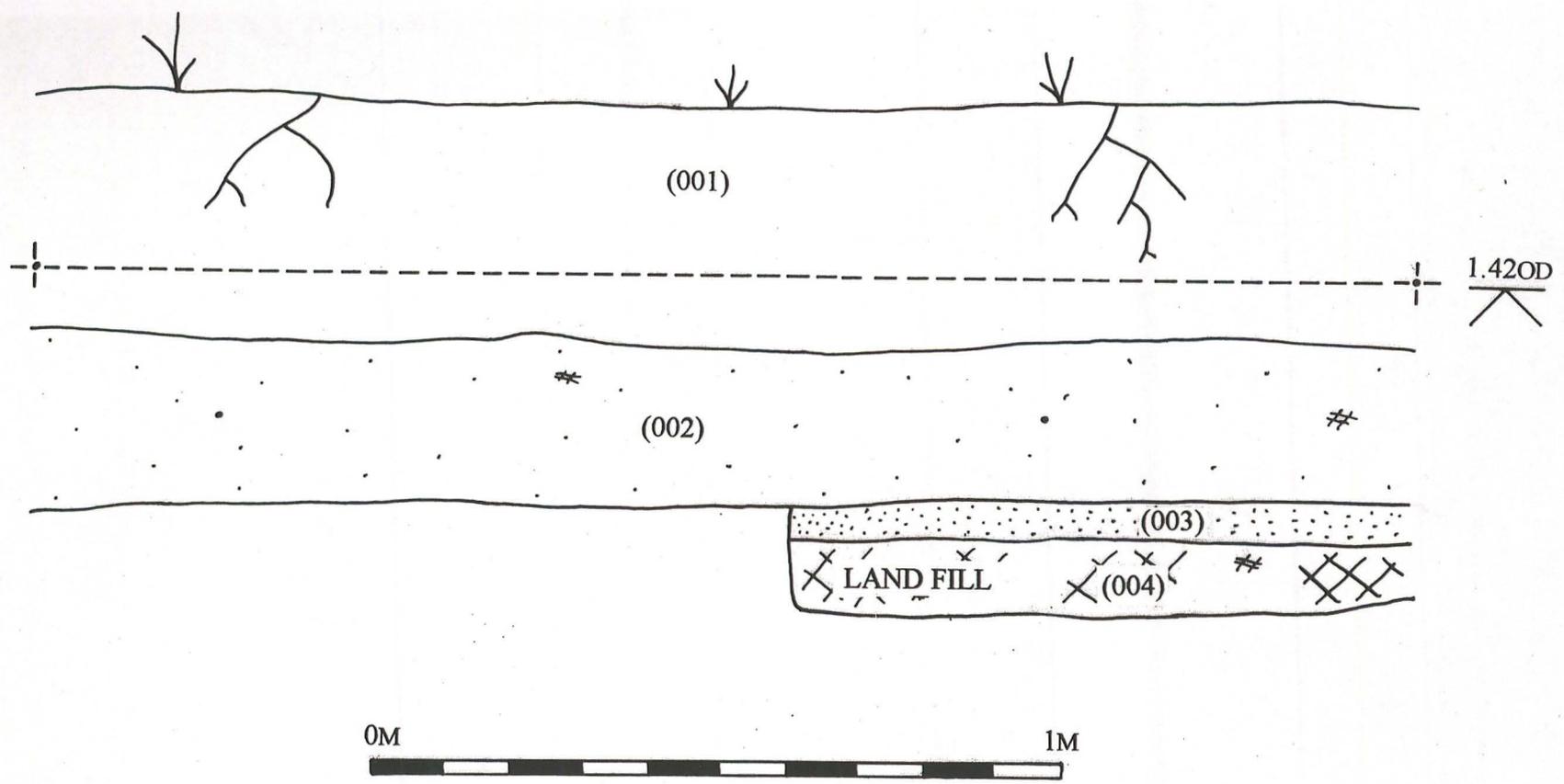


Figure 6-Profile 2.



View from the southwest



View from the northeast

Plate 1 - View of the site from the southwest and northeast.



Looking north



Looking west

Plate 2 - View of trench 1 and profile 1



Looking south



Looking west



Looking south



Looking east