

00/12

SMR



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

<sup>NKDC</sup>  
**Thorpe on the Hill, Main Street**  
**Westcliffe Court, House Plots 8, 11 and 12**

*NGR: SK 9058 6555*  
*Site Code: THF 99*  
*LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 138.99*  
*NKDC Planning Application Number N/64/379/98*

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Report prepared for**

**Stamford Homes Ltd**

**by**

**W. Booth and G. Tann**

**LAS Report No. 397**

**May 2000**

22 MAY 00  
ack 23/5  
Ipswich County Council  
Archaeology Section

EVENT L11277/78  
SOURCES L15984/85  
PRA 61200 L180756.  
61201 L180957

## Contents

### List of Figures and Plates

Summary	1
Introduction	1
Archaeological Background	1
The Watching Brief	1
Conclusion	4
Acknowledgements	4
References	4
Archive Summary	4
Appendix 1: Context Summary	6
Figures and Plates	



## List of Figures and Plates

### Figures

- Fig. 1** Location of the Development Site. Inset C based on the Ordnance Survey map, enlarged to 1:1,250. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A.
- Fig. 2** Position of the monitored geotechnical test pits and house plots (based on a plan supplied by the developer).

### Plates

- Pl. 1** Geotechnical Test Pit 1.
- Pl. 2** Geotechnical Test Pit 2a, showing brick foundation.
- Pl. 3** Possible earthworks in the pasture field beyond the development site, west of Test Pit 1.
- Pl. 4** Location of Geotechnical Test Pit 5 (looking south to The Farm).
- Pl. 5** Deposits visible in Test Pit 5.
- Pl. 6** Position of House Plot 8, showing the line of the original farm access track (looking north).
- Pl. 7** SE corner of House Plot 8 (looking south). The large ditch recorded in 1998 lay under the new road, close to the left side of the cabin. Tree roots from the removed hedgeline are visible in the foreground.
- Pl. 8** Detail of deposits at the eastern extreme of the southernmost foundation trench for House Plot 8 (looking south). The field drain (right) correlates with that previously identified during the earlier watching brief.

# **Thorpe on the Hill, Main Street Westcliffe Court, House Plots 8, 11 and 12**

*NGR: SK 9058 6555*

*Site Code: THF 99*

*LCNCC Museum Accn. No.: 138.99*

*NKDC Planning Application Number N/64/379/98*

## **Summary**

*The final phase of archaeological monitoring, during groundworks for house foundations, identified no features of archaeological significance.*

## **Introduction**

Thorpe on the Hill lies 9km SW of Lincoln, north of the A46. The development site, previously known as 'The Farm', is situated on the west side of Thorpe on the Hill village, between Lincoln Lane and Main Street.

Initial redevelopment of this site by a previous developer (NKDC planning application N/64/1007/97) was subject to a watching brief for all groundworks. After completion of a watching brief undertaken by Lindsey Archaeological Services during construction of the access road in 1998, the condition was reviewed. The North Kesteven Heritage Officer decided to reduce the condition and stipulated archaeological monitoring only within House Plots 8, 11 and 12, where further remains associated with early development of the farm site might be anticipated.

## **Archaeological Background**

Thorpe on the Hill is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and is therefore at least Anglo-Saxon in origin. The development site lies near the centre of the village, 250m west of the parish church, and the potential for Saxon and medieval remains in the vicinity has been considered to be high. An archaeological watching brief was maintained by LAS during installation of a sewer and estate access road in June and July 1998 (Tann 1998). A small number of ephemeral features, possibly of Romano-British date, were found within the north-south sewer trench, and part of a ditch, 7m wide and over 1m deep, was revealed in the west-east trench. The position of the ditch close to the farmhouse suggested that this feature could be a medieval homestead moat.

## **The Watching Brief**

### ***a) Geotechnical Pits***

LAS was asked to monitor machine excavation of small geotechnical pits across the development site in August 1999.

### **Test Pit 1**

This trench was positioned SW of the existing farm buildings. The ground surface was covered by an uneven spread of demolition rubble from previously cleared farm outbuildings. Beneath the

rubble was the modern topsoil layer, with mixed clay deposits below (Pl. 1).

#### **Test Pit 2**

A trench positioned west of the existing farm buildings, 3m west of a north-south aligned partially backfilled field ditch, and within the area of House Plot 12, revealed no deposits of archaeological interest.

#### **Test Pit 2a**

This trench was positioned to the NW of the existing farm buildings, within the area of the field access. This located brick foundations immediately below the ground surface, with rectangular cut stone setts laid in a surface external to the foundations (Pl. 2). This was thought to be a paved yard outside a cattle byre or similar building. The bricks appeared to be of late eighteenth century or early nineteenth century date.

#### **Test Pit 3**

A possible former watercourse was seen in the trench face to the south of the bowling green, within House Plot 10. The subsoil layer covered a deep deposit of grey brown clay, of unknown width.

#### **Test Pit 4**

In the NW corner of House Plot 10, the trench was excavated through 0.25m topsoil and 0.15m of gravel within a grey/brown sandy loam matrix, into bands of clay and hoggin. The lowest deposit exposed was a grey clay. The paddock to the west appears to contain slight earthworks, possibly of medieval date (Pl. 3).

#### **Test Pit 5**

Within House Plot 7, east of the existing farm access track and east of the former hedge boundary, the topsoil covered a very mixed layer with clay and brick rubble (Pls. 4 and 5). A number of pebbles and other stones were below this layer but these were apparently naturally present within the yellow clay subsoil and weathered clay. The underlying red/brown clay covered grey clay at the trench base.

Three other test pits were examined to the east of the estate access road. The mixed clay subsoil and undisturbed clay were seen in all these trenches.



## **b) House Foundations**

Monitoring, by W. Booth, took place on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2000 (House Plot 11), 9<sup>th</sup> February (House Plot 12), and 10<sup>th</sup> February (House Plot 8).

### **House Plot 11**

The trench was cut to a width of 0.6m and a depth of 1m at the south end of the footings, decreasing to 0.85m at the north end (due to the change in the level of the ground surface).

A consistent depth of 0.4m of modern overburden, which consisted of gravel make-up layers, with the demolition debris of buildings from the neighbouring farm and patches of limestone chips on the surface, was observed over the whole area, directly overlying the natural clay. The natural consisted of mixed blue/grey and mid/pale brown/grey silty clay. This had a very low silt content and very stiff consistency, with occasional pockets and lenses of fairly loose mid pink grey silty sand and occasional limestone flecks. No archaeological features were found.

### **House Plot 12**

The foundation trenches for House Plot 12 were 0.6m wide x 1.3m deep. The top 0.15m-0.4m consisted of demolition debris, modern rubble and ground make-up layers, with the remaining 0.95m-1.25m of underlying natural being very similar to that observed in the foundation trenches for House Plot 11. This consisted of stiff mid orange/brown silty clay mixed with stiff grey/blue silty clay with lenses and pockets of loose pale grey/pink and pale grey silty sand. Also present were occasional sub-rounded limestone fragments < 0.25m, with occasional sub-rounded chalk fragments < 0.10m and occasional rounded pebbles < 0.03m. No archaeological features were found.

The absence of topsoil and subsoil in this area may be explained by the previous positioning of farm buildings on the site of the house plots, and the possible levelling of the area that this may have involved.

### **House Plot 8**

These trenches were also 0.6m wide, with an average depth of 1.3m. The siting of this house plot straddled the north-south route of the original access track to the farmhouse on the southern edge of the site, and the east-west orientated sections of foundation trench cut across both this track and associated ditch and tree root disturbance from a removed hedgeline (PIs. 6 and 7). At the eastern extremity of the house plot, the foundation trenches cut across features identified during the 1998 watching brief (PI. 8). The southernmost of these east-west foundation trenches was recorded, as it was the closest to the trench where these features had previously been observed and offered a continuous section through both the modern and archaeological features present. The majority of the section was photographed, but only the eastern three metres were recorded in detail as this was the position of the exposed archaeological features.



Covering this area was a modern surfacing layer of large sub-angular limestone chips, below which was a topsoil horizon, varying in depth from 0.06m at its eastern extremity to 0.34m at its western edge. The topsoil appeared to seal the north-south aligned trench for a ceramic land drain, which appeared to be the same drain as previously identified. This land drain cut was 1.5m from the eastern extremity of the house foundation trench, making the correlating overlap between the two watching brief observations a total of 3m. To the east of the drain were two possible shallow ditches, **54** and **56**, overlying mixed orange brown/grey silty clay **60**. To the west of this drain was a layer of fairly soft orange/brown silty clay **58**, which sat on a thin layer of rounded pebbles **59**, which in turn was overlying the mixed silty clay deposit **60**.

### **Conclusion**

It was not possible to determine if the underlying mixed clay deposit **60** correlated with that previously identified as the fill of the large medieval ditch, as the foundation trenches did not extend far enough to the east to include the position of this ditch cut. Identification of a possible western edge for this medieval ditch was not possible, due to the extreme mixing of the deposits and interference from later modern activity. The possible ditch **56** may correlate to the previously identified recut ditch **15**, but again it is not possible to conclude this securely due to the lack of dating evidence.

### **Acknowledgements**

LAS is grateful to Stamford Homes Ltd for their co-operation during this project. Thanks are also due to Russell Thompson and Paul Kershaw (Jonas Pike and Associates Ltd).

Wendy Booth and Geoff Tann  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
16th May 2000

### **References**

Tann, G. 1998 *Thorpe on the Hill, The Farm: Archaeological watching brief during groundworks for an Estate Access Road*. LAS Report 329, December 1998.

### **Archive Summary**

Field plans and sections

Field notes

Context sheets

Annotated plan

Photographs: colour prints, LAS film nos. 99/133/10-20; 00/19/8-9; 00/20/24-37 including those used in this report

## APPENDIX 1

### Thorpe on the Hill (THF 99) Context Summary

No.	Description	
50	0.05m thick, modern surfacing layer. Sub-angular limestone fragments <0.05m	Above topsoil <b>51</b>
51	0.06m-0.34m thick, topsoil. Dark grey brown silty clay, soft, occasional modern brick and animal bone fragments with rounded and rounded pebbles.	Above all features
52	0.65m wide x 0.72m deep, cut for modern land drain. Steep sided with an irregular base	Cuts <b>57, 58, 59,</b> and <b>60</b>
53	0.65m wide x 0.72m thick, fill of <b>52</b> . Dark grey brown silty clay, with occasional rounded and sub-rounded pebbles	Contained by <b>52</b>
54	0.65m wide x 0.35m deep, cut of possible ditch. Shallowly sloping sides with a gently rounded base	Cuts <b>60</b> , sealed by <b>51</b>
55	0.65m wide x 0.35m thick, fill of possible ditch cut. Dark-mid grey brown silt(10%) clay (90%), frequent rounded and sub-rounded pebbles	Contained by <b>54</b>
56	0.6m wide x 0.2m deep, cut of possible ditch. Shallowly sloping sides with a gently rounded base	Cuts <b>60</b> , sealed by <b>51</b> an by <b>52</b>
57	0.6m wide x 0.2m thick, fill of possible ditch cut. Dark grey brown silty loam with 10% clay, fairly firm, no inclusions.	Contained by <b>56</b>
58	0.4m thick, mid orange brown silty clay, fairly soft, frequent rounded and sub-rounded pebbles	Above <b>59</b> , sealed by <b>51</b> and cut by <b>52</b>
59	0.03m thick, layer of rounded and sub-rounded pebbles	Above <b>60</b> and sealed by <b>58</b>
60	0.97m thick, to base of trench, mixed deposit of mid orange brown and orange grey silty clay mixed with mottled yellow, grey and orange silty clay and mid grey brown silty clay. Occasional rounded and sub-rounded pebbles.	Below all other features





Fig. 1 Location of the Development Site. Inset C based on the Ordnance Survey map, enlarged to 1:1,250. Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A.



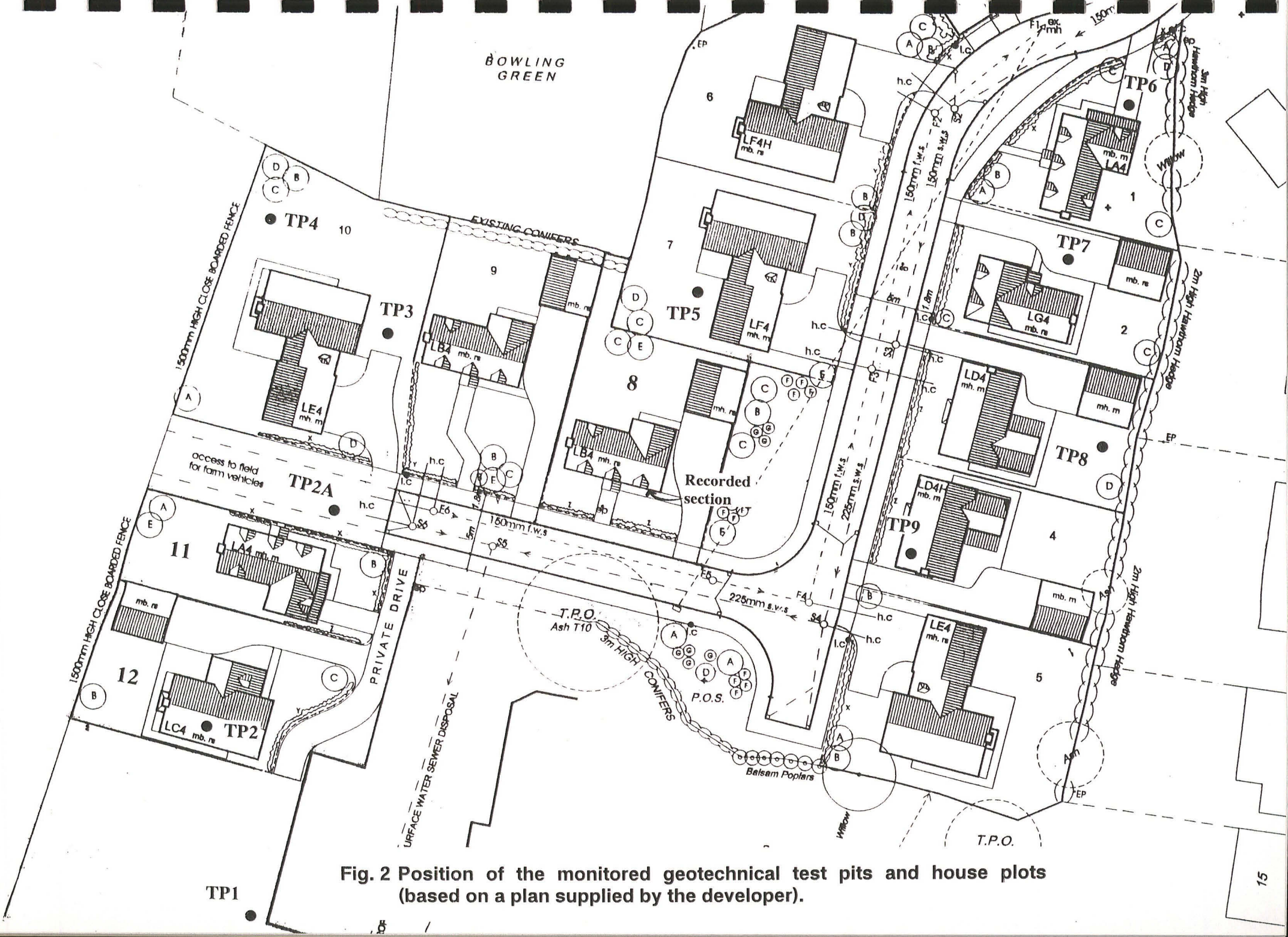


Fig. 2 Position of the monitored geotechnical test pits and house plots (based on a plan supplied by the developer).



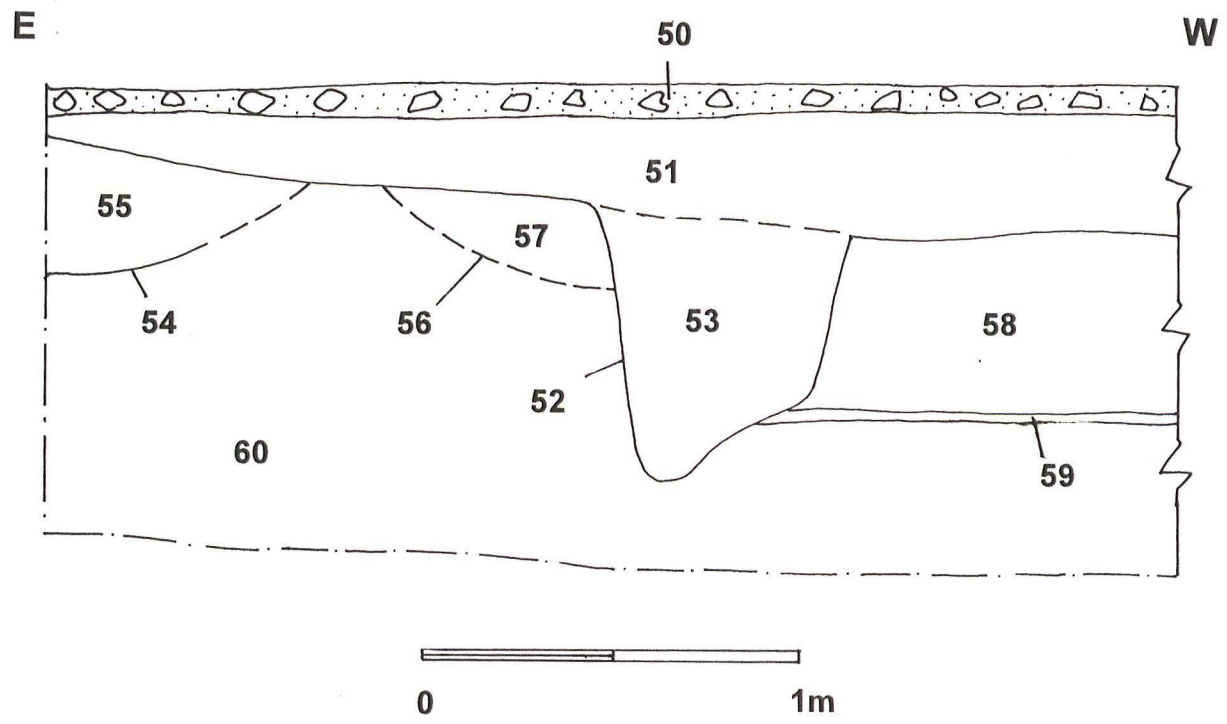


Fig. 3 Section drawing of features recorded on house plot 8 (W. Booth)





**Pl. 1 Geotechnical Test Pit 1.**

**Pl. 2 Geotechnical Test Pit 2a, showing brick foundation.**







**Pl. 3** Possible earthworks in the pasture field beyond the development site, west of Test Pit 1.





Pl. 4 Location of Geotechnical Test Pit 5 (looking south to The Farm).

Pl. 5 Deposits visible in Test Pit 5.







**Pl. 6** Position of House Plot 8, showing the line of the original farm access track (looking north).

**Pl. 7** SE corner of House Plot 8 (looking south). The large ditch recorded in 1998 lay under the new road, close to the left side of the cabin. Tree roots from the removed hedgeline are visible in the foreground.







Pl. 8 Detail of deposits at the eastern extreme of the southernmost foundation trench for House Plot 8 (looking south). The field drain (right) correlates with that previously identified during the earlier watching brief.