



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

heritage

**Woodview Nursery, South Street,  
Bourne, Lincs.**

NGR: TF 40243 48836 TF 1029 1881  
Site Code: WNBO05  
LCNCC Accn N° : 2005.14  
SKDC Planning Application: SO3/1609/12

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Report**

**for**

**Stamford Homes**

**by**

**Richard Pullen MA PIFA**

**LAS Report No. 807**

**June 2005**

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**Woodview Nursery, South Street, Bourne, Lincs.**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

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**Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the machine excavation of foundation trenches for seven new houses on the site of the former Woodview Nursery off South Street, Bourne, Lincs. The foundation trenches were excavated to a depth of 1.00m from the present ground surface. Several small self seeded trees growing along the northern bank of the Car Dyke dictated that the foundations adjacent to this bank had to be excavated to a depth of c.2.00m. The exposed deposits consisted of a shallow topsoil overlying clay/silt flood deposits with natural limestone brash appearing at approximately 2.00m below the present ground surface. No archaeological features were noted at any point during the excavations for any of the seven new buildings.*

**Introduction**

In December 2004 Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Stamford Homes to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks prior to the construction of seven new houses on the site of the old Woodview Nursery off South Street, Bourne, in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Standard Brief for Archaeological Projects in Lincolnshire* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, August 1998).

**Site Location and Description**

The development site is situated on the east side of the A15 to Peterborough, south of Bourne town centre. It is located at the site of the old Woodview Nursery south of the former Bourne Hospital for Infectious Diseases.

**Planning Background**

South Kesteven District Council have granted full planning permission, SO3/1609/12, for residential development comprising thirty three dwellings with garages on the site of the old Woodview Garden Nursery. A condition of the planning permission was that archaeological monitoring should be undertaken on groundworks connected to seven plots that lie directly adjacent to the Roman Car Dyke.

**Archaeological Background**

Bourne lies on the fen edge which has produced numerous archaeological finds and settlement remains. The prevalence of these reported finds may partly be due to the increased awareness in the town as a significant Roman settlement prompted mainly by the presence of the Roman Car Dyke canal (PRN 30044) which runs to the south of the town, along the south-east boundary of the



development and the Roman King Street (PRN 34687) which passes through the town centre and to the west of the site.

In 1994 a major middle and later Iron Age settlement was discovered on the north side of Mill Drove on the north-eastern side of Bourne. The site may be the precursor to a possible Roman villa complex.

In April 1997 excavations undertaken off South Road exposed second century Roman clay extraction pits with associated boundary ditches and several medieval pottery sherds (LAS Report N<sup>o</sup>. 352).

### **Aims and Objectives**

The aims of the watching brief were to identify, characterise and record any surviving archaeological material that may have been disturbed by the groundworks phase of the development.

### **Method**

Prior to the excavation of foundation trenches for the building plots the development site was stripped of topsoil and covered with a c.0.10m thick protective layer of crushed limestone fragments. The foundations were excavated using a JCB digger equipped with 0.30m or 0.60m toothed bucket, depending on the required width of the final trench. The footings had an overall depth of 1.00m except along the southern boundary where, due to the presence of trees along the northern bank of the Car Dyke, the foundations had an overall depth of between 2.00 and 2.40m. This section of the excavations was below the natural water table and consequently water soon began to fill the trench. In order to counter this 1.40m of dry mixed concrete was added immediately. Machining was monitored by LAS project officer Richard Pullen MA PIFA and field archaeologist Mike Garrett BA Hons. Work began on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2005 and was completed four months later on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2005. A full photographic record was maintained during the work.

### **Results**

The visible stratigraphy of the foundation trenches was a 0.06m thick layer of dark grey/brown silt topsoil **100** overlying a mid red/brown silty subsoil **101** with a depth of c.0.70m. The subsoil directly sealed a mixed mid grey and mid orange/brown clay layer **102**. This material most likely represents layers of seasonally deposited flood material. The deeper excavations undertaken immediately adjacent to the Car Dyke revealed the same stratigraphy as recorded elsewhere with the exception that at a depth of c. 2.00m a fragmented natural limestone brash deposit was noted **103**. This deposit continued to a depth in excess of the limit of the developers formation level.

### **Conclusion**

Despite the irrefutable archaeological importance of the Car Dyke and much of the surrounding area, this section of the dyke appears to have been subject to little or no archaeological activity. The mixed nature of **102** probably represents a natural seasonal flooding deposit. No finds or features of an archaeological nature were noted during the watching brief.

### **Acknowledgements**

LAS is grateful to Stamford Homes, Dennis Watson Groundworks and B and S Wade for their full and continued help and co-operation throughout the watching brief. The watching brief was conducted by Richard Pullen and Mike Garrett. The illustrations were produced by the author, some from drawings supplied by the client. The report was edited by Naomi Field.

Richard Pullen M.A. PIFA  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
22<sup>nd</sup> June 2005

### **Contents of Site Archive**

Correspondence

Developer's site plan

Site notes

Photographs: colour prints, LAS film nos. 05/32



**THE FIGURES**



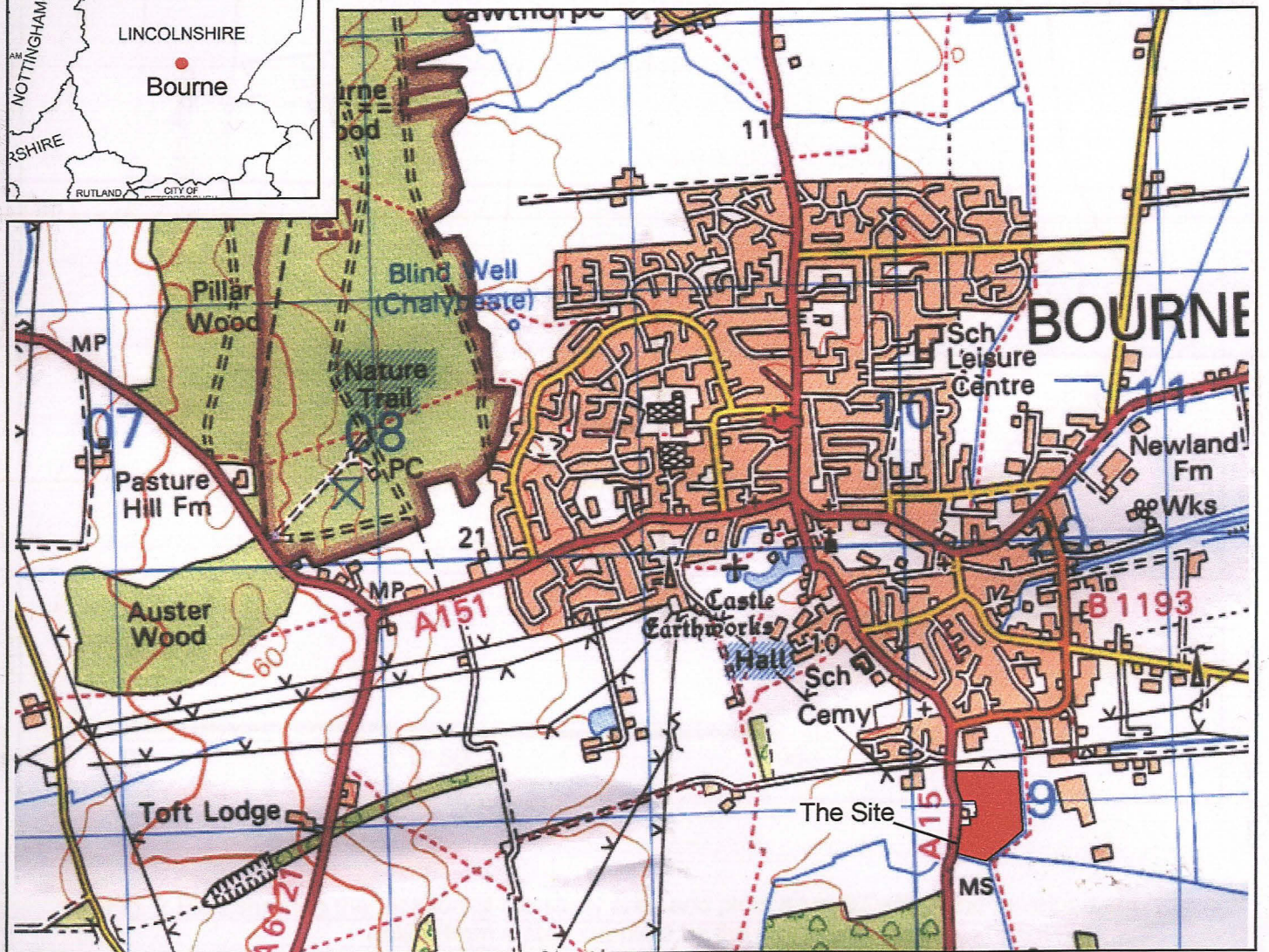
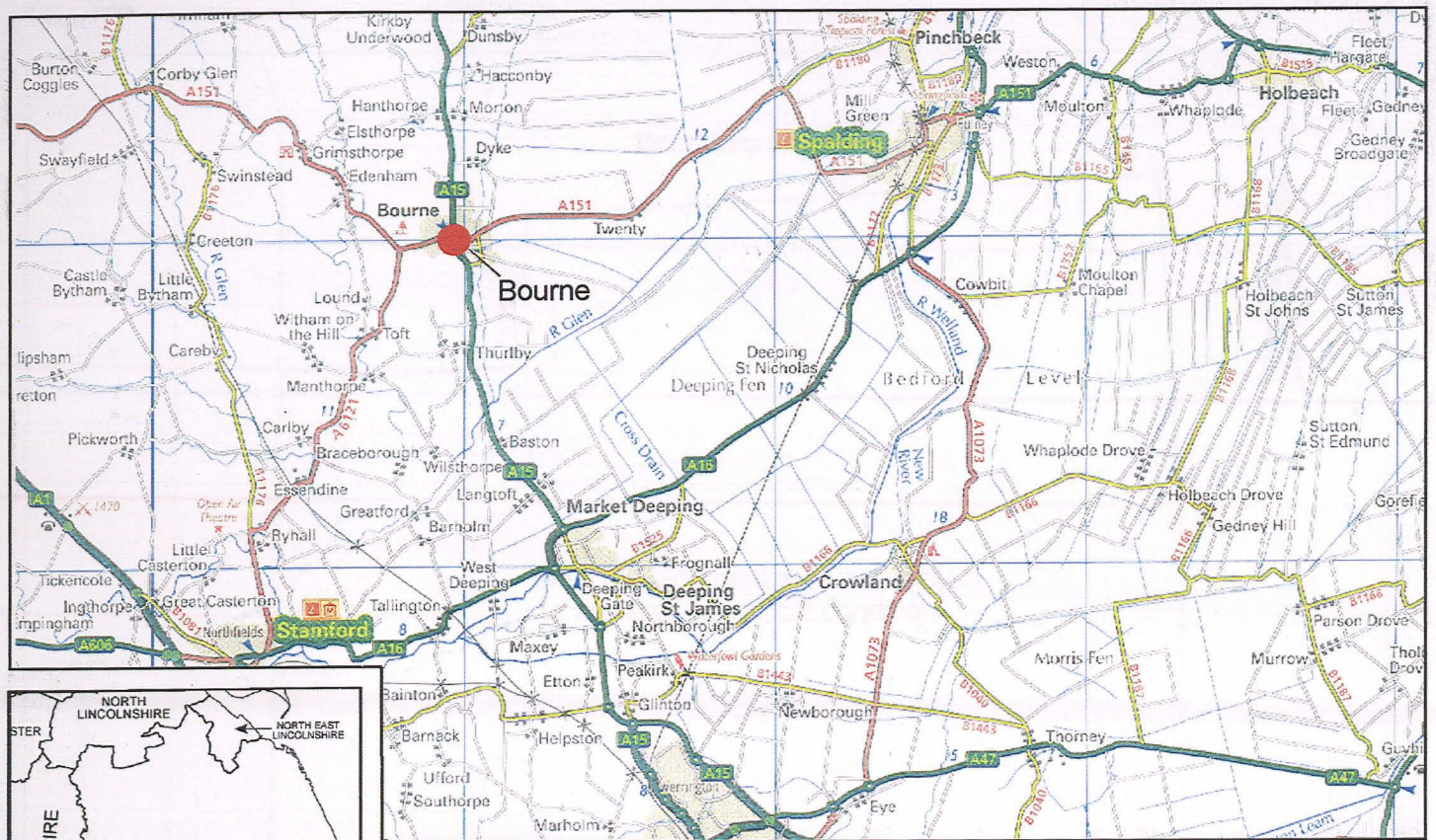


Fig.1 Location of Bourne (inset C based on the Ordnance Survey map Explorer 274, Scale 1:25,000. Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the controller of HMSO. Las Licence No.AL100002165)



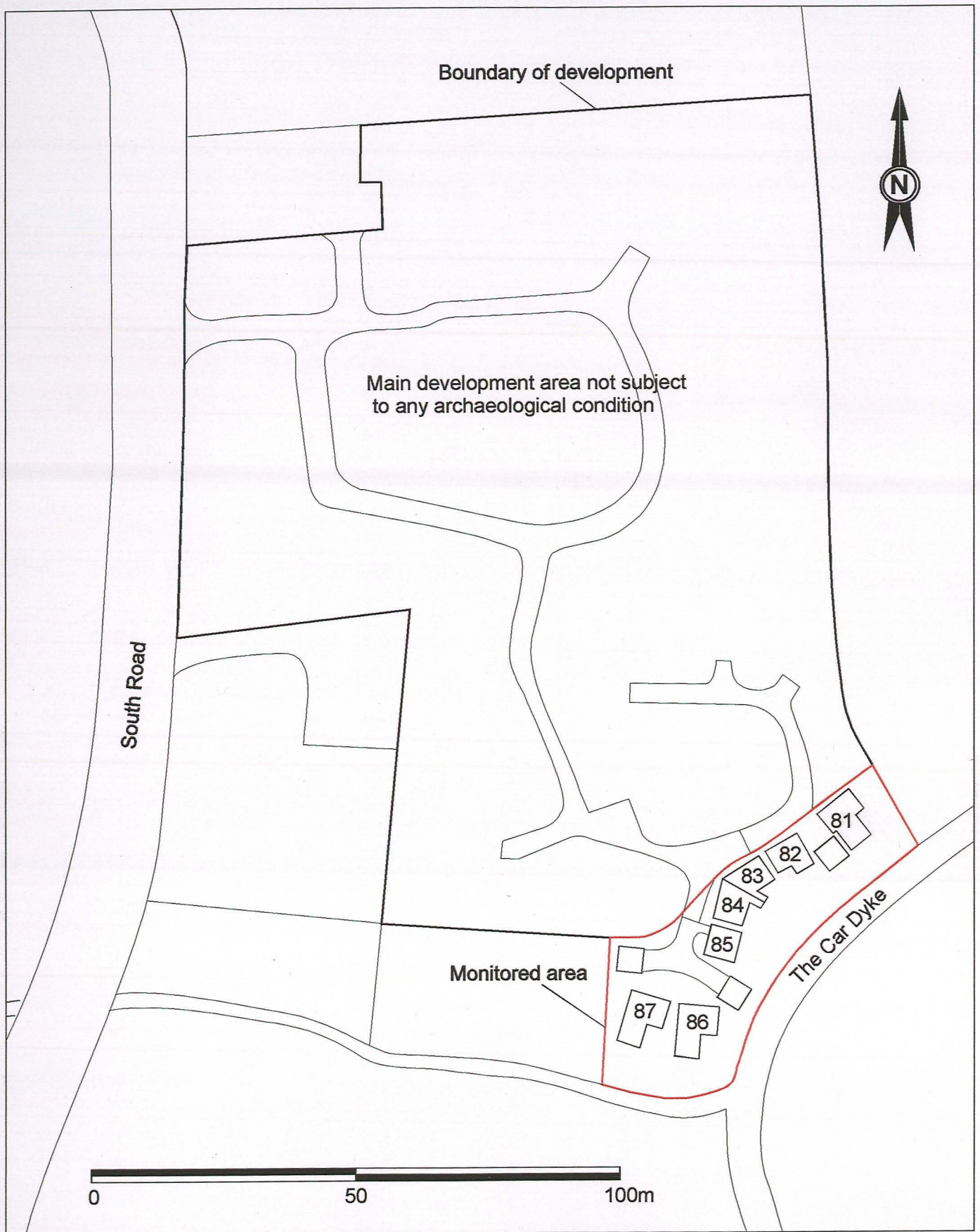


Fig. 2 Plan showing the location of the study area and plots 81 to 87 within the development (taken from a plan supplied by the developer)



**THE PLATES**





Pl. 1 The monitored area prior to any excavation



Pl. 2 View east along the Car Dyke adjacent to plot 81





Pl. 3 Looking east across plot 81

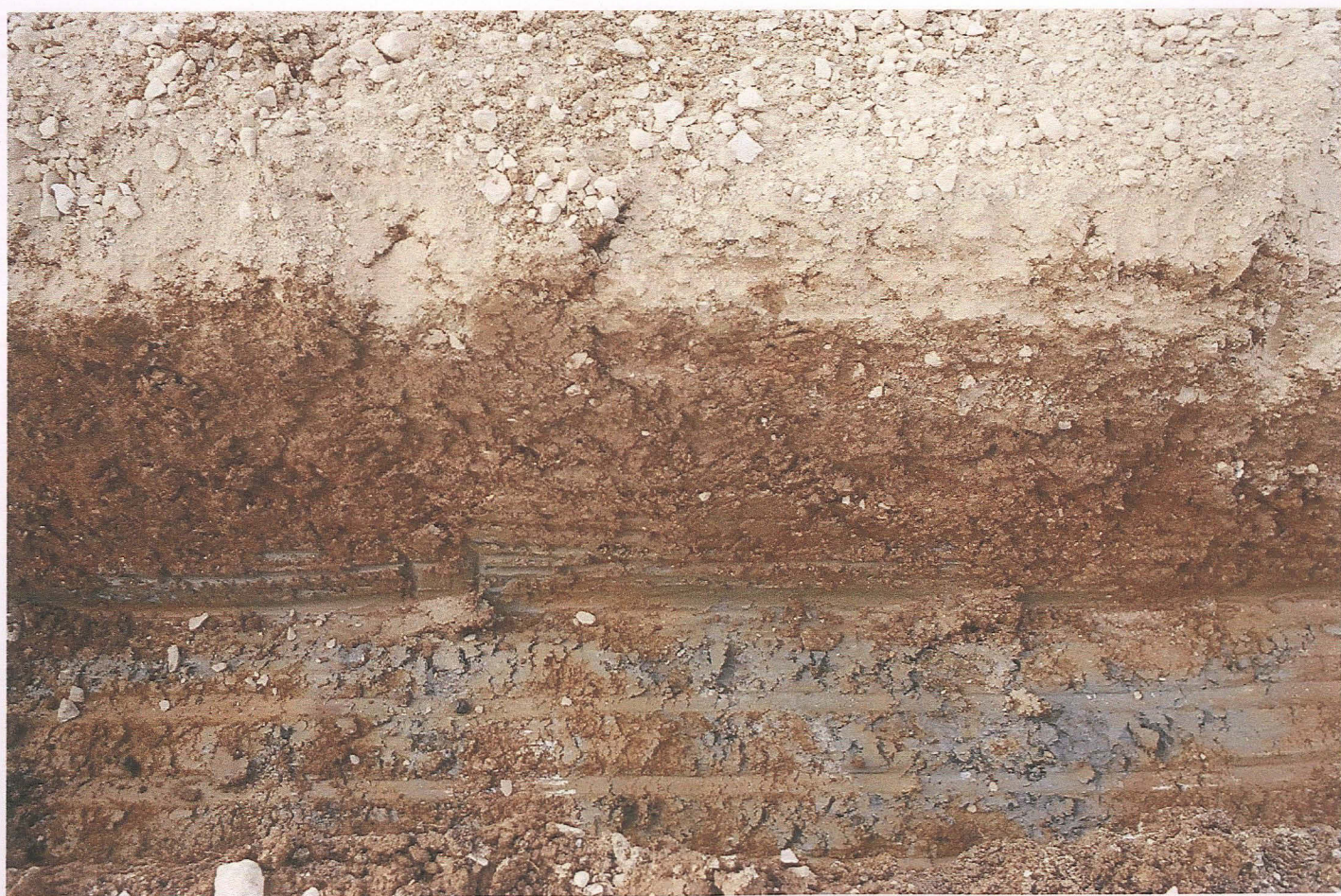


Pl. 4 Typical stratigraphy within plot 81





Pl. 5 Looking east across plot 82



Pl. 6 Typical stratigraphy within plot 82





Pl. 7 Typical stratigraphy within plot 82



Pl. 8 Looking south across plot 84





Pl. 9 Typical stratigraphy within plot 85



Pl. 10 General view looking north east across plot 86





Pl. 11 Typical stratigraphy within plot 86



Pl. 12 Looking north across plot 87





Pl. 13 Typical stratigraphy within plot 87