

A Final Report for an Archaeological Watching Brief
at Bowmore House, Sutton St Edmund, Lincs.

TF 367 129 (approx centre)

Jul-01

Reference: SAS01/DN/16

H19/0194/00

By:

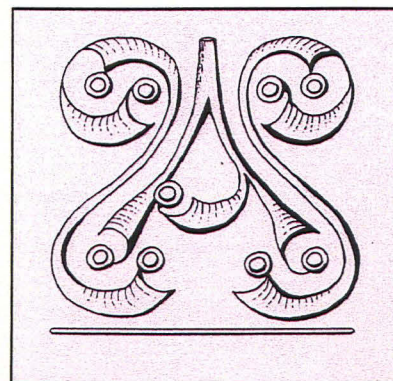
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Peterborough.
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Submitted to:

*South Holland District Council,
Housing & Planning Services Department,
Council Offices,
Priory Road,
Spalding,
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1.0 Summary:

Site Name: Bowmore House, Broadgate, Sutton St Edmunds.

Clients Name: Mr and Mrs C. Winch.

The Clients Agents: Broadgate Exclusive Homes.

Nature of Development: Construction of a detached dwelling and garage with associated paddock and stables.

National Grid Reference: TF 367 129 (approx centre).

Planning Application Number: H19/0194/00 FUL.

Planning Authority: South Holland District Council.

Archaeological Contractor: Soke Archaeological Services Ltd.

Archaeological Project Director: Francis Pryor MBE MA PhD FSA MIFA.

Archaeological Project Manager: David Britchfield BA (Hons).

Archaeological Project Officer: David New BA (Hons).

Archaeological Illustrator: Louisa New MSc.

An application for planning permission was made to South Holland District Council by Mr and Mrs C Winch, for the erection of a detached dwelling, on the land off Broadgate Road, Sutton St Edmund, Lincolnshire. Acceptance was given subject to the condition that an archaeological watching brief was carried out during ground works.

Intensive archaeological monitoring during the excavation of the foundations revealed a modern land drain ditch.

The feature was comprised of two fills and contained finds dating to the post industrial revolution period. No other finds or features were present on the site.

2.0 Introduction:

2.1 *Planning History and circumstances of the Project:*

Planning permission was granted by South Holland District Council, on 16th February 2000, for the construction of a single dwelling with associated paddock and stables on Broadgate Road, Sutton St Edmund. Archaeological monitoring, in the form of a watching brief, was deemed necessary in order to comply with Condition 2 of the planning approval notice.

2.2 *The Client:*

Mr and Mrs C Winch

2.3 *Archaeological Staff:*

David Britchfield BA (Hons) - Archaeologist on site.

David New BA (Hons).

Louisa New MSc.

2.4 *Project Dates:*

14th June - 20th June 2001

2.5 *Site Size:*

Approximately 800 sqr metres.

2.6 *The Design Brief Specification:*

No design brief was issued.

3.0 The Archaeological Background:

Aerial photography in and around Sutton St. Edmund has provided evidence, in the form of crop marks, for loose groups of irregular enclosures, droves and channels of probable Romano-British date (Phillips 1970:303-4). It would appear that one particular droveway points towards the application area. However, the north-western extent of the site is

known to be a former infilled pit, used in the late 1960's, containing domestic waste (Soils Engineering Limited 1996:1), and may have, therefore, destroyed archaeological deposits. A second potential driveway, further to the north, continues towards the north-east until it reaches *Willow Dyke* (see Maps 7 & 9, Phillips 1970). Hut sites and quantities of sherds have also discovered, and were subsequently excavated in 1947. These were situated approximately 1 mile to the north-east of the proposed site (*ibid*).

Due to the close proximity of the church, and thus the historical core of the village, it would seem entirely plausible that medieval remains may also be present within the assessment area. Although the church dates to the 18th century, the possibility of a earlier building should not be ruled out.

An archaeological investigation on land off Broadgate Road, further north of Bowmore House, revealed a highly disturbed stratigraphy (Britchfield, 2000). A Soils Engineering Report was carried out on the Broadgate Road site in 1996 (Britchfield, 2000). The purpose of this investigation was to 'check for any landfill gas generated in the old tip and to see if there was any migration into the proposed building area' (Soils Engineering Limited 1996:1). As well as the formerly mentioned tip, the report confirms the presence of an undisturbed 'silt filled creek' (1996:2), made up of a clayey sandy silt. Three boreholes were used to investigate the site. Borehole 1 was positioned on the former tip, while boreholes 2 and 3 indicated that the 'infilled channel' was present between 0.20-1.8m beneath the existing ground level.

4.0 The Archaeological Watching Brief:

4.1 *Methodology:*

Excavations commenced on the 28th November 2000, using a JCB fitted with a 0.75m toothed bucket. The foundations were dug down to a depth of approximately 1 m below the modern ground level, although this varied, and were under constant archaeological supervision. All spoil was inspected with a metal detected for finds. Profiles were trowel cleaned to establish the stratigraphic relationship between the soil types, and were subsequently recorded and photographed.

4.2 *Project Constraints:*

Due to a misunderstanding, the client was initially unaware of the need for archaeological monitoring. Soke Archaeological Services Ltd were, therefore, only commissioned to carry out the watching brief after the excavation of the footings had commenced. This, however, did not hinder an understanding of the site as all trenches had been left open for

inspection and any features were visible in profile. Due to the misunderstanding a project design for the work was not submitted to Lincolnshire County Council.

4.3 *The Results:*

Only one feature emerged on the site, a land drain. The rest of the site proved to be archaeologically sterile. Generally only two layers were encountered across the site: (008) and (003). Profile 3 (Fig 6) shows a larger section through the stratigraphy, this shows context numbers (006) and (007). All other context numbers are associated feature [005]. All the context numbers encountered on the site are listed and described in the table below.

4.3.1 *The Drainage Ditch [005] and [004]:*

Cut numbers [004] and [005] represent the same ditch which is shown in Profiles 1 and 2. Its secondary fill (001) was made of a firm sandy clay, very dark greyish brown with inclusions of charcoal and small friable pieces of fired clay at 1%. The primary fill (002) was a firm silty clay, very dark grey in colour with traces of leaching from (001).

The ditch may either be orientated northeast - southwest and thereby clipping the corner of the foundations (Fig 4) or running north - south and turning sharply east - west as it approaches the corner of the foundations. The feature is approximately 2 metres in width and 0.6 metres in depth. This may signify an enclosure boundary or drainage gully.

Three pieces of fired clay and one piece of bone were found within the secondary fill of the feature. All finds were recovered from [004] (Profile 2, Fig 8). It was impossible to date the ditch from the pot fragments associated with it, all of which dated from recent to modern. (The finds are described and listed in table 2).

5.0 Discussion:

In conclusion, nothing of antiquity survived on the site. The only feature was a relatively modern land drain which clipped the corner of the proposed development (Fig 4). The stratigraphy that was encountered below the topsoil appeared to be alluvial, suggesting seasonal flooding at some point in the past.

Apart from the drainage ditch, [004] and [005], there were no other features present. As the majority of the site was undisturbed, it would suggest that this particular area was archaeological sterile.

Table 1: Contexts encountered at Bowmore House.

Context No.	Description.	Profile No.	Associated Finds.
(001)	Secondary fill of [004] and [005]. Firm sandy clay (90% - 10%). Very dark greyish-brown (2.5 Y/2). Small fragments of friable pottery and charcoal flecks (1%).	1 and 2	1,2,3, and 4
(002)	Primary fill of [004] and [005]. Firm silty clay (80% - 20%). Very dark grey (5Y 3/1). Traces of leaching from (001).	1 and 2	-
(003)	Natural silty clay alluvium. Olive brown (2.5 Y/4). Sporadic inclusions of blue grey alluvial clay.	All	-
(006)	Similar to (003) but without the inclusions of blue grey alluvial clay.	3	-
(007)	Silty wet alluvium. Bluish-grey (5/1 Gley).	3	-
(008)	Dry lense of alluvial sandy silt. Dark greenish grey (4/1 Gley).	4,5 and 6	-
[004]	Cut of land drain	2	1,2,3 and 4
[005]	Cut of land drain (same as [004]).	1	1,2,3 and 4

Table 2: Small finds listing and associated information.

Small Find No.	Description.	Associated Context No.	Profile No.	Figure No.
1	Red brick like fabric. Post Industrial revolution land drain.	(001)	2	8
2	Same as Small Finds No. 1.	(001)	2	8
3	Fairly large fragment of brick or Briquetage, possibly associated with local salt manufacturing.	(001)	2	9
4	Fragment of the proximal end of a Sheep's left tibia.	(001)	2	10

6.0 Archive:

The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during this watching brief will be sorted and distributed to the City and County Museum, Lincoln, for long term storage and curation.

7.0 Bibliography:

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

Britchfield, D 2000. *Final Report of Archaeological Investigations at Broadgate Road, Sutton St Edmund*. Rep No. SAS00/DB/00.

English Heritage, (1991) *Management of Archaeological Projects*.

English Heritage, (1996) *Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the Recording, Sampling, Conservation and Curation of Waterlogged Wood*.

IFA (1992) *Guidelines for Finds Work*.

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Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section (1998) *County Standards for Field Archaeology in Lincolnshire*. ISBN: 0-86111-229-6.

Murphy, P. and Wiltshire, P. (1994) *A Guide to Sampling Archaeological Deposits for Environmental Analysis*.

Phillips, C.W (1970) *The Fenland in Roman Times*. Royal Geographic Society, Series No. 5.

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

8.0 Appendix A - Illustrations:

Figure 1: Regional Plan.

Figure 2: Site Location Plan.

Figure 3: Site Plan showing Soakaways.

Figure 4: Foundation Plan.

Figure 5: Profiles 1 & 2.

Figure 6: Profile 3.

Figure 7: Profiles of Soakaways (S1, S2 & S3).

Figure 8: Small Find No.s 1 & 2.

Figure 9: Small Find No. 3.

Figure 10: Small Find No. 4.

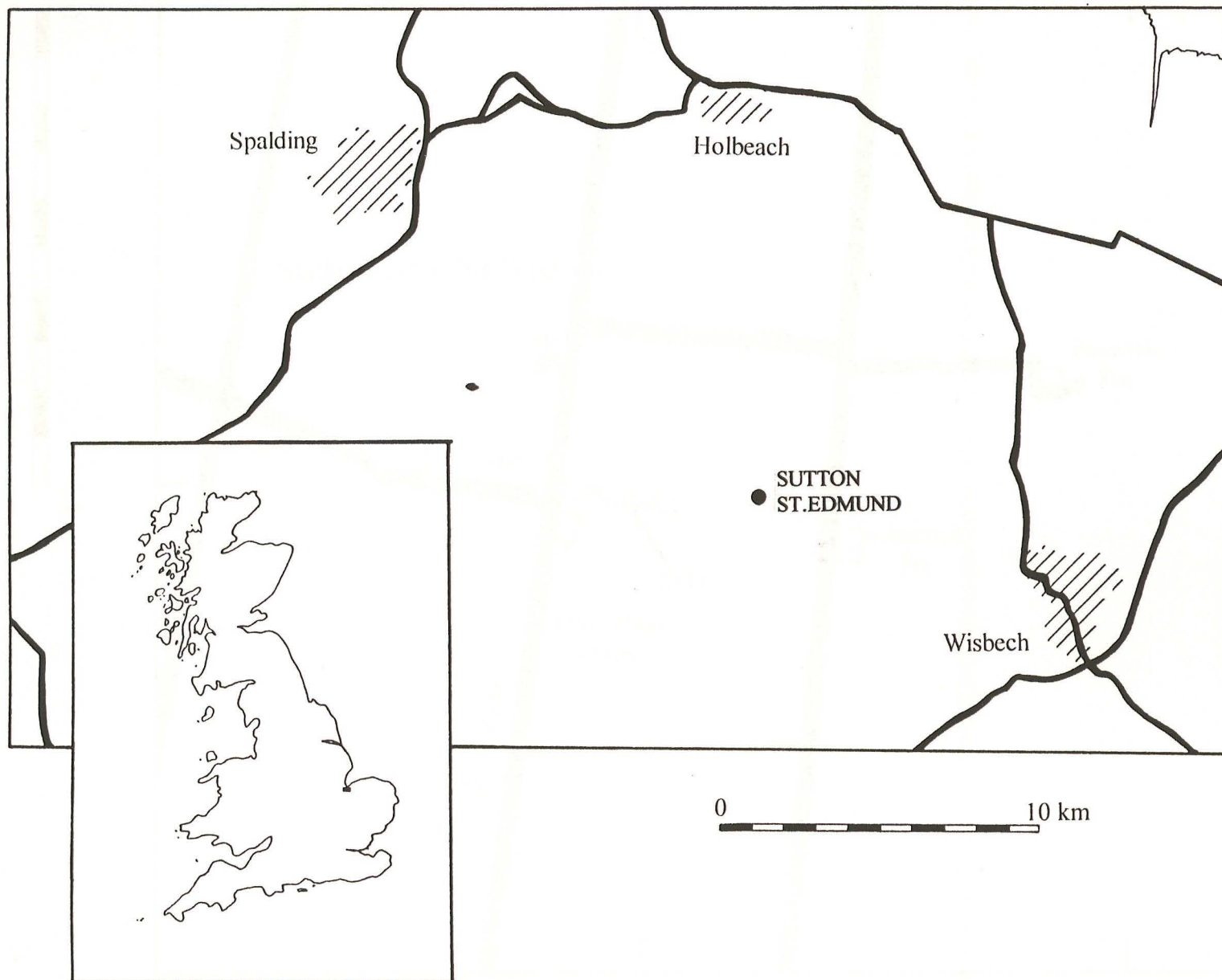


Figure 1 - Regional Plan

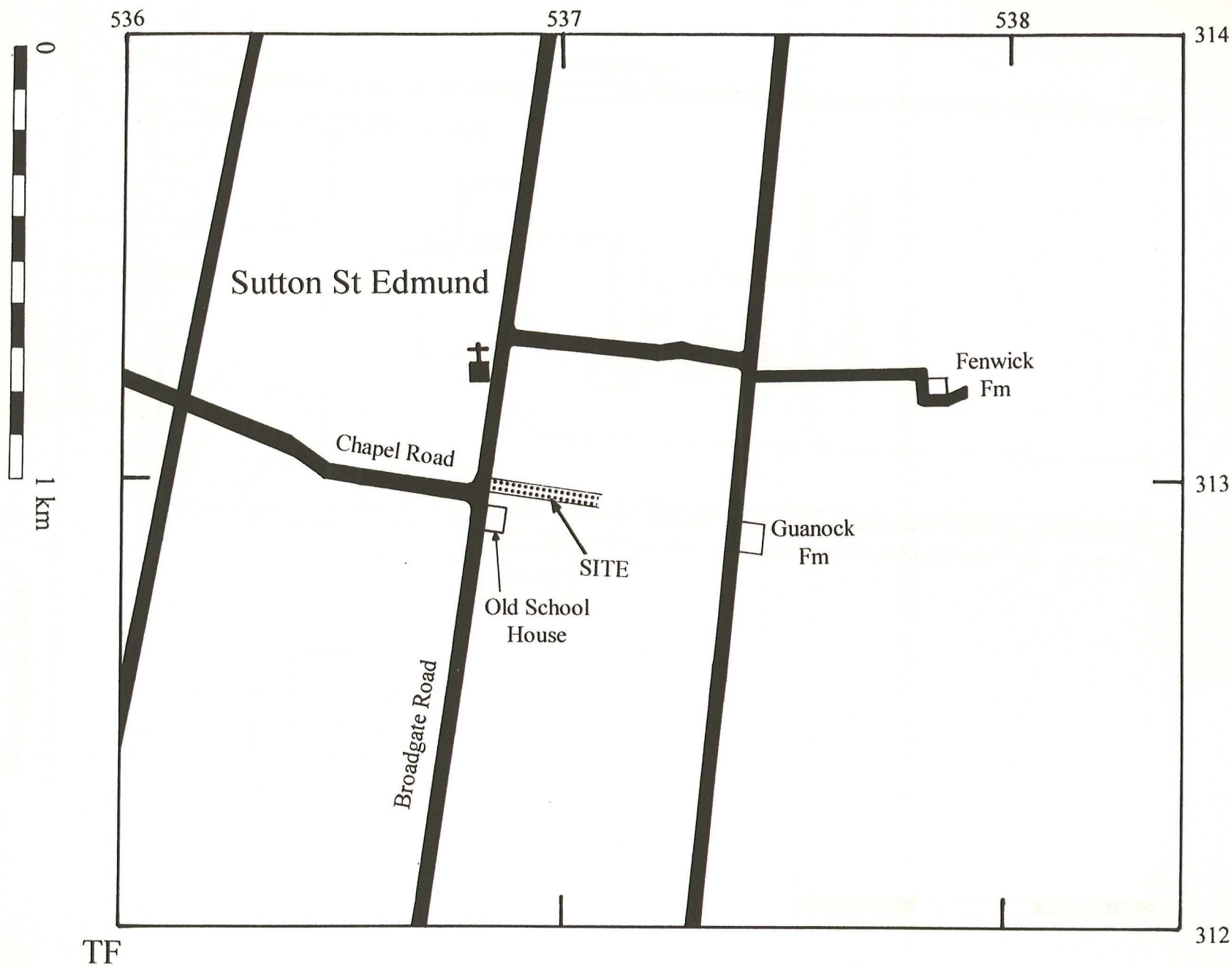


Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

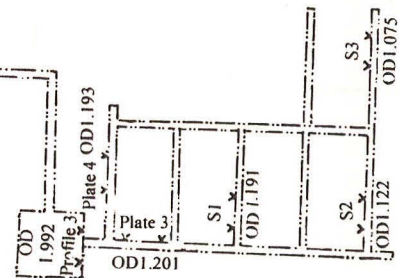
Chapel Road

Broadgate Road

Existing Drain

Garage

Old School
House



0 30 m

Figure 3 - Site Plan showing Soakaways

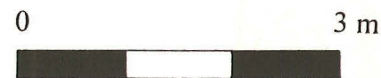
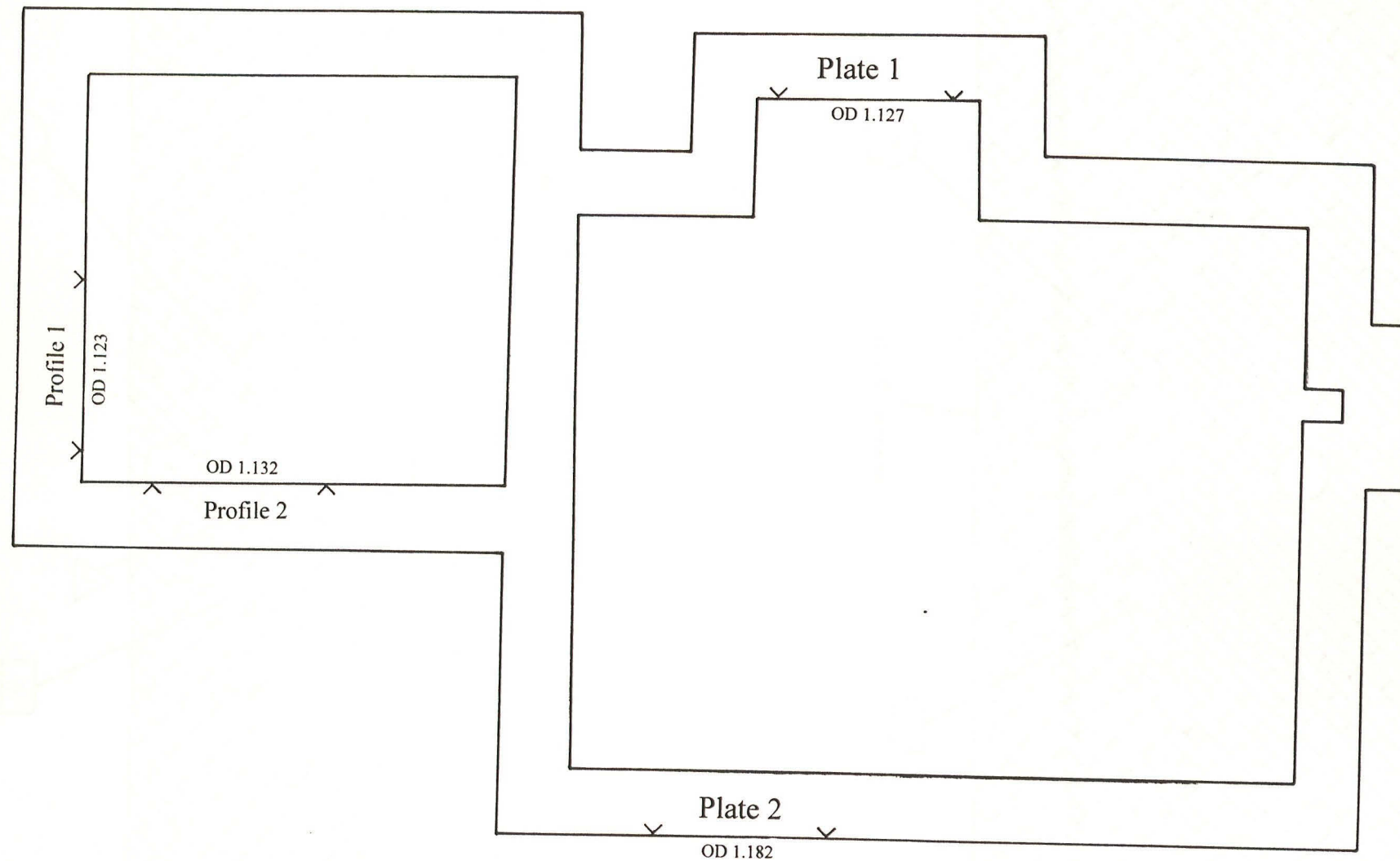
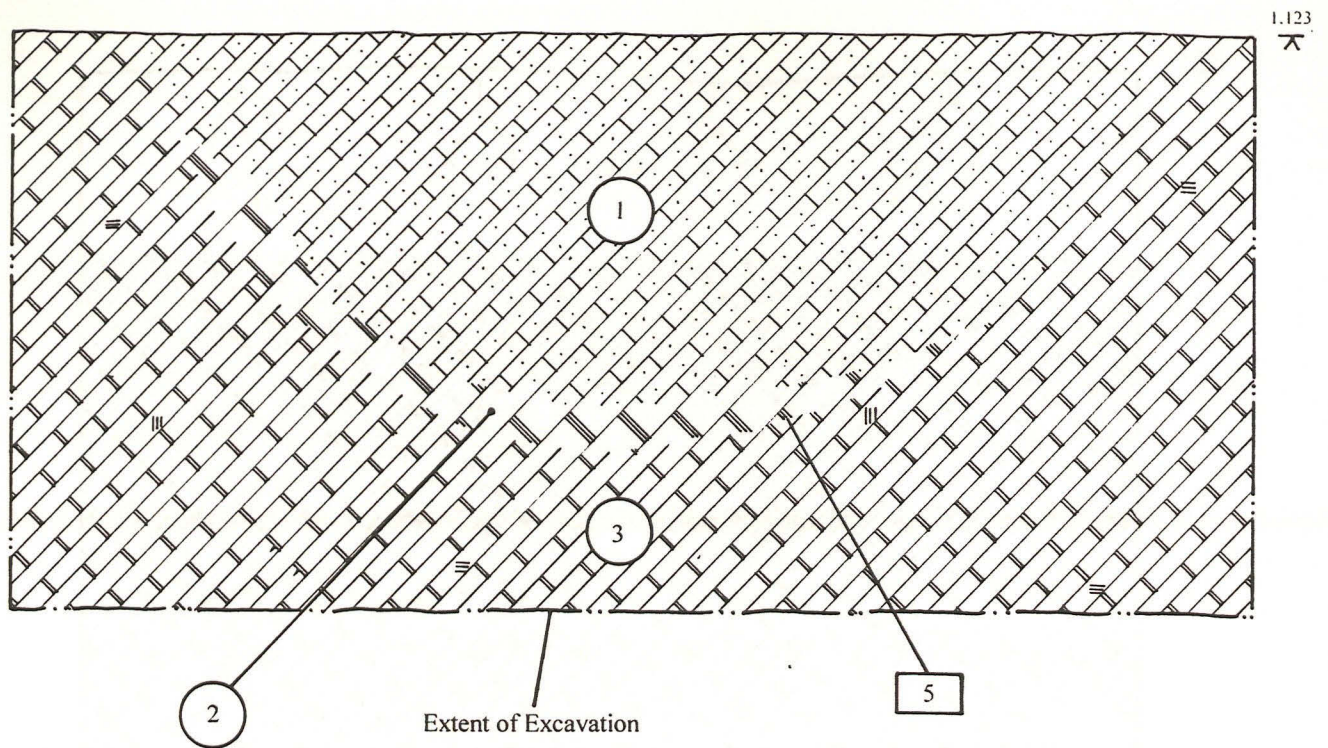


Figure 4 - Foundation Plan

Profile 1



Profile 2

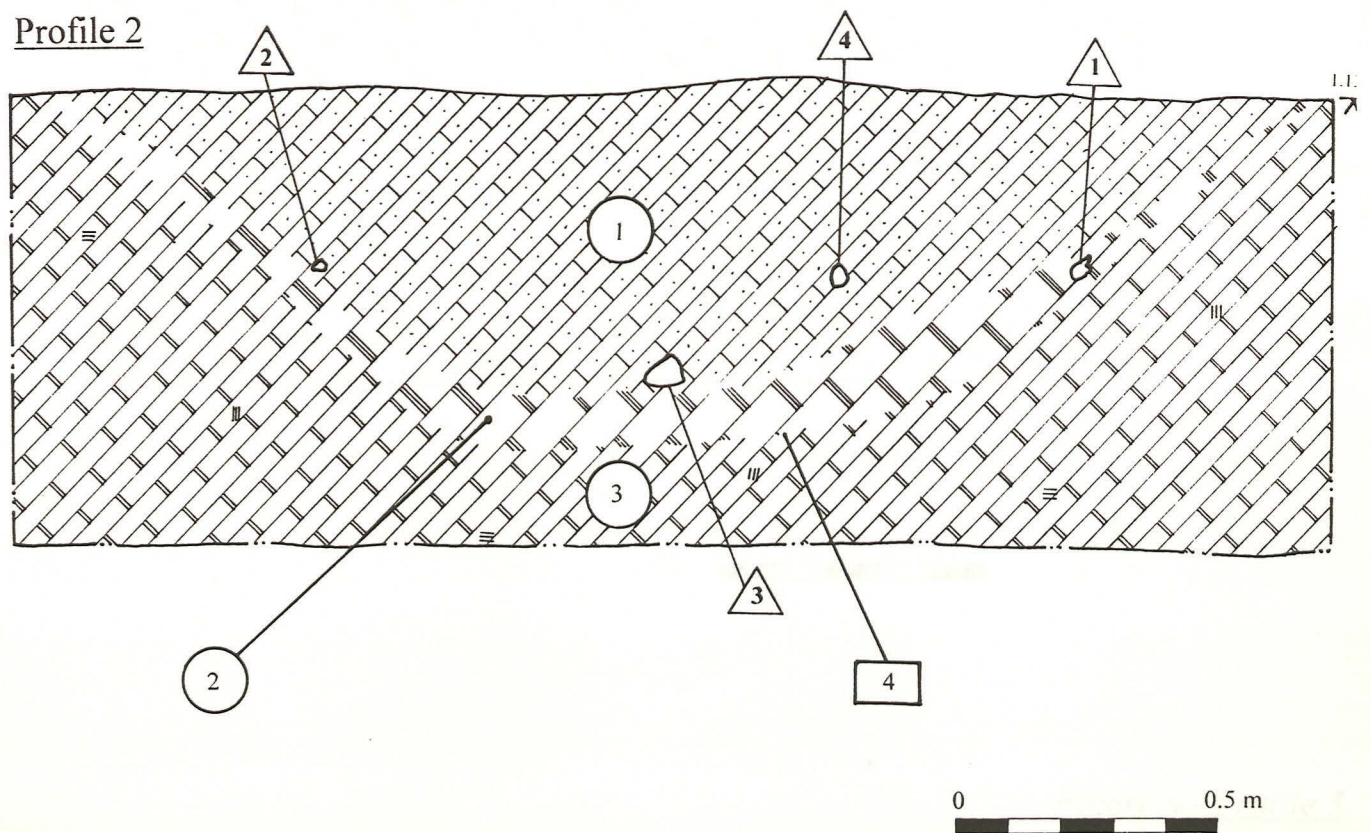
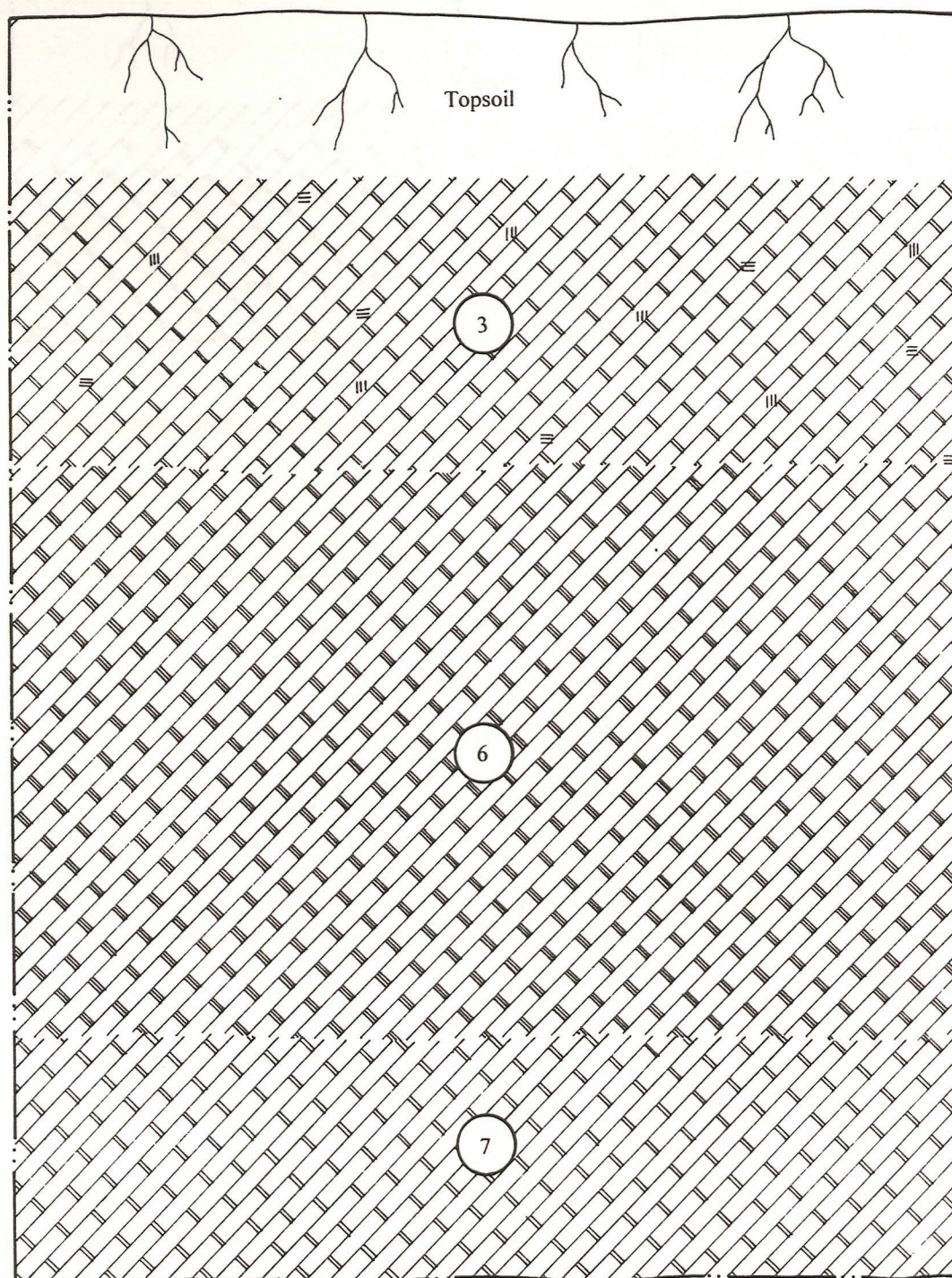


Figure 5 - Profiles 1 & 2

Profile 3

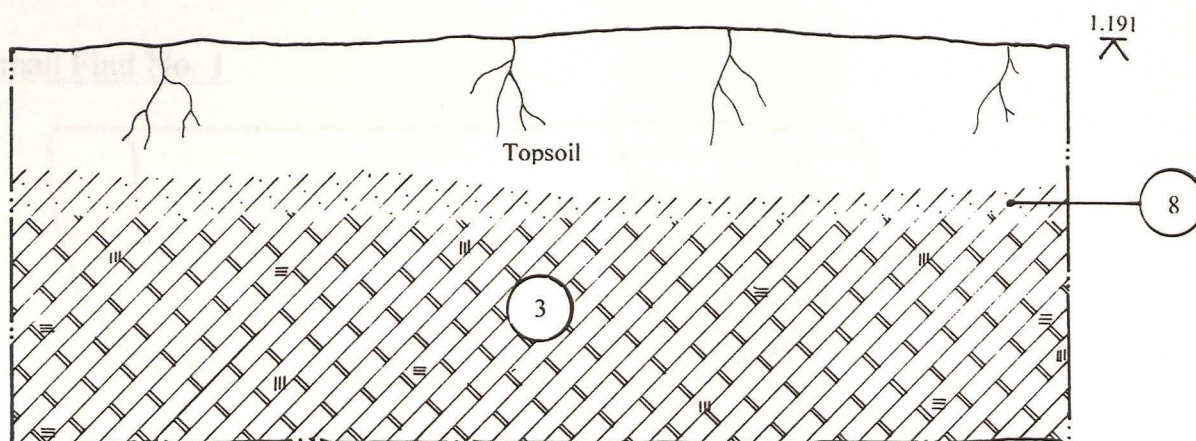
1.992
7



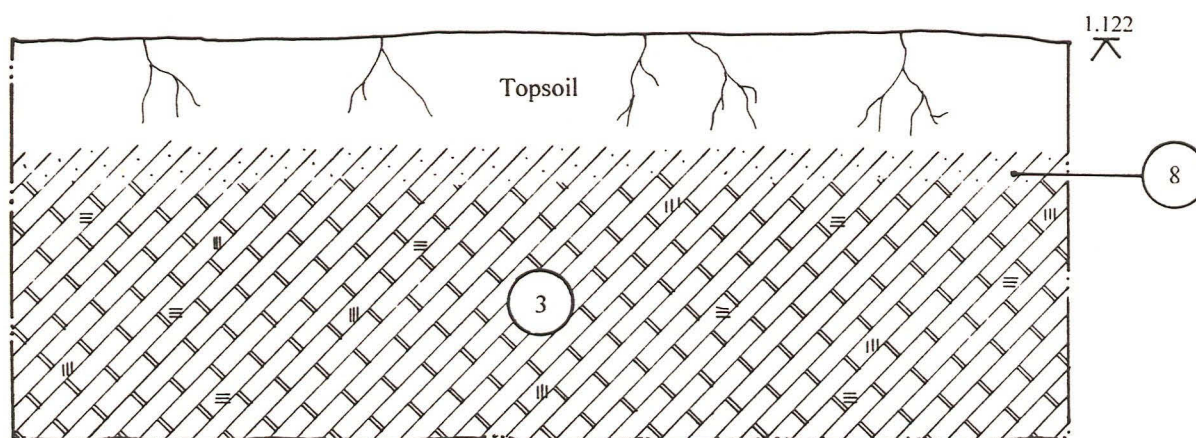
0 0.5 m

Figure 6 - Profile 3

S1



S2



S3

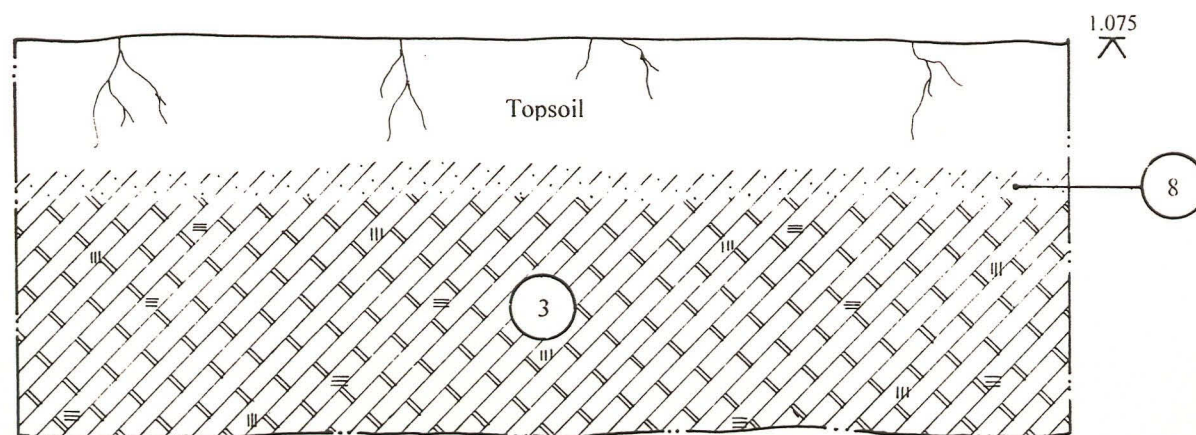
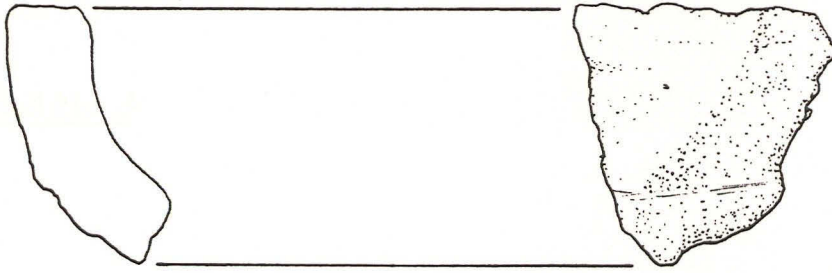


Figure 7 - Profiles of Soakaways (S1, S2 & S3)

Small Find No. 1



Small Find No. 2

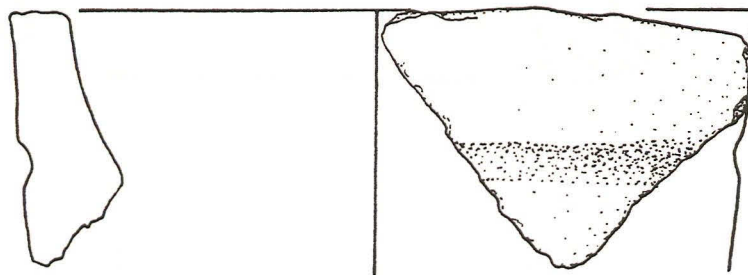


Figure 8 - Small Find No.s 1 & 2

Small Find No. 3

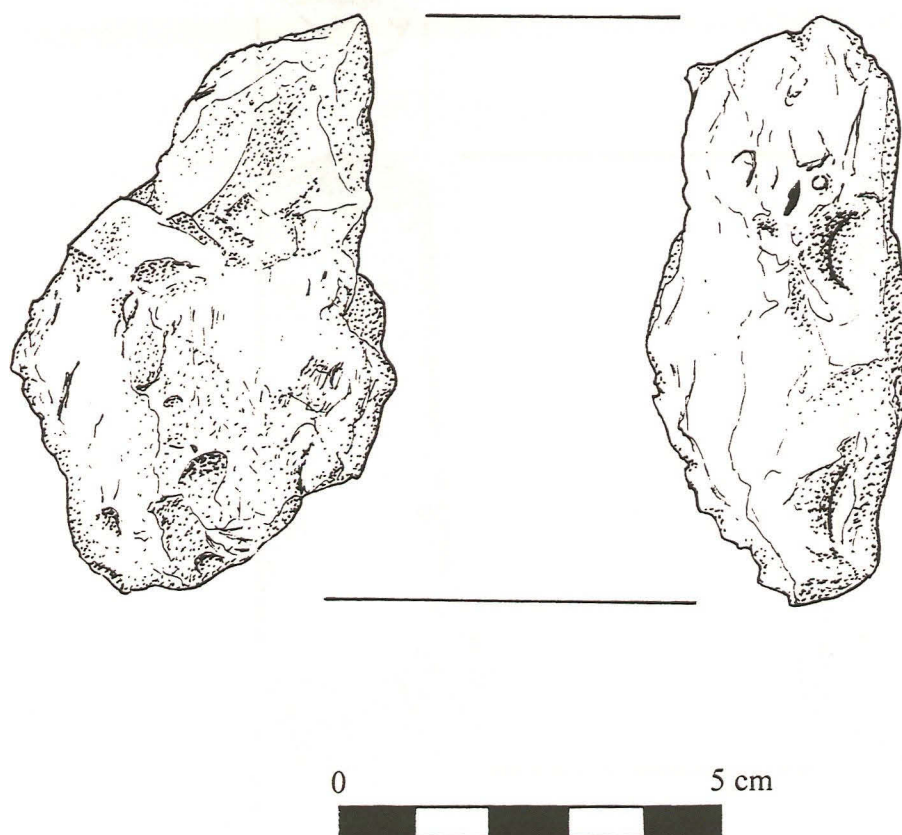


Figure 9 - Small Find No. 3

Small Find No. 4

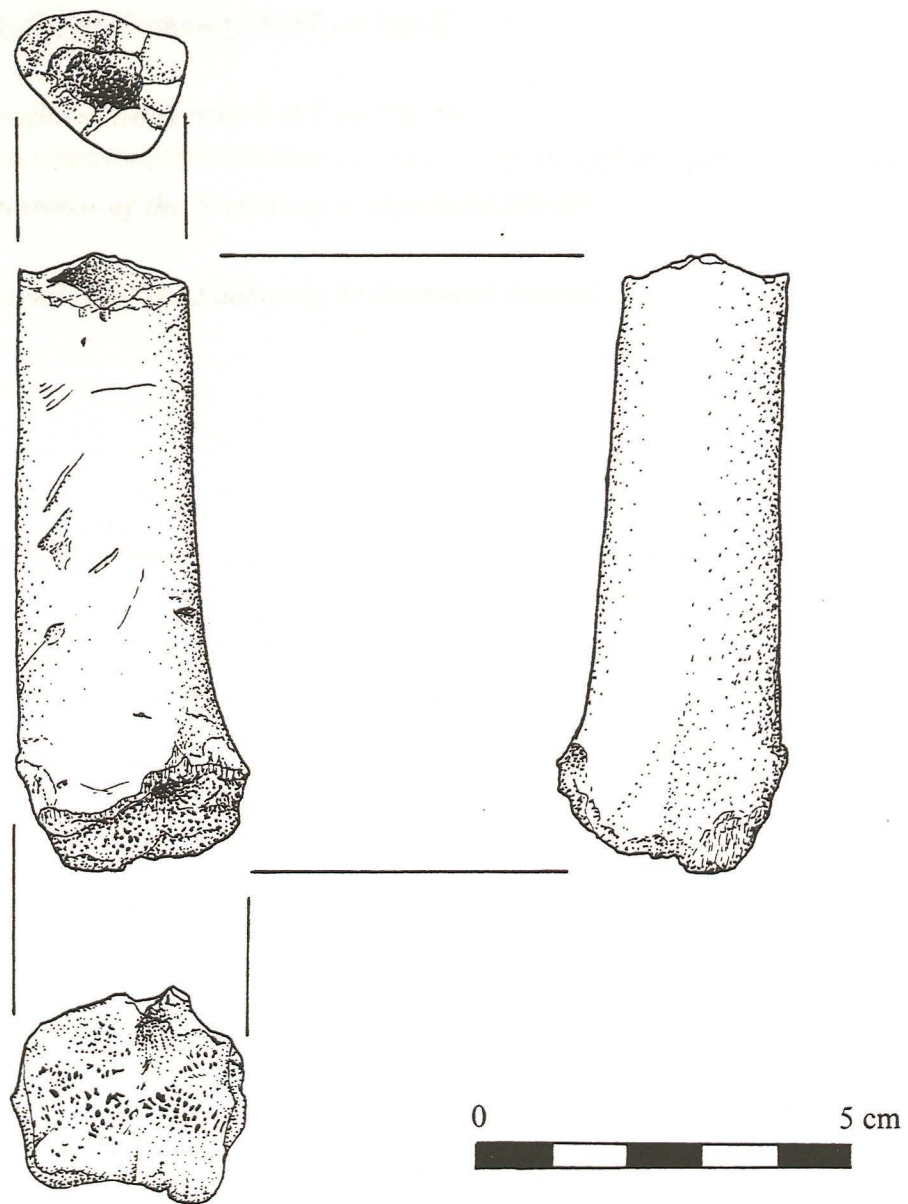


Figure 10 - Small Find No. 4

9.0 Appendix B - Plates:

Plate 1: Profile of Soakaway 1 (Plate 3 on Fig 3).

Plate 2: Profile of Soakaway 2 (Plate 4 on Fig 3).

Plate 3: Profile of Soakaway 3 (S1 on Fig 3).

Plate 4: Profile of Soakaway 4 (S2 on Fig 3).

Plate 5: Profile of Soakaway 5 (S3 on Fig 3).

Plate 6: Overview of the Soakaway at Bowmore House.

Plate 7: Overview of the Soakaway at Bowmore House.



Plate 1: Profile of Soakaway 1 (Plate 3 on Fig 3).



Plate 2: Profile of Soakaway 2 (Plate 4 on Fig 3).



Plate 3: Profile of Soakaway 3 (S1 on Fig 3).



Plate 4: *Profile of Soakaway 4 (S2 on Fig 3).*



Plate 5: Profile of Soakaway 5 (S3 on Fig 3).



Plate 6: Overview of the Soakaway at Bowmore House.



Plate 7: Overview of the Soakaway at Bowmore House.