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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Horncastle, Banovallum Gardens:

**Residential Development: Plots 85 - 87
Archaeological Watching Brief**

NGR: TF 2671 6919

Site Code **HBG 97**
LCNCC Museum Accn. No. **99.97**

ELDC Planning Application No. **S/086/0647/93**

Report prepared for Stamford Homes Ltd

July 1997

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Introduction

Stamford Homes Ltd commissioned Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) to monitor the mechanical excavation of house footings at Plots 85, 86 and 87, Banovallum Gardens, Horncastle in compliance with an archaeological condition on the planning consent (Figs. 1 and 2). This watching brief formed part of continuing archaeological monitoring of this development by LAS, which has previously located possible prehistoric and Romano-British features (Field 1994; Field 1994b; Tann 1993, 1995 and 1996). The archaeological background has been described in those previous reports.

Foundations for house plots 86 and 87 were monitored on 10th April 1997; staff incapacity prevented a monitoring visit to Plot 85. The houses were located on the south side of an estate road and lay within a zone marked for further archaeological investigation after the 1993 evaluation and a subsequent geophysical survey. Evaluation Trench 2 in 1993 had encountered a ditch with flanking gully terminals west of Plot 86 and it was hoped that additional information could be recorded about this possible Iron Age feature (Tann 1993).

The Watching Brief

The foundation trenches were excavated by a machine fitted with a 0.5m wide toothed bucket; the base and sides of the house foundation trenches were inspected during or shortly after excavation. The natural deposits on this site are very mixed, incorporating pockets of clay, sand, peat and loam, reflecting glacial material from the Wolds reworked by shallow natural watercourses (now represented by Thunker Drain at the northern edge of the development).

Ditch 1

A small ditch aligned SE-NW crossed Plot 87 from its SE corner to midway across the northern side (Pls. 1-3; Figs. 3 and 4). The flat base of this feature lay below the foundation trenches and the primary fill was a fibrous dark brown peaty soil. At higher levels the sides were indistinct as the feature had cut through mixed deposits of clay, chalky silt and sand; it probably contained redeposited soil from those deposits. The ditch was only revealed crossing trenches at an angle but in the SE corner the eastern edge seemed to be identifiable as a 60% slope as high as the base of the topsoil (about 0.3m below the modern ground surface). The width was slightly under 0.6m at the base and about 1.6m nearer the surface.

This ditch was not noticed during the excavation of Evaluation Trench 3 in 1993; projection of its alignment indicates that west end of the trench may have been very close to it.

Natural feature 2

The eastern side of Ditch 1 cut into the very dark brown loam fill of an earlier feature 2 (Fig. 3). This was about 1m deep and extended across the SE part of Plot 87 but not beyond 1. To the north, modern trench disturbances had removed ground towards the front of the house site and the extent could not be determined, although a natural feature was recorded at the southern end of Evaluation Trench 10 in 1993. The feature was interpreted as a naturally filled depression, possibly a small pond. It almost certainly equates with the feature 36 identified at the western end of Evaluation Trench 3 which was then thought to be a palaeochannel.

No other features of archaeological interest were seen in the foundation trenches and no soil anomalies were reported by the contractors during the excavation of Plot 85.

Conclusion

No archaeological artefacts were found on this occasion and it is not possible to assign a date to ditch 1 crossing Plot 87. This feature had not been observed during previous archaeological investigations but might perhaps be associated with the broader and shallower ditch 5 recorded in Evaluation Trench 2 (Tann 1993). As no further sign of either ditch was evident when adjacent house plots or the estate road to the north were monitored, it is unlikely that this complex will be dated or understood. It may be significant that it lies immediately west of a naturally filled depression, probably best interpreted as a pool; the ditches may have served to drain boggy ground around the periphery of the pool.

Acknowledgements

The co-operation of Mr. Derek Hinchliffe (Site Agent) and the site personnel was once again appreciated.

Illustrations were prepared by Mick McDaid; the report was produced and collated by Jane Frost.

Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
11th July 1997

References

- Field, N. 1994 *Horncastle Banovallum Gardens: Archaeological Evaluation, Phase 2* Unpublished report by LAS for Stamford Homes.
- Tann, G. 1993 *An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Banovallum Gardens, Horncastle* Unpublished report by LAS for Stamford Homes.
- Tann, G. 1995 *Horncastle, Banovallum Gardens Development: Archaeological Watching Brief on Plots 49-53* Unpublished report by LAS for Stamford Homes.
- Tann, G. 1996 *Horncastle, Banovallum Gardens: Archaeological Watching Brief during groundworks for a New Estate Access Road* Unpublished report by LAS for Stamford Homes, March 1996.

Archive:

Observation record sheets : 2
Field sketch plans (annotated) A4
Inked section drawing
Developer's plans
Artefacts: none
Photographs: Film no. 97/14
Correspondence

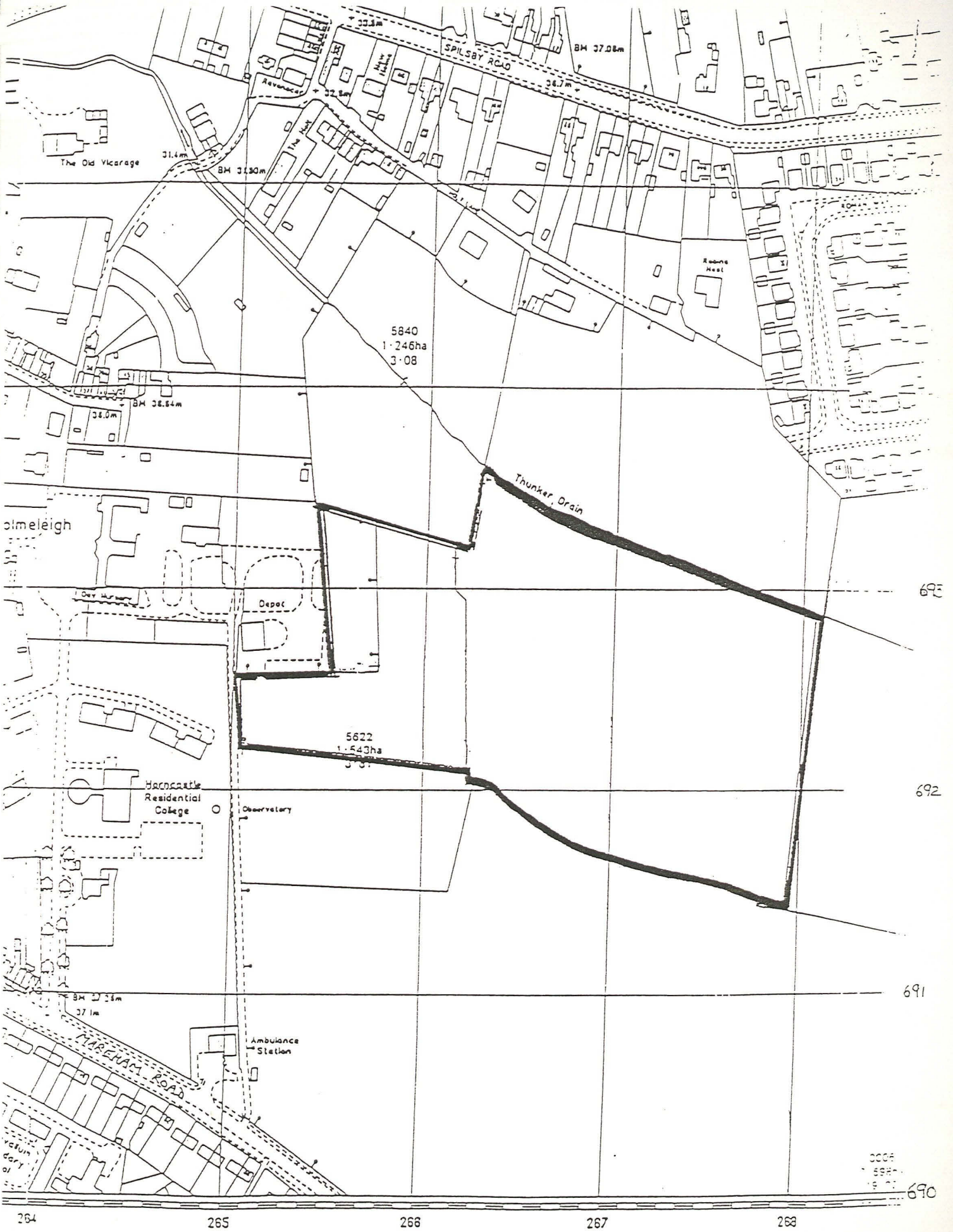


Fig. 1 Location of Banovallum Gardens, Horncastle. Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 50424A.

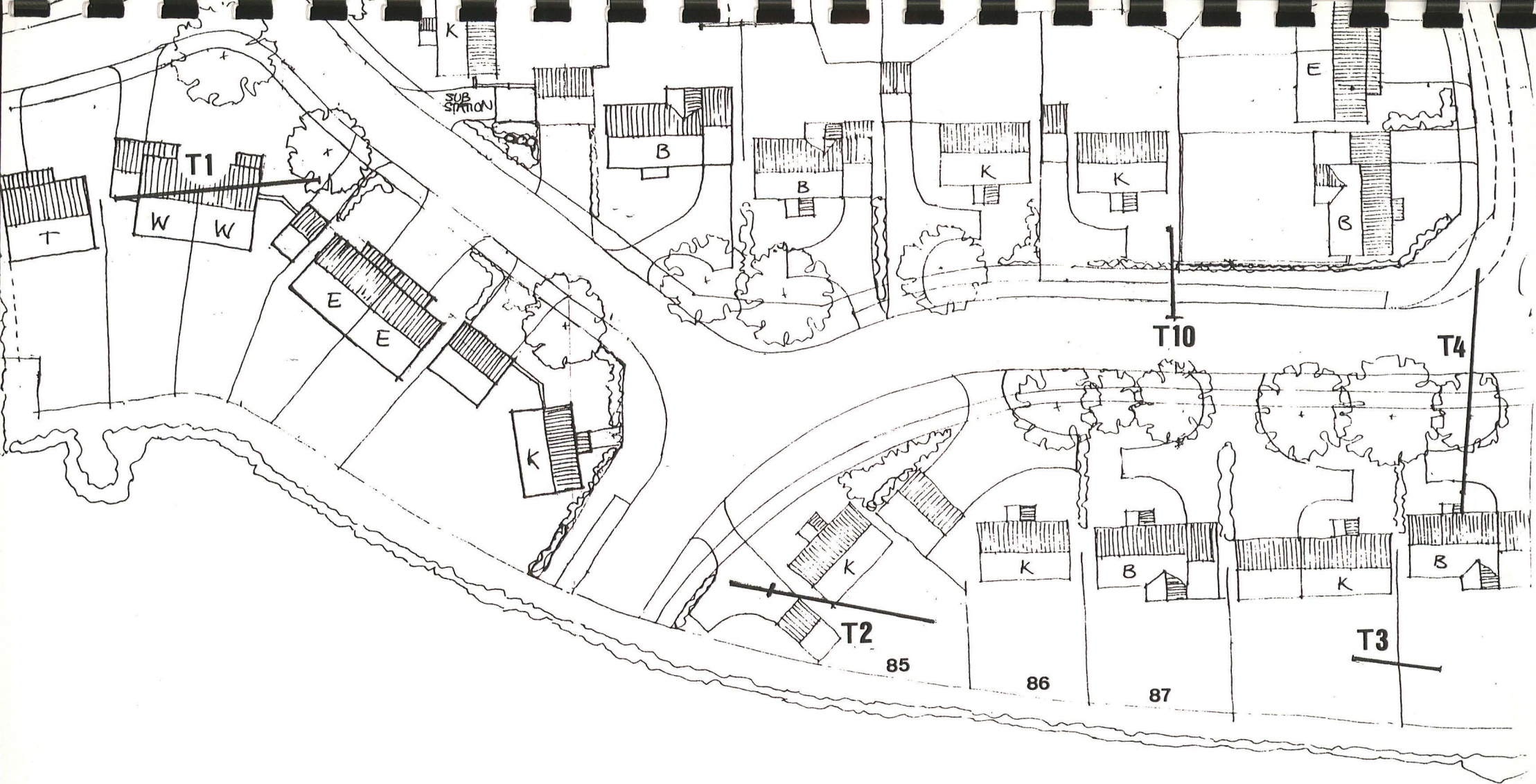


Fig. 2 Position of Plots 85 - 87 marked onto a plan of the development (after D.B. Lawrence and Associates).

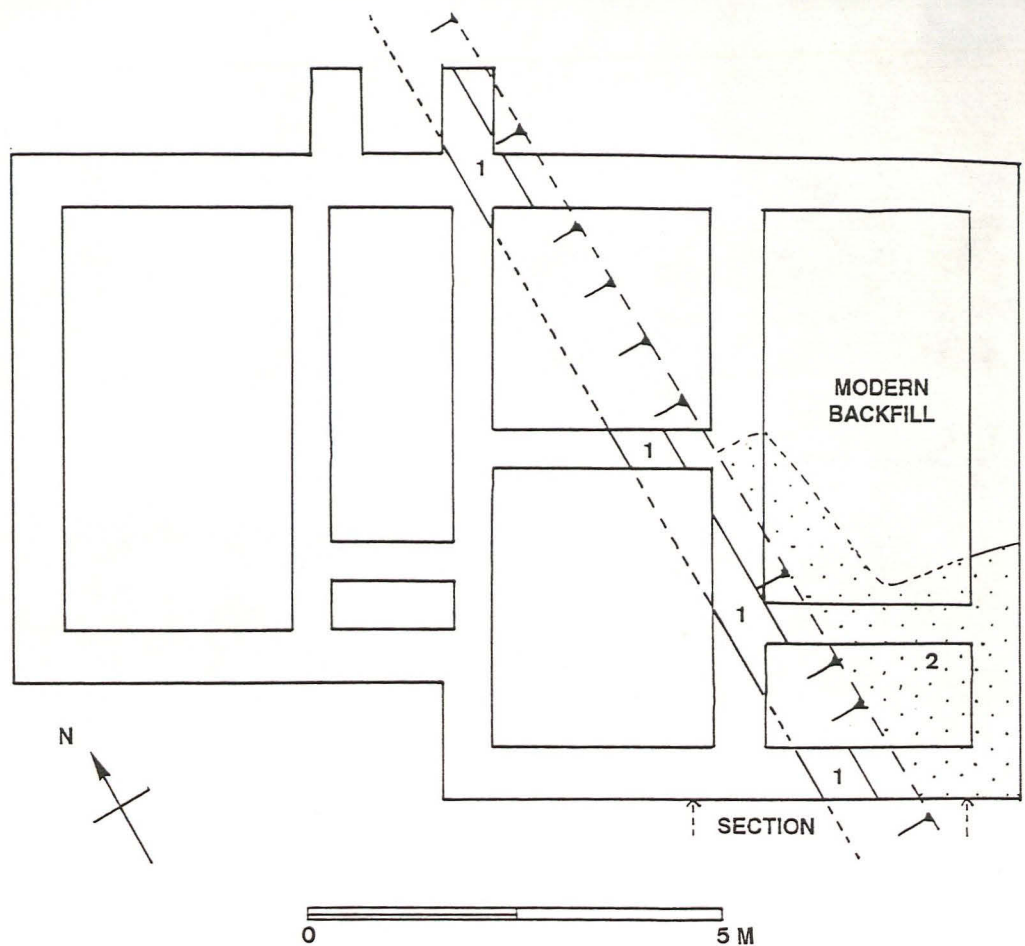


Fig. 3 Plan of the foundation trenches for Plot 87, showing ditch 1 and natural feature 2 (redrawn by McDaid from a plan supplied by Stamford Homes).

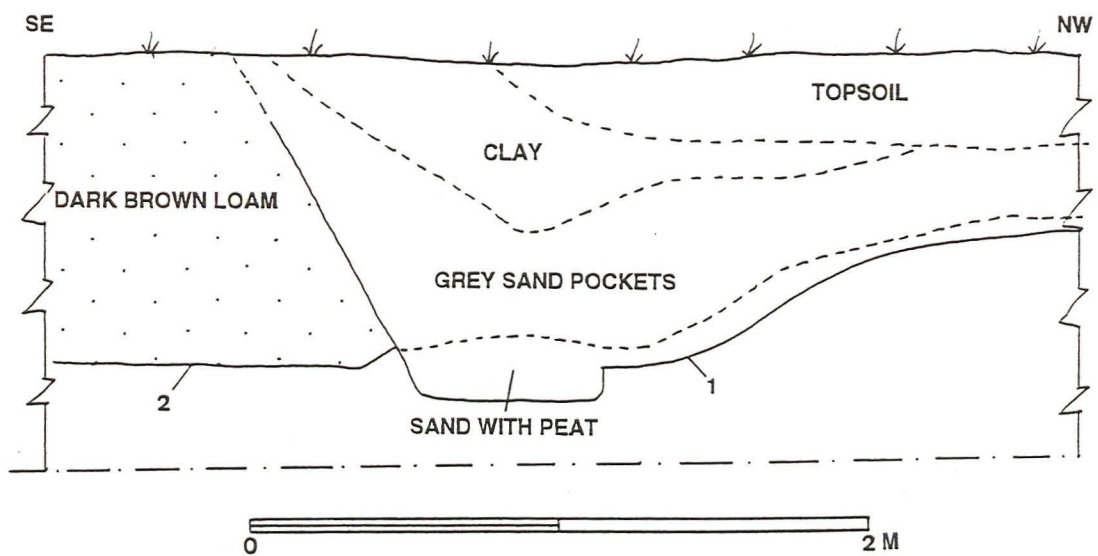


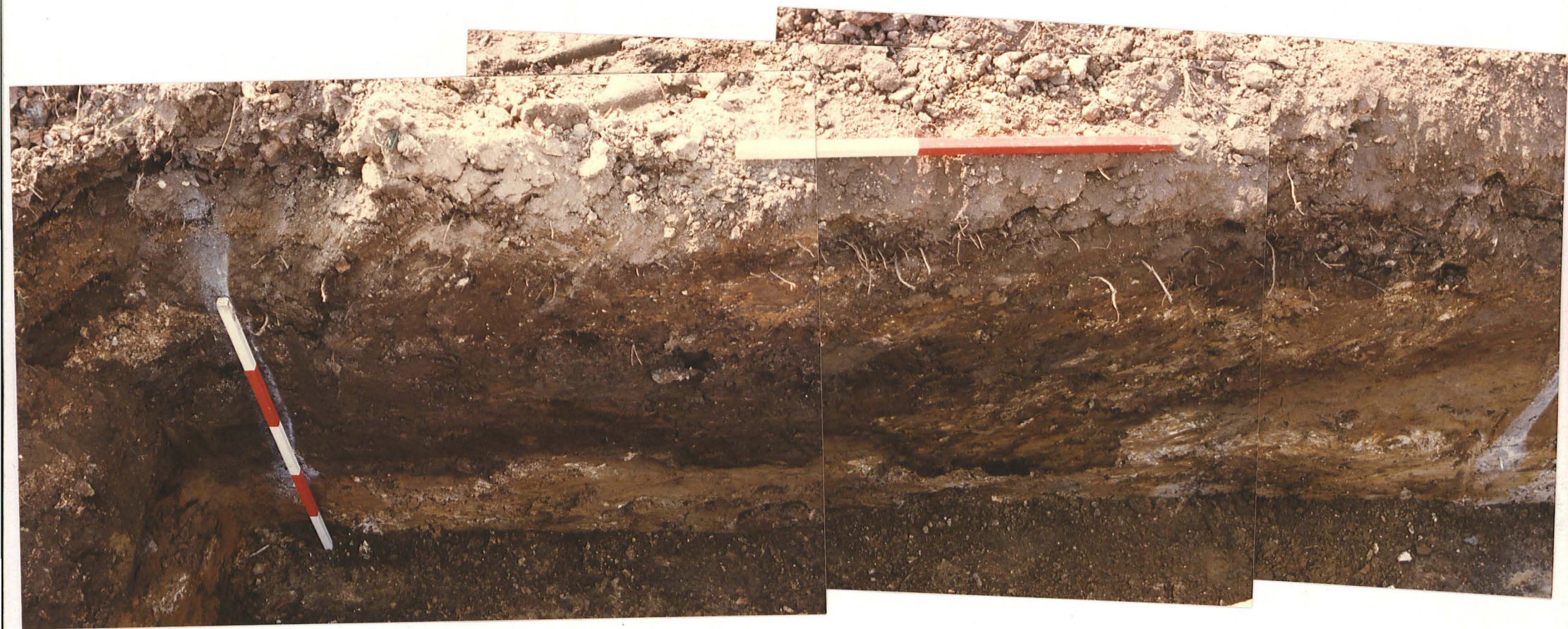
Fig. 4 Section across ditch 1 in the SE corner of Plot 87 (McDaid after Tann).



Pl. 1 Position of Plot 87, Banovallum Gardens (looking south).
Evaluation Trench 3 was close to the hedge near the new fence.

Pl. 2 Mixed dark fill at base of ditch 1, visible at frontage of Plot 87.
Looking north; scale divisions 0.2m.





Pl. 3 Composite photograph of ditch 1 (centre) cut into a natural feature 2 (left). Looking south at rear of Plot 87; scale divisions v0.2m, h0.5m.