

**GUNNERY HILL (PHASE 2),  
SHOEBURYNESSE, ESSEX**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING  
BRIEF**

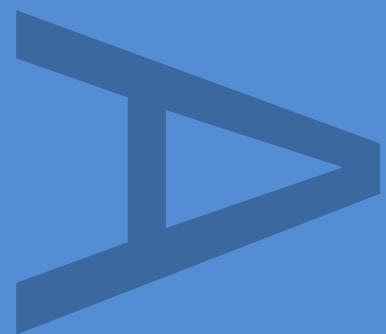
**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:  
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH  
COUNCIL**

**PLANNING APPLICATION NO:  
SOS/10/02099/RESM**

**PCA REPORT NO: R11402**

**SITE CODE: EORG01**

**APRIL 2013**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

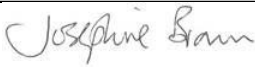

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

GUNNERY HILL (PHASE 2), SHOEBURYNESSE,  
ESSEX

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K3047
Report Number	R11402

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# **GUNNERY HILL (PHASE 2), SHOEBURYNESS, ESSEX**

## **AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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**Local Planning Authority:** Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

**Planning Application No:** SOS/10/02099/RESM

**Outline Planning Application No:** SOS/00/00777/OUT

**Central National Grid Reference:** 593499,184320

**Site Code:** EORG01

**Written and researched by:** Karl Hanson MA PifA

**Project Manager:** Chris Mayo

**Commissioning Client:** Country & Metropolitan Homes

**Archaeological Consultant:** Ramboll

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**April 2013**

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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This document details the results of an archaeological watching brief at Gunnery Hill Phase 2, Shoeburyness, Essex, between the 5th and 14th of March 2013. The work was commissioned by Ramboll on behalf of Country & Metropolitan Homes to monitor groundworks during the excavation of a pipe trench.
- 1.2 No archaeological finds or features were encountered, which is due to the fact that excavations only minimally extended beyond made ground deposited over the last 5 years to raise the ground level for the current development.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 As part of the continued redevelopment of the Old Ranges at Shoeburyness, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) were commissioned to undertake a watching brief during the excavation of a drainage pipe trench around the southern perimeter of land known as Gunnery Hill (Phase 2). The work was commissioned by Vin Sandhu of Country & Metropolitan Homes.
- 2.2 The wider development of the Old Ranges Site is in accordance with Outline Planning Application Number SOS/00/00777/OUT. The development of the Gunnery Hill Site is in accordance with Planning Application Number SOS/10/02099/RESM.
- 2.3 The watching brief monitored the excavation of a length of the pipe trench totalling approximately 35m, from the 5th to the 14th of March 2013.
- 2.4 The work was supervised by Karl Hanson and project managed by Chris Mayo, both of PCA. The archaeological consultant was Phil Emery of Ramboll.
- 2.5 A Project Design for the archaeological watching brief was prepared by Gifford (2010). All work was undertaken in accordance with the document.
- 2.6 Archaeological sites and finds in the surrounding area and the archaeological potential of the site have previously been described and discussed in two reports by Gifford (1997 & 1999). PCA has undertaken a series of watching briefs and excavations as part of the ongoing Shoeburyness masterplan development.
- 2.7 Shoeburyness Old Ranges lies due east of Southend-on-Sea, at a promontory into the Thames Estuary. The Gunnery Hill site lies in the central area of the Shoeburyness Old Range development area, is centred at NGR 593499,184320 (Figure 1). The centre of the site Gunnery Hill is approximately 100m West of Warrior Square Road and 63m south of Magazine Road.
- 2.8 The topography of the Gunnery Hill site has been demonstrably altered over the last 10 years. A topographic survey provided by the client (filename "1125 model rev F.dwg"), undertaken prior to the majority of development at the Old Ranges, shows spot heights across the Gunnery Hill site ranging from an extreme of c7.2m OD at the north-eastern corner of the site, to a more uniform level of c5.8m OD at the northern end of the site, then dropping to a plateau of approximately 4.0m OD to 4.7m OD in the centre of the site. The

southern edge of the site shows levels ranging from c2.2m OD at the southeastern corner, in the vicinity of the watching brief herein reported, to lows of c1.8m OD at the southwestern corner of the site. These levels generally therefore show a varying topography.

- 2.9 The proposed site layout drawing for the Gunnery Hill site (OSP Architecture, 23/09/10; Drawing No. 0918-P200-L) also shows topographic data, but this time the levels around the southeastern corner of the site are shown at a fairly level height of c4.04m OD, showing that the ground surface where the drainage trenches were cut has been artificially raised. PCA is informed that this has been achieved over the last 4-5 years by the Gunnery Hill site being used as a stockpile repository for arisings accumulated over the course of groundworks elsewhere at the Old Ranges (pers comm. Vin Sandhu, C&M Homes), and then levelled out to make a level and more readily developable construction terrace.
- 2.10 In short, therefore, the ground in the area of the of the proposed drainage trenches has already been subjected to ground-raising by approximately 1.8m over the last few years.

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 The excavation of drainage pipe trenches for the new development was monitored, running around the south-eastern corner of the site (Figure 2). The excavation began from an existing manhole chamber centred at NGR 593540, 184219 and then continued in a north-easterly direction for approximately 13m to a new manhole chamber, centred at NGR 593555, 184227. The new manhole had dimensions of approximately 3.0m by 3.5m. Thereafter the trench was excavated in a north-northeasterly direction for approximately 20m to a central NGR point of approximately 593562, 184241.
- 3.2 At that point it was deemed that the WB was only observing groundworks impacting upon previously disturbed ground, and therefore the WB was discontinued.
- 3.3 The drainage trench was laid out by the client's engineers. It generally comprised two parallel trenches, each with a width of approximately 0.75m and spaced approximately 1.0m apart. They were dug to a general depth of 2.5m BGL.
- 3.4 The excavation was conducted by a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed bucket under the supervision of an archaeologist.
- 3.5 All deposits were recorded on proforma context sheets. Trench plans and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:50 and 1:20 respectively. The trench was located using a scaled engineering plan showing the proposed site layout (OSP Architecture, 23/09/10; Drawing No. 0918-P200-L).
- 3.6 The same drawing showed topographic data for the proposed drainage route, and shows that ground level along the trench was at approximately 4.0m OD. The levels used in this report are calculated from that height.
- 3.7 A photographic record was made of the trench excavation as it proceeded, and of representative sections and site conditions.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE**

- 4.1 At the base of the sequence on the eastern edge of the pipe trench was layer [3001], a mid blueish grey, sandy-clay with frequent small gravel and of firm compaction. This layer was only noted in the eastern trench at a depth of 1.65m BGL, approximately 2.4m OD. It contained some intrusive modern bricks and demolition/refuse waste at its surface. Layer [3001] is interpreted as marine alluvial deposits which may have been reworked when the episodes of ground-raising over the last 5 years have occurred.
- 4.2 Noted cut into [3001] was a vertically truncated 20th century brick structure [3002] which formed either a soakaway or a manhole chamber from the previous layout of the area – the pre-development topographic survey of the site shows several manhole chambers in this location. Feature (3002) comprised a course of modern brick founded on clean bright brownish yellow clay, and was filled by a deposit of water-lain humic sediment which contained plastic finds. The top of the feature was found at an approximate depth of 2.60m BGL, c 1.4m OD.
- 4.3 The above were sealed by layer [3000], modern made ground which was observed along the entire trench as monitored. It comprised dark blackish-grey sandy-clay, which varied in compaction from a firm to a slurry-like consistency, with frequent inclusions of modern bricks and demolition/refuse waste and with a thickness up to a maximum of 2.60m.

## **5 CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 A watching brief was undertaken by PCA during the excavation of a drainage run associated with the Gunnery Hill (Phase 2) site, part of the development of the Old Ranges at Shoeburyness.
- 5.2 Excavations for a new drainage installation were monitored for a distance of approximately 35m at the south-eastern corner of the site.
- 5.3 Natural alluvially-lain sediments were recorded in one location, but these had been clearly reworked in the modern period. Into them was cut a discrete manhole chamber. The ground surface was formed by modern imported made ground.
- 5.4 The work demonstrated that the area of the site had been artificially raised over the course of the last 5 years by the deposition of material originating from elsewhere on the Old Ranges site. Where excavation penetrated below this level it was only by a maximum observed depth of 0.16m, therefore barely impacting below the original ground surface. Accordingly the archaeological findings of this work have been negligible and insignificant.
- 5.5 Based on this it was decided, in consultation with the archaeological consultant to the client, to cease the archaeological watching brief early, having monitored approximately 30% of the proposed groundworks.
- 5.6 This work will be incorporated into the wider assessment and analysis document for the site by PCA, which will be commenced once all site works are complete.
- 5.7 Once the site works and post-excavation project is complete, the entire site archive

(comprising written and drawn records, and photographs) will be deposited with the local museum under site code EORG01. There were no artefactual items or environmental samples arising from this project.

## 6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1 PCA would like to thank Vin Sandhu of Country & Metropolitan Homes for commissioning and funding the project. We also thank Phil Emery of Ramboll for archaeological consultancy and Ken Crowe of Southend-On-Sea Borough Council for monitoring the project.

## 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Gifford 2010 'Gunnery Hill (Phase 2), Shoeburyness, Essex: Project Design for an Archaeological Watching Brief', unpublished report, document no. 16846.CHA.R04

Kent, P. 1988 Fortifications of East Anglia. Terence Dalton

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context	Type	Comments
3000	Layer	Modern made ground.
3001	Layer	Marine alluvium deposits with surface CBM.
3002	Modern feature	Modern soak-away or manhole chamber



## APPENDIX 2: PLATES

*Plate 1: View of site from on top of Experimental casemate and Light QF Gantry with 9.2-inch Mk VII emplacement in left of shot identified using (Kent 1988), view facing North.*



Plate 2: Photo of sample section 1 photo taken viewing north-west, showing layer [3000].



Plate 3: Photo of sample section 2 photo taken viewing south-east. Showing layer [3000] overlaying layer [3001].

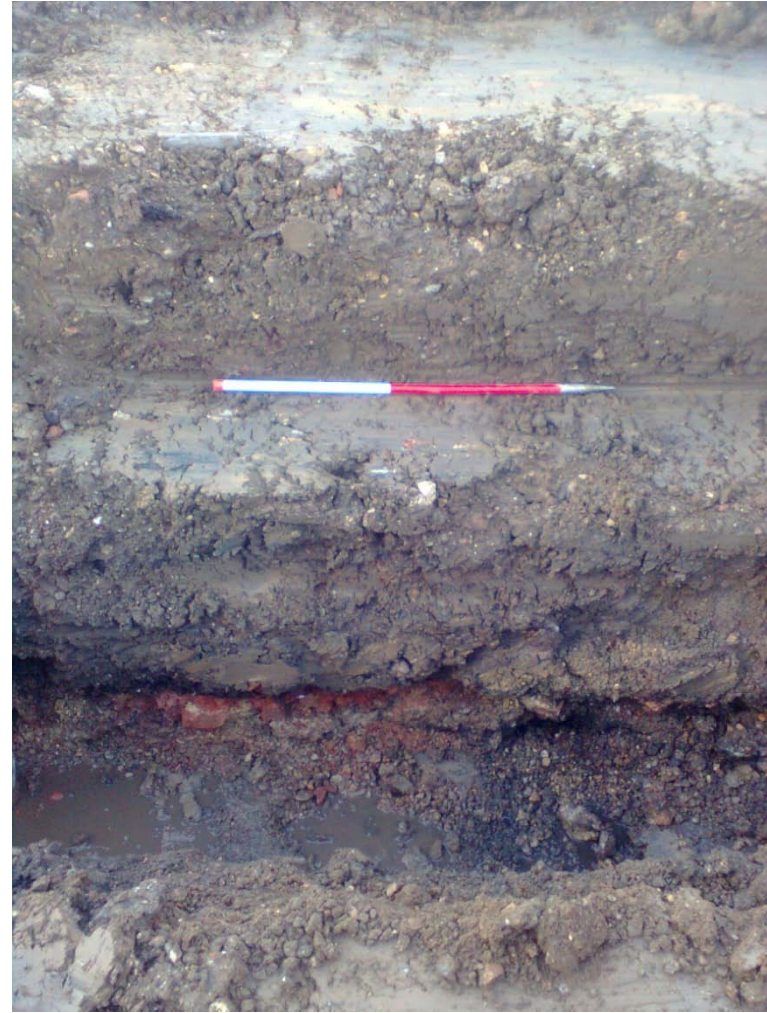




Plate 4: Photo of trench for manholes showing layer [3000], view facing north east.



Plate 5: Photo of modern soak-away [3002] overlaid by [3000], view taken north-west.



## APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-145594

### Project details

Project name	Gunnery Hill (Phase 2), Shoeburyness, Essex: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was completed at Gunnery Hill Phase 2, Shoeburyness, Essex, between the 5th and 14th of March 2013. The work was commissioned by Ramboll on behalf of Country and Metropolitan Homes to monitor groundworks during the excavation of a pipe trench. No archaeological finds or features were encountered, which is due to the fact that excavations only minimally extended beyond made ground deposited over the last 5 years to raise the ground level for the current development.
Project dates	Start: 05-03-2013 End: 14-03-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	EORG01 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	SOS/10/02099/RESM - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX SOUTHEND ON SEA SOUTHEND ON SEA Gunnery Hill (Phase 2), Shoeburyness, Essex
Postcode	SS3 9BY
Study area	39063.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 93499 84320 51 0 51 31 26 N 000 47 22 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Consultant
Project design originator	Gifford
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Karl Hanson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

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Name of sponsor/funding body	Country & Metropolitan Homes
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#### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Southend Museums Service
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Spreadsheets", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Southend Museums Service
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Notebook - Excavation", 'Research', 'General Notes', "Plan", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

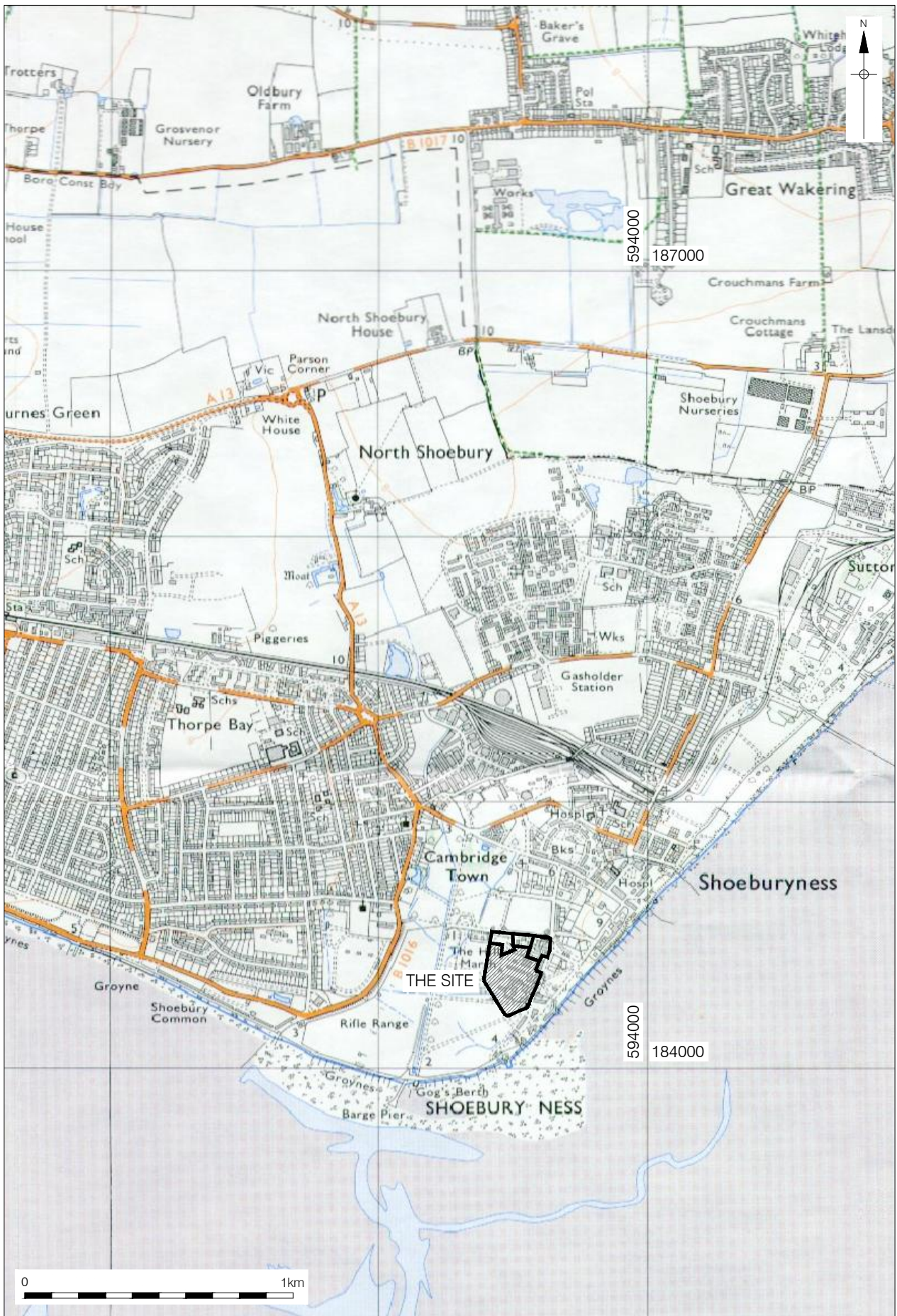
#### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Gunnery Hill (Phase 2), Shoeburyness, Essex: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hanson, K.
Other bibliographic details	PCA R11402
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Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 spiral bound client document in blue covers

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Entered on	9 April 2013





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26/03/13 HB

Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:20,000 at A4



Figure 2  
 Pipe Trench Location  
 1:1,250 at A4

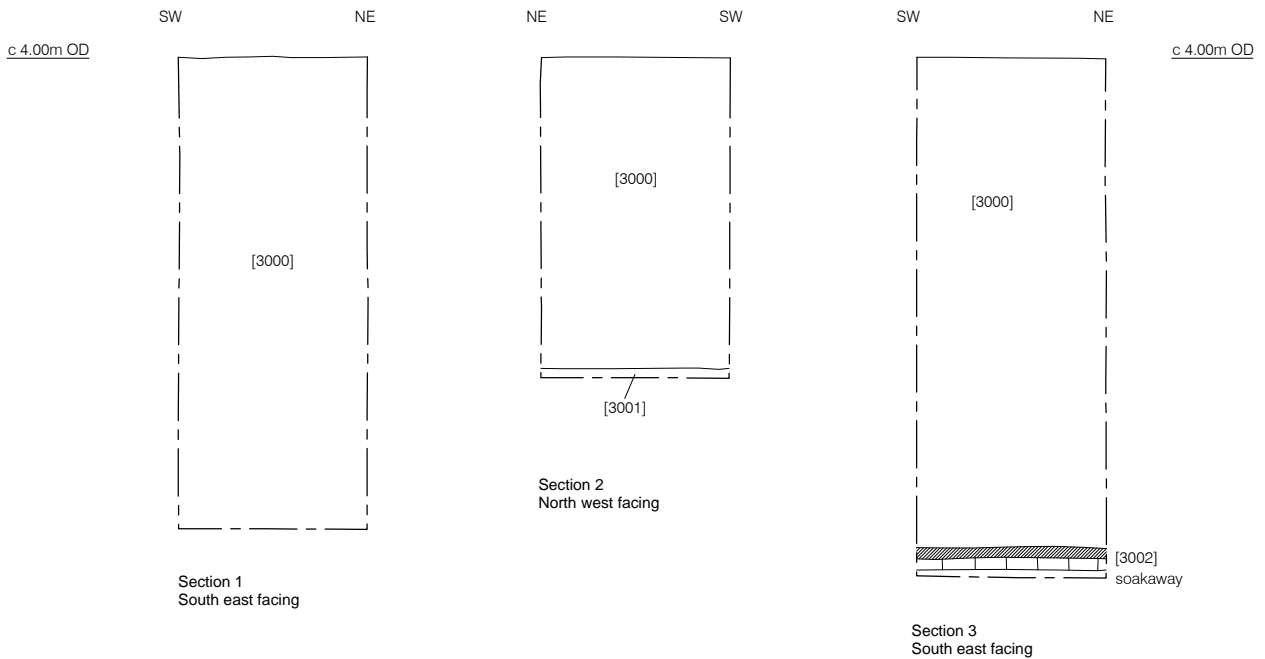
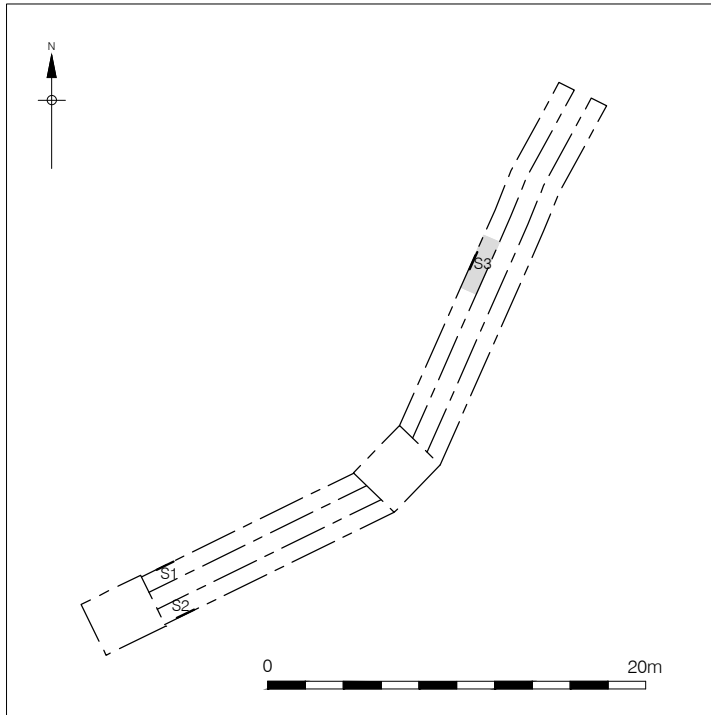


Figure 3  
Sections  
1:40 at A4 (inset 1:400)



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