

## SANDHURST LANE, GLOUCESTER

(SITE CODE: 56/97)

### A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared by the Gloucester Archaeology Unit on the instructions of Evans Jones & Partners on behalf of Virgin Western Ltd.. It outlines the results of archaeological recording carried out between the 1st April 1997 and the 18th August 1997 on land at Sandhurst Lane, Gloucester (NGR: SO8346/1983) (Fig.1).

The requirements of the programme of archaeological recording were outlined in a brief issued by Gloucester City Council Archaeology Unit (Sermon 1997). A specification (Donel 1997) was prepared in accordance with the brief and approved by the City Council. The proposed development is the construction of eight properties.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. The Unit, its members and employees cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the *Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists*, and the *Management of Archaeology Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991)

#### 2.0 SITE LOCATION

The site lies between Tewkesbury Rd. and Sandhurst Lane, 1km. to the north of the city centre and within an area of principal archaeological interest as defined in the City of Gloucester Local Plan 1991.

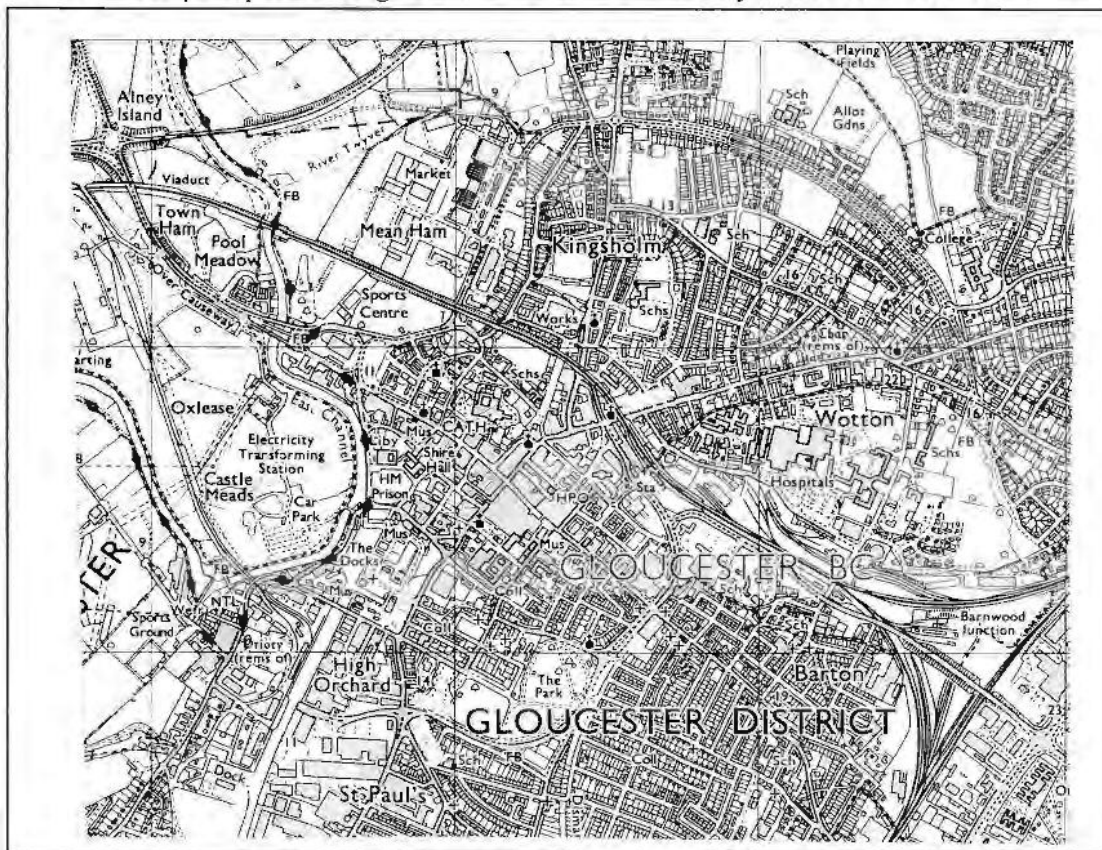


Fig. 1 - Location of site

Reproduced from the 1:25 000 Ordnance Survey Pathfinder 1089 Map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright 1994.

The site, lying 100m north of the Kingsholm Roman Fortress, covers an area of approximately 0.47 hectares.

### 3.0 BACKGROUND RESEARCH

The site was evaluated in 1989 but the area and its environs had been investigated earlier, revealing a cemetery at Coppice Corner in 1983 (site codes: 9/83 & 9/83W) and the northern boundary of the Kingsholm Fortress in 1985 (site code: 24/85). There has also been extensive watching brief coverage of the area.

The 1989 evaluation carried out by Gloucester Archaeology, revealed Iron Age and Roman remains in the central and eastern areas of the site. The western portion of the site had been quarried for gravel in the 19th century, destroying any earlier remains (Greathouse 1996).

The earliest occupation has been identified as Iron Age. A metal surface and a large stone lined feature were dated to this period. In the early Roman period there were a number of enclosure ditches followed by a single open space. This was sealed by a series of rubbish pits before the land was turned over to agricultural use from the 2nd century to the present day (Greathouse 1996). It has been postulated that the open space may have represented a market or meeting area which may indicate a return of the local population to the immediate area of the fortress after their removal from the fortress precinct during its construction and initial use (Greathouse pers comm).

### 4.0 METHOD OF STUDY

As a response to the archaeological condition AY3

*(No development shall take place within the site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the City Planning and Technical Services Officer. Thereafter the building works shall incorporate any building techniques and measures necessary to mitigate the loss or destruction of any archaeological remains.*

*Reason: The site is within an area of principal archaeological interest and the City Council would wish to investigate and evaluate the presence of archaeological remains. )*

an archaeological response requiring full excavation of Area A, a controlled watching brief on Area B and a standard watching brief on Area C were imposed. However, when it was decided, after consultation between the City Archaeologist and the developers that the road in area A would be built up rather than excavated to any depth in order to mitigate any destruction in that area, the response was changed and two forms of watching brief (controlled and standard) were initiated for this site:

#### **a. controlled watching brief for Areas A and B**

Previous evaluation had identified a number of archaeological features to the north of the areas to be developed, several of which appeared to extend into the development area. It was thought necessary, therefore, that a more stringent and comprehensive recording system should be utilised in this area.

All excavation was carried out under the supervision of an archaeologist. The trenches were drawn in plan and section, where necessary, and photographed. Finds were recovered where available.

#### **b. standard watching brief for Area C**

Evaluation work had identified the presence of what appeared to be a quarry. This limited the probability of recovering intact features/deposits to any extent. Because of this a standard watching brief response was imposed on this area.

Trenches were recorded by both photography and drawing as necessary. Over sixty trenches were viewed and recorded as necessary over the whole site.

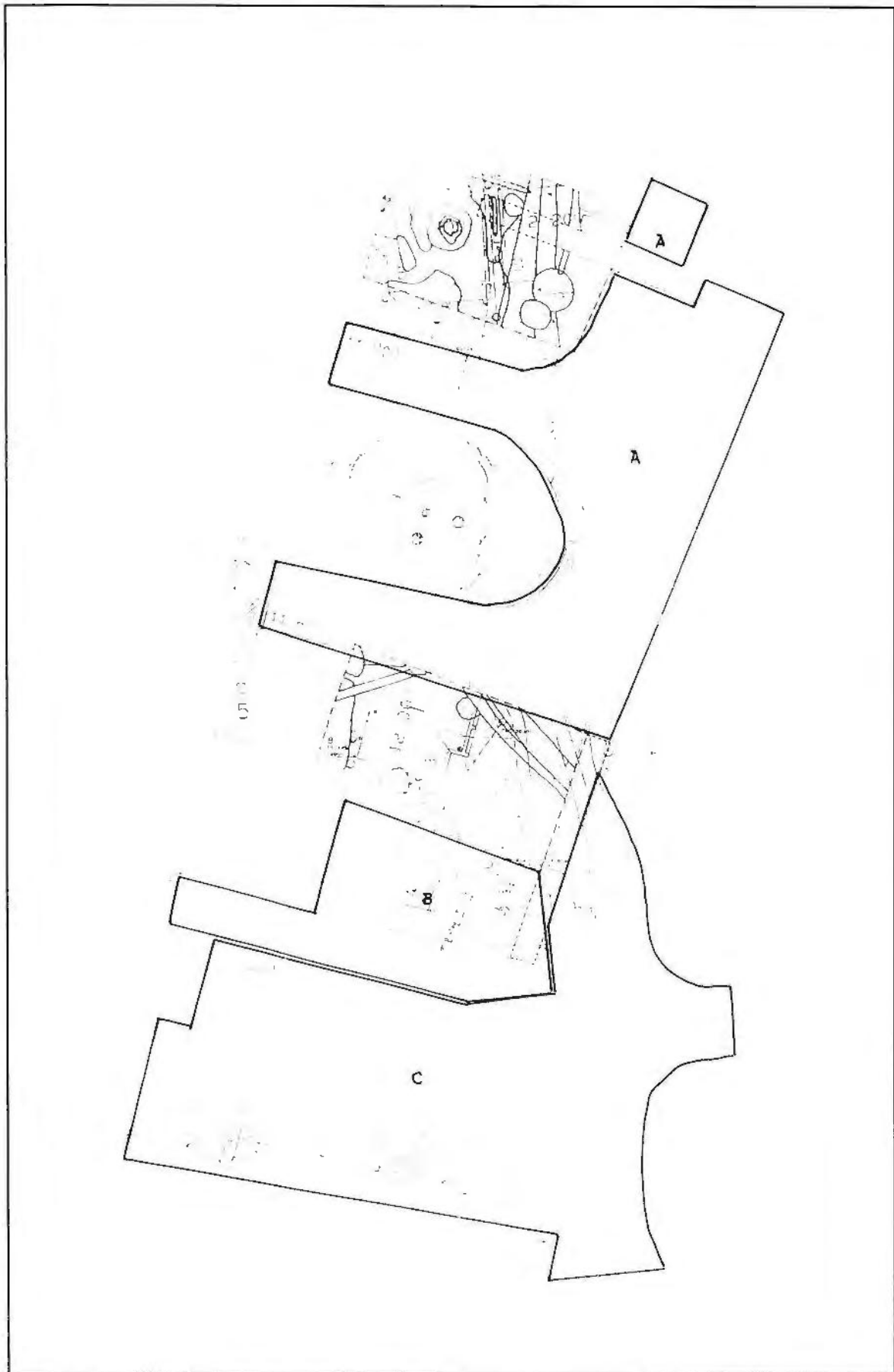


Fig.2 - Plan of Areas A,B and C showing position of 1989 evaluation trenches in relationship to the new development

## 5.0 RESULTS

### Area A (Controlled Watching Brief)

Foundations for four buildings ( 1 house and 3 garages) were excavated. Trenches 1 to 16 were between 1.2m and 1.5m deep and approx. 500mm wide. Trench 17, one of the garages, was built on a raft construction with minimal excavation.

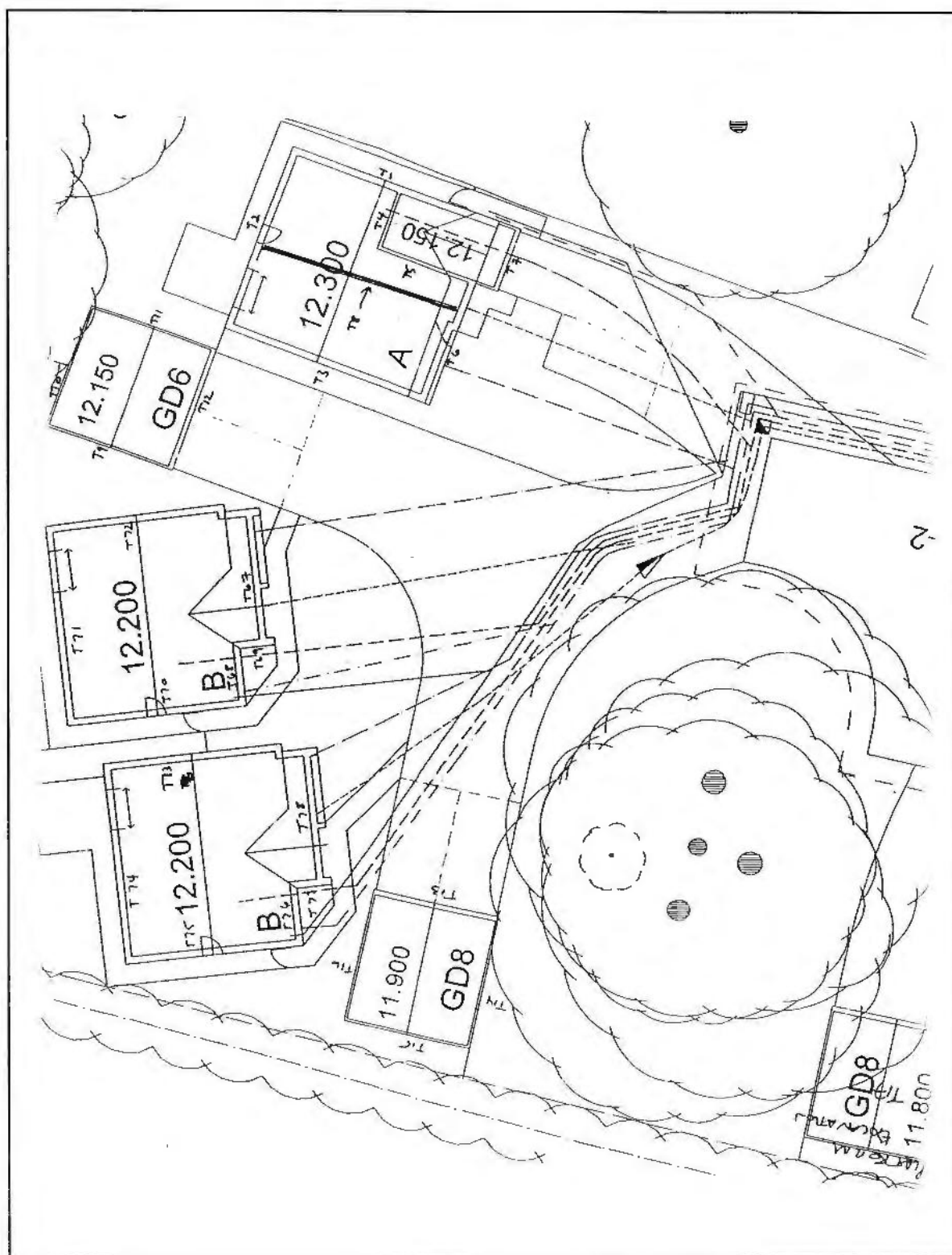


Fig. 3 - Area A trenches

The stratigraphy recorded in trenches 1 to 12 was remarkably similar. At the lowest level of excavation (L.O.E.) there was natural, a deposit of medium compact yellow sandy gravel (505). There was no evidence for any features cutting this level, but there was evidence for ash deposits which lay directly at the interface between (505) and the layer above (504).

(504) which sealed natural (505) consisted of a loose light brown/red sandy soil which may represent redeposited natural material. Cut into (504) were a series of small (300mm) and medium (500mm) features which may have been pits or ditches. It is possible that at least three ditches of which fragments were recorded in trenches 1 (510) and 3 (534) of the house foundations and in trenches 9 (576) and 11 (551) of the eastern garage. Features (576) and (551) appear to line up with a linear feature recorded during the evaluation of the site (see plan ).

No features were recorded in trench 17 except for a square post hole for a modern fence post. Excavation for the platform did not reach any significant layers.

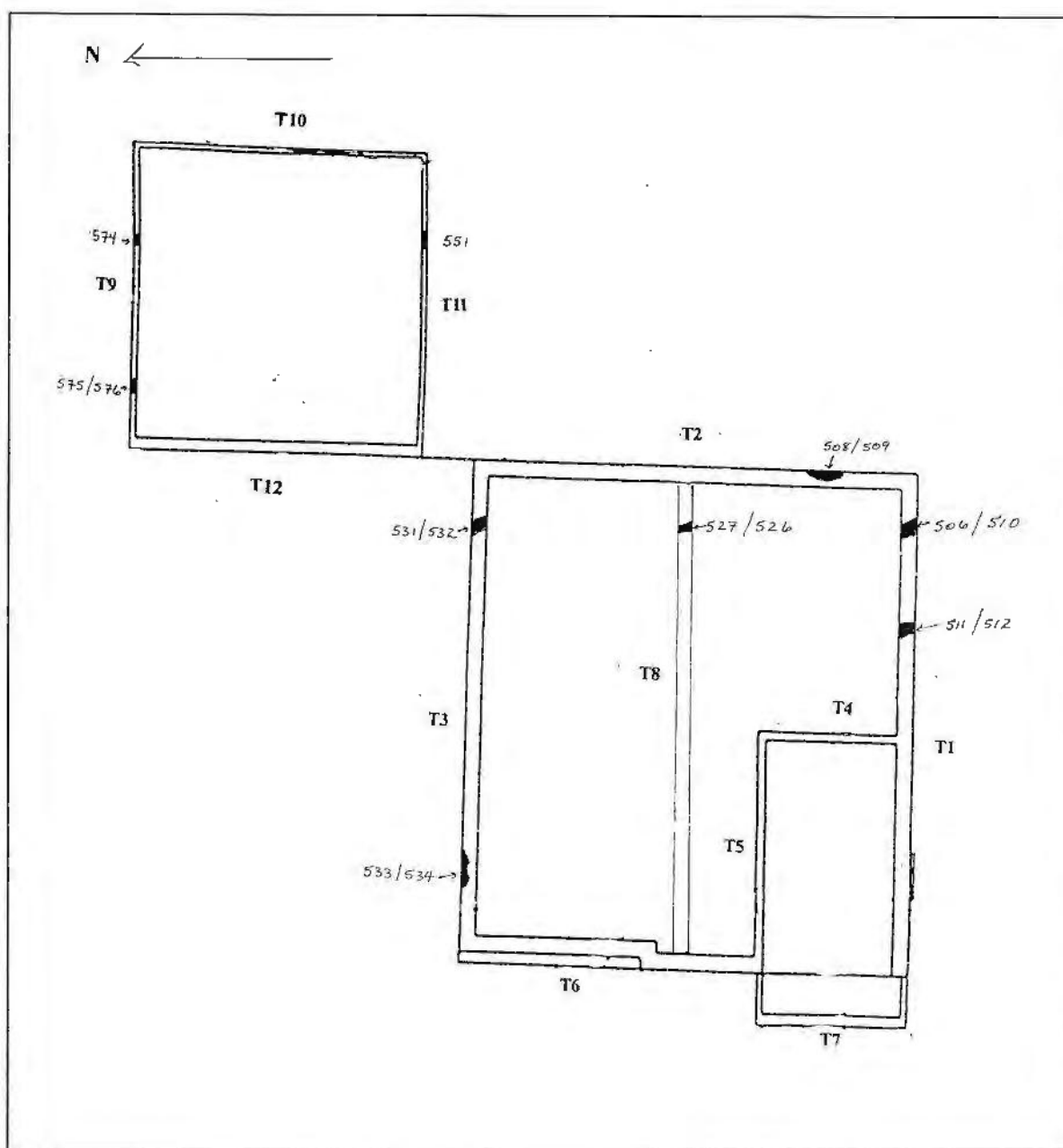
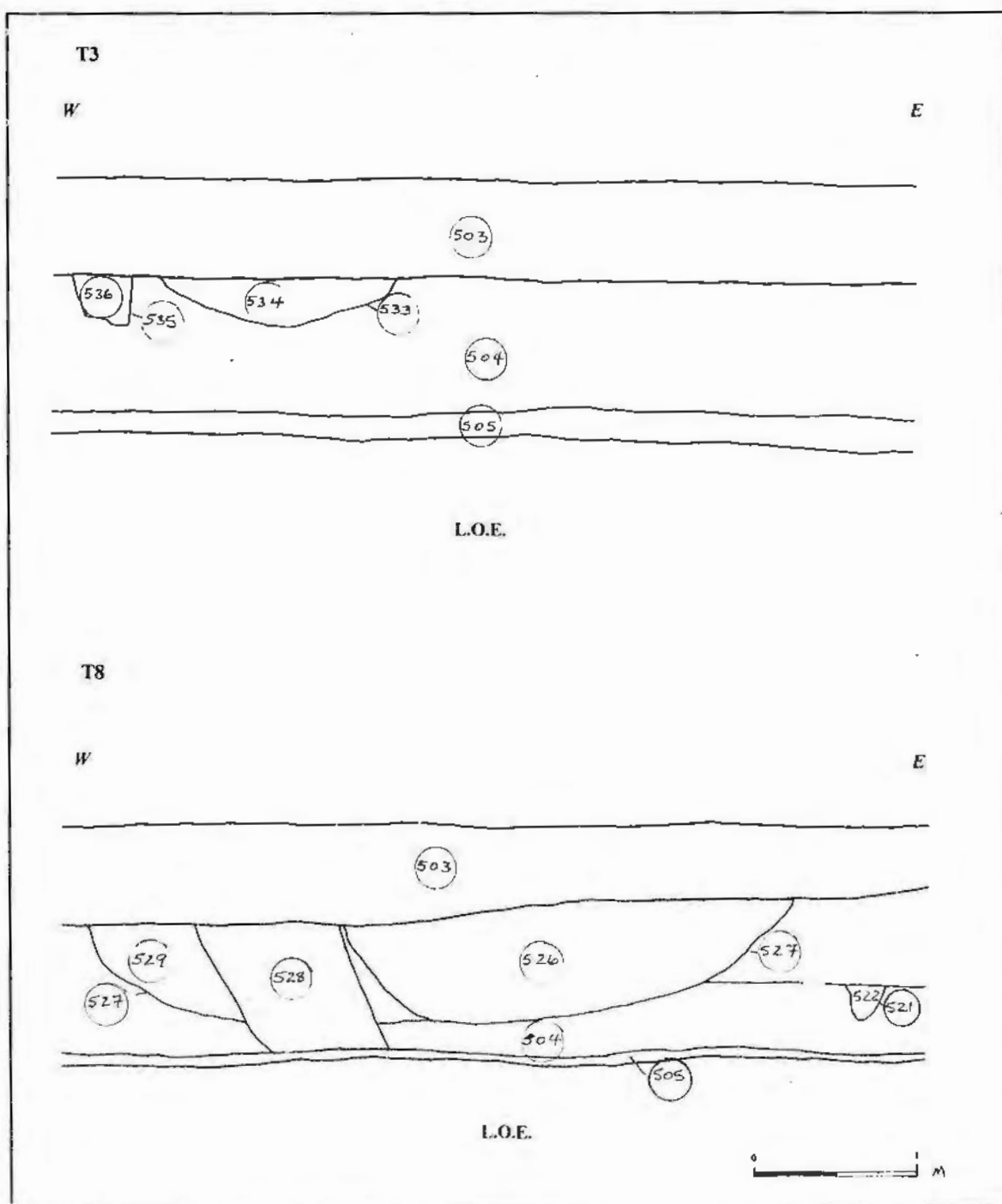


Fig. 4 - Area A - House 8 and Garage - plan of features

The two garages (trenches 13 to 17) which lay on the north side of site in Area A showed slightly different stratigraphy. The presence of a group of large trees had probably added to the disruption of the underlying material.

Trenches 13 and 14 were cut to a depth of 1.2m. A yellow/red sandy gravel (562) lay at this level. It was sealed by a red sand (561) which was cut by a large pit (560/536) in trench 13. There was no evidence for any features in trench 14. Sealing (560) was a dark brown soil (557). In trench 14 (561) was sealed by (563) a mid brown sandy soil.

Trench 16, although excavated to a depth of 1.2m, did not show any evidence of layer (562) but 561, red sand lay at the limit of excavation (L.O.E.). (561) was cut by pits (568/567) and (570/569). These were overlain by a light orange brown sand (564) which was sealed by (558), vestiges of the gravel surface laid down by the contractors for their compound car park.







Trench depth ranged from 1.2m to 1.3 m deep. The lowest deposit recorded was natural, a yellow sand and gravel (602). This was sealed by a red sand and gravel (601). Cutting (601) in trench 34 was a possible ditch (608) which was filled with a yellow gravel and sand (606) which was subsequently overlain by deposit (600). Also cutting (601) in trench 34 was a large pit which was filled with dark grey/brown soil (600).

Trenches 21 to 33 did not show any evidence for features cutting the deposits except for a small pit (611) which cut layer (602) in trench 23.

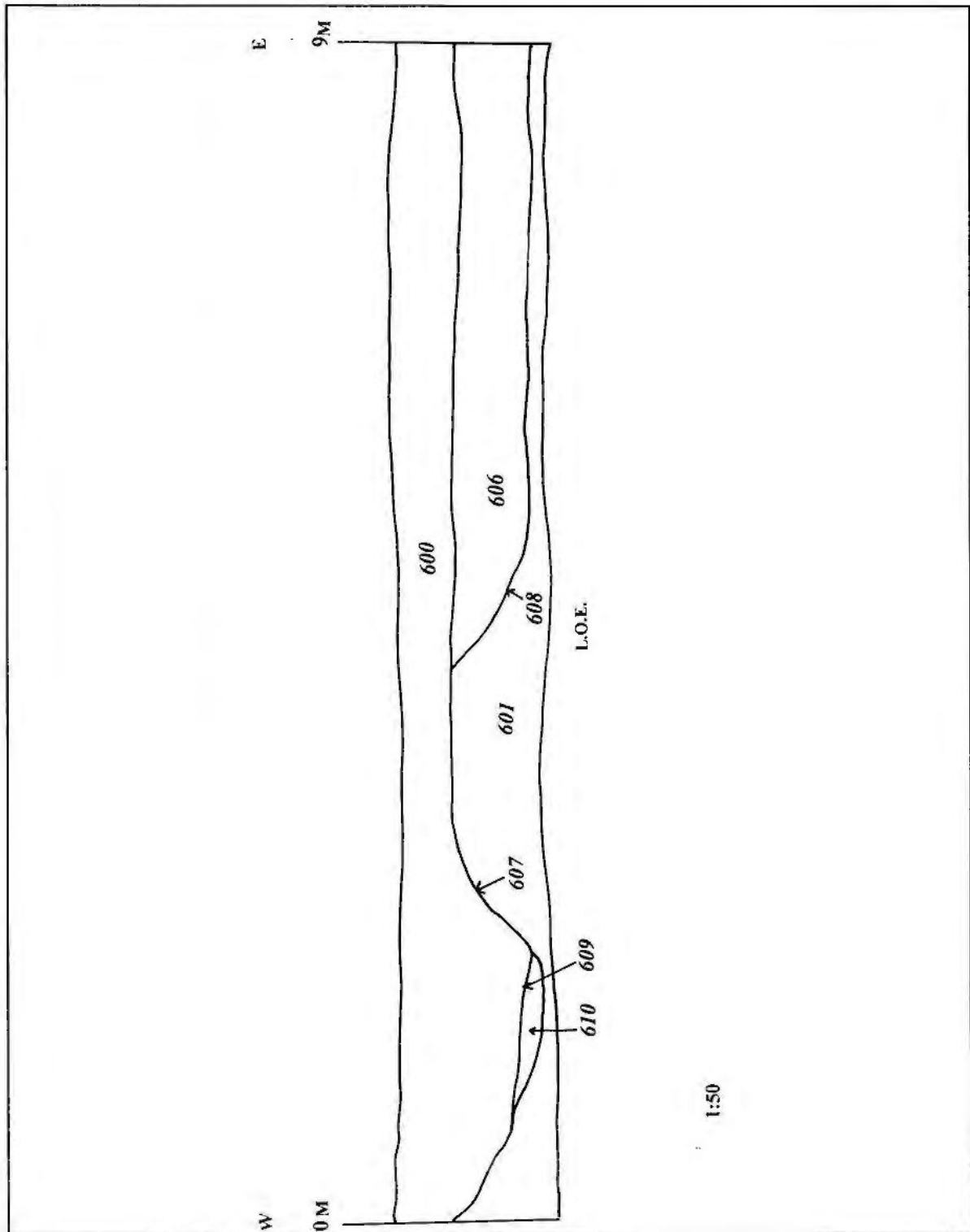


Fig. 7 - Area B, Trench 34 section showing features.



### Area C (Standard Watching Brief)

Much of this area had already been disturbed by quarrying. This had been noted during the evaluation of the site. The trenches were cut into layers of very loose sand. There was not evidence for features in this area. However, recording was made more difficult as there was the constant problem of slippage in the trenches.

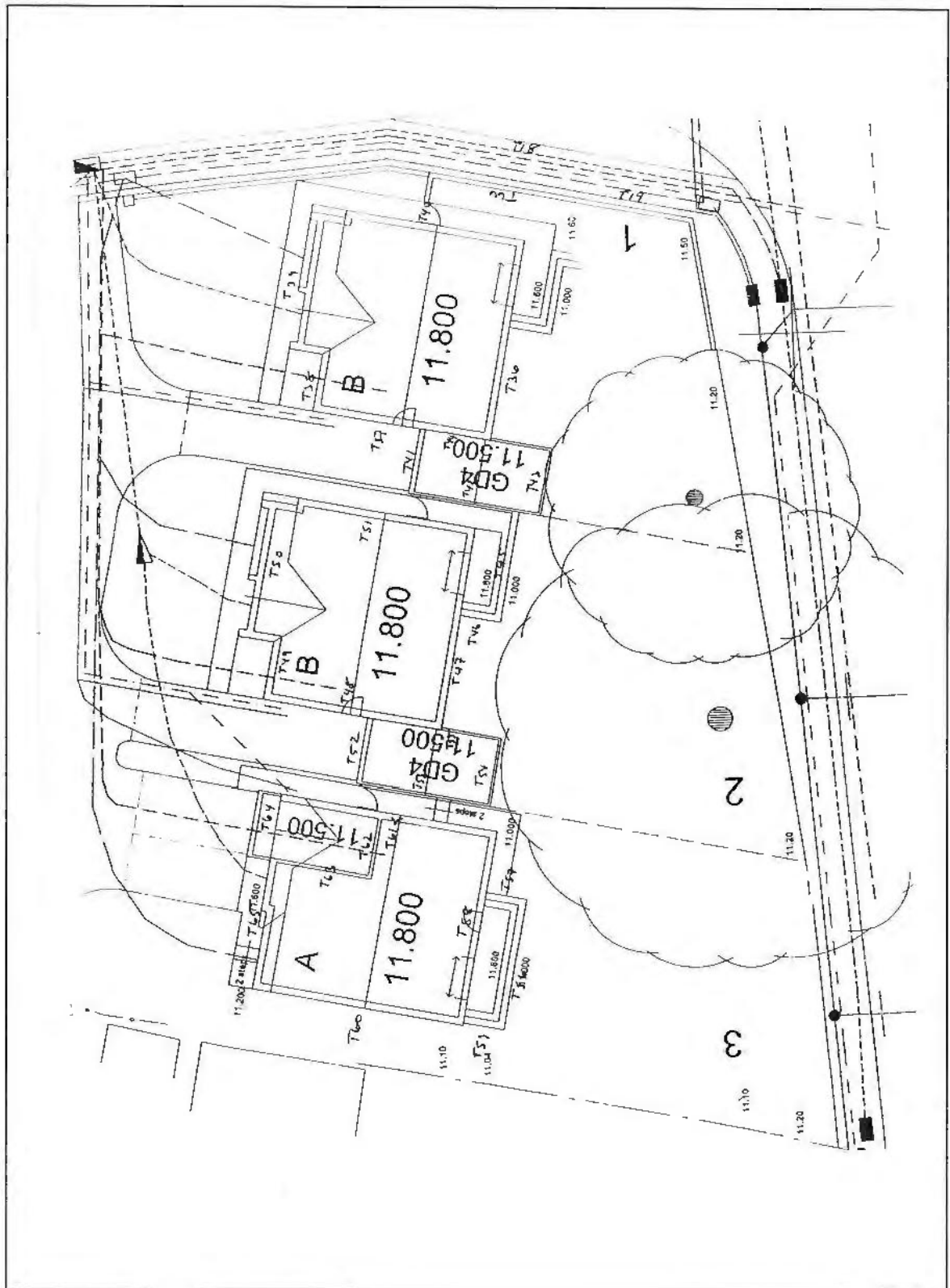


Fig. 8 - Area C - plan of trenches.

### Service Trenching

A large service trench was excavated in two phases east-west across the site.

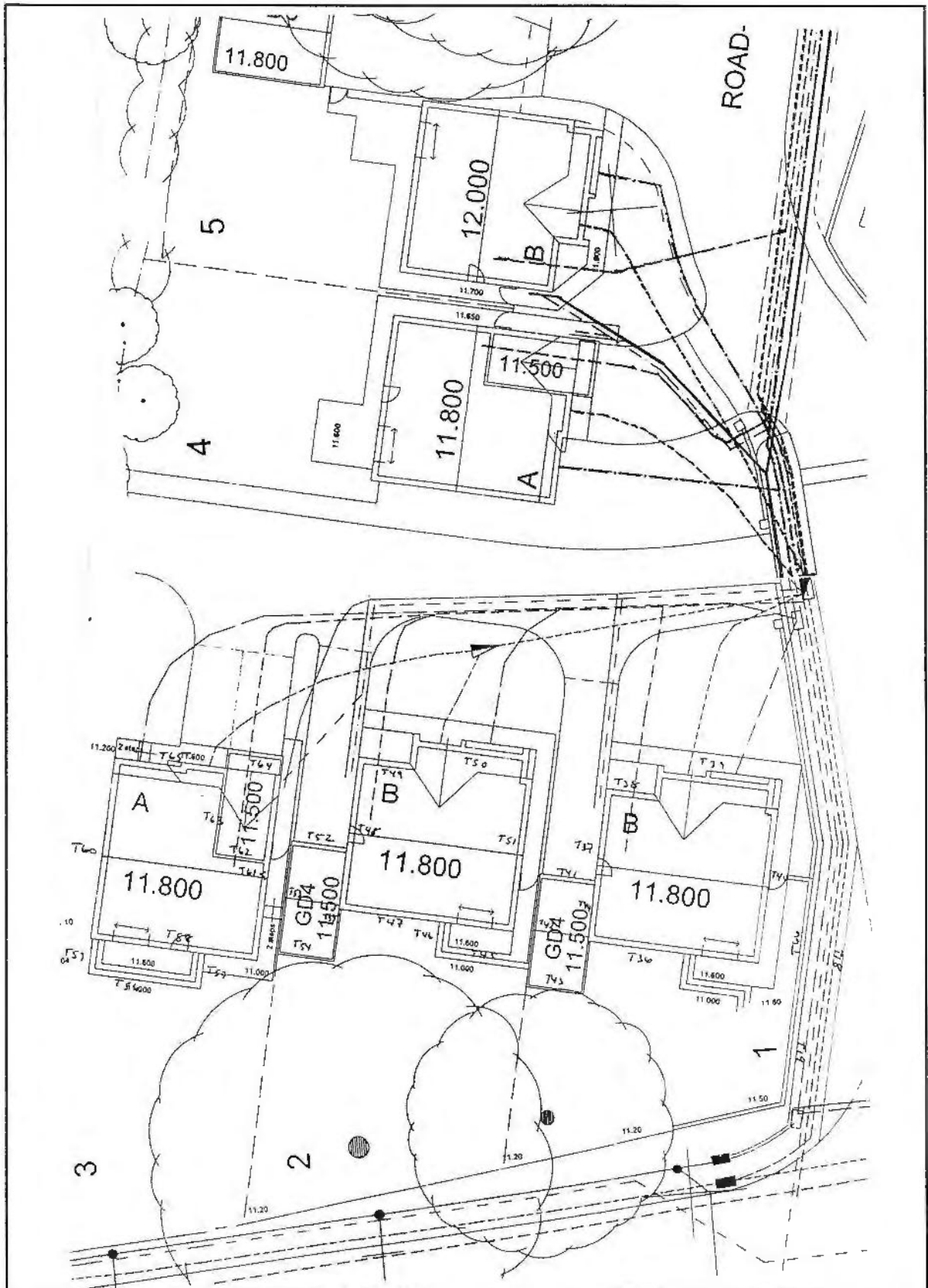


Fig 9 - Phase 1 of service trenching

## Phase I

The first section was excavated prior to any of the foundation groundworks, in order to allow access across the site. The excavation ran from Sandhurst Lane into Area B.

The lowest deposit recorded was a yellow sand (508) which lay approx. 2m below the modern surface. This was sealed by a deposit of gravel (807) and pits (813) and (812). (811), a red sandy soil sealed pits (813) and (812) but a light reddish sand (806) sealed (807). Cutting into 811 was a modern brick wall (809). The wall had been robbed and subsequently covered by (819) a compact dark brown clayey soil. This was sealed by a brick surface (810).

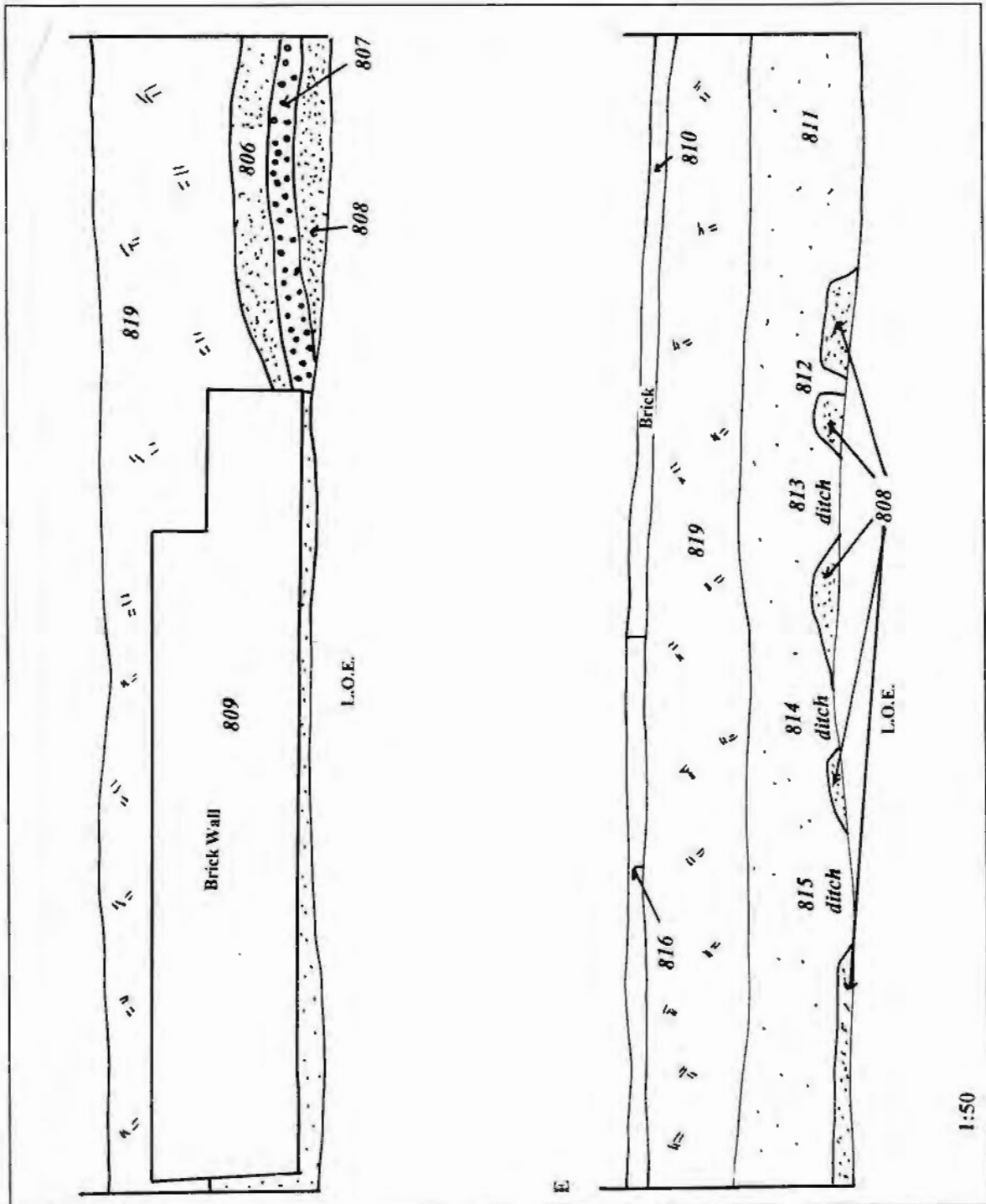


Fig.10 - Phase I East -west section

At the road itself, the stratigraphy differed considerably. Cutting into a mid brown clayey sand (803) was the large ditch like feature (802) which appeared to run parallel to Sandhurst Lane. Filling (802) was a deposit of light brown sandy soil which was overlain by subsoil (801). sealing (801) was topsoil (800).

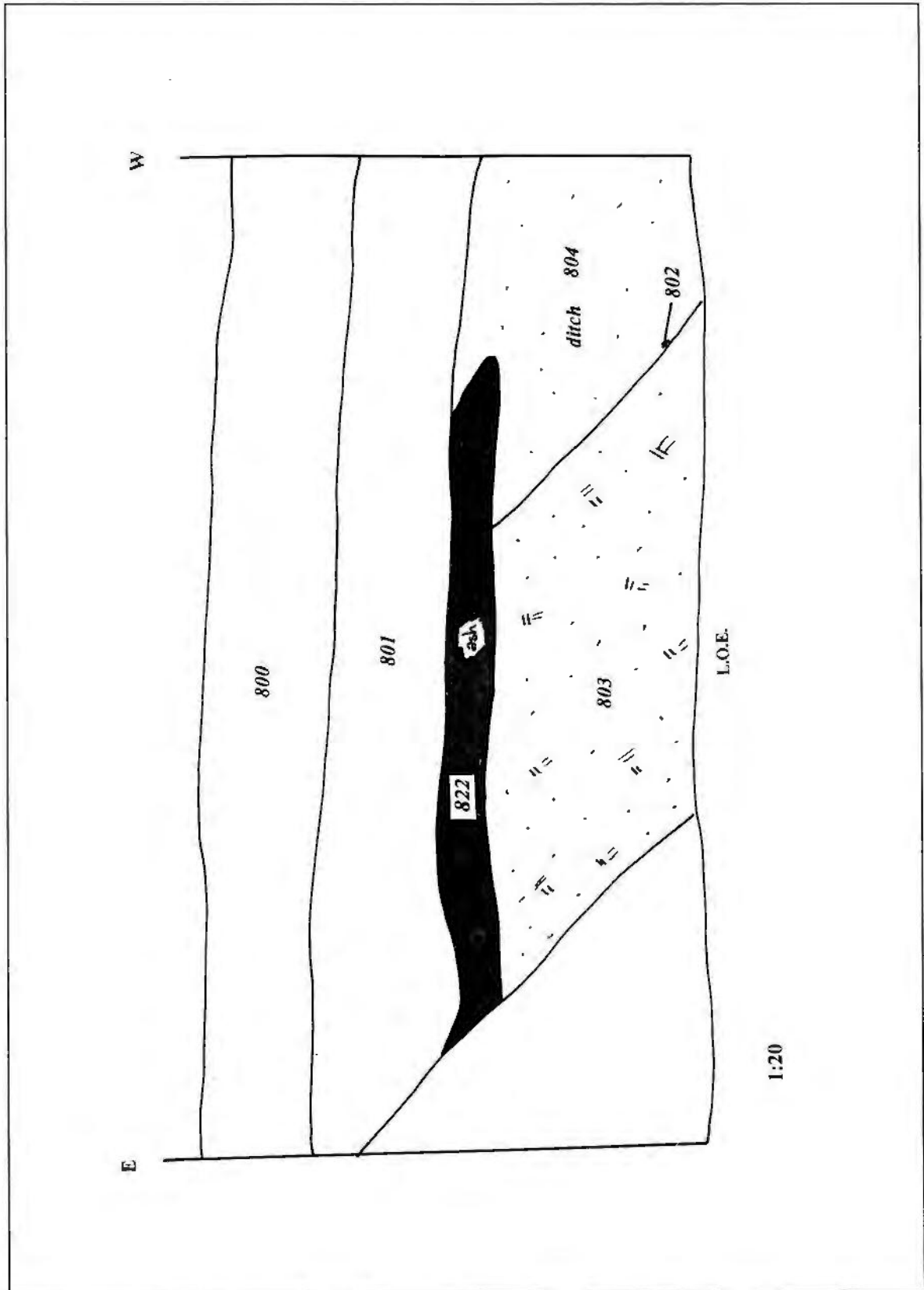


Fig. 11 - Phase 1 service trenching - east - west section directly off Sandhurst Lane

The eastpart of the Phase 1 trench reopened part of an existing service trench. The excavation for this trench had destroyed any earlier stratigraphy in that area.

## Phase 2

Phase two provided the link up with the phase 1 trench and extended through area B and into Area A.

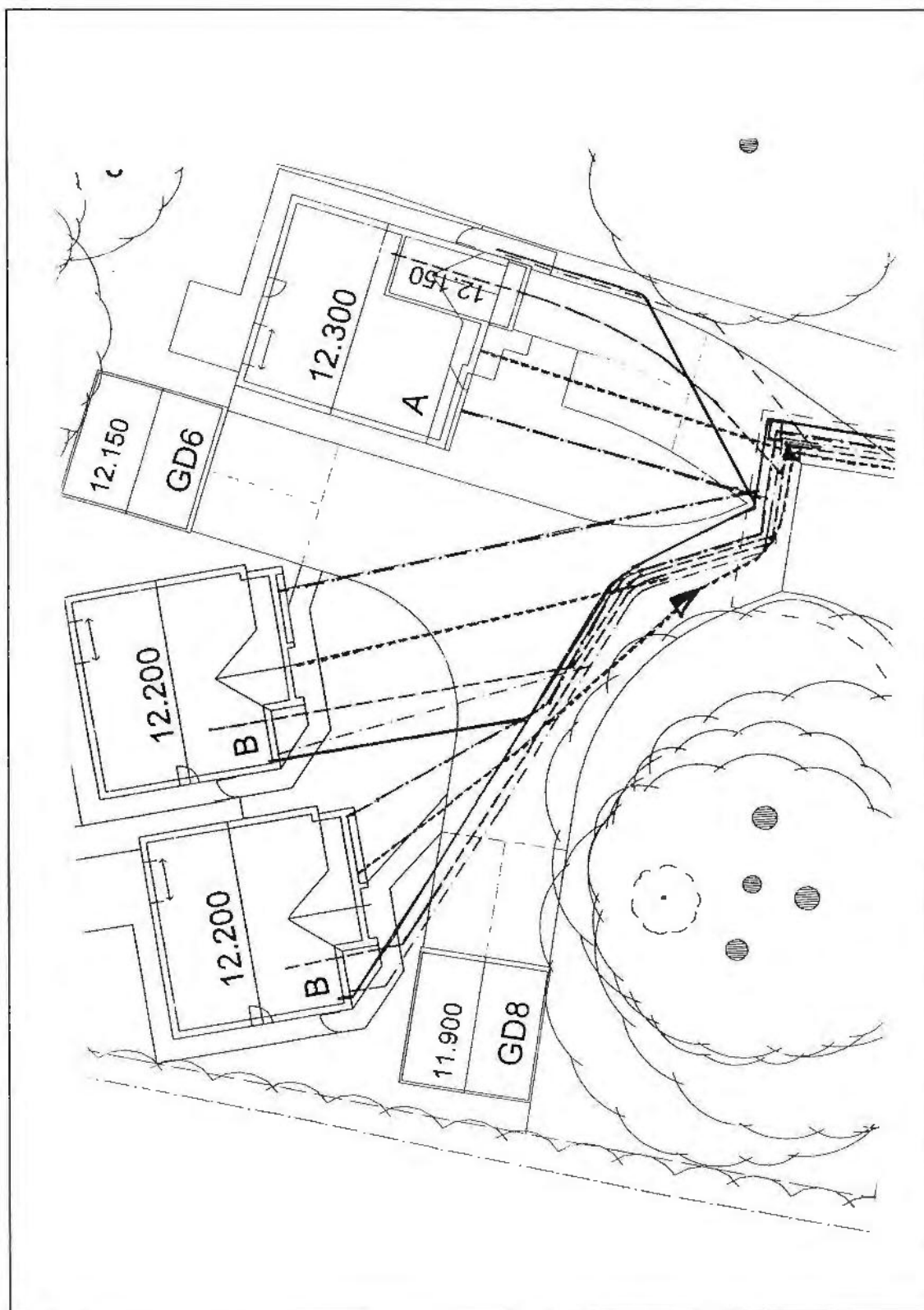


Fig. 12 - plan of Phase 2 service trench.

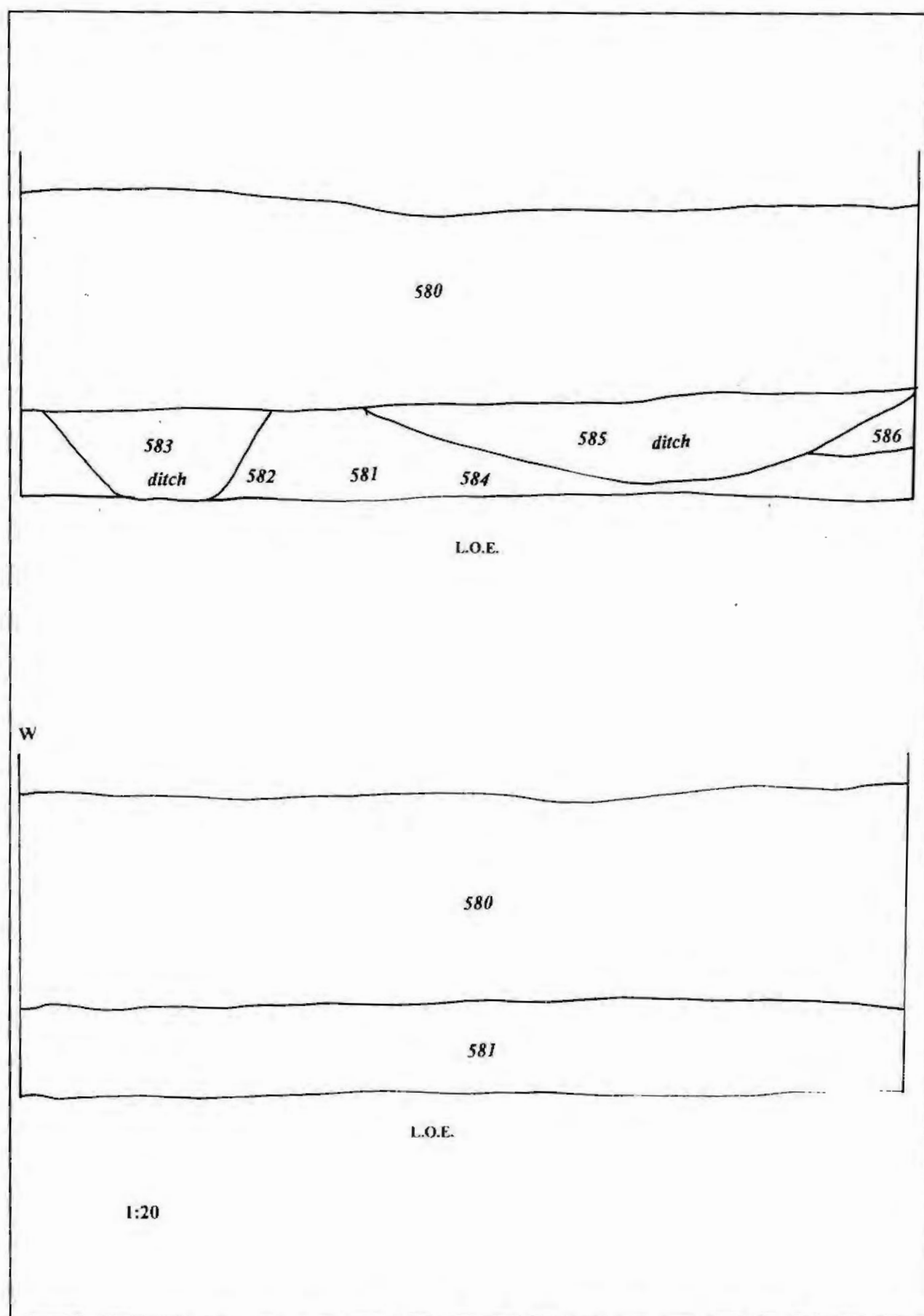


Fig.13 - Phase 2 Service trenching - Section showing early ditches

Cut into a layer of red sand were north/south ditches 582, 584 and 586. A few pieces of Roman pot were found in the fills of these features, but there was no definite indication as to whether these were Roman or earlier ditches. The restricted nature and position of the service trench meant that there was no opportunity to further record the line of these ditches.

## **6.0 CONCLUSIONS**

The 1989 evaluation identified Iron Age and Roman remains in the central and eastern areas of the site. The western portion of the site, at Sandhurst Lane, had been quarried for gravel in the 19th century, destroying any earlier remains (Greatorex 1996).

The 1997 controlled watching brief identified activity in areas A, at the western end and B in the centre of the site as well as the south western corner of C. Activity was represented by pits, ditches and spreads of ash. No building materials whatsoever were recovered, nor was there any recognisable pattern of post holes which might have indicated wooden structures.

It is possible that activity was more intensive over the northern and certainly the western parts of the site. This would indicate that the development area sits partly on peripheral land both in the Iron Age and Roman Period. During the later Roman Period and well into the present century, the land has been extensively used for agriculture. This is well demonstrated by contexts 800, 580, 503 and 600. The mixing of finds from various periods is very indicative of soil being cultivated over a long period of time; constantly digging into and churning up material.

The lack of the same intensive activity recorded in the north western corner of the site may indicate that any further research should look to the north for information should there be any further development in the area.

## **8.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Atkin, M. 1990 *Excavations in Gloucester 1989 - An Interim Report - Behind Agricultural House, Sandhurst Lane (Site 4/89 - SO8345/1983)*, *Glevensis*, Vol24.(pp.11-13)
- Donel, L. 1997 *Specification for a Programme of Archaeological Work at Sandhurst Lane, Gloucester*, **Gloucester Archaeology Unit**.
- Greatorex, P 1996 *4/89 Land to the Rear of Agricultural House, Sandhurst Lane, Gloucester, 1989*, **Gloucester Archaeology Unit**.
- Sermon, 1997 *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Recording at Sandhurst Lane, Gloucester*, **Gloucester Archaeology**.



## **APPENDIX 1**

### **ARCHIVE RECORD**

**SITE CODE:**56/97

**SITE NAME/ADDRESS:** Sandhurst Lane, Gloucester

**NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE:** SO8346/1983

**DATE OF INTERVENTION:** 12/5/97 -

**TYPE OF INTERVENTION:**

- a. Excavation
- b. Watching Brief**
- c. Evaluation
- d. Building Recording
- e. Other(specify)

**DIRECTED BY:** Dr. LG Donel Gloucester Archaeology Unit, The Old Fire Station, Barbican Rd., Gloucester GKL1 2JF

**FUNDED BY:** Gloucester City Council with a contribution by Virgin Western Ltd.

**NATURAL:**

**NATURE AND LOCATION OF ARCHIVE:**

Site notebooks **Yes/No**  
Photographs **Yes/No**  
Plans(outside notebook) **Yes/No**  
Sections(outside notebk) **Yes/No**  
Other(identify)

a. Current location of archive.  
Gloucester Archaeology Unit

b. All/some records **have been/will be deposited** in the following museum, record office etc.  
Gloucester Archaeology Unit

c. Approx. date of transfer  
6/97

d. Location of any copies

e. Has a security copy of the archive been made? **Yes / No**

**NATURE AND LOCATION OF FINDS:**

**Small Finds**

none

**Other Finds**

Iron Age, Roman and Modern Pottery

a. Current location of finds.

Gloucester Archaeology Unit

b. all finds have been deposited with the following museum:

c. Approx. date of transfer.

6/97

**SUMMARY** (if required):

As a response to an AY3 condition, the Gloucester Archaeology Unit carried out both controlled and standard watching briefs over the site during the construction of nine houses and three garages.

Previous evaluation of the site had indicated multi period activity . Early Iron Age settlement was disrupted by the construction of the Roman fort at Kingsholm. Later, the native population appears to have returned and used the site in tangent with the Romans (market?).

The watching briefs were limited to recording the foundation trenches for the new buildings. A number of features, mostly ditches were identified and dating material was recovered.

**PUBLICATION REFS:**

Atkin, M. 1990 *Excavations in Gloucester 1989 - An Interim Report - Behind Agricultural House, Sandhurst Lane(Site 4/89 - SO8345/1983), Glevensis*, Vol24.(pp.11-13)

Donel, L.1997 *Specification for a Programme of Archaeological Work at Sandhurst Lane, Gloucester, Gloucester Archaeology Unit .*

Greator, P 1996 *4/89 Land to the Rear of Agricultural House, Sandhurst Lane, Gloucester, 1989, Gloucester Archaeology Unit.*

Sermon, 1997 *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Recording at Sandhurst Lane, Gloucester, Gloucester Archaeology Unit.*

Signature.....

Date.....

**APPENDIX 2**  
**SECTIONAL SUMMARY SHEETS**

# SECTIONAL SUMMARY SHEET

SITE CODE:56/97  
GLOUCESTER

NAME: SANDHURST LANE,

AREA:A

TRENCH (ES):1-7

GRID REF: SO8346/1983

DEPTH BELOW  
NOTES  
SURFACE(MM)

DESCRIPTION

INTERPRETATION

0	503	
50		
100		
150		
200		
250		
300		
350		
400		
450		
500		
550		
600		
650		
700		
750		
800		
850		
900	PIT 510	PIT CUT 506
950		

504

1000  
1005

1010	507	
1015		
1020		
1025		

1030	505	
1035		
1040		
1045		
1050		

.....LIMIT OF EXCAVATION

NOTES

# SECTIONAL SUMMARY SHEET

**SITE CODE:56/97  
GLOUCESTER**

**NAME: SANDHURST LANE,**

**AREA:A**

**TRENCH :8**

**GRID REF: SO8346/1983**

**DEPTH BELOW  
NOTES  
SURFACE(MM)**

**DESCRIPTION**

**INTERPRETATION**

0

503

50

100

200

300

400

500

600

650

532, 535, 534  
531, 536, 533  
504

features (poss pits) cut into  
layer 504

700

750

800

850

900

950

1000

1005

1010

1015

1020

1025

1030

1035

505

1040

1045

1050

1060

.....LIMIT OF EXCAVATION

**NOTES**

# SECTIONAL SUMMARY SHEET

**SITE CODE:56/97  
GLOUCESTER**

**NAME: SANDHURST LANE,**

**AREA:A**

**TRENCH (ES)10,11,12**

**GRID REF: SO8346/1983**

**DEPTH BELOW  
NOTES  
SURFACE(MM)**

**DESCRIPTION**

**INTERPRETATION**

0	503 - loose dk brown sandy soil	
50		
100		
150		
200		
250		
300		
350		
400		
450		
500		
550		
600		
650		
700		
750	551(579),553(552),555(554) features(pits?/ditches?) cut into	
800		504
850		
900		
950		
1000		
1005	545(544),547(546),549(548)	pits cut into 504
1010	504	
1015		
1020		
1025		
1030		
1035		
1040		
1045		
1050		

.....LIMIT OF EXCAVATION

**NOTES**

# SECTIONAL SUMMARY SHEET

**SITE CODE:56/97  
GLOUCESTER**

**NAME: SANDHURST LANE,**

**AREA:A**

**TRENCH :13**

**GRID REF: SO8346/1983**

**DEPTH BELOW  
NOTES  
SURFACE(MM)**

**DESCRIPTION**

**INTERPRETATION**

.....  
0 557 - dk brown soil  
50  
100  
150  
200  
250  
300  
350  
400  
450  
500  
550  
600.....

.....  
650 560(536) lg pit cut into 561  
700  
750 561 - Red sand  
800  
850  
900  
950  
1000  
1005  
1010.....

.....  
1015 562 - yellow red sandy gravel  
1020.....

.....LIMIT OF EXCAVATION

**NOTES**



SECTIONAL SUMMARY SHEET

SITE CODE:56/97  
GLOUCESTER

NAME: SANDHURST LANE,

AREA:A

TRENCH :14

GRID REF: SO8346/1983

DEPTH BELOW  
NOTES  
SURFACE(MM)

DESCRIPTION

INTERPRETATION

.....  
0 563 - mid brown sandy soil  
50  
100  
150  
200  
250  
300  
350  
400  
450  
500  
550  
600  
650  
700.....

.....  
750 561 - Red sand  
800  
850  
900.....

.....  
950 562 - yellow sand and gravel  
1000  
1005  
1010.....

.....LIMIT OF EXCAVATION

NOTES

# SECTIONAL SUMMARY SHEET

SITE CODE:56/97  
GLOUCESTER

NAME: SANDHURST LANE,

AREA: A

TRENCH :16

GRID REF: SO8346/1983

DEPTH BELOW  
NOTES  
SURFACE(MM)

DESCRIPTION

INTERPRETATION

0	558 - gravel surface	
50		
100		
150		
200		
250		
300	564 - lt orange brown sand	
350		
400		
450		
500		
550		
600		
650		
700		
750		
800		
850		
900		
950	568(567), 570(569)	features cut into 561
1000	561 - red sand	
1005		
1010		
1015		
1020		

.....LIMIT OF EXCAVATION

NOTES

# SECTIONAL SUMMARY SHEET

**SITE CODE:56/97  
GLOUCESTER**

**NAME: SANDHURST LANE,**

**AREA: A**

**TRENCH :28**

**GRID REF: SO8346/1983**

**DEPTH BELOW  
NOTES  
SURFACE(MM)**

**DESCRIPTION**

**INTERPRETATION**

0	600 - dk brown soil	
50		
100		
150		
200		
250		
300		
350		
400		
450		
500		
550	601 - red sand/yellow sand	
600		
650		
700		
750		
800		
850		
900		
950		
1000		
1005	602 - yellow sand and gravel	
1010		

.....LIMIT OF EXCAVATION

**NOTES**

# SECTIONAL SUMMARY SHEET

SITE CODE:56/97  
GLOUCESTER

NAME: SANDHURST LANE,

AREA: A

TRENCH :32

GRID REF: SO8346/1983

DEPTH BELOW  
NOTES  
SURFACE(MM)

DESCRIPTION

INTERPRETATION

.....  
0 600  
50  
100  
150  
200  
250  
300  
350  
400  
450.....

.....  
500 601  
550  
600  
650  
700  
750  
800  
850  
900.....

.....  
950 602  
1000  
1005  
1010  
1015  
1020  
.....

.....LIMIT OF EXCAVATION

NOTES

# SECTIONAL SUMMARY SHEET

**SITE CODE:56/97  
GLOUCESTER**

**NAME: SANDHURST LANE,**

**AREA: A**

**TRENCH :34**

**GRID REF: SO8346/1983**

**DEPTH BELOW  
NOTES  
SURFACE(MM)**

**DESCRIPTION**

**INTERPRETATION**

.....  
0  
50  
100  
150  
200  
250  
300  
350  
400  
450  
500.....

600 - dark grey/brown soil

.....  
550  
650  
700  
750  
800  
850  
900  
950  
1000  
1005  
1010  
1015  
1020  
1025  
1030

609,610(607), 606(608)  
601

pits cut into 601

.....LIMIT OF EXCAVATION

**NOTES**

# SECTIONAL SUMMARY SHEET

**SITE CODE:56/97  
GLOUCESTER**

**NAME: SANDHURST LANE,**

**AREA: A**

**TRENCH :79**

**GRID REF: SO8346/1983**

**DEPTH BELOW  
NOTES  
SURFACE(MM)**

**DESCRIPTION**

**INTERPRETATION**

.....  
0 580 - dk grey/brown sandy soil  
50  
100  
150  
200  
250  
300  
350  
400  
450  
500  
550  
600  
650  
700  
750  
800.....

.....  
850 583(582), 585(584) ditches cut into 581  
900.  
950 581 - red sand  
1000  
1005  
1010  
1015  
1020.....

.....LIMIT OF EXCAVATION

**NOTES**

# SECTIONAL SUMMARY SHEET

SITE CODE:56/97  
GLOUCESTER

NAME: SANDHURST LANE,

AREA:

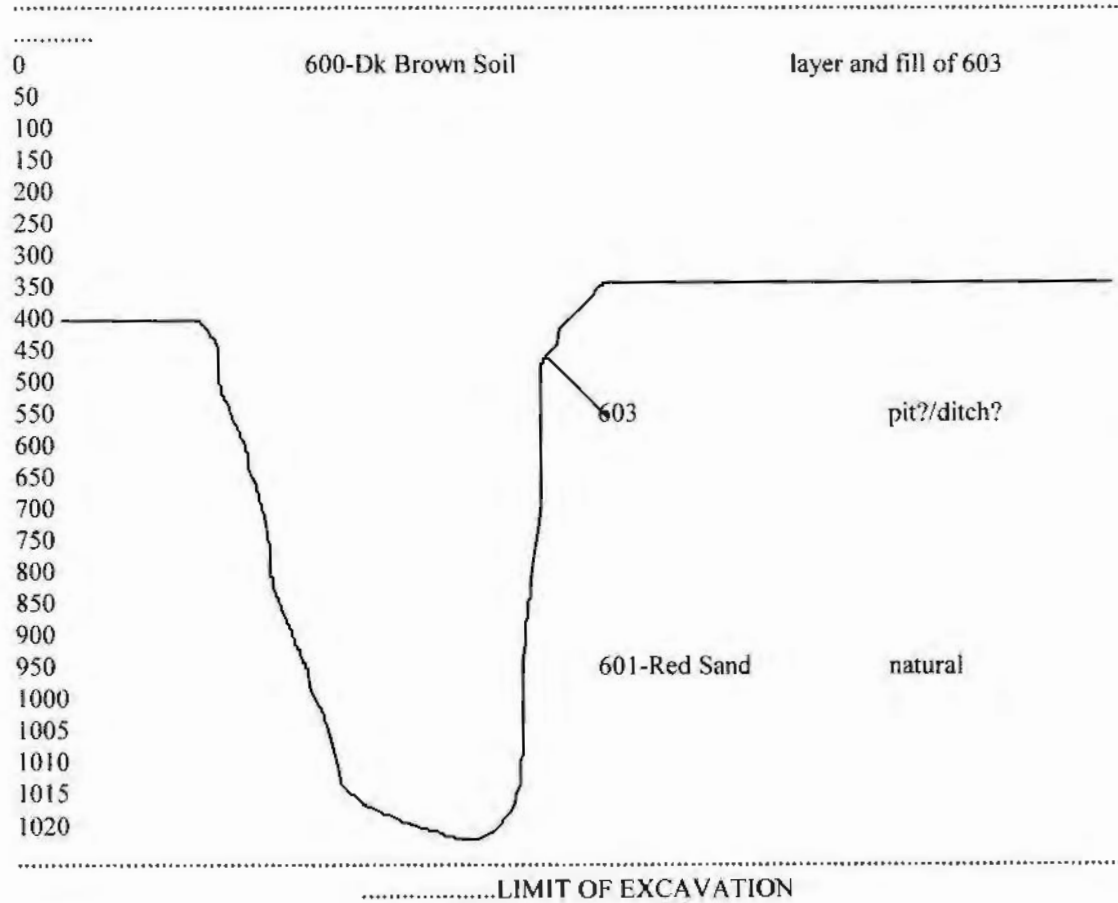
TRENCH :30

GRID REF: SO8346/1983

DEPTH BELOW  
NOTES  
SURFACE(MM)

DESCRIPTION

INTERPRETATION



NOTES