

**NAU Archaeology**

Report No. 1273

**An Archaeological Evaluation of Land off Littles Crescent,  
Ipswich, Suffolk**

IPS 525

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May 2007

BAU 1529

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Location: Littles Crescent, Ipswich, Suffolk  
Grid Ref: TM 1629 4364  
SMR No: IPS 525  
Date of fieldwork: 3rd to 5th April 2007

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## **Summary**

*In April 2007 NAU Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of a former bowling green at Littles Crescent, Ipswich, prior to the construction of five houses with associated parking and vehicular access.*

*This work showed that, before to the construction of the bowling green, the site had been steeply sloping. To level off this slope the south east corner of the site had been truncated and significant quantities of material laid down elsewhere.*

*Apart from a small quantity of pottery recovered from a subsoil deposit surviving in the northern part of the site, no evidence relating to early activity on the site was recovered. This appears to confirm the impression given by the first maps of the area that, during medieval period and probably the preceding Saxon period, the site lay within open, undeveloped ground.*

## **1.0 Introduction**

(Fig. 1)

An archaeological evaluation of land off Littles Crescent, Ipswich was carried out by NAU Archaeology in April 2007. This work took place prior to the construction of five houses on the site, along with associated parking and vehicular access.

This archaeological programme was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition set by Ipswich Borough Council (IP/05/00352/FUL) and in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NAU Archaeology (Ref: BAU1529) and a Brief issued by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team. This work was commissioned and funded by Aspen New Homes Ltd.

This archaeological evaluation was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 — Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by NAU Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with the County Sites and Monument Record (SMR), following the relevant policy on archiving standards.

## **2.0 Geology and Topography**

The site occupies a small area of open ground at the western extent of Littles Crescent. The site is bounded at its western, northern and southern edges by the gardens of terraced housing. The ground level varies significantly in the vicinity of the site, rising to the west and dropping away dramatically to the north, south and east. These changes in ground level are due to the site's position on a pronounced slope

which rises towards Stoke Hill to the west. Natural changes in ground level have been made all the more pronounced by the terracing of housing into this slope. The ground surface of the site had a height of approximately 16.30m OD and unlike the surrounding land was virtually flat.

Although the site had until recently been a bowling green, at the time of this work it was covered by coarse grass and, in areas, dense vegetation. Fragments of wooden edging were the only traces of the former bowling green itself.

The underlying geology of the site consists of consists of chalk bedrock overlain by London Clay (Wymer 1989).

### **3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background**

The town of Ipswich dates back to the Saxon period, when it appears to have been founded on previously unoccupied heathland (Wade 1988). While the Gipping valley has produced evidence for activity during the prehistoric periods no focus has been identified in the Ipswich area. Although Roman settlements are known to have existed within the present borough boundary (Wade 1988), the area of Ipswich itself appears to have been bypassed during this time, with the Roman road from Colchester to Caistor fording the Gipping six miles upstream at Coddendam (West 1964).

The early origins of Ipswich were first demonstrated through the study of Saxon pottery recovered from the town during redevelopment work in the 1950s and 1960s. Saxon Ipswich Ware pottery was shown to have been made in the town between 650 and 850 AD, followed by what is now known as Ipswich-Thetford Ware (Hurst and West 1957). A subsequent mapping of the distribution of Ipswich Ware suggested that the Middle Saxon town covered an area of at least 25 ha (West 1964). A systematic programme of rescue excavation by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Unit from 1974 onwards has shown that the earliest phase of the town covered an area at least double this (Dunmore et al. 1975).

The heart of the Middle and Late Saxon town lay on the north bank of the Rivers Gipping and Orwell. Archaeological excavations undertaken within the parish of Stoke, in the vicinity of Vernon Street and Great Whip Street, have now demonstrated that the Saxon town extended south of the rivers. Excavations at the junction of Vernon Street and Great Whip Street (IPS 140) found Middle Saxon pottery along with Late Saxon pits. A much larger excavation undertaken on Vernon street (IPS 141) revealed further Middle Saxon features and a large number of finds of this date. Similar evidence was also recovered during an excavation on Great Whip Street (IPS 143).

The available evidence suggests that the area around Littles Crescent fell outside of the Saxon town. A Middle to Late Saxon cemetery has, however, been identified to the west of the site (IPS 414) and it is unlikely that this area was devoid of activity during this period. The area around Stoke Hill probably formed part of the town's agricultural hinterland.

Although Ipswich's prosperity was damaged by Danish raids and the events that followed the Norman conquest, by the early medieval period it was a thriving market town. It appears that during the medieval period Stoke developed into a fairly 'well to do' suburb. The area was held by the Abbot of Ely and many burgess are recorded as having held property and land there (Alsford 2001). During the medieval period

two churches were present in the vicinity of the site; St Mary's at Stoke which lies to the north of the site and St Augustine's, which is believed to have lain at the junction of Vernon Street and Great Whip Street until its destruction some time in the late 15th or early 16th century. Both churches were possibly founded during the Saxon period (Wade 1989).

The available cartographic sources suggest that the area around Littles Crescent continued to be peripheral and outside of the main town during the medieval and subsequent post-medieval periods. Speeds map of 1610, the first detailed plan of the town (and a good impression of its form at the end of the medieval period) shows open land in the vicinity of Littles Crescent. This also appears to be the case on Ogilby's map of 1674 (Fig. 2), although the site is located at the very base of both maps.

North of the river the Saxon town is known to have been surrounded by a ring of ditched defences which were reconstructed, although not with a wall, during the medieval period. It is unclear whether the suburbs south of the rivers were ever defended in such a fashion. If such defences did indeed exist south of the river, the apparently peripheral area around Littles Crescent would be a possible location.

The character of Stoke was fundamentally changed by the arrival of the railways in the later half of the 19th century. Ipswich's first railway station was built in the south of the parish and a railway town rapidly grew up around it. By 1871, the population of the parish had grown to more than 3,000, a ten-fold increase on what it had been 50 years before. To meet the demands of this expansion a large number of new terraced houses were built. These streets appear to have been built in several phases. It is clear from Ordnance Survey maps that the streets to the west and north of the site were built some time between 1887 and 1902. An obvious question is how the site came to avoid being developed during this period. The earlier O.S maps appear to provide an answer, showing the site as a small parcel of land to the west of what is marked as a vicarage. It is therefore possible that the site lies on land once owned by the church of St Mary at Stoke; indeed the site was referred to as once 'church land' by a local resident. Littles Crescent was built on the site of this vicarage following its demolition some time after it appears on an O.S map of 1928.

Until approximately five years ago the site was occupied by the Conservative Bowling Green.

## **4.0 Methodology**

(Fig. 3)

The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

The Brief required that approximately 5% of the site be evaluated, this being achieved by the excavation of three trenches measuring approximately 5m by 4m.

Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a hydraulic 360° excavator, using a toothless ditching bucket.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds, other than those which were obviously modern, were retained for inspection.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NAU Archaeology *pro forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

A temporary benchmark with a height of 17.17m OD was used during the course of this work. This temporary benchmark was transferred from an Ordnance Survey benchmark of 21.46m OD located on the corner of 43 Rectory Road.

Due to the lack of suitable deposits, no environmental samples were taken.

Site conditions were generally good and no significant problems were encountered during the course of this work.

## **5.0 Results**

### **Trench 1**

(Fig. 4)

Trench 1 was located in the north-east corner of the development area and aligned approximately east-to-west. Due to the depth of deposit present in this trench three of its sides were stepped in order to allow safe working.

Machine excavation was halted at a depth of 1.67m below ground level when a pale orange brown silty clay deposit was encountered, interpreted as geological in origin. This geological deposit sloped slightly from west to east and had a height of 15.20m OD at its lowest point. This natural clay was overlain by a mid orange brown sand clay silt subsoil deposit ([08]). This subsoil layer produced abraded single sherds of Middle Saxon and medieval pottery and a single iron nail. Sealing this subsoil was a very dark brown grey silty loam soil deposit ([07]) that most likely represented buried topsoil, its upper extent probably having been the ground surface prior to the levelling of the site. This deposit produced one sherd of early post-medieval pottery and six sherds of later post-medieval pottery. This pottery, coupled with the presence of coal and slate within the deposit demonstrates that that this soil was buried relatively recently.

The make-up material overlying this in-situ topsoil comprised further dark brown soils, mixed with layers of mid brown yellow silty clay ([06]). These imported soils were sealed by a spread of coarse grey material ([14]). This layer was only present within bounds of the bowling green itself, and had presumably been laid down to improve its drainage. The uppermost deposit encountered within the trench was a further dark brown grey silt loam ([05]). Only finds of obviously modern date were present within these upper deposits.

Although the base of the trench was thoroughly cleaned no archaeological significant features could be identified.

### **Trench 2**

(Fig. 5)

Trench 2 was located midway along the eastern extent of the development area and was aligned approximately north-to-south.



Machine excavation was halted at a depth of 1.25m below ground level when natural clay was encountered in the southern portion of the trench. The deposit sequence revealed in this trench was almost identical to that present within Trench 1. Approximately 0.30m of pale orange brown clay silt subsoil ([04]) was present at the base of the trench. The subsoil was again sealed by a thick layer of buried soil ([03]), sealed by a mixed make-up deposit composed of soil and clay lenses ([02]). The buried topsoil in this trench produced two further sherds of late post-medieval pottery a single sherd of possibly medieval pottery. A single fragment of copper alloy strip was also recovered. The drainage layer seen in Trench 1 ([14]) was again present beneath the modern topsoil ([01]).

Much of the trench base was covered by a mid orange brown clay silt deposit. This material was not excavated by machine as it was at this point uncertain as to whether it represented the fill of a large feature or the base of the subsoil. Subsequent hand excavation showed this deposit to be the remainder of the subsoil layer, deeper at the northern end of the trench where the level of the natural clay dropped slightly. Two sherds of handmade, possibly Early Saxon pottery were recovered during the excavation of this deposit.

### **Trench 3**

(Figs. 6 and 7)

Trench 3 proved to be dramatically different in character to the other two trenches. Natural clays were encountered at a depth of only 0.38m below the ground surface (16.90m OD). No subsoil was present in this trench, with spreads of gravel and the grey drainage material lying directly on the natural clay. This evidence suggests that this portion of the development area was significantly truncated during the levelling of the site. This truncation of the natural geology would explain the presence of clay lenses within the make-up deposits identified in the other trenches.

Two sub-rectangular, east-to-west aligned features were present in the base of this trench. The easternmost ([11]) lay wholly within the trench and was 1.94m long and 1.20m wide. This feature proved to be extremely shallow upon excavation and produced no finds. The second sub-rectangular feature ([09]) was partially exposed at the western edge of the trench. This feature was 1.12m wide and slightly more substantial at 0.17m deep. Both features were filled with mid grey brown silty clays ([10], [12]), neither of which produced any finds. Although these features were sealed by deposits associated with the bowling green, their shallow, wide profiles make it extremely unlikely that they predated the levelling of the site. It is therefore likely that they related to an earlier incarnation of the bowling green.

Three square gravel-filled postholes and a square rubble-filled pit were also present within this trench. All were of clearly modern date and probably related to the Bowling Club clubhouse which apparently stood on this spot.

## 6.0 The Finds

### Introduction

The finds from the site are presented in tabular form with basic quantitative information in Appendix 2: Finds by Context.

In addition to this summary, more detailed information on specific finds is included in separate reports below. Supporting tables for these contributions are included in the Appendices.

Particular objects or small finds are listed in Appendix 2: Finds by Context, and are catalogued in more detail in Appendix 7: Small Finds. They may also form the subject of individual reports included below.

### 6.1 Pottery (Appendix 3)

By Sue Anderson

#### *Methodology*

Quantification was carried out using sherd count and weight. All fabric codes were assigned from the Suffolk post-Roman fabric series, which includes Norfolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire and Midlands fabrics, as well as imported wares. Local wares and common imports were identified from Jennings (1981). Form terminology follows MPRG (1998).

#### *The assemblage*

A total of 14 sherds of pottery weighing 0.114kg was collected from four contexts.

This group contains pottery of Early Saxon (or possibly Iron Age) to late post-medieval date. The earliest sherds were collected from a subsoil deposit ([04]) and were unabraded, handmade body fragments of a single vessel. The similarity between Early Saxon and Iron Age wares in this region makes identification uncertain without further corroborative evidence for either period. A sherd of Middle Saxon Ipswich Ware was also recovered from the subsoil however; handmade wares appear to have been made in this period too, so potentially the 'Early' Saxon sherds could be contemporary with this find. A small sherd from buried topsoil deposit [03] is also of uncertain date, most likely medieval, although again it is possible that it belongs to an earlier period. One definite medieval sherd was recovered from subsoil deposit [08].

A sherd of a post-medieval redware jug was found in buried topsoil deposit [07]. All other pottery is of recent date and includes both utilitarian and table wares typical of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

#### *Discussion*

There is limited evidence for ?Early to Middle Saxon activity on the site; the Stoke area of the town has previously produced Ipswich Ware so there is likely to have been some settlement at the time. The small quantities of medieval and post-medieval pottery, however, suggest that the site itself may not have been occupied during these periods, the abraded sherds perhaps having been brought to the site in midden material for manuring purposes. Later material probably represents

occupation of the 19th/20th centuries, presumably deposited in garden soils. The assemblage is too small and widely dispersed, both temporally and spatially, to be of further value in the interpretation of the site.

## **6.2 Ceramic Building Material**

*By Lucy Talbot*

The site produced a single piece of post medieval, medium sandy, plain roof tile weighing 00.014kg. The fragment is of eighteenth to nineteenth century date and was recovered from the buried topsoil within Trench 2 ([03]).

## **6.3 Faunal Remains**

*By Julie Curl*

A total of 0.001kg of bone, comprising a single fragment, was recovered from the buried topsoil within Trench 2 ([03]). The bone is a scapula from a juvenile bird. The age and poor condition of the bone prevents a more positive identification, although it appears to be from a species of duck, possibly Mallard.

## **6.4 Metal Objects (Appendix 4)**

A single copper alloy object (SF1) was recovered on site, from the buried topsoil layer within Trench 1 ([07]). The curved top and mouldings on the outside would suggest use as binding perhaps for a vessel or similar and is most likely post-medieval.

## **7.0 Conclusions**

This evaluation has shown that until relatively recently the site sloped dramatically from south-west to north-east, with the natural geological deposits approximately 1.30m lower in Trench 1 than in Trench 3. This height differential would have been even greater as it appears that the area around Trench 3 has been significantly truncated.

The survival of a thick, undisturbed subsoil deposit across much of the site makes it likely that archaeological remains would be preserved, if they were once present. However, no archaeologically significant features were identified during this evaluation, suggesting that, as indicated by the cartographic evidence, the site fell outside of the main zone of activity during the Saxon and medieval periods. The small quantity of pottery recovered from the subsoil provides evidence only of activity within the general area during these periods. This lack of evidence for past activity on the site is perhaps not surprising given the steep slope that appears to have been present prior to the levelling of the site. The two sherds of potentially Early Saxon pottery are of some interest, both due to their unabraded nature and the fact that they represent some of the earliest finds from the parish.

No deposits that could have been derived from once upstanding earthworks were present, and the location, or indeed the existence, of ditched defences south of the river remains uncertain.

Recommendations for future work based upon this report will be made by the SCCAS Conservation Team.

## **Acknowledgements**

The fieldwork associated with this report was carried out by Peter Watkins and Andy Phelps. NAU Archaeology are grateful to Paul Brown Construction who supplied the 360<sup>0</sup> excavator used during the evaluation.

The finds were processed by Lucy Talbot, who also examined the ceramic building material. The faunal remains were examined by Julie Curl, the metal object by Julia Huddle and the pottery by Sue Anderson of CFA Archaeology.

This report was produced by David Dobson and Julie Curl and edited by Sarah Harrison. Figure 1 was created by David Dobson and Julie Curl. The remaining illustrations were produced by the author.

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### Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Trench	Category	Description	Period
01	2	Deposit	Topsoil	-
02	2	Deposit	Redeposited soil	-
03	2	Deposit	Buried topsoil	-
04	2	Deposit	Subsoil	-
05	1	Deposit	Topsoil	-
06	1	Deposit	Redeposited soil	-
07	1	Deposit	Buried topsoil	-
08	1	Deposit	Subsoil	-
09	3	Cut	Linear feature	Modern
10	3	Deposit	Fill of linear feature [09]	Modern
11	3	Cut	Linear feature	Modern
12	3	Deposit	Fill of linear feature [11]	Modern
13	3	Deposit	Topsoil	-
14	3	Deposit	Make-up	-
15	3	Deposit	Redeposited topsoil	-

### Appendix 1b: OASIS feature summary table

Period	Feature type	Quantity
Modern (1900 to 2050 AD)	Pit	3
	Posthole	3

### Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (kg)	Period
03	Pottery	3	0.008	Medieval / post medieval
	Ceramic Building Material	1	0.014	Post Medieval
	Animal bone	-	<0.001	-
04	Pottery	2	0.018	? Early Saxon
07	Pottery	7	0.072	Post Medieval
	Copper alloy	1	-	?Post-medieval
08	Pottery	2	0.016	Middle Saxon / medieval
	Iron Nail	1	-	-

### Appendix 2b: NHER finds summary table

Period	Material	Quantity
Undated	Copper alloy object	1
	Iron nail	1
	Faunal remains	1
Early Saxon (410 to 650AD)	Pottery	2
Middle Saxon (651 to 850AD)	Pottery	1
Medieval (1066 to 1539AD)	Pottery	2
Post-medieval (1540 to 1900AD)	Pottery	9

### Appendix 3: Pottery

Context	Quantity by context	Weight by context (kg)	Fabric	Description	Quantity	Weight (kg)	Ceramic date
03	3	0.008	MCW?	Heavily abraded, inner surface lost, could be handmade and earlier?	1	0.001	12th to 13th c.
			REFW	Preserve jar rim	1	0.004	19th c.
			REFW	Body sherd, willow pattern both sides	1	0.003	19th or 20th c.
04	2	0.018	ESCF?	Handmade body sherds, hard, main inclusion uncertain	2	0.018	?Early Saxon
07	7	0.072	GRE	Rim of jug, abraded	1	0.006	16th to 18th c.
			PORC	Base sherds, probably 3 vessels, one with green transfer print partial maker's mark '...CHINA'	3	0.012	19th to 20th c.
			REFW	Plain white cavetto rim, bowl or chamber pot	1	0.021	19th to 20th c.
			REFW	Blue floral transfer print on exterior.	1	0.015	19th to 20th c.
			YELW	?Base or very thick rim, large storage jar?	1	0.018	19th to 20th c.
08	2	0.016	SIPS	Abraded body sherd	1	0.012	Mid 7th to mid 9th c.
			MCW	Abraded body sherd	1	0.004	12th to 14th c.

### Appendix 4: Small Finds

Small Find	Context	Material	Description	Object date
1	07	Copper alloy	Cast decorative strip fragment with mouldings on the outside edge, a small, partially-drilled circular hole and an engraved line around the rounded top on the inside face.	?Post-medieval

## **Appendix 5: Brief**

### **SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM**

#### ***Brief and Specification for a Trenched Evaluation***

### **FORMER BOWLING GREEN, LITTLES CRESCENT, IPSWICH**

***The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities, see paragraphs 1.7 and 1.8.***

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1 Planning permission for the erection of five houses with associated parking and vehicular access parking develop land at the Former Bowling Green, Littles Crescent, Ipswich (TM 1629 4364) has been granted by Ipswich Borough Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (IP/05/00352/FUL).
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition). A trenched evaluation of the application area will be required as the first part of a programme of archaeological mitigation; decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of additional briefs.
- 1.3 This application lies in an area of high archaeological potential recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record. It lies adjacent to the area of the known Middle/late Saxon town, south of the River Gipping, and alongside the projected line of the town defences. In addition, the application is situated c. 160m east of the site of a Middle to Late Saxon cemetery (IPS 414). The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.4 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.5 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.6 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.
- 1.7 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.
- 1.8 The responsibility for identifying any restraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife



sites &c.) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such restraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

- 1.9 Any changes to the specifications that the project manager may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT for approval.

## 2. **Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation**

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ* [at the discretion of the developer].
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.6 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage.
- 2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 2.8 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.
- 2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

## 3. **Specification: Field Evaluation**

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover the area of proposed development. These shall be positioned to sample the location of the proposed houses – three dwellings in the southern part and two dwellings in the northern part of the site and also an access road along the eastern side of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenching is to be a minimum of 30m long x 1.8m wide (c. 5% of the application site) unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.2m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the Project Design and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.
- 3.2 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control



and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.

- 3.3 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.4 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled.
- 3.5 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 3.6 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from J. Heathcote, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 3.7 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 3.8 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.9 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.10 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 3.11 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.
- 3.12 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.13 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

#### 4. **General Management**

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not

less than ten days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.

- 4.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record.
- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.
- 4.4 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 4.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.6 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* and for *Field Evaluations* should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

## 5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 5.2 The report should reflect the aims of the Project Design.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the county SMR.
- 5.8 The project manager must consult the SMR Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.9 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County SMR if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.

- 5.10 The project manager should consult the County SMR officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive.
- 5.11 The site archive is to be deposited with the County SMR within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.12 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to the Conservation Team, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.13 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.14 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.15 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

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Date: 16 February 2007

Reference: / FormerBowlingGreenLittlesCrescent-Ipswich2007

**This brief and specification remains valid for six months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.**

**Archaeological contractors are strongly advised to forward a detailed Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council for approval before any proposals are submitted to potential clients.**

**If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.**

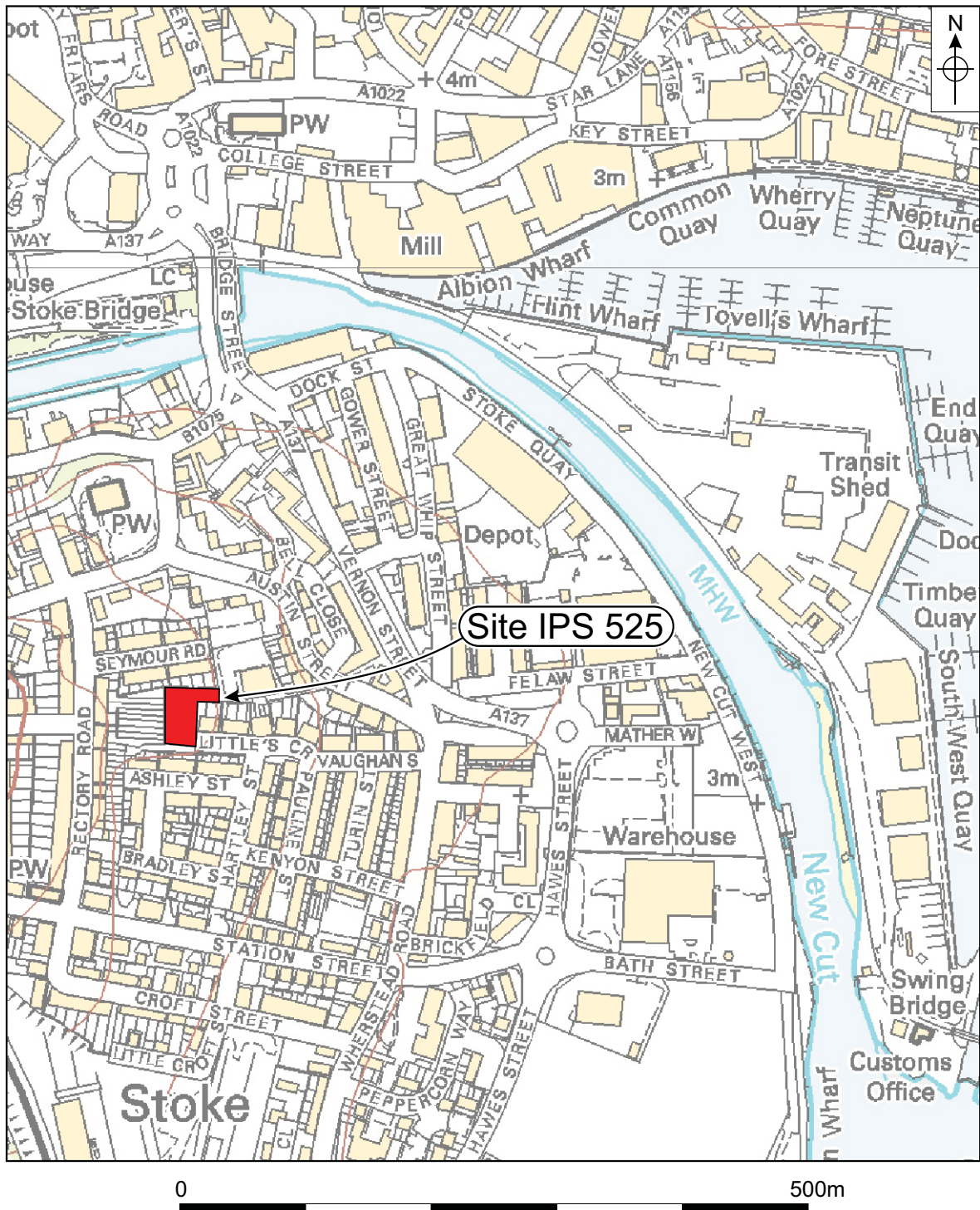


Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000

Local Authority No.100019340

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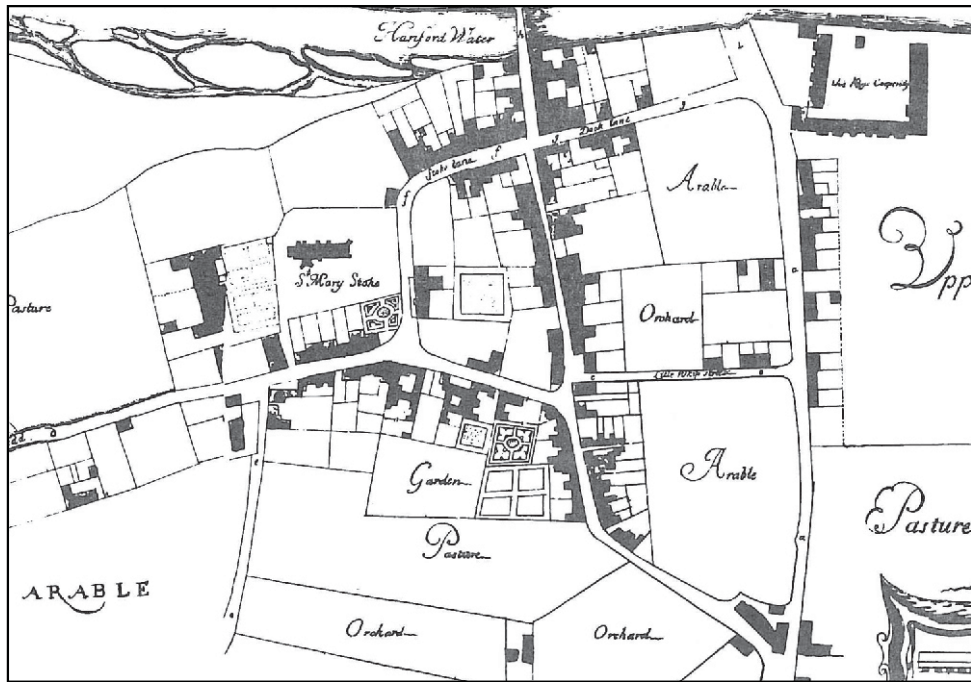


Figure 2. Ogilby's 1674 map of Ipswich



Figure 3. Trench location. Scale 1:250

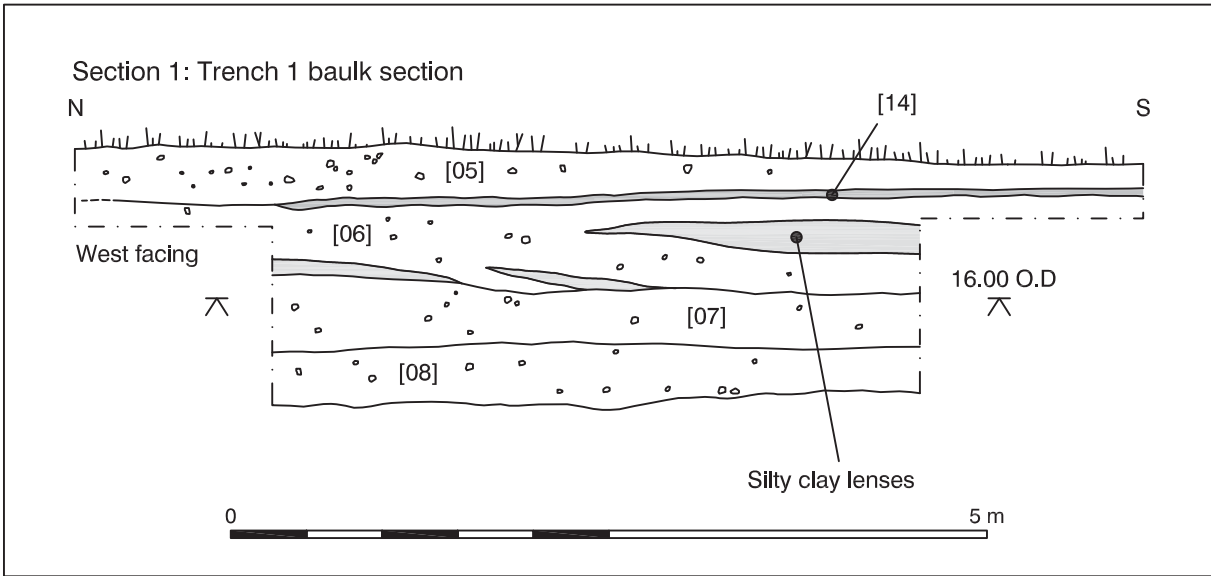


Figure 4. Trench 1 sections. Scale 1:50

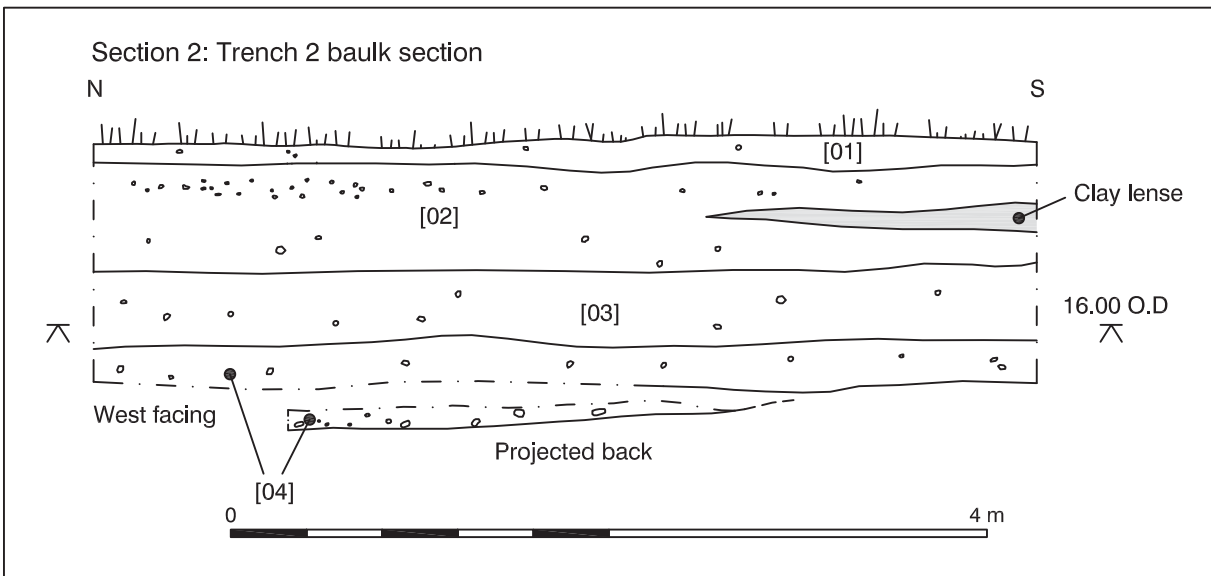


Figure 5. Trench 2 sections. Scale 1:40



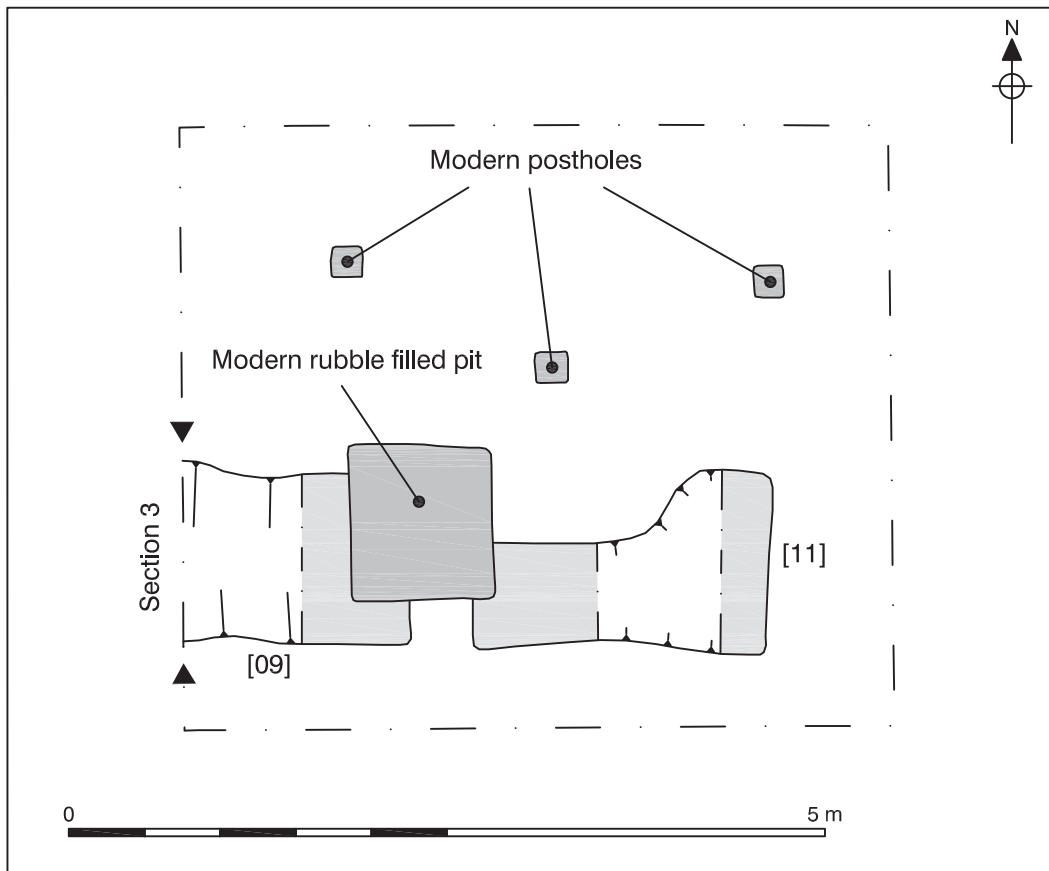


Figure 6. Trench 3 plan. Scale 1:50

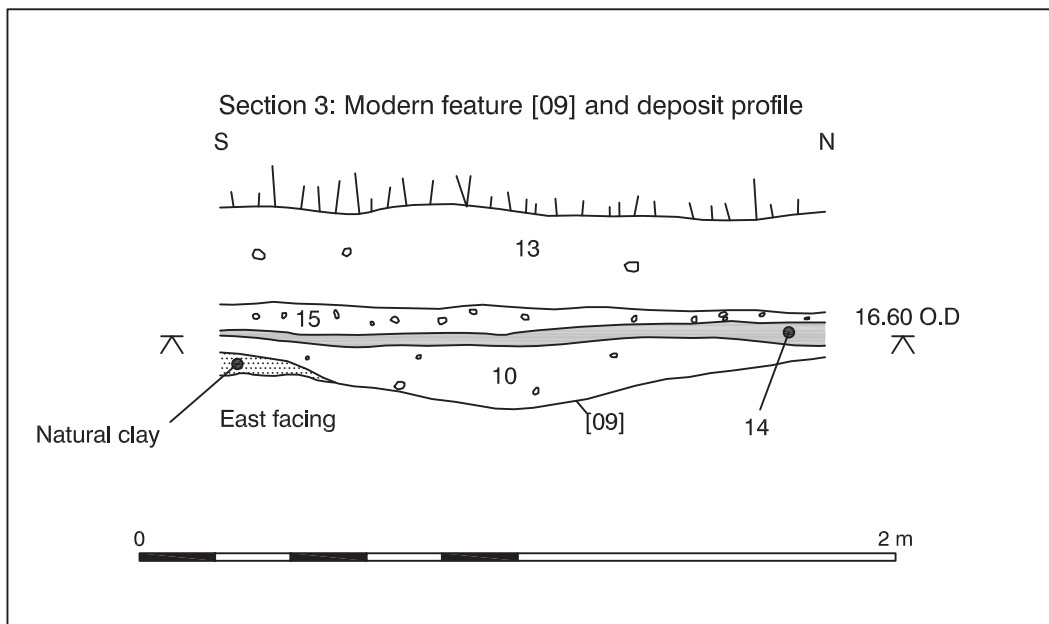


Figure 7. Trench 3 section. Scale 1:20



Plate 1. Trench 1 following excavation - looking east



Plate 2. Trench 2 following excavation - looking east



Plate 3. Trench 3 following excavation - looking east