

NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Report No. 815

**An Archaeological Evaluation of
Land Adjacent to Harvey Lane,
Dickleburgh, Norfolk**

38139 DCK

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April 2003

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Local Authority No.076759

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Location: Land adjacent to Harvey lane, Dickleburgh, Norfolk
Grid Ref: TM 1682 8231
HER No.: 38139 DCK
Date of fieldwork: 20th to 21st and 24th to 25th March 2003

Summary

An archaeological evaluation of land next to Harvey Lane in Dickleburgh revealed two gullies in the south area of the site, one of which contained medieval pottery. To the west of the site, adjacent to Harvey Lane, several probable gravel borrow pits were located. Other trial trenches on the remainder of the site did not exhibit any evidence of archaeological features or finds.

1.0 Introduction

The archaeological evaluation was carried out on behalf of Mr T. Perkins of Dart Property Company Ltd on land adjacent to Harvey Lane in Dickleburgh. The archaeological work involved the machine excavation of a single trial trench within the footprint of each of eight proposed dwellings. This was to ensure that any potential archaeological remains that might be disturbed by the development could be identified.

This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA Ref: ARJH 21/11/02) and a Method Statement prepared by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit (NAU Ref: MS/Eval/JB/1548).

The work 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 the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, following the relevant policy on archiving standards.

2.0 Geology and Topography

The underlying natural deposits on the site are upper chalk, bordering on London clays, overlaid with yellow sandy boulder clay (Lowestoft Till) and outcrops of sandy gravel. The subsoil is a compact mid brown clay silt and the topsoil is a dark brown organic loam. The site is located on a rise at approximately 35m OD which continues up to the south and drops slightly to the north. Drainage did not seem a problem on the site and no ground water was observed, although the underlying clay found at an average depth of 0.55m would naturally retain water within the soil.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

There is documentary evidence in the form of a charter dating to between 1044 and 1052 which mentions a pre-Conquest minster at Dickleburgh. The manor of Dickleburgh is noted in Domesday. The Colchester to Caister-by-Norwich Roman road runs through the village and the surrounding landscape shows extant evidence of an early field system which may have originated in the Iron Age. This has been instrumental in the theory that the early charter may be evidence of the re-founding of a much earlier settlement (Williamson 1993).

Faden's map of 1797 shows little detail of Dickleburgh but does position a windmill close to the area of the site (HER 16403). This, however, has been misplaced as the same mill is located on the 1836 OS map 350m further to the east.

From references in the Historic Environment Record (HER), it is known that several buildings of historical interest figure in the landscape surrounding the site. To the immediate north of the site, The Crown Inn (HER 30874) is an Elizabethan timber-framed house with both timber-framed and clay lump outbuildings which may be of an earlier date than the main building. Adjacent to the south-east of the site on Harvey Lane is a timber-framed cottage with a 17th-century fireplace (HER 17117). Another timber-framed cottage, not listed in the HER, was described as being in the north-western corner of the site until the 1980s when it was demolished (T. Perkins, pers. comm.). Approximately 150m to the north-west of the site is the church of All Saints, in the medieval perpendicular style (HER 3991), which forms the historic core of the village.

The current site had previously been occupied by a bungalow in the northern part of the area with an adjacent swimming pool. The street frontage had been occupied by a garage workshop with associated outbuildings and scrap dump towards the centre. These buildings had been cleared a year previous to the evaluation commencing.

Apart from work carried out during the building in the 1990s of the Dickleburgh-Scole bypass to the west, little archaeological investigation has taken place in the village.

4.0 Methodology

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

The Brief required that a 5% sample of the area of the site should be excavated. This entailed the removal of the topsoil and subsoil from eight 4m by 4m trenches.

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

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 the Norfolk Archaeological Unit's *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 level was transferred from an Ordnance Survey benchmark of 35.64m OD on the south-east corner of All Saints church. Although a non-permanent peg was used as a temporary benchmark on site, a level (33.28m OD) was taken on a mains drain cover on a hardstanding driveway adjacent to the west of the site between the two property boundaries.

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

Site conditions were bright, warm and clear with no precipitation. The exposed natural clay was gradually hardened by the sun creating cracks in the base of the trenches and obscuring somewhat the edges of features. An earlier SIC report had identified levels of contamination on the site, chiefly traces of hydrocarbons resulting from waste oil from the former workshop that had stood on the southern part of the site. To cover this eventuality, protective clothing was available should any of the three trenches in this area exhibit contamination.

5.0 Results

The trenches were excavated by machine removing topsoil and subsoil in 100mm spits until the underlying natural clay was uncovered. This lay at an average depth of 0.55m. In Trenches 3, 4, 5 and 6 machining revealed only naturally formed soils devoid of features and with tree root traces discolouring the natural clay.

In Trench 6, which was 0.55m deep, part of a concrete plinth was revealed in the south-eastern corner of the trench which was apparently part of a shed and oil tank base associated with the former bungalow. Trench 3, excavated to a depth of 0.48m, exhibited only a small patch of oil contaminated ground, although not enough to warrant donning protective gear. Trenches 4 and 5, at 0.55m and 0.50m deep respectively, were also devoid of interest.

Trench 2, against the frontage of Harvey Lane was abandoned at a depth of 0.60m when a concrete-lined inspection pit from the garage workshop was revealed on the south side of the trench. The modern fill of the cut to this pit extended for approximately 1m to the north into natural clay and gravel. The depth of the modern cut was undetermined but was estimated at 2m, the depth of which would preclude any surviving archaeological evidence judging by the average depth of the natural across the site.

The main areas of interest on the site were Trenches 1, 7 and 8, all of which had features cut into the natural.

Trench 1

(Figs 3 and 6)

The base of Trench 1 differed from the other trial trenches in that the natural was a sandy gravel rather than the clay seen in the other trenches. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.50m through a thin dark topsoil and clay loam subsoil.

Three pit-like features were exposed in this trench by the machining; a large feature in the centre of the trench and two smaller oval pits in the south-western and north-eastern corners. The pit to the south-west, [18], which was of approximately 0.60m diameter, was hand excavated to a depth of 0.50m and contained a grey-brown clayey sand silt with occasional small flints and patches of sand. Several brick and tile fragments were recovered from the fill of this feature (19), which were recognised

as being relatively modern in date, as well as two iron bolts and some fragments of coal. One fragment of post-medieval pottery which was also recovered from the fill may have been residual.

The pit in the north-eastern corner of the trial trench, [16], was 1.70m long and was excavated in half-section to a depth of 0.52m. One fragment of post-medieval pottery was retrieved from the fill of this feature which comprised a compact grey-brown clay loam with moderate small flints and occasional charcoal and brick dust flecks (17).

The large central pit [12] was between 2.30m and 2.50m in diameter and had a separate feature adjoining it on its north edge. The pit was excavated in half-section to a depth of 0.55m. The base of the feature was regular and concave with a slight 'overhang' at the top of the cut. Its compact lower fill (13) consisted of a dark grey-brown clay loam with occasional medium-sized and small flints. The upper fill (20) was a grey clay loam with frequent small flints and lumps of tan-brown clay. The fill also contained occasional flecks of charcoal. Two fragments of post-medieval pottery were recovered from fill (13); otherwise the pit was devoid of dating material.

The adjoining feature to the north [14] appeared to be another large oval or circular pit which extended under the northern section of the trench and had an estimated diameter of over 2m, only 0.20m of which was visible. The feature was excavated along the same section line as that of adjacent large pit [12] to determine the relationship between the two features.

The depth of pit [14] was determined as being 0.85m. It contained four fills. The primary fill of the pit was a loose gravel (23) that was distinguished only from the underlying natural by the inclusion of fragments of chalk. Above this was a dark brown clay loam containing occasional charcoal flecks (22). This was below a layer of re-deposited gravel mixed with a dark brown loam (21), which was in turn covered by an upper fill (15), consisting of a grey-brown clayey loam, similar to (20).

The only dating evidence to come from this feature was a fragment of clay pipe stem and one sherd of stoneware from the upper fill (15). The pit cut the adjacent large pit [12] and was, therefore, later in date to that feature, although the two pits were probably relatively contemporary.

Trench 7

(Fig. 4)

Trench 7 was excavated to a depth of 0.52m. It contained one main feature which was located along the south side of the trench and took the form of a shallow gully running in an east-to-west direction, continuing beyond both trench sides. This feature, [5], also continued under the southern side of the trench and had a visible width of 0.6m. The depth of the gully when excavated was 0.18m towards the east end of the feature and the profile was shallow and concave. The depth towards the west end of the gully was 0.30m and the profile appeared to be wider, the south side of the feature being concealed under the side of the trench. The fill (4) was an olive brown compact clay silt with frequent small flints, particularly concentrated in the base of the feature. Two fragments of animal bone, including part of a horse leg, was recovered from the fill of the gully. No pottery or other dating evidence was evident.

Against the eastern side of the trench an irregular-shaped shallow feature [10] appeared initially to be connected at right-angles to the gully but when excavated no relationship could be determined. The hollow was 0.10m deep and contained a

similar fill to that of the gully. It was concluded that despite a fragment of post-medieval pottery coming from the fill (11) the feature was a natural depression in the underlying clay.

The remainder of the base of the trench was natural clay with no other features visible. The topsoil and subsoil deposits in this trench were the same colour and consistency as in Trench 8.

Trench 8

(Fig. 5)

A single feature [1] was located in Trench 8. Only part of the feature was visible as it continued beneath the southern and eastern sides of the trench and it initially gave the impression that it was a large pit with a projected diameter of at least 2m. Upon excavation it was determined that the feature, although only fractionally visible, was more likely to be part of a linear feature running from the north-west to the south-east. The feature had very steeply sloped sides with a flat base and contained a mid grey-brown very compact clay loam (2), with frequent small flints and pebbles and several sherds of post-medieval pottery.

The compact grey-brown clay silt subsoil (9) which was observed in the northern, western and southern sides of the trench was absent from the eastern side. Instead a mid brown clay loam (5) sealed feature [1] and contained chalk and charcoal flecks along with small fragments of brick or tile. This deposit was not as humic as the topsoil (6) above it and appeared to be an imported soil. The topsoil itself was a very dark brown clay loam containing chalk flecks and occasional small pebbles along with modern debris such as battery cores and scraps of tinned iron.

6.0 The Finds

The Pottery

Methodology

A total of ten fragments of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the evaluation. These weighed 0.168kg.

The ceramics were quantified by the number of sherds present in each context, and the weight of each fabric. Other characteristics such as condition and decoration were noted, and an overall date range for the pottery in each context was established. The pottery was recorded on *pro forma* sheets by context using letter codes based on fabric and form.

The fabric codes used are based mainly on those identified in *Eighteen centuries of pottery from Norwich* (Jennings 1981), and supplemented by additional ones compiled by the Suffolk Archaeological Unit (S Anderson, unpublished fabric list).

Description

The assemblage consisted of a range of pottery which spanned a date range of the 15th to the 18th centuries. Two fragments of Late medieval and transitional ware were recovered, including a large strap handle of a jug or cistern. This micaceous redware was made in a number of production sites located along the Waveney Valley in North Suffolk, (Anderson *et al* 1996). A fragment of an LMT variant, Local Early Post-medieval ware was also found in (19). The sherd forms part of the base of a mug with a mottled internal glaze.

Four fragments of Glazed red earthenware were found from three different contexts. These were all undiagnostic body sherds of overall 16th- to 18th-century date. The exception to this is an abraded GRE base of a vessel made in a paler red earthenware fabric with full glaze coverage, which originates from the base of a vessel such as a bowl, in (11). A single body sherd of an Iron-glazed ware, was also present in (2). Both the Glazed red earthenwares and this fragment were produced locally and were commonly used for utilitarian kitchen wares and drinking wares during the post-medieval period.

A single fragment of English stoneware was present in (15), together with fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem. The sherd is small and undiagnostic, but may come from a jug or bottle.

The only imported vessel present in the assemblage was found in (13). It consists of part of the base of a Frechen stoneware vessel, probably a jug or bottle. Such pottery was produced in the Rhineland from the second half of the 16th century to the end of the 17th century. Large quantities of bottles and jugs were imported into this country, either directly across the North Sea, or via London where they were traded on to other parts of the country.

The Faunal Remains

Summary

A total of seven pieces of bone, totalling 0.374kg, were recovered from four contexts during the evaluation work. The assemblage included butchered bone and a probable pathology.

Methodology

All of the bone was examined to identify species and elements present, ages of animals (when possible), butchering and any pathologies of archaeological significance. Weights were taken for each context and counts were made for each species and the total for the context. All information was recorded on the faunal remains recording sheets and a summary is included in a table with this report.

Results

Sheep/goat remains were retrieved from contexts (2), (4) and (11) and consisted of two butchered adult mandibles and a chopped and cut metacarpal. One sheep/goat mandible from (4) also exhibited canid gnawing. Context (9) produced two fragments of butchered pig pelvis.

The most interesting bone was an equid (horse/pony) metatarsal from (4); this bone showed irregular growth which caused the bone to be slightly distorted and bent over to one side. The probable cause of this pathology in an equid would be rickets and could have been caused by the animal being kept indoors out of sunlight and with a lack of exercise in its early months, or from a poor diet. There are cut marks on the bone, which suggest that the horse was skinned.

Conclusions

Most of the assemblage is derived from primary and secondary butchering and food waste. The butchering of the equid is interesting as horses are not often butchered. It

is possible that this animal was utilised for its hide/meat as the pathology suggest that this individual was lame and may have been of little use as a working animal.

7.0 Conclusions

The change in natural deposits in the south-western corner of the site from the yellow sandy clay found over the remainder of the area to a sandy gravel allows a degree of interpretation to be placed on the features in Trench 1.

The four pits located at the base of this trench were excavated into the gravel and backfilled with a mixture of the surrounding soils as well as elements of the clay natural from the northern and eastern areas of the site. From this evidence the features have been interpreted as borrow pits, excavated by hand to extract the underlying gravel for, perhaps, building purposes and then deliberately backfilled. The fact that pit [14] cut the edge of the large pit [12], and the general concentration of the pits, indicates that the gravel extraction, although on a relatively small scale, was a fairly frequent activity. The proximity of the pits to the road frontage and the probability that this part of the site had not been built on until the modern garage was erected would have allowed easy access to the gravel outcrop.

The dating evidence from the pottery sherds found in the pits ranged from the 15th to 19th centuries. If these were not residual, it appears to indicate a continuance of extraction over a period of several centuries.

The gully found in Trench 7 may have been a drainage ditch, a probable requirement with largely clay subsoils over the site. The gully as excavated did not appear deep enough for a drainage ditch. The concentration of small flints and pebbles at the base of the feature could lend weight to this interpretation as they may have been deposited through water-borne action. Another reading of the evidence would be that this feature was a boundary ditch or the base for a grubbed-out hedgeline, although no root holes were observed in the fill or underlying natural clay. Unfortunately no dating evidence was recovered from the fill of this feature.

The fragments of animal bone recovered from the feature indicate butchery and may represent local processing of meat animals. Interestingly the equid bone shows signs of rickets surviving into an adult animal. Evidence from the bone suggests that the carcass was probably butchered and skinned.

The shallow feature at the eastern end of the trench looked from the surface as though it was connected to the east to west gully but on excavation no relationship was established. It is probable that the hollow is a natural depression, such as a tree bole, that has filled with a similar silt to the main linear feature, perhaps as a result of the gully overflowing. The single sherd of post-medieval pottery found in the fill may well be residual but equally might indicate an overall date for the adjacent gully [3] as well as the hollow.

The feature in the corner of Trench 8 appeared on the surface before excavation to be a fairly large pit. The shape of the base of cut [1], however, indicated it to be a roughly linear feature, running on an approximately south-west to north-east alignment. This would in theory put it on a line of interception with the gully in Trench 7. Although the steepness of the sides of the feature are in direct contrast to that of the shallow gully [3], both features have been interpreted as drainage channels. This conclusion was reached as much by the lack of other interpretative evidence as by the nature of the underlying natural. The pottery found in the fill of [1] indicates a date

of between the 16th and 18th centuries, much the same as that found in adjacent Trench 7. The layer of clay loam sealing the feature was probably imported in the 19th or 20th centuries to make up the ground as a form of landscaping.

The few features that were found have inevitably to be viewed in isolation rather than as being part of a possible archaeological sequence that might have provided a more comprehensive interpretation of the site. The gravel borrow pits adjacent to Harvey Lane are post-medieval and may have been utilised from the 16th or 17th centuries up until the garage was built on the site in the 1950s.

The paucity of archaeological features in the middle, northern and western areas of the site was probably as a result of the particular use to which the land was put. It may have been agricultural land, for instance, which would not necessarily have left traces of activity. This would give a reason for the two possible drainage channels found. The half-timbered cottage reported to have stood near the north-western corner of the site may have utilised the ground for grazing or gardens, as did the cottage to the south-west of the site.

Recommendations for future work based upon this report will be made by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology.

Bibliography

- | | | |
|--|------|---|
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Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Mr Perkins from Dart Property Company Ltd for his assistance and interest during the evaluation. The site was excavated and recorded by Alex Wasse, Danny Voisey and the author. The pottery was processed by Lucy Talbot and described by Richenda Goffin. The faunal remains were assessed and reported on by Julie Curl. Historic Environment Record information was supplied by Jan Allen and Martin Horlock of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology. The report was produced and illustrated by Maggie Footitt and edited by Andy Shelley.

Appendix 1: Context Summary

| Context | Category | Description | Trench number | Period |
|---------|----------|---------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | C | Gully | 8 | Post-medieval |
| 2 | D | Fill of [1] | 8 | |
| 3 | C | Ditch or gully | 7 | ?Post-medieval |
| 4 | D | Fill of [3] | 7 | |
| 5 | D | Deposit above 2 | 7, 8 | |
| 6 | D | Topsoil | 1-8 | |
| 7 | D | Clay | 2-8 | Natural |
| 8 | D | Sand/gravel | 1 | Natural |
| 9 | D | Subsoil | 1-8 | - |
| 10 | C | Shallow hollow | 7 | ?Natural |
| 11 | D | Fill of [10] | 7 | |
| 12 | C | Borrow pit | 1 | Post-medieval |
| 13 | D | Primary fill of [12] | 1 | |
| 14 | C | Borrow pit | 1 | Post-medieval |
| 15 | D | Upper fill of [14] | 1 | |
| 16 | C | Borrow pit | 1 | Post-medieval |
| 17 | D | Fill of [16] | 1 | |
| 18 | C | ?Borrow pit | 1 | Post-medieval |
| 19 | D | Fill of [18] | 1 | |
| 20 | D | Upper fill of [12] | 1 | |
| 21 | D | Re-deposited fill of [14] | 1 | |
| 22 | D | Fill of [14] | 1 | |
| 23 | D | Primary fill of [14] | 1 | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Appendix 2: Pottery

| Context | Fabric | Form | Quantity | Weight (kg) | Date |
|---------|--------|------|----------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 2 | GRE | Body | 2 | 0.014 | 16th to 18th century |
| 2 | IGBW | Body | 1 | 0.003 | 16th to 18th century |
| 2 | LMT | Jug | 1 | 0.075 | 15th to 16th century |
| 11 | GRE | Body | 1 | 0.011 | 16th to 18th century |
| 13 | FREC | Body | 1 | 0.017 | 1550 to 1700 |
| 13 | GRE | Body | 1 | 0.003 | 16th to 18th century |
| 15 | ENGS | Body | 1 | 0.003 | 1700 to 1900 |
| 17 | LMT | Body | 1 | 0.034 | 15th to 16th century |
| 19 | LEPM | Mug | 1 | 0.008 | 16th to e17th century |
| | | | | | |

Key:

| | |
|------|-------------------------------------|
| GRE | Glazed red earthenware |
| IGBW | Iron glazed ware |
| LMT | Late medieval and transitional ware |
| FREC | Frechen stoneware |
| ENGS | English stoneware |
| LEPM | Local early post-medieval ware |

Appendix 3: Faunal Remains

| Context | Quantity | Weight (kg) | Species | Comments |
|---------|----------|-------------|------------|---|
| 2 | 2 | 31 | Sheep/Goat | Mandible x1, mature adult (3rd molar worn) chopped and cut bone |
| 2 | - | | Mammal | Butchered fragment x1, no species ID |
| 4 | 2 | 308 | Equid | Metatarsal x1. Slight irregular growth, bent bone, probable pathology. Fine shaft cuts indicate butchered/skinned |
| 4 | - | | Sheep/Goat | Mandible x1, adult. Chopped and cut bone. Canid gnawing traces. |
| 9 | 2 | 22 | Pig | Pelvis fragments x2. Fine cut marks |
| 11 | 1 | 13 | Sheep/Goat | Metacarpal x1. Chopped and cut bone. |
| | | | | |

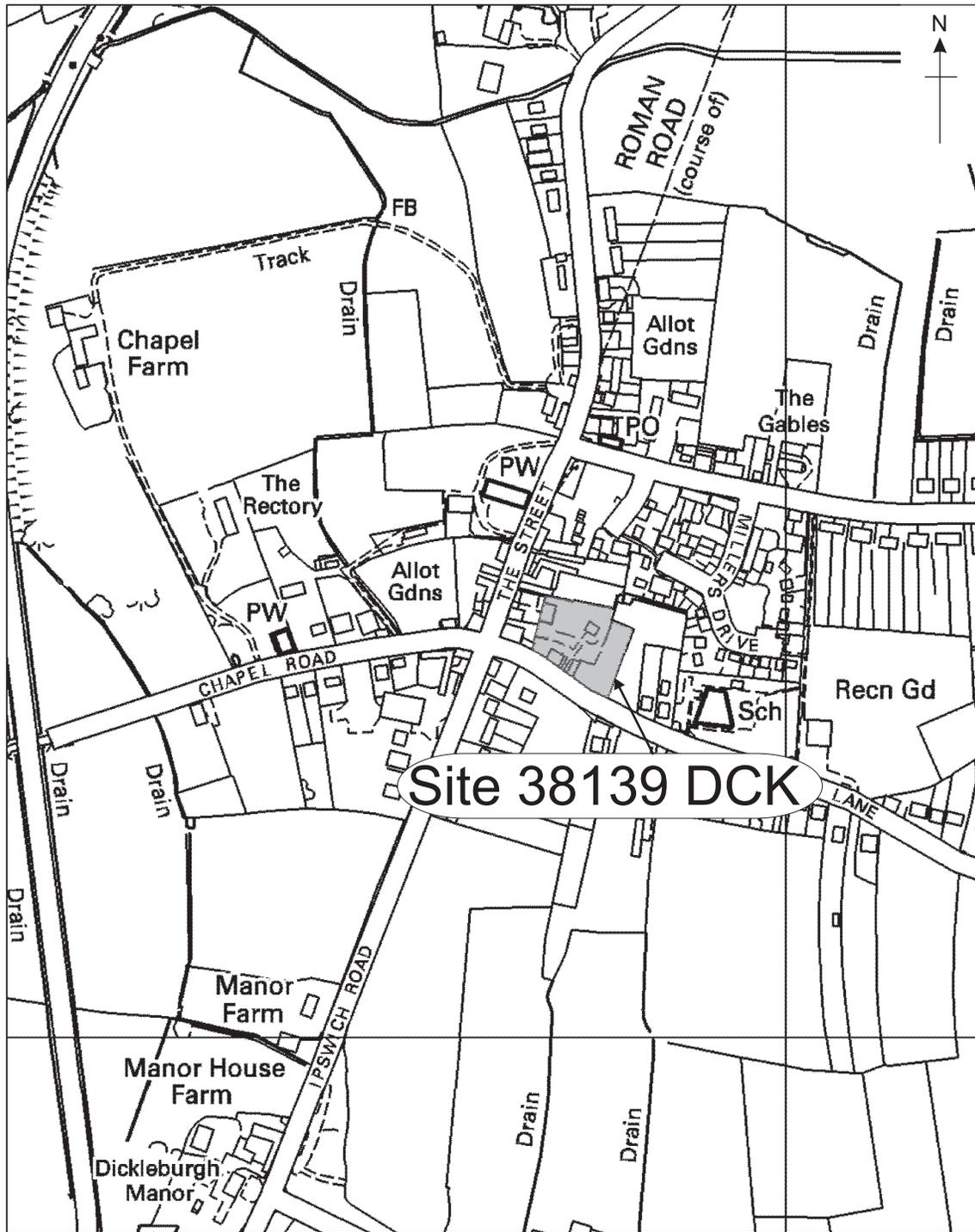


Figure 1. Site Location. Scale 1:5000

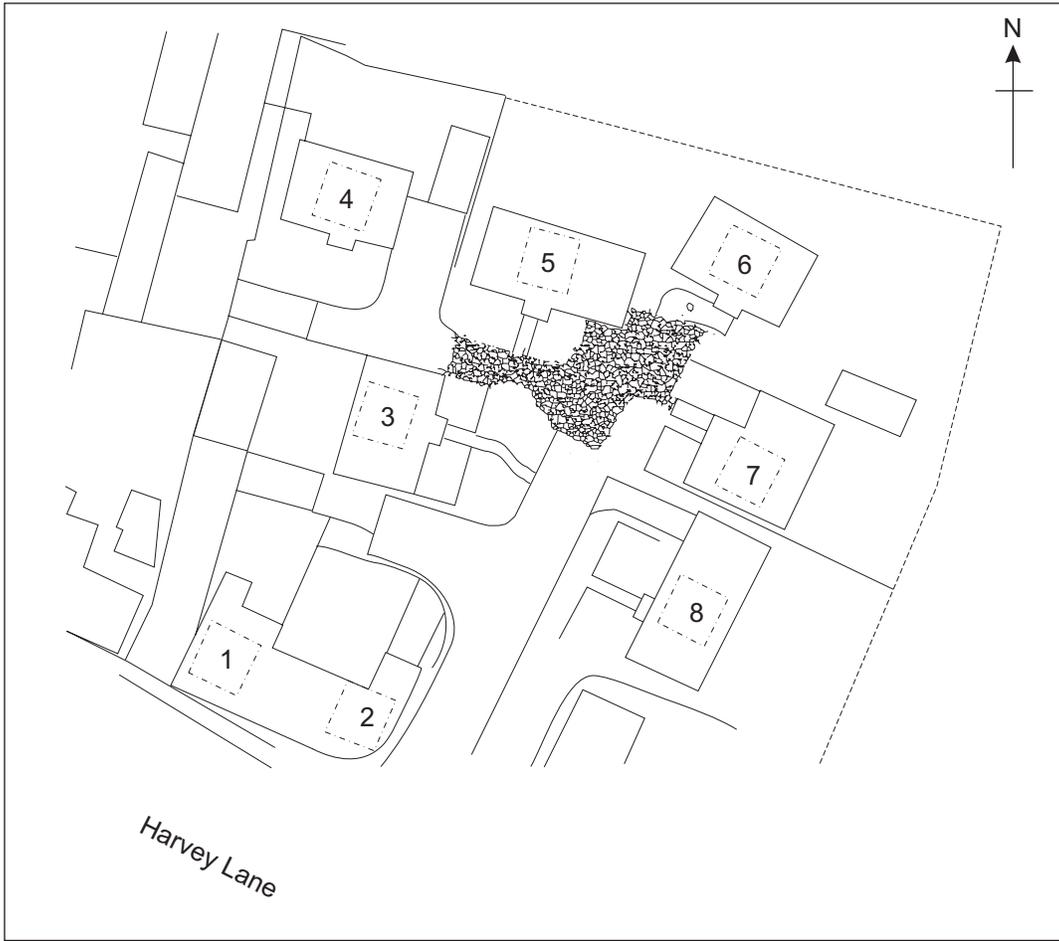


Figure 2. Trench Location. Scale 1:500

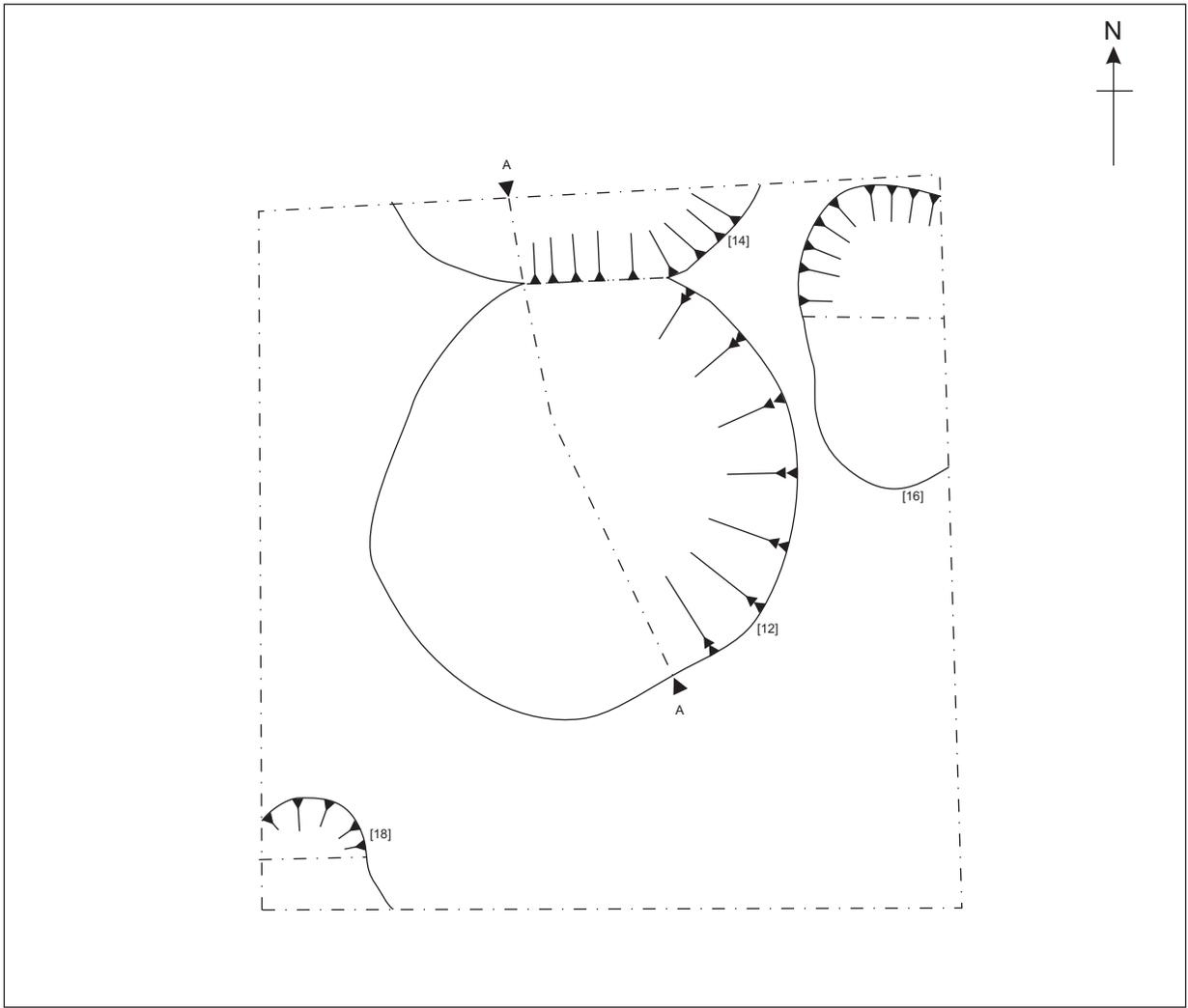


Figure 3. Plan of Trench 1. Scale 1:40

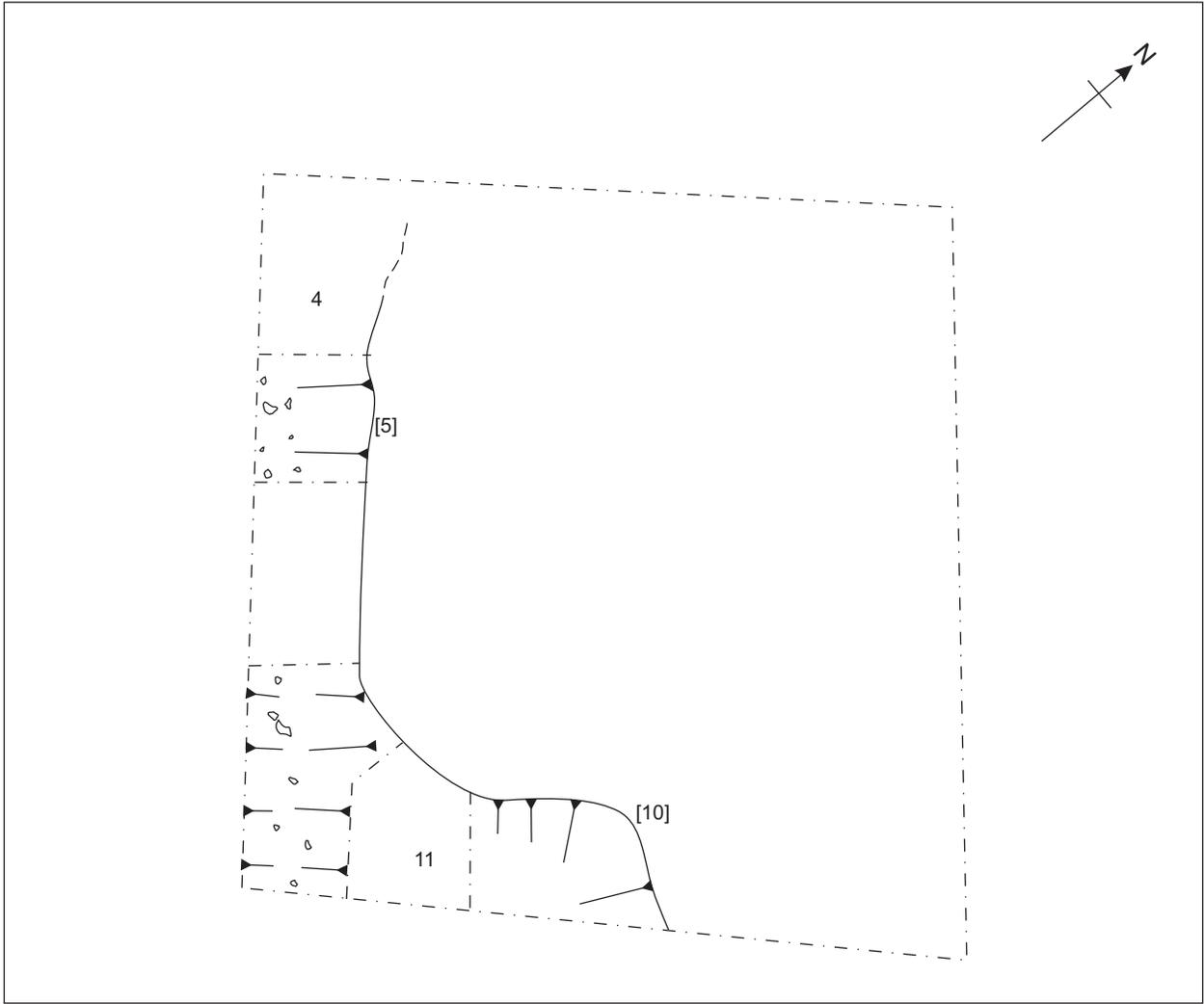


Figure 4. Plan of Trench 7. Scale 1:40

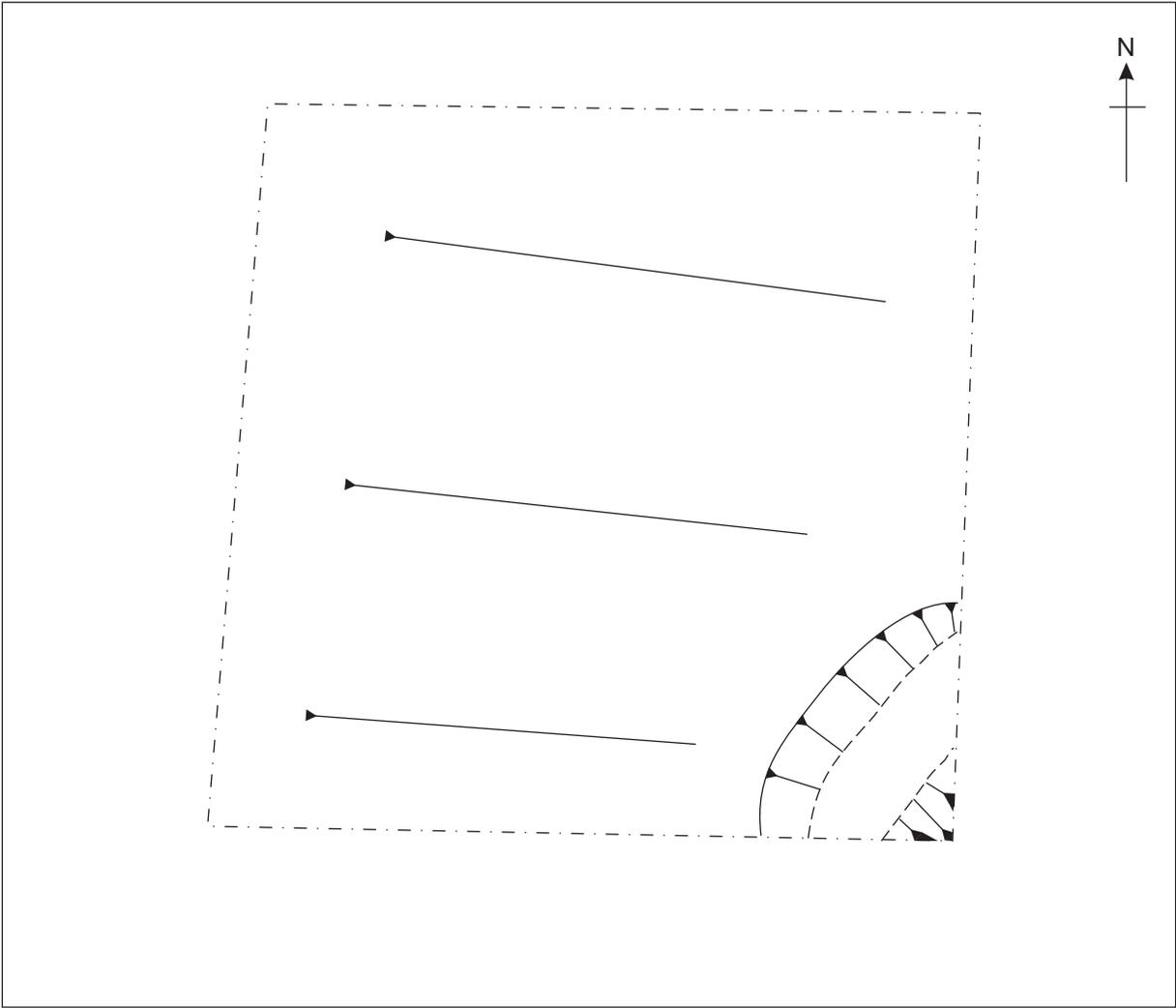
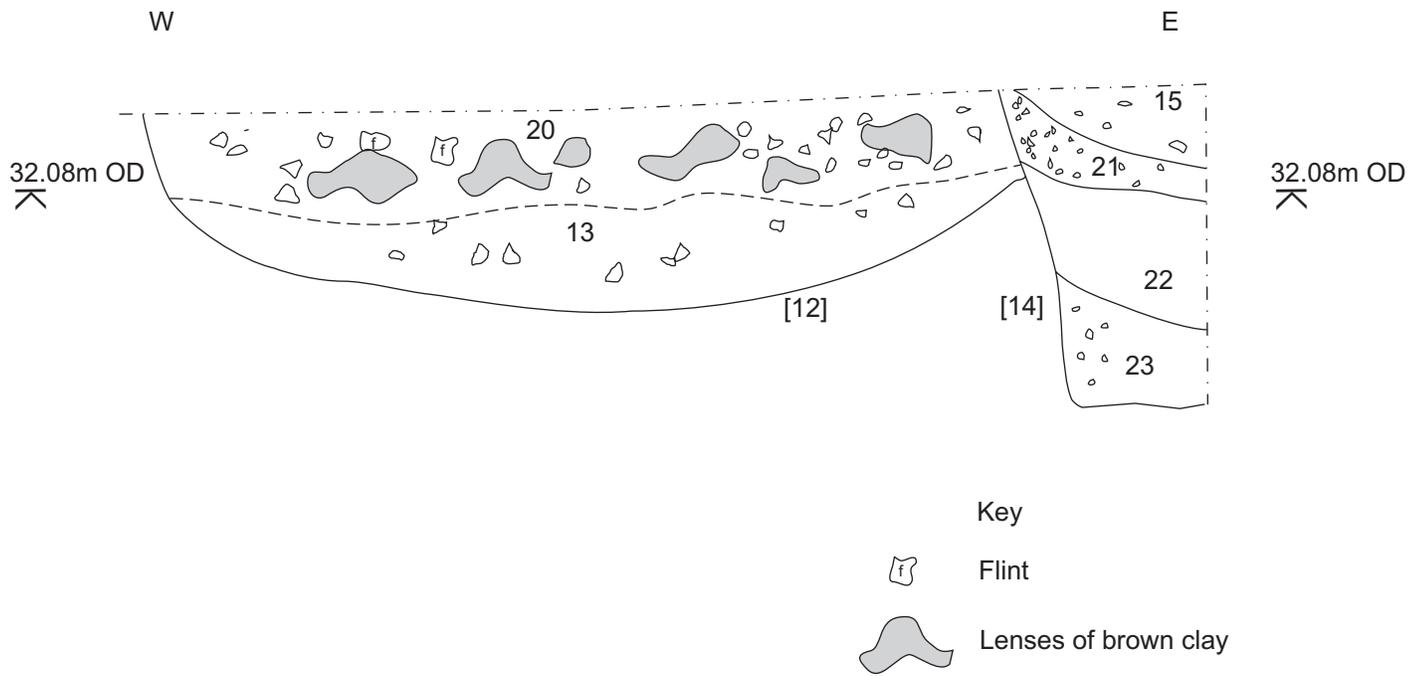


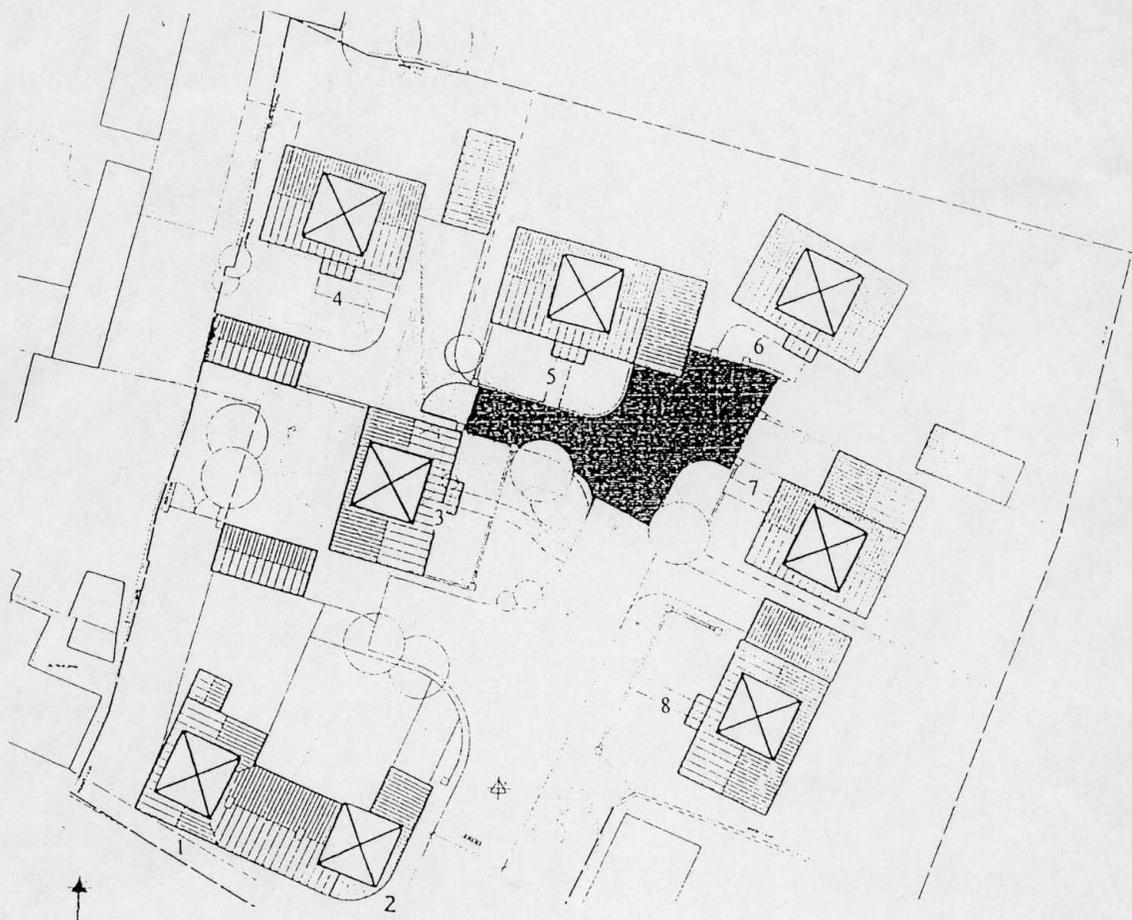
Figure 5. Plan of Trench 8. Scale 1:40



South-facing section



Figure 6. Section through Features [12] and [14]. Scale 1:20



Crown
(PH)

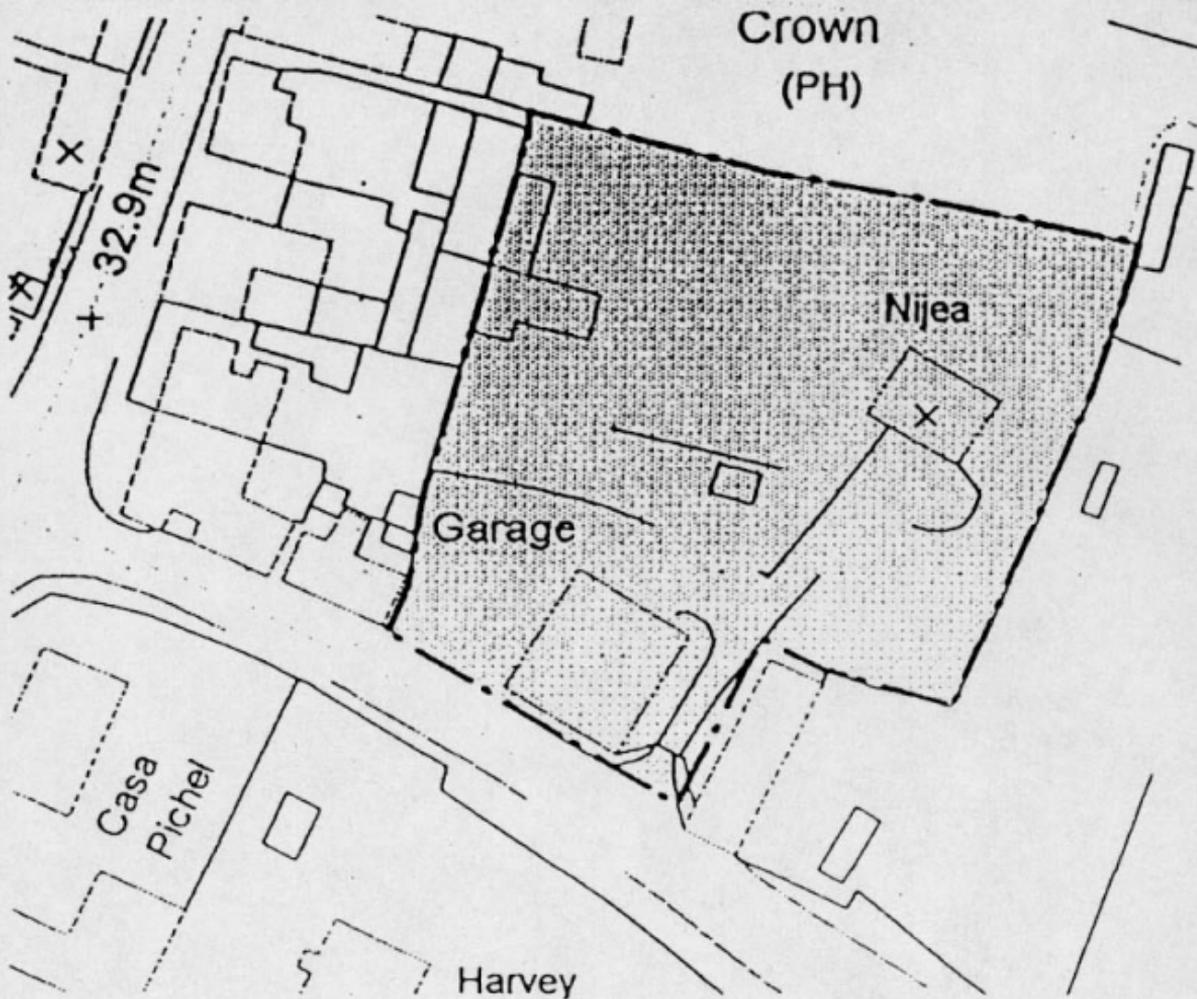
+ 32.9m

Niġea

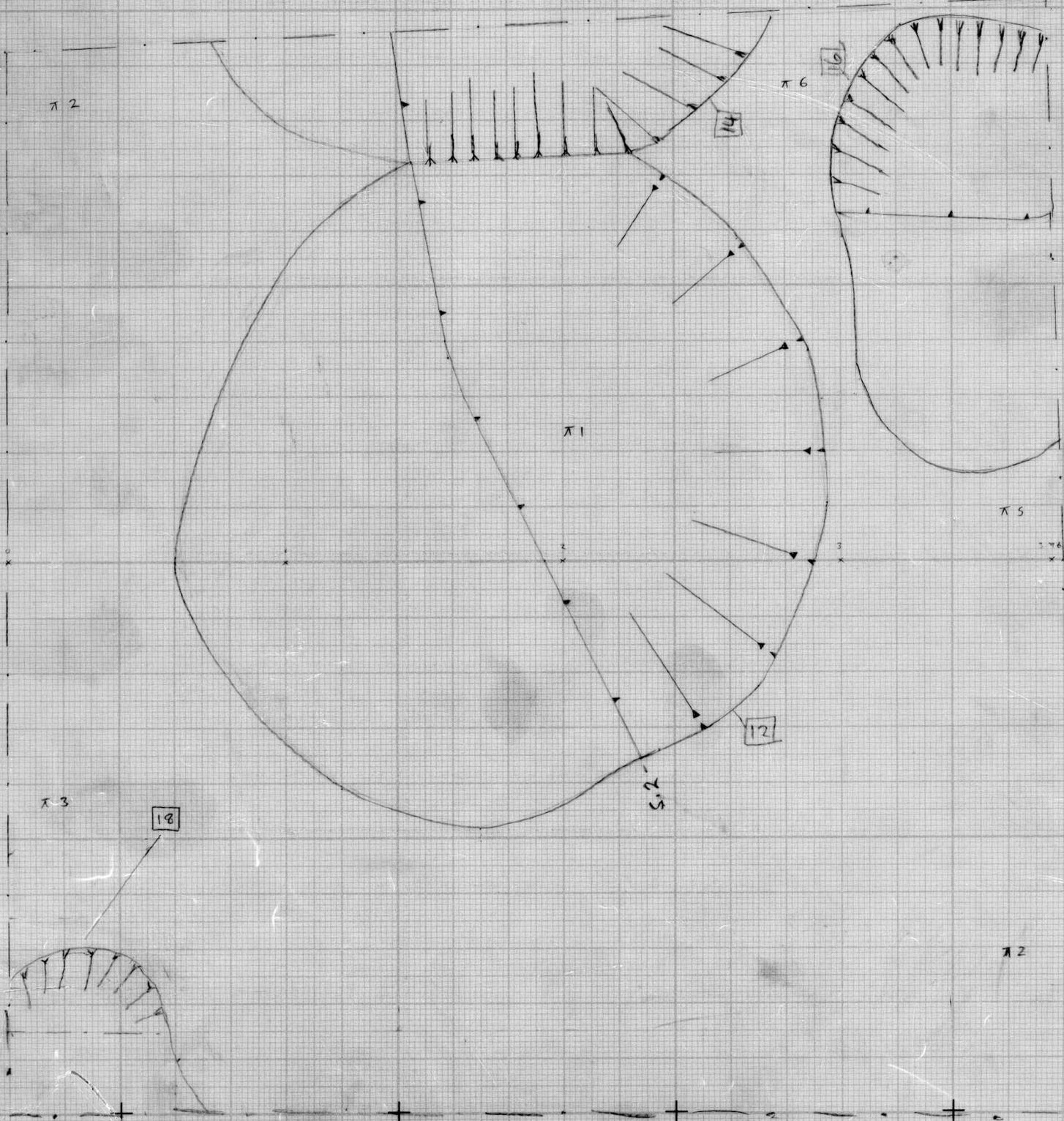
Garage

Casa
Pichel

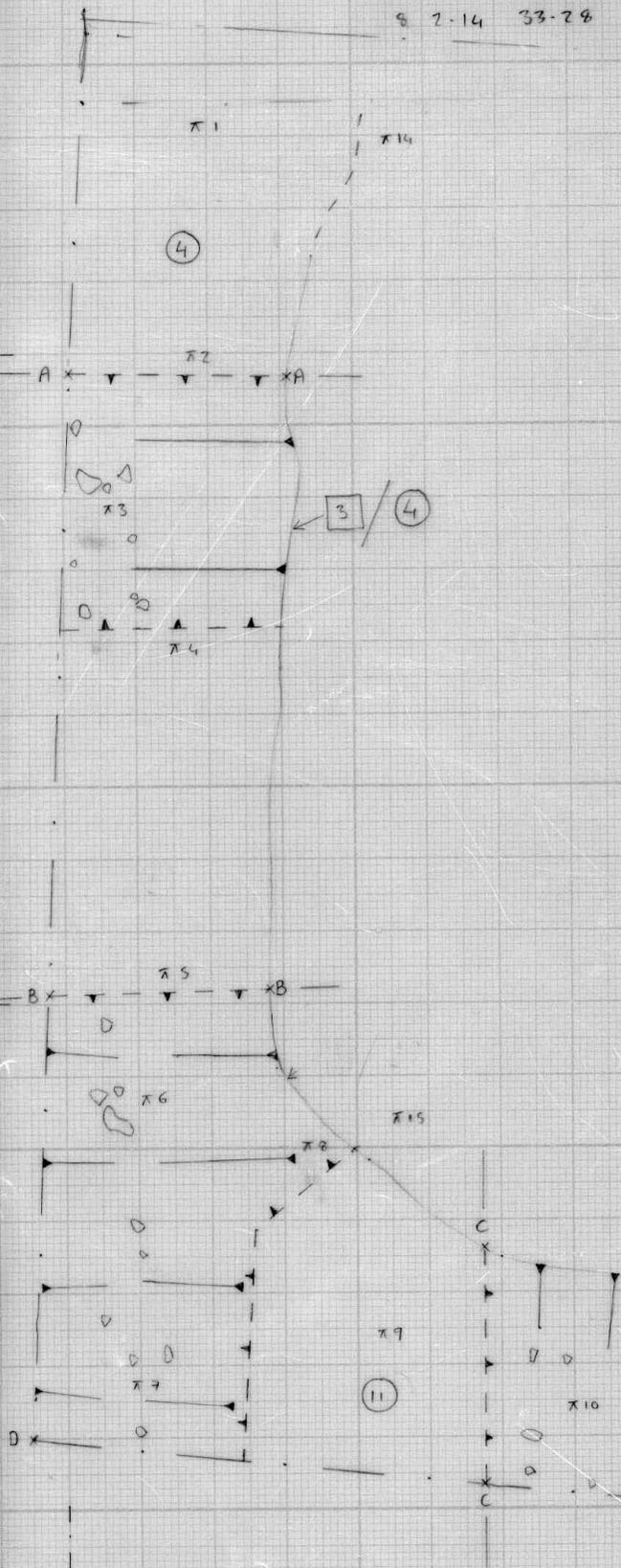
Harvey



TBM 33-24
BS 1-35



| | | | | | |
|---|------|-------|----|------|-------|
| 6 | 2.26 | 33.16 | 14 | 1.90 | 33.52 |
| 7 | 2.26 | 33.16 | 15 | 2.05 | 33.37 |
| 8 | 2.14 | 33.28 | 16 | 1.92 | 33.50 |

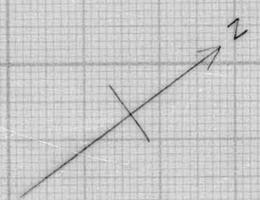


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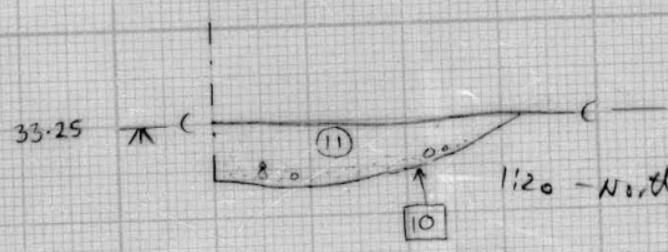
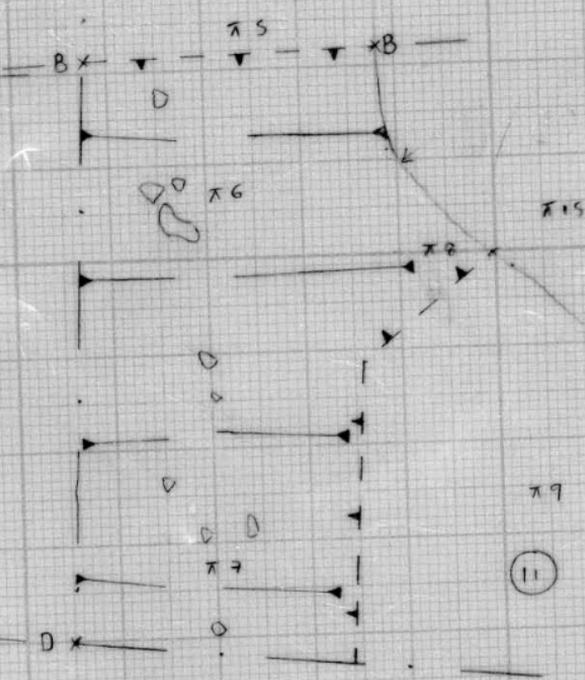
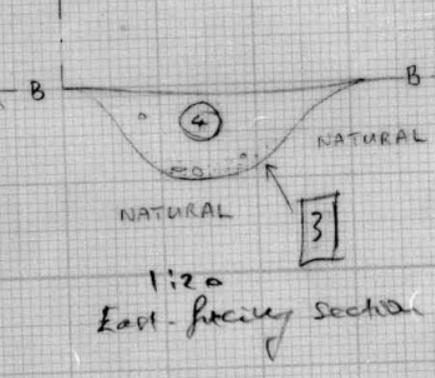
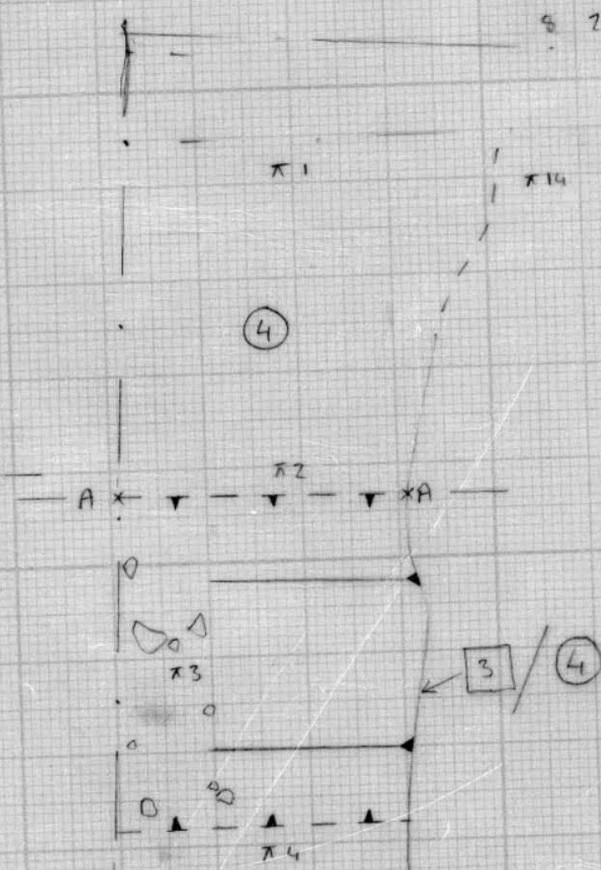
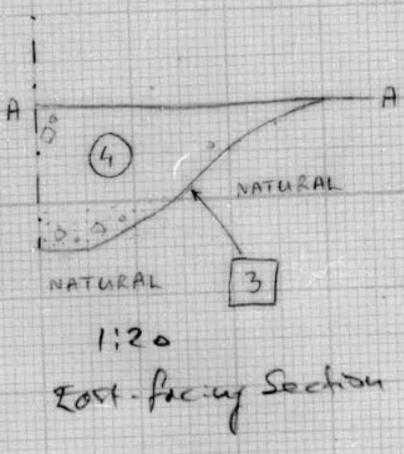
- Topsoil/Subsoil: Dark brown loam, few inclusions, soft. Thin layer of modern gravel on top.
- Natural (7) Yellow brown silty clay, occasional small stones and unworked flints. Moderately compact
- Field (4) = (11): Olive brown silty clay, very compact. Frequent small stones and unworked flints, especially in base of cut features [3] and [8], and shallow hollow [10]. Bone, pottery.

Cuts:

- [3] - E-W gully. ? Hedge line, ? plot boundary. Cut through [10].
- [10]: Shallow hollow, probably natural.



5 2.
6 2.
7 2.
8 2.



V

CH No 8

≡ 1:20

33.28

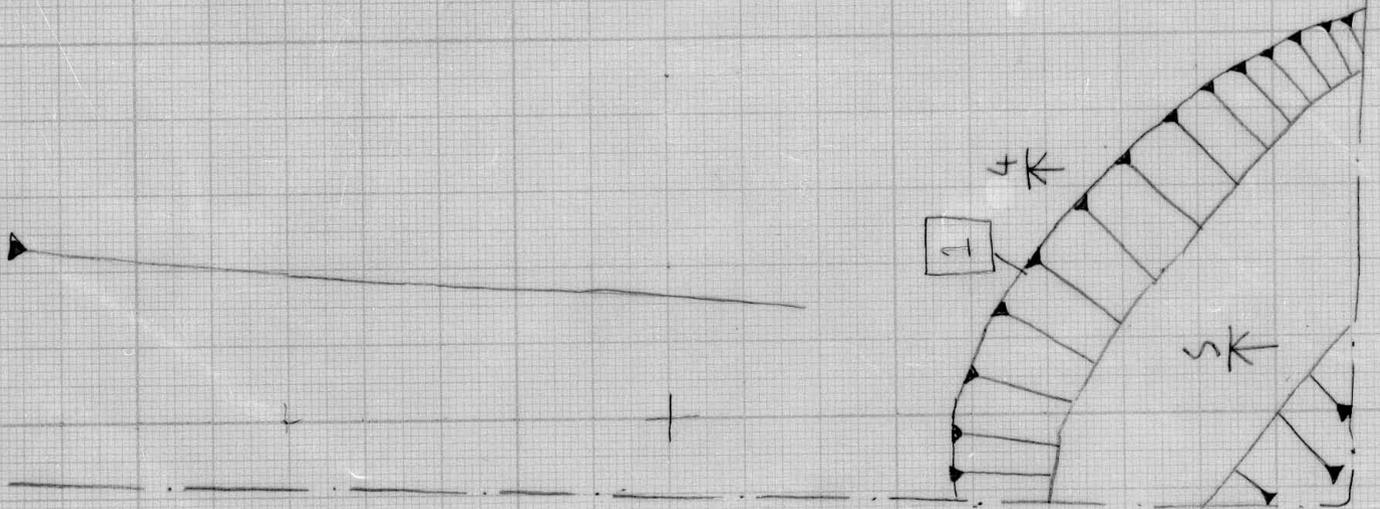
.11

35.39

REDUCED

- 1 33.20
- 2 33.13
- 3 33.05
- 4 33.12
- 5 32.56

46 33.63



SLOPING SURFACE OF
NATURAL CLAY
SUBSOIL

3

2

1

4

5

