

## MANOR FARM, KELSHALL, HERTS.

HN633  
Report No.378

|                                      |   |                                   |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Site name and address:</b>        | Manor Farm, Kelshall, Hertfordshire                   |                                   |   |
| <b>County:</b>                       | Hertfordshire   | <b>District:</b>                  | North Hertfordshire                           |
| <b>Village/town:</b>                 | Kelshall  | <b>Parish:</b>                    | Kelshall                                      |
| <b>Planning reference:</b>           | 1/06/1323   | <b>NGR:</b>                       | TL 32815 36408                                |
| <b>Client name and address:</b>      | Mr Chris Ward, Manor Farm, Kelshall, Royston, SG8 9SP |                                   |   |
| <b>Nature of work:</b>               | Construction of riding arena                          | <b>Former land use:</b>           | Other: Waste ground                           |
| <b>Site Status:</b>                  | AA50  | <b>Reason for investigation:</b>  | Direction of local planning authority (PPG16) |
| <b>Position in planning process:</b> | After full determination (as a condition)             | <b>Project brief originator:</b>  | Local authority                               |
| <b>Size of affected area:</b>        | c.805m <sup>2</sup>                                   | <b>Size of area investigated:</b> | c.805m <sup>2</sup>                           |
| <b>Site Code:</b>                    | HN633   | <b>Other reference:</b>           | n/a   |
| <b>Organisation:</b>                 | Heritage Network                                      | <b>Site Director:</b>             | David Hillelson                               |
| <b>Project type, methods etc...</b>  | Monitoring  | <b>Archive Recipient:</b>         | Hertford Museum                               |
| <b>Start of work</b>                 | 24/10/06  | <b>Finish of work</b>             | 17/11/06                                      |
| <b>Related SMR Nos:</b>              | n/a   | <b>Periods represented:</b>       | None  |
| <b>Oasis UID:</b>                    | heritage1-20553                                       | <b>Significant finds:</b>         | None  |
| <b>Monument types:</b>               | None  |                                   |   |
| <b>Physical archive:</b>             | None  |                                   |   |
| <b>Previous summaries/reports:</b>   | n/a   |                                   |   |

**Narrative:**

In order to meet the requirements of an archaeological condition on the planning permission for building work at Manor Farm, Kelshall, Hertfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owner, Mr Chris Ward, to inspect and monitor the groundworks associated with the construction of a new riding arena.

The site is located in the historic core of Kelshall, centred on NGR TL 32815 36408 (Figure 1).

The development lies within Area of Archaeological Importance (AA50), as designated in the North Herts District Local Plan. This defines Kelshall as a shrunken Medieval settlement. The remains of the deserted areas lie to the west, south and east of the site. A Roman-British burial was found c.200m east of the site.

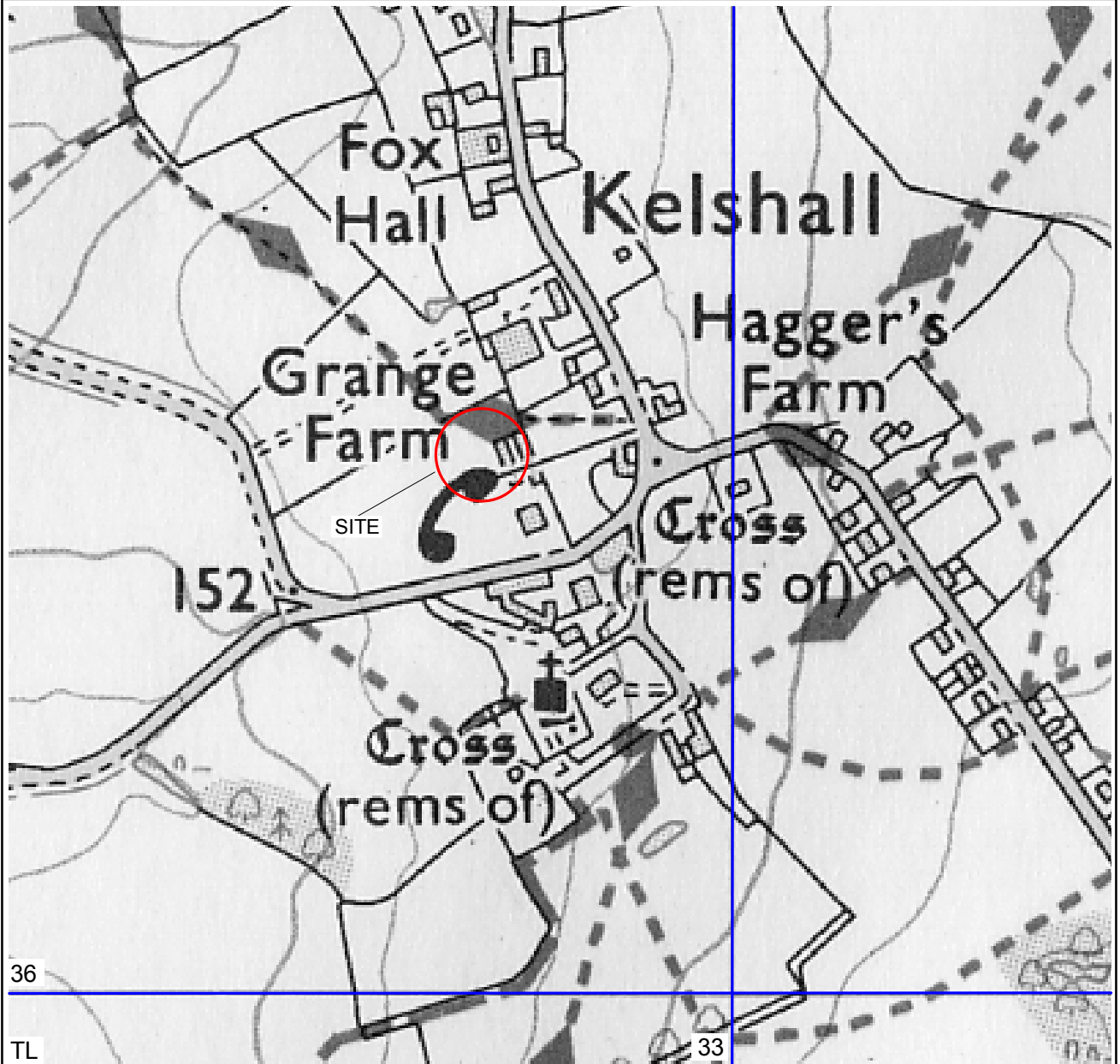
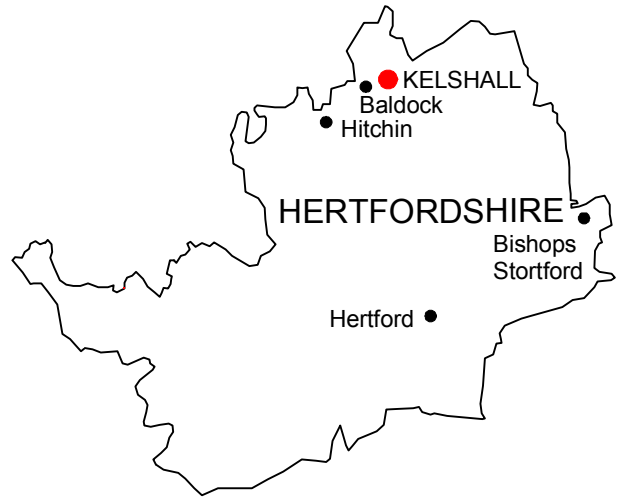
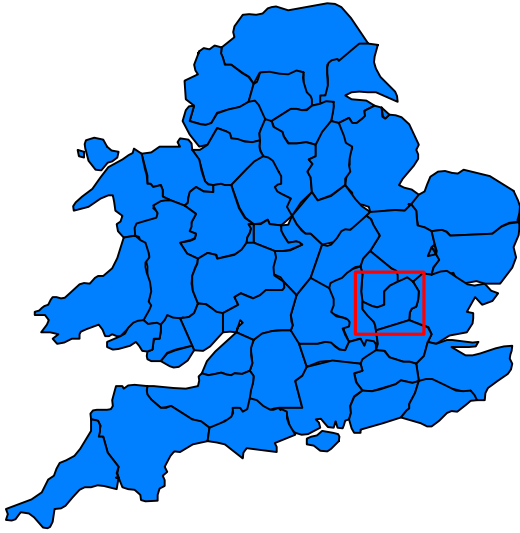
The ground reduction had been completed a month prior to the Heritage Network's involvement with the project. Two site visits were made to inspect the ground reduction of the arena and to monitor the excavation of drainage trenches and a soakaway (Figure 2). The drainage trenches were excavated to a depth of 0.3 – 0.4m into the natural geology with staggered offsets from a central spine (Plate 1), (Figure 3). Corrugated, perforated plastic pipe, 80mm in diameter, was laid on sand to channel the surface water to the soakaway.

The geology was consistent across the site with 0.3m of very dark gray (10YR 3/3) silty clay topsoil overlying 0.1m of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) silty clay subsoil. The natural geology was a light olive brown (2.5Y 5/4) clay with frequent chalk flecks (Plate 2).

No archaeological cut features or deposits were observed within the arena or the soakaway. However, 21 bones, weighing 200g were recovered from the topsoil. They appear to be the remains of at least two large birds, probably turkeys. Manor Farm formerly reared turkeys on a commercial basis. (*pers. comm. Chris Ward*).

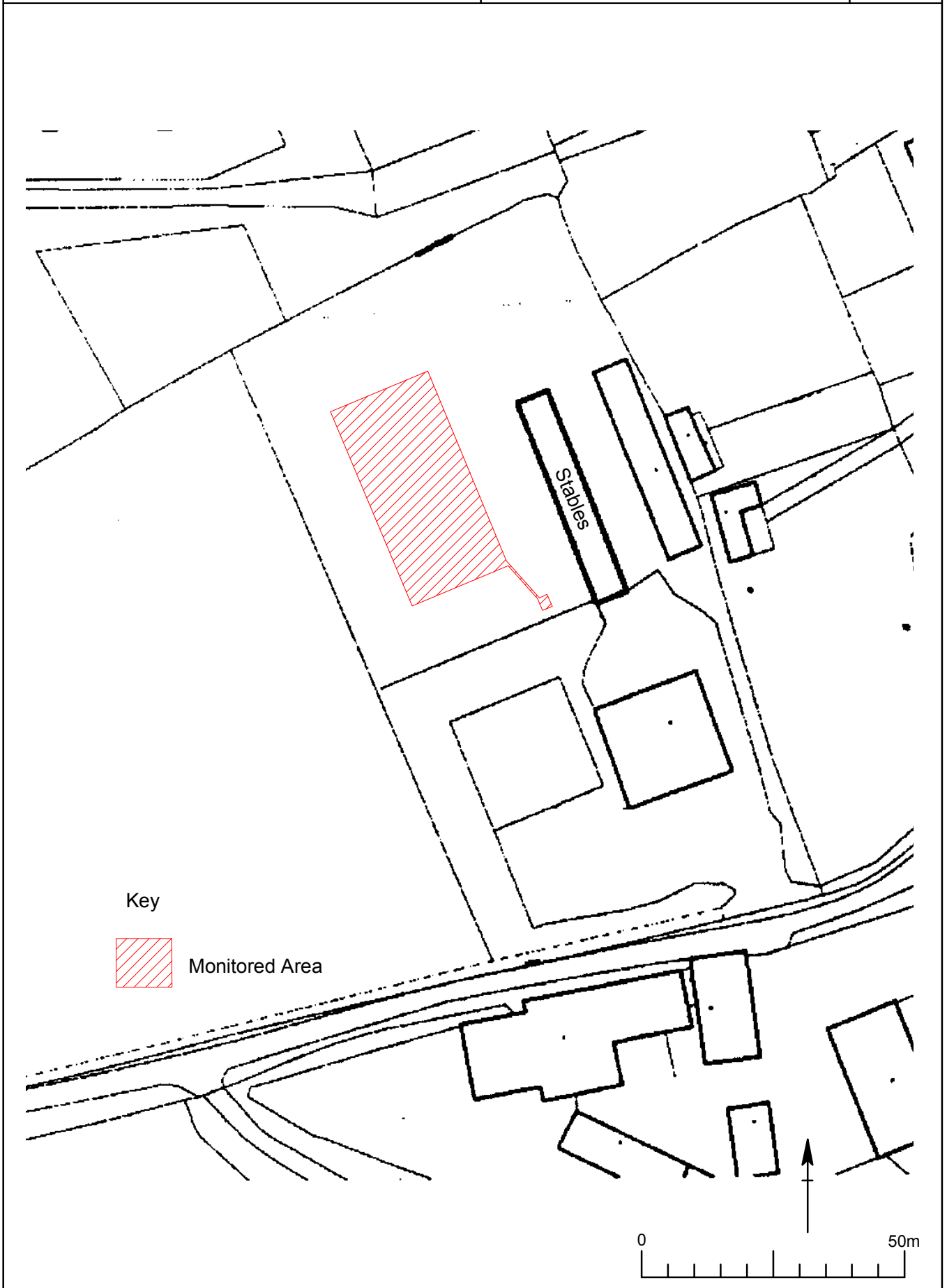
The spoil from the excavation was inspected but no datable artefacts were recovered.

David Kaye BA PIFA, November 2006



Site Location

Scale 1:500



Key



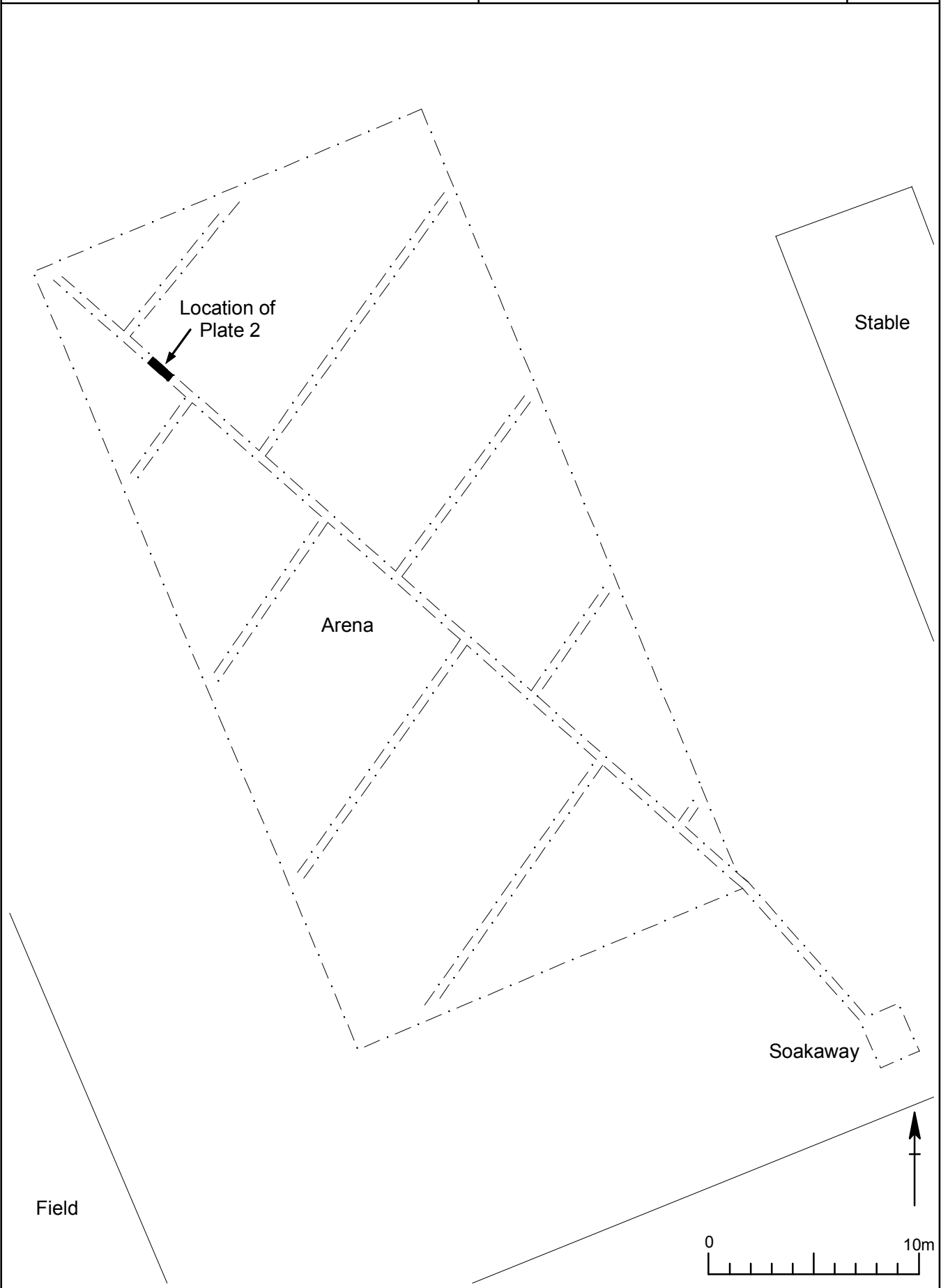
Monitored Area



Site Layout

Scale 1:1500

Figure 2



Field

Location of  
Plate 2

Arena

Stable

Soakaway



Drainage Layout

Scale 1:250

Figure 3





Plate 1: General view, looking north-west

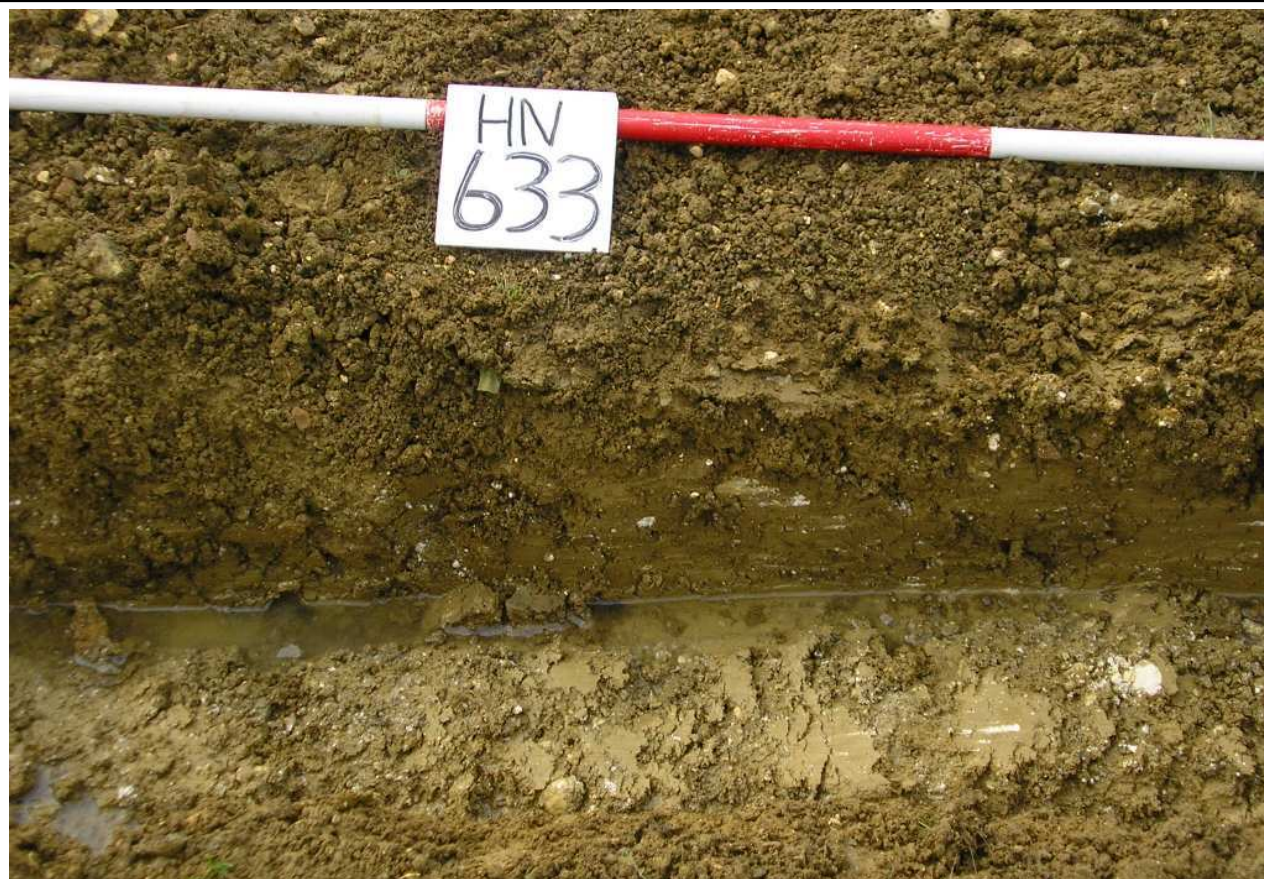


Plate 2: Indicative stratigraphy of drainage trenches