

**11 The Granary, Arlesey, Bedfordshire.**

HN1436

Report No.1152

<b>Site name and address:</b>	11 The Granary, Arlesey, Bedfordshire.		
<b>County:</b>	Bedfordshire	<b>District:</b>	Central Bedfordshire
<b>Village/town:</b>	Arlesey	<b>Parish:</b>	Arlesey
<b>Planning reference:</b>	CB/17/02762/FULL	<b>NGR:</b>	TL 1926 3606,
<b>Client name and address:</b>	Mr Paul Murtagh, 11 The Granary, Arlesey, Bedfordshire, SG15 6SH		
<b>Nature of work:</b>	Residential Development	<b>Present land use:</b>	Garden
<b>Site Status:</b>	None	<b>Reason for investigation:</b>	Direction of local planning authority (NPPF)
<b>Position in planning process:</b>	As a condition	<b>Project brief originator:</b>	Local Authority
<b>Size of affected area:</b>	c.77m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated:</b>	18.93m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Site Code:</b>	HN1436	<b>Museum reference:</b>	BEDFM 2018.39
<b>Organisation:</b>	Heritage Network	<b>Site Director:</b>	David Hillelson
<b>Project type, methods etc.</b>	Monitoring	<b>Archive Recipient:</b>	Higgins Museum, Bedford
<b>Start of work</b>	23/07/2018	<b>Finish of work</b>	14/08/2018
<b>Related HER Nos:</b>	None	<b>Periods represented:</b>	Modern
<b>Oasis UID:</b>	heritage1-319903	<b>Significant finds:</b>	None
<b>Monument types:</b>	None		
<b>Physical archive:</b>	None		
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b>	None		

**Introduction:**

In response to a planning condition the Heritage Network was commissioned by the landowner to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring on the development groundworks at 11 The Granary, Arlesey, Bedfordshire. Planning permission for the development (CB/17/02762/FULL) was granted by Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC), subject to a standard archaeological condition issued under the provisions set out in the Department of Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF). A full specification for the work carried out is contained in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design* (Turner 2018).

The site is situated on the northern side of The Granary, a modern estate on the western side of the High Street. No. 11 is centred on NGR TL 1926 3606 (Figure 1). The site lies in the valley of the River Hiz, on ground that slopes gently to the west towards the river, which flows approximately 400m to the west. It is located within the known medieval core of Arlesey and is bordered by private residences to the north and east, by a turning head and parking to the west and by the estate access road to the south.

**Fieldwork:**

The proposed development entails the construction of a single storey side and rear extension to the existing building. The present investigation involved monitoring the excavation of the footing trenches for the new extension.

Footings Trenches

The trenches bounded an area of c.50.37m<sup>2</sup> and varied in length between 9m and 3.9m. They measured 0.5m in width and were excavated to a maximum depth of 1m (Figure 2).

The sections revealed a similar stratigraphy comprising layers of modern made ground varied in depth between 0.2m and over 1m (Figure 3). The made ground, which consisted of several layers of concrete, gravel, hardcore and rubble, was greater in depth on the western side of the site. These deposits directly overlay the light

yellowish brown, soft sandy clay, which was encountered in the southern trench and at the eastern side of the site at depths of between 0.2m and 0.79m below the present ground level (Plates 1 – 5).

A number of modern services were noted within the footings trenches (Plates 1 & 5).

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered within the footing trenches.

#### Soakaway

A soakaway was excavated to the south-east of the new extension (Figure 2). It measured 1.9m in length, 1.6m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1m (Plate 6). The stratigraphy was similar to that observed in the footings trenches, comprising layers of hardcore and rubble which directly overlay the natural substrate (Figure 3). The clay was observed at 0.48m below the present ground level.

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered within the soakaway.

The soakaway was backfilled immediately after excavation as it was decided to use existing services, rather than excavate new ones.

#### **Discussion:**

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century OS mapping shows that until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century the site formed part of Moorlands Farm (Old Maps 2019). It formed part of a small yard to the north of the main farmyard until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Between 1901 and 1922 the site was occupied by a long narrow building range which survived until the 1990s. No remains relating to the structure that formerly occupied the site were encountered during the present works, but layers of probable demolition rubble were observed at the western end of the footings trenches.

The monitoring of the development groundworks for the present project revealed a stratigraphic sequence consisting of various layers of modern overburden directly overlying the natural. It was observed that these were deeper at the western end of the site. The lack of top- and subsoils indicates that the site has been subject to significant ground reduction. Some reduction may have occurred in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, to level the ground for the farm building, but the removal of all evidence for this structure from the site suggests that some further ground reduction was carried out when The Granary estate was built. The greater depth of made ground at the western end of the site may reflect the natural slope of the ground.

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the course of the present investigation and no evidence for activity pre-dating the late 20<sup>th</sup> century was noted. No information was gained that could be considered to contribute to the research aims for the project, as defined in the approved Project Design.

#### **Illustrations:**

Figure 1	Site Location
Figure 2	Site Plan
Figure 3	Sections
Plate 1	Trench A, indicative section, looking NE
Plate 2	Trench B, indicative section, looking N
Plate 3	Trench C, indicative section,, looking N
Plate 4	Junction between Trenches D & E, looking W
Plate 5	Trench E, looking W
Plate 6	Soakaway, looking NW

#### ***Bibliography***

Turner, C. 2018 *11 The Granary, Arlesey, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Project Design*. Heritage Network

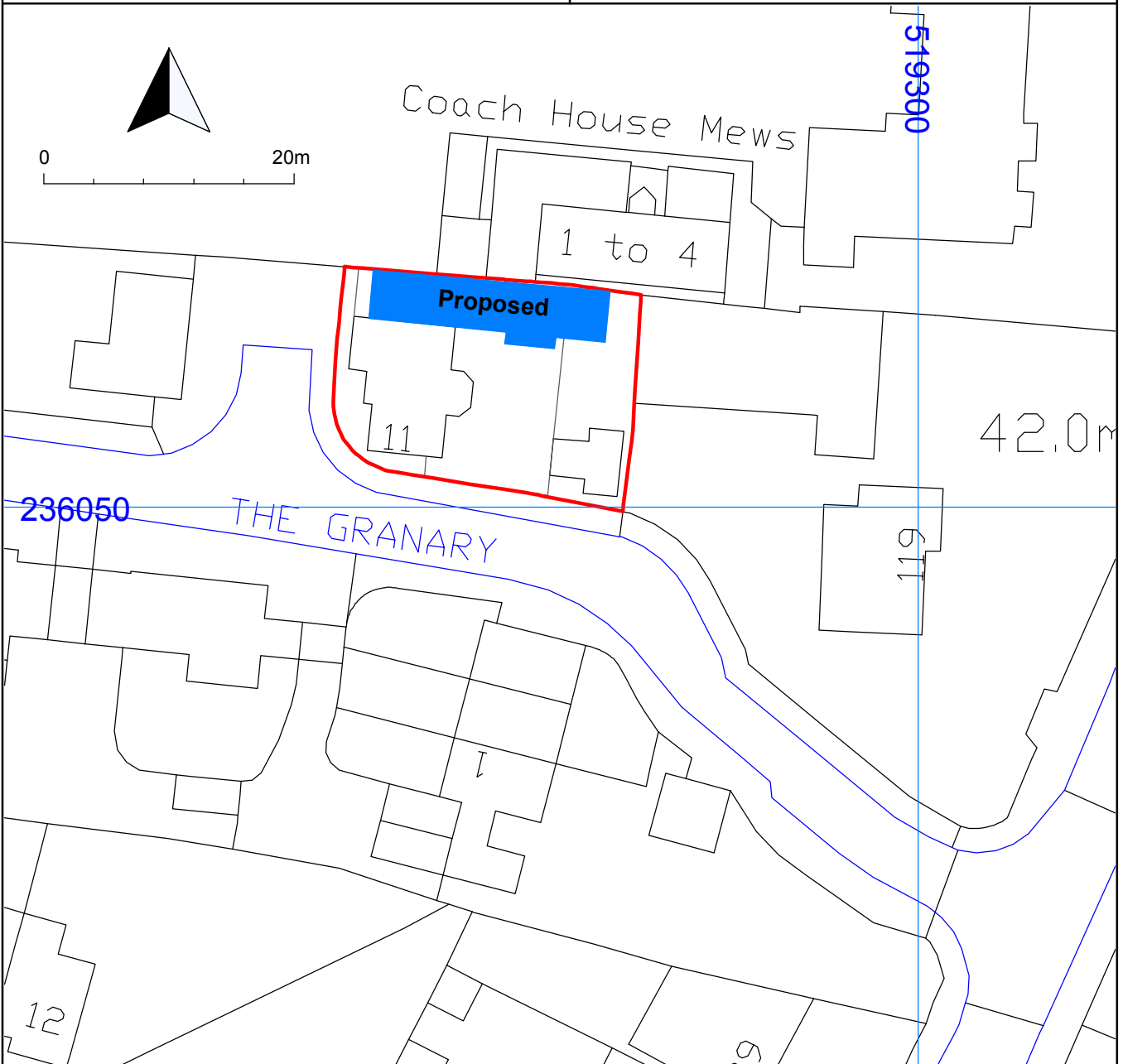
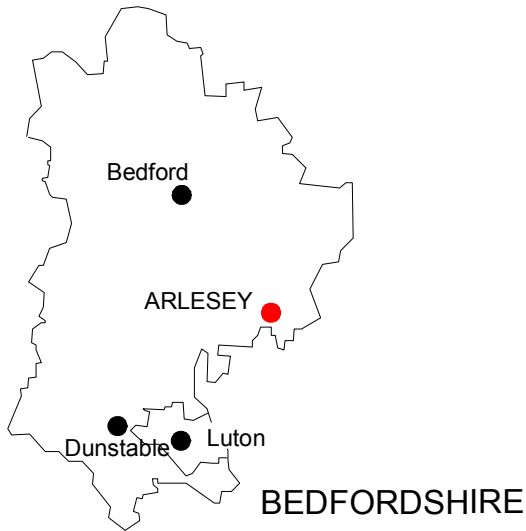
Old-Maps 2019 Historic Ordnance Survey mapping. Available from <https://www.old-maps.co.uk>. Accessed 16 January 2019.

Mark Sycamore BA ACIfA  
December 2018

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

11 The Granary, Arlesey, Beds

HN1436

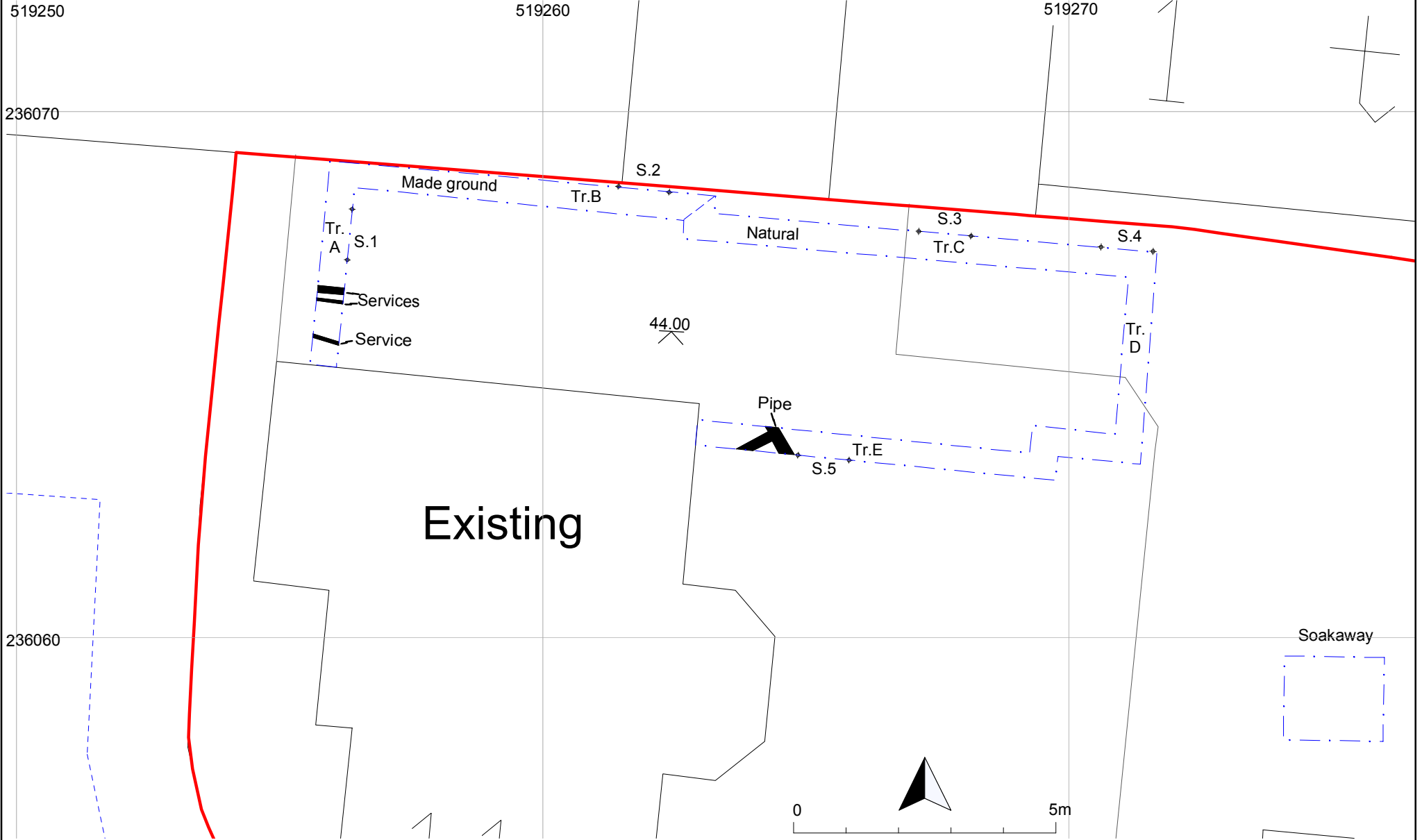


Site location and layout

Scale 1:500

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Figure 1

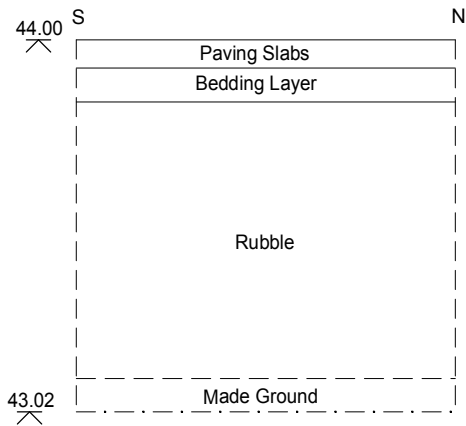


Footings Plan

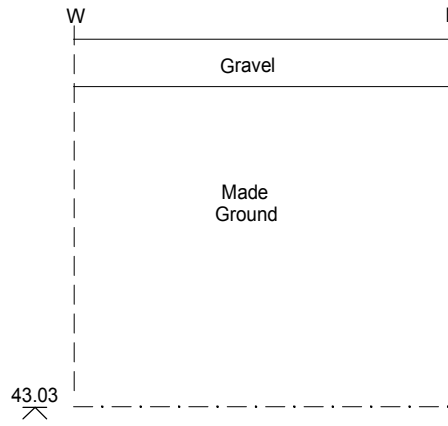
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Figure 2

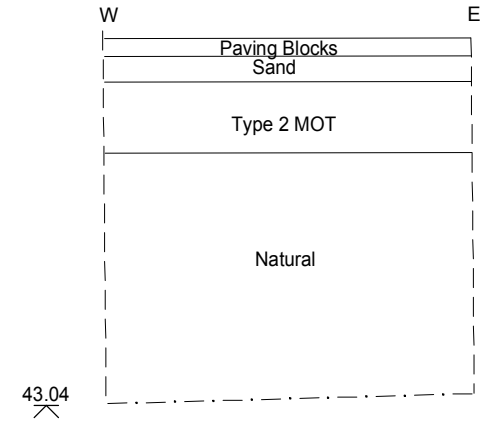
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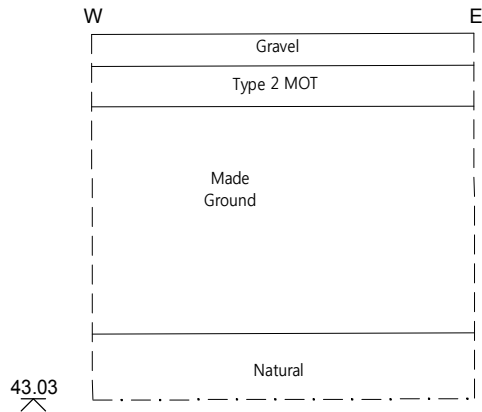
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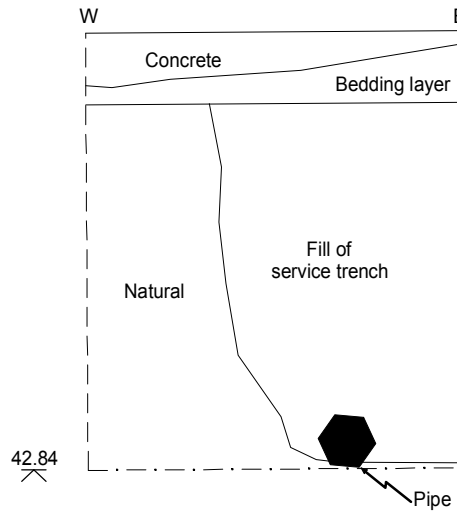
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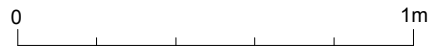
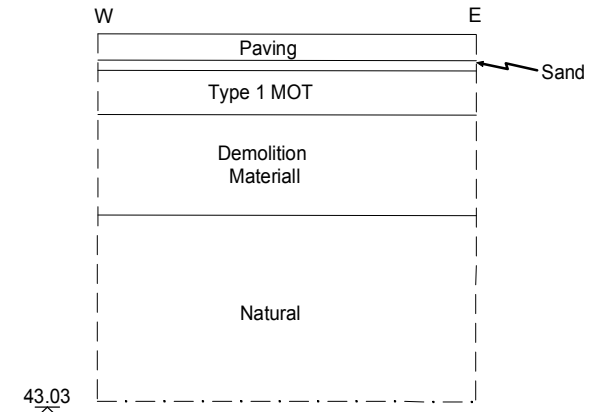
Section 4



Section 5



Soakaway



Sections

Scale 1:20

Figure 3





Plate 01 - Trench A, indicative section looking NE



Plate 02 - Trench B, indicative section, looking N



Plate 03 - Trench C, indicative section looking N



Plate 04 - Junction between Trenches D & E, looking SW





Plate 05 - Trench E, looking W



Plate 06 - Soakaway, looking NW