

HERITAGE NETWORK



OMEGA COTTAGE
Newmarket Road, Gt. Chesterford

(GC37/HN383)

Archaeological Assessment Report



THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD
Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation
Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

OMEGA COTTAGE
Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford, Essex

HN383

Archaeological Assessment Report

Prepared on behalf of Mr and Mrs R. Joyce

by

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and
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The cover illustration shows the site from the north before the commencement of works

Acknowledgements

Fieldwork was undertaken by Geoff Saunders and Mark Winter under the supervision of Chris Turner. Illustrations were prepared by Karin Semmelmann and the report was edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Mr and Mrs R Joyce, owners; Ashley Mallyon, builder; Richard Havis, Essex County Council; Deborah Priddy, English Heritage, and Peter Day, Great Chesterford Local History and Archaeology Society, for their co-operation and assistance.

Summary

Site name and address:	Omega Cottage, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford, Essex		
County:	Essex	District:	Uttlesford
Village/town:	Great Chesterford	Parish:	Great Chesterford
Planning reference:	UTT/1340/95	NGR:	TL 5047 4311
Client name and address:	Mr and Mrs R Joyce, Omega Cottage, Great Chesterford		
Nature of application:	Car parking	Previous land use:	Garden
Size of application area:	138m ²	Size of area investigated:	138m ²
Site Code:	GC37	Other reference:	HN383
Organisation:	The Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Type of work:	Excavation	Finds location/Museum:	Saffron Walden Mus.
Start of work	23 October 2002	Finish of work	6 December 2002
Related SMR Nos.:	SAM 24871	Periods represented:	Roman/Post-med
Previous summaries /reports:	n/a		

Synopsis: As the result of an archaeological condition on the planning permission for the creation of off-road parking and associated landscaping and alteration works at Omega Cottage, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford, Essex, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owner to undertake an archaeological investigation of the site. The fieldwork involved supervision of the ground reduction and the investigation and recording of all exposed and affected archaeological features and deposits.

The study area had been significantly disturbed by post-medieval activity including a possible backfilled gravel quarry, and a large robber trench which followed the proposed line of the Roman town wall. Nevertheless, the truncated remains of two Roman pits were identified, and a further ditch and gully which were undated. The remains of the robber trench and quarry feature were only marginally affected by the groundworks and will be preserved beneath the new drive surface.

1 Introduction

1.1 This archaeological assessment report has been prepared on behalf of *Richard Joyce Esq*, as part a programme of archaeological investigation carried out in advance of development works in the garden of Omega Cottage, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford, Essex. The investigation has been defined in an *Archaeological Brief* prepared by the *Heritage Management, Advice and Promotion Group* (HAMP) of Essex County Council, acting as advisers to the local planning authority, Uttlesford District Council (UDC) (planning ref. UTT/1340/95). The specification for the work is contained in the Heritage Network's approved *project design* dated October 2002. The work was carried out with the consent of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, under Section 2 of the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979* (ref. HSD 9/2/3815 pt8), as advised by English Heritage.

1.2 The property fronts on to the Newmarket Road on the northern approach to the town. The development works involve the creation of a driveway and car parking area, affecting an area approximately 11.5 x 12m, located at the northwest end of the property, adjacent to Poplar Lodge (see Figure 1). It is centred on grid reference TL 5047 4311. The site is part of the garden of the property and was under lawn immediately prior to the archaeological works.

1.3 The site lies within the Scheduled Ancient Monument which defines the Roman town at Great Chesterford (SAM 24871). Extensive remains of Roman and Saxon date are known to exist in the vicinity. It was believed that the wall marking the northeastern extent of the town is located in the area of the site, running parallel with the Newmarket Road. Foundations which may relate to this wall were observed during the construction of a pedestrian access to the property, and have been noted in other groundworks nearby. A possible corn dryer or oven has been identified in the adjacent property to the north. Human burials of Roman and Saxon date have also been found nearby.

1.4 On the basis of the known archaeological evidence from the vicinity of the present site, HAMP and English Heritage advised that archaeological excavation of all areas of ground disturbance should be undertaken in advance of the development groundworks. The aims of the investigation have been to provide a full record of the archaeological features and deposits surviving on the site, with particular attention being given to evidence for the Roman town wall and its construction, and to occupation evidence both pre-dating and post-dating the wall's construction.

1.5 The present document represents the assessment report and updated research design defined in English Heritage's document *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP2, 1991), and is intended to provide a framework for an appropriate programme of post-excavation research leading to publication.

2 Project Background

Location and topography

2.1 Great Chesterford is located on the north-western boundary of Essex with Cambridgeshire in Uttlesford District. It lies on the northern edge of the Chiltern Hills, at the northern end of a gap formed by the River Cam, or Granta, which would have formed an obvious north - south route through the hills.

2.2 The present site lies on the western side of the Newmarket Road and forms part of the garden to Omega Cottage and was laid to lawn bounded by trees and shrubs. It has been built up to provide a level plot, on ground which slopes down to the east from 39.43mOD on the western boundary of the site to 38.39mAOD on the road verge. The existing ground surface averages at 39.5mAOD. It lies on the gravels to the northeast of the river Cam and the underlying geology consists of a yellowish brown sandy gravel.

Archaeological and Historical Background

2.3 The development area is located on the north-eastern edge of the Roman town of Great Chesterford (SAM 24871). The suggested line of the town wall runs parallel to the Newmarket Road, on a north-west south-east alignment, across the property. The walled circuit, which formed a polygonal shaped enclosure around an area of approximately 14.5 ha, was constructed in the fourth century AD. The walls were still visible in the early eighteenth century when they were visited by Stukeley in 1719, but were subsequently robbed for building material and hard core.

2.4 The earliest identified Roman feature in the area consists of a fort, which was constructed in the mid first century AD, possibly following the Boudiccan revolt. The present site lies within the south-eastern quadrant of the fort, which appears to have been relatively short-lived, and was then succeeded by the town.

2.5 Anglo-Saxon cemeteries have also been located to the north-west (ESMR 4939) and south-east of the present site.

Excavation Methodology

2.6 Overburden was removed by a JCB-type wheeled excavator, fitted with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket, under careful archaeological supervision. Spoil from the machining was inspected for archaeological artefacts.

2.7 The impact depth of the groundworks exposed but, for the most part, did not breach the archaeological horizon. It was considered appropriate, therefore, to limit the destructive investigation of exposed archaeological features which would, otherwise, be preserved in situ.

2.8 The excavation area was cleaned by hand, and all potential archaeological features were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation.

2.9 The foundation trench for a new boundary wall was excavated under close archaeological supervision using a 1.5 tonne mini-digger fitted with a 0.5m wide toothed bucket.

2.10 Each archaeological context was given a unique number and *pro-forma* context cards were written for each deposit, fill and cut. These contain information on soil detail; dimensions; stratigraphic relationships; artefact content and interpretation. They also cross-reference to other records, including samples and drawings.

2.11 All plans and sections of excavated features were drawn on polyester film. Pre-excavation plans were drawn at 1:50 scale, excavated feature plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10.

2.12 A full photographic record in monochrome, supplemented by colour transparencies, was maintained of all excavated archaeological features.

2.13 All work was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the *Archaeological Brief* prepared by the *Heritage Management Advice and Promotion Group* (HAMP) of Essex County Council and followed the Heritage Network's approved Project Design.

Post-excavation methodology

2.14 Following current professional practice, the post-fieldwork phases of the present project have been divided between Archive and Assessment stages and Post-excavation analysis and Publication stages.

Archive

2.15 Following the completion of the fieldwork stage, the site archive, comprising the excavation records and materials recovered have been quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. A Harris matrix has been compiled, together with an overall site summary, and a summary of the artefactual data.

Artefacts

2.16 Where appropriate bulk finds, such as pottery and ceramic building material, have been carefully washed in clean water to remove the soil. All pottery has been marked with the site code and context number. Where washing has not been appropriate, such as with some of the daub, they have been allowed to dry naturally, before being carefully brushed with a soft dry brush to remove as much soil as possible.

2.17 The only metalwork recovered from the site was in the form of iron nails or small unidentified iron objects. These have been allowed to dry naturally and will be submitted to a conservation laboratory for x-raying where appropriate.

3Assessment

QUANTIFICATION: Archive

Table 1	
Record type	Items
Context records	17
Matrices	1
Plans A2 (1:20)	6
Sketch plans (nts)	2
Level record sheets	2
Sections A2 (1:10)	6
Black & white photographs	15
Colour transparencies	1

QUANTIFICATION: Artefacts, faunal remains and samples

Table 2		
Type	Items	Quantity
Ceramic building material	10	310g
Coal	1	20g
Fired clay	2	20g
Glass	1	>1g
Iron	8	140g
Pottery	239	2017g
Animal bone	62	930g
Marine shell	43	560g

*This table includes all stratified and unstratified material.

STRATIGRAPHY AND SITE PHASING

Feature Type	C2nd	C2nd - C3rd	C3rd	C18th - C19th	PM + residual RB	Uncertain
Robber trench	-	1	1	1	2	-
Pits	-	1	1	-	-	-
Ditch	-	-	-	-	-	1
Gully	-	-	-	-	-	1

3.1 A total of five cut features were identified, comprising a linear ditch, a gully, two pits and a probable post-medieval robber trench, indicating the line of the Roman town wall. Four separate sections were excavated across these features. With the exceptions of ditch [14] and gully [16], reasonably good dating evidence was collected from each feature, giving a date range for activity in this area from the late 2nd century AD to the 19th century AD.

3.2 Because of the disturbed nature of the stratigraphy, the limited area for excavation and the recovery of dating material, no further stratigraphic analysis is proposed.

ARTEFACTS: Pottery**Introduction**

3.3 A total of 239 sherds, weighing 2017g, was recovered from one unstratified and six stratified contexts on the present site. The pottery was in variable condition, ranging from small, abraded fragments to sizeable, relatively unworn, sherds. The condition of the pottery from each context was shown on the pottery recording forms by use of a letter code, from A to E. A signified a context containing complete, or almost complete vessels; E signified a small group of abraded, mainly undiagnostic sherds. Most of the material from the present site fell into category E.

Methodology

3.4 The pottery was examined at x10 magnification to determine the nature of the inclusions in the fabric. It was then sorted into fabric groups, including Hadham grey wares, Nene Valley wares and black-surfaced ware. The sherds in each fabric were then weighed and counted, with the data entered on *pro forma* record sheets, one sheet per context. Where possible diagnostic sherds, such as rims, were paralleled with published examples of similar forms. A date was then assigned to the context on the basis of the forms and fabrics present.

Discussion

3.5 The pottery assemblage from the present site ranged in date from the early Roman period (late 1st/early 2nd century AD) to the late post-medieval period (18th/19th century). No sherds of Anglo-Saxon, medieval or early post-medieval pottery were recovered. The majority of the sherds recovered from the site were in the form of abraded, undiagnostic bodysherds.

3.6 The most important source of pottery on the site was the large kiln site at Hadham in Hertfordshire, approximately 10km to the south-west. A total of 70 sherds of Hadham grey ware (29% of the total assemblage by count) were recovered. Other Hadham wares represented on the site included oxidised wares (5 sherds, 2% by count) and black-surfaced wares, similar to Going Fabric 35 (13 sherds, 5% by count). Sixty eight sherds of unprovenanced sandy grey wares (28% by count) were also recovered, making grey wares as a whole the largest fabric group on the site.

3.7 Grog-tempered wares, which tend to be prevalent on Roman sites in the region, were noticeable by their absence. Only one sherd of this fabric was recovered from the present site, from context (11), the fill of robber trench [10]. It was undoubtedly residual within this context, which also contained part of late Hadham red-slipped flanged bowl and post-medieval pottery. The lack of this fabric is an indication of the late date of the activity on the site.

3.8 Fine wares were represented by small amounts of Nene Valley colour-coated wares, 2 sherds of Colchester colour-coat, a single mica-dusted sherd and 2 sherds of Hadham red-slipped ware. Imported wares were represented by 9 sherds of samian (4% by count). The identified forms comprised parts of a Form 33 cup and a Form 30 bowl.

3.9 Jars and dishes appeared to be the predominant forms on the site. At least 4 examples of Going type B2, a shallow dish with flaring sides and a bead rim, were recovered. These are common in Essex between the mid 2nd and mid 3rd century AD (Going, 1987, p.14). Many of the jar rims collected could not be paralleled with published examples as the fragments were too small and indeterminate.

3.10 The generally abraded condition of much of the assemblage, and the presence of the post-medieval sherds associated with Roman material, suggests that most of the assemblage was not *in situ* and that it was residual within later features, such as the robber trench for the postulated Roman town wall. The line of the wall was quarried in the mid 18th century, probably when the Newmarket Road was turnpiked (Essex CC, 1999, p.12), and this date is supported by the ceramic evidence in the backfill of the robber trench.

3.11 Two features of Roman date were recorded on the site, pits [01] and [05]. Their fills contained pottery of late 2nd to late 3rd century date, including dish rims from Hadham and Nene Valley colour-coated beaker sherds.

Recommendations

3.12 The ceramic evidence from the present site indicates domestic Roman occupation in the vicinity from the later 2nd century AD to the 4th/ 5th century AD. The wares present are common on urban sites in the region and, therefore, do not indicate a high status settlement, such as a villa.

3.13 Given that the Roman pottery assemblage from this site is small and largely residual no further work is proposed on this material.

3.14 On the basis of present evidence, no further work is proposed on the post-medieval pottery.

ARTEFACTS: Ceramic building material

3.15 A total of 8 pieces of tile, weighing 215g, and 2 brick fragments, weighing 95g, were recovered from 3 stratified and 1 unstratified context.

3.16 The brick pieces came from the topsoil and fill (11) in robber trench cut [10] and are both post-medieval in date. The tile fragments recovered from fill (03) in pit [01] and fill (13) of linear [12] are Roman in date and indicate the presence of substantial structures in the vicinity of the site. Those from cut [12] are probably residual within the fill. Post-medieval tile fragments were collected from fill (11) in linear [10] and may be contemporary with the robbing of the Roman town wall.

Recommendations

3.17 Due to the small size of the assemblage and its fragmentary condition, no further work is proposed on this material.

ARTEFACTS: Fired clay

3.18 Two fragments of unidentifiable fired clay, weighing 20g, were recovered from 1 unstratified context and 1 stratified context. These fragments were too abraded to be able to determine their function.

Recommendations

3.19 Due to the small size and abraded nature of the assemblage, no further work is proposed on this material.

ARTEFACTS: Coal

3.20 One piece of coal, weighing 20g, was recovered from fill (09), the single fill of section [08] across the possible robber trench.

Recommendations

3.21 Coal is not an unusual find in post-medieval contexts and therefore no further work is proposed on this material.

ARTEFACTS: Iron objects

3.22 Eight iron objects, weighing 140g, were recovered from 1 unstratified context and 2 stratified contexts. They are detailed in the following table.

3.23

Table 4			
Context	Context type	Description	Spot date
6	Fill of pit [05]	Hook? sub circular head, 15 mm in diameter. 50 mm long shank which curves up at the end to form hook. 9mm in width at top narrowing to 5 mm at point. Corroded. Complete.	Late C2nd-Late C3rd AD
6	Fill of pit [05]	Miscellaneous object. Copper alloy with remains of an iron nail. 45 mm long by 15 mm wide. Curve suggests complete item may have been circular. Nail suggests this was attached to something. Broken.	Late C2nd-Late C3rd AD
7	Fill of pit [05]	Nail. Sub circular head, 8mm in diameter. 33mm long shank which is 5mm wide at top narrowing to 4mm at point. Shank is bent in middle. Corroded. Complete.	Late C2nd-Late C3rd AD
U/S	-	Nail. Sub circular head, 7mm in diameter. 74 mm long shank, 4mm in width. Corroded. Complete.	-
U/S	-	Nail. Sub circular head, 24mm in diameter. 85mm long shank, 9mm wide at top narrowing to 4mm at point. Corroded. Complete.	-
U/S	-	Miscellaneous item. 35mm long by 10mm wide. Cylindrical in shape.	-
U/S	-	Miscellaneous item. Circular head 7mm in diameter. Shank is 55mm long by 6mm wide. cylindrical in shape.	-
U/S	-	Cog? Circular toothed item, 50mm diameter. Corroded. Complete.	-

Recommendations

3.24 The iron nail and other objects from the fills of pit [05] are probably of Roman date, the remainder of the assemblage is likely to be post-medieval in date. Given the small size of the assemblage, and the fact that the items are all of common type then no further work is proposed on this material.

ECOFACTS: Animal bone

3.25 A total of 62 animal bone fragments, weighing 930g, were recovered from 1 unstratified and 4 stratified contexts. This assemblage consisted of broken fragments, ranging in size from relatively large pieces to small abraded, unidentifiable fragments. The identifiable pieces indicate the presence of cattle and sheep/goat bones in the assemblage.

3.26 The largest stratified group was collected from context (06), the primary fill of pit [05]. Its presence within the pit suggests that this assemblage is the result of domestic refuse.

Recommendations

3.27 Due to the abraded nature and small size of this assemblage, no further work is proposed on this material.

ECOFACTS: Shell

3.28 A total of 43 pieces of marine shell, weighing 560g, were recovered from 1 unstratified and 3 stratified contexts.

3.29 Marine shell is a common find on Roman sites. The bulk of this material was collected from context (06), within pit [05], suggesting that this was a domestic refuse pit.

Recommendations

3.30 Given the small size of the assemblage, and the fact that marine shell is a common find on Roman settlement sites, no further work is proposed on this material.

4 Research Aims

FIELDWORK PROJECT

4.1 The original research aims for the project, as defined in the Heritage Network's approved Project Design dated October 2002, were to establish:

- the initial date of occupation, periods of intense activity, and eventual abandonment of the site;
- the range of activity in the area and how it relates to the Roman town and fort;
- the relationship of the deposits to those identified in previous fieldwork and from cropmarks;
- the range of objects that were in use and their date and status, the presence of any imports, etc.

4.2 The assessment of the results of the fieldwork demonstrate that the information collected is adequate to meet the research aims. The results can be summarised as follows:

Prehistoric

4.3 No evidence of prehistoric activity was recovered from the present site.

Early Roman (1st - early 2nd century AD)

4.4 One single sherd of early Roman grog-tempered ware was recovered from context (11) in the robber trench. This was undoubtedly residual within the context.

3rd century AD

4.5 Two pits, cuts [01] and [05], have been dated to this phase on the basis of the pottery in their fills.

4th century AD

4.6 The Roman town wall is known to have been erected during the 4th century AD. A substantial robber trench (contexts [10] and [12]) on the correct alignment was recorded on the site, which may represent evidence for the wall. The trench will be preserved in situ beneath a new driveway surface.

Anglo-Saxon

4.7 No evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity was recovered from the present site.

Medieval

4.8 No evidence of medieval activity was recovered from the present site

Post-medieval

4.9 The substantial robber trench (contexts [10] and [12]), which follows the assumed alignment of the Roman town wall, has been dated to the later post-medieval period, on the basis of the pottery recovered from its fill. The trench was augered to a depth of 1.85m below the exposed surface of the robber trench (surface = c.38.46mOD, base = 36.61mOD).

4.10 The western half of the site is largely occupied by a probable backfilled quarry [18]. The feature was not excavated.

Victorian/Modern

4.11 The site appears to have been built up in the Victorian or early modern period to provide a level garden surface. The depth of the overburden varies across the site from approximately 0.4m to more than 1.1m.

DISCUSSION

4.12 The presence of two pits, containing pottery of late 2nd - late 3rd century date, suggests that this site lies on the edge of the Roman town. This is further supported by the presence of the robber trench which contained both Roman and post-medieval material, suggesting that the Roman town wall originally crossed the present site. The line of wall was shown on eighteenth century maps, but had disappeared on later maps, probably when the Newmarket Road was turnpiked.

4.13 Ditch [14] was observed running on a northeast-southwest alignment in the northwest quadrant of the site. The feature had been removed to the south west by a large area of infill. To the northeast it had been truncated by the post-medieval robber trench. The evidence suggests that the ditch may have been contemporary with, and butted onto, the Roman wall, possibly forming an internal property boundary. As it appears to terminate at the wall it is unlikely to predate it. Stratigraphic evidence of these relationships have been removed by the robber trench, and the lack of associated finds makes assigning a firm date impossible.

4.14 The presence of a large area of apparent backfill (19) may indicate that the site has been reduced, possibly for gravel quarrying. This is likely to have removed previously surviving archaeological remains in this area of the site. The quarry appears to have terraced the natural slope of the site which runs down from the southwest to the northeast.

4.15 The foundation trench for the new garden wall (see Figure 2) revealed modern disturbance in the form of a cable trench and modern backfill. A gully was also observed in this trench, but no artefacts were recovered to date this feature.

4.16 Direct evidence for structural remains relating to the Roman wall, previously observed along the front of the site (Richard Havis, pers. comm.), was not recorded during the investigation.

5 Further Work

UPDATED RESEARCH DESIGN

5.1 The assessment of the various classes of data from the present project demonstrates that the original research aims have been adequately met within the limitations of that data, and that no further research is required prior to publication and deposition of the archive.

PUBLICATION

5.2 A summary of the results of the present project will be submitted to *Essex Archaeology and History*. No more detailed publication is considered necessary.

ARCHIVE

5.3 The documentary and material archive is currently held by *The Heritage Network Ltd* at its premises at 12 Royston Road, Baldock.

5.4 In its final form, the archive will conform to UKIC guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage. All post-excavation documentation will be filed, ordered, and indexed as part of the research archive.

5.5 The documentary and material archive will be deposited with Saffron Walden Museum.

Task List to Archive Deposition

Task	Description	Undertaken by	Days
1	Final archive	Helen Ashworth, Heritage Network	4
2	Archive deposition	Helen Ashworth, Heritage Network	0.5
Total:			4.5

6 Sources Consulted

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7 Illustrations

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Site layout
Figure 3	Excavation plan
Figure 4	Features [10], [12] and [14]: plans & sections
Figure 5	Features [01] and [05]: plans & sections
Figure 6	Stratigraphic matrix

Appendix 1

Descriptive Inventory

RESULTS

7.1 The area of excavation measured 9.4 x 7.4m. The underlying natural geology was reached at a depth of approximately 0.7m.

7.2 Five cut features, including 2 pits and 2 linear features, and an area of late post-medieval disturbance, were investigated (see Figure 3). The recorded contexts are summarised in the tables below by feature type.

Pits

7.3 Two large pits, consisting of seven contexts were observed on the site. Both of these were excavated and dated to the Roman period.

7.4

Context	Type	Description and interpretation	Thickness (m)	Level MOD
1	Cut	Pit. 1.3m+ by 1m+.	0.62	Top - 38.43 Bottom - 37.99
2	Fill	Fill of pit [1]. 10 YR 5/6. Sandy gravel	0.2	-
3	Fill	Fill of pit [1]. 10YR 3/6. Silty loam.	0.16	-
4	Fill	Fill of pit [1]. 10 YR 4/4. Silty clay.	0.26	-
5	Cut	Sub-circular pit. 2.5m+ by 1.2m+	0.56+	Top - 38.81
6	Fill	Fill of pit [5]. 10 YR 4/4. Silty clay.	0.56+	-
7	Fill	Fill of pit [5]. Mid greyish brown. Silty gravel.	0.21	-

Ditches

7.5 One ditch and a possible robber trench, possibly associated with the Roman wall, were revealed. The ditch was truncated to the southwest by a large area of infill, and to the northeast by the robber trench. These features comprise 8 identified contexts.

1

Context	Type	Description and interpretation	Thickness (m)	Level MOD
8	Cut	Possible robber trench for Roman wall. 6.5m+ by 3.1m	1.85	Top - 38.76 Bottom - 36.91
9	Fill	Fill of [8]. 10YR 3/2. Silty clay.	0.3+	-

Context	Type	Description and interpretation	Thickness (m)	Level MOD
10	Cut	Possible robber trench for Roman wall. 6.5m+ by 3.1m	1.85	Top - 38.36 Bottom - 36.51
11	Fill	Fill of [10]. 10YR 3/2. Silty clay.	0.3+	-
12	Cut	Possible robber trench for Roman wall. 6.5m+ by 3.1m	1.85	Top - 38.16 Bottom - 36.31
13	Fill	Fill of [12]. 10YR 3/2. Silty clay.	0.3+	-
14	Cut	Ditch. 0.26m+ by 0.66m+.	0.3	Top - 38.4
15	Fill	Fill of [14]. 10 YR 4/6. Silty clay.	0.21+	-

7.6 An auger hole was driven through the southeastern end of the possible robber trench to ascertain its full depth. This demonstrated a fairly uniform fill to a depth of 1.85m, although a thin gravel deposit was observed at approximately 0.7m from the surface.

Quarry

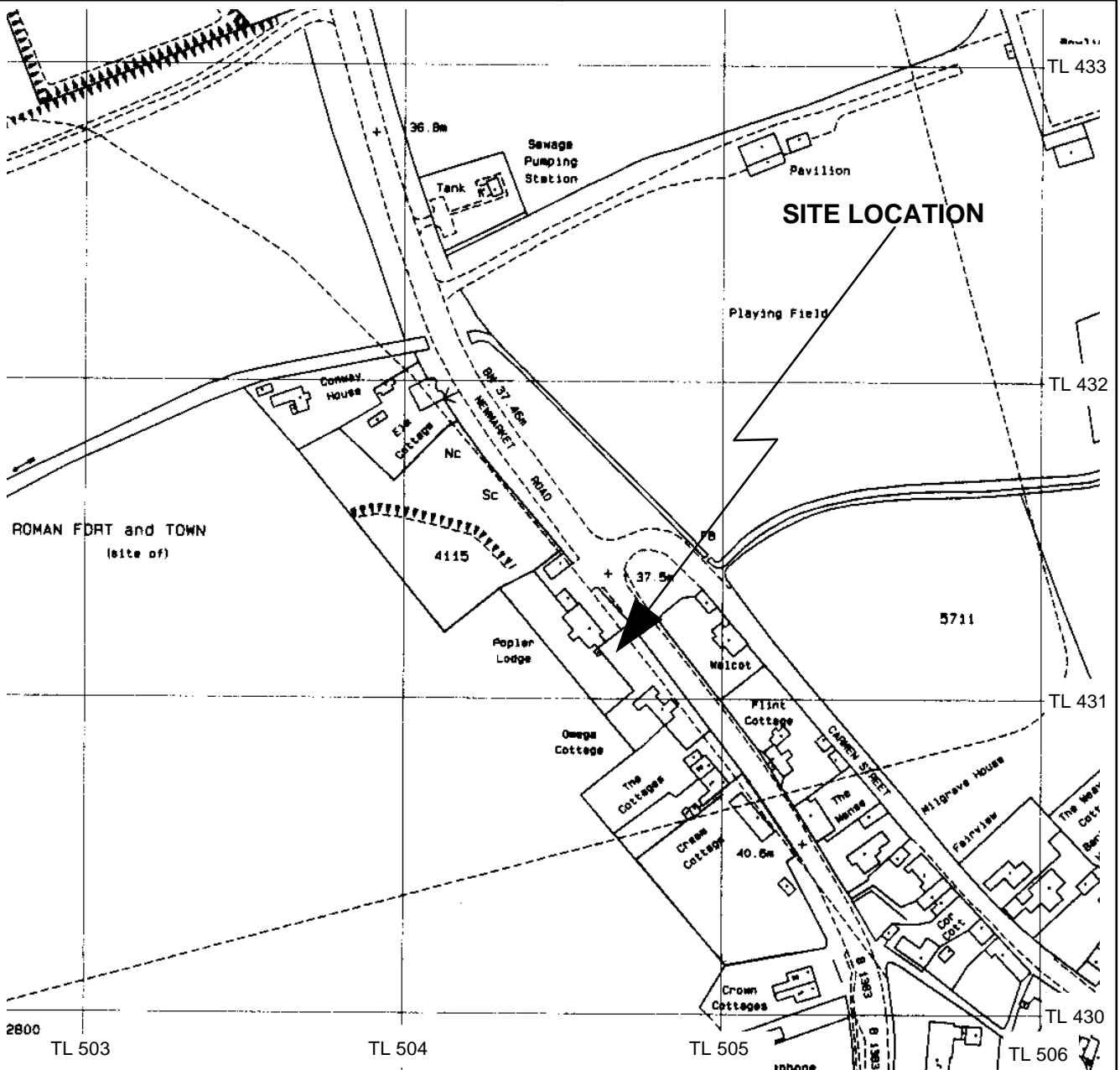
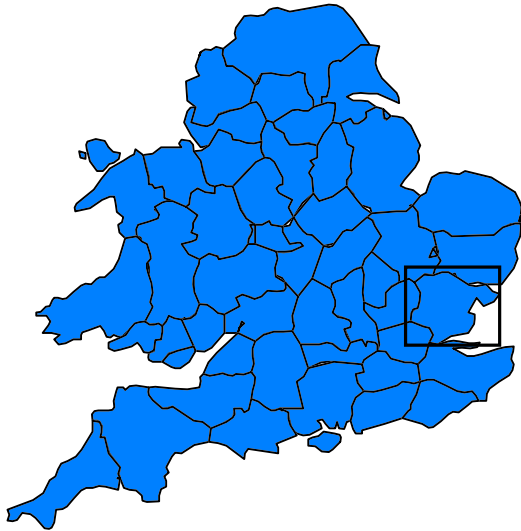
7.7 A large quarry feature measuring at least 3 x 1.6m occupied the western half of the site (see Figure 3). It was not excavated but it was filled with a dark grey, loose silty clay (19) similar to the overburden across much of the site.

Table 8				
Context	Type	Description and interpretation	Thickness	Level mOD
18	Cut	Quarry. North-south orientation. 2.6m+ by 1.72m.	-	-
19	Fill	Dark grey. Loose silty clay cont. occasional flint inclusions	-	c. 38.41

Observation of wall footing

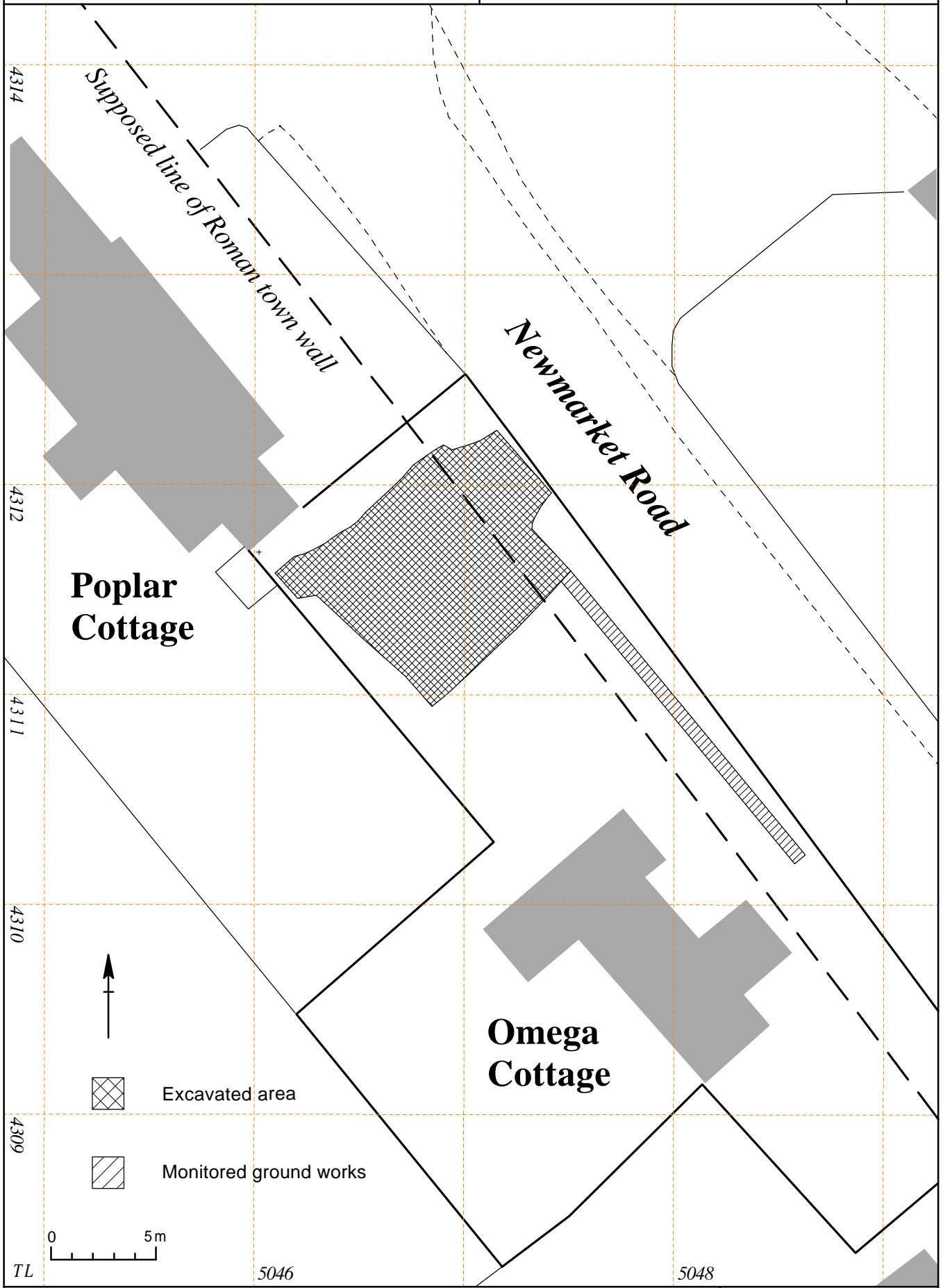
7.8 An footing measuring 14.3 x 0.5m was excavated for the roadside boundary wall (see Figure 2). A modern cable trench running northeast-southwest and measuring 1.3m in width was observed in the southeast corner of the footing. This would have destroyed any surviving archaeology. Undisturbed sub-soil was noted for the next 7m, after which the natural gravel was exposed at a depth of approximately 0.9m from the former ground level. The gravel was cut by narrow gully, observed 10.3m from the southeast limit of the footing. This was 0.3m in width and included 2 contexts:

Table 9				
Context	Type	Description and interpretation	Thickness	Level mOD
16	Cut	Gully. North-south orientation. 0.6m+ by 0.3m.	-	-
17	Fill	10YR 4/3. Silty clay cont. frequent gravel inclusions	-	-



Site Location

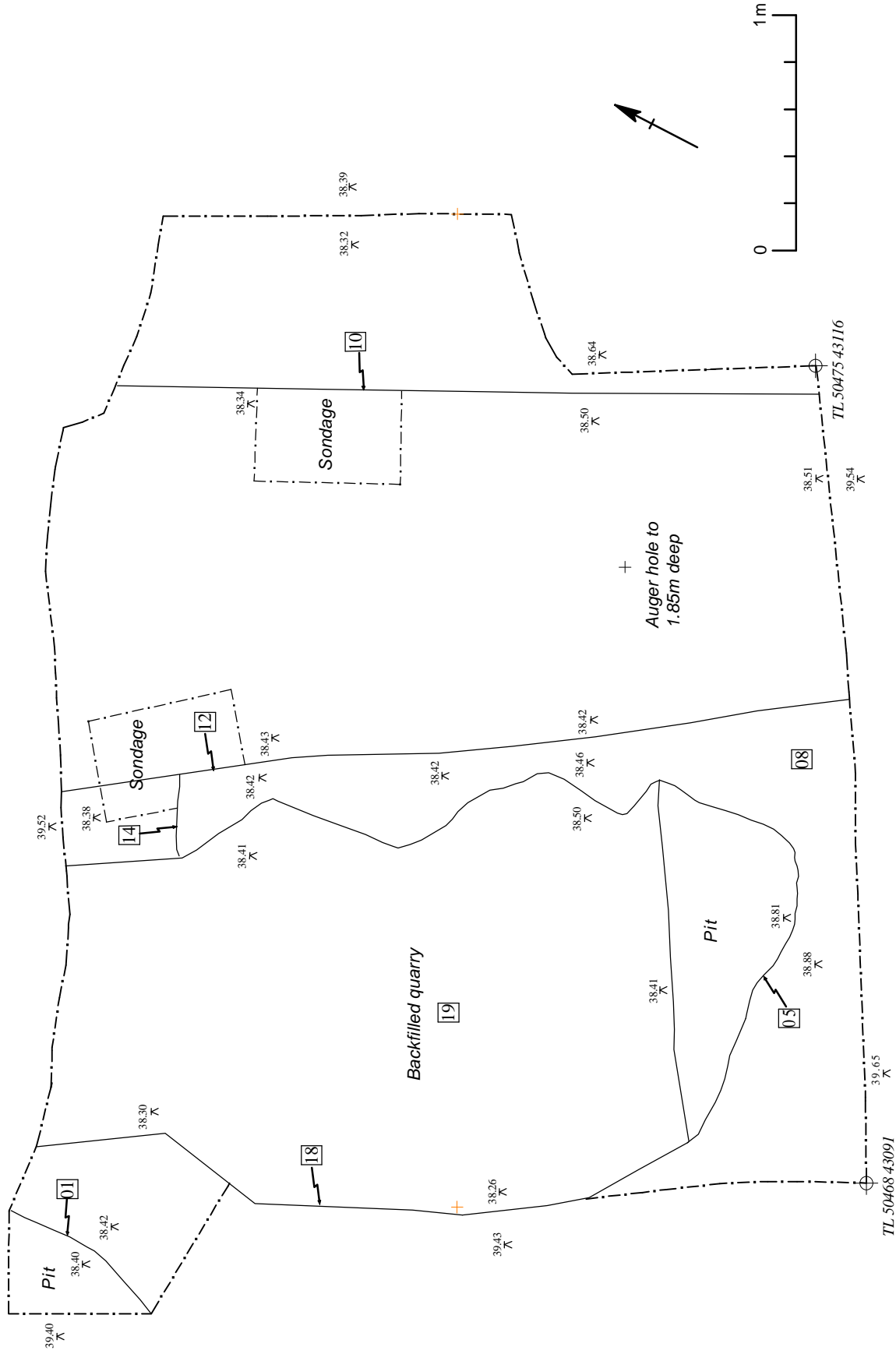
Scale 1:2000



Site layout

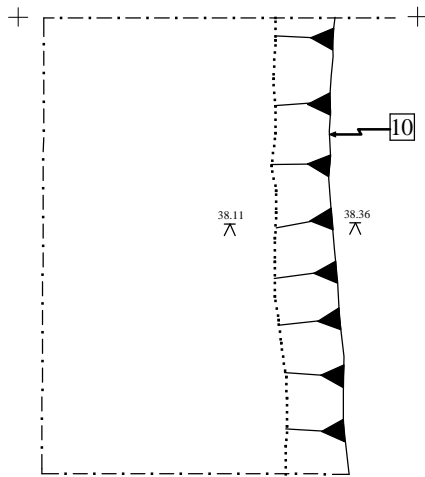
Scale 1:250

Figure 2

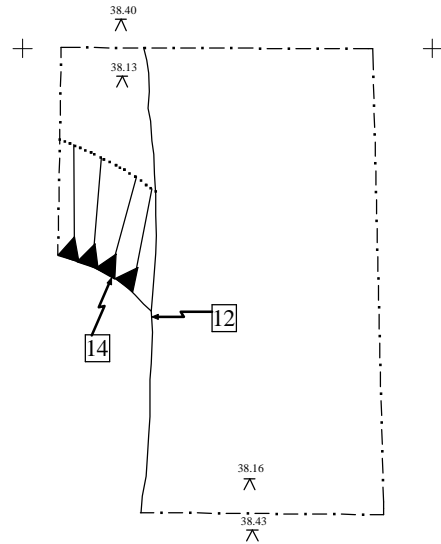


Excavation plan

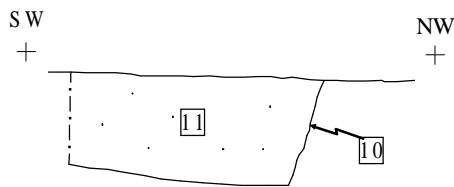
Plan of [10]



Plan of [12] & [14]

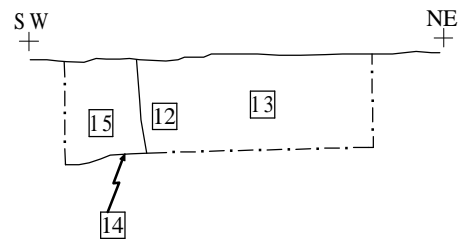


SE facing section of [10]

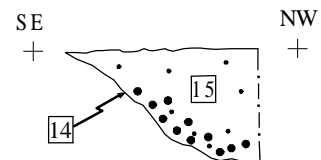


0 30cm

SE facing section of [12] & [14]



NE facing section of [14]



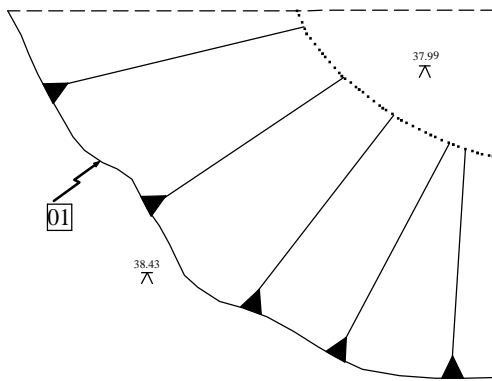
0 30cm

Features [10], [12] and [14]: plans & sections of the sondages

Scale 1:20

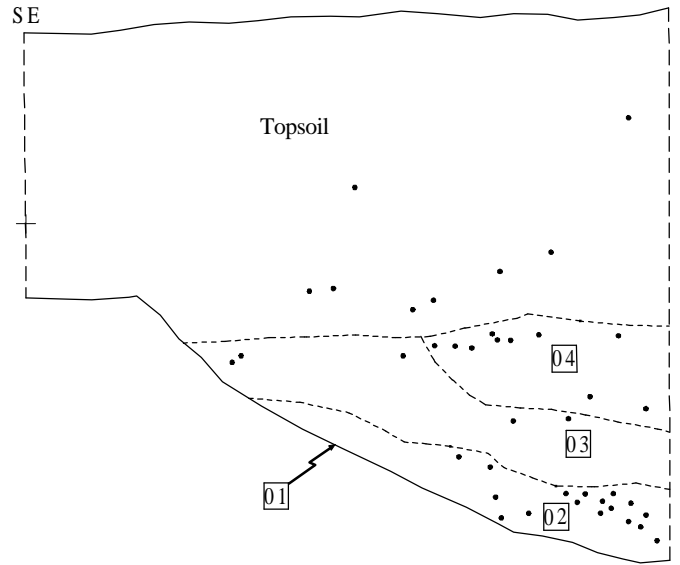
Figure 4

Plan of [01]

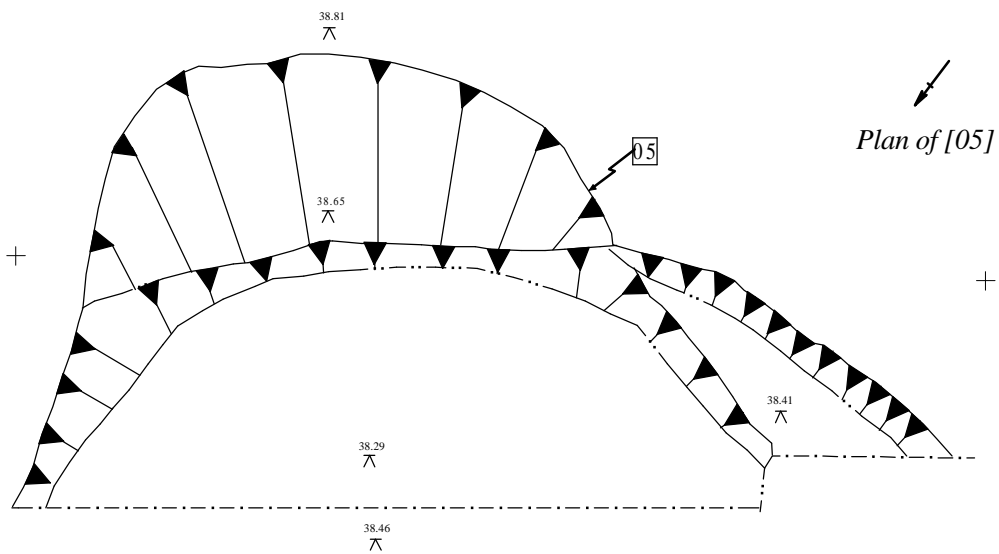


0 30cm

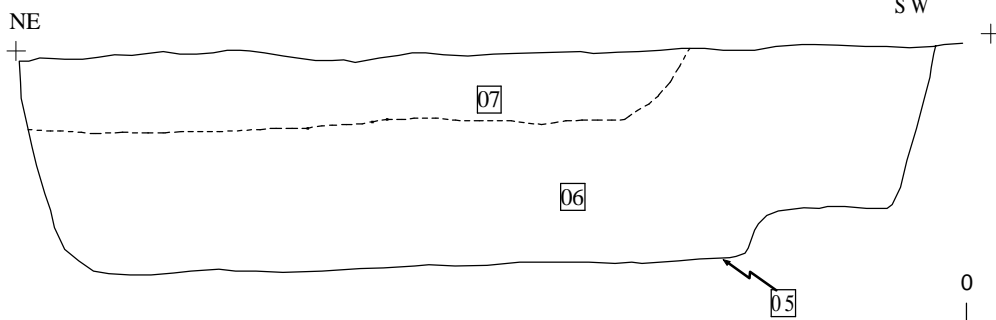
NE facing section of [01]



NW facing section of pit [05]



Plan of [05]



0 30cm

Features [01] and [05]: plans & sections

Scale 1:20

Figure 5

