

Sutton Archaeological Services

Archaeological Monitoring Report

on

Land at the rear of 42 Wallace Crescent,

Carshalton, Surrey
WLO 05: (TQ 277 642)

for

Hexagon Homes Ltd

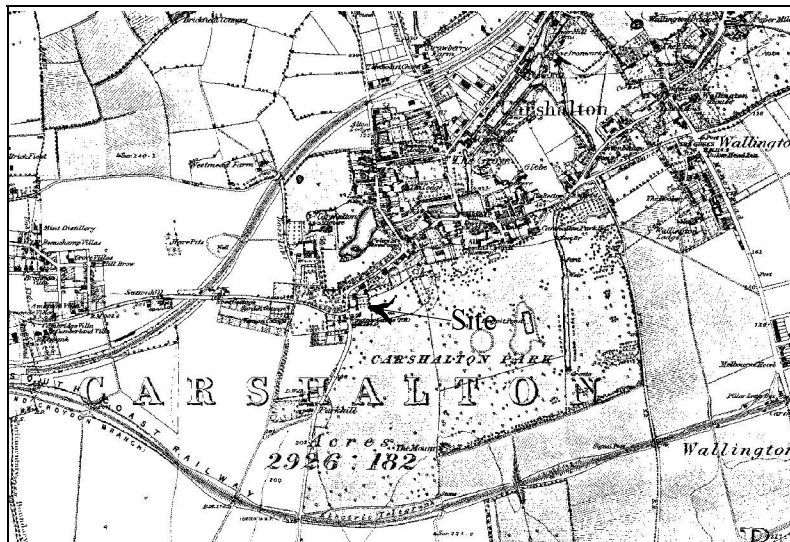


Fig. 1 Ordnance Survey Map (1872)

Archaeological Monitoring Exercise

on

Land at the rear of 42 Wallace Crescent,

Carshalton, Surrey. SM5
London Borough of Sutton
WLO 05: (TQ 277 642)

by

J G PERRY: June 2005

Summary

Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Land at the rear of 42 Wallace Crescent, Carshalton, Surrey. SM5 between 13th and 15th July, 2005.

The site lay in an area of archaeological importance as defined in the London Borough of Sutton's Unitary Development Plan. Sutton Archaeological Services' work on the written scheme of investigation indicated that there was Prehistoric archaeology in the surrounding area.

Excavation work on the site revealed turf and topsoil, a redeposited chalk layer over a silty clay. We recovered no archaeological features or finds other than modern ceramic building materials (CBM).

We suggest that no further archaeological monitoring or intervention is needed and that the archaeological condition in the planning consent has been fulfilled. The decision to discharge the archaeological condition, however, rests with the local planning authority on the advice of the Archaeological Officer at English Heritage.

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Introduction

This report relates to the proposed development on land at the rear of 42 Wallace Crescent, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5.

Hexagon Homes Ltd (the Developer) commissioned SAS to carry out a watching brief and any subsequent archaeological work that might be necessary.

Location: The site lies in the London Borough of Sutton, just to the south-west of Carshalton, on the south side of Wallace Crescent. St. Philomena's Girls School and Pound Street, lie to the north. Sutton lies 2km to the west.

Topography: The sites lie in a mainly residential area on the tail of the dip slope of the North Downs. The ground slopes downwards to the north towards the river Wandle and from the east towards the west. The sites lie at a height of between 49m aOD.

Geology: A mixture of Thanet Sands and River Terrace Gravels lies under the site.

Planning background

The development area is part of the rear garden of 42 Wallace Crescent. Hexagon Homes has received planning permission to develop the site for a single house, garden and car parking (fig. 4).

The site lies in an area of archaeological importance as defined in London Borough of Sutton's Unitary Plan (see our written scheme of investigation).

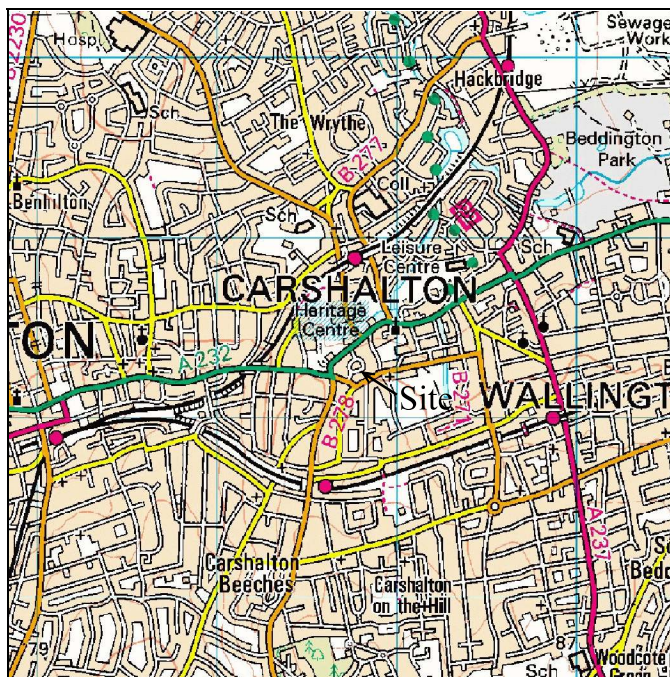


Fig. 2

Site Location

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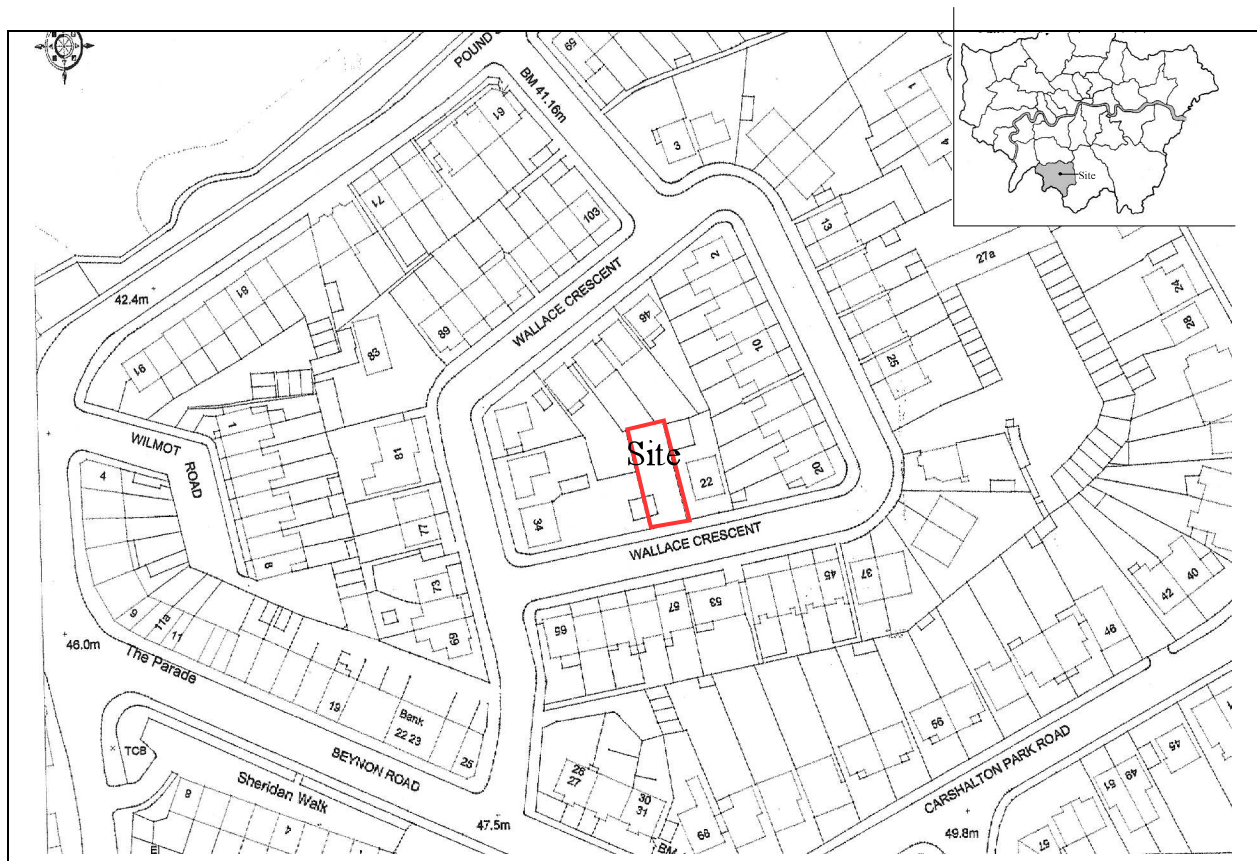


Fig. 3

Site Location Plan

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English Heritage advised the London Borough of Sutton that an archaeological condition under PPG 16¹ should be included in any planning approval. The borough included the following condition in its grant of planning consent C2004/53187/FUL date 18th January 2005:

- 6 *No development shall take place within the site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the local planning authority.*

Archaeological discussion

There is plenty of evidence for human activity in the area around the site, with a major Bronze Age site and Saxon occupation to the north at St. Philomena's and Roman and Medieval occupation to the north-east of the site in Carshalton.

¹ Department of the Environment: *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning*, HMSO, 1990.

Taking the evidence as a whole, before the archaeological monitoring exercise, the potential for Prehistoric occupation and activity is considered medium. The potential for Roman, Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval occupation and activity is considered low to medium.

Prehistoric: There have been many scattered finds of flint and stone artefacts as well as faunal remains of the Prehistoric period on valley sands and gravels as well as the chalk of the North Downs dip slope. A major late Bronze Age settlement is known at St. Philomena's to the north of the site and Mesolithic flint flakes were found just to the east at Orchard Hill.

The potential for Prehistoric archaeological settlement and activity is considered medium.

Roman: The main focus of Roman occupation is the Beddington Roman Villa site, where occupation is evidenced from the 1st to the 4th or possibly 5th centuries². Several contemporary burials have also been reported in the area: two were inhumations and one a cremation. There have been scattered finds of abraded Roman pottery and some coins around Carshalton and a Roman building has recently been found in West Street.

The potential for Roman archaeological settlement and activity considered low to medium.

Saxon: Carshalton is first mentioned in 675 AD when it was called *Aeuultone*. In 880 AD the name had changed to *Aweltun* and by Domesday to *Aultone*³. The Domesday survey records that five freemen held a total of 26 hides. There were originally five manors which were amalgamated in to one and held from the King by Geoffrey de Manderville⁴. The focus for the Anglo-Saxon settlement appears to be in the area of All Saints Church⁵ to the east. Saxon pottery has been identified at Orchard Hill, Ruskin Road, Colston Avenue and three sherds of grass tempered pottery from Pound Street. St Philomena's School has also produced Saxon pottery and loom weights.

The potential for Saxon archaeological settlement and activity is considered low to medium.

² Adkins, L, Adkins, R, & Perry, J G *op. cit.*

³ Jones, A. E., 1970 *From medieval manor to London suburb: an obituary of Carshalton*. Private publication

⁴ Morris, J. 1975 *History from the sources, Domesday Book, Surrey.*, Phillimore, Chichester.

⁵ Orton, C., 1989 *Recent Archaeological work in Carshalton, a dip-slope spring-line settlement*. Surrey Archaeol Coll, **79**, p.171

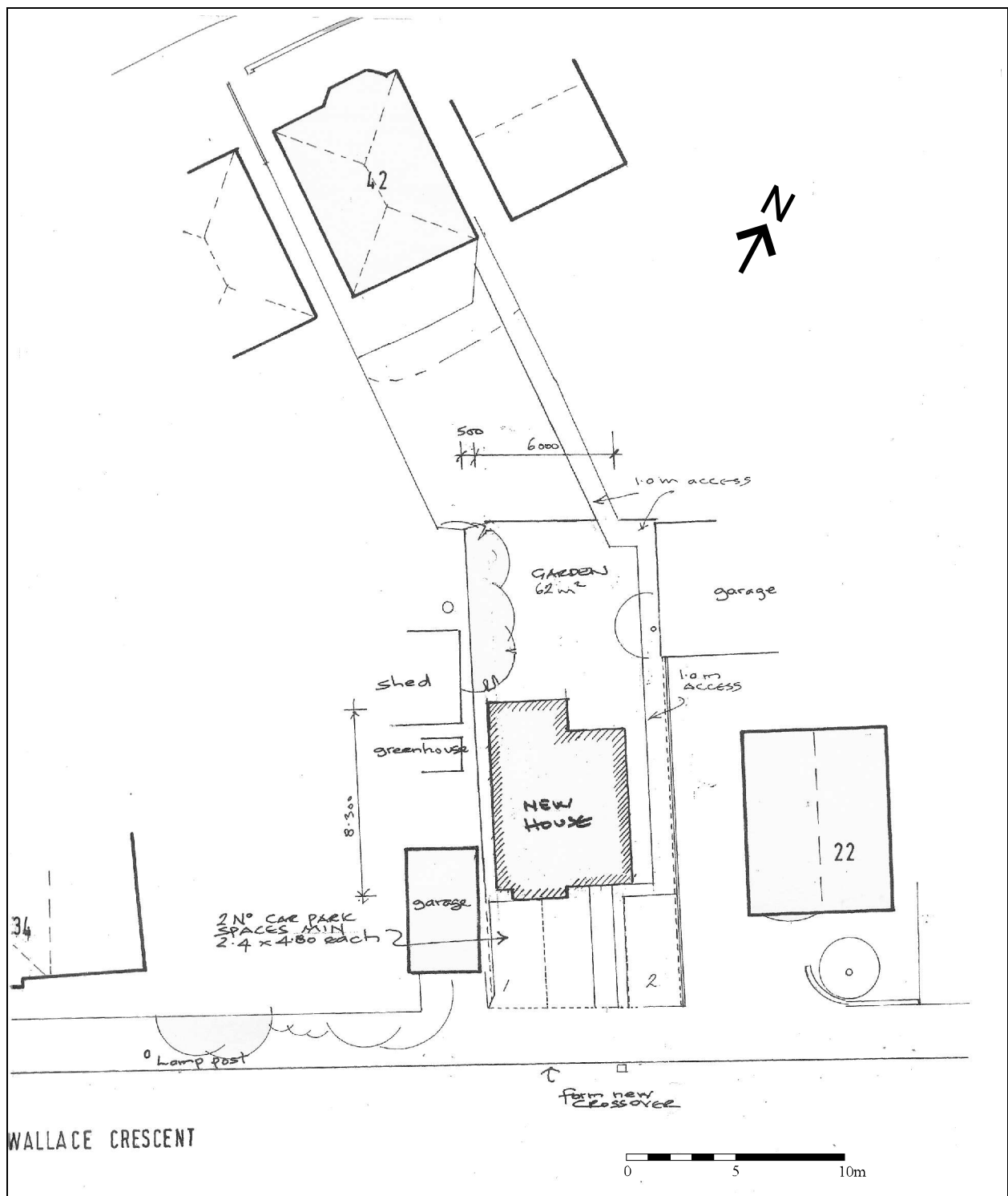


Fig. 4 Development plan

Medieval to Modern: The evidence for Medieval settlement in Carshalton is, like the Saxon settlement, focussed on the village centre in the area of All Saints Church, in the Pound Street/West Lane Street area, with some development into the High Street. Recent investigation in the walled garden in Grove Park has revealed the stone foundations of an 12th/13th building, probably the Stone Court manor house, and excavation at Queens Ann Boleyn's Well revealed traces of Medieval occupation. Carshalton Manor probably covered a large area and would have changed ownership

many times. In the late Post-Medieval period there were three large emparked estates: Carshalton House, Carshalton Park House and Stone Court. The potential for Medieval to Modern archaeological settlement and activity is considered low to medium.

Aims and Objectives

Usually, where development may destroy archaeology, an archaeological monitoring exercise or evaluation is undertaken to identify the presence or absence, extent, character, quality and date of any threatened deposits and, where necessary, to develop an appropriate mitigation strategy.

SAS proposed to archaeologically monitor the site during the ground works phase of construction. Our objectives were to look for signs of Prehistoric occupation on the site, and if found to determine their extent, date, condition and significance.

The Institute of Field Archaeologists has defined the standard for a watching brief as follows.

“An archaeological watching brief will record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the project, and comply with the *Code of conduct, Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology*, and other relevant by-laws of the IFA:

The purpose of a watching brief is:

- to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works
- to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard

A watching brief is not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

The objective of a watching brief is to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on a site.

Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs, IFA, September 2001

Archaeological Methodology

Standards: SAS carried out the archaeological watching brief in accordance with

1. our written scheme of investigation dated July 2005.
- the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangement in Field Archaeology, Standards and Guidance for Field Watching briefs
- the archaeological guidance papers issued by English Heritage.
- the planning condition inserted by the London Borough of Sutton's grant of planning permission C2004/53187/FUL date 18th January 2005

Control: All excavation work was done under the control of the archaeologists on site.

Excavation: We broke open the ground with a JCB 3CX Site Master, using a wide-bladed (1.50m+) smooth-edged ditching bucket and, where appropriate, a toothed bucket.

Non-archaeological deposits: We removed the overburden by machine, in level spits of no more than 10-15 cm, until we reached a significant archaeological layer or the natural deposits. We excavated at least 20cm into the natural to make sure we had reached true natural and not re-deposited material. In this way we excavated the development area without finding any archaeological deposits.

Site records: We recorded all contexts as we proceeded, by written records and photographs. A Munsell soil colour chart was used to determine soil colour and all readings were taken with moist soil. In all, we recorded 3 contexts - numbered [001] to [003] - in a single context recording system.

The site was recorded in accordance with the Fieldwork Methodology in our written scheme of investigation, and using the Museum of London's recording system.

Levels: All levels were taken from an Ordnance Survey spot height, value 47.5m aOD, at the junction of Wallace Crescent and Beynon Road.

Backfilling: After excavating and recording the development area was handed over to the site contractors. We did not backfill.

Watching brief results

The first context was the turf and topsoil [001] (south: 49.71m aOD to north: 49.41m aOD), a friable to very soft, dark brown clayey silt containing frequent small to medium flint pebbles and flecks of chalk. The depth of this context was between 51-55cm. No finds were made in context 001 other than modern CMB.

Below this was a chalk deposit. This was a friable, yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) clayey silt [002] containing 80-90% small to cobblesize chalk fragments. Within the deposit were areas of pure clayey silt and in others there was only pure chalk. In these latter areas there were some large fragments of chalk, with voids below. This context was 70cm deep in the northern part of the site, but not bottomed in the southern part. No finds were made in context 002.

In the northern part of the site, one part of the foundation trenches cut through the chalk to a mid brown clay [003]. Because of the depth and narrowness of this trench, the instability of the chalk, no attempt was made to enter the trench. The context was recorded from the surface.

Assessment and interpretation

The watching brief revealed turf and topsoil, a chalk rubble deposit over a clay deposit.

The chalk rubble deposits presents something of an enigma. Although there is chalk to the north and east of the site, this area of Carshalton is thought to either Thanet sand or clay. If this is the case, the chalk has been imported into the area. This may have been for a building platform, landscaping or just dumping surplus material.

The use for a building platform is unlikely. The voids and clayey silt pockets would make the base unstable and the slope of the chalk would make any construction difficult.

The landscape hypothesis also seems to be unlikely. Little is known of this area of Carshalton, but it lies between two large estates. To the north lies Carshalton House, the onetime home of Sir John Fellowes, now St. Philomena's Girls School. To the south is the Carshalton Park Estate owned by the Scawen family. Any landscaping would have been within their respective estates, rather than outside.

Dumping is a possibility, as several large excavated areas are known from Carshalton House and Carshalton Park Estates. Whether the excavated material would be dumped outside of the estate is unknown, but it is the only known local possibility.

There was no other evidence of archaeology in the development area, other than the possible 18th century dumping, and the only archaeological finds made were modern CBM.

Archaeological Potential

The evidence outlined in our written scheme of investigation had indicated that there was archaeology from the Prehistoric and Roman periods in the surrounding area.

Following the watching brief our revised view is that this site has no potential for archaeological remains of any period.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Our findings set out above led us to conclude that this development did not threaten any archaeological remains of national, regional or local importance, deserving further investigation or preservation.

We suggest that no further archaeological monitoring or intervention is needed and that the archaeological condition in the planning consent has been fulfilled. The decision to discharge the archaeological condition, however, rests with the local planning authority on the advice of the Archaeological Officer at English Heritage.

Publications and dissemination

The evidence is not worthy of publication but a note on the evaluation will be placed in the *London Archaeologist's* round-up and a copy of the report lodged in the local library.

Archive

The resulting archive, including all of the finds, will be donated by the developer and deposited with the Museum of London when the final report has been completed.



Plate 1 General view looking south

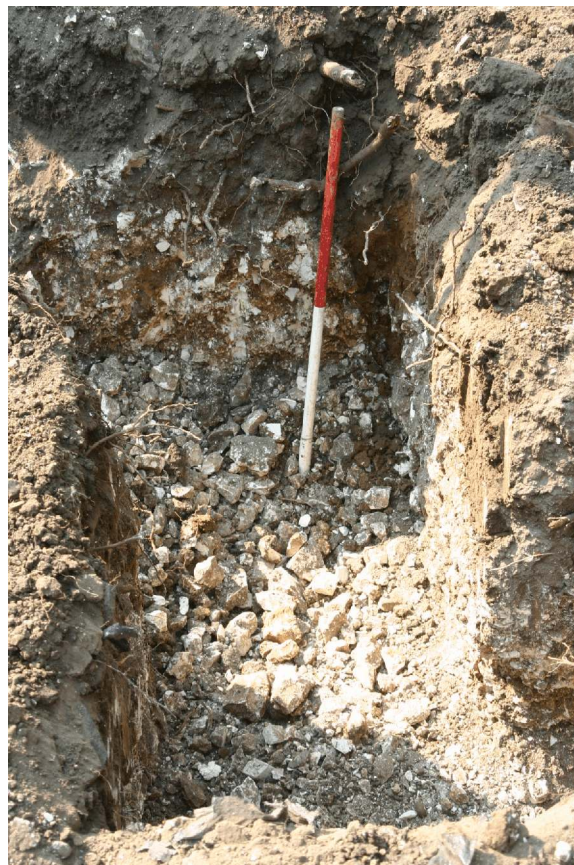
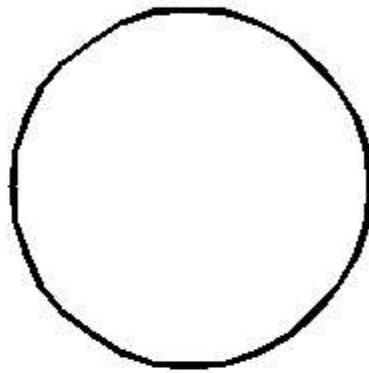


Plate 2 Foundation trench looking south



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