

**Orchard End, The Fisheries, Bray,
Maidenhead, Berkshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr and Mrs Kiddell

by Jo Pine

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code OEB06/07

February 2006

Summary

Site name: Orchard End, The Fisheries, Bray, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8998 8006

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 15th–17th February 2006

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Richard Oram

Site code: OEB 06/07

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits were identified. A small palaeo-river channel was observed

Monuments identified: None

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Reading Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 23.02.06 Steve Preston ✓ 23.02.06
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Report 06/07

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out on land at Orchard End, The Fisheries, Bray, Maidenhead, Berkshire (SU 8998 8006) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Terry Platt, TPA Design Company, 33a St Lukes Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 7DN on behalf of Mr and Mrs Kiddell.

Planning consent (05/01018) has been granted by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead to demolish an existing house on the site and erect a new house with detached carport. This planning permission is subject to a condition (13) relating to archaeology, which requires a watching brief to be carried out during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Royal Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Fiona MacDonald, Principal Archaeologist for Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Royal Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Richard Oram and Sean Wallis between 15th and 17th of February 2006 and the site code is OBE 06/07.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Reading Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the west side of Fisheries Road on the northern fringes of Bray and just 35m west of the River Thames (Fig. 2). At the time of the work, the site consisted of a demolished house and its former gardens and driveway. The geology is described as Flood Plain Gravel (BGS 1981), and a reddish gravel and sand was observed on site. The site was relatively level at 23m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site is derived from its location on the margins of the River Thames which is an area of eastern Berkshire which is relatively rich in archaeological finds and sites of prehistoric and Roman

date (Ford 1987; Gates & Preston 2000). Many finds have been dredged from the Thames including prehistoric flint, and with various other kinds of considered the contemporary occupation close to the banks. The riparian setting also preferred topography for occupation earlier prehistoric Mesolithic with gravel provided for Ray itself a total brick tray load. 100m the south the prehistoric lake two be Mesolithic in date but probable these natural local (Jenkins 2007).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the investigation and record archaeological deposits affected by the ground subsidence of all of groundworks, particularly the diaphragm trenches and ground reduction for

Results

The diaphragm trench excavated for the house and existing pool and bet 70m and 100m wide and between 100m and 130m deep (Fig. 1). In the footings excavated the where the demolished house had previously stood, the graph was gravel deposit 60m overlying light blue/gray clay 1.00m deep and probable deposit. This sealed dark grey/brown deposit in 70m deep probable layer, filled the natural trench. The excavated the garden the former house 10m deep trench deep which sealed with yellow/brown sandy deposit which was 20m deep. Beneath this red gravel and sealed 10m below the present ground surface. The existing pool sq was stripped topsoil and overburden graph the comprised topsoil 40m above 20m deep light yellow/brown deposit in excavated trench 10m below the present ground surface and ceased ground level.

Beneath these deposits further deposits light yellow/brown sand linear features in the side base fills stiff yellow/brown clay with the primary contains aquatic shell spread approximately north-south, roughly similar gradient the present day Thames and level be palaeo-channel rather than features.

Finds

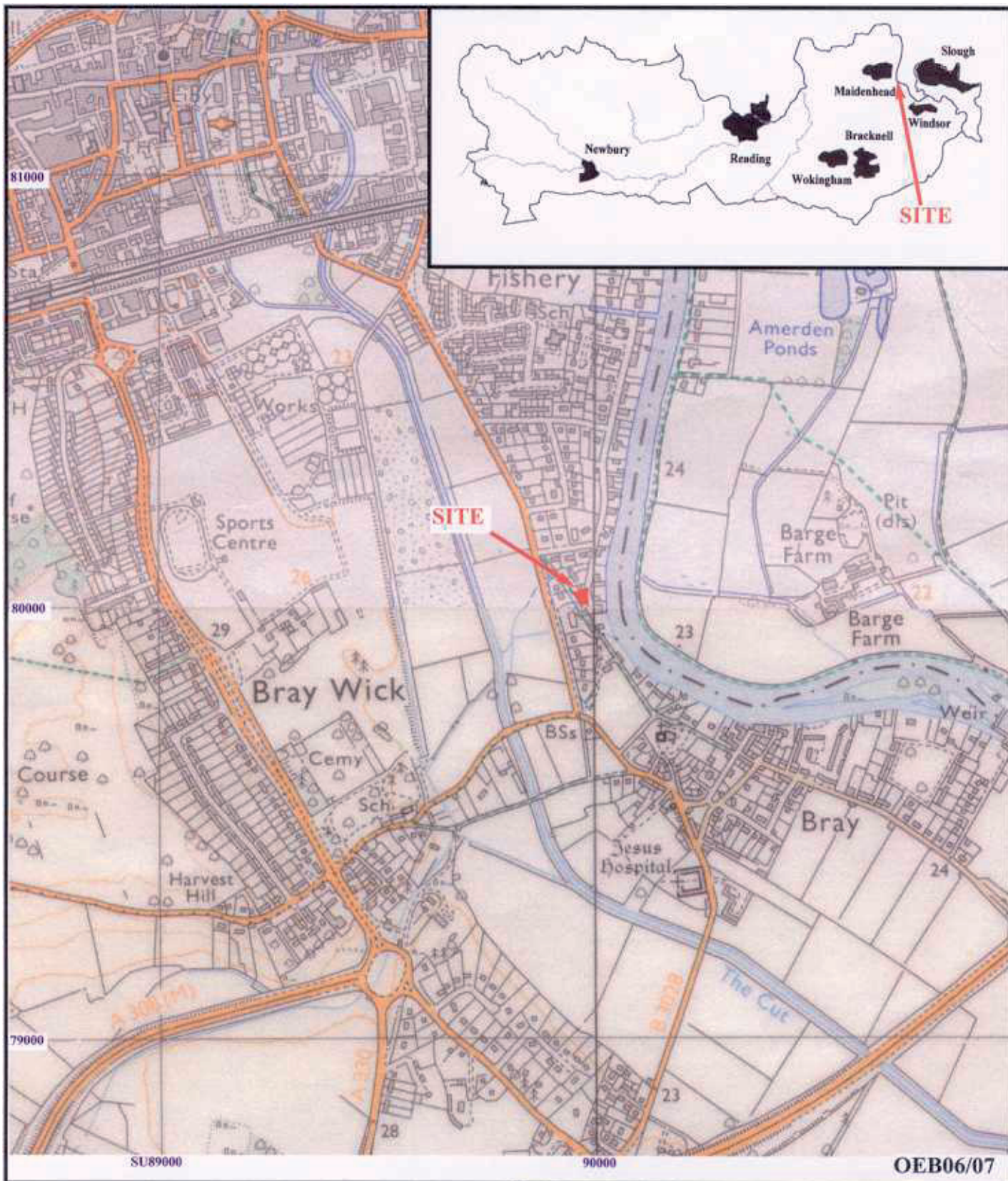
No finds of archaeological interest were noted

Conclusion

No finds nor deposits of any archaeological interest were observed during this fieldwork. However a probable palaeochannel and thick alluvial deposits were recorded within the trenches.

References

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
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- Gates, T, 1975, *The Thames Valley, An archaeological Survey of the River Gravels*, Berkshire Archaeol Comm Pubn 1, Reading
- Jenkins, P, 2002, 'New Wet Dock, Somerville, Bray Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, an archaeological watching brief', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 02/26, Reading
- PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
- Preston, S (ed), *Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon sites in Eastern Berkshire*, TVAS monogr 2, Reading



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Figure 1. Location of site within Bray and Berkshire.

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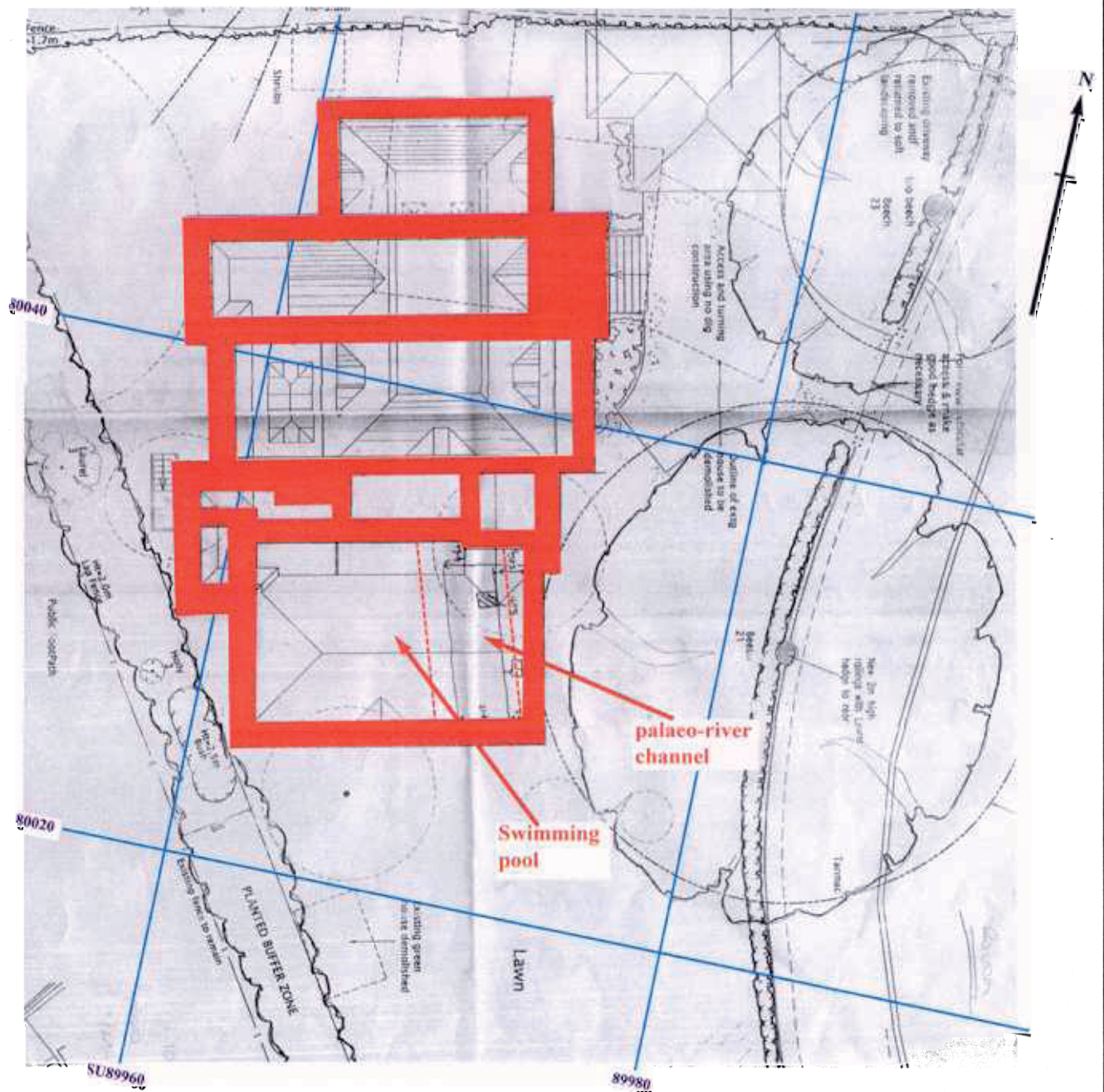
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site on Fishery Road.

Scale: 1:1250

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Figure 3. Detailed location of watching brief observations

Scale: 1:250

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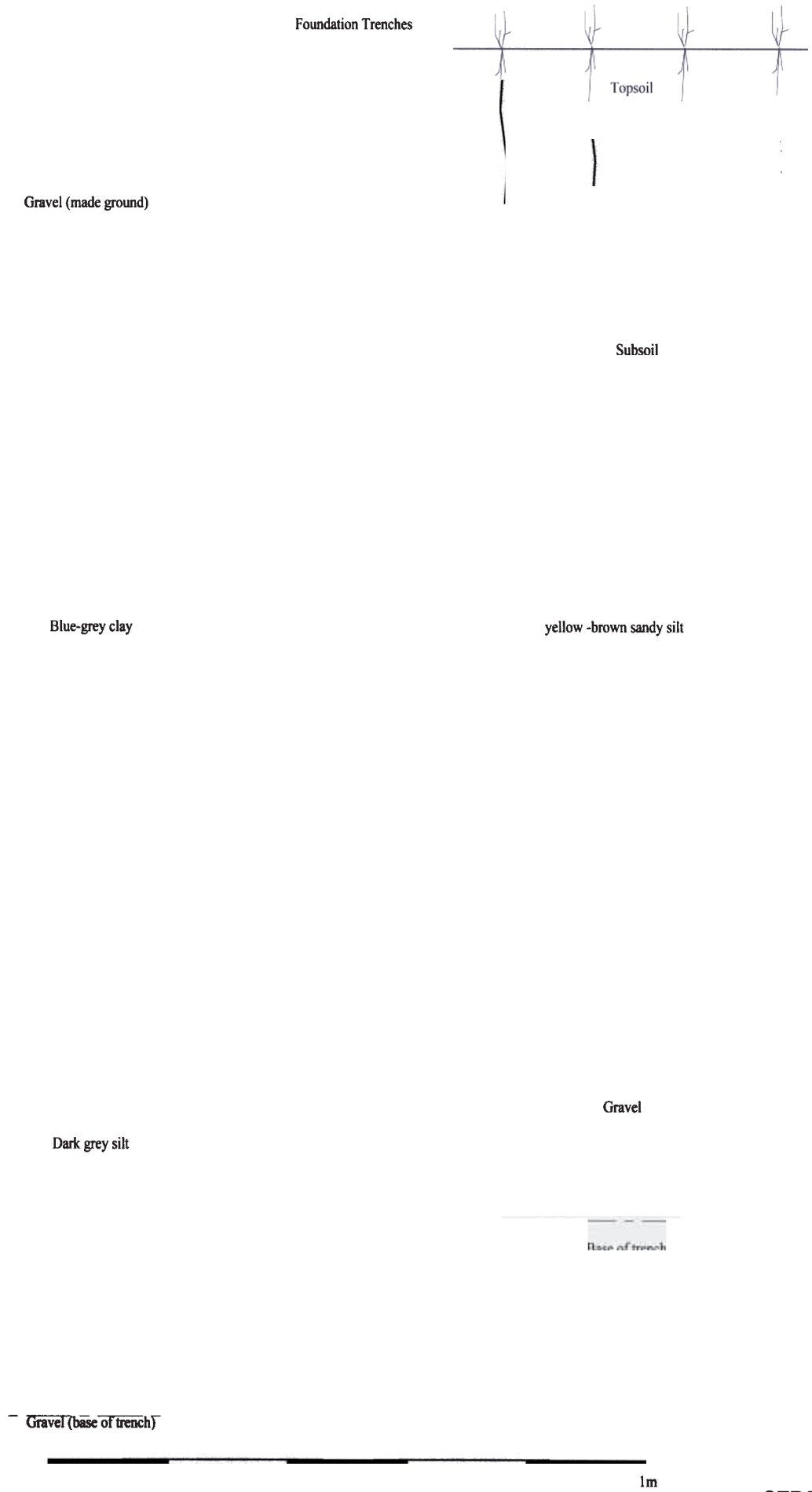


Figure 4. Representative section