

1A and 3 Archers Road, Southampton

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Crest Nicholson (South) Ltd**

by Andrew Weale

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SOU1419

February 2007

Summary

Site name: 1A and 3 Archers Road, Southampton

Grid reference: SU 4199 1318

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 29 January to 1 February 2007

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andrew Weale

Site code: SOU 1419

Area of site: 0.53 ha

Summary of results: The remains of a shallow ditch, a gully, three shallow pits and two rectangular post holes all of late post-medieval date were encountered. A few residual or stray finds of prehistoric flint flakes and sherds of medieval pottery point to other, presumably casual activity in the area.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Southampton City Museum in due course, with accession code SOU1419.

This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 19.02.07
	Steve Preston✓ 16.02.07

1A and 3 Archers Road, Southampton An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andrew Weale

Report 06/131

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 1A-3 Archers Road, Banister Park, Southampton (SU 4199 1318) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Gordon Andrews, of Crest Nicholson (South) Limited, Crest House, Pycroft Road, Chertsey, Surrey KT16 9GN.

A planning application (06/01434/FUL) has been approved by Southampton City Council for redevelopment of the site, to include demolition of Archers House, 1A Archers Road, the redevelopment of 78-79 The Avenue and the land at the rear of 3 Archers Road. The redevelopment will consist of a terrace of 8 houses and 4 three- and four-storey buildings with associated parking, landscaping and a new access from Archers Road. The consent is subject to a condition (9) which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. This was to take the form, initially, of field evaluation by means of trenching, so as to inform a suitable mitigation strategy if required.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the City Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Alan Morton, Planning Archaeologist with Southampton City Council, and was monitored by him on behalf of the Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Weale, James Norbury and Jen Lowe between 29th January and 1st February 2007 and the site code is SOU1419. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Southampton City Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in Banister Park to the north of Southampton City centre, west of Bevois Town and south of Southampton Common. (Fig. 1). The site is bounded to the east by The Avenue, to the north by the Society of Friends' burial ground and houses on Brighton Road, to the east and south by buildings and gardens on Archers Road (Fig. 2). The site lies on a river terrace between the confluence of the rivers Test and Itchen. The site was generally flat with slight slopes down to the south-west and south-east from the north at around 26m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology of the site lies is mapped as 4th River Terrace (gravels), which can be

expected to be capped by loam/clay ('brickearth') (BGS 1987). Brickearths were observed in the base of all six trenches. The current landuse across the site is mixed; 1A Archers Road consists of an existing building and car park, land at the rear of 3 Archers Road consists of garden, whilst the rest of the land is shrub and overgrown gardens.

Archaeological background

The site lies within an area of local archaeological importance as defined in the Local Plan (CoS 2006), approximately 1km to the west of a Roman settlement at present day Bitterne Manor believed to be *Clausentum*, and approximately 600m to the north-west of the middle Saxon settlement of *Hamwic*. To the south-west, at 15-17 Archers Road a large prehistoric ditch together with several undated pits and ditches have been exposed (SOU585). Within the new magistrates' court, 350m to the south, two phases of a Roman rural settlement have been uncovered (SOU603; SOU678) (McDermott 1999). Within 75m to the east is the Inner Avenue, which has been suggested to be one of the main routes out from *Hamwic* heading north, which may also have been used as a local land boundary from the middle Saxon to post-Medieval periods (Morton 1992). Forming part of the northern boundary of the site lies a burial ground for the Society of Friends (Quakers) established in 1680.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. The general research aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeological relevant levels survived on the site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

More specific research aims of the project were:

- to determine if any prehistoric features are present on the site that might be part of the prehistoric occupation evidence previously uncovered (SOU585);
- to determine if any occupation deposits relating to the Roman rural settlement previously found (SOU603) are present;
- to determine if early 19th-century landscaping and later 19th-century house construction have taken place and if so their effects on any archaeological deposits present;
- to determine if there is any evidence of the long term landuse present in the area.

A total of six trenches were to be excavated, each 15m long and 1.6m wide, positioned to target the footprints of the proposed new buildings. A small contingency was provided in case further trenching was required to clarify the results from these trenches.

Topsoil and overburden were removed with a back hoe type of machine (JCB) with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of an archaeologist. The exposed stripped areas were all cleaned using hand tools. Exposed features were investigated by hand with 50% of discrete features and 1m wide slots linear features excavated. Spoil heaps were scanned for artefacts and a metal detector was employed to aid recovery of metal finds.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Results (Figs 4 and 5)

Six trenches were dug, as indicated on Figure 3. Trenches 1, 4 and 5 were repositioned, in consultation with the City Heritage Officer, due to the presence on site of trees, site services and children's play equipment.

Stratigraphy in Trenches 1 to 5 was similar, consisting of topsoil (50), a friable blackish brown loam, with frequent roots, occasional flint fragments, occasional modern ceramic building material fragments, limestone fragments and charcoal flecks to a depth of between 0.16m (Trench 5) and 0.30m (Trench 4), above 0.22m to 0.53m (deepest in Trench 2) of subsoil (51), a friable dark greyish brown sandy silt with moderate flint fragments, occasional pottery, glass in some trenches, and charcoal flecks, above a lower subsoil (61), a firm mid reddish brown sandy silt with occasional rounded flint fragments and charcoal flecks, ranging in depth from 0.05m to 0.20m. Beneath this was natural brickearth.

Trench 1 (Plate 1)

Trench 1 was aligned WSW–ENE. A rectangular structure (60) was observed 11.2m from the WSW end of the trench; it measured 1.89m long, by 1.15m wide and 0.58m deep. It consisted of a slate slab base with a cast iron manhole in the NE corner, with vertical sides of non-mortared slate slabs 0.035m thick. It was filled with a loose blackish brown loam (59), with very frequent window glass fragments, metal window frame fragments, occasional mortar fragments and glass bottles. Two of the bottles had screw threaded metal caps, one marked Liquinure the other Sunfresh Keep Cool. The base of (60) was not reached due to a void beneath the manhole cover masking the area unsafe.

Within the topsoil (50) starting at the WSW end and heading north-east for 6.7m there was a path made up of a cinder and coal layer 0.85m wide 0.08m thick above a gravel surface 0.12m thick and 0.85m wide, it returned after 9.5m heading south across the trench (towards Trench 5).

Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned NW–SE. At the north-eastern end of Trench 2 a brick and concrete foundation, 0.93m deep was encountered. The width of the foundation was not seen. At the south-west end of the trench a redundant gas pipe was encountered.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was aligned WSW–ENE. Three features were cut into the natural brick earth, pit 2, and postholes 3 and 4 (Fig. 4).

Pit 2 was oval in plan with gently sloping sides to a flat base (Fig. 5). It was 1.08m wide, 0.78m long, 0.17m deep and extended under the edge of the trench to the south. It was filled with a firm mid reddish sandy silt with occasional rounded flint and occasional charcoal flecks (52), containing 2 pieces pottery, 2 pieces of ceramic building material, 2 pieces of glass, 1 piece of bone, and 1 piece of burnt flint .

Posthole 3 was rectangular in plan with sides at approximately 75°, to a flat base. It was 0.48m long, 0.28m wide and 0.17m deep and was filled with a loose dark greyish brown sandy silt (54) with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional rounded flint fragments, it also contained 4 pieces of pottery.

Posthole 4 was partially outside the trench, but was also rectangular or square, 0.4m across, 0.11m deep, filled with a loose dark greyish brown sandy silt (55) with no finds..

Trench 4 (Plate 4)

Trench 4 was aligned WSW–ENE. Four features were cut into the natural brick earth, shallow ditch 1, gully 5 and pits (or ditch terminals) 6 and 7 (Fig. 4).

Ditch 1 was linear in plan, very shallow although marginally deeper to the east, with a flat base (Fig. 5). It was 2.58m wide, 0.12m deep, and extended under the edges of trench to the north and south. A 1m section against the northern edge of the trench was excavated. The ditch was filled with a firm mid reddish brown sandy silt (52) with occasional rounded flint and charcoal flecks and contained 9 pieces of pottery, 2 pieces of clay pipe, 5 pieces of ceramic building material and 1 piece of bone.

Gully 5 was linear in plan, with vertical sides and a flat base, 0.61m wide, 0.15m deep, and extended under the edge of the trench to the north and south, parallel to ditch 1. A 1.2m wide section was excavated though it against the northern edge of the trench. The gully was filled with a firm dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and occasional rounded flint fragments (56), which also contained 3 pieces of pottery, 3 pieces of ceramic building material, 2 pieces of clay pipe bowl and 2 pieces of coal.

Pit 6 was sub-rectangular in plan, 1.04m long, 0.39m wide, 0.13m deep and extended under the edge of the trench to the south. It was filled with a firm dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and rounded flint fragments (57) and contained 3 pieces of pottery, 2 pieces of ceramic building material and 1 piece of clay pipe bowl.

Pit 7 was similar to 6, 1.34m long, 0.44m wide, 0.08m deep and extended under the edge of the trench to the north. It was filled with a firm mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional flint fragments, occasional limestone fragments, occasional chalk fragments and charcoal flecks, (58) and also contained three pieces of pottery, one piece of clinker and a prehistoric struck flint.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was aligned approximately N–S. Within the topsoil (50) from the western edge of the southern end and heading north for 12m was a path made up of a cinder and coal layer 0.85m wide 0.08m thick above a gravel surface 0.12m thick and 0.85 m wide, which appeared to line up with similar deposits in Trench 1. A prehistoric flint scraper was recovered from the subsoil (51).

Trench 6

Trench 6 was aligned W–E. The stratigraphy here consisted of Tarmac (63), to a depth of 0.15m, above 0.28m of scalpins (64), crushed large limestone fragments with a little greyish red silty sand, above 0.27m of made ground (65) a firm mixed mid greyish to reddish brown sandy silt with moderate ceramic building material, concrete fragments, glass fragments and occasional ferrous metal fragments. Beneath this was natural brickearth. Four features were cut into the made ground, a modern service trench, a brick and concrete wall footing and a large pit, 9 (Fig. 4).

Pit 9 was sub-circular in plan and not fully excavated (Fig. 5). It was 5.22m long and 1.22m wide, was excavated to a depth of 0.27m, it extended under the edge of the trench to the south. The pit was filled with a loose mixture of ceramic building material rubble, limestone fragments, sandstone fragments, marble fragments, slate fragments, glass fragments, cast iron fragments and an oyster shell, with a light mid reddish brown silty clay with frequent crushed mortar (62).

Finds

Pottery by Duncan H. Brown

A small assemblage of mainly Victorian or later pottery was recovered from eight contexts. This material does not warrant quantification for the purposes of analysis, and a description should suffice. The range of type present in each context is shown in Appendix 3.

Context 54 is the only deposit that may be earlier than 1800. The white refined earthenware and white stoneware are the latest pieces, giving a *terminus post quem* of 1720. These are likely to be redeposited pieces however, as the medieval sherd from the same context is certainly residual. No other contexts can be dated before 1800. Indeed, it is most likely that they are all later than 1840.

The three medieval sherds are of types well known in Southampton, and do no more than suggest activity in the vicinity in the 13th century.

Struck flint by Steve Ford

Two struck flints were recovered during the evaluation. A scraper came from the subsoil in trench 5 and a small flake from post-medieval pit 7 (68) in trench 4. Neither piece is closely datable and only a broad date in the Neolithic or Bronze Age can be suggested.

Conclusion

Archaeological features were investigated in four of the six trenches excavated, with a concrete and brick wall foundation seen in a fifth. All the excavated features were shallow and contained little in the way of evidence of function apart from the broadest terms: posthole, pit, gully and ditch. All but two features contained datable pottery, with all but posthole 3 dated no earlier than 1800 and more likely later than 1840. The pottery from posthole 3 gives a *terminus post quem* of 1720 but is also likely to be redeposited and probably dates to the same period as the other features. Of the two features that did not contain pottery gully 5 contained a fragment of clay pipe bowl very similar to the clay pipe bowl fragments recovered from 19th century pit 6. Post hole 4, by its spatial relationship, and morphological similarity to post hole 3 would also suggest the same date range.

Two prehistoric flint flakes and three small sherds of medieval pottery are either stray finds or demonstrably residual in later features and carry no more significance than as ‘background’ for activity of some sort from this period in the vicinity.

Across the majority of the site a thin layer of re-deposited brickearth (61) sealed the excavated features. Dating evidence for this layer was recovered from Trench 4 and was of the same date range as the excavated features, not earlier than the early to mid 19th century. This layer was in turn cut through by the concrete and brick foundation trench seen at north-west end of Trench 2. This foundation correlates with a building facing the Avenue, depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1910. The brick and concrete footing seen in Trench 6 would similarly match up with a building shown on the same map.

In terms of the research aims of the project, there was no evidence of prehistoric or Roman occupation on the site, and no evidence for the site's use in any period prior to Victorian or later construction. Disturbance from the latter appears limited, and did not remove the archaeologically relevant horizon (the brickearth) except in Trench 6. There therefore would have been potential for archaeological remains to have survived if present. Nonetheless, the site appears to have no significant archaeological potential

References

- BGS, 1987, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000 Series, Sheet 315, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
CoS, 2006, *City of Southampton Local Plan Review*, Southampton, adopted March 2006
PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
Morton, A D, 1992, *Excavations at Hamwic: Volume 1*, CBA Res Rep **84**, York
Andrews, P, 1997, *Excavations at Hamwic: Volume 2*, CBA Res Rep **109**, York
McDermott, J, 1999, 'Evidence of Roman Southampton's hinterland at the new magistrates' court, London Road', *Hampshire Stud* **54**, 183–8

APPENDIX 1: Trench details
0m at south or west end

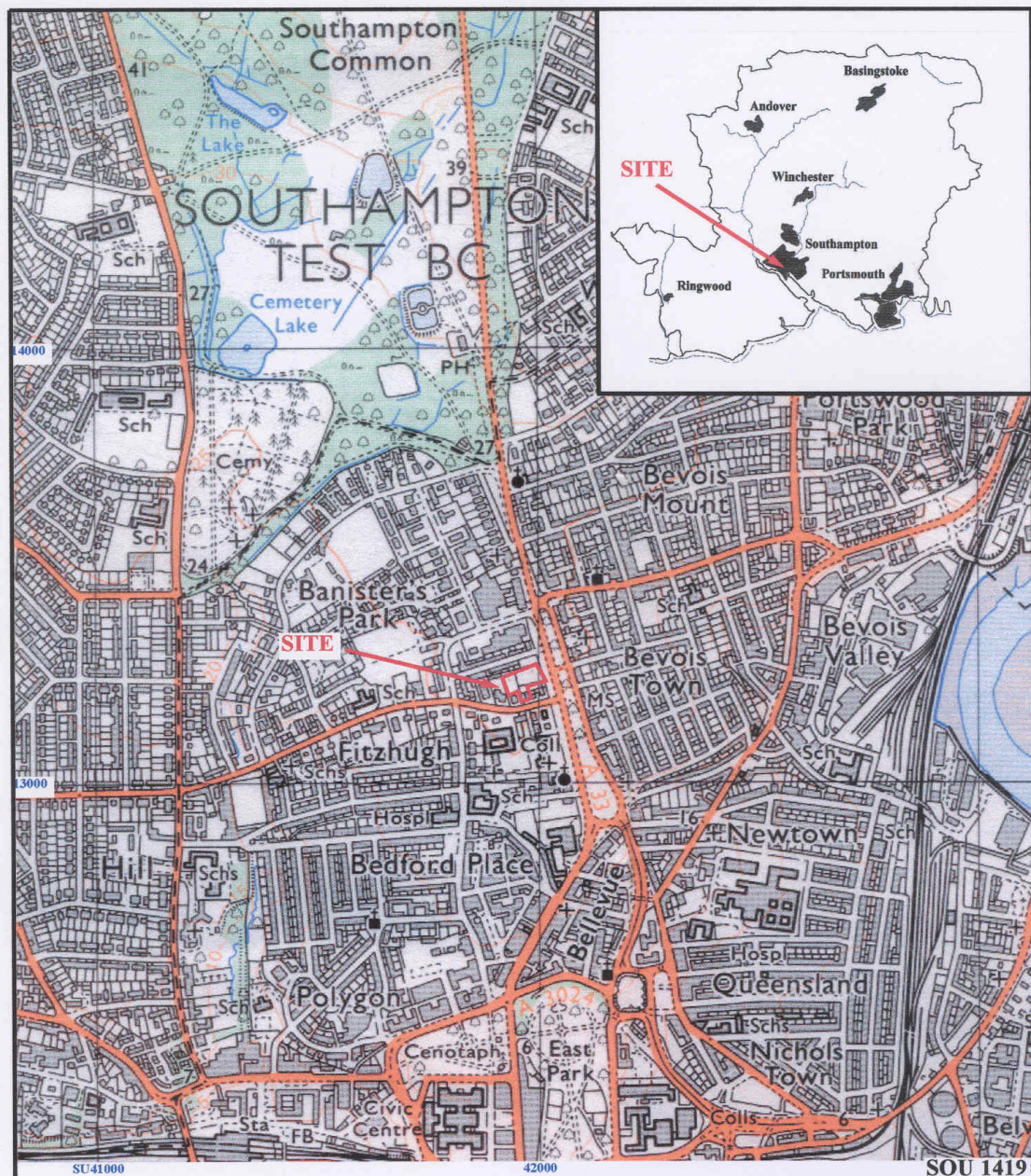
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	15.90	1.60	0.53	0–0.23m topsoil (50), 0.23–0.45m of subsoil (51), 0.45–0.53m lower subsoil (61), onto natural brickearth. Modern slate lined feature (60) [Plate 1]
2	14.40	1.60	0.93	0–0.20m topsoil (50), 0.20–0.73m subsoil (51), 0.73–0.93m lower subsoil (61), onto natural brickearth. Modern brick and concrete foundation NE end of trench
3	15.20	1.60	0.60	0–0.20m topsoil (50), 0.20–0.48m subsoil (51), 0.48–0.60m lower subsoil (61), onto natural brickearth. Pit 2 Postholes 3 and 4
4	15.40	1.60	0.75	0–0.30m topsoil (50), 0.30–0.68m subsoil (51), 0.68–0.75m lower subsoil (61), onto natural brickearth. Ditch 1 Gully 5 Pits 6 and 7 [Plate 2]
5	15.00	1.60	0.52	0–0.16m topsoil (50), 0.16–0.44m subsoil (51), 0.44–0.49m lower subsoil (61), onto natural brickearth
6	14.90	1.60	0.82	0–0.15m Tarmac (63), 0.15–0.43m scalpings (64), 0.43–0.70m made ground (65) onto natural brickearth. Brick and concrete foundation 3.4–4.4m Pit 9

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

Trench	Cut	Fill (s)	Type	Date	Dating evidence
4	1	52	Ditch	19th century or later	Pottery
3	2	53	Pit	19th century or later	Pottery
3	3	54	Posthole	18th century or later	Pottery
3	4	55	Posthole	Undated	
4	5	56	Gully	19th century or later	Clay pipe
4	6	57	Pit	19th century or later	Pottery
4	7	58	Pit	19th century or later	Pottery
1	8	59, 60	Construction cut	Modern	Metal, glass
6	9	62	Pit	19th century or later	Pottery

APPENDIX 3: Pottery types present by context

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Sherds</i>	<i>Types present</i>
1		51	4	Mocha-type refined earthenware bowl rim, bone china dish rims, Chinese porcelain bowl base
2		51	7	Transfer-printed ware, white refined earthenware
3		51	3	Complete profile of a 'relish pot'. All sherds fit together, fresh breaks
5		51	6	Transfer-printed, white refined earthenware, brown stoneware 'blacking bottle', bone china lid
4	1	52	8	Flower pot, transfer-printed, white refined earthenware, bone china. Body sherd Southampton coarseware, Fabric 1123
3	2	53	3	Transfer-printed, white refined earthenware
3	3	54	4	White refined earthenware, white salt-glazed stoneware, Westerwald stoneware. Body sherd local high medieval coarseware, similar to Southampton coarseware
4	6	57	3	Transfer-printed, white refined earthenware, fragment of the same 'relish pot' in context 51, trench 3
4	7	58	3	White refined earthenware, post-medieval redware. Very abraded sherd of medieval sandy ware, traces on internal glaze. Similar to Southampton Sandy ware, Fabric 1150
4		61	4	Transfer-printed, large rim fragment of post-medieval redware. Large fragment of stoneware probably a pipe.
6	9	62	8	Transfer-printed, white refined earthenware, Chinese porcelain



**1a-3 Archers Road, Southampton,
Hampshire, 2007
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Southampton and Hampshire.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Pathfinder 1284 SU41/51
at 1:12500
Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

1a - 3 Archers Road, Southampton, 2007

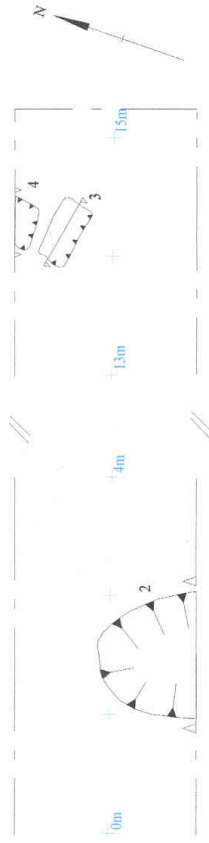


Figure 3. Locations of trenches and features

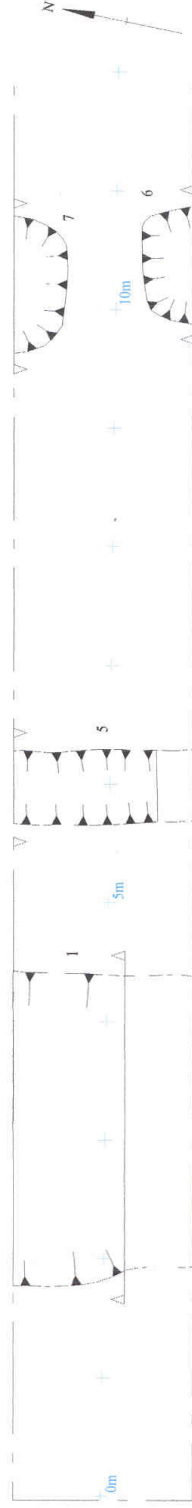
SOU 1419

1a - 3 Archers Road, Southampton, 2007

Trench 3



Trench 4



Trench 6

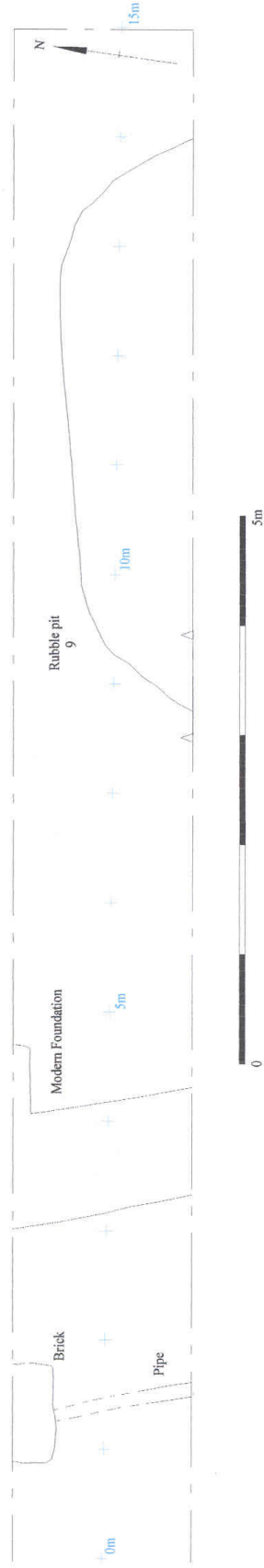


Figure 4. Plans of trenches

1a - 3 Archers Road, Southampton, 2007

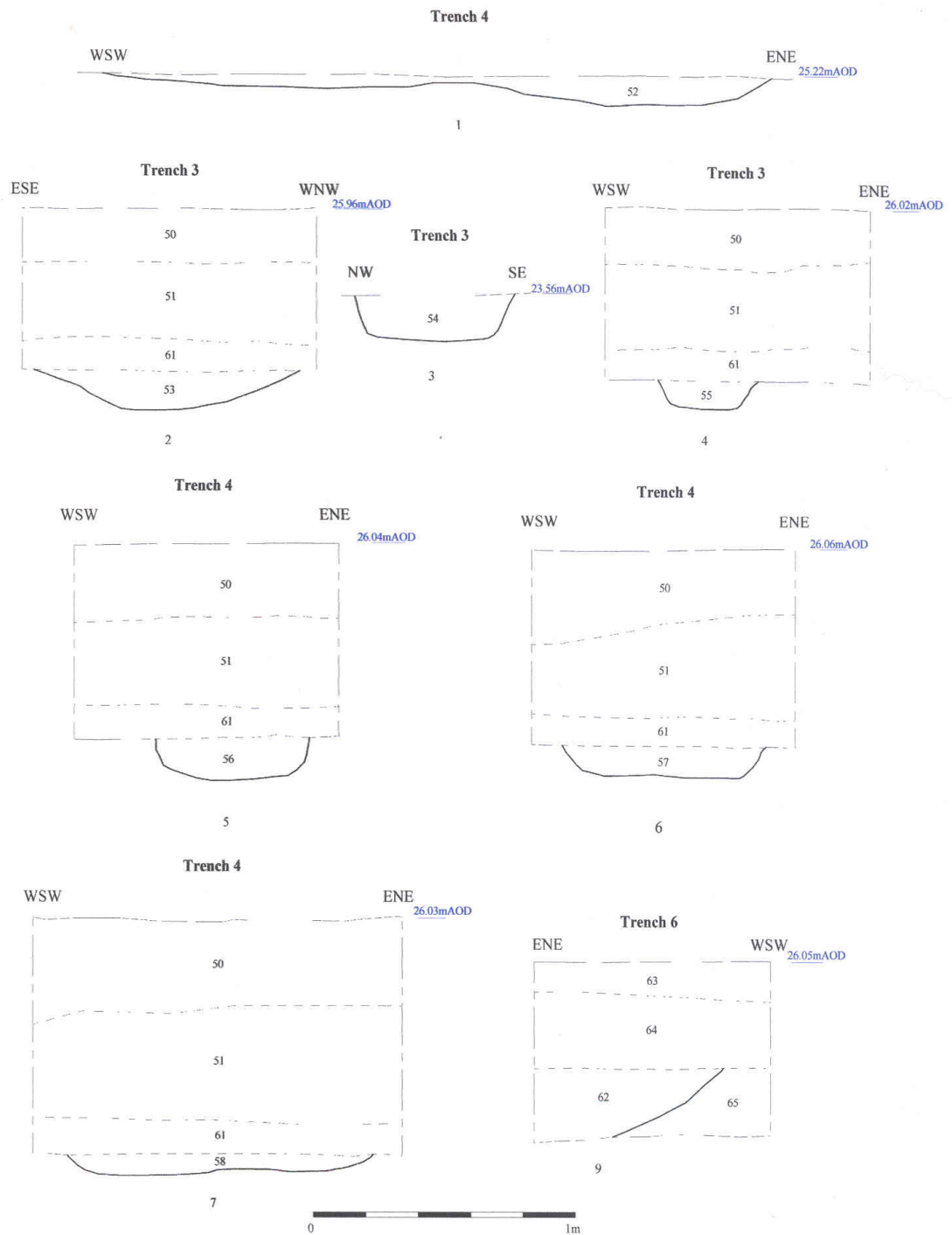


Figure 5. Sections



Plate 1. Trench 1 looking east, scales 1m, 2m.



Plate 2. Trench 4 looking east, scales 1m, 2m.