

79 Rose Hill, Oxford

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Mr P Chilton

by James McNicoll-Norbury
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code RHO 09/39

April 2009

Summary

Site name: 79 Rose Hill, Oxford

Grid reference: SP 5364 0373

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 29th April 2009

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: James McNicoll-Norbury

Site code: RHO 09/39

Area of site: 0.1ha (around 350 sq m to be developed)

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits were identified.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 01.05.09 Steve Preston ✓ 01.05.09

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Report 09/39

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 79 Rose Hill, Oxford (SP 5364 0373) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Peter Chilton of 79 Rose Hill, Oxford.

Planning permission (08/02220/FUL) has been gained from Oxford City Council for the construction of two new houses at the rear of the site. This consent was subject to a condition relating to archaeology, which required a programme of archaeological fieldwork, which was to consist, initially of evaluation by trial trenching, to be followed if required by full excavation, in order to mitigate the effect of the development on any archaeological remains that might be present. 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, and based on a brief provided by, Mr David Radford, Archaeologist for Oxford City Council (Radford 2009). The fieldwork was undertaken by James McNicoll-Norbury and Susan Colley on 29th April 2009 and the site code is RHO09/39. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Oxfordshire County Museum Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located at the back of the garden to the rear of 79 Rose Hill, Oxford which lies approximately 3km south-east of the city centre in the area of Cowley. The western part of the site is currently occupied by a house and the area of works itself was occupied by various vegetable patches (Fig. 2). The geology is described as Berkley Sand Member (BGS 1994) which was not observed in the trench, the natural observed consisted of limestone which is mapped just to the west of the site in the form of Littlemore Member limestone. The site lies at 80m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a brief prepared by Mr David Radford (Radford 2009). In summary the site is considered to have high potential for Iron Age and Roman remains. Recent archaeological work at the former King of Prussia public house, about 70m south-west of the site, produced evidence of a Middle to Late Iron Age enclosure and a Roman pit (JMHS 2008), whilst previous investigations have produced widespread evidence for Roman pottery manufacturing sites (Young 1977). Two kiln sites have been recorded within a 500m radius of the site and a Roman burial is recorded to the north.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of development. This work was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels survived on the site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present;
- to determine if any prehistoric or Roman deposits are present.;
- to determine if any deposits relating to the manufacture of Roman pottery are present.

A single trench, 15m long, was to be dug, targeted at the location of the new housing, using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to expose archaeologically sensitive levels under constant archaeological supervision.

Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed would then be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project. Provision was made for a programme of sampling for environmental evidence should appropriate deposits be present.

Results

The trench had to be repositioned slightly from that intended in the agree scheme in order to avoid live services (Fig. 3). Trench details are given in Appendix 1. The spoil heaps were monitored for finds.

Trench 1 (Plate 1)

The trench was 14.5m long, 1.6m wide and 0.59m deep on a SE-NW alignment. The stratigraphy comprised 0.22m of topsoil above 0.32m of orange/brown clayey sand subsoil which in turn overlay the natural geology of limestone (Fig. 4). No archaeological deposits were identified.

Finds

No finds were recovered.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for Iron Age and Roman deposits on the site, none were found, nor were any archaeological deposits or finds from any other period identified in the excavated trench. Based on the sample provide by this trench, the site is considered to have no archaeological potential and require no further archaeological mitigation.

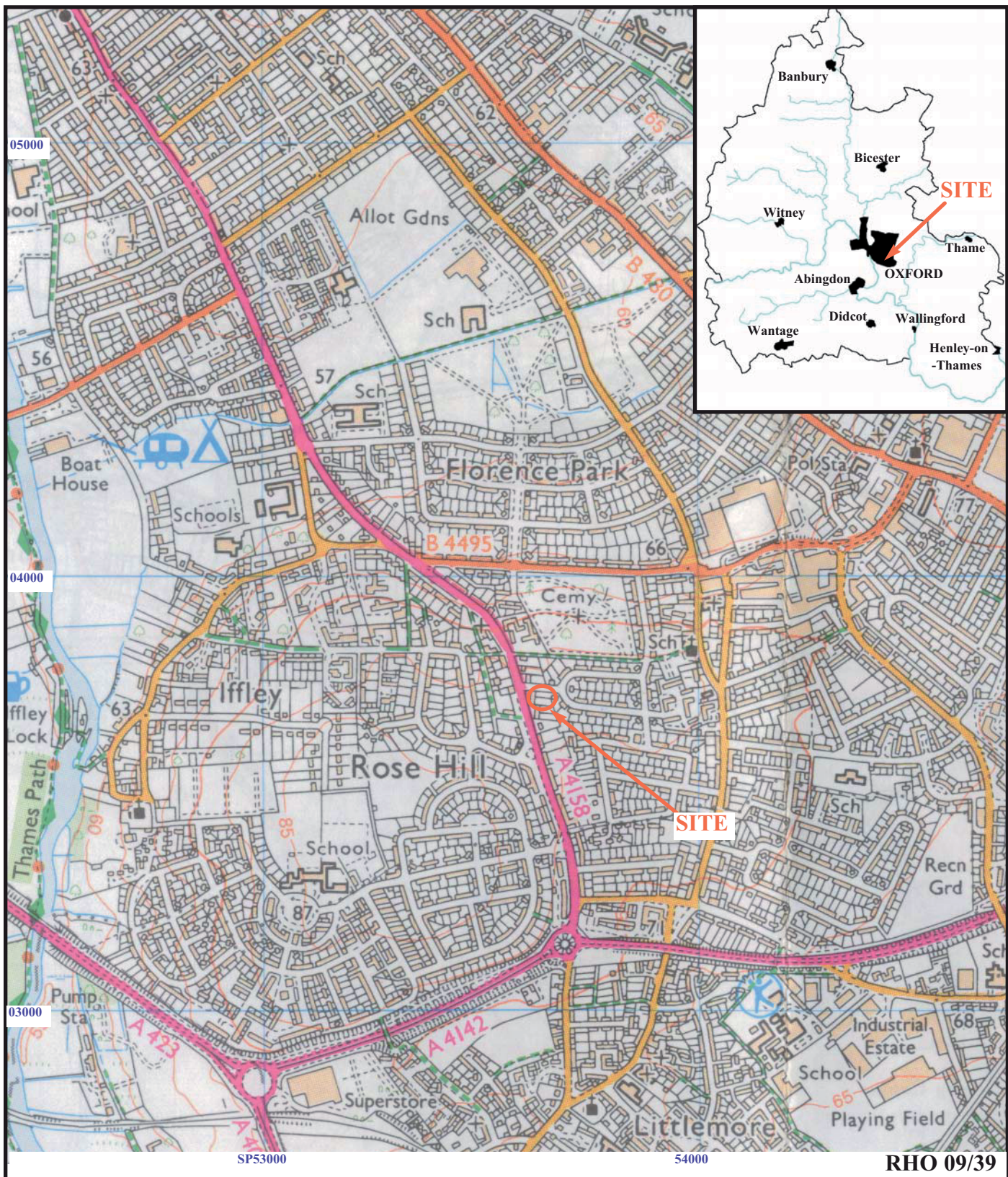
References

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- JMHS, 2008, 'Archaeological Evaluation at The King of Prussia site, Rose Hill, Oxford', John Moore Heritage Services, Beckley
- PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
- Radford, D, 2009, 'Oxford City Council Planning Control and Conservation, Brief for an Archaeological Excavation. Project: Two dwelling houses, 79 Rose Hill, Oxford', Oxford
- Young, C J, 1977, *The Roman Pottery Industry of the Oxford Region*, BAR Brit Ser 43, Oxford

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at SE end

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	14.5	1.6	0.59	0-0.22m topsoil; 0.22-0.54m orange/brown clayey sand subsoil; 0.54m+ limestone natural geology [Plate 1]



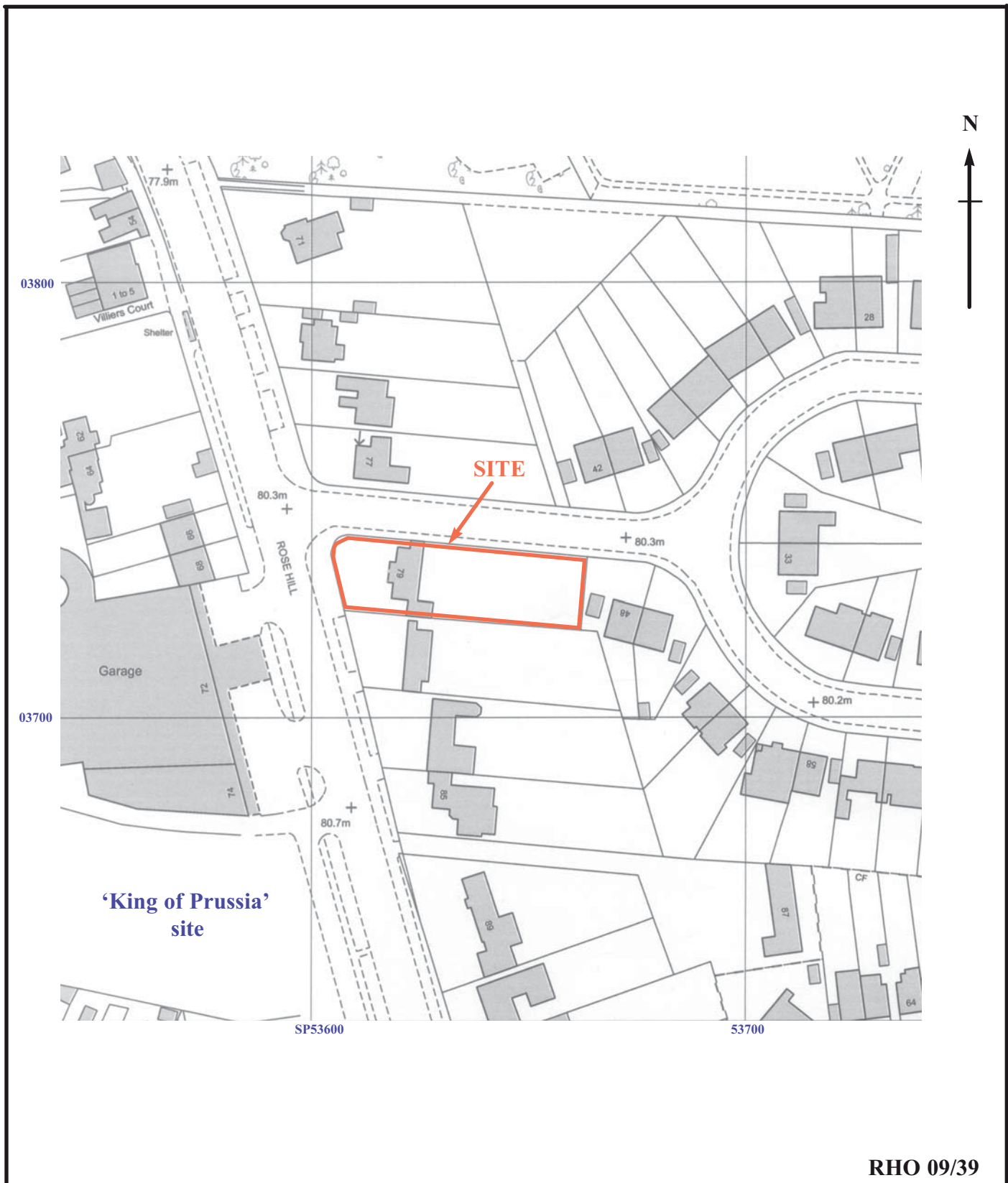
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Figure 1. Location of site within Oxford and Oxfordshire.

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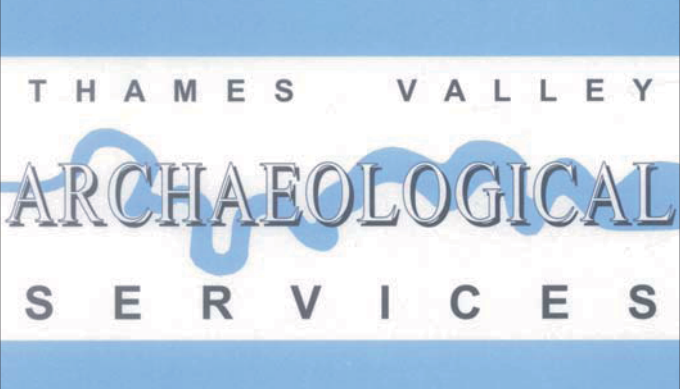
'King of Prussia'
site

RHO 09/39

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Figure 2. Location of site off Rose Hill.

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Figure 3. Location of trench.

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Trench 1

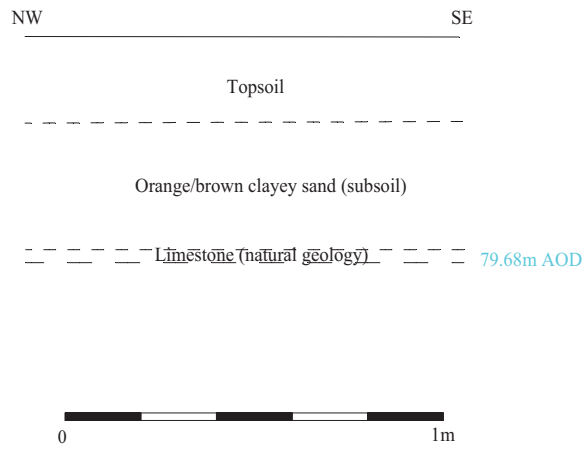


Figure 4. Representative Section

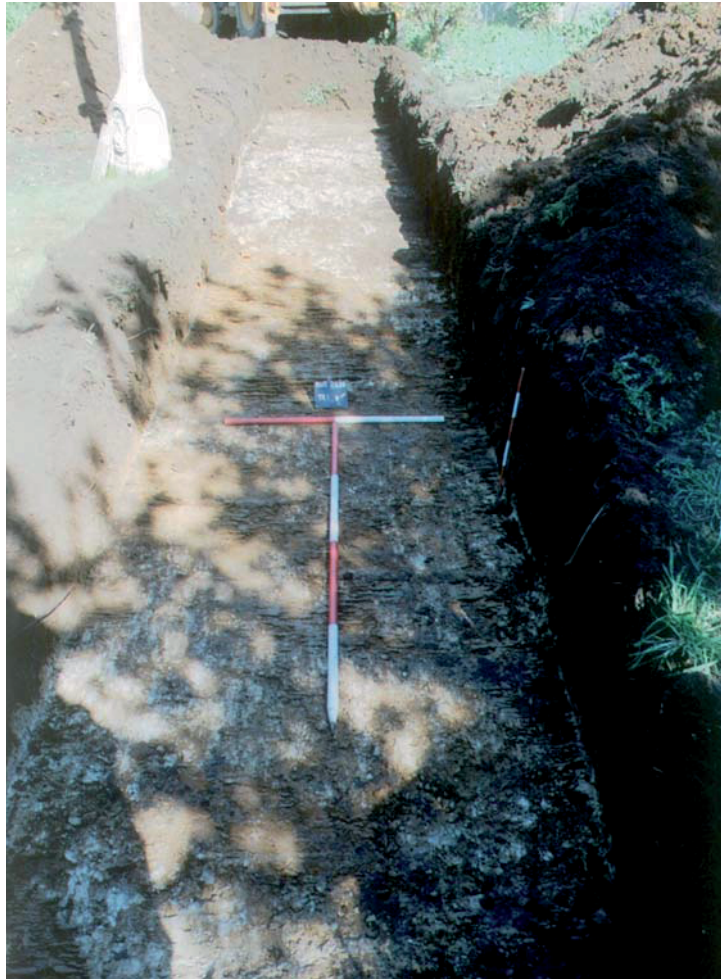


Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north west, scales; horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.