

**1 JOHNSON DRIVE
Hampton
London TW12**

London Borough of Richmond

Watching brief report

April 2010



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Watching brief report

Site Code: JHS08

National Grid Reference: 514157 169491

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**Museum of London Archaeology
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Summary (non-technical)

This report has been commissioned by Elizabeth Hinds in order to record and assess the results of a watching brief carried out at 1 Johnsons Drive, Hampton. Work on geo-technical test pits was monitored on 20th November 2008 and on underpinning operations and ground reduction on 24th and 31st March 2010.

There were no archaeological deposits present, only 20th century fills overlying natural sandy gravels. The exposed footings of the existing building were measured and recorded.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The watching brief took place on the corner of Johnsons Drive and Church Street, Hampton hereafter called 'the site' (see Fig 1). The centre of the site lies at National Grid reference 514157 169491. The site is located at the western end of a row of terraced houses and is undeveloped. The area of the site is laid to grass with numerous trees and bushes. Modern pavement level near to the site lies at c 11.50m OD. The site code is JHS08. Two phases of watching brief took place; the first accompanied geotechnical excavations in November 2008 and the second during underpinning and ground reduction operations in March 2010.

1.2 The planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the Method Statement which formed the project design for the watching brief (see Section 1.2; Hoad 2008)

1.3 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Elizabeth Hinds and produced by Museum of London Archaeology (MOL Archaeology). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 2001).

The purpose of the watching brief was to determine whether archaeological remains or features were present on the site and, if so, to record the nature and extent of such remains. A number of more site-specific research aims and objectives were established in the preceding Method Statement, and are outlined in the following section.

The purpose of the present report is to analyse the results of the watching brief against the original research aims, and to suggest what further work, including analysis or publication (if any), should now take place.

1.4 Aims and objectives

The following research aims and objectives were established in the Method Statement for the watching brief (Section 2.2):

What was the level of natural topography?

What are the earliest deposits identified?

What are the latest deposits identified?

Is there any evidence relating to the medieval settlement and the earlier medieval church?

All research is undertaken within the priorities established in the Museum of London's A research framework for London Archaeology, 2002

2 The watching brief

2.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and recording during the watching brief was done in accordance with the Method Statement (Hoad 2008) and the MoLAS Archaeological Site Manual (MoLAS 1994).

The slab/ground was broken out and cleared by contractors under MOL Archaeology supervision. Trenches were excavated by machine and then by hand by the contractors, and monitored by a member of staff from MOL Archaeology.

The locations of the areas of excavation were recorded by the Senior Archaeologist offsetting from adjacent standing walls. This information was then plotted onto the OS grid.

No Ordnance Datum levels were available on the site and the heights of observations were extrapolated from the adjacent spot height in the road (11.50m OD). Archaeological remains were recorded relative to the top of the plinth course at 11.50m AOD on the western wall of the existing building. It is understood that the proposed Finished Floor Level (FFL) is to be some 40mm above the existing plinth level. Some internal measurements were made below ground level (BGL).

All measurement are in metres, E-W before N-S.

The site has produced: one trench location plan; nine trench plans and sections, at 1:20 and 12 photographs. No finds were recovered from the site.

The site finds and records can be found under the site code JHS08 in the MoL archive.

2.2 Results of the watching brief

In total, nine separate Test pits were dug; the first four were against the west wall of the existing building for the purposes of geotechnical inspection. TP 5 was situated in the lawn to the south in order to find a drain pipe. TPs 6 and 7 were for underpinning the existing building, located roughly where the previous TPs 1 and 4 had been situated. TPs 8 and 9 were situated in the south-western part of the proposed development.

There follows a brief description of the archaeological deposits as recorded.

For all trench locations see Fig 2.

2008 investigations

2.2.1 Test Pit 1

This Test Pit was situated at the northern end of the building against the rendered concrete block extension at the front of the terrace. The pit measured 0.64m by 1.24m by a maximum of 1.18 BGL (10.20m AOD).

The concrete block extension appeared to be founded on a concrete raft about 0.13m thick, though farther south the main brickwork of the building was founded on a shuttered deep plinth overlying a cast concrete strip foundation resting on natural sandy gravel at 10.32m AOD.

It is not known if the natural sandy gravel was truncated but it was overlain, up to ground level, by a mixed brown silt / clay fill containing occasional 20th century building debris. Traces of a concrete haunching were noted in the western edge of the pit, but not fully recorded before backfilling.

No archaeological features or material were present in this Test Pit.

2.2.2 Test Pit 2

This Test Pit was situated near the northern end of the building, in the proposed location of Pad 3, against the brick wall of the building. The pit measured 0.70m by 1.0m by a maximum of 1.20 BGL (11.20m AOD).

The main brickwork of the superstructure was founded on a shuttered deep plinth overlying a cast concrete strip foundation resting on natural sandy gravel at 11.40m AOD.

It is not known if the natural sandy gravel was truncated, but it was overlain, up to ground level, by a mixed brown silt / clay fill containing occasional 20th century building debris. A linear concrete haunching was recorded along the western edge of the pit at approximately 10.90m AOD.

No archaeological features or material were present in this Test Pit.

2.2.3 Test Pit 3

This Test Pit was situated near the southern end of the building, in the proposed location of Pad 5, against the brick wall of the building. The pit measured 0.85m by 0.60m by a maximum of 1.10 BGL (10.24m AOD).

The main brickwork of the superstructure was founded on a shuttered deep plinth overlying a cast concrete strip foundation resting on natural sandy gravel at 11.33m AOD.

It is not known if the natural sandy gravel was truncated but it was overlain, up to ground level, by a mixed brown silt / clay fill containing occasional 20th century building debris. A linear concrete haunching was recorded along the western edge of the pit at 0.6m BGL (10.90m AOD).

No archaeological features or material were present in this Test Pit.

2.2.4 Test Pit 4

This Test Pit was situated against and around the south-west corner of the building, in the proposed location of Pad 7, against the brick wall of the building. The pit measured 1.20m by 0.80m by a maximum of 1.10 BGL (10.40m AOD).

The main brickwork of the superstructure was founded on a shuttered deep plinth overlying a cast concrete strip foundation resting on natural sandy gravel at 11.54m AOD.

It is not known if the natural sandy gravel was truncated but it was overlain, up to ground level, by a mixed brown silt / clay fill containing occasional 20th century building debris.

No archaeological features or material were present in this Test Pit.

This Test Pit was subsequently expanded to the west and north in order to expose the area of the proposed Pad 7 for building control inspection – to a maximum of 1.80m by 1.34m. This revealed that the concrete haunching noted in the other three Test pits was also present, though fractionally further out from the wall of the building, here at a depth of 0.70m BGL (10.80m AOD). A small area of a salt glazed ceramic drain pipe (c 4" dia) was visible. It was also seen that the ground level drain basin led, via further haunched concrete, into the main north-south drain run. Without knowledge of the nature or extent of this drain, excavation was abandoned.

2.2.5 Test Pit 5

In order to ascertain the extent of the drain pipe, another pit was excavated in the garden lawn 4.80m south of the existing building on the line of the drain. This measured 0.50m by 1.20 and the concrete haunching was revealed at 0.80m BGL (10.70m AOD).

2010 investigations

Initially, the topsoil over the whole redevelopment site was removed. This was to a depth of 0.3m to 0.35m and revealed the top of the underlying mid brown stony silt. No archaeological features or material were present in this area.

2.2.6 Test Pit 6

This was situated at the north-eastern end of the site, in the location of the previous TP 1. This measured 0.6m by 1.3m by 1.35m deep. Natural sand was recorded at 0.8m BGL (10.70m AOD) overlain by a dark brown clayey silt – which is likely to be backfill from TP 1.

No archaeological features or material were present in this Test Pit.

2.2.7 Test Pit 7

This was situated at the south-eastern end of the site, in the location of the previous TP 4. This measured 0.55m by 1.15m by 1.4m deep. This revealed moderately fine orange sand at 0.7m BGL (10.80m AOD). Overlying the sand was a thin interface of peagrit, itself overlain by a dark brown clayey silt - which is likely to be backfill from TP 4.

No archaeological features or material were present in this Test Pit.

2.2.8 Test Pit 8

This was situated in the south-western part of the redevelopment site and measured 1.9m by 1.2m by 0.6m deep. The base of the TP revealed a concrete feature, over which was mixed silts, brick rubble and topsoil.

No archaeological features or material were present in this Test Pit.

2.2.9 Test Pit 9

This was situated in the south-western part of the site, 0.9m south of TP 8. This measured 1.9m by 1.2m by 1.45m deep. Natural gravel was recorded at 1.15m BGL (10.35m AOD) immediately below a concrete feature. Above the 0.7m thick concrete was a mixed topsoil.

No archaeological features or material were present in this Test Pit.

3 Potential of archaeology

3.1 Original research aims

What was the level of natural topography?

Natural sandy gravel was revealed at an average depth, 10.38m AOD though dipping slightly, as is to be expected, to the south.

What are the earliest deposits identified?

The earliest deposit was the natural River Terrace Gravel.

What are the latest deposits identified?

The latest deposit was the mixed brown silt that must represent a modern backfill / landfill, which appeared in all of the pits. This would appear to be of 20th century date, albeit with one or two 19th century fragments in it, quite probably the same 1964 date as the adjacent house itself.

Is there any evidence relating to the medieval settlement and the earlier medieval church?

There as no evidence for any medieval archaeological features, remains or artefacts.

3.2 Significance of the data

No archaeological remains were present. The few artefacts recorded from the fills were late 19th or 20th century in date and mostly represent discarded building waste.

4 Publication and archiving

Information on the results of the excavation will be made publicly available by means of a database in digital form, to permit inclusion of the site data in any future academic researches into the development of London.

The site archive containing original records and finds will be stored in accordance with the terms of the Method Statement (Hoad 2008) with the Museum of London within 12 months of the end of the excavation.

In view of the limited potential of the material (Sections 3) and the relatively limited significance of the data (Section 3.2) it is suggested that a short note on the results of the watching brief should appear in the annual round up of the London Archaeologist.

5 Acknowledgements

Museum of London Archaeology (MOL Archaeology) would like to thank Elizabeth Hinds for commissioning this report. The fieldwork was undertaken by Julian Bowsher (2008) and Mark Ingram (2010).

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7 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: molas1-51869

Project details

Project name	1 Johnsons Drive, Hampton
Short description of the project	A watching brief on geotechnical test pits, underpinning pits and other exploratory pits revealed only natural sandy gravels overlain by modern fills and the foundations of the present 1960s building. The watching brief was carried out in two phases; November 2008 and March 2010
Project dates	Start: 20-11-2008 End: 24-03-2010
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	JHS08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON RICHMOND UPON THAMES TWICKENHAM 1 Johnsons Drive, Hampton
Postcode	TW 12 2EQ
Study area	210.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 14157 69491 51.4124304104 -0.358324311573 51 24 44 N 000 21 29 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Molas
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority
Project design originator	MoLAS
Project director/manager	Stewart Hoad
Project supervisor	Julian Bowsher

Type of sponsor/funding body	Elizabeth Hinds
Name of sponsor/funding body	Elizabeth Hinds

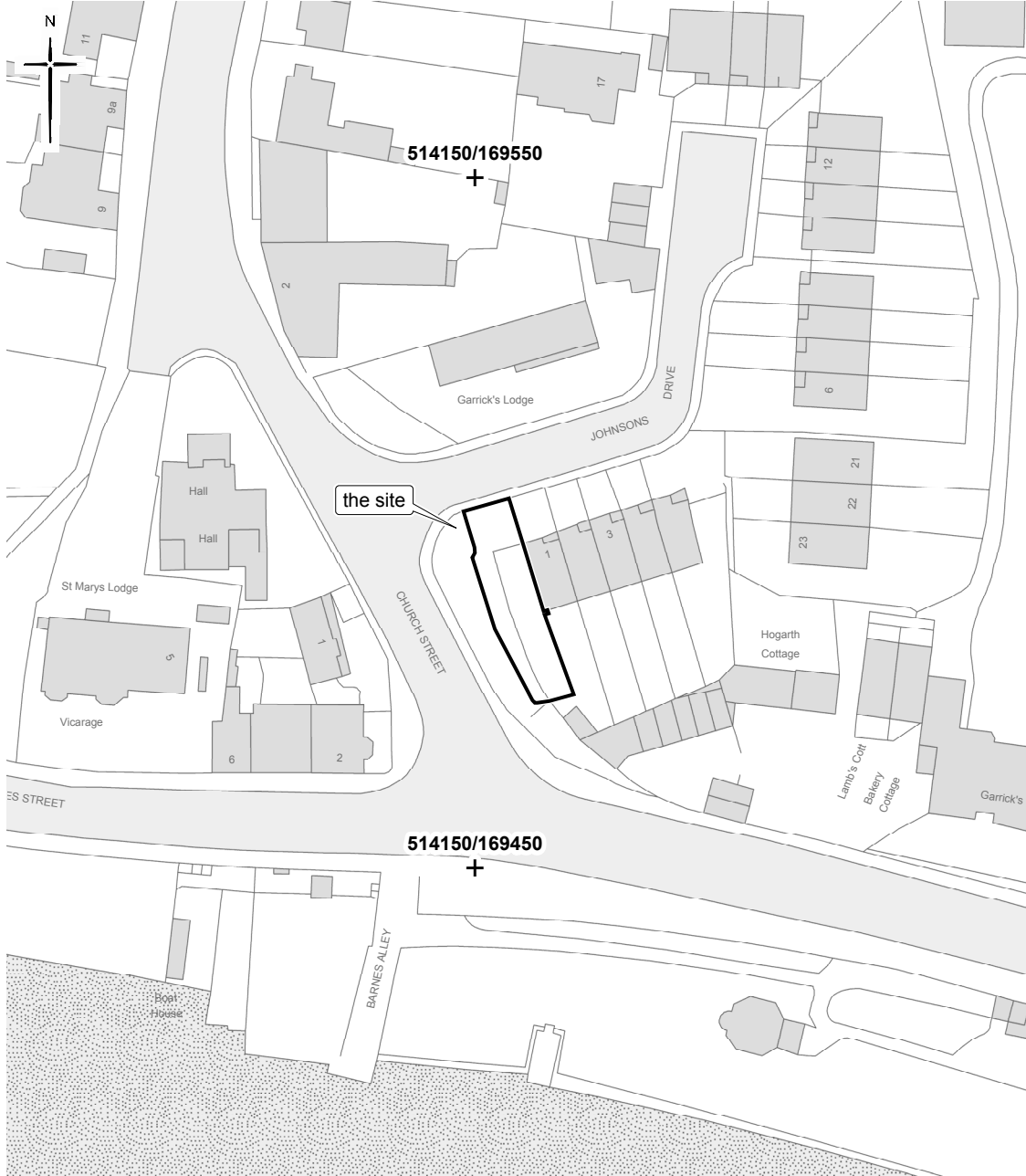
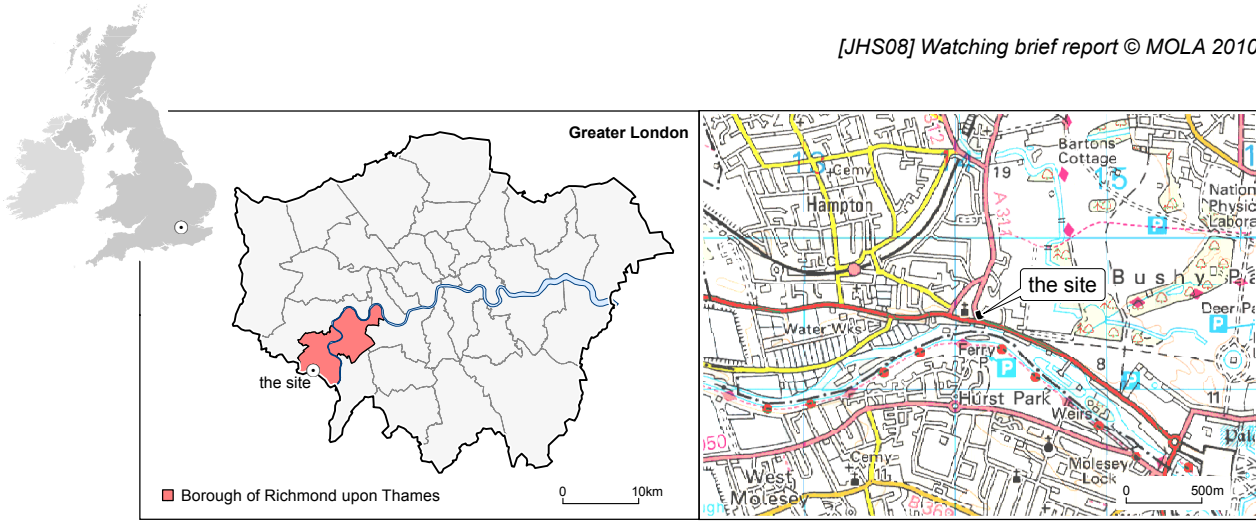
Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	1 Johnsons Drive, Hampton. Interim report on an archaeological watching brief.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Bowsher, JMC
Date	2010
Issuer or publisher	MOLAS
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	ring bound A4 report

Entered by	Julian Bowsher (jbowsher@museumoflondon.org.uk)
Entered on	6 April 2010



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Scale 1:1,000 @ A4

0 50m

Fig 1 Site location



Fig 2 Test pit location

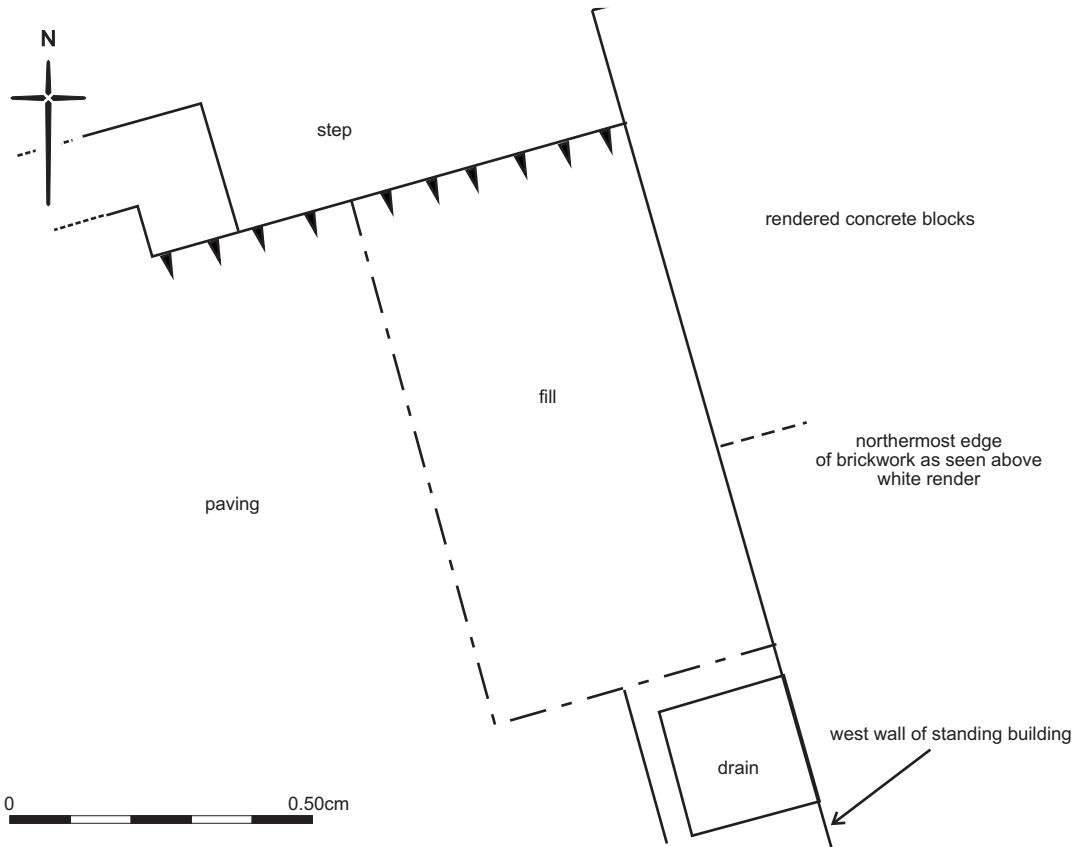


Fig 3 Test Pit 1, plan

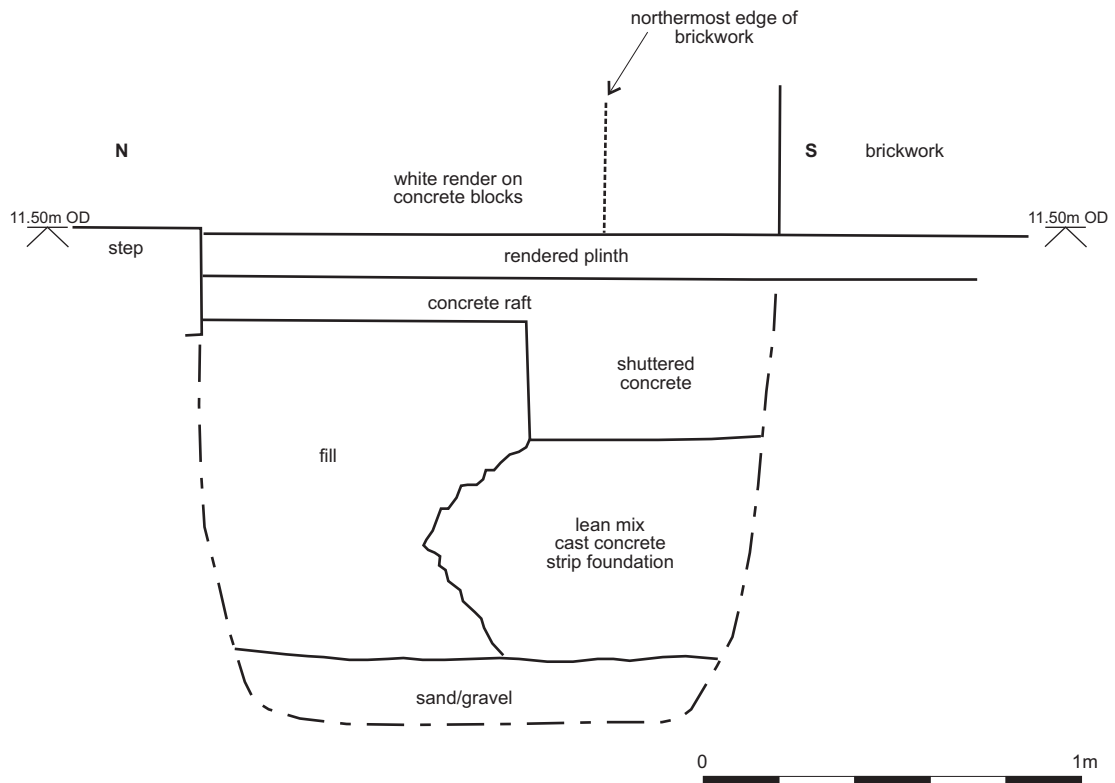


Fig 4 Test Pit 1, west facing section

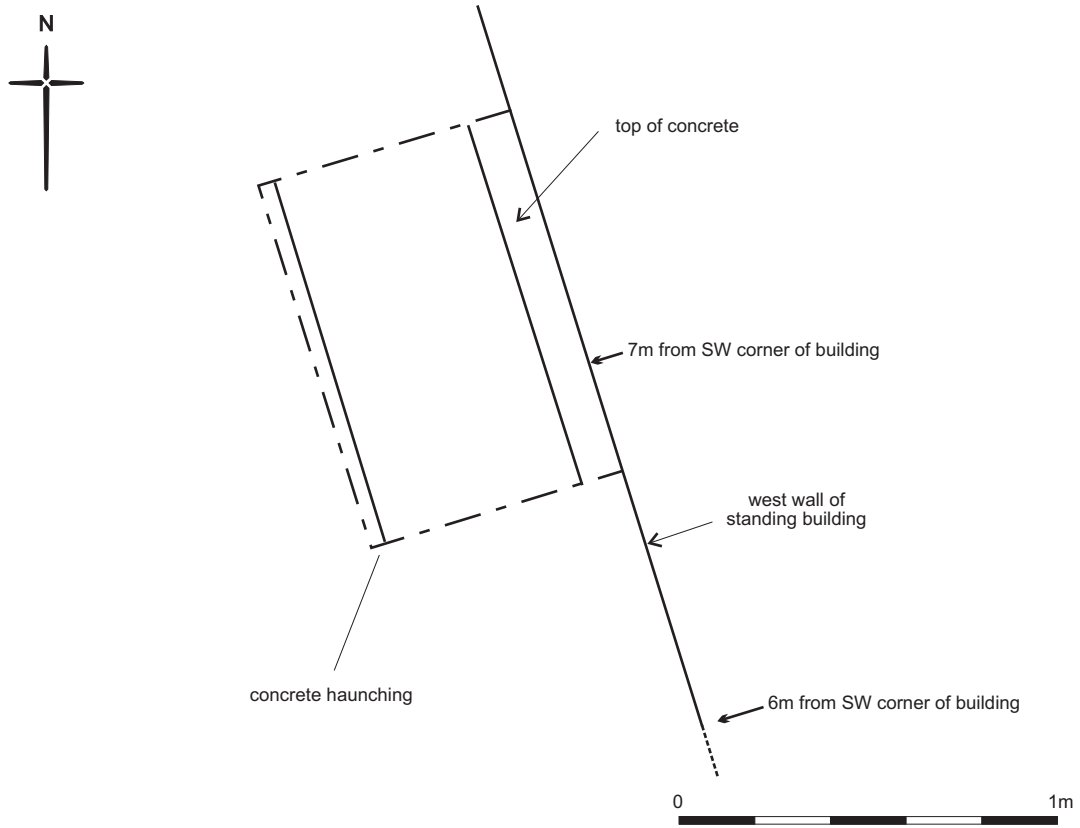


Fig 5 Test Pit 2, plan

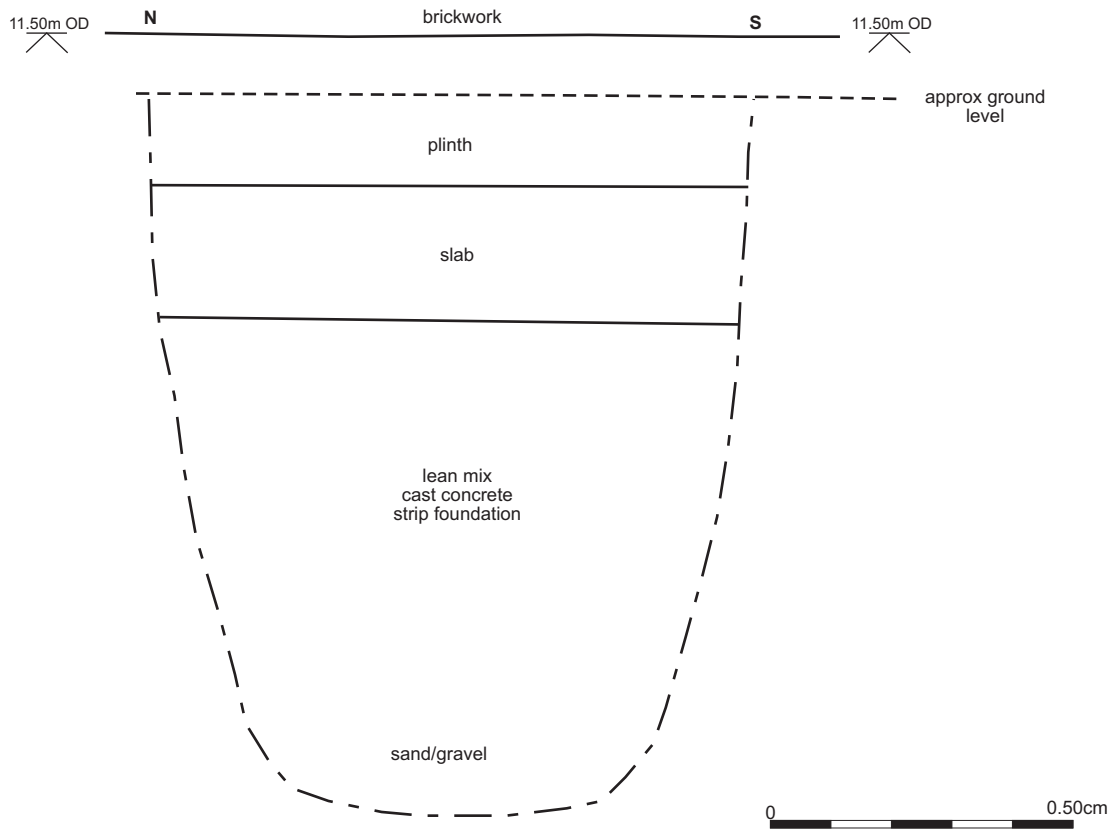


Fig 6 Test Pit 2, west facing section

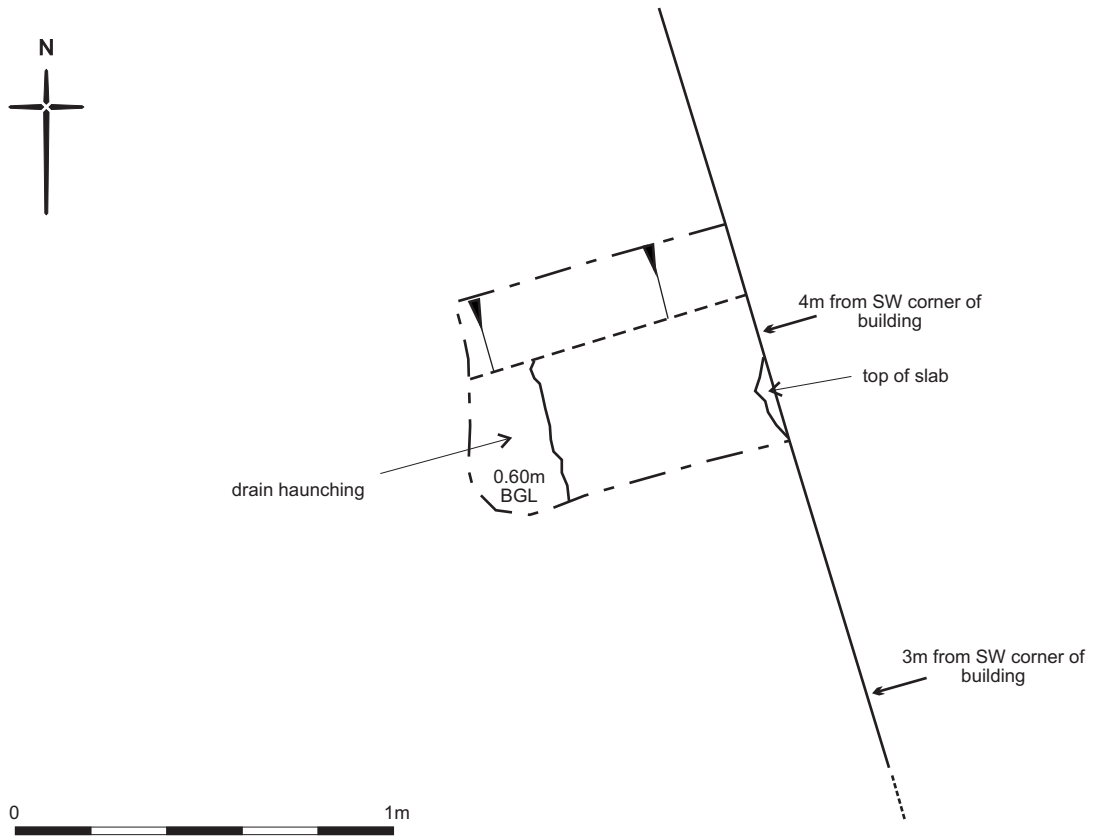


Fig 7 Test Pit 3, plan

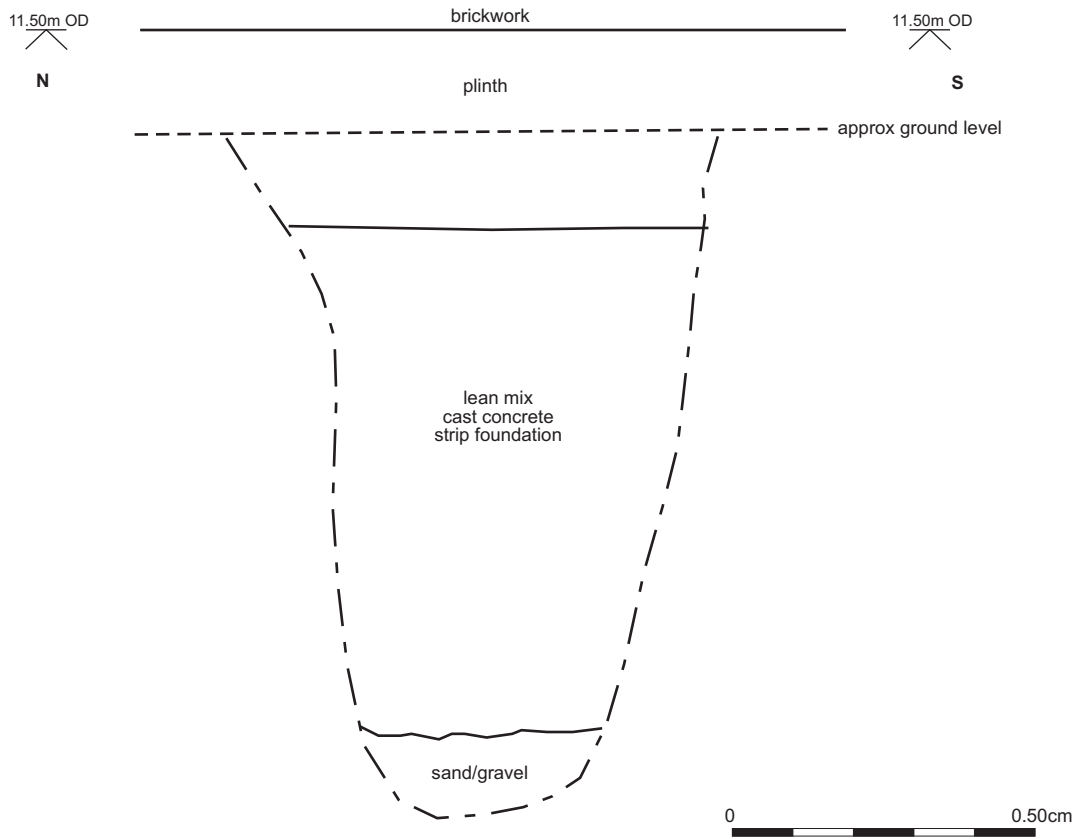


Fig 8 Test Pit 3, west facing section

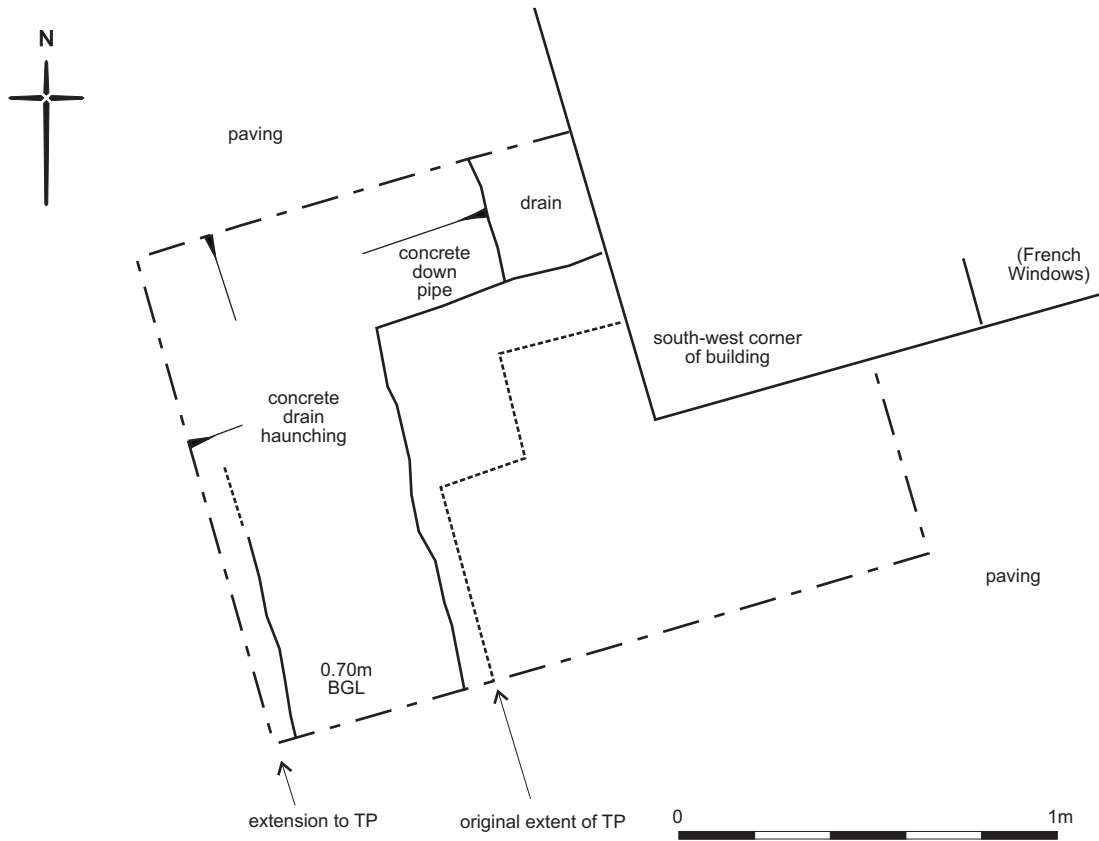


Fig 9 Test Pit 4, plan

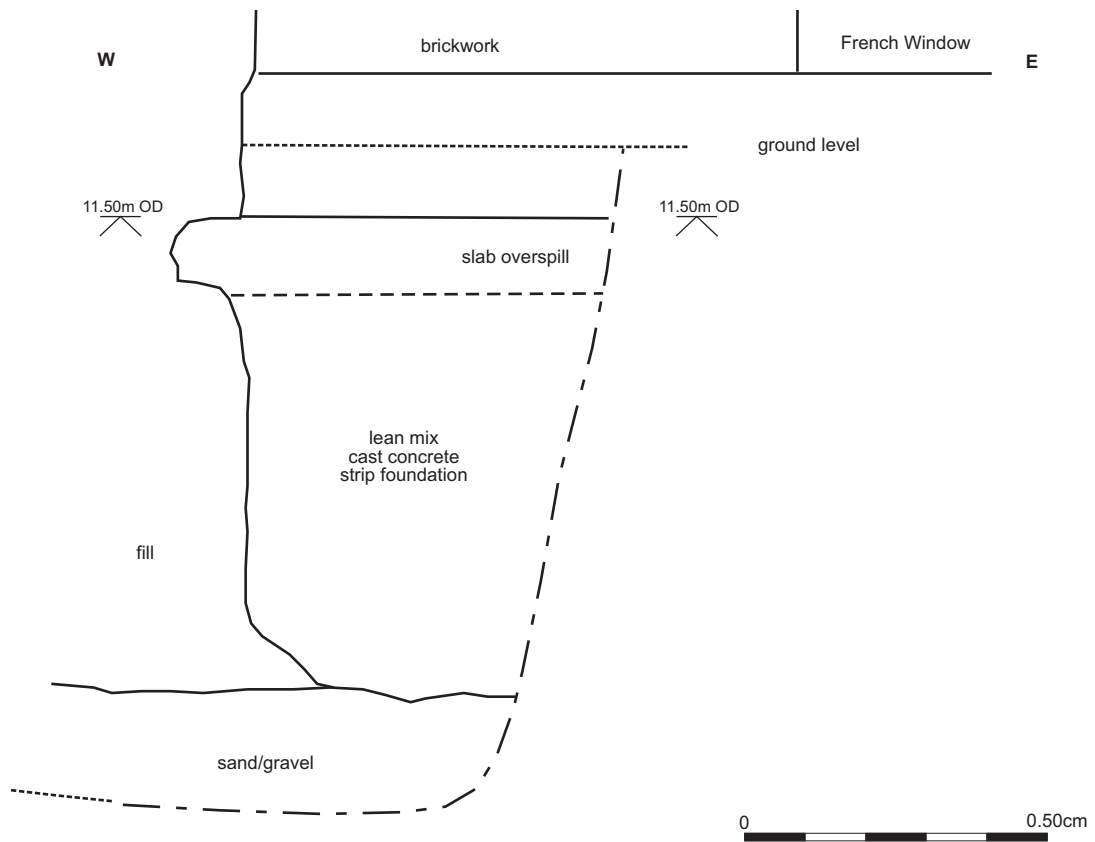


Fig 10 Test Pit 4, south facing section

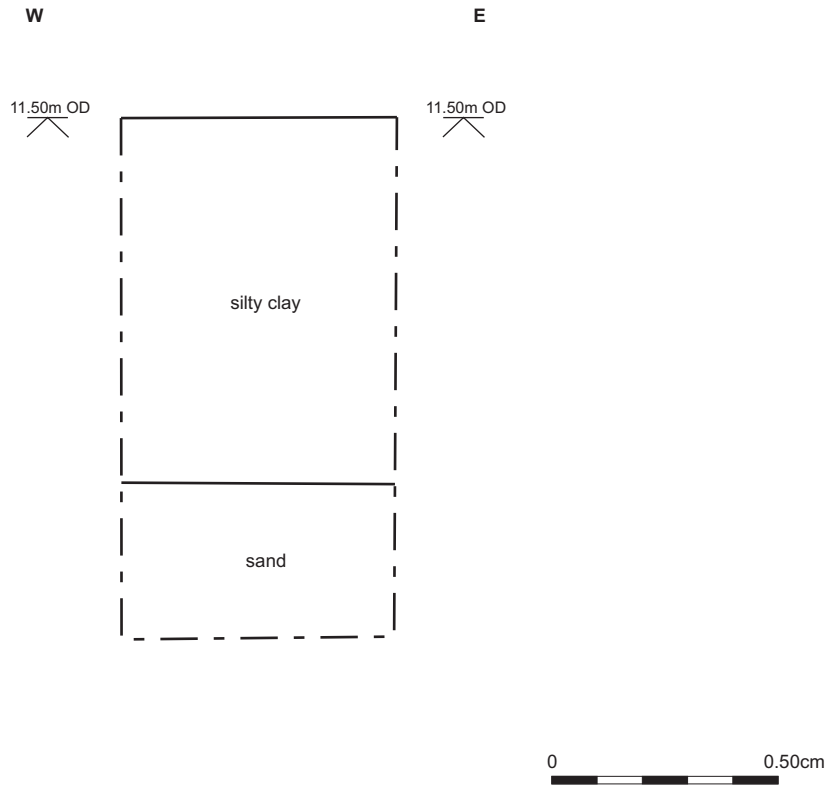


Fig 11 Test Pit 6, south facing section

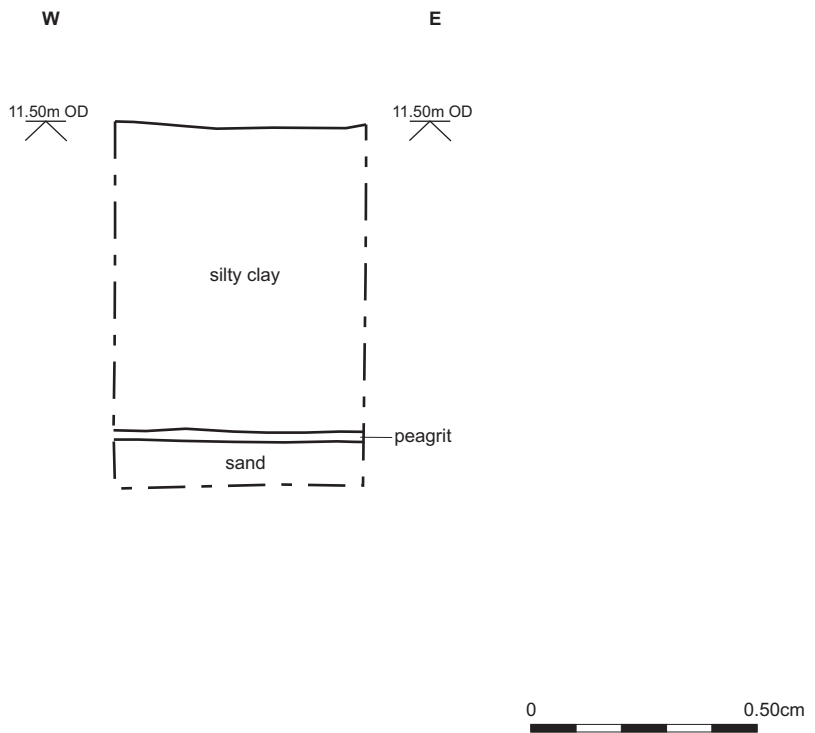


Fig 12 Test Pit 7, south facing section

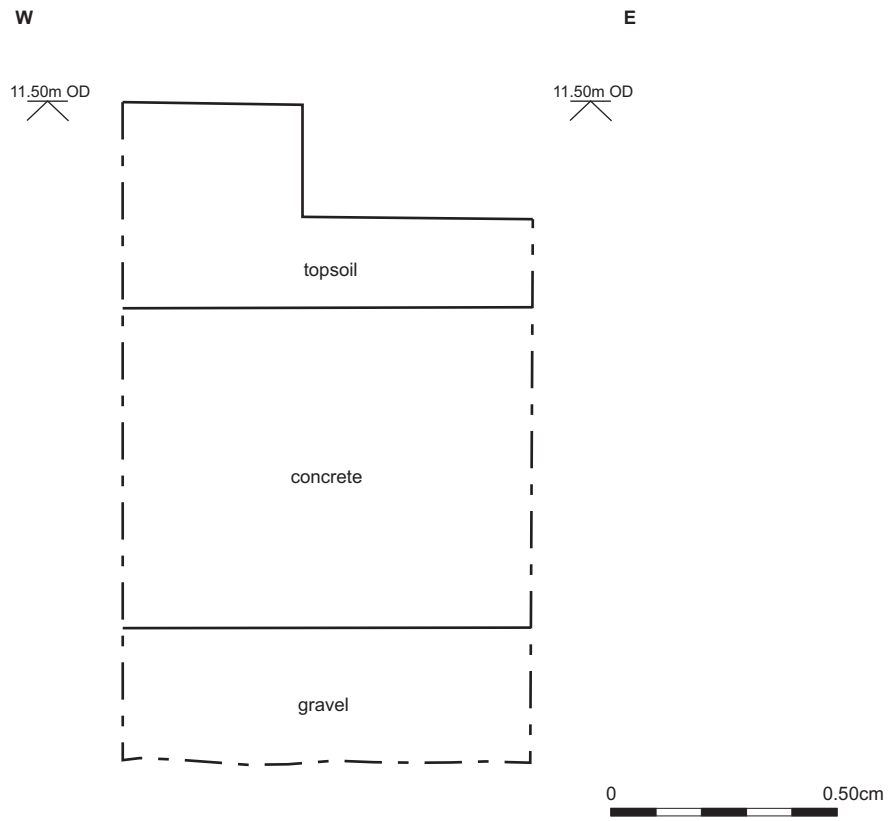


Fig 13 Test Pit 9, south facing section