

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION: LAND TO THE REAR OF 21 – 33 BRADGATE ROAD HINCKLEY LEICESTERSHIRE

on behalf of Bovis Homes Ltd.



Karin Semmelmann MA PIFA

October 2005

ASC: 725/HBR/02

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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	HBR	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	725
<i>Event No:</i>		<i>Accession No:</i>	X.A183.2005
<i>County:</i>	Leicestershire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Hinckley		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Hinckley		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 4397 9468		
<i>Present use:</i>	Residential garden		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Residential development		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	05/00590/REM		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Hinckley and Bosworth District Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	10-11 th October 2005		
<i>Client:</i>	Bovis Homes Limited Central Region Bromwich Court Highway Point Gorsey Lane Coleshill B46 1JU		
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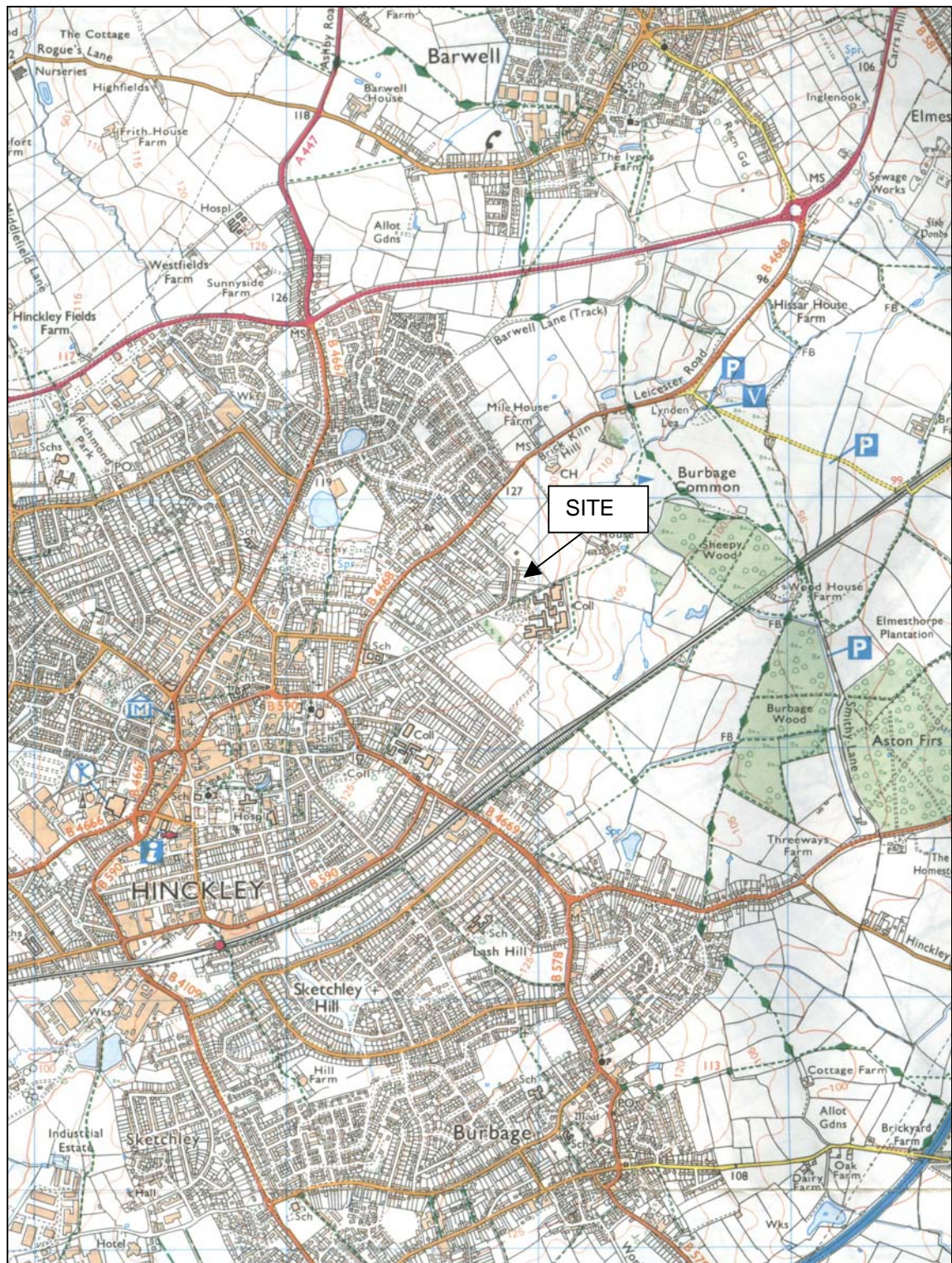


Figure 1: General location (*scale 1:25,000*)

Summary

In October 2005 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out an evaluation to the rear of 21-33 Bradgate Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire in response to a planning application for the erection of 16 dwellings and associated garages. Despite the archaeological evidence for nearby Romano-British settlements to the east and south-west of the site, the site itself yielded only modern features suggesting that it had been on the periphery of settlement activity until the area was developed in the later 20th century.

1 Introduction

1.1 In October 2005 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an evaluation to the rear of 21-33 Bradgate Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 4397 9468; Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Bovis Homes Ltd., and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Crank, 2005) following discussions with the Senior Planning Archaeologist (SPA) of Leicestershire County Council who was acting as archaeological advisor to the local planning authority (LPA), Hinckley and Bosworth District Council. The relevant planning application reference is 05/00590/REM.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16), in response to proposals for the construction of 16 dwellings and associated garages.

1.3 *Location*

The site is located on the north-eastern outskirts of Hinckley and comprises an irregular parcel of land (c.0.75 ha) formed from the rear garden of numbers 21-33 Bradgate Road and also including the house and street frontage of number 25. The site is largely overgrown and is lightly wooded on its periphery.

1.4 *Description*

The site is bounded by residential gardens to the north, by Butt Lane to the south, by fields to the east and by Bradgate Road to the west. The garden has a swimming pool towards the northern end and an all weather tennis court adjacent to the eastern boundary. Four small greenhouses and sheds are scattered around the garden.

1.5 *Geology & Topography*

The site occupies a gentle east-facing slope at an elevation of between 125-130m AOD. A slight natural terrace runs along the centre of the site from north east to south west, and a patio area to the north of the tennis courts appears to have been terraced in. The natural drift geology is Reddish Till (SSEW 1983; 5721) over Keuper Marl parent material (Taylor 1968).

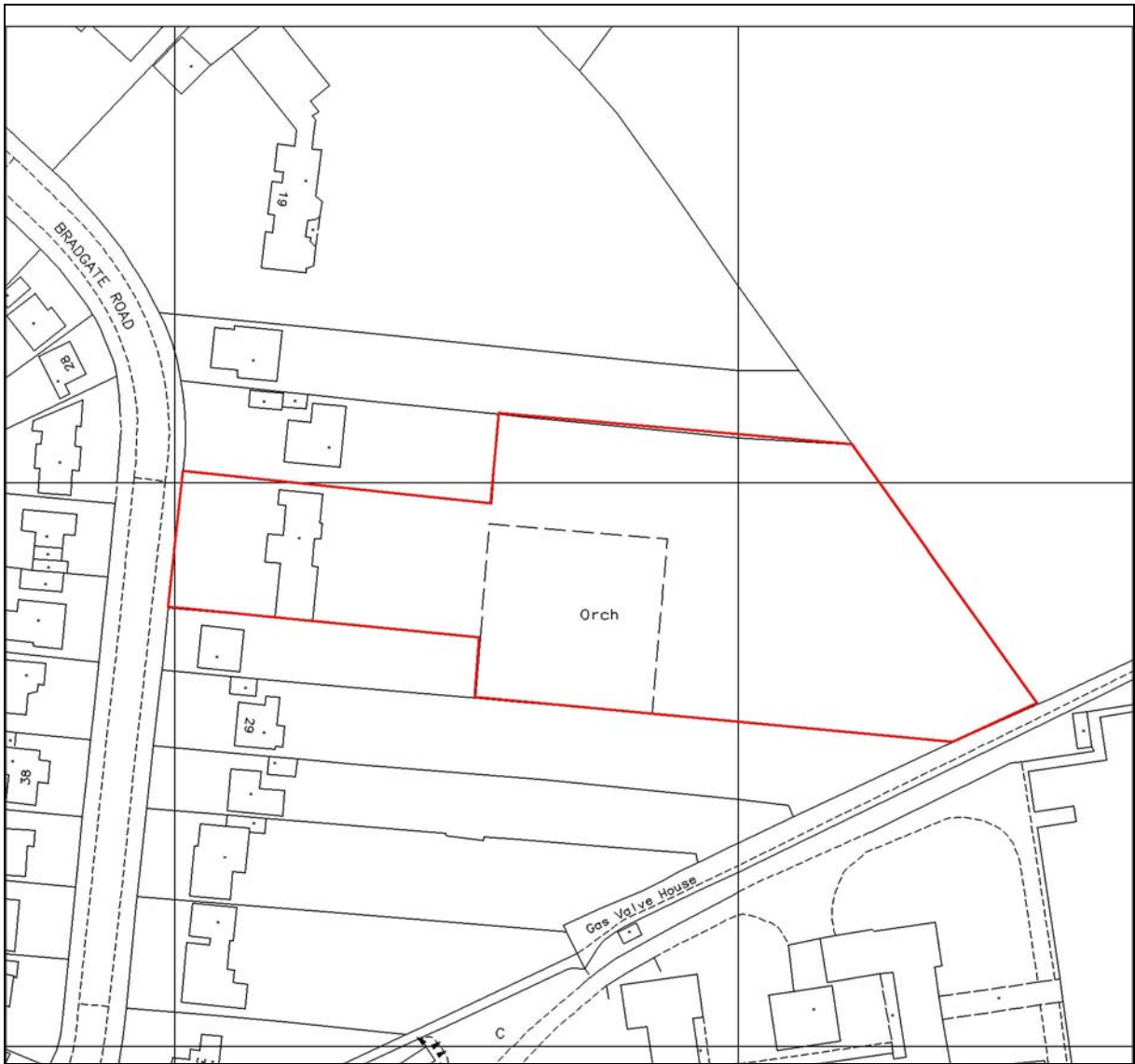


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

In line with standard requirements and following discussion with the SPA, the aims of the evaluation were:

- To establish the presence, character and significance of any buried archaeological deposits.

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 Methods

In line with standard requirements and following discussion with the SPA, the methods be adopted for this project were:

- Approximately 352m² of trial trenches were excavated to provide a 5% sample of the development area.
- The trenches were distributed across the site but with a particular bias to the eastern edge of the site towards the postulated Roman villa (Fig. 3).

3 Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 The site lies between two Romano-British sites possibly indicating the presence of high status settlements or villas in the vicinity. The first site (HER ref: MLE2834) is located just 150m to the east of the assessment site and was represented by a spread of material including a quernstone, tessera, pottery and tile. The second site (HER ref: MLE2895) comprised a similar spread of material some 500m to the south west. Further afield recent excavation of a Romano-British 'peasant' site at Coventry Road has demonstrated the potential the area has for a range of remains from this period (Liddle 2004).

4 Results

- 4.1 All of the trenches were excavated to the mid or reddish brown till that formed the natural drift geology of the site (see Appendix 1 for trench details). There were a few fragments of brick or tile in the overburden in most of the trenches but only two fragments of unstratified (post-medieval) pottery were encountered.
- 4.2 Trench 6 produced two features; a narrow gully running north-east to south-west [604] and disturbance caused by a heavily rooted shrub [602]. Gully [604], which was approximately 0.40m wide and 0.23m deep, was filled with topsoil that contained two sherds of modern pottery. Two modern pottery sherds were also recovered from feature [602].
- 4.3 Modern land drains were revealed in a number of trenches, most particularly in Trench 3, which lay south of the swimming pool. Further evidence of land management was witnessed in Trench 7 with a line of iron fence posts [703] and in Trench 8 where a 1m deep layer of re-deposited natural [802] lay immediately adjacent to the tennis court.



Plate 1: General site shot looking north



Plate 2: South east end of the site

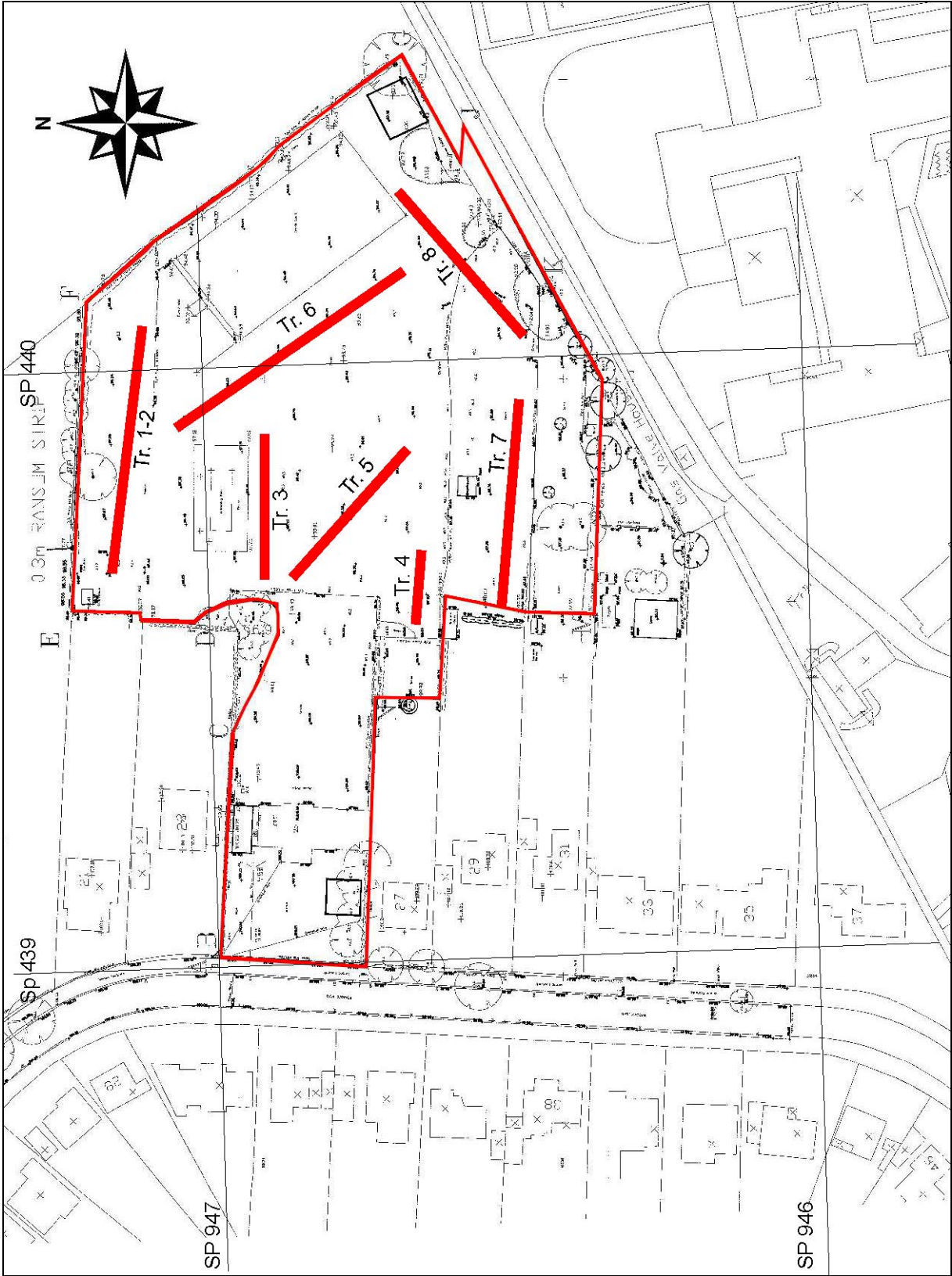


Figure 3: Trench location (Scale 1:1000)

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The site lies on the outskirts of modern Hinckley in an area that was developed in the later 20th century and was likely to have been farming land until that time. The trenches revealed a number of modern drains, a gully and the remains of a modern fence, all of which appeared to have been associated with recent site management. The general level of ground disturbance across the site was minimal, with the exception of the area to the south-west of the tennis court, which is likely to have been caused by the construction work itself.
- 5.2 The absence of pre-modern archaeological features would suggest that the site lay on the periphery of any settlement sites prior to the construction of the present house.
- 5.3 As the conditions were extremely good for the identification and investigation of archaeological features and deposits during the course of the fieldwork there is nothing to suggest a confidence rating that would be less than high.

6. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Bovis Homes Ltd. for commissioning and funding this project. Thanks are also due to the staff of the County Archaeology Office for monitoring and the work and providing the historical and archaeological background material.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Nicholas Crank, BA, AIFA and Karin Semmelmann, MA PIFA. The report was written by Karin Semmelmann and edited by Bob Zeepvat, BA MIFA.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site records
6. List of photographs
7. B/W prints & negatives
8. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with the East Midlands Museum.

8. References

Standards & Specifications

Crank, N.A. 2005 *Land to the rear of 21-33 Bradgate Road, Hinckley Leicestershire:a Project Design* ASC Ltd.

EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition. English Heritage (London).


IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.


IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance* documents (*Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds*).

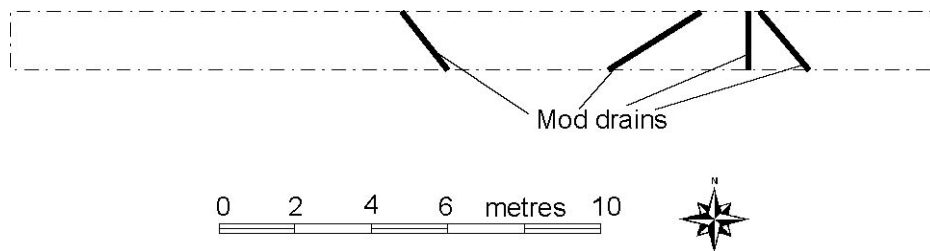
Secondary Sources

Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpندن).


Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables


Trench 1-2							
	Max Dimensions						
	Length	42m	Width	1.60m	Depth	0.51m	
	Relative Levels						
	Trench base west			101.91m OD			
	Trench top west			102.28m OD			
	Trench base east			99.77m OD			
	Trench top east			100.29m OD			
	NGR Co-ordinates						
	W	43966/ 94716		E	44007/ 947110		
	Orientation			E-W			
	Reason for Trench			Investigate northern end of the site			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation			Max Width (cm)	Max Thckn (cm)	Depth BGL (cm)
101	Dep	Topsoil			160	26	-
102	Dep	Natural (Yellowish brown sandy clay with frequent stones)			160	-	26


Trench 3							
	Max Dimensions						
	Length	24.50m	Width	1.60m	Depth	0.67m	
	Relative Levels						
	Trench base west			97.24m OD			
	Trench top west			97.94m OD			
	Trench base east			96.48m OD			
	Trench top east			96.91m OD			
	NGR Co-ordinates						
	W	43964/ 94692		E	43989/ 94691		
	Orientation			E-W			
Reason for Trench			Investigate area south of the pool				
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation			Max Width (cm)	Max Thckn (cm)	Depth BGL (cm)
301	Dep	Topsoil			160	0.33	-
302	Dep	Natural (Mid brown sand)			160	0.34	0.33

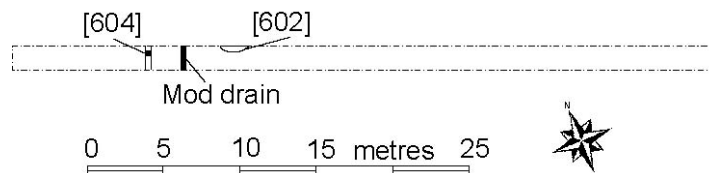


Trench 3 (Scale 1:200)

Trench 4							
	Max Dimensions						
	Length	12.50m	Width	1.60m	Depth	0.75m	
	Relative Levels						
	Trench base east			98.52m OD			
	Trench top east			99.99m OD			
	Trench base west			100.10m OD			
	Trench top west			100.90m OD			
	NGR Co-ordinates						
	W	43956/ 94667		E	43969/ 94665		
	Orientation			E-W			
	Reason for Trench			Investigate footprint of proposed house			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation			Max Width (cmm)	Max Thckn (cm)	Depth BGL (cm)
401	Dep	Topsoil			160	32	-
402	Dep	Natural (Reddish brown clay & sand)			160	33	32

Trench 5						
	Max Dimensions					
	Length	29.10m	Width	1.60m	Depth	0.82m
	Relative Levels					
	Trench base north-west			97.39m OD		
	Trench top north-west			97.87m OD		
	Trench base south-east			98.52m OD		
	Trench top south-east			98.85m OD		
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	NW	43965/ 94687		SE	43986/ 94667	
	Orientation			NW-SE		
Reason for Trench			Investigate central development area			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation		Max Width (cm)	Max Thckn (cm)	Depth BGL (cm)
501	Dep	Topsoil		160	17	-
502	Dep	Natural (Variable Till deposits)		160	65	17


Trench 6							
	Max Dimensions						
	Length	46.60m	Width	1.60m	Depth	0.66m	
	Relative Levels						
	Trench base north-west			98.73m OD			
	Trench top north-west			99.12m OD			
	Trench base south-east			96.50m OD			
	Trench top south-east			97.15m OD			
	NGR Co-ordinates						
	NW	43991/ 94705		SE	44015/ 94666		
	Orientation			NW-SE			
	Reason for Trench			Investigate area to the west of the tennis court			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation			Max Width (cm)	Max Thckn (cm)	Depth BGL (cm)
601	Fill	Topsoil fill of 602			36	5	66
602	Dip	Natural root action			36	5	66
603	Fill	Topsoil fill of gully 604			40	23	66
604	Cut	Gully			40	23	66
605	Dep	Topsoil			160	25	-
606	Dep	Natural (Reddish brown clay & sand)			160	41	25

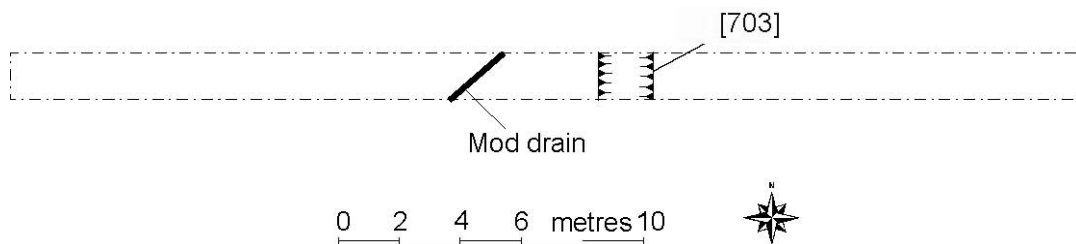


Trench 6 (Scale 1 to 500)




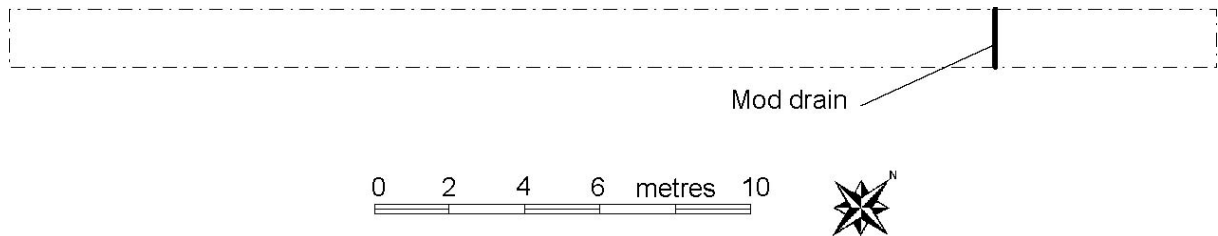
North-east facing section of gully [604]

Trench 7						
	Max Dimensions					
	Length	35.30m	Width	1.60m	Depth	0.62m
	Relative Levels					
	Trench base east			104.24m OD		
	Trench top east			104.62m OD		
	Trench base west			108.04m OD		
	Trench top west			108.63m OD		
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	W	43958/ 94652		E	43994/ 97648	
	Orientation			E-W		
Reason for Trench			Investigate southern end of the site			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation		Max Width (cm)	Max Thckn (cm)	Depth BGL (cm)
701	Dep	Topsoil		160	30	-
702	Dep	Natural (Reddish brown clay & sand)		160	32	30
703	Feat	Former fence		-	-	-



Trench 7 (Scale 1:250)

Trench 8						
	Max Dimensions					
	Length	32.30m	Width	1.60m	Depth	1.01m
	Relative Levels					
	Trench base north-east			102.01m OD		
	Trench top north-east			103.02m OD		
	Trench base south-west			103.50m OD		
	Trench top south-west			103.76m OD		
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	W	44003/ 94647		E	44029/ 94668	
	Orientation			NE-SW		
Reason for Trench			Investigate south-east corner of the site			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation		Max Width (cmm)	Max Thckn (cm)	Depth BGL (cm)
801	Dep	Topsoil		160	17	-
802	Layer	Redeposited natural		160	72	17
803	Dep	Natural (Mid brown & reddish brown clay)		160	-	84



Trench 8 (Scale 1:200)