

Archaeological Excavation
at junction of
CRESWICKE ROAD AND GERRARD CLOSE,
FILWOOD, BRISTOL.
for
Knightstone Housing Association



Report No. 2645/2012
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By Cai Mason



Bristol and Region Archaeological Services



St. Nicholas Church, St. Nicholas Street, Bristol, BS1 1UE. Tel: (0117) 903 9010



Archaeological Excavation
at the junction of
CRESWICKE ROAD AND GERRARD CLOSE,
FILWOOD, BRISTOL.

Centred on
N.G.R. ST 58890 69250

Client: Knightstone Housing Association
Agent: E.G. Carter & Co. Ltd.

<i>Author:</i>	Cai Mason
<i>email:</i>	cai.mason@bristol.gov.uk
<i>Approved by:</i>	John Bryant
<i>Signature:</i>	 
<i>Date Issued:</i>	3 April 2012

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Abbreviations

AD	Anno Domini	Km	Kilometre
aOD	Above Ordnance Datum	m	Metre
BaRAS	Bristol & Region Archaeological Services	NGR	National Grid Reference
BC	Before Christ	NMR	National Monuments Record
c.	Circa	OS	Ordnance Survey
DCLG:	Dept for Communities & Local Government	PPS5	Planning Policy Statement 5
HER	Historic Environment Record		

NOTE

Notwithstanding that Bristol and Region Archaeological Services have taken reasonable care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known and recorded archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

April, 2012.

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SUMMARY

An archaeological excavation was undertaken prior to the development of land at Creswicke Road and Gerrard Close, Filwood, Bristol. The archaeological work revealed a simple sequence of imported topsoil and modern made ground overlying truncated natural. A single sherd of residual Roman pottery was recovered from the made ground.

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Cover Northern half of the site, viewed from the east

Plate 1 Representative soil profile, viewed from the south-east

Plate 2 Southern half of the site, viewed from the south-west

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the results of archaeological excavation carried out by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) on land at Creswicke Road and Gerrard Close, Filwood, Bristol.
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by E.G. Carter & Co. Ltd. on behalf of Knightstone Housing Association in order to comply with planning conditions 8, 9, 10 & 11, (Planning Application No. 09/03394/F) for the construction of a three new houses.
- 1.3 The archaeological work took place between the 26th and 27th of March 2012.
- 1.4 The project archive will be deposited with Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery under the Accession Number BRSMG 2012/11 and a digital copy of the report will be sent to the National Monuments Record maintained by English Heritage. The project has been entered in the Bristol Historic Environment Record as: BHER 25102 and in the OASIS Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations as: bristola1-121589.

2. THE SITE

- 2.1 The site (centred on ST 58890 69250) is situated on open land at the corner of Creswicke Road and Gerrard Close, in the Filwood area of south Bristol (**Figs 1 & 2**). This site is bounded by Creswicke Road to the north-west, Gerrard Close to the south-west, No. 225 Creswicke Road to the north-east and by a car park to the rear of Nos. 227 – 237 Creswicke Road to the south-east.
- 2.2 The site lies at *c* 59m aOD and slopes gently towards the south. According to the British Geological Survey (2012) the solid geology comprises Jurassic limestones and mudstones of the Rugby Member.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Historically the site lay within the ancient parish of Bedminster, close to the boundary with Whitechurch parish. In 1982 a Romano-British settlement comprising buildings and enclosures was uncovered during landscaping works in Filwood Park only *c* 150 east of the site (Williams 1983); further remains associated with this settlement were excavated in 1998 (Cox 1999). In 1997 the remains of three substantial stone-built Romano-British buildings were excavated at Inns Court *c* 100m to the WSW (Jackson 2007). These remains may all form part of a single dispersed settlement.
- 3.2 Inns Court was a medieval manor house, but there is no evidence of any activity on the site itself in the medieval or post-medieval periods. Historic maps show the area remained agricultural land until the middle of the 20th century. In 1933 the site was absorbed within the boundaries of the City and County of Bristol, by which point the area to the north had been developed into a large inter-war housing estate. By 1938 the eastern end of Creswicke Road had been laid out, but the site itself remained undeveloped. By 1948 the remainder of Creswicke Road had been laid out with temporary housing (prefab houses) lining both sides of the road. For reasons unclear, occasional gaps were left between the prefabs, this site being one of them. In the 1970s the prefabs were removed and replaced with the current rows of social housing. The site was left as an area of open land with a row of garages along its south-west side; the garages were removed relatively recently.

4. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the methodology outlined in a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Bryant 2012) and complied with the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Excavation* (IfA 2008). The aim of the archaeological work was to record any archaeological features or deposits revealed prior to the redevelopment of the site.
- 4.2 The archaeological work comprised excavating a rectangular area measuring *c* 120m² within the footprint of the proposed buildings. A thin strip along the southern edge of the building footprint was left unexcavated due to the presence of a live street lighting cable. Due to the restricted area available for stockpiling spoil the building footprint was excavated in halves (**Cover & Plate 2**).
- 4.3 Topsoil and modern made ground were stripped using a JCB type mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. Mechanical excavation continued until undisturbed natural deposits were encountered.
- 4.4 The site was recorded in accordance with the BaRAS Site Recording Manual (BaRAS 2005).

5. RESULTS

- 5.1 The archaeological work revealed simple sequence of horizontal deposits (**Plate 1**). No archaeological features were uncovered.
- 5.2 The natural geology of the site comprises interbedded clay and limestone bedrock (103), overlain by a 0.20m thick layer of compact dark olive-brown silty clay made ground (102), that contained concrete, stone, brick, modern glass and coal inclusions. Layer (102) was by a 0.10m thick layer of compact mid-grey angular gravel (101), which was in turn overlain by a 0.30m thick layer of soft mid-brown silty clay topsoil (100), containing small angular stones, brick fragments, plastic, metal and modern glass.
- 5.3 Several large irregular concrete footings/bases were also uncovered, some of which appear to have held wooden posts. These did not form a coherent pattern, and are probably associated with temporary structures erected when the area was re-developed in the 1970s.
- 5.4 A single sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from layer (102). This can be identified as a base sherd from a Severn Valley Ware carinated bowl. Sherds of this pottery, which is abundant on sites in the region in the 2nd and 3rd century (Tyers 1996), were found during the excavations at nearby Inns Court (Jackson 2007). The presence of a residual sherd of Romano-British pottery on this site is unsurprising given its proximity to a known settlement(s), and is not indicative of occupation on the site itself.

6. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1. No archaeological features were uncovered on the site, and apart from a single sherd of residual Romano-British pottery there were no finds.
- 6.2. The fact that the natural geology was directly overlain by modern made ground suggests that the site probably suffered some degree of horizontal truncation in the 1940s and/or when the area was redeveloped in the 1970s.
- 6.3. The absence of any Romano-British remains may indicate that the settlement(s) at Inns Court and Filwood Park did not extend as far as this site. However, given that the site has probably been truncated, it may be that any such remains have simply been destroyed by 20th century development.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES CONSULTED

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8. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 8.1 BaRAS would like to thank Carter Construction for funding the project. We would also like to thank Mathew Vye (Regional Manager, Carter Construction) and Brett Freeston (Surveyor, Carter Construction) for their assistance throughout the project, and Bob Jones (BCC Archaeological Officer) for his advice.
- 8.2 The archaeological work was managed by John Bryant (Acting Manager BaRAS). Plans, figures and plates in this report were prepared by Ann Linge (Design and Production Officer BaRAS). The archaeological work was undertaken by Cai Mason (Project Officer BaRAS) and Roy Krakowicz.

APPENDIX 1: Policy Statement

This report is the result of work carried out in the light of national and local authority policies.

NATIONAL POLICIES

Statutory protection for archaeology is enshrined in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), amended by the National Heritage Act, 1983. Nationally important sites are listed in the Schedule of Ancient Monuments (SAM). Scheduled Monument consent is required for any work that would affect a SAM.

GOVERNMENT POLICY GUIDANCE

Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (1994) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (1990) have been replaced (23 March 2010) by Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (2010) which sets out the Government's national policies on conservation of the historic environment. Those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are called heritage assets.

Of particular relevance within the Planning Policy Statement are:

Policy HE6: Information Requirements for Applications for Consent Affecting Heritage Assets

HE6.1 Local planning authorities should require an applicant to provide a description of the significance of the heritage assets affected and the contribution of their setting to that significance. The level of detail should be proportionate to the importance of the heritage asset and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on the significance of the heritage asset. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets themselves should have been assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary given the application's impact. Where an application site includes, or is considered to have the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where desk-based research is insufficient to properly assess the interest, a field evaluation.

Policy HE9: Additional Policy Principles Guiding the Consideration of Applications for Consent Relating to Designated Heritage Assets

HE9.1 There should be a presumption in favour of the conservation of designated heritage assets and the more significant the designated heritage asset, the greater the presumption in favour of its conservation should be. Once lost, heritage assets cannot be replaced and their loss has a cultural, environmental, economic and social impact. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. Loss affecting any designated heritage asset should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, including scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I or II* listed buildings and grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.

Policy HE12: Policy Principles Guiding the Recording of Information Related to Heritage Assets

HE12.3 Where the loss of the whole or a material part of a heritage asset's significance is justified, local planning authorities should require the developer to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is lost, using planning conditions or obligations as appropriate. The extent of the requirement should be proportionate to the nature and level of the asset's significance. Developers should publish this evidence and deposit copies of the reports with the relevant historic environment record. Local planning authorities should require any archive generated to be deposited with a local museum or other public depository willing to receive it. Local planning authorities should impose planning conditions or obligations to ensure such work is carried out in a timely manner and that the completion of the exercise is properly secured.

DISTRICT POLICY

Bristol City Council Supplementary Planning Document (2006) states (policy SPD No.7, p4):

- (i) There will be a presumption in favour of preserving any archaeological features or sites of national importance, whether scheduled or not.
- (ii) Development which could adversely affect sites, structures, landscapes or buildings of archaeological interest and their settings will require an assessment of the archaeological resource through a desktop study, and where appropriate a field evaluation. Where there is evidence of archaeological remains, development will not be permitted except where it can be demonstrated that the archaeological features of the site will be satisfactorily preserved in situ, or a suitable strategy has been put forward to mitigate the impact of development proposals upon important archaeological remains and their settings; or, if this is not possible and the sites are not scheduled or of national importance, provision for adequately recording the site prior to destruction is made, preferably by negotiating a planning agreement to ensure that access, time and financial resources are available to allow essential recording and publication to take place

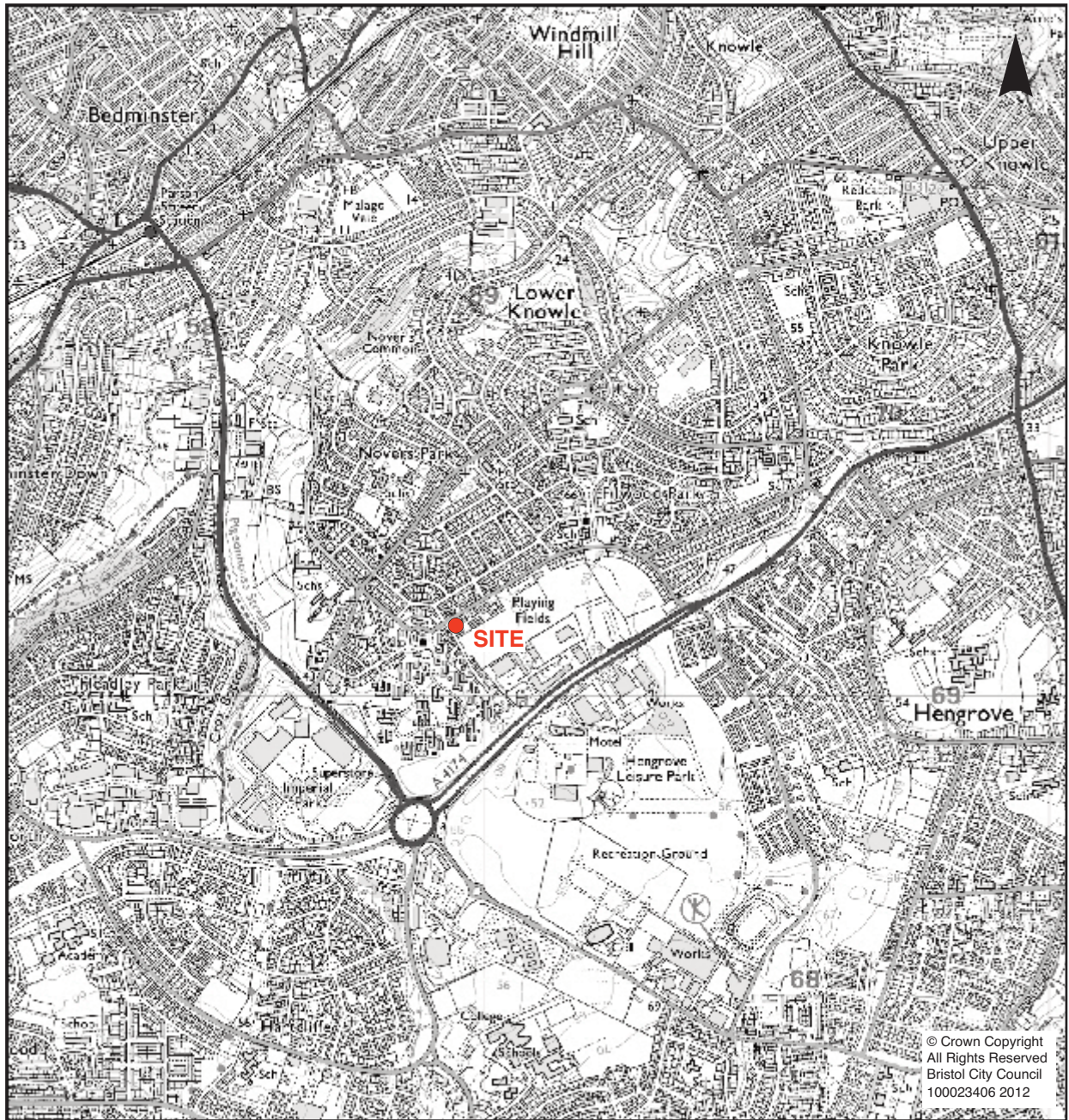


Fig.1 Site location plan, scale 1:25,000

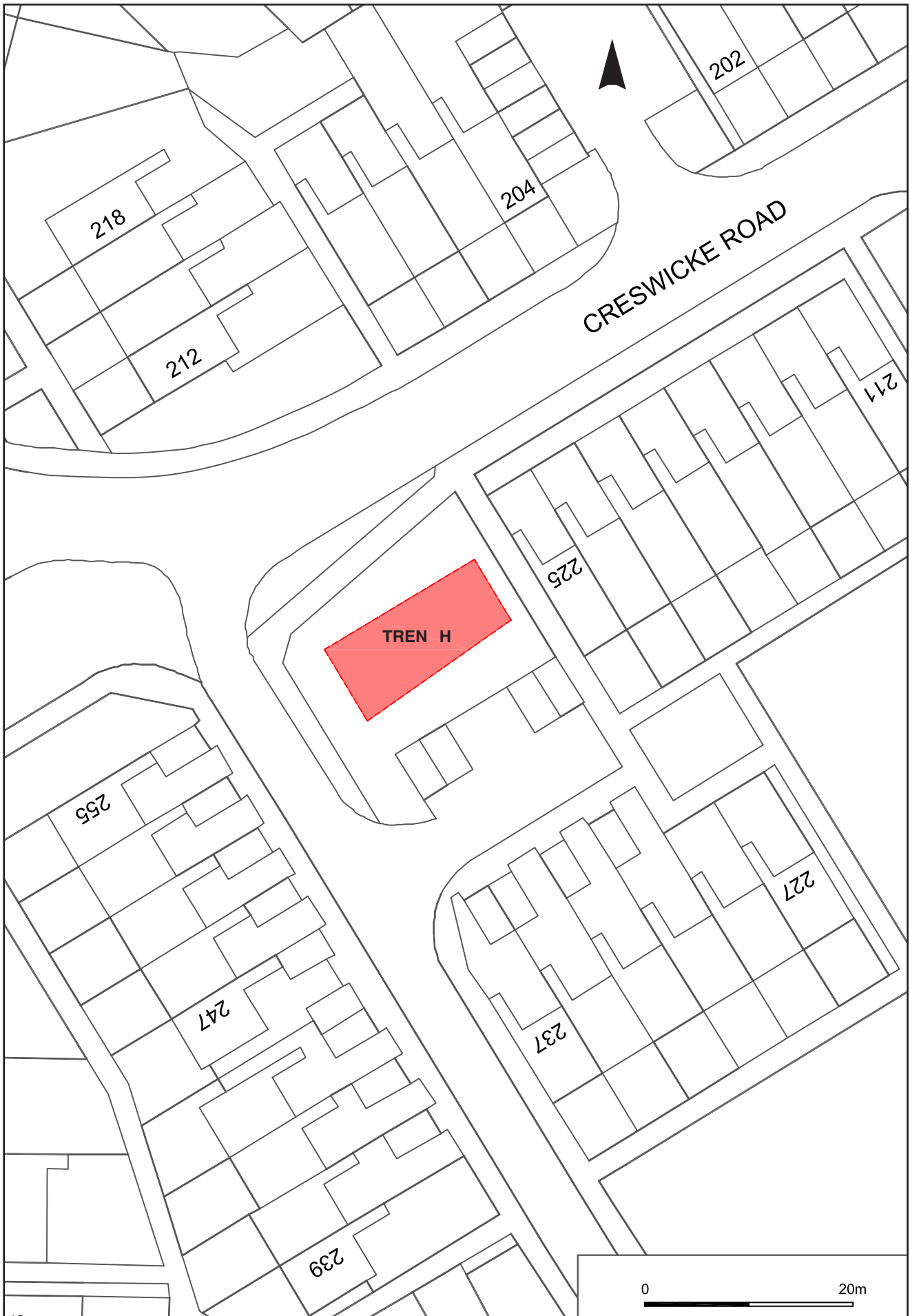


Fig.2 Site plan, scale 1:500



Plate 1
Representative soil
profile, viewed from
the south-east



Plate 2
Southern half of the site,
viewed from the south-
west