

Archaeological Evaluation

BRSMG 2009/84

of land at

**THE PIGGERIES,
CASTLE ROAD, OLDLAND COMMON,
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**

for

Mr & Mrs N. Long



Report No. 2154/2010
SGSMR No. 19085



Bristol and Region Archaeological Services

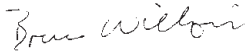

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Archaeological Evaluation
of land at
THE PIGGERIES,
CASTLE ROAD, OLDLAND COMMON,
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Centred on
N.G.R. ST 67478 71312

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Agent: Chris Calcutt

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<i>Date Issued:</i>	15th February 2010 

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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
HER	Historic Environment Record	OS	Ordnance Survey
c.	Circa		

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.

February, 2010.

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SUMMARY

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation at The Piggeries, Castle Road, Oldland Common, South Gloucestershire, BS30 9SZ prior to the redevelopment of the site with the construction of three dwellings. The site (centred on NGR ST 67478 71312) lies in Oldland Common in the parish of Bitton, approximately 11km east of Bristol city centre. The development area covers 0.15 hectares (0.37 acres) and stands at a height of approximately 40m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and is bounded to the west by properties facing on to High Street, north by Castle Road, south and east by private dwellings. The site was previously occupied by a pig rearing unit.

The evaluation located the cutting for the dramway in the south-west end of the site, and excavated it to a depth of 1.4m below the current ground level. No other features or finds associated with the dramway were found, and a mixed rubble deposit filled the cutting. No archaeological features or deposits predating the dramway were encountered, and modern features such as drainage cut through the fill deposit. The topsoil layer overlying the earlier deposits had experienced considerable modern disturbance.

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- Plate 1 Trench 1, from the south-east
- Plate 2 North-east facing section of Trench 1

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) were commissioned by Chris Calcutt on behalf of Mr and Mrs N. Long to undertake an archaeological evaluation at The Piggeries, Castle Road, Oldland Common, South Gloucestershire, BS30 9SZ prior to the redevelopment of the site with the construction of three dwellings.
- 1.2 The evaluation was commissioned to comply with the condition of planning proposal (PK07/11503/O) and in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS 2009). The work was monitored by David Evans (Historic Environment Record Officer of Planning and Environment at South Gloucestershire Council) on 15 December 2009.
- 1.3 The fieldwork was undertaken on 15/12/09 under the supervision of Simon Roper who also compiled this report.
- 1.4 The project archive will be deposited with Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery under the Accession Number BRSMG 2009/84 and a copy of the report will be sent to the National Monuments Record maintained by English Heritage. The project has been entered in the South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record as: SGSMR 19085 and in the OASIS Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations as: bristola1-69253.

2. THE SITE

- 2.1 The site (centred on NGR ST 67478 71312) lies in Oldland Common in the parish of Bitton, approximately 11km east of Bristol city centre (**Fig 1**). The development area covers 0.15 hectares (0.37 acres) and stands at a height of approximately 40m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and is bounded to the west by properties facing on to High Street, north by Castle Road, south and east by private dwellings. The site was previously occupied by a pig rearing unit.
- 2.2 The geology comprises Pennant sandstone which overlies deposits of upper carboniferous coal measures of the Kingswood Anticline, including seams of Parrot, Buff, Millgrit and Rag.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 No previous archaeological assessment has been carried out on the site or within close proximity to the site. These are archaeological sites in the local area and spot finds that have been recovered in the past.
- 3.2 The course of a Roman road running north to south is located approximately 100m to the west of the site, linking up with the Roman Sea Mills to Bath road at Willsbridge.
- 3.3 Oldland is mentioned in the Doomesday Book of 1086 (“Aldeland”, meaning ‘old tract of land’) and was owned by Osbern, Bishop of Exeter. The area has also gone under the names Holande, Oldelond, Wholdland (1564, Wooland (Elizabethan era), Ouldland (1661) and Eland.
- 3.4 The line of the local Dramway is known to have passed through the site. The Dramway, or Avon and Gloucestershire Railway, was one of the last horse drawn railways to be built in this country. Its name derived from the ‘drams’ or carts, which were used to carry coal from the local collieries to the river Avon. Construction of the railway began in 1829, with sections opening between 1830 and 1834, and the line remaining in use until 1866. The railway was constructed from cast iron ‘fish-belly’ rails, which were curved underneath to provide additional strength, and were fixed onto locally quarried limestone blocks.

4. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork complied with the methodology contained within the Written Scheme of Investigation (BaRAS 2009) and the brief prepared by David Evans (Historic Environment Record Officer of Planning and Environment at South Gloucestershire Council). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the IFA's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (IFA 1999) and Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP II) issued by English Heritage (EH 1991).
- 4.2 It was the aim of the evaluation to establish if archaeological deposits lay within the application area and to determine their extent, date, preservation and character. The results of the evaluation will inform the subsequent conditional archaeological planning response, if any, for the site.
- 4.3 A total of two evaluation trenches were intended to be excavated, however due to the waterlogged nature of the site the second trench had to be abandoned. The remaining trench was excavated using a JCB mechanical excavator utilising a toothless grading bucket to the first significant archaeological or geological strata. After the machine excavation the trench was cleaned using hand tools.
- 4.4 Geological and archaeological features were excavated and recorded in accordance with the BaRAS Site Recording Manual (BaRAS 2009). Recording was carried out using the BaRAS single context recording system. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at scales of 1:20. A full photographic record comprising all stratigraphic units and working shots was kept on 35mm monochrome film and colour digital format.

5. RESULTS

Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

- 5.1 Trench 1 was situated at the south-west end of the site. The trench measured 8m by 1.5m and was oriented in a north-west/south-east direction.
- 5.2 The natural substrata was encountered at 41.93m aOD and was cut by the dramway cutting (0003), which was filled by a rubble deposit (0004) comprising of blue clay, brick fragments and Pennant sandstone. The cutting was found to be 5.8m wide and was excavated to a depth of 1.4m deep without the base of the cut being located, with further excavation halted at this point for Health and Safety reasons due to the loose nature of the fill. No additional features or finds relating to the dramway such as rails or sleeper blocks were located. Fill (0004) was itself cut by a modern drain (0005) running down the site. Overlying all was topsoil deposit (0001) heavily disturbed by recent activity on the site, 0.3m deep.

Trench 2

- 5.3 Trench 2 was to be situated to the north-east of Trench 1, however the waterlogged nature of the ground in this area of the site, in conjunction with the fact that much of the area had been recently disturbed in excavating a geo-technical pit, lead to a decision to abandon this trench.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The evaluation located the dramway cutting in the south-west end of the site, and excavated it to a depth of 1.4m below the current ground level. No other features or finds associated with the dramway were found, and a mixed rubble deposit filled the cutting. No archaeological features or deposits predating the dramway were encountered, and modern features such as drainage cut through the fill deposit. The topsoil layer overlying the earlier deposits had experienced considerable modern disturbance.

7. PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Roper who also produced this report. The illustrations were prepared and the report compiled by Ann Linge. The archive was compiled and prepared for deposition by Simon Roper. The project was managed by Bruce Williams.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES CONSULTED

- BaRAS, 2009 *Site Manual* (privately circulated)
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The Dramway, (booklet)
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First Aid for Finds (London: Rescue/UKIC)

9. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

BaRAS would like to thank Mr Chris Calcutt and Mr and Mrs N. Long for their assistance and co-operation and David Evans for his advice.

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 which would affect a SAM.

ODPM PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE

The Planning Policy Guidance of Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16) consolidates advice to planning authorities. The Guidance stresses the non-renewable nature of the archaeological resource, details the role of the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), encourages early consultation with county and district archaeological officers and sets out the requirement for developers to provide sufficient information on the archaeological impact of development to enable a reasonable planning decision to be made.

PPG 16 also indicates the circumstances where further work would be necessary and outlines the use of agreements and conditions to protect the archaeological resource.

South Gloucestershire's Local Plan (adopted January 2006) states:

Archaeology L11

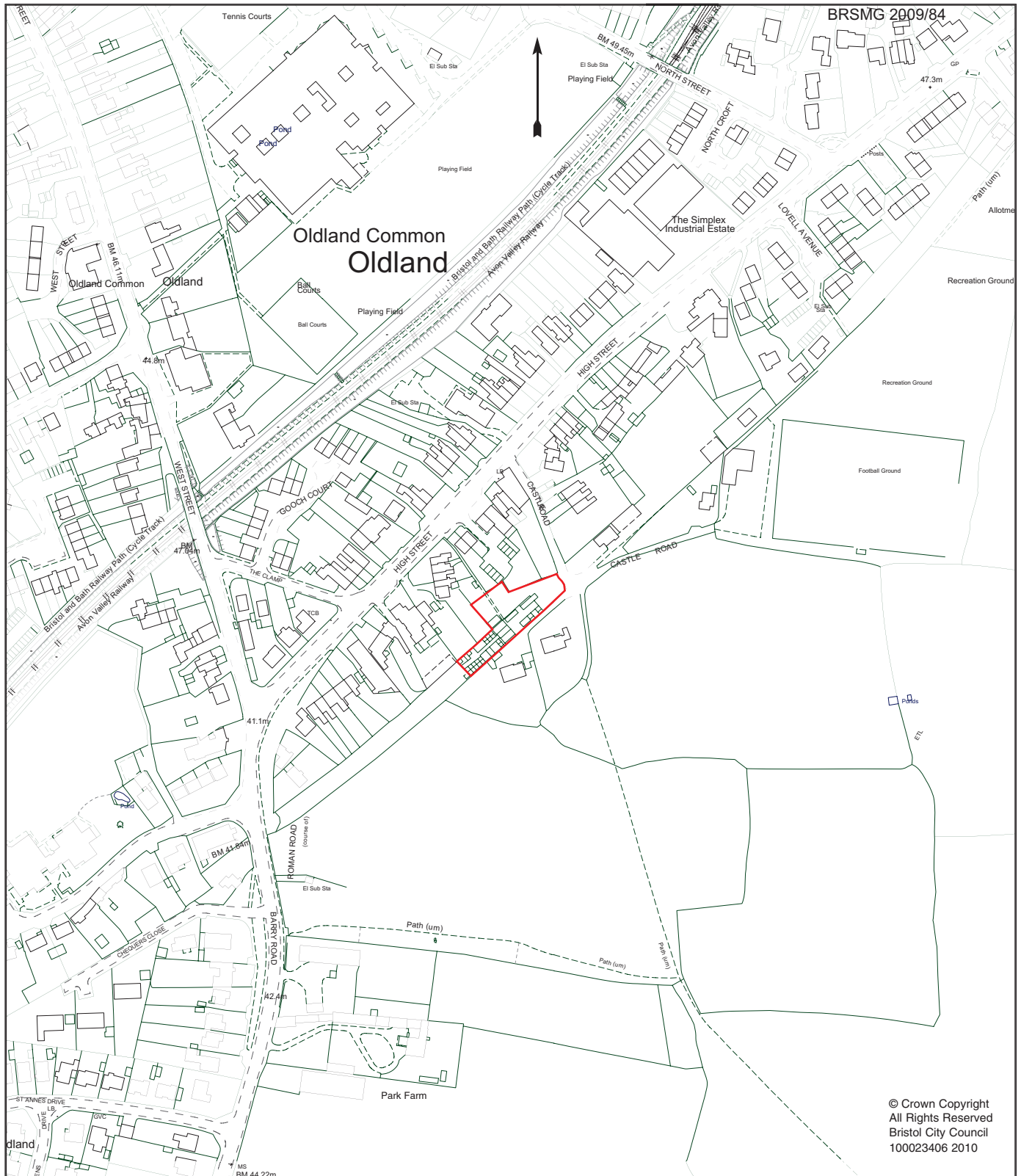
Development which would not physically preserve sites of national archaeological importance, whether scheduled or not, or would have a significant impact on the setting of visible remains, will not be permitted.

Planning permission will not be granted for development on sites or landscapes of archaeological interest or of high archaeological potential without an archaeological assessment and if necessary a field evaluation.

Where the assessment indicates that the proposed development would harm a site, structure or landscape of archaeological or historic importance or its setting, development will not be permitted unless applicants can demonstrate a satisfactory scheme indicating how the impact of the proposal on the archaeological resource can be mitigated. The council will negotiate agreements to preserve and manage archaeological remains.

APPENDIX 2: Context Descriptions

Context No.	Description
0001	Topsoil, dark brown clayey silt
0002	Natural, orange clayey sand with sandstone fragments
0003	Cutting of the dramway
0004	Rubble fill of dramway cutting
0005	Modern cut for a drain
0006	Back fill of modern cut
0007	Plastic drainage pipe



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Fig.1 Site location plan, 1:2000

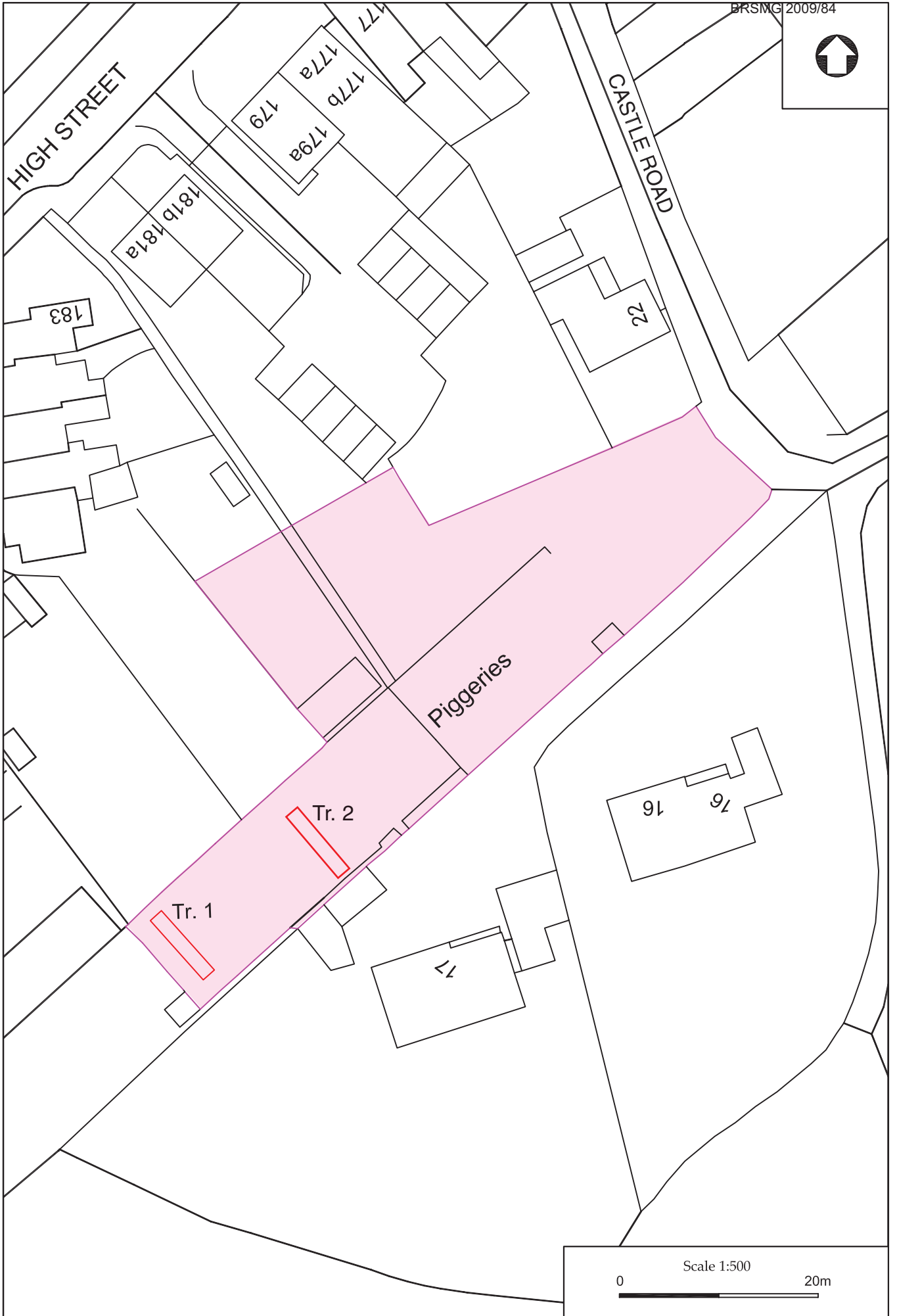


Fig.2 Trench location plan, 1:500

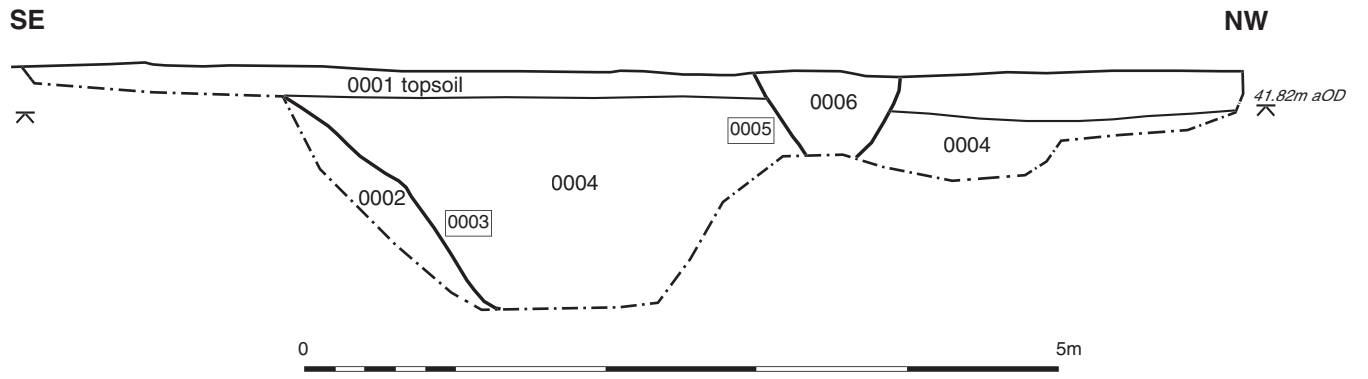


Fig.3 North-east facing section of Trench 1, scale 1:50



Plate 1 Trench 1, from the south-east



Plate 2 North-east facing section of Trench 1