

Archaeological Watching Brief
at
**BARROWMEAD DRIVE,
LAWRENCE WESTON, BRISTOL.**
for
Sovereign Housing Association



Report No. 2249 / 2010
BHER No. 24842



Bristol and Region Archaeological Services

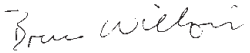

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Archaeological Watching Brief
at
BARROWMEAD DRIVE
LAWRENCE WESTON, BRISTOL.

Centred on
N.G.R. ST 53679 77565

Client Sovereign Housing Association
Agent:King Sturge LLP

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<i>Date Issued:</i>	20 April 2010 

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Abbreviations

AD	Anno Domini	c.	Circa
aOD	Above Ordnance Datum	Km	Kilometre
BaRAS	Bristol & Region Archaeological Services	m	Metre
BC	Before Christ	MoB	Museum of Bristol
BCC	Bristol City Council	NGR	National Grid Reference
BCL	Bristol Central Library	NMR	National Monuments Record
BCMAG	Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery	OS	Ordnance Survey
BHER	Bristol Historic Environment Record		
BRO	Bristol Record Office		
BSMR	Bristol Sites & Monuments 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, 2010.

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundwork associated with the construction of residential properties on the site of the former Nos. 110-120 Barrowmead Drive, Lawrence Weston, Bristol (Planning Application 09/00469/F).

No features or deposits of archaeological significance were observed during the intrusive groundwork.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) were commissioned by King Sturge LLP on behalf of Sovereign Housing Association to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundwork associated with the construction of fourteen new residential houses.
- 1.2 The watching brief was commissioned to comply with the condition of planning consent (09/00469/F) and in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS 2010).
- 1.3 The fieldwork was undertaken between 15 and 31 of March under the supervision of Hefin Meara who also compiled this report.
- 1.4 The project archive will be deposited with Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery under the Accession Number BRSMG2010/11 and a copy of the report will be made available to the National Monuments Record maintained by English Heritage. The project has been entered in the Bristol Historic Environment Record as: BHER 24842 and in the OASIS Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations as: bristola1-71492.

2. THE SITE

- 2.1 The site (centred on NGR ST 53679 77565) is located on the north side of Barrowmead Drive, on the eastern corner with Middleton Road, in the suburb of Lawrence Weston, Bristol. The site occupies an area of approximately 3680m², and sits at about 15m aOD. The site is located on the side of a slight hill, which slopes downwards from south to north, although the site itself is located on level ground.
- 2.2 The underlying hard geology of the study area comprises Dolomitic Conglomerate of the Triassic period (British Geological Survey 1967).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Prior to the present project the study area formed part of an archaeological desk based assessment (BaRAS 2002). The full historical and archaeological background to the site is contained within this document. Relevant details are summarised below:
- 3.2 Much of Lawrence Weston was developed as a council housing estate shortly after the Second World War, prior to which the land was in agricultural usage.
- 3.3 Historically, the site was part of Kings Weston Park and was associated with the present mansion and its precursors. Latterly the land had belonged to the Miles family, but previous owners had included the Southwells and before them Humphrey Hook.
- 3.4 The initial groundworks of the Lawrence Weston Housing Estate were closely monitored by George Boon. Topsoil removal for road and sewer construction revealed significant Romano-British material, especially along the route of Long Cross. Approximately 240m to the west of the site the remains of several buildings interpreted as a 'Winged Courtyard' type of villa were discovered and excavated. Further east along Long Cross a Romano-British settlement bounded by ditches was discovered in 1982 during work at St Bede's School.
- 3.5 Medieval features have also been discovered within the area of the modern housing estate.

4. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork complied with the methodology contained within the Written Scheme of Investigation (BaRAS 2010). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008). The aim of the watching brief was to record any archaeological features or deposits revealed during the course of intrusive groundwork.
- 4.2 All groundwork was carried out by 360° slew mechanical excavators utilising both toothed and toothless buckets.
- 4.3 Recording was carried out using BaRAS's single context recording system.
- 4.4 Photographs were taken in digital format.
- 4.5 The watching brief involved monitoring of the mechanical excavation of foundation trenches for the proposed dwellings.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were observed and no artefacts predating the modern period were recovered during intrusive groundwork at the site.
- 5.2 The watching brief entailed monitoring of the excavation of foundation trenches for the houses being constructed on the site. The trenches varied between 1m and 3m deep. The varied depth was due to the need to find ground that was undisturbed by tree roots. A copse of trees was located immediately north of the site, resulting in the foundation trenches in the northern corner of the site being considerably deeper than those across the rest of the site.
- 5.3 The foundation trenches of eleven of the fourteen proposed dwellings were monitored during the course of the watching brief.
- 5.4 The nature of the underlying geology showed considerable localised variation across the development area. However all excavated foundation trenches revealed a highly mixed modern deposit (1001) overlying sterile natural deposits (1002-1010).

Plots 1 & 2

- 5.5 The section of the foundation trenches for Plots 1 and 2, in the north-west of the site, revealed a red-brown sandy clay natural (1008), more than 0.40m thick, which was overlain by a 0.70m thick dark grey-brown sandy silt (1004), which was in turn overlain by a 0.40m thick dark red-brown sandy silt (1002). A modern layer of mid brown silt with stone and concrete fragments (1001), between 0.10 and 1m in thickness, sealed the area.

Plots 3 & 4

- 5.6 The section of the foundation trenches for Plots 3 and 4, in the south-west of the site, revealed a grey-green clay natural (1009), more than 0.20m thick, which was overlain by a 0.20m thick intermittent band of layered sandstone (1010), which was in turn overlain by a 1.20m thick mottled grey-green clay with patches of red-brown clay (1007), and a 0.3m thick red-brown sandy silt (1002). A 0.10m thick modern layer of mid brown silt with stone and concrete fragments (1001) sealed the area.

Plots 8 & 9

- 5.7 The section of the foundation trenches for Plots 8 and 9, in the south-east of the site, revealed a red-brown sandy clay natural (1008), more than 0.90m thick, sealed by 0.20m of modern material (1001).

Plots 10-14

- 5.8 The section of the foundation trenches for Plots 10 to 14, in the north-east of the site, revealed a red-brown sandy silt natural (1008), more than 0.20m thick, overlain by a 1.70m thick dark brown-grey sandy silt (1004) which was in turn overlain by a 0.02m thick intermittent band of sandstone (1003). The stone band was overlain by a 0.70m thick red-brown sandy silt (1002). A 0.20m thick modern layer of mid brown silt with stone and concrete fragments (1001) sealed the area.
- 5.9 A very thick deposit of dark grey sandy silt (1005) was seen in the sections of the north-west and south-east foundation trenches of Plot 14. This appeared to be the fill of a linear feature (1006). The feature was approximately 2.75m wide and more than 2.40m deep, and was cut through deposits 1002, 1003 and 1004. The extreme depth and the narrow nature of the foundation trench made cleaning up the section impractical and unsafe. The excavated spoil

was examined by hand. No finds were recovered and the deposit appeared to be sterile. It is believed that the feature was of geological origin.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of the intrusive groundwork. A single feature believed to be of geological origin was recorded.
- 6.2 The lack of archaeological deposits may indicate that any structural remains related to nearby Romano-British occupation did not extend into the application area or that they may have been truncated by previous development of the area.

7. PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by Hefin Meara who also produced this report. The illustrations were prepared and the report compiled by Ann Linge. The project was managed by Bruce Williams.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES CONSULTED

Published Works

IfA 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (first published 1994, revised 2008).

Unpublished Material

BaRAS 2002 *Archaeological Desktop Study of land at Barrowmead Drive, Lawrence Weston, Bristol* (BaRAS Report no. 997/2002).

BaRAS 2010 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief on the site of Nos. 110-120 Barrowmead Drive, Lawrence Weston, Bristol.*

Maps

British Geological Survey 1967
Geological Survey of England & Wales (Solid & Drift) Bristol Region.

9. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

BaRAS would like to thank Warren Hulsen (Site Manager) of IGS Pierce, and the site teams from Renelec and I & B Ayliffe for their assistance and co-operation during the programme of archaeological monitoring.

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.

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.

APPENDIX 2: Context Descriptions

Context No.	Type	Description	Thickness (m)
1001	Modern overburden	Mid brown sandy silt with common stone, concrete and brick fragments	0.2-0.3
1002	Colluvium	Red-brown sandy silt	0.7
1003	Natural stone deposit	Intermittent lens of sandstone	0.2
1004	Alluvium / Flood deposit	Dark brown-grey sandy silt	1.7
1005	Fill 1/1 of feature 1006	Dark grey sandy silt	>2.4
1006	Cut of geological linear feature	2.75 m wide, >2.4 m deep	>2.4
1007	Natural	Grey-green clay	1.2
1008	Natural	Red-brown sandy clay	>0.3
1009	Natural	Grey-green clay	>0.2
1010	Natural	Sandstone layer	0.2



Fig.1 Site location plan

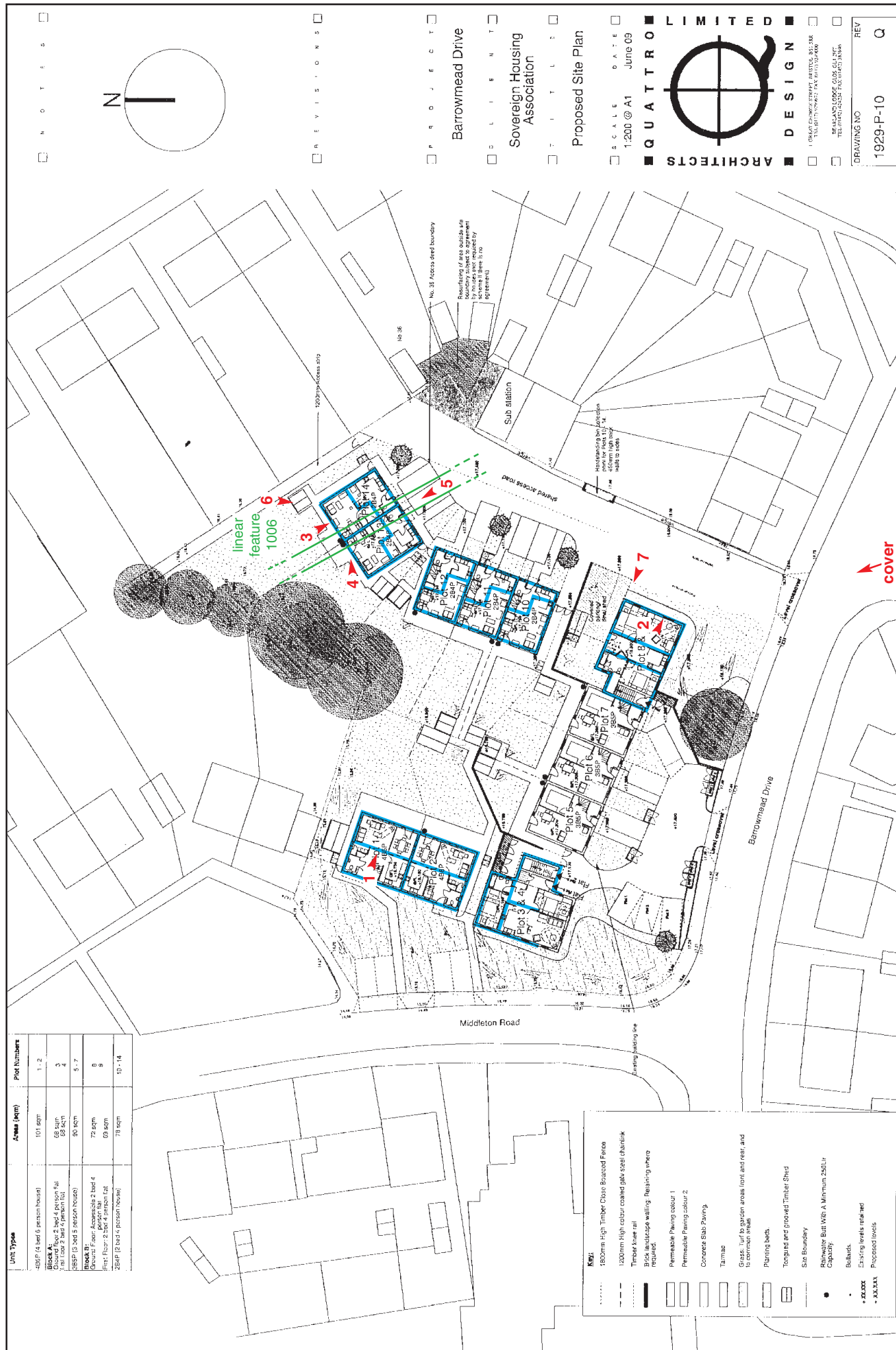


Fig.2 Plan showing monitored foundation trenches, with plate directions



Plate 1
Section of Plot 1, looking
east

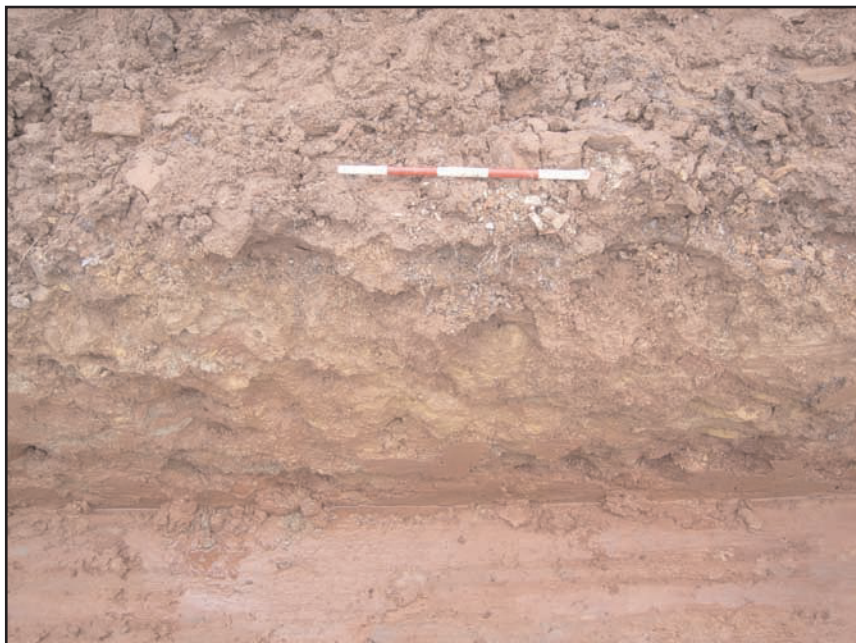


Plate 2
Section of Plot 8, looking
east



Plate 3
Section of Plot 14, look-
ing south-east



Plate 4
Linear geological feature
1006, looking east



Plate 5
Linear geological feature
1006, looking north-west



Plate 6 Working view: Digging of foundation trenches, looking south



Plate 7 Working view: Digging of foundation trenches, looking west