

The Chalet Bungalow,
Church Road, Old Windsor, Berkshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief
for Mr F and Mrs M Hill

by Graham Hull
Thames Valley Archaeological Services

Site Code
CBOW99/40

July 1999

Reporting Requirements for Archaeological Work in Berkshire

Site name: The Chalet Bungalow, Church Road, Old Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 2JW

Site location: NGR SU 990 746

Nature of site activity: Watching Brief

Date of fieldwork: 29.06.99

Post-excavation work: 01.07.99

Site code: CBOW99

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits or artifacts were observed during digging of foundation trench for garage extension

Monuments identified: None

Author: Hull, G, 1999, The Chalet Bungalow, Church Road, Old Windsor, an archaeological watching brief, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 99/40, Reading

Location and reference of archive: TVAS, 47-49 De Beauvoir Rd, Reading and then with the appropriate Museum in due course

The Chalet Bungalow, Church Road, Old Windsor An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Graham Hull

Report 99/40

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at The Chalet Bungalow, Church Road, Old Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 2JW (NGR SU 990 746) (Fig 1). The work was commissioned by Mr F and Mrs M Hill of the above address.

Planning permission (application no. 99/77723) for the construction of a garage extension has been granted by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, subject to an archaeological condition requiring a watching brief during the groundworks. Mr Andrew Byrne of the Borough's Planning and Environment Department monitored the application for the Local Authority under the terms of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

In accordance with the Department of the Environment's Policy and Planning Guidance Note, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16 1990), a written project specification was submitted to Babtie. Babtie are archaeological advisors to the Borough Council and the specification was approved by Mr Mathew Williams. As the works were within the confines of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Berkshire County Monument No. 79) consent was required under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended) Section 2. Accordingly an application was submitted to the Buildings, Monuments and Sites Division (2) of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. On the advice of Mr Rob Perrin of the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (English Heritage) the Secretary of State granted consent for the proposed works (HSD9/2/64p(22)).

The fieldwork was undertaken by Graham Hull on the 29th of June 1999. The site code is CBOW99/40.

Location, Topography and Geology

The site is located to the east of Old Windsor, on the western bank of the River Thames and to the north of the church. The geology as shown by the British Geological Survey (BGS 1981) is river gravel (Boyn Hill Gravel) and this was confirmed in the course of the groundworks.

Archaeological Background

The Chalet Bungalow is within 50 m of Old Windsor Parish church and lies within the site of Edward the Confessor's palace, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Bk 79) (Fig 2). This was an extensive Saxon and Medieval royal site situated to the south of Ham Island and on the east side of the river Thames. An early Medieval settlement of 7th and 8th century date is also present in the vicinity (RBWM Sites and Monuments Record). Both this and the royal palace are thought to have Roman antecedents.

A number of cropmarks (SMR nos. 347.00.001–347.00.005) have been identified by aerial photography on Ham Island, to the north of the site of the present groundworks. These have been interpreted as a field system with enclosure ditches and pits of unknown date, possibly Prehistoric or Roman. A watching brief undertaken in 1995 (Saunders 1995) during the excavation of a pipe trench across these cropmarks did locate one of the ditches but no dating evidence was recovered. However, a small assemblage of Prehistoric worked flints were recovered.

The church itself dates from AD 1220 and in all probability occupies the site of an earlier church destroyed in AD 1216 (Harwood 1929, 351). It has been suggested that the combination of a dedication to two Saints (St. Peter and St. Andrew) dating from c. AD 1185, indicates a new structure situated on top of an old one (op. cit., 349). An archaeological evaluation previously carried out by in the graveyard to the south-west of the church did not locate features of archaeological significance, although a small number of pottery sherds of Saxon and Medieval date were discovered as residual finds in post-Medieval deposits (Ford 1993).

A watching brief at the church (Saunders 1998) found a small number of disarticulated human bones and a single redeposited base sherd of Roman pottery. No Medieval or earlier archaeological features were observed.

Objectives and Methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to observe, excavate and record all archaeological deposits within the area of disturbance and subsequently result in the preparation and dissemination of a report and ordered archive. The brief should further provide an opportunity, if needed, for the engaged archaeological organization to signal, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

Two foundation trenches for the garage extension were excavated by a mechanical digger. This work was monitored by an Associate Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists employed by Thames Valley Archaeological Services. The spoil was monitored for finds and a written record of the works and a drawn section of the observed stratigraphy was made.

Results

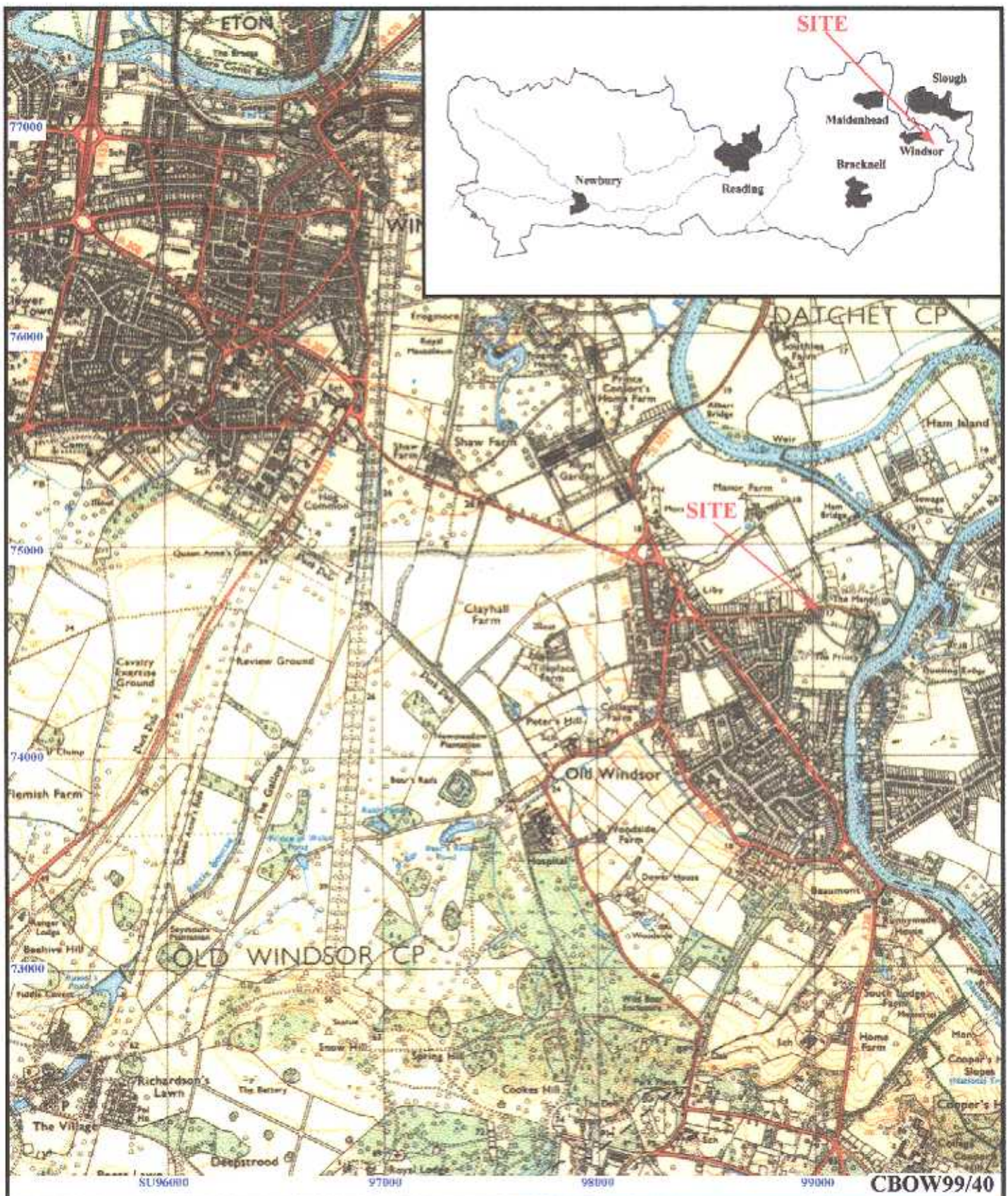
A single foundation trench, 'U' shaped in plan, was dug (Fig 3). This was 5 m along the arms and 3 m along the bottom and was 0.8 m deep. The observed stratigraphy was modern gravel (part of a driveway) over topsoil onto undisturbed river gravels (Fig 4). No archaeological deposits were encountered in the course of the groundworks and no artifacts were retrieved from the spoil.

Conclusion

No archaeological deposits or artifacts were observed during the course of the groundworks for the construction of a garage extension at The Chalet Bungalow, Church Road, Old Windsor, Berkshire.

References

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Ford, S, 1993, Old Windsor Parish Church Sunday School, an archaeological evaluation, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 93/17, Reading
- Harwood, T E, 1929, *Windsor Old and New* (privately printed)
- PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Department of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, HMSO
- Saunders, M J, 1995, Ham Island, Old Windsor, an archaeological watching brief, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 95/18, Reading
- Saunders, M J 1998, The Church of St. Peter and St. Andrew, Old Windsor, an archaeological watching brief, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 98/77, Reading



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Figure 1. Location of site within Old Windsor and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Location of watching brief

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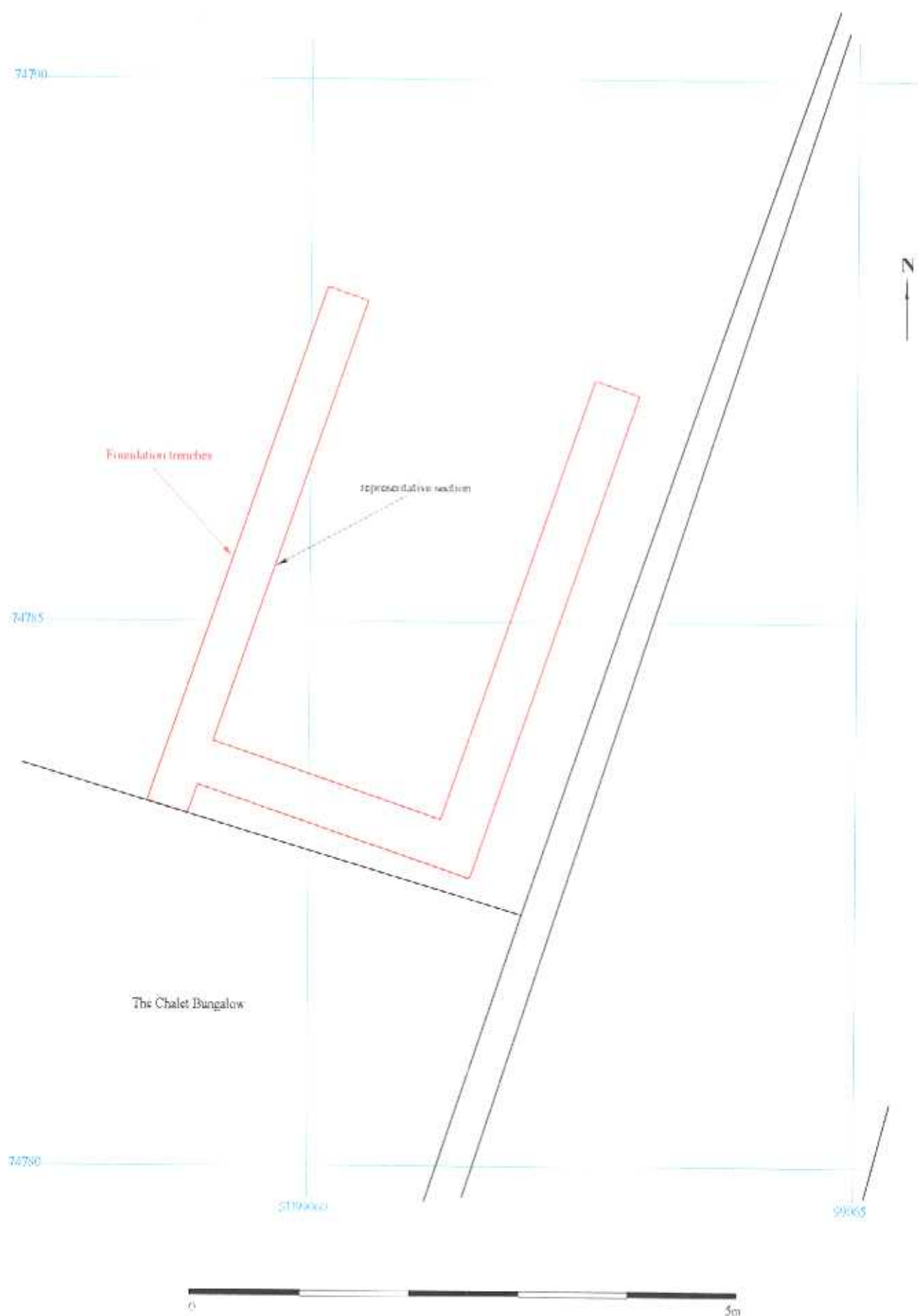


Figure 3. Foundation trenches monitored during watching brief

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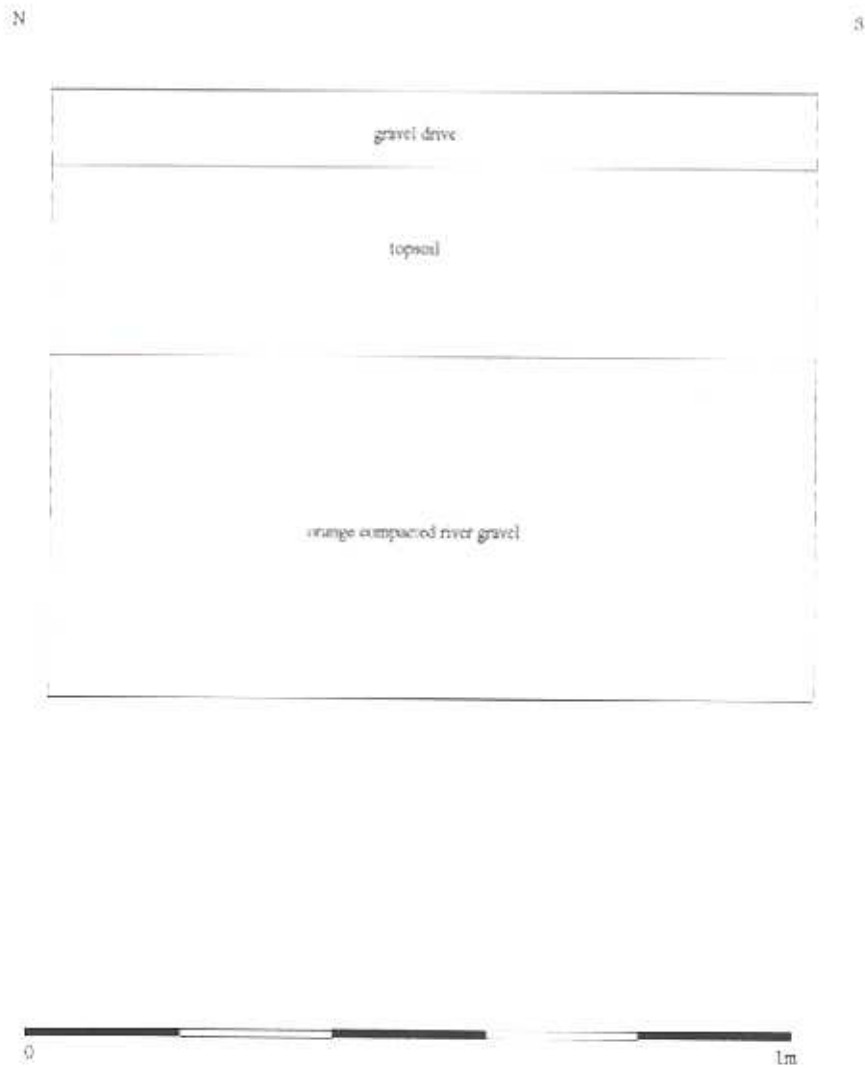


Figure 4. Representative section