

**Rogan's Garage, London Road,
Colnbrook, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Rigsby Design Limited**

by Sean Wallis and James Lewis
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code LRC07/164

November 2007

Summary

Site name: Rogan's Garage, London Road, Colnbrook, Berkshire

Grid reference: TQ 0194 7760

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 26-27th November 2007

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: LRC 07/164

Area of site: 0.26ha

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits or artefacts were found. Parts of the site had been truncated and disturbed in modern times.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Reading Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 04.12.07 Steve Preston✓ 04.12.07

Rogan's Garage, London Road, Colnbrook, Slough, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

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Report 07/164

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Rogan's Garage, London Road, Colnbrook, Slough, Berkshire (TQ 0194 7760, Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr David Herbert, Rigsby Design Limited, Ellar House, 2-4 Sheet Street, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1BG.

Planning consent (P/01163/005) has been sought from Slough Borough Council for the demolition of existing buildings and the construction of 58 flats in 3 separate blocks along with associated carparking and landscaping. In order to inform the planning process in regard to the archaeological potential of the development site, a field evaluation has been requested for the site. The archaeological potential of the area generally was highlighted in a brief for the project prepared by Ms Mary O'Donoghue of Berkshire Archaeology.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and Slough Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Mary O'Donoghue of Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to Slough Borough Council on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Sean Wallis and James Lewis on the 26th November and the site code is LRC07/164.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Reading Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is situated in the north-west of the village of Colnbrook which is located on the Thames Valley floodplain. It is bounded to the north by the A4 London Road and to the south by the Bath Road. Beyond the A4 there are open fields and several small lakes which stretch for a distance of approximately 500m until they meet the M4 motorway (Fig. 2). To the east and west are residential buildings. Directly to the south west is The Queen Mother Reservoir. Prior to demolition a garage previously stood on the site which was located to the west and a cottage occupied the east of the area. The underlying geology is mapped as Taplow gravel (BGS 1981) and the site is positioned at 23m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a brief prepared by Ms Mary O'Donoghue of Berkshire Archaeology. This stems from the site's location within the Colne Valley which is considered to be an archaeologically rich area (Ford 1987; Ford and Pine 2003). The site is located immediately to the north-west of the historic core of Colnbrook and a number of cropmarks visible from the air possibly representing ancient field systems are recorded just to the north. A large expanse of archaeological deposits have been revealed by field evaluation to the south with Iron Age and medieval occupation recorded along with field systems of various dates (Ford 2006).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. This work was to be carried out in a manner which will not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation. The specific research aims of this project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

Eight trenches were to be excavated, each 13m long and 1.6m wide. The trenches were dug under constant archaeological supervision using a JCB type mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. A contingency was provided for a further 5m of trenching if required to clarify the initial findings. Spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

Results

Eight trenches were excavated and ranged in length between 10.5m and 15m (Figs 3 and 4). All were 1.9m wide and their depths varied from 0.4m to 1.9m. All the trenches were excavated down to the natural geology. A complete list of the trenches presenting all of their dimensions, descriptions and geology can be found in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Plate 1)

Trench 1 was aligned north - south and measured 15.2m in length and 1.25m deep. At the northwest end a small test pit was excavated to a depth of 1.25m to confirm that the correct interpretation of the stratigraphy had been obtained. The stratigraphy comprised of a top layer of dark demolition soil that was 0.35m thick; below this was a layer of dark humic undisturbed topsoil which measured 0.25m thick. The topsoil covered orange brown sandy silt and this was 0.16m thick and directly underneath was the natural geology which consisted of orange sand and gravel. No archaeological deposits were present. A modern pipe trench aligned was observed at the south-east end of the trench.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned south west - north east, measured 14m in length, and the depth varied from 0.4m at the south east end and 0.8m deep at the north west end. The trench displayed a simple stratigraphic sequence: disturbed gravel and topsoil 0.2m thick lay above the natural geology.

The only feature observed in the trench was an irregular modern spread that exhibited a smell of petroleum, c.2m from the south east end of the trench. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were observed in this trench.

Trench 3 (Plate 2)

Trench 3 was aligned north west - south east and was 15m long and 1.10m deep. Disturbed dark soil 0.40m thick overlay grey gravel silty clay 0.37m thick. The grey gravel was directly over the natural geology. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were found in the trench. The only feature was a modern concrete pipe c.2m from the west end of the trench.

Trench 4 (Plate 3)

Trench 4 was aligned north east - south west and it measured 14.2m in length, and was 0.9m deep. The stratigraphic sequence consisted of a disturbed dark humic soil that was 0.2m thick, underneath which was the undisturbed topsoil and this was 0.23m thick. Below the topsoil was a layer of orange brown sandy silt (subsoil) and this measured 0.32m thick. The orange subsoil covered the natural orange gravel. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were recovered in Trench 4. A modern soakaway was found in the middle of the trench. This was circular in plan and was filled with red brick.

Trench 5 (Fig. 4)

Trench 5 was aligned north east - south west and it measured 13m in length, and was 1.9m deep at the north east end and 1.8m deep at the south west end. The stratigraphy consisted of dark humic undisturbed topsoil that was

0.55m thick. Below this was observed a light brown sandy clay and this measured 0.5m thick. Underneath this was a 0.45m thick dark grey sandy clay which contained pieces of brick and metal. The sandy clay covered the natural gravel. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were found in Trench 5. At the north end of the trench was a modern pit filled with dark sandy clay.

Trench 6 (Plate 4)

Trench 6 was aligned north east - south west and it measured 13m long, and was 0.9m deep at the south east end and 0.6m at the north west end. The stratigraphy consisted of the disturbed topsoil which was 0.6m thick directly above the natural gravel. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were found.

Trench 7

Trench 7 was aligned north - south and was 10.5m in length, and was 0.7m deep at the north end and 0.5m at the south end. This trench was shortened as it would have included an area where the former petrol storage tanks would have been located. The stratigraphy was the same as Trench 6 and consisted of a top layer of disturbed soils 0.2m thick directly above the natural gravel. No archaeological deposits were observed nor artefacts recovered.

Trench 8

Trench 8 was aligned north west - south east and was 15m in length and 0.4m deep at the north west end and 0.9m at the south east end. The stratigraphy comprised of a top layer of disturbed topsoil which was 0.28m thick which overlay light grey sandy gravel which was 0.14m thick. Directly below this was light orange sandy gravel which was 0.14m thick which covered light grey stoney sandy clay which was 0.15 thick. The sandy clay was directly above the natural gravel. No archaeological deposits were observed nor artefacts recovered.

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were retrieved during the evaluation.

Conclusion

No archaeological finds or deposits were recorded in any of the trenches dug. This was despite a relatively high proportion of the site having been examined. No evidence could be found for previous use before the 20th century. The evidence from the evaluation indicates that the site has undergone a major episode of landscaping. All the trenches excavated in the western area of the site (2, 3, 6, 7 and 8) showed disturbed soil directly

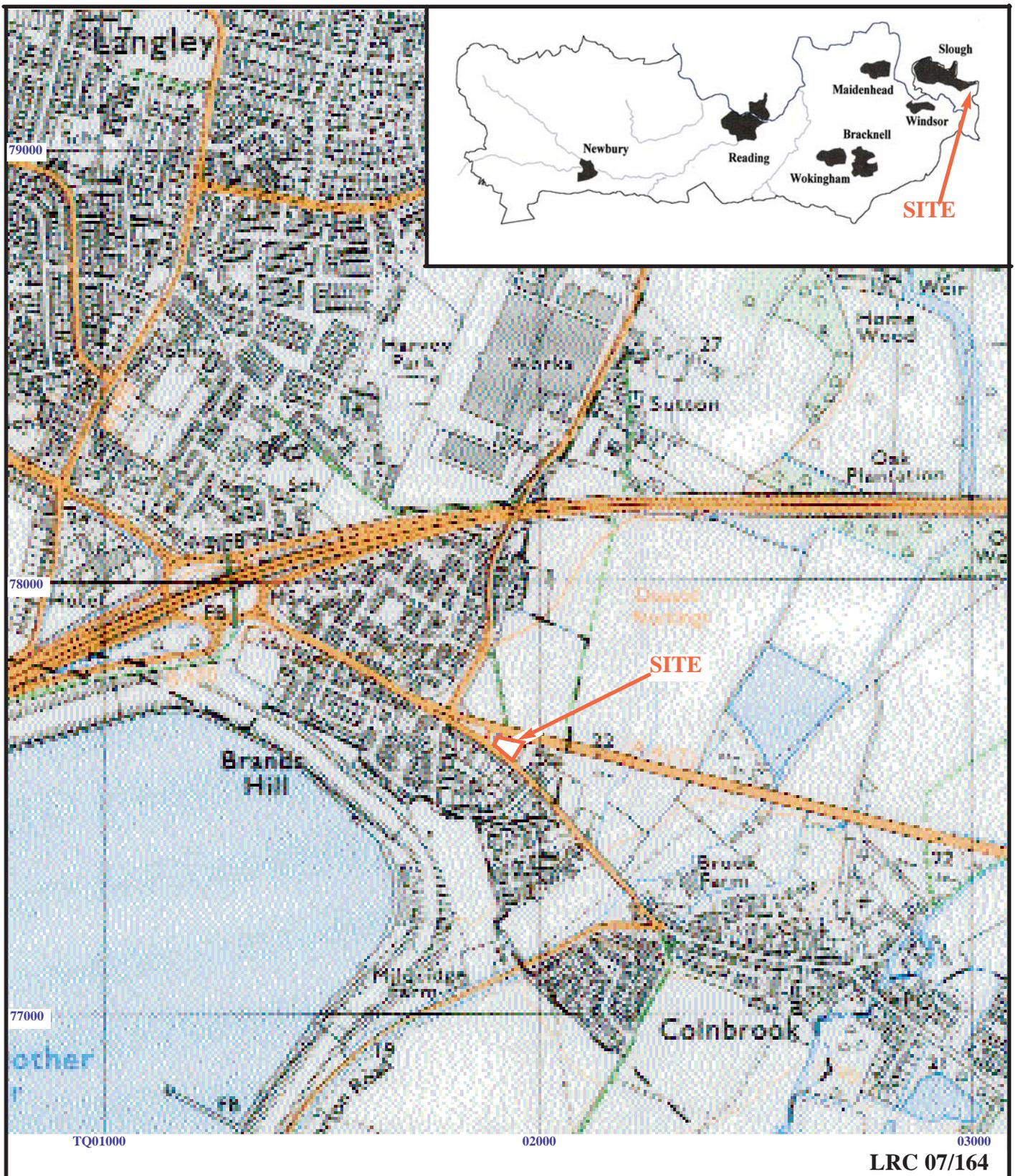
overlying the natural gravel. No subsoil was present which indicates that it was removed, presumably when the garage was constructed. Subsoil was found in the eastern part of the site (Trenches 1 and 4) where the cottage previously stood. On the basis of the results from the evaluation, the site possesses very limited archaeological potential.

References

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- PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO

APPENDIX 1: Trench details
0m at S or W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Stratigraphy</i>
1	15.2	1.90	1.25	0–0.35m disturbed soil, 0.35–0.60m topsoil, 0.6–0.76m orange brown sandy silt, 0.76m+ gravel, natural geology. [Plate 1]
2	14.0	1.90	0.80	0–0.20m disturbed gravel, 0.20m+ gravel, natural geology. [Plate 2]
3	15.0	1.90	1.10	0–0.40m disturbed, 0.40–0.77m mixed grey gravel silty clay, 0.77m+ gravel, natural geology
4	14.2	1.90	0.90	0–0.20m disturbed soil, 0.20–0.43m topsoil, 0.43–0.75m orange brown sandy silt, 0.75m+ gravel, natural geology [Plate 3]
5	13.0	1.90	1.90	0–0.55m topsoil, 0.55–1.05m light brown sandy clay, 1.05–1.6m dark sandy clay. 1.6m+ gravel, natural geology.
6	13.0	1.90	0.90	0–0.6m disturbed soil, 0.6m gravel, natural geology [Plate 4]
7	10.5	1.90	0.70	0–0.2m disturbed gravel, 0.2m gravel, natural geology.
8	15.0	1.90	0.90	0–0.28m disturbed soil, 0.28–0.42m light grey sandy gravel, 0.42–0.56m light orange grey sandy gravel, 0.56–0.71m light grey stoney sandy clay, 0.71m+ gravel, natural geology.



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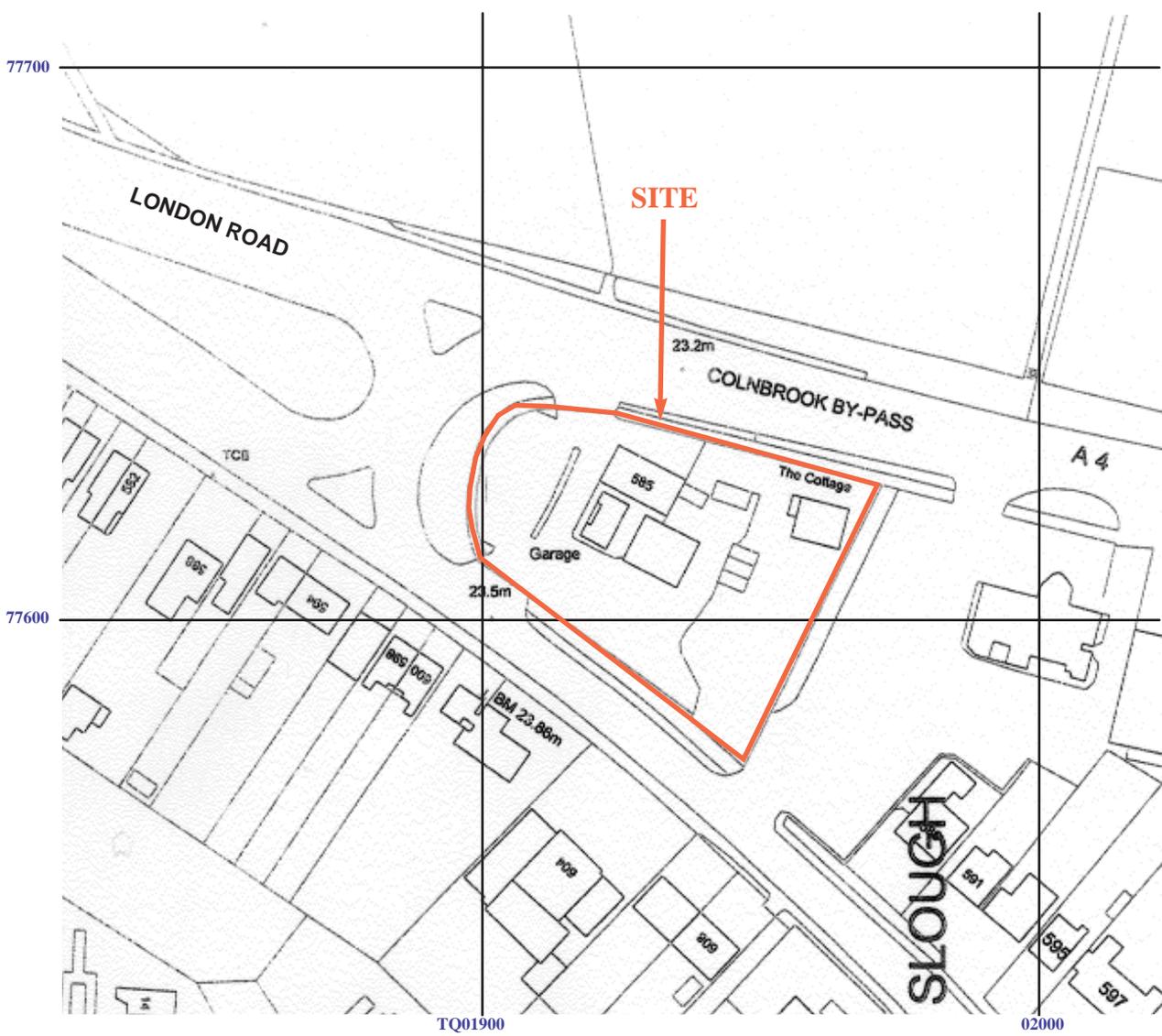
Figure 1. Location of site within Colnbrook and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off London Road (A4).

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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

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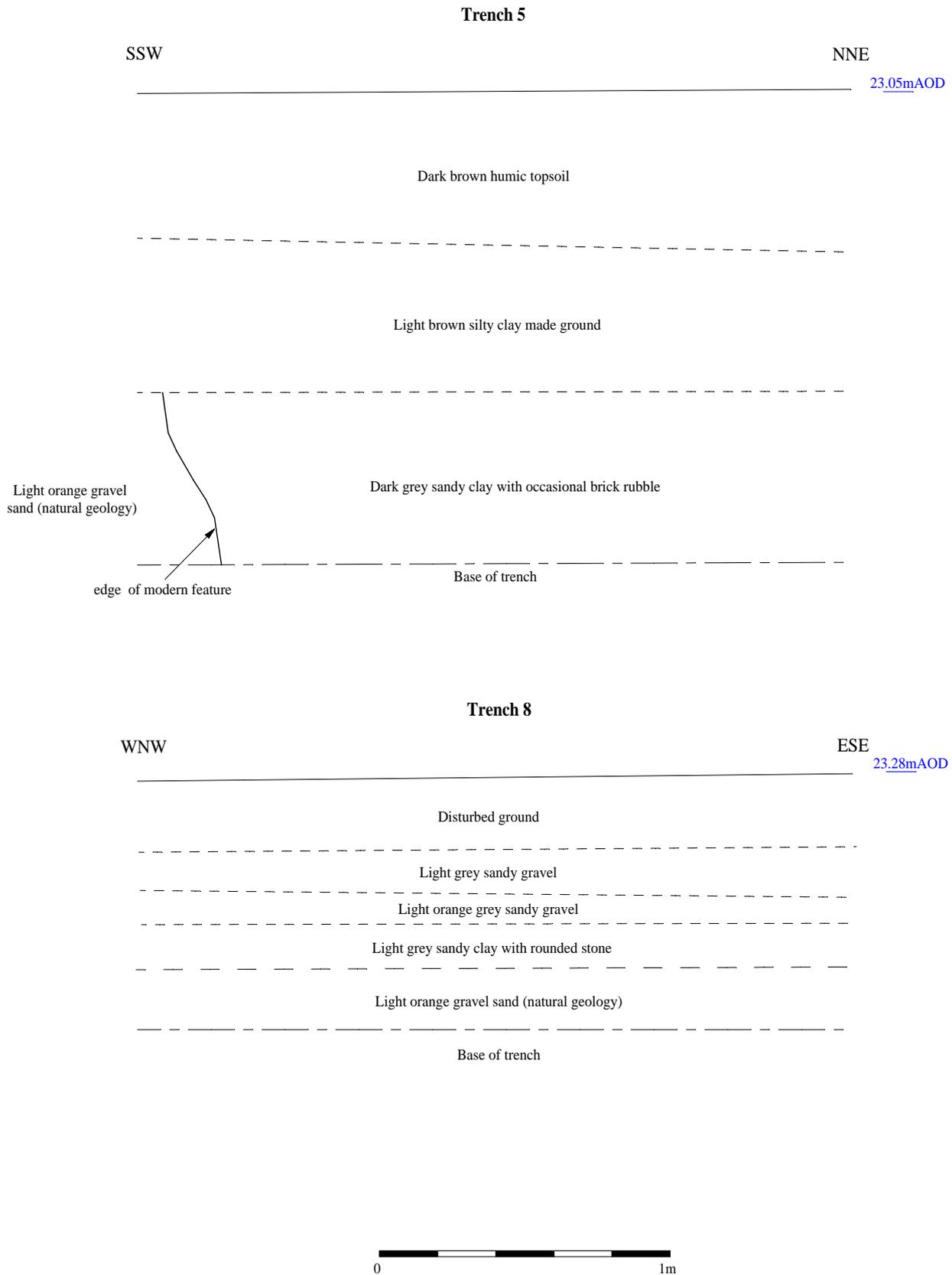


Figure 4. Representative sections.



Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north-west, scales 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 3, looking north, scales 2m and 1m.



Plate 3. Trench 4, looking south-west, scales 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Trench 6, looking north east, scales 2m and 1m.