

# **Land at Mill Lane, Byfleet, Surrey**

**An Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 2)  
for Rectory Homes**

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code MLB 05/100

**November 2006**

## Summary

**Site name:** Mill Lane, Byfleet, Surrey

**Grid reference:** TQ 0675 6045

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 27th October 2006

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Andy Taylor

**Site code:** MLB 05/100

**Area of site:** 0.89 hectares

**Summary of results:** No deposits or finds of an archaeological nature were observed

**Monuments identified:** None

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

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Report edited/checked by: Jo Pine ✓ 03.11.06 Steve Preston ✓ 06.11.06
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# Land at Mill Lane, Byfleet, Surrey An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

**Report 05/100b**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out Mill Lane, Byfleet, Surrey (TQ 0675 6045) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Jason Tyrrell of Rectory Homes Ltd, Thame House, Thame Road, Haddenham, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP17 8DA.

Planning consent has been granted by Woking Borough Council to construct new dwellings. This is subject to a condition relating to archaeology, which required a programme of investigation prior to groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Gary Jackson, Archaeological Officer with Surrey County Council, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The site was to be developed in two phases and so the evaluation was carried out in two phases, this being the second. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and James Haygreen on the 27th October 2006 and the site code is MLB 05/100. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Weybridge Museum.

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (CPM 2002). In summary, no known archaeological deposits are recorded for the site or the immediate area, but a range of sites and finds from the prehistoric, Roman and later are recorded from surrounding areas. The first phase of evaluation (Oram 2005) revealed nothing of archaeological interest across the northern half of the site.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located in the parish of Byfleet, on the eastern edge of the existing village. It lies to the north and west of the River Wey and is bounded to the north by Mill Lane and to the west by domestic properties. The area of phase 2 is currently an active building site. The site is roughly flat and lies at a height of approximately 17m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology consists of Lower Terrace Gravel (BGS 1976), which was observed in all trenches.

## **Archaeological background**

The site lies approximately 1km north-east of an Iron Age settlement discovered on the southern bank of the River Wey during construction of a sewage works in the 1920's (CPM 2002). This consisted of hut remains and a number of pottery kilns. A Roman pottery kiln was also discovered in this area, whilst a Roman occupation site was recorded approximately 800m to the west of the site. To the south east of the site two possible dug out canoes were identified close to the manor house (CPM 2002). Several finds of flint tools have also been identified in the area (Cotton *et al.* 2004).

## **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.

Specific aims of the evaluation were;

To determine if archaeologically relevant have survived on the site.

To determine if deposits of any period are present.

A total of 5 trenches measuring between 5.60m and 15.10m, were dug (Fig. 2). The majority of these were repositioned from their intended positions due to areas of contaminated land having been removed and the spoil being stored. This was in consultation with the monitor. The trenches were opened using a JCB type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

## **Results**

### Trench 5

This trench consisted of made ground overlying a dark grey/black silty sand overlying gravelly sand natural.

### Trench 6 (Figure 3)

This trench consisted of made ground overlying a dark grey/black silty sand overlying gravelly sand natural.

### Trench 7 (Plate 1)

This trench contained made ground overlying a dark grey silty sand overlying gravelly sand natural.

### Trench 8

Trench eight comprised topsoil overlying subsoil overlying gravelly sand natural.

### Trench 9 (Plate 2)

This trench comprised made ground overlying gravelly sand with bricks and concrete pushed in overlying gravelly sand natural.

## **Finds**

No finds of an archaeological nature were retrieved.

## **Conclusion**

As with the first phase of the evaluation no archaeological deposits or finds were identified during the second phase. With areas of the site having been previously truncated, both by the earlier farm buildings and the removal of contaminated ground, it seems unlikely that the remaining construction works will damage any archaeological remains.

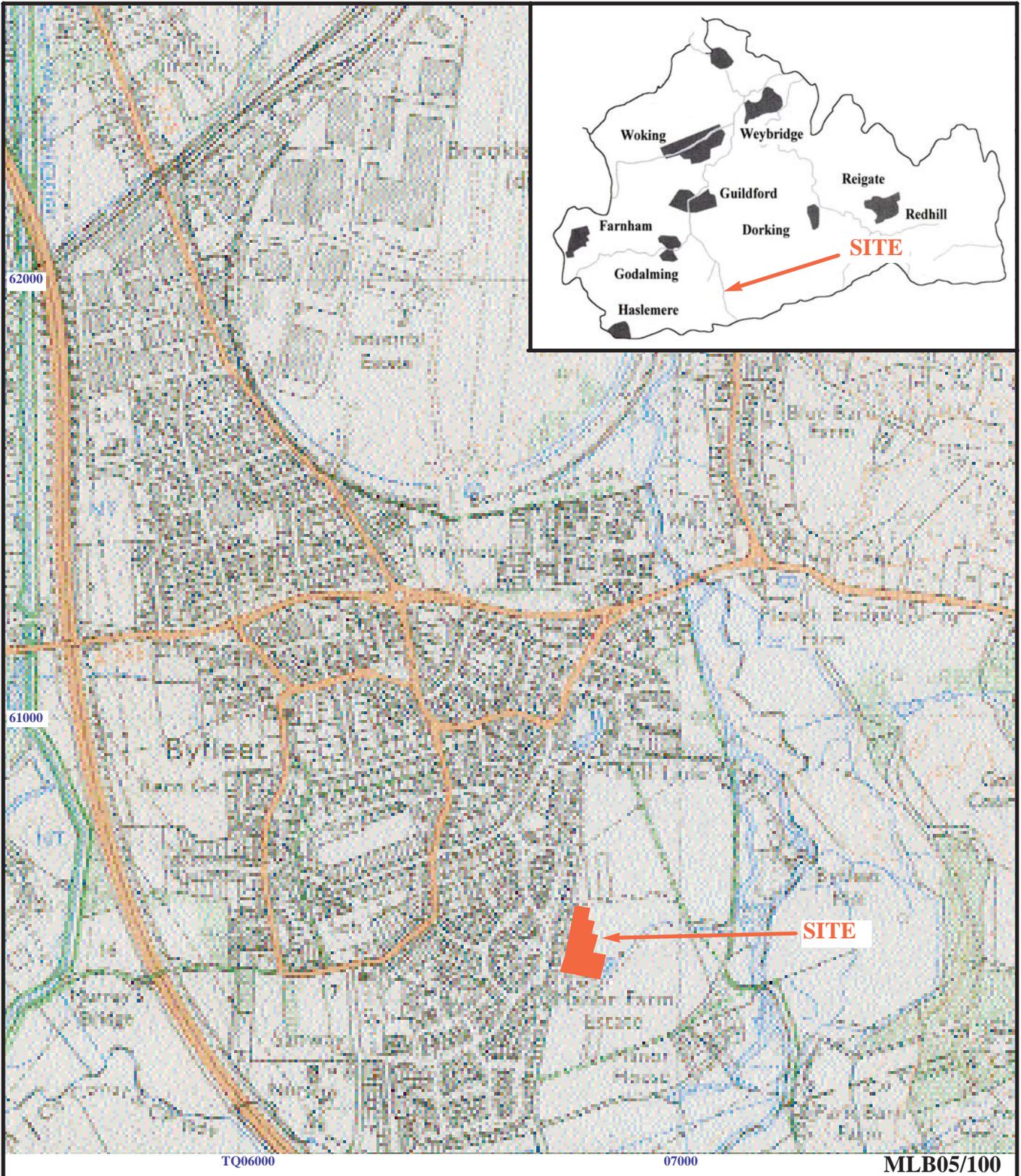
## **References**

- BGS, 1976, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 283, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth  
Cotton, J, Crocker, C and Graham, A (eds), 2004, *Aspects of archaeology and history in Surrey*, Guildford  
CPM, 2002, 'Manor Farm, Mill Lane, Byfleet, Surrey: An Archaeological Assessment', Coln St Andrews  
Oram, R, 2005, 'Mill Lane Byfleet, Surrey; an archaeological evaluation (Phase 1)', Thames Valley  
Archaeological Services rep 05/100, Reading  
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>Comment</i>
5	15.10	1.60	0.95	0.00m-0.31m made ground; 0.31m-0.93m dark grey/black silty sand; 0.93-0.95+ gravelly sand natural.
6	12.20	1.60	0.74	0.00m-0.44m made ground; 0.44m-0.72m dark grey silty sand; 0.72m-0.74m+ gravelly sand natural.
7	13.80	1.60	0.49	0.00m-0.13m made ground; 0.13m-0.41m dark grey silty sand; 0.41m+ gravelly sand natural.
8	5.60	1.60	0.70	0.00m-0.34m topsoil; 0.34m-0.63m subsoil; 0.63m-0.70m+ gravelly sand natural.
9	11.90	1.60	0.72	0.00m-0.57m made ground; 0.57m-0.70m gravelly sand with bricks pushed in; 0.70m-0.72+ gravelly sand natural



**Mill Lane, Byfleet, Surrey, 2006  
An Archaeological Evaluation, phase 2**

Figure 1. Location of site within Byfleet and Surrey.

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# Mill Lane, Byfleet, Surrey, 2006

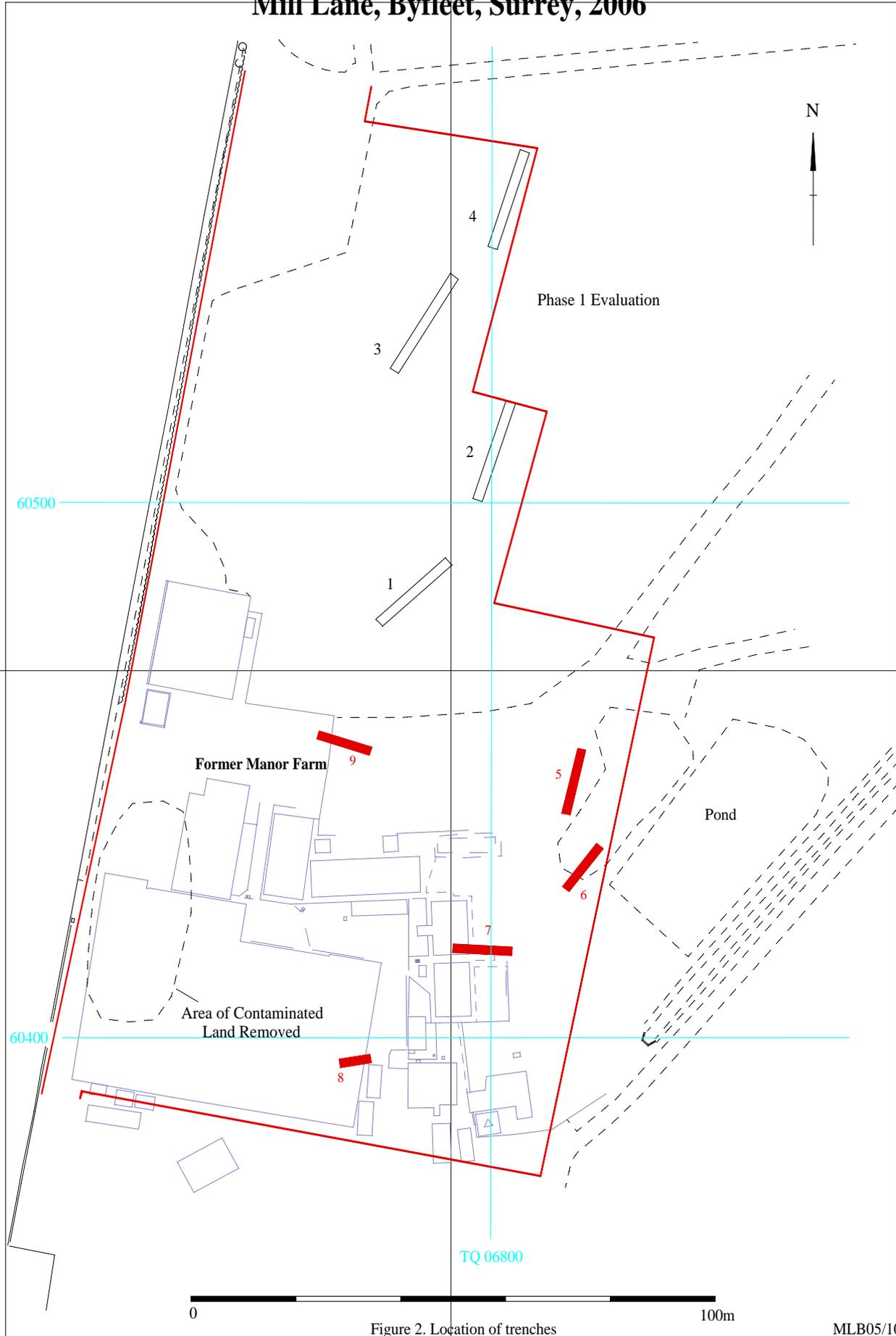


Figure 2. Location of trenches

# Mill Lane, Byfleet, Surrey

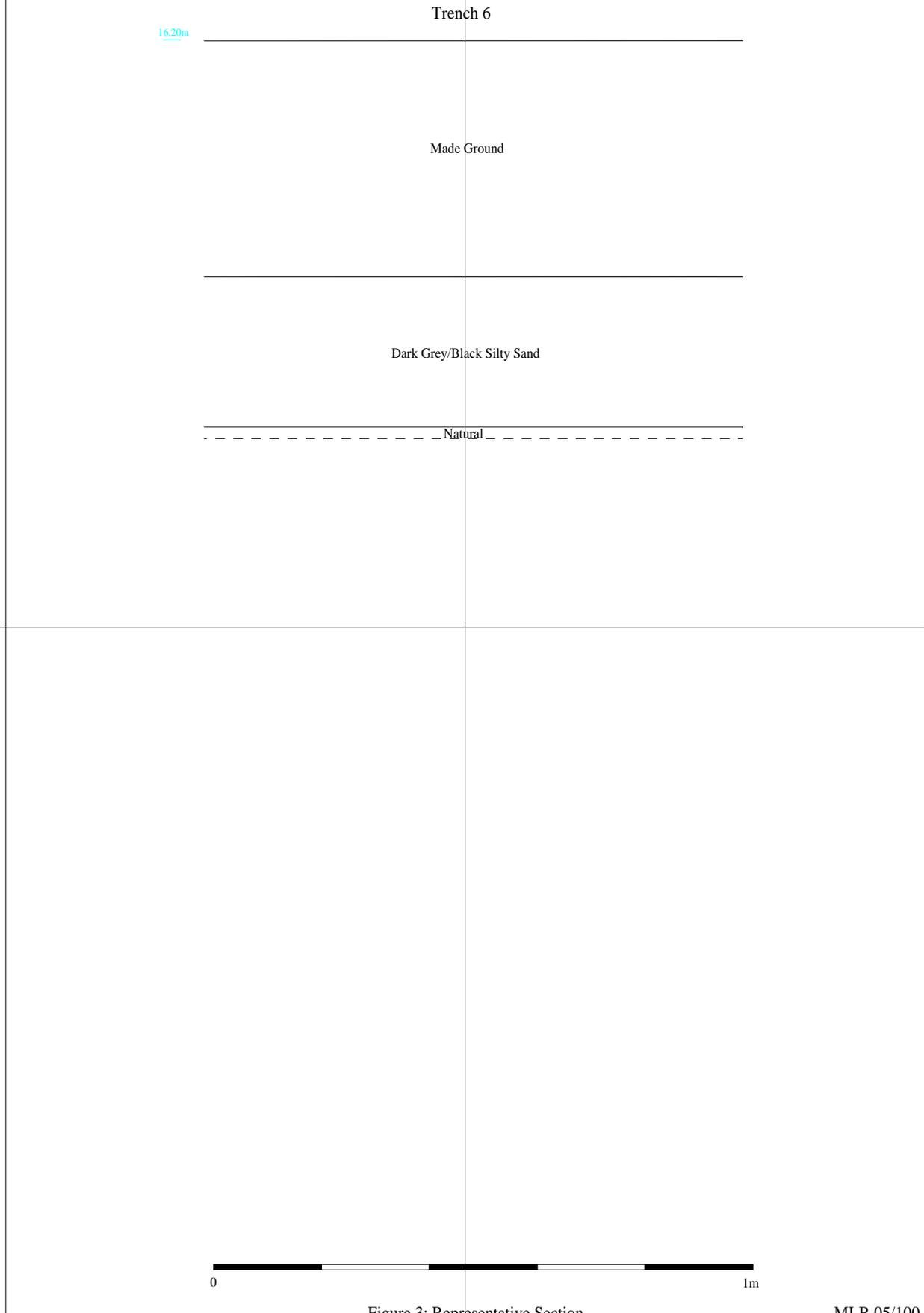


Figure 3: Representative Section

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Plate 1. ,Trench 7 looking west, horizontal scale 1m, vertical scale 2m.



Plate 2.Trench 9 looking west, horizontal scale 1m, vertical scale 2m.