

**Cleves Lane, Upton Grey,
Basingstoke, Hampshire**

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Bewley Homes

by S D G Weaver

Thames Valley Archaeological Services

Site Code UGB98/58

August 1998

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Report 98/58

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Cleves Lane, Upton Grey, Basingstoke, Hampshire (SU 696488) (Figs 1 and 2). The work was commissioned by Mr Robert Miles of Bewley Homes PLC, Field House Barn, Chincham Lane, Sherbourne St John, Basingstoke, RG24 9LR.

The archaeological evaluation was required as a condition of the planning permission (BDB/042251) granted by Basingstoke and Deane Council for the construction of new housing on the development site. This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Policy and Planning Guidance Note, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16, 1990) and the Council policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr David Hopkins, County Archaeologist of Hampshire County Council Archaeology Section, advisors to the Local Planning Authority. The fieldwork was undertaken by Steven Weaver, Kate Taylor and Andy Smith between the 5th and 7th of August 1998 and the site code is UGB98/58.

Location, Topography and Geology

The site is located at the northern edge of the small village of Upton Grey on the North Downs, c 7 km to the south-east of Basingstoke (Fig 1). The site lies on even ground at a height of c 129.5 m above Ordnance Datum. The British Geological Survey shows the underlying geology to be Upper Chalk (BGS 1981), although the evaluation trenches revealed a clay-with-flints natural.

Archaeological Background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted by Hampshire County Council Archaeology Section. The site lies upon the projected line of the Silchester to Chichester Roman road (Margary No 155) (Fig 1), between Silchester and Neatham (Margary, 1955, 71; Millet and Graham, 1986). As well as the possible presence of the Roman road, further Roman deposits reflecting roadside settlement may exist over the site.

Objectives and Methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of development. If the Roman road was encountered, it was to be fully excavated and recorded at the time of the evaluation, in order to negate the necessity of further fieldwork.

The evaluation was to comprise the excavation of seven trenches, 1.6 m wide and 20 m long (a total of 224 sq m) positioned in such a manner as to facilitate locating the Roman road if present. In the event, nine trenches of varying lengths were excavated (a total of 280 sq m), as well as a small area (c 12 m) stripped at the north-east end of Trench 7 (Fig 2). The trenches were excavated using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Any possible archaeological deposits were hand-cleaned and excavated and the 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 1

Trench 1 was located at the north-eastern end of the site, aligned north-east - south-west (Fig 2). The stratigraphy revealed by the trench consisted of 0.25 m of topsoil which overlay an orange/brown clay-with-flints natural. No archaeological features were present within the trench and no finds were recovered from the spoilheap.

Trench 2 (Plate 1)

Trench 2 was located at the north-eastern end of the site, aligned north-east - south-west (Figs 2 and 3). The stratigraphy in this trench consisted of 0.28 m of topsoil which overlay an orange/brown clay-with-flints natural. Stripping of the topsoil revealed two dark brown clay patches (53 and 57) and a deposit of flint gravel (54) at the south-west end of the trench (Figs 3 and 4).

A 0.80 m wide slot was excavated through 53 and 57 to ascertain the nature of the deposits (Fig 3). Excavation revealed no clearly definable edges in profile to the deposits, although they appeared clear in plan. The curvilinear nature of the deposits may suggest the presence of a depression or bowl which has silted over

and the clay has been discoloured by water action. No archaeological material was recovered from within either deposit.

A further 0.80 m wide slot was excavated through the flint gravel deposit 54 (Fig 3). Deposit 54 was reasonably amorphous, 2-3 m wide and 0.30 m deep (Fig 4). Further trenching to the north-west of the trench (Trench 9) revealed a continuation of the flint gravel (55). However, the extension of the north-eastern end of Trench 3 to the south revealed only clay. The uneven profile of deposit 54 would suggest that it is a natural flint gravel patch within the clay-with-flints (Fig 4, section 2). No archaeological material was recovered from the deposit and no finds were recovered from the spoilheaps of this trench.

Trench 3 (Plate 2)

Trench 3 was located at the north-eastern end of the site and aligned north-east - south-west, parallel to Cleves Lane (Fig 2). The stratigraphy for this trench consisted of 0.23 m of topsoil overlying an orange/brown clay-with-flints natural. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed within the trench. The north-eastern end of the trench was extended to ascertain the presence or absence of the flint gravel deposits (54 and 55) revealed in Trenches 2 and 9. The extended stripped area revealed no flint gravel deposit. No finds were recovered from the spoilheaps.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was centrally located along the north-west boundary of the site, aligned north-east -south-west (Fig 2). The trench stratigraphy consisted of 0.20 m of topsoil which overlay a 0.25 m depth of made-ground (51) above an orange/brown clay-with-flints natural. No archaeological features or deposits were present and no finds were recovered from the spoilheaps. From conversation with a local resident, the 0.25 m of made-ground most probably comprised material from the demolition of a barn to the north-west of the site.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was located towards the south-western end of the site, aligned north-east - south-west (Fig 2). The trench stratigraphy consisted of 0.23 m of topsoil overlying an orange/brown clay-with-flint natural. A series of yellow/brown silt patches were present along the trench, and investigation of these revealed that they were naturally silted hollows. No archaeological features or deposits were present and no finds were recovered from the spoilheaps.

Trench 6

Trench 6 was also located towards the south-western end of the site, aligned north-east - south-west (Fig 2). The stratigraphy of the trench consisted of 0.20 m of topsoil, over 0.20 m of made-ground (51), above an orange/brown clay-with-flints natural. The location of the trench near to the north-west boundary of the site would suggest that the made-ground also came from the demolished barn (see Trench 4). No archaeological features or deposits were present and no finds were recovered from the spoilheaps.

Trench 7 (Plate 4)

Trench 7 was located at the south-western end of the site and was aligned approximately east-west (Fig 2). The trench stratigraphy consisted of 0.30 m of topsoil, which was mixed with modern rubbish at the western end of the trench. This overlay an orange/brown clay-with-flints natural. The trench contained a single small posthole (1) at its eastern end (Figs 3 and 4, section 1). The posthole (1) was 0.14 m in diameter and 0.12 m deep. The single fill (52) produced no dating evidence. It is interesting to note that the posthole lies near to an existing posted boundary and it is possible that it relates to an earlier form of this boundary. An additional area was stripped around the posthole to ascertain whether any further postholes were present but this revealed no further features. Trench 7 also revealed north-east - south west aligned plough scars. No finds were recovered from the spoilheaps.

Trench 8

Trench 8 was located to the south-east of Trench 2, aligned north-east - south west (Fig 2). It was excavated to ascertain whether the dark clay deposits in Trench 2 (53 and 57) continued to the south-east. The trench stratigraphy consisted of 0.25 m of topsoil overlying an orange/brown clay-with-flints natural. No continuation of the dark clay deposits (53 and 57) were observed. No further archaeological features or deposits were present and no finds were recovered from the spoilheaps.

Trench 9 (Plate 3)

Trench 9 was positioned to the north-west of Trench 2, aligned north-east - south-west (Fig 2). The trench stratigraphy consisted of 0.23 m of topsoil overlying an orange/brown clay-with-flints natural. It was excavated to investigate whether the flint gravel deposit (54) in Trench 2 extended further north.

A 3.5 m wide and 0.27 m deep flint gravel deposit (55) was present within the trench (Figs 3 and 4, section 3). A small silted depression (56) was also present within 55. A slot 0.80 m wide was excavated through

deposit 55. No archaeological material was recovered from the deposit and no finds were recovered from the spoilheaps.

Conclusion

The evaluation trenches did not reveal evidence of the Roman road. The two flint gravel deposits (54 and 55), after full examination, appear to be natural flint patches sitting within depressions in the clay-with-flints. The extent of these patches is clearly limited as Trench 8 showed that they were not present to the south-east. It is unlikely that these patches had been removed by ploughing in this area, given the depth to which they survived in Trench 2.

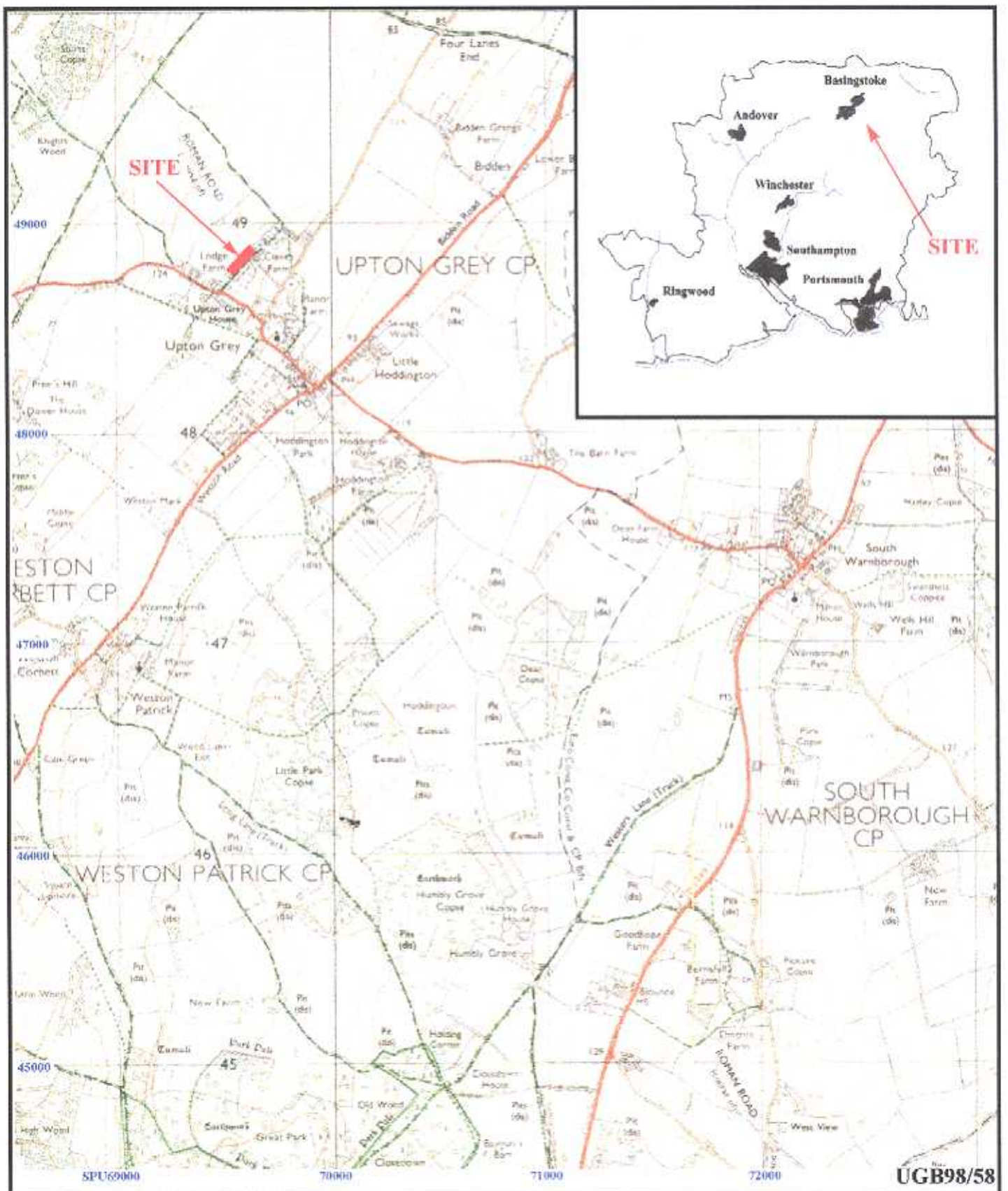
A single posthole (1) was discovered at the north-eastern end of Trench 7. This remains undated and widening of the stripped area around the posthole failed to reveal further features. It is possible the posthole may be the remains of an earlier definition of the fenced boundary which currently exists to the north-east of the feature.

References

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- PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Department of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, HMSO
- Margary, I D, 1955, *Roman Roads in Britain, Vol. 1. South of the Foss Way-Bristol Channel*, The Bowering Press, Phoenix House Ltd, London
- Millet, M and Graham, D, 1986, *Excavations on the Romano-British Small Town at Neatham, Hampshire, 1969-1979*, Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society, Monograph 3, Alan Sutton Publishing, Gloucester

APPENDIX 1: Trench Details

<i>Trench No</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	19.2	1.6	0.30	Topsoil onto clay-with-flints
2	20.6	1.6	0.30	Topsoil onto clay-with-flints. Deposit 53, 54 and 57
3	22.15	1.6	0.30	Topsoil onto clay-with-flints
4	19.3	1.6	0.45	Topsoil onto made-ground (51) overlying clay-with-flints
5	19.4	1.6	0.35	Topsoil onto clay-with-flints
6	21.4	1.6	0.28S 0.50N	Topsoil onto made-ground (51) overlying clay-with-flints
7	19	1.6 4.8NE	0.40	Topsoil onto clay-with-flints. Posthole 1 (52)
8	13	1.6	0.35	Topsoil onto clay-with-flints
9	9	1.6	0.30	Topsoil onto clay-with-flints Deposits 55 and 56



Upton Grey, Basingstoke, Hampshire, 1998

Figure 1. Location of site within Upton Grey and Hampshire.

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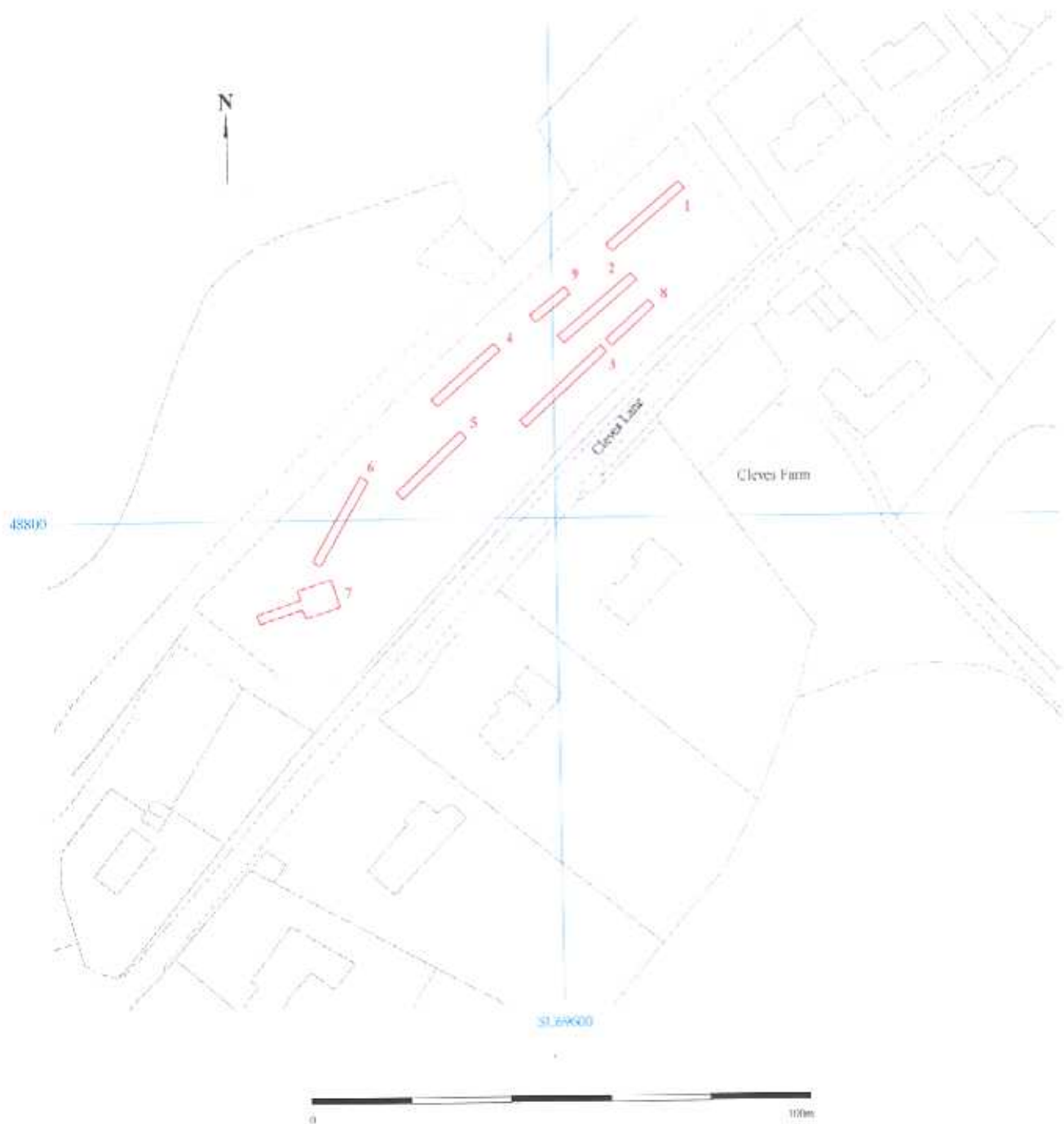


Figure 2. Trench location plan.

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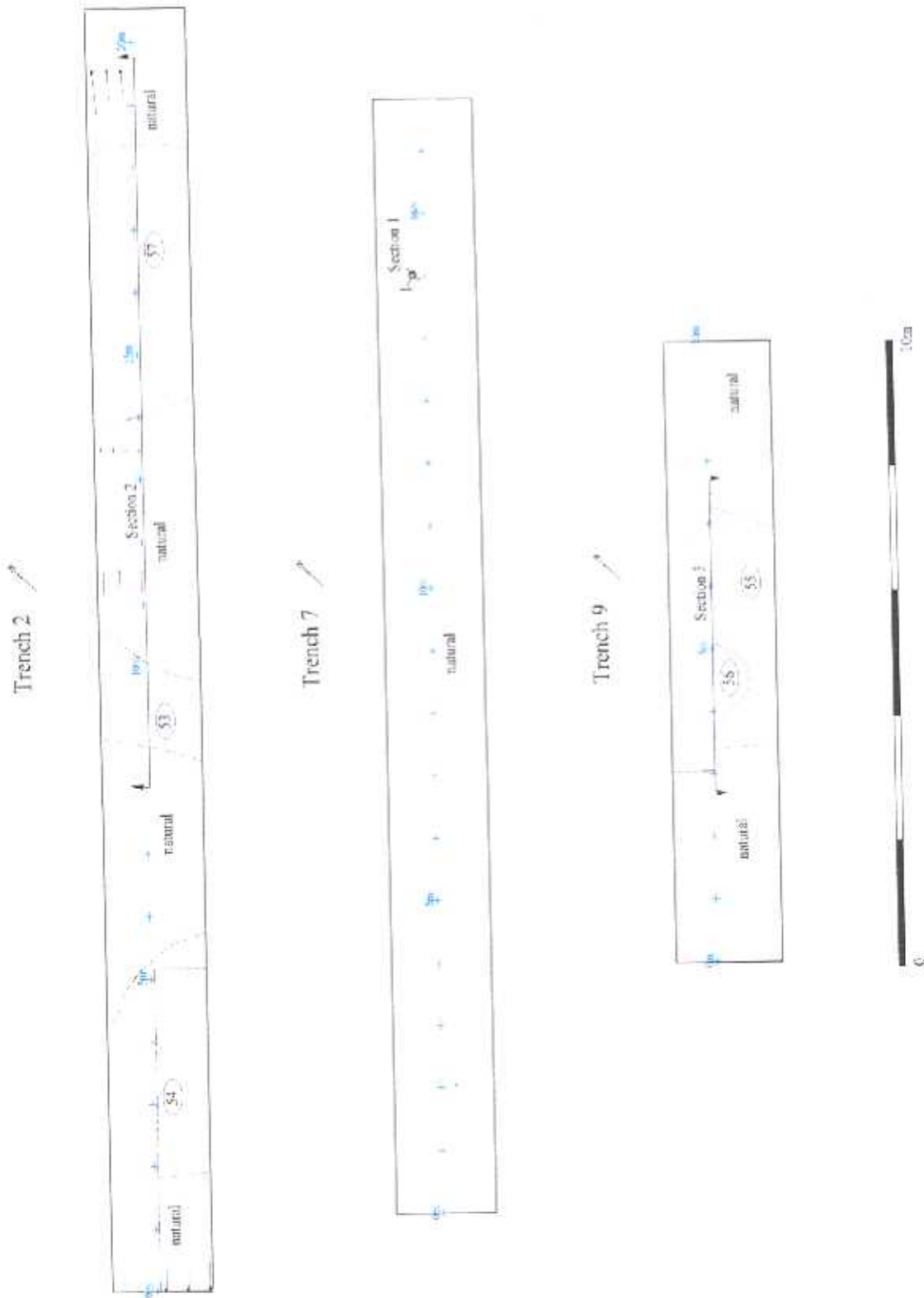


Figure 3. Plans of Trenches 2, 7, and 9.

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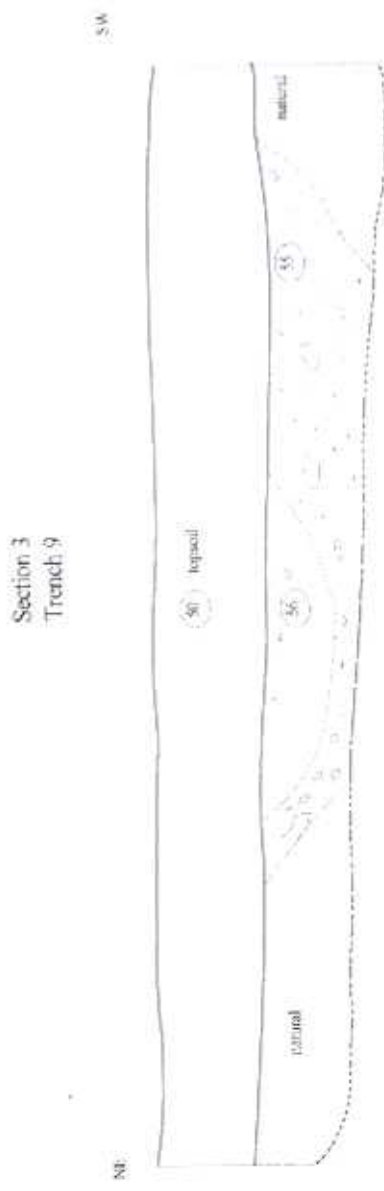
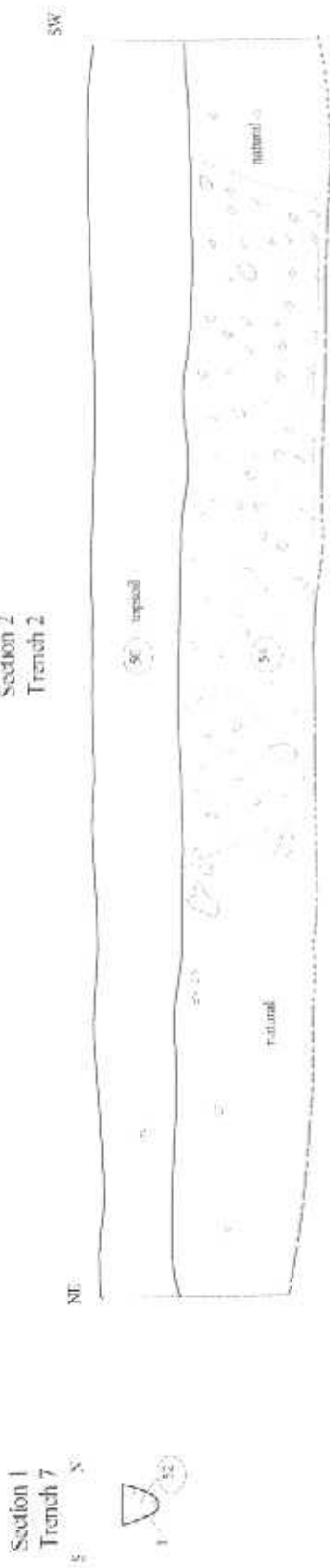


Figure 4. Sections.



Plate 1. Trench 2 looking north-east, scales: 0.50m.



Plate 2. Trench 3 looking north-east, scales: 0.50m.



Plate 3. Trench 9 looking north-east, scales: 0.50m and 2m.



Plate 4. Trench 7, post-hole 1 looking south-west, scale: 0.10m.