

HAVERING

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46 Shaftesbury Road, Romford, Essex

Archaeological Evaluation

Oxford Archaeological Unit

1994

46 SHAFTESBURY ROAD, ROMFORD, ESSEX

SITE CODE: RO-SR-94 LDPEM/ACRO/262

NGR: TQ52018847

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1 SUMMARY

The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook a field evaluation at 46 Shaftesbury Road, Romford (Planning Application No. POO57.94) on behalf of Bermac Properties Ltd. on the 21st of April 1994. Three trenches were positioned by agreement, between the OAU, the Developer and the Archaeological Adviser to the Planning Authority to assess those areas to be directly affected (without influencing the foundation layout) by the proposed residential development.

All three excavated trenches revealed a similar stratified sequence which comprised of a layer of demolition debris which overlay a possible garden soil and/or ploughsoil. These overlay a reddish brown silty clay; the start of the natural sequence. One archaeological feature was identified cutting high in the observed archaeological sequence in Trench 1. The 2 sherds recovered from this feature, date between the 19 to 20th century.

2 INTRODUCTION

The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook a field evaluation at 46 Shaftesbury Road, Romford, Essex, on behalf of Bermac Properties Limited. Archaeological fieldwork began and finished on the 21st of April 1994. An area of approximately 2584 sq. m. is to be redeveloped, as part of a residential development, however only the 11 house plots, covering approximately 432.6 sq. m are likely to disturb significant archaeological deposits. The three excavated trenches represent a 9% sample of the area covered by the house plots.

The aim of the evaluation was to begin assessment of the nature, location, extent and significance of surviving archaeological remains.

3 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The site lies within a residential area, east of Romford town centre (NGR TQ52018847; Figure 1), and has been levelled in advance of construction work. Three boreholes were excavated and analysed by George Chambers and Associates and revealed an alternating sequence of sand and clays above gravel, identified at a depth of 12 m.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development site had been identified as being located in an area which may contain significant Roman and medieval remains.

5 METHODOLOGY AND STRATEGY

- 5.1** The evaluation strategy was carried out in the form of three trench excavations. Two trenches measured 2 x 5 m and one 2 x 10 m, which represented a 9% sample of the area covered by the house plots, where the preservation of significant archaeological deposits may be threatened. The trenches were positioned by agreement, between the OAU, the Developer and the Archaeological Advisor to the Planning Authority, to assess those areas to be directly affected (without influencing the foundation layout; Figure 2) by the proposed residential development.
- 5.2** The non-archaeological overburden was excavated mechanically using a JCB3CX with a 1.5 m toothless ditching bucket. Mechanical excavation continued down to the first significant archaeological horizon or in their absence to the natural subsoil. The resulting surfaces were cleaned, planned, levelled, and photographed; where appropriate a sample section was excavated through the fills of any potential features.
- 5.3** To comply with health and safety regulations and to ensure that the trench would in no way be hazardous, no excavation would continue beyond a depth of 1.2 m.

6 RESULTS

- 6.1** A posthole was identified in the east facing section of Trench 1 (103) which contained two sherds of Pottery, which date between the 19th and 20th century.
- 6.2** In Trenches 2 and 3 pockets a sandy silt (204 and 304) were observed within a mid-reddish brown silty clay (205 and 305), the start of the natural sequence. Excavation of these features suggests that they are naturally formed and represent solution holes within the alluvium.
- 6.3** All three excavated trenches exhibited a similar stratigraphical sequence (figure 3). This sequence was characterised by a layer of demolition debris which overlay a possible garden soil and/or ploughsoil (104, 202, 302). These overlay a reddish brown silty clay.
- 6.4** The stratigraphic units described during geotechnical ground work carried out by George Chambers and Associates, represents the natural geological sequence. The first recorded layer corresponds with the mid-reddish brown silty clay (105, 205 and 305), which was the limit of excavation in all three trenches.

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1** No evidence of medieval or Roman remains were identified in the trench excavations.
- 7.2** Layers 104, 203 and 303 are equivalent and possibly represent a Post-medieval garden soil or ploughsoil, although no archaeological components were identified.
- 7.3** The one post-medieval posthole identified in Trench 1, dated between the 19th and 20th century, is not archaeologically significant .

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May 1994

APPENDIX 1 SUMMARY OF STRATIGRAPHY

Context

No.	Type of Context	Depth (m)	Level Top (mASL)	Comments
101	Demolition Debris	0.3	9.63	Make-up from the levelling of the site
102	Fill	0.18	9.43	Fill of posthole
103	?Posthole	0.18	9.43	
104	Plough/Garden Soil	0.25	9.43	
105	ill-defined boundary between 104 and 106	0.2	9.19	Ill-defined boundary due to plough action above?
106	Natural silty clay	Unknown	8.93	Natural
201	Demolition Debris	0.2	9.97	Make-up from the levelling of the site
202	Plough/Garden Soil	0.2	9.87	
203	?Ploughsoil	0.25	9.67	
204	Fill	0.15	9.31	Fill of natural solution hole
205	Natural silty clay	Unknown	9.31	Natural
301	Demolition Debris	0.1	9.26	Make-up from the levelling of the site
302	Plough/Garden Soil	0.15	9.08	
303	?Ploughsoil	0.2	8.78	
304	Fill	Unknown	8.66	Fill of natural solution hole
305	Natural silty clay	Unknown	8.66	Natural

APPENDIX 2 DESCRIPTION OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Trench 1

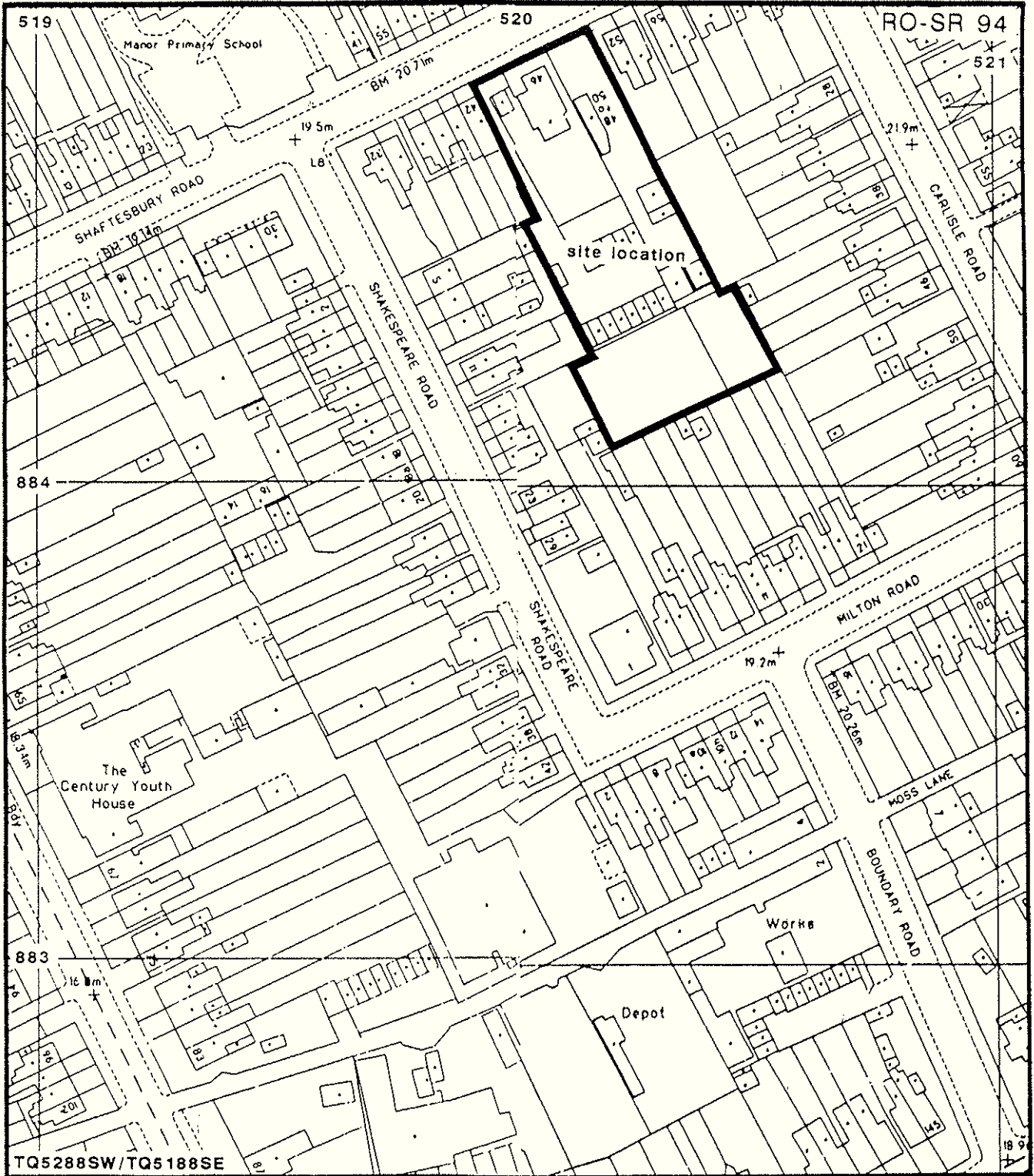
A tenacious mid-reddish brown silty clay (106) which contained 15% rounded pebbles was revealed at the extent of excavation, 8.93 m OD. This was overlain by a friable light brown sandy silt (104) which contained 40 % rounded pebbles and was 0.25 m deep. 104 was cut by a possible posthole (103) with steep sides and a flat base (only seen in section), filled by a light brown sandy silt (102) which contained 10 % rounded pebbles. The posthole was overlain by a friable mid-greyish brown sandy silt (101) which contained pebbles, ceramic building material and was disturbed by root activity.

Trench 2

A tenacious mid-reddish brown silty clay (205) which contained 15 % rounded pebbles was revealed at the extent of excavation, 9.31 m OD. This was overlain by a tenacious light brown sandy silt (204) which contained 50 % rounded pebbles and was 0.15 m deep. This was overlain by a friable light brown sandy silt (203) which contained 40 % rounded pebbles, and underlying a tenacious dark greyish brown sandy silt (202) which contained 10 % rounded pebbles. In turn this was overlain by a friable mid-brown silty sand (201) which contained pebbles, ceramic building material and was disturbed by root activity.

Trench 3

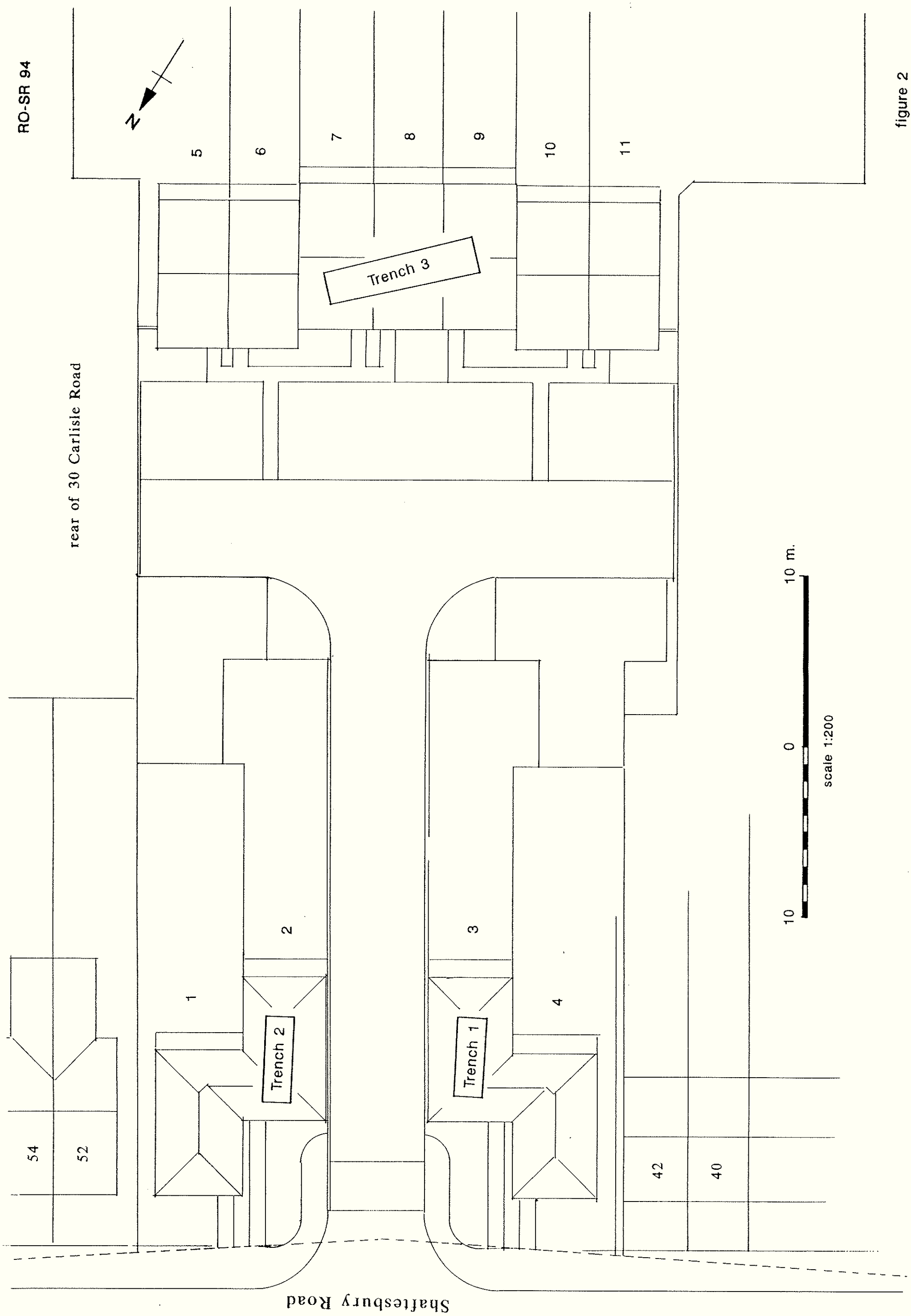
A tenacious mid-reddish brown silty clay (305) which contained 15 % rounded pebbles was revealed at the extent of excavation, 8.66 m OD, underlying a tenacious light yellowish brown silt (304) which contained 5 % rounded pebbles. This was overlain by a loose mid-brown sandy silt (303) which contained 70 % rounded pebbles. Above this was a friable light brown sandy silt (302) which contained 5 % rounded pebbles, which was overlain by a friable dark brown silty sand (301) which contained 15 % rounded pebbles, ceramic building material and was disturbed by root activity.



scale 1:1250

Site location

figure 1



RO-SR 94

rear of 30 Carlisle Road

Shaftesbury Road

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

Trench 3

1

2

Trench 2

3

Trench 1

4

54

52

42

40

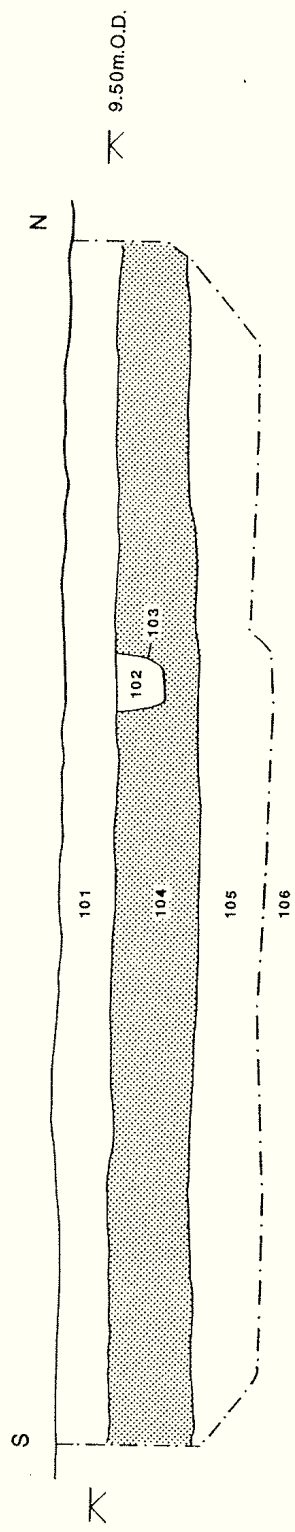
10 0 10 m.

scale 1:200

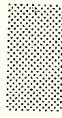
figure 2

RO-SR 94

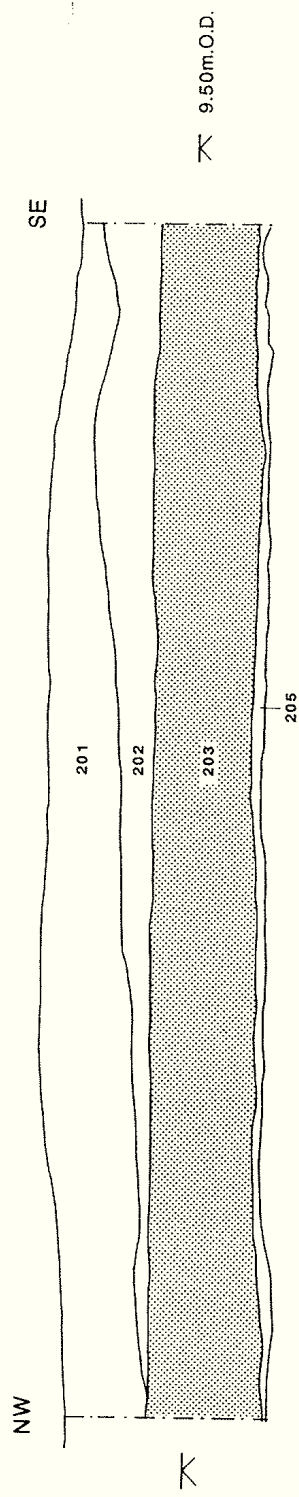
Trench 1 section 1



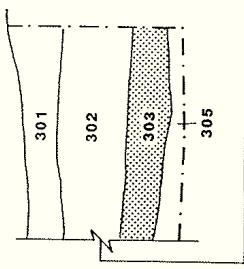
70% rounded pebbles in
loose mid/light brown sandy silt



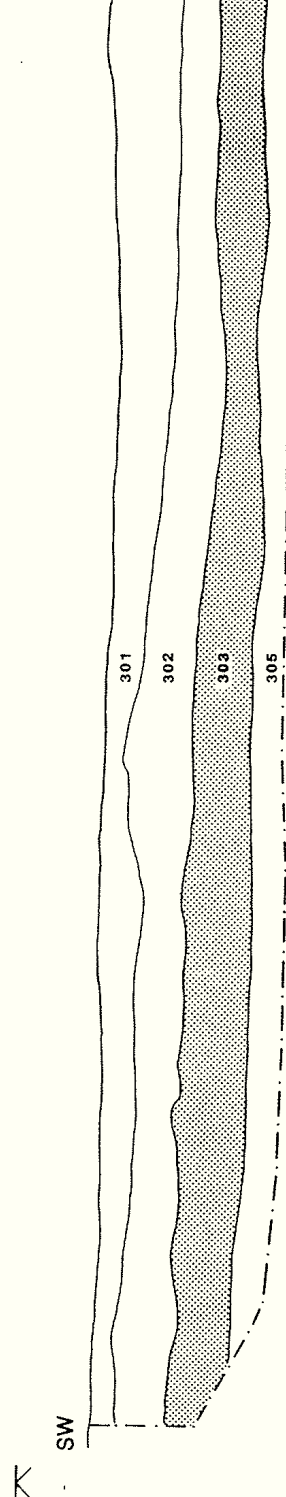
Trench 2 section 2



9.50m.O.D. NE



Trench 3 section 3



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