

**A report on a trench
dug by Anglia Water
at Gosbecks Archaeological Park, Colchester, Essex**

19 September 1997

Colchester Archaeological Trust

A report on a trench dug by Anglia Water at Gosbecks Archaeological Park, Colchester.

Introduction

On 19th September 1997, Colchester Archaeological Trust was asked to record and report on a hole dug without prior consent in the Scheduled Area at Gosbecks Archaeological Park. The hole had been opened up by Breheny on behalf of Anglia Water, in order to locate a leaking water main. The hole was located west of Oliver's Lane and south of the new Cunobelinus Road (figure 1).

Work Carried out

The work carried out by CAT consisted of :

- a clean-up of the exposed sides of the hole,
- the accurate location of the hole by total station,
- the plotting of the hole in relation to the Gosbecks Park survey grid (figure 1 here),
- the drawing of a plan and cross-section (figures 2 and 3),
- and the taking of record photographs.

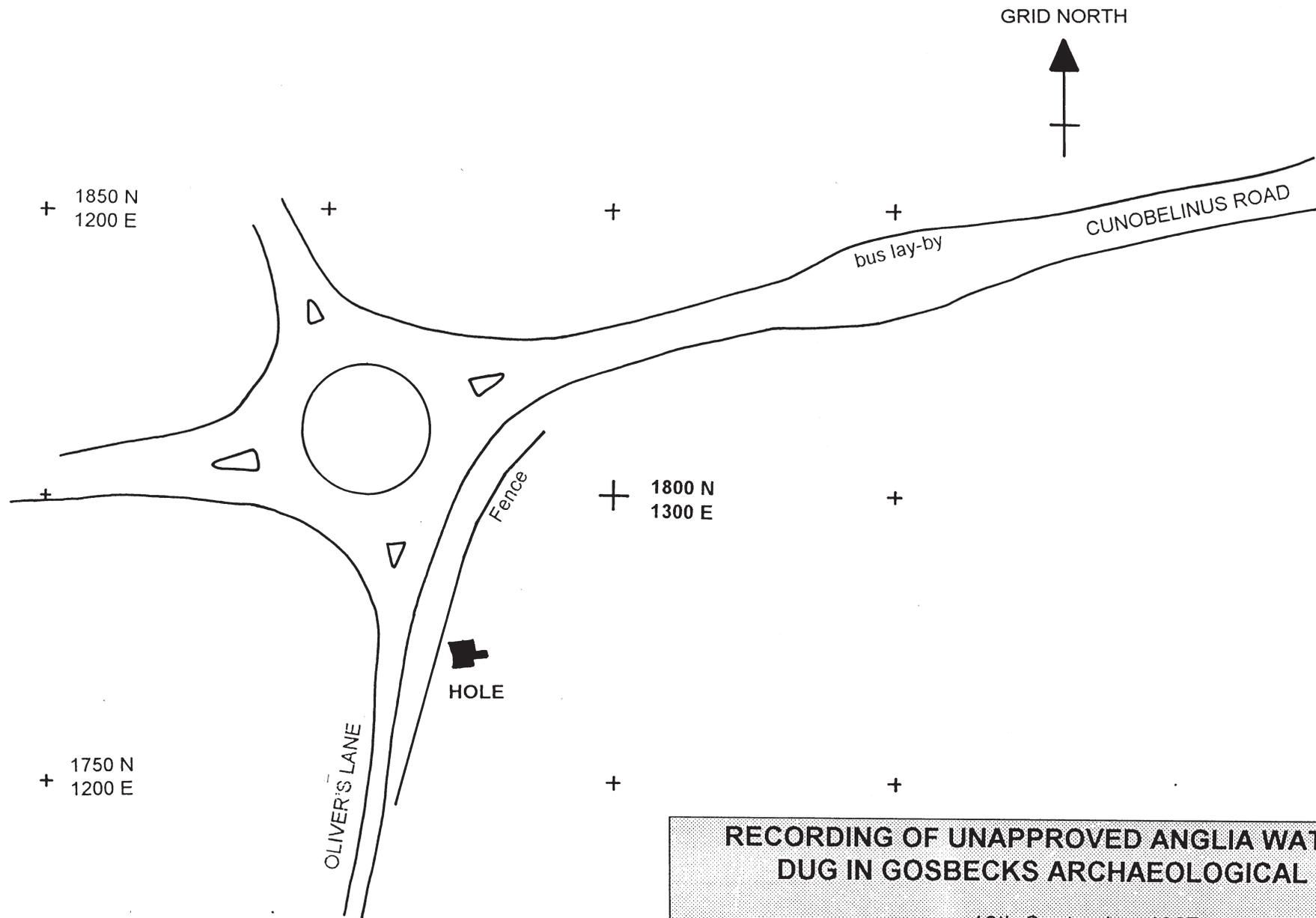
Description of the hole

The hole was irregularly shaped (figure 2) and consisted of a wide area of ground reduction to approximately 0.6 to 0.8 m below ground level, with a central slot cut down below this general level to approximately 1.3 metres below ground. The level of original ground reduction was approximately down to the local water table, or at least the hole had filled up to that level at the time the inspection was carried out. The bottom of the deep part of the hole could not be seen due to muddy water, but was easily measurable by means of a graduated 2-metre ranging pole.

There were only two soil horizons exposed: a greyish brown topsoil (figure 3, number 1) lying over natural gravel (figure 3, number 2). The topsoil was noticeably waterlogged at its west end (close to the water leak).

The original level of reduction had cut through the topsoil (1) and into the natural gravel subsoil (2). The central slot was cut entirely into natural ground (2).

All sides of the hole were visible down to the topsoil/subsoil boundary. No archaeological features were visible. There were no finds on the surface of the spoil heaps, or from the trench sides during cleaning.

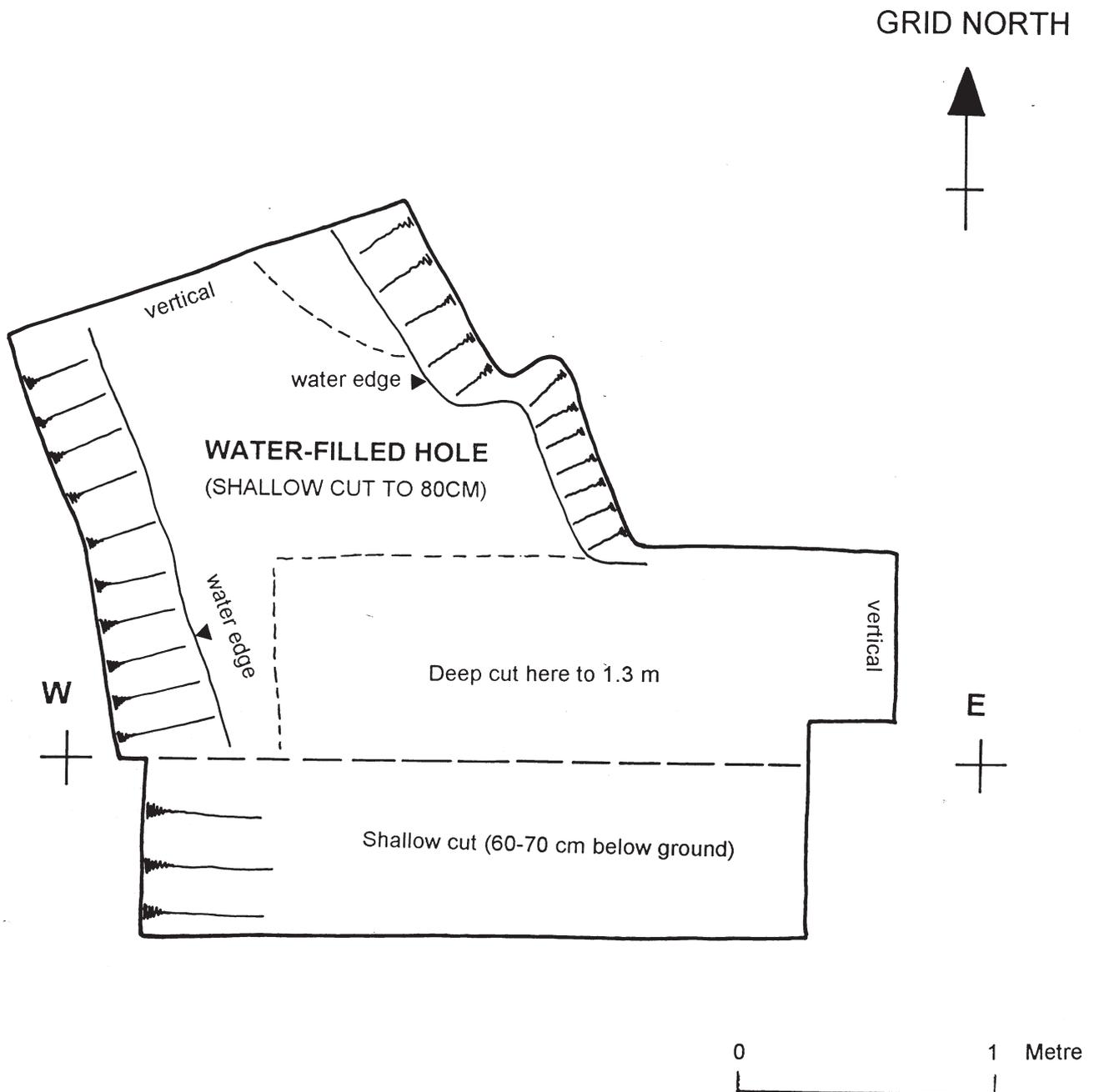


**RECORDING OF UNAPPROVED ANGLIA WATER HOLE
DUG IN GOSBECKS ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK**

19th September 1997

Figure 1

*Location of hole plotted in relation to modern features,
and Gosbecks Archaeological Park Grid*

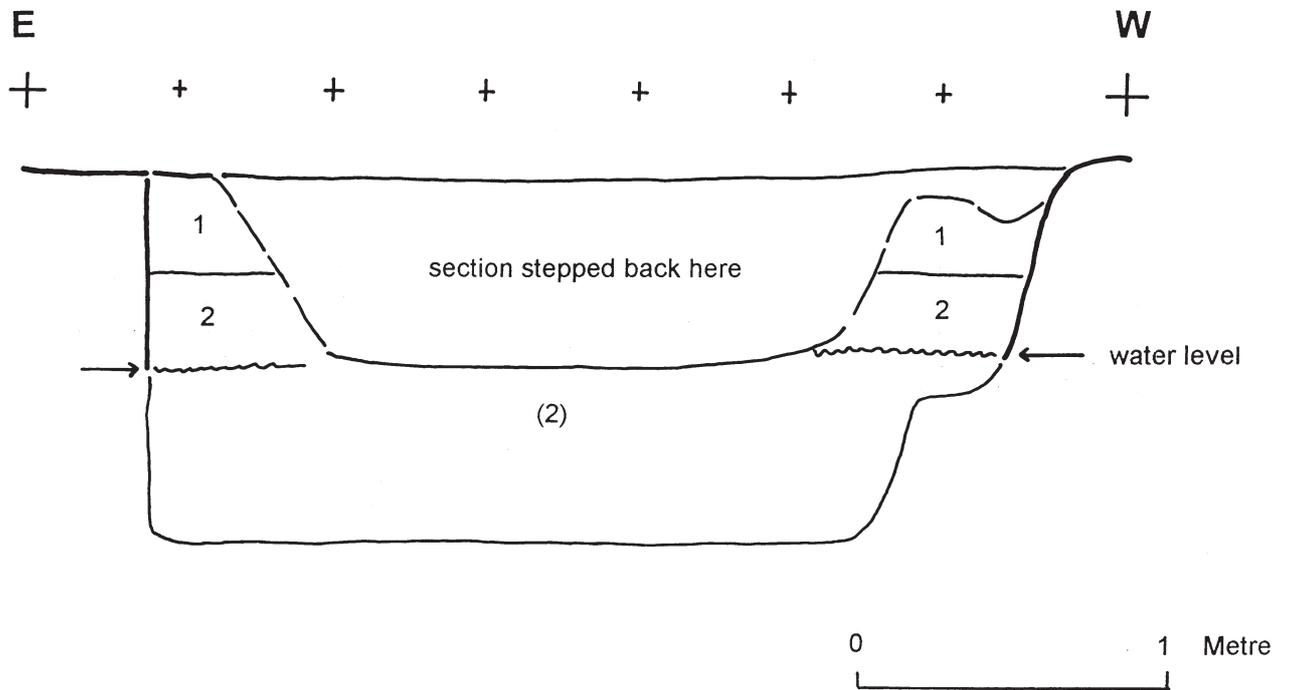


**RECORDING OF UNAPPROVED ANGLIA WATER HOLE
DUG IN GOSBECKS ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK**

19th September 1997

Figure 2

Plan of hole



KEY

- 1 Grey brown stony loam. Ploughsoil, waterlogged at western end
- 2 Orange brown gritty gravel (Natural)

**RECORDING OF UNAPPROVED ANGLIA WATER HOLE
DUG IN GOSBECKS ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK**

19th September 1997

Figure 3

Section of hole