



# Northamptonshire Archaeology

## Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Boddington Road Wind Turbine Byfield, Northamptonshire



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Northamptonshire  
County Council

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## QUALITY CONTROL

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## OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: molanort1-246376	
Project name	Byfield, Boddington Road Wind Turbine		
Short description (250 words maximum)	Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out trial trench evaluation on land off Boddington Road, Byfield, Northamptonshire. Four trenches totalling 75m long, were excavated under archaeological supervision. No artefacts were present. There were no archaeological features exposed in any of the trenches.		
Project type	Trial Trench Evaluation		
Site status	None		
Previous work	None		
Current Land use	Arable field		
Future work	None		
Monument type/ period	None		
Significant finds	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	Boddington Road, Byfield, Northamptonshire		
Study area (sq.m or ha)	0.05 ha		
OS Easting & Northing	449540 253650		
Height OD	120.78m OD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology		
Project brief originator			
Project Design originator	Atkins Heritage		
Director/Supervisor	Danny McAree, Northamptonshire Archaeology		
Project Manager	Adam Yates NA, Julia Bennett Atkins Heritage		
Sponsor or funding body	Atkins Heritage		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	October 2010		
End date	October 2010		
ARCHIVES	Location	Content	
Physical	NA	Trench reports, plans, photographs, digital photographs.	
Paper	NA	Site records. Drawings. Report	
Digital	NA	Digital report with illustrations.	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Title	Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Boddington Road Wind Turbine, Byfield, Northamptonshire		
Serial title & volume	NA Report 10/177		
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION AT**  
**BODDINGTON ROAD WIND TURBINE**  
**BYFIELD, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**  
**OCTOBER 2010**

**ABSTRACT**

*Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out trial trench evaluation on land off Boddington Road, Byfield, Northamptonshire. Four trenches totalling 75m long, were excavated under archaeological supervision. No artefacts were present. There were no archaeological features exposed in any of the trenches.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

On Monday 10th October 2010, Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook trial trench evaluation on behalf of Atkins Heritage Limited, on land off Boddington Road, Byfield, Northamptonshire on a site of a proposed wind turbine (NGR 449540 253650, Fig 1).

The project was undertaken in response to a Brief for Archaeological Evaluation issued by the Northamptonshire Planning Archaeologist (NCC 2010). The work was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2010) and approved by the Archaeological Advisor to Northamptonshire County Council.

**2 BACKGROUND**

**2.1 Planning background**

Atkins Heritage has commissioned Northamptonshire Archaeology to undertake archaeological work on the proposed site of a new wind turbine at Boddington Road, Byfield. This proposed development will involve the construction of a single wind turbine and associated crane pad to the east.

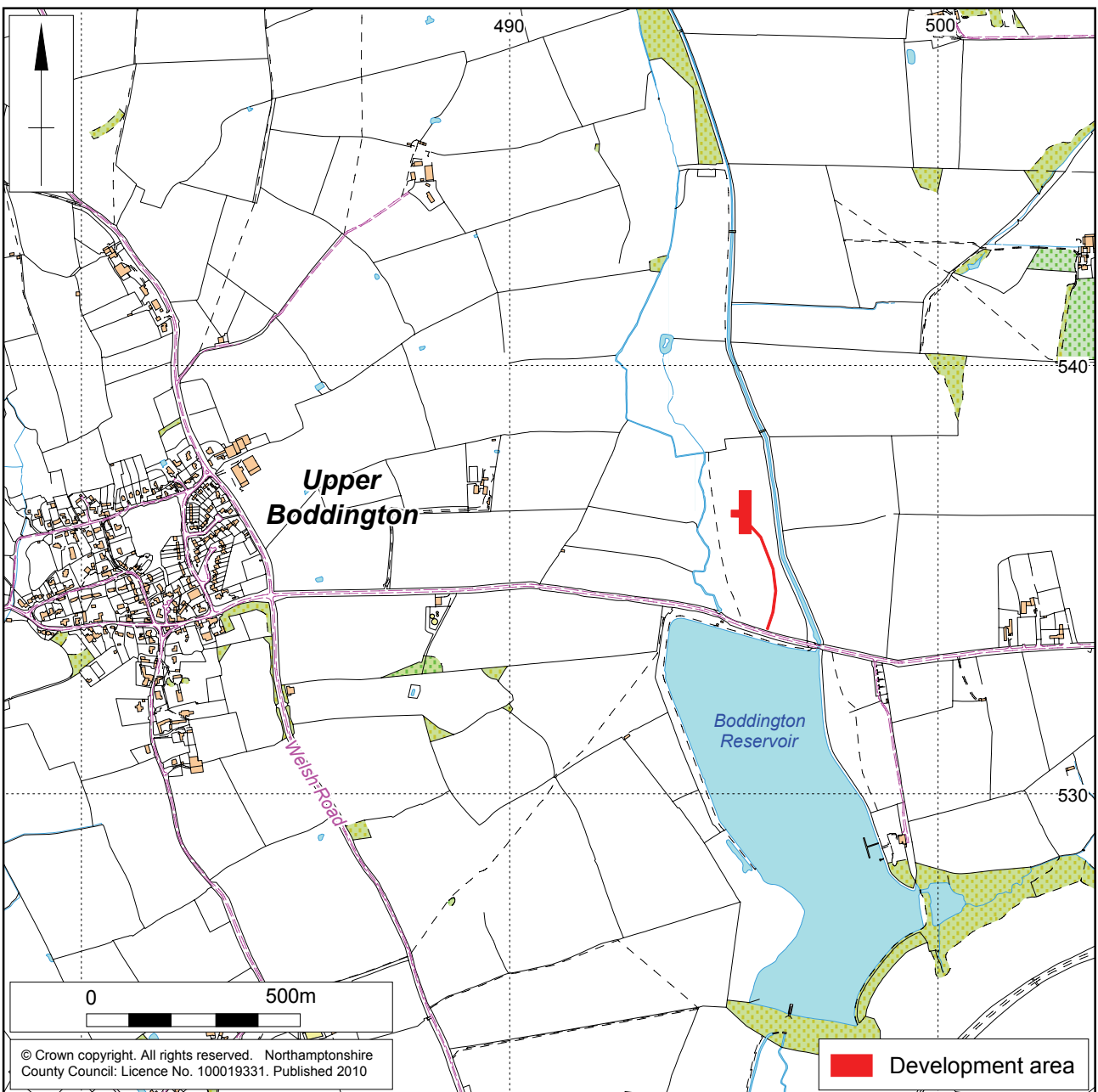
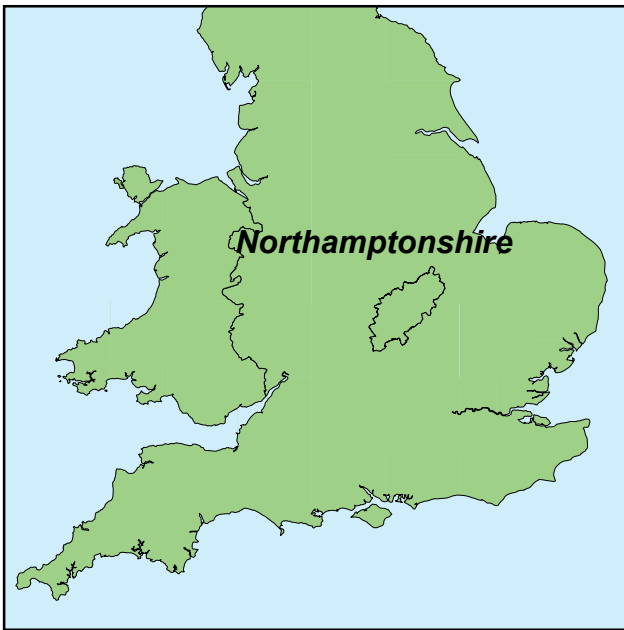
**2.2 Topography and geology**

The site comprises an arable field approximately 1km to the west of Byfield and east of the small stream that forms the parish boundary between Byfield and Upper Boddington. It is bounded to the east by a canalised water feeder which runs into Boddington reservoir, to the south by Boddington Road and to the north by fields.

The geology comprises Charmouth Mudstone with some superficial alluvium in the stream valley to the west (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk>).

**3 OBJECTIVES**

The general objectives of the work were defined in a brief prepared by the Northamptonshire County Council Archaeological Advisor (NCC 2010) and the Written Scheme of Investigation (NA 2010). The purpose of the work was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the archaeological site in its cultural



Scale 1:15,000

Site location Fig 1

and environmental setting. The aims of the investigation were to:

- Establish the date, nature and extent of the activity or occupation on the development site
- Recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region
- Recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions

Specific research objectives were to be drawn from national and regional research frameworks documents (English Heritage 1991, Cooper 2006) as relevant depending upon the results of the evaluation.

## **4 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT ASSESSMENT**

### **4.1 Historical background**

Byfield, with Westthorp, was mentioned in the Domesday Book. It has been close to many of the important events in history. During the Wars of the Roses, in 1469 the battle of Edgecote took place, only three miles from Byfield. Likewise during the English Civil War, the battles of Edgehill in 1642 and Naseby in 1645 were in the close vicinity. In the Second World War the area around Byfield had numerous airfields and other military installations which have left no visible evidence on or near the development site.

### **4.2 Historic Environment Records**

No archaeological remains are recorded by the Historic Environment Record within the development area. Approximately 700m to the south-west is an area of Romano-British settlement known from an area of cropmarks (MNN135509).

A possible Romano-British settlement site lies 600m to the south (MNN3194), in an area that has produced finds dating from the prehistoric to the Saxon period (MNN31952, MNN31953, MNN31954) including unstratified Iron Age coins (MNN33396).

To the south, west and east of the site lie areas of medieval open field denoted by ridge and furrow cultivation (MNN133419, MNN132437, MNN132315, MNN132314, MNN132438), although none of these are recorded as extending into the site itself. To the south of the site is Boddington Reservoir (MNN103577).

### **4.3 Historic maps**

The 1810 Ordnance Survey Surveyors map shows the site as a single large field between the small stream and the canal feeder. A series of small structures along the feeder may represent weirs or crossing points. The First Edition map of 1885 shows the field as present with a field boundary aligned east-west across the field, just to the south of the development site. This map evidence remains relatively unchanged from 1885 mapping until the present day.

### **4.4 Previous archaeological work**

Geophysical Survey has been undertaken on the site as part of the archaeological mitigation for the proposed development. This identified a number of anomalies of natural and possibly archaeological origin (Fig 2).

## 5 TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

### 5.1 Methodology

All trenches were located in accordance with a plan approved by the Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council (Fig 1). Trenches were located in relation to the Ordnance Survey mapping using Leica System 1200 GPS.

The trenches were excavated using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a 1.7m-wide ditching bucket. Subsoil and topsoil, where present, were removed to expose the upper strata of geology and stored separately.

Once opened, hand excavation and recording of trenches progressed in accordance with standard Northamptonshire Archaeology procedures (NA 2006).

A photographic record in both black and white negative and digital images was kept. The written record used Northamptonshire Archaeology pro-forma sheets. The trial trench evaluation was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008) and the *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010); and the English Heritage documents *Management of archaeological projects* (1991) and *Management of research projects in the historic environment*, MORPHE (2006).

Following the completion of the archaeological work the trenches were backfilled.

### 5.2 Results

Four trenches totalling 75m in length were excavated across the central part of the development site (Fig 2).

Trench 1 was 20m long, aligned north-south and located to expose details of positive geophysical anomalies. Trench 2 was 15m long, aligned north-south and located to allow examination of a large geophysical anomaly tentatively identified as a large pit. Trench 3 was 15m long, aligned east-west and located over possible ditches and banks. Trench 4 was 25m long, aligned roughly north-east to south-east and located to expose parallel geophysical anomalies, possibly large earthwork features.

Undisturbed natural subsoil, yellow-brown sandy clay banded with grey-brown and grey-yellow silt clays, was exposed at about 300mm below the soil surface across all of the trenches. In all trenches it was sealed below mid-brown sandy clay loam topsoil. Both layers contained occasional fragments of sub-rounded limestone fragments up to 0.2m long and occasional sub-rounded or rounded river stones up to 0.15m diameter. (Appendix A).

All four trenches were located on or around a natural mound or knoll in the centre of the field. In this area, the proportion of limestone found in the topsoil was significantly higher than that from the surround ploughed surface of the field.

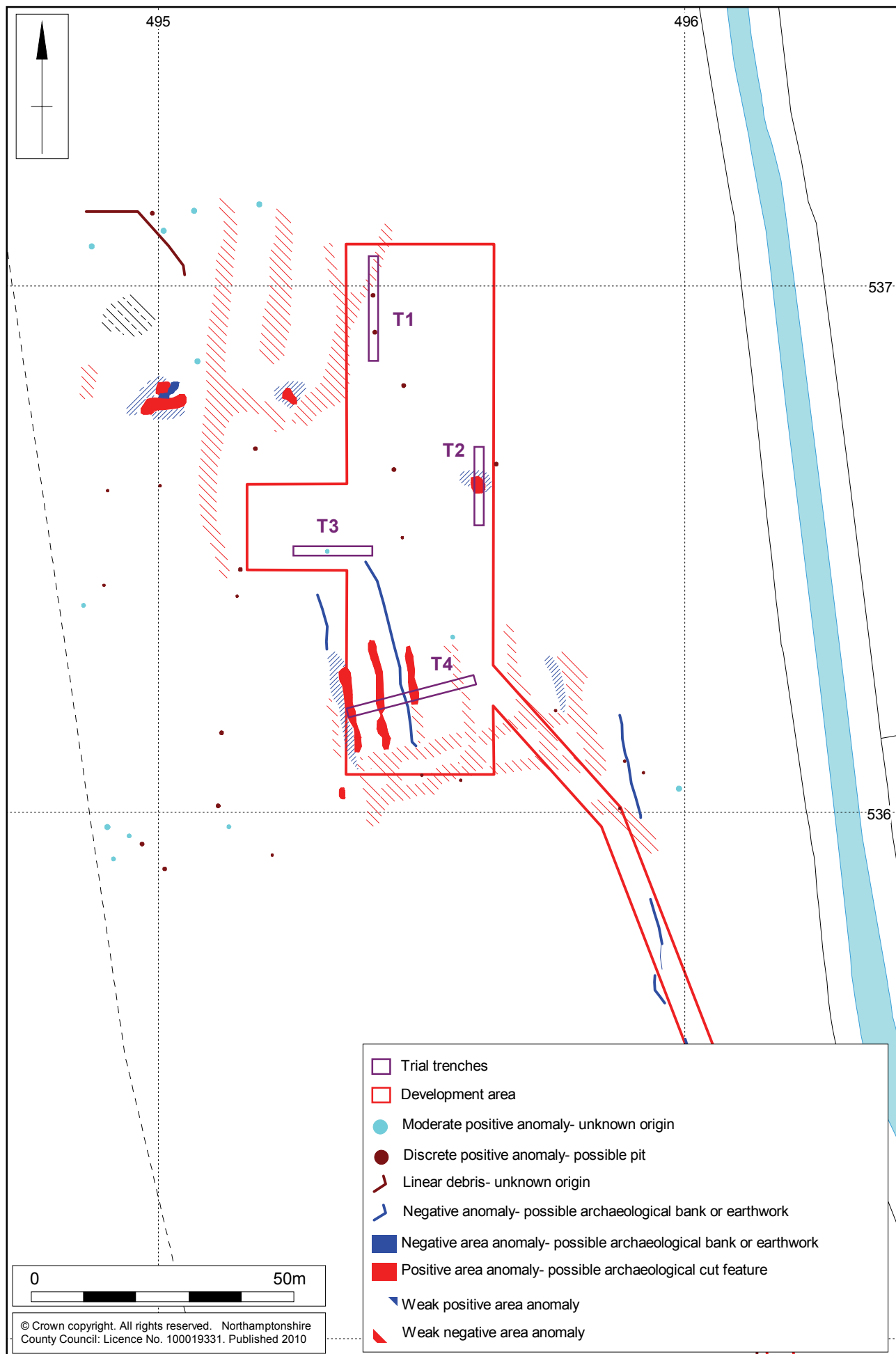
## 6 DISCUSSION

No archaeological features were present in any of the trial trenches. The geophysical anomalies appear to be derived from the variation and striations within the natural substrate.

There were no artefacts present in the upcast from the trenches. No archaeological features were exposed in any of the excavated areas.

Other than the modern plough soil, there is no indication of any other activity in the evaluation trenches on this site.





Scale 1:1000

Trench location plan Fig 2

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cooper, N J, (ed) 2006 *The Archaeology of the East Midlands, an archaeological resource assessment and research agenda*, Leicester Archaeology Monograph **13**

EH 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*, English Heritage Procedural Document, 2nd edition

EH 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment, MORPHE*, English Heritage Procedural Document

IfA 2008 *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, Institute for Archaeologists

IfA 2010 *Code of Conduct*, Institute for Archaeologists

NA 2010 *Written Scheme of investigation for work at Byfield wind turbine*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

NCC 2010 *Brief for archaeological evaluation at Boddington Road, Byfield*, Northamptonshire County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology

a service of Northamptonshire County Council

revised 16 December 2010

**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT LIST**

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type Feature &amp; type</b>	<b>Description/ dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/ Samples</b>
1	1001	Layer – natural sub strate	Yellow-brown sandy clay banded with grey-brown and grey-yellow silt clays, containing occasional fragments of sub-rounded limestone fragments up to 0.2m long and occasional sub-rounded or rounded river stones up to 0.15m diameter.	None
	1002	Layer – topsoil 119.18m – 118.82m OD	Mid-brown sandy clay loam topsoil, containing occasional fragments of sub-rounded limestone fragments up to 0.2m long and occasional sub-rounded or rounded river stones up to 0.15m diameter.	None
2	2001	Layer – natural sub strate	Occasional fragments of sub-rounded limestone fragments up to 0.2m long and occasional sub-rounded or rounded river stones up to 0.15m diameter.	None
	2002	Layer – topsoil 119.6m – 119.24m OD	Mid-brown sandy clay loam topsoil, containing occasional fragments of sub-rounded limestone fragments up to 0.2m long and occasional sub-rounded or rounded river stones up to 0.15m diameter	None
3	3001	Layer – natural sub strate	Occasional fragments of sub-rounded limestone fragments up to 0.2m long and occasional sub-rounded or rounded river stones up to 0.15m diameter.	None
	3002	Layer – topsoil 118.99m – 118.66m OD	Mid-brown sandy clay loam topsoil, containing occasional fragments of sub-rounded limestone fragments up to 0.2m long and occasional sub-rounded or rounded river stones up to 0.15m diameter.	None
4	4001	Layer – natural sub strate	Occasional fragments of sub-rounded limestone fragments up to 0.2m long and occasional sub-rounded or rounded river stones up to 0.15m diameter.	None
	4002	Layer – topsoil 120.37m – 120.05m OD	Mid-brown sandy clay loam topsoil, containing occasional fragments of sub-rounded limestone fragments up to 0.2m long and occasional sub-rounded or rounded river stones up to 0.15m diameter.	None



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