

48-50 St. Hilda's Street,
Sherburn, North Yorkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



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Site: The Sherburn and Rillington Practice,
50 St. Hilda's Street, Sherburn, North Yorkshire

Site Codes: WRN15

County: North Yorkshire

NGR: SE 95963 77144

Planning Application No: 15/00721/FUL

Development: A new link building joining two existing structures, to
extend the current surgery facilities.

Date of Issue: 30/01/2016

Site Dates: 07-01-2016, 11-01-2016

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Client: The Sherburn & Rillington practice

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Summary

The foundations for a new link building between the existing doctor's surgery at 50 St. Hilda's Street and the house at 48 St. Hilda's Street were constructed, to extend the existing surgery facilities. An archaeological watching brief was carried out by LS Archaeology during the groundwork phase at this site between the 7th and 11th of January, 2016.

The archaeological work consisted of monitoring the removal of the topsoil down to the foundation level, followed by the observation of the foundation trenches.

The only discovery of an archaeological nature was the truncated remains of a pit containing a few animal bones (sheep), with no other dating evidence present.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was commissioned by The Planning & Design Partnership (PDP) on behalf of The Sherburn & Rillington Practice, in advance of the proposed development of the doctor's surgery located at 50 St. Hilda's Street, Sherburn, North Yorkshire (see Figure 1 for location).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with the planning conditions suggested as part of the appeal documentation, set by the Head of the Local Planning Authority, Ryedale District Council, Malton, North Yorkshire, based on the Historic Environment Policies within Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012), paragraphs 128, 135 and 141. The work also complied with the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd (2015).

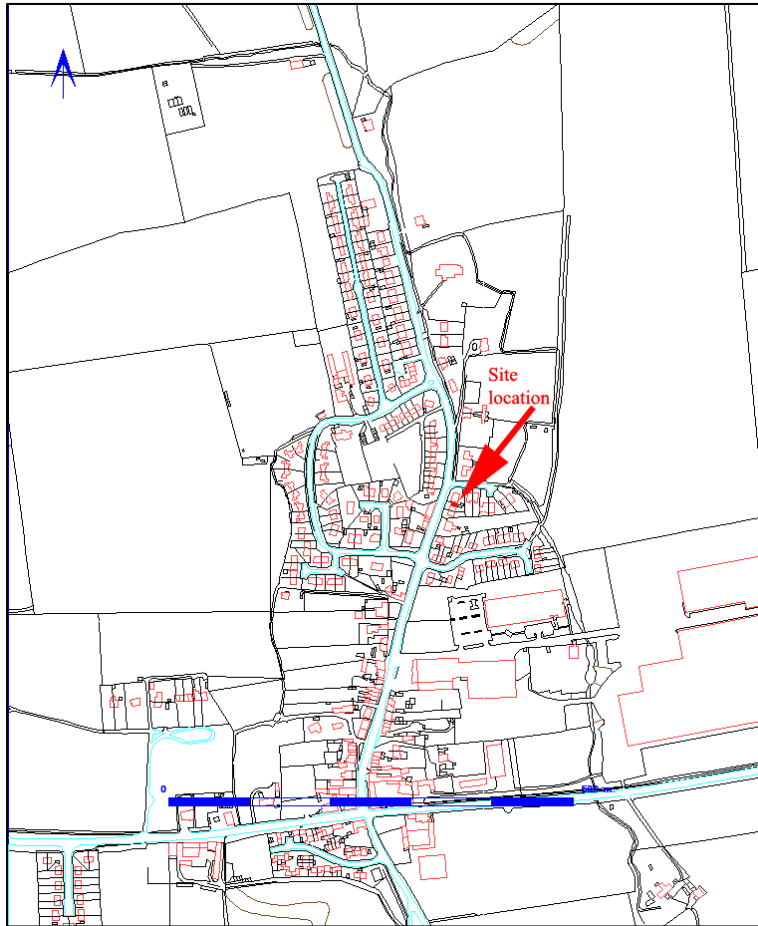


Figure 1: site location marked in red

2. Site Description

2.1 The site lies to the east of St. Hilda's Street, Sherburn, and is accessed via the doctor's surgery. The site is rectangular in plan, and is bounded to the north by the doctor's surgery, to the south by the house at 48 St. Hilda's Street, to the east by the surgery car park and to the west by St. Hilda's Street (see Figure 1 and Figure 2 for location).

2.2



Figure 2: site location in red, base map from Google Earth Pro

2.3 The site extents were 10m x 8.5m and the ground level stands at an approximate height of 33.74m AOD.

2.4 The geology of the site consists of the Speeton clay formation: Mudstone. This sedimentary bedrock was formed approximately 100 to 146 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period, with the local environment dominated by shallow seas. Within these settings, rocks were formed consisting mainly of siliciclastic sediments (comprising of fragments or clasts of silicate minerals) deposited as mud, silt, sand and gravel. The superficial deposits are sands and gravels (see Figure 3 for geological map, all data derived from the British Geological Survey).

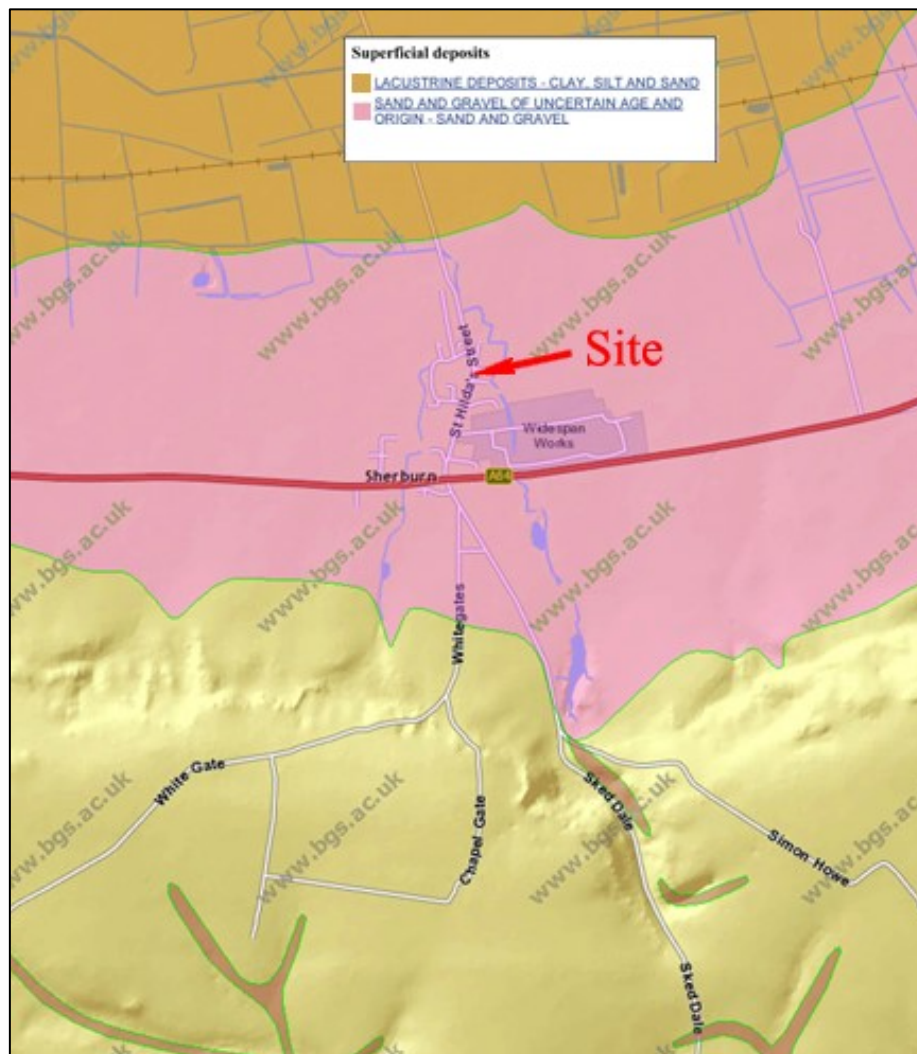


Figure 3: geology map showing the superficial deposits of the area.

3. Archaeological Background

3.1 The area around Sherburn has been the subject of a large scale geophysical survey, which demonstrated that the whole area is rich in archaeological deposits, ranging

from the prehistoric, through the Roman and into the Anglo-Saxon and Medieval periods (see Figure 4).

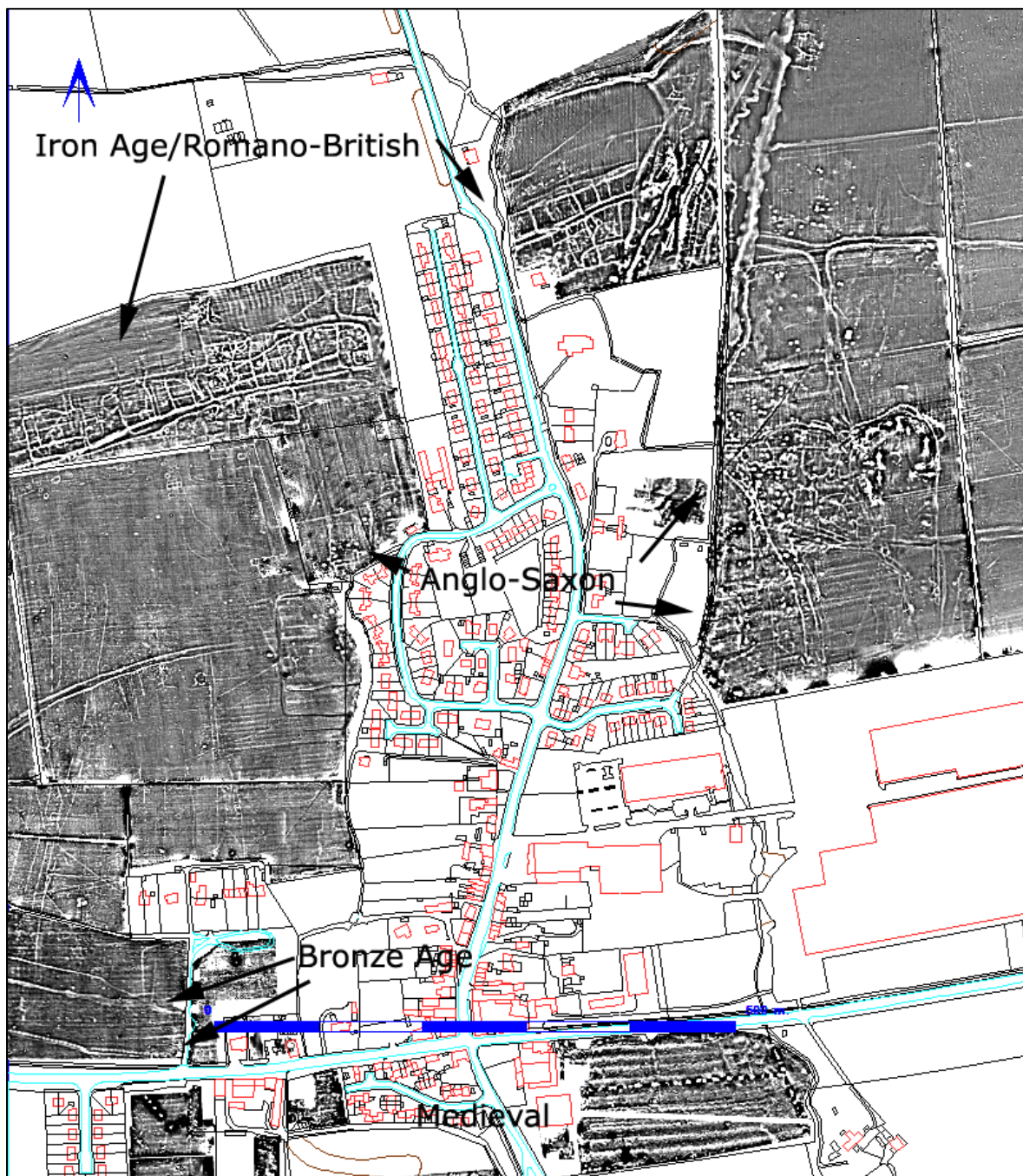


Figure 4: Geophysical surveys around Sherburn

- 3.2 A number of watching briefs have been carried out in the village, many of which identified Medieval remains, with some earlier features also identified. The previous investigations have been documented in a desk-based assessment carried out by MAP in 2010 (Hunter, 2010)

4. Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The aim and objectives of this archaeological watching brief was to gather sufficient information to establish the presence or absence, nature, date, depth, quality of survival and importance of any archaeological deposits present on the site.
- 4.2 This was achieved by monitoring all groundworks, excavated to a maximum depth where archaeological features or natural deposits were encountered.

5. Mitigation Strategy and Methodology

- 5.1 Prior to machine stripping, the area between the two existing buildings (the doctor's surgery and 48 St. Hilda's Street) was characterized by made-up ground. The whole area was initially stripped down to a foundation level, which was on average some 45cm below the current ground surface. This was done in three stages due to the size of the machine, with a back-acting ditching bucket being used. Natural comprised a yellow sand, and was only reached in the southern half of the site. In the north, the foundation level did not go beneath the made-up ground (see Figure 5).



Figure 5: the site after the initial strip down to foundation level

- 5.2 There was no sign of any windblown sand covering the natural in the stripped area. At least seven services pipes of various types were encountered, so the area was much disturbed prior to the current investigation.
- 5.3 After the initial strip to foundation level, the foundation trenches were excavated, being 60cm wide and 25-30cm deep (see Figure 6 for trench locations).

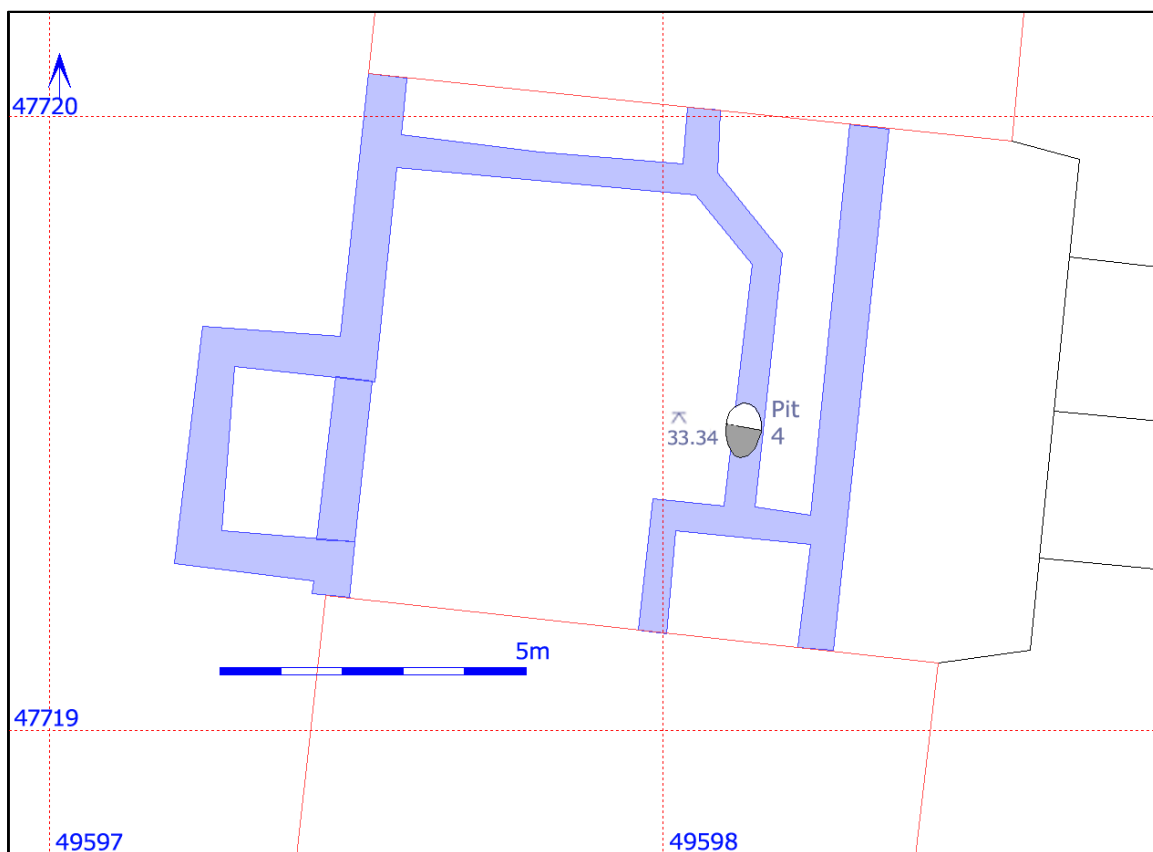


Figure 6: plan showing the foundation trenches location

5.4 . All archaeological deposits and features were planned at a scale of 1:20 on drafting film (permatrace). All sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10, including heights above Ordnance Datum.

5.5 The mitigation strategy and methodology on the Written Scheme of Investigation was adhered to throughout the whole project.

6. Results

6.0.1 The only feature of an archaeological origin was initially seen during the stripping of the topsoil down to the foundation level. It was a small pit, the upper part of which had been destroyed when one of the services pipes had been laid (see Figure 7, which also shows another services trench to the south).



Figure 7: pre-excavation view of the pit looking west

6.0.2 The context index can be found in Appendix 1.

6.0.3 No soil samples were taken at this current level of investigation.

6.1 Pit context 4

6.1.1 The ovate pit was filled (context 3) with a brown loamy sand (Munsell colour 10YR 4/3). Prior to excavation, animal bone (sheep) was visible on the surface of the pit (see Figure 8), and more animal bone was found during the excavation of the pit.

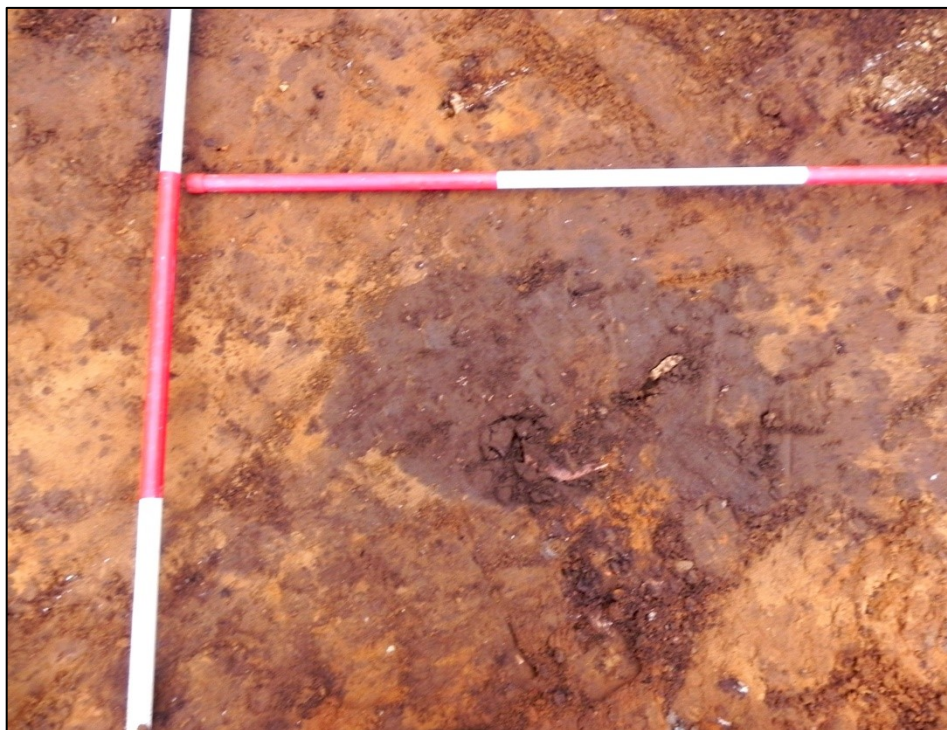


Figure 8: pre-excavation view of pit showing animal bone in situ

6.1.1 It soon became clear that all that remained of the pit was the truncated remains of the base (see Figure 10 for photograph and Figure 9 for section drawing), as the upper part of the feature had been completely destroyed when the drainage pipes from 48 St. Hilda's Street were installed.

6.1.2 Although more animal bone was found, there were no other finds, so the date of the pit remains unknown.

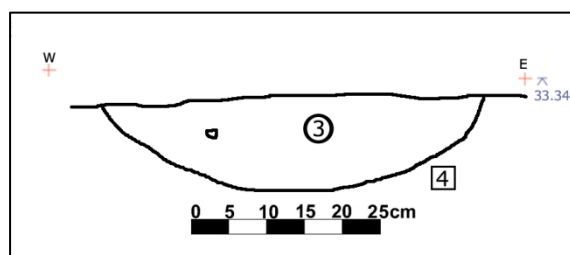


Figure 9: south facing section drawing of pit context 4



Figure 10: half-section of pit context 4 taken from the south

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out at 48-50 St. Hilda's Street, Sherburn, and included the monitoring of the topsoil stripping to a foundation level, as well as the monitoring of the excavation of the foundation trenches.
- 7.2 The investigation revealed that the whole area consisted of made-up ground laid onto the yellow natural sand. There were seven services trenches across the area (water, drainage and electricity), so much of the site had previously been disturbed.
- 7.3 The only archaeological feature was the truncated remains of a small pit containing sheep bones. There was no other dating evidence from the pit, so phasing of this feature was not possible at this time.

12. Resources Approached and Bibliography

Archaeological Data Service - *ads.ahds.ac.uk*

English Heritage, 1991. Management of Archaeological Projects. 2nd Edition

English Heritage, 2002. Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, sampling and recovery to post-excavation.

English Heritage 2006. Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) London

Hunter, K, 2010. Land to the West of St. Hilda's Street, Sherburn, North Yorkshire. (*unpublished Desk-Based Assessment by Map Archaeological Practice Ltd*)

Institute for Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2001, 2008). 'Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief'

2015 Written Scheme of Investigation (*unpublished Map Archaeological Practice Ltd*)

Munsell Soil Color Book

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

<http://www.pastscape.org.uk>

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Appendix 1

Context records table

Measurements in cm

Soil Colour referenced from Munsell Soil Chart

| Context | Area | Type | Shape | Profile | Length | Width | Depth | Notes |
|---------|------|----------|-------------|-------------|--------|-------|-------|--|
| 1 | A | Topsoil | Rectangular | Flat | 1000 | 850 | 45 | The topsoil consisted of made up ground, with soil mixed in with bricks and other materials. It was much disturbed, with seven services trenches cut through the area. |
| 2 | A | Natural | No Value | No Value | 0 | 0 | 0 | The natural yellow sand, which had a very low (3%) chalk and flint inclusion rate. |
| 3 | A | Pit fill | Ovate | Bowl-shaped | 89 | 58 | 11 | Brown loamy sand with few inclusions of chalk. 10YR 4/3. Finds of animal bone only, including lower sheep jaw. |
| 4 | A | Pit cut | Ovate | Bowl-shaped | 89 | 58 | 11 | Truncated remains of a small pit. Cut into natural yellow sand with a regular profile. |

Appendix 2

6.2 Photo sample



Photo 1: showing service trench from the south-west



Photo 2: more services- view from south-east



Photo 3: south-western corner of foundation trenches



Photo 4: showing made up ground and services