



# Lytes Cary, Charlton Mackrell, Somerset

## Observations and Recording during Installation of New Fibre Optic Cable



Report No. 53494/3/1

June 2018



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**Agent:**

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### Version History

Version	Status	Prepared By	Approved By	Date
1	Final	P Bellamy		04/06/2018
2				
3				

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## Project Report Summary Page

Project Details			
OASIS Reference	terraina1-318838; terraina1-318842		
Project Title	New Fibre Optic Cable, Lytes Cary, Somerset		
Short Description of Project	Terrain Archaeology observed the excavation of a new fibre optic cable trench to Lytes Cary Manor, Charlton Mackrell, Somerset. The trench ran from the entrance of the property, along the side of the drive, then along the edge of the car park and across the farmyard to the Barn. A series of deposits associated with the construction of the drive, the car park and the farmyard were identified. A small number of stone filled field drains were also noted. No significant archaeology was revealed.		
Project Dates	Start: 30-04-2018	End: 15-05-2018	
Previous/Future Work	Yes/No		
Project Code	53494		
Monument Type and Period	None		
Significant Finds	None		
Project Location			
County/District/Parish	Somerset/South Somerset/Charlton Mackrell		
Site Address	Lytes Cary, Ilchester Road, Charlton Mackrell, Somerset TA11 7HU		
Site Coordinates	ST 52930 26634; ST 53280 26737; ST 53287 26590		
Site Area	c. 145 m <sup>2</sup>		
Height OD			
Project Creators			
Organisation	Terrain Archaeology		
Project Brief Originator	Martin Papworth, National Trust Regional Archaeologist,		
Project Design Originator	Terrain Archaeology		
Project Supervisor	Peter Bellamy		
Project Manager	Peter Bellamy		
Sponsor or Funding Body	The National Trust		
Project Archive			
Archive Type	Physical	Digital	Paper
Location/Accession No	No Archive	Terrain Archaeology offices, pending deposition with the National Trust.	Terrain Archaeology offices, pending deposition with the National Trust.
Contents	None	Digital photography	Context sheet, plan, report

# Lytes Cary, Charlton Mackrell, Somerset

## Archaeological Observations and Recording during Installation of New Fibre Optic Cable, May 2018

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 Project introduction

Terrain Archaeology was commissioned by the National Trust, to undertake Archaeological Observations and Recording during the installation of new fibre optic cables at Lytes Cary.

The fieldwork was carried out between the 30th April and 15th May 2018 by Peter Bellamy.

#### 1.2 Brief

No written brief for the works was produced by or on behalf of the National Trust, but the scope of the works was determined by Martin Papworth, National Trust Regional Archaeologist.

#### 1.3 Site Location and Topography

Lytes Cary lies on the eastern/northern side of the River Cary valley (Figure 1). The topography is fairly flat, dipping down towards the west and the south. It lies about 28 m above Ordnance Datum. The fibre optic cable trench ran from the entrance to the property at ST 52930 26634 then along the northern edge of the drive to the corner (ST 53280 26737), then down the east side of the road to the car park (ST 53330 26662), along the north side of the car park to enter the farmyard at ST 53270 26602 and then cross the yard to the barn at ST 53287 26590 (Figure 2).

#### 1.4 Geology

Bedrock geology is mapped as Jurassic and Triassic mudstone of the Langport Member Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (undifferentiated), with no recorded superficial deposits (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

#### 1.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

Lytes Cary lies to the west of the Roman Fosse Way and Roman remains have been reported from the field to the north of Lytes Cary Cottages.

Lytes Cary is first mentioned in 1284–5 as 'Kari' and may possibly be identified as the larger of two manors of this name mentioned in Domesday (Dunning 1974, 100). The present form of the name is first mentioned in 1333 (*ibid.*). The smaller of the two Domesday settlements may be identified as Tuckers Cary or Little Cary, later known as Cooks Cary or Lower Lytes Cary. There are extensive earthworks of medieval closes and possible building platforms in the field to the west of Lytes Cary, which may be the remains of Tuckers Cary (Figure 2).

The manor house of Lytes Cary is probably of 14th century origin. The chapel was probably built shortly before 1343 and the original house is likely to be of similar date. The house was the home of the Lyte family from the 14th to the 18th century. The Great Hall was refurbished in the 1460s, but the house acquired its present character in the early 16th century when the Porch and Oriel were added to the Great Hall and the Parlour range was added to its south side. (Garnett 2001, SVBRG 2005).

After the Lytes gave up the estate in 1755, the house fell into decline. In the late 18th century, a farmhouse was erected in place of the original north range and the west range was demolished some time before 1810.

In 1907, Sir Walter Jenner acquired the property and restored it, building the present west range in 1907. The 1903 and 1930 Ordnance Survey maps show a number of changes to the farm buildings in the early 20th century and the present farm track behind the house was constructed at some time after 1930. Jenner bequeathed the property to the National Trust in 1948.

## 1.6 Previous Archaeological Fieldwork

There has been little archaeological fieldwork at Lytes Cary. In 1999 Terrain Archaeology undertook a watching brief during the construction of a new drain and soakaway from the farm buildings on the north side of Lytes Cary (Bellamy 2000). The results of this were largely negative. Again, in 2004, Terrain Archaeology undertook another watching brief during the construction of a new water main supply to Lytes Cary. For most of the route of the pipeline, the archaeological results proved negative, but a small number of features were found close to the house itself (Bellamy 2004). Between August 2005 and April 2006, Terrain Archaeology carried out an intermittent program of observations and recording at during the installation of a new foul drain and other works close to and inside the house (Tatler and Bellamy 2006).

## 1.7 Aims and Objectives

The principle aim of the archaeological programme was to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site. The programme of works will also aim to place the archaeological results within the local, regional and national context, as appropriate, and advance understanding of the archaeology of the site and its surroundings.

Its objectives were:

- To investigate and record all the *in situ* archaeological deposits and features revealed during the programme of works to an appropriate archaeological standard.
- To record recovered artefacts and other materials to an appropriate standard.
- To present the results in a report to the appropriate standard.

## 1.8 Groundworks

The groundworks comprised the excavation of a 0.25 m wide trench, between 0.4 m – 0.6 m deep by machine from the entrance gate, through the drive past Lytes Cary Cottages and then along the northern and eastern edge of the drive (Figure 2). It crossed the drive at the north east corner of the car park, and then ran along the northern boundary of the car park. It then crossed into the farmyard up to the barn on the far side of the yard (Figures 2-3). The trench was dug by machine and the trench was immediately backfilled after the installation of the ducting for the new cabling, consequently normally only a very small part of the trench was open at any one time.

## 1.9 Methods

All archaeological works were carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Regulations for professional conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (CIfA 2014a-b).

The excavation of the trench was observed by a suitably qualified archaeologist. All features and deposits were recorded using components of Terrain Archaeology's system of complementary written, drawn and photographic records, regardless of their perceived date and archaeological significance. A photographic record of the works was maintained in digital format, which includes aspects of their setting, conduct and technical detail.

## 1.10 Archive and Dissemination

### 1.10.1 Paper Archive

The project archive, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and appropriate background documentation, has been compiled in a stable, cross-referenced and fully indexed archive in accordance with current guidelines (Brown 2011; CIfA 2014c) and the requirements of the receiving museum. It is currently stored by Terrain

Archaeology under the project code 53494. In due course, the archive will be accessioned for long-term curation and storage by the National Trust.

### 1.10.2 Report

A copy of this report will be lodged with the National Trust Sites and Monuments Record and with Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER). The HER is a publicly funded and accessible resource, and deposition of the report will place it, and the project results, in the public domain.

A digital summary of the archive will be placed with the OASIS project ([www.oasis.ac.uk](http://www.oasis.ac.uk)) under the reference code *terraina1-318838* and *terraina1-318842*. A digital copy of this report will be uploaded for inclusion in the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) online 'grey literature' library.

## 2. Results

### 2.1 Introduction

The cable trench was divided up into four different units for ease of recording (Figure 2). Trench 1 is the length of drive from the entrance to the property to the corner next to the pond. Trench 2 is the length of drive running from the corner down to the car park. Trench 3 runs along the edge of the car park and down into the farmyard. Trench 4 crosses the farmyard to the barn (Figure 3). The context descriptions are listed in Appendix 1.

### 2.2 Natural Deposits

The natural deposits consisted of mid brown to greyish-brown clay (102, 206, 302, 409) with bands of limestone, some immediately below the surface. The natural was encountered at depths of between 0.25 m and 0.45 m below present ground levels.

### 2.3 Drive

Elements of the structure of the drive to Lytes Cary Manor were exposed during the works. The surface consists of a layer of tarmac between 0.10 m and 0.13 m deep (100, 203). In the entrance and in the area of Lytes Cary Cottages the tarmac is laid on a very hard-packed stone rubble layer (101) (Plate 1). Along the north arm of the drive (Trench 1), the road is on a slight causeway raised up by up to a metre above the surrounding ground. This causeway appears to consist of hard-packed stone rubble in a brown clay loam matrix (105, 107) (Plates 2-3). In the parts of the north arm of the drive where the road is at ground level, there appears to be a mid brown stony clay subsoil layer (104, 106) beneath the road.

Along the eastern arm of the drive (Trench 2) the tarmac is laid on a 0.2 m thick layer of crushed stone (208). For about a 10 metre length on the east side of the drive (Figure 2), the road is edged by a line of precast concrete blocks set in concrete (204 (Plate 4). This perhaps represents a repair consolidating the edge of the road.

### 2.4 Field Drains

Three stone-filled field drains were recognised during the works. These all ran roughly N-S and consisted of one (205) running along the east side of the drive (Plate 5) and two others (207, 209) beneath the road. All three of these drains were previously recorded as part of the archaeological observations during the installation of a new water main (Bellamy 2004). None of these drains were dated, but are likely to be post-medieval.

### 2.5 Car Park and Farm Track

The car park make-up comprised the existing gravel surface and grass edging (300) over a 0.2 m thick layer of dark greyish-brown clay loam frequent large stone rubble up to 600mm across (301) (Plate 6). This stone layer continued up to the western end of the car park. This overlay a thin layer of dark brown clay loam (302) immediately over the natural clay 303 and may be the remains of the original topsoil before construction of the car park.

At the western end of the car park and into the farm track beyond, the trench crossed the line of the water main (304). In this area, beneath the farm track was a hard packed layer of dark clay with clinker and ash (306) which extended southwards to about five metres from the farm buildings (Figure 2; Plate 7). It was covered by the stone track surface (305) and the topsoil (307) to the south of the track. Further south towards the buildings were a series of dark and mid brown clay loam layers (308, 309, 310) below the topsoil.

## **2.6 Modern Soils**

The existing grass and topsoil was encountered along the north side and east sides of the drive (103, 200) and south west of the car park (307). This was a 0.2 m thick layer of dark brown clay loam.

## **2.7 Farmyard Deposits and Surfaces**

The existing farmyard surface consisted of brick tiles in the yard entrance between the stables and in front of the barn porch. In front of the stables was a concrete surface (400) and the rest of the yard was angular stone gravel and crushed stone in a greyish-brown matrix (406), except in the south east corner adjacent to the barn which consists of garden soil (408) (Figure 3).

The concrete surface 400 was laid on top of a thin layer of dark greyish-brown clay loam and small stone (404), which may represent an earlier yard surface (Plate 8). This overlay a cast iron drain cover set in concrete (403) and a rubbly levelling layer (405) and an area of disturbance (402).

The gravel yard surface 406 was laid on a stone rubble sub-base (407 (Plate 9).

# **3. Finds**

## **3.1 Finds Assemblage**

No finds were recovered during the works.

# **4. Discussion and Conclusions**

## **4.1 Discussion**

The fibre optic cable trench ran around three sides of the Scheduled Monument of the deserted medieval settlement and associated fields of Tuckers Cary, but no traces of the features visible within this monument could be traced in the current observations. There are a number of possible reasons for this. The earthworks are concentrated in the western part of the area and the line of the drive may be beyond the limits of the former settlement. It must be noted that at the western end of the trench, there was a natural band of stone immediately below the surface, which would have inhibited the digging of features into the ground. Perhaps the construction of the drive had destroyed any features beneath it, but the evidence from the current works and the physical form of the road suggest it is built up rather than cut into the ground. It must be noted that the cable trench was very narrow and the machine had great difficulty in digging through the stone rubble build up and into the natural clay and stone below, resulting in irregular messy trench sides and base which hampered the identification of any potential archaeology.

The only archaeological features recognised were a series of stone-filled drains observed in Trench 2. These drains had all been previously recorded when a new water main was laid in 2004 (Bellamy 2004). Within the farmyard, although a number of earlier deposits were encountered, none were datable, but are most likely to be eighteenth to twentieth century in origin.

## **4.2 Conclusions**

No significant archaeology was revealed during this project.

## 5. References

- |   |       |  |
|---|-------|--|
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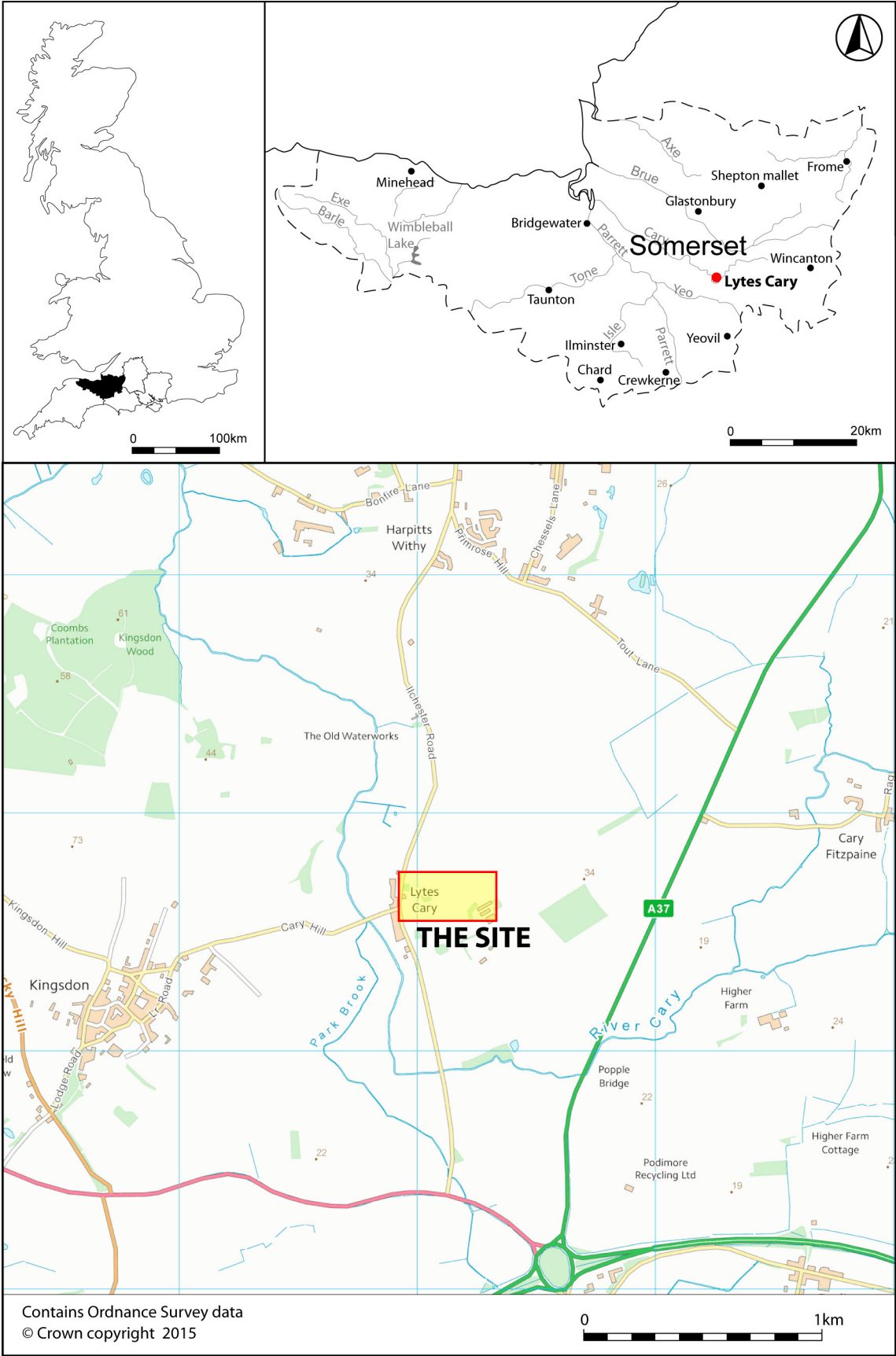


Figure 1 Location map.

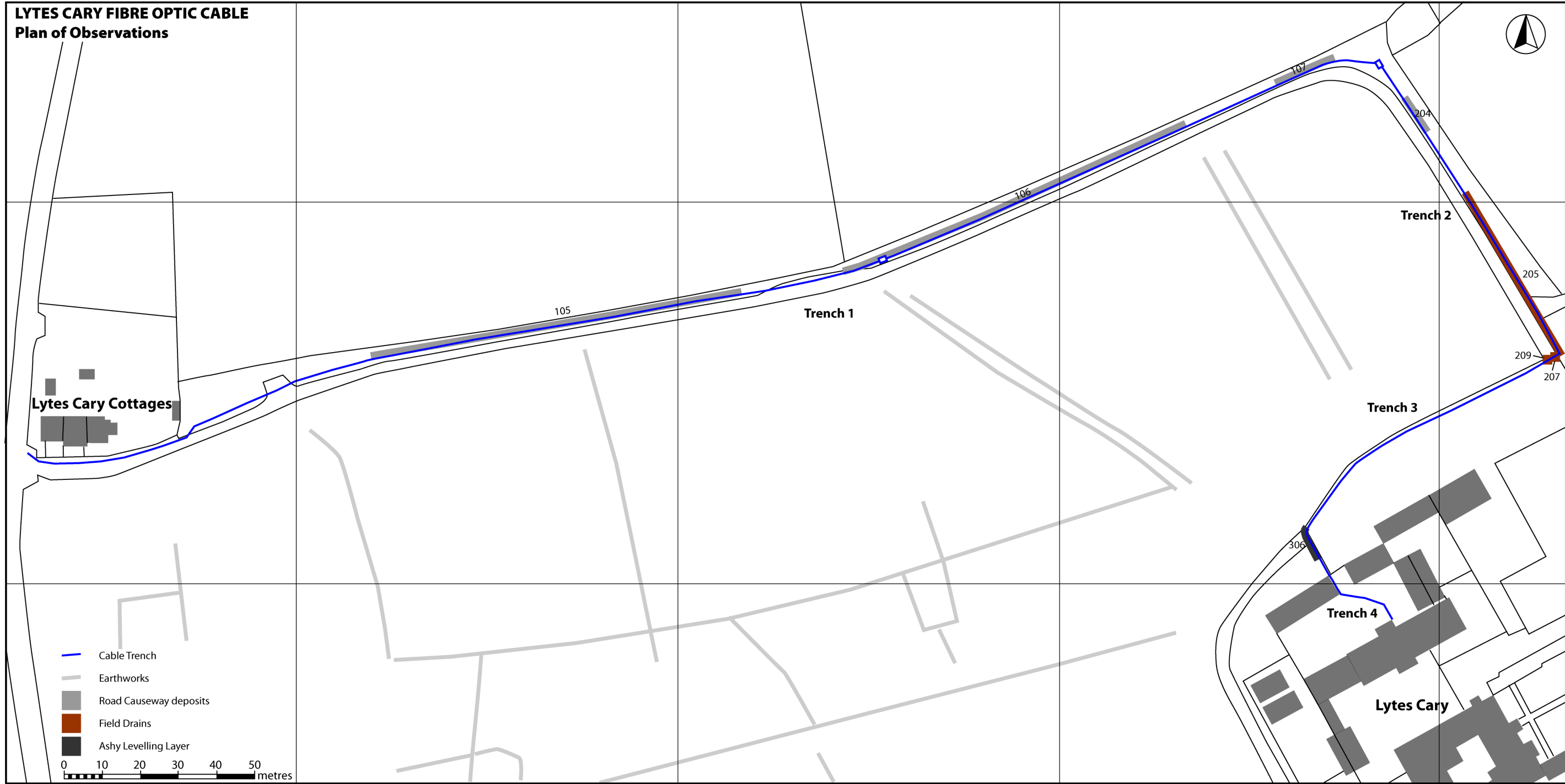


Figure 2: Plan of Observations

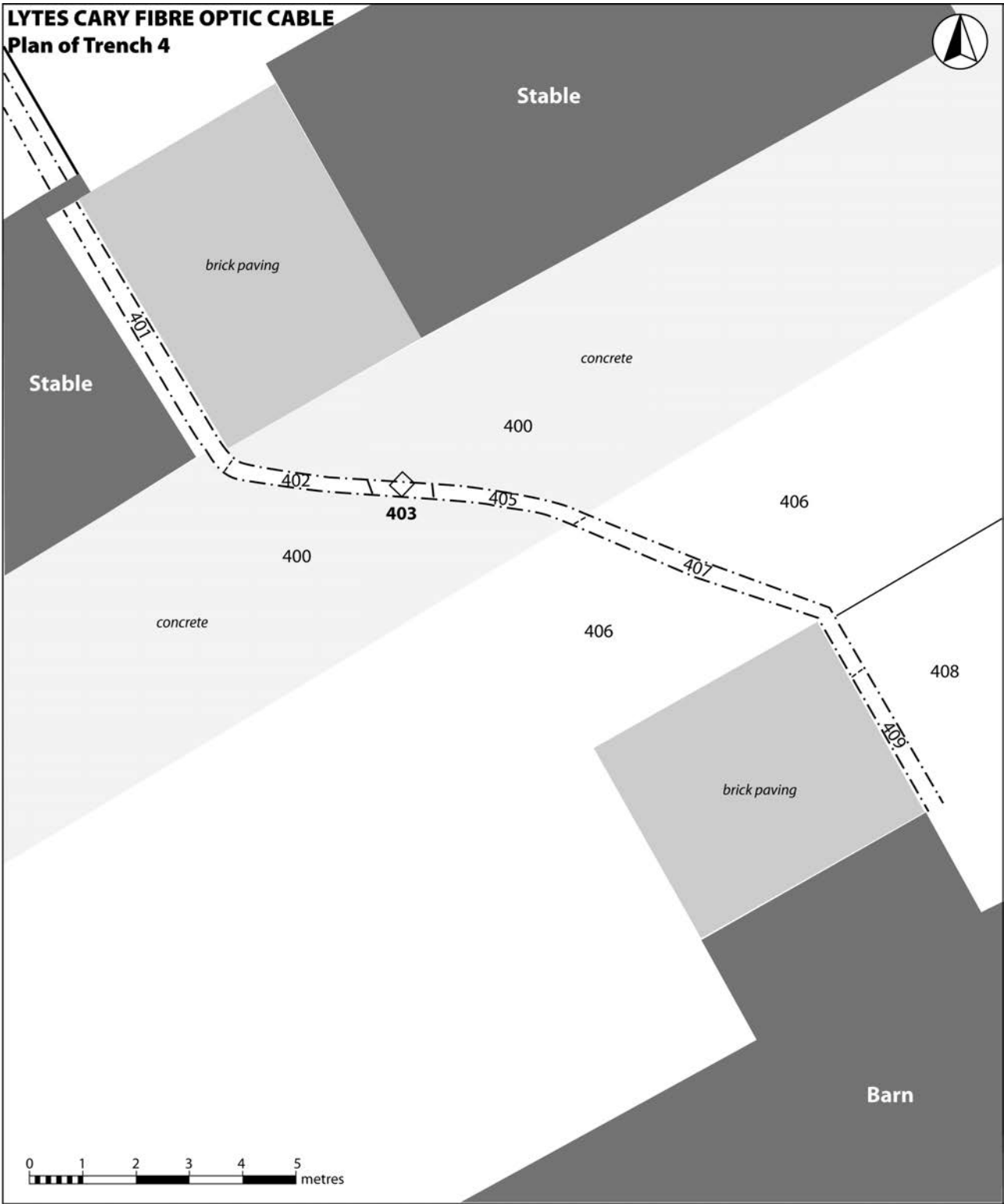


Figure 3: Plan of Trench 4.





*Plate 1: Trench 1 in gateway into property showing road base 101 over natural clay. 1m scale.*



*Plate 2: Trench 1 looking west, dug through road causeway deposit 105. 1m scale.*



*Plate 3: Trench 1 looking east, cutting through road causeway deposit 106. 1m scale.*





*Plate 4: Concrete block road edging 204.*



*Plate 5: Pitched stone of Drain 205, near south end of Trench 2. 2m scale.*



*Plate 6: Car park deposits 300 and 301 over natural clay 302 in Trench 3. 2m scale.*





*Plate 7: Ashy backfill deposit 306 beneath farm track at edge of car park. 2m scale.*



*Plate 8: Possible former yard surface 404 beneath concrete yard surface 400, overlying yard make up 405. Drain cover 403 in centre of photo. 2m scale.*



*Plate 9: View of Trench 4 cutting through yard surface 406 and sub base 407. 2m scale.*



## Appendix 1: Context Summary

### Trench 1

Length: c. 375 m; Width 0.25 m; maximum depth 0.6 m.

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
100	<b>Tarmac Road Surface:</b> Surface of drive to Lytes Cary House.	0.00 – 0.12m
101	<b>Road Base:</b> Mid grey gritty clay loam with frequent stone rubble (between 50–150mm across), with occasional larger stone, with occasional brick and tile fragments and clinker. Beneath tarmac 100 in area of junction with road and in front of Lytes Cary Cottages.	0.12 – 0.45m
102	<b>Natural Clay and Rock:</b> Bands of limestone in stiff mid brown clay.	0.40m +
103	<b>Turf and Topsoil:</b> Dark brown clay loam and turf. Grass verge to north of drive, immediately east of Lytes Cary Cottages.	0.00 – 0.20m
104	<b>Subsoil?:</b> Slightly friable mid brown clay. This lay beneath topsoil 103 and natural 102 in the area close to the edge of the drive. Possibly edge of the drive makeup?	0.20 – 0.40m
105	<b>Road Base:</b> Mid brown clay loam with frequent hard-packed stone rubble up to 200mm across (mainly 50–100mm across. Below tarmac 100. This was present in the area of the drive, where it runs on a slight causeway from about 55 m to 175 m east of Lytes Cary Cottages.	0.20 – 0.50m
106	<b>Subsoil?:</b> Mid brown clay with occasional to moderate small stone. Below topsoil 103 and above natural 102.	0.20 – 0.35m
107	<b>Road Base:</b> Frequent hard-packed small stone in a reddish-brown clay matrix. Seen near NE corner of drive. Below 103 and above 102.	0.00 – 0.30m
108	<b>Consolidation of Pond?:</b> Stiff dark grey clay with moderate medium stone rubble. Above 109. In NE corner of drive adjacent to pond.	0.10 – 0.30m
109	<b>Pond Backfill?:</b> Stiff mid/dark brownish grey clay with moderate stone rubble up to 200mm across. Below 108. In NE corner of drive adjacent to pond.	0.30m+

### Trench 2

Length: c. 90 m; Width 0.25 m; maximum depth 0.8 m.

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
200	<b>Turf and Topsoil:</b> Dark greyish-brown silty clay with some white sand patches in north part of trench.	0.00 – 0.30m
201	<b>Backfill:</b> Mixed mid brown/ mid to dark greyish-brown clay with moderate medium to large stone rubble. Below 200. Grades into 109.	0.20 – 0.8m+
202	<b>'Cut' for Pond?:</b> Nominal former edge of pond or disturbance around pond. Not properly defined.	0.20 – 0.8m+
203	<b>Tarmac Road Surface:</b> Surface of drive to Lytes Cary House.	0.00 – 0.10m
204	<b>Road Edging:</b> Precast concrete blocks (3ft x 5in x >4in) along edge of drive, with poured concrete 0.25 m wide and 0.15 m deep behind. Only exists for about a 10 m length. Covered by 200.	0.10 – 0.25m
205	<b>Stone Drain:</b> Mid greyish-brown clay loam with frequent stone rubble up to 400mm across, some pitched and some vertical. It consisted of a 0.8 m wide cut about 0.4 m deep and was traced along the edge of the drive, but is an earlier feature.	0.30 – 0.45m
206	<b>Natural Clay and Rock:</b> Mid brown stiff clay, becoming dark grey below.	0.45m+
207	<b>Stone Drain:</b> Possibly linear feature running roughly N-S seen beneath drive at NE corner of car park. The cut was not readily identifiable but it appeared to be about 0.85 m wide and 0.45 m deep and was filled with mid greyish-brown clay loam with frequent stone rubble. It lay to the west of 205.	0.30 – 0.45m
208	<b>Road Base:</b> Hard packed crushed stone below 203.	0.10 – 0.30m
209	<b>Stone Drain:</b> Possibly linear feature running roughly N-S seen beneath drive at NE corner of car park. The cut was not readily identifiable but it appeared to be about 0.85 m wide and 0.45 m deep and was filled with mid greyish-brown clay loam with frequent stone rubble. It lay to the west of 207.	0.30 – 0.45m



### Trench 3

Length: c. 90 m; Width 0.25 m; maximum depth 0.55 m.

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
300	<b>Edge of Car Park:</b> Friable dark brown clay loam with gravel and grass.	0.00 – 0.15m
301	<b>Car Park Base:</b> Dark greyish brown clay loam with frequent large stone rubble up to 600mm across. Below 300.	0.15 – 0.35m
302	<b>Buried topsoil?:</b> Dark brown clay loam. Below 301 and above 303	0.35 – 0.40m
303	<b>Natural Clay:</b> Mid brown stiff clay with stone.	0.40m+
304	<b>Water Pipe Trench:</b> Upper part of backfill of water main trench encountered at south west end of car park.	
305	<b>Farm Track:</b> Hard packed crushed stone.	0.00 – 0.35m
306	<b>Track Consolidation/Levelling Layer:</b> Mixed hard-packed black/dark greyish-brown clay with clinker and ash. It contains fragments of plastic coated electrical wire. Peters out towards the south about 5m from the farm buildings.	0.35 – 0.55m
307	<b>Topsoil:</b> Dark brown clay loam and turf in area beyond car park and south of track.	0.00 – 0.20m
308	<b>Levelling Layer:</b> Dark brown clay loam with frequent stone rubble over 306 and below 307.	0.20 – 0.35m
309	<b>Levelling Layer:</b> Mid brown gritty clay loam below 307. Same stratigraphic position as 306, but south of it.	0.35m+
310	<b>Drain Deposit?:</b> Soft very dark greyish brown silty clay. Only seen in a c. 1m wide band adjacent to farm buildings.	0.00 – 0.35m+

### Trench 4

Length: c. 21 m; Width 0.25 m; maximum depth 0.4 m.

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
400	<b>Yard Surface:</b> Concrete	0.00 – 0.13m
401	<b>Levelling Layer:</b> Mixed mid to dark brown gritty clay with frequent stone and brick rubble up to 250mm across. Found in entrance to yard area between stables. Very Wet.	0.10 – 0.40m+
402	<b>Disturbance:</b> Mixed dark grey clay loam with frequent small subangular stone rubble, charcoal and clinker. Below 400.	0.10 – 0.40m+
403	<b>Drain Cover:</b> Iron drain cover set in concrete. Below 404.	0.25m+
404	<b>Earlier Yard Surface?:</b> Extensive deposit of dark greyish brown clay loam with frequent small stone. Below 400. Above 402, 403, 405.	0.13 – 0.20m
405	<b>Levelling Layer:</b> Mid reddish-brown gritty clay with very frequent angular stone rubble 50–250mm across.	0.20 – 0.4m+
406	<b>Yard Surface:</b> Hard packed greyish brown gritty loam with frequent crushed stone and angular stone gravel. Over 407.	0.00 – 0.20m
407	<b>Sub-base for Yard Surface 406?:</b> Mid greyish brown clay with frequent stone rubble 50–300mm across. Below 406.	0.20 – 0.40m+
408	<b>Garden Soil:</b> Dark greyish brown clay loam topsoil to east of Barn porch apron.	0.00 – 0.25m
409	<b>Natural?:</b> Soft mid greyish brown clay with occasional to moderate stone	0.25m+