

**LAND BEHIND 27 THE CRESCENT, BREEDON ON THE HILL,
LEICESTERSHIRE**

Report on an archaeological evaluation

Prepared by P. Webb

2013

Project Code – CRB

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SUMMARY

- Trent and Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Montague Architects on behalf of Melbourne Property Services to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land behind 27 The Crescent, Breedon on the Hill, Leicestershire prior to the land being developed for housing. The work was carried out on 20th and 21st February 2013.
- Breedon on the Hill is located 12.5km south-east of Derby, with the site centred at SK 440418,322757. The development area is located on ground rising north to south from 71m to 75m. The site encompasses an area of approximately 0.5 hectares of currently unused scrubland.
- The site lies upon a sequence of Triassic siltstone and mudstone bedrock types, from south to north comprising, mudstone of the Gunthorpe Member, interbedded mudstone and siltstone of the Radcliffe Member and, to the north, siltstone and sandstone of the Tarporley Formation. All are partly overlain by alluvial deposits associated with the north-south tributary stream feeding the brook which forms the northern site boundary (British Geological Survey of Great Britain, Loughborough, Sheet 141).
- The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER), notes the site to be of archaeological interest, situated within the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of Breedon on the Hill (HER ref.: 9166). The earliest available mapping, the 1758 pre-enclosure map of Breedon on the Hill, shows the development area to the north of the village's open fields and immediately south of the stream. Historic mapping shows a complex of buildings occupying land referred to on the 18th century plan as 'The Crew'. The recent assessment of the standing buildings to the east of the application area suggests that they may date as early as the 17th century. The assessment also notes the likely presence of buried archaeological remains within the application site.
- A series of eight trenches measuring between 12 and 25m x 1.8m were excavated to a depth of between 0.6m and 1.3m by machine using a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision.
- The evaluation revealed no features of archaeological significance within the development area, although two sherds of Medieval pottery were recovered from a buried soil.

Land behind 27 The Crescent, Breedon on the Hill, Leicestershire: Report on an archaeological evaluation

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Trent and Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Montague Architects on behalf of Melbourne Property Services to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land behind 27 The Crescent, Breedon on the Hill, Leicestershire prior to the land being developed for housing. The work was carried out on 20th and 21st February 2013.

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

2.1. Breedon on the Hill is located 12.5km south-east of Derby, with the site centred at SK 440418,322757. The development area is located on ground rising north to south from 71m to 75m (Figure 1). The site encompasses an area of approximately 0.5 hectares of currently unused scrubland.

2.2. The site lies upon a sequence of Triassic siltstone and mudstone bedrock types, from south to north comprising, mudstone of the Gunthorpe Member, interbedded mudstone and siltstone of the Radcliffe Member and, to the north, siltstone and sandstone of the Tarporley Formation. All are partly overlain by alluvial deposits associated with the north-south tributary stream feeding the brook which forms the northern site boundary (British Geological Survey of Great Britain, Loughborough, Sheet 141).

3. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1. The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER), notes the site to be of archaeological interest, situated within the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of Breedon on the Hill (HER ref.: 9166). The earliest available mapping, the 1758 pre-enclosure map of Breedon on the Hill, shows the development area to the north of the village's open fields and immediately south of the stream. Historic mapping shows a complex of buildings occupying land referred to on the 18th century plan as 'The Crew'. The recent assessment of the standing buildings to the east of the application area suggests that they may date as early as the 17th century. The assessment also notes the likely presence of buried archaeological remains within the application site.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. A series of four trenches (Areas 02,03,05,06) measuring 25m x 1.8m and two trenches (Areas 01,04) measuring 12m x 1.8m were excavated to a depth of between 0.6m and 1.3m. A fifth 25m x 1.8m trench was divided into two areas (Areas 07-08) due to the discovery of cables possibly associated with the overhead cables (Figure 2). All areas were excavated by machine using a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

4.2. The trenches were located using a Leica CS15/GS15 RTK Differential GNSS and tied to the national grid.

4.3. Where archaeological deposits were encountered these were cleaned by hand and the deposits planned and recorded. Representative sections of the trenches were also cleaned and recorded to provide a stratigraphic record.

5. RESULTS

Area 01 Figure 2, 3

5.1. Area 01, located on the eastern boundary of the site measured 12m north-south x 1.7m wide and was excavated to a depth of 1m. The stratigraphic sequence comprised of natural clays overlain by re-deposited clay, silt loams and topsoil.

Context	Thickness	Description
0001	250mm	Dark brown friable silt loam – topsoil
0002	220mm	Mid-dark grey brown soft-friable silt clay loam with 5% sub rounded stone 10-30mm
0003	300mm	Mid red brown firm-soft clay with 10% angular mudstone
0004	200mm+	Mid brown red firm clay

5.2. Within Area 01 a single feature (0005) was identified. It consisted of a post-hole 0.5m deep x 150mm wide cutting through the subsoil 0002 from the topsoil 0001. It was filled by dark brown-black very soft silt clay and a wooden post.

5.3. No artefacts were recovered from the trench.

Area 02 Figure 2, 4

5.4. Area 02, located 1m west of Area 01, measured 25m east-west x 1.7m wide and excavated to a depth of 1.1m. Its stratigraphic sequence consisted of natural clays overlain by silt loams, re-deposited clay and topsoil.

<u>Context</u>	<u>Thickness</u>	<u>Description</u>
0001	250mm	Dark brown friable silt loam – topsoil
0006	400mm	Red brown soft clay – re-deposited clay
0007	100mm	Mid-light brown soft silt clay - subsoil
0008	100mm	Light brown friable sand clay with 10% sub rounded stone 10-40mm
0009	120mm	Mid red brown soft clay
0010	100mm+	Mid red brown firm clay

5.5. Within Area 02 a single feature (0011) was identified. It was linear in plan, orientated north-south beyond the limits of excavation x 0.6m wide x 0.2m deep cut from the base of the topsoil into the re-deposited clay 0006. It was filled with topsoil and aligned with the modern drain running north-south across the site.

5.6. At the western end of Area 02, beneath the re-deposited clay, a layer of friable brown silt loam (0012) was identified and interpreted as a buried soil.

5.7. A single sherd of medieval pottery, AAA, was also recovered from the buried soil 0012 (Appendix 1).

Area 03 Figure 2, 5

5.8. Area 03, located 7m west of Area 02, measured 25m north-south x 1.7m wide and was excavated to a depth of 1.3m. It revealed a stratigraphic sequence of natural clays overlain by clay subsoil and topsoil.

<u>Context</u>	<u>Thickness</u>	<u>Description</u>
0001	200mm	Dark brown friable silt loam – topsoil
0015	450mm	Mid brown soft clay with 2% root disturbance
0016	320mm	Mid red brown firm silt clay
0017	200mm+	Mid brown red soft clay

5.9. No features or artefacts of an archaeological nature were identified within Area 03.

Area 04 Figure 2, 6

5.10. Area 04 was located 20m north of Area 02, measured 12m north-south x 1.7m wide and was excavated to a depth of 1.1m. It revealed a stratigraphic sequence of natural clays overlain by sand clay, re-deposited clay and topsoil.

<u>Context</u>	<u>Thickness</u>	<u>Description</u>
0001	250mm	Dark brown friable silt loam – topsoil
0028	200mm	Mid red brown firm clay
0029	180mm	Mid brown friable sand clay
0030	300mm	Mid red brown firm clay
0031	100mm+	Mid red brown soft clay with 30% degraded mudstone

5.11. Within Area 04 a single feature (0029) consisting of a layer of mid brown sand clay was identified, and interpreted as being a buried soil.

5.12. No artefacts were recovered from Area 04.

Area 05 Figure 2, 7

5.13. Area 05 was located along the southern boundary of the site, at the south west corner of Area 04, and measured 25m east-west x 1.7m wide and was excavated to a depth of 1.1m. It revealed a stratigraphic sequence of natural clays overlain by sand clay, re-deposited clay and topsoil.

Context	Thickness	Description
0001	300mm	Dark brown friable silt loam – topsoil
0028	300mm	Mid red brown firm clay
0029	200mm	Mid brown friable sand clay
0030	200mm	Mid red brown firm clay
0031	100mm+	Mid red brown soft clay with 30% degraded mudstone

5.14. Within Area 05 a single feature (0029) consisting of a layer of mid brown sand clay was identified, and interpreted as being a buried soil.

5.15. No artefacts were recovered from within Area 05.

Area 06 Figure 2, 8

5.16. Area 06 was located 19m west of Area 03, and measured 25m north-south x 1.7m wide and was excavated to a depth of 1m. It revealed a stratigraphic sequence of natural clays overlain by clay subsoil and topsoil.

Context	Thickness	Description
0001	200mm	Dark brown friable silt loam – topsoil
0019	180mm	Mid brown soft clay
0020	200mm	Mid red brown firm silt clay
0021	400mm+	Mid red brown firm clay with 10% sub angular mudstone c.300mm

5.17. No features of an archaeological nature were identified within Area 06. One sherd of medieval pottery (AAC), and one sherd of post-medieval pottery (AAB) were recovered from the subsoil layer 0019 (Appendix 1).

Area 07 Figure 2, 9

5.18. Area 07 was located 14m west of Area 03, and measured 13m east-west x 1.7m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.9m. It revealed a stratigraphic sequence of natural clays overlain by silt clay subsoil and topsoil.

Context	Thickness	Description
0001	200mm	Dark brown friable silt loam – topsoil
0022	120mm	Mid brown soft-friable silt clay with 5% sub rounded stone 20-40mm
0023	140mm	Mid red brown soft clay
0024	100mm+	Mid red brown soft clay

5.19. No features or artefacts of an archaeological nature were identified within Area 07.

Area 08 Figure 2, 10

5.20. Area 08 was located 1m west of Area 07, and measured 11m east-west x 1.7m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.9m. It revealed a stratigraphic sequence of natural sand overlain by natural clays, silt clay subsoil and topsoil.

Context	Thickness	Description
0001	220mm	Dark brown friable silt loam – topsoil
0025	100mm	Mid brown soft-friable silt clay with 5% sub rounded stone 20-40mm
0026	500mm	Mid red brown soft sand clay
0027	100mm+	Mid red brown soft clay sand

5.21. No features or artefacts of an archaeological nature were identified within Area 08.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1. The results of the archaeological evaluation revealed a predominant stratigraphic sequence of natural clays overlain by silt clay subsoil and topsoil. Along the eastern side of the site, however, a re-deposited clay was identified within Areas 01-05, sealing a buried soil. No artefacts were recovered from the re-deposited clay to date its deposition, although a single sherd of medieval Chilvers Coton Ware pottery, dating to 1300-1475AD, was recovered from the buried soil within Area 02.

The two features identified within Areas 01 and 02 are not archaeologically important as they were both cut into the re-deposited clay from the topsoil, and as such are modern features, with 0011 aligned with the modern drain running through the site.

7. CONCLUSIONS

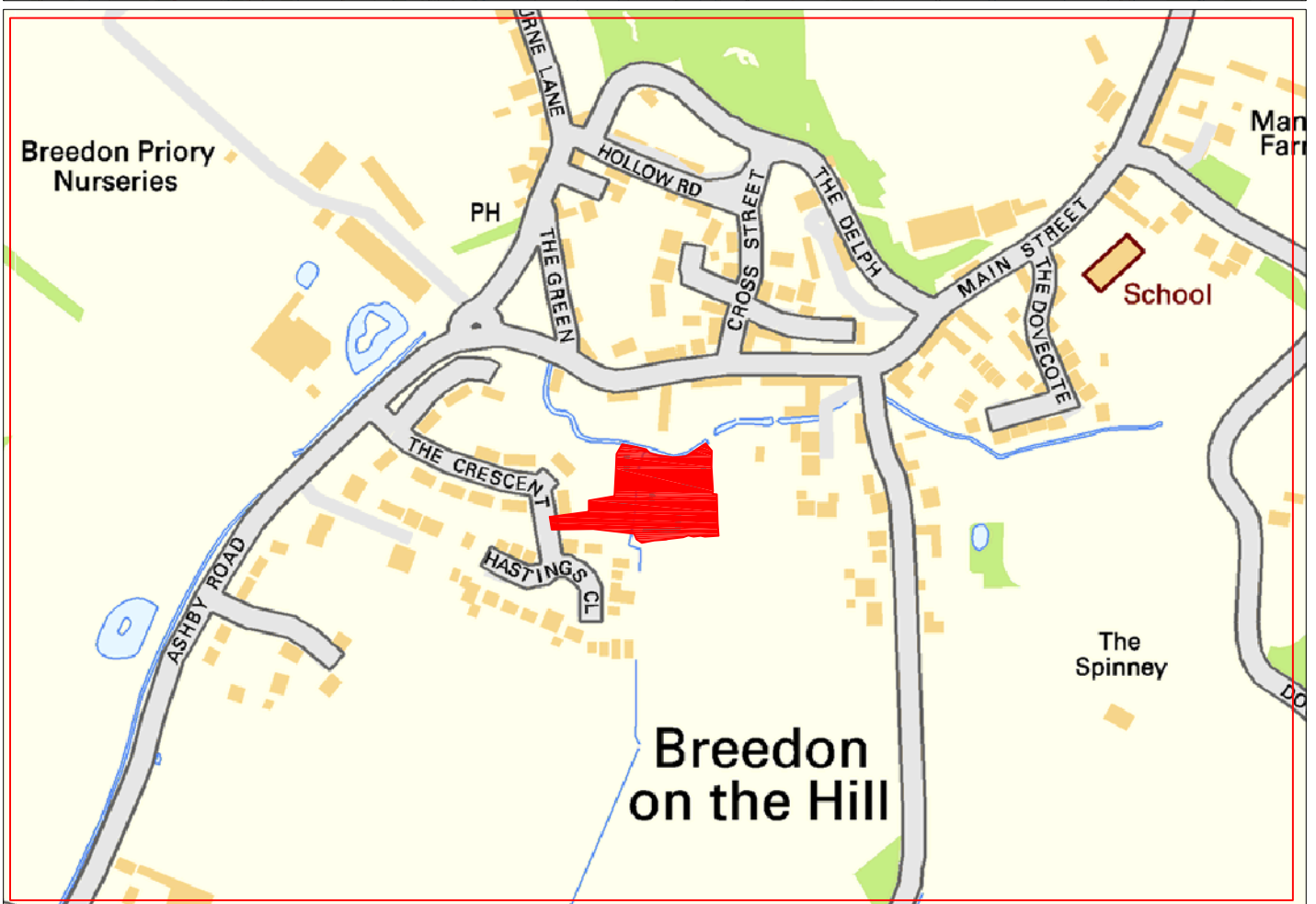
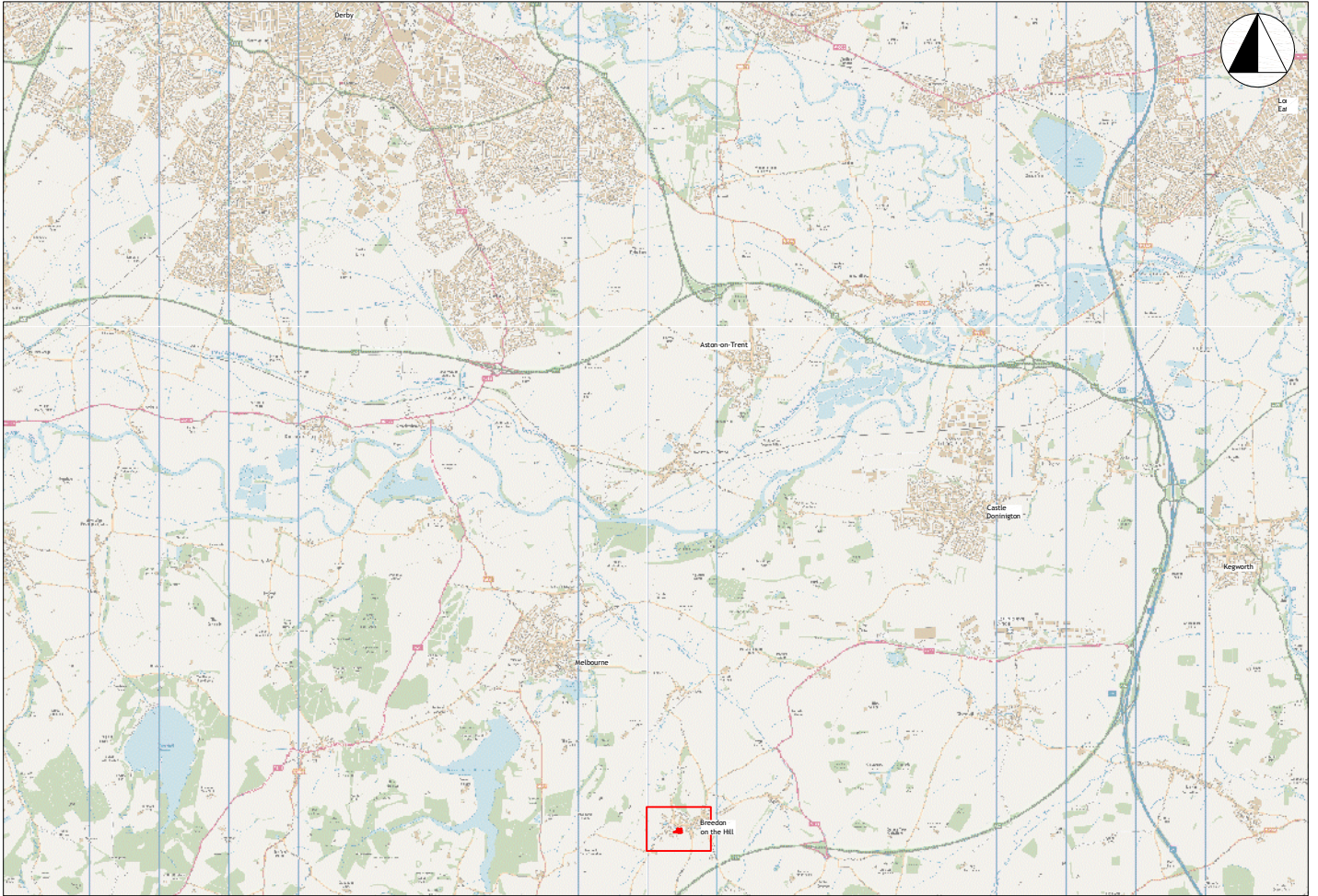
7.1. The archaeological evaluations revealed no features of archaeological significance within the development area.


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Gratitude is expressed to Richard and John Blunt for their help in facilitating this fieldwork.

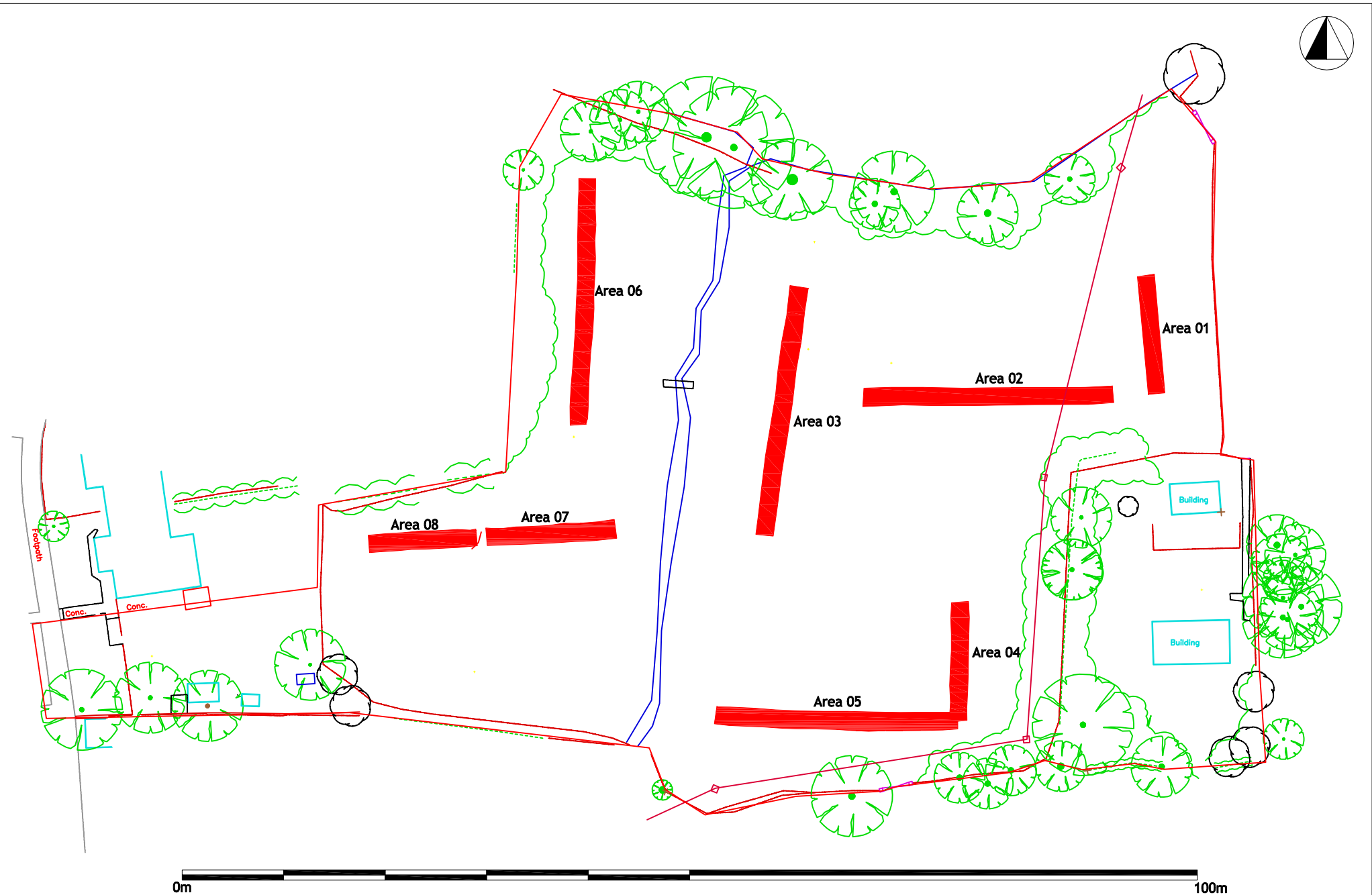
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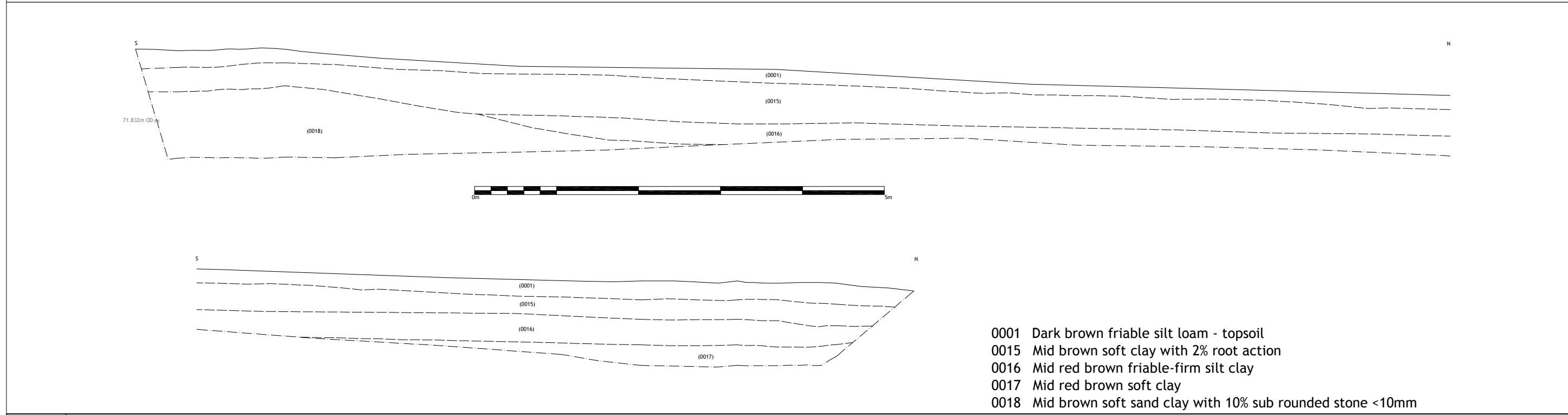
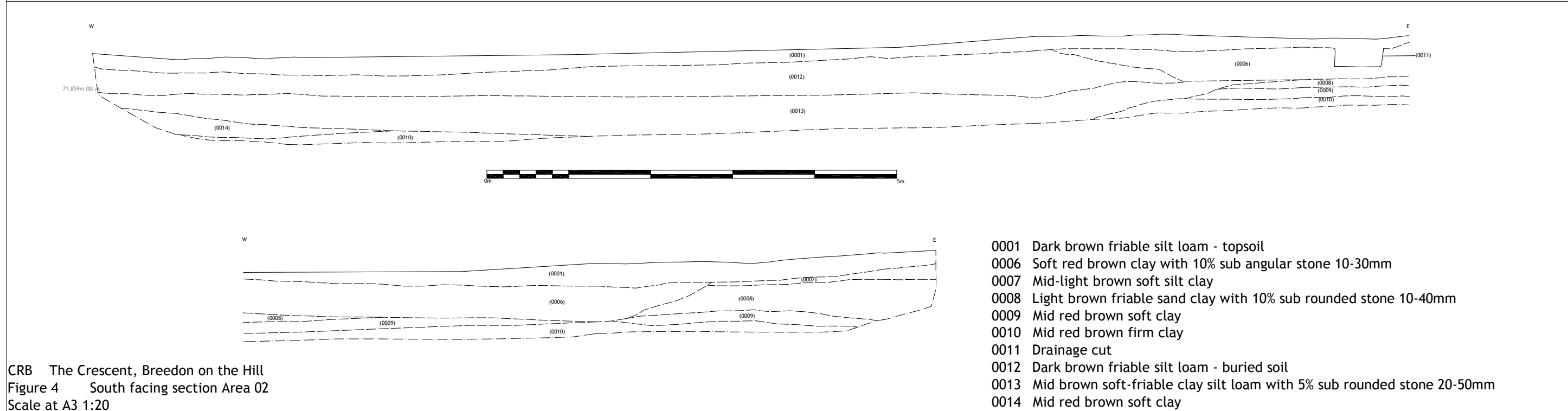
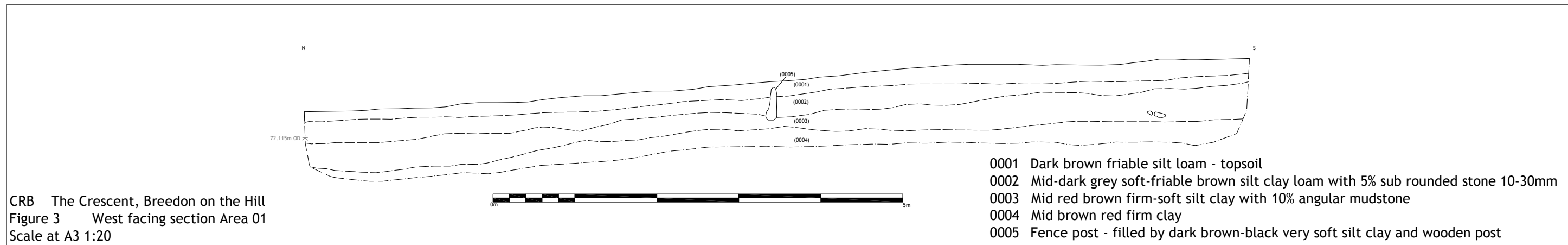
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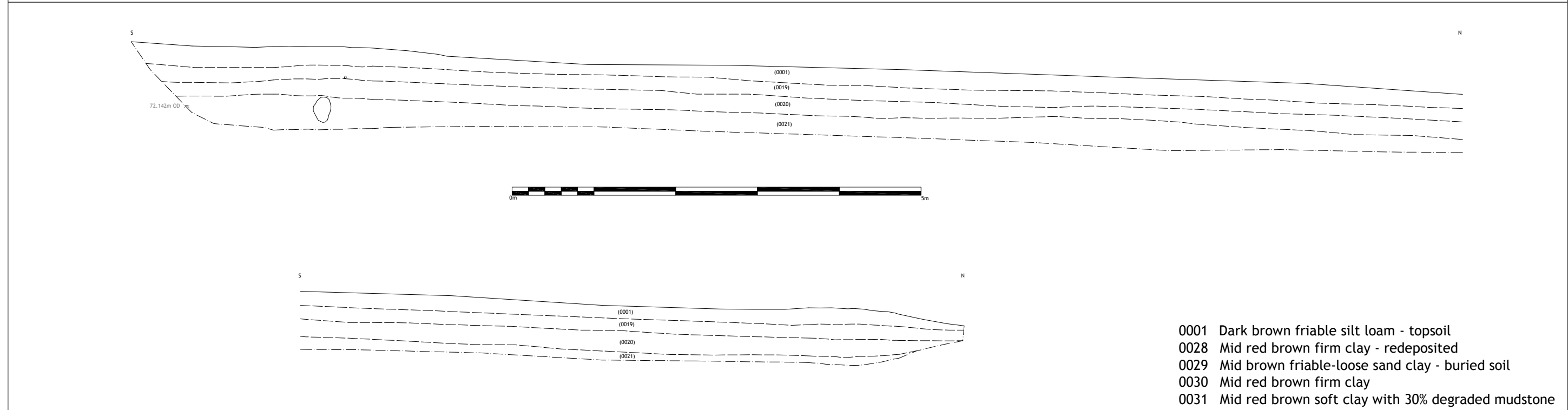
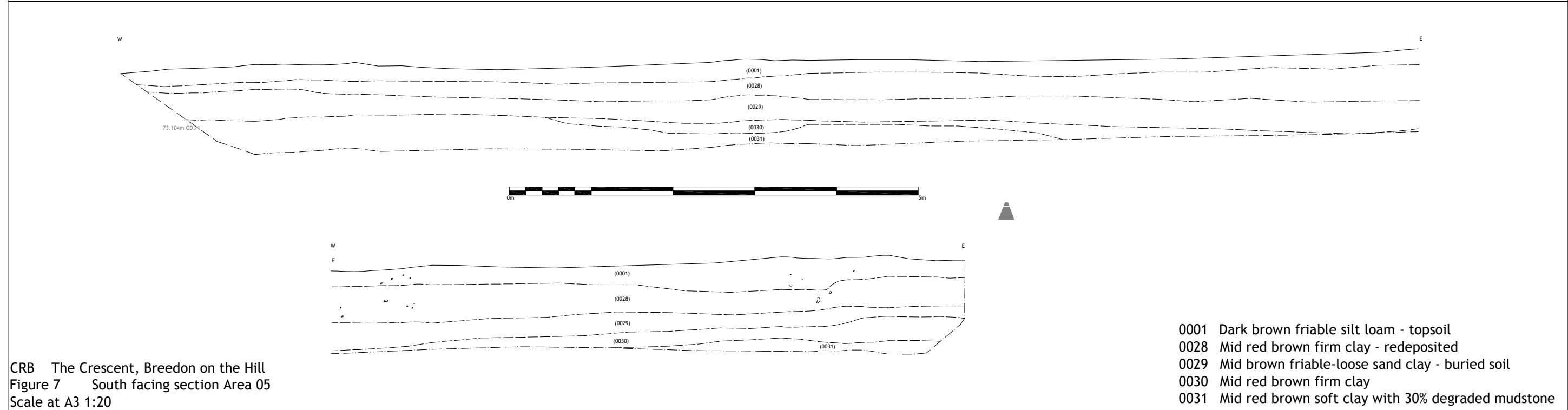
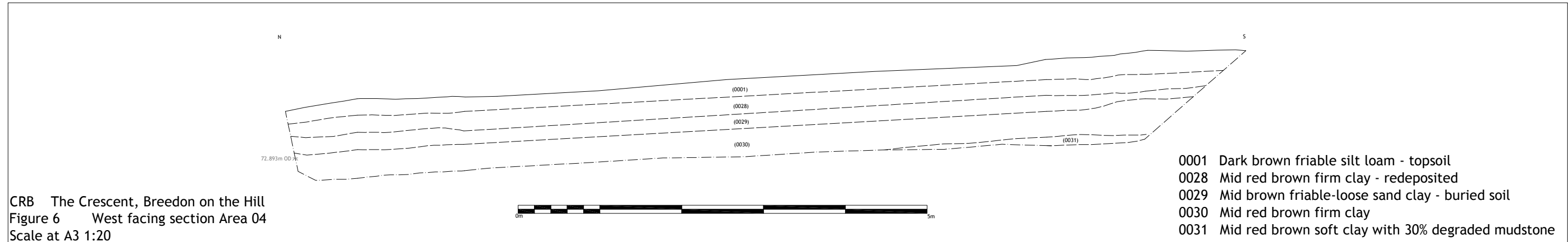



CRB The Crescent, Breedon on the Hill
Figure 1 Site location
Scale at A4 1:100,000 / 1:5,000

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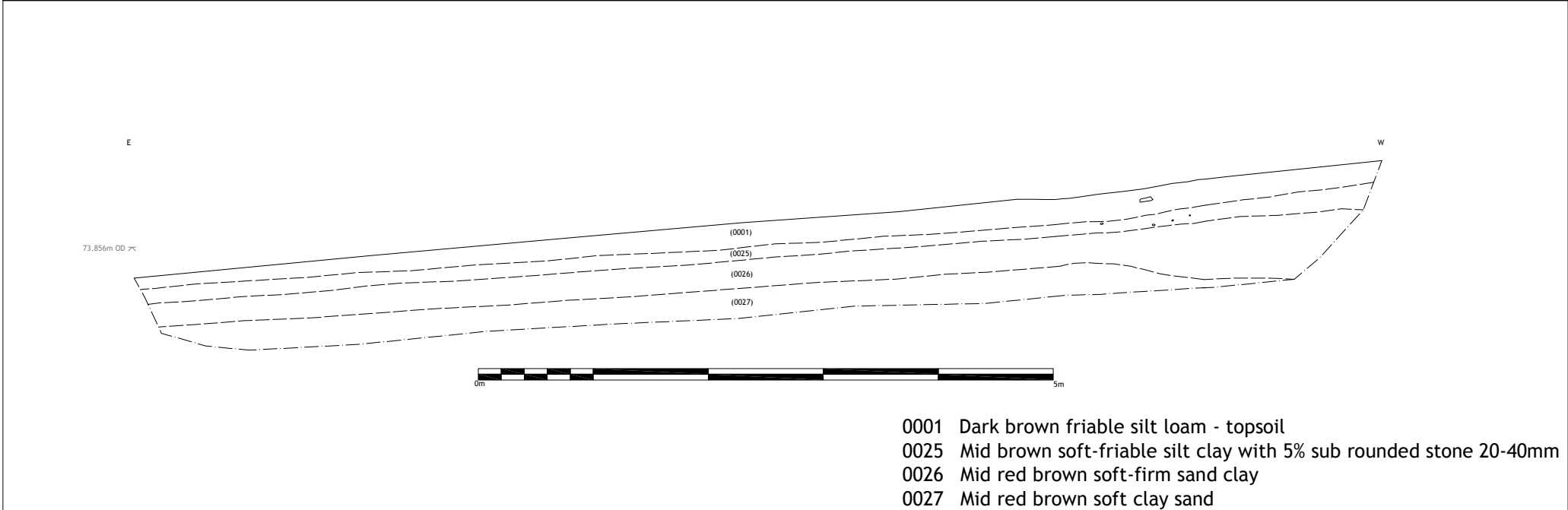
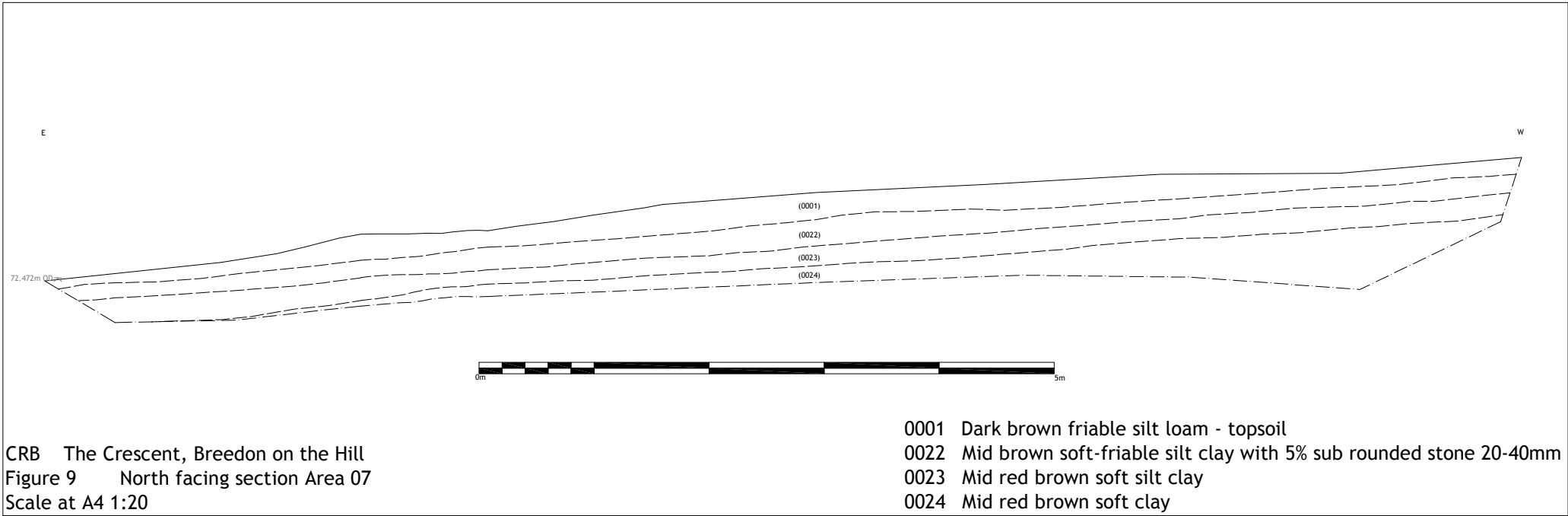




Plate 01 West facing section Area 01



Plate 02 South facing section Area 02



Plate 03 Detail of south facing section Area 02 showing re-deposited clay beneath topsoil and buried soil



Plate 04 East facing section Area 03



Plate 05 West facing section Area 04



Plate 06 South facing section Area 05



Plate 07 East facing section Area 06



Plate 08 North facing section Area 07



Plate 09

North facing section Area 08

Appendix 1: Note on the artefacts

Three sherds of pottery were recovered during the evaluations, one from Area 02 and two from Area 06. A brief summary is provided below from comments by Lee Elliott of Trent & Peak Archaeology.

AAA Chilvers Coton Ware (CC2). 1300-1475AD. Cooking pot rim. Burnt on underside Recovered from a buried soil within Area 02.

AAB Earthenware with dark brown internal glazing. 17th-18th centuries. Possible pancheon. Recovered from the subsoil within Area 06.

AAC Chilvers Coton Ware (CC2). 1300-1475AD. Base sherd. Recovered from the subsoil within Area 06.

Chilvers Coton Ware was produced in kilns outside of Nuneaton, Warwickshire and is a common pottery type found in north-west Leicestershire.

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OASIS ID: trentpea1-144740

Project details

Project name	Land behind 27 The Crescent, Breedon on the Hill, Leicestershire
Short description of the project	Evaluation trenching prior to development of the land. Four 25m x 1.7m and 4 12m x 1.7m trenches were excavated but no archaeological features were recorded.
Project dates	Start: 20-02-2013 End: 21-02-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	12/00229/FULM - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status (other)	Site of archaeological interest
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE BREEDON ON THE HILL Land rear of 27 The Crescent, Breedon on the Hill
Postcode	DE73 8AY
Study area	0.50 Hectares

Site coordinates SK 40418 22757 52 -1 52 48 01 N 001 24 01 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 73.00m Max: 74.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Trent and Peak Archaeology

Project brief originator Local Planning Archaeologist

Project design originator Dr. David Strange-Walker

Project director/manager Dr. David Strange-Walker

Project supervisor Peter Webb

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Leicestershire Museums Service

Physical Archive ID X.A17.2013

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient Leicestershire Museums Service

Digital Archive ID X.A17.2013

Digital Media available "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Leicestershire Museums Service

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Paper Media available "Context sheet","Correspondence","Drawing","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

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