

# NET2 - Chilwell B16

Archaeological Investigations at Chilwell / Toton Park & Ride  
Attenuation Pond, Work Package B16

**TPA Project Code: CPA3**

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TPA Report code: 029/2012

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**Report status options:**

- 1. Draft**
- 2. Interim**
- 3. Final Report**

## Summary

Trent & Peak Archaeology were commissioned by VINCI Construction UK to undertake archaeological investigations on an area of arable land at Chilwell / Toton, Nottinghamshire, ahead of the creation of a new Nottingham Express Transit tram-line running from the Railway Station through Lenton, Beeston and Chilwell to Toton (NET2 Line B).

The area of works consisted of the monitoring of a strip for an attenuation or run-off pond of c. 0.6ha adjacent to the proposed Park & Ride site at B16 Chilwell Terminus.

No archaeological remains predating the medieval period were observed. A number of north south aligned medieval and post-medieval furrows and ditches were observed across the site, indicating that the area was most likely used for arable or pastoral farming during the medieval/post-medieval periods.

# 1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 **Site name:** Chilwell Park & Ride Attenuation Pond (CPA3) – NET2 Work Package B16.
- 1.1.2 **YAT nominal code:** 4244-181
- 1.1.3 **NGR:** 449800, 336000
- 1.1.4 **Client:** Vinci Construction UK / Taylor Woodrow Alstom JV
- 1.1.5 **Planning application nos:** n/a
- 1.1.6 **WSI:** NET2 – Area B16 Chilwell Park & Ride, Notts. Attenuation Pond (footprint), Archaeological Scheme – Strip, Map & Sample. Project Code: CPA. Trent & Peak Archaeology report 016/2012
- 1.1.7 **Proposed Development:** Extension lines to Nottingham Express Transit tram.
- 1.1.8 **Geology/Soils:** Mercia Mudstone bedrock with no recorded superficial geology.
- 1.1.9 **Previous Archaeological Work:** Geophysical survey by Trent & Peak Archaeology, 2012. (C. Carey, TPA report 004/2012)

# 2 Introduction

- 2.1.1 Trent & Peak Archaeology (TPA), part of the York Archaeological Trust, were contracted by VINCI Construction UK Ltd to undertake archaeological investigations on an area of arable land at Chilwell / Toton, Nottinghamshire, ahead of the creation of a new Nottingham Express Transit tram-line running from the Railway Station through Lenton, Beeston and Chilwell to Toton (NET2 Line B).
- 2.1.2 The area of works will form an attenuation or run-off pond of c. 0.6ha adjacent to the proposed Park & Ride site at B16 Chilwell Terminus.
- 2.1.3 The excavations were carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared for and approved in May 2012 by Ursilla Spence, the Senior Practitioner for Archaeology, Nottinghamshire County Council. All works undertaken were in line with the current Code of Practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 2.1.4 Stripping of the Attenuation Pond area was carried out between 29th May and 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012. Archaeological works were supervised by Peter Webb, and the project was managed by David Strange-Walker and Howard Jones.
- 2.1.5 The works reported here as CPA3 were the final stage of archaeological investigations in the B16 area by SLR Consulting / APS Archaeology and subsequently Trent & Peak Archaeology.

# 3 Archaeological Background and Previous Works

# 4 Methodology

- 4.1.1 The attenuation pond footprint was stripped by the contractor under archaeological supervision. Topsoil was removed and stored separately, then an amount of subsoil was removed (determined by the archaeologist present) to ensure that archaeological features or

deposits were clearly visible. All topsoil and subsoil stripping was carried out using an appropriate toothless bucket (containing no holes for escaping spoil used on a 360° tracked machine. Spoil was deposited in articulated dump trucks running behind the 360° machine to avoid running on freshly stripped areas.

- 4.1.2 The pond footprint was stripped in east-west strips, with a final north-south strip at the eastern end of the area.
- 4.1.3 Features observed by the archaeologist were planned with a Leica Viva CS15/GS15 RKT GPS system. Features were then hand-excavated and sampled by the archaeologist sufficient to determine their plan and form, and to recover any datable artefacts.
- 4.1.4 Archaeological features were recorded by the hand-drawing of plans and sections at appropriate scale, and through digital and 35mm black-and-white photography.

## 5 Results

- 5.1.1 The rectangular east-west orientated attenuation pond area of 128m x 53m was stripped to a depth of between 350 and 600mm below modern ground surface, depending on depth of subsoil. Below a dark brown soft friable clay silt loam topsoil (**0001**), the stripped area was divided into two primary subsoil fills. To the south-west, and covering the majority of the area, lay a mid-light yellow-brown friable silty clay subsoil (**0002**). In the north-eastern corner of the site this gave way to a mid red-brown clay subsoil (**0047**), which drained much less well than **0002** (Figure 3).
- 5.1.2 Cutting across various parts of the area was a network of relatively modern ceramic horseshoe and cylindrical land drains. These land drains were not visible across the entire area, suggesting that they may have been more deeply buried in places.
- 5.1.3 Across the majority of the area linear features were observed running roughly north-south (Figure 3). To the east of the area these were generally more clearly defined at the southern end and faded out to invisibility at the northern end, and were not visible at all in the clay spread **0047**. The four westernmost linear features were visible running north-south across the entire area, cutting the subsoil **0002**. The distinct westernmost linears, **0023**, **0022**, **0014** and **0012** were spaced 8-10m apart, while the 14 linears east of **0012** were much more closely spaced, being generally (though irregularly) only 2-3m apart. These linear features varied in width between about 1.8m and 3.8m wide, but it is likely that these variations in width are a function of slightly different depths and degree of preservation of the linear features.
- 5.1.4 Several of the linear features were excavated to determine their character and if possible obtain datable material. **0005** was sectioned against the excavation edge (Plate 2, Figure 4), revealing a shallow cut through the subsoil with an irregular base, consistent with that of a ploughed furrow. The single fill (**0005a**) was a light yellow-brown soft and friable fine clay silt, only just distinguishable from the subsoil **0002**. A single body sherd of medieval pottery with a degrading green lead glaze (AAC) was recovered from the upper part of the feature fill. At its greatest extents **0005** measured circa 1.6m wide and 480mm deep below surface or 200mm below base of topsoil.
- 5.1.5 **0021** was also sectioned against the north-facing excavation edge (Plate 3, Figure 5). This was a more substantial linear feature with an overall width of 3.0m at the section. The base, as seen in the section, was somewhat irregular. The eastern side consisted of a gentle slope curving to a rounded bottom, while the western side formed a more angular 'v' section, leading to a deeper v-shaped gully. The south-facing section through **0021** showed a similar but less pronounced profile, again with a deeper section on the western side but wider and with a flatter base (Plate 4, Figure 6). The upper fills of **0021** were primarily mid-brown friable clay silts although with some variation in colour; the lower fills were of a more heavily compacted silt clay, with a basal layer of soft mid grey-brown clay sand. The only finds recovered from **0021** were from its surface and post-medieval in date: a ceramic body sherd

in read earthenware (ABQ) and the stem of a clay pipe (ABR).

- 5.1.6 The westernmost linear feature, **0023**, was also sectioned against the excavation edge (Plate 5, Figure 6). This proved to be very different in composition and form to the furrows to its east. The feature showed a classic v-shaped profile, measuring 1.2m wide by 650mm deep from top of subsoil. **0023** was filled with three principal deposits: an upper fill of mid-brown friable slightly stony silt (**0023a**); a central band of mid-dark brown soft and friable silty clay with less stones (**0023b**); and a basal fill of mid-brown soft clay, slightly silty in places (**0023d**). All the fills carried small charcoal flecks, up to 10% in places.
- 5.1.7 Thirty-three small finds were recovered from the fills and surface of **0023**. Of these thirty-two were post-medieval or later in date, comprising seven fragments of clay pipe, one rim shard of light blue bottle glass, one small copper alloy button, three chunks of tile or brick, and twenty sherds of pottery. Of the pottery sherds eleven are whitewares with or without transfer prints, and probably of the 19<sup>th</sup> century; one is a fine yellow-glazed rim, again probably of the 19<sup>th</sup> century; three are coarse earthenwares with red-brown glazes, and probably pancheon fragments of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Find ABO is a base sherd of salt-glazed stoneware, of a probable 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century date; ABN is a body sherd of pale buff earthenware with a slightly streaky yellow-brown lead glaze on both sides, and of 17<sup>th</sup>- or possible 16<sup>th</sup>-century date; and ABJ is a rim sherd of a Cistercian ware cup or jar, with a dark purple-grey reduced earthenware fabric beneath a dark green-brown iron-rich lead glaze, and of a 16<sup>th</sup> or possibly even 15<sup>th</sup> century date. These three relatively early finds were all recovered from the surface of **0023**. One of the whiteware sherds (ABA) was recovered from the basal fill **0023d**, at a depth of 50-55cm. This rim sherd of a delicate bowl has a white glaze with a bold pink and green floral overglaze, and is certainly no earlier than the 19<sup>th</sup> century and probably of a 20<sup>th</sup> century date.
- 5.1.8 A number of further small finds were recovered from elsewhere on the site. From the surface of the subsoil **0002** came four sherds of post-medieval and three sherds of medieval pottery, along with one fragment each of clay pipe and glass. The post-medieval pottery comprised a body sherd of coarse red earthenware with a black glaze (ABC, probably 19<sup>th</sup> century), a body sherd of a Mason & Cash-style yellow-glazed mixing bowl (ABB, probably 20<sup>th</sup> century), a body sherd of salt-glazed stoneware (AAB, probably 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century), and the handle of a Cistercian ware cup in a reduced dark grey earthenware fabric with a dark purple-brown iron-rich glaze (ABF), of the 16<sup>th</sup> or possibly 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. The medieval pottery comprised one very rough coarse orange sandy ware jar rim (ABS), a somewhat finer coarse orange sandy ware base (AAA), and a highly abraded body sherd in a grey gritty fabric, with the remnants of a green glaze on both sides (ABT). All three of the medieval sherds are probably of a 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century date.
- 5.1.9 Of the unexcavated linear features, **0006** produced one highly abraded sherd of probable medieval jug fabric with a reduced grey interior and a degraded green-glazed outer surface (AAD). **0011** produced one angular bowl rim in coarse orange sandy ware with a degraded green glaze on its inner surface (ABX). Bowl rims of this type have been found at the production site at Western Street, Nottingham (Walker 2006), and dated to the early 14<sup>th</sup> century (V. Nailor *pers. comm.*), although they may be slightly earlier than this. **0012** produced one body sherd of a grey, gritty, reduced fabric with a very rough interior (ABY) and one body sherd of a finer buff-coloured fully oxidised sandy ware (ABZ), both medieval. From **0019** came one sherd of salt-glazed stoneware bottle neck from no earlier than 1700 (ABV), and one sherd of 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century medieval jug fabric with a partial green glaze (ABU). **0020** produced a rim sherd of a Mason & Cash-style yellow-glazed mixing bowl (ABW, probably 20<sup>th</sup> century). **0022** produced two clay pipe stems (ACA, ACB), and **0047** produced a base sherd of a salt-glazed stoneware bottle from no earlier than 1700 (ABP). All of these finds were recovered from the surface of features and thus provide only *terminus ante quem* dates for those features.
- 5.1.10 In order to investigate further the spread of clay material **0047** across the north-eastern corner of the site, it was agreed with the Senior Practitioner for Archaeology, Nottinghamshire County Council to excavate three machine trenches through this material (Plate 6, Figure 3). These trenches were all 2.5m wide and between 15 and 19m in length and excavated to a depth

of around 1.0-1.2m. Drawn sections showed a similar stratigraphy in each trench: four or five indistinct layers of silty clays and clays, varying between red-brown and yellow-brown, sloping gradually down to the north, above the natural Mercia Mudstone bedrock. The red-brown silty clay deposit **0047** overlay these layers.

## **6 Discussion**

- 6.1 The furrows suggest that the area was used for either arable agriculture in the medieval and post-medieval periods. The ditches recorded could be evidence of either medieval to post-medieval field boundaries or drainage systems.
- 6.2 Overall the evidence indicates that this area was used for arable and/or pastoral agriculture in the medieval and post-medieval periods.



## 7 Plates

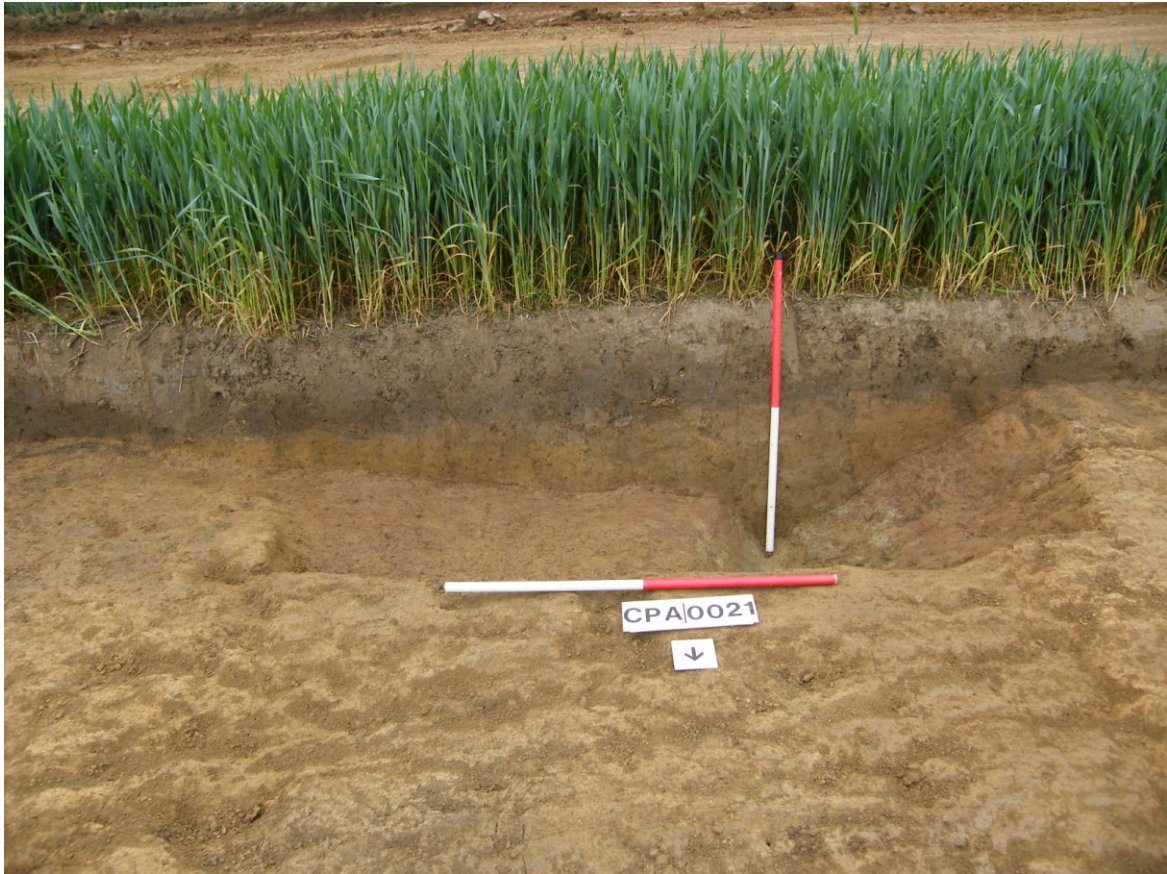


*Plate 1: Looking East across the partially-stripped attenuation pond area*



*Plate 2: North-facing section through excavated furrow 0005.*





*Plate 3: North-facing section through excavated furrow 0021.*



*Plate 4: South-facing section through excavated furrow 0021.*





*Plate 5: South-facing section through post-medieval fills of ditch **0023**.*

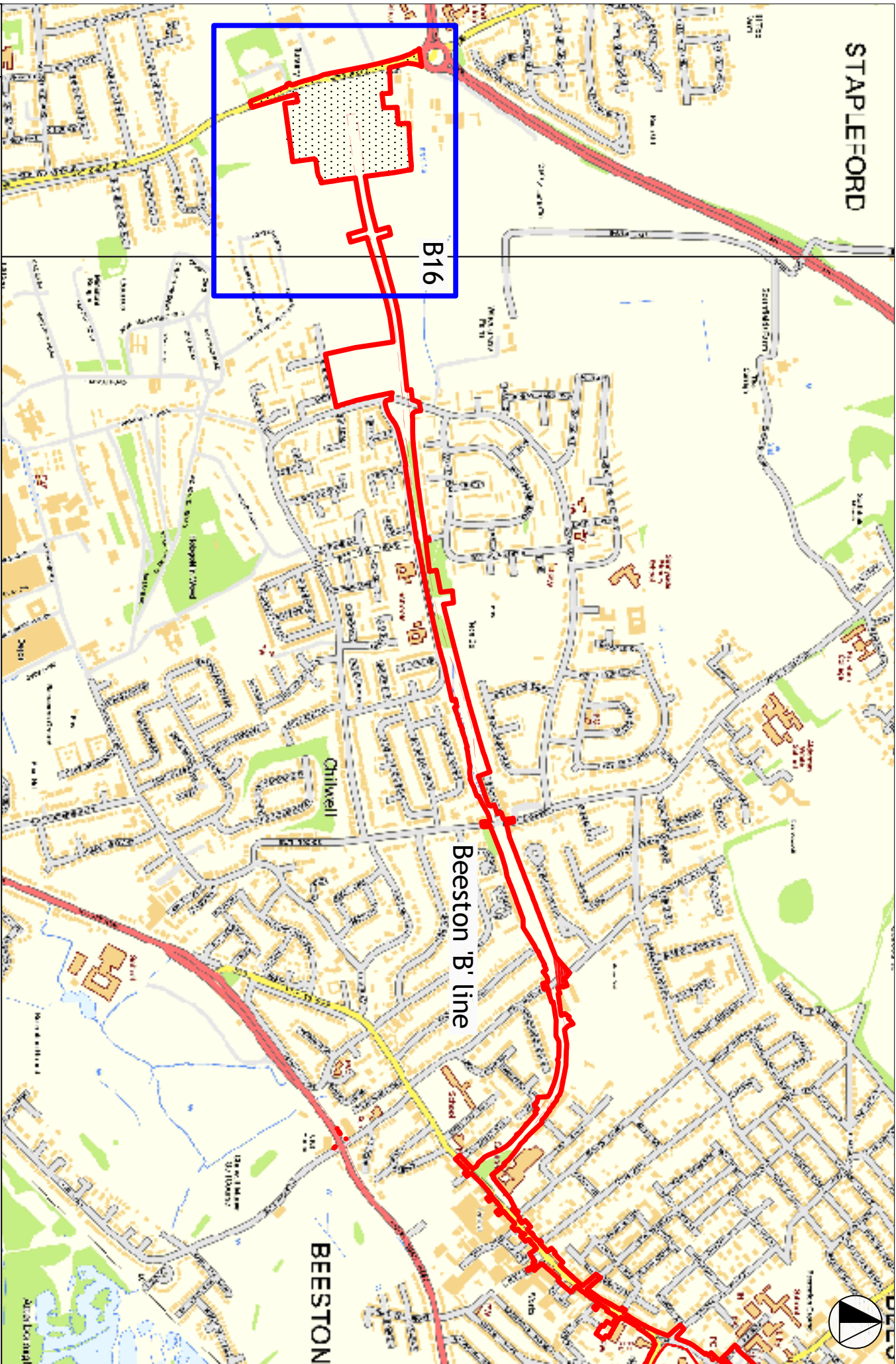


*Plate 6: Cut 8, machine trench through the clay spread **0047**.*





STAPLEFORD



B16

Beeston 'B' line

BEESTON

Chilwell



NET2: Tram Phase Two - Work Package B16  
Figure 1: Location of Work Package B16 relative to NET2 Beeston line  
Scale 1:12500 at A4 DSW 03/08/2012



00000

B6003

TOTON LANE

Nursery

0m 250m



Trent & Peak

CPA B16 Chilwell Park and Ride  
Figure 2: Plan of Attenuation Pond relative to earlier trenching and planning boundary  
Scale at A4 1:2000

