

**Clune Street Recreation Ground,
Clowne, Derbyshire,**

A Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief

Prepared on behalf of Bolsover District Council

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TPA Project code: CRG



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Clune Street Recreation Ground, Clowne, Derbyshire, A Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

- Trent and Peak Archaeology was contracted by Bolsover District Council to conduct an archaeological watching brief during ground-works for the development of the playing fields at Clune Street Recreation Ground, Clowne, Derbyshire.
- The watching brief was commissioned in compliance with a planning condition (application no: 08/00857/FULMAJ) set by Derbyshire County Council, that the developer provide for archaeological attendance during topsoil stripping and intrusive ground-works.
- The site lies to the north of Clune Street and south of Hickingwood Lane at NGR SK50074 76121. The development consisted of the building of sports pitches and a Bike Track on the site of the existing playing fields and BMX track on the site.
- The site lies in close proximity to five entries on the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (HER 4409, 4411, 4412, 15171 and 15182). These comprise prehistoric flintwork and stone axes, recovered from the fields around Hickingwood farm c. 200m to the east of the site.
- Ordnance Survey mapping from 1877 (Derbyshire sheet 1:2500) shows the layout of the fields prior to the conversion of the site to a recreation ground, and indicate possible field boundaries which may still exist *in situ*.
- Topsoil was stripped to an average depth of 100mm exposing an orange-brown stone rich sandy clay subsoil, approximately 200mm thick which overlay a deposit of orange-brown stoney clay. With the exception of 19th century field boundaries, no archaeological features were visible cutting into either the upper or lower sub-soils.
- During the stripping process a 30L sample of the topsoil was sieved through 7mm mesh approximately every 10m during stripping. A total of fifty four samples were processed, and their positions were marked on an overall plan of the site. No flint, worked or unworked, was recovered either during sieving, topsoil stripping, or examination of the spoil heaps.
- Three potential features were observed after removal of the upper subsoil. Excavation indicated that these comprised a potential animal burrow and the remnants of the mapped field boundaries of 1877.
- Finds recovered during the stripping and sieving of topsoil included pot, metal, glass, brick and tile, dating from the early to mid 20th century, and are consistent with domestic disposal and dispersal over that period.
- The apparent sealing of 19th century field boundaries by a deposit of sandy clay (0002), may be consistent with the importation of this material during the original conversion of the site to a recreation ground. If correct, the topsoil may conceivably also be redeposited, possibly explaining the absence of prehistoric lithic material.

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Archive deposition

The recommended recipient for the project archive is Sheffield Museum, who are currently not accepting archives or issuing accession numbers. The archive (project code CRG) will be retained by Trent & Peak Archaeology until such time as this situation is resolved or alternative arrangements agreed with Derbyshire County Council.

1 INTRODUCTION, PLANNING AND PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1 Trent and Peak Archaeology was contracted by Bolsover District Council to conduct an archaeological watching brief during ground-works for the redevelopment of the playing field and BMX track at Clune Street Recreation Ground, Clowne, Derbyshire (Fig 1). The site lies to the north of Clune Street and south of Hickingwood Lane at NGR SK50074 76121. The development comprises the building of sports pitches and a Bike Track on the site of the existing playing fields and BMX track. Planning permission (application no: 08/00857/FULMAJ) was granted by Derbyshire County Council on the condition that the developer provided for an archaeological watching brief to be conducted during topsoil stripping and intrusive elements of the ground-works. This requirement is in agreement with local plan policy and national planning guidance (PPG16, *Archaeology and Planning*). The watching brief monitored the topsoil stripping for the adult pitch and the cultivation and drainage works associated with the junior pitch and the levelling of the BMX track.

1.2 The watching brief was conducted by Thomas Burt and the project managed by Howard Jones and Laurence Platt.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site lies in close proximity to five entries on the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (HER 4409, 4411, 4412, 15171 and 15182). These comprise prehistoric flintwork and stone axes, recovered from the fields around Hickingwood farm c. 200m to the east of the site. Ordnance Survey mapping from 1877 (Derbyshire sheet, 1:2500) shows the layout of the fields prior to the site's initial conversion to a recreation ground and indicate possible field boundaries whose remains (ditches) may still exist *in situ*.

3 SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

3.1 The site lies at the northern edge of the village and is enclosed by modern housing on three sides but looks out over open fields and allotments to the north. Prior to development the site has been used as a recreation ground and football pitches. The underlying geology is Magnesium Limestone (Cadeby Formation) overlying Late Permian Dolostone (Edina Geology Digimap from BGS 1:50,000). Within the development site the ground rises gently to the east from 135 to 140m OD. Topographically the site is on two distinct levels an upper level to the east and a lower level to the west separated by a terraced edge following the field boundary line as mapped in 1877. This may indicate substantial landscaping in the last century, most likely when the fields were converted to the recreation ground, although possibly enhancing an existing lynchet given the coincidence with a former field boundary.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The initial topsoil stripping and all intrusive ground works were carried out by a tracked mini-digger using a smooth-bladed ditching bucket. Each strip was cut at a bucket width (1.6m) over the length of the area subject to intrusive ground work (Plate 1.). For recording purposes each strip was allocated a unique number (see Figure 2). During the stripping a c.30L sample of the topsoil was sieved through 7mm mesh at approximately 10m intervals in every strip, to check for the presence of any flint or other artefacts of significance. A total of fifty four samples of topsoil were looked at across the site and their positions marked on an overall plan. The stripped area was also examined for the presence of any archaeological features and artefacts and the spoil heaps were also inspected for stray finds.

4.2 An area 63m x 78m was stripped of both topsoil and subsoil (Area 01). The remainder of the works employed a cultivator to break up the ground where the junior football pitch is to be situated. This did not require the removal of any topsoil, although the disturbed surface was inspected in order to recover any finds that may have been brought to the surface by this process. In addition the excavation of a trench for a drainage pipe was monitored (Area 02). An existing bike track (Area 03)

was levelled as part of the renovation of the recreation ground. Each of these areas is reported on below.

4.3 All features and layers were recorded by photograph and drawing and given a unique four figure context number, e.g. 0001. Their position was marked on an overall plan of the site. Any artefacts that could be securely located within a feature were given a three letter code, e.g. AAA, and where appropriate their position marked on a section drawing. Any finds from the sieving were also given a three letter code and the sieved sample location number was also recorded. A metal detector survey was also carried out which encompassed the stripped area, features and the spoil heaps.

5 RESULTS

Area 01.

5.1 The topsoil, 0001, was shallow, averaging only 100mm in depth. Once removed this exposed an orange-brown stone rich sandy clay subsoil (0002), approximately 200mm thick which in turn overlay a deposit of orange brown stoney clay (0007). No archaeological features cutting into 0002 were observed, either in plan during stripping, or in section within the drainage pipe trench. In contrast three possible features were observed cutting into the lower lying deposit 0007. These were then excavated and recorded as contexts 0003, 0005 and 0006. The sieving produced only modern material including pot, glass, metal work and brick/tile (see Appendix 2 for detail). No struck flints were recovered either during the sieving or stripping of topsoil, or from examining the spoil heaps.

5.2 Context 0003: comprised an irregular depression, 20 cm deep and 1m wide, filled by a greyish brown clayey silt. Its irregular form is arguably consistent with either an animal burrow or tree bowl.

5.3 Context 0004: Modern plough scrapes orientated north-west/south-east were observed cutting into the upper surface of the subsoil (0002).

5.4 Context 0005: A shallow linear feature approximately 1m in width and 19cm deep with an uneven base, filled by a uniform deposit of greyish brown clayey silt. It ran alongside the batter, following a north-west/south east axis. Comparison of the position and alignment with historic mapping (Ordnance Survey 1877-Derbyshire, 1:2,500) may support its linkage with a 19th century field boundary. The homogenous nature of the fill together with the modern finds within it (ABF and ABJ) may suggest a recent episode of deliberate infill (Figure 2 and plate 4.)

5.5 Context 0006: A shallow linear feature was recorded running east-north-east/west-south-west, across the eastern half of spit 9 approximately 35m in length, 1m wide and 200mm deep, with an uneven base. It aligns with the field boundary mapped by the Ordnance Survey in 1877 and is therefore probably the truncated remnants of a boundary ditch. The fill comprised a homogenous mid grey sandy/stoney silt and the incorporation of modern brick (ABH) suggests the probability that this fill was created during the last century by the initial levelling of the site for playing fields (Figure 3 and plates 5 and 6.).

Area 02

5.6 In area 02 the topsoil was broken up by a cultivator in order to re-seed. No topsoil was removed in this process. The disturbed ground surface was examined to recover any finds of archaeological significance that had been brought to the surface by this process. No finds were observed. Along the north-east edge of the area a drainage ditch (0008) some 500mm wide, was excavated to a depth of 300mm. This was monitored and two representative sections recorded (see figs 4 and 5.); no finds or features of archaeological significance were observed.

Area 03

5.7 This area comprised the pre-existing bike track which had been extensively landscaped prior to the current works. The area was levelled during the current ground-works, monitoring produced no finds or features of archaeological significance.

6 CONCLUSION

6.1 Despite significant discoveries of prehistoric lithics in the general vicinity (Section 2), no such material was recovered during the current ground-works despite close monitoring of the stripping and systematic sample sieving of the topsoil.

6.2 Early mapping of the development area (e.g. the OS 1:2500, Derbyshire Sheet of 1877) shows that the field boundaries established by the 19th century, remained essentially unchanged until the mid 20th century. The only archaeological features recorded during the monitoring of the ground-works (0005 and 0006), may represent the truncated remnant of mapped historic field boundaries (Figures 2 and 3). Both present evidence suggestive of their deliberate in-fill, perhaps during the initial conversion of the fields into playing fields.

6.3 The apparent sealing of 19th century field boundaries by the deposit of sandy clay (0002), may be consistent with the importation of this material during the sites original conversion to a recreation ground. If correct, the topsoil may conceivably also be redeposited, possibly explaining the absence of prehistoric lithic material.

Appendix 1. Summary listing of contexts

- 0001 topsoil, mid greyish brown clayey loam, area 01
- 0002 subsoil, orangish brown sandy/stoney clay, area 01
- 0003 probable animal burrow or tree bowl, area 01
- 0004 modern plough scrapes, area 01
- 0005 possible shallow field boundary remnant, area 01
- 0006 possible shallow field boundary remnant, area 01
- 0007 brownish orange stoney clay natural layer, area 01
- 0008 drainage pipe trench, area 02

Appendix 2: Summary of small finds

Pottery: All sherds (x18) were recovered from topsoil, all appear to be of domestic origin (cups/plates) and are predominantly white glazed with occasional blue transfer print, with x2 stoneware bottle fragments, and x2 brown glazed sherds. All forms are consistent with a 19th – 20th century date, and were catalogued and discarded.

Clay pipe: A single short portion of clay pipe stem was recovered from the topsoil, form consistent with a 19th – early 20th century date. Catalogued and discarded.

Glass: Sieving of topsoil produced x12 fragments, x7 green bottle glass, x5 clear bottle glass, forms are all consistent with a late 19th-20th century date. Catalogued and discarded. Excavation of a probable former field boundary 0005 produced a single fragment of green bottle glass of late 19th-20th century date (finds code ABF, retained in archive).

Brick/Tile: A total of x6 fragments of brick/tile were recovered during sieving of topsoil, all are consistent with a late 19th – early 20th century date.

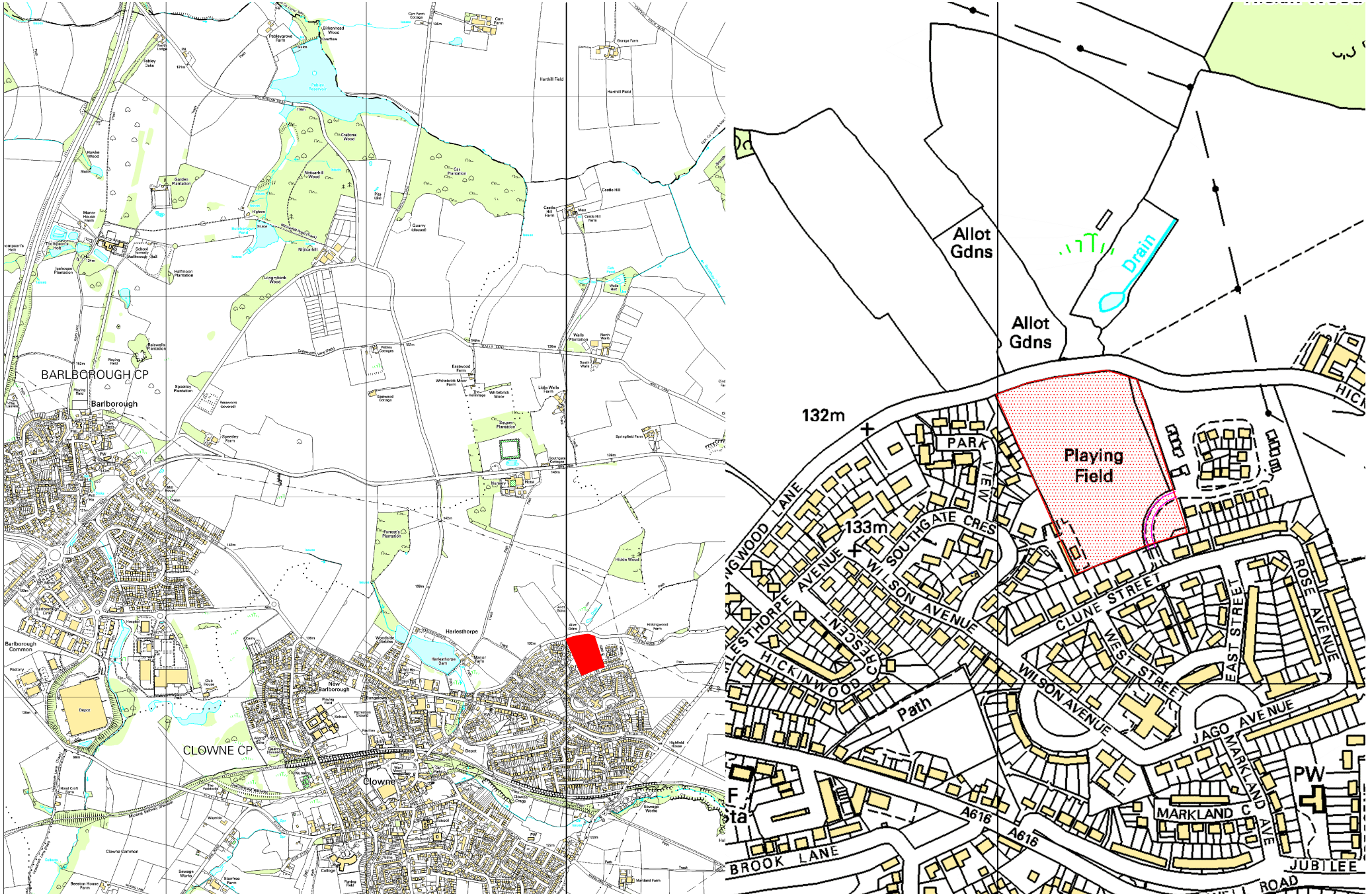
Ironwork: x9 corroded iron objects were recovered from topsoil, these included spike's/bolts, couplings, and tines, and are generally consistent with losses from machinery of relatively recent date (later 19th – 20th century). Catalogued and discarded.


Animal bone: x8 fragments of animal bone (various, including probable rabbit) were recovered from the remains of a probable burrow (0003). The condition of the assemblage suggests it is of relatively recent date. Catalogued and discarded.

Appendix 3. OASIS

In compliance with the brief issued by the development control archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council, an OASIS record has been initiated for this project (<http://www.oasis.ac.uk>). A copy of the forms main page is provided below.

Project name	Clune Street Recreation Ground, Clowne, Derbyshire
Short description of the project	A watching brief was conducted during ground-works associated with the re-landscaping and upgrade of recreation ground facilities. Sample sieving of topsoil was also undertaken for the recovery of prehistoric lithic material. With the exception of post-medieval field ditches and a scatter of material (predominantly pottery, glass) belonging to the 19th-20th centuries, there were no archaeological discoveries of significance.
Project dates	Start: 05-10-2009 End: 21-10-2009
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	CRG - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	08/00857/FULMAJ - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	None None
Significant Finds	pottery Post Medieval
Significant Finds	pottery Modern
Significant Finds	glass Modern
Significant Finds	metalwork Modern
Significant Finds	brick Modern
Methods & techniques	'Visual Inspection'
Development type	Amenity area (e.g. public open space)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)



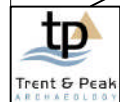
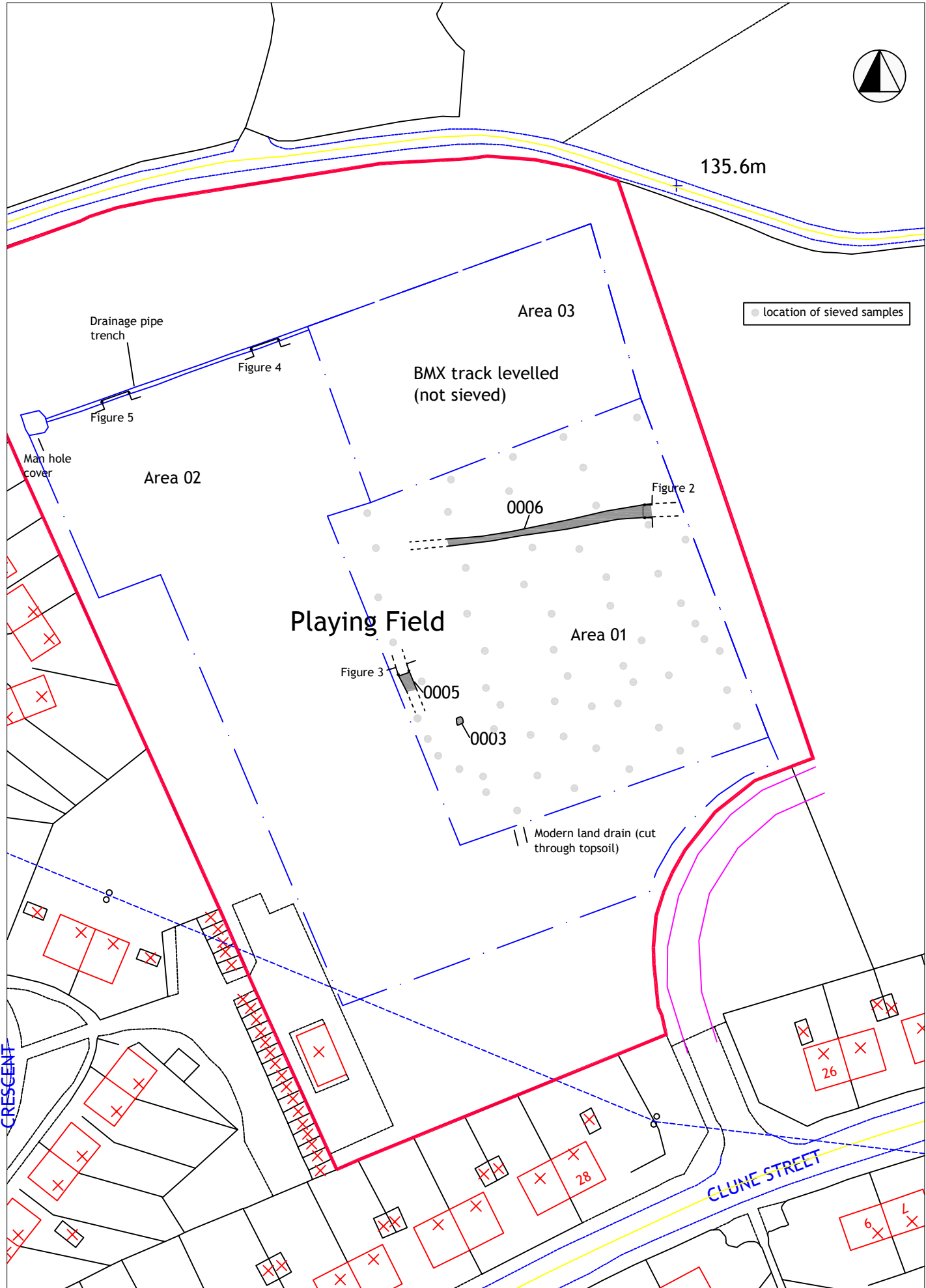

CRG: Clune Street, Clowne, Derbyshire
Figure 1: Location of site
Scales 1:25000 / 1:5000 at A4 DW/LP 02/02/10

(Ordnance Survey map reproduced with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright Licence No. AL 100020618).

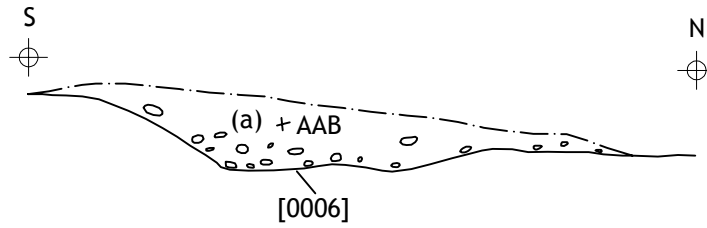


135.6m

● location of sieved samples



CRG: Clune Street, Clowne, Derbyshire
 Figure 2: Site plan
 Scales 1:1000 at A4 DW/LP 02/02/10



(a) Sandy silt with stone inclusions.

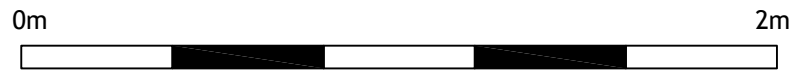
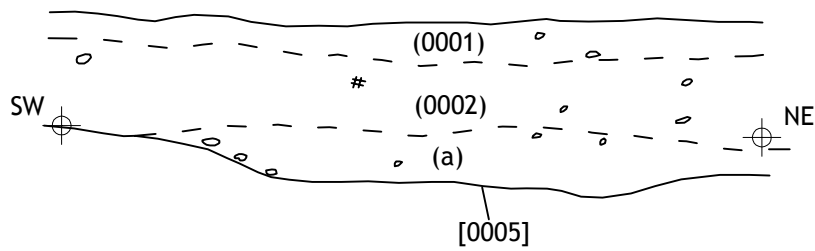


Figure 3. CRG, Clune Street Recreation Ground, East facing section of 0006, scale 1:20, LP 12/1/10.



(a) Greyish brown clayey silt.

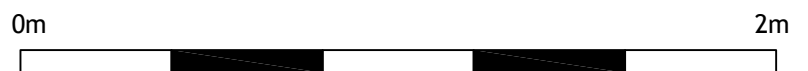


Figure 4. CRG Clune Street Recreation Ground, South east facing section of 0005, scale 1:20, LP 12/1/10.

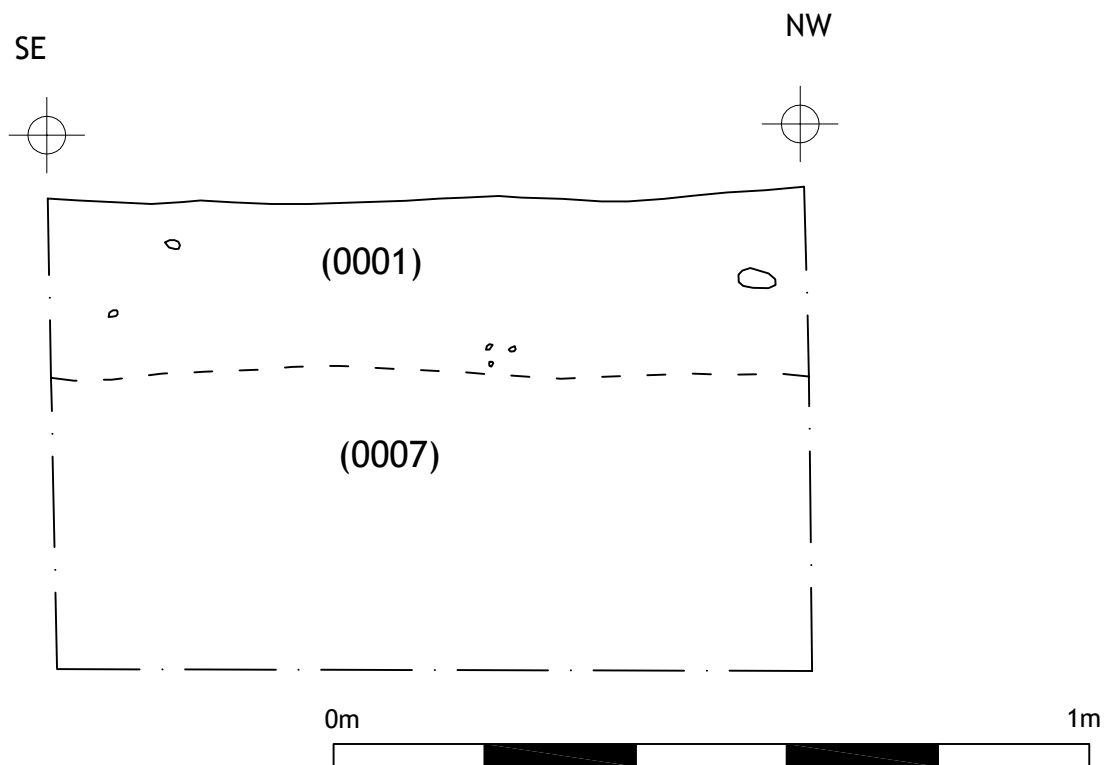


Figure 5, CRG, Clune Street Recreation Ground, South east facing section of drainage pipe trench. Scale 1:10, LP 12/1/10

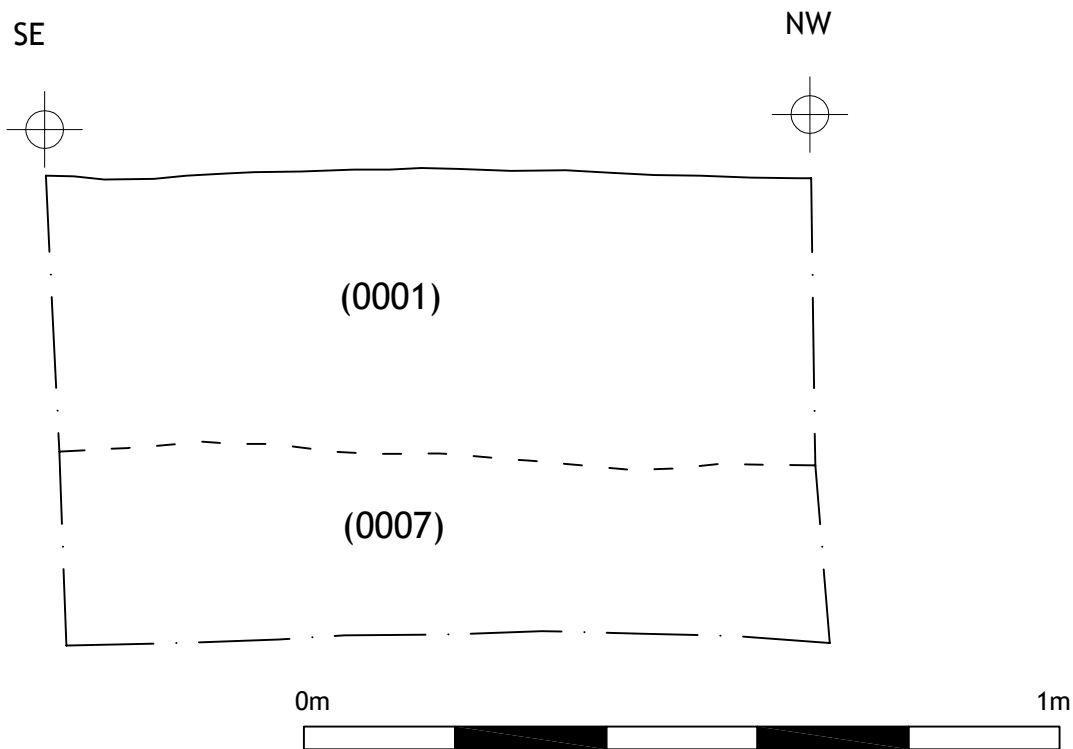


Figure 6 CRG, Clune Street Recreation Ground, South east facing section of drainage pipe trench. Scale 1:10, LP 12/1/10



Plate 1. Topsoil being removed in bucket width strips. Looking south-west.



Plate 2. Possible field boundary ditch 0005 in section, Area 01. Looking north.



Plate 3. Field boundary ditch 0006, Area 01, pre-excitation. Looking west.



Plate 4. Excavated west facing section of boundary ditch 0006.