

11-23 SEYMOUR ROAD
HACKBRIDGE
LONDON BOROUGH OF SUTTON

WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

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**An Archaeological Watching Brief at 11-23 Seymour Road, Hackbridge,
London Borough of Sutton, CR04 4JX**

Site Code: SEY 05

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 2820 6661

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during groundworks associated with the redevelopment of land at 11-23 Seymour Road, Sutton. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 2820 6661 (Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The watching brief monitored the mechanical excavation of foundation trenches associated with the construction of a thirteen new flats and the removal of old petrol tanks which had been used in the previously existing garage. Five representative sections were drawn which characterised the extant remains (Fig. 2).
- 1.3 The watching brief found evidence of natural sand and gravel, a tiny remnant of a possible agricultural soil horizon and a very large post-medieval cut feature, possibly a water channel. These features and layers were sealed by a layer of late 20th/early 21st century made ground, most of it associated with the current construction project, across the of the entire site (Fig 3).

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken at 11-23 Seymour Road, London Borough of Sutton, by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd between the 14th and 23rd of June 2005. The site had previously been visited on the 10th March 2005 to monitor the removal of petrol tanks associated with the previously existing garage. No recording took place at this time as the methodology utilised to the remove the tanks precluded safe access to the trenches.
- 2.2 The commissioning client was Greenacre Homes (South East) Ltd and the watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd under the supervision of Douglas Killock and the project management of Jon Butler.
- 2.3 The site is situated on the corner of Seymour Road and Wolseley Road, Hackbridge
- 2.4 The completed archive comprising written and drawn records will be deposited at the Museum of London under the site code SEY 05.

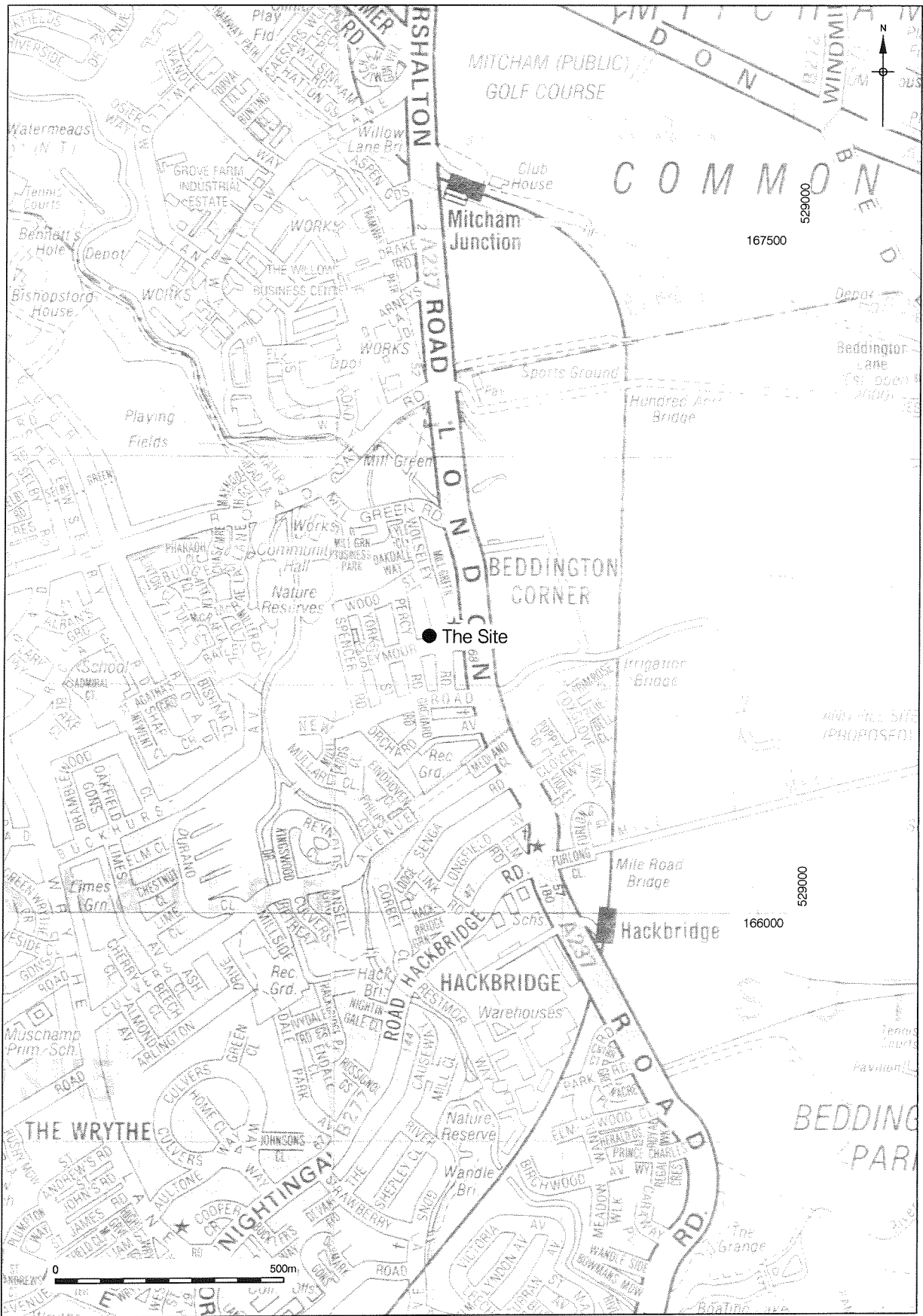


Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:12,500



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Figure 2
Section Location
1:500

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The site is located within an Archaeological Priority Zones (APZ).as defined by the London Borough of Sutton's Unitary Development Plan (UDP).

- 3.2 Mr Mark Stevenson of English Heritage, GLAAS, determined that a Watching Brief should be carried out on the site to monitor the possible presence of archaeological remains.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Prehistoric

4.1.1 Extensive prehistoric remains were recorded across large areas of the Beddington Sewage Works site during the 1980s (Adkins, Adkins and Perry 1986, Adkins, Adkins and Perry 1987). More recent excavations carried out by Wessex Archaeology on other area of the same massive site during the late 1990s also revealed extensive prehistoric and Roman remains. The results of these excavations have yet to be fully published although some details are available on the unit website. Significant Mesolithic to Bronze Age material is also known from less than 100m to the south-east the site on the east side of London Road (Bagwell, Bishop and Gibson 2001).

4.2 Roman

4.2.1 Significant Roman remains are known from the excavations carried out on the nearby Beddington Sewage Works site during the 1980s (Adkins, Adkins and Perry 1986). A Roman villa complex was uncovered which is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

4.3 Medieval and Post-medieval

4.3.1 The site appears to have remained open ground throughout this period and was used for agriculture or market gardening. The site is shown as open ground on a map of 1868 but roads had been laid out and some houses erected by 1895.

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The watching brief monitored the mechanical excavation of foundation trenches associated with the new development of the site. Any putative archaeological remains had been removed over most of the central and eastern part of the site by the insertion and removal of petrol tanks associated with the garage that stood on the site prior to the current redevelopment. Where this was not the case representative sections were drawn to characterise the natural deposits and any extant man-made features (Fig.2).
- 5.2 The foundation trenches were approx 0.60m in width and excavated on average to a depth of c 1.30m. The locations of the old petrol tanks had been backfilled with material which was not suitable to support the new foundations and required removal prior to the pouring of the concrete that would form the new foundations. The re-excavation of this backfilled material required area excavations up to 4.5m deep that were clearly totally unsafe to access even when potentially sensitive archaeological deposits were revealed in section.
- 5.3 Deposits within the trenches were removed by a mechanical excavator until the appropriate project level was attained.
- 5.4 Recording on site was undertaken using the single context recording system as specified in the Museum of London Site Manual. Representative sections were drawn at a scale of 1:50. Contexts were numbered sequentially and recorded on *pro-forma* context sheets.
- 5.5 The site was given the code SEY 05.

6 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

6.1 Phase 1 Natural Deposits

- 6.1.1 Layers of sand and gravel were evident wherever modern intrusions had not destroyed them above project level (Fig 3). These deposits are indicative of high energy water passing through the site. Natural deposits survived to a height of c. 23.90m OD.

6.2 Phase 2 Prehistoric Deposits

- 6.2.1 The possible remnant of a prehistoric ploughsoil horizon was evident in Section 3. The layer had been severely truncated and was only evident over a distance of 1.15m, its maximum thickness was 0.08m and it survived to a level of 23.60m OD. Although this layer has been interpreted as a possible palaeosoil horizon no cultural material was evident in the section, including burnt flint or even charcoal flecks. Apart from its position in the archaeological sequence indicating that it was earlier than the modern topsoil/construction levelling horizon no dating evidence was available.

6.3 Phase 3 Post-Medieval Watercourse

- 6.3.1 A large cut feature, contexts [28] and [21], was recorded in Sections 4 and 5. This feature may be a backfilled shallow watercourse. The fill [20] and [27], was a rich brown colour which might have been indicative of an elevated decayed organic content. If the feature was a linear aligned southwest to northeast. The cut extended 5.50m east-west as seen in Section 5 and continued beyond the limits of excavation. The maximum depth was 0.75m OD and the cut survived to a height of 23.90m OD. Very little cultural material was evident in the fill of this feature but some fragments of red/purple brick that do not pre-date the late 18th century were evident.

6.4 Phase 4 Modern Deposits and Features

- 6.4.1 Modern topsoil and/or levelling deposits associated with the current building project were evident in all of the trenches. These sealed modern service trenches, such as a sewer or drainage cuts. The service trenches were not numbered and recorded separately and the backfill of these features was given the same context numbers as the modern overburden. Modern deposits survived to a maximum height of c. 24.1m OD.

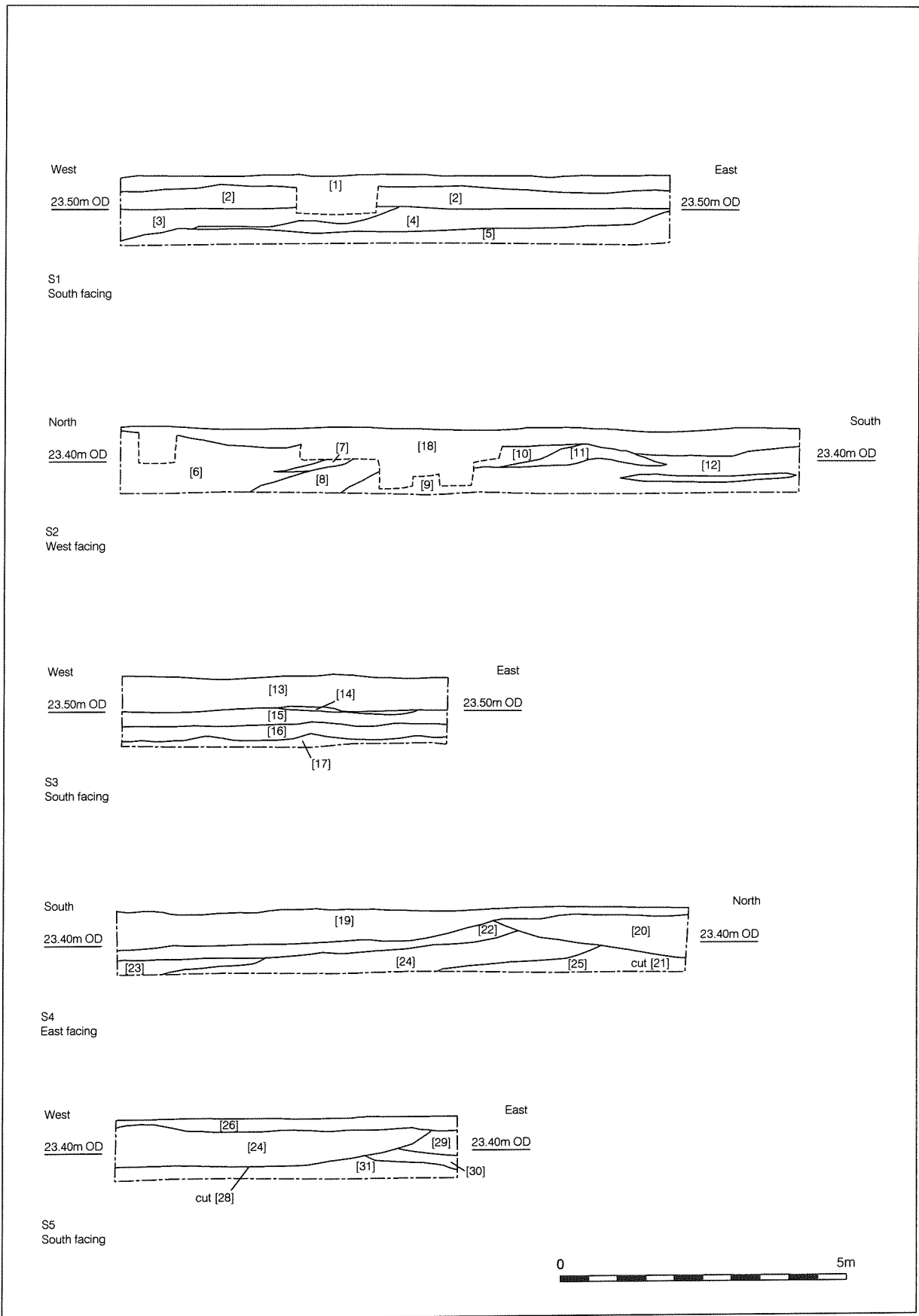


Figure 3
 Sections 1-5
 1:100

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The Watching Brief uncovered natural sand and gravel across the entire site. No evidence of paleochannels was evident, nor was there any sign of prehistoric or Roman occupation. Any putative deposits pertaining to these periods had apparently been destroyed by levelling prior to the construction of houses in the late nineteenth century. The only possibility of archaeological survival would therefore have been deep cut features such as pits and ditches. None were evident with the exception of the possible watercourse recorded in the western part of the site. The latter did not apparently pre-date the late eighteenth century.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Greenacre Homes (South East) Ltd for commissioning the work and their cooperation in gaining access to the site and the foundation trenches.

- 9.2 The author would like to thank Adrian Nash for the illustrations and Jon Butler for his project management and editing.

Appendix 1: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-9093

Project details

| | |
|--|--|
| Project name | Seymour Road, Hackbridge |
| Short description of the project | Watching Brief recording almost exclusively natural deposits |
| Project dates | Start: 14-06-2005 End: 23-06-2005 |
| Previous/future work | No / No |
| Any associated project reference codes | SEY 05 - Sitecode |
| Type of project | Recording project |
| Site status | Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area |
| Site status (other) | Within Local Authority APZ |
| Current Land use | Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed |
| Monument type | WATERCOURSE Post Medieval |
| Investigation type | 'Watching Brief' |
| Prompt | Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16 |

Project location

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Country | England |
| Site location | GREATER LONDON SUTTON WALLINGTON AND BEDDINGTON Seymour Road, Hackbridge |
| Postcode | CR4 4JX |
| Study area | 700.00 Square metres |
| National grid reference | TQ 2820 6661 Point |
| Height OD | Min: 22.80m Max: 23.90m |

Project creators

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Name of Organisation | Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd |
| Project brief originator | Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service |
| Project design originator | John Butler |
| Project director/manager | Jon Butler |
| Project supervisor | Douglas Killock |
| Sponsor or funding body | Greenacre Homes (South East) Ltd |

Project archives

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Physical Archive Exists? | No |
| Digital Archive Exists? | No |
| Paper Archive recipient | LAARC |
| Paper Contents | 'Stratigraphic' |
| Paper Media available | 'Context sheet','Drawing','Map','Plan','Section','Unpublished Text' |
| Paper Archive notes | Paper archive consisting of context sheets, register, section drawings, site and section locations |
| Paper Archive Exists? | Yes |

Project bibliography

1

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | An Archaeological Watching Brief at 11-23 Seymour Road, Hackbridge, London Borough of Sutton, CR04 4JX |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Killock, D. |
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1 OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice
© ADS 1996-2005 Created by [Jo Clarke, email](#) Last modified Monday,
November 24, 2003
Cite only:
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/oasis/print.cfm?ID=9093> for
this page

Appendix 2 Context Register

SEY 05 Context Register

| Context No | Context Type | Description | Section | Phase |
|------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------|-------|
| 1 | Layer | Modern topsoil | 1 | 4 |
| 2 | Layer | Natural sand and gravel | 1 | 1 |
| 3 | Layer | Natural sand | 1 | 1 |
| 4 | Layer | Natural sand and gravel | 1 | 1 |
| 5 | Layer | Natural sand | 1 | 1 |
| 6 | Layer | Natural sand | 2 | 1 |
| 7 | Layer | Natural sand, gravel, clay | 2 | 1 |
| 8 | Layer | Natural sand | 2 | 1 |
| 9 | Layer | Natural sand | 2 | 1 |
| 10 | Layer | Natural sand | 2 | 1 |
| 11 | Layer | Natural sand, gravel, clay | 2 | 1 |
| 12 | Layer | Natural sand and gravel | 2 | 1 |
| 13 | Layer | Modern topsoil | 3 | 4 |
| 14 | Layer | Possible palaeosoil | 3 | 2 |
| 15 | Layer | Natural sand | 3 | 1 |
| 16 | Layer | Natural sand and gravel | 3 | 1 |
| 17 | Layer | Natural sand | 3 | 1 |
| 18 | Layer | Modern topsoil | 2 | 4 |
| 19 | Layer | Modern topsoil | 4 | 4 |
| 20 | Fill | Sandy silt channel fill | 4 | 3 |
| 21 | Cut | Natural? watercourse | 4 | 3 |
| 22 | Layer | Natural brickearth | 4 | 1 |
| 23 | Layer | Natural sand and gravel | 4 | 1 |
| 24 | Layer | Natural sand | 4 | 1 |
| 25 | Layer | Natural sand and gravel | 4 | 1 |
| 26 | Layer | Modern topsoil | 5 | 4 |
| 27 | Fill | Sandy silt channel fill | 5 | 3 |
| 28 | Cut | Natural? watercourse | 5 | 3 |
| 29 | Layer | Natural sand and gravel | 5 | 4 |
| 30 | Layer | Natural sand | 5 | 1 |
| 31 | Layer | Natural sand and gravel | 5 | 1 |