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PROPOSED ALDI STORE, NORTON ON DERWENT, NORTH  
YORKSHIRE.

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REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION.  
OSA REPORT No: OSA09EV08

July 2009.

**OSA**

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## Report Summary.

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**REPORT NO:** OSA09EV08

**SITE NAME:** Proposed Aldi Store, Welham Road, Norton-on-Derwent

**COUNTY:** North Yorkshire

**PARISH:** Norton

**NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE:** SE 792 713

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**TIMING:** Fieldwork: July 2009  
Report preparation: July 2009

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**PERIODS REPRESENTED:** Medieval, post-medieval, 20<sup>th</sup> century

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## Table of Contents.

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1.0	Abstract .....	4
2.0	Site Location, Geology, Topography and Land Use .....	6
3.0	Archaeological and Historical Background .....	8
3.1	The Prehistoric Period (to the 1st century AD) .....	8
3.2	The Roman Period (1st to the 5th centuries AD) .....	8
3.3	Early Medieval periods (5th to 11th centuries AD) .....	9
3.4	The Medieval Period (11th to the mid 16th centuries AD) .....	9
4.0	Methodology .....	12
5.0	Results .....	13
5.1	Trench 1 .....	13
5.2	Trench 2 .....	13
5.3	Trench 3 .....	14
5.4	Trench 4 .....	16
5.5	Trench 5 .....	17
6.0	Discussion and Conclusions .....	22
7.0	Bibliography .....	23
8.0	Appendix 1 ~ List of Contexts .....	24
9.0	Appendix 2 ~ Archive Index .....	26
9.1	Drawing Register .....	26
9.2	Photographic Register .....	26
10.0	Appendix 3 ~ The Plates .....	27

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## List of Figures.

---

Figure 1.	Site Location (NGR SE 792 713) .....	5
Figure 2.	Plan of site showing trench locations .....	7
Figure 3.	sample section of trench 1 .....	13
Figure 4.	Sample section of trench 2 .....	14
Figure 5.	Plan of trench 3 .....	15
Figure 6.	Section of trench 3 .....	16
Figure 7.	Plan of trench 4 .....	17
Figure 8.	Section of ditch [403] .....	17
Figure 9.	Plan of trench 5 .....	20
Figure 10.	Section showing [502], [510] and [512] .....	21
Figure 11.	Section showing [506] .....	21
Figure 12.	Section showing [502} .....	22

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## List of Plates.

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Plate 1. Trench 1 section looking north.....	27
Plate 2. Trench 2 looking north-east .....	28
Plate 3. Trench 3 looking north.....	29
Plate 4. East-facing section ditch [303].....	29
Plate 5. Trench 4 looking east .....	30
Plate 6. South-facing section (oblique) ditch [403].....	30
Plate 7. Trench 5 looking north-east .....	31
Plate 8. Pit [512] looking west .....	31
Plate 9. Foundation course of wall (508) looking north-east .....	32
Plate 10. Wall (508) looking north-east .....	33
Plate 11. Pit [506] looking west .....	33

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## 1.0 Abstract.

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*An archaeological evaluation was carried out by On-Site Archaeology Ltd at the proposed development site of an Aldi supermarket store at Welham Road, Norton-on-Derwent, North Yorkshire during July 2009. The evaluation comprised of five trenches located to the rear area of the proposed development. This evaluation followed on from a previous archaeological desk-based assessment by On-Site Archaeology Ltd, which highlighted the possible presence of Romano-British or medieval features within the proposed area of development.*

*The investigation revealed archaeological features within three of the five trenches evaluated, Trenches 3, 4 and 5, located within the southern half of the proposed development area. The majority of the archaeological features were identified within Trench 5.*

*The archaeological features identified within Trench 5 comprised of a large medieval domestic rubbish pit truncated by the construction of limestone structure representing the south-western corner of a probable medieval building. This building probably extends beyond the trench limits to the north and east. The function of the building is inconclusive, however it appeared to have been demolished sometime during the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to mid-14<sup>th</sup> century. A large medieval domestic rubbish pit was also recorded, which went out of use sometime after the demolition of the building during a similar timescale.*

*Undated features were recorded in Trenches 3 and 4, which included drainage ditches and post holes pre-dating a probable post-medieval or later subsoil.*

*Features associated with a former 20<sup>th</sup> century garden nursery were also recorded within Trenches 1 and 2 within the northern half the proposed development area.*

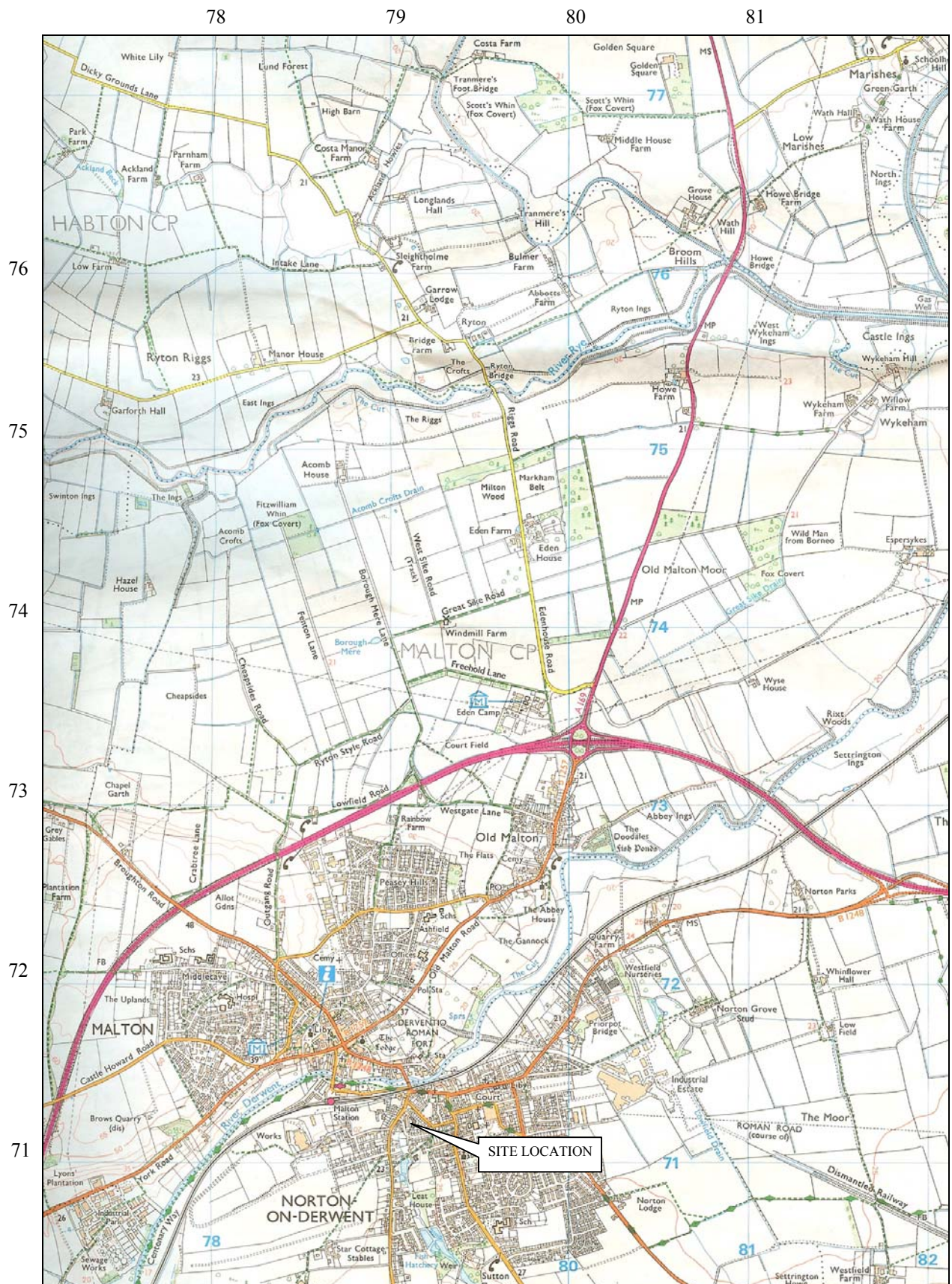


Figure 1. Site Location (NGR SE 792 713)

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## 2.0 Site Location, Geology, Topography and Land Use

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The proposed development area lies approximately 600m south of the town centre of Malton and 200m west of the town centre of Norton-On-Derwent, and centred at NGR SE 792 713 (Figure 1). The site is bounded to the northwest by Welham Road, to the northeast by an access road leading to rear properties of St. Nicholas Street and to the west and south by Springfield Garth. The site area is 7614.5m<sup>2</sup> (1.88 acres, 0.76 hectares) and measures at its maximum 112m in length and 82m in width. Presently occupying the site is a large derelict clothing factory fronting on Welham Road that extends south along the western perimeter of the site. The open ground surfaces on the eastern side of the factory building are generally flat at approximately 18.5m AOD with hard-standing within its northern half and overgrown rough grass to the south.

The overlying drift geology comprises sands and gravels overlying warp and lacustrine clay. The solid geology is Oolitic limestone forming the eastern edge of the Howardian Hills, which has been utilised as an important local building material for the last two thousand years (Robinson 1978, 1).



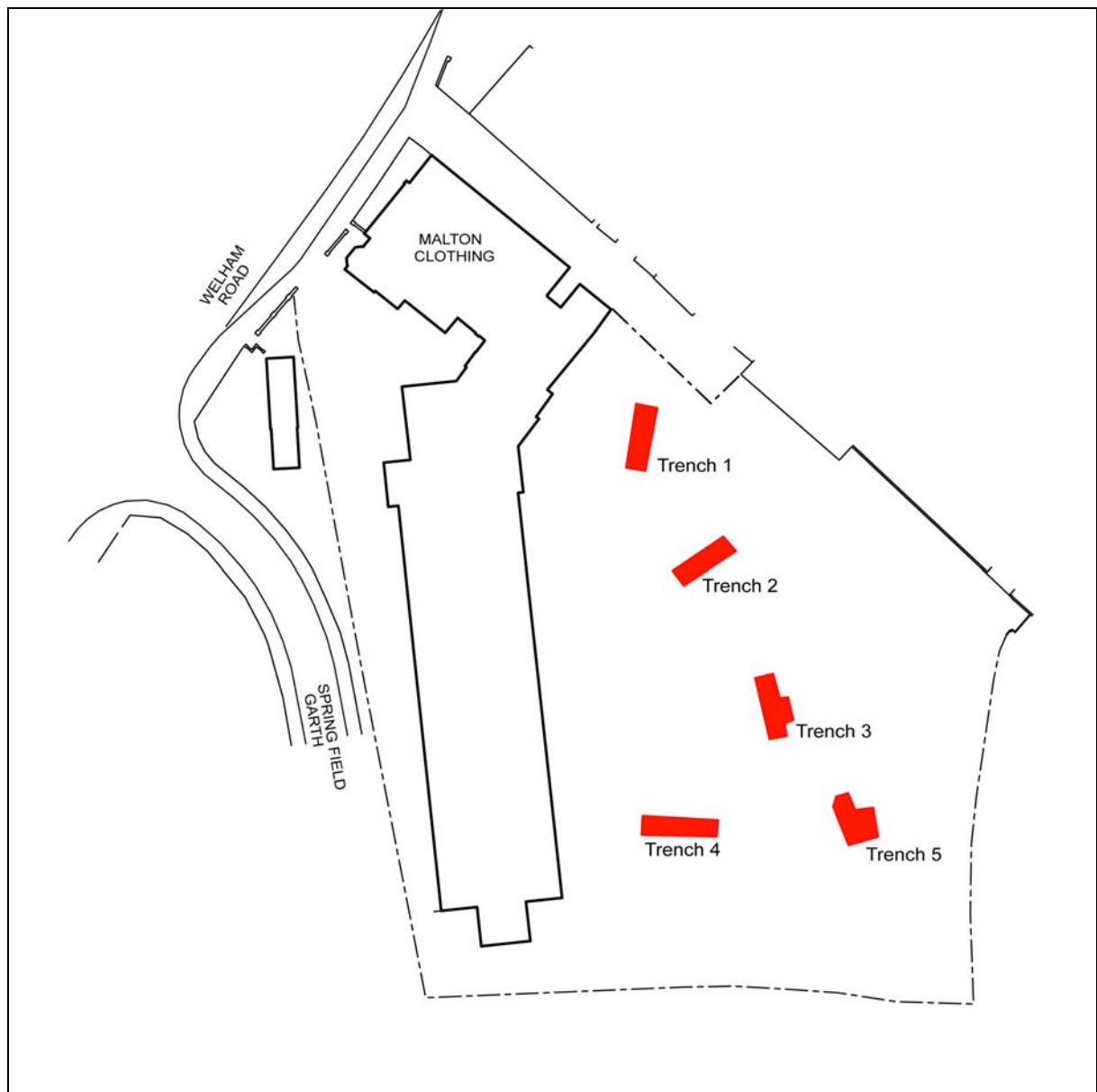


Figure 2. Plan of site showing trench locations

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### 3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

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#### 3.1 *The Prehistoric Period (to the 1st century AD)*

Evidence for the Prehistoric period within the areas close to the proposed development site takes two forms; stray finds and cropmarks recorded by aerial photography.

Occasional objects of Bronze Age date have been found within the area. However, it is uncertain what level of activity these may represent. Given the relative rarity of evidence for this period this may have been occasional visits rather than prolonged periods of activity.

Iron Age activity has been identified to the south and east of Norton in the form of cropmarks. These indicated the presence of enclosures and square barrow cemeteries that have been assigned an Iron Age date on typological grounds. A single cropmark further to the west suggests that this occupation may have been even more widespread. The site of a small agricultural Iron Age settlement has been identified on the north side of the River Derwent, close to the southeast side of the Roman fort (Robinson, 1978, 4).

#### 3.2 *The Roman Period (1st to the 5th centuries AD)*

The archaeological development of Malton and Norton as substantial settlements begins with the foundation of a military presence early in the Roman period (for a detailed discussion of the chronology see Wilson 2006). The Roman fort was located to the north of the River Derwent, on the southeast side of modern day Malton. The first evidence for Roman activity takes the form of a shallow military style ditch, which appears to represent an otherwise unknown camp. The dating of this camp is uncertain, it may be as early as the campaigns of Cerialis as Governor (between 71 and 74 AD), or alternatively be dated more generally to the last quarter of the 1<sup>st</sup> century.

The first phase of permanent military occupation was a fort constructed of turf and timber erected under Agricola's governorship (78 to 85 AD). During the first two decades of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD the fort defences were rebuilt in stone, and the ditches were recut. An annexe may also have been constructed at this time. Although there are some suggestions that the fort was abandoned during the first half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century it was re-occupied in the late 150's. The fort underwent several phases of rebuilding during the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries and, at various times during this period contained buildings of both timber and stone construction. Occupation of the fort is likely to have continued into the 5<sup>th</sup> century.

In addition to the military fort the sites of Malton and Norton both contained evidence for civilian activity. Immediately to the southeast of the fort there appears to have been a defended civilian settlement (*vicus*). Development of the *vicus* was well underway before the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD and there is again evidence that this continued through to the 5<sup>th</sup> century. A variety of buildings have been recorded within this settlement, ranging from those of timber, or wattle and daub on stone sill walls, to more substantial masonry structures with mosaic floors and painted plaster walls. Although civilian occupation on the north side of the

River Derwent is concentrated within this defended *vicus* evidence from the surrounding area suggests that other settlement was also present. This may have taken the form of ribbon development along the main roads leaving the fort.

One substantial area of civilian settlement outside the fort-side *vicus* lay to the south of the river, in Norton. No evidence has been found to date to suggest that the occupation at Norton was defended. Whilst a number of buildings have been found much of the Roman archaeology of Norton takes the form of burials or industrial activity. Industrial activity predominantly takes the form of pottery production, although metalworking was also practiced. The excavated evidence indicates that domestic and industrial activities were intermixed, with houses, workshops and kilns all being found in close proximity. Burials in the Norton area include both inhumations and cremations and appear to be concentrated in two main areas; one centred on the junction of the Roman roads to Settrington and North Grimston (around the modern Wold Street, Beverley Road and Commercial Road) and the other along Langton Road, which is also likely to follow the line of a Roman road.

Welham Road formed another Roman road out of Norton. Although Roman archaeological evidence is not as common along this road as along Langton Road and the other Roman roads further to the east some does exist. To date this evidence has included burials and structures although no obvious signs of the pottery industry have been found. This indicate that whilst Welham Road should be considered as part of the area of Roman occupation and burial, it was probably relatively peripheral, with the more intensive activity taking place slightly further to the east. This seems to be supported by evidence supplied by recent fieldwork undertaken on Springfield Garth, when Roman pottery was recovered, but no features of Roman date were recorded.

### ***3.3 Early Medieval periods (5th to 11th centuries AD)***

Anglian artefacts have been discovered within the area of the Roman fort (Robinson, 1978, 12) although the nature of any activity of this date is uncertain. A local tradition identifies the “Old Roman Ford” at Malton as the site of early 7<sup>th</sup> century baptisms, by Paulinus as part of the conversion of the English (Huddleston, 1962, 31). Malton and Norton are both recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086. At Norton both a church and a mill are mentioned (Robinson, 1978,12).

### ***3.4 The Medieval Period (11th to the mid 16th centuries AD)***

Although almost certainly of pre-Conquest origins the town of Malton grew in importance from the 12<sup>th</sup> century following the establishment of the castle. The stone castle was constructed in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century by Eustace fitz John. It is possible that this replaced an earlier Norman motte and bailey castle, although this is based principally upon the assumption that such a strategically important river crossing is likely to have been defended at an early date. During the 12<sup>th</sup> century civil wars a strong Scottish garrison was stationed at Malton castle, which led to it being besieged by Thurston, the Archbishop of York, in 1138, at which time the town was burnt.

The settlement was re-established by Eustace fitz John as New Malton in the mid-12<sup>th</sup> century, possibly with Borough status from the beginning, and certainly by 1163. Eustace also founded the Gilbertine Priory, in approximately 1150 (VCH, 1974, 253), together with three hospitals. One of these, St. Nicholas, was located on an island in the Derwent, on the Norton side of the river (VCH, 1974, 315).

A market is first mentioned in Malton in 1283 and a fair in 1295. Weavers, goldsmiths, masons and mercers are all referred to in medieval documents and it is clear that Malton grew to become the local market during this period. The town and castle were of sufficient importance that in 1322 the castle was seized by Robert de Brus during an incursion into Yorkshire. It was held for several weeks and used as a base for raids into the surrounding countryside (VCH, 1914, 529). Although the layout of the medieval town is not fully understood it appears to have been at least partially enclosed by a wall.

To the south of the river Norton did not enjoy a similar degree of importance. The settlement is likely to have taken the form of a village, dependant upon Malton for much of its economic livelihood, containing a church, the hospital mentioned above, and a manor. A rectangular earthwork identified on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map as a Roman camp may in fact be the remains of a moat, housing the manor house. Archaeological investigations on Wood Street and Commercial Street have encountered pits of medieval date (cut into earlier, Roman, deposits). These would have been typical features of the settlement area of medieval Norton.

The proposed development site would have been located on the fringes of the medieval village, although Welham Road may have attracted some suburban ribbon settlement. Medieval features were encountered during a recent archaeological investigation on Springfield Garth although the intensity of occupation represented by these is uncertain.

### ***3.5 The Post-Medieval to Modern Periods (mid 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> centuries)***

During the post-medieval period Malton suffered a degree of economic decline, so that by the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Celia Fiennes referred to it as “a pretty large town built of stone, but poor” (Robinson, 1978, p.17). The economic fortunes of the town improved in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Much of this improvement was due to the Derwent Navigation Act of 1702. This meant that Malton was situated at the head of a navigable river by 1724, with links to Leeds and Hull. Malton retained its status as the local market centre for a large rural hinterland and industries related to the processing of agricultural produce, such as brewing and milling developed through the post-medieval and early medieval periods. Although the coming of the railway in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century affected river trade it did not halt the development of the town.

The agricultural character of the site suggested for the medieval period, as part of fields on the edge of the village, appears to have continued broadly unchanged through the post-medieval period. The earliest available map examined is that produced by Thomas Jeffries in 1772. This clearly shows Langton and Welham Road heading south from the village, together with the Mill Beck. To the south of the properties fronting Welham Road and Church Street the land is shown as open and undeveloped. Examination of the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map indicates that although the core of Norton village is developed, along Church Street,

Commercial Street and Wood Street the surrounding area is almost all laid out as fields. By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century suburban development of Norton had begun to encroach upon these earlier fields. In the immediate vicinity of the site St Nicholas Street has been constructed, although the site itself remains undeveloped. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century the southern edge of Norton has been extended over earlier fields and this includes the site considered by this report. The earliest development was concentrated on the Welham Road frontage but subsequently this has been extended back to cover the majority of the site, with a clothing factory and nursery being present by the 1970's. Recent demolition has removed the nursery greenhouses, whilst the clothing factory buildings still stand in a semi-derelict state.

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## 4.0 Methodology.

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A total of five trenches were excavated (Trenches 1 – 5; Figure 2). In all trenches the topsoil and modern horizons were removed by a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket down to the level of the first visible archaeological horizon or natural geological horizon, whichever came first. Trenches 1 and 2 were stepped at the southern extents to facilitate access into the trenches. Trench 3 was extended by 3m by 1.25m to the east in order to further investigate a feature that was partly seen in the originally excavated trench. Trench 5 was also extended to the east by 4m by 2.4m to avoid services to the north and south of the trench. The water table was encountered within Trenches 1, 2 and 5 at an average depth of 17.27mAOD. At a point where the water table was encountered within Trench 5 a shallow machine excavated sump was created to drain water away from archaeological features exposed.

The exposed surfaces were then cleaned by hand in order to detect any archaeological features revealed through textural or colour changes in the deposits. Once this had been completed, sections were hand excavated through the archaeological features that had been identified. In each trench a sample section of the trench edge was cleaned and recorded in order to document the layers above the natural geology.

Standard *On-Site Archaeology* techniques were followed throughout the evaluation. This involved the completion of a context sheet for each deposit or cut encountered, along with plans and/or sections drawn to scale. In trenches lacking archaeological features, 1:50 scale plans were drawn showing the location of the sample section. In trenches containing archaeological features, 1:50 scale plans and, where necessary, 1:20 detail plans were drawn. Sections were drawn at 1:10 scale, although long sections were drawn at 1:20 scale when appropriate. Heights above Ordnance Datum (AOD) were calculated by taking a level from a known spot height located on the road at the front of the site (18.2m AOD). Plans were tied in to the National Grid using a total station. A photographic record of the deposits and features was also maintained. A full list of detailed context description of all deposits recorded is provided within Appendix 1 and details of the archive are listed in Appendix 2.

All archaeological works were carried out in accordance with the methodologies set out in the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*, and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* prepared by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), the *IFA Code of Conduct*, as well as with additional methodologies agreed with the county archaeologist.

## 5.0 Results.

### 5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located within the northern extent of the proposed development area on a north to south alignment measuring 9m by 3m (Figure 2). This trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.4m below ground level (BGL). The natural deposits were first encountered at 17.18mAOD and again at 16.86mAOD at a level where the natural changed character.

The earliest deposit identified within Trench 1 was natural (105) consisting of a grey clay (Figure 3). Natural (105) was overlain by layer (104), which measured 0.2m in depth and comprised of mid-brown chalk gravel marking a change within the natural deposits. Sealing (104) was a mid-brown sandy-silt sub-soil (103) measured to a depth of 0.2m and contained occasional charcoal and chalk gravel inclusions. Above the sub-soil (103) was a dark blackish-brown sandy-silt buried topsoil horizon (102) measuring 0.4m in depth, which contained occasional charcoal and chalk gravel inclusions. Sealing (102) was a layer of gravel (101), which was 0.15m in depth; this layer appeared to represent a former land surface of a 20<sup>th</sup> century date. Above (101) was a layer of demolition material (100), which measured 0.7m in depth and contained frequent ceramic build material (cbm) and hardcore gravel inclusions (Plate 1). The demolition material appeared to be late 20<sup>th</sup> century in date and probably represented debris from the previous nursery buildings that once stood on the site.

No archaeological features were detected in Trench 1.

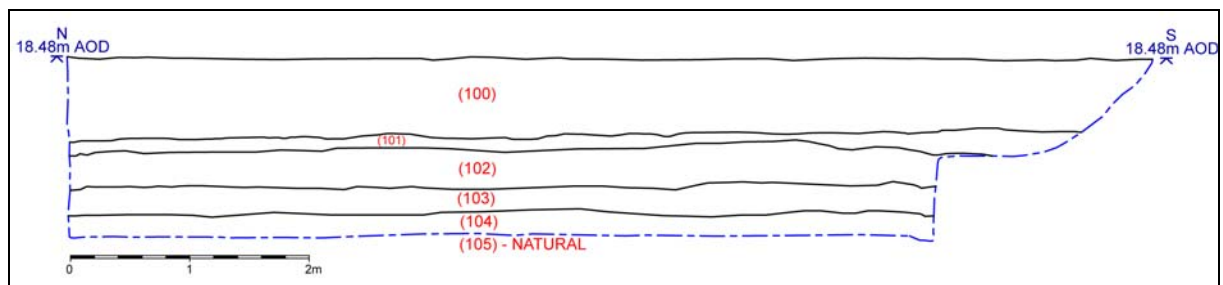


Figure 3. Sample section of trench 1

### 5.2 Trench 2

This trench was situated south-east of Trench 1, measuring 8m by 3m and orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment, (Figure 2; Plate 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.5m BGL where the natural deposits were identified at 17.03mAOD.

The earliest deposit detected within this trench was natural deposits (205) consisting of mid-brown chalk gravel, this changed to grey clay towards the south-eastern extent of the trench (Figure 4). Sealing the natural was a layer (204) measuring 0.3m in depth. This layer comprised of mid-brown sandy-silt with occasional charcoal and chalk stone inclusions representing a sub-soil. Sealing layer (204) was a dark blackish-brown sandy-silt layer (203), which measured 0.3m in depth. Layer (203) contained occasional charcoal, chalk gravel and frequent manganese speck inclusions. This layer appeared to represent a former land surface,

which at some point during the past was water logged, this is suggested by the presence of water lain manganese within the layer. Sealing layer (203) was a light greyish-brown sandy-silt demolition layer (202) that was 0.3m in depth, which appeared to be 20<sup>th</sup> century date. Demolition layer (202) was overlain by a dark brown sandy-silt layer (201) containing occasional charcoal, chalk gravel and redeposited natural inclusions. This layer probably represented a garden soil associated with the former garden nursery. Sealing layer (201) was a layer of late 20<sup>th</sup> century demolition material (200), which measured 0.3m in depth. The demolition material was similar to layer (100) detected in Trench 1 and is most likely the same demolition representing debris of the former garden nursery buildings.

No archaeological features were detected within Trench 2.

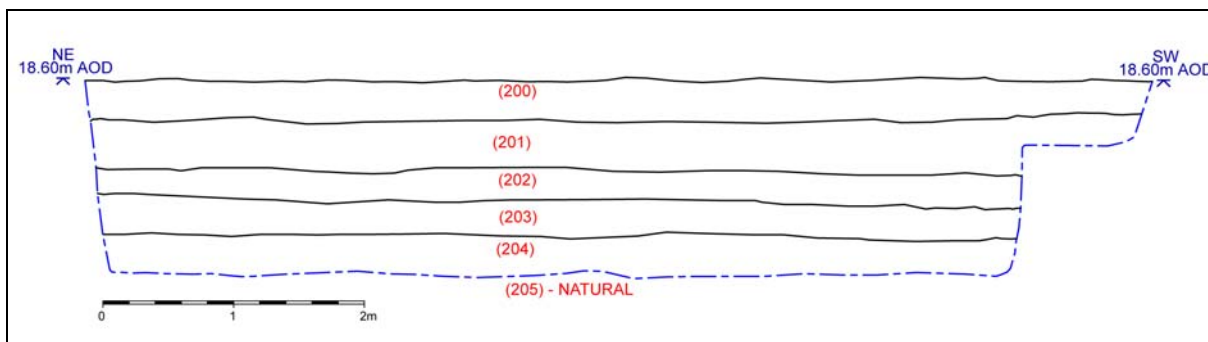


Figure 4. Sample section of trench 2

### 5.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was situated to the south of Trench 2, measuring 8.5m by 2.6m (part of the eastern side of the trench was extended by a further 3m by 1.25m) and orientated on a north to south alignment (Figure 2; Plate 3). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.75m BGL where the natural deposits were identified at 16.93mAOD.

The earliest deposit detected within this Trench 3 was natural a deposit (304) consisting of mid-brown chalk gravel. The natural (304) was cut by an east to west aligned ditch [303] (Figure 5). The ditch had a U-shaped profile with shallow sloping sides and a flat base measuring 1.21m in width and 0.25m in depth (Figure 6; Plate 4). Ditch [303] contained a single silting fill (302) consisting of light-brown clayey-silt containing moderate chalk gravel and occasional charcoal fleck inclusions. No finds were recovered from this deposit. Ditch [303] probably represents a drainage ditch of unknown date.

Sealing ditch [303] was subsoil (301) measuring 0.24m in depth, consisting of a mid-brown clayey-silt containing occasional charcoal, coal chalk gravel and cbm inclusions. Subsoil (301) was sealed by a topsoil (300) measuring 0.58m in depth and comprised of mid-brown sandy-silt containing occasional chalk gravel, coal, charcoal and cbm inclusions (Figure 6; Plate 4). A residual sherd of 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century pottery was recovered from subsoil (301). No finds were retrieved from topsoil (300).



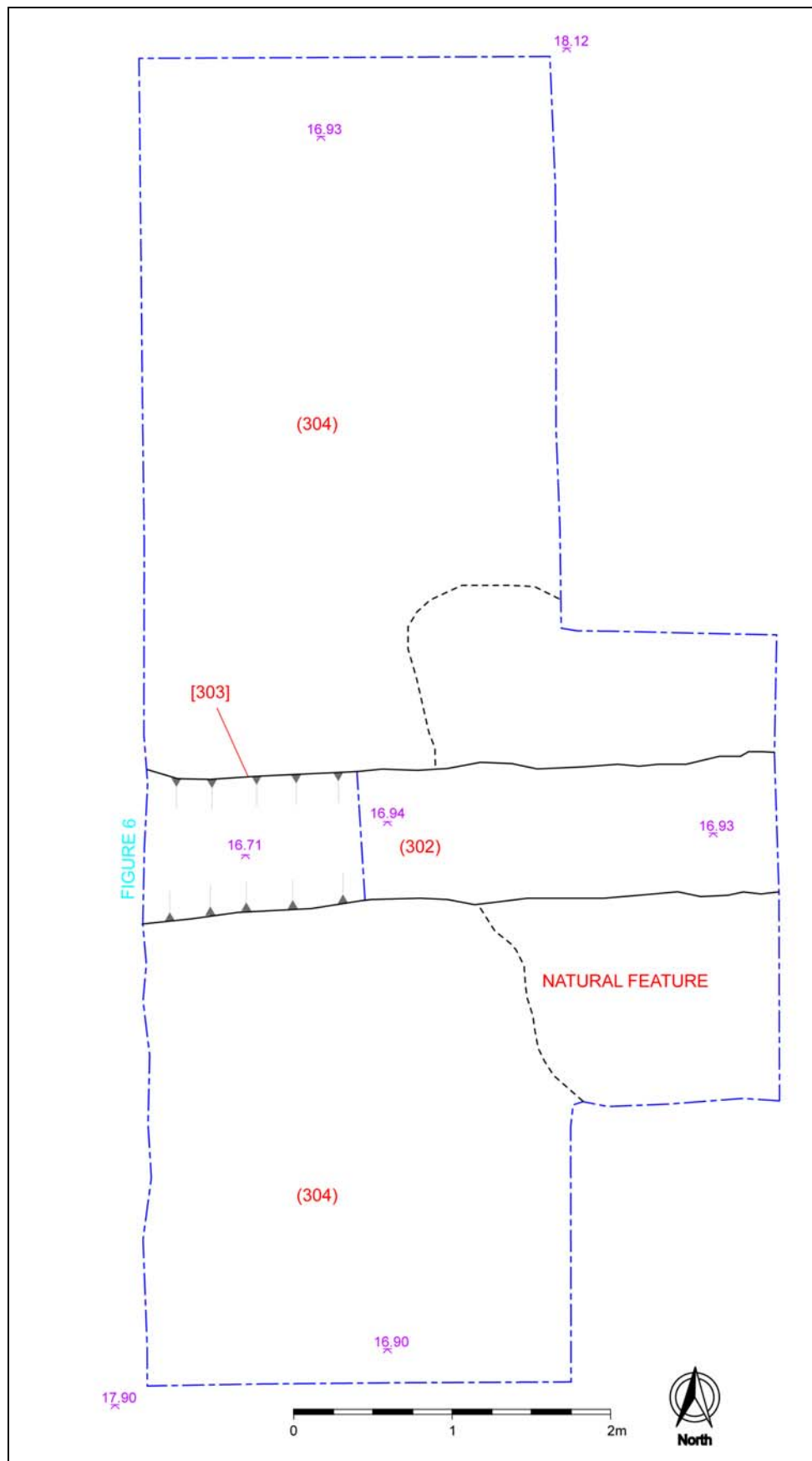


Figure 5. Plan of trench 3

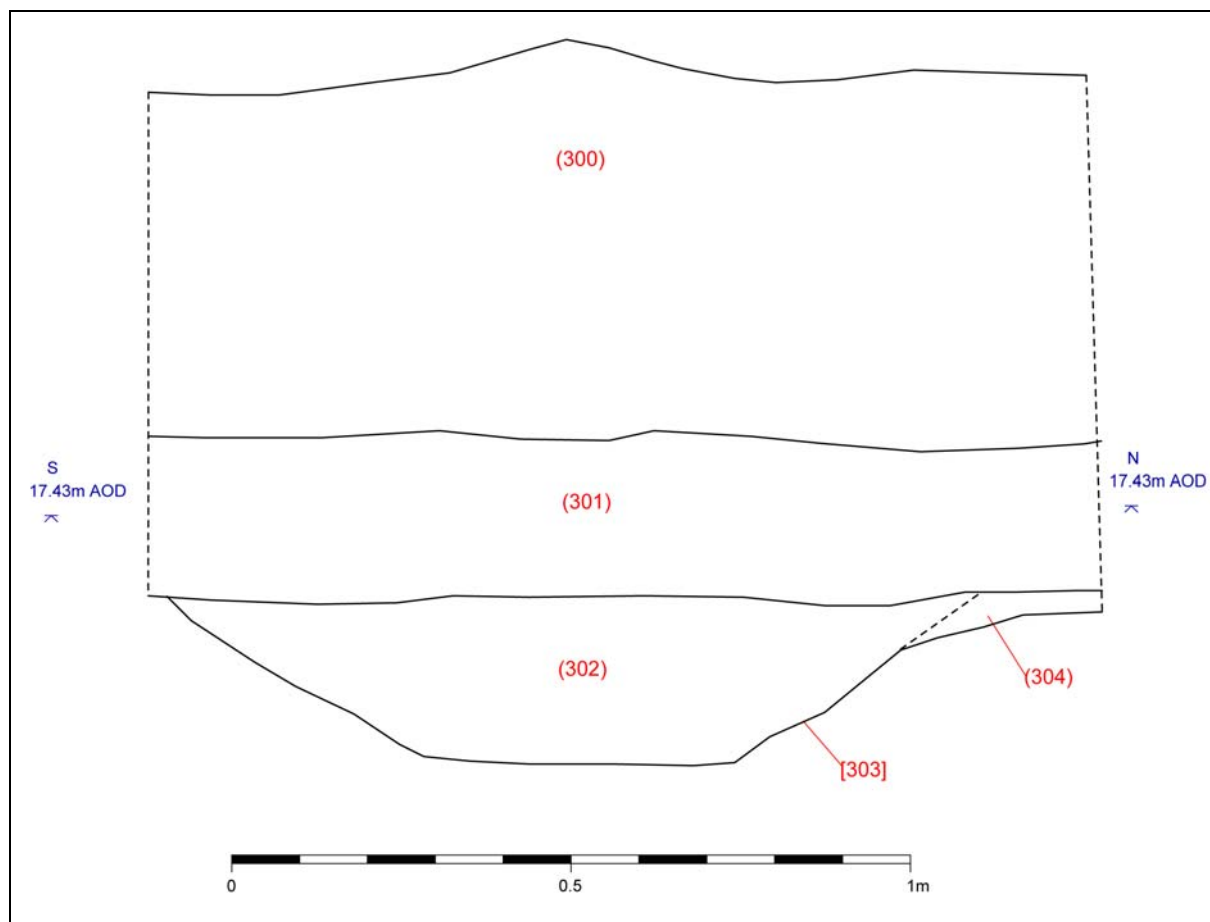


Figure 6. Section of trench 3

#### 5.4 Trench 4

This trench was situated to the south-west of Trench 3, measuring 10m by 2m and orientated on an east to west alignment (Figure 2; Plate 5). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m BGL where the natural deposits were identified at 17.3mAOD. The natural deposits (404) consisted of mid-brown chalk gravel and was cut by a ditch [403], and five post holes [406], [408], [410], [412] and [414] (Figure 7).

Ditch [403] was aligned north-west to south-east and had a U-shaped profile with moderate sloping sides and a concave base measuring 1.55m in width and 0.37m in depth (Figure 8; Plate 6). The ditch contained a single silting fill (402) consisting of greyish-brown clayey-silt containing occasional chalk gravel and charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered from fill (402). Ditch [403] probably represents a drainage ditch of unknown date.

Located on the north-west and north-east side of ditch [403] were post holes [412] and [414], and post holes [406], [408] and [410] respectively (Figure 7). These post holes were generally sub-circular in plan with U-shaped profiles and had average measurements of 0.32m in length, 0.29m in width and 0.09m in depth. Each contained a single fill (411), (413), (405), (407) and (409) comprising of greyish-brown clayey-silt containing occasional chalk gravel and rare charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered from any of the post hole fills. The post holes appear not form any discernable structure, however it is possible that these are

contemporary with each other and also attentively with ditch [403], in that these all shared similar descriptive fills.

Sealing ditch [403] and post holes [406], [408], [410], [412] and [414] was a subsoil (401) measuring 0.2m in depth, consisting of a mid-brown clayey-silt containing occasional charcoal, and chalk gravel inclusions. Truncating the subsoil was an east to west aligned modern drainage trench which was sealed by topsoil (400) measuring 0.58m in depth comprising of mid-brown sandy-silt containing occasional chalk gravel, coal, charcoal and cbm inclusions. No finds were recovered from either subsoil (401) or topsoil (400).

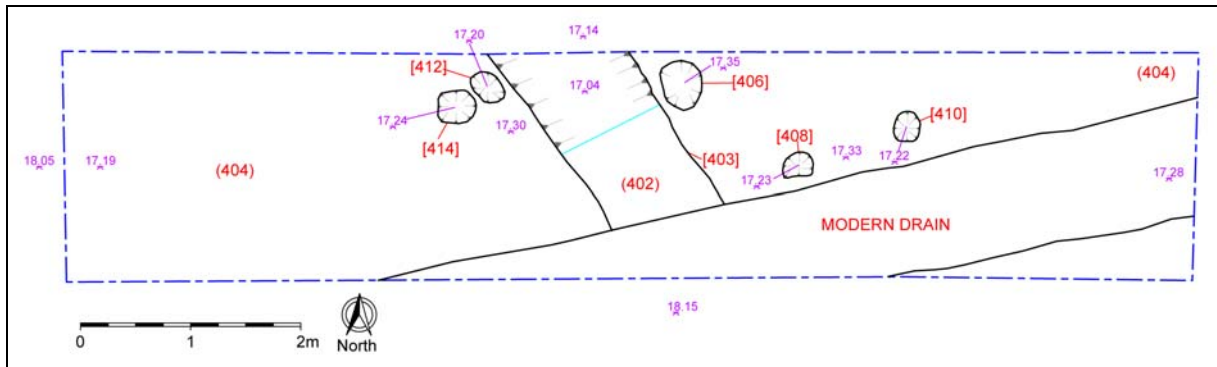


Figure 7. Plan of trench 4

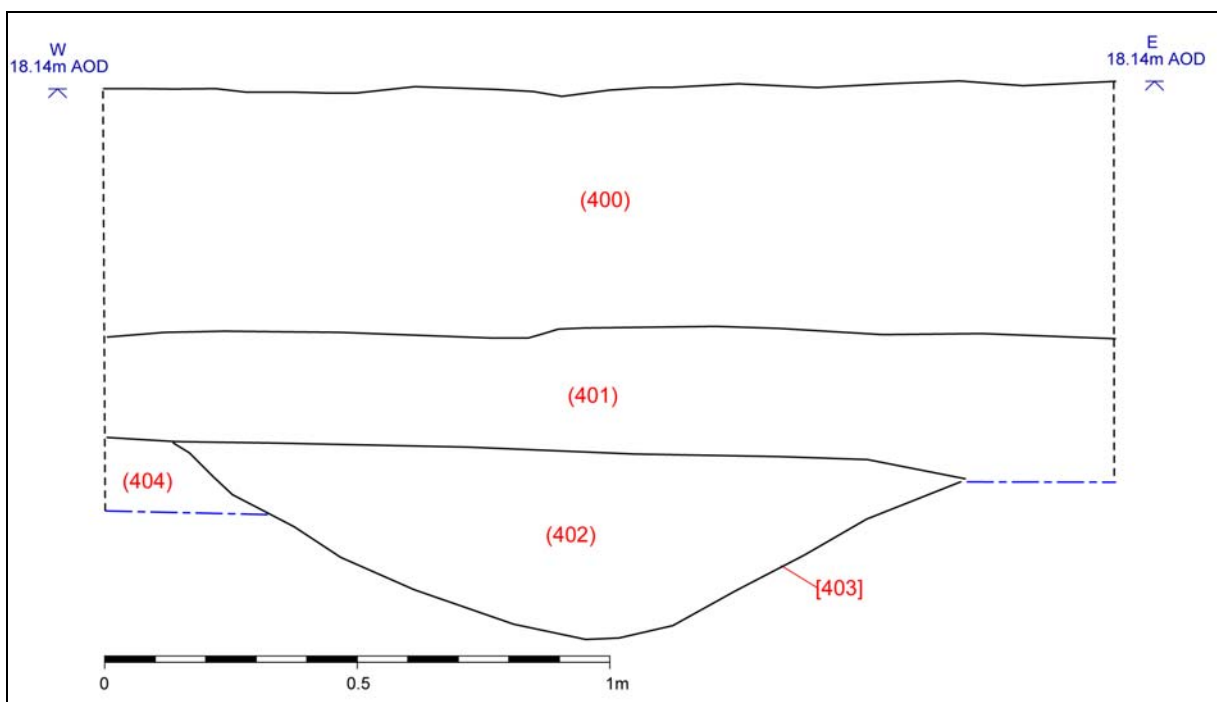


Figure 8. Section of ditch [403]

## 5.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was located to the east of Trench 4, with maximum measurements of 6m by 4.7m (extended to the east by 4m by 2.4m to avoid services to the north and south of the trench), orientated on a north to south alignment (Figure 2; Plate 7). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m BGL where the natural deposits were identified at 17.25m AOD. The natural deposits (513) consisted of mid-brown chalk gravel.

The earliest archaeological feature detected truncating the natural (513) within Trench 5 was a large pit [512] (Figure 9; Plate 8). The pit was detected within the southern half of the trench and extended beyond the trench limits to the south and east. Pit [512] appeared to be probably sub-circular in plan and had an exposed length of 4.2m and a width of 2.5m. Investigative slots excavated into the pit revealed it to have moderate sloping sides (base unexcavated), filled with a dark grey clayey-silt fill (511) containing occasional to moderate chalk gravel and charcoal inclusions. Two sherds of undiagnostic medieval pottery, a residual sherd of Roman pottery and fragments of animal bone were recovered from fill (511). The two investigative slots were excavated to a maximum depth of 16.8mAOD at a point where the water table was hindering further investigation, however, it was evident that the pit extended further in depth. Pit [512] probably represents a large domestic rubbish pit of a possible early medieval date.

Truncating pit [512] was the construction cut [510] for a wall (508). The construction cut was near vertical and measured 0.5m in depth (Figure 10). Set within the construction cut was wall (508) that was partly exposed within the north-eastern corner of the trench (Plate 7). It was exposed for 2m in length, 0.6m in width and 0.9m in depth. The wall had a foundation constructed from roughly hewn limestone blocks two courses deep measuring 0.24m in depth that extended out from the wall face by approximately 0.14m (Plate 9). The west and south facing walls were 3 courses deep measuring 0.48m in depth and constructed from smooth chiselled faced limestone blocks with average dimensions of 0.3m by 0.25m by 0.15m (Plate 10). The wall core was constructed from roughly hewn and fragmented limestone. Butting up to wall (508) and within the construction cut [510] was a backfill (509) consisting of a dark greyish-brown clayey-silt with occasional chalk gravel inclusions. No finds were recovered from the backfill. Wall [508] most likely represents the south-western corner of a structure that extends towards the north and east. Wall (508) is probably of a mid-medieval date and its function remains inconclusive as so little of it was exposed by trench excavation.

Partly sealing wall (508) was layer (507) with a maximum depth of 0.28m (Figure 10). This layer consisted of frequent limestone blocks/fragments and occasional charcoal inclusions. A pottery sherd dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> to early 15<sup>th</sup> century and fragments of medieval tile were recovered from layer (507). Layer (507) is most likely material derived from the demolition of the structure represented by wall (508), which appeared to have happened sometime between the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Cutting demolition layer (507) was a large pit [506] (Figures 9 & 11; Plate 11). The pit was detected within the northern half of the trench and extended beyond the trench limits to the north and east. The pit appeared to be sub-oval in plan with an exposed length of 4m and 2.7m in width. Investigative slots revealed the pit to have moderate sloping sides (base unexcavated), containing a fill (514) comprising of greenish-blue/grey silty-clay containing frequent chalk gravel and occasional charcoal inclusions. This was below an upper fill (505) consisting of dark grey clayey-silt containing moderate chalk gravel and occasional limestone fragments and charcoal inclusions (Figure 12). Pottery sherds were recovered from both fills (514) and (505) dated to the mid-13<sup>th</sup> to mid 14<sup>th</sup> century. Animal bone was also retrieved from both fills (514) and (505). Pit fill (514) extended further in depth beyond the excavated

depth of 16.67mAOD at a point where the water table was becoming problematic in further investigation. Pit [506] represents a large domestic rubbish pit of that went out of use sometime during the mid-13<sup>th</sup> to mid 14<sup>th</sup> century.

Sealing pit [506] was a layer (504) measuring 0.25m in depth, comprising of a dark brown sandy-clayey-silt containing occasional chalk gravel, limestone fragments and charcoal fleck inclusions (Figure 12). Pottery dated to the late 15<sup>th</sup> to early 16<sup>th</sup> century were recovered from this layer, which appears to represent a earlier land-surface that had formed over pit [506] and demolition (507). Above layer (504) was layer (503) measuring 0.36m in depth and consisting of mid-brown sandy-silt containing occasional chalk gravel, limestone fragments and charcoal fleck inclusions. Layer (503) probably represented a garden soil associated with the former 20<sup>th</sup> century garden nursery. Truncating layer (503) was a late 20<sup>th</sup> century east to west aligned drainage ditch [502] measuring 1m in with and 0.4m in depth. This ditch containing a single fill (501) of a pale brown sandy-silt containing occasional chalk gravel inclusions. Ditch [502] was sealing by a topsoil layer (500) comprised of a dark greyish-brown sandy-silt containing occasional limestone fragments, coal, charcoal and moderate to frequent cbm and 20<sup>th</sup> century debris (Figure 12).

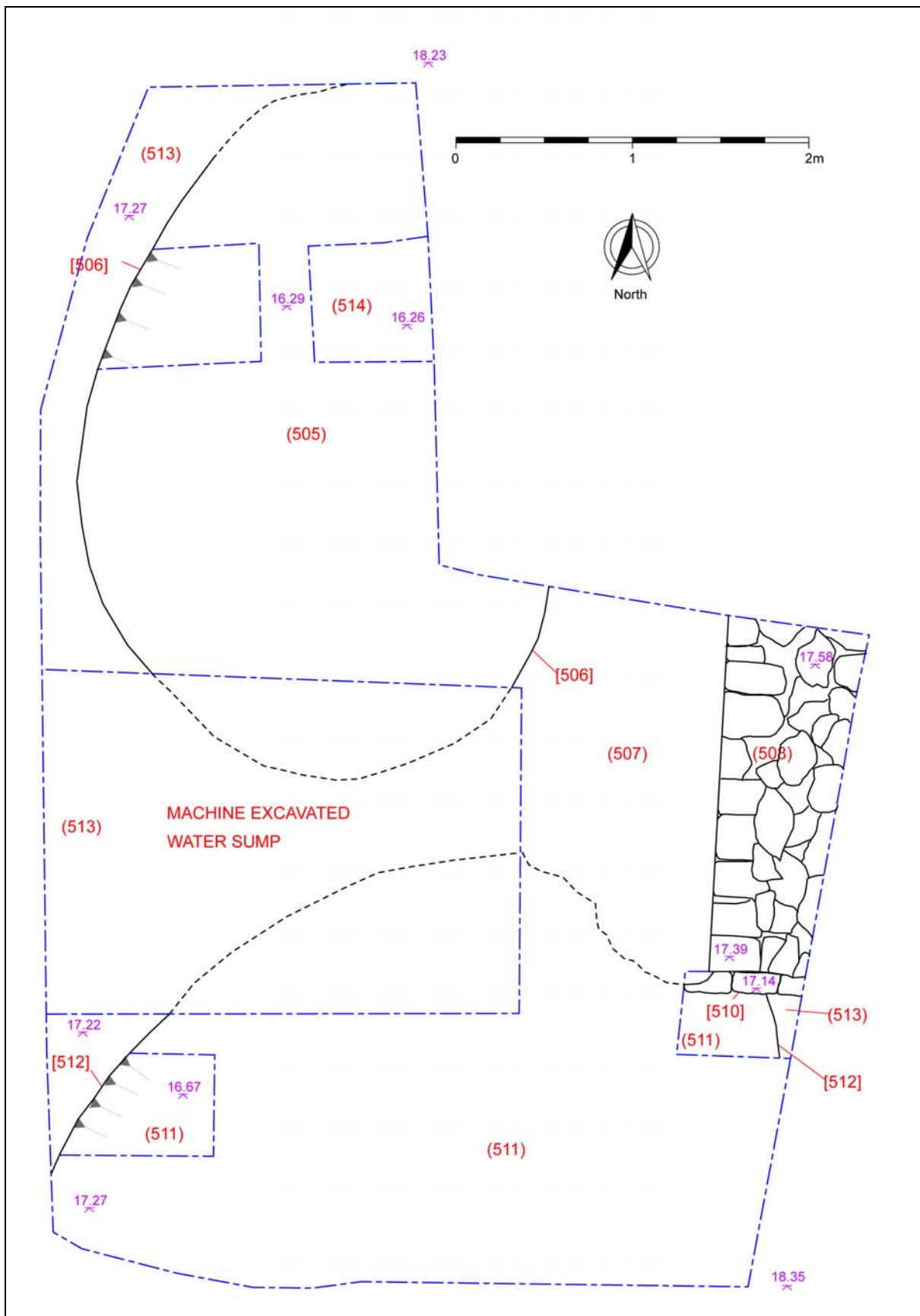


Figure 9. Plan of trench 5

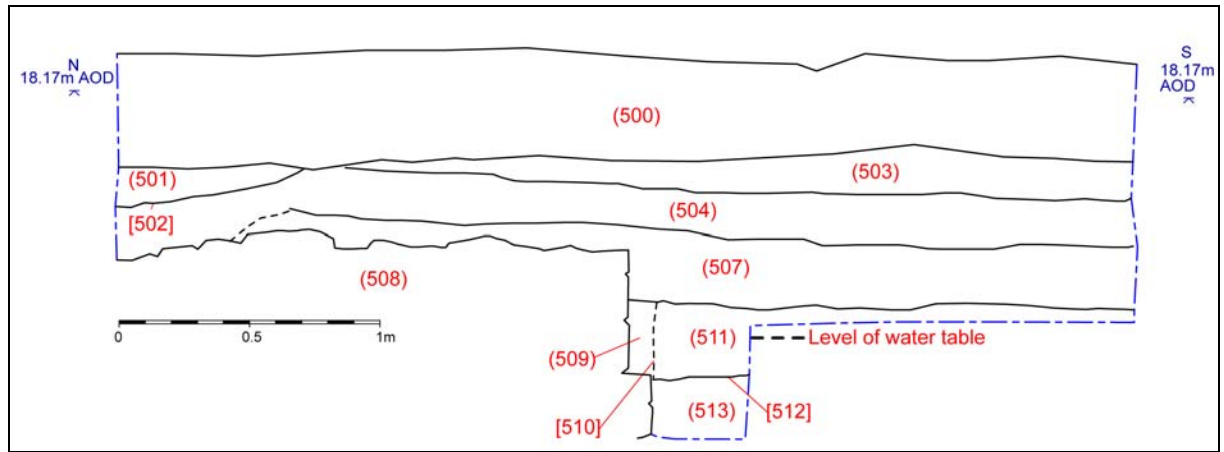


Figure 10. Section showing [502], [510] and [512]

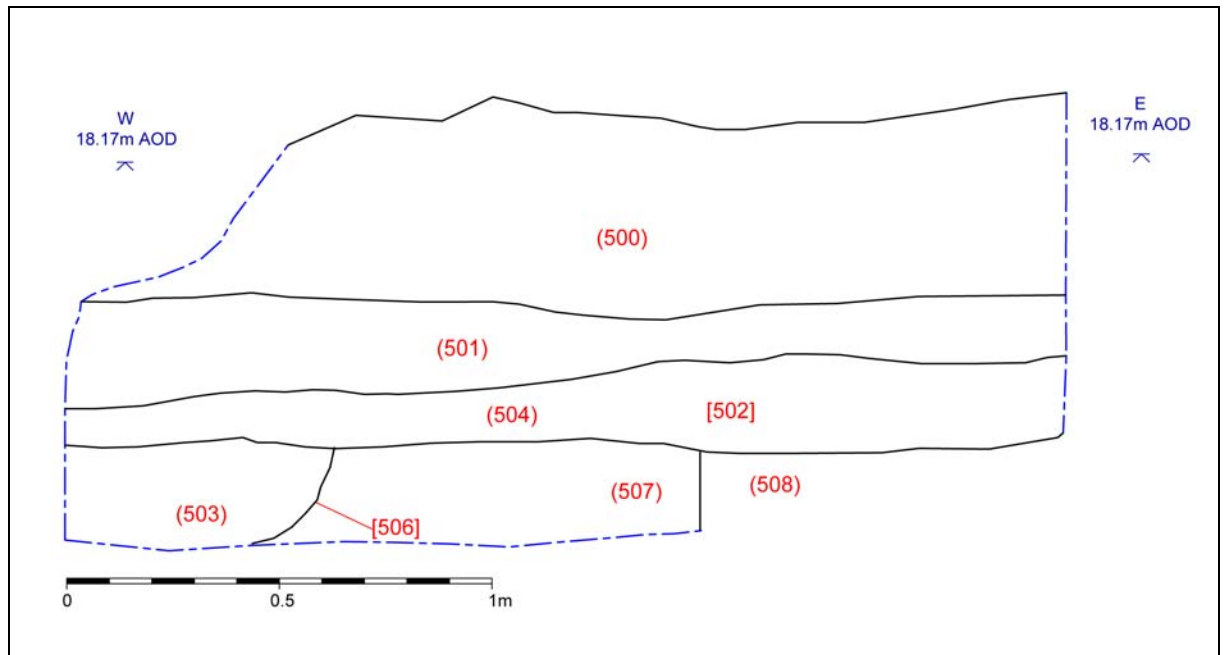


Figure 11. Section showing [506]

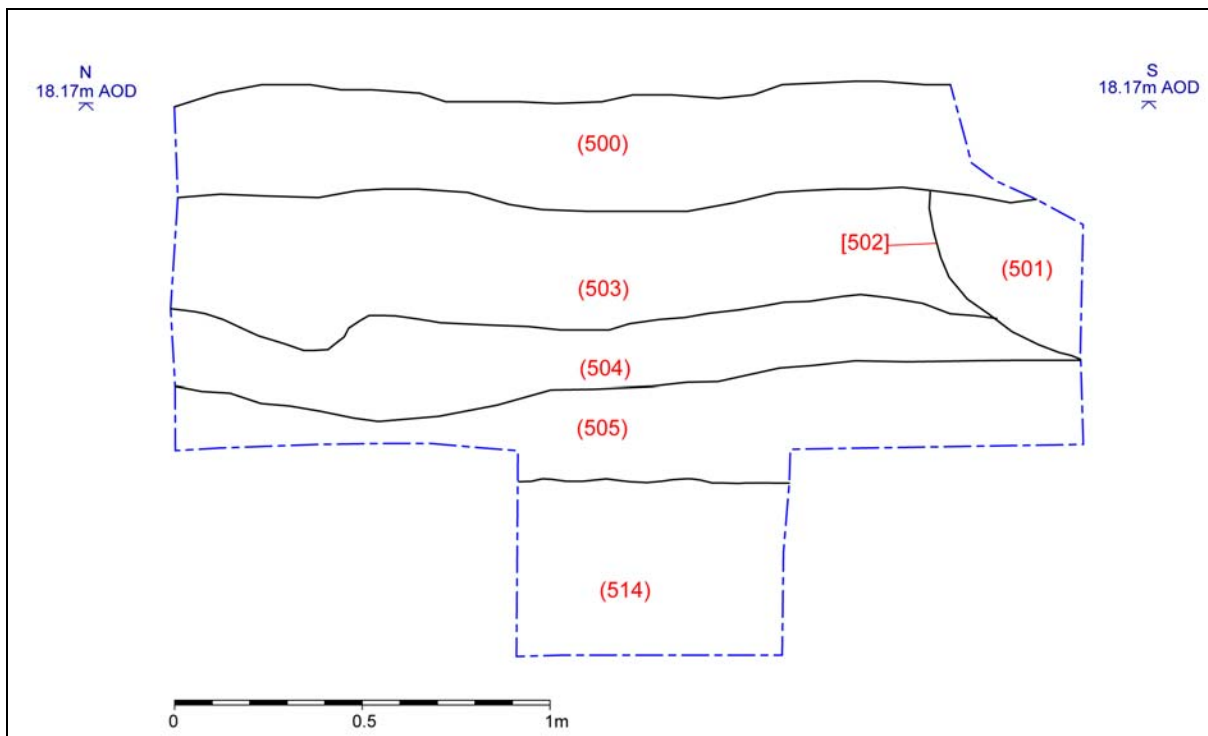


Figure 12. Section showing [502]

## 6.0 Discussion and Conclusions

Archaeological features were identified within three of the five trenches evaluated, Trenches 3, 4 and 5 located within the southern half of the proposed development area. The majority of the archaeological features were identified within Trench 5.

The earliest stratigraphic sequence within Trench 5 comprised of a large possible early medieval domestic rubbish pit [512]. This was followed by construction of limestone structure (508) representing the south-western corner of a probable medieval building that extends towards the north and east of Trench 5. The function of the structure represented by wall (508) is inconclusive, however it appears to have been demolished possibly sometime during the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to mid-14<sup>th</sup> century. The demolition material (507) from the structure was cut a large domestic rubbish pit [506] that went out of use sometime after the demolition of the structure but within a similar time scale. There then appear to follow a period where a soil horizon formed (504) of a probable late medieval/post medieval date. This was subsequently followed 20<sup>th</sup> century layers and features associated with the former garden nursery.

Undated features included ditch [403] and post holes [406], [408], [410], [412] and [414] within Trench 4, and ditch [303] within Trench 3. These appear to represent drainage ditches pre-dating the subsoil within each trench. A single sherd of pottery dated to the post-medieval period was recovered from the subsoil (301) within Trench 3. This may suggest that the subsoil within Trenches 3 and 4 are possibly of a post-medieval or later date. It would



follow that an earlier or similar date for the ditches and post holes within Trenches 3 and 4 could be suggested.

The latest activity identified by the evaluation was garden soils, former land surface and demolition layers associated with the former 20<sup>th</sup> century garden nursery. This was mainly evident within Trenches 1 and 2 where approximately 0.9m of 20<sup>th</sup> century material was sealing the former land surface.

Any ground disturbances below the following datum levels would certainly impact upon the archaeology recorded by the evaluation and probable further archaeology within the southern half of the proposed development. The archaeological horizon within Trenches 3 and 4 begin at 0.75m BGL (16.23mAOD) and 0.9m (17.3mAOD) respectively. Trench 5 the archaeological horizon begins at 0.5m BGL (17.87mAOD) and extends beyond 1.5m (16.8mAOD).

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## 7.0 Bibliography

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## 8.0 Appendix 1 ~ List of Contexts.

Context no.	Description	Thickness	Extent
<i>Trench 1</i>			
100	Layer of mixed browns and reds, sandy silt containing frequent CBM and hardcore gravel inclusions. Demolition.	0.7m	9m x 3m (exc)
101	Layer of dark brown gravel. Former land-surface.	0.15m	9m x 3m (exc)
102	Layer of dark blackish-brown sandy-silt containing occasional charcoal and chalk stone <0.03m inclusions. Buried topsoil.	0.4	9m x 3m (exc)
103	Layer of mid-brown sandy-silt containing occasional charcoal and chalk stone <0.03m inclusions. Sub-soil.	0.2	9m x 3m (exc)
104	Layer of mid-brown chalk gravel. Natural.	0.04m (exc)	9m x 3m (exc)
105	Layer of grey clay. Natural.	-	9m x 3m (exc)
<i>Trench 2</i>			
200	Layer of mixed browns and reds, sandy silt containing frequent CBM and hardcore gravel inclusions. Demolition.	0.3m	8m x 3m (exc)
201	Layer of dark brown sandy-silt containing occasional charcoal and chalk stone <0.03m, and redeposited natural inclusions. Nursery/garden soil	0.4m	8m x 3m (exc)
202	Layer of light greyish-brown sandy-silt containing frequent CBM and limestone, occasional charcoal and coal fleck inclusions. Demolition.	0.25m	8m x 3m (exc)
203	Layer of dark blackish-brown sandy-silt containing occasional charcoal and chalk gravel <0.03m inclusions. Buried topsoil.	0.15m	8m x 3m (exc)
204	Layer of mid-brown sandy-silt containing occasional charcoal and chalk stone <0.03m inclusions. Sub-soil.	0.3m	8m x 3m (exc)
205	Layer of mid-brown chalk gravel. Natural.	-	8m x 3m (exc)
<i>Trench 3</i>			
300	Layer of mid-brown sandy-silt containing occasional chalk gravel <0.03m, coal, charcoal and CBM inclusions. Topsoil.	0.56m	8.5m x 4m
301	Layer of mid-brown clayey-silt containing occasional charcoal and chalk gravel inclusions. Subsoil.	0.2m	8.5m x 4m
302	Fill of light-brown clayey-silt containing moderate chalk gravel <0.03m and occasional charcoal fleck inclusions. Single fill of [303].	0.25m	4m x 1.2m
303	Cut of linear east to west aligned ditch.	0.25m	4m x 1.2m
304	Layer of light orangey-grey clay. Natural.	-	8.5m x 4m
<i>Trench 4</i>			
400	Layer of mid-brown sandy-silt containing occasional chalk gravel <0.03m, coal, charcoal and CBM inclusions. Topsoil.	0.5m	10m x 2m
401	Layer of mid-brown sandy-silt containing occasional charcoal and chalk stone <0.03m inclusions. Sub-soil.	0.2m	10m x 2m
402	Fill of light-brown clayey-silt containing moderate chalk gravel <0.03m and occasional charcoal fleck inclusions. Single fill of [403].	0.37m	2m x 1m
403	Cut of linear NW – SE aligned ditch.	0.37m	2m x 1m
404	Layer of mid-brown chalk gravel. Natural.	-	10m x 2m
405	Fill of light-brown clayey-silt containing moderate chalk gravel <0.03m and rare charcoal fleck inclusions. Single fill of [406].	0.15m	0.4m x 0.3m
406	Cut of post hole	0.15m	0.4m x 0.3m
407	Fill of light-brown clayey-silt containing moderate chalk gravel <0.03m and rare charcoal fleck inclusions. Single fill of [408].	0.1m	0.33m x 0.3m
408	Cut of post hole	0.1m	0.33m x 0.3m
409	Fill of light-brown clayey-silt containing moderate chalk gravel <0.03m and rare charcoal fleck inclusions. Single fill of [410].	0.07m	0.3m x 0.28m
410	Cut of post hole	0.07m	0.3m x 0.28m
411	Fill of light-brown clayey-silt containing moderate chalk gravel <0.03m and rare charcoal fleck inclusions. Single fill of [412].	0.1m	0.3m x 0.25m
412	Cut of post hole	0.1m	0.3m x 0.25m
413	Fill of light-brown clayey-silt containing moderate chalk gravel <0.03m	0.05m	0.3m x 0.3m

	and rare charcoal fleck inclusions. Single fill of [414].		
414	Cut of post hole	0.05m	0.3m x 0.3m
Trench 5			
500	Layer of dark greyish-brown sandy-silt containing occasional chalk gravel <0.03m, coal, charcoal and CBM inclusions. Topsoil & demolition debris.	0.5m	6.9m x 4m
501	Pale brown sandy-silt containing rare chalk gravel.	0.4m	4m x 1m
502	Cut of east to west modern ditch.	0.4m	4m x 1m
503	Layer of mid-brown sandy-silt containing occasional chalk gravel and charcoal flecks. Garden soil.	0.36m	2.2m x 2m
504	Layer of dark brown sandy-clayey-silt containing occasional chalk gravel and charcoal flecks. Former land surface.	0.25m	6.9m x 4m
505	Fill of dark grey clayey-silt containing occasional chalk gravel, and charcoal fleck inclusions. Upper fill of pit [506].	0.24m	3.8m x 2.4m
506	Cut of large pit. Filled by (505) & (514).	0.7m (exc)	3.8m x 2.4m
507	Layer of yellowish-brown sandy-silt containing frequent sub-angular limestone blocks and occasional charcoal fleck inclusions. Demolition layer.	0.2m	4m x 1.2m
508	Masonry. Limestone constructed wall and foundation.	0.9m	2m x 0.6m
509	Fill of dark greyish-brown clayey-silt containing occasional chalk gravel. Backfill against wall (508).	0.3m	0.6m x 0.15m
510	Construction cut for wall (508).	0.9m	2m x 0.6m
511	Fill of dark grey clayey-silt containing occasional chalk gravel and charcoal fleck inclusions. Pit fill (511).	0.3m (exc)	4m x 1.8m
512	Cut of large pit. Filled by (511).	0.3m (exc)	4m x 1.8m
513	Layer of mid-brown chalk gravel. Natural.	-	6.9m x 4m
514	Fill of greenish-grey blue silty-clay containing frequent chalk gravel and charcoal fleck inclusions. Pit fill (506).	0.45m	0.7m x 0.7m (exc)

## 9.0 Appendix 2 ~ Archive Index.

### 9.1 Drawing Register.

Drawing no.	Description	Scale	Initials	Date
1	West-facing section Trench 1	1:20	BMcC	06/07/09
2	Plan of Trench 1	1:50	BMcC	06/07/09
3	North-west facing section Trench 2	1:20	BMcC	06/07/09
4	Plan of Trench 2	1:50	BMcC	06/07/09
5	West-facing section Trench 3	1:10	MJB	06/07/09
6	South-facing section ditch [403] Trench 4	1:10	BMcC	06/07/09
7	Plan of Trench 4	1:50	BMcC	06/07/09
8	Plan of Trench 3	1:50	BMcC	06/07/09
9	Plan of Trench 5	1:20	BMcC	06/07/09
10	West facing section Trench 5	1:20	MJB	06/07/09
11	South-facing section Trench 5	1:20	MJB	06/07/09
12	West –facing section Trench 5	1:20	BMcC	06/07/09

### 9.2 Photographic Register.

Frame no.	Description	View	Scale	Initis and date
<i>Digital 06/07/09</i>				
29 - 40	General shots Trench 1	N & NE	1m	BMcC 06/07/09
41 – 43	General shots Trench 3	NW	1m & 1m	BMcC 06/07/09
44 – 49	North-west facing section Trench 2	E & SE	1m	BMcC 06/07/09
50 - 52	General shots Trench 2	NE	1m & 1m	BMcC 06/07/09
53 - 56	West facing section ditch [303] Trench 3	E	1m	MJB 06/07/09
57 - 62	East facing section ditch [303] Trench 3	W	1m	MJB 06/07/09
63 – 65	General shots Trench 4	E	1m & 1m	BMcC 06/07/09
66 – 68	South-facing section ditch [404] Trench 4	N	1m	BMcC 06/07/09
69 – 71	North-west facing section ditch [404] Trench 4	SE	1m	BMcC 06/07/09
72 – 74	Post holes [408] & [410] Trench 4	N	1m	BMcC 06/07/09
75 – 77	South facing section [403]	NE	1m	BMcC 06/07/09
<i>Digital 07/07/09</i>				
78 - 80	East facing section ditch [303] Trench 3	W	1m	BMcC 07/07/09
81 – 89	General shots Trench 5	N, E, NE	1m & 1m	BMcC 07/07/09
90 - 98	South & west facing sections Trench 5	N, NE	1m & 1m	BMcC 07/07/09
99 – 102	Wall foundation [508] Trench 5	E	1m & 1m	BMcC 07/07/09
103 – 105	Pit [506] Trench 5	W	1m & 1m	BMcC 07/07/09
106 – 109	West facing section Trench 5	E	1m & 1M	BMcC 07/07/09
110 – 115	Wall [508] Trench 5	N, S	1m & 1m	BMcC 07/07/09
116 – 118	Pit [512] Trench 5	W	1m	BMcC 07/07/09
<i>Digital 09/07/09</i>				
138 – 140	West facing section Trench 5	E	1m	MJB 09/07/09
141 – 158	General shots of wall (508)	N, E	1m &	BMcC 09/07/09

			0.5m	
159 – 161	West facing section (514) Trench 5	E	1m	BMCC 09/07/09

## 10.0 Appendix 3 ~ The Plates.



*Plate 1. Trench 1 section looking north*





*Plate 2. Trench 2 looking north-east*





*Plate 3. Trench 3 looking north*



*Plate 4. East-facing section ditch [303]*





*Plate 5. Trench 4 looking east*



*Plate 6. South-facing section (oblique) ditch [403]*





*Plate 7. Trench 5 looking north-east*



*Plate 8. Pit [512] looking west*





*Plate 9. Foundation course of wall (508) looking north-east*





*Plate 10. Wall (508) looking north-east*



*Plate 11. Pit [506] looking west*