



**Trial Trench Evaluation
on land at 10 Boat Horse Lane, Crick
Northamptonshire
October 2014**

Report No 14/206

Author: Ben Kidd

Illustrator: Amir Bassir



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1		Pat Chapman	Liz Muldowney	Andy Chapman	Client approval

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: molanort1-194180	
Project name	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at 10 Boat Horse Lane, Crick, Northamptonshire.		
Short description (250 words maximum)	MOLA was commissioned by Welland Design and Build to carry out archaeological trial trenching on land at 10 Boat Horse Lane, Crick, Northamptonshire prior to proposed development of the site. Two trenches were excavated. No archaeological remains uncovered, apart from modern deposition and disturbance, no pre-modern finds were present		
Project type (eg DBA, evaluation etc)	Evaluation		
Site status (none, NT, SAM etc)	None		
Previous work (SMR numbers etc)	None		
Current Land use	Demolished dwelling and garden		
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	Unknown		
Monument type/ period	None		
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address (including postcode)	Land at 10 Boat Horse Lane, Crick, Northamptonshire		
Study area (sq.m or ha)	0.09ha		
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq. letter code)	SP 5918 7214		
Height OD	Approx. 140m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council Assistant Archaeological Advisor NCC		
Project Design originator	MOLA		
Director/Supervisor	B Kidd		
Project Manager	E Muldowney		
Sponsor or funding body	Welland Design and Build Ltd.		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date/End date	09/10/2014		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)	
Physical	None	None	
Paper	MOLA Northampton Offices: ENN107710	Site file	
Digital	MOLA Northampton Offices: ENN107710	Mapinfo plans, Word report	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)			
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at 10 Boat Horse Lane, Crick, Northamptonshire, October 2014		
Serial title & volume	14/206		
Author(s)	Ben Kidd		
Page numbers	12		
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**Archaeological trial trench evaluation
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Abstract

MOLA was commissioned by Welland Design and Build Ltd to carry out archaeological trial trenching on land at 10 Boat Horse Lane, Crick, Northamptonshire prior to proposed development of the site. Two trenches were excavated. No archaeological remains were uncovered, apart from modern deposition and disturbance; no pre modern finds were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

In October 2014, MOLA was commissioned by Welland Design and Build to conduct an archaeological evaluation on land at 10 Boat Horse Lane, Crick, Northamptonshire (NGR SP5918 7214) (Fig 1).

The Assistant Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) had advised that a programme of archaeological evaluation should be undertaken to determine the nature and extent of any archaeological remains within the Development Area (Mordue 2014a and b). The requirements were outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by MOLA (Hewitt 2014).

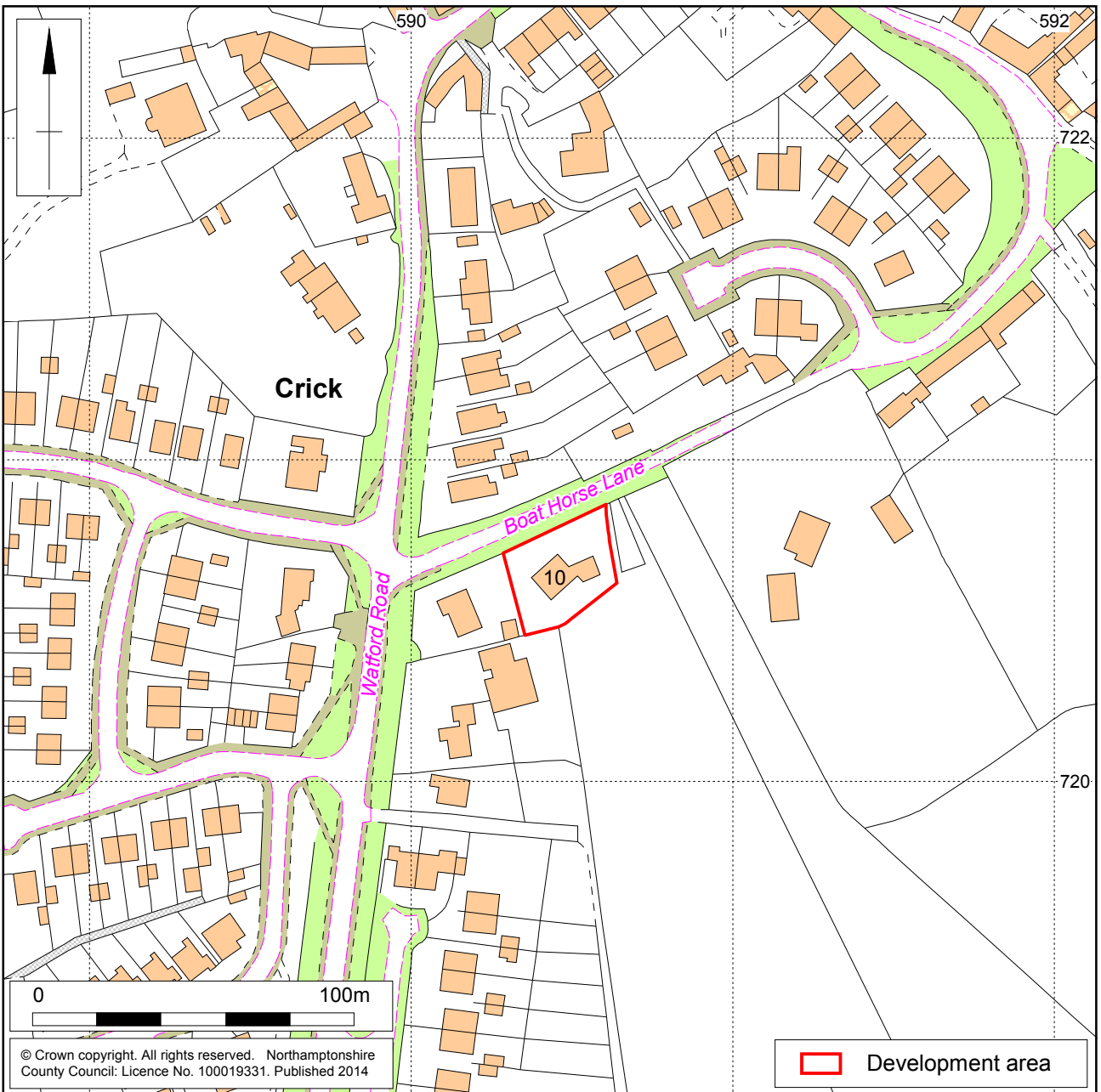
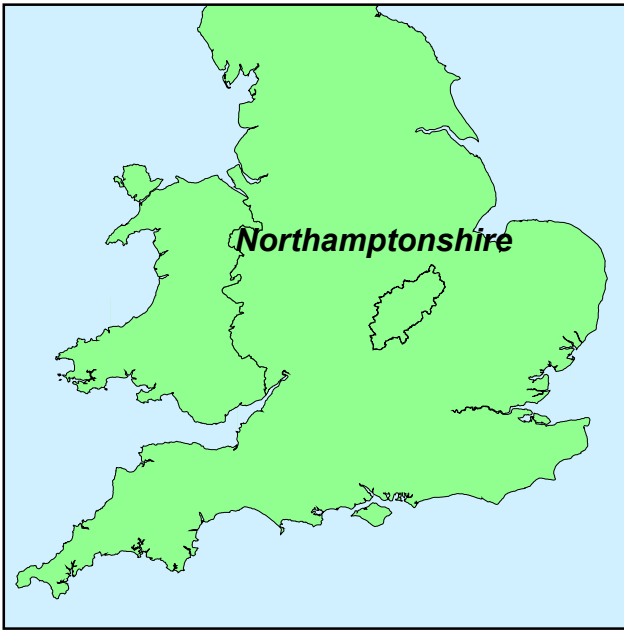
2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The evaluation of the site was designed to provide information that will allow for the effective targeting of further investigation of the site, if required, prior to or during the early phases of its development.

The following information was required to allow the development of a strategy for further investigation of the site:

- *The location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present;*
- *The integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present.*

The evaluation was carried out following the IfA's standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (IfA 2008), the MOLA Fieldwork Manual (2014) and the East Midlands regional framework (Knight et al 2012).



Scale 1:2000

Site location Fig 1

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Topography and geology

The site is c 0.09ha and is located to the south of Boat Horse Lane, on the southern side of the modern village of Crick. At the time of evaluation the previous house had been demolished and was bounded by residential properties to the east, west and south west and by grassland to the south.

Topographically the site comprises of a rectangular parcel of land which slopes gently down to Boat Horse Lane. The site is situated on ground at a height of approximately 140m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Society and lies on Dyrham formation siltstone and mudstone (www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex).

3.2 Historical and archaeological background

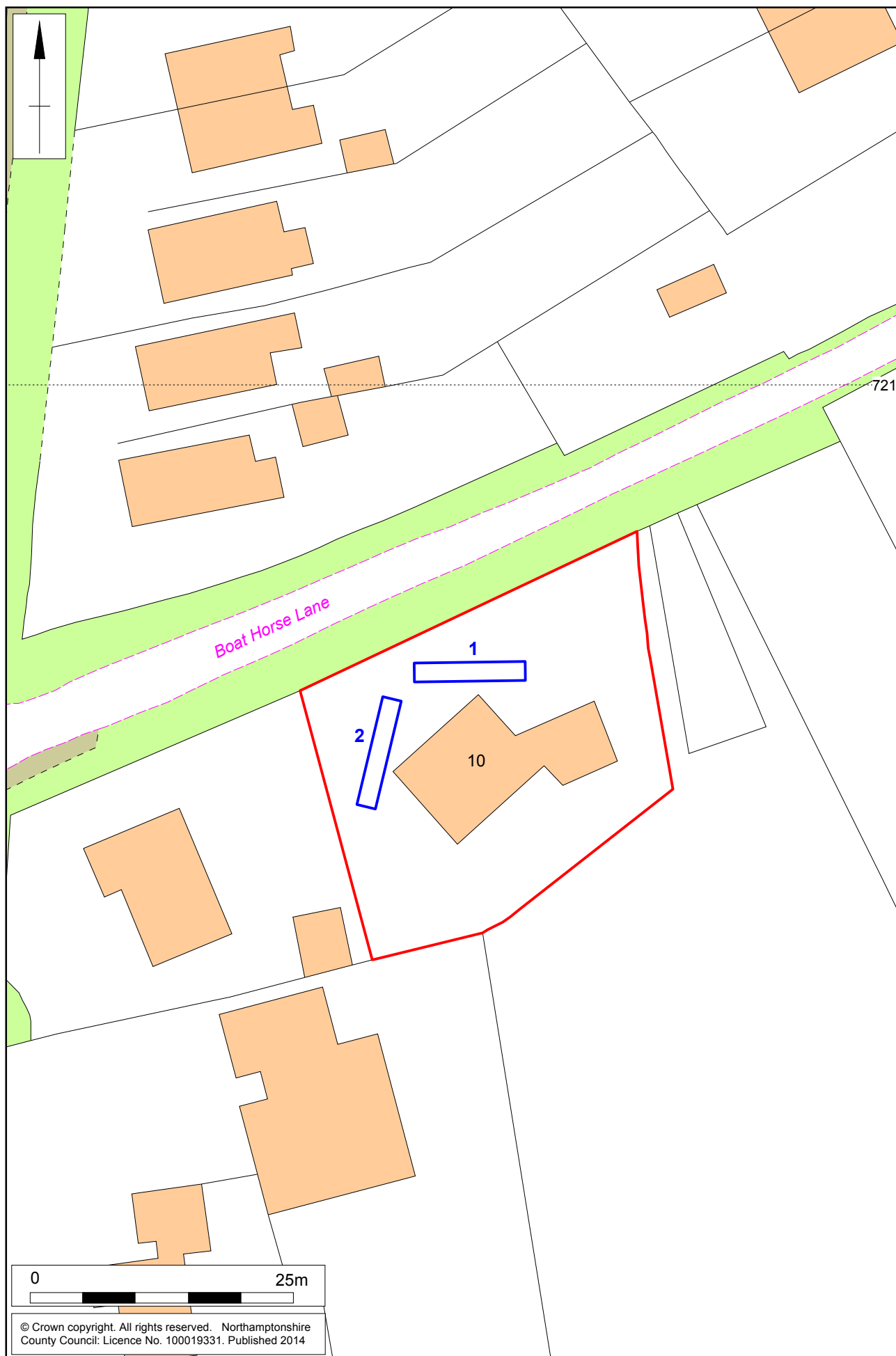
The site lies at the southern edge of the historic settlement of Crick. The Historic Environment Record (HER) has been consulted to assess the archaeological potential of the surrounding area.

Though Iron Age and Roman activity is recorded at Crick it is predominately located to the north of the village. Crick is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 where it was in the possession of Geoffrey de la Guerche and was a fairly substantial settlement with 31 individuals being recorded, one for each household in the village.

A recent excavation by Northamptonshire Archaeology (now operating as MOLA Northampton) uncovered isolated Iron Age remains, Saxon enclosures and medieval earthwork ditches, on the northern edge of the village (Markus 2014)

Crick continued to grow and develop throughout the 11th to 14th centuries, with arable farming in the open fields around the village and the development of wool weaving. Though part of the village is known to have been abandoned in 1380 and earthworks north-east of the church (now largely built over) are thought to represent the abandoned part of the village.

Though most HER entries are located to the north of the site towards the medieval settlement, two entries were recorded to the south of the site; a windmill mound (HER 1410660) and medieval fishponds (HER 340174).



Scale 1: 500

Excavated trenches Fig 2

4 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

Two trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m-wide toothless ditching bucket (Fig 2). The topsoil and subsoil were removed under archaeological direction to reveal natural substrate. The topsoil and subsoil were stacked separately at the side of the excavated area. All procedures complied with MOLA Health and Safety provisions and MOLA Health and Safety at Work Guidelines.

The excavated area was cleaned sufficiently to define any features. The excavated area and spoil heaps were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval.

All archaeological deposits encountered during the course of the excavation were fully recorded, following standard MOLA procedures (MOLA 2014). All deposits were given a separate context number in a sequence continuing from those allocated during the evaluation. They were described on *pro-forma* context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships and interpretation. Unstratified animal bones and modern material were not retained.

The location of the trenches were surveyed and related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid using Leica VIVA dGPS survey equipment using SMARTNET real-time corrections, operating to a 3D tolerance of $\pm 0.05\text{m}$. A full photographic record comprising both 35mm black and white negatives and digital images was maintained. The field data from the evaluation has been compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

The evaluation conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised Oct 2008). All stages of the project were undertaken in accordance with English Heritage, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (EH 2006). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by MOLA (Hewitt 2014).

All trenches were backfilled with their up-cast, lightly compacted by the mechanical excavator.

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

5.1 General stratigraphy

The natural substrate was the same across the site and comprised firm yellow-brown clay with moderate small stone and pebble inclusion and occurred between 0.60 and 0.80m below the present ground surface.

The subsoil visible in Trench 2 consisted of yellow-grey clayey silt with occasional small stone inclusions but was not visible in Trench 1.

The topsoil visible in Trench 2 consisted of grey silty sand with frequent rooting. The buried topsoil in Trench 1 consisted of grey clayey silt with frequent rooting and modern brick inclusions.

A full account of the stratigraphy by trench can be found in the Context Inventory (Appendix 1).

5.2 The archaeological features

Trench 1

Trench 1 contained nothing of archaeological interest and the ground in the trench appeared to be almost entirely made up, with the northern half of the trench being made ground. Successive layers appeared to be deposited to build up the ground in front of the dwelling in order to negate the slope and create more garden/drive space (Figs 3 and 4). All of the layers contained modern debris.



Make up layer 106 (dark material to right), looking west Fig 3



Layer 106 (note brick inclusions and heavy root disturbance), looking north Fig 4

Trench 2

There were modern features and tree root disturbance associated with the previous land use (Fig 5 and 6).



Modern pit [207], looking west

Fig 5



Tree root disturbance in Trench 2, looking south west Fig 6

6 THE FINDS

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered; the only finds present were modern, including brick, tile, metal wire and metal fragments, none were retained.

7 DISCUSSION

Trial trench evaluation on land at 10 Boat Horse Lane has demonstrated that no archaeological remains are present within the evaluation area and the ground has been heavily disturbed by rooting and modern intrusions; with some of the land adjacent to Boat Horse Lane being built up in order to create more space for the modern dwelling's garden/drive.

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MOLA
05 November 2014

APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height, NW end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
1	W-N 1.6m x 10m		142.57m	0.60 – 0.80m 141.77m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
101	Made layer	Gravel (driveway)	0.10-15m thick	-
102	Made layer	Firm black silty clay. Moderate brick inclusions. Visible for c 4m from east end of trench	0.15m thick	-
103	Buried/deposited topsoil	Friable grey clayey-silt. Root disturbance throughout and moderate brick inclusions.	0.25-0.55m thick	-
104	Made layer	Firm black silty clay. Moderate small stone inclusions. Visible for c 3m in centre of trench.	0.30m	-
105	Natural	Friable-firm yellow-brown clay with moderate small stone and pebble inclusions.	-	-
106	Made layer	Firm dark grey clayey silt containing modern debris i.e. brick, glass, charcoal, tile, metal fragments etc. Abuts natural, used to negate slope/create more space.	-	-



Trench 1, looking west

Fig 7



Trench 1 representative section, looking north Fig 8

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height, NW end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
2	SW-NE 1.6m x 10m		142.43m	0.60m 141.83m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
201	Topsoil	Friable grey silty sand.	0.20m thick	-
202	Subsoil	Friable yellow-grey clayey silt with occasional small stone inclusions	0.30m thick	-
203	Fill of [204]	Firm mottled grey-brown clay. Heavily disturbed by rooting.	-	-
204	Tree root	Tree root disturbance.	0.50m wide	-
205	Natural	Friable-firm yellow-brown clay with moderate small stone and pebble inclusions.	-	-
206	Fill of [207]	Friable mid brown silty sand and modern bricks.	0.40m width, 0.40m length.	-
207	Modern Pit	Circular modern pit filled with modern brick.	0.40m width, 0.40m length.	-



Trench 2, looking north-east Fig 9

