



**Trial Trench Evaluation  
on land north of Stonepit Lane  
Inkberrow, Worcestershire  
October 2014**

Report No. 14/226

Fieldwork activity number: WSM58050

Author: Ben Kidd

Illustrator: Amir Bassir



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**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		<b>OASIS No: molanort1-195183</b>	
Project name	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land north of Stonepit Lane, Inkberrow, Worcestershire		
Short description (250 words maximum)	MOLA was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out archaeological trial trenching on land north of Stonepit Lane, Inkberrow, Worcestershire prior to proposed development of the site. Five trenches were excavated within the development area and no archaeological features were found and no finds recovered.		
Project type (eg DBA, evaluation etc)	Evaluation		
Site status (none, NT, SAM etc)	None		
Previous work (SMR numbers etc)	Geophysical survey (Stratascan 2013)		
Current Land use	Pasture and arable		
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	Unknown		
Monument type/ period	None		
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	None		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>			
County	Worcestershire		
Site address (including postcode)	Land north of Stonepit Lane, Inkberrow, Worcestershire		
Study area (sq.m or ha)	c 5.4ha		
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq. letter code)	SP 0102 5732		
Height OD	c 88m		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	Worcestershire County Council Historic Environment Planning Officer		
Project Design originator	MOLA		
Director/Supervisor	B Kidd		
Project Manager	A Yates (MOLA) Paul Clark (CgMs)		
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting for Bovis Homes		
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>			
Start date/End date	20/10/2014 – 22/10/2014		
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)</b>	
Physical	MOLA Northampton Offices: WSM58050	None	
Paper	MOLA Northampton Offices: WSM58050	Site file	
Digital	MOLA Northampton Offices: WSM58050	Mapinfo plans, Word report	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>			
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)			
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land north of Stonepit Lane, Inkberrow, Worcestershire, October 2014		
Serial title & volume	14/226		
Author(s)	Ben Kidd		
Page numbers	13		
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**Archaeological trial trench evaluation  
on land north of Stonepit Lane  
Inkberrow, Worcestershire  
October 2014**

**Abstract**

*MOLA was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out archaeological trial trenching on land north of Stonepit Lane, Inkberrow, Worcestershire prior to proposed development of the site. Five trenches were excavated within the development area and no archaeological features were found and no finds were recovered.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

In October 2014, MOLA was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of Bovis Homes, to conduct an archaeological evaluation on land north of Stonepit Lane , Inkberrow, Worcestershire (NGR SP 0102 5732) (Fig 1).

As a condition (number 32) on planning consent (W/12/2337), the Historic Environment Planning Officer for Worcestershire County Council (WCC) has advised that a programme of archaeological evaluation should be undertaken to determine the nature and extent of any archaeological remains within the Development Area (Glyde 2014). The requirements were outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CgMs Consulting (Clark 2014).

**2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

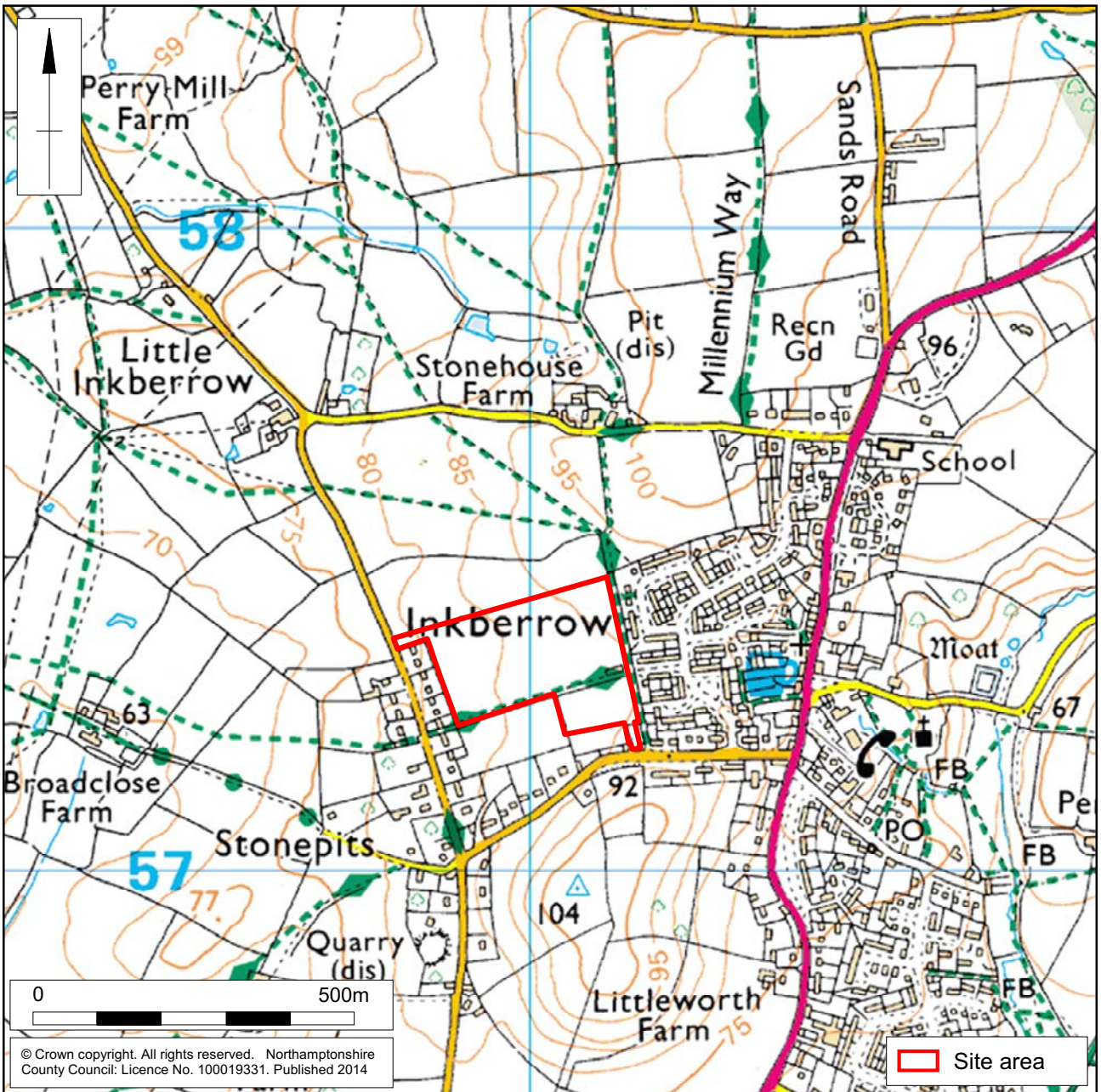
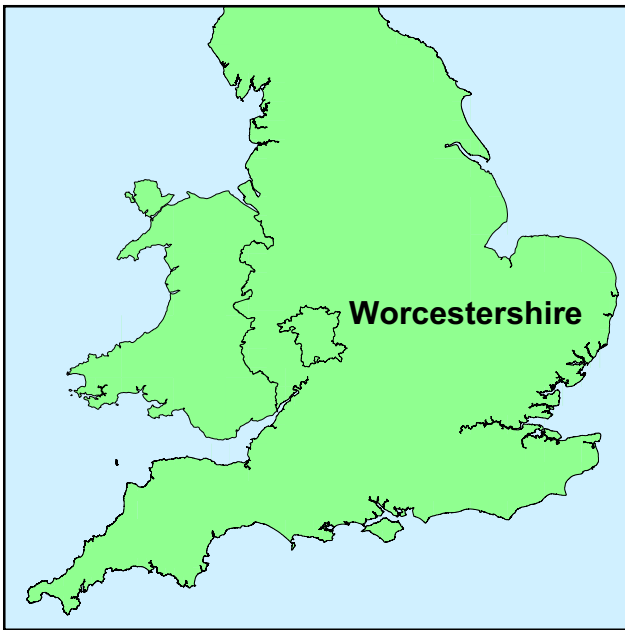
The evaluation of the site was designed to provide information that will allow for the effective targeting of further investigation of the site, if required, prior to or during the early phases of its development.

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 following the guidelines suggested by the IfA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008), the MOLA Fieldwork Manual (2014) and the West Midlands regional framework (Watt 2011).





Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1

### 3 BACKGROUND

#### 3.1 Topography and geology

The site covers an area of c 5.4ha to the north of Stonepit Lane, Inkberrow. The area consists of two fields, with one being arable and the smaller being pasture and is bounded to the east, west and south by housing and to the north by arable fields (Fig 1).

Topographically the site consists of two rectangular parcels of land, with the smaller field being reasonably flat and the larger field gently sloping down to the west and south. The site is at a height of approximately 88m above Ordnance datum (aOD). The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Society and lies on the boundary between outcropping Arden sandstone and Mercian mudstone ([www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex)).

#### 3.2 Historical and archaeological background

The development area lies within an area of archaeological interest as summarised in the WSI (Clark 2014), however, none of the entries in the Worcestershire HER relate directly to the development area.

Evidence for the Prehistoric and Roman periods is limited within 1km of the site, with only unstratified individual finds (mainly Iron Age and Roman) within the parish of Inkberrow and outside the study area.

Inkberrow was first recorded in the Anglo-Saxon charters and it is suggested that a hedgerow, c 935m to the south east of the site, formed the line of an Anglo-Saxon boundary dyke named *Thorn-Haema Dic* in the Anglo-Saxon charters.

Inkberrow is recorded in the Domesday Book as *Interberga* and the whole of the study area is located within the 13<sup>th</sup>-century boundary of Feckenham Forest (WSM42160), which was disforested in 1629.

The historic core of Inkberrow (WSM41580) is located 165m to the east of the site, with a number of areas of ridge and furrow being recorded on the HER within 1km of the site, presumably forming the agricultural hinterland associated with the medieval/post medieval settlement.

A possible medieval burial (WSM40846) is located 880m to the north of the site; with a well preserved, rectangular island with surrounding moat and associated ridge and furrow (WSM05569) being located 500m to the east, with two possible fishponds (WSM41011 and WSM41012) and a deer park (WSM07274) associated with it. All of which possibly date to the medieval period. A probable watermill site (WSM07921) is also recorded 840m to the south east of the site.

The line of a post-medieval hollow way (WSM35468) is recorded 875m to the south east of the site. Agricultural features, such as a farm, marl pits and a sheep wash are recorded nearby, with the closest being a farmstead (WSM55275), 170m to the south east.

There are a number of World War II and Cold War military sites recorded nearby, with a Royal Observer Corps and Orliit post located on high ground c 250m to the south.

Geophysical survey undertaken by Stratascan (Cooper 2013) identified seven possible curvilinear anomalies, four linear anomalies and five discrete anomalies, identified from the results as possible pits.



## 4 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

Five trenches were excavated using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m-wide toothless ditching bucket (Fig 3). 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. They were described on *pro-forma* context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships and interpretation. No artefacts were recovered.

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 CgMs Consulting (Clark 2014).

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

## 5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

### 5.1 General stratigraphy

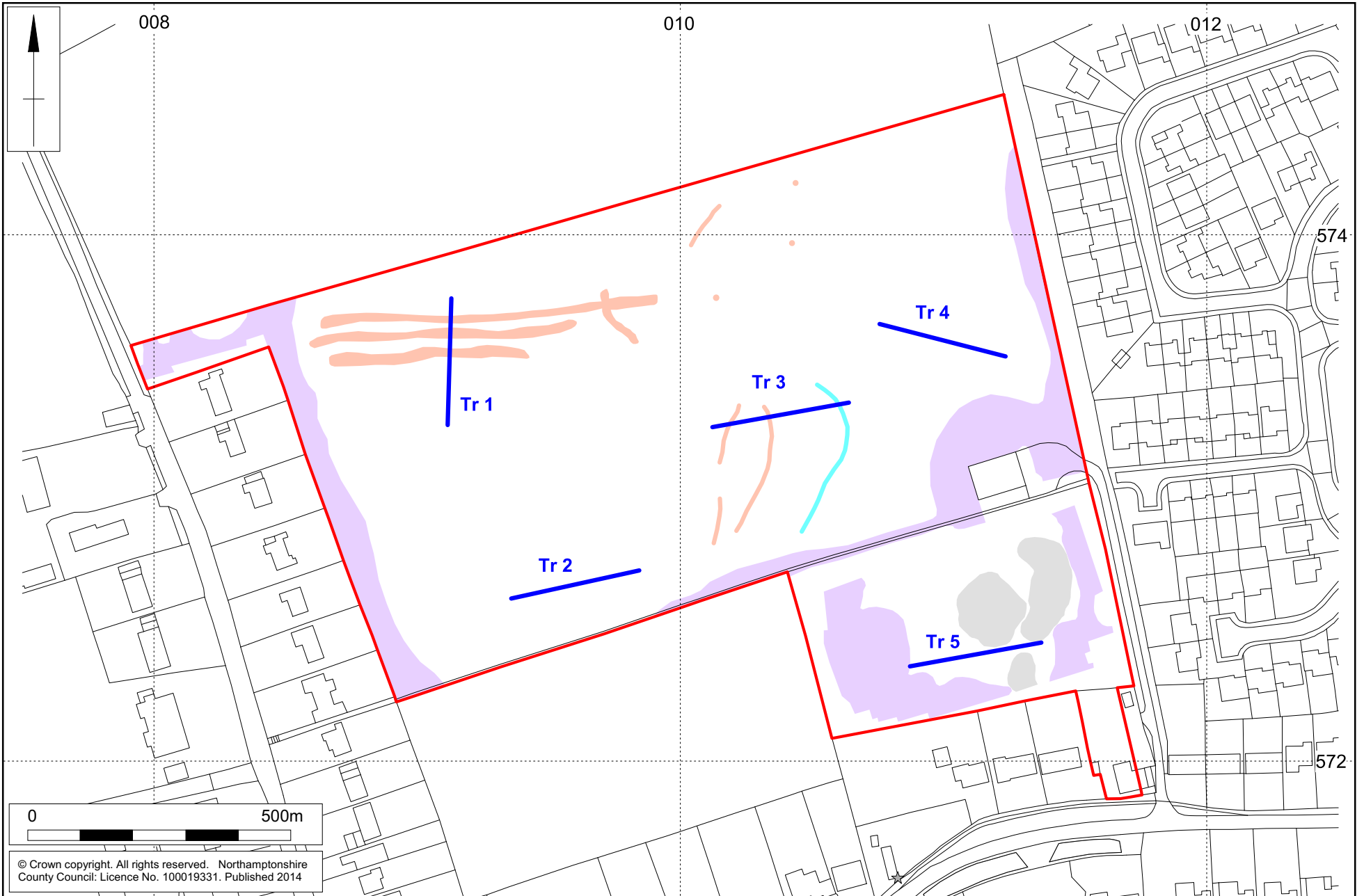
The natural substrate remained the same across trenches 1-4 and comprised firm mid brown sand and mudstone with striations of light brown-grey and dark brown sand creating a confusing natural. The natural in trench 5 comprised firm light brown-grey sandy clay with frequent patches of orange-brown sand and occasional small stone inclusions.

Subsoil was visible in patches in trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5 and remained similar, comprising friable mid brown-red sandy loam with moderate small stone inclusions.

The topsoil/ploughsoil remained the same across the site and comprised a friable dark brown sandy loam. In the southern field it was 0.25m deep, but depths of up to 1.2m were observed in the northern field. This is probably due to agricultural soil improvements exacerbated by the deeper accumulation of soil within natural hollows in the natural topography.

A full list of deposits by trench can be found in the Context Inventory (Appendix).

Scale 1:2000



The excavated trenches Fig 2

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## **5.2 The archaeological features**

No archaeological features were identified in any trench. The geophysical survey anomalies examined in Trenches 3 and 4 corresponded with banding in the natural geology. The anomalies examined in Trench 1 corresponded with a natural hollow in the topography filled with deeper soils.

## **6 THE FINDS**

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

## **7 DISCUSSION**

Trial trench evaluation on land north of Stonepit Lane in Inkberrow has shown that the possible archaeological anomalies identified by the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2013) were of geological origin and not of archaeological interest.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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## **WEBSITES**

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**APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY**

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height, NW end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
1	N-S 1.6m x 50m		69.25m	0.45-1.13m  68.70m – 68.12m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
101	Topsoil	Friable dark brown sandy loam	0.41-0.47m thick	-
102	Subsoil	Friable mid brown-red sandy loam with moderate small stone inclusions	0.43-0.47m thick	-
103	Natural	Firm mid brown sandy clay with frequent bands of light brown-grey sand and moderate small stone inclusions	-	-



Trench 1, looking north Fig 3



Trench 1 representative section Fig 4

<b>Trench No.</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>		<b>Surface height, NW end (aOD)</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural (aOD)</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>WSW-ENE 1.6m x 50m</b>		<b>72.42m</b>	<b>0.80-0.92m</b>  <b>71.82- 71.94m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/ Samples</b>
201	Topsoil	Friable dark brown sandy loam with infrequent small stone inclusions	0.27-0.47m thick	-
202	Subsoil	Friable mid brown-red sandy loam with occasional small stone inclusions (Not visible throughout trench)	0.30m thick	-
203	Natural	Firm mid brown-red sandy clay with frequent bands of light brown-grey and yellow sand and moderate small stone inclusions	-	-



Trench 2 looking north east Fig 5



Trench 2 representative section Fig 6



Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height, NW end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
3	WSW-ENE 1.6 x 50m		73.84m	0.70-1.2m  72.64- 73.14m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
301	Topsoil	Friable dark brown sandy loam with occasional small stone inclusions	0.50-1.2m thick	-
302	Natural	Firm mid brown mudstone with bands of light brown-grey sand and dark brown sand with frequent small stone inclusions	-	-



Trench 3, looking east Fig 7



Trench 3 representative section Fig 8



Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height, NW end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
4	WNW-ESE 1.6 x 50m		78.28m	0.55-0.85m  77.43-77.73m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
401	Topsoil	Friable mid brown sandy silt with frequent small gravel inclusions	0.32m thick	-
402	Subsoil	Friable mid brown sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions	0.27-0.47m thick	-
403	Natural	Firm mid brown sand and mudstone with bands and patches of dark brown sandy silt with moderate small-medium stone inclusions	-	-



Trench 4, looking west Fig 9



Trench 4 representative section Fig 10

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height, NW end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
5	WSW-ENE 1.6 x 50m		77.16m	0.4-0.55m  76.61-76.76m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
501	Topsoil	Friable dark brown silty clay with infrequent small stone inclusions	0.17-0.38m thick	-
502	Subsoil	Friable mid brown silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions	0.08-0.15m thick	-
503	Natural	Friable-firm light brown-grey sandy clay with frequent patches of orange-brown sand and occasional small stone inclusions	-	-



Trench 5, looking south east Fig 11



Trench 5 representative section Fig 12



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