



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological trial trench evaluation at 9 School Lane, Weldon, Northamptonshire



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**Northamptonshire
County Council**

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Report 10/83

May 2010



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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

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|---|---|--|
| PROJECT DETAILS OASIS No: molanort1-246384 | | |
| Project name | Archaeological trial trench evaluation at 9 School Lane, Weldon | |
| In May 2010, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Mr Nunnerley, to inform a planning application for the erection of a house and garage, at 9 School Lane, Weldon, Northamptonshire. There were no archaeological features or finds present. A series of demolition layers, believed to have been deposited in 1995 from the 19th-century school site close by, were observed, overlying the original topsoil. | | |
| Project type | Archaeological trial trench evaluation | |
| Site status | None | |
| Previous work | None | |
| Current land use | Garden | |
| Future work | None | |
| Monument type/period | None | |
| Significant finds | None | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | |
| County | Northamptonshire | |
| Site address | 9 School Lane, Weldon, Northamptonshire | |
| Study area | c575 sqm | |
| OS Easting & Northing | Centred on SP 928 895 | |
| Height OD | 80m | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | |
| Organisation | Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) | |
| Project brief originator | Northamptonshire County Council Archaeological Advisor | |
| Project Design originator | NA | |
| Director/Supervisor | Anne Foard-Colby | |
| Project Manager | Tony Walsh | |
| Sponsor or funding body | Mr T. Nunnerley | |
| PROJECT DATE | | |
| Start date | 24 May 2010 | |
| End date | 24 May 2010 | |
| ARCHIVES | Location | Content |
| Physical | Northamptonshire Archaeology | 1 archive box of site documents |
| Paper | | |
| Digital | | 1 CD of digital images, report and mapping files |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | | |
| Title | Archaeological trial trench evaluation at 9 School Lane, Weldon, Northamptonshire | |
| Serial title & volume | 10/83 | |
| Author(s) | Anne Foard-Colby | |
| Page numbers | 5 | |
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION
AT 9 SCHOOL LANE, WELDON
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
MAY 2010**

Abstract

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Mr Nunnerley, to inform a planning application for the erection of a house and garage, at 9 School Lane, Weldon, Northamptonshire. There were no archaeological features or finds present. A series of demolition layers, believed to have been deposited in 1995 from the 19th-century school site close by, were observed, overlying the original topsoil.

1 INTRODUCTION

Archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) in May 2010, on land at 9 School Lane, Weldon, Northamptonshire (Fig 1, NGR centred on SP 928 895).

The work was undertaken as part of a planning application for the erection of a new house and garage. The evaluation met the requirements of a Written Scheme of Investigation issued by Northamptonshire Archaeology, May 2010 (NA 2010), following a brief issued by Northamptonshire County Council Archaeological Advisor (NCCAA 16 April 2010).

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the importance of any archaeological remains present within the proposed development area and to characterise any related remains (Section 3 below).

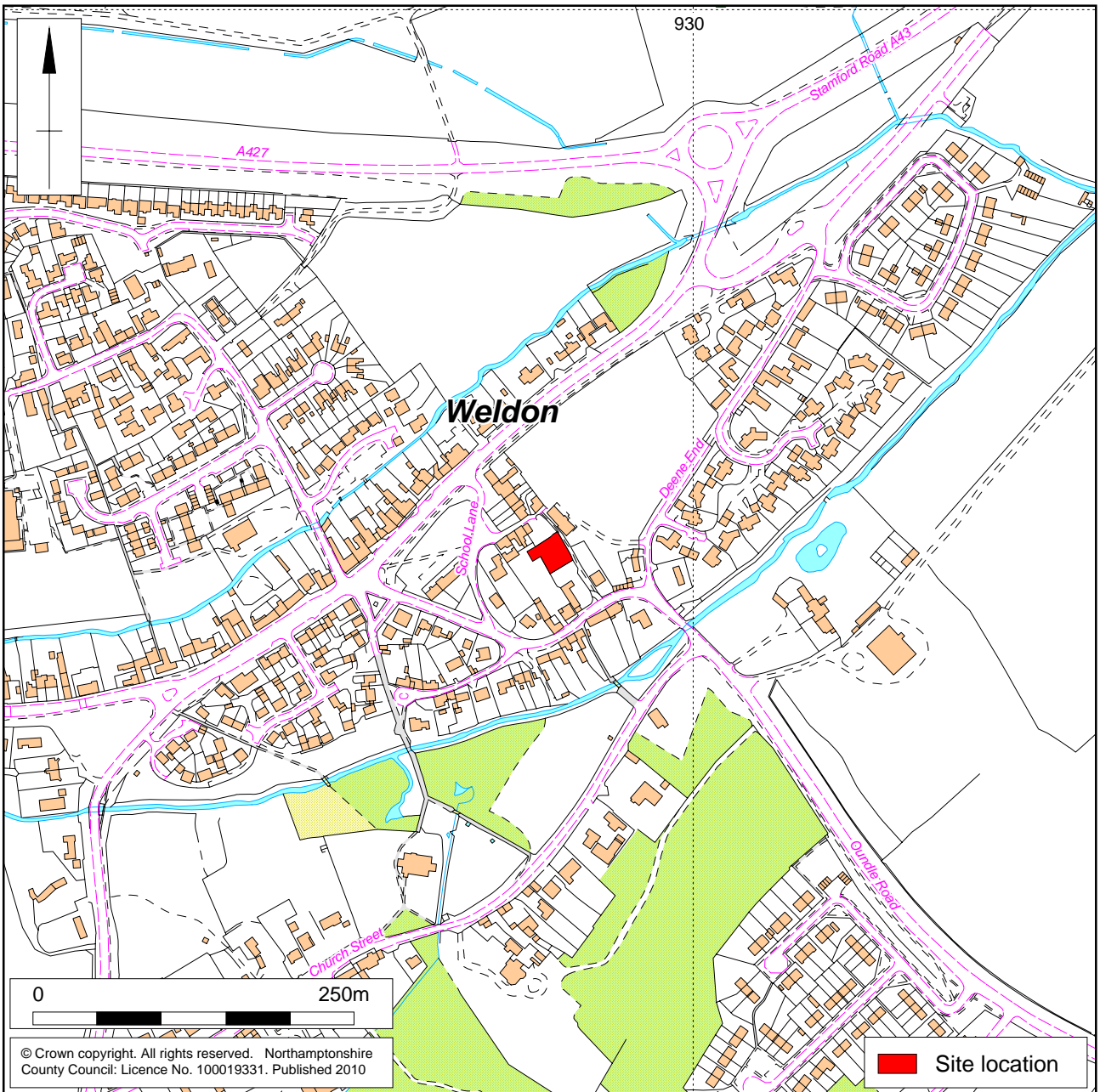
2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and geology

The village of Weldon lies on the north-east side of the town of Corby and to the south of the A43. The proposed development site is situated on the south side of School Lane (Fig 1).

The site comprises a roughly L-shaped area, occupying c575 square metres of garden to the rear of 9 School Lane, at a height of c80.0m aOD.

The underlying geology is Upper Lincolnshire Limestone, overlain by sand (BGS 1989).



Scale 1:5,000

Site Location Fig 1

2.2 Archaeological and historical background

Within the vicinity of the site, and in particular to the immediate north-east, within the area of the sports field, prehistoric funerary activity has been recorded (NHER 107/1/1 and 107/1/2). To the west of School Lane, possible Bronze Age activity was found in the 1930s during building construction. Approximately 150m to the north, lies the scheduled monument of Little Weldon Roman Villa (SAM No. 105).

No previous archaeology had been recorded on this site.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The general aims of the trial trenching were to gather sufficient information on:

- 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 particular aims of the investigation were to:

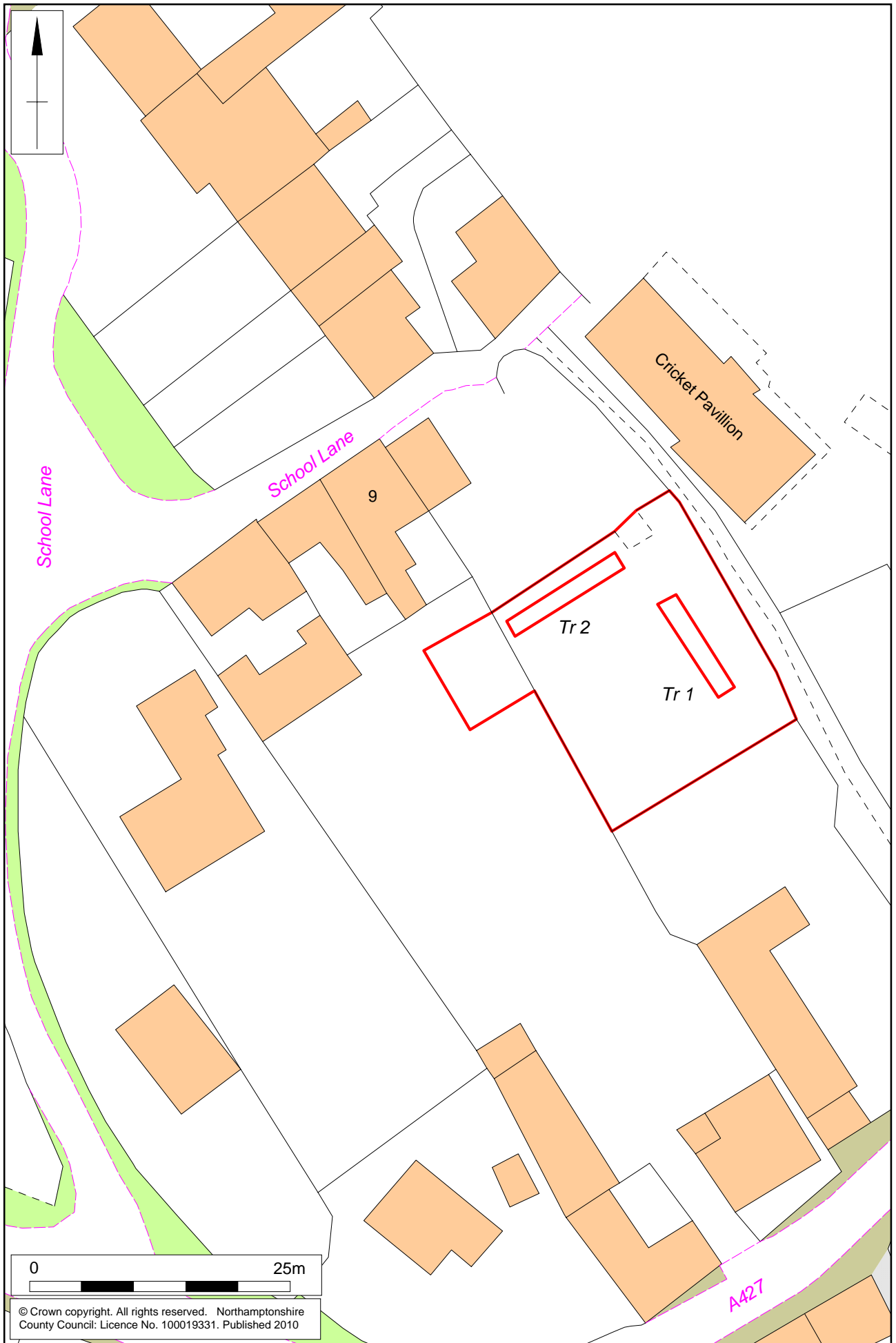
- establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation on the development site
- recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region
- recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

4 METHODOLOGY

Two trenches (Trenches 1 and 2) were excavated. Trench 1 was 10m long by 2m wide and Trench 2 was 13m long by 2m wide (Fig 2). They were positioned to avoid known service runs and with the approval of Lesley-Ann Mather, Northamptonshire County Council's Archaeological Advisor (NCCAA).

The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All overburden was stripped under archaeological supervision, with the topsoil and subsoil stacked adjacent to the trenches. Mechanical excavation proceeded to the top of the natural substrate as no archaeology was encountered. Archaeological excavation complied with the Written Scheme of Investigation (NA 2010) and recording followed NA Archaeological Fieldwork Manual (2006) and the Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IfA 1994, revised 2008).

Trenches were cleaned by hand to investigate for features. Each deposit was given a unique number consisting of the trench number and an individual context number (eg 102, Trench 1, context 2). The details of each context were recorded on pro-forma sheets. A section drawing of the deposits was made at a scale of (1:10). Levels, which were related to Ordnance Datum, were taken on the trenches at appropriate points and on the section datum. Trench locations were related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. A photographic record was made of the excavation, using both



Scale 1:500

Trench location plan Fig 2

35mm colour transparency and black and white negative films, supplemented by images taken using a digital camera.

All procedures complied with Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety provisions and Northamptonshire Archaeology Health and Safety at Work Guidelines. The guidelines of the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA 1993) have been followed in the preparation of the archive.

A context summary, giving the depths of archaeological deposits or the natural substrate below ground level, is provided in Appendix 1.

The fieldwork was monitored by Lesley-Ann Mather, Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council.

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

The natural substrate (110) and (210) in Trenches 1 and 2 was light yellow-brown and light orange-brown mottled sand with sandy clay patches, overlying limestone bedrock.

The subsoil (109) and (209), which was between 0.10m and 0.30m thick, consisted of mid brown sandy clay with gravel and limestone pebbles. The buried topsoil (108) and (208), was dark brown sandy loam with occasional stones and was approximately 0.08m thick.

There were no archaeological features present in either trench; however, the previous ground level had been buried under a dump of layers consisting of waste materials derived from the near-by school site in 1995.

5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was oriented north-west to south-east. There were no archaeological features present in the trench. The natural substrate was present at a height of 82m aOD, and was overlain by brown sandy clay subsoil (109). Dark topsoil (108) overlay the subsoil, at a height of 82.48m aOD and was buried by a series of dumping layers (103 – 107), comprising mortar, rubble and soil, approximately 0.40m thick. Overlying the layers was a dark brown-grey silty sand levelling layer (102), 0.18m thick, which was a base layer for the turf (101), (Figs 2 , 3 and 5, Section 1; Appendix 1).



Trench 1, general view, looking north-west

Fig 3

5.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was orientated north-east to south-west. This trench contained a similar sequence and thickness of layers to that in Trench 1 (Fig 2, 4 and 5; Appendix 1).



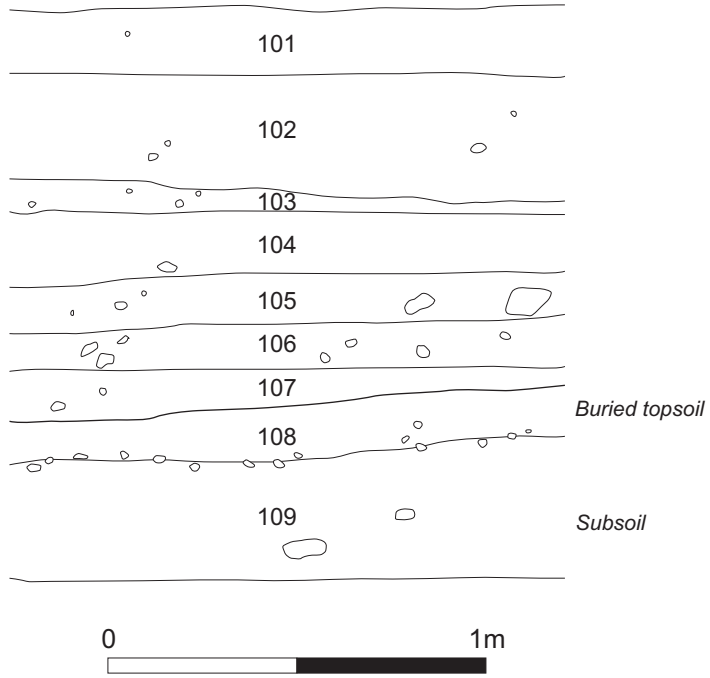
Trench 2, general view, looking south-west

Fig 4

Section 1
SE

NW

83.40 m aOD



Scale 1:20

Trench 1, Section 1 Fig 5

6 DISCUSSION

The evaluation has demonstrated that although the site lay in close proximity to known archaeological sites, no archaeological features or artefacts were present in either trench.

The current ground level was clearly a product of very recent (1995) levelling using material brought in from elsewhere, thought to be the nearby school site.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

| Trench | Context | Type | Description | Dimensions /thickness (m) | Artefact type |
|--------|---------|-----------------|--|---------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | 101 | Turf layer | Mid brown sandy loam – turf layer | 0.10m thick | |
| | 102 | Levelling layer | Dark brown-grey silty sand with some stone inclusions – levelling layer for turf | 0.18m thick | |
| | 103 | Mortar layer | Pale yellow-cream lime mortar layer | 0.02m thick | |
| | 104 | Backfill layer | Dark grey-brown sandy loam with pebbles and modern rubbish - plastic | 0.09m thick | |
| | 105 | Rubble layer | Mid grey-brown silty sand with stone and brick fragments | 0.06m thick | |
| | 106 | Backfill layer | Red-brown silty sand with brick and stone fragments, charcoal fragments and modern rubbish | 0.15m thick | |
| | 107 | Mortar lens | Yellow clay soil/mortar layer with stone inclusions | 0.05m thick | |
| | 108 | Buried topsoil | Dark brown sandy loam, few inclusions | 0.07m thick | |
| | 109 | Subsoil | Mid brown sandy clay with stone inclusions | 0.30m thick | |
| | 110 | Natural | Mixed yellow and orange sands with patches of silty clay and limestone bedrock | 0.20 – 0.30m thick | |
| 2 | 201 | Turf layer | Mid brown sandy loam – turf layer | 0.10m thick | |
| | 202 | Levelling layer | Dark brown-grey silty sand with some stone inclusions – levelling layer for turf | 0.09m thick | |
| | 203 | Mortar layer | Pale yellow-cream lime mortar layer | 0.03m thick | |
| | 204 | Backfill layer | Dark grey-brown sandy loam with pebbles and modern rubbish - plastic | 0.09m thick | |
| | 205 | Rubble layer | Mid grey-brown silty sand with stone and brick fragments | 0.12m thick | |
| | 206 | Backfill layer | Red-brown silty sand with brick and stone fragments, charcoal fragments and modern rubbish | 0.10m thick | |
| | 207 | Mortar lens | Yellow clay soil/mortar layer with stone inclusions | 0.20m thick | |
| | 208 | Buried topsoil | Dark brown sandy loam, few inclusions | 0.08m thick | |
| | 209 | Subsoil | Mid brown sandy clay with stone inclusions | 0.10m thick | |
| | 210 | Natural | Mixed yellow and orange sands with patches of silty clay and limestone bedrock | | |



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