

# Touchstone Archaeology



**Archaeological Monitoring of groundworks at:**

**The Old School House  
Rectory Road  
West Tilbury  
Essex  
RM18 8UD**

**TOUCHSTONE ARCHAEOLOGY  
THE RIDINGS, WHITE ELM ROAD, DANBURY, ESSEX CM3 4LR  
T: 07976 275180 E: ZOESCHOFIELD1@GMAIL.COM**

## Table of Contents

### INTRODUCTION

---

INTRODUCTION	3
SUMMARY	3
SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY	3
PLANNING BACKGROUND	4
ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	4
AIMS & OBJECTIVES	5

### MONITORING

---

METHODOLOGY	6
MONITORING	7
RESULTS	7
FINDS	7
DISCUSSION	7
CONCLUSION	7
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	8
REFERENCES	8

### SITE ARCHIVE

---

SITE ARCHIVE	9
FIG.1 PHOTOGRAPH AREA 1 TRENCH 1 NATURAL SAND BASE (103)	9
APPENDIX 1 - ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL SMR SUMMARY FORM	12
APPENDIX 2 – CONTEXT SUMMARY	13
APPENDIX 3 – PLANS & SECTIONS	14

### LIST OF FIGURES

---

FIG.1. AREA 1 TRENCH 1 NATURAL SAND BASE (103)	9
FIG.2. SITE LOCATION PLAN	10
FIG.3. TRENCH LOCATION PLAN	11

## **SITE: THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE, RECTORY ROAD, WEST TILBURY, ESSEX RM18 8UD**

NGR: TQ 65942 78024

Site Code: OSH15

Planning Application Number: THU/0915/14

Oasis Record: zoeschof1-214196

Brief: 14\_0915\_OldSch\_WestTilbury\_MonitoringBrief

WSI: WSI\_OSH\_Tilbury\_2015

Final Report: FR\_OSH\_Tilbury\_2015

### **INTRODUCTION**

Touchstone Archaeology was commissioned by Jackie Shepherd-Ashby and Lee Donaldson, the owners of the site, to discharge the planning conditions set out by Thurrock Council. The work was carried out on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015 in accordance with the requirements of the Brief (14\_0915\_OldSch\_WestTilbury\_MonitoringBrief) issued by Richard Havis (Senior Historic Environment Advisor) and the methodology of the WSI (WSI\_OSH\_Tilbury\_2015) provided by Zoe Schofield of Touchstone Archaeology.

### **SUMMARY**

Touchstone Archaeology carried out archaeological monitoring of the groundworks at the site of The Old School House, Rectory Road, West Tilbury Essex on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015. A planning application (THU/0915/14) submitted to Thurrock Council for the demolition of a small extension and the erection of a new larger extension and double garage, was approved with the condition for archaeological monitoring to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological features or deposits, particularly in connection with the crop marks that are visible on the land adjoining the property to the North East.

Despite the archaeological potential for the area no archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the monitoring process. Immediately below the modern tarmacadam car park surface was a clean layer of silty soil that met and joined with the natural geology of Thanet sand, common within that area (fig.1). The Thanet sand base was met before the overall depth of the foundations were achieved.

### **SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY**

NGR: TQ 65942 78024

N: 51° 28' 36.6198 E: 0° 23' 17.3004

X: 565942 Y: 178024

Longitude: 0.388139 Latitude: 51.476839

Elevation: 24.02m

The site is located in East Tilbury (TQ 65942 78024) at an approximate elevation of 24.02 AOD, centrally located within a green belt village 2 miles East of Chadwell St Mary and approximately 3 miles North East of Tilbury (fig.2). The Old School House dates to 1876. It is a detached brick built construction with double height windows to each side and a double pitched slate roof joining centrally at a valley gutter, set within grounds of tarmacadam surface of approximately 41.0m x 25.0m, a total area of approximately 1025.0 Sqm.

Thurrock council granted permission for the existing northeast extensions of 19.32 Sqm and outbuildings of 120.56 Sqm to be removed and replaced with a new extension, an area of 55.64 Sqm, to the northeast of the existing building and a garage of 35.0 Sqm to the Northwest. Underground tanks (septic and overflow) are located within the area and immediately to the north of the new extension (fig.3).

The proposed development is located to the south of an area of extensive crop marks (EHER 1796) that include enclosures, ring- ditches, road/track-way and pit-like marks that may represent a settlement

*Although at present unexcavated and undated, the features are likely to be of prehistoric and Roman date. Several of the linear features run in a north- south direction, directly toward the development site and these features may continue within the development area.*

### **Geology:**

#### **Borehole TQ 67 NE/ TQ 660 780:**

*Mould 1ft Gravel 3ft Loamy Sand 7ft Brownish Grey (Thanet?) Sand 50ft*

### **Superficial**

*Boyn Hill Gravel Member/Thames Valley formations Sand and gravel; comprising the various river terrace deposits of the Thames.*

### **Bedrock**

*Lambeth Group – Clay, silt, sand Lambeth Group – Sand, silt, clay A complex of vertically and laterally varying gravels, sands, silts and clays.*

*(Ref: British Geological Society – [www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk))*

## **PLANNING BACKGROUND & NATURE OF DEVELOPMENT**

*Planning permission has been granted to demolish existing single storey rear extensions and outbuildings and convert and extend the former schoolhouse into a 4-bedroom dwelling including a new single storey flat roof extension and detached garage - Thurrock Council THU/0915/14*

### **The planning authority placed the following conditions on the planning consent:**

*No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work and recording in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority.*

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

*The schoolhouse opened in 1876 and had the space to teach around 66 children from reception until they left school. The Victorian building was extended in 1894 after a large gipsy camp arrived on West Tilbury Common, and by 1930 there were 118 children on the school roll. It closed its doors on Friday, July 22 1960 and older pupils were sent to Torrells School in Grays, while primary aged pupils were sent to schools in Chadwell St Mary.*

### **EHER Record:**

*There are no EHER Records for the site and the building is not listed, however there are several records that relate to sites in relatively close proximity to this site:*

1751 – 10no. 4th century Roman coins  
 1753 - Enclosures, ring ditches and other crop marks  
 1754 – Crop marks centred on above NGR  
 1755 - Rectilinear features, pits, ring ditches etc.  
 1762 - Roman tesserae  
 1786 - Paleolithic hand-axe, Acheulian, found in Gun Hill gravel pit, 1968  
 1787 - Worked flints found in residual contexts in excavation of crop mark complex (see 1790 for general context)  
 1788 - Worked flints found in residual contexts in excavation of crop mark complex (see 1790) or general context)  
 1789 - Excavations of crop mark complex 1969-1970 (see 1790 for general context)  
 1790 – 1795 - Crop mark complex discovered in the late 1950s  
 1796 - Undated crop mark features to the east of Turnpike Lane  
 1797 - Early Iron Age pottery from the south side of Gun Hill gravel pit, West Tilbury  
 1819 - At least 3 ring ditches, rectilinear enclosure and adjacent linear features.  
 18615 – Fragment of a Roman lamp with lion relief. Site not plotted, exact location unknown

*Monument Class: Crop mark*

*Monument Types: Grubenhous, road, track-way, ditch, circular enclosure, rectangular enclosure, linear feature, pit, ring ditch*

*SMR Number: Mo- 1786*

*Location: East of Turnpike Road, East Tilbury (South of development site)*

*County: Essex*

*District: Thurrock, Essex*

*District Type: District Authority*

*Parish: Tilbury/Chadwell*

## ***AIMS AND OBJECTIVES***

*The aim of the archaeological monitoring was to determine:*

- I. Whether any significant archaeological features, particularly relating to the crop marks to the south of the site, survived within the development area. Particular issues to be addressed are:
 
  - ❖ Is there any surviving evidence of the track-way that appears in the field to the Northeast of the site and continues on to the development site?*
  - ❖ Is there evidence of prehistoric activity or occupation?*
  - ❖ Is there evidence of Late Iron Age/Romano-British activity or occupation?*
  - ❖ Is there evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity or occupation?*
  - ❖ Is there evidence of medieval or post-medieval activity or occupation?*
  - ❖ Is there evidence of the history of the Old School House?**
- II. To ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site and to assess how the evidence relates to the crop marks in the adjoining field and the history, surviving structures and previous findings of the surrounding area?*
- III. To gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of the site*
- IV. To establish the extent to which previous development and/or other processes have affected deposits*

- V. *To establish the likely impact on deposits from the proposed development and enable an informed decision to be made regarding mitigatory measures in advance of/and or during the development and the future treatment of the archaeological remains.*

### **METHODOLOGY**

*Zoe Schofield attended site on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015 for the commencement of the groundworks. A suitable procedure that would satisfy Health & Safety, good construction practices and archaeological requirements during the excavation of the development area, was agreed between the archaeologist and the construction team. The areas were mechanically excavated in accordance with this procedure with a bladed/toothless bucket and under constant supervision of the archaeologist*

#### **Area 1 – Proposed garage – Area 46.05 Sqm (6.14 m x 7.50 m)**

*The tarmac surface was removed and the subsoil excavated to a smooth horizon at a depth of 0.15 m in accordance with the requirements for the construction of the floor. The surface was hand cleaned to reveal any features in plan.*

*The foundation trenches were then excavated to a depth of 1.00 m (as stipulated by Building Control) as follows:*

*T1: North-South (West side) 7.50 m L x 0.45 m W x 1.00 m D*

*T2: East-West 6.14 m L x 0.45 m W x 1.00 m D*

*T3: North-South (East side) 7.50 m L x 0.45 m W x 1.00 m D*

*Both the sections and the surface were hand cleaned to reveal any archaeological features or deposits in plan or in the stratigraphy.*

#### **Area 2 – Proposed extension – Area 71.23 Sqm (5.45 m x 13.07 m)**

*Following demolition of the existing extension any areas of tarmacadam surface were removed and the subsoil was excavated to a smooth horizon and a depth of 0.23 m in accordance with the requirements for the construction of the floor. The surface was hand cleaned to reveal any features in plan.*

*The foundation trenches were then excavated to a depth of 1.00 m (as stipulated by Building Control) as follows:*

*T1: North-South (East side) 5.45 m x 0.45 m 1.00 m*

*T2: East-West 13.07 m x 0.45 m x 1.00 m*

*Both the sections and the surface were hand cleaned to reveal any archaeological features or deposits in plan or in the stratigraphy. The foundation trench to the North South (West side) was not excavated under supervision of the archaeologist because of the presence of modern drainage and septic tanks that were revealed during the East-West excavation and that were at a depth that was below natural.*

*A single context system was used to record any deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are recorded (100). The cut of the feature is shown [100]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes; these are used in the report (in **bold**). Each Number has been attributed to a specific trench with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches. (i.e. Trench 1, **100+**, Trench 2, **200+** etc.)*

## **MONITORING**

*No curatorial monitoring was carried out during the course of the monitoring process.*

## **RESULTS**

*A common stratigraphic sequence was recognized across the site comprising of a sub-base/topsoil (101) (201) (301), overlying subsoil (102) (202) (302), beneath which the natural geology comprised of Thanet sand (103) (203) (303). The sub-base/topsoil consisted of friable dark brown silt with moderate inclusions of small gravel stones (10mm). A clean horizon gave way to subsoil comprising mid orange brown slightly sandy silt with occasional to moderate inclusions of small pebble type stones (20mm) overlying a natural undulating base of soft orange sand with occasional to moderate, small to medium (50mm – 100mm) flint inclusions.*

*Mechanical excavation ceased at a depth of 1.0 m below sub-base/topsoil and a careful examination and investigation for truncating features was carried out. The depth of the overlying layer varied, with the depth of the natural geology being located c.0.50 – 0.90m below the existing ground level. Appendix 2 provides a stratigraphic sequence for both trenches.*

### **Area 1**

*A surface area of 46.05 Sqm, with a continuous foundation trench of 21.14 Lm to the North, East and West sides.*

*No archaeological features or deposits were present in this area.*

### **Area 2**

*A surface area of 71.23 Sqm, with a continuous foundation trench of 18.52 Lm to the North and East sides. The West side was disturbed to a depth of natural by previous modern construction.*

*No archaeological features or deposits were present in this area.*

## **FINDS**

*No archaeological finds were recovered during the course of the monitoring process.*

## **DISCUSSION**

*The monitoring of the groundworks and close examination of the areas of new development of the Old School House did not encounter any archaeological features or deposits. The natural geology was present and intact throughout the site and the overlying silt layer was clean of any archaeological finds, features or deposits. There is a visible linear crop mark in the field to the North of the site that appears to be in direct alignment with the area that was excavated, however, no evidence of this feature was uncovered during the monitoring process.*

## **CONCLUSION**

*The archaeological monitoring was successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Brief and the WSI and the results suggest that the development of the site will have little or no impact upon the local archaeological resource.*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Touchstone Archaeology would like to thank Jackie Shepherd-Ashby & Lee Donaldson for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Richard Havis (Senior Historic Environment Adviser - Essex County Council) for his advice and assistance. Craig Schofield assisted with the archaeological fieldwork. Zoe Schofield carried out the archaeological monitoring and edited and collated the report.

Zoe Schofield  
June 2015

## **REFERENCES**

- |  |                |  |
|--|----------------|--|
| <i>Brown, N and Glazebrook J.</i>        | 2000           | <i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy. East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 8</i> |
| <i>Gurney, D.</i>                        | 2003           | <i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 14</i>  |
| <i>Medlycott, M.</i>                     | 2011           | <i>Research and Archaeology revisited. A revised framework for the East of England, East Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 24</i>               |
| <i>IFA</i>                               | 1999           | <i>Standards and Guidance for Field Archaeological Evaluations</i>   |
| <i>Drury, PJ and Rodwell, WJ</i>         | 1973           | <i>Excavation report: Excavations at Gun Hill, West Tilbury Vol 5, pp48-50, 68, 70-71</i>  |
| <i>Palmer, Rog and Bacilieri, Cinzia</i> | 2004           | <i>East Tilbury Thames Gateway, Area Centred TQ6779, Essex</i>   |
| <i>Walker, John</i>                      | 1584           | <i>The Survey of West Tilbury Ao1581 ultimo die augusti</i>  |
| <i>Jones, MU</i>                         | 1980           | <i>CORRESPONDENCE: Crop marks in Thurrock</i>  |
| <i>Bingley, R</i>                        | 1980           | <i>SMR</i>   |
| <i>Unknown</i>                           | 1960           | <i>SMR form</i>  |
| <i>Thurrock Museum</i>                   | <i>Unknown</i> | <i>Thurrock Museum Register</i>  |
| <i>Unknown</i>                           | <i>Unknown</i> | <i>Map: SMR 2 maps dated</i>   |
| <i>CUCAP</i>                             | 1970           | <i>Aerial Photo: BBY86</i>   |
| <i>Unknown</i>                           | 1970           | <i>Aerial Photo: BBT2, 3</i>   |
| <i>Catton, JPJ</i>                       | 1970           | <i>Aerial Photo: MEC-JC13</i>  |
| <i>Unknown</i>                           | 1972           | <i>Aerial Photo: TQ6678-4-150</i>  |
| <i>Unknown</i>                           | 1972           | <i>Aerial Photo: BJD10</i>   |
| <i>Unknown</i>                           | 1973           | <i>Aerial Photo: BNB82</i>   |
| <i>Saunders, Helen</i>                   | 2008           | <i>Aerial Photo: CP/08/10/06-08</i>  |
| <i>Saunders, Helen</i>                   | 2009           | <i>EX/09/02/021-022</i>  |



## **SITE ARCHIVE**

**Correspondence:** E-Mail

**Photographs:** Digital photographs: Touchstone Event OSH15

**Maps:** Digital OS

### **Drawings:**

Site Survey – May 2014 – A1 – 1:100 – DWG NO: 1401/P02 – Nick Harrison – Architect

Datum used – Ordnance Survey OSGM 02 TM GPS

Bench Marks Used – OSBM 02 TM GPS

1 x A3 plan drawing of proposed new development annotated with trench plans (Architect Nick Harrison)

Finds: None

### **Context Register:**

Context Register: 1

Drawings Register: 1

Photographic Register: 1

Levels Sheets: 0

Environmental Samples Register: 0

Context Sheets: 2

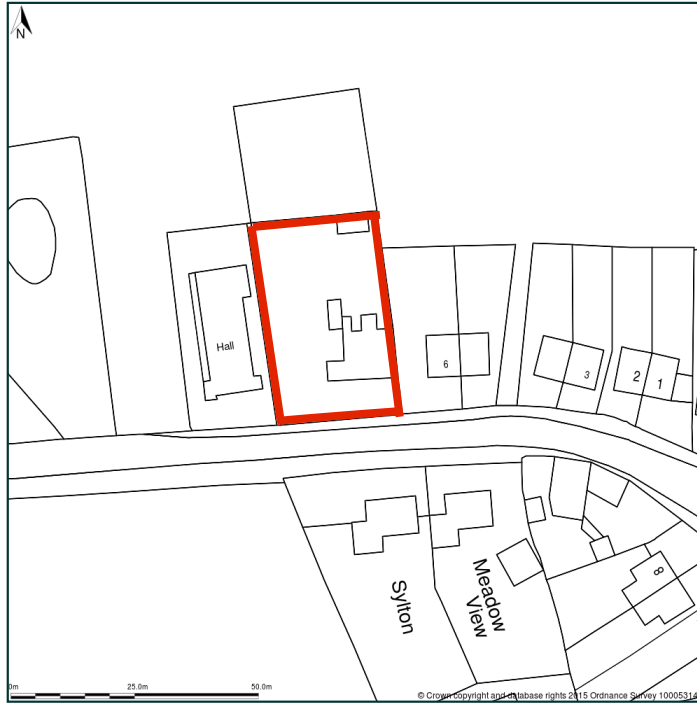
**FIG. 1**      **AREA 1 TRENCH 1 NE-SW BASE –SAND (103)**



**FIG.2 LOCATION OF SITE OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT WITHIN WEST TILBURY, ESSEX  
NGR: TQ 65942 78024**



OSH 15 - The Old School House, Rectory Road, Tilbury, RM18 8UD



Site Plan shows area bounded by: 565874.2893,177944.2893 566015.7107,178085.7107 (at a scale of 1:1250) The representation of a road, track or path is no evidence of a right of way. The representation of features as lines is no evidence of a property boundary.

Produced on 20th Jun 2015 from the Ordnance Survey National Geographic Database and incorporating surveyed revision available at this date. Reproduction in whole or part is prohibited without the prior permission of Ordnance Survey. © Crown copyright 2015. Supplied by buyaplan.co.uk a licensed Ordnance Survey partner (100053143). Unique plan reference: #00068399-3D9E71

Ordnance Survey and the OS Symbol are registered trademarks of Ordnance Survey, the national mapping agency of Great Britain. Buy A Plan logo, pdf design and the buyaplan.co.uk website are Copyright © Pass Inc Ltd 2015



**ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD/ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY SUMMARY SHEET**

Site name/Address:  The Old School House, Rectory Road, West Tilbury, Essex RM18 8UD	
Parish: Tilbury/Chadwell	District: Thurrock, Essex
NGR: TQ 65942 78024	Site Code: OSH15
Type of Work: Monitoring	Site Director/Group: Zoe Schofield
Date of Work: 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2015	Size of Area Investigated: 90.64 Sqm
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: N/A	Funding source: Owner
Further Seasons Anticipated: No	Related HER Nos: 1753/1754/1755
Final Report: Schofield, Z (2015) Site of Old School House, Rectory Road, West Tilbury, Essex: Archaeological Monitoring	
Periods Represented: N/A	
<p><b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b></p> <p><i>Touchstone Archaeology carried out archaeological monitoring of the groundworks at the site of The Old School House, Rectory Road, West Tilbury Essex on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015. A planning application (THU/0915/14) submitted to Thurrock Council for the demolition of a small extension and the erection of a new larger extension and double garage, was approved with the condition for archaeological monitoring to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological features or deposits, particularly in connection with the crop marks that are visible on the land adjoining the property to the North East.</i></p> <p><i>Despite the archaeological potential for the area no archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the monitoring process. Immediately below the modern tarmacadam car park surface was a clean layer of silty soil that met and joined with the natural geology of Thanet sand, common within that area. The Thanet sand base was met before the overall depth of the foundations were achieved.</i></p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: None	
Author of Summary: Zoe Schofield	Date of Summary: 19 <sup>th</sup> June 2015

		Context No.	Stratigraphic Extents	Description
Area 1	Trench 1	(101)	0.00 - 0.10m	<i>Sub-base/Topsoil - A friable dark brown silt with moderate inclusions of small gravel stones (10mm)</i>
		(102)	0.10 - 0.50/0.80	<i>Subsoil - comprising mid orange brown slightly sandy silt with occasional to moderate inclusions of small pebble type stones (20mm). Electric cable 1.0m from North end of trench at 0.50m.</i>
		(103)	0.50/0.80m+	<i>Sand - a natural undulating base of soft orange sand with occasional to moderate, small to medium (50mm – 100mm) flint inclusions.</i>
	Trench 2	(201)	0.00 - 0.10m	<i>Sub-base/Topsoil - A friable dark brown silt with moderate inclusions of small gravel stones (10mm)</i>
		(202)	0.10 - 0.50/0.80	<i>Subsoil - comprising mid orange brown slightly sandy silt with occasional to moderate inclusions of small pebble type stones (20mm)</i>
		(203)	0.50/0.80m+	<i>Sand - a natural undulating base of soft orange sand with occasional to moderate, small to medium (50mm – 100mm) flint inclusions.</i>
	Trench 3	(301)	0.00 - 0.10m	<i>Sub-base/Topsoil - A friable dark brown silt with moderate inclusions of small gravel stones (10mm)</i>
		(302)	0.10 - 0.50/0.80	<i>Subsoil - comprising mid orange brown slightly sandy silt with occasional to moderate inclusions of small pebble type stones (20mm). Electric cable 1m from North end of trench at 0.57m.</i>
		(303)	0.50/0.80m+	<i>Sand - a natural undulating base of soft orange sand with occasional to moderate, small to medium (50mm – 100mm) flint inclusions.</i>
Area 2	Trench 1	(101)	0.00 - 0.10m	<i>Sub-base/Topsoil - A friable dark brown silt with moderate inclusions of small gravel stones (10mm). Evidence of disturbance from construction of existing property at South end of trench.</i>
		(102)	0.10 - 0.50/0.80	<i>Subsoil - comprising mid orange brown slightly sandy silt with occasional to moderate inclusions of small pebble type stones (20mm)</i>
		(103)	0.50/0.80m+	<i>Sand - a natural undulating base of soft orange sand with occasional to moderate, small to medium (50mm – 100mm) flint inclusions.</i>
	Trench 2	(201)	0.00 - 0.10m	<i>Sub-base/Topsoil - A friable dark brown silt with moderate inclusions of small gravel stones (10mm)</i>
		(202)	0.10 - 0.50/0.80	<i>Subsoil - comprising mid orange brown slightly sandy silt with occasional to moderate inclusions of small pebble type stones (20mm). Modern drainage encountered 7.3m from east of trench at 1.3m continuing through and truncating natural sand.</i>
		(203)	0.50/0.80m+	<i>Sand - a natural undulating base of soft orange sand with occasional to moderate, small to medium (50mm – 100mm) flint inclusions.</i>

**Area 1      Trench 1**

**Plan**

SW      Sand (103)      NE

**Section**

24.55 OD		24.59 OD
SW	Subsoil (101)	NE
	Silt (102)	
	Sand (103)	

**Area 1      Trench 2**

**Plan**

SW      Sand (203)      NE

**Section**

24.30 OD		24.39 OD
SW	Subsoil (201)	NE
	Silt (202)	
	Sand (203)	

**Area 1      Trench 3**

**Plan**

NW      Sand (303)      SE

**Section**

24.59 OD		24.39 OD
NW	Subsoil (301)	SE
	Silt (302)	
	Sand (303)	

**Area 2      Trench 1**

**Plan**

SW      Sand (103)      NE

**Section**

24.45 OD		24.22 OD
SW	Subsoil (101)	NE
	Silt (102)	
	Sand (103)	

**Area 2      Trench 2**

**Plan**

SE      Sand (203)      NW

**Section**

24.22 OD		24.39 OD
SE	Subsoil (201)	NW
	Silt (202)	
	Sand (203)	