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## **Southampton Archaeology Unit**

### **Archaeological Evaluation at Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Mansel Road West, Millbrook, Southampton SOU 1707**

Report 1234

EL Anderson BA MA ACIfA and AD Russel BA PhD MCIfA

2016

Client: Holy Family Catholic Primary School



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## Summary Sheet

Site name/address: Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Mansel Road West, Millbrook, Southampton, SO16 9LP
Site code: SOU 1707
Contractor site code: SOU 1707
Planning application number: 15/01936/FUL
Grid reference of centre of site: 437498 114892
Fieldwork dates: 29/02/2016 to the 01/03/2016
Type of fieldwork: Evaluation excavation
Name of contracting unit: Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit
Report author: Emma Anderson and Andrew Russel
Accession Number: 2016.18
Name of client: Holy Family Catholic Primary School
HET number: 7823
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The Archaeology Unit of Southampton City Council carried out an evaluation excavation at land to the north of Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Millbrook in February and March 2016. The site lies in an area of prehistoric and later archaeology, and an archaeological evaluation was required as a condition of the planning permission. Natural brickearth was 0.2m below the surface in all trenches. Its upper portion had been subject to weathering and bioturbation and was about 0.5m thick. The lower portion was clean brickearth and was at least another 0.5m thick. The weathered brickearth contained flint flakes and burnt flints indicating prehistoric activity in the area. Four features were identified: two probably were tree disturbances; one may have been a ditch but was not convincing; and the other was a modern soakaway. One burnt flint was recovered from the possible ditch. No significant finds except a few prehistoric flints were found. No features of definite archaeological significance were revealed so it is unlikely that the development will cause damage to archaeologically significant remains.</p>

# **Report on the Archaeological Evaluation at Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Mansel Road West, Millbrook, Southampton, SOU 1707.**

By EL Anderson BA MA ACIfA and AD Russel BA PhD MCIfA

## **1. Summary**

The Archaeology Unit of Southampton City Council carried out an evaluation excavation at land to the north of Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Millbrook in February and March 2016. The site lies in an area of prehistoric and later archaeology, and an archaeological evaluation was required as a condition of the planning permission. Natural brickearth was 0.2m below the surface in all trenches. Its upper portion had been subject to weathering and bioturbation and was about 0.5m thick. The lower portion was clean brickearth and was at least another 0.5m thick. The weathered brickearth contained flint flakes and burnt flints indicating prehistoric activity in the area. Four features were identified: two probably were tree disturbances; one may have been a ditch but was not convincing; and the other was a modern soakaway. One burnt flint was recovered from the possible ditch. No significant finds except a few prehistoric flints were found. No features of definite archaeological significance were revealed so it is unlikely that the development will cause damage to archaeologically significant remains.

## **2. Introduction**

2.1 Holy Family Catholic Primary School applied for permission to erect a single storey detached building to provide additional teaching space under planning reference 15/01936/FUL. The site lies in an area of prehistoric and later archaeology, and an archaeological evaluation was required as a condition of the planning permission. The Archaeology Unit of Southampton City Council carried out the evaluation excavation.

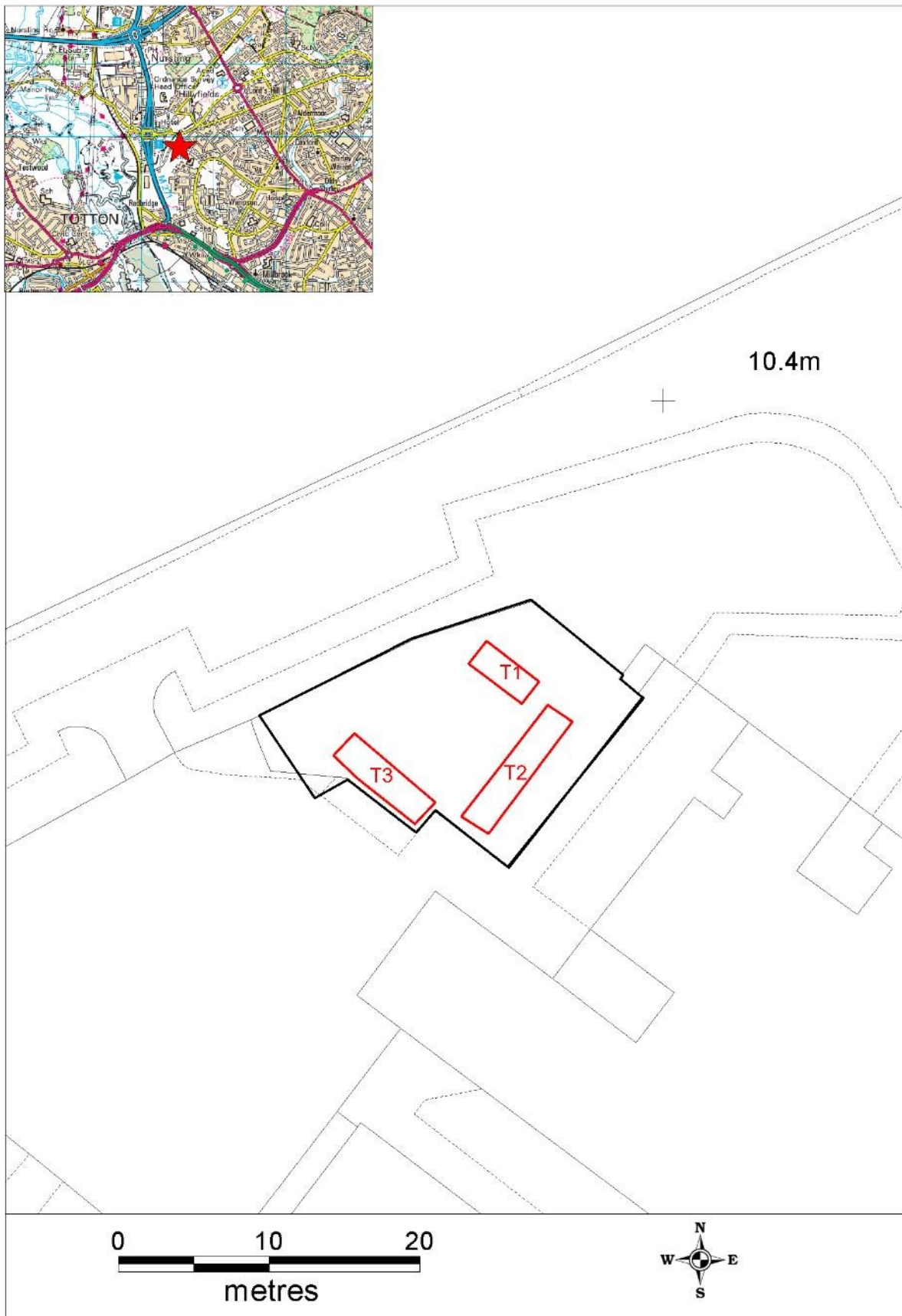
2.2 The project was managed by Dr AD Russel. The artefacts were identified by Dr AD Russel BA PhD MCIfA and MF Garner BA MCIfA. The report illustrations were prepared by E Anderson MA ACIfA and the report was edited by Dr AD Russel. On completion of the archaeological work the archive will be deposited with Southampton City Council under accession number 2016.18.

## **3. Site location, topography and geology**

3.1 The site, centred at grid reference 437498 114892, lies in the rural hinterland of Southampton, close to the River Test on the southwest side of Mansel Road West and on the southeast side of Lower Brownhill Road (fig 1).

3.2 The natural topography is fairly level with spot heights of 10.1mOD to the east and west of the site and of 10.4mOD to the north. The site is on the southeast side of a stream valley, with the culverted stream, which flows west to the Test, being some 85m to the north.

3.3 The geology map (Ordnance Survey Sheet 315, 1987) shows that the surface deposit at the site is River Terrace Deposits (mainly gravel) terrace 1. Archaeological investigations to the north and southwest of the site showed that gravel was present at depth but was mostly covered by yellowish brown, silty clay loam known as brickearth.



**Figure 1. Location of site (red star) and evaluation trenches (red)**

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#### **4. Archaeological and historical background**

4.1 The site lies in Area 16 of the Local Areas of Archaeological Potential (LAAP) as defined in the City of Southampton Core Strategy 2010. The vicinity of the site includes finds of prehistoric and later material.

4.2 A search of the Southampton City Council Historic Environment Record and the Hampshire County Council Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record on 2/12/2015 provided information on the following sites within 1km of the site (fig 2).

##### **25254**

Findspot at Redbridge Lane.

OGS Crawford recovered several fragments of Samian ware from the side of a gravel and sand-pit in 1921. The sherds were destroyed in 1940.

##### **25351**

An undated ditch, found at Franconia Drive, Nursling.

##### **25392**

Undated pits from watching brief, found at Franconia Drive, Nursling

##### **32347**

A watching brief was carried out by Thames Valley Archaeological Trust in advance of gravel extraction. Two areas were excavated and several archaeological features were recorded, including two corn dryers, a medieval hearth, ditches and pits. Finds recovered included a Bronze Age pot, sherds of Roman pottery and prehistoric flints.

##### **33306**

Two pits were recorded during the watching brief undertaken at Adanac Park. One contained Bronze Age pottery but there were also prehistoric and Roman pottery sherds found with them.

##### **56652**

Undated ditch, found at Franconia Drive, Nursling. The ditch could not be securely dated.

##### **56653**

Undated ditch, found at Franconia Drive, Nursling. The ditch could not be securely dated.

##### **56654**

Undated ditches, found at Franconia Drive, Nursling.

##### **57696**

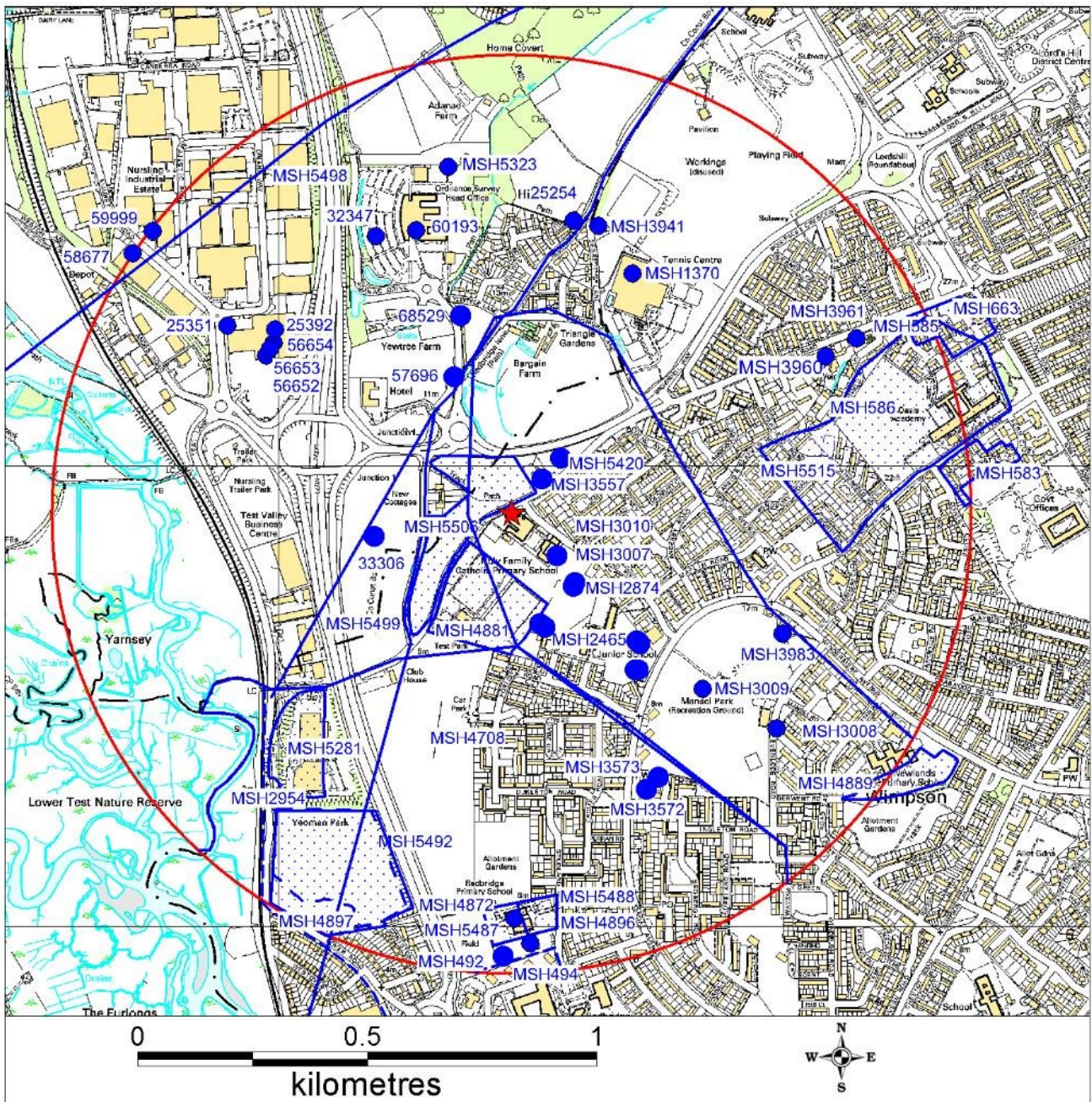
Post medieval/modern and undated ditch at Adanac Park. Two ditches found during an evaluation. One was aligned northwest-southeast. Material taken from the fill of this feature suggested a post medieval/modern date. The ditch is interpreted as being either an agricultural field boundary or a drainage ditch. The other ditch could not be dated, its absence on any 19th Century maps suggests a pre 19th century date.

##### **58677**

Iron Age/Roman enclosure

A single ditched rectilinear enclosure is visible on aerial photographs. It is likely to be of Iron Age/ Romano-British date.





**Figure 2. Archaeological sites and listed buildings (blue) within 1 kilometre (red circle) of the site, site marked by red star.**

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**59999**

Possible Iron Age/Roman pits. A group of nine small circular pits is visible on aerial photographs. Their original function and date are unclear but it seems possible that they relate to the Romano-British features recorded nearby.

**60193**

Bronze Age settlement and Iron Age funerary site at Adanac Park. During 2008 an evaluation was undertaken on this site. A number of features were recorded including a Bronze Age ring ditch, medieval ditches, a possible Bronze Age granary and a feature resembling a hearth, but of unknown date. Further excavation was carried out at this site in 2008. A Middle/Late Bronze Age settlement with enclosure ditches, post built structures, roundhouses, pits and fence lines was recorded in the central/northern portion of the site. In addition, a rare Iron Age barrow cemetery, comprising seven barrows of different forms, was identified on a gravel

ridge. Separate to this were a number of Iron Age flat graves, most of which cluster together to form a possible cemetery. Most of the funerary features had been robbed in antiquity but one of the barrows was found to contain a Late Iron Age warrior burial complete with weapons.

#### **68529**

Evaluation in 2007 found two ditches. Material taken from one of the ditches suggested a post-medieval/modern date. No date could be assigned to the other ditch. Its absence on any 19th Century maps suggests a pre 19th century date.

#### **MSH492**

A bronze palstave of Bronze Age date was found at "Redbridge Estate" in or before 1979. The exact findspot location is not known. The find is now in Southampton's archaeological collections.

#### **MSH494**

The origins of the village of Redbridge lie in the Saxon period, associated with a bridge across the River Test at the lowest crossing point on the river, and on an important road route. The village is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. From the late 17th century into the 19th century (?and later) it was a centre for shipbuilding. It was also a port serving the Test Valley and Salisbury, particularly associated with the Andover Canal. The detailed 1840 Millbrook tithe map shows the village, with brewery, slaughterhouse, smithy, malthouse, shipyard, etc.

#### **MSH585**

One of two large boundary ditches found during watching briefs on groundworks for the new housing development of Baron's Mead in 1997 (SOU 804) and 1998/1999 (SOU 946), on land formerly part of Millbrook School, Lower Brownhill Road. The ditch coincides with a field boundary shown on 19th century maps and dating back to at least 1615 (see parent record). The ditch may originally have been a natural stream. It seems to have been finally filled in during the 19th or early 20th century.

#### **MSH583**

Finds and deposits found during a watching brief on groundworks for the Watts Close redevelopment off Green Lane in 1997 (SOU 801). An unstratified sherd of prehistoric pottery was found. A few shallow, irregular depressions were noted in the upper surface of the natural gravel. These were filled by material identical to the topsoil/overburden, and were interpreted as being natural undulations in the surface of the natural gravel. Clay pipe and burnt flint were found on the site.

#### **MSH586**

Former field system dating back to the 14th century or earlier, known from documentary sources. Some backfilled field boundary ditches, perhaps associated with this field system, were found during archaeological watching briefs on groundworks at Baron's Mead, off Lower Brownhill Road in the late 1990s (SOU 804, SOU 946).

#### **MSH663**

Remains of an Iron Age settlement were found during a watching brief on groundworks for the new housing estate of Baron's Mead in 1998/1999, on land formerly part of Millbrook School, Lower Brownhill Road (SOU 946). Some features contained Iron Age pottery dating to the 4th and 2nd centuries BC. Other features are thought to date to the Iron Age, although this was uncertain; these included twelve hearths which could be of Iron Age or later date. The hearths could be domestic hearths or industrial hearths used for iron smithing. No definite remains of structures were found, although some are suggested. Many other features were undated and



could date to any time between the Iron Age (or perhaps before) and the early 20th century, some probably being associated with agricultural activity from the medieval period until the mid-20th century (field boundary ditches relating to this activity were found). Other early features were probably not seen, due to the difficult site conditions, and parts of the site had significant modern disturbance. The Iron Age settlement probably continues to the south of the site. No Iron Age activity was observed on the site immediately to the west (SOU 804).

#### **MSH1370**

A watching brief took place on groundworks for a new tennis club and fitness centre at Frogmore Lane, Southampton in 2000 (SOU 1041). A small remnant of undisturbed ground survived. This produced 50 sherds of Bronze Age pottery from a brickearth subsoil, and one sherd from a shallow oval feature containing burnt material. Environmental samples recovered evidence of former vegetation and land-use patterns.

#### **MSH2465**

Ten small archaeological test pits were dug at Mansel Infant and Junior Schools, Porlock Road in 2003, as an educational exercise (SOU 1264). Field boundary ditches and a stream shown on 19th century maps were visible as shallow negative features with enhanced vegetation growth. Some of the trenches were placed on these features but excavation was too shallow to define the features. None of the trenches exposed natural deposits. All of the deposits excavated were modern but they contained pre-modern material.

#### **MSH2874**

A ditch was found during the excavation of a test pit at Mansel Infant and Junior Schools, Porlock Road in October 2003 (SOU 1264 Trench 2A). During a resistivity survey around the test pit another linear feature and a probable palaeochannel of the River Test were found. The ditches are shown on 19th and early 20<sup>th</sup> century maps and were probably filled in during the construction of the school in the 1950s.

#### **MSH2954**

Parent record for the former Southampton to Salisbury Canal.

#### **MSH3007**

Upper Wimpson Farm is shown and so named on mid-to-late 19th century maps, on a lane which was later named Mansel Road. There was a farm at this location in 1806 and perhaps before. The farm still existed in 1955. Some of the buildings survived until after 1960 but by 1979 all had been demolished. The site is now covered partly by a school and by a playing field.

#### **MSH3008**

Wimpson Farm is shown and so named on mid-to-late 19th century maps, on a lane which was later named Mansel Road. There was probably a farm at this location in 1806 and perhaps before. The farm still existed in 1947. By 1952, the eastern part of the farm had been demolished. Subsequently the western part was also demolished. The site now lies within the Mansel Park recreation ground.

#### **MSH3009**

The name Bridger's Farm first appears on the 1955 map, although one of the farm buildings is shown on the 1840 map, on a lane which was later named Mansel Road. The building may have existed in 1806, if not earlier. By 1960 the farm had been demolished and the site now lies in Mansel Park.

**MSH3010**

Early forms of the place-name Wimpson first occur in the 13th and 15th centuries, however the precise location of this place is unknown. In the late 18th and 19th centuries the place-name occurs across a fairly wide and changing area west of the historic village of Shirley, including at various times two farms along a lane that was later named Mansel Road, and a settlement/village on Wimpson Lane.

**MSH3557**

Semi-detached pair of estate workers cottages, built between 1897 and 1909.

**MSH3572**

Church built in 1964-5.

**MSH3573**

Church hall built with church in 1964-5. The church hall has been demolished since 2004 and the site is now occupied by 1 to 6 All Saints Close. (See MSH3572 for church.)

**MSH3941**

Single storey cob dwelling, said to date from the 1700s, although present cottage has more of an early 19<sup>th</sup> century form.

**MSH3960**

Large detached house/villa, built in the 1870s. In 2009 it was a nursing home.

**MSH3961**

Pair of semi-detached houses built between 1897 and 1909.

**MSH3983**

Residential tower block built 1965.

**MSH4708**

Large number of Roman coins apparently found in "railway ballast holes" at Redbridge near Southampton in 1883-4. They were perhaps originally part of a hoard. Most of the coins dated to the period of Roman occupation, although one was dated 172-151 BC. The provenance is uncertain and the coins may originally have been unearthed from a gravel pit at Nursling.

**MSH4872**

Deposits and finds found during an archaeological watching brief on ground works for a new school at Redbridge Primary School, Studland Road in 2009 (SOU 1501). These included a possible large post-hole or ditch terminus (undated), a probable field boundary/drain of early modern date, and an undated subsoil deposit. A piece of Roman pottery was found in a later feature. A natural palaeochannel (MSH5487) was also found. In the east part of the site was a large modern feature, probably a gravel quarry (MSH5488).

**MSH4881**

Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval evidence was found during an archaeological watching brief and excavation at Test Park Community Sports Facility, Lower Brownhill Road in 2011 (SOU 1547). The evidence suggests that the site area was used for small farms and their fields from the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. This was particularly intensive in the Bronze Age. The use continued through the Iron Age and into the Roman period. The evidence supplements that from other sites in the Lower Test Valley. The Late Saxon and medieval evidence suggests manuring of the site for cultivation, particularly in the High Medieval period. In the Late Medieval period the area perhaps became pasture. From

the 18th century into the 19th century there was renewed cultivation of the site. Drainage ditches of this period are earlier than field divisions shown on the mid-19th century tithe map so presumably pre-date enclosure of the area. A thick subsoil/plough soil deposit across most of the site contained finds of prehistoric to 18th century and later date. It was probably formed by cultivation and manuring from the Roman period onwards, with prehistoric material incorporated from the levels below.

#### **MSH4889**

Features of Iron Age, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date were found during an archaeological watching brief and excavation at Newlands Primary School, Ullswater Road in 2011 (SOU 1564), on groundworks for a new school building. The Iron Age activity consisted of ditches, pits, post-holes, stake-holes and a hearth. Two buildings were identified - a circular building and a second building with less regular form. Fragments of prehistoric pottery, burnt flints and worked flint were recovered. A radiocarbon date of 390-410BC was obtained from charcoal in one feature. Saxon activity consisted of three shallow features containing charcoal and burnt flint, and a ditch. Three radiocarbon dates spanned the period AD 420 to AD 770. In addition, two shallow medieval pits/post-holes and a post-medieval ditch were found.

#### **MSH4896**

Several linear features and small, pit-like, discrete features were excavated at Rosebank Cottage, Studland Road. All were sealed by a naturally-formed subsoil horizon. No artefacts were recovered from any of the trenches, nor dating evidence in the form of artefacts, from any of the features investigated.

#### **MSH4897**

Prehistoric worked flints were found during an archaeological evaluation excavation on land at Test Lane in 2012 (SOU 1600). The flints, along with burnt flints, were found in modern deposits which may have been brought to the site from elsewhere. No pre-modern features were found. In the north part of the site was a 1970s gravel quarry.

#### **MSH5281**

A sub-rectangular feature labelled as a Gravel Pit is visible on Epoch 4 (1933) of historic 1:2500 Ordnance Survey mapping, located at Redbridge.

#### **MSH5323**

New war memorial at the Ordnance Survey's Adanac Park office, dedicated in 2011.

#### **MSH5420**

Two undated ditches, possibly field boundaries, were found during an archaeological evaluation at The Triangle Site, Brownhill Way in 2013 (SOU 1644). A modern field drain was also present. Residual finds included burnt flint fragments (possibly prehistoric) and three fragments of a Roman pottery base. Some medieval and post-medieval finds were recovered. All finds, with the exception of a piece of medieval roof tile, were from subsoil and topsoil layers. The relatively low density of evidence probably reflects an absence of archaeological activity within the site.

#### **MSH5487**

A natural palaeochannel was found during an archaeological watching brief on ground works for a new school at Redbridge Primary School, Studland Road in 2009 (SOU 1501). It was probably an ancient channel of the River Test.

### **MSH5488**

An area of modern disturbance was found during an archaeological watching brief at Redbridge Primary School, Studland Road in 2009 (SOU 1501), during construction of the new school. Historic map evidence suggests this partly consisted of a gravel pit and partly groundworks for a tennis court, between 1910 and 1933.

### **MSH5492**

A gravel quarry was found during an archaeological evaluation excavation on land at Test Lane in 2012 (SOU 1600). The quarry occupied all of the north part of the site. It dated to the 1970s.

### **MSH5498**

Possible line of a Roman road from near Chandler's Ford to a crossing on the Test between Redbridge and Nursling. It branched off the Roman road from Winchester to Clausentum. Lies almost entirely outside the Southampton city boundary. A short stretch NE of the Bakers Drove/Rownhams Lane junction corresponds to the city boundary.

### **MSH5499**

Bakers Drove and Redbridge Lane may originally have been a Roman route, leading to a crossing over the Test. A Saxon origin is also possible. Redbridge Lane is a hollow-way.

### **MSH5506**

Prehistoric features were found during an archaeological evaluation excavation of land south of Brownhill Way in 2014 (SOU 1673), in an area west of Lower Brownhill Road (Garner 2015). The features included several ditches, several pits and a possible post-hole. They were not closely dated, but some pottery dating from the Neolithic to Iron Age periods was found. A possible prehistoric stream channel was also present, perhaps related to the stream/drain that still crosses the site. One Roman pottery sherd, four possibly Saxon pottery sherds, and some medieval pottery were recovered. One pit or ditch may have been medieval, and one linear feature may have been post-medieval.

An ongoing excavation on the same site (SOU 1692) has produced burnt mounds and pits, probably of Bronze Age date, associated with the former stream channel, and later evidence (I Peckham pers comm).

### **MSH5515**

Six possibly prehistoric features were found during an archaeological evaluation excavation of land north of Atherfield Road in 2015 (SOU 1679). The features may have been of later date.

## **5. Aims of the evaluation**

5.1 The main aims of the evaluation were 'to determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality, and date of any archaeological remains encountered, as dictated by current best practice.' (Southampton Archaeology 2016, 9).

5.2 An additional aim was to 'identify and record the nature, dimensions, and relationship of natural deposits on the site and assess the potential of the natural deposits to contain or conceal archaeological remains, particularly from the prehistoric periods' (*idem*).



## **6. Evaluation methodology**

6.1 The methodology followed that specified in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Southampton Archaeology 2016). A total of three trenches (figs 1 and 3) were opened using a 360 degree, tracked mechanical excavator using a 1.8m wide toothless bucket. The trenches were positioned to evaluate the location of the new building while avoiding tree protection areas and services. Topsoil and other layers were removed in 200mm spits, and the top of each spit was cleaned and inspected for archaeologically significant features. Machining ceased when natural or archaeological deposits were revealed, and further investigation was by hand.

6.2 Trench 1 was situated in the north of the site, it was 4m long, 1.9m wide and 0.85m deep. Trench 2 was situated in the east of the site, it was 10m long, 1.9m wide and 0.8m deep. Trench 3 was located in the southwest of the site, it was 7m long, 2m wide and 0.8m deep.

6.3 All trenches and features were mapped to the National Grid and established by GPS. The GPS was a Leica CS10 with an accuracy of +/- 3mm. All archaeological records were made using the Southampton City Council archaeological recording system. The colours of deposits were recorded using the Munsell Soil Color Chart and these are used in this report (Munsell Color 2000). Contexts 1–12 were assigned. Finds were recovered. The archive will be deposited with Southampton City Council under Accession Number 2016.18 on completion of the project.

## **7. Results**

The results are presented in chronological order from the oldest to the most recent. Appendix 1 lists basic details of the contexts, Appendix 2 gives finds details.

### **7.1 Natural**

7.1.1 Natural brickearth 3 was observed in the base of all the trenches, it was 0.8m below the surface in trench 1, 0.76m below the surface in trench 2 and 0.75m below the surface in trench 3 (fig 4). It was a yellowish brown (10YR5/6) silty clay loam at least 0.2m thick. The top of the brickearth had undergone a long period of weathering and the distinction between natural 3 and the weathered brickearth above it, layer 2, was unclear.

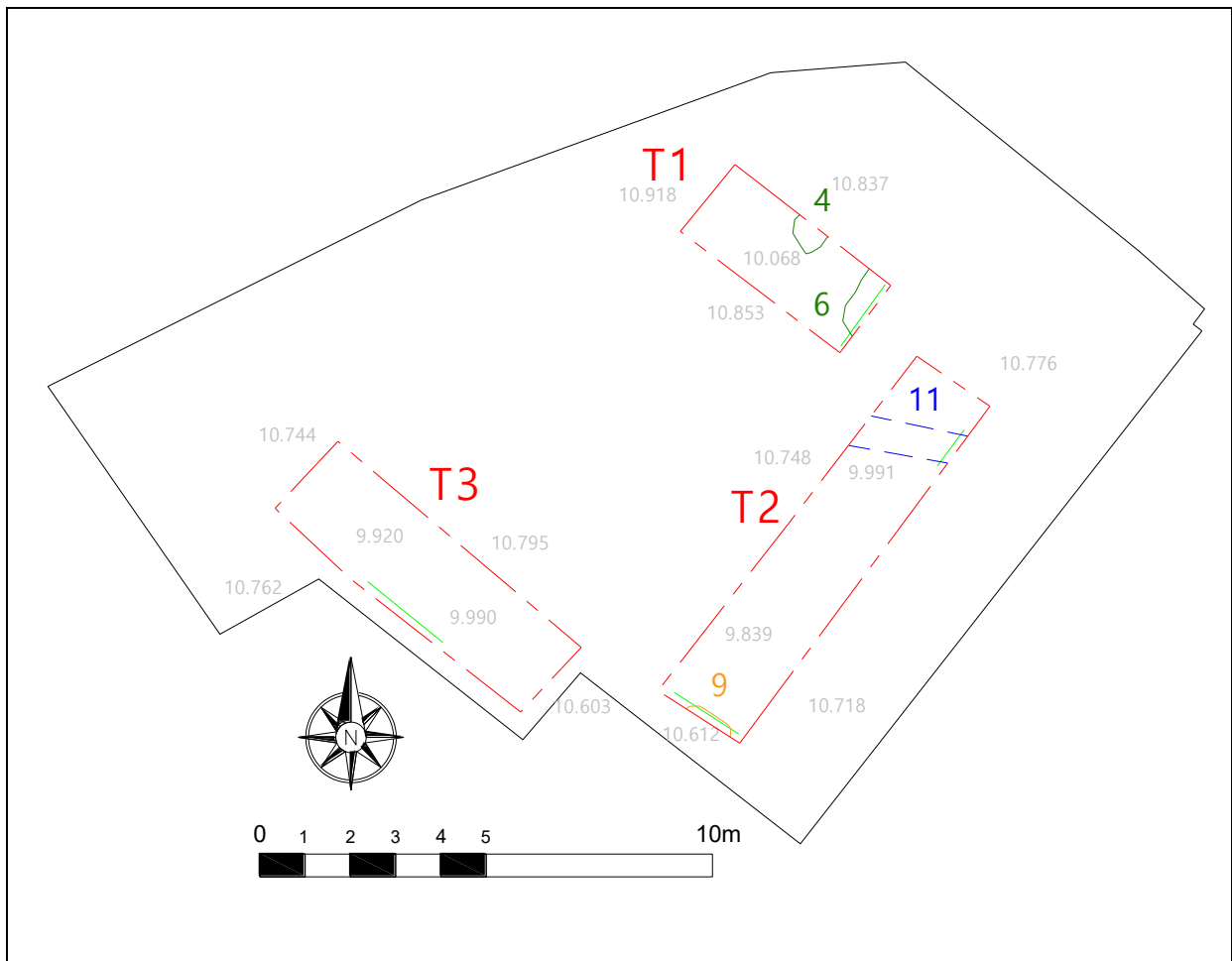


Figure 3. Plan of site. Trenches in red, undated feature in blue, natural features in dark green, modern feature in orange, location of section drawings in light green (not all are illustrated in this report), spot heights in grey.



Figure 4. Looking northwest along trench 3, showing natural brickearth 3.

7.1.2 Natural feature 4 was situated in the northeast of trench 1 (figs 3 and 5). It was 0.9m long, 0.45 wide and 0.1m deep. It was kidney shape in plan and had irregular sides and base and was probably a tree disturbance. It was filled with a light yellowish brown (10YR6/4) silty clay loam with occasional flecks of charcoal, context 5. No finds were present. The charcoal was probably introduced by bioturbation.



**Figure 5. Plan view of feature 4. Looking northeast.**

7.1.3 Feature 6, probably a tree disturbance but possibly a pit, was situated at the southeast end of trench 1 (figs 3, 6 and 7). Only its southwest side was seen, the rest of the feature went beyond the trench edge. It was sub-oval in plan and was at least 1.3m long, 0.5m wide and 0.35m deep. The base was concave and the sides sloped moderately. It had two fills. At the bottom of the feature was fill 8, a light yellowish brown (10YR6/4) silty clay loam, 0.1m thick. Above it was fill 7, a dark yellowish brown (10YR4/6) silty clay loam, 0.26m thick. No finds were present although there was the occasional fleck of charcoal, probably introduced by bioturbation, within the fills.

7.1.4 Layer 2 was a horizon of weathered brickearth above the unweathered brickearth 3. It was present all the trenches some 0.2m below the surface (fig 10). It was a dark yellowish brown (10YR3/6) silty clay loam some 0.6m thick. Several burnt flints and two flint flakes were recovered from this layer, probably introduced by ploughing or bioturbation in the prehistoric period. The flakes may have been utilised as tools.



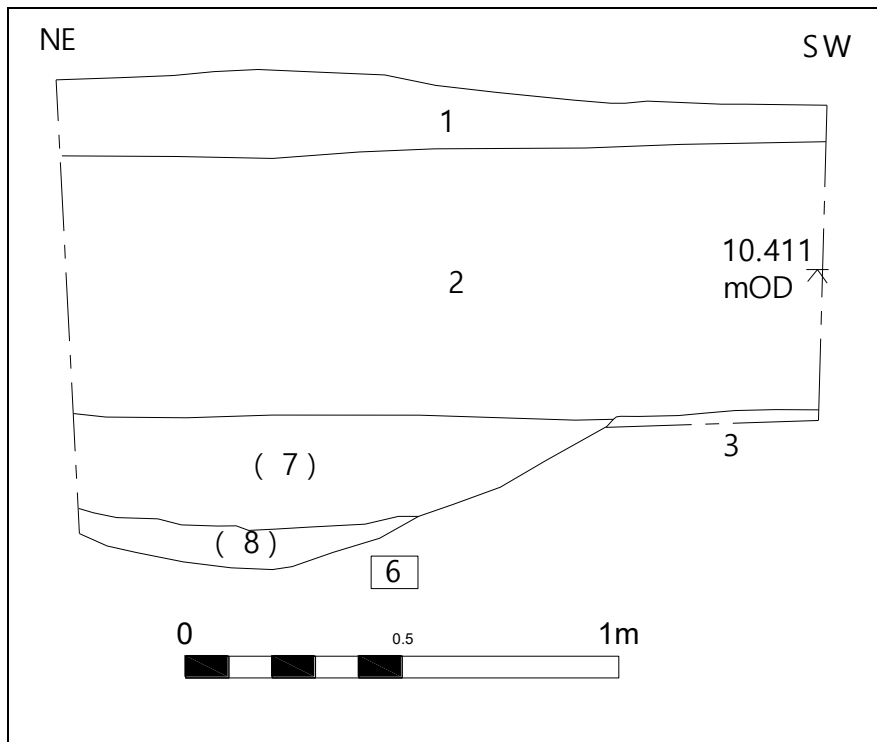


Figure 6. Northwest facing section of Trench 1 showing feature 6.



Figure 7. Northwest facing section of Trench 1 showing feature 6. Looking southeast

## 7.2 Undated feature

7.2.1 Feature 11, possibly a ditch, was observed at the northeast end of trench 2. It ran approximately northwest–southeast (figs 3, 8 and 9). The edges of the feature were very diffuse and it was only seen in section. The base seemed concave and the sides sloped moderately. It was uncertain if this feature cut layer 2. It was filled with a dark yellowish brown (10YR3/6) silty clay loam, context 12, which contained a fragment of burnt flint. This fill was very similar to layer 2.



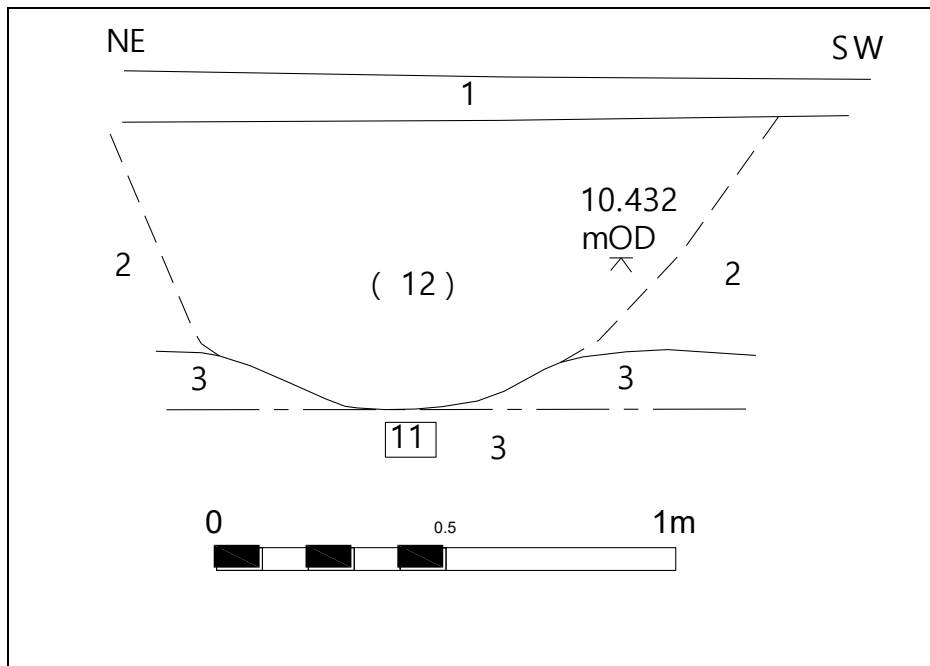


Figure 8. Northwest facing section of feature 11.



Figure 9. Southeast facing section of feature 11. Looking northwest

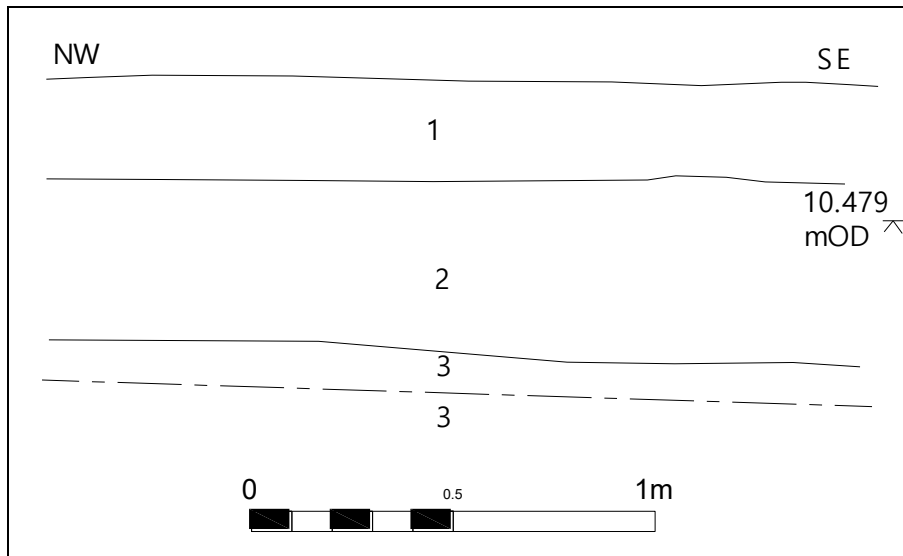


Figure 10. Northeast facing section in trench 3, showing layers 1, 2 and 3.

### 7.3 Modern

7.3.1 Modern soakaway 9 was situated in the southwest part of trench 2 (fig 3). Only its northeast edge was observed but it was at least 1m long, 0.1m wide and 0.5m deep. The sides sloped steeply and the base was flat. It was filled a dark greyish brown (10YR4/2) sandy clay loam, with abundant brick and concrete rubble. The bricks had frogs, and looked to be the same as those used to construct the school.

7.3.2 Layer 1 was at the top of the sequence in all the trenches (fig 3). It was a general number given to top soil and the gravel pathways. It was between 0.1m to 0.25m thick and contained fragments of plastic, glass and metal.

## 8. Impact of the development

8.1 Holy Family Catholic Primary School will be erecting a single storey detached building. The building will be of traditional brick construction on strip foundations.

## 9. Conclusions

9.1 Natural brickearth was 0.2m below the surface in all trenches. Its upper portion had been subject to weathering and bioturbation and was about 0.5m thick. The lower portion was clean brickearth and was at least another 0.5m thick.

9.2 The weathered brickearth contained flint flakes and burnt flints indicating prehistoric activity in the area. The flints may have been introduced to the weathered brickearth by natural processes. A similar deposit at SOU 1673 was up to 0.5m thick and also contained burnt flints as well as Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery and a utilised flint flake (Garner 2015).

9.3 Four features were identified: two probably were tree disturbances (perhaps by the same tree); one may have been a ditch but was not convincing; and the other was a modern soakaway that contained bricks and concrete fragments. One burnt flint was recovered from the possible ditch. The projected line of the ditch would cross trench 18 of SOU 1673 (*idem*) which exposed three ditches. However, only two of these ditches ran northwest–southeast and both contained early modern finds.

9.4 No significant finds except a few prehistoric flints were found. No features of definite archaeological significance were revealed so it is unlikely that the development will cause damage to archaeologically significant remains.

## **Bibliography**

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## Appendix 1. Context list

CONTEXT	CATEGORY	POSITIVE	MUNSEL PAGE	COL	TEXTURE	STONE ABUND	DESCRIPTION	ABOVE	BELOW
1	LAYER	SITE LAYER	10YR	5/1			General number given to the layers at the top of the sequence. Top soil and gravel pathways.	2	
2	LAYER	SITE LAYER	10YR	3/6	SILTY CLAY LOAM	1	Found 0.2m below the surface. Weathered brickearth	3, 7, 5	1, 9, 11?
3	LAYER	NATURAL	10YR	5/6	SILTY CLAY LOAM	0	Natural brickearth		2, 4, 6, 9, 11
4	FEATURE	NATURAL					Kidney shaped in plan. Irregular base and sides. Probable tree disturbance linked to 6	3	2, 5
5	FILL	NATURAL	10YR	6/4	SILTY CLAY LOAM	1		4	2
6	FEATURE	NATURAL					Concave bottom, sides concave and sloping moderately. Probable tree disturbance linked to 4	3	7, 8
7	FILL	OF NATURAL FEATURE	10YR	4/6	SILTY CLAY LOAM	0	Top fill	6, 8	2
8	FILL	OF NATURAL FEATURE	10YR	6/4	SILTY CLAY LOAM	0	Looks similar to fill 5 in feature 4. Bottom fill	6	7
9	FEATURE	SOAKAWAY					Modern flat-bottomed soakaway. Situated in the SW end of T2. Steep sides	2, 3	10
10	FILL	OF SOAKAWAY	10YR	4/2	SANDY CLAY LOAM	4	The bricks had frogs and were modern	9	1
11	FEATURE	DITCH					Possible ditch or variation in the depth of 2. Very hard to see, just saw a small bit at base of section where 2 was lighter.	3, 2?	12
12	FILL	OF DITCH	10YR	3/6	SANDY CLAY LOAM	1	Possible fill of ditch. Very similar to 2	11	1



**Appendix 2. Finds list**

<b>Context no</b>	<b>Mat Type</b>	<b>Find Type</b>	<b>No of frag</b>	<b>Wgt (gm)</b>	<b>Description</b>
2	FLNT	BURN	11	198	
2	FLNT	FLKE	1	18	Tertiary flake. Glossy. Edge damage. Utilised?
2	FLNT	FLKE	1	8	Secondary flake. Edge damage - utilised? Blade dimensions.
12	FLNT	BURN	1	9	