

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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*Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service*

## Station Hill, Bury St. Edmunds BSE 271

*Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service*

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2006  
(Planning app. no. SE/05/01635)

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Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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## List of Contributors

All Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service unless otherwise stated.

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## Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Redrow Homes (Eastern) Ltd. and the archaeological work was specified and monitored by R. Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team).

The evaluation was carried out by John Duffy, Nick Taylor and Jonathan Van Jennians all from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed by Andrew Tester, and managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Finds processing was carried out by Richenda Goffin and Anna West, and the specialist finds report was produced by Richenda Goffin. Sections and plans (Figures 3 to 8) were prepared by Anna West.

## Summary

A programme of archaeological evaluation was conducted on land on Station Hill, Bury St Edmunds ahead of a proposed housing development. A series of six trenches were excavated across the development site. The results showed the site had been extensively quarried for sand and gravel in the post-medieval period and then reinstated in the mid to late 19th century for use as a rail siding, warehouse and coal yard. A maltings was also constructed along the southern limit of the site at this time. Little archaeological evidence remained though structural evidence of a possible warehouse and of the maltings was identified.

## SMR information

Planning application no:	SE/05/01635
Date of fieldwork:	January 2006
Grid Reference:	TL 8534 6507
Funding body:	Redrow Homes (Eastern) Ltd.
Oasis reference	suffolkc1 - 12468

## Introduction

A programme of archaeological evaluation was conducted ahead of a proposed residential development on land off Station Hill, Bury St Edmunds. The evaluation was commissioned by CgMs Consulting (on behalf of Redrow Homes (Eastern) Ltd), who also undertook both the desk-based assessment (Hawkins 2005) and the historic building record (Froneman 2005). The archaeological works were conducted following the brief prepared by R. Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) who also monitored the fieldwork.

The development site covers approximately 0.9ha centred on TL 8534 6507. The site is bounded to the north and west by Station Hill, to the east by the rear of properties fronting Out Northgate and to the south by the rear of the properties fronting Tayfen Road. The site is heavily terraced with the lowest terraces to the south and east at approximately 33m OD with the upper terraces along the west and northwest at approximately 37m OD.

There is no known archaeology in the immediate vicinity of the development site. The closest sites include St. Saviour's Hospital (BSE 013 – Caruth and Anderson 1997) located approximately 150m to the north on the far side of the railway embankment. This site consisted of a medieval chapel and associated burials and buildings. Located 200m to the northwest is the site of Thingoe Hill, the possible site of the Saxon Parliament. Various archaeological works have indicated dispersed burials around this site but heavy post-medieval landscaping has all but removed any earlier evidence (BSE 246 – Duffy forthcoming).

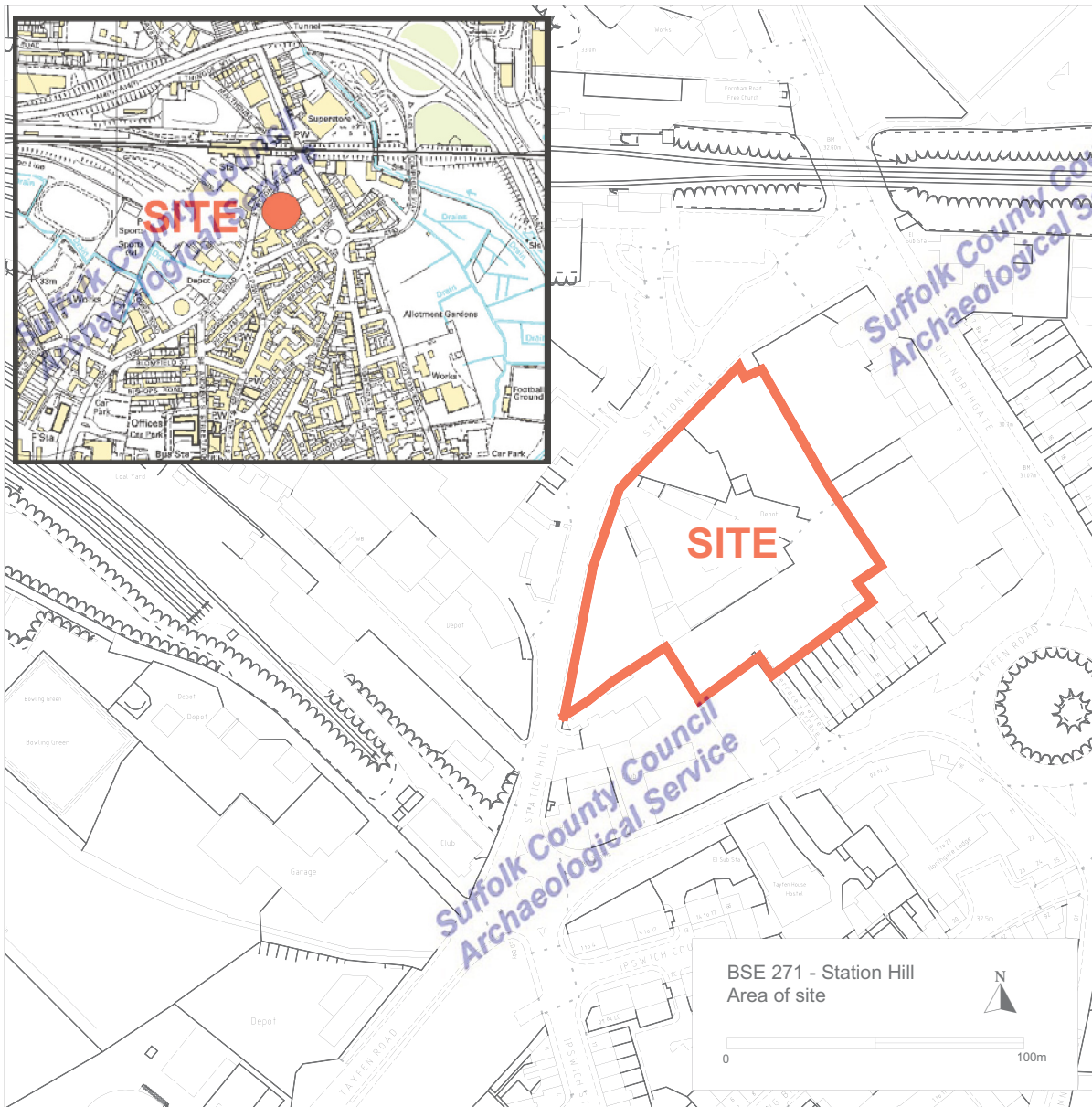
The desk based assessment (Hawkins 2005) indicated little non-agricultural activity on the site before the mid 19th century. The 1845 Tithe Map showed an adjacent gravel pit, which probably extended across the site. The Town Plan (1867) showed the site boundaries had been defined and the site had been fully developed by the time of the 6" OS Map (1886). The late 19th century development showed the site to be split into two with the rail sidings, coal yard and warehouses to the north and the maltings to the south (Hawkins 2005 and Froneman 2005).

## Methodology

The trenches were excavated using a tracked 360 degree machine fitted with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket. Trenches were machine excavated through build-up layers and any archaeological features or structures were cleaned and excavated by hand. The trenches were all excavated down to the underlying natural subsoil except where structural remains existed.

All trenches were photographed and sections were drawn at 1:20. All features were recorded in plan and section where appropriate at a scale of 1:20. Each archaeological context was given a unique context number.

The full site archive is kept at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Store, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds under the code BSE 271.



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Figure 1. Site location

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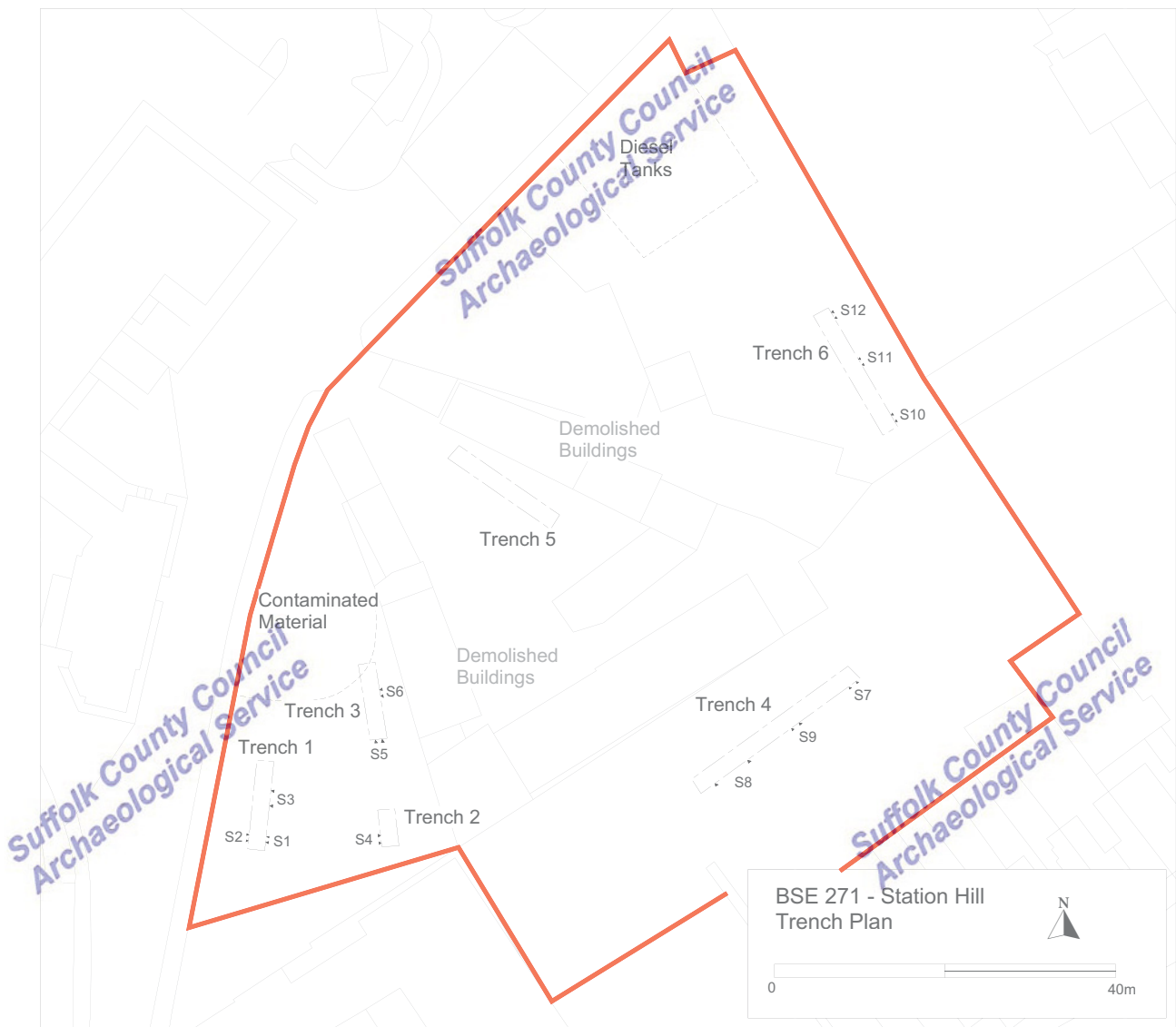
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## Results

### Introduction

A series of six trenches were excavated in total across the development site based on the proposed layout in the desk based assessment (Hawkins 2005) and requirements by R. Carr of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team. On site conditions also influenced the exact positioning and length of trenches, which were placed to cover the different levels of the site and to avoid contaminated areas. The length of the trenches was also altered on site due to safety reasons, as the deeper trenches proved highly unstable.

Trenches 1, 2 and 3 were designed to investigate area of rough ground along the western limit of site avoiding an area of possible contaminants. Trenches 2 and 3 were originally designed to be one trench but based on the instability of Trench 2 it was decided to split the trench. Trench 4 was placed to look at an area of rough ground at the southern limit of the development which was the area occupied by the former maltings. Trench 5 was on a platform/terrace in the centre of the site in-between former buildings. This trench was shortened due to its unstable and unsafe nature. Trench 6 was placed to investigate the eastern area of the site on the lowest terraced level avoiding the area occupied by a pair of tanks, one of which contained diesel.



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Figure 2. Trench location plan (showing section locations)

### Trench 1

Trench 1 was excavated in the southwest corner of the development site on an area of rough ground to the west of the demolished buildings. Its total length was 10.5m with a maximum depth of 2.3m and ran on an approximately north to south alignment. Identified in the trench were a sequence of layers over a mid orange sand and gravel natural.

The layers are recorded in Sections 1, 2 and 3 (Figure 3) and descriptions are given in Table 1. They appear to form a sequence of build-up deposits directly over the natural subsoil. Finds are absent from these layers which were deliberately laid to raise the ground level. The lowest deposit in the sequence, 0006, may represent a redeposited cultivation soil post gravel extraction.

Context	Description
0002	Black silty sand with occasional medium flint.
0003	Chalk layer.
0004	Orange sand and rubble.
0005	Dark brown silty sand with frequent small to medium flint.
0006	Mid to dark orangey brown silty sand with moderate to frequent small flint. Becomes lighter towards base of trench in S3. Sits directly on natural sand and gravel.
0007	Mid orange sand with occasional small flint.
0008	Chalk layer.
0009	Mid brown sandy clay with moderate small flint.
0010	Mid orange sand and gravel.

Table 1. Trench 1 context summary

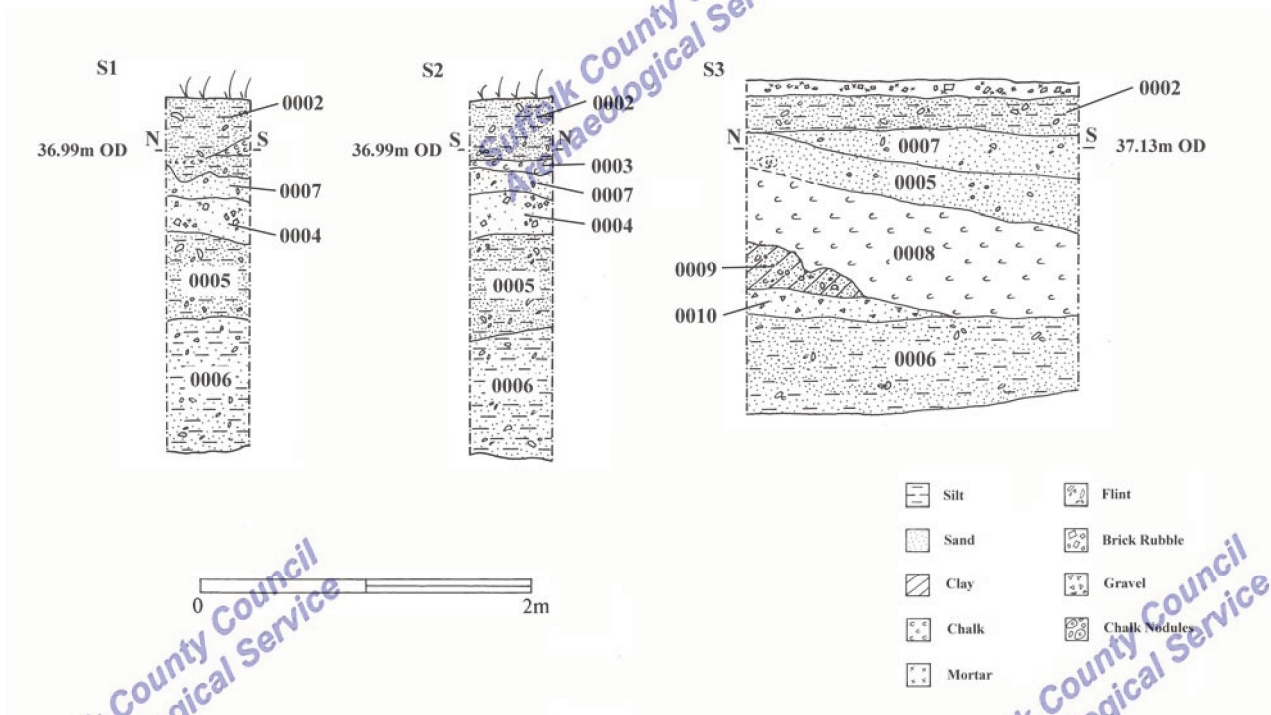


Figure 3. Trench 1 sections

### Trench 2

Trench 2 was excavated immediately to the east of Trench 1 on the same rough ground and ran on an approximately north to south alignment. A total length of 4.3m was excavated and further extension was not possible due to the depth and unstable nature of the trench. This trench provided evidence of a series of layers similar to those identified in Trench 1 which extended to a depth of over 3m, where the mid orange sand and gravel natural was visible. They were



recorded in Section 4 (Figure 4) and are described in Table 2. As with Trench 1 they were deliberately laid to raise the ground level.

Context	Description
0029	Brick rubble and mid greyish brown silty sand.
0030	Broken chalk layer.
0031	Mid orange sand and gravel.
0032	Dark brown silty sand with moderate small to medium flint and occasional chalk. Similar to 0006.

Table 2. Trench 2 context summary

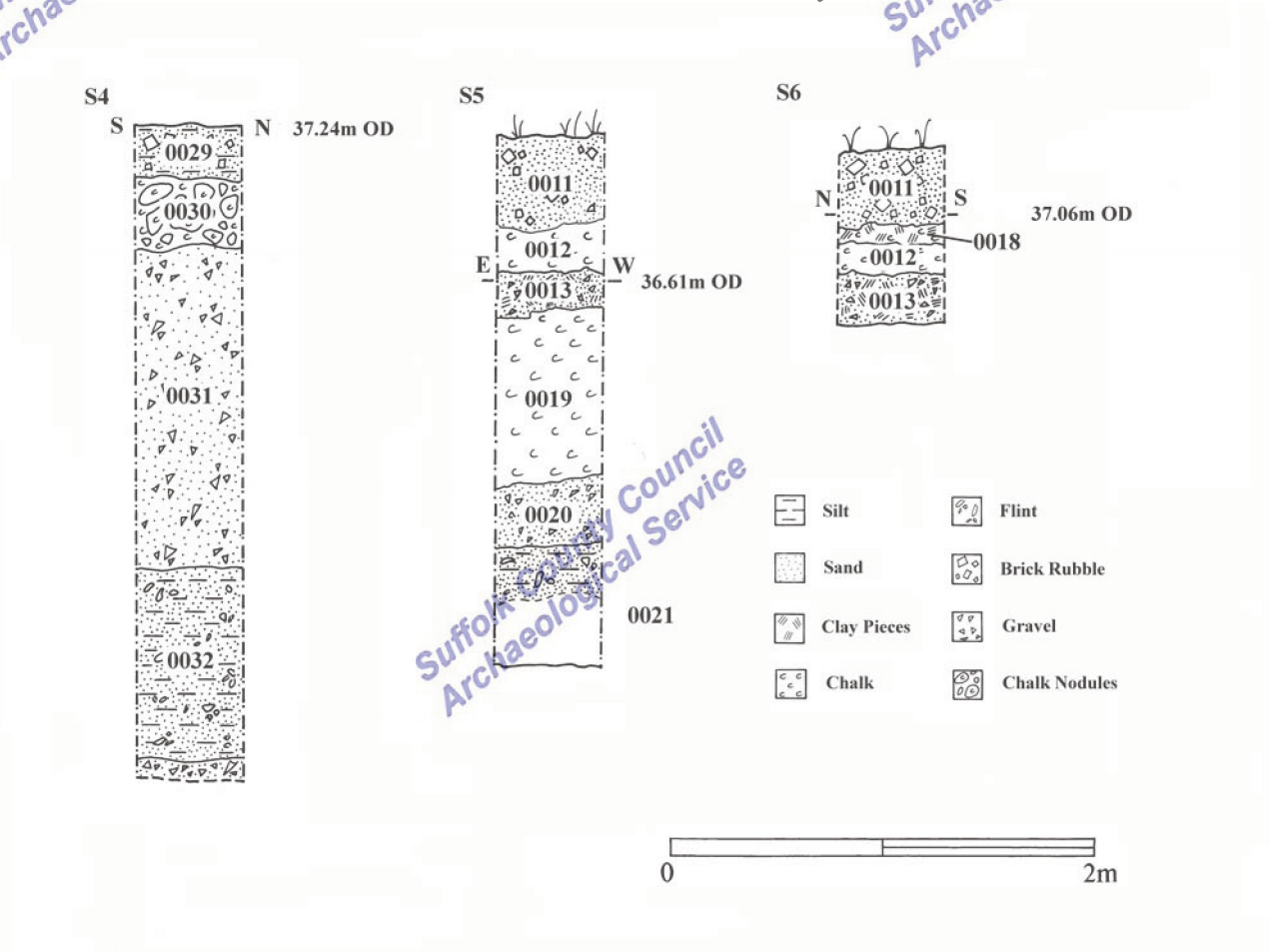


Figure 4. Trench 2 (S4) and Trench 3 (S5 and S6) sections

### Trench 3

Trench 3 continued on from Trench 2 and was located 8.3m to the north. The trench was excavated to a total length of 9m.

The southern end of the trench was excavated down to the natural sand and gravel, which was 2.1m below the present ground level. As with the previous trenches a series of layers were identified and then recorded in Sections 5 and 6 (Figure 4) and described in Table 3.

Identified in the northern half of the trench were the corner remains of a post-medieval brick wall footing 0016, surviving to between one and two courses deep (Figure 5). The wall measured 0.4m wide across its north to south running section and 0.52m wide across its east to west running section. This feature was heavily destroyed by a later modern pit filled with disused timber and building material. The wall sat on chalk layer 0019 and cut through layer 0013 but its relationship to layer 0012 is unclear. The structural remains were sealed by layer 00111 indicating a later topsoil built up after demolition of 0016.

Context	Description
0011	Mixed rubble layer with mid to dark brown sand.
0012	Chalk layer. Possible continuation of 0008 from Trench 1.
0013	Mid to dark orangey brown clayey sand and gravel.
0016	Corner of brick wall surviving in Trench 3. Heavily disturbed by later pit. Survives to one or two courses. Possible building footings.
0018	Dark greyey brown sandy clay with occasional chalk.
0019	Chalk layer.
0020	Mid brown sand and gravel.
0021	Dark brown silty sand with moderate small to medium flint.

Table 3. Trench 3 context summary

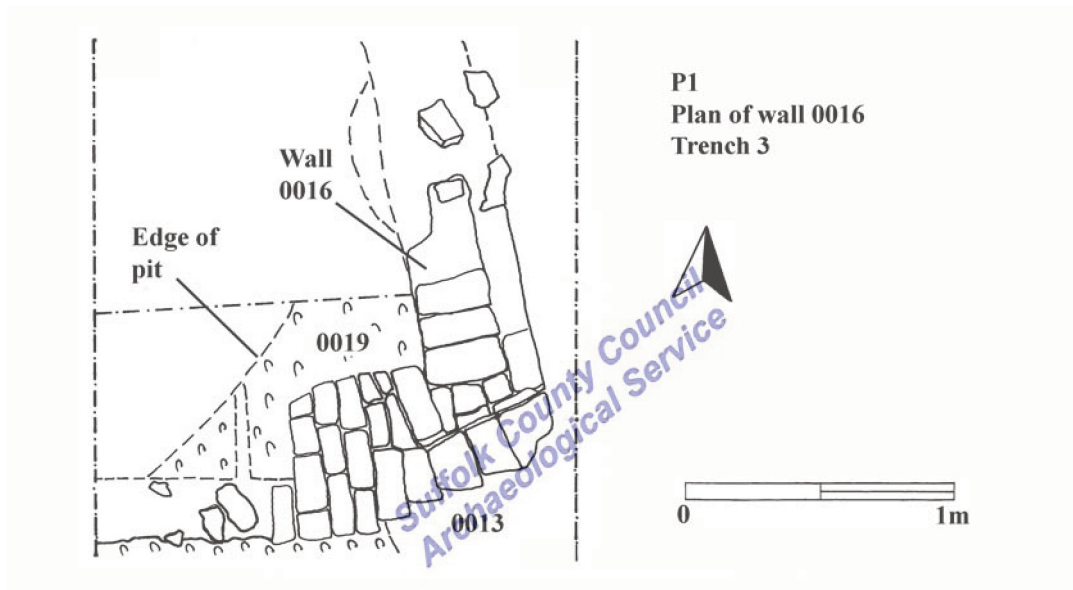


Figure 5. Plan of wall 0016

#### Trench 4

Trench 4 was located near the southern limit of the development site and ran on an approximately northeast to southwest alignment parallel to Tayfen Road further to the south. The trench extended for 23m and covered an area of rough ground formerly occupied by the maltings buildings.

Identified running along the southern edge of the trench was a line of brick footing 2.3m apart (centre point to centre point). One of these footings (0014) was recorded in detail (Figure 6 (S7) and 7 (P2)). The footings were all made of broken brick with some large flint nodules bonded together with a white mortar. The footings may have formed the bases for a series of brick pillars within the maltings. At least two varieties of brick were identified and recovered from 0014 and were of an 18th to 19th century date.

Structure 0015 was located at the western limit of the trench and ran at right angles to the series of brick footings (Figure 6 (S8) and 7 (P3)). The structure was constructed around two concrete slabs with a rubble filled trench between them. The eastern and western limits of the concrete were bounded by brick walls, each 0.36m wide and surviving to three courses deep. Along the eastern edge of the structure a 0.52m wide concrete step, with a white glazed surface, was visible. The function of this structure is unknown though it forms part of the maltings complex.

The structures identified in Trench 4 all cut into a series of identifiable layers (0017, 0023, 0027 and 0028) which are recorded in sections 1, 8 and 9 (Figure 6) and described in Table 4. These layers are possibly redeposited soil over the natural sand and gravel on to which the maltings were constructed. Layer 0017 was the only deposit to produce any finds with 2 fragments of sheep or pig bone and two sherds of medieval and late medieval pottery.

Context	Description
0014	Remains of brick structure. Square in plan and section. Approximately 0.6m across and survives to a depth of 0.7m. The feature is loosely bonded by a white mortar and is made from largely broken bricks roughly laid. 6 courses survive. The bricks are bedded on a bonded layer of flint. One of several such features in the trench approximately 2.3m apart. 0014 was by far the most substantial
0015	Structure located at the southwestern end of Trench 4. Constructed of 2 concrete slabs with a channel between the two. The outer edges of the structure were defined by two brick walls surviving to a depth of c. 3 courses. The northeast face of the structure was mortared and had a concrete step to the northeast with a laid (glazed?) floor surface.
0017	Layer surrounding brick pillar base 0014. Dark brown silty sand with moderate to frequent small flint.
0022	Light brown crushed mortar with flint and brick rubble.
0023	Mid to light brown silty sand with moderate small flint.
0024	Rubble/topsoil layer.
0025	Thin chalk layer.
0026	Light grey clay.
0027	Mid grey silty sand with moderate small flint.
0028	Yellow/orange sand with moderate to frequent small flint.

Table 4. Trench 4 context summary

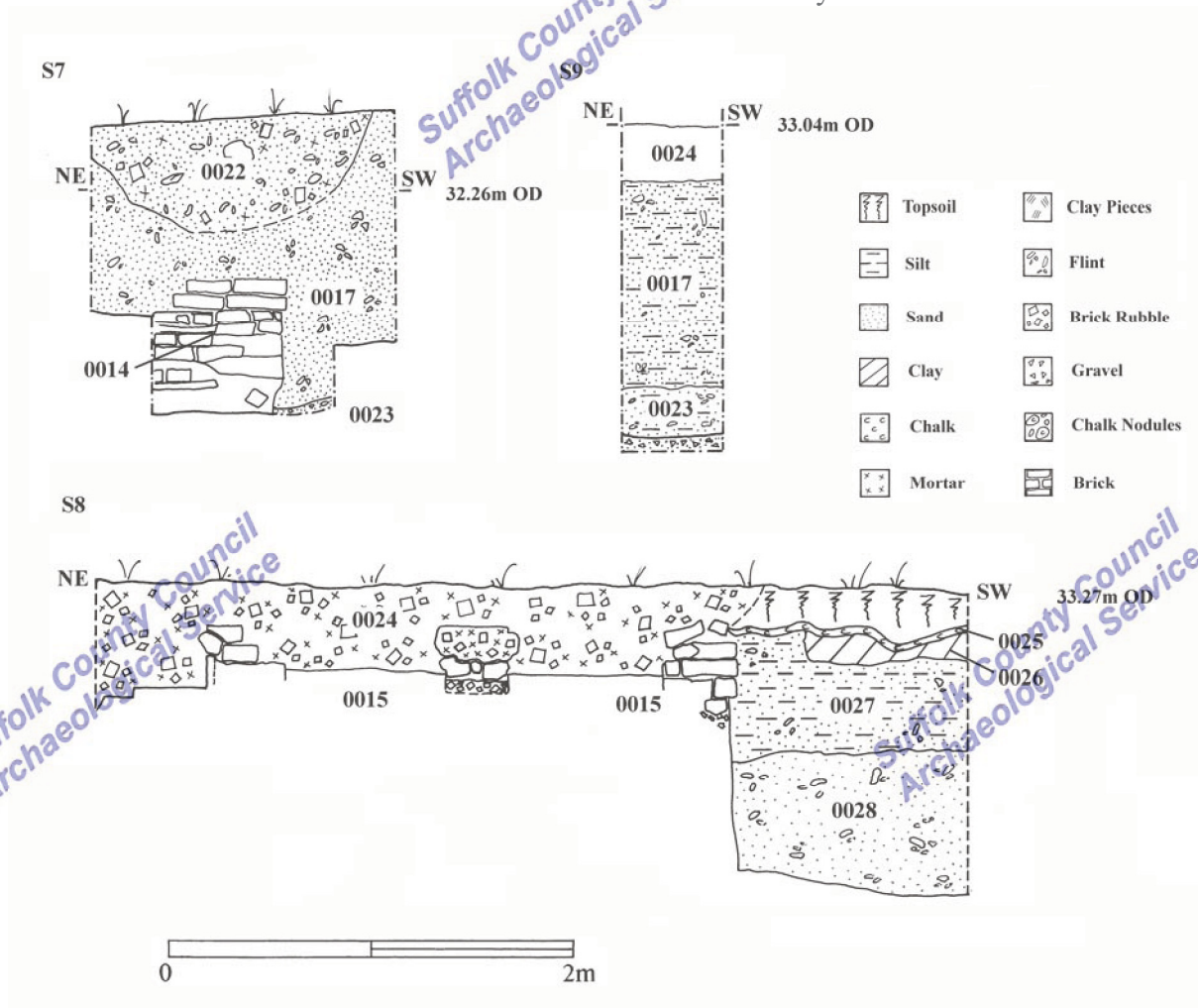


Figure 6. Trench 4 sections

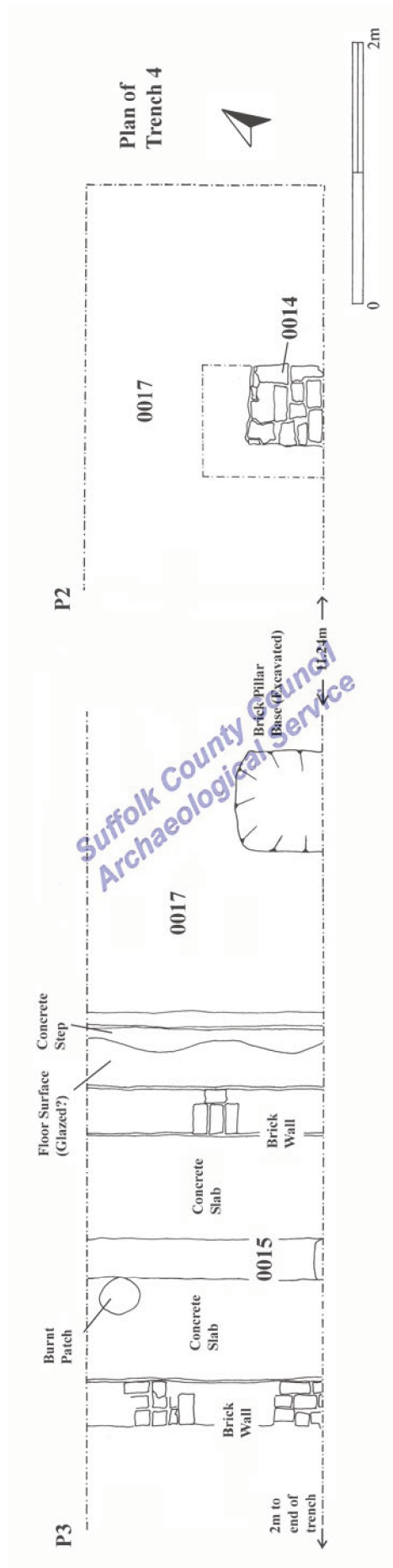


Figure 7. Plan of Trench 4 (P2 and P3)

### Trench 5

Trench 5 was excavated on the upper terrace in the centre of the site and ran on an approximately northwest to southeast alignment. The trench was excavated to a total length of 12m and was excavated to over 3m deep exposing the natural sand and gravel at the base. As with Trenches 1, 2 and 3 a series of layers building up the ground level was visible. Unfortunately this trench proved highly unstable and collapsed before any detailed recording could take place. For safety reasons the trench was immediately backfilled.

### Trench 6

Trench 6 was excavated along the eastern boundary on the lowest terrace of the development site and ran on an approximately northwest to southeast alignment. The trench was excavated to a length of 16.1m and was 1.15m at its deepest. The upper layers in the trench were the tarmac and its rubble bedding (0033). Below that were silty sand layers (0034 and 0035) forming the build-up for the present ground level (Figure 8 and Table 5).

Context	Description
0033	Mixed rubble and broken tarmac.
0034	Mid brown silty sand with moderate small flint.
0035	Light brown silty sand with moderate small flint.

Table 5. Trench 6 context summary

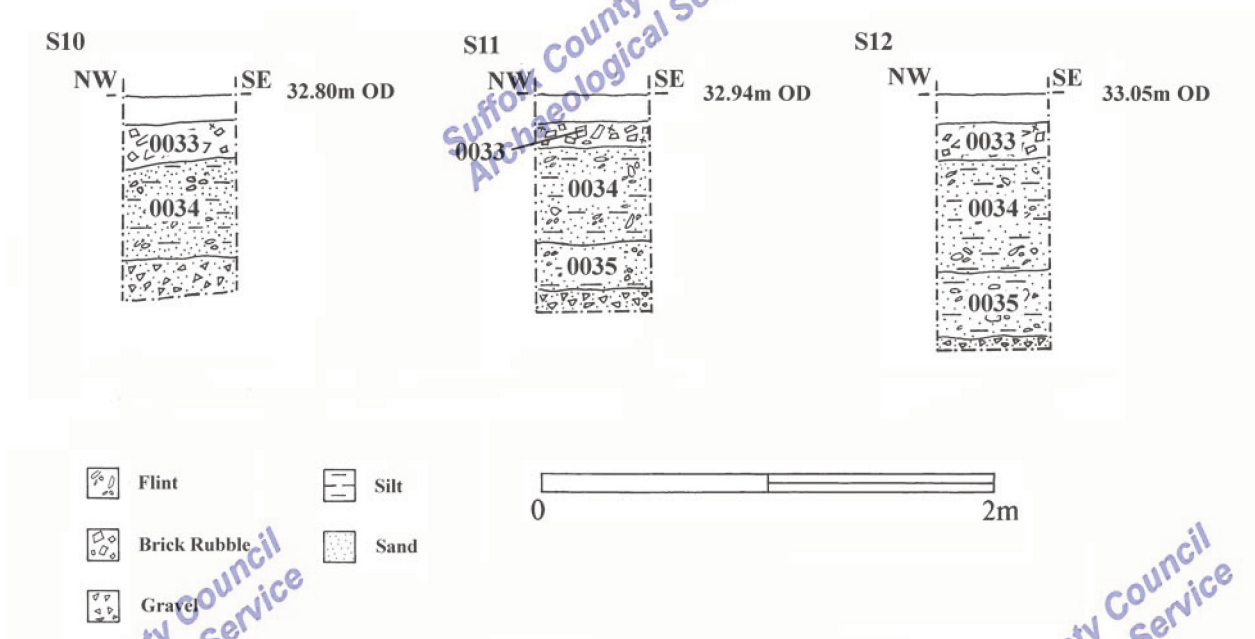


Figure 8. Trench 6 sections

## Finds and environmental evidence by Richenda Goffin

### Introduction

Finds were collected from 4 contexts, as shown in the table below.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Animal bone		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0014			2	598			Post-med
0015			2	281			Post-med
0016			1	249			Post-med
0017	2	31			2	4	Post-med
Total	2	31	5	1128	2	4	

Table 6. Finds summary

### Pottery

Two fragments of pottery were recovered from the evaluation (31g). A single sooted sherd of medieval coarseware dating to the late 12th-14th century was present in layer 0017, together with a fragment of unglazed Late medieval and transitional ware (15th-16th C). Both sherds were recovered from the deposit surrounding the brick pillar base 0014, in Trench 4 and are likely to be redeposited.

### Ceramic building material

Five brick samples were recovered (1.128kg), all of which date to the later part of the post-medieval period. Two bricks removed from the structure 0014, from footings within the maltings include a Late Brick made of white firing clay with few other inclusions, dating to the 18th-19th century. A second brick from this feature is made of a hard sandy fabric, covered with a hard buff/grey mortar which looks modern. A brick removed from the structure 0015, in Trench 4 is sandy with iron oxide and flint inclusions, and the remains of a red brick from the wall 0016, in Trench 3 which has shallow frogging on the surface is also of a late date.

### Animal bone

Two small rib fragments from a sheep or pig were present in layer 0017.

### Discussion

Few finds were recovered from the evaluation, apart from post-medieval brick samples. The deposit around the brick pillar base 0014, in Trench 4 is likely to have contained redeposited material.

## Discussion

The evaluation trenches highlighted the extent to which the development site has been disturbed by post-medieval sand and gravel extraction, a feature which had been identified during the desk-based assessment for the site (Hawkins 2005). The depth of made up ground, over 3m at the northern limit of the site, indicates how extensive this quarrying would have been. Extraction has been identified elsewhere in Bury St Edmunds along the gravel terrace of the Lark valley, for example during archaeological work on land off Cotton Lane (BSE 204 – Duffy forthcoming) where medieval quarrying was identified. Extraction on the site pre dates the mid to late 19th century when the site was developed into the rail sidings and maltings. Quarrying is known on an adjacent site from the 1845 Tithe Map (Hawkins 2005).

After extensive quarrying on the site the ground level was then built up again for the construction of rail sidings, a coal yard and warehouses. The deliberately laid sequence of deposits creating the new ground levels across the site was identified in all the excavated trenches. The rail sidings and coal yard occupied the higher terrace which had required a depth of over three metres to rebuild. Only the remains of one structure (0016) were identified in this area which indicates the presence of a warehouse or other associated building.

Across the southern and eastern parts of the site the ground was on a lower terrace with approximately a metre of deposits forming the ground level over the natural subsoil. The southern area would have been occupied by the maltings buildings constructed at the same time as the rail sidings and coal yard on the upper terrace. Trench 4 identified several structural features surviving from the maltings (0014 and 0015).

## Conclusion and Recommendations

The archaeological trenches identified the below ground conditions on the site, indicating an absence of archaeological remains with the site having been heavily disturbed by post-medieval sand and gravel extraction and then built up again for the construction of the railway sidings and coal yard.

The only surviving remains identified in the evaluation are the structures associated with the 19th century maltings complex along the southern area of the development site. Trench 4 indicated the preserved remains of this complex and undoubtedly further stripping of this area would uncover further preserved structures. Although the extent of the maltings is known from historic maps (Hawkins 2005) the internal layout is not recorded.

Further archaeological work on this site does not appear necessary as across most of the site the gravel extraction and later terracing has removed all traces of archaeological remains. The only area of possible interest would be the part of the site occupied by the maltings complex, but it is doubtful that this would be considered of enough interest to warrant further archaeological investigation.

John Duffy  
January 2006

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## Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Division alone. The need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its archaeological advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting service cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.



## Appendix 1 - Context List

<i>Context</i>	<i>Plan No</i>	<i>Section Nos</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Identifie</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Finds</i>
0001				Finds	Unstratified finds from across the site. Unused.		<input type="checkbox"/>
0002		1 2 3	1	Layer	Black silty sand with occasional medium flint.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>
0003		2	1	Layer	Chalk.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>
0004		1 2	1	Layer	Orange sand and rubble.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>
0005		1 2 3	1	Layer	Dark brown silty sand with frequent small to medium flint.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>
0006		1 2 3	1	Layer	Mid to dark orangey brown silty sand with moderate to frequent small flint. Becomes lighter towards base of trench in S3.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>
0007		1 2 3	1	Layer	Mid orange sand with occasional small flint.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>
0008		3	1	Layer	Chalk.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>
0009		3	1	Layer	Mid brown sandy clay with moderate small flint.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>
0010		3	1	Layer	Mid orange sand and gravel.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>
0011		5 6	3	Layer	Mixed rubble layer with mid to dark brown sand.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>
0012		5 6	3	Layer	Chalk. Possible continuation of 0008 from Trench 1.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>
0013		5 6	3	Layer	Mid to dark orangey brown clayey sand and gravel.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>
0014	2	7	4	Structure	Remains of brick structure. Square in plan and section. Approximately 0.6m across and survives to a depth of 0.7m. The feature is loosely bonded by a white mortar and is made from largely broken bricks roughly laid. 6 courses survive. The bricks are bedded on a bonded layer of flint. One of several such features in the trench approximately 2.3m apart. 0014 was by far the most substantial.	Brick pillar base.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<i>Context</i>	<i>Plan No</i>	<i>Section Nos</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Identifie</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Find</i>
0015	3	8	4	Structure	Structure located at the south-western end of Trench 4. Constructed of 2 concrete slabs with a channel between the two. The outer edges of the structure were defined by two brick walls surviving to a depth of c. 3 courses. The north-east face of the structure was mortared and had a concrete step to the north-east with a laid (glazed?) floor surface.	Part of Maltings structure.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
0016	1		3	Structure	Corner of brick wall surviving in Trench 3. Heavily disturbed by later pit. Survives to one or two courses. Possible building footings.	Brick wall destroyed by later pit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
0017		7 9	4	Layer	Layer surrounding brick pillar base 0014. Dark brown silty sand with moderate to frequent small flint.	Build-up layer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
0018		6	3	Layer	Dark greyey brown sandy clay with occasional chalk.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>
0019		5	3	Layer	Chalk layer.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>
0020		5	3	Layer	Mid brown sand and gravel.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>
0021		5	3	Layer	Dark brown silty sand with moderate small to medium flint.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>
0022		7	4	Layer	Light brown crushed mortar with flint and brick rubble.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>
0023		7 9	4	Layer	Mid to light brown silty sand with moderate small flint.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>
0024		9	4	Layer	Rubble/topsoil layer.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>
0025		8	4	Layer	Thin chalk layer.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>
0026		8	4	Layer	Light grey clay.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>
0027		8	4	Layer	Mid grey silty sand with moderate small flint.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>
0028		8	4	Layer	Yellow/orange sand with moderate to frequent small flint.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>
0029		4	2	Layer	Brick rubble and mid greyish brown silty sand.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>
0030		4	2	Layer	Broken chalk layer.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>
0031		4	2	Layer	Mid orange sand and gravel.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>

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<i>Context</i>	<i>Plan No</i>	<i>Section Nos</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Identifie</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Finds</i>
0032		4	2	Layer	Dark brown silty sand with moderate small to medium flint and occasional chalk.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>
0033		10 11 12	6	Layer	Mixed rubble and broken tarmac.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>
0034		10 11 12	6	Layer	Mid brown silty sand with moderate small flint.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>
0035		11 12	6	Layer	Light brown silty sand with moderate small flint.	Build-up layer	<input type="checkbox"/>

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## Appendix 2 - Trench List

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Alignment</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Plans</i>	<i>Sections</i>
1	Visible in trench is a series of build-up layers. 0002 to 0010. Natural is a mid orange sand and gravel.	N-S	10.5m	2m	2.3m		1 2 3
2	Unsafe/too deep to enter. Collapsing. Series of build-up layers. Natural is a mid orange sand and gravel.	Approx. N-S	4.3m	2m	3m+		4
3	Brick wall 0016 exposed at north end where natural not exposed. North end heavily damaged by modern pit. Excavated down to natural at south end. Series of build-up layers. Natural is a mid orange sand and gravel.	Approx. N-S	9m	2m	2.15m	1	5 6
4	Several brick bases identified approximately 2.3m (centre to centre) apart. One recorded, 0014, at NE end. Concrete structure with brick walls, 0015, identified at SW end of trench. Natural is a mid orange sand and gravel.	Approx. NE-SW	23m	2m	1.5m	2 3	7 8 9
5	Unsafe to enter. Constant collapsing. Collapsed before photo was taken. Series of build-up layers. Natural is a mid orange sand and gravel.	Approx. NW-SE	12m	2m	3m+		
6	No features. Single build-up layer over natural and under tarmac. Natural is a mid orange sand and gravel.	Approx. NW-SE	16.1m	2m	1.15m		10 11 12