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Leicester**

**Archaeological Services**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
At Buccleuch Academy, Weekley Glebe Road  
Kettering, Northamptonshire  
(SP 878 802)**

**By Gerwyn Richards**



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**An Archaeological Evaluation at  
Baccleuch Academy,  
Weekley Glebe Road, Kettering,  
Northamptonshire.**

**(NGR SK 878 802)**

**Gerwyn Richards**

Planning Application No: 10/00003/CDD

**For:** Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd

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**Site Code: BAK-2011**

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**Summary**

*University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Buccleuch Academy, Kettering, Northamptonshire in advance of the construction of new school buildings. The proposed development area had been identified as being an area of archaeological potential.*

*A total of ten evaluation trenches were machine excavated and recorded. None revealed any evidence of archaeological significance. The northern and western trenches contained only back-filled quarry waste, whilst the southern and eastern trenches exposed only undisturbed clay substrata.*

*The archive for the archaeological work will be held by University of Leicester Archaeological Services under the temporary site code BAK.2011 until deposition can be arranged with the relevant repository.*

**1. Introduction**

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed development works at Buccleuch Academy, Weekley Glebe Road, Kettering, Northamptonshire (SK 878 802; Fig. 1). The proposed development involves the construction of a new school building with roadways, open spaces and associated infrastructure on a site of approximately 2.8 hectares (Fig. 2). An archaeological desk-based assessment has been undertaken for the proposed development area (Walker 2010), as well as an archaeological geophysical survey (Smalley 2011) but no previous intrusive archaeological fieldwork has been carried out within the proposed development area.

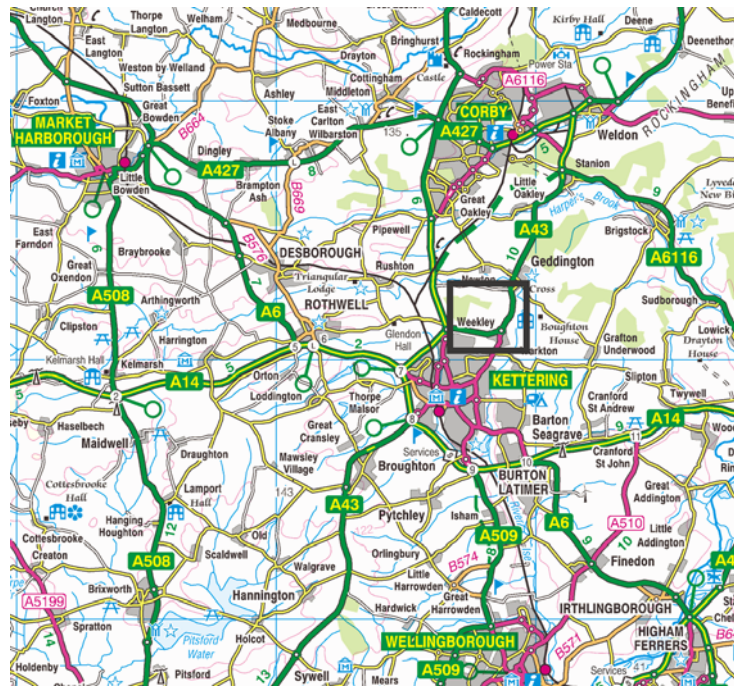


Figure 1: Site location Scale 1:50000

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## 2. Background

Archaeological evaluation of the site was requested by Northamptonshire County Council on behalf of Kettering Borough Council by trial trenching.

The British Geological Survey indicates that the application area lies on the boundary between the boulder clay and oolite limestone at around 90m AOD and the geology is predominately great oolite limestone.

The proposed development area lies to the east of the historic settlement core of Kettering. An archaeological desk based assessment commissioned by Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd. (Walker 2010) indicated that there are no known archaeological sites within the proposed development area. However, the report indicated that the site appeared to have been undisturbed and has not been archaeologically investigated. The Historic Environment Record for Northamptonshire (HER) indicates a number of known archaeological sites within the vicinity of the proposed development area, the majority of which relate to the town of Kettering, which has Roman origins.

In addition to Roman Kettering, various archaeological remains and sites have been located within the vicinity of the proposed development area, the nearest of which is a World War II anti-aircraft and search light position, immediately to the north (HER Ref 7107/1). The possible remains of a late Saxon charter boundary visible as standing earthworks lie to the east (HER Ref 5983/0/1) and other Saxon finds, relating to the supposed hamlet of Walcot lie to the north-east and east (HER Ref 7425). Broughton House Park, to the north (HER Ref 8088) is a Grade I registered park.

Until the Enclosure in 1807, the proposed development area lay within the open fields of Weekley Parish, after enclosure the area came under the ownership of the vicar of Weekley, the Rev John Eastwick, *in lieu* of lost tithes payments. Historic maps indicate that the proposed development area remained largely un-developed until the construction of the Montagu School during the 1970s.



Figure 2: Proposed development area in detail, (in blue). North to top. Plan provided by client.

### ***Geophysical Survey***

A geophysical survey was undertaken prior to trial trenching (Smalley 2011; Fig. 3). This identified disturbance around the edges of the field including a service trench running along the eastern side of the field. Anomalies interpreted as two cricket squares and land drains were also identified. The only potential archaeological features were several linear anomalies and a series of pit-like features in the western half of the field.



Figure 3: Abstraction & interpretation of gradiometer anomalies. Pink – possible disturbed areas, orange – possible archaeological anomalies.

### 3. Aims and Methodology

The main objectives of the evaluation were through archaeological trial trenching:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits in areas to be affected by the development.
- To provide information on the extent, character, condition and date range of archaeological deposits within the application area.
- To assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

In consultation with Planning Control Archaeologist it was decided to evaluate the impact of proposed development with the excavation of nine 30m x 1.8m trenches (Fig. 4) based upon the results of the geophysical survey. After the geophysical results were assessed, eight 30m x 1.8m trenches were located targeting geophysical anomalies and a further two 15m x 1.8m trenches were placed in blank areas. A further small trench was excavated at the request of Wilmott Dixon to check the location and nature of the land drain between Trenches 5 and 6. The evaluation took place between April 11th - 14th 2011. The trenches were excavated by a Terex back-hoe loader using a ditching bucket.

The archaeological work addressed the requirements of the *Brief for a Programme Of Archaeological Investigation of Land adjacent to the Montagu School including the*

*Weekley Glebe Field site, Weekley Glebe Road, Kettering, Northamptonshire.* (Northamptonshire County Council 17/02/2011) and *Written Scheme of Investigation for Geophysical Survey & Targeted Trial Trenching the Buccleuch Academy, Kettering, Northamptonshire.* (ULAS 11-333).

#### **4. Results of Trial Trench Evaluation**

##### ***Trench 1***

Trench 1 was aligned north-east to south-west, in the south-eastern corner of the proposed development area (Fig. 4). The trench was 30m long and 1.8m wide and targeted linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.

Approximately 0.16m to 0.25m of topsoil was excavated, exposing a layer of sandy silt clay subsoil. Beneath the subsoil a horizon of yellow brown weathered clay was exposed, excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.4m to 0.6m below the existing ground level (Fig. 5). The main linear anomaly was identified as two modern service trenches. Evidence of east to west aligned ridge and furrow ploughing was observed within the trench.

No remains of archaeological significance were found within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

##### ***Trench 2***

Trench 2 was aligned north-east to south-west, approximately 50m west of Trench 1 (Fig. 4), the trench was located in order to sample two anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. The trench was 30m long and 1.8m wide.

Approximately 0.12m to 0.2m of topsoil was excavated revealing a similar depth of subsoil as Trench 1; the underlying substratum was also the same (Fig. 6). Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.32m to 0.45m below the existing ground level. A large iron peg and a possible tree bole were identified as the likely source of the anomalies.

Like Trench 1, evidence of east to west aligned ridge and furrow ploughing was also observed within the trench as well as two stone filled field drains towards the southern end of the trench.

No remains of archaeological significance were found within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

##### ***Trench 3***

Trench 3 was aligned north-east to south-west, approximately 37m north-west of Trench 2 (Fig. 4). The trench was located in order to sample anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. The trench was 30m long and 1.8m wide.



Approximately 0.15m to 0.27m of topsoil was excavated revealing an extremely disturbed layer of re-deposited limestone and clay. Excavation of this deposit continued for approximately 0.4m to assess its depth (Fig. 7). Excavation ceased at approximately 0.35m to 0.49m below the existing ground level. It is certain that this deposit is backfilled quarry waste. There was no clear source for the anomalies within the trench but they are likely to have been caused by debris within the quarry waste.

No remains of archaeological significance were found within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

#### ***Trench 4***

Trench 4 was aligned north-west to south-east, approximately 37m north-east of Trench 3 (Fig. 4). The trench was located in order to sample anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. The trench was 30m long and 1.8m wide.

Approximately 0.12m to 0.19m of topsoil was excavated revealing the same re-deposited limestone and clay seen within trench 3. Excavation continued to approximately 0.33m to 0.4m below the existing ground level (Fig. 8). As with Trench 3, this deposit is almost certainly is backfilled quarry waste. A spread of heavily fired brick dust immediately below the topsoil at the northern end of the trench was identified as the likely source of the anomaly.

No remains of archaeological significance were found within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

#### ***Trench 5***

Trench 5 was aligned north-east to south-west, approximately 22m east of Trench 4, adjacent to the northernmost boundary of the of the proposed development area (Fig. 4). The trench was located in order to sample an east-west linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. The location of the trench was shifted to the south-east in order to avoid a modern service visible on the ground. The trench was 35m long and 1.8m wide.

Approximately 0.16m to 0.21m of topsoil was excavated revealing the same re-deposited limestone and clay seen within the previous trenches. Excavation continued to approximately 0.36m to 0.48m below the existing ground level (Fig. 9). Again, this deposit is almost certainly is backfilled quarry waste. As with Trench 1, the linear anomaly was identified as two modern service trenches.

No remains of archaeological significance were found within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

#### ***Trench 6***

Trench 6 was aligned north to south, approximately 19m east of trench 5 (Fig. 4). The trench was located in order to sample the same series of linear anomalies as Trenches 1 and 5. The trench was 30m long and 1.8m wide.

Approximately 0.16m to 0.2m of topsoil was excavated revealing the same re-deposited limestone and clay seen within the previous trenches. Excavation continued to approximately 0.33m to 0.4m below the existing ground level. Again, this deposit is almost certainly is backfilled quarry waste. As with Trenches 1 and 5, the linear anomaly was identified as two modern service trenches.

No remains of archaeological significance were found within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

### ***Trench 7***

Trench 7 was aligned east to west, approximately 19m south-west of Trench 6, towards the centre of the proposed development area (Fig. 4). The trench was located in order to sample two anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. The trench was 30m long and 1.8m wide.

Approximately 0.13m to 0.2m of topsoil was excavated revealing the same re-deposited limestone and clay seen within the previous trenches. Excavation continued to approximately 0.3m to 0.46m below the existing ground level. Again, this deposit is almost certainly is backfilled quarry waste. There was no clear source for the anomalies within the trench, but they are likely to have been caused by debris within the quarry waste.

No remains of archaeological significance were found within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

### ***Trench 8***

Trench 8 was aligned east to west, approximately 27m east of Trench 7, adjacent to the easternmost boundary of the proposed development area (Fig. 4). The trench was located in order to sample the same series of linear anomalies as Trenches 1, 5 and 6. The trench was 30m long and 1.8m wide.

Approximately 0.18m to 0.2m of topsoil was excavated, exposing a layer of sandy silt clay subsoil. Beneath the subsoil at the eastern end of the trench a horizon of yellow brown weathered clay was exposed (Fig. 10), the same as that recorded within Trenches 1 & 2, excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.41m below the existing ground level. Approximately 13m from the eastern end of the trench the weathered clay strata disappeared and the re-deposited limestone and clay seen within the northern and western trenches appeared. It is likely, therefore that this marks the eastern edge of the backfilled quarry. Once again, the linear anomaly was identified as the same two modern service trenches seen in previous trenches.

No remains of archaeological significance were found within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

### ***Trench 9***

Trench 9 was aligned north to south, approximately 15m north of Trench 8, in the north-easternmost corner of the proposed development area (Fig. 4). The trench was located in order to sample an area which did contain any geophysical anomalies. The location of the trench was shifted to the west as a result boundary alterations to allow access. The trench was 15m long and 1.8m wide.

Approximately 0.15m to 0.2m of topsoil was excavated revealing a sandy silt clay subsoil, approximately 0.2m deep, below which lay a weathered clay strata, within which were bands of yellow clay and grey gley. The northern end of the trench contained the same re-deposited limestone and clay as seen in previous trenches (Fig. 11). A narrower machine excavated trench was cut through the southern end of the clay deposit which indicated a depth of approximately 1.5m with re-deposited limestone below. It is likely, therefore that the clay deposit is also re-deposited quarry waste which remained exposed to weathering and possibly standing water which caused the gleying.

No remains of archaeological significance were found within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

### ***Trench 10***

Trench 10 was aligned east to west, towards the centre of the proposed development area (Fig. 4). As with trench 9 it was located in order to sample an area which did contain any geophysical anomalies and based upon the result of Trenches 3-9 to avoid the backfilled quarry waste. The trench was 15m long and 1.8m wide.

Approximately 0.15m to 0.2m of topsoil was excavated revealing a similar depth of subsoil as Trenches 1 and 2; the underlying substratum was also the same weathered yellow brown clay, excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.3m to 0.46m below the existing ground level (Fig. 12).

No remains of archaeological significance were found within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

## **5. Conclusion**

The proposed development area occupied a promising location within a rich archaeological landscape to the east of the Roman town of Kettering. However, no evidence for archaeological deposits or artefacts were identified during the course of this evaluation. Evidence of extensive quarrying was encountered within all, except the southern and easternmost trenches. The lack of any artefactual remains, of any date observed within either the topsoil or the quarry backfill, suggests that the quarrying is likely to be 20th century in date. Within the trenches where there was no evidence of quarrying, there were no remains of archaeological significance.

The series of linear anomalies identified by geophysical survey was identified within Trenches 1, 5, 6 and 8 and identified as modern service trenches. The other targeted

anomalies were not clearly identified within the trenches and are likely to represent quarry backfill and, therefore of no archaeological significance. Interestingly, both Trenches 1 and 2 contained evidence of east to west aligned ridge and furrow ploughing, despite the geophysical survey identifying north to south anomalies. It is possible, that the north- south anomalies were caused by a mechanical process related to backfilling the quarry or levelling of the playing fields.

## 6. Archive & Publication

The site archive consists of:

- 1 A3 permagraph sheet showing trench location plan
- 1 A4 paper proposed trench location plan
- 1 A4 paper proposed & actual trench location plan
- 1 A4 paper plan showing trench locations & building outline
- CD containing 36 digital images
- 2 A4 contact sheet
- 36 Black & White negatives and contact prints
- 1 A4 photo index sheet
- 10 A4 trench recording sheets
- 1 A4 survey notes sheet
- Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report Number 2011-057)
- Unbound copy of geophysical survey (ULAS Report Number 2011-053)

The archive for the archaeological work will be held by University of Leicester Archaeological Services under the temporary site code BAK.2011 until deposition can be arranged with the relevant repository.

A version of the summary (above) will be submitted to the editor of the local journal for inclusion in the next edition.

## 7. References

IfA, 2008 *Code of Conduct*

IfA, 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

Northamptonshire County Council, 2011 *Brief for a Programme Of Archaeological Investigation of Land adjacent to the Montagu School including the Weekley Glebe Field site, Weekley Glebe Road, Kettering, Northamptonshire.*

Smalley, R. 2011 Geophysical Survey Report. Buccleuch Academy, Kettering. Stratascan Report No J2874.

ULAS 2011 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Geophysical Survey & Targeted Trial Trenching the Buccleuch Academy, Kettering, Northamptonshire.*

Walker, C. 2010 *An Archaeological desk-based assessment of land at the Buccleuch Academy, Kettering, Northamptonshire. Unpublished NA report No 10/161*

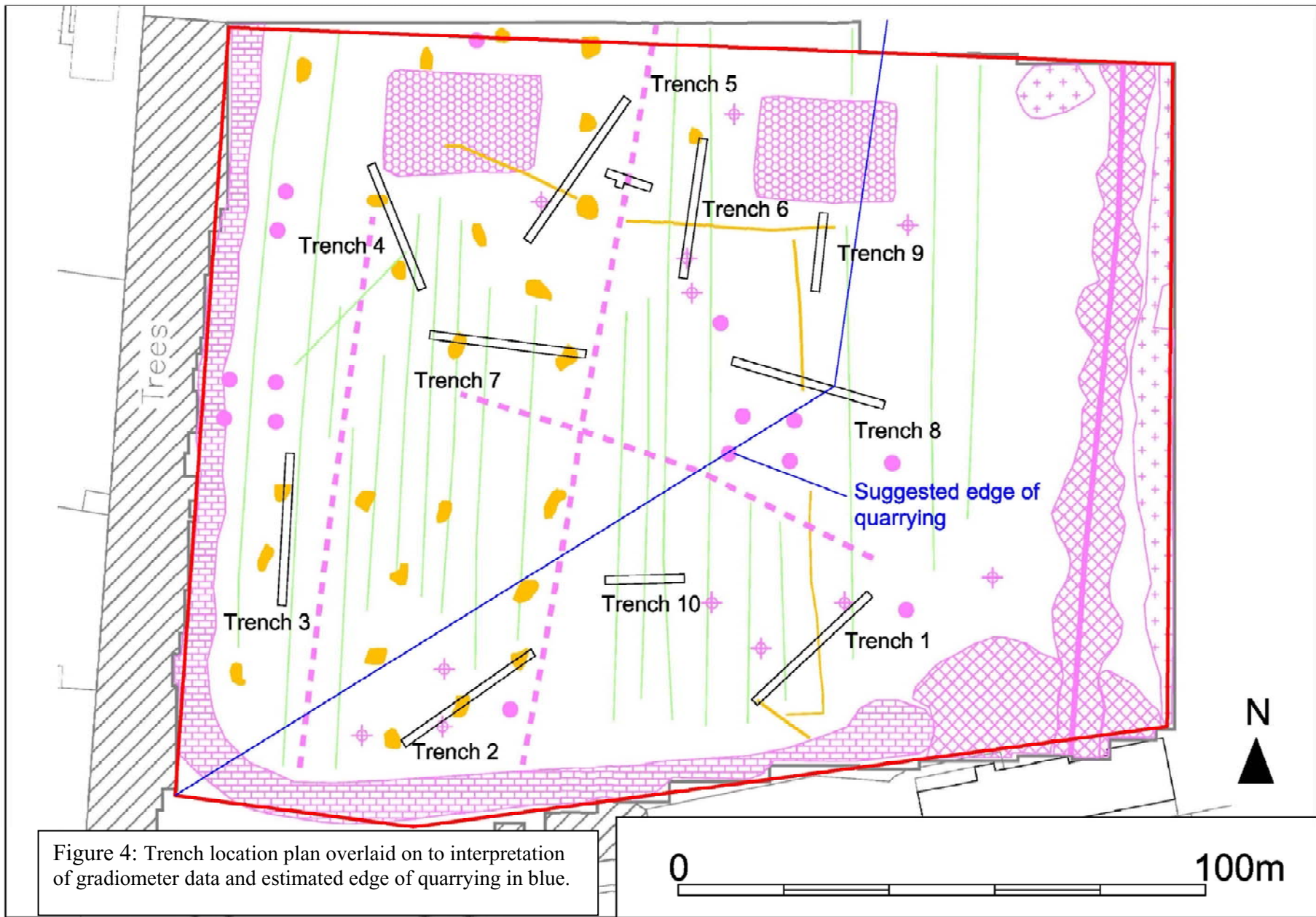


Figure 4: Trench location plan overlaid on to interpretation of gradiometer data and estimated edge of quarrying in blue.



Figure 5: Trench 1 (looking north-east).



Figure 6: Trench 2 (looking south-west).



Figure 7: Trench 3 (looking north).



Figure 8: Trench 4 (looking north-west).



Figure 9: Trench 5 (looking south-west).



Figure 10: Trench 8 (looking north-west).



Figure 11: Trench 9 (looking south).



Figure 12: Trench 10 (looking west).

**Appendix: Oasis**

<b>INFORMATION REQUIRED</b>	<b>EXAMPLE</b>
Project Name	Buccleuch Academy
Project Type	Trial Trench Evaluation
Project Manager	Vicki Score
Project Supervisor	Gerwyn Richards
Previous/Future work	Previous: None. Future: unknown
Current Land Use	Playing Fields
Development Type	School
Reason for Investigation	PPS5
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SP 878 802
Start/end dates of field work	April 2011
Archive Recipient	N/A
Height min/max	90mOD
Study Area	2.8 h
Finds	None



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