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**Archaeological Services**

An archaeological field evaluation on  
land south of King's Newton Lane,  
Melbourne,  
Derbyshire  
(SK 38482 26067)

Leon Hunt



ULAS Report No 2015-006  
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**An archaeological field evaluation on land  
south of King's Newton Lane,  
Melbourne,  
Derbyshire  
(SK 38482 26067)**

**Leon Hunt**

*for*

Persimmon Homes North Midlands Ltd

**Checked by Project Manager**

**Signed:**



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**Site Code: ULAS\_15579**

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## **An archaeological field evaluation on land south of King's Newton Lane, Melbourne, Derbyshire (SK 38482 26067)**

Leon Hunt

### **Summary**

*An archaeological field evaluation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land south of King's Newton Lane, Melbourne, Derbyshire (SK 38482 26067).*

*The work was commissioned by Persimmon Homes North Midlands Ltd in advance of the proposed development of the site for new housing. The site currently consists of two fields; one set-aside and one partially covered in brassica crops.*

*There are few known archaeological sites in the area and consequently the archaeological potential of the area is unknown.*

*A total of 13 trenches was placed across the two fields. All were negative for archaeological features except Trench 05 in Field 1, which contained a feature later identified as a probable tree throw pit.*

*As the evaluation was negative the archive for the project will be retained by ULAS with site code ULAS\_15579.*

### **Introduction**

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Persimmon Homes North Midlands Ltd to carry out an archaeological field evaluation on land south of King's Newton Lane, Melbourne, Derbyshire (NGR: SK 38482 26067). Planning consent is to be sought for the development of the site for new housing.

This archaeological work is in accordance with NPPF Section 12: Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment.

The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Derbyshire indicates that there are no known archaeological remains within the proposed development site itself. However this may be a reflection of an absence of previous survey and at present the archaeological potential of the area is unknown. There are few records on the HER to indicate the nature of pre-medieval land-use, although a Roman quern was discovered close to the site in 2008.

### **Location and Geology**

Melbourne lies in South Derbyshire around 9 miles south of Derby (Figure 1). The site itself lies at the northern edge of Melbourne parish, south of King's Newton Lane and consists of two agricultural fields separated by a hedgerow. At the time of the work, the western field (Field 1) and the western edge of the eastern field (Field 2) was set-aside. The eastern side of Field 2 was covered in brassica crops.

The two fields cover a combined area of around 2.25 hectares. The site slopes upwards towards the south and varies in height between c.64m OD to 68mOD.

The site is bordered by housing to the south and a village hall/scout hut, a bowling green and public house to the east. An arable field lies to the west and the northern border is formed by a dwelling and King's Newton Lane. The site consists of two fields separated by a hedge boundary,

The British Geological Survey indicates that the bedrock geology consists of alternating bands of Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone of the Morridge Formation, and Sandstone of the Chatsworth Grit Formation: (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk>)



Figure 1: Site Location

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## Historical and Archaeological Background

The place-name of Melbourne means "mill stream" (or "mill spring"). It was first recorded in Domesday Book of 1086, as 'Mileburne', as a royal manor. The parish church was built around 1120.

In 1311 the existing royal manor house was fortified by Robert de Holand to create Melbourne Castle. Jean, duc de Bourbon, the most important French prisoner taken at the Battle of Agincourt in 1416 was detained at the castle for 19 years.

Mary, Queen of Scots was to be imprisoned at Melbourne Castle, but by that time (1586) it had deteriorated into a poor state of repair. By the early 17th century it had fallen into decay and was demolished, although some remains can still be seen.

An archaeological desk-based assessment was prepared by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS). This showed that the Historic Environment Record (HER) for Derbyshire indicates that there are no known archaeological remains within the proposed development site itself. However this may be a reflection of an absence of previous survey and at present the archaeological potential of the area is unknown (Browning 2013).

The available evidence suggests that there were high levels of activity in the medieval and post-medieval periods concentrating within the centres of Melbourne, to the south, and King's Newton to the east. In these periods the site is likely to have been agricultural land; ridge and furrow was formerly recorded on the eastern side of the site. There are few records on the HER to indicate the nature of pre-medieval land-use, although a Roman quern was discovered close to the site in 2008.

A geophysical survey was undertaken by Stratscan in 2014. This revealed a few linear anomalies that may be have been archaeological in origin (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Plan of proposed development area, showing geophysical results (yellow) and proposed trench locations (blue). Scale 1: 2500

## Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives of the evaluation were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation is to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

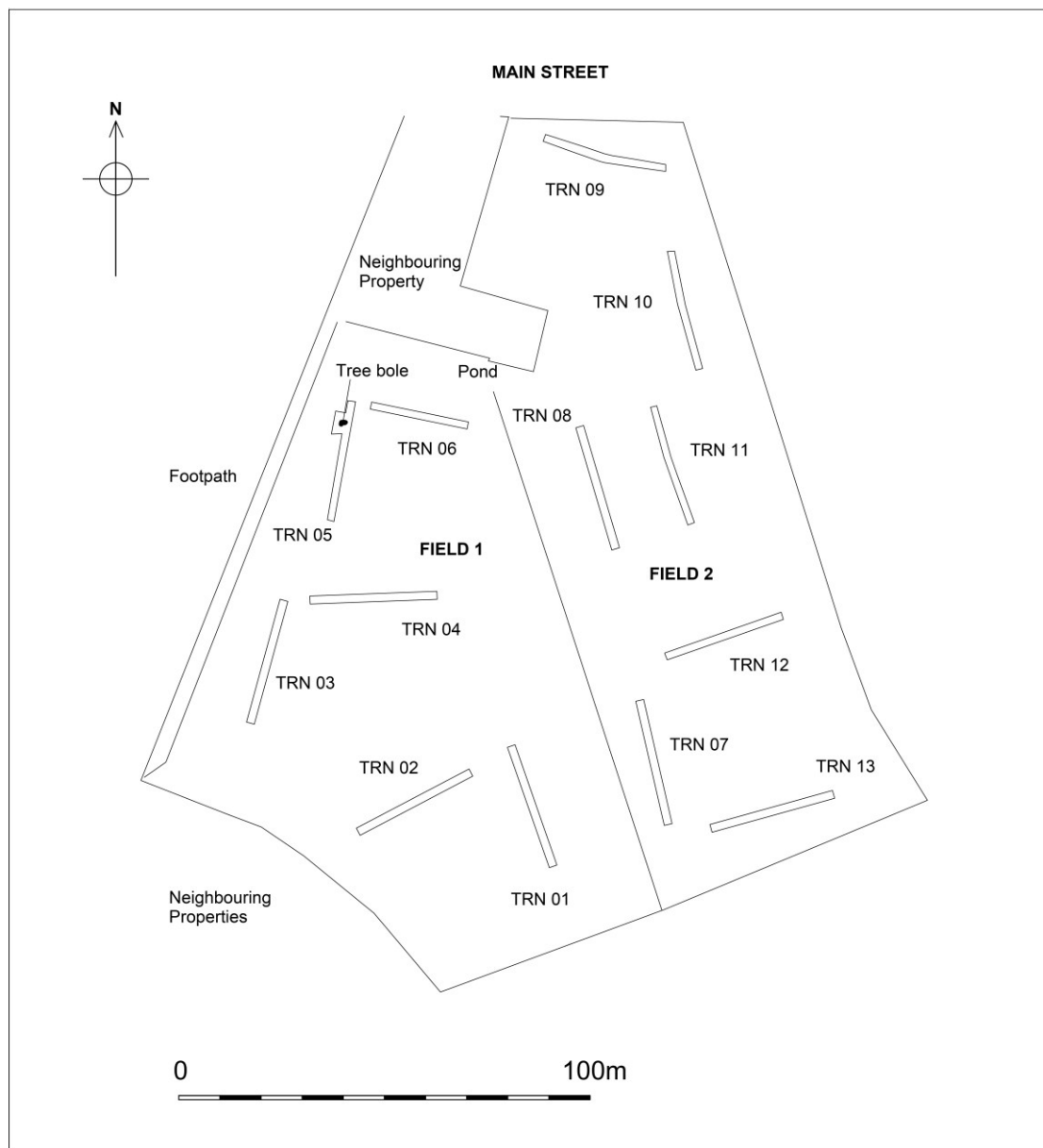


Figure 3: Plan of trench locations and features



## Methodology

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2010) in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2010). The archaeological work followed the *Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological work* (WSI) prepared by ULAS (Appendix).

The WSI aimed to provide a 3% sample of the site, which equated to thirteen 30m x 1.6m trenches. Trenches were to be placed in areas containing features revealed by the geophysical survey and within other areas to cover the site.

Brassica crops still were situated in the eastern side of Field 2 and so an effort was made to minimise damage to these crops. Six trenches were placed on Field 1 to the west, two trenches on the set-aside area of Field 2 and five within the crops.

The trenches were excavated by a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. After recording the trenches were backfilled.

## Results

The topsoil throughout the site was generally a yellowish grey or yellowish brown silty-clay often with rare or frequent angular pieces of mudstone or sandstone. Subsoil was not in evidence in all the trenches, but where it existed it consisted of yellowish brown silty-clay sometimes with angular stones in the matrix.

The northern end of Field 2 had been subject to the dumping of soil from other parts of the site in the past (Richard Jackson pers. comm.) and the topsoil within Trench 07 at the northern edge of this field was therefore very thick.

The natural sub-stratum mainly consisted of yellowish grey and yellowish pink clay with patches of mudstone, with the quantity of stone varying from trench to trench.

A number of field drains were located in the trenches mainly draining into the pond that lay at the northern end of the hedgerow that lies between the fields.

### *Field 1*



Plate 1: Work in progress in Field 1, looking south

*Trench 01*

Orientation: North- South

Length: 29.3m

Width: 1.6m

<b>Interval</b>	<b>S 0m</b>	<b>5m</b>	<b>10m</b>	<b>15m</b>	<b>20m</b>	<b>25m</b>	<b>29.3m N</b>
<b>Topsoil Depth</b>	0.31m	0.33m	0.28m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m
<b>Subsoil Depth</b>	-	0.10m	0.05m	-	0.05m	0.10m	0.07m
<b>Top of natural substratum</b>	0.31m	0.43m	0.33m	0.30m	0.35m	0.40m	0.37m
<b>Base of trench</b>	0.32m	0.44m	0.34m	0.31m	0.36m	0.41m	0.38m

No archaeological features were discovered within this trench.

*Trench 02*

Orientation: East-West

Length: 30.5m

Width: 1.6m

<b>Interval</b>	<b>W 0m</b>	<b>5m</b>	<b>10m</b>	<b>15m</b>	<b>20m</b>	<b>25m</b>	<b>30.5 E</b>
<b>Topsoil Depth</b>	0.32m	0.31m	0.30m	0.36m	0.49m	0.34m	0.33m
<b>Subsoil Depth</b>	-	0.04m	-	-	-	0.05m	0.09m
<b>Top of natural substratum</b>	0.32m	0.35m	0.30m	0.36m	0.49m	0.39m	0.42m
<b>Base of trench</b>	0.33m	0.36m	0.31m	0.37m	0.50m	0.39m	0.42m

No archaeological features were discovered within this trench.

*Trench 03*

Orientation: South-west – North-east

Length: 30.5m

Width: 1.6m

Interval	SW 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30.5 NE
<b>Topsoil Depth</b>	0.30m	0.33m	0.29m	0.30m	0.32m	0.30m	0.34m
<b>Subsoil Depth</b>	-	0.04m	0.06m	0.09m	0.09m	0.10m	0.12m
<b>Top of natural substratum</b>	0.30m	0.33m	0.35m	0.39m	0.41m	0.40m	0.46m
<b>Base of trench</b>	0.30m	0.33m	0.35m	0.39m	0.42m	0.41m	0.47m

No archaeological features were discovered within this trench.

*Trench 04*

Orientation: East - West

Length: 30.5m

Width: 1.6m

Interval	W 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30.5 E
<b>Topsoil Depth</b>	0.39m	0.30m	0.37m	0.34m	0.30m	0.36m	0.30m
<b>Subsoil Depth</b>	0.10m	0.16m	0.12m	0.10m	0.13m	0.10m	0.12m
<b>Top of natural substratum</b>	0.49m	0.46m	0.49m	0.44m	0.43m	0.46m	0.42m
<b>Base of trench</b>	0.49m	0.46m	0.49m	0.45m	0.44m	0.46m	0.42m

No archaeological features were discovered within this trench.

*Trench 05*

Orientation: North- South

Length: 28.8m

Width: 1.6m

Interval	S 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30.5 N
<b>Topsoil Depth</b>	0.37m	0.42m	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m	0.25m	0.40m

<b>Subsoil Depth</b>	0.07m	-	0.10m	0.09m	0.05m	0.18m	0.20m
<b>Top of natural substratum</b>	0.44m	0.42m	0.50m	0.49m	0.45m	0.43m	0.40m
<b>Base of trench</b>	0.44m	0.42m	0.50m	0.49m	0.45m	0.43m	0.40m



Plate 2: The feature in trench 05, looking north

A feature was identified partially obscured by the east facing baulk of the trench close to the northern end of the trench. It appeared to be a pit and was excavated against the baulk as such. The trench was later widened to expose more of the feature and to see whether any other features lay nearby. The feature was fully exposed and was seen to be an amorphous feature measuring 1.8m by 1.3m of 0.34m depth with a fill of mid yellowish grey sandy silty-clay with sparse sandstone flecks. The fill was darker and siltier along the northern edge. The base was very diffuse and uneven in places.

*Trench 06*

Orientation: East - West

Length: 24m

Width: 1.6m

<b>Interval</b>	<b>W 0m</b>	<b>5m</b>	<b>10m</b>	<b>15m</b>	<b>20m</b>	<b>24m E</b>
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<b>Topsoil Depth</b>	0.32m	0.30m	0.30m	FLOODED		
<b>Subsoil Depth</b>	0.06m	0.07m	0.10m	FLOODED		
<b>Top of natural substratum</b>	0.38m	0.37m	0.40m	FLOODED		
<b>Base of trench</b>	0.38m	0.37m	0.40m	0.60m	0.52m	0.32m

This trench contained a number of field drains, which allowed water to quickly flood the eastern end of the trench. The ground here was already very boggy. The trench was foreshortened due to the machine becoming bogged down at this end of the trench. Measurements were taken of the depth of the trench but the sequence could not be properly recorded.



Plate 3: Work in progress, field 2, looking north-east

***Field 2***

***Trench 07***

Orientation: North- South

Length: 30m

Width: 1.6m

<b>Interval</b>	<b>S 0m</b>	<b>5m</b>	<b>10m</b>	<b>15m</b>	<b>20m</b>	<b>25m</b>	<b>30m N</b>
<b>Topsoil Depth</b>	0.24m	0.26m	0.26m	0.30m	0.32m	0.36m	0.40m

<b>Subsoil Depth</b>	0.10m	0.11m	0.15m	0.11m	0.15m	0.18m	0.11m
<b>Top of natural substratum</b>	0.34m	0.37m	0.41m	0.41m	0.47m	0.54m	0.51m
<b>Base of trench</b>	0.34m	0.37m	0.41m	0.42m	0.60m	0.55m	0.51m

No archaeological features were discovered within this trench.

*Trench 08*

Orientation: North- South

Length: 30m

Width: 1.6m

<b>Interval</b>	<b>S 0m</b>	<b>5m</b>	<b>10m</b>	<b>15m</b>	<b>20m</b>	<b>25m</b>	<b>30m N</b>
<b>Topsoil Depth</b>	0.30m	0.35m	0.40m	0.35m	0.32m	0.35m	0.30m
<b>Subsoil Depth</b>	0.15m	0.12m	0.10m	0.13m	0.15m	0.12m	0.15m
<b>Top of natural substratum</b>	0.45m	0.47m	0.50m	0.48m	0.47m	0.47m	0.45m
<b>Base of trench</b>	0.47m	0.54m	0.55m	0.60m	0.57m	0.50m	0.50m

No archaeological features were discovered within this trench.

*Trench 09*

Orientation: North- South

Length: 30m

Width: 1.6m

<b>Interval</b>	<b>S 0m</b>	<b>5m</b>	<b>10m</b>	<b>15m</b>	<b>20m</b>	<b>25m</b>	<b>30m N</b>
<b>Topsoil Depth</b>	0.34m	0.65m	0.63m	0.60m	0.75m	0.70m	0.59m
<b>Subsoil Depth</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Top of</b>	0.39m	0.65m	0.63m	0.60m	0.75m	0.70m	0.59m

<b>natural substratum</b>							
<b>Base of trench</b>	0.54m	0.70m	0.70m	0.65m	0.80m	0.70m	0.59m

No archaeological features were discovered within this trench. Several field drains were identified running from north-east to south-west across the trench.

*Trench 10*

Orientation: North- South

Length: 29m

Width: 1.6m

<b>Interval</b>	<b>S 0m</b>	<b>5m</b>	<b>10m</b>	<b>15m</b>	<b>20m</b>	<b>25m</b>	<b>29m N</b>
<b>Topsoil Depth</b>	0.22m	0.23m	0.28m	0.30m	0.26m	0.24m	0.26m
<b>Subsoil Depth</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Top of natural substratum</b>	0.22m	0.23m	0.28m	0.30m	0.26m	0.24m	0.26m
<b>Base of trench</b>	0.23m	0.27m	0.28m	0.37m	0.27m	0.24m	0.36m

No archaeological features were discovered within this trench.

*Trench 11*

Orientation: North- South

Length: 30m

Width: 1.6m

<b>Interval</b>	<b>S 0m</b>	<b>5m</b>	<b>10m</b>	<b>15m</b>	<b>20m</b>	<b>25m</b>	<b>30m N</b>
<b>Topsoil Depth</b>	0.30m	0.44m	0.40m	0.40m	0.35m	0.38m	0.37m
<b>Subsoil Depth</b>	-	-	0.14m	0.10m	0.06m	0.11m	-
<b>Top of natural substratum</b>	0.30m	0.44m	0.54m	0.50m	0.41m	0.49m	0.37m

<b>Base of trench</b>	0.30m	0.45m	0.54m	0.52m	0.41m	0.50m	0.37m
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No archaeological features were discovered within this trench. A large modern service trench ran the length of the trench, broadly from north to south. A further drain cut ran across the southern end of the trench from east to west. It was very boggy at this point, suggesting a damaged drain.

#### *Trench 12*

Orientation: East- West

Length: 30m

Width: 1.6m

<b>Interval</b>	<b>E 0m</b>	<b>5m</b>	<b>10m</b>	<b>15m</b>	<b>20m</b>	<b>25m</b>	<b>30m W</b>
<b>Topsoil Depth</b>	0.30m	0.40m	0.30m	0.39m	0.36m	0.37m	0.40m
<b>Subsoil Depth</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Top of natural substratum</b>	0.30m	0.40m	0.30m	0.39m	0.36m	0.37m	0.40m
<b>Base of trench</b>	0.45m	0.54m	0.36m	0.55m	0.47m	0.54m	0.40m

No archaeological features were discovered within this trench.

#### *Trench 13*

Orientation: East- West

Length: 29m

Width: 1.6m

<b>Interval</b>	<b>E 0m</b>	<b>5m</b>	<b>10m</b>	<b>15m</b>	<b>20m</b>	<b>25m</b>	<b>29m W</b>
<b>Topsoil Depth</b>	0.54m	0.32m	0.40m	0.40m	0.39m	0.50m	0.60m
<b>Subsoil Depth</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Top of natural substratum</b>	0.54m	0.32m	0.40m	0.40m	0.39m	0.50m	0.60m



<b>Base of trench</b>	0.54m	0.46m	0.53m	0.50m	0.50m	0.65m	0.60m
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No archaeological features were discovered within this trench.

### Conclusion

The archaeological potential for the site at King's Newton Lane, Melbourne was largely unknown, although a Roman artefact had been found close to the site.

The geophysical survey produced limited results but did highlight a number of linear and curvilinear anomalies.

The evaluation was largely negative. A number of drains were encountered, which lay on a similar alignment to the linear features shown on the geophysical survey, suggesting that this is what the survey identified. The east-west drain in Trench 11 was most likely the curved linear anomaly identified on the geophysical survey in Field 2.

A possible archaeological feature was identified in Trench 05. Closer inspection showed it to be an amorphous feature with an uneven base and a diffuse fill. This was probably a tree throw pit or some other natural feature.

### Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Persimmon Homes and C3 Construction for their help and co-operation with this project. Thanks are also due to Richard Jackson, market gardener and also Hannah Hatton of Mather Jamie, land agent. The machine was provided by C3 Construction and was driven by Karl Lathey.

The project was managed by Patrick Clay and the work was carried out by Leon Hunt and James Patrick.

### Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work through the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York.

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in a suitable regional archaeological journal in due course.

### *OASIS data entry*

Project Name	Land South of Kings Newton Lane, Melbourne
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Leon Hunt
Previous/Future work	Geophysical Survey
Current Land Use	Arable
Development Type	New Housing
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition
Site Co ordinates	SK 38482 26067
Start/end dates of field work	12-01-2015 to 14-01-2015

Archive Recipient	Retained by ULAS
Study Area	2.25 ha

### **Archive**

As the project is negative the archive for this project will be retained by ULAS with site code ULAS\_15579.

The archive consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report No. 2015-006)
- 13 Trench recording sheets
- 2 Context Sheets
- 1 CD digital photographs

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16-01-2015



Plate 4: Trench 01, post excavation, looking south



Plate 6: Trench 03, post excavation, looking north

Plate 5: Trench 02, post excavation, looking east

Plate 7: Trench 04, post excavation, looking east





Plate 8: Trench 05, post excavation, looking south  
Plate 9: Trench 06, post excavation, looking east



Plate 10: Trench 07, post excavation, looking north  
Plate 11: Trench 08, post excavation, looking north





Plate 12: Trench 09, post excavation, looking west



Plate 13: Trench 10, post excavation, looking west



Plate 14: Trench 11, post excavation, looking north  
Plate 15: Trench 12, post excavation, looking east



Plate 16: Trench 12, post excavation, looking west

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