

1 Moor Lane, Old Bolsover

Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief



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ARS Ltd Report No. 2007/8
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Executive Summary

Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) were commissioned by Mr and Mrs Pembleton to carry out a watching brief at 1 Moor Lane, Old Bolsover in May 2006 and January 2007. The work involved monitoring the excavation of foundation trenches for a proposed residential building and garage.

The site is located in close proximity to the probable medieval embankments associated with the fortification of Bolsover Castle and the town. The brief supplied by Derbyshire County Council (DCC) required the observation of the removal of earth by a mechanical excavator in order to identify any significant archaeological features, deposits or finds. The area which was excavated displayed no evidence of archaeological remains.

Introduction

- 1.1 The watching brief at 1 Moor Lane, Bolsover was undertaken by Alex Thornton and Richard Chatterton of Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) on behalf of Mr and Mrs Pembleton, during the excavations of foundation trenches for a two storey house and garage.

2. Location, Background and Geology

- 2.1 The town of Bolsover lies 11km north-west of Mansfield and 9km east of Chesterfield (Fig. 1). It consists of four areas, Carr Vale, Hills Town, Old Bolsover and New Bolsover and spans roughly 2km from the outskirts of New Bolsover in the north-west to Hills Town in the south east.

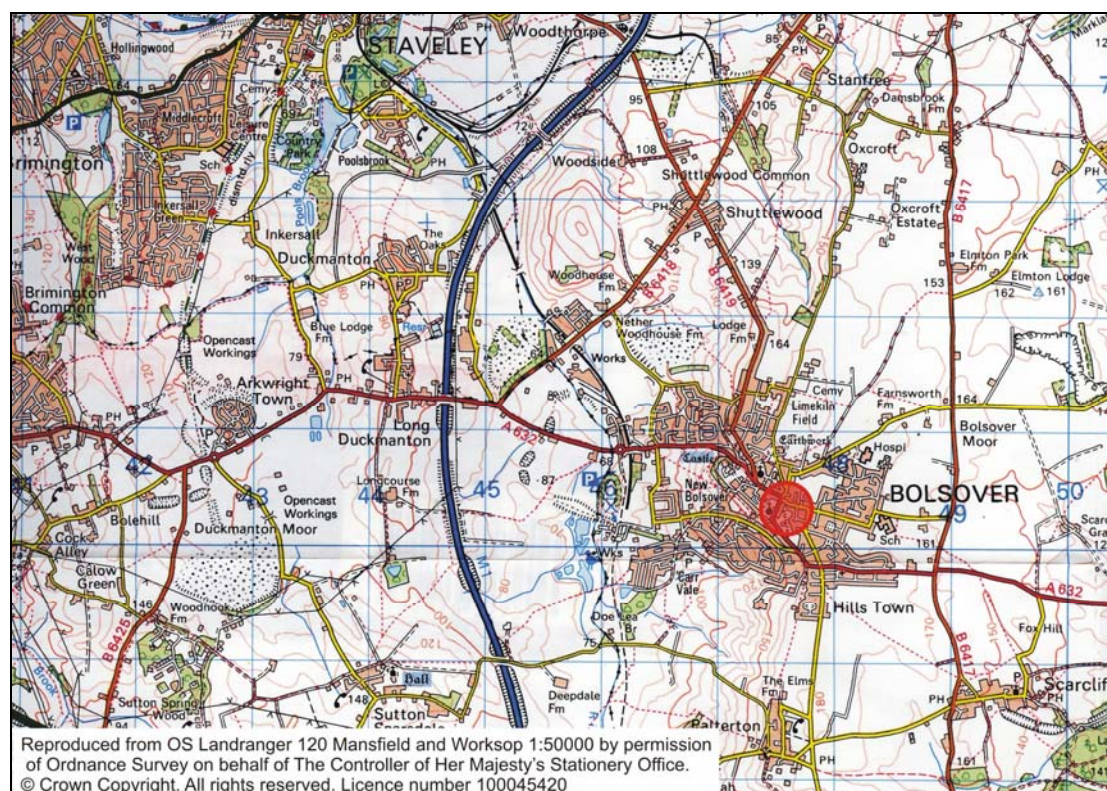


Fig. 1 Location of Bolsover.

- 2.2 The site is situated on Moor Lane in the centre of Old Bolsover at SK4761 7034 (Fig. 2). It is approximately 10m west of a section of the probable medieval town earthwork and approximately 150m south-east of Bolsover Castle.



Fig 2 Site Plan

- 2.3 The district of Bolsover contains archaeological sites from a variety of periods. The earliest evidence of activity in the town is recorded as a series of finds of Mesolithic narrow blade flint cores, points and scrapers dating to 5,000 to 3,500 BC (Hart 1984: 26). Dating to a later period, recovery of pottery indicated that a Romano-British settlement had existed in Old Bolsover, but had been later destroyed by heavy ploughing (Hart 1984: 95-6). Prior to the Norman Conquest, Bolsover was part of the Saxon kingdom of Mercia and the property of Leofric (Worsley 2004: 31). Leofric lost possession of the state sometime after the Conquest, whence it passed into the hands of a Norman lord (Worsley 2004: 31).
- 2.4 In 1086, Bolsover manor was granted to William Peveril by William the Conqueror (Hart 1984: 148, Morris 1978: 276, Worsley 2007: 31). The manor was located on a rocky ledge, a highly defensible position in the landscape. Presumably it is for this reason that Peveril decided to build Bolsover Castle in this area. During this period there were only two stone-built castles in North Derbyshire, one at Bolsover, the other at Castleton; both owned by the De Peveril family (Hart 1984: 148).
- 2.5 Bolsover castle was confiscated from the De Peveril family in 1152 by Henry II, as the family's allegiances did not lie with the new king. The castle changed hands many times after this period, suffering damage during the Barons' revolt against King John in 1215, and ultimately was acquired by Charles Cavendish in 1608 (Worsley 2004: 31-2). Cavendish hired the architect Robert Symthson to re-design the castle, the majority of which can still be seen in the current architecture.
- 2.6 The town defences, identified as earthworks or entrenchments, continue through Old Bolsover. There is debate over the dates of these earthworks and estimates range from pre-Norman to the Civil War (Symonds *et al.* 1995: 37). Hart (1984) noted the similarities that lie between these earthworks and those at Peveril Castle and presented an argument that the Bolsover earthworks were also of 12th century date (Symonds *et al.* 1995: 38).
- 2.7 The closest earthwork to the site at 1 Moor Lane, known as Earthwork A (Fig. 2), is preserved as a 'grassed glacis dump' (Symonds *et al.* 1995: 38) and was probably considerable in size when first built. The ditch associated with the earthwork was cited in the Close Roll in 1235, supporting Hart's dating estimation (Symonds *et al.* 1995: 38). It seems likely, therefore, that the Bolsover earthworks were Medieval in date (Symonds *et al.* 1995: 40).
- 2.8 Bolsover lies on the border between two geological zones, with the east of the town on the Southern Magnesian Limestone, and the west of the town on the Coal Measures (BGS 1978). The bedrock associated with Bolsover is the Triassic Sherwood Sandstone which overlies the Coal Measures (Donnelly *et al.* 2006: 3).

3. Aims and Objectives

3.1 The aims of this watching brief as stipulated by the local planning authority, were as follows:

- To observe all excavation of trenches for the establishment of the wall foundations and any service/waste water management trenches.
- To clean, excavate, sample and record all archaeological features and deposits exposed.

4. Methodology

- 4.1 All machine excavation on the site was observed by an archaeologist to ensure that no archaeological remains were disturbed. Any features or structures were to be fully cleaned and recorded in accordance with the standards stipulated by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) and the guidance provided in 'Archaeological Science at PPG16 Interventions' (English Heritage 2003).
- 4.2 Any features or structures were to be sectioned, photographed, recorded and where possible, fully-excavated. Feature plans were made at 1:20 scale and sections at 1:10 scale. All the contexts were recorded on pro-forma sheets, and a context register, along with a finds, levels and photographic register, were all produced for inclusion in the archive.
- 4.3 Photographs were taken using a 35mm SLR camera with black and white print film, and colour transparency, as well as with a digital camera (5 megapixel resolution). No finds were made during the Watching Brief.
- 4.4 All work was carried out wearing appropriate safety equipment. A system of hand signals was agreed before work commenced to allow for easy communication and a safe environment for examining the potential archaeological remains while supervising machine excavation.

5. Summary of Results

- 5.1 The uppermost layer of modern topsoil (001) was present across the site but varied in its inclusions. Underneath the area of the previous bungalow, the topsoil contained a high percentage of bricks, cement, clay drainage pipes, broken glass and other occupational debris, whilst elsewhere on the site, including the area of excavation for the garage; the topsoil had no inclusions (Figs.3 and 4). The topsoil was coarse, silty clay of a dark grey (2.5 Y 4/1) colour. After a depth of approximately 500mm, the topsoil was replaced by a substratum of brown (10YR 5/3) clay (003) (Fig. 5). This layer occurred across the site and was fine to medium in texture with no inclusions. The thickness of the clay varied from between approximately 100mm in Trench 1 to 250mm in Trench 4. This clay was a natural deposit rather than redeposited. The natural sandstone bedrock (002) associated with the area of Bolsover underlay the clay layer (003) and was present to the maximum depth of the trench at 1m from the ground surface.



Fig. 3. Photograph of the excavation trenches for the dwelling at 1 Moor Lane, Bolsover (facing north-west) (scale = 1m).



Fig. 4. Photograph of the excavation trenches for the garage at 1 Moor Lane, Bolsover (facing north) (scale = 1m).

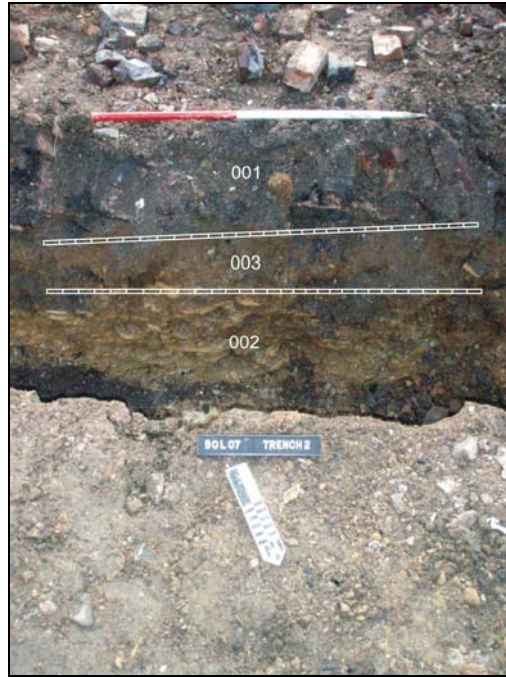


Fig. 5. Stratigraphic section of the topsoil (001), clay layer (003) and natural sandstone (002) in Trench 2 facing north (scale = 1m)

- 5.2 A very thin layer (approximately 50mm) of crushed sandstone (004) was present in a corner of trench 1 (Fig. 6). This coarse textured layer was similar to the natural sandstone in composition and its yellow colour (2.5YR 7/6). This layer reached a depth of over 300mm in the vicinity of the garage and was a modern deposit, having been laid in the area that had presumably acted as a builder's yard (Fig. 7).

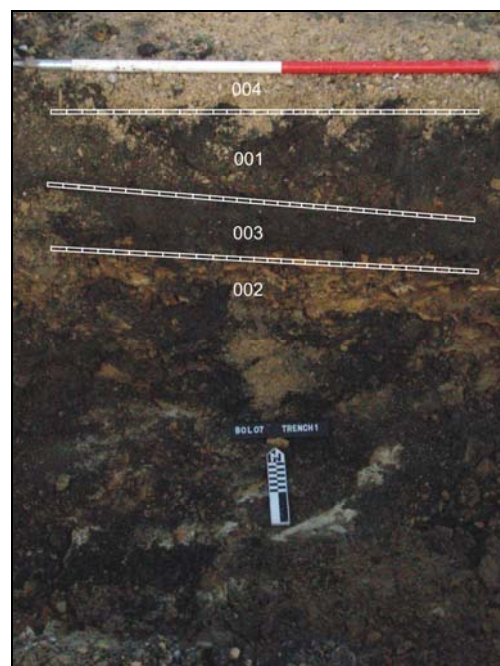


Fig. 6. Stratigraphic section of crushed sandstone (004), topsoil (001), clay layer (003), natural sandstone (002) in Trench 1 facing south (scale = 1m).

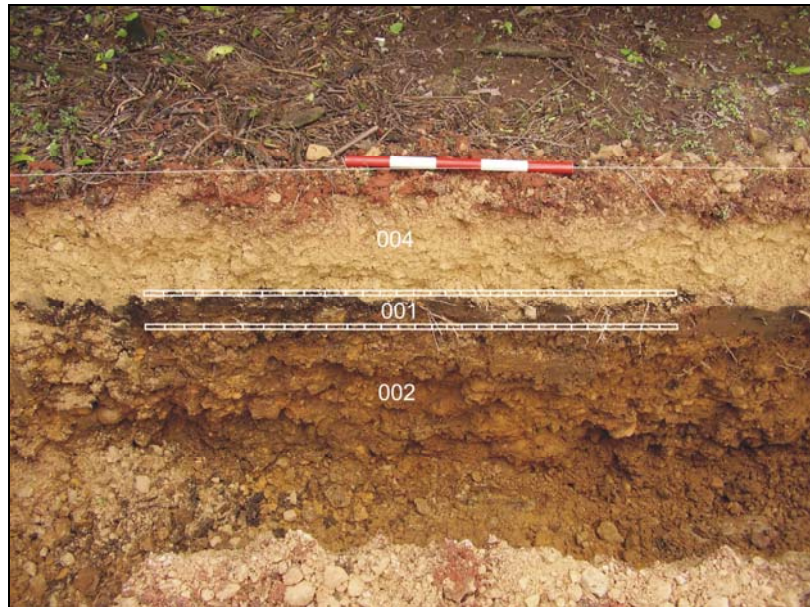


Fig. 7. Stratigraphic section of crushed sandstone (004), topsoil (001) and natural sandstone (002) in the trenches from the excavation of the garage facing south (scale = 0.5m)

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 Despite the close proximity of the site to the historical earthworks, no archaeological features, structures, deposits or finds were exposed during the watching brief at 1 Moor Lane.
- 6.2 It is possible that the previous build of the bungalow may have disturbed and destroyed any archaeology that had existed on this site.

7. Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

- 7.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client.
- 7.2 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

8. Statement of Indemnity

- 8.1 All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

9. Acknowledgements

- 9.1 ARS Ltd would like to thank all those who contributed to the smooth running of this watching brief and in particular, Mr and Mrs Pembleton and Andy Myers of Derbyshire County Council.

References

- British Geological Survey. 1978. *Chesterfield. England and Wales Sheet 112. Solid and Drift Edition.*
- Donnelly, L.J., M.G. Culshaw, F.G. Bell and D. Tragheim. 2006. Ground deformation caused by fault reactivation: some examples. *International Association for Engineering, Geology and Environment Occasional Papers* 111: 1-13.
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- Morris, J. 1978. *Domesday Book: Derbyshire.* London, Phillimore.
- Symonds, J., T. Cooper and A. Badcock. 1995. *A Review of the Area of Archaeological Interest at Old Bolsover.* Sheffield, ARCUS.
- Worsley, L. 2004. *Bolsover Castle.* London, English Heritage.

Appendix One: Catalogue of digital images supplied on CD

Cat. No.	Description	Facing	Date	Scale
1	Stratigraphic Section of Trench 1	N	29/01/2007	1m
2	Stratigraphic Section of Trench 2	N	29/01/2007	1m
3	Stratigraphic Section of Trench 4	W	29/01/2007	1m
4	Trench 1	E	29/01/2007	1m
5	Trench 5	W	29/01/2007	1m
6	General Shot of Dwelling Excavation Trenches	NE	29/01/2007	1m
7	Working shot of Plant Machinery	S	29/01/2007	1m
8	Stratigraphic Section of North Trench of Garage	S	23/05/2006	0.5m
9	Stratigraphic Section of South Trench of Garage	N	23/05/2006	0.5m
10	General Shot of Garage Excavation Trenches	N	23/05/2006	1m

Appendix Two: Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief supplied by Derbyshire County Council

**BRIEF FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF:
1 Moor Lane, Old Bolsover**

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: BOL/04/00207/FUL

NGR: SK34442068 *JK 4961 3034*

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: Bolsover District

ISSUED BY: A. M. MYERS (Development Control Archaeologist)

ISSUED TO: Mrs Pembleton

DATE: 16th January 2006

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This document is a brief for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken in connection with the proposed development at 1 Moor Lane, Old Bolsover.

1.2 From this brief a written scheme of work or specification for the watching brief will be prepared by the appointed archaeological contractor.

1.3 The scheme of work will be submitted to the Development Control Archaeologist by the appointed archaeological contractor for approval in advance of the commencement of work.

2.0 Background

2.1 Planning application BOL/04/00207/FUL concerns the demolition of an existing bungalow and the construction of a 2-storey house with a detached double garage.

2.2. The development site is located immediately adjacent to a Scheduled Monument (Dr95) 'Bolsover Entrenchments', which at this point forms the eastern boundary to Hornscliff Park. The monument comprises a curvilinear inner bank with an external ditch. The development site is located just outside of the ditch (see fig 1).

2.3 No archaeological desk-based assessment has been produced.

3.0 Watching Brief: Approach

3.1 The proposed development will require the excavation of trenches for establishing the wall foundations. The watching brief should be maintained on all such excavations, including any service/ waste water management trenches that may be required.

3.2 Should any potential layers, features, structures or finds be exposed the archaeological contractor should be afforded sufficient time to clean, excavate, sample and record the archaeology. The watching brief will not entail excavation beyond the lines of the foundation / service trenches unless this is done by prior agreement with the developer.

3.3 All excavation, whether by machine or by hand, and all recording of archaeological features and deposits, should be carried out to acceptable

archaeological standards. The contractor will be expected to abide by the Code of Practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.



Figure 1: Location of the development and Scheduled Monument Dr95

4.0 Monitoring

4.1 During the course of the watching brief it the Development Control Archaeologist may wish to undertake a monitoring visit.

4.2 The appointed archaeological contractor will need to provide at least one week's advanced warning to the curatorial archaeologists concerning when the watching brief will commence. A contact name and telephone number for staff on-site will be required.

4.3 Should significant archaeological deposits be encountered they should immediately contact the Development Control Archaeologist and arrange for a site visit. Contact details are,

**Andrew Myers BA (Hons) MSc PhD MIFA,
Development Control Archaeologist,
Conservation and Design Group,
Derbyshire County Council,**

Environmental Services Department,
Shand House,
Dale Road South,
Matlock,
Derbyshire,
DE4 3RY.

Tel: 01629 580000 (3358)
DDI: 01629 585146
Fax: 01629 585507 / 585146
Mob: 07881 850742

5.0 Finds

5.1 Artefact collection policy should be concerned with the provision of adequate samples for meeting the objectives of the work. Discarded artefactual materials should be described and quantified through assignment to broad categories in the field.

5.2 Analysis of finds will be undertaken, as necessary, by suitably qualified specialists.

5.3 Retained finds should be cleaned, marked, catalogued and packed in materials, as appropriate, for long term storage.

6.0 Human Remains

6.1 In the event of human remains being encountered site works will cease and the Coroner's office notified. Such remains will remain *in situ* until authorised to continue by the Coroner and a licence obtained from the Home Office.

6.2 The relevant Coroner's contact details are:

Mr T. Kelly,
65 Saltergate,
Chesterfield,
Derbyshire,
S40 1JS

Tel: 01246 201391
Fax: 01246 222332

6.3 Analysis of any human remains will be undertaken, as necessary, by suitably qualified specialists.

7.0 Watching Brief: Outputs

7.1 Should the watching brief fail to identify any *in situ* archaeological features, layers or significant finds the reporting of the results can be done minimally, but basic observational details, such as soil/ sub-soil depths, should still be included.

7.2 The preparation of the watching brief report should follow the guidelines published by the Institute of Field Archaeology.

7.2 Upon completion of the watching brief a report should be produced and copies submitted to the Local Planning Authority, the Development Control Archaeologist and the SMR.

7.3 The report should include as a minimum,

- Non-technical summary
- Introductory statement
- Aims and purpose of the watching brief
- Methodology
- An objective summary statement of results
- Conclusion, including a confidence statement
- Supporting illustrations at appropriate scales including location plan, location of trenches, section profiles.
- Supporting data – tabulated or in appendices, including as a minimum a basic quantification of all artefacts, ecofacts and structural data.
- Index to archive and details of archive location
- References
- A copy of this brief

7.4 Arrangements should be made from the outset of the project for the archive, consisting of original drawings, drawn plans, photographs, notes, copies of the final Watching Brief report along with the finds and an index to the archive to be deposited in the relevant museum. In this case your contact details are,

Gill Woolrich,
Sheffield City Museum and Mappin Art Gallery,
Weston Park,
Tel: 0114 2782600
Fax: 0114 2750957

7.5 The archive should be prepared in accordance with the document "Procedures for the Transfer of Archaeological Archives", prepared by Museums in Derbyshire. A copy is available either from the Development Control Archaeologist or from Sheffield City Museum and Mappin Art Gallery.

7.6 A summary of the project fieldwork should be submitted within 2 years of the completion of the project to Derbyshire Archaeological Journal for publication (see guidance note attached).

8.0 Health and Safety

8.1 The archaeologists operating on site will naturally operate with due regard to health and safety regulations.

Notes for contributors to the *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal* of interim and short reports on developer funded archaeology:

The aim is to publish annual compilations of short reports on developer funded archaeology in the county on a regular basis in the *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*, in order to better inform the public of the results of the work being undertaken.

It is envisaged that the reports will take one of two forms;

- 1 Interim reports – short interim descriptions of an excavation or survey that will eventually be subjected to fuller publication.
- 2 Definitive reports – summaries of archaeological work which will not be pursued further. Note that even if the results were negative, if valid questions were posed then a brief explanation will be worthwhile.

MODEL – see attached pages from ‘Some Fieldwork in Derbyshire by the Trent & Peak Archaeological Unit in 1998-9’ edited by Graeme Guilbert and Daryl Garton, *DAJ* vol. 121 (2001): 223-5. Number 18 is an example of an Interim report and numbers 19 to 20 are examples of definitive reports.

DETAILED NOTES

Set individual reports out in alphabetical order of site names.

NGR should follow site name, followed by names of those responsible for the report and/ or fieldwork.

Give due acknowledgement to sponsors of project within text.

Definitive reports should include whereabouts of the related written, drawn and photographic archive, as well as any artefacts.

Illustrations – include line drawings and/or photographs if appropriate.

References – include where appropriate at the end of each report.

FUNDING

The Derbyshire Archaeological Society will require an offer of grant-aid towards the printing costs of short reports submitted in order to guarantee publication. Costs will be determined from the printer's estimate. A contribution towards these costs of around 60% will be sought from the relevant contracting archaeological organisation. For further information contact Pauline Beswick (Hon. Editor), 4 Chapel Row, Froggatt, Calver, Hope Valley, S32 3ZA or tel. 01433 631256.

DEADLINE

Reports received by the end of July will be considered for inclusion in *DAJ* in the year following. If too late they will be saved for consideration for the succeeding year.

Reports to be submitted in hard copy and on disc to:

Andy Myers at Environmental Services Department, Derbyshire County Council, County Offices, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3AG.

Appendix Three: Context Register and Site Matrix

Context Number	Dimensions	Munsell Number	Colour	Description
001	Across site.	2.5YR 4/1	Dark Grey	Medium to coarse, silty clay-like topsoil, containing cement, bricks, glass and occupational debris along most of the site, apart from the North West side, where no inclusions were present. Thickness of 500mm across the site.
002	Across site.	2.5YR 7/8	Yellow	Coarse natural sandstone. Thickness of at least 5000mm.
003	Across site.	10YR 5/3	Brown	Fine to medium clay with no inclusions. Thickness of between 100mm to 250mm.
004	North West of site, particularly above Trench 1 and the North end of Trench 7.	2.5YR 7/6	Yellow	Medium to coarse sandstone gravel.

