

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Exeter City	National Grid Reference 296600, 93625	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: Report and associated archive from an archaeological evaluation at Land at Pinn Lane, Sandrook, Exeter.		Photo attached? Y
Planning Application no: ECC 12/0854/01	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS id: wessexar1-199605	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: 106671	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 5 th to the 7 th of January 2015	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>The evaluation was carried out from the 5th to the 7th of January 2015, and comprised the excavation of eight trenches. Five of which measured 25m x 1.85m, one of which measured 20m x 1.85m, and two of which measured 15m x 1.85m. The evaluation followed a previous geophysical survey, the trenches were sited to target anomalies detected and also to sample areas of the site (principally the flat-topped ridge at the southern end of the site) where remains are most likely to be present. The work was undertaken in compliance with Condition 9 on the above outline planning permission, in accordance with details agreed with the ECC PPMH.</p> <p>The geology of the Site comprised compacted sands of varying orange, pinkish-red and greyish brown colour, which was typically overlain by a pale yellow / greyish brown sandy silt loam subsoil (0.30m – 0.80m from surface), then covered by a modern topsoil (0-0.30m). In trenches 1, 4 and 5 this varied as the stratigraphy was notably deeper throughout, largely due to the presence of made ground, subsequently burying the original topsoil.</p> <p>One undiagnostic sherd of potential late Iron Age pottery was recovered from the buried topsoil (503) within trench 5, and a modern clay pipe bowl fragment was collected from the topsoil (701) within trench 7.</p> <p>A tree throw (105) was recorded at the south-eastern end of trench 1. The fill was very loose and root disturbance was common throughout, no finds were observed. A ditch (406) was exposed in both sections along the southern end of trench 4. The fill (407) contained no finds but had an identical composition to the surrounding modern made ground. This implies ditch 406 was filled in at a similar time to the made-ground deposition. Together with the shallow cut of the feature it is likely to be of no archaeological interest. The same can be said for a modern borehole (408) at the north end of trench 4, which cut through the current ground level.</p> <p>Despite the commanding location of the Site and the archaeologically-rich surrounding area there is no evidence of any significant activity prior to the modern levelling.</p>		
<p>A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.</p>		
Recorder: Luke Jarvis Wessex Archaeology West		Date sent to HER: 23/01/2015

Please email completed form to: archaeol@devon.gov.uk or post to Historic Environment Service, Devon County Council, Lucombe House, County Hall, Exeter EX2 4QD. Information recorded on this form will be added to the Historic Environment Record, and made available to all researchers.

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making sense of heritage

Land at Pinn Lane, Sandrock, Exeter, Devon

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Planning Reference: 12/0854/01
Ref: 106671.01
January 2015



Land at Pinn Lane, Sandrock, Exeter

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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January 2015

WA ref. 106671

Planning Application No: 12/0854/01 & 14/1714/02



Quality Assurance

Project Code	106671	Accession Code	-	Client Ref.	A086991
Planning Application Ref.	12/0854/01 & 14/1714/02	Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)	296600, 93625		

Version	Status*	Prepared by	Checked and Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
v01	F	Luke Jarvis	A D Crockett Regional Manager South		13/01/2015
File:	\\projectserver\wessex\Projects\106790\Report				
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Land at Pinn Lane, Sandrook, Exeter Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Figure 1: Site plan showing trench locations

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Cover photo: General site shot with trench 6 in foreground, looking East

Plate 1: Representative section of Trench 8

Plate 2: Representative section of Trench 5



Land at Pinn Lane, Sandrock, Exeter Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by WYG on behalf of Linden Homes to carry out an archaeological evaluation in January 2015 on land proposed for redevelopment at Pinn Lane, Sandrock, Exeter (centred on Ordnance Survey national grid reference 296600, 93625).

The development (Planning Permission nos 12/0854/01 & 14/1714/02, Local Planning Authority – Exeter City Council) will comprise residential dwellings, with improved access facilities, a new road corridor to the north, and associated landscaping.

On the basis of the perceived archaeological potential for the area, and in consultation with the Exeter City Council's Principal Project Manager (Heritage), hereafter ECCPPMH, acting as advisor to the Local Planning Authority, eight evaluation trenches were positioned to target geophysical survey anomalies, in order to investigate the archaeological potential of the site, within areas that are to be disturbed by the development ground works. Trenches were located to avoid areas of ecological constraint and did not cover areas of steeply sloping ground of little or no archaeological potential.

No archaeological features or deposits were observed and as a result the ECC PPMH confirmed that no further archaeological work was necessary.



Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Martin Brown, the principal archaeologist for WYG, on behalf of Linden Homes for commissioning and funding the archaeological work. The collaborative support and advice of Andrew Pye (ECC PPMH) is gratefully acknowledged.

The evaluation was directed by Luke Jarvis, assisted by Raymond Ducker and Roy Krakowicz. This report was written and compiled by Luke Jarvis. The illustrations were produced by Nancy Dixon. The project was managed by Andy King.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by WYG on behalf of Linden Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Pinn Lane, Sandrock, Exeter, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 296600, 93625 (hereafter 'the Site'; **Figure 1**). The evaluation, together with a geophysical survey formed part of a programme of archaeological works being undertaken ahead of a proposed residential development, under planning Condition No.9 on the outline planning permission (ECC no. 12/0854/01) for the Site.
- 1.1.2 The evaluation was carried out in January 2015, and comprised the excavation of eight trenches. Five of which measured 25m x 1.85m, one of which measured 20m x 1.85m, and two of which measured 15m x 1.85m.
- 1.1.3 The aim of the evaluation was to establish the presence/absence, date, and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development, in order to provide sufficient information to inform a decision on the need for further archaeological investigation and/or mitigation.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site is a square-shaped parcel of steep ground and a level ridge-top located approximately 300m east of the M5 motorway, on the east side of Pinn Lane, Monkerton in the parish of Pinhoe, northeast Exeter, Devon. The total Site area extends to approximately 1.7 hectares in total. The Site is bounded to the west by Pinn Lane, to the north by mature hedging and a plot of mixed undeveloped and developed ground, through which a new link road is currently being constructed. To the south the Site is bounded by mature hedging and Gypsy Hill Lane and to the east by Gypsy Lane and the Gypsy Hill Hotel, associated car-parking and gardens. The Site was previously used as a horticultural nursery and is currently in mixed use, with some small areas of mature hedge, trees, and open waste ground throughout; there are a number of mobile homes in the northeast portion of the Site. Several mature hedgerows will be retained as part of the scheme; while these are not designated, they are of local importance.
- 1.2.2 The Site lies on a fairly steep north-west-facing slope and level ridge-top with the south-eastern ground level at a height of over 45m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) falling to less than 35m aOD at the north-west. The Site slopes down towards a stream named Pin Brook that flows east towards the River Clyst. The underlying geology is Dawlish Sandstone (British Geological Survey 2014).

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The following is summarised from the approved Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by WYG, which provides a full assessment of the recorded heritage assets in the local area.
- 1.3.2 No known archaeological remains are recorded within the Site although its location near and including the top of a ridge is considered to have the potential for prehistoric and Romano-British remains. The area surrounding the Site is considered to be archaeologically rich with prehistoric to medieval remains found in the local area in addition to historical evidence of the nearby settlement at Monkerton which is mentioned



in the Domesday survey of 1086. A battle is recorded as being fought at the nearby village of Pinhoe in 1001.

- 1.3.3 In October 2014 Wessex Archaeology conducted a detailed gradiometer survey on the Site (Wessex 2014). The survey data demonstrated the presence of a few small anomalies of possible archaeological interest, along with numerous ferrous anomalies. The evaluation confirmed the anomalies to be of geological origin.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1.1 The aims and objectives of the archaeological work were to:

- Phase 1 - Excavate archaeological evaluation trenches
- By doing so, identify and define the extent of any areas with significant archaeological potential and of areas of little or no archaeological potential;
- Excavate and record any identified archaeological features and deposits within the trenches to a level to enable their nature and significance to be identified;
- Phase 2 - In consultation with the ECC PPMH and the client, define any more extensive areas of remains that require excavation, and complete the excavation of such areas prior to construction starting;
- For both phases - Undertake sufficient post-excavation assessment to confidently interpret archaeological features identified during site works, artefacts and samples to identify any requirements for detailed analysis and publication of the results;
- Report the results of the field investigations and subsequent post-excavation assessment and analysis and place these results within their local and regional context; and
- Compile and deposit a site archive at a suitable repository.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WYG 2014). Trench locations were scanned using a cable detecting device. The trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision using a tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. The turf, topsoil and subsoil were stored separately to facilitate appropriate backfilling and consolidation of each trench following the completion of recording.

3.1.2 All potential archaeological features and deposits were assigned a unique context number. Features were hand excavated in order to ascertain their nature, date and function, and were fully recorded using WA's *pro forma* record sheets.

3.1.3 A photographic record was created using a digital camera. Particular attention was taken to record all trench locations to provide a full record of both the original and final condition of the trenches excavated.

3.1.4 Site survey was carried out using a Leica Viva series GNSS unit using the OS National GPS Network through an RTK network with a 3D accuracy of 30mm or below. All survey data was recorded using the OSGB36 British National Grid coordinate system.



- 3.1.5 Andrew Pye (EECC PPMH) was kept informed of the progress of the archaeological fieldwork.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

- 4.1.1 The geology of the Site comprised compacted sands of varying orange, pinkish-red and greyish brown colour, which was typically overlain by a pale yellow / greyish brown sandy silt loam subsoil (0.30m – 0.80m from surface), then covered by a modern topsoil (0-0.30m)(**Plate 1**). In trenches **1**, **4** and **5** this varied as the stratigraphy was notably deeper throughout, largely due to the presence of made ground, subsequently burying the original topsoil (**Plate 2**).
- 4.1.2 One undiagnostic sherd of potential late Iron Age pottery was recovered from the buried topsoil (**503**) within trench **5**, and a modern clay pipe bowl fragment was collected from the topsoil (**701**) within trench **7**.
- 4.1.3 A tree throw (**105**) was recorded at the south-eastern end of trench **1**. The fill was very loose and root disturbance was common throughout, no finds were observed. A ditch (**406**) was exposed in both sections along the southern end of trench **4**. The fill (**407**) contained no finds but had an identical composition to the surrounding modern made ground. This implies ditch **406** was filled in at a similar time to the made-ground deposition. Together with the shallow cut of the feature it is likely to be of no archaeological interest. The same can be said for a modern borehole (**408**) at the north end of trench **4**, which cut through the current ground level.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 Despite the commanding location of the Site and the archaeologically-rich surrounding area there is no evidence of any significant activity prior to the modern levelling.

6 ARCHIVE

- 6.1.1 Following the negative results of the evaluation the ECC PPMH has advised that a completed, illustrated County HER entry will suffice as a record of the investigations and all primary site records can be discarded.

6.2 OASIS

- 6.2.1 An OASIS online record has been initiated for the work and key fields in regard of the evaluation has been entered under OASIS ID wessexar1-199605. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the Devon Historic Environment Record. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report.

6.3 Security Copy

- 6.3.1 In line with current best practice (Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.



6.4 Copyright

- 6.4.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The County HER, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profit making, and conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003*.

7 REFERENCES

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8 APPENDICES

8.1 Appendix 1: Trench Tables

Trench 1 Dimensions: 20.50m x 1.85m x 0.70m				
Context	Description		Dimensions (m)	Depth below surface (m)
101	Topsoil	Mid-brown / greyish brown sandy silt loam.	Whole trench	0–0.30
102	Made ground	Mid-brown / reddish brown sandy loam.	Whole trench	0.3-0.50
103	Buried topsoil	Greyish brown sandy silt loam.	Whole trench	0.50-0.56
104	Natural	Yellow and orange sand with root disturbance throughout, rare sandstone slab <1.1m long.	Whole Trench	0.56-0.70+
105	Tree throw	Greyish brown sandy silt loam tree throw disturbance.	1.30 x 0.70	0.54-0.68

Trench 2 Dimensions: 18.80m x 1.85m x 0.65m				
Context	Description		Dimensions (m)	Depth below surface (m)
201	Topsoil	Mid-brown / greyish brown sandy silt loam.	Whole trench	0–0.30
202	Subsoil	Pale yellow and greyish brown sandy silt loam.	Whole trench	0.30-0.45
203	Natural	Orange 40%, pale yellow 40%, pinkish red 20% compacted sand.	Whole trench	0.45-0.65+

Trench 3 Dimensions: 10.30m x 1.85m x 0.85m				
Context	Description		Dimensions (m)	Depth below surface (m)
301	Topsoil	Mid-brown / greyish brown sandy silt loam.	Whole trench	0–0.32
302	Subsoil	Pale yellow and greyish brown sandy silt loam.	Whole trench	0.32-0.52
303	Natural	Orange 30%, pale yellow 50%, pinkish red 20% compacted sand.	Whole trench	0.52-0.85+

Trench 4 Dimensions: 21.50m x 1.85m x 0.44m				
Context	Description		Dimensions (m)	Depth below surface (m)
401	Topsoil	Mid-brown / greyish brown sandy silt loam.	Whole trench	0–0.22
402	Made ground	Mid-brown / reddish brown sandy loam.	Whole trench	0.22-0.40
403	Buried topsoil	Greyish brown sandy silt loam.	Whole trench	0.40-0.44
404	Subsoil	Pale yellow sand with root disturbance throughout.	Whole trench	0.44-0.90
405	Natural	Orange, pinkish red and greyish brown compacted sand.	Whole trench	0.60-0.90
406	Ditch	E-W aligned linear cut with moderate concave sides and a concave base.	1.85 wide x 0.36 deep	0.50-0.85
407	Fill of 406	Reddish brown with grey undertones silty sand.	0.36 thick	0.50-0.85
408	Bore hole	Modern bore hole cut from surface.	0.55-0.80 wide x 1.7 deep	0-1.70+
409	Fill of 408	Mixture of topsoil subsoil and natural sands.	0.55-0.80 wide x 1.7 deep	0-1.70+

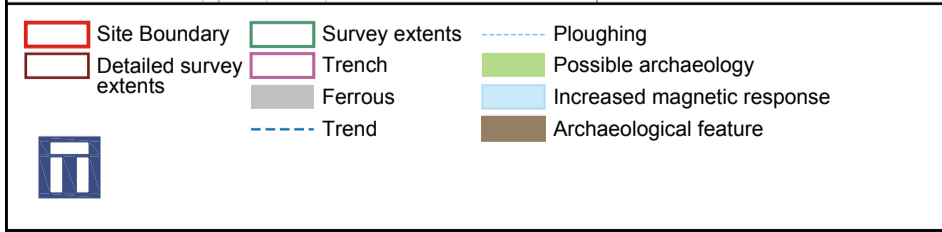
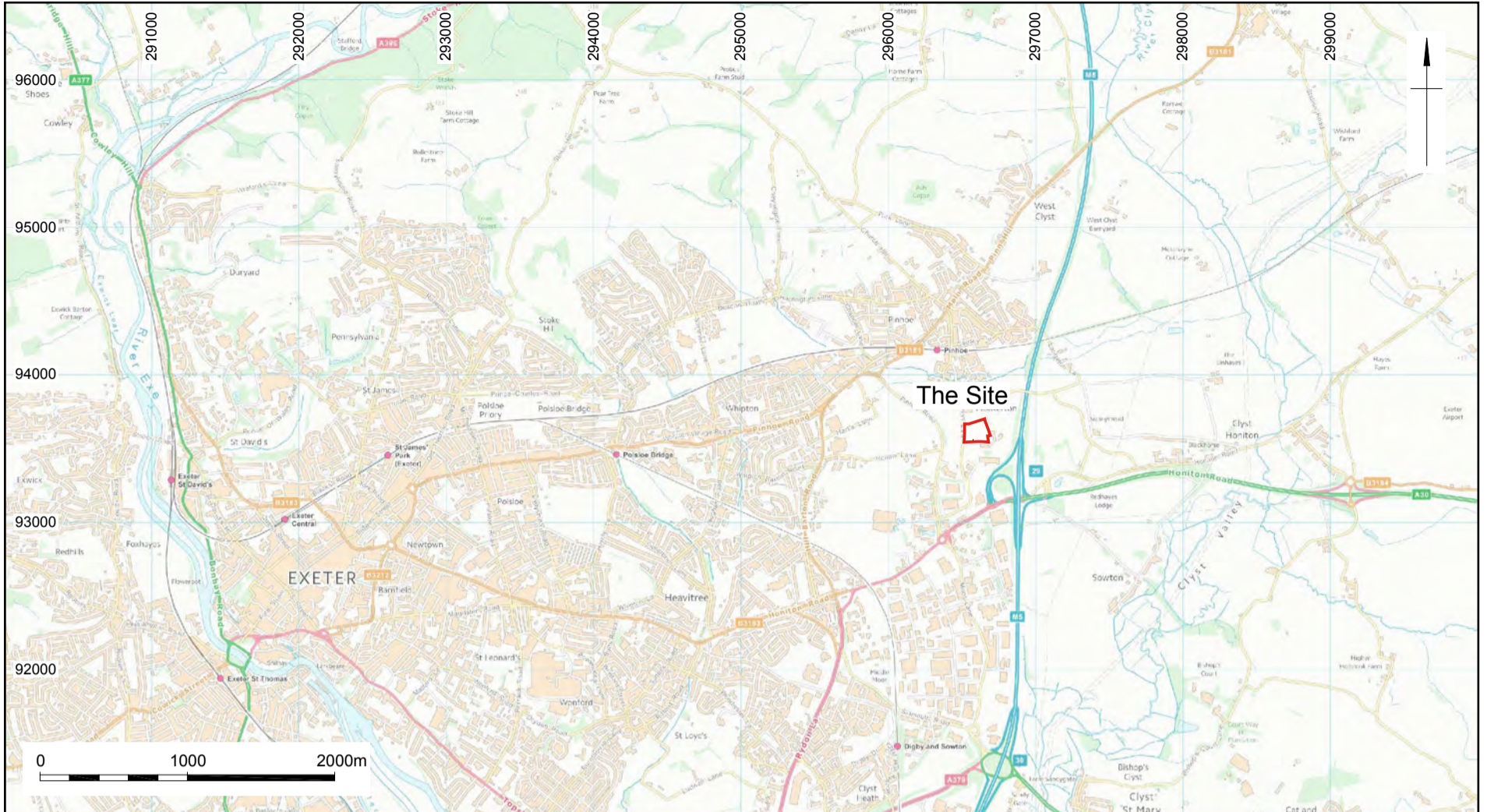


Trench 5 Dimensions: 24.70m x 1.85m x 01.20m				
Context	Description		Dimensions (m)	Depth below surface (m)
501	Topsoil	Reddish brown fine sand silt.	Whole trench	0–0.25
502	Made ground	Reddish brown silty sand.	Whole trench	0.25-0.53
503	Buried topsoil	Orange brown fine silty sand.	Whole trench	0.53-0.65
504	Subsoil	Brownish orange / brownish yellow fine sands.	Whole trench	0.65-1.10
505	Natural	Orange pink brown hard compacted sands.	Whole trench	1.10-1.20+

Trench 6 Dimensions: 23.5m x 1.85m x 1.00m				
Context	Description		Dimensions (m)	Depth below surface (m)
601	Topsoil	Mid-brown / greyish brown sandy silt loam.	Whole trench	0–0.30
602	Subsoil	Mid brown / yellowish brown sandy loam.	Whole trench	0.30-0.80
603	Natural	Orange pinkish red and greyish brown compacted sand.	Whole trench	0.80-1.20

Trench 7 Dimensions: 10m x 1.85m x 1.10m				
Context	Description		Dimensions (m)	Depth below surface (m)
701	Topsoil	Mid-brown / greyish brown sandy silt loam.	Whole trench	0–0.30
702	Made ground	Mid brown / reddish brown sandy loam.	Whole trench	0.30-0.55
703	Subsoil	Pale yellow pinkish red greyish brown silty sand loam.	Whole trench	0.55-0.80
704	Natural	Orange / pinkish red sands / sandstone nodules.	Whole trench	0.80-1.20

Trench 8 Dimensions: 19.4m x 1.85m x 0.95m				
Context	Description		Dimensions (m)	Depth below surface (m)
801	Topsoil	Greyish brown silt sand.	Whole trench	0–0.25
802	Subsoil	Orange brown silty sand	Whole trench	0.25-0.40
803	Layer	Intermittent boundary layer between diffuse subsoil and natural.	Whole trench	0.40-0.60
804	Natural	Orange red yellow and pink compacted sands.	Whole trench	0.60-0.95+



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Site plan showing trench locations


Figure 1



Plate 1: Representative section of Trench 8



Plate 2: Representative section of Trench 5

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