



making sense of heritage

Islington Lane, Elton and Winster, Peak District, Derbyshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



Ref: 107460.01
April 2015



**Islington Lane, Elton and Winster, Peak District,
Derbyshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Islington Lane, Elton and Winster, Peak District, Derbyshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Contents

Summary.....	ii
Acknowledgements.....	iii
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Project background.....	1
1.2 Site Location and Description.....	1
2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	1
2.1 General.....	1
3 METHODOLOGY.....	2
3.1 Aims and objectives.....	2
3.2 Fieldwork methodology.....	2
4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS.....	2
4.1 Introduction.....	2
4.2 Summary.....	2
5 DISCUSSION.....	3
5.1 Summary.....	3
6 STORAGE AND CURATION.....	3
6.1 Museum.....	3
6.2 Archive.....	3
6.3 Discard policy.....	3
6.4 Security copy.....	3
7 REFERENCES.....	4
7.1 Bibliography.....	4
8 APPENDICES.....	5
8.1 Appendix 1: Context Index.....	5

Figures

Figure 1 Site location

Figure 2 Representative sections of Trenches 1, 2 and 3

Plates

Plate 1 Southwest facing shot of Trench 1

Plate 2 West facing representative section of Trench 1

Plate 3 North facing shot of Trench 3



Islington Lane, Elton and Winster, Peak District, Derbyshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Amey PLC (hereafter 'the Client') to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks along the eastern side of Islington Lane, between the villages of Edale and Winston, Derbyshire, National Grid Reference (NGR) 423170, 360539 to 423620, 360030. The groundworks were being carried out to replace a water main.

The watching brief comprised the monitoring of three sections of trenching through three fields. The trenching ran from the junction of Islington Lane and Buckdale Lane to the south-east for approximately 322m.

No archaeological structures, features, deposits or finds were encountered.

The project archive has been compiled according to the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Wessex Archaeology 2015) and is fully cross referenced and indexed. It is currently held by Wessex Archaeology under the project code **107460**.



Islington Lane, Elton and Winster, Peak District, Derbyshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Amey PLC and is grateful to Melanie Knight in this regard.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Michael Keech and Martyn Cooper. The report was compiled by Laurence Savage. The illustrations were prepared by Alix Sperr. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Richard O'Neill.



Islington Lane, Elton and Winster, Peak District, Derbyshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Amey PLC to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land east of Islington Lane, between Elton and Winster, Derbyshire (hereafter 'the Scheme'); National Grid Reference (NGR) 423170, 360539 to 423620, 360030 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 Wessex Archaeology produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Wessex Archaeology 2015) outlining how the requirements of the work would be met and was prepared in accordance with current industry guidance (CIfA 2014a-d). The WSI was submitted to the Client and the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) for information.

1.2 Site Location and Description

1.2.1 The Scheme was located along the eastern side of Islington Lane between the villages of Elton and Winster, Derbyshire. It begins just after the junction of Islington Lane and Buckdale Lane and continues south-east for approximately 322m.

1.2.2 The Scheme is surrounded by farmland with the occasional farm building, with the village of Winster situated north-east of Islington Lane, which contains approximately 70 Grade II listed buildings, none of which are situated near the area of proposed works (Archaeology Data Service, <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>).

1.2.3 The Scheme crosses gently undulating land. The underlying geology of the Scheme comprises limestone, dolomitic of the Monsal Dale Limestone Formation. The local environment was previously dominated by shallow carbonate seas which means the area should be rich in corals and shell type faunas. No superficial deposits are known (British Geological Survey, <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/>).

2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 General

2.1.1 The following information was derived from a rapid online search.

2.1.2 No known heritage assets were thought to be at risk from the Scheme itself, however, within the wider area remains of prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Medieval and post-medieval activity have been recorded in the form of sites and findspots (Heritage Gateway, <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/>). Of particular relevance are cultivation earthworks to the immediate north of the Scheme which are thought to date to the



medieval period and documentary references to a settlement on Islington Lane, built before 1735.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

3.1.1 The general aims of the project were:

- *to accurately record the location and stratigraphy of areas excavated during groundworks;*
- *to determine the extent, condition, character, importance and date of any archaeological evidence encountered;*
- *to provide information that will enable the archaeological remains to be placed within their local, regional and national contexts; and*
- *to produce an accurate and comprehensive record and report of any archaeological deposits disturbed by the Site works.*

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

3.2.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Wessex Archaeology on the groundworks along specific areas along the Scheme (**Figure 1**).

3.2.2 All excavation areas were scanned using a CAT to check for uncharted services in advance of excavation.

3.2.1 Soils were removed using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist.

3.2.2 A full written, drawn and photographic record was made of excavated trenches. All recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 A total of three trenches (Trenches 1 – 3) were opened through three fields (Fields 1 – 3, **Figure 1**).

4.2 Summary

4.2.1 **Trench 1 (Plate 1 & 2)** lay to the south east of the site. The works encountered dark brown grey silty clay topsoil (**100**) and underlying natural yellow brown silty clay beginning at a depth of 0.2m (**101**) and bedrock deposits (**102**) beginning at 0.7m (**Figure 2**). No archaeology was encountered.

4.2.2 **Trench 2** lay to the north west of **Trench 1**. The works encountered grey brown silty clay topsoil (**200**) to a depth of 0.15m overlying deposits of natural brown grey sandy silt (**201**) and lower natural limestone deposits (**202**) beginning at 0.7m (**Figure 3**). No archaeology was encountered.



- 4.2.3 **Trench 3 (Plate 3)** lay to the north west of **Trench 2**. The works encountered brown grey sandy silt topsoil (**301**) to a depth of 0.1m. The topsoil overlay a mid orangey brown sandy silt subsoil (**302**) which overlay a deposit of natural yellow white limestone (**303**) beginning at 0.7m (**Figure 4**). No archaeology was encountered.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 The watching brief comprised monitoring of three sections of trenching, through three fields. No archaeological structures, features, deposits or finds were encountered.

6 STORAGE AND CURATION

6.1 Museum

- 6.1.1 The project archive resulting from the excavation will be deposited with Buxton Museum. The Museums Service has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project.

6.2 Archive

- 6.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Buxton Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (English Heritage 2011; SMA 1993, 1995; UKIC 2001; Brown 2011; ADS 2013; CIfA 2014c).

6.3 Discard policy

- 6.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA) 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.

6.4 Security copy

In line with current best practice (e.g. 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.



7 REFERENCES

7.1 Bibliography

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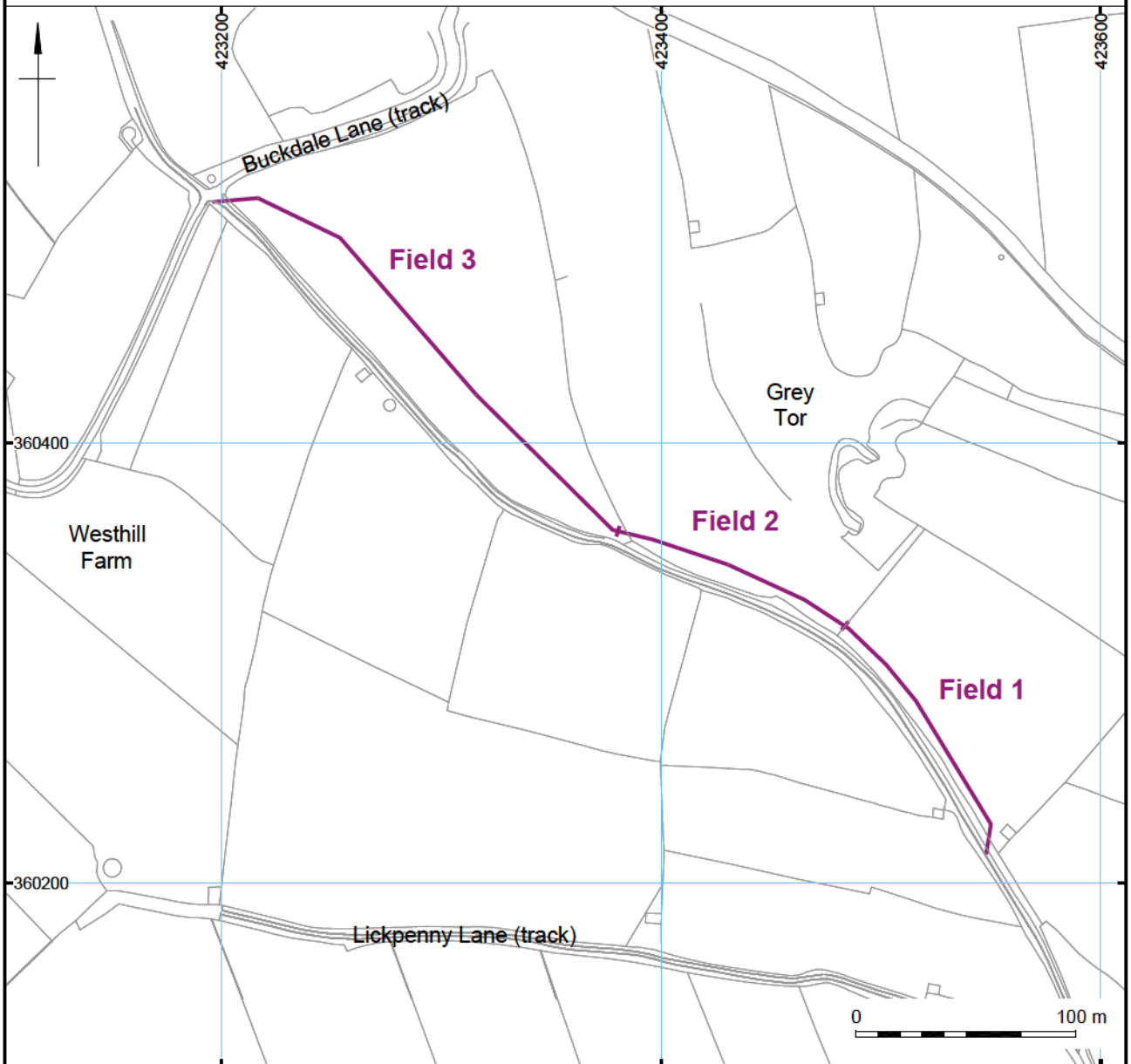
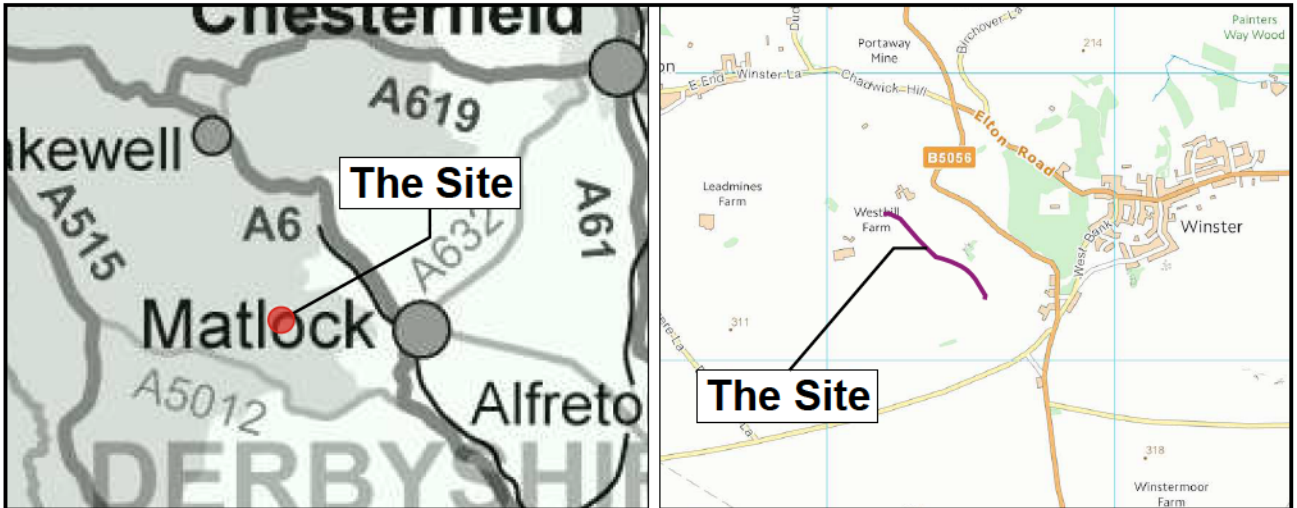
8 APPENDICES



8.1 Appendix 1: Context Index

Trench 1		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
100	Topsoil: dark grey brown silty clay.	0-0.2
101	Natural: dark yellow brown silty clay.	0.2-0.7
102	Natural: Bedrock slabs.	0.7-0.9+

Trench 2		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
200	Topsoil: Mid brown grey silty clay.	0-0.15
201	Natural: Mid brown grey sandy silt.	0.15-0.7
202	Natural: Limestone bedrock slabs.	0.7-0.9+

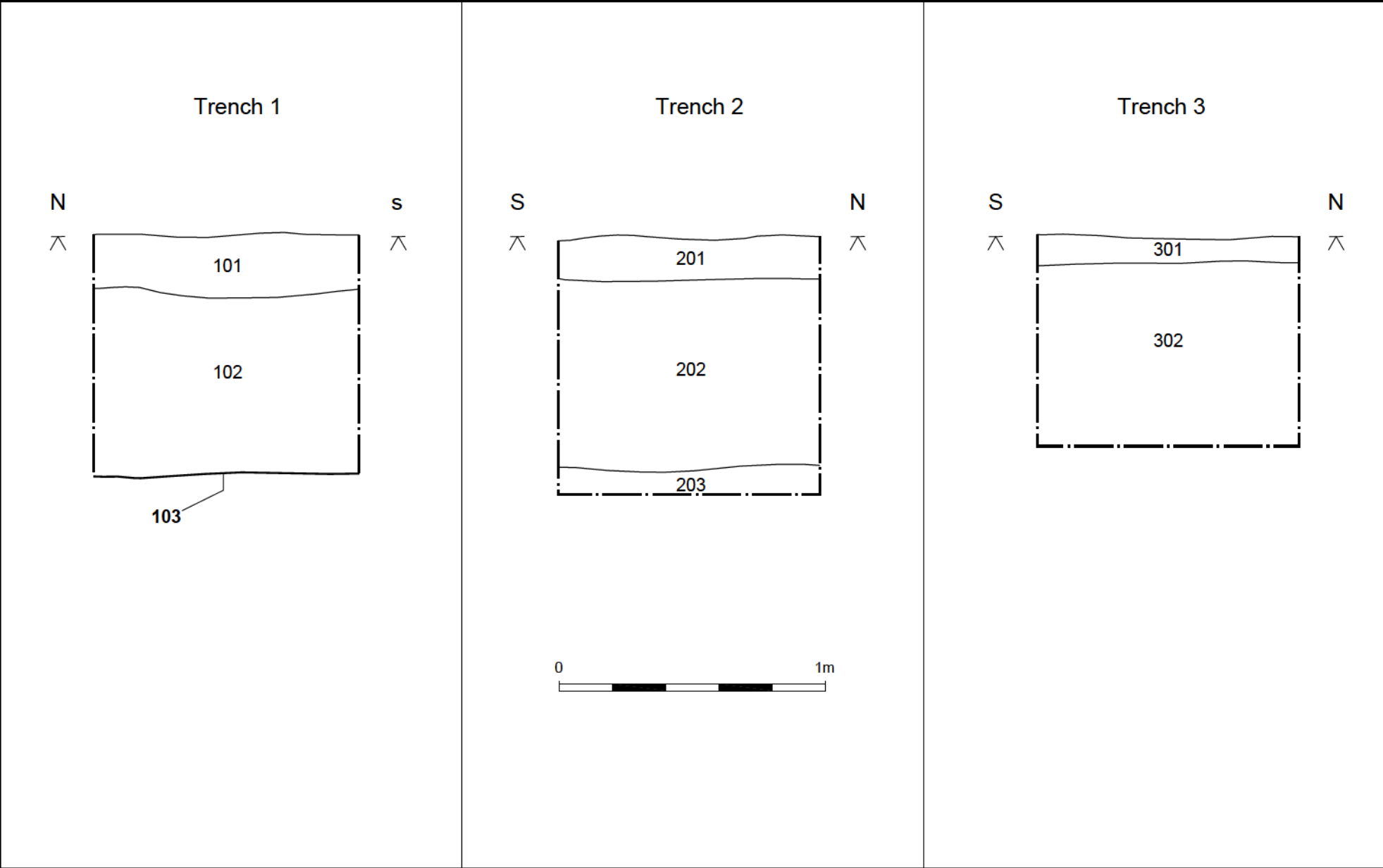
Trench 3		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
301	Topsoil: Mid brown grey sandy silt	0-0.1
302	Subsoil: Mid orange brown sandy silt	0.1-0.7
303	Natural: Yellow white limestone.	0.7-0.9+



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Site location

Figure 1



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Representative sections of Trenches 1, 2, and 3

Figure 2



Plate 1: Southwest facing shot of **Trench 1**



Plate 2: West facing representative section of **Trench 1**



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Plate 3: North facing shot of Trench 3

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