Chestnut Walk
Reading, Berkshire

Archaeological Evaluation

Ref: 224180.3
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wessexarchaeology

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Project management by	Simon Woodiwiss
Document compiled by	Alistair Zochowski
Contributions from	Lorraine Mepham
Graphics by	Nancy Dixon, Rob Goller and Karen Nichols

Quality Assurance

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Contents

List of Figures

List of Plates

List of Tables

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Reading Borough Council to carry out an archaeological test pit evaluation at Chestnut Walk, Reading, Berkshire, situated within the scheduled area of Reading Abbey, central Reading, centred on NGR 472085 173485.

The evaluation comprised the excavation by hand of 19 test pits to allow the replanting of 14 trees and the installation of 4 lighting columns and 1 CCTV column. The test pits were set out with hand tapes using a survey drawing provided by the client. The test pits measured 0.5 m in length and width and the depth varied between 0.45 and 0.80 m.

Out of the 19 test pits excavated, 6 contained deposits different to a stratigraphic sequence of layers of made ground overlain by the modern-day topsoil.

The base of Test pit 3, exposed a mortar layer or surface comprising of grey mortar with CBM and flint inclusions. This layer was undated. The relatively high level of the deposit and proximity to the canal would tend to suggest a later date and association with the canal, rather than a medieval or earlier post-medieval date and association with the abbey. Similar deposits have been found in Test pits 9 and 10.

Test pits 5, 6 and 7 uncovered a compact layer of mid brown sandy silty clay at the base of the test pits. This layer was dated to the post-medieval period. Test pits 9 and 10 produced evidence for a layer, surface or foundation deposit comprising a mixed white mortar with flint inclusions, again this deposit dated to the post-medieval period and tobacco pipes and earthenware pottery was recovered. These deposits are likely to have derived from the canalisation of the River Kennett and the subsequent development of the riverside during the 18th and 19th century.

The archaeological test pit evaluation carried out at Chestnut Walk, Reading Berkshire successfully met its aims and objectives and the results add to the corpus of knowledge concerning the medieval abbey and its later history.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Reading Borough Council, for commissioning the archaeological evaluation, in particular Andrew Lockwood. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Fiona Macdonald, who monitored the project for Berkshire Archaeology, and to David Cox and Roland of Reading Borough Council for their cooperation and help on site.

The fieldwork was directed by Pete Capps, with the assistance of Rachael Capps and Phil Trim. This report was written by Alistair Zochowski and reviewed by Simon Woodiwiss. The project was managed by Simon Woodiwiss on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.

Chestnut Walk, Reading, Berkshire

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Reading Borough Council, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 0.09 ha parcel of land located within the scheduled area of Reading Abbey, in central Reading, Berkshire, centred on NGR 472085 173485 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The proposed scheme comprises the removal of an existing avenue of horse chestnut trees and the excavation of 19 pits (measuring 1.0 m long by 1.0 m wide by 0.45 m deep) to allow for the planting of 14 replacement trees, and the installation of 4 lighting columns and 1 CCTV column.

1.1.3 The ruins of Reading Abbey are scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Scheduled monument consent was obtained on the 7th of August 2019 (ref. S00225985).

1.1.4 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2019). Fiona Macdonald, Archaeological Curator for Berkshire Archaeology approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.1.5 The fieldwork, comprising 19 test pits, was undertaken between the 1st and 4th of October 2019.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context.

1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource that may be impacted by the proposed development and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation associated with the proposed scheme.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The evaluation area is located immediately north of the River Kennet in central Reading, adjacent to Reading Prison and the Abbey Ruins. Chestnut Walk comprises a broad, tree-lined walkway on an alignment with the river.

1.3.2 Existing ground levels on the site are approximately 39 m above Ordnance Datum (OD).

1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation, which is a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 72 to 90 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. Local environment previously dominated by warm chalk seas.

The Site is shown (BGS 2019) as within the area covered by superficial deposits relating to the Taplow Gravel Member (sand and gravel) formed 2 million years ago during the Quaternary Period. There is, however, an area of alluvium close-by (clay, silt, sand and gravel).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following summary is largely drawn from a brief prepared by Berkshire Archaeology (2019).

2.2 Previous investigations related to the proposed scheme

2.2.1 No previous investigations have occurred that relate to the proposed scheme, however numerous archaeological investigations have been carried out within the abbey precinct itself.

2.3 Historical background

2.3.1 One of the earliest references to the town of Reading is in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle for AD 870–871, as the site of a Danish winter camp, probably situated on or near the site of the later abbey (Astill 1978, 75–77). By the 11th century the town included a market, a mint that functioned between 1044 and 1046 and, a nunnery, that may have been founded during the reign of Edgar (AD 959–978). The nunnery; however, had ceased to function by AD 1071 when William I granted the estate to Battle Abbey (Astill 1978, 75). The reference to Reading in Domesday indicates that it had achieved borough status by the Conquest and contained a large royal estate. The likely centre of the late Saxon town is the area around St. Mary's Church and the Old Market (now St. Mary's Butts) at the crossing of major roads between Oxford and Winchester and London and Bath.

2.3.2 Expansion of the town during the medieval period was due largely to the influence of the Cluniac, and subsequently Benedictine, abbey that was founded by Henry I in AD 1121. The abbey was built in the Romanesque style and many architectural fragments in this style survive re-used within later structures.

2.3.3 The abbey became one of the principal religious foundations in the country by virtue of large endowments, royal patronage and collections of relics. The whole area of the abbey, approximately 12 ha, was enclosed by a gated boundary wall and the interior was divided between an outer court, the Forbury, and the separately enclosed inner precinct. The inner precinct backed onto the River Kennet and the Holy Brook and several of the industrial elements of the abbey, such as a mill, wharf and stables were located here. The abbey gave the town an increased impetus to urban development, which continued until Reading had become established as the major town in Berkshire by the 15th century.

2.3.4 At the Dissolution in 1539, although some of the abbey buildings were retained as a royal residence, occupation of the precinct effectively ended with the dispersal of the monks. By 1549, documents recorded that the buildings were being robbed and most of the church and cloisters had probably been razed by 1642, when the abbey precinct wall was fortified, and a substantial defensive ditch and rampart were dug across the remains of the abbey (Cram 2001). Since then, the site had been used not only as a source of building stone, but as a source of gravel.

2.4 Archaeological background

2.4.1 The readily available information relating to the abbey indicates that the most likely structure to be encountered by the trial pits is the toilet block (reredorter or necessarium), and a related inflow and outflow channel linked to the River Kennet.

2.4.2 Archaeological investigations in the vicinity have encountered abbey remains as little as 0.55 m below the present ground level. However, there is evidence that these have been subject to considerable disturbances including the construction of the Civil War defences and gravel quarrying. Much of the site was excavated, though poorly recorded, in around 1857 to provide work for the unemployed. This excavation appears to have recovered much of the ground plan of the abbey as "the entire area of the site was excavated to a depth varying from two to five feet" (Slade 2001, 65).

2.4.3 A long programme of archaeological excavations and watching briefs was undertaken within the abbey precinct between 1964 and 1986. These were principally to the west and south-west of the standing abbey remains, with excavations of the cloister and refectory area, which included the identification of numerous gravel pits, dating from the 17th to the 19th century (Vince *et al* 1982)., the abbey mill (Slade 1976), the abbey stables (Hawkes 1991), the abbey wharf (Hawkes and Fasham 1997) and a small area within the east end of the abbey church (Slade 1976).

2.4.4 Of particular relevance are two recent pieces of fieldwork by Wessex Archaeology and Foundations Archaeology, which were both undertaken immediately adjacent to, or within, the proposed fieldwork locations.

2.4.5 Foundations Archaeology undertook a watching brief along Chestnut Walk during the installation of gates, a wall, foundations for benches and 43 fence posts (Foundations Archaeology 2001) for structures that are still extant on the Walk. Although the small-scale excavations were relatively shallow (a maximum depth of 0.93 m though all but two were up to 0.5 m deep) and no medieval archaeological deposits or structures were identified. Natural (orange brown clay flint gravel) was observed in holes for gate posts at the Forbury Road entrance to the Walk, though no depths were provided. Attention was drawn to three large river pebbles (15–20 mm^3) from one of the bench foundations (400), which were similar to those used in construction for the abbey. The earliest artefacts were of 17th century date, though most were of later date.

2.4.6 Wessex Archaeology undertook an evaluation, watching brief and building recording within the ruins of Reading Abbey and Forbury Garden as part of the Forbury Gardens Restoration Project (Wessex Archaeology 2005). A number of trenches were located within the area of the dormitory and reredorter, immediately to the north-west of Chestnut Walk. A medieval mortar floor, probably that of a cellar or undercroft was recorded approximately 2.25 m below the present ground level in the dormitory, at the same level as the present ground surface within the reredorter. Other works within the dormitory area showed that most of the buried archaeological remains have been very badly disturbed or completely destroyed by two large air-raid shelters (**Figure 1**). Trench 12 within the toilet block had the following sequence of deposits; 38.68–38.18 m OD modern concrete surface and overburden; 38.18–36.38 m OD pale grey sandy loam with abundant ceramic building material and white glazed transfer printed pottery, interpreted as demolition rubble and ; lower than 36.38 m OD mid greyish brown sandy silt loam with sparse gravel inclusions, interpreted as a possible buried soil.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019) and in compliance with the CIfA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a), were:

- To provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
- To inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

3.2 General objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation were (Berkshire Archaeology 2019):

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- To establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- To place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- To make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a).

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The test pit locations were set out using hand tapes and a survey drawing provided by the client. Trenches 3 and 10 had to be moved slightly from their original positions because of on-site obstacles such trees and located services (**Figure 1**).

4.2.2 Nineteen test pits, each measuring 0.5 m in length and 0.5 m wide were excavated by hand. The test pits (14) excavated for the purpose of tree planting were excavated to a depth of 0.45 m and those for lamp and CCTV posts (5) were to a depth of 0.80 m. For the purposes of this evaluation more important deposits were left in situ and these included those relating to the medieval abbey (walls, surfaces, human remains). Those considered by the excavator to be of lesser importance were excavated and recorded, including soil layers, and post-Dissolution structures and deposits. The turf was removed prior to excavation.

4.2.3 Spoil derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Where found, artefacts were collected and bagged by context.

4.2.4 The test pits were backfilled when completed and re-turfed to the satisfaction of the client and the archaeological curator for Berkshire Archaeology. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

Recording

4.2.5 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete drawn record of excavated features and deposits was made including both plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD: Newlyn) heights of all principal features were calculated, and levels added to plans and section drawings.

4.2.6 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Artefactual and environmental strategies

4.3.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 Fiona Macdonald, Archaeological Curator, Berkshire Archaeology, on behalf of the LPA, monitored the watching brief and visited the site on 4 October 2019.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the test pit summary tables (**Appendix 1**). Test pits 3, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10 contained archaeological deposits which varied from the following stratigraphic sequence observed in all other test pits, turf and topsoil over made ground and, these will be discussed below.

5.2 Test pit 3

5.2.1 Test pit 3 was located towards the western limit of the site (**Figure 1**). A mortar layer or surface (303) comprising of a light grey mortar mixed with gravel was observed at the base of the test pit. This was overlain by a layer of dark reddish-brown sand (302), this had an average thickness of 0.06 m and was overlain by the modern-day topsoil (**Plate 1**).

5.3 Test pits 5, 6 and 7

5.3.1 Test pits 5, 6, and 7 were located within the centre of the site (**Figure 1**) and had a similar stratigraphic sequence. This sequence comprised turf and topsoil over a layer of dark

reddish-brown sand, itself over a dark greyish brown silty sandy clay observed at the base of the test pits. This deposit (503=603=703) has been interpreted as a deliberately compacted surface likely to be an earlier ground surface dating to between the construction of the canal and before the creation of Chestnut Walk (**Plates 2 and 3**).

5.4 Test pits 9 and 10

5.4.1 Test pits 9 and 10 were located toward the eastern limits of the site (**Figure 1**). The earliest deposit encountered in Test pit 9 was a layer, surface or foundation deposit (905) that was highly compacted and composed of grey/white mortar with ceramic building material and flint cobbles as inclusions. This deposit was overlain by a thick deposit of light greyish brown sandy silt (904) this layer had a thickness of 0.29 m and produced clay tobacco pipe stems and pottery dating to the post-medieval period (**Plate 4**).

5.4.2 Overlying this was a buried soil horizon (903) comprising a mid-greyish brown sandy loam and is likely to represent the original topsoil. A dump of dark reddish-brown sand (902) sealed this buried topsoil. The final deposit observed within Test Pit 9 was the modern-day topsoil and turf (**Plate 5**).

5.4.3 The same foundation or surface layer observed within Test Pit 9 was the earliest deposit encountered within Test Pit 10. The surface (1005) again comprised a mixture of flint, CBM and chalk gravel, the layer had minimum thickness of 0.02 m (**Plate 6**). The remaining soil sequence observed within Test Pit 10 comprised a series of made ground deposits finally overlain by a thin layer of modern-day topsoil and turf.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The evaluation yielded a small assemblage of finds, of which most if not all is of post-medieval/modern date, with a chronological focus in the 19th to 20th centuries. Most finds came from either topsoil or made ground, with a few items from layers in Trenches 7 and 9 and a buried soil horizon in Trench 7. None of these deposits, however, produced finds earlier in date than 19th century, while finds from topsoil and made ground can be regarded as redeposited.

6.1.2 All finds have ben quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in Table 1.

Table 1 Finds by material type (number of pieces/weight in grammes)

Context	CBM	CTP	Iron (No.)	Pottery	Other Finds
104		1/2			2 animal bone
405		2/9		7/33	1 animal bone
601				2/4	1 glass
701			2		
703			1		2 shell
705		2/7	2	4/26	2 glass
801			1	1/4	
901				2/9	
904		2/6		6/64	
1004		6/19		2/10	
1501				1/7	
1502	1/89				
1503	1/59				
1602	1/64				
1703		1/1		1/6	
1802	1/63			4/27	
Total	4/275	14/44	6	30/190	

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 The pottery assemblage amounts to 30 sherds (weighing 190 g), all of modern (19th-/20th century) date. The assemblage is very fragmentary; only two sherds conjoin, but levels of surface and edge abrasion are relatively low (probably because most sherds are in hard-fired fabrics).

6.2.2 Wares represented include coarse red earthenwares (all glazed), tinglazed earthenware, Staffordshire-type mottle ware, white salt glaze, other salt-glazed English stoneware, porcelain, creamware, pearlware, whiteware and yellow ware. Tinglazed earthenware, mottled ware, white salt glaze and creamware all date to the 18th century, and the porcelain is probably also of this date. The other refined wares (pearlware, whiteware and yellow ware) are 19th century or later. The red earthenwares are not susceptible to close dating but would not be inconsistent with a date range of 18th century or later. There is little in the way of diagnostic material, but the majority of the assemblage seems to consist of tablewares, with the red earthenware and salt-glazed toneware providing more utilitarian kitchen wares.

6.3 Ceramic Building Material

6.3.1 Four fragments of ceramic building material were recovered. One of these, from Trench 18, is from a glazed plain floor tile of medieval or post-medieval date. The other three pieces are from post-medieval roof tiles, including one pantile and two flat (peg) tiles.

6.4 Clay Tobacco Pipe

6.4.1 All 14 of the clay pipe fragments found are plain stems which are difficult to date more closely, although stem and bore diameters suggest that these potentially range in date from 17th to 19th/early 20th century.

6.5 Metalwork

6.5.1 All six of the metal objects recovered are iron and include four nails; other objects remain unidentified. None of these objects are datable.

6.6 Other Finds

6.6.1 Other finds comprise two fragments of bottle glass and one piece of reinforced window (all 19th–/20th century); two fragments of oyster shell and three pieces of animal bone (all probably sheep/goat).

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1.1 The archaeological test pit evaluation carried out at Chestnut Walk, Reading, Berkshire successfully met the aims and objectives set out in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019). In total 19 test pits were excavated along Chestnut Walk and 6 of these test pits offer some evidence allowing credible interpretation, albeit for the site's transition between the canalisation of the river and into its current form.

7.1.2 Test pit 3 produced evidence for an undated mortar layer. This mortar layer or surface is most likely to be a layer associated with the canalisation works carried out on the River Kennet.

7.1.3 Within Test Pits 5, 6 and 7 a highly compacted surface comprising a dark grey sandy silt clay was encountered and this has been interpreted as a potential path or surface related to the canalisation of the River Kennet dating to between the construction of the canal and before the creation of Chestnut Walk in its present form.

7.1.4 Test Pits 9 and 10 revealed evidence for a possible surface or foundation deposit which comprised a greyish white mortar with ceramic building material and flints as inclusions. This surface or foundation dates to the post-medieval period and seems likely to again be related to the canalisation of the River Kennet.

7.1.5 The remaining 13 test pits contained deposits which included little that can give a credible interpretation, and as such may not be regarded as significant.

7.1.6 No remains or deposits were encountered that directly related to the abbey.

7.1.7 These features and finds add to the corpus of knowledge pertaining to the use of the riverside during the post-medieval and modern periods and, adds to the story of Reading Abbey as whole.

7.1.8 An earlier archaeological project had identified a possible buried soil at 36.38 m OD (Wessex Archaeology 2005) which is some 2.28 m below the present ground level at 38.66 m OD. Care should be taken not to imply too much from this one observation, at the western end of the current area of interest and, some variation is indicated by the observation of "natural" deposits at the area's eastern end (see Foundations Archaeology 2001) in a hole less than one metre in depth. The current test pits demonstrate the area contains some evidence of the site's later history, though deposits relating directly to the site's medieval past would lie at greater depths than those subject to this investigation.

8 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

8.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. It is not intended to deposit the archive with Reading Museum (see Section 8.3).

8.2 Preparation of the archive

8.2.1 It is proposed that the archive, which will be entirely digital in format, be deposited with ADS following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995CIfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

8.3 Selection policy

8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4), with the aim of retaining only those finds which are considered to have further research potential, or which fulfil other criteria within the Museum's collecting policy.

8.3.2 In this instance, given the small quantity of material involved, its nature and date range (commonly occurring and well documented types of relatively recent origin) and provenance (largely redeposited in made ground or topsoil layers), retention of these finds for long-term curation is not recommended. They can be considered as having little or no further research potential.

8.3.3 All finds have been recorded to an appropriate archive level. The selection policy will be agreed with the Museum and will be fully documented in the project archive.

8.4 Security copy

8.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, 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.

8.5 OASIS

8.5.1 An OASIS online record (http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main) has been initiated, with key fields and a .pdf version of the final report submitted. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.

9 COPYRIGHT

9.1 Archive and report copyright

9.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations* 2003. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

9.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

9.2 Third party data copyright

9.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.

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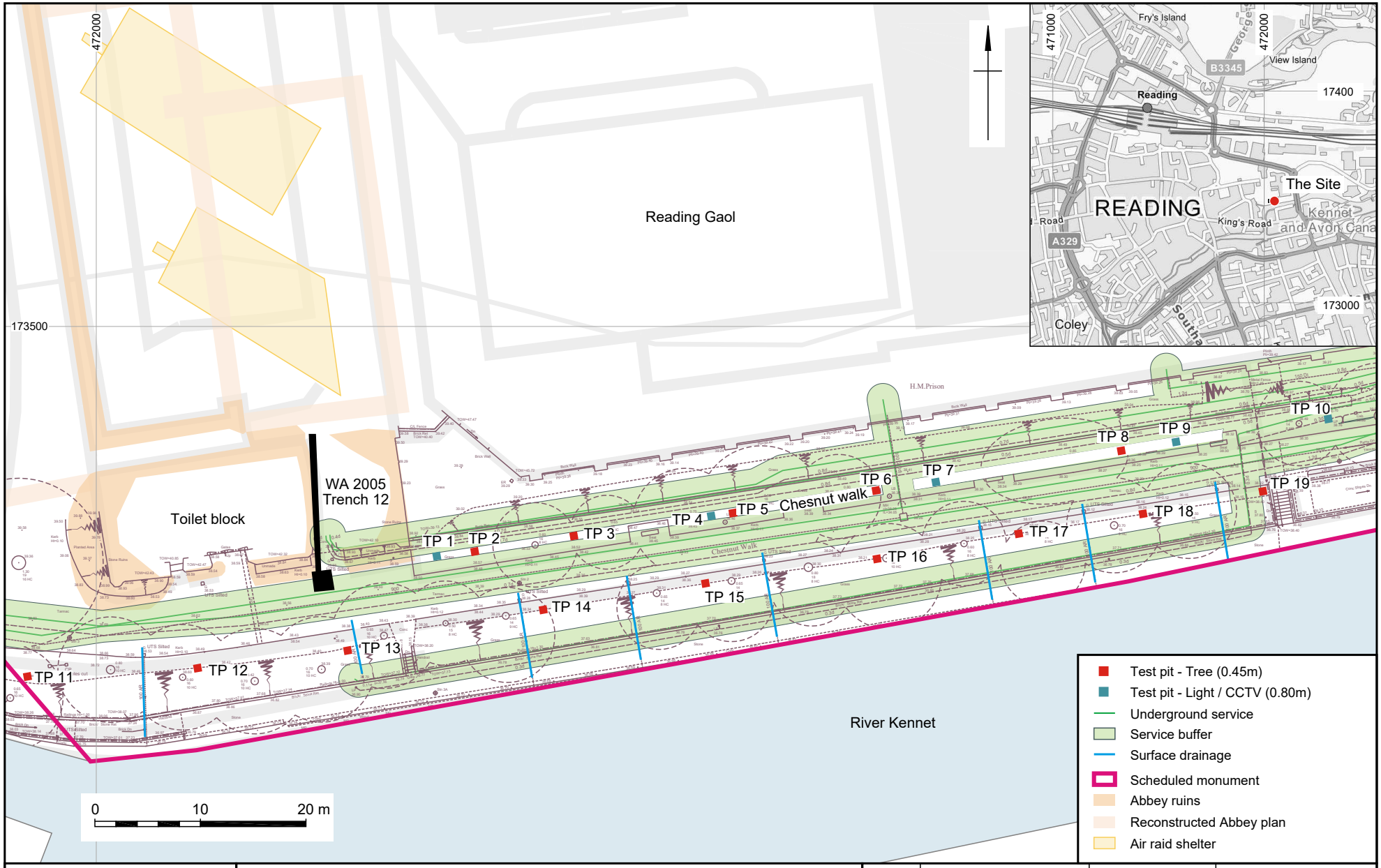

Coordinate system:
OSGB36
(OSTN15/OSGM15)

Base plan provided by the client.

Date:	11/10/2019	Revision Number:	1
Scale:	1:25 000 & 1:500 @ A4	Illustrator:	RG/ND
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Site location plan

Figure 1

Plate 1: Test pit 3, 0.5 m scale, looking south

Plate 2: Test pit 5, 0.5 m scale, looking south

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Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	KMN
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Plate 3: Test pit 6, 0.5 m scale, looking south

Plate 4: Test pit 7, 0.5 m scale, looking south

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Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	KMN
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Plate 5: Test pit 9, 0.5 m scale, looking south

Plate 6: Test pit 10, 0.5 m scale, looking south

Date:	10/10/2019	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	KMN
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\224180\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Eval\2019_10_10		

APPENDIX 1 TEST PIT SUMMARIES

Test Pit No 1	**Length 0.50 m**	**Width 0.50 m**	**Depth 0.80 m**
Easting	**Northing**	**m OD 38.56**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
101		Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam, imported topsoil. Small sized sub-angular stones, chalk and flints. Fine rooting throughout.	0-0.26
102		Made ground	Made ground. Reddish brown coarse sand with well sorted gravels, imported material, related to landscaping of area.	0.25-0.5
103		Layer	Mix of loose mortar and stone, only appears in southern half of test pit.	0.5-0.6
104		Made ground	Made ground. Greyish mud brown sandy loam with cbm fragments, small to medium stones and rooting throughout.	0.5-0.8+

Test Pit No 2	**Length 0.50 m**	**Width 0.50 m**	**Depth 0.42 m**
Easting	**Northing**	**m OD**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
201		Topsoil/turf	Mid greyish brown sandy loam. No inclusions evident. Represents thickness of turf only.	0-0.07
202		Deliberate dump	Dump deposit: light pinkish grey sand. 30% common fine to coarse gravel sized angular hardcore type light grey stone. No finds	0.07-0.18
203		Made ground	Mid greyish brown sandy loam. 1% sparse fine gravel sized sub-angular flint. 3% sparse fine gravel to whole brick sized CBM.	0.18-0.28
204		Deliberate dump	Dump deposit: dark reddish brown sand. 10% common fine gravel sized sub-angular flint. No finds.	0.28+

Test Pit No 3	**Length 0.50 m**	**Width 0.50 m**	**Depth 0.36 m**
Easting	**Northing**	**m OD**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
301		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy loam. 3% sparse fine gravel sized sub-angular flint. CBM and tarmac	0-0.30
302		Deliberate dump	Dump deposit: dark reddish brown sand. 10% common fine gravel sized sub-angular flint. No finds.	0.30-0.36
303		Mortared surface	Base of test pit delimited by apparent light grey mortar mixed with gravel forming a compact surface.	0.36+

Test Pit 4	**Length 0.70 m**	**Width 0.50 m**	**Depth 0.80 m**
Easting	**Northing**	**m OD 38.37**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
401		Modern topsoil	Imported topsoil, dark brown sandy loam with patchy turf and rooting throughout. Occasional small to medium sub-angular stones and CBM.	0-0.2
402		Made ground	Made ground. Greyish mid to dark brown sandy clay loam with frequent sub-angular stones. Fine rooting throughout and CBM frags.	0.2-0.35
403		Made ground	Made ground. Reddish brown coarse sands and well sorted travels.	0.35-0.45
404		Buried soil	Mid to dark brown sandy loam. Fine rooting throughout and rare small rounded inclusions.	0.45-0.55
405		Made ground	Made ground. Greyish mid to dark brown sandy loam with frequent small to medium sized sub-angular stones, chalk and CBM.	0.55-0.75
406		Made ground	Made ground. Greyish light yellow. Mix of loose mortar and stones.	0.75-0.8+

Test Pit 5	Length 0.50 m	Width 0.50 m	Depth 0.42 m
Easting	Northing	m OD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
501		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy loam. 3% sparse fine gravel sized sub-angular flint. CBM and 1 piece of faced stone c.20x20cm that may relate to abbey construction.	0-0.36
502		Deliberate dump	Dump deposit: dark reddish brown sand. 10% common fine gravel sized sub-angular flint. No finds.	0.36-0.42
503		Hard standing?	Dark greyish brown sand clay SILT, 25% common fine to medium gravel sized sub-angular flint. Very compact layer at base of TP, appears to be a deliberately compacted surface possibly relating to creation of path or canal.	0.42+

Test Pit 6	Length 0.50 m	Width 0.50 m	Depth 0.44 m
Easting	Northing	m OD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
601		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy loam. 3% sparse fine gravel sized sub-angular flint. CBM concrete pottery and glass	0-0.36
602		Deliberate dump	Dump deposit: dark reddish brown sand. 10% common fine gravel sized sub-angular flint. No finds.	0.36-0..44
603		Hard standing?	Dark greyish brown sand clay SILT, 25% common fine to medium gravel sized sub-angular flint. Very compact layer at base of TP, appears to be a deliberately compacted surface possibly relating to creation of path or canal.	0.44+

Test Pit 7	**Length 0.50 m**	**Width 0.50 m**	**Depth 0.80 m**
Easting	**Northing**	**m OD**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
701		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy loam. 3% sparse fine to medium gravel sized sub-angular flint. FE nails.	0-0.26
702		Deliberate dump	Dump deposit: dark reddish brown sand. 10% common fine to medium gravel sized sub-angular flint. No finds.	0.26-0.31
703		Buried soil horizon	Dark black brown sandy loam. ,1% sparse fine gravel sized sub-angular flint. Oyster shell CBM and FE nails.	0.31-0.40
704		Deliberate dump	Dump deposit: dark reddish brown sand. 7% rare fine gravel sized sub-angular flint. No finds.	0.40-0.51
705		Dump deposit/made ground	3% sparse fine gravel to cobble sized sub-angular flint, 1% sparse medium to coarse gravel sized sub rounded chalk. CBM, pottery, clay pipe stems and FE nails.	0.51+
706		Mortared rubble layer	Compact mid grey sandy mortar. 25% common medium gravel to cobble sized sub-angular flint 7% rare fine to coarse gravel sized sub rounded chalk. No finds. NB only visible in base of test pit, appears to cease circa 5cm from recorded section, probably relates to canalisation of river or possibly construction of the walkway.	0.80+

Test Pit 8	Length 0.50 m	Width 0.50 m	Depth 0.42 m
Easting	Northing	m OD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
801		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy loam. 5% rare fine to coarse gravel sized sub-angular flint. Pottery and FE artefact	0-0.22
802		Made ground/dump deposit	Dark reddish brown sand. 10% common fine to medium gravel sized sub-angular flint. No finds	0.22-0.30
803		Buried soil horizon	Dark greyish brown sandy loam. 3% sparse fine to medium gravel sized sub-angular flint. No finds.	0.30-0.39
804		Rubble	Rubble layer: highly compact mid grey sandy silt with 50% abundant fine gravel to cobble sized sub-angular flint and 25% fine to medium gravel sized sub rounded chalk. CBM throughout.	0.39+

Test Pit No 9	Length 0.50 m	Width 0.50 m	Depth 0.77 m
Easting	Northing	m OD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
901		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy loam. 5% rare fine gravel to cobble sized sub-angular flint. White glazed post IR pot	0-0.26
902		Deliberate dump	Dump deposit: dark reddish brown sand. 10% common fine to medium gravel sized sub-angular flint. No fins	0.26 - 0.32
903		Buried soil horizon	Mid greyish brown sandy loam. 1% sparse fine to medium gravel sized sub-angular flint. No finds	0.32-0.41
904		Deliberate dump	Dump deposit: light greyish brown sandy silt. 10% common coarse gravel to cobble sized sub-angular flint,7% fine to medium gravel sized sub rounded chalk. CBM, glazed ceramic and clay pipe stems. Post med rubble layer.	0.41-0.70
905		Foundation/dump deposit	Highly compacted layer of very light grey / white mortar with CBM, ceramic and 25% coarse gravel to cobble sized sub-angular flint. Glazed ceramic in mortar.	0.70+

Test Pit No 10	**Length 0.50 m**	**Width 0.50 m**	**Depth 0.80 m**
Easting	**Northing**	**m OD 38.49**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
1001		Topsoil	Thin modern topsoil with thin turf. Dark brown sandy loam.	0-0.1
1002		Made ground	Greyish light brown sandy loam with frequent small flints, CBM and occasional rooting.	0.1-0.25
1003		Made ground	Yellowish mid brown well sorted gravels and sands. Very little rooting.	0.25-0.4
1004		Made ground	Mid greyish brown sandy loam with frequent small sub angular stones, CBM, and heavily rooted throughout.	0.4-0.78
1005		Surface	Mortared mix of flint CBM and chalk gravel.	0.78-0.8+

Test Pit No 11	**Length 0.50 m**	**Width 0.50 m**	**Depth 0.45 m**
Easting	**Northing**	**m OD**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
1101		Topsoil	Dark / mid greyish brown sandy loam. 3% sparse fine gravel sized sub-angular flint. No finds	0-0.24
1102		Subsoil	Mid / light greyish brown sand silt loam. 3% sparse fine to coarse gravel sized sub-angular flint. CBM	0.24+

Test Pit No 12	**Length 0.50 m**	**Width 0.50 m**	**Depth 0.45 m**
Easting	**Northing**	**m OD 38.33**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
1201		Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam with small to medium sized common sub rounded to sub-angular stones. Rooting throughout and patchy turf above.	0-0.4
1202		Made ground	Made ground. Greyish light yellow. Mix of loose mortar and small sub-angular stones. Possible debris from abbey building / demolition.	0.4-0.45

Test Pit No 13	**Length 0.50 m**	**Width 0.50 m**	**Depth 0.45 m**
Easting	**Northing**	**m OD 38.14**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
1301		Imported garden soil	Very modern. Layer of dark brown sandy loam used to backfill modern disturbance. common sub round gravel ≤10mm. Very heavy rooting. Clear horizon with made ground. Moderate compaction	
1302		Made ground	Comprising of a layer of geotextile covered by crushed stone with fine pink powdery sand from crushed CBM. Very loose compaction. Clear horizon. Likely used as a recent layer to make up ground level.	
1303		Made ground	Layer of large flint nodules 100-200mm with some evidence of facing, probably were part of the abbey at some point but definitely now just a dump to build up ground. Also, with some Lumps of mortar but definitely not forming any sort of structure. All very loose with voids between nodules. Clear horizon	

Test Pit No 14	Length 0.50 m	Width 0.50 m	Depth 0.45 m
Easting	Northing	m OD 38.19	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1401		Imported garden soil	Very modern. Layer of dark brown sandy loam used to backfill modern disturbance. Abundant sub round gravel ≤10mm, large flint nodules at base 100-200mm, probably were part of the abbey at some point but definitely now just a dump to build up ground. heavy rooting. Clear horizon with made ground. Moderate compaction	0-0.3
1402		Made ground	Comprising of a layer of geotextile covered by crushed stone with fine pink powdery sand from crushed CBM. Very loose compaction. Likely used as a recent layer to make up ground level. No service beneath as far as test pit has been dug, no signal on service location equipment	0.28-0.38
1403		Imported garden soil	Layer of dark brown sandy loam used to build up ground surface. Common sub round gravel. Clear horizon. Moderate rooting.	0.38-0.45+

Test Pit No 15	Length 0.50 m	Width 0.50 m	Depth 0.45 m
Easting	Northing	m OD 38.14	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1501		Imported garden soil	Layer of dark brown sandy loam used to build up ground surface. Occasional sub round gravel, rare CBM flecks, small pot sherd. heavy rooting. Clear horizon with made ground.	0-0.28
1502		Made ground	Dark greyish brown sandy loam. firm compaction. Higher soil content than in test pit 16. Assumed used to build up ground surface from canal. Contained common round chalk fragments, common sub round gravel, occasional CBM. Heavy rooting. Clear horizons.	0.23-0.45
1503		Made ground	Light greyish brown sandy loam. Largely comprising of chalk fragments, gravel, mortar, and CBM. Assumed to be another layer to build up bank next to canal. Very firm compaction. Moderate rooting. Clear horizon.	0.4-0.45+

Test Pit No 16	Length 0.50 m	Width 0.50 m	Depth 0.45 m
Easting	Northing	m OD 38.07	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1601		Imported garden soil	Layer of dark brown sandy loam used to build up ground surface. Occasional sub round gravel, rare CBM. Very heavy rooting as test pit 0.3 m from base of trunk. Clear horizon with made ground.	0-0.18
1602		Made ground	Mid greyish brown sandy loam. Very firm compaction. Assumed used to build up ground surface from canal. Contained common round chalk fragments, common sub round gravel, occasional CBM. Numerous large roots as test pit 0.3 m from base of tree trunk. Not able to dig to 0.45 across entire test pit due to these roots.	0.18-0.45+

Test Pit No 17	Length 0.50 m	Width 0.50 m	Depth 0.45 m
Easting	Northing	m OD 38.05	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1701		Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam imported topsoil. Patchy turf and fine rooting throughout.	0-0.1
1702		Made ground	Made ground. Greyish mid brown sandy loam with common small sub-angular stones throughout and occasional irregular medium sized CBM frags.	0.1-0.3
1703		Made ground	Made ground. Greyish mid brown sandy loam with an orange hue, small to medium sized stones and flints.	0.3-0.45

Test Pit No 18		Length 0.50 m	Width 0.50 m	Depth 0.45 m
Easting		Northing	m OD 38.11	
Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
1801		Imported garden soil	Layer of dark brown sandy loam used to build up ground surface. Occasional sub round gravel, rare CBM. Heavy rooting as test pit between two trees. Clear horizon with made ground.	0-0.22
1802		Made ground	Mid greyish brown sandy loam. Very firm compaction. Assumed used to build up ground surface from canal. Contained common round chalk fragments, common sub round gravel, occasionally CBM - brick fragments. Moderate fine rooting.	0.22-0.45+

Test Pit 19		Length 0.50 m	Width 0.50 m	Depth 0.46 m
Easting		Northing	m OD 38.02	
Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
1901		Imported garden soil	Turf topped dark brown silty loam. Abundant fine and large roots. Sparse surround gravel. Clear horizon.	0-0.3
1902		Deliberate dump	Of rubble, concrete, brick, plastic rubbish. With some mid greyish brown sandy loam. Bricks appear to be same as bricks in adjacent wall. Clear horizons. Heavy rooting.	0.15-0.37
1903		Deliberate dump	Of broken tarmac or Possibly was layer of tarmac now broken up by rooting. Clear horizons. Heavy rooting.	0.37-0.44
1904		Deliberate dump	Layer of light yellowish brown coarse sand with common sub round gravel. Assumed to be levelling layer to lay tarmac or possibly to build up area.	0.44-0.46+

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