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Archaeological Field Evaluation

On behalf of

Galliford Try

Concerning

**Land at Bishop's Close,
Stratford-upon-Avon,
Warwickshire
CV37 9DZ**

January 2019



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1 Non-Technical Summary

This report presents the results of a programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation conducted by Border Archaeology on behalf of Galliford Try in connection with an Extra Care Scheme comprising 75 self-contained apartments and communal facilities.

While six trenches were opened, no features of archaeological significance were encountered; however, modern demolition waste was identified in Trenches 001, 003, 005 and 006, which probably derived from nearby construction activity.

2 Introduction

Border Archaeology (BA) was instructed by Galliford Try to undertake a programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation (AFE) in connection with an Extra Care Scheme comprising 75 self-contained apartments and communal facilities on land at Bishop's Close Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 9DZ (NGR SP 1843 5557) (Planning Ref. 16/02666/FUL). The site covers an area of c.12,000m² (*fig.1*)

Six trenches, equating to 4% of the development area, were opened between the 29th and 31st October 2018 (*fig. 2*).

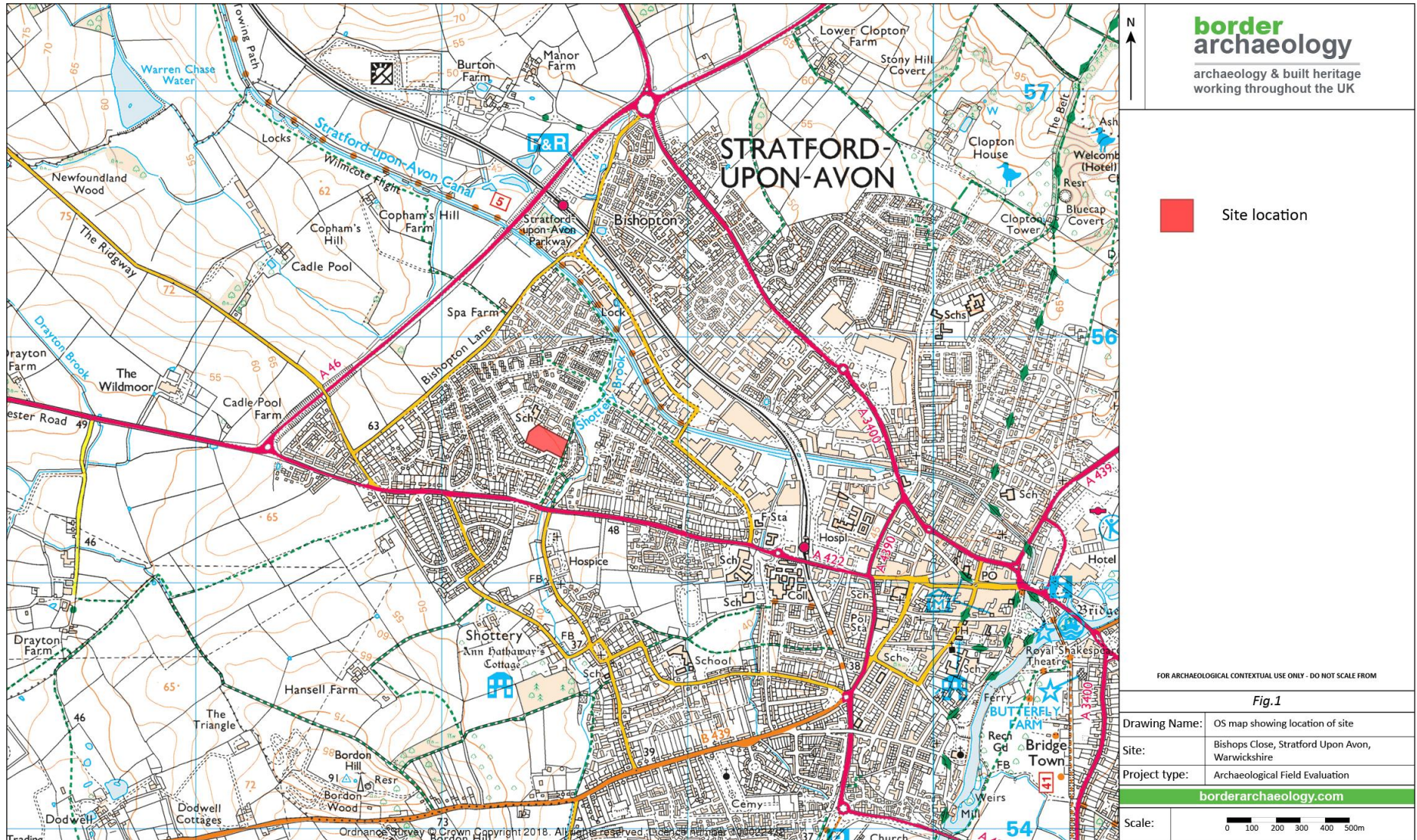
This report has been compiled for submission to Stratford-upon-Avon District Council (SADC).

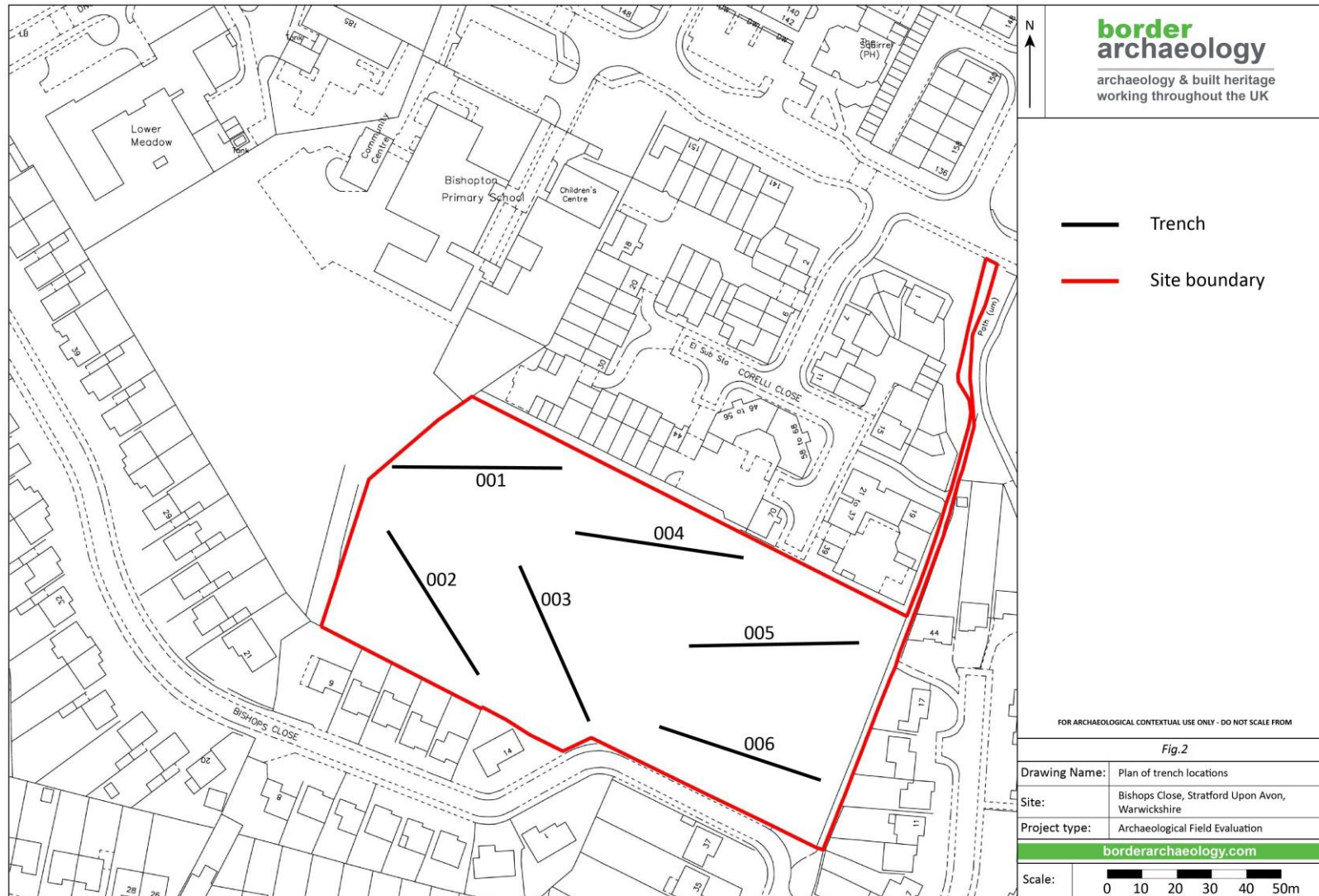
3 Site Description & Geology

The site lies to the N of Alcester Road and S of Drayton Avenue. It is bounded by residential development to the N in Corelli Close, to the E along Heather Close and to the S on Bishop's Close; a footpath runs along the eastern boundary. The W boundary adjoins playing fields of Bishopton Primary School.

From a maximum height of 48.75m AOD in the SW corner, the site descends more than 5.00m to 43.00m AOD at its lowest point in the NE corner.

Whilst the town itself is not surveyed, adjacent fields on the W side comprise pelo-stagnogley soils of the DENCHWORTH series (712b) consisting of slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey soils with some similar fine loamy over clayey soils overlying Jurassic and Cretaceous clay (SSEW 1983).





4 Brief Historical & Archaeological Background

The area has until relatively recently been rather poorly understood archaeologically and there is very little evidence of prehistoric activity; however, an archaeological field evaluation carried out in 2014 following desk-based assessment and geophysical survey in Bishopton Lane (NGR SP 17871 55870), roughly 500m to the NW of the present site, revealed extensive evidence of a Romano-British settlement, possibly containing a 'Romano-Celtic shrine' (Cotswold Archaeology 2014). The settlement appears to have occupied a largely open landscape comprising grassland and/or arable land, as suggested by the environmental preferences of the snail species represented together with evidence of charred cereal grains recovered from ditches (Cotswold Archaeology 2014).

Alcester Road represents the line of a former Roman road between Eatington and Droitwich (Margary 1973, 283-4) and is a former salt way, whilst Bishopton Lane follows the line of 'Sealt Street'. Through the medieval period, the area appears to have retained a largely rural character forming the agricultural hinterland of the settlements of Bishopton and Shottery, as attested by evidence of ridge and furrow.

No significant development appears to have taken place until the post-medieval period, with the opening of the Stratford upon Avon Canal some 500m to the NE in 1813 and in 1837 by the Royal, with a greater density of development occurring in the 20th Century.

5 Methodology

The AFE was carried out in accordance with practices set out in *Standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014b) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014c). BA adheres to the requirements of the *ClfA Code of conduct* (2014a). Fieldwork was mandated by and carried out according to the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) (BA 2018b).

The area covered by AFE amounted to 4% of the total site area, with two of the six trenches (005 and 006) amended from the WSI due to close proximity to the field boundaries (*fig.2*). The trenches were opened by machine, using a wide-bladed toothless ditching bucket, where the natural geology was reached in all trenches under archaeological supervision.

5.1 Recording

Full written, drawn and photographic records were made in accordance with BA's *Archaeological Field Recording Manual* (2017), where the written record comprises of a *pro-forma* context record for each stratigraphic unit. The drawn record was produced on gridded, archive stable polyester film, where trench sections were recorded at 1:10 and plans at 1:20. Temporary benchmarks (TBM) were established on the site, so that plans, elevations and sections contain grid and level information relative to OS data. All drawings were numbered and registered, with the archive audited for accuracy.

A photographic record of all stratigraphic units was made using a high-resolution camera, comprising photographs of any archaeological features and appropriate groups of features and structures. An appropriate scale was included in photographs, with photographic records indexed and cross-reference to written site records. Details concerning subject and direction of view were maintained in a photographic register, which were indexed by frame number.

The progress of works was recorded and will be assessed using the Company's ISO9001 procedures.

6 Results

Of the six trenches opened, none contained archaeology; full tabulated results are presented in Appendix 1.

All of the trenches exhibited topsoil and subsoil before the geological strata, with four trenches containing modern demolition waste. Post-medieval land drains were encountered in all trenches, with modern plastic services (waste water) also present in Trenches 004 and 005. The modern services were exposed but left *in situ*.

The demolition waste was present in Trenches 001, 003, 005 and 006, where it ranged from c.0.56m to c.0.96m in depth; the shallowest point was observed in Trench 001 and the deepest point was observed in Trench 005. The demolition waste consisted of two distinct fills (with a third fill present in Trench 005), with their main compositions being construction waste such as bricks, mortar, gravels, sand, modern debris and redeposited topsoil; there was also geotextile present between the two fills (*Plate 1*). These fills were consistent throughout the trenches noted to have the demolition waste, with only slight changes in the composition due to the nature of construction or demolition debris. The demolition waste was placed within a cut of unknown shape and extent, which was seen to cut the subsoil.



Plate 1: S view – Shot of Demolition Layer in Tr. 001

The demolition waste is most likely associated with modern construction nearby, with the resultant waste material backfilled to level the site; the presence of geotextile within the demolition waste suggests that the material and construction debris may have been utilised to form a compound for the construction works. The full length and width of the demolition waste fills were not visible, but, due to their presence in four of the trenches, it is likely to cover at least 50% of the site.

Trench 003 contained what appears to be a modern geological borehole that had hydrocarbon contamination, located approximately 5.00m from the NNW end of the trench (*Plate 2*).



Plate 2: WSW view - Modern Geological Borehole in Tr.003

7 Conclusion

During the course of the AFE, which comprised six trenches, no archaeological features were encountered; however, four of the trenches (Trenches 001, 003, 005 & 006) contained modern demolition waste debris, which had been spread across the site. The presence of geotextile within the demolition waste suggests that this material may have previously been used as hardcore for a compound or working area related to the construction of nearby buildings.

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9 Bibliography

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10 Appendix 1: Tabulation

Trench No	Context	Type	F/B	F/O	Description	Interpretation	Finds	Sample No	Provisional Date
001	(001001)	Deposit	-	-	Soft, dark grey brown sand clay silt; occasional small to medium subangular stones, rare modern ceramic fragments and refuse; C.0.44m deep x >1.80m wide x >44.00m long. Overlies (001006) and (001002)	Topsoil	-	-	Modern
	(001002)	Deposit	-	-	Moderate, mid yellow brown silty clay; rare small sub-rounded stones; c.0.28m deep x >1.80m wide x >44.00m long. Cut by [001004], overlies (001003), underlies (001001)	Subsoil	-	-	Post Medieval
	(001003)	Deposit	-	-	Firm, light yellow grey silty clay with occasional patches of yellow; occasional chalk flecks; >1.80m wide x >44.00m long; underlies (001002)	Geology	-	-	Prehistoric
	[001004]	Cut	(001005) (001006)	-	No clear shape in plan; Gradual sides; flat base; c.0.56m deep x >1.80m wide x >44.00m long; cuts (001002)	Cut of Demolition Layer	-	-	Modern
	(001005)	Fill	-	[001004]	Friable, mid to dark grey brown, occasional mid yellow brown patches - roughly 80% redeposited topsoil sand clay silt, 20% demolition waste materials and geotextile; c.0.25m thick x >1.80m wide x >44.00m long. Overlies and fills [001004], underlies (001006)	Primary fill of [001004]	-	-	Modern

Trench No	Context	Type	F/B	F/O	Description	Interpretation	Finds	Sample No	Provisional Date
	(001006)	Fill	-	[001004]	Friable, mid red brown clayey silt, 80% demolition waste materials; c.0.22m thick x >1.80m wide x >44.00m long. Underlies (001001), overlies (001005), fills [001004]	Secondary fill of [001004]	-	-	Modern
002	(002001)	Deposit	-	-	Soft, dark grey brown sand clay silt; occasional small to medium subangular stones; c.0.46m thick; overlies (002002)	Topsoil	-	-	Modern
	(002002)	Deposit	-	-	Moderate, mid yellow brown silty clay; rare small sub-rounded stones; c.0.35m thick; underlies (002001), overlies (002003)	Subsoil	-	-	Post Medieval
	(002003)	Deposit	-	-	Firm, light yellow grey silty clay with occasional patches of yellow; occasional chalk flecks; >1.80m wide x >44.00m long; underlies (002002)	Geology	-	-	Prehistoric
003	(003001)	Deposit	-	-	Soft, dark grey brown sand clay silt; occasional small to medium subangular stones; c.0.39m thick; overlies (003002) and (003006)	Topsoil	-	-	Modern
	(003002)	Deposit	-	-	Moderate, mid yellow brown silty clay; rare small sub-rounded stones; c.0.40m thick; cut by [003004], overlies (003003), underlies (003001)	Subsoil	-	-	Post Medieval
	(003003)	Deposit	-	-	Firm, light yellow grey silty clay with occasional patches of yellow; occasional chalk flecks; >1.80m wide x >48.50m long; underlies (003002)	Geology	-	-	Prehistoric

Trench No	Context	Type	F/B	F/O	Description	Interpretation	Findings	Sample No	Provisional Date
	[003004]	Cut	(003005) (003006)	-	No clear shape in plan; Gradual sides; flat base; c.0.70m deep x >1.80m wide x >12.50m long; cuts [003002]	Cut of Demolition Layer	-	-	Modern
	(003005)	Fill	-	[003004]	Friable, mid to dark grey brown, occasional mid yellow brown patches - roughly 80% redeposited topsoil sand clay silt, 20% demolition waste materials and geotextile; c.0.26m thick x >1.80m wide x >12.50m long. Overlies and fills [003004], underlies (003006)	Primary fill of [003004]	-	-	Modern
	(003006)	Fill	-	[003004]	Friable, mid red brown clayey silt, 80% demolition waste materials; c.0.37m thick x >1.80m wide x >12.50m long. Underlies (003001), overlies (003005), fills [003004]	Secondary fill of [003004]	-	-	Modern
004	(004001)	Deposit	-	-	Soft, dark grey brown sand clay silt; occasional small to medium subangular stones; c.0.38m thick; overlies (004002)	Topsoil	-	-	Modern
	(004002)	Deposit	-	-	Moderate, mid yellow brown silty clay; rare small sub-rounded stones; c.0.36m thick; underlies (004001), overlies (004003)	Subsoil	-	-	Post Medieval
	(004003)	Deposit	-	-	Firm, light yellow grey silty clay with occasional patches of yellow; occasional chalk flecks; >1.80m wide x >49.00m long; underlies (004002)	Geology	-	-	Prehistoric
005	(005001)	Deposit	-	-	Soft, dark grey brown sand clay silt; occasional small to medium subangular stones; c.0.37m thick; overlies (005002)(005006) (005008)	Topsoil	-	-	Modern

Trench No	Context	Type	F/B	F/O	Description	Interpretation	Finds	Sample No	Provisional Date
	(005002)	Deposit	-	-	Moderate, mid yellow brown silty clay; rare small sub-rounded stones; c.0.44m thick; underlies (005001), overlies (005003), cut by [005004]	Subsoil	-	-	Post Medieval
	(005003)	Deposit	-	-	Firm, light yellow grey silty clay with occasional patches of yellow; occasional chalk flecks; >1.80m wide x >49.00m long; underlies (005002)	Geology	-	-	Prehistoric
	[005004]	Cut	(005005) (005006) (005007) (005008)	-	No clear shape in plan; Gradual sides; flat base; c.0.96m deep x >1.80m wide x >33.60m long; cuts [005002]	Cut of Demolition Layer	-	-	Modern
	(005005)	Fill	-	[005004]	Friable, mid to dark grey brown, occasional mid yellow brown patches - roughly 80% redeposited topsoil sand clay silt, 20% demolition waste materials and geotextile; occasional charcoal flecks; c.0.38m thick x >1.80m wide x >33.60m long. Overlies (005007) [005004], underlies (005006) and (005008)	Secondary fill of [005004]	-	-	Modern
	(005006)	Fill	-	[005004]	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt; 50% redeposited topsoil, 50% demolition waste materials, occasional charcoal flecks; c.0.28m thick; overlies (005005), underlies (005001)	Uppermost fill of [005004]	-	-	Modern
	(005007)	Fill	-	[005004]	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt; 95% demolition waste materials, 5% redeposited top soil; c.0.25m thick; overlies [005004], underlies (005005)	Primary fill of [005004]	-	-	Modern

Trench No	Context	Type	F/B	F/O	Description	Interpretation	Finds	Sample No	Provisional Date
	(005008)	Fill	-	[005004]	Moderate mid orange brown silty clay; 20% demolition waste materials; c.0.28m thick; overlies (005005) underlies (005001)	Uppermost fill of [005004]	-	-	Modern
006	(006001)	Deposit	-	-	Soft, dark grey brown sand clay silt; occasional small to medium subangular stones; c.0.40m thick; overlies (006002) and (006006)	Topsoil	-	-	Modern
	(006002)	Deposit	-	-	Moderate, mid yellow brown silty clay; rare small sub-rounded stones; c.0.32m thick; underlies (006001), overlies (006003), cut by [006004]	Subsoil	-	-	Post Medieval
	(006003)	Deposit	-	-	Firm, light yellow grey silty clay with occasional patches of yellow; occasional chalk flecks; >1.80m wide x >41.50m long; underlies (006002)	Geology	-	-	Prehistoric
	[006004]	Cut	(006005) (006006)	-	No clear shape in plan; Gradual sides; flat base; c.0.64m deep x >1.80m wide x >16.50m long; cuts (006002)	Cut of Demolition Layer	-	-	Modern
	(006005)	Fill	-	[006004]	Friable, mid to dark grey brown, occasional mid yellow brown patches - roughly 80% redeposited topsoil sand clay silt, 20% demolition waste materials and geotextile; c.0.30m thick x >1.80m wide x >41.50m long. Overlies and fills [006004], underlies (006006)	Primary fill of [006004]	-	-	Modern
	(006006)	Fill	-	[006004]	Friable, mid red brown clayey silt, 95% demolition waste materials, 5% redeposited topsoil; c.0.19m thick x >1.80m wide x >41.50m long. Underlies (006001), overlies (006005), fills [006004]	Secondary fill of [006004]	-	-	Modern

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