

**OAK HOUSE BARN,
WEST BROMWICH,
SANDWELL**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION 2007**

Checked by

Supervisor.....MC..... date...5.11.07.....

Project Manager.....KC..... date...5.11.07.....

**Project No. 1707
Site Ref. Code: GG0H07**

Oak House Barns, West Bromwich, Sandwell

An Archaeological Evaluation

By

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For

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation of land at Oak House barns, West Bromwich, Sandwell (centred on NGR SP 99782 90862) was undertaken by Birmingham Archaeology in October 2007. The evaluation took place in advance of proposed development and was sited to record the remains of 184-186 Oak Road, the probable former farmhouse that stood on the site until the 1970's, and also to investigate any archaeological remains or deposits lying beneath the Grade III listed building.

The evaluation identified evidence of probable 16th-17th century ceramic production in the form of fragmented pottery saggars and other internal kiln waste, adding to the weight of evidence gleaned from earlier archaeological investigations suggesting that pottery production occurred within the locality. Evidence of a structure predating 184-186 Oak Road and an undated stone structure, comprising of a north-south aligned wall, was also located. The evaluation was able to confirm the survival of remains of 184-186 Oak Road when deeply cut cellars were uncovered during excavation.

OAK HOUSE BARNs, WEST BROMWICH

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2007.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the project

Birmingham Archaeology was commissioned by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council to undertake an archaeological investigation of land immediately to the west of Oak House (hereinafter referred to as the site).

This report outlines the results of a field evaluation carried out between 2nd-10th October 2007, and has been prepared in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (IFA 2001).

The evaluation conformed to a brief produced by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, and a Written Scheme of Investigation (Birmingham Archaeology 2007) (see Appendix) which was approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to implementation, in accordance with guidelines laid down in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (DoE 1990).

1.2 Location and geology

The site is located west of Oak House, off Oak House Road and is centred on NGR SP 99782 90862 (Fig. 1).

The underlying geology consists of boulder clay (Geological Survey of Great Britain: Sheet 168).

The present character of the site is disused open space with vegetation. To the north Oak Road runs northeast to southwest. To the east lies Oak House and grounds. To the south stands an educational annexe building and to the west a track runs south to Oak House barns.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

A detailed historical background to the site has been outlined in the project brief by Sandwell MBC (Lewis 2007) and the Oak House Barns Conservation Plan (Prince Research Consultants Ltd 2003).

Oak House itself is a timber framed, Grade II listed, building dating to c. 1600 and is managed by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council Museum Service. Several Grade III listed buildings stood on the site (Oak Road 184-186) until they were demolished in 1977. These buildings may have belonged to a farm complex of which on two barns now remain (SMR 1419 and 1689 – located to the south of the study area). After demolition, the rubble was levelled across the site.

A group of buildings relating to iron working processes built up in the southern area of the site, the presence of the 18th century canal in this area acting as a focus for activity. These buildings were largely cleared by 1920, though further buildings associated with steelworks were erected in the late 1930s and again from the 1960s to the present day. The presence of early residential and cottage

industry dwellings, in existence by at least 1849, alongside Bloomfield Road and Brown Lion Street may relate to early phases of industry at the site. It is possible that the demolition material from these buildings may have been used to infill the canal in the south-west area of the site in the 1950s.

Previous archaeological work on this site has identified the foundations of the demolished buildings located towards the centre of the site (Martin 2002). Earlier archaeological work was completed within the southern part of this site in 1990 (Hughes 1990) and 1991 (Dingwall 1991) during the proposed renovation of the existing barns and construction of a car park. These trenches identified *in situ* archaeological remains sealed by modern rubble and overburden.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The principle aim of the evaluation is to determine the character, extent, date, state of preservation and the potential significance of any buried remains.

More specific aims are:

- To record the remains of 184-186 Oak Road.
- Assess if any earlier archaeological features or deposits exist beneath remains of 184-186 Oak Road.
- To assess the levels of modern overburden across the site to help inform a mitigation strategy in the event of future development.
- Create a site narrative and to increase our understanding of the site and help place Oak House into its local and regional context.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

Three trenches were excavated across the site (Fig. 2). Trench one, measuring 20m in length by 1.5m in width was located in the northern section of the site aligned parallel with Oak Road. Trench two, measuring 10m by 1.5m was excavated in the central area of the site and is placed to identify the remains of the demolished Grade III listed buildings. Trench three, also measuring 10m by 1.5m, was due to be placed along the southern boundary of the site in front of Oak House Barns but due to the discovery of an almost complete brick yard surface and the likelihood of encountering services it was decided to relocate the position of Trench 3 further north (Fig. 2). After the foundations or walls associated with the demolished buildings that were present at the centre of the site had been fully recorded, a second stage of machining was undertaken to remove any hard sections of flooring or foundations. This is to assess if any earlier archaeological deposits exist beneath. This course of action was approved by the Planning Archaeologist or Assistant Planning Archaeologist, Sandwell MBC before commencement.

The previous archaeological work on the site suggests the natural clay was present at a depth of approximately 1m below present ground level. This was sealed by a thick layer of modern demolition rubble. This modern material was removed using a JCB mechanical excavator, using a toothless ditching bucket, under direct archaeological supervision.

Trial-trenches were surveyed-in by an appropriate survey instrument.

Subsequent cleaning and excavation was by hand. A representative sample of archaeological features and deposits were manually sample excavated sufficiently to define their character and to obtain suitable dating evidence. The depth of archaeological deposits across the site were assessed, although the full length of every trench was not necessarily be excavated down to natural.

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

Detailed summaries of the individual trenches are presented in the Appendix and full details are available in the project archive.

5.2 Natural geology

Across the site the dark yellow natural sandy clay was reached between 0.95m to 1.45m below current ground level (158.50m AOD).

5.3 Summary of archaeological features and deposits

Trench 1: 20m x 1.5m aligned E-W

The earliest deposit identified in Trench 1 was 0.20m of buried cultivation/garden soil 1011 (Fig. 3). Consisting of mid-grey/brown sandy silty clay, 1011 contained late pottery dating to the 15th – 16th centuries. Two large postholes (1027 and 1029 – Plate 2) were encountered cutting 1011. Feature 1027 measured 0.80m wide x 0.54m and was filled by mid orange silty clay (1026). Feature 1029 measured 0.82m x 0.31m and contained a fill (1028) of mid-grey sandy silt. Both were sealed by construction layer (1010) that consisted of dark yellow sand above which was constructed a series of deep angled red brick walls (1004, 1007) that were uncovered by machine to a depth of 1.10m.

Located to the east of Trench 1 was a north-south aligned linear spread of small stone rubble (1025) (Fig. 3) which was set into the natural sandy clay and overlain by a 0.70m thick demolition layer (1012) that contained mid-grey sandy silt with inclusions of a number of fragmented architectural stones.

Trench 2: 10m x 1.5m aligned N-S

Cut into the natural subsoil were lengths of linear red brick walls aligned north-south measuring 0.35m wide x 1.00m to 1.75m in depth.

Trench 3: 10m x 1.5m aligned NE-SW

No archaeological features or remains were located.

5.4 Overburden and topsoil

In Trench 1 the archaeological deposits sealed by a sequence of rubble demolition layers (1009, 1017, 1016, 1001, 1015, 1014). All overburden layers were overlain by dark brown sandy clay silt topsoil (1000), 0.30m in depth.

In Trench 2 the natural subsoil (2013) was overlain by rubble demolition layers (2007, 2008, 2011, 2002, 2001) up to 2.00m in depth and sealed by dark grey brown loamy silt topsoil (2000), 0.30m in depth.

In Trench 3 the natural subsoil (3009) in was overlain by 1.20m of demolition rubble (3001-3008) which was sealed by a dark grey brown loamy silt topsoil 0.15m in depth.

6.0 THE FINDS

Pottery recovered from the buried soil (1011) was primarily composed of pottery production waste comprising eight saggars rims, two saggars body sherds with 'cut-outs' and two saggars bases. All were made of a clean red fabric, very similar in composition to clays used for the manufacture of cistercian ware and blackware. The sherds were hard-fired and had lustrous purple-brown surfaces. Two further base sherds may also have come from saggars, one of which contained on its external surface, the scar of a small diameter vessel such as a cup. Three body sherds could represent other saggars or overfired coarseware. An overfired wastered sherd may represent the remains of a late oxidised ware jug or bung-hole jar dating to the 15th-16th centuries.

Also present in (1011) were two slip-coated or iron-poor coarseware sherds with an internal black glaze, an iron-poor coarseware sherd with mid-brown glaze, an iron-rich coarseware bowl or pancheon sherd with internal brown glaze and an overfired brown coarseware sherd with internal dark brown glaze and external purplish ?slipped surface.

A small heavily abraded slip-coated ware sherd was found in (1027) and dates from the later 17th or 18th centuries.

With the exception of the possible late oxidised ware jug sherd no examples of pottery which may have been produced on the site were recovered. The clean red fabric of the saggars sets them apart from later thicker walled saggars which are in a coarse, gritty light-firing clay. It is therefore quite likely that the saggars date to the 16th or early 17th centuries and were used during the firing of cistercian ware and blackware. If the production waste predates the construction of Oak House in c. 1600, then the manufacture of cistercian ware (late 15th-mid 16th centuries) would perhaps be the more likely. Wasters of indeterminate cistercian ware/blackware were noted during a 1990s watching brief close to this site (pers. comm. Mike Hodder). However, the presence of the slip-coated ware and slip-coated/coarseware sherds in (1011) indicate there must have been some contamination since these cannot predate the 17th century.

Secondly, it is difficult to be certain whether the pottery production waste indicates that kilns must be very close to the area of excavation or whether the waste represents dispersal and dumping of material from further a field. The conjunction of iron-working and pottery production is not unknown. For example, at a site just off the High Street, Wednesbury, a period of late medieval to early post-medieval iron-working was superseded by pottery production (pers. comm. Paul Belford). A similar situation may have pertained in West Bromwich.

7.0 DISCUSSION

The presence of 15th-17th century pottery production waste in Trench 1 is important, adding to the weight of evidence gleaned from earlier archaeological investigations suggesting that pottery production occurred within the locality. The ceramic assemblage appears similar to that identified in 1990 to the south-east of Oak House barns within a deposit that was described as a probable 'cultivated soil' (Hughes 2, 1990). This silty clay contained a mixed assemblage of '... red or buff earthenware, some with a black/brown glaze, fragments of a finer black

glazed earthenware, and a number of sherds of highly-fired 17th century 'Midlands Purple' ware (Hughes 2, 1990). Due to an advance in knowledge of ceramics from this period a re-examination of the finds located in 1990 would prove a useful exercise in discovering any associations with the 2007 assemblage. Due to the depth of overburden and the soft compaction of the context, the possibility of contamination of the buried soil layer (1011) from the layer above was quite high and may explain anomalies within the finds record.

The sequence of archaeological remains in Trench 1 suggests that 1011 most probably represents a buried ground surface dating to the 15th – 16th century. Cutting this layer are the remains of a probable structure (postholes 1027 and 1029) dating to the 17th – 18th centuries. This probable structure predates the construction of 184-186 Oak Road but post dates Oak House itself.

The evaluation also found evidence of a stone structure, a north-south aligned wall, although without dating evidence and further excavation it is impossible to assign a phase of construction, or associate the structure with any other located features. To the west of Trench 1 the evaluation also uncovered the deep remains of a brick built angular structure that may be associated with 19th century drainage.

The deeply cut cellar walls in Trench 2 provided evidence of the alignment and location of 184-186 Oak Road, the Grade III listed probable former farmhouse that was converted into two dwellings and demolished in the 1970s. The negative results from Trench 3 added to our knowledge of the extent of building activity close to the Oak House barns.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The project was commissioned by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council. Thanks are due to Frank Caldwell, Museum, Arts and Tourism, and the staff of Oak House Museum for their co-operation and assistance throughout the project. Thanks also go to Graham Eyre-Morgan, who monitored the project on behalf of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council. The evaluation was supervised by Mark Charles and assisted by Paul Breeze and Sam Hepburn. Specialists to whom thanks are due are Stephanie Ratkai and Erica Macey-Bracken. Mark Charles produced the written report which was illustrated by Nigel Dodds, and edited by Kevin Colls who also managed the project for Birmingham Archaeology.

9.0 REFERENCES

Department of the Environment (DoE) 1990 *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning*

Dingwall, Lucie. 1991 *Oak House, West Bromwich: A Further Archaeological Evaluation* B.U.F.A.U. Report No. 154

Hughes, G. 1990 *Oak House, West Bromwich: An Archaeological Evaluation* B.U.F.A.U. Report No. 117

Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) 2001 *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations*

Martin, Helen. 2002 *Land adjacent to Oak House, Oak Road, West Bromwich, Sandwell, West Midlands: an archaeological desk-based assessment and watching brief* B.U.F.A.U. Report No. 884

Prince Research Consultants Ltd (2002) *Oak House Barns, West Bromwich, Sandwell, West Midlands: Conservation Plan*



Fig.1

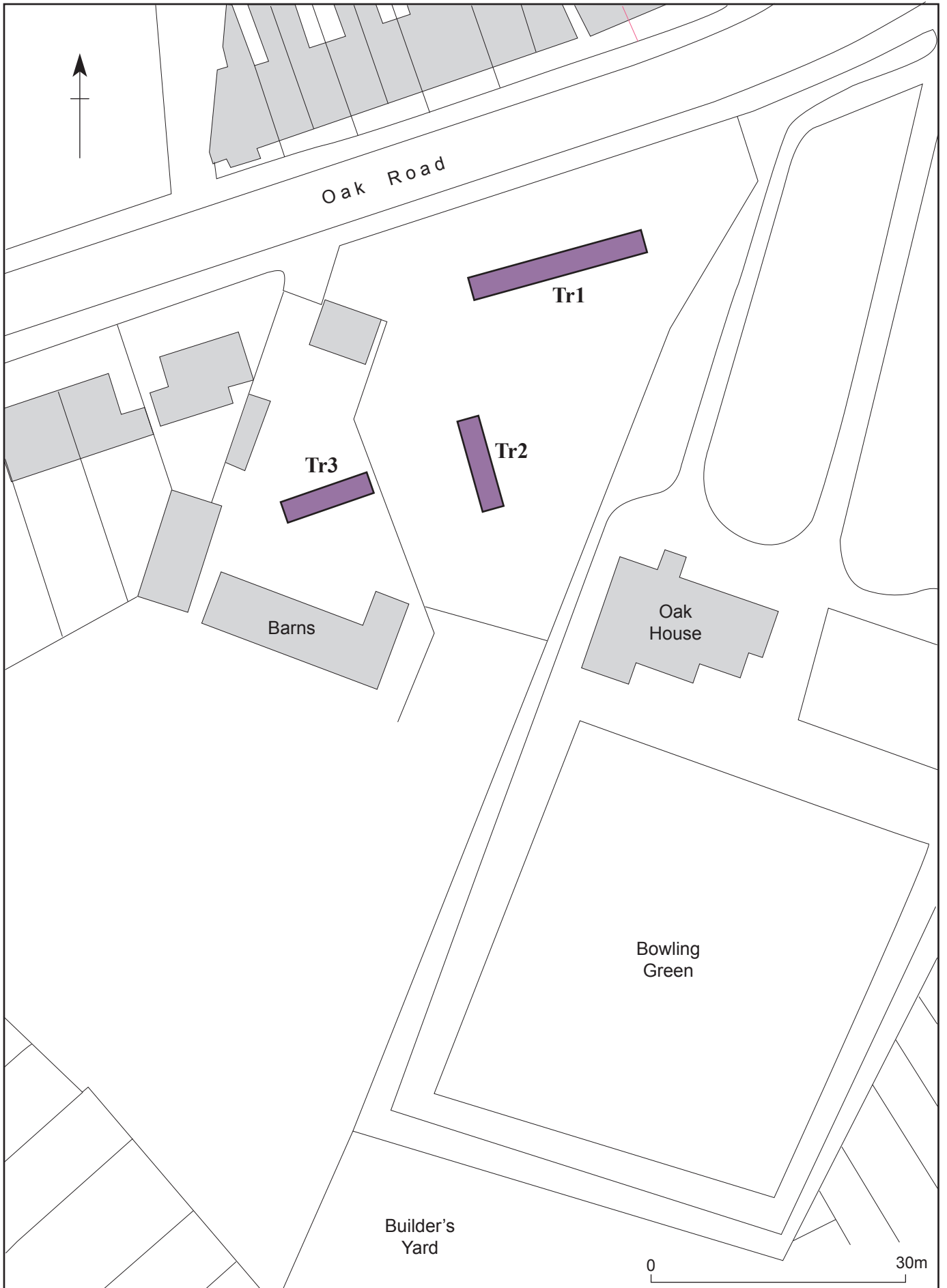


Fig.2

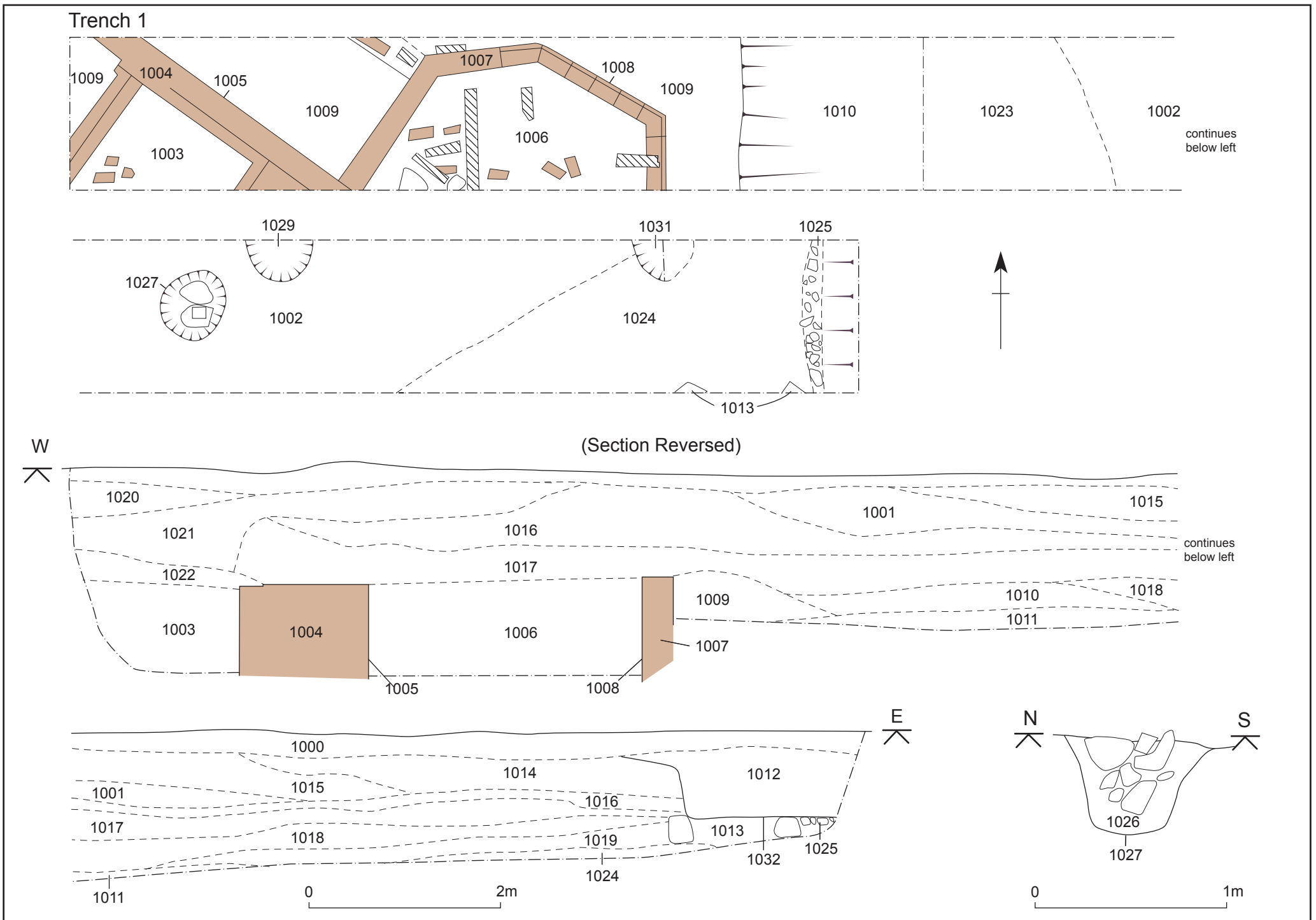


Fig.3



Plate 1



Plate 2



Plate 3



Plate 4

Appendix 1 - WSI

Oak House Barns, West Bromwich

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:
WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION**

**For Sandwell Metropolitan Borough
Council**

**Archaeological Contractor: Birmingham
Archaeology**

**THE UNIVERSITY
OF BIRMINGHAM**



**Birmingham
Archaeology**

PART A (SITE SPECIFIC)

1 INTRODUCTION

This document describes the programme of work required to undertake an archaeological investigation at the above site. It forms the written scheme of investigation for the work, which is a requirement of the brief prepared by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (Lewis 2007). Any variation in the scope of work would be agreed with the Borough Archaeologist or assistant Borough Archaeologist, Sandwell MBC, before implementation.

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council requested an archaeological evaluation on land to the immediate west of Oak House (SMR Numbers 1415, 1416, 1689, 6478, 6739, and 8015). The purpose of this fieldwork is to provide sufficient information regarding the presence or absence, nature, preservation, and character of archaeological features and deposits across the site.

2 SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The site is located to the west of Oak House, off Oak Road, West Bromwich (centred on NGR SP 99782 90862). The underlying geology consists of boulder clay (Geological Survey of Great Britain: Sheet 168). The site is currently disused open space with vegetation.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A detailed historical background to the site has been outlined in the project brief by Sandwell MBC (Lewis 2007) and the Oak House Barns Conservation Plan (Prince Research Consultants Ltd 2003). To summarize:

The site lies in the vicinity of a medieval bloom smithy, known to have been in existence between the 13th and 17th century, representing one of the earliest iron working mills in the borough. Although the exact location of this smithy is uncertain, it is possible that it may underlie the site at Bloomfield Road. Similarly, James Watt's first commercial steam engine is documented from the vicinity, representing a significant technological development within the industrial revolution. It is also possible that this once stood within the bounds of the site.

Oak House itself is a timber framed, Grade II listed, building dating to c. 1600 and is managed by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council Museum Service. Several Grade III listed buildings stood on the site (Oak Road 184-186) until they were demolished in 1977. These buildings may have belonged to a farm complex of which on two barns now remain (SMR 1419 and 1689 – located to the south of the study area). After demolition, the rubble was levelled across the site.

A group of buildings relating to iron working processes built up in the southern area of the site, the presence of the 18th century canal in this area acting as a focus for activity. These buildings were largely cleared by 1920, though further buildings associated with steelworks were erected in the late 1930s and again from the 1960s to the present day. The presence of early residential and cottage industry dwellings, in existence by at least 1849, alongside Bloomfield Road and Brown Lion Street may relate to early phases of industry at the site. It is

possible that the demolition material from these buildings may have been used to infill the canal in the south-west area of the site in the 1950s.

Previous archaeological work on this site has identified the foundations of the demolished buildings located towards the centre of the site (B.U.A.F.U 2002). Earlier archaeological work was completed within the southern part of this site in 1990 and 1991 during the proposed renovation of the existing barns and construction of a car park. These trenches identified insitu archaeological remains sealed by modern rubble and overburden.

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The principle aim of the evaluation is to determine the character, extent, date, state of preservation and the potential significance of any buried remains.

More specific aims are:

- To record the remains of 184-186 Oak Road.
- Assess if any earlier archaeological features or deposits exist beneath remains of 184-186 Oak Road.
- To assess the levels of modern overburden across the site to help inform a mitigation strategy in the event of future development.
- Create a site narrative and to Increase our understanding of the site and help place Oak House into its local and regional context.

PART B (GENERIC)

5 METHODOLOGY

Three trenches will be excavated across the site (Fig. 1). Trench one, measuring 20m in length by 1.5m in width will be located in the northern section of the site aligned parallel with Oak Road. Trench two, measuring 10m by 1.5m will be excavated in the central area of the site and is placed to identify the remains of the demolished Grade III listed buildings. Trench three, also measuring 10m by 1.5m, will be placed along the southern boundary of the site in front of Oak House Barns.

6 EXCAVATION

The previous archaeological work completed across the site suggests the natural clay is present at a depth of approximately 1m below present ground level. This is sealed by a thick layer of modern demolition rubble. This modern material will be removed using a JCB mechanical excavator, using a toothless ditching bucket, under direct archaeological supervision down to the uppermost archaeological horizon or the natural geology (whichever is encountered first).

Trial-trenches will be surveyed-in using an EDM total station or other appropriate survey instruments.

Subsequent cleaning and excavation will be by hand. A representative sample of archaeological features and deposits will be manually sample excavated sufficiently to define their character and to obtain suitable dating evidence. Generally, 50% of pits or postholes and a 1m section of linear/ curvilinear features will be excavated. Archaeological deposits will not be completely excavated unless this is unavoidable. The depth of archaeological deposits across the site will be assessed, although the full length of every trench will not necessarily be excavated down to natural.

After any foundations or walls associated with the demolished buildings that were present at the centre of the site have been fully recorded, a second stage of machining may be required to remove any hard sections of flooring or foundations. This is to assess if any earlier archaeological deposits exist beneath. This course of action will be approved by the Planning Archaeologist or Assistant Planning Archaeologist, Sandwell MBC before commencement.

7 RECORDING

All stratigraphic sequences will be recorded, even where no archaeology was present. Features will be planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50, and sections will be drawn of all cut features and significant vertical stratigraphy at a scale of 1:20. A comprehensive written record will be maintained using a continuous numbered context system on *pro-forma* context and feature cards. Written records and scale plans will be supplemented by photographs using monochrome and colour print and colour slide photography.

Twenty litre soil samples will be taken from suitable datable archaeological features for the recovery of charred plant remains. The environmental sampling policy will follow the guidelines contained in the Birmingham Archaeology Guide to On-Site Environmental Sampling and the *Report of the Association for Environmental Archaeology Working Party on Sampling and Recovery* (1995).

Recovered finds will be cleaned, marked and remedial conservation work undertaken as necessary. Treatment of all finds will conform to guidance contained within 'A strategy for the care and investigation of finds' published by English Heritage.

The full site archive will include all artefactual and/or ecofactual remains recovered from the site. The site archive will be prepared according to guidelines set down in Appendix 3 of the Management of Archaeology Projects (English Heritage, 1991), the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage (Walker 1990) and Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological collections (Museum and Art Galleries Commission, 1992). Finds and the paper archive will be deposited with the Sandwell MBC Museums Service.

8 STAFFING

The project will be managed and directed for Birmingham Archaeology by Kevin Colls BSc. MIFA and supervised in the field by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeological supervisor (details to be notified, prior to the commencement of the fieldwork) assisted by a team of two experienced site assistants.

Specialist staff will be, where appropriate:

Dr Lawrence Barfield- Flint artefacts, freelance consultant lithics specialist.

Dr Ann Woodward- Prehistoric pottery, Research Fellow, Birmingham Archaeology, University of Birmingham.

Dr Jeremy Evans- Roman pottery, Honorary Research Fellow, Birmingham Archaeology, University of Birmingham.

C. Jane Evans- Roman pottery, freelance consultant pottery specialist

Stephanie Rátkai- Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery, Honorary Research Associate and Finds Researcher, University of Birmingham.

Erica Macey-Bracken- Small finds, Birmingham Archaeology, University of Birmingham

Dr Andrew Howard- Archaeo-Geomorphology, Lecturer in Archaeo-Geomorphology and Remote Sensing, Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham.

Dr James Greig- English Heritage Archaeological Scientist - pollen and plant macro-fossils.

Dr Wendy Smith- Charred plant remains, Honary Research Fellow in Archaeo-Botany, University of Birmingham.

Matilda Holmes- Animal bone, freelance consultant archaeozoologist.

Dr Emma Tetlow- Micro-fauna, Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham.

Dr Megan Brickley- Human Bone, Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham.

Dr Roger White- Coins and brooches, Project Manager, Lecturer and Assistant Director (Development), Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham.

Jane Cowgill- slag and industrial residues, freelance consultant.

Rowena Gale- charcoal and wood. freelance consultant.

9 REPORT

A report would be produced for each of the three phases of evaluation. On completion of the fieldwork post-excavation work for each phase, including finds processing/ conservation, analysis and primary research, will be undertaken. A site archive will be compiled and an illustrated report will be prepared. This report would be in the format required by the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (published by English Heritage), to include:

- Summary.
- Description of the archaeological background.
- Method.
- A narrative description of the results and discussion of the evidence, set in their local, regional and national research context, supported by appropriate plans, sections and photographs.
- Summary of the finds and environmental evidence.
- Specialist assessments of the finds and environmental evidence.

- Impact assessment and recommended mitigation strategy

The written report will be made publicly accessible, as part of the Sandwell Sites and Monuments Record within six months of completion. Eight copies of the report will be lodged with the Sandwell Borough Archaeologist, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council. A digital copy on CD-ROM will be provided. A summary report may be submitted for inclusion in *West Midlands Archaeology*. If the results are considered of regional or national importance it may be appropriate to publish the report in an archaeological journal.

10 TIMETABLE

The project will commence on Friday the 5th of October with the machining of the trenches. The full field team will begin on the 8th of October and remain until project completion. A draft evaluation report will be available for distribution approximately 3 weeks after the conclusion of fieldwork.

11 GENERAL

All project staff will adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The project will follow the requirements set down in the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001).

A detailed Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork. All current health and safety legislation, regulations and guidance will be complied with. The excavation will conform to the *Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992* and *Health & Safety in Field Archaeology Manual* (SCAUM 1991).

Any human remains encountered will be initially left in situ and covered. In the event that human remains need to be removed this will be carried out under the terms of a Home Office Licence and adhering to relevant environmental health regulations. All finds which may constitute 'treasure' under the Treasure Act, 1997 will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner. If removal is not possible on the same working day as discovery, appropriate security arrangements will be provided to keep the finds safe from theft.

12 REFERENCES

BUFAU 1990 *Oak House, West Bromwich, an archaeological evaluation*. Grey literature report

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Department of the Environment (DoE) 1990 *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning*

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Prince Research Consultants Ltd 2003 *Oak House Barns Conservation Plan*. Commissioned report by Sandwell MBC

Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM), 1991 *Health & Safety in Field Archaeology Manual*. Revised 1997

Walker, K. 1990 *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage*. UKIC, London.

Birmingham Archaeology September 2007

Appendix 2 - Context Database

Area	Strat Unit Number	Description
T1	1000	Dark brown sandy clay silt topsoil
T1	1001	Dark grey clay silt. Occas. charcoal, frequent small stones. Rubble demolition layer
T1	1002	Dark yellow sandy clay natural. Occ small-medium stones.
T1	1003	Mid brown sandy clay silt back fill
T1	1004	Walls made from handmade red brick bonded with white mortar.
T1	1005	Right angle of wall construction, exposed to a depth of 2m by machine
T1	1006	Mid grey sandy clay silt demolition deposit containing wood, bricks and occ fragments of charcoal
T1	1007	Red hand made bricks forming cellar wall
T1	1008	Cut of angled foundation trench
T1	1009	Demolition deposit
T1	1010	Dark Yellow sand construction layer
T1	1011	Mid grey brown sandy silt clay buried soil with occ. Small stones
T1	1012	Mid grey sandy clay silt back fill with large worked stones and occ small stones and charcoal
T1	1013	Mid orange brown sandy clay silt back fill lying between two stone blocks
T1	1014	Dark grey black sandy clay silt demolition deposit
T1	1015	Pale yellow brown silty clay make-up layer
T1	1016	Dark pink sand make-up/demolition deposit. Occ stones.
T1	1017	Dark grey/black silty clay rubble layer. Frequent brick and rubble.
T1	1018	Mid grey sandy/silty clay make-up deposit. Occ charcoal
T1	1019	Mid orange brown sand/silt/clay
T1	1020	Dark pink matted with grey clay make-up layer. Occ small stones.
T1	1021	Mid orange/brown clay build up layer. Occ charcoal.
T1	1022	Mid brown silty clay rubble deposit. Frequent crushed brick and mortar.
T1	1023	Mid brown sand/clay/silt. Frequent small-medium stones. Possible remains of cobbled surface.

Area	Strat Unit Number	Description
T1	1024	Mid orangey yellow sandy clay build up layer.
T1	1025	Mid brown/orange silt/sand. Occ small-medium stones. Possible remains of cobbled surface.
T1	1026	Mid pinky grey silt/clay. Occ large stones. Fill of posthole.
T1	1027	Cut of post-hole.
T1	1028	Mid grey/pink sand/silt fill of post-hole. Occ stones.
T1	1029	Cut of post-hole.
T1	1030	Mid pinky grey silt/clay fill of post-hole.
T1	1031	Cut of post-hole
T1	1032	Cut of pit.
T2	2000	Dark grey loamy silt topsoil.
T2	2001	Mid brown silty clay demolition layer. Assorted recent brick, rubble and stone.
T2	2002	Mid brown-grey silty clay with bricks, stones, cement and rubble. Recent demolition layer.
T2	2003	Red machine-worked brick with cement bonding. Recent cellar wall.
T2	2004	Wall cut. Recent.
T2	2005	Recent cellarge.
T2	2006	Red machine-worked brick bonded with cement.
T2	2007	Light brown silty clay demolition layer with charcoal and mortar.
T2	2008	Dark brown silty clay deposit with charcoal flecks.
T2	2009	Wall.
T2	2010	Cut for wall.
T2	2011	Mid brown silty clay layer. Small pebbles, some charcoal.
T2	2012	Red hard-fired brick wall, cement bonded.
T2	2013	Dark yellow sandy clay natural. Occ small-medium stones.
T3	3000	Dark grey-brown loamy silt topsoil with sub-round pebbles.
T3	3001	Mid orange-red sand with mortar, rubble and stone. Recent demolition layer.

Area	Strat Unit Number	Description
T3	3002	Mid orange-brown silty clay demolition layer. Occ small round pebbles.
T3	3003	Dark grey-brown silty clay demolition layer with stone, coal and waste deposits.
T3	3004	Mid orange-brown silty clay. Frequent sub-angular small stones. Redeposited natural.
T3	3005	Dark black-grey silty sand demolition deposit. Coal, waste and clay.
T3	3006	Mid orange-brown sandy clay demolition deposit with brick, mortar and large sub-angular pebbles.
T3	3007	Dark grey-brown silty clay demolition deposit with metal waste and coal.
T3	3008	Mid orange-brown silty clay redeposited natural. Small sub-round pebbles.
T3	3009	Pink-red natural boulder clay with large pebbles.