



# Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological trial trench evaluation at the  
Crows Nest Public House, 332 Addington Road  
Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire  
February 2012



## **Northamptonshire Archaeology**

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**Northamptonshire  
County Council**

Steve Parry and

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Report 12/19

February 2012






### STAFF

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SITE NAME: Crows Nest Public House, 332 Addington Road,  
Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire  
NATIONAL GRID REF: SP 9571 7241  
CLIENT: David Jackson Architectural Services on behalf of  
Birchester Medicare Ltd  
CONTRACTOR: Northamptonshire Archaeology  
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### QUALITY CONTROL

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**OASIS 119284**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>	
Project title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation at The Crows Nest Public House, 332 Addington Road, Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology excavated two trial trenches within garden of the Crows Nest public house. No archaeological features or artefacts were present in the excavated trenches.
Project type	Evaluation
Previous work	None
Future work	Unknown
Monument type and period	No archaeology present
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	
County	Northamptonshire
Site address	Crows Nest public house 332 Addington Road, Irthlingborough, NN9 5UT
Easting Northing	SP 9568 7241
Area ha	0.24ha
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>	
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology
Project brief originator	Liz Mordue, Northamptonshire County Council
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology
Director/Supervisor	Chris Jones
Project Manager	Steve Parry
Sponsor or funding body	Birchester Medicare Ltd
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>	
Start date	December 2011
End date	2 February 2012
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation at Crows Nest Public House, 332 Addington Road, Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire.
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION AT  
THE CROWS NEST PUBLIC HOUSE, 332 ADDINGTON ROAD  
IRTHLINGBOROUGH, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**Abstract**

*Northamptonshire Archaeology excavated two trial trenches within the garden of the Crows Nest Public House, 332 Addington Road, Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire. No archaeological features or artefacts were present in the excavated trenches.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by David Jackson Architectural Services on behalf of Birchester Medicare Ltd to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation within the garden of the Crows Nest public house, 332 Addington Road, Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire. (NGR SP 9571 7241, Fig 1). The work was required to inform a planning application (EN/11/01664/FUL) for the demolition of the existing public house and the erection of a nursing home.

The work was undertaken in compliance with the briefs issued by the Northamptonshire County Council Assistant Archaeological Advisor (NCC 2012a and b) and the subsequent WSI prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2012).

Northamptonshire Archaeology is an Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) registered organisation (RAO No.48). All works were conducted in accordance with the procedural documents of English Heritage (1991; 1997; 2006) and the appropriate standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (IfA 2008).

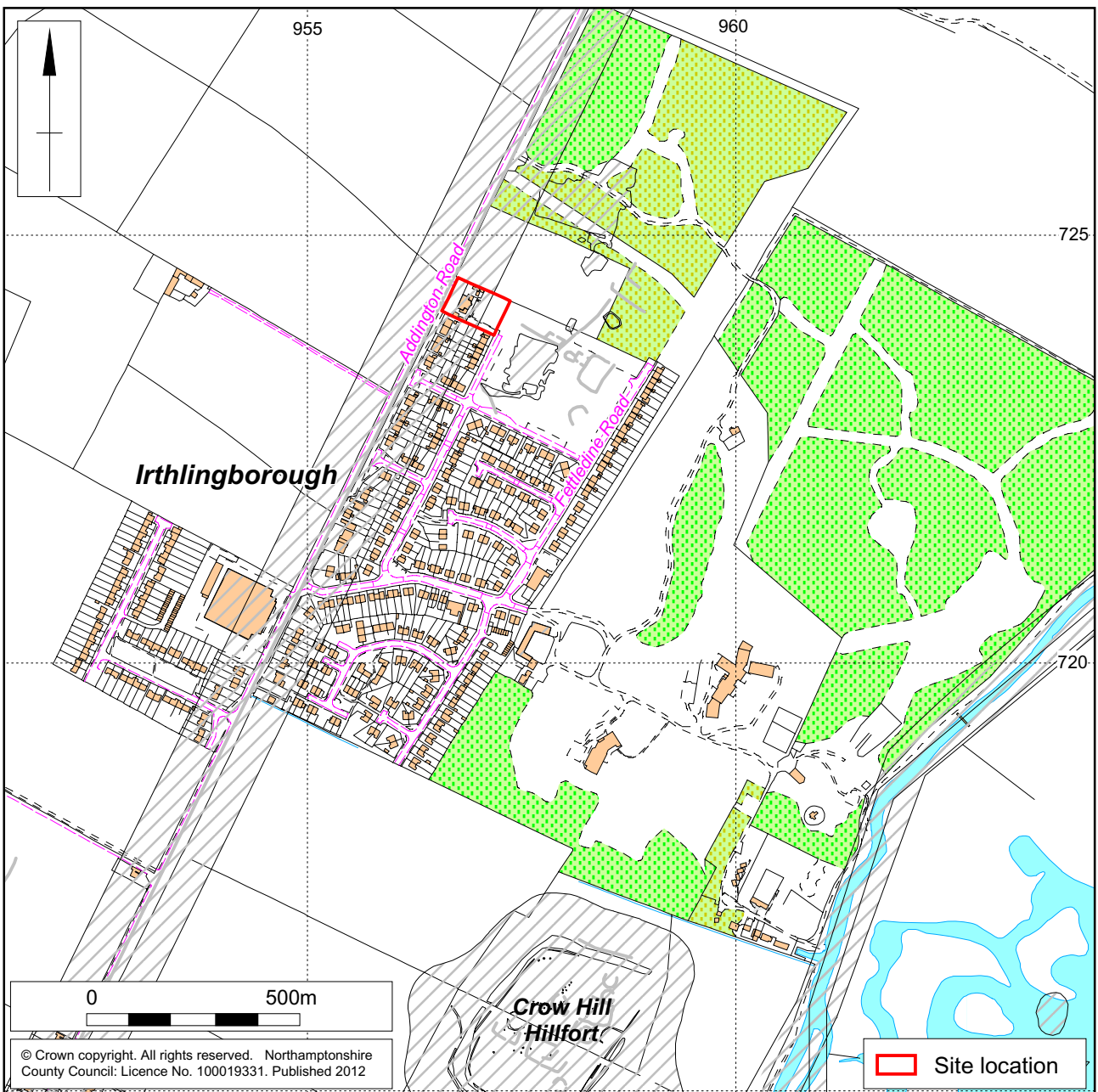
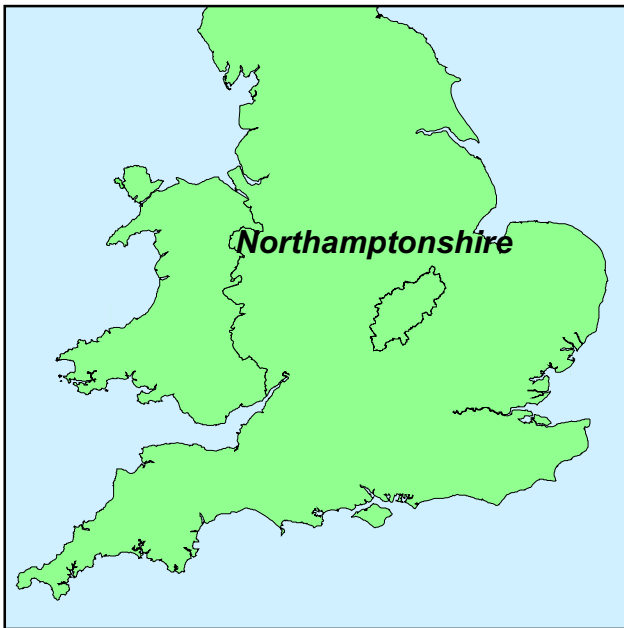
## **2 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Location, geology and topography**

The site is located on the upper north-west valley side overlooking the River Nene at a height of about 80m aOD. The underlying geology comprises Great Oolitic Limestone, partially overlain by boulder clay. The area to the rear of the public house is grass.

### **2.2 Archaeological background**

The development area is adjacent to important archaeological sites including Crow Hill Iron Age hillfort that was also settled in Roman and Saxon times (Parry 2006, 139-151) and undated cropmarks immediately to the south-east. The Addington Road may also follow the line of a former Roman road (RCHME 1975, 117).



Scale 1:7500

Site location Fig 1

### **3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Objectives**

The purpose of the work was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting.

The aims of the investigation were to:

- Establish the date, nature and extent of the activity or occupation on the development site;
- Recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- Recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine past local environmental conditions.

#### **3.2 Methodology**

The brief (NCC 2012a 3.7.1) specified archaeological trial excavation and it was agreed with the Assistant Archaeological Advisor that two 20m trenches would be opened in the garden of the public house. By placing the trenches in the grass areas it meant that the car park could continue in use for patrons of the public house (Fig 2).

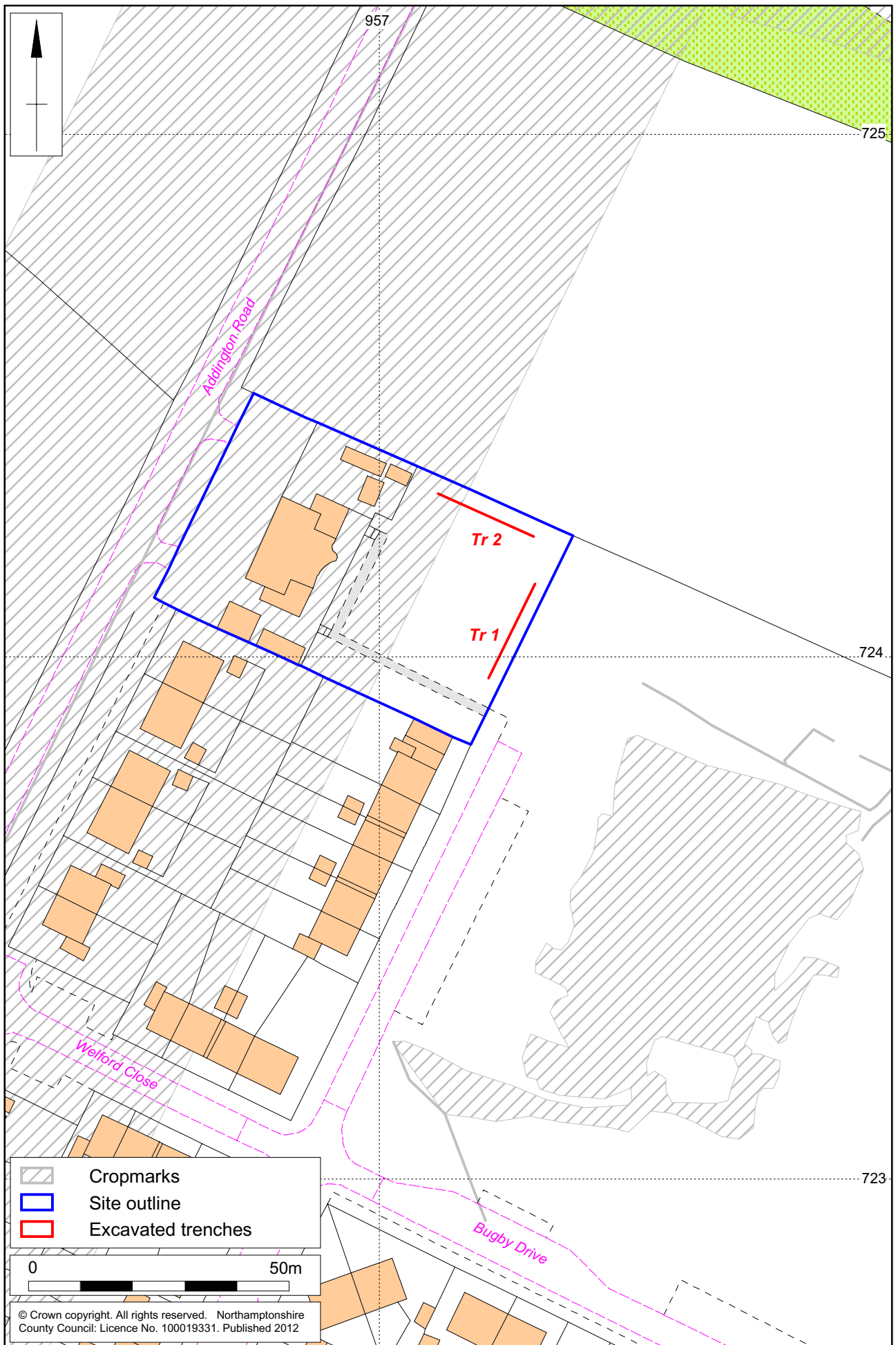
The trenches were located by taped offsets from fixed points. The trenches were machine-excavated using a 1.8m wide flat toothless bucket under continuous archaeological supervision. Topsoil and subsoil were stored separately on either side of the trench.

Deposits were described on pro-forma context sheets (NA 2006). The heights of each trench were established relative to Ordnance Datum. Plans and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:50.

A photographic record was kept of the excavation, comprising black and white negatives and related prints, and colour slides with supporting digital photographs. The field data will be compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

After consultation with the Assistant Archaeological Advisor on the 2 February 2012 the trenches were backfilled with their up-cast, and lightly compacted by the mechanical digger.

The report will be submitted within six months of completion of fieldwork, and an OASIS form will accompany the report for inclusion on the ADS database. A summary of the results will be sent to CBA South Midlands and the county journal Northamptonshire Archaeology.



Scale 1:1000

Trench locations showing cropmarks Fig 2



## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

### 4.1 Trench 1

Trench 1, 20m long by 1.8m wide, was located parallel to the property boundary to the rear of the site in order to identify any continuation of the ditch seen in cropmark 30m to the south-east (Fig 2). Natural grey boulder clay containing flint fragments (103) was exposed at between 0.40m and 0.50m below present ground surface. The natural was overlain by between 0.20m and 0.30m of orange clay subsoil (102), which was overlain by 0.20m of dark brown clay loam topsoil (101) at 79.3m aOD (Figs 3 and 6). No archaeological features or artefacts were observed in the trench.



Trench 1, looking south-south-west

Fig 3

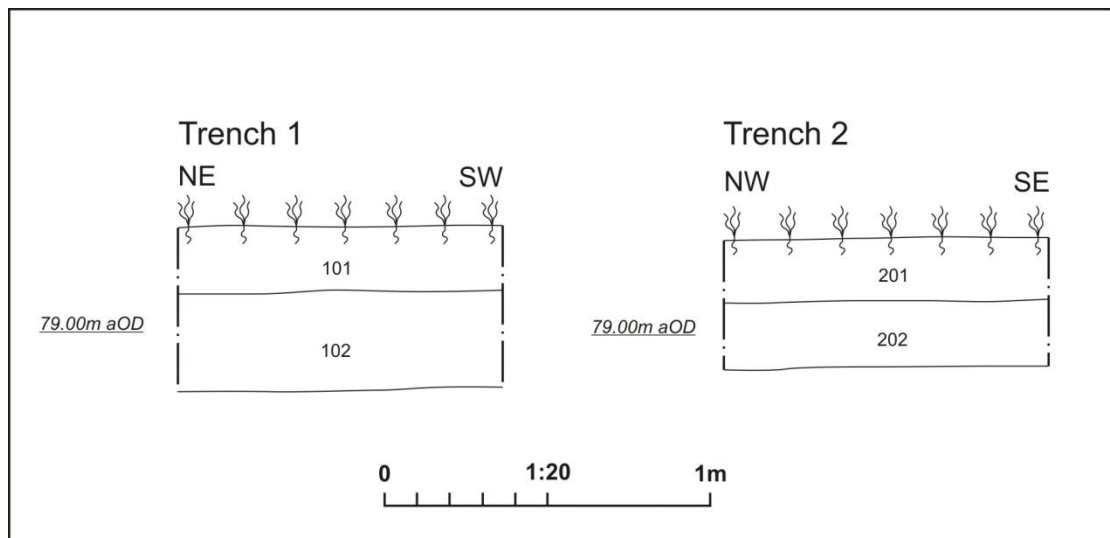
### 4.2 Trench 2

Trench 2, 20m long by 1.8m wide, was located at right angles to Trench 1 and parallel to the northern boundary of the property (Fig 2). Natural mid orange-grey boulder clay with moderate amounts of flint (203) was exposed at 0.40m below present ground surface (Fig 4). The natural was overlain by 0.20m of mid orange clay subsoil (202), which was overlain by 0.20m of mid grey-brown silty clay topsoil (201) containing poorly sorted pebbles at 79.3m aOD (Fig 6). No archaeological features or artefacts were observed in the trench.



Trench 2, looking west-north-west

Fig 4



Representative trench sections Fig 6

## 5 CONCLUSION

No archaeological features were observed in the excavated trenches and no artefacts were recovered. The ditch seen in cropmarks to the south-east did not extend as far as Trench 1.

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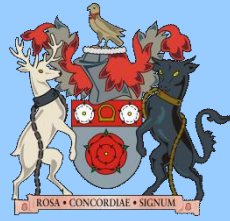
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**APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY**

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>20m x 1.8m NNE-SSW</b>	<b>SP 95720 72427</b>	<b>79.3m aOD</b>	<b>0.40 to 0.50m, 78.8m aOD</b>
<b><i>Context</i></b>	<b><i>Context type</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>	<b><i>Dimensions</i></b>	<b><i>Artefacts/Samples</i></b>
101	Topsoil	dark brown clay loam	0.20m thick	-
102	Subsoil	orange clay	0.20 to 0.30m thick	-
103	Natural	grey boulder clay	-	-

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>20m x 1.8m WNW-ESE</b>	<b>SP 95725 72405</b>	<b>79.5m aOD</b>	<b>0.40m, 79.2m aOD</b>
<b><i>Context</i></b>	<b><i>Context type</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>	<b><i>Dimensions</i></b>	<b><i>Artefacts/Samples</i></b>
201	Topsoil	mid grey-brown silty clay	0.20m thick	-
202	Subsoil	mid orange clay	0.20m thick	-
203	Natural	mid orange-grey boulder clay	-	-



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