



Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological trial trench evaluation
at 24-30 Queen Street
Weedon, Northamptonshire
February 2012



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Report 12/28

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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No. 121025
Project name	24-30 QUEEN STREET, WEEDON	
Short description	An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land at 24-30 Queen Street, Weedon, Northamptonshire during February 2012. The work was undertaken in advance of the construction of new residential dwellings. A single gully of probable post-medieval date was located in the north-west corner of the site. No other archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during the course of the evaluation.	
Project type	Trial Trench Evaluation	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current land use	Vacant	
Future work	None	
Monument type/ period	None	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	24-30 Queen Street, Weedon, Northamptonshire	
OS Easting & Northing	SP 6228 5890	
Area	0.2ha	
Height aOD	103m	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Ed Taylor	
Project Manager	Ian Meadows (NA), Jo Vallender (EDP)	
Sponsor or funding body	The Environmental Dimension Partnership	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	28/2/12	
End date	28/2/12	
ARCHIVES		
Archive location		
Archive contents	Trial Trench forms (5), Col slides (12) B+C contact sheets and negs (12) digital photos (1 cd)	
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	An archaeological trial trench evaluation at 24-30 Queen Street, Weedon, Northamptonshire	
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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION AT
24-30 QUEEN STREET, WEEDON
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
JANUARY 2012**

Abstract

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land at 24-30 Queen Street, Weedon, Northamptonshire, during February 2012. The work was undertaken in advance of the construction of new residential dwellings. A single gully of probable post-medieval date was located in the north-west corner of the site. No other archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during the course of the evaluation.

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in February 2012 prior to the construction of new residential dwellings on land at 24-30 Queen Street, Weedon, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 6228 5896, Planning Ref: DA/2011/0227; Fig 1). The work was commissioned by The Environmental Dimension Group (EDP) on behalf of their clients, Lovell Partnerships Limited, in response to a brief for archaeological evaluation issued by Northamptonshire County Council's Assistant Archaeological Advisor (Mordue 2011a and b). The investigation followed an approved specification prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2012) and adhered to the procedural document MoRPHE issued by English Heritage (EH 2006) and the appropriate national standards and guidelines, as recommended by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

The development area is located at 24-30 Queen Street in Upper Weedon, once a separate village but now part of Weedon village along with Lower Weedon. The site was occupied by four semi detached dwellings which were recently demolished prior to the construction of 11 new dwellings, access road and associated infrastructure.

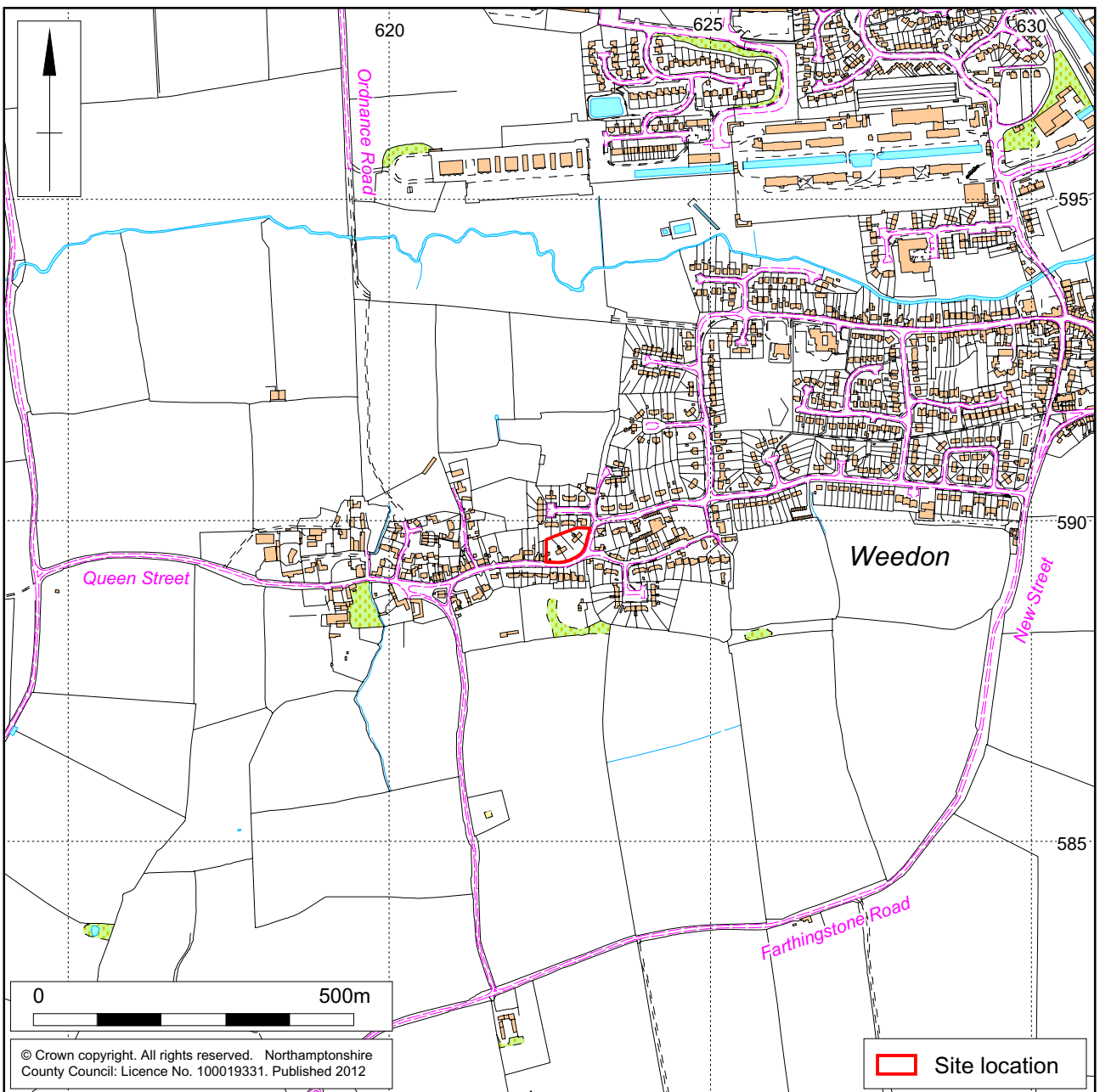
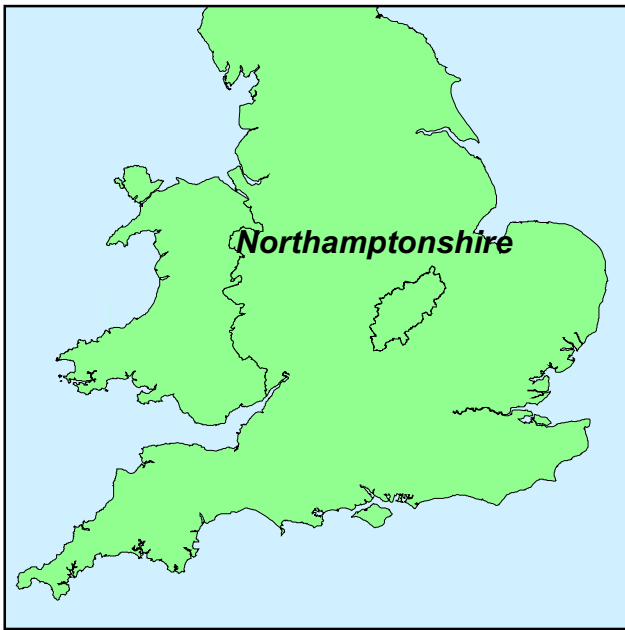
The site slopes from south-west to north-east and lies at around 103m aOD.

The underlying solid geology is mapped as Interbedded Siltstone and Mudstone of the Dyrham formation (BGS 2012). There are no records of superficial deposits

2.2 Historical background

A 500m radius search of Northamptonshire's Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) lists a number of entries within the vicinity of the development area.

Approximately 350m to the south-west there is a possible prehistoric ditch system (MNN 129622, 129623, 129624 and 129625).



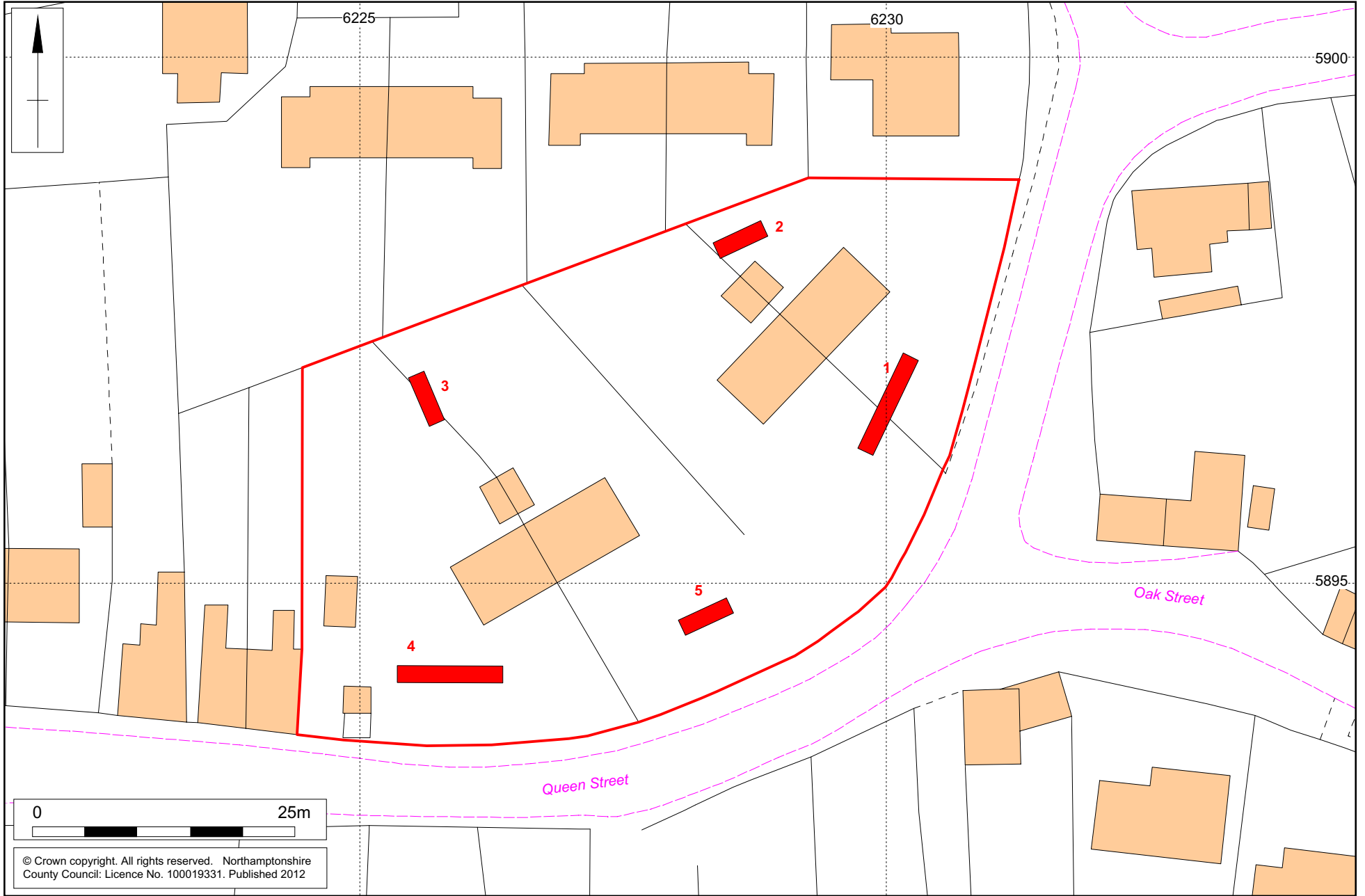
Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1

Scale 1:500 (A4)

Trench locations

Fig 2



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There is a possible medieval mill leat and pond 450m to the north of the site (MNN 31059 and 31061).

An undated stone foundation was recorded during ploughing just 10m to the north of site in 1948 (MNN 26248).

Archaeological evaluation, approximately 230m to the west, off Home Close, identified the rear yards of house plots dating to the 12th century which may have fronted on to Queen Street (Mordue 2012a)

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

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 location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present on the development site;
- establish the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present;
- recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- recover paleoenvironmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

The trenches were positioned using a Leica System 1200 GPS and were excavated, under continuous archaeological supervision, using a 180° mechanical excavator fitted with a flat toothless bucket. The topsoil and subsoil were stacked separately and adjacent to the trenches. Mechanical excavation proceeded to the top of the archaeological deposits or to the natural substrate where no archaeology was encountered.

Archaeological excavation and recording followed the guidelines outlined in NA's *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual* (2006). Trenches containing possible archaeological remains were cleaned by hand, sufficient to define the features. Each feature or deposit was given a unique number consisting of the trench number and an individual context number (eg 402, Trench 4, context 2). The details of each context were recorded on pro-forma sheets. The trenches were planned (scale 1:50) and section drawings were made at an appropriate scale (1:10 or 1:20) where necessary. Levels, which were related to Ordnance Datum, were taken on the trenches at appropriate points, on section datum and on all major features. Trench locations were related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. A photographic record was made of the excavation, using 35mm black and white negative and colour slide film, supplemented by digital images.

The spoil heaps and features were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval. The archive will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Museums and Galleries Commission (MGC 1992).

All works were carried out in accordance with the WSI prepared by NA (2012), the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IfA 1985, revised 2010) and *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 1994, revised 2008).

All procedures complied with Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety



Trench 2, looking south-west



Fig 3 Trench 3, Ditch [304], looking north-west
Fig 4

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

The evaluation comprised five trenches, two 10m long and three 5m long, all were 1.6m wide. (Fig 2). The trenches were positioned to avoid areas of expected ground disturbance outside the footprints of the former dwellings.

Across the site the natural substrate comprised a light yellow and grey mottled clay which was encountered between 0.35m and 0.76m below current ground level. In Trenches 2 (Fig 3) and 4 the natural had been disturbed by recent activity probably related to the demolition of the former dwellings.

There was a mid orange-brown clay loam subsoil, 0.15m to 0.50m thick, present in Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 5. The subsoil appeared to have been removed in Trench 4 and, at its eastern end, replaced with a layer of loose ironstone fragments, 0.15m thick. A thin layer of similar stone was also present at the south-eastern end of Trench 3.

In Trench 3, 1m from the south-east end there was a ditch, [304], aligned north-east to south-west (Figs 4 and 5). It had straight sides (1.40m wide, 0.73m deep), sloping c45° to a narrow concave base and grey-brown silty clay fill produced no finds. The ditch was cut through the subsoil, which would suggest a post-medieval origin.

The topsoil comprised a dark brown clay loam, 0.08m-0.37m thick, which contained occasional pieces of frogged brick, glass and other demolition material.



Trench 3, Ditch [304], looking north-east

Fig 5

5 CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation identified a single ditch in the south-eastern end of Trench 3, which given its stratigraphic position is likely to be of post-medieval origin. It followed the slope of the ground from south-west to north-east and may have been a predecessor of the site's current north-west boundary.

Outside of the footprints of the former dwellings there were isolated areas of ground disturbance where the natural substrate was occasionally truncated.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- EH 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment, MORPHE*, English Heritage Procedural Document
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- NA 2012 *Written scheme of investigation for archaeological evaluation of land off Queen Street, Weedon, Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

APPENDIX: CONTEXT INDEX BY TRENCH

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
1	10m x 1.6m NE-SW	462300/258967	102m aOD	1.37m, 101.63m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
101	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay loam	0.08m-0.29m thick	-
102	Subsoil	Mid-brown silty clay loam. Brick, tile inclusions	0.23m-0.35m thick	-
103	Natural	Light grey and yellow mottled silty clay	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
2	5m x 1.6m NE-SW	462286/258982	100m aOD	0.40m, 99.60m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
201	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay loam	0.25-0.26m thick	-
202	Subsoil	Mid-brown silty clay loam. Brick, tile inclusions	0.15m-0.50m thick	-
203	Natural	Light grey and yellow mottled silty clay	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
3	5m x 1.6m NW-SE	462256/258967	101m aOD	0.58m, 100.42m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
301	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay loam	0.18-0.26m thick	-
302	Subsoil	Mid-brown silty clay loam. Brick, tile inclusions	0.40m thick	-
303	Natural	Light grey and yellow mottled silty clay	-	-
304	Cut of ditch	NE-SW. Steep sides, narrow concave base	1.40m wide, 0.75m deep	-
305	Fill of 304	Mid grey silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks	1.40m wide 0.75m deep	-
306	Ironstone	Loose ironstone fragments	0.15m thick	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
4	10m x 1.6m E-W	462258/258941	103m aOD	0.44m, 102.56m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
401	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay loam	0.19m-0.37m thick	-
402	Natural	Light grey and yellow mottled silty clay	-	-
403	Ironstone	Loose ironstone fragments	0.15m thick	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
5	5m x 1.6m NE-SW	462282/258947	102m aOD	0.26m, 101.74m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
501	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay loam	0.10m thick	-
502	Subsoil	Mid-brown silty clay loam.	0.16m-0.20m thick	-
503	Natural	Light grey and yellow mottled silty clay	-	-



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