



Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to
Next Plc, Desford Road, Enderby, Leicestershire
January 2013



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Report 13/24

January 2013

X.A126.2012



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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM**OASIS No: 142080**

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project name	Land adjacent to Next Plc, Desford rd, Enderby, Leicestershire
Short description	An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out on land adjacent to Next Plc, Desford Road, Enderby, during January 2013, in advance of the construction of a detached staff children's day nursery building, car park, outdoor play areas and associated landscaping. Only a post-medieval field boundary and drainage ditch were found, likely to be associated with Seine Lane which crossed the site and still partially survives as a tarmac trackway. Modern ground disturbance, probably related to the construction of the M69 motorway, were also encountered during the course of the evaluation. No finds were recovered.
Project type	Trial Trench Evaluation
Site status	None
Previous work	None
Current land use	Pasture
Future work	Unknown
Monument type/ period	None
Significant finds	None
PROJECT LOCATION	
County	Leicestershire
Site address	Land to the South West of Next Plc, Desford Road, Enderby, Leicestershire LE19 4AD
OS Easting & Northing	SP 5268 9982
Area	0.8ha
Height aOD	95m
PROJECT CREATORS	
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology
Project brief originator	Leicestershire County Council
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology
Director/Supervisor	Jonathan Elston
Project Manager	Ed Taylor
Sponsor or funding body	Peter Brett Associates for Next Plc
PROJECT DATE	
Start date	08/01/13
End date	10/01/13
ARCHIVES	
Archive location X.A126.2012	
Archive contents	Trial Trench forms (8), Col slides (74) B+C contact sheets and negs (74) digital photos (1 cd)
BIBLIOGRAPHY	
Title Archived on	Land adjacent to Next Plc, Desford rd, Enderby, Leicestershire, January 2013
Serial title & volume	13/24
Author(s)	Jonathan Elston
Page numbers	14
Date	24/1/2013

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION
ON LAND ADJACENT TO NEXT PLC, DESFORD ROAD, ENDERBY
LEICESTERSHIRE
JANUARY 2013**

Abstract

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land to the south-west of Next Plc, Desford Road, Enderby, Leicestershire during January 2013. The work was undertaken in advance of the construction of a detached staff children's day nursery building, car park, and outdoor play areas with associated landscaping.

Only a post-medieval field boundary and drainage ditch were found, and these are likely to be associated with Seine Lane which crossed the site and still partially survives as a tarmac trackway. Modern ground disturbance, probably related to the construction of the M69 motorway, were also encountered during the course of the evaluation. No finds were recovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology were commissioned by Peter Brett Associates to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation on c0.8ha of land adjacent to Next Plc, Desford Road, Enderby, Leicestershire (Fig 1, NGR SP 52681 99820, Planning Ref. 12/0821/1/PX). The work was carried out in advance of the development and in response to a Brief issued by the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council.

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 lies within the land to the south-west of Next Plc and to the north-east of Desford Road, Enderby, Leicestershire. The site is flat and lies at approximately 95m aOD.

The underlying solid geology is mapped as Edwalton Member Mudstone (BGS 2012).

2.2 Historical background

The site lies within in a landscape of archaeological significance. The Historic Environment Record (HER) lists a number of entries within a 1km radius of the site but none within the bounds of the development area.

In brief these include the find spots of a Lower Palaeolithic hand axe (MLE9893) and an Early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age flint core (MLE7387) to the south-west of the site.

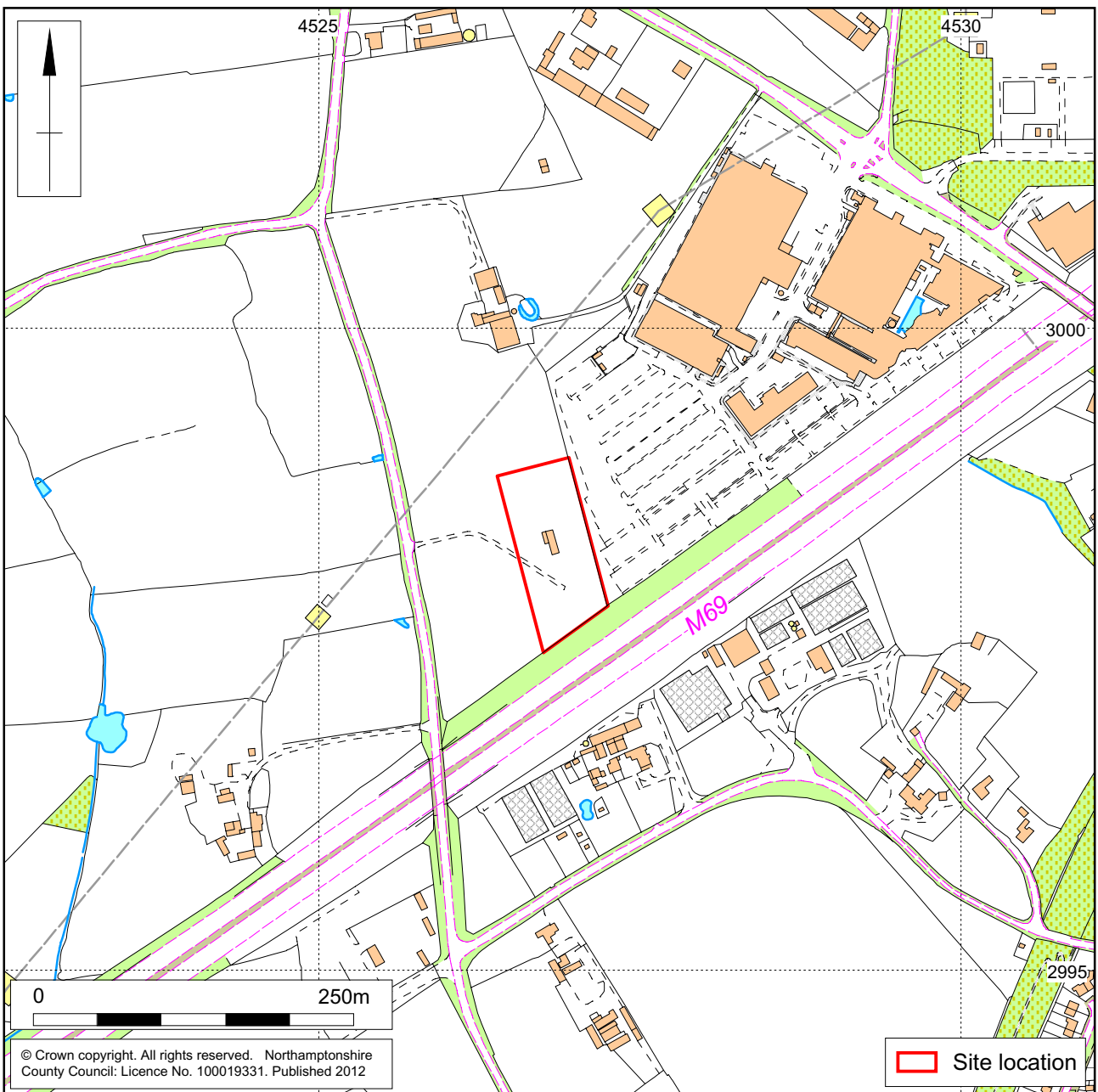
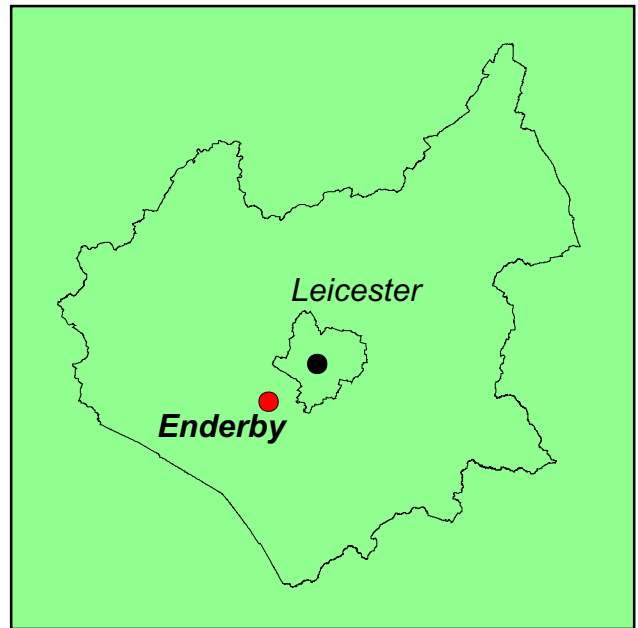
A possible late prehistoric sub-rectangular enclosure (MLE237) identified from aerial photographs prior to the construction of the M69, 300m to the south-east

To the south and west of the site there is evidence of Roman Kilns (MLE239 and MLE 9575) and an extensive Roman occupation site lies to the north-west (MLE8488).

Also to the north-west, a small hoard of Roman silver coins was found in 2005 (MLE16619).

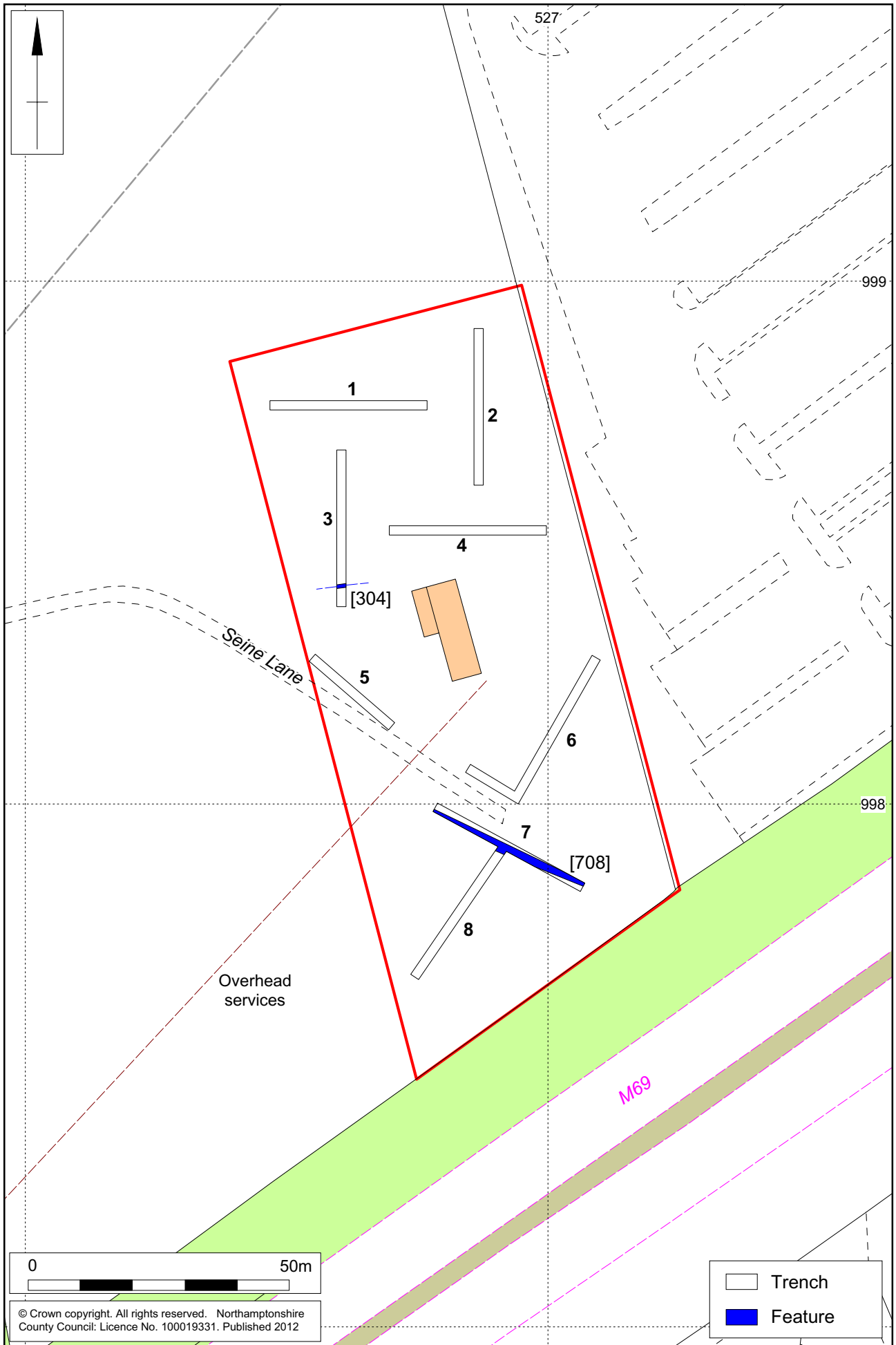
The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map shows that the course of Seine Lane originally crossed the site.

No previous archaeological work has been carried out within the development area.



Scale 1:5000

Site Location Fig 1



3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aim of trial trench evaluation was to gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character and date, state of preservation and depth of burial for important archaeological remains within the application area.

Specifically this would:

- establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area with particular regard to any which merit preservation *in situ*;
- identify the date, form and function of any archaeological deposit, together with its extent, depth and quality of preservation;
- evaluate the likely impact of past land use and possible presence of masking colluvial or alluvial deposits;
- establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence. Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practises, timetables and overheads.

The trenches were measured in by survey grade GPS (Leica System 1200) operating to an accuracy of +/- 0.05m and they were excavated, under continuous archaeological supervision, using a JCB 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* (2011). 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), the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 1994, revised 2008) and the guidelines for archaeological work in Leicestershire (LCC1997).

The evaluation was carried out within the parameters set by the *East Midlands Regional Research Framework*, Knight, D, Vyner, B and Allen, C, 2012.

All procedures complied with Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety.



Trench 1, looking east



Fig 3 Trench 8, looking north-east

Fig 4

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

The evaluation comprised eight trenches, all were 30m long by 1.6m wide. (Fig 2). Trenches 5 and 7 were split and shifted slightly from their agreed positions to avoid obstacles on the ground (post and wire paddock fences, trees etc). Trench 6 was shortened to 26m to avoid a possible live service detected by the CAT scan at the north-east end, running from the south-east corner of the building to the Next Plc car park on a north-west to south-east alignment.

Across the site the natural substrate comprised a light orange and brown mottled sandy clay with frequent rounded stone inclusions which was encountered between 0.25m and 0.44m below current ground level (Figs 3-5).

Overlying the natural there was a orangey, grey-brown sandy clay subsoil which 0.1m-0.15m thick. In Trenches 4, 5 and 7 the subsoil was cut by post-medieval land drains on varying alignments.

The topsoil comprised a dark brown sandy loam, 0.12m-0.38m thick which showed no evidence of recent cultivation.



Trench 3, the stratigraphic sequence

Fig 5

Trenches 1,2,4,6 and 8 contained no archaeological remains and had a uniform undisturbed stratigraphy.

Trench 3

There was a Ditch [304] on a east-west alignment, 0.7m wide and 0.2m deep, with a shallow U-shaped profile (Fig 6). The fill was a dark grey silty clay loam with occasional small rounded pebbles and charcoal. Finds present within the fill were modern window glass and ceramic brick.

Trench 5

A large area of modern disturbance (504) in the southern half of the trench contained modern brick, reinforced concrete and sandstone.

Trench 7

Ditch [705] was on a north-west to south-east alignment, 1.4m wide and 0.4m deep with a wide U-shaped profile. The fill was mid grey silty clay with occasional small rounded pebble inclusions. Finds present within the fill were modern plastic and strips of rubber.

The ditch was sealed by a modern make up layer (702) present throughout the trench. It contained fragments of tarmac, small sub-angular stones, plastic and aluminium strips. There was no subsoil surviving.



Trench 3, looking west

Fig 6



Trench 7, looking south-east

Fig 7

5 CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation has found some evidence associated with Seine Lane in the form of a drainage ditch [705] and a possible field boundary ditch [304]. The drainage ditch would have run parallel to the Lane on its south-western edge and was probably backfilled during the construction of the M69 motorway when Seine Lane was removed.

The field boundary ditch is aligned to the bend in Seine lane where it turns south-east after entering site on a north-east alignment. The modern debris present within the fill would indicate a similar date of backfilling as the drainage ditch.

The results of the evaluation would suggest that there are no significant archaeological remains within the investigation area.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLES

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
1	30m x 1.6m East - West	SP 52681 99820	95.76m aOD	0.32m, 95.44m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
101	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam	0.29m thick	—
102	Subsoil	Friable mid grey silty clay	0.01m thick	—
103	Natural	Orangey-brown sandy clays with 5% 40mm- 100mm pebbles. Slightly mottled with grey-red patches	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
2	30m x 1.6m North - South	SP 52681 99820	95.60m aOD	0.3m, 95.30m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
201	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam	0.29m thick	—
202	Subsoil	Friable mid grey-brown silty clay	0.01m thick	—
203	Natural	Orangey-brown sandy clays with 5% 40mm- 100mm pebbles. Slightly mottled with grey-red patches	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
3	30m x 1.6m North - South	SP 52681 99820	95.60m aOD	0.34m, 95.26m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
301	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam	0.32m thick	---
302	Subsoil	Friable mid grey-brown silty clay	0.02m thick	---
303	Natural	Orangey-brown sandy clays with 5% 40mm- 100mm pebbles. Slightly mottled with grey-red patches	---	---
304	Ditch	E-W aligned, shallow U-shaped profile	0.7m wide 0.2m deep	
305	Fill	Dark grey silty clay loam	0.2m deep	Plastic

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
4	30m x 1.6m East - West	SP 52681 99820	95.35m aOD	0.32m, 95.03m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
401	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam	0.30m thick	---
402	Subsoil	Friable mid grey-brown silty clay	0.02m thick	---
403	Natural	Orangey-brown sandy clays with 5% 40mm- 100mm pebbles. Slightly mottled with grey-red patches	---	---

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
5	Split 20m + 10m x 1.6m North - South	SP 52681 99820	95.18m aOD	0.4m, 94.78m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
501	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam	0.20m thick	—
502	Subsoil	Friable mid grey-brown silty clay	0.20m thick	—
503	Natural	Orangey-brown sandy clays with 5% 40mm- 100mm pebbles. Slightly mottled with grey-red patches	—	—
504	Modern rubble deposit			Ceramic brick, reinforced concrete

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
6	26m x 1.6m NE – SW	SP 52681 99820	94.92m aOD	0.31m, 94.61m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
601	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam	0.27m thick	—
602	Subsoil	Friable mid grey-brown silty clay	0.04m thick	—
603	Natural	Orangey-brown sandy clays with 5% 40mm- 100mm pebbles. Slightly mottled with grey-red patches	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
7	Split 24m + 7m x 1.6m SE –NW	SP 52681 99820	94.63m aOD	0.33m, 94.30m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
701	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam	0.20m thick	—
702	Subsoil	Friable mid grey-brown silty clay	0.13m thick	—
703	Natural	Orangey-brown sandy clays with 5% 40mm- 100mm pebbles. Slightly mottled with grey-red patches	—	—
704	Fill	Dark grey silty clay	0.4m deep	
705	Ditch	NW-SE aligned, wide u-shaped profile	1.4m wide 0.4m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
8	31m x 1.6m S W – NE	SP 52681 99820	94.83m aOD	0.41m, 94.42m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
801	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam	0.38m thick	—
802	Subsoil	Friable mid grey-brown silty clay	0.03m thick	—
803	Natural	Orangey-brown sandy clays with 5% 40mm- 100mm pebbles. Slightly mottled with grey-red patches	—	—



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