



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological evaluation on land south of College
Way, London School of Theology
Northwood, Greater London



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS number: 154648	
Project name	Archaeological Evaluation on land south of College Way, London School of Theology, Northwood, Greater London		
Short description	<p>Northamptonshire Archaeology were commissioned by CgMs Consulting, acting on behalf of their clients Banner Homes, to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land on the site of former tennis courts of the London School of Theology (LST), Northwood, Greater London. The tennis courts lay within landscaped, terraced grounds of the college.</p> <p>The evaluation identified layers of modern deposits which are likely to relate to the landscaping and terracing of the grounds of the LST. Sherds of modern flower pot and domestic china vessels were identified but not retained.</p>		
Project type	Evaluation- trial trenching		
Site status	None		
Previous work	Desk-based assessment (Philipotts 2008)		
Current Land use	Tennis Courts (tarmac)		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type	Modern made ground/ terracing		
Significant finds	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Borough off Hillingdon, Greater London		
Site address	Land south of College Way, London School of Theology		
Study area	0.25ha		
OS co-ords	TQ 08610 91659		
Height OD	71m		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology		
Project brief originator			
Project Design originator	CgMs Consulting		
Director/Supervisor	C Simmonds		
Project Manager	M Holmes		
Sponsor or funding body	M Dawson, CgMs Consulting		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	27/6/2013		
End date	3/7/2013		
ARCHIVES	Location	Content	
Physical	LSC13	None	
Paper		1 archive box of site forms and records	
Digital		Digital photographs, pdf of report and dxf data	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Title	Archaeological Evaluation on land south of College Way, London School of Theology, Northwood, Greater London June-July 2013		
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND SOUTH OF COLLEGE WAY,
LONDON SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
NORTHWOOD, GREATER LONDON
JUNE- JULY 2013**

Abstract

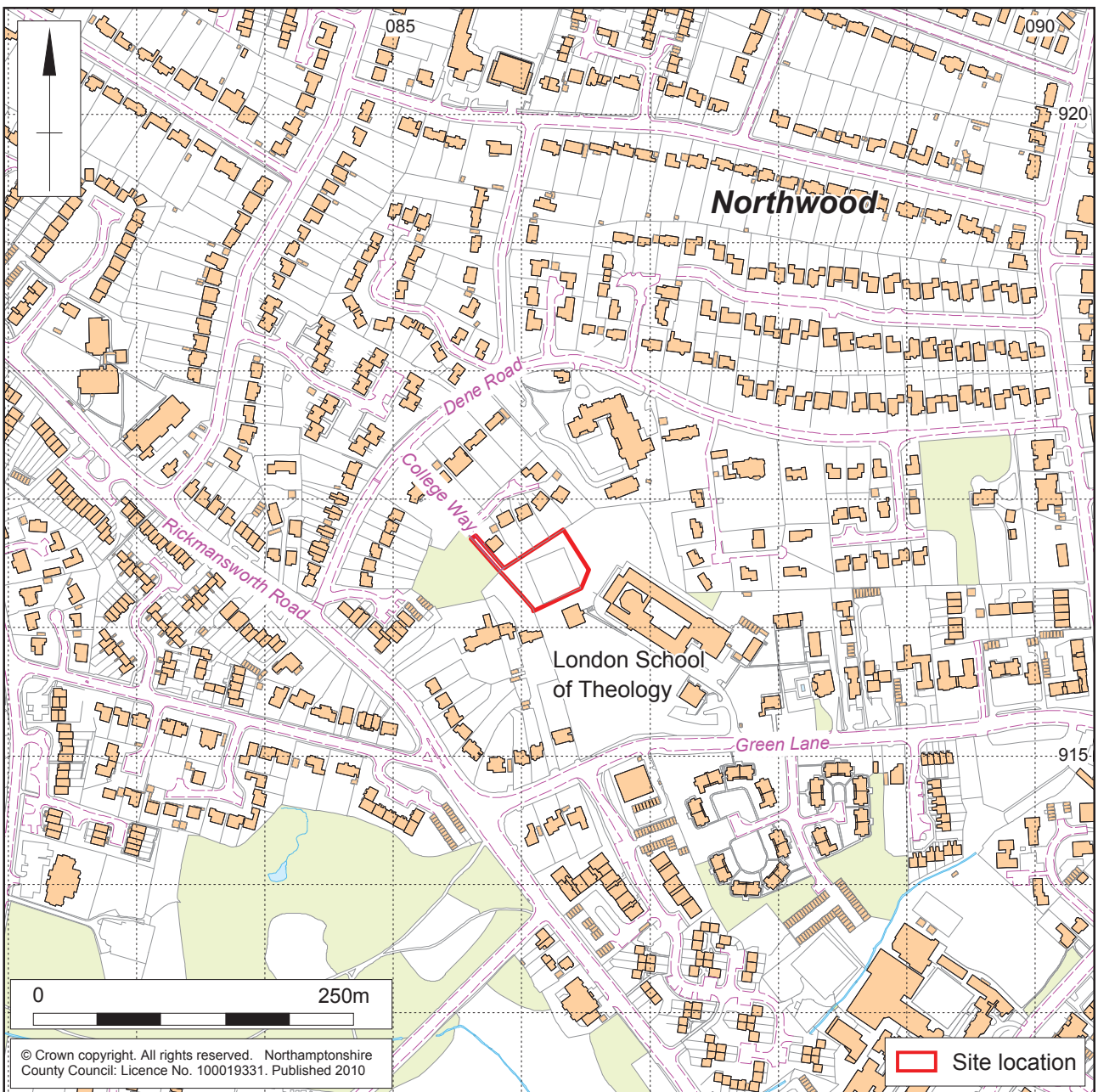
Northamptonshire Archaeology were commissioned by CgMs Consulting, acting on behalf of their clients Banner Homes, to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation on the site of former tennis courts of the London School of Theology (LST), Northwood, Greater London. The tennis courts lay within landscaped, terraced grounds of the college.

The evaluation identified layers of modern deposits which relate to the landscaping and terracing of the grounds of the LST. Sherds of modern flower pot and domestic china vessels were identified but not retained.

1 INTRODUCTION

CgMs Consulting, acting on behalf of Banner Holmes, commissioned Northamptonshire Archaeology to undertake archaeological work on the proposed development site on land to the south of College Way, London School of Theology (LST), Greater London (NGR TQ 08610 91659, Fig 1). Banner Homes intend to construct three houses accessed by a road leading from College Way. The archaeological works comprised 30 linear metres of trial trenching encompassing the area of the house footprints. At the time of the works the proposed development area comprised tarmac-surfaced tennis courts.

The works were required as part of the planning approval for residential development (Planning Application: 10112/APP/2012/2057), in line with National Planning Policy Framework NPPF (DCLG 2012). A Project Specification was produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology for the trial trench evaluation work (NA 2013). The works were monitored by Sandy Kidd of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS).



Scale 1:5000

Site Location Fig 1

2 BACKGROUND

The natural topography of the north-western part of Greater London comprises rolling hills and valleys. The area around LST comprises a gradual gradient sloping down from north-east to the south-west with modern housing built on artificially cut terraces. The site is located in the north-west corner of the grounds of the LST, immediately north of The Guthrie Centre. It is bounded at the north by residential housing and The Hall School lies at the west. The majority of the area is currently occupied by tarmac tennis courts in an area which was deliberately terraced as part of the construction of the LST buildings (Figs 2 & 3).



General view of the site, showing the tennis courts situated on a terrace, looking south-west
Fig 2

The geology of the area is mapped by the British Geological Survey as the Lambeth Group, sedimentary bedrock of clay, silt and sand (BGS, <http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/GeolIndex/>).

A Desk-Based-Assessment (DBA) was carried out by Museum of London Archaeology Service in 2008. In summary, the DBA found no evidence of prehistoric, Roman or early medieval activity. However, in the 13th century a monastic grange was established immediately adjacent to the site, therefore ancillary buildings, enclosures, and fishponds may have lain within the area of the site itself (Phillpots (2008)).

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

The principal aim of the archaeological evaluation was to quantify the quality and extent of the archaeological resource and inform further decisions regarding the potential mitigation strategy. Trial trench evaluation is designed to gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character, date, state of preservation and depth of burial for important archaeological remains within the application area.

Specifically this was through the listed aims and objectives below:

- To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present;
- To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
- To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains;
- To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains;
- To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present;
- To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of any artefactual evidence present;
- To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.

3.2 Methodology

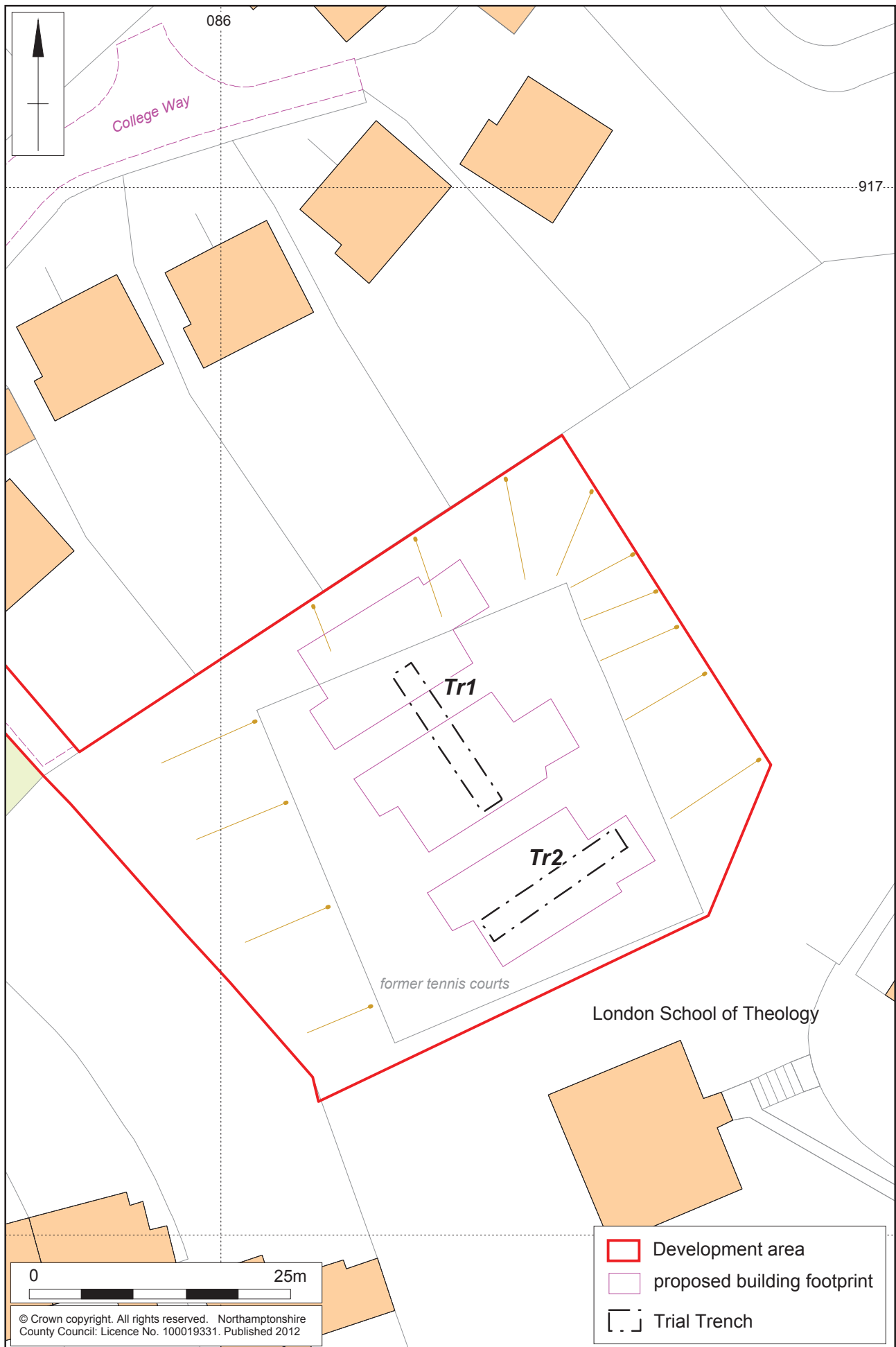
The works were conducted in accordance with the specification (NA 2013) and the following guidance documents: Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (IfA 2008) and the Code of Conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2010).

Trial trenching comprised the excavation of two trenches, each one measuring 15m long by 2m wide. The trenches were machine-excavated using a toothless ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision. The trenches were positioned in accordance with the trench location plan approved by Sandy Kidd of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) and by Michael Dawson, CgMs Consulting. The trenches were related to Ordnance Survey National Grid (Fig 3). On completion of archaeological recording the trenches were backfilled with the upcast material (Back Cover).

The tarmac and non-structural post-medieval and later deposits were removed to reveal the natural substrate. The tarmac was stacked separately from the other deposits. The trenches were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification of any features.

All deposits encountered during the course of the excavation were given separate context numbers and fully recorded. Recording followed standard Northamptonshire Archaeology procedures (NA 2011). Deposits were described on pro-forma context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds.

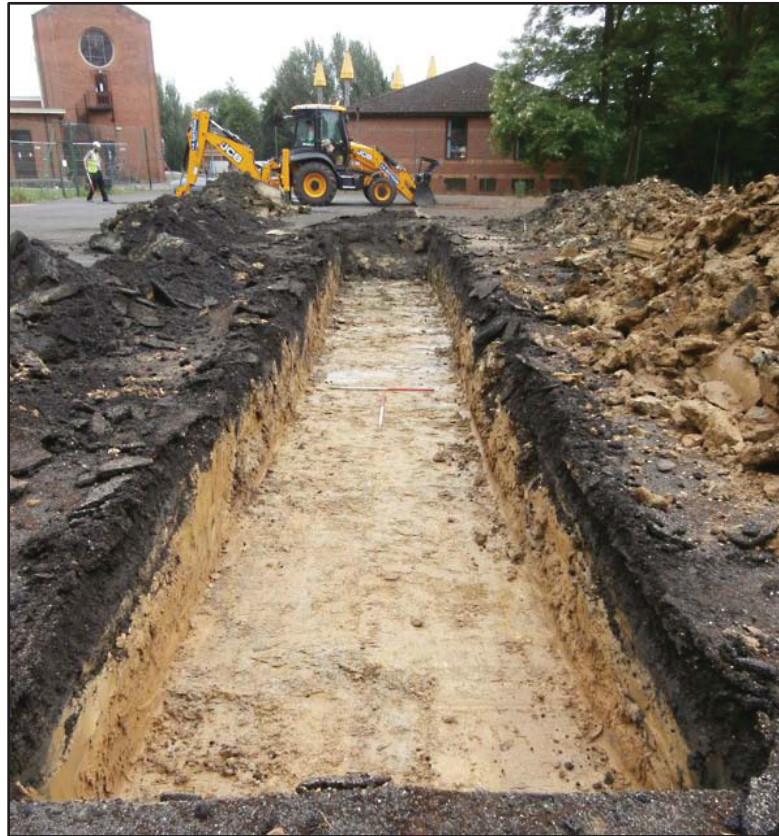
A full photographic record comprising both 35mm black and white negatives and high resolution digital photographs was maintained. The field data was compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.



Scale 1:500 (A4)

Location of trial trenches and modern landscaping

Fig 3



General view of Trench 1, looking south-west Fig 4



General view of Trench 2, looking north-east Fig 5

4 EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

Detailed context information is situated in the Appendix (Context Inventory). In general the trenches were between 0.80m deep (Trench 1; Figs 3 & 4) and 1.45m deep (Trench 2; Figs 3, 5 & 6) with natural soils overlain by modern made ground and tarmac.

The natural substrate comprised light pinkish-orange and light grey clays and the natural level sloped down from the north-east. At the north-western end of Trench 1 the natural was at 70.53m, aOD sloping down to 69.68m aOD at the south-western end of Trench 2.

Within Trench 1 and at the north-eastern end of Trench 2, the natural substrate was overlain by a layer (102)/ (203) of whitish-yellow clay which was between 0.10m and 0.45m thick. To the south-eastern end of Trench 1, this deposit became shallow and disappeared emphasising the natural slope of the site. Where the deposit became thinner it was overlain by layers of light grey clays (206), yellowish-grey clay (104) and dark bluish-black clays (202) (Fig 6). The later deposits were thicker towards the lower end of the site (south-western end of Trench 2).



Representative section of Trench 2, looking south-east Fig 6

The deposits were overlain by an orangey-yellow clay with brick fragments (205). This formed a levelling and base layer for the degraded tarmac (101) & (201) forming the surface of the tennis courts.

5 DISCUSSION

The evaluation was successful in determining a sequence of modern strata overlying natural substrate. The deposits recorded relate to the terracing and landscaping of the grounds of the London School of Theology. No archaeological features were identified beneath the modern terracing layers and the landscaping is likely to have either significantly truncated or destroyed any earlier remains which may have related to the 15th-century grange situated to the west of the site.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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EH 2009 *GLAAS Standards Paper 3, Fieldwork; Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service: Standards for Archaeological Work*, English Heritage (London Region)

IfA 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*, Institute for Archaeologists

IfA 2010 *Code of Conduct*, Institute for Archaeologists

NA 2011 *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Websites

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APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
1	15m x 2m NW - SE	508621 191647	71.13m aOD	0.60m (max) & 70.53m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
101	Tarmac surface	Modern tarmac surface of the tennis court	0.26m thick	-
102	Layer (made ground)	Soft compaction light whitish-yellow clay	0.10m-0.45m thick	-
103	Natural	Firm mottled light pinkish-orange and light grey clays	-	-
104	Layer (made ground)	At SE end of trench, moist/firm yellowish grey clay tipping from NW, few small-medium fragments of brick and occasional small stones	5m long, 0.50m thick	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
2	15m x 2m SW-NE	508631 191633	71.08m aOD	1.40m (max) & 69.68m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
201	Tarmac surface	Same as (101)	0.26m thick	-
202	Layer (made ground)	Firm mixed dark bluish-black and dark grey clays. Tree roots. Possibly same as (104) Overlies(206) overlain by (205)	0.10m-0.50m	-
203	Layer (made ground)	At NE end of trench, soft, bright whitish-yellow clays. Same as (102). Overlies natural (204)	2m long 0.30m thick	-
204	Natural	To NE end of trench firm mottled light pinkish-orange and light grey clays. To SW natural comprises light bluish-grey clays	-	-
205	Layer (made ground)	Firm orangey-yellow clays with few brick fragments	0.15m-0.28m thick	-
206	Layer (made ground)	Friable light grey clays, roots, coal and charcoal flecks. A lense of degraded red brick fragments to SW	0.25m - 0.50m thick	Modern ceramic flower pot sherds and domestic china. Not retained



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