



# Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at  
Melton Road, East Goscote,  
Leicestershire  
July 2013



## Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Northamptonshire  
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Report 13/135

July 2013



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**QUALITY CONTROL**

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Checked by	Adam Yates	<i>AY</i>	24/7/13
Verified by	Pat Chapman	<i>PC</i>	24/7/13
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**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		<b>155618</b>
Project title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Melton Road, East Goscote, Leicestershire, July 2013	
Short description	In July 2013, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology, for CgMs Consulting acting on behalf of their client, David Wilson Homes, on land at East Goscote, Leicestershire. The works identified no archaeological features or deposits, and no finds were recovered.	
Project type	Trial trench evaluation	
Previous work	Desk-based assessment and geophysical survey	
Current land use	Pasture	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type and period	None	
Significant finds	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Leicestershire	
Site address	Melton Road, East Goscote	
Easting Northing	SK 64660, 13660	
Area (sq m/ha)	2.58 ha	
Height aOD	60mAOD	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Paul Clements (NA)	
Project Manager	Liz Muldowney (NA)	
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	17/7//2013	
End date	18/7/2013	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Contents</b>
Physical	XA.90.2013	Site records (1 archive box)
Paper		Client report PDF. Survey Data, Photographs
Digital		
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Melton Road, East Goscote, Leicestershire 2013	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology Report 13/135	
Author(s)	Paul Clements	
Page numbers	8 pages of text and figures	
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION ON LAND AT  
MELTON ROAD, EAST GOSCOTE,  
LEICESTERSHIRE  
JULY 2013**

**Abstract**

*In July 2013, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology, for CgMs Consulting acting on behalf of their client, David Wilson Homes, on land at East Goscote, Leicestershire. The works identified no archaeological features or deposits, and no finds were recovered.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out in July 2013 by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) on land at Melton Road, East Goscote, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 464660, 313660; Fig 1).

The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of David Wilson Homes. It was undertaken as part of archaeological work in advance of a proposed new development as a condition of the planning application (Ref: P/12/1709/2) in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

The investigation followed an approved Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2013) 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).

The objectives of the evaluation were to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting.

**2 BACKGROUND**

**2.1 Location and geology**

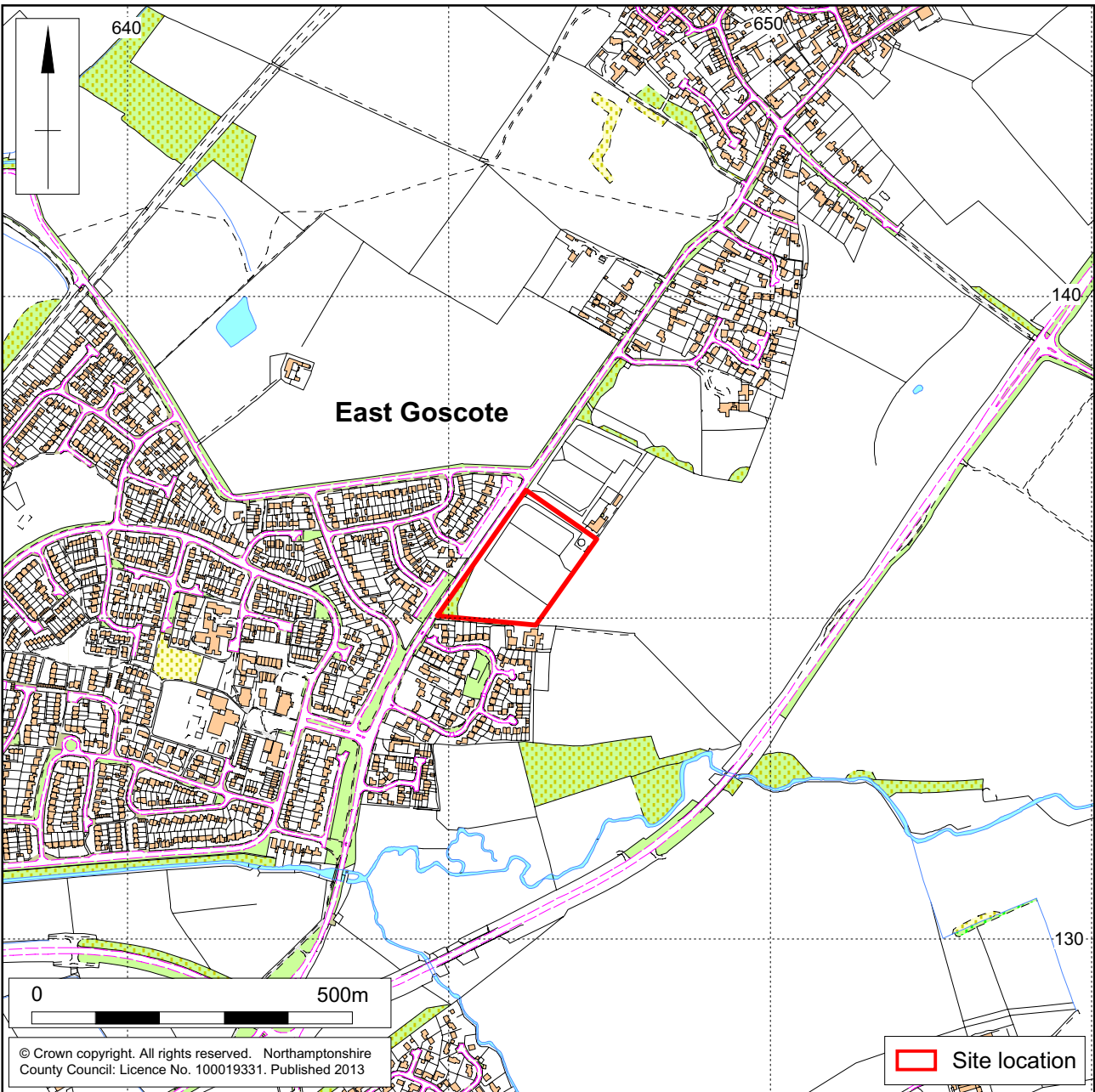
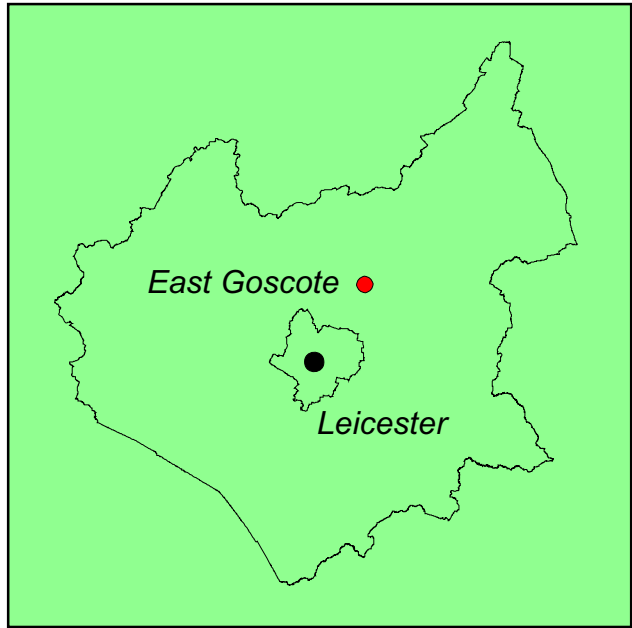
***Location***

The site is c 2.58ha in extent and comprises a single pasture field within part of the former Rearsby Roses Nursery at a height of c60m aOD. It lies on the north-west edge of East Goscote village. It is bounded by Melton Road to the west, housing to the south, and to the east and north by arable and pasture land respectively.

***Geology***

The site is underlain by Branscombe Mudstone Formation overlain by superficial deposits of Birstall Member sand and gravel (BGS, 2013).

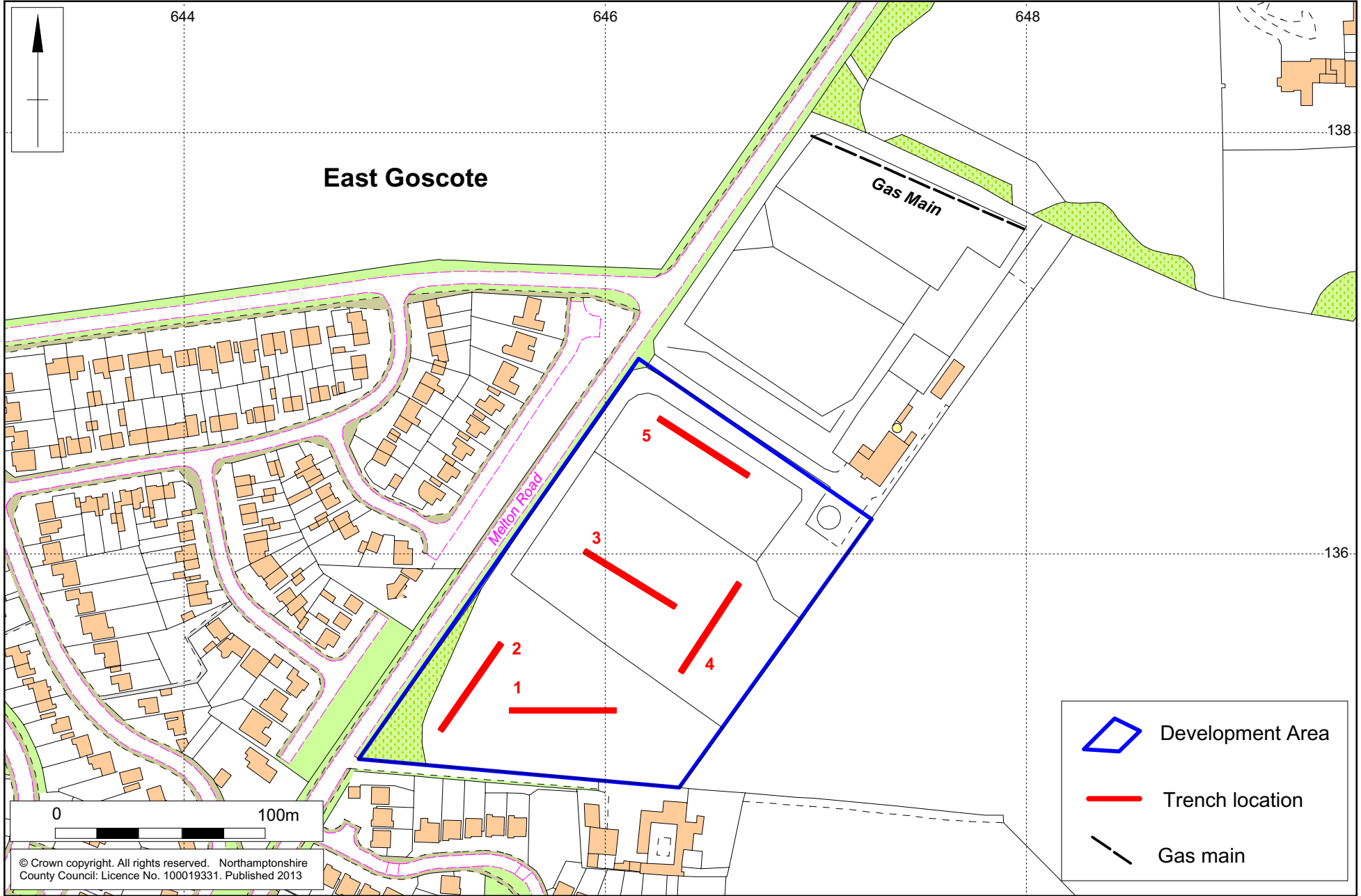
The soils across the site are recorded as freely draining, slightly acidic loamy soils. (Landis 2013).



Scale 1:10,000

Site Location Fig 1

Scale 1:2500 (A4)



Trench locations Fig 2

## 2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The background information provided below is derived from the Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) compiled for the proposed development area by CgMs Consultancy in 2011 (Gajos 2011).

### ***Prehistoric***

Although no evidence of prehistoric activity has been identified within the development area two prehistoric flint scatters have been identified within a kilometre of the site. One is c900m to the west and a second c200m to the east. Both of these assemblages contain material dating from the late Mesolithic, late Neolithic and early Bronze Age.

Approximately 550m to the north-west of the development area a pit circle has been located from aerial photography; which has been identified as a potential Neolithic henge monument.

### ***Iron Age and Roman***

Romano-British activity has been identified within 1km of the site. At Beedle's Quarry, c900m to the west, artefacts were recovered in the 1970s, these may have been associated with sub-rectangular enclosures recorded nearby from aerial photography, but they were destroyed by quarrying in the 1970s without investigation.

Approximately 700m to the south of the development area a late Iron Age to early Romano-British settlement site was excavated as part of the works in advance of the Rearsby Bypass. Further evidence for less intensive Iron Age and Romano-British occupation was encountered along the route of the bypass to the south and east of the current development area.

Within the vicinity of the development area are potential Iron Age and Romano-British enclosures identified from aerial photographs. The closest of these features is within 100m of the proposed development, however, none have been subject to intrusive investigation and their interpretation remains uncertain.

### ***Anglo-Saxon and medieval***

Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered during the construction of an armaments factory in 1941, which now lies within the residential development of East Goscote, although the context of the finds is not known. The village of Rearsby just to the north of the development area is known to have been in existence from at least the late Anglo-Saxon period and is referred to in the Domesday survey of 1086. No artefacts of this date have been recorded elsewhere within 1km of the development area.

Medieval references are plentiful within the search area but are for the most part restricted to the village of Rearsby. The development area is likely to have been part of the field systems associated with the medieval settlement at Rearsby and as such it is possible that features associated with the agricultural landscape survive within the study site.

### ***Post-medieval and modern***

The current site boundaries have been established since 1884 when they were recorded on the earliest surviving version of the Ordnance Survey (OS) map. This field had been subdivided from a larger land parcel sharing the same south-west and north-east boundaries recorded on the Rearsby enclosure map of 1762. The boundaries of the field have remained constant since the late 19th century until the 1970s when the area was subdivided into paddocks and the nursery buildings were constructed.



**Previous archaeological intervention**

An archaeological geophysical survey was carried out in the development area by Phase Site Investigations in 2011 (Taylor 2011). It identified no features conclusively of archaeological origin. Some areas of weak magnetic enhancement were identified but were interpreted as being geological in origin; isolated dipolar responses indicative of scatters of near surface ferrous material were also identified. A single weakly magnetic linear type feature was recorded crossing the southern paddocks from the south-west to the north-east; this has been interpreted as a possible sub-surface feature or a remnant track way. As the line of this feature runs between a gap in the roadside hedge and a gateway in the paddocks this latter interpretation seems likely.

**3 METHODOLOGY**

Five trial trenches were excavated in accordance with a trench plan prepared by CgMs Consulting (Fig 2). The trench plan was designed to test anomalies revealed by the previous geophysical survey as well as providing a general coverage of the proposed development area. All of the trenches measured 50m long by 1.80m wide. A total area of 450 square metres was excavated. Trenches were positioned using a Leica system 1200 GPS.

A JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.80m wide toothless ditching bucket was used to remove overburden to archaeological levels or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. The trenches were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of archaeological features. Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships and interpretation. Photography was with 35mm black and white film supplemented with digital images. Sections were drawn at scale 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate and related to Ordnance Survey datum.

All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 1994, revised 2008).

**4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE****4.1 General stratigraphy**

The underlying geology of sand and gravel was encountered between 0.40-0.50m below the modern ground surface. This occurred as light-orange brown compacted sand with up to 50% mixed sized gravels. The subsoil was light brown sandy loam containing frequent gravel. It had an average depth of 0.30m. The topsoil was mid brown-grey sandy loam containing very infrequent small rounded gravels 0.10m deep.

**4.2 The trial trenches**

The trench locations are shown in Figure 2 and an inventory of contexts is provided in the Appendix.

Trenches 1, 2 and 4 were positioned to target isolated groups of dipolar anomalies, and trench 3 targeted a linear trend all identified by the earlier geophysical survey (Taylor 2011). Trench five sampled a 'blank area'. No archaeological features were identified within the five trenches. Near the centre of trench 3 a pit of modern origin, visible as disturbance on the ground surface, was observed.



Trench 1, looking east Fig 3



Trench 2, looking north-east Fig 4



Trench 3, looking east Fig 5



Trench 4, looking north-east Fig 6



Trench 5, looking north-west Fig 7

## 5 DISCUSSION

The excavations identified no archaeological deposits or finds despite the potential for surviving remains. The linear geophysical anomaly targeted by trench 3 leads to an entrance into the field from Melton Road. It is most likely that this anomaly is a remnant trackway, comprising a line of compacted ground.

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Taylor, K, 2011 *Melton Road, East Goscote, Leicestershire, Archaeological Geophysical Survey*, Phase Site Investigations report, **ARC/653/266**

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Landis 2013 <https://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/> Cranfield University National Soil Resources Institute

**APPENDIX: CONTEXT INDEX**

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
1	50m x 1.80m E-W	SK 64579 13526	61.65m aOD	61.25m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature &amp; type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
101	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey sandy loam	0.15m thick	-
102	Subsoil	Light brown sandy loam	0.10m thick	-
103	Natural	Light orange-brown compacted sand and gravel		-

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
2	50m x 1.80m NE-SW	SK 64536 13536	61.56m aOD	61.06aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature &amp; type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
201	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey sandy loam	0.20m thick	-
202	Subsoil	Light brown sandy loam	0.30m thick	
203	Natural	Light orange-brown compacted sand and gravel		-

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
3	50m x 1.80m NW-SE	SK 64611 13588	61.89m aOD	61.39m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature &amp; type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
301	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey sandy loam	0.15m thick	-
302	Subsoil	Light brown sandy loam	0.35m thick	
303	Natural	Light orange-brown compacted sand and gravel		-

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
4	50m x 1.80m NE-SW	SK 64650 13565	61.98maOD	61.30m aOD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type Feature &amp; type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/ Samples</b>
401	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey sandy loam	0.15m thick	-
402	Subsoil	Light brown sandy loam	0.35m thick	
403	Natural	Light orange-brown compacted sand and gravel		-

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
5	50m x 1.80m NW-SE	SK 64646 13650	62.11m aOD	61.71m aOD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type Feature &amp; type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/ Samples</b>
501	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey sandy loam	0.10m thick	-
502	Subsoil	Light brown sandy loam	0.30m thick	-
503	Natural	Light orange-brown compacted sand and gravel		-



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