



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation for a meteorological mast on Newborough Farm, Crowland, Peterborough



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QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: 161539
Project name	Archaeological trial trench evaluation for a meteorological mast on Newborough Farm, Crowland, Peterborough.	
Short description (250 words maximum)	Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by AECOM to conduct an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Newborough Farm prior to a proposed erection of a meteorological mast on the site. Eight trenches were opened that matched the anchoring points for the mast. No features of archaeological significance were observed in any of the trenches.	
Project type (eg DBA, evaluation etc)	Trial Trench	
Site status (none, NT, SAM etc)	None	
Previous work (SMR numbers etc)	None	
Current Land use	Arable	
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	None	
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Cambridgeshire	
Site address (including postcode)	Newborough Farm, Peterborough Road, Crowlands Peterborough PE6 0AD	
Study area (sq.m or ha)	50 sq.m	
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq. letter code)	TF 24816 07033	
Height OD	2m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	AECOM	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Jim Burke	
Project Manager	Liz Muldowney	
Sponsor or funding body	AECOM	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	07/10/13	
End date	09/10/13	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Peterborough Museum (NFP13)	None
Paper	Peterborough Museum (NFP13)	Site file
Digital	Peterborough Museum (NFP13)	Mapinfo plans, Word report
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation for a meteorological mast on Newborough Farm, Crowland, Peterborough,	
Serial title & volume	13/204	
Author(s)	Jim Burke	
Page numbers		
Date		

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION FOR A
METEOROLOGICAL MAST ON NEWBOROUGH FARM,
CROWLAND, PETERBOROUGH
OCTOBER 2013**

Abstract

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by AECOM to conduct an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Newborough Farm, Peterborough Road, Crowland, Peterborough, prior to a proposed erection of a meteorological mast on the site. Eight trenches were opened that matched the anchoring points for the mast. No features of archaeological significance were observed in any of the trenches.

1 INTRODUCTION

In October 2013, Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by AECOM to conduct an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Newborough Farm, Peterborough Road, Crowland, Peterborough (Fig 1: NGR TF 24816 07033).

The site lies within an area of potential archaeological interest due to the close proximity of scheduled Bronze Age barrows. Consequently a programme of archaeological evaluation within the area of the proposed development was required. The requirements were outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AECOM (2013).

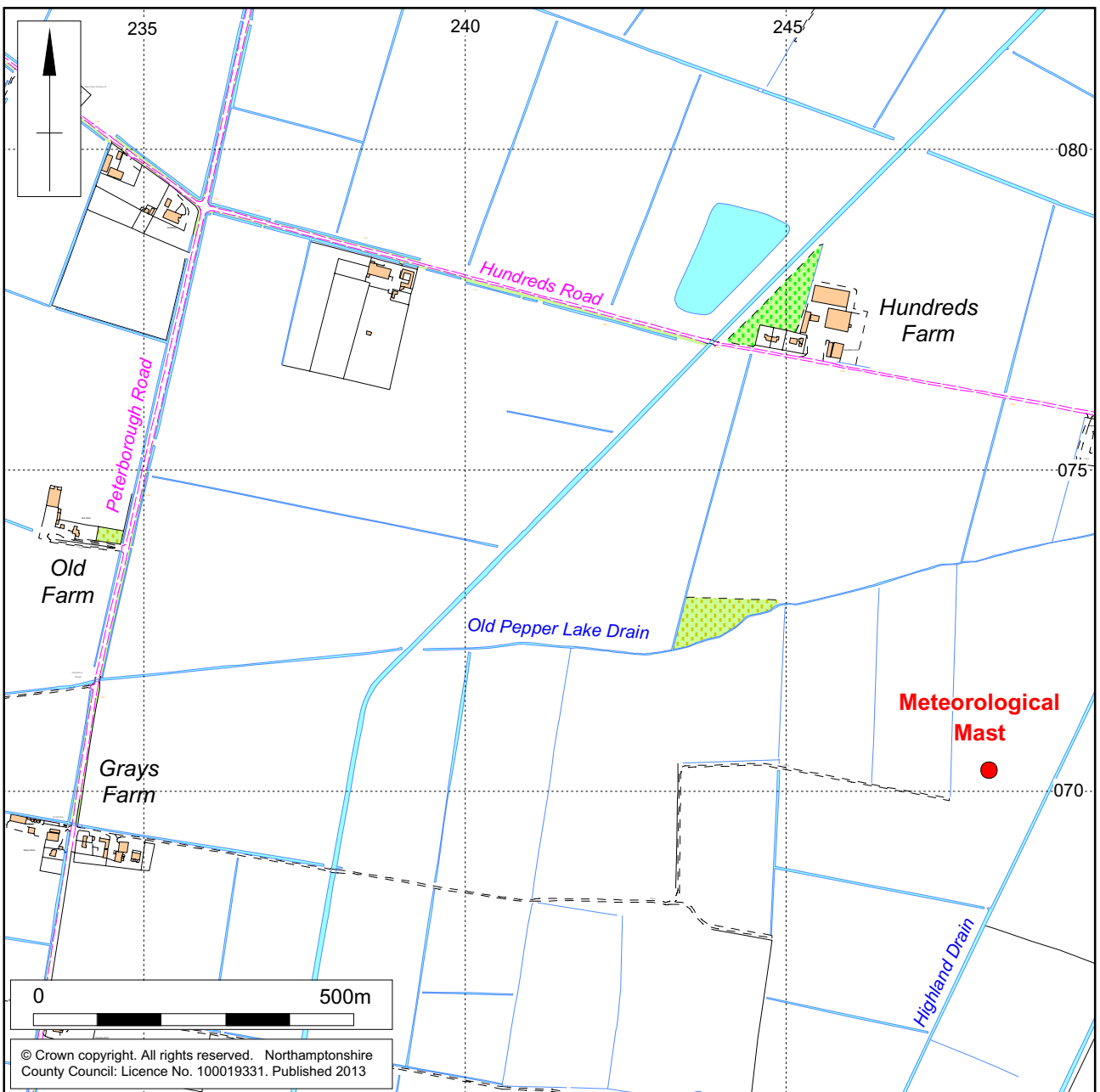
2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The main aims of the investigation were to confirm the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains within the application area and gain information on any present.

The specific objectives of the project were to provide further information on the following:

- Identify and investigate the presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality of any known, suspected and as yet unknown archaeological features/deposits which may be present on the site;
- Prepare a fully illustrated report on the results of the trial trenching that is compliant with all relevant guidance and good practice.
- Provide sufficient information within the report to enable the formulation of a suitable mitigation strategy and appropriate management of the archaeological resource, which is to be affected by the proposed development.

The evaluation was carried out following the guidelines suggested by the IfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008), and the *Northamptonshire Archaeology Fieldwork Manual* (NA 2011).



Scale 1:10,000

Site Location Fig 1

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Topography and geology

The development site is located approximately 5km north-east of Peterborough, to the east of the Peterborough Road between Eye and Crowland (A1073). The site is currently arable farmland. The area is bound by Old Pepper Lake Drain to the north, Highland Drain to the east and fields to the south and west.

The solid geology of the area comprises Kellaways Formation and Oxford Clay Formation. This is overlain by superficial peat deposits and, to the south-east of the site area, river terrace deposits of sand and gravel, both of which were formed in the Quaternary period (BGS 1984). The proposed area for development covered an area of 50 sq.m. The landscape is mainly flat, and the only access is from a farmer's track from Peterborough Road.



Site prior to excavation, looking north-east Fig 2

3.2 Historical and archaeological background

Twenty-two sites have been identified within 1km of Newborough Farm; these include scheduled Bronze Age barrows alongside one other non-designated barrow. Other non-designated assets date between the Roman and modern periods and consist of Roman occupation debris, medieval ecclesiastical assets and World War II pillboxes (AECOM 2013).

There has been a preliminary geophysical survey (currently awaiting completion) which has identified several archaeological anomalies within the wider area. These include eleven circular features which may indicate prehistoric activity. Interpretation

may suggest Iron Age settlement, although little Iron Age material has previously been recorded. An alternative interpretation could be an extension of the Bronze Age barrows cemetery. Other features recorded by the geophysical survey comprise probable field drains and a field system to the north of Old Pepper Lake Drain, linear anomalies to the south of Olympia Farm, a sub-circular enclosure and linear and curvilinear features of unknown date.

4 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

Eight trenches (Fig 3) were excavated using a JCB fitted with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket. The trenches each measured 2.0m long by 1.8m wide.

All the trenches were positioned by the site contractor, to match the positions of the proposed mast anchor points. The trenches were excavated, under constant supervision, to the undisturbed natural horizon. The topsoil and subsoil were stacked separately at the side of the excavated area. All procedures complied with Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety provisions and Northamptonshire Archaeology Health and Safety at Work Guidelines

Each trench was hand cleaned sufficiently to determine there were no archaeological remains present.

Recording followed standard Northamptonshire Archaeology procedures (NA 2011). Levels were related to the Ordnance Datum. Photographs were taken as 35mm monochrome negatives and digital photos. The excavated area and spoil heaps were scanned by metal detector.

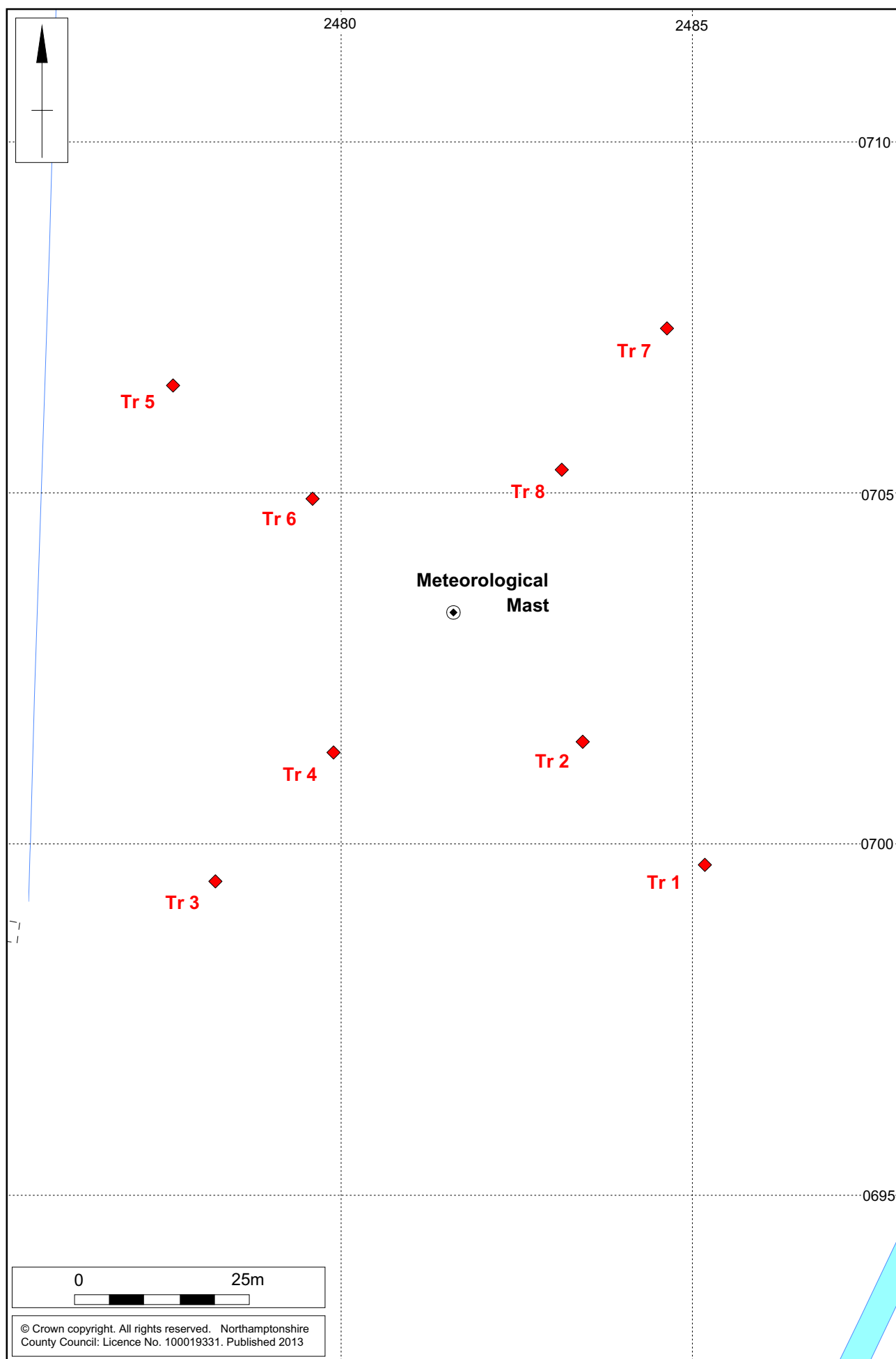
The evaluation conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised Oct 2008). All stages of the project were undertaken in accordance with English Heritage, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (EH 2006).

5 EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

Eight trenches were excavated to a depth of 0.33-0.48m onto the natural horizon, a mid yellow-orange sandy clay with frequent gravels and occasional chalk fragments. This was overlaid by a mid brown-grey sandy clay subsoil, 0.07-0.22m thick, with frequent gravels and flint, plough scars were noted in the subsoil. The topsoil was a ploughed mid brown-grey silty clay with frequent gravels and flint, at a depth of 0.16-0.25m thick (Fig, 4 and 5). No features of any archaeological significance were encountered.

The trenches were then excavated to a depth of 2.50m deep and 1.0m wide, for the mast anchors to be placed (Fig 6). All trenches were backfilled and pressure tested, no further work was required.

The mast footprint represented a very small portion of the wider development area, the evaluation only confirmed there were no features or artefacts within this portion.



Scale 1:750

Trench locations Fig 3



Trench 3 general view looking west Fig 4



Trench 3 section, looking south Fig 5



Trench 3 showing mast anchor *in-situ*

Fig 6

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DCLG 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department of Communities and Local Government

EH 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide*, English Heritage

IfA 2008 *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, Institute for Archaeologists

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

NA 2011 *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

SSEW 1983 *Soils of England and Wales*, Sheet 3, Soil Survey of England and Wales 1:250,000

WEBSITES

www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html

APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1	2mx1.8m SE	TF 24857 06997		Depth 0.49m
Context	Context Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
101	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey silty clay, frequent flint and gravels	0.17m thick	None
102	Subsoil	Mid brown-grey silty clay, frequent flint and gravels, similar to the topsoil, with plough scars	0.22m thick	None
103	Natural	Mid yellow-orange sandy clay, frequent gravels and occasional chalk	0.10m	None

Trench 2	2mx1.8m SE	TF 24834 07014		Depth 0.35m
Context	Context Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
201	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey silty clay, frequent flint and gravels	0.16m thick	None
202	Subsoil	Mid brown-grey silty clay, frequent flint and gravels, similar to the topsoil, with plough scars	0.10m thick	None
203	Natural	Mid yellow-orange sandy clay, frequent gravels and occasional chalk.	0.09m	None

Trench 3	2mx1.8m SW	TF 24782 06994		Depth 2.50m
Context	Context Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
301	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey silty clay, frequent flint and gravels	0.18m thick	None
302	Subsoil	Mid brown-grey silty clay, frequent flint and gravels, similar to the topsoil, with plough scars	0.16m thick	None
303	Natural	Mid yellow-orange sandy clay, frequent gravels and occasional chalk	0.38m thick	None
	Natural 1	Blue clay with frequent gravels and chalk	0.35m thick	None
	Natural 2	Blue clay	0.43m	None

Trench 4	2mx1.8m SW	TF 24798 07013		Depth 0.44m
Context	Context Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
401	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey silty clay, frequent flint and gravels	0.16m thick	None
402	Subsoil	Mid brown-grey silty clay, frequent flint and gravels, similar to the topsoil, with plough scars	0.18m thick	None
403	Natural	Mid yellow-orange sandy clay, frequent gravels and occasional chalk	0.10m	None

Trench 5	2mx1.8m NW	TF 24776 07065		Depth 0.45m
Context	Context Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
501	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey silty clay, frequent flint and gravels	0.25m thick	None
502	Subsoil	Mid brown-grey silty clay, frequent flint and gravels, similar to the topsoil, with plough scars	0.10m thick	None
503	Natural	Mid yellow-orange sandy clay, frequent gravels and occasional chalk	0.10m	None

Trench 6	2mx1.8m NW	TF 24795 07049		Depth 0.48m
Context	Context Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
601	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey silty clay, frequent flint and gravels	0.25m thick	None
602	Subsoil	Mid brown-grey silty clay, frequent flint and gravels, similar to the topsoil, with plough scars	0.08m thick	None
603	Natural	Mid yellow-orange sandy clay, frequent gravels and occasional chalk	0.15m	None

Trench 7	2mx1.8m NE	TF 24846 07073		Depth 0.33m
Context	Context Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
701	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey silty clay, frequent flint and gravels	0.20m thick	None
702	Subsoil	Mid brown-grey silty clay, frequent flint and gravels, similar to the topsoil, with plough scars	0.07m thick	None
703	Natural	Mid yellow-orange sandy clay, frequent gravels and occasional chalk	0.06m	None

Trench 8	2mx1.8m NE	TF 24831 07053		Depth 2.57m
Context	Context Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
801	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey silty clay, frequent flint and gravels	0.20m thick	None
802	Subsoil	Mid brown-grey silty clay, frequent flint and gravels, similar to the topsoil, with plough scars	0.07m thick	None
803	Natural	Mid yellow-orange sandy clay, frequent gravels and occasional chalk	0.56m	None
	Natural	Blue clay with frequent gravels and chalk	0.35m thick	None
	Natural	Blue clay	0.44m	None



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