



Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological trial trench evaluation
on land at 261 Main Street
Stanton Under Bardon, Leicestershire
March 2012



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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QUALITY CONTROL

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OAS/S REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project name	261 MAIN STREET, STANTON UNDER BARDON, LEICS
Short description	An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land at 261 Main Street, Stanton Under Bardon, Leicestershire during March 2012. The work was undertaken in advance of the construction of new residential dwellings. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during the course of the evaluation.
Project type	Trial Trench Evaluation
Site status	None
Previous work	Heritage Assessment (Dawson 2011)
Current land use	Pasture
Future work	Unknown
Monument type/ period	None
Significant finds	None
PROJECT LOCATION	
County	Leicestershire
Site address	261 Main Street, Stanton Under Bardon
OS Easting & Northing	SK466 101
Area	0.8ha
Height aOD	175m
PROJECT CREATORS	
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology
Project brief originator	Leicestershire County Council
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology
Director/Supervisor	Ed Taylor
Project Manager	Ant Maull (NA), Mike Dawson (CgMs)
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting Ltd
PROJECT DATE	
Start date	07/03/12
End date	07/03/12
ARCHIVES	
Archive location	X.A31.2012
Archive contents	Trial Trench forms (8), Col slides (22) B+C contact sheets and negs (22) digital photos (1 cd)
BIBLIOGRAPHY	
Title	An archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at 261 Main Street, Stanton Under Bardon, Leicestershire
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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION
ON LAND AT 261 MAIN STREET, STANTON UNDER BARDON
LEICESTERSHIRE
MARCH 2012**

Abstract

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land at 261 Main Street, Stanton Under Bardon, Leicestershire during March 2012. The work was undertaken in advance of the construction of new residential dwellings. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during the course of the evaluation.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology were commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of their clients David Wilson Homes, to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation on approximately 8000m² of land at 261 Main Street, Stanton under Bardon, Leicestershire (Fig 1, NGR SK 466101). The work was carried out in advance of residential development and in response to a Brief issued by the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council (Hawtin 2011)

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 to the rear of the houses fronting onto the eastern side of Main Street in the village of Stanton Under Bardon, Leicestershire. The village is located three miles to the south-east of Coalville. The site slopes down to the south-east and lies at approximately 175m aOD.

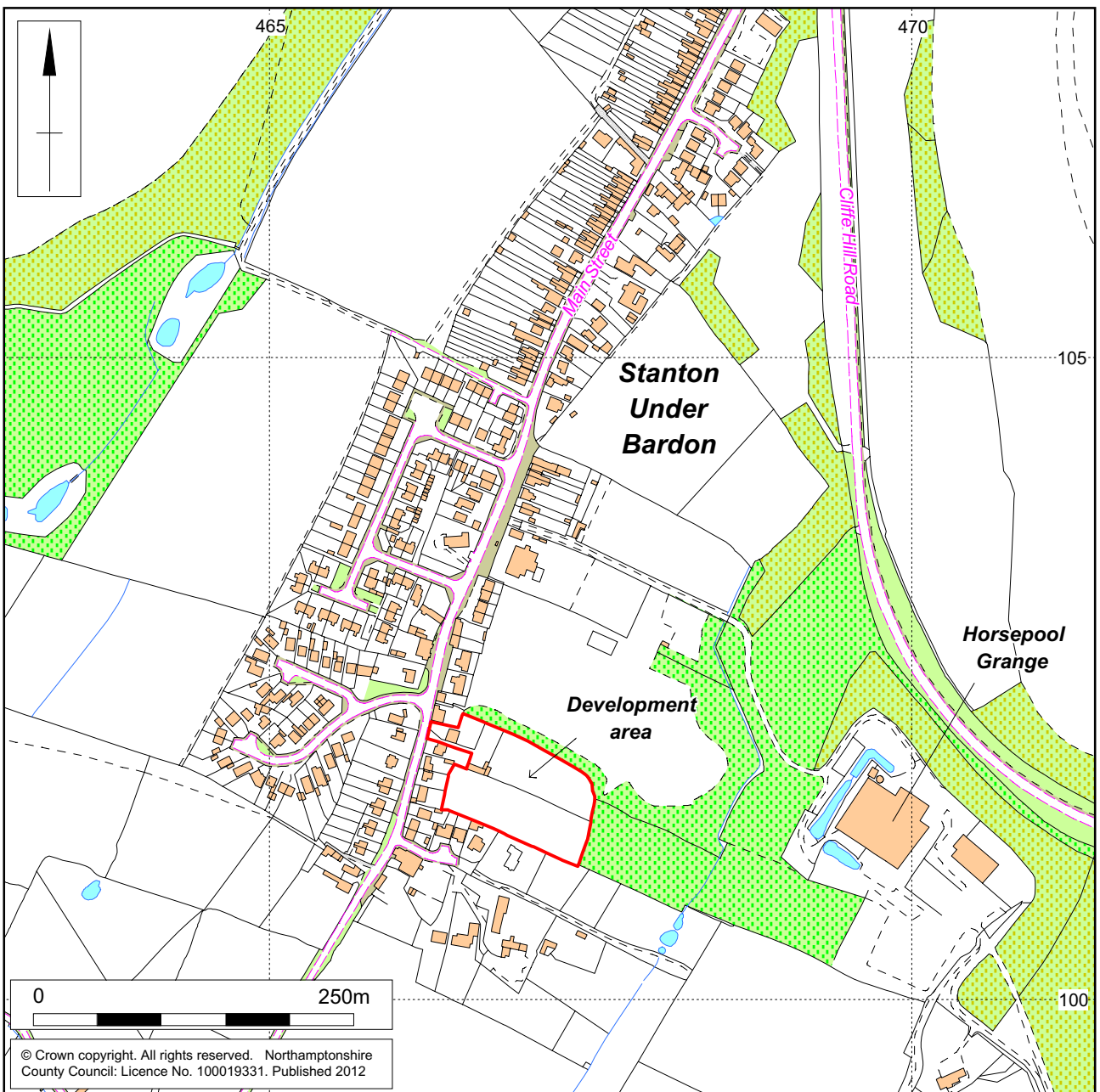
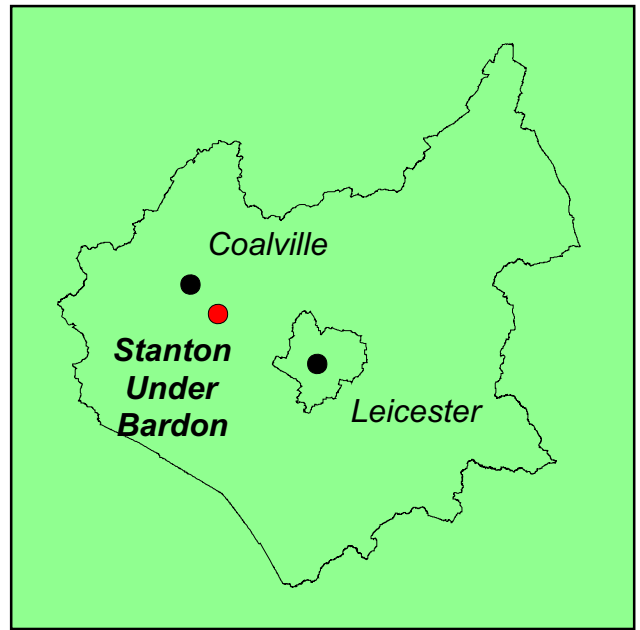
The underlying solid geology is mapped as Edwalton Member Mudstone (BGS 2012).

2.2 Historical background

The site lies within in a landscape of archaeological significance (Dawson 2011). 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. A full discussion of these is included in the Heritage Assessment carried out by CgMs Consulting (Dawson 2011).

In brief these include the find spot of a Neolithic axe (MLE7241); the route of the Roman road to Coalville (MLE9876); the historic core of the village (MLE9184) and a moated medieval site, Horsepool Grange (MLE17530, 17531, 17532). A full discussion of the site's archaeological and historical background is included in the Heritage Assessment (Dawson 2011).

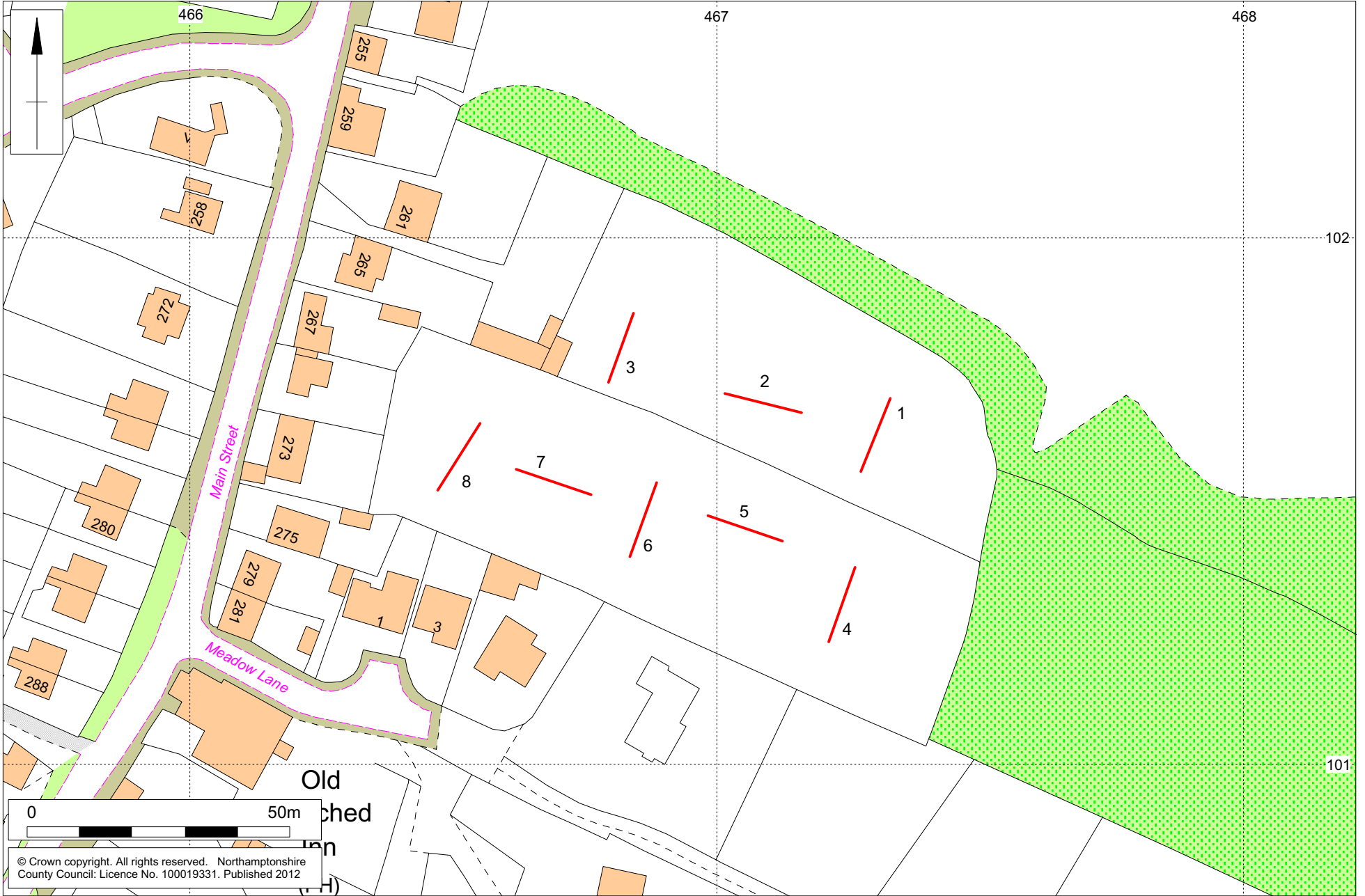
No previous archaeological work has been carried out within the development area.



Scale 1:5000

Site Location Fig 1

Scale 1:1000 (A4)



Trench locations Fig 2

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 positioned using measuring tapes and fixed boundaries 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* (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) and *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 1994, revised 2008).

The evaluation was carried out within the parameters set by the East Midlands Regional Research Framework, *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: an Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (Cooper 2006)

All procedures complied with Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety



Trench 1, looking north-east

Fig 3



Trench 3, looking north-east

Fig 4

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

The evaluation comprised eight trenches, all were 15m long by 1.6m wide. (Fig 2). Trenches 2, 3 and 8 were shifted slightly from their agreed positions to avoid obstacles on the ground (chicken sheds, vehicles etc). Trench 3 was shortened to 14m for the same reason.

Across the site the natural substrate comprised a light yellow and brown mottled sandy clay with frequent rounded stone inclusions which was encountered between 0.18m and 0.40m below current ground level.

Overlying the natural there was an orange-brown sandy clay subsoil which 0.10m-0.30m thick. In Trenches 2, 4, 5, 6 and 8 the subsoil was cut by post-medieval land drains on varying alignments.

The topsoil comprised a dark brown sandy loam, 0.10m-0.17m thick.

No archaeological remains were encountered during the course of the evaluation.



Trench 3, the stratigraphic sequence

Fig 5

5 CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological remains were encountered during the course of the evaluation. As suggested by the map regression exercise presented in the Heritage Assessment (Dawson 2011), it would seem likely that the site has remained in agricultural use since the medieval period and perhaps earlier.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- NA 2011 *Archaeological fieldwork manual*, Northamptonshire Archaeology
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APPENDIX: CONTEXT INDEX BY TRENCH

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
1	15m x 1.6m NE-SW	446730/310163	173m aOD	0.42m, 172.58m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
101	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy loam, occasional stone inclusions	0.12m-0.16m thick	-
102	Subsoil	Orange-brown sandy clay	0.20m-0.28m thick	-
103	Natural	Light yellow and grey mottled sandy clay, frequent rounded stone inclusions	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
2	15m x 1.6m NW-SE	446710/310174	173m aOD	0.31m, 172.69m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
201	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy loam, occasional stone inclusions	0.15-0.12m thick	-
202	Subsoil	Orange-brown sandy clay	0.16m-0.24m thick	-
203	Natural	Light yellow and grey mottled sandy clay, frequent rounded stone inclusions	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
3	14m x 1.6m NE-SW	446688/310182	173m aOD	0.22m, 172.78m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
301	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy loam, occasional stone inclusions	0.06-0.12m thick	-
302	Subsoil	Orange-brown sandy clay	0.10m thick	-
303	Natural	Light yellow and grey mottled sandy clay, frequent rounded stone inclusions	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
4	15m x 1.6m NE-SW	446723/310130	171m aOD	0.24m, 170.76m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
401	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy loam, occasional stone inclusions	0.10m-0.15m thick	-
402	Subsoil	Orange-brown sandy clay	0.14m-0.18m thick	-
403	Natural	Light yellow and grey mottled sandy clay, frequent rounded stone inclusions	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
5	15m x 1.6m NW-SE	446704/310145	172m aOD	0.32m, 171.68m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
501	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy loam, occasional stone inclusions	0.14m-17m thick	-
502	Subsoil	Orange-brown sandy clay	0.18m-0.30m thick	-
503	Natural	Light yellow and grey mottled sandy clay, frequent rounded stone inclusions	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
6	15m x 1.6m NE-SW	446685/310146	173m aOD	0.32m, 172.68m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
601	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy loam, occasional stone inclusions	0.08m-0.10m thick	-
602	Subsoil	Orange-brown sandy clay	0.24m-0.30m thick	-
603	Natural	Light yellow and grey mottled sandy clay, frequent rounded stone inclusions	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
7	15m x 1.6m NW-SE	446668/310154	173m aOD	0.30m, 172.70m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
701	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy loam, occasional stone inclusions	0.08m-0.10m thick	-
702	Subsoil	Orange-brown sandy clay	0.22m-0.28m thick	-
703	Natural	Light yellow and grey mottled sandy clay, frequent rounded stone inclusions	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
8	15m x 1.6m NE-SW	446648/310160	173m aOD	0.34m, 172.66m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
801	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy loam, occasional stone inclusions	0.10-12mm thick	-
802	Subsoil	Orange-brown sandy clay	0.24m-0.26m thick	-
803	Natural	Light yellow and grey mottled sandy clay, frequent rounded stone inclusions	-	-



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