



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at
3 Crowland Road, Eye Green, Peterborough
November 2013



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December 2013



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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: 165965	
Project title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at 3 Crowland Road, Eye Green, Peterborough, November 2013		
Short description	In November 2013, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology, on behalf of Steven Edwards, at 3 Crowland Road, Eye Green, Peterborough. The works identified a modern machine cut ditch or trench and confirmed the area had been disturbed by modern construction and landscaping activity.		
Project type	Trial trench evaluation		
Previous work	None		
Current land use	Garden to 3 Crowland Road		
Future work	For house building		
Monument type and period	None		
Significant finds	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Peterborough		
Site address	3 Crowland Road, Eye Green		
Easting Northing	TF 2280 0320		
Area (sq m/ha)	0.32 ha		
Height aOD	4.3m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)		
Project brief originator	Peterborough City Council		
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)		
Director/Supervisor	Jason Clarke (NA)		
Project Manager	Ian Meadows (NA)		
Sponsor or funding body	Steven Edwards		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	21/11//2013		
End date	21/11/2013		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents	
Physical			
Paper		Site records (1 archive box)	
Digital		Client report PDF. Survey Data, Photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at 3 Crowland Road, Eye Green, Peterborough November 2013		
Serial title & volume	13/243		
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Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	BACKGROUND	1
	2.1 Location and geology	1
	2.2 Historical and archaeological background	3
3	METHODOLOGY	3
4	THE TRIAL TRENCHES	4
5	DISCUSSION	8
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	8
	APPENDIX: CONTEXT INDEX	

Figures

Front cover: General view of the excavation area

Back Cover: Trench 4 backfilled

Fig 1: Site location

Fig 2: The excavated trenches

Fig 3: Trench 2, plan, section and photographs

Fig 4: Views of Trenches 1, 3 and 4

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION OF LAND AT
3 CROWLAND ROAD, EYE GREEN
PETERBOROUGH
NOVEMBER 2013**

Abstract

In November 2013, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology, on behalf of Steven Edwards, at 3 Crowland Road, Eye Green, Peterborough. The works identified a modern machine cut ditch or trench and confirmed the area had been disturbed by modern construction and landscaping activity.

1 INTRODUCTION

In November 2013, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) on land at 3 Crowland Road, Eye Green, Peterborough (NGR TF 2280 0320, Fig 1). The work was commissioned by Steven Edwards to inform a planning application for residential development.

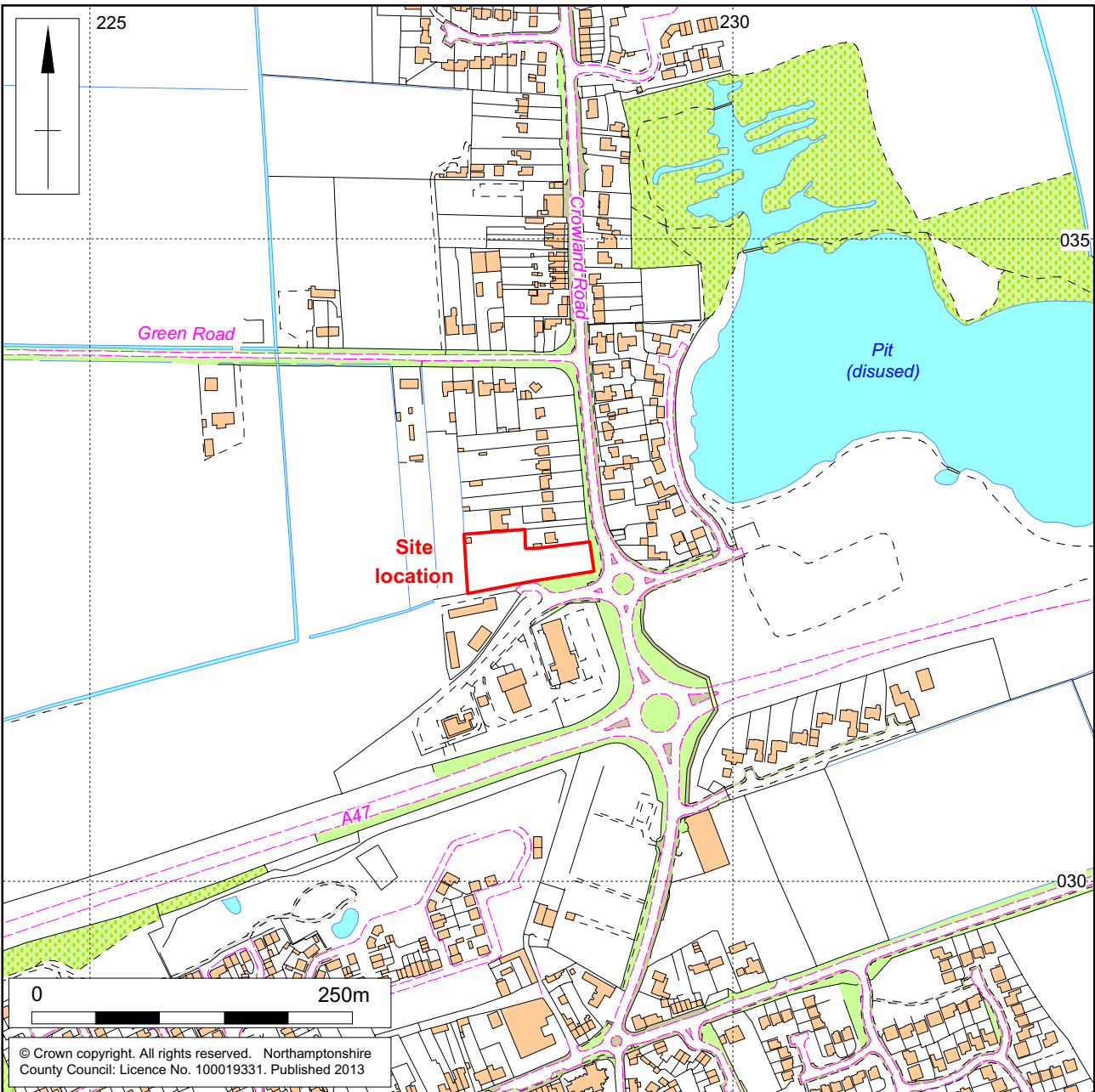
The scope of works was outlined and detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2013). The objectives of the evaluation were to determine the presence of any archaeological features or deposits within the application area and to date and characterise their extent, depth of burial and state of preservation.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and geology

The development area was on the west side of Crowland Road just north of the junction with the A47 Thorney Road. It was centred on grid ref NGR TF 2830 0320 at a height of 4.3m aOD.

The geology maps indicate that the site contains Oxford clay formation overlaid with sands and gravels (BGS- <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/>).



Scale 1:5000

Site Location Fig 1

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The site lies within an area of known prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon remains. Excavations to the south, at Eye Quarry revealed driveways and ditched field systems from the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age, along with Romano-British field systems. Anglo-Saxon inhumations were discovered 150-200m to the east during quarrying in the early 20th century (Howe 1980).

Consultation with 1887 Ordnance Survey map indicates the development area was enclosed farmland with the now dismantled Peterborough to Wisbech and Sutton branchline railway located 150m to the south.

3 METHODOLOGY

Four trial trenches were excavated in accordance with a trench plan prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology and approved by Rebecca Casa-Hatton (Peterborough Archaeological Advisor) (Fig 2).

The trenches measured 20m long by 1.80m wide. The total area evaluated was 5% of the development area.

A JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.80m wide ditching toothless 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. Recording followed standard NA procedures as described in the *Fieldwork Manual* (NA 2011). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships and interpretation. Context sheets were cross-referenced to scale plans, section drawings and photographs. 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. Spoil heaps and features were scanned with a metal detector to maximise the recovery of metal objects.

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 TRIAL TRENCHES

The underlying geology of Oxford clay was encountered between 0.20-0.40m below the modern ground surface. This occurred as mid-dark brown-grey clay with occasional sub-angular stone fragments. The subsoil was mid black-brown sandy clay 0.15-0.20m thick and the topsoil was dark blackish-brown sandy clay 0.10-0.26m thick. In Trench 4 the topsoil and subsoil had been removed, the underlying geology had been truncated and replaced with a layer of compacted stone hardcore material forming a surface.

An archaeological feature cut into the natural geology was present in Trench 2.

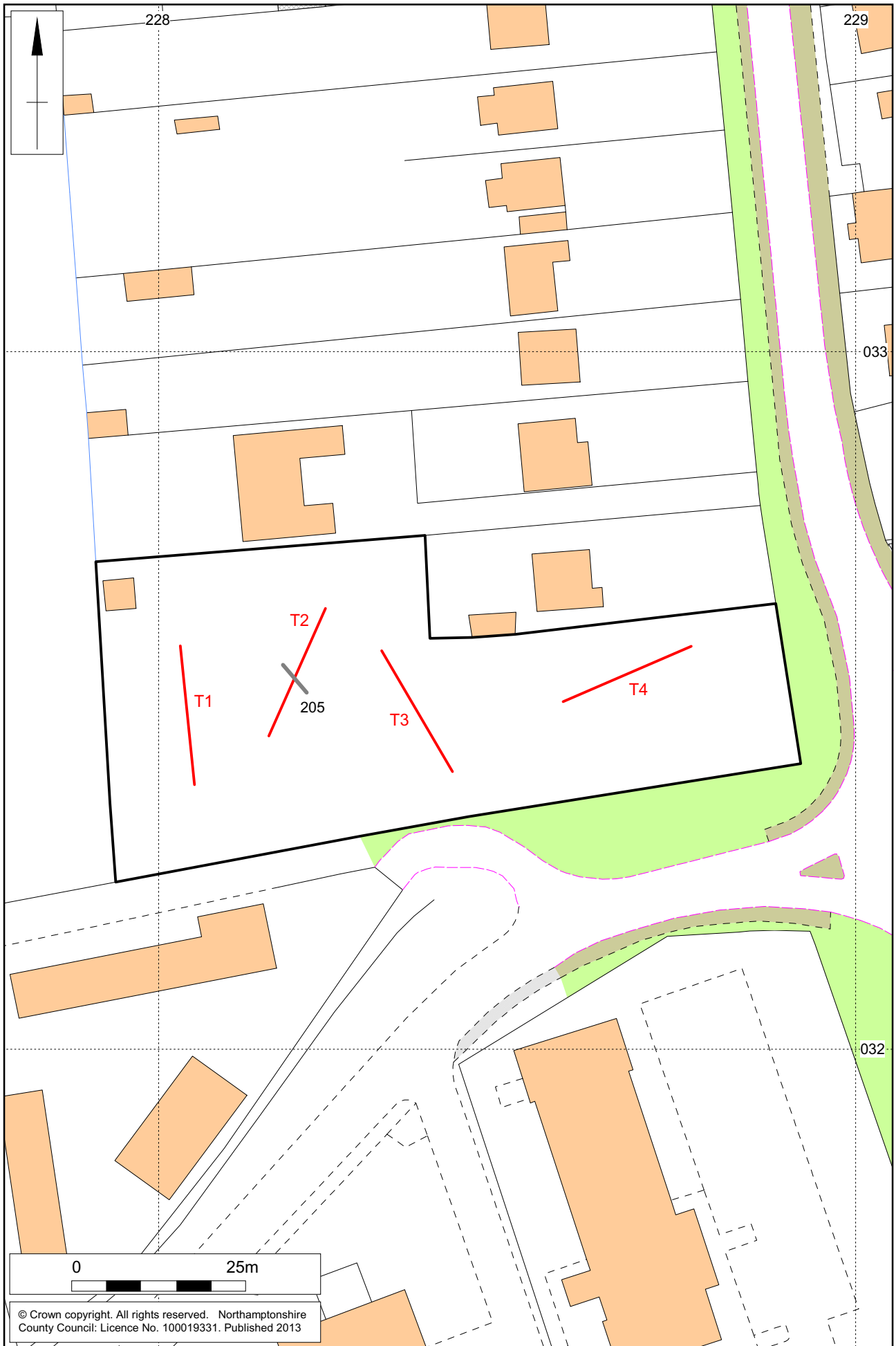
The trial trench locations are shown in Figure 2 and an inventory of contexts is provided as an Appendix.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was 20m long and aligned north-east to south-west (Figs 2 and 3). A ditch or trench was present in the middle of the trench.

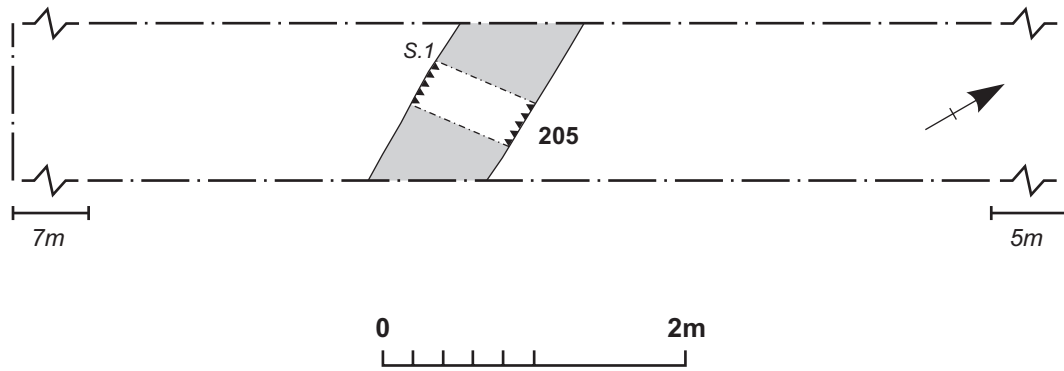
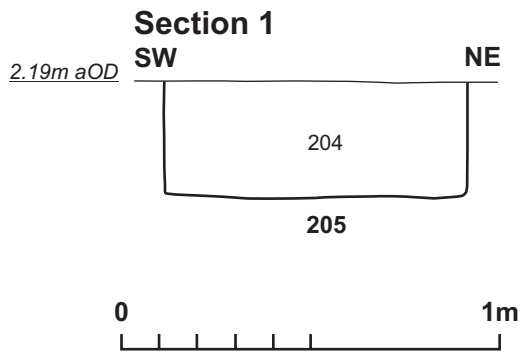
Ditch/Trench [205]

A ditch or trench [205], 0.80m wide and 0.30m deep, aligned north-west to south-east had vertical sides and a flat base. The fill (204) of dark black-brown silty clay and patches of re-deposited clay contained fragmented brick and tile, iron nails and white glazed pottery, dating to the mid to late 20th century, which were not retained.



Scale 1: 750 (A4)

The excavated trenches Fig 2





Views of trenches 1, 3 and 4 Fig 4

5 DISCUSSION

The trial trenching revealed no pre-modern activity on the site. The profile of the ditch in Trench 2, with vertical sides and a flat base suggests, it was cut by machine rather than hand dug. The ditch or trench contained modern material within its backfill and was probably a drain. The area had been disturbed during the construction of the modern house and modern landscaping. The topsoil and subsoil had been previously stripped, in Trench 4, and the underlying geology was highly disturbed by subsequent construction and landscaping activity.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Howe, M in Wild, J P, (ed) 1980 (*Durobrivae: A review of Nene Valley Archaeology*) 8, Nene Valley Research Committee, Peterborough

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

NA 2013 *Written scheme of investigation for archaeological trial trenching at 3 Crowland Road, Eye, Peterborough*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

Websites

BGS <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/GeoIndex/>

Heritage Gateway <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>

APPENDIX: CONTEXT INDEX

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
1	20m x 1.80m E to W	TF 22804 03248	2.57m aOD	2.23m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
101	Topsoil	Dark blackish-brown silty clay	0.10m thick	-
102	Subsoil	Mid blackish-brown silty clay	0.20m thick	-
103	Natural	Mid brown-grey clay		-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
2	20m x 1.80m N to S	TF 22820 03254	2.77m aOD	2.38m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
201	Topsoil	Dark blackish-brown silty clay	0.17m thick	-
202	Subsoil	Mid blackish-brown silty clay	0.16m thick	-
203	Natural	Mid brown-grey clay		-
204	Fill	Mid brown-grey silty clay with patches of re-deposited clay		Modern brick and tile fragments, white glazed pottery fragments and iron nails. (Noted and discarded)
205	Cut of ditch	Vertical sides and flat base profile. Machine cut	0.80m wide and 0.30m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
3	20m x 1.80m N to S	TF 22837 03248	2.96m aOD	2.65m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
301	Topsoil	Dark blackish-brown silty clay	0.26m thick	-
302	Subsoil	Mid blackish-brown silty clay	0.16m thick	-
303	Natural	Mid brown-grey clay		-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
4	20m x 1.80m N to S	TF 22867 03253	3.74m aOD	3.13m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
301	Surface	Compacted stone and brick hardcore	0.26m thick	-
302	Natural	Dark grey-blue clay		-



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