

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:  
10 KINGSBURY SQUARE  
AYLESBURY  
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

*on behalf of Mr S Kalyan*



**Nicholas A Crank BSc AIFA**

**November 2005**

**ASC: 734/AKS/02**

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## Site Data

<i>ASC site code:</i>	AKS	<i>Project no:</i>	734
<i>County:</i>	Buckinghamshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Aylesbury		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	St Mary's (ancient parish)		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 8189 1382		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.60m x c.30m		
<i>Present land use:</i>	Rear yard		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Single storey rear extension to shop		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Aylesbury Vale District Council		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	05/1794 and 05/1265		
<i>Client:</i>	Mr S Kalyan 10 Kingsbury Square Aylesbury Bucks HP20 2HT		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Mr S Kalyan		
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## Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Nicholas A Crank	<i>Date:</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> November 2005
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<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
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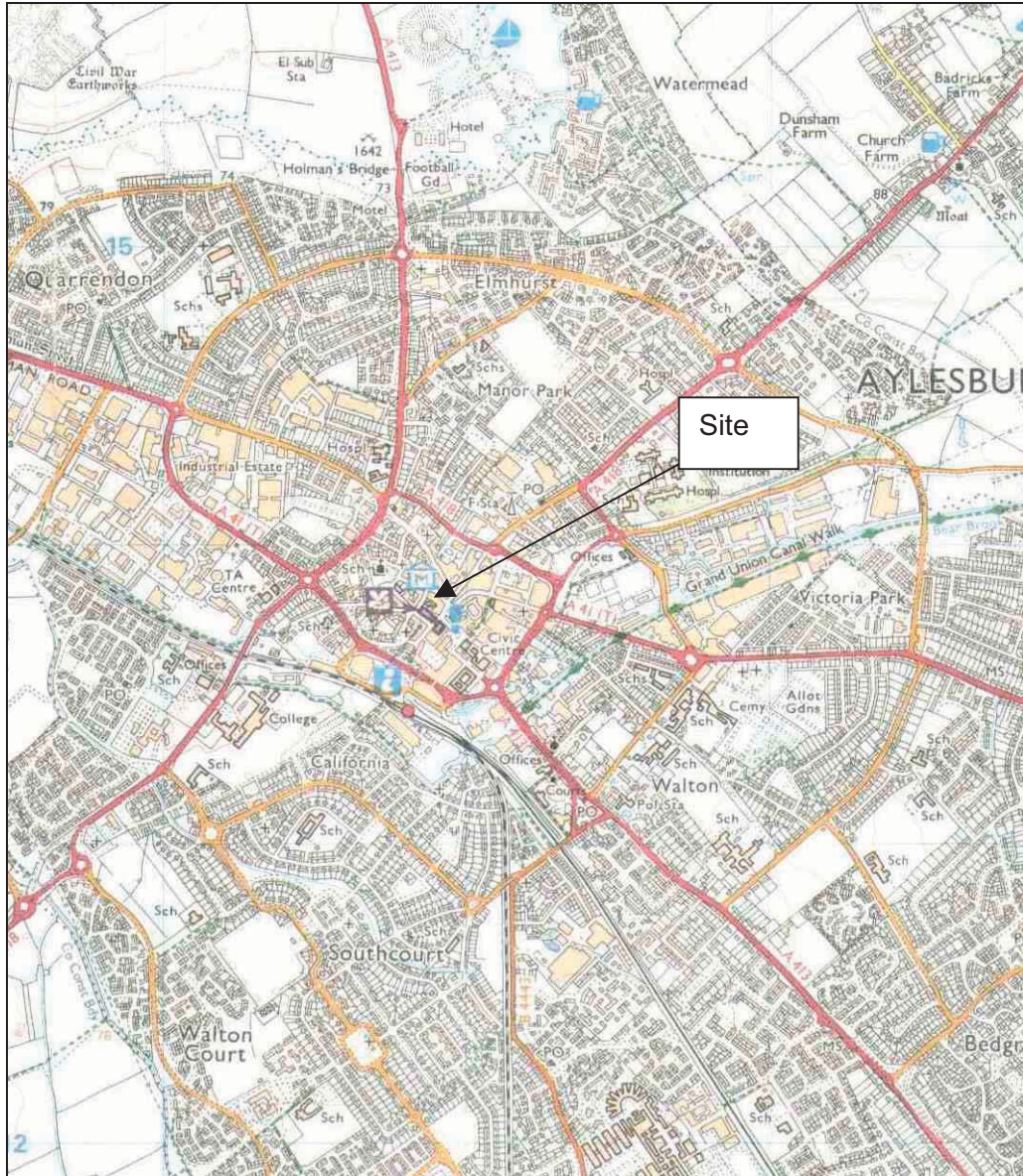


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)



## Summary

*During October 2005 ASC carried out an evaluation at 10 Kingsbury Square, Aylesbury. The work consisted of the cleaning and recording of an existing foundation trench located at the rear of the plot and the excavation of a 1m x 1m test pit in the north eastern part of the plot. The test-pit revealed a substantial rammed chalk foundation of probable post-medieval or later date. Examination of the foundation trench revealed a cellar and cess-pit of 19<sup>th</sup> century or later date and also an undated ditch or pit and extensive rammed chalk layers that may represent the foundations of earlier buildings. No pre-20<sup>th</sup> century artefacts were recovered.*

## 1 Introduction

1.1 In October 2005 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an evaluation at 10 Kingsbury Square, Aylesbury (NGR SP 8189 1382: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by *Mr S Kalyan*, and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Rouse 2005), and a brief (Radford 2005) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Aylesbury Vale District Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), *Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service*. The relevant planning application references are 05/1794 and 05/1265.

### 1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16), in response to proposals for the construction of a single storey extension to the rear of the existing shop.

### 1.3 *Location*

The development site is located in the centre of the medieval town of Aylesbury, at SP 8189 1382 (Fig. 1). The site faces onto Kingsbury Square to the north, and is bounded on its three remaining sides by buildings.

### 1.4 *Description*

Access to the site is through the existing shop, which fronts onto Kingsbury Square. The area to be extended is covered by grass, and there are no extant buildings in the extension area.

### 1.5 *Geology & Topography*

The bedrock geology of the site is Ampthill Clay, Kimmeridge clay and Corallain. The superficial deposits are boulder clay and morainic drift (British Geological Survey Geoscience data index). This area is described as having slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey soils (Soil Survey, 1983). The site lies at an elevation of c.95mAOD.



Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

## 2 Aims & Methods

### 2.1 Aims

As described in the brief (Section 6), the aims of the evaluation were:

- To identify and record any significant archaeological remains revealed by the groundworks, paying particular regard to the potential for Iron Age and medieval deposits.

### 2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

### 2.3 Methods

The work was carried out according to the brief (Section 8), which required ASC to:

- Clean and record the strip foundation already cut to the rear of the property.
- Excavate a 1m by 1m test pit at the eastern end of the proposed shop extension.

### 3 Archaeological & Historical Background

CAS = County Sites and Monuments Record Number

#### 3.1 Prehistoric *(before 600BC)*

No pre-Iron Age sites are known from the immediate environs.

#### 3.2 Iron Age *(600BC-AD43)*

The site lies in close proximity to a postulated Iron Age hillfort (CAS6743). Excavations in advance of development produced evidence of a middle Iron Age settlement at George Street (SP 818 138) and an Iron Age ditch was recorded at 31/33 Kingsbury.

#### 3.3 Roman *(AD43-c.450)*

Roman settlement is known in the immediate vicinity of the development site, with the excavation of 1<sup>st</sup> century AD Roman occupation at 13-19 Buckingham Street.

#### 3.4 Saxon *(c.450-1066)*

In the middle Saxon period the Iron Age hillfort was refortified and the hilltop reused as a cemetery, as revealed at George Street. There has been a wealth of human remains from the area of the development site, including skeletons discovered in the museum garden, Pebble Lane (Rockwood and Church Row) and Temple Square. At the Victoria Club, Kingsbury, human remains were seen to be disturbed by post-medieval pits and are likely to be Saxon. Other human bones associated with a Saxon Minster have been discovered at 2 & 4 Castle Street.

#### 3.5 Medieval *(1066-1500)*

The Domesday survey records Aylesbury as having an important royal manor, which is believed to have stood at the northeast end of Kingsbury. It is traditionally the site of the Royal residence used by Saxon, Norman and Plantagenet kings. Twelfth-century historical references mention it having an Inn or Hospitum. St Johns Leper Hospital (CAS0316), indicated by deeds to be located at the Market Square, also has 12<sup>th</sup>-century origins, and some of the human remains of the area (CAS4703) are likely to be associated with this site. Kingsbury was then incorporated into the medieval and post medieval town. The town of Aylesbury was centred on the present market square during the medieval period. 31 Kingsbury, a grade II listed building, has medieval origins. At 60 Kingsbury, a chalkstone clunch corbel from the 15<sup>th</sup> century was discovered. Medieval pits and wells were excavated at 13-19 Buckingham Street. Medieval activity and pottery was recorded at 31/33 Kingsbury. Evidence for considerable medieval activity was recorded at nearby George Street.

#### 3.6 Post-Medieval *(1500-1900)*

The post-medieval period was represented by pits and from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, by buildings at George Street. Here 18<sup>th</sup> century outbuilding footings were seen to underlie the present street, indicating the earlier street was narrower. Late post-medieval/modern pits were also noted to the north, at Litton House, on the corner of Buckingham Street and Gatehouse Yard. No's 5&7, 14, 44, and 60 Kingsbury are historic buildings dating from the 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> centuries.



## 4 Results & Conclusions

- 4.1 As specified in the methodology (Section 2) the work consisted of the cleaning and recording of an existing foundation trench located at the rear of the plot and the excavation of a 1m x 1m test pit in the north eastern part of the plot (Fig. 3).
- 4.2 The 1m x 1m test pit was excavated to a depth of *c.*0.75m in a location agreed with the AA (Fig. 4, Plate 1). A substantial crushed and rammed chalk deposit that was probably a foundation was revealed [111] (112). Partly truncated and overlain by modern material it cut through a homogenous clayey silt dark brown 'backyard' soil (114), which contained peg tile fragments but yielded no easily datable material. The base of the foundation was not reached in the test pit, however a post-medieval or later date for the deposits revealed seems reasonable.
- 4.3 The existing foundation trench had clearly been open for several months and was weathered, unstable at its south east end and partly waterlogged. It had been excavated to a depth of *c.*1.0m and was *c.*0.6m wide (Fig. 5). Both the revealed profiles were dominated by two substantial cut features of probable 19<sup>th</sup> century or later origin. These were respectively a brick and part re-used masonry lined cess-pit [100] (Plate 2) in the western corner of the site and a more centrally positioned probable former cellar [102]. Both of these features appeared to have been backfilled probably in the early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century as they contained clay roof tile and mass produced pottery of the period. It should also be noted that the partly demolished brick walls of the cellar were partly visible in plan in the overgrown rear yard. The base of the probable cess-pit was not revealed and it still appeared to be functioning as a sump as this part of the trench was partly under water.
- 4.4 The relatively modern features detailed above cut through two extensive layers of compact rammed crushed chalk (106) (110), which may represent the foundations of earlier structures but which, despite extensive cleaning did not produce any dating evidence. Another feature [107] which contained a friable silt loam (108) was sealed beneath the backfilled cellar [102], which appeared to truncate it. Again this yielded no datable finds and is most likely a rubbish pit although given its profile the possibility that it represents a boundary ditch cannot be ruled out.
- 4.5 Unsurprisingly, given the limited depths reached and the sites urban location the natural strata were not revealed during the evaluation. All the deposits revealed were the products of brief human action, with the exception of layer (109) in the foundation trench which is interpreted as an accumulated 'backyard' soil representative of post-medieval inactivity. Although the evaluation revealed no evidence of medieval or earlier remains on the site the possibility that isolated pockets of archaeology remain beyond the two areas examined cannot be ruled out.



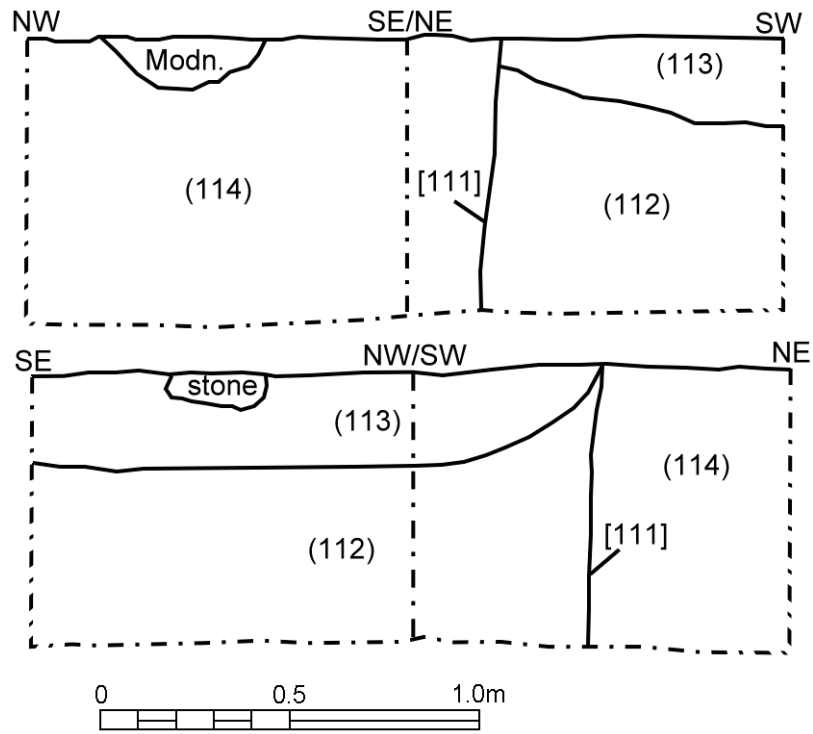
**Plate 1:** South east facing profile of test pit showing foundation [111] (112)



**Plate 2:** Western end of foundation trench showing cess-pit [100]

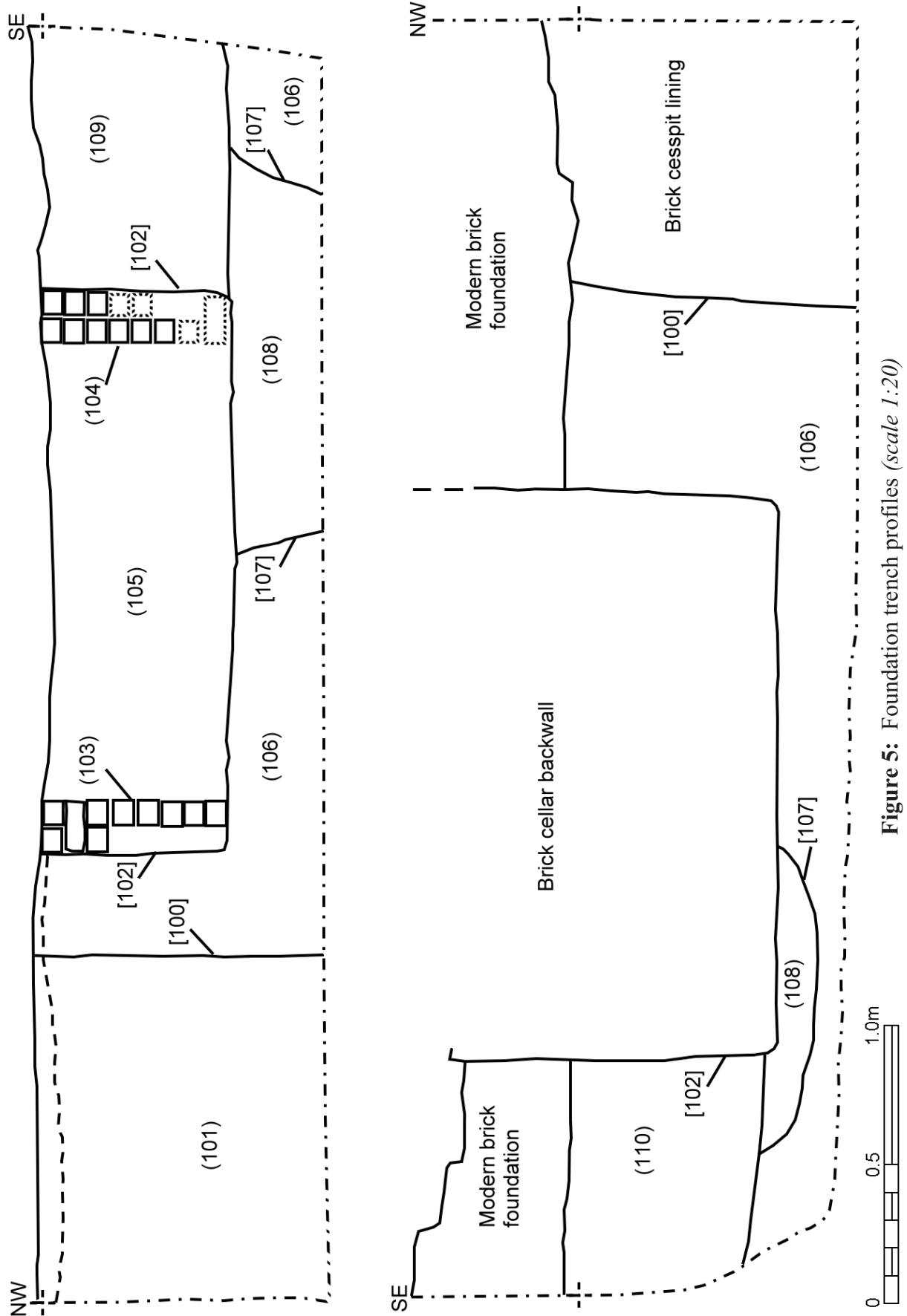


**Figure 3:** Trench locations (scale 1:100)



**Figure 4:** Test pit profile (scale 1:20)





## **5. Acknowledgements**

The writer is grateful to Mr S Kalyan for commissioning and funding the project. Thanks are also due to Mr David Radford of Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service for his input and advice.

The fieldwork was conducted by the writer assisted by Martin Cuthbert BA. The report was edited by David Fell MA MIFA.

## **6. Archive**

6.1 The project archive will comprise:


1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site records
6. Site record drawings
7. List of photographs
8. B/W prints & negatives
9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

6.2 The archive will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum.

## 7. References

- ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.
- EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. English Heritage (London).
- IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds)*.
- Radford, D 2005 *10 Kingsbury, Aylesbury: Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation (Trial Trenching)* (dated 12/09/05)
- Rouse, C 2005 *10 Kingsbury Square, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire: Project Design for Archaeological Test Pitting* (ASC: 734/AKS/1)
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpden).

## Appendix 1: Trench Summary Table

<b>Test Pit 1</b>					
		Max Dimensions			
		Width	1.0m	Length	1.0m
		Depth	0.75m	Level (top)	--
		NGR Co-ordinates			
		Centred SP 81894 13823			
Orientation		N/A			
Reason for Test Pit		General evaluation			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Max Thickns (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)	
111	Cut	Cut for foundation (112)	750+	---	
112	Fill	Rammed crushed chalk ?foundation	750+	---	
113	Layer	Modern overburden	260	---	
114	Layer	Dark brown clayey silt – ‘Backyard’ soil	750	---	