

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCHEME OF WORKS REPORT:

UPLANDS, KIRBY BELLARS, LEICESTERSHIRE

Planning Application: 11/00183/FUL
NGR: SK 7135 1704
Oasis Reference: allenarc1-103167
AAL Site Code: KIBU 11
Global Accession Number: X.A75.2011



Report prepared for

Mr Ian Cornelius

By

Allen Archaeology Limited
Report Number 2011038

June 2011



The
Authority on
Archaeological
Planning
Services



Contents

Executive Summary	1
1.0 Introduction	2
2.0 Site Location and Description	2
3.0 Planning Background	2
4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background	3
5.0 Methodology	3
6.0 Results	4
7.0 Discussion and Conclusion	4
8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology	4
9.0 Acknowledgements	4
10.0 References	5

List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Colour Plates	6
Appendix 2: Context Summary List	7

List of Figures

- Figure 1:** Site location at scale 1:25,000, with site outlined in red
- Figure 2:** Site location at scale 1:2,000 with the development area outlined in red and evaluation trench in blue. Sections 3.1 and 3.2 shown on Figure 3
- Figure 3:** Representative sections showing sequence of deposits at scale 1:20. Located on Figure 3

List of Plates

- Plate 1:** General view of the site, looking south-west
- Plate 2:** View of evaluation trench, looking south-west
- Plate 3:** Representative south-east facing section at the south-west end of the trench. Looking north-west

Document Control

Element	Name	Date
Report prepared by:	Thomas Smith	13/06/2011
Illustrations prepared by:	Thomas Smith	13/06/2011
Report edited by:	Chris Clay	14/06/2011
Report produced by:	AAL 2011038	15/06/2011

Allen Archaeology Limited reports are printed double-sided and on 100% recycled paper to reduce our carbon footprint.

Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned to undertake an archaeological scheme of works on land at Uplands, Kirby Bellars, prior to the construction of a ménage.
- The site was situated in an area of archaeological interest and potential, with evidence for extensive Romano-British activity in the surrounding landscape.
- A single trench was excavated in the footprint of the proposed development area, exposing a sequence of modern topsoil sealing a possible dumped deposit, over a buried topsoil, subsoil, and the natural geology. No artefacts or archaeological features were identified.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by Mr Ian Cornelius to undertake an archaeological scheme of works on land at Uplands, Kirby Bellars, as a result of a planning condition issued by Melton Borough Council for the construction of a ménage.
- 1.2 The excavating, recording and reporting conforms to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluations*' (IfA 1999, revised 2001 and 2008), and the English Heritage document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (English Heritage 2006). All appropriate English Heritage guidance on archaeological practice was also followed (www.helm.org/server/show/nav.7740). A brief was also produced for the works by Principal Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council (Clark 2011) and a specification by this company (AAL 2011).
- 1.3 The archive will be submitted to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service within six months of the completion of the fieldwork, where it will be stored under the Museum Accession Number X.A75.2011.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Kirby Bellars is located in the administrative district of Melton Borough Council, approximately 4km west-south-west of central Melton Mowbray and 18km north-east of central Leicester. The proposed development area is approximately 600m to the south of the village, at the end of a track running west from Gaddesby Lane, in open agricultural land immediately to the west of Uplands, and centres on NGR SK 7135 1704.
- 2.2 The local geology comprises a superficial deposit of Oadby Member Diamicton (glacial till), overlying a bedrock geology of Blue Lias Formation mudstone. (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/home.html?Accordion1=1#maps>).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 Full planning permission has been granted for the '*construction of a ménage with associated lighting*' (Planning Application Reference 11/00183/FUL). The application was granted subject to conditions, including a programme of archaeological investigation and reporting to characterise the nature of the archaeological resource in the proposed development area. This approach is consistent with the guidelines that are set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5* (Department of the Environment 2010).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The proposed development area lies in an area of significant archaeological potential. The earliest evidence for archaeological activity in the vicinity of the site pertains to a Neolithic axe found c.200m north-west of the site (Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (hereafter LHER) Reference MLE7335). Approximately 400m south-west of the site metal detecting has recovered a number of metal objects of Bronze Age date, including a spearhead, an awl and two blades (LHER Reference MLE18731). A section of a Bronze Age sword or rapier has also been found c.100m north of the site (LHER Reference MLE17343).
- 4.2 Recent metal detector surveys in the fields surrounding the site have recovered in excess of 700 metal objects of Romano-British date, including coins, brooches and furniture fittings, as well as 23 objects of Iron Age date. Iron Age and Romano-British pottery has also been recovered. Concentrations of finds have been identified indicating possible buildings, and the evidence points to a substantial settlement site in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area (LHER Reference MLE8840).
- 4.3 Anglo-Saxon activity has been identified c.350m to the south-west where a scatter of pottery and metal objects have been recorded, including a spearhead, strap fittings and tweezers (LHER Reference MLE8842).
- 4.4 In the Domesday Book, the village was known as *Chirchebi*, and there were two manors in the parish (Williams and Martin 2002). Both were owned by Geoffrey de la Guerche and one of which was a jurisdiction of a larger manor at Melton Mowbray. The place name Kirby is of Old Norse origin, meaning church 'farm/settlement', whereas the Bellars element derives from Hamo Beler, who is documented as holding the manor in 1116 (<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/~aezins/kepnp.php>).
- 4.5 The site is situated some distance to the south of the historic core of the village. There was no evidence for medieval settlement or agriculture in the vicinity of the site.

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The fieldwork was carried out by the author on Wednesday 1st June 2011. The trial trenching methodology entailed the excavation of a single trench measuring c.40m by 1.6m along the north-west edge of the proposed development area. The trench was located on site with a Magellan Promark 3 GPS system using an on site base station and mobile rover unit. Rinex data provided from Ordnance Survey remote base stations was used for processing the results to provide millimetre accuracy.
- 5.2 Topsoil, subsoil and underlying non-archaeological deposits were removed by mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket in spits no greater than 100mm in depth. In the absence of archaeological features or deposits the process was repeated until the natural horizon was exposed. A sondage was excavated at the western most end of the trench to ensure the accurate characterisation of the stratigraphic sequence.
- 5.3 All excavated spoil produced by the investigation was scanned with a metal detector in order to improve recovery of ferrous and non ferrous metal finds.

- 5.4 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard Allen Archaeology Limited context recording sheets. Deposits were drawn to scale, in plan and section, with Ordnance Datum heights being displayed on each class of drawing. Photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy. All photographs incorporated scales, an identification board and directional arrow, and a selection of these images has been included in Appendix 1.
- 5.5 Each deposit was allocated a unique two-digit identifier (context number), and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 2.

6.0 Results (Figure 3)

- 6.1 The uppermost deposit was topsoil 01. This was thicker toward the south-west end of the trench at approximately 0.34m deep, reducing to c.0.26m at the north-eastern end of the trench. This sealed 05, a dumped deposit, approximately 0.24m thick to the south-west, becoming shallower to the north-east at c. 0.2m thick.
- 6.2 Layer 05 sealed 02, a moderately compact buried topsoil layer, which was 0.3m thick at the south-western higher end of the trench, and gradually petered out downslope to the north-east.
- 6.3 This buried topsoil sealed subsoil 03, a layer of moderately compact gravel and stone rich clay, c. 0.46m thick, which in turn sealed 04 a compact glacial till of silty clay rich in rounded stones and flint nodules that was consistent to the limit of excavation at a depth of 2.04m in the machine excavated sondage.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1 The trench has exposed a sequence of natural geological layers, topsoil and dumped deposits. No features or finds of archaeological interest were encountered within the excavation area.
- 7.2 Despite evidence pointing to a substantial Romano-British settlement site in the immediate vicinity it is clear that this activity does not extend into the investigation area.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 8.1 The methodology was appropriate to the scale and nature of the development in that it has shown that there is a negligible archaeological potential within the proposed development area.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Mr Ian Cornelius for this commission and for his co-operation during the fieldwork.

10.0 References

AAL, 2011, *Specification for Archaeological investigation (strip, plan and sample) Uplands, Kirby Bellars, Leicestershire*. Allen Archaeology Limited unpublished project document

Clark, R., 2011, *Brief for archaeological investigation (strip, plan and sample excavation)*, Historic and Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council

Department for Communities and Local Government, 2010, *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment*, Department for Communities and Local Government, London

English Heritage, 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects*. Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England. London

IfA, 1994 (revised 2001 and 2008), *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluations*, Institute for Archaeologists, Reading

LMARS, 2001, *The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service*, Leicestershire Museums Arts and Records Services

Williams A. and Martin G.H., 1992, *Domesday Book: A complete translation*, Alecto Historical Editions, London

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General view of the site, looking south-west



Plate 2: View of evaluation trench, looking south-west



Plate 3: Representative south-east facing section at the south-west end of the trench. Looking north-west

Appendix 2: Context Summary List

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
01	Layer	Friable, Mid to dark grey brown silt with abundant roots and occasional stone. Seals 05	Topsoil
02	Layer	Moderately compact, Mid brown silt with occasional stone. Sealed by 05, seals 03	Buried topsoil
03	Layer	Moderately compact, Mid yellowish brown silty clay with frequent stone and gravel. Sealed by 02, seals 04	Subsoil
04	Layer	Compact, Light grey brown silty clay with moderate to abundant rounded stones and flint nodules. Sealed by 02, seals 04	Natural boulder clay
05	Layer	Friable, light brown silt with abundant roots. Sealed by 01, seals 02	Dumped layer

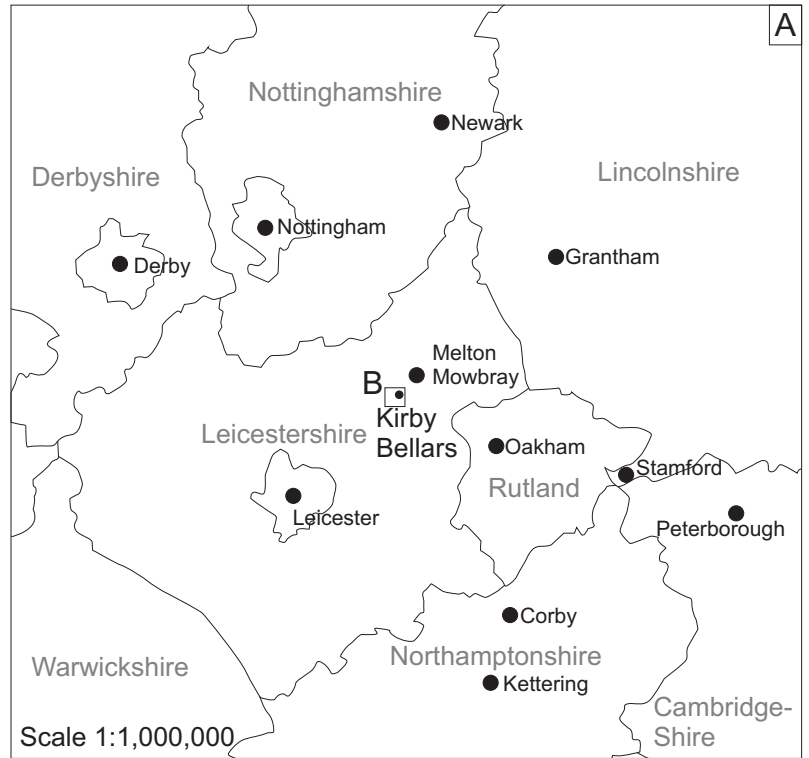
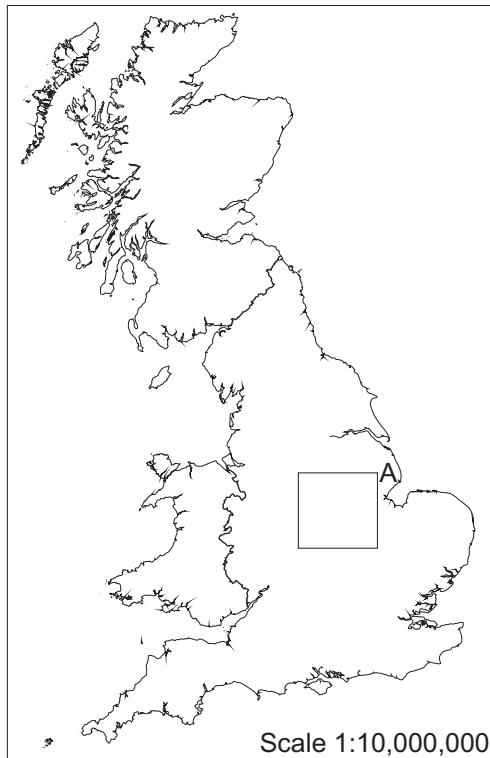


Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000, with the site outlined in red.
 ©Crown Copyright 2005. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100047330

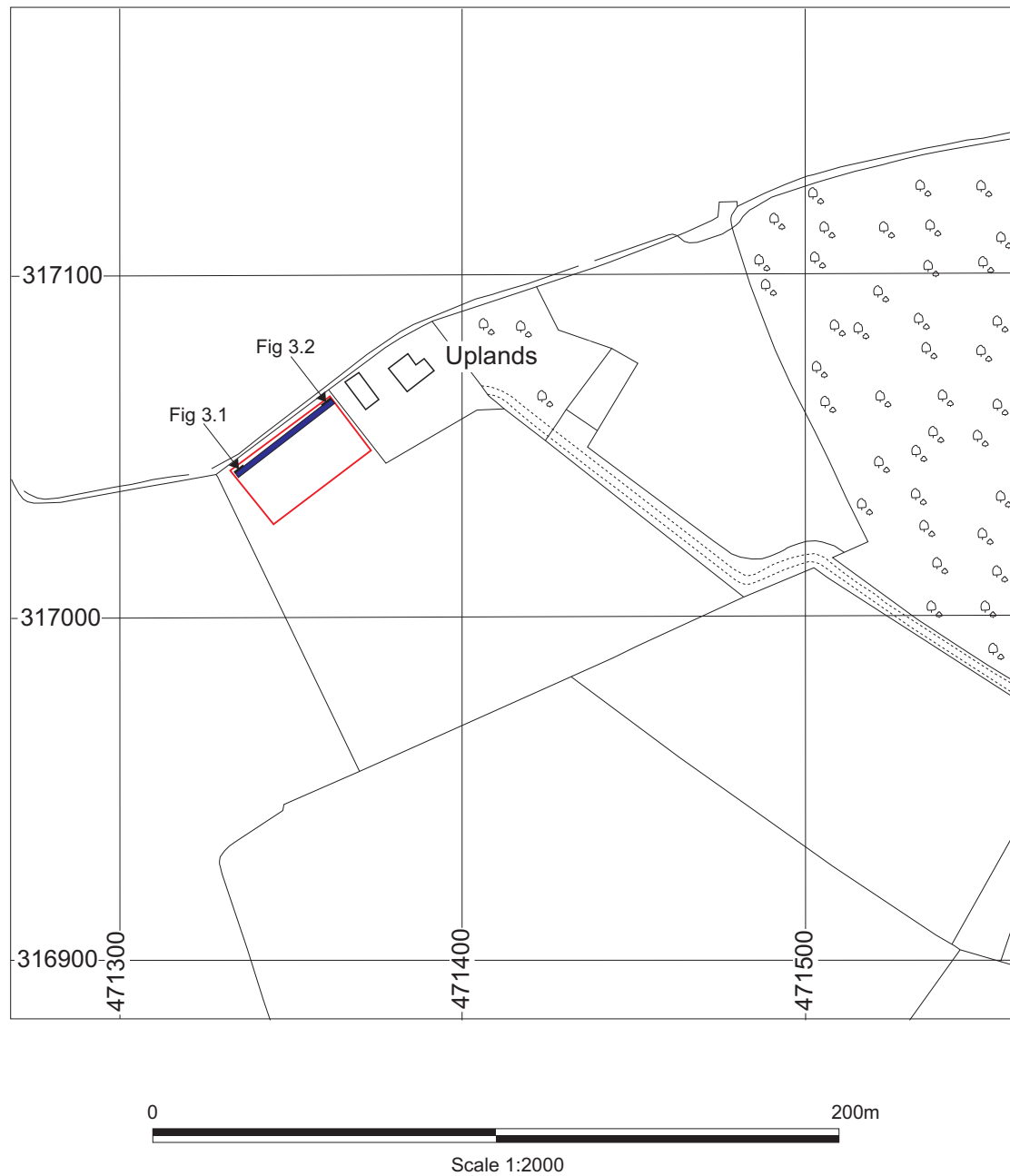


Figure 2: Site location at scale 1:2,000 with the development area outlined in red and evaluation trench in blue. Sections 3.1 and 3.2 shown on Figure 3

Figure 3.1: South-East Facing Section

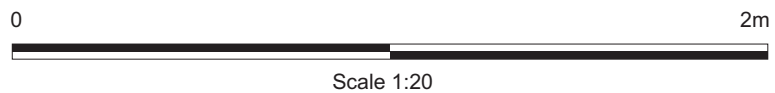
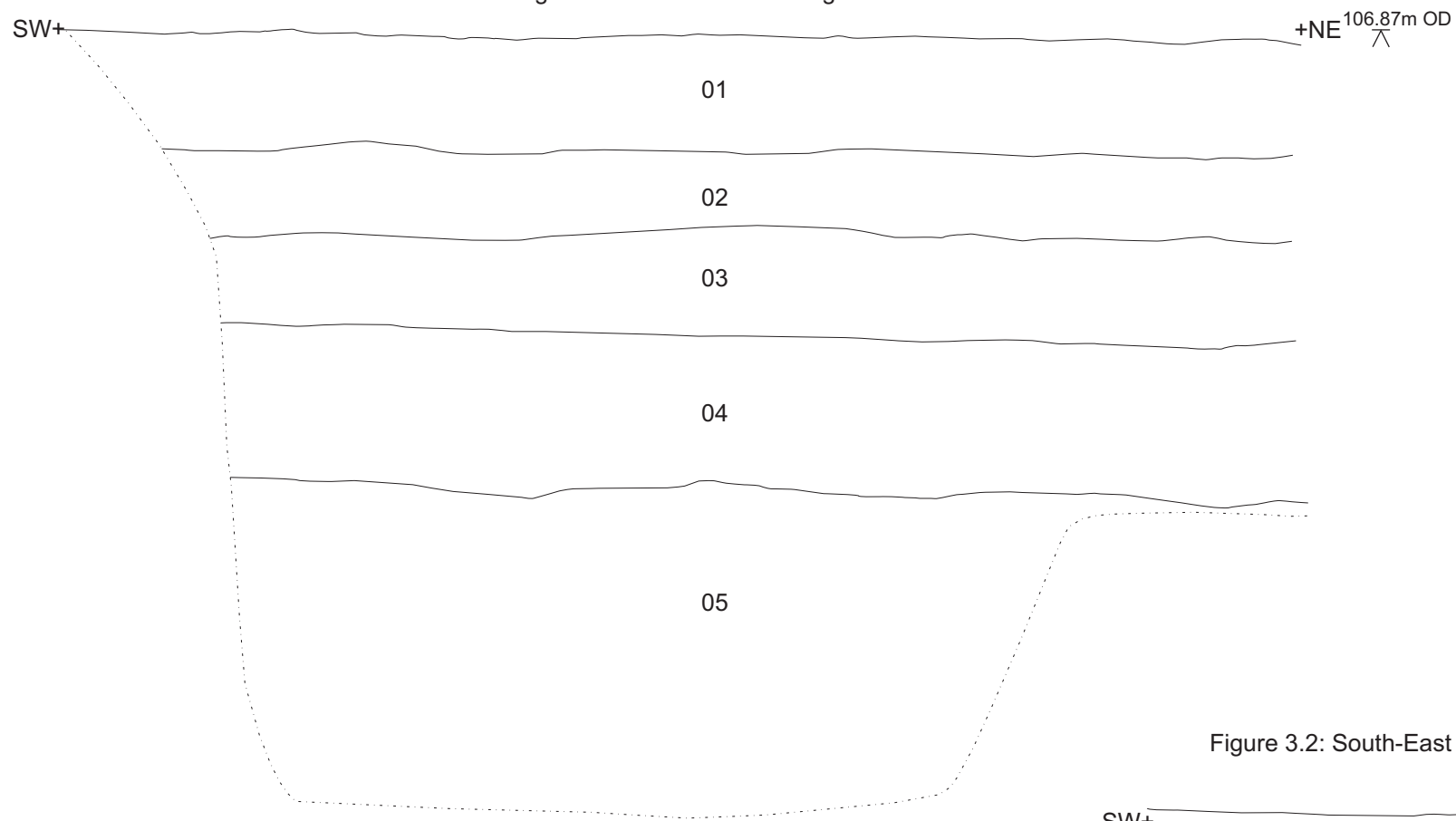


Figure 3.2: South-East Facing Section

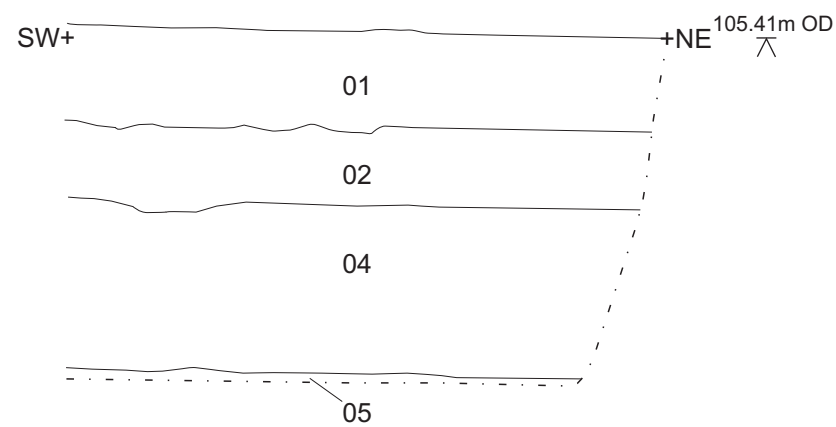


Figure 3: Representative sections showing sequence of deposits at scale 1:20. Located on Figure 3



Allen Archaeology Limited
Website: www.allenarchaeology.co.uk

Company Registered in England and Wales No: 6935529

Lincoln

Unit 1C
Branston Business Park
Lincoln Road
Branston
Lincolnshire LN4 1NT

Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 1522 794400
Email: info@allenarchaeology.co.uk

Birmingham

Arion Business Centre
Harriet House
118 High Street
Birmingham
B23 6BG

Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 800 610 2545
Email: birmingham@allenarchaeology.co.uk

Cambridge

Wellington House
East Road
Cambridge
CB1 1BH

Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 800 610 2550
Email: cambridge@allenarchaeology.co.uk

Southampton

International House
Southampton International Business Park
George Curl Way
Southampton
SO18 2RZ

Tel: +44 (0) 800 610 2555
Email: southampton@allenarchaeology.co.uk