

**Rusham Park  
Egham  
Surrey**

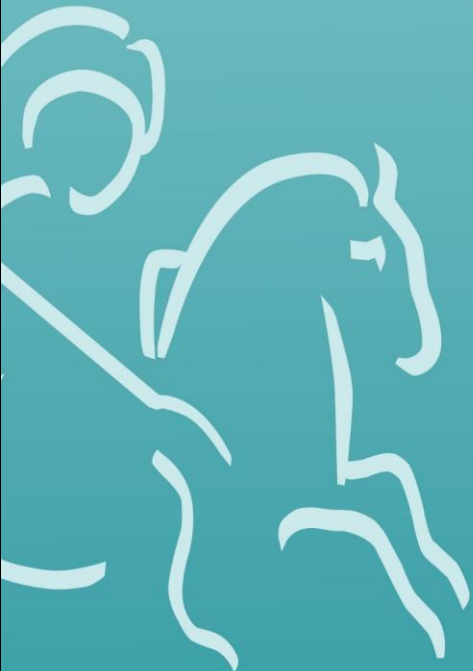
*Archaeological Evaluation*



for:  
Balfour Beatty

CA Project: AN0458  
CA Report: AN0458\_1

January 2022



# Rusham Park Egham Surrey

## Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: AN0458  
CA Report: AN0458\_1

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project name:</b>	Rusham Park
<b>Location:</b>	Egham, Surrey
<b>NGR:</b>	500606 170157
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	29 November to 06 December 2021
<b>Planning reference:</b>	RU.20/0098
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be retained by Cotswold Archaeology (paper) and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (digital)
<b>Site Code:</b>	RRSV 21

In November and December 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at Rusham Park in Egham, Surrey. A total of 13 trenches were excavated.

Trench 1 had solid concrete below the tarmac and therefore excavation ceased at that level. Eight further trenches exhibited made ground deposits above the natural geology. The remaining four trenches exhibited a more natural stratigraphic sequence, although disturbance through landscaping could not be excluded. A single, possible archaeological feature was identified in Trench 12, however this overran the trench footprint and could not be confidently interpreted. It may feasibly represent a modern deposit or area of disturbance.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In November and December 2021, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Rusham Park, Egham, Surrey (centred at NGR: 500606 170157; Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for Balfour Beatty (hereafter referred to as “the client”).
- 1.2. Runnymede Borough Council has granted planning permission for the erection of purpose-built student accommodation (planning ref: RU.20/0098). An archaeological condition was recommended by Nick Truckle, archaeological officer for Surrey County Council (hereafter referred to as “the curator”), requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological trial trenching in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a WSI prepared by CA (2021b) and approved by the curator.
- 1.3. The evaluation was also in line with *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

### The site

- 1.4. The proposed development site is approximately 4.57ha in extent. The site was until recently occupied by Procter & Gamble (P&G) Technical Centres Limited, with existing access from Whitehall Lane, which runs adjacent to the southern boundary. Several large and smaller structures occupied much of the site at the time of writing. The Staines and Wokingham Branch Railway runs through the western part of site (Figure 1). The site lies between c. 15-20m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.5. The underlying geology of the site comprises of London Clay Formation (clay, silt and sand), a sedimentary bedrock formed during the Palaeogene Period c. 56 to 48 million years ago. This is overlain by Kempton Park Gravel Member (sand and gravel), a superficial deposit formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (British Geological Survey 2021).

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The following background information is a succinct summary of the results of a Desk Based Assessment carried out by Cotswold Archaeology (2021a).

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- 2.2. Several relevant areas of high archaeological potential have been identified. The area of a medieval causeway and possible route of the London – Silchester Roman Road is shown within the westernmost branch of the site boundary (c. 210m west from Trench 1) and an area of possible medieval settlement at Rusham, close to the south (c. 95-270m south from Trench 10).
- 2.3. An evaluation carried out at Whitehall Lane by Thames Valley Archaeological Services (TVAS 2004), to the east of the site, identified a wide range of finds and deposits. These comprised: stray and residual finds of Upper Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age flintwork; prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and Medieval pottery; occupation sites of Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval date; undated landscape features (field ditches and boundaries); and cremation burial/pyre deposits in Middle Bronze Age urns and without vessels.
- 2.4. During a watching brief within sports pitches c. 100m west of the site, the partial remains of a late 19th century red brick-built building were recorded. Comprising a length of brick-built wall and small area of surviving associated exterior surface, these remains have been suggested to represent buildings possibly of agricultural origin, as illustrated by Ordnance Survey Mapping from the late 19th century, until their demolition between the 1960s and 1970s (Wessex Archaeology 2016).
- 2.5. From the 19th century onwards, there was a period of development in the landscape with the introduction of the Staines and Wokingham Branch Railway and associated Egham Station, opening in c. 1856. Running through the western extent of the site, the introduction of the railway resulted in increased residential, industrial and commercial development to the north, and alterations to the surrounding agricultural landscape.
- 2.6. The site was subjected to several phases of activity during the 19th and 20th centuries. Any potential remains would probably relate to the construction of the railway and the former and existing buildings both in the site and the sports pitches.
- 2.7. Given the extensive redevelopment of the site during the 20th century, any potential surviving archaeological remains were thought likely to have been impacted upon to some degree, although, there were areas of the site which were considered devoid of modern development and where archaeological remains might potentially survive.

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### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objective of the evaluation is to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. This information will enable Runnymede Borough Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021). A further objective of the project is to compile a stable, ordered, accessible project archive (see Section 7).

### 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of 13 trenches, proposed by the WSI to comprise 1no. 30m by 1.8m trench and 12no. 15m by 1.8m trenches (CA 2021b). The trenches were located to investigate those areas of highest impact from the proposed development and where permitted by identified constraints, principally buried services.
- 4.2. Several trenches were amended to avoid further constraints identified upon arrival. **Trenches 1 and 8** were moved slightly to avoid buried services. **Trench 5** was moved to the south-east to avoid the canopy of a tree. **Trench 10** was shortened to avoid buried services. **Trench 11** was split to avoid a buried service.
- 4.3. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. All trenches had an initial cable scan conducted by a Balfour Beatty engineer. Each trench was also scanned for live services prior to excavation by trained CA staff using CAT and genny equipment, in accordance with the *CA Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services*. As per the permit to break ground, issued by the client, all trenches were re-scanned at depth intervals of 0.3m during machine excavation.
- 4.4. Hard surfaces (e.g. concrete/tarmac) were present within **Trenches 1 and 10-13**, requiring the use of a breaker and toothed excavator bucket. Difficult deposits, such as modern backfill and rubble, were encountered in **Trenches 2, 3 & 9**, requiring the use of a toothed bucket to remove. Overburden was stripped from the remaining trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All

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machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate.

- 4.5. All records were maintained in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.6. No deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.7. Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.8. CA will retain the project archive until a suitable recipient museum can be sourced. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020).
- 4.9. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A. Details of the artefactual material recovered from the site are given in Section 6 and Appendix B.

### Trench 1 (Figure 2)

- 5.2. **Trench 1** was the westernmost trench on site and was the only 30m long trench. It was located on a tarmac carpark surface, which, once broken out revealed a concrete layer below. It was agreed with the curator that no further excavation was required.

### Trenches 2, 3 and 9 (Figures 3 & 4)

- 5.3. **Trenches 2 and 3** were the northernmost trenches on site. They were situated on a crushed tarmac parking surface and, along with **Trench 9**, had the same stratigraphy: crush surface, overlaying silty clay subsoil with gravel inclusions, and gravel natural in a sandy clay matrix. No archaeology was observed in these trenches.

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#### Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

- 5.4. **Trench 4** was located on a small, turfed patch of ground to the west of the hardstanding carpark area that **Trenches 2, 3 & 9** were cut into. **Trench 4** exhibited a sand/silt topsoil, a made ground layer, a silty clay subsoil and a gravel natural in a sandy silt matrix.

#### Trenches 5-8 (Figures. 3 & 4)

- 5.5. **Trenches 5-8** formed a cluster in the north-east portion of site, located on the lawn to the south of the Sperry Conference Facilities. All exhibited similar stratigraphy and represented the only trenches without obvious modern disturbance. The stratigraphy comprised: clay/sand with silt topsoil, clayey silt subsoil and natural gravel in a sandy silt matrix.

#### Trench 10 (Figure 5)

- 5.6. **Trench 10** was located in a carpark in the south-east corner of site and was shortened due to services at either end. **Trench 10** comprised the tarmac carpark surface and bedding layer, a silt/clay subsoil and a sand/silt with clay natural geology.

#### Trenches 11-13 (Figures. 5-7)

- 5.7. **Trenches 11-13** formed a cluster within a carpark in the south-west part of site, to the north of an artificial lake. The stratigraphy of each largely comprised modern made ground layers, either directly atop the natural gravel or a silty clay subsoil.
- 5.8. **Trench 12** contained feature **1204** of unknown dimensions and character, exposed within much of the trench (Figure 6). A single fragment of ceramic roof tile was recovered from fill **1205** of the feature.

## 6. THE FINDS

- 6.1. Artefactual material, comprising a single fragment of ceramic building material was recorded from one deposit. The material is listed in Appendix B and further described below. The recording undertaken is in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Finds Toolkit (CIfA 2021).

#### Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

- 6.2. A single fragment, weighing 18g, was found in fill **1205** of feature **1204**. The piece belongs to a flat roof tile in a fine, red fabric. It was made by hand and likely to

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belong to the 16th–19th centuries. The fragment is abraded, with rounded edges, signalling that it is likely to have been redeposited.

### Summary

- 6.3. Only one find was recovered during the evaluation: an abraded fragment from a flat roof tile of post-medieval or modern date (16th–19th centuries), which is likely to have been redeposited in the fill of feature **1204**. No other finds were recovered. The modern artefactual material recovered is of minimal archaeological significance and will not be retained.

## 7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1. The widespread evidence of modern made ground deposits across the site, particularly in proximity to extant buildings, is suggestive of landscaping and truncation of naturally occurring soil and superficial geological layers. It is feasible that the level of archaeological remains may have been compromised during this activity.
- 7.2. The character of feature **1204** was unable to be defined with surety, as it extended beyond the limits of the trench and revealed little evidence. The 16th-19th century roof tile fragment recovered from its fill has likely been redeposited and holds little archaeological value. This feature most likely relates to the modern development of the site, a result of landscaping, construction of the nearby buildings or excavation of the nearby pond.
- 7.3. In consideration of the limited archaeological evidence provided by the results of the evaluation, no contribution to regional research objectives is possible.

## 8. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 8.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Steffan Klemenic, assisted by Katherine Hebbard and Matthew Kelly. This report was written by Steffan Klemenic and Tony Brown. The finds report was written by Alejandra Gutierrez. The report illustrations were prepared by Helena Munoz-Mojado. The project archive has been compiled by Zoe Emery and prepared for deposition by Richard Paxford. The project was managed for CA by Tony Brown.



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## 9. REFERENCES

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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Tarmac carpark surface	Tarmac layer with type one bedding. Concrete below.	28.9	2	0.3
2	200	Layer		Crush carpark surface	Crush carpark surface	28.9	2	0.22
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish grey, silty clay, friable to compact with 5% sub angular gravel inclusions up to 40mm	13	2	0.38
2	202	Layer		Natural	Mixed mid reddish brown/ grey silty sand with clay. Compact with 80% gravel up to 50mm	13	2	>0.12
3	300	Layer		Crush carpark surface	Crush carpark surface	14.8	2	0.21
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid- dark brownish grey, silty clay, friable to compact with 10% sub angular gravel inclusions up to 40mm	14.8	2	0.47
3	302	Layer		Natural	Mid reddish brown, sandy clay. Compact-friable with 60% gravel up to 100mm	14.8	2	0.22
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid to dark grey brown, sandy silt, loose to friable with 5%v subrounded gravel up to 30mm. Covered by grass.	15.2	2	0.21
4	401	Layer		Made Ground	Tarmac and gravel with demolition material (brick, concrete, wood)	15.2	2	0.21
4	402	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey brown, silty clay, friable with 10% sub rounded gravel inclusions up to 50mm	15.2	2	0.23
4	403	Layer		Natural	Mid reddish brown, sandy silt. Compact with 80% sub rounded gravel up to 80mm	15.2	2	>0.05
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clayey sand with silt, loose to friable, with light rooting, covered by grass	15.5	2	0.26
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey brown, clayey silt, friable with 1% sub rounded gravel up to 30mm	15.5	2	0.44
5	502	Layer		Natural	Mid reddish brown with yellow mottling, sandy silt, friable to compact, with 60% sub rounded gravel inclusions up to 50mm	15.5	2	>0.2
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid/dark greyish brown, silty clay, friable/loose, with heavy rooting	15	2	0.32
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orangey brown, silty clay, friable, with 10% pebble inclusions up to 40mm and heavy rooting	15	2	0.46
6	602	Layer		Natural	Mid Yellowish brown, silty clay, friable with 20% sub angular flint inclusions up to 60mm	15	2	>0.22
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown, sandy silt, loose with 1% pebble inclusions up to 20mm and light rooting	15	2	0.3
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orangey brown, silty clay, loose to friable, with 10% sub angular flint inclusions up to 30mm , rooting and CBM flecks	15	2	0.2
7	702	Layer		Natural	Light yellow brown, sandy silt with clay, loose to friable, with 5% pebble inclusions up to 40mm	15	2	0.38
7	703	Layer		Natural	Mid reddish orange brown, sandy silt with clay, friable to compact, with 80% sub angular gravel up to 80mm	15	2	>0.42
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay with silt, loose with minor rooting inclusions, covered by grass	12.6	2	0.2
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey brown, sandy clayey silt, friable, with 1% sub rounded gravel inclusions up to 30mm and moderate rooting.	12.6	2	0.38
8	802	Layer		Natural	Mid red/orangey brown loose sand with light rooting	12.6	2	0.22

8	803	Layer		Natural	Mid reddish brown, silty sand, compact, with 1% rounded gravel up to 10mm and manganese fleck inclusions.	12.6	2	>0.07
9	900	Layer		Crush carpark surface	Crush carpark surface	11.2	2	0.32
9	901	Layer		Made ground	Mid reddish brown, sandy clay, friable, with 1% pebbles up to 20mm and modern brick inclusions	11.2	2	0.37
9	902	Layer		Natural	Mid reddish brown, silty clay, friable to compact with 60% gravel up to 120mm and 5% sub angular flint inclusions up to 130mm	11.2	2	>0.19
10	1000	Layer		Tarmac carpark surface	Tarmac layer with type one bedding.	13.6	2	0.35
10	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown, silty clay, friable, with 5% charcoal and modern CBM inclusions	13.6	2	0.35
10	1002	Layer		Natural	Light yellow brown, sandy silty clay, friable with sand patches	13.6	2	>0.3
11	1100	Layer		Tarmac carpark surface	Tarmac layer with sand and rubble bedding	15	2	0.47
11	1101	Layer		Made Ground	Dark grey black, silty clay, compact, with 60% gravel and modern brick inclusions	15	2	0.26
11	1102	Layer		Natural	mid blue grey, silty clay, with 80% gravel inclusions up to 60mm	15	2	>0.04
12	1200	Layer		Tarmac carpark surface	Tarmac layer with sand and rubble bedding	14.6	2	0.4
12	1201	Layer		Made Ground	Dark grey black, silty clay, compact with 20% modern brick and gravel inclusions	14.6	2	0.2
12	1202	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellowish grey, silty clay, compact, with 30% sub rounded gravel inclusions up to 40mm	14.6	2	0.15
12	1203	Layer		Natural	Mid to dark blue grey silty clay, compact, with 80% sub rounded gravel up to 70mm	14.6	2	>0.25
12	1204	Cut		Feature	Possible cut feature, may be a deeper band of made ground-impossible to say within scope of evaluation.	14.6	2	1.45
12	1205	Fill	1204	Fill of 1204	Mid brownish grey, silty clay, friable, with 5% sub rounded gravel inclusions up to 300mm	14.6	2	1.45
13	1300	Layer		Tarmac carpark surface	Tarmac layer with type one bedding on geotextile.	14.4	2	0.32
13	1301	Layer		Made Ground	Dark grey black, silty clay, friable to compact, with 5% gravel inclusions up to 40mm and modern brick fragments up to 15mm	14.4	2	0.34
13	1302	Layer		Natural	Light bluish grey, silty clay, compact, with 80% gravel inclusions up to 60mm	14.4	2	>0.34

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## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance (CBM: ceramic building material)

<b>Context</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Wt (g)</b>	<b>Spot-date</b>
1205	CBM	Flat roof tile	1	18	C16–C19

## APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	Rusham Park, Egham, Surrey	
Short description	<p>In November to December 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at Rusham Park in Egham, Surrey. A total of 13 trenches were excavated.</p> <p>Trench 1 had solid concrete below the tarmac and was ceased at this level. Eight further trenches exhibited made ground deposits above the natural geology. The remaining four trenches exhibited a more natural stratigraphic sequence, although disturbance through landscaping could not be excluded. A single, possible archaeological feature was identified in Trench 12, however this overran the trench footprint and could not be confidently interpreted. It may feasibly represent a modern deposit or area of disturbance.</p>	
Project dates	29/11-06/12/2021	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	Desk-based assessment (CA 2021)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site location	Rusham Park, Egham, Surrey	
Study area (m <sup>2</sup> /ha)	4.57ha	
Site co-ordinates	500606 170157	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Tony Brown	
Project Supervisor	Steffan Klemenic	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)</b>	<b>Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)</b>
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	CA (Andover)	Context sheets, registers
Digital	ADS	Database, digital photos, survey data
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Cotswold Archaeology. 2022. <i>Rusham Park, Egham, Surrey: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report <b>AN0458_1</b>		





 Site boundary



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Rusham Park, Egham, Surrey

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

<b>DRAWN BY</b> HMM	<b>PROJECT NO.</b> AN0458	<b>FIGURE NO.</b> 1
<b>CHECKED BY</b> DJB	<b>DATE</b> 13/12/2021	
<b>APPROVED BY</b> SK	<b>SCALE@A4</b> 1:25,000	

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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Unknown feature
- Modern
- Natural
- Proposed new building



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Rusham Park, Egham, Surrey

**FIGURE TITLE**  
Trench location plan showing features, extant and proposed buildings

<small>DRAWN BY</small> HMM	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> AN0458	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 13/12/2021	<b>2</b>
<small>APPROVED BY</small> DK	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:1500	





Trench 2, looking south-west (1m scales)



Trench 3, looking north-west (1m scales)



Trench 4, looking south-east (1m scales)



Trench 5, looking south-east (1m scales)


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PROJECT TITLE  
**Rusham Park, Egham, Surrey**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trenches 2-5: photographs**

DRAWN BY	HMM	PROJECT NO.	AN0458	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	13/12/2021	<b>3</b>
APPROVED BY	SK	SCALE	@A3 NA	





Trench 6, looking north-west (1m scales)



Trench 7, looking south-west (1m scales)



Trench 8, looking south-west (1m scales)



Trench 9, looking south-east (1m scales)


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PROJECT TITLE  
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FIGURE TITLE  
**Trenches 6-9: photographs**

DRAWN BY	HMM	PROJECT NO.	AN0458	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	13/12/2021	
APPROVED BY	SK	SCALE	A3 NA	<b>4</b>





Trench 10, looking north-east (1m scales)



Trench 11, looking south-east (1m scales)



Trench 11, looking south-east (1m scales)


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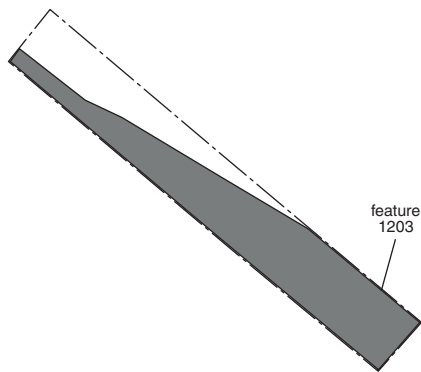
PROJECT TITLE

FIGURE TITLE

**Trenches 10 and 11: photographs**



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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	13/12/2021	
APPROVED BY	SK	SCALE@A3	NA	<b>5</b>





Trench 12



-  Evaluation trench
-  Unknown feature



Trench 12, looking north-west (1m scales)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 12: plan and photograph

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FIGURE NO.

6



Trench 13, looking south-west (1m scales)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 13: photograph

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FIGURE NO.

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