



**Proposed Pumping Station Site
Priors Hall Development
Stamford Road, Weldon
Northamptonshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

for
Bela Partnership

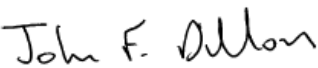
CA Project: 660306
CA Report: 14385

August 2014

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 Priors Hall Development
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date	29 August 2014
approved by	John Dillon, Head of Office (Milton Keynes)
signed	
date	29 August 2014
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Proposed Pumping Station Site, Priors Hall Development
Location:	Stamford Road, Weldon, Northamptonshire
NGR:	SP 9313 8991
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	28–29 July 2014
Planning Reference:	14/00111/DPA
Location of Archive:	Currently held by Cotswold Archaeology (Milton Keynes Office)
Site Code:	PRD 14

In July 2014, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of a proposed pumping station site at Stamford Road, Welford, Northamptonshire. Four trenches were excavated.

The Scheduled remains of a Roman villa and the probable alignment of a Roman road are recorded c. 100m west of the site, and evidence of late Iron Age ironstone extraction and smelting is recorded to the north. A previous geophysical survey of the site detected no archaeological anomalies, although unsuitable ground conditions meant that it was not possible to survey the entire site.

The archaeological evaluation uncovered no archaeological features or deposits at the site. This is line with the results of the geophysical survey, and indicates that activity associated with the known Iron Age and Roman sites in the region did not extend as far as the proposed development site.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2014, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Bela Partnership on land at Stamford Road, Welford, Northamptonshire (centred at NGR: SP 9313 8991; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to inform a planning application for new pumping station at the site (planning ref: 14/00111/DPA), which has been submitted to Corby Borough Council (CBC; the local planning authority).
- 1.2 The scope of this evaluation was agreed in discussions with Lesley-Ann Mather, the Northamptonshire County Archaeological Advisor. The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with a detailed written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2014a) and approved by Lesley-Ann Mather. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2009), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006). It was monitored by Lesley-Ann Mather.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development site encloses an area of approximately 0.3ha. It lies on the southern side of Stamford Road (the A43), to the east of the A427 junction. To the south lies residential housing. At the time of the evaluation, the site was under rough grass cover. It lies at approximately 78m AOD and is reasonably level.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Northampton Sand Formation ironstone, of the Jurassic Period. The superficial deposits are recorded as alluvial clays, silts, sands and gravels (BGS 2014).

Archaeological background

- 1.5 The proposed development site has been the previous subject of a desk-based heritage assessment (DBA; CA 2014b) and a geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014). The following section is summarised from these sources.
- 1.6 While there are no known heritage assets within the site itself, the Scheduled remains of a Roman villa and the probable alignment of a Roman road are recorded

- c. 100m west of the site, and evidence of late Iron Age ironstone extraction and smelting is recorded to the north.
- 1.7 The site has formed part of the agricultural hinterland of Weldon since at least the medieval period. Historic cartographic sources and aerial photography show a 20th-century mineral railway to the immediate north of the site, the embankment of which was subsequently utilised by the A43 road.
- 1.8 The geophysical survey detected no archaeological anomalies, although unsuitable ground conditions meant that it was not possible to survey the entire site.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.9 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2009). This information will enable CBC to identify and assess the particular significance of the site's heritage resource, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance, and develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage resource conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

Methodology

- 1.10 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of four trenches, each measuring 15m in length and 1.8m in width (Fig. 2). It was necessary to slightly alter the locations of Trenches 3 and 4 from those specified in the WSI (CA 2014a) due to the presence of a potential live below-ground service. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual* (2012).
- 1.11 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate. Trenches were recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).

- 1.12 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003). No deposits were identified that required sampling. No pre-modern artefacts were present.
- 1.13 There is currently no depository accepting archives from archaeological sites in this region of Northamptonshire. The project archive will be held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes until such time as a depository becomes available. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix B, will be entered into the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts can be found in Appendix A. Figures 3–6 present a selection of photographs of the excavated trenches.
- 2.2 The natural substrate comprised yellow-brown clay with limestone and flint inclusions. It was exposed in all trenches at a depth of 0.23m–0.44m below the present ground level. The natural was overlain directly by the silty clay topsoil. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed, and no pre-modern artefacts were present.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The archaeological evaluation uncovered no archaeological features or deposits at the site. This is in line with the results of the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014), and indicates that activity associated with the known Iron Age and Roman sites in the region did not extend as far as the proposed development site.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Peter James, assisted by Dan Riley and Rob Scott. This report was written by Derek Evans. The illustrations were prepared by Dan Bashford. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Emily Evans. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 20 June 2014

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014a *Priors Hall Development, Pumping Station, Stamford Road, Weldon, Northamptonshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014b *Pumping Station, Priors Hall, Stamford Road, Weldon, Northamptonshire: Heritage Desk-Based Assessment* CA Report No. **14306**

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

Stratascan 2014 *Priors Hall Park, Weldon, Northamptonshire: Geophysical Survey Report*
Stratascan job ref: **J7084**

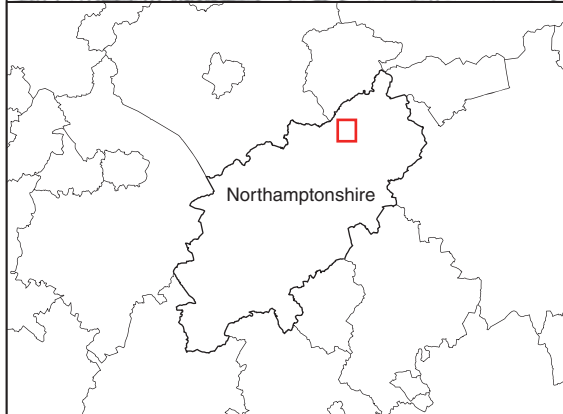


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	Depth/ thickness (m)
1	100	Layer	topsoil	Mid brown-grey silty clay	0.29
1	101	Layer	natural	Yellow-brown clay with limestone and flint inclusions	–
2	200	Layer	topsoil	Mid brown-grey silty clay	0.23
2	201	Layer	natural	Yellow-brown clay with limestone and flint inclusions	–
3	300	Layer	topsoil	Mid brown-grey silty clay	0.32
3	301	Layer	natural	Yellow-brown clay with limestone and flint inclusions	–
4	400	Layer	topsoil	Mid brown-grey silty clay	0.44
4	401	Layer	natural	Yellow-brown clay with limestone and flint inclusions	–

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Proposed Pumping Station Site, Priors Hall Development, Stamford Road, Weldon, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Evaluation	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>In July 2014, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Stamford Road, Welford, Northamptonshire. Four trenches were excavated.</p> <p>The Scheduled remains of a Roman villa and the probable alignment of a Roman road are recorded c. 100m west of the site, and evidence of late Iron Age ironstone extraction and smelting is recorded to the north. A previous geophysical survey of the site detected no archaeological anomalies, although unsuitable ground conditions meant that it was not possible to survey the entire site.</p> <p>The archaeological evaluation uncovered no archaeological features or deposits at the site. This is in line with the results of the geophysical survey, and indicates that activity associated with the known Iron Age and Roman sites in the region did not extend as far as the proposed development site.</p>	
Project dates	28–29 July 2014	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation, etc.)	Field evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers, etc.)	Heritage desk-based assessment (Cotswold Archaeology 2014) Geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Proposed Pumping Station Site, Priors Hall Development, Stamford Road, Weldon, Northamptonshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.3ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SP 9313 8991	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	Peter James	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, etc.)
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Currently held by Cotswold Archaeology (Milton Keynes Office)	Trench sheets, registers, etc.
Digital	Currently held by Cotswold Archaeology (Milton Keynes Office)	Database, digital photos, etc.
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2014 <i>Proposed Pumping Station Site, Priors Hall Development, Stamford Road, Weldon, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report 14385		



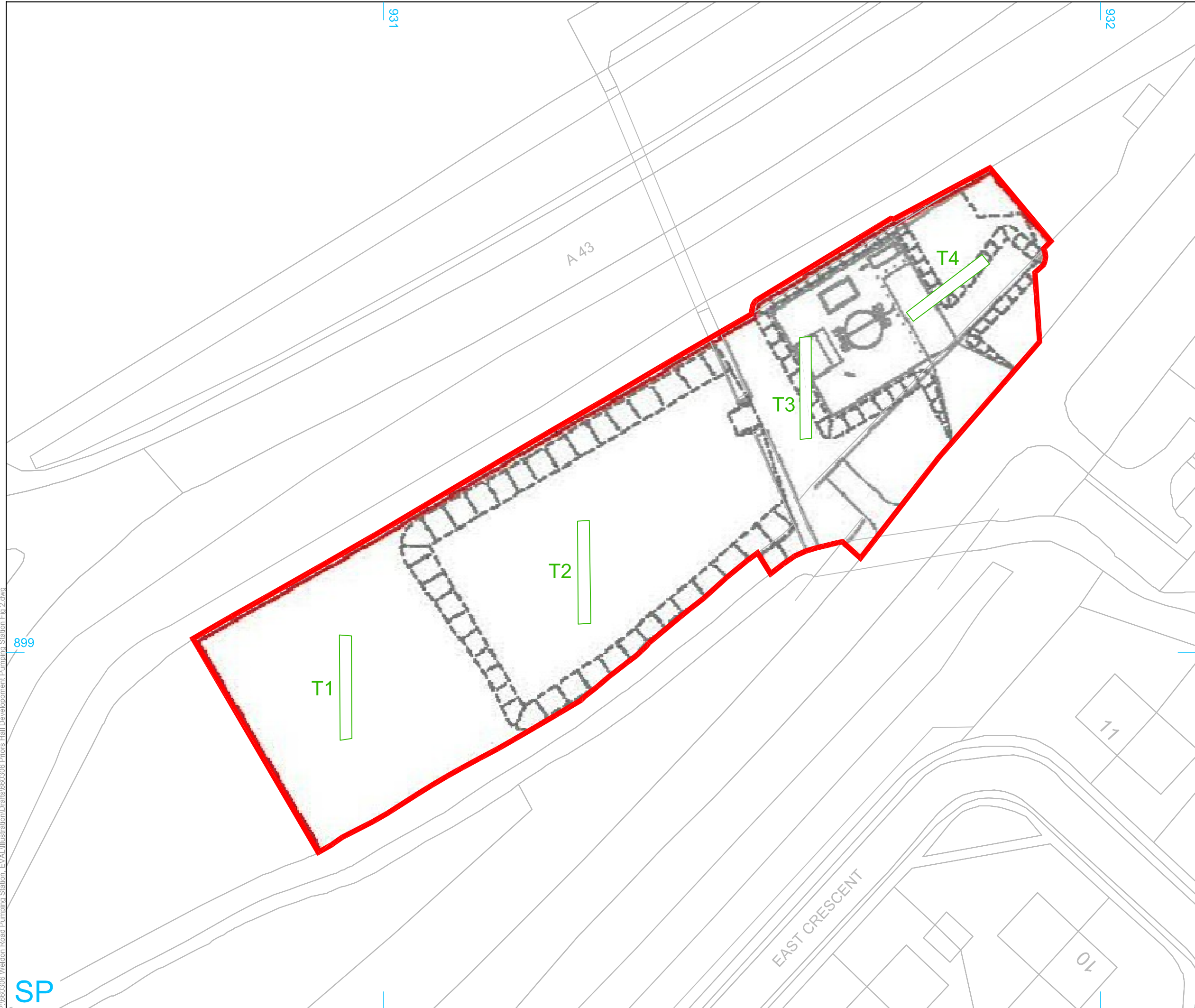
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PROJECT TITLE
 Priors Hall Development, Pumping Station,
 Stamford Road, Weldon, Northamptonshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 660306	DATE 08-08-2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY DJB	REVISION 00	1
APPROVED BY LM	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	

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- ▬ site
- ▬ evaluation trench



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PROJECT TITLE
 Priors Hall Development, Pumping Station
 Stamford Road, Weldon, Northamptonshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan

PROJECT NO.	660306	DATE	08-08-2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	DJB	REVISION	00	2
APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A3	1:500	

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SP



3



4

3 Trench 1: representative section (scale 1m)

4 Trench 2: facing north (scales 1m)



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PROJECT TITLE

Priors Hall Development, Pumping Station,
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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

PROJECT NO. 660306 DATE 08-08-2014
 DRAWN BY DJB REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 N/A

FIGURE NO.

3 & 4



5



6

5 Trench 3: representative section (scale 1m)

6 Trench 4: facing north-east (scales 1m)



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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

PROJECT NO. 660306 DATE 08-08-2014
 DRAWN BY DJB REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 N/A

FIGURE NO.

5 & 6