



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

AT

**THE PAVILION, UPPER DOWDESWELL,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

SP 0070 1918

On behalf of

Messrs. Bridgeman and Bhangu

March 2008

REPORT FOR Messrs Bridgeman and Bhangu
c/o Peter M. Salmon
Town Planning and Development Consultant,
Camber,
Broad Lane,
Bracknell,
RG12 9BY

PREPARED BY David Gilbert

ILLUSTRATION BY Eoin Fitzsimons

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ENQUIRES TO John Moore Heritage Services
Hill View
Woodperry Road
Beckley
Oxfordshire OX3 9UZ
Tel/Fax 01865 358300
Email: info@jmheritageservices.co.uk

Site Code DLDUP 08
JMHS Project No: 1871
Archive Location Corinium Museum

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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services conducted an archaeological evaluation of the proposed development site on 25th February 2008. A single 8m trench was excavated to reveal the underlying natural geology.

A large shallow pit or perhaps earlier terracing of the low rise was located. This feature contained a layer of burning at the base and had later been covered with stone rubble, perhaps from a demolished building. It was associated with 16th-17th century pottery. A Roman sherd was also found.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The site is located on the south side of Upper Dowdeswell, on land adjacent to the Village Hall (SP 0070 1918). The site is currently an open flat small field with grass coverage. The site lies at approximately 225m OD and the underlying geology is Birdlip Limestone Formation.

1.2 Planning Background

Planning permission is being sought from Cotswold District Council for the renovation of the old Cricket Pavilion at Upper Dowdeswell. This involves a new driveway being constructed from the existing road. Due to the possibility of archaeological deposits being damaged or destroyed as a result of the development and in order to ascertain any further possible mitigation strategies which might be needed, a field evaluation has been requested. This was designed to establish the presence/absence and condition of any archaeological deposits thought to present within the site and is in line with PPG 16 and Local Plan Policies.

1.3 Archaeological Background

Dowdeswell parish, which formerly included most of the hamlet of Andoversford, lies at the edge of the Cotswold escarpment 6 km. south-east of Cheltenham. It was recorded from the late 8th century AD. as 'Dogodeswellan', presumably the name of one of the springs that rise there and combine to form the river Chelt.

A mid 8th-century abbot called Headda inherited an estate at Dowdeswell, and in 759 AD he also acquired 10 *cassati* of land at 'Onnanforda' (Andoversford) by gift of three princes of the Hwicce acting with the sanction of King Offa.

Land at Pegglesworth was held from 957 by Bishop Coenwald. A perambulation of the bishop of Worcester's Withington manor (c. 1000) included the whole or most of Dowdeswell, and in 1086 4½ hides in Dowdeswell and Pegglesworth were held from Withington by Robert.

By 1166 Dowdeswell and Pegglesworth were held as 1 knight's fee by Humphrey de Bohun, whose widow Margaret held them later in the 12th century. By Margaret's

death c. 1197 the de Bohuns had made a subinfeudation to the Knights Templar, and a tenant-in-demesne held the bulk of Dowdeswell from the Templars, the Templars from the de Bohuns, and the de Bohuns from the bishops of Worcester.

In 1226 Humphrey de Bohun, earl of Hereford, was disputing the bishop's claim to service and in 1299 the estate was said to render no service to the bishop. The earl confirmed his ancestors' gift to the Templars in 1225 and 1244, and later tenants-in-demesne held from Temple Guiting manor, the site of a Templar preceptory. Corpus Christi College, Oxford, owner of Guiting from 1517, received a chief rent from the lords of Dowdeswell manor until the 19th century.

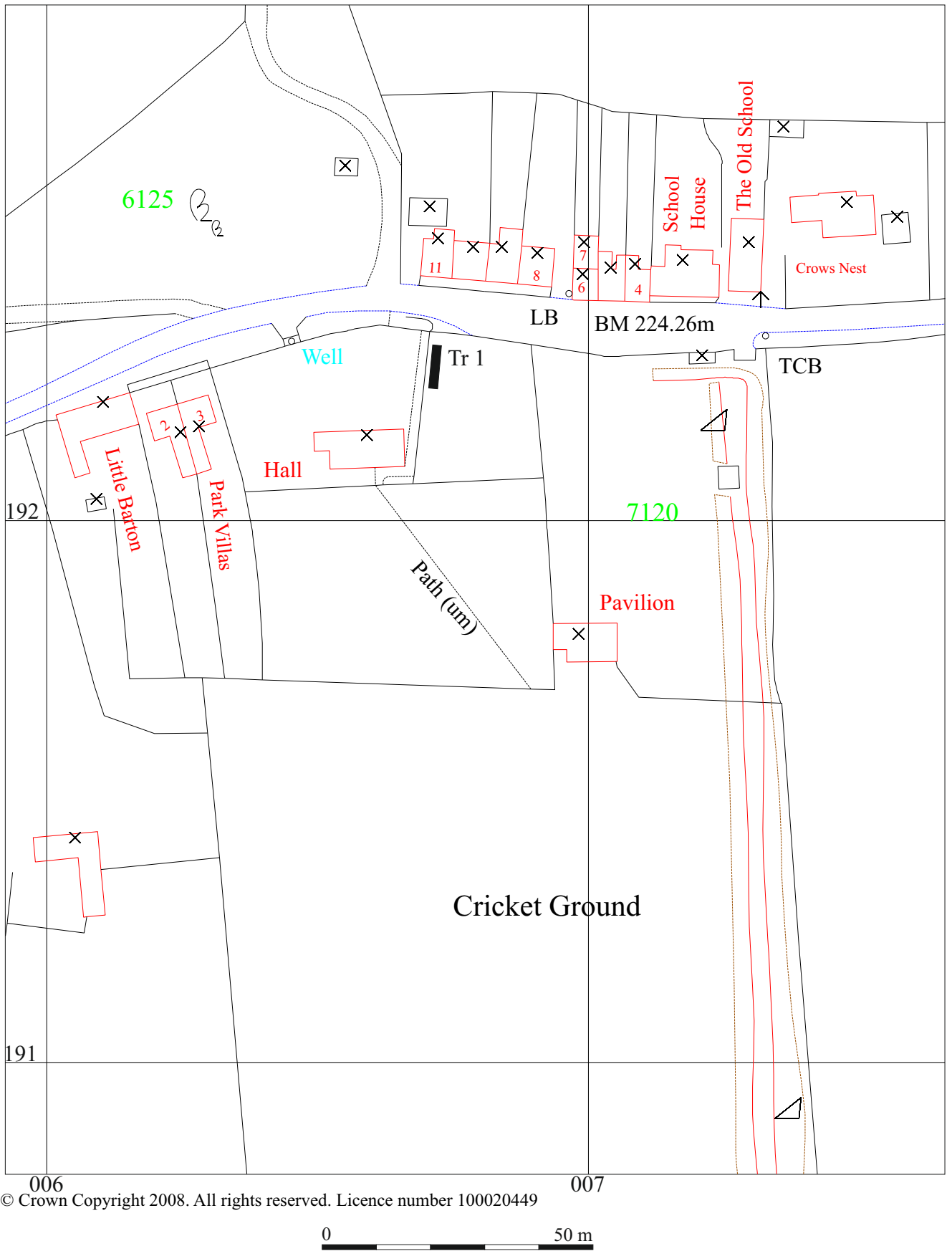
The manor passed through numerous families from the later 12th century until 1582 when the freehold was assumed by William Rogers. The Rogerses, a branch of a family based at Bryanston in Dorset, remained the principal landowners in Dowdeswell parish for over three centuries.

The Scheduled Ancient Monument of Upper Dowdeswell Camp (SAM 41B) lies 50m to the south and east of the site. This enclosure consists of 2 parallel earthworks running north-south with a modern wall at the south end. Guise noted a bank dividing the camp - he thought it had been a cattle enclosure (Maclean J 1880). Witts (1883) reports that the banks on east and west are very strong while those on north and south nearly disappeared. Burrow (1919) mentions "...curious mounds and hollows within the area of the camp..."

The two much disturbed parallel banks are up to 15m wide and 0.6m high and probably part of the same feature. The north end of the west bank bends west towards the manor house. It is shown in a drawing to have formed the east side of ornamental gardens of Upper Dowdeswell, extending only as far north as a small pergola but no further. Saville reported the bank and ditch well preserved on east side, tree and shrub covered; interior not ploughed. On the west side the bank has been partly landscaped into the Manor House gardens (RCHME 1976).

The OS survey in 1977 stated the two parallel earthworks run 170 to 190m apart. The west bank is up to 15m wide and 1.5m high on the west and 3m high on the east due to a drop in ground level. It extends for 220m, curving west at the north end and is surmounted at end by 17th century summerhouse. The east bank up to 10m wide and 0.6m high on west and 3.5m on the east again, as with the west bank. It also extends 220m, but the north 50m or so have been reduced or destroyed within allotment gardens. The banks abut at the south end onto a drystone wall. The apparent levelling of land above and between the banks, the lack of stone in these areas compared with the stony fields outside and the stony composition of the banks suggest that they are linear spoil heaps, possibly raised during 18th century land improvements in Upper Dowdeswell Manor grounds (House built c.1580-1620).

A Site visited by English Heritage in 2001 recorded possible evidence of ridge and furrow and probable history of medieval and post medieval cultivation here, on the margins of the nucleated settlement. There was some evidence of localised lynchet formation, probably along old field boundaries. It was concluded that under continual cultivation. deep, well-structured soil (30+cm) had built up, with some evidence of colluvial accumulation in down-slope locations.



006 007
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0 50 m

Figure 1. Site Location

To the west is Upper Dowdeswell Manor (SMR 3990) was built about 1580-1620. In Atkyns's (1712) Gloucestershire the Kip print shows the house to have been built round a quadrangle. The south wing has now disappeared, but the north wing remains much as shown with its projecting gable wings either side, central doorway and mullioned windows. Over the front door is a small Baroque cartouche of the Rich Arms. Modern additions have been made to the south-west. The gazebo, an imposing structure at SP00511918, remains in use. At SP00471915 is a large barn, probably contemporary with the house. The buildings form a good period-example of local domestic architecture (DoE 1986).

An archaeological watching brief (SMR 21611) was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology Unit in May 2002 in connection with the construction of an extension to the rear of Little Barton, 60m to the west. Natural clay and limestone brash were recorded 0.2m-0.5m below ground level. A post-medieval soakaway drain and rubbish pit were recorded, however no archaeological features or deposits pre-dating the mid-18th century were observed (Mumford 2002).

Dowdeswell Court is an early-mid 19th century park and pleasure ground (SMR 22024, GD 3494) surrounding a country house rebuilt in the 1830s by Rowland Paul on the site of a 17th century manor house, the landscape grounds incorporating work of the 18th century, and with further landscaping in the 19th century and early 20th century. It lies 90m to the north of the site

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To determine as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features encountered.

In particular

- To determine whether features associated with the SAM continue into this area and to determine their extent.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

In response to Gloucestershire County Council's request a scheme of investigation was designed and agreed with the Council and the applicant. The work was carried out by JMHS and was to involve the excavation of a trial trench across the site (Fig. 1).

Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* that was approved by Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer for Gloucestershire County Council. The work was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999) and the procedures laid down in MAP2 (English Heritage 1991).

3.2 Methodology

The trenching sample required was achieved through the excavation of a single 8m long trench. It was 1.6 m wide and was excavated by a 1.5 ton “mini-digger” type tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The resultant surface was cleaned by hand prior to limited hand excavation of any identified archaeological deposits.

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and sections drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was produced. The trench was backfilled after recording.

4 RESULTS

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers in [] indicate features i.e. pit cuts; while numbers in () show feature fills or deposits of material.

4.1 Excavation Results (Figure 2)

The lowest deposit in the area was the natural pale orange-yellow clayey sand with large limestone pieces (04). Overlying this was a grey-brown sandy clay (06) approximately 0.2m thick flecked with charcoal and containing some limestone fragments. The upper most layer was a dark greyish brown silty clay loam (01) topsoil up to 0.2m thick.

A large shallow ‘pit’ [05] was cut into the natural (04) and had been sealed by the subsoil (06). If this was a pit perhaps only a quarter of it was visible with the trench. The northern edge was very shallow almost imperceptible at its start. This pit became deeper towards the south, up to 0.4m deep. It is possible that this actually represents a terrace cut into side of the low rise that increases in height towards the south.

This feature [05] was filled at its lowest level, by a black sandy-clay (03) up to 0.05m thick that contained large quantities of charcoal and some ash. It contained a sherd of pottery and some poorly fired clay that may have resulted from burning *in situ*. Also noticed were pieces of daub. Above this was a deposit of grey brown silty-clay (02) with up to 40% large chunks of sandstone and limestone, up to 0.35m thick. This fill contained some animal bone and pottery.

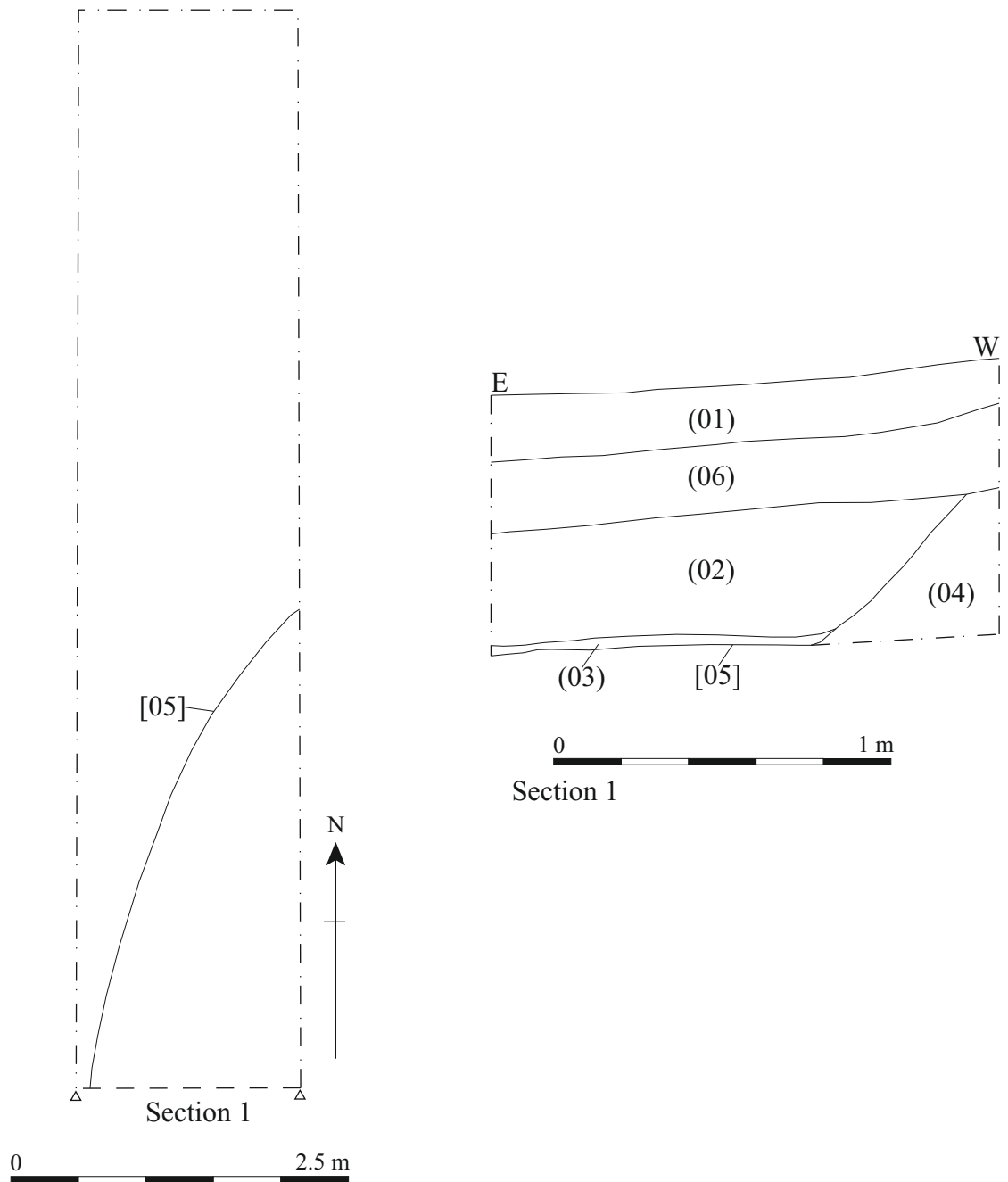


Figure 2. Plan and Section

4.2 Reliability of Techniques and Results

The reliability of results is considered to be good. The excavation of the trenches took place during a period of dry weather. No difficulties were encountered during the excavation.

5 FINDS

5.1 Pottery (by Paul Blinkhorn)

The pottery assemblage comprised 4 sherds with a total weight of 38g. Three were of later medieval date.

Oxidized glazed Malvernian ware, late 13th – early 17th century. Orange- red, slightly sandy fabric with rare volcanic rock fragments up to 2mm. 2 sherds, 22g,

Cistercian Ware: Late 15th – 17th century. Hard, smooth fabric, usually brick-red, but can be paler or browner. Few visible inclusions, except for occasional quartz grains. Range of vessel forms somewhat specialized, and usually very thin-walled (c. 2mm). Rare white slip decoration. 1 sherd, 9g.

In addition, a single sherd of Romano-British greyware (7g) occurred in context 3.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Context	RB		Cistercian		Malvernian		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
2			1	9			L15thC
3	1	7					RB
6					2	22	L13thC
Total	1	7	1	9	2	22	

5.2 Environmental Remains

No environmental samples were taken

6 DISCUSSION

The presence of the Romano-British sherd in context (03) is interesting. Although it is probably residual in this context no activity of this date is recorded in the area. It is possible that it found its way into the area as a result of manuring processes, and was incorporated into the fill of cut [05] accidentally.

The upper fill (02) of cut [05] contained pottery dated between the late 15th to 17th century. A 17th century or slightly later date is most probable for the feature.

The shape of the cut would suggest that it is indeed more like terracing than a traditional pit. It is possible that it was cut especially for providing a place to burn waste material, later being used to dump unwanted stone and rubble. It is possible that it is associated with the construction of the nearby Upper Dowdeswell Manor or with the demolition of its southern wing.

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APPENDIX – ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	 Finds	 Date
Trench 1			1	1.6	8		
1/01	Layer	Topsoil	0.15 - 0.2	Tr.	Tr.	Pottery	Modern
1/02	Fill	Grey-brown silty-clay with rubble	0.35	1.5 +	3 +	Pottery	C16-17
1/03	Fill	Dark brown sandy clay	0.05	1.5 +	3 +	Pottery	
1/04	Natural	Pale orange - yellow clayey sand	-	Tr.	Tr.	-	Natural
1/05	Cut	Oval pit ?	0.4	1.5 +	3 +	-	
1/06	Layer	Grey-brown sandy clay	0.2	Tr.	Tr.	Pottery	