

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

AT

**LAND AT BOWMAN COURT,
DUKES RIDE, CROWTHORNE,
BERKSHIRE**

NGR SU 826 637

On behalf of

Wellington College,

JULY 2016

REPORT FOR Wellington College,
Crowthorne,
Berkshire
RG45 7PU

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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation on land to the east of Bowman Court and south of Dukes Ride, Crowthorne, Berkshire. The nine evaluation trenches were devoid of any archaeological features and identified that the area of the trenches has been previously truncated by groundworks / landscaping.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The site is located to the east of Bowman Court and south of Dukes Ride, Crowthorne (NGR SU826637 centred). Currently the land is pasture and the underlying geology is Camberley Sand Formation. The size of the land is 1.19ha.

1.2 Planning Background

Bracknell Forest Council has granted permission for erection of 36 dwellings (9no open market houses and 27no dwellings to be retained by Wellington College to accommodate teachers) with associated vehicle access (including formation of a new access onto Dukes Ride), parking, landscaping and open spaces (15/00366/FUL). A condition concerning archaeology has been attached:

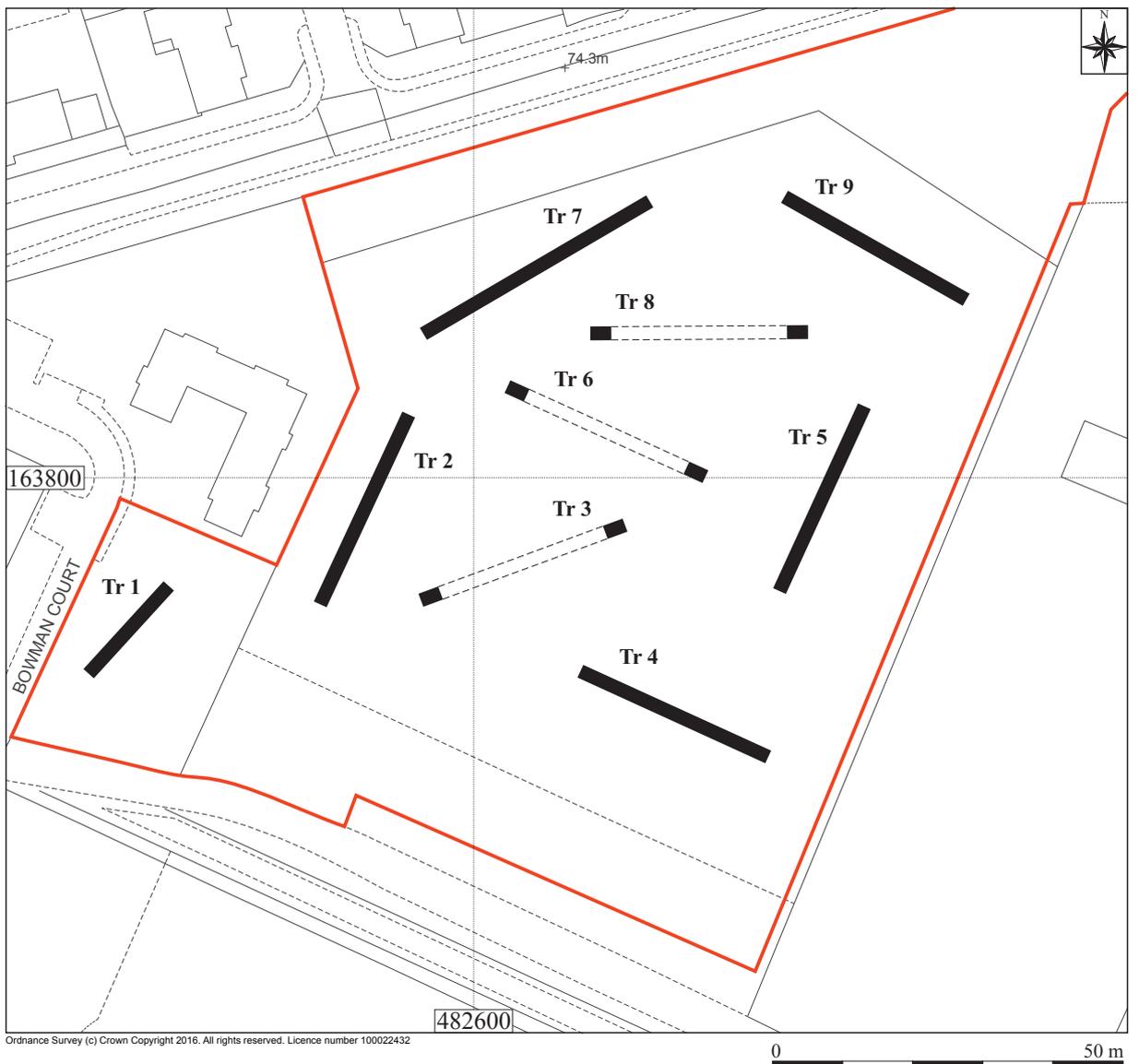
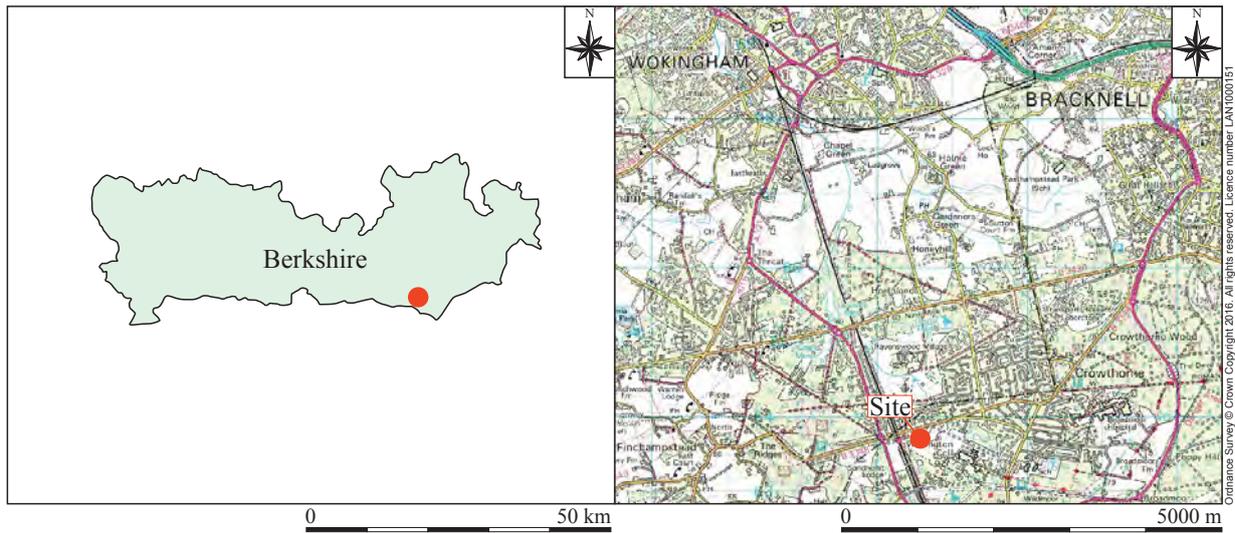
Condition 28. "No development shall take place within the application area until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works (which may comprise more than one phase of investigation), in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.

Reason: The site is within an area of archaeological potential. A programme of works is required to mitigate the impact of development and to record any surviving remains so as to advance our understanding of their significance in accordance with Paragraph 141 of the NPPF."

1.3 Archaeological Background

Berkshire's Historic Environment Record (HER) records no known heritage assets within the application site or immediately adjacent to it (bar a poorly provenanced Mesolithic (10,000 – 4,300 BC) tranchet axe from near Coppice Gardens). However there are significant known archaeological remains within the wider area.

Windmill Stem to the east of Crowthorne is a nationally important monument that probably originated as a Bronze Age (1,800 – 700 BC) barrow or burial mound. Several other possible barrows are known around Crowthorne, including two within the grounds of Broadmoor Hospital and one on Edgbarrow Hill, south of the College, while the nationally important Iron Age (700 BC – AD 43) hill fort of Caesar's Camp lies to the north-east of Crowthorne. These important monuments are almost certainly under-representative of the extent of Bronze Age and Iron Age activity. Other contemporary, less visible, monuments, representing the settlements and fields of



Key  Site boundary  Evaluation trenches

Figure 1: Site location

those that built and were buried under these monuments, are likely to survive in the wider area.

The application site also lies less than 400m from the projected line of the Devil's Highway, the Roman Road from Londinium (London) to Calleva Atrebatum (Silchester). The route of the road is known to the east and west of Crowthorne although its course within the built-up area of Crowthorne is less certain. More significantly a series of Roman settlements and buildings are known to lie close to the line of the Roman Road, some probably servicing the needs of travellers along this important route from London to the west. The large Roman settlement at Wickham Bushes lies to the east of Crowthorne and is a nationally important Scheduled Monument. Further to the east in Sunningdale two possible Roman buildings are thought to lie close to the line of the road, one of which included a tessellated pavement and may represent a villa site. To the west in Finchampstead at Wheatlands Manor, there is another Roman settlement that straddles the line of the Roman and this also is a Scheduled Monument.

The above archaeological background has been obtained from Berkshire Archaeology's advice note.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

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

- To undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site.
- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site and the depth of soil deposits that overlie these remains.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.
- To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the prehistoric and Roman landscape.
- To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.
- To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits. The forms in which such evidence may be present will be determined in accordance with the guidelines set out in English Heritage's *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation and Geoarchaeology: Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record*.
- To determine the impact of the proposed development on any remains present.
- To address some of the key issues highlighted in the Solent Thames Research Framework. This will depend on the type and date of remains encountered.
- To inform the need for, and scope of, further phases of work to mitigate the impact of the proposed development.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Berkshire Archaeology the archaeological advisors to Bracknell Forest Council.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

3.2 Methodology

One evaluation trench 17m long, seven evaluation trenches 30m long and one 37m long and each 1.85m wide were excavated across the proposed site of the development (Fig. 1). Due to the nature of the disturbed ground sequences within the trenches, for three of the centrally located trenches, only a 3m long trench was excavated at each end of the trenches (Fig. 1) to confirm the continued sequence of deposits.

Excavation was undertaken with a 13 tonne excavator using a ditching bucket. Mechanical excavation was taken down to the top of “natural” deposits or any higher archaeological horizon.

Site procedures carried out followed CIfA guidelines and the general requirements of Berkshire Archaeology.

Adequate notification was given to Berkshire Archaeology prior to the start of work to allow monitoring to take place.

A qualified Project Officer and three assistants undertook the evaluation trenching work in three days under the overall direction of John Moore MCIfA.

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

4 RESULTS (Figure 1)

Due to the nature of the disturbed ground sequences within the trenches, for three of the centrally located trenches (Tr 3, Tr 6 and Tr 8) only a 3m long trench was excavated at each end of the trenches (Fig. 1) to confirm the continued sequence of deposits.

Trench 1 was orientated northeast – southwest, 17m long, 1.85m wide and 0.5m deep. It contained a single layer of a dark brown sandy loam (1/01), a disturbed topsoil / made ground layer that contained modern building debris, overlying the natural sandy clay (1/02). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.

Trench 2 (Plates 1 & 2) was orientated northeast – southwest, 30m long, 1.85m wide and up-to 0.95m deep. It contained a 0.45m thick layer of a dark brown sandy loam (2/01), a disturbed topsoil / made ground that overlay a 0.1m thick layer of a mid-yellowish brown loamy sand with occasional gravels (2/02), a redeposited natural. This overlay a 0.4m thick layer of a dark brown sandy loam (2/03), a made ground layer that contained modern debris that overlay the natural sandy clay (2/04). Various wheel ruts were noted cutting into the natural (2/04). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.



Plate 1. Representative section trench 2 looking northwest



Plate 2. Overall view of trench 2 looking northeast

Trench 3 was orientated northeast – southwest, 30m long, 1.85m wide and up to 0.90m deep. It contained a 0.28m thick layer of a dark brown sandy loam (3/01), a disturbed topsoil / made ground that overlay a 0.22m thick layer of a mid-yellowish brown loamy sand with occasional gravels (3/02), a redeposited natural. This overlay a 0.42m thick layer of a dark brown sandy loam (3/03), a made ground layer that contained modern debris that overlay the natural sandy clay (3/04). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.

Trench 4 was orientated northwest - southeast, 30m long, 1.85m wide and up-to 0.90m deep. It contained a 0.4m thick layer of a dark brown sandy loam (4/01), a disturbed topsoil / made ground that overlay a 0.2m thick layer of a mid-yellowish brown loamy sand with occasional gravels (4/03), a redeposited natural. This overlay a 0.3m thick layer of a dark brown sandy loam (4/04), a made ground layer that contained modern debris that overlay the natural sandy clay (4/02). Various wheel ruts were noted cutting into the natural (4/02). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.

Trench 5 was orientated northeast – southwest, 30m long, 1.85m wide and up-to 0.98m deep. It contained a 0.5m thick layer of a dark brown sandy loam (5/01), a disturbed topsoil / made ground that overlay a 0.28m thick layer of a mid-yellowish brown loamy sand with occasional gravels (5/02), a redeposited natural. This overlay a 0.25m thick layer of a dark brown sandy loam (5/03), a made ground layer that contained modern debris that overlay the natural sandy clay (5/04). Various wheel ruts were noted cutting into the natural (5/04). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.

Trench 6 was orientated northwest - southeast, 30m long, 1.85m wide and up-to 1.06m deep. It contained a 0.2m thick layer of a dark brown sandy loam (6/01), a disturbed topsoil / made ground that overlay a 0.2m thick layer of a mid-yellowish brown loamy sand with occasional gravels (6/02), a redeposited natural. This overlay a 0.66m thick layer of a dark brown sandy loam (6/03), a made ground layer that contained modern debris that overlay the natural sandy clay (6/04). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.

Trench 7 was orientated northeast – southwest, 37m long, 1.85m wide and up-to 1.23m deep. It contained a 0.3m thick layer of a dark brown sandy loam (7/01), a disturbed topsoil / made ground that overlay a 0.4m thick layer of a mid-yellowish brown loamy sand with occasional gravels (7/02), a redeposited natural. This overlay a 0.26m thick layer of a dark brown sandy loam (7/03), a made ground layer that contained modern debris that overlay a 0.32m thick layer of disturbed natural (7/04) with frequent wheel ruts that overlay the natural sandy clay (7/05). Various wheel ruts were noted still cutting into the natural (7/05). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.

Trench 8 was orientated east - west, 30m long, 1.85m wide and up-to 1.05m deep. It contained a 0.2m thick layer of a dark brown sandy loam (8/01), a disturbed topsoil / made ground that overlay a 0.48m thick layer of a mid-yellowish brown loamy sand with occasional gravels (8/02), a redeposited natural. This overlay a 0.55m thick layer of a dark brown sandy loam (8/03), a made ground layer that contained modern debris that overlay the natural sandy clay (8/04). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.

Trench 9 (Plates. 3 & 4) was orientated northwest – southeast, 30m long, 1.85m wide and up-to 1.20m deep. It contained a 0.35m thick layer of a dark brown sandy loam (9/01), a disturbed topsoil / made ground that overlay a 0.35m thick layer of a mid-yellowish brown loamy sand with occasional gravels (9/02), a redeposited natural. This overlay a 0.25m thick layer of a dark brown sandy loam (9/03), a made ground layer that contained modern debris including a crisp packet (Plate. 5) with a best before date of 1998 compressed into one of the wheel ruts that overlay a 0.35m thick layer of disturbed natural (9/04) with frequent wheel ruts that overlay the natural sandy clay (9/05). Various wheel ruts were noted still cutting into the natural (9/05). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.



Plate 4. Representative section trench 9 looking southwest



Plate 4. Overall view of trench 9 looking southeast

Section 9.1

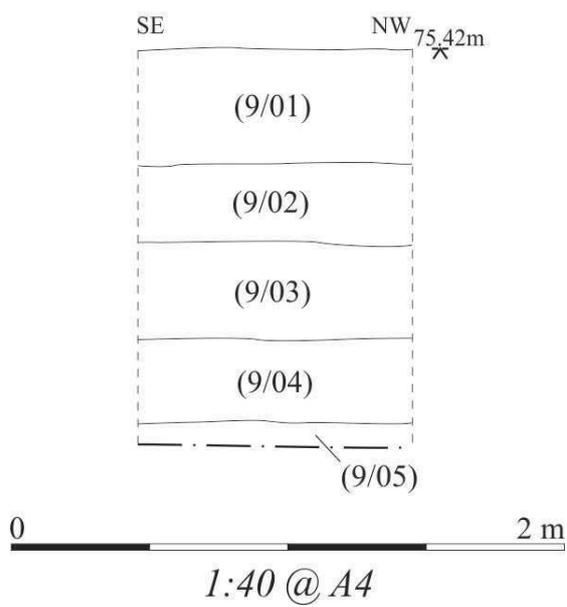


Figure 2. Representative section trench 9

The evaluation was undertaken in reasonable conditions with the natural horizons clear and the reliability of the results is considered good.

5 FINDS

5.1 Modern Finds

There were frequent amounts of modern debris within the contexts of all the trenches, these included; fragments of concrete, plastic, metalwork, pieces of terram and bricks; none of which were retained.

Of note within Trench 9 was an empty packet of crisps with a best before date of 25th April 1998 that was recovered from the material (9/03) which was compacted into the base of a wheel rut within disturbed natural layer (9/04). The find was photographed but not retained.



Plate 5. Crisp packet from (9/03), trench 9

6 DISCUSSION

All nine trenches were devoid of any archaeological features cut into the natural sands and clay, with all of the trenches consisting of modern made ground layers. Various wheel ruts were noted in most of the trenches and there was no original subsoil layers present throughout the trenches. This indicates the site has been initially stripped down to the natural horizon and vehicles have then ran over the site probably dating to pre-1998. The area was then subject to various unknown landscaping, to level the area off with a thicker sequence of made ground within the trenches to the north (over 1m) than to the south (0.5m).

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper record

The project brief

Written scheme of investigation

The project report

The primary site record

Physical record

None

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to a suitable repository when one is available.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological Field Evaluation*

JMHS 2014 *Land at Bowman Court, Dukes Ride, Crowthorne, Berkshire Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation* (unpublished report)

APPENDIX 1 Context Inventory

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Width	Length	Finds	Interpretation	Date
Trench 1								
1/01	Deposit	Dark brown sandy loam	0.5m	1.85m	17m	-	Topsoil / made ground	Modern
1/02	Deposit	Mid-yellow sandy clay	-	1.85m	17m	-	Natural	-
Trench 2								
2/01	Deposit	Dark brown sandy loam	0.45m	1.85m	30m	-	Topsoil / made ground	Modern
2/02	Deposit	Mid-yellowish brown loamy sand with occasional gravels	0.1m	1.85m	30m	-	Redeposited natural sands / made ground	Modern
2/03	Deposit	Dark brown sandy loam	0.4m	1.85m	30m	Modern materials	Made ground	Modern
2/04	Deposit	Orange / yellow sandy clay	-	1.85m	30m	-	Natural	-
Trench 3								
3/01	Deposit	Dark brown sandy loam	0.28m	1.85m	30m	-	Topsoil / made ground	Modern
3/02	Deposit	Mid-yellowish brown loamy sand with occasional gravels	0.22m	1.85m	30m	-	Redeposited natural sands / made ground	Modern
3/03	Deposit	Dark brown sandy loam	0.42m	1.85m	30m	-	Made ground	Modern
3/04	Deposit	Orange / yellow sandy clay	-	1.85m	30m	-	Natural	-
Trench 4								
4/01	Deposit	Dark brown sandy loam	0.4m	1.85m	30m	-	Topsoil / made ground	Modern
4/02	Deposit	Orange / yellow sandy clay	-	1.85m	30m	-	Natural	-
4/03	Deposit	Mid-yellowish brown loamy sand with occasional gravels	0.2m	1.85m	30m	-	Redeposited natural sands / made ground	Modern
4/04	Deposit	Dark brown sandy loam	0.3m	1.85m	30m	-	Made ground	Modern
Trench 5								
5/01	Deposit	Dark brown sandy loam	0.05m	1.85m	30m	-	Topsoil / turf	Modern
5/02	Deposit	Mid-	0.28m	1.85m	30m	-	Redeposited natural	Modern

		yellowish brown loamy sand with occasional gravels					sands / made ground	
5/03	Deposit	Dark brown sandy loam	0.25m	1.85m	30m	-	Made ground	Modern
5/04	Deposit	Mid-yellow sandy clay	-	1.85m	30m	-	Natural	-
Trench 6								
6/01	Deposit	Dark brown sandy loam	0.2m	1.85m	30m	-	Topsoil / made ground	Modern
6/02	Deposit	Mid-yellowish brown loamy sand with occasional gravels	0.2m	1.85m	30m	-	Redeposited natural sands / made ground	Modern
6/03	Deposit	Dark brown sandy loam	0.66m	1.85m	30m	-	Made ground	Modern
6/04	Deposit	Orange / yellow sandy clay	-	1.85m	30m	-	Natural	-
Trench 7								
7/01	Deposit	Dark brown sandy loam	0.3m	1.85m	30m	-	Topsoil / made ground	Modern
7/02	Deposit	Mid-yellowish brown loamy sand with occasional gravels	0.4m	1.85m	30m	-	Redeposited natural sands / made ground	Modern
7/03	Deposit	Dark brown sandy loam	0.26m	1.85m	30m	-	Made ground	Modern
7/04	Deposit	Orange / brown sandy clay with modern wheel ruts	0.32m	1.85m	30m	-	Disturbed top horizon of the natural sand and clay	Modern
7/05	Deposit	Orange / yellow sandy clay	-	1.85m	30m	-	Natural	-
Trench 8								
8/01	Deposit	Dark brown sandy loam	0.02m	1.85m	30m	-	Topsoil / turf	Modern
8/02	Deposit	Mid-yellowish brown loamy sand with occasional gravels	0.48m	1.85m	30m	-	Redeposited natural sands / made ground	Modern
8/03	Deposit	Dark brown sandy loam	0.55	1.85m	30m	-	Made ground	Modern
8/04	Deposit	Orange / yellow sandy clay	-	1.85m	30m	-	Natural	-
Trench 9								
9/01	Deposit	Dark brown sandy loam	0.35m	1.85m	30m	-	Topsoil /made ground	Modern

9/02	Deposit	Mid-yellowish brown loamy sand with occasional gravels	0.35m	1.85m	30m	-	Redeposited natural sands / made ground	Modern
9/03	Deposit	Dark brown sandy loam	0.25m	1.85m	30m	Modern crisp packet	Made ground	Pre 1998
9/04	Deposit	Orange / brown sandy clay with modern wheel ruts	0.35m	1.85m	30m	-	Disturbed top horizon of the natural sand and clay	Modern
9/05	Deposit	Orange / yellow sandy clay	-	1.85m	30m	-	Natural	-