



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**AT**

**JACK HUNT SCHOOL,**

**LEDBURY ROAD, NETHERTON, PETERBOROUGH**

**NGR TL 16934 99240**

*On behalf of*

*Carillion plc*

**APRIL 2017**

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**FIELDWORK** 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017

**REPORT ISSUED** 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017

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**JMHS Project No:** 3692  
**Event No:** PCCHER 54066  
**Archive Location:** The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery

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## ***Summary***

*John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at Jack Hunt School, Ledbury Road, Netherton, Peterborough (NGR TL 16934 99240). Three evaluation trenches stripped to natural geology across the site and uncovered two gullies.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development site is located within the grounds of Jack Hunt Secondary School, on Ledbury Road, Westwood, Peterborough at NGR TL 16934 99240. The site lies at approximately 18m OD. The underlying geology comprises limestone formations overlain by river terrace deposits.

### 1.2 Planning Background

Peterborough District Council granted planning permission for new dining and teaching block and science laboratory, all-weather pitch with associated external works including car parking and landscaping. Due to the archaeological and historical importance of the surrounding area a condition was attached to the permission requiring a programme of archaeological work. This was in accordance with paragraphs 128 and 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012), Policy CS17 of the Peterborough Core Strategy DPD (2011) and Policy PP17 of the Peterborough Planning Policies DPD (2012).

### 1.3 Archaeological Background

The earliest evidence of human activity within the search area dates to the Palaeolithic and consists of assorted flints including, blades, flakes, cores, scrapers found approximately 700m to the north (7758: NGR TL 1695 9975); further evidence of Palaeolithic activity consists of 2 hand axes, one from the Common, one from Orton Gardens and a series of Levallois flakes from Westwood Road (1596: NGR TL 1740 9930)

A number of Neolithic flints were recovered over an area of approximately 40 square yards, 700m to the north east of the proposal site (1664: TL 1735 9968).

A middle-Iron Age bow brooch was found approximately 600m to the north in the area of Westwood Farm; the exact location of find site not known (7759: TL 1680 9970).

A focus of Roman activity is seen in the area of Thorpe Hall, approximately 500m to the south of the proposal site. A possible Roman building was found in 1720 (50391: TL 1700 9860), which was associated with a mosaic pavement, later mentioned by Stukeley (01410e: TL 1700 9860). Two Roman coins of Faustina were found in 1953 (1421: TL 1716 9873). Coins, armour and sherds of pottery of possible Roman date were discovered in Longthorpe field, approximately 570m to the north east, before 1712. Later finds comprised brick, tile and pottery and were found during modern house construction (1661: TL 1740 9930).

A possible Roman road or other earthwork runs in a north easterly direction, 750m north east of the proposal site (4322: TL 1762 9925 – TL 1829 9966).

A ring ditch of unknown date, 15-20m in diameter, was recorded through aerial photography approximately 660m to the south east of the proposal site (50392: TL 1736 9864).

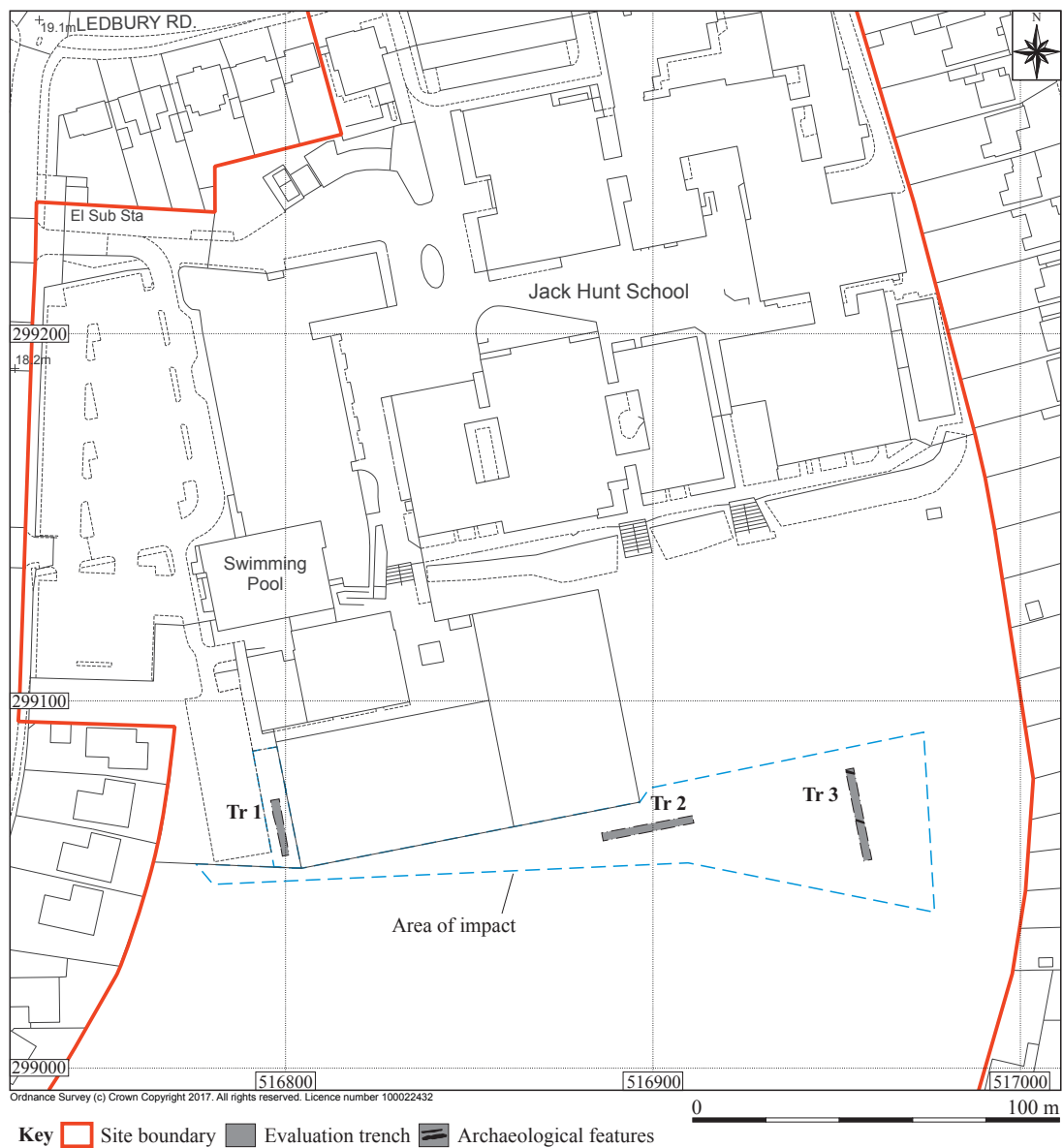
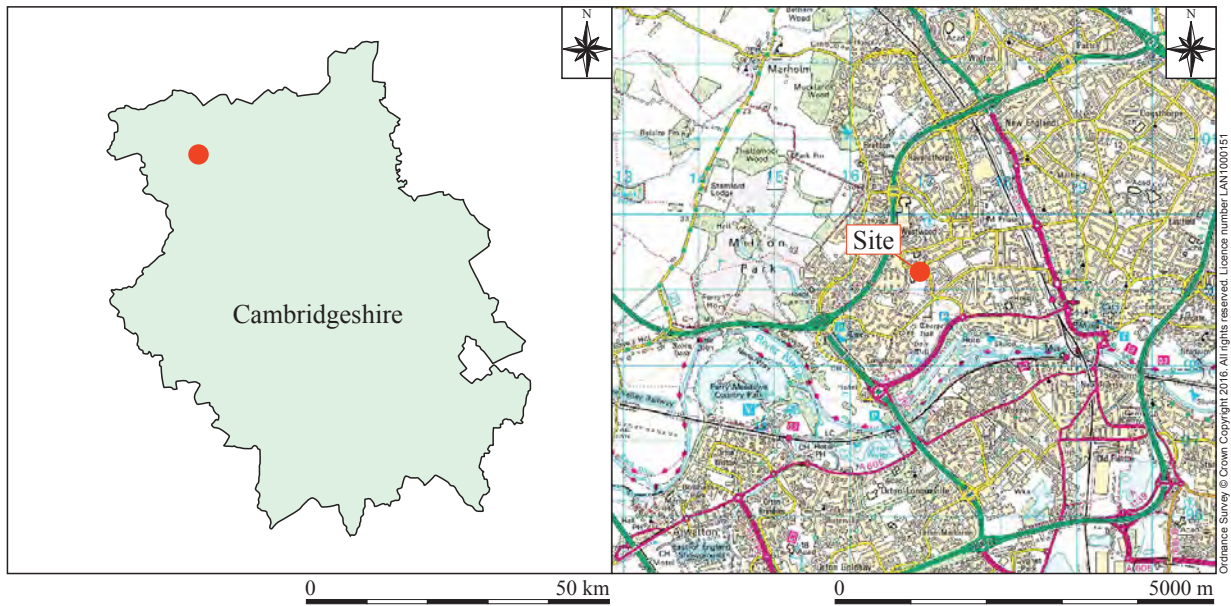


Figure 1: Site location

The remains of at least five individuals were recorded to the rear of No. 10, Thorpe Park Road, 670m to the north east (51919: TL 17525 99236). No grave goods were recovered; however documentary sources refer to a chapel of St Botolph belonging to Peterborough Abbey at Longthorpe which was in existence in 1189; the chapel was demolished in the 13th century.

On 20/4/41 Tiger Moth T5367 of 13 EFTS crashed at Longthorpe when its engine cut during spinning practice (52448: TL 17000 99002). The pilot was able to bale out safely. The actual crash site is unknown, as such a generic grid reference has been assigned to the HER record.

## **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 proposed development site.
- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site and the depth of soil deposits that overlie any 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 prehistoric to Saxon remains found in the area.
- To determine the implications of the 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.

In particular:

- To identify whether prehistoric or Roman remains are present that relate to the known landscape of these periods.
- 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 Archaeological Services, Growth and Regeneration,

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

### **3.2 Methodology**

Three evaluation trenches between 15-25m long by 2.4m wide were excavated across the proposed site of the Jack Hunt Secondary School, on Ledbury Road, Westwood, Peterborough at NGR TL 16934 99240. These were excavated using a 5 tonne 360° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

The trenches were excavated to the upper interface of secure archaeological deposits or, where these were not present, to the upper interface of natural deposits. All features were then cleaned and excavated by hand, then recorded by written, drawn and photographic record. Other general methodologies for the work were in accordance with Annex 1. PCCAS was contacted before and during the archaeological work to arrange a site visit as to verify quality of work and interpretations.

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 2)**

All features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers with no brackets indicate feature cuts, numbers in round brackets ( ) show feature fills or deposits of material and numbers in bold indicate any form of masonry. Below is a general description of the archaeological results. No finds were recovered from deposits unless referred to in the text below.

The deepest recorded deposit was a layer of light yellowish brown, compact, degraded limestone (freeze thaw action), which matches the recorded geology for the area; limestone formations overlain by river terrace deposits. It occurred at very various depths below existing ground level, between 0.24m to the south-east in TR3, 0.61m in the central TR2 and 1.33m to the north-west of the site in TR1. This shows the original topography sloped down considerably to the WNW.

A layer overlaying the limestone geology was also encountered across the whole site. It consisted of a mid-yellowish brown, silty clay, friable but firm, with occasional flecks of <2cm diameter limestone. It too occurred at very various depths below existing ground level, between 0.12-0.24m to the south-east in TR3, 0.35-0.61m in the central TR2 and 0.87-1.33m to the north-west of the site in TR1.

### **4.1 Trench 1**

In Trench 1, located in the NW part of the site, cut into the interpreted old ploughsoil (1/05), there was a deposit of mid reddish brown, silty clay, with occasional limestone of sub-angular inclusions of up to 5cm in diameter (1/04). The limited scope of the trenches did not allow a perfect characterization of it but it was considered to be a furrow orientated NE-SW. This deposit was up to 0.2m thick and 2.4m wide with a length exceeding 10m. Some brick fragments and a sherd of green bottle glass gave a



late-19<sup>th</sup> century date; a single Roman potsherd also recovered is likely from manuring. Above this was a levelling deposit of mid-greenish grey clay (55%), highly compact, with no inclusions mottled with a gritty, sandy clay of mid yellowish red colour (45%), with occasional inclusions of up to 4cm (1/03), was encountered intermittently above the geological horizon. Overlaying this was a mid-brown, silty loam, friable with occasional inclusions of 2-4cm diameter of sub-angular stone, (1/02). It extended between 0.19-0.39m in thickness and appears to be a levelling layer underlying the highly maintained turf layer, (1/01), which comprised the top 19cm.

#### **4.2 Trench 2**

In Trench 2, no features of archaeological significance were encountered. A modern field drain ran NW-SE in the western end of the trench. Beyond this, the layers were composed of a turf layer (2/01), mid-greyish brown, silty loam, friable with inclusions of <2cm diameter of mix material including brick and tile, chalk and limestone flecks, 15cm in depth. Under that was (2/02), the same drainage layer seen in TR1 of a mid-brown, silty loam, friable with occasional inclusions of 2-4cm diameter of sub-angular stone, extending from 0.15-0.35m in depth. Below that was the old ploughsoil (2/03), and natural geology, (2/04), as described above.

#### **4.3 Trench 3**

In Trench 3, the only two possible features encountered were observed. Both were irregular linear features cut into the natural geology, (3/03). Cuts 3/04 and 3/06, were poorly defined and on a SE-NW alignment. They each had a single fill of mid-reddish brown, silty clay, quite compact, with common limestone sub-angular inclusions of up to 10cm in diameter, (3/05) and (3/07) respectively. They were 0.12 and 0.14m deep respectively. Their precise function is unknown, but their irregularly defined edges and bases, in association with the compact nature of the fill and its resemblance to the natural limestone, suggests that these might be archaic gullies which have been filled in slowly over time. Both cuts had a side with a moderate break of slope and one with a gradual break of slope, with a concave base and bottom. Above these was layer (3/02) made of a mid-yellowish brown, silty clay, friable, with occasional flecks of <2cm diameter limestone, extending from 0.12-0.24m in depth. This was below the modern turf, which comprised the top 12cm.

#### **4.4 Reliability of Results**

The reliability of results is considered to be good as the evaluation took place in optimal weather conditions with good light and visibility. Excellent cooperation from the site management, Graham the excavator driver and from the excavation team ensured sufficient time to investigate and record the deposits to the appropriate standards.



Plate 1: Section 3.02



Plate 2: Section 3.03

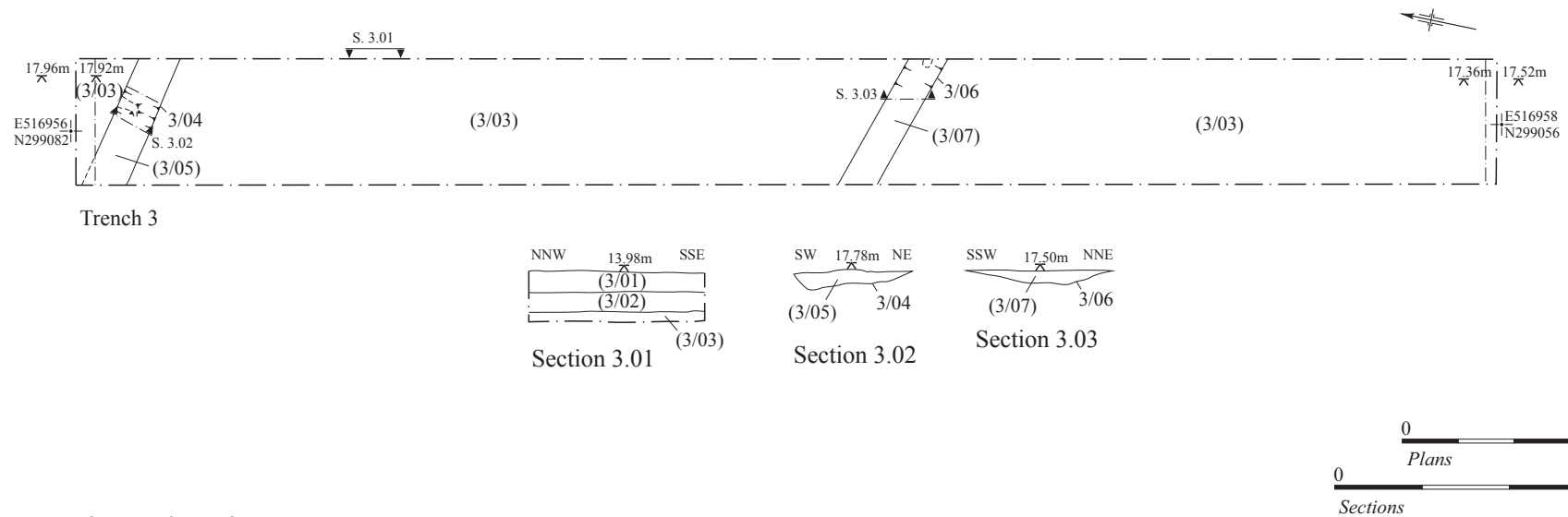


Figure 2: Trench 3 and sections

## 5 FINDS

The finds were all limited to within the ploughsoil deposit filling a furrow which appeared in Trench 1, (1/04).

### 5.1 Pottery by *Stephanie N. Duensing*

In Trench 1, a single fragment of Roman Black Burnished Ware Category 2 (BB2) - a fine, grey-coloured, wheel thrown fabric - was recovered (see Plate 3). This small fragment weighing 6g is highly worn on the edges and surface. This is consistent with a fragment which has been subject to much friction and erosion over time, as one would expect in a ploughsoil deposit.

### 5.2 Glass by *Stephanie N. Duensing*

In Trench 1, a single shard of late 19<sup>th</sup> century olive green glass from the base of a bottle was recovered. It was machine made and of good clarity. No markings or impressions of any kind were present.

### 5.3 Brick by *Stephanie N. Duensing*

In Trench 1, CBM in the form of post-medieval brick fragments was recovered. Most were too small for sampling, but one large piece was kept (7cm x 7cm x 4cm). This was discarded in post-ex after processing measurements and weight.



Plate 3. Roman pottery sherd found in Trench 1 (1/04).

## 6 DISCUSSION

The site located at the Jack Hunt School appears to have been subject to a great deal of levelling, especially in the western boundary. This is likely due to the natural topography dropping down slightly to the west and the need to level the area to create the current playing fields. As a result, much of the material encountered in the archaeological testing was recent levelling deposits and current landscaping. There were two narrow and shallow linear features which potentially could have been prehistoric gullies, or they may have been archaic tree throws. They were both sectioned but produced no diagnostic evidence which would indicate a date. The best evidence that they were intentionally placed is that they are roughly aligned in the same direction and of a similar width.

## 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

Finds  
Environmental remains

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery.

## 8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014. *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation.*

Darvill, T. 2003. *Concise Oxford Dictionary of Archaeology.*

Department for Communities and Local Government 2012. *National Planning Policy Framework.*

Peterborough City Council 2011. *Policy CS17 of the Peterborough Core Strategy Development Plan Document.*

Peterborough City Council 2012. *Policy PP17 of the Peterborough Planning Policies Development Plan Document.*

**APPENDIX 1 Context Inventory**

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Width	Length	Finds	Interpretation	Date
<b>Trench 1</b>								
1/01	Deposit	Mid greyish brown, silty loam, friable with common inclusions of <2cm diameter of mix material including CBM, chalk and limestone flecks.	0.0-0.19m (0.19)	2.35-2.9m	T:15.5m B:14.8m	n/a	Topsoil/turf	18/04/2017
1/02	Deposit	Mid brown, silty loam, friable with occasional inclusions of 2-4cm diameter of sub-angular stone.	0.19-0.39m (0.2)	2.35-2.9m	T:15.5m B:14.8m	n/a	Drainage level under turf	18/04/2017
1/03	Deposit	Mid greenish grey clay (55%), highly compact, with no inclusions mottled with a gritty, sandy clay of mid yellowish red colour (45%), friable, with occasional inclusions of up to 4cm.	0.39-0.72m (0.33)	2.35-2.9m	T:15.5m B:14.8m	n/a	Levelling deposit	18/04/2017
1/04	Deposit	Mid reddish brown, silty clay, compact, occasional limestone sub angular inclusions of up to 5cm in diameter	0.72-0.87m (0.15)	2.35-2.9m	T:15.5m B:14.8m	Glass, Pottery & CBM	Fill of furrow	18/04/2017
1/05	Deposit	Mid yellowish brown, silty clay, friable but firm, with occasional flecks of <2cm diameter limestone.	0.87-1.33m (0.46)	2.35-2.9m	T:15.5m B:14.8m	n/a	Subsoil	18/04/2017
1/06	Deposit	Light yellowish brown, compact, degraded limestone (freeze thaw action).	1.33-1.4m+ (0.07+)	2.35-2.9m	T:15.5m B:14.8m	n/a	Natural	18/04/2017
<b>Trench 2</b>								
2/01	Deposit	Mid greyish brown, silty loam, friable with inclusions of <2cm diameter of mix material including CBM, chalk and limestone flecks.	0.0-0.15m (0.15)	2.1-2.2m	T:25.1m B:24.2m	n/a	Topsoil	18/04/2017
2/02	Deposit	Mid brown, silty loam, friable with occasional inclusions of 2-4cm diameter of sub-angular stone.	0.15-0.35m (0.2)	2.1-2.2m	T:25.1m B:24.2m	n/a	Drainage level under turf	18/04/2017

2/03	Deposit	Mid yellowish brown, silty clay, friable but firm, with occasional flecks of <2cm diameter limestone.	0.35-0.61m (0.26)	2.1-2.2m	T:25.1m B:24.2m	n/a	Subsoil	18/04/2017
2/04	Deposit	Light yellowish brown, compact, degraded limestone (freeze thaw action).	0.61-0.7m+ (0.09+)	2.1-2.2m	T:25.1m B:24.2m	n/a	Natural	18/04/2017
<b>Trench 3</b>								
3/01	Deposit	Mid greyish brown, silty loam, friable with inclusions of <2cm diameter of mix material including CBM, chalk and limestone flecks.	0.0-0.12m (0.12)	2.25m	T:25.35m B:24.75m	n/a	Topsoil	18/04/2017
3/02	Deposit	Mid yellowish brown, silty clay, friable but firm, with occasional flecks of <2cm diameter limestone.	0.12-0.24m (0.12)	2.25m	T:25.35m B:24.75m	n/a	Subsoil	18/04/2017
3/03	Deposit	Light yellowish brown, compact, degraded limestone (freeze thaw action).	0.24-0.29m+ (0.05+)	2.25m	T:25.35m B:24.75m	n/a	Natural	18/04/2017
3/04	Cut	Linear feature running NW-SE	0.12m	0.7m	2.5+m	n/a	Cut of gully	18/04/2017
3/05	Fill	Mid reddish brown, silty clay, compact, common limestone sub angular inclusions of up to 10cm in diameter	0.12m	0.7m	2.5+m	n/a	Fill of gully [3/04]	18/04/2017
3/06	Cut	Linear feature running NW-SE	0.14m	0.6m	2.4+m	n/a	Cut of gully	18/04/2017
3/07	Fill	Mid reddish brown, silty clay, compact, common limestone sub angular inclusions of up to 10cm in diameter	0.14m	0.6m	2.4+m	n/a	Fill of gully [3/06]	18/04/2017