

Archaeological Evaluation

Keithick Farm, Perth and Kinross



Development site looking south east (Sidlaw Hills in background)



22nd April 2013

Introduction

This programme of archaeological works was carried out for Keithick Biogas Developments Ltd to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development, as noted by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust in the Terms of Reference to Planning Application 12/02205/FLL, dated 26th March 2013. This evaluation was carried out by the author on Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th April 2013 (site code KTK01); weather conditions were bright and windy with occasional showers on the Tuesday and very wet on the Wednesday.

Archaeological Background (Illus 1, 2 and 3)

The development site is considered to be archaeologically sensitive. There is a wealth of Prehistoric and medieval archaeology situated in close proximity to the proposed development site. A cropmark of a roughly circular enclosure has been revealed by oblique aerial photography approximately 50 metres from the proposed development site. The enclosure cropmark has an internal diameter of 23 metres and has been suggested as a possible site or part of the Cistercian grange of Keithick. There is the possibility that archaeological remains associated with these cropmarks survive within the proposed development site.

Site Evaluation (Illus 4 and 5)

Nineteen trenches measuring 20m by 2m were opened across the development area to provide a 6% sample. Parts of the site were deeply flooded and therefore not available for trenching (see Illustration 4).

Trench 1 (Illus 6)

This trench was aligned north east to south west and was 20m long by 2m wide. Along its length 0.30m of grey brown silty clay overlay crushed red sandstone and yellow sand and gravel (natural). Nothing of archaeological interest was located.

Trench 2 (Illus 7)

This trench was aligned north west to south east and was 20m long by 2m wide. Along its length 0.30m of grey brown silty clay was exposed overlying crushed red sandstone and yellow sand (natural). Nothing of archaeological interest was located.

Trench 3 (Illus 8)

This trench was aligned north west to south east and was 20m long by 2m wide. Along its length 0.32m of grey brown silty clay was exposed overlying crushed red sandstone (natural). Nothing of archaeological interest was located.

Trench 4 (Illus 9)

This trench was aligned north west to south east and was 20m long by 2m wide. Along its length 0.35m of grey brown silty clay was exposed overlying yellow sand and gravel (natural). Nothing of archaeological interest was located.

Trench 5 (Illus 10)

This trench was aligned south west to north east and was 20m long by 2m wide. Along its length 0.50m of grey brown silty clay was exposed overlying crushed red sandstone (natural). Nothing of archaeological interest was located.

Trench 6 (Illus 11)

This trench was aligned north north west to south south east and was 20m long by 2m wide. At its eastern end 0.32m of grey brown silty clay was exposed overlying crushed red sandstone (natural), at its western end 0.50m of grey brown silty clay was exposed overlying crushed red sandstone (natural). Nothing of archaeological interest was located.

Trench 7 (Illus 12)

This trench was aligned north north west to south south east and was 20m long by 2m wide. Along its length 0.30m of grey brown silty clay was exposed overlying crushed red sandstone. Nothing of archaeological interest was located.

Trench 8 (Illus 13)

This trench was aligned north north east to south south west and was 20m long by 2m wide. 0.34m of grey brown silty clay was exposed overlying 0.76m of light brown silty clay which in turn overlay, crushed red sandstone, sand and gravel and patches of grey silt (natural). A ceramic field drain was visible in the north facing section at a depth of 0.70m. Nothing of archaeological interest was located.

Trench 9 (Illus 14)

This trench was aligned north north west to south south east and was 20m long by 2m wide. 0.30m of grey brown silty clay was exposed overlying crushed red sandstone (natural). Nothing of archaeological interest was located.

Trench 10 (Illus 15)

This trench was aligned south south east to north north west and was 20m long by 2m wide. 0.20m of grey brown silty clay was exposed overlying 0.40m of brown silty clay above crushed red sand stone and yellow sand and gravel (natural). A field drain filled with loose stones was located at its north western end. Nothing of archaeological interest was located.

Trench 11 (Illus 16)

This trench was aligned north north east to south south west and was 20m long by 2m wide. 0.45m of grey brown silty clay was exposed above 0.46m of brown silty clay which overlay crushed red sandstone and yellow sand (natural). Nothing of archaeological interest was located.

Trench 12 (Illus 17)

This trench was aligned north north east to south south west and was 20m long by 2m wide. 0.23m of grey brown silty clay was exposed above 0.26m of brown silty clay which overlay yellow sand and gravel (natural). Nothing of archaeological interest was located.

Trench 13 (Illus 18)

This trench was aligned north north east to south south west and was 20m long by 2m wide. 0.24m of grey brown silty clay was exposed overlying 0.26m of brown silty clay which overlay yellow sand, gravel and crushed red sandstone (natural). Nothing of archaeological interest was located.

Trench 14 (Illus 19)

This trench was aligned north north west to south south east and was 20m long by 2m wide. 0.41m of grey brown silty clay was exposed above 0.30m of grey silty clay which overlay orange brown sand and gravel (natural). Nothing of archaeological interest was located.

Trench 15 (Illus 20)

This trench was aligned north north west to south south east and was 20m long by 2m wide. At its south end 0.29m of grey brown silty clay overlay 0.24m of grey silty clay which overlay orange brown sand and gravel (natural). At its north end 0.31m of grey brown silty clay over lay orange brown sand and gravel (natural). Nothing of archaeological interest was located.

Trench 16 (Illus 21)

This trench was aligned north north east to south south west and was 20m long by 2m wide. At its south end 0.31m of grey brown silty clay overlay 0.24m of brown silty clay which overlay crushed red sandstone and yellow sand and gravel (natural). Nothing of archaeological interest was located.

Trench 17 (Illus 22)

This trench was aligned south east to north west and was 20m long by 2m wide. At its south eastern end 0.30m of grey brown silty clay was exposed overlying crushed red sandstone (natural). At its north western end 0.45m of grey brown silty clay was exposed overlying crushed red sandstone (natural). Nothing of archaeological interest was located.

Trench 18 (Illus 23)

This trench was aligned north north east to south south west and was 20m long by 2m wide. 0.38m of grey brown silty clay was exposed overlying crushed red sandstone (natural). Nothing of archaeological interest was located.

Trench 19 (Illus 24)

This trench was aligned south east to north west and was 20m long by 2m wide. Along its length 0.30m of grey brown silty clay was exposed overlying yellow gravel and sand (natural). Nothing of archaeological interest was located.

Conclusions

All of the 19 trenches excavated located varying depths of plough and subsoils above natural sand, gravel and crushed red sandstone. No archaeological deposits or features were exposed.

Recommendations

Nothing of archaeological interest was revealed in this 6% evaluation of the proposed development area and the author feels that no further work is required prior to the sites redevelopment. The final decision on the need for any further work however rests with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Gerry the machine driver for his help with this evaluation.

Cartographic Sources (<http://www.nls.uk/maps>)

Ordnance Survey Maps - Six-inch 1st edition, Scotland, 1843-1882

James Stobie 1805 'The Counties of Perth and Clackmannan'

Illustration List

Illustration 1 Site Location (red circle) (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2013. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628)

Illustration 2 'Kethick' as marked on Stobie's map of 1783, red dot indicates location of development site (©Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)

Illustration 3 Mains of Keithick as marked on 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1862, red dot indicates location of development (©Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)

Illustration 4 Trench location plan showing development area outlined in red, flooded areas in blue and position of site of Mains of Keithick enclosure (MPK 5329).

Illustration 5 General view of site during evaluation looking south west, red arrow indicates location of cropmark

Illustration 6 Trench 1 fully excavated looking north east showing natural crushed sandstone and sand and gravel

Illustration 7 Trench 2 looking north west showing natural sand and gravel and crushed red sandstone

Illustration 8 Trench 3 looking fully excavated looking north west showing natural sand and gravel

Illustration 9 Trench 4 fully excavated looking north west showing natural crushed red sandstone

Illustration 10 Trench 5 totally excavated looking north north east showing natural crushed red sandstone

Illustration 11 Trench 6 totally excavated looking north north east showing natural crushed red sandstone

Illustration 12 Trench 7 totally excavated looking north north west showing natural crushed red sandstone

Illustration 13 Trench 8 looking south east showing deep plough and sub soils above natural crushed red sandstone and black silt

Illustration 14 Trench 9 looking south east showing natural sand and gravel and crushed red sandstone

Illustration 15 Trench 10 looking north west showing natural crushed red sandstone, field drain visible in foreground

Illustration 16 Trench 11 looking north north east showing natural sand and gravel and crushed red sandstone, field drain visible in foreground

Illustration 17 Trench 12 looking north east showing natural sand and gravel

Illustration 18 Trench 13 looking north north east showing natural crushed red sandstone

Illustration 19 Trench 14 looking south east showing natural sand and gravel

Illustration 20 Trench 15 looking north east showing natural sands and gravels

Illustration 21 Trench 16 looking north east showing natural sand and gravel

Illustration 22 Trench 17 looking south east showing natural crushed red sandstone and sand and gravel

Illustration 23 Trench 18 totally excavated looking south west showing natural crushed red sandstone

Illustration 24 Trench 19 totally excavated looking north west showing natural crushed red sandstone and sand and gravel

Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	New biogas digester, Mains of Keithick Farm
PROJECT CODE:	KTK01
PARISH:	Coupar Angus
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Derek Hall
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Derek Hall, archaeologist and ceramic specialist
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	NO23NW 10
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Enclosure
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO 2079 3885
START DATE	16th April 2013
END DATE	17th April 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	19 trenches representing a 6% sample of the proposed development area were opened by mechanical excavator. All of the trenches located ploughsoil and an underlying subsoil overlying natural crushed red sandstone and sand and gravel varying in depth from 0.30m to a maximum depth of 0.90m below modrn ground level. Aside from an occasional field drain nothing of archaeological interest was located.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Keithick Biogas Developments Ltd
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	N/A
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	34 Glenfarg Terrace, Perth, PH2 0AP
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	NMRS
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Derek.hall1@blueyonder.co.uk

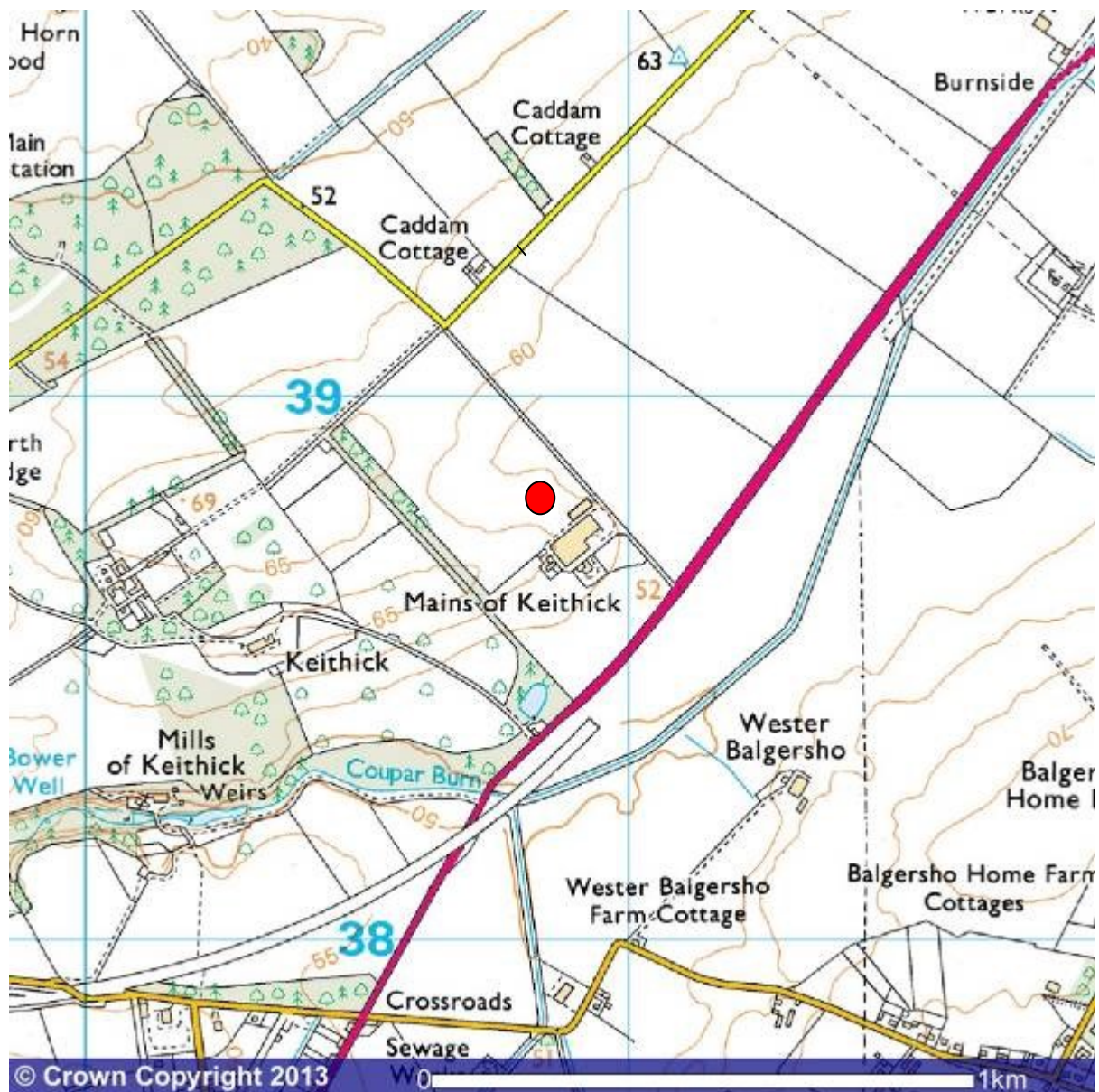


Illustration 1 Site Location (red circle) (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2013. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628)

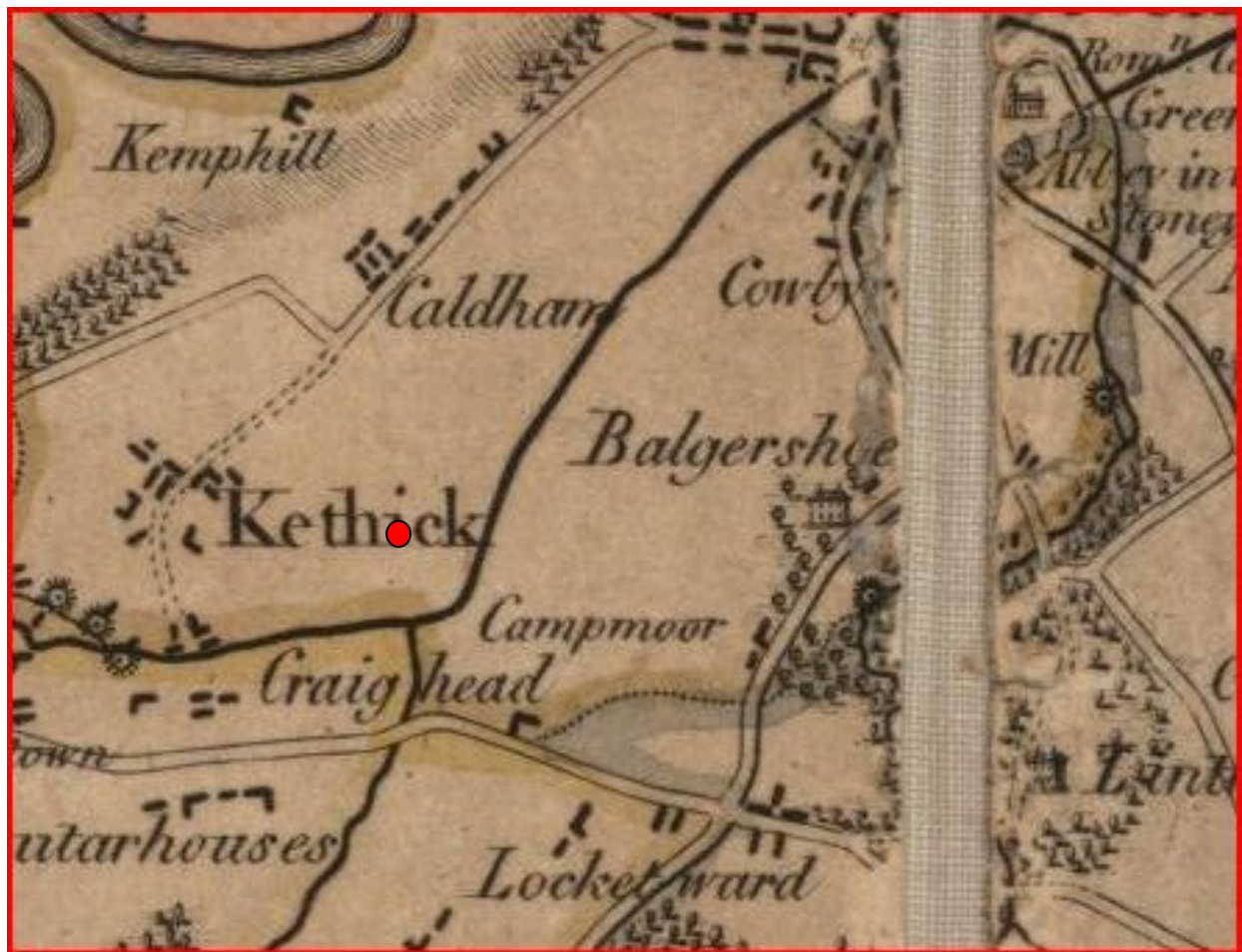


Illustration 2 'Kethick' as marked on Stobie's map of 1783, red dot indicates location of development site (©Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)



Illustration 3 Mains of Keithick as marked on 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1862, red dot indicates location of development (©Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)

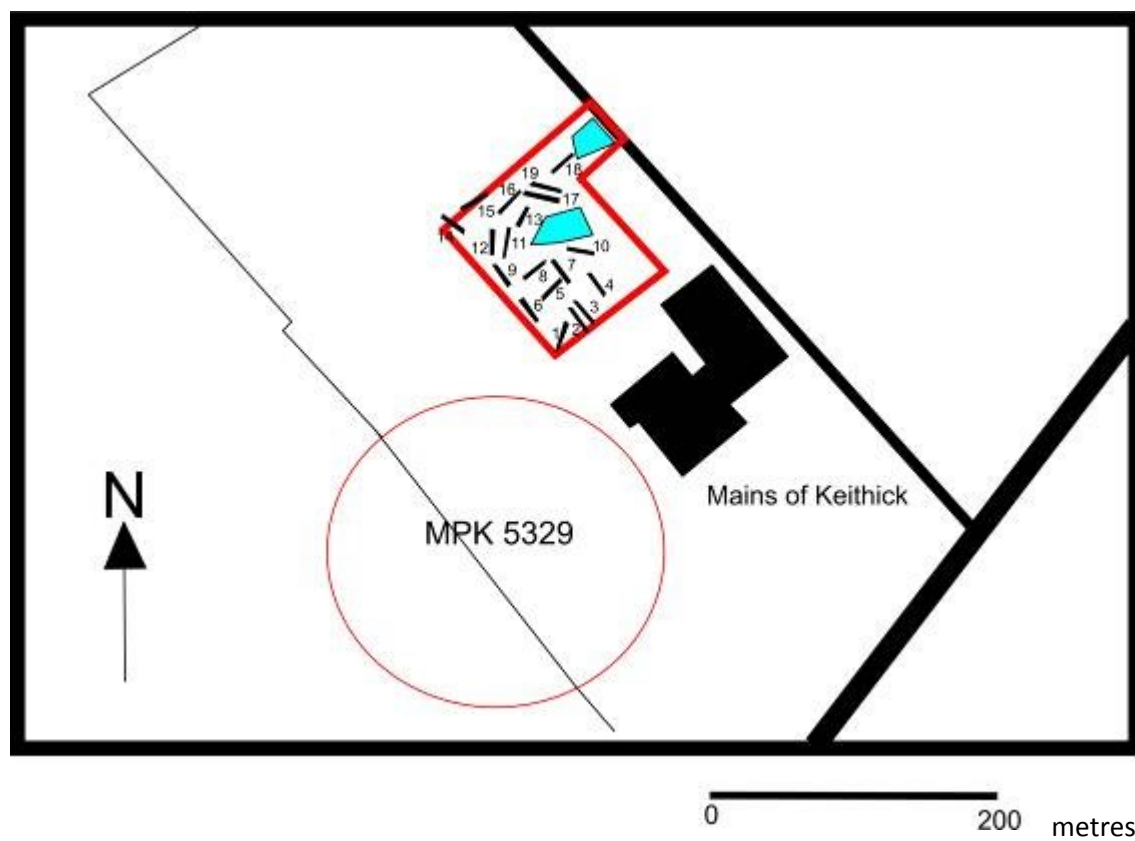


Illustration 4 Trench location plan showing development area outlined in red, flooded areas in blue and position of site of Mains of Keithick enclosure (MPK 5329).



Illustration 5 General view of site during evaluation looking south west, red arrow indicates location of cropmark



Illustration 6 Trench 1 fully excavated looking north east showing natural crushed sandstone and sand and gravel



Illustration 7 Trench 2 looking north west showing natural sand and gravel and crushed red sandstone



Illustration 8 Trench 3 looking fully excavated looking north west showing natural sand and gravel



Illustration 9 Trench 4 fully excavated looking north west showing natural crushed red sandstone



Illustration 10 Trench 5 totally excavated looking north north east showing natural crushed red sandstone



Illustration 11 Trench 6 totally excavated looking north north east showing natural crushed red sandstone



Illustration 12 Trench 7 totally excavated looking north north west showing natural crushed red sandstone



Illustration 13 Trench 8 looking south east showing deep plough and sub soils above natural crushed red sandstone and black silt



Illustration 14 Trench 9 looking south east showing natural sand and gravel and crushed red sandstone



Illustration 15 Trench 10 looking north west showing natural crushed red sandstone, field drain visible in foreground



Illustration 16 Trench 11 looking north north east showing natural sand and gravel and crushed red sandstone, field drain visible in foreground



Illustration 17 Trench 12 looking north east showing natural sand and gravel



Illustration 18 Trench 13 looking north north east showing natural crushed red sandstone



Illustration 19 Trench 14 looking south east showing natural sand and gravel



Illustration 20 Trench 15 looking north east showing natural sands and gravels



Illustration 21 Trench 16 looking north east showing natural sand and gravel



Illustration 22 Trench 17 looking south east showing natural crushed red sandstone and sand and gravel



Illustration 23 Trench 18 totally excavated looking south west showing natural crushed red sandstone



Illustration 24 Trench 19 totally excavated looking north west showing natural crushed red sandstone and sand and gravel