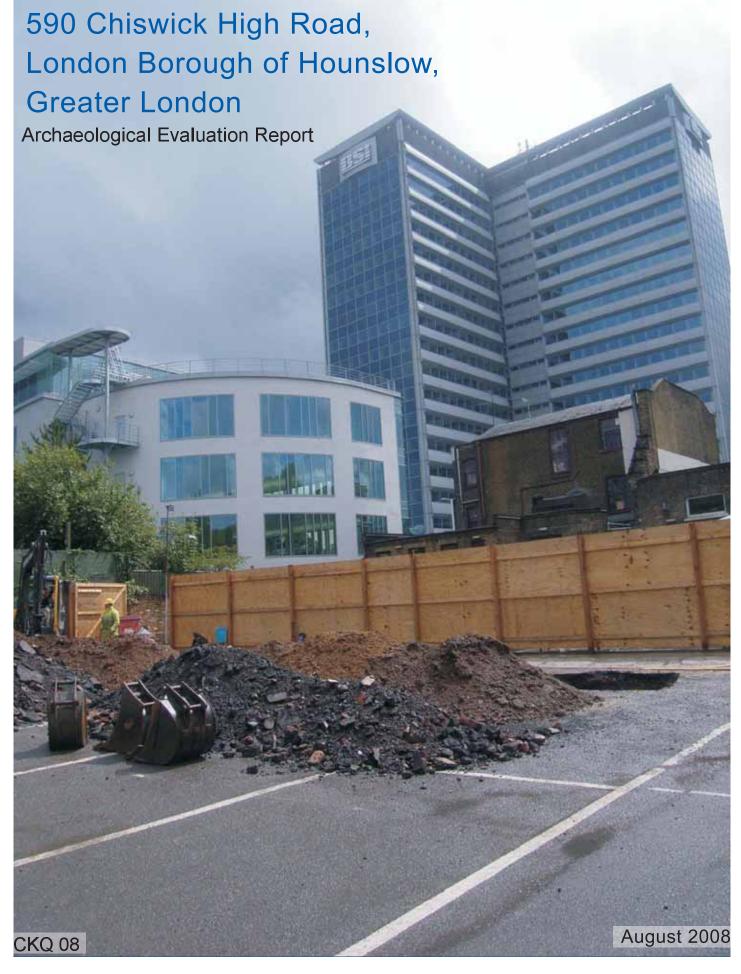
# Wessex Archaeology







# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Prepared for

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by

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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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Cover photo: General location shot of Trench 1 (viewed from the north-west)

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

#### Summary

Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by Bayton Bay Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a c. 0.1Ha area of land at 590 Chiswick High Road in the London Borough of Hounslow, centred on NGR 519707, 178592. The proposed development includes the construction of a terrace of four houses and the refurbishment of the John Bull public house, built in 1853, which still occupies the southern part of the site. The fieldwork comprised the machine excavation of two evaluation trenches comprising a 7% sample (by area) of the 600m² of the site available for evaluation and 4% of the site overall. The fieldwork was undertaken on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> August 2008.

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts of note were recorded from the archaeological evaluation. All the recorded deposits overlying the natural gravel (lying at 1.5 – 1.8m depth) have been deposited at some point in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, which is further supported by the presence of crushed brick rubble deposits. These brick rubble deposits may be derived from the demolition of outbuildings or livery stables associated with the John Bull public house in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The finds are all residual and reflect the disturbed nature of the site's stratigraphic sequence and are almost entirely post medieval in date (17<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century) aside from stratified single pieces of undiagnostic, prehistoric worked flint and burnt flint.

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

# **Acknowledgements**

The fieldwork was commissioned by Bayton Bay Limited and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Henry Nash in this respect. We would also like to thank Diane Walls (GLAAS) for her advice and comments.

The fieldwork and post-excavation work was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr. The fieldwork was directed by Chris Ellis (Senior Project Officer) with the assistance of Sophie Nias-Cooper (Project Assistant). This report was compiled by Chris Ellis with contributions from Lorraine Mepham (Finds). The figures were prepared by S. E. James.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Scope of Document

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Bayton Bay Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a c. 0.1ha area of land at 590 Chiswick High Road in the London Borough of Hounslow (**Figure 1**), hereafter referred to as 'the Site'. The fieldwork comprised the machine excavation of two evaluation trenches comprising a c.4% sample of the development area. The fieldwork was undertaken on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> August 2008. This report summarises the results of the archaeological investigations of the Site.

#### 1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The Site comprises a sub-rectangular parcel of land, located at 590 Chiswick High Road, London Borough of Hounslow, Greater London (National Grid Reference (NGR) 519707178592, (**Figure 1**). The John Bull public house occupies the southern part of the Site and was built in 1853. The Site is bounded by properties fronting Chiswick High Road to the west, properties in Chiswick Park to the north and east (formerly the London Bus Works) and Chiswick High Road to the south.

## 1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 An archaeological evaluation was required as a condition of the planning consent (00248/590/P9) granted for the re-development of the Site.
- 1.3.2 Development proposals are for the erection of a terrace of four, two bed houses with associated landscaping and parking and conversion of the upper floors of the John Bull public house, including an extension bordering the southern part of the Site.
- 1.3.3 This fieldwork followed an agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2008) following discussions with Diane Walls of Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) and was produced to detail the objectives, methods and resourcing of the archaeological evaluation which is intended to inform any subsequent archaeological work that may be necessary.

#### 1.4 Geology

1.4.1 The underlying geology of the Site consists of Kempton Park Gravels (Bridgland 1994, 85), one of the most recent of a series of gravel terraces laid down by the Thames in the Pleistocene epoch. These overlie the London Clay, a much older Eocene epoch deposit. The Site is generally flat, lying at c. 9.4m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) though increases slightly in height to the south

#### 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 Prehistoric remains are frequent throughout the general area. A Lower Palaeolithic hand axe and flake was found at Grove Park, Chiswick, in an area of Kempton Park Gravel and further prehistoric remains have been recorded from the River Thames near Chiswick Eyot.
- 2.1.2 The Site lies adjacent to a known Late Bronze Age settlement, which has been observed at the former London Bus Works in Chiswick. Archaeological works on the LRT site showed the settlement to be substantial, and to extend for an unknown distance to the east, south and west.
- 2.1.3 Excavation at the former Valor Works, Corney Reach, in 1995 to the south east of the Site provided evidence of Neolithic flints occurring over a wide area. The only Neolithic feature found was a single pit. Roman pottery and a pit was found to the south. Also found at the South end of the site was an inhumation dated by Accelerated Mass Spectroscopy to 450-820, and 560-760 by radiocarbon dating.
- 2.1.4 The route of Chiswick High Street is thought to follow that of the main Roman road from London to Silchester.
- 2.1.5 Archaeological evaluation undertaken at 22-25 Chiswick High Road was undertaken in 1999. There were no finds of archaeological significance. Overlying the natural sandy clay was a ploughsoil deposit probably of 18th century date, which also filled a narrow linear feature thought to be a bedding trench.
- 2.1.6 The John Bull (Hotel) public house was built in 1853 and still occupies the southern part of the Site, bordering Chiswick High Road. Originally billiards, pool and snooker facilities were advertised in a saloon next door. From at least the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and possibly earlier, the public house offered livery stable services, most probably for the cabs it also advertised. These no doubt serviced passengers from Gunnersbury railway station, lying on Chiswick High Road, opposite the public house.

#### 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1.1 The objective of the evaluation was to establish and nature, extent and state of preservation of any archaeological remains that may survive on the Site and that may be threatened by the proposed development works in order to inform the nature of any further works necessary.

#### 4 EVALUATION STRATEGY

#### 4.1 Trial Trenching

4.1.1 It was originally proposed to evaluate the Site through the excavation of a single trench measuring 2m x 15m. However, under instruction from Diane Walls (GLAAS) a further trench (**Trench 2**) was excavated in the 'gardens' area of the proposed development, in the northern part of the Site (**Figure 1**). Both trenches were excavated to the top of significant archaeological remains or to the level of the underlying natural gravels, whichever were encountered first. The trenches were machine excavated using a 5 ton mechanical excavator with rubber tracks and a range of buckets, including a bladed ditching bucket. All machining was undertaken under continual archaeological supervision.

4.1.2 All excavation was conducted in compliance with the standards outlined in the relevant GLAAS Guidance Papers and the Institute of Field Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (as amended 1994).

#### 5 RESULTS

#### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This section summarises the primary findings of the evaluation. A detailed summary of the evaluation trench stratigraphic sequences and deposits are listed in the trench summary tables in **Appendix 1**.

#### 5.2 Natural deposits

5.2.1 The natural geology (Kempton Park Gravel) was encountered at 7.83m (aOD) in Trench 1 and 7.55m (aOD) in Trench 2 suggesting either a natural slope in the gravel geology or a greater level of post-medieval disturbance in the northern part of the Site. The natural was characterised by a sterile and homogenous light orange/brown coarse sand matrix containing common, moderately well-sorted chert gravel.

#### 5.3 Site Formation Sequence

- 5.3.1 Overlying the natural gravel was a sequence of between 1.5 1.8m of deposits (**Figure 2**, **Plate 2**) which contained residual 17<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> century material, representing a major disturbance of the Site, probably in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 5.3.2 The lower parts of the sequence of both trenches are comprised of 0.3 0.5m of light clayey sand or sandy clay (106, 207, 208, 210) containing chert gravel and coal fragments. These inclusions and the gleyed sand mottles and lenses suggest a mixed origin. Single pieces of undiagnostic (prehistoric) worked flint and ?17<sup>th</sup> century pottery were recorded from 208. In the upper part of 208, only at the very east of Trench 2 (not seen in section), a deposit of fine crushed brick rubble (earlier than 105, 205) was clearly discernible. Between 208-210 a sterile but redeposited natural sandy gravel (209) was recorded.
- 5.3.3 Overlying **207** (only in Trench 2) a compacted dark reddish-brown fine silty sand (**206**) was recorded which contained coal and brick fragments suggesting it may be redeposited natural gravel, with significant recent inclusions.
- 5.3.4 In both trenches a very discernible finely crushed brick layer (105, 205) was recorded in the easternmost parts suggesting the demolition of structures in this part of the Site. These deposits, as well as the earlier crushed brick deposit in Trench 2 may be derived from the demolition of outbuildings or livery stables behind the John Bull public house.
- 5.3.5 Overlying these deposits were two phases (**103**, **203** and **104**, **204**) of well formed and compacted homogenous, horizontally laid deposits of greyish-brown silty clay which contained chert gravel, brick and coal fragments,  $17^{th} 19^{th}$  century pottery and clay pipe fragments. The texture, homogeneity and well formed, compacted nature of these deposits suggests they were possibly 'garden soils'.
- 5.3.6 Overlying these 'garden soils' laid a 'disturbed ground' deposit (**102**, **202**) comprising a very dark grey/black fine sand matrix containing common clinker and coal fragments as well as brick and glass fragments. This probably represents the dumping of hearth waste onto gardens or open ground at the rear of terraced properties nearby.

5.3.7 The latest part of the sequence comprised a 0.1m thick modern tarmac surface (100, 200) overlying its 'bedding layer'; a layer of brick rubble hard-core (101, 201).

## 5.4 Archaeological Features

- 5.4.1 Only two cut features, both of modern date, were recorded in the evaluation (107, 212). In Trench 1 a 1.60m wide, 1.33m(+) long and 0.96m(+) deep, north-south aligned, sub-rectangular cut with vertical sides was recorded, cut from only 0.54m depth (sealed by 102) Figure 2, Plate 1. It was filled with a very mixed backfill material (108) containing animal bone, glass, post-medieval, pottery, roof tile fragments, degraded iron objects and sheeting and slag.
- 5.4.2 The second cut feature (212) was recorded at the east end of Trench 2 (Figure 2), sealed by disturbed ground 202. It was 0.67(+) wide and 0.46m deep, with a near-vertical (west) side and a flat base. It contained a mixed backfill (213) which contained tile, glass, coal and brick fragments and cement mortar lumps.

## 6 FINDS

- 6.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered, deriving from both of the evaluation trenches. Most finds were unstratified. Quantities by context are given below in **Table 1**.
- 6.1.2 With the exception of a single piece of worked flint (a possible core fragment, not chronologically distinctive), and a single piece of burnt, unworked flint (undatable), all the finds recovered are of post-medieval date. These comprised pottery and clay tobacco pipe stems.
- 6.1.3 The pottery has a potential date range from at least the 17<sup>th</sup> century through to the modern period. Most wares, however, belong to the modern period (*c.* 1800+), including stonewares and refined whitewares. One of the stonewares (unstratified in Trench 2) comes from a Bristol-glazed vessel with the maker's stamp of Powell of Bristol William Powell was in fact responsible for the invention of Bristol glaze in around 1835, and this particular stamp was used from 1830 onwards.
- 6.1.4 In terms of dating evidence for the Site, in Trench 1 stratified finds (pottery and clay pipe) came from 'garden soil' layer **104**; these showed the chronological mix consistent with such a provenance, the latest material dating to the modern period. In Trench 2 the finds from redeposited layer **208** comprised the single piece of prehistoric worked flint, and a small sherd of Border ware (?17<sup>th</sup> century). All other finds were unstratified.

Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	Burnt Flint	Clay Pipe	Pottery	Worked Flint
104		3/12	10/774	
208			1/2	1/19
Tr 1 unstrat	1/13	3/12	7/266	
Tr 2 unstrat		1/1	3/87	
TOTAL	1/13	7/25	21/1129	1/19

#### 7 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1.1 No deposits suitable for palaeoenvironmental sampling were encountered during the evaluation therefore no samples were taken.

#### 8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1.1 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts of note have been recorded from the archaeological evaluation of the Site. All of the deposits which overlie the natural gravels to a depth of 1.5 – 1.8m from the present ground surface (7.55 – 7.83m aOD) contain almost exclusively post-medieval material of 17<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century date, aside from single pieces respectively of undiagnostic, prehistoric worked flint and burnt flint. The finds are all residual and reflect the disturbed nature of the Site's stratigraphic sequence, all having been redeposited at some point in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as is further supported by a fine crushed brick rubble deposits close the natural geology in Trench 2. The recording of crushed brick rubble deposits in the lower (Trench 2) and middle (Trenches 1 and 2) parts of the stratigraphic sequence of only the easternmost parts of the trenches suggests the demolition of brick structures in this area of the Site or close by. These deposits probably reflect the demolition of outbuildings, possibly livery stables, which are know to have existed behind the John Bull public house in the late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### 9 THE ARCHIVE

9.1.1 The project archive from the present fieldwork has been compiled into a stable, fully cross-referenced and indexed archive in accordance with Appendix 6 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, English Heritage 1991). The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology, Salisbury, under the project code **CKQ 08** (**WA 69960**). The full list of the contexts of this archive are detailed in **Appendix 2** of this report. The project archive will be deposited with the Museum of London in due course.

#### 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bridgland, D. R., 1994, *Quaternary of the Thames. Geological Conservation Review Series No. 7.* London.
- Wessex Archaeology, 2008, 590 Chiswick High Road, London Borough of Hounslow, Greater London: Project Design for an archaeological evaluation. Unpublished client report **69960.01** (July 2008).

# 11 APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH SUMMARY TABLES

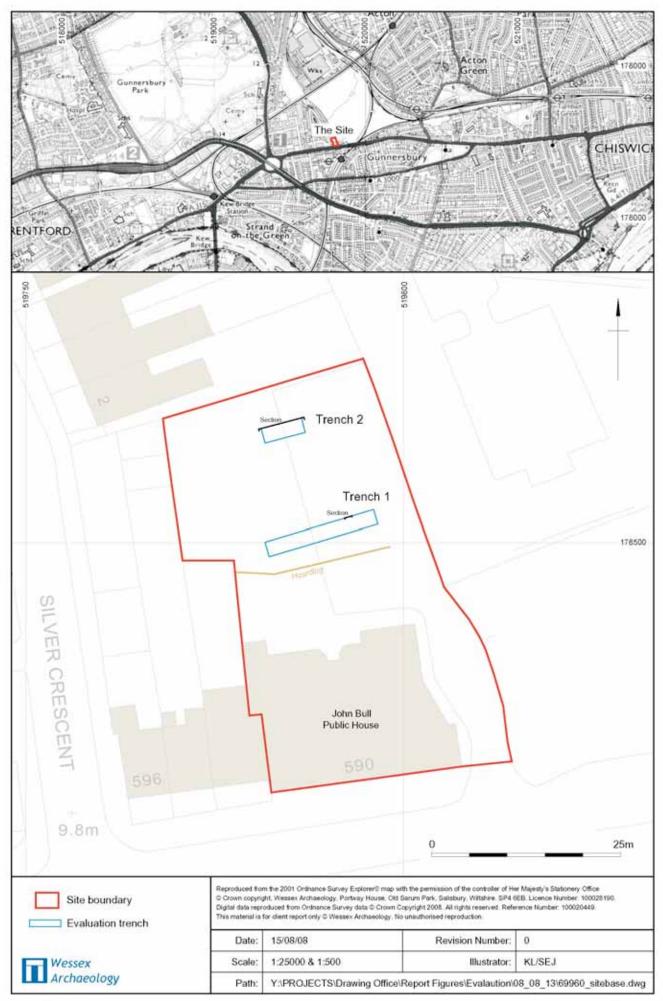
All archaeological deposits/features shown in **bold**. All (+) indicate deposits/features not fully excavated. 'Depth' equals depth from present ground surface.

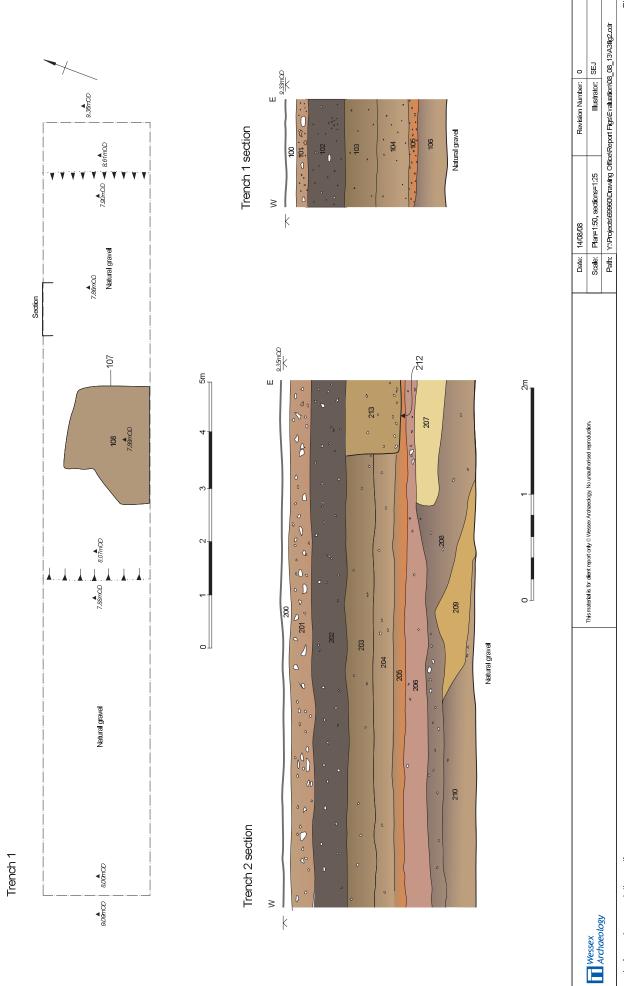
Trench No. 1	Co-ordinates: (NW) 519781.64E, 178500.08N; (NE) 519796.02E, 178504.38N Ground Level (m aOD): 9.33	Dimensions:14.5x1.8m Max.depth: 1.5m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
100	Tarmac – surface to modern car park.	0 – 0.1
101	Hard core – bedding layer for 100. A pale yellowish-brown very coarse sandy 'gritty' cementatious mortar containing very common brick frag's (<0.13m).	0.10 – 0.21
102	Disturbed ground – a very dark grey/black slightly clayey fine sand matrix with very common brick and glass frag's (<10mm) and sparse, rounded chert gravel (<15mm). Sparse clinker and coal frag's (<5mm). In places at the base there is a <i>c</i> . 0.14m thick layer of medium/coarse clayey sand.	0.21 – 0.54
103	'Garden soil' (upper) – cut by <b>107</b> . A well formed mid greyish-brown silty clay with rare brick frag's (20mm), rounded chert gravel (<20mm) and rare coal frag's (<5mm).	0.54 - 0.82
104	'Garden soil' (lower) – a well formed light greyish-brown coarse silty clay (lighter than <b>103</b> ). Slightly more gravel and brick frag's (sparse) than <b>103</b> . Contained clay pipe and 17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> century pottery.	0.82 – 1.22
105	Crushed brick layer – only seen at the easternmost c.3.5 of trench but thickening to the east to 0.4m thick. A fine deposit of brick dust and crushed brick, comprised of subangular/angular brick frag's (<80mm).	0.82 – 1.22
Disturbed ground - a light yellowish-brown clayey (medium sand with common, very light grey gleyed medium sand mottles. Common medium orange/brown iron staining and rare coal frag's (<5mm).		1.22 – 1.50
107	Cut of modern feature – sealed below 102, cuts <b>103</b> . Filled with <b>108</b> . A 1.6m wide and 1.33m(+) long, N/S aligned subrectangular cut with vertical sides.	0.54 – 1.50(+)
108	Fill of <b>107</b> , below 102. Backfill, a very dark greyish-brown coarse sandy 'gritty' matrix with common, rounded chert gravel (<30mm). Contains animal bone, glass, Post-medieval pottery, degraded iron objects and sheeting frag's and slag, roof tile frag's, clinker, coal, ash.	-
109	Natural sandy gravel - a sterile and homogenous, light orange/brown coarse sand matrix containing common sub-angular/rounded/sub-rounded moderately well sorted chert gravel (<0.1m, mostly <15mm).	1.50(+)

Trench No. 2	Co-ordinates: (NW) 519781.15E, 178515.10N; (NE) 519786.46E, 178516.51N Ground Level (m aOD): 9.35	Dimensions:4.7x1.82m Max.depth: 1.84m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
200	Tarmac – surface to modern car park.	0 – 0.10
201	Hard core – bedding layer for 200. A pale yellowish-brown very coarse sandy 'gritty' cementatious mortar containing very common brick frag's (<0.13m).	0.10 – 0.28
202	Disturbed ground – a very dark grey/black slightly clayey fine sand matrix with very common brick and glass frag's (<10mm) and sparse, rounded chert gravel (<15mm). Sparse clinker and coal frag's (<5mm).	0.28 - 0.63
203	'Garden soil' (upper) – a well formed mid greyish-brown silty clay with rare brick frag's (20mm), rounded chert gravel (<20mm) and rare coal frag's (<5mm).	0.63 – 0.92
204	'Garden soil' (lower) – cut by <b>212</b> . A well formed light greyish-brown coarse silty clay (lighter than <b>203</b> ). Slightly more gravel and brick frag's (sparse) than <b>203</b> .	0.92 – 1.06
205	Crushed brick layer – only seen at the easternmost <i>c</i> .3.5 of trench but thickening to the east to 0.4m thick. A fine deposit of brick dust and crushed brick, comprised of subangular/angular brick frag's (<80mm).	1.06 – 1.16
206	Compacted sand layer - a dark reddish-brown very compacted fine silty sand with rare sub-rounded chert gravel (<60mm, mostly <20mm). Also contains very rare coal and brick frag's (<10mm).	1.16 – 1.36
207	Disturbed ground – a light yellowish brown silty clay with rare coal frag's (<5mm). Only seen in the easternmost c.1.35m of trench.	1.36 – 1.48
208	Mixed redeposited layer – below <b>207</b> . A light yellowish-brown sandy clay matrix with abundant light grey sandy silt mottles and lenses. Contains rare sub-angular chert gravel (<20mm) and coal frag's (<5mm). In upper sections contained a crushed brick deposit. Contained ?17 <sup>th</sup> pottery and a piece of undiagnostic prehistoric worked flint	1.36 – 1.84
209	Redeposited sandy gravel – below <b>208</b> , above <b>210</b> . A sterile and homogenous a light orange/brown coarse sand matrix containing common sub-angular/rounded/sub-rounded moderately well sorted chert gravel (<0.1m, mostly <15mm).	1.27 – 1.64
210	Mixed redeposited layer – below <b>209</b> , identical to <b>208</b> to the east. Only seen in westernmost c.3.5m of trench.	1.32 – 1.75
211	Natural sandy gravel - a sterile and homogenous, light orange/brown coarse sand matrix containing common sub-angular/rounded/sub-rounded moderately well sorted chert gravel (<0.1m, mostly <15mm).	1.80 – 1.84(+)
212	Cut of modern feature — filled with <b>213</b> , cuts <b>204</b> . A 0.67m(+) wide cut with near-vertical flat (west) side seen in north section at the east end of trench only.	0.64 – 1.10
213	Fill of modern feature <b>212</b> – below 202. A dark grey sandy silt with moderate, rounded chert gravel (<60mm) and rare tile, glass, coal, brick frag's and cement mortar lumps (<20mm).	-

# 12 APPENDIX 2 – ARCHIVE INDEX

File No.	NAR	Details	Format	No.
	Cat.			Sheets
1	-	Index to Archive	A4	1
1	Α	Client Report	A4	15
1	Α	Client Report	A4	1
1	В	Day Book (photocopy)	A4	4
1	В	Method Statement	A4	11
1	В	Trial Trench Record	A4	4
1	В	Graphics Register	A4	1
1	В	Dumpy Levels	A4	2
1	В	Site Graphics	A3	2
1	D	Photographic Register	A4	3
2	-	B+W Negatives	35mm	-
2 -		Colour slides	35mm	-
3	- Digital photographs		-	31
FINDS	1 BOX			





Trench plan and representative sections



Plate 1: Trench 1 from the west (scales: 1m, 2m)



Plate 2: Oblique south facing section of Trench 2 (scales: 1m, 2m)

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Wessex Archaeology	Scale:	N/A	Illustrator:	SEJ
Archaeology	Path:	Y:\Projects\69960\Drawing Office\Report Figs\Evaluation\08_08_13\A2fig3.cdr		





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