



Figure 15: Trench 3 looking west



Figure 16: south facing section of ditch [16]



Figure 17: north facing section of gully [18]

Trench 4

Trench 4 measured 17m long and was the deepest trench measuring 1.1m deep in parts. An east to west orientated metal service pipe was found at the northern end. Groundwater flooded the southern end, which hindered the excavation of the features.

A 0.1m thick layer of dark brownish grey silty clay **(24)** containing flecks of charcoal was found beneath the modern tarmac and rubble. The layer contained fragments of ridge tile and clay pipe stem.

Beneath layer **(24)** were two lighter coloured layers of clay. The upper clay layer **(25)** measured 0.2m thick, was composed of mid yellowy green silty clay and contained a sherd of pottery dated 1800-1900. Beneath it was a layer of light greyish green silty clay **(26)**. Medieval pottery dated 1100-1300, a hand-made brick, animal bones and charred plant remains were found within it. (Figure 20). Layer **(26)** was specifically sampled in order to determine whether it was waterlogged, as it appeared to potentially contain organic matter. The samples did not contain waterlogged plant material although the condition of the animal bone surfaces from this context are suggestive of preservation due to waterlogging. A small number of charred plants including grain and peas were identified within the flots, representing domestic refuse.

At the southern end of the trench, sealed by layer **(26)**, were four ditches, all orientated east to west. The southernmost **[01]** measured 1.2m wide and 0.4m deep. It had concave sides and was filled with a yellowish green silty clay **(02)** which occasionally contained cobbles and small stones. A single cattle tooth was found within the feature. The ditch truncated a smaller ditch **[03]** which measured 0.5m wide and 0.12m deep. It also had concave sides and was filled with a mid-yellowish grey silty clay **(04)**.

To the north of **[03]**, was ditch **[05]** measuring 0.70m wide and 0.30m deep. It had sloping sides and a flat base that deepened to the east. Due to the flooding in the trench, it was not clear if this deeper part represented a separate feature such as a pit or whether the ditch had been re-dug at this point. It was filled with light greyish green silty clay **(06)** which contained cobbles, small stones and pottery dated 1100-1300. The sample taken from the fill of this ditch did not contain any evidence for charred plant remains.

The fourth ditch within this sequence was shallow ditch **[31]**, 0.9m wide and 0.2m deep. It was filled with a light greenish grey silty clay and contained patches of yellow clay **(32)**. The ditch truncated a shallow post hole **[09]** which measured 0.5m wide, 0.15m deep and was filled with a dark brownish green silty clay **(10)** containing small stones (Figure 23). Another post hole **[07]** measuring 0.40m wide, 0.30m deep was found to truncate the top of ditch **[031]**. It was filled with a mid-brownish green silty clay **(08)**.

A double post hole **[11]** and **[13]** was recorded to the north of ditch **[31]**. They were sub-circular with a diameter of 0.4m and a depth of 0.1m. They both had a flat base and were filled with a mid-brownish grey clay **(20)** and **(21)** (Figure 25). A fragment of hand-made brick was found in **[13]**.

Table 4: Detailing the depths of the deposits seen along the length of the trench. The organic clay layers (25) and (26) have been measured as a single deposit.

Interval (m) from SW	0	5	10	15	17
Tarmac+Bedding	0.40 m	0.35 m	0.30 m	0.25 m	0.30 m
Layer (24)	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m	0.10 m	0.10 m
Clay layers (25) +(26)	0.50 m	0.50 m	0.65 m	0.55 m	0.45 m
Top of natural	0.90 m	0.85 m	0.95 m	0.80 m	0.75 m
Base of trench	1.00 m	0.95m	1.10 m	0.90 m	0.90 m

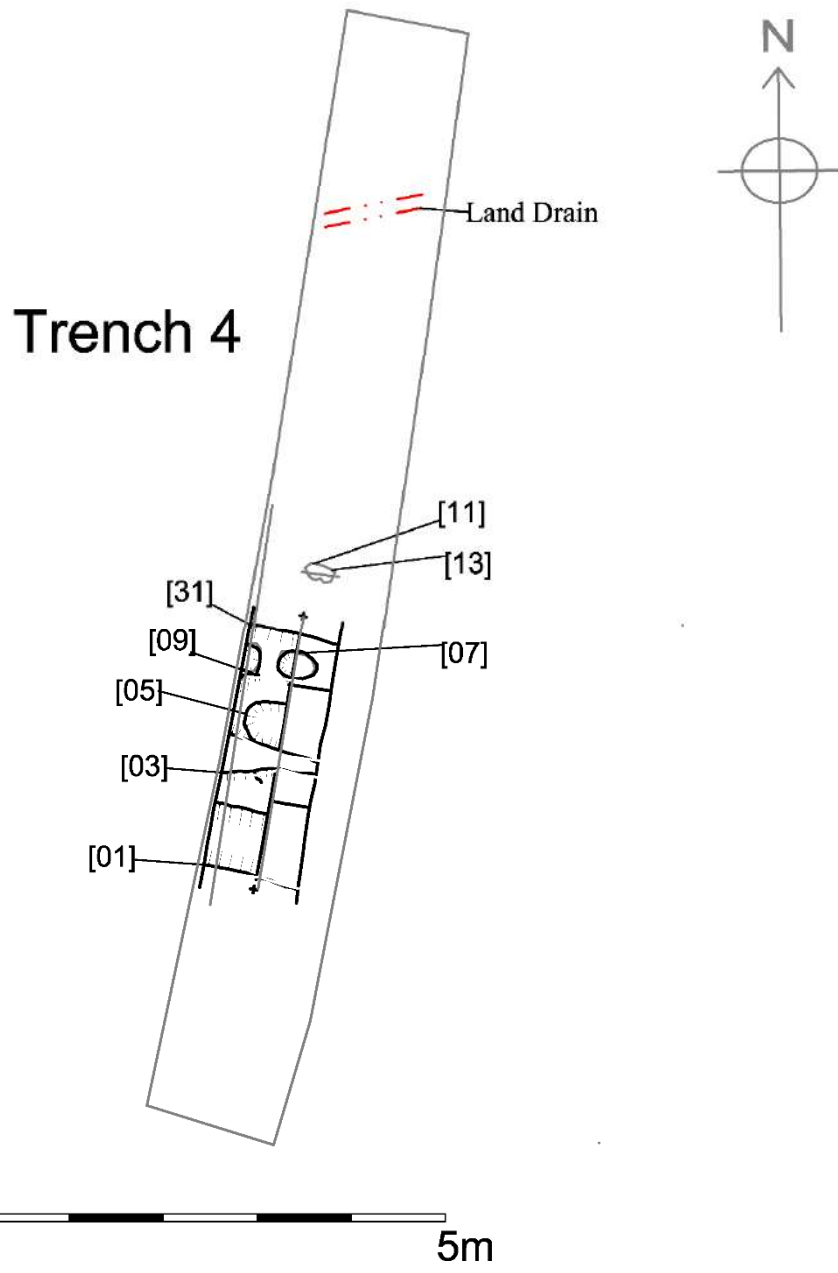


Figure 18: trench 4 overview

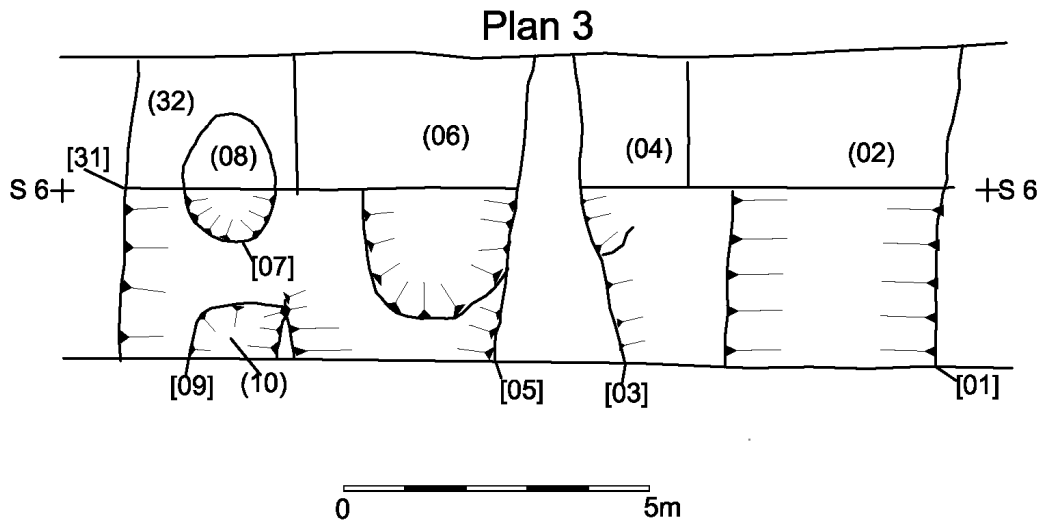
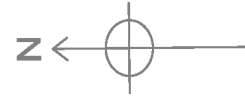


Figure 19: trench 4 plan of features at the southern end of the trench

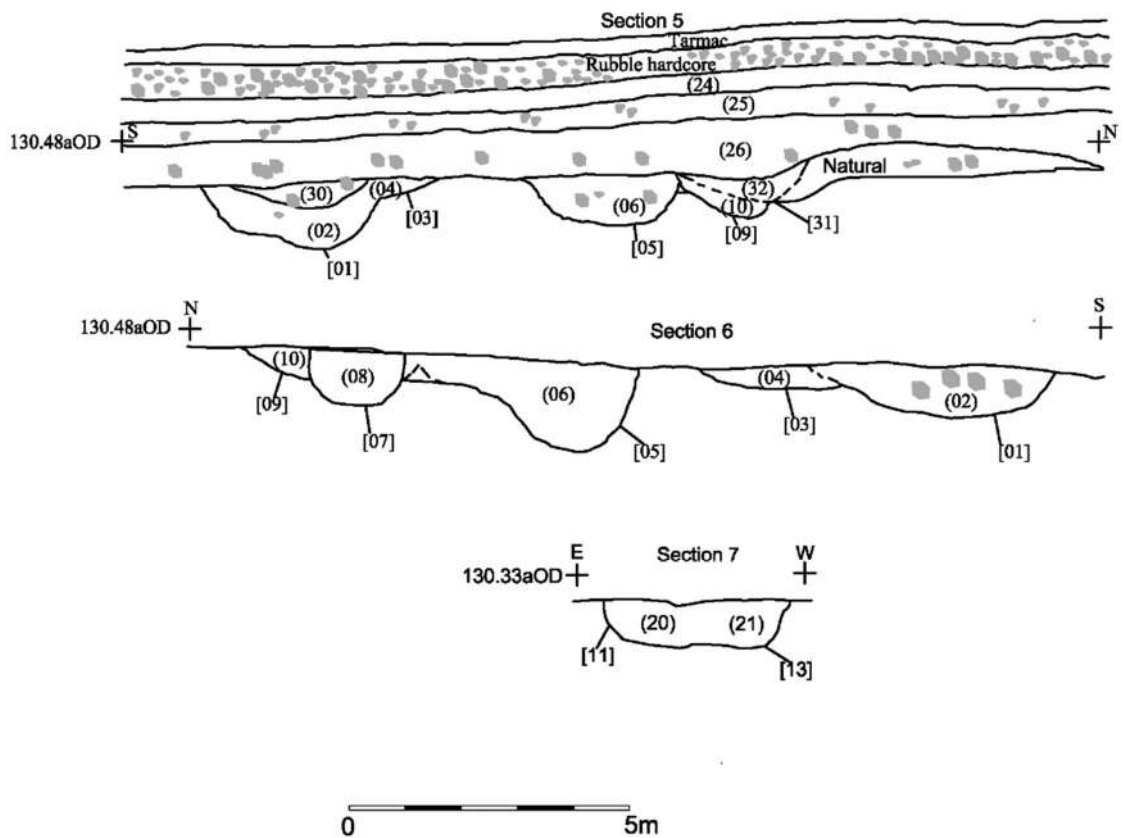


Figure 20: Trench 4 sections



Figure 21: Trench 4 looking south-south east



Figure 22: West facing section of [01] and [03].



Figure 23: East facing section of features [01], [05] and [09].



Figure 24: West facing section of [05] and [07].



Figure 25: North facing section of post holes [11] and [13].

Trench 5

This trench, located between houses no. 38 and 42 High Street, was orientated south-west to north-east and measured 5m long and 1.6m wide. Following removal of the tarmac an organic clay layer (29) was found which was composed of light greyish green silty clay. It resembled (26) in Trench 4 and contained post-medieval pottery dated 1700-1800. No archaeological features were identified (Figure 26).

Table 5 detailing the deposits within Trench 5

Interval (m) from SW	0	5
Tarmac+Bedding	0.35 m	0.45 m
Layer (29)	0.5m	0.5m
Top of natural	0.85m	0.95 m
Base of trench	1.10 m	1 m



Figure 26: Trench 5 looking west

The Finds – Alice Forward

The Pottery

An assemblage of nine medieval and post-medieval sherds, weighing 90g in total was recovered during excavations at Braunston, Rutland. The assemblage is highly abraded and fragmentary but does provide some indication that the features below the levelling layers are likely to be medieval in date.

Methodology

The assemblage has been recorded in line with the *Pottery Standards* (Barclay et al 2016) and follows the recommendations set out in the *CIfA Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (<https://www.archaeologists.net/reporting-toolkit>). Sherds have been recorded by fabric, count and weight in grams within each context. The fabrics terms and codes referred to within the report are those for Leicestershire (Davies and Sawday 1999).

Results

The pottery recovered from the site is typical for medieval and post-medieval ceramics from Rutland and particularly assemblages from Oakham.

A sequence of levelling deposits across the site, including contexts (25)-(27) and (29), produced small quantities of both medieval and post-medieval sherds. All the sherds are highly abraded and fragmentary and the presence of two later post-medieval sherds provides a clear dating indicator for this particular activity.

Shallow ditch, [05], contained two sherds of oxidised sandy ware medieval pottery.

Table 6: Table detailing the pottery within each context

Ctxt	Trench no.	Leicestershire fabric	Fabric name	No. sherds	Weight (g)	Form	Date	Comments
06	4	OS3	Oxidised Sandy	2	27	Jar	1100 1300	-Unglazed body sherds
15	1	LY2	Lyveden B	1	3	Jar	1200 1400	-Unglazed body sherd
25	4	EA6	Iron glazed coarseware	1	29	Bowl	1800 1900	-Dark brown glaze
26	4	OS3	Oxidised Sandy	1	4	Jar	1100 1300	-Unglazed body sherd
26	4	ST2	Stamford ware	1	1	Jug	900 1300	-Very small, abraded sherd
26	4	?	?	1	1	?	Unknown	Very small scrap of pottery, possibly HM and earlier
27	1	BO1	Bourne	1	2	Jug (?)	1250 1300	-Unglazed body sherd
29	5	EA	Unglazed earthenware	1	23	?	1700 1800	-Basal sherd although form not clear

Conclusions

The pottery is overall highly abraded and demonstrates that it is all redeposited, with the medieval pottery mostly residual within the layers. Despite this, it is possible, as indicated by the pottery within shallow ditch [05], that the features excavated in Trench 4 are medieval in date.

The Ceramic Building Material

A small assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered from the excavations at Braunston.

Table 7: Table detailing the ceramic building material within each context

Ctxt	Trench no.	Leicestershire fabric	Fabric name	No. frags	Weight (g)	Thickness (mm)	Comments
13	1	BO2	Bourne	1	8		Possible handmade brick
24	4	EA	Earthenware	4	50	14	Ridge tile with burnt glaze on one edge – fabric contains inclusions
26	4	BO2	Bourne	1	164	21	Possible handmade brick
28	4	EA	Earthenware	1	43	15	Fragment of ridge tile, unglazed, also ferruginous inclusions

The assemblage of CBM is all later medieval and post-medieval in date and indicative of there being a substantial building in the vicinity of the site.

Clay Pipe

A fragment of clay pipe stem weighing 4g was found within layer 24. There are no diagnostic features to the fragment. It's presence in this context does support a later post-medieval date for the levelling layers.

The Animal Bone- William Johnson

Data collection, analysis and report completed 30/03/2023

Introduction

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered by hand during trial trenching at Braunston, Rutland ahead of residential development. A total of 16 fragments of bone and tooth were recovered from three contexts: nine from layer (26), six from layer (27) and a single loose tooth from ditch fill (2).

Methodology

Identification to element and taxa was attempted on all fragments through comparison to reference material housed at the University of Leicester and with the University of Leicester Archaeological Services. Associated and joining fragments were grouped together and recorded as individual specimens. Notes on the presence of epiphyseal fusion, butchery, pathology and gnawing were recorded for each specimen (Table 8). Preservation was recorded following Harland *et al* (2003).

Results

The bone was generally well preserved, particularly the material from layer (26) which was smooth, dark in colour and had a faint odour indicative of burial within waterlogged conditions. Similar surface conditions were observed on fragments from layer (27) although this group was more variable with some more poorly preserved fragments present. Grouping of joining and associated fragments reduced the assemblage count from sixteen fragments to fourteen specimens.

Identifiable bones included a cattle humerus and metatarsal and sheep/goat humerus from layer (26) and a fragmentary pig humerus from layer (27). A loose cattle mandibular molar was

recovered from ditch fill (2). Two sawn cattle-sized rib fragments were recovered from (26). Gnawing marks characteristic of canine activity were observed at the distal ends of the cattle and pig humeri.

In addition to the hand collected remains, a single field vole tooth was recovered from a bulk environmental sample taken from layer (26). See charred plant remain report for sample processing methodology.

Discussion

The small group of bones from the two layers likely represents a general spread of domestic refuse across the area. The presence of gnawing marks indicates that dogs had access to the material. The two sawn rib fragments suggest a late post-medieval or later date as saws were very rarely used for general butchery in the earlier periods (Grant 1987, 55).

Table 8: Catalogue of hand collected animal bone presented by specimen

Context	Cut	Frag	Specs	Pres.	Taxa	Element	Notes
2	1	1	1	-	Cattle	Tooth	Loose mandibular M1/M2 (j)
26	-	1	1	1	Cattle	Metatarsal	Proximal shaft, root etching
26	-	1	1	2	Cattle	Humerus	Distal shaft, gnawed
26	-	1	1	2	Sheep/goat	Humerus	Distal epiphysis, fused
26	-	2	2	2	Large mammal	Long bone	Shaft fragments
26	-	1	1	2	Medium mammal	Long bone	Shaft fragments
26	-	2	2	2	Large mammal	Rib	Blade fragments, sawed
26	-	1	1	2	Large mammal	Indet	Fragment
27	-	3	1	2	Pig	Humerus	Shaft, distal gnawed
27	-	1	1	3	Medium mammal	Rib	Blade fragment
27	-	2	2	4	Large mammal	Indet	Fragments

The Charred Plant Remains and Charcoal - Rachel Small

Processing, identification and report completed March 2023

Introduction

During excavations at Braunston-in-Rutland three bulk soil samples were taken. Sample 1 was taken from the fill (6) of ditch [5], sample 2 from an overlying layer (26) and sample 3 from layer (29)-(26). Fill (6) was likely medieval in date and (26) post-medieval. In this report, the charred plant remains and charcoal recovered from samples 1 and 2 are considered and their potential to inform upon diet, crop husbandry practice and the environment at the site.

Methodology

Soil samples were taken on-site following a judgemental sampling strategy. It was thought the soils may potentially contain waterlogged plant remains due to impeded drainage. Therefore,

one litre of each sample was bucket floated into a 0.3mm sieve. However, there was no evidence for waterlogged plant remains, only charred.

Charred plant remains were identified by comparison to reference material held at ULAS, names follow Stace (2019), and all fragments were counted. The flots and extracted finds are to be submitted as part of the site archive.

Results

Sample 1 contained numerous charcoal flecks, but no fragments were over 4mm in size. Charred plant remains were not present.

Sample 2 contained numerous charcoal flecks, but again no fragments were over 4mm in size. Charred plant remains were present (Table 9) but they were very fragmentary and poorly preserved, likely because they had been fired at high temperatures. It was possible to tentatively identify two free-threshing wheat grains (*Triticum* spp.); four indeterminate cereal grains, a fragment of pea/vetch (*Lathyrus/Vicia*), and a stitchwort seed (*Stellaria* sp.) were also present. The number of items per litre was 8.

Table 9: Plant remains recovered from samples. Key: + = 0-10 items.

Sample	1	2	
Context	6	26	
Cut	5		
Date	Med	Med	
Charred plant remains			
cf. <i>Triticum</i> sp. free-threshing grain		2	cf. Free-threshing wheat grain
Indet. cereal grains		4	Indeterminate cereal grain
<i>Lathyrus/Vicia</i>		1	Peas/Vetches
<i>Stellaria</i> sp.		1	Stitchworts
Total	0	8	
Litres	1	1	
Items per litre	0	8	
Other finds			
Charcoal flecks (<4mm)	+	+	

Discussion

The grains identified from sample 2 are typical of the period and probably represent refuse from preparation and consumption of foods that were burnt on a hearth. This would have been deposited in layer (26) amongst other material. The remains were poorly preserved and fragmentary. It is possible high firing temperatures have led to a loss of fragile material such as chaff. Additional work will likely add little to the interpretations made.

Discussion and Conclusion

The results of the trial trenching show that archaeology consisting of post holes, gullies and ditches are present in the centre, north-eastern and south-eastern regions (Trenches 1, 3 and 4)

of the development area. Most features were undated although a ditch in Trench 4 contained two sherds of medieval pottery dated 1100-1300.

Organic clay deposits were encountered in Trenches 1, 4 and 5 and are likely to be the same depositional event, which would indicate that these silty clay layers extend across the southern half of the development area (contexts (26), (27) and (29)). On-site it was observed that these deposits appeared organic-rich and smelt of decaying plant matter. They were sampled and processed by the environmental officer at the ULAS lab. The plant remains present within the samples were not waterlogged rather, sample 2 (context (26)) contained a small assemblage of charred plant remains which are likely to represent domestic waste. Despite the absence of waterlogged plant remains, the surfaces and preservation of the animal bone is suggestive of waterlogged conditions. The fragmented nature of the material remains, including the highly abraded pottery, suggests that this is not a primary refuse deposit and instead has been redeposited.

The dating of these clay layers is likely to be later post-medieval, as demonstrated by the presence of later pottery and saw marks on some of the animal bone from Trench 4, typical of later butchery practice.

A concentration of archaeological features was observed in Trench 4 with a sequence of intercutting ditches, post holes and possible pitting, likely to be medieval in date as indicated by pottery from ditch [05]. The ditch or large pit [16] within Trench 3 is of note as it is a sizeable feature and currently undated due to an absence of any finds.

Trenches 2 and 5 were negative suggesting the activity on the site may be localised to the central, north-east and south-eastern regions.

The results of the trial trench evaluation provide evidence for both medieval and later post-medieval activity at the site.

Archive and Publication

The archive for the project will be deposited with Rutland Museums following their guide (2018) and in adherence to the national archiving standards (CifA 2020b) under the accession number OAKRM_20238 and consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report (2023-008)
- 32 Context sheets
- 5 Trench recording sheets
- 1 Drawing Sheet
- 1 Photographic record
- 4 Indices
- 1 CD of digital photographs

A summary of this report will appear in due course in the Transactions the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society.

The online OASIS data entry has been completed detailing the results of the project and will be digitally accessible through The Archaeological Data Services (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>).

Acknowledgements

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Appendix 1: Context List

Context	Cut	Below	Field	Trench	Description
1	1			Trench 4	E-W ditch in S of trench
2	1			Trench 4	Fill of cut 1, mid yellowish green silty clay with occasional rubbles and small stones
3	3			Trench 4	Shallow ditch N of cut 1
4	3			Trench 4	Fill of cut 03, mid yellowish grey silty clay with occasional small stones
5	5			Trench 4	Possible shallow ditch, maybe a terminus
6	5			Trench 4	Fill of cut 5, mid brownish green silty clay
7	7			Trench 4	Cut of a post hole N of cut 5
8	7			Trench 4	Fill of post hole 7, mid brownish green silty clay
9	9			Trench 4	Cut of a post hole W of cut 7
10	9			Trench 4	Fill of post hole 9, dark brownish grey silty clay with occasional stones
11	11			Trench 4	Cut of a double post hole next to cuts 7 and 9
12	12			Trench 1	Cut of a post hole next to cut 14
13	13			Trench 4	Cut of a double post hole next to cuts 7 and 9
14	14			Trench 1	Cut of a post hole next to cut 12
15				Trench 1	Same as layer 25
16	16			Trench 3	Cut of a ditch on the E end of trench
17	16		19	Trench 3	Fill of ditch 16, mid greenish brown silty clay with occasional small stones.
18	18			Trench 3	Cut of gully in the W end of trench
19	18			Trench 3	Fill of gully 18, greysh blue silty clay
20	11			Trench 4	Fill of post hole 11, mid brownish grey clay
21	13			Trench 4	Fill of post hole 13, mid brownish grey clay
22	12			Trench 1	Fill of post hole 12, bluish grey clay with chalk
23	14			Trench 1	Fill of post hole 14, greysh blue clay with chalk
24				Trench 4	Dark brownish grey silty clay layer with traces of charcoal and occasional small stones
25				Trench 4	Mid yellowish green silty clay layer with traces of charcoal and occasional small stones
26				Trench 4	Light greysh green silty clay layer with occasional rubble
27				Trench 1	Same as layer 26
28				Trench 1	Same as layer 24
29				Trench 5	Same as layer 26

Context	Cut	Below	Field	Trench	Description
30	1			Trench 4	Upper fill of ditch 1, mid brownish grey silty clay with rubble
31	31			Trench 4	Shallow gully/ditch N of cut 5
32	31			trench 4	Fill of cut 31, light greenish grey silty clay with occasional small stones



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