

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

AT

THE CHILTON BREWERY, NASH LEE ROAD,

TERRICK, ELLESBOROUGH, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

(NGR SP 8514 0817)

On behalf of
The Chiltern Brewery

MAY 2011

REPORT FOR The Chiltern Brewery
C/o Bulldog Design Ltd
23 Brookfield Road
Headingley
Leeds
LS6 4EJ

PREPARED BY David Gilbert

ILLUSTRATION BY David Gilbert

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ENQUIRES TO John Moore Heritage Services
Hill View
Woodperry Road
Beckley
Oxfordshire OX3 9UZ
Tel/Fax 01865 358300
Email: info@jmheritageservices.co.uk

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SUMMARY

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at the Chiltern Brewery, Nash Lee Road, Terrick. Two trenches revealed a buried soil layer containing 11th-13th century pottery and prehistoric flint work.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site location (Figure 1)

The site of The Chiltern Brewery lies on the south side of Nash Lee Road in Terrick (NGR SP 8514 0817). The underlying solid geology is Upper Greensand and Gault.

1.2 Planning Background

A planning application is to be submitted to Aylesbury Vale District Council for renovation, replacement and enlargement of existing brewery buildings. Due to the site's potential to contain archaeological remains Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (BCAS) has advised that an archaeological evaluation should be carried out to determine the presence/absence of significant archaeological remains. This is in line with PPS 5. BCAS prepared a Brief for the field evaluation. A *Written Scheme of Investigation* agreed with BCAS proposed a method to satisfy the requirements of the Brief.

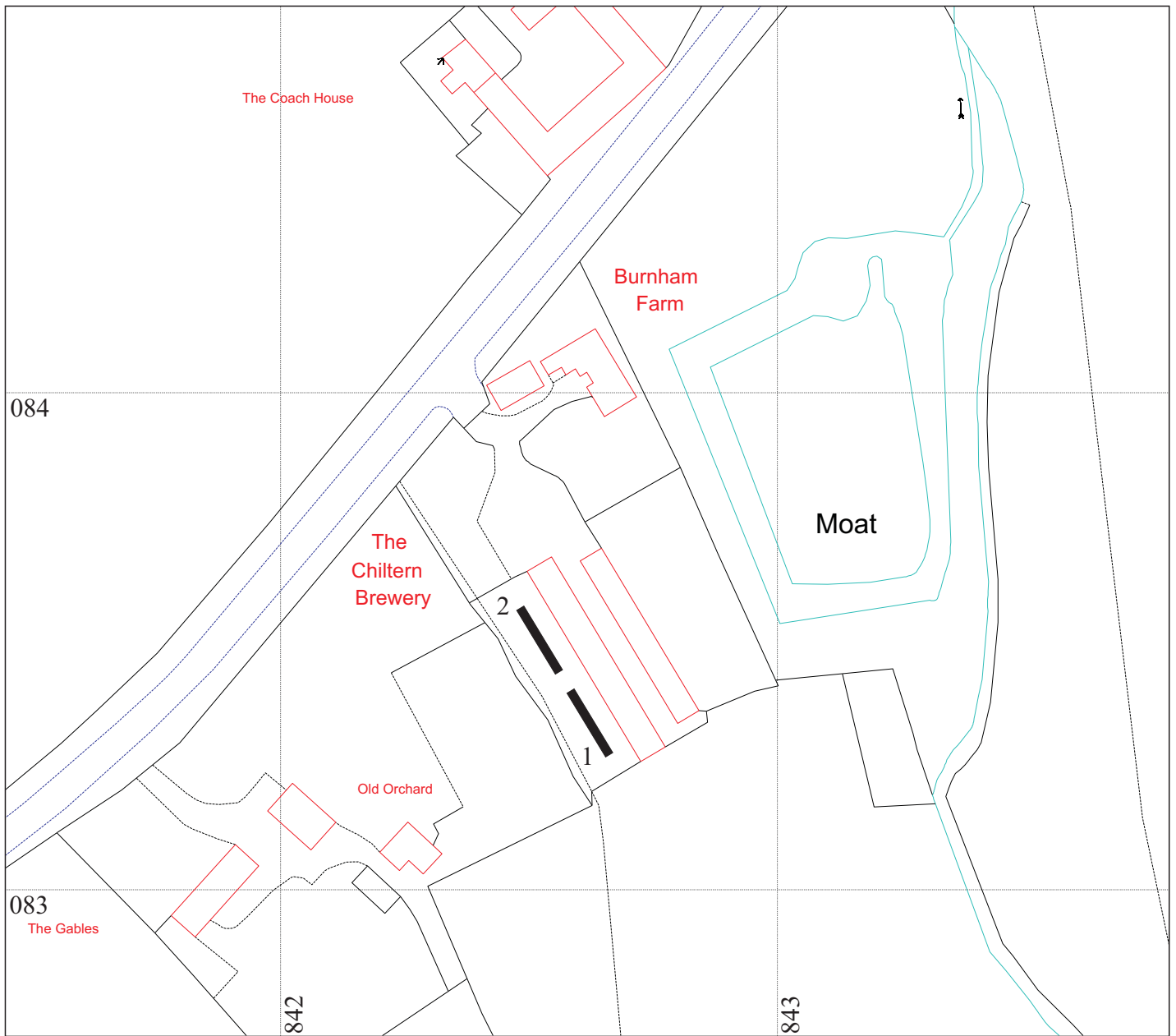
1.3 Archaeological Background

A medieval moated site (County Historic Environment Record HER 0039200000) lies immediately to the east of the Brewery. This has been used as a watercress bed and is recorded in a field survey with an arbour on the island. A high status Roman villa (HER 0090200000) was discovered in the 19th century in a field 200m to the north-west. West of Nashlee Farmhouse, on this site, metal detecting has found later Roman coins MBC28656 - MBC28669 and medieval metalwork.

A number of fieldwalking surveys have been carried out in the area. To the south-east a scatter of Iron Age, Roman and medieval pottery as well as late prehistoric flint artefacts were found (HER 0250900000). 300m south-east of Nashlee Farm seven Mesolithic blades were found (HER 0257600000) along with undated flints and Belgic and Roman pottery. 300m north-east of Nashlee Farm a scatter of Iron Age and medieval pottery has been found (HER 0294600000).

Seeking to define the limits of Nash Lee Green hamlet scatters of medieval pottery (HER 0294700000) were found at three locations (SP 8424 0865, 8423 0860, 8419 0854). The early 18th century Nashlee farmhouse lies in this area (HER 1296600000).

West of Risborough Road is the grade II listed Terrick House. Within the grounds is a Scheduled Moat (Scheduled Ancient Monument 32116). The medieval moated site includes a roughly square island measuring a maximum of 24m northeast-southwest by 20m northwest-southeast. This is surrounded by a steep-sided water-filled ditch, which measures approximately 1m deep and approximately 8m in width. A narrow leat extends for approximately 10m from the east corner of the moat.



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Figure 1. Site Location

Elsewhere in the grounds a medieval pond was found along with two gullies and a possible water feature during a watching brief HER 0039300000.

A watching brief during excavation for a water rising main found an undated ditch HER 0951200000. An evaluation at SP83987 08080 only found three furrows EBC 16905.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

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

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the impact of the proposed development on any remains present.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

In accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* designed by JMHS and agreed with Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service, JMHS carried out the work, which comprised the excavation of two trenches across the site.

Two trenches each were 15m in length and 1.6m wide and located to the west of the brewery buildings (Fig. 1). The area between the two long buildings is covered in reinforced concrete, has services running along it, and is used for storage.

3.2 Methodology

The investigation involved the mechanical excavation of two trenches by a 3-tonne excavator equipped with a ditching bucket, supplemented by limited hand investigation of archaeological deposits.

Site procedures carried out followed IfA guidelines and the requirements of the JMHS Written Scheme of Investigation. The work was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (1994) and the principles of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991).

4 RESULTS

4.1 Field Results

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers in () indicate fills or deposits of material whilst numbers referring to features themselves are shown without brackets.

Both trenches showed a similar soil sequence. The lower deposit encountered was the natural mid green-grey sandy clay (01/04) and (02/04) flecked with limestone fragments related to the Greensand formations in the area.

Directly above the natural deposits was the 0.10m thick buried soil layer of mid to dark green-grey clay (01/03) and (2/03). This contained small quantities of prehistoric flint artefacts and later pottery. Noticeable on the surface of this layer prior to excavation were tree pits, these still contained decaying roots.

Above this was a 0.2m thick layer of mid brown-grey silt-clay (1/02) and (2/02) that contained the occasional flint nodule or pebble. The uppermost layer was the 0.2m thick topsoil of dark grey-brown clay loam (1/01) and (02/01), with sparse flint inclusions.

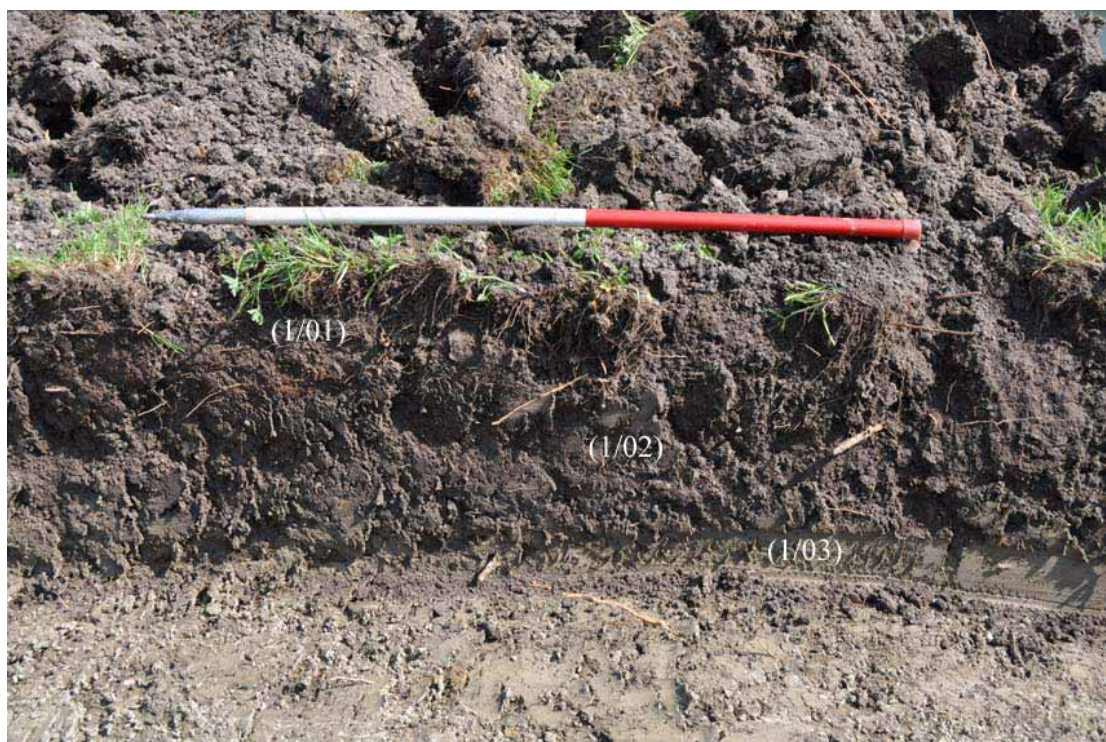


Plate 1. Section within Trench 1

4.2 Reliability of Results

The archaeological evaluation was carried out in good conditions with sunny and dry weather. The results are therefore felt to be representative of the extant archaeology.

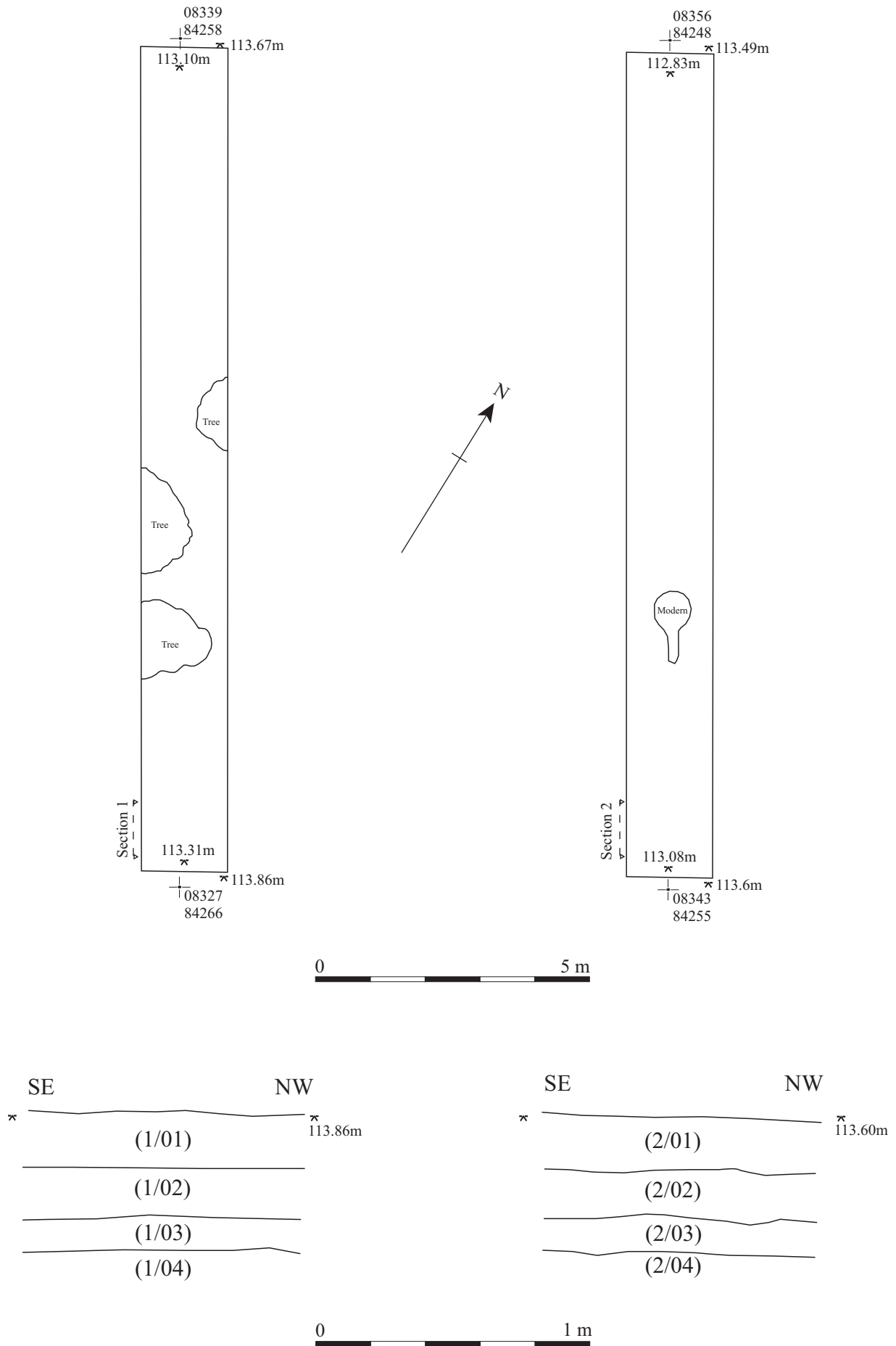


Figure 2. Plans and Sections

5 FINDS

5.1 Pottery (By Paul Blinkhorn)

The pottery assemblage comprised 12 sherds with a total weight of 117g. It was all early medieval. It was recorded using the coding system of the Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit type-series (e.g. Mynard and Zeepvat 1992; Zeepvat et al. 1994), as follows:

MS2: *Medieval Sandy Ware*, 12th – 14th century. 2 sherds, 9g.

MS3: *Medieval Grey Sandy Wares*. Mid 11th – late 14th century. 1 sherd, 39g.

MS29: *Flint-gritted ware*, 12th – 13th century. 3 sherds, 16g.

MSC1: *Sandy and Shelly ware*, late 11th – mid 13th century. 6 sherds, 53g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type.

Tr	Cntxt	MSC1		MS2		MS3		MS29		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	3	1	16							L11thC
2	3	5	37	2	9	1	39	3	16	12thC
	Total	6	53	2	9	1	39	3	16	

The range of fabric types is fairly typical of early medieval (late 11th – 12th century) sites in the region. The sherd from 1/03 is somewhat abraded, and could easily be redeposited, but all the sherds from 2/03 are in good condition, and appear to be reliably stratified.

5.2 Lithics

The assemblage is composed of a total of 5 pieces derived from 2 individual contexts. The terminology used follows Andrevsky (1998). Context (1/03) produced a single secondary flake with signs of later damage. Context (2/03) produced a secondary flake and a tertiary flake both with signs of later damage. A bifacially worked tertiary flake was also present as was a small scrapper produced on a primary flake. Although the assemblage is small it would appear to date from the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age.

5.3 Environmental Remains

No environmental samples were taken as the potential of the deposits was not felt to be sufficient to warrant sampling.

6 DISCUSSION

The abraded Sandy and Shelly Ware recovered from layer (1/03) may indicate that the area was ploughed during the late 11th century, but this had ceased by the 12th century when there was deposition of the later pottery types, which was in far better condition. This medieval agriculture may have disturbed or destroyed earlier prehistoric remains in the area, evident by the flint artefacts.

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Appendix A: Archaeological Context Inventory

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
Trench 1			0.5	1.6	15		
1/01	Layer	grey-brown loam	0.2	Tr.	Tr.		
1/02	Layer	mid brown-grey silt-clay	0.2	Tr.	Tr.		
1/03	Layer	mid to dark green-grey clay	0.1	Tr.	Tr.	Pot	Late 11th Century
1/04	Natural	mid green-grey sandy clay	-	Tr.	Tr.	-	
Trench 2			0.5	1.6	15		
2/01	Layer	grey-brown loam	0.2	Tr.	Tr.		
2/02	Layer	mid brown-grey silt-clay	0.2	Tr.	Tr.		
2/03	Layer	mid to dark green-grey clay	0.1	Tr.	Tr.	Pot	Late 11th - 13th Century
2/04	Natural	mid green-grey sandy clay	-	Tr.	Tr.	-	