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A.P.A.C. Ltd.

Archaeological Perspectives Analysis Consultancy

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

REPORT

WB/CM/14

27 KINGSMARK LANE, CHEPSTOW



MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Planning Applications: DC/2013/00743

Prepared for:

MR I. Phillips

By: Dr N. Phillips.



Summary

This document comprises the report of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during ground work at a site identified as having potential archaeological resources that may be impacted by any development.

The development being proposed is the construction of a new build residential property on a plot of land, formerly a garden of an adjacent dwelling.

A planning application proposal was submitted to Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) and as part of the planning process, Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT) Archaeological Planning Service (APS), advised the planning department that the proposed work at the site could likely impact on archaeological resources.

MCC in accordance with the guidance from GGAT, APS imposed a condition requiring a watching brief to be undertaken during any ground disturbance work on the site.

This document is the report on the archaeological watching brief.

The report found evidence of a former pond, but no other archaeological significant resources.

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Cover Photograph: DSCO8086. Initial vegetation stripping



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Introduction

This Watching Brief Report has been prepared by Dr Neil Phillips, A.P.A.C. Ltd, in response to a proposed programme of works, to construct a new build on land adjacent to 27 Kingsmark Lane Chepstow, Monmouthshire, NP16 5ZL, NGR 352520 194156, fig 01.

The proposed work involved ground clearance and levelling followed by excavation of trenches for footings and services which may have impacted on any archaeological resources present.

The client, Mr A Chappell for Mr I. Phillips, having requested Outline Planning Permission from Monmouthshire County Council, (MCC); (pl.app.no DC/2013/00743); through their agent Mark Harry Maison Design, was granted Approval of Outline Planning Permission, with conditions; one of which required that:

The developer shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeologist is present during the undertaking of any ground disturbing works in the development area, so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted. The archaeological watching brief shall be undertaken to the standards of the institute for Archaeologists. The Local Planning Authority shall be informed, in writing, at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development of the name of the said archaeologist and no work shall begin until the local planning Authority has confirmed, in writing, that the proposed archaeologist is suitable...

MON2063/GP

At the client's request, a Design Brief; (WB/CM/14) was prepared and submitted to Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust, (GGAT), Archaeological Planning Service APS, prior to the commencement of ground disturbance work.

The brief was approved as fit for purpose and the resultant watching brief was undertaken on the 13th and 14th of April 2015 during which all ground disturbance likely to impact on any significant archaeological resources was completed.

Site Location and Description

The location of the site can be gained from the A466 at Chepstow; 'Wye Valley Link Road', proceeding northerly from the direction of the 1st Severn Bridge crossing; take the 2nd turn off the roundabout onto St Lawrence Rd.

Kingsmark Lane is the 5th turning on the right, just at the top of a down-slope.

The site comprises a small, south sloping, and overgrown garden plot; fenced to the east, west and south and opening onto the road to the north.

A plan of the site is shown in fig 02 along with the foundation and drainage trenches marked.

Geology and Topography

The solid geology at the site is Avon Group, mudstones and limestone with a possible superficial deposit of silts, (BGS), although these have been largely disturbed by building development in the area of the site.

A set of 5 environmental trial pits to a depth of 800mm were dug across the site in October 2014 by EMS and are shown in fig 02.

The trial pits concluded that the site was on made up ground, with a possible natural soil encountered only in the south west corner, TP4, (EMS4709a. p 10, Appdx; B & C).

The site is to the west of the town of Chepstow on a broad north east facing ridge above the River Wye.



Brief archaeological and historical background

A 500m diameter search centred on the proposed site was commissioned from the Historic Environment Record (HER) held by GGAT.

The HER search revealed records for a total of 6 Listed Buildings, 1 Park and Garden, 20 core records and 5 event records, fig 03.

The search map, fig 03, shows that the present A466 almost bisects the area north to south and as the road is associated with an earlier Roman Road, (HER RR6d-3b) & (Margary, pp 315-324) it can be assumed that it would have acted as a division during the medieval and post medieval periods to which all but one records, on the western part of the search area, are associated.

The excluded record being 05610g, a small find, Bronze Age flint Scatter.

To the east of the A466 are the Listed Buildings; 3 buildings 27108 20th c, 2605 18th c, 22535 19th c and 3 sets of related gates 27107, 27106 related to 22535, and 24758 late 18th c all of which are unlikely to be associated with the present work.

Of possible specific interest to this project were the remaining records relating to the nearby, former ecclesiastical site:

- 08289g (St Kynemark's Church, early medieval ecclesiastical) (GGAT, pp35, 55. 73) & (GGAT, p37 1397)
- 01164g (a holy well, Ffynyn Gorteryn, early medieval ecclesiastical), identification 'Another Ffynnon Gor Teyrn is near St. Kinsmarks Priory' in *Arch Camb*, p88 1847 & (GGAT, pp 19, 21. 33 1397)
- 08316g, (St Kynemark's Chapel, medieval ecclesiastical) (GGAT, p37 1397)
- 01163g, (St Kynemark's Priory, early medieval ecclesiastical) 1963-64 excavations revealed post conquest masonry remains & (GGAT, pp 8, 30, 52 & 55. 73) & (GGAT, pp 19, 21, 33 1397)

The HER records that the site is located close to the site of Kynesmark Priory; 08289g, first recorded in c624 as a donation to the see of Llandaff, (MON2063/GP).

The donation was recorded as 'Lanncinmarch' given to the Bishops of Llandaff by Athrwys, King of the region of Gwent, (Rees, p.411. 1840).

Event E003182, a Desk based assessment, supported the findings above, relating to 08299g concluding: 'It is possible that the later medieval structures of St Kynemark's Priory overlay the actual location, destroying evidence of any earlier wooden buildings in the area (Leach 1999)' (GGAT, p37 1397).

A watching brief in 2008 was also recorded at nearby Kingsmark Avenue, E000930 which revealed no archaeological resources with some modern finds noted.

The remaining listed event E000113, a watching brief in Mount Street revealed no archaeological resources.

One further, as yet unlisted event; an evaluation at Lyttelton house off Welsh Street NGR 353165 193843 found no archaeological resources of any significance with only domestic 18th 19th finds recovered, (APAC EV/Lyt/12).

Some more evidence of previous land use at the site can be gleaned from the known cartography of the area.

The first series, Ordnance Survey, 1830 Map, fig 04a records the name of the area, a road and some structures to the east of the road; however, they are probably to the north of the present site, although it is difficult to be very accurate with these early maps.

A more accurate record can be seen in the 1st edition, Ordnance Survey, 1881 map, fig 04b, where a set of three ponds are arranged north west and south east of the road, at a tree lined boundary or path.



The situation had changed little by 1938, fig 04c, however the later development of the present estate in 1977, (EMS4709a P6), which can be surmised from plate 4d, had removed the ponds and surrounding pasture yet retained the route of the road and the boundary; now a path.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of the watching brief was to preserve by record, within the resources available, any archaeological deposits uncovered during groundwork.

The watching brief also ensured that: in the event of archaeological resources of significance, being discovered and requiring treatment beyond the remit of the watching brief, that steps would be implemented to ensure that their treatment would be undertaken within the standards recommended by the CIFA.

Watching Brief

The watching brief was undertaken over two days 13th & 14th of April 2015.

All excavation was undertaken by mechanical digger which began with ground clearance and levelling before the building foundation plot could be set out.

Excavation of the footings began on the second day concluding with extensive and continuous collapse along trench 3, which was completed and measured at 3m of unstable ground; the condition of which was exacerbated by the ingress of water, both foul and ground.

The ends of trenches 2 and 3 revealed a continuation of made up ground along trench 4 confirmed by the EMS report TR3 at which point the watching brief was concluded to allow for immediate attention to the collapsing trench 3.

Initial recording

A record of the features and stratigraphy exposed during excavation was kept including written notes and photographs.

Measurements were taken regularly using Leica Disto 510, laser measurement device.

No finds were retained due to their modern nature and contamination from disturbed effluent.

Post Ex

Following the watching brief, the field notes and photographs were digitised to produce the context record of the stratigraphy; Appendix 1, and an annotated list of the photographs, Appendix II.

The two appendices; I Context and II Photographs were cross referenced ready for inclusion in the report.

This report was produced for the client, Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) and GGAT as well as archive copies for Gwent Records Office.

Watching Brief Results

Presentation Notes:

All contexts are denoted [#] in the text, listed in Appendix I, cross referenced in Appendix II, to the plates section. Photographs used in the text are listed Pl # and a complete list of photographs can be found in appendix II with contact sheets.

No Finds were retained.

Work began at the site with the removal of the vegetation PL01 and around 200mm to 300mm of topsoil, [100] exposing the underlying subsoil [102], dark brown silty clay, Plate 02.

27 KINGSMARK LANE, CHEPSTOW

WB/CM/14

Two exceptions to the sequence were found along the east and west boundaries where areas of cultivated garden remained; readily identifiable by a deposit of rich black humic loam, Plate 01 (against the fence post).

Once the surface had been cleared back, PL03, the site was marked out and excavation of the foundation trenches begun.

Initial trenching began at the south west corner of the site, 4.2m from the western boundary fence and 4.5m from the southern boundary fence, fig 02.

The excavation cut through a thin remnant of [102], PL04 and on through [104] a 300mm deposit of brown red sandy clay; followed by a compressed sandy grit with coal fragments, ferric residues. and some domestic waste PL05.

Deposit [105] overlay 1.1m landfill deposit of domestic and building waste including bottles, plaster, animal bones, iron residues, roots and even articles of cloth.

A grey/green silty clay [107] was reached at a depth of 1.9m in the centre section of the trench.

As the excavation continued westerly, the depth of the clay deposit decreased from 1.9 at 7m from the western end to 1.1m at 4m from the western end to 700mm, 2.5m from the western end.

PL06 shows the decrease as a set of 3 'step ups' to accommodate the rise in suitable building surface.

Excavation of the eastern end of trench 1 was left until after trench 3 was completed, due to working space commitments at the site; eventually clay [107] was found at just over 3m at 11.5m from the western end of the trench

Trench 2 was excavated along the western boundary of the site for a distance of around 8m.

The stratigraphic sequence differed to trench 1; the remnants of [102] were directly over [104] but contexts [103], [104], [105] & [106] were not present, with [107] at a much shallower depth of 700mm, PL07.

Excavation of trench 3 began at its northern end cutting through the sequence [102], [104] & [105] and then continuing some 3.5m through a very unstable deposit of [106].

The instability of the deposit was further exacerbated when an unrecorded salt glazed foul pipe was fractured depositing sewage into the bottom of the trench, PL08.

The ensuing wet mix continued to undermine the trench edges as excavation continued PL09, causing inevitable collapses, PL10 & PL11.

Eventually, trenches 3 & 1 were joined together, reaching a depth of approximately 3m at which [107] was reached PL12.

At this point excavation was stopped in order to deal with the unstable trenches due to the fact that the collapses were starting to undermine the boundary fence, PL10 & PL11.

The watching brief fieldwork ended at this point as it was obvious that the entire site early 1970s landfill from the time that the surrounding housing estate was built.

<u>Finds</u>

The site provided a large amount of glass bottles and fragments of crockery from the land fill context [106]; all of which were either contaminated with effluent from the broken foul pipe or unreachable due to the instability of the trenches.

Typically, the bottles were for the most part external screw thread, some identifiable as distinctive 'Corona Pop' or 'Camp Coffee', 'HP Sauces' and 'Bovril' dating from the 1960s.

No finds were retained.



Interpretation

The entire site was covered with imported topsoil over a landfill containing modern materials which were easily datable to the mid 20th century, supporting the 1955-1971 interpretation in the EMS report (EMS4709a P6).

The land fill also contained materials such as cloth which usually decay quite rapidly in such conditions.

The difference in depth of clay deposit [107] decreasing east west at a gradient of and subsequent increase in landfill [106] to form level ground confirms that a pre existing gradient or depression had been filled, and probably landscaped during the final development of the surrounding estate.

Map progressions clearly confirm that the depression is related to the earlier pond.

Staff

Dr. Neil Phillips, ACIFA.

Post ex Mr A. O. Phillips.

Archive:

The original archive for this project will remain with APAC Ltd.

A copy of the archive will be deposited with Monmouthshire County Archive.

Acknowledgements:

Thanks to Mr I Phillips for allowing access to his site, and his groundwork's contractors for their assistance and efficient handling of the excavations.



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Existing Site Plan MH-4872 August 2013. Proposed Site Plan MH-4873 August 2013.

Elevations MH-4874 August 2013.

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10/08/2013.

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17/09/13.



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Outline Planning Permission DC/2013/00743.: 05/11/2013.

C/O Mr I. Phillips. 13/04/201.

27 Kingsmark lane.

Proposed Bungalow Location Plan SP12001-DWG-001-OPT1 C

Proposed Drainage Plan SP12001-DWG-005-OPT1 A

Rees, W.J., 1840

Liber Landavensis. The Welsh Folio Society. William Rees. Llandovery

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Online:

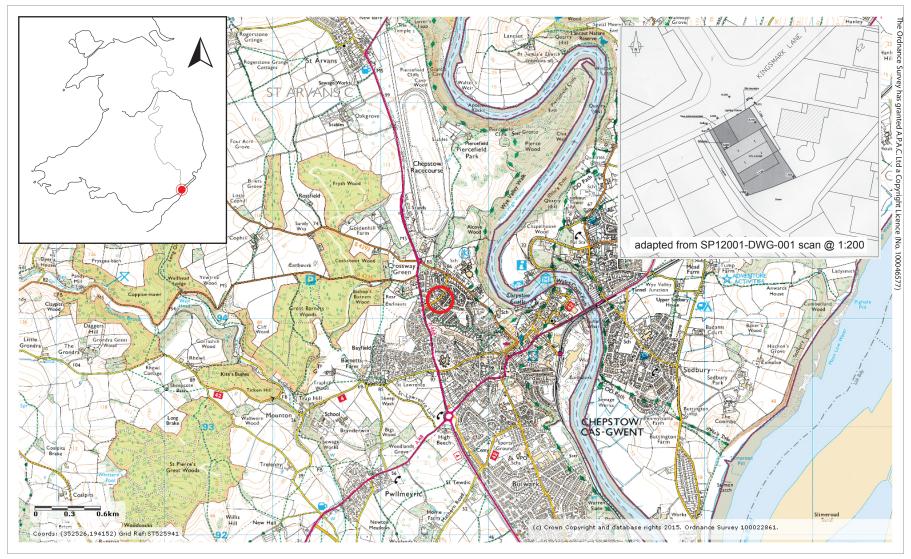
British Geological Survey Google Earth

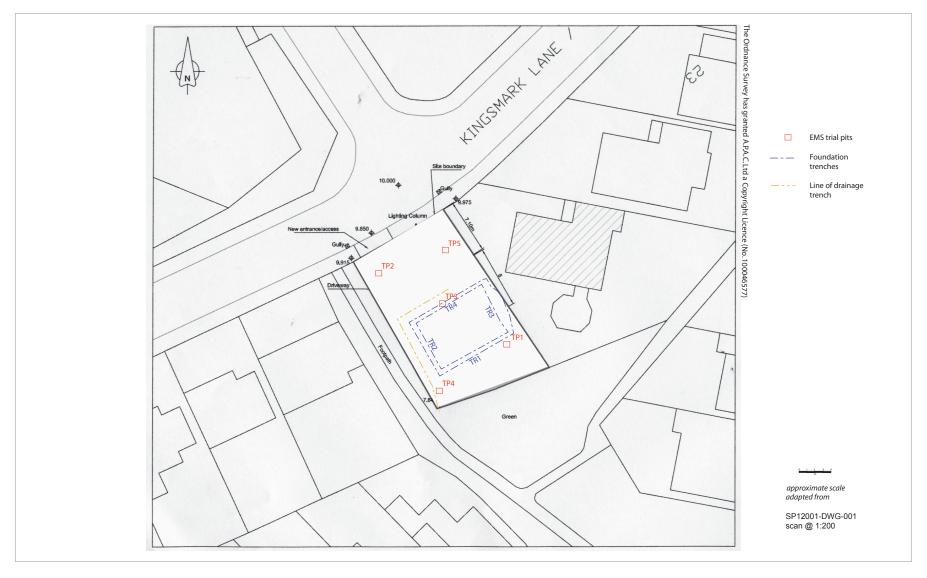
Magic

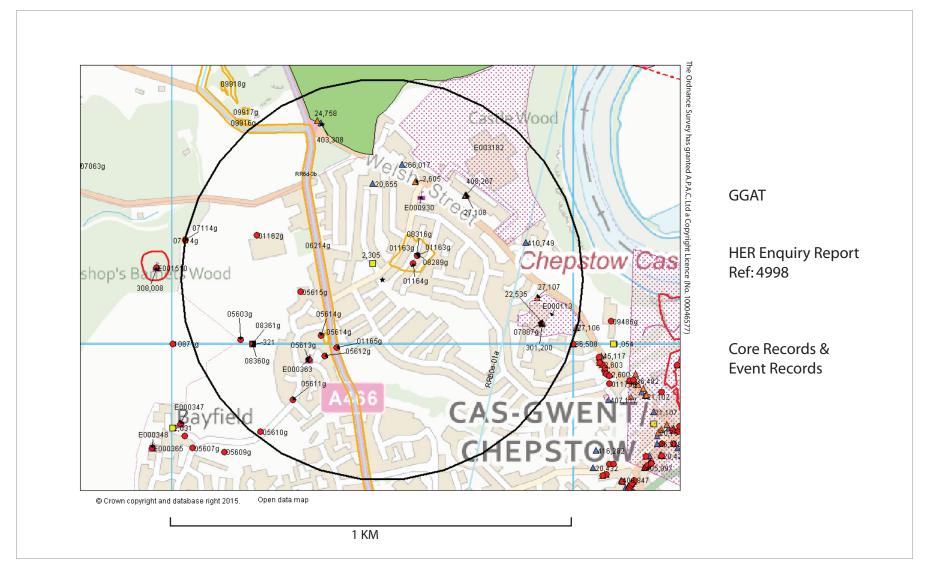
http://www.bgs.ac.uk/GeoIndex/

http://www.google.co.uk/ http://magic.defra.gov.uk/

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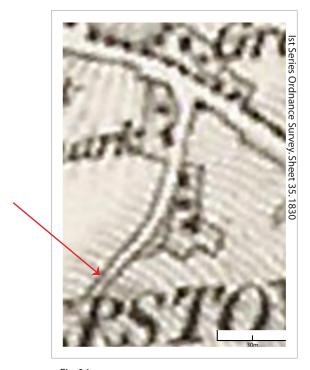


Fig 04a

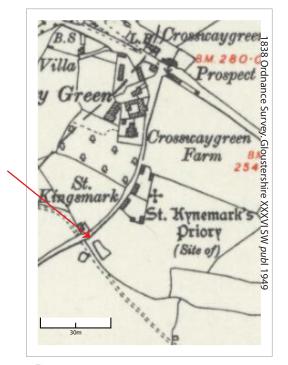


Fig 04c



Fig 04b

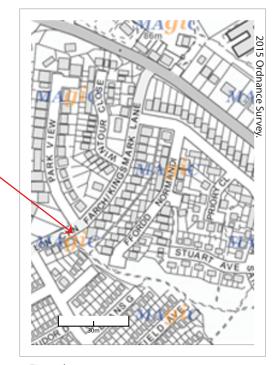


Fig 04d





Plate 01: Eastern boundary, Context [101] isolated patch of black loam in raised garden bed. Bedding wall being uncovered under digger bucket



Plate 02: Soil strip [100] & [102]. One of three black plastic bags with pet burial remains





Plate 03: Site stripped of top soils [100], [101], & [102]



Plate 04: Trench 3 collapse





Plate 05: Trench 3, northern corner with second collapse



Plate 06: Centre to western end of trench 1 completed showing stepped cut required to reach clay [107] Showing [103] [104] [106]





Plate 07: Trench 1 eastern end



Plate 08: Trench 3 at ≤3m back fill [106] active waste pipe broken at 1.2m





Plate 09: Trench 3 Southern end, being excavated



Plate 10: Trench 3, eastern face showing second collapse undermining boundary fence





Plate 11: Trench 3, eastern face showing second collapse undermining boundary fence



Plate 12: Trench 1 and 3 corner at 3m.





Context Sheet Index

Site: 27 Kingsmark, Chepstow CONTEXT AREA		Grid Ref: 352520 194156		Site No:	Alternate No:		
				WB/CM/14 CRIPTION		FINDS	DITOTOCDADITO
100	AREA Site	FEATURE Topsoil		and dark brown/grey sandy	soil. 150mm-	FINDS	PHOTOGRAPHS DSC08086, SC080867, DSC08088, DSC08089, DSC08101, DSC08113, DSC08117, DSC08118. SM00001, SM00002, SM00003.
101	SE	Re deposited	Garde	n loam, black, humic		2, 5	DSC08086.
102	Site	Re deposited		Dark brown silty clay. 200mm-250mm		1, 3	DSC08086, DSC08086, DSC08088, DSC08089, DSC08101, DSC08102, DSC08112, DSC08113. SM00001, SM00002, SM00003.
103	Site	Re deposited	100mr				DSC08102
104	Site	Re deposited	Brown	/red sandy clay 300mm-350i	mm		DSC08102, DSC08104, DSC08105, DSC08117, DSC08118.
105	Site	Re deposited		ressed red sandy grit with bit n-340mm	s of coal.		DSC08089, DSC08101, DSC08102, DSC08103, DSC08104, DSC08105, DSC08106, DSC08107, DSC08109, DSC08112, DSC08113, DSC08114, DSC08115, DSC08117, DSC08118. SM00002, SM00003.
106	Site	Land fill	and gla	e with a large amount of hous ass bottles with a 75% havin threads. ≤1.1m		4	DSC08101, DSC08102, DSC08103, DSC08104, DSC08105, DSC08106, DSC08107, DSC08108, DSC08109, DSC08110, DSC08111, DSC08112, DSC08113, DSC08114, DSC08115, DSC08116, DSC08117, DSC08118, DSC08119, SM00002, SM00003.
107	Site	deposit	Green	ish yellow clay depth from 40	00mm t0 3m		DSC08101, DSC08102, DSC08103, DSC08104, DSC08105, DSC08106, DSC08107, DSC08119.



Appendix II

Digital photograph list

WB/CW/14

Photo no	Date	Camera	Size	View	Description	Plate
DSC08086	13/04/2015	DSC F828	3264x2448	SE	Initial vegetation stripping	
DSC08087	13/04/2015	DSC F828	3264x2448	N	Eastern boundary, Context [101] isolated patch of black loam in raised garden bed. Bedding wall being uncovered under digger bucket	PL01
DSC08088	13/04/2015	DSC F828	3264x2448	Е	Soil strip [100] & [102]. One of three black plastic bags with pet burial remains	PL02
DSC08089	13/04/2015	DSC F828	3264x2448	NW	Site stripped of top soils [100], [101], & [102]	PL03
DSC08101	14/04/2015	DSC F828	2448x3264	SW	Centre to western end of trench 1 completed showing stepped cut required to reach clay [107] Showing [103] [104] [106]	PL06
DSC08102	14/04/2015	DSC F828	3264x2448	V	Centre of trench 1, depth of [107] 1.8 below exposed surface. Showing [103] [104] [105] [106] [107]	
DSC08103	14/04/2015	DSC F828	3264x2448	W	Centre of trench 1, northern face. [104] [105] [106] [107]	
DSC08104	14/04/2015	DSC F828	3264x2448	V	Trench 1 and trench 2, sequence [102] over [107]	
DSC08105	14/04/2015	DSC F828	3264x2448	V	Trench 1 at 2.5m from west edge. sequence [102] [103] [104] [105] [106] [107]	
DSC08106	14/04/2015	DSC F828	3264x2448	W	Centre of trench 1, northern face step 3 3.7m from western edge. [104] [105] [106] [107]	
DSC08107	14/04/2015	DSC F828	3264x2448	Е	Centre of trench 1, northern face step 3 3.7m from western edge,[105] [106] [107]	
DSC08108	14/04/2015	DSC F828	2448x3264	V	Trench 3 at ≤3m back fill [106] active waste pipe broken at 1.2m	PL08
DSC08109	14/04/2015	DSC F828	2448x3264	V	Trench 3 northern end, possible bedrock at base.	
DSC08110	14/04/2015	DSC F828	2448x3264	V	Trench 3 Southern end, possible bedrock at base.	
DSC08111	14/04/2015	DSC F828	2448x3264	S	Trench 3 Southern end, being excavated	PL09
DSC08112	14/04/2015	DSC F828	2448x3264	V	Trench 3 collapse	PL04
DSC08113	14/04/2015	DSC F828	3264x2448	E	Trench 3 collapse	
DSC08114	14/04/2015	DSC F828	2448x3264	E	Trench 1 eastern end	PL07
DSC08115	14/04/2015	DSC F828	2448x3264	V	Trench 3 trench 1 corner. Base at 3m in [106] with active water ingress	
DSC08116	14/04/2015	DSC F828	2448x3264		Trench 3, northern corner with second collapse	PL05
DSC08117	14/04/2015	DSC F828	3264x2448	E	Trench 3, eastern face showing second collapse undermining boundary fence	PL10
DSC08118	14/04/2015	DSC F828	2448x3264	SE	Trench 3, eastern face showing second collapse undermining boundary fence	PL11
DSC08119	14/04/2015	DSC F828	3264x2448	V	Trench 1 and 3 corner at 3m.	PL12
SM00001	13/04/2015	SM N9005	4128x3222	SE	Initial vegetation stripping	
SM00002	14/04/2015	SM N9005	3264x2448	SE	Trench 3 at ≤3m back fill [106] active waste pipe broken at 1.2m	
SM00003	14/04/2015	SM N9005	3264x2448	SE	Trench 3, eastern face showing second collapse at time of occurrence	





DSC08113.jpg



DSC08114.jpg



DSC08115.jpg



DSC08116.jpg



DSC08117.jpg



DSC08118.jpg



DSC08119.jpg



SM00001.jpg



