

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
ON LAND AT 3 GROVE ROAD, HAVANT,
HAMPSHIRE

[Site Centred at National Grid Reference: SU 718062]
Planning Reference: APP/14/00065

PREPARED FOR HAIL AND STONE CONSULTANCY LTD

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation involving the excavation of two trenches was carried out by James Roberts on the 23rd March 2016 in advance of proposed development on land the rear of 3 Grove Road, Havant, Hampshire.

These excavations identified a simple deposit sequence consisting of a modern topsoil horizon which directly overlay natural gravel, this sequence was recorded within both trenches.

The archaeological evaluation identified severe truncation to the site, and it is likely that the area was levelled sometime in the early 20th century during residential development and subsequently built up with the import of topsoil.

Trench 1 contained an undated truncated pit and a modern service trench. Trench 2 contained a probable tree bole and a truncated undated linear. All of these features were extremely shallow, almost certainly as a result of the aforementioned truncation.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 James Roberts was commissioned by Mr. Gary Hailstones of Hail and Stones Consultancy Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to proposed development on land at 3 Grove Road, Havant, Hampshire, centred at National Grid Reference SU 718062. The archaeological evaluation was carried out at the proposed development site on the 23rd March 2016.
- 1.2 The work was carried out according to the requirements of an archaeological condition, which was attached to the granting of planning consent for this development by Havant Borough Council, the Local Planning Authority, and acting on the advice of Mr. Neil Adam, Senior Archaeologist of Hampshire County Council in his capacity as archaeological advisor on planning issues to the local planning authority. This is in accordance with the principles established in *NPPF: Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide* (Department of Culture, Media and Sport, 2010), and *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluations* (IFA, 2008).
- 1.3 Copies of the final report will be deposited with the clients, Mr. David Hopkins, the Planning Department of Havant Borough Council, the Hampshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) and the Hampshire County Museum Service, along with an ordered project archive for long term storage and curation.

2. Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The site, 3 Grove Road, is located on the south side of Twittens way and is bounded to the east and west by garden plots. The site is close to the historic core of Havant, Hampshire, at grid ref SU 718062 (fig 1). The site lies within an area identified as being an Archaeologically Important Area (Hampshire County Council: Historic Town Surveys: Havant). It lies in close proximity of the 1st century Roman road that ran from Chichester towards Winchester and Southampton, and well-preserved Roman and medieval remains have been previously located within the vicinity.
- 2.2 The underlying geology is mapped as Cretaceous Chalk; this is overlain by superficial Head deposits, which are gravelly deposits formed by the downslope movement of chalk from the north. (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).



Figure 1, Site Location

3. Planning Background

- 3.1 Outline planning consent (Planning Reference APP/14/00065) has been granted by Havant Borough Council, the Local Planning Authority for the construction of a two bedroomed house with a new opening in the wall to provide access from Twittens Way. However, as the proposed development site is located within a perceived area of high archaeological potential, archaeological conditions were attached to this planning consent.

Condition 8 states that 'no development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological assessment in accordance with a written scheme of investigation that has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority'. Condition 9 required the implementation of the programme of archaeological mitigation proposed in the WSI, which was undertaken on the 23rd March 2016. Condition 10 required a full report of the archaeological evaluation which is presented in this document.

4. Aims and Objectives of the Archaeological Evaluation

- 4.1 The general aim of the archaeological evaluation of the site was to ensure that sufficient information was generated from the results of the work, which would enable Mr Neil Adam, the Senior Archaeologist of Hampshire County Council (on behalf of the local planning authority), to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resource (if any) on the site in the event that further archaeological work may be required.

- 4.2 The objectives of the project were:

To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the area of the development site.

To determine the type, extent, condition, nature, character, quality, function, and date, of any archaeological remains encountered.

To allow the preservation by record of archaeological deposits.

To gain information about heritage assets identified within the area of the proposed development site.

To mitigate potential threats.

To inform proposals for further archaeological investigations, if necessary.

To interpret the archaeology of the site within its local, regional and national context.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 5.1 Background research sources were consulted at the Hampshire Archives and Local Studies. A search of the Hampshire Historic Environment Record (HER) was conducted on a 500m radius centred on the development site.
- 5.2 No Prehistoric finds are recorded from the immediate vicinity of the site although Prehistoric flint implements have been identified from various locations in the Havant area. These include Mesolithic and Neolithic tools from the route of the southern bypass.

An occupation site of the prehistoric period was identified at the site of the former Oak Park School to the north of the town.

- 5.3 During the Romano-British period the Havant area appears to have been extensively occupied. It is likely that a settlement was founded at the junction of two Roman Roads, one running east-west from Noviamagus Regensium (Chichester) to Clausentum (Southampton) and the other north-south from Rowlands castle to Hayling Island. The course of the east-west Roman Road is traditionally thought to follow the present West Street and East Street (Margary 1955, 425). However, recent finds from the vicinity of Grove Road suggests that it may actually run between East Street and Grove Road.

- 5.4 A number of find spots of Romano-British material are present within the historic core of Havant which lies close to the proposed development site.

23359 (SU 71579 06283) Unstratified Romano British pottery comprising coarsewares, amphorae and samian. Discovered by builders at the junction of Park Rd and West St . 1971.

23376 (SU 71722 06200) Watching Brief on service trench in 1969, identified oyster shell and Romano British pottery.

23390 (SU 71700 06300) Construction trench excavated in 1969 revealed Romano British.

23451 (SU 71900 06230) single sherd of Romano British greyware pottery discovered in 1971 at 19 East Street.

23480 (SU 71760 06230) renovation work at St Faithe's church in 1857 revealed Romano British tile and cement along with coins beneath a pillar base.

32453 (SU 71900 06200) A scatter of Romano British pottery discovered in 1976 in the garden at East Street.

32457 (SU 71900 06140) Romano British pottery identified at 5 Grove Rd during excavations in 1980.

35252 (SU 17165 06169) during a watching brief at 4-12 South Street in 1995, 3 sherds of Romano British pottery were identified.

38654 (SU 71700 06300) in 1997 four sherds of Romano British pottery were discovered.

62034 (SU 71615 06320) An evaluation in 2008 at 44-54 West Street revealed a Romano British Ditch terminus (or possibly a pit) which contained building materials, pottery and animal bone.

64242 (SU 71739 06194) A watching brief at Homewell House in 2012 identified a Romano British pit and a well.

- 5.5 A Romano British Villa dated to the second and third centuries lies to the south of the town near Langstone. A second to third century Romano-British occupation site was identified to the north of the town on the former playing fields of Oak Park School. (Crosby, 1992).

- 5.6 The place name of Havant is derived from the Old English Funtā (derived from the Latin Fontana), indicating the presence of a spring; and the name Hama (a personal name).

This is borne out by the presence of a number of springs rising in the Havant area (Coates 1993, 131).

- 5.7 The earliest mention of Havant as a settlement was in AD 935 when 7 mansae of land at Hamanfuntan were granted to Wihtgar, a minister of King Athelstan (Sawyer 1968, 430). King Æthelred granted the reversion of land at Havant to the monks of the Old Minster, Winchester in AD 980 (Sawyer 1968, 837).
- 5.8 The Domesday Survey of 1086 records the estate as still held by the monks of Winchester, with two mills and three salt houses.
- 5.9 A market charter was granted by King John in 1200 (Longcroft 1857, 9), and the town appears to have functioned as an important market within the area
- 5.10 In the Post Medieval period Havant became famous for parchment production, which was regarded as being of superior quality (Longcroft 1857, 82). Other industries included tanning and brewing (Longcroft 1857, 82).
- 5.11 Copies of manuscript and published Ordnance Survey (O.S.) maps were obtained from the Hampshire Archives and Local Studies. The earliest map consulted comprised the OS 6" surveyed in 1866. This showed the development site as orchard. The residential development of the area began in the early 20th Century.

6. Methodology

- 6.1 The archaeological evaluation was carried out at the development site on the 23rd of March 2016 by James Roberts. This involved the mechanical excavation under archaeological supervision of two trial trenches [designated as **Trenches 1-2**].
- 6.2 The written scheme of investigation for this archaeological evaluation provided for the excavation of two 5m long trenches by 1.5m wide. A plan of the proposed site layout of these trenches accompanied this written scheme of investigation, which were subsequently submitted to and agreed by Mr. Neil Adam, Senior Archaeologist for Hampshire County Council on behalf of the local planning authority.
- 6.3 Where necessary, surfaces were hand cleaned for examination and recording, and deposits observed were recorded on standard *pro-forma* context recording sheets. Individual plans were compiled on site at a scale of 1:50 of each trench excavated. These plans are reproduced at this same scale as **Figure 3**.
- 6.4 A total of four feature sections were also compiled on site [designated as **Sections 1-4**], these are similarly reproduced at 1:20 on **Figure 3**.
- 6.5 A complimentary digital colour photographic record was also maintained, which are reproduced as **Plates 1-5, Appendix 1**. A list of contexts recorded is detailed in **Appendix 2**.
- 6.6 All work was carried out according to the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation and to the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluations* (2008).

7. Results [Figure 3; Appendix 1, Plates 1-5]

7.1 Trench 1 [Plates 1-3]

- 7.1.1 **Trench 1** was orientated from north-south and was excavated to a length of 5.0m, to a width of 1.5m and to depths of 0.58m-0.62m below ground levels. The excavation of this trench revealed a deep topsoil horizon (**101**) containing modern material throughout its depth, which directly overlay the gravel natural (**102**).
- 7.1.2 Towards the southern end of this trench and extending beyond the southern limit of excavation was the possible terminus of a linear [**103**] with fill (**104**). This feature was hand excavated. No datable material was recovered from the fill (**104**). This feature was cut into the gravel natural (**102**) with the fill (**104**) being sealed by the topsoil horizon (**101**). However, the organic form of the base of this feature and associated pocketing in the gravel suggests that it is in fact the result of rooting activity or a tree bole.
- 7.1.3 The remainder of the area of this trench was occupied by a single shallow linear cut [**105**] filled by [**106**] which ran along the eastern edge of the trench, continuing beyond the limit of excavation. It was cut into the gravel natural [**102**] and the fill was sealed by the topsoil horizon [**101**]. This feature was heavily truncated and only a remnant had survived, no datable material was recovered from the fill.

7.2 Trench 2 [Plates 4-5]

- 7.2.1 **Trench 2** was located to the north of **Trench 1** and was orientated from east-west. **Trench 2** was excavated to a length of 5.0m, to a width of 1.5m and to depths of 0.91m-0.98m below ground levels. **Trench 2** was excavated within the build footprint of the proposed new residential building. The same deposit sequence noted earlier within **Trench 1** was also encountered within this trench.
- 7.2.2 A single truncated pit [**203**] filled by [**204**] was identified towards the eastern end of the trench. This pit had a shallow rounded base, but no dating evidence was recovered from the fill. A steep sided narrow cut [**205**] filled by [**206**] was identified at the western end of the trench. Modern glass and debris was recovered from the fill [**206**]. the form of this cut suggests it was a modern service trench, probably machine excavated. Both of these features were sealed by the topsoil horizon (**201**).

8. Discussion and Conclusions

- 8.1 Two trial trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision over the area of the proposed development site. These excavations identified a simple deposit sequence consisting of a deep topsoil horizon which overlay natural gravels. This sequence was recorded within both trenches. The ground level in the northern half of the site was approximately 0.35m higher than in the southern half.
- 8.2 The proposed development site is considerably higher than the road which follows the north and west boundary of the site, with a drop of approximately 0.60m. It appears that the levels within the site have been made up with the import of topsoil, which is contained by the surrounding garden wall. The topsoil contained modern material throughout its depth down to the natural gravel. The topsoil sealed all of the features identified during the evaluation.
- 8.3 This archaeological evaluation identified severe truncation across the site, possibly during previous development phases and the features identified were all extremely shallow. The

only two certain archaeological features recorded within the trenches; a linear in **Trench 1** and a pit in **Trench 2** provided no dating evidence.

- 8.4 The preservation of archaeology within the site was severely compromised by earlier truncation, and the data recovered extremely limited.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 I would like to thank Mr. Gary Hailstones of Hail and Stone Consultancy Limited for commissioning this work. Grateful thanks are also extended to the Hampshire County Historic Environment Record, to Mr. Neil Adam, Senior Archaeologist Hampshire County Council and to the staff of the Hampshire Archives and Local Studies at Winchester for their kind assistance.

10 Bibliography

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(<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

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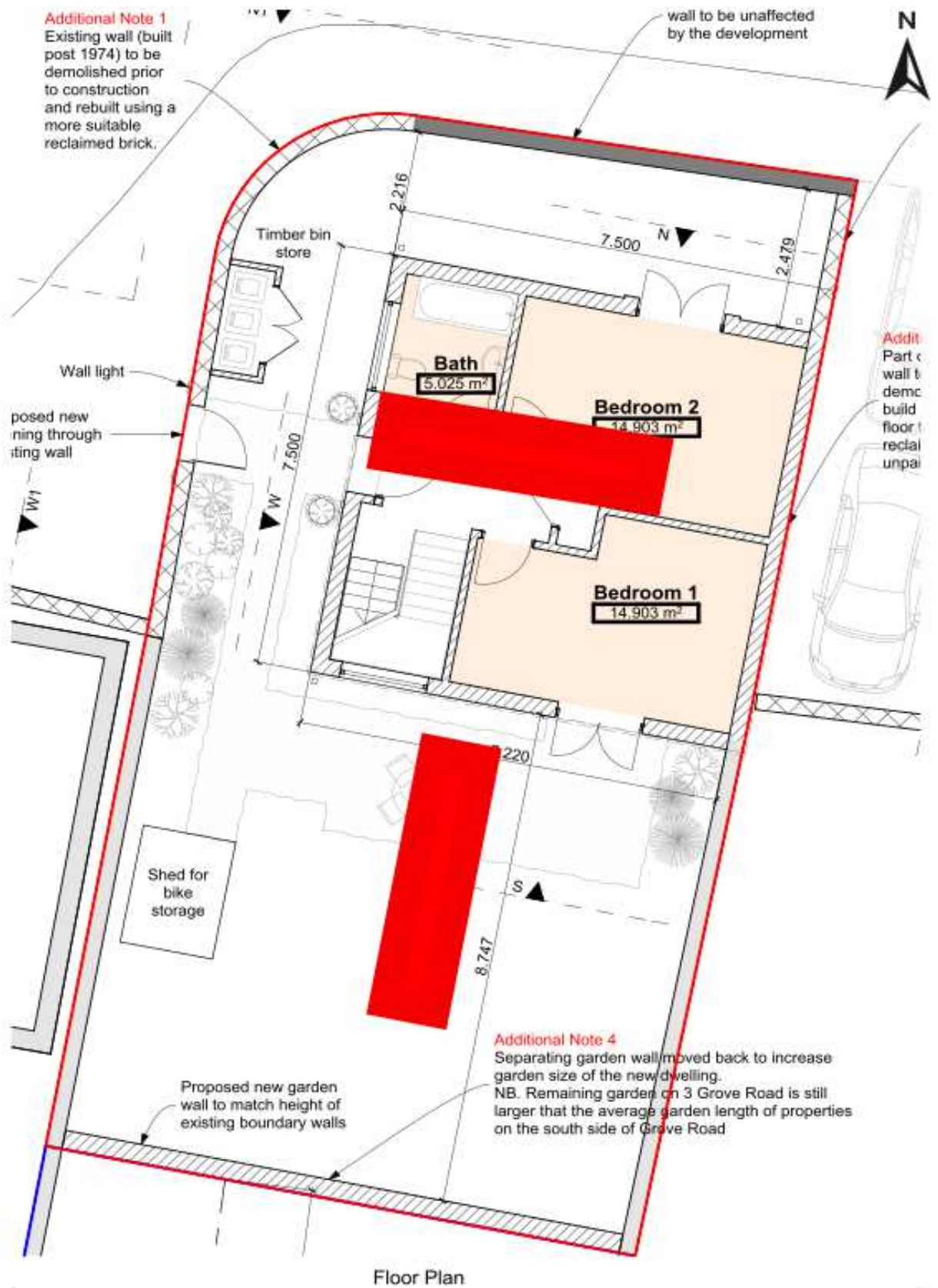
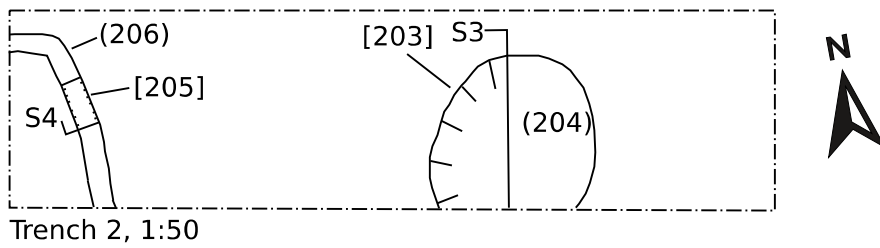
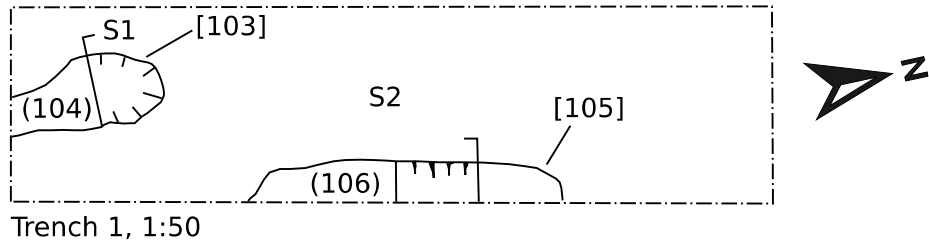
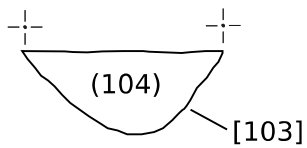


Figure 2, Trench Layout
1:100

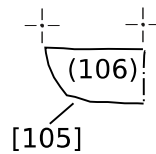
Figure 3: Archaeological Plans and Sections



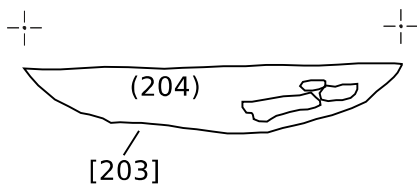
All Sections are drawn at a scale of 1:20



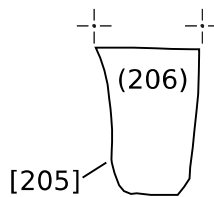
Section 1: [103]



Section 2: [105]



Section 3: [203]



Section 4: [205]

Figure 3: Archaeological Plans and Sections

Appendix 1: Plates



Plate 1: Trench 1



Plate 2: Trench 2

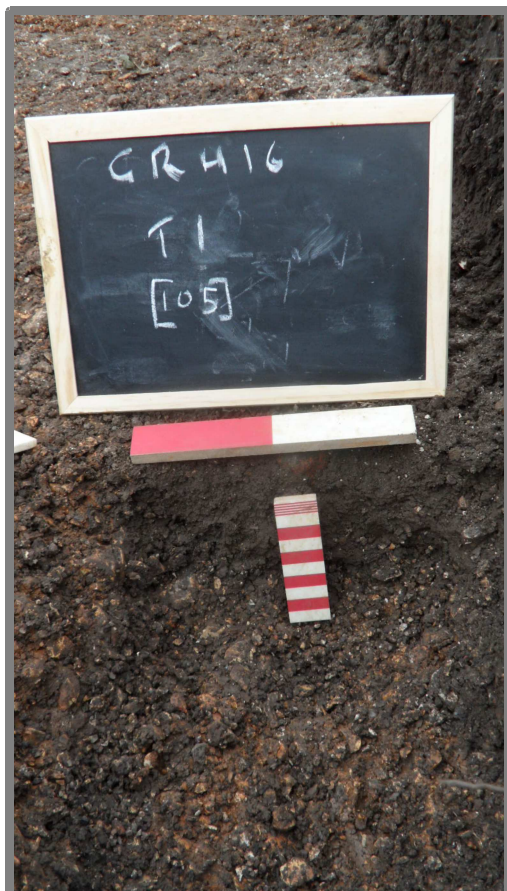


Plate 3: Section [105]



Plate 4: Section [205]



Plate 5: Section [205]

Appendix 2: List of Contexts

Context	Type	Description
(101)	Layer	Dark brown, friable, clay silt topsoil containing modern glass and debris
(102)	Layer	Mid Orange small to medium natural gravel with occasional lenses of mottled grey/brown clay.
[103]	Cut	Shallow sinuous cut with indistinct break of slope to top, concave edges and a rounded base. There is much pocketing in the edge suggesting extensive root activity.
(104)	Fill	Dark brown, friable clay silt with organic lenses, probably decayed root
[105]	Cut	North to south orientated linear cut with a clear break of slope to the top, concave side and a gradual break of slope to a flat base. The cut was truncated from above and at either end.
(106)	Fill	Dark brown friable clay silt.
(201)	Layer	Same as (101)
(202)	Layer	Same as (102)
[203]	Cut	Sub circular cut with a sharp break of slope to top (truncated), gentle concave sides and an indistinct break to a rounded base.
(204)	Fill	Dark brown compact clay silt with occasional small and medium stones.
[205]	Cut	Narrow linear cut with a sharp break of slope to the top, vertical sides and a sharp break to a flat base.
(206)	Fill	Dark brown firm clay silt containing modern glass and demolition material.