

Minchery Farm Paddock (MP12): Trench 1

Context No./ Type	Physical Relationships <i>Co-cords (E-N)</i> Levels m OD	Description <i>Interpretation</i>	Bulk finds Small finds numbers	Environmental Sample	Drawings	Photos
(1000) Layer: removed by machine	Over (1002) (1007) (1015) (1017) (1019) (1021) <i>Trench wide</i> <i>E.454419.50/</i> <i>N.202382.20</i> Top: 58.60m OD Bottom: 58.45m OD	Friable, dark brown/black, clay silt (humic). Covers full extent trench one. Occasional unmodified waterlogged wood fragments. Context (1000) is up to 0.4m maximum depth. Layer machine excavated. <i>Top soil over full extent of trench up to 0.4m thick.</i>	Animal bone, animal teeth, roof tile, floor tile, ?Roman pottery?	N/A	Section 101A & 101B	Yes
(1001) Layer	Under (1008) Over (1009)/(1003) <i>E.454419 /</i> <i>N.202389</i> Top: 57.85m OD Bottom: 57.35m OD	Friable, soft, dark brown/black (slightly darker than (1000) above) clay-silt, with high organic content = peat. Frequent roots and organic material. Up to 0.50m thick. Layer excavated with trowel and mattock in very wet conditions. <i>Substantial peat deposit associated with original course of Northfield Brook. Extends across the northern/lower 1/3rd of trench. It is considered to be related to the peat deposits found in Oxford Science Park to west of the MP12 site and Kassam Stadium/Northfield School playing fields (ARCHEOX TP4) to the east of the MP12 site.</i> AWAITING GEOARCH/ENV SPECIALIST REPORT	N/A	<1002>, <1003>, <1004>, <1005>, <1006>, <1007>, <1008>, <1009>, <1010>, <1011>, <1012>, <1017>, <1018>, <1019>, <1020>, <1021>, <1022>,	Plan 101, Section 101A & 101B Plan 101, 105	Yes

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				<1032>, <1033>, <1034>, <1035>, <1039>, <1040>.		
(1002) Layer	Under (1000) Over (1008) <i>E.454419.50 / N.202384.25</i> Top: 58.45m OD Bottom: 58.19m OD	Firm, mid-blue/grey-brown (with frequent veins of mid-orange brown) clay-silt. Context (1002) has a higher silt content than (1008) below. Context (1002) is 0.26m thick. The division between contexts (1002) and (1008) was not clearly observed either in plan or section. The division between contexts seen in sections 1A and 1B is made somewhat arbitrarily on the basis of clay to silt ratio - (1002) being a clay-silt whereas (1008) is a silty-clay. Excavated by machine and mattock. <i>Wet sub-soil extending across and beyond full extent of trench one</i>	Animal bone, animal teeth, tile, pottery, flint?, bottle glass	<1001>, <1012>, <1013>, <1014>, <1028>, <1042>	Plans 101, 102, 103, 105 Section 101A & 101B	Yes
(1003) Layer	Under (1001) (1008) (1009) <i>E.454419 / N.202389</i> Top: 58.69m OD Bottom: 58.11m OD	Firm, light-grey, silty-clay. Distinct with (1008) / (1001) above – North/South boundary with (1009) indistinct. Excavated with trowel and mattock in very wet conditions. Worm and root intrusion. <i>(1003) is natural clay sub-soil, it grades into solid geology in the sondage at the south-east corner of Trench, where it was excavated to thickness of 0.55m. Context (1003) was originally recorded across the entire extent of the trench but was subsequently split into two contexts (1003) and (1009)</i>	N/A		Plan 101, 104, 105 Section 101B	Yes

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		<p><i>(1003) is the lowest recorded deposit across the southern 2/3rds of the trench and comprises weathered but in situ natural deposits</i></p> <p><i>(1009) occurs across the northern 1/3rd of the trench, it is very similar in composition to (1003) but overlies gravels (1006)/(1013) associated with the Northfield Brook. (1009) is interpreted as being (1003) reworked by the Northfield Brook and redeposited on top of gravels (1006)/(1013).</i></p> <p><i>Stratigraphically (1003) is considered likely to underlie the sequence (1009) over (1006)/(1013), however, it was not possible to demonstrate this relationship in the field.</i></p>				
(1004) Layer/spread	<p>Under (1008a) Over (1008b)</p> <p><i>E.454420 / N.202381</i></p> <p>Top: 58.03m OD</p> <p>Bottom: 57.75m OD</p>	<p>Context (1004) comprises a concentration of limestone fragments recorded in the central area of trench one. Typical size of stone 250mm x 350mm x 100mm. Angular degraded limestone fragments and blocks. Stone fragments within (1004) appear to have been deliberately shaped and perhaps formerly bonded. Stone spread (1004) within layer (1008). Although no physical difference was observed, layer (1008) is split into two sub-contexts above and below layer (1004) for ease of stratigraphic description. Layer (1008a) overlies context (1004) and layer (1008b) underlies context (1004).</p> <p>Context (1004) measures approximately 4m southwest to northeast, by 1.2m north west to south east and is approx. 0.2 to 0.3m thick. Three small slots were hand excavated at right-angles across stone spread (1004), no traces of any underlying structure or foundations were observed. Spread (1004) is associated with small finds of tile and animal bone. 2 similar limestone fragments were found within fill (1005) in</p>	<p>Tile, animal bone and teeth, pottery, CBM, glass, poss. Roman ceramics</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Plan 101, 102, 103</p> <p>(detail of stone layout on Plan 102/3)</p>	<p>Yes</p>

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		<p>the eastern edge of excavation indicating that spread (1004) may extend beyond the limits of trench one to the east.</p> <p><i>Context 1004 is a spread of limestone fragments with little apparent structure in its current location. However, 1004 appears to contain several pieces of stone that seem shaped and perhaps formerly bonded. This could possibly be material collected from a nearby structure and redeposited in the area of trench one to firm up soft ground on the edge of peat/stream line.</i></p>				
(1005) fill	<p>Under (1008)/(1002) Fills of [1010]</p> <p><i>E.454422.25 / N.202383.30</i></p> <p>Top: 58.20m OD Bottom: 57.85m OD</p>	<p>(1005) is the fill of cut [1010]. It comprises a firm/tenacious dark-grey-brown, silty-clay with occasional fine root intrusion. Contains two limestone blocks very similar to those making up spread (1004). The lateral east/west extent of (1005) is unknown (see context 1010). North / south extent is approximately 2.3m and it is up to 0.3m thick. It's boundaries with (1001) and [1010] below and (1008) above are indistinct. Excavated with trowel and mattock.</p> <p>The relationship between (1005) and (1008)/(1002) is indistinct in section and is not seen in plan.</p> <p><i>Context (1005) is the fill of cut [1010] of unknown form and extent. Presence of limestone block similar to those making up (1004) suggests that deposition/formation of fill (1005) is likely to be contemporary with or post-date the deposition of stone spread (1004)</i></p>	Tile	<1043>, <1044>	Section 101B	Yes
(1006) layer	Under (1009) Fill of [1012]	Firm, light-grey, silty-clay (60%). Poorly sorted sub-angular gravel, max 20mm² x min 1mm² (40%). (1006) is at least 0.30m thick but was not bottomed due to very wet conditions.	N/A	<1010>, <1027>	Plan 104, 105 Section	Yes

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	<p><i>E.454416.50 / N.2020390</i></p> <p>Top: 57.30m OD Bottom: 57.10m OD</p>	<p>It is distinct with (1009) above.</p> <p>Layer (1006) was only exposed in the north-western (1x1m) sondage of trench one and its lateral extent is therefore unknown. The N/W sondage was the lowest area of trench one and was below the water table for all of the excavation (doubling as a sump for pumping). Layer (1006) was excavated with trowel and mattock.</p> <p><i>Deposit (1006) is interpreted as gravel deposited by moderate power fluvial action during a southerly migration of the Northfield Brook of unknown date but prior to its straightening in the early 19th century. The southern extent of (1006) is uncertain. It is considered that deposit (1006) is the same as gravel deposit (1013). Both deposits are sealed by (1009), however, as (1006) and (1013) were exposed in separate 1x1m sondages a physical relationship cannot be proved.</i></p> <p><i>As mentioned in context (1003) above it is considered likely that both layers (1006) and (1013) overly insitu subsoil (1003), however, this relationship has not been demonstrated stratigraphically.</i></p>			101	
(1007) Fill	<p>Under (1000) Fill of [1011]</p> <p><i>E454421.50 / N202392.20</i></p> <p>Top:</p>	<p>Friable mid-grey brown silty clay. Contains redeposited chunks of (1001) & (1009). Context (1007) was visible in the northeast corner of trench one following the machine removal of topsoil (1000). Removed with mattock. 0.57m deep. Traces of (1007) were visible in plan in the north east corner of Trench one during the machine excavation of layers (1002/1008) and the hand excavation of peat (1001).</p>	N/A	N/A	Section 101A & 101B	Yes

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Context No./ Type	Physical Relationships <i>Co-cords (E-N)</i> Levels m OD	Description <i>Interpretation</i>	Bulk finds Small finds numbers	Environmental Sample	Drawings	Photos
	58.17m OD Bottom: 57.60m OD	<i>Fill of modern disturbance within cut [1011].</i>				
(1008) Layer	Under (1002) Over(1005) (1003) (1001) Split into (1008a) over (1004) and (1008b) under (1004) <i>E.454419.50 / N.202384.25</i> Top: 58.19m OD Bottom: 57.85m OD	Firm blue/grey-brown, silty-clay (very similar to (1002) above but with higher clay content); has frequent veins of iron staining. Up to 0.30mm thick. Boundary with (1002) above is indistinct. The boundary between contexts (1002) and (1008) was not clearly observed either in plan or section. The division seen in section 1B is made somewhat arbitrarily on the basis of clay to silt ratio - (1002) being a clay-silt whereas (1008) is a silty-clay. Recovered with trowel and mattock. Although no physical difference was observed, layer (1008) is split into two sub-contexts above and below layer (1004) for ease of stratigraphic description. Layer (1008a) overlies context (1004) and layer (1008b) underlies context (1004). <i>Wet sub-soil extending across and beyond full extent of trench one. Very similar to (1002) above. In plan stone spread (1004) seems to be within (1002)/(1008).</i>	N/A	<1012>, <1015>, <1016>, <1029>, <1030>	Section 101A & 101B Plan 102, 105	Yes
(1009) Layer	Under (1001) Fills[1012] Over (1003) and (1013) <i>E454419 / N202391.50</i>	Firm light –grey, silty-clay. Its boundary with contexts (1001) and (1008) above is distinct, however, the north/south boundary with (1009) is indistinct. Removed with trowel and mattock. Frequent worm and root intrusion. Layer (1009) extends across the full width of the northern end of trench one. It lies under peat (1001) and over stream	N/A	<1010>, <1011>, <1012>, <1021>, <1022>, <1023>, <1024>,	Section 101A Plan 105 and 104	Yes

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	<p>Top: 57.33m OD Bottom: 57.03m OD</p>	<p>cut [1012] and gravels (1006)/(1013).</p> <p>Following the removal of peat (1001) a large number of vertically bedded pieces of round wood (between 5 and 20mm in diameter) were observed in the surface of layer (1009). Due to the very wet conditions it was not possible to expose and record the entire surface of (1009) in a single event. The location of each piece of round wood was planned with a planning frame, cleaning a 100x100mm area at a time. No pattern was apparent amongst these pieces of round wood (see plan 104) and on excavation a sample proved to be naturally occurring saplings rooted in layer (1009).</p> <p><i>It is suggested that layer (1009) is derived from a deposit similar to layer (1003). Layer (1009) is redeposited on top of stream line/cut [1012]. Originating from natural material eroded further upstream to the east, layer (1009) is deposited as the rate of flow within this area of the Northfield Brook decreases.</i></p> <p><i>Originally this context was recorded as (1003) and was thought to extend across all of trench one. Layer (1003) was subsequently split into two contexts (1003) and (1009)</i></p> <p><i>Layer (1009) occurs across the northern 1/3rd of the trench, it is very similar in composition to (1003) but overlies cut [1012] and gravels (1006)/(1013) associated with the Northfield Brook. (1009) is interpreted as being (1003) or similar reworked by the Northfield Brook and redeposited on top of gravels (1006)/(1013).</i></p> <p><i>(1003) is the lowest recorded deposit across the southern 2/3rds</i></p>		<p><1025>, <1036>, <1037>, <1041></p>		

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		<p><i>of the trench and comprises weathered but in situ natural deposits</i></p> <p><i>Stratigraphically (1003) is considered likely to underlie the sequence (1009) over [1012]/(1006)/(1013), however, it was not possible to demonstrate this relationship in the field.</i></p>				
[1010] Cut	<p>Filled by (1005) Cuts (1001) and (1003)</p> <p><i>E.454422.25 / N.202383.30</i></p> <p>Top: 58.20m OD Bottom: 57.85m OD</p>	<p>Context [1010] is a cut of uncertain shape and orientation seen in the west facing section of trench one. It has shallow sides (less than 45°) and an irregular, concave base. The breaks of slope between its sides and base are indistinct. Cut [1010] measures c. 0.3m deep by c. 2.3m north to south. It cuts peat (1001) and is filled by (1005) which contains limestone fragments similar to those seen in spread (1004). Cut [1010] is indistinct in section and was not seen in plan.</p> <p><i>[1010] is a shallow cut seen in the west facing section of trench 1. Its east-west extent is unclear. The fact that fill (1005) contains limestone blocks similar to those seen in (1004) suggests that deposition/formation of fill (1005), and possibly the creation of cut [1010], is likely to be contemporary with or post-date the deposition of stone spread (1004)</i></p>	N/A	N/A	Section 101A & 101B	Yes
[1011] Cut	<p>Filled by (1007) Cuts (1002), (1008) and (1001)</p> <p><i>E454421.50 / N202392.20</i></p>	<p>Cut of uncertain size and shape seen in northeast corner of trench one. Approx. 0.7m deep. Steep sides, shallower on western edge. Flat base, with a sharp break of slope on both sides. Fill (1007) observed following machine removal of topsoil (1001)</p> <p><i>Partially excavated feature in NE corner of T1, probably modern disturbance.</i></p>			Section 101A & 101B	Yes

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	Top: 58.36m OD Bottom: 57.61m OD					
[1012] Cut	Filled by (1009) Cuts (1006) <i>E.454416.50 / N.2020390</i> Top 57.33m OD Bottom 57.03m OD	Shallow cut of uncertain shape and orientation recorded in sondage in northwest corner of trench one. Cut [1012] has concave sides at a c. 45° slope, with gradual break of slope at top and bottom. Cut [2012] cuts gravels (1006). Seen in plan (plans 104 and 105) cut is irregular in form and extends beyond the limits of excavation to both the north and west. <i>Cut [1012] is interpreted as the southern limit of erosion of Northfield Brook, cutting into gravels (1006).</i>			Section 101A Plan 104	Yes
(1013) Layer	Under (1009) Same as (1006) <i>E.454419.50 / N.202384.25</i> Top 57.31m OD Bottom 57.11m OD	Firm light grey silty clay (60%). Excavated to a maximum depth of 0.2m thick Poorly sorted sub-angular gravel with a maximum size of 20mm². Boundaries were distinct with (1009). Excavated with trowel and mattock. Occasional tree root intrusion. <i>Gravels associated with the line of Northfield Brook observed in NE corner of trench 1 in sondage. The southern extent of this deposit is unclear due to limit of excavation within a sondage. Deposit not fully excavated/bottomed due to water table. Considered likely to overly deposit (1003) natural clay and to be the same as layer (1006).</i>			Section 101A&B Plan 105,	Uncertain
[1014] Cut	Filled by (1015) Cuts	Poorly defined near vertical sided cut (c.0.5m wide by 0.9m deep) with flat base and sharp breaks of slope between flat vertical sides and flat horizontal base. This feature is cut			Section 101A	Yes

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	<p>(1002)/(1008) and (1001)</p> <p><i>E454420.5</i> <i>N202392.0</i></p> <p>Top 58.51m OD Bottom 57.55m OD</p>	<p>from the surface through layers (1000), (1002), (1008) and 1001) to approximately the top of layer (1009). This feature is of unknown north/south dimensions. Cut [1014] was only observed in the south facing section of trench one. No trace was observed further to the south.</p> <p><i>Cut [1014] is interpreted as being a modern cut of unknown extent and purpose</i></p>				
(1015) Fill	<p>Under (1000) Fill of (1014),</p> <p><i>E454420.5</i> <i>N202392.0</i></p> <p>Top 58.51m OD Bottom 57.55m OD</p>	<p>Fill (1015) consisted of a redeposited mixture of layers (1000, (1002) and (1008). A crushed late twentieth century oil can and several milk bottles were recovered from the base of fill (1015).</p> <p><i>Fill of twentieth century cut</i></p>	<p>Twentieth century oil can and several milk bottles (discarded on site)</p>		<p>Section 101A</p>	<p>Yes</p>
[1016] Cut	<p>Filled by (1017) Cuts (1002), (1008) and (1001)</p> <p><i>E454422</i> <i>N202387.5</i></p> <p>Top 58.25m OD</p>	<p>Approximately 0.60m wide cut for 19th century, or more recent, un-bonded, east west running, c. 200mm diameter ceramic land drain. Top of drain exposed during hand excavation of layer (1001). Base of cut not reached. Cut [1016] was only observed in deeper excavations on the eastern edge of trench one. The poorly defined edges of cut [1016] were observed in the west facing section of the trench, no trace was observed in plan on the exposed surface of (1001) further to the west.</p> <p><i>Cut for late post med/modern east west running land drain</i></p>			<p>Section 101B Plan 104 and 105</p>	<p>Yes</p>

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	Limit of Excavation 58.01m OD					
(1017) Fill	Under 1000 Fill of [1016] <i>E454422 N202387.5</i> Top 58.25m OD Limit of Excavation 58.01m OD	Fill of post-med/modern land drain consisting of redeposited (1000), (1002), (1008) and (1001) as well as the ceramic land drain described in [1016] above. Very difficult to distinguish between (1017) and surrounding deposits, particularly in plan. <i>Fill of cut [1016] containing east/west running land drain</i>			Section 101B Plan 104 and 105	Yes
[1018] Cut	Filled by (1019) Cuts (1002), (1008) and (1001) <i>E454422.2 N202386</i> Top 58.61m OD Limit of Excavation 57.59m OD	1.5m wide vertical sided cut – not bottomed. Corresponds with location of John Moore Heritage Services 2006 evaluation trench one. <i>Cut for John Moore Heritage Services 2006 evaluation trench one</i>			Section 101B Plan 105	Yes

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(1019) Fill	<p>Under 1000 Fill of [1018]</p> <p><i>E454422.2</i> <i>N202386</i></p> <p>Top 58.61m OD Limit of Excavation 57.59m OD</p>	<p>Fill (1019) consists of redeposited layers (1000), (1002), (1008) (1001) and (1003). The edges of this deposit are poorly defined, however, the line of cut [1018]/fill (1019) was visible on the exposed surface of layer (1001) following machining as chunks of (1003).</p> <p><i>Fill of John Moore Heritage Services 2006 evaluation trench one</i></p>			Section 101B Plan 105	Yes
[1020] Cut	<p>Filled by (1021) Cuts (1002)/(1008), (1001) and (1003)</p> <p><i>E454422</i> <i>N202379.5</i></p> <p>Top 58.91m OD Limit of excavation 57.81m OD</p>	<p>Approximately 1.05 m wide cut with vertical sides, excavated to a depth of c. 1.10m below surface when a narrow diameter (c. 50mm) water pipe was encountered and excavation was abandoned. Cut [1020] was only observed in plan in the base of deeper excavations along the eastern edge of trench one and was subsequently established in the east facing section. No trace of cut [1020] was apparent in the exposed surface of layer (1002/1008) further west.</p> <p><i>Cut for east/west running 20th century water pipe</i></p>			Section 101B Plan 105	Uncertain
(1021) Fill	<p>Under (1000) Fill of [1020]</p>	<p>Where observed in very wet conditions layer (1021) consisted of redeposited bedrock underlying (1003)</p> <p><i>Fill of east/west running 20th century water pipe</i></p>			Section 101B Plan 105	Uncertain

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	E454422 N202379.5 Top 58.91m OD Limit of excavation 57.81m OD					