Marston Mill

Spring Gardens, Frome, Somerset.

Archaeological Evaluation Report for the Three Trenches at the Axe Site.

BACAS ref. MMAS/19

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Archaeological Evaluation Report for the Three Trenches at the Axe Site Field

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2	Red arrow indicates location of site North North-West of Frome, Somerset. Courtesy Ordnance Survey. Crown copyright reserved	
3	© Crown Copyright and database right 2021. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100024900	
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2. Summary

The Bath and Counties Archaeological Society (BACAS) previously worked at Marston Mill, Spring Gardens, Frome and was involved in other work on the property when a local metal detectorist found a Francisca, a continental iron throwing axe of a style dating between 450 and 550AD. It was reported to the Somerset Finds Liaison Officer (FLO). This artefact was recovered immediately south-west of the mill, roughly at ST37701497. Robert Heath the owner of the site invited the society to carry out a survey of the field and an excavation where the axe was recovered, BACAS initiated a geophysical survey (which have been reported separately) followed by placing trenches across the relevant location.

3. Site Description, Location and Geology

Oldfield Hall and Marston Mill are in Spring Gardens, 2 kilometres to the north, north-west of the town of Frome in Somerset in the south-west of England.
The buildings are situated to the north of Coal Ash Lane which marks the southern boundary and west of Jefferies Lane, the site is approached along a causeway constructed from local stone.
The Mells River approaches the mill from the west and curves around to form the northern extent of the property, an 18th century dug Leat leaves the main river channel and supplies water to the mill and then re-joins the main river, which then discharges into the River Frome towards the east.

National Grid Reference: ST 77061 49872 at 63m above OD.

Figure 1. Site Location of Somerset and and Map showing the location of Marston Mill Spring Garden near Frome (Red star).

Figure.2. Red arrow indicates location of site North North-West of Frome, Somerset. Courtesy Ordnance Survey. Crown copyright reserved

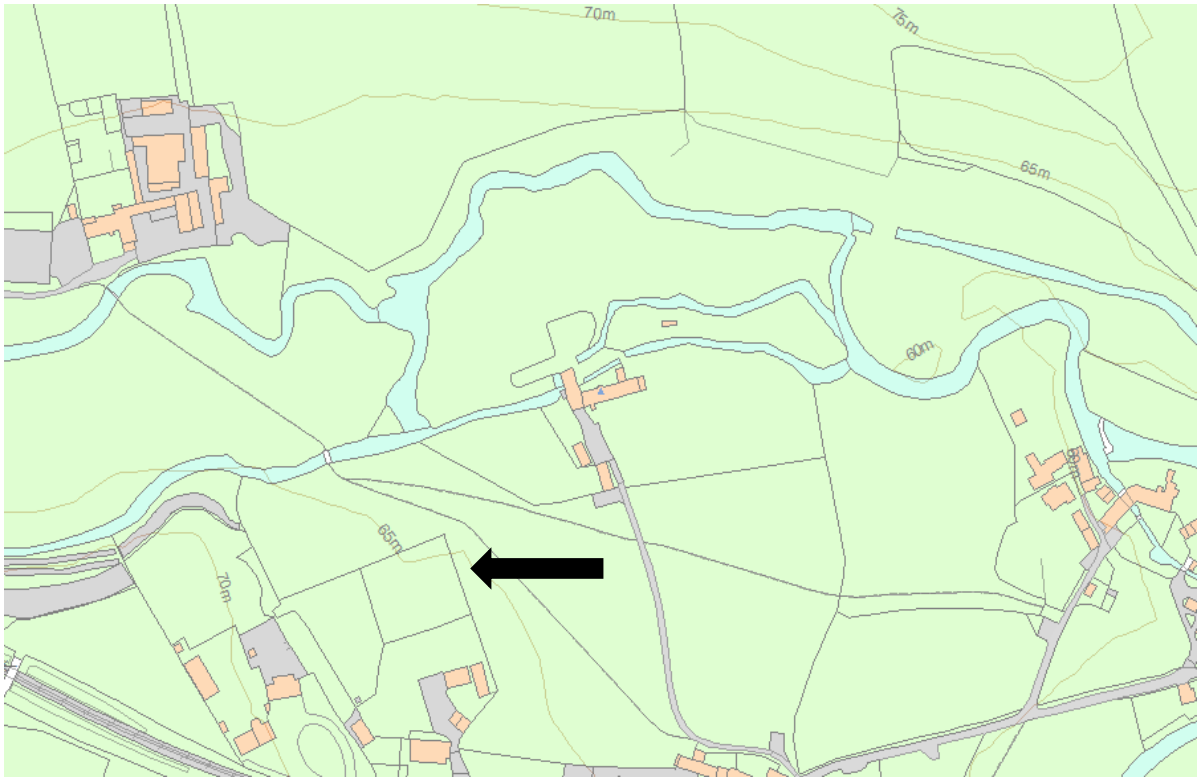


Figure 3. © Crown Copyright and database right 2021. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100024900.

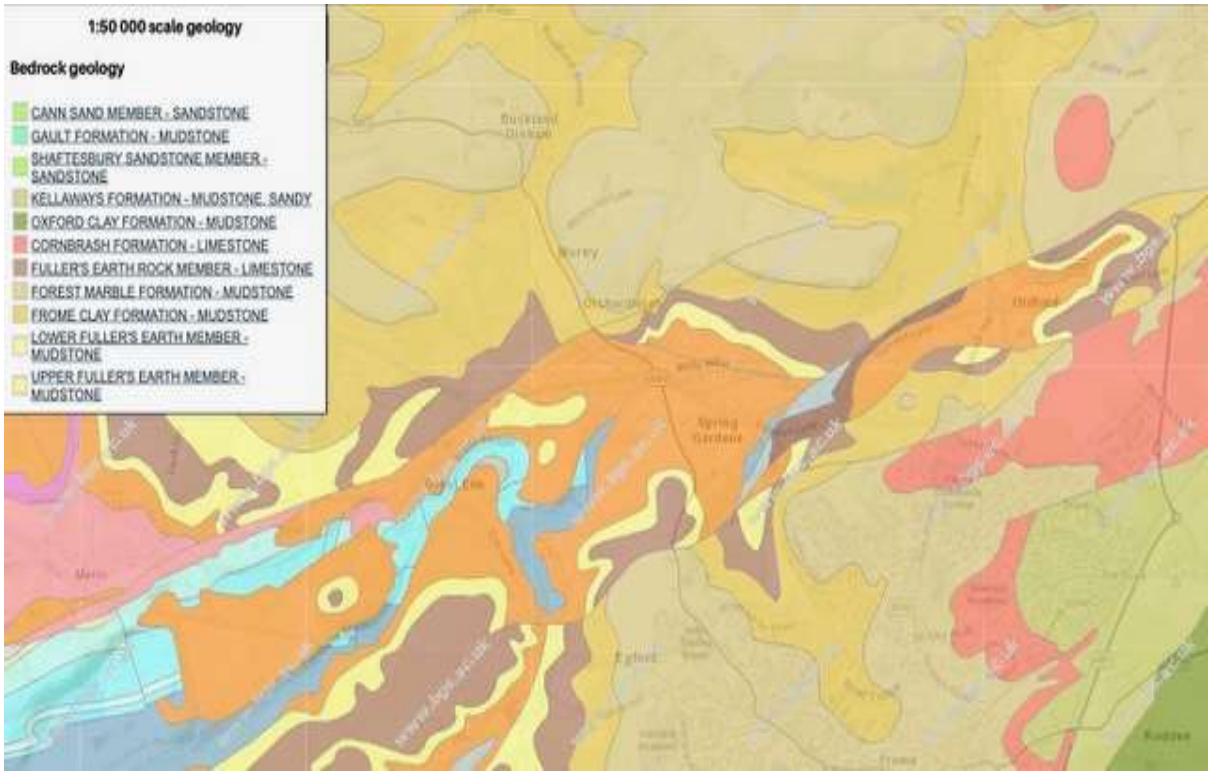


Figure 4. Underlying Geology (British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright)

Figure 5. Aerial Photograph of the site, White arrow shows the site position. (Acknowledgements to Google Earth).

4. Aims and objectives.

The aims and objectives of the watching brief as set out in the written scheme of investigation (WSI 2019) were:

The general objective of the project was to excavate and expose any archaeological features recovered in the test pits and trenches.

Establish the character of these deposits to define, if or why the axe was deliberately placed in that specific area of the field. Was it deposited in a settlement, closure of a house or perhaps associated with a burial?

Record and conserve where necessary any finds recovered and if possible, to date these artefacts.

5. Excavation methodology

The test pits and trenches were excavated by hand under close archaeological direction and supervision using spades and trowels, the turf and recovered spoil was placed away from the trenches.

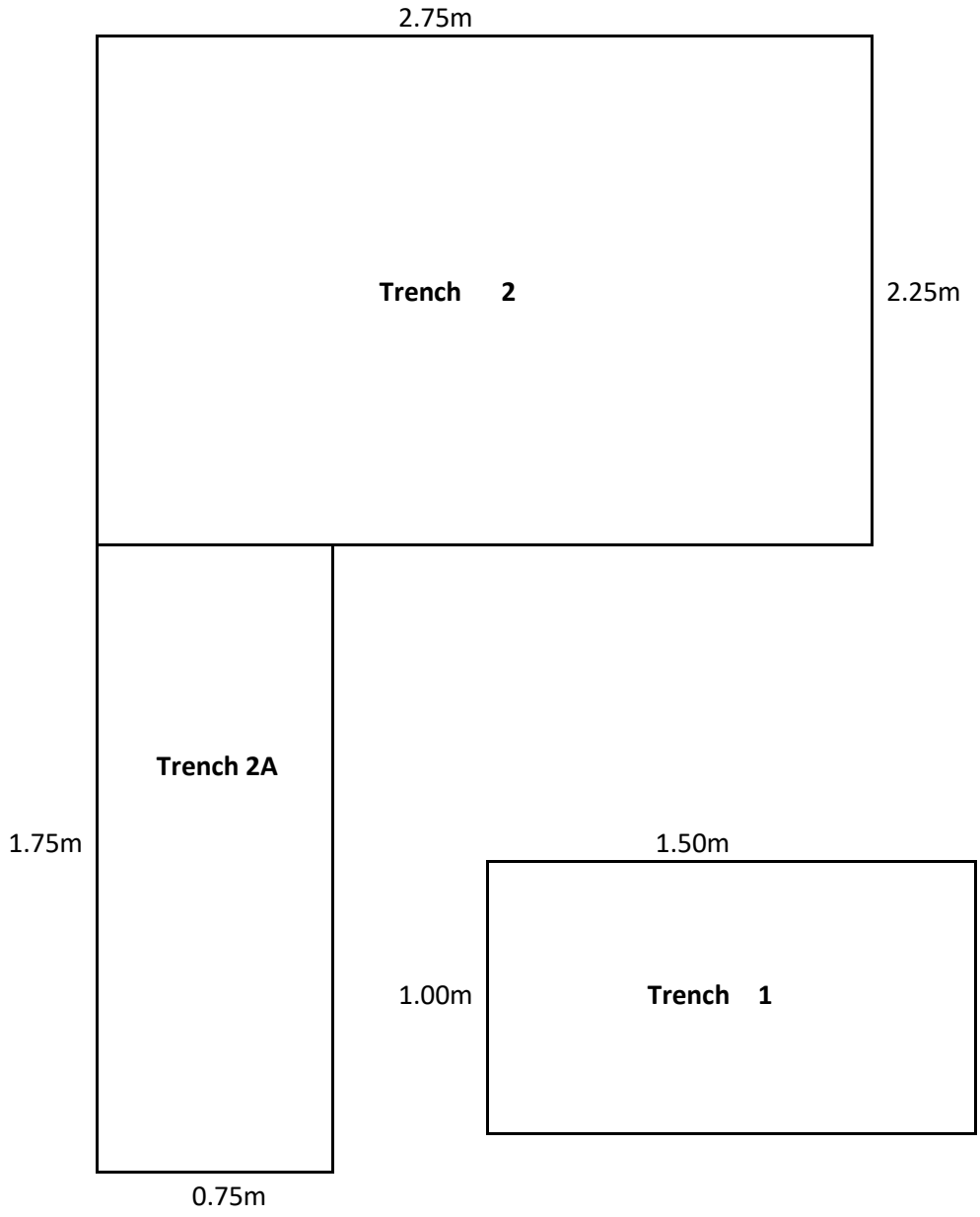
All excavated deposits and features were assigned unique reference numbers. A register was kept of all the archaeological deposits and features. Descriptions of all deposits and features was recorded on standard context sheets, with full details of their relationships to other contexts. A register of context sheets was maintained by the director of excavations.

Small finds or bulk finds were assigned unique numbers and list kept in a register. All finds recovered during this process will be washed, recorded, and then returned to the landowner at the end of the intervention.

If during the excavation it is acknowledged that there will be benefits by way of a better understanding of the deposits, a small extension or extensions will be made to the trenches to retrieve additional information.

Figure 6. BACAS member busy excavating trench 1 and 2.

Figure 7. Plan of trench positions not to scale.



6. Archaeological results, Conclusions and Recommendations

Test Pit or Trench 1

The first test pit excavated measured 1m square and was positioned and centred around a small hole (marked by a cane) where the axe has been previously removed (see figures 6). Geophysics survey gave the impression of a slightly stony area or disturbance around the immediate area where the axe had been recovered. It became apparent that the pit would need to be extended to 1.50m long x 1.00m wide to properly scrutinise the contents.
After the removal of the turf, the topsoil or overburden (10) consisted of a firm, mid to dark brown, silty sandy clay with occasional stone and flints, the average depth of this context was 15cm. The post hole [40] dimensions were 26cm deep x 11cm wide, it contained two fills, the top fill (20) was a friable mid to dark brown silty sandy clay containing very small number of small pebbles, stones, and the occasional flints, measuring 21cm deep, this context was very disturbed having been excavated previously by the detectorist.
The primary fill (30), which was undisturbed was 5cm deep and consisted of a stiff, dark brown loamy silty clay with a pebble at the bottom used as a post pad, all this context was saved for detailed environmental examination.
Directly below the topsoil was a deposit (50) of stones, cobbles, and flints of various sizes, perhaps laid as a floor or surface, but only located across the northern end of the trench, 40cm long x 6cm wide.
Context (60) was a deposit found across the southern end of the trench and measured 45cm long x 9cm wide it was made up of a firm, mid brown sandy silt with fragments of flint and stone.

Figure 8. Photograph of the pit after the topsoil had been removed and showing the position of the post hole where the axe was found.

Figure 9. Photograph of the pit and post hole where the axe was found

Figure 10. Photograph, close-up of the post hole where the axe was recovered.

[80] was a sondage placed across a possible beam slot. It was sited across the northern end of the trench and was oriented east to west, with vertical sides, flat base and the dimensions were 60cm in length x 25cm wide x 7cm deep. It was filled by a single fill (70) a friable, yellowish to mid brown silty clays with occasional flecks of charcoal 7cm in-depth.
Below context (50) was a firm deposit (90) of yellowish to mid brown silty clay with occasional fragments of stone and flint (2%) and on average measured 11cm deep.
Context (100) was a very firm and compacted yellowish to mid brown sandy clay with the occasional piece of charcoal found in the north-western end of the trench, not fully excavated, but perhaps underlying natural geology. (110) was an area of scattered stones in a very firm, mid brown sandy clay with fragments of charcoal, this context was only noted in the western side of the trench, not fully excavated.
Deposit (120) was made up from a very firm mid fawn to brown mixed clays with pieces of charcoal and clinker, this context was only noted to the south of (100) and measured 73cm long x 44cm wide and up to 12cm in-depth.
(130) was deposit in the south-west of the trench, measuring 33cm long x 15cm wide x 4cm deep, it was composed from a firm, brownish grey sandy clay with the occasional piece of charcoal.
A sondage [150] was excavated in the southern end of the trench and oriented east to west, with sloping sides and an uneven base, measuring 52cm in length x 35cm wide and 5cm deep, in was filled by a single context (140) 5cm deep and consisted of a firm greyish brown clay, charcoal rich with very small pebbles and small flint.
An ovoid roughly shaped pit or post hole [180] with sloping sides and a concave base 6cm x 8cm and oriented east west and found north of post hole [40], it contained two fills, the upper fill (160) was a firm greyish brown sandy clay, charcoal rich with small pebbles and flints and measured 7cm deep, the primary fill (170) was a redeposited soil consisting of a firm, greyish brown sandy clay with inclusions of stones, flints and flecks of charcoal, 8cm deep.
A post hole or depression [210] was recorded adjacent to the west side of the trench and oriented north to south, this feature had an ovoid shaped profile, with sloping sides and a concave base, it measured 4 wide x 5cm in-length and was 10cm deep. It had two fills (190) which was the top fill consisted of a firm, bluish greyish brown mixtures of clays. The only inclusions noted were charcoal flecks and has a 7cm depth. The primary fill (200) was composed from a very compact dark grey to black clay with inclusions which included burnt stone, charcoal and ash and was 3cm deep.
[230] was a cut of a rectangular feature, which could represent a beam slot or base of a robbed-out wall, it was oriented in a north south axis and was found in the southwestern end of the trench only, it measured 22cm long x 9cm wide and 6cm deep with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled with a single context (220) which consisting of a firm, yellowish brown mixture of clays with inclusions of charcoal, stones, and flints and was 6cm deep.

Figure 11. Photograph showing members excavating trench 1 and 2, west facing.

Figure 12. Photograph showing the excavated trench 1 before the being extended. The axe was found at the mid pint of the two poles.

Trench 2

This trench was positioned west of trench 1 and started out measuring 2.00m x 1.00m but was subsequently extended to 2,75m long x 2.25 wide due to the results of the geophysics which showed an oblong feature close to the trench.
After the removal of the turf, the topsoil or overburden (10) consisted of a firm, mid to dark brown, silty sandy clay with occasional stone and flints, and was similar to what was recovered in trench 1, this context measured on average 0.19cm deep.
The redeposited subsoil (20) was a friable, yellowish brown mixed silty sand with occasional stones it covered the complete trench and measured 4cm in-depth.
Directly below the subsoil and extending across the complete trench was a laid cobbled floor or surface (30), very firm, greyish brown to yellowish brown in colour and composed from pebbles, cobbles, stones and flints.
[50] was a rectangular shaped sondage, positioned east to west across the northern end of the trench and measured 60cm in-length x 1.00m wide and 25cm deep. with vertical sides and a flat base, it contained a single fill (40) and was composed of a firm, yellowish to light brown silty clay with fragments of stones and flints.
Context [80] was a linear shaped sondage in the southern end of the trench and aligned east west across the trench, the sides were uneven with a flat base and measured 1.00m in-length x 50cm wide and 19cm deep, it contained two contexts (60) which was the upper fill a compact silty clay, yellowish to light brown with small number of fragmented stones and flint, 10cm deep. The lower or primary fill of the sondage was fill by (70) a very firm, greyish brown mix of clays and sand with charcoal, clinker, ash and burnt stones and averaged 9cm in-depth.
[100] was an ovoid shaped pit feature in the southern end of the trench, north facing, with sloping sides and a very uneven base, 57cm in-length x 28cm wide x 12cm deep, it was filled by a firm, yellowish to light brown mix of pebbles, stones, and flint (90) in a yellowish clay packing, what this feature represent is at this present time unknown.
(110) was a deposit found only in the middle section of the trench, but it was recovered directly under (30), it was comprised of a yellowish to light brown redeposited dense clay with stones, pebbles and flints and measured 1.05m in-length x 89cm wide x 15cm deep.
Directly below (80) was a firm, mid brown, compacted surface of sandy clay (120) with no inclusions 76cm long x 43cm wide and 11cm deep.
Context (130) was only observed in the eastern and middle side of the trench, it was a firm, greyish brown clay and measured 71cm long x 38cm wide x 7cm deep, it was very clean with no inclusions.
Context (140) was located partly under (110) and (130) it was a very firm, mid brown sandy clay, only excavated down to 16cm, but the real depth of this deposit is currently unknown perhaps the natural geology.

Figure 13. Photograph showing the stone cobbling in trench 2. Looking south.

Figure 14. Photograph showing the stone cobbling fully exposed in trench 2.

Figure 15. Photograph showing the stone cobbling in trench 2. South facing.

Trench 2A

Was positioned to the south of trench 1 and joined trench 2 on the south - east corner, it was 1.75m long x 0.75m wide. This trench has only been partially excavated, the turf has been removed as some of the topsoil or overburden (10) consisted of a firm, mid to dark brown, silty sandy clay with occasional stone and flints, and was similar to what was recovered in trench 1 & 2. This context and the rest of the trench requires further excavation work in the future.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Opening the three trenches failed to identify any structures, although several post holes and pits were noted, these could be associated with buildings in an enclosure. There was no evidence of an inhumation connected to the burial of the axe. Recommendations would be to open a larger 5m square trench around the already opened trenches 1 to 3 to see if there are any signs of a Roman or Saxon structures in that specific area and to clarify why the axe was buried where it was?

7. Recovered finds

Artefacts recovered ranged in date from Mesolithic flints to the modern times and included pottery, glass, iron objects, stone objects, charcoal, coal, slag, clinker, shells, bones, Stone tiles fragments, Ceramic building material and a Roman coin. All finds have been cleaned where appropriate apart from the metalwork, recorded and bagged.

For Lithic report see appendix.

There were several sherds of pottery from the Iron Age, Roman, Saxon, Medieval and post medieval period. The pottery provides the primary dating evidence for the site. Much of the assemblage was small insignificant fragments mostly in a very poor condition, highly abraded with damaged surfaces, which suggests these sherds came from buildings in the very immediate area, but equally could have come from a midden and spread by manuring.

The iron objects recovered were mostly nails but the majority of the iron pieces were unrecognizable and badly corroded and discarded. Several pieces of glass from windows and vessels were recovered.

8. Acknowledgements

The Author would like to thank Drs. Robert Heath and Frances Liardet, property owners for their permission to carry out archaeological investigation in their field to the west of the mill buildings, and are extremely grateful for their overall support, for allowing access to facilities in the house and for suppling refreshments.

The author would like to thank and is indebted to the Lynn Amadio for examining the flints that were recovered from the axe site and for producing a Lithic Assemblage Report.

Special and grateful thanks are due to members of "The Bath and Counties Archaeological Society" who undertook the excavation, washing, and sorting the numerous finds, they were Owen Dicker, Eileen Noble, Graham Noble. Margaret Nuth, John Oswin, Gillian Vickery, and the late Laurie Scott.

9. Reporting, dissemination, and copyright

The copyright of the report, all records made during the project will be vested in and remain with Robert Heath and The Bath and Counties Archaeological Society.
A full report on the excavation will also be available on the BACAS website. An article summarizing the results of the excavation will be published in Camertonia the journal of BACAS.

11. Master Context sheets

Site Name: **Marston Mill -Axe Site**	**Site Code** **MM/19**

Test Pit -Trench Number	**Context Number**	**Context Type and Brief Description***	**Depth**	**Tools used**
T1	(10)	Topsoil or Overburden. Mid to Dark Brown 1.5m x 1m	15cm	Spade, Trowel
T1	(20)	Fill of Post Hole which was replaced by Metal Detectorist.	19cm	Trowel
T1	(30)	Primary fill, Dark Brown Silty Clay	9cm	Trowel
T1	[40]	Cut of Post Hole	28cm	N/A
T1	(50)	Laid Cobbled Floor or Surface	6cm	Trowel
T1	(60)	Deposit of Flints and Stones in a Sandy Silt.	9cm	Trowel
T1	(70)	Fill of Sondage [80]	7cm	Trowel
T1	[80]	Cut of Sondage across a possible beam Slot	7cm	N/A
T1	(90)	Deposit of Silty Clay with occasional Pebble and Stones	11cm	Trowel
T1	(100)	Deposit of Yellowish Sandy Clay Soil, Natural Geology North End of Trench	N/A	Not Fully Excavated
T1	(110)	Scattered Stone Area in a mixed Yellowish -Light Brown Sandy Clay-East of Post Hole	N/A	Not Fully Excavated
T1	(120)	Very Firm Brownish Grey Sandy Area to the South of (100)	12cm	Trowel
T1	(130)	Firm Sandy Clay with occasional pieces of Charcoal.	4cm	Trowel
T1	(140)	Greyish Brown, Sandy Clay Deposit, Charcoal Rich	5cm	Trowel
T1	[150]	Cut of Rectangular feature.	5cm	Trowel
T1	(160)	Fill of Post Hole or Pit [180]	6cm	Trowel
T1	(170)	Fill of Post Hole [180]	7cm	Trowel
T1	[180]	Cut of Ovoid Post Hole 6 x 8	15cm	N/A
T1	(190)	Fill of Small Post Hole [210]	7cm	Trowel
T1	(200)	Primary Fill of Post Hole [210]	3cm	Trowel
T1	[210]	Cut of Post Hole V shape 4/5cm	10cm	N/A
T1	(220)	Fill of linear rectangular feature [230]	6cm	Trowel
T1	[230]	Cut of linear rectangular feature 28 x 9 x 6	6cm	N/A

CONTEXT SHEET

Project Code: MM/19	Area: T1 (Axe Site)	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Deposit	Context No: (10)

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	Fairly Firm
	2. Colour	Mid to Dark Brown
	3. Texture/composition	Silty Sandy Clay
	4. Inclusions	Occasional Fragments of Stone and Flint 2%
	5. Dimensions	Across the Complete trench 1.5m in-length x 1.00 m wide x 15cm deep
	6. Contamination	Highly
	7. Method/level of recovery	Spade and Trowel
	8. Weather conditions	Sunny and Dry
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	
	2. Orientation	
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	
	5. Base	
	6. Dimensions	
	7. Fill numbers	
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

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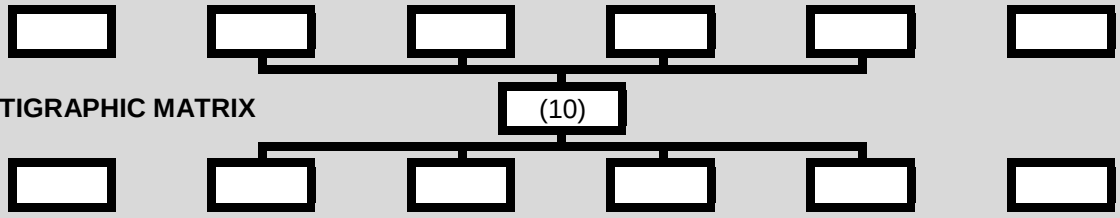

INTERPRETATION:

Topsoil directly under the turf line

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 2nd October 2019	Excavated contents: See finds sheet

CONTEXT SHEET

Project Code: MM/19	Area: T1 (Axe Site)	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Fill	Context No: (20)

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	Friable
	2. Colour	Mid to Dark Brown
	3. Texture/composition	Redeposited Mixed Silty Sandy Clay
	4. Inclusions	Pebbles, Stone and Flint Pieces 10%
	5. Dimensions	21cm
	6. Contamination	High
	7. Method/level of recovery	Trowel
	8. Weather conditions	Sunny and Dry
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	
	2. Orientation	
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	
	5. Base	
	6. Dimensions	
	7. Fill numbers	
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

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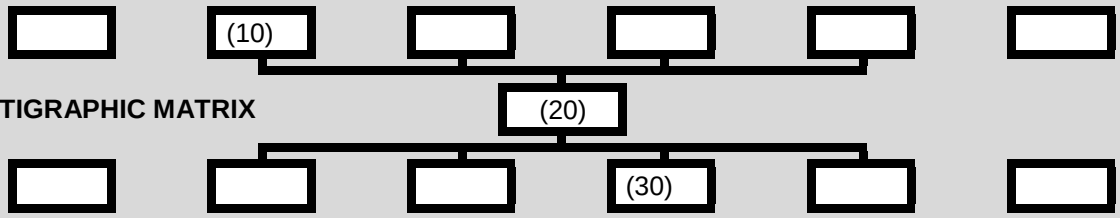

INTERPRETATION:

Contents of Post Hole where the Axe was recovered and replaced by the metal detectorist.

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 2nd October 2019	Excavated contents: See finds sheet

CONTEXT SHEET

Project Code: MM/19	Area: T1 (Axe Site)	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Fill	Context No: (30)

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	Stiff
	2. Colour	Dark Brown
	3. Texture/composition	Silty Clay
	4. Inclusions	Pebble used as a post pad at bottom.
	5. Dimensions	5cm
	6. Contamination	Low
	7. Method/level of recovery	Trowel
	8. Weather conditions	Dry
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	
	2. Orientation	
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	
	5. Base	
	6. Dimensions	
	7. Fill numbers	
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

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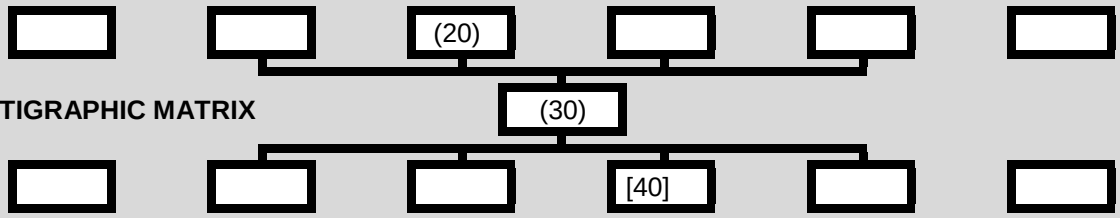

INTERPRETATION:

Primary fill of Post Hole [40] under (20) where the Axe was recovered

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: Yes

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 2nd October 2019	Excavated contents: N/A

CONTEXT SHEET

Project Code: MM/19	Area: T1 (Axe Site)	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Cut	Context No: [40]

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	
	2. Colour	
	3. Texture/composition	
	4. Inclusions	
	5. Dimensions	
	6. Contamination	
	7. Method/level of recovery	
	8. Weather conditions	
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	Ovoid
	2. Orientation	South -South - East
	3. Profile	U
	4. Sides	Vertical
	5. Base	Flat with Pebbles used as a post pad
	6. Dimensions	26cm deep x 11cm wide
	7. Fill numbers	(20) and (30)
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

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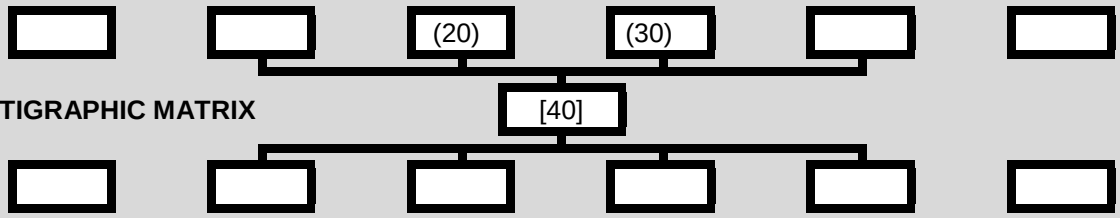

INTERPRETATION:

Cut of Post Hole where Axe was recovered

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 2nd October 2019	Excavated contents: N/A

CONTEXT SHEET

Project Code: MM/19	Area: T1 (Axe Site)	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Deposit	Context No: (50)

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	Very Firm
	2. Colour	Yellowish to Mid Brown
	3. Texture/composition	Stones and Cobbles
	4. Inclusions	Occasional Fragments of Flint.
	5. Dimensions	Across the Northern end of trench 0.40 cm wide x 6cm deep.
	6. Contamination	Low
	7. Method/level of recovery	Spade and Trowel
	8. Weather conditions	Damp and Raining
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	
	2. Orientation	
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	
	5. Base	
	6. Dimensions	
	7. Fill numbers	
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

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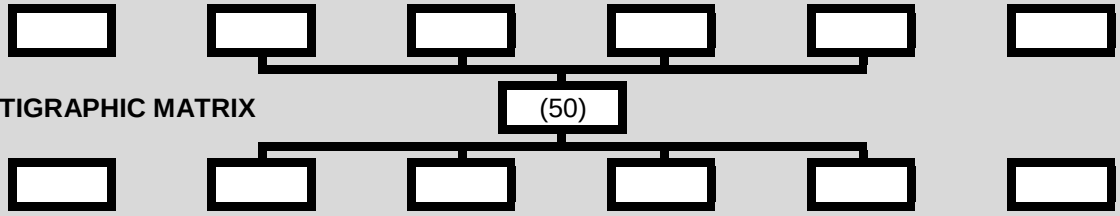


INTERPRETATION:

Fill, Deposit, or surface perhaps laid as a floor?

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 2nd October 2019	Excavated contents:

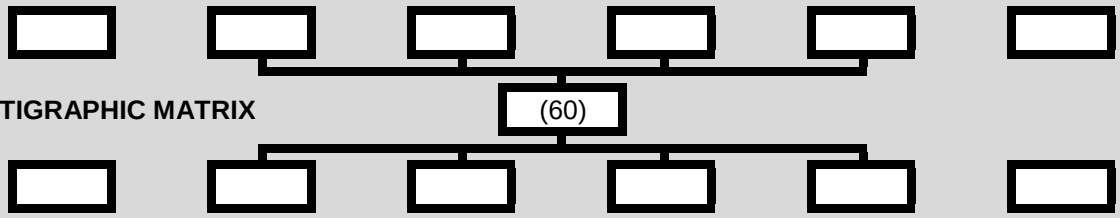
CONTEXT SHEET

Project Code: MM/19	Area: T1 (Axe Site)	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Deposit	Context No: (60)

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	Firm
	2. Colour	Mid Brown
	3. Texture/composition	Sandy Silt
	4. Inclusions	Fragments of Flint and Stones
	5. Dimensions	Across the Southern end of trench 0.45cm wide x 9cm deep.
	6. Contamination	Low
	7. Method/level of recovery	Spade and Trowel
	8. Weather conditions	Windy and Damp
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	
	2. Orientation	
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	
	5. Base	
	6. Dimensions	
	7. Fill numbers	
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



INTERPRETATION:

Fragments of Flint and Stones in a Sandy Silt.

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 2nd October 2019	Excavated contents:

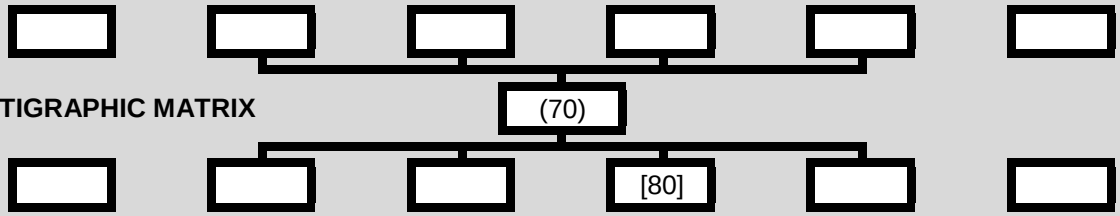
CONTEXT SHEET

Project Code: MM/19	Area: T1 (Axe Site)	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Fill	Context No: (70)

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	Friable
	2. Colour	Yellowish Brown to Mid Brown
	3. Texture/composition	Silty Clay
	4. Inclusions	Occasional flecks of Charcoal
	5. Dimensions	7cm deep
	6. Contamination	Low
	7. Method/level of recovery	Trowel
	8. Weather conditions	Dry
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	
	2. Orientation	
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	
	5. Base	
	6. Dimensions	
	7. Fill numbers	
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



INTERPRETATION:

Fill of Sondage [80]

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 2nd October 2019	Excavated contents: N/A

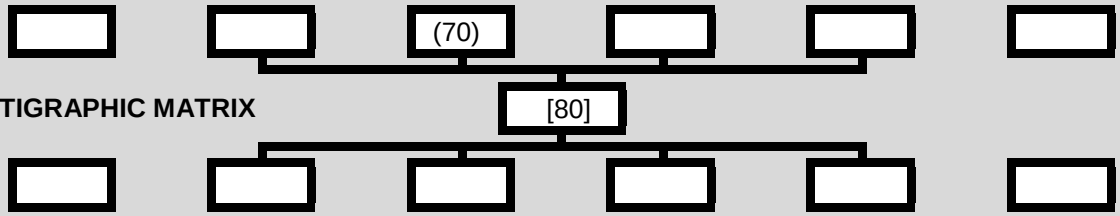
CONTEXT SHEET

Project Code: MM/19	Area: T1 (Axe Site)	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Cut	Context No: [80]

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	
	2. Colour	
	3. Texture/composition	
	4. Inclusions	
	5. Dimensions	
	6. Contamination	
	7. Method/level of recovery	
	8. Weather conditions	
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	Linear Sondage
	2. Orientation	East to West
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	Vertical
	5. Base	Flat
	6. Dimensions	0.60cm in- length x 15cm wide x 7cm deep
	7. Fill numbers	(70)
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



INTERPRETATION:

Sondage across a possible beam slot, filled by (70)

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 2nd October 2019	Excavated contents: N/A

CONTEXT SHEET

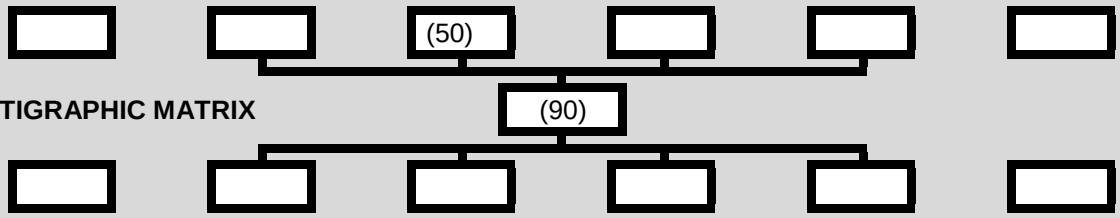
Project Code: MM/19	Area: T1 (Axe Site)	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Deposit	Context No: (90)

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	Firm
	2. Colour	Yellowish to mid Brown
	3. Texture/composition	Silty Clay
	4. Inclusions	Occasional Fragments of Stone and Flint 2%
	5. Dimensions	Under (50) Across the complete northern end of the trench 11cm deep
	6. Contamination	Low
	7. Method/level of recovery	Spade and Trowel
	8. Weather conditions	Raining and Cold Wind
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	
	2. Orientation	
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	
	5. Base	
	6. Dimensions	
	7. Fill numbers	
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

Contd?

STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



INTERPRETATION:

Deposit under laid cobbled Floor or Surface (50).

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 2nd October 2019	Excavated contents: See finds sheet

CONTEXT SHEET

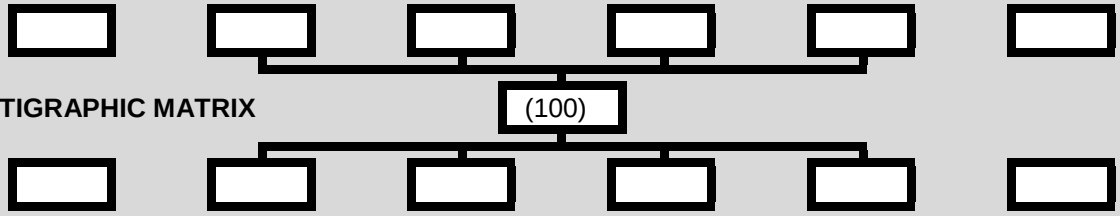
Project Code: MM/19	Area: T1 (Axe Site)	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Deposit	Context No: (100)

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	Very Firm
	2. Colour	Yellowish to Mid Brown
	3. Texture/composition	Compacted Sandy Clay at the North -Western end of Trench
	4. Inclusions	Very Occasional pieces of Charcoal
	5. Dimensions	Not Fully Excavated – perhaps Natural Geology
	6. Contamination	Low
	7. Method/level of recovery	Trowel
	8. Weather conditions	Raining and Cold Wind
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	
	2. Orientation	
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	
	5. Base	
	6. Dimensions	
	7. Fill numbers	
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

Contd?

STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



INTERPRETATION:

Deposit of Yellowish Sandy Clay Soil thought to be Natural Geology.

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 2nd October 2019	Excavated contents: See finds sheet

CONTEXT SHEET

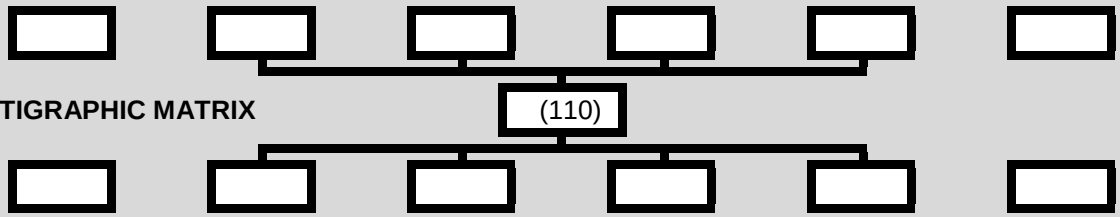
Project Code: MM/19	Area: T1 (Axe Site)	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Deposit	Context No: (110)

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	Very Firm
	2. Colour	Mid Brown
	3. Texture/composition	Scattered Area of Mixed Stones in a Sandy Clay in Western side of the Trench
	4. Inclusions	Very Occasional pieces of Charcoal
	5. Dimensions	Not Fully Excavated – perhaps Natural Geology
	6. Contamination	Low
	7. Method/level of recovery	Trowel
	8. Weather conditions	Raining
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	
	2. Orientation	
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	
	5. Base	
	6. Dimensions	
	7. Fill numbers	
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

Contd?

STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



INTERPRETATION:

Deposit of Stones in a Yellowish Sandy Clay Soil thought to be Natural Geology.

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 2nd October 2019	Excavated contents: See finds sheet

CONTEXT SHEET

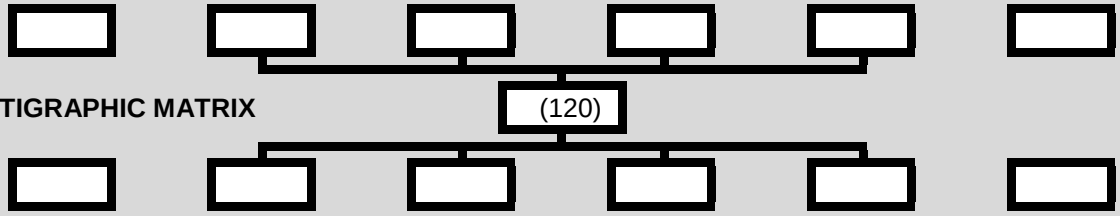
Project Code: MM/19	Area: T1 (Axe Site)	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Deposit	Context No: (120)

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	Very Firm
	2. Colour	Mid Fawn – Brown to the South of (100)
	3. Texture/composition	Mixed Sandy Clay with very occasional stones.
	4. Inclusions	Very Occasional pieces of Charcoal and Clinker.
	5. Dimensions	0.73m Long x 0.44 Wide and 12cm in-depth
	6. Contamination	Low
	7. Method/level of recovery	Trowel
	8. Weather conditions	Raining and Cold Wind
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	
	2. Orientation	
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	
	5. Base	
	6. Dimensions	
	7. Fill numbers	
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

Contd?

STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



INTERPRETATION:

Very Firm Area to the south of (100).

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 2nd October 2019	Excavated contents: See finds sheet

CONTEXT SHEET

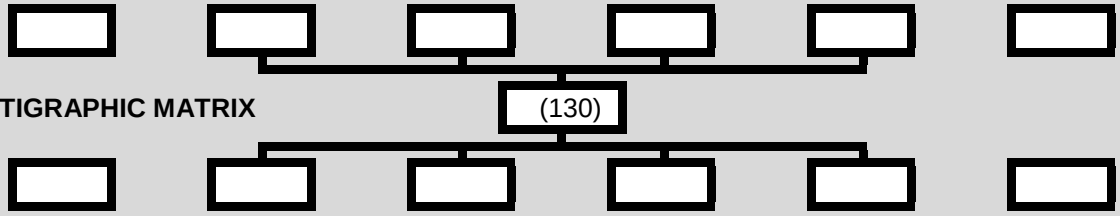
Project Code: MM/19	Area: T1 (Axe Site)	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Deposit	Context No: (130)

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	Firm
	2. Colour	Brownish Grey
	3. Texture/composition	Sandy Clay,
	4. Inclusions	Occasional pieces of Charcoal.
	5. Dimensions	Small area 0.33cm Long x 0.15cm Wide x 4cm in-depth
	6. Contamination	Low
	7. Method/level of recovery	Trowel
	8. Weather conditions	Raining and Cold Wind
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	
	2. Orientation	
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	
	5. Base	
	6. Dimensions	
	7. Fill numbers	
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

Contd?

STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



INTERPRETATION:

Small Sandy Area in the South-West of the trench.

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 2nd October 2019	Excavated contents: See finds sheet

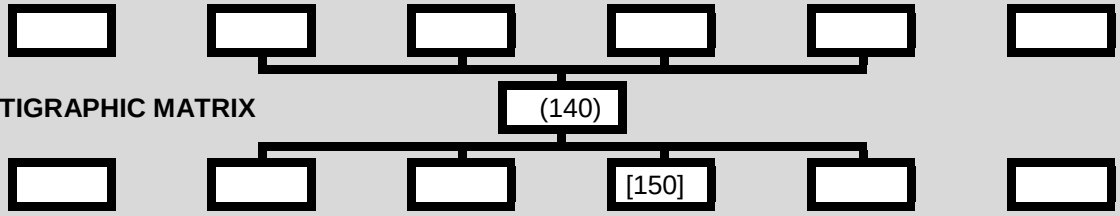
CONTEXT SHEET

Project Code: MM/19	Area: T1 (Axe Site)	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Fill	Context No: (140)

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	Firm
	2. Colour	Greyish Brown
	3. Texture/composition	Sandy Clay,
	4. Inclusions	Charcoal Rich with very small pebbles and Flints
	5. Dimensions	5cm in-depth
	6. Contamination	Low
	7. Method/level of recovery	Trowel
	8. Weather conditions	Raining and Cold Wind
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	
	2. Orientation	
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	
	5. Base	
	6. Dimensions	
	7. Fill numbers	
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



INTERPRETATION:

Fill of [150], not fully excavated.

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 2nd October 2019	Excavated contents: See finds sheet

CONTEXT SHEET

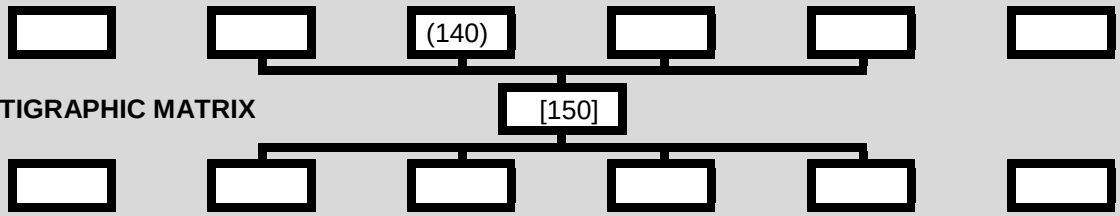
Project Code: MM/19	Area: T1 (Axe Site)	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Cut	Context No: [150]

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	
	2. Colour	
	3. Texture/composition	
	4. Inclusions	
	5. Dimensions	
	6. Contamination	
	7. Method/level of recovery	
	8. Weather conditions	
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	Rectangular Feature
	2. Orientation	In the Southern end of the Trench east to west
	3. Profile	▭
	4. Sides	Sloping
	5. Base	Uneven
	6. Dimensions	0.52m in-length x 0.35m wide x 5cm deep
	7. Fill numbers	(140)
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

Contd?

STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



INTERPRETATION:

Cut of Rectangular Feature, use unknown.

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 10nd October 2019	Excavated contents:

CONTEXT SHEET

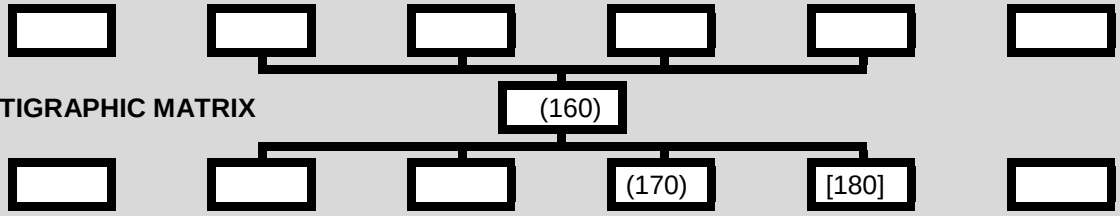
Project Code: MM/19	Area: T1 (Axe Site)	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Fill	Context No: (160)

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	Firm
	2. Colour	Greyish Brown
	3. Texture/composition	Sandy Clay,
	4. Inclusions	Charcoal Rich with very small pebbles and Flints
	5. Dimensions	7cm
	6. Contamination	Low
	7. Method/level of recovery	Trowel
	8. Weather conditions	Raining and Cold Wind
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	
	2. Orientation	
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	
	5. Base	
	6. Dimensions	
	7. Fill numbers	
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

Contd?

STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



INTERPRETATION:

Upper fill of [180]

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 2nd October 2019	Excavated contents: See finds sheet

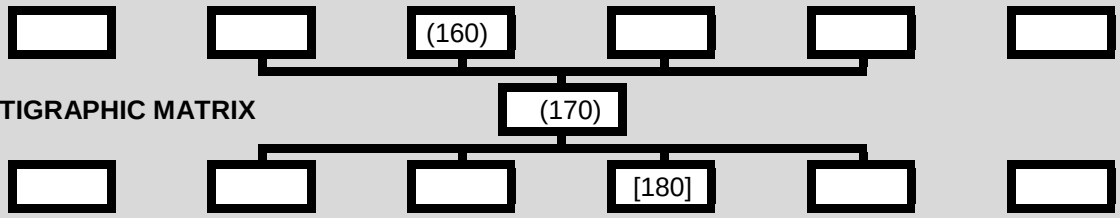
CONTEXT SHEET

Project Code: MM/19	Area: T1 (Axe Site)	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Fill	Context No: (170)

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	Firm
	2. Colour	Greyish Brown redeposited.
	3. Texture/composition	Sandy and Clay
	4. Inclusions	Stones, Flints and Charcoal flecks
	5. Dimensions	8cm
	6. Contamination	Low
	7. Method/level of recovery	Trowel
	8. Weather conditions	Dry
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	
	2. Orientation	
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	
	5. Base	
	6. Dimensions	
	7. Fill numbers	
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



INTERPRETATION:

Primary Fill of [180] under (160)

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 18th June 2020	Excavated contents: See finds list.

CONTEXT SHEET

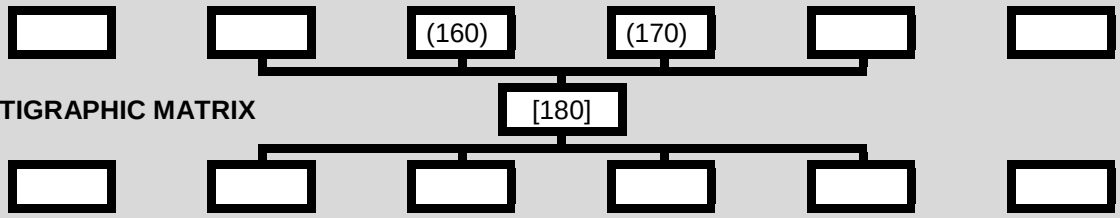
Project Code: MM/19	Area: T1 (Axe Site)	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Cut	Context No: [180]

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	
	2. Colour	
	3. Texture/composition	
	4. Inclusions	
	5. Dimensions	
	6. Contamination	
	7. Method/level of recovery	
	8. Weather conditions	
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	Roughly Ovoid
	2. Orientation	East to West
	3. Profile	⬭
	4. Sides	Sloping
	5. Base	Concave
	6. Dimensions	6 x 8 x 15cm
	7. Fill numbers	(160) 170)
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

Contd?

STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



INTERPRETATION:

Cut of Ovoid shape pit or post hole

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 18th June 2020	Excavated contents:

CONTEXT SHEET

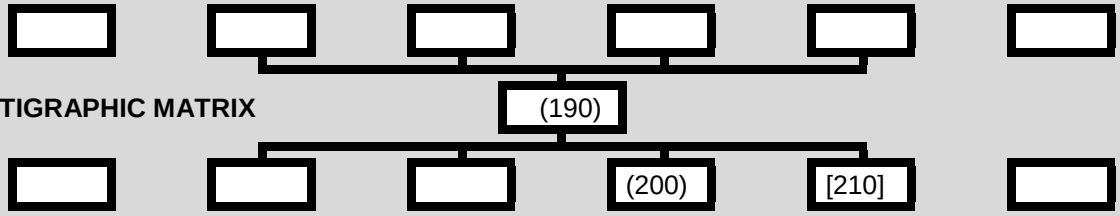
Project Code: MM/19	Area: T1 (Axe Site)	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Fill	Context No: (190)

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	Firm
	2. Colour	Bluish Greyish Brown
	3. Texture/composition	Mixture of Clay's
	4. Inclusions	Charcoal flecks
	5. Dimensions	7cm
	6. Contamination	Low
	7. Method/level of recovery	Trowel
	8. Weather conditions	Dry
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	
	2. Orientation	
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	
	5. Base	
	6. Dimensions	
	7. Fill numbers	
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

Contd?

STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



INTERPRETATION:

Fill of small post hole [210]

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 18th June 2020	Excavated contents: Nothing recovered

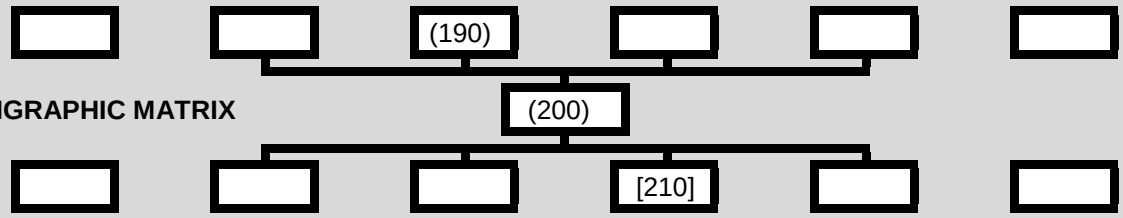
CONTEXT SHEET

Project Code: MM/19	Area: T1 (Axe Site)	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Fill	Context No: (200)

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	Very compact
	2. Colour	Dark Grey to Black
	3. Texture/composition	Clay
	4. Inclusions	Burnt stone, Charcoal and Ash.
	5. Dimensions	3cm
	6. Contamination	Low
	7. Method/level of recovery	Trowel
	8. Weather conditions	Wet.
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	
	2. Orientation	
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	
	5. Base	
	6. Dimensions	
	7. Fill numbers	
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



INTERPRETATION:

Primary Fill of Ovoid Post hole or Perhaps a Pit Feature [210]

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: Yes

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 10nd October 2019	Excavated contents:

CONTEXT SHEET

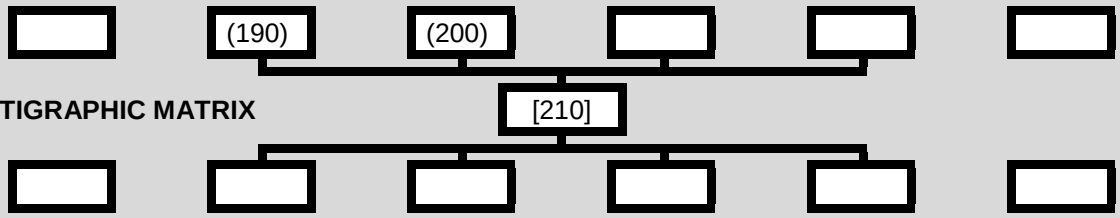
Project Code: MM/19	Area: T1 (Axe Site)	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Cut	Context No: [210]

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	
	2. Colour	
	3. Texture/composition	
	4. Inclusions	
	5. Dimensions	
	6. Contamination	
	7. Method/level of recovery	
	8. Weather conditions	
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	Ovoid
	2. Orientation	North - South
	3. Profile	⬭
	4. Sides	Sloping
	5. Base	Concave
	6. Dimensions	4 x 5 x 10cm
	7. Fill numbers	(190) (200)
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

Contd?

STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



INTERPRETATION:

Cut of Ovoid shaped Post Hole or Depression.

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: No

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 18th June 2020	Excavated contents:

CONTEXT SHEET

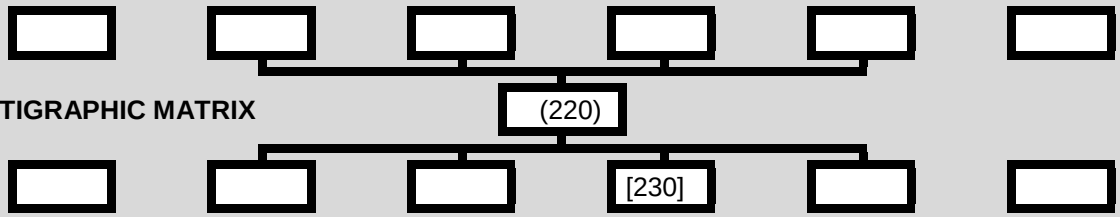
Project Code: MM/19	Area: T1 (Axe Site)	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Fill	Context No: (220)

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	Firm
	2. Colour	Yellowish Brown
	3. Texture/composition	Mixture of Clay's
	4. Inclusions	Charcoal flecks, Stones and Flints.
	5. Dimensions	Fill of Linear Rectangular feature 6cm
	6. Contamination	Low
	7. Method/level of recovery	Trowel
	8. Weather conditions	Dry
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	
	2. Orientation	
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	
	5. Base	
	6. Dimensions	
	7. Fill numbers	
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

Contd?

STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



INTERPRETATION:

Fill of Linear Rectangular feature [230]

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 18th June 2020	Excavated contents:

CONTEXT SHEET

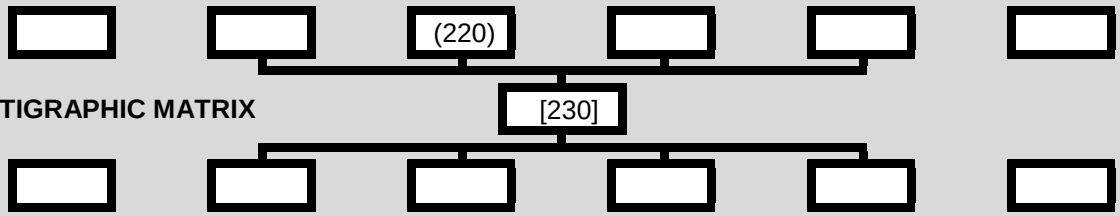
Project Code: MM/19	Area: T1 (Axe Site)	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Cut	Context No: [230]

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	
	2. Colour	
	3. Texture/composition	
	4. Inclusions	
	5. Dimensions	
	6. Contamination	
	7. Method/level of recovery	
	8. Weather conditions	
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	Linear
	2. Orientation	In the South - Western end of trench N-S
	3. Profile	Rectangular
	4. Sides	Vertical
	5. Base	Flat
	6. Dimensions	22 x 9 x 6
	7. Fill numbers	(220)
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

Contd?

STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



INTERPRETATION:

Cut of rectangular features – perhaps a beam slot or base of a wall.

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 10nd October 2019	Excavated contents:

Master Context Index

Site Name: Marston Mill – Axe Site	Site Code MM/19

Trench Number	Context Number	Context Type and Brief Description*	Depth	Tools used
T2	(10)	Topsoil or Overburden	19cm	Spade, Trowel
T2	(20)	Redeposited Subsoil	4cm	Spade, Trowel
T2	(30)	Laid Cobbled Floor or Surface	9cm	Trowel
T2	(40)	Fill of Sondage [50]	25cm	Trowel
T2	[50]	Cut of Sondage in the North End of Trench	25cm	N/A
T2	(60)	Upper Fill of Sondage [80]	10cm	Trowel
T2	(70)	Fill of Sondage, Mixed Silty Clay [80]	9cm	Trowel
T2	[80]	Cut of Sondage in the South End of Trench	19cm	N/A
T2	(90)	Stone and Clay Fill of [100]	12cm	Trowel
T2	[100]	Cut of Ovoid Pit.	12cm	N/A
T2	(110)	Redeposited Yellowish-Brown Soil directly under (30)	15cm	Not Fully Excavated
T2	(120)	Deposit Mixture of Soils under (80)	11cm	Not Fully Excavated
T2	(130)	Deposit in the Eastern and Middle Side of the Trench.	7cm	Not Fully Excavated
T2	(140)	Deposit under (110) and (130) or Natural Geology	16cm	Not Fully Excavated

CONTEXT SHEET

Project Code: MM/19	Area: T2	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Deposit	Context No: (10)

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	Fairly Firm
	2. Colour	Mid to Dark Brown
	3. Texture/composition	Silty Sandy Clay
	4. Inclusions	Occasional Fragments of Stone and Flint 2%
	5. Dimensions	Across the Complete trench 2m in-length x 1m wide x 19cm deep in was subsequently extended to 2.75m in-length x 2.25m wide
	6. Contamination	High
	7. Method/level of recovery	Spade and Trowel
	8. Weather conditions	Sunny and Dry
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	
	2. Orientation	
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	
	5. Base	
	6. Dimensions	
	7. Fill numbers	
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

Contd?

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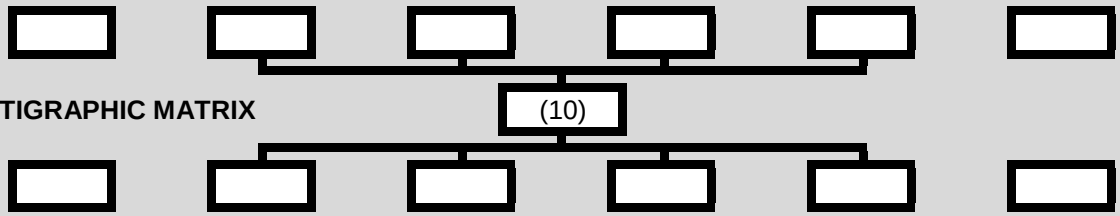

INTERPRETATION:

Topsoil directly under the turf line

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 10th October 2019	Excavated contents: See finds sheet

CONTEXT SHEET

Project Code: MM/19	Area: T2	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Deposit	Context No: (20)

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	Friable
	2. Colour	Yellowish Brown
	3. Texture/composition	Redeposited Mixed Silty Sandy Clay
	4. Inclusions	Occasional small pieces if stone
	5. Dimensions	2.75m in-length x 2.25m wide x 4cm in-depth
	6. Contamination	Medium
	7. Method/level of recovery	Trowel
	8. Weather conditions	Sunny and Dry
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	
	2. Orientation	
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	
	5. Base	
	6. Dimensions	
	7. Fill numbers	
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

Contd?

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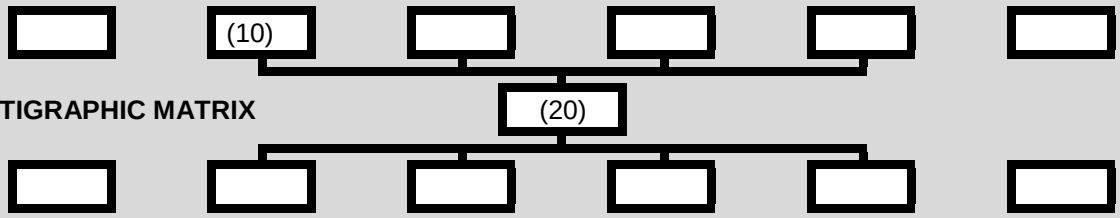

INTERPRETATION:

Redeposited Subsoil.

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 10th October 2019	Excavated contents: See finds sheet

CONTEXT SHEET

Project Code: MM/19	Area: T2	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Deposit	Context No: (30)

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	Firm
	2. Colour	Greyish Brown to Yellowish Brown
	3. Texture/composition	Pebbles, Cobbles with occasional pieces of Flint.
	4. Inclusions	Occasional Fragments of Stone and Flint 2%
	5. Dimensions	Across the Complete trench, 2.75m in-length x 2.25m wide x 9cm deep
	6. Contamination	Low
	7. Method/level of recovery	Trowel
	8. Weather conditions	Damp and Raining
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	
	2. Orientation	
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	
	5. Base	
	6. Dimensions	
	7. Fill numbers	
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

Contd?

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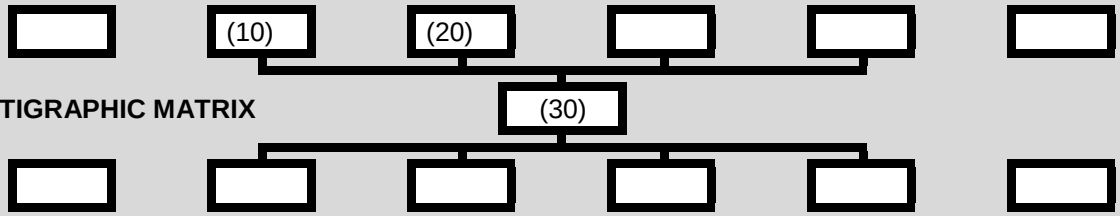


INTERPRETATION:

Laid Cobbled Floor or Surface

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 10th October 2019	Excavated contents: See finds sheet

CONTEXT SHEET

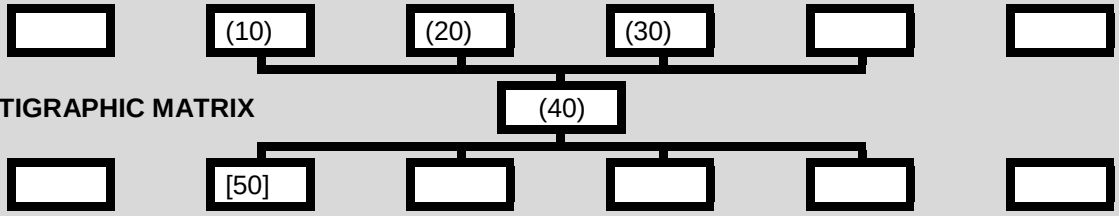
Project Code: MM/19	Area: T2	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Fill	Context No: (40)

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	Firm
	2. Colour	Yellowish to Light Brown
	3. Texture/composition	Silty Clay
	4. Inclusions	Fragments of Stone and Flint 10%
	5. Dimensions	Across the Northern end of trench 25cm deep
	6. Contamination	Low
	7. Method/level of recovery	Spade and Trowel
	8. Weather conditions	Damp and Raining
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	
	2. Orientation	
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	
	5. Base	
	6. Dimensions	
	7. Fill numbers	
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

Contd?

STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



INTERPRETATION:

Fill of Sondage

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 2nd October 2019	Excavated contents: See finds sheet

CONTEXT SHEET

Project Code: MM/19	Area: T2	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Cut	Context No: [50]

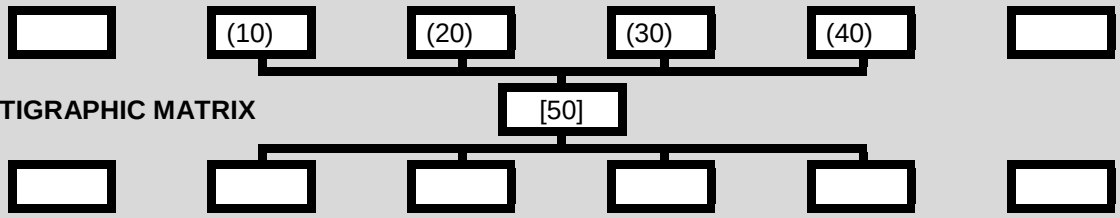
DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	
	2. Colour	
	3. Texture/composition	
	4. Inclusions	
	5. Dimensions	
	6. Contamination	
	7. Method/level of recovery	
	8. Weather conditions	

CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	Rectangular Cut
	2. Orientation	In the Northern end of Trench east to west
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	Vertical
	5. Base	Flat
	6. Dimensions	Across the Northern end of trench 0.60cm in-length x 1.00 m wide x 25cm deep
	7. Fill numbers	(40)
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

Contd?

STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



INTERPRETATION:

Cut of Sondage

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 10nd October 2019	Excavated contents:

CONTEXT SHEET

Project Code: MM/19	Area: T2	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Fill	Context No: (60)

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	Firm
	2. Colour	Yellowish to Light Brown
	3. Texture/composition	Silty Clay
	4. Inclusions	Fragments of Stone and Flint 10%
	5. Dimensions	10cm in-depth
	6. Contamination	Low
	7. Method/level of recovery	Trowel
	8. Weather conditions	Damp but not raining
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	
	2. Orientation	
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	
	5. Base	
	6. Dimensions	
	7. Fill numbers	
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

Contd?

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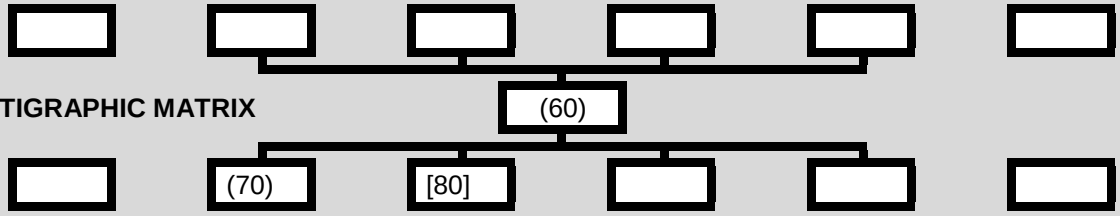

INTERPRETATION:

Upper fill of Sondage

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 10th October 2019	Excavated contents: See finds sheet

CONTEXT SHEET

Project Code: MM/19	Area: T2	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Fill	Context No: (70)

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	Very Firm
	2. Colour	Greyish Brown
	3. Texture/composition	Mixed Clays and Sand.
	4. Inclusions	Charcoal, Ash and Burnt Stones
	5. Dimensions	9cm deep
	6. Contamination	Low
	7. Method/level of recovery	Trowel
	8. Weather conditions	Damp but not raining
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	
	2. Orientation	
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	
	5. Base	
	6. Dimensions	
	7. Fill numbers	
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

Contd?

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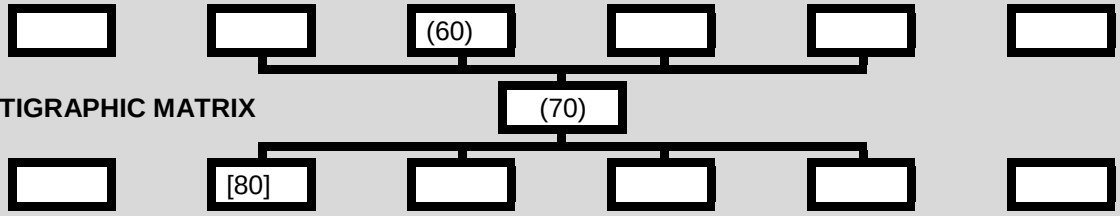


INTERPRETATION:

Primary Fill of Sondage

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 10th October 2019	Excavated contents: See finds sheet

CONTEXT SHEET

Project Code: MM/19	Area: T2	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Cut	Context No: [80]

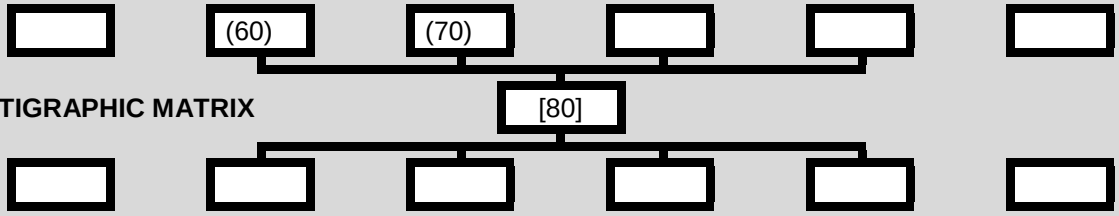
DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	
	2. Colour	
	3. Texture/composition	
	4. Inclusions	
	5. Dimensions	
	6. Contamination	
	7. Method/level of recovery	
	8. Weather conditions	

CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	Linear Feature
	2. Orientation	East to West
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	Uneven
	5. Base	Flat
	6. Dimensions	Southern end of trench 1.00m in-length x 50m wide x 19cm deep
	7. Fill numbers	(60) (70)
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

Contd?

STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



INTERPRETATION:

Sondage in the southern end of trench.

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 10nd October 2019	Excavated contents:

CONTEXT SHEET

Project Code: MM/19	Area: T2	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Fill	Context No: (90)

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	Firm
	2. Colour	Yellowish to Light Brown
	3. Texture/composition	Pebbles, Stone and Flint
	4. Inclusions	Yellowish Clay Packing
	5. Dimensions	12cm deep
	6. Contamination	Low
	7. Method/level of recovery	Trowel
	8. Weather conditions	Dry
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	
	2. Orientation	
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	
	5. Base	
	6. Dimensions	
	7. Fill numbers	
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

Contd?

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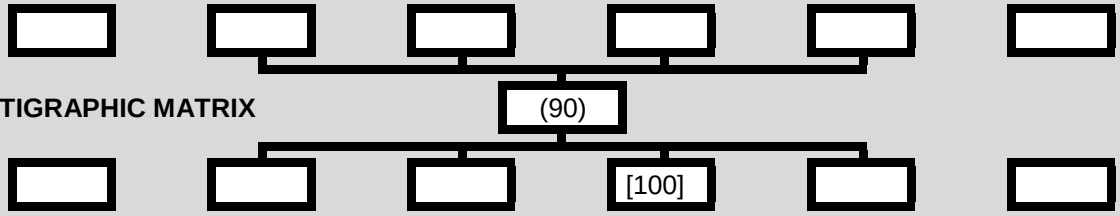


INTERPRETATION:

Stone and Clay Fill of [100]

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 16th October 2019	Excavated contents: See finds sheet

CONTEXT SHEET

Project Code: MM/19	Area: T2	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Cut	Context No: [100]

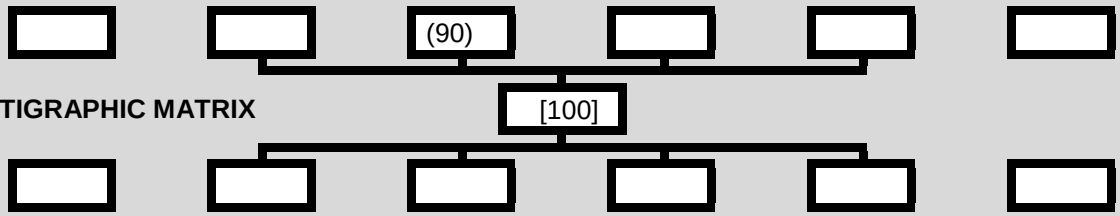
DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	
	2. Colour	
	3. Texture/composition	
	4. Inclusions	
	5. Dimensions	
	6. Contamination	
	7. Method/level of recovery	
	8. Weather conditions	

CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	Ovoid Feature
	2. Orientation	In the Southern end of Trench
	3. Profile	() North facing
	4. Sides	Sloping
	5. Base	Uneven
	6. Dimensions	57cm in-length x 28cm wide x 12cm deep
	7. Fill numbers	(90)
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

Contd?

STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



INTERPRETATION:

Cut of ovoid shaped pit.

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 10nd October 2019	Excavated contents: N/A

CONTEXT SHEET

Project Code: MM/19	Area: T2	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Deposit	Context No: (110)

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	Firm
	2. Colour	Yellowish to Light Brown
	3. Texture/composition	Compacted Surface of a Redeposited Dense Clay
	4. Inclusions	With Fragments of Stone, Flint and Pebbles
	5. Dimensions	1.05m in-length x 89cm wide x 15cm deep
	6. Contamination	Low
	7. Method/level of recovery	Trowel
	8. Weather conditions	Dry
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	
	2. Orientation	
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	
	5. Base	
	6. Dimensions	
	7. Fill numbers	
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

Contd?

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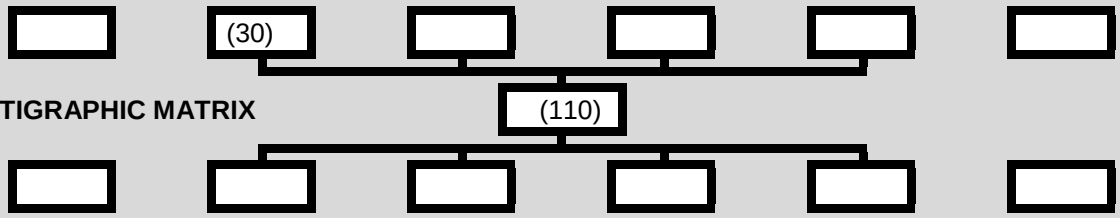

INTERPRETATION:

Reposited compacted surface directly under (30)

Not fully excavated.

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 16th October 2019	Excavated contents: See finds sheet

CONTEXT SHEET

Project Code: MM/19	Area: T2	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Deposit	Context No: (120)

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	Firm
	2. Colour	Mid Brown
	3. Texture/composition	Compacted Surface of a Sandy Dense Clay
	4. Inclusions	No Inclusions
	5. Dimensions	76cm in-length x 43cm wide x 11cm deep
	6. Contamination	Low
	7. Method/level of recovery	Trowel
	8. Weather conditions	Dry but became wet.
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	
	2. Orientation	
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	
	5. Base	
	6. Dimensions	
	7. Fill numbers	
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

Contd?

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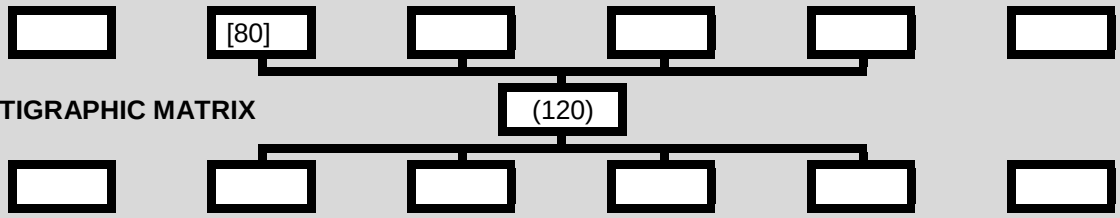

INTERPRETATION:

Deposit directly under (80).

Not Fully Excavated

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 16th October 2019	Excavated contents:	

CONTEXT SHEET

Project Code: MM/19	Area: T2	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Deposit	Context No: (130)

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	Firm
	2. Colour	Greyish to Brown
	3. Texture/composition	Clays
	4. Inclusions	None
	5. Dimensions	71cm in-length x 38cmm wide x 7cm deep
	6. Contamination	Low
	7. Method/level of recovery	Trowel and Spade
	8. Weather conditions	Dry
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	
	2. Orientation	
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	
	5. Base	
	6. Dimensions	
	7. Fill numbers	
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

Contd?

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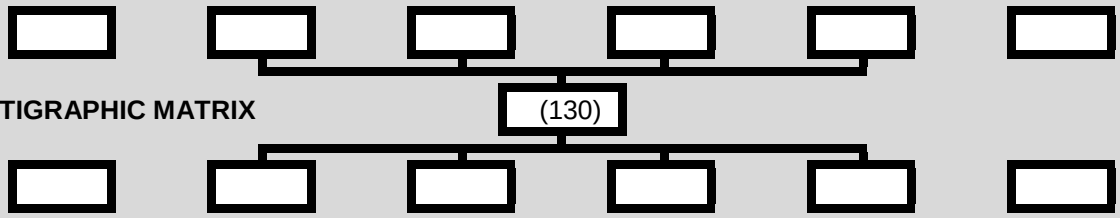


INTERPRETATION:

Only recovered from the eastern and middle side of the trench.

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 16th October 2019	Excavated contents:

CONTEXT SHEET

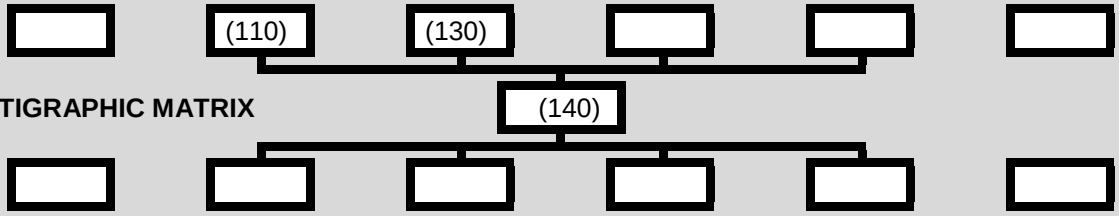
Project Code: MM/19	Area: T2	Co-ordinates: E / N /	Context Type: Deposit	Context No: (140)

DEPOSIT	**1. Compaction**	Very Firm
	2. Colour	Mid Brown
	3. Texture/composition	Mixtures of Very Firm Sandy Clays perhaps the Natural Geology
	4. Inclusions	None
	5. Dimensions	16cm deep
	6. Contamination	Low
	7. Method/level of recovery	Trowel and Spade
	8. Weather conditions	Dry
CUT	**1. Shape in plan**	
	2. Orientation	
	3. Profile	
	4. Sides	
	5. Base	
	6. Dimensions	
	7. Fill numbers	
	Sketch plan/section/matrix	

Further DESCRIPTIVE data including significant physical relationships:

Contd?

STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



INTERPRETATION:

Located under (130) and (110)

Related Contexts:

Plan:	Section/other drawings:	Environmental samples: No

Colour print: No	Colour slide: No	Black & White print: No	Digital: Yes

Recorded by and Date: R.J. Holley 1st July 2020	Excavated contents:

Master Context Index

Site Name: Marston Mill – Axe Site	Site Code MM/19

Trench Number	Context Number	Context Type and Brief Description*	Depth	Tools used
T2A	(10)	Topsoil, Fairly Firm Silty Sandy Clay, Mid to Dark Brown.	N/A	Spade, Trowel

Appendices

Marston Mill - West Field -Excavation Levels

Site Name MARSTON/OLDFIELD MILL		Project Code. MM/19					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
No.	Object	TBM	Back sight	Instrument Height	Foresight	Reduced Height	Initials
	Taken from on surface of mill stone on the front steps	0.63	0.08	0.71			RH/GV
1	**Position of the axe site - west side of causeway**	0.63	0.08	0.71	2.19	-1.48	RH/GV
2	**Geophysical survey line, eastern end of field - west side of causeway**	0.63	0.08	0.71	2.46	-1.75	RH/GV
3	**Geophysical survey line, middle of field - west side of causeway**	0.63	0.08	0.71	2.44	-1.73	RH/GV
4	**Geophysical survey line, western end of field - west side of causeway and behind axe site/post hole**	0.63	0.08	0.71	2.49	-1.78	RH/GV

Marston Mill
Spring Gardens
Frome, Somerset

Lynn Amadio MSc

2020

MARSTON MILL

LITHIC ASSEMBLAGE REPORT.

The assemblage consists of fifty flints, all derived from chalk.

Trench 1 (50)

Type	Flake termination	Cortex Patination	Length x Width x Thickness	Weight	Notes
Broken blade		White/grey	31mm x 14mm x 5mm	2.2g	Chalk Derived Flint (CDF)
Flake	Feathered	40% White /grey	36mm x 25mm x 4mm	2.9g	CDF
Blade		30% White	47mm x 21mm x 14mm	8.4g	CDF

Trench 1 (90)

Type	Flake termination	Cortex Patination	Length x Width x Thickness	Weight	Notes
Broken blade		White	20.5mm x 12mm x 2.5mm	0.5g	CDF
Flake	Step	White	34mm x 33mm x 3mm	6.4g	CDF
Blade		White	51mm x 18mm x 7mm	5.3g	CDF
Flake	Feathered	White	31mm x 22mm x 4.5mm	2.3g	CDF Burnt
Flake	Step	Grey	14mm x 14mm x 2mm	0.4g	CDF

Trench 1 (120)

Type	Flake termination	Cortex Patination	Length x Width x Thickness	Weight	Notes
Broken blade		10% White	20mm x 11mm x 5mm	0.7g	CDF
Blade		40% Grey	26.5mm x 15.5mm x 3mm	1.4g	CDF
Flake	Step	20% White/grey	32.5mm x 20mm x 5mm	2.9g	CDF
Blade		20% Grey	46mm x 12mm x 11mm	3.1g	CDF
Blade		White	32mm x 9mm x 2mm	0.6g	CDF

Trench 2 (20/30)

Type	Flake termination	Cortex Patination	Length x Width x Thickness	Weight	Notes
Blade		50% White	66mm x 21mm x 9mm	12.1g	CDF
Flake	Feathered	45% White	41mm x 37mm x 9mm	11.1g	CDF
Flake	Step	White	36mm x 22mm x 11.5mm	7.6g	CDF
Blade		White	44.5mm x 18mm x 7.5mm	3.4g	CDF
Flake	Step	White	28mm x 18mm x 8mm	2.9g	CDF Burnt
Flake	Step	10% White	26.5mm x 17mm x 10mm	3.9g	CDF

Trench 2 (90)

Type	Flake termination	Cortex Patination	Length x Width x Thickness	Weight	Notes
Flake	Hinge	20% White	33mm x 18mm x 4,5mm	4.4g	CDF
Flake	Step	5% Blue	40mm x 19mm x 5mm	3.1g	CDF
Blade		<5% Blue	36mm x 18mm x 7mm	3.8g	CDF
Flake	Feathered	White blue	27mm x 17mm x 8.5mm	2.3g	CDF
Flake	Step	Blue grey	26mm x 19.5mm x 6.5mm	2.2g	CDF
Flake	Feathered		23mm x 28mm x 7mm	2.6g	CDF
Flake	Feathered	20% White	28mm x 18mm x 5mm	1.9g	CDF
Flake	Feathered	White	28mm x 18mm x 6mm	1.8g	CDF
Flake	Feathered	White	24mm x 15mm x 3mm	0.6g	CDF
Broken blade		Bluey white	20mm x 14mm x 2.5mm	0.9g	CDF
Broken blade		White grey	20mm x 12mm x 2.5mm	0.5g	CDF
Broken blade		White	15mm x 14.5mm x 1.5mm	0.2g	CDF
Broken blade		Bluey white	20mm x 14mm x 3.5mm	1.1g	CDF
Broken blade		White	21mm x 12mm x 3.5mm	1.3g	CDF
Broken		White	23mm x	1.2g	CDF

blade			15mm x 4mm		
Type	Flake termination	Cortex Patination	Length x Width x Thickness	Weight	Notes
Broken blade		White	27mm x 12mm x 3mm	1.1g	CDF
Broken blade		White	11.5mm x 23.5mm x 2.5mm	0.7g	CDF
Broken bladelet		Whitey grey	16mm x 8mm x 2mm	0.4g	CDF
Broken bladelet		5% Grey	19mm x 10mm x 2.5mm	0.5g	CDF Flaw in flint creating a notch
Broken bladelet		White	28mm x 9.5mm x 3mm	0.5g	CDF
Broken bladelet		Grey	21mm x 8.5mm x 2.5mm	0.3g	CDF
Broken bladelet		White	34mm x 10mm x 5mm	1.1g	CDF
Blade		White	36mm x 11mm x 11mm	1.1g	CDF
Broken bladelet		White	22.5mm x 9.5mm x 4mm	0.5g	CDF

Trench 2 (120)

Type	**Flake termination**	**Cortex Patination**	**Length x Width x Thickness**	**Weight**	**Notes**
Broken blade		White	33mm x 9.5g x 4mm	1.1g	CDF
Broken blade		White	21mm x 10mm x 2mm	0.4g	CDF
Broken blade		White/grey	17mm x 14mm x 2.5mm	0.5g	CDF
Broken blade			20mm x 10mm x 4mm	0.4g	CDF

Broken blade		White	17mm x 11mm x 2.5mm	0.3g	CDF
Broken blade		White	23mm x 11mm x 3mm	0.9g	CDF
Broken blade		White	14.5mm x 7mm x 2.5mm	0.2g	CDF

Results

Type	Number	%	Weight	%
Blades	**27**	**54**	**53.4g**	**46**
Bladelets	**6**	**12**	**3.3g**	**3**
Flakes	**17**	**34**	**59.3g**	**51**
Totals	**50**		**116.0g**	

Discussion

The assemblage derives from two trenches and three contexts from each and are described as follows

Trench 1

- (50) fill of sondage
- (90) deposit of yellowish sand, clay and soil
- (120) fill of linear feature

Trench 2

- (20/30) redeposited subsoil
- (90) stone fill
- (120) redeposited mixture of soils

Clearly the assemblage originated elsewhere, was disturbed and redeposited.

The lithic consist entirely of blades, bladelets and flakes, suggesting a flint working site, however, it lacks cores and tools.

The blades and bladelets are indicative of a Late Mesolithic date, whilst the flakes cannot conclusively provide a date.