

APPENDIX 3

SCHOOL DIG

A field report was prepared on site, during the dig to provide guidance for the later interpretation.

FIELD REPORT

Date	20 – 27 th July 2013
Location	Robert Miles School, Bingham
NGR of pit	NE corner 470609.339975 NW corner 470590.339983 SE corner 470601.339957
Present	Peter Allen was dig manager supported by Laura Binns of Trent & Peak Archaeology and David Ingham. David Knight, research director of TPA visited for half a day.
Geophysics	David Hibbitt of Grantham Archaeological Group carried out a geophysical survey prior to the dig.
Contractor	Chris Harrison, a local landscape gardener and tree specialist, removed the turf, topsoil and old access road with a Bobcat mini digger and filled the excavation in with it at the end of the project
Protocol	The pit was located using geophysics and data from the 1-metre test pit dug in May 2012. The pit measured 4 x 7 metres. Topsoil and the 20 th C road material found beneath part of it were removed 20 th July (Chris Harrison). The rest of the pit was dug by hand. Most of the subsoil was sieved. The coarse road material was hand sorted. Finds were bagged in bulk according to context. Two dog burials were left intact and in place on pedestals resting on the stone floor. On completion a membrane was laid over the floor of the pit and it was backfilled using the Bobcat mini digger on 27 th July. Turf was replaced. Fresh soil used to fill gaps was seeded.
Recording	Finds were bagged according to contexts recorded in the field. These were then related to the contexts noted in the sections that were drawn on the western and northern faces of the completed excavation.
	The stratigraphy of the excavation was complex because there appears to have been a considerable amount of soil movement and redistribution. The correlations are as follows:
Turf	10 cm thick and not sampled

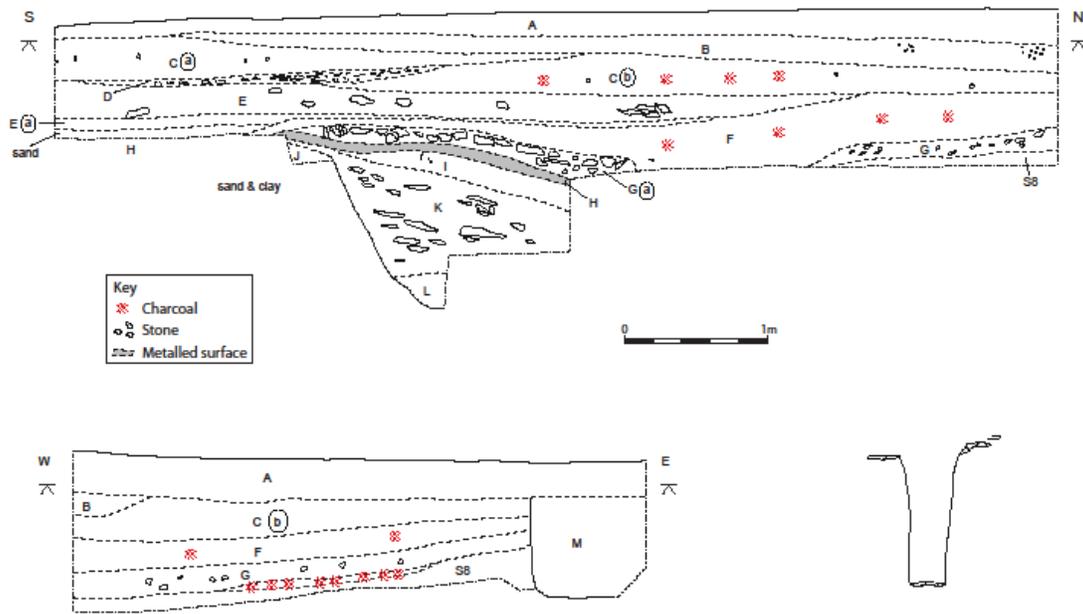


Fig 1. Drawings of the western (top) and north (bottom) faces of the excavation showing the contexts A to M referred to in the text above (see also Fig 4 in the main report). Bottom right is a section through the downward extension to the [it shown in the top diagram.

Topsoil

The layer of topsoil was removed mechanically down to the top of the access track, marked by the appearance of burnt shale. Along the western margin of the excavation the feather edge of a spread of gravel associated with a trench recently dug for new drains was intersected. The topsoil above the gravel (Context A in Fig 1) has clearly been disturbed since the trench was laid. The trench gravel is recorded as Context B in Fig 1. In the section the layer beneath the gravel, recoded as Ca and Cb differs from the topsoil above in that it is lighter in colour, but it was not differentiated in the field. Thus contexts A, B Ca and Cb were all sampled by hand, but no sieved and bagged as **Topsoil**.

Access road

Beneath the topsoil in the southern half of the excavation was a layer of burnt shale (Context D in Fig 1) and beneath this was demolition rubble (Context E in Fig 1). The burnt shale defined the route of what is believed to be an access road laid by the contractors when the school was being built in the 1960s. In the south eastern corner of the excavation a layer of packed clay lumps abutted the burnt shale. The whole of the layer of road rubble was removed mechanically. The material was not sieved or sorted, though a few pieces were collected. Samples of brick were taken to be measured. Context E, the demolition rubble, extends beyond the limits of the road width as a layer of stones and clay with no burnt shale above it. This was collected as **Stony A + B**.

Subsoil	The subsoil to the north of the spread of stones and rubble is part of the subsoil context F (Fig 1) and was collected as Subsoil C. This distinction between stony and relatively stone free remained to near the bottom of the pit, though the boundaries of the stony layer varied with depth. There were also thin (c5 cm-thick) layers of clay in this context. All of this material was sieved and collected as :
	Subsoil C
	Subsoil
	Stony A+B 7, Subsoil 7
Demolition layer	Beneath Subsoil 7 in the northern part of the pit was an extensive layer of building rubble. (Context G in Fig 1). This was collected as North Rubble . Stratigraphically level with this along the western side of the pit is a layer of skerry stones (Context Ga in Fig 1). This was sampled as Stony S8 . In the southern part of the pit was an area of around 4 m ² of crushed red mudstone. It was 10-15 cm thick at the most and overlay around 10-15 cm of subsoil. It was considered that this level was equivalent to the demolition level in the north of the pit.
Lower subsoil	Below the rubble layer is a layer of subsoil (Context S8) indistinguishable from the subsoil above it. This rests on the stone floor feature. Where subsoil remained on top of the stone feature in the southern part of the pit and beneath the Demolition layer the finds were bagged as S8 . The soil beneath the crushed mudstone was collected as S8 South .
Stone floor feature	The whole pit was underlain by a stone floor feature (Context H in Fig 1). Finds taken from within it were bagged as Floor . In the south western corner the stone floor was overlain by a layer of sand, not sampled. Along much of the eastern side of the excavation a second layer of stones was laid on top of the first, thus the floor was in part made of two layers.
Pit	A pit was dug along the western side of the excavation to explore what was beneath the floor. Immediately beneath it was a layer of lime mortar, brick and stones in a sandy loam (Context I in Fig 1). This overlay a jumble of skerry stones (Context K in Fig 1) which were on sandy silt (Contexts J and L in Fig 1). In this part of the excavation the stone floor feature had subsided and working around it, it became evident that the stone floor was laid on sand for nearly the whole pit, but in the area of the subsidence the sand had been worked and the pit backfilled with rubble. Finds from the rubble were bagged as Subfloor (Friday) and Lake Subfloor (Friday) where they came from the sandy part beneath the floor.
Dog burials	Two dog burials were exposed. One (North Dog) rested on the North Rubble; the other (South Dog) on the stone floor feature. Only North Dog was sampled. Both skeletons were measured.
NE Feature	In the north eastern corner of the excavation an area was revealed that has been previously dug out. This is shown as Context M in Fig 1. It is inferred that this was where a flagpole had been sited. Finds were bagged as NE Feature .