PHASE 1B FIELD RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY

KENSICO DAM FACILITIES BUILDING PROJECT

KENSICO DAM PARK,

VALHALLA, WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK

PREPARED FOR:

KAEYER, GARMENT + DAVIDSON ARCHITECTS

285 MAIN STREET

MT. KISCO NY, 10549

HUDSON VALLEY

CULTURAL RESOURCE CONSULTANTS, LTD.

PO BOX 264, SALT POINT, NY 12578

MARCH 2022

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

SHPO Project Review Number (if available):

Involved State and Federal Agencies:

Phase of Survey: **Phase 1B Field Reconnaissance Survey**

Location Information:

Location: **Kensico Dam Plaza**

Minor Civil Division: **Valhalla, Town of Mount Pleasant**

County: **Westchester County**

Survey Area (Metric & English)

Length: **262'/79.8 m**

Width: **105'/32.01 m**

Depth (when appropriate):

Number of Acres: **±0.549 acres (0.22 hectares)**

USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map: **White Plains, New York 2019**

Archaeological Survey Overview

Number & Interval of Shovel Tests: **8 STs at 50' Interval**

Number & Size of Test Trenches: **3: ~30' in length**

Width of Plowed Strips: N/A

Surface Survey Transect Interval: N/A

Results of Archaeological Survey

Number & name of prehistoric sites identified: **0**

Number & name of historic sites identified: **0**

Number & name of sites recommended for Phase II/Avoidance: **N/A**

Report Author (s): **Beth Selig, MA, RPA.**

Date of Report: **March 11, 2022**

Project Number: 21-11-591

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I. PHASE 1B FIELD RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY

In January and March of 2022 Hudson Valley Cultural Resource Consultants (HVCRC) completed a Phase 1B field reconnaissance level archaeological survey of the proposed Kensico Dam Facilities Building Project, in the hamlet of Valhalla in the Town of Mount Pleasant, Westchester County, New York. The Phase 1B Survey was completed in area proposed for the construction of a new building and updated parking area. A Phase 1A Cultural Resources Survey for the Kensico Dam Plaza was completed by Hartgen Archaeological Associates in 2007 (HAA 2007).

Archaeological fieldwork was supervised by Beth Selig MA, RPA, Principal Investigator. The field work was completed by Sarah Gilleland MA. RPA, Beth Selig, Franco Zani Jr.

The purpose of the Phase 1 Cultural Resources Survey is to determine whether previously identified cultural resources (historic and archeological sites) are located within the boundaries of the proposed project, and to evaluate the potential for previously unidentified cultural resources to be located within the boundaries of the Project Area of Potential Effect (APE). All work was completed in accordance with the *Standards for Cultural Resource Investigations and the Curation of Archeological Collections* published by the New York Archeological Council (NYAC) and recommended for use by New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). The report has been prepared according to New York State *OPRHP's Phase 1 Archaeological Report Format Requirements*, established in 2005.

A: PHASE 1A REPORT INFORMATION

The proposed project description, environmental information and archaeological sensitivity assessment are included in the Phase 1A report completed in April of 2007 by Hartgen Archaeological Associates. The research completed for the Phase 1A report reviewed the existing environmental and geological setting of the Project Parcel, and provided a historic overview of the property within the Town of Mount Pleasant and the region around the Kensico Dam.

The Phase 1A Report includes the general vicinity of the Kensico Dam and the park plaza around the dam. The Phase 1A landscape assessment identified areas of prior disturbance and locations where historic buildings existed in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. The Phase 1A report identified the possibility for buried historic cultural layers underneath the existing fill deposits in the Kensico Dam Plaza and within the Project APE (HAA 2007).

B: PROJECT LOCATION DESCRIPTION

The Project APE has experienced a significant amount of disturbance. The Project APE currently consists of an existing parking lot, used by the Park maintenance department, as well as a visitors to the Kensico Dam Park. The parking lot is bordered by a post and rail fence along with a curb area and tree line. Adjacent to the tree line are buried water and electrical lines. The ground surface within the Project APE consists of compacted gravel. Steel storage containers, used by the maintenance departments are located in the northern portion of the Project APE. These containers are fenced in, and the general area is used to store equipment and materials.

C: Archaeological Methodology

Areas selected for subsurface testing were identified during an intensive walkover inspection which evaluated the landscape to determine areas of prior disturbance, slopes in excess of 12% grade, saturated or wet soils and document evidence of former land usage. The locations of the shovel tests and disturbed areas were recorded on a scaled map that shows surveyed borders and has the locations of the various structures or features identified (Field Reconnaissance Map).

Shovel tests (STs) approximately 50 cm in diameter, were spaced 50 feet apart and excavated at least 10 cm into sterile subsoil, unless impeded by pooling water and rocks or other obstructions. This subsurface testing strategy was applied in areas of undisturbed soils and that were well drained and did not contain surface water. All soils excavated from shovel tests were screened through 0.25-inch hardware cloth. Shovel test profiles were recorded on standard field forms which included stratigraphic depths, Munsell soil color, texture and inclusions, disturbances and artifacts (Appendix B).

Due to the presence of urban land and fill, the Phase 1B testing methodology included mechanically excavated test trenches. The trenches were opened in the location of the proposed building footprint. Each test trench was monitored during excavation, and the exposed soil stratigraphy examined to identify any intact cultural soil layers. The trenches were spaced ±35 apart and excavated to a minimum depth of 8 feet below grade. In several locations the depth was extended to identify the nature of the underlying sediments. The trenches were excavated ±30-35' in length, the width of the proposed building.

The presence of clearly modern materials, if recovered would be noted on field forms, but HVCRC does not generally collect these materials for analysis or inclusion in the artifact assemblage. If any precontact period or potentially significant historic-period artifacts had been recovered from shovel tests, then these finds would have been bagged, labeled with standard project provenience information. Following completion of the archaeological fieldwork, all recovered materials would be washed, identified, inventoried and re-bagged in labeled clean 4-mil archival quality plastic bags. All artifacts recovered would then be identified and described based on material type and standard descriptive characteristics and included in an artifact inventory.

Figure 1: 2019 White Plains NY. USGS Topographic Quadrangle (Source: USGS.gov). Scale: 1" = 750'.

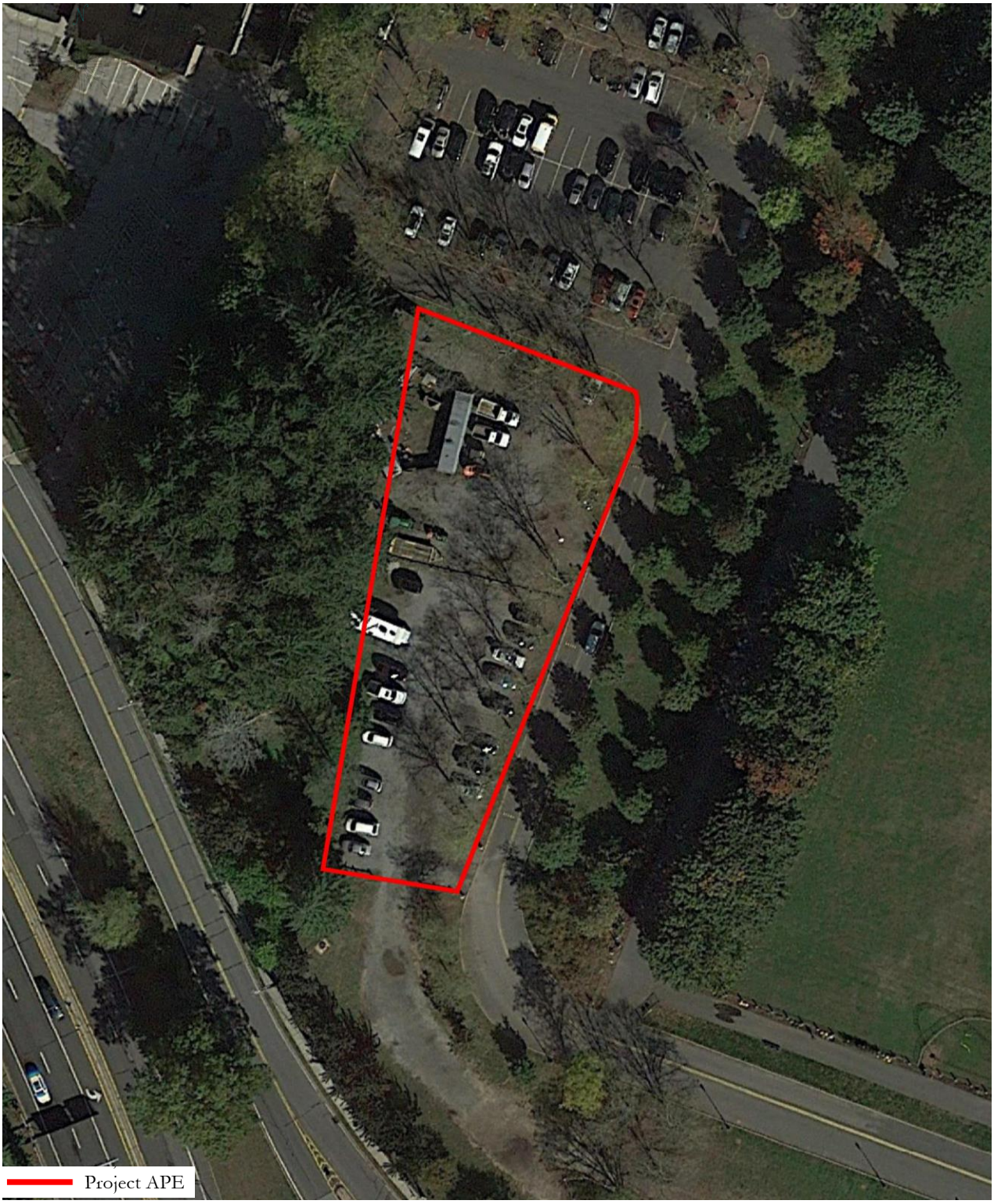

Figure 2: Aerial image showing the Project APE. (Source: Google Earth) Scale: 1" = 75'

D: Archaeological Survey Results

Field investigations began with an initial walkover of the Project APE. There has been a substantial amount of soil disturbance associated with the grading and consistent use of the parking lot. The parking lot has been in place since 2007. Based on the aerial images prior to that time, the landscape was maintained as open space. The vegetation in the APE is limited to the coniferous trees on the western side of the parking lot, and the deciduous trees that line the eastern and northern boundaries of the parking lot.

Testing began in the southern portion of the parking lot and progressed north. Two transects aligned south to north tested the area. The transects were placed to avoid the subsurface infrastructure and in locations where the gravel and soils were the least compact. The soils identified consisted of a mix of mottled brown, yellowish brown, and very dark grayish brown sandy loam with gravel, gravel fill, brown, yellowish brown, and very dark grayish brown sandy loam with gravel, and gray sandy loam with gravel. The soils contained modern debris and garbage, including plastic, re-bar, ceramic sewer pipe fragments and asphalt. At varying depths across the Project APE the dense gravel fill was impenetrable though hand excavation. No significant cultural material was identified in the completed shovel tests.

Due to the impenetrable fill and the proposed depth of the vertical APE (depth of building foundation) mechanical trenches were opened to identify the depth of the fill layers and whether they encapsulate intact cultural deposits. Three trenches were excavated in the northern portion of the Project APE in the location of the proposed structure. The balance of the APE will remain as a parking lot. The trenches began along the northern boundary and progressed to the south. The soil profile generally consisted of a layer of dark brown fill, generally consisting of silty sandy loam mixed with gravel and macadam pieces, overlying layers of grayish brown and yellowish brown clay. The clay pockets were mixed with layers of light yellowish brown, yellow brown and gray compacted silt. In the base of the trenches the soils consisted of a yellowish brown sand and cobbles. The soils for the Project APE have been identified as Urban Land. The nearby soil classifications indicate that the original soils were likely sandy loams (Riverhead, Chatfield, Carlton), however none of these soil profiles contain clay. The Bronx River once flowed through the Kensico Dam Park, and the clay deposits may be related to movement, either flooding or anastomosing action of the river. The most likely scenario is that the clay deposits represent material dredged out of the river channel when the current dam was constructed, and the surrounding area was graded and leveled for the park. The mixed soil profile is indicative of disturbed soils.

The northern portion of Trench 1 and Trench 3a identified buried utilities, likely a cable or internet line. Trench 2 had been set back to avoid the potential of encountering this cable. Due to spatial constraints (fencing, storage containers) Trench 3 was shortened and bisected to avoid the existing structures.

E: Conclusions and Recommendations

In March of 2022, HVCRC completed a Phase 1B Archaeological Investigation of the Kensico Dam Facilities Building Project. No archaeological sites or historic structures are located within the Area of Potential Effect (APE). Therefore, the proposed undertaking will not affect any potentially significant cultural resources. In the opinion of HVCRC that no additional cultural resources investigations are warranted for the proposed Project.

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Figure 3: Kensico Dam Facilities Building Project.
Field Reconnaissance Map
Scale 1" = 40'

0 20 40

(IN FEET)
1 inch = 40 ft.

LEGEND

- Test Trench Locations
- Photographic View
- Subject Property Boundaries
- ST — Sterile Shovel Test Location
- ST — Planned Shovel Test, Not Excavated

F: BIBLIOGRAPHY

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2019 United State Geological Survey Topographical Map. White Plains NY Quadrangle (Source: USGS.gov).

Appendix A: Photographs

Photo 1: View to the north of the Project APE.

Photo 2: View to the south from the northern portion of the Project APE.

Photo 3: Storage containers and equipment are stored in the northern portion of the Project APE. View to the north.

Photo 4: The ground surface within the parking area consists of compacted gravel. View to the north.

Photo 5: Water lines and access points border the parking lot. View to the southwest.

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Photo 8: View to the north of the proposed location of Trench 1. Utility lines were marked on the eastern boundary of the Project APE.

Photo 9: View to the south of Trench 1 in the eastern portion of the Project Area.

Photo 10: View to the south of Trench 1. The northern portion of the trench encountered a buried utility line.

Photo 11: The soil profiles consisted of a mix of silt and clays overlying glacial till. View of Trench 1.

Photo 12: Trench 2 was located in the central portion of the Project APE.

Photo 13: The test trenches were excavated in controlled layers. View to the south of Trench 3a.

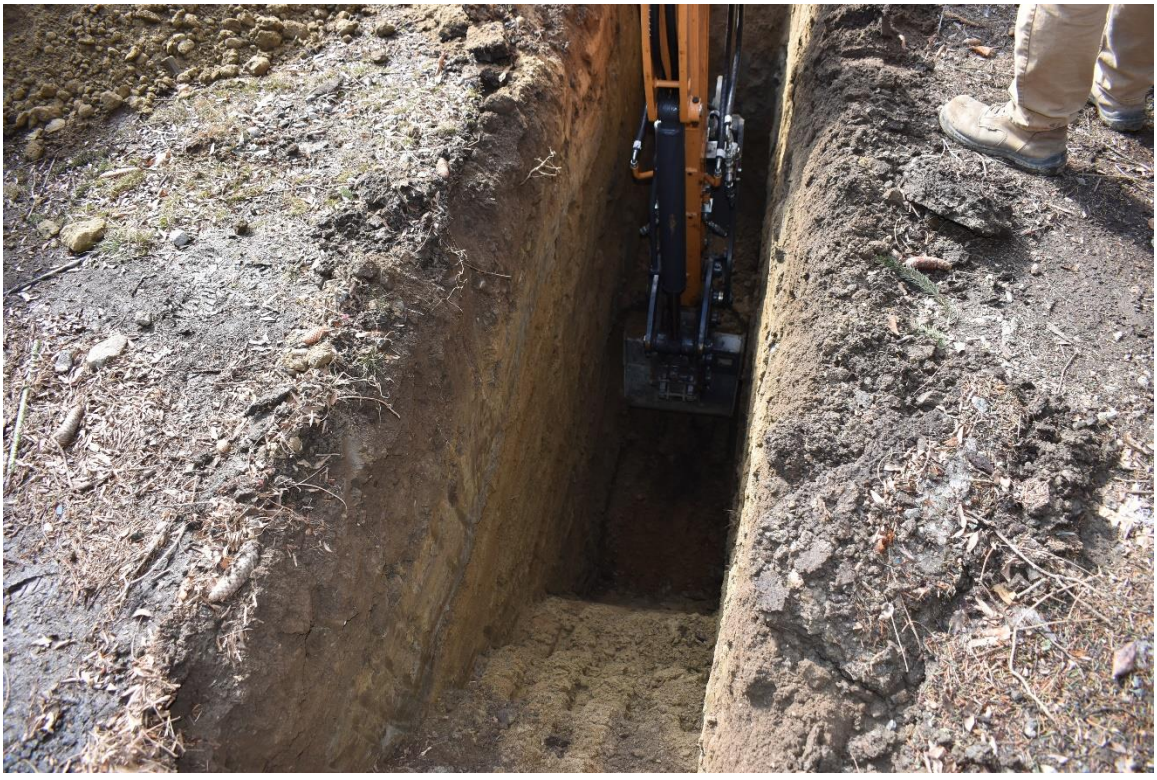


Photo 14: Trenches extended to a minimum of 8' below grade. View of Trench 3b.

Appendix B: Shovel Test Records & Trench Soil Profiles

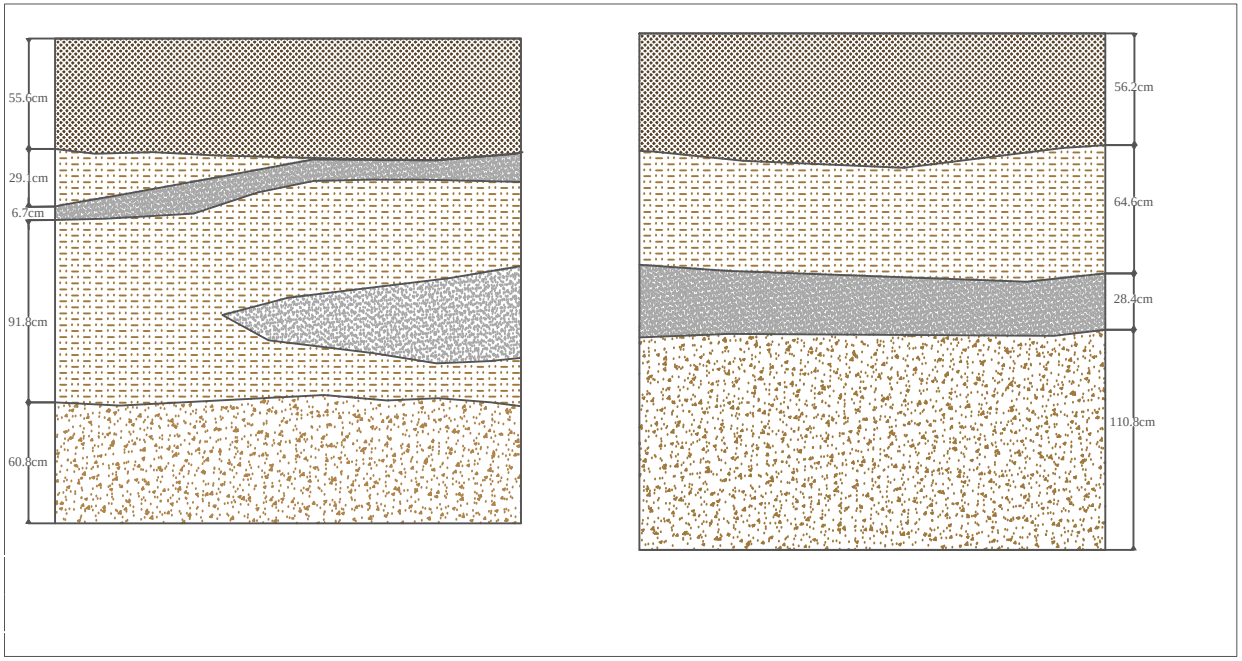
TR/ Trench	ST	Level	Depth (in)	Depth (cm)	Munsell	Soil Description	Cultural Material
TR 1	1	1	1-3	0-7		Gravel fill, Unable to penetrate	
	2	1	0-1.5	0-4		Gravel fill, Unable to penetrate	
	3	1	0-5	0-16	10YR 3/2	Very dark grayish brown sand and gravel. Stopped by dense gravel fill.	NCM
	3	2	5-13	16-34	10YR 5/3, 10YR 5/6	Mottled brown and yellowish brown sandy loam with gravel fill	Discarded plastic, cereamic sewer pipe
	4	1	0-1	0-2		Gravel fill, Unable to penetrate	
TR 2	5	1	0-15	0-38	10YR 4/3, 10YR 5/6, 10YR 3/2	Mottled brown, yellowish brown, and very dark grayish brown sandy loam with gravel. Stopped by dense gravel fill.	Discarded plastic, rebar
	6	1	0-9	0-22	10YR 4/3, 10YR 5/6, 10YR 3/2	Mottled brown, yellowish brown, and very dark grayish brown sandy loam with gravel	NCM
	6	2	9-17	22-43	10YR 3/1	Gray sandy loam with gravel	NCM
	6	3	17-18	43-46	10YR 4/3	Brown sandy clay loam with gravel. Stopped by rock.	NCM
	7	1	0-5	0-16	10YR 4/3, 10YR 5/6, 10YR 3/2	Mottled brown, yellowish brown, and very dark grayish brown sandy loam with gravel	Discarded amber bottle glass
	7	2	5-12	16-32	10YR 4/4	Dark yellowish brown sandy loam with gravel. Stopped by rock.	Discarded asphalt, plastic
	8	1	0-15	0-37	10YR 4/3, 10YR 5/6, 10YR 3/2	Mottled brown, yellowish brown, and very dark grayish brown sandy loam with gravel. Stopped by dense gravel fill.	Discarded coal, used coal, plastic, and asphalt

TR/ Trench	ST	Level	Depth (in)	Depth (cm)	Munsell	Soil Description	Cultural Material
Trench	1	1	0-22	0-55	10YR 4/3, 10YR 5/6, 10YR 3/2	Mottled brown, yellowish brown, and very dark grayish brown sandy loam with gravel inlcuded a layer of macadam. Small pieces of degraded mortar	small pieces of mortar, gravel fill
		2	22-33	55-85	10YR5/1	gray clay	NCM
			33-70	85-176	10YR4/6, 10YR5/2, 10YR6/8	brownish yellow and dark yellowish brown siilt with large grayish brown inclusions	NCM
			70-93	176-236	10YR5/8	Yellowish brown silty sand and sandy gravel	NCM
Trench	2	1	0-24	0-19	10YR 4/3, 10YR 5/6, 10YR3/3	Mottled brown, yellowish brown, and very dark grayish brown sandy loam with gravel.	macadam
			24-48	19-122	10YR5/2, 10YR6/4	Mixed yellow and brown compacted fine silt	NCM
			48-61	122-155	10YR5/2	grayish brown clay	NCM
			61-118	155-300	10YR6/6, 10YR6/8	brownish yellow silt and fine sand mixed with gravels and cobble, glacial till	NCM
			118-131	300-335	10YR6/4	Light yellowish brown fine sand	NCM
Trench	3A	1	0-18	0-45	10YR 4/3, 10YR 5/6, 10YR 3/2	Mottled brown, yellowish brown, and very dark grayish brown sandy loam with gravel.	NCM
			18-28	45-71	10YR6/8	very dense yellowish brown clay	NCM
			28-31	71-79	10YR5/2	grayish brown clay	NCM
			31-48	79-122	10YR6/6, 10YR6/8, 10YR6/4	Brownish yellow sand with pockets of dense clay	NCM

TR/ Trench	ST	Level	Depth (in)	Depth (cm)	Munsell	Soil Description	Cultural Material
			48-84	122-213	10YR6/8	Brownish yellow clay	NCM
	3B		0-18	0-45	10YR 4/3, 10YR 5/6, 10YR 3/2	Mottled brown, yellowish brown, and very dark grayish brown sandy loam with gravel.	NCM
			18-28	45-71	10YR6/8	very dense yellowish brown clay	NCM
			28-31	71-79	10YR5/2	grayish brown clay	NCM
			31-51	79-130	10YR6/6, 10YR6/8, 10YR6/4	Brownish yellow sand with pockets of dense clay	NCM
			51-84	130-213	10YR6/8, 10YR4/4	Brownish yellow sand and cobbles mixed with compact silts	NCM

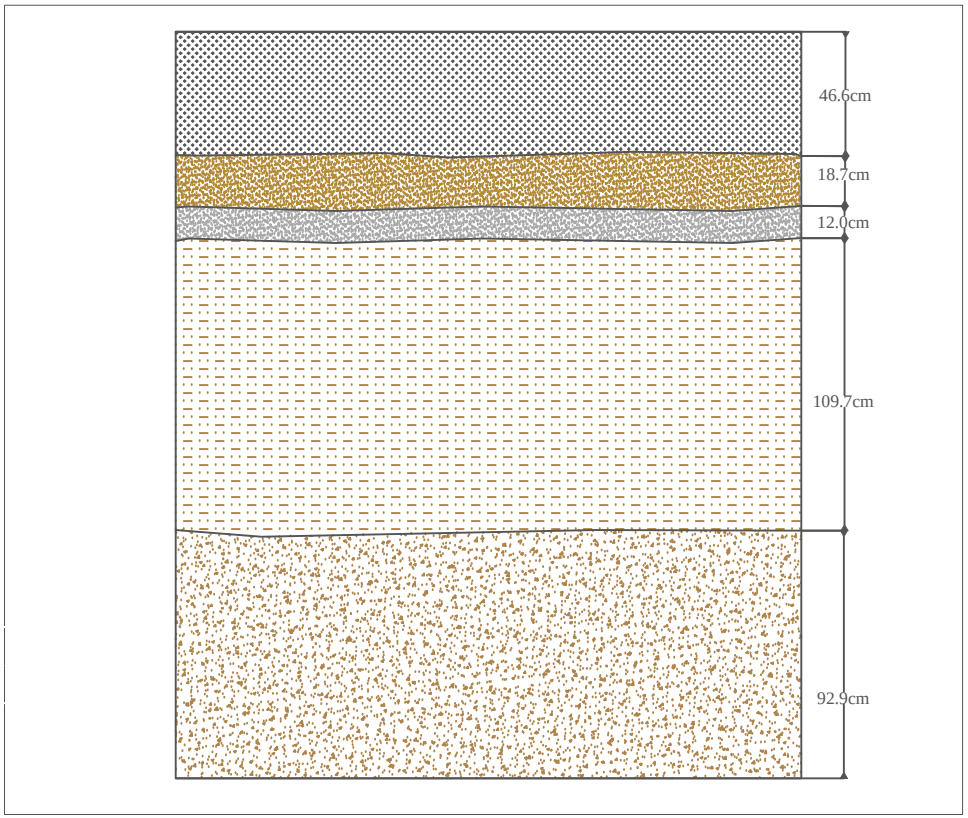
Trench 1: West Wall Profile

Trench 1: East Wall Profile



Trench 3b: East Wall Profile

Trench 3b: West Wall Profile



Dark brown sandy loam fill with gravel

Brownish yellow compact silt and clay

Grayish brown clay

Brownish yellow sands with pockets of dense clay

Brownish yellow sand and cobbles mixed with compacted silt