

**WESTOE RUGBY CLUB,
SOUTH SHIELDS,
TYNE AND WEAR**

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL
INVESTIGATIONS**

EVALUATION REPORT

NOVEMBER 2017

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Westoe Rugby Club, South Shields, Tyne and Wear

Phase 1 Archaeological Investigations

Site Code: WRC 17

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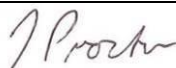

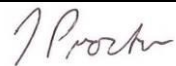
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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT WESTOE RUGBY CLUB, SOUTH SHIELDS,
TYNE AND WEAR**

EVALUATION REPORT

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Quality Control	
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1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology was commissioned by Tolent Living Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to a housing development at Westoe Rugby Club, South Shields, Tyne and Wear at National Grid Reference NZ 36954 65806. The archaeological investigation was split into two phases: Phase 1 comprised Trenches 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, whilst Phase 2 (to be undertaken at a later date) will comprise Trenches 1, 2 and 3.
- 1.2 The Phase 1 area was situated on a grassed cricket pitch to the north-east of the rugby field. A geophysical survey undertaken at the site revealed a substantial positive anomaly that was considered to be of possible archaeological origin (AD Archaeology 2017). The feature resembled a large pit with its shape comparable to a corn drying kiln, albeit of a rather larger size than would be expected; Trench 6 was sited to investigate this anomaly. Other anomalies on the site included several linear features which were considered to possibly represent soil filled ditches or gullies and ridge and furrow systems. The relatively wide spacing of the ridge and furrow system suggested a possible medieval origin for the agricultural remains.
- 1.3 A method statement was produced prior to work commencing at the site that set out the scope of works and methodologies to be employed during the Phase 1 evaluation (Trenches 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8) (PCA 2017).
- 1.4 Geological substratum (Phase 1) comprising both magnesian limestone bedrock (dolostone of the Raisby Formation) and till (diamicton-Devensian) were noted within all trenches. The geophysical anomalies noted within Trenches 6 and 7 proved to be of geological nature rather than archaeological as the bedrock within these areas was encountered at relatively shallow depths.
- 1.5 Post-medieval ridge and furrow systems and a ceramic drain represented the Phase 2 activity on the site.
- 1.6 Phase 3 comprised turf and topsoil deposits that formed the existing ground surface within all trenches.
- 1.7 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were observed during the evaluation.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Background

- 2.1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken at Westoe Rugby Club, South Shields, Tyne and Wear in October-November 2017 (Figure 1 & 2). The archaeological investigation was commissioned by Tolent Living Limited and was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA). The work was undertaken ahead of the construction of a residential development at the site comprising approximately 82 dwellings.
- 2.1.2 The archaeological evaluation comprised trial trenching in order to identify the potential for archaeological remains within the area. Features of possible archaeological origin were identified by geophysical survey and the trenches were sited to examine these features as (Figure 2; AD Archaeology 2017).
- 2.1.3 Five trenches (Trenches 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8) were mechanically excavated during the Phase 1 scheme of works. The evaluation comprised three 2 x 10m and two 2 x 20m trenches; all trenches were targeted over geophysical anomalies.
- 2.1.4 The overall project was undertaken on the recommendation of Tyne and Wear Archaeology Service following the findings of the geophysical survey (AD Archaeology 2017). The Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigation (OASIS) reference number of the project is preconst1-299604.

2.2 Site Location and Description

- 2.2.1 The proposed development area is located at Westoe Rugby Club in Westoe, South Shields, Tyne and Wear at National Grid Reference NZ 36954 65806 (Figure 1 & 2). The site is bounded to the north-west by properties along Dean Road; by residential housing along Hartington Terrace to the south-west; by residential properties along Wood Terrace to the south-east and additional residential properties along Sunderland Road to the north-east.
- 2.2.2 The site itself is a sports ground and currently consists of a large subdivided field with a rugby field on the western half, and a cricket ground in the east.

2.3 Geology and Topography

- 2.3.1 Within the context of the *natural England National Character Areas*, the study site lies in National Character Area 14: Tyne and Wear Lowlands (Natural England website). The area is summarised thus:

Tyne and Wear Lowlands National Character Area (NCA) is an area of gently undulating or rolling land, incised by the valleys of the major rivers and their tributaries. It is densely populated and heavily influenced by urban settlement, industry and infrastructure. Between

settlements there are wide stretches of agricultural land. The undulating land and broad valleys of the Tyne and Wear Lowlands are underlain almost entirely by Coal Measures rocks of Upper Carboniferous age. Mineral extraction has played a considerable role in the area and the legacy of coal mining remains evident in the landscape, although much restoration has occurred in recent years. Spoil heaps have been restored to pastures, mixed/ coniferous plantations, amenity ponds and lakes (former open cast mines) and accessible green spaces such as country parks, and new networks of footpaths and cycle routes have been created along former wagonways.

- 2.3.2 The bedrock geology of the site comprises dolostone from the Raisby Formation formed approximately 252 to 272 million years ago in the Permian Period. The bedrock is overlain by a diamicton Devensian till formed up to two million years ago in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2017).
- 2.3.3 Land at the proposed development site is generally flat with a slight slope down from 31.75m at the north-west corner of the Phase 1 area down to 30.07m AOD at the south-eastern corner.

2.4 Planning Background

- 2.4.1 The archaeological investigation was carried out pre-determination of a planning application for the proposed construction of a residential development comprising approximately 82 houses.
- 2.4.2 The archaeological investigation was required, as part of the planning process, to inform the Local Planning Authority (LPA), South Tyneside Council, and their archaeological advisors at Tyne and Wear Archaeology Service of the character, date, extent and degree of survival of archaeological remains at the site.
- 2.4.3 Chapter 12 of the NPPF '*Conserving the historic environment*' describes in paragraph 126, how LPAs should '*... set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment*' and details, in paragraph 128, that '*in determining application, LPAs should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum, the relevant [Historic Environment Record] HER should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, LPAs should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and where necessary [the results of] a field evaluation*'.

- 2.4.4 The LPA, South Tyneside Council, has responsibility for development control in relation to the historic environment. In this instance, Tyne and Wear Archaeology Service based at Newcastle City Council, on behalf of the LPA, will advise regarding the potential implication of the development proposal on the historic environment.

2.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.5.1 Although no entries are noted on the Tyne and Wear HER for the prehistoric period within the site boundary, there is growing evidence for prehistoric settlement throughout the north-east; especially on the coastal plain. The settlement record within built up areas of the region is greatly under represented due to the inability of aerial photography to aid in identifying potential sites.
- 2.5.2 Little is also known of the area for the Roman/Romano-British period although the major fort and supply base at Arbeia lies c. 2km north of the site.
- 2.5.3 The earliest reference to Westoe dates to 1074-80AD when it and the other villas dependent on Jarrow were given by Bishop Walcher to Aldwin and his companions to assist them in the reconstruction of the church of Jarrow.
- 2.5.4 The HER entry (HER951) for Westoe village (recorded as *Wivestou*) notes that it is curious to find the village included with the bishop's lands in the Boldon Book (a survey of land belonging to the Bishop of Durham, Hugh du Puiset), c. 1183, when it was a farm. In 1345-6 there were 41 holdings but only 24 named tenants; in 1539 and 1580 there was a total of 12 holdings. Although no early buildings survive, Westoe still retains its regular two-row plan around a village green.
- 2.5.5 The location and the likely layout of the medieval village can be discerned in part from the depiction of Westoe village on the Ordnance Survey map of 1862 (AD Archaeology 2017, 3). The village lay only 65m to the north-east of the site, a proximity which raises the possibility that archaeological remains associated with the medieval village may have been present on site.
- 2.5.6 The First Edition Ordnance Survey depicts the village of Westoe close to the site, immediately west of Sunderland Road, with the site itself and most of the surrounding area undeveloped agricultural fields. Westoe Villa lay immediately to the south of the site together with extensive gardens. The Ordnance Survey Second Edition map of 1899 shows the open fields between South Shields and Westoe village now developed with the site itself occupied by a cricket ground that followed the boundaries of the former field upon which it stood. The site itself has remained a sports ground to this day.

3. PROJECT AIMS AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

3.1 Project Aims

3.1.1 The project aims to fulfil the requirements of the local planning authority by undertaking an appropriately specified scheme of archaeological work. The primary aim of the scheme of works was to determine the absence/presence of archaeological features on site. The work aimed to attempt to define the presence, character, date and extent of any structures or archaeological deposits within the boundaries of the proposed development site. The results are to be used to inform decisions regarding further mitigation measures that may be required at the site prior to the proposed development.

3.2 Research Objectives

3.2.1 The project was undertaken with reference to the research framework set out in *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment* (NERRF) (Petts and Gerrard 2006), which highlights the importance of research as a vital element of development-led archaeological work. By setting out key research priorities for all periods of the past, NERRF allows archaeological projects to be related to wider regional and national priorities for the study of archaeology and the historic environment.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

4.1 Fieldwork

- 4.1.1 The fieldwork was undertaken in compliance with the codes and practice of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and the relevant ClfA standard and guidance document (ClfA 2014 a & b). PCA is a CIFA 'Registered Organisation'. All fieldwork and post-excavation was carried out in accordance with the Yorkshire, the Humber & The North East: Regional Statement of Good Practice (SYAS 2011). The work was carried out between the 23rd October to the 2nd November 2017.
- 4.1.2 The Phase 1 investigation comprised Trenches 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 that were all targeted over geophysical anomalies (Figure 2). The five trenches were set-out using a Leica Viva Smart Rover Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), with pre-programmed co-ordinate data determined by an office based CAD operative. The trenches were sited to target geophysical anomalies that were identified by AD Archaeology in an earlier phase of work at the site (AD Archaeology 2017).
- 4.1.3 The trenches measured 2 x 10m (Trenches 4, 7, 8) and 2 x 20m (Trenches 5 and 6).
- 4.1.4 Ground level in the trenches was reduced using 180° back-acting, mechanical excavator (JCB) utilising a wide blade, toothless itching bucket. Successive spits of no more than 100mm depth were removed until either the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the top of the natural geological substratum was reached. All ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision.
- 4.1.5 The investigation of archaeological levels was by hand, with cleaning, examination and recording both in plan and in section, where appropriate. Investigations within the trenches followed the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation and were conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the field manual of PCA (PCA 2009) and the Museum of London Site Manual (Museum of London 1994).
- 4.1.6 Deposits and cut features were individually recorded on the *pro-forma* 'Trench Recording Sheet' and 'Context Recording Sheet'. All site records were marked with the unique-number WRC17 (site code). All archaeological features were excavated by hand tools and recorded in plan at 1:20 or in section at 1:10 using standard 'single context recording' methods. The height of all principal strata and features was calculated in metres above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) and indicated on appropriate plans and sections.
- 4.1.7 A detailed photographic record of the evaluation was prepared using SLR cameras (35mm film black and white prints for archive purposes) and by digital photography. All detailed photographs included a legible graduated metric scale. The photographic record illustrated both in detail and general context archaeological exposures and specific features in all trenches.

4.2 Post-excavation

- 4.2.1 The stratigraphic data for the project comprises written and photographic records. A total of 23 archaeological contexts were defined in the five trenches (Appendix 2). Post-excavation work involved checking and collating site records, grouping contexts and phasing the stratigraphic data. A written summary of the archaeological sequence was then compiled, as described in Section 5.
- 4.2.2 During the evaluation, no artefactual material was retained as modern finds were only noted from the topsoil or the post-medieval plough furrows.
- 4.2.3 The complete Site Archive, in this case comprising only the written, drawn and photographic records (including all material generated electronically during post-excavation) will be packaged for long term curation. In preparing the Site Archive for deposition, all relevant standards and guidelines documents referenced in the Archaeological Archives Forum guidelines document (Brown 2007) will be adhered to, in particular a well-established United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) document (Walker, UKIC 1990) and the most recent ClfA publication relating to archiving (ClfA 2014c).
- 4.2.4 At the time of writing the Site Archive was housed at the Durham Office of PCA, Unit 19a Tursdale Business Park, Durham, DH6 5PG. When complete, the site Archive will be deposited with Tyne & Wear Museums at Arbeia Roman Fort, under the site code WRC17. The Site Archive will be organised as to be compatible with the other archaeological archives produced in the county. A completed transfer of title deed will accompany the archive on deposition.

5. RESULTS: THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

During the archaeological investigation, separate stratigraphic entities were assigned unique and individual context numbers, which are indicated in the following text as, for example [123]. The context number have been assigned per trenches therefore contexts from trench 1 are in the 100s and contexts from Trench 2 in the 200s etc. The archaeological sequence is described by placing stratigraphic sequences within broad phases, assigned on a site-wide basis in this case. An attempt has been made to add interpretation to the data, and correlate these phases with recognised historical and geological periods. The figures can be found in Appendix 1 with the context index and stratigraphic matrix located in Appendix 2 and 3 respectively. A selection of plates can be found within Appendix 4.

5.1 Phase 1: Geological substratum

- 5.1.1 Phase 1 represents the natural geological material exposed within all five trenches which generally comprised firm mid reddish-brown clay [403], [506], [603], [703] and [803]. Bedrock comprising magnesian limestone (dolostone of the Raisby formation) was noted within Trenches 5, 6 and 7 (Plates 1, 2 & 3).
- 5.1.2 The trenches where the bedrock was exposed at a relatively shallow depth from the surface corresponded to the potential areas of archaeological interest within the earlier geophysical survey which proved that the anomalies were of geological rather than archaeological origin.
- 5.1.3 The maximum and minimum height of the upper interfaces of geological substratum was 31.19m AOD in Trench 8 at the northern end of the site and 30.11m AOD in Trench 5 at the south-eastern corner of the site.
- 5.1.4 The depth at which the superficial geology was encountered below existing ground level varied across the site and was dependant on the thickness of the topsoil and the extent of the plough furrows, however, within all trenches the geological substratum was observed between 0.08m and 0.26m below ground level.

5.2 Phase 2: Post-Medieval

- 5.2.1 Phase 2 represents post-medieval activity at the site in the form of ridge and furrows noted within all five trenches and a ceramic drain encountered in Trench 5.
- 5.2.2 The furrows (Figure 3 & 4) were aligned north-west/south-east and had a gradual break of slope at the top, non-perceptible break of slope at base and a concave base. The furrows were spaced between 3.56m to 5.30m apart with a width of between 2.38m to 4.16m being observed; details are provided in the table below. The furrows were filled by a single uniform mid greyish brown silty clay. Figure 4 illustrates a sample section across the furrows from Trench 6 (refer also to Plate 4).
- 5.2.3 Sherds of post-medieval pottery and fragments of clay tobacco pipe were noted within the plough furrow fill.

Trench	Context	Furrow Fill	Number of Furrows	Average Width	Average Depth	Distance Apart
4	[402]	[401]	1	2.38m	0.24m	n/a
5	[502]	[501]	3	3.9m	0.32m	4.9m to 5.30m
6	[602]	[601]	3	4.16m	0.34m	3.56m to 5.04m
7	[702]	[701]	1	3.00m	0.22m	n/a
8	[802]	[801]	1	3.67m	0.30m	n/a

Furrow dimensions across the site

5.2.4 A salt-glazed stoneware pipe [504], c. 0.16m in diameter, was noted running north-west/south-east within narrow trench [505] at the northern end of Trench 5. The feature is likely an old drain that was installed prior to the construction of the cricket ground. The drainage cut was backfilled with dark greyish brown silty clay [503].

5.3 Phase 3: Modern

5.3.1 Phase 3 represents turf and topsoil that formed the existing ground surface across the site.

5.3.2 It comprised friable dark brownish grey silty clay [400], [500], [600], [700] and [800] and was noted within all trenches. The maximum and minimum recorded thickness was 0.40m in Trench 7 and 0.30m in Trench 4 with the maximum and minimum height of the ground surface noted as 31.45m AOD in Trench 8 and 30.15m AOD in Trench 6.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusions

6.1.1 The archaeological investigations comprised the excavation of five trenches (Trenches 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8) at Westoe Rugby Club, South Shields, Tyne and Wear. Geological deposits and post-medieval ridge and furrows and a ceramic drain were encountered. This activity has been assigned to three phases of activity:

- Phase 1: Geological substratum that was encountered in all trenches;
- Phase 2: Post-medieval ridge and furrows noted within all five trenches. A ceramic drain was also noted at the northern end of Trench 5;
- Phase 3: Modern topsoil was recorded across all five trenches with its developed turf line forming the existing ground surface within the Phase 1 area.

6.1.2 No features of archaeological significance were recorded within any of the evaluation trenches investigated with the geophysical anomalies proving to be outcrops of the local bedrock rather than archaeological remains.

6.2 Recommendations

6.2.1 No further work is required on the information recovered during the evaluation, with the Site Archive, including this report, forming the permanent record of the strata encountered.

6.2.2 Due to the lack of archaeological findings and the geological nature of the geophysical anomalies, no further archaeological mitigation is required pre-determination of the planning application.

7. REFERENCES

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7.2 Online Sources

The **British Geological Survey** website: www.bgs.ac.uk. This was consulted for information regarding the geology of the study area.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

Acknowledgements

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PCA Credits

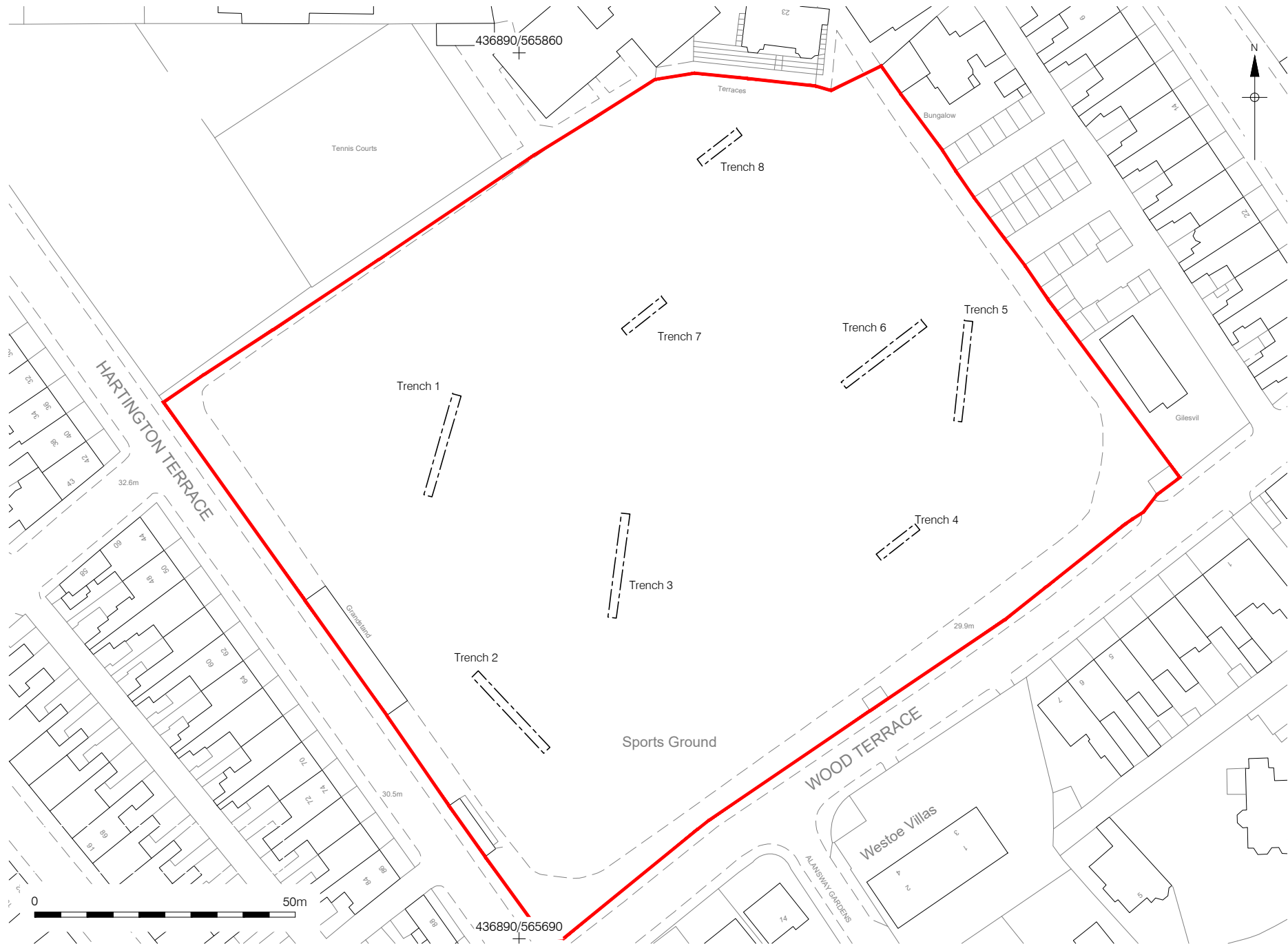
Fieldwork and Report: Scott Vance (Supervisor), James Hopper and Derek Moscrop.

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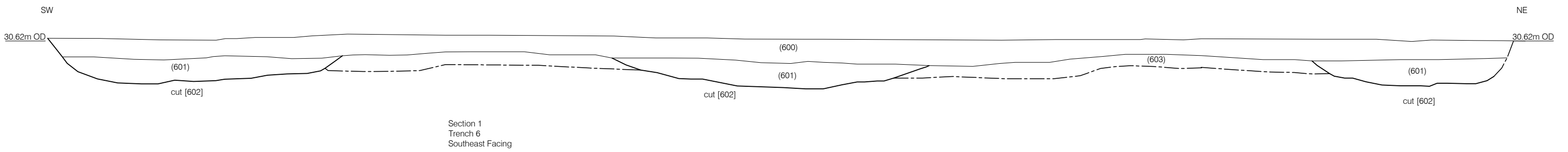
CAD: Ray Murphy

APPENDIX 1: FIGURES









APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Phase	Type 1	Type 2	Fill of	Interpretation
Trench 4					
400	3	Deposit	Layer		Topsoil
401	2	Deposit	Fill	[402]	Fill of plough furrow [402]
402	2	Cut	Linear		Plough furrow
403	1	Deposit	Layer		Superficial geology
Trench 5					
500	3	Deposit	Layer		Topsoil
501	2	Deposit	Fill		Fill of plough furrow [502]
502	2	Cut	Linear		Plough furrow
503	2	Deposit	Fill	[505]	Fill of pipe cut [505]
504	2	Other	Pipe	[505]	Ceramic drain pipe in [505]
505	2	Cut	Linear		Cut for drain [504]
506	1	Deposit	Layer		Superficial geology
Trench 6					
600	3	Deposit	Layer		Topsoil
601	2	Deposit	Fill	[602]	Fill of plough furrow [602]
602	2	Cut	Linear		Plough furrow
603	1	Deposit	Layer		Superficial geology
Trench 7					
700	3	Deposit	Layer		Topsoil
701	2	Deposit	Fill	[702]	Fill of plough furrow [702]
702	2	Cut	Linear		Plough furrow
703	1	Deposit	Layer		Superficial geology
Trench 8					
800	3	Deposit	Layer		Topsoil
801	2	Deposit	Fill	[802]	Fill of plough furrow [802]
802	2	Cut	Linear		Plough furrow
803	1	Deposit	Layer		Superficial geology

APPENDIX 3: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX

	Trench 4	Trench 5	Trench 6	Trench 7	Trench 8
	▶ (400)	▶ (500)	▶ (600)	▶ (700)	▶ (800)
Phase 3: Modern Topsoil					
	▶ (401)	▶ (501)	▶ (601)	▶ (701)	▶ (801)
	[402]	[502]	[602]	[702]	[802]
Phase 2: Post-medieval					
	▶ (403)	▶ (506)	▶ (603)	▶ (703)	▶ (803)
Phase 1: Geological substratum					

APPENDIX 4: PHOTOGRAPHIC PLATES

Plate 1: Bedrock at base of furrow within south-western end of Trench 6: view north, 2m scale



Plate 2: Bedrock at base of furrow at north-eastern end of Trench 6: view north-west, 2m scale



Plate 3: Bedrock within Trench 7: view north-west, 1m scale



Plate 4: Ridge and furrows within Trench 6: view north-east, 2m scale



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