

Oakford Place, Broxtowe, Nottingham

Report on an Archaeological Programme

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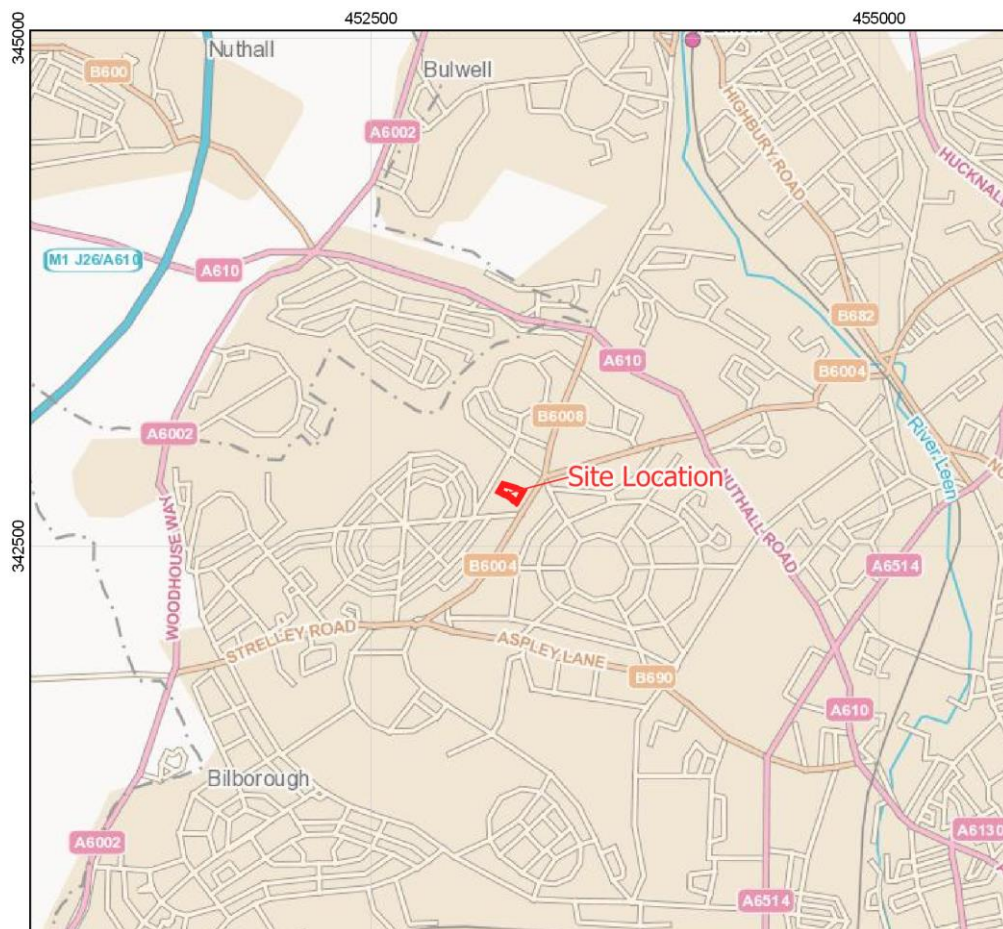
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1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 The Project

SLR Consulting Limited was commissioned by Robert Woodhead Limited to carry out archaeological investigation of a site to be named Oakford Place, located off Oakford Close, Broxtowe, Nottingham. The site is centred upon NGR: 453186, 342769 / SK 53186, 42769 (Figure 1). The planning authority is Nottingham City Council.

Figure 1
Site location



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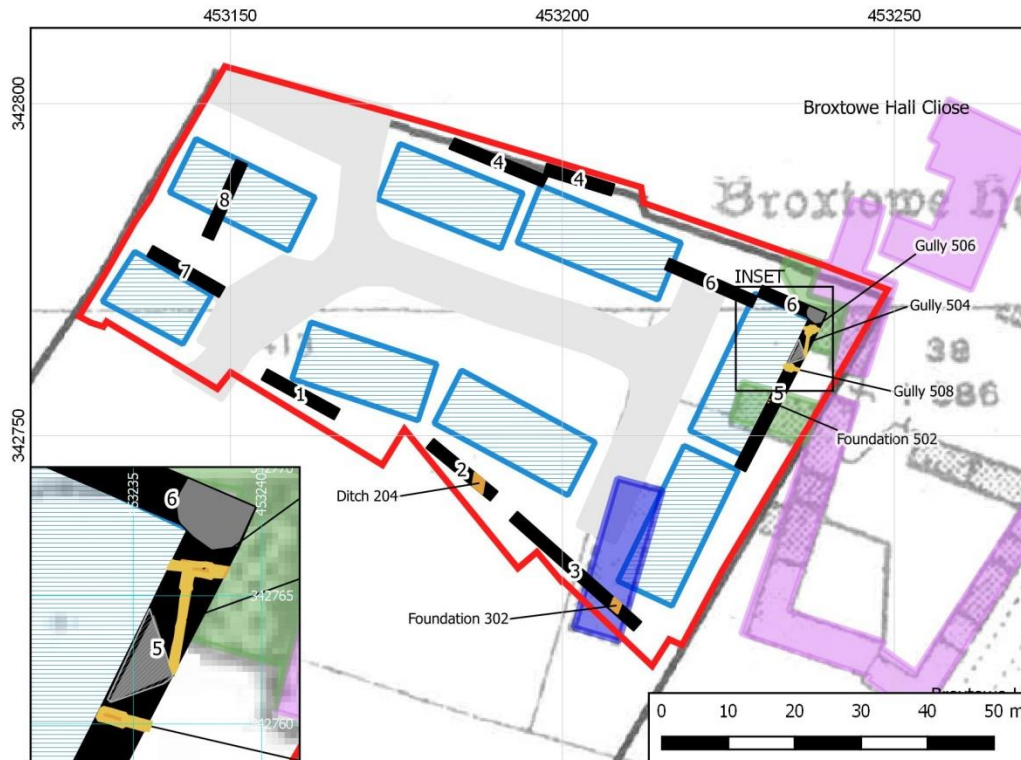
1.2 Archaeological Context

The underlying geological formation (as indicated on the *Geology of Britain* online viewer¹) comprises Cadeby Formation Dolostone (formerly known as Magnesian Limestone) with no superficial deposits. The deposit is buff to grey oolitic or granular incorporating mudstone siltstone and sandstone.

¹ <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

Information supplied by the Acting City Archaeologist ('ACA') at the commencement of the project indicated that the site's chief archaeological potential was thought to lie in its containing the remains of Broxtowe Hall. Historic mapping from the 1824 Tithe Map and after indicates the presence of outbuildings within the site though the post-medieval hall (17th-20th centuries) itself lay outside the site boundary (Figure 2).

Figure 2
The site showing the development and archaeological features



Legend

- | | |
|---|--|
| APPLICATION BOUNDARY | TITHE MAP FEATURES |
| BUILDINGS | TRENCH |
| ROAD | MODERN FEATURES |
| 1930 FEATURES | UNDATED FEATURES |
| 1880 FEATURES | |

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A medieval predecessor to the hall, and possibly a church are known from documents to have existed somewhere in the vicinity. Their general location is indicated by the finds of foundations and human remains north and north-east of the post-medieval hall, further disturbed human remains at the front (east side) of the hall and a single skeleton in 23 Broxtowe Hall Close (north of the hall). These suggest that the general area of the medieval church and hall are located beyond the development site, although it was thought further currently-unknown parts of them could extend within it.

The site was developed in the 1930s.

The Nottingham 'saved' Local Plan (2005) indicates an 'archaeological constraints area' occupying the central and eastern part of the site. The ACA indicated that an archaeological watching-brief was required and supplied a Brief for the work. During consultation with SLR Consulting he agreed that trial trenching could be used to evaluate the site as an alternative to a watching brief.

1.3 The Development

The development comprises seven separate residential units (each of three dwellings), a communal unit and an access road entering the site from the south-west corner (Figure 2).

2.0 GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS

2.1 Aims and Objectives

The project aim was to provide ‘preservation by record’ of archaeological remains within the site that may be damaged or destroyed by construction through archaeological trial-trenching, i.e. machine-excavation, investigation, recording, assessment, analysis, archive and publication.

The project was considered to have the potential to provide further understanding of the development of Broxtowe Hall.

The objectives of preservation by record were to recover and disseminate evidence of the historical development of the site. These were to include:

- recovering evidence for the date, nature and extent of any archaeological features or structures or artefacts which may be discovered during excavation for construction
- recovering evidence for the past environment preserved in organic sediments which may be exposed during excavation for construction.

In addition, the analysis and publication of the evidence gathered during the watching-brief were to include interpretation and setting in its historic context.

All work was to be carried out as set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation previously agreed with the ACA².

2.2 Professional Standards

SLR is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), an audited status which confirms that our work is undertaken to the highest professional standards. SLR’s archaeologists are both highly experienced and CIfA accredited.

This document has been prepared with reference to the CIfA’s *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014).

2.3 Monitoring

All archaeological work was monitored by the ACA via telephone / email conversations with SLR.

Due to a scarcity of archaeological material identified the ACA did not attend the site.

2.4 Destination Museum

This report will be uploaded to the OASIS website.

² 2016, SLR Consulting Oakford Place, Broxtowe, Nottingham: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Programme

3.0 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

3.1 Monitoring and Excavation

Fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation.

The fieldwork involved the excavation of trial trenches to the top of natural ground using a mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were excavated as set out in Figure 2. These works were constantly monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist from SLR.

The potential archaeological features identified were excavated using hand tools and recorded on written proformas, field drawings and photographs.

4.0 RESULTS OF FIELDWORK

4.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was excavated at the south of the site (Figure 2). Trench 1 was 12.5m long and 1.8m wide (Figure 3). Red brown clay silt topsoil up to 0.6m thick (100) overlay very weak natural sandstone deposits with bands of sand and gravel (101 and 402). The natural subsoil was recorded at approximately 81.56m AOD.

Figure 3
Trench 1 looking west-north-west



4.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located at the south side of the site, to the east of the centre (Figure 2). It was 12.5m long and 1.8m wide (Figure 4). The natural subsoil (206), a weak sandstone with bands of sand and gravel was present at between 80.9m AOD at the east and 81.1m AOD at the west. It was overlain by two layers of made ground. The upper layer (200), a brown grey silt containing large quantities of rubble was 0.2m thick and covered (201), a black sand/bitumen mix which also contained a lot of rubble and was 0.3m thick. A very modern linear feature [202] was cut through the lower level of made ground and truncated the natural subsoil. Its fill (203) contained a single piece of plastic. A further ditch [204] cut through the natural subsoil towards the eastern end of the trench (Figure 5). This was orientated roughly north-south, was up to 1.8m wide and 0.5m deep and was filled by red brown clay silt (205). No dating evidence was recovered from a section excavated through this ditch although a small amount of animal bone was recovered.

Figure 4
Trench 2 looking north west



Figure 5
Section of ditch [204] looking north



4.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was excavated at the south east corner of the site. It was 25m long and 1.8m wide (Figure 2). Two deposits of made ground overlay the natural subsoil which comprised weak bands of sand and gravel (Figure 6). The natural subsoil was recorded at between 80.35m AOD (west end) and 79.8m AOD (east end). The upper made ground deposit (300) comprised a grey sand silt which was approximately 40% rubble. This was 0.45m thick. Below this (301) was a grey brown silt clay which contained similar quantity of rubble and was 0.5m thick. A concrete foundation (Figure 7) supporting cavity-wall brickwork of 3in thickness (302) cut into the top of (301). This corresponds approximately with the east wall of a building first shown on the 1930 OS map, and also with a house in the 1930s development. No other contexts associated with the wall were identified.

Figure 6
Trench 3 looking south east

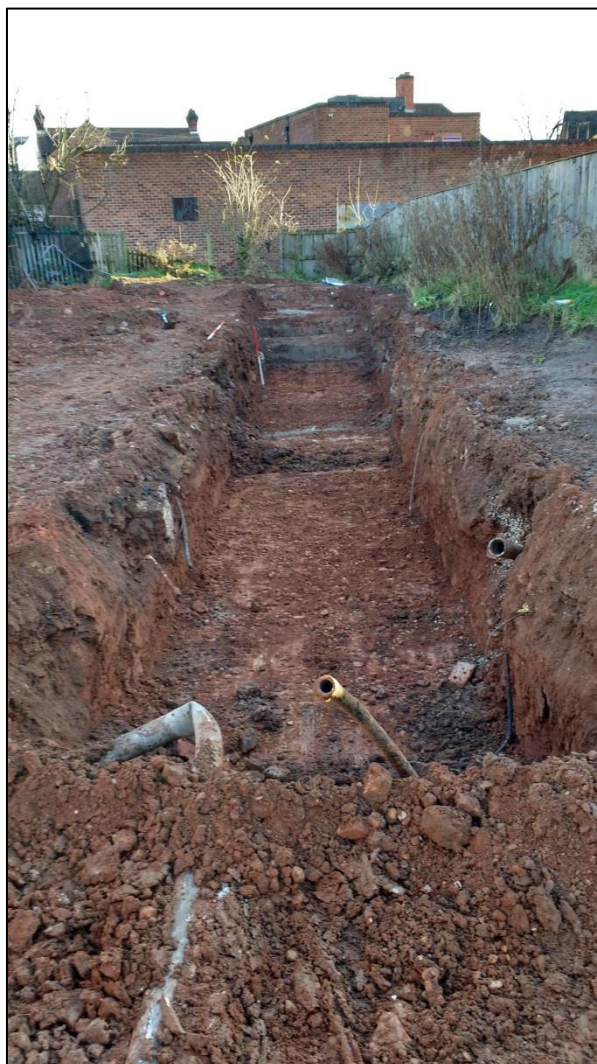


Figure 7
Foundation (302) looking south



4.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was excavated at the north edge of the site (Figure 2). Trench 4 was 25m long and 1.8m wide but was stepped due to services (Figure 8). Red brown clay silt topsoil up to 0.65m thick (401) overlay very weak natural deposits with bands of sand and gravel (101 and 402). The natural subsoil was recorded at between 81.85m (west end) and 81.15m AOD (east end).

Figure 8
Trench 4 looking west-north-west



4.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was excavated at the north east of the site and was 25m long and 1.8m wide (Figure 2). The natural subsoil (510) was recorded at approximately 80.5m AOD, overlain by two layers of made ground (Figure 9). The upper layer, (500) was a red brown sandy silt comprising 10% rubble and was up to 0.45m thick. Below this was 0.15m of dark grey sandy silt (501). The footings of a modern house ((502); Figure 11) truncated all of the deposits recorded within the trench approximately half way along its length. Modern disturbance was also recorded at the very north of the trench. The base of a modern brick wall was also recorded in the western section of the trench. This may relate to houses which were built on the site in the late 1930s/early 1940s.

Figure 9
Trench 5 looking north east



Figure 10
Trench 5:Section of wall (502) looking west



Three shallow gullies ([504], [506], [508]) were recorded in Trench 5 (Figures 11 and 12). These were between 0.4m and 0.75m wide and 0.1m and 0.15m deep and were all filled by red brown clay silt (505, 507, 509) which was similar to (205), the fill of ditch [204]. No dating evidence was recovered from the sections excavated through these gullies.

Figure 11
Trench 5:Section of gullies [504] and [506] looking south-west



Figure 12
Section of gully [508] looking west



4.6 Trench 6

Trench 6 was excavated at the north east of the site and measured 25m long and 1.8m wide (Figure 2). Up to 0.8m of mixed made ground (600) overlay natural weak sandstone (601) (Figure 13). This natural subsoil was recorded at between 80.9m AOD (west end) and 80.4m AOD (east end). The trench was stepped to protect trees under Tree Preservation Orders.

Figure 13
Trench 6 looking south east



4.7 Trenches 7 and 8

Trenches 7 and 8 were excavated at the west end of the site through the surface of a temporary car park/compound (Figure 2). Both trenches were 12.5m long and 1.8m wide. In both trenches between 0.1m and 0.2m of grey hardcore (700 and 800) overlay between 0.2m and 0.3m of red brown clay silt topsoil (701 and 801) (Figures 14 and 15). This covered very weak natural subsoil with bands of sand and gravel (702 and 802). The natural subsoil was recorded at approximately 82.8m AOD in Trench 7 and 83m AOD in Trench 8.

Figure 14
Trench 7 looking east-south-east



Figure 15
Trench 8 looking north east



5.0 SUMMARY

Eight trenches were excavated across the site. Evidence of surviving topsoil was identified at the west of the site in trenches 1, 4, 7 and 8. No archaeological features were identified in any of these trenches. The rest of the site showed evidence of having been horizontally truncated with modern made ground overlying natural subsoil.

An undated ditch was identified in Trench 2 while three undated gullies were identified in Trench 5. All four of these features were filled by red brown clay silt which was derived from the topsoil recorded across the west of the site. The similarity of the fills of these four features suggests that they may be contemporary but they are undated. Wall-foundations identified in Trench 3 and Trench 5 are thought to date to the early 20th century. No remains of either the medieval or post-medieval phases of Broxtowe Hall were identified during these works, with the possible exception of the wall in Trench 3 which corresponded in location and alignment with an outbuilding mapped in 1930, though the use of cavity walling makes it more likely to have been part of the subsequent housing development.

6.0 ARCHIVE

The archive comprises a context list and field drawings.

An OASIS record has been setup [slrconsu2-271029] and the archive has been uploaded to it along with a copy of this report.

6.1 Copyright

SLR retains full copyright of all project documents including this report, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act of 1988 with all rights reserved. ; the contractor will provide an exclusive licence to the Client for the use of such documents by the Client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in this Project Design.

7.0 CLOSURE

This report has been prepared by SLR Consulting Limited with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the manpower and resources devoted to it by agreement with the client. Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected and has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

This report is for the exclusive use of Robert Woodhead Limited; no warranties or guarantees are expressed or should be inferred by any third parties. This report may not be relied upon by other parties without written consent from SLR.

SLR disclaims any responsibility to the client and others in respect of any matters outside the agreed scope of the work.

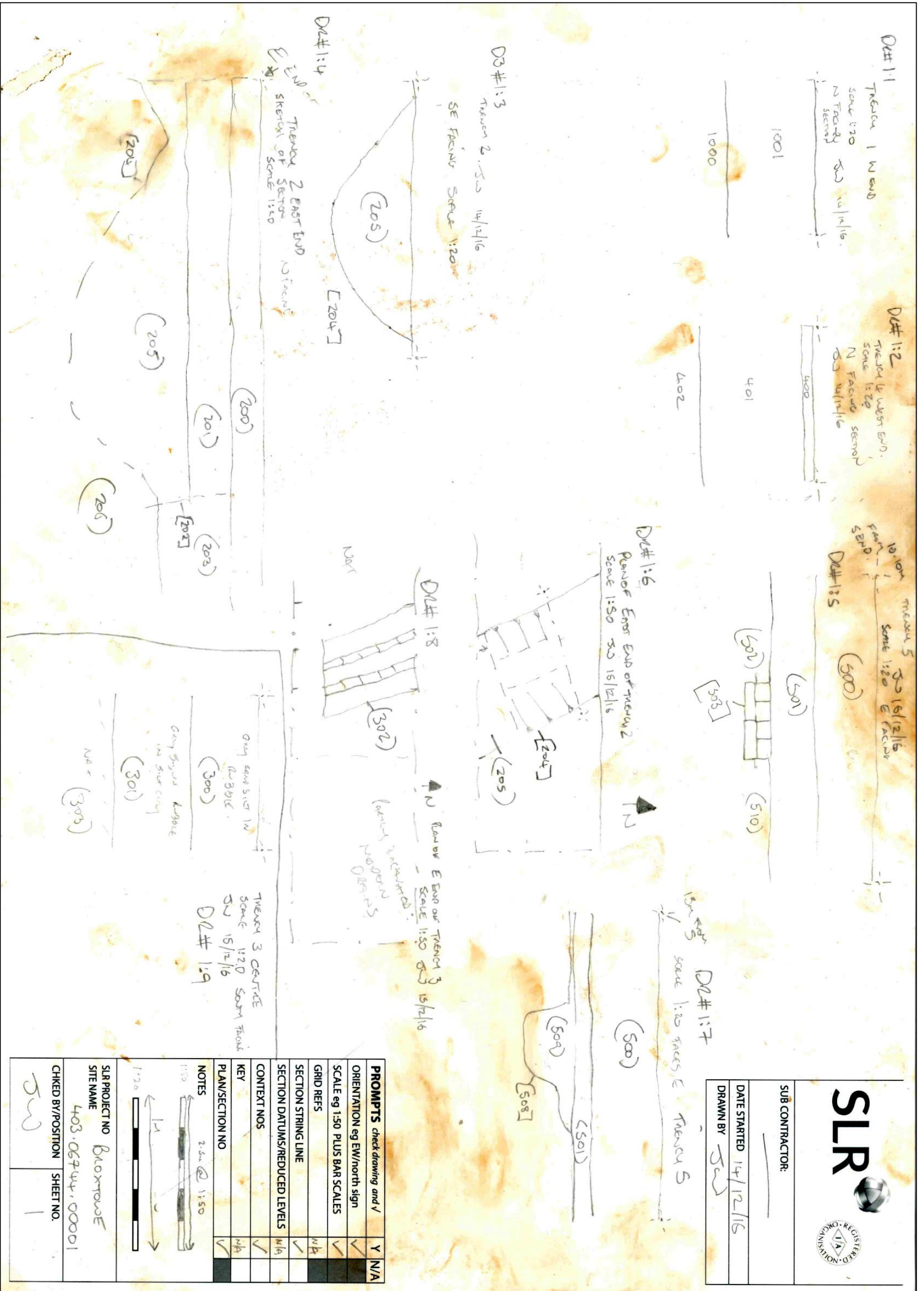
Appendix 1 Context Register

Context No	Fill of	Description	Length	Width	Depth/ Thickness
100	N/A	Red Brown Clay Silt topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.6
101	N/A	Weak sandstone with banks of sand and gravel	Trench	Trench	N/A
200	N/A	Made Ground. Brown grey silt, rubble	Trench	Trench	0.2
201	N/A	Black sandy bitumen, rubble.	Trench	Trench	0.3
202	N/A	Cut of modern ditch, near vertical sides, rounded base	9m+	0.4	Unknown
203	202	Mid brown clay silt	9m+	0.4	Unknown
204	N/A	Cut of ditch, gradual sloping sides, rounded base.	2m+	1.8	0.5
205	204	Red brown clay silt	2m+	1.8	0.5
206	N/A	Weak sandstone with banks of sand and gravel	Trench	Trench	N/A
300	N/A	Made ground. Grey sandy silt, rubble	Trench	Trench	0.45
301	N/A	Brown grey silt clay, rubble	Trench	Trench	0.5
302	N/A	Concrete/brick foundation	1.5+	1.2m +	0.4m
303	N/A	Weak sandstone with banks of sand and gravel	Trench	Trench	N/A
400	N/A	Asphalt	Trench	Trench	0.1
401	N/A	Red Brown Clay Silt topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.65
402	N/A	Weak sandstone with banks of sand and gravel	Trench	Trench	N/A
500	N/A	Made ground. Red brown sandy silt	Trench	Trench	0.45
501	N/A	Made ground. Dark grey sandy silt	Trench	Trench	0.15
502	503	3 inch brick foundation	Unknown	0.5	0.18
503	N/A	Cut of foundation	Unknown	0.5	0.05
504	N/A	Cut of gully, gradual sides, rounded base	2m+	0.4	0.13
505	504	Brown red clay silt	2m+	0.4	0.13
506	N/A	Cut of gully, gradual sides, rounded base	4m+	0.45	0.1
507	506	Brown red clay silt	4m+	0.45	0.1
508	N/A	Cut of gully, gradual sides, rounded base	2m+	0.75	0.15
509	508	Brown red clay silt	2m+	0.75	0.15
510	N/A	Weak sandstone with banks of sand and gravel	Trench	Trench	N/A
600	N/A	Made ground. Mixed deposits	Trench	Trench	0.8
601	N/A	Weak sandstone with banks of sand and gravel	Trench	Trench	N/A
700	N/A	Light grey hardcore	Trench	Trench	0.15
701	N/A	Red Brown Clay Silt topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.25

Appendix 1

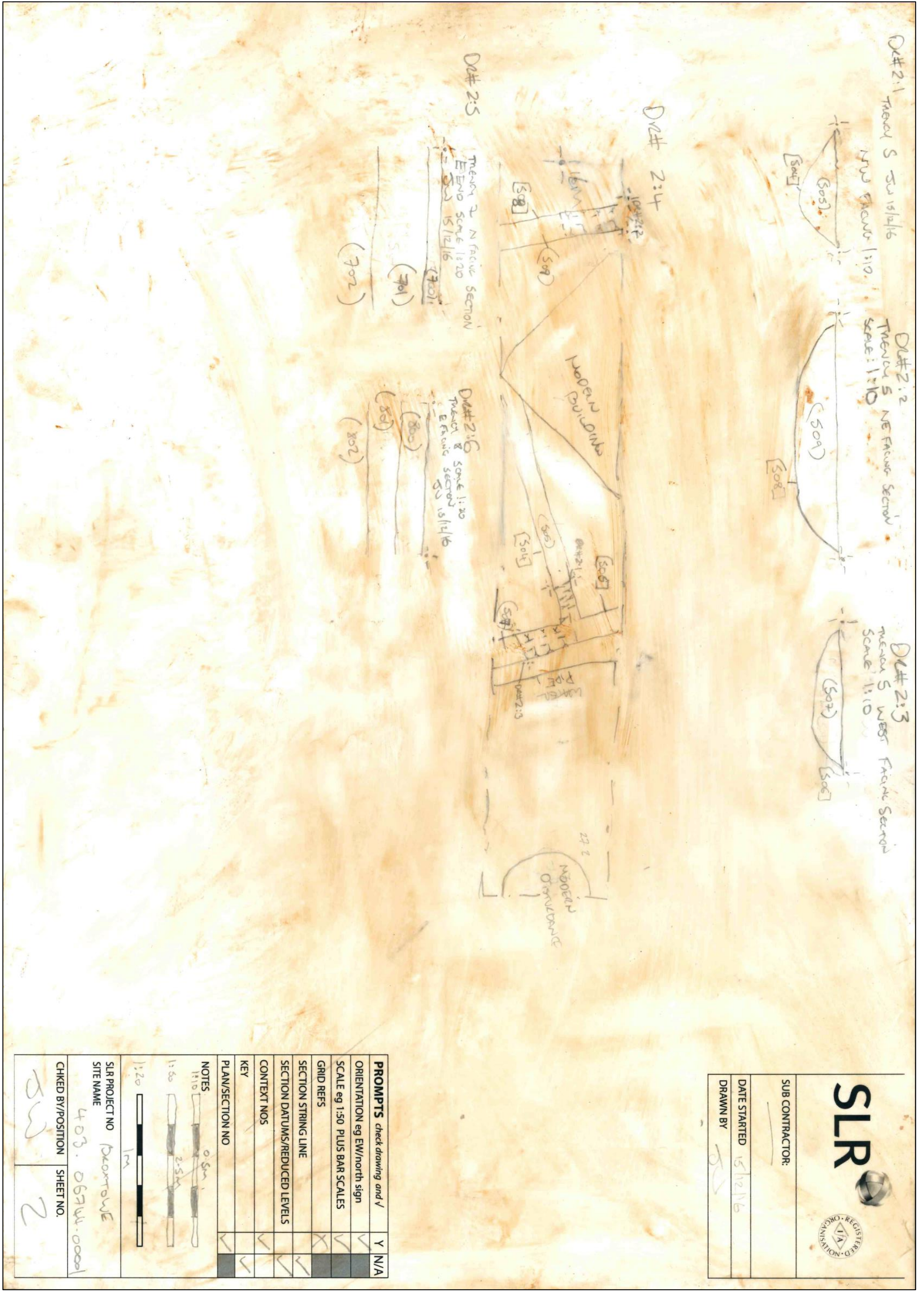
Context No	Fill of	Description	Length	Width	Depth/ Thickness
702	N/A	Weak sandstone with banks of sand and gravel	Trench	Trench	N/A
800	N/A	Light grey hardcore	Trench	Trench	0.15
801	N/A	Red Brown Clay Silt topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.25
802	N/A	Weak sandstone with banks of sand and gravel	Trench	Trench	N/A

Appendix 2 Site Drawings



SUB CONTRACTOR: _____
 DATE STARTED 14/12/16
 DRAWN BY SJD

PROMPTS check drawing and /	Y	N/A
ORIENTATION eg EW/north sign	✓	
SCALE eg 1:50 PLUS BAR SCALES	✓	
GRID REFS	N/A	
SECTION STRING LINE	✓	
SECTION DATUMS/REDUCED LEVELS	N/A	
CONTEXT NOS	✓	
KEY	N/A	
PLAN/SECTION NO	✓	
NOTES	2.5m @ 1:50 1:20 1:50 1:20	
SIR PROJECT NO	BIOXTAUC	
SITE NAME	403.06744.00001	
CHECKED BY/POSITION	SHEET NO.	1



SUB CONTRACTOR:
 DATE STARTED 15/12/16
 DRAWN BY [Signature]

PROMPTS check drawing and v	Y	N/A
ORIENTATION eg EW/north sign	✓	
SCALE eg 1:50 PLUS BAR SCALES	✓	
GRID REFS	✓	
SECTION STRING LINE	✓	
SECTION DATUMS/REDUCED LEVELS	✓	
CONTEXT NOS	✓	
KEY	✓	
PLAN/SECTION NO	✓	
NOTES	1:10 0.5m 1:50 2.5m 1:20 1m	
SIR PROJECT NO	DKORTOWE	
SITE NAME	403. 067W. 0001	
CHECKED BY/POSITION	SHEET NO.	
[Signature]	2	

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