Archaeology Wales

N8&9, Rotherwas Industrial Estate Hereford, Herefordshire

Field Evaluation

By
Adrian Hadley BA (Hons) MA

Report No. 1215

Archaeology Wales Limited,
Rhos Helyg, Cwm Belan,
Llanidloes, Powys, SY18 6QF
Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371
Email: admin@arch-wales.co.uk

Archaeology Wales

N8&9, Rotherwas Industrial Estate Hereford, Herefordshire

Field Evaluation

Prepared For:

ADEC Construction and Property Consultants Ltd

On Behalf of:

Western Power Distribution

Edited by: Mark Houliston Signed:  Position: MD Date: 3/4/2014	Authorised by: Mark Houliston Signed:  Position: MD Date: 3/4/2014

By
Adrian Hadley BA (Hons) MA

Report No: 1215

Date: 31st March 2014

Archaeology Wales Limited,
Rhos Helyg, Cwm Belan,
Llanidloes, Powys, SY18 6QF
Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371
Email: admin@arch-wales.co.uk

CONTENTS

List of Figures

List of Plates

List of Appendices

Non-Technical Summary

This report results from work undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) for ADEC Construction & Property Consultants Ltd on behalf of Western Power Distribution. It draws upon the results gained by a field evaluation on land at Skylon Park, Rotherwas Industrial Estate, Hereford, Herefordshire. A planning application has been submitted for the construction of an industrial unit on the site with associated landscaping, access and services provision.

The area surrounding the site is rich in archaeological features dating from the prehistoric, through the Roman and medieval periods and into the early 20th century.

The evaluation located two prehistoric pits cut into the natural alluvial deposits as well as modern deposits likely to be associated with the early 20th century industrial use of the site.

It is recommended that an archaeological watching brief is undertaken during ground disturbances associated with the planned development.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In March 2013 Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) carried out a field evaluation on land at N8&9, Skylon Park, Rotherwas Industrial Estate, Hereford, Herefordshire. The assessment area was centred on NGR SO 53167 38213 (Figs 1&2). The work was carried out at the request of ADEC Construction & Property Consultants Ltd in order to satisfy a planning condition from Herefordshire County Council (Planning Application: 131841/CE).

1.1.2 The AW project number is 2219 and the site code is RHEZ/14/EV.

1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 3) for the archaeological work was drawn up by Chris E Smith (AW) on behalf of ADEC Construction & Property Consultants Ltd. This was subsequently approved by Julian Cotton, Archaeological advisor to Herefordshire County Council (HCC).

1.1.4 The assessment area is located on the south-eastern outskirts of Hereford between the river Wye in the north and the Rotherwas Industrial Estate in the south.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The solid geological formations beneath the assessment area are mainly composed of Lower Old Red Sandstone, including Downtonian, of the Devonian era (British Geological Survey 2001).

1.2.2 The soil formations in the area, overlying the solid geology, are composed of freely draining, slightly acidic, loamy soils as well as freely draining floodplain soils.

1.2.3 The site of the proposed development lies approximately 650m to the south of the river Wye and is on the immediate south-eastern outskirts of the large urban settlement of Hereford. The site is located at approximately 49m AOD and is positioned within a large natural loop in the river Wye on a reasonably flat plain. The B4399 lies to the south of the site. The wider surrounding landscape is mostly made up of pasture fields with very little woodland.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.3.1 Previous excavations in the Rotherwas area have revealed a wealth of prehistoric occupation, dating from the Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Age.

1.3.2 Neolithic and Bronze Age occupation was identified during a programme of archaeological mitigation work in advance of the construction of the Rotherwas Access Road. The main excavation revealed a series of pits and postholes of both Neolithic and Bronze Age date. Key features included a series of intercutting pits, potentially covering the Middle Neolithic through to the Mid to Late Bronze Age, and a single pit containing Late Neolithic Flint and Grooved Ware pottery. A roundhouse, represented by eight postholes, with a south-facing porch, was also recorded, which was provisionally dated to the Bronze Age (Sworn *et al*, 2011).

1.3.3 The most significant feature in the area dating to this period is the 'Rotherwas Ribbon', an enigmatic Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age monument. It is a linear structure consisting of a 6.0m to 8.0m wide surface constructed using stone, heat-shattered cobbles and quartzite pebbles, laid within a sinuous and undulating hollow. A 67m length of the Ribbon was identified, uncovered and partially excavated in 2007 during a programme of archaeological mitigation work in advance of the construction of the Rotherwas Access Road. The structure was associated with a significant bone, pottery and flint artefact assemblage, and also appeared to be spatially and chronologically linked with a group of eight pits (six of which were filled with burnt stone) which was located immediately adjacent to the Ribbon. Furthermore, the Ribbon was cut by two later ditches on broadly the same alignment, and itself cut an earlier linear feature. Radiocarbon dates suggest a late 3rd/early 2nd Millenium BC date range for the monument (Sworn *et al,* 2011).

1.3.4 Subsequent investigations using Geophysics and Lidar survey indicated the likely presence of a linear feature, which extends north and south from the known section of the Ribbon (Bapty & Atkinson, 2011). A multi-method geophysical survey was carried out in 2010. The survey identified a clearly-defined sequence of distinctive magnetic anomalies on an alignment which corresponds well with the expected location of the ribbon. It also identified a possible natural channel on a slightly different alignment to that suggested for the Rotherwas Ribbon (Boucher & Bartlett, 2010). Further excavations were carried out in 2010, consisting of the excavation of five trenches along

the possible extension of the Ribbon. One probable further section was certainly identified, to the North of the Access Road, which appeared to confirm the likely date and cultural context of the Ribbon. The interpretation of the Rotherwas Ribbon remains uncertain and its full extent, nature, purpose and wider significance are not yet established. A series of 25 OSL (Optically Stimulated Luminescence) samples were collected from prehistoric deposits exposed within the construction corridor of the Rotherwas Access Road during the 2010 excavations. Samples were taken from sediments overlying, and underlying, the 'Ribbon', with the aim of further constraining the dating of the monument. Six samples were selected for analysis and the results provided additional support for a Late Neolithic construction date (English Heritage, 2013).

1.3.5 Roman activity in the area is evidenced from a 1st to 2nd century AD ditch that cut through the 'Rotherwas Ribbon' as well as from Iron Age/Romano-British features recovered from several other small projects excavated in the area (Rouse, 2009) (Sworn *et al*, 2011).

1.3.6 Occupation and activity in the area appears to have continued into the immediate Post-Roman period, as evidenced by the location of two early medieval enclosures. Excavation at the Rotherwas Futures Site in the Rotherwas Industrial Estate exposed the ditches of a large curvilinear enclosure and a smaller rectilinear enclosure. The curvilinear enclosure was radiocarbon dated to the Sixth or Seventh Century AD. The rectilinear enclosure was not dated, but on the basis of negative and circumstantial evidence, an early medieval date is more likely than an Iron Age or Roman one. The size and shape of both enclosures are uncertain, as neither was fully exposed and both lacked internal features. The remains represent a discovery of regional significance, due to the paucity of similar material from this period. However, at present it is not possible to characterise them. They do not seem to be associated with settlement, but substantial effort clearly went into their construction. There is a suggestion that the curvilinear enclosure, at least, may represent the temporary camp of soldiers engaged in policing a political frontier. This is supported by the fact that the river Wye, north of Rotherwas, formed the boundary between English and Welsh kingdoms between the mid-Seventh and late Eighth Centuries (Cottrell & Bartlett, 2008) (Miller, 2010) (Miller, 2011).

1.3.7 Evidence for medieval occupation and activity in the area comes from the remains of a deserted medieval settlement located to the west of Rotherwas chapel, immediately to the north of the assessment area. Literary references are made to a settlement at Rotherwas in the Domesday book of 1086, the Nomina Villarum (1316) and the Lay Subsidy Rolls of 1334 (Hickling, 1970). Several ponds in the area are likely to represent fish ponds associated with the medieval village and chapel.

1.3.8 In the early 20th century, operational from 1916 onwards, the area around the site was occupied by the National Filling factory and used to manufacture a variety of munitions. The area was cleared in the 1970s when Herefordshire County Council purchased a large part of the complex for use as an Industrial Estate.

2 Aims and Objectives

2.1 Field Evaluation

2.1.1 The field evaluation was undertaken in order to:

- Establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within and immediately surrounding the area of proposed development
- Determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present
- Establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological features and deposits
- Produce a record of the features.

3 Methodology

3.1 Field Evaluation

3.1.1 Excavation of eight 20.0m x 2.0m evaluation trenches was undertaken using a JCB 3CX mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision.

3.1.2 The trench layout is shown on Fig 2.

3.1.3 Overall management of the project was undertaken by Chris E Smith (MIfA). All on-site work was supervised by Adrian Hadley. All areas were photographed using high resolution digital photography.

3.1.4 All on-site illustrations were undertaken on drafting film using recognised conventions and scales (1:10, 1:20, 1:50) as appropriate.

3.1.5 All works were undertaken in accordance with the IfA's *Standards and Guidance: for an archaeological evaluation* (2008, revised 2011) and current Health and Safety legislation.

3.2 Finds

3.2.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental evidence

3.3.1 Deposits suitable for both environmental and radiocarbon dating were recovered during the evaluation. These have been retained as part of the site archive in case processing is required at a later date.

4 Evaluation Results

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

4.1.1 The topsoil deposits were largely uniform in make-up across the assessment area and consisted of a 0.2m to 0.3m depth of mid brown silt.

4.1.2 The natural deposits were composed of firmly compacted gravel located beneath alluvial clay deposits.

4.2 Descriptions (Figs 3-5, Plates 1-25)

4.2.1 Trench 1 measured 23.9m long and 1.6m wide. The soil sequence comprised topsoil (101) recorded as 0.22m to 0.33m deep, above a firm mid orange-brown silt alluvium (102) some 0.56m thick. This overlay a dense medium to coarse gravel and reddish brown soft clay (103). This deposit was recorded as over 0.38m deep at the limit of excavation.

4.2.2 A pit [10] was identified within this trench, encountered at 47.66m OD. The homogenous fill (16) comprised a firm mid to dark brown silt with much fine to medium sub-rounded to tabular mudstone gravel and occasional cobles. The deposit contained charcoal, but there was no evidence for *in situ* burning. This sub-circular feature measured 0.62m(north-south) by 0.69m (east west), with straight to concave sides at 60 to 80 degrees and a flat base. The pit was 0.19m deep; the base was recorded at 47.49m OD.

4.2.3 A probable stakehole [22] was identified on the north-west side of pit [10]. This was approximately 0.05m in diameter and some 0.03m deep. The fill (23) consisted of gravelly silt.

4.2.4 Trench 1 also contained a modern feature [11], measuring some 1.3m across and extending 0.6m out from the side of the evaluation trench. This feature contained redeposited topsoil.

4.2.5 Trench 2 measured 24.7m long and 1.6m wide. The soil sequence comprised topsoil (201) recorded as 0.26m to 30m deep, above a firm mid orange-brown silt alluvium (202) some 0.47m thick. This overlay a dense layer of medium to coarse gravel and reddish brown soft clay (203). This deposit was recorded as over 0.46m deep at the limit of excavation.

4.2.6 A pit [12] was identified within this trench, encountered at 47.94m OD. The homogenous fill (15) comprised a stiff mid to dark brown silt with occasional fine to medium sub-rounded mudstone gravel. The deposit contained extremely friable traces of burnt or cremated bone. This sub-circular feature measured 0.52m (north-south) by 0.55m (east west), with straight sides and a flat base that sloped (by 0.32m) to the west. The pit was 0.13m to 0.45m deep; the base was recorded at 47.48m OD.

4.2.7 Trench 3 measured 24.8m long and 1.6m wide. The soil sequence comprised topsoil (301) recorded as 0.13m to 0.27m deep, above a firm mid orange-brown gravelly alluvial silt (302 & 303) some 0.68m thick. This overlay a very soft dark brown silt (304) some 0.11m thick, above a deposit of coarse sand and fine to coarse gravel (305). This deposit was recorded as over 0.29m deep at the limit of excavation.

4.2.8 Trench 3 also contained a modern feature [13], some 0.6m across and extending 1.5m out from the side of the evaluation trench. This feature contained redeposited topsoil.

4.2.9 Trench 4 measured 25m long and 1.6m wide. The soil sequence comprised topsoil (401) recorded as 0.23m to 0.31m deep, above a firm mid orange-brown gravelly alluvial silt (402 & 403) some 0.50m thick. This overlay a dense medium to coarse gravel and reddish brown soft clay (404). This deposit was recorded as over 0.35m deep at the limit of excavation. No features were identified within this trench.

4.2.10 Trench 5 measured 24.8m long and 1.6m wide. The soil sequence comprised topsoil (501) recorded as 0.22m to 0.29m deep, located above a firm mid orange-brown alluvial silt (502) some 0.39 m thick. This overlay a dense medium to coarse gravel and reddish brown soft clay (503) and alluvial paleochannel (504). The latter deposits (503 & 504) were recorded as over 0.42m deep at the limit of excavation.

4.2.11 This trench contained a deposit of slag material and medium to coarse mudstone or sandstone gravel with redeposited topsoil. The deposit (14) extended some 1.8m across the trench. This layer was identified below the topsoil, and was presumably associated with the former munitions works. This material has been interpreted as the remains of the base for sleepers and rails associated with the former tramways that once traversed the evaluation site; the base material appears to have been removed in order to restore the land for agriculture.

4.2.12 Trench 6 measured 25m long and 1.6m wide. The soil sequence comprised topsoil (601) recorded as 0.24m to 0.30m deep, located above a firm mid orange-brown alluvial silt (602) some 0.67m thick. This overlay a dense medium to coarse gravel and reddish brown soft clay (603). This deposit was recorded as over 0.22m deep at the limit of excavation.

4.2.13 Trench 6 contained an irregular feature [17], interpreted as a tree-throw following hand excavation. A modern feature [20] was also identified in the evaluation trench; this was cut from surface.

4.2.14 Trench 7 measured 24.8m long and 1.6m wide. The soil sequence comprised topsoil (710) recorded as 0.22m to 0.30 m deep, above a firm mid orange-brown alluvial silt (702 & 703) some 0.46m thick, and approximately 0.24m of gravelly silt (704). This overlay a very soft dark brown orange silt (705). This deposit was recorded as over 0.20 m deep at the limit of excavation.

4.2.15 Trench 8 measured 23.4m long and 1.6m wide. The soil sequence comprised topsoil (801) recorded as 0.19m to 0.33m deep, above a firm mid orange-brown silt some above a firm mid orange-brown alluvial silt (802) some 0.46m thick. This overlay a dense medium to coarse gravel and reddish brown soft clay (803). This deposit was recorded as over 0.38m deep at the limit of excavation.

4.2.16 This trench contained deposits of coal cinder and medium to coarse mudstone or sandstone gravel with redeposited topsoil. The deposits (18 & 19) extended approximately 12.0m across the trench. This material was identified below the topsoil; most probably the remains of the sub-base for sleepers and rails associated with a tramway for the former munitions works.

5 Finds

5.1.1 A small amount of prehistoric pottery was recovered from pit cut [12]. This is currently awaiting specialist analysis, the findings of which will be added as an addendum to this report.

5.1.2 A single flint flake was recovered from pit cut [10]. This was subject to specialist analysis by Dr Amelia Pannett. The flint was a flake struck from a multiple platform core. Owing to flaws in the appearance of the raw material, it is likely to have derived from a beach pebble resource. No retouch and no evidence of use can be observed. The flint is undiagnostic (Pannett Pers comm).

5.2 Finds Summary

5.2.1 The prehistoric pottery, although awaiting a confirmed date, appears to of the Beaker-type and thus of Bronze Age date (Mullin, Pers comm).

5.2.2 The flint was undiagnostic and thus cannot be accurately dated.

6 Interpretation and Discussion

6.1 Overall interpretation

6.1.1 The field evaluation has produced evidence of prehistoric activity within the assessment area consistent with other features of the same period located nearby (Sworn et al, 2011) (Cottrel & Bartlett, 2008) (Boucher & Bartlett, 2010) (Bapty & Atkinson, 2011).

6.1.2 The flint fragment recovered was not significant in its own right, but represents further evidence of prehistoric occupation. Analysis of the pottery has yet to be concluded. However, the assemblage appears to represent evidence for Bronze-Age activity; settlement or burial activities could be represented. The burnt bone recovered from the pit [12] in Trench 2 represents further evidence that cremation burials might be present in the area.

6.1.3 Although prehistoric features were only noted within two of the eight evaluation trenches, the amount of known prehistoric activity in the Rotherwas area is likely to suggest a continuation of similar features across the assessment area.

6.1.4 Deposits (14), (18) & (19), made up of coal cinder and medium to coarse mudstone or sandstone gravel with redeposited topsoil, are of modern date and may be related to the use of the area in the early 20th century as a munitions works. No features are marked in these areas on the historic maps however.

6.2 Discussion

6.2.1 The location of prehistoric features in two of the eight evaluation trenches is consistent with features of a similar date located elsewhere within the Rotherwas Industrial Estate area.

6.3 Mitigation

6.3.1 It is suggested that an archaeological watching brief is undertaken during ground level reduction, site stripping, or foundation trenching carried out below a depth of 0.4m below the current ground surface.

7 Acknowledgements

7.1.1 Thanks are due to Andrew Shobbrook (AW) for his on-site assistance, to Dr Amelia Pannett and Dr David Mullin for their specialist analysis, and to Julian Cotton of Herefordshire County Council for the advice he gave during his site visit.

8 Bibliography and References

Bapty, I & Atkinson, C. 2011. Further Investigation of the Rotherwas Ribbon Stage 1a: LIDAR Survey. Herefordshire Archaeology Rep No. 280

Boucher, A & Bartlett, A. 2010. "Rotherwas Ribbon", Hereford: Geophysical Surveys. Archaeological Investigations Ltd Rep No. 847

British Geological Survey. 2001, 4th Edition. Solid Geology Map, UK South Sheet

Cottrell, P & Bartlett, A. 2008. Rotherwas Industrial Estate, Rotherwas, Hereford. Report on Archaeogeophysical Surveys 2007-8. Bartlett-Clark Consultancy

English Heritage, 2013. Rotherwas, Herefordshire: Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) Dating of Sediment Samples. English Heritage Research Department Report Series 24.

Hickling, R.1970. *Deserted Med Villages. Transactions of the Wollhope Naturalists' Field Club.* **XL**, pp175

Institute for Archaeologists. 2008. Standards and Guidance for a Field Evaluation

Miller, D. 2010. Assessment and Updated Project Design: Archaeological Excavations at Rotherwas Futures, Hereford (Phases 1&2). Worcestershire Archaeology Service Unpublished Report P3299

Miller, D. 2011. Archaeological Work at Rotherwas Industrial Estate, Herefordshire (Rotherwas Futures). Worcestershire Archaeological Service Unpublished Report 1837

Rouse, D. 2009. Rotherwas Futures Access Road, Phase 3, Hereford. Archaeological Evaluation. Archaeological Investigations Ltd Rep No. 834

Sworn, S, Jackson, R & Woodiwiss, S. 2011. Rotherwas Access Road, Herefordshire: Archaeological Assessment and Updated Project Design. Worcester Archaeological Service

Archaeology Wales

APPENDIX I:
Figures

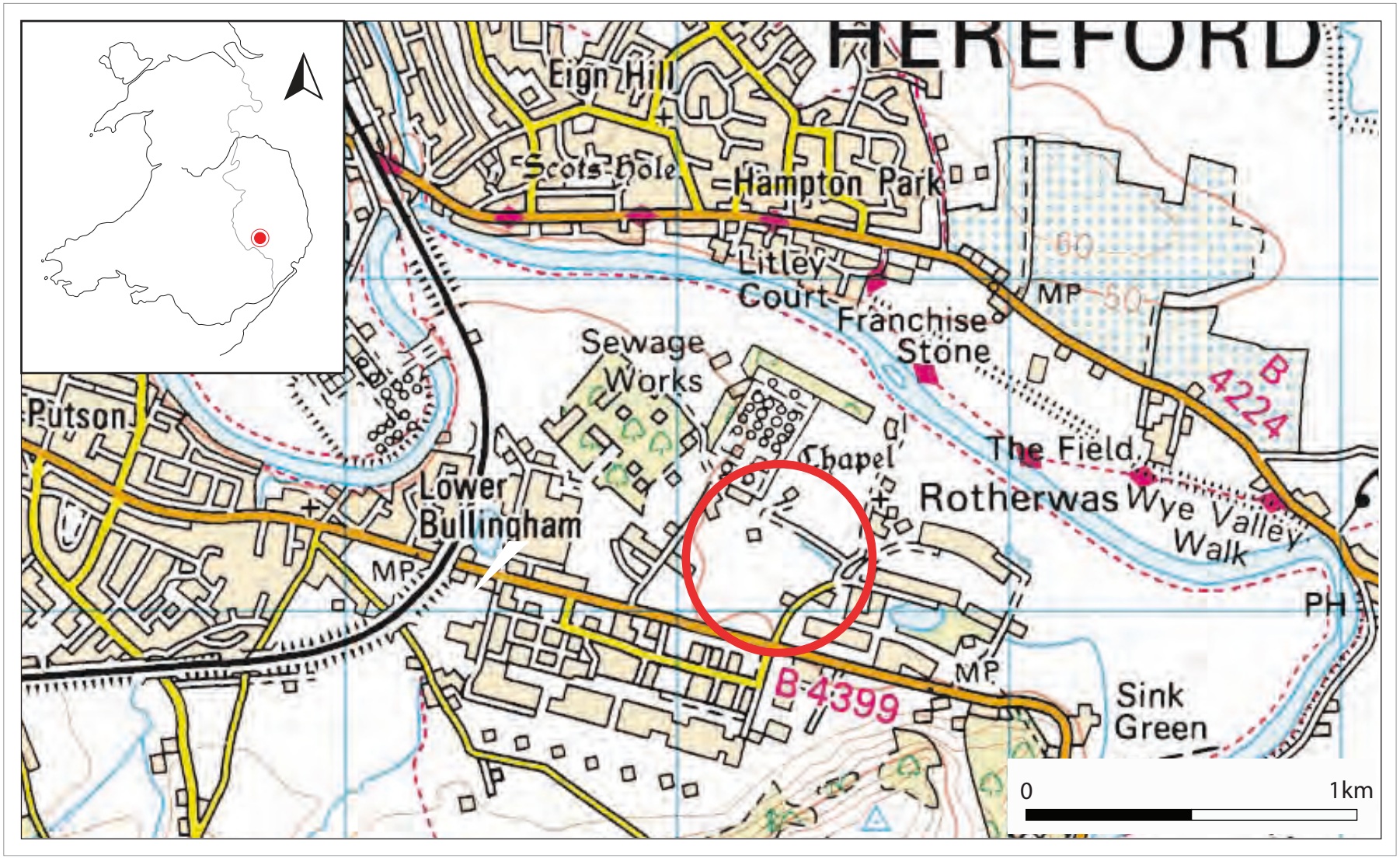
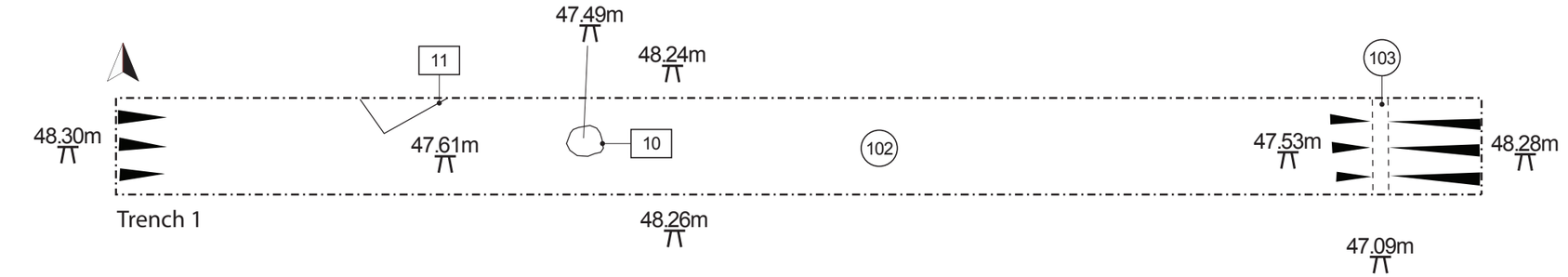
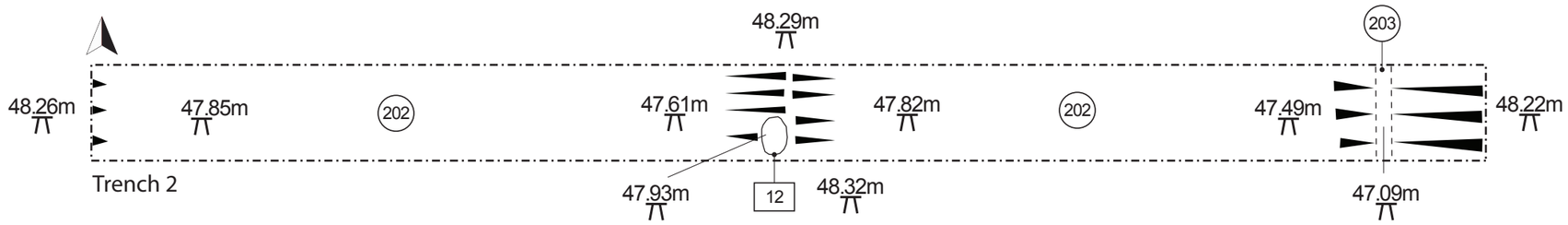
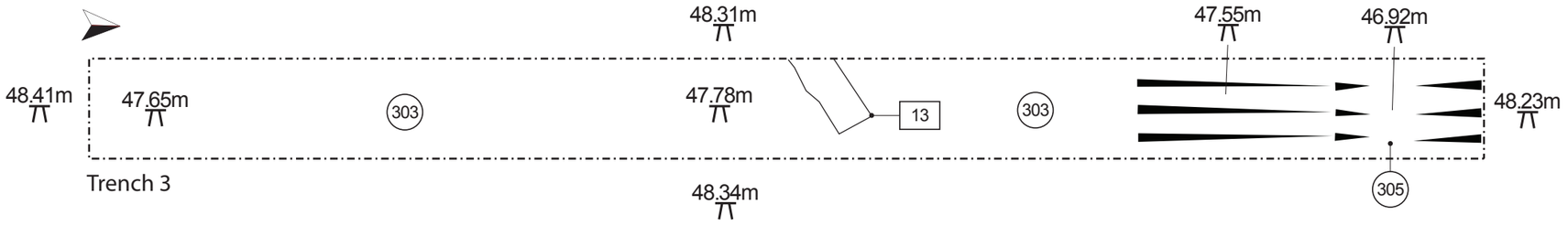


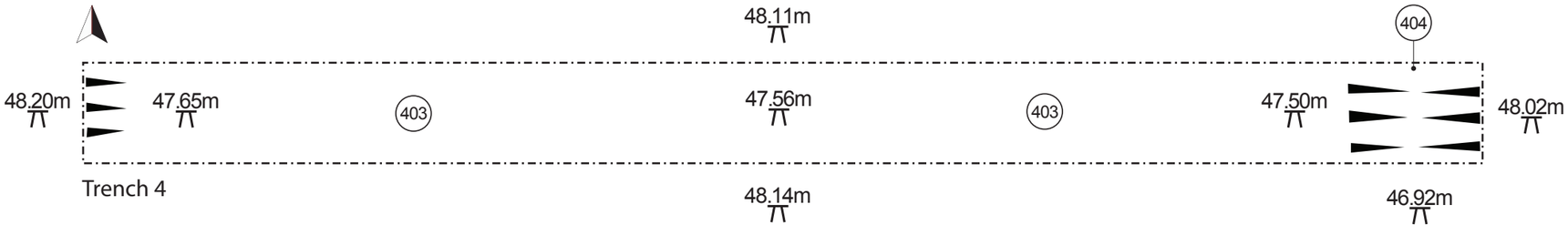
Fig 1: Map showing location of assessment area

Fig 2: Detailed view of assessment area showing locations of trenches 1-8



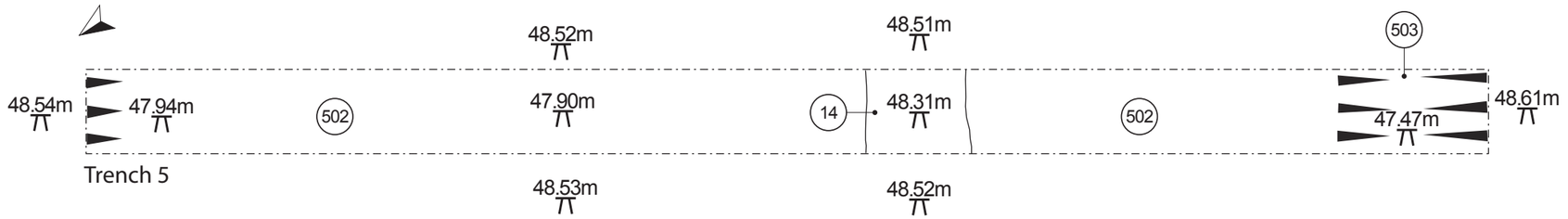




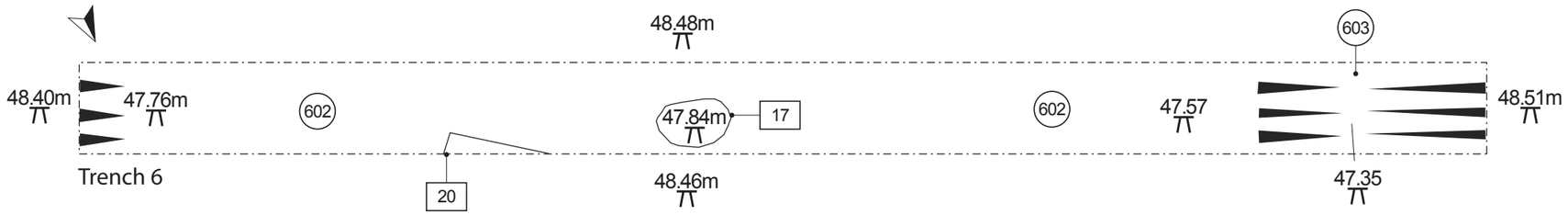


Job Title:	**N8&9, Rotherwas**
Drawing Title:	**Trench Plans**
Date:	**31/3/14**
Drawn By:	**CES**
Scale:	**1:100 @ A3**
Figure 03:	

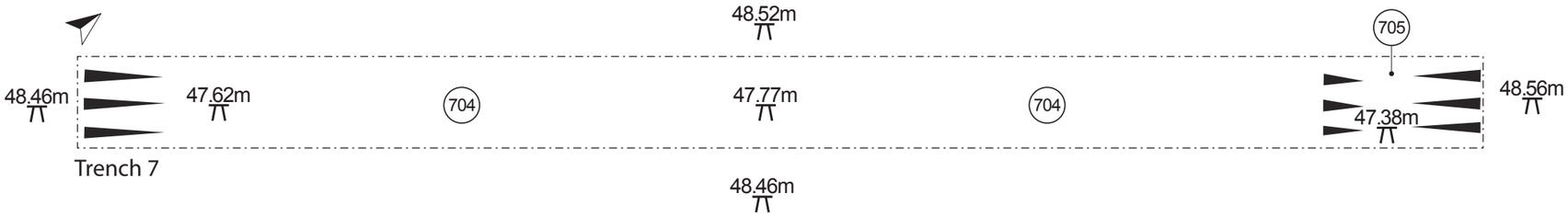
ARCHAEOLOGY WALES
Revealing the past, informing the future



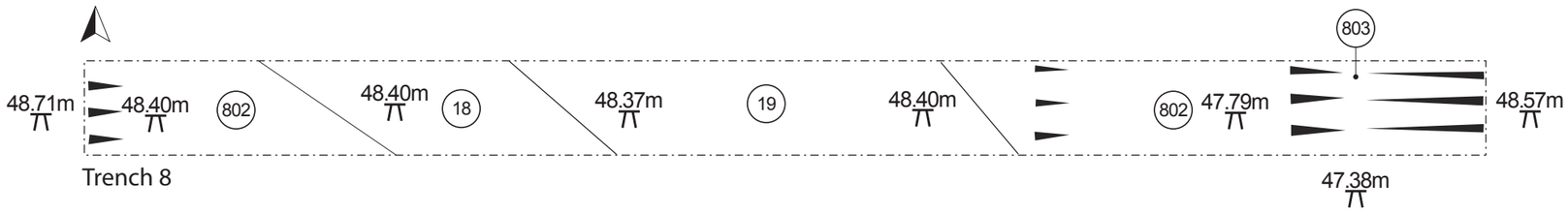
Trench 5



Trench 6



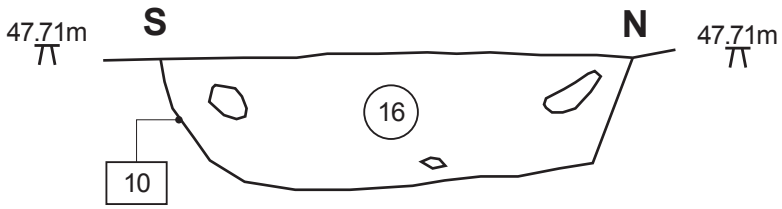
Trench 7

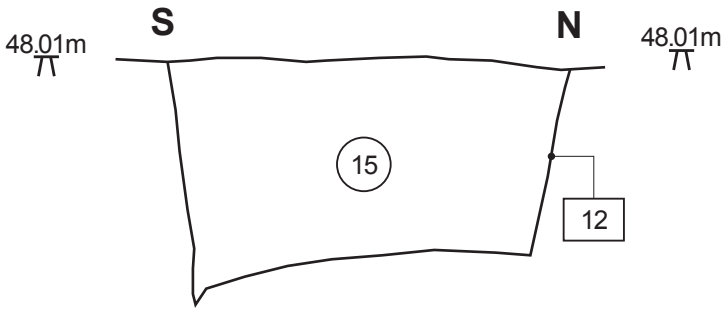


Trench 8

Job Title:	**N8&9, Rotherwas**
Drawing Title:	**Trench Plans**
Date:	**31/3/14**
Drawn By:	**CES**
Scale:	**1:100 @ A3**
Figure 04:	

ARCHAEOLOGY WALES
Revealing the past, informing the future





Job Title:	**N8&9, Rotherwas**
Drawing Title:	**Pit Sections**
Date:	**01/04/2014**
Drawn By:	**CES**
Scale:	**1:10 @ A4**
Figure 05:	

ARCHAEOLOGY WALES
Revealing the past, informing the future

Archaeology Wales

APPENDIX II:
Plates

Plate 1: View of evaluation trenches, Looking north east

Plate 2: View east along trench 1, Scales 2x1m

Plate 3: View west along trench 1, Scales 2x1m

Plate 4: View east along trench 2, Scales 2x1m

Plate 5: View west along trench 2, Scales 2x1m

Plate 6: View north-north east along trench 3
Scales 2x1m

Plate 7: View south-south west along trench 3
Scales 2x1m

Plate 8: View east along trench 4, Scales 2x1m

Plate 9: View west along trench 4, Scales 2x1m

Plate 10: View north-north east along trench 5
Scales 2x1m

Plate 11: View south-south west along trench 5, Scales 2x1m

Plate 12: View east-south east along trench 6, Scales 2x1m

Plate 13: View west-north west along trench 6, Scales 2x1m

Plate 14: View north-north east along trench 7
Scales 2x1m

Plate 15: View south-south west along trench 7, Scales 2x1m

Plate 16: View east along trench 8, Scales 2x1m

Plate 17: View west along trench 8, scales 2x1m

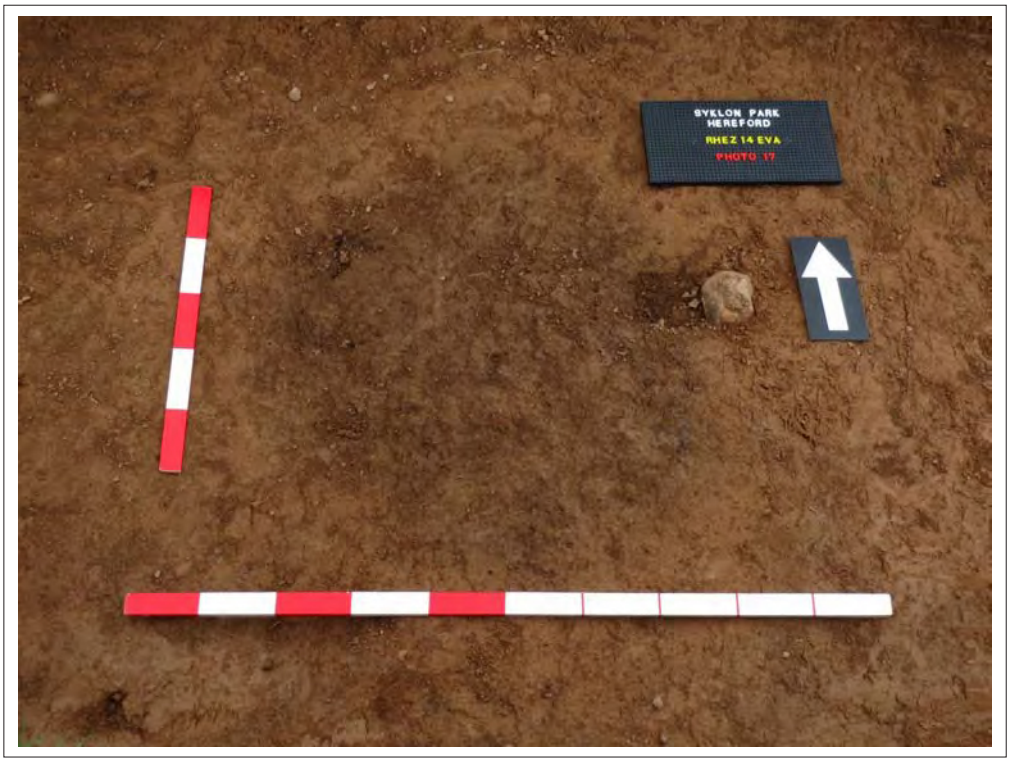


Plate 18: Pre-excavation view of pit [10], Scales 1x0.5m & 1x1m

Plate 19: Post-excavation view of pit [10], Scale 1x0.5m

Plate 20: View of stakehole [22] to north west of pit [10]

Plate 21: Post-excavation view of pit [12], Scale 1x0.5m

Plate 22: Post-excavation view of pit [12], Scale 1x0.5m

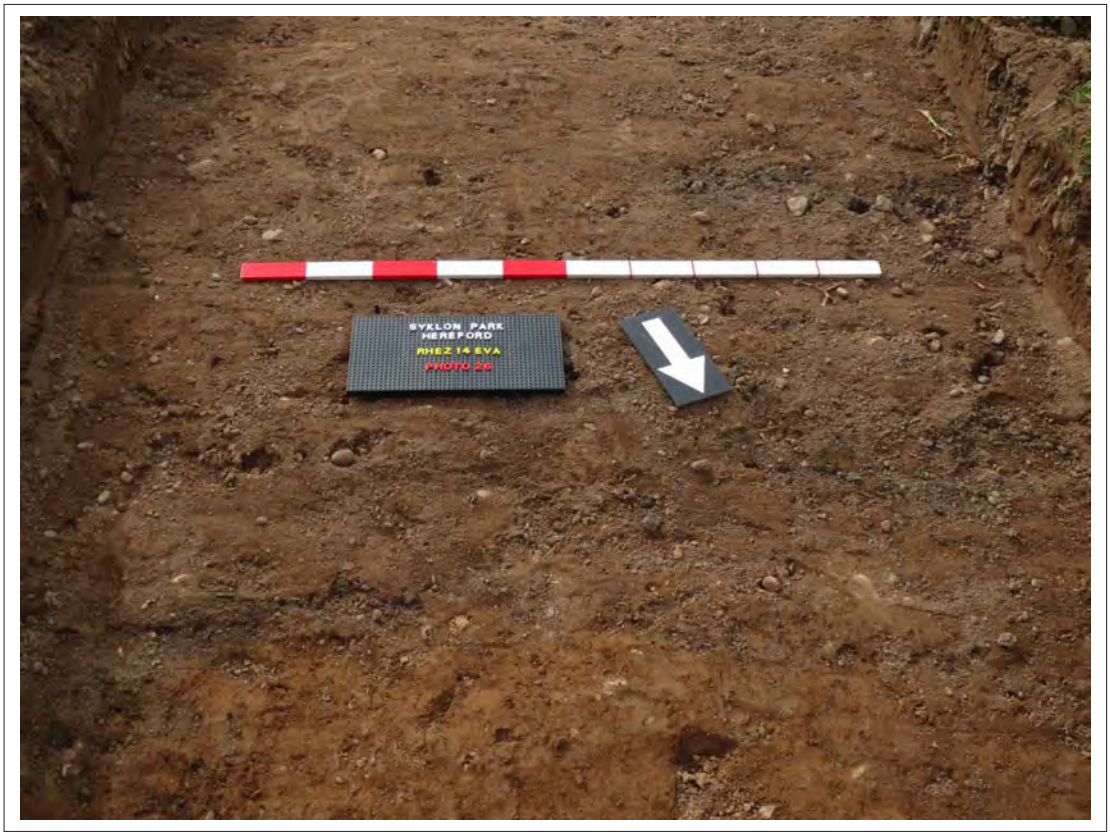


Plate 23: View of deposit (14), Scale 1x1m

Plate 24: View of deposit (18), Scale 1x1m

Plate 25: Pre-excavation view of pit [12], Scale 1x0.5m

Archaeology Wales

APPENDIX III:

Specification

ARCHAEOLOGY WALES LIMITED:

Written Scheme of Investigation

for Archaeological Field Evaluation

at

N8 & N9, Skylon Park, Rotherwas, Hereford

Prepared for:
ADEC Construction & Property Consultants Ltd

March 2014

Archaeology Wales Limited
Rhos Helyg, CwmBelan, Llanidloes, Powys, SY18 6QF
Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371
Email: admin@arch-wales.co.uk

NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This Written Scheme of Investigations details a proposal for a field evaluation on plots N8 & N9, Skylon Park at Rotherwas, Hereford, Herefordshire. It has been prepared by Archaeology Wales Ltd for ADEC Construction and Property Consultants Ltd who are acting on behalf of Western Power Distribution.

1. Introduction

The proposed development is on plots N8 & N9, Skylon Park, Rotherwas, Hereford, (Henceforth – the site). The development proposal has been submitted by ADEC Construction & Property Consultants Ltd (Henceforth – ADEC) who are acting as agents on behalf of Western Power Distribution Ltd (WPD). The local planning authority is Herefordshire County Council (HCC) and the planning application number is 131841/CE. The site is cent5red around grid reference NGR SO 53167 38213.

This Written Scheme of Investigation has been prepared by Chris E Smith (MIfA), Project Manager, Archaeology Wales Ltd (Henceforth - AW) at the request of WPD. It provides information on the methodology which will be employed by AW during the field evaluation at the site. Chris will manage all aspects of the proposed work. A copy of his CV is included in Appendix 1.

The archaeological work has been recommended by Julian Cotton, Archaeological Advisor with HCC. Details of the requirements of this work were set out in a Brief supplied by Julian Cotton, against which this WSI has been drawn up.

AW is a Registered Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). All work will be undertaken by suitably qualified staff and in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the IfA.

2 Site specific objectives

The proposed archaeological work will elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material that might be affected by the proposed development, in particular its character, distribution, extent, condition, date and relative significance.

A report will be produced that will provide information which is sufficiently detailed to allow informed planning decisions to be made that can safeguard the archaeological resource. This will include:

i) A predictive model of surviving archaeological deposits detailing zones of relative importance against known development proposals;

ii) An impact assessment;

iii) A comprehensive assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within a national and regional research framework.

As a result the following will be formulated:

A) A strategy to mitigate the potential impacts on the archaeological resource as a result of the proposed construction

B) The formulation of a programme of further archaeological investigation (if required) to fulfil the above.

3 Scope of the work

The archaeological work for the site will be undertaken in three phases.

Phase 1 – On site evaluation
Phase 2 – Production of an illustrated report
Phase 3 – Deposition of site archive
Phase 4 – Publication in a relevant journal

Phase 1 - The archaeological field evaluation will be for the whole of the application area. The application area measures 14.546m². The evaluation will aim for a 2% sample of this area. This equates to eight evaluation trenches, each measuring 20x2m.

Phase 2 – Production of an illustrated and bound report which will be submitted in duplicate to HCC and the regional HER as well as to WPD

Phase 3 – Following phase 2, a summarised version of the report will be submitted to a recognised and relevant journal, such as Transactions of the Woolhope Club or West Midlands Archaeology, for publication.

Phase 4 – The site archive will be deposited with Herefordshire Heritage Services (Hereford Museum) no later than one year after the completion of the work.

4 Methodology

4.1 Phase 1 - Field Evaluation

Preliminary work
After ensuring the siting of live services, tree preservation orders and other constraints, the eight evaluation trenches will be distributed in a systematic layout across the application area.

Evaluation
The trenches will be excavated initially using a machine fitted with a wide toothless ditching blade. Thereafter all identified archaeological contexts will be excavated manually unless otherwise agreed with the curator in advance. All modern overburden and non-archaeological subsoils will be removed down to the level of the first recognisable archaeological horizon. All archaeological contexts subsequently located will be adequately sampled in order to define their function, date, and relationship to adjacent features.

Sample percentages of each feature will include up to 50% of all linear features, 50% of postholes and sub-1m pits through half sectioning and 50% of pits over 1m in diameter through opposing quadrant excavation.

All trench sides and bases must be cleaned manually by trowelling to reveal contexts in plan and profile. This must be completed even if the trench apparently reveals only natural deposits. Spade or shovel cleaning only of trench bases and sides will not be acceptable. The level of natural soils below the archaeology should be tested for in at least one trench section location in each trench by means of machine/manual excavation or auguring.

Human remains will be left *in situ*, covered and protected when discovered. No further investigation will normally be permitted and WPD, HCC and the local Coroner must be informed immediately. After discussion, it may be appropriate to take bone samples for C14 dating. If removal is essential it will take place under the appropriate Ministry of Justice and Environmental Health regulations.

Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc), using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Written, drawn and photographic records of an appropriate level of detail will be maintained throughout the course of the project. Digital photographs will be taken using cameras with resolutions of 14 mega pixels or above.

Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required, and these will be related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

5 Monitoring

HCC will be contacted at least one week prior to the commencement of site works, and subsequently once the work is underway.

Any changes to this Written Scheme of Investigations that AW may wish to make after approval will be communicated to HCC for approval on behalf of Planning Authority.

Representatives of HCC will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the work. HCC will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during the post-fieldwork programme.

If significant detail is discovered, all works will cease and a meeting will be convened with ADEC, WPD and HCC to discuss the most appropriate way forward.

6 Archiving and Reporting

Site archive

An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with: Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) English Heritage 2006 upon completion of the work on site. It will include:

- All site records (fully cross-checked and catalogued)
- Digitised copies of all site plans
- All artefacts (cleaned, marked and catalogued as appropriate)
- All ecofacts (sample processed and catalogued as appropriate)
- An interim or summary report on the above.

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the Herefordshire Heritage

Services (Hereford Museum) beforehand.

Final reporting
A draft report will be submitted to WPD and to HCC for comments within 4 weeks of Phase 1 being completed.

Copies of the final report will be sent to WPD, HCC and for inclusion in the regional HER. Digital copies will also be provided in pdf format.

Terminology will be consistent with the English Heritage Thesaurus.

The client report will contain, as a minimum, the following elements:
- Concise English and Welsh non-technical summary of the results
- Detailed plans of the site
- Site illustrations, related to Ordnance Datum
- Written description
- Artefactual and Ecofactual summaries
- Statement of local and regional context
- Impact assessment with mitigation proposals
- Conclusions as appropriate
- Bibliography
- A copy of the AW Written Scheme of Investigations

A summary of the work will be published in a national journal (i.e. *West Midlands Archaeology*) no later than a year after its completion.

Final archive
Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will be maintained, the report and the final (project) archive will be deposited in the appropriate repository (Hereford Museum) not later than six months after completion of the work. The contents of the archive will be agreed beforehand.

7 Resources and timetable

Standards
The fieldwork will be undertaken by AW staff using current best practice.

Staff
The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified AW staff. Overall management of will be undertaken by Chris E Smith MIfA (see Appendix 1 for a copy of Chris' CV). All staff will have CSCS cards.

Equipment
The project will use existing AW equipment.

Timetable of archaeological works
The work will be undertaken at the convenience of the client. No start date has yet been agreed.

Insurance
Archaeology Wales Limited (AW) is an affiliated member of the CBA, and holds Insurance through the CBA insurance service.

Health and safety

All members of staff will adhere to the requirements of the *Health & Safety at Work Act*, 1974, and the AW Health and Safety Policy.

If AW has sole possession of the site, then AW will produce a detailed Risk Assessment for approval by the client before any work is undertaken. If another organisation has responsibility for site safety, then AW employees with be briefed on the contents of all existing Risk Assessments, and all other health and safety requirements that may be in place.

Appendix 1

CURRICULUM VITAE:
Christopher Edward Smith BA (Hons) MA MIfA

ADDRESS:
41 Mill Road
The Cwm, Knighton
Powys, LD7 1RT

MOBILE: 07988815861
EMAIL: chris@arch-wales.co.uk
D/O/B: 16th Feb 1981

RELEVANT ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS:

MA Historic Landscape Studies, University of Wales, Newport.
BA (Hons) Archaeology and Prehistory honours degree (2.1), University of Wales, Newport.

WORK TRAINING COURSE/RELEVANT QUALIFICATIONS:

Full Clean UK Driving Licence
Lantra Awards 4x4 driving qualified
British Red Cross First Aid qualified
CIEH Competent Person

MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL ORGANISTAIONS:

Council for British Archaeology (Wales)
Institute for Archaeologists (IfA)
Society for Post Medieval Archaeology
Society for Landscape Studies

SKILLS:

- Worked at all levels up to Project Manager on a wide range of archaeological projects
- Proven track record of excavation, recording and man management skills
- Extensive experience of topographic survey with EDMs, GPS & LiDAR
- Geophysical survey experience using varied survey methods & data processing packages
- Skilled in use of Microsoft, Adobe, AutoCAD & various GIS packages
- Experience of building recording and conservation
- Extensive experience of preparing Risk Assessments & Written Schemes of Investigation

- Extensive experience of preparing grey literature client reports and publications
- Good experience of battlefield archaeology projects

RECENT EXCAVATION PROJECTS:
2013 – **Back Lane, Newtown.** Evaluation for Archaeology Wales Ltd
2013 – **Shrewsbury Battlefield Enterprise Park.** Watching brief & metal detector survey
2013 – **Broadwoodwidger, Devon.** Watching brief & DBA for Archaeology Wales Ltd
2013 – **High Street, Bala.** Watching brief & DBA for Archaeology Wales Ltd

RECENT SURVEY PROJECTS:
2013 – **Knighton Rd, Presteigne.** Geophysical survey for Archaeology Wales Ltd
2013 – **Newport Street, Clun.** Geophysical survey for Archaeology Wales Ltd
2013 – **St Fagans Battlefield.** LiDAR/Metal Detector Survey for Archaeology Wales Ltd

RECENT DBA PROJECTS:
2013 – **Queen Street, Tring, Herts.** Desk Based Assessment for Archaeology Wales Ltd
2013 – **Waterloo Street, Kidderminster.** Desk Based Assessment for Archaeology Central
2013 – **Back Lane, Newtown.** Desk Based Assessment for Archaeology Wales Ltd

Archaeology Wales

APPENDIX IV:

Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

N8&9, Skylon Park, Rotherwas Industrial Estste, Hereford

Site Name:	Rotherwas
Site Code:	RHEZ/14/EVA
PRN:	-
NPRN:	-
SAM:	-
Other Ref No:	Planning App 131841/CE
NGR:	SO 53167 38213.
Site Type:	Greenfield
Project Type:	Evaluation
Project Manager:	Chris E Smith
Project Dates:	March 2014
Categories Present:	Prehistoric
Location of Original Archive:	AW
Location of duplicate Archives:	-
Number of Finds Boxes:	1
Location of Finds:	-
Museum Reference:	-
Copyright:	AW
Restrictions to access:	None

Archaeology Wales

Archaeology Wales Limited,
Rhos Helyg, Cwm Belan,
Llanidloes, Powys, SY18 6QF
Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371
Email: admin@arch-wales.co.uk