

First Point, Doncaster, South Yorkshire
Archaeological Evaluation Report

On behalf of: **Bucknall Austin,**
Millennium Point,
Curzon Street,
Birmingham,
B4 7XG

National Grid Reference (NGR): SE 584 008

AOC Archaeology Project No: 20185

Prepared by: Mike Roy

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Timing: Fieldwork May - June 2006
Report June 2006

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**FIRST POINT, DONCASTER,
SOUTH YORKSHIRE, ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

0 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 0.1 A programme of archaeological works, comprising evaluation by trial trenching was required by Bucknall Austin in respect to a proposed development at First Point, Doncaster (Figure 1). The site lies within the local authority administrative area of Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council, which is advised on archaeology and heritage issues by South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS). The proposed development lies in an area identified by SYAS as having archaeological potential. Mr Roy Sykes, the Assistant Archaeologist with SYAS recommended that archaeological evaluation of the proposed development site be carried out in order to determine whether construction activities will impact upon archaeological remains, in order that mitigation measures may be put in place if appropriate. The requirement for, and scope of, the archaeological evaluation was set out in a *Specification* (Sykes 2006) which has been produced by SYAS. This work was in accordance with PPG16 (Dept of the Environment, 1990).
- 0.2 All works undertaken conformed to the *Specification* (Sykes 2006). The evaluation stage of the archaeological works aimed to determine the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area by means of an intrusive field evaluation.
- 0.3 The evaluation conducted in May and June 2006 uncovered features associated with a 19th/20th century farmhouse and its demolition. No archaeologically significant artefacts were recovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site location (Figure 1)

- 1.1.1 The development area is currently greenfield and lies within the local authority administrative area of Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council. The site lies to the south of Doncaster city centre and east of Balby Carr Farm (Figure 1). Trial trenching was undertaken in three areas: Area A1 covered approximately 1 ha; Area A2 covered 7.5 ha while Area A3 measured 0.75 ha. The existing ground surface is relatively flat and lies below the 10 m OD contour.

1.2 Soils and geology

- 1.2.1 The drift geology of the area consists of glaciolacustrine clay, comprising clayey and loamy soils of the Foggathorpe 2 Association (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983 and 1984, 201-204). During the evaluation yellow and brown clay was identified under dark brown clayey silt topsoil.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 South Yorkshire Archaeology Service in their brief of April 2006 (Sykes 2006) indicated that there was reason to believe that archaeological remains existed on the proposed development site, but that little was known of their extent and state of preservation.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objective of the evaluation was to gather sufficient information to establish presence/absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological deposits within the areas of proposed development.

3 METHOD

- 3.1 Trial trenching was undertaken in three discrete areas. Trenching consisted of twenty-four trenches totalling 2300 m². Trench location followed the trench plan prepared by SYAS.

3.2 Area A1

Four trenches were excavated in Area A1 (approx 1 ha). Each measured 50 m by 2 m. This responds to a 4% sample size.

3.3 Area A2

Seventeen trenches were excavated in Area A2 (approx 7.5 ha). Most of the trenches measured 50 m by 2 m. Two trenches in the east measured 25 m by 2 m, while Trench 19 measured 25 m by 4 m. Overall, this equates to a 2% sample size within this land parcel.

3.4 Area A3

Three trenches were excavated in Area A3 (approx 0.75 ha). Each measured 50 m by 2 m. This responds to a 3% sample size.

- 3.5 The location of the trenching is shown on Figure 1.

- 3.6 All trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures (Project Design Appendix 1). Overburden was stripped by means of a 360° tracked excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, nominal width 2.0 m. Machine excavation was in shallow units/spits and ceased on the first significant archaeological horizon or natural

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subsoil. All ground reduction was under constant archaeological supervision. Spoil was scanned for artefacts, both visually and by metal detector.

- 3.7 All features of possible archaeological significance were cleaned and fully defined. The features present were investigated to determine the character, function, condition, nature and date of the full suite(s) of features present.
- 3.8 An adequate proportion of each feature selected for investigation was excavated, sampled and recorded to determine the character, function, nature, date and significance of the features sampled.
- 3.9 No specialized re-instatement was undertaken. Trial trenches were not backfilled under archaeological supervision.
- 3.10 Finds or archaeological features readily demonstrable as being of 19th or 20th century date were not considered archaeologically significant.
- 3.11 All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist. All trenches were three-dimensionally located by total station.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The weather conditions during the evaluation were generally good (clear and dry). The evaluation was carried out in two phases from the 8th May to the 2nd June 2006.

4.1.2 The various data gathered from the evaluation are presented as a series of appendices:

- i)* Appendix 1 contains trench descriptions;
- ii)* Appendix 2 contains the photographic register;
- iii)* Appendix 3 contains the drawing register;
- iv)* Appendix iv contains the fieldwork summary sheet.

4.1.3 The trenches were covered by clayey silt topsoil, which was in general between 0.25 and 0.45 m in depth (Figures 2 and 3). Field drains of modern (19th or 20th century) date were identified in most trenches. These were most commonly ceramic pipes, though silt filled drains were also encountered (e.g. Trench 7). Made ground (up to 1.4 m in depth), associated with modern demolition, was identified in Trenches 3, 10-16 and 19-24 (in the east of the site). In many areas this sealed machine disturbance associated with recent topsoil-stripping but in Area A1 it overlaid buried topsoil, demonstrating that this area had not suffered truncation as elsewhere. In this part of the site an area of building floor, identified in Trenches 21 and 23 (Plates 1 and 2) extended roughly 20 m east/west by 22.5 m north/south. It comprised areas

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of concrete and brick (the latter consisting of bricks measuring approximately 0.23 m x 0.11 m x 0.08 m set on end). These floor surfaces lay between brick retaining walls. Some of the bricks that made up the floor were marked 'furn-axe'. There were disturbed areas of brick and concrete rubble within the floor. This structure was probably the floor of a demolished 19th/20th century farmhouse.

5 CONCLUSION

5.1 The evaluation demonstrated that no significant archaeological features or deposits were present in Areas A2 and A3, however, in Area A1 the concrete and brick floor of a demolished 19th/20th century farmhouse was identified. Over much of the site modern disturbance associated with the recent topsoil-stripping and demolition was visible.

5.2 The archaeological potential of the site is therefore limited to features such as ceramic drains, ditches and ruinous farm structures associated with 19th/20th century farming.

6 REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology 2006 *First Point, Doncaster Project Design* (unpublished archive document)

Dept of Environment 1990 *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (Archaeology and Planning)*

Sykes, Roy 2006 Brief for Archaeological Evaluation (Trial Trenching)
South Yorkshire Archaeology Service

Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983 *Soil Maps of England and Wales*
1:250 000 Sheet 3 (Midland and Western England)

Soil Survey of England and Wales 1984 *Soils and their use in Northern England* Bulletin 10

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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

Orientation: south to north
Size: 50 m by 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.3 – 0.4 m
Excavation depth: 0.45 m (max)
Subsoil: Yellow clay
Features: NNW/SSE-aligned plough marks across trench, c. 0.7 m apart
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeological features present

Trench 2

Orientation: south to north
Size: 50 m by 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.30 – 0.35 m
Excavation depth: 0.35 m (max)
Subsoil: Yellow clay
Features: None
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeological features present

Trench 3

Orientation: west to east
Size: 50 m by 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.20 – 0.65 m
Excavation depth: 0.70 m (max)
Subsoil: Yellow clay
Features: Dumped clay material above topsoil from 10 m from west end of trench;
NW/SE-aligned ceramic drains at 2 m and 41 m from west end
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeological features present

Trench 4

Orientation: south to north
Size: 50 m by 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.25 m
Excavation depth: 0.30 m (max)
Subsoil: Yellow clay
Features: NE/SW-aligned ceramic field drains at 5 m, 19.5 m and 34 m from south
end of trench
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeological features present

Trench 5

Orientation: west to east
Size: 50 m by 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.45 m
Excavation depth: 0.50 m (max)
Subsoil: Yellow clay
Features: None
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeological features present

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Trench 6

Orientation: south to north
Size: 50 m by 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.30 – 0.35 m
Excavation depth: 0.40 m (max)
Subsoil: Yellow clay
Features: N/S-aligned ceramic field drains at 11 m, 25 m and 40 m from south end of trench
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeological features present

Trench 7

Orientation: west to east
Size: 50 m by 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.35 m
Excavation depth: 0.40 m (max)
Subsoil: Orange clay
Features: Modern N/S aligned field drain (silt-filled) at 19 m from west end of trench; Modern E/W-aligned field drain (silt-filled) at 21 m; N/S-aligned ceramic field drain at 33 m;
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeological features present

Trench 8

Orientation: north to south
Size: 50 m by 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.25 – 0.30 m
Excavation depth: 0.30 m (max)
Subsoil: Yellowish orange clay
Features: E/W-aligned ceramic field drains at 16.5 m, 29 m and 48 m from north end of trench
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeological features present

Trench 9

Orientation: west to east
Size: 50 m by 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.30 m
Excavation depth: 0.35 m (max)
Subsoil: Yellow clay
Features: SW/NE-aligned ceramic field drain at 37 – 43 m from west end of trench; N/S ceramic tile drain at 45 m and NW/SE ceramic drain at 45 – 47 m
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeological features present

Trench 10

Orientation: south to north
Size: 50 m by 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 1.45 m (overburden)
Excavation depth: 1.45 m (max)
Subsoil: Yellow clay
Features: Redeposited clay with stones overburden overlay a thin topsoil layer (0.05 – 0.1 m deep); E/W-aligned ceramic field drains at 2 m and 31 m from south end of trench; NW/SE-aligned ceramic drains at 9 m and 16 m
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeological features present

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Trench 11

Orientation: north to south
Size: 25 m by 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 1.0 m (modern overburden)
Excavation depth: 1.0 m (max)
Subsoil: yellow clay
Features: 0.3 m redeposited clay over 0.5 m clay with demolition over redeposited clay
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeological features present

Trench 12

Orientation: west to east
Size: 50 m by 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 1.4 m (clay with building rubble overburden)
Excavation depth: 1.4 m (max)
Subsoil: Yellow clay
Features: NE/SW-aligned ceramic field drains at 20 – 23 m and 40 – 43 m from west end of trench
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeological features present

Trench 13

Orientation: north to south
Size: 50 m by 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 1.3 m (mixed clay with stone modern made ground)
Excavation depth: 1.3 m (max)
Subsoil: Yellow clay
Features: NE/SW-aligned ceramic field drain at 2 m and 35 m from north end of trench
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeological features present

Trench 14

Orientation: east to west (divided into two section 14a and 14b)
Size: 50 (2 x 25) m by 2.0m
Topsoil depth: 1.20 – 1.55 m (mixed clay with demolition rubble made ground over 0 – 0.05 m topsoil)
Excavation depth: 1.55 m (max)
Subsoil: Yellowish grey clay
Features: SE/NW-aligned ceramic drain at east end of western trench area (0 to 8 m from east end of Trench 14b)
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeological features present

Trench 15

Orientation: north to south
Size: 50 m by 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 1.2 – 1.3 m (Clay and demolition material made ground)
Excavation depth: 1.3 m (max)
Subsoil: Yellowish grey clay
Features: W/E-aligned ceramic field drain at 32 – 33 m from north end of trench
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeological features present

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Trench 16

Orientation: east to west
Size: 50 m by 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 1.0 m (made ground)
Excavation depth: 1.0 m (max)
Subsoil: Yellow clay
Features: Machining marks
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeological features present

Trench 17

Orientation: west to east
Size: 50 m by 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.25 – 0.30 m (redeposited silty clay)
Excavation depth: 0.30 m (max)
Subsoil: Yellowish grey clay
Features: E/W-aligned ceramic tile drain at 40 – 48 m from east end of trench
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeological features present

Trench 18

Orientation: south to north
Size: 50 m by 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.02 – 0.04 m
Excavation depth: 0.20 m (max)
Subsoil: Light brown clay
Features: E/W-aligned ceramic drains at 5 m, 17 m, 29 m and 50 m from south end of trench
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeological features present

Trench 19

Orientation: west to east
Size: 25 m by 4.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.22 m (overlain by modern made ground: 0.4 m gravel-rich clay over 0.15 m clay over 0.5 m sand and rubble)
Excavation depth: 1.4 m (max)
Subsoil: Light brown clay
Features: None
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeological features present

Trench 20

Orientation: north to south
Size: 50 m by 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.30 m (over 0.8 m mixed layer with rubbish and 0.2 m buried topsoil)
Excavation depth: 1.5 m (max)
Subsoil: light brown clay
Features: Ceramic tile drain at 1 m from north end of trench; large modern ditch at 5 – 35 m from north end of trench; modern upright pipe
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeological features present

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Trench 21

Orientation: north-east to south-west
Size: 50 m by 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.80 m (0.1 m sandy rubble make-up over 0.1 m brick layer over 0.2 m foundation layer over 0.2 m buried topsoil)
Excavation depth: 0.8 m (max)
Subsoil: grey clay
Features: N/S-aligned ceramic drain at 8 m from NE end of trench; upright pipe at 12m; areas of brick and concrete floor from 12 to 32 m from south-west end of trench
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeological features present

Trench 22

Orientation: south-west to north-east
Size: 50 m by 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.1 m (under up to 1.2 m made ground and modern topsoil)
Excavation depth: 1.3 m (max)
Subsoil: Light brown clay
Features: E/W drain within ditch at 34 – 39 m from south-west end of trench; possible ditch at 16 m
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: Evidence for demolition of farmhouse overlies grass and buried original topsoil

Trench 23

Orientation: north-west to south-east
Size: 50 m by 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.10 – 0.80 m (0.1 m sandy rubble make-up over 0.1 m brick layer over 0.2 m foundation layer over 0.2 m buried topsoil)
Excavation depth: 0.8 m (max)
Subsoil: grey clay
Features: Concrete and brick floor between 16 m and 38.5 m from south-west end of trench
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: Farmhouse floor

Trench 24

Orientation: east to west
Size: 25 m by 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.3 m (0.2 m sandy rubble overburden over 0.1 m topsoil)
Excavation depth: 0.5 m (max)
Subsoil: light brown clay
Features: Sandy rubble make-up layer over topsoil
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeological features present

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APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Black & White Print Film No.1

No.	Area	Description	From
1-2	-	Registration shot	-
3-4	Tr. 1	Trench 1, general shot	S
5-6	Tr. 1	Detail of ploughmark	N
7-8	Tr. 3	Trench 3, general shot	W
9	Tr. 3	South-facing section of Trench 3	S
10	Tr. 4	Trench 4, general shot	S
11	Tr. 5	Trench 5, general shot	W
12	Tr. 6	Trench 6, general shot	S
13-14	Tr. 7	Modern gully in Trench 7	SE
15	Tr. 9	Trench 9, general shot	E
16	Tr. 10	East-facing section of south end of Trench 10	E
17	Tr. 10	Trench 10, general shot	S
18	Tr. 11	East-facing section of south end of Trench 11	E
19	Tr. 11	Trench 11, general shot	N
20	Tr. 12	Trench 12, general shot	W
21	Tr. 13	Trench 13 (south part), general shot	N
22	Tr. 14	East end of Trench 14	E
23-26	Site	General shots of site	Various
27	Tr. 15	Trench 15, general shot	S
28	Tr. 16	Trench 16, general shot	E
29	Tr. 17	Trench 17, general shot	W

Black & White Print Film No.2

No.	Area	Description	From
1-2	-	Registration shot	-
3-4	Tr. 18	Trench 18, general shot	S
5-6	Tr. 19	Trench 19, working shot	W
7-8	Tr. 19	South-facing section of trench	S
9-10	Tr. 19	North-facing section of trench	N
11-12	Tr. 19	Trench 19, general shot	E
13-14	Tr. 20	Ditch in Trench 20	SW
15-16	Tr. 20	Trench 20, general shot	N
17-18	Tr. 20	Trench 20, general shot	S
19-20	Tr. 20	Pipe in Trench 20	W
21-22	Tr. 22	Trench 22, general shot	SW
23-24	Tr. 22	Drain and ditch feature in Trench 22	N
25-26	Tr. 22	Trench 22, general shot	NE
27-28	Tr. 23	Trench 23, general shot	SE
29-30	Tr. 23	Trench 23, general shot	NW
31-32	Tr. 21	Brickwork in east of Trench 21	W
33-34	Tr. 21	Brickwork in west of Trench 21	E

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Colour Slide Film No.1

No.	Area	Description	From
1-2	-	Registration shot	-
3-4	Tr. 1	Trench 1, general shot	S
5-6	Tr. 1	Detail of ploughmark	N
7-8	Tr. 3	Trench 3, general shot	W
9	Tr. 3	South-facing section of Trench 3	S
10	Tr. 4	Trench 4, general shot	S
11	Tr. 5	Trench 5, general shot	W
12	Tr. 6	Trench 6, general shot	S
13-14	Tr. 7	Modern gully in Trench 7	SE
15	Tr. 9	Trench 9, general shot	E
16	Tr. 10	East-facing section of south end of Trench 10	E
17	Tr. 10	Trench 10, general shot	S
18	Tr. 11	East-facing section of south end of Trench 11	E
19	Tr. 11	Trench 11, general shot	N
20	Tr. 12	Trench 12, general shot	W
21	Tr. 13	Trench 13 (south part), general shot	N
22	Tr. 14	East end of Trench 14	E
23-26	Site	General shots of site	Various
27	Tr. 15	Trench 15, general shot	S
28	Tr. 16	Trench 16, general shot	E
29	Tr. 17	Trench 17, general shot	W

Colour Slide Film No.2

No.	Area	Description	From
1-2	-	Registration shot	-
3-4	Tr. 18	Trench 18, general shot	S
5-6	Tr. 19	Trench 19, working shot	W
7-8	Tr. 19	South-facing section of trench	S
9-10	Tr. 19	North-facing section of trench	N
11-12	Tr. 19	Trench 19, general shot	E
13-14	Tr. 20	Ditch in Trench 20	SW
15-16	Tr. 20	Trench 20, general shot	N
17-18	Tr. 20	Trench 20, general shot	S
19-20	Tr. 20	Pipe in Trench 20	W
21-22	Tr. 22	Trench 22, general shot	SW
23-24	Tr. 22	Drain and ditch feature in Trench 22	N
25-26	Tr. 22	Trench 22, general shot	NE
27-28	Tr. 23	Trench 23, general shot	SE
29-30	Tr. 23	Trench 23, general shot	NW
31-32	Tr. 21	Brickwork in east of Trench 21	W
33-34	Tr. 21	Brickwork in west of Trench 21	E

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APPENDIX 3: DRAWING REGISTER

Drawing No.	Description	Scale
1	Remains in Trench 21	1:20
2	Remains in Trench 23	1:20
3	East-facing section of Trench 10 (part)	1:20
4	East-facing section of Trench 4 (part)	1:20
5	EDM plan of North-east of site	1:500

APPENDIX 4: FIELDWORK SUMMARY SHEET

Site Name/Address First Point, Doncaster	
National Grid Reference SE 584 008	
Contractor AOC Archaeology Group	
Date of Work May-June 2006	
Title of Report First Point, Doncaster, Archaeological Evaluation Report	
Date of Report June 2006	
Summary of Fieldwork Results Evaluation by trial trenching was carried out by AOC Archaeology Group in three areas, covering 9.25 ha, in advance of a proposed development. The evaluation uncovered concrete and brick floor remains associated with a farmhouse of 19 th /20 th century date and evidence for substantial truncation and disturbance of the site during modern (20 th century) topsoil-stripping works. No archaeologically significant finds were recovered.	
Author of Summary Mike Roy	Date of Summary May 2006

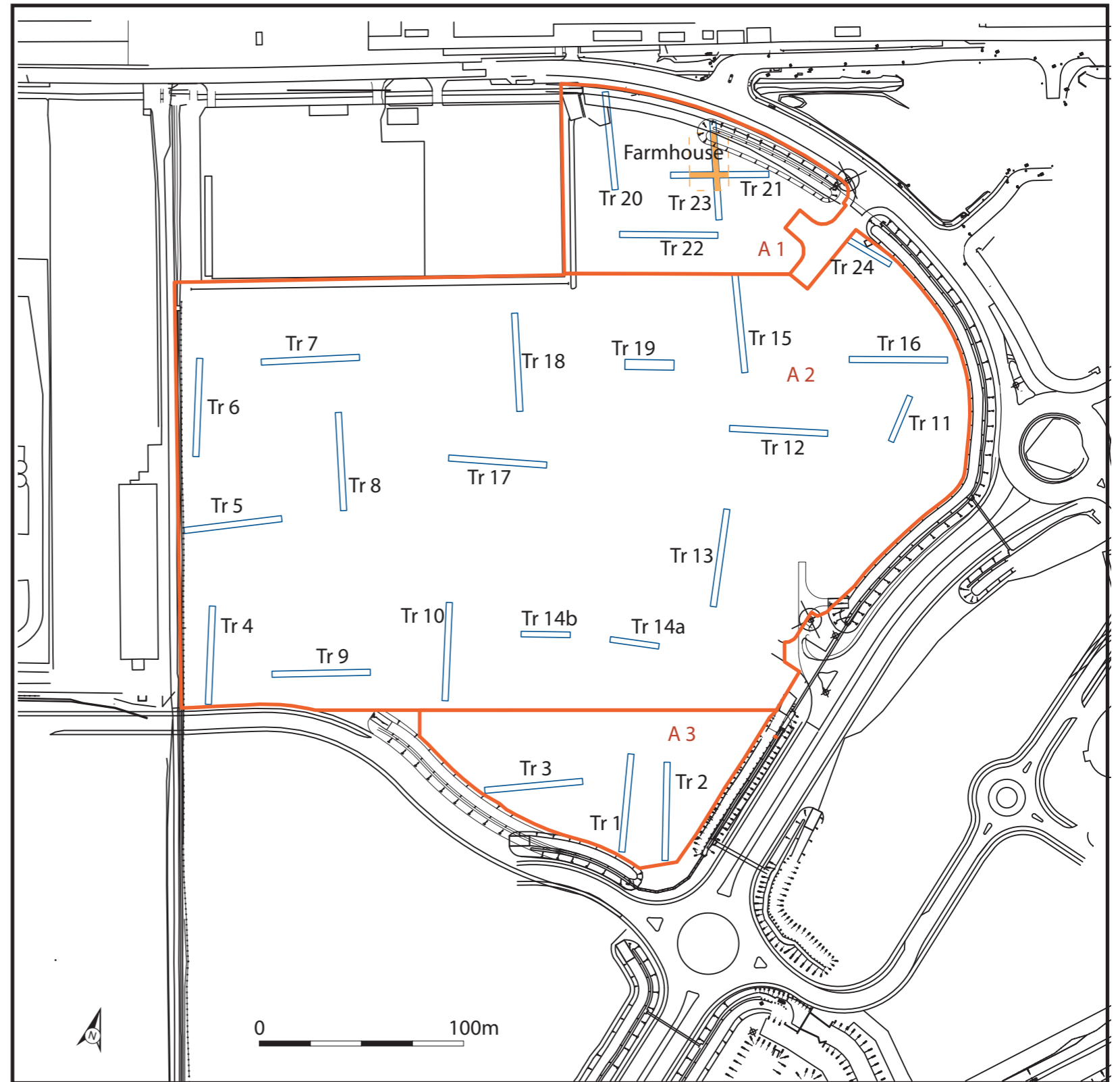
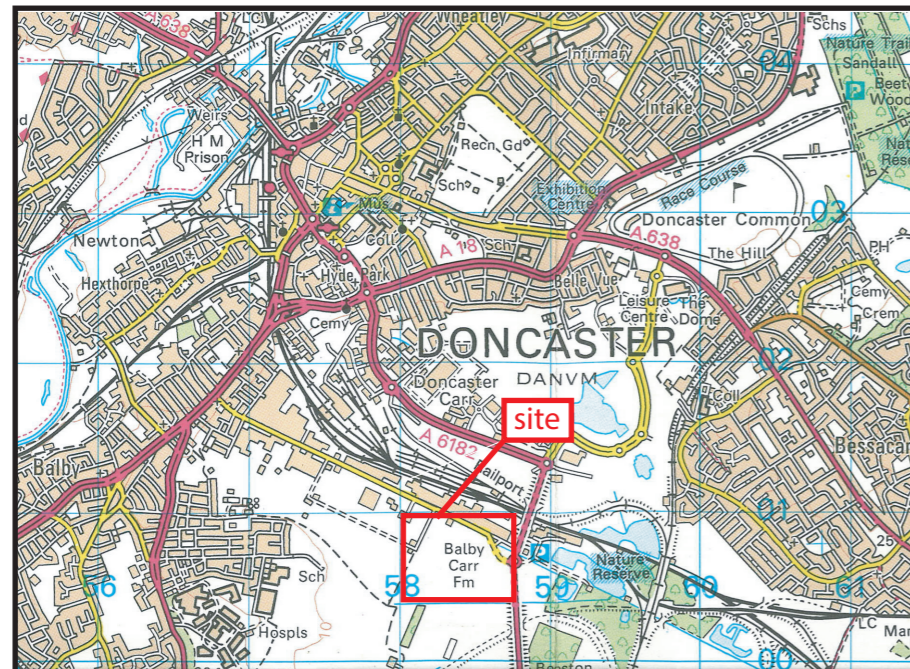


Figure 1: Site location and trench location plan

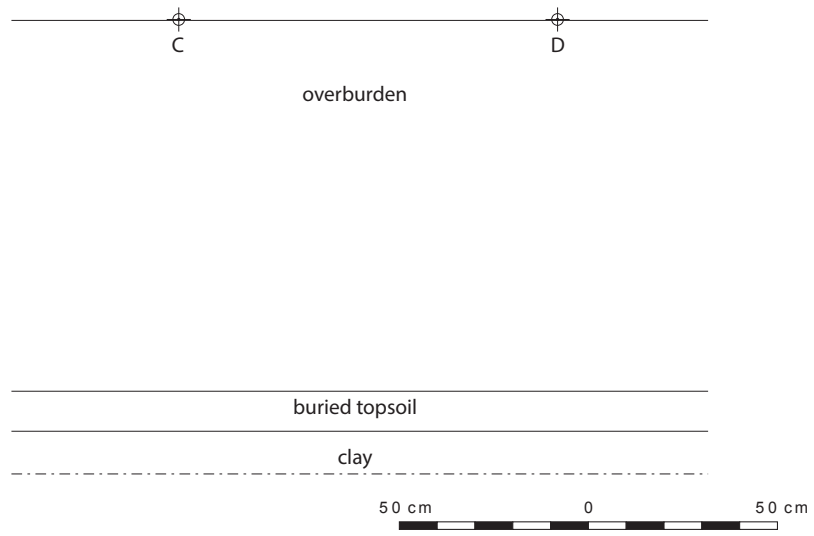


Figure 2: East facing section through Trench 10

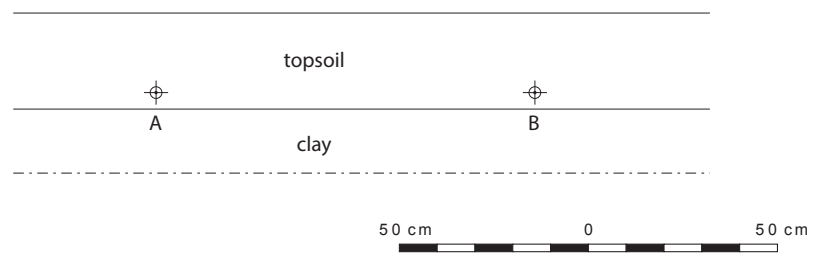


Figure 3: East facing section through Trench 4

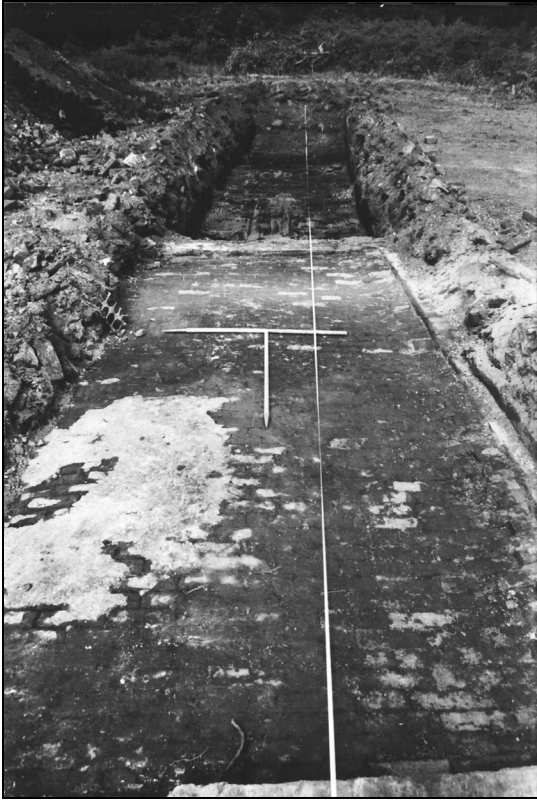


Plate 1: Brickwork in Trench 21 from east



Plate 2: Brickwork in Trench 21 from west