

Goosecroft Road, Stirling: Archaeological Excavation Data Structure Report

AOC Project 23370
22nd December 2016



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Goosecroft Road, Stirling: Archaeological Excavation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Allan Water Developments Ltd. Head Office 24B Kenilworth Road Bridge of Allan FK9 4DU
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NS 7965 9389
OASIS No:	271967
AOC Project No:	23370
Prepared by:	Kevin Paton
Date of Fieldwork:	13th to 20th December 2016
Date of Report:	22nd December 2016

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Draft/Final Report Stage:

Date:

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Abstract

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology in relation to a hotel development on the grounds of the former Rainbow Slides Leisure Centre on Goosecroft Road, Stirling. The excavation follows on from an earlier evaluation that uncovered a large deposit of dark grey clay along the NE boundary of the site that may relate to the medieval and post medieval town boundary.

The excavation concentrated on the proposed building footprint, and revealed up to 0.7 m of made ground overlying the former post medieval soils. Constructed within this later soil horizon were two sandstone walls related to 19th century buildings on the site. Under this soil horizon, a very large cut feature was revealed measuring 8.7 m (N-S) by 10 m (E-W) that extended further E and S out with the excavation area. The alignment of the feature is consistent with the town boundary ditch that was revealed in the evaluation and fragments of white gritty ware and other ceramics were found within the fills.

The excavation has been successful in recording as much of the ditch feature as possible within the building footprint. Furthermore, a programme of post excavation analysis will be required to enhance the information gathered by the excavation. These recommendations will require the approval of Dr. Murray Cook, Stirling Council's archaeologist.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 A programme of archaeological works was required by Allan Water Development Ltd in respect to a proposed hotel development at Goosecroft Road, Stirling (Planning Ref. No. 15/00542/FUL). The proposed development lies within the administrative area of Stirling Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by Dr. Murray Cook, Stirling Council's Archaeologist. An initial evaluation on the site revealed the remains of a possible medieval boundary ditch (Wilson 2016), and as such, further excavation within the development was specified by Dr. Cook. These works were detailed in a *WSI Addendum* (AOC 2016) and are in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (2011) in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area.

1.2 Location

1.2.1 The development area is located to the NW of Stirling train station and is to the immediate NE of Goosecroft Road, centred on NGR: NS 7965 9389 (Figure 1). The site is bounded to the NE by the A9, by Park lane to the NW and by a car park to the SE.

1.3 Archaeological Background (Taken from the Archaeological Consultation document by Dr. Murray Cook)

1.3.1 The proposed development area lay on the northern fringe of the medieval core of Stirling, immediately to one side of the medieval Black Friars property (Friars Street). In the past this area was used for grazing and was criss-crossed with drainage/sewer ditches running from the medieval city to the Forth and one large ditch was known as 'The Stank' (due to the smell). In addition, these ditches also acted as the defences of the city on its northern side with the southern side being protected by walls. In particular we know that the ditch system was enlarged in the middle of the 17th century in advance of Cromwell's invasion and subsequent occupation of Scotland. In 2014 archaeological excavations at Station Square, Stirling identified one of these possible defensive ditches running N to S and surviving to a depth of 2 m under the current ground surface. The extrapolated route of this ditch extends through the proposed development site and could potentially survive earlier redevelopment of the site. If such a ditch survives within the development area it is likely to be of clear National Significance.

1.3.2 In addition, the proposed development area lies on the fringes of the designated area of the Stirling Bridge Battlefield, 1297 AD, on the boundary of the area used by the English for their overnight camp. However, it is very clear that this portion of the designated battlefield is merely a buffer to the core of the features and has been severely impacted by previous development.

1.3.3 Finally, the SE portion of the proposed development site lies on both the back-plots of the properties fronting the original route from Friar's Street (and Maxwell Place) to Stirling Harbour, (Shore Road), as well as the frontages of an unnamed close that is recorded as running perpendicular to Shore Road on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey (1858). These buildings are recorded on Thomson's 1820 map but do not appear on Roy's 1750's map and therefore can be concluded to be late 18th or early 19th century in origin. These structures demonstrate how Stirling expanded from its medieval core. It is entirely possible that such remains and potentially earlier activity survive within the proposed development site, and any such buildings or features are likely to be of regional significance.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological excavation were:
- i. To expose the surviving archaeology within the building footprint through the application of a controlled strip covering the proposed line of the ditch feature found and a 10 m buffer to the W.
 - ii. The excavation and recording of all significant archaeological features within the area.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The excavation was undertaken by an 8-tonne tracked excavator utilising a bladed ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist and according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures, and as per the methodology within the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2016).
- 3.2 Due to the presence of a live gas main along the northern edge of the proposed excavation area, a 5 m buffer was put in place to avoid contact with it. Furthermore, excavation of the area revealed a previously unknown gas main as well as an electric cable. Both services were able to be avoided by retaining a 1 m baulk around them. A surface water drain was also revealed that was no longer in use but unfortunately still full of water, This had to be retained in the area to the W of the gas main in order to avoid flooding of the trench.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological excavation was undertaken between the 13th and 20th December 2016. Weather conditions were good allowing for good archaeological visibility throughout the works. The various data gathered from the excavation are presented as a series of appendices:

Appendix 1: Context Register;
 Appendix 2: Photographic Register;
 Appendix 3: Drawing Register
 Appendix 4: Finds Register
 Appendix 5: Samples Register
 Appendix 6: '*Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*' entry

- 4.2 The soil make-up throughout the excavation area consisted of 0.45 m of tarmac and type 1 stone [001] overlying 0.35 m of red blaes and sandstone rubble [002]. This demolition layer most likely relates to the creation of the swimming pool, and overlies a former soil horizon [003]. Two sandstone wall fragments [004] & [005] were constructed through this soil (Figure 2; Plate 1). Wall [004] was aligned NNW-SSE and measured 9 m long (continuing out of the excavation area to the NNW and SSE) by 0.56 m wide and survived to three courses and 0.7 m high. Wall [005] was keyed into the ENE face of [004] and was aligned ENE-WSW, continuing ENE out with the excavation area. It only survived as a single foundation course measuring 0.56 m wide.
- 4.3 Covered by the soil horizon [003], and cutting through the natural clay [012] was a large feature [006] forming a right angle within the excavation area (Figure 2; Plate 2). The edges revealed were aligned

N-S and E-W, with the sides excavated suggesting it is the terminal of a large ditch aligned N-S; similar to the feature found by the evaluation. The cut measures 8.7 m long (N-S) and is over 10 m wide (E-W). It is approximately 1.3 m deep and is steep sided with a slightly sloping base from W to E. The ditch is filled by five deposits [007], [008], [009], [013], and [015] (Figure 3). Approximately 2 m from the W edge the ditch deposits are cut by a post medieval drain [010] with a brick lined and sandstone capped culvert [014] at the base.

- 4.4 The deposits [007] and [008] suggest that the ditch was mainly filled in deliberately and rapidly with the upper deposit [007] containing a lot of brick and vitrified fuel ash slag material. Deposit [008] was homogenous dark orange coarse sand with abundant large rounded stones. Medieval ceramic fragments from the 13th century and possibly earlier were found within deposit [009] that was a fairly mixed deposit of coarse silty sand and some lenses of darker grey silt.
- 4.5 Pre-dating these dumped deposits was a bluish grey silty clay [013] with oyster shell fragments and occasional angular stones. This deposit was 0.31 m thick and was contained along the gentle slope at the ditches W edge. This overlay another deposit of bluish grey clay and sandy clay and stone [015] that was contained within the corner of the ditch (Plate 3).



Plate 1 - General view of wall [004]



Plate 2 - General view of ditch [006]



Plate 3 - N-facing section of ditch [006]

5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1 The ditch revealed in the excavation is most likely the boundary and drainage ditch referred to as 'The Stank.' The alignment ties in with the ditch found previously at Station Square but may be wider and shallower due to the fact that it terminates at this point. The deposits found within the ditch demonstrate that the feature was backfilled rapidly using construction and industrial waste [007] as well as materials most likely removed from development sites or quarries [008]. The earlier deliberate deposit [009] that contains the 13th century ceramics (George Haggarty pers comm) is more reminiscent of gradual deposition with lenses in places that possibly show individual dumps.
- 5.2 Earlier still are the grey clay rich deposits that are more representative of slumping and silting as well as a build up of waste material at the edges of the ditch. After the backfilling, culvert [014] is then placed within the ditch, possibly to act as a drain for the feature that would still have been a focus for water to build up within the clay. The area is then landscaped for future use by the deposition of soil [003], and the later buildings constructed for the 'Malthouses' depicted on the 1858 Ordnance Survey (Figure 4). Part of these buildings are represented by walls [004] and [005].



Figure 4 - Extract from Ordnance Survey 1860

6 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The archaeological excavation has been successful in determining the presence of nationally significant archaeology within the development area. As such, further monitoring of the development may be required on any ground breaking works through the area to the south of the building. Furthermore, post excavation analysis of the finds and samples taken from the excavations will be required along with the creation of a publication to detail the findings.
- 6.2 These recommendations will require the approval of Dr. Murray Cook, Stirling Councils archaeologist.

7 REFERENCES

7.1 Bibliographic references

AOC 2016 *Goosecroft Road Evaluation WSI*, AOC Unpublished document

AOC2016 Addendum to Goosecroft Road, Stirling: Written Scheme of Investigation

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*, 2014

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning And Archaeology 2/2011*

Wilson, S 2016 *Goosecroft Road, Stirling: Archaeological Excavation Data Structure Report* AOC unpublished report

7.2 Cartographic references

1860 Ordnance Survey *Stirling Sheet XVII.3 (Combined)*

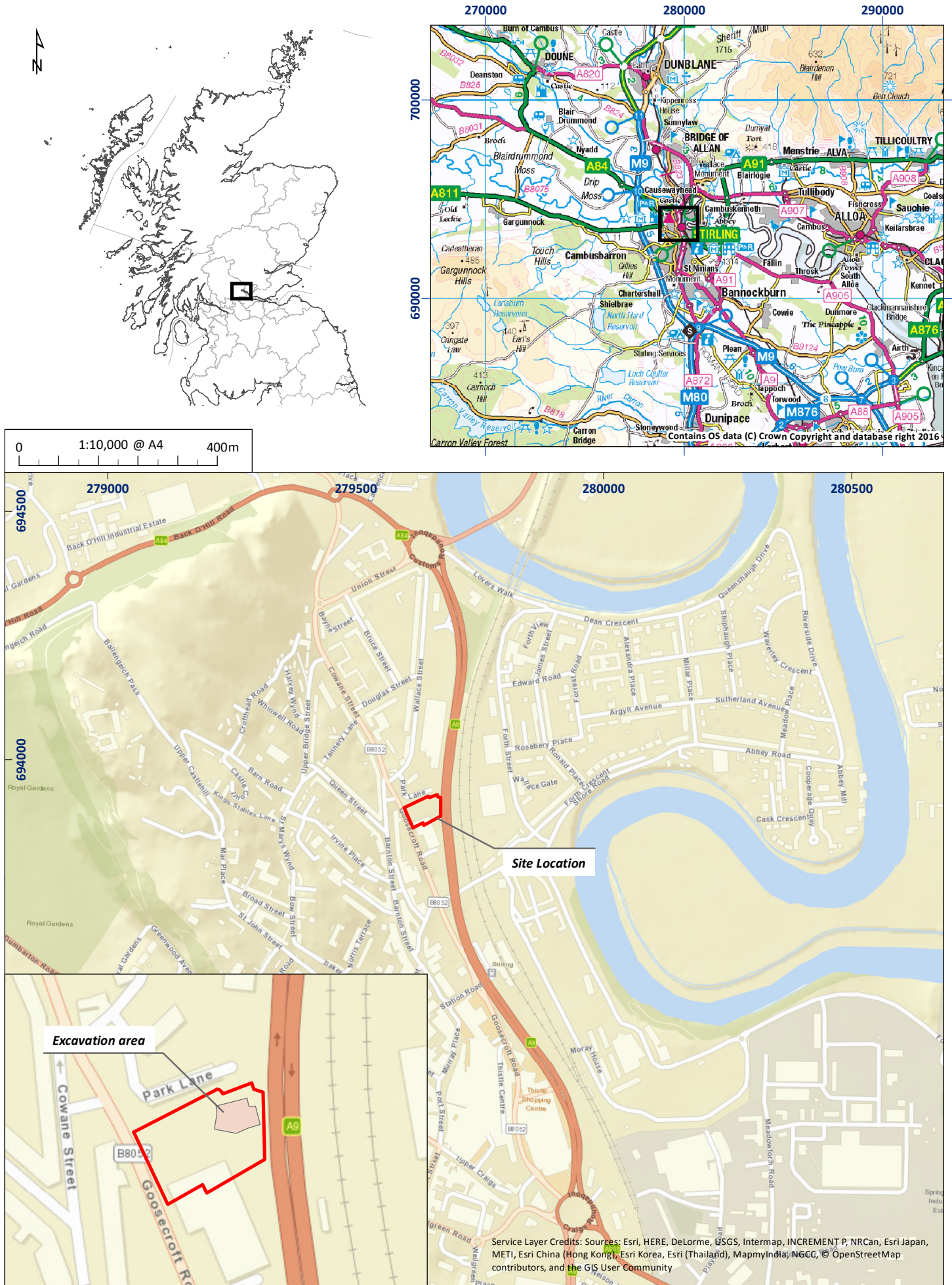


Figure 1 - Site location plan

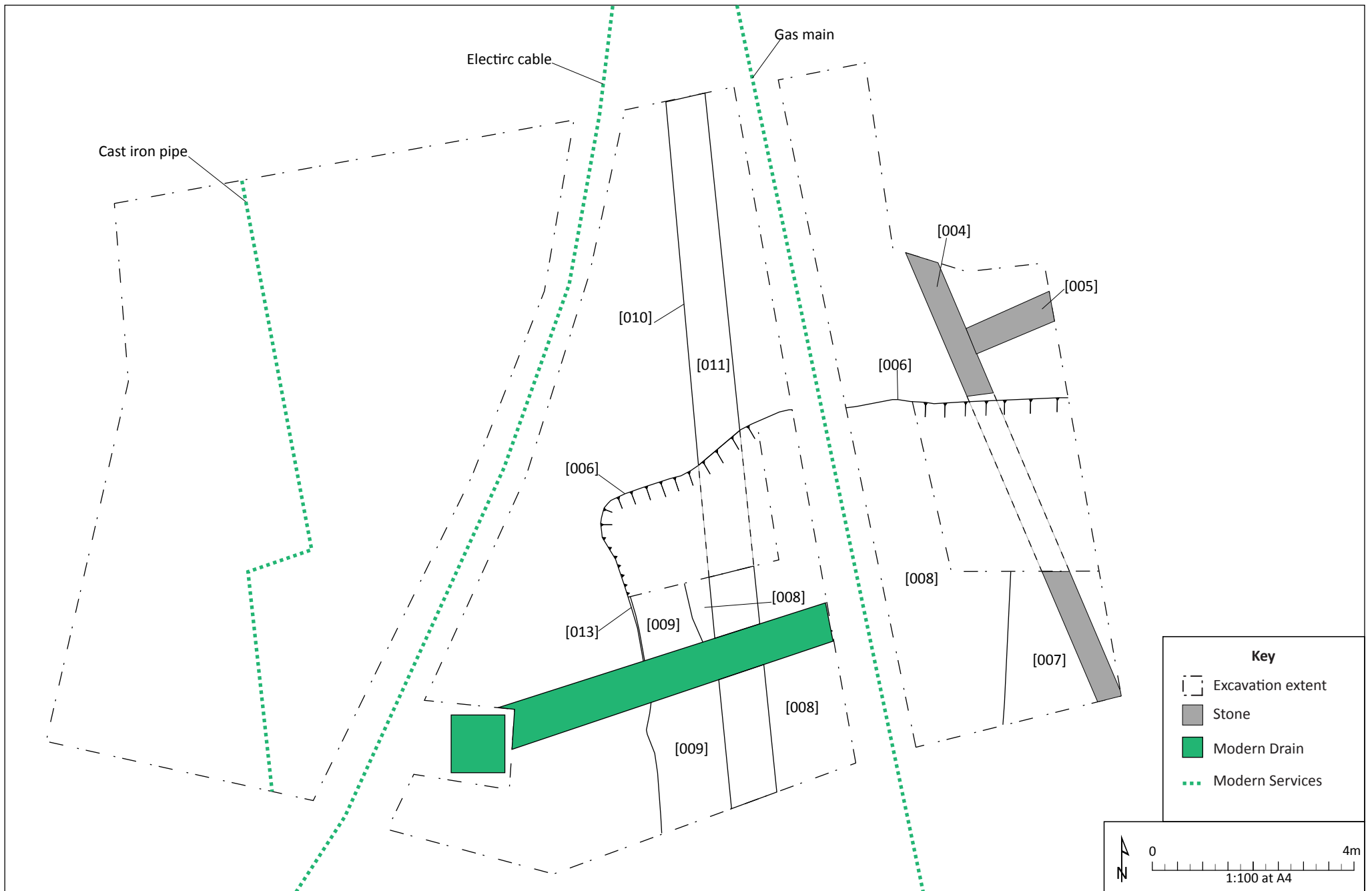


Figure 2 - Plan of excavation area

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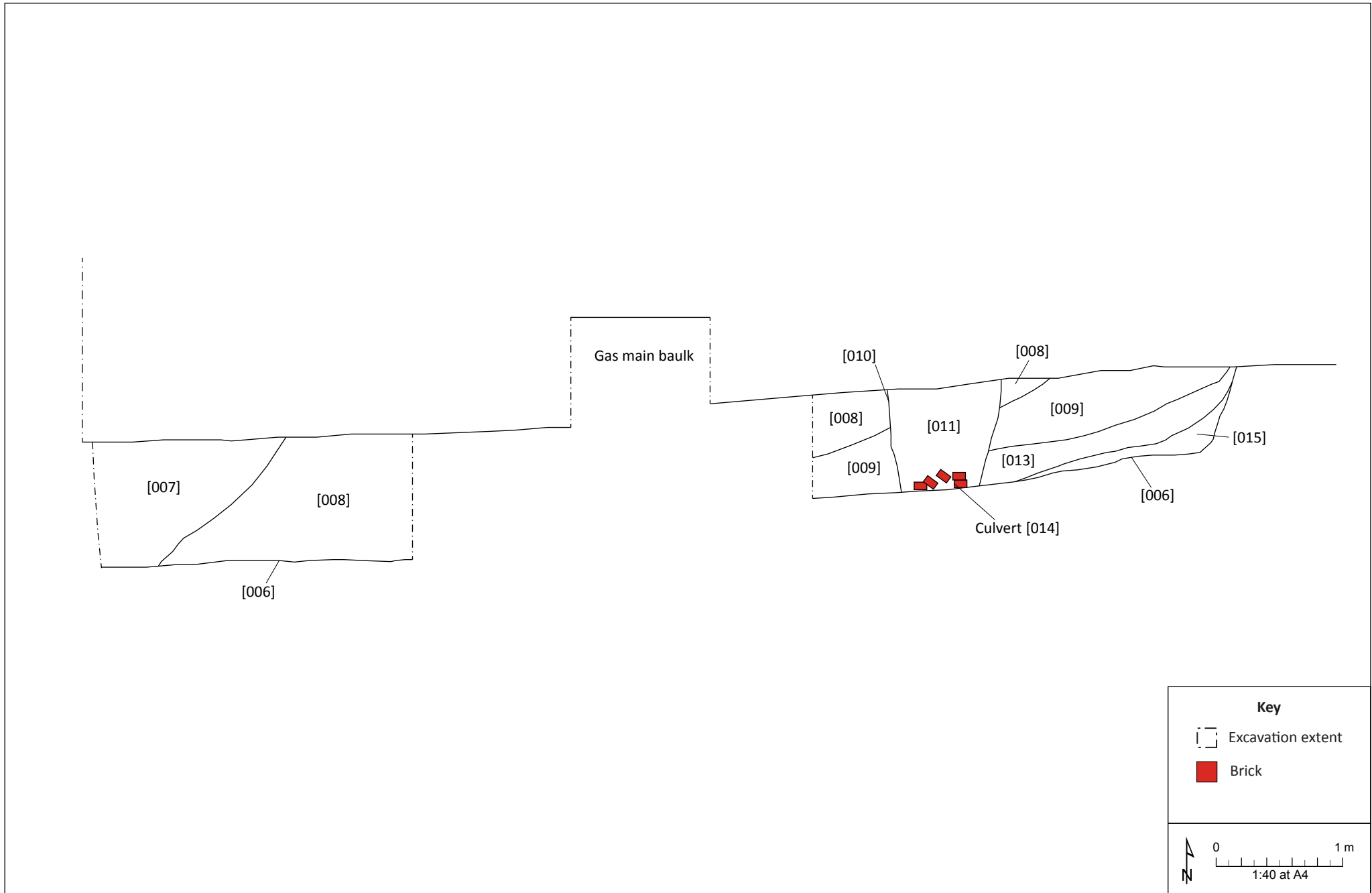


Figure 3 - N-facing section of ditch [006]

01/23370/EXCREP/03/01

Goosecroft Road, Stirling: Archaeological Excavation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context No.	Description
001	Black tarmac over type 1 stone measuring 0.4 m thick. Modern surface
002	Red blaes with sandstone rubble and and brick measuring 0.35 m thick covering the majority of the excavation area. Demolition and levelling for swimming pool
003	Mid brown clay with coal flecks and occasional stone inclusions measuring 0.4 m to 0.6 m thick. Cut by modern drainage, underlies [002] and walls [004] and [005] are constructed within it. Covers the cut of ditch [006]. Imported post medieval soil used to landscape the area
004	Sandstone wall with sand and lime, and ash and lime mortar aligned NNW-SSE. Measures 9 m long within excavation – continuing NNW and SSE – by 0.56 m by 0.7 m. Three course high above natural clay. Ceramic sewage pipe runs underneath and [005] keyed into ENE face. 18th/19th century wall of Malthouses
005	Sandstone wall foundation with ash and lime mortar keyed into ENE face of wall [004]. Aligned ENE-WSW, continuing ENE out of trench. 0.56 m wide. 18th/19th century wall of Malthouses
006	Linear cut with very steep sides onto a flattish and gently sloping base. Aligned N-S, with terminus to N and continuing S out of excavation area. Only W edge visible. Filled by [007], [008], [009], [013] and [015]. Measures 8.7 m long, over 10 m wide and 1.36 m deep. Medieval town ditch
007	Mid grey coarse sand with ash, shale, brick, slag and stone inclusions. Overlies the E edge of deposit [008]. Measures 1.36 m deep. Upper fill of ditch [006] – late medieval/post-medieval
008	Dark orange coarse sand and large rounded stones. Overlies E edge of deposit [009]. Measures 3.1 m wide (E-W) by 1.3 m deep. 4th fill of ditch [006] – late medieval/post medieval
009	Dark orange coarse sand with occasional stone inclusions and some coal/charcoal. Some lenses of darker grey silty clay contained within. Measures 2 m wide (E-W) by 0.7 m. Contains medieval ceramics. Overlies deposit [013]. 3rd fill of ditch [006] - medieval
010	Linear cut with vertical sides onto a flat base aligned N-S. Cuts through deposits [008] and [009] within ditch [006]. Filled by deposit [011] and culvert [014]. Measures 15 m by 0.92 m by 0.65 m. Continues N and S out of excavation area. Cut by later drainage at top. Post medieval drainage cut
011	Pale grey clay with occasional stone inclusions measuring 0.92 m by 0.65 m. Contains 18 th /19 th century tile, pottery and clay pipe stems. Cut by modern car park drain. Fill of drainage cut [010]
012	Yellow clay. Natural subsoil
013	Bluish grey silty clay with rare stone inclusions, occasional oyster shell fragments and rare charcoal. Overlies deposit [015]. Measures 2 m wide by 0.31 m thick. Cut by drain [010]. 2nd fill of ditch [006]
014	Brick lined and sandstone capped culvert at base of cut [010]. Measures 0.45 m wide and 0.35 m high. Two courses of brick on each side of the culvert to support the cap. Post medieval culvert
015	Mixture of pale blue clay and sandy clay with occasional mortar flecks, charcoal and stone inclusions. Measures 1.2 m wide by 0.5 m thick

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Frame	Description	From	Date
1-3	General pre-ex views of MTS area	Var	13/12/16
4-5	Views of tarmac stripped	Var	14/12/16
6	Working shot	N	14/12/16
7	Line of electric cable	NE	14/12/16
8	Cast Iron pipe	N	14/12/16
9-14	Views of strip to W of cable	Var	14/12/16
15	Cast iron pipe fully exposed	N	14/12/16
16	Gas pipe to E of cable	N	14/12/16
17	Cable exposed in eastern area	NE	14/12/16
18	Working shot exposing manhole	N	15/12/16
19	View of strip to SE of cable and NW of gas main	SW	15/12/16
20	Manhole and drain cutting natural subsoil	E	15/12/16
21	Large pit or ditch	S	15/12/16
22	Drain cutting feature	S	15/12/16
23	Gas main and cable	S	15/12/16
24	Gas main further exposed to S	N	15/12/16
25	Ceramic drain to E of gas main	N	15/12/16
26	E of gas main stripped and cleaned	N	15/12/16
27-29	Location view of area to be filled	Var	15/12/16
30	Water in area to E of gas main after lunch	N	15/12/16
31	Water coming into area from drain	N	15/12/16
32-34	General views of 3 areas stripped	Var	15/12/16
35	Brick wall along N edge	SW	15/12/16
36	View of deposits over wall	S	15/12/16
37	View of deposits	NW	15/12/16
38-39	View of natural clay to W of cable	Var	15/12/16
40	View of deposits along W edge	E	15/12/16
41-43	Views of wall [004]	Var	19/12/16
44-45	Views of wall [005]	Var	19/12/16
46	E-facing section through [008]	NE	19/12/16
47	E-facing section through [008]	NE	19/12/16
48	Natural clay at base of ditch	N	19/12/16
49-50	General views of ditch and E-facing section of slot to E of gas main	E	19/12/16
51	N-facing section showing [007]	N	19/12/16
52-53	N-facing section of ditch [006] – upper deposits	N	20/12/16
54	Detailed view of drain and culvert [014]	N	20/12/16
55-58	N-facing section of ditch [006] – full view	N	20/12/16
59-63	General views of ditch [006] to W of gas main	Var	20/12/16

APPENDIX 3: Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Details	Scale
1	N-facing section of ditch [006] – E of gas main	1:10
2	N-facing section of ditch [006] – W of gas main	1:20

APPENDIX 4: Finds Register

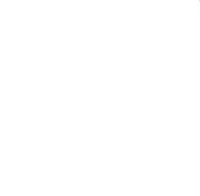
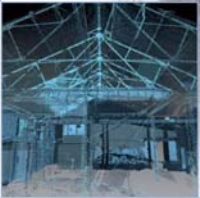
Finds No.	Context No.	Description
1	007	Slag fragments
2	007	CBM – brick
3	011	Ceramic fragments and clay pipe stems
4	009	Ceramic fragments

APPENDIX 5: Samples Register

Context No.	Quantity (litres)
007	20
008	20
009	20
013	20
015	10

APPENDIX 6: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirling Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Goosecroft Road
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 23370
PARISH:	Stirling
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Kevin Paton
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Excavation
NMRS NO(S)	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Town Boundary Ditch
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Medieval whit gritty ware
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 7965 9389
START DATE (this season)	13 th December 2016
END DATE (this season)	20 th December 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Evaluation – Wilson 2016
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological excavation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology in relation to a hotel development on the grounds of the former Rainbow Slides Leisure Centre on Goosecroft Road, Stirling. The excavation follows on from an earlier evaluation that uncovered a large deposit of dark grey clay along the NE boundary of the site that may relate to the medieval and post medieval town boundary.</p> <p>The excavation concentrated on the proposed building footprint, and revealed up to 0.7 m of made ground overlying the former post medieval soils. Constructed within this later soil horizon were two sandstone walls related to 19th century buildings on the site. Under this soil horizon, a very large cut feature was revealed measuring 8.7 m (N-S) by 10 m (E-W) that extended further E and S out with the excavation area. The alignment of the feature is consistent with the town boundary ditch that was revealed in the evaluation and fragments of white gritty ware and other ceramics were found within the fills.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	To be confirmed
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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