



Castleford Close Call, Beancroft Road, Castleford, West Yorkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief





**CASTLEFORD CLOSE CALL, BEANCROFT ROAD
CASTLEFORD, WEST YORKSHIRE**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	84081	ACCESSION CODE	TBC	CLIENT CODE	N/A
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	11/01829/FUL	NGR	442599 425030		

VERSION	STATUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
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* I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL

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Contents

	Summary.....	iv
	Acknowledgements.....	v
1	INTRODUCTION.....	1
	1.1 Project Background.....	1
	1.2 The Site, Location and Geology.....	1
2	HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	1
	2.1 Summary.....	1
3	METHODOLOGY.....	2
	3.1 Aims.....	2
	3.2 Fieldwork.....	2
4	RESULTS.....	3
	4.1 Introduction.....	3
	4.2 Stratigraphy.....	3
5	CONCLUSIONS.....	3
	5.1 Summary.....	3
6	ARCHIVE.....	3
	6.1 Preparation.....	3
	6.2 Deposition.....	3
7	REFERENCES.....	4
	7.1 Bibliography.....	4
	APPENDICES.....	5
	Appendix 1: Context Descriptions.....	5

Front Cover Groundworks in progress, facing north

Figure 1 Site location in relation to HER assets and previous find spots

Figure 2 Site plan

Plate 1 General shot of trenching, facing north-west

Plate 2 General shot of stratigraphy

**CASTLEFORD CLOSE CALL, BEANCROFT ROAD
CASTLEFORD, WEST YORKSHIRE****Archaeological Watching Brief****Summary**

Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Castleford Fire Station, Beancroft Road, Castleford, West Yorkshire (NGR 442599 425030). Planning permission (Planning reference 11/01829/FUL) was granted by Wakefield Council for the erection of a two storey building incorporating close call housing accommodation for firefighters at the site. The permission included a condition for a programme of archaeological recording.

A desk-based assessment was initially undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in February 2012 to inform the development proposals, the results of which indicated the potential for particularly Roman period remains surviving in the vicinity of the site. A watching brief was subsequently undertaken in May 2012, the results of which are presented in this report.

Despite the presence of a Roman road directly adjacent to the site and a number of urn burials in the surrounding area, no archaeological remains were identified during this programme of monitoring. Undisturbed natural clays were found at depths of between 0.4m and 1.1m. Overlying this in some areas was a recent buried soil horizon which in turn was overlain by a series of modern deposits of made ground. Truncation of the natural clay and the subsequent deposition of made ground is likely to derive from construction of the adjacent fire station.

The paper and digital archive from the site is likely to be lodged with Castleford Museum in due course.

CASTLEFORD CLOSE CALL, BEANCROFT ROAD
CASTLEFORD, WEST YORKSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Sue Tattersfield in this regard.

Fieldwork was undertaken by Phil Roberts and the report compiled by Ashley Tuck with illustrations by Chris Swales. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Richard O'Neill.

**CASTLEFORD CLOSE CALL, BEANCROFT ROAD
CASTLEFORD, WEST YORKSHIRE**

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works at Castleford Fire Station on Beancroft Road, Castleford (hereafter 'The Site').
- 1.1.2 Planning permission (Planning reference 11/01829/FUL) was granted by Wakefield Council for the erection of a two storey building incorporating close call housing accommodation for firefighters at the Site. The permission included a condition for a programme of archaeological recording.
- 1.1.3 A desk-based assessment was initially undertaken by Wessex Archaeology (2012a) to inform the development proposals, the results of which indicated the potential for particularly Roman period remains surviving in the vicinity of the Site. A watching brief was recommended during groundworks to ensure that archaeological remains affected by the works were recorded and/or retrieved.
- 1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the monitoring was produced by Wessex Archaeology (2012b), and approved by the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (WYAAS), advisors to the Local Planning Authority prior to the commencement of groundworks.

1.2 The Site, Location and Geology

- 1.2.1 The Site (**Figure 1**) lies within the grounds of the existing Castleford Fire Station, on the west side of Beancroft Road, directly to the north of Beancroft Street, at NGR 442599 425030. The Site is located 700m south of the centre of Castleford town, on the south bank of the River Aire.
- 1.2.2 The Site is located at approximately 24m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The solid geology of the surrounding area is mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation (BGS Sheet 078 – Wakefield).

2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Summary

- 2.1.1 Previous desk-based assessment of the Site consulted publicly accessible sources of primary and synthesised information to identify heritage assets within a 250m Study Area around the Site (Wessex Archaeology 2012a). The following details are summarised from that report.

- 2.1.2 Roman remains have been found surrounding the Site. These are associated with the Roman fort and civilian settlements at Castleford, just over 500m to the north of the Site. A Roman road is located directly adjacent to the Site and a number of urn burials have been found in the surrounding area.
- 2.1.3 There is no physical evidence for the Anglo-Saxon, medieval or post-medieval occupation of the Study Area. It is likely that farming was the main occupation within the Study Area at this time. During the mid to late-19th century the Study Area developed in to a residential area, with housing surrounding the Site. A fire station was constructed on the Site by the 1980s.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The general aims of the watching brief were:
- to accurately record the location and stratigraphy of areas excavated during groundworks;
 - to record all archaeological remains disturbed by the groundworks;
 - to determine the extent, condition, character, importance and date of any archaeological deposits encountered;
 - to provide information that will enable the archaeological remains to be placed with their local, regional and national contexts;
 - to recover artefacts disturbed by the Site works; and
 - to produce an accurate and comprehensive record and report of any archaeological deposits disturbed by the Site works.

3.2 Fieldwork

- 3.2.1 The groundworks comprised the reduction of the current ground level by approximately 0.3m, followed by excavation of a series of foundation trenches (Trench 1; **Plate 1** and Trenches 3-7) and partial excavation of a soakaway (Trench 2). A qualified archaeologist from Wessex Archaeology was in constant attendance during excavation works. Deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. Each context record fully described the location, extent, composition and relationship of the subject and was cross-referenced to all other assigned records. Context numbers were not repeated. A digital photographic record was maintained.
- 3.2.2 All works were conducted in compliance with the agreed WSI and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2008).
- 3.2.3 Fieldwork was undertaken on 9th and 10th May 2012.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Individual trench sections were allocated separate groups of numbers (e.g. Trench 1 – **1001**, **1002**, **1003** etc). The following section provides a summary of the information held in the Site archive with observed features and contexts tabulated in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Stratigraphy

4.2.1 The general stratigraphy of the Site comprised several layers of undisturbed natural, buried soil and made ground (**Plate 2**). No archaeological features or deposits were encountered and no artefacts were recovered.

4.2.2 The natural comprised firm yellow clay with blue/grey patches. This was overlain in some areas by a buried soil of brown clay or loam with blue and grey streaks or black silt inclusions. In the area recorded as Trench 7, an additional pale yellow/white clay layer was seen immediately above the yellow clay.

4.2.3 Above this were a number of layers of made ground, some containing 20th-century frogged machine-brick. Silty and clay rubble layers were observed in addition to gravel hardcore. In one area (Trench 7), black ash/coal was overlain by grey clay, possibly pulverised fly ash (PFA) associated with the adjacent surface.

5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were discovered during the watching brief. Undisturbed natural clays were found at depths between 0.4m and 1.1m. Overlying this in some areas was a buried soil horizon which in turn was overlain by a series of modern deposits of made ground. Truncation of the natural clay and the subsequent deposition of made ground is likely to derive from construction of the adjacent fire station.

6 ARCHIVE

6.1 Preparation

6.1.1 The project archive, consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs, and electronic data, will be prepared by Wessex Archaeology staff in accordance with the requirements of the repository museum and in line with national guidelines (Brown 2007).

6.2 Deposition

6.2.1 It is anticipated that the physical Site archive will be deposited with Castleford Museum in due course.

- 6.2.2 A digital copy of the report will be prepared for the client and physical copies will be submitted to West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and, along with the Site archive, to the repository museum.
- 6.2.3 An OASIS form will be completed at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> for inclusion in the ADS database. This will include an electronic copy of the report in PDF format.

7 REFERENCES

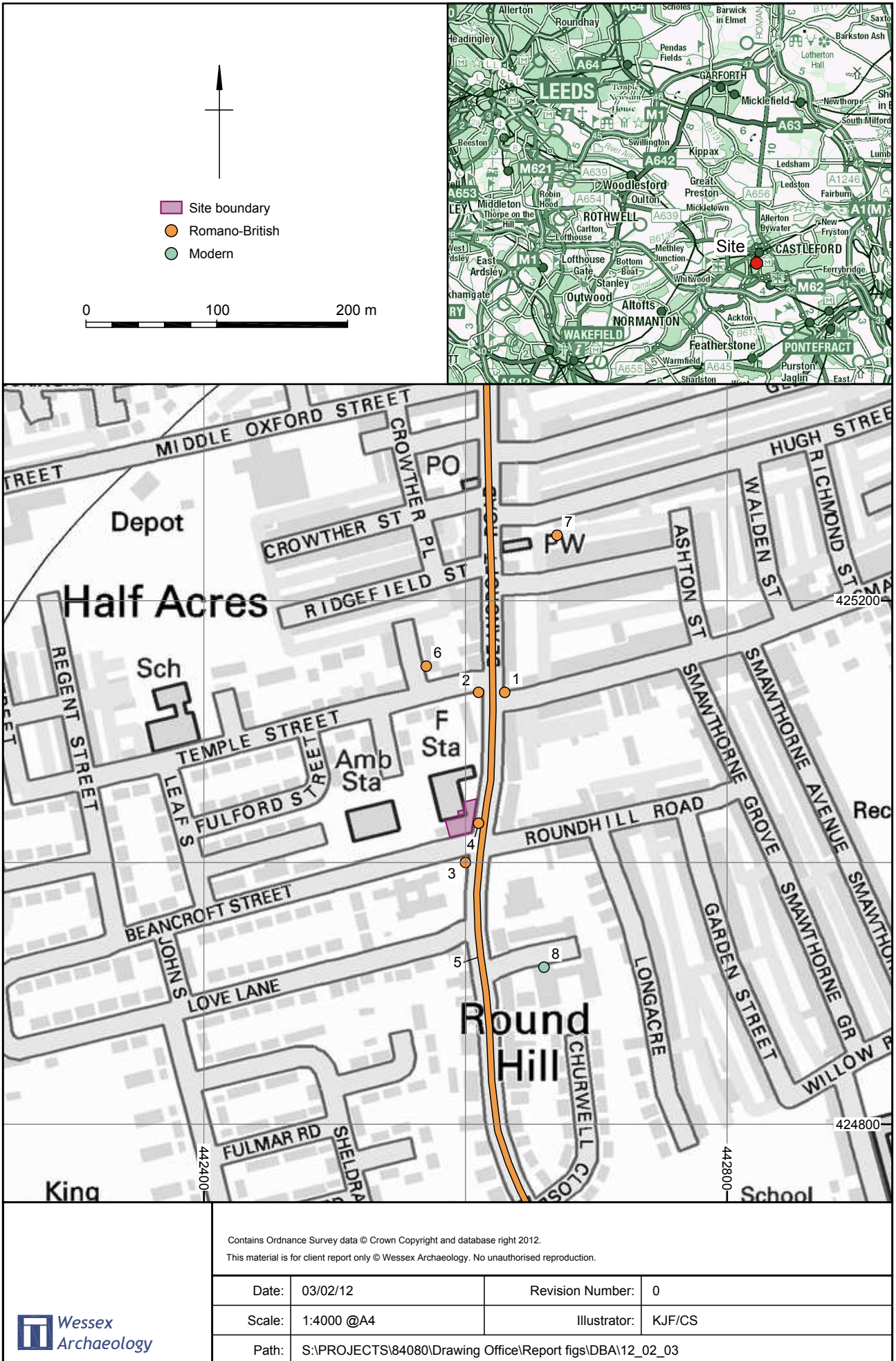
7.1 Bibliography

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- Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), 2008. *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Available: www.archaeologists.net.
- Wessex Archaeology, 2012a. *Castleford Close Call, Beancroft Road, Castleford, West Yorkshire – Desk-Based Assessment*. Unpublished Report ref: 84080.01.
- Wessex Archaeology, 2012b. *Castleford Close Call, Beancroft Road, Castleford, West Yorkshire – Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief*. Unpublished Report ref: 84081.01.

APPENDICES

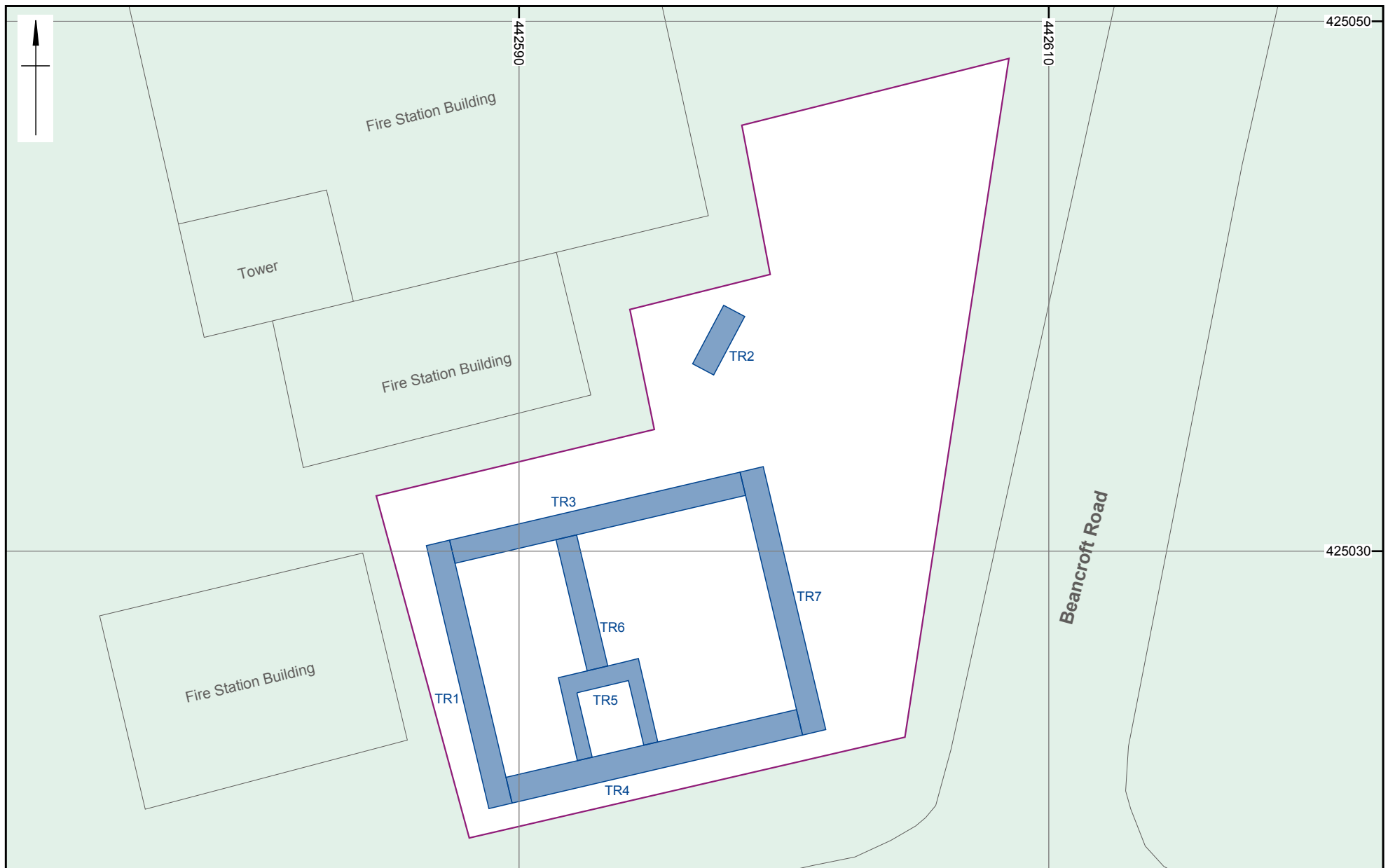
Appendix 1: Context Descriptions

Area	Context	Category	Description	Depth bgl (m)
Trench 1	1001	Deposit	Made ground grey/black silty rubble	0-0.58
Trench 1	1002	Deposit	Made ground off white chalk chipping gravel	0.58-0.84
Trench 1	1003	Deposit	Mixed mid brown clay with blue and grey streaks	0.84-1.11
Trench 1	1004	Deposit	Natural yellow clay with grey/blue patches	1.11-1.37
Trench 2	2001	Deposit	Made ground black silt with rooting, frogged machine red brick and stone rubble	0-0.9
Trench 2	2002	Deposit	Old topsoil light brown loam	0.9-1.3
Trench 2	2003	Deposit	Natural pale grey to yellow clay, compact	1.3-3.2
Trench 3	3001	Deposit	Made ground chalk gravel deposit	0-0.2
Trench 3	3002	Deposit	Old topsoil brown to black silt deposit. Rooty	0.2-0.4
Trench 3	3003	Deposit	Natural yellow clay with blue/grey patches	0.4-1.6
Trench 4	4001	Deposit	Made ground mid brown silt loose	0-0.65
Trench 4	4002	Deposit	Made ground mid brown silty clay with machine frogged red brick	0.65-0.9
Trench 4	4003	Deposit	Natural yellow clay with blue/grey patches	0.9-1.4
Trench 5	5001	Deposit	Made ground brown silt with rare red brick rubble	0-0.4
Trench 5	5002	Deposit	Made ground mid brown/grey clay with stone and red brick frags	0.4-0.85
Trench 5	5003	Deposit	Natural yellow clay with blue/grey patches	0.85-1.25
Trench 6	6001	Deposit	Made ground brown grey silt with stone	0-0.35
Trench 6	6002	Deposit	Interface layer similar to 6003	0.35-0.8
Trench 6	6003	Deposit	Natural yellow clay with blue/grey patches	0.8-1.45
Trench 7	7001	Deposit	Grey clay made ground	0-1.05
Trench 7	7002	Deposit	Black ash/coal made ground	0.25-1.25
Trench 7	7003	Deposit	Interface: pale yellow/white clay not seen elsewhere	1.25-1.35
Trench 7	7004	Deposit	Natural yellow clay with blue grey patches	1.25-1.45



Site location in relation to HER assets and previous find spots

Figure 1



 <p>This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.</p>		<p>Site boundary</p> <p>Trench</p>	Date:	05/06/2012	Revision Number:	0
			Scale:	1:200 @ A4	Illustrator:	CS
			Path:	Y:\Projects\84080 (Castleford Close Call, Beancroft Road, Castleford)\Drawing Office\Report figs\WB\84080_DBA_Figure 1.dwg		

Site plan

Figure 2

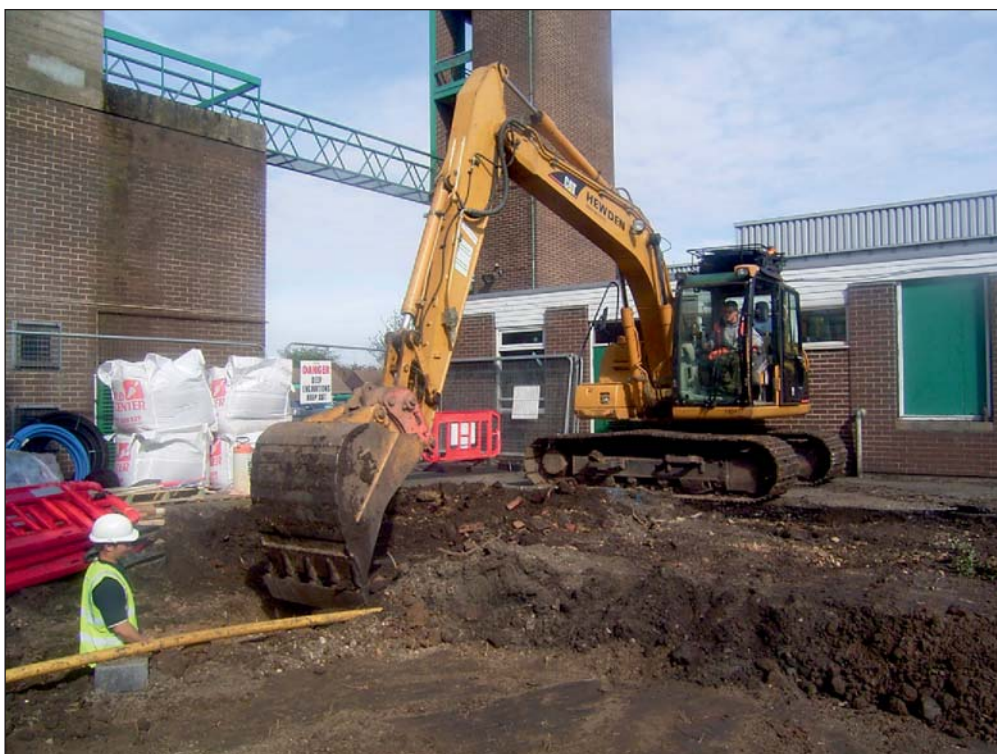


Plate 1: General shot of trenching, facing north-west.



Plate 2: General shot of stratigraphy.

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