



WATERDALE, DONCASTER SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation Report





WATERDALE, DONCASTER
SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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SITE CODE	88220	ACCESSION CODE		CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.		NGR		457667 4029944	

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WATERDALE, DONCASTER
SOUTH YORKSHIRE**Archaeological Evaluation Report****Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by URS (hereafter referred to as the 'Client') on behalf of Muse Development Limited, to undertake archaeological evaluation trenching at College Road, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, NGR 457667 4029944 (hereafter referred to as 'the Site'). Previous archaeological fieldwork at Waterdale NPV (Bell 2011), 200m to the west of the Site, revealed a Romano-British cemetery. Following geotechnical investigations within the Site (Bell 2012) an area to the northwest of the former Technical College was targeted for archaeological evaluation.

Two evaluation trenches were excavated and 19th century garden features and an undated ditch and posthole were revealed. A buried ploughsoil contained a sherd of Romano-British pottery but no dating evidence was recovered from the archaeological features. The Site lay within the location of Chequer Lane Gardens, which is shown on OS maps until the early 20th century. The garden features are most likely associated with planting within those gardens.

The project archive is held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield and will be deposited in due course with Doncaster Museum under an appropriate accession number.

WATERDALE, DONCASTER
SOUTH YORKSHIRE**Archaeological Evaluation Report****Acknowledgements**

This project was commissioned by URS on behalf of Muse Development Limited and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Nick Finch in this respect. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Andy Lines of South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS) for his assistance during the work.

The report was compiled by Ralph Collard and illustrations prepared by Chris Swales. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andrew Norton, the finds reported on by Lorraine Mepham and the animal bone by Chris Harrison. The fieldwork was directed by Neil Dransfield with the assistance of Dane Wright.

WATERDALE, DONCASTER SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by URS (hereafter 'the Client') on behalf of Muse Development Limited, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Doncaster Waterdale, College Road, Doncaster, South Yorkshire (hereafter 'the Site').
- 1.1.2 The evaluation work follows on from previous archaeological fieldwork carried out to the west of the proposed development Site (Bell 2010 and 2011), and geotechnical investigations within the Site were archaeologically monitored (Bell 2012). The work revealed the potential for preserved Romano-British archaeological remains, beneath an area used as car parking spaces to the northeast of a technical college.
- 1.1.3 As a result of the archaeological potential of the Site, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by the Client (URS 2012) in concordance with the local planning authority. The WSI detailed how the evaluation of two trenches (Trenches 1 & 2), measuring 5m x 5m and 20m x 2m respectively (**Figure 1**), would be carried out.
- 1.1.4 This report outlines the results of the archaeological evaluation and has been prepared in accordance with industry best standard (IfA 2008a) and in accordance with IfA Codes of Conduct (2010).

1.2 Site Location and Topography

- 1.2.1 The Site is located at the former Technical College, Waterdale, Doncaster (NGR 457667 4029944). The Site lies along the south side of College Road at the junction with Chequer Road, at c. 19m aOD.
- 1.2.2 The Site lies on the drift geology of the Doncaster area, recorded as extremely varied glacial and sand gravel by the British Geological Survey.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Archaeological Background

- 2.1.1 The Site has previously been subject to a full Archaeological Desk-based Assessment (DBA) undertaken by CgMs (Bennett-Samuels 2007), the results of which are summarised below.
- 2.1.2 Previous archaeological investigations undertaken within the Waterdale NPV, approximately 200m to the west to the Site, revealed the remains of a Romano-British cremation cemetery (Bell 2011).

- 2.1.3 A geotechnical investigation (Bell 2012) established that the majority of the Site comprised deep deposits of post-medieval and modern demolition layers, forming made-ground directly overlying the natural sands and clay. A large proportion of the Site therefore offered no potential for the preservation of archaeological remains.
- 2.1.4 The only area within the Site identified as having potential preservation for archaeological remains was to the northeast of the previous technical college. Here, undisturbed 19th century remains were identified beneath an area once used as a car park.

3 OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF WORK

3.1 Aims and Objectives

- 3.1.1 The general project objectives outlined in the WSI (URS 2012) are detailed below:
- To identify the presence/absence of buried archaeological remains.
 - To determine the nature, depth, extent, date and character of any archaeological deposits or features encountered.
 - To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the Site to enable that archaeological implications of the proposed development to be assessed.
 - To determine the state or condition of the preservation of any archaeological remains or features encountered.
 - To inform formulation of a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains.
 - To determine the possible quality, quantity, of artefactual and environmental evidence present.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 The full methodology for the evaluation can be found in the Written Scheme of Investigation (URS 2012). Archaeology guidelines and procedures conformed to industry best practice, as outlined in guidelines issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA 2008a and 2008b), English Heritage (2006 and 2011), the Museum and Galleries Commission (1992), the United Kingdom Institute of Conservation (UKIC 2001) and the relevant local and regional frameworks.

4.2 Evaluation Trenching

- 4.2.1 The trenches were positioned using survey grade GPS equipment to an accuracy of +/- 500mm in accordance with the agreed Site plan. The trenches were located in relation to the OS grid.

- 4.2.2 Prior to any mechanical excavation each trench was scanned with a CAT to check for uncharted services.
- 4.2.3 Overburden was removed using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist. Topsoil/overburden was removed in a series of level spits down to the level of the natural geology or the first archaeological horizon, whichever was reached first.
- 4.2.4 Any revealed deposits were hand cleaned, excavated and recorded in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's standard guidelines.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Two trenches (Trenches 1 and 2) were excavated covering an area of approximately 65m² (**Figure 2**). A full list of the trench descriptions, context numbers and context descriptions is contained in Appendix 1.

5.2 Trench 1

- 5.2.1 The natural geology (**106**) of Trench 1 was mid reddish brown sandy clay, which was overlain by a buried soil (**105**) that had a maximum depth of 0.13m. The soil was overlain by a second buried soil (**104**), which had a maximum depth of 0.28m. Both layers were present throughout the trench and one sherd of pot was recovered from buried subsoil **105**.
- 5.2.2 Buried soil **104** was truncated by a sub-rectangular garden feature (**107**; **Figure 2**). The feature was vertically sided and flat based with a maximum depth of 0.3m. It was lined by a deposit of crushed shell fragments (**108**; **Plate 1**) that was abutted by a dark grey sandy clay (**109**), derived from buried soil (**104**).
- 5.2.3 The feature was overlain by 0.52m of made ground (**103**), a levelling layer (**102**) and the tarmac car park (**101**).

5.3 Trench 2

- 5.3.1 The natural geology (**214**) of Trench 2 was a light reddish yellow sandy clay at a depth of 1.06m below ground level.
- 5.3.2 Cut through the natural geology (**214**) was a west to east aligned ditch (**205**; **Figure 3** and **Plate 2**) with a width of 1.64m and depth of 0.56m. The ditch had a single undated fill (**204**) of light brown silty sand.
- 5.3.3 An undated posthole (**212**; **Figure 3**) was cut through the natural geology (**214**) to the north of ditch **205**. The posthole had a depth of 0.46m and diameter of 0.27m, and was filled by a light brown clayey sand (**213**).
- 5.3.4 The fills were overlain by a buried soil (**203**), which had a maximum depth of 0.95m, below buried soil **202** that had a maximum depth of 0.8m.

- 5.3.5 Cut into buried soil **202** were three rectangular garden features (**207**, **208** and **211**). The features had vertical shallow sides to a depth of 0.12m and **208** and **211** contained a dark brown humic fill (**209** and **210**). A sherd of pottery and animal bone were recovered from **209**. Garden feature **208** was truncated to the northwest by garden feature **207**, which was filled by a pink sand (**206**) that contained no dating evidence.
- 5.3.6 Overlaying the garden features was tarmac and made ground (**201**) to a maximum depth of 0.6m below ground level.

5.4 Finds

- 5.4.1 The only finds recovered from the Site comprise four pottery sherds and a fragment of vessel glass.
- 5.4.2 A very small abraded pottery body sherd from Trench 1 (context **105**) is a Romano-British coarse greyware.
- 5.4.3 The other three pottery sherds, from Trench 2 (context **209**), are all modern refined wares (19th/20th century), and the vessel glass (the base of a wineglass) from the same context is of similar date. These modern finds have not been retained.

5.5 Environmental Remains

- 5.5.1 No environmental samples were taken due to the relatively modern date of the garden features and lack of dating evidence within the ditch.
- 5.5.2 A well preserved cattle vertebrae and rib were recovered from Trench 2 (context **209**). These elements displayed evidence for defleshing by knife. The faunal assemblage is too small to warrant any further work.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 General

- 6.1.1 The evaluation demonstrated the potential for archaeological remains to survive within the Site. The posthole and ditch within Trench 2 were overlain by post-medieval/modern soils but were of uncertain date.
- 6.1.2 The garden features and buried soils within Trenches 1 and 2 are probably 19th century in date and associated with Chequer Lane Gardens, which are visible on OS maps from the mid-19th century to the start of the 20th century - prior to the construction of the recently demolished school. The crushed shell fill within pit **107** is indicative of an alkaline bedding layer.

7 ARCHIVE AND COPYRIGHT

7.1 Archive

7.1.1 The project archive has been compiled into a stable, fully cross-referenced and indexed archive in accordance with Appendix 6 of Management of Archaeological Projects (2nd Edition, English Heritage 1991), and Archaeological archives – a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (Brown 2007). The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under the project code 88220. The archive will be deposited with Doncaster Museum under an agreed accession number in due course. An OASIS form will be submitted at the time of deposition.

7.2 Copyright

7.2.1 This report, and the archive generally, may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

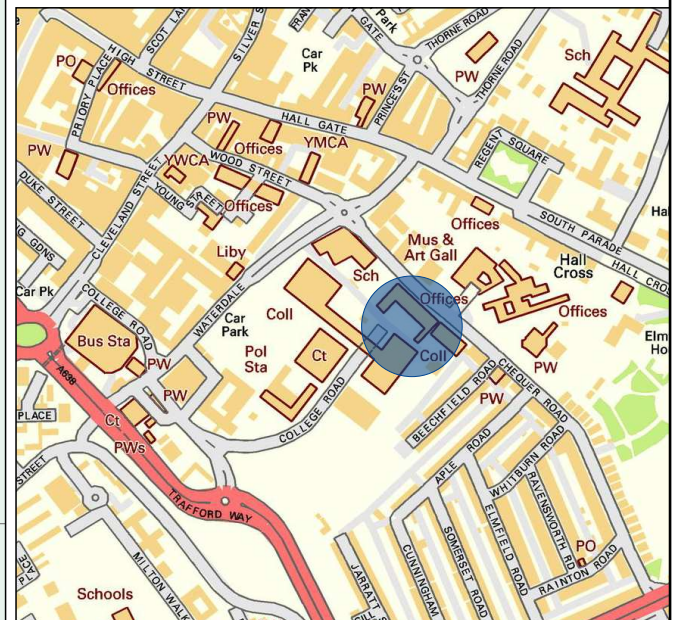
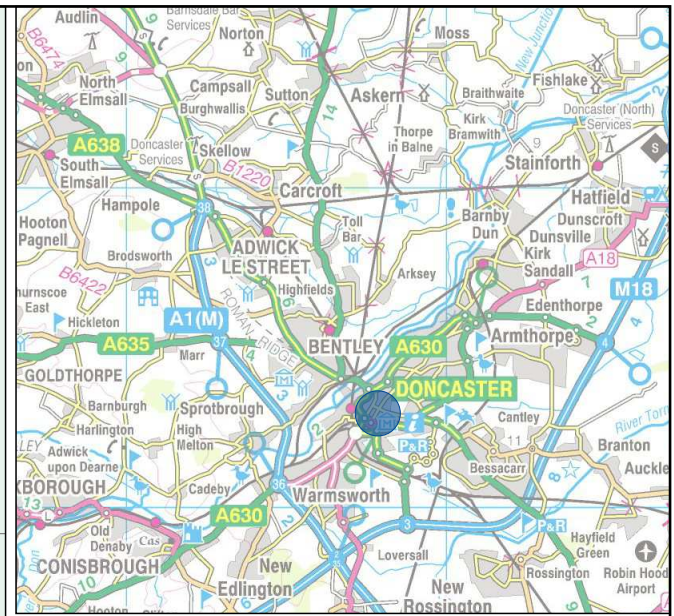
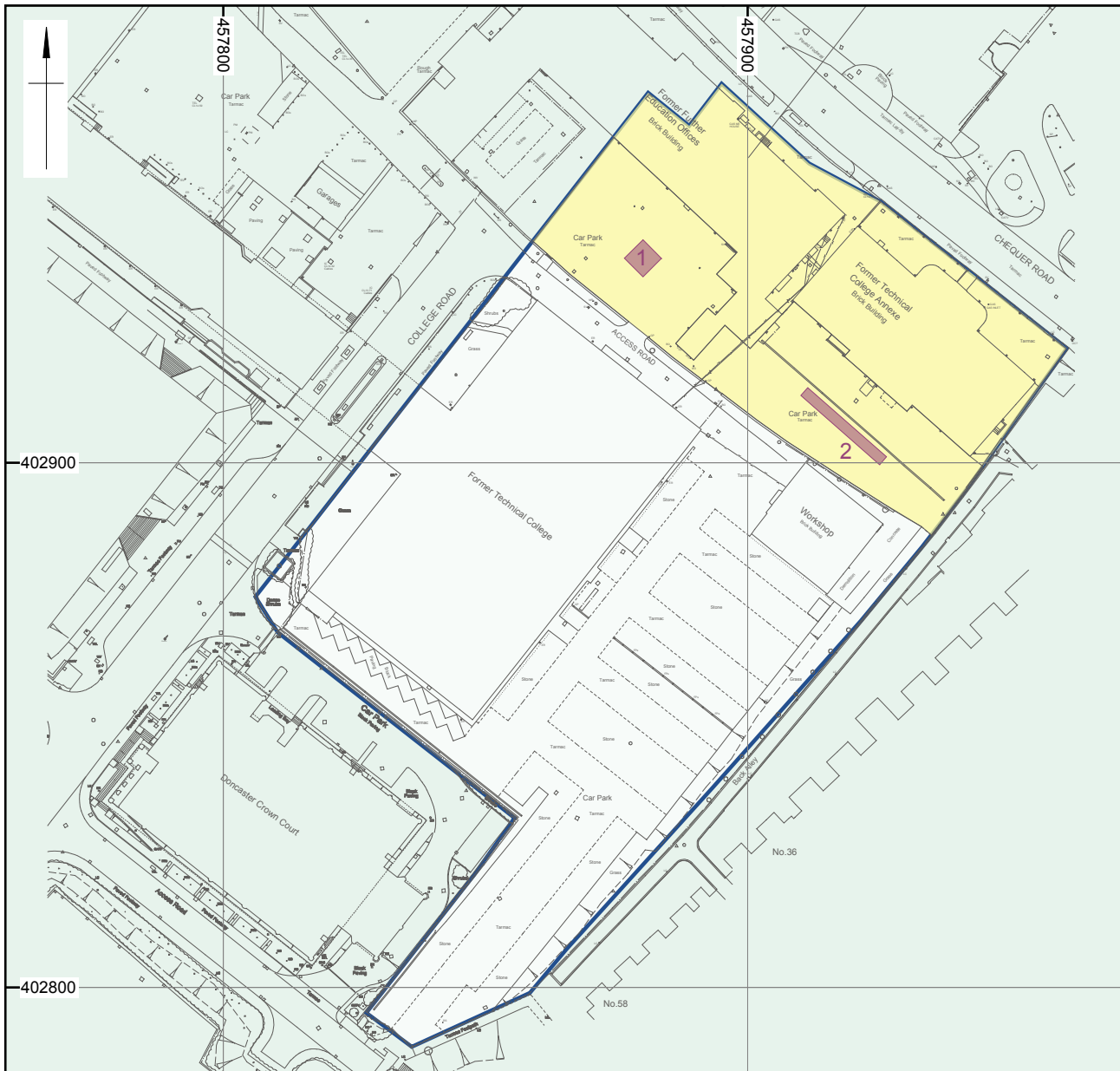
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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No. 1		Dimensions: 5m x 5m Max depth 0.93 m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
101	Car park surface: Tarmac.	0 – 0.12
102	Levelling layer: Hardcore and grey tar.	0.12 – 0.24
103	Made ground: Brick rubble and mortar.	0.24 – 0.52
104	Buried soil: Dark yellowish grey sandy clay.	0.52 – 0.7
105	Buried soil: Mid reddish brown sandy clay.	0.7 – 0.83
106	Natural: Mid	0.83 +
107	Cut of 19th century garden feature: Rectangular, vertical sided cut filled by 108 & 109	0.63 – 0.93
108	Shell bedding: Small crushed shell fragment primary fill of 107 .	0.83 – 0.93
109	Soil bedding: Dark grey sandy clay secondary fill of 107 .	0.83 – 0.89

Trench No. 2		Dimensions: 20 x 2m Max depth 1.1m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
201	Car park: Tarmac and made ground with demolition rubble, bricks and concrete.	0 – 0.6
202	Buried soil: Dark greenish grey silty clay with charcoal flecks and frequent small stones.	0.6 – 0.8
203	Buried soil: Light greenish grey silty clay with charcoal flecks and small stones.	0.8 – 0.95
204	Ditch fill: Light yellowish brown silty sand with occasional large sandstones. Fill of 205 .	0.95 – 1.54
205	Cut of ditch: W-E linear cut with moderate sides and round base. Filled by 204 .	
206	Garden feature fill: Reddish pink sand fill of 207 .	
207	Garden feature: Rectangular vertical sided cut with a flat base. Cuts 209 and filled by 206 .	
208	Garden Feature: Rectangular vertical sided cut with flat base. Cuts 202 and filled by 209 .	
209	Garden feature fill: Dark brown humic soil. Fill of 208 .	
210	Garden feature fill: White limestone flecks and amorphous soil. Fill of 211 .	
211	Garden feature: Rectangular vertical sided cut with flat base. Filled by 210 .	
212	Posthole cut: Circular, very steep sided cut. Filled by 213 , 0.27m diameter and 0.46m deep.	
213	Posthole fill: Light yellowish brown clayey sand. Fill of 212 .	
214	Natural: Light orange yellow sandy clay.	1.06 +



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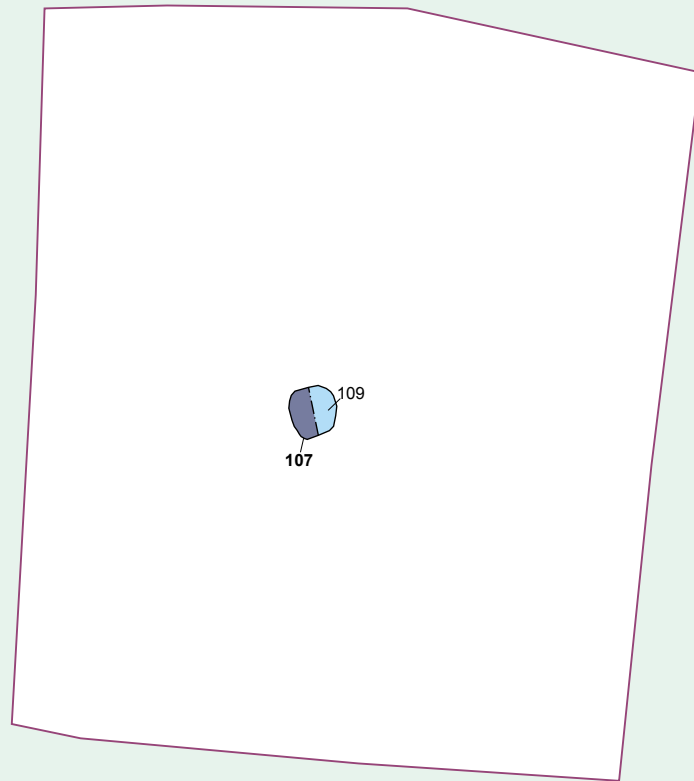
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- Site location
- Site boundary
- Area of archaeological potential
- Evaluation trench

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Site location

Figure 1



- Evaluation trench
- Posthole/Excavated

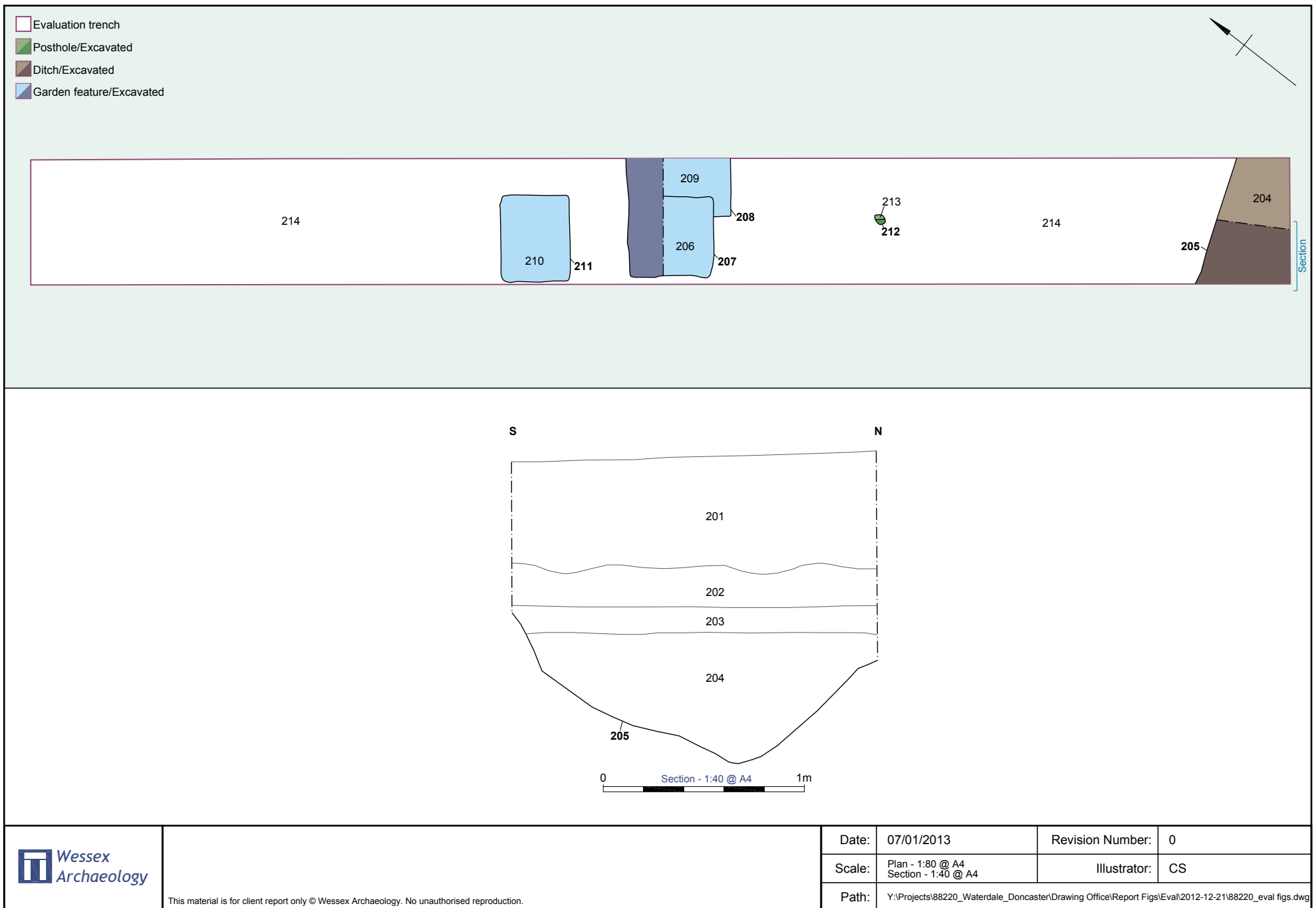


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Plan of Trench 1

Figure 2



Plan of Trench 2 and section of ditch 205

Figure 3



Plate 1: Trench 1, garden feature **107** in foreground, looking north.



Plate 2: Trench 2, ditch **205** in the foreground, looking northwest.



Plate 3: Trench 2, ditch **205**, looking southwest.



Plate 4: Trench 2, garden features **208** and **207**, looking southeast.



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