



making sense of heritage

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Hoole Hall, Chester, Cheshire

Archaeological Evaluation
Trial Trenching Report



Ref: 100681.02
September 2013



**Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Hoole Hall,
Chester, Cheshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation
Trial Trenching Report**

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a programme of pre-determination evaluation trenching to inform a development proposal for the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Hoole Hall, Chester.

The site lies within an area of known archaeological significance. A Roman camp (Scheduled Monument 1015129) lies immediately to the southwest of the proposed development area. The camp represents part of a series of Roman camps extending from Christleton to Picton, several of which lie within the surrounding area. The Hotel incorporates Hoole Hall, elements of which are Grade II listed buildings. Hoole Hall itself is of 18th century date and was significantly extended in the 19th century. The Hall is also thought to be the site of an earlier Medieval manor house. The Hotel lies within an area characterised as historic garden and landscape, and adjacent areas are also characterised as 'Ancient Field Systems'.

The evaluation comprised the excavation of eleven trenches targeting areas of archaeological potential adjacent to the Scheduled Monument. The spoil heaps from the trenches were scanned by metal detectorists for the recovery of metal artefacts. An undated ditch in Trench 2, which pre-dates a Post-Medieval land drain, may relate to the eastern side of the Roman camp (Scheduled Monument 1015129) or an ancient field boundary. However, the lack of dating evidence precludes a definitive interpretation at this stage. Post-Medieval features of note, identified in Trenches 6 (a surface), 8 (walls) and 9 (walls), are likely to relate to outbuildings associated with the 18th to 19th century development of Hoole Hall.

The archive is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's Sheffield office and will be deposited with the Grosvenor Museum under an appropriate accession number in due course.



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Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank CgMs for commissioning the project and Julie Edwards (Senior Archaeologist, Cheshire West and Chester Council), as well as the staff at Hilton Hotel, Hoole Hall for their co-operation during the fieldwork.

The fieldwork was carried out by Chris Harrison with assistance from Jonathan Buttery and Amy McCabe. The report was compiled by Chris Harrison and Richard O'Neill, with illustrations by Chris Swales. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Chris Swales.



Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Hoole Hall, Chester, Cheshire

Archaeological Evaluation Trial Trenching Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to undertake a programme of pre-determination archaeological evaluation trenching to inform a development proposal for the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Hoole Hall, Chester (hereafter the 'Site').

1.1.2 The proposed development for extending the Hotel comprises five principal areas with the potential to affect archaeological remains:

- The enlargement of the restaurant area within the walled garden;
- Construction of a new accommodation wing on the existing car park to the south-east of the hotel;
- An extension of the area of the car parking to the south of the current buildings;
- Landscape strategy (including the reinstatement of the access route as a landscaped pedestrian route); and
- A new entrance extension.

1.1.3 The scope of the programme of pre-determination evaluation was agreed between CgMs and Cheshire West and Chester Council Senior Archaeologist and detailed in a WSI (CgMs 2013). The scope of work comprises evaluating through trial trenching the following areas:

- Construction of a new accommodation wing on the existing car park to the south-east of the hotel;
- An extension of the area of car parking to the south of the current buildings; and
- Landscape strategy (including the reinstatement of the access route as a landscaped pedestrian route).

1.1.4 The trial trenches were located to best explore the potential archaeological remains within these areas. Other areas of archaeological interest (the walled garden and entrance extension) would be investigated as a condition of consent of the proposed development (CgMs 2013).

1.1.5 This report presents the results from the scheme of trial trenching.

1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The development lies 2.5km northeast of the centre of Chester (NGR 343040 367970). The Site is bounded to the north by the A56 Warrington Road, to the west by the A41 Ring



Road and to the south by Guilden Sutton Lane. The land to the east of the Site is made up of open fields. The Site is currently occupied by Hoole Hall and its associated fields, access roads and car parks. The trenches were excavated to the south of the hall in the fields and car park (**Figure 1**). The site is level at approximately 33m OD.

- 1.2.2 The majority of the study site comprises Diamicton Till (formerly known as Boulder Clay), with patches of Sand and Gravel Glaciofluvio Deposits in the north and northeast. These are underlain by Pebbly (Gravelly) Sandstone of Chester Pebble Beds Formation (CgMs 2013).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Prehistoric to Romano-British

- 2.1.1 A Roman camp (Scheduled Monument 1015129) lies immediately to the southwest of the proposed development area. The camp represents part of a series of Roman camps extending from Christleton to Picton, several of which lie within the surrounding area.

2.2 Medieval to Modern

- 2.2.1 The Hotel incorporates Hoole Hall, elements of which are Grade II listed buildings. Hoole Hall itself is of 18th century date and was significantly extended in the 19th century. The Hall is also thought to be the site of an earlier Medieval manor house. The Hotel lies within an area of historic garden and landscape, and an area characterised as 'Ancient Field Systems' (Cheshire County Council and English Heritage 2007).

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 The aims of the project were:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of archaeological remains within the targeted archaeologically sensitive areas of the development Site;
- To provide further information on the archaeological potential of the Site to enable the archaeological implications of the proposed development to be assessed;
- To assess the impact of previous land use on the Site;
- To inform the formulation of a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains and;
- To produce a Site archive.

3.2 Fieldwork

- 3.2.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2013), Method Statement (Wessex Archaeology 2013) and current industry best practice (IfA 2008a, 2010). The evaluation comprised the excavation of 11 trenches (**Figure 1, Trenches 1-11**) targeting potential archaeological features. The trenches measured up to 20m by 2m. Deviations from the WSI included the relocation of **Trenches 6-10**, primarily due to existing ground conditions and ecological constraints. However, in most cases this meant that the trenches were moved along the same axis so that they would encounter the same linear features (ditches or walls) as targeted in their initial location.

- 3.2.2 As part of the fieldwork, the up-cast spoil from each trench was scanned with metal detectors. All finds were labelled as unstratified and retained for assessment.



3.3 Finds

- 3.3.1 The finds were treated in accordance with the relevant guidance (Museums and Galleries Commission 1992; IfA 2008b) and the WSI (CgMs 2013).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Summary

- 4.1.1 Of the eleven trenches excavated (**Figures 1 and 2**), Post-Medieval features of note were identified in **Trenches 6** (a surface), **8** (walls) and **9** (walls). An undated ditch, pre-dating a Post-Medieval land drain, was identified in **Trench 2**. No archaeology was uncovered in **Trenches 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10 and 11**.

- 4.1.2 The descriptions of the context revealed in each trench are presented in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Trench 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10 and 11

- 4.2.1 **Trench 1** was excavated to target the eastern extent of the Scheduled Monument in the southwest corner of the Site. The trench revealed only layers of made ground (**101** and **102**) beneath the topsoil, to a depth of 1.60m, at which point the trench was abandoned.

- 4.2.2 **Trenches 3, 4 and 5** were located in the southwest of the Site in grassland. No archaeological features were observed. Natural clay was observed in the trenches between 0.33m and 0.42m below ground level (bgl). Bioturbatory disturbance (tree throws) were observed in **Trenches 3 and 4**. Brick packing for a field entrance and a modern water pipe were seen in **Trench 5**.

- 4.2.3 **Trench 7** was located in the south of the Site, north of **Trench 6**, to target former buildings associated with Hoole Hall (**Figure 1**). No archaeological features were observed. Natural clay was observed between 0.36m and 0.88m bgl.

- 4.2.4 **Trench 10** was located east of **Trench 8**. Natural clay was observed at 0.51m bgl. This was overlain by a layer of made ground (**10002**) and a Post-Medieval land drain in the central area of the trench. The made ground was truncated by a modern cut, presumably associated with construction of the car park to the west. The cut was subsequently filled with made ground (**10003**).

- 4.2.5 **Trench 11** was located either side of a fence just to the east of the car park. Natural clay was observed 0.8m bgl. Overlying this were layers of made ground (**11004** and **11005**) to the east of the fence.

4.3 Undated

- 4.3.1 **Trench 2** was located to the south of **Trench 1** and was also excavated to target the eastern extent of the Scheduled Monument. The earliest feature identified was an undated ditch (**Plate 1**) towards the western extent of the trench (**Figure 2**). The U-shaped ditch, cut into the natural clay, measured 1.1m in width and 0.48m in depth. The single fill (**205**) of the ditch (**204**) was truncated by a Post-Medieval land drain (**208**). A further land drain was observed to the eastern extent of the trench. The land drains were overlain by subsequent layers of Post-Medieval brick demolition rubble (**210**) and made ground (**202**).

4.4 Post-Medieval

- 4.4.1 **Trench 6** was located in the south of the Site to target former buildings associated with Hoole Hall. Natural clay was observed at 0.42m bgl. A red and blue brick surface (**610**)

was identified immediately below ground level at the southern extent of the trench. To the north of the surface was a substantial modern cut (**606**) containing a field drain (**Plate 2**). The cut measured up to 9.5m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1.3m bgl at which point excavation was abandoned. A levelling layer (**607**) sealed the filling of the cut (**608** and **609**).

- 4.4.2 **Trench 8** was located in a car park west of **Trench 7**. Six Post-Medieval red brick walls were identified 1m bgl and located directly below the made ground of the modern car park. Red brick structures **804** and **806** were both two skins wide, three courses deep and orientated northwest to southeast (**Figure 2** and **Plates 3** and **4**). Red brick structures **812** – **815** were all two skins wide and survived to a depth of between four and six courses. These features were orientated southwest to northeast. Walls **812** and **813** form the same wall which is punctuated by a service trench. Walls **814** and **815** are part of the same structure with a 0.8m gap between them. The wall ends were capped with sandstone blocks forming an entrance into the building (**Figure 2**).
- 4.4.3 The wall foundations were cut (**806**, **808** and **816**) into a buried soil layer (**805** and **811**). The cuts ran parallel to the walls, c. 0.1m away from and along both sides. The base of the walls stepped out to form the foundations.
- 4.4.4 **Trench 9** was located in a car park south of the Hotel and north of **Trench 8**. Three Post-Medieval red brick structures were identified 0.6m bgl and located directly below the made ground of the modern car park. Walls **909**, **913** and **916** were all two skins wide, three courses deep and are orientated northwest to southeast. Wall **913** was aligned with walls **804/806** within **Trench 8** (**Figure 2**) and formed a right angel with **916** (**Plate 5**).
- 4.4.5 The wall foundations were cut (**907** and **914**) into the natural (**912**). The cuts ran parallel to the walls, c. 0.1m away from and along both sides. The base of the walls stepped out to form the foundations.

5 FINDS

5.1 General

- 5.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered during the evaluation. These comprised individual bricks retained as samples from four structural elements in **Trench 8** (**804**, **812**, **813**, **814**), finds from two stratified contexts (feature fill **609**, made ground **802**), and a number of unstratified finds from **Trenches 3**, **4**, **5** and **7**. Overall quantities are given in **Table 1**, and further details of the pottery and other finds are given in **Table 2** and **3**.
- 5.1.2 All four brick samples retained from **Trench 8** are of similar appearance and dimensions. They are handmade in coarse fabrics, poorly wedged, and measure 230 x 105 x 75mm (only the bricks from **804** and **813** have surviving lengths). All are heavily mortared. Manufacture and size indicates a date range in the 18th or early 19th century.
- 5.1.3 Finds from cut **606** (fill **609**) comprised a small group of horse bones, and one sherd of pottery (post-medieval black-glazed redware).
- 5.1.4 Other finds were either unstratified or were redeposited in made ground. The pottery wares represented (redwares, both glazed and unglazed; Staffordshire-type slipwares and manganese mottled wares; Chinese porcelain; English stoneware; white salt glaze; creamware; pearlware; yellow ware and refined whiteware) indicate a date range extending at least from the later 17th century (possibly earlier) until the 19th or possibly early 20th century. This date range is supported by other finds such as a clay pipe bowl



from made ground **802** (18th century); two musket balls, of a size consistent with a 17th century date (unstratified in **Trench 3**), and bottle glass (18th century or later).

5.2 Further recommendations

5.2.1 The finds have been recorded to an appropriate archive level, and no further analysis is warranted. Given the small quantities of material involved, the date range and provenance (largely unstratified), retention for long-term curation is not recommended, although if further work takes place on the Site the assemblage should be re-assessed in this light.

Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	Animal Bone	CBM	Clay Pipe	Glass	Metal	Pottery	Shell
Tr 3 unstrat		5/115	22/45	5/25	22/476	47/436	
Tr 4 unstrat		1/26	2/5	3/77	12/908	28/151	
Tr 5 unstrat			4/8		6/158	7/67	6/127
Tr 7 unstrat			4/10	3/27	6/82	30/679	
609	20/1545					1/9	
802			1/9	1/42		2/35	
804		1 brick sample					
812		1 brick sample					
813		1 brick sample					
814		1 brick sample					
unstrat					1/75		
TOTAL	20/1545	6/141 + bricks	33/77	12/171	47/1699	115/1377	6/127



Table 2: Pottery by context

LAYER	Ware	FORM	Date range	Quantity	WT (g)	Comments
609	Post-medieval black-glazed redware		C17/C18	1	9	
802	Pearlware		1770-1840	2	37	
Tr 3 unstrat	Creamware		1740-1880	3	6	
Tr 3 unstrat	Pearlware		1770-1840	2	6	
Tr 3 unstrat	Post-medieval black-glazed redware		C17/C18	21	272	
Tr 3 unstrat	Post-medieval redware		C16+	7	68	
Tr 3 unstrat	Refined whiteware		1800+	1	2	
Tr 3 unstrat	Staffs-type mottled ware		1700-1800	2	4	
Tr 3 unstrat	Staffs-type slipware		1680-1800	6	53	
Tr 3 unstrat	White salt glaze		1720-1780	5	16	
Tr 4 unstrat	Creamware		1740-1880	7	40	
Tr 4 unstrat	English stoneware		1830+	1	3	felspathic glaze
Tr 4 unstrat	Pearlware		1770-1840	2	3	
Tr 4 unstrat	Porcelain		C17+	5	2	
Tr 4 unstrat	Porcelain		C17+		-	
Tr 4 unstrat	Post-medieval redware	flowerpot	C19/C20	1	22	unglazed
Tr 4 unstrat	Staffs-type mottled ware		1700-1800	3	4	
Tr 4 unstrat	White salt glaze		1720-1780	4	19	
Tr 4 unstrat	Brown salt glazed stoneware		C17/18 th	2	5	
Tr 4 unstrat	Black glazed RW		C18 th	4	37	
Tr 4 unstrat	Brown glazed RW		C18/19 th	3	13	
Tr 4 unstrat	Black glaze			1	4	
Tr 4 unstrat	Unknown			2	<1	
Tr 5 unstrat	Creamware		1740-1880	1	1	
Tr 5 unstrat	English stoneware		1830+	1	1	felspathic glaze
Tr 5 unstrat	Post-medieval black-glazed redware		C17/C18	2	44	
Tr 5 unstrat	Staffs-type mottled ware		1700-1800	1	7	
Tr 5 unstrat	Staffs-type slipware		1680-1800	2	7	
Tr 7 unstrat	Post-medieval black-glazed redware		C17/C18	2	33	
Tr 7 unstrat	Post-medieval redware		C16+	1	38	
Tr 7 unstrat	Post-medieval redware	flowerpot	1800+	21	417	glazed and unglazed
Tr 7 unstrat	Staffs-type mottled ware		1700-1800	1	4	
Tr 7 unstrat	Trailed slipware		C17/C18	1	12	
Tr 7 unstrat	Yellow ware		1800+	1	10	
TOTAL				119	1200	



Table 3: Finds other than pottery by context

Context	Material	Count	Weight (g)	Additional Comments
609	Animal Bone	20	1545	Horse
802	Clay Pipe	1	9	bowl (C18)
802	Glass	1	42	post-med green wine bottle (neck, C19)
804	CBM	1	3403	Brick sample (230x105x75mm)
812	CBM	1	2275	Brick sample (incomplete, ?x105x75mm)
813	CBM	1	3985	Brick sample (230x105x75mm)
814	CBM	1	2939	Brick sample (incomplete, ?x105x70mm)
Tr 3 unstrat	CBM	5	115	post-medieval brick & tile frags
Tr 3 unstrat	Clay Pipe	22	45	21 plain stems (worn); 1 spur/bowl frag (form as context 802?)
Tr 3 unstrat	Copper Alloy	3	27	2 modern coins; 1 buckle
Tr 3 unstrat	Glass	5	25	4 post-med green wine bottle (C18+); 1 modern clear bottle/jar
Tr 3 unstrat	Iron	13	124	nails; unidentifiable corroded lumps
Tr 3 unstrat	Lead	5	299	2 musket balls; 1 rectangular sheet; 1 rough disc with 4 perforations; 1 lump
Tr 3 unstrat	Other metal	1	28	modern item
Tr 3 unstrat	Plastic	1	1	small spherical bead
Tr 4 unstrat	CBM	1	26	abraded; undiagnostic, undated
Tr 4 unstrat	Clay Pipe	2	5	plain stem; bowl frag (undatable)
Tr 4 unstrat	Glass	3	77	post-med green wine bottle (1 base, 1 distorted)
Tr 4 unstrat	Iron	11	789	1 tent peg, 1 large structural bar; 1 large nail; 8 unidentifiable corroded lumps
Tr 4 unstrat	Lead	1	127	lump
Tr 5 unstrat	Clay Pipe	4	8	plain stems
Tr 5 unstrat	Copper alloy	1	28	bullet
Tr 5 unstrat	Iron	5	129	barbed wire; nail shank; 3 unidentifiable corroded lumps
Tr 5 unstrat	Shell	6	127	oyster (L & R valves)
Tr 7 unstrat	Clay Pipe	4	10	plain stems
Tr 7 unstrat	Copper alloy	3	46	undiagnostic frags
Tr 7 unstrat	Glass	3	27	1 aqua inkwell (C19/early C20); 2 post-med green wine bottle (C18+)
Tr 7 unstrat	Iron	3	36	nails?
unstrat	Iron	1	75	unidentifiable lump
802	CBM	1	16	Cream glazed tile (Post med)

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Summary

- 6.1.1 The undated ditch in **Trench 2**, which pre-dates a Post-Medieval land drain, may relate to the eastern side of the Roman camp (Scheduled Monument 1015129) or an ancient field boundary. However, the lack of dating evidence precludes a definitive interpretation at this stage.
- 6.1.2 Post-Medieval features of note identified in **Trenches 6** (a surface), **8** (walls) and **9** (walls) are likely to relate to outbuildings associated with the 18th to 19th century development of Hoole Hall, as suggested by the bricks and finds. These buildings are displayed on the 1st edition OS map (1875), with the Trench 6 structures appearing on the 2nd edition OS map.

These structures are present up until the 1982 map (**Figure 1**). The features appear to survive best under the carpark.

7 STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 Museum

7.1.1 The archive from the fieldwork will be deposited with the Grosvenor Museum in due course under a relevant accession number. An OASIS form will be submitted at the time of deposition. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

7.2 Preparation of archive

7.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the relevant museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

7.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the Site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared.

7.3 Discard policy

7.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive. However, the selection of material for retention and dispersal will be agreed in consultation with museum staff and relevant specialists as directed by the Cheshire West Museums Archive Deposit guidelines.

7.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2011).

7.4 Security copy

7.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

7.5 Archive

7.5.1 The project archive has been compiled into a stable, fully cross-referenced and indexed archive in accordance with current guidelines (Museum and Galleries Commission 1992; UKIC 2001; Brown 2011). The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under the project code **100681**.

7.6 Copyright

7.6.1 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



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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
Trench No. 1		Max depth: 1.20m
101	Topsoil: Dark brown, sandy silt	0- 0.08m
102	Made ground: Brownish red, clay loam. Pockets of black made ground with red brick inclusions also identified.	0.70- 1.20m
103	Made ground: Dark brown, sandy clay with red brick inclusions	0.08- 0.70m
Trench No. 2		Max depth: 0.85m
201	Topsoil: Dark brown, silty sand	0- 0.08m
202	Made ground: Red brick and rare small and medium irregular shaped stone inclusions	0.08- 0.39m
203	Natural: Reddish brown, clay	0.39- 0.60m
204	Cut: Cut of linear modern drainage ditch, filled with 205 . Cuts 203 and cut by land drain 208 . Orientation of ditch is north-south. The side shape of the ditch is concave with steep side slopes. The base of this ditch is 'U-shaped'. Length = 2.00m+. Width = 1.10m. Depth = 0.48m.	0.08- 0.48m
205	Fill: Secondary fill of 204 . Cut by 208 . Dark blackish brown, silty sand with rare red brick inclusions. No archaeological components recovered from this fill. It appears that layer 210 was deposited on top of this context to stabilise it.	0.08- 0.48m
206	Cut: Cut of unexcavated land drain, filled with 207	0.60m
207	Fill: Fill of unexcavated land drain 206	0.60m
208	Cut: Cut for land drain, filled with 209 . Cuts 204 .	0.08- 0.85m
209	Fill: Fill of land drain 208 . Silty sand and clay.	0.08- 0.85m
210	Brick/demolition layer: This context was identified above ditch 204 . The width of this layer measured seven metres.	-
Trench 3		Max depth: 0.64m
301	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown, humic fine sandy silty clay	0- 0.18m
302	Subsoil: Light greyish orangey brown, silty clay with sparse (<5%) small and medium (c. 5-15cm in size) subrounded pebbles	0.18- 0.34m
303	Natural: Mid orangey red clay with light yellowish orange sand lenses. Sparse (<10%) medium (c. 10-20cm in size) subrounded pebbles – evenly distributed throughout the fill. Occasional bands of mid orangey red, degraded iron stone – very sandy.	0.34m+
304	Cut: Cut of tree throw, filled with 305 .	0.34- 0.43m
305	Fill: Fill of tree throw 304 . Brown sandy clay.	0.34- 0.43m
306	Cut: Cut of solution hollow, filled with 307	0.34- 0.64m
307	Fill: Secondary fill of solution hollow 306 . Light greyish yellow, silty sand.	0.34- 0.64m
308	Fill: Secondary fill of tree/scrub throw 309 . Dark blackish grey, humic silty sand.	0.34- 0.64m



Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
309	Cut: Cut of scrub/tree throw 308	0.34- 0.64m
Trench 4		Max depth: 0.43m
401	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown, humic fine sandy silty clay	0- 0.13m
402	Subsoil: Light greyish orangey brown, silty clay with sparse (<5%) small and medium (c. 5-15cm in size) subrounded pebbles	0.13- 0.33m
403	Natural: Mid orangey red clay with light yellowish orange sand lenses. Sparse (<10%) medium (c. 10-20cm in size) subrounded pebbles – evenly distributed throughout the fill. Occasional bands of mid orangey red, degraded iron stone – very sandy.	0.33m+
404	Cut: Cut of tree throw, filled with 405	0.38- 0.43m
405	Fill: Fill of tree throw 404 . Light grey, silty sand with no coarse inclusions	0.38- 0.43m
Trench 5		Max depth: 0.33m
501	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown, humic fine sandy silty clay	0- 0.25m
502	Subsoil: Light greyish orangey brown, silty clay with sparse (<5%) small and medium (c. 5-15cm in size) subrounded pebbles	0.25- 0.33m
503	Natural: Mid orangey red clay with light yellowish orange sand lenses. Sparse (<10%) medium (c. 10-20cm in size) subrounded pebbles – evenly distributed throughout the fill. Occasional bands of mid orangey red, degraded iron stone – very sandy.	0.33m+
504	Packing: Red brick packing for field entrance. Blackish brown silty clay. This context contains a modern water piper. A clay pipe and oyster shell were recovered from this layer.	0.33m
Trench 6		Max depth: 1.30m+
601	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown, humic fine sandy silty clay	0- 0.33m
602	Subsoil: Light greyish orangey brown, silty clay with sparse (<5%) small and medium (c. 5-15cm in size) subrounded pebbles	0.33- 0.42m
603	Natural: Mid orangey red clay with light yellowish orange sand lenses. Sparse (<10%) medium (c. 10-20cm in size) subrounded pebbles – evenly distributed throughout the fill. Occasional bands of mid orangey red, degraded iron stone – very sandy.	0.42m+
604	Cut: Cut of land drain, filled with 605	0.33- 0.50m
605	Fill: Fill of land drain 604	0.33- 0.50m
606	Cut: Machine cut of a possible channel, filled with 607 , 608 and 609 . Cuts 603 and cut by 604 . The presence of three different fills in this cut demonstrates the deliberate deposition of one fill (607) and two silting events (608 and 609). Linear cut, which is oriented west-east. The side shape of the ditch is vertical with steep side slopes. Base shape is unknown as the base was not uncovered during excavation. Path 610 leads up to the south side of this channel. Length = 2.00m+. Width = 7.50m. Depth = 1.30m+	0.42- 1.30m+
607	Fill: Demolition fill of 606 . Dark brown, silty sand with slate and red brick inclusions. Fragments of land drain recovered from this context. This demolition fill is possibly associated with 610 and has been pushed into 606 to level off this context.	0.33- 0.53m



Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
608	Fill: Secondary fill of 606 . Cut by 604 . Natural silting. Light yellowish brown, silty clay.	0.53- 0.88m
609	Fill: Secondary fill of 606 . Silting. Light grey, silty clay. Animal bones recovered from this context. Not fully excavated so depth is unknown. First silting event in 606 .	0.88- 1.13m+
610	Path: Red brick path, possibly leads to a bridge that crosses 606 (at ground level). The shape of this path is linear in plan, the side shape is vertical and the base shape is flat. The CBM that comprises this context are handmade red bricks that were placed in a stretcher arrangement on the bed. Some grey bricks were also noted from this structure. A single coursing was identified. The bricks are semi-worn. Length = 4.00m+. Width = 2.00m+.	0- 0.01m
Trench 7		Max depth: 0.88m+
701	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown, humic fine sandy silty clay	0- 0.66m
702	Subsoil: Light greyish orangey brown, silty clay with sparse (<5%) small and medium (c. 5-15cm in size) subrounded pebbles	0.66- 0.88m
703	Natural: Mid orangey red clay with light yellowish orange sand lenses. Sparse (<10%) medium (c. 10-20cm in size) subrounded pebbles – evenly distributed throughout the fill. Occasional bands of mid orangey red, degraded iron stone – very sandy.	0.88m+
Trench 8		Max depth: 1.00m+
801	Tarmac	0- 0.08m
802	Made ground: Made ground comprised of red brick and moderately occurring medium sized, irregular shaped stones	0.08- 0.75m
803	Natural: Mid orangey red clay with light yellowish orange sand lenses. Sparse (<10%) medium (c. 10-20cm in size) subrounded pebbles – evenly distributed throughout the fill. Occasional bands of mid orangey red, degraded iron stone – very sandy.	1.00m+
804	Wall: Red brick wall located in the eastern end of Trench 8. The wall is linear in plan with straight side shapes. The base shape is unknown as it remains unexcavated. The wall is aligned north-south. This wall is two skins wide, three courses deep and is stepped at the base on the eastern side. The bricks were handmade. The wall dates to the 18th/19th century and was possibly a garden or allotment wall. Each brick measured 0.22m in length, 0.11m in width and 0.07m deep. A light grey lime and ash mortar was used on this wall. The wall is 2.27m long, 0.23m wide and 0.40m high.	0.40m
805	Buried soil layer: Mixture of demolition and redeposited natural. Root activity noted.	0.75- 1.00m
806	Cut: Construction cut for wall, filled with 804 and 807 . The cut is oriented north-south and is linear in plan. Cut for wall 804 on east side, 0.15m gap on the left. Wall unexcavated. Length = 2.27m. Width = 0.15m.	0.85- 1.00m+
807	Fill: Fill of construction cut 806 . Packing for wall. Dark brown, sandy clay with lime mortar inclusions.	0.85- 1.00m+
808	Cut: Cut into buried soil layer 805 for wall 804 , filled with 809 . Cuts 811 . Cut is linear in plan and oriented north-south. Side shape of cut is concave with moderate side slopes. The base shape is unknown as it is	0.52- 0.85m



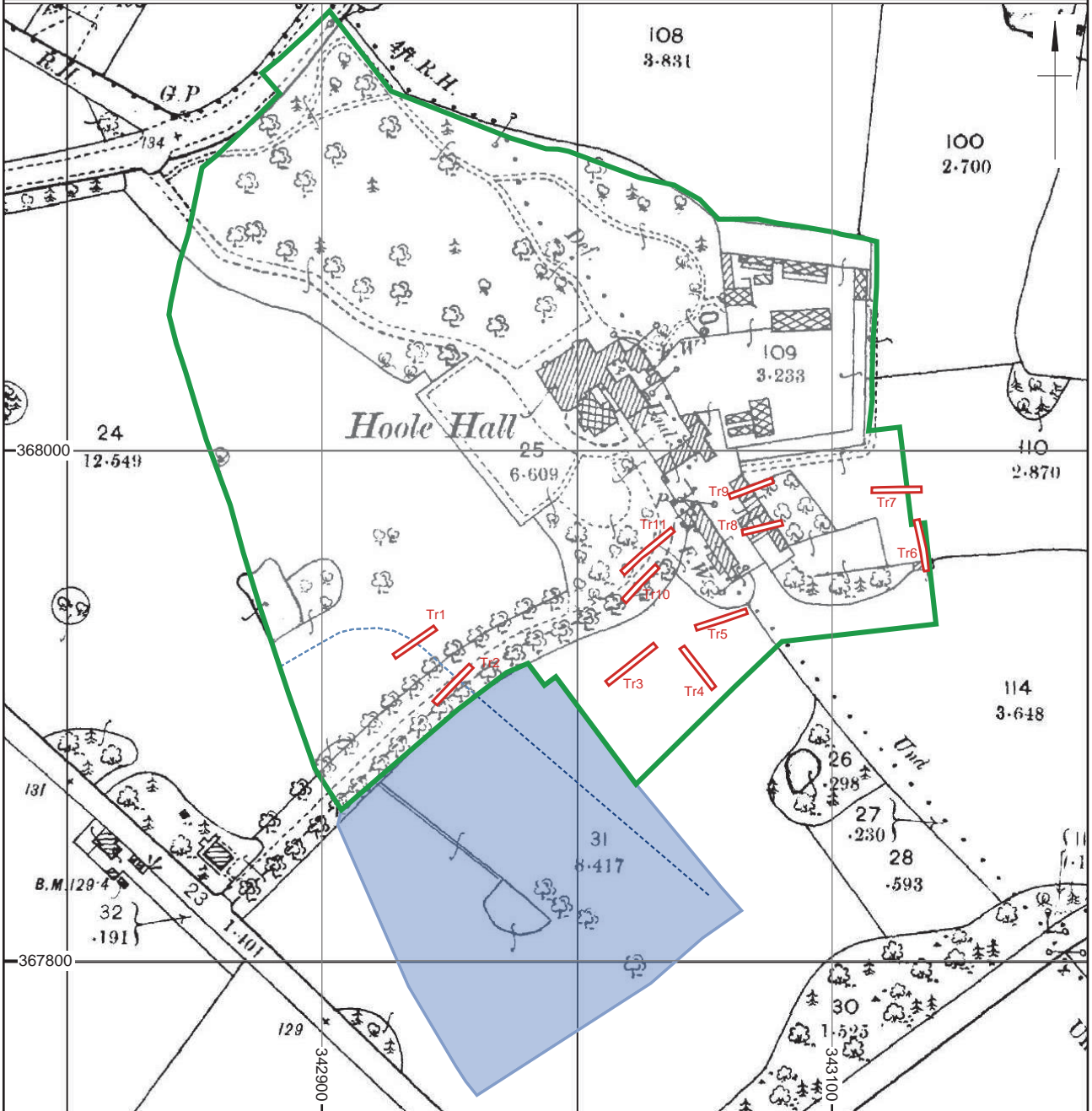
Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
	cut by 806 . Width = 0.38m.	
809	Fill: Fill of cut 808 , redeposited natural. Cut by 810 . Mid yellowish orange, silty clay. Backfill from wall construction.	0.52- 0.85m
810	Cut: Demolition cut, filled with 802 . Cuts 804 , 805 , 809 and 811 . Runs along the entire length and width of the trench. Shape in plan is unknown. The side shape of this cut is straight with irregular side slopes. The base of this cut is also irregular. Length = 20.0m. Width = 2.30m.	0.75m
811	Buried soil layer: Cut by 808 and 810 . Bark blackish brown, humic, silty sandy clay.	0.55m+
812	Wall: Red brick wall located in the centre of Trench 8. The wall is two skins wide and six courses deep. This linear wall is aligned southwest-northeast. The side shape of this wall is vertical. A light grey lime mortar was used on this wall. Bricks were handmade and stretcher on the bed. Same as 813 . This structure was not fully excavated so complete height is currently unknown. Brick dimensions: Length = 0.22m. Width = 0.11m. Depth = 0.07m. Wall dimensions: Length = 2.80m. Width = 0.24m. Depth = 0.50m.	0.50m+
813	Wall: Continuation of wall 812 . Cut by 810 . This linear wall is aligned southwest-northeast. The side shape of this wall is vertical. Composed of red bricks, two skins wide and four courses with a kerb. Light beige pink lime mortar has been used on this wall. Brick dimensions: Length = 0.22m. Width = 0.11m. Depth = 0.08m. Wall dimensions: Length = 2.00m. Width = 0.22m. Depth = 0.45m.	0.45m
814	Wall: Red brick wall and a dressed sandstone block, which defines the edge of a possible entrance. This linear wall is aligned southwest-northeast. The side shape of this wall is vertical. The wall is three skins wide and four courses high. Light beige lime mortar was used on this wall. Brick dimensions: Length = 0.22m. Width = 0.11m. Depth = 0.08m. Wall dimensions = Length = 1.28m. Width = 0.34m. Depth = 0.36m.	0.36m
815	Wall: Red brick wall and dressed sandstone block, same as 814 – make up of a possible entrance. The wall was not fully excavated. This linear wall is aligned southwest-northeast. The side shape of this wall is vertical. The sandstone block, which with 814 , could form an entrance. Brick dimensions: Length = 0.22m. Width = 0.11m. Depth = 0.08m. Sandstone block dimensions: Width = 0.24m. Depth = 0.50m.	0.50m
816	Cut: Construction cut for wall 812 . This linear cut is aligned southwest-northeast. Cut not fully excavated. Thus, depth of cut is unknown. Length = 2.80m. Width = 0.10m.	-
817	Packing: Packing for brick wall 812 , fill of construction cut 816 . Greyish brown, sandy silt.	-
Trench 9		Max depth: 1.13m
901	Tarmac	0- 0.06m
902	Made ground: Clinker based	0.06- 0.28m
903	Made ground: Ash layer	0.06m




Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
904	Made ground: Largely comprised of building material, particularly red bricks. Large well rounded irregular stones identified in this context.	0.06- 0.86m
905	Cut: Cut for modern drain, filled with 906 .	0.06- 0.58m
906	Fill: Fill of drain cut 905 . Modern drain covered with gravel.	0.06- 0.58m
907	Cut: Construction cut for wall 909 , filled with 908 . Cuts 912 and cut by 910 . This linear cut is aligned SE-NW. The side shape of this cut is straight and the side slope is steep. The base shape is flat. This construction cut and the associated wall 909 could be associated with Hoole Hall. Length = 0.91m+. Width = 0.62m. Depth = 0.15m.	0.06- 1.13m
908	Fill: Fill of cut 907 and possibly packing for wall 909 . Dark brown, sandy clay with lime mortar.	0.06- 1.13m
909	Wall: Red brick wall, cut by 910 . This linear wall is aligned north-south and has straight side shapes. The red bricks are hand made and are bonded together by a light grey lime and ash mortar with frequent lime inclusions. Bricks are closely bonded and are laid on the bed in a stretcher position. Three skins wide at top and four at the base – the foundation is splaying. Two courses survive. The base course is wider and laid on bed in a header position. Jointing is close and regular. The wall is possibly from a former outbuilding of the hall. Wall likely to date to the 18th-19th century. Dimension of bricks: Length = 0.18m. Width = 0.18m. Depth = 0.70m. Dimension of wall: Length = 0.98m. Width = 0.35m.	0.06- 0.96m
910	Cut: Demolition cut, filled with 911 . Cuts 907 , 908 and 909 . This linear wall is oriented southeast-northwest. Side shape of the cut is straight and the side slope is steep. The base shape is flat. The purpose of this cut was to demolish 909 . Length = 2.00m+. Width = 1.23m.	0.06- 0.90m
911	Fill: Secondary fill of demolition cut 910 . Dark brown, sandy clay with very rare small stone inclusions.	0.06- 0.90m
912	Natural: Light yellow/brown sandy clay	0.86- 0.95m
913	Wall: Red brick wall bonded to 916 . The side shape of this linear wall is straight. The red bricks are bonded together by a light grey lime mortar – same as 909 . Close bonding stretchers on bed. The base is wider than the top of the wall – varies between four (three courses plus curb – partially excavated) to six courses high. The wall is two skins wide and the jointing is close and regular. Wall is possibly related to Hoole Hall. Dimensions of bricks: Length = 0.22m. Width = 0.10m. Depth = 0.09m. Dimensions of walls = Length = 2.20m+. Width = 0.22m. Depth = 0.50m.	0.06- 0.50m
914	Cut: Construction cut for 913 , filled with 913 and 915 . This linear cut is aligned northeast-southwest. The side shape of the cut is vertical and the side slope is steep. The base of this cut is flat. The cut was not fully excavated, though it appears to be the same as (907) and, therefore, probably 0.15m in depth. Cut only appears for 913 , cut for 916 is not visible. Length = 2.20m+. Width = 0.42m.	0.06- 0.89m
915	Fill: Fill of construction cut 914 . Cut by, and packing for, 913 . Dark brown, sandy clay with lime mortar inclusions.	0.06- 0.89m



Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
916	Wall: Northeast-southwest running red brick wall, bonded to 913 . Red bricks are handmade and bonded together by a light grey lime mortar – same as 909 . Close bonded stretchers. Five courses high plus kerb. Jointing is close and regular. Wall was not fully excavated but it looked like the wall was two skins wide. Brick dimensions: Length = 0.22m. Width = 0.10m. Depth = 0.90m. Wall dimensions: Length = 0.50m. Width = 0.10m.	0.06- 0.26m
917	Demolition layer: Possibly from wall 909 . Levelled off and turned into made ground.	0.06- 0.37m
Trench 10		Max depth: 0.51m
10001	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown, humic fine sandy silty clay	0- 0.10m
10002	Made ground: Dark brown, silty sandy clay. Ceramic building material (CBM), stone and metallic inclusions identified in this context.	0.10- 0.51m
10003	Fill: Made ground from construction of car park at east end of the trench, fill of 10005 . Red, silty clay.	0.10- 0.51m
10004	Natural: Mid orangey red clay with light yellowish orange sand lenses. Sparse (<10%) medium (c. 10-20cm in size) subrounded pebbles – evenly distributed throughout the fill. Occasional bands of mid orangey red, degraded iron stone – very sandy.	0.51m+
10005	Cut: Cut for made ground area of car park construction, filled with 10003 .	0.10- 0.51m
Trench 11		Max depth: 0.80m
11001	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown, humic fine sandy silty clay	0- 0.15m
11002	Subsoil: Light greyish orangey brown, silty clay with sparse (<5%) small and medium (c. 5-15cm in size) subrounded pebbles	0.15- 0.80m
11003	Natural: Mid orangey red clay with light yellowish orange sand lenses. Sparse (<10%) medium (c. 10-20cm in size) subrounded pebbles – evenly distributed throughout the fill. Occasional bands of mid orangey red, degraded iron stone – very sandy.	0.80m+
11004	Made ground: Whiteish grey concrete, hardcore and mortar from car park construction	0.15- 0.60m
11005	Made ground: Black, silty sandy clay with CBM, gravel, tarmac and metallic inclusions. This layer derives from the demolition/construction of Hoole Hall.	0.60m+



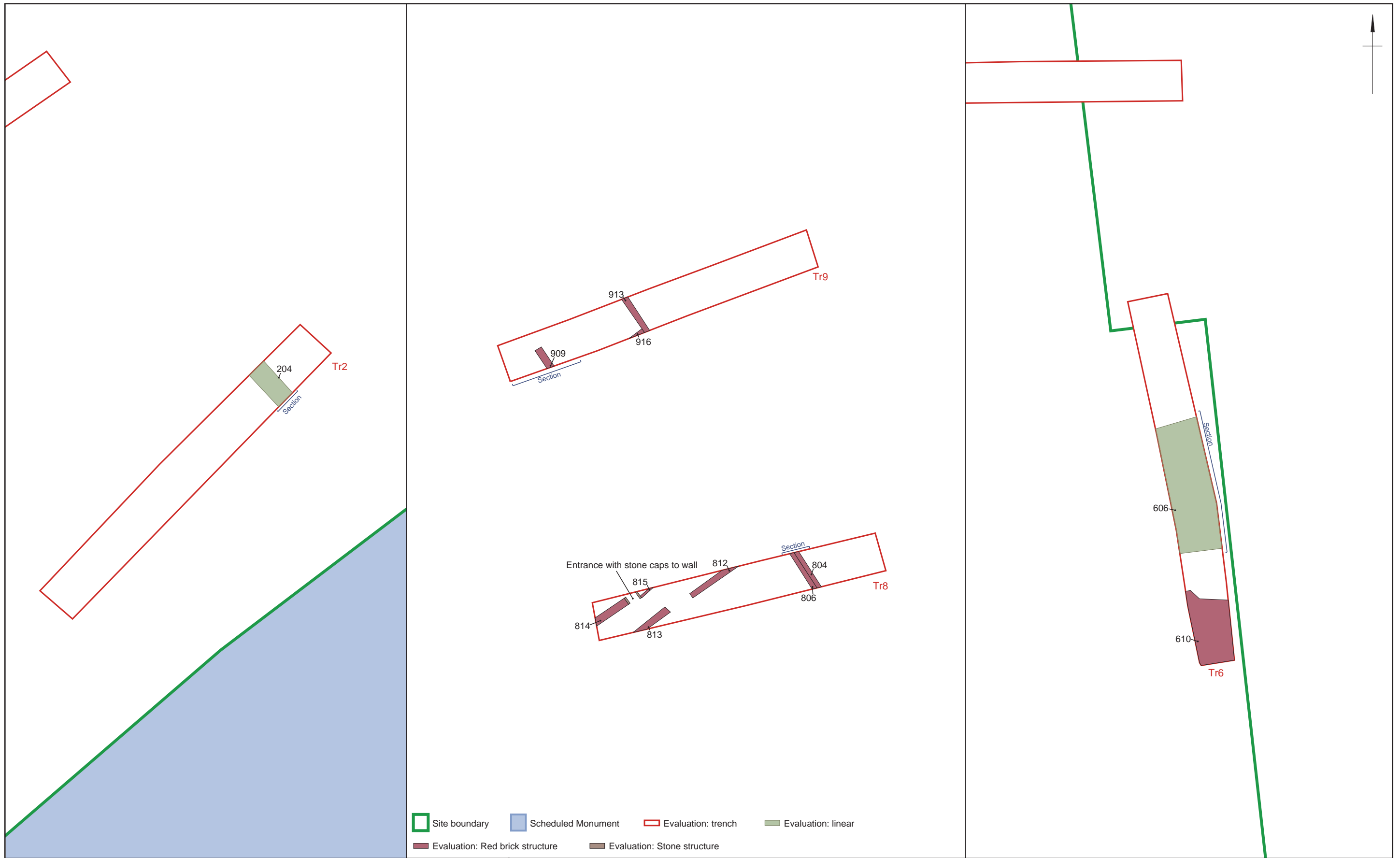
- Site boundary
 - Scheduled Monument
 - Scheduled Monument: Ditch
 - Evaluation trench
- 

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Site location and trench plan on 1899 Ordnance Survey Map

Figure 1



- Site boundary
- Scheduled Monument
- Evaluation: trench
- Evaluation: linear
- Evaluation: Red brick structure
- Evaluation: Stone structure

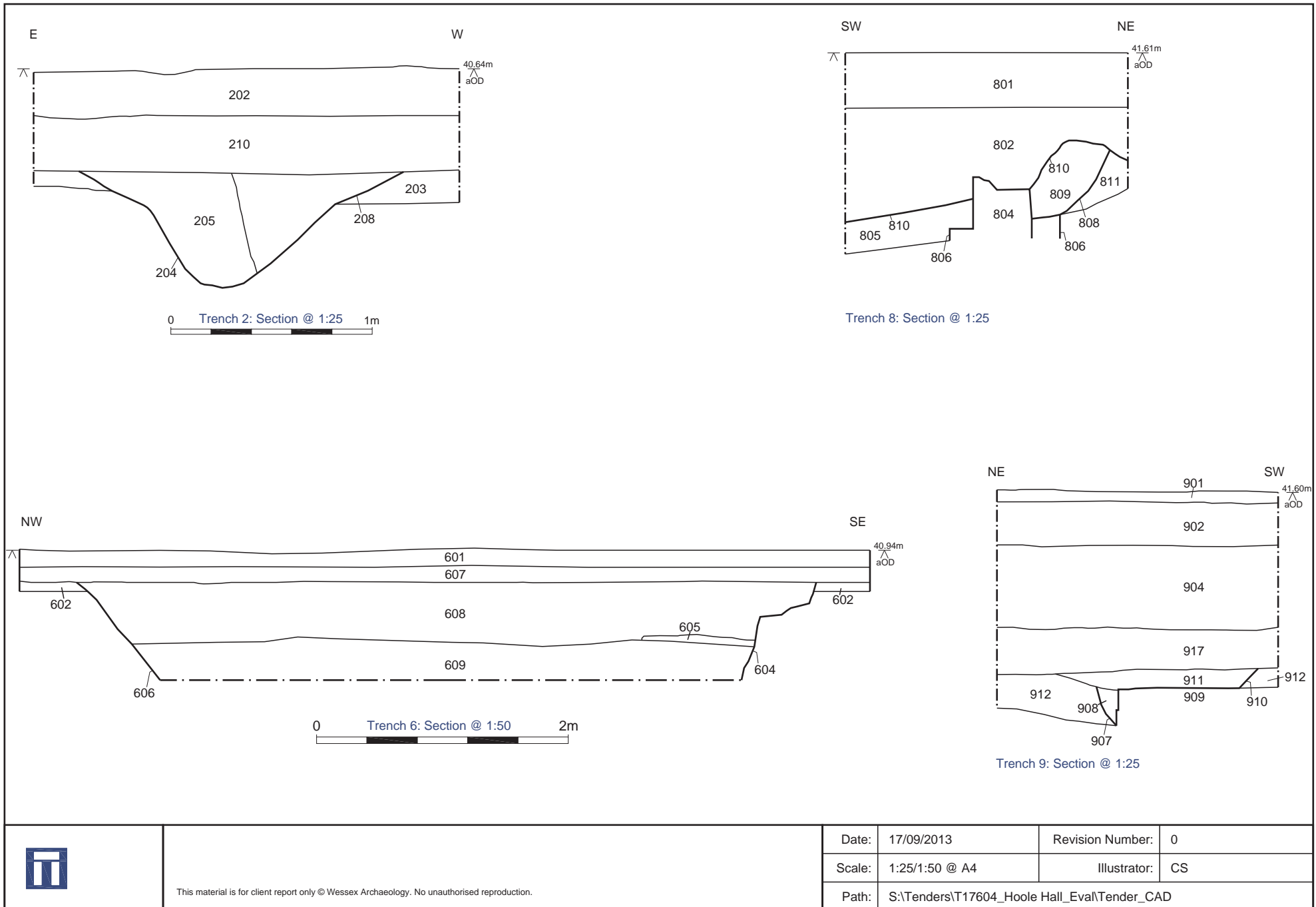


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Plan of Trenches 2, 6, 8 and 9

Figure 2



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Sections in Trenches 2, 6, 8 and 9

Figure 3



Plate 1: Trench 2, undated ditch truncated by Post-Medieval land drain, looking south



Plate 2: Trench 6, ditch **606** and red brick surface **610**, facing south


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Plate 3: Trench 8, red brick structures, facing west



Plate 4: Trench 8, structures **814** and **815** with stone capping, facing north



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Plate 5: Trench 9, red brick structures **913** and **916**, facing southwest



Plate 6: Musket ball recovered by metal detector

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salisbury rochester sheffield edinburgh



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