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# Bentley Modernisation Doncaster, South Yorkshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Ref: 101330.01  
September 2013



# **Bentley Modernisation Doncaster, South Yorkshire**

## **Archaeological Evaluation**

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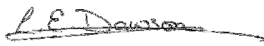


**September 2013**

**101330.01**



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# Bentley Modernisation, Doncaster, South Yorkshire

## Archaeological Evaluation

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# **Bentley Modernisation, Doncaster, South Yorkshire**

## **Archaeological Evaluation**

### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by AECOM to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Cementation Skanska Ltd. Bentley Works, Piping Lane (east), Bentley, Doncaster (hereafter 'the Site'), situated at NGR 456141 405823. Planning consent (12/01056/FULM) had been granted for the modernisation of the Site, subject to the archaeological investigation works. The archaeological evaluation followed on from an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (AECOM, 2012) and Written Scheme of Investigation (AECOM 2013), which identified several prehistoric cropmarks to the west of the Site. There is limited evidence for activity during the prehistoric period within the area of investigation, with the possible continuation of the identified cropmarks into the Site targeted by the evaluation.

The Site is currently occupied by the Skanska Cementation Works comprising offices and workshops with associated machinery and cranes. Prior to the Site being established, the area was agricultural land.

Three trenches were excavated in which no archaeological features were identified. This is likely due to the area having been only largely used for agriculture until the development of the Site in the late 1940s when groundworks and levelling of the site took place.

The Site archive is currently retained in the Wessex Archaeology Sheffield office under the project code 101330. The archive will be deposited with Doncaster Museum in due course.



# **Bentley Modernisation, Doncaster, South Yorkshire**

## **Archaeological Evaluation**

### **Acknowledgements**

This project was commissioned by AECOM on behalf of Cementation Skanska Ltd and Wessex Archaeology are grateful to Matthew Parker in this regard. The archaeological works were monitored by Jim McNeil of South Yorkshire Archaeology Service.

Fieldwork was undertaken by Philip Roberts and Charlotte Burton. The report was compiled by Philip Roberts and the illustrations by Chris Swales. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Lucy Dawson and Chris Swales.



# Bentley Modernisation, Doncaster, South Yorkshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by AECOM on behalf of Cementation Skanska Ltd. to undertake a programme of Archaeological Evaluation and reporting on land at the Cementation Skanska Ltd. Bentley Works, Piping Lane (east), Bentley, Doncaster (hereafter 'the Site'), situated at NGR 456141 405823.
- 1.1.2 An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) was produced for the Site which identified a number of non-designated sites including several cropmarks to the west of the Bentley Site (AECOM, 2012). These were presumed to be later prehistoric in date and extrapolation of these linear cropmarks suggests they may continue into the Site at Bentley. As a result of the archaeological potential of the Site AECOM produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (2013), which was prepared in accordance with current industry best practice (IfA 2008a-b and 2010), and approved by South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS). A Project Design for the Archaeological Evaluation was also produced and approved by SYAS (Wessex Archaeology, 2013).
- 1.1.3 Planning consent (12/01056/FULM) has been granted for the modernisation of the Site subject to archaeological investigation works. The archaeological works comprised three trenches located within the area of the proposed groundworks. One of these, Trench 2, was positioned to find possible linear cropmarks that may continue into the Site from land to the west. Trenches 1 and 2 were intended to measure 40 x 2m and Trench 3 30 x 2m. However, due to constraints caused by services and diesel oil leaks these were amended.

#### 1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site is located to the north of Piping Lane (east), within the centre of Bentley, with Doncaster to the south. The Site is occupied by the Skanska Cementation Works comprising offices and workshops with associated machinery and cranes and covers 2.4 hectares.
- 1.2.2 The solid geology comprises Roxby Formation Calcareous Mudstone deposits (AECOM, 2013).

### 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

#### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following is summarised from the recent DBA produced by AECOM (2012).





## 2.2 Designated heritage sites

- 2.2.1 The Radcliffe moated site lies within 1km of the Site. The Scheduled Monument post-dates the nearby motte and bailey castle and acted as residence for the manor of the deserted medieval village of Langthwaite. There were also two listed buildings located within the study area. These are the Grade II listed Church of St Peter located to the southeast of the Skanska Cementation Works Site and the Bentley Pinfold, a Grade II listed building dating to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## 2.3 Prehistoric and Romano-British

- 2.3.1 No early prehistoric remains were identified within the Site or study area.
- 2.3.2 One find spot of a Neolithic polished axe has been recorded to the east of the Site. This is the earliest archaeological evidence from the area. Several more axes have been located in the wider parish of Bentley although outside of the study area.
- 2.3.3 There is one recorded site which may contain evidence of Bronze Age activity within the area. This is part of the cropmark complex located to the west of the Site. Whilst the larger enclosures located on the northern half are presumed to be of Iron Age or Romano-British origin, the southern portion of the cropmarks are atypical when compared with these Iron Age enclosures. Based on a comparative assessment with similar sites previously dated by archaeological investigations, they can be more readily compared to ploughed out Bronze Age barrows, or even a hengiform enclosure of the preceding Neolithic.
- 2.3.4 There are three sites of Iron Age date recorded nearby. These cropmark enclosure sites may represent multi-phase Iron Age and Romano-British habitation or solely date to one of the periods. However, as no archaeological investigations have occurred, they are dated to these periods on a comparative basis with similar cropmark sites which have been scientifically dated. The cropmark enclosures located in closest proximity to the proposed development may extend into the proposed development Site.
- 2.3.5 A total of six find spots have been recorded from the Roman period comprising Roman coinage including one hoard. The presence of the Roman road (Roman Ridge Doncaster to Tadcaster) running southeast to northwest along the ridgeway would suggest that the area was utilised in some form although to what extent is unclear. The closest Roman settlement of any size is located at Doncaster so the area here at Bentley could be considered as a hinterland and only sporadically exploited, mainly for agricultural purposes.

## 2.4 Medieval

- 2.4.1 The village of Bentley is named in the Domesday Book as part of Arksey. Bentley has two entries in the Domesday Book, possibly due to Langthwaite being within the immediate proximity as the second set of lords of the manor for Bentley are the same as for Langthwaite. The former medieval core of Bentley, no longer legible in the present day layout of the town, was located close to Moat Hills, Arksey Road and High Street. The moated site at Moat Hills, again located marginally outside of the study area, is scheduled and is of atypical size and scale for this region, suggesting it was a fairly important site during its active lifespan.
- 2.4.2 Three find spots have been identified wholly consisting of pennies dating from the reign of King Edward III in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. These have all been recorded as being found to the south of Langthwaite Dike and Radcliffe moat in the area containing the moated site and a former medieval village



## 2.5 Post medieval

- 2.5.1 There are seven sites of post-medieval date recorded within the study area as defined by the DBA. The seven known sites include two listed buildings. These are the Church of St Peter constructed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and Bentley Pinfold probably dating to the earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century. Both are Grade II listed. Other examples of a post-medieval date included The Bentley Mill – a water mill of 17<sup>th</sup> century date, which served the settlement and could have been built over earlier mills. The structure is however no longer extant. In addition, a barn located on Church Street contains 17<sup>th</sup>-century timber framing concealed beneath later structural elements. The Doncaster and Wakefield railway dates from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, having opened in 1866.
- 2.5.2 Two recorded sites date to the modern period. These comprise a memorial fountain at Bentley Park, which was erected c. 1928 for the Miners Welfare Committee, and World War II air raid shelters, visible on aerial photographs.
- 2.5.3 The Skanska Works moved to Bentley in 1922, originally being located on the eastern side of the railway, only moving to the Site following World War II. The first structure on the Site is depicted on the 1948 OS map. The development of the Site expands from the 1950s onwards.

## 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1 The general aim of the project was to assess the presence and survival of archaeological, geoarchaeological and/or paleoenvironmental remains.
- 3.1.2 The objectives were:
- to determine the extent, condition, character, significance and date of any archaeological deposits encountered that would be removed or disturbed by groundworks;
  - to accurately record the location and stratigraphy of areas excavated;
  - to prepare a comprehensive record and report of any archaeological deposits or structures or artefacts identified;
  - to gain an understanding of the development of the Site;
  - to put the results of the investigation in their local, regional and national contexts.

## 4 METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 General

- 4.1.1 The proposed trench areas were scanned prior to excavation using a CAT and Genny by K Rouse Civil Engineers Ltd in order to locate any drainage pipes, service pipes or cables. Known utility plans were provided by Skanska Cementation Ltd.
- 4.1.2 Existing concrete slab was removed prior to excavation. Subsequently, the overburden was removed using a back-acting excavator fitted with a toothless or ditching bucket only, working under the continuous direct supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist.



The overburden was removed in a series of level spits down to the level of the upper archaeological horizon or the level of the natural geology, whichever was reached first.

- 4.1.3 All spoil was subsequently visually scanned for artefacts, however, none were recovered.
- 4.1.4 All work was carried out in accordance with Wessex Archaeology guidelines and industry best practice (IfA, 2008 a & b, 2010).

## 4.2 Monitoring

- 4.2.1 South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS) monitored the archaeological works. Jim McNeil of SYAS visited Site after the completion of the evaluation in order to review the trenches on completion of the fieldwork.

## 4.3 Recording

- 4.3.1 All deposits encountered were recorded using Wessex Archaeology *pro forma* recording sheets and a continuous numbering system unique to each individual trench. A stratigraphic matrix was compiled to record the relationships between deposits. Plans were recorded using an RTK GPS system showing each individual trench and any archaeological interventions that were undertaken. Other plans were not deemed necessary due to the sterile nature of the Site. Sections were drawn on *pro forma* trench recording sheeting, and annotated with full measurements.
- 4.3.2 The spot height of all principal features and levels were calculated in metres relative to Ordnance Datum (OD), correct to two decimal places and recorded with an RTK GPS system.
- 4.3.3 Photographs were taken as necessary to produce a photographic record consisting of 35mm monochrome prints and colour transparencies. Digital images were taken to support report preparation.

## 4.4 Specialist strategies

- 4.4.1 Strategies for the recovery of finds and environment samples were included in the Project Design (Wessex Archaeology 2013), but were not required during fieldwork.

# 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

## 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The following is a summary of the results of the evaluation. Detailed descriptions of all contexts can be found in **Appendix 1**.

## 5.2 Trench 1

- 5.2.1 Trench 1 was located on the western edge of the Site, parallel to the existing fence line marking the boundary of the nearby housing estate. It was orientated northwest-southeast and measured 40 x 2m and excavated to a depth of 1.26m (**Figures 1 and 2**).
- 5.2.2 Natural, **107**, was recorded at a depth of 1.03m and consisted of a mid-orange brown silty clay with some small, sub-rounded stone inclusions. It is worth noting that within **107** a large area of contaminated natural was discovered and recorded as **108**. It is likely this occurred due to the leakage of diesel oil over time which was stored nearby on Site. The natural was overlain by made ground deposit **106** which was found along the entirety of the trench and comprised a dark brown grey silty clay at a depth of 0.81m. No dating



material was found within this deposit. Above this a series of made-ground and levelling deposits were found. These varied greatly along the length of the trench and are evidence of the Site being built up using whatever material was to hand. The deposits above **106** all contained scraps of corroded iron and occasional wood fragments. No ceramics or clay pipe were recovered. The Site yard surface (**102**) was laid over these made-ground layers, which consisted of a white stone hardcore deposit which measured 0.12m in thickness. A topsoil (**101**) which comprised a fine brown sandy silt sporadically covered the area.

5.2.3 No finds or archaeological features were identified in Trench 1.

### 5.3 Trench 2

5.3.1 Trench 2 was located to the south of Trench 1 (**Figures 1 and 2**). It was orientated northwest-southeast and was positioned based on extrapolated cropmark evidence which was thought to continue into the Site. The archaeological excavations could find no evidence of these possible features. Trench 2 measured 41.5 x 2m and was excavated to a depth of 0.75m. Due to contamination and leakage of diesel oil, a bund measuring 11 x 2m was created in the centre of the trench in order to prevent further leakage. The bund area was not excavated to natural (**204**) as the level of diesel contamination was deemed too hazardous by both Wessex Archaeology staff and Skanska Site Manager.

5.3.2 Natural (**204**) was found at a varying depth of 0.52-0.75m and comprised a mid-orange brown clay sand. As with Trench 1 a series of made-ground deposits were discovered, varying in thickness across the Site from 0.12-0.63m. Above these was a white stone hardcore deposit (**202**) measuring 0.28m in thickness; similar to the hardcore deposit **102** found in Trench 1. A concrete slab surface (**201**) extended over the area of Trench 2 and varied in depth from 0.12-0.2m, forming part of the yard surface of the Site.

5.3.3 No finds or archaeological features were identified in Trench 2.

### 5.4 Trench 3

5.4.1 Trench 3 was located east of, and parallel to Trench 2 and was orientated northwest to southeast and was excavated to a depth of 1.16m (**Figures 1 and 2**).

5.4.2 The depth from the top of the trench to natural (**306**) varied between 0.59m at the south of the trench to 0.82m at the north of the trench and consisted of a mid-orange brown clay sand with occasional sub rounded stone inclusions. As with elsewhere on the Site, a series of made-ground deposits were recorded of varying materials ranging in thickness from 0.36-0.59m. Of these made-ground deposits **313** is worthy of further mention. Found at a depth of 0.45m and measuring 3.1m in length, it consisted of a hard grey concrete like substance with straw inclusions. This deposit could not be removed during excavation. A concrete slab surface (**301**) extended over the south end of the trench measuring 6.9m in length and 0.23m in thickness. The remainder of the trench was overlain with two white hardcore deposits (**307** and **308**) which butted **301**. These are similar to **102** found in Trench 1 and while recorded as two separate deposits it is likely they represent the same event. However, **308** appears to have been stained grey, possibly by diesel oil or other contaminants.

5.4.3 No finds or archaeological features were identified in Trench 3.



## **6 ARTEFACTUAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

### **6.1 Introduction**

- 6.1.1 No finds were recovered from the Site, and due to the lack of significant archaeological deposits no environmental samples were taken.

## **7 DISCUSSION**

### **7.1 Summary**

- 7.1.1 The evaluation identified no archaeological features within the three excavated trenches. Any remains may have been removed by previous groundworks, but the lack of residual finds is indicative of a Site away from any focus of settlement. The only area not investigated was an 11m segment within **Trench 2** which was unexcavated due to dangerous levels of diesel contamination. However, given the level of truncation across the Site it seems unlikely that any archaeological features would survive. The made ground deposits within all three trenches contained scraps of ferrous waste and rotting wood and are of a likely Post Medieval date.

## **8 STORAGE AND CURATION**

### **8.1 Museum**

- 8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Doncaster Museum. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project, under an appropriate accession number.

### **8.2 Preparation of Archive**

- 8.2.1 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 Doncaster Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 8.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared.

### **8.3 Discard Policy**

- 8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (Society of Museum Archaeologists 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.
- 8.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

### **8.4 Security Copy**

- 8.4.1 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.

## **8.5 Copyright**

8.5.1 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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## 10 APPENDICES

### 10.1 Appendix 1: Context descriptions

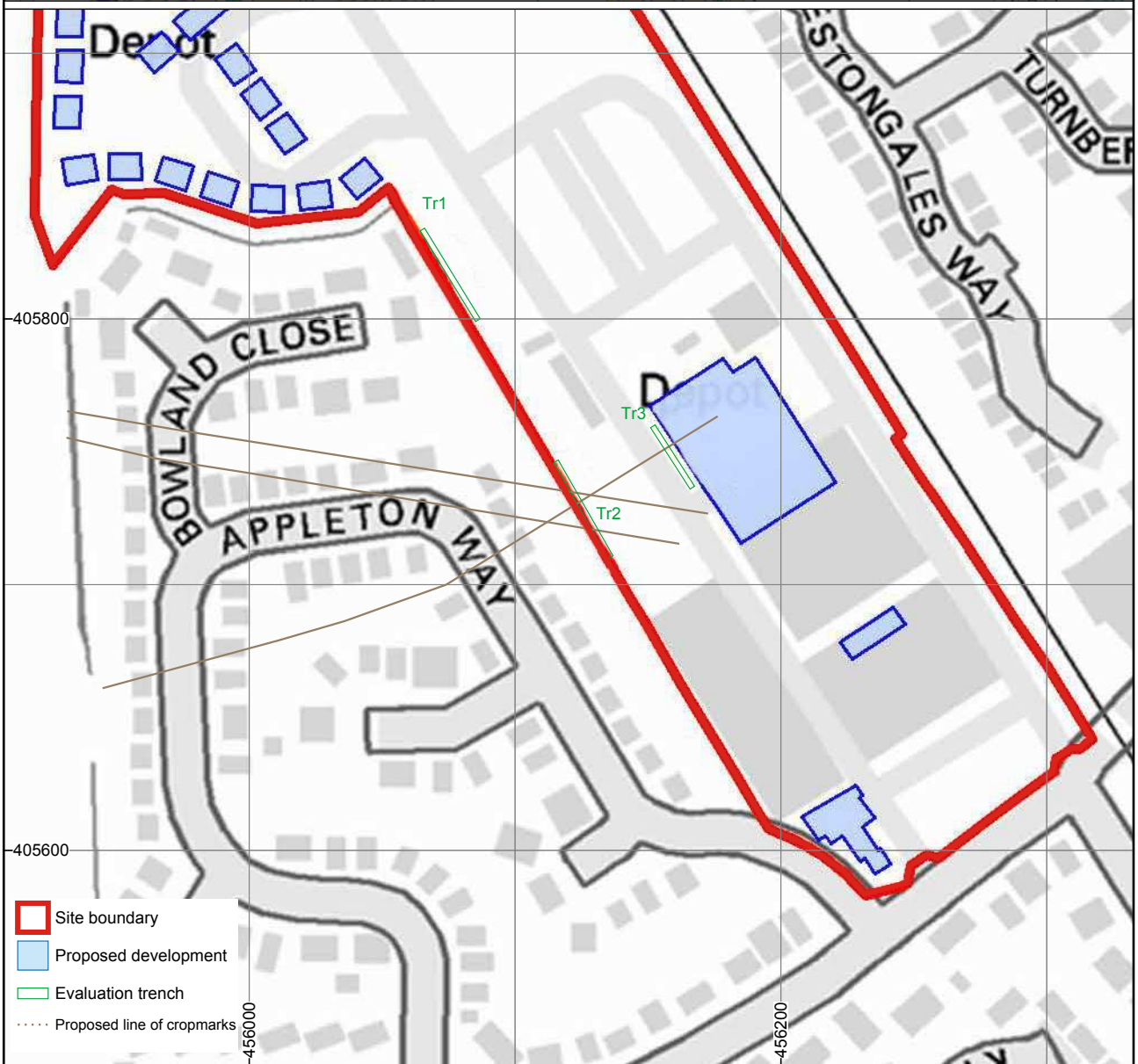
Trench 1 (40 x 2m)			
Depth (m) bgl	Context	Description	Interpretation
0.0-0.1	101	Mid-greyish brown sandy silt deposit with 20% subangular stones.	Windblown deposit
0.1-0.22	102	Light whiteish grey stone hardcore layer	Made-ground
0.22-0.35	103	Light yellowish white stone hardcore layer	Made-ground
0.35-0.49	104	Dark geryish brown, compacted sandy silt. Mixed material containing pebbles, brick fragments, metal, wood etc	Made-ground
0.49-0.81	105	Mottled mid-orange brown silty clay layer – re-deposited natural	Made-ground
0.81-1.03	106	Dark brownish grey silty clay	Made-ground
1.03+	107	Mid-orange brown silty clay	Natural
1.03+	108	Contaminated natural with diesel	Natural
0.18-0.68	109	Clinker	Made-ground
0.06-0.46	110	Concrete surface/layer	Made-ground
0.06-0.42	111	Concrete surface/layer	Made-ground
0.18-0.38	112	Mid-grey brown mixed deposit of stone hardcore	Made-ground
0.38-0.78	113	Mid-greyish brown silty clay with lense of reddish brown deposit	Made-ground
0.45-0.65	114	Mid-reddish brown highly compacted layer	Made -ground

Trench 2 (41.5 x 2m)			
Depth (m) bgl	Context	Description	Interpretation
0-0.2	201	Concrete – vaying in depth	Made-ground/Surface
0.12-0.4	202	White stone hardcore levelling layer	Made-ground
0.4-0.52	203	Dark brownish grey silty clay layer	Made-ground
0.52+	204	Mid-brownish orange clayey sand	Natural
0.2-0.46	205	Dark greyish black layer. 40% subangular stone inclusions	Made-ground
0.46-0.56	206	Mid-brownish orange sandy silt with 20% subangular stone inclusions	Made-ground
0.56-0.68	207	Dark reddish brown sandy silt with 20% subangular stone inclusions	Made-gound
0.68-0.75	208	Dark brownish grey silty clay with 1% subangular stone inclusions	Made-ground





Trench 3 (28 x 2m)			
Depth (m) bgl	Context	Description	Interpretation
0-0.23	301	Concrete slab	Made-ground/Surface
0.23-0.29	302	Mid-reddish brown sandy silt	Made-ground
0.29-0.41	303	Mid-whitish grey mixed material	Made-ground
0.41-0.53	304	Compact mid-greyish brown silty caly	Made-ground
0.53-0.59	305	Compact mid-bluish grey silty clay	Made-ground
0.59+	306	Mid-orange brown clayey silt	Natural
0-0.09	307	Compacted white stone hardcore – contaminated by diesel	Made-ground
0.09-0.24	308	Compacted white stone hardcore	Made-ground
0.4-0.64	309	Compacted dark greyish brown sandy silt. Very mixed with lenses of redeposited natural, some slag, wood etc	Made-ground
0.64-0.82	310	Mid-bluish grey silty clay	Made-ground
0.82+	311	Diesel stained natural	Contaminated natural
0.24-0.4	312	Mid-reddish brown sandy silt with inclusions of wood, slag, etc	Made-ground
0.45-1	313	Concrete with straw inclusions	Made-ground
0.22-0.28	314	Highly compacted dark blackish grey sandy silt. Similar to (315) and (317)	Made-ground
0.46-0.52	315	Highly compacted dark greyish black sandy silt. Same as (317)	Made-ground
0.52-0.58	316	Mid-whitish grey layer of possible rotted straw/wood within concrete	Made-ground
0.58-0.66	317	Highly compacted dark greyish black sandy silt. Same as (315)	Made-ground
0.66-0.84	318	Compact mid-greyish brown silty clay. Same as (304) and similar to (310)	Made-ground



- Site boundary
- Proposed development
- Evaluation trench
- Proposed line of cropmarks

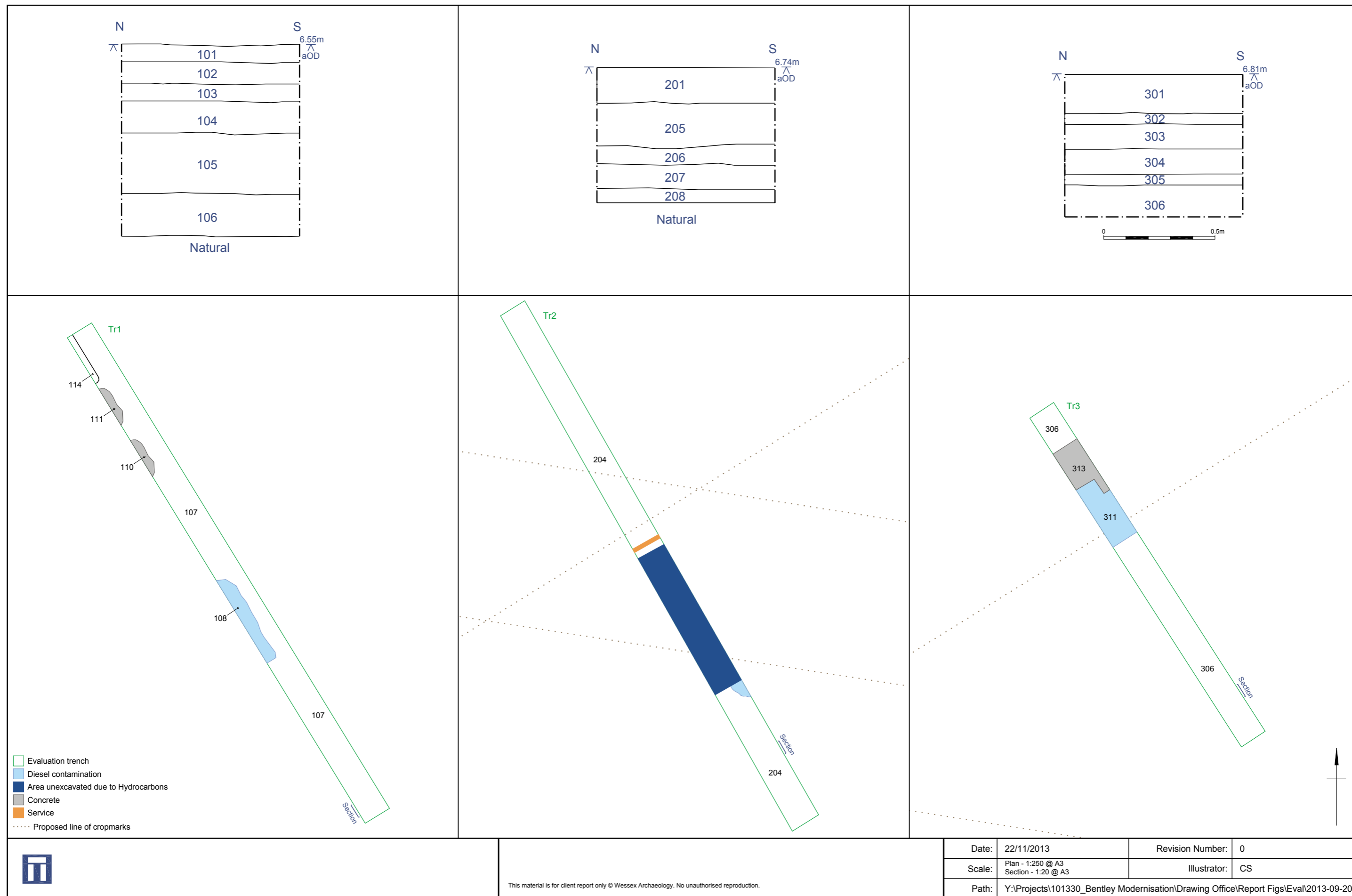
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Site location and trench plan

Figure 1



Trench plans and sample sections

Figure 2

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Plate 1: General view of Trench 1 looking east



Plate 2: Representative southwest facing section of Trench 1 showing made-ground


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Plate 3: Representative northeast facing section of Trench 1 showing differences in made-ground



Plate 4: General view of southeast end of Trench 2, looking northwest


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Plate 5: General view of northwest end of Trench 2 looking northwest



Plate 6: Representative southwest facing section of Trench 2



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Plate 7: General view of Trench 3 looking southeast



Plate 8: Representative northeast facing section of Trench 3

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