



making sense of heritage

Cantley Sycamore Primary School, Doncaster, South Yorkshire

Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample



Ref: 106380.01
November 2014



**Cantley Sycamore Primary School,
Doncaster, South Yorkshire**

Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample

Prepared for:

Cassidy and Ashton Group Ltd
7 East Cliff
Preston
PR1 3JE

Prepared by:

Wessex Archaeology
Unit R6 Riverside Block
Sheaf Bank Business Park
Prospect Road
Sheffield
S2 3EN

www.wessexarch.co.uk

November 2014

106380.01



Quality Assurance

Project Code	106380	Accession Code	TBC	Client Ref.	N/A
Planning Application Ref.	14/00591/4FUL	Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)	SE 461293, 401396		

Version	Status*	Prepared by	Checked and Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
v01	I	JB	CS	<i>C. Swale</i>	05.11.2014
File:	S:\PROJECTS\106380_Reports\v1Archaeological strip, map and sample v1_JB_20141105				
v02	I	JB	CS	<i>C. Swale</i>	06.11.2014
File:	S:\PROJECTS\106380_Reports\v2 Archaeological strip, map and sample v2_JB_20141106				
v03	I	JB	CS	<i>C. Swale</i>	06.11.2014
File:	S:\PROJECTS\106380_Reports\v3 Archaeological strip, map and sample v3_JB_20141106				
v04	E	AKC	RJO	<i>Richard O'Nean</i>	30.11.2014
File:	S:\PROJECTS\106380_Reports\v4 Archaeological strip, map and sample v4_AKC_20141117				
File:					

* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

DISCLAIMER

THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT WAS DESIGNED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A REPORT TO AN INDIVIDUAL CLIENT AND WAS PREPARED SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THAT CLIENT. THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT DOES NOT NECESSARILY STAND ON ITS OWN AND IS NOT INTENDED TO NOR SHOULD IT BE RELIED UPON BY ANY THIRD PARTY. TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY WILL NOT BE LIABLE BY REASON OF BREACH OF CONTRACT NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE (WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OCCASIONED TO ANY PERSON ACTING OR OMITTING TO ACT OR REFRAINING FROM ACTING IN RELIANCE UPON THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT ARISING FROM OR CONNECTED WITH ANY ERROR OR OMISSION IN THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THE REPORT. LOSS OR DAMAGE AS REFERRED TO ABOVE SHALL BE DEEMED TO INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, ANY LOSS OF PROFITS OR ANTICIPATED PROFITS DAMAGE TO REPUTATION OR GOODWILL LOSS OF BUSINESS OR ANTICIPATED BUSINESS DAMAGES COSTS EXPENSES INCURRED OR PAYABLE TO ANY THIRD PARTY (IN ALL CASES WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OR ANY OTHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS OR DAMAGE.



Cantley Sycamore Primary School, Doncaster, South Yorkshire

Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample

Contents

Summary.....	iii
Acknowledgements.....	iv
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Project background	1
1.2 Site location, geology and topography	1
2 Archaeological background.....	1
2.1 Introduction	1
2.2 Prehistoric and Roman periods.....	1
2.3 Saxon and medieval periods.....	2
2.4 Post medieval and modern periods.....	2
3 Methodology.....	3
3.1 Aims and objectives	3
3.2 Machine excavation	3
3.3 Sample excavation & recording	3
4 Archaeological results.....	3
4.1 Introduction	3
4.2 General stratigraphy.....	3
4.3 Archaeological features.....	4
5 Finds	4
5.1 Pottery.....	4
5.2 Magnetic micro-residues (fuel ash slag and spheroidal hammerslag)	4
6 Environmental evidence.....	5
6.1 Introduction	5
6.2 Charred plant remains and wood charcoal	5
6.3 Further potential	6
7 Discussion.....	7
7.1 Summary.....	7
7.2 Recommendations	7
7.3 Conclusion	8



8	Storage and curation	8
8.1	Museum	8
8.2	Discard policy	8
8.3	Security copy	8
9	References	9
9.1	Bibliography	9
10	Appendices	10
10.1	Appendix 1: Context description	10
10.2	Appendix 2: OASIS form	11

Figures

- Figure 1: Site location
- Figure 2: Plan of excavated areas
- Figure 3: Plan and sections of curvilinear gully **112** (**108**, **109** and **110**)
- Figure 4: Plan and section of ditch **104**
- Figure 5: Plan and section of ditch or gully **117**
- Figure 6: Plan and section of ditch or gully **115** and post-hole **113**

Plates

- Plate 1: Shot of curvilinear gully **112** from the north
- Plate 2: Shot of curvilinear gully **112** from the south
- Plate 3: East facing section of ditch **104**
- Plate 4: Shot of ditch **117**, view from the southwest
- Plate 5: West facing section of ditch **115**



Cantley Sycamore Primary School, Doncaster, South Yorkshire

Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample

Summary

Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by Cassidy and Ashton (hereafter 'the Client'), on behalf of the Education Funding Agency, to undertake an archaeological strip, map and sample on land at Cantley Sycamore Primary School, Doncaster, hereafter 'the Site' (NGR 461293 401396; Figure 1). The archaeological work is required as a condition of planning consent for development at the Site (Application Number 14/00591/4FUL), which includes road widening and the provision of extra parking.

The investigation revealed five archaeological features: one section of curvilinear gully, one short length of linear ditch, two sections of a smaller ditch and a post-hole. Only one feature, a ditch ditch, contained dateable material; two sherds of Romano-British pottery, one of which was dated to the 3rd to 4th century AD. Fragments of fuel ash slag and two possible fragments of spheroidal hammer-slag, the latter typically associated with smithing, were also recovered from one ditch.

The fragmentary nature of the excavated areas and lack of dateable material recovered precludes a more detailed interpretation of the findings. However, the features are consistent in form with those identified during previous 2003 and 2005 excavations to the east; these revealed evidence of domestic activity and agricultural land use ranging from the late 1st to early 4th century AD. The dateable material recorded during the current investigation fits into the latter part of this occupation sequence.

Additional work has been recommended on the wood charcoal recovered from three features to provide additional information on the fuel management at the Site. Radiocarbon dating could be carried out on charcoal recovered, although it is felt that the usefulness of this may be tempered by the long life of the material present. It is anticipated that the minimum requirement for additional work will be a short report prepared for inclusion in *Archaeology in South Yorkshire*. The requirement for additional work and for any subsequent reporting should be discussed with the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS).

The archive from the fieldwork is currently stored at the Wessex Archaeology Sheffield office. Doncaster Museum is the intended museum depository.



Cantley Sycamore Primary School, Doncaster, South Yorkshire

Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Cassidy and Ashton Group Ltd for commissioning the project on behalf of the Education Funding Agency. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Horseman Construction Ltd for their help on site and Andrew Lines from South Yorkshire Archaeology Services for monitoring the work on behalf of the local planning authority.

The field work was conducted by Jonathan Buttery. The pottery was assessed by Lorraine Mepham and the magnetic residues by Dr Rod Mackenzie. The environmental samples were assessed by Ellen Simmons. The report was compiled by Jonathan Buttery and Alex Cassels with the illustrations produced by Alix Sperr. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Richard O'Neill and Lucy Dawson.



Cantley Sycamore Primary School, Doncaster, South Yorkshire

Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by Cassidy and Ashton (hereafter 'the Client') to undertake an archaeological strip, map and sample on land at Cantley Sycamore Primary School, Doncaster, hereafter 'the Site' (NGR 461293 401396; **Figure 1**). The archaeological work is required as a condition of planning consent for development at the Site (Application Number 14/00591/4FUL), which includes road widening and the provision of extra parking.

1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) set out the strategy and methodology by which Wessex Archaeology (2014a) would implement the archaeological strip, map and sample. The WSI was prepared in accordance with current industry guidance (ClfA 2014a-c), and was submitted to the Client and South Yorkshire Archaeological Service (SYAS), advisors to the local planning authority Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council (DMBC), for approval.

1.2 Site location, geology and topography

1.2.1 The Site is located at Cantley Sycamore Primary School, Doncaster. It is bounded to the north by St Wilfrid's Road, to the east by Rosemary Close and to the west by Somerton Drive. Each of these feature housing estates, while the southern extent of site abuts school playing fields.

1.2.2 The bedrock geology of the Site is Nottingham Castle Sandstone Formation Sandstone, formed approximately 246-251 million years ago in a river dominated environment (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). No superficial deposits have been recorded.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following information is derived from online sources and a visit to the SYAS Historical Environment Record (HER).

2.2 Prehistoric and Roman periods

2.2.1 Evidence for early prehistoric activity in the area is limited to a number of individual find spots and a possible multi-period enclosure. The find spots include a Lower Palaeolithic Acheulean hand axe to the northeast of the Site and two Neolithic flints to the south and west of the Site.



- 2.2.2 The later prehistoric and particularly Roman periods see a considerable increase in the level of recorded activity in the area. To the north of the Site are a possible Iron Age enclosure and a double ditch enclosure of Roman date.
- 2.2.3 Cantley lies within an area of extensive Roman activity. Three Roman roads and three groups of Roman pottery kilns are known from the immediate area. Rossington Roman Fort, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM no. 1004823) lies approximately 2.2km southeast of the Site. A Roman road links this fort to the main Roman fort at Doncaster and is followed by part of the modern Bawtry Road. Close to the fort is the Roman potteries site at Cantley Rossington Bridge (SAM no. 1004787). Evidence of Roman pottery production also surrounds the Site, with a large number of pottery kilns discovered during housing developments in the 1950s (Pre-Construct Archaeology 2005).
- 2.2.4 The Cantley pottery kilns were first discovered during the construction of a housing estate between 1953 and 1957. A total of 39 kilns were discovered, dating between the mid-2nd and mid-3rd century AD. The principle product of this pottery centre was coarse Grey Ware, although in the 3rd century some kilns were also producing red-slipped imitation Samian ware.
- 2.2.5 Directly to the east of the site, on land off St. Wilfrid's Road, excavations carried out in 2005 discovered evidence of domestic activity and agricultural land use ranging from the late 1st to early 4th century AD. The earliest phase of activity comprised of a large ditched enclosure dated to the late 1st or early 2nd century. This appears to have been a substantial landmark and had a significant influence on the subsequent layout and development of the immediate landscape. Later phases of activity included pits indicative of fields or paddocks, a ditched driveway, and a large enclosure ditch with associated internal features suggesting domestic use (Pre-Construct Archaeology 2005).
- 2.2.6 More recent excavations, to the south of the Site, have uncovered evidence of settlement activity and agricultural land use at Rossington, with finds including pottery, cremated human bone, animal bone and leather (Wessex Archaeology 2014b; forth).
- 2.3 Saxon and medieval periods**
- 2.3.1 Cantley is recorded in the Domesday Book as being owned by Geoffrey Alselin, a Norman Lord who came to prominence after the Conquest of 1066. The name 'Cantley' originates from Old English, and is drawn from 'Canta' a personal name, and 'Leah' meaning wood or clearing. St Wilfrids Church located to the east of the Site on Church Lane is recorded in the Domesday Book; the dedication to St Wilfred suggests a Saxon foundation. Evidence of medieval activity includes ridge and furrow at Bessecarr Grange and ceramic findspots.
- 2.4 Post medieval and modern periods**
- 2.4.1 Foundations of a possible former manor house were recorded on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map (1854) near Bessecarr Lane, to the south of the Site, however, little is known of the structure. Cantley Hall and its associated parkland lies to the northeast of the Site. The house was built for Childers Walbank Childers in 1785 and the landscaped park covered a total of 119 acres. Cantley Windmill, a 19th century four-storey structure near Green Lane, lies to the east of the Site. A water mill is also recorded on the first edition 1854 OS map to the east of the Site. While nothing of the structure survives 'Old Mill Dyke', which fed the mill, is still visible.



3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

3.1.1 The general aims of the project were:

- *to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeological resource.*
- *to establish the character, extent and date range of any archaeological deposits, features and/or structures to be affected by the proposed groundworks.*
- *to put the results of the excavation in context by comparing it with similar/related sites within the local area as well as its regional and national contexts.*
- *to analyse the Site records, artefacts and ecofacts and produce an archive, report and publication of the results.*

3.2 Machine excavation

3.2.1 The area monitored under archaeological strip, map and sample covered c.400m² (**Figure 1**).

3.2.2 Topsoil and overburden was removed using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist at all times.

3.2.3 The areas opened were left for three days to weather resulting in further features becoming visible.

3.3 Sample excavation & recording

3.3.1 Surfaces were cleaned to allow inspection and to define the extent of archaeological features and deposits. Archaeological features were then hand excavated in line with the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2014a) and with the agreement of SYAS on Site. A full written, drawn and photographic record was made.

3.3.2 Excavation was sufficient to characterise the nature of the archaeology present on the Site.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 An inventory of individual contexts assigned is provided in **Appendix 1**. A general plan of the areas investigated and features encountered is provided in **Figure 2**.

4.2 General stratigraphy

4.2.1 The underlying natural geology **102** consisted mainly of yellowish orange sand, which in some places changed to an orangey red sand, which was encountered at a depth of 0.61m below ground level (bgl).

4.2.2 The subsoil **101** was highly mixed light brown sand, usually at a thickness of 0.44 – 0.61m bgl. Bioturbation, in the form of rooting, and mineralisation could also be observed.

4.2.3 The topsoil **100** was predominantly dark brown fine sand typically present to the depth of 0.44m bgl. In the north it was sealed by red sand **103**, used to level the Site.

4.3 Archaeological features

- 4.3.1 A partial curvilinear gully, **112 (Figures 2 and 3; Plates 1 and 2)**, was located in a south-west area of the Site. The feature measured 4m in length, 0.45m wide and 0.10m deep. Three slots **106, 108 and 110** were excavated through the feature to investigate its character but no finds were recovered. However, fill **112** of the gully did contain abundant wood charcoal.
- 4.3.2 A short section of substantial ditch, **104 (Figures 2 and 4; Plate 3)**, measuring 1.66m wide and 1.26m deep, was observed to the north-west of the Site running northwest to southeast. Fragments of fuel ash slag and two fragments of possible spheroidal hammerslag were present in fill **105** of the ditch.
- 4.3.3 A shallow linear feature, **117 (Figures 2 and 5; Plate 4)**, probably the truncated base of a ditch running northeast to southwest, was identified to the east of curvilinear gully **112**. The ditch measured was seen along a 4m length, and measured 0.61m wide and 0.05m deep. The fill of the feature, **118**, contained two sherds derived from Romano-British vessels, one of which was dated to the 3rd to 4th century AD.
- 4.3.4 A shallow linear feature, **115 (Figures 2 and 6; Plate 5)**, probably a continuation of ditch **117** to the southwest, was observed to the northeast of the Site. The feature ran eastnortheast to westsouthwest. The feature was seen along a 4m length, and measured 0.80m wide and 0.20m deep. No finds were recovered from fill **116** of the feature.
- 4.3.5 To the north of ditch **115** was charcoal rich post-hole **113 (Figure 6)**, 0.32m in diameter. No finds were recovered from fill **114** of the post-hole which contained abundant wood charcoal.

5 FINDS

5.1 Pottery

- 5.1.1 Two sherds of pottery (weighing 70g) were recovered, deriving from context **118**, fill of ditch **117**. Both are Romano-British, and are in coarse oxidised sandy fabrics. The larger of the two is from the rim of a mortarium-like flanged bowl (lacking the internal trituration grits of a standard mortarium), while the second appears to be a flange fragment from a second similar vessel. The short, stubby flange of the larger vessel indicates a date range in the later Romano-British period (3rd to 4th centuries AD).

5.2 Magnetic micro-residues (fuel ash slag and spheroidal hammerslag)

- 5.2.1 The assemblage consists of 33 small fragments of magnetic material with a total weight of less than 3g; the fragments were thought to possibly relate to a pyrotechnic process. The material was recovered from the environmental sample of a possible boundary ditch **104**, fill **105**. The micro-residues were examined visually to identify and quantify any 'industrial production' type residues present.
- 5.2.2 The assemblage predominantly consists of very small (i.e. <2mm³) fragments of what is probably either fuel ash slag and/or natural geological material that has enough iron content to allow it to be picked up with a magnet. The assemblage contains one slightly larger fragment of relatively friable fuel ash slag which is approximately 4mm³ in volume



and 1g in weight; the smaller fragments in the assemblage appear to be the same type of material as the larger fragment.

- 5.2.3 The assemblage also contains two small spheres (<2mm diameter) of possible spheroidal hammerslag, which is typical by-product associated with the smithing of iron.
- 5.2.4 Fragments of fuel ash slag are a relatively common find on archaeological sites; however, without supporting archaeological evidence, it is impossible to connect the fuel ash slag to a specific process, as the slag can be produced by a wide variety of pyrotechnic processes. Some of the processes that can produce fuel ash slag include open fires used for heating and cooking, through to more 'industrial' activities, such as pottery, glass and metal production. The archaeological context of the material found at Cantley does not offer any clues to the process origin of the slag.
- 5.2.5 The two small pieces of spheroidal hammerslag found suggest that iron smithing may have been carried out at some point in the sites history. It is difficult to draw firm conclusions from such a small amount of material, but it could imply that any smithing was only being carried out was on an occasional basis, or possibly even as a single event, such as the repair of an iron weapon or tool.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 All the features on Site were sampled to evaluate the presence and preservation of palaeo-environmental remains. The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and wood charcoal.

6.2 Charred plant remains and wood charcoal

- 6.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods using a water separation machine. Floating material was collected in a 300µm mesh, and the remaining heavy residue retained in a 1mm mesh. The flot and heavy residue were air dried. The residues were scanned for metallurgical debris such as hammer scale, using a large magnet and the > 2mm fraction of the heavy residue was fully sorted for organic remains and artefacts, weighed and then discarded. Where no potential for the recovery of < 2mm artefacts, such as fish bone or beads was noted, the < 2mm fraction of the heavy residue was also then weighed and discarded.
- 6.2.2 The samples were assessed in accordance with English Heritage guidelines for environmental archaeology assessments (Jones, 2011). The main aim of this assessment was to determine the concentration, diversity, state of preservation and suitability for use in radiocarbon dating, of any archaeobotanical material present within the samples. A further aim was to evaluate the potential of this material to provide evidence for the function of the contexts, the economy of the site or for the nature of the local environment.
- 6.2.3 A preliminary assessment of the samples was made by scanning under a low power binocular microscope (x7-x45) and recording the abundance of the main classes of material present. This data is recorded in Appendix 1. Preliminary identification of plant material was carried out by comparison with material in the reference collections at the Department of Archaeology, University of Sheffield and various reference works (e.g.



Cappers *et al*, 2006). Cereal identifications and nomenclature follow Jacomet (2006). Other plant nomenclature follows Stace (2010).

- 6.2.4 High proportions of intrusive roots were present in sample 3 from ditch fill **116** and sample 4 from the Romano-British ditch fill **118**. The single charred cereal grain which was present in sample 5 from curvilinear gully fill **112** was very poorly preserved, with virtually no epidermis remaining. The wood charcoal fragments were also generally poorly preserved, with many fragments appearing friable and affected by mineralisation.
- 6.2.5 Sample 1 from the fill **114** of feature **113**, a charcoal filled post-hole, was sampled in four quadrants. Over one hundred >2mm charcoal fragments were present in each of the four quadrants. The charcoal fragments were predominantly of ring porous taxa, with a majority exhibiting weak ring curvatures.
- 6.2.6 Sample 2 from the fill **105** of ditch **104** contained over one hundred >2mm charcoal fragments, a high proportion of which were vitrified, along with some possible fragments of slag. The charcoal fragments were predominantly of ring porous taxa, with a majority exhibiting weak ring curvatures. Also present were wild or weed plant seeds including goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), ivy leaved speedwell (*Veronica hederifolia*) and small seeded grass (Poaceae).
- 6.2.7 Sample 3 from the fill **116** of ditch feature **115** contained over five hundred >2mm charcoal fragments, a small proportion of which were vitrified. The charcoal fragments were predominantly of ring porous taxa, with a majority exhibiting weak ring curvatures. Some wood charcoal of diffuse porous taxa was also present, many of which exhibited intermediate ring curvatures. Also present were wild or weed plant seeds including sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), corn spurrey (*Spergula arvensis*) and henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*).
- 6.2.8 Sample 4 from the fill **118** of the Romano-British ditch feature **117** contained three fragments of >2mm charcoal. Also present was an elder seed (*Sambucus nigra*) and an indeterminate Rosaceae seed.
- 6.2.9 Sample 5 from curvilinear gully fill **112** contained well over five hundred >2mm charcoal fragments, a small proportion of which were vitrified. The charcoal fragments were predominantly of ring porous taxa, with a majority exhibiting weak ring curvatures. It is possible that charcoal of diffuse porous taxa was also present as many of the fragments were obscured by mineral deposits and would require fracturing in order for the pore pattern to be visible. A single indeterminate barley grain (*Hordeum* indet.) was also present.

6.3 Further potential

Charred plant remains

- 6.3.1 A low density of charred plant remains was present in the samples. A single poorly preserved barley grain was present in curvilinear gully fill **112**. The seed of elder present in sample 4 from ditch fill **118** indicates scrub vegetation and may have been burnt along with wood burnt as fuel or may represent fruit collected for consumption.
- 6.3.2 The assemblage of wild or weed plant seeds includes taxa which are commonly associated with fertile disturbed soils and cultivation such as corn spurrey, ivy leaved speedwell, and henbane. Sheep's sorrel is commonly associated with short grassland and heaths. It is possible that these seeds were harvested along with cereal crops and charred



as crop processing waste. The wild or weed plant seeds may also have originated from a variety of other sources however such as kindling, waste roofing or flooring material and animal fodder.

6.3.3 No further analysis of the charred plant assemblage would be recommended due to the low density of material present.

6.3.4 No charred plant remains suitable for use in radiocarbon dating were present.

Wood charcoal

6.3.5 Wood charcoal was particularly abundant in sample 5 from curvilinear gully fill **112**, but was also present in quantities of around one hundred or more >2mm fragments in all of the samples, with the exception of sample 3 from ditch fill **116**. The charcoal fragments were generally dominated by ring porous taxa, many of which are likely to be of oak. The wood charcoal fragments frequently exhibited weak ring curvatures suggesting the use of larger branches or trunk material.

6.3.6 A sufficient quantity of wood charcoal fragments to be suitable for further analysis were present in sample 1 from post-hole fill **114**, sample 3 from ditch fill **116** and sample 5 from curvilinear gully fill **112**. Identification of at least one hundred >2mm charcoal fragments from these samples using high power microscopy would enable further investigation of the possible dominance of larger branch or trunk material of oak as a fuel type in these deposits.

6.3.7 No roundwood suitable for use in radiocarbon dating was present. It would be possible to date other charcoal fragments, but the results may be affected by the potential long life of the material prior to charring.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Summary

7.1.1 The investigation revealed five archaeological features: one section of curvilinear gully, one short length of linear ditch, two lengths of a ditch and a post-hole. Only one feature, a ditch **117**, contained dateable material; two sherds of Romano-British pottery, one of which was dated to the 3rd to 4th century AD. Fragments of fuel ash slag and two possible fragments of spheroidal hammerslag, the latter typically associated with smithing, were also recovered from ditch **104**.

7.1.2 The fragmentary nature of the excavated areas and lack of dateable material recovered precludes a more detailed interpretation of the findings. However, the features are consistent in form with those identified during previous 2003 and 2005 excavations to the east; these revealed evidence of domestic activity and agricultural land use ranging from the late 1st to early 4th century AD. The dateable material recorded during the current investigation fits into the latter part of this occupation sequence.

7.2 Recommendations

7.2.1 Additional work has been recommended on the wood charcoal recovered from three features to provide additional information on the fuel management at the Site. Radiocarbon dating could be carried out on charcoal recovered, although it is felt that the usefulness of this may be tempered by the long life of the material present.



7.2.2 The requirement for this additional work and for any subsequent reporting should be discussed with the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS). It is anticipated that the minimum requirement will be a short report prepared for inclusion in *Archaeology in South Yorkshire*.

7.3 Conclusion

7.3.1 The investigation, however fragmentary, has confirmed the survival of archaeological features in a number of areas. Only one of the features, a ditch or gully, contained dateable material; two sherds of Romano-British pottery, one of which was dated to the 3rd to 4th century AD.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

8.1.1 The archive from the fieldwork is currently stored at the Wessex Archaeology Sheffield office. Doncaster Museum is the intended museum depository. An online OASIS form has been produced (**Appendix 2**).

8.1.2 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 following nationally recommended guidelines (UKIC 1990, SMA 1995; Brown 2007; ADS 2013 and ClfA 2014c) and those of the recipient museum.

8.2 Discard policy

8.2.1 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.

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

8.3 Security copy

8.3.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2007), 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.



9 REFERENCES

9.1 Bibliography

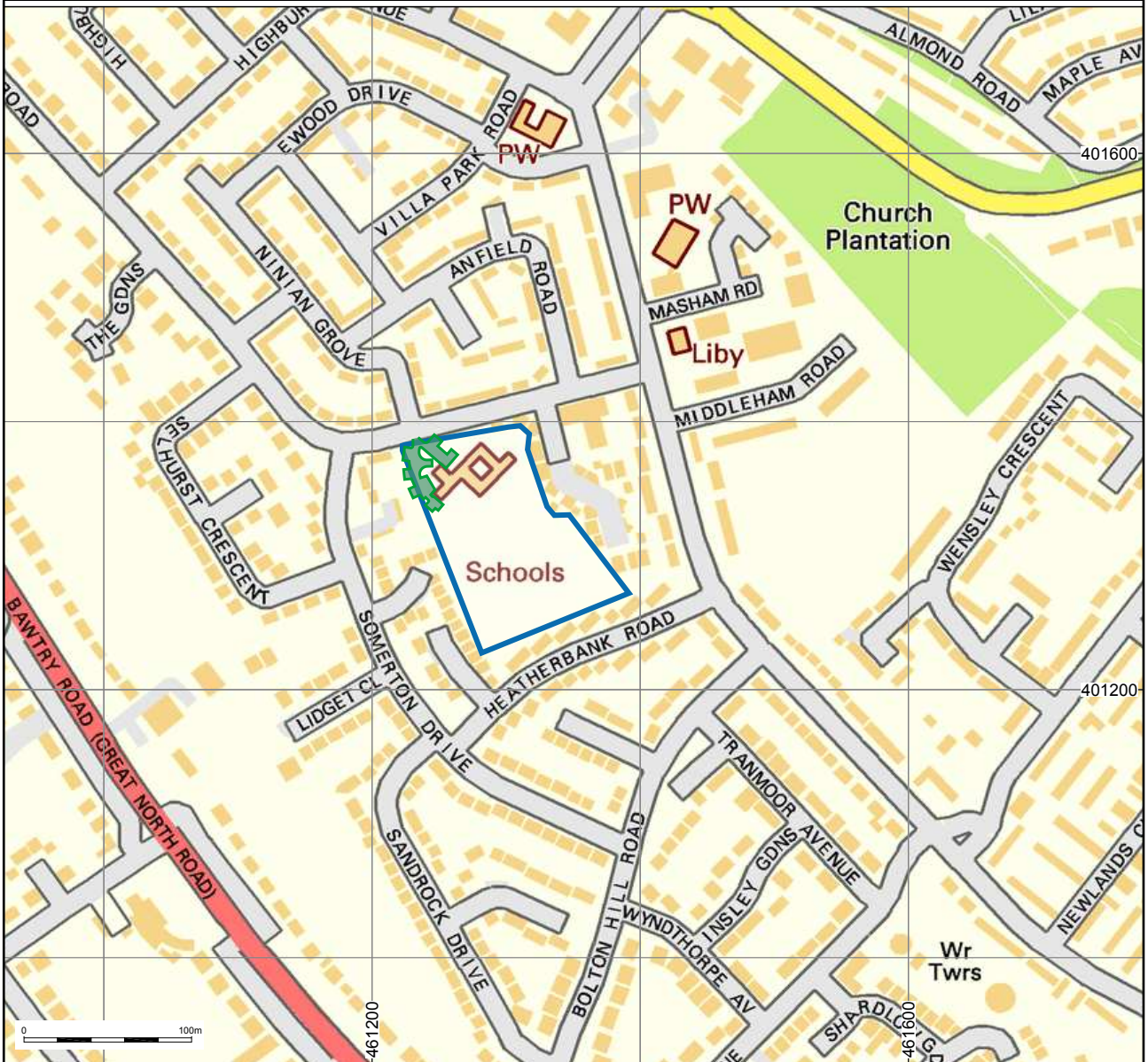
- ADS, 2013, Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice
- Brown, D.H., 2007, Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation.
- Cappers, R. T. J. Bekker, R.M. Jans, J.E.A., 2006, Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands. Eelde: Barkhuis Publishing.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2014a, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2014b, Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), 2014c, Code of Conduct.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2014d, Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.
- English Heritage, 2011, Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation.
- Jacomet, S., 2006, Identification of cereal remains from archaeological sites – 2nd edition. Basel: IPAS Basal University
- Jones, D. M. (ed.), 2011, Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (2nd edition). London: Centre for Archaeology Guidelines. English Heritage publications.
- Pre-Construct Archaeology, 2005, Land off St. Wilfrid's Road, Cantley, Doncaster, South Yorkshire. Archaeological Excavation Report SWCD-05.
- Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA), 1993, Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections, Society of Museum Archaeologists
- Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA), 1995, Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive, Society of Museum Archaeologists
- Stace, C., 2010, New Flora of the British Isles (3rd edition). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- United Kingdom Institute of Conservation (UKIC), 1990, Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage.
- Wessex Archaeology, 2014a, Cantley Sycamore Primary School, Doncaster, South Yorkshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Strip, Map and Record, WA T18829.01 v3.
- Wessex Archaeology, 2014b, Finningley and Rossington Regeneration Route Scheme (FARRRS), Doncaster, South Yorkshire: Archaeological Assessment Report, WA 84452.01.
- Wessex Archaeology, forth., A Romano-British enclosure near Rossington, South Yorkshire. Yorkshire Archaeology Journal.


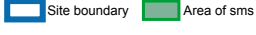


10 APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix 1: Context description

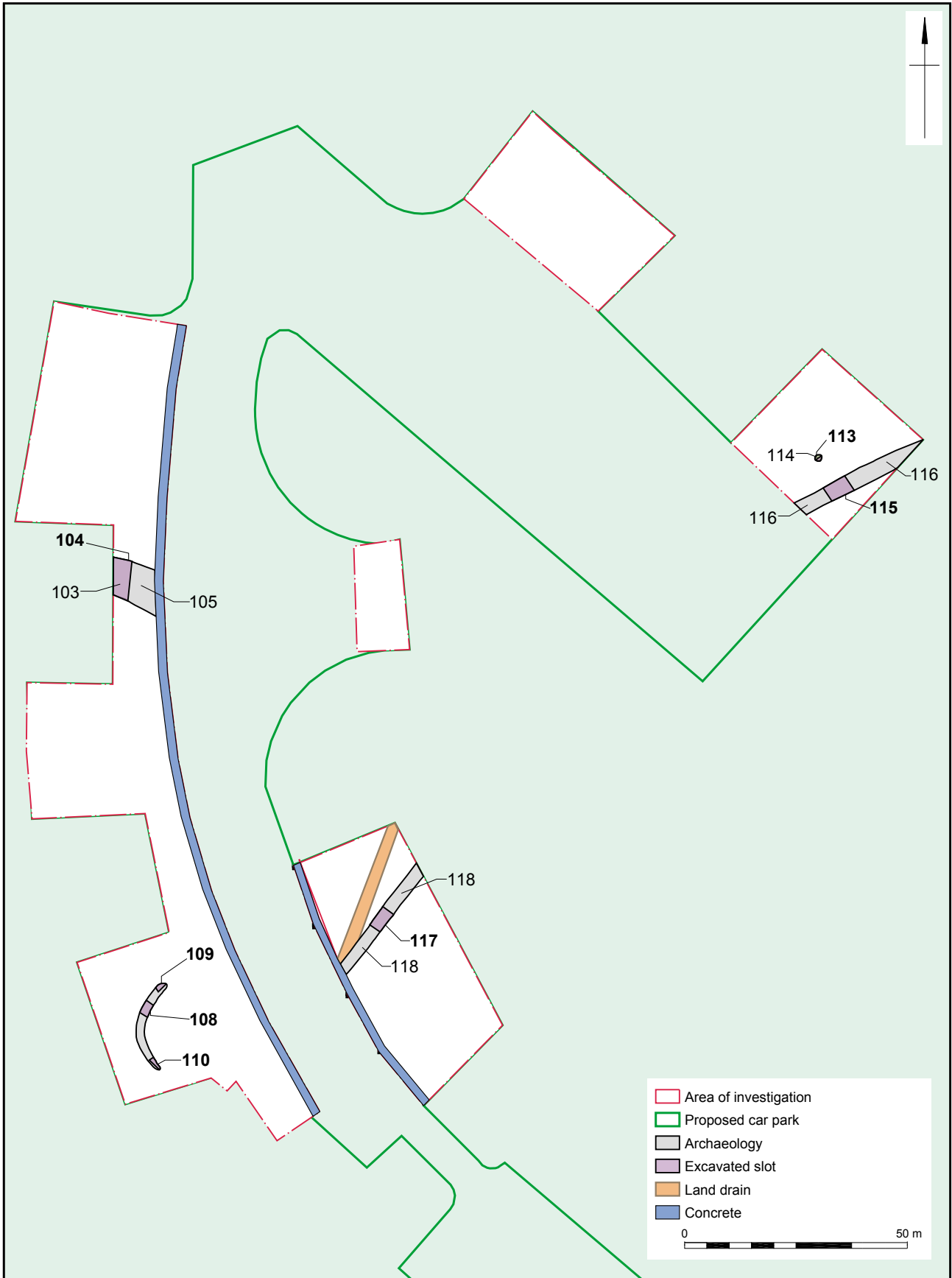
Context No.	Type	Depth
100	Topsoil: Dark brown fine sand	0-0.44m
101	Subsoil: Light brown sand	0.40-0.61m
102	Natural: Yellowish orange sand. Changes in places to orangey red sand	0.61m
103	Red builders sand	0-0.12m
104	Cut: Ditch	1.26m
105	Secondary fill: Brown sand	1.26m
106	Cut: Curvilinear gully	0.10m
107	Secondary fill: Light grey sand	0.10m
108	Cut: Curvilinear gully	0.10m
109	Secondary fill: Light grey sand	0.10m
110	Cut: Curvilinear gully	0.10m
111	Secondary fill: Light grey sand	0.10m
112	Group number for curvilinear gully	
113	Cut: post-hole	0.04m
114	Fill: Black sand with small to medium sized chunks of charcoal	0.04m
115	Cut: Ditch	0.20m
116	Secondary fill: Light brown sand	0.20m
117	Cut: Ditch	0.05m
118	Secondary fill: Light brown sand	0.05m




		
	<small>Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2014. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.</small>	
	Date: 05/11/2014	Revision Number: 0
	Scale: 1:5000 @ A4	Illustrator: APS
Path: Y:\Projects\106380\Graphics Office\Rep figs\WSI_SMS\2014_10_21		

Site Location

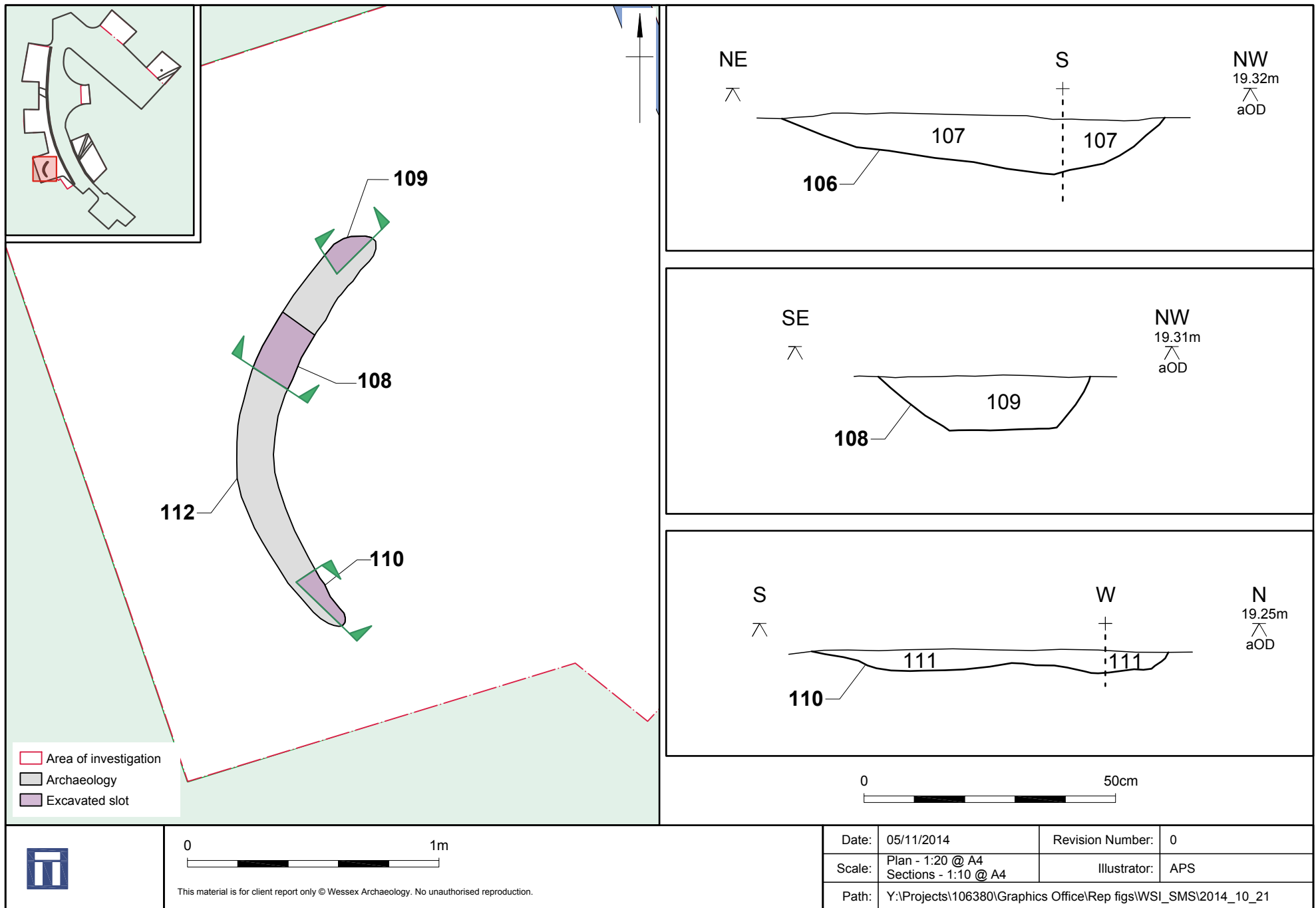
Figure 1



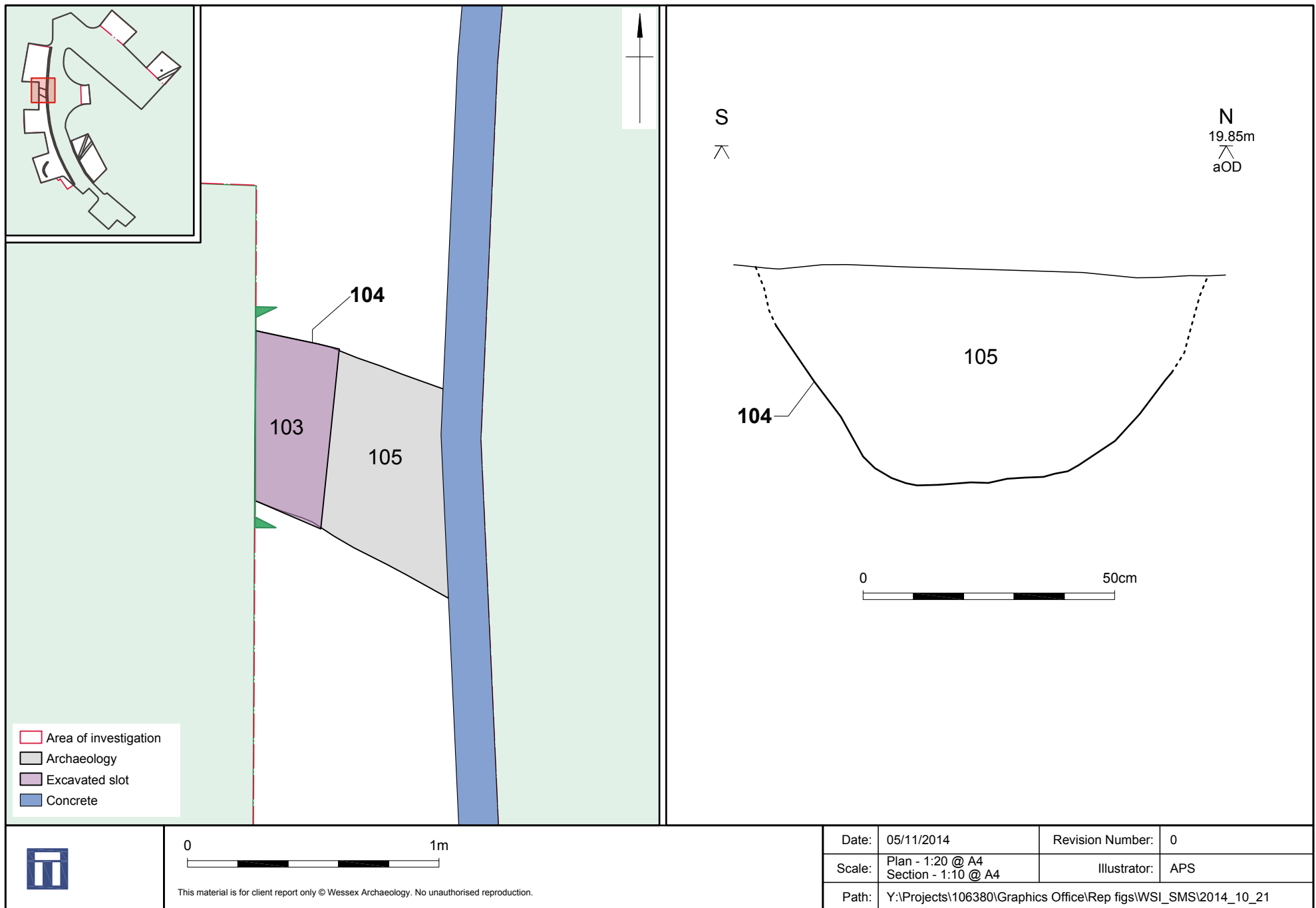
	Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright (2014) All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100020449. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
	Date:	05/11/2014	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	1:250 @ A4	Illustrator:	APS
	Path:	Y:\Projects\106380\Graphics Office\Rep figs\WSI_SMS\2014_10_21		

Plan of excavated areas

Figure 2

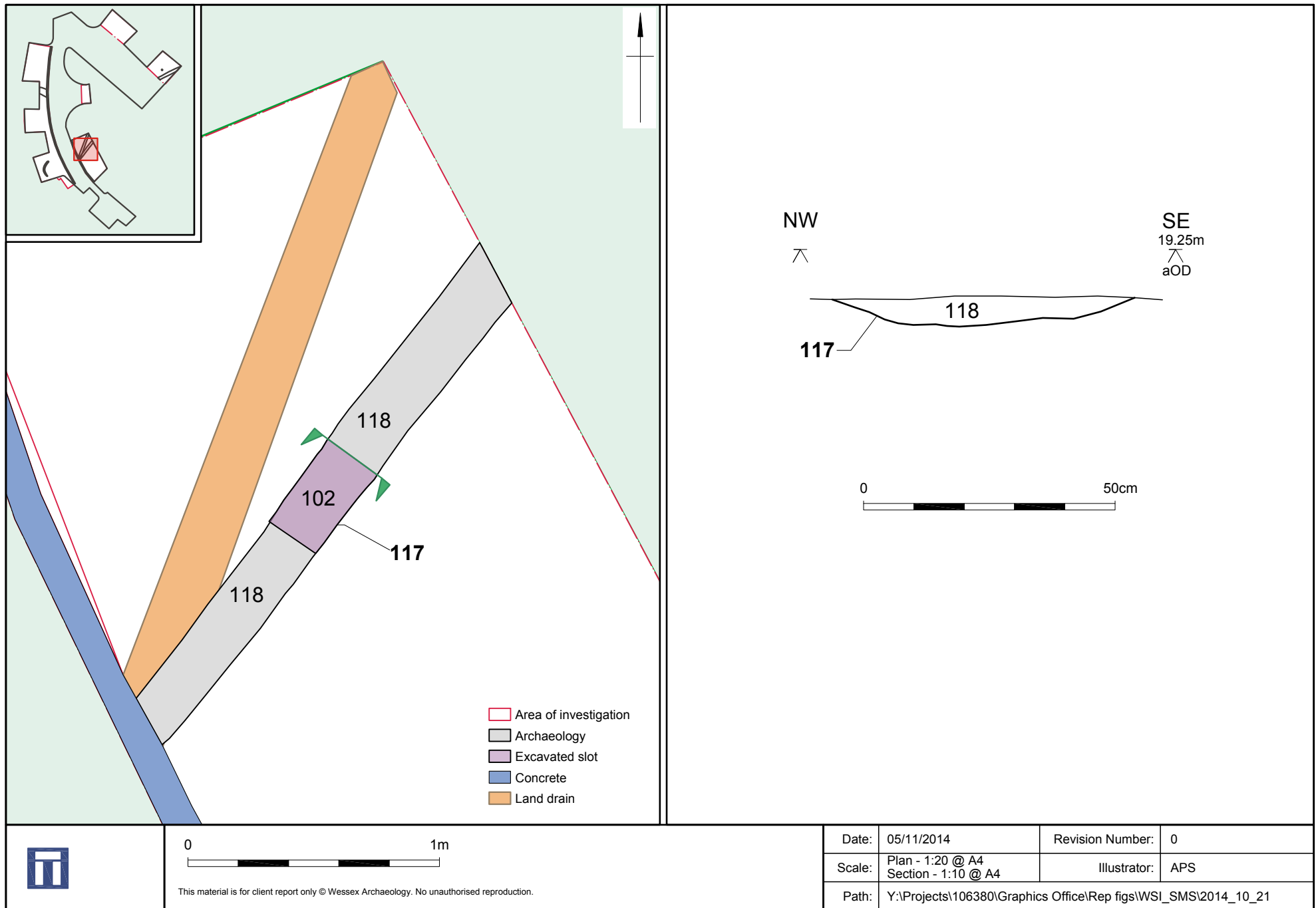


Plan and sections of curvilinear gully 112 (108, 109, and 110)

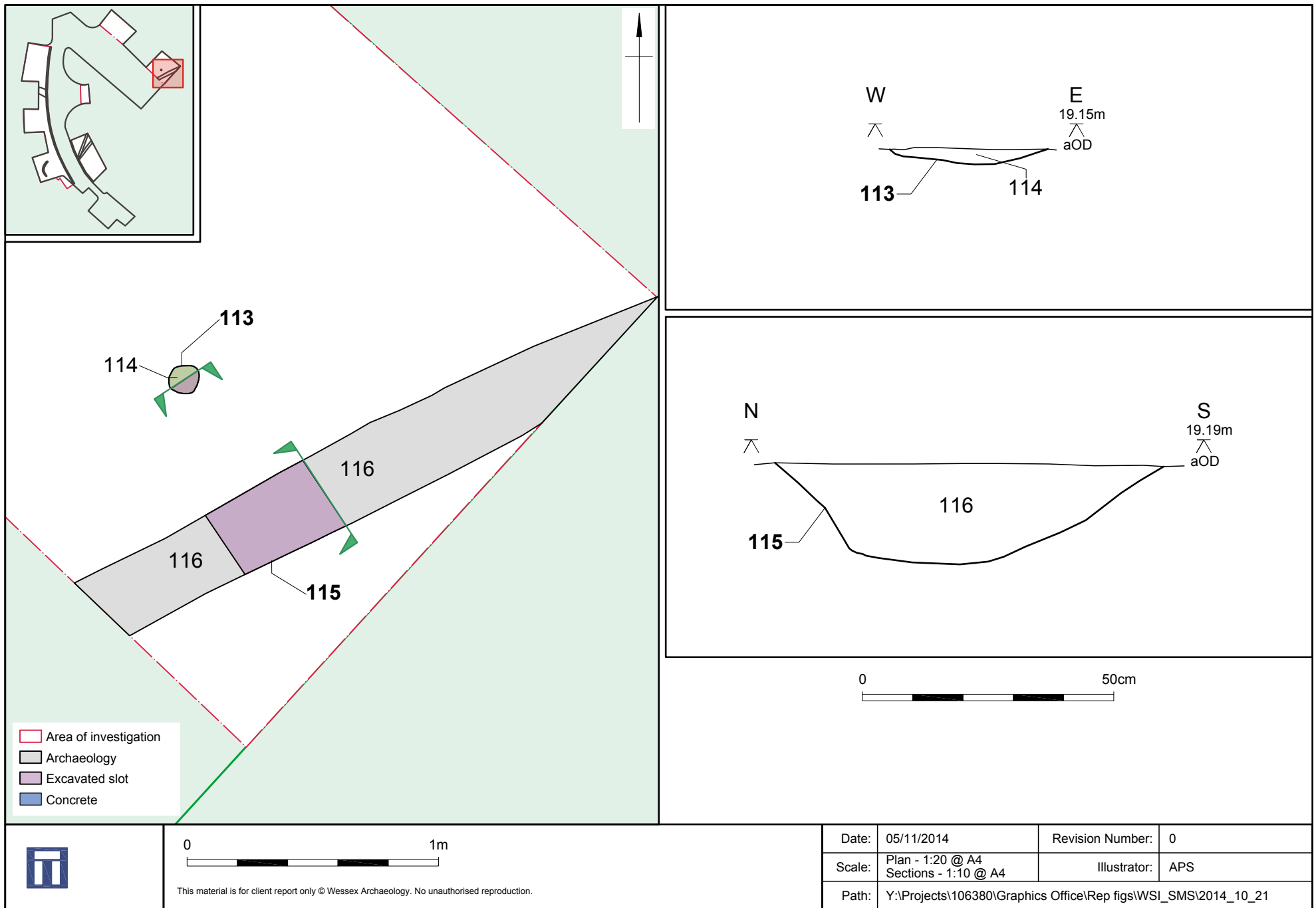


Plan and section of ditch **104**

Figure 4



Plan and section of ditch or gully 117



Plan and section of ditch or gully 115 and post-hole 113



10.2 Appendix 2: OASIS form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

List of Projects

Main

This is the main page of the OASIS form, the form is split into sections as listed below.

You can fill as much or as little of each section in at any one time. Once you have filled in a section completely, please tick the **completed** box at the bottom of that section. The form will then check to see that all the mandatory fields (marked with a *) have been completed. If this is the case it will return to this page, if not it will ask you complete the missing fields.

There are some fields that **must** be filled in: the project name, the location and your name and email address.

Please note: the form entries are only saved when the **Save record** has been pressed. If you leave the form inactive for over 30 minutes any entries will be lost, this is to retain the security of your username and password.

OASIS ID: wessexar1-194799

[?](#) **Project details**

Add or edit entries

Project name	Cantley Sycamore Primary School Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology were commissioned to undertake an archaeological strip, map and sample on land at Cantley Sycamore Primary School, Doncaster. The archaeological work is required as a condition of planning consent for development at the Site, which includes road widening and the provision of extra parking. The investigation revealed five archaeological features: one section of curvilinear gully, one short length of linear ditch, two lengths of a smaller ditch and a post-hole. Only one feature, a ditch, contained dateable material; two sherds of Romano-British pottery, one of which was dated to the 3rd to 4th century AD. Fragments of fuel ash slag and two possible fragments of spheroidal hammerslag, the latter typically associated with smithing, were also recovered from one ditch. The fragmentary nature of the excavated areas and lack of dateable material recovered precludes a more detailed interpretation of the findings. However, the features are consistent in form with those identified during previous 2003 and 2005 excavations to the east; these revealed evidence of domestic activity and agricultural land use ranging from the late 1st to early 4th century AD. The dateable material recorded during the current investigation fits into the latter part of this occupation sequence.
Project dates	Start: 01-06-2014 End: 20-01-2015
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	106380 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	14/00591/4FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	GULLY Uncertain

Monument type DITCHES Uncertain
 Monument type POSTHOLE Uncertain
 Monument type DITCH Roman
 Significant Finds POTTERY Roman
 Significant Finds HAMMERSLAG Uncertain
 Significant Finds FUEL ASH SLAG Uncertain
 Investigation type "Full excavation"
 Prompt Planning condition
 Status **Incomplete**

 **Project location**

Add or edit entries

Site location SOUTH YORKSHIRE DONCASTER CANTLEY Cantley Sycamore Primary School
 Postcode DN7 6NQ
 Study area 400.00 Square metres
 Site coordinates NGR - SE 461293 401396
 LL - 53.8552248721 -1.29862625117 (decimal)
 LL - 53 51 18 N 001 17 55 W (degrees)
 Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 0.44m Max: 0.61m
 Status **Incomplete**

 **Project creators**

Add or edit entries

Name of Organisation Wessex Archaeology
 Project brief originator SYAS
 Project design originator Wessex Archaeology
 Project director/manager R. O'Neill
 Project director/manager Lucy Dawson
 Project supervisor Jonathan Buttery
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
 Name of sponsor/funding body Education Funding Agency
 Status **Incomplete**

 **Project archives**

Add or edit entries

Physical Archive recipient Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery
 "Ceramics"

Physical Contents

Physical Archive notes Repository currently closed - so will be stored in the Archive at Wessex Archaeology until the museum re-opens.

Digital Archive recipient Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery

Digital Contents "Ceramics","Industrial"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery

Paper Contents "Ceramics","Industrial"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

Status **Incomplete**

? **Project bibliography 1** Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) **+**

Add or edit entries

Title Cantley Sycamore Primary School, Doncaster Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Report

Author(s)/Editor (s) Buttery, J.

Author(s)/Editor (s) Cassels, A.

Author(s)/Editor (s) O'Neill, R.

Other bibliographic details 106380.02

Date 2014

Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology

Place of issue or publication Sheffield

Description A4 Comb Bound Report

Status **Incomplete**

Please enter your name and personal email address here so that any queries about this form can be directed to you:

Name	Email address
<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>

OASIS:



Wessex Archaeology Ltd registered office Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk



Wessex Archaeology Ltd is a company limited by guarantee registered in England, company number 1712772. It is also a Charity registered in England and Wales, number 287786; and in Scotland, Scottish Charity number SC042630. Our registered office is at Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.