



making sense of heritage

Land off Kilwardby Street, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation



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October 2015



**Land off Kilwardby Street, Ashby de la Zouch,
Leicestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation

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Archaeological Evaluation

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching on land to the south of Kilwardby Street, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire. The work was undertaken in advance of the construction of a new residential care home.

A total of six trenches were excavated across approximately 0.3ha of land.

The evaluation revealed that the Site contains a limited archaeological component, of medieval and later date. A number of linear ditches or gullies were present; these are presumed to represent property boundaries, set out at 90° degrees to the medieval predecessor of Kilwardby Street. The evidence suggests that this part of Ashby de la Zouch became developed during or shortly after the 14th century, with subsequent developments occurring within a street plan which remained largely static thereafter.

Fairly widespread garden soils were also encountered, along with occasional pits and postholes. Brick-built walls and drains of 19th- to 20th-century construction were noted in most trenches; these had caused some impact on earlier horizons.

The medieval and post-medieval remains are fairly sparse, with no definite structural remains recorded. The Site's relatively poor drainage conditions may account for this, with ground conditions too wet for prolonged or intense occupation. Nevertheless, the medieval and post-medieval remains are pertinent to established research goals, and the Site overall is judged to be of local archaeological importance.

The evaluation produced a fairly small quantity of finds. The assemblage is dominated by pottery, which ranges in date from medieval to modern, although there is an emphasis on late medieval/early post-medieval wares.

Relatively small charred plant assemblages were recorded in most of the samples. The types of cereal present within the samples are congruent with the pottery dating evidence. The plant assemblages appear to be indicative of general settlement waste. The weed seeds are those typical in grassland, field margins and arable environments.

It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Leicester City Council Museums and Galleries. The Council has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **X.A59.2015**. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.



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Archaeological Evaluation

Acknowledgements

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by CgMs Consulting. The assistance of Suzanne Gailey is gratefully acknowledged in this regard.

Thanks are extended to Richard Clark, Principal Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council, who provided curatorial support and guidance.

The trenching was carried out by Patrick Daniel, Sam Bromage and Chris Swales. The report was written by Patrick Daniel, with illustrations by Alix Sperr. The finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram, with environmental samples processed by Tony Scothern and assessed by Sarah Wyles. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Christopher Swales.



Land off Kilwardby Street, Ashby de la Zouch Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by CgMs Consulting (hereafter 'the Client') to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching in advance of a new residential care home development on land off Kilwardby Street, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire, NGR 435561, 316629 (hereafter 'the Site').
- 1.1.2 The archaeological works were commissioned to discharge a condition placed on planning consent, in accordance with local, regional and national planning policies.
- 1.1.3 Following discussions between the Client and Richard Clark, Principal Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council, a scope of works was agreed. Wessex Archaeology produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlining how the requirements of the work would be met (Wessex Archaeology 2015). The WSI was approved by the Client and Leicestershire County Council prior to work commencing.

1.2 Site location and topography

- 1.2.1 The Site is located on the western fringe of the historic core of Ashby de la Zouch (**Figure 1**). Immediately prior to the development, landuse across the Site comprised County Council offices, an associated yard, two garden areas and a motor vehicle repair garage (**Plate 1**).
- 1.2.2 The Site is bounded to the north by Kilwardby Street, to the west by Churchside Walk, to the south by a car park as well as the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, and to the east by properties and parking fronting Kilwardby Street and Bath Street.
- 1.2.3 The topography of the Site is broadly level at c.125m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), although the land rises gently to the east and west. Gilwiskaw Brook is situated c. 170m to the east with further springs c. 650m to the south.
- 1.2.4 The solid geology of the Site is predominantly the Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation, comprising mudstone, siltstone and sandstone. No overlying superficial deposits are recorded (mapapps.bgs.ac.uk).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following text is drawn from the desk-based assessment (CgMs 2013).

Prehistoric – Romano-British

- 2.1.2 No prehistoric remains have been recorded on or close to the Site, but work along the Ashby Bypass (A511) over 1km to its north recorded cropmarks, flint scatters and a number of possible associated earlier prehistoric features. Iron Age settlement remains, comprising linear features, pits and postholes, were also recorded in advance of bypass construction.
- 2.1.3 Very little in the way of Romano-British archaeology has been recorded in Ashby de la Zouch. Occasional unstratified finds of Roman date have been recovered from fields surrounding the town. The current evidence would suggest a very low level of activity in the general area during the Romano-British period.

Medieval

- 2.1.4 Place-name evidence suggests a settlement had been established at Ashby de la Zouch by at least the late Saxon period, its place-name of Danish origin and deriving from 'Ascebi' meaning 'Aski's village' or 'settlement where the Ash trees grow'. A further possible early settlement may also have existed at Kilwardby.
- 2.1.5 On the basis of present evidence the Site would appear to occupy a peripheral location to the foci of early medieval settlement. It is therefore considered likely that prior to the Conquest, the Site may have formed agricultural land, woodland or waste.
- 2.1.6 The manor of Ascebi is first documented in the Domesday Survey of AD 1086, with the evidence indicating an approximate population of 100 inhabitants, and the associated settlement being centred on the area of Wood Street and the early church (now St. Helen's). A further hamlet settlement existed at Kilwardby west of the Gilwiskaw Brook.
- 2.1.7 The castle in Ashby dates from at least the 12th century, and could therefore have a connection with the Zouch's ownership of the estate, during which time the town was flourishing with a market granted in 1219 and the 'de la Zouch' suffix for the town name gained in around 1230. Borough status may also have been acquired by 1330.
- 2.1.8 The location of the early market, now defined by Market Street, was established on the cross roads between the two early settlements of Ashby and Kilwardby. The core of the medieval town would appear to have been centred on the parish church and castle and extending along Market Street, with North (formerly Back Lane) and South Streets defining its limits and providing access to open field areas beyond. Burgage plots were established off Market Street and its parallel roads and rows of houses/workshops, 'the Courts', were constructed, the court buildings providing accommodation for skilled craftsmen.
- 2.1.9 The Site is situated along the main east to west access represented by Kilwardby Street and Market Street, although lies just beyond the western extent of Market Street itself.
- 2.1.10 Medieval settlement, possibly characterised by frontage settlement and associated 'back yard' activity, may have extended into the Site, which at this time lay between Kilwardby to the west and the centre of the principal settlement to the east.

Post-medieval and Modern

- 2.1.11 No monuments or finds dating to this period are recorded within the Site itself. In the wider study area, beyond the castle and its associated former gardens, records for this period include the sites of a former moat and fishpond, town cross, turnpike roads, the Midland railway, gas works and water works and other buildings, both designated and non-

designated. In the more immediate proximity of the study site, the line of the former Willesley Basin to Ticknall tramway and Midland railway - Ashby to Derby line are noted to have once bounded the Site to the west.

- 2.1.12 An 1837 Plan of Ashby de la Zouch shows a considerable level of development along the frontages of Kilwardby Street, Bath Street and south of Market Street. Within the study site itself, two buildings are shown to occupy the frontage with Kilwardby Street, to the rear of which lie four separately enclosed areas, those extending southwards from the street frontage indicated as gardens or orchards.
- 2.1.13 The First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) of 1883-1884 shows a broadly similar arrangement for the Site. The enclosed area on its eastern side is indicated to have formed part of further orchards/gardens.
- 2.1.14 By 1923 significant redevelopment within the study site is shown to have taken place. A large building on the frontage with Kilwardby Street, identified as an 'Institute' is shown to have been constructed, alongside which an access road has been created to the east of the institute and extending to the southern extent of the Site. The arrangement of internal land divisions within the Site has been altered and two further small buildings constructed. Buildings previously indicated to lie along the eastern boundary of the Site are also illustrated to have been extended southwards into the northern area of its eastern extent. Sidings associated with the railway and/or tramway are also indicated to lie on the southern area of the Site.
- 2.1.15 No further significant alteration on the Site occurs until the 1971 OS map. The Site at this date is shown to be occupied by two large buildings, one on the street frontage and extending into its centre, the other towards its southern extent. These are both identified to form part of Council Offices with an associated yard. Former structures may either have been removed or incorporated within the new buildings shown, but former boundary divisions within the Site have been removed. The railway and tramway are illustrated to have now been dismantled and no associated infrastructure is now indicated to lie within the Site.

2.2 Recent investigations in the area

- 2.2.1 The archaeological potential of the development site has previously been considered through a desk-based assessment ('DBA') (CgMs 2013). The DBA confirmed that no designated or non-designated archaeological heritage assets are recorded on the Site, although a moderate potential for the presence of medieval remains of local to regional importance was noted, given the Site's proximity to the known medieval historic core of the settlement.
- 2.2.2 An archaeological watching brief on the excavation of geotechnical trial holes on the Site was carried out in July 2015, around six weeks prior to the trench evaluation which forms the subject of this report. Observation of the deposit sequence revealed in the majority of the trial holes noted that a deposit of modern brick rubble extended to a depth of between 0.5 and 1.3m below the modern ground surface. An approximately 1m-thick brown 'garden soil'-type deposit containing charcoal and modern pottery was recorded below this in two of the trial holes. Natural geological deposits were generally encountered at 0.8-1.6m below the modern ground surface and consisted of stiff orange/brown sandy clay. Within some trial holes, a horizon of archaeological potential was noted lying sandwiched between the garden soil and geological substrate, and consisted of a dark greenish grey soft clay containing charcoal and persevered organic matter. No datable artefacts were recorded from this latter deposit during the watching brief.

- 2.2.3 Full details of the sequences recorded in the geotechnical trial holes are presented in Appendix 3.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

General

- 3.1.1 The general aims of the project were:

- *to identify any archaeological remains present;*
- *to accurately record the location and stratigraphy of areas excavated;*
- *to determine the extent, condition, character, importance and date of any archaeological deposits encountered;*
- *to provide information that will enable the archaeological remains to be placed within their local, regional and national contexts;*
- *to integrate the results into the wider cultural and environmental context and with specific research aims;*
- *to produce an accurate and comprehensive record and report of any archaeological deposits identified during the evaluation.*

Specific

- 3.1.2 The specific aims of the project were:

- *to identify, record and better understand medieval activity in this area of Ashby de la Zouch;*
- *to assess the degree of disturbance caused by post-medieval development of the Site;*
- *to provide information to clarify the need for further archaeological works to mitigate the effect of any development.*

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 The work was carried out in accordance with the approved WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2015), Wessex Archaeology's procedures and industry standards and guidelines (ClfA 2014a and b).

- 3.2.2 The original scope of works stated that five 15m-long trial trenches would be excavated at pre-defined locations, and with a sixth trench excavated at a location dependant on the results from the initial five. In the event, and on the advice of the Principal Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council, Trench 6 was excavated along the Kilwardby Street frontage.

- 3.2.3 Trenches 1-3 and 5-6 were dug between 26th and 28th August 2015, during a period of fine summer weather. Access issues delayed the excavation of Trench 4 until 21st September 2015, with the work occurring during wet conditions.

3.3 Monitoring

- 3.3.1 Richard Clark visited the Site on 27th August 2015, when fieldwork was under way, when the position of Trench 6 was agreed, as outlined above.



3.4 Machine excavation

- 3.4.1 Topsoil was removed using a JCB 8065 RTS 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m-wide toothless ditching bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of the archaeological supervisor. Modern ground surfaces and overburden were 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.

3.5 Hand excavation

- 3.5.1 Structures and any archaeological features were cleaned as necessary to allow inspection and to define the extent of any archaeological features and deposits. Archaeological features were hand excavated, with care taken not to compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits, which may have been deemed suitable for preservation by record or preservation *in situ*. However, excavation was sufficient to understand and record the full stratigraphic sequence, down to naturally occurring deposits.

3.6 Recording

- 3.6.1 All deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system. A stratigraphic matrix was compiled to record the relationships between features and deposits.
- 3.6.2 Excavated areas and deposits were located by means of an RTK GPS system and tied into the OS grid with a tolerance of better than + or - 100mm. All deposits had spot heights recorded in relation to Ordnance Datum, correct to two decimal places.
- 3.6.3 A digital photographic record was maintained.

4 RESULTS OF EVALUTION TRENCHING

4.1 Typical soil profiles

- 4.1.1 All of the trenches were machined down to the level of the natural geological horizon. This consisted of a sandy clay of varying mid-orange, brown and yellow hues, either locally stiff and dry, or soft and wet. This was typically reached at between 0.9m and 1.5m below the existing ground surface.
- 4.1.2 In four of the six trenches (Trenches 1, 2 5 and 6), this was overlain by a greenish or brownish grey silty or sandy clay (**103, 204, 503 and 605**) containing frequent charcoal mottling. This deposit varied in thickness between 0.1m and 0.4m, and contained pottery of medieval and post-medieval date. This deposit was overlain by a mid-to dark greyish brown silty or sandy clay (**102, 203, 502 and 604**), which varied in depth between 0.18m and 0.65m and contained pottery of medieval and post-medieval date (**Cover; Plate 2**). These deposits are thought to represent mixed garden soils and occupation spreads.
- 4.1.3 Deposits of modern brick rubble (**101, 202 and 501**), between 0.1m and 0.32m thick, were recorded in three of the trenches (Trenches 1, 2 and 5). Each of these rubble deposits lay immediately below the existing ground surface.
- 4.1.4 Trench 3 differed most markedly from the typical soil profile presented above. Within this trench, a 0.5m-thick mid-greyish brown sandy silty loam (**302**) was overlain by a 0.3m-thick dark brown sandy loam (**301**), which was in turn sealed beneath a 0.2m-thick very

dark brown sandy loam topsoil (**300**) (**Plate 3**). These deposits appeared to represent cultivation horizons or garden soils, and were encountered within an area shown as a garden or orchard on historic maps dating to 1837 and 1883-4, with no development upon it depicted on subsequent mapping. At the time of the evaluation, the area around Trench 3 was an unkempt patch of garden/waste, distinct from the asphalt hardstanding or footprints of just-demolished buildings which occupied the majority of the remainder of the Site.

- 4.1.5 It will be appreciated from the above that the typical soil profiles recorded in the archaeological evaluation trenches were generally congruent with those observed in the geotechnical trial holes.

4.2 Archaeological features

- 4.2.1 Archaeological remains were noted in five of the six trenches. Trench 2 was archaeologically blank, apart from structural remains and service trenches relating to the building that was demolished immediately prior to the trench evaluation.

Trenches 1 and 6

- 4.2.2 A north-north-west to south-south-east aligned boundary gully was revealed crossing Trench 1, with its probable northern continuation also revealed in Trench 6 (**Figure 3**). Within Trench 1, the feature was numbered **105**. Excavation revealed that it was 0.32m wide by 0.9m deep, with a gentle concave profile. No finds were recovered from the feature's grey clay silt fill.
- 4.2.3 A similar gully was present within Trench 6, located on the projected alignment of gully **105**, and assumed to represent the same overall feature. Within Trench 6 the feature was numbered **608** and had a maximum width and depth of 0.35m and 0.06m respectively, and a very gentle concave profile (**Figure 7**). The gully contained a single deposit of mid-brownish grey silty clay from which pottery of 13th- to 15th-century date was recovered, along with a single Romano-British sherd, presumably residual.
- 4.2.4 Within Trench 1, gully **105** could be seen to be sealed beneath layer **103**, which contained pottery of 16th-18th-century date (**Plate 4**). A corresponding relationship was not recorded in Trench 1, as the fill of gully **608** could not be differentiated from deposit **605**, Trench 6's probable equivalent of layer **103**.
- 4.2.5 Trench 6 was dug across the Kilwardby Street frontage of the Site, with Trench 1 lying around 10m to the south. The north-north-west to south-south-east alignment of the feature recorded as **105** and **608** lay at 90° to Kilwardby Street, suggesting that the feature was a property boundary fronting onto and extending back from the medieval course of Kilwardby Street.
- 4.2.6 A wall of 19th- or 20th-century date shared the position and course of gully **608** (**Plate 5**). This superimposition may be coincidental, or may reflect the longevity of property boundaries in this part of the Site.
- 4.2.7 A trio of other features was recorded in Trench 6. Pit **609** and gully **608** were conjoined but no relationship could be determined between them, as their fills were so similar. Pit **609** was lozenge-shaped in plan, measuring over 1.3m east-west by 0.6m north-south (**Figure 7**; **Plate 5**). Excavation revealed it to be 0.2m deep, with a shallow, dish-shaped profile and to contain a single fill of mid-brownish grey silty clay from which pottery of 14th- to 16th-century date was recovered. Pit **609** had been cut to the west by pit **610**, which contained clay tobacco pipe and occasional large stones.

- 4.2.8 Gully **603** crossed the eastern end of Trench 6 on a curving north-east to south-west alignment. This feature was found to be 0.45m wide by 0.15m deep with an irregular bowl-shaped profile (**Figure 7; Plate 6**). A relatively large assemblage of 14th- to 16th-century date pottery (19 pieces/359g) was recovered from its mid-brownish grey silty clay. As with gully **608**, the fill of this feature could not be differentiated from the general medieval spread horizon, layer **605**.
- 4.2.9 Layer **605** was 0.15m thick and was found to contain a single sherd of pottery dating to c.1200-1400. It was overlain by a 0.65m-thick deposit of mid-greyish brown friable clayish silt, which produced an assemblage of post-medieval pottery (22 pieces/ 1754g).

Trench 3

- 4.2.10 Trench 3 was positioned in the garden/ waste ground area described above.
- 4.2.11 A linear anomaly was seen crossing the north-east end of the trench on a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment (**Figure 4; Plate 7**). Investigation established that it comprised two parallel ditch cuts. Ditch **307** was the earlier of the two. It measured at least 0.47m wide by 0.19m deep, and contained a single fill of firm pale orange sand from which two sherds of pottery datable to around 1200-1400 were recorded. It had been cut on its eastern side by ditch **308**, which measured 0.64m wide by 0.27m deep and contained two fills. The lower fill was a stony mid-brownish grey silty sand, overlain on its eastern side by a small deposit of less stony mid-greyish brown silty sand. A small assemblage of 14th- to 16th-century pot was recovered from this feature (8 pieces/148g), probably from a single vessel.
- 4.2.12 Ditches **307** and **308** shared the north-north-west to south-south-east alignment of the feature recorded as **105** and **608**, and so also lay at 90° to Kilwardby Street. These features may therefore also have defined the boundary of properties fronting onto, and extending back from, an earlier course of Kilwardby Street.
- 4.2.13 Pit **304** lay approximately 3m to the south-west of ditches **307/308**. It was sub-circular in plan with a diameter of around 0.53m (**Plate 8**). Excavation established that it was 0.22m deep, with a deep, bowl-shaped profile containing two fills. The lower fill was a dark grey friable greyish loam; the upper was a mid-reddish brown loamy clay. A single piece of slag was the sole artefact recovered from the pit, with this recovered from the upper fill.
- 4.2.14 Ditches **307** and **308** were found sealed beneath layer **302** (the lower of the 'garden soils' described in section 4.1.4 above). The relationship between pit **304** and layer **302** was not established.

Trench 4

- 4.2.15 Trench 4 was located in what had been, immediately prior to the commencement of groundworks, the back garden of a residential property fronting onto Kilwardby Street (**Figure 5; Plate 9**). Natural within this trench presented as a yellow clay: **402**. The stratigraphically earliest feature recorded in Trench 4 was a potential pit, **409**, cut from the level of the natural. This measured around 2m in diameter and contained a dark grey brown clay fill. Excavation of the feature was not possible due to flooding of the trench and fuel contamination from a nearby former garage.
- 4.2.16 Pit **409** was found sealed beneath a 0.4m thick layer of made ground comprising clay with brick and mortar rubble: **401**. Layer **401** had been cut by two features that shared the same north-north-west to south-south-east alignment. The first of these, wall **407**, was constructed from three skins of stretcher-laid bricks and stood two courses high. A yellow

white mortar was visible bonding the bricks and serving as a foundation bed for the wall. The second linear feature found cutting made ground **401** was a red tile-built drain located on the eastern side of wall **407**. Numbered **404**, the drain was 0.25m wide and of probable 19th-century date.

- 4.2.17 Wall **407** may correspond with a range of 'outhouse'-type structures depicted in the area on the 1883 and 1923 Ordnance Survey mapping, and seemingly demolished by the time of the production of the 1971 map.
- 4.2.18 The remains described above were sealed beneath a 0.2m-thick layer of garden soil that formed the ground surface at the time of excavation.

Trench 5

- 4.2.19 Trench 5 was located in a gravelled car park area serving a garage that had formerly operated within the eastern part of the Site.
- 4.2.20 Within Trench 5 the natural presented as a stiff yellowish orange clay overlain by a soft pale brownish grey clay, the upper surface of which was located at 1.1m below the modern ground surface (**Plate 2**). A pair of drains, one plastic and one brick-built crossed the central part of the trench on the same east-west alignment.
- 4.2.21 A dark linear anomaly was seen crossing the southern portion of the trench on a north-south alignment, although the remains of later, overlying brick walls prevented it from being fully revealed in plan (**Figure 6; Plate 10**). Investigation established that the anomaly comprised a braid of parallel recut ditches, with up to five individual features discernible (**Plate 11**). It was not possible to determine the full width of any of these due to recutting and the location of the trench edge. The features varied in depth between 0.23m and 0.37m and tended to have slightly irregular bowl-shaped profiles.
- 4.2.22 Cut **511** was the joint-earliest feature in the sequence; five sherds of pottery were recovered from its fill, with the assemblage potentially spanning around 1375 to 1750.
- 4.2.23 The latest feature in the sequence, **515**, was a foundation cut for a brick wall, **517**, one of four walls lying at the southern end of the trench. Wall **517** was found in association with 19th-century pottery. These walls were set out on a co-axial alignment and are presumed to correspond with structures shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey mapping of 1883-4. Individual bricks typically measured 24mm by 12mm by 6mm, with a mortared bonding.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The evaluation produced a small assemblage of finds, dominated by pottery, and ranging in date from medieval to modern.
- 5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Table 1**.

5.2 Pottery

- 5.2.1 Pottery provides the primary dating evidence for the Site, and the assemblage ranges in date from 13th/14th century through to the modern period (19th/20th century), although with an emphasis on late medieval/early post-medieval 'transitional' wares. The pottery has been quantified by ware type, using the fabrics codes of the Leicestershire county type series (Davies and Sawday 1994); a breakdown of the assemblage by context is given in **Table 2**.
- 5.2.2 The earliest wares are a few sherds of Chilvers Coton fabrics A and C (CC1, CC2); these have a potential date range from c. 1200 to c. 1400 (for CC1) or to c.1475 for CC2, but the absence of Potters Marston wares, generally dated as c. 1100–1300 suggests that activity on the Site did not begin until the 14th century. More frequent are sherds of Midlands Purple (MP), broadly dated as late 14th to 16th century. The nearest potential source for these wares is the Ticknall production centre, just over the border in Derbyshire (approximately 7km to the north; Spavold and Brown 2005), but the Chilvers Coton kilns were also producing Midlands Purple, as were other centres in the Midlands and, given the close visual similarity between the products of the various centres (Hurst and Wright 2010), no attempt has been made here to identify specific sources. Vessel forms represented include jars with sharply everted rims (including one small example from ditch **308**), and flared bowls with flanged rims; there is also one jar rim with an internal flange for lid-seating (ditch **507**). Some vessels are partly glazed, and there is evidence of sooting on the external surfaces.
- 5.2.3 Later sherds are sparsely represented. There is one sherd of Cistercian-type ware (CW2) and four sherds of Midland Yellow ware (MY), both possible Ticknall products; and a few redwares, mostly black-glazed (EA6). These, together with one sherd of Nottingham/Derby type stoneware and one sherd of tin-glazed earthenware, potentially extend the date range into the 18th century, but the almost complete absence of refined earthenwares and other factory produced wares of the 18th century and later (there are two sherds of refined whiteware) suggest that the Site had been largely abandoned by the early 18th century.

5.3 Ceramic building material (CBM)

- 5.3.1 The CBM consists largely of fragments of roof tile, of medieval or post-medieval date. One fragment from layer **504** lacks any surfaces and is undiagnostic, but on fabric grounds is also medieval or post-medieval. There is also one small fragment of a modern glazed wall tile, from topsoil in Trench 4.

5.4 Glass

- 5.4.1 One fragment of vessel glass, from topsoil in Test Pit 4, belongs to a post-medieval green wine bottle of 'mallet' or 'squat cylindrical' form, of 18th-century date.

5.5 Other finds

- 5.5.1 Other finds are limited to two plain clay pipe stem fragments, and a small piece of ironworking slag (undated).



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

Context	CBM	Pottery	Other Finds
032		1/5	
040		1 / 4	1 glass
103	1/31	5/478	
301	1/354		
306			1 slag
309		2/15	
310		8/148	
401	1/3	1/3	1 iron
504	1/37	1/3	
508		1/95	
512		5/54	
516		3/429	
517		1 / 4	
604	1/54	22/1754	
605		1/88	
607		21/303	
609		1 / 2	
611		4/67	
612		1/19	
613			2 clay pipe
Total	5/479	70/3547	

CBM = ceramic building material

Table 2: Pottery by context

Context	Ware	Fabric	Date Range	No.	Wt. (g)	Additional Comments
032	Tinglazed earthenware	EA11	C18	1	5	small body sherd, blue dec
040	Refined whiteware	EA10	c.1800+	1	4	banded dec
103	Black glazed redware	EA6	C16–C18	2	210	flared bowl, internally glazed
103	Midland Purple	MP	c.1375–1550	1	31	
103	Midland Yellow	MY	c.1500–1725	1	17	
103	Post-med redware	EA	Post-med	1	220	unglazed; slightly flared bowl
309	Chilvers Coton 1	CC1	c.1200–1400	2	15	
310	Midland Purple	MP	c.1375–1550	8	148	prob all 1 vessel (5 conjoining rim); small jar, sooted ext, patchy glaze int & ext
504	English stoneware	SW5	C18+	1	3	rim from small, thin-walled, straight-sided vessel
508	Midland Purple	MP	c.1375–1550	1	95	bifid rim (internal lid-seating)
512	Cistercian ware	CW2	c.1475–1750	1	5	small rim - cup/mug
512	Midland Purple	MP	c.1375–1550	3	33	
512	Midland Yellow	MY	c.1500–1725	1	16	
516	Midland Purple	MP	c.1375–1550	3	429	flared bowl with flanged rim
517	Refined whiteware	EA10	c.1800+	1	4	transfer printed
604	Black glazed redware	EA6	C16–C18	12	266	straight-sided jar
604	Midland Purple	MP	c.1375–1550	8	1426	base of large jar or bowl, internal glazed; flared bowl with flanged rim
604	Midland Yellow	MY	c.1500–1725	2	62	flared bowl, internally glazed
605	Chilvers Coton A	CC1	c.1200–1400	1	88	internally glazed base
607	Chilvers Coton A	CC1	c.1200–1400	2	23	
607	Midland Purple	MP	c.1375–1550	19	359	4 jar rims (1 with applied thumbled strip around neck)
609	Chilvers Coton A	CC1	c.1200–1400	1	2	Glazed
611	Chilvers Coton C	CC2	c.1200–1475	3	41	
611	RB greyware	GW	Roman	1	26	base sherd, very abraded
612	Midland Purple	MP	c.1375–1550	1	19	

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A series of five bulk samples were taken from ditches **307** and **308** in Trench 3, ditch **511** in Trench 5 and gully **603** and pit **609** in Trench 6 of medieval and late medieval/post-medieval date to evaluate the presence and preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains. The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal.

6.2 Charred plant remains

6.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The

coarse fractions (>5.6mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. The flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded in **Table 3**. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, Tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals.

- 6.2.2 The flots varied in size with low to moderate numbers of roots and modern seeds. The charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation.
- 6.2.3 Relatively small charred plant assemblages were recorded in most of the samples, with a moderate number of charred remains noted in the sample from ditch **308** in Trench 3. The cereal remains included grains of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum* type) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*). The weed seeds included seeds of oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.), vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) and black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*). There were also a few fragments of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell in the samples from Trench 6.
- 6.2.4 The assemblages are compatible with the pottery dating evidence as free-threshing wheat, together with barley and rye, was the common cereal during the medieval period in England (Greig 1991). The assemblages appear to be indicative of general settlement waste. The weed seeds are those typical in grassland, field margins and arable environments and are likely to have come in with the crops.

6.3 Wood charcoal

- 6.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 3**. Relatively large quantities of wood charcoal fragments greater than 2mm were recovered from ditch **511** in Trench 5 and gully **603** and pit **609** in Trench 6. It included mature and round wood fragments.

6.4 Further potential

Charred plant remains

- 6.4.1 The analysis of the charred plant assemblages has no potential to provide detailed information on the nature of the settlement and the surrounding environment due to the generally small assemblages recovered. No further work is proposed on these samples.

Wood charcoal

- 6.4.2 The analysis of the wood charcoal has the potential to provide limited information on the species composition and management and exploitation of the local woodland resource. No further work is proposed on these samples.

Table 3: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
<i>Trench 3 - medieval ditches</i>												
307	309	2	6	75	35	C	-	F-t threshing wheat grain frags	C	<i>Avena/Bromus</i>	2/5 ml	Coal
308	310	1	15	130	20	A	-	Barley + f-t wheat grain frags	C	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus, Avena/Bromus</i>	3/7 ml	Coal
<i>Trench 5 - Late/post- medieval ditch</i>												
511	512	4	6	225	35	C	-	Barley grain frags	C	<i>Fallopia</i>	10/10 ml	Coal
<i>Trench 6 - Medieval gully</i>												
603	607	3	8	1700	1	B	-	Barley + f-t wheat grain frags	B	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frags, <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	25/20 ml	Coal
<i>Trench 6 - Medieval pit</i>												
609	612	5	6	400	1	C	-	F-t threshing wheat grain frags	B	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frags, <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	15/20 ml	Coal

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Summary

7.1.1 The linear boundaries recorded on the Site are presumed to represent property boundaries. The evidence suggests that this part of Ashby de la Zouch became developed during or shortly after the 14th century. Properties were set out in relation to the medieval predecessor of Kilwardby Street, with subsequent developments constrained by this enduring template. The remains are fairly sparse, with no definite structural remains recorded. The Site's relatively poor drainage conditions may have discouraged prolonged or intense occupation.

7.2 General

7.2.1 The evaluation has revealed that the Site contains a limited archaeological component. Remains comprised generally slight linear ditches or gullies, presumed to represent the boundaries of tofts or burgage plots, along with associated fairly extensive garden soils. Occasional pits and postholes were also present. Brick-built walls and drains were noted at a number of locations, with many of these corresponding with the locations of modern buildings.

7.2.2 Remains were found distributed fairly evenly across the evaluated area, with no particularly stark concentration of activity. However, Trench 6, located close to the Kilwardby Street frontage, contained a relatively high number of cut features, and provided almost two thirds of the Site's pottery assemblage by weight.

7.2.3 The earliest dated material from the Site is a single sherd of Romano-British greyware, although this was seemingly redeposited within a later context. Overall, the artefactual assemblage suggests that concerted activity on the Site began in or shortly after the 14th century, with occupation continuing during the post-medieval period. The ceramic evidence suggests a possible hiatus in the early 18th century. Cartographic sources reveal that the Site became more built-up from the early-to-mid-19th century onwards, with the later archaeological remains corresponding with this phase.

- 7.2.4 The remains reveal something of the development of the townscape of Ashby de la Zouch in the medieval period. The Site first witnessed activity in the 14th century, and this presumably reflects the chronology of the expansion of the built-up area. With one exception (gully **603**) the Site's linear boundaries share the same general north-south alignment and so run at 90° to Kilwardby Street, and were presumably set out in relation to its medieval predecessor. Given that current, extant property boundaries share the same alignment, the excavated remains highlight the well-established influence of Kilwardby Street upon Ashby's townscape. The recutting and superimposition of property boundaries along the same course was noted wherever such features were present. That boundaries were maintained over a number of centuries again highlights the static pattern of land division hereabouts.
- 7.2.5 The ditched boundary recorded in Trench 5 lay roughly 22m to the east of that recorded in Trench 3, which in turn lay around 36m to the east of the assumed common boundary intercepted by Trenches 1 and 6. At first glance, the widths of the enclosed areas do not therefore appear to be regular, but not all boundaries once present on the Site may have survived or been intercepted. Instead, the boundaries that were recorded may be remnants of a template within which properties were laid out 11m-12m apart. Such a figure would not be unusual for the long, narrow tofts commonly found in medieval settlements.
- 7.2.6 No direct traces of houses or other structures were apparent, although if present on the Site, these would most likely be found directly adjacent to Kilwardby Street. Horticulture, waste disposal and craft/industrial activities might be envisaged in the backplots, although little evidence of this was apparent within the evaluation trenches. Occupation of the Site does not appear to have been particularly intense; this may reflect its relatively poor drainage conditions. The Site occupies something of a low point within Ashby, with the land rising to the east and west. Flooding of trenches from perched water made the evaluation exercise problematic, and similar circumstances may have meant that this land was less favoured for occupation in the past.

7.3 Conclusions

- 7.3.1 The remains relating to the medieval and post-medieval occupation on the Site would appear to be of local importance. The Site's archaeological component would be able to contribute to established research questions, principally those relating to the development and provisioning of small towns during the medieval and post-medieval periods, and the living conditions within them (Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012, 94; 108).
- 7.3.2 The archaeological evaluation largely succeeded in meeting its aims and objectives. Medieval activity on the Site was encountered, and the nature of the remains has been characterised. There is some evidence for post-medieval and later disturbance of earlier horizons, although this has not completely erased earlier horizons. The trench evaluation has established that further archaeological works will be necessary to mitigate the effect of any development, and enable the Site's archaeological component to contribute to the stated research aims.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

- 8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Leicester City Council Museums and Galleries. The Council has agreed in principle to

accept the project archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **X.A59.2015**. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

8.2 Preparation of archive

8.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Leicester City Council Museums and Galleries, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

8.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site and accession code (**X.A59.2015**), and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- one file/document case of paper records & A3/A4 graphics;
- one standard archive box of artefacts.

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. In this instance, the clay pipe stems, ceramic building material, bottle glass and slag are considered to have little or no potential for further research, and it is recommended that these artefacts should be discarded from the archive. The pottery assemblage, however, should be retained *in toto*, as providing useful evidence for the local and regional ceramic sequence. 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 2011).

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.



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10 APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix 1: Context descriptions by trench

Trench No. 1	Description:	Dimensions: 15 x 1.6m
Context No.		Depth: 1.6m
100	Modern Asphalt car park surface	0 – 0.2m
101	Black gritty sand with brick and mortar demolition rubble	0.2 – 0.4m
102	V. dark greyish brown sandy silty clay. "Dark Earth"	0.4 – 0.8m
103	Soft brownish grey clay. Contains post-med pot.	0.8 – 0.15m
104	Soft, coarse mid-brownish orange sand/clay mix with veins of paler clay. Natural.	1.5 – 1.6m
105	Linear cut, small gully, possibly a property boundary	0.94 – 1.07m
106	Fill of gully 105. Dark blue/grey clay and silt with occasional small rounded stones	0.94 – 1.07m

Trench No. 2	Description:	Dimensions: 15 x 1.6m
Context No.		Depth: 0.6m
200	Modern Tarmac surface	0.0 – 0.1m
201	Red crushed stone levelling layer, preparation for Tarmac	0.1 – 0.3m
202	Very dark brown sandy greyish silt with modern brick and pot (whiteware)	0.3 – 0.62m
203	Mid greyish brown soft silty sandy clay with frequent charcoal fragments	0.72 – 0.90m
204	Mid greenish grey soft silty sandy clay with frequent charcoal fragments	0.9 – 1.0m
205	Mid orangey yellowish brown sticky wet clay. Natural	0.72 – 0.9m

Trench No. 3	Description:	Dimensions: 15 x 1.6m
Context No.		Depth: 1.0m
300	Topsoil. Very dark brown sandy loam with abundant rooting	0 – 0.2m
301	Garden soil. Dark brown sandy loam containing frequent charcoal & coal. Lens of mortar frags at base of deposit	0.2 – 0.5m
302	Lower garden soil. Mid-greyish brown sandy silty loam with frequent charcoal & coal frags	0.5 – 1.0m
303	Natural. Mid-orangey brown clayish silt. Friable. Rare/occasional rounded coarse gravel & small pebbles	1.0m+
304	Cut. Sub-circular feature with steep sides and flat base. Fill (306) & (305). Poss associated with post-med "Back Plot" industry	1.0m
305	Lower fill of 304. Dark grey friable clayish loam with rare rounded coarse gravel	1.40m
306	Upper fill of 304. Mid-reddish brown loamy clay with rare sub-rounded coarse gravel and CBM, slaf and occ. charcoal flecks	1.25m
307	Cut. Very shallow linear gully, possibly for drainage, may pre-date 308	1.02 – 1.20m
308	Linear ditch, possibly for drainage	0.81 – 1.41m
309	Fill of 307. Light orange/grey firm sand with sparse small sub-rounded stones	1.02 – 1.20m



310	Fill of 308. Mid-brown grey firm silty sand with frequent small, medium and large sub-rounded & sub-angular stones	1.00 – 1.41
311	Fill of 308. Mid-grey brown firm silty sand with v.rare & v.small sub-angular stones	0.85 – 1.01m

Trench No. 4	Description:	Dimensions: 10 x 1.6m
Context No.		Depth: 1.2m
400	Garden topsoil	0.0 – 0.2m
401	Modern levelling. Brick and mortar rubble in a clay matrix	0.2 – 0.6m
402	Yellow clay natural	0.6+
403	Construction cut for drain 404	
404	Ceramic (tile) drain	
405	Backfill of 403	
406	Construction cut for wall 407	
407	Brick wall	
408	Backfill of 406	
409	Large probable pit	
410	Fill of 409. Dark grey brown clay	

Trench No. 5	Description:	Dimensions: 15 x 1.6m
Context No.		Depth: 1.55m
500	Modern ground surfaces. Two layers of Tarmac with gravel between	0.0 – 0.5m
501	Modern levelling. Brick rubble in a matrix of gritty black sand	1.1 – 1.2m
502	Dark earth. Very dark grey clayish sandy silt with abundant small CBM fragments	0.4 – 1.0m
503	Mid-brownish-grey soft silty clay with frequent charcoal & mortar fragments	0.7 – 1.1m
504	Upper natural/interface. Soft pale-brownish grey clay with rare small pebbles and charcoal	1.1 – 1.28m
505	Lower definite natural. Stiff yellowish-orange clay with pale blue-grey marbling	1.28 – 1.55m
506	Layer of light yellow brown silt and sand with occasional small sub-angular stones	0.26-0.78m
507	Cut of linear ditch, possible property boundary	
508	Fill of 507. Light brown/grey sandy silt with frequent mid-sized coal inclusions	
509	Cut for steep-sided linear ditch; possible property boundary	
510	Fill of 509. Mid grey brown sandy clay with sparse sub-angular stones & coal & charcoal flecks	
511	Cut for steep-sided linear ditch, possible property boundary	
512	Fill of 511. Dark blue-grey silty clay with occasional sub-rounded small stones	
513	Cut for shallow-sided linear ditch, probable property boundary	
514	Fill of 513. Mid-brown grey silty clay with frequent small inclusions of coal	
515	Cut for shallow-sided linear ditch, likely foundation cut for 517	
516	Fill of 515. Mid yellow/grey silty clay with coal specks throughout & mid-sized sandstone stones	
517	Red brick house wall bonded with mortar; probably 18th c.	



Trench No. 6	Description:	Dimensions: 15 x 1.6m
Context No.		Depth: 1.5m
600	Concrete on a prepared bed of smashed-up drainage pipe	0 – 0.4m
601	Friable mid-brown silt	0.4-0.55m
602	Mixed cinders, ash and charcoal	0.55-0.7m
603	Cut for steep-sided curvilinear drainage gully.	
604	Layer of mid greyish brown friable clayish silt with frequent charcoal flecks	0.7-1.35m
605	Layer of mid-dark slightly greenish brown grey sandy clay with frequent charcoal/organic black mottling	1.35-1.5m
606	Layer of stiff yellow clay. Natural	1.5m+
607	Fill of 603. Mid brownish-grey silty clay. Wet and mushy with lots of medieval pot and frequent charcoal flecks	
608	Cut for gently-sloping linear gully, probably an early property boundary	
609	Cut for steep-sided, flat based lozenge shaped shallow pit	
610	Cut for gentle-sided, concave based, sub-circular pit, possibly dug against a long-lived property boundary	
611	Fill of 608. Mid brownish grey soft & sticky silty clay with medieval pottery and frequent charcoal fragments	
612	Fill of 609. Mid-brownish grey soft and sticky silty clay with pottery and frequent charcoal fragments	
613	Fill of 610. Mid brown soft and wet silty clay with occasional large angular sandstone frags	



10.2 Appendix 2: OASIS form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-215292

Project details

Project name	Kilwardby Street, Ashby-de-la-Zouche
Short description of the project	<p>Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to excavate six trenches across approximately 0.3ha of land lying to the south of Kilwardby Street, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire. A number of linear ditches or gullies probably represent property boundaries set out at 90° degrees to the medieval predecessor of Kilwardby Street. The evidence suggests that this part of Ashby de la Zouch became developed during or shortly after the 14th century, with subsequent developments occurring within a street plan which remained fairly static. Fairly widespread deposits probably representing garden soils were also encountered, along with occasional pits and postholes. Brick-built walls and drains of 19th- to 20th-century construction were noted in most trenches, with some impact on earlier horizons. The medieval and post-medieval remains are fairly sparse, and Site's relatively poor drainage conditions may account for this, with ground conditions too wet for prolonged or intense occupation. The evaluation produced a fairly small quantity of finds. The assemblage is dominated by pottery, which ranges in date from medieval to modern, although there is an emphasis on late medieval/early post-medieval wares. Relatively small charred plant assemblages were recorded in most of the samples. The types of cereal present within the samples are congruent with the pottery dating evidence. The plant assemblages appear to be indicative of general settlement waste. The medieval and post-medieval remains are pertinent to established research goals, and the Site overall is judged to be of local archaeological importance.</p>
Project dates	Start: 26-08-2015 End: 21-09-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	109590 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	T20399 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	14/00775/FULM - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	X.A59.2015 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval



Significant Finds	POT Roman
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Not recorded
Development type	Residential care home
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE ASHBY DE LA ZOUCHE Kilwardby Street, Ashby de la Zouche
Postcode	LE65 2FG
Study area	0.3 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 35561 16629 52.745773773956 -1.473148117465 52 44 44 N 001 28 23 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 125m Max: 125m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting Ltd.
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Chris Swales
Project supervisor	Patrick Daniel
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Leicestershire County Council Museums Service
Physical Archive ID	X.A59.2015
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Leicestershire County Council Museums Service
Digital Archive ID	X.A59.2015
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"



Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Leicestershire County Council Museums Service
Paper Archive ID	X.A59.2015
Paper Contents	"Ceramics", "Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land off Kilwardby Street, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire: Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Daniel, P.
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Sheffield
Description	c. 40 page comb-bound report with colour figures and plates
Entered by	Patrick Daniel (p.daniel@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	2 October 2015

10.3 Appendix 3: Results of watching brief on geotechnical trial holes

10.3.1 Detailed results of the deposits encountered in the geotechnical trial holes are presented below, with the strata described in stratigraphic order.

Trial Hole No.		1
Context no.	Description/interpretation	Depth from ground surface
10	Modern asphalt carpark surface. Ground surface at time of excavation.	0-0.17m
11	Brick and mortar demolition rubble levelling/prep for asphalt.	0.17-0.5m
12	V. dark greyish brown sandy silty clay. "Dark Earth" garden soil. Contains charcoal and modern pot.	0.5-1.2m
13	Dark greenish-grey soft clay. Wet preserved organic matter. No finds. Potential archaeological horizon.	1.2-1.6m
14	?Natural:dark red clayish sand. Quite loose.	1.6-1.9m
15	Blue clay natural. Stiff and heavy	1.9-2.0m

Trial Hole No.		2
Context no.	Description/interpretation	Depth from ground surface
20	Modern asphalt carpark surface. Ground surface at time of excavation.	0-0.2m
21	Yellow sand. Prep. for carpark.	0.2-0.4m
22	Brick rubble with cobbles. Dark brown dirty gritty silt matrix.	0.4-0.7m
23	Mid-to-dark greenish grey silty clay. Soft. With charcoal. No finds. Less organic pres. than 13. Potential archaeological horizon.	0.7-1.3m
24	Orangey brown sandy clay with pebbles. Wet. Natural?	1.3-2.15
25	Hard blue clay natural	2.15-2.4+

Trial Hole No.		3
Context no.	Description/interpretation	Depth from ground surface
30	Modern asphalt ground surface. Ground surface at time of excavation.	0.0-0.12m
31	Beige concrete. Former yard surface.	0.12-0.2m
32	Mid-to-dark greenish greyish brown soft silty clay. Buried/garden soil. Not as dark as 13 and 23. Contains charcoal. Contains modern ?c.19th-c.20th white glazed pot.	0.2-1.2m
33	Stiff reddish brown clay with sand. Natural?	1.2-1.7m
34	Natural stiff blue clay.	1.7m+

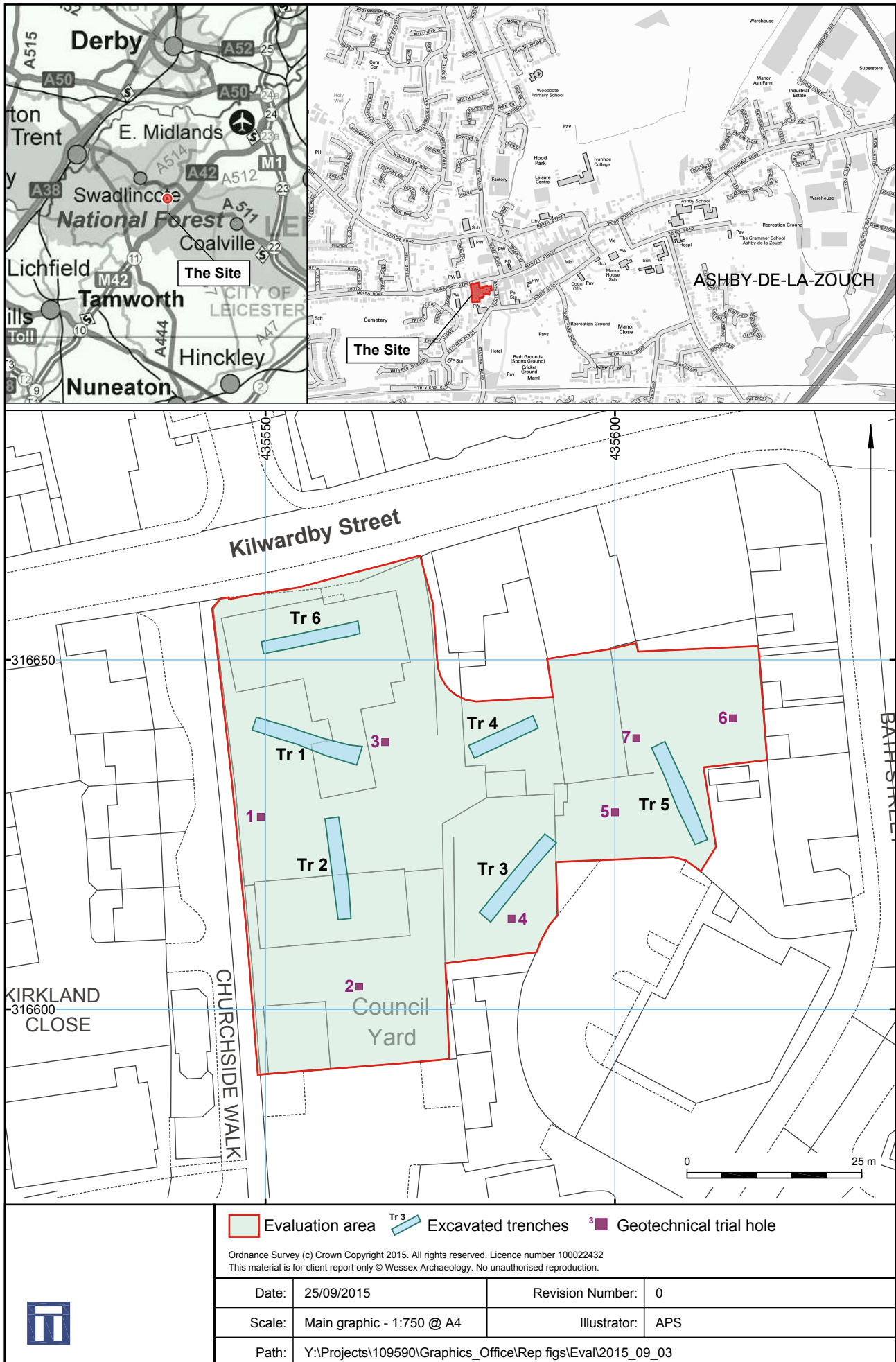


Trial Hole No.		4
Context no.	Description/interpretation	Depth from ground surface
40	Topsoil: dark brown loamy silt. Friable. Modern ground. Surface is ivy covered waste ground. V. rooty. Contains sparse bits of brick.	0-0.2m
41	Reddish brown sandy clay with pebbles. Natural?	0.2-0.9m
42	Natural: stiff blue clay.	0.9-1.7m+

Trial Hole No.		5
Context no.	Description/interpretation	Depth from ground surface
50	Modern aggregate chippings and underlying grey sand prep. layer.	0-0.2m
51	Made ground: black gritty sand with brick rubble and modern cobbles. Contains modern pot. Grading to browner material towards base of deposit.	0.2-0.9m
52	Natural: stiff blue clay.	0.9-1.7m+

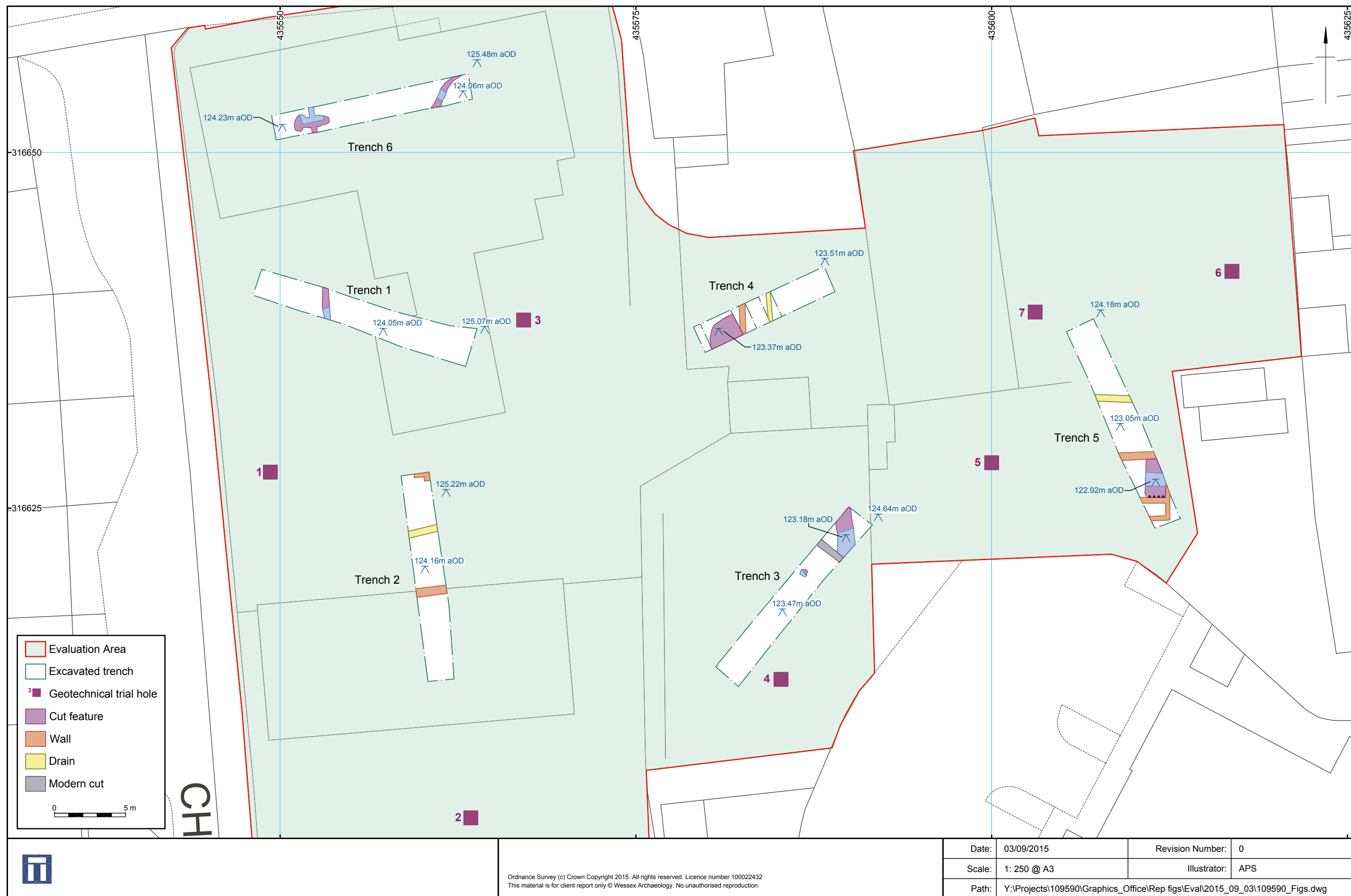
Trial Hole No.		6
Context no.	Description/interpretation	Depth from ground surface
60	Modern ground surface: gravel chippings sitting on red sand prep.	0-0.2m
61	Made ground. Brick rubble in a gritty black sand matrix containing modern pot, becomes browner and more clayey at depth, but with modern pot.	0.2-1.3m
62	Natural: clay. Stiff. Orangey brown	1.3-1.8m
63	Natural: stiff blue clay. Carboniferous coal measures, apparently, according to geotech. engineer	1.8-2.0m+

Trial Hole No.		7
Context no.	Description/interpretation	Depth from ground surface
70	Modern carpark surface: asphalt on aggregate chippings prep.	0.0-0.1m
71	Brick rubble in a matrix of v. dark brown gritty sand. Modern pot.	0.1-0.75m
72	Brick wall. Possible fuel tank setting. 71 abuts 72. 2 bricks thick.	0.1-0.75m+
73	Aggregate chippings. Fill over tank.	0.1-0.75m



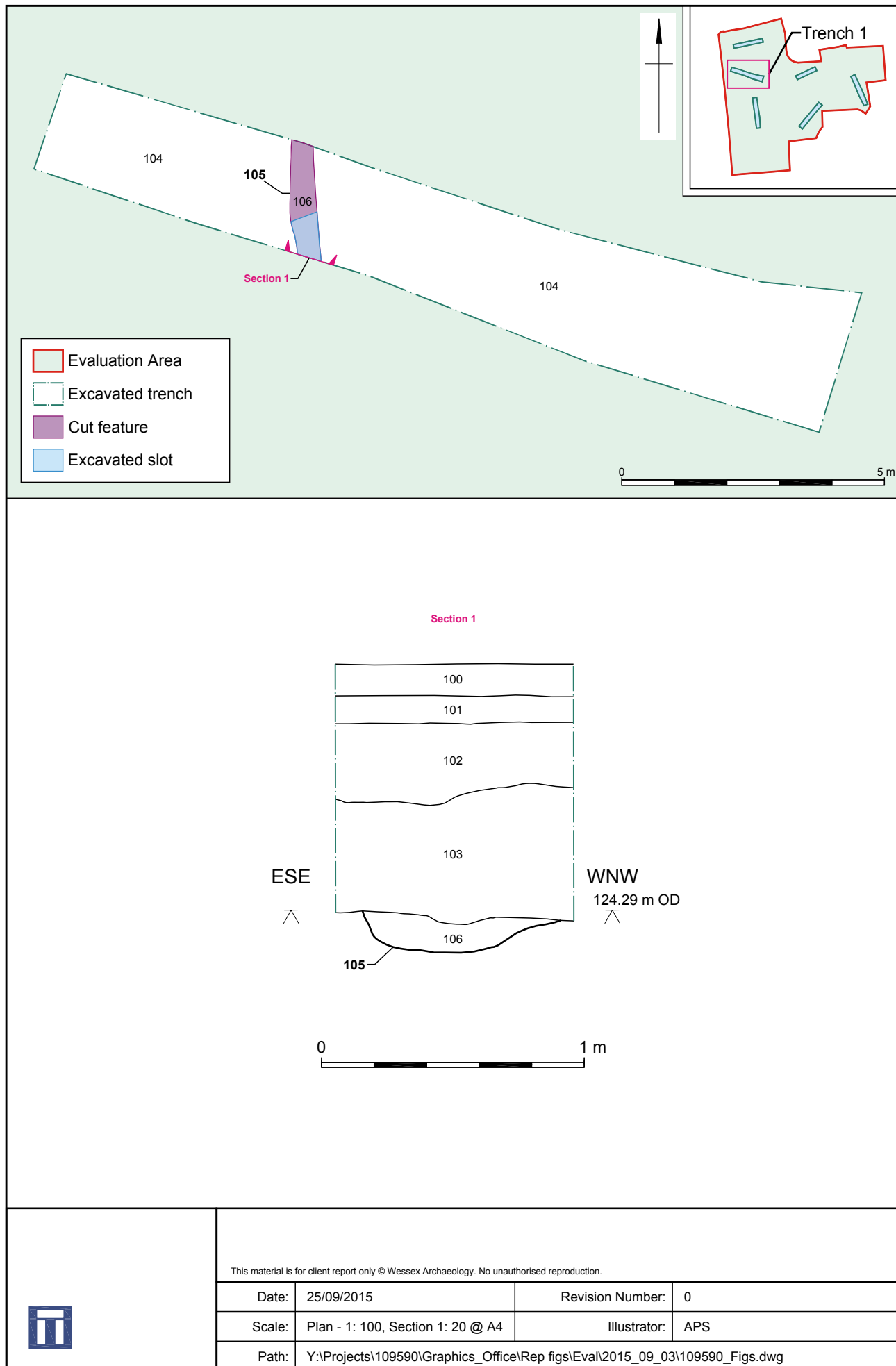
Site location

Figure 1



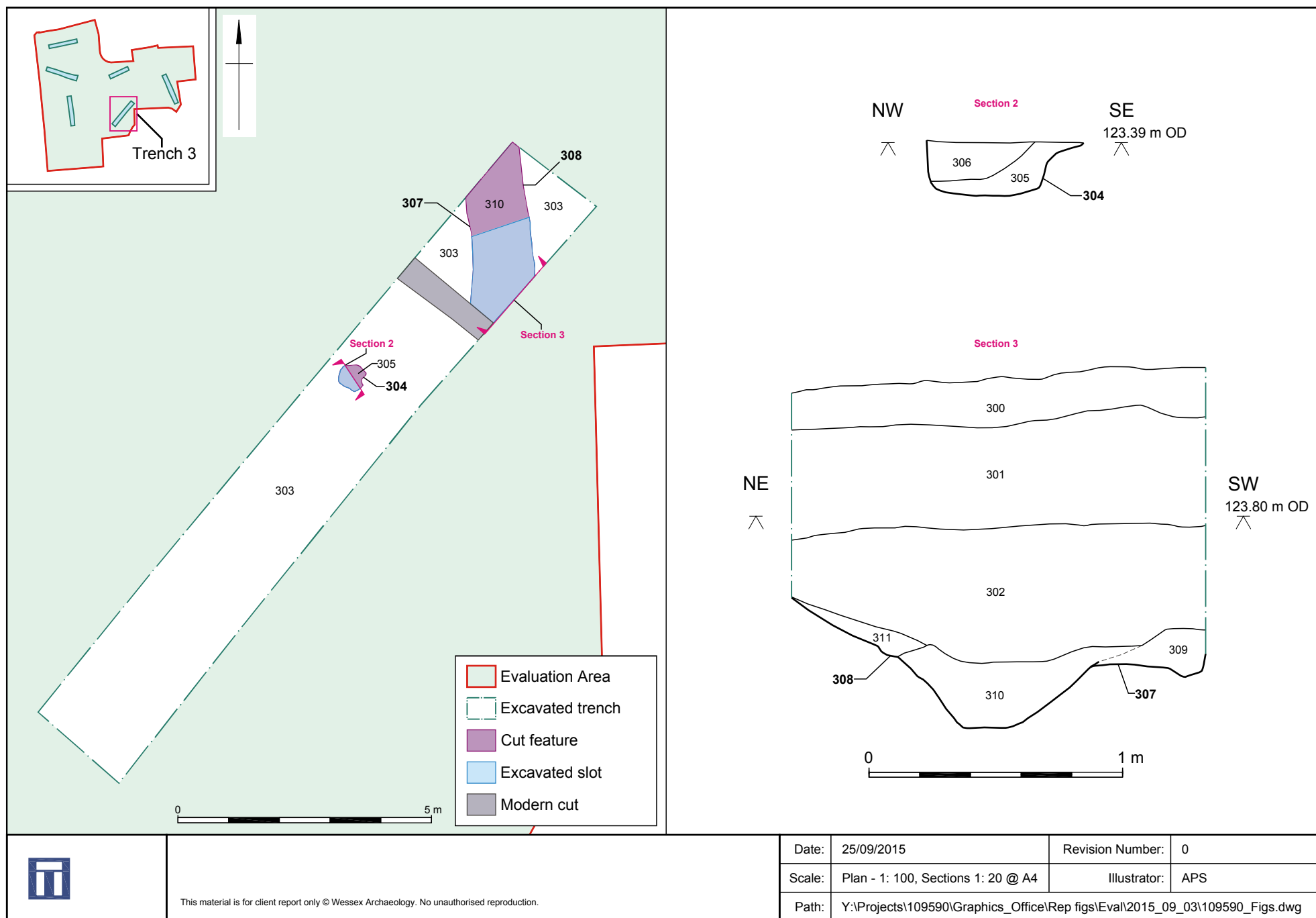
Post-excitation plan of trenches

Figure 2



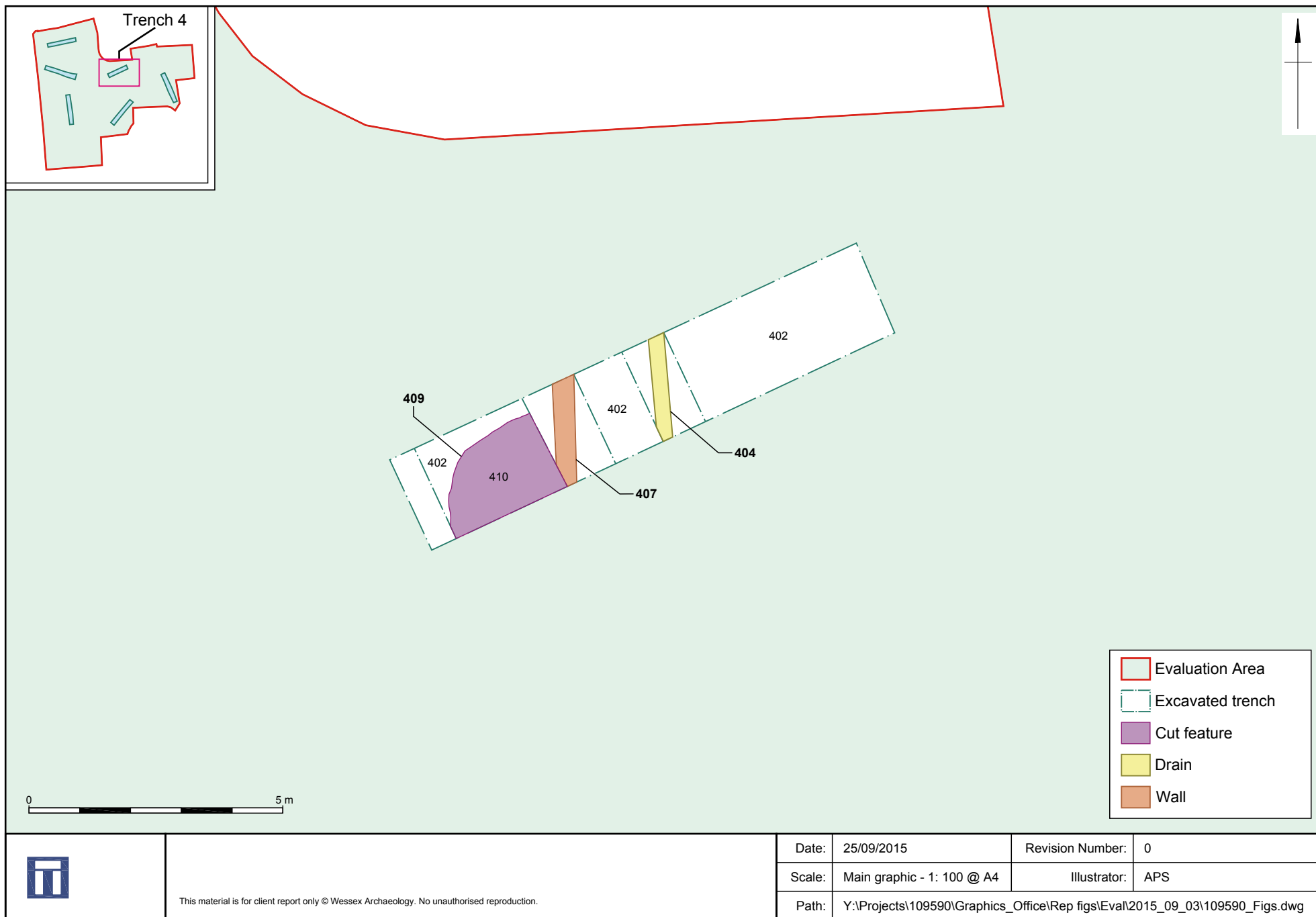
Plan of Trench 1, and section of gully 105

Figure 3



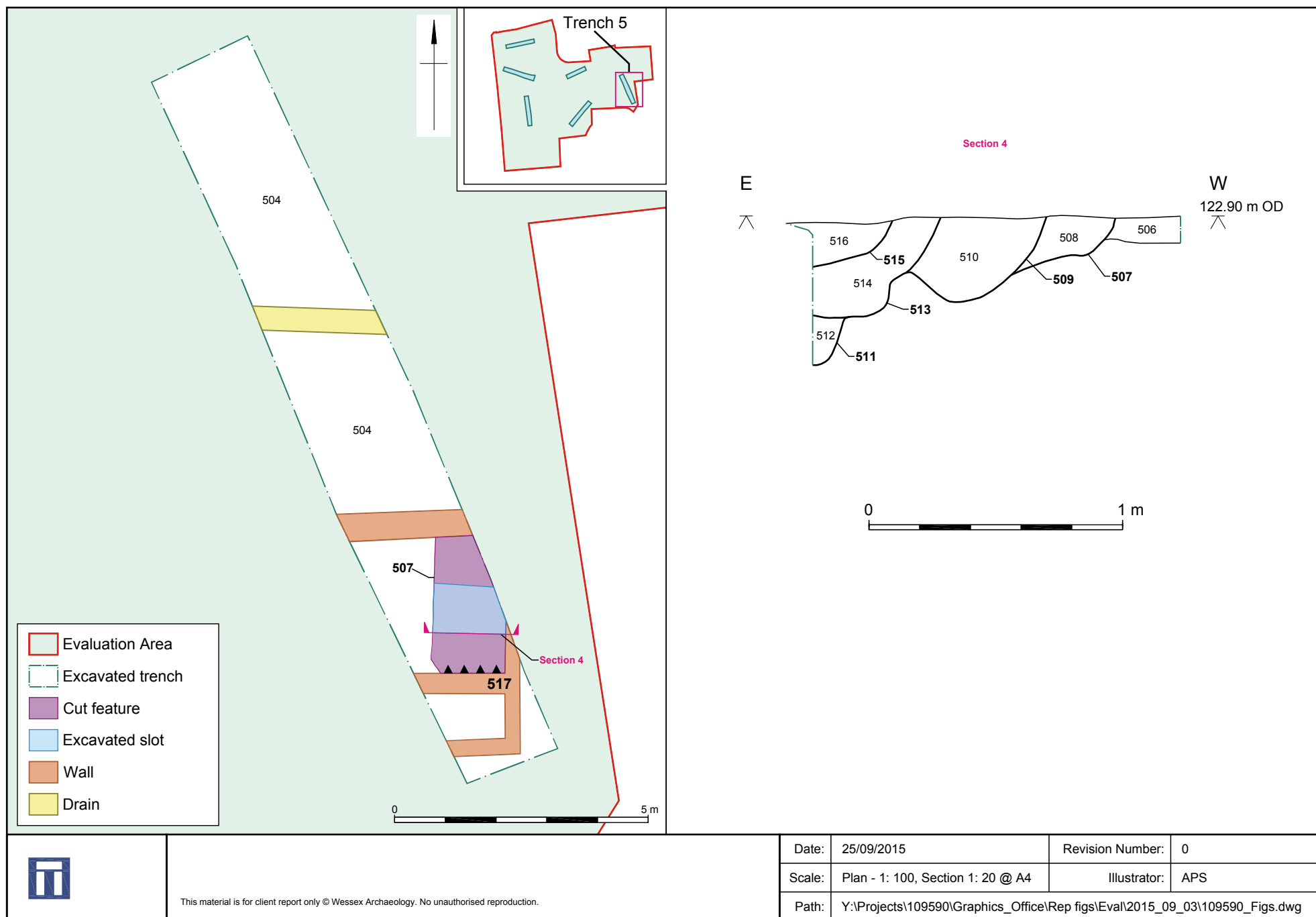
Plan of Trench 3, and sections of pit 305 and ditches 307 and 308

Figure 4



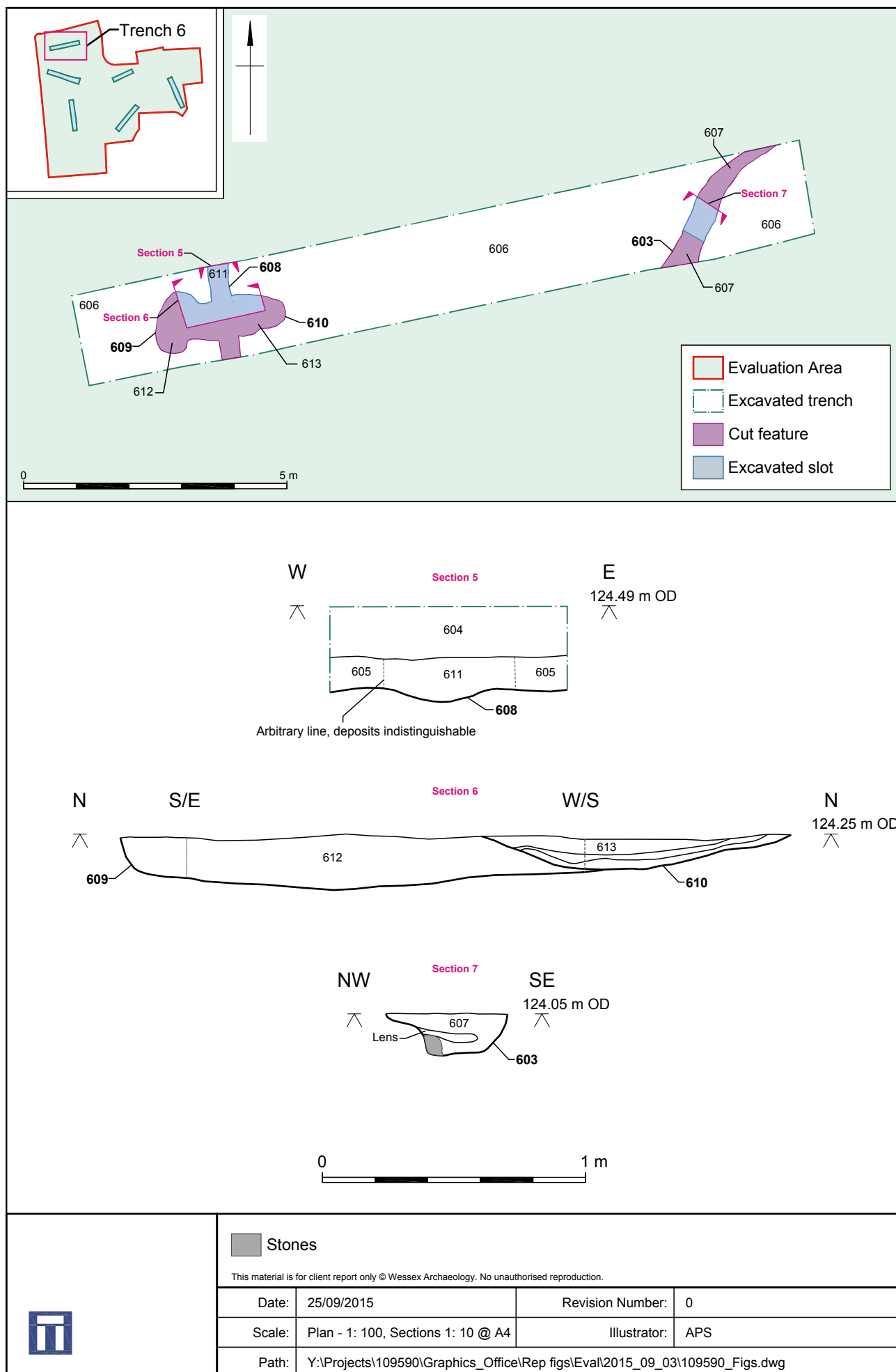
Plan of Trench 4

Figure 5



Plan of Trench 5 and north facing section of ditches 507, 509, 511, 513 and 515

Figure 6



Plan and sections of features in Trench 6

Figure 7



Plate 1: General site shot: excavation of geotechnical trial pit 1 about to commence



Plate 2: Soil profile in Trench 5, north-east facing section


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Plate 3: Soil profile in Trench 3, south-east facing section



Plate 4: Gully 105 sealed beneath deposit 103, north-facing section


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Plate 5: Features in Trench 6. Note modern wall line following earlier gully



Plate 6: Gully 603 and overlying deposits, south-west facing section


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Plate 7: Trench 3, ditch 308 in foreground



Plate 8: Posthole 304, south-west facing section


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Plate 9: Trench 4, pit 409 overlain by wall 407 in foreground



Plate 10: Trench 5, wall 517 in foreground



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Plate 11: Ditches in Trench 5, north-facing section

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