



making sense of heritage

Land off Kilwardby Street, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire

Archaeological Assessment



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

Archaeological Assessment

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Land off Kilwardby Street, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out a programme of archaeological investigation 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. The site had previously been the subject of a desk-based assessment and archaeological trench evaluation.

Two areas measuring 520 m² in total were subjected to Strip, Map and Sample excavation, with a watching brief later carried out on groundworks nearby. The stripped geological horizon was found to slope down to the south-east, reflecting the natural drainage fall towards the Gilwiskaw Brook. Numerous features were found cutting the geological substrate. The stratigraphically earliest feature would appear to be an undated north-west to south-east aligned ditch, which had been cut by a north-south aligned property boundary ditch found to contain pottery dating from approximately 1100–1400. A series of slightly later north-south aligned property boundary ditches were seen across the site. In addition, a number of ancillary gullies and pits/postholes were found. Pottery dates suggest a range spanning the 14th to 15th century for these features. Modern structural and drainage features had impacted on archaeological horizons across the site, with some of these tallying with features shown on 19th- and 20th-century mapping.

The medieval archaeological remains appear to represent boundary definition and limited activities associated with settlement occurring on the periphery of the town. No definite remains of domestic structures were recorded. Flooding of excavation areas from perched water made the fieldwork problematic, and similarly poor drainage conditions in the past may have discouraged occupation. Situated on the fringe of the 13th- and 14th-century settlement, the land may have been used for horticulture and waste disposal. A substantial dark soil cultivation horizon was found interleaved between the medieval features and the modern remains across the majority of the site.

Overall, the archaeology of the site reflects the expansion of sub-urban activity beyond the fringes of the settlement in the medieval period. This may have been accelerated by heightened trade and population growth following the granting of market and borough status to Ashby in the 13th and 14th centuries.

The artefactual assemblage recovered from the site is of moderate size, and reflects disposal of household waste in the medieval period. Finds consist largely of pottery, with other material types very sparsely represented. The environmental assemblages tally with this, being indicative of general settlement activity in the wider area, and containing cereal remains compatible with the medieval/post-medieval pottery dating evidence. Environmental samples typically contained low numbers of charred plant remains, with no evidence that the site contains deposits of significantly enhanced palaeoenvironmental value.

The project archive resulting from the excavation will 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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Fieldwork was carried out by Owen Batchelor, Rupert Birtwhistle (Allen Archaeology), Patrick Daniel, Chris Hirst and Hannah Holbrook. The report was written by Patrick Daniel, with illustrations by Alix Sperr. The finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram, with environmental samples processed by Yohann Paci, Richard Spenser and Emma Robertson, and assessed by Sarah F. Wyles. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Christopher Swales.



Land off Kilwardby Street, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire

Archaeological Assessment

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting (hereafter 'the Client') to carry out a programme of archaeological excavation and recording in advance of the construction of a new residential care home on land off Kilwardby Street, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire, NGR 435561, 316629 (hereafter 'the Site').
- 1.1.2 The work was necessitated by the archaeological potential of the Site, as revealed by a desk-based assessment ('DBA') (CgMs Consulting 2013) and a consequent trial trench evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2015a), and to discharge a condition placed on planning consent, in accordance with local, regional and national planning policies. Further details of the previous investigations are presented in **Section 2** below.
- 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 2015b). 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, land use across the Site comprised County Council offices, an associated yard, two garden areas and a motor vehicle repair garage.
- 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.125 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), although the land rises gently to the east and west. Gilwiskaw Brook is situated c. 170 m to the east with further springs c. 650 m 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 (BGS 2016).



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following text is summarised 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 1 km 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 Norman 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 it 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

Desk-based assessment

- 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 were 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.

Watching brief

- 2.2.2 An archaeological watching brief on the excavation of geotechnical trial holes on the Site was carried out in July 2015 (Wessex Archaeology 2015a). 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 1.3 m below the modern ground surface. An approximately 1 m-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 0.8-1.6 m 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 between the garden soil and geological substrate, and consisted of a dark greenish grey soft clay containing charcoal and preserved organic matter. No datable artefacts were recorded from this latter deposit during the watching brief.

Archaeological evaluation

- 2.2.3 An evaluation was undertaken on the Site by Wessex Archaeology between August and September 2015 (Wessex Archaeology 2015a). A total of six trenches were excavated.
- 2.2.4 The evaluation revealed that the Site contained a limited archaeological component, of medieval and later date. A number of linear ditches or gullies were present; these were presumed to represent property boundaries, set out at 90° to the medieval predecessor of Kilwardby Street. The evidence suggested 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 that remained largely static thereafter.
- 2.2.5 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 truncated earlier horizons.
- 2.2.6 The medieval and post-medieval remains were fairly sparse, with no definite structural remains recorded. The Site's relatively poor drainage conditions were thought responsible for this, with ground conditions too wet for prolonged or intense occupation in the past. Nevertheless, the medieval and post-medieval remains were judged to be pertinent to established research goals, and the Site overall was judged to be of local archaeological importance.
- 2.2.7 The evaluation produced a fairly small quantity of finds, with the assemblage dominated by pottery, which ranges in date from medieval to modern, although with an emphasis on late medieval/early post-medieval wares.
- 2.2.8 Relatively small charred plant assemblages were recorded in most of the samples. The types of cereal present within the samples were congruent with the pottery dating evidence. The plant assemblages appeared indicative of general settlement waste. The weed seeds were those typical of grassland, field margins and arable environments.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 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; and*
- *to produce an accurate and comprehensive record and report of any archaeological deposits identified during the mitigation.*

3.2 Specific

3.2.1 The specific aims of the project were:

- *to identify, record and better understand the medieval/early post medieval ditches and associated features within the Site; and,*
- *to establish whether structural remains survive within the Site.*

3.3 Fieldwork methodology

3.3.1 The results of the archaeological trench evaluation indicated that archaeological remains were most likely to survive along the Kilwardby Street frontage and in the south-eastern portion of the Site. Consequently, following discussion with Richard Clark, Principal Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council, two Strip, Map and Sample mitigation areas measuring 98 m² and 421.5 m² (SMS 1 and 2; **Figure 1**) were identified. A contingency area (SMS 3 – 123 m²) lay to the west of SMS 1, although in the event its excavation was not required, due to the paucity of remains in SMS 1.

3.3.2 In addition, a watching brief was carried out on the excavation of an attenuation tank and service trenches in the north and east of the Site (**Figure 7**).

3.3.3 The Strip, Map and Sample mitigation areas were laid out by a Leica GPS operating in RTK mode, and CAT scanned prior to the start of works. Superficial deposits were removed by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket working under the constant supervision of the senior attending archaeologist. The results of the evaluation had indicated that archaeological horizons would be encountered below deposits of dark grey/brown buried soil of early modern date, and so machining proceeded accordingly.

3.3.4 All exposed archaeological features were investigated, with 15-100% of each feature hand-excavated. This high percentage marked an augmentation of the methodology proposed in the WSI, and was based on advice from Richard Clark, Principal Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council, in light of the modest amounts of remains encountered.

3.3.5 All recording was carried out in accordance with the approved WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2015b) and Wessex Archaeology and industry standards and guidelines (ClfA 2014a and b; Historic England 2015).

3.3.6 The majority of the fieldwork was carried out between 14th and 27th October 2015, with the watching brief occurring intermittently until January 2016.

3.4 Monitoring

3.4.1 Richard Clark, Principal Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council, visited the Site on Monday 26th October and made the recommendation for the supplementary excavation detailed above.



4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Summary

- 4.1.1 The results of the investigation are summarised below and a list of contexts is provided in Appendix 1.
- 4.1.2 Numerous features were found cutting the geological substrate. Two north-south aligned ditches were exposed in SMS 1. These contained pottery dating to the 14th/15th century, and are thought to represent plot boundaries. Drains and brick walls relating to 19th-century buildings were also visible. Further north-south aligned plot boundaries were exposed in SMS 2, although in this area, the stratigraphically earliest feature would appear to be an undated north-west to south-east aligned ditch. In addition, a number of ancillary gullies and pits/postholes were found within SMS 2. Pottery dates suggest a range spanning the 14th to 15th century for these features. Modern structural and drainage features had also impacted on archaeological horizons in SMS 2.
- 4.1.3 The medieval archaeological remains appear to represent boundary definition and limited activities associated with settlement occurring on the periphery of the town. No definite remains of domestic structures were recorded.
- 4.1.4 A substantial cultivation horizon accumulated over the majority of the Site, with dark soil deposits found interleaved between the medieval features and the modern remains. The artefactual assemblage recovered from the Site is of moderate size, and reflects disposal of household waste in the medieval period. The environmental assemblages tally with this, being indicative of general settlement activity in the wider area, and containing cereal remains compatible with the medieval/post-medieval pottery dating evidence. Environmental samples typically contained low numbers of charred plant remains, with no evidence that the Site contains deposits of significantly enhanced palaeoenvironmental value.
- 4.1.5 It is likely that the Site, lying on poorly drained ground on the fringe of the settlement in the medieval and post-medieval period, was used for horticulture and waste disposal rather than habitation.

4.2 Natural deposits

- 4.2.1 Both of the Strip, Map and Sample (SMS) areas 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. The stripped geological horizon was found to slope down from around 124.4 m in the north-west part of SMS 2 to around 123.3 m in the south-east part of SMS 1, reflecting the natural drainage fall towards the Gilwiskaw Brook. The natural geological horizon was typically reached at between 0.9 m and 1.1 m below the existing ground surface. Within the south-western portion of SMS 2 the original ground level descended more markedly, with natural not encountered until 1.5 m below the current ground surface (see pond/hollow **2013** below).

4.3 SMS 1

- 4.3.1 SMS 1 occupied an area of 115.4 m² and was positioned to intercept the northward course of a plot boundary ditch recorded during the evaluation (in Trench 3), and to prospect for any further remains (**Figure 2**).

- 4.3.2 A considerable amount of 19th-century and later disturbance was recorded in SMS 1, with two ceramic water pipes and two brick structures recorded. Nevertheless, the target ditch was intercepted, although perhaps 50% of its course had been erased by later features (**Plate 1**).
- 4.3.3 Numbered **1017**, the ditch was found to vary in width between 0.65 m and 0.9 m, and attain a maximum depth of 0.4 m (**Figure 3.1**). The feature had an irregular “V”-shaped profile and contained a single fill of mid-brownish grey sandy clay loam. Ditch **1017** extended beyond both the northern and southern limit of excavation of SMS 1, although its northern extent was concealed beneath a later deposit, **1016**.
- 4.3.4 When recorded in the evaluation this feature was accompanied on its western side by an earlier, parallel ditch. No clear evidence of this was recorded in SMS 1, although a possible stake alignment or hedgerow, **1012**, was recorded on the western side of the ditch (within slot **1010** – **Plate 2**). Ditch **1017** contained pottery dating to the 14th/15th century, along with two ‘hearth bottom’ ironsmithing slag concretions.
- 4.3.5 The northward course of ditch **1017** was intercepted in the stormwater attenuation tank watching brief area, where it was numbered **3012** (see below). Overall, the course of this feature was tracked for 18.5 m across the Site.
- 4.3.6 A second linear boundary was recorded in SMS 1, lying just 0.7 m to the east of ditch **1017**, and sharing that feature’s north-south alignment. Investigation established that it comprised two parallel ditch cuts (**Figure 3.2; Plate 3**). Ditch **1009** was the earlier of the two. It measured at least 0.36 m wide by 0.22 m deep, and contained a single fill of pale greyish brown sandy clay. It had been cut on its eastern side by ditch **1007**, which measured 0.58 m wide by 0.26 m deep, with a mid-orange brown sandy clay fill. The position and course of this boundary was matched by that of an extant, modern fenceline (**Plate 3**).
- 4.3.7 Ditches **1007** and **1009** continued beyond the southern limit of excavation, although both terminated within SMS 1, with a length of 4.4 m visible. A well-defined, 0.14 m deep posthole, **1003**, lay on the projected northward course of the boundary marked by ditches **1007** and **1009**, and may have been an associated element.
- 4.3.8 Much of SMS 1 was occupied by a rubble-filled brick structure, **1002**, which measured 5.8 m by 3.15 m, and penetrated the natural ground surface. Presumed to be the base of a privy or similar, it corresponds with backyard structures shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey mapping of 1883-4. Its component bricks were unfrogged and typically measured 23 mm by 11 mm by 6 mm, with a pale grey sandy mortar bonding.
- 4.3.9 The edge of a similar feature was located in the south-eastern corner of SMS 1.
- #### 4.4 SMS 2
- 4.4.1 SMS 2 occupied an area of 443.4 m² and was positioned to further examine a concentration of features recorded within the evaluation, and to ascertain whether or not the remains of any houses or other structures which may have once lined the medieval precursor of Kilwardby Street survived on the Site (**Figure 4**).
- 4.4.2 In the event, no definite structural remains were recorded, with linear boundary ditches instead forming the most conspicuous archaeological elements. As with SMS 1, archaeological horizons within SMS 2 had been heavily impacted by 19th- and 20th-century structures and services (**Plate 4**).

Boundary ditches and gullies

- 4.4.3 Ditch **2042** was perhaps the stratigraphically earliest boundary ditch within SMS 2. It was aligned north-west to south-east, with a visible length of over 13 m. Where excavated, it was found to vary in width between 0.62 m and 0.78 m, with a depth of around 0.3 m. Ditch **2042** had a broad, irregular “U”-shaped profile and contained a single fill of artefactually sterile mid-brown/grey clay (**Figure 5.3; Plate 5**).
- 4.4.4 At its western extent ditch **2042** appeared to merge with, or be cut by, pond/hollow **2013** (see below). At its eastern extent it had been cut by ditch **2043** (**Figure 5.4**). Ditch **2042** may have continued to the east of its junction with ditch **2043**, although its putative eastward course was obscured by a modern water pipe and the extremely disturbed ground conditions that pertained hereabouts when the excavation occurred (**Plate 6**).
- 4.4.5 Ditch **2043** was aligned north-south, and ran for over 20 m along the eastern edge of SMS 2, where it continued beyond the northern and southern limits of excavation. Three slots were dug across the feature, which was found to vary in width between over 1 m (at the northern end) and 0.6 m (at the southern end) and attain a maximum depth of 0.28 m (at the southern end). Ditch **2043** had a bowl-shaped profile and contained a fill of mid-brownish grey silty clay (**Figure 5.4; Plate 7**). The southernmost intervention, **2027**, contained an upper, tertiary fill of darker clay, some 0.1 m thick. Two pot sherds were the only finds recorded: the rim of Potters Marston ware jar and a fragment of Chilvers Coton A ware jar, deriving from the 12th to 13th or 14th centuries.
- 4.4.6 Ditch **2043** cut ditch **2042** (**Figure 5.4**) and had been cut in turn by gully **2044**. In both instances, the relationship could be clearly discerned.
- 4.4.7 Gully **2044** had a curvilinear form in plan (**Plate 4**). At its eastern extent it ran for 4.2 m on an east-north-east to west-south-west alignment, before turning to run to the south-west for a further 7.3 m. The width of the feature varied between 0.45 m and 0.8 m, with a maximum depth of 0.2 m. At its eastern extent, gully **2044** was lined with rubble stone packing separated by a central void measuring 0.25 m across (**Figure 6.6; Plate 8**). At this point, the feature may have functioned either as a beamslot, or as a drain, with any capping stones removed in the past. The latter interpretation is perhaps more likely, as no articulating elements associated with the feature and so forming an overall larger structure were present. Certainly, the south-westward continuation of the gully appeared to have a simple drainage function, and was seemingly aligned on the pond/hollow in the south-west corner of SMS 2, although later disturbance had removed the purported junction of the two features.
- 4.4.8 Gully **2044** had been encountered during the evaluation, where it was numbered **603**, and was found to contain a relatively large assemblage of 14th- to 16th-century pottery (19 pieces/359g). During the Strip, Map and Sample exercise, this material was eclipsed by a larger assemblage of 219 pieces of pottery (5322g) of 14th-, or possibly early 15th-century date. The assemblage from gully **2044** is relatively unabraded, and probably represents a single act of disposal.
- 4.4.9 To recap, the stratigraphic sequence between gullies **2042**, **2043** and **2044** was clearly discernible, and is not contradicted by the pottery dating evidence: the earliest feature, **2042**, was undated. This was cut by ditch **2043** which contained a two sherds representing the 12th to 13th or 14th centuries; gully **2044**, the stratigraphically latest feature in the sequence contained a large assemblage of 14th-, or possibly early 15th-century pottery.

- 4.4.10 To turn to the western part of SMS 2, gully **2041** was recorded running on a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment. It was not stratigraphically associated with any of the linear features described above, although the pottery dating evidence pairs it most readily with curvilinear gully **2044**.
- 4.4.11 Gully **2041** had a visible length of around 10 m, although it was very shallow and petered out at its northern and southern ends. The width of the feature varied between 0.32 m and 0.65 m, with a typical depth of just 0.07 m (**Figure 6.7**). Gully **2041** had a very gentle concave profile and contained a single fill of mid brown grey silty clay. Gully **2041** had also been investigated during the evaluation (numbered **608**), where it was found to contain pottery of 13th- to 15th-century date, along with a single Romano-British sherd, presumably residual. During the Strip, Map and Sample exercise, this material was augmented by five conjoining sherds (109g) of a Chilvers Coton A ware jar of 13th- to 14th-century date, and a single, possibly intrusive sherd of post-medieval redware.
- 4.4.12 The evaluation report suggested that gullies **608** and **105** were part of the same overall boundary. This has not been confirmed by the results of the Strip, Map and Sample exercise, which reveal that feature **105** from the evaluation lies somewhat adrift from the course of gully **2041** (**Figure 4**). However, neither has the association been disproven, due to the fragmentary and disturbed state of gully **2041**. If gully **105** was a component of **2041**, then the latter feature had a length of over 20 m.
- 4.4.13 Finally, two other short or fragmentary linear features were recorded within SMS 2. Gully **2007** lay 1.6 m to the south of the eastern end of gully **2044** and shared its east-north-east to west-south-west alignment. Gully **2007** was 3.3 m long, 0.24 m wide and a mere 0.03 m deep. It had a shallow, gently concave profile which contained a single fill of mid-grey clay. This feature may represent the imprint of a now-vanished overlying structural element, such as a sill beam.
- 4.4.14 A possible linear feature was investigated in the south-east corner of SMS 2, although its full extent lay beyond the edges of the excavation area. Numbered **2037**, it appeared to share the alignment of ditch **2043** with a 1.2 m-wide gap separating the two features. Possible ditch/gully **2037** was at least 0.6 m wide by 0.19 m deep with an irregular bowl-shaped profile. It contained a single fill of dark grey silty clay, noted by the excavator as being virtually identical to the fills of ditch **2043**, in support of the notion that the two features were contemporary and functionally related. However, no finds were recovered from the feature.

Pits and postholes

- 4.4.15 A total of five pits and post holes were recorded, with all of these lying in the northern part of SMS 2.
- 4.4.16 Pit **2039**, located in the north-west corner of SMS 2, was the most substantial of these, measuring 2.2 m north-south by 0.7 m east-west. It contained a single fill of artefactually sterile charcoal-rich dark grey silty clay.
- 4.4.17 Posthole **2017** lay in the north-east corner of SMS 2. It measured 0.15 m in diameter by 0.05 m deep. It too contained a single fill of artefactually sterile charcoal-rich dark grey silty clay.
- 4.4.18 Pit **2005** lay at the bend within gully **2044**. It had a diameter of 0.6 m – 0.7 m and was 0.17 m deep, with a flat bowl-shaped profile. It contained a single fill of charcoal-rich dark grey silty clay found to contain a sherd of pottery of 13th- to 14th-century date, and a probably intrusive fragment of modern salt-glazed sewer pipe.

- 4.4.19 Pit **2035** lay 2 m to the south of pit **2005**. It measured 1.09 m in diameter and was 0.26 m deep, with a concave, bowl-shaped profile. It too contained a single fill of charcoal-rich dark grey silty clay, in this instance found to contain five sherds of medieval pottery in keeping with the Site assemblage.
- 4.4.20 Finally, pit **2015** lay just to the east of pits **2005** and **2035**, and in between gullies **2003** and **2007**. Pit **2015** had a diameter of 0.47 m and was 0.1 m deep, with a shallow, irregular profile. Its single fill resembled that found within the other pits: a charcoal-rich dark grey silty clay. No finds were recovered.

Other features

- 4.4.21 A slight declivity in the natural ground surface in the south-west corner of SMS 2 was found to be filled with a 0.6 m-thick accumulation of very dark grey clayish silt from which an assemblage of post-medieval pottery was collected (10 pieces; 836g). This area probably contained a seasonal pond or boggy hollow in the past. Extending beyond both the southern and western margins of SMS 2, the feature, numbered **2013**, had a visible length of 16 m (north-south) and was at least 6 m wide.
- 4.4.22 Although no earlier deposits were found underlying the post-medieval fill, this feature may have been a long-established element within the landscape by the post-medieval period. It is possible that ditches **2042** and **2044** were aligned to discharge into pond/hollow **2013**. The presence of these features highlights the poor drainage conditions of the Site, a factor that may have prevented it from hosting occupation.
- 4.4.23 In accordance with the results of the geotechnical watching brief and evaluation a thick deposit (varying between around 0.4 and 0.8 m deep) of mid-grey/brown clayish silt with frequent charcoal inclusions representing a garden soil or cultivation horizon was present across much of SMS 2. This deposit, **2002**, was machined off, but in places remained filling small hollows or divots in the stripped natural ground surface. This is what feature **2031**, located in the north central part of SMS 2, is thought to represent. A representative sample of pottery from deposit **2002** was collected during machining, with over 1.5kg of post-medieval material (stoneware and black glazed redware) present in the assemblage.
- 4.4.24 Historic mapping demonstrates that buildings have stood upon the Site from at least the 1830s, with the most recent structures demolished in 2015, as part of the current development. The sub-surface remains of these were removed by machine, apart from where they had penetrated below the level of the natural geological horizon. Such modern remains comprised the foundation courses of walls, ceramic water pipes and brick-built service ducts, most of which had impacted upon underlying archaeological remains.
- 4.4.25 The northernmost of the modern wall foundations appears to continue the course of the east-north-east to west-south-west aligned portion of gully **2044**. This may be coincidental, or it may represent the longevity of boundaries or the influence of earlier elements of the built environment upon those which followed. Generally, the Site shows much evidence of the superimposition of property boundaries along the same course over time (e.g. **Plate 3**), and this may be another example.

4.5 Watching brief areas

- 4.5.1 A watching brief was maintained on the excavation of the footprint of a stormwater attenuation tank, and a service trench (**Figure 7**).



Stormwater attenuation tank

- 4.5.2 The total area measured 26.5 m east-west by 6 m north-south, but archaeological horizons were reached only in its western half.
- 4.5.3 Archaeological remains lay 0.8 m below the modern ground surface, sealed beneath a sequence of topsoil (**3000**), demolition material (**3001**) and pale grey brown sandy clay (**3002**).
- 4.5.4 A north-south aligned ditch, numbered **3012**, marking the northward extension of ditch **1017** from SMS 1, was exposed, although wet ground conditions prevented its excavation.
- 4.5.5 In the south-west corner of the attenuation watching brief area an east-west stake/posthole alignment was recorded. The alignment measured 4 m in length, with four preserved wooden uprights, SFs **1–4** (**Plate 9**), representing the remains of a fenceline within the plot whose western boundary was marked by ditch **3012/1017**.
- 4.5.6 A gully terminal, numbered **3004**, lay to the south of the fenceline. It was 0.6 m wide by 0.25 m deep and contained a single fill of dark grey silty clay from which the partial remains of a shoe were retrieved. It is possible, to judge by their mutual positioning in plan, that gully **3004** was dug to abut the fenceline, indicating that both would have been in use at the same time, although the fenceline would have been the older feature.
- 4.5.7 The final feature to be recorded in the stormwater attenuation tank watching brief area was a small posthole. Numbered **3008**, the feature measured 0.42 m in diameter by 0.15 m deep and contained a single artefactually sterile fill of mid-grey clay.

Service trench

- 4.5.8 A service trench was excavated from the Kilwardby Street pavement, running southwards and then eastwards around Hendon House, an extant property to the east of the Site. The trench was typically 1.6 m wide, and dug to a depth of 1.6 m, although natural deposits were generally encountered at 1.4 m below the current ground surface (**Plate 10**). The depositional sequence visible in the service trench resembled that recorded in SMS Areas 1 and 2 and the other ground investigations carried out on the Site (Wessex Archaeology 2015a), with around 1.1 m of rubble made ground and dark soils overlying the orange/yellow clay natural. Two features were apparent, but due to safety considerations related to the depth and narrowness of the trench, only one was excavated. Numbered **4003**, this was a 0.2 m diameter posthole, found approximately 6.6 m to the south of the Kilwardby Street pavement. Excavation established that the feature was 0.14 m deep and contained a single fill of grey silty clay similar to that found within the medieval phase features recorded elsewhere on the Site. The other feature was a pit or ditch terminal seen extending from the western trench wall: **4005**. Although unexcavated, this could also be seen to contain a grey fill, and so may be a product of medieval phase activity. No continuations of linear features recorded elsewhere on the Site were observed within the service trench.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Finds were recovered from both of the Strip, Map and Sample (SMS) mitigation areas, although the majority of the finds came from SMS 2. A small quantity of finds was also recovered from the watching brief on the stormwater attenuation tank. The assemblage

ranges in date from medieval to post-medieval. Finds consisted largely of pottery, with other material types very sparsely represented.

- 5.1.2 This assemblage augments and expands that recovered during the earlier evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2015a); the current assemblage contains a much higher proportion of medieval material. **Table 1** gives the quantities of finds by material type and by context, and includes the finds recovered from the evaluation

5.2 Pottery

- 5.2.1 Pottery provides most of the dating evidence for the Site. Of the 281 sherds recovered, 252 are medieval and 29 are post-medieval. Fabric codes follow the Leicestershire county type series (Davies and Sawday 1994).

Medieval

- 5.2.2 The medieval assemblage is extremely homogeneous, and consists almost entirely of gritty sandy wares. Preliminary identifications suggest that these are Chilvers Coton wares (Mayes and Scott 1984), including both 'A' and 'C' wares (Leicestershire fabrics CC1 and CC2 respectively), but with the latter predominant. Chilvers Coton 'A' ware was dated by the excavators to c. 1250–1300, with possible production into the 14th century; 'C' ware was dated mainly to the 14th and 15th centuries. There is also a single sherd of Potters Marston ware, dated c. 1100–1300, but the relatively absence of this ware type suggests that the focus of this assemblage lies no earlier than the 14th century.
- 5.2.3 Also present are sherds of Midlands Purple (MP), dated between the 14th and 16th centuries. 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 (Hurst and Wright 2010).
- 5.2.4 Most of the medieval assemblage (218 sherds) came from a single context (fill **2004** of gully **2044**). This group apparently consists largely of Chilvers Coton 'C' wares, with some Midlands Purple ware (MP). One vessel carries red-painted decoration, which is not known amongst the Chilvers Coton wares, but which has been noted on whitewares from Lichfield (Rátkai 2016). Vessel forms include jugs with rod or strap handles and pulled lips, and jars with short, sharply everted rims. The whole group, although fragmentary, appears relatively unabraded, and the likelihood is that this represents a single deposit of pottery in contemporaneous use; the date range is 14th to 15th century.
- 5.2.5 Other sherds were retrieved in small quantities from other features across the two mitigation areas, and provide the sole dating evidence for several (ditches **1007**, **1010** and **1014**, pit **2005**, gully **2007**, ditch **2023**). Diagnostic sherds here (jars, flanged bowl) suggest a date range between 13th and 15th century, but mainly 14th to 15th century.

Post-medieval

- 5.2.6 Post-medieval wares consist largely of coarse redwares, mainly black-glazed (EA6). Vessel forms include bowls and a straight-sided jar. These coarsewares are not particularly closely datable, but accompanying sherds of Nottinghamshire-type stoneware, Staffordshire-type manganese mottled ware and tinglazed earthenware (EA11) suggest a date range of late 17th or early 18th century; there are no sherds of later industrial wares. Most of the post-medieval sherds came from garden soil **2002** and pond/hollow **2013**.



5.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

- 5.3.1 The five pieces of CBM recovered include three of roof tile (probably medieval), one of post-medieval brick, and one modern glazed sewer pipe fragment.

5.4 Slag

- 5.4.1 The slag recovered all derives from ironsmithing, and includes two hearth bottoms from the fill of ditch **1017**.

5.5 Leather

- 5.5.1 A partial leather shoe sole was recovered from undated gully terminal **3004** in the stormwater tank watching brief area. This comprises an oval toe area with petal-shaped tread and part of a narrow waist – the heel section is missing. The stitching holes around the edge are badly damaged; there is one small iron tack in situ. The width at the widest point of the toe section is 90mm; the surviving length is 168mm. The sole could be of late medieval or early post-medieval date.

5.6 Wood

- 5.6.1 Five pieces of wood were recovered from waterlogged deposits. These represent the remains of at least three worked stakes: a small roundwood stake worked to a pencil point (SF1: diameter 45mm, surviving length 170mm); a second length of roundwood worked to a pencil point (SF2: diameter 42mm, surviving length 280mm, **Plate 9**); and a squared post (SF3: 67 x 60mm, surviving length 330mm), roughly shaped to a chisel point.
- 5.6.2 A short roundwood section may be part of SF1, and a final roundwood section (SF4: diameter 25mm, surviving length 77mm) shows no obvious signs of working.

5.7 Other Finds

- 5.7.1 Other finds comprise very small quantities of animal bone (cattle, horse, sheep), clay tobacco pipe (one plain stem fragment) and roofing slate.



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

Context	CBM	Pottery	Other finds
<i>Eval (all)</i>	<i>5/479</i>	<i>70/3547</i>	<i>2 clay pipe; 1 glass; 1 slag; 1 iron</i>
1004		1/24	
1006		1/13	
1008			1 animal bone
1011		1/42	528g slag
1015		2/11	5490g slag
2002	2/162	26/1768	9g slag; 1 clay pipe
2004	2/82	218/5304	5 animal bone
2006	1/171	2/97	
2008		2/62	
2010		4/129	
2014		10/836	
2022		1/7	
2024		1/82	
2026		6/119	
2030		1/3	
2036		5/22	
3003			3 worked wood
3005			232g slag; 1 slate; 3 animal bone; 1 leather
3007			1 worked wood
3011			1 wood (worked?)
<i>Sub-total SMS</i>	<i>5/415</i>	<i>281/8519</i>	
TOTAL	10/894	351/12066	

CBM = ceramic building material



Table 2: Pottery by context

Context	Ware	Code	Date range	Count	Wt (g)	Additional Comments
1004	Post-med redware	EA	Post-medieval	1	24	
1006	Midland Purple	MP	C14-C16	1	13	
1011	Chilvers Coton C ware	CC2	C14/C15	1	42	
1015	Chilvers Coton C ware	CC2	C14/C15	2	11	
2002	English stoneware	SW5	C18	1	9	Notts-type stoneware
2002	Chilvers Coton A ware	CC1	late C13	1	2	
2002	Midland Purple	MP	C14-C16	6	135	
2002	Post-med redware	EA6	Post-medieval	16	1511	Black-glazed; at least 4 vessels (3 rims: flared bowls, convex bowl)
2004	Chilvers Coton C ware	CC2	C14/C15	201	5085	all very similar gritty fabrics, pale-firing and iron-poor (cream/grey to pale salmon pink), some hard fired (almost overfired?). Vessel forms jugs with pulled lips and strap and rod handles; jars with sharply everted rims; one sherd has red painted decoration
2004	Midland Purple	MP	C14-C16	16	211	coarse reduced ware, hard-fired
2006	Chilvers Coton C ware	CC2	C14/C15	2	97	jar with sharply everted rim
2008	Midland Purple	MP	C14-C16	1	5	
2008	Chilvers Coton C ware	CC2	C14/C15	1	57	dish/bowl with wide flat flange
2010	Chilvers Coton C ware	CC2	C14/C15	4	129	
2014	Tinglazed earthenware	EA11	C17/C18	1	2	
2014	Staffs-type mottled ware	EA3	late C17/C18	1	57	
2014	Midland Yellow	MY	C16/C17	2	74	bowl rim and perforated body sherd (colander or chafing dish)
2014	Post-med redware	EA6	Post-medieval	6	703	black-glazed; 1 flared bowl; 1 straight-sided jar; 1 perforated base (pre-firing perforation in wall just above base)
2022	Potters Marston ware	PM	C12/C13	1	7	jar rim
2024	Chilvers Coton A ware	CC1	late C13	1	82	jar rim
2026	Post-med redware		Post-medieval	1	10	
2026	Chilvers Coton C ware	CC2	C14/C15	5	109	conjoining sherds from 1 vessel; jar; glaze splashes over rim
2030	Chilvers Coton C ware	CC2	C14/C15	1	3	
2036	Chilvers Coton C ware	CC2	C14/C15	5	22	

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A series of nine bulk samples were taken from a range of medieval/post-medieval features, mainly ditches, within Areas SMS 1 and SMS 2. These 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 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) 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 were generally large with low numbers of roots and modern seeds. They all contained coal fragments. The charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation.

6.2.3 Small charred assemblages were recorded in most of these samples, with a moderate assemblage being recovered from slot **2003** dug into gully **2044**. The cereal remains included free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum* type) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grains, while the weed seeds included seeds of oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.), Vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), and cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*).

6.2.4 These are similar results to those seen in the samples from the evaluation of the site. The assemblages are compatible with the medieval/post-medieval date as free-threshing wheat, together with barley and rye, is the common cereal during the medieval period in England (Greig 1991). The weed seeds are those typical in grassland, field margins and arable environments and are likely to have come in with the crops. The assemblages appear to be indicative of general settlement activity in the wider area.

6.3 Wood charcoal

6.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 3**. Moderately large quantities of charcoal fragments greater than 2 mm were recovered from slot **2003** dug into gully **2044**, slots **2021** and **2023** dug into ditch **2043**, and pit **2035**. The assemblages included mature and twig wood fragments.



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 for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Medieval/Post-medieval												
SMS 1												
Posthole												
1003	1004	1	6	150	20	C	-	F-t wheat grain frag	C	<i>Avena/Bromus</i>	0/5 ml	coal
Ditches												
1007	1006	2	19	675	10	-	-	-	C	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	5/7 ml	coal
1010	1011	3	17	90	30	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	5/10 ml	coal
SMS 2												
Gully 2044												
2003	2004	4	27	1560	1	A	-	F-t wheat + barley grain frags	C	<i>Avena/Bromus</i>	10/20 ml	coal
Ditch 2042												
2011	2012	8	13	225	1	C	-	Indet. grain frag	B	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus, Avena/Bromus</i>	3/15 ml	coal
2019	2020	6	18	150	2	-	-	-	C	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	1/10 ml	coal
Ditch 2043												
2021	2022	5	18	80	5	C	-	Barley + wheat grain frags	C	<i>Avena/Bromus, stems</i>	10/5 ml	coal
2023	2024	7	25	250	1	C	-	F-t wheat grain frags	C	<i>Avena/Bromus, Centaurea cyanus</i>	7/20 ml	coal
Pit												
2035	2036	9	20	325	1	C	-	Barley grain frags	C	<i>Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus, stems</i>	10/10 ml	coal

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

7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1.1 A single sherd of Romano-British greyware pottery was recovered from the Site (from Trench 3, dug in the area later examined by SMS 2). Although residual in a later medieval feature (gully **2041**) this find represents a very rare incidence of Romano-British material being recovered from within Ashby de la Zouch. The sherd probably indicates some localised activity hereabouts in the Roman period, although the evidence is wholly insufficient to suggest that Ashby was established on the site of a Romano-British antecedent, however.
- 7.1.2 Ditch **2042** appeared to form the stratigraphically earliest feature in SMS 2. No dating evidence was retrieved from it, although it had been cut by ditch **2043**, from which pottery of approximately 1100–1400 was recovered. Ditch **2042** did not follow the north-south alignment to which many of the features on the Site conformed, running WNW–ESE instead. This might suggest that it predates the establishment of Kilwardby Street. Instead of a property boundary, a more agricultural function might be ascribed to this feature, considering its discrepant alignment. Ditch **2042** may have formed part of a field system that pre-dated the establishment or expansion of Ashby de la Zouch.
- 7.1.3 The ditched boundaries recorded as running at 90° to Kilwardby Street appear to be constructed upon a reasonably regular template. Ditch **2043** lay approximately 23 m west of ditch **1017**, which in turn lay approximately 21 m west of a boundary recorded in Trench 5 during the evaluation. However, 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 12 m apart. Gully **2041** lay around 12 m west of ditch **2043**. Such a figure would not be unusual for the long, narrow tofts commonly found in medieval settlements.
- 7.1.4 Activity on 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 north, east, and west. Flooding of excavation areas from perched water made fieldwork problematic (**Plate 6**), and similar circumstances may have meant that this land was less favoured for occupation in the past.
- 7.1.5 There is a contradictory evidence for medieval occupation of the Site. The plot boundaries and artefactual assemblage could reasonably be thought to signal habitation, yet no convincing traces of domestic structures could be discerned, either directly adjacent to Kilwardby Street, or elsewhere on the Site. The absence of such traces might be due to the original structures generating only a very limited archaeological impact, or their having been removed by later disturbance. Alternatively, and probably more likely, the land here was subdivided by the plot boundaries into various ownerships, but was not subsequently used for habitation. Situated on the fringe of the 13th/14th-century settlement, the land may have been used for horticulture and waste disposal, which would instead account for the revealed archaeology. A nearby smithy might be inferred from the two hearth bottoms recovered from ditch **1017**.
- 7.1.6 Overall, the archaeology of the Site reflects the expansion of sub-urban activity beyond the fringes of the settlement in the medieval period. This may have been accelerated by heightened trade and population growth following the granting of market and borough status to Ashby in the 13th and 14th centuries. The setting out of property boundaries on the Site may be an archaeologically tangible consequence of improved commerce within the town.



7.1.7 “The rise of the small towns represents an important phase of medieval urbanization, and the archaeological evidence supports the notion of dramatic growth in the late 12th and above all the 13th centuries. This was the period when many towns began, expanded into new streets, or spawned suburbs. Houses were built, rubbish pits dug and filled, crafts practised and pottery traded” (Dyer 2003, 109).

7.1.8 These lines convey a sense of the heightened activity in small towns during the 12th and 13th centuries that can also be detected within the archaeology of the Site.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Stratigraphic evidence

8.1.1 The stratigraphic data from the investigations is not particularly complex and further analysis is unlikely to enhance our understanding of the archaeology of this site.

8.1.2 No further work is recommended on this category of data.

8.2 Artefacts

8.2.1 Finds consisted largely of pottery, with other material types very sparsely represented. Approximately 90% of the pottery ceramic assemblage is medieval. This assemblage is extremely homogeneous, and consists almost entirely of Chilvers Coton wares. The assemblage should be submitted for specialist recording to appropriate archive level, to confirm the preliminary identifications, and to provide a brief archive commentary on the range present. Publication is not required.

8.2.2 No further work is recommended on any other finds categories.

8.3 Environmental evidence

Charred plant remains

8.3.1 As with the evaluation samples, 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 or those from the evaluation.

Wood charcoal

8.3.2 There is only limited potential for the analysis of the wood charcoal to information on the species composition, management and exploitation of the local woodland resource. No further work is proposed on these samples or those from the evaluation.

8.4 Publication

8.4.1 The discovery of medieval remains at Kilwardby Street is of local interest and illuminates some aspects of the expansion of Ashby de la Zouch in the medieval period. The results from the recent excavations may combine with those from future work in the vicinity to provide a detailed overview of the growth and layout of the western edge of Ashby de la Zouch, and its exposure to local pottery markets.

8.4.2 No further analysis is recommended, and the site is primarily of local interest. It is recommended that publication takes the form of a note for inclusion within the annual ‘Archaeology in Leicestershire and Rutland’ round-up section in a forthcoming edition of the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*. This will be prepared by Wessex Archaeology.



9 STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The project archive resulting from the excavation will 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.

9.2 Preparation of archive

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

9.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- 2 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts & ecofacts, ordered by material type;
- 1-2 files/document cases of paper records & A3/A4 graphics.

9.2.3 A copy of this report will be supplied to the Leicestershire HER and uploaded to OASIS: **wessexar1-241207**.

9.3 Selection and Retention

9.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis.

9.3.2 In this instance, it is recommended that the whole pottery assemblage is retained for long-term curation. Other finds categories, however, are represented by very small quantities, with a lack of objects of intrinsic interest. The organic materials (leather and wood) are currently in an unstable condition unsuitable for long-term storage, but as small fragments they do not warrant conservation treatment (freeze-drying) to remedy this.

9.3.3 Once agreed with the recipient museum, the proposed selection strategy will be included in the project archive, and all dispersal will be fully documented.

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

9.4 Security copy

9.4.1 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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10.2 Online resources

- British Geological Survey 2016. Geology of Britain Viewer.
mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html



11 APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Context summary

Context	Type	Interpretation/description	Dimensions (L. x W. x D.)
SMS 1			
1000	Layer	Topsoil: very dark brown sandy loam	12 x 10 x 0.5
1001	Layer	Natural: mid-orangey brown sandy clayish silt	12 x 10 x ?
1002	Wall	Wall: brick built foundations of possible privvy/coal cellar etc	5.8 x 3.15 x 0.4+
1003	Cut	Post hole: circular with steep sides	0.3 dia x 0.14
1004	Fill	Secondary fill of post hole 1003: dark brown sandy clay loam	0.3 dia x 0.14
1005	Layer	Possible demolition layer: greyish brown sandy clay	
1006	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch 1007: mid orange brown sandy clay	4.4+ x 0.58 x 0.26
1007	Cut	Ditch: N-S aligned with concave profile	4.4+ x 0.58 x 0.26
1008	Fill	Secondary fill of gully 1009: pale greyish brown sandy clay	0.55+ x 0.36 x 0.22
1009	Cut	Gully: N-S aligned with concave profile	0.55+ x 0.36 x 0.22
1010	Cut	Ditch: N-S aligned with straight profile	? x 0.65 x 0.4
1011	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch 1009: mid brownish grey sandy clay loam	0.7+ x 0.65 x 0.4
1012	Cut	Stake Holes: fence line defining property boundary	0.05 dia x 0.08
1013	Fill	Fill of stake holes 1012: mid grey sandy clay	0.05 dia x 0.08
1014	Cut	Ditch: N-S aligned with flat profile	? x 0.9 x 0.35
1015	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch 1014: mid brownish grey sandy clay loam	? x 0.9 x 0.35
1016	Layer	Preparation layer for overlying brickwork: mid orangy brown sandy clay	
1017	Group	Property boundary ditch: group consisting of 1010, 1011, 1014 and 1015	10.2+ x 0.65-1.4 x 0.25-0.4
SMS 2			
2000	Layer	Machined off overburden: mixed brick and concrete	
2001	Layer	Natural: yellowish, brownish orange stiff to friable clay, sandy in places	
2002	Layer	Garden soil: dark brown sandy clayish silt	
2003	Cut	Beam slot: E-W aligned with stepped profile	<10 x 0.8 x 0.2
2004	Fill	Beam slot fill : dark grey silt clay	<10 x 0.8 x 0.2
2005	Cut	Pit: circular with straight sides	0.6 x 0.18
2006	Fill	Fill of pit: dark grey silty clay containing charcoal	0.6 dia x 0.18
2007	Cut	Gully: E-W aligned with concave profile	3.3 x 0.24 x 0.03
2008	Fill	Secondary fill of gully 2007: mid grey clay silt	3.3 x 0.24 x 0.03
2009	Cut	Gully: NE-W aligned with straight profile	2 x 0.5 x 0.1
2010	Fill	Secondary fill of gully: mid yellow grey silt clay	2 x 0.5 x 0.1
2011	Cut	Ditch: E-W aligned with flat profile	1.1+ x 0.62 x 0.34
2012	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch 2011: mid brownish grey sandy clay with orange patches	1+ x 0.62 x 0.34
2013	Cut	Pond/Hollow: sub circular with flat sides	15 x 3 x 0.6 dia
2014	Fill	Secondary fill of pond/hollow 2013: very dark grey clayish silt	15 x 3 x 0.6 dia
2015	Cut	Pit: circular with regular sides	0.47 dia x 0.10
2016	Fill	Primary fill of pit 2015: dark grey silty clay containing charcoal	0.47 dia x 0.10



Context	Type	Interpretation/description	Dimensions (L. x W. x D.)
2017	Cut	Posthole: circular with concave sides	0.15 dia x 0.05
2018	Fill	Primary fill of post hole: dark grey silty clay containing charcoal	0.15 dia x 0.05
2019	Cut	Ditch: NW-SE aligned with straight profile	>1.5 x 0.78 x 0.28
2020	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch 2019: mid yellow brown coarse silty clay	>1.5 x 0.78 x 0.28
2021	Cut	Ditch: NNE-SSW aligned with bent profile	3+ x 1m+ x 0.25
2022	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch 2021: mid brownish grey silty clay	3+ x 1m+ x 0.25
2023	Cut	Ditch: SW-NE aligned with concave profile	2+ x 0.58 x 0.22
2024	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch 2023: mid grey silty clay with orange mottling	2+ x 0.58 x 0.22
2025	Cut	Gully: N-S aligned with straight profile	>5 x 0.6 x 0.08
2026	Fill	Secondary fill of gully 2025: mid grey brown silt clay containing charcoal	>5 x 0.6 x 0.08
2027	Cut	Ditch: N-S aligned with flat profile	2+ x 0.6 x 0.28
2028	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch 2027: mid brownish grey clay	2+ x 0.6 x 0.28
2029	Fill	Tertiary fill of ditch 2027: mid-dark brownish grey clay	0.9+ x 0.62 x 0.1
2030	Layer	Overburden: Mottled grey brown silt clay containing charcoal	6 x 5 x 0.08
2031	Cut	Pit: irregular with irregular sides	3 x 1.6 x 0.10
2032	Fill	Secondary fill of pit 2031: dark grey silty clay containing charcoal	?
2033	Cut	Gully/hedgeline: N-S with straight profile	>5 x 0.6 x 0.07
2034	Fill	Secondary fill of gully 2033: mid grey silt clay	>5 x 0.6 x 0.07
2035	Cut	Pit: circular with concave sides	1.09 dia x 0.26
2036	Fill	Secondary fill of pit 2035: dark grey silty clay containing charcoal	1.09 dia x 0.26
2037	Cut	Ditch: SW-NE aligned with concave profile	1.2+ x 0.6 x 0.19
2038	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch 2037: dark grey silty clay containing charcoal	1.2+ x 0.6 x 0.19
2039	Cut	Pit: Sub-rectangular with concave sides	2.2 x 0.70 x 0.14
2040	Fill	Secondary fill of pit 2039: dark grey silty clay containing charcoal	2.2 x 0.70 x 0.14
2041	Group	Gully/property boundary: Consisting of 2025, 2026, 2033 and 2034	10/20+ x 0.32-0.65 x 0.06-0.13
2042	Group	Field/property boundary ditch: consisting of 2019, 2020, 2011, 2012 and 2029	13.3+ x 0.62-0.78 x 0.28-0.34
2043	Group	Property boundary ditch: consisting of 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2027 and 2028	20.8+ x 0.58-1+ x 0.22-0.28
2044	Group	Beam slot/drain: consisting of 2003, 2004, 2009 and 2010	11.3+ x 0.45-0.8 x 0.1-0.2
Watching brief: attenuation tank			
3000	Layer	Topsoil: dark grey sandy silt containing bricks and rubble	
3001	Layer	Made ground: mid brown grey silty clay containing bricks and rubble	
3002	Layer	Subsoil: light grey brown sandy clay containing charcoal	
3003	Layer	Natural: light orangey yellow clay containing sandstone blocks	
3004	Cut	Ditch terminus: NE-SW with straight profile	? x 0.6 x 0.25
3005	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch terminus 3004: dark grey silty clay containing charcoal	? x 0.6 x 0.25
3006	Cut	Post hole: circular with straight sides	0.24 dia x 0.32
3007	Fill	Secondary fill of post hole 3006: mid grey silty clay containing	? x 0.2



Context	Type	Interpretation/description	Dimensions (L. x W. x D.)
		charcoal	
3008	Cut	Post hole: circular with straight sides	0.42 dia x 0.15
3009	Fill	Secondary fill of post hole 3008: mid grey silty clay	0.42 dia x 0.15
3010	Cut	Post hole: circular with straight sides	0.20 dia x ?
3011	Fill	Secondary fill of post hole 3010: dark grey silty clay	0.20 dia x ?
3012	Cut	Ditch: N-S with straight profile	? x 1.2 x ?
3013	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch 3013: mid grey sandy clay containing charcoal	? x 1.2 x ?
Watching brief: service trench			
4000	Layer	Tarmac: black	
4001	Layer	Made ground: mid brown grey silty clay containing bricks and rubble	
4002	Layer	Natural: cream yellow silty clay with blue veins	
4003	Cut	Post hole: circular with straight sides	0.2 dia x 0.14
4004	Fill	Secondary fill of post hole 4003: mid grey silt clay	0.2 dia x 0.14
4005	Cut	Ditch terminus/pit: semi circular with straight sides	>0.2 x 0.7 x 0.2
4006	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch terminus/pit 4005: black ?	>0.2 x 0.7 x 0.2



Appendix 2: OASIS form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-241207

Project details

Project name	Land off Kilwardby Street, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire: Archaeological Investigation
Short description of the project	<p>Wessex Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological investigation on land to the south of Kilwardby Street, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire. The stratigraphically earliest feature was an undated north-west to south-east aligned ditch, which had been cut by a north-south aligned property boundary ditch found to contain pottery dating from approximately 1100-1400. A series of slightly later north-south aligned property boundary ditches were seen, along with a number of ancillary gullies and pits/postholes. Pottery dates suggest a range spanning the 14th to 15th century for these features. The medieval archaeological remains represent boundary definition and limited activities associated with settlement occurring on the periphery of the town. No definite remains of domestic structures were recorded. A substantial cultivation horizon accumulated over the majority of the Site, with dark soil deposits found interleaved between the medieval features and modern remains. Flooding of excavation areas from perched water made the fieldwork problematic, and similarly poor drainage conditions in the past may have made this land less favoured for occupation. Situated on the fringe of the 13th/14th-century settlement, the Site may have been used for horticulture and waste disposal instead. Overall, the archaeology of the Site reflects the expansion of sub-urban activity beyond the fringes of the settlement in the medieval period. This may have been accelerated by heightened trade and population growth following the granting of market and borough status to Ashby in the 13th and 14th centuries.</p>
Project dates	Start: 15-10-2015 End: 21-01-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	109591 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	X.A59.2015 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	14/00775/FULM - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Roman
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Open-area excavation"



Prompt	Planning condition
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE ASHBY DE LA ZOUC Land off Kilwardby Street
Postcode	LE65 2FG
Study area	1 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 355610 166290 52.745773773956 -1.473148117465 52 44 44 N 001 28 23 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 123.3m Max: 124.4m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
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","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Leicestershire County Council Museums Service
Paper Archive ID	X.A59.2015
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Plan","Report","Section"

Project

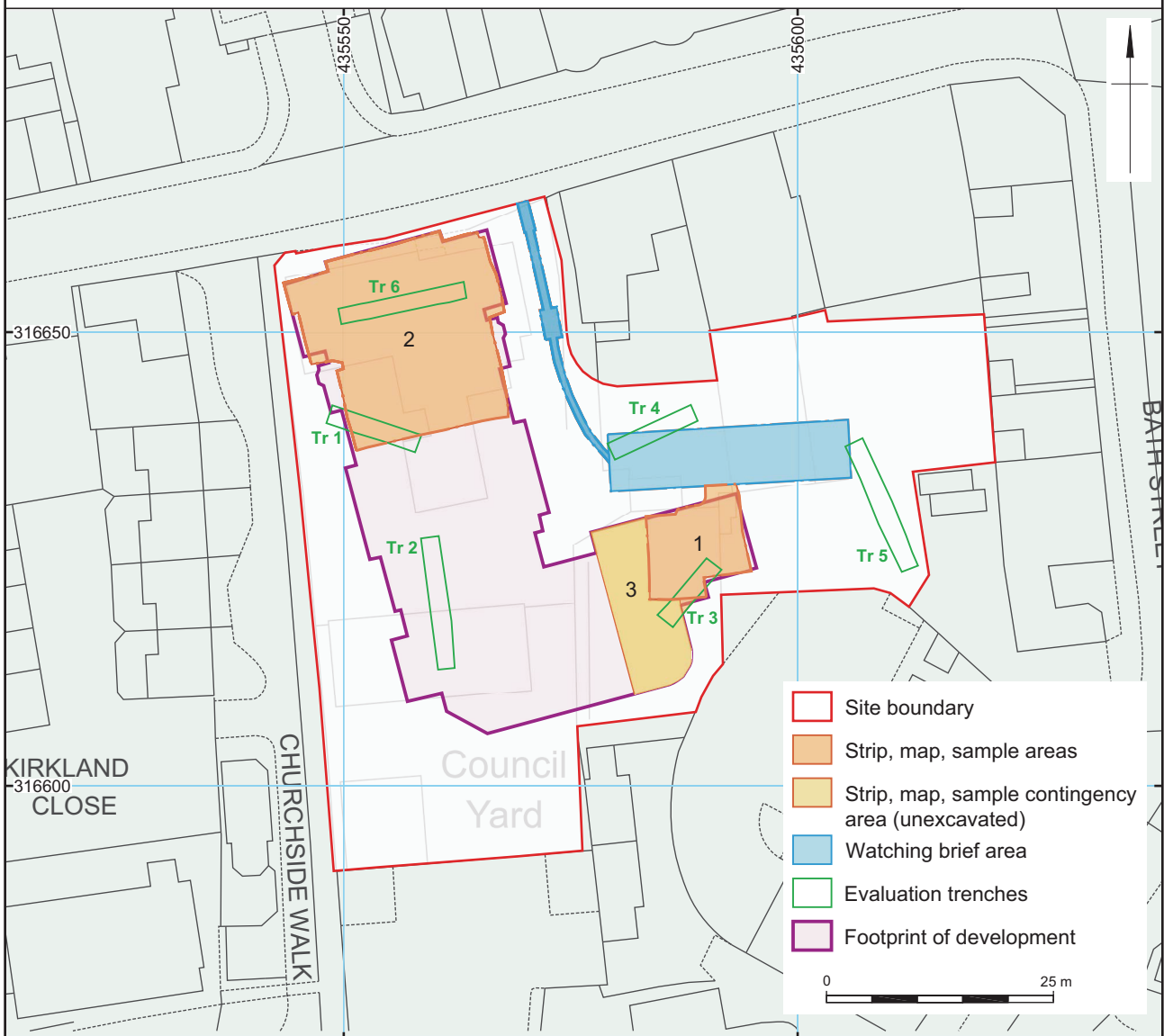


bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land off Kilwardby Street, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire: Archaeological Assessment
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Daniel, P.
Other bibliographic details	109591
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Sheffield
Description	c. 40 page comb bound report with colour plates and figures

Project bibliography 2

Publication type	An article/chapter in published monograph
Title	Ashby de la Zouch, Kilwardby Street (SK 35561 16629)
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Daniel, P.
Description	A note for inclusion within the annual round-up section Archaeology in Leicestershire and Rutland in a forthcoming edition of the Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Soc
Entered by	Patrick Daniel (p.daniel@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	17 February 2016



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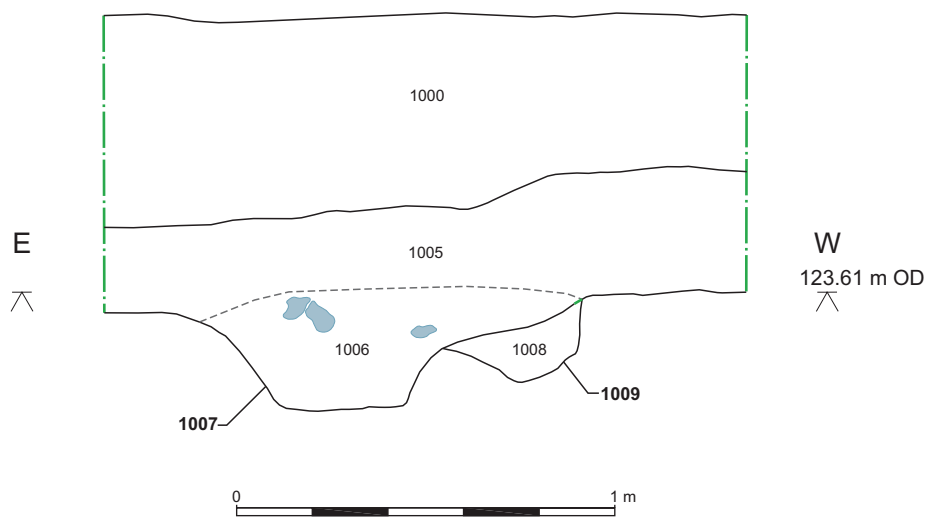
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Site location

Figure 1



Section 1: North-facing section of ditch 1017



Section 2: North-facing section of ditches 1007 and 1009

 Stones

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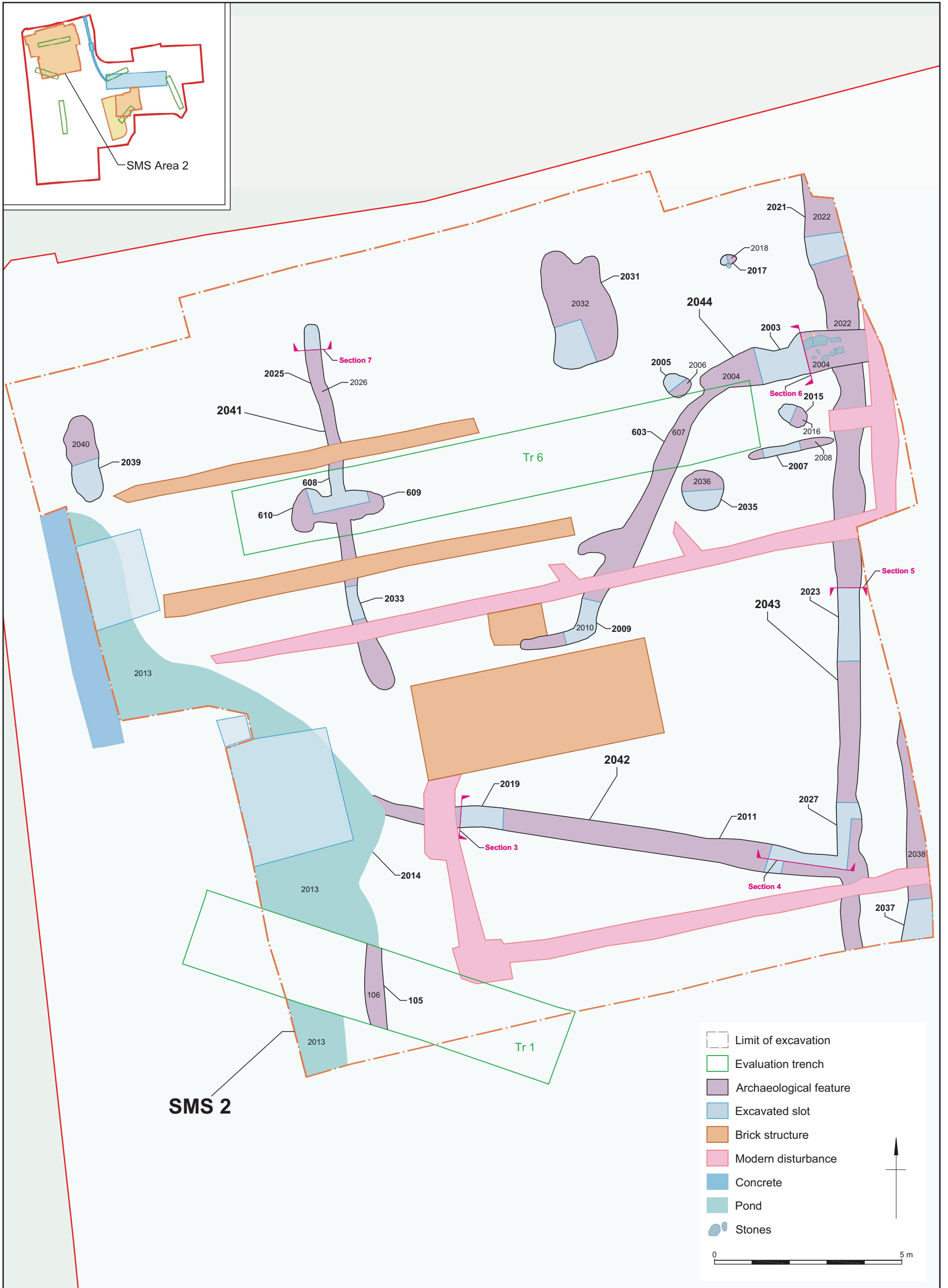
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Revision Number: 0

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Section 2 - 1: 10 @ A4

Illustrator: APS

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SMS 2

	Limit of excavation
	Evaluation trench
	Archaeological feature
	Excavated slot
	Brick structure
	Modern disturbance
	Concrete
	Pond
	Stones

0 5 m

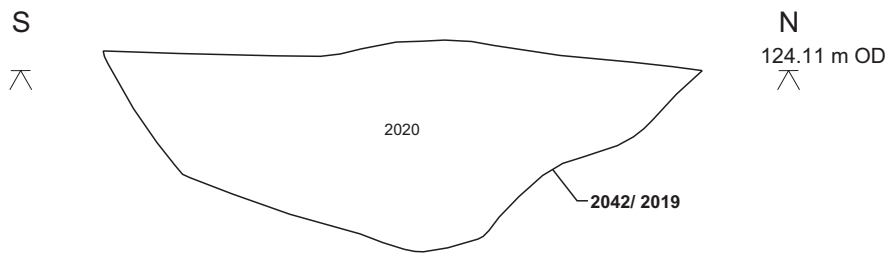
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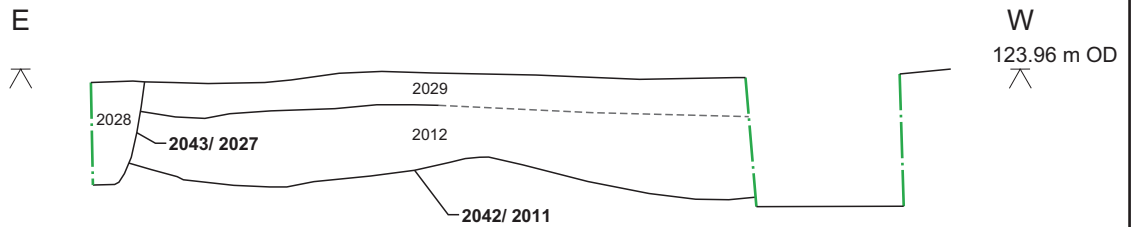


Plan of SMS 2

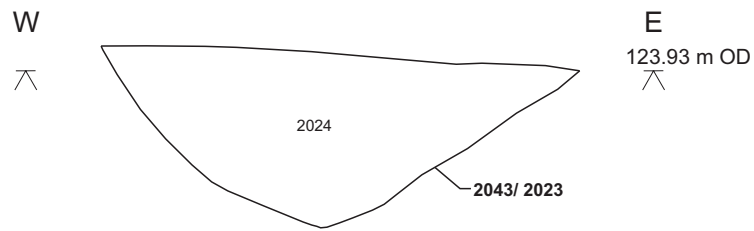
Figure 4



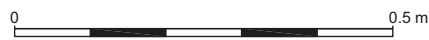
Section 3: East-facing section of ditch 2042



Section 4: North-facing section showing relationship between ditches 2042 and 2043

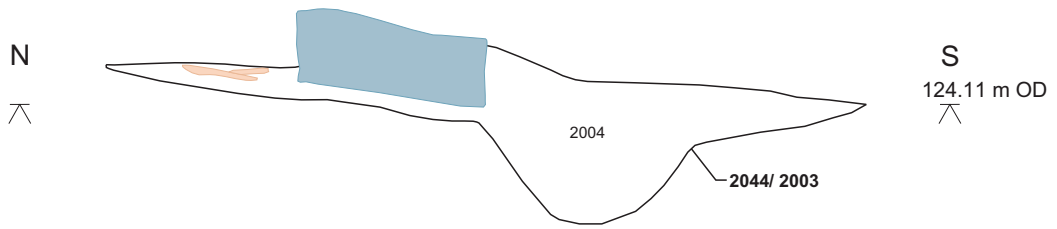


Section 5: South-facing section of ditch 2043

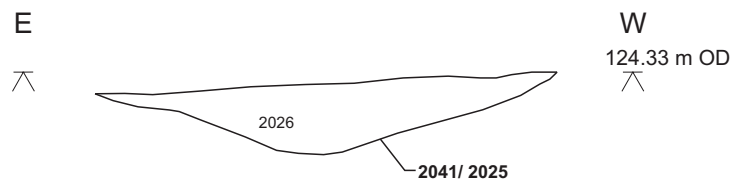


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Section 6: West-facing section of gully 2044



Section 7: North-facing section of gully 2041

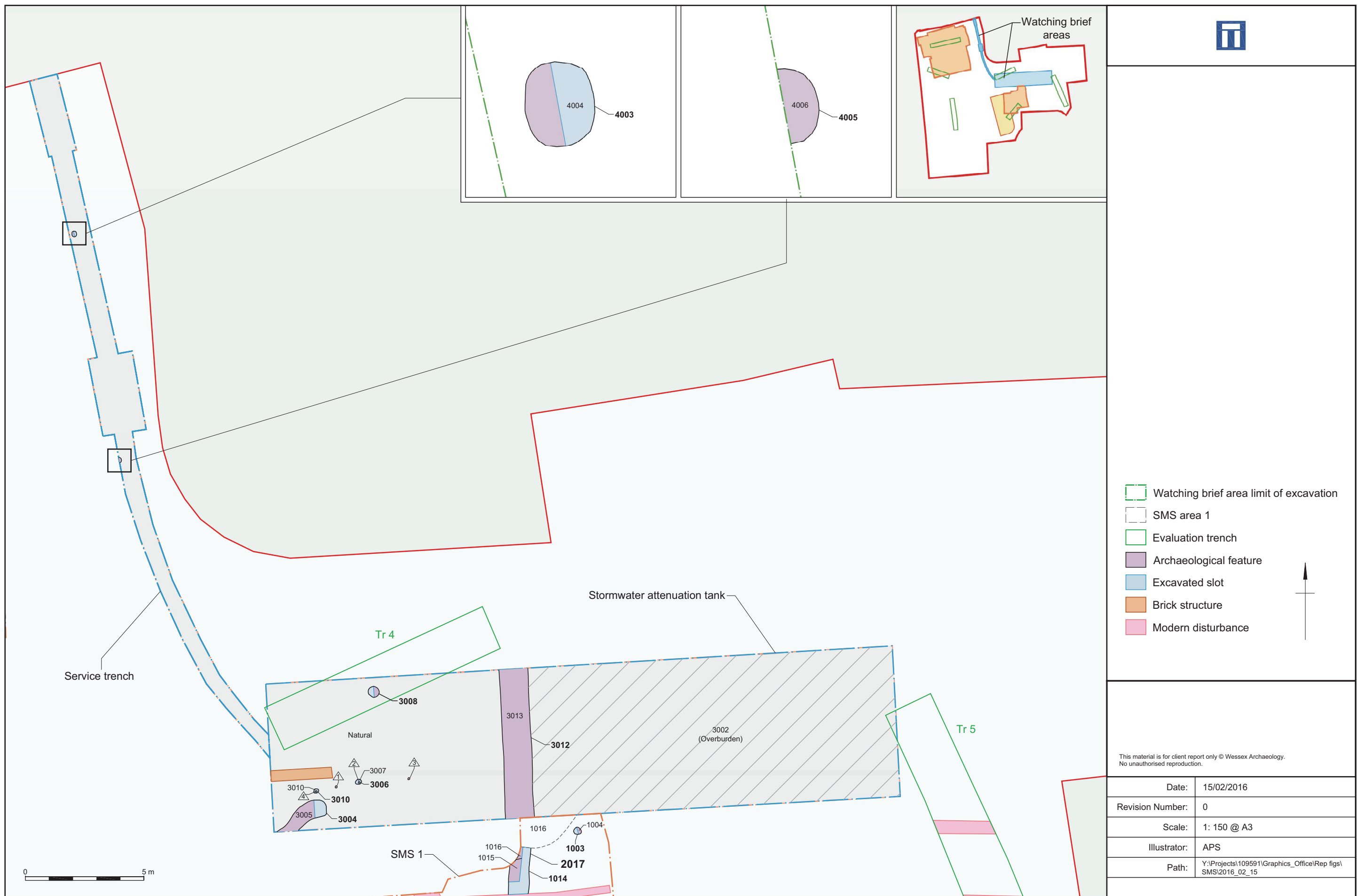


Stones
 Pottery

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Plan of watching brief areas

Figure 7



Plate 1: SMS 1, camera facing north-west

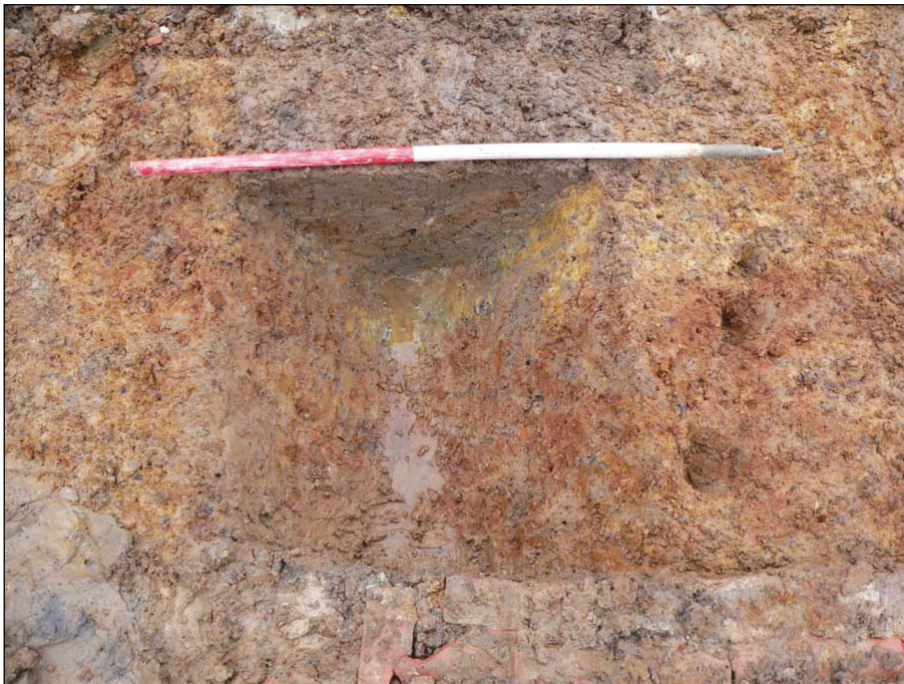


Plate 2: Ditch 1017, north-facing section, plus adjacent stake holes


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Plate 3: Ditches 1007 and 1009, north-facing section. Note position and alignment of existing boundaries.



Plate 4: SMS 2 during machining, camera facing south-west, curvilinear gully 2044 visible in foreground



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Plate 5: Ditch 2042, south-east facing section



Plate 6: Wet ground conditions in SMS 2, camera facing north-west

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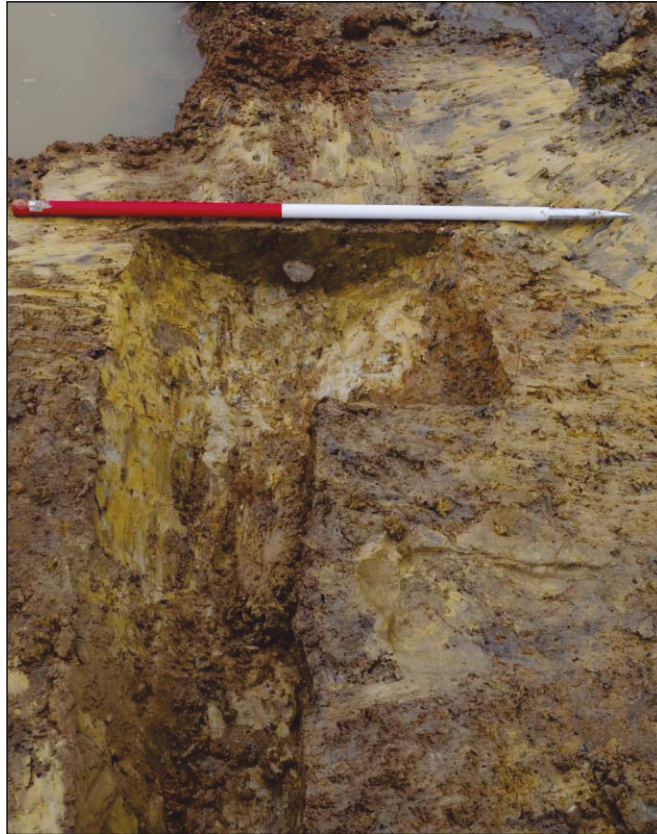


Plate 7: Ditch 2043, south-facing section



Plate 8: Stone packing in eastern portion of gully 2044



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Plate 9: Posthole 3006 in attenuation tank watching brief area



Plate 10: Deposits exposed in service trench watching brief area, camera facing north

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