



The Spread Eagle Public House Gailey, Staffordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Planning Ref: 16/00594/FUL
Ref: 115240.01
January 2017



**The Spread Eagle Public House
Gailey, Staffordshire**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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

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The Spread Eagle Public House Gailey, Staffordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching on land to the rear of the Spread Eagle Public House, Gailey Staffordshire. The work was undertaken to fulfil planning conditions attached to the construction of a 38 bed lodge.

The archaeological works were deemed necessary by South Staffordshire's archaeological advisor due to the proximity of the site to known Roman activity. The site lies adjacent to Watling Street Roman road as well as in the vicinity of Roman military camps and non-military settlement.

A total of four evaluation trenches were excavated within the car park and children's play area located to the north of the public house. The works did not identify any features of archaeological interest. Trenches 1 and 3 were devoid of any cut features. Trench 2 contained a modern machine linear feature, most likely associated with the construction of the children's play area. Trench 4 contained two discrete features within the eastern half of the trench. However, excavation of these features revealed them to be natural in origin, being identified as a tree throw and an ice wedge.

The only dating evidence recovered was a single sherd of late 19th to early 20th century glazed pottery from the topsoil. No earlier pottery was identified or any finds of unknown date.

It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery under accession number 2016.LH.75. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner



The Spread Eagle Public House Gailey, Staffordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Acknowledgements

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

Thanks are extended to Stephen Dean, South Staffordshire's archaeological advisor, who provided curatorial support and guidance.

The fieldwork was carried out by Phil Weston and Mike Keech between December 12th and 13th 2016. Phil Weston directed the excavations with the subsequent report written by Chris Swales. Illustrations were prepared by Chris Swales. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Chris Swales.



The Spread Eagle Public House Gailey, Staffordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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 evaluation trenching on land to the rear of the Spread Eagle Public House, Gailey Staffordshire. The archaeological works were centred on National Grid reference (NGR) 391167, 310737 (hereafter referred to as the 'Site'). The work was undertaken to fulfil planning conditions attached to the construction of a 38 bed lodge (Planning Ref: 16/00594/FUL).

1.1.2 The archaeological works were deemed necessary by South Staffordshire's archaeological advisor due to the proximity of the Site to known Roman activity. The Site lies adjacent to Watling Street Roman road as well as in the vicinity of Roman military camps and non-military settlement. A programme of archaeological evaluation was required to assess the archaeological potential of the Site and inform the scope and need for any further archaeological work.

1.1.3 The archaeological works comprised the excavation of four evaluation trenches measuring 10.0 m x 1.8 m, located within the car park and children's play area to the north of the public house. The scope of the archaeological works and agreed methodologies for undertaking the work were outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI, CgMs 2016), which was submitted to and approved by South Staffordshire's archaeological advisor prior to works commencing.

1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The Site is located on the northern side of the A5 (the former Watling Street Roman road), at the junction with the A449 (Figure 1).

1.2.2 The Site is occupied by the Spread Eagle Public House. The Public House is surrounded by car parking to the north, east, south and southwest. The area to the west and northwest of the public house is covered by grass and contained a children's play area.

1.2.3 The public house sits at 101.94 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) with the surrounding car park situated at between 101.81 m aOD and 100.44 m aOD. Levels increase towards the Watling Street frontage to a height of 101.97 m aOD and decrease towards the A449 frontage to a height of 100.44 m aOD.

1.2.4 The underlying solid geology consists of Triassic rocks (undifferentiated), Sandstone and Conglomerate, Interbedded. No Superficial deposits have been recorded (BGS 2017).



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 No desk-based assessment was carried out prior to the archaeological evaluation. However, comment on the potential of the Site was provided by South Staffordshire's archaeological advisor prior to the submission of the WSI. A summary of this background is presented below.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 Prehistoric activity has been identified within the wider landscape surrounding the Site and as such some potential for prehistoric remains being identified exists.

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 The Site is located within the vicinity of several designated Scheduled Monuments dating to the Roman period. Bounding the Site to the south lies Watling Street Roman road. Watling Street served as one of the principal Roman roads linking London to Wroxeter from the 1st century AD onwards.

2.3.2 The location of two forts and three marching camps has been identified adjacent to Watling Street and within 1 km to the west and northwest of the Site.

2.3.3 The enclosed settlement of *Pennocrucium* was located adjacent to Watling Street, approximately 795 m to the west of the Site. The settlement was founded in the 1st century AD and was inhabited until at least the 3rd century AD. Several minor Roman roads have also been identified linking *Pennocrucium* to the wider Roman landscape.

2.4 Medieval

2.4.1 The village of Gailey is documented in the Domesday book, with the current village located c. 200 m to the east of the Site.

2.5 Post-medieval and modern

2.5.1 The Spread Eagle Public House is documented on the 1884 OS map of the Site. However, the public house is located further to the south than the structure occupying the plot today. The current trench array is situated in open fields to the north of the public house on the 1884 map.

2.5.2 The public house is shown to occupy its current position on the 1954 OS map.

2.6 Previous archaeological investigations

2.6.1 No known previous invasive archaeological investigations have been carried out within the Site boundary.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1.1 The WSI outlined the aims and objectives of the archaeological evaluation as:

- *To establish the presence/absence, extent and character of any archaeological evidence on the Site and to consider the archaeological interest of these in the wider context;*
- *To generate an archive which will allow future research of any remains to be undertaken;*



- To disseminate the results of the work in a format and manner proportionate to the significance of the findings; and
- To explore, and where possible and appropriate, implement measures to encourage public engagements with the findings.

4 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

4.1.1 The archaeological works comprised the excavation of four evaluation trenches measuring 10.0 m x 1.8 m, located within the car park and children's play area to the north of the public house. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the WSI (CgMs 2016) and professional standards and guidelines (HE 2015, ClfA 2014 a–c).

4.1.2 The archaeological fieldwork took place between 12th and 13th December 2016; weather conditions were wet and overcast.

4.2 Machine excavation

4.2.1 Overburden was removed using a JCB 3CX mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8 m toothless ditching bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist. Overlying deposits were removed in a series of level spits down to the first archaeological horizon, or natural deposits, whichever was reached first.

4.3 Hand excavation

4.3.1 Any features and deposits were cleaned as necessary to allow inspection and to define their extent. 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*.

4.4 Recording

4.4.1 All deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system.

4.4.2 As per standard practice, excavated stratigraphic units were individually numbered and recorded, with the trench number forming the prefix for the context number. Hence, contexts 100–199 were reserved for use within Trench 1, contexts 200–299 were allocated to Trench 2, contexts 300–399, were within Trench 3 and contexts 400–499, were within Trench 4.

4.4.3 Evaluation trenches and excavated deposits were located by means of an RTK GPS system and tied in to the OS grid with a tolerance of better than + or – 100 mm. All deposits had spot heights recorded in relation to Ordnance Datum, correct to two decimal places.

4.4.4 A photographic record was maintained using high specification digital photographic equipment and supplemented with 35 mm monochrome film.

4.5 Monitoring

4.5.1 The South Staffordshire's archaeological advisor was kept informed of the findings of the evaluation throughout the course of the fieldwork. A monitoring visit was attended by the Wessex Archaeology Project Manager and Cathy Patrick of CgMs on Tuesday 13th



December, with the South Staffordshire's archaeological advisor informed of the results of the evaluation prior to backfilling of the trenches.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A summary and description of the key archaeological results is presented below. A detailed list of all trenches and associated contexts can be found within Appendix 1.

5.2 Natural geology

5.2.1 The natural geology was a compact mid brownish pink silty sand with occasional sub rounded stones (e.g. 101).

5.2.2 Within trenches 1 and 2, located within grassed areas and the children's play area, the natural geology was reached at a depth of 0.36 m and 0.41 m beneath the existing ground level.

5.2.3 Within trenches 3 and 4, located beneath a tarmac car park, the natural geology was reached at a depth of 0.50 m and 0.60 m beneath the existing ground surface.

5.3 Overburden

5.3.1 Trench 1 was located within a grassed area to the northwest of the public house. The topsoil (e.g. 100) was 0.36 m deep and lay directly above the natural geology (Plate 1).

5.3.2 Trench 2 was located within the children's play area. A 0.15 m deep layer of wood chippings lay directly above a 0.26 m thick topsoil (Plate 2).

5.3.3 Trenches 3 and 4 identified a 0.09 m thick tarmac surface sat above a 0.41 m to 0.51 m thick sequence of bedding material (Plates 4-5).

5.4 Trench 2

5.4.1 A north to south aligned linear feature was identified at the western edge of the trench measuring 1.7 m wide and extending the full width of the trench (Figure 2, Plates 2-3). A hand dug slot was excavated to investigate the feature. The feature was found to be 0.23 m deep and had vertical sides. The feature was interpreted as a modern machine cut trench, probably associated with the construction of the children's play area.

5.5 Trench 4

5.5.1 Within the eastern half of trench 4 two discrete features were identified (405 and 406). Feature 405 was 0.9 m wide and 0.24 m deep (Figure 2, Plate 6). Hand excavation revealed irregular edges with clear evidence of rooting. The feature was interpreted as a tree throw.

5.5.2 Feature 406 was 0.70 m wide, 0.65 m+ deep and extended 1.28 m from the northern limit of excavation. The feature was vertical sided and contained a very clean silty clay fill with no inclusions. The feature was not bottomed due to its depth. The feature was interpreted as an ice wedge.



6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Finds

- 6.1.1 A single small sherd of 19th century black glazed pottery was recovered from the topsoil within trench 1 and dated to the late 19th to early 20th centuries.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Summary

- 7.1.1 The works did not identify any features of archaeological interest. Trenches 1 and 3 were devoid of any cut features. Trench 2 contained a modern machine linear feature, most likely associated with the construction of the children's play area. Trench 4 contained two discrete features within the eastern half of the trench. However, excavation of these features revealed them to be natural in origin, being identified as a tree throw and an ice wedge.
- 7.1.2 The only dating evidence recovered was a single sherd of 19th century glazed pottery from the topsoil. No earlier pottery was identified or any finds of unknown date.
- 7.1.3 The construction of the car park has truncated these areas to a greater depth than the surrounding grassed areas. However, deeper features would still be expected to have been identified should they have been present.

7.2 Conclusions

- 7.2.1 Although the Site is adjacent to Watling Street and in close proximity to known Roman forts and settlement, no archaeological remains or artefacts dating to the Roman period were identified. There was also a paucity of evidence for the early medieval origins of the village of Gailey.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

- 8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

8.2 Archive

- 8.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, 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/accession code (115240/2016.LH.75), and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- One file/document case of paper records and A3/A4 graphics.

8.3 Storage

- 8.3.1 Until final deposition with the museum the archive will be stored at the offices of WA Northern Region in Sheffield.



8.4 Selection policy

- 8.4.1 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. In this instance, given the relatively small quantities of material recovered, their nature and date range (commonly occurring and well documented types of relatively recent date), the archaeological potential of the finds for further research is considered to be extremely limited, and their retention for long-term curation is not warranted.

8.5 Copyright

- 8.5.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by WA Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with all rights reserved. The Museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations* 2003.

8.6 Security copy

- 8.6.1 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.



9 REFERENCES

9.1 Bibliography

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9.2 Online sources

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Accessed 31/10/2016



10 APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix 1: Context descriptions by trench

Trench 1						
Combined trench dimensions: 10 m x 1.8 m x 0.36 m						
Context	Type	Deposit description	Fill of	Category	Cut description	Depth
100	Layer	Dark greyish brown loamy sand	-	Topsoil	-	0.00 – 0.36
101	Layer	Compact mid brownish pink silty sand with occasional sub rounded stones	-	Natural	-	0.36m+

Trench 2						
Trench dimensions: 10 m x 1.8 m x 0.41 m						
Context	Type	Deposit description	Fill of	Category	Cut description	Depth
200	Layer	Dark greyish brown loamy sand with frequent crushed CBM and hardcore	-	Wood chip	-	0.00 – 0.15
201	Layer	Dark greyish brown loamy sand	-	Topsoil	-	0.15 – 0.41
202	Layer	Compact mid brownish pink silty sand with occasional sub rounded stones	-	Natural	-	0.41m+
203	Fill	Dark grey brown sandy silt	204	Deliberate backfill	-	0.41 -0.64m
204	Cut		-	Linear	North to south aligned linear measuring 1.7 m wide and extending the full width of the trench. The feature was found to be 0.23 m deep and had vertical sides. The feature was interpreted as a modern machine cut trench, probably associated with the construction of the children's play area.	0.41 -0.64m

Trench 3						
Trench dimensions: 10 m x 1.8 m x 0.50 m						
Context	Type	Deposit description	Fill of	Category	Cut description	Depth
300	Layer	Black tarmac of car park	-	Tarmac	-	0.00 – 0.09
301	Layer	Mixed. Deposits of type 1 hardcore, crushed building rubble, crushed CBM	-	Levelling	-	0.09 – 0.22
302	Layer	Crushed yellow hard core in clay matrix	-	Levelling	-	0.22 – 0.50
303	Layer	Mid reddish brown silty sand with regular pebbles/gravel	-	Natural	-	0.50m+



Trench 4		Trench dimensions: 10 m x 1.8 m x 0.60 m				
Context	Type	Deposit description	Fill of	Category	Cut description	Depth
400	Layer	Black tarmac of car park	-	Tarmac	-	0.00 – 0.09
401	Layer	Mixed. Deposits of type 1 hardcore, crushed building rubble, crushed CBM	-	Levelling	-	0.09 – 0.23
402	Layer	Crushed yellow hard core in clay matrix	-	Levelling	-	0.23 – 0.60
403	Layer	Mid reddish brown silty sand with regular pebbles/gravel	-	Natural	-	0.60m+
404	Fill	Dark brown silty sand	405	Secondary		0.60 – 0.84m
405	Cut			Tree throw	Irregularly shaped discrete. 0.9 m wide and 0.24 m deep. Hand excavation revealed irregular edges with clear evidence of rooting.	0.60 – 0.84m
406	Cut			Ice Wedge	Vertical sided discrete	0.60 – 1.25m+
407	Fill	Clean dark grey silty clay	406	Secondary	0.70 m wide, 0.65 m+ deep and extended 1.28 m from the northern limit of excavation. The feature was vertical sided and contained a very clean silty clay fill with no inclusions. The feature was not bottomed due to its depth.	0.60 – 1.25m+



10.2 Appendix 2: OASIS form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: wessexar1-272392

Project details

Project name	The spread Eagle Public House, Gailey, Staffordshire
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching on land to the rear of the Spread Eagle Public House, Gailey Staffordshire. The work was undertaken to fulfil planning conditions attached to the construction of a 38 bed lodge. The archaeological works were deemed necessary by South Staffordshire's archaeological advisor due to the proximity of the site to known Roman activity. The site lies adjacent to Watling Street Roman road as well as in the vicinity of Roman military camps and non-military settlement. A total of four evaluation trenches were excavated within the car park and children's play area located to the north of the public house. The works did not identify any features of archaeological interest. Trenches 1 and 3 were devoid of any cut features. Trench 2 contained a modern machine linear feature, most likely associated with the construction of the children's play area. Trench 4 contained two discrete features within the eastern half of the trench. However, excavation of these features revealed them to be natural in origin, being identified as a tree throw and an ice wedge. The only dating evidence recovered was a single sherd of late 19th to early 20th century glazed pottery from the topsoil. No earlier pottery was identified or any finds of unknown date.
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	115240 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	2016.LH.75 - Museum accession ID
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over

Project location

Country	England
Site location	STAFFORDSHIRE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE PENKRIDGE The spread Eagle Publick House, Gailey, Staffordshire
Postcode	ST19 5PP
Site coordinates	SJ 91167 10737 52.693898975603 -2.130709154771 52 41 38 N 002 07 50 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 100.44m Max: 101.94m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Wessex Archaeology

Project brief originator CgMs Consulting Ltd.

Project design originator CgMS Consulting Ltd

Project director/manager Chris Swales

Project supervisor P Weston

Type of sponsor/funding body Consultant

Name of sponsor/funding body CgMs

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Potteries Museum

Digital Archive recipient Potteries Museum and Art Gallery

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

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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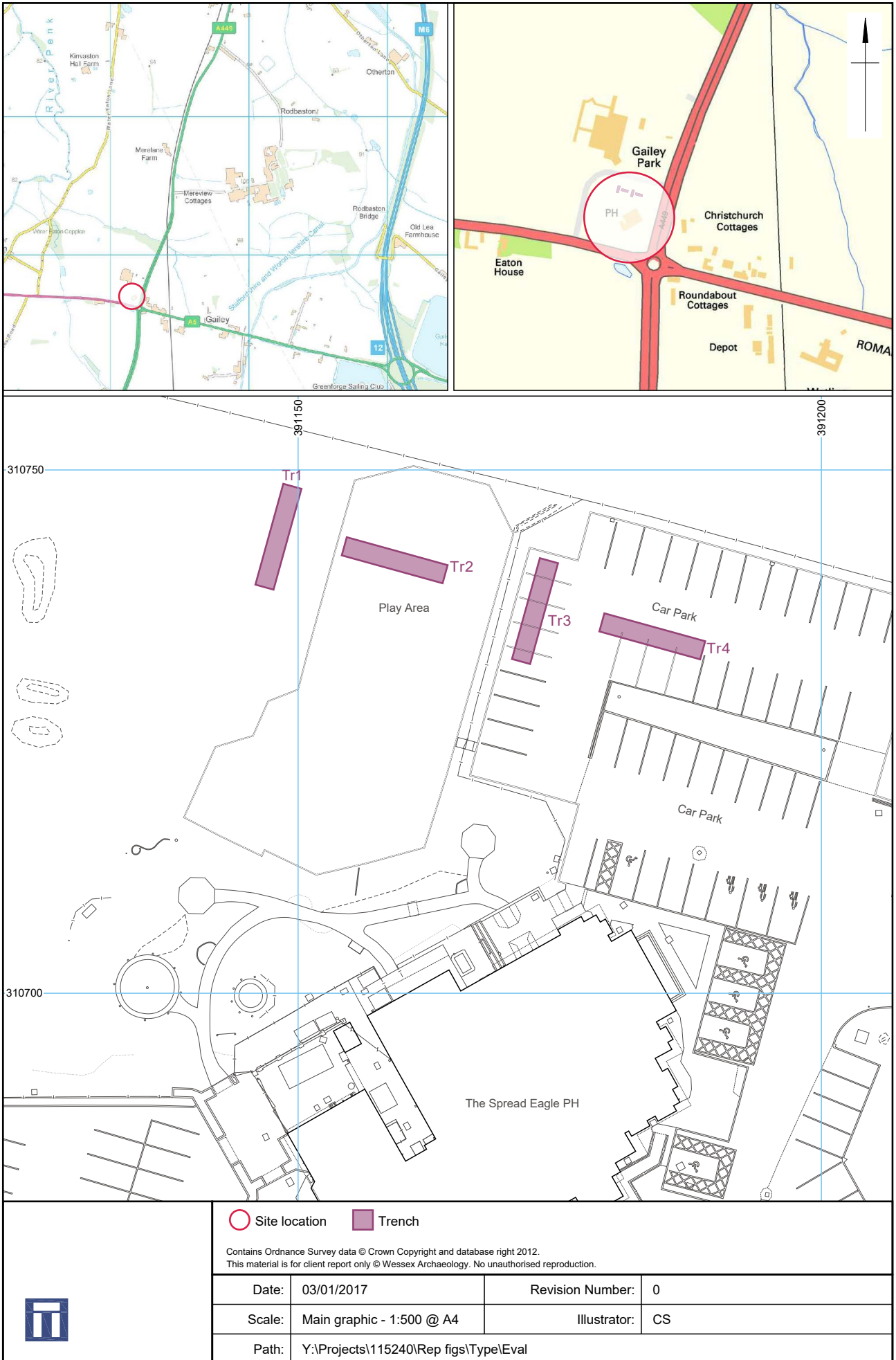
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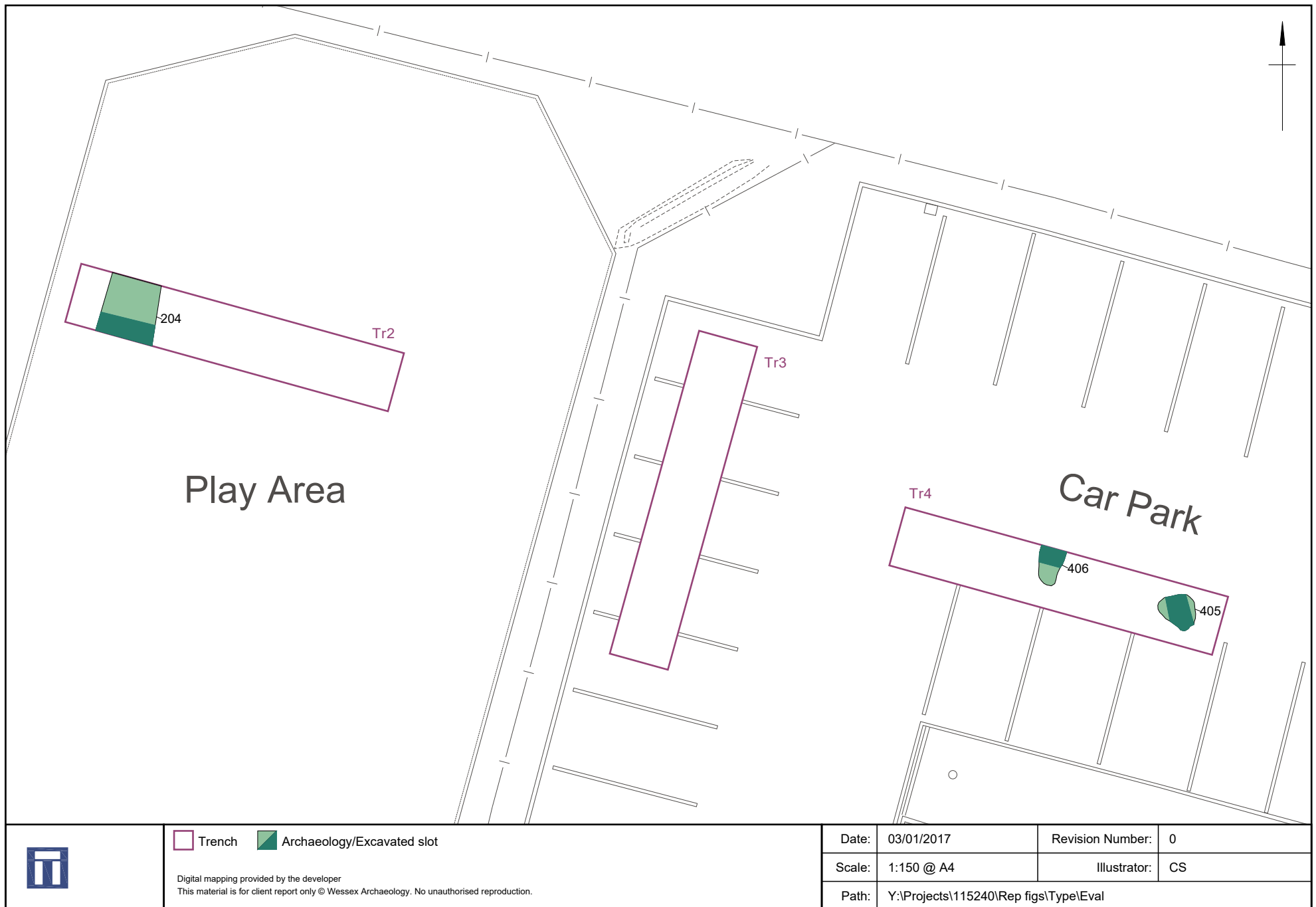
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Site and trench locations

Figure 1



Plan of trenches 2 and 4

Figure 2



Plate 1: General shot of trench 1, view from the north



Plate 2: General shot of trench 2, view from the east


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Plate 3: Detail shot showing section through modern machine cut 204



Plate 4: General shot of trench 3, view from the north

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Plate 5: General shot of trench 4, view from the west




Plate 6: Detail shot of tree throw within trench 4

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Plate 7: Detail shot of ice wedge within trench 4

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