



# Top Street, Bawtry South Yorkshire

Archaeological Mitigation Report



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wessexarchaeology



**Top Street, Bawtry  
South Yorkshire**

**Archaeological Mitigation Report**

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# Top Street, Bawtry South Yorkshire

## Archaeological Mitigation Report

### Summary

Wessex Archaeology was Commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out a programme of archaeological mitigation on land to the west of Top Street, Bawtry, South Yorkshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 465015, 393135. The work was undertaken ahead of the proposed development of the Site consisting of the construction of a residential retirement complex (Planning Application Ref. 16/01920/ FULM).

Archaeological mitigation follows on from previous evaluation trenching of the development area (Wessex Archaeology 2016). The archaeological mitigation entailed the excavation of an area measuring 400 sq m fronting on to Top Street and targeting the remains of the intercutting 17th to 18th century pits identified during the evaluation trenching.

The mitigation work has succeeded in identifying medieval activity on the site in the form of a gravel extraction pit containing three sherds of 13th and 14th century pottery. The small assemblage recovered from this feature leaves open the possibility that the pottery may be residual and the gravel extraction pit may be later in date.

A post-medieval phase of use was identified in the form of three boundary ditches. A northeast to southwest aligned ditch would have formed a boundary ditch running parallel to Top Street. This ditch truncated the earlier gravel extraction pit. The remaining two boundary ditches were perpendicular to Top Street and would have presumably terminated at the road side. Ordnance Survey mapping dating to 1885 shows the northern east to west aligned ditch as a field boundary. The southern east to west aligned ditch would presumably have demarcated a smaller plot within this field system. Dating evidence was scarce from these features, with 19th to 20th century pottery recovered from one of the ditch fills. The ditches would presumably have formed part of an earlier field system and were incorporated into plot divisions as buildings fronting on to Top Street were erected in the mid to late 19th century.

A final late 19th to 20th century phase of use was identified in the form a spread of made ground and dumps of waste material which were identified above the archaeological horizon. A series of pits and postholes also relating to this phase were identified. A series of eleven postholes were recorded within the eastern strip area, forming a roughly rectangular structure adjacent to Top Street. Although stratigraphically later than the gravel extraction pit this probable structure would appear in plan to respect the quarry pit. This raises the possibility that the medieval pottery recovered within the gravel extraction pit is indeed residual and the quarry pit is in fact a post-medieval feature. A further two postholes and two pits were identified within the western strip area.

It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Doncaster Museum Service under an accession number yet to be agreed. Doncaster Museum is currently not accepting archives and as such all material will be stored at the Sheffield office of Wessex Archaeology until deposition is possible. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.



# **Top Street, Bawtry South Yorkshire**

## **Archaeological Mitigation Report**

### **Acknowledgements**

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by Pete Owen of CgMs Consulting.

Thanks are extended to Andy Lines, of the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS), who provided curatorial support and guidance.

The fieldwork was carried out by Stuart Pierson, Sam McCormick and Mary Marshall between March 1st and 10th 2017. Stuart Pierson directed the excavations and produced this report. Illustrations were prepared by Elizabeth James. The finds assemblage was assessed by Lorraine Mephram and environmental samples reported on by Ines Lopez Doriga. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Chris Swales.





# Top Street, Bawtry South Yorkshire

## Archaeological Mitigation Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out a programme of archaeological mitigation on land to the west of Top Street, Bawtry, South Yorkshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 465015, 393135, hereafter 'the Site'. The work was undertaken ahead of the proposed development of the Site consisting of the construction of a residential retirement complex (Planning Application Ref. 16/01920/FULM).
- 1.1.2 The Site has previously been the subject of a desk-based assessment (DBA, CgMs 2015). Following on from this research work, South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS) advised that a programme of archaeological evaluation was required to fulfil the conditions of planning consent.
- 1.1.3 The trenching identified a limited number of intercutting 17th to 18th century pits close to the course of Top Street as well as frequent 20th century truncation (Wessex Archaeology 2016).
- 1.1.4 Following discussions between CgMs and SYAS an archaeological mitigation strategy was agreed which entailed the excavation of an area measuring 635 m<sup>2</sup> fronting on to Top Street and targeting the remains of the intercutting 17th to 18th century pits.
- 1.1.5 CgMs produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlining how the requirements of the work would be met (CgMs 2017). The WSI was approved by the SYAS prior to work commencing.

#### 1.2 Site location and topography

- 1.2.1 The Site is located on the west side of the historic core of Bawtry (Figure 1). It is bounded to the east by Top Street, by Tickhill Road to the south and by residential development to the west and north. It occupies approximately 0.3 ha and consists of derelict, overgrown garden and areas of hard standing and tarmac. A range of structures consisting of a small, unoccupied brick-built building with associated, predominantly timber outbuildings occupies the northern boundary of the Site. The Site slopes gently downhill from the high point at 14.13 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the northwest corner of the proposed development to 12.89 m aOD to the east and 14.03 m aOD to the south.
- 1.2.2 The underlying solid geology consist of Triassic sandstone and pebbly sedimentary bedrock of the Nottingham Castle Sandstone Formation. Superficial deposits consist of Quaternary river terrace sand and gravels (BGS 2016). The local soils are described as 'freely draining, slightly acidic sandy soils (LandIS 2016).



## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 The following presents a brief summary of the history of the Site and its archaeological potential. This information is primarily derived from the DBA carried out by CgMs (CgMs 2015).

### **2.2 Prehistoric and Roman**

- 2.2.1 Prehistoric activity within the wider area is indicated by the finds of a Neolithic Stone Axe c. 600 m to the southwest of the Site and a Bronze Age spearhead c. 100 m to the south of the Site, recorded on the South Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 2.2.2 During the later prehistoric and Roman periods, the landscape of the Bawtry area underwent substantial changes. Aerial photographic surveys have identified extensive Iron Age/Romano-British cropmark sites throughout the Bawtry area, indicating an extensive landscape of field systems, enclosures and interconnecting trackways, including two areas recorded approximately 750 m south and west of the Site.
- 2.2.3 A Roman road following the original line of military penetration from Lincoln northwards towards York, enters South Yorkshire at Bawtry and travels northwest through Adwick Le Street and on towards York. This road was part of the alternative course of Ermine Street (the major Roman road linking Lincoln and York). The detour through the Doncaster area avoided a ferry crossing on the Humber Estuary, which would not always have been passable in poor weather conditions. In Bawtry, the road is considered to be represented by Top Street, which forms the eastern Site boundary, with traffic thought to have been diverted away from this historic route and into what is now the market place in the medieval period.
- 2.2.4 Several finds of Roman date are recorded on the HER within the vicinity of the Site. There is also the suggestion that due to the location of Bawtry on a navigable river, and lying mid-way between the Roman forts of Doncaster and Littleborough, there may be an earlier fort or fortlet in the area, possibly within the grounds of Bawtry Hall approximately 100 m to the south of the Site, though no evidence for this theory has yet been identified.

### **2.3 Anglo-Saxon**

- 2.3.1 Bawtry lay within the 7th century Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Deira, which subsequently formed part of Northumbria. Anglo-Saxon activity in the area is indicated by place name evidence, which suggest that Bawtry may derive its name from the Old English terms ball and treow, meaning 'tree rounded like a ball'.

### **2.4 Medieval**

- 2.4.1 Bawtry Spittle, a hospital and a chapel dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene, was constructed during the medieval period within the area occupied subsequently by the grounds of Bawtry Hall, approximately 100 m to the south of the Site. An archaeological evaluation and buildings appraisal was conducted in 2003, revealing potential medieval deposits in three out of five trenches located to the east, south, and southwest of the Masonic hall in the grounds of Bawtry Hall. These deposits included five postholes (one of which contained pottery dating to the 13th to 14th centuries), a small pit, and two soils of probable medieval date. Several post-medieval features and deposits were also recorded (Pre-Construct Archaeology 2003).

- 2.4.2 Archaeological excavation of two large open areas to the south and southeast of the Masonic hall in 2005 found residual medieval pottery within later contexts, as well as several cut features and deposits dated to the late post-medieval and modern periods (ARCUS 2006).
- 2.4.3 A watching brief of a small area to the east of the retaining wall of the car park of the Masonic hall was undertaken in 2006 (ARCUS 2007). Three graves containing human skeletal remains were found at the north end of the excavated area. These graves were dated tentatively to the medieval period. Two later animal burials were also recovered, as well as evidence of post-medieval activity, including the insertion of a lead water pipe.
- 2.4.4 Excavation of a large area immediately to the east of the Masonic hall, within the car park, was undertaken in 2007 but not reported on. Several inhumation burials were excavated and recovered. Approximately 8 skeletons were excavated and removed from the site for analysis, but that other burials were identified during the excavation and left *in-situ* (McIntyre and Hadley 2010).
- 2.4.5 In 2010 an excavation was undertaken to further investigate the hospital and the cemetery associated with it. A trench was dug in the car park of the Masonic hall, along the south and east sides of the hall during the excavation, eighteen graves were identified, and subsequent analysis of both the articulated and disarticulated remains identified a minimum number of 53 individuals. It was demonstrated that the cemetery served a broad cross-section of the population, which was relatively healthy. A radiocarbon date is awaited from one of the skeletons, but at this stage the evidence indicates that the burials were all of later medieval date. A small number of medieval artefacts were recovered, including a 13th century coin, a copper-alloy plate (of a type used in medieval medicinal cures for damaged or infected joints) and the copper-alloy ferrule from the end of a walking stick. The remains of a late medieval wall were encountered running eastwards from the east wall of the Masonic hall; this wall was either the remains of a boundary wall or of a building, and it appears to be perpetuated into the 19th century, when a wall in a similar location is depicted on images of the chapel (McIntyre and Hadley 2010).
- 2.4.6 Although the extent of the medieval cemetery and Spittle lands to the north was not determined during the 2006, 2007 or 2010 excavations, it seems likely that Tickhill Road formed the northern boundary.
- 2.4.7 The eastern extent of the Spittle lands is likely to have been determined by the original course of the Roman road, which remained in use as the 'Great North Road' and followed the line of the present-day Top Street, prior to its realignment through the Market Place during the creation of the planned town during the early 13th century. The extant course of the Roman road is thus likely to have formed a boundary at the east of the Spittle site, suggesting the associated cemetery was unlikely to have extended further eastward than the line of the present-day Top Street, the latter is also assumed to form the western boundary of the medieval core of the town.

## 2.5 Post-medieval

- 2.5.1 During the late 18th and early 19th centuries, Bawtry became a highly prosperous community, with new wealth flowing in to the town from the coaching trade along the Great North Road. Although the opening of the Chesterfield Canal in 1777 brought a considerable decline in the town's river trade, Bawtry was able to adapt during this period. The construction of a new bridge and many large town houses signified the town's growing prosperity.

- 2.5.2 The early 19th century also saw development of the Site, with the construction of Harworth House and Harworth Place (Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 Top Street), all of which are Grade II listed. The 1886 Ordnance Survey Map identifies these properties fronting Top Street, with garden areas to the rear of Harworth Place and to the south of Harworth House. Beyond this, the western part of the Site is within a field with deciduous trees shown along the perimeter. The northern end of the Site falls within a separate field.
- 2.5.3 By the early 20th century, the 1921 Ordnance Survey map shows a new building fronting Top Street on the north side of Harworth Place. By the mid-20th century, significant boundary changes are evident on the Ordnance Survey maps. To the rear of Harworth House and Harworth Terrace, the field to the rear of these properties now looks to form two plots. A property on Harworth Terrace is named 'Vanetta'. The northern part of the Site is further redeveloped with buildings on either side of a yard area, the building fronting Top Street is no longer shown. The urban expansion of Bawtry to the north and west is also evident.

## 2.6 Previous archaeological investigations

- 2.6.1 Wessex Archaeology undertook an Archaeological Evaluation in October 2016 (Wessex Archaeology 2016) which determined that although Top Street is suspected of being a Roman thoroughfare, no archaeological remains or artefacts dating to the Romano-British period were identified. The archaeological evaluation did, however, identify evidence of 17th to 18th century small-scale activity close to the course of Top Street and more intensive activity during the later 19th century and on in to the 20th century.

## 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

### 3.1 Summary

- 3.1.1 On the basis of the desk-based assessment results, the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service identified the need for a programme of archaeological mitigation. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was duly prepared by CgMs Consulting (CgMs, 2017).

- 3.1.2 The aims of the project as set out in the WSI were:

- *to provide further information regarding the previously identified archaeological features and any unrecorded features within the area of investigation and to determine the character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation, relationships and quality of any identified archaeological deposits; therefore ensuring their preservation by record.*
- *establish the alignment and nature of the features revealed in the trench 1 more precisely;*
- *recover further artefactual material to establish a more certain date for these features; and*
- *recover ecofactual material for further study and/or dating.*

- 3.1.3 In order to address the main aim, the general objectives were to:

- *to fully excavate and record the buried archaeological remains;*
- *ensure that any below-ground archaeological deposits exposed are promptly identified; to excavate the features revealed;*
- *provide information regarding activities that have taken place within the study site from the 17th century onwards; and*



- ensure the recording of archaeological remains, to place this record in its local context and to make this record available.

## **4 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 General**

- 4.1.1 The Mitigation was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMS 2017) and professional standards and guidelines (Historic England 2015, ClfA 2014 a–c).
- 4.1.2 It was necessary to slightly alter the mitigation area from that proposed in the WSI due to the presence of services, reinforced concrete and issues regarding machine access.

### **4.2 Machine excavation**

- 4.2.1 Overburden was removed using a 360 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 archaeological 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. As per standard practice, excavated stratigraphic units were individually numbered and recorded, with the trench number forming the prefix for the context number.
- 4.4.2 Archaeological features 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.
- 4.4.3 In addition to the metric survey of the Site a hand drawn record was compiled which comprised the plans and sections of individual features and deposits. Plans and sections were recorded at a scale appropriate to the complexity of the feature and/or deposits but in general were drawn at either 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50.
- 4.4.4 A photographic record was maintained of hand dug slots, the archaeological features within their broader surroundings as well as working shots of the excavation.

### **4.5 Monitoring**

- 4.5.1 Andy Lines (SYAS) visited the Site on the 10th March on behalf of Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council. Following this visit a programme of works were agreed which once completed would allow for the sign off and backfill of the excavation area.



## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

### 5.1 Overburden

- 5.1.1 The Site was overlain by with a layer of tarmac to the north and a layer of gravel to the south, both of which had been used as a carpark previously. Below this was a layer of modern hardcore (Plates 1-2) overlying a thick undulating layer of 20th century waste (1003). A 0.20 m thick layer of subsoil (1004) was recorded below layer 1003 (Plate 3).
- 5.1.2 Natural geology comprised pale yellow sand and gravels (1005) at depths of between 0.7 m and 0.8 m below ground level (Plates 4-8).

### 5.2 Medieval features

- 5.2.1 Gravel extraction pit 1043 was identified on the east side of the Site adjacent to the Top Street. The quarry pit was characterised by moderate concave sides and a flat base, which measured 8.9 m in length, 5.2 m wide and was 0.43 m deep (Figure 2). The pit contained three fills; 1044 was a dark grey brown silty sand, 1045 was a pale yellow brown silty sand and 1046 was a medium brown silty sand (Figure 3, Plates 4, 15 and 16). These fills derived from silting and erosion over a lengthy period of time.

### 5.3 Post-medieval features

- 5.3.1 The mitigation area also contained three boundary ditches (1006, 1008 and 1020) with one of these ditches running northeast to southwest and parallel to Top Street (1020, Figure 2). Ditch 1020 was 1.15 m wide and 0.7 m deep (Figure 3, Plate 14). Gully 1023 ran parallel to ditch 2020 along its western edge. Gully 1023 was 0.32 m wide and 0.19 m deep. No relationship could be determined between these two features in section. However, both ditch 1020 and gully 1023 cut through quarry pit 1043.
- 5.3.2 Boundary ditches 1006 and 1008 ran perpendicular to Top Street and would presumably have terminated beside this road (Figure 2). Ditch 1006 was east to west aligned, 1 m in width and 0.23 m deep (Figure 3, Plate 9). Ditch 1006 was truncated by a dump of modern waste (1030) and late 19th to 20th century pit 1028 and posthole 1033.
- 5.3.3 Ditch 1008 was east to west aligned, 1.8 m wide and 0.47 m deep and contained a probable recut (Figures 2 and 3, Plate 10).

### 5.4 Late 19th and 20th century structures

- 5.4.1 A series of pits and postholes were identified within the mitigation area. Where relationships exist all cut the fills of the ditches and quarry pit described above. The postholes contained distinct black clay fills similar to 20th waste spread 1003 as well as frequent remains of wooden posts (Plate 7).
- 5.4.2 Pits 1012, 1028, 1031 and 1033 were recorded within the western strip area (Figure 2) Pit 1012 was sub-circular with shallow concave sides and a flat base measuring 0.33 m in length, 0.39 m wide and was 0.25 m deep. Pit 1028 (Plate 13) was circular with moderate, concave sides and a flat base measuring 2 m in diameter and 0.2 m deep. Pit 1031 was sub circular with moderate concave sides and an irregular base measuring 0.23 m in diameter and 0.18 m deep. Pit 1033 (Plate 13) was sub-circular with moderate concave sides and an irregular base measuring 0.32 m in diameter and 0.25 m deep.
- 5.4.3 Postholes 1014, 1016, 1018 and 1037 were recorded within the eastern strip area adjacent to Top Street (Figures 2 and 3). Posthole 1014 was oval with moderate concave sides and a concave base measuring 0.37 m in diameter and 0.11 m deep (Plate 11).



Posthole 1016 was oval with steep, concave sides and a concave base measuring 0.21 m in diameter and 0.06 m deep. Posthole 1018 was circular with steep, concave sides and a concave base measuring 0.20 m in diameter and 0.07 m deep (Plate 12). Posthole 1037 contained the end of a wooden post and was sub-circular with steep, concave sides and a concave base measuring 0.60 m in diameter and 0.3 m deep (Plate 16). In addition to the excavated postholes seven additional postholes were identified forming a rectangular structure (Figure 2). These postholes all contained clearly 20th century fills, with several still retaining fragments of wooden posts.

## **6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE**

### **6.1 Introduction**

- 6.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the mitigation, which augments (and largely echoes) that found during the earlier evaluation. The date range is overwhelmingly post-medieval/modern, with two medieval pottery sherds.
- 6.1.2 Finds derived from a spread, and from the fills of cut features; two items were unstratified finds. All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in Table 1.

### **6.2 Pottery**

- 6.2.1 The pottery assemblage recovered amounts to 48 sherds (503 g), of which three are medieval and the remainder post-medieval/modern.
- 6.2.2 Two of the medieval sherds are conjoining (new break), and are in a pale-firing gritty fabric tentatively identified as Coal Measures Whiteware, dating to the 13th to 14th century. These sherds provided the only dating evidence for secondary fill 1045 of quarry pit 1043. Another secondary fill (1046) produced an abraded sherd in an oxidised sandy fabric, of unknown type.
- 6.2.3 The post-medieval/modern sherds include redwares (including one sherd from a trailed slipware flanged dish), but consists largely of 19th/20th century stonewares (mostly belong to two cylindrical ribbed preserve jars from pit 1031) and refined wares (tea-, table- and kitchen wares).

### **6.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)**

- 6.3.1 Four of the five pieces of ceramic building material recovered are from post-medieval bricks. None retain surfaces, and the original form and dimensions cannot be determined.
- 6.3.2 One large fragment, found unstratified, is from a glazed wall tile of institutional type, carrying the remains of a warning message: ...HON... / ...[D]ANGE[R]...

### **6.4 Glass**

- 6.4.1 All of the glass recovered is of 19th or 20th century date, and includes fragments of bottles, jars and window glass.

### **6.5 Stone**

- 6.5.1 One fragment of stone was recovered, from a fill of quarry pit 1043. This is a small fragment of non-local igneous rock, probably granite, and apparently unworked.



## 6.6 Metalwork

6.6.1 All ten metal objects are iron, and include at least three nails, a curved bar which might be part of a handle, and some miscellaneous sheet fragments. None of these objects are closely datable, but a post-medieval/modern date is most probable.

## 6.7 Animal Bone

6.7.1 The very badly preserved remains of several cattle vertebrae were recovered from ditch 1008. Two tiny fragments from posthole 1037 could be from a small mammal.

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

Context	Description	Animal Bone	CBM	Glass	Stone	Metal (No.)	Pottery
1007	Ditch 1006		2/12			1	
1011	Ditch 1008	16/187	1/14				
1013	Pit 1012						1/1
1030	Spread		1/18	2/15			9/65
1032	Pit 1031			4/49		1	4/33
1034	Pit 1031			19/169		6	29/345
1036	Ditch 1035						1/31
1038	P'hole 1037	2/1		1/3		1	1/15
1045	W'hole/quarry pit 1043						2/8
1046	W'hole/quarry pit 1043				1/104		1/5
-	unstratified		1/2295			1	
<b>Total</b>		<b>18/188</b>	<b>5/2339</b>	<b>26/236</b>	<b>1/104</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>48/503</b>

## 6.8 Potential and further recommendations

6.8.1 Even when combined with the evaluation finds, this assemblage has very limited further archaeological potential, due to the small quantities involved, and their nature and date range (commonly occurring and well documented types of relatively recent date). All finds have been recorded to an appropriate archive level, and no further work is proposed. Recommendations for retention are given below (see Storage and Curation).

## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

### 7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Four bulk samples were taken from a range of ditches and a pit and were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal. The size of the samples was 40 litres

### 7.2 Background and summary quantification

7.2.1 The bulk samples break down into the following phase groups:

**Table 2: Sample Provenance Summary**

No. of samples	Volume (litres)	Feature types
3	120	Ditches
1	40	Quarry pit
<b>Totals</b>	<b>160</b>	

7.2.2 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>4 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. The flots were scanned using a stereo incident light microscopy at magnifications of up to x40 using a Leica MS5 microscope for the identification of environmental remains. Different bioturbation indicators were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds and the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (e.g. *Cenococcum geophilum*) and animal remains which would not be preserved unless anoxic conditions were detected, such as earthworm eggs and insects. The preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains, as well as the presence/absence of other environmental remains such as molluscs, animal bone and insects (if anoxic conditions for their preservation are present), is recorded in Table 3.

7.2.3 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. Abundance of remains is qualitatively quantified (A\*\*\* = exceptional, A\*\* = 100+, A\* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5) as an estimation of the minimum number of individuals and not the number of remains per taxa.

### 7.3 Charred plant remains

7.3.1 Most of the assemblages were dominated by indeterminate plant tissue which might have been distorted due to exposition to high temperature fire. Two of the assemblages included identifiable plant material, which comprised cereal remains, from grains of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), wheat (*Triticum sp.*) and possibly rye (cf. *Secale cereale*). Remains of wild plants which might have been weeds of agricultural fields or plants growing in the environment were also present in small numbers, including docks (*Polygonaceae*), composites (*Asteraceae*) and annual mercury (*Mercurialis annua*). This latter was also recovered in an uncharred state and suggests both might be intrusive.

### 7.4 Wood charcoal

7.4.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples in small quantities, and included just mature wood fragments.

### 7.5 Discussion

7.5.1 The assemblages recovered so far have little potential and require no further analysis but these results should be included in prospective reports and publications. They indicate the existence of cereal cultivation in the area and possible crop processing activities in a domestic site type, although the small number of remains reduces their interpretative potential.



**Table 3: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal**

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Charcoal	Other	Comments
<b>Ditches</b>														
1006	1007	1	40	10	90%, A*, F	C	-	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> grains and cf. <i>Secale cereale</i>	C	Polygonaceae, Asteraceae, <i>Galium</i> sp.	1ml	Mature	Slag	Poor
1008	1011	2	40	40	70%, A*, E, I	-	-	-	C	Indet. plant material	1ml/3ml	Mature	-	Uncharred <i>Mercurialis</i> seed
1020	1022	3	40	30	90%, A**, E, F	-	-	-	C	Indet. plant material	1ml	Mature	-	-
<b>Quarry pit</b>														
1043	1046	4	40	5	A*, E, F	C	-	<i>Triticum</i> sp. and Triticeae grains, Poaceae culm	B	Indet. plant material, <i>Mercurialis annua</i>	<1ml	Mature	-	Poor

Key: A\*\*\* = exceptional, A\*\* = 100+, A\* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), F = mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia, E = earthworm eggs, I = insects; Sab/f = small animal/fish bones/charred faecal pellets, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs, Moll-f = aquatic molluscs; Analysis: C = charcoal, P = plant, M = molluscs, C14 = radiocarbon



## **8 DISCUSSION**

### **8.1 Summary**

- 8.1.1 The mitigation work has succeeded in identifying medieval activity on the Site in the form of a gravel extraction pit containing three sherds of 13th and 14th century pottery. The small assemblage recovered from this feature leaves open the possibility that the pottery may be residual and the gravel extraction pit may be later in date.
- 8.1.2 A post-medieval phase of use was identified in the form of three boundary ditches. A northeast to southwest aligned ditch would have formed a boundary ditch running parallel to Top Street. This ditch truncated the earlier gravel extraction pit. The remaining two boundary ditches were perpendicular to Top Street and would have presumably terminated at the road side. Ordnance Survey mapping dating to 1885 shows the northern east to west aligned ditch as a field boundary. The southern east to west aligned ditch would presumably have demarcated a smaller plot within this field system. Dating evidence was scarce from these features, with 19th to 20th century pottery recovered from one of the ditch fills. The ditches would presumably have formed part of an earlier field system and were incorporated into plot divisions as buildings fronting on to Top Street were erected in the mid to late 19th century.
- 8.1.3 A final late 19th to 20th century phase of use was identified in the form a spread of made ground and dumps of waste material which were identified above the archaeological horizon. A series of pits and postholes also relating to this phase were identified. A series of eleven postholes were recorded within the eastern strip area, forming a roughly rectangular structure adjacent to Top Street. Although stratigraphically later than the gravel extraction pit this probable structure would appear in plan to respect the quarry pit. This raises the possibility that the medieval pottery recovered within the gravel extraction pit is indeed residual and the quarry pit is in fact a post-medieval feature. A further two postholes and two pits were identified within the western strip area. The pits were likely to be used as rubbish pits within backyard plots for structure fronting on to Top Street.

### **8.2 Conclusions**

- 8.2.1 The mitigation works have hinted at 13th to 14th century activity on the very western limit of the historic core of the town. The presence of post-medieval boundary ditches and the cartographic evidence indicates that the area to the west of Top Street remained largely free of structures until the mid 19th century.
- 8.2.2 From the mid to late 19th century the Site was developed with a series of red brick and timber structures. Frequent rubbish pits and postholes from this phase of activity were recorded.

## **9 STORAGE AND CURATION**

### **9.1 Museum**

- 9.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Doncaster Museum Service under an accession number yet to be agreed. Doncaster Museum is currently not accepting archives and as such all material will be stored at the Sheffield office of Wessex Archaeology until deposition is possible. 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 currently includes paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Doncaster Museum Service, 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 (114700/TBC), and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:
- one cardboard box or airtight plastic box of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type;
  - one file/document case of paper records and A3/A4 graphics.

## **9.3 Selection policy**

- 9.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis.
- 9.3.2 In this instance, the mitigation assemblage should be considered alongside the assemblage from the evaluation. The combined assemblage is still of relatively small size, and consists largely of commonly occurring and well documented types of relatively recent date (19th/20th century). This is considered to severely limit the potential of the assemblage for further research, and the recommendation is made (subject to agreement with SYAS and the recipient museum) that none of the finds should be retained for long-term curation. The retention policy will be fully documented in the project archive.
- 9.3.3 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 (eg, 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 On-line sources

<http://www.landis.org.uk/>

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk>



## 11 APPENDICES

### 11.1 Appendix 1: Context descriptions

Area 1		Number Sequence 1001 - 1049				
Context	Type	Deposit description	Fill of	Category	Cut description	Depth (m)
1001	Layer	Tarmac	-	-	-	0.05
1002	Layer	Hardcore levelling for Tarmac	-	-	-	0.08
1003	Layer	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> century waste. Grey black, silty sand	-	-	-	0.1
1004	Layer	Subsoil. Mid to pale brown silty sand, common gravel inclusions	-	-	-	0.2
1005	Layer	Natural. Yellow orange mottle silty sand, common gravel inclusions	-	-	-	0.5+
1006	Cut	-	-	Ditch	Linear with moderate, concave sides and a flat base	0.23
1007	Fill	Dark orange brown silty sand, rare gravel inclusions	1005	Secondary	-	0.23
1008	Cut	-	-	Ditch	Linear with moderate, concave sides and a concave base	0.47
1009	Fill	Pale brown silty sand, rare gravel inclusions	1008	Secondary	-	0.35
1010	Fill	Pale brown silty sand, rare gravel inclusions	1008	Secondary	-	0.40
1011	Fill	Mid to light brown silty sand, common gravel inclusions	1008	Secondary	-	0.47
1012	Cut	-	-	Pit	Sub-circular with shallow, concave sides and a flat base	0.25
1013	Fill	Dark grey black silty sand, rare gravel inclusions	1012	Deliberate backfill	-	0.25
1014	Cut	-	-	Posthole	Circular with moderate, concave sides and a concave base	0.11
1015	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty sand, uncommon gravel	1014	Secondary	-	0.11
1016	Cut	-	-	Posthole	Oval with steep, concave sides and a concave base	0.06
1017	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty sand, uncommon gravel	1016	Secondary	-	0.06
1018	Cut	-	-	Posthole	Circular with steep, concave sides and a concave base	0.07
1019	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty sand, uncommon gravel	1018	Secondary	-	0.07
1020	Cut	-	-	Ditch	Linear with straight, steep to vertical sides and a flat base	0.7



1021	Fill	Pale yellow brown silty sand, rare gravel	1020	Secondary	-	0.36
1022	Fill	Mid to pale brown silty sand, common gravel	1020	Secondary	-	0.69
1023	Cut	-	-	Gully	Linear with moderate, concave sides and a flat base	0.19
1024	Fill	Pale yellow brown silty sand, rare gravel	1023	Secondary	-	0.19
1025	Spread	Black brown silty sand, rare gravel	-	Spread	-	0.22
1026	Cut	Same as 2006	-	Ditch	Linear with straight, vertical sides and a flat base	0.45
1027	Fill	Dark greyish black sandy silt, common gravel	1026	Secondary	-	0.45
1028	Cut	-	-	Pit	Circular with moderate, concave sides and a flat base	0.20
1029	Fill	Light orangey red sandy clay, rare gravel	1028	Deliberate Backfill	-	0.20
1030	Spread	Dark greyish black silty sand, uncommon gravel	-	-	-	0.10
1031	Cut	-	-	Pit	Sub circular with moderate, concave sides and an irregular base	0.18
1032	Fill	Dark brownish black silty sand, frequent gravel	1031	Deliberate backfill	-	0.18
1033	Cut	-	-	Pit	Sub circular with moderate, concave sides and an irregular base	0.25
1034	Fill	Dark brownish black silty sand, common gravel	1031	Deliberate backfill	-	0.25
1035	Cut	Same as 1020	-	Ditch	Linear with moderate, concave sides and a concave base	0.29
1036	Fill	Light brownish grey silty sand, frequent gravel	1035	Secondary	-	0.29
1037	Cut	-	-	Posthole	Sub-circular with steep, concave sides and a concave base	0.40
1038	Fill	Dark greyish black silty sand, common gravel	1037	Secondary	-	0.40
1039	Cut	Same as 1023	-	Gully	Linear with moderate, concave sides and a flat base	0.15
1040	Fill	Pale yellow brown silty sand, rare gravel	1039	Secondary	-	0.15
1041	Cut	Same as 1043	-	Quarry pit	Oval with moderate, concave sides and a flat base	0.30
1042	Fill	Medium brown silty sand, common gravel	1041	-	-	0.30
1043	Cut	-	-	Quarry pit	Oval with moderate, concave sides and a flat base	0.43
1044	Fill	Dark grey brown silty sand, frequent gravel	1043	Secondary	-	0.15
1045	Fill	Pale yellow brown silty sand, rare gravel	1043	Secondary	-	0.35
1046	Fill	Medium red brown transitions to medium brown silty sand, common gravel	1043	Secondary	-	0.35



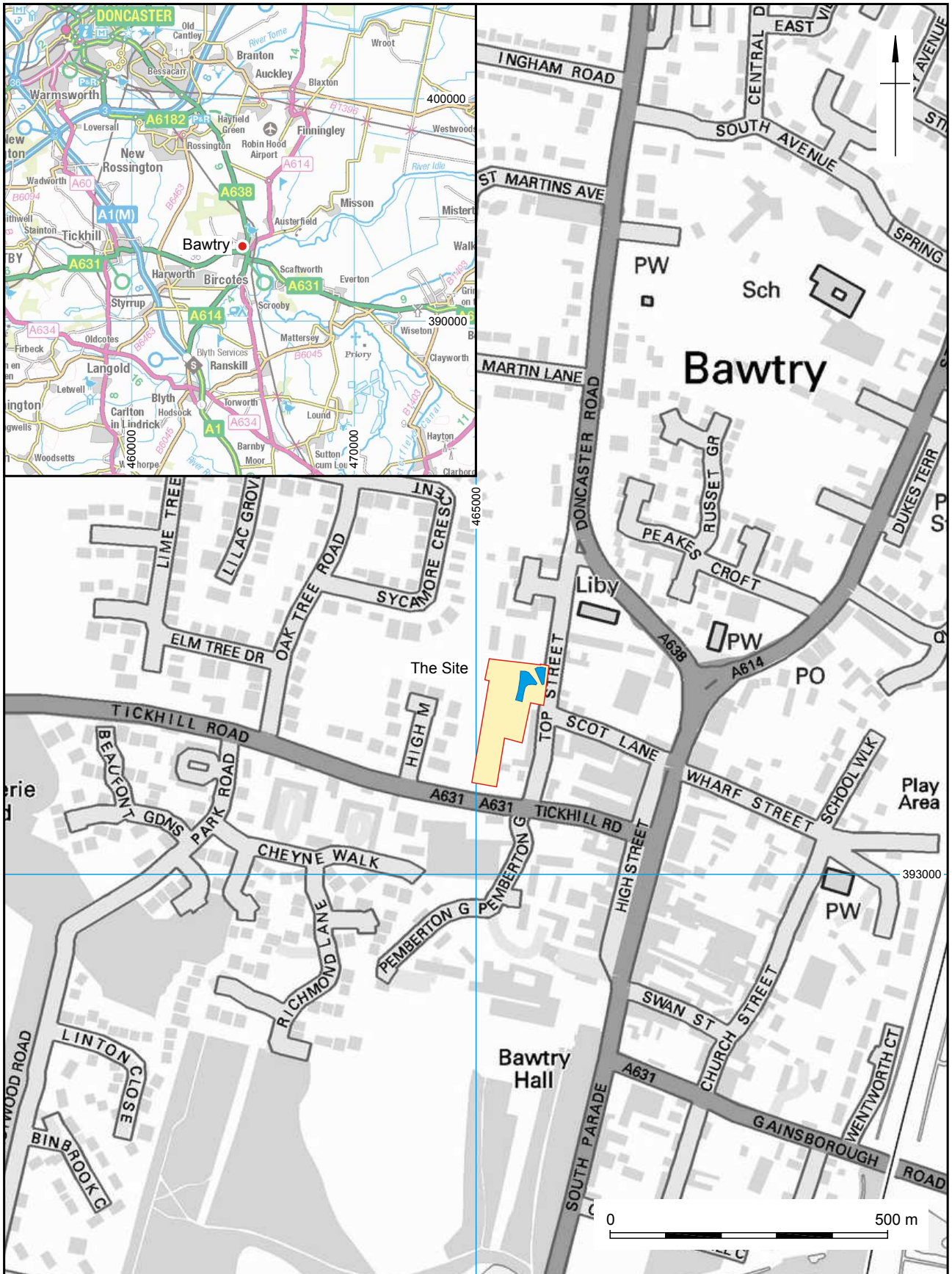
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1047	Cut	Same as 1023	-	Gully	Linear with moderate, concave sides and a concave base	0.16
1048	Fill	Medium brown silty sand, uncommon gravel	1047	Secondary	-	0.16
1049	Cut	Same as 1006	-	Ditch	Linear with shallow, concave sides and a flat base.	0.11



## **11.2 Appendix 2: OASIS form**

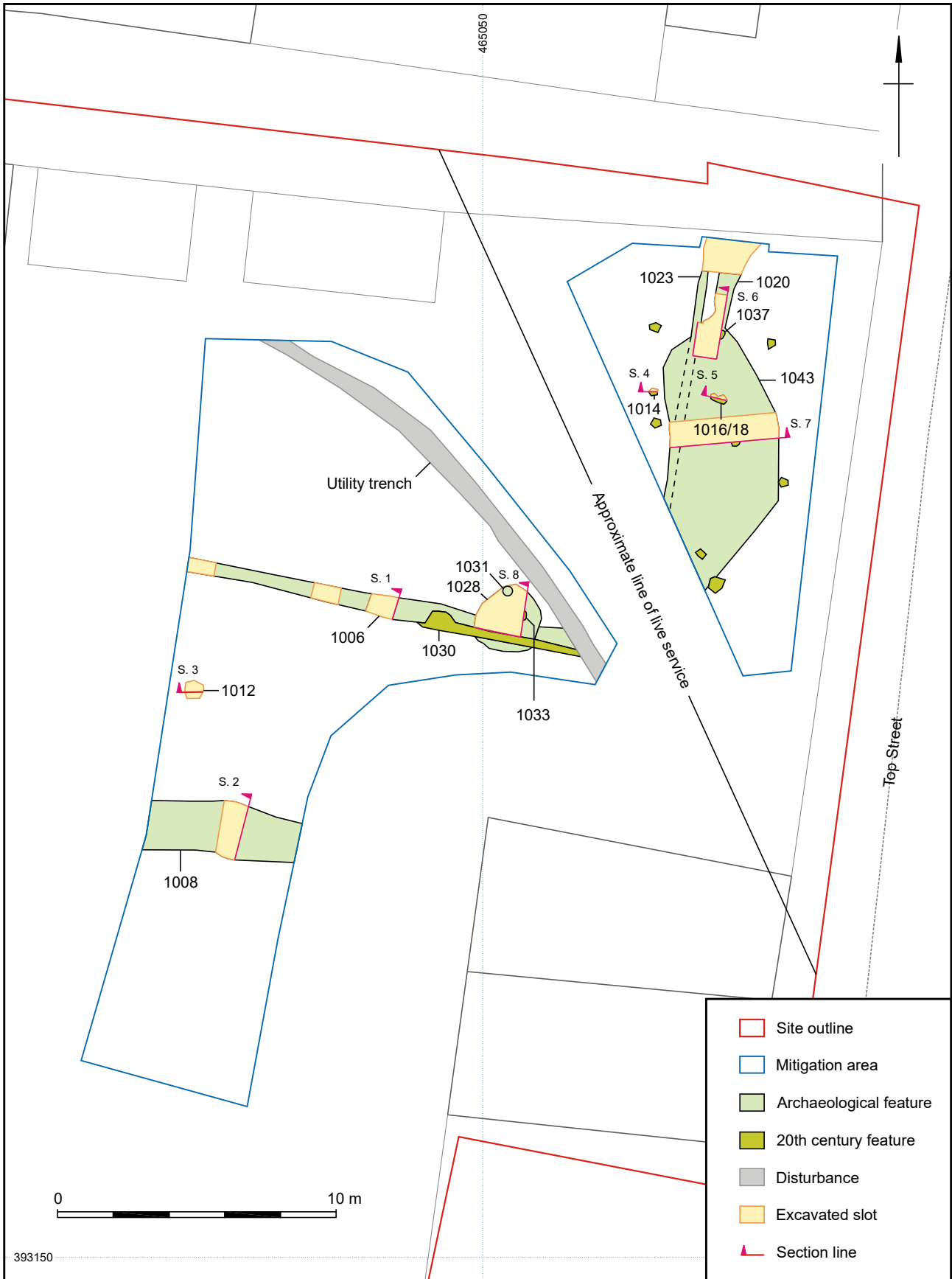




Site outline Mitigation area 	Coordinate system OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15) Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2017. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.		
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Site location plan

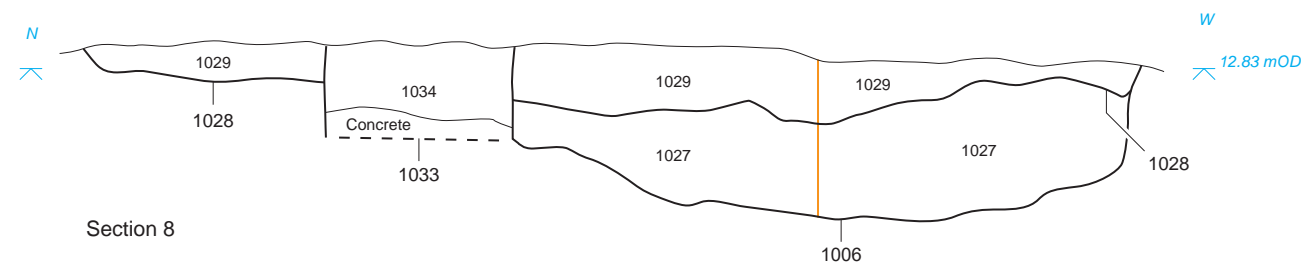
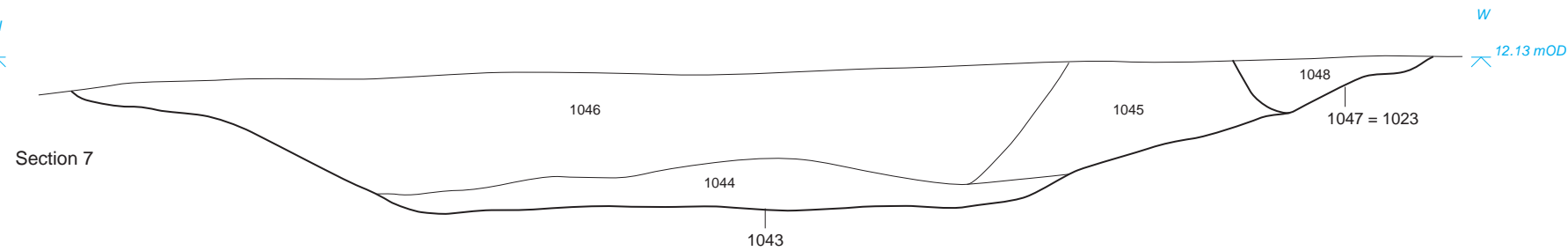
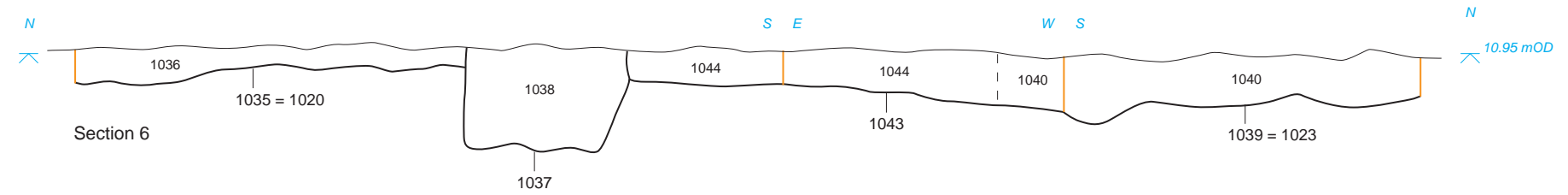
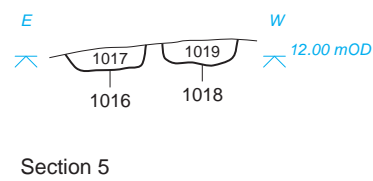
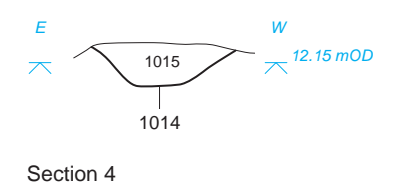
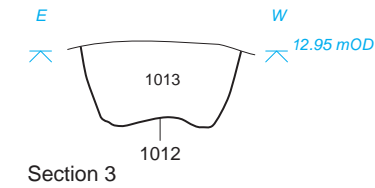
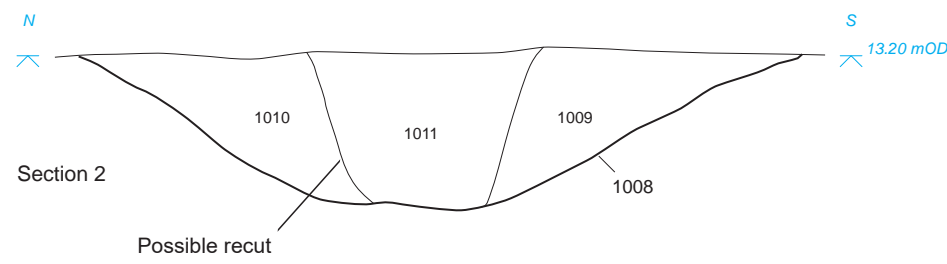
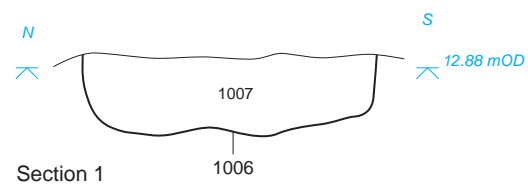
Figure 1



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Plan of Mitigation Area

Figure 2



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Plate 1: General shot of site during the machine strip. Shot facing east



Plate 2: General shot of site during the machine strip. Shot facing southeast


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Plate 3: Detail shot of twentieth century disturbance being stripped



Plate 4: Detail shot of quarry pit 1043, pre-excitation. Shot facing south


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Plate 5: General shot of western strip area at the archaeological horizon



Plate 6: General shot of western strip area at the archaeological horizon.  
Shot facing north


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Plate 7: Detail shot of western strip area showing ditch 1006 and pit 1028



Plate 8: Representative section of overburden above the archaeological horizon


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Plate 9: West facing section of ditch 1006



Plate 10: East facing section of ditch 1008


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Plate 11: North facing section of post hole 1014



Plate 12: North facing section of postholes 1016 and 1018


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Plate 13: West facing section of pits 1028 and 1033



Plate 14: South facing section of ditch 1020 and gully 1023


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Plate 15: North facing section of quarry pit 1043 and gully 1023



Plate 16: East facing section of ditch 1020 and posthole 1037

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