



Summerfield Street, Sheffield, South Yorkshire - WA75211

Archaeological Evaluation – Brief summary of results

Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by Abode Hallam Ltd to undertake archaeological evaluation on land off Summerfield Street and Napier Street, Sheffield. Sheffield City Council Development Services has granted conditional planning consent (Planning Application No. 16/01362/FUL) for the erection of 7, 8, 9 and 10 storey buildings inclusive of 150 student cluster units, 237 studio/apartments, retail space and cafe/restaurant, with new access, car parking accommodation and landscaping works, including works to the Porter Brook embankment. The archaeological works are being carried out in relation to Condition 10 of that consent.

Eight archaeological trenches (Trenches 2 to 9) were excavated in July 2017 in line with an agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2017). One trench (Trench 1) within the site was previously excavated by Wessex Archaeology in 2010, as part of a previous development proposal. The trenches targeted a range of domestic and industrial buildings shown on historic mapping from the late 19th century onwards. Trenches 3 to 9 were all moved from their original proposed locations to avoid services or due to the proximity of the River Porter (Trench 3 and 5).

The underlying geology of the Site comprises superficial deposits of Alluvium - Gravel, Sand, Silt and Clay, formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Sedimentary bedrock, Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation - Mudstone and Siltstone, formed approximately 312 to 313 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period, is also recorded. The archaeological evaluation of an adjacent area off Pomona Street to the north, by ARCUS in 2006, identified alluvial clay deposits at a depth of 1.75 m below ground level (bgl).

General stratigraphy

Natural, represented by sterile alluvial clay deposits, was identified in trenches 5, 6, 7 and 8; from 1.2 m below ground level (bgl) in trench 8, to 2 m bgl in trenches 6 and 7. Similar deposits of probable buried subsoil and topsoil, possible evidence of previous land use as allotment gardens or agricultural fields, was identified in trenches 2, 4, 5 and 9, predating structural development on the site from the mid to late 19th century onwards.

Trench 2

Trench 2 targeted the apse of the former St. Matthias's Church. Archaeological structures were encountered from 0.59 m bgl and the trench excavated to a maximum depth of 1.05 m bgl. The trench was heavily truncated by later services. The remains of the apse were located in the eastern end of the trench with one course of solid sandstone blocks surviving on top of a mortar layer. A probable internal wall was also observed. No internal floor level survived and no foundation cut for the wall was identified; successive waste deposits appeared to have been used as made ground against the wall.

Trench 3

Trench 3 targeted the former Buffalo Horn Works. Demolition deposits were encountered from 0.4 m bgl with the trench excavated to a maximum depth of 2 m bgl. Later services truncated the trench. Hardcore and red brick rubble overlay a concrete surface at 2 m bgl; the depth of the surface suggests that this area of the site had been intentionally sunk as a basement as part of later development on the site.

Trench 4

Trench 4 targeted the former Yorkshire Wire Rope & Fencing Works and its later development into the J. Neill and Co Ltd Composite Steel Works. Archaeological structures were encountered from 0.59 m bgl and the trench excavated to a maximum depth of 0.64 m bgl. A sandstone wall running north to south corresponded to the western external wall of a building of the Yorkshire Wire Rope & Fencing Works. Two contemporary internal walls ran to the east. No floor levels were identified.

Trench 5

Trench 5 targeted the Yorkshire Wire Rope & Fencing Works and its later development into the J. Neill and Co Ltd Composite Steel Works. Archaeological structures were encountered from 0.6 m bgl and the trench excavated to a maximum depth of 1.5 m bgl.

A slot was excavated in the northern end of the trench which identified natural clay and two levels of probable buried soil, the latter possibly remnants of the allotment gardening known to have been active on the site in the mid 19th century.

Seven walls and a floor were uncovered relating to the 19th and 20th century Wire Works and later Composite Steel Works. Four of the walls, and the floor, are likely related to the Yorkshire Wire Rope & Fencing Works. Two of these walls were constructed of sandstone blocks and two of red brick, and the floor comprised sandstone flags. The westernmost sandstone wall contained at least 12 courses and corresponds with the western external wall of a building of the Wire Works as shown on historic mapping. The floor and walls were later truncated by later brick walls thought to be associated with the Composite Steel Works.

The later truncation of these earlier structures was evident and likely relates to a later 20th century car showroom which extended over this area of the site; earlier walls were reduced, drainage was inserted and hardcore used as backfill and levelling.

Trench 6

Trench 6 targeted the Yorkshire Wire Rope & Fencing Works; excavation with machine removed 2 m of hardcore to reveal natural deposits and no evidence of surviving structures, other than concrete foundations of the later 20th century car showroom.

Trench 7

Trench 7 targeted buildings of unknown use, excavation with machine removed 2 m of hardcore to reveal natural deposits and no evidence of surviving structures, other than concrete foundations of later 20th century car showroom.

Trench 8

Trench 8 targeted the former Gilcar File Works. Archaeological structures were encountered from 0.6 m bgl with natural deposits identified from 1.2 m bgl. A drain and soakaway, and two walls, were uncovered.

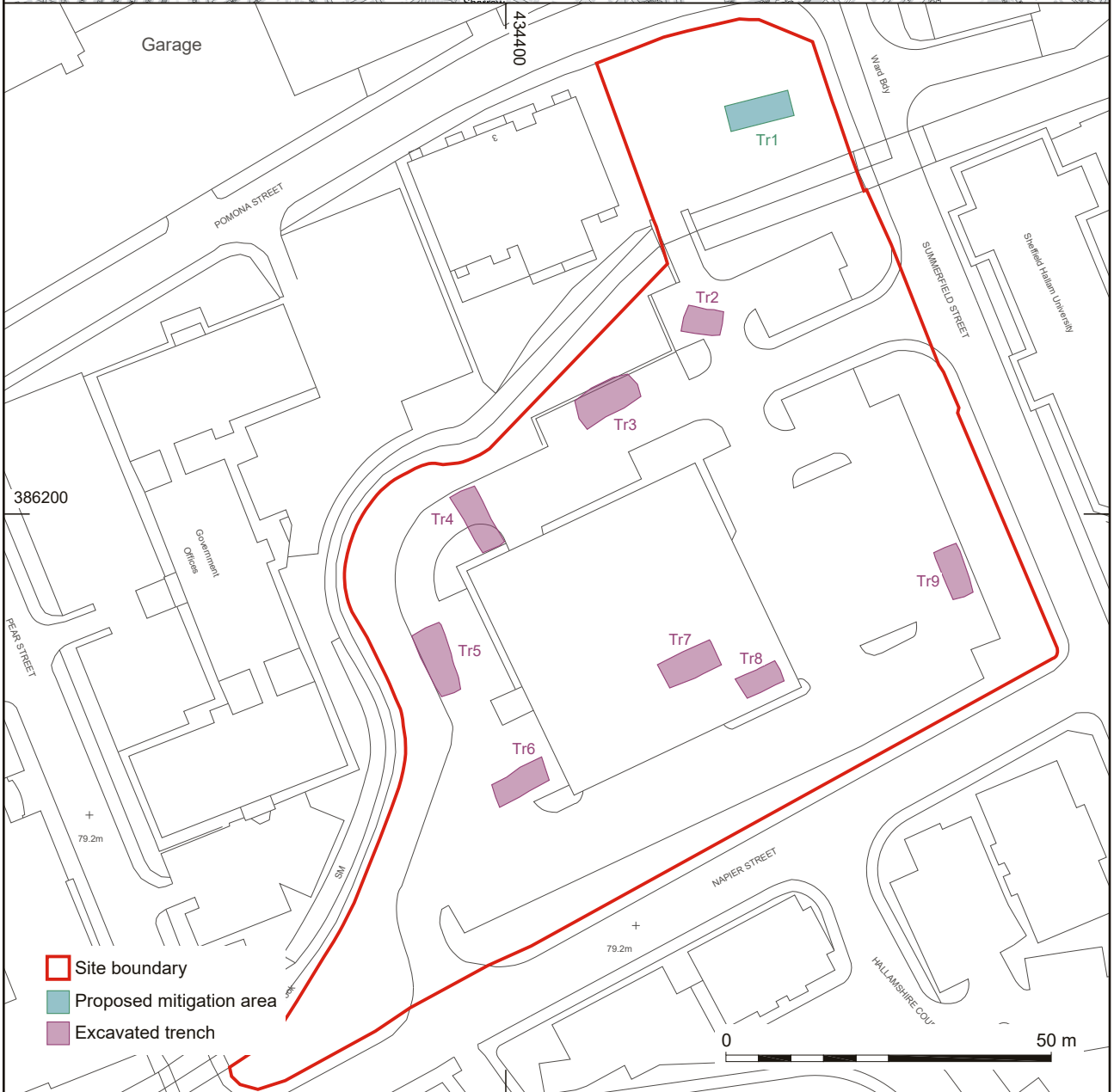
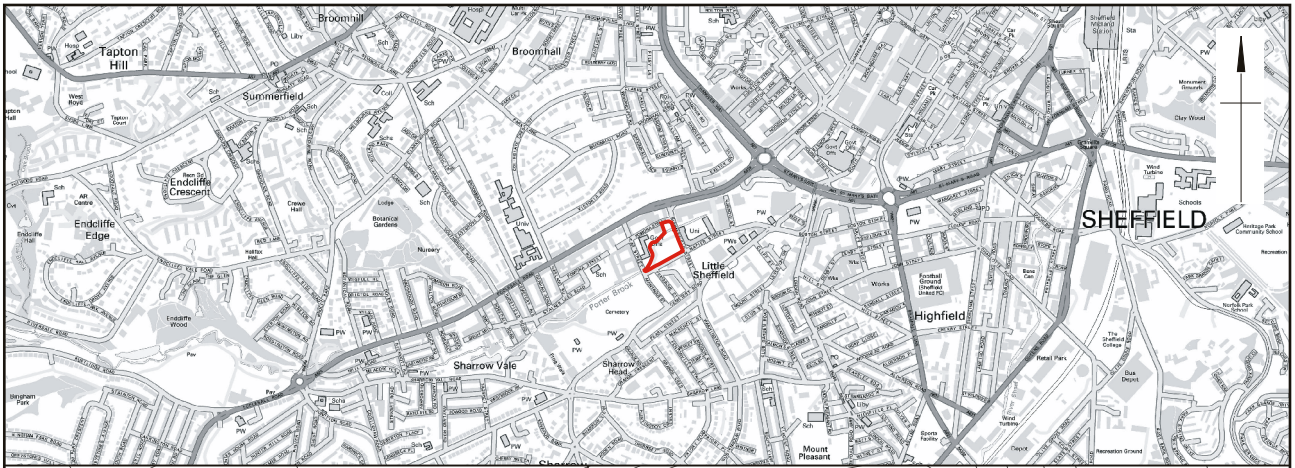
The east to west drain consisted of single course of red brick lining capped with a further brick course. The drain lead into a circular pit, or soakaway, containing successive layers of deposition in its infilling.

The walls, observed at the eastern end of the trench, are likely to represent the foundations of the Gilcar File Works and both comprised only a single course, one of sandstone and one of brick.

Later truncation and levelling, probably from the later 20th century car showroom, appeared to have removed any further structural evidence on the south side of the trench.

Trench 9

Trench 9 targeted former domestic terraced housing fronting Summerfield Street and an adjacent building to the north. Archaeological structures were encountered from 0.3 m bgl and the trench excavated to a maximum depth of 1.1 m bgl. Three walls and a floor were identified corresponding to the location of buildings shown on historic mapping. The external/party wall of the northern building was constructed of sandstone. Two red brick walls, with up to 10 courses of brickwork surviving, formed the cellar walls of an adjacent terraced house to the south. An internal sandstone flagged surface formed the cellar floor.



- Site boundary
- Proposed mitigation area
- Excavated trench

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Site and trench location

Figure 1



- Site boundary
- Excavated trench
- Structure
- Archaeological feature
- Excavated slot
- Disturbance


 Coordinate system:
 OSGB36
 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

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Evaluation results over 1850 OS mapping

Figure 2



- Site boundary
- Excavated trench
- Structure
- Archaeological feature
- Excavated slot
- Disturbance


 Coordinate system:
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Evaluation results over 1890 OS mapping

Figure 3



- Site boundary
- Excavated trench
- Structure
- Archaeological feature
- Excavated slot
- Disturbance



Coordinate system:
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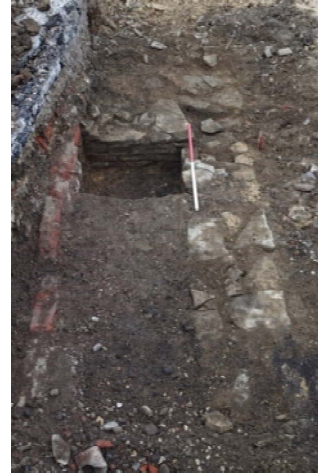
Evaluation results over 1953 OS mapping

Figure 4

Trench photos



Trench 2 showing the foundation of the apse of the former St. Matthias's Church



Trench 4 general shot and detail of the external and internal wall of a building of the Yorkshire Wire Rope & Fencing Works



Trench 5 showing probable buried soil deposits associated with former allotment gardens and later foundations (walls and floor) associated with the Yorkshire Wire Rope & Fencing Works and J. Neill and Co Ltd Composite Steel Works, from the east.



Trench 8 showing a soakaway, associated brick capped drain and foundations of the Gilcar File Works



Trench 9 general shot and detail and of sandstone external/party wall and the cellar of an adjacent domestic terraced house



Trenches 7 and 8 showing later 20th century foundations and levelling over natural deposition