

Woodsetts, Rotherham South Yorkshire

Archaeological Evaluation



Planning Ref: RB2017/1577 Ref: 201560.03 January 2018

wessexarchaeology



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by ERM, on behalf of INEOS, to undertake archaeological evaluation of a parcel of land located off Dinnington Road in Woodsetts, Rotherham, South Yorkshire centred on National Grid Reference 454631 383811 (Figure 1). The evaluation forms part of an ongoing programme of archaeological works being undertaken in order to fulfil planning constraints to an upcoming development.

A previous detailed gradiometer survey of the Site had demonstrated the presence of a number of anomalies, following which a programme of archaeological evaluation trial trenching was requested by SYAS.

The archaeological excavation was executed as designed. The trenching results indicated the anomalies were geological in origin with only one archaeological feature identified (a 19th century field boundary in Trench 9). The lack of archaeology suggests that the site lay at a distance from any settlement. The site may have been used agriculturally for some time.

The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield under the project code 201560. The archive will be offered to Clifton Park Museum in due course. An accession number may be issued following mid-project review if deposition of the archive with the museum is deemed appropriate. A digital copy of the archive will be held on Wessex Archaeology's computer system. An OASIS record, wessexar-1-306943, has been completed for this work and will be finalised at the time of deposition.

Acknowledgements

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by ERM on behalf of INEOS. Thanks are extended to William Hazel and Jim Mower of ERM and to Jim McNeil of SYAS who provided curatorial support and guidance.

The fieldwork was directed by Simon Brown, assisted by Heather Tamminen, Otis Gilbert, Stuart Pierson and Max Higgins. This report was written by Milica Rajic, with illustrations by Ian Atkins.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Milica Rajic.

Woodsetts, Rotherham, South Yorkshire

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

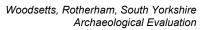
- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by ERM on behalf of INEOS to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 1.8 ha parcel of land located off Dinnington Road, Woodsetts, Rotherham, South Yorkshire (hereafter 'the Site'), centred on NGR 454631 383811 (Figure 1). The evaluation forms part of an ongoing programme of archaeological works being undertaken in order to fulfil planning constraints attached to an upcoming development.
- 1.1.2 The Site was previously subject to geophysical survey by Wessex Archaeology (Wessex Archaeology 2017a). Following on from this, a programme of archaeological evaluation trial trenching was required by South Yorkshire Archaeological Service (SYAS), archaeological advisors to the local planning authority.
- 1.1.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2018). Jim McNeil (SYAS) approved the WSI on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA) prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 1.1.4 The evaluation comprising nine trial trenches (Trenches 1-9) representing a 3% sample of the Site. Each trench measured 30 m by 2 m and targeted geophysical anomalies (Figure 2). The evaluation was undertaken between 15 and 19 January 2018.

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.
- 1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource that may be impacted by the proposed development and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The evaluation was situated within a single arable field planted with oilseed rape. The field is bounded by Dinnington Road to the north, residential properties and agricultural land to the east, and with open boundaries leading to agricultural land to the west and south. An access track runs parallel to the eastern boundary of the field. Dewidales Wood, a small copse, is located to the south of the Site (Plate 1).
- 1.3.2 The evaluation area was located on a broadly north-east facing slope falling from approximately 82 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the western edge into a significant dip and then rising up to approximately 75 m aOD at the north-east and eastern edge.



1.3.3 The underlying geology comprises Dolostone of the Cadeby Formation. Generallyno overlying superficial deposits are recorded. There is a small band of glaciofluvial deposits of sands and gravel noted to the north of the evaluation area; a small part of this protrudes onto the Site (British Geological Survey online viewer).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following section is summarized from the Environmental Report submitted with the planning application which contained an assessment of the archaeological and historic background of the Site.

2.2 **Previous investigations related to the proposed development**

2.2.1 Geophysical survey of an 11.5 ha area included the Site (Wessex Archaeology 2017) and has demonstrated the presence of a number of anomalies of potentially archaeological origin. These are predominantly located to the west of the survey area, consisting of sizable linear and curvilinear anomalies as well as a network of interconnected rectilinear anomalies indicative of former land divisions and enclosures. Additionally, the geophysical survey detected anomalies consistent with the historical pattern of land division as well as agricultural activity, with former field boundaries and possible ridge and furrow prevalent across the survey area. Areas of increased magnetic response and further evidence of localised superficial geological variation are also noted, as well as the presence of field drains and a modern service.

2.3 Prehistoric/Romano-British

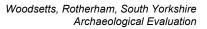
- 2.3.1 No prehistoric remains are known within 1km of the Site although assemblages of worked stone are known from the wiser landscape.
- 2.3.2 Two brooches dating to AD 200–300 and a lead spindle whorl were recovered from inside a Romano-British enclosure at Swinston Wood, 850 m to the north. In addition, a bronze torc dating to the Late Iron Age / early Roman period was recovered approximately 290 m to the north of the enclosure.

2.4 Medieval

2.4.1 A jetton hoard was recovered from Lindrick Dale approximately 850 m to the south-west. Two Anglo-Danish girdle ends dating to 9th century, a copper styca (coin) of Aethelred II of Northumbria (AD 841 - 844), and a gilded bronze strap-end (with buckle attached) were also found nearby. Agricultural ridge and furrow ploughing activity dating to the medieval period is evident to the north of the site at Guildingwells.

2.5 Post-medieval

- 2.5.1 The land surrounding the Site was enclosed during the 18th and 19th centuries resulting in the creation of large rectilinear fields. These are interspersed with areas of mature woodland evident on early Ordnance Survey maps, including Dewidales Wood. The site appears to have been in arable cultivation from at least the late 19th century, however internal boundaries have changed over time.
- 2.5.2 Three Grade II Listed buildings are recorded within 1 km of the Site. The nearest of these is Hoades Farmhouse, which is an 18th century Grade II Listed building approximately 60 m to the north-east.



2.5.3 Local industry during the 19th century comprised agriculture and limestone quarrying. Magnesian limestone is widely used in local buildings from small cottages to country mansions, with small limestone quarries opening in areas such as Lindrick and South Anston. A quarry at Lindrick Common (approximately 1.2 km to the south-east of the Site) appears to have been in use from the Roman period to the industrial period. The quarry at Woodsetts (approximately 1.5 km to the south-east of the site) was operational from approximately 1920 to 1950.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

- 3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018) and in compliance with the ClfA' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a), were:
 - to provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
 - to inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

3.2 General objectives

- 3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation were:
 - to determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
 - to establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
 - to place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
 - to make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

3.3 Site-specific objectives

- 3.3.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site, the site-specific objectives defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018) were:
 - to determine the extent, condition, character, significance and date of any archaeological deposits encountered that will be removed or disturbed by groundworks;
 - to investigate the anomalies and responses on the Site identified by the geophysical survey;
 - to accurately record the location and stratigraphy of areas excavated;
 - to prepare a comprehensive record and report of any archaeological deposits or structures or artefacts identified;



- to put the results of the excavation in context by comparing it with similar/related Sites within the local area as well as its regional and national contexts; and,
- to enable development of a suitable mitigation strategy, should archaeological deposits be encountered.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

- 4.2.1 The trench locations were set out using GPS, in the approximate positions proposed in the WSI. (Figure 2).
- 4.2.2 Before excavation, the evaluation area was walked over and visually inspected to identify, where possible, the location of any below/above-ground services. All trial trench locations were scanned before excavation with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) in order to verify the absence of any live underground services. No underground services were found.
- 4.2.3 Nine trial trenches (Plates 2-10), each measuring 30 m long and 2 m wide, were excavated in level spits using a JCB excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist.
- 4.2.4 In all but one trench (Trench 9), the absence of any archaeological horizon was adequately demonstrated and the trenches were machine excavated down to the level of natural geology.
- 4.2.5 Surfaces were cleaned by hand to allow inspection and to define presence of any archaeological features.
- 4.2.6 On several occasions, geological features were tested (hand excavated) and their natural origin was confirmed (Plates 11 & 12).
- 4.2.7 The bases of the trenches and the spoil derived from machine stripping was visually scanned and metal detected for the purposes of finds retrieval. No artefacts were found.
- 4.2.8 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the project team and Jim McNeil (SYAS) were backfilled using excavated materials in the reverse order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

Recording

4.2.9 All exposed deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. A complete drawn record of excavated features and deposits was made including both plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections), and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid. The Ordnance

Datum (OD: Newlyn) heights of all principal features were calculated, and levels added to plans and section drawings.

- 4.2.10 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSGM15 and OSTN15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.11 A full photographic record was made using black and white and colour slide film. Digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels were used as supplementary record. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes.

4.3 Monitoring

4.3.1 Jim McNeil (SYAS), on behalf of the LPA, monitored the evaluation.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The following section provides a summary of the information held in the Site archive, with a full list of context numbers and context descriptions within each trench contained in Appendix 1.

5.2 General stratigraphy

5.2.1 Topsoil and subsoil were removed and the natural geology exposed in all trenches. The topsoil was a dark brown silty clay, up to 0.40 m deep overlying 0.10–0.80 m of light brown sandy clay (Plates 13 & 14). In one trench (Trench 5) a layer of dark brown sandy clay colluvium 0.20 m thick was present (Plate 15). Natural pale and degraded limestone was recorded from 0.33 m below ground level.

5.3 Ditch 904

5.3.1 In Trench 9 an east-west oriented ditch (904) was unearthed. The ditch was 2.36 m wide, 0.18 m deep and filled with light orange brown silty clay (905) (Figure 4). This feature correlates with the field boundary depicted on an 1892 OS map (Figure 3). No artefacts were found in Trench 9. Recording of ditch 904 was hampered by rising groundwater (Plate 16).

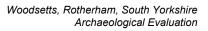
5.4 Negative results

5.4.1 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were found in Trenches 1-8.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Discussion

6.1.1 The archaeological excavation was executed as designed. Apart from a 19th century boundary ditch, no other archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered. With the exception of the 19th century ditch, anomalies previously identified during geophysical survey did not translate into archaeological features. The lack of archaeology suggests that the site lay at a distance from any settlement. The site may have been used agriculturally for some time.





7 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 Museum

7.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield. Clifton Park Museum has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project. The archive will be offered to the museum in due course. An accession number may be issued following mid-project review if deposition of the archive with the museum is deemed appropriate. A digital copy of the archive will be held on Wessex Archaeology's computer system.

7.2 **Preparation of the archive**

7.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, photo slides and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013) and the guidelines of Clifton Park Museum as appropriate to the destination of the archive.

7.3 Selection policy

7.3.1 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. However, in this instance, there were no finds and no ecofacts.

7.4 Security copy

7.4.1 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.

7.5 OASIS

7.5.1 An OASIS online record (http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main) has been initiated, with key fields and a .pdf version of the final report submitted. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.

8 COPYRIGHT

8.1 Archive and report copyright

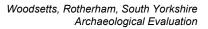
8.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. 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 conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations* 2003. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.



8.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

8.2 Third party data copyright

8.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.





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Wessex Archaeology 2017 Detailed Gradiometer Survey Report. Unpublished report ref 118460.03

Wessex Archaeology 2018 Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation Unpublished report ref 201560.01

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Trench summaries

NGR coordinates and OD heights taken at centre of each trench; depth bgl = below ground level

Trench 1	30 m x 2 m		NGR: 454245, 383676	82.15m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
101	Topsoil		Ploughsoil: dark brown silty clay	0.00-0.40
102	Subsoil		Subsoil: light brown sandy clay	0.40-0.75
103	Natural		Natural: Limestone, pale and degraded	0.75

Trench 2	30 m x 2 m		NGR: 454278, 383689	82.16m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
201	Topsoil		Ploughsoil: dark brown silty clay	0.00-0.30
202	Subsoil		Subsoil: light brown sandy clay	0.30-0.50
203	Natural		Natural: Limestone, pale and degraded	0.50

Trench 3	30 m x 2 m		NGR: 454328, 383695	80.86m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
301	Topsoil		Ploughsoil: dark brown silty clay	0.00-0.25
302	Subsoil		Subsoil: light brown sandy clay	0.25-0.65
303	Natural		Natural: Limestone, pale and degraded	0.65

Trench 4	30m x 2 m		NGR: 454254, 383640	81.75m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
401	Topsoil		Ploughsoil: dark brown silty clay	0.00-0.35
402	Subsoil		Subsoil: light brown sandy clay	0.35-0.90
403	Natural		Natural: Limestone, pale and degraded	0.90

Trench 5	30 m x 2 m		NGR: 454306, 383638	80.76m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
501	Topsoil		Ploughsoil: dark brown silty clay	0.00–0.30
502	Subsoil		Subsoil: light brown sandy clay	0.30-0.90
503	Subsoil		Colluvium: dark brown sandy clay	0.90-1.10
504	Natural		Natural: Limestone, pale and degraded	1.10

Trench 6	30 m x 2 m		NGR: 454354, 383625	80.59m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
601	Topsoil		Ploughsoil: dark brown silty clay	0.00-0.40
602	Subsoil		Subsoil: light brown sandy clay	0.40-1.2
603	Natural		Natural: Limestone, pale and degraded	1.2

Trench 7	30 m x 2 m		NGR: 454442, 383588	81.33m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
701	Topsoil		Ploughsoil: dark brown silty clay	0.00-0.27
702	Subsoil		Subsoil: light brown sandy clay	0.27-0.40
703	Natural		Natural: Limestone, pale and degraded	0.40

Trench 8	30 m x 2 m		NGR: 454569, 383558	80.77m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
801	Topsoil		Ploughsoil: dark brown silty clay	0.00-0.35
802	Subsoil		Subsoil: light brown sandy clay	0.35-0.45
803			Natural: Limestone, pale and degraded	0.45

Trench 9 30 m x 2 m			NGR: 454741, 383640	77.83m OD
Context	Interpretation Fill of		Description	Depth bgl (m)
901	Topsoil		Ploughsoil: dark greyish brown silty loam with common inclusions of flint and chalk	0.00–0.24
902	Subsoil		Subsoil: light brown sandy clay	0.24-0.33
903	Natural		Natural: Limestone, pale and degraded	0.33
904	Cut		Cut of 19th C field boundary ditch, 2.36m wide, 0.18m deep	0.37-0.50
905	Fill	904	Fill of 904. Light orange brown silty clay	0.37-0.50

Postcode

Study area

S81 8RG

1.8 Hectares

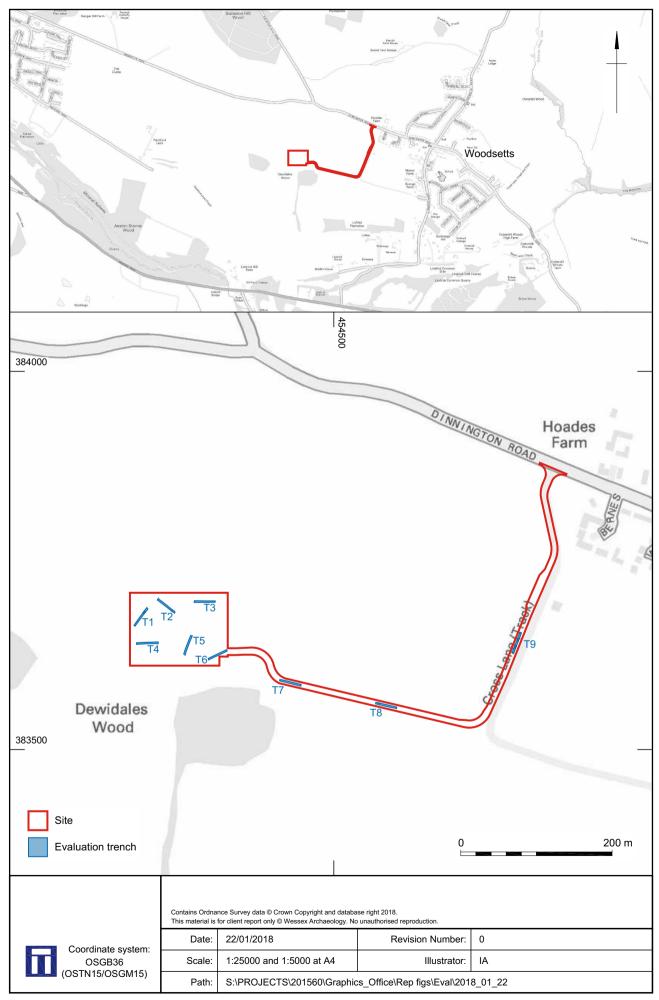
Appendix 2 OASIS form

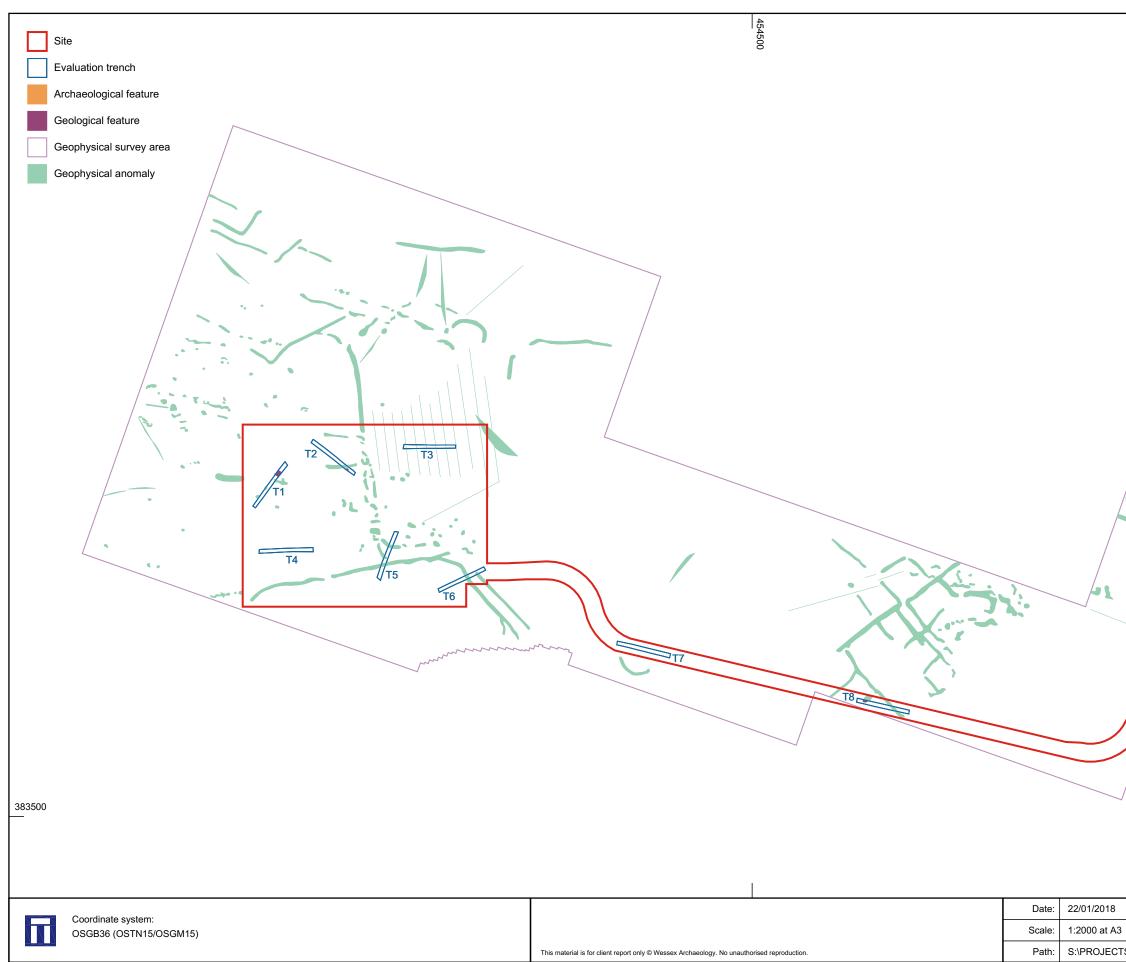
OASIS ID: wessexar1-306943

	Project details	
	Project name	Woodsetts, Rotherham, South Yorkshire
the project archaeological evaluation of a parcel of land located off Dinnington R Rotherham, South Yorkshire centred on National Grid Reference 4546 evaluation forms part of an ongoing programme of archaeological wor in order to fulfil planning constraints to an upcoming development. A gradiometer survey of the Site had demonstrated the presence of a num following which a programme of archaeological evaluation trial trench by SYAS. The archaeological excavation was executed as designed. T indicated the anomalies were geological in origin with only one archaeol identified (a 19th century field boundary in Trench 9). The lack of arcl that the site lay at a distance from any settlement. The site may have b agriculturally for some time. The archive is currently held at the office Archaeology in Sheffield under the project code 201560. The archive Clifton Park Museum in due course. An accession number may be issu project review if deposition of the archive with the museum is deemed		Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by ERM, on behalf of INEOS, to undertake archaeological evaluation of a parcel of land located off Dinnington Road in Woodsetts, Rotherham, South Yorkshire centred on National Grid Reference 454631 383811. The evaluation forms part of an ongoing programme of archaeological works being undertaken in order to fulfil planning constraints to an upcoming development. A previous detailed gradiometer survey of the Site had demonstrated the presence of a number of anomalies, following which a programme of archaeological evaluation trial trenching was requested by SYAS. The archaeological excavation was executed as designed. The trenching results indicated the anomalies were geological in origin with only one archaeological feature identified (a 19th century field boundary in Trench 9). The lack of archaeology suggests that the site lay at a distance from any settlement. The site may have been used agriculturally for some time. The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield under the project code 201560. The archive will be offered to Clifton Park Museum in due course. An accession number may be issued following midproject review if deposition of the archive with the museum is deemed appropriate. A digital copy of the archive will be held on Wessex Archaeology's computer system.
	Project dates	Start: 15-01-2018 End: 19-01-2018
	Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
	Any associated project reference codes	297279 - OASIS form ID
	Any associated project reference codes	201560 - Contracting Unit No.
	Type of project	Field evaluation
	Site status	None
	Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
	Monument type	FIELD BOUNDARY Post Medieval
	Significant Finds	NONE None
	Methods & techniques	"'Targeted Trenches'"
	Development type	Mineral extraction (e.g. sand, gravel, stone, coal, ore, etc.)
	Prompt	Planning condition
	Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded
	Project location	
	Country	England
	Site location	SOUTH YORKSHIRE ROTHERHAM WOODSETTS Woodsetts Evaluation, Rotherham



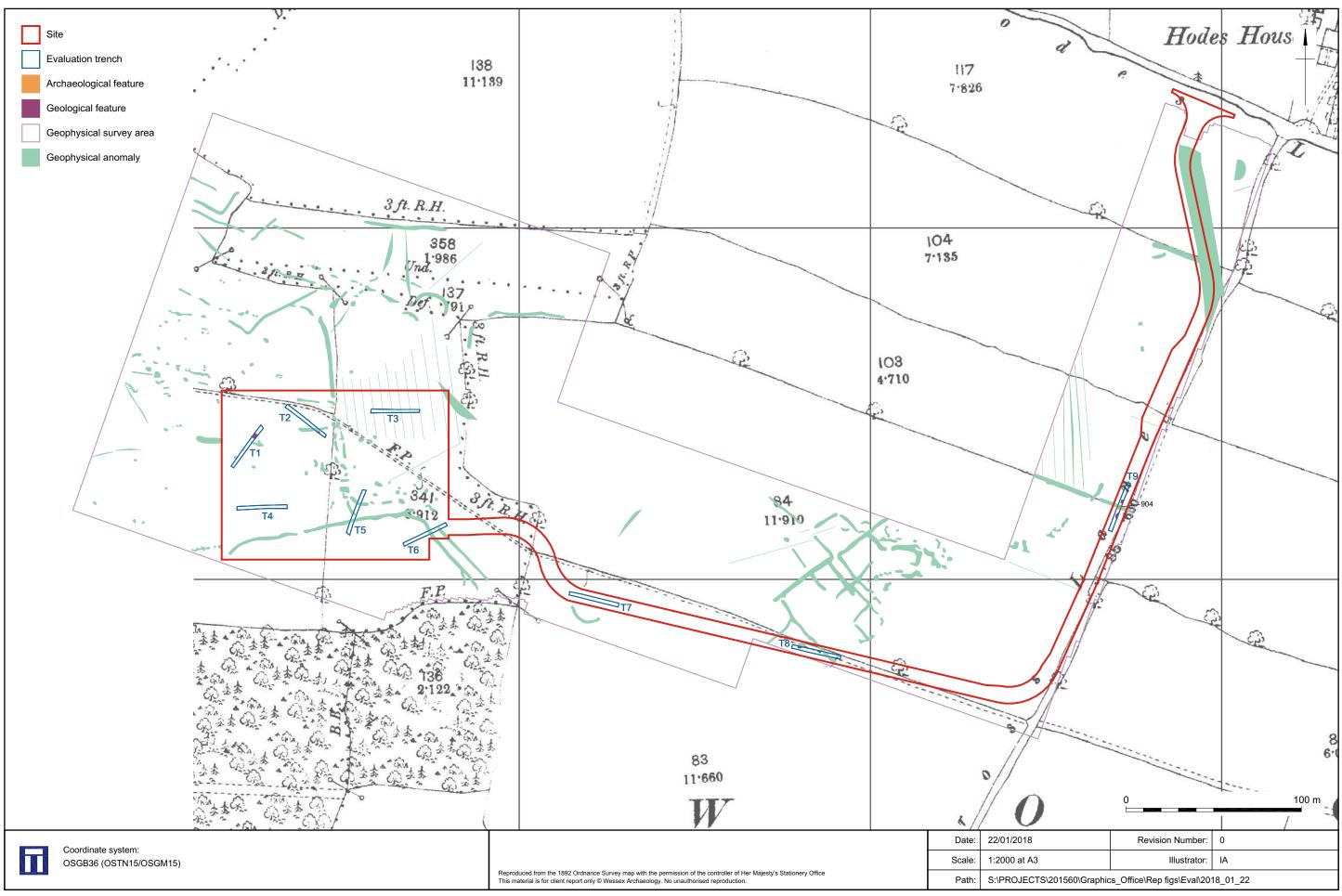
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sponsor/funding body
Project archives
Physical Archive No Exists?
Digital Archive Clifton Park Museum, Rotherham recipient
Digital Contents "none"
Digital Media "Images raster / digital photography","Text" available
Paper Archive Clifton Park Museum, Rotherham recipient
Paper Contents "none"
Paper Media "Context sheet", "Diary", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text" available
Project bibliography 1
Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) Publication type
Title Woodsetts, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s) Rajic, M.
Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or Sheffield publication
Description A4 comb bound report





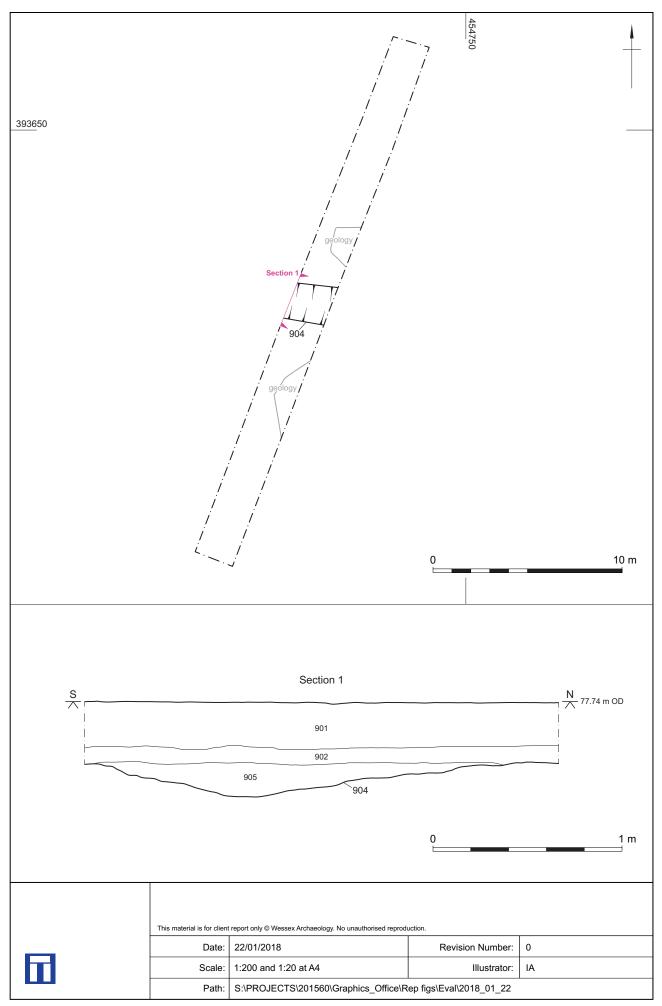
Trench locations

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	Revision Number: 0
	Illustrator: IA
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Trench locations and geophysics results overlaying the 1892 Ordnance Survey map

Figure 3



Plan of Trench 9 and field boundary ditch (904) section



Plate 1: General view, looking west



Plate 2: Trench 1, looking north-east

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Plate 3: Trench 2, looking south-east



Plate 4: Trench 3, looking east

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Plate 5: Trench 4, looking west



Plate 6: Trench 5, looking south

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Plate 7: Trench 6, looking north-east



Plate 8: Trench 7, looking east

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Plate 9: Trench 8, looking east



Plate 10: Trench 9, looking south

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Plate 11: Trench 1, geological feature, looking north



Plate 12: Trench 8, geological feature, looking north

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Plate 13: Trench 6, representative section, looking south-east



Plate 14: Trench 7, representative section, looking north

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Plate 15: Stratigraphy in Trench 5



Plate 16: Ground water in Trench 9

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