



**SUMMERFIELD STREET (PHASE 1)
SHEFFIELD, SOUTH YORKSHIRE**

Archaeological Evaluation

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SITE CODE	75210	ACCESSION CODE	TBC	CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	04/03027/FUL 10/01246/FUL	NGR	SK 343 862		

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* I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL

SUMMERFIELD STREET (PHASE 1)
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Archaeological Evaluation

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Front Cover View of the excavated trench

Figure 1 Site and trench location plan

Figure 2 Trench plan

Figure 3 Trench section drawing and photograph

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Archaeological Evaluation

Summary

Wessex Archaeology Ltd (Sheffield) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a small plot of land to the north of Porter Brook, at Summerfield Street, Sheffield. The work was commissioned by Amco Developments Ltd to address a condition of planning permission to construct a new office block (04/03027/FUL & 10/01246/FUL). This is the first phase of a two phased development of the site. This report details the results of the archaeological investigation relating to Phase 1 of the development.

The evaluation trench focussed on an area of land historically used as allotments in the mid 19th century and as the rear yards of terraced housing in the later 19th century. These houses were occupied by local 'journeyman' tradesmen. The land was shown as undeveloped fields prior to the 19th century.

The evaluation comprised the excavation of a single 10m x 4m trench which was located to examine archaeological potential relating to the 19th century and to investigate the potential for earlier archaeological remains.

The work identified undulating natural river gravels overlain by silts, which were probably laid down during the 18th and 19th centuries. No evidence for walling or pathways relating to the 19th century was uncovered. The area appeared to have been substantially reduced by 20th-century building works prior to the deposition of a 1.26m-thick layer of hardcore supporting a 0.26m-thick concrete raft for a car showroom.

The results of the evaluation suggest little archaeological potential within the small plot of land to the north of the Porter Brook, between Pomona and Summerfield Streets.

SUMMERFIELD STREET (PHASE 1)
SHEFFIELD, SOUTH YORKSHIRE**Archaeological Evaluation****Acknowledgements**

This project was commissioned by Amco Developments Ltd and monitored for the Local Planning Authority by Dinah Saich of the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology Ltd by Andrea Burgess. The fieldwork was directed by Neil Dransfield, with the assistance of Justin Wiles. This report was compiled by Neil Dransfield with a contribution by Lorraine Mephram (finds). The illustrations were prepared by Chris Breeden.

SUMMERFIELD STREET (PHASE 1) SHEFFIELD, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Amco Developments Ltd commissioned Wessex Archaeology (Sheffield) to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a small plot of land to the north of Porter Brook, on the corner of Summerfield Street and Pomona Street in Sheffield, hereafter 'the Site' (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 This fieldwork followed an archaeological desk-based assessment of the development site prepared by ARCUS in 2004. A Written Scheme of Investigation for the Phase 1 evaluation was prepared by Wessex Archaeology and approved by Dinah Saich of the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service ('the Curator') on behalf of the local planning authority.

1.1.3 The evaluation involved the excavation of a 10m x 4m trench. The work was undertaken over three days, from the 10th to 12th of August 2010.

1.1.4 This report covers the archaeological evaluation (above), relating to Phase 1 of the development.

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 Sheffield City Council Development Services has granted conditional planning consent (ref. 04/03027/FUL) for the erection of offices, 205 apartments, an A3 unit and car parking at the Site. A further planning application (ref. 10/01246/FUL) to allow for the phased development of the Site has also been approved by the council. The Phase 1 development area is the small plot of land to the north of Porter Brook where an office block will be constructed. Phase 2 will involve the development of the area to the south of Porter Brook into residential apartments.

1.2.2 One of the conditions of the planning consent related to archaeological concerns. This condition ensures that any archaeological remains present, whether standing or buried, are preserved – either by being left *in situ* or recorded and removed in accordance with an agreed method, prior to development.

1.3 Site Description, Topography and Geology

1.3.1 The development site, centred on NGR SK 343862, is located approximately 2km south-west of Sheffield city centre. The Site is bounded by Pomona Street to the north, Summerfield Street to the east, Napier Street to the south, with the Porter Brook forming most of the western boundary (**Figure 1**).

1.3.2 The Site of the current evaluation is a small plot of land to the north of Porter Brook at the junction of Pomona Street and Summerfield Street and at

approximately 79m above Ordnance Datum. Archaeological evaluation of an adjacent area (by ARCUS in 2007) identified alluvial clay deposits at a depth of 1.75m below the ground surface. The Geological Survey (Sheet SK 294SE) shows that these alluvial deposits overlie the shale and mudstones of the Middle Coal Measures.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Previous Studies

2.1.1 A full historical study has been carried out previously (ARCUS 2004) and summarised, with some additional research, in the Written Scheme of Investigation for this fieldwork. A brief summary is presented below.

2.2 Development of the Site

2.2.1 In 1808 the Site lay within a rural landscape of large fields along both sides of the meandering course of the Porter Brook.

2.2.2 By 1850 the 'Ecclesall New Road' (the current Ecclesall Road) had been constructed to the north of the Site. Properties along this road extended back almost to the Site, which was occupied by allotment gardens.

2.2.3 Trade directory entries confirm that both Summerfield Street and Pomona Street had been constructed by 1868. By 1879 the number of streets and individual entries indicates that the whole area around the Site had been intensively developed. By 1890 there were terraced properties along Pomona Street with gardens/yards to the rear extending to the Porter Brook. These properties were almost certainly all occupied as dwellings and workshops combined.

2.2.4 Pomona Street remained little changed until the 1970s when all of the domestic and retail premises in the area were demolished. A car showroom was built on the Site in the 1980s.

2.2.5 An archaeological evaluation was carried out, immediately to the west of the current area, by ARCUS in January 2006. A single trench targeted the yards to the rear of the Pomona Street properties. Buried former subsoil and topsoil deposits were recorded beneath the remains of boundaries relating to the Pomona Street houses. A substantial dump of crucible waste had been used to consolidate the ground prior to construction (ARCUS 2006).

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Full details of the evaluation methodology are contained in the Written Scheme of Investigation. A summary is presented below.

3.2 Aims and Objectives

3.2.1 The aims of the evaluation were:

- To record, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains observed;
- To determine the phasing and degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present and;
- To determine the condition, state of preservation and wider archaeological or historic significance of the remains.
- To provide sufficient information for the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service to make an informed decision regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains.

3.3 Method

3.3.1 A single 10m x 4m trench was excavated at the site of the proposed office block. The trench was excavated by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under the strict supervision of a qualified archaeologist. Machining was halted at the first archaeological horizon and a small sondage was machine-excavated at the western end of the trench to examine the natural deposits.

3.3.2 The natural and archaeological deposits were recorded using the Wessex Archaeology *pro-forma* recording system and a plan and section were hand drawn at appropriate scales. A full photographic record of the features was taken and all finds were collected for specialist analysis. All recording was undertaken following current Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) guidelines (2008).

4 RESULTS

4.1 Evaluation Trench

4.1.1 The earliest deposit was a dark orange, coarse sand **103** which contained frequent medium-sized well-rounded pebbles with occasional large-rounded pebbles (**Figures 2 and 3**). The surface of this deposit, which covered the entire base of the trench, was lower at the western end of the trench, rising by 1.58m at the eastern end. The surface of **103** undulated (**cover image and Figure 2**) and the deposit is interpreted as a former riverine deposit containing water-worn pebbles.

4.1.2 Overlying the riverine deposit was a 0.6m thick layer of sandy silt **102** (**Figures 2 and 3**). Unlike **103**, the surface of **102** was flat and level. Two sherds of early modern pottery were recovered from this deposit but no cut features or structures were observed. A small quantity of coal fragments was observed within **102** at the shallower eastern end of the trench.

4.1.3 The level surface of deposit **102** suggests that the original surface was removed during substantial ground reduction activity - probably prior to the construction of the modern car sales showroom. A 1.26m thick layer of modern limestone hardcore **101** was laid onto **102** as a foundation for the reinforced concrete raft **100** of the modern building (**Figures 2 and 3**).

Table 1: List of Contexts

Context No.	Context Type	Context Description
100	Deposit	Modern concrete surface associated with the former car sales showroom
101	Deposit	Modern hardcore levelling deposit associated with the former car sales showroom
102	Deposit	0.6m (max) deep silt deposit overlying former river gravels
103	Deposit	Natural former river gravels

4.2 Pottery by Lorraine Mepham

- 4.2.1 Two sherds of pottery were recovered from deposit **102**. Both sherds are refined whiteware (one transfer-printed and one blue-painted with feather-edged rim) and are dated to the 19th/20th centuries. The pottery need not be retained.

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 The evaluation identified a natural sandy-gravel layer, overlain by a thick sandy-silt layer. The evaluation of an adjacent site (ARCUS 2007) also recorded two natural alluvial layers at the base of the trench. There it was demonstrated stratigraphically that these layers pre-dated the late 19th-century housing. Although the deposit descriptions do differ slightly, it seems probable that the same river deposits have been identified within the current evaluation site.
- 5.1.2 Both of these lower layers were probably deposited by the Porter Brook which lies to the immediate south of the trench. If this is the case, the small quantity of pottery sherds recovered during the current work, may have been carried, and deposited, by the river. The brook now flows through culverts – presumably constructed during the late 19th century because the brook is depicted as flowing beneath Summerfield Street on the 1890 Ordnance Survey map. The water-borne deposits in the evaluation trench demonstrate that, prior to this, the Porter Brook reached at least 15m further north than its present position.
- 5.1.3 No evidence for boundaries relating to the early 19th-century fields, the mid 19th-century allotments or late 19th-century garden/yard plots was identified during the evaluation
- 5.1.4 The ground surface within the Site was significantly reduced in the late 20th century, either during the demolition of the 19th-century housing or the construction of the modern car showroom. A substantial deposit of limestone hardcore was then used to raise and level the area again.
- 5.1.5 The results of this investigation suggest that there is little archaeological potential in the small area to the north of the Porter Brook, between Pomona Street and Summerfield Street.

6 ARCHIVE

6.1 Preparation

6.1.1 The project archive, consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data, has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the repository museum and in line with guidelines published by the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (1990), Museums and Galleries Commission (1992) and English Heritage (1991)

6.2 Deposition

6.2.1 The archive (**Table 2**) is currently held at the Sheffield office of Wessex Archaeology and will ultimately be deposited with Sheffield City Museums under an accession number to be confirmed.

6.2.2 Copies of this report will be submitted to the South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record and included in the site archive for submission to Sheffield City Museums.

6.2.3 An OASIS form will be completed at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> for inclusion in the ADS database. This will include an electronic copy of the report in PDF format.

Table 2: Archive index

Paper archive			
Folder no.	Folder type	Item(s)	No.
1	A4 ring binder	Index to archive	1
		Written Scheme of Investigation	14
		Day Book (photocopy)	2
		Context Register	1
		Context Records	4
		Graphic Register	1
		Drawings (A4)	1
		Drawings (A3)	1
		Photograph Register	2
		Colour Slides	10
		CD of Colour Images	1
		B/W Negatives	10
		B/W Contact Sheet	1
		Bound copy of the report	1
		CD of Digital Images	1
		Matrix	1

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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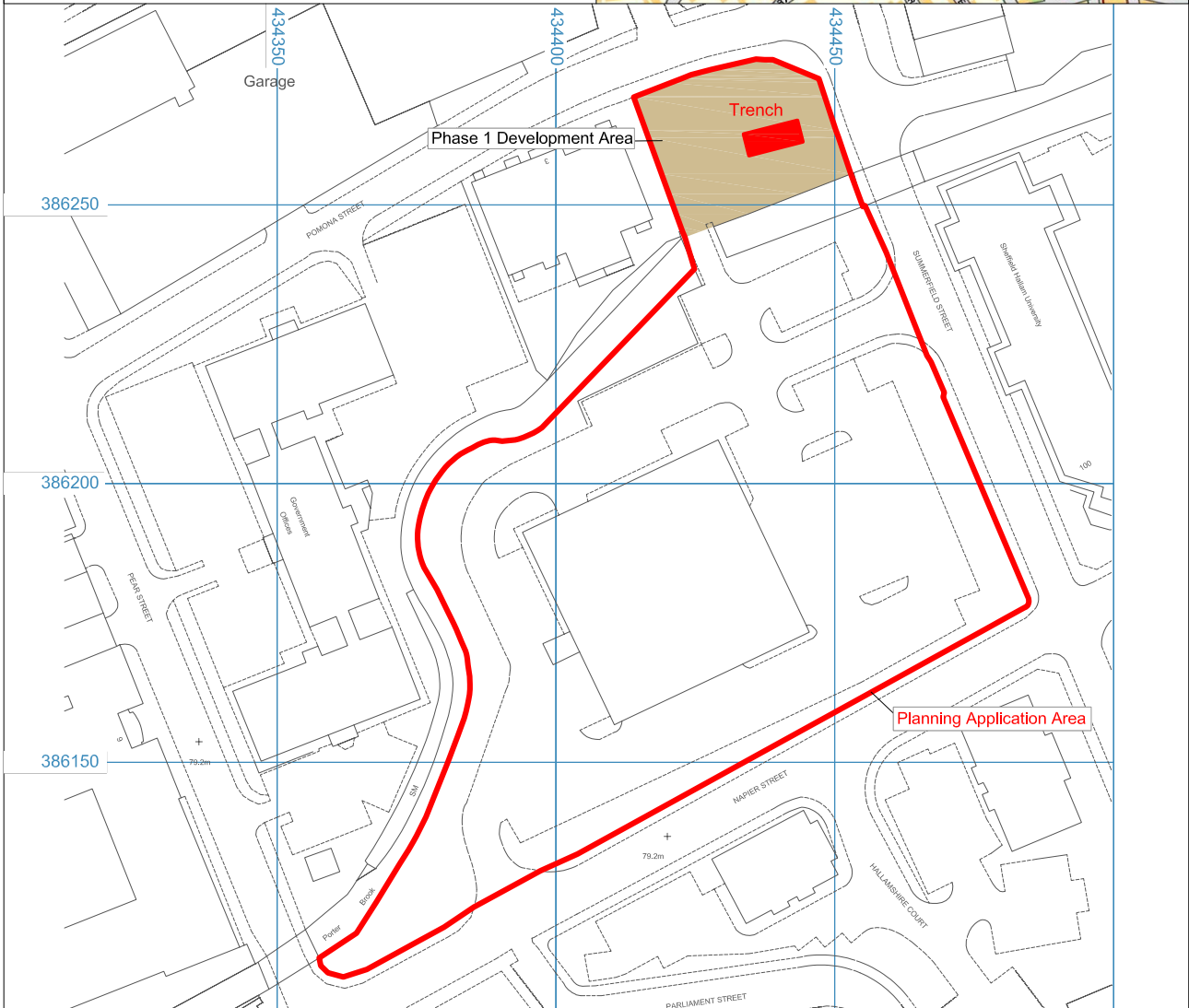
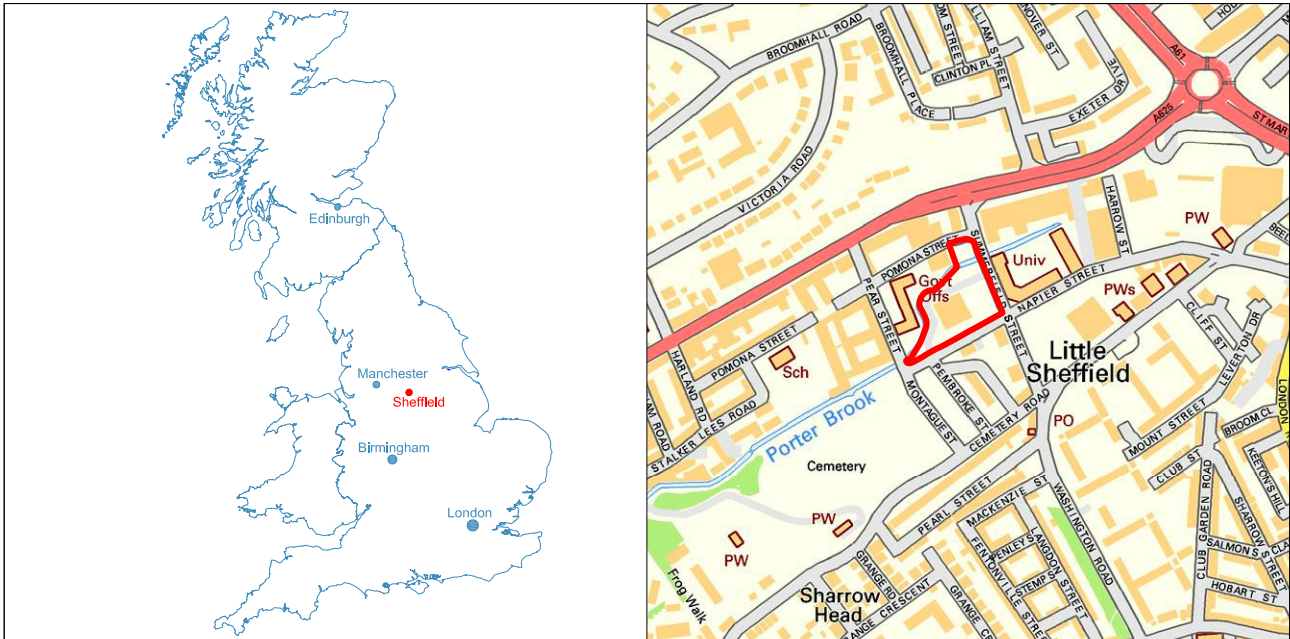
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8 **FIGURES**



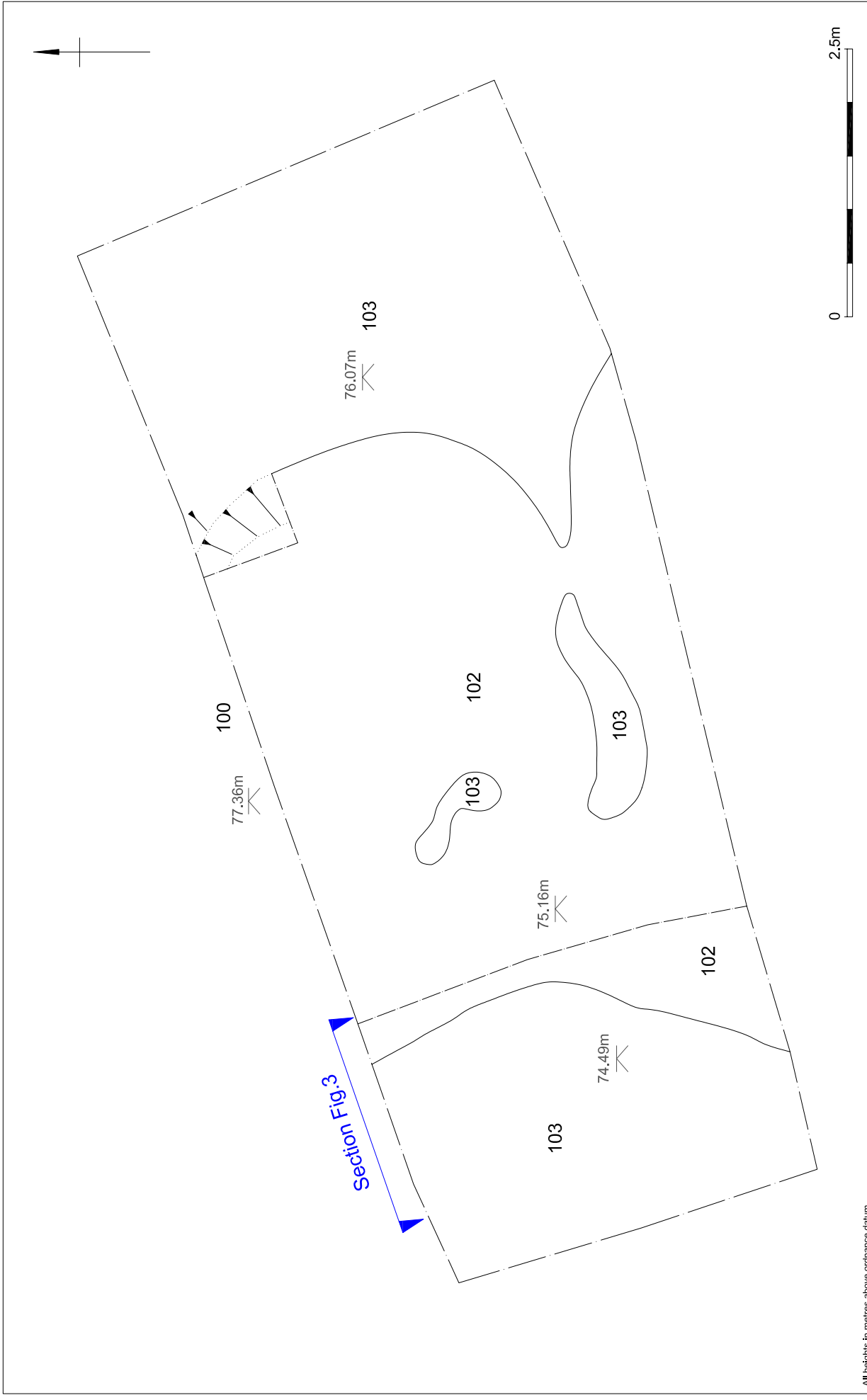
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Site & Trench Location

Figure 1



All heights in metres above ordnance datum

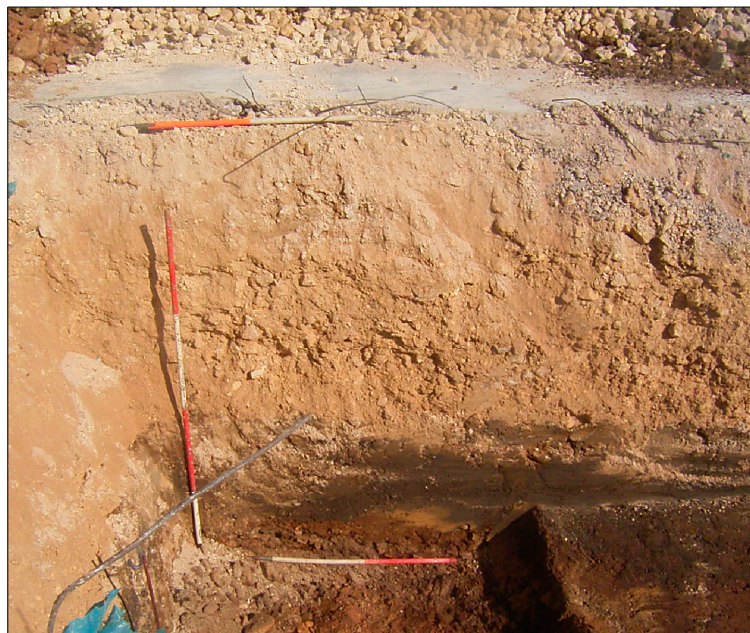
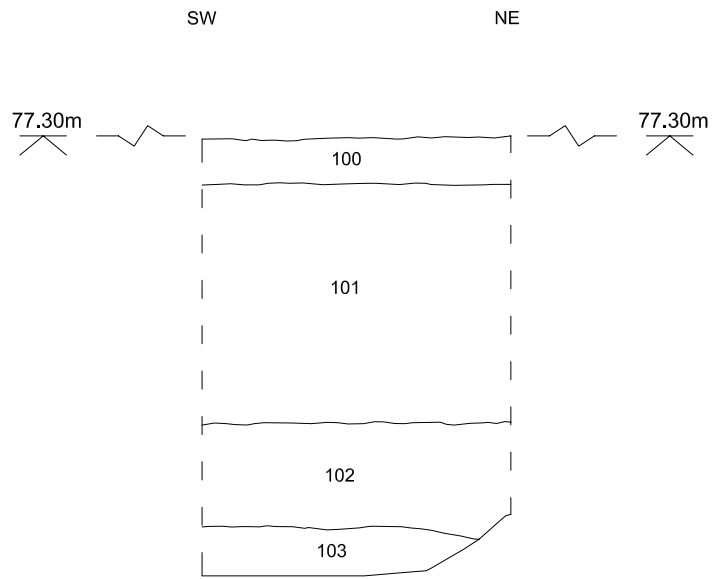


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Trench Plan

Figure 2



All heights in metres above ordnance datum

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Section

Figure 3