Land at Grayson Road, Wingfield Rotherham: Trial Trench Evaluation Report

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

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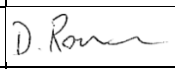
Reviewed By:	
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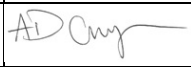
Approved By:	
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Executive summary

Cura Terrae was commissioned by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to conduct an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at Grayson Road, Wingfield, Rotherham. The evaluation comprised 5no 30m long by 1.7m wide trenches. The trenches were positioned across the Site to evaluate a 4% sample of the available area.

The site is shown on Ordnance Survey maps as having been an open field since 1851, incorporating a smaller enclosure at the north end by 1935, a plant nursery between c.1946 and 1971 and a works depot from the 1980s. Previous desk-based assessments indicated that there was low potential for Roman period remains and a moderate potential for agricultural remains of medieval or post-medieval date.

No features or artefacts prior to the Victorian Period/20th century were found during the excavations. All five trenches demonstrated demolition waste and landscaping associated with the previous use of the site as a plant nursery and its current use as a works yard/depot. A drain/conduit probably related to the nursery was dated to the early 20th century and a nearby deposit contained ironworking waste, but no archaeological features associated with industrial activity were present.

1. Introduction

Project background

1.1.1 Cura Terrae was commissioned by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (the Client) to conduct an archaeological trial trench evaluation to help assess the viability of the Site for residential development at Grayson Road, Wingfield, Rotherham S61 4HQ (hereafter 'the Site'). The Site is centred at NGR 441390 395660 (Figure 1) and occupied a plot of land on the east side of Grayson Road, extending to an area of c.0.56ha.

1.1.2 A brief Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) using readily available online sources, formed part of an archaeological scoping study to inform the development of the Rotherham Local Plan (Wessex Archaeology 2012). The site (LDF0170) was identified as of uncertain archaeological potential. South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS), archaeological advisors to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, recommended that the evaluation comprise a 4% sample of the Site to help assess the potential for any further archaeological mitigation work that may be necessary prior to or during development.

Location, topography and geology

1.1.3 The Site is located in Wingfield/Greasbrough, c.3km north of the centre of Rotherham. It is situated towards the north end of Grayson Road on the east side and is bounded to the north by residential properties fronting Church Street, and to the east and south by public parkland.

1.1.4 The Site was, until recently, a works yard or depot. The perimeter and northern two thirds of the Site have become overgrown and are currently covered by mature trees and shrubs, while the remainder is a concrete-surfaced yard accessed from Grayson Road. Two additional parallel roads project c.32m to the north of the eastern half of the concrete yard with two c.18m-long interconnecting east–west roads between them, one at the north end and the other halfway along them, leading to former structures in the northeast corner. Waste items were located across the Site, including fridges, fencing, construction materials, and modern architectural salvage (Plate 1). A probable septic tank was also located within the northeast quadrant of the Site. Prior to this the Site is shown on Ordnance Survey (OS) maps as a plant nursery from c.1946 to at least 1971.

1.1.5 The Site lies on a south-facing slope, at c.59m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at its north edge, descending to c.54m aOD to the south.

1.1.6 Bedrock below the Site comprises Carboniferous mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation (British Geological Survey 2025). No information on drift geology is available for this location. Soils in the vicinity of the Site are slowly permeable, seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils. These soils generally have low fertility and are primarily used for pasture but with some arable and forestry (Cranfield University 2025).

2. Archaeological and historical background

2.1.1 The following Section summarises the previously mentioned DBA by Wessex Archaeology (2012), and a rapid appraisal of the archaeological potential of the Site dor the Project Design for the archaeological trial trenching (Ecus 2024), comprising a 1km study area. The Site was considered to have low potential for Roman period remains and a moderate potential for agricultural remains of medieval or post-medieval date.

Prehistoric

2.1.2 The earliest record for the study area is a flint knife (South Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (SYHER) 04476) found in 1955 c.1 km southwest of the Site.

Roman

2.1.3 Two northeast–southwest historic linear earthworks pass close to the Site, both called Roman Ridge, and both including Scheduled elements. The western earthwork comprises SYHER Nos 00116, 03451, 05710; National Heritage List Entry (NHLE) Nos 1004832, 1004833, 1004835 and passes c.1km to the west of the Site. The other earthwork comprises SYHER Nos 00114, 05701; NHLE No. 1002929 and is also known as 'The Baulk' and passes c.100m to the southeast of the Site, visible as a distinct break of slope within Greasbrough Recreation Ground. The date of the two earthworks is unknown, but previous work on them recorded undated ditches as well as 3rd-century Roman finds from an adjacent cropmark enclosure (English Heritage National Monument Record (EHNMR)-1388629; EHNMR-1388642).

2.1.4 A hoard of 12 Roman coins was found in the Waggon Road allotment gardens at Greasbrough (SYHER 00825), c.400 m southeast of the Site.

Medieval

2.1.5 Greasbrough was formerly a chapelry within the parish of Rotherham. The medieval chapel of ease in the village (SYHER 00496) was demolished in 1826 to make way for the existing church of St Mary.

Post-medieval

2.1.6 No Listed Buildings are located in the vicinity of the Site, although several are located in Greasbrough to the east. The nearest are the Grade II Old Congregational Schoolroom (NHLE No. 1314620) and the Grade II War Memorial and Railed Enclosure (NHLE No. 1132741), both located c.200 m from the Site.

2.1.7 The only other designated heritage asset within 1km of the Site is the Grade II* Park and Garden at Wentworth Woodhouse (NHLE No. 1001163), one entrance to which lies on the north side of Church Street c.150 m northeast of the Site.

2.1.8 Historic map regression shows the Site was not substantially developed during the modern period. From 1854 the Site lay in an area of enclosed fields with farmsteads and houses to the north and northwest which may have partially overlain the Site boundary. In the 1940s a plant nursery was constructed within the Site, accessed from Church Street to the north as Grayson Road had not yet been built. The nursery was shown on the 1958 Ordnance Survey map to have been of glass construction with two small buildings to its northeast interconnected by two tracks. The glass house was demolished in the 1980s and the Site became a works depot.

Previous archaeological works

2.1.9 No previous archaeological interventions have taken place within the Site. A mine shaft investigation was conducted in July 2025 to examine an area within the concrete yard surface thought to contain a mine shaft, but no such features were identified (Joyce 2025).

3. Aims and objectives

3.1.1 The aims of the trial trenching, as set out in the Project Design (Ecus 2024) were to:

- identify and record any archaeological deposits, structures or built fabric within the Site;
- determine the extent, condition, character, significance and date of any encountered or exposed archaeological remains;
- recover an indicative sample of artefacts;
- prepare a comprehensive record of, and report on, archaeological observations during the site work; and
- identify mitigation strategies to ensure the recording, preservation or management of archaeological remains within the Site which might be impacted by the proposed development.

3.1.2 The objective was to:

- produce a record of the archaeological works sufficient to help inform the need for, and scope of, any further archaeological works.

4. Methodology

4.1 General

4.1.1 The evaluation was conducted by Cura Terrae, a CIfA Registered Organisation. All work was carried out by experienced staff who are individual or corporate members of CIfA.

4.1.2 Five trenches were excavated on the Site, representing a 4% sample of the area. Four of the trenches measured 30m long by 1.6m wide, with one trench excavated in an L-shape measuring 20m on the longer axis and 10m on the shorter axis due to Site constrictions.

4.2 Standards

4.2.1 The archaeological work conformed to current national and regional guidance as set out in:

- Archaeological Field Evaluation Standards and Guidance (SYAS 2022)
- Yorkshire, the Humber and the Northeast: A Regional Statement of Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process (City of York Council 2025)
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide (Historic England 2015a)
- Standard for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2023a)
- Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2023b)
- Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 2020a)
- Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (CIfA 2020b)
- Code of Conduct (CIfA 2022)

4.3 Trench locations

4.3.1 The proposed trenches were distributed to achieve a good coverage of the Site and to examine its archaeological potential. Contractors had cleared spoil heaps and vegetation with a trunk diameter of up to 70mm to facilitate the trial trenching; trees of over 70mm trunk diameter were not allowed to be cleared, which meant that the trench locations had to be adjusted to avoid standing trees. The trenches were laid out by tape, due to the density of tree cover preventing use of GPS.

4.4 Excavation method

4.4.1 Each trench was scanned using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) to detect services prior to excavation.

4.4.1 Due to vegetation and available space on site, an 8T excavator using a pecker and 1.6m-wide bucket was used to excavate the trenches. Mechanical stripping of topsoil and subsoil was carried out in accordance with the guidelines in the CIfA standards (2023a and 2023b).

4.4.2 All mechanical stripping was carried out under direct supervision of an appropriately qualified archaeologist and conducted with a toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were stacked separately at the side of the trench.

4.4.3 Overburden was removed in successive level spits down to the required depth, the first significant archaeological horizon or undisturbed natural deposits, whichever was first.

4.4.4 Spoil derived from machine stripping and hand excavation was visually scanned for finds retrieval, and metal-detected by a trained archaeologist.

4.4.5 All archaeological features were cleaned by hand and a sufficient sample excavated by hand to enable their full form, date, nature, extent and condition to be described.

4.4.6 Following excavation, it was agreed with SYAS that due to no features of historic interest being identified the trenches could be backfilled following general recording.

4.5 Recording method

4.5.1 All archaeological deposits were recorded using continuously numbered contexts in a pro-forma system in accordance with industry standards. The written record was hierarchically based and centred on the context record. Written recording was undertaken using an industry-standard digital recording system (the Diggit application).

4.5.2 Trenches and recorded features were tied into Ordnance Survey National Grid using a combination of sub-centimetre accurate GPS and total station survey. All levels relate to Ordnance Datum. Survey conformed with national guidelines (Historic England 2024).

4.5.3 A drawn record of all excavated archaeological features was made at an appropriate scale. Sections/profiles were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and their location accurately identified on the appropriate trench plan.

4.5.4 A photographic record was made using digital photography at a minimum resolution of 10 megapixels.

4.5.5 The photographic record includes a clearly visible, graduated metric scale, Site code and context feature number(s) where informative. A register of all photographs was kept. All digital photography was in accordance with national guidance (Historic England 2015b).

4.5.6 Data management, recovery and recording levels were appropriate to the stratified deposits under investigation.

4.6 Finds collection and recording

4.6.1 Finds were recovered in accordance with CIfA guidelines for field evaluation (CIfA 2023b). Finds were appropriately recorded and processed using the Cura Terrae system and submitted for post-excavation assessment.

4.6.2 All recovered finds were appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions in accordance with current guidelines (English Heritage 1995; Watkinson and Neal 2001).

4.7 Environmental sampling

4.7.1 No environmental samples were collected due to the modern nature of the features recorded.

4.8 Human remains

4.8.1 No human remains were present during the evaluation.

4.9 Treasure

4.9.1 No artefacts classed as treasure were identified during the evaluation.

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Five trenches were mechanically excavated across the Site. The trenches were distributed to investigate the archaeological potential of the Site, sampling c.4% of the area (Fig. 2). The trenches each measured 30m long by 1.6m wide. Trenches were pre-numbered and are discussed in numerical order. A fairly uniform natural was present in all trenches, comprising light greyish yellow silty clay, with bedrock present at the north end of Trench 5.

5.2 Trial trench results

Trench 1

5.2.1 Trench 1 was aligned northeast to southwest at the north edge of the Site, parallel to the north Site boundary (Plate 2). The only features identified in the trench were two modern field drains, one aligned northwest to southeast and the other northeast to southwest.

5.2.2 Natural light greyish yellow silty clay (105) was c.1.1m below the present ground surface, which was overlain by successive deposits of made ground. Beginning with 0.2m of mid yellowish brown silty clay (104), followed by 0.2m of dark brown loamy clay with occasional inclusions of small to medium angular to subangular stones (103). Over this was 0.3m of light greyish brown silty clay with moderate inclusions of small to large rounded stones (107) (Plate 3). A 0.45m high mound of mid brownish grey clayey silt with moderate small to very large spheroidal stone inclusions (106) had been piled up over the west end of the trench (Plate 4), with 0.1m–0.2m of light yellowish grey gravel (102) covering most of the rest of the trench along with a small area of hardstanding towards the east end. The current ground surface was made up of 0.2m of leaf mulch (101) from the surrounding trees and shrubs.

5.2.3 Soil mound 106 appeared to represent a topsoil clearance mound, with gravel 102 and the hardstanding forming a previous working surface. A crisp packet dating to 2004–05 was recovered from the initial made ground deposit 104, showing that all these layers are very recent.

Trench 2

5.2.4 Trench 2 was excavated in an L-shape due to the space available within the woodland: the north–south arm measured 20m long before turning to the east at the south end and continuing for 10m (Plates 5–8). Two northwest to southeast parallel modern drains were present within the north–south arm of the trench and though they projected towards the east–west arm, they were not visible there. An east to west brick-built drain or conduit (206) with stone capping was present within the east–west arm of the trench (Plates 9 and 10) that corresponded to the location of a trackway along the north edge of a greenhouse marked on the 1956 Ordnance Survey, suggesting they are associated, but no earlier features were identified.

5.2.5 The east–west drain was constructed within cut (206), which had been excavated into light greyish yellow sandy clay subsoil (205), and measured 0.35m wide by 0.15m deep. Two parallel rows of, mostly broken, bricks (208) had been placed into the cut with a 50mm-wide space between them. The rows consisted of one course of dark reddish pink frogged bricks placed on edge with no bonding material, and stone waste fragments had been placed behind the bricks in some stretches along with mid greyish brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of small to large sub-angular sandstone (210) to backfill the construction cut. Where intact, the bricks measured c.0.23m long by 0.11m wide by 80mm high. Some bricks included a maker's stamp of D&S Clarke Rotherham. D&S Clarke are recorded at Greasborough Road, Masborough, Rotherham in Kelly's & Whites Trade Directories from 1893 to 1935. The bricks were likely reused from elsewhere, but very few had any surviving mortar attached. The brick channel was capped by roughly dressed sandstone flags (209), measuring between 0.1m to 0.3cm long by 0.3m wide by 80mm high.

5.2.6 The drain ran along the length of the east–west arm of Trench 2, but had been partially removed, probably during more recent landscaping of the Site, with the upper stone capping (209) poorly preserved to the west. The drain channel had been infilled with dark greyish brown silty clay (211), from which fragments of pottery, glass and slag were recovered. The pottery sherd was whiteware, representing the base of a cup, dating between the 19th–20th centuries. The glass fragments were from bottles, some produced locally with one fragment having "Rotherham" in embossed lettering and another having derived from a Co-Op Society milk bottle. An additional sherd of translucent aquamarine glass was also present, and probably came from another bottle. The slag was magnetic and representative of ironworking, but was otherwise chronologically undiagnostic.

5.2.7 The high level of disturbance renders it unclear whether the glass fragments were originally deposited within the primary backfill 210 of the cut for the drain or had entered the channel at a later point during the use of the drain. The slag likely originated from a deposit of dark brownish purple cinders 0.1m deep (204), in which slag was also present, dumped over the area of the drain.

5.2.8 A 0.4m-deep layer of made ground, comprising dark brownish grey silty clay with fragments of coal, bricks, and concrete flags throughout (203) was present across the length of the trench and likely represents demolition material from nearby structures. The made ground was overlain by a 0.2m-deep gravel deposit composed of light greyish white sandy gravel (202), perhaps to create an area of hardstanding. The gravel was in turn covered with a 0.1m-deep deposit of dark brownish grey loamy clay with leaf mould and roots (201) into which the trees and shrubs were growing, indicating that the area had not been used for some time.

Trench 3

5.2.9 Trench 3 was located towards the centre of the Site within the western north to south road (Plates 11 and 12). A cast iron pipe, oriented northwest–southeast and an east to west modern drain were present within the trench, along with two parallel machine bucket scrapes, aligned north–south, which had been made by a 0.5m-wide toothed bucket, possibly during the construction of the road or structures in this part of the Site.

5.2.10 The earliest material above the underlying natural geology was a 0.3m-deep deposit of mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional inclusions of stone and brick (303), representing made ground composed of demolition material created to provide a foundation for the road. A later northwest southeast cast iron pipe bounded by occasional bricks and stones had been inserted into the made ground and was probably associated with the septic tank.

5.2.11 The made ground was overlain by a 0.2m-deep gravel deposit comprising light greyish white sandy gravel (302) similar to the gravel (202) in Trench 2 to the west, suggesting that both were deposited at the same time. The road surface was directly above the gravel and was formed by tarmac and concrete (301).

Trench 4

5.2.12 Trench 4 was aligned north to south at the east edge of the Site, parallel to the eastern boundary. The trench was located within the eastern north–south road and the north end of the trench passed through a metal gate, separating an area where former storage yards are shown on aerial photographs from 1999 (Google Earth). Two northwest to southeast drains were present within the trench, but no historic features pre-dating the post-medieval period were identified (Plates 13 and 14). Outcrops of bedrock were exposed at the north end of the trench.

5.2.13 The northern 10m of Trench 4, within the former storage yard was approximately 0.6m deep, with natural geology overlain by a 0.2m-deep mid brownish grey silty clay (403), followed by 0.2m of mid brownish grey silty clay with frequent inclusions of medium to large sub-angular stones (402), both representing different layers of subsoil. A 0.2m-deep deposit of dark greenish brown material (401) composed of leaf mould, twigs and vegetation had formed in this area of the Site, reflecting the recent period of disuse.

5.2.14 To the south the trench contained a series of deposits formed by successive dumps of demolition material to form a foundation for the tarmac and concrete road. The earliest deposit directly over natural geology was a 0.1m-deep dark greyish brown silty clay with charcoal inclusions (408). A north to south gully (410) was located at the south end of the trench and represents a modern fence that was removed to allow the construction of the present road. The gully had been dug through deposit 408. Gully 410 had a U-shaped profile measuring 0.5m wide by 0.1m deep and was filled with dark brownish grey silt with frequent inclusions of gravel (411). A partially vitrified stone brick, alongside fragments of chimney pot and a single fragment of a water pipe or drain, was recovered from the fill (411) of the gully. A number of wooden stakes wrapped in black plastic sheets had been set into the gully fill, indicating that the fence was relatively modern.

5.2.15 Deposit 408 was overlain by a 0.5m-deep deposit of mid greyish brown silty clay containing mixed demolition material, including bricks, tiles, concrete, and plastic bags (407). A brick recovered from rubble 407, measuring c.0.13m by 0.11m by 80mm, had a maker's stamp indicating that it was produced at the brickworks of the Midland Iron company in Rotherham between the late 19th and early 20th centuries. A large fragment of a mug dating to the late 20th century was also recovered from the demolition material. A 0.2m-thick black deposit of cinders (406) was present over the demolition material 407, which in turn was overlain by light greyish yellow silty gravel (405) similar to that seen in Trenches 2 and 3, which had been laid to form the foundation for the tarmac and cement road surface (404).

Trench 5

5.2.16 Trench 5 was located in the tarmac and concrete hardstanding in the south part of the Site, aligned east to west. The trench was excavated to c.0.8m deep. The west end of the trench contained the northwest corner of the earlier test pit excavated to locate a possible mineshaft. No features other than a disconnected electricity cable were present in Trench 5 (Plates 15 and 16).

5.2.17 The earliest deposit overlying the natural geology was a 0.2m-deep dark greyish brown silty clay with charcoal inclusions (508), from which a modern rubber object was recovered This was in turn overlain by a 0.2m-deep mid greyish brown silty clay containing mixed demolition material including fragments of bricks, slate, rubber and plastic (507). A large iron fragment, representing a probable leaf spring from a wheeled vehicle, was also recovered from the demolition material. A light yellow silty sand, 0.05m deep, with occasional inclusions of angular stone (506) was present over the demolition layer. A 0.1m-deep deposit of mid brown silty clay (505) sealed demolition deposits 506 and 507, followed by a 0.1m-deep deposit of cemented dark black cinders with occasional brick fragments (504) above, representing another layer of demolition material.

5.2.18 Two thin spreads of material had been deposited above the earlier demolition rubble. The first deposit was 50mm of mid brown silty loam (503), overlain by a 50mm-thick light greyish yellow silty gravel (502) that appeared to be a foundation for the modern tarmac roadway (501).

5.3 Artefactual, faunal and environmental results

5.3.1 A full finds assessment is included as Appendix C. No environmental samples were collected during the evaluation due to the recent nature of the deposits. The assemblage comprised redeposited structural material, glass vessel fragments and a steel vehicle part. Small quantities of redeposited waste from ironworking and high-temperature industrial processes were also present. The dateable artefacts recovered suggested deposition in the post-medieval to modern period. Further analysis is unlikely to contribute to our understanding of the Site nor any research objectives set out in the South Yorkshire Historic Environment Research Framework (SYHERF).

5.3.1 Due to the large quantity of post-medieval to modern structural material, only a small sample of diagnostic examples was collected. Eight fragments (11,911g) of CBM were recovered from Trenches 2 and 4, representing three individual bricks, a chimney, and a pipe dating to the post-medieval to modern period. A single fragment of brick (1,222g) was recovered from Trench 4, which displayed slight vitrification on one face, which suggested that it derived from a structure associated with a high temperature, possibly industrial, activity.

5.3.1 Two fragments (137.6g) of pottery were recovered from Trenches 2 and 4, including a sherd of whiteware representing the base of a hollow ware vessel such as a cup, dating between the 19th–20th centuries, and a large fragment of a mug dating to the modern period.

5.3.1 Twenty fragments (275.8g) of glass were recovered from Trench 2 and represent up to three bottles, of which two had evidence for local manufacture.

5.3.1 A single fragment (1,302g) of iron was recovered from Trench 5 and likely represents an elliptic leaf spring, deriving from a wheeled vehicle and dating to the modern period.

5.3.1 Thirteen fragments (393g) of industrial waste, slag, were recovered from Trench 2. The material was representative of ironworking but is chronologically undiagnostic.

5.3.1 Four fragments (5.6g) of plastic were recovered from Trenches 1 and 4.

5.3.2 An undiagnostic rubber object (18.3g) was recovered from Trench 5, which likely dates to the modern period.

6. Conclusions

6.1.1 The evaluation has successfully achieved the aims and objectives as set out in Section 3 above and detailed in the Project Design. The trial trenching has not identified any remains prior to the post-medieval period on the Site but has shown the widespread presence of made ground incorporating post-medieval to modern structural demolition material, along with evidence of landscaping having occurred within the 21st century.

6.2 Assessment of the results against the original expectations

6.2.1 Despite the overgrown conditions and trees hindering the trench placement as initially planned, the trial trenching still covered a sufficiently wide area of site to evaluate its archaeological potential. The results of the evaluation have demonstrated that only features relating to the post-medieval to modern period were present within the excavated areas and have provided evidence to suggest that modern demolition and landscaping has probably removed the potential for remains dating to earlier periods within the rest of the Site.

6.2.2 In all five trenches, the Site had been largely stripped to natural geology, prior to the deposition of demolition material to form made ground on which gravel and tarmac surfaces were laid. The earliest material within the trenches represented the secondary deposition of artefacts manufactured in the late 19th to 20th centuries. Ceramic evidence dating to the late 20th century was also recovered from the same deposits, which indicates that some of the demolition material relates to relatively recent activity on the Site. A modern crisp packet was present within Trench 1, which could have come from animal burrowing, but suggests some of the groundworks occurred during the 21st century.

6.2.3 Trench 2 contained a drain/conduit constructed during the first half of the 20th century, probably related to the previous use of the Site as a nursery. The presence of slag, recovered from the drain and also present in a cinder-rich deposit overlying the drain, demonstrates dumping of ironworking waste, though no archaeological remains directly associated with industrial activity were found during the evaluation, suggesting the material was brought in from a different location.

6.2.4 Trench 3 contained direct evidence for modern soil moving on the Site, with toothed bucket marks visible within the underlying geology. The made ground deposits increased in depth towards the south and east of the Site, with Trenches 4 and 5 measuring up to 1m in depth, suggesting that the ground levels were built up more in these locations.

6.2.5 It is considered that the archaeological remains identified by the trial trenching have low potential to inform the regional research questions as expressed in the SYHERF (https://researchframeworks.org/syrf/).

6.3 Archiving

6.3.1 The written, drawn and photographic records are in digital form and are currently held by Cura Terrae at Barnard Castle, Co. Durham. Subject to finalisation of discard policies, it is intended that the project archive will be transferred to the Archaeology Data Service (ADS).

6.3.2 Archiving work will be carried out in accordance with local policy and national professional standards and guidelines (as detailed in Section 4) above.

6.3.3 An online OASIS data collection form has been initiated (OASIS ID: curaterr1-537909; Appendix D). Upon conclusion of the project, all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed. This will include an uploaded PDF version of this report. The OASIS form will be validated by SYAS once the report is uploaded, which will become a public document upon submission. A paper copy of the report will be supplied to the SYHER.

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8. Figures and plates

Appendix A: Context catalogue

Context no.	Trench	Type	Feature	Cut no.	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Vertical Span (m)
101	1	Deposit	Mulch	-	Colour: dark greenish brown. Compaction: moist, spongey. Composition: leaves and twigs.	-	-	0.05 to 0.20
102	1	Deposit	Gravel	-	Colour: light yellowish grey. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: gravel.	-	-	0.10 to 0.20
103	1	Deposit	Topsoil	-	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: loamy clay. Inclusions: occasional small to medium angular to sub-angular stone, evenly distributed.	-	-	0.10 to 0.40
104	1	Deposit	Subsoil	-	Colour: mid yellowish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay.	-	-	0.20 to 0.60
105	1	Deposit	Natural	-	Colour: light greyish yellow. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay.	-	-	-
106	1	Deposit	Subsoil	-	Colour: mid brownish grey. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: clayey silt. Inclusions: moderate small to very large sub-rounded spheroidal stone.	-	-	0.40 (avg.)
107	1	Deposit	Subsoil	-	Colour: light greyish brown. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate small to large sub-angular spheroidal stone, evenly distributed.	-	-	0.20 (avg.)
201	2	Deposit	Topsoil	-	Colour: dark brownish grey. Compaction: dry, malleable. Composition: loamy clay. Inclusions: occasional small to medium angular to sub-angular stone, evenly distributed.	-	-	0.10 (avg.)
202	2	Deposit	Gravel	-	Colour: light greyish white. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: well sorted sandy cobble.	-	-	0.20 (avg.)
203	2	Deposit	Subsoil	-	Colour: dark brownish grey. Compaction: dry, cemented. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: 1) moderate small to large sub-rounded spheroidal stone, evenly distributed 2) moderate small to medium platy coal.	-	-	0.30 to 0.40

Context no.	Trench	Type	Feature	Cut no.	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Vertical Span (m)
204	2	Deposit	Cinders	-	Colour: dark brownish purple. Compaction: dry, cemented. Composition: cinders.	-	-	0.10 (avg.)
205	2	Deposit	Subsoil	-	Colour: light greyish yellow. Compaction: dry, cemented. Composition: sandy clay.	-	-	0.10 (avg.)
206	2	Cut	Drain	206	Orientation: E-W. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Shape in profile: regular, deep u-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: sharp. Base: uneven. Sides: steep, concave.	> 14.00	0.35	0.15
207	2	Deposit	Natural	-	Colour: light greyish yellow. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: silty clay.	-	-	-
208	2	Masonry	Drain	206	Orientation: E-W. Form: foundation of linear wall. Materials: 1 course of dark reddish pink frogged bricks (L: 230.00 mm, W: 110.00 mm, H: 80.00 mm). Bonding: none. Finish and coursing: bricks are on edge. Single. Preservation state: poor.	> 14.00	0.3	0.1
209	2	Masonry	Drain	206	Orientation: E-W. Form: superstructure of linear drain. Materials: dark greyish white sandstone (L: 100.00 to 300.00 mm, W: 300.00 mm, H: 80.00 mm). Dressing: rough. Bonding: none. Finish and coursing: stones featuring single finish. Preservation state: poor.	1	0.3	0.1
210	2	Fill	Drain	206	Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: frequent small to large sub-angular platy sandstone, evenly distributed.	> 14.00	0.05	0.15
211	2	Fill	Drain	206	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: silty clay.	> 14.00	0.05	0.1
301	3	Deposit	Tarmac	-	Colour: dark blackish grey. Compaction: dry, cemented. Composition: tarmac.	-	-	0.04 (avg.)
302	3	Deposit	Gravel	-	Colour: very light greyish white. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: well sorted sandy cobble.	-	-	0.10 to 0.20
303	3	Deposit	Made ground	-	Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: dry, cemented. Composition: silty sand. Inclusions: 1) occasional small to large sub-angular spheroidal gravel 2) occasional small to large brick fragment.	-	-	0.20 to 0.30

Context no.	Trench	Type	Feature	Cut no.	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Vertical Span (m)
304	3	Deposit	Natural	-	Colour: light greyish yellow. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay.	-	-	-
401	4	Deposit	Mulch	-	Colour: dark greenish brown. Compaction: moist, spongey. Composition: leaves and twigs. Inclusions: moderate small angular to sub-angular gravel, evenly distributed. Notes: this deposit is at the north end of trench only.	-	-	0.15 to 0.20
402	4	Deposit	Subsoil	-	Colour: mid brownish grey. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: frequent medium to large sub-angular stone, evenly distributed. Notes: this deposit is at the north end of trench only.	-	-	0.20 (avg.)
403	4	Deposit	Subsoil	-	Colour: mid brownish grey. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay.	-	-	0.15 to 0.20
404	4	Deposit	Tarmac	-	Colour: dark blackish grey. Compaction: dry, cemented. Composition: tarmac.	-	-	0.04 (avg.)
405	4	Deposit	Gravel	-	Colour: very light greyish yellow. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty gravel.	-	-	0.10 to 0.15
406	4	Deposit	Cinder	-	Colour: very dark black. Compaction: moist, cemented. Composition: cinder.	-	-	0.20 (avg.)
407	4	Deposit	Demolition	-	Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: dry, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: full of mixed demolition material.	-	-	0.50 to 0.60
408	4	Deposit	Spread	-	Colour: very dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay.	-	-	0.10 to 0.15
409	4	Deposit	Natural	-	Colour: light greyish yellow. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Notes: three distinct bands of bedrock at north end of trench.	-	-	-
410	4	Cut	Gully	410	Orientation: N-S. Shape in plan: linear. Shape in profile: regular, u-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: gradual. Base: flat. Sides: steep, concave.	> 1.00	0.50 to 0.55	0.10 to 0.12
411	4	Fill	Gully	410	Colour: dark brownish grey. Compaction: moist, cemented. Composition: silt. Inclusions: frequent small	> 1.00	0.50 to 0.55	0.10 to 0.12

Context no.	Trench	Type	Feature	Cut no.	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Vertical Span (m)
					angular gravel, evenly distributed. Notes: roughly 80% gravel.			
501	5	Deposit	Tarmac	-	Colour: dark blackish grey. Compaction: dry, cemented. Composition: tarmac.	-	-	0.30 to 0.40
502	5	Deposit	Gravel	-	Colour: very light greyish yellow. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty gravel.	-	-	0.02 to 0.05
503	5	Deposit	Spread	-	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty loam.	-	-	0.03 to 0.08
504	5	Deposit	Cinders	-	Colour: very dark black. Compaction: moist, cemented. Composition: cinder. Inclusions: occasional large very angular brick, evenly distributed.	-	-	0.04 to 0.13
505	5	Deposit	Spread	-	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay.	-	-	0.09 to 0.13
506	5	Deposit	Spread	-	Colour: light yellow. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty sand. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular stone, evenly distributed.	-	-	0.02 to 0.05
507	5	Deposit	Spread	-	Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: dry, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: full of mixed demolition material.	-	-	0.15 to 0.22
508	5	Deposit	Spread	-	Colour: very dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay.	-	-	0.15 to 0.20
509	5	Deposit	Natural	-	Colour: light greyish yellow. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Notes: contained occasional laminated stone outcrops.	-	-	-

Appendix B: Trench catalogue

Trench no.	Contents	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1	NW-SE drain; NE-SW drain	NE-SW	30.5	1.7	0.7 (avg.)
2	E-W drain 206; NW-SE drain x2	NW-SE	30.3	1.7	0.5 (avg.)
3	E-W drain; NW-SE drain	N-S	30	1.7	0.5 (avg.)
4	N-S fence 410; NW-SE drain x2	N-S	30.6	1.7	1.0(avg.)
5	Modern utility cable.	E-W	30	1.7	0.6 (avg.)

Appendix C: Finds report

Charlotte Britton

Introduction

This report presents an assessment of the finds recovered from an archaeological evaluation at Grayson Road, Wingfield, Rotherham (NGR: 44139 39566). The work was carried out to help assess the viability of the Site for residential development (Ecus Ltd 2024). Excavations recovered c.15.3kg of artefactual material including stone and ceramic building material (hereafter CBM), ferrous metalwork, glass, industrial waste, plastic, pottery and rubber.

Where chronologically diagnostic, the artefacts recovered dated to the post-medieval to modern period. The assessment includes a discussion of the findings in their regional and chronological context and recommendations for further work.

Methodology

The assessment was carried out on 2nd October 2025. The material was recorded and assessed in accordance with national guidelines (Archaeological Ceramic Buildings Materials Group 2002; Barclay *et al.* 2016; CIfA 2020; Historic England 2015) and in reference to the South Yorkshire Historic Environment Research Framework (2025).

The material was examined visually and was quantified by count and weight, with artefact types and dates recorded.

CBM form classifications broadly follow those in McComish (2015).

Outline of the assemblage

The finds assemblage dated exclusively to the post-medieval to modern period, with the industrial waste and stone being chronologically undiagnostic (Table C1). An archive catalogue of the material was produced in a pro forma excel spreadsheet for inclusion in the Site archive.

Table C1: Material recovered by context with object type, date range, count and weight.

Context	Material	Object type	Date range	Count	Weight (g)
104	Plastic	Crisp packet	2004-2005	1	3.8
208	CBM	Brick	late 19th–early 20th century	2	7350
211	Glass	Bottle	Modern	19	273.6
		Vessel	Post-medieval–modern	1	2.2
	Industrial waste	Slag	Unknown	13	393
	Pottery	Vessel	19th-20th century	1	5.3
407	CBM	Brick	late 19th–mid-20th century	1	3926
	Pottery	Mug	1990+	1	132.3
411	CBM	Chimney	Post-medieval–modern	4	568
		Pipe	Post-medieval–modern	1	67
	Plastic	Unknown	Modern	3	1.8
	Stone	Brick?	Unknown	1	1222
507	Fe Iron	Leaf spring	late post-medieval–modern	1	1302

Context	Material	Object type	Date range	Count	Weight (g)
508	Rubber	Unknown	Modern	1	18.3
			Total	50	15265.3

Building materials

An assemblage of nine fragments (13.1kg) of building materials were recovered including CBM and stone. The entire CBM assemblage dated to the late post-medieval to modern period, with the stone being chronologically undiagnostic, although it likely dated to the same period as the CBM.

CBM

A total of eight fragments (11,911g) of CBM were recovered representing three individual bricks, a chimney and a pipe dating solely to the post-medieval to modern period.

Two bricks were recovered from drain lining 208 that were homogenous in type likely representing material used in the construction of the drain. The bricks were machine-made with oxidised fabrics, measuring c.224mm in length, c.108mm in length and c.79mm in depth. Both examples were frogged, with one example displaying a maker's stamp reading 'D…S…CLAR…ROTHERHAM' indicating that they were produced at D&S Clarke Brickworks in Rotherham, between the late 19th and early 20th century (Fretwell 2013).

An additional brick was recovered from demolition rubble 407 that was also machine-made with an oxidised fabric, measuring 131mm in length, 110m in width and 77mm in depth. It was frogged on one face, with a maker's stamp reading 'Midland Iron Co Ltd Rotherham' indicating that it was produced at the brickworks located at the Midland Iron Company in Rotherham, between the late 19th and mid-20th century (Graces Guide 2021).

Four fragments of a chimney pot were recovered from gully 411 that had a buff gritty fabric and displayed sooting on the internal surfaces, indicating usage. One fragment also displayed a small amount of green-brown glaze on the outside body.

Finally, a single fragment of pipe was also recovered from gully 411 that had an oxidised fabric, likely representing a water pipe, field drain or similar.

Stone

A single fragment of stone (1,222g) was recovered from gully 411 that likely represented a brick, displaying slight vitrification on one face, suggesting that it was derived from a structure associated with a high temperature, possibly industrial, activity. It was chronologically undiagnostic, however most likely dated to the post-medieval to modern period.

Pottery

Two fragments (137.6g) of pottery were recovered from drain infill 211 and demolition rubble 407, including a sherd of whiteware representing the base of a hollow ware vessel such as a cup, dating between the 19th–20th century, and a large fragment of a mug dating to the modern period. The latter displayed a cartoon golf scene on the outside body and had 'Quickbrew' printed on the base. It represented a novelty mug produced by Lyons tea during the late 20th century (c.1990 AD).

Glass

An assemblage of 20 fragments (275.8g) of glass was recovered from drain infill 211 representing up to three vessels, being solely indicative of bottles. Two clear transparent bottles were represented, with one example displaying embossing on the outside body reading 'COOP..SOC' suggesting that it was derived from a Coop society milk bottle dating to the early modern period. An additional example had 'ROTHERHAM' embossed on the outside wall, suggesting that the bottle it derived from originally held a locally manufactured product. The final example was a small shard that was translucent and aquamarine in colour, likely deriving from an additional bottle.

Ferrous metalwork

A single fragment (1,302g) of iron was recovered from demolition layer 507, that was likely representative of an elliptic leaf spring, deriving from a wheeled vehicle and dating to the late post-medieval to modern period.

Industrial waste

An assemblage of 13 fragments (393g) of industrial waste was recovered from drain infill 211 representing slag. The fragments were homogenous in appearance, and were black and highly porous, with vitrified surfaces. Some examples were very lightweight, and all were magnetic. The material appeared similar to tap-slag associated with the bloomery process, although the fragments may have also been associated with the puddling process. Either way, the material was representative of ironworking. The material was chronologically undiagnostic, although puddling was primarily undertaken during the post-medieval period (Historic England 2015, 6) being the most likely origin of the material.

Plastic

Four fragments (5.6g) of plastic were recovered from subsoil 104 and gully fill 411 that was mostly undiagnostic although clearly dated to the modern period. A single crisp packet was included, having been recovered from subsoil 104 and being representative of Walker's prawn cocktail crisps, dating from 2004-2005.

Rubber

A single rubber object (18.3g) was recovered from burnt layer 508 that was rectangular with rectangular hole through the middle, with textile adhered to the outer edges. The object was undiagnostic although likely dated to the modern period.

Statement of potential

The assemblage was associated with buildings/structures, the storage and consumption of foodstuffs and a wheeled vehicle during post-medieval and modern periods, with ironworking also potentially being represented. The possible stone brick was also suggestive of a high-temperature, possibly industrial process.

Some of the material was recovered from demolition layers and a gully fill, likely being associated with the wider region rather than the immediate Site or features. A small assemblage, however, was recovered from drain infill 211 including glass bottles, pottery and industrial waste dating to the post-medieval to modern period (19th-20th century) suggesting a date of infilling, when the feature was likely used as a centre for waste disposal following on from its original use, as a drain. Moreover, two of the bricks recovered were from drain lining 208, potentially having been recovered from their place of origin, and dating between late 19th-early 20th century, perhaps representing a date of construction for the feature.

The assemblage was representative of industrial practices, primarily ironworking whilst also being associated with domestic practices, with some of the material likely deriving from a community inhabiting the wider area rather than the immediate Site. The bricks and one of the glass bottles represented material produced within the local region suggesting that the community they derived from was part of a local network of interaction.

Conclusions and recommendations

The finds recovered by the evaluation at Grayson Road, Wingfield, Rotherham demonstrated post-medieval to modern period activity around the Site, as well as suggesting that high temperature industrial process may have also taken place in the vicinity. Further analysis of the material would not helpfully contribute to our understanding of the Site, or research objectives set out in the South Yorkshire Historic Environment Research Framework (2025). No further work could be meaningfully undertaken on the material, and it may be discarded on completion of the project.

This report and associated data spreadsheet should be retained as part of the Site archive and integrated into any Site-wide grey literature or publication reporting.

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Appendix D: OASIS data collection form

OASIS Summary for curaterr1-537909

OASIS ID (UID)	curaterr1-537909
Project Name	Evaluation at Land at Grayson Road, Wingfield, Rotherham
Sitename	Land at Grayson Road, Wingfield, Rotherham
Sitecode	23768
Project Identifier(s)	Land at Grayson Road, Wingfield, Rotherham
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	Cura Terrae
Project Dates	16-Sep-2025 - 19-Sep-2025
Location	Land at Grayson Road, Wingfield, Rotherham NGR : SK 41390 95660 LL : 53.45607509050251, -1.37814853976852 12 Fig : 441390,395660
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Rotherham Local Authority District : Rotherham Parish : Rotherham, unparished area
Project Methodology	Five trenches were mechanically excavated to investigate the archaeological potential of the Site. No previous geophysical survey had been conducted so the trenches were positioned across the Site to evaluate a 4% sample of the Site.

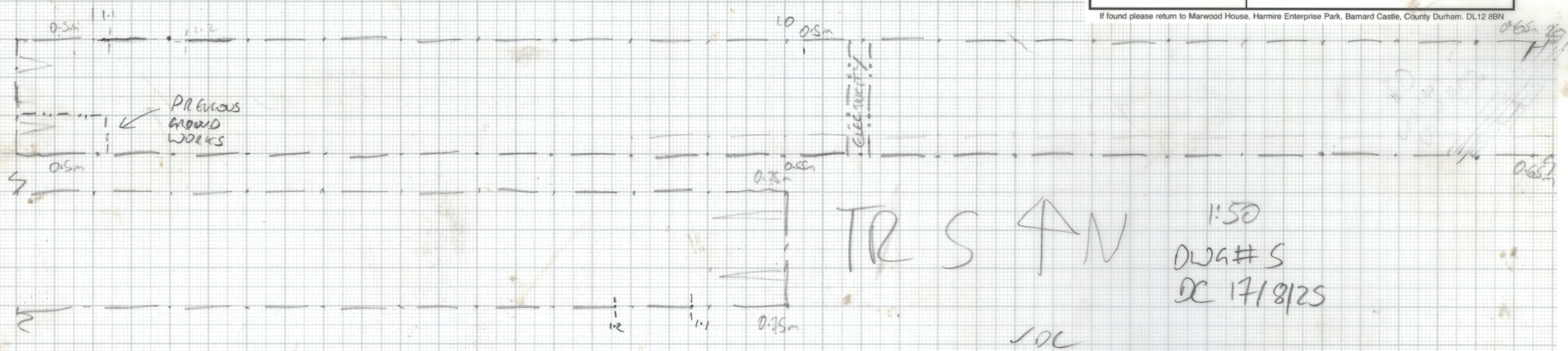
Project Results	In all five trenches, the area had been largely stripped to natural geology, prior to the deposition of demolition material to form made ground on which gravel and tarmac surfaces were laid. The earliest material within the trenches represented the secondary deposition of artefacts manufactured in the late 19th to 20th century. Ceramic evidence dating to the late 20th century was also recovered from the same deposits, however, which indicates that much of the demolition material likely relates to relatively recent activity on the Site. A modern crisp packet was present within Trench 1, which could have come from animal burrowing, but which suggests some of the groundworks occurred during the 21st century. Trench 2 contained a drain constructed during the first half of the 20th century, potentially related to the earlier use of the Site as a nursery. The presence of slag, recovered from the drain and also present in a cinder-rich deposit overlying the drain, indicates ironworking in the region of the Site at some point within the post-medieval period, but no archaeological remains directly associated with industrial activity were encountered during the evaluation. Trench 3 contained direct evidence for the demolition of previous remains, with toothed bucket marks visible within the underlying geology indicating the position of probable wall footings or former drains. The rubble probable derived from the former nursery structures, suggesting that this work had happened during the later 20th century, with the two north–south access roads and the yard on the southern side of the Site present on aerial photographs by the end of the 20th century (Google 2025). The demolition deposits increased in depth towards the south and east of the Site, with Trenches 4 and 5 measuring up to 1m in depth. The field to the south-east of the Site was located below the level of the Site, suggesting that the landscaping was conducted to create a level foundation for the yard.
Keywords	Field Drain - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Drainage System - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	District, borough or city council Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
HER	South Yorkshire Archaeology Service - noRev - LITE
Person Responsible for work	Damien Ronan
HER Identifiers	
Archives	

Report generated on: 28 Oct 2025, 14:27

Appendix E: Site Drawings

SITE CODE 2376	
PLAN/SECTION NO.	NORTH
SCALE	SHEET No.
DATE	
DRAWN BY	
CHECKED BY	

If found please return to Marwood House, Harmire Enterprise Park, Barnard Castle, County Durham. DL12 8BN



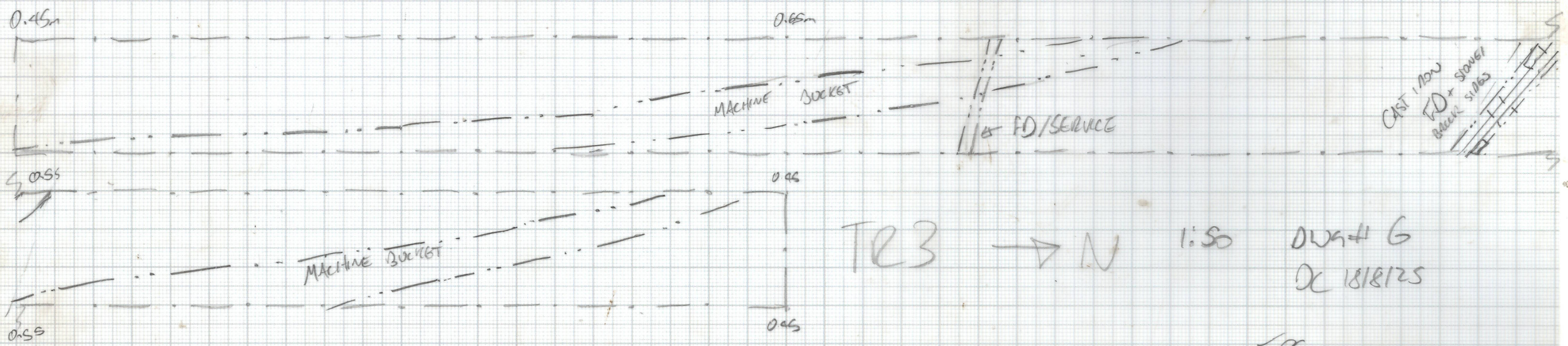
TRENCH

1:50

DWG# 5

DC 17/8/25

SDC



TRENCH → N

1:50

DWG# 6

DC 18/8/25

DC

14.2

SITE CODE 23768	
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DATE	
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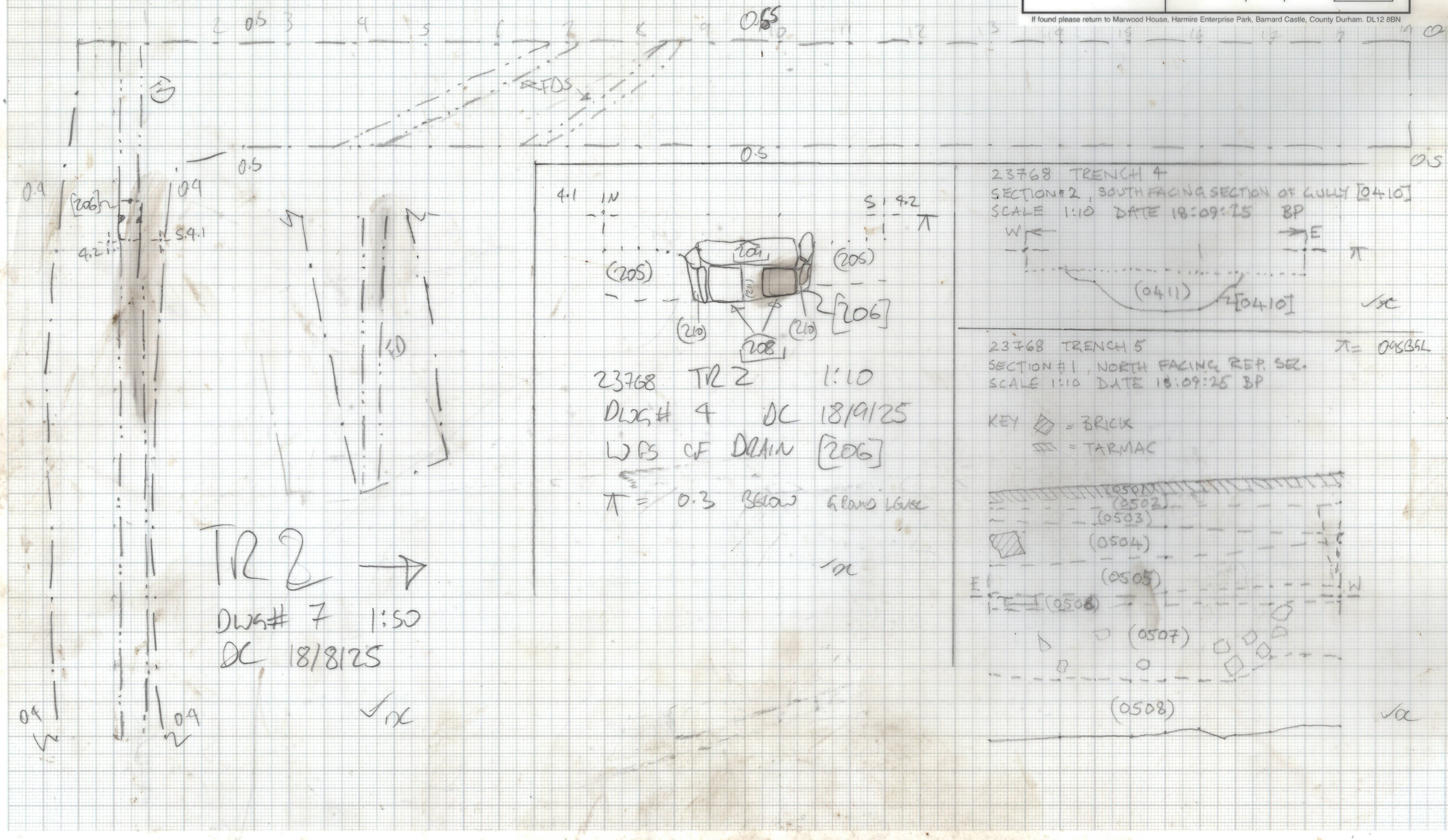
CHECKED BY	



23768 TR2 1:10
DWG# 4 DC 18/9/25
LOG OF DRAIN [206]

⊼ = 0.3 BELOW GROUND LEVEL

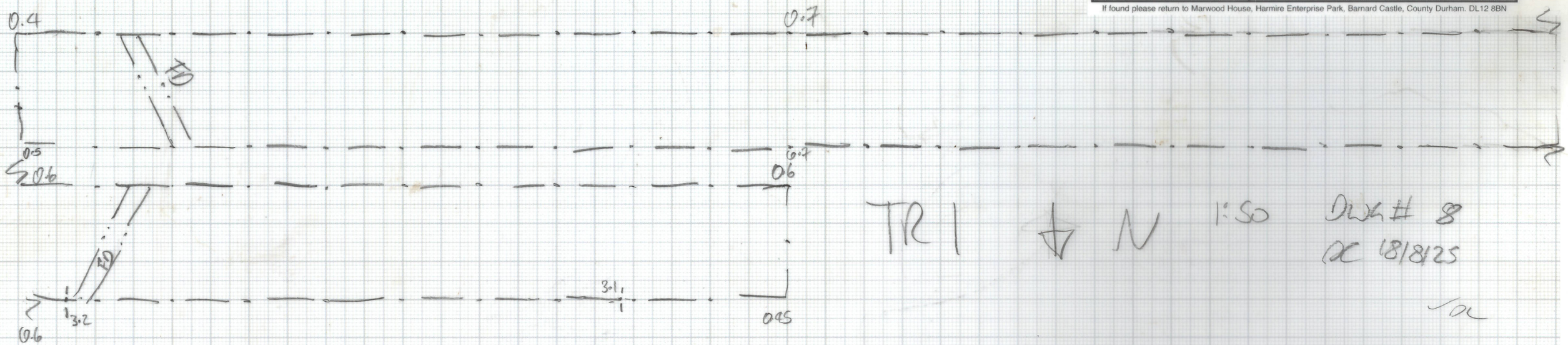
23768 TRENCH 4
SECTION #2, SOUTH FACING SECTION OF GULLY [0410]
SCALE 1:10 DATE 18:09:25 BP

23768 TRENCH 5
SECTION #1, NORTH FACING REP. SEC.
SCALE 1:10 DATE 18:09:25 BP

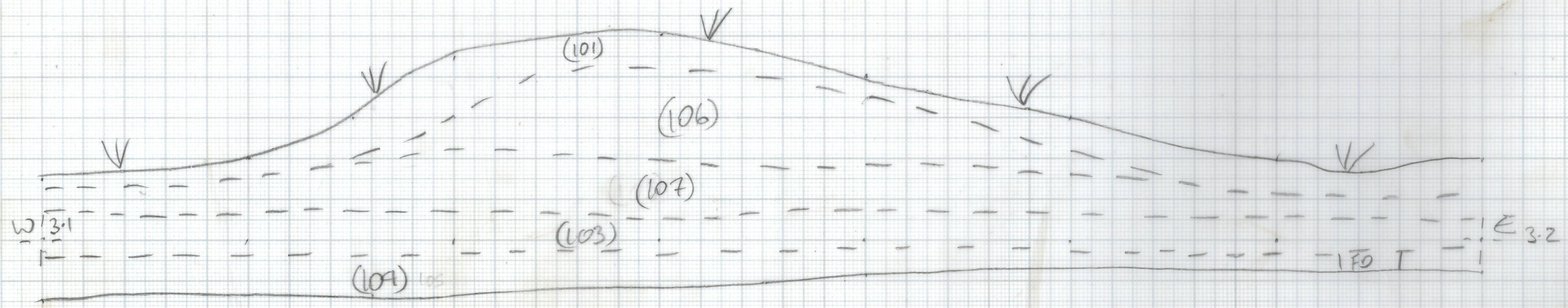
⊼ = 095B5L

KEY = BRICK
= TARMAC

SITE CODE 23768	
PLAN/SECTION NO.	NORTH
SCALE	SHEET No 3
DATE	
DRAWN BY	
CHECKED BY	

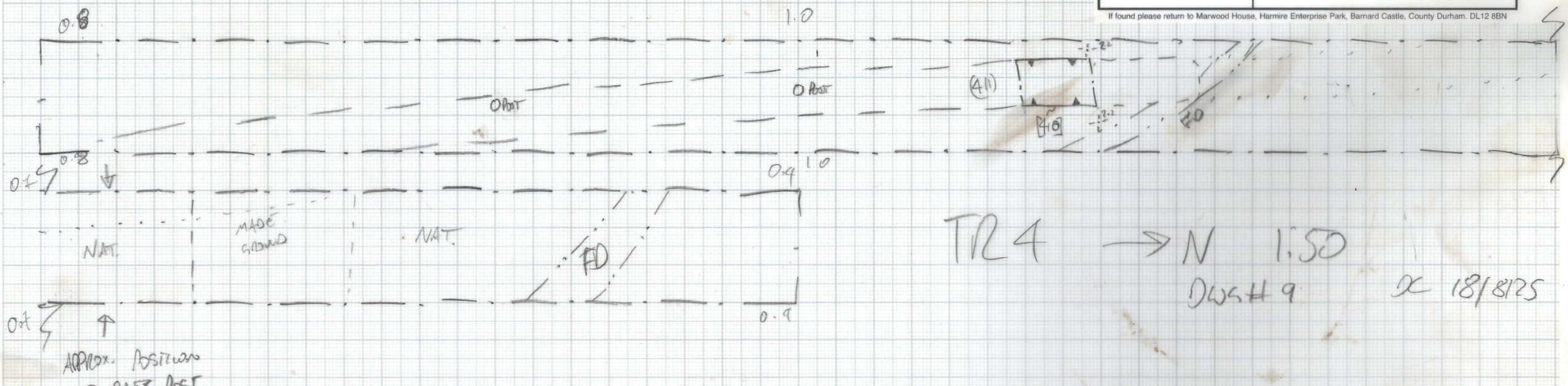


TR1 ⊹ N 1:50 Dwg # 8
DC 18/8/25



23768 Dwg #3 DC 18/9/25
TR1 1:20 SFS OF MODERN MOUND AT W. OF TR1
DC

SITE CODE 23768	
PLAN/SECTION NO.	NORTH
SCALE	SHEET No 4
DATE	
DRAWN BY	
CHECKED BY	



TR4 → N 1.50

DWG # 9

X 18/8/25