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**Grove Road  
Kirk Sandall  
South Yorkshire**

**Trial Trench Evaluation**

Report no. 2532

October 2013

Client: Urban i (Doncaster) Ltd



**Grove Road  
Kirk Sandall  
South Yorkshire**

**Trial Trench Evaluation**

*Summary*

*A trial trench evaluation has been carried out on land off Grove Road, Kirk Sandall in advance of a proposed development. This report presents the results of an initial trench excavation over an anticipated access road. Towards the southern limits of the trench, a ditch and brick surface were investigated. Post-medieval pottery was associated with the ditch's fill.*



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## Report Information

Client: Urban i (Doncaster) Ltd  
Address: 3 Lazarus Court, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN1 3NF  
Report Type: Archaeological trial trenching  
Location: Grove, Road, Kirk Sandall  
County: South Yorkshire  
Grid Reference: SE 6095 0850  
Period(s) of activity: Post-medieval  
represented  
Report Number: 2532  
Project Number: 4092  
Site Code: GKS13  
OASIS ID: archaeol11-163170  
Planning Application No.: Not provided  
Date of fieldwork: July 2013  
Date of report: August 2013  
Project Management: Jane Richardson BSc MSc PhD MIfA  
Fieldwork: Charlie Morris  
Report: Jane Richardson  
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Photography: Charlie Morris  
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Authorisation for  
distribution: -----



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## **1 Introduction**

Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) was commissioned by Paul Bilous, Technical Manager for Urban i (Doncaster) Ltd, to carry out a trial trench evaluation on land off Grove Road, Kirk Sandall (Fig. 1). The trench was located in an area likely to be used for access, with further trenching anticipated at a later date (Fig. 2). The scheme of work was undertaken in accordance with guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (2012) and to a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by ASWYAS (Lightfoot 2008), with recent amendments by Andy Lines of the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (pers. comm.). These amendments include an extension of Zone 4 at the expense of Zone 1, and an understanding that trenching may be extended into Zones 3 and 4 after initial evaluation work has been conducted. The evaluation was carried out on 23rd and 24th July 2013.

### **Site location, topography and land-use**

The proposed development area (PDA) is on land located to the east of the Don Navigation, to the south of St Oswald's Church and to the south-west of Moor Lane, Kirk Sandall, centred at SE 6095 0850 (Figs 1 and 2). The area slopes gently to the north from approximately 9m OD to 7m OD.

The PDA was formerly part of a farm, with some demolished buildings evident and continues to be used as pasture, with some farm buildings used as cow sheds.

### **Geology and soils**

The soils of the area consist of:

- Wigton Moor Association, described as 'permeable fine and coarse loamy soils variably affected by groundwater' (SSEW 1983, 831c) and;
- Newport 1 Association, described as 'deep well drained sandy and coarse loamy soils. Some sandy soils affected by groundwater. Risk of wind and water erosion' (SSEW 1983, 551d).

The drift geology of the area consists of alluvial silt and clay, while the solid geology comprises undifferentiated Permian and Triassic sandstones, including Bunter and Keuper (BGS 1969).

## **2 Archaeological and Historical Background**

The following is taken from a desk-based assessment undertaken by ASWYAS (Ford 2006).

Evidence for prehistoric activity in the general vicinity is sparse, though a number of artefacts have been recovered; a flint blade was discovered within an area of new housing (Magilton 1977, 55); a Neolithic polished stone axe was found in the nearby village of Long Sandall, and a Bronze Age perforated stone hammer was also found nearby (Doncaster Museum Record card).

Later prehistoric evidence is often discernible from aerial photographs (e.g. Riley 1980). Cropmark data for the area shows ‘brickwork’ field systems visible to the southeast of the proposed development area. Recent excavation at Armthorpe, has shown that ‘brickwork’ field systems may also date to the Romano-British period (Richardson 2001; Richardson 2004; Richardson and Rose 2004).

The Romano-British period is well-represented within the town of Doncaster, to the southwest of Kirk Sandall. The Roman fort at Doncaster (Danum) was founded in *c.* AD 71 and occupation continued until the 4th century AD (Magilton 1977, 33-34). A rectilinear enclosure to the north-west of the proposed development has been identified and interpreted as a possible Roman encampment, though only a single Romano-British sherd of pottery has been recovered from the immediate area.

The ‘Sandall’ element of the place-name is Old English meaning a ‘sandy nook of land’ (Smith 1961, 21). The ‘Kirk’ element is Old Norse meaning church. Kirk Sandall has origins at least as long ago as the Norman period, with a church (St Oswald’s) mentioned in the Domesday Book implying a Saxon date (Magilton 1977, 54-55), as does herringbone work identified in the west wall of the nave, making it one of only fifteen Saxon churches in South Yorkshire (Andy Lines pers. comm.). A Saxon iron spearhead was also been recovered near the church (Robinson pers. comm.), which further supports a Saxon origin.

At the time of the Domesday survey, the parish of Sandall included a ‘carucate in demesne and four borders’ (Hunter 1828, 198) and was part of the lordship of Conisbrough (Hey 1979, 30). It has passed through several estate holders, such as the earls of Warren, the house of York, the Lords Hunsdon and the Cokes and there is a suggestion of a manor house here (ibid). One of the most prominent families in Kirk Sandall was the Rokeby family. William Rokeby, who was born in 1460 became Rector of St Oswald’s Church and was later the Archbishop of Dublin and Lord Chancellor of Ireland. He died in 1521 and his remains were interred at St Oswald’s Church in the specially built Rokeby Chapel (Pevsner 1959, 293). Kirk Sandall was held by the Rokeby family for 300 years, but was sold to Mr George Martin in 1776 (ibid., 203). The lands owned by George Martin are depicted on the 1807 enclosure map.

Kirk Sandall is considered to be a shrunken medieval village with earthworks in two fields. One of these is located to the south-west of St Oswald’s Church. There is a possibility of the remains of a Manor house on land formerly owned by George Martin according to the enclosure map and probably previously owned by the Rokeby family. A silver hammered penny dating to the reign of Elizabeth I was found nearby (Doncaster Museum Record card).

Modern development has altered the landscape of the area, particularly after the construction of the Don Navigation, in the 18th century on the south-western edge of the proposed development area. The glass industry was of particular significance in Kirk Sandall with the construction of the Pilkington Glass Factory which began operation in 1922 (Barker 1960,

210). Most of the land of the glass factory was sold in 1969 and now forms part of the Kirk Sandall Industrial Estate.

Three geophysical surveys have been carried out to the east of the proposed development area (Webb 2002; Webb 1998; Cottrell and Webb 1995), as has a watching brief (Brown 2000) and an evaluation (Brown 1995). Despite the antiquity of Kirk Sandall, these have revealed little archaeological evidence. The evaluation revealed evidence of a single medieval rubble field boundary. Two watching briefs have been carried out at St Oswald's Church, revealing medieval and post-medieval structures associated with the construction of the church (Dennison 1999; Dennison and Dennett 2005). Other archaeological investigations carried out in the vicinity have not yielded evidence of archaeological remains (GSB 2001, Oxford Archaeology North 2002, Lindsey Archaeological Services 2002).

### **3 Aims and Objectives**

The aim of the archaeological evaluation by trial trenching is to establish the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits and features and to determine the depth of these remains.

This information will assist in the assessment of any potential impacts that may arise from the proposed development. It will also allow Andy Lines (SYAS) to make an informed decision on the archaeological implications of the proposed development, and to inform on the scope and extent of further mitigation.

The aims will be met by the controlled excavation of one trench initially, 20m by 2m, under archaeological supervision (Fig. 2).

### **4 Methodology**

All excavation was undertaken in accordance with IfA guidelines *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008), and in compliance with English Heritage MoRPHE *PPN3: Archaeological Excavation* (2008).

The stripping of the trench was monitored by a qualified and experienced archaeologist, and was carried out using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. Stripping took place in level spits to the top of the first archaeological horizon or undisturbed natural.

All archaeological features were planned and then manually excavated by hand in a stratigraphic manner. A full written, drawn and photographic record of the archaeological features was made. The excavation limits and the archaeology were surveyed using electronic survey equipment with larger scale hand drawn plans of features at 1:20. Sections were drawn at 1:10. All sections and plans include spot-heights related to Ordnance Datum in metres as correct to two decimal places. Tie-in information was undertaken during the course of the evaluation and was fixed in relation to the National Grid.



A soil-sampling programme and artefact recovery strategy were established at the onset of the archaeological works, but only a few post-medieval finds were recovered (see below). Modern artefacts within an area of recent disturbance (e.g. light fittings, plastic-coated wire and building debris) were noted but not retained.

The site archive contains all the information gathered during the archaeological evaluation and it is indexed in Appendix 1. A concordance of contexts is given in Appendix 2. The archive is currently held at ASWYAS headquarters but archive deposition at Doncaster Museum is anticipated.

## 5 Results

Trench 1, orientated north-east to south-west, was excavated to a depth of 1.3m. A deposit of sand mixed with modern building debris (1000) was exposed initially, to a depth of 0.5m. This sealed a buried topsoil (1001) of grey-brown sandy loam, *c.* 0.3m in depth, which in turn overlay a subsoil of brown sand (1002), also 0.3m deep. Towards the north-eastern limits of the trench, this subsoil overlay natural clean sand, while further to the south-west a substantial area of disturbance (over 9m in length) cut through the subsoil and natural sand (Plate 1). This disturbance (1003) was associated with concrete, polythene, wire and light fittings. Beyond this, towards the south-western limits of the trench, two archaeological features were encountered: a ditch and a brick surface.

Ditch 1006, orientated north-west to south-east, was up to 2.15m wide and 0.6m deep, with steep sides and a rounded base, and a shallow step on the north-eastern side (Fig. 3, S.3). On excavation, a terminal was exposed within the deepest part of the ditch, within which a brick surface (1005) was laid (Plate 2). The bricks, located on top off a ditch fill of brown sand (1004), were probably laid as hard standing to facilitate access across the softer ground of the infilled ditch. The ditch fill contained two sherds of post-medieval pottery of likely mid to late 17th and early 18th-century date, handmade bricks of 16th to 18th-century date (most likely reused) and a cattle rib fragment.

## 6 Artefact Record

### Post-medieval pottery by C. Cumberpatch

Three sherds of pottery were submitted for identification and dating. The details are summarised in the catalogue below. The assemblage would suggest activity on or close to the site in the mid to late 17th and early 18th century. Pottery of this period is of considerable interest as it saw the transition from a distinctively post-medieval mode of production to the equally distinctive early modern mode of production.

*Catalogue*

Brown Glazed Fineware: One rim sherd (18g) from an open jar in a fine pale orange sandy fabric with sparse fine non-crystalline inclusions. The rim is rounded and clubbed with a slightly pointed lip. The glaze (internal and external) is brown, shiny and shows some evidence of mottling and has a definite tendency to flake from the underlying surface. A late 17th to 18th-century date is most probable although a later 18th-century date cannot be ruled out. *Ditch 1006, fill 1004*

Redware: Two joining sherds forming part of the clubbed rim of a wide, shallow dish (142g). The vessel was glazed internally and has streaks and splashes of glaze externally. The clear (red) glaze is flaky and has been removed from much of the internal surface. A mid to late 17th or early 18th-century date is most probable, placing the vessel at the end of the post-medieval period or in the early part of the early modern period. *Ditch 1006, fill 1004*

**Ceramic building material by P. Mills**

Two bricks presented for study are typical of the handmade slop moulded bricks which are used in the midlands, the east coast and the north with a date range from the 16th to 18th century. The traces of mortar on one brick, the difference in sizes and the damage suggest that they have been reused from earlier structures.

*Catalogue*

A slop moulded brick in a light red (2.5YR7/6) hard fabric with a powdery feel and an irregular fracture, with inclusions of moderate poorly sorted stone in a very sandy matrix. It has a weight of 2355g, length 255mm (10 inches) x 120 mm (4 ¾ inch) x 50 mm (2 inches). It has fairly sharp fairly irregular arrises. Sandy upper surface, with a crater formed by missing surface and core along 1/3 of top. Headers show creasing and the stretchers show fine striations horizontal to the top and base. The underside is uneven with abundant straw impression. *Brick surface 1005*

A handmade slop moulded brick, in the same fabric, with weight of 2815g, length 240mm (9 ½ inches), width 115 mm (4 ½ inches) and depth of 60 mm (2 1/3 inches). It has fairly regular fairly sharp arrises with a wiped upper surface, with a pressure mark diagonal to stretcher arise, and some traces of mortar. One header is wiped, with striations running top to base. The other header shows creasing and mortar traces. One stretcher face shows creasing and mortar traces, with the other showing a diagonal longitudinal pressure mark. The base is sandy with common straw impressions. *Brick surface 1005*

## **7 Environmental Record**

### **Animal bone**

One fragment from a cattle rib was recovered from the only fill (1004) of ditch 1006. This should be retained if further investigations are anticipated, but otherwise can be discarded.

## **8 Conclusions**

The excavation and recording of a single trench was undertaken on land off Grove Road, Kirk Sandall. An archaeological ditch, associated with three sherds of pottery indicative of mid to late 17th and early 18th-century activity, was investigated. A brick surface of overlying the ditch had probably been laid to provide hard standing over the softer ground of the infilled ditch.

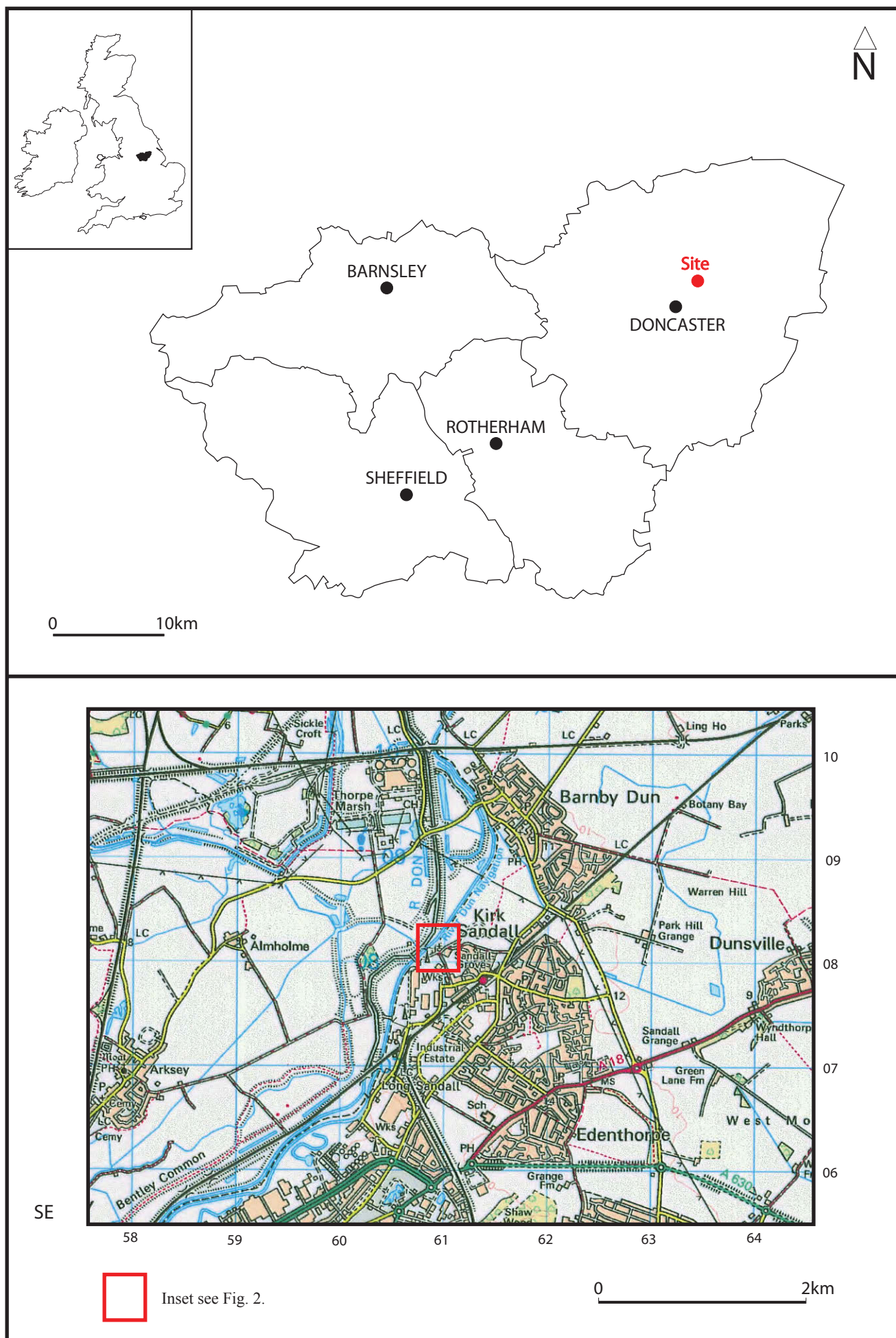


Fig. 1. Site location

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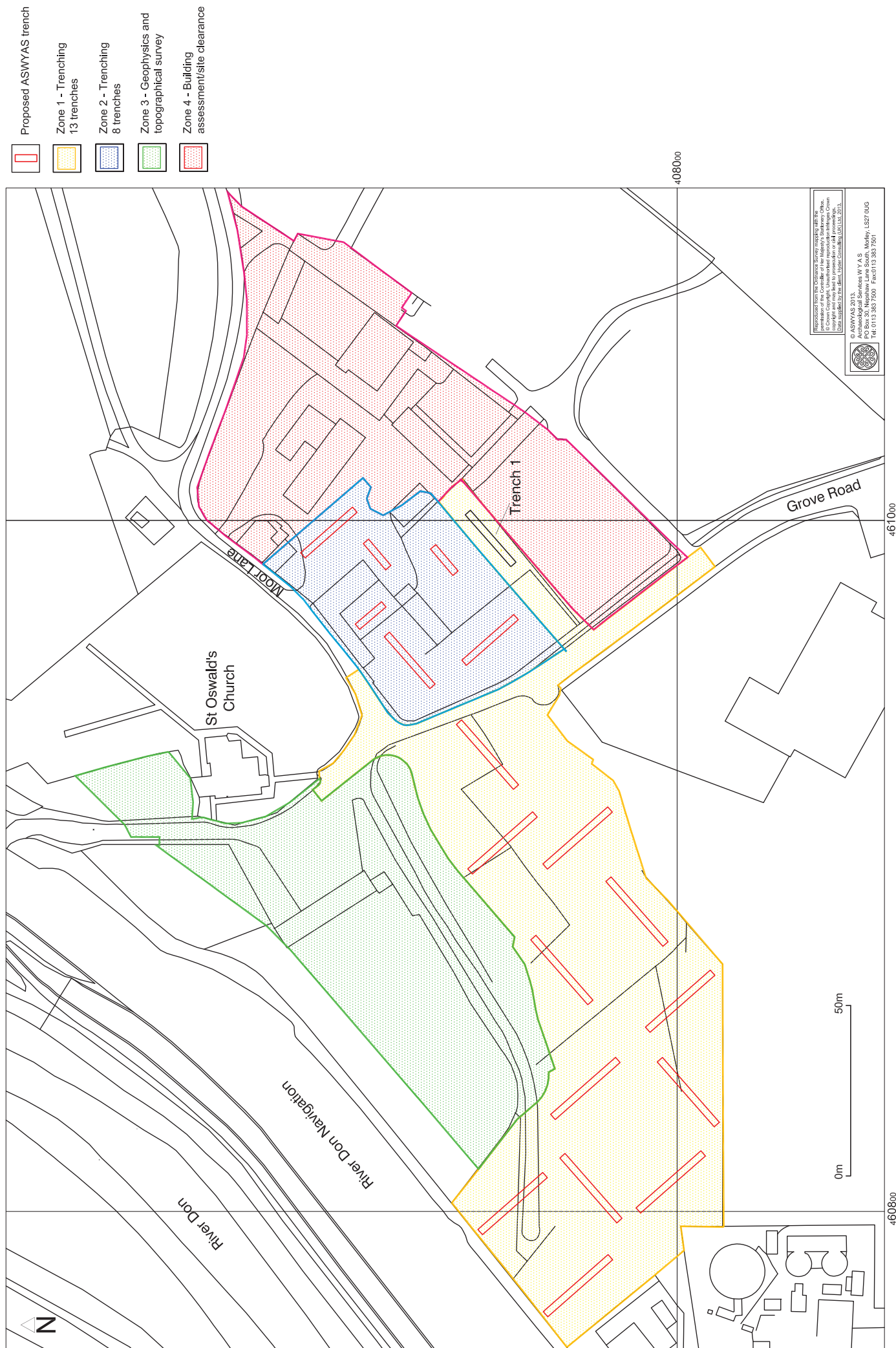


Fig. 2. Proposed evaluation methodology and the location of Trench 1 (1:1000 scale)

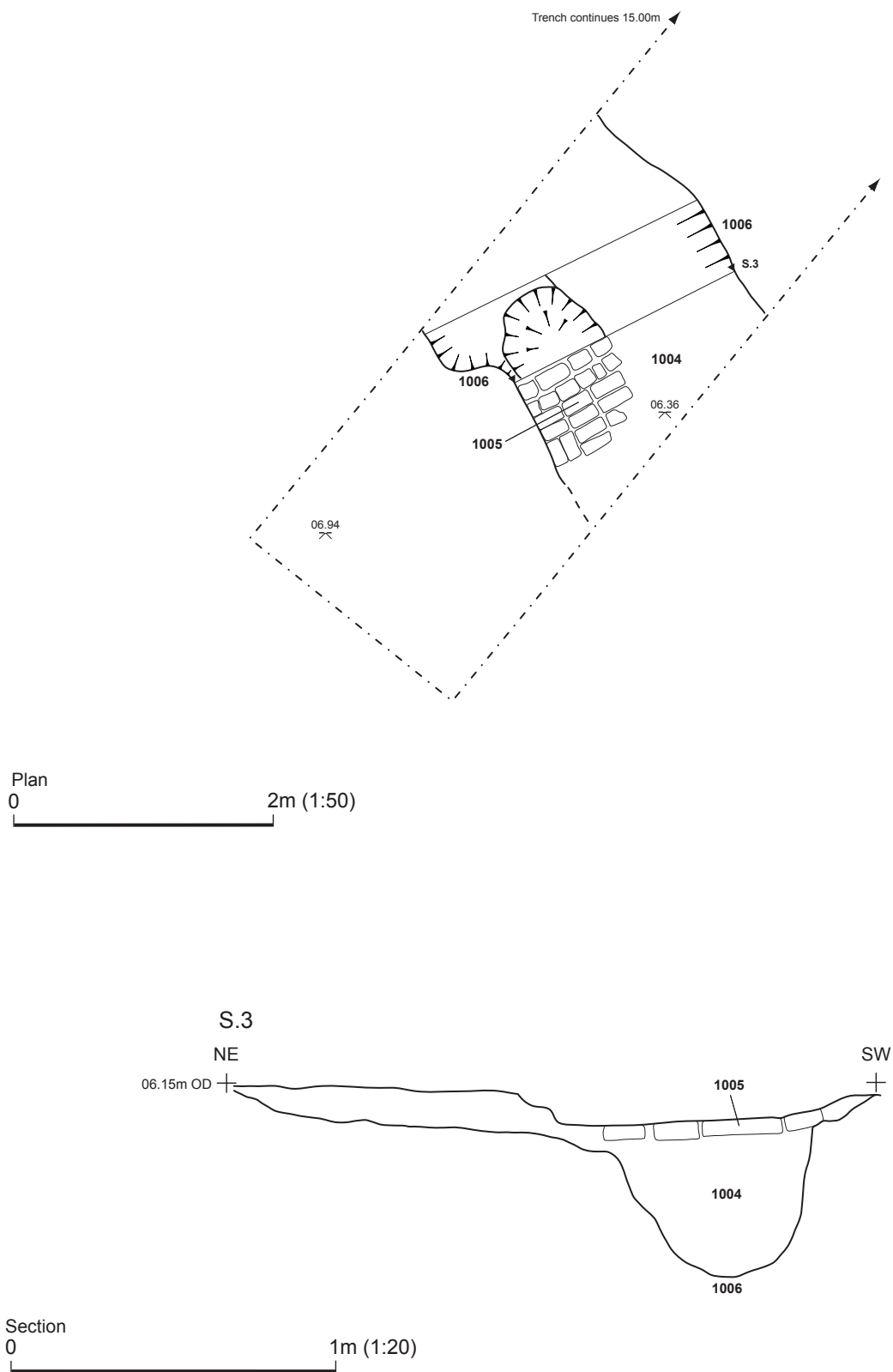
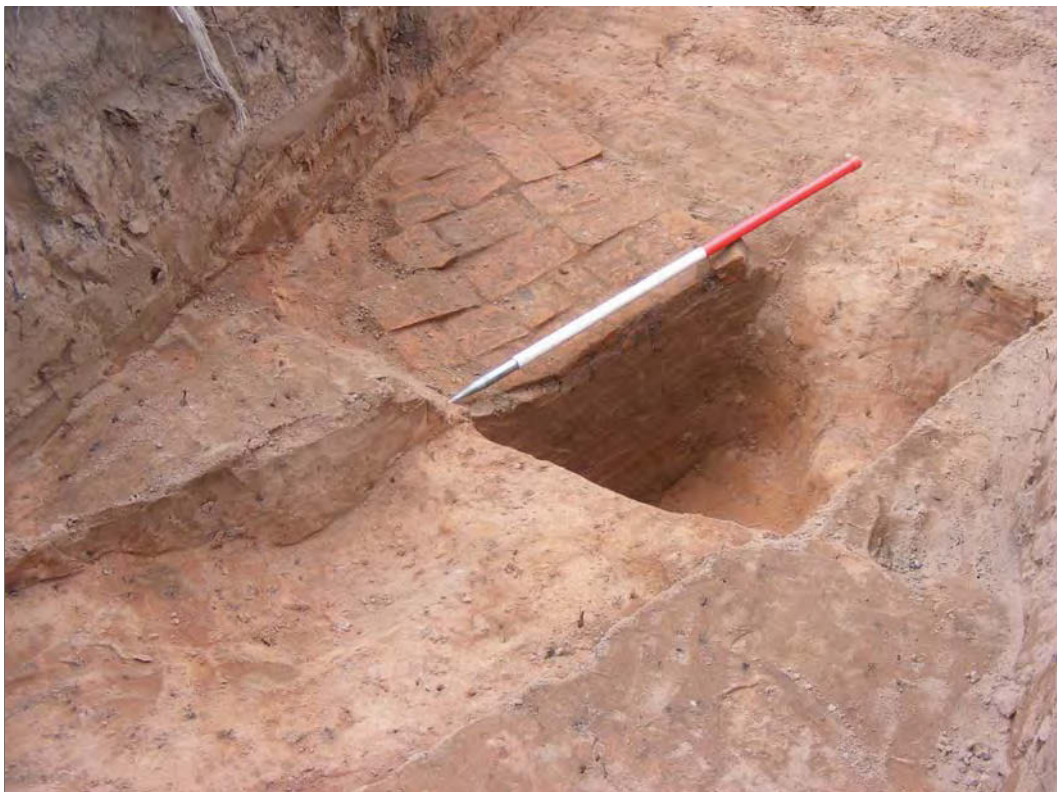


Fig. 3. Trench 1, plan and section



*Plate 1. Trench 1 showing modern intrusion, looking south-west*



*Plate 2. Ditch 1006 and surface 1005 in Trench 1, looking south*

## Appendix 1: Inventory of primary archive

Phase	File/Box No	Description	Quantity
Evaluation	File no.1	Daily site recording forms	2
		Context register sheets	1
		Context cards	7
		Drawing register sheets	1
		Permatrace sheets	3
		Sample register sheet	1
		Digital photograph record sheets	1
		Trench record sheets	1

## Appendix 2: Concordance of contexts

Context	Trench	Description	Artefacts and environmental samples
1000	1	Modern made ground	
1001	1	Grey-brown sandy loam topsoil	
1002	1	Brown sand subsoil	
1003	1	Modern intrusion (containing demolition material) that cuts subsoil	
1004	1	Brown sand fill of ditch 1005	Pottery (3), animal bone (1)
1005	1	Brick surface overlying ditch 1006	CBM (2)
1006	1	Cut of ditch	



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