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Archaeological Evaluation at Duncombe Barracks

By George Loffman

YAT Assessment Report 2019/37 March 2019



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CONTENTS

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY	3
KEY PROJECT INFORMATION	3
1 INTRODUCTION	4
2 METHODOLOGY	4
3 LOCATION, GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY	4
4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	5
5 RESULTS	5
6 DISCUSSION	6
LIST OF SOURCES	6
REFERENCES	6
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	6
APPENDIX 1 – INDEX TO ARCHIVE	7
APPENDIX 2 – CONTEXT LIST	8
APPENDIX 3 – WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION	11
PLATES	21

Plates

Cover: View of site

Plate 1 Trench 1 looking south-east.....	21
Plate 2 Trench 1 looking north-west.	22
Plate 3 North-east facing representative section, Trench 1 looking north-east.....	22
Plate 4 North-east facing Section 1, Context 1006 looking south-west.	23
Plate 5 North-east facing Section 2, Context 1008, looking south-west.....	23
Plate 6 North-east facing Section 3, Context 1010, looking south-west.....	24
Plate 7 Trench 2 looking north-west.	24
Plate 8 Trench 2 looking south-east.....	25
Plate 9 Trench 2 south-west facing section representative section	25
Plate 10 Trench 3 looking east.	26
Plate 11 Trench 3 looking west.	26
Plate 12 Trench 3 south facing representative section looking north.	27

Tables

Table 1 Index to archive	7
Table 2 Context list.....	8

Figures

Figure 1 Site location..... 28
Figure 2 Trench location..... 29
Figure 3 Trench plans 30
Figure 4 Representative section trenches 1,2 and 3..... 31

Abbreviations

AOD Above Ordnance Datum

BGL Below ground level

ON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Between the 5th and the 6th of March 2019 York Archaeological Trust conducted an archaeological evaluation at Duncombe Barracks (SE 59804 53016).

The work was undertaken for City of York Council (CYC) to help inform a planning application. The work was based on a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by CYC. The works involved the excavation and recording of three trenches.

Within the trenches the only features were the remains of plough furrows and field drains. The plough furrows probably represent agricultural activity during the medieval and post-medieval period. Modern foundations and made ground were encountered on the north-western part of the proposed development site. These likely belong to buildings depicted on the 1953 OS map.

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name	Duncombe Barracks
YAT Project No.	6129
Document Number	2019/37
Type of Project	Evaluation
Client	CYC
Planning Application No.	N/A
NGR	SE 59804 53016
Museum Accession No.	N/A
OASIS Identifier	yorkarch1-345804

REPORT INFORMATION

Version	Produced by		Edited by		Approved by	
	Initials	Date	Initials	Date	Initials	Date
1	GL	14/03/19	BR	18/03/19	BR	18/03/19

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1 INTRODUCTION

Between the 5TH and the 6TH of March 2019 YAT conducted an archaeological evaluation at Duncombe Barracks (SE 59804 53016) (Figure 1).

The work was undertaken for CYC to help inform a planning application that was under consideration by CYC.

Although the proposed development site lies outside the Central Area of Archaeological Importance, it lies in the proximity of known Roman remains close to the modern road of Bootham.

The aim of the evaluation was to ascertain the significance and extent of any archaeological assets within the area of the proposed development. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Clare MacRae, CYC Archaeologist (Appendix 3).

2 METHODOLOGY

The methodology followed the WSI (Appendix 3) with some amendments to the position and number of trenches, as discussed with Clare MacRae.

The placement of the trenches was restricted by the presence of shrub areas, as well as tree stumps. The trenches were moved to be clear of these areas as per the WSI (Figure 2).

After the excavation of the first three trenches, the results showed no significant archaeological features. It was therefore agreed with Clare MacRae that no further trenches would be excavated.

Trenches were located on the scale base map provided by the client. These were then located on the ground by using a Leica GPS unit. The area was scanned using a CAT and Genny for the presence of buried services, prior to excavation. The trenches were excavated by a tracked machine equipped with a 2.0m wide toothless bucket, under supervision of an archaeologist.

As the site was not fully secure, trenches were opened, recorded and closed on the same day.

During the course of excavating Trench 2, a surface run off ceramic drain was struck and fractured. The drain pipe was repaired and made good prior to backfilling of the trench.

All deposits were excavated and recorded as per the standard YAT single context recording system. Digital photography was used.

Finds were retrieved and bagged by individual context number.

Survey was carried out by using a Leica GPS Unit.

3 LOCATION, GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

The proposed development site is located within the grounds of the Duncombe Barracks off Burton Stone Lane (Figure 1). The ground is an open grassed area containing small patches of

shrubs and tree stumps. The proposed site is bounded by the barracks buildings of Air Training Corps 110 Squadron to the south-west, Burton Stone Lane to the north-west, St Luke's Parish Church and Coltan's Hospital to the north and Bootham Terrace football stadium to the east.

The underlying geology is made up of Sherwood Sandstone Group, overlain with superficial deposits of Ane Glaciolacustrine Formation – clay and silt (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> - accessed 11/03/19).

The topography of the site is generally level.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies close to an area of known Roman occupation centred on the modern Bootham carriageway. These include Roman cemeteries located on both sides of Bootham.

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by On Site Archaeology at 8–9 St Peter's Grove (OSA 2008). A single east–west aligned linear interpreted as drainage or boundary ditch, possibly of a Roman date, was found. A pit, possibly of the same age was also recorded. Above this was a probable medieval ploughsoil.

Historic mapping suggests that the area was agricultural land up until the 1950s when buildings are depicted within the plot.

5 RESULTS

The stratigraphic sequence was similar across the three trenches. This is summarised below and illustrated in Figure 4 and Plates 3, 9 and 12.

The earliest deposits (1004, 2002 and 3004) encountered were a yellow/brown sandy clay, interpreted as a natural deposit. This was found at a depth of between 11.70m AOD and 11.78m AOD or 0.86m to 0.7m BGL.

A number of linear features aligned northeast/south-west were cut into the natural deposits (Plate 4–6). These were relatively shallow, between 0.07 m and 0.16m in depth. One feature (1006) produced a late-13th century /early 14th century Brandsby type jug handle (Jenner pers.comm) and two sherds of heavily abraded CBM dating to Roman and the 13–16th Century. Their alignment respects that of Burton Stone Lane. Because of their consistent alignment and regularly spacing these have been interpreted as plough furrows.

Overlying the furrow cuts, but possibly contemporary with, was a grey brown silty clay deposit (1003, 2002 and 3003). This was approximately 0.3m in thickness. The deposit is possibly the remains of a plough soil.

Above this was a darker brownish grey silty clay (1002 and 3002), approximately 0.2m in thickness. This is interpreted as buried topsoil.

A number of field drains were found on various alignments, some of which were directly above the furrows. A ceramic drain pipe was found within Trench 2, aligned north-east/south-west.

Concrete foundations and rubble make-up (1001) were found above the buried topsoil. This was approximately 0.3m in thickness. This layer probably comprises demolition material from

the demolition of buildings shown on the 1953 OS map. This deposit was not present in the south eastern side of Trench 3.

These remains were sealed by topsoil and turf (1000, 2000 and 3000), approximately 0.15m to 0.40m in thickness.

6 DISCUSSION

Medieval agricultural activity is indicated by furrows across the site, and the presence of a possible ploughsoil. The continuation of agricultural activity into the post-medieval period is present in the form of a buried topsoil and field drains. The results of the evaluation suggest that the area was agricultural land from at least the medieval period and into the post-medieval period.

There was no indication of earlier archaeological remains uncovered during the course of this evaluation.

LIST OF SOURCES

BGS British Geological Survey <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

YAT would like to thank staff at the Air Training Corps for facilitating access to the site.

APPENDIX 1 – INDEX TO ARCHIVE

Item	Number of items
Context sheets	24
Levels register	0
Photographic register	0
Sample register	0
Drawing register	0
Original drawings	1
B/W photographs (films/contact sheets)	0
Colour slides (films)	0
Digital photographs	69
Written Scheme of Investigation	1
Report	1

Table 1 Index to archive

APPENDIX 2 – CONTEXT LIST

Context Number	Type	Description	Inclusions	Interpretation
1000	Layer	Friable, dark brownish grey, clayey silt	Occasional small stones	Turf/topsoil
1001	Layer	Banded layers of black and yellow hardcore, sand, cinder, mortar and rubble	N/A	Made ground. Probably associated with 1950s buildings.
1002	Layer	Firm, dark brownish grey, silty clay	Moderate charcoal and CBM flecks	Buried topsoil
1003	Layer	Firm, mid greyish brown, silty clay	Frequent manganese flecks, CBM and charcoal flecks	Subsoil/ploughsoil
1004	Layer	Firm, mid yellow brown, sandy clay	Frequent small to large stones	Natural
1005	Fill	Firm, mid orange grey brown, silty clay	Moderate small to large stones. Occasional CBM flecks.	Fill of furrow 1006
1006	Cut	Linear in plan. Aligned NE-SW. Measuring 2m x 1.10m x 0.09m (As exposed)	N/A	Furrow
1007	Fill	Firm, mid grey, silty clay	Moderate small and medium stones, charcoal flecks. Occasional CBM flecks	Fill of furrow 1008
1008	Cut	Linear in plan. Aligned NE – SW. Measuring 2m x .66m x 0.17m (as exposed).	N/A	Furrow
1009	Fill	Firm, dark greyish brown, silty	Frequent charcoal flecks, CBM flecka and small fragments, small stones.	Fill of furrow 1010

Context Number	Type	Description	Inclusions	Interpretation
		clay		
1010	Cut	Linear in Plan. Aligned NE-SW. Measuring 2m x 1.13m x 0.16m	N/A	Furrow
2000	Layer	Friable, dark brownish grey, clayey silt	Occasional small stones and CBM flecks	Turf/topsoil
2001	Layer	Friable, brown black, sandy silt and cinder	Frequent CBM, bricks, concrete, mortar and stones	Rubble demolition for 1950s buildings
2002	Layer	Firm, mid greyish brown, silty clay	Frequent manganese flecks, CBM and charcoal flecks	Subsoil/ploughsoil
2003	Layer	Firm, mid yellow brown, sandy clay	Frequent small to large stones	Natural.
2004	Fill	Firm, mid orange grey brown, silty clay	Moderate small to large stones. Occasional CBM flecks	Furrow
2005	Fill	Firm, mid orange grey brown, silty clay	Moderate small to large stones. Occasional CBM flecks	Furrow
3000	Layer	Friable, dark brownish grey, clayey silt	Occasional small stones and CBM flecks	Turf/topsoil
3001	Layer	Friable, mixed brown black, sandy silt and cinder	Frequent CBM, bricks, concrete, mortar and small stones	Rubble demolition associated with 1950s buildings.
3002	Layer	Firm, dark brownish grey, silty clay	Moderate charcoal and CBM flecks	Buried topsoil
3003	Layer	Firm, mid greyish brown, silty clay	Frequent manganese flecks, CBM and charcoal flecks	Subsoil/ploughsoil
3004	Layer	Firm, mid yellow brown, sandy clay	Frequent small to large stones	Natural
3005	Fill	Firm, mid orange grey brown, silty clay	Moderate small to large stones. Occasional CBM flecks	Furrow

Context Number	Type	Description	Inclusions	Interpretation
3006	Fill	Firm, mid orange grey brown, silty clay	Moderate small and large stones. Occasional CBM Flecks	Furrow
3007	Fill	Firm, mid grey, silty clay	Moderate small to medium stones and charcoal flecks. Occasional CBM flecks	Furrow

Table 2 Context list

APPENDIX 3 – WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

DUNCOMBE BARRACKS, YORK ARCHEOLOGICAL SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION: EVALUATION

CONTENTS

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Site Description
- 3 Summary Archaeological Description and Summary of Previous work
- 4 The Deposit Model
- 5 Evaluation Programme
- 6 Reinstatement
- 7 Health and Safety
- 8 Public Engagement
- 9 Summary
- 10 Bibliography

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August 2018

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document sets out the details of the archaeological evaluation that will be required on this site. There is good reason to believe that there are heritage assets of archaeological interest preserved on this site. The information this evaluation will provide is necessary to allow a reasoned

decision to be made on the impact this scheme will have on the significance of these assets.

1.2 The results of this archaeological evaluation will be used to determine the nature of any mitigation measures that might be necessary and the scale of archaeological work that it might include.

1.3 The archaeological policy of the planning authority is to seek to preserve at least 95% of archaeological deposits underneath a new development. City of York Council will advise an applicant on how this preservation target can be achieved.

1.4 Where planning, listed building or scheduled monument consent is required for development, a final report on the results of this evaluation will be required as part of the information submitted to validate an application. No application will be determined until this information has been provided and mitigation measures agreed. This follows the archaeology policy adopted by City of York Council and the contained in National Planning Policy Framework Section 16 (NPPF).

1.5 Where this document is used for securing competitive estimates, it is expected that appropriate professional procedures will be followed. In this respect, the attention of all parties is drawn to the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct and Code of Practice for those involved in Competitive Tendering.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 The site contains a flat central grassed area with scattered trees.

3.0 SUMMARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION AND SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS WORK

3.1 The proposed development site lies outside of the Central Area of Archaeological Importance. However, the modern roads of Bootham and Clifton have Roman origins with Clifton having several known areas of Roman occupation and cemeteries.

3.2 The Lumley Barracks plot adjacent was subject to archaeological watching brief and evaluation in 2002 ahead of residential development. A feature (possible seasonal pond?) was located at c.2m below existing ground level filled with large quantities of Roman pottery. Unfortunately there is no grey literature report available for this intervention.

3.3 Evaluation to the SW of the site on Avenue Road in 2001 produced evidence for Roman ditches and medieval pits. Further evidence of Roman activity has been located on St. Peter's Grove.

3.4 Prior to the construction of the barracks the site was used for agricultural purposes. Therefore parts of the site have been little disturbed and may contain archaeological features and deposits dating from the Roman and medieval periods.

Contact City of York Historic Environment Record for further information on previous archaeological work.

4.0 THE DEPOSIT MODEL

4.1 Not available at present.

5.0 THE EVALUATION PROGRAMME

5.1 The following details set out the approach that a field evaluation should adopt.

5.2 The following details need to be established :

5.2.1 are there anoxically preserved deposits, wet deposits, and dry deposits preserved across the site within the area proposed for level reduction?

5.2.3 can a deposit prediction for the site as a whole, indicating the nature and preservation of prehistoric, Roman, Anglian, Anglo-Scandinavian, medieval and post-medieval strata be made?

5.3 The on-site evaluation should consist of the following approach (this may be subject to alteration following detailed discussion with the client and the archaeological contractor):

5.3.1 the excavation of six evaluation trenches 20m in length across the site is required (see accompanying plan). The location of the proposed trenches can be changed but must avoid tree roots.

5.4 The following methodologies must be used:

5.4.1 All operations should limit destruction to that which is necessary to implement this specification. Where the examination of trenches is specified:

5.4.2 All overburden will be removed by mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision, down to either the top of undisturbed natural sub-soil or the top of archaeological deposits whichever is the higher. Areas of intensive modern disturbance will be given a low priority in excavation. Where practicable, the fills of these features will be removed by mechanical excavator.

5.4.3 all appropriate records must be made and kept;

5.4.4 all archaeological contexts must be sampled in accordance with a sampling strategy which must be agreed in advance with the Science Advisor, Historic England, 37 Tanner Row York and approved in writing by York City Council. All sampling must be in accordance with the recommendations contained in English Heritage 2011, Environmental Archaeology.

In addition, the advice of the Regional Science Advisor must be sought with regard to all other aspects of archaeological science, including dating, that might arise on this site. His recommendations must be followed and confirmation of the adoption of his recommendations supplied in writing to Assistant Director (City Development and Sustainability), City of York Council, West Offices, Station Rise York YO1 6GA

5.4.5 all records must be indexed, ordered, quantified, and checked for consistency;

5.4.6 all artefacts and ecofacts recovered and retained from the evaluation must be packed and stored in the appropriate materials and conditions to ensure that

minimal deterioration takes place and that all their associated records are complete;

5.4.7 in addition to this basic work to complete the records to Level 2, the environmental samples must be processed and assessed;

5.4.8 the rest of the material archive must be assessed for its potential to contribute to artefactual research;

5.4.9 and the stratigraphic sequence assessed.

5.4.10 Trenches must avoid known services.

Trenches must stay a safe distance away from pylons and overhead power lines.

The commissioning client will advise of any ecological or biodiversity issues which need to be taken into consideration.

The commissioning client will advise of any protected trees which must be avoided by the evaluation. Damage to trees covered by a Tree Protection Order carries a substantial fine.

Trenches must avoid any Japanese Knotweed (it is the commissioning client's responsibility to advise their archaeologist if Japanese Knotweed is present on the site).

5.5 The details and processes outlined in 5.1—5.4 will produce the following output as a concise report:

5.5.1 plan of site showing position of trenches;

5.5.2 portfolio of drawn sections, trench plans, and, where appropriate, drawings of artefacts; a matrix of all contexts

5.5.3 an interpretation of the structural sequence;

5.5.4 an interpretation of the archaeological and research potential of the remainder of the site

5.5.5 The City of York Council HER(C YC HER) supports the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large-scale developer funded fieldwork. The archaeological contractor must therefore complete the online OASIS form at. City of York Council will only accept reports as digital files. The report must be submitted as a PDF file(s). If in doubt about formats please contact John Oxley on 01904 551346 or e-mail to john.oxley@york.gov.uk.

5.5.6 The production of Site Archives and Finds Analysis will be undertaken according to Historic England's guidance - Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) 2006. The long term care of the

archive must be provided for. All the original material and paper archive must be prepared for deposition with an approved archaeological depository such as the Yorkshire Museum. These Institutions will normally make a charge to cover the long-term curation of the archaeological archive. The requirements of the receiving Institution must be identified at the time of producing an estimate for this scheme of investigation. It is assumed that normally all archives relating to archaeological work in the City of York area will be deposited with the Yorkshire Museum. A copy of the report on this evaluation must be deposited with the City of York Historic Environment Record (C YCHER). CYCHER will only accept reports in pdf format. If in doubt about format please contact John Oxley on 01904 551346 or e-mail to john.oxley@york.gov.uk. Once a report has become a public document by forming part of a planning application, City of York Council will place the information on its website. Please ensure that you and your client agree to this procedure in writing as part of the process of submitting the report to the CYCHER.

5.6 A synopsis of the narrative report, material archive and research potential of the site must be prepared and submitted with the report so that this can be published in an annual summary of archaeological work in the City of York.

5.7 The Contractor will be required to demonstrate by providing CV's that the staff appointed to direct, supervise, and work on this project have relevant experience of working both on complex urban sites and the complex archives which they produce.

5.8 All work must be done using the Yorkshire Museum accession and numbering systems.

5.9 The Contractor must use a computer-based recording and retrieval system and report publishing system. The recording system must be based on single context recording and planning. The publishing system should be able to produce text and illustrations in the formats detailed in para 5.5.5 above. The Contractor must have the written approval of City of York Council for the recording system that it wishes to use on this site.

5.10 The Contractor must submit a full project design and/or a schedule of works which it develops from this scheme of investigation to the City of York for written approval prior to work commencing on-site.

5.11 The Contractor must give at least seven days notice in writing of the start of works on site to Assistant Director (City Development and Sustainability), City of York Council, West Offices, Station Rise York YO1 6GA

5.12 The Contractor will be subject to regular monitoring visits by the City of York. Reasonable access must be given at all times to the Principal Archaeologist, City of York Council or his agent to the site and to premises used for the purposes of post-excavation work to allow this monitoring to proceed. This will ensure that the scheme of investigation is being followed and that high professional standards are being maintained. It can be anticipated that the City of York Council will want to inspect a 10% sample of all archaeological records generated by the project. Reasonable access must also be given at all times to the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor or his agent to the site and to premises used for the purposes of post-excavation work to allow him to monitor the archaeological science elements of this scheme of investigation.

6.0 REINSTATEMENT

6.1 Ground reinstatement standards are not specified in this document.

6.2 Contractors must ensure that the question of backfilling and surface reinstatement is discussed with the client/landowner prior to any works commencing on-site.

7.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

7.1 Health and Safety regulations and requirements cannot be ignored no matter how imperative the need to record archaeological information; hence Health and Safety will take priority over archaeological matters. All archaeologists undertaking fieldwork must do so under a defined Health and Safety Policy. Archaeologists undertaking fieldwork must observe safe working practices; the Health and Safety arrangements must be agreed and understood by all relevant parties before work commences. Risk assessments must be carried out and documented in accordance with Management of Health and

Safety at Work Regulations 1992. The Contractor should determine whether this projects is covered by Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 1994, and ensure that all requirements under the regulations are met.

8.0 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

8.1.1 The general public has a strong interest in archaeological issues. Excavations, both large and small, often attract a great deal of public interest. They also represent an opportunity for people to experience at first hand the excitement of archaeological work. This is recognised in the NPPF and by the City of York Council in its emerging policy framework.

9.0 SUMMARY

9.1 This document sets out the background to and outlines a programme for an archaeological evaluation on this site. There is good reason to believe that there may be heritage assets of archaeological interest preserved on this site. The archaeological evaluation will provide information that will allow the City of York Council to put in place appropriate mitigation measures.

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Watkinson and Neal, 1998, First Aid for Finds (RESCUE/UKIC publication)

PLATES



Plate 1 Trench 1 looking south-east. Scale unit 1.0m



Plate 2 Trench 1 looking north-west. Scale unit 1.0m



Plate 3 North-east facing representative section, Trench 1 looking north-east. Scale unit 0.5m.



Plate 4 North-east facing Section 1, Context 1006 looking south-west. Scale unit 0.5m



Plate 5 North-east facing Section 2, Context 1008, looking south-west. Scale unit 0.5m



Plate 6 North-east facing Section 3, Context 1010, looking south-west. Scale unit 0.5m



Plate 7 Trench 2 looking north-west. Scale unit 1.0m



Plate 8 Trench 2 looking south-east. Scale unit 1.0m



Plate 9 Trench 2 south-west facing section representative section, looking north-east. Scale unit 0.5m



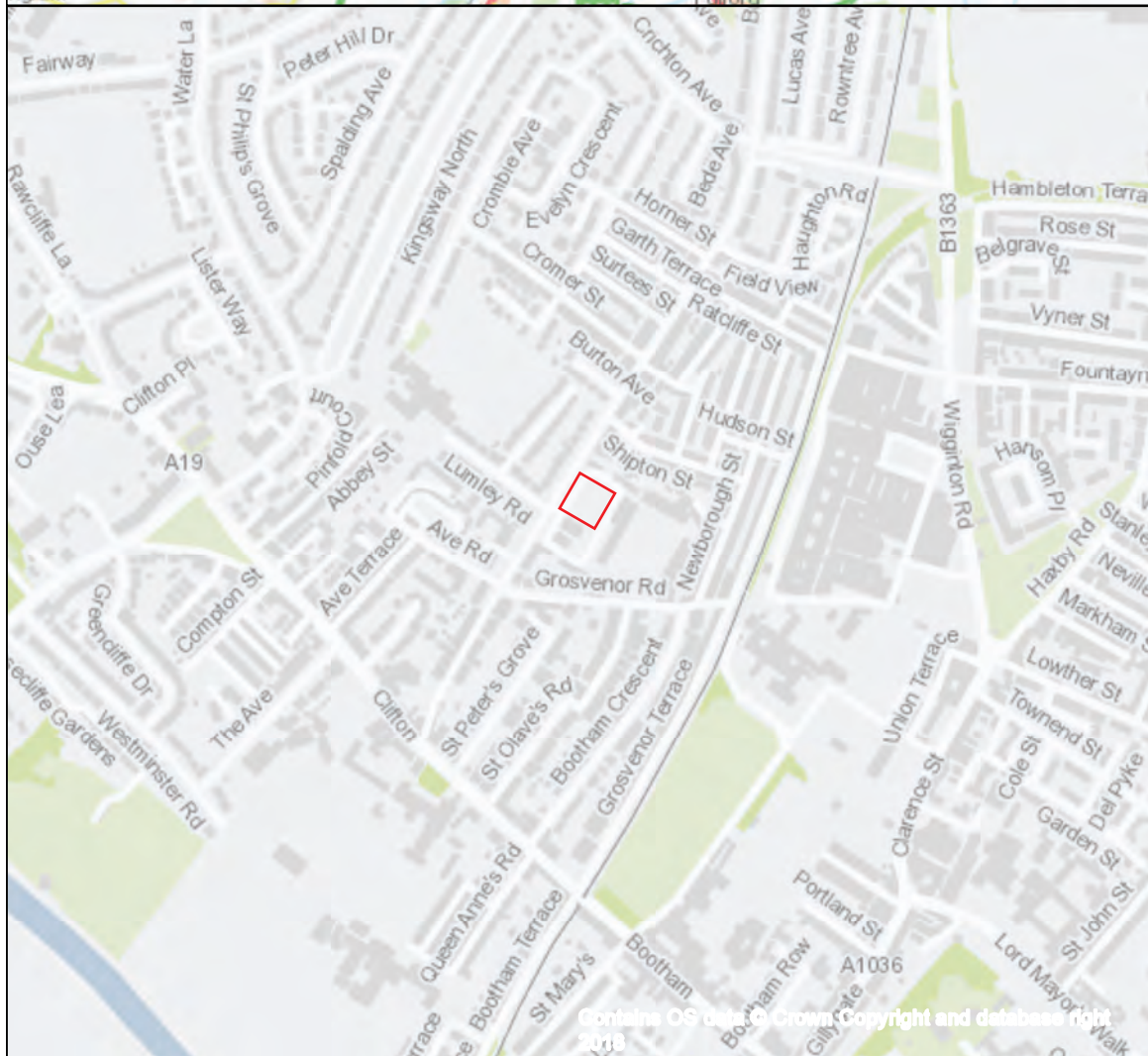
Plate 10 Trench 3 looking east. Scale unit 1.0m



Plate 11 Trench 3 looking west. Scale unit 1.0m



Plate 12 Trench 3 south facing representative section looking north. Scale unit 0.5m



— Site location

Fig. 1 Site location 1:100,000 (top) 1:10,000 (bottom)

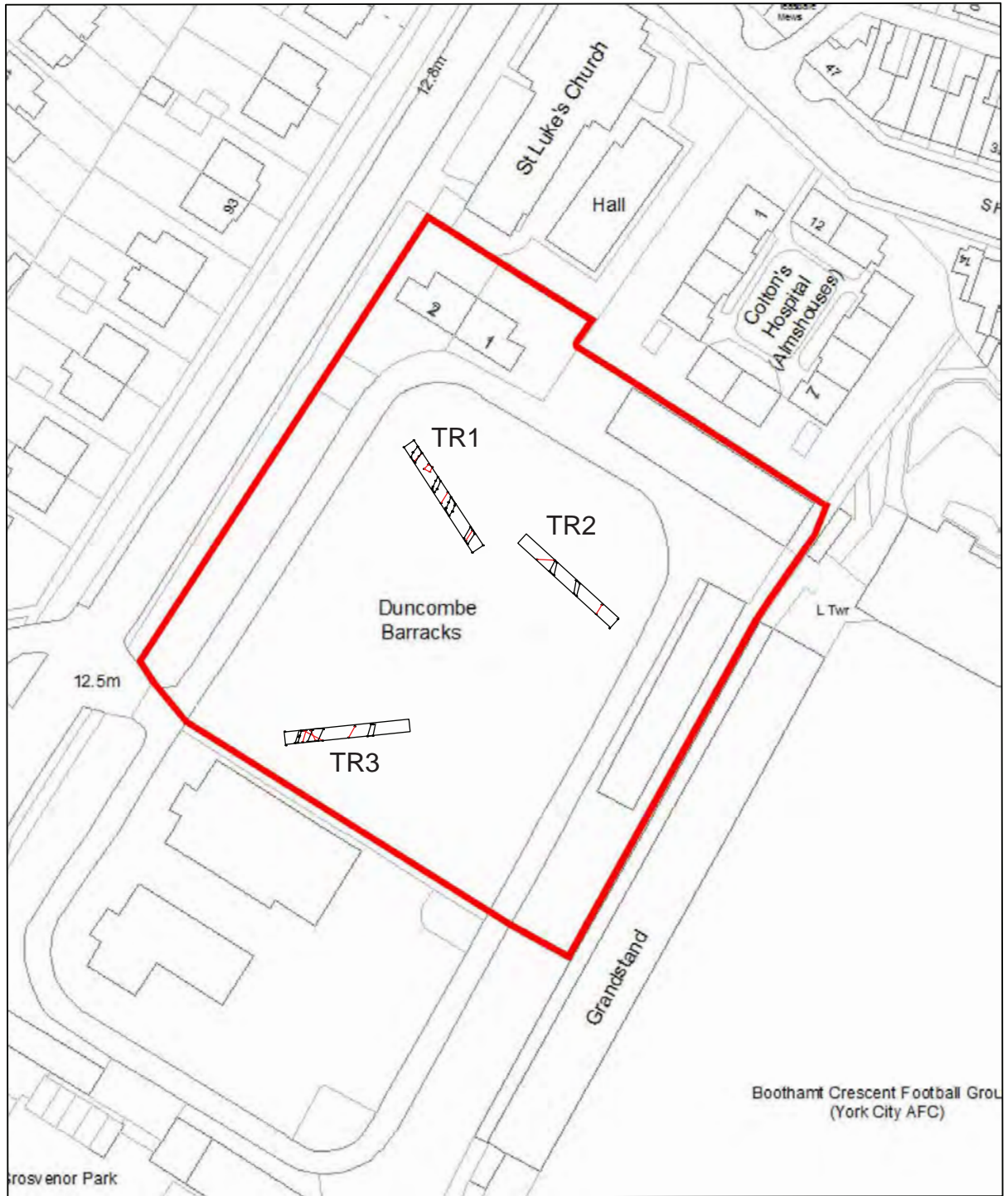
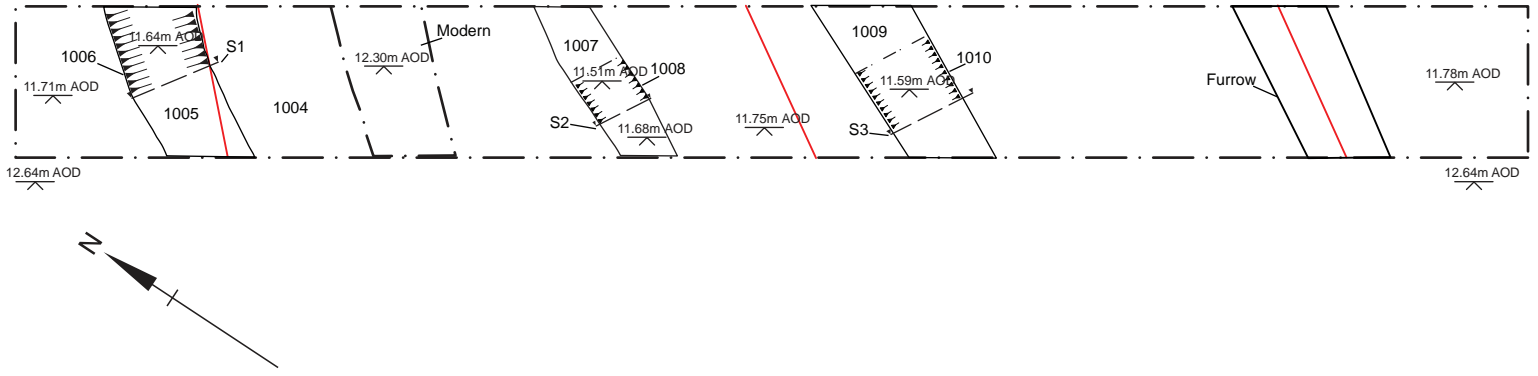
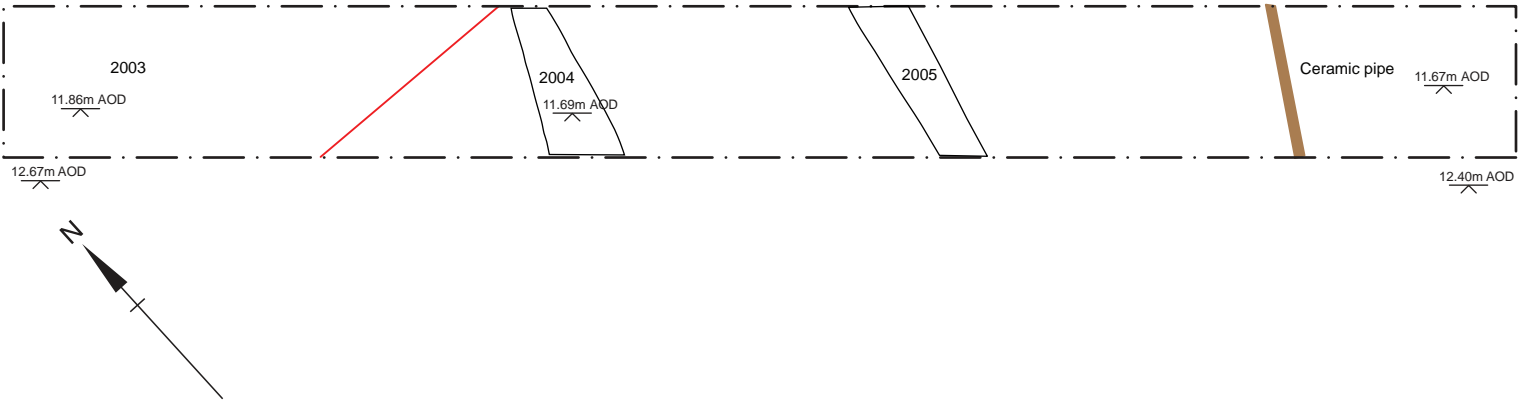


Fig. 2 Trench locations 1:1000 @ A4. From drawing supplied by CYC

Trench 1



Trench 2



Trench 3

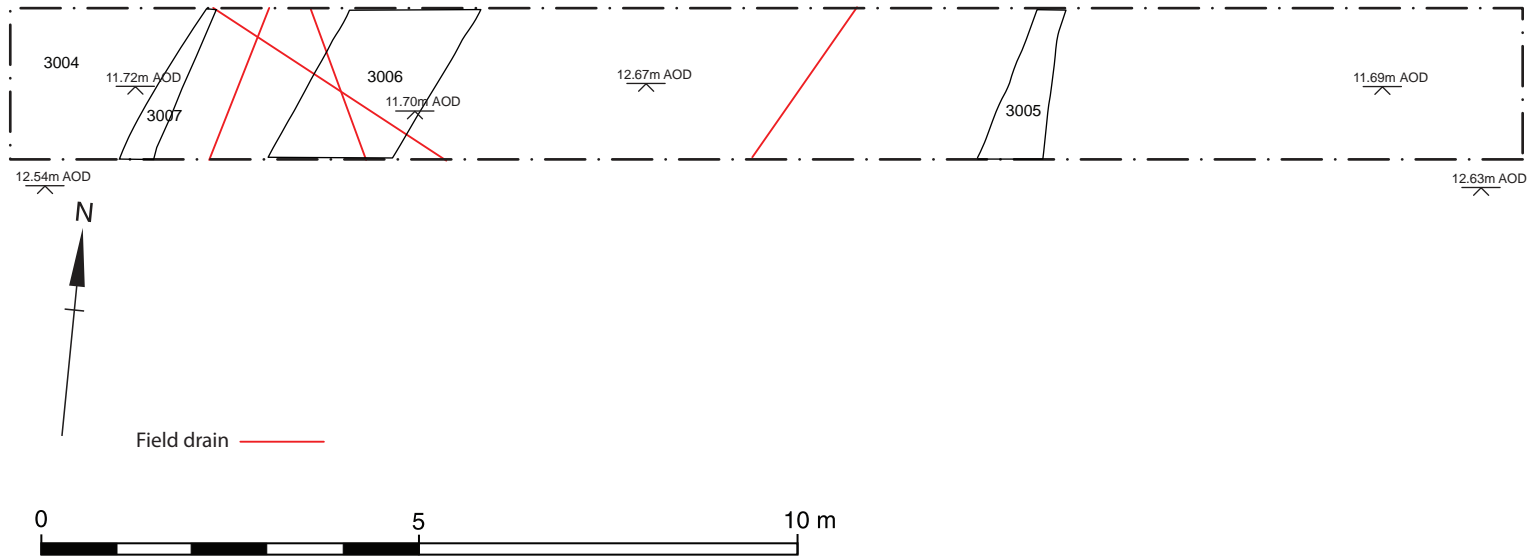


Fig. 3 Plan of Trenches 1,2 and 3 1:100 @ A4

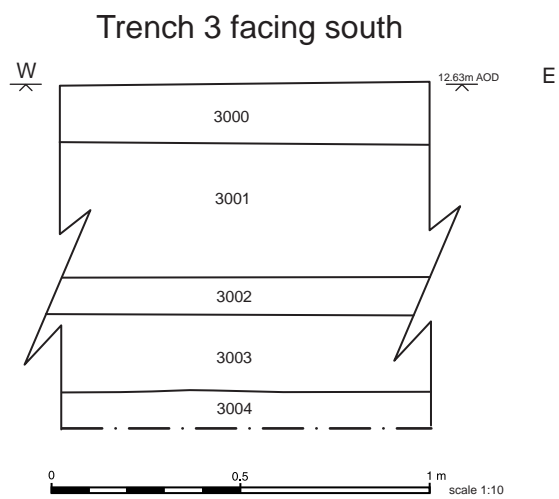
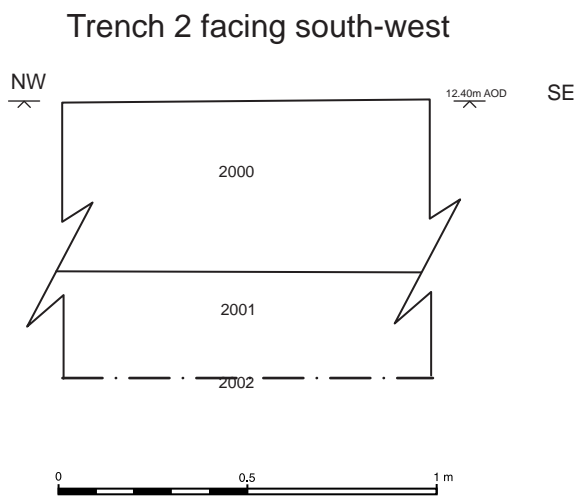
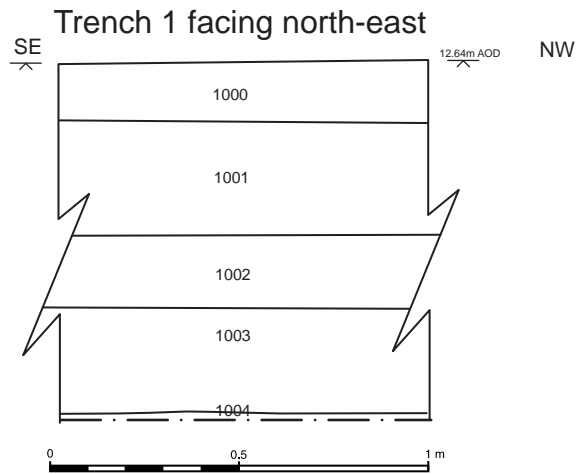


Fig. 4 Representative section trenches 1,2 and 3 1:20 @ A4



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