MAP
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRACTICE Ltd.

Land north of Avon Drive
Huntington
York

SE 62085 56783

MAP 5.38.2014

Archaeological Trial Trenching

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRACTICE LTD

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Archaeological Trial Trenching

Report Prepared By	**Report Authorised By**
Mark Stephens	
Date: **05/01/2016**	**Date:** **05/01/2016**

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Contents **Page**

Appendices

Figure List

Plate List

Land north of Avon Drive
Huntington
York

MAP 5.38.2014

SE 62085 56783

Archaeological Trial Trenching

Summary

Twenty-three Archaeological Evaluation Trenches were excavated by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd at Land north of Avon Drive, Huntington, York, from November 30th to December 10th 2015. The work was undertaken as a response to an Outline Planning Application for residential development.

Archaeological deposits were excavated in five of the trenches (Trenches 5, 8, 18, 19 and 20), consisting of linear features of Romano-British date, along with a more recent feature that had been identified by geophysical survey. (The linear feature excavated in Trench 5 was seen to extend northwards into Trench 3, but was not excavated there due to flooding.)

A modest assemblage of Romano-British and medieval pottery was recovered, along with a small number of animal bone fragments.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report sets out the results of a scheme of Archaeological Trial Trenching that was carried out by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd. at land north of Avon Drive, Huntington York from November 30th to 10th December 2015.

1.2 The Trial Trenching was carried out on the instruction of Robert Pilcher of Lime Tree Homes Ltd to provide the necessary information to allow the City of York Council to make a reasoned decision as to the impact of the proposed residential development on any archaeological deposits at the site.

1.3 The aim of the Trial Trenching was to establish the nature, location, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains within the proposed development area, to enable the archaeological impact of the development to be fully appreciated and an appropriate design mitigation, and/or further archaeological work, to be agreed to preserve archaeological deposits either *in situ*, or by record. This strategy is in accordance with the recommendations of the National Policy Framework (March 2012) on 'Archaeology and Planning'.

1.4 The site code for the project was MAP 5-38-2014.

1.5 All work was funded by Lime Tree Homes Ltd.

1.6 The maps within this report have been produced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright, Licence No. AL 50453A.

2. Site Description

2.1 The proposed development site is located at land to the north of Avon Drive, east of Strensall Road, and south of the A 1237 Northern Ring Road, Huntington, York (SE 62085 56783 – Figs. 1 and 2). The site exists as an area of permanent pasture, bounded by existing houses on the western and southern sides, and is crossed by two field boundaries, one to the north and the other towards to east of the site. The eastern end of this area is partly covered by regenerated trees and bushes.

2.2 The site forms a relatively level area lying at around 16.50m AOD, with a slight gradient downwards from the east to the west.

3. Geology and Soils

3.1 The soils at this area north of Huntington are of the Ryther Association, which are described as "non-calcareous surface-water gley soils", derived from loamy fluvio-glacial drift (Matthews, 1971).

4. Historical and Archaeological Background

4.1 The cropmarks of two enclosures (MY149 and 397) have been identified to the west of the river Foss, c. 800m southwest of the site; although undated these are of potential Iron Age / Romano-British date. Further afield, at Skelton, another group of enclosures and field boundaries has been plotted (MYO3605), with complexes of similar cropmarks existing north of Haxby (English Heritage Pastscape monument nos. 1183581. 1183611, 1183612 and 1191910), and north of North Lane (monument nos. 1192002 and 1192009). These cropmarks illustrate the rural character of the Iron Age / Romano-British landscape in this zone north of York.

4.2 The place-name Huntington derives from the Old English *Huntindune*, meaning *Hunta's* settlement (Smith 1968, 12).

4.3 Huntington existed as a pre-conquest settlement, the Domesday Survey recording four pre-conquest landowners: Frithsgestr, Armgrimr, Thorketill and Thormothr (Faull and Stinson 1986, SN, B16). By 1086 the land was held by the King, Count Alan and the Count of Mortain. A pre-conquest church existed at Huntington, being recorded in 1055 in the Chronicles of Evesham Abbey.

4.4 The medieval village Huntington lay c. 1km to the south of the proposed development, the north-south aligned Old Village being linked to All Saints Church by a narrow lane and bridge (HER ref. CA21 DYO1718). The site lies within the area of one of the former Open Fields, enclosure at Huntington and Earswick having commenced in 1629. The 1854 First Edition Ordnance Survey map illustrated a series of elongated strip fields, aligned east to west, to the north and east of Huntington where the enclosure-era boundaries had fossilised the furlongs of the Open Field (Fig. 3). The fields comprising the area of the site were larger than the narrower surrounding examples.

4.5 A desk-based assessment undertaken by MAP Archaeological Practice concluded that the site did not contain any Designated or Non-Designated Heritage Assets, and that the proposed development would have no Cultural

Heritage Impacts to prevent the development (MAP 2014). The remains of Ridge and Furrow (part of a landscape characterised by strip fields to the east and northeast of Huntington – HER refs. MYO2950/EYO4440) were identified within the proposed development area.

4.6 Phase Site Investigations carried out an Archaeological Geophysical Survey in November 2015, identifying anomalies that related to modern material and objects, agricultural activity and possible geological or pedological variations (Phase 2014). One linear anomaly was identified that indicated a sub-surface feature running from the northwest to the southwest corners of the site (Fig. 2); however, it was uncertain whether this was an in-filled feature of archaeological origin or whether it represented a more modern feature such as a field drain. In general it was felt that the magnetic susceptibility of the soil was low, meaning that archaeological features might produce only weak responses that would not be readily discernable.

5. Methodology

5.1 Excavation

5.1.1 Twenty-three Trial Trenches were excavated, each being 50m long and 2m wide (Fig. 2). Trenches 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9 10, 14, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 23 were aligned west-east, Trenches 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 15 and 17 were aligned north-south, and Trench 22 was aligned northwest-southeast.

5.1.2 The overburden and topsoil was removed by a 12 tonne 360^{o} tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a broad, toothless ditching bucket, under archaeological supervision. Machining ceased at the surface of the natural deposits, which coincided with the point at which archaeological deposits occurred. The machined surfaces were shovel-cleaned.

5.1.3 The Trial Trenching was carried out in generally dull conditions with frequent periods of rain, causing the flooding of many of the trenches; this led to challenging conditions for the archaeological excavation and recording.

5.1.4 Features were sectioned as appropriate, in practice by 1m wide segments through each of the linear features present.

5.1.5 All work was carried out in line with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* and to the CIFA *'Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations'*.

5.1.6 All artefacts were retained for specialist analysis.

5.1.7 Seven soil samples were taken from the fills of the features for environmental analysis.

5.2 On-site Recording

5.2.1 All archaeological deposits were recorded according to correct principles of stratigraphic excavation on MAP's *pro forma* context sheets which are compatible with the MoLAS recording system.

5.3 Plans and Sections

5.3.1 The full extent of archaeological deposits were recorded in plan at a scale of 1:50 on drawing film. Sections of features were drawn at 1:10, also on drawing film, and included an OD height. There were seven plans and eight section drawings.

5.4 Photographic Record

5.4.1 The photographic record comprised fifty-four digital images, and eight monochrome prints recording all excavated archaeological features.

5.5 Finds

5.5.1 All finds were cleaned, identified, assessed, dated (if possible), marked (as appropriate), and properly packed and stored according to English Heritage guidelines (EH 1995).

5.5.2 The finds assemblage consisted of ten pottery sherds, and nine animal bone fragments.

6. Results

6.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 2; Pl. 1)

6.1.1 No archaeological features were present, a 0.26m deep subsoil deposit (1002) being overlain by a similar depth of topsoil (1001). The diagonal geophysical anomaly cut through the western end of Trench 1, but due to its obvious recent date (and the fact that the trench quickly became deeply flooded) no further work was carried out in this trench.

6.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 2; Pl. 2)

6.2.1 No archaeological features were present in Trench 2. The subsoil (2002) was 0.35m deep and was covered by a 0.30m thickness of topsoil (2001)

6.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

6.3.1 A single linear feature was present in this trench, representing the continuation of a feature excavated in Trench 5 to the south (see below). The decision was taken not to excavate this linear because of deep flooding, but instead to concentrate work on it in Trench 5. The subsoil (2002) in Trench 2 was 0.35m deep, with a 0.30m deep layer of topsoil (2001) above.

6.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 2; Pls. 7-9)

6.3.1 There were no archaeological features in Trench 4, natural deposits being overlain by a 0.30m deep subsoil deposit (4002) with a 0.30m deep layer of topsoil (4001) above.

6.5 Trench 5 (Figs. 2 and 4; Pl. 3)

6.11.1 The archaeological feature in Trench 5 consisted of a roughly north-south aligned gully (5004) that was 0.60m wide and 0.20m deep, with a U-shaped profile. The fill (5003) consisted of yellowish grey clay with frequent charcoal flecks. Fill 5003 was covered by a 0.23m thick subsoil deposit (5002), with a 0.30m thickness of topsoil above (5001).

6.11.2 One sample from gully segment fill 5003 produced a few fragments of coal and a small quantity of *Quercus* (oak) charcoal, possibly wind-blown from nearby burning and trapped in the gully. Fragments of oak measuring 0.5cm to 1.5cm were found in amongst crushed and degraded charcoal, probably also oak.

6.6 Trenches 6 and 7 (Fig. 2)

6.6.1 No archaeological features were present in these trenches, both trenches containing c. 0.35m of subsoil (6002 and 7002) and 0.20m of topsoil (6001 and 7001).

6.7 Trench 8 (Figs. 2 and 5; Pl. 4-5)

6.11.1 Two linear features were identified in the central part of Trench 8; these were on converging alignments with a projected intersection beyond the southern excavation limit. Ditch 8004 ran from the northeast to the southwest and was 1.20m wide and 0.25m wide with a broad-U profile. It was filled with greyish clay (8003). Ditch 8006 ran northwest to southeast and was c. 1m wide and 0.36m deep with a broad-V profile; the fill (8005) consisted of yellowish brown silty clay. There were no finds. The feature fills were covered by a 0.20m thickness of subsoil (8002) and 0.35m of topsoil (8001).

6.11.2 Two samples were examined from ditch fills 8003 and 8005 from Trench 8. The flot from ditch fill 8003 consisted of a single 1.0cm fragment of oak charcoal, suggesting this was probably a trace or accidental inclusion in the fill. Ditch fill 8005 was sterile of charred remains consisting of a few fragments of coal and a single modern seed. Both ditch segments in Trench 8 therefore would seem to have been kept relatively clean and free of rubbish during their period of use, or perhaps were at some distance from any significant burning activity.

6.8 Trenches 9-17 (Fig. 2)

6.8.1 No archaeological features were identified in these trenches. Natural deposits were covered by subsoil that was between 0.20 and 0.30m thick and around 0.25m of topsoil.

6.9 Trench 18 (Figs. 2 and 6; Pls. 6 and 7)

6.11.1 Two linear features were recorded in the western half of Trench 18. Ditch 18004 had a west-northwest to east-southeast alignment and was 0.74m wide and 0.23m deep with a broad-U alignment. The fill (18003) consisted of grey silty clay. Some 10m to the east, Ditch 18006 ran north to south, and was 1.80m wide and 0.47m deep with a broad-U profile; it was filled with yellowish grey silty clay (18005) which contained ten pottery sherds (Appendix 6) and nine small bone fragments. Subsoil (18002) to a depth of 0.20m covered the trenches, and was in turn covered by a 0.30m deep layer of topsoil (18001).

6.11.2 Two samples from Trench 18 produced small amounts of charred material with both cereal grain and charcoal identified. Sample 2 (18003) proved a small cache of carbonised cereal grain, mainly identified as *Triticum spelta* (spelt wheat) with a single grain of *Hordeum vulgare* sl. (barley) was also present. The grain was generally quite degraded and distorted and had probably been deposited or swept in as burnt waste from a nearby hearth or cooking / drying area. Sample 4 (18005) produced very few remains, with mostly coal recovered and a single fragment of 0.5cm oak charcoal in amongst crushed charred material. This could suggest general burning activity in the vicinity but recovery of charcoal was quite scarce.

6.10 Trench 19 (Fig. 2 and 7; Pl.8)

6.11.1 A north to south aligned ditch (19004) represented the southward continuation of Ditch 18006. Ditch 19004 was 0.75m wide and 0.37m deep (clearly less substantial than the segment to the north) and was filled with greyish brown silty clay (19003), which contained no finds. The subsoil (19002) in Trench 19 was 0.20m deep, with a 0.30m deep layer of topsoil (19001) above.

6.11.2 The sample from Trench 19 ditch fill 19003 produced scarce traces of crushed charcoal which were too small to identify, and probably intrusive in the deposit.

6.11 Trench 20 (Figs. 2 and 8; Pls. 10 and 11))

6.11.1 Trench 20 contained two linear features that obliquely crossed the trench on west-northwest to east-southeast alignments. Ditch 2005 was recorded at the eastern end of the trench, and was 1.10m wide and 0.24m deep, with a broad-U profile. There were two fills; a deposit of grey sandy silt (20004) on the northern side, with the bulk of the ditch being filled with olive brown silty clay (20003). In the central part of Trench 20, linear 20007 represented the continuation of the diagonal geophysical anomaly from the north-western part of the site. Linear 20007 was a vertically-sided cut with a width of 0.45m and a depth of over 0.65m (it was not bottomed). As Linear 20007 clearly cut through the subsoil and was vertically-sided and very straight-edged, the likelihood is that it represents a relatively recent service trench. The subsoil (20002) was 0.35m deep, with a 0.20m deep layer of topsoil (20001) above.

6.11.2 Sample 1 from context 20003 was sterile, containing only a single fragment of modern straw.

6.12 Trenches 21-23 (Fig. 2)

6.12.1 There were no archaeological deposits or features in these trenches. Trench 22 showed signs of previous machine-truncation and also had a pebble-filled service trench or drain that ran parallel with the adjacent A1237 ring-road (Pl. 12). Subsoil in these trenches varied from 0.22 to 0.31m deep, but the topsoil was had a fairly constant depth of around 0.40m.

7. Discussion

7.1 The Trial Trenching identified a series of features sealed beneath the medieval ridge and furrow and also on a different alignment to it. Dating evidence was limited to the R-B sherds from Ditch 18006 in the north-eastern

part of the site, and it reasonable to extrapolate a similar date for the other north to south features in Trenches 19 (a continuation of the ditch from Trench 18), and Trench 5 (this ditch continuing from Trench 3). Other ditches recorded in Trenches 8, 18 and 20 followed either northwest to southeast or southwest to northeast alignments raising the possibility that there were at least two different phases of activity.

7.2 The cropmark evidence for the Skelton, Haxby and Huntington / Earswick area illustrates a widespread Iron Age / Romano-British landscape north of York, and the pre-ridge and furrow features on the land north of Avon Drive are part of that landscape. Although the features would appear to represent land boundaries or field ditches, the presence of a group of pottery in one of the ditches could mean that there was settlement in the vicinity in the 2nd/3rd century.

7.3 In conclusion, well-preserved archaeological features were identified, dating to the Romano-British period and relating to the Iron Age /Romano-British rural landscape north of York, and as such are judged to be of definite local importance.

7.4 The environmental samples from trial trenching evaluation work Avon Drive, Huntington, York produced low amounts of carbonised plant remains consisting of a small amount of cereal grain from Trench 18, and identifiable charcoal from Trenches 5, 8 and 18. Two ditch fills, context 8005 in Trench 8, and context 20003 in Trench 20, proved sterile of carbonised remains.

7.5 Cereal grain was found in one deposit only, from ditch fill 18003 and identified as mainly spelt wheat with a small amount of barley present. The grain was probably burnt waste from nearby cereal processing or cooking activity and the range of types present would be consistent with a Late Iron Age/Romano-British date.

7.6 The wood charcoal was all identified as oak, with the majority recorded from N-S gully fill 5003 in Trench 5, probably as a result of nearby burning activity.

Traces of oak were also found in the ditch features in trenches 8 and 18, but in both cases only as single specimens.

8. Mitigation

8.1 The trial Trenching demonstrated that archaeological features and deposits lay within 0.4m and 0.6m of the present ground surface across the proposed development area.

8.2 It follows that any ground disturbance deeper than 0.4m below the present ground surface will adversely affect significant archaeological deposits and so there is a requirement for further archaeological mitigation. Preliminary discussion with John Oxley, City of York archaeologist has indicated that the archaeological mitigation should consist of Open Area Archaeological Excavation (**in advance of development**), to be followed by appropriate assessment and publication.

9. Bibliography

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Phase 2015 Land north of Avon Drive, Huntington. Archaeological Geophysical survey.

Smith, A. H. 1963 The Placenames of York and the East Riding of Yorkshire. English Place-name Society Vol. XXXIII.

10. Project Team Details

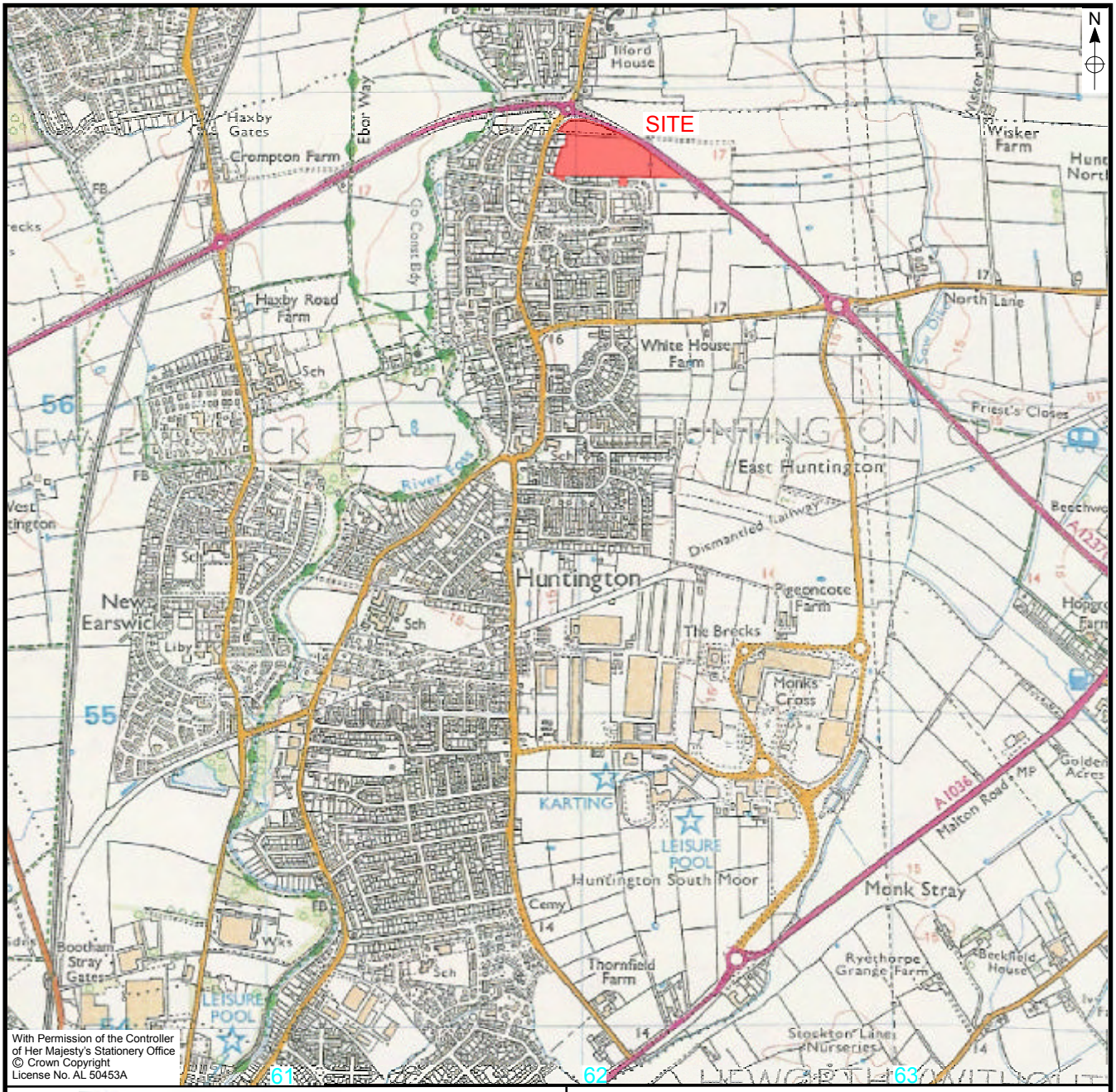
Fieldwork: John Stephens and Mark Stephens.

Report Text: Mark Stephens

Figures: Kelly Hunter

Sample and Finds Processing: John Stephens

Administration, Coordination, Report Printing and Binding: Sophie Coy



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CLIENT: Pilcher Homes	**DRAWN BY**: KCH	

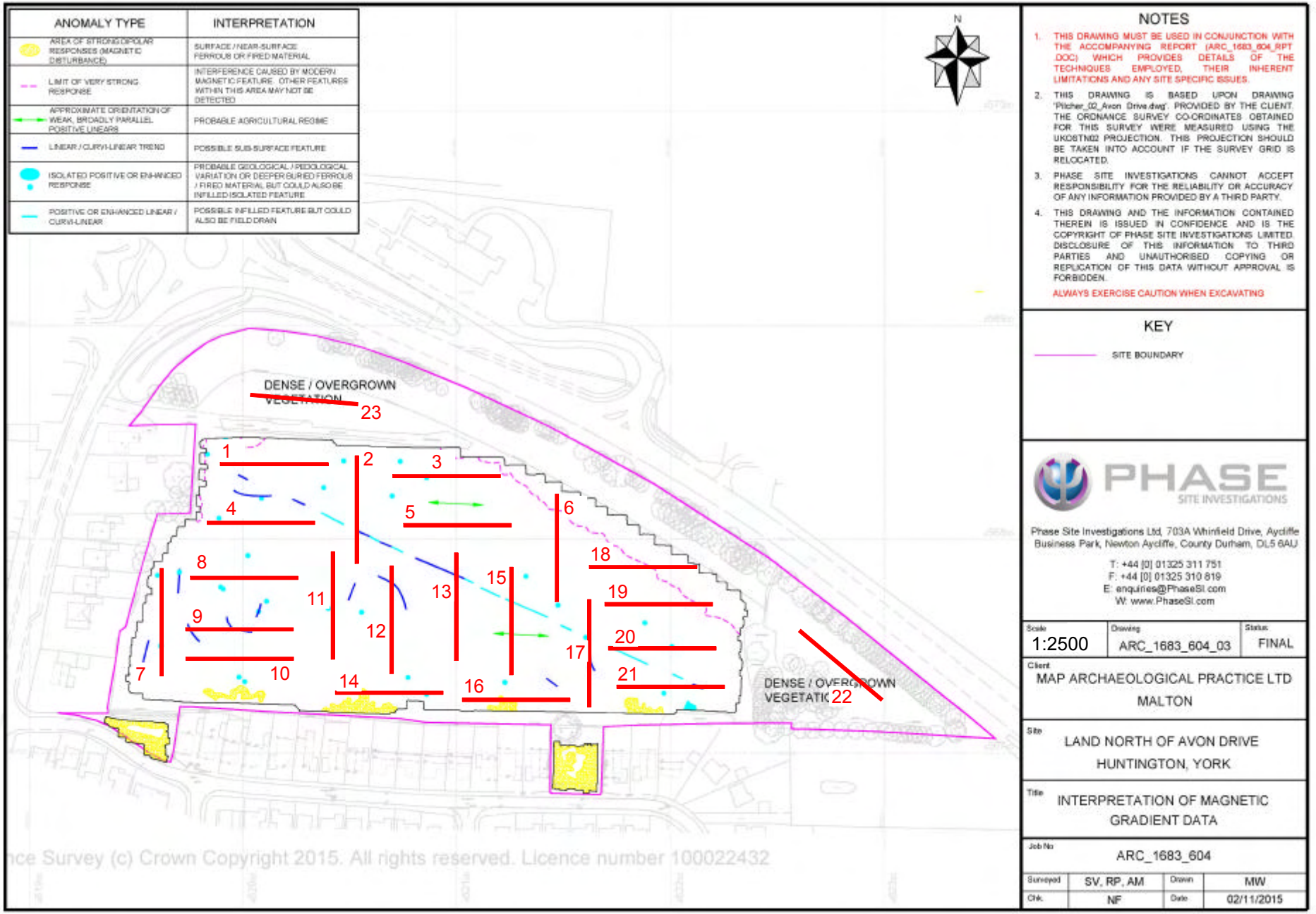
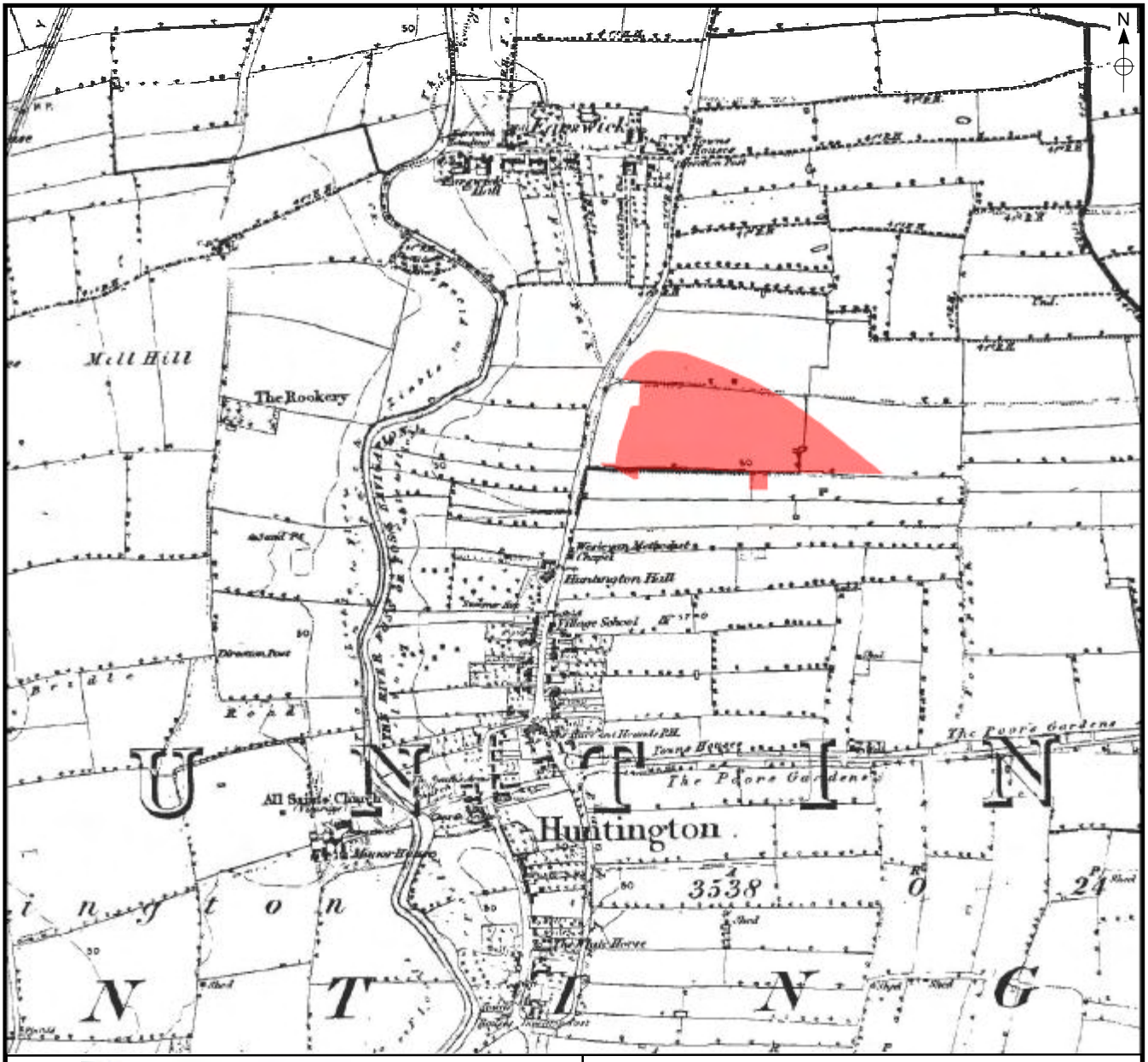


Figure 2. Trench Location (50m by 2m trenches)



MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd
Heritage Consultants

TITLE: Extract from the 1854 First Edition Ordnance Survey map.

SITE: Land North of Avon Drive, York.

FIGURE: 3.

Scale: 1:10,560

CLIENT: Pilcher Homes

DRAWN BY: KCH

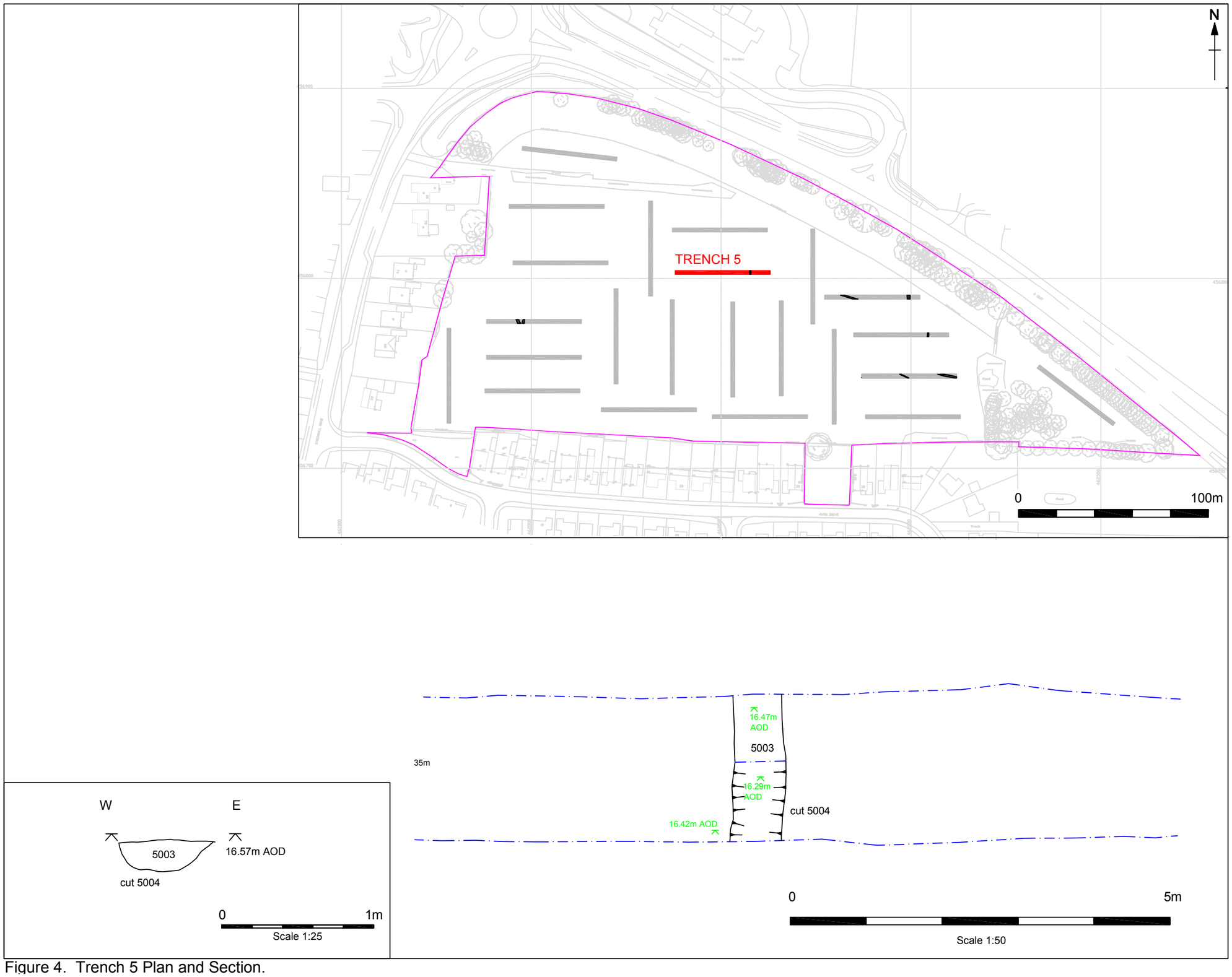
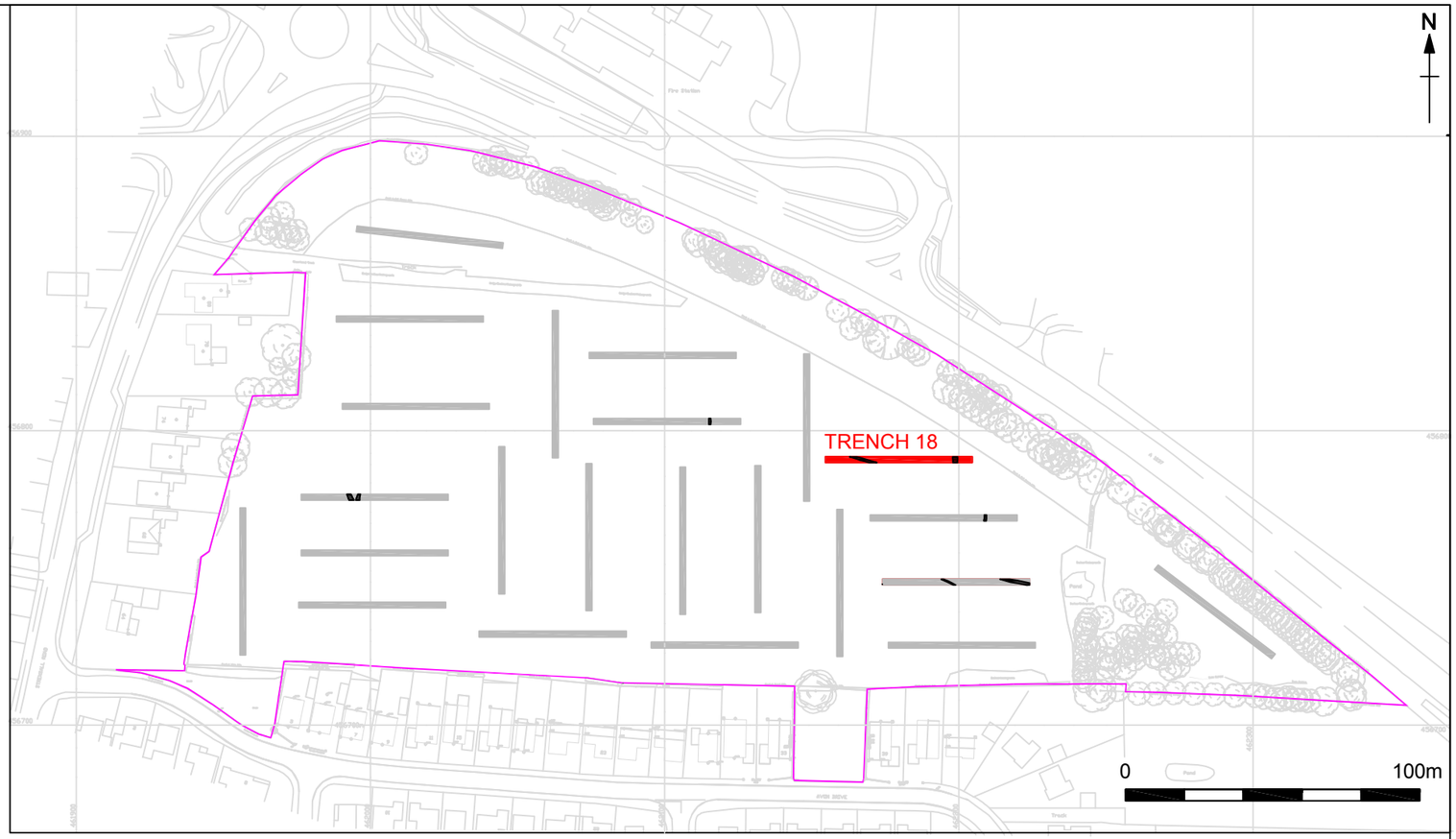
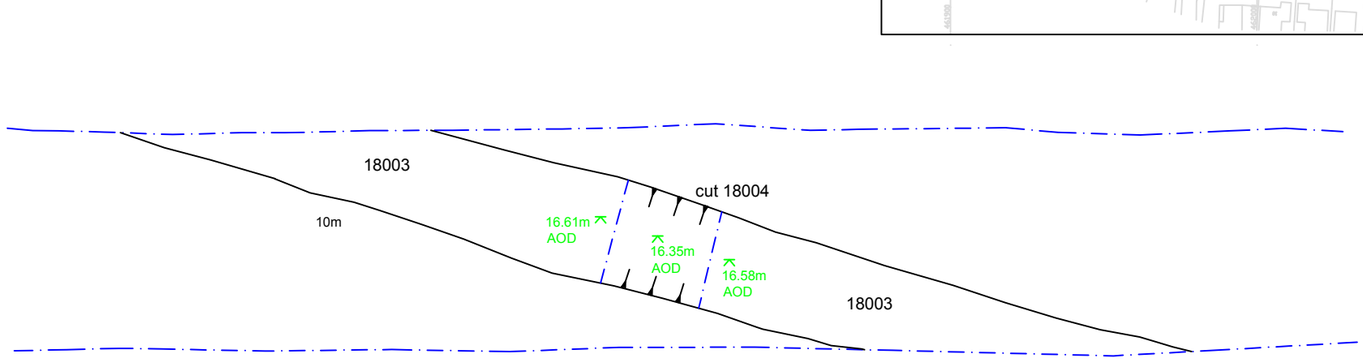
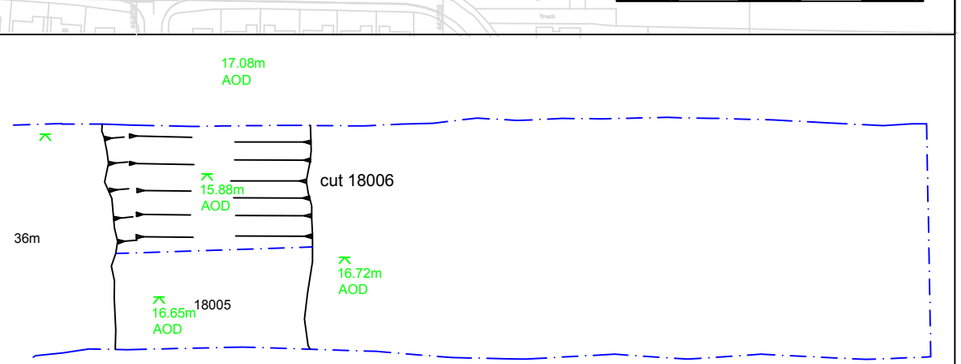


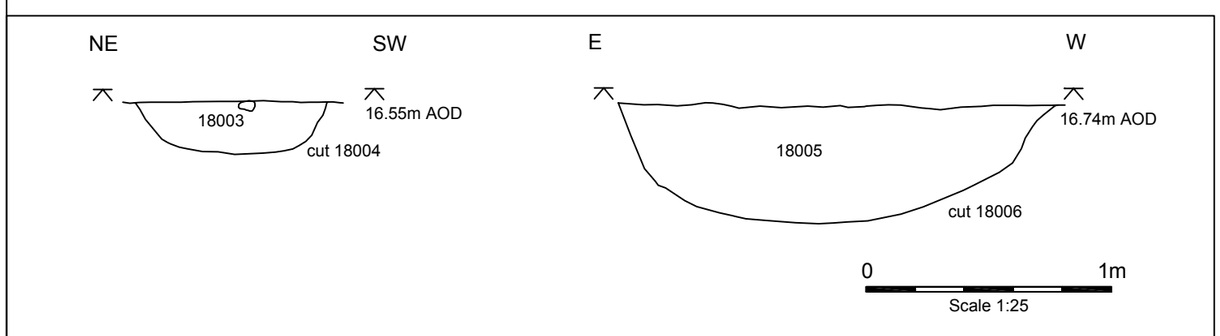
Figure 4. Trench 5 Plan and Section.

Figure 5. Trench 8 Plan and Sections.









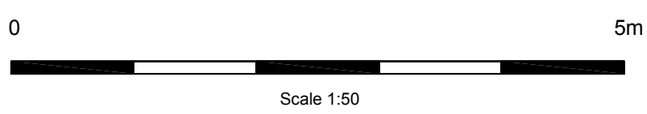


Figure 6. Trench 18 Plans and Sections.

Figure 7. Trench 19 Plan and Section.

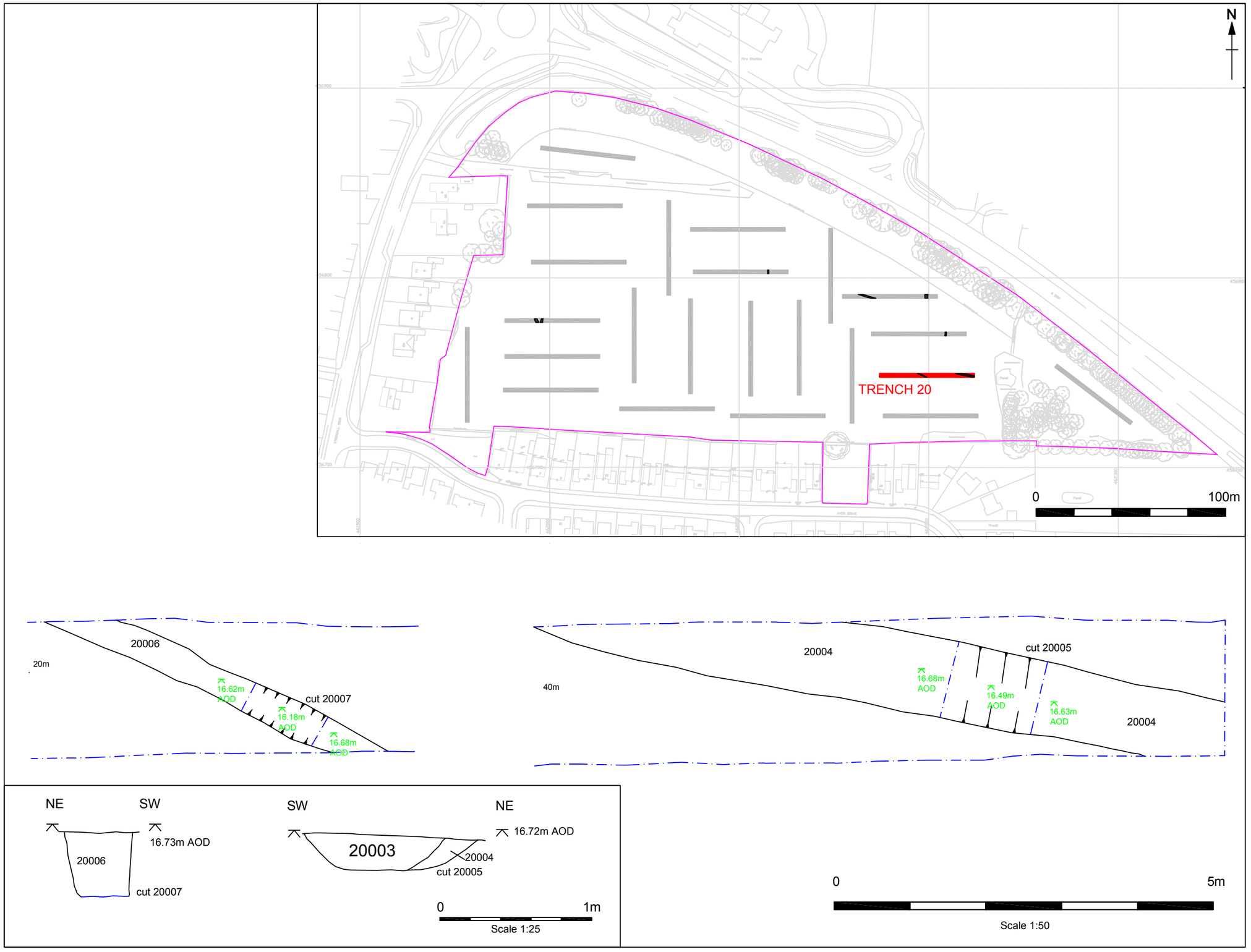


Figure 8. Trench 20 Plans and Sections.

Plate 1. Trench 1. Facing East.

Plate 2. Trench 2. Facing South.

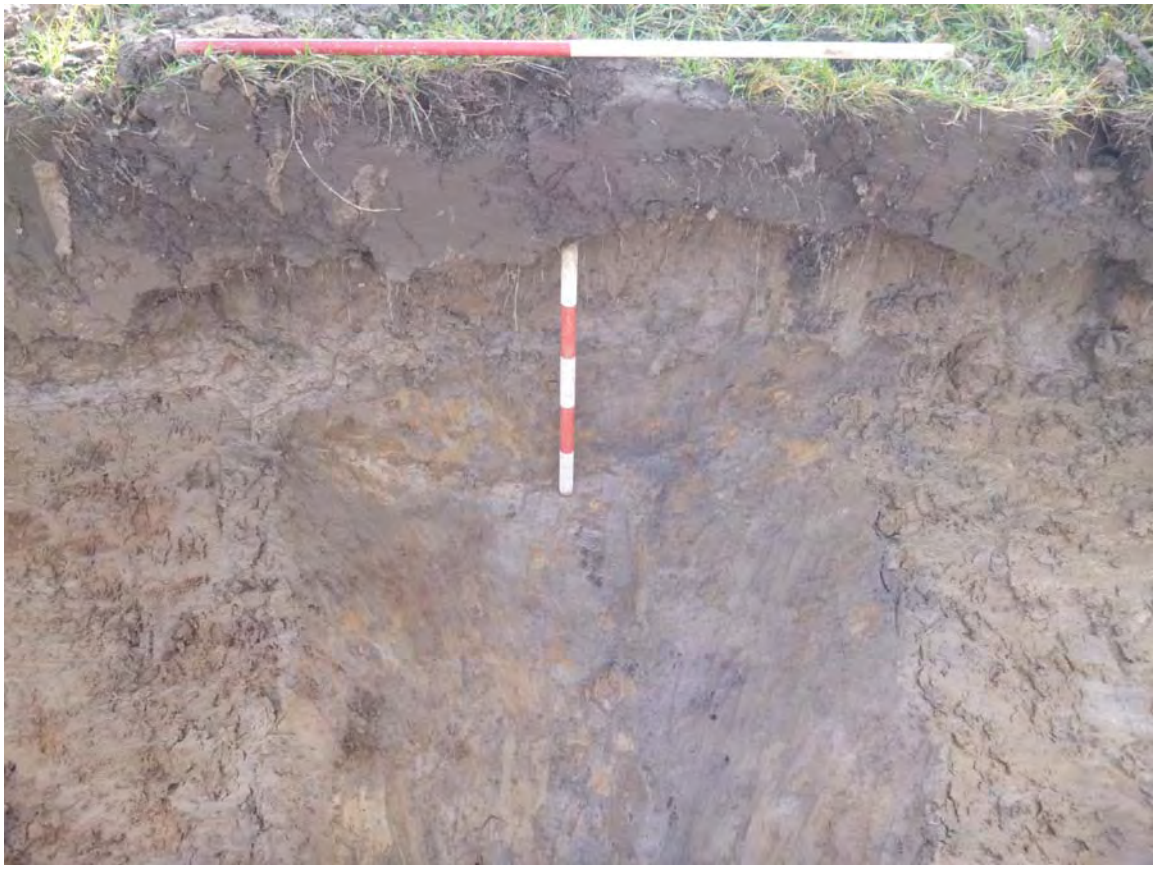


Plate 3. Trench 5. Ditch 5005. Facing South.

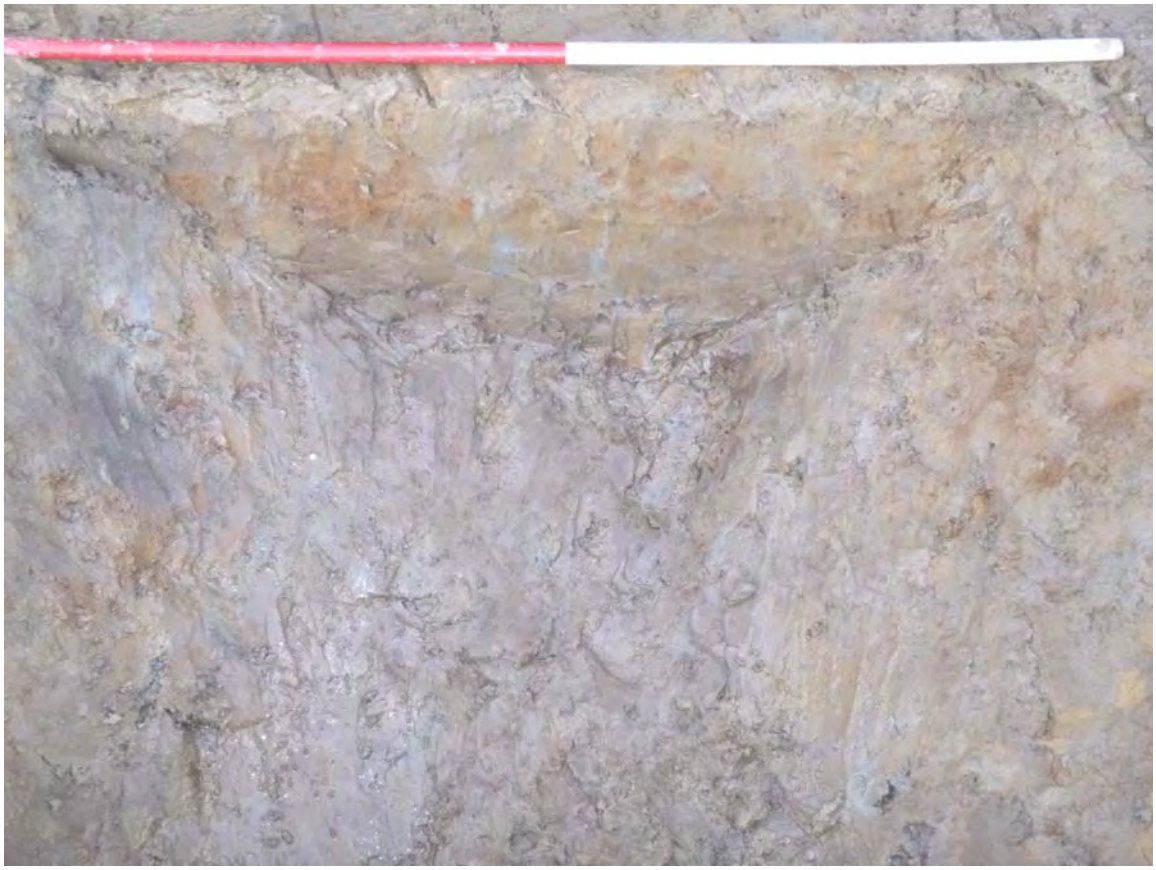


Plate 4. Trench 8. Ditch 8004. Facing North.

Plate 5. Trench 8. Ditch 8006. Facing North.

Plate 6. Trench 18. Ditch 18004. Facing South.

Plate 7. Trench 18. Ditch 18006. Facing South.

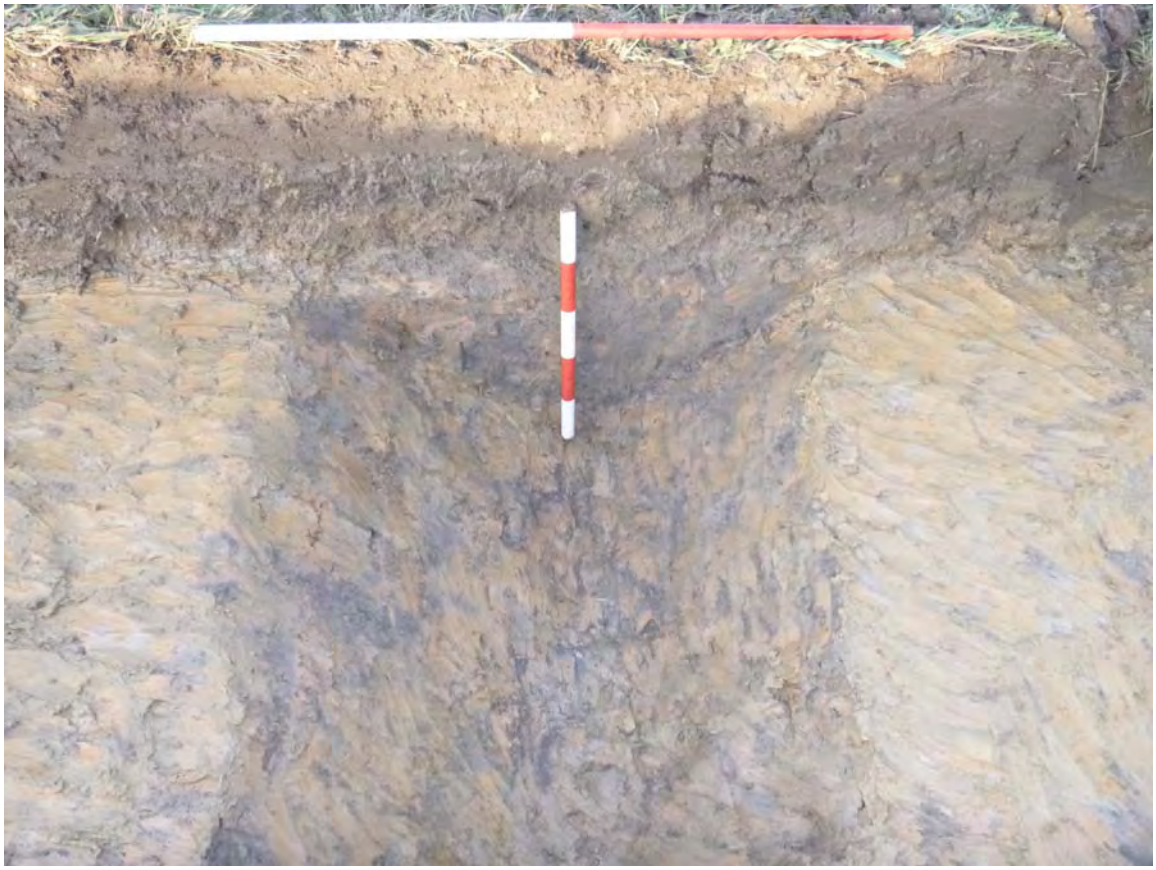


Plate 8. Trench 19. Ditch 19004. Facing South-east.

Plate 9. Trench 20. Pre-excavation. Facing West.

Plate 10. Trench 20. Ditch 20005. Facing West-north-west.

Plate 11. Trench 20. Ditch 20007. Facing East-south-east.

Plate 12. Trench 22. Facing West.

APPENDIX 1

Context Listing

Land north of Avon Drive, Huntington, York - 5.38.2014

Context No.	Type	Description
1001	Deposit	10YR 4/2, clay silt; modern topsoil
1002	Deposit	10YR 4/3, clay silt; subsoil
2001	Deposit	10YR 4/2, clay silt, modern topsoil
2002	Deposit	10YR 4/1, clay silt; subsoil
3001	Deposit	10 YR 4/2, clay silt; modern topsoil
3002	Deposit	10YR 4/3, clay silt; subsoil
4001	Deposit	10YR 4/2, clay silt; modern topsoil
4002	Deposit	10YR 4/3, clay silt; subsoil
5001	Deposit	10YR 4/1, clay silt, modern topsoil
5002	Deposit	10YR 5/3, clay silt; subsoil
5003	Deposit	10YR 5/2, clay silt; fill of 5004
5004	Cut	Ditch cut
6001	Deposit	10YR 4/2, clay silt; modern topsoil
6002	Deposit	10 4/3, clay silt; subsoil
7001	Deposit	10YR 4/2, clay silt; modern topsoil
7002	Deposit	10YR 4/3, clay silt; topsoil
8001	Deposit	10YR 4/2, clay silt; modern topsoil
8002	Deposit	10YR 5/3, clay silt; subsoil
8003	Deposit	10YR 5/3, silty clay; fill of 8004
8004	Deposit	Ditch Cut
8005	Deposit	10YR 5/2, clay sand; fill of 8006
8006	Cut	Ditch Cut
9001	Deposit	10YR 4/2, clay silt; modern topsoil
9002	Deposit	10YR 4/3, clay silt: subsoil
10001	Deposit	10YR 4/2, clay silt; modern subsoil
10002	Deposit	10YR 5/3, clay silt; subsoil
11001	Deposit	10YR 4/2, clay silt; modern topsoil
11002	Deposit	10YR 5/3, clay silt; subsoil
12001	Deposit	10YR 4/2, clay silt; modern topsoil
12002	Deposit	10YR 5/2, clay silt; subsoil
13001	Deposit	10YR 4/2, clay silt; modern topsoil
13002	Deposit	10YR 5/3, clay silt; subsoil

14001	Deposit	10YR 4/2, clay silt; modern topsoil
14002	Deposit	10YR 4/3, clay silt; subsoil
15001	Deposit	10YR 4/2, clay silt; modern topsoil
15002	Deposit	10YR 5/3, clay silt; subsoil
16001	Deposit	10YR 4/2, clay silt;modern topsoil
16002	Deposit	10YR 4/3, clay silt;subsoil
17001	Deposit	10YR 4/2, clay silt; modern topsoil
17002	Deposit	10YR 4/3, clay silt; subsoil
18001	Deposit	10YR 4/2, clay silt; modern topsoil
18002	Deposit	10YR 5/3, clay silt; subsoil
18003	Deposit	10YR 5/1 silty clay; fill of 18004
18004	Cut	Ditch cut
18005	Deposit	10YR 5/2, silty clay, fill of 18006
18006	Cut	Ditch cut
19001	Deposit	10YR 4/2, clay silt; modern topsoil
19002	Deposit	10YR 5/3, clay silt; subsoil
19003	Deposit	10YR 5/2, silty clay, fill of 19004
19004	Cut	Ditch cut
20001	Deposit	10YR 4/2, clay silt; modern topsoil
20002	Deposit	10YR 5/3, clay silt; subsoil
20003	Deposit	2.5Y 4/3, silty clay; fill of 20004
20004	Cut	Ditch Cut
21001	Deposit	10YR 4/2, clay silt; modern topsoil
21002	Deposit	10YR 5/3, clay silt; subsoil
22001	Deposit	10YR 4/2, clay silt; modern topsoil
22002	Deposit	10YR 5/3, clay silt; subsoil
23001	Deposit	10YR 4/2, clay silt; modern topsoil
23002	Deposit	10YR 5/2, clay silt; subsoil

APPENDIX 2

Finds Catalogue

Land north of Avon Drive, Huntington
Site Code MAP 5.38.2014

Context No	Type	Total	Description	Weight (g)	Spot Date
1002	Pottery	2	2 body sherds	26	13th/14th century
5001	Pottery	1	1 body sherd	38	16th/17th century
15002	Pottery	1	1 body sherd	42	12th century
18005	Pottery Animal Bone	5 9	2 rim, 2 body sherds 9 fragments	118 24	2nd-3rd century
21002	Pottery	1	1 body sherd	18	mid 2nd century

APPENDIX 3

Archive Listing

Land north of Avon Drive, Huntington, York
Site Code MAP 5.38.2014

No.	Context	Description	Scale
1	20005	Plan of Ditch Seg	1:50
2	20003-20005	SE-facing section Ditch Seg 20005	1:10
3	20007	Plan of Ditch Seg	1:50
4	20006-20007	NW-facing section Ditch Seg 20007	1:10
5	18004	Plan of Ditch Seg	1:50
6	18003-18004	NE-facing section of Ditch Seg 18004	1:10
7	19004	Plan of Ditch Seg	1:50
8	19003-19004	N-facing section of Ditch Seg 19004	1:10
9	18005-18006	S-facing section of Ditch Seg 18006	1:10
10	18006	Plan of Ditch Seg	1:50
11	5003-5004	S-facing section of Ditch Seg 5004	1:10
12	5004	Plan of Ditch Seg	1:50
13	8003-8004	SW-facing section of Ditch Seg 8004	1:10
14	8005-8006	N-facing section of Ditch Seg 8006	1:20
15	8004 + 8006	Plan of Ditch Segs	1:50

APPENDIX 4

Photographic Record Listing

Land north of Avon Drive, Huntington, York
Site Code MAP 5.38.2014

Digital

No.	Context	Scale	Facing	Description
1		1.5m + 1m	East	Trench 1
2		1.5m + 1m	West	Trench 1
3		1.5m + 1m	South	Trench 2
4		1.5m + 1m	North	Trench 2
5		1.5m + 1m	West	Trench 3
6		1.5m + 1m	East	Trench 3
7		1.5m + 1m	South	Trench 6
8		1.5m + 1m	North	Trench 6
9		1.5m + 1m	West	Trench 4
10		1.5m + 1m	East	Trench 4
11		1.5m + 1m	South	Trench 5
12		1.5m + 1m	North	Trench 5
13		1.5m + 1m	East	Trench 8
14		1.5m + 1m	West	Trench 8
15		1.5m + 1m	South	Trench 7
16		1.5m + 1m	North	Trench 7
17		1.5m + 1m	East	Trench 9
18		1.5m + 1m	West	Trench 9
19		1.5m + 1m	East	Trench 10
20		1.5m + 1m	West	Trench 10
21		1.5m + 1m	East	Trench 14
22		1.5m + 1m	West	Trench 14
23		1.5m + 1m	North	Trench 11
24		1.5m + 1m	South	Trench 11
25		1.5m + 1m	North	Trench 12
26		1.5m + 1m	South	Trench 12
27		1.5m + 1m	North	Trench 13
28		1.5m + 1m	South	Trench 13
29		1.5m + 1m	South	Trench 15
30		1.5m + 1m	North	Trench 15
31		1.5m + 1m	South	Trench 17
32		1.5m + 1m	North	Trench 17
33		1.5m + 1m	West	Trench 16
34		1.5m + 1m	East	Trench 16
35		1.5m + 1m	East	Trench 21
36		1.5m + 1m	West	Trench 21
37		1.5m + 1m	West	Trench 22
38		1.5m + 1m	East	Trench 22
39		1.5m + 1m	West	Trench 20
40		1.5m + 1m	East	Trench 20
41		1.5m + 1m	West	Trench 19
42		1.5m + 1m	East	Trench 19
43		1.5m + 1m	East	Trench 18
44		1.5m + 1m	West	Trench 18
45		1.5m + 1m	West	Trench 23

46		1.5m + 1m	East	Trench 23
47	20003-5	1m	WNW	Ditch Seg
48	18003-4	0.5m	WNW	Ditch Seg
49	20006-7	0.5m	ESE	Ditch Seg
50	19003-4	1m + 0.5m	North	Ditch Seg
51	18005-6	1m + 0.5m	South	Ditch Seg
52	5003-5	1m + 0.5m	South	Ditch Seg
53	8003-4	1m	North	Ditch Seg
54	8005-6	1m	South	Ditch Seg

Monochrome Print

No.	Context	Scale	Facing	Description
1	8005-6	1m	South	Ditch Seg
2	8003-4	1m	North	Ditch Seg
3	5003-5	1m + 0.5m	South	Ditch Seg
4	18005-6	1m + 0.5m	South	Ditch Seg
5	19003-4	1m + 0.5m	North	Ditch Seg
6	20006-7	0.5m	ESE	Ditch Seg
7	18003-4	0.5m	WNW	Ditch Seg
8	20003-4	1m	WNW	Ditch Seg

APPENDIX 5

Avon Drive, Huntington, York MAP 5-38-14
Carbonised Plant Macrofossils and Charcoal
Diane Alldritt

1: Introduction

Seven environmental sample flots taken during archaeological trial trenching and evaluation work at Avon Drive, Huntington, York (MAP 5-38-14), were examined for carbonised plant macrofossils and charcoal.

Excavation revealed various ditch features, including a N-S orientated ditch of possible Roman origin, and a gully feature also running in a N-S direction. Samples were taken from ditch and gully features excavated in trenches 5, 8, 18, 19 and 20 with low amounts of carbonised material recovered and two samples proving sterile.

2: Methodology

Bulk environmental samples were processed by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd. using a Siraf style water flotation system (French 1971). The flots were dried before examination under a low power binocular microscope typically at x10 magnification. All identified plant remains including charcoal were removed and bagged separately by type.

Wood charcoal was examined using a high powered Vickers M10 metallurgical microscope at magnifications up to x200. The reference photographs of Schweingruber (1990) were consulted for charcoal identification. Plant nomenclature utilised in the text follows Stace (1997) for all vascular plants apart from cereals, which follow Zohary and Hopf (2000).

3: Results

The environmental sample flots produced small quantities of charred material, with from <2.5ml up to 5ml of carbonised remains, including charcoal fragments and cereal grain present. Preservation was variable with crushed and degraded charcoal and vesicular cereal grain in amongst some better preserved and identifiable material. Two samples were sterile of carbonised remains, producing only modern material and coal. Modern roots were found in small amounts up to 2.5ml with occasional modern seeds and some coal recovered.

Results are given in table 1 and discussed below.

4: Discussion

The environmental samples from Avon Drive, Huntington indicated quite low recovery of carbonised plant remains with small amounts of degraded charcoal recorded from the ditch features in trenches 5, 8 and 18. Cereal grain was present in trench 18 only and generally in degraded condition although it was possible to identify a few of the grains. Trench 5 gully fill (5003) produced a small cache of oak charcoal, perhaps wind-blown or swept waste from nearby burning. Traces of oak were also found in ditch fill (8003) in trench 8 and in N-S Roman ditch fill (18005) in trench 18.

Trench 5

One sample from N-S gully segment [5004], fill (5003), produced a few fragments of coal and a small quantity of *Quercus* (oak) charcoal, possibly wind-blown from nearby burning and trapped in the gully. Fragments of oak measuring 0.5cm to 1.5cm were found in amongst crushed and degraded charcoal, probably also oak.

Trench 8

Two samples were examined from ditch fills excavated in trench 8. The flot from N-S ditch fill (8003) from segment [8004] consisted of a single 1.0cm fragment of oak charcoal and nothing else, suggesting this was probably a trace or accidental inclusion in the fill. Ditch segment [8006], fill (8005) was sterile of charred remains consisting of a few fragments of coal and a single modern seed. Both ditch segments in trench 8 therefore would seem to have been kept relatively clean and free of rubbish during their period of use, or perhaps were at some distance from any significant burning activity.

Trench 18

Two samples from trench 18 produced small amounts of charred material with both cereal grain and charcoal identified. Sample 2 (18003) from ditch segment [18004] proved quite interesting with a small cache of carbonised cereal grain recorded, mainly identified as *Triticum spelta* (spelt wheat) with a single *Hordeum vulgare* sl. (barley) also present. The grain was generally quite degraded and distorted and had probably been deposited or swept in as burnt waste from a nearby hearth or cooking / drying area. Sample 4 (18005) from N-S Roman ditch segment [18006] produced very few remains, with mostly coal recovered and a single fragment of 0.5cm oak charcoal in amongst crushed charred material. This could suggest general burning activity in the vicinity but recovery of charcoal was quite scarce.

Trench 19

A single sample from trench 19 ditch segment [19004], fill (19003), produced scarce traces of crushed charcoal which were too small to identify, and probably intrusive in the deposit.

Trench 20

Sample 1 (20003) from ditch segment [20005] was sterile, containing only a single fragment of modern straw.

5: Conclusion

The environmental samples from trial trenching evaluation work Avon Drive, Huntington, York produced low amounts of carbonised plant remains consisting of a small amount of cereal grain from trench 18, and identifiable charcoal from trenches 5, 8 and 18. Two ditch fills, (8005) in trench 8, and (20003) in trench 20 proved sterile of carbonised remains.

Cereal grain was found in one deposit only, from ditch fill (18003) and identified as mainly spelt wheat with a small amount of barley present. The grain was probably burnt waste from nearby cereal processing or cooking activity and the range of types present would be consistent with a Late Iron Age / Romano-British date.

The wood charcoal was all identified as oak with no other types present, with the majority recorded from N-S gully fill (5003) in trench 5, probably as a result of trample or capture of wind-blown material from nearby burning activity. Traces of oak were also found in the ditch features in trenches 8 and 18, but in both cases only as single specimens.

The archaeological features produced quite low amounts of environmental material, but provided some evidence for burning activity, probably involving temporary fires or clearance areas and the drying and cooking of cereal grain. Preservation was variable across the excavation area, but trench 18 provided the best material and possibly formed the main focus of burning activity in the vicinity. Further work at the site has good potential to produce carbonised material but the recovery levels may be similarly low.

References

French, D. H. 1971 An Experiment in Water Sieving. *Anatolian Studies 21* 59-64.

Schweingruber, F. H. 1990 *Anatomy of European Woods*. Paul Haupt Publishers Berne and Stuttgart.

Stace, C. 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*. 2nd Edition Cambridge University Press.

Zohary, D. and Hopf, M. 2000 *Domestication of Plants in the Old World*. 3rd Edition Oxford University Press.

Table 1: Avon Drive, Huntington, York (MAP 5-38-14): Carbonised Plant Remains, Charcoal and Other Material:

Land north of Avon Drive, Huntington, York

Avon Drive, Huntington, York	**Sample**	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
MAP 5-38-14	**Context**	20003	18003	19003	18005	5003	8003	8005
	Trench	Tr.20	Tr.18	Tr.19	Tr.18	Tr.5	Tr.8	Tr.8
	Feature	ditch 20005	ditch 18004	ditch 19004	Roman N-S ditch 18006	N-S gully 5004	N-S ditch 8004	N-S ditch 8006
	Total CV	0	<2.5ml	<2.5ml	<2.5ml	5ml	<2.5ml	0
	Modern	2.5ml	2.5ml	5ml	<2.5ml	2.5ml	<2.5ml	2.5ml
Carbonised Cereal Grain	**Common Name**							
Triticum spelta	spelt wheat		5					
Hordeum vulgare sl.	barley		1					
Indeterminate cereal grain (+embryo)			6					
Charcoal								
Quercus	oak				1 (0.02g)	4 (0.42g)	1 (0.10g)	
Other Remains								
Coal					5+	2		4
Modern seeds								1
Modern straw		1						

APPENDIX 6

Land north of Avon Drive, Huntington, York (5.38.14).
Pottery Assessment - Mark Stephens.

Introduction and Methods

The assemblage of pottery from the Avon Drive Farm site consisted of 10 sherds, which were examined under a x5 hand lens and compared to MAP's pottery type collection, with reference to *The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Handbook – Molas Monograph 2)*. The total weight of the assemblage was 242g, giving an Average Sherd Weight of 24.2g. Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval were all represented.

Pottery Catalogue

Context 1002
Grey ware: one body sherd.
Brandsby-type ware: unglazed body sherd with handle scar.
Spot date: C13/14th

Context 5001
Ryedale ware: body sherd with both internal and external glaze from a bowl.
Spot date: C16-17th

Context 15002
Splashed ware: coarse white fabric, body sherd with handle scar.
Spot date: C12th

Context 18005
Holme on Spalding Moor Reduced ware: (a) 2 sherds from same jar (C mid 2nd - early 3rd), (b) 3 sherds, including everted rim sherd, from same jar (C 3rd).

Context 21002
Rossington Bridge Black-burnished ware: flat base sherd
Spot date: C mid 2nd

Conclusions

This assemblage is too small to allow any detailed conclusions and statistical analysis, but provides dating for some of the individual contexts and to the history of the site as a whole. Romano-British activity is indicated, through disposal of rubbish from settlement. The medieval material probably arrived at the site during manuring of the fields indicated by the ridge and furrow at the site.

Recommendations

Although small, the assemblage should be retained. Two sherds would be worth illustrating in any future report: the Holme on Spalding Moor reduced ware rims from context18005.

Land north of Avon Drive
Huntington
York

SE 62085 56783

MAP 5.38.2014

ARCHEOLOGICAL SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION: TRIAL TRENCHING

CONTENTS

Figure 1. Trench Location. Scale 1:2.500.

Land north of Avon Drive
Huntington
York

SE 62085 56783

MAP 5.38.2014

ARCHEOLOGICAL SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION:
TRIAL TRENCHING

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document sets out the details of the archaeological Trial Trenching that will be required on Land north of Avon Drive, Huntington, York. There is potential for below ground archaeological deposits to be preserved on this site. The archaeological Scheme of Investigation has been commissioned by R Pilcher of Limetree Homes Ltd and will provide the necessary information to allow the City of York Council to make a reasoned decision on the impact of the proposed development on archaeological deposits.

1.2 In accordance with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) on 'Archaeology and Planning' a staged scheme of archaeological work is proposed. The results of the Trial Trenching will be summarised in a report and an appropriate mitigation strategy will be supplied.

1.3 MAP will adhere to the general principles of the IFA *Code of Conduct* throughout the project and to the IFA *'Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations'*.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 The Proposed Development Area lies in the suburb of Huntington, located north of York City Centre, north of the centre of Huntington and south of the Northern Ring Road (A1237). The Proposed Development is land located north of Avon Drive and east of Strensall Road, and is surrounded by twentieth century suburban residential development to the south and west.

2.2 The Site is currently pasture fields, standing at a height of circa 14m AOD.

3.0 SUMMARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION AND SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS WORK

3.1 A desk-based assessment undertaken by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd concluded that, *'the Proposed Development Area contains no Designated or Non-Designated Heritage Assets. The Desk Based Assessment has shown that the Proposed Development will have no Cultural Heritage impacts that would prevent development'*. Ridge and furrow and a landscape characterisation of strip fields were identified as being in the proposed development area. Historic mapping shown in the desk-based assessment indicates that the site was formerly divided by field boundaries (MAP 2014).

3.2 Phase Site Investigations undertook a Geophysical Survey in November 2015. Anomalies were identified that relate to modern material / objects, agricultural activity and possible geological / pedological variations. One linear anomaly is present that indicates the presence of a sub-surface feature but it cannot be determined if this is an infilled feature, and as such could have archaeological potential, or if it is related to a more modern feature, such as a field drain. There are numerous other weak, discontinuous trends of uncertain origin. It is worth noting that former field boundaries, shown on historic mapping, have not been identified in the data. This, coupled with the relatively weak anomalies that have been identified (excluding those clearly of modern origin) would tend to indicate that the soil has a magnetic susceptibility that is relatively low. This may mean that archaeological features, if any were present, might only produce weak responses that could potentially not be identifiable by the survey. It is possible therefore that the weak trends could be caused by sub-surface features, which are only intermittently producing responses strong enough to detect. However, it is also possible that these trends are caused by natural variations or even be random responses that coincidently form linear or curvi-linear anomalies.

4.0 THE DEPOSIT MODEL

4.1 Not available at present.

5.0 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROGRAMME

5.1 The aim of the Archaeological Trial Trenching is to determine the presence/absence, nature, date, quality of survival and importance of any archaeological deposits to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of the archaeology to be made.

5.2 The following methodologies must be used:

5.2.1 All overburden will be removed by mechanical excavator, using a wide toothless blade, under archaeological supervision, down to either the top of undisturbed natural sub-soil or the top of archaeological deposits whichever is 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. **Twenty three 2 x 50m trenches will be examined with the location agreed by the City of York Council (Fig. 1).**

5.2.2 In certain cases, the use of mechanical excavation equipment may also be appropriate for removing deep intrusions (e.g modern brick and concrete floors or footings), or for putting sections through major features after partial excavation (e.g ditches), or through deposits to check that they are of natural origin

5.2.3 A sufficient sample of any archaeological features and deposits revealed will be excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner. The complete excavation of features is not regarded as necessary: a sufficient sample would be investigated to understand the full stratigraphic sequence in each trench, down to naturally occurring deposits.

5.2.4 The excavation sampling policy is:
a. A 100% sample of stakeholes
b. A 50% sample of all postholes and of pits up to 1.5m in diameter
c. A minimum 25% sample of all pits over 1.5m in diameter (to include a complete section for full profile recovery)
d. A minimum 20% sample of all linear features, up to 5m in length, for features greater than this, a 10% sample would be taken.

5.2.5 All appropriate records must be made and kept; Context recording methodologies and systems will be used. All archaeological deposits will be recorded according to principles of stratigraphic excavation on MAP's *pro forma* sheets, which are compatible with the MoLAS recording system. The MoLAS recording manual will be used on site where necessary. The stratigraphy of trenches will be recorded even if no archaeology is found. Individual measured plans must usually be produced at a scale of 1:20 for all excavated features and deposits. Measured section drawings of trenches, major features and other parts of the site as appropriate must be produced, usually at a scale of 1:10. In addition, all features must be levelled relative to Ordnance Survey datum.

5.2.6 To ensure that the positions of excavation areas are accurately recorded for future study, and to assist the entry of data into the City of York Sites and Monuments Record, trench locations must be accurately surveyed. The data must be stored digitally in an agreed CAD format with the areas located relative to Ordnance Survey National Grid.

5.2.7 Photographs must form part of the excavation record. A minimum 35mm format for photography is required (in monochrome) and high resolution digital. They should consist of general site and feature specific views and progress record shots.

5.2.8 Securely stratified deposits must be sampled for retrieval and analysis of biological remains. Particular attention should be paid to any deposits in which there is good organic preservation. The sampling strategy must be agreed in advance with the Regional Science Advisor, Historic England, 37 Tanner Row York and approved in writing by the Assistant Director (Planning and Sustainable Development). Palaeoenvironmental sampling should take account of methods set out in *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods from Sampling and Recovery to Post -Excavation* (English Heritage 2002). 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 (Planning and Sustainable Development), City of York Council, 9 St Leonard's Place, York.

5.2.9 If human remains are encountered during the course of this evaluation, it may be necessary to remove these, under the conditions of licences for the removal of human remains (issued by the Ministry of Justice, to ensure that they are treated with due dignity). The preferred option would be for them to be adequately recorded before lifting, and then carefully removed for scientific study, and long term storage with an appropriate museum; however, the burial licence may specify reburial or cremation as a requirement.

5.2.10 All artefacts and ecofacts recovered and retained from the project 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.

5.2.11 The stratigraphic sequence must be produced and assessed.

5.2.12 The environmental samples must be processed and assessed; and the rest of the material archive must be assessed for the sites archaeological potential.

5.3 The details and processes outlined in 5.1—5.2.12 will produce the following output as a concise published report:

5.3.1 plan of site showing position of trenches;

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

5.3.3 an interpretation of the structural sequence;

5.3.4 an interpretation of the archaeological potential of the remainder of the site including proposed mitigation strategy.

5.3.5 The report should include:

- Non-technical summary
- Aims and purpose of the project
- Method statement
- An objective summary statement of results
- A stratigraphic narrative
- Reports on the artefacts and environmental material
- An assessment of the results of the project setting them into a local, regional and national context as appropriate
- Supporting illustrations and plans at appropriate scales
- Supporting data – tabulated or in appendices
- Supporting illustrations, photographs
- Index to archive and details of archive location
- References

5.3.6 The City of York Council UAD/SMR 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** http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/. If the archaeological contractor does not have internet access a paper copy of the form can be obtained from the City of York UAD/SMR at 9 St Leonard's Place, York YO1 7ET. Contractors are advised to contact the City of York UAD/HER prior to completing the form.

5.3.7 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 final report must be submitted to City of York Historic Environment Record in electronic form. This must be provided as a PDF file or files. 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, the City of York Council will place the information on its WWW pages, which is to be agreed by the contractor and client in writing as part of the process of submitting the report to the City Archaeologist.

5.4 A synopsis of the narrative report, material archive and future archaeological 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.

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

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

5.7 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 5.3.5 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.

5.8 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.

5.9 The Contractor must give at least seven days notice in writing of the start of works on site to Assistant Director (Planning and Sustainable Development Planning and Sustainable Development, 9 St Leonards Place, York, YO1 7ET).

5.10 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, both 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 MAP will ensure that the question of backfilling and surface re-instatement 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 project is covered by Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 1994, and ensure that all requirements under the regulations are met.

8.0 SUMMARY

8.1 This document sets out the background to, and outline of, a programme for archaeological Trial Trenching on this site. Although a previous Desk Based Assessment determined that the site had low archaeological potential and modern activity and geological variations were identified during a Geophysical Survey, there is still the possibility that below ground archaeological deposits may be preserved on this site. If deposits of archaeological interest are found, the archaeological trial trenching will provide information that will allow the City of York Council to put in place appropriate mitigation measures prior to development at the site.

APPENDIX

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This appendix describes a set of procedures which must be implemented by all contractors.

2.0 Procedures

2.1.1 All work must be undertaken in a professional manner paying attention to the Institute for Field Archaeologist Standards and Guidance:

- Introduction to Standards and Guidance (PDF)
- Standard and Guidance for desk-based assessment (PDF)
- Standard and Guidance for field evaluation (PDF)
- Standard and Guidance for Excavation (PDF)
- Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (PDF)
- Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (PDF)
- Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (PDF)
- Appendices to Standards (PDF)

All documents are available from either the City of York Council or from the IFA website at http://www.archaeologists.net

2.2 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds from this site must be carried out in accordance with the standards agreed by the Yorkshire Museum, the Castle Museum, and YAT those set by the UKIC. These standards form the basis of current practice in York and all contractors will be expected to base their estimates on the implementation of those standards (see section 3 below).

2.3 Finds specialists must be able to document and demonstrate levels of professional competence and technical expertise and access to comparative material.

2.4 Where the conservation of archaeological objects is necessary, this work should be undertaken either by or in consultation with the Conservation Section of the York Archaeological Trust.

3.0 Finds Processing Standards

3.1 The following finds-processing standards must be followed by all contractors

3.2 On-site finds processing

3.2.1 All bulk material must be washed

3.2.2 All bulk material except animal bone marked. Marking and labelling materials indelible and irremovable by abrasion

3.2.3 All bulk finds must be appropriately boxed and recorded on computer

3.2.4 Identification of stone-type and tile must be undertaken on site

3.2.5 All the above to be completed within two months from the end of the excavation

3.2.6 All small finds recorded both in the finds register and on computer

3.2.7 Small find recording system must be compatible with Yorkshire Museum accessioning system

3.2.8 All small finds must be appropriately packaged for optimum survival of data

3.2.9 All the above to be completed within two days of the object having been excavated

3.3 Off-site Finds Processing

3.3.1 All small find and bulk find data must be made available to finds researchers, conservators and curatorial staff

3.3.2 Computer system should be used to monitor location of objects to allow rapid access

3.3.3 All material stored in optimum conditions to ensure survival of data. Includes

Controlled environment storage where appropriate
Correct packaging with inert materials
Regular checking of the condition of objects
Immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material

3.3.4 All material stored in buildings with appropriate security (see storage below)

3.4 Conservation

3.4.1 All metal objects will be x-rayed, then selected for conservation. Non-conserved material stored in controlled conditions.

3.4.2 All organic materials will be appropriately treated, including prior specialist recording for materials where there is possible information loss in the process of conservation

3.4.3 Specialist advice must be taken for wood, leather, osseous material and textile conservation and research

3.4.4 All other classes of material must be treated where appropriate

3.4.5 Special packaging undertaken must be provided for all vulnerable objects. All textiles, coins, and painted glass stored in specially-designed systems.

3.5 Storage

3.5.1 All objects stored in appropriate materials and storage conditions

3.5.2 All objects stored to allow rapid access on demand

3.5.3 All storage at appropriate security levels, eg:
Small finds in storage approved by National Security Adviser or Area Museums Service
Bulk finds in storage with lower security rating but still physically secure and alarmed

3.5.4 Safe secure and environmentally controlled storage must be provided for all material between excavation and the deposition of the archive with the receiving body.

4.0 All contractors must follow the above guidelines.