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Barnburgh Lane, Goldthorpe
South Yorkshire

Report on Trench-Based Archaeological Site Investigation

SLR Ref : 403.03044.00001

March 2012

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CONTENTS

1.0	SUMMARY.....	1
2.0	BACKGROUND.....	2
3.0	GENERAL APPROACH TO FIELDWORK	4
3.1	Aims and objectives.....	4
3.2	Standards, key personnel and monitoring.....	4
3.3	Monitoring and deposition arrangements.....	8
3.4	The site and constraints to survey	8
3.5	Methodology	9
4.0	RESULTS	10
4.1	Detailed description of Trenches.....	10
5.0	DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS	21
5.1	Effectiveness of techniques	21
5.2	Finds.....	21
5.3	Features	21
5.4	Report and archive.....	21
5.5	Further work	21
6.0	CLOSURE.....	22

FIGURES

Figure 1	Site location.....	2
Figure 2	Trench layout in relation to geophysical survey greyscale plot	6
Figure 3	Trench layout in relation to geophysical survey interpretative plot	7
Figure 4	View of site looking south.....	8
Figure 5	Trench 1 after excavation looking west.....	10
Figure 6	Trench 2 after excavation looking north.....	11
Figure 7	Trench 3 after excavation looking north-east	12
Figure 8	Trench 4 after excavation looking south-east.....	13
Figure 9	Trench 5 after excavation looking north-east	14
Figure 10	Trench 5 ditch [503] Section 1 after excavation, looking east.....	14
Figure 11	Trench 6 after excavation looking north-west	15
Figure 12	Trench 7 after excavation looking north.....	16
Figure 13	Trench 8 after excavation looking north.....	17
Figure 14	Trench 9 after excavation looking north.....	18
Figure 15	Trench 9 Feature [903] after excavation looking north	18
Figure 16	Plans of features [503] and [903].....	19
Figure 17	Sections through features [503] and [903]	20

TABLES

Table 1	Details of trenches	9
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APPENDICES

Appendix A List of contexts

Appendix B Finds Assessment

1.0 SUMMARY

SLR Consulting has been commissioned by Gleeson Developments Limited to prepare this report on archaeological trench-based site investigation of a proposed development of approximately 4ha, at Barnburgh Lane, Goldthorpe, South Yorkshire (the 'Site').

Prior to excavation an archaeological assessment prepared by SLR concluded that the site contained a cropmark and a group of cropmarks which were thought to be potentially of Iron Age or Romano-British date though one was later shown to be a water main. There was also the potential for the existence of historic mining remains within the Site, and perhaps other currently-unknown archaeological remains. A subsequent geophysical survey identified a number of anomalies.

The South Yorkshire Archaeology Service's Archaeologist (SYAS) advised that site investigation in the form of trenching was required, and the nine trenches which are the subject of this report were excavated to investigate geophysical anomalies and apparent blank areas.

One feature, a small undated ditch, was found in Trench 5, coinciding with a geophysical anomaly, the survey and excavation evidence together suggesting a linear feature orientated north-west / south-east, and extending over a distance of approximately 16m. Trenches were otherwise devoid of significant features.

SYAS's Archaeologist monitored the trenches when all but Trench 9 had been excavated. It was agreed at that point that no further work would be required on the undated ditch or other parts of the Site, subject to results in Trench 9. The two features subsequently exposed in Trench 9 are of no archaeological significance, and it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required on the project.

2.0 BACKGROUND

SLR Consulting has been commissioned by Gleeson Developments Limited to prepare this report on archaeological trench-based site investigation (SI) of a proposed development at Barnburgh Lane, Goldthorpe, South Yorkshire.

The application site (the 'Site') occupies approximately 4ha, centred on NGR 446699, 403817 (Figure 1).

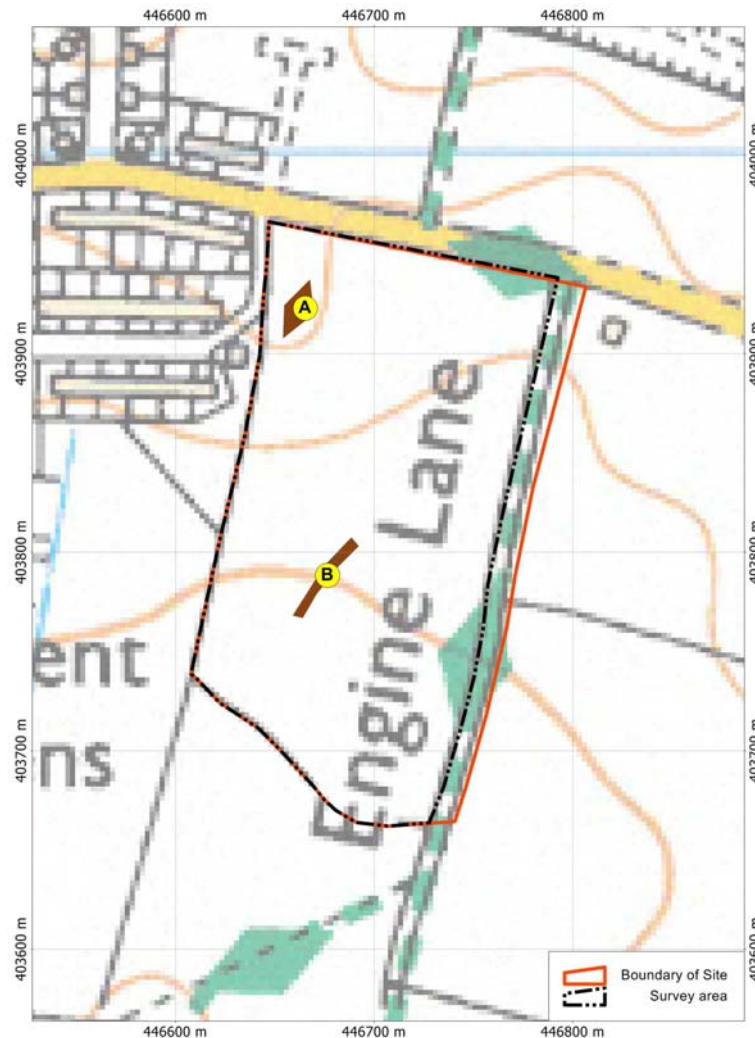


Figure 1
Site location

An archaeological assessment prepared by SLR¹ concluded that the archaeological potential of the site comprised:

- two cropmarks or groups of cropmarks located within the Site, possibly of Iron Age or Romano-British date:
 - o **A** a group of short parallel / perpendicular linear features with possible associated pits; and
 - o **B** a linear feature;
- historic mining recorded in the vicinity and possibly extending into the site; and
- any other currently-unknown archaeology remains.

Subsequent geophysical survey² identified a number of linear anomalies including ones related to the cropmarks, but none appeared likely to be of archaeological significance. Utilities information received since the completion of the report shows that Cropmark A corresponds with the line of a water main. However, the possibility that archaeological remains are present within the site cannot be ruled out.

Given the potential for archaeological remains to exist within the application site, the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service's Archaeologist (SYAS) advised that site investigation in the form of trenching was required. The fieldwork reported in this document forms the response to that requirement.

¹ SLR Consulting, December 2011, *Barnburgh Lane, Goldthorpe, South Yorkshire: Archaeological Assessment* (SLR Ref 403.03044.00001).

² Archaeological Project Services, January 2012, *Barnburgh Lane, Goldthorpe, South Yorkshire: Geophysical Survey* (APS Report 5/12).

3.0 GENERAL APPROACH TO FIELDWORK

3.1 Aims and objectives

Aims

- to identify, investigate, understand, record, and report the extent, nature and significance of any surviving archaeological remains within the Site; and
- to provide sufficient information to enable SYAS to make an informed planning recommendation.

Objectives

- to excavate the trenches and identify any archaeological features present;
- to identify areas devoid of archaeological features;
- to record a plan of any archaeological features present;
- to clean, excavate and record a sufficient portion of each archaeological feature present to place on record and understand the nature, sequence, date and significance of any archaeological remains present within the Site; and
- to provide a full report outlining the discoveries and their heritage significance.

3.2 Standards, key personnel and monitoring

The archaeological regulator was:

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Archaeologist
South Yorkshire Archaeology Service
Howden House
1 Union Street
Sheffield
S1 2SH
T: 0114 2736354
F: 0114 2735002
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The Archaeological Consultant was:

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Aspect House, Aspect Business Park
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The archaeological sub-contractor was:

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T: 01529 461618
E: info@apsarchaeology.co.uk.

The work was carried out according to a written scheme of investigation prepared by SLR³ and approved by SYAS, and according to the appropriate IfA Standard and Guidance⁴.

SLR and APS are both Registered Organisations with the Institute for Archaeologists. All archaeologists employed by the archaeological sub-contractor to work on the project were suitably experienced to complete the tasks required. The work was carried out by a Project Supervisor, supported by a Site Assistant to carry out field-recording and excavation. Post-excavation processing of records and finds, and any necessary assessment and analysis was carried out by APS' specialists.

Overall authorship of the report is by SLR in consultation with APS, except specific sections with APS authorship, (3.5, 4.1 and Appendices A and B) where authorship is individually specified.

³ SLR February 2012. *Barnburgh Lane, Goldthorpe South Yorkshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Site Investigation (Trenching)* (SLR Ref : 403.03044.00001).

⁴ IfA 2009. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.

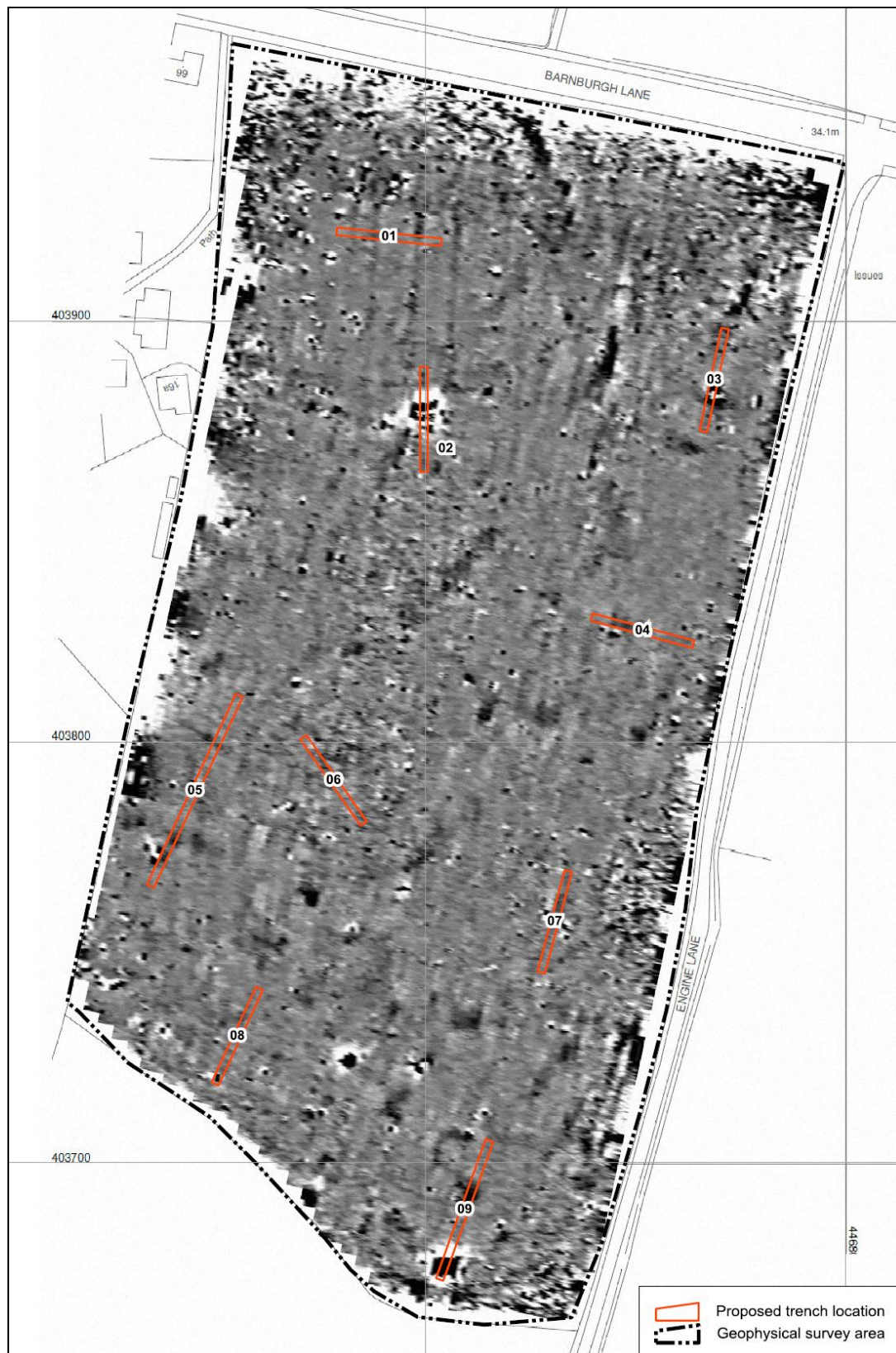


Figure 2
Trench layout in relation to geophysical survey greyscale plot

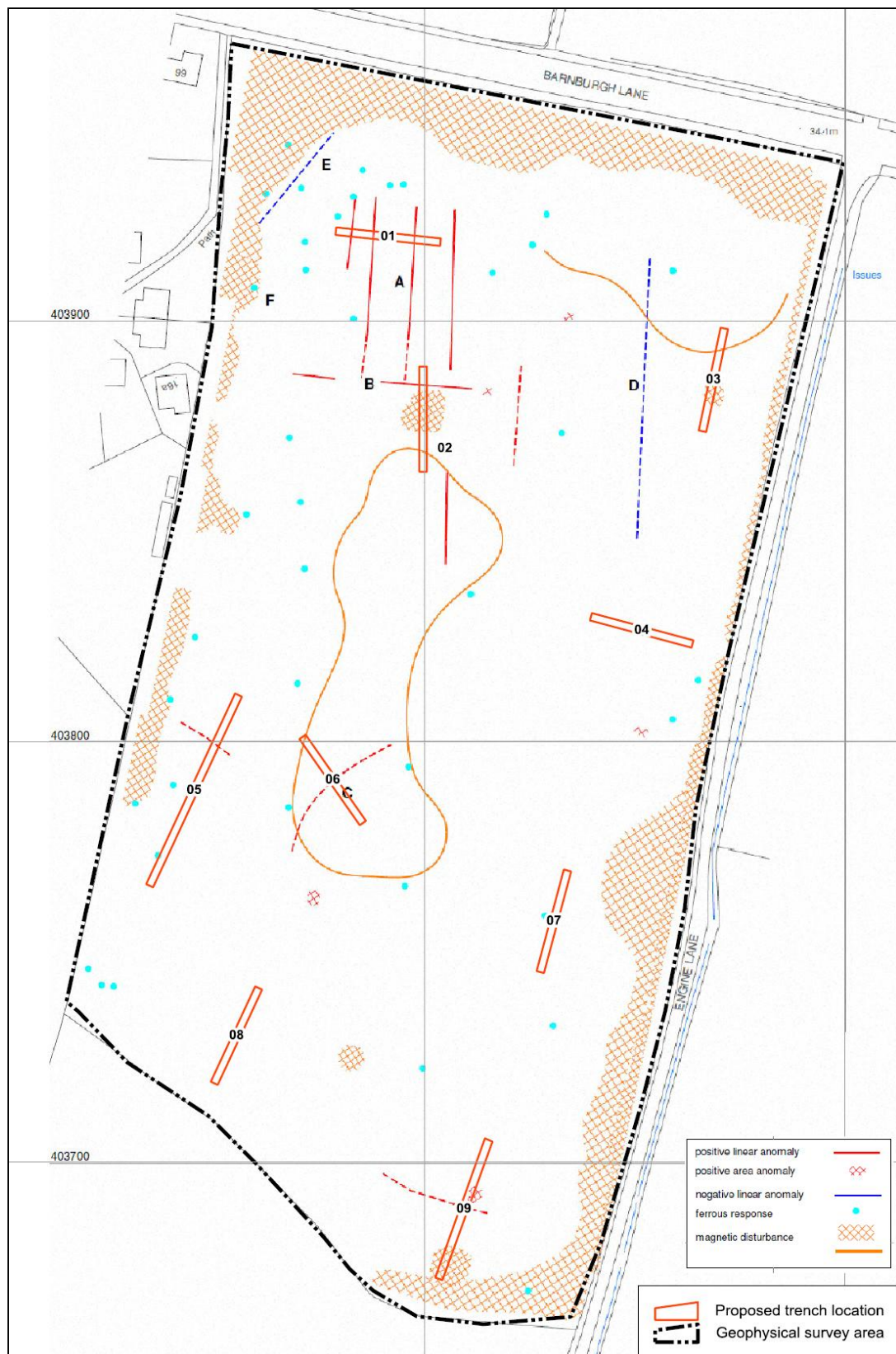


Figure 3
Trench layout in relation to geophysical survey interpretative plot

3.3 Monitoring and deposition arrangements

The Archaeologist from SYAS visited the Site on 8th March during the fieldwork to discuss the results with SLR and APS. All the Trenches were open at the time, except Trench 9, and he was subsequently informed of results on the completion of the excavation of that trench, which occurred after he had left the Site.

An accession number was obtained by APS from Barnsley Museum (Site Code: GOBL12; Accession no: A.2240). James Massey, Collections Assistant advised that

'At the moment we are between sites, our new store in the new museum has not actually been built yet. We will have to accession it into the Cannon Hall collections and then transfer it across to the new EB museum when it is completed.'

The interim destination museum is therefore:

Cannon Hall Museum
Bark House Lane
Cawthorne
Barnsley
S75 4AT

Provision for deposition and storage costs has been made within the project budget.

An OASIS record has been set up (archaeol1-117008), and will be completed along with the archive.

3.4 The site and constraints to survey

The application site covers approximately 4ha, and is bounded to the west and south by housing and agricultural land; it extends to the east in a 10m-wide strip on the east side of Engine Lane (Figure 4).

There was no constraint to fieldwork from land-use.



Figure 4
View of site looking south

3.5 Methodology

By Mark Peachey (APS)

Nine trenches were excavated, as shown in Figures 2 and 3, and Table 1.

Table 1
Details of trenches

Trench No	Area (m ²)	Objective
01	45	Verify apparent blank area
02	45	Characterise large bipolar anomaly
03	45	Characterise small bipolar anomaly
04	45	Characterise small bipolar anomaly
05	90	Characterise NW/SE linear anomaly
06	45	Characterise linear anomaly C and cropmark
07	45	Characterise short linear anomaly
08	45	Verify blank area
09	63	Characterise large bipolar anomaly and faint linear features to the north

Removal of topsoil and other overburden was undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket, under archaeological supervision. The exposed surfaces of the trenches were then inspected and each potential features was cleaned by hand and excavated sufficiently in order to determine its nature.

Each deposit exposed during the evaluation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their interpretations appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was also compiled and sections and plans were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20 respectively. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

The locations of the excavated trenches were surveyed with a Thales Z-MAX dGPS connected to OSNet.

Following excavation, finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix B).

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Detailed description of Trenches

By Mark Peachey (APS)

Trench 1

This trench was positioned east-west across parallel north-south linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey (Figure 5).

The trench sloped down from west to east and contained various north to south bands of natural geology. Compact dark orangey brown clayey sand (107) was overlain by orangey brown and light greyish brown sandy silt (106) above which was light brown sandy silt (105). Seen in section above this was 0.19m thick laminated greyish brown sandy silt (104). This was overlain by 0.19m thick light brown sandy silt (103). Sealing these deposits was a 0.1m thick orangey brown sandy silt subsoil (102) above which was 0.26m thick topsoil (101).

No archaeological features were revealed. This natural banding may have caused the geophysical anomalies, which had been thought to reflect the location of land drains.



Figure 5
Trench 1 after excavation looking west

Trench 2

This north-south aligned trench was targeted on an east-west aligned linear anomaly and an area of magnetic disturbance on the slope south of Trench 1 (Figure 6).

The southern, lower, half of the trench was machined onto a mottled greyish brown/orangey brown clayey silt natural deposit (202). This was overlain, just north of the centre of the trench, by a 3.5m wide band of orangey brown clay (204) which was overlain by coal seam (203), exposed over 4.5m of the trench. Above this seam, in the northernmost 4m of the trench, was a layer of mottled blue-grey/light brown natural clay (205). There were no archaeological features and the natural deposits were sealed by 0.3m thick topsoil (201).



Figure 6
Trench 2 after excavation looking north

Trench 3

Aligned north-south on the slope in the northeast part of the site, the southernmost 7.5m of this trench was taken up by coal seam (303), probably a continuation of (203) in Trench 2. This was overlain by mottled orangey brown/light brown silt (302), above which, at the north end of the trench, was orangey brown clayey silt (304). No archaeological features were revealed and the natural deposits were overlain by 0.15m thick topsoil (301) (Figure 7).



Figure 7
Trench 3 after excavation looking north-east

Trench 4

Located close to the eastern site boundary, this east-west aligned trench contained mottled orange-brown/blue-grey clayey silt (402) overlain by 0.24m thick topsoil (401). There were no archaeological features (Figure 8).



Figure 8
Trench 4 after excavation looking south-east

Trench 5

Situated close to the southwest corner of the site, this trench was targeted on a northwest to southeast aligned linear anomaly (Figure 9).

The natural deposit was mottled orangey-brown/light blue-grey clayey silt (502). This was cut by a northwest-southeast aligned ditch [503] (Fig 10, 16, 17) which was 3.35m wide and 0.7m deep with quite gently sloping sides. Mottled light brown/orangey brown clayey silt deposits (504) and (505) probably represent subsoil slumped into either side. The remaining fills: mottled blue-grey/orangey-brown (506), slightly more orange, silty clay (507) and mid grey brown clayey silt (508) probably represent gradual silting up of the ditch, which was undated. The ditch was sealed by 0.15m thick light brown clayey silt subsoil (509).

Towards the south end of the trench, an amorphous spread of light brown clayey silt (510), 12.4m long and up to 1m wide was most probably root disturbance and was not excavated.



Figure 9
Trench 5 after excavation looking north-east



Figure 10
Trench 5 ditch [503] Section 1 after excavation, looking east

Trench 6

Trench 6 was aligned northwest to southeast across a linear geophysical anomaly. The natural deposit was mottled orangey-brown/blue-grey clayey silt (602). The anomaly had been caused by two southwest to northeast aligned ceramic land drains 5.2m apart in the

centre of the trench. The drains were identical, composed of foot long inverted U-shaped upper segments (95mm wide by 100mm deep) resting on a flat lower part. They were sealed by 0.33m thick topsoil (601) (Figure 11).



Figure 11
Trench 6 after excavation looking north-west

Trench 7

This trench was located on the east side of the site and contained a natural deposit of mottled mid grey/orange silty clay (701). There were no archaeological features cutting the clay and it was overlain by 0.35m thick topsoil (700) (Figure 12).



Figure 12
Trench 7 after excavation looking north

Trench 8

Located close to the southern boundary of the site this trench contained a natural deposit of mottled light grey/orange silty clay (801) overlain by 0.34m thick topsoil (800). There were no archaeological features (Figure 13).



Figure 13
Trench 8 after excavation looking north

Trench 9

Targeted on an east-west anomaly and magnetic disturbance towards the southeast corner of the site, Trench 9 contained a natural deposit of mottled light grey/orange silty clay (904) (Figure 14).

Coinciding with the magnetic disturbance, a dumped deposit, up to 0.15m thick, of coal, ash, brick and limestone rubble (901) overlay the natural in the southernmost 6.2m of the trench. Two finds of probable brick were found but not closely dated. This feature appears likely to be dumped material at the boggy field-bottom.

The trench was widened around a large feature towards the middle of the trench in order to excavate a machine section. The feature was thus shown to be a shallow-sided sub-circular depression [903] (Figures 15 - 17) measuring approximately 5m in diameter and up to 0.65m deep. The mid greyish brown clayey silt fill (902) contained 19th-20th century material. The feature was sealed by up to 0.38m thick topsoil (900).



Figure 14
Trench 9 after excavation looking north



Figure 15
Trench 9 Feature [903] after excavation looking north

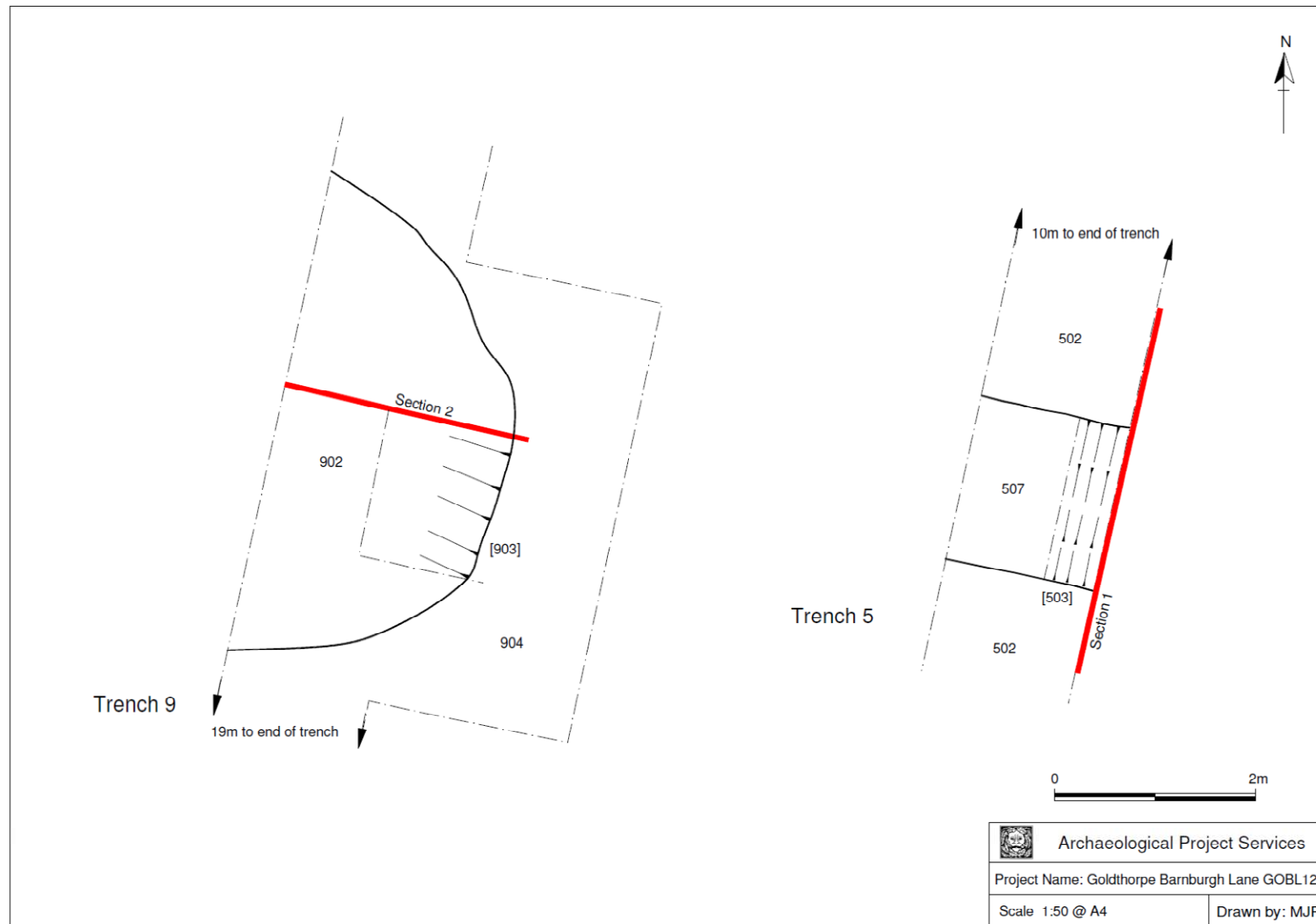


Figure 16
Plans of features [503] and [903]

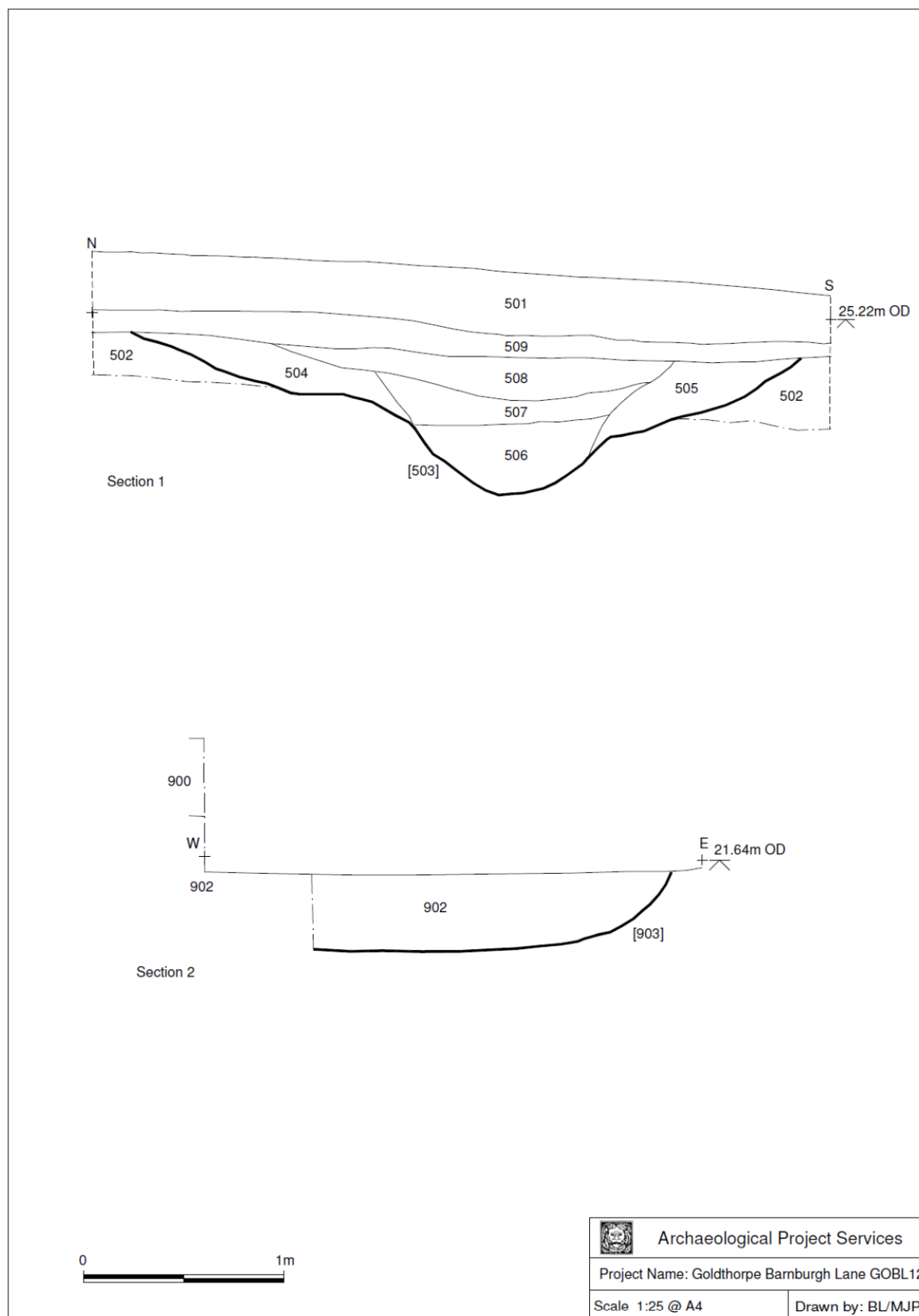


Figure 17
Sections through features [503] and [903]

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Effectiveness of techniques

The features and natural geological deposits were clearly defined and appeared immediately below the topsoil (see for example Figure 10). There is thus a fair degree of confidence that all features present within the trenches were identified.

5.2 Finds

Finds were sparse and provided useful dating only for the recent deposit filling hollow [903]. No further assessment or analysis is considered necessary.

5.3 Features

Only one feature was found which was of possible archaeological significance, ditch [503] in Trench 5. This was approximately 3.35m wide and 0.7m deep, orientated WNW/SSE, perpendicular to the trench. It coincided in location and orientation with a linear geophysical anomaly, which extended to either side of the trench, over a length of approximately 16m. No artefacts were recovered from its fill. The ditch does not compare in location or alignment with any boundaries shown in historic mapping (see for example, DBA⁵, Appendix A, Figures 5-8), and the feature cannot be dated from the available evidence. It was agreed with SYAS that no further investigation of the feature will be required.

The only other features identified in the trenches were in Trench 9. Feature [903] was a curve-edged hollow of which 5m was exposed in plan within the trench. It coincided with a geophysical anomaly which suggests a shape circular in plan, and approximately 10m across. The fill (902) contained 19th-20th century building material. At the south end of the Trench, (901) was an undated dumped deposit of coal, ash brick and limestone given its location in the field corner and its proximity to [903], it seems likely to be of recent origin.

5.4 Report and archive

Following comment from SYAS and the making of any agreed amendments, the report and documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the evaluation will be deposited with the destination museum for long term storage and curation. Upon completion and submission of the report, the finds will be disposed of, or returned to the landowner, as they prefer.

The final version of the report will be uploaded to the OASIS record.

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5.5 Further work

SYAS's Archaeologist monitored the trenches when all but Trench 9 had been excavated. It was agreed at that point that no further work would be required on the ditch or other parts of the Site, subject to results in Trench 9. The two features subsequently exposed in Trench 9

⁵ SLR Consulting 2011. *Barnburgh Lane, Goldthorpe, South Yorkshire, Archaeological Assessment*. SLR Ref. 403.03044.00001.

are of no archaeological significance, and it is recommended that that no further archaeological work is required on the project.

6.0 CLOSURE

This report has been prepared by SLR Consulting Limited with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the manpower and resources devoted to it by agreement with the client. Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected and has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

This report is for the exclusive use of Gleeson Developments Ltd; no warranties or guarantees are expressed or should be inferred by any third parties. This report may not be relied upon by other parties without written consent from SLR.

SLR disclaims any responsibility to the client and others in respect of any matters outside the agreed scope of the work.

Table A-1
Context descriptions

By Mark Peachey (APS)

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Date
101	1	Friable, mid-dark brown clayey silt. 0.26m thick	Topsoil	
102	1	Friable, orangey-brown sandy silt. 0.1m thick	Subsoil	
103	1	Friable, (soft/powdery), light brown (yellowish hew) sandy silt. 0.19m thick	Natural deposit	
104	1	Friable, light greyish-brown and dark brown laminated silt/sandy silt. (the dark brown is gritty/sand, the light greyish-brown is silt). 0.19m thick	Natural deposit	
105	1	Friable, light brown sandy silt (layered). 0.05m thickness exposed in section and forms most of base of trench	Natural deposit	
106	1	Friable, orangey-brown and light greyish-brown patchy sand and sandy silt. 4.5m wide spread	Natural deposit	
107	1	Compact, solid and blocky in structure. Dark orangey-brown clayey-sand.	Natural deposit	
201	2	Friable, dark brown clayey silt. 0.3m thick	Topsoil	
202	2	Friable (compact), light orangey-brown and light greyey-brown mottled clayey silt. 0.17m exposed in section, and forms much of base of trench	Natural deposit	
203	2	Coal. Black. Flaky and crumbly, frequently in squared fragments < 20mm (av.). 4.5m wide and running east – west. Likely same as (303)	Coal-seam	
204	2	Compact (soft/powdery), deep orangey-brown clay. Some possible silt mixing. 3.5m wide spread	Natural deposit	
205	3	Compacted, blue-grey and light brown mottled and patchy clay/ silty-clay. 4m exposed at end of trench	Natural deposit	
301	3	Friable, dark brown clayey silt. 0.15m thick	Topsoil	
302	3	Firm/compact (crumbles to powder), orangey-brown and light grey-brown mottled silt. 0.27m exposed in section	Natural deposit	
303	3	Coal. Black. Flaky and crumbly. Frequently in squared fragments < 20mm (av.). 7.5m wide and running east – west. Likely same as (203)	Coal-seam	
304	3	Wet/friable, orangey-brown clayey silt. Some mix with (302) at southern extent. 5.5m wide spread exposed at end of trench	Natural deposit	
401	4	Friable, dark-mid brown clayey silt. 0.24m thick	Topsoil	

Appendix A

402	4	Friable (crumbly), orangey-brown and blue-grey mottled clayey silt. Some sand element. 0.24m exposed in section	Natural deposit	
501	5	Friable, dark-mid brown clayey silt. 0.3m thick	Topsoil	
502	5	Friable, orangey-brown and light blue-grey mottled clayey silt. < 0.35m thick	Natural deposit	
503	5	Linear cut of ditch: 3.35m wide, 0.7m deep. Extent unknown – continues into baulks. Gently sloping sides breaking to moderately steep slope. Gradual break of slope at bottom to form concave base. Aligned N/E to S/W	Cut of ditch.	
504	5	Firm, light brown and orangey-brown mottled clayey silt. 1.4m wide, 0.2m thick.	Fill of ditch [503]. Same as (505)	
505	5	Firm, light brown and orangey-brown mottled clayey silt. 1m wide, < 0.3m thick	Fill of ditch [503]. Same as (504)	
506	5	Firm/compact, blue-grey and orangey-brown mottled clay. 1m wide, 0.35m thick	Fill of ditch [503]	
507	5	Firm/compact, orangey-brown and light blue-grey mottled clay / silty-clay. 1.35m wide, 0.15m thick. Similar to (506), but more of the orangey-brown	Fill of ditch [503]	
508	5	Friable, mid greyey-brown clayey silt. 2m wide, 0.22m thick. Some mixing/diffuse horizon with (507)	Fill of ditch [503]	
509	5	Friable, light brown clayey silt. < 0.15m thick	Subsoil	
510	5	Friable, light brown clayey silt (orangey hew). Contains a burnt root and occasional charcoal flecks. Appears as an irregular shaped spread in base of trench. 12.4m long. Approx' 1m at widest, narrowing to c.0.5m. Not excavated	Uncertain feature – could be tree rooting	
601	6	Friable, dark-mid brown clayey silt. 0.33m thick	Topsoil	
602	6	Friable, orangey-brown and blue-grey mottled clayey silt. 0.37m exposed in section	Natural deposit	
700	7	Loose, dark greyish-brown clayey silt. 0.35m thick	Topsoil	
701	7	Fairly firm, mottled mid grey and orange silty-clay. 0.23m thick exposed in section	Natural deposit	
800	8	Loose, dark greyish-brown clayey silt. 0.34m thick	Topsoil	
801	8	Fairly firm, mottled light-grey and orange silty-clay. 0.24m thick exposed in section	Natural deposit	
900	9	Loose, dark greyish-brown clayey silt up to 0.38m thick.	Topsoil	
901	9	Loose mix of coal, ash, brick and limestone spread exposed at southern end of trench, at least 6.2m long, up to 0.15m thick	Dumped deposit	

Appendix A

902	9	Friable, mid greyish-brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks, up to 0.65m thick	Only fill of sub-circular depression [903]	19/20 th century
903	9	Cut of sub-circular depression. Only partially exposed in trench - continues into western baulk. Approx' 5m diameter (at widest exposed). Moderate-steep slope with gradual break at bottom to flat base. 0.37m deep	Cut of depression	
904	9	Fairly firm, mottled light grey and orange silty-clay. 0.3m thick exposed in section, and forms much of base	Natural deposit	

FINDS ASSESSMENT

By Alex Beeby (APS)

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001). A total of four fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 373 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 1 below.

Condition

The condition of the material is mixed.

Results

Table 1, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Trench	Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	Description	Date	NoF	W (g)
9	901	BRK?	Brick?	Oxidised; fine sandy; mica ferruginous mudstone	Very abraded; no surviving surfaces; probably brick; undatable	Roman or Post Roman	1	195
9	901	BRK	Brick	Oxidised; fine sandy; slag	Corner handmade; roughly formed; slop moulded?	13 th -19 th	1	44
9	902	CBM	Ceramic Building Material	Oxidised fine sandy	Single finely sanded surface; flake	Roman or Post Roman	1	9
9	902	PANT	Pantile		Modern; fresh	19 th -20 th	1	125
Total							4	373

Provenance

All of the ceramic building material came from Trench 9. Fragments were recovered from dump deposit (901) and fill (902) within depression [903].

Range

Appendix B

There are two pieces of brick (BRK, BRK?) from (901) as well as piece of miscellaneous ceramic building material (CBM) and a fragment from an early modern Pantile (PANT) from [903]. Apart from the Pantile, the material is too fragmentary and abraded to be usefully diagnostic.

Potential

There is no potential for further work. The ceramic building material is suitable to be discarded.

Summary

Four pieces of ceramic building material were recovered from Trench 9. Three of these are largely undiagnostic, whilst the fourth dates to the 19th or 20th century.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 2 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 2, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
901	13 th -19 th	Based on CBM
902	19 th -20 th	Based on CBM

ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
TR	Trench
W (g)	Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

~ 2001, *Draft Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, third version [internet]. Available from <<http://www.geocities.com/acbmg1/CBMGDE3.htm>>



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