

Belton House Belton, Lincolnshire

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results



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**Belton House
Belton, Lincolnshire**

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological recording and post-excavation work on an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at the site of Belton House, Belton, Lincolnshire (NGR 494078, 338670).

This evaluation, consisting of eight trenches, was primarily focused on the Great War era training camp. Though structural remains from this encampment proved elusive, the investigation did find a substantial artefactual assemblage which vividly illustrated many aspects of ordinary, everyday camp life.

The investigation confirmed the basic layout of the camp as illustrated on a contemporary plan, but this work has made clear that a detailed assessment of the development and structure of the camp would be best addressed through contemporary maps, photographs and personnel recollections. Contemporary photographs of the camp under construction show the huts as timber-framed, of standardised construction and raised from the ground. Consequently, few traces of these structures remain, with utility pipes and drains in many cases being all that can be located archaeologically.

Due to well documented changes in uniform design and the use of branded regimental items, the finds evidence has perhaps the greatest archaeological potential to illustrate the development of the camp and the location of the different regiments stationed here.

The evidence suggests that fairly quickly after the camp was decommissioned the buildings were comprehensively dismantled and the land returned to parkland. One of the huts is known to have been reused as a village hall at Denton and it is likely that other huts may also have been salvaged for civilian use.

Although almost all the archaeological deposits were modern, a single sherd from a ditch in Trench 8 suggests Romano-British activity in the vicinity. A ditch encountered in Trench 4 may also be an earlier feature.

No further analysis or detailed publication of the results of the evaluation is recommended. A brief summary of the work will be submitted to *Lincolnshire History & Archaeology* to be included in their annual roundup of work in the county.



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This programme of post-excavation and assessment work was commissioned and funded by Videotext Communications Ltd, and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank the staff at Videotext, and in particular Siân Price (Series Director), Chris Rushton (Director), Val Croft (Head of Production), Dan Wheatley (Production Co-ordinator) and Maddy Gerry (Researcher) for their considerable help during the recording and post-excavation work.

The geophysical survey was undertaken by John Gater, Jimmy Adcock, Emma Wood and Graeme Attwood. The excavation strategy was devised by Francis Pryor. The on-site recording was co-ordinated by Naomi Brennan, and on-site finds processing was carried out by Mark Bagwell, both of Wessex Archaeology.

The excavations were undertaken by Time Team's retained archaeologists, Tracey Smith, Phil Harding, Matt Williams, Ian Powlesland, Raksha Dave, Cassie Newland and Rob Hedge assisted by Liz Murray, Bob Garland, Bryn Leadbetter, Denise Buckley and Katie Green. The metal detector survey was carried out by Robin Green and Leslie Staniland.

The archive was collated and all post-excavation assessment and analysis undertaken by Wessex Archaeology. This report was written and compiled by Naomi Brennan with specialist reports (finds) prepared by Lorraine Mephram and Naomi Brennan. The illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer. The post-excavation project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Lorraine Mephram.

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Rachael Hall (National Trust) for her advice and input during the evaluation process. Wessex Archaeology would also like to acknowledge the advice and information provided on site by Martin Brown, Andy Robertshaw and Leslie Staniland. Finally thanks are extended to the National Trust and in particular the staff at Belton House for allowing access to the Site for geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation.



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Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological recording and post-excavation work on an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at the site of Belton House, Belton, Lincolnshire (hereafter the 'Site'), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 494078, 338670 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 This report documents the results of archaeological survey and evaluation undertaken by Time Team, and presents an assessment of the results of these works.

1.2 The Site, location and geology

1.2.1 Belton House and its surrounding park lie some 4km to the north-east of Grantham and 7km to the south-west of Ancaster, within the parish of Belton and Manthorpe.

1.2.2 The area of interest for this investigation lies in the eastern part of the park and is defined by the road between Belton and Londthorpe to the east and the area of woodland known as Old Wood. The ground here consists of a fairly level plateau lying between approximately 118-122m aOD.

1.2.3 The underlying geology is the Marlstone Rock Formation, although superficial deposits of sand and gravel are recorded elsewhere within the park (BGS Sheet 127). Beyond the immediate area of investigation the bedrock is variously recorded as the Charmouth and Whitby Mudstone Formations.

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 Worked flints, including microliths, cores and a micro-burin of Mesolithic date (8500-4000 BC), have been found on the Golf Course, just to the south-west of the Site (English Heritage (EH) National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) reference 325614; National Trust Historic Buildings, Sites & Monuments Record (HBSMR) entry 60398). There is also reference to Neolithic flints (4000-2400 BC) being found in the park (EH NRHE reference 325635). A possible ring-ditch thought to be a Neolithic or Bronze Age barrow (4000-700 BC) has also been identified from aerial photography, just beyond the north-east corner of the park (Hilary Taylor Landscape Associates Ltd. 2011, 32, based on data from Deegan 2011).

1.3.2 There are reports of a possible Romano-British villa (43-410 AD) in the vicinity, including walls and tessellated pavements (e.g. Moule 1837), but the exact location of this is currently unknown. A scatter of 2nd to 3rd century AD century pottery sherds have been found about 500m to the north of the park (Hilary Taylor Landscape Associates Ltd. 2011, 32) and a possible rectilinear enclosure identified from aerial photographs may be of Iron Age or Romano-British date (Deegan 2011, 6). Several artefacts, including knife and

spearhead fragments found in the rectory in Belton village, may indicate the presence of Saxon burials in this area (410-1066 AD) (Hilary Taylor Landscape Associates Ltd. 2011, 36).

- 1.3.3 The settlement of Belton is listed in *Domesday* (1086) as *Beltone*, where it is recorded as having three mills and a church (entry viewable at <http://domesdaymap.co.uk/place/SK9339/belton/>). The deserted medieval village of Townthorpe is thought to lie along the banks of the River Witham on the western edge of the park, though the visible earthwork are slight (Hilary Taylor Landscape Associates Ltd. 2011, 21). There are several recorded areas of extant ridge and furrow within the park (National Trust HBSMR entries 60420, 60421 and 60422).
- 1.3.4 The ground to the south of the fishponds is alleged to be the site of a battle on 15 May 1643 during the English Civil War (EH NRHE reference 325663).
- 1.3.5 Belton Manor was owned by St Mary's Abbey, York until the Dissolution of the monasteries in the 1530s. By 1603 the manor house was owned by Sir Henry Pakenham who sold it to Richard Brownlow for £2690. The property remained with the Brownlow family until it came into the ownership of the National Trust in 1984 (Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest entry 1429).
- 1.3.6 The house itself is a Grade I Listed Building and was built between 1684-88 to replace the previous manor house, which was pulled down. The site of the former house is thought to be adjacent to the present day orangery (National Trust HBSMR entry 60368). Bellmount Tower, which would have been an eye-catching landmark for soldiers based at the camp, was built in 1750 and is a Grade II* Listed Building (National Trust HBSMR entry 60371). The associated 17th century park and gardens and late 19th century gardens are Grade I listed.
- 1.3.7 During the Great War (1914-18), the 3rd Earl Brownlow, along with many other major landowners, offered use of his house and grounds to the government for war service. A training camp was swiftly established in the eastern part of the ground, out of sight of the house. The initial camp of 1914 was tented, but these were soon replaced by wooden huts (Sewell 2007; **Figure 3, plate 2**). The 11th Northern Division, newly formed and still short of equipment and uniform, was inspected by Lord Kitchener at Belton Park on 18 October 1914 (Baker 2010). A plan of the encampment thought to date to summer 1915 (**Figure 2**) shows the layout of the camp in great detail. At this time the camp quartered the 30th Division while this division was being formed. The 30th Division was made up almost entirely of battalions from Manchester and Liverpool comprising volunteers who had enlisted soon after the start of the war in August 1914 (Lincolnshire HER entry 39056). A railway was built to supply the camp, running from Peacliffe to Bellmount (Hilary Taylor Landscape Associates Ltd. 2011, 85). The camp included a 'Kinema' and hospital as well as buildings for the YMCA (**Figure 3, Plate 1**), chapels for the different major denominations and an extensive water and sewage system. The 1915 plan shows extensive areas of huts on both sides of the road as well to the south-west of the fishponds, though only the area to the east of the road was investigated during this evaluation.
- 1.3.8 In November 1915, both Belton Park and Alma Park estate, which lay just to the south (then known as Harrowby Camp), were established as training centres for the new Machine Gun Corps. The formation of the Machine Gun Corps in October 1915 came after the realisation that to be effective machine guns needed to be used in larger units and operated by specially trained men (Lincolnshire HER entry 35321). The camp was dismantled in 1920 after the war.

- 1.3.9 The base of a concrete building thought to be associated with the camp is still visible near the stream. This structure can be seen on a contemporary plan of the site with a number of drains converging on it (National Trust HBSMR entry 60424). A brick hut is also located on the Golf Course. Although remote from the main camp it may have been a magazine store; it is not depicted on the available contemporary plan but this may have been a deliberate omission (National Trust HBSMR entry 60444). Little else is visible from the camp though the foundations of the hospital were still evident on 1970s aerial photographs (National Trust HBSMR entry 60408). Recent LiDAR and aerial photography interpretation suggests that traces of the camp may still remain as low or vestigial earthworks (Deegan 2011, 8). This has been at least partly confirmed by limited earthwork survey (Mayle 2012).

1.4 Previous Archaeological Work

- 1.4.1 No archaeological work has been carried out on the Site to date, though a watching brief was undertaken in 1998 during excavation for an irrigation pond for the Golf Club (itself founded in 1890) which lies just to the south-west of the Site and still within the bounds of the park. This did not identify any archaeological deposits or features although a single sherd of medieval pottery was found (APS 1999). A watching brief was also undertaken in April and May 2010 during groundworks for a new road and a visitors' reception building for the house. Late medieval pottery, brick, animal bone and a copper loop or tent ring were found. The brick and pottery were associated with two excavated paths that were part of the old garden (HER 30441).

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1.1 A project design for the work was compiled (Videotext Communications 2012), providing full details of the research aims and methods. A brief summary is provided here.
- 2.1.2 The aim of the project was to characterise the nature and date of the Site and place it within its historical, geographical and archaeological context. In addition the project design outline four specific research aims:
- How did the Site develop over its lifespan and how is this reflected in existing plans?
 - What is the condition and archaeological potential of surviving sub-surface archaeological remains comprising the camp?
 - What is the character and potential function of the structure at the south east edge of the Site?
 - What can be determined in regard to the post-military life of the camp – did the Site continue to be used?

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Geophysical Survey

- 3.1.1 Prior to the excavation of evaluation trenches, a geophysical survey was carried out across the Site using a combination of resistance and magnetic survey. The survey grid was tied in to the Ordnance Survey grid using a Trimble real time differential GPS system.

3.2 Evaluation Trenches

- 3.2.1 Eight trenches of varying sizes were excavated, their locations determined in order to investigate and to clarify geophysical anomalies and to address specific research objectives (**Figure 1**).
- 3.2.2 The trenches were excavated using a combination of machine and hand digging. All machine trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision and ceased at the identification of significant archaeological remains, or at natural geology if this was encountered first. When machine excavation had ceased all trenches were cleaned by hand and archaeological deposits investigated.
- 3.2.3 At various stages during excavation the deposits were scanned by a metal detector and signals marked in order to facilitate investigation. The excavated up-cast was scanned by metal detector.
- 3.2.4 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Trenches were located using a Trimble Real Time Differential GPS survey system. All archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20 with sections drawn at 1:10. All principal strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.
- 3.2.5 A full photographic record of the investigations and individual features was maintained, utilising digital images. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the archaeology revealed and the Site as a whole. Digital images have been subjected to a managed quality control and curation process which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and ensures the long term accessibility of the image set.
- 3.2.6 At the completion of the work, all trenches were reinstated using the excavated soil.
- 3.2.7 The work was carried out between 15-18 May 2012. The archive and all artefacts were subsequently transported to the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury where they were processed and assessed for this report.

3.3 Copyright

- 3.3.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features, the full geophysical report (GSB 2013), the summary of the landscape and earthwork survey and details of artefactual and environmental assessments, are retained in the archive. Summaries of the excavated sequences can be found in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Geophysical Results

4.2.1 Geophysical survey was carried out over a total area of approximately 10ha using a combination of magnetometry and ground penetrating radar (GPR) (**Figures 4 and 5**). The following discussion and accompanying data is taken from the report compiled by GSB (2013).

4.2.2 Conditions for survey were good as the topography was flat and the ground cover consisted of pasture free from substantial obstacles. It is worth noting that any depths referred to in the interpretation of GPR data are only ever an approximation. Due to a process known as 'ringing' features can appear to have a greater apparent depth extent than actually exists. As a result, it is often not possible to detect the base of features; only the tops of buried deposits are detected with any kind of certainty.

Magnetometer survey (Figure 4)

4.2.3 Due to the size of Belton Camp, the time available and map evidence, it was decided that north-south transects of data were to be collected over the camp. Results are a little difficult to interpret as the buildings themselves were of a temporary construction and built above ground.

4.2.4 Ferrous anomalies **[A]**, along with surrounding areas of increased response, correspond to cookhouses and dining rooms as marked on the 1915 plan of Belton Camp (**Figure 2**). The responses are likely to be associated with ovens, drainage and water pipes.

4.2.5 A curvilinear trend **[B]** is thought to be a drain; although not marked on the plan, it has a characteristic magnetic signature and connects all the larger ferrous responses. Throughout the survey strips, linear trends depicted as of *Uncertain Origin* follow the alignment of the camp buildings as shown on the plan. It seems likely that these trends indicate locations of the barrack blocks.

4.2.6 Strong magnetic responses **[C]** are believed to be associated with the barracks' stoves; when overlain on the 1915 plan they correspond to the centre of the back wall in each of the barracks. GPR survey was also conducted over this area and some reflectors indicate more 'solid features' which correspond with the magnetic data.

4.2.7 A band of responses **[D]** has been given the interpretation of *Uncertain Origin* although they are most probably associated with a track that once ran from Londonthorpe Lane towards the camp's hospital (marked in red on the 1915 plan). Just to the north of these responses, negative anomalies associated with a modern track can be seen.

4.2.8 A number of negative linear trends **[E]** towards the southern end of the survey area are located towards the officers' quarters and mess. However, it is thought that the majority are associated with agriculture, possibly ridge and furrow cultivation or drainage.

4.2.9 Ferrous anomaly **[F]** corresponds with the location of the Regimental Institute and is most likely to be associated with services.

4.2.10 A small survey block investigated to the west was originally thought to be a rifle range. However, when overlain on the 1915 plan it corresponded with a horse shelter. There is no discernible pattern to the responses within the data.

GPR survey (Figure 5)

4.2.11 This was the first site on which an attempt was made to use an 8-channel MALÅ MIRA radar system. As such, its application was limited whilst the best approach to deployment was assessed. Three areas were surveyed: The first was a test run over an area of

suspected service lines close to the Regimental Institute; the next two were tied-in to the site grid with one set of runs over a line of barrack blocks and a second set over one of the kitchen blocks.

- 4.2.12 From the ground surface down to 0.3m below ground level (bgl), responses from the test block are predominantly made up of vehicle tracks, natural variation in the soils and some relatively confined zones of increased response. The latter are almost certainly attributable to the military camp but may be little more than compacted ground or disturbance from the site clearance. There is little of any structure left *in situ*, although service lines [1], or similar, have been detected crossing the survey area from around 0.3m bgl and are most clear at around 0.5m bgl. In many other places these have not been seen imaged so clearly, either because they were taken up completely or were actually run over-ground in the first instance. The excavation went on to show that this lack of clear building footprints was a combination of the site having predominantly surface-laid buildings and thorough clearance of the park when the MoD finally moved out. Going down towards 0.75m bgl, the service features fade and only isolated pockets of increased response, for example, continue to show; these may well be associated with the Regimental Institute but there is little to suggest their exact origin. Beyond 0.75m response are limited to natural variation.
- 4.2.13 Given the results from the test block, it was perhaps unsurprising that very little was found over the barrack blocks – in this instance, not even service lines. Again vehicle tracks show in the shallowest depth slices, which then give way to a 'quieter' dataset displaying three bands of increased reflectivity [2] through the survey area. Three equidistantly separated reflectors [3] (one on the very edge of the survey block) sit between these bands and extend down to an indicated 0.65m bgl – showing by far the greatest depth extent of any anomalies in the dataset. When overlaid with the magnetic data these were found to correlate with strong magnetic responses which were believed to be related to each barrack's stove/flue system. In turn, the elevated response [2] could well be compacted ground/pathways between the barrack blocks. This interpretation correlates relatively well with the plans of the camp. At around 0.7m bgl, and most noticeable in the unfiltered data, are linear anomalies; the possibilities are that these are drains across the site or, as is suspected to be the case, the remnants of underlying ridge and furrow cultivation.
- 4.2.14 Over the kitchen block the responses were more widespread and stronger [4], suggesting that these were more substantial structures with at least some form of dug-in foundations or, at least, more substantial hard standing beneath them. Although it was not possible to identify any pattern to the reflectors that might indicate a building footprint, or correlate directly with the map evidence, the response is sufficiently different to stand out as being of interest in the context of the survey. An unusual rectilinear zone of low amplitude [5] cuts through the strong zone of reflectors; this does not appear to be a data collection artefact as it occurs part way through a series of continuous lines. The character of response is what one might expect over a previous excavation trench, and may be a result of previous investigations at Belton. Service features [6] were once again detected, as well as further evidence of ridge and furrow.

4.3 Evaluation Trenches

Introduction

- 4.3.1 Due to the extensive nature of the camp the trenches were spread over a wide area with nearly 500m between the most distant trenches. Targets were mainly identified from the rectified 1915 plan (**Figure 2**), supplemented by information from the geophysical survey.

Due to the relatively level terrain the height of all the trenches lay between 188.5-122.0m aOD. Any substantial remains were left *in situ*.

- 4.3.2 The trenches generally saw the removal of between 0.17-0.25m overlying topsoil and between 0.17-0.28m subsoil in order to expose the archaeology. Exceptions to this were Trenches 1 and 5 where between 0.09-0.14m of topsoil directly overlay the archaeology. Where encountered the natural geology was a weathered sandstone.

Trench 1 (Figure 6)

- 4.3.3 Trench 1 was targeted on an area identified on the 1915 plan as the west end of YMCA No. 2. Photographs of this structure taken during the life of the camp show that it was a timber structure (**Figure 6, Plate 3**).
- 4.3.4 No *in situ* traces of the building itself could be seen. However, a distinct surface apparently followed the outer edge of the building (**Figure 6, Plate 4**). This road or pathway (**113/120**) was composed of a number of layers of compacted clinker and slag fragments (**103, 107, 108, 110, 115 and 117**).
- 4.3.5 Along the eastern edge of this feature was a possible gully (**105/116**). This contained large fragments of slag in a compact clinker-rich fill (**106/114**) (**Figure 6, Plate 5**). The nature of the fill within this feature suggests that it most probably formed a kerb edge to the road/pathway.
- 4.3.6 A discrete oval feature (**118**) cut through part of surface **103** relates to the demolition of the camp; it contained a number of large fragments of concrete rubble (**Figure 6, Plate 5**).

Trench 2 (Figure 7)

- 4.3.7 Trench 2 was located over what was thought to be a cookhouse. The trench located the water inlet pipe (**204**) and what appeared to be the base of a waste water trap (**206**), but no structural remains of the building were located (**Figure 7, Plate 6**). Both utilities were situated within an active subsoil horizon (**202**).
- 4.3.8 Water pipe **204**, which was situated in the position depicted in the 1915 plan (**Figure 2**), was aligned north-south with an upward join at the south end where it presumably entered the building. Only the bottom portion of what appeared to be some kind of trap within the waste water pipe was *in situ* (**206**), while the actual pipe itself had been removed. What remained was set in a concrete surround with a metal insert. A number of objects and nails were found within the silty material (**207**) which had accumulated within this trap.

Trench 3 (Figure 8)

- 4.3.9 Trench 3 was targeted on an anomaly located by the geophysical survey, situated midway along an accommodation block marked on the 1915 plan (**Figure 2**). This was thought to be the possible location of a stove.
- 4.3.10 Removal of the overlying topsoil exposed a well defined sub-rectangular area of asbestos (**305**) within cut **304** (**Figure 8, Plate 8**). This was only partially excavated and then covered over due to Health and Safety considerations, but was shown to be a cut feature. Several of the fragments displayed a green discolouration thought to be the result of heating. Occasional fragments of wood and brick were also observed within asbestos debris **305**.
- 4.3.11 A small sub-oval cut (**306**) immediately to the north-west of **304** was suggested as a possible stake-hole, but it could equally have been an animal burrow.

- 4.3.12 The trench was extended southwards towards what is still an existing track. This demonstrated that the road was originally considerably wider and consisted of a layer of rough limestone edging and base material **311** overlain by angular grey stone and slag fragments (**312**). Running immediately along the edge of the road was a drain (**308**), with a rough wooden edging (**309**) along the upper part of the cut (**Figure 8, Plate 9**). A silty sandy fill **310** had accumulated within the drain, containing window glass and nails.
- 4.3.13 Around 0.8m to the north of drain **308**, a dark linear stain was observed aligned east – west (**313**). It is thought that this was the remains of a wooden cill beam, which formed part of the base of the hut.
- 4.3.14 No trace of any structural elements relating to the accommodation block were located within the northern part of the trench.

Trench 4 (Figure 8)

- 4.3.15 Trench 4, although initially targeted on what was thought to be a utility trench, located a north – south aligned ditch **404**. Geophysical survey showed that this feature, visible as a trend, continued for a considerable distance to the south (**Figure 4**). This feature was relatively shallow and contained a single, fairly sterile fill consisting of re-deposited natural (**405**). No artefactual material was recovered.
- 4.3.16 A single stone lay to the east of the ditch. It is unlikely to be naturally situated here and therefore there is the possibility that it formed the base for a post (**Figure 9, Plate 10**).

Trench 5 (Figure 9)

- 4.3.17 Trench 5 was situated immediately adjacent to some large pieces of concrete still visible above ground, which appeared to be structural remains. The 1915 plan shows the trench to lie within one of the cookhouse and dining room complexes (**Figure 2**).
- 4.3.18 A relatively thin layer of topsoil overlay what appeared to be a made ground or levelling deposit (**503**). The presence of a high outcrop of the natural geology **518** in the western part of the trench suggests a necessity to build up the ground surface in order to create a level platform for construction.
- 4.3.19 Aligned WNW– ESE across the trench was a 6.2m length of concrete (**510**) either acting as a wall base or shallow drain (**Figure 9, Plate 11**); this correlates approximately to the northern end of the cookhouse. At either end of this, and extending to the SSW, were two possible robber cuts (**516** and **519**), though their rubble-rich fills could also have acted as a rough foundation. The relationship between these two features and **510** was not determined. Immediately to the south of **510** and extending for 1.2m was a fine cinder deposit (**504**), which may be a path or surface or possibly material fallen through from the floor above.
- 4.3.20 The southern edge of deposit **504** was possibly cut by **514**, a possible structural cut which sloped towards the south, filled with **502**. The remains of two possible wooden post bases could be seen. This possible feature was largely unexcavated.
- 4.3.21 Another possible structural cut (**509**) was situated in the north-east corner of the trench (**Figure 9, Plate 12**). This was at a variant alignment to the rest of the features, running north-east - south-west. This cut **506**, a north–south aligned feature containing a ceramic waste pipe (**Figure 9, Plate 11**). Large fragments of a similar waste pipe within the fill of **509** indicate that this feature had probably broken and disturbed this service; in other words, feature **509** relates to a time when this utility was no longer in use.

- 4.3.22 Cutting through the top of feature **509** was an iron pipe (**524**), probably a fresh water feed, the continuation of which may be **522**, seen further south.
- 4.3.23 Just to the north of concrete beam **510** were two discrete dumps of material. The larger (**515**) contained frequent clinker fragments as well as some concrete rubble and two large pieces of iron sheeting, possibly shutters. Adjacent to this, dump **507** contained domestic refuse including pottery, glass and animal bone.

Trench 6 (Figure 8)

- 4.3.24 Trench 6 was positioned immediately to the west of Trench 3 in order to track the continuation of possible cill beam stain **313**. This was located (**603**) and shown to continue for another 2m within the trench before possibly terminating (**Figure 8, Plate 7**).
- 4.3.25 The nature and structure of drain **604** and road surfaces **607** and **608** were the same as encountered in Trench 3 (**Figure 8, Plate 7**).

Trench 7 (Figure 9)

- 4.3.26 Trench 7 lay just to the south-east of Trenches 4 and 5, targeted on a strong positive geophysical response, thought to be structural. Excavation showed that this response corresponded with a sub-rectangular area of demolition debris (**706**) consisting of large fragments of concrete rubble (**Figure 10, Plate 13**). Around and probably associated with this was a finer, clinker-rich demolition spread (**707**). These deposits were largely unexcavated but they were not thought to represent any *in situ* remains.
- 4.3.27 At the northern end of the trench was a path or road surface (**704**) that post-dated the demolition debris **707** (**Figure 10, Plate 14**). This consisted of a compacted layer of sandstone fragments. This surface was stratigraphically later than the demolition deposits in the trench, and it is thought likely that it was laid to facilitate access deeper into the camp during its decommissioning.
- 4.3.28 At the southern end of the trench was a thin discrete area of clinker (**705**). Layer **708**, recorded below the subsoil (**703**), appeared very similar to that encountered in Trench 5 and was interpreted as made ground composed of re-deposited natural.

Trench 8 (Figure 11)

- 4.3.29 Geophysical survey identified a linear response that appeared to correspond with one of the hut positions on the 1915 plan (**Figure 4**), but on excavation the response was shown to correspond to ditch **805** (**Figure 11, Plate 15**). This was similar to ditch **404** in Trench 4, fairly shallow for its width and with a single fill (**804**) predominantly composed of re-deposited natural. A single sherd of pottery suggests this feature may be Romano-British in date.
- 4.3.30 South of ditch **805** was a linear band of asbestos fragments (**803**), probably relating to the demolition of the hut. To the south of this were two wooden post bases (**807** and **808**) still *in situ* (**Figure 11, Plate 16**). This is possibly all that remains of the structure which once stood in this location.

5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Finds were recovered from all eight of the trenches excavated. All finds recovered were of modern date, relating to the use of the Site as a military camp during World War I and immediately after.

- 5.1.2 Given the modern date range of the finds encountered, and their largely repetitive nature, a policy of selective retention was adopted on Site, with the agreement of the landowner (The National Trust). Plain white ceramic wares without any makers' marks or stamps and some window glass fragments were discarded on Site after being recorded. The discarded material was placed back within the appropriate trench before re-instatement. Also discarded on Site after processing and recording were ceramic waste pipe fragments, slag and ceramic building material (CBM). Further selective discard was carried out during the assessment stage. This resulted in the retention of the following categories only:
- individually recorded objects, mostly metal but also including other material types; these are cross-referenced in **Appendix 2, Table 2**;
 - further sherds of pottery not individually recorded: sherds with manufacturers' marks, or other pieces of intrinsic interest;
 - complete glass vessels, and fragments with proprietary marks
- 5.1.3 All finds recovered have been quantified by material type within each context, and this information is summarised by trench in **Table 1** (which includes all finds recorded and discarded on Site). Metalwork was recorded largely as individual objects, with nails grouped by context. Selected pottery sherds, carrying marks and/or decoration, were also individually recorded. All data are held in an Access database, which forms part of the project archive. **Table 2** provides a breakdown of the finds by functional category within each context.
- 5.1.4 This section provides basic details of the finds in order to assess their potential to address the aims and objectives of the project, in particular to shed light on the material culture of the early 20th century military camp.

5.2 Military Items

Ordnance

- 5.2.1 In this category are ammunition; two ammunition box pins (ONs [Object Numbers] 1 and 2, layer **102**), and a grenade spanner. The ammunition comprises 11 shell casings from .303 rounds, on which two headstamps are legible: from Trench 5 topsoil, M 16 VII (Noble, Manchester, 1916, Mk 7); and from the backfill of waste pipe cut 506, ?R ?17 VII (Radwell, 1917, Mk 7). A bullet (ON36, layer **601**) is also probably derived from a .303 round. The relative scarcity of munitions within the camp is unsurprising since this would have been carefully related and controlled with firing restricted to the practice ranges.
- 5.2.2 Two of the .303 rounds were not retained due to H&S considerations as they were unfired (ON29 and 47, layer **501**). A .243 cartridge (ON 7, layer **102**) is more modern and most probably relates to the annual deer cull, as does in all probability the lead shot from layer **201** (ON11).

Uniform

- 5.2.3 Only one identifiable cap badge was found (ON14, layer **103**) from the Yorkshire and Lancashire regiment. However a possible backplate for a cap badge or shoulder title (ON28, cleaning layer **102**) as well as a backplate for a shoulder title (ON26, layer **103**) were also found. Five buttons were recovered (ON9, 16, 18, 37 and 43), which included three decorated General Service buttons (ON16, dumped layer **103** and ON37, Trench 6 topsoil). As decorative examples these are likely to have been worn in a visible position

such as on a tunic pocket. Other uniform items comprise four webbing buckles, two of which accord with the 1908 pattern, and one with the 1914 pattern.

- 5.2.4 Ammunition boots, also known as Boots, General Service (BGS), were the standard footwear issued to the British Army from the late 1880s until the late 1950s. Amongst the objects recovered from the site were five heel or toe plate fragments (ON30, 45, 58, 84 and 85) which would have helped reinforce the underside of the boot sole. An unstratified find recovered from in the vicinity of Trench 1 (ON70) comprises three fragments of thin iron sheet in the shape of a sole which may have formed a patten.

Other

- 5.2.5 Other items which were associated (or probably associated) with the military activity comprise an iron tent peg (Trench 5 topsoil), a metal eyelet, possibly from a tent or groundsheet (ON38, Trench 6 topsoil), a swagger stick top (ON4, cleaning layer **102**), a gas mask vent (ON27, cleaning layer **102**), a tent periscope mirror (ON13, dumped layer **103**), a possible kit bag handle (ON17, dumped layer **103**), and a metal range aiming post (ON3, cleaning layer **102**).

5.3 Domestic Refuse

Pottery

- 5.3.1 With the exception of a single sherd, the whole pottery assemblage dated to the modern period and, given the nature of the site, most could fit within a date range in the early part of the 20th century.
- 5.3.2 The single exception was a small, heavily abraded body sherd in a sandy greyware, apparently of Romano-British date, which came from Trench 8 (secondary fill of ditch **805**).
- 5.3.3 The overwhelming majority of the modern assemblage comprised refined whitewares, and amongst these, plain serving wares were predominant – plates, mugs, serving dishes, generally fairly thickly potted and of a utilitarian nature. Cups and saucers were rare, and it seems that beverages were generally consumed from mugs of simple cylindrical form. There was one egg cup.
- 5.3.4 The vast majority of the pottery assemblage was derived from Trenches 1 (over the YMCA), 5 and 7 (within the cook house and dinning rooms). Most ceramic items would have been civilian issue as the soldiers would generally have used enamel items for their rations to avoid breakages. The use of ceramic items at the YMCA and also, apparently, within the dining rooms would have given it a much more homely atmosphere.
- 5.3.5 There were a few decorated wares, mainly transfer printed, with a few carrying simple banded decoration around the rims. Several of these whiteware vessels carried backstamps. Potteries represented include W. Adams & Co. (Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent, 1769+); Doulton (London and Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent); Furnivals (Cobridge, Stoke-on-Trent, 1890+); George Jones & Sons (Stoke-on-Trent, c. 1864+); J. & G. Meakin (Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, 1851+); Myott, Son & Co. (various, Staffordshire, 1898+); and Wedgwood & Co (various, Staffordshire).
- 5.3.6 In some cases the makers' marks were clearly those used for regular production – that of George Jones and Sons, for example, is dated c. 1874-1924 (Godden 1964, 359), and that of J. & G. Meakin c. 1912+ (*ibid.*, 427). However, W. Adams, Furnivals and Myott, Son & Co. all used a mark incorporating the W in a lozenge (the War Office mark) – in other words, these were marks created specifically for wares forming part of military

orders. Adams' and Myotts' marks are dated 1915, and one of the Doulton marks (without a War Office symbol) is dated 1916. One other mark was only partly legible ([...]ms & Co, possibly W. Adams & Co.) and incorporated the date 1916.

- 5.3.7 Also represented were the marks of the National Army Catering Board (NACB), the forerunner of the NAAFI, found on mugs and on plate rims; and the YMCA, found on mugs. The mark ACC in an oval, also found on plates and mugs, could relate to the Army Cyclist Corps, but this is not certain (Barker n.d.); the Army Cyclist Corps was formed in 1914 and disbanded in 1919. One green-banded plate rim was marked A SERVICE BATTN over crossed machine guns and a royal crown over MACHINE GUN CORPS.
- 5.3.8 Two other mugs carried a 'Horlicks' stamp, and one large cylindrical mug or tankard carried a stamped pint mark with the initials GR on a pink ground. One vessel which appeared completely out of place here was a mug marked PERTH [REF]FRESHM[ENT] / [RO]OM[S?].
- 5.3.9 Stonewares occurred in smaller proportions, and these supplied containers for food, drink, and other household goods – cylindrical preserve jars, larger jars and possibly bottles/flagons, and one complete inkwell.
- 5.3.10 Coarse redwares were also represented, and these were largely unglazed. A number of sherds which appeared to come from a single red flowerpot were recovered from layer **108**. While this may seem an incongruous find from a military camp, archive photographs of the YMCA do show that there were some attempts to decorate the place with dried and fresh flowers (**Figure 3, Plate 1**).
- 5.3.11 Overall, the range of wares is very similar to that recorded from Brocton Camp, Cannock Chase in Staffordshire (Barker n.d.), where W in lozenge, ACC, NACB and YMCA marks were also found on utilitarian wares, supplied mainly by manufacturers in Stoke-on-Trent, including W. Adams & Co. and Furnivals. In the case of Brocton Camp, the manufacturers would have been local, but the occurrence of wares from Stoke-on-Trent at Belton Park suggests that the Army was being supplied centrally, rather than relying on local suppliers. It has been suggested that provisioning was in the hands of Government-appointed contractors, who would have sought the best deals for a guaranteed market (*ibid.*).

Glass

- 5.3.12 The glass included fragments of vessel and window. A small proportion of pieces had clearly been heavily burnt, presumably in a waste incinerator, and were distorted to varying degrees.
- 5.3.13 The majority of the glass comprised vessel glass. Most of this appeared to derive from containers for food and drink – bottles for wine, beer and carbonated drinks; sauce bottles (Masons OK sauce, Cartons HP sauce, and Goodall Backhouse, probably Yorkshire Relish); and jars, probably for preserves. A few drinking vessels were also recorded, including fragments of wine and beer glasses. Also represented were pharmaceutical containers, often in the form of prismatic bottles, one bearing 'tablespoon' measures, and two with proprietary marks: Owbridge's Lung Tonic, and Scotts Emulsion (cod liver oil). There was one complete small phial, perhaps also pharmaceutical in nature, and three inkwells.
- 5.3.14 Apart from the small phial, only three other bottles (two of HP sauce, one unlabelled but also probably containing sauce or some other condiment) survived complete, and the rest of the vessel glass was very fragmentary. While the majority of the vessel glass certainly related to the military camp, some may have belonged to later phases. This could be the

case for the alcohol-related bottles and drinking glasses, which may relate to the demolition of the camp, as consumption of alcohol within the camp was generally quite restricted.

Animal Bone

- 5.3.15 The small faunal assemblage included bones of cattle, sheep and domestic fowl. Apart from the fowl, these almost certainly represented prepared cuts of meat brought to the Site.

Other finds

- 5.3.16 Other finds within the domestic category included a few fragments of clay tobacco pipe, including one highly decorated pipe of late 19th or early 20th century type; cutlery (two iron knives and a bone knife handle); and enamelware (bowl, mug and ladle). Although soldiers would have been issued with enamelled items for personal use, the cup (ON25, asbestos debris **305**) in white with a blue rim and handle is civilian issue, presumably to either supplement or replace the issued items.
- 5.3.17 In addition, some finds have been classified as 'waste' – these include fragments of coke or fuel ash slag. It was apparent that some of the finds had been incinerated after discard, and some fragments of glass also fell into this category, as being so completely melted that their original nature could not be determined. Some of the pottery sherds had also been heavily burnt. This material was recovered from on or within the clinker surfacing layers in Trench 1 (**103**, **107**, **108** and **110**, also recovered under hand cleaning number **102**).

5.4 Structural Material

Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

- 5.4.1 Two bricks stamped 'LBC PHORPRES' came from Trenches 2 and 3 respectively. The stamp indicates that these are products of the London Brick Company, founded in 1889. The 'PHORPRES' refers to their practice of pressing the bricks four times, a process formulated in the late 19th century and used until being phased out in 1974.
- 5.4.2 Some fragments of heated and partially vitrified CBM from within the asbestos demolition rubble **305** may have been stove pipe lining or some similar material.
- 5.4.3 Fragments of ceramic (stoneware) waste pipe were also recovered, but were not retained.

Glass

- 5.4.4 Window glass was also present, and included both frosted and reinforced glass as well as plain.

Metalwork

- 5.4.5 A large number of assorted nails and screws were recorded, some with washers still attached. There are several distinctive sizes and types, reflecting the high level of standardization in the construction of the buildings. Some hinge fragments and other probable door and window furniture were recorded, and there were other iron fittings of uncertain structural function.

5.5 Other Finds

- 5.5.1 Some finds recorded under other functional categories may also have belonged to the military activity on the Site. These include plain buttons, possibly from items of uniform, a

brass spur and an iron horseshoe, and electrical items (battery, insulated wire). Other objects (miscellaneous metal fragments and objects) were of uncertain function.

5.6 Potential and Further Recommendations

- 5.6.1 The finds assemblage recovered has added to our understanding of the nature of the occupation of the World War I camp, through the examination of the military items (ordnance, items of uniform, etc), and other items of material culture, particularly those relating to the supply and serving of foodstuffs to the occupants of the camp (pottery and glass). Comparison with a very similar assemblage from Brocton Camp in Staffordshire suggests that the Army was supplied centrally during World War I, and that at least some of the manufacturers involved produced wares specifically for the military market, marked accordingly.
- 5.6.2 All finds have already been recorded to an appropriate archive level, and no further analysis is proposed. Details of the finds as presented here can be incorporated in any publication report.

6 DISCUSSION

They were marching through Westgate towards Belton Park, and one man, I particularly remember, was wearing a pair of baggy trousers, with about six inches of shirt protruding from the rear. He wore a frock coat, a rugby footballer's red and white jersey, and he was wearing a straw hat with the top lifted up as though it had been opened by a tincan opener. From there, from Grantham, after their initial training, they were sent marching by road from Grantham to Melton Mowbray, and this occurred I think on Easter Monday or Whitsuntide of 1915.

Recollection of Ben Sewell; Sewell 2007

- 6.1.1 This evaluation focused primarily on the First World War training camp. Although structural remains from this encampment proved elusive, the investigation did find a substantial artefactual assemblage which vividly illustrated many aspects of ordinary, everyday camp life.

6.2 Earlier activity

- 6.2.1 Although almost all the archaeological deposits were modern, a single sherd from ditch **805** in Trench 8 suggests Romano-British activity. The ditch recorded in Trench 4 (**404**) may also be an earlier feature.

6.3 Belton Park Training Camp

- 6.3.1 The contemporary plan of the site is thought to date from 1915 (**Figure 2**) and as such provides a brief snapshot of the camp before the formation of the Machine Gun Corps. While the men, battalions and divisions stationed here would have been constantly changing it seems most probable that the infrastructure remained more or less constant, perhaps with some minor changes.
- 6.3.2 Contemporaneous photographs of the Site under construction show the huts to have been timber-framed, of standardised construction and raised from the ground (**Figure 3, Plate 2**). Consequently, few traces of these structures remain, and utility pipes and drains in many cases were all that could be located archaeologically.
- 6.3.3 The basic layout of the camp could be confirmed by archaeological investigation, but the evaluation has made clear that a detailed assessment of the development and structure of the camp would be best addressed through contemporaneous maps, photographs and personnel recollections. Sub-surface remains of the camp are generally slight and poorly

stratified and are best interpreted in tandem with other sources of information. Trench 5 was the only trench to provide clear evidence of different phases of building.

- 6.3.4 Due to well documented changes in uniform design and the use of branded regimental items, the finds evidence has perhaps the greatest archaeological potential to illustrate the development of the camp and the location of the different regiments stationed here.
- 6.3.5 The structure at the south-east edge of Site (see **Aims and Objectives, section 2.1.2**) was not investigated during the evaluation, although observation suggests it may have been some kind of shower block or wash room.

6.4 Decommissioning of the camp

- 6.4.1 The evidence suggests that after the camp was decommissioned the buildings were comprehensively dismantled fairly quickly, and the land returned to parkland. There was little evidence of structures being allowed to fall derelict, and the evidence in Trench 7 suggests that tracks may have been laid to facilitate the removal of structures. One of the huts is known to have been reused as a village hall at Denton and it is likely that other huts may also have been salvaged for civilian use.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1.1 An OASIS online record (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/>) will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators Forms. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the AHBR. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included with the archive).
- 7.1.2 A brief summary of the work will be submitted to *Lincolnshire History & Archaeology* to be included in their annual roundup of work in the county.

8 ARCHIVE

- 8.1.1 The project archive, which comprises artefacts, written and graphic records, digital photographs and other selected digital data, has been prepared in accordance with nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; Brown 2011).
- 8.1.2 The archive has been returned to the landowners (The National Trust) at Clumber Park Consultancy Hub, Worksop, Nottinghamshire.



9 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

bgl = below ground level

TRENCH 1			Type:	Machine excavated	
Dimensions: 12.00x5.25m		Max. depth: 0.10m	Ground level: 121.72-122.02m aOD		
Context	Description			Depth (m)	
101	Topsoil	Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. <1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Rare clinker flecks. Fairly friable but moderately compact; homogeneous; bioturbated. Under grass.			0.00-0.09 bgl
102	-	Number assigned to finds recovered from hand cleaning across trench.			-
103	Surface	Dumped clinker, coal and incinerated refuse used to form surface or pathway around building, upper disturbed part of 120. Very dark grey sandy silt loam, but very little sediment matrix. Bioturbated. Overlies 117; same as 107.			0.10 deep
104	Deposit	Deliberate backfill of demolition debris in 118. Pale yellow-brown sandy silt loam. 40% concrete, angular, 20-40cm. Moderately compact. Fairly homogeneous.			0.16 deep
105	Cut	Roughly north-east – south-west curvilinear filled with 106, south-west terminus. Moderate to steep concave sides. Concave base. 0.63m wide. Same as 116; cuts 111.			0.29 deep
106	Deposit	Deliberate backfill of 105. Very dark grey-black sandy silt. 20% clinker and slag fragments <1-25cm; rare asbestos fragments. Compact. Same as 114.			0.29 deep
107	Surface	Dumped clinker, coal and incinerated refuse used to form surface or pathway around building, upper disturbed part of 113. Very dark grey sandy silt loam, but very little sediment matrix. Bioturbated. Overlies 108; same as 103.			0.12 deep
108	Surface	Compacted surface composed of small clinker fragments. Overlies 110.			0.08 deep
109	-	Number assigned to finds recovered during removal of layers 108 and 110.			-
110	Surface	Make-up of road surface. Mid grey-brown silt. 65% clinker fragments, <1cm. Compact. Overlies 115.			0.16 deep
111	Layer	Potential subsoil horizon or upper part of natural geology. Mid orange-brown sandy silt loam. 2% stone, sub-angular, <1-3cm. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. Overlies 112; same as 119.			0.20 deep
112	Natural	Natural geology. Mid red-orange sand with frequent mid yellow sandstone fragments. Moderately compact.			0.42+ bgl
113	Cut	Construction cut for surfacing/ road composed of 107, 108, 110 and 115. North-east – south-west aligned but not fully seen in plan. Side shape unclear but base gently sloping westwards. Same as 120; cuts 111.			0.32+ deep
114	Deposit	Deliberate backfill of 116. Very dark grey-black sandy silt. 20% clinker and slag fragments <1-25cm; rare asbestos fragments. Compact. Same as 106.			0.20 deep
115	Surface	Make-up of road surface. Dark black silt. 60% clinker fragments, <1cm. Compact. Overlies 113.			0.13 deep
116	Cut	Roughly north-east – south-west curvilinear filled with 114. Moderate to steep concave sides; concave base. 0.90m wide. Same as 105; cuts 119.			0.20 deep
117	Surface	Make-up of road surface. Mid grey silt. 70% clinker fragments, <1cm. Compact. Overlies 120.			0.04 deep
118	Cut	Oval feature containing large fragments of concrete 104. Straight, moderate to shallow sides. flat base. 1.58m long. 0.90m			0.16 deep



		wide. Cuts 103, relationship to 116 unclear.	
119	<i>Layer</i>	Potential subsoil horizon or upper part of natural geology. Mid orange-brown sandy silt loam. 2% stone, sub-angular, <1-3cm. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. Unexcavated. Same as 111.	0.09+ bgl
120	Cut	Construction cut for surfacing/road composed of 103 and 117. North-east – south-west aligned but not fully seen in plan. Side shape unclear but base gently sloping westwards. Same as 113; cuts 119.	0.10+ deep

TRENCH 2			Type:	Machine excavated	
Dimensions: 7.50x1.70m		Max. depth: 0.51m	Ground level: 119.53-119.56m aOD		
Context	Description			Depth (m)	
201	Topsoil	Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. <1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Fairly friable but moderately compact; homogeneous; bioturbated. Under grass. Overlies 202.			0.00-0.25 bgl
202	Subsoil	Modern subsoil. Mid red-brown sandy silt loam. 1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Moderately compact; homogeneous; bioturbated. Overlies 208.			0.25-0.51 bgl
203	Cut	Nominal cut number, no visible cut as through active subsoil. Filled with 204.			-
204	Deposit	Iron pipe (1" external diameter), north – south aligned, thought to be for fresh water supply. Upwards elbow joint at south end. Fill of 203.			0.26 bgl
205	Cut	Nominal cut number, no visible cut as through active subsoil. Filled with 206 and 207.			-
206	Deposit	Ceramic pipe thought to be for waste water within circular concrete surround. Contains iron insert with upright spike or handle. Probable plumbing trap. Upper part broken/removed. Fill of 205.			0.15m high
207	Deposit	Material accumulated within waste water trap. Dark grey-brown sandy silt loam; no inclusions. Overlies 206.			0.04m deep
208	Natural	Natural geology. Mid red-orange sand with frequent mid yellow sandstone fragments. Moderately compact.			0.38+ bgl

TRENCH 3			Type:	Machine excavated	
Dimensions: 13.70x2.95m		Max. depth: 0.50m	Ground level: 119.60-119.99m aOD		
Context	Description			Depth (m)	
301	Topsoil	Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. <1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Fairly friable but moderately compact; homogeneous; bioturbated. Under grass. Overlies 302.			0.00-0.25 bgl
302	Subsoil	Modern subsoil. Mid red-brown sandy silt loam. 1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Moderately compact; homogeneous; bioturbated. Overlies 303.			0.25-0.50 bgl
303	Natural	Natural geology. Mid red-orange sand with frequent mid-yellow sandstone fragments. Moderately compact.			0.50+ bgl
304	Cut	Sub-rectangular cut containing asbestos dump 305. Only partially excavated. Straight, moderate sides. Not fully seen in plan. 1.0m wide, 1.52m+ long. Cuts 302.			0.10+ deep
305	Deposit	Deliberate backfill of demolition debris within 304. Mid red-brown sandy silt loam. Super-abundant asbestos fragments, 2-35cm; rare brick and wood. Moderately compact; slightly mixed. Largely unexcavated.			0.10+ deep
306	Cut	Possible stake-hole but most likely an animal burrow. Sub-oval in plan. Straight, steep to moderate sides, concave base. 0.12x0.08m. Cuts 302.			0.12 deep
307	Deposit	Fill of 306. Mid red-brown sandy silt loam; no inclusions. Moderately			0.12 deep



		compact; fairly homogeneous. Overlies 306.	
308	Cut	East – west aligned drain, composed of 309 and filled with 310. Straight, moderate sides, concave base. 0.26m wide. Cuts 302.	0.17 deep
309	<i>Structure</i>	Wooden edging for drain 308 composed of roughly hewn/split wood.	0.09 high
310	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill within drain 308. Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. <1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Moderately compact; homogeneous. Overlies 309.	0.17 deep
311	<i>Structure</i>	Edging/ base of road. Limestone blocks, sub-angular, unfaced, 3-20cm within mid red-brown sandy silt loam. Left <i>in situ</i> .	-
312	<i>Structure</i>	Surface of road. Mid grey stone and slag fragments, angular, 1-9cm. Left <i>in situ</i> . Overlies 311.	-
313	<i>Layer</i>	East – west aligned linear stain, thought to be from cill beam or similar. Mid grey sandy silt loam; no inclusions. Slightly diffuse in plan. 0.2m wide. Overlies 302.	-

TRENCH 4		Type:	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 4.90x5.10m		Max. depth: 0.35m	Ground level: 118.75-118.84m aOD
Context	Description		Depth (m)
401	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. <1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Fairly friable but moderately compact; homogeneous; bioturbated. Under grass. Overlies 402.	0.00-0.23 bgl
402	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid red-brown sandy silt loam. 1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Moderately compact; homogeneous; bioturbated. Overlies 403.	0.22-0.42 bgl
403	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid red-orange sand with frequent mid yellow sandstone fragments. Moderately compact.	0.35+ bgl
404	Cut	North – south aligned ditch filled with 405. Straight moderate to shallow sides, concave base. 1.50m wide. Cuts 403.	0.30 deep
405	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of ditch 404 , could be deliberate backfill. Mid red sandy loam. 5% mid yellow sandstone, sub-angular, 2-6cm. Homogeneous; moderately compact. Re-deposited natural.	0.30 deep

TRENCH 5		Type:	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 8.80x5.00m		Max. depth: 0.14m	Ground level: 118.64-118.79m aOD
Context	Description		Depth (m)
501	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. <1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Fairly friable but moderately compact; homogeneous; bioturbated. Under grass. Overlies 503.	0.00-0.14 bgl
502	<i>Deposit</i>	Fill of possible structural cut 514 . Mid red-brown sandy loam. 2% stone, sub-angular, <1-2cm. Rare clinker flecks. Slightly mixed; bioturbated; moderately compact. Largely unexcavated.	-
503	<i>Layer</i>	Made ground, re-deposited natural. Mid red-orange sandy silt loam. 5% sandstone, sub-angular, <1cm. Fairly homogeneous; moderately compact. Largely unexcavated Overlies 518.	-
504	<i>Surface</i>	Cinder/ clinker surface. Compact. Possibly cut by 514 but unclear.	0.05 deep
505	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill of 506 or possible overlying demolition layer. Dark brown-black sandy loam. 10% stone, sub-rounded, <1cm. Frequent coke/clinker fragments. Fairly compact; slightly mixed. Overlies 512. Cut by 519 .	0.10 deep
506	Cut	Cut for ceramic waste pipe. Filled with 505, 512 and 513. North-west – south-east aligned. Straight, steep sides, base unexcavated.	0.35+ deep
507	<i>Layer</i>	Dump of refuse material. Mid brown sandy silt loam. 2% stone, sub-angular, <1-3cm. Moderately compact. Unexcavated. Overlies 503.	-
508	<i>Deposit</i>	Possible deliberate backfill of 509 . Dark grey-brown sandy silt loam.	0.24+ deep



		2% stone, sub-angular, <1-4cm. Occasional clinker fragments and ceramic waste pipe fragments. Moderately compact. Slightly mixed.	
509	Cut	Possible structural cut filled with 508. Sub-rectangular in plan, north-east – south-west aligned. Straight, moderate sides, base not fully excavated. Cuts 505.	0.24+ deep
510	<i>Structure</i>	Concrete forming either a wall base or drain. West-north-west – east-south-east aligned. 0.55m wide. Evidence of joints at 1.24m intervals. Filled with 511.	0.13 high
511	<i>Deposit</i>	Mid-brown sandy silt loam accumulated within drain/wall base 510. No inclusions.	0.10 deep
512	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill of 506 . Mid-brown-red sandy loam, mainly re-deposited natural. 2% stone, sub-angular, <1-3cm. Moderately compact. Overlies 513.	0.25 deep
513	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill of 506 . Mid red-brown sandy loam, re-deposited natural and topsoil derived material. 5% stone, sub-angular, <1-4cm. Occasional clinker fragments. Moderately compact. Largely unexcavated.	0.10+ deep
514	Cut	Possible structural cut, largely unexcavated but appears to have defined sloping edge. Filled with 502. Sub-rectangular in plan, east – west aligned. May contain two post bases. Cuts 503.	-
515	<i>Layer</i>	Dump of clinker/coke material. Dark brown sandy silt loam. 2% stone, sub-angular, <1-3cm. Moderately compact. Unexcavated. Relationship to 507 unknown. Overlies 503.	-
516	Cut	Possible robber cut, filled with 517, possible threshold. North-north-east – south-south-west aligned. Unclear whether abuts or abutted by 504, 510. Unexcavated. Cuts 518.	-
517	<i>Deposit</i>	Demolition debris or possible deliberate backfill of 516 . Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. 50% stone, sub-angular – angular, 8-15cm. Frequent concrete, asbestos fragments; occasional CBM fragments. Unexcavated.	-
518	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid-yellow fragmented sandstone regolith. Compact.	0.13+ bgl
519	Cut	Possible robber cut, filled with 520, possible threshold. North-north-east – south-south-west aligned. Unclear whether abuts or abutted by 504, 510. Cuts 505.	0.13 deep
520	<i>Deposit</i>	Fill of possible robber cut 519 . Mid grey-brown sandy loam 2% stone, sub-angular – angular, <1-5cm. Occasional concrete rubble. Slight mixed.	0.13 deep
521	Cut	Nominal cut number, no visible cut as through/ within active soil 501. Filled with 522.	-
522	<i>Deposit</i>	Iron pipe (1" external diameter), north-west – south-east aligned, though to be for fresh water supply. May be continuation of 524. Fill of 521 .	0.10 bgl
523	Cut	Nominal cut number, no visible cut as through/ within active soil 501. Filled with 524.	-
524	<i>Deposit</i>	Iron pipe (1" external diameter), north-west – south-east aligned, though to be for fresh water supply. May be continuation of 522. Fill of 523 .	0.20 bgl

TRENCH 6		Type:	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 3.36x2.85m		Max. depth:	0.22m
		Ground level:	119.71-119.93m aOD
Context	Description	Depth (m)	
601	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. <1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Fairly friable but moderately compact; homogeneous; bioturbated. Under grass. Overlies 602.	
602	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid-red-brown sandy silt loam. 1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Moderately compact; homogeneous; bioturbated.	



603	Layer	East – west aligned linear stain, thought to be from cill beam or similar. Mid-grey sandy silt loam. No inclusions. Slightly diffuse in plan. 0.26m wide. Overlies 602.	-
604	Cut	East – west aligned drain, composed of 605 and filled with 606. Unexcavated. 0.26m wide. Cuts 602.	0.04+ deep
605	Structure	Wooden edging for drain 604 composed of roughly hewn/split wood.	0.04+ high
606	Deposit	Secondary fill within drain 604 . Mid-grey-brown sandy silt loam. <1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Moderately compact; homogeneous. Unexcavated. Overlies 605.	-
607	Surface	Edging/base of road. Limestone blocks, sub-angular, unfaced, 3-14cm within mid-red-brown sandy silt loam. Left <i>in situ</i> .	-
608	Surface	Surface of road. Mid-grey stone and slag fragments, angular, 1-8cm. Left <i>in situ</i> . Overlies 607.	-

TRENCH 7			Type:	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 8.50x4.00m		Max. depth: 0.35m	Ground level: 118.51-118.63m aOD	
Context	Description			Depth (m)
701	Topsoil	Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. <1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Fairly friable but moderately compact; homogeneous; bioturbated. Under grass. Overlies 703.		0.00-0.18 bgl
702	-	Number assigned to finds recovered from hand cleaning across trench.		-
703	Subsoil	Modern subsoil. Mid-red-brown sandy silt loam. 1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Moderately compact; homogeneous; bioturbated. Overlies 708.		0.16-0.33 bgl
704	Surface	Later surface possible road or path. Mid-yellow-brown sandy silt loam. 40% sandstone, sub-angular, 2-8cm. Hard and compact. 1.25+m wide. Overlies 707.		0.09 deep
705	Layer	Demolition debris, discrete dump of material. Mid-grey-brown sandy silt loam. 2% stone, sub-angular, <1-2cm. Abundant clinker. Overlies 702.		0.02 deep
706	Layer	Sub-rectangular area of concrete rubble. Mid grey sandy silt loam. 40% concrete lumps, 6-25cm. Occasional clinker and asbestos fragments. Unexcavated. Overlies 702.		0.08+ deep
707	Layer	Finer demolition debris around/ associated with 706. Mid-grey-brown sandy silt loam. 5% stone, sub-angular, 2-4cm. Occasional clinker. Slightly mixed; moderately compact. Relationship to 706 uncertain. Overlies 702.		0.09 deep
708	Layer	Made ground, re-deposited natural. Mid-red sandy silt loam. 20% sandstone, sub-angular, 2-4cm. Fairly homogeneous; moderately compact.		0.30+ bgl

TRENCH 8			Type:	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 7.60x2.20m		Max. depth: 0.40m	Ground level: 119.47-119.65m aOD	
Context	Description			Depth (m)
801	Topsoil	Modern topsoil. Mid-grey-brown sandy silt loam. <1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Fairly friable but moderately compact; homogeneous; bioturbated. Under grass. Overlies 802.		0.00-0.20 bgl
802	Subsoil	Modern subsoil. Mid-red-brown sandy silt loam. 1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Moderately compact; homogeneous; bioturbated. Overlies 806. Contains posts 807 and 808.		0.17-0.40 bgl
803	Layer	Dump of asbestos fragments, linear east – west band. Unexcavated. Overlies 802.		-
804	Deposit	Secondary fill of ditch 805 . Mid-yellow-brown sandy silt loam. 1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Fairly homogeneous; moderately		0.40 deep



		compact. Overlies 805 .	
805	Cut	East – west aligned ditch, filled with 804. Slightly stepped, moderate sides, concave base. 2.10 wide. Cuts 806.	0.40 deep
806	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid-red-orange sand with frequent mid yellow sandstone fragments. Moderately compact.	0.38+ bgl
807	<i>Structure</i>	Wooden post base still <i>in situ</i> 120x12mm. Within 802.	-
808	<i>Structure</i>	Wooden post base still <i>in situ</i> 120x12mm. Within 802.	-



APPENDIX 2: SUPPLEMENTARY FINDS INFORMATION

Table 1: All finds by material type and by trench (number / weight in grammes)

Material	Tr 1	Tr 2	Tr 3	Tr 4	Tr 5	Tr 6	Tr 7	Tr 8	Unstrat.	Total
Pottery	761/14605	4/49	1/4	10/285	364/4857	-	98/1359	1/4	-	1239/21163
Ceramic Building Material	-	11/1737	5/1806	-	10/968	-	3/760	-	-	29/5271
Pipe Clay	4/22	-	-	-	1/6	-	-	-	-	5/28
Glass	339/7598		17/78		55/1009	-	13/132	-	-	424/8817
Slag	3/5012	-	-	-	5/232	-	-	-	-	8/5244
Carbon rod	1/2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/2
Metalwork	123	30	46	1	86	46	36	10	3	391
<i>Copper alloy</i>	28	-	-	-	10	5	-	-	-	43
<i>Lead</i>	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Iron</i>	95	39	46	1	76	41	36	10	3	347
Animal Bone	1/5	2/7	-	-	26/601	-	17/248	-	-	46/861

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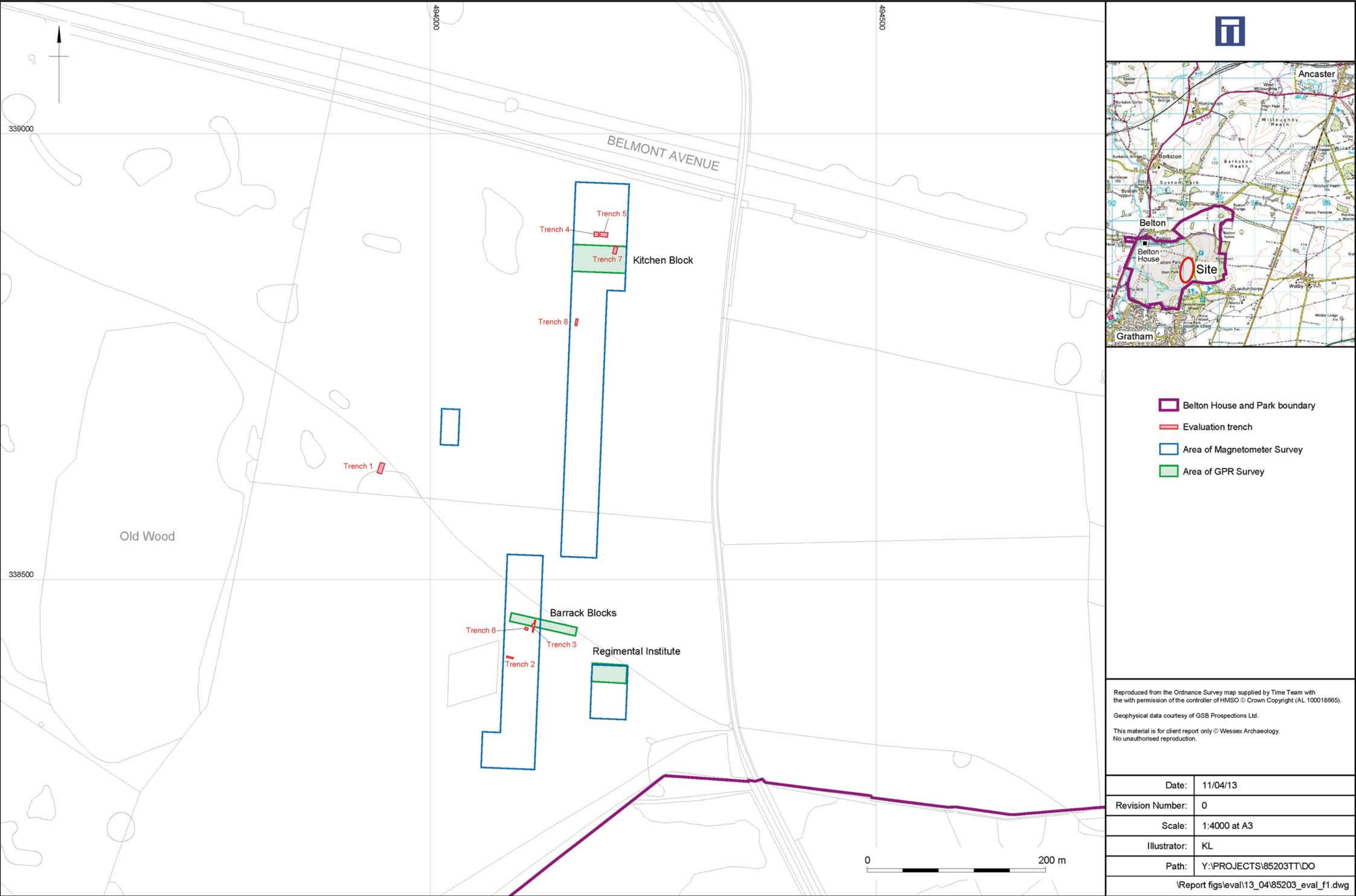
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Table 2: Breakdown of finds by context and by functional category

Context	Functional category	Description
102	Domestic	544 sherds pottery; 5 frags vessel glass; iron flesh hook (ON [Object Number] 87) ; 1 clay tobacco pipe fragment
102	Military: other	swagger stick top (ON4); gas mask vent (ON27); range aiming post (ON3)
102	Military: ordnance	3 x .303 rounds, headstamps illegible (ON8); 2 ammunition box pins (ONs 1, 2)
102	Military: uniform	WWI regimental button, royal crest on front (ON9); ?backplate for cap badge or shoulder title (ON28); 3 heel irons (ONs 30, 84, 85)
102	Miscellaneous	battery carbon rod (ON49); copper alloy sheet frags (ON86)
102	Other	.243 round, from annual deer cull (ON7)
102	Structural	67 frags window glass; cast iron pipe frag (ON88); bolt slide (ON82); 3 ?pivot pins or bolts (ON83); 9 misc iron fittings (ON89); 46 assorted nails & screws (ON81)
102	Waste	23 fragments melted glass (incinerated)
103	Domestic	181 sherds pottery; iron ladle (ON90); enamel bowl (ON24); 73 frags vessel glass; metal bottle cap (ON22)
103	Military: uniform	3 webbing buckles (1908 & 1914 patterns) (ONs 19-21); button (general service) (ON16); cap badge (Yorks & Lancs) (ON14); backplate for shoulder title (ON26)
103	Military: other	possible kit bag handle (ON17); trench periscope mirror (ON13)
103	Military: ordnance	4 x .303 rounds, headstamps illegible (ON15)
103	Miscellaneous	glass pipette or dropper (ON23); pipeclay figurine fragment; 5 misc iron fragments
103	Personal	possible button (could be military)
103	Structural	20 frags window glass; 20 assorted nails & screws (ON91)
106	Domestic	3 sherds pottery
106	Miscellaneous	slag (probably coke/cinder)
106	Structural	iron nail (ON68)
107	Domestic	4 frags vessel glass; 19 sherds pottery (18 from flowerpot)
107	Miscellaneous	copper alloy ?hook (ON64)
107	Structural	2 frags window glass; iron nail (ON65)
109	Domestic	fragment vessel glass; 8 sherds pottery; 2 frags clay tobacco pipe
114	Domestic	1 piece animal bone; 4 frags vessel glass; 6 sherds pottery
114	Miscellaneous	iron ?pin (ON67)
114	Waste	melted glass
201	Domestic	2 pieces animal bone; 4 sherds pottery
201	Miscellaneous	iron sheet fragment (ON80)
201	other	lead shot (possibly later activity) (ON11)
201	Structural	6 frags ceramic waste pipe; 5 nails with washers (ON79)
207	Structural	iron spike/hook (ON77)
207	Structural	12 frags window glass; 31 assorted nails, screws & washers (ON78); 1 misc strip fitting
305	Domestic	1 sherd pottery; enamel mug (ON25)
305	Miscellaneous	35 frags iron sheet (ON76)
305	Structural	1 brick (LBC); 4 frags probable ceramic stove lining
305	Structural	5 assorted nails & screws (ON75); 2 misc iron fittings (ONs 73, 74)
305	Waste	melted glass
310	Domestic	1 frag vessel glass
310	Structural	2 frags window glass; iron nail
310	Structural	3 heavy duty nails (ONs 71, 72)
310	Waste	melted glass
401	Domestic	10 sherds pottery
401	Structural	large nail (ON61)

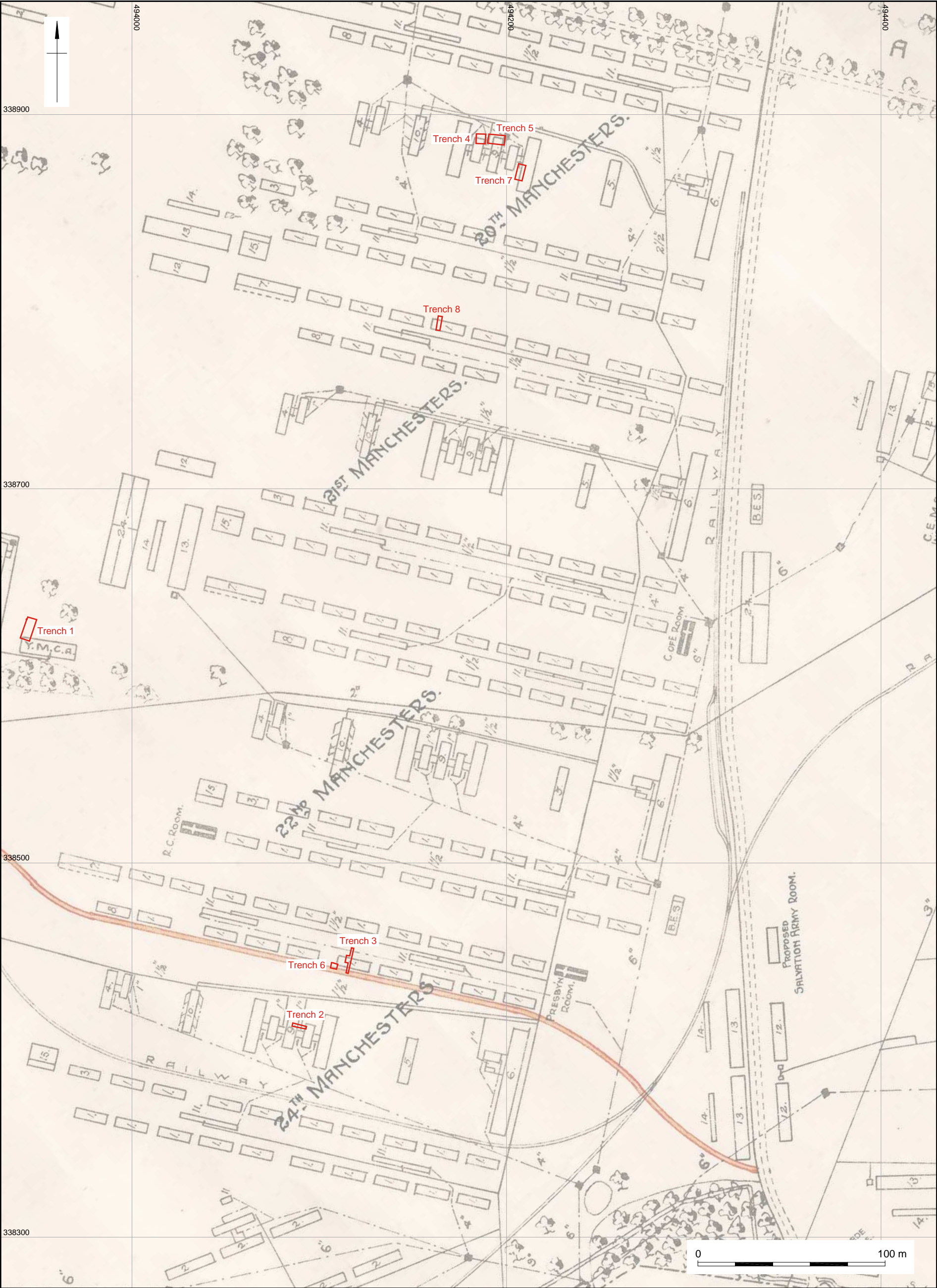



501	Domestic	4 pieces animal bone; 15 frags vessel glass; knife blade (ON94); 143 sherds pottery
501	Military: ordnance	2 x .303 round (ONs 29, 47); 1 with headstamp M 16 VII (Noble, Manchester, 1916, Mk 7); 1 other round
501	Military: other	iron tent peg
501	Transport	spur (incomplete)
501	Miscellaneous	part of unidentified iron object; small copper alloy fitting
501	Waste	slag/coke
501	Personal	2 plain buttons (ON43)
501	Structural	2 frags ceramic waste pipe; 7 frags window glass; 12 nails with washers; 2 iron strip fittings
501	Miscellaneous	iron socketed tool handle
504	Domestic	1 sherd pottery
504	Waste	slag/coke
505	Domestic	3 pieces animal bone; 5 frags vessel glass; 1 glass marble (bottle stopper); 77 sherds pottery
505	Miscellaneous	3 misc iron objects
505	Military: uniform	probable heel iron (ON58)
505	Structural	5 frags ceramic waste pipe; 2 frags window glass; 20 assorted nails with washers (ON60)
507	Domestic	16 pieces animal bone; 1 clay tobacco pipe stem; 16 frags vessel glass; 2 glass bottle stoppers; iron knife; 133 sherds pottery
507	Miscellaneous	light copper alloy chain; iron wire frags
507	Structural	2 frags window glass; 2 misc iron fittings; 20 nails with washers (ON95)
508	Domestic	1 frag vessel glass; 2 sherds pottery
508	Structural	ceramic waste pipe fragment; iron nail (ON66)
511	Domestic	2 pieces animal bone; 5 sherds pottery
511	Military: ordnance	.303 round, headstamp illegible (ON46)
511	Structural	window glass fragment; 3 assorted nails (ON56)
512	Domestic	3 frags vessel glass (including complete sauce bottle); 3 sherds pottery
512	Military: ordnance	.303 round, fluted/crimped top, headstamp ?R ?17 VII (Radwell, 1917, Mk 7) (ON44)
512	Structural	2 frags ceramic waste pipe; 3 nails
601	Military: uniform	webbing buckle (ON34); button (general service) (ON37)
601	Military: ordnance	probable .303 round (ON36); grenade spanner (ON35)
601	Military: other	Eyelet ring, prob from tent or groundsheet (ON38)
601	Miscellaneous	copper wire, insulated, probably electrical (ON62); cylindrical battery (ON39)
601	Structural	38 assorted nails, screws & washers (ON63)
606	transport	iron horseshoe (ON69)
702	Domestic	10 pieces animal bone; bone cutlery handle (ON93); 8 frags vessel glass; metal sardine tin key (ON54); 71 sherds pottery
702	Military: uniform	heel iron (ON45)
702	Structural	3 frags glazed ceramic floor tile; 3 frags window glass; 3 misc iron fittings; 30 assorted nails, screws & washers (ON55)
703	Domestic	3 pieces animal bone; 1 frag vessel glass; 27 sherds pottery
703	Structural	iron nail (ON57)
703	Domestic	glass bottle stopper
801	Military: ordnance	cartridge base (ON52)
801	Structural	9 assorted nails & washers (ON53)
804	Domestic	pottery sherd, probably Roman
unstrat	Military: uniform	possible iron shoe pattern or sole plate (ON70)



Location of Site, evaluation trenches and geophysical survey

Figure 1



	Belton Park Camp plan courtesy of The National Trust. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.		
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Belton Park Camp c. 1915

Figure 2



Plate 1: Inside of YMCA Hut No. 2 (postcard courtesy of L. Staniland)

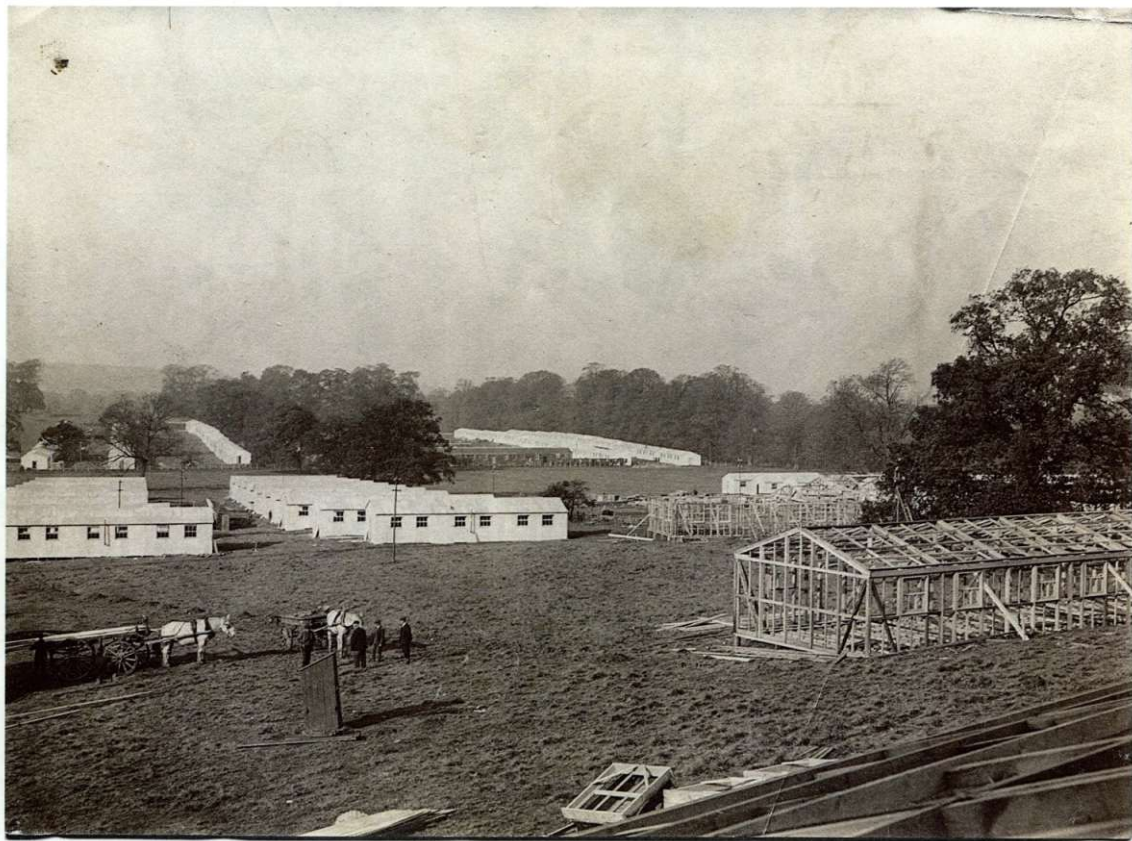



Plate 2: Camp construction (courtesy of The National Trust)

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Magnetometer survey

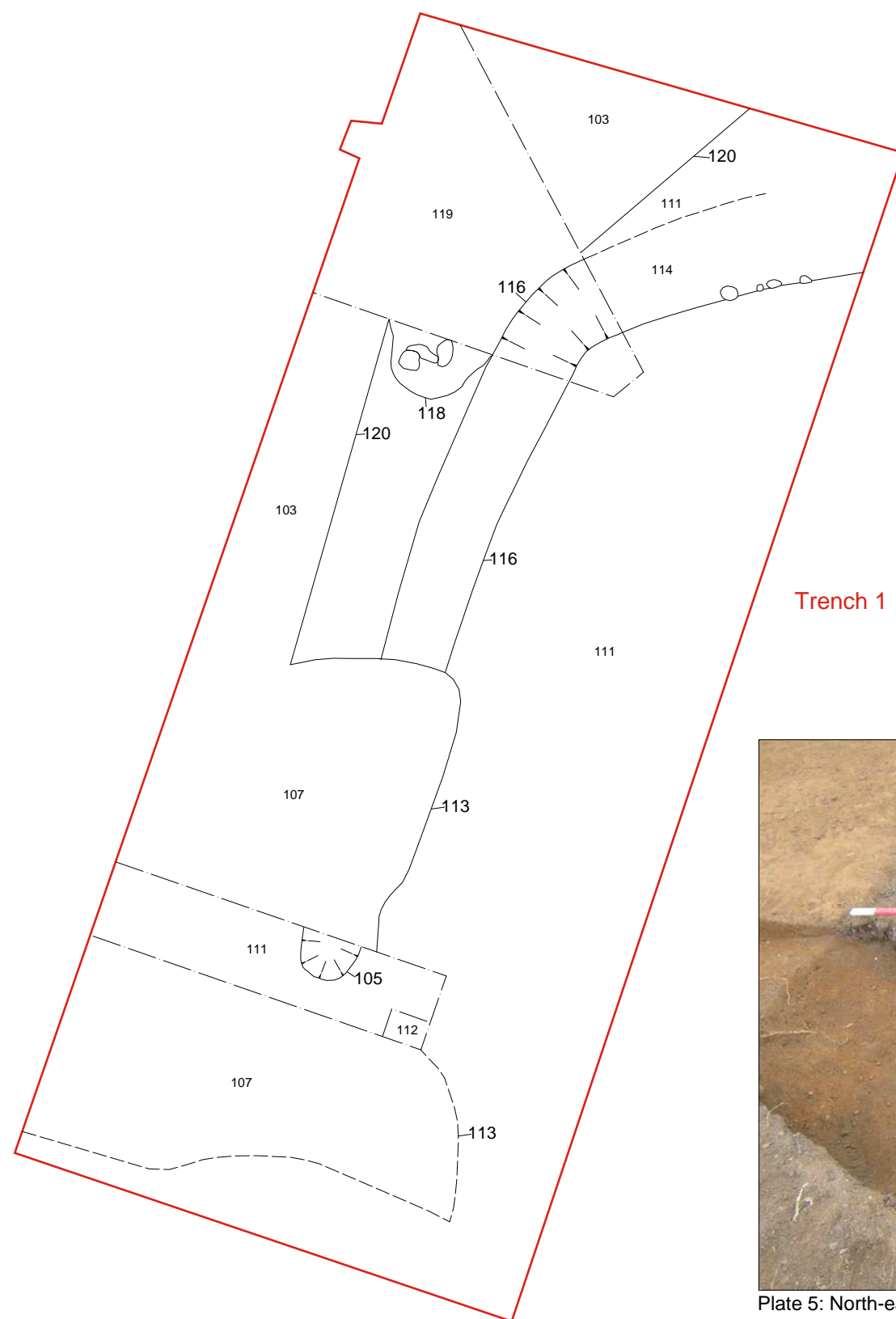
Figure 4



Plate 3: YMCA Hut No. 2, view from north-west (postcard courtesy of L. Staniland)



Plate 4: Trench 1, view from north-east



Trench 1

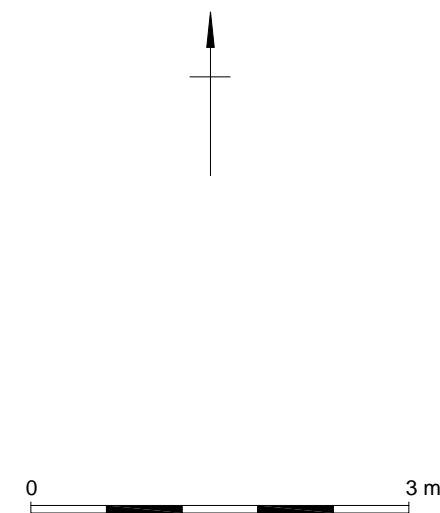


Plate 5: North-east facing section through 116, 118 and 120



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— Evaluation trench

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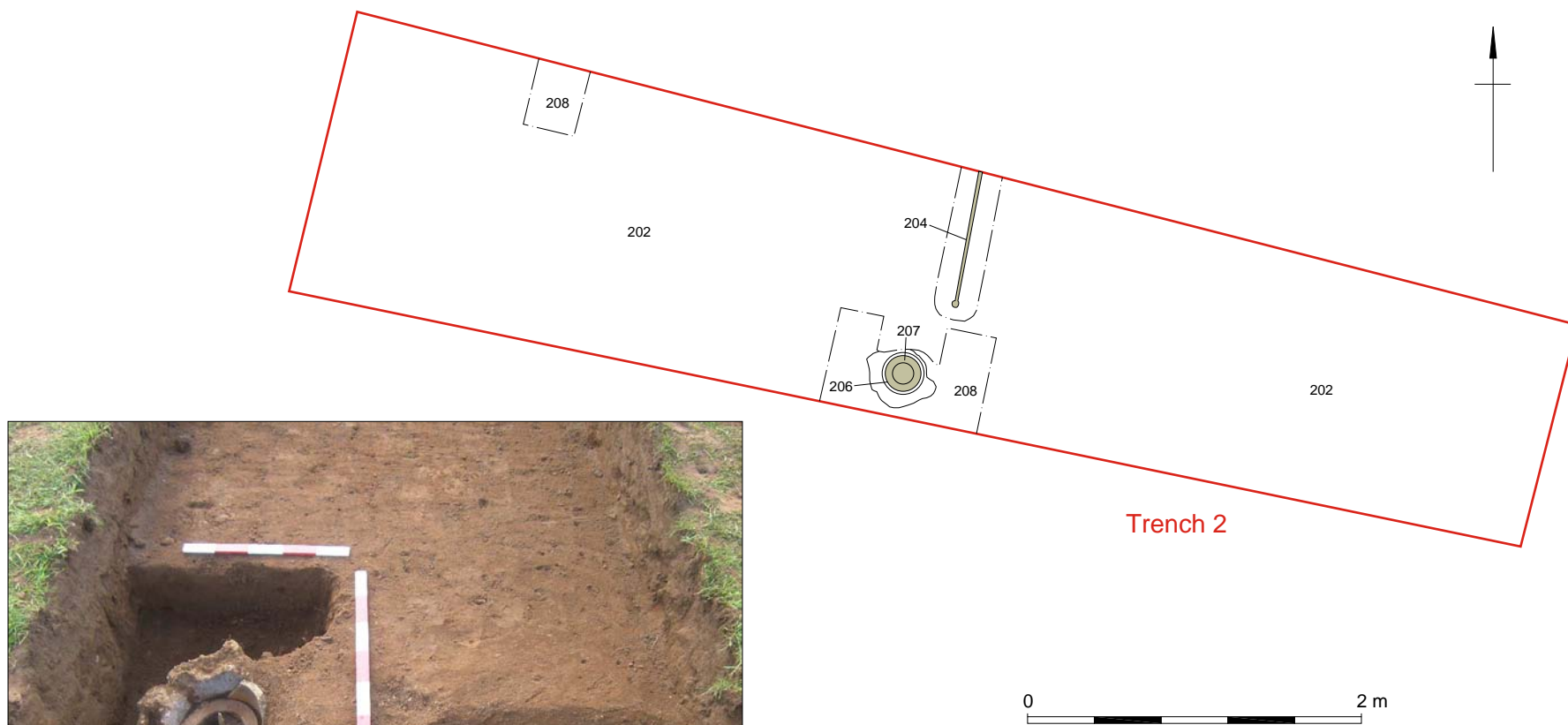


Plate 6: Detail of pipes 204 and 206, view from south-east



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— Evaluation trench
— Metal

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Plate 7: Trench 6, view from north-west



Plate 8: Detail of 304, view from north-west



Plate 9: South-east facing section of road 311/312 and associated drain 308



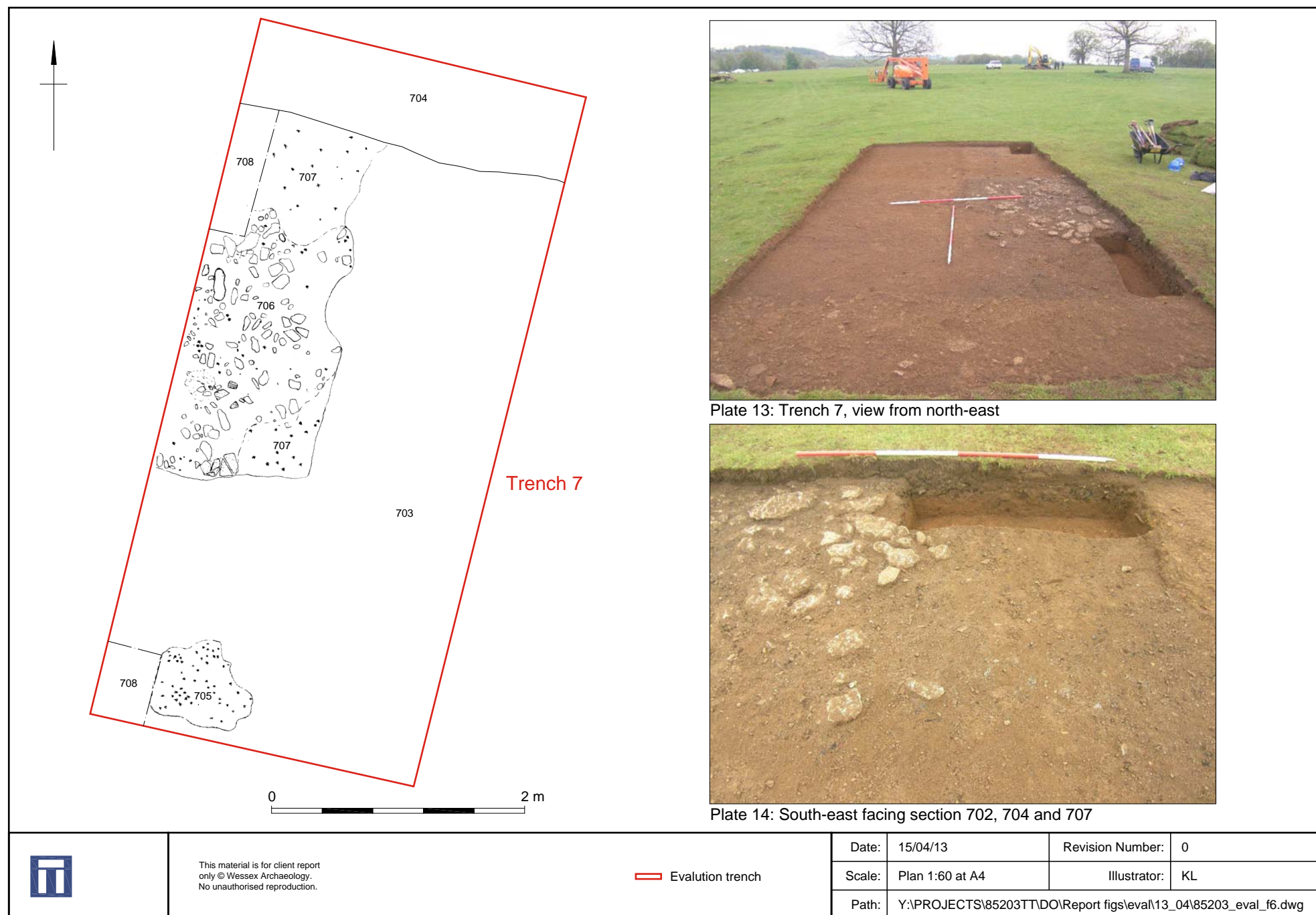
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— Evaluation trench

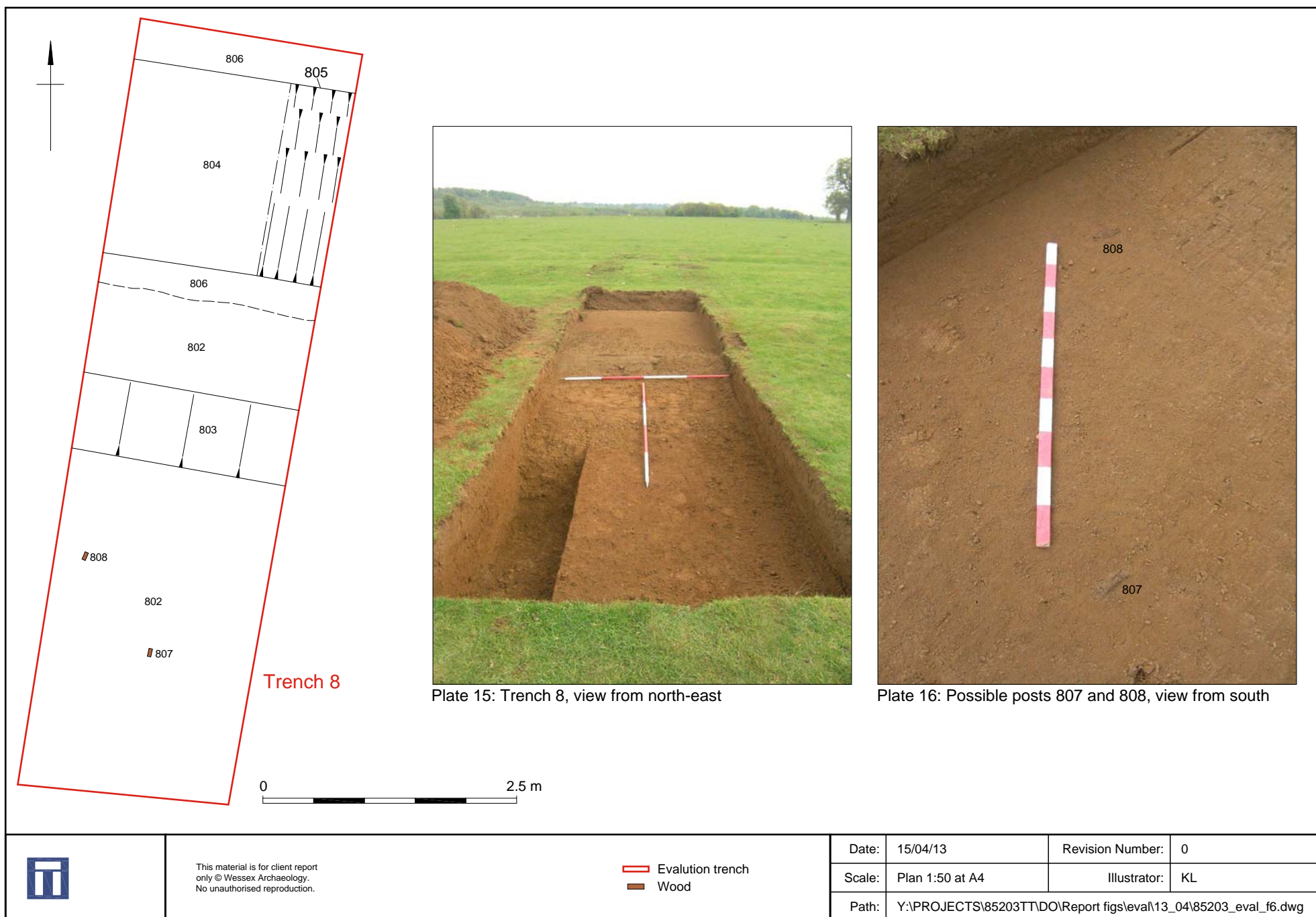
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Trench 4 and 5: plan and photographs



Trench 7: plan and photographs



Trench 8: plan and photographs



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