

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT:  
TRIAL TRENCHING ON LAND TO THE REAR OF THE CEDARS,  
WORSALL ROAD, YARM, NORTH YORKSHIRE**

Planning Reference: Pre-Application  
NGR: NZ 41035 11585  
AAL Site Code: YAWR 21  
Museum Accession Number: Not Applicable  
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-503247



Report prepared for  
Total Planning Solutions [UK] Ltd

By  
Allen Archaeology Ltd  
Report Number AAL 2021144

December 2021



Allenarchaeology



## Contents

Executive Summary .....	4
1.0 Introduction.....	5
2.0 Site Location and Description.....	5
3.0 Planning Background.....	5
4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background.....	6
5.0 Aims and Objectives .....	7
6.0 Methodology .....	7
7.0 Results .....	7
Trench 1.....	8
Trench 2.....	8
Trench 3.....	9
8.0 Discussion and Conclusion .....	10
9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology.....	10
10.0 Acknowledgements .....	10
11.0 References.....	10

### List of Plates

Plate 1: Trench 1 southeast facing section. Scales 1m and 0.20m.....	8
Plate 2: Trench 2 looking east, scales 1.0m.....	9
Plate 3: North facing section of [303]. Scale 1.0m .....	9

### List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Post-Roman pottery report.....	11
Appendix 2: Ceramic building material report.....	12
Appendix 3: Context Summary List .....	13
Appendix 4: Figures .....	15

### List of Tables

Table 1: Pottery archive.....	11
Table 2 Ceramic building materials from context 302 (measurements in mm and g).....	12

### List of Figures

Figure 1: Site locations outlined in red.....	15
Figure 2: Plan of trench locations.....	16
Figure 3: Trench 1, plan and section .....	17
Figure 4: Trench 2, plan and section .....	18
Figure 5: Trench 3, plan and section .....	19

## Document Control

<b>Element:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Report prepared by:	Dave Shaw BA (Hons), Mick McDaid Bsc (Hons)	06/12/2021
Illustrations prepared by:	Vincenzo Zoppi BA (Hons), MA	06/12/2021
Report edited by:	Chris Clay BA MA (Hons)	06/12/2021
Report reviewed by:	Adam Lodoen	10/12/2021
Version no.:	1.0	

*Cover image: The site, looking north*

## **Executive Summary**

- Total Planning Solutions (UK) Ltd commissioned Allen Archaeology Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land to the rear of the Cedars, Worsall Road, Yarm, North Yorkshire, prior to submission of a planning application for a residential development.
- The site is located in an area of moderate archaeological interest, with evidence for Iron Age to Roman enclosures and settlement features to the immediate south and medieval ridge and furrow present c.150m to the east.
- Three trenches were excavated across the proposed development area. No archaeological finds or features other than ridge and furrow were identified. The results suggest a negligible archaeological potential for the proposed development area.

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Total Planning Solutions (UK) Limited commissioned Allen Archaeology Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land to the rear of the Cedars, Worsall Road, Yarm, North Yorkshire, prior to submission of a planning application for a residential development.
- 1.2 The excavation, recording and reporting conformed to current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2020a), and the Historic England document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (2015) and a specification prepared by AAL 1.8m(AAL 2021).
- 1.3 The archive will be compiled in line with ‘*Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*’ (AAF 2011) and ‘*Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*’ (CIfA 2020b) and the Tees Archaeology document ‘*Tees Archaeology: Deposition of Archaeological Archives*’ (Tees Archaeology 2019). The archive will be deposited with Tees Archaeology at Sir William Gray House, Clarence Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8BT, within six months of the completion of the report.

## 2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The proposed development site is located in Yarm, in the administrative district of Stockton-on-Tees Borough, c.1km west of Yarm town centre, and 11.5km southwest of Middlesbrough. The site is approximately 0.5 hectares and presently consists of an access track and an open field to the north of The Cedars, off Worsall Road, with a cluster of several dwellings located to the east and west of the site. The site is centred at NGR NZ 41035 11585 (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The bedrock geology comprises sandstone of the Sherwood Sandstone Group, with recorded superficial deposits of Devensian sand and gravel (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

## 3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 A pre-application enquiry was submitted to Stockton Borough Council on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018 relating to the proposed erection of one detached dwelling on land to the rear of The Cedars, Worsall Road, Yarm.
- 3.2 Tees Archaeology have considered the application site within the pre-application submission and stated the following:

*Field evaluation would involve geophysical survey or trial trenching initially, probably geophysical survey as that was effective in the area to the south; An Iron Age/Romano-British settlement was noted during archaeological trial trenching in the field to the immediate south in 2012. These sorts of site can be fairly extensive and at the moment we do not know how far to the north the settlement extends. It is a reasonable assumption given knowledge of similar sites in the area that archaeological features will continue in to the garden of The Cedars and other properties along Worsall Road. I therefore recommend, in line with the advice given in para 128 of the NPPF that any planning*

*application is accompanied by the results of a field evaluation in order that a reasonable assessment can be made of the impact of the proposal on the significance of heritage assets of archaeological interest.*

- 3.3 In a further communication with Rosie Banens, Planning Archaeologist at Tees Archaeology, the requirement for a geophysical survey was dropped due to the very small size of the area, and she further stated:

*I would suggest trial trenching for the evaluation, with a couple of trenches located in the proposed footprint of the building and a trench at the rear where the solar panels are proposed. The necessity of any further archaeological work will be determined from the results of the trial trenching.*

- 3.4 The approach adopted is consistent with the guidelines set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with the particular chapter of relevance being 'Chapter 15: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment' (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities 2021).

#### **4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 4.1 Iron Age/Romano-British archaeology is known within the vicinity of the site. Immediately to the south of the site is a settlement identified by geophysical survey in 2012 (Tees HER 8073). The survey revealed an expanse of linear, curvilinear and discrete anomalies covering an area c.50m by c.60m. Although the anomalies were often incoherent two linear features were noted that were potentially two sides of an enclosure.
- 4.2 The site was subject to trial trenching in March 2012, exposing boundary ditches, gullies, pits and a possible roundhouse. The finds from the site were quite low in number, totalling fifteen sherds of hand-made pottery, dated to the late Iron Age. In 2014 a decision was made to preserve the site beneath a green space as part of a residential development.
- 4.3 During the construction of an access road, to the south of the settlement, a watching brief took place (Thomas 2014). Within the road corridor, at the northwest end, was a large curvilinear ditch believed to be Romano-British in date. This ditch probably marked the western edge of the settlement, though the full extent of the settlement is not known. As it extended northwards it could lie within the area of the present site.
- 4.4 Yarm appears in the Domesday Book as land of the king. It was unpopulated and was probably waste (Williams and Martin 2002). The place name is Old English in origin, meaning 'fish weir' (<http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk/map/place/Yorkshire%20NR/Yarm>).
- 4.5 Medieval ridge and furrow is present c.150m to the east of the site (Tees Archaeology HER 1388) running northwest to southeast immediately northeast of Grey Close. Two fields of ridge and furrow have also been recorded c.860m southeast of the site (Tees Archaeology HER 1388) running north-northwest to south-southeast.
- 4.6 Several post-medieval farmhouses are recorded in the vicinity of the site. Approximately 180m southwest of the site, present on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1857, is a late 18<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse originally known as Field House Farmhouse, now named Wheelhouse Farmhouse. Similarly, Morley Carr Farm, about 600m south of the site, also appears on the same map as a closely grouped range of agricultural buildings. Southeast

of the site, c.840m away, is Far End Farm. It is present on the 1859 Tithe Map as buildings surrounding a courtyard.

## **5.0 Aims and Objectives**

- 5.1 The purpose of the trial trench evaluation was to gather sufficient information for the Planning Archaeologist to be able to make a decision regarding the management of sub-surface heritage assets at the site. Evidence was gathered to establish the presence/absence, nature, date, depth, quality of survival and importance of any archaeological deposits to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of the archaeological remains, and to determine the necessity of any further archaeological work on the site.

## **6.0 Methodology**

- 6.1 The evaluation methodology entailed the excavation of 3no trenches, each measuring 20m long and 1.8m wide, within the proposed development area (Figure 2).
- 6.2 The evaluation trenches were accurately located using a survey grade GPS receiving RTK corrections. Machine excavation was monitored at all times by an experienced field archaeologist. Fieldwork was undertaken on November 4<sup>th</sup> 2021 and was supervised by Dave Shaw of AAL.
- 6.3 In each trench all topsoil, subsoil and underlying non archaeological deposits were removed by mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. This was undertaken down in spits of 0.1m thickness until the first archaeological horizon or natural geology, whichever was encountered first.
- 6.4 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard AAL context recording sheets. All excavated sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. Photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy and all photographs incorporated scales, an identification board and directional arrow, as appropriate.
- 6.5 Each deposit or layer was allocated a unique identifier (context number) consisting of three digits and accorded a written description, e.g. 101; a summary of these are included in Appendix 1.

## **7.0 Results**

- 7.1 All three trenches contained very similar deposits, with a grass covered friable, dark greyish brown sandy topsoil up to 0.34m thick, overlying a natural geology of compact mid brownish orange clay (Figures 3 and 4, Plate 1).



*Plate 1: Trench 1 southeast facing section. Scales 1m and 0.20m*

- 7.2 All three trenches contained the remains of ridge and furrow, with three furrows exposed in Trench 1, four furrows in Trench 2 and a single furrow in Trench 3 (Figures 3, 4 and 5).

#### ***Trench 1***

- 7.3 Within Trench 1 furrows, [103], [105] and [107], had a width of c.1m, were c.6m apart and oriented roughly north-south. They were filled by a friable, mid grey brown clay silt, 102, 104 and 106 respectively.

#### ***Trench 2***

- 7.4 Three of the furrows in Trench 2, [203], [205] and [207] were a continuation of those in Trench 1. They had exactly the same friable, mid grey brown clay silt fills, 202, 204, 206 and 208 respectively (Plate 2). A fourth furrow, [209], running parallel with the others, was partially exposed at the eastern end of the trench. It had identical fill to the other furrows, 208.





*Plate 2: Trench 2 looking east, scales 1.0m*

### **Trench 3**

- 7.5 Within Trench 3, a north-south oriented furrow ran the length of the trench (Figure 5, Plate 3). This furrow, [303], was 0.11m deep, filled by 302, a friable, mid grey brown clay silt, which produced a fragment of ceramic building material and two sherds of pottery, one of medieval date and the other post-medieval. This furrow could have been the continuation of [203].



*Plate 3: North facing section of [303]. Scale 1.0m*

## 8.0 Discussion and Conclusion

- 8.1 The trial trenching did not identify any features or deposits of archaeological interest.
- 8.2 The land appears to have been solely utilized for agriculture, at least since the medieval period, as demonstrated by the presence of ridge and furrow. There was no evidence for the continuation into this site of the Iron Age/Roman activity that has been identified nearby.
- 8.3 The evaluation results suggest a negligible archaeological potential for the proposed development area.

## 9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 9.1 The trial trenching methodology was appropriate for the site and has provided sufficient information to determine the archaeological potential of the site.

## 10.0 Acknowledgements

- 10.1 AAL would like to thank Total Planning Solutions (UK) Ltd for the commission.

## 11.0 References

AAF, 2011, *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum

AAL, 2021, *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching on Land to the Rear of the Cedars, Worsall Road, Yarm, North Yorkshire* AAL unpublished document

CIfA, 2020a, *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluations*. Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA, 2020b, *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. Reading: CIfA

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2021, *National Planning Policy Framework* Available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework> (Accessed 01/12/2021)

Historic England, 2015, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*. Historic England

South Yorkshire Archaeology Service, 2019, *Yorkshire, the Humber & the North East: A Regional Statement of Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process*. Available at: <https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/1007/regional-statement-good-practice-for-archaeology-revisednov-2019-> (Accessed 21/10/2021)

Tees Archaeology, 2019, *Tees Archaeology: Deposition of Archaeological Archives*

Thomas, N., 2014, *Morley Carr Farm, Yarm, Archaeological Works* Archaeological Services University of Durham Report No 3461

## Appendix 1: Post-Roman pottery report

By Alice Forward

### Introduction

Two sherds of pottery weighing 13g in total were recovered during excavation at Yarm.

### Methodology

The sherds have been recorded in line with *The Standards* (Barclay et al 2016) and the full record is presented below in Table 1 Each sherd is recorded by count, weight in grams and fabric.

### Results

The two sherds of pottery came from context 302, the fill of furrow [303]

Context no.	No sherds	Weight (g)	Fabric	Form	Decoration	Date
302	1	8	Tees Valley Ware A	Jug	Applied strip decoration remnants but no apparent glaze which is likely due to abrasion.	12 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> century
302	1	5	Fine red Earthenware	UnID	Patch of green internal glaze	15 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> century

Table 1: Pottery archive

### Discussion

The pottery recovered from the excavations is medieval and post-medieval in date. Both sherds are highly fragmented and abraded. This is typical for pottery found from within plough furrows.

### References

Barclay, A. et al, 2016, *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology*. Historic England.

Didsbury, P. 2010, 'Medieval pottery' in: R. Daniels (Ed.) *Hartlepool: An Archaeology of the Medieval Town* Tees Archaeology Monograph series volume 4.

## Appendix 2: Ceramic building material report

By G. Williams

### Introduction

During an evaluation on land to the rear of the Cedars, Worsall Road, Yarm, North Yorkshire one fragment, weighing 175g, of tile was recovered. A short report and recommendations follow.

### Methodology

The tile was examined by naked eye and the results entered directly into an Excel spreadsheet before being transferred into the report. All measurements are in grams and millimetres.

The report follows the guidelines set out by the Archaeological Ceramic Buildings Material Group (Hunter-Mann 2002).

### Results

The assemblage comprised a single tile fragment, weighing 175g, which was post-medieval in character.

The sandy fabric was well-mixed and lacked any significant inclusions. Striations from cutting were visible on the upper face as were traces of sand on the underside. Knife-traces from trimming were also visible on the upper face. There was evidence of possible post-depositional damage to the tile.

### Discussion of Potential

The tile comes from a furrow. The results indicate that the feature from which the tile was recovered is post-medieval in date.

In its current form the assemblage has little more research potential and could be discarded, subject to the receiving museum's policies.

### Bibliography

Hunter-Mann, K., 2002 *Ceramic Building Materials Minimum Standards for Recovery, Curation, Analysis & Publication*

			Total CBM		Fabric 1 Form 1				
					TILE				
Layer		Date	f	w			t	w	Comments
302		PMed	1	175			11	175	Tile
Totals			1	175					

Table 2 Ceramic building materials from context 302 (measurements in mm and g)

## Appendix 3: Context Summary List

### Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
100	Layer	Friable, dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-	0.32	Topsoil
101	Layer	Compact, mid brownish orange clay	-	-	>0.1	Natural geology
102	Fill	Friable, mid greyish brown clayey silt	>2	c.1	-	Natural silting of furrow
103	Cut	North-south oriented linear with shallow concave sides a gradual break of slope and a flat base	>2	c.1	-	Cut of furrow
104	Fill	Friable, mid greyish brown clayey silt	>2	c.1	-	Natural silting of furrow
105	Cut	North-south oriented linear with shallow concave sides a gradual break of slope and a flat base	>2	c.1	-	Cut of furrow
106	Fill	Friable, mid greyish brown clayey silt	>2	c.1	-	Natural silting of furrow
107	Cut	North-south oriented linear with shallow concave sides a gradual break of slope and a flat base	>2	c.1	-	Cut of furrow

### Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
200	Layer	Same as 100	-	-	0.34	Topsoil
201	Layer	Same as 101	-	-	>0.1	Natural geology
202	Fill	Friable, mid greyish brown clayey silt	>2	c.1	-	Natural silting of furrow
203	Cut	North-south oriented linear with shallow concave sides a gradual break of slope and a flat base	>2	c.1	-	Cut of furrow
204	Fill	Friable, mid greyish brown clayey silt	>2	c.1	-	Natural silting of furrow
205	Cut	North-south oriented linear with shallow concave sides a gradual break of slope and a flat base	>2	c.1	-	Cut of furrow
206	Fill	Friable, mid greyish brown clayey silt	>2	c.1	-	Natural silting of furrow
207	Cut	North-south oriented linear with shallow concave sides a gradual break of slope and a flat base	>2	c.1	-	Cut of furrow
208	Fill	Friable, mid greyish brown clayey silt	>2	c.1	-	Natural silting of furrow
209	Cut	North-south oriented linear with shallow concave sides a gradual break of slope and a flat base	>2	c.1	-	Cut of furrow

### Trench 3

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
300	Layer	Friable, dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-	0.33m	Topsoil
301	Layer	Compact, mid brownish orange clay	-	-	>0.1	Natural geology
302	Fill	Friable, mid greyish brown clayey silt	>10.0	1.5	0.11	Natural silting of furrow
303	Cut	North-south oriented linear with shallow concave sides a gradual break of slope and a flat base	>10.0	1.5	0.11	Cut of furrow



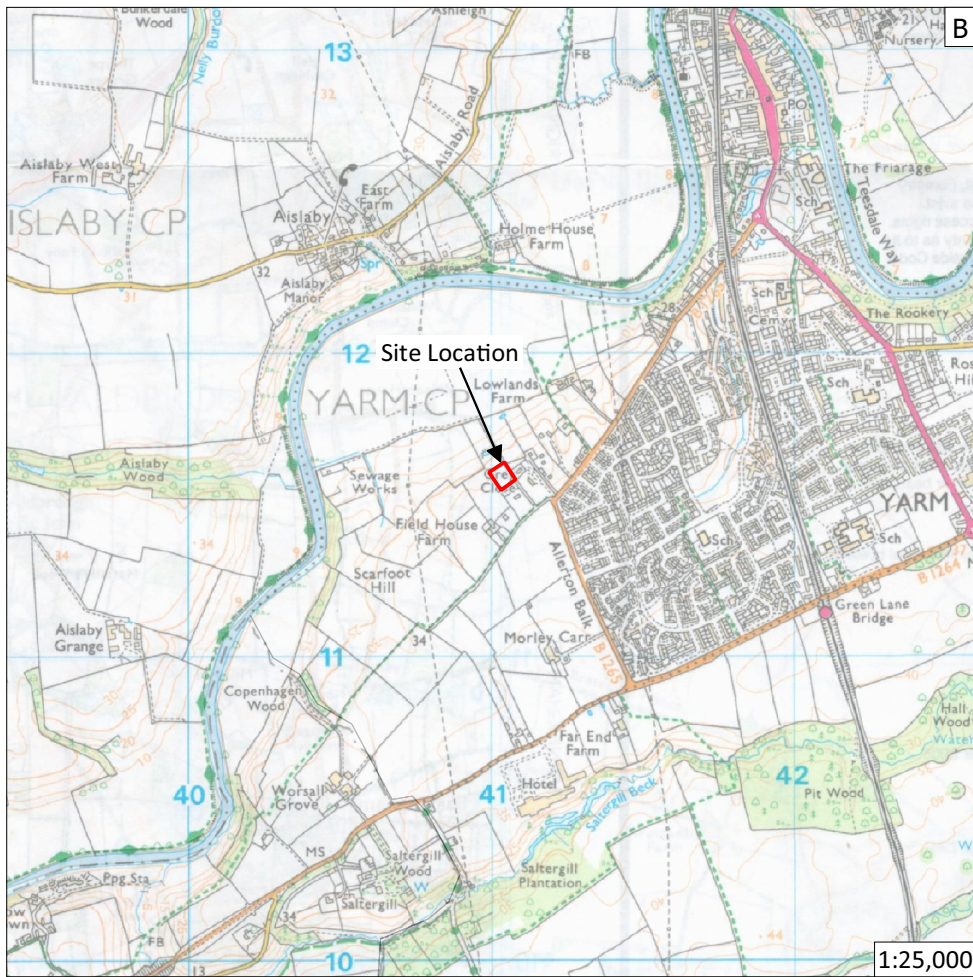
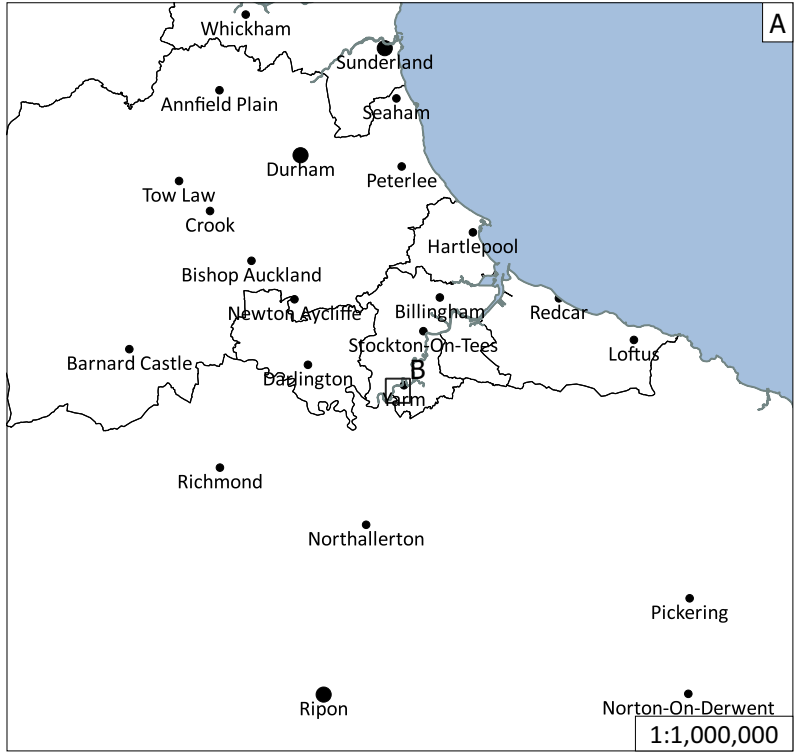


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

© Crown copyright 2000. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100047330

Site Code	YAWR 21
Scale	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	V Zoppi
Date	09/11/2021

**Allenarchaeology**

- Lincoln
- Birmingham
- Cambridge
- Southampton

[www.allenarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.allenarchaeology.co.uk)

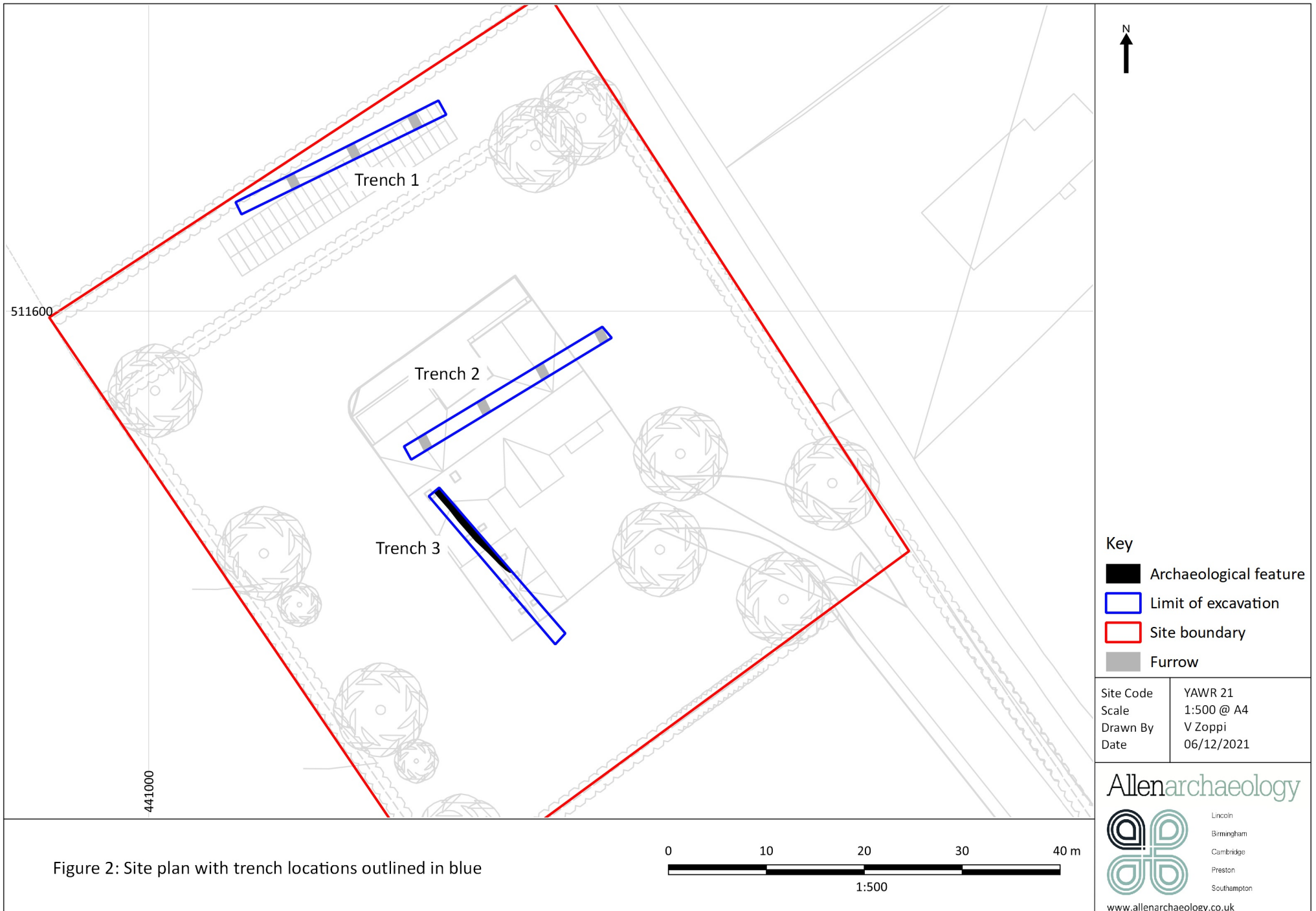


Figure 2: Site plan with trench locations outlined in blue

**Key**

- Archaeological feature
- Limit of excavation
- Site boundary
- Furrow

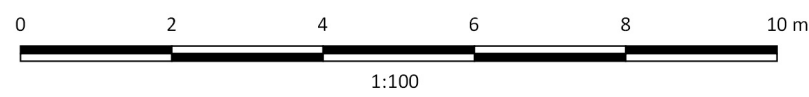
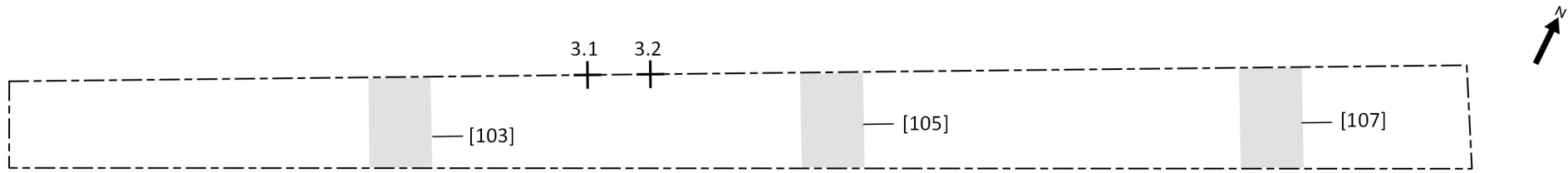
Site Code	YAWR 21
Scale	1:500 @ A4
Drawn By	V Zoppi
Date	06/12/2021

**Allenarchaeology**

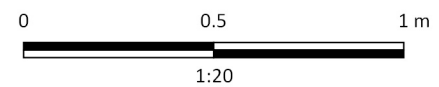
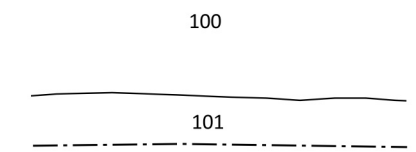
- Lincoln
- Birmingham
- Cambridge
- Preston
- Southampton

www.allenarchaeology.co.uk





Southeast facing section



- Key
- Furrow
  - Limit of excavation

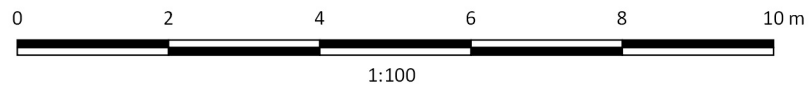
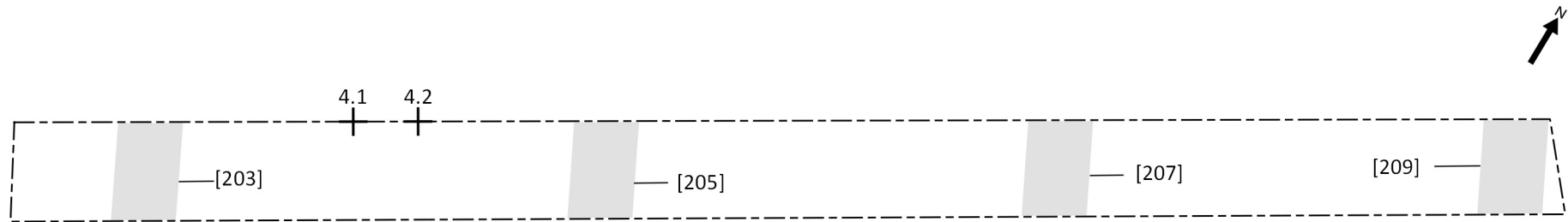
Site Code	YAWR 21
Scale	1:100 & 1:20 @ A4
Drawn By	V Zoppi
Date	01/12/2021

**Allen**archaeology

- Lincoln
- Birmingham
- Cambridge
- Preston
- Southampton

[www.allenarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.allenarchaeology.co.uk)

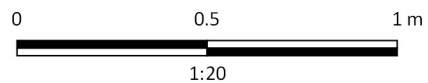
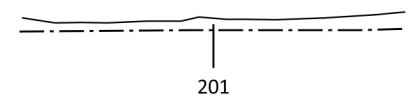
Figure 3: Trench 1, plan and section



Southeast facing section




200



Key

 Furrow

 Limit of excavation

Site Code	YAWR 21
Scale	1:100, 1:20 @ A4
Drawn By	V Zoppi
Date	01/12/2021

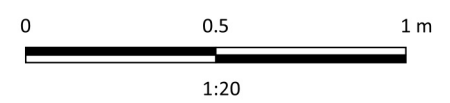
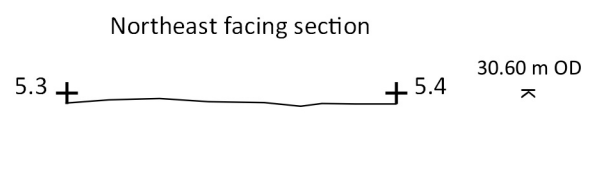
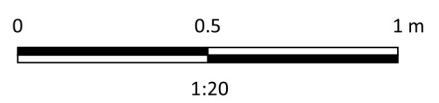
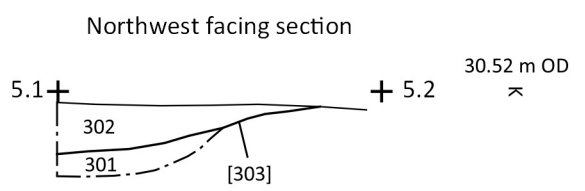
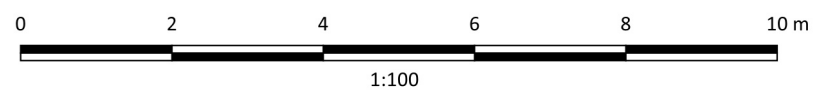
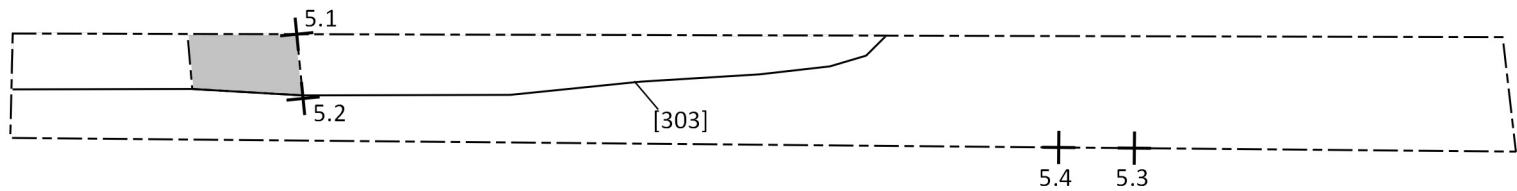
Allenarchaeology






Lincoln  
Birmingham  
Cambridge  
Preston  
Southampton

[www.allenarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.allenarchaeology.co.uk)

Figure 4: Trench 2, plan and section



- Key
-  Archaeological feature
  -  Limit of excavation
  -  Sondage

Site Code	YAWR 21
Scale	1:100, 1:20 @ A4
Drawn By	V Zoppi
Date	06/12/2021

**Allenarchaeology**

Lincoln  
Birmingham  
Cambridge  
Preston  
Southampton

[www.allenarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.allenarchaeology.co.uk)

Figure 5: Trench 3, plan and sections



Allen Archaeology Limited  
[www.allenarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.allenarchaeology.co.uk)

Company Registered in England and Wales No: 6935529

**Lincoln**

Whisby Lodge  
Hillcroft Business Park  
Whisby Road  
Lincoln  
Lincolnshire  
LN6 3QL  
T: +44 (0) 1522 685356  
E: [info@allenarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:info@allenarchaeology.co.uk)

**West**

Arion Business Centre  
Harriet House  
118 High Street  
Birmingham  
B23 6BG  
T: +44 (0) 800 610 2545  
E: [birmingham@allenarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:birmingham@allenarchaeology.co.uk)

**Northeast**

Office 17, Birtley Business Centre  
85 Station Lane  
Birtley  
Chester-le-Street  
County Durham  
DH3 1QT  
T: +44 (0) 7710 099045  
E: [northeast@allenarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:northeast@allenarchaeology.co.uk)

**East**

Wellington House  
East Road  
Cambridge  
Cambridgeshire  
CB1 1BH  
T: +44 (0) 800 610 2550  
E: [cambridge@allenarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:cambridge@allenarchaeology.co.uk)

**Northwest**

44 Little Lane  
Longridge  
Preston  
Lancashire  
PR3 3WS  
T: +44 (0) 7710 099052  
E: [northwest@allenarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:northwest@allenarchaeology.co.uk)

**South**

International House  
Southampton International Business Park  
George Curl Way  
Southampton  
SO18 2RZ  
T: +44 (0) 800 610 2555  
E: [southampton@allenarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:southampton@allenarchaeology.co.uk)