



BSCW17

Coventry Stadium, Brandon

Written Scheme of Investigation for a programme of archaeological work

Client: Archaeology Collective Ltd

V.02

20/09/2017

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INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document is submitted as a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation on land at Coventry Stadium, Brandon, Warwickshire.
- 1.2 This Written Scheme of Investigation defines the scope of the initial programme of work and is submitted for agreement from the archaeological advisor.
- 1.3 The evaluation will provide further information about the archaeological resource, to enable appropriate decisions to be reached regarding whether and what sort of further work is required. This document takes into account relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and the Archaeological Fieldwork Guidelines issued by the archaeological advisors to Rugby Borough Council.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

- 1.4 The area subject to trenching comprises an area of 4.75ha and is located at NGR SP40702 77269. It lies north of Brandon and east of Binley Woods, within the grounds of Coventry Stadium; bounded by the A428 to the west, Speedway Lane to the south and woods to the north. The eastern boundary is formed by the stadium buildings.
- 1.5 The bedrock geology of the site consists of Mercia Mudstone formed in the Triassic period. Superficial deposits are recorded as part of the Dunsmore Gravel, comprising quaternary sand and gravel (NERC 2017). The overlying soils are described as loamy (Cranfield University 2017)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.6 A Desk Based Assessment (DBA) was undertaken in 2016 (Jones 2016).
- 1.7 The archaeological advisors to the LPA have highlighted that across the application site there is the potential for archaeological deposits associated with the prehistoric period onward and consider that some archaeological work should be required in advance of the determination of a planning application (JR/Pre-app/R17-Brandon Stadium.1)
- 1.8 HER data from within a minimum 1000m radius of the site will be examined, as will the relevant background material held by the County Records Office (for this we will refer to the existing DBA, Jones 2016), unless other, specific, new information is requested by the Planning Archaeologist. The HER search reference number will be included in the final report.

OBJECTIVES

- 1.9 The objectives of the evaluation are as follows:
 - To establish the location, extent, nature and date of archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the areas potentially disturbed by development;
 - To establish the integrity and state of preservation of archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the areas potentially disturbed by development;
 - To inform the development of an appropriate mitigation strategy;
 - To produce and deposit a satisfactory archive and disseminate the results of the work via grey-literature reporting and publication as appropriate.

- 1.10 Transfer of Title will be sought for any artefacts recovered as a result of the works. The resulting archives (finds and records) will be organised and deposited with Warwickshire Museum to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.
- 1.11 A summary account of the work will be submitted to the editor of West Midlands Archaeology and any relevant period journals (e.g. Medieval Archaeology, Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society) no later than March 31st of the year following completion of fieldwork.

2 SCHEDULE

- 2.1 A start date has not yet been specified. Evaluation (trial trenching) fieldwork is expected to take up to 3 weeks to complete on site. A draft report will then be delivered to the client and, on approval, to the planning authority within four weeks of the completion of fieldwork.

3 PROJECT TEAM

- 3.1 The project will be managed for Headland Archaeology by Kate Bain (Project Manager); the field team will be led by a member of staff of ACIfA grade or equivalent experience. *Curricula vitae* of key personnel can be supplied on request. The project team will familiarise themselves with the background to the site and will be aware of the project's aims and methodologies.
- 3.2 Specialist artefact analyses will be managed by Julie Franklin, Headland's Finds Manager. Julie will undertake finds assessment within her areas of competence (medieval and post-medieval metalwork, glassware, clay pipes, ceramic building material and other small finds) and assisted by Julie Lochrie (lithics, prehistoric pottery). Further consultation will be sub-contracted to recognised period specialists familiar with finds from this geographical area as appropriate.
- 3.3 Environmental analysis will be managed by Dr Tim Holden. Headland has in-house specialists who can undertake analysis of pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and thin sections. Human and animal remains will be assessed by David Henderson (although it is not anticipated that the latter will be removed during an evaluation project).
- 3.4 Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd is a Registered Organisation and abides by the Codes of Conduct and Approved Practice and Standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. The company has all the necessary technical and personnel resources for the satisfactory completion of the evaluation.

4 INSURANCE & COPYRIGHT

- 4.1 Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd is fully indemnified and all necessary insurances can be presented on request.
- 4.2 Copyright will be retained by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd. Headland will licence the client and other bodies as necessary for use in matters relating to the project and for use of the project archive by the relevant museum. This licence will also extend to non-commercial use.

5 HEALTH & SAFETY

- 5.1 All of Headland's work is undertaken in accordance with current H&S legislation. A risk assessment and method statement will be prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork. All staff will wear appropriate PPE and this will include high-visibility clothing, hard hats and safety footwear. Suitable site welfare

facilities will be located at an appropriate location after consultation with the landowner.

6 ACCESS & SERVICES

- 6.1 This WSI is submitted on the understanding that there will be unhindered access to all areas of the site. A plan of any services within the proposed development area will also be provided by the client or their agents. Any livestock/cars/spoil heaps etc. will be removed.
- 6.2 Trenches will be laid out to the agreed plan so as to avoid any services and their associated exclusion zones.
- 6.3 Trenches will be scanned with a cable locator tool prior to excavation.

7 METHODOLOGY

TRIAL TRENCHING

- 7.1 The evaluation will comprise excavation of 24 x 50m long trenches, totalling 2375 m². Trenches have been arrayed to achieve good even coverage of the site plan. If necessary, trenches may be relocated to take into account physical or environmental constraints, where this is the necessary the client and the archaeological advisor will be informed.
- 7.2 All trenches will be opened by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. All trenches will be excavated by machine under direct archaeological supervision and will be excavated in controlled spits. Machine excavation will terminate at the top of the natural geology or the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever is encountered first. Spoil will be stored beside the trench.
- 7.3 Excavation of archaeological deposits and features required to satisfy the objectives of the evaluation will continue by hand (except where agreed otherwise with the archaeological advisor). On completion of machine excavation, all faces of the trench that require examination or recording will be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. The stratigraphic sequence will be recorded in full in each of the trenches, even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.
- 7.4 A sufficient quantity (to adequately evaluate the site) of identified features will be investigated and recorded. This will typically involve excavation of 50% of discrete features, and a 1m slot of linear features. Where features form a definite arrangement a sample of features within the arrangement will be sample excavated. Features not suited to excavation in evaluation trenches will be investigated in plan only. This would typically apply to areas of complex, intercutting features such as structures with *in-situ* floor surfaces, kilns and other 'special' features, all of which benefit from open area investigation and suffer when excavated during trial trench evaluations. No features will be wholly excavated; similarly, structures and features worthy of preservation will not be unduly excavated.
- 7.5 Due to Health and Safety considerations, excavations will normally be limited to a maximum depth of 1m below existing ground level. Sondages may be machine-excavated to greater depths; any such sondages will be located within blank areas of existing trenches, will not be entered by site staff and will be backfilled immediately after excavation.
- 7.6 If deeper excavations are required to achieve the objectives of the project, stepping or battering of trench sides will be used to make the excavations safe.

- 7.7 Trenches will be backfilled by replacing excavated materials back in the hole in reverse order of excavation and compressed with the excavator.

RECORDING

- 7.8 All recording will follow ClfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological evaluations. All contexts, small finds and environmental samples will be given unique numbers. All recording will be undertaken on *pro forma* record cards. In the event that stratified deposits are encountered, a 'Harris' matrix will be compiled. Digital photographs and 35mm monochrome film photographs will be taken; with a graduated metric scale will be clearly visible.
- 7.9 A site plan including all identified features, areas of excavation and other pertinent information will be recorded digitally. The site plan will be accurately linked to the National Grid and heights to OD. Where appropriate, sections and stratigraphic sequences will be recorded digitally. Digital recording will be undertaken using a differential GPS or an EDM linked to a hand-held computer in order to allow data checking while in the field. If additional detailed recording of features and sections is required (i.e. where their complexity means that archaeological information could be lost if recorded digitally) then plans and sections will be hand-drawn on permatrace at an appropriate scale (normally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections).

SAMPLES AND ARTEFACTS

- 7.10 Finds will be routinely recorded by context and recorded 3-dimensionally where appropriate (i.e. where their position within a context can provide further significant information or the find is of particular significance). Any artefacts retrieved during the evaluation will be cleaned using appropriate techniques and packaged and stored in accordance with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neal 1998). All artefacts recovered during the evaluation will be cleaned, marked and catalogued; all ceramic finds will be referenced to county fabric types. Headland's in-house finds specialists will be available to provide advice remotely or on site if necessary. Conservation will be undertaken by Scottish Conservation Studio (for metalwork) and AOC Ltd (for organics).
- 7.11 The terms of the Treasure Act 1996 will be followed with regards to any finds which might fall within its scope. Any finds will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner as required by the procedures laid down in the "Code of Practice". Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.
- 7.12 Deposits on the site are anticipated to be in non-waterlogged contexts. They are expected to comprise the fills of negative features. The site sampling strategy is to collect bulk samples from selected deposits for wet sieving and floatation in order to recover any environmental material and other finds (e.g. bone, pottery etc.). Deposits will be selected on site for sampling based upon their potential to contain artefacts or ecofacts relevant to understanding the character, date or significance of the deposit and of the environmental resource itself. It is noted that not all environmental remains are visible to the naked eye under field conditions; therefore bulk samples will be taken from features of potential significance even when no ecofactual/artefactual evidence has been directly observed.
- 7.13 A bulk sample will typically be 40 litres. However, where large deposits are encountered more than one bulk sample may be taken. Similarly, small deposits such as the fills of postholes may contain less than 10 litres of sediment and will be fully sampled. All samples collected on site will be processed and assessed, unless the stratigraphic assessment demonstrates that they derive from features

with no archaeological significance, or unless they would provide duplicate information (e.g. multiple samples from the same phase of a ditch). A statement will be given on any discarded samples. The results and recommendations for any further work will be included in the evaluation report.

- 7.14 Where waterlogged deposits are encountered (such as peat) appropriate sampling techniques will be employed so as to maximise the environmental information gained from such deposits. This may include the taking of monolith or core samples for pollen and non-pollen palynomorphs (e.g. testates and fungal spores) and large specialist samples for plant macrofossil, wood (including waterlogged wood) and insect analyses.
- 7.15 The environmental sampling strategy will be in line with *Environmental Archaeology – A guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011) and *Environmental Archaeology and Archaeological Evaluations - recommendation regarding the environmental archaeology component of archaeological evaluations in England*. (Association for environmental Archaeology working paper no. 2, 1995). Any variations to the best practice outlined in this guidance will be agreed with the curator in consultation with the Regional Science Advisor.

MONITORING

- 7.16 Access to the site will be afforded to the archaeological advisor for monitoring purposes.

8 REPORTING AND ARCHIVE

- 8.1 All aspects of reporting and archive will be undertaken in accordance with guidelines published by the ClfA on behalf of the Archaeological Archives Forum (July 2007). On completion of the evaluation Headland will produce a site archive and, if appropriate, an Updated Project Design in line with the MAP2 specification and MoRPHE Guide. This will include all relevant specialist assessments of excavated material. An online OASIS report will be completed and will be accompanied by a pdf report and boundary file.
- 8.2 Copies of the report will be sent to the client for onward transmission to the local planning authority; 3 bound paper copies and a digital copy will also be submitted to the HER Officer, to be deposited in the Warwickshire HER. An electronic copy will be sent to the Archaeological Advisor and the LPA planning officer. All reports will be submitted within one month of the completion of fieldwork.
- 8.3 In addition, where it is available, the HER would receive geo-referenced digital data for survey, evaluation and excavation locations (including excavation phase plans) in the form of a shape file or dxf file.
- 8.4 All reports will be submitted within one month of the completion of fieldwork. A publication summary will be submitted to CBA *West Midlands Archaeology* and any other relevant journals for the year in which the fieldwork takes place.
- 8.5 Pottery reports will refer to the appropriate type-series; including the Warwickshire type series for Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery.
- 8.6 The finds and archive will be deposited with Warwickshire Museum, as per standard conditions, and arrangements have been put in place. Provision has been made for storage costs. Deposition will be undertaken within one year of the completion of fieldwork.
- 8.7 Digital archive materials – expected to comprise the report, any survey files and any digital photographs forming part of the primary record will be deposited at the

Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk>), accompanied by the relevant metadata.

9 HUMAN REMAINS

- 9.1 All finds of human remains will be reported to the consultant/client/coroner/curator. None will be excavated during the course of the present program of work. If human remains are to be excavated during subsequent work, a license will be gained from the Ministry of Justice in accordance with Section 25 of the 1857 Burial Act. All excavation and treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains will be undertaken in cognisance of ClfA Technical Paper Number 13 (Brickley & McKinley & 2004) and relevant English Heritage guidelines (2005).

10 COPYRIGHT

- 10.1 Copyright will be retained by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd. Headland will licence the client, Warwickshire Historic Environment Record and other bodies as necessary for use in matters relating to the project and for use of the project archive by the relevant museum. This licence will also extend to non-commercial use by the HER.

11 PUBLICITY

- 11.1 No press releases or publicity material will be issued without prior approval of the client. The archaeological advisor will be offered the opportunity to be acknowledged in any press release etc.

12 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- 12.1 The potential for the archaeological works to contribute to the advancement of educational or community benefits through public engagement has been considered. This potential is currently assessed to be low because of the limited duration and extent of the works and the low archaeological potential of the area.
- 12.2 Headland proposes no further additional public engagement beyond dissemination of the results as described above. This position will be kept under review as the works progress and the results become known. If circumstances change then potential public engagement activities – for example, information (e.g. press releases or other local publicity) - will be discussed with the archaeological advisor and the client.

13 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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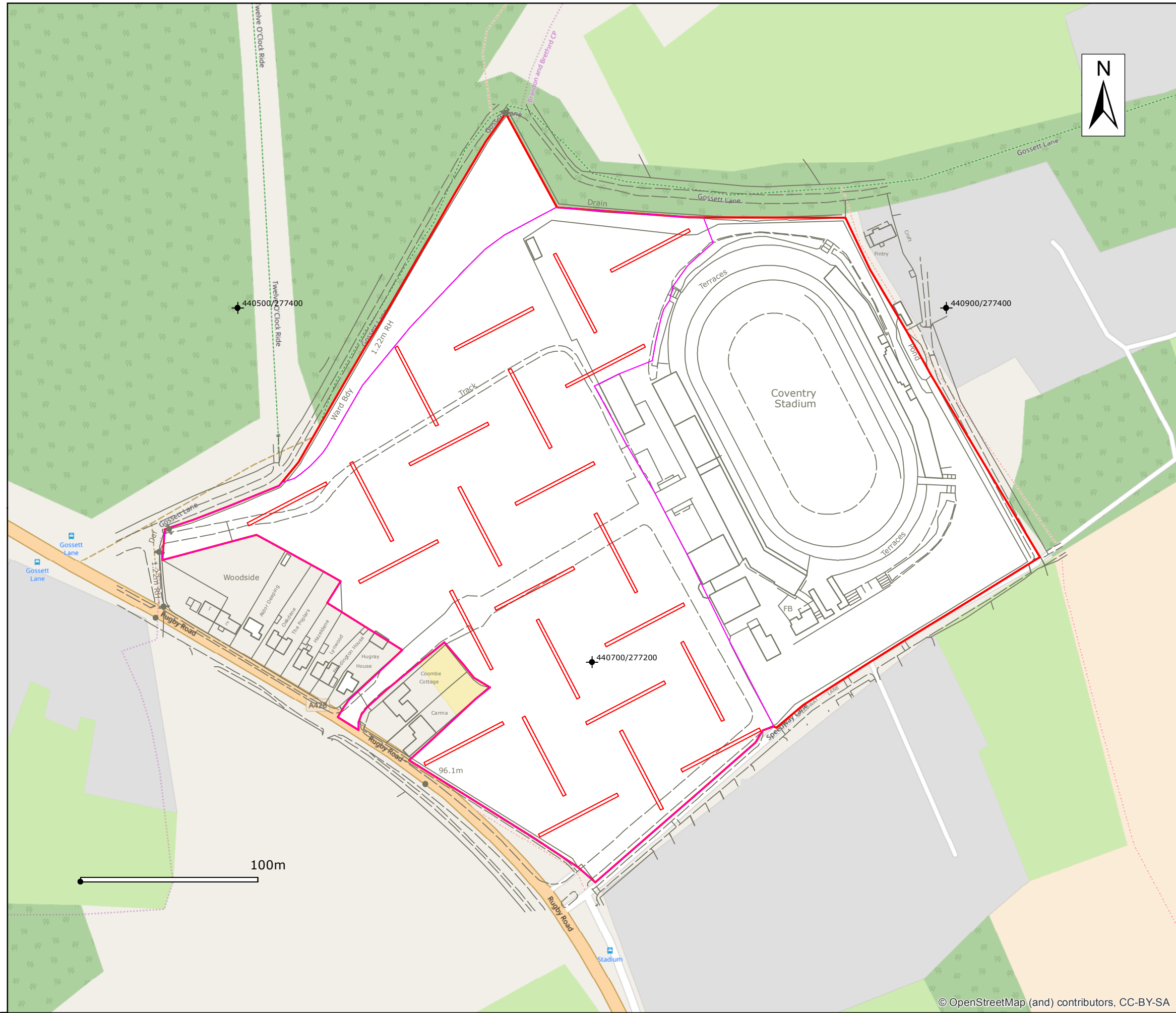
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Key

Brandon Stadium

Illus 1: Proposed Trench Plan