

The Old Vicarage Garden Chesterfield

Archaeological Mitigation: Roman Acculturation Study Design

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THE UNIVERSITY
of MANCHESTER

The Old Vicarage Garden, Chesterfield, Derbyshire: Archaeological Mitigation

For: Centros Properties Limited and Land Securities Limited

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BACKGROUND

In response to an instruction from Centros Properties Limited and Land Securities Properties Limited the University of Manchester Archaeological Unit was requested to provide a scheme of archaeological mitigation for the Old Vicarage Garden, Chesterfield in advance of a proposed redevelopment.

That and surrounding areas were archaeologically evaluated by the Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust, led by the author of this report, in May 1989. Subsequent to that evaluation a mitigation strategy was designed by J Walker and approved by Chesterfield Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council and English Heritage. That strategy was not implemented and since it was approved a full report on earlier excavations conducted by T Courtney has appeared (Ellis P *Roman Chesterfield: Excavations by T Courtney 1974-78, Derbyshire Archaeological Journal* vol 109, 1989, 51-130).

A further evaluation was conducted by The University of Manchester Archaeological Unit in February 1996 following comments received from Dr A Brown, English Heritage, and Dr D Barrett, Derbyshire County Council the results of which appear in the Annex attached to this design.

The Ellis report (Figure 1) suggested that the centre of Chesterfield contained partial below ground remains of various Roman forts dating from late in the reign of Nero to c. AD. 140/150. Associated with the forts were traces of a possible Annex and a possible extra-mural settlement (vicus). The Ellis report did not describe the work of the late Harry Lane who discovered industrial features and other remains to the west of the Old Vicarage in an area which has subsequently been redeveloped.

The Roman military occupation of Chesterfield has tended to be associated with the support of pro-Roman factions of the Brigantes and/or the exploitation of the lead (and possibly silver deposits) of the Peak District. The relationship of Chesterfield to the other forts within and around the Peak District (Derby, Melandra, Brough and the two uncertain, Buxton and Lutudarum) remains obscure. Other schools of thought see the significance of the site in terms of its possible evidence for the development of complex agricultural and economic systems (eg Walker *J Roman Manchester: A Frontier Settlement*, 1986). The relevance of these wider issues to the remains under threat is unclear because:

- 1 The true nature and extent of the Roman sites is uncertain.
- 2 The extent, nature and date of the industrial remains is uncertain.
- 3 The economic context of the site is unclear.
- 4 The environmental context of the site is unclear.

This new mitigation strategy is a revision of the previously agreed strategy in the light of the Ellis report and more recent developments in archaeological approaches consequent to the widespread adoption of Planning Policy Guidance 16.

PREVIOUS WORK

The Trent & Peak evaluation revealed the following:

1. Old Vicarage Garden

- 1.1 In general 300mm of late post-medieval overburden overlay a brown loam (garden soil?) containing post-medieval sherds.
- 1.2 Below the brown loam extensive Roman deposits starting at around 92.51 OD at the southern edge of the garden were encountered. These consisted of horizontal spreads, road and occupation surfaces, postholes and ditches. Trent & Peak trench 9 suggests that overall there is 40-50 cm of horizontal Roman stratigraphy surviving in this area, with deeper negative features (eg ditches) cut a further metre into the underlying natural bedrock. This horizontal stratigraphy seems to survive across the area save where the Old Vicarage and associated structures have disturbed the sequence. It can be presumed that the area contains over 850 cubic metres of archaeological deposits. The remains probably represent Roman military activity from the late 1st century AD to the mid-2nd century. Prof GDB Jones was of the opinion that there was a strong possibility that the evaluation trenches had revealed a military gate marking a defence line running north south midway through the area. If this were so then the interpretations presented by Ellis would require substantive revision. Finds included a full range of pottery and artefacts but little bone in poor condition and little evidence for the survival of palaeo-environmental data.
- 1.3 Along the northern edge of the site ground levels rose steeply and test sections revealed a build up of material that could not be securely dated but which appears to be largely the result of dumping from the north.

The UMAU evaluation revealed that the preservation of the Roman remains varied across the site (Figures 1 and 2).

It was clear that although localised organic deposits might survive in ditch fills the highly acid nature of the soils had destroyed most organic material and degraded the physical quality of the pottery. No post-Roman material was discovered and the majority of the finds and features probably dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD and might be associated directly or indirectly with military activity.

Fig 1 shows how the original Roman horizontal stratigraphy of the area has been truncated and survives best in Areas A1 and C whilst in areas B and D it has been completely removed leaving only negative features. Fig 2 attempts to show the areas of differential stratigraphic survival as well as the archaeological potential (see PPG16 Annex 4) of each area. It is clear from the levels that no substantive Roman deposits are likely to survive on the site of the St James or adjoining buildings.

MITIGATION PROPOSALS

Introduction

The outline development proposals call for the construction of substantive buildings and the design criteria for these structures would involve the destruction of the deposits found in the Old Vicarage Garden but not the deeper Roman deposits on the site of the Old Omnibus Station that were found during the Trent & Peak evaluation.

It appears that every Roman fort in a rural context is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and as such subject to the maximum protection allowed by law. There are a number of Roman forts in urban contexts (eg Manchester) which are not, however, Scheduled. This difference in status does not necessarily reflect differences in archaeological quality or importance, as measured by the Criteria in Annex 4 of PPG 16, but is more likely to be a reflection of the preservation problems posed by urban contexts.

The available evidence clearly indicates that significant archaeological deposits exist and that these would be removed during redevelopment.

In recognition of the type of problem posed by this redevelopment PPG16 allows for the creation of a record (by excavation) of remains prior to their destruction. This mitigation document outlines how an appropriate record can be created, maintained and distributed.

DETAILED MITIGATION PROPOSALS

Timing

It is intended that the archaeological recording exercise (excavation) takes place prior to construction. In view of the proposed method of earth removal and the nature of the site it would be unwise, on Health and Safety grounds (see SCAUM Health and Safety manual), to expect that it would be possible to conduct an archaeological watching-brief (recording the remains) during construction.

Access

The developer will appoint a recognised archaeological contractor to undertake the recording exercise and they will be given free access to the Old Vicarage Garden and adjoining St James buildings for the period outlined in this design.

Reinstatement

There will be no reinstatement of the sites.

Record Deposition

The archive, or detailed record of the excavation, will be deposited with the Chesterfield Museum for long term safe keeping.

Aims and Objectives

In order to ensure that an accurate and appropriate record is created there is a need to ensure that detailed archaeological aims and objectives are specified (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, English Heritage, 1991). These aims have been identified through discussions between the writer and Prof GDB Jones and are as follows:-

1 The site in its setting:

Record to understand the site in both its immediate contemporary setting and through time.

2 Site plan:

Record to identify the site form (layout).

3 Site function:

- 3.1 Record to identify the function of the site, particularly within the Roman period, with particular attention paid to recording any evidence of industrial or other commissary activity.
- 3.2 Collect and record any artefactual evidence relevant to the date of the remains and their function, particularly industrial, commercial or commissary.

4 Ecological context:

Given the low possibility of palaeo-environmental material surviving assess and record any localised deposits (eg industrial feature fills) that may reveal setting or function.

Publication and Presentation

It can be reasonably assumed that the mitigation strategy will generate findings of sufficient importance to warrant publication in the *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*. It may be that the discoveries will be of significance to warrant wider publication and if so this will be discussed with interested parties after the assessment phase.

The original design called for on-going public access during excavation and this was to be funded by Derbyshire County Council. Budgetary considerations now preclude that possibility. It is proposed (subject to it not affecting the progress of the excavations) that in the last half of the fieldwork occasional guided tours will be available.

METHODS OF RECORDING

A. Fieldwork

Aim 1: The Site in its Setting

Vicarage Garden

The general excavation plan is shown on the attached Figure 3. A strong attempt has been made to expose the largest possible area of deposits within the following restrictions; the need for a stand-off from existing structures, the need for spoil heaps within 8 metres of any excavation area and the need for vehicle access and site compound. Wherever possible spoil heaps have been sited within areas thought to have been disturbed by larger tree root systems. As shown in Figure 2 the excavation area will contain different zones of potential and below is set out the strategy for each area within the broad aim (note all quantities are estimates and should not be relied on for costing purposes etc.):

Area A1:

Extensive area excavation in stratigraphic units with sampling of individual deposits informed by circumstances.

Area: 576 metre²

Overburden: 400m³

Archaeological deposits: 230 m³.

Area A2:

Extensive area of stratigraphic excavation aimed at total recovery of deposits

Area: 517m²

Overburden: 680m³

Archaeological deposits: 258m³

Area B:

Extensive area cleaning to reveal negative features. Removal of 20% sample of ditch fills and recording of all intersections of linear features.

Area: 309m²

Overburden: 225m³

Archaeological deposits: 100m³

Area C:

Area of stratigraphic excavation with possible extension towards wall when ground conditions become clear at a local specific level.

Area: 144m²

Overburden: 75m³

Archaeological deposits: 100m³

Area D:

Area of severely truncated ground containing negative feature excavation method as in Area B.

Area: 196m²

Overburden: 90m³

Archaeological deposits: 25m³

Quantification

Total excavation area: 1742 m³

Overburden: c. 1495m³+

1.1 *Horizontal stratigraphy:*

Extensive open clearance following removal of overlying dumped material by machine. Hand clean and plan, record also by photography and context sheets using unique numbering applied to stratigraphic units. Consult methods below then continue to excavate in stratigraphic units..

Aim 2: Site Plan

Plan all stratigraphic units revealed by methods 1.1 and 1.2 above at an appropriate scale. Compile at a scale of 1:50 an overall plan of all material revealed during 1 to 2.1. Compile at an appropriate scale single unified series of sections showing the height of the deposits on both east-west and north-south axes across both Vicarage Garden and Old Omnibus Station. Compile and annotate versions of same plan and sections delineated by suspected phases or major stratigraphic events.

Aim 3: Site Function

Features

- 3.1 Collect by stratigraphic unit all pre-18th century artefacts revealed during operations.
- 3.2 Sample excavate all stratigraphic units to form an artefact collection suitable for dating purposes.
- 3.3 Excavate all stratigraphic units thought to have an industrial, commissary or industrial purpose. Sieve 10 litres by volume to collect any material indicative of processes in use.
- 3.4 Sample excavate all ditches and structural features to obtain artefacts for dating purposes and to characterise same. Sieve where feasible 10 litres by volume significant fills of same to collect floral or faunal material.

Artefacts

- 3.5 Bag, mark and store all artefact material by stratigraphic unit collected through methods outlined above. Prepare provisional analysis of date, original source and function of artefact material during fieldwork, illustrate findings on site plans prepared under specified methods above.

Aim 4: Ecological context

- 4.1 Monitor results of sieving specified above and if it appears that significant data relevant to revealing the overall ecological context of the site in any phase is available implement suitable strategy to recover same.

Aim 5: General

Maintain running Harris Matrix or similar during fieldwork and annotate same with evidence relevant to overall aims. The overall excavation process is relatively simple. A project team comprising of the Director and supervisors will commence 4 weeks before digging to establish and clear the site. Site clearance will be by machine with overburden disposed of off-site. Outlined below is the excavation method in detail but in principle it consists of two main teams of excavators lead by experienced project officers each with 3 experienced diggers and 6 inexperienced diggers. These teams will start excavating on the relatively simple areas B and D. Following shake down these will transfer to Areas A1 and A2. as work on these areas draws to a close the teams will transfer to Area C with some diggers going to aid the planner and finds establishments. This approach has the advantage of allowing a stepped approach to the deposits with the potentially most rewarding being brought on line as site understanding grows.

Throughout the excavation period a unified site plan and matrix will be maintained by a site planner/surveyor. To allow iteration and sampling this will be updated by results from the finds group who are expected to provide daily information on artefact, quantities, quality, function and date.

B. Post Fieldwork

Prepare and complete an assessment of potential in accordance with *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991.

RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

Staffing:

Project staff:

1 Overall scheme director and responsible senior officer.

John Walker BAHons FSA

25 years in field archaeology. Performed the same role in the very large scale excavations at the Roman forts at Castleshaw (Walker J ed. *Castleshaw: The Archaeology of a Roman Fortlet*, 1989) and Manchester (Walker J ed. *Roman Manchester: A Frontier Settlement*, 1986). Published various site reports on Medieval and Roman excavations. External examiner for the award of DPhil archaeology. Hon Sec Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers.

2 Project Director

3 Senior Supervisor or Field Officers (2)

4 Experienced site assistants (6)

5 Site assistants (12)

6 Supervisor (finds)

7 Finds assistant

8 Site surveyor planner

9 Support staff:

Editorial and DTP:

Dr P Arrowsmith BAHons PhD

Dr M Nevell BAHons MPhil PhD

Sub-contractors:

Earthmoving contractor: Subject to negotiation

Artefact analysis centre:

Chester City Council Archaeological Service

Service Manager Dr P Carrington PhD MIFA FSA

Roman pottery

Coarseware:

G Dunn BTech AIFA

A Jones BA

Samian (by contract)
M Ward MA MIFA

Small finds
Dr G Lloyd-Morgan PhD FSA
To be confirmed by contract

Glass
H Cool

Slag
G McDonnell

Palaeo-environmental centre:

Palaeoecological Research Unit, University of Manchester

Manager Dr D Shimwell B.SC. PhD

Advisory staff

Academic advisors:

University of Manchester

Prof GDB Jones MA DPhil FSA

Dr JP Wild MA PhD FSA

Dr P Holder BA PhD (Military Units)

Mr K Sugden BA MPhil FCA FSA (Numismatics)

Palaeo-environmental advisors:

University of Manchester

Dr D Shimwell B.SC. PhD

Conservation advisor:

University of Manchester

Mr CV Horrie B.SC. FMA FIIC

Equipment:

Accommodation:

Cabins (3; general, planners, finds)

Toilets (2)

Tool safe (1)

Safety:

Portable telephone, closure signs, first aid kits 2, extinguishers water and dry powder, helmets 26, gloves 10, protective footwear 30, drinking water containers 2, hazard tape and pins, shoring as necessary. Dry area, food preparation area, gas, signs and storage. SCAUM manual 1, CONDRAM regulations and assessment 1, policy statements 26, Public Liability Certificate 1, leptospirosis cards 26.

Photography:

Cameras, 2 full sets

Planning:

Chest 1, drawing board 1, planning boards 10, planning frames 10, grid pegs 100, grid pins 10, nails 200, EDM or similar.

Artefacts:

Boxes bags and labelling for circa 2000 contexts and initially around 5400 objects. Conservation material as per *First Aid for Finds*.

Sieves dry and wet installations.

Site work:

Secure fireproof cabinet 1, trowels 26, shovels 22, picks 7, mattocks 9, hand shovels 15, barrows 12, buckets 40, spades 5, JCB sitemaster or similar as well as dumper or power barrows as required, planks 80 linear metres, poly sheet 100 square metres.

Specialist equipment from sub-contractors including heavy plant for overburden removal.

TIMETABLE

The following is a general timetable of operations:

<i>Major Task</i>	<i>Time allocation</i>
1 Pre-commencement	4 weeks
2 Start-up	2-3 weeks
3 Establish site	2-3 weeks
4 Fieldwork	16 weeks
5 Assessment	12-13 weeks
6 Archive and report	52 weeks
Total time to completion	88-91 weeks
Total time on-site	18-19 weeks

Compression of tasks 1-2 could be achieved through detailed negotiation and preparation perhaps down to 6 weeks.

On-site time could possibly be reduced by compressing tasks 3 and 4 by reserving parts of the site for different operations at different times bringing it down from 18/19 to 16 weeks. It should be noted, however, that area excavations can be seriously delayed by extreme sun, wet or cold and that the time of year is a significant factor.

1 Pre-commencement:

Time: 4 weeks

- 1 Formalise agreed design with planning authority.
- 2 Exchange of contracts or agreements between Centros and archaeological contractor.

2 Start-up

Time: 2-3 weeks.

- 1 Start project team (Director plus supervisory staff)
- 2 Secure accommodation
- 3 Secure earthmoving
- 4 Services search
- 5 CONDAM assessment
- 6 Secure site
- 7 Book and acquire equipment
- 8 Recruit assistants
- 9 Liaise with advisors
- 10 Inform curatorial archaeologist of commencement
- 11 Secure transport

3 Establish site

Time: 2-3 weeks.

- 1 Earthmoving begins
- 2 Move in accommodation
- 3 Establish site grid
- 4 Establish finds and planning facilities
- 5 Move in equipment

4 Fieldwork

Time: 16 weeks (calculated from NEDO guidelines, 1991)

- 1 Begin after clearance excavation in Areas B and D. Form teams and expand into excavation of Areas A2 and A1. Towards end of A1 and A2 commence work on Area C. 2 Monitoring visit
- 3 Concentrate on area excavations and iterate through the proposed methods until completion
- 4 Advisors meeting, mid-point monitoring visit, sieving, analysis and matrices in progress
- 5 Consider public access
- 6 End point monitoring visit
- 7 Clear site

5 Assessment

Time: 1/2 of time taken in practice by preceding operations

- 1 Preliminary stratigraphic assessment
- 2 Preliminary quantification of material
- 3 Specialist assessment of artefacts
- 4 Assessment report
- 5 Costings revised
- 6 Consultation with curators

6 Commence archive and/or report

Time: To be advised but assume approximately x4 of the preceding phases to allow time for artefact and specialist reports.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

It is estimated that this work will cost £159,116 which sum will be paid by the developer.

STANDARDS

All work will conform to such By-Laws Standards and Guidance notes in force at the time of operations issued by The Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) and The Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM).

Appendix: UMAU Evaluation of the Old Vicarage Garden, Chesterfield, February 1996

Non-Technical Summary

An evaluation of an area of 3116 square metres to the south of the Roman fort at Chesterfield, Derbyshire, was undertaken by the University of Manchester Archaeological Unit in February 1996. The area, known as the Old Vicarage Garden, lay on the southern side of a hill, falling from roughly 96.47m AOD on the northern edge of the site to 92.27m AOD along the southern edge of the garden. Substantial Roman deposits of military, or pseudo-military, type were found to survive in the southern portion of the site. These included a Roman terrace *c* 20m wide where stratigraphy survived up to 0.4m deep, which included cobble spreads, post-holes, pits and a rock-cut U-shaped ditch aligned north-south. In the northern half of the site most Roman deposits survived only in archaeological features cut into the underlying bedrock, the majority of the early deposits above this having been removed by the construction of a nineteenth century vicarage and associated garden activity. The exception to this was a narrow band along the northern extremity of the site which coincided with the line of the Period 4a fort ditch, where Roman stratigraphy survived up to 0.4m deep in a band roughly 6m wide. Finds of Samian ware, coarseware (including Derbyshire Ware), fineware, amphora and tile placed this activity in the period mid-first century AD to mid-second century AD.

1. Introduction

The University of Manchester Archaeological Unit was commissioned by Centros Properties Limited and Land Securities Properties Limited to undertake an evaluation of land between Vicar Lane and Church Way in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, known as the Old Vicarage Garden (centred SK 3875).¹ The Old Vicarage Garden site (Fig 1), which lies on the southern flank of a hill at a height of between 96.47m AOD and 92.27m AOD, is a large open space, c 80m by c 50m (approximately 3116 square metres), in the centre of Chesterfield. Archaeological investigations over the last two decades have shown that the site lies on the southern side of the Roman fort. Because it was attached to the vicarage for St Mary's parish church it has been open land since at least the early post-medieval period. Consequently, this means that there is a high chance of significant Roman archaeological deposits surviving on this site.

The area is part of detailed development proposals by Centros Properties Limited which will involve the lowering of the existing ground level by a significant amount. The aim of the current evaluation was to provide extra information as to the depth and extent of Roman archaeological deposits so that a detailed mitigation strategy could be drawn up for the site.

This extra information was to take two forms. Firstly, the depth of the undisturbed natural, in this case sandstone, was to be established across the site. Secondly, information was to be gathered as to the quality of the survival of the Roman deposits on the site. Combined with the results of the previous evaluations in this part of Chesterfield, undertaken by the *Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust*, this should allow the establishment of areas of greatest archaeological survival, and therefore sensitivity, on the Old Vicarage Garden site.

1 The excavations were directed by Dr Michael Nevell and John Walker of UMAU with the assistance of Graham Mottershead and David Lloyd.

2. Background

The most recent published statement on the general origins and development of Roman Chesterfield² suggests that the centre of the town contained partial below ground remains of various Roman forts dating from late in the reign of Nero to c AD 140/150. Associated with the forts were traces of a possible annex and a possible extra-mural settlement (*vicus*). However this report did not describe the work of the late Harry Lane who discovered industrial features and other remains to the west of the Old Vicarage Garden in an area which has subsequently been redeveloped. Nor did the report describe the campaigns conducted to the south of the church in the late 1980s by the *Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust* (TPAT). These were, however, summarised in a revised mitigation strategy produced by UMAU in 1995.³

The UMAU report noted that investigation of the Old Vicarage Garden in 1989 indicated the survival of extensive Roman deposits in this area, starting at around 92.425m AOD at the southern end of the site. These consisted of horizontal spreads, road and occupation surfaces, postholes and ditches. This horizontal stratigraphy was believed to have survived across most of the area, except in the immediate vicinity of the Old Vicarage itself. At the time these remains were thought to represent military Roman activity from the late first century AD to the mid second century AD.

Trenching in the vicinity of the Old Omnibus Station, immediately south of the Old Vicarage Garden, revealed a similar series of Roman deposits in terms of character and chronological span, except in this area the truncated deposits were sealed by later dumped material.

The limited nature of all these investigations means that the true extent, date, and nature of the Roman activity in the Old Vicarage Garden remains uncertain, as does the economic and environmental context of Roman Chesterfield as a whole.

2 Ellis P, 'Roman Chesterfield: Excavations by T Courtney 1974-78, *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal* 109, 1989, 51-130.

3 *Chesterfield - Vicar Lane. Archaeological Summary*. UMAU April 1995.

3. Evaluation Trenches

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Four trenches were opened across the site. The position of these trenches was designed to meet two objectives; firstly, they were aligned north-east with the intention of providing a full stratigraphic sequence across the garden following the general direction of the slope of the hill; secondly, they were located in those parts of the site which were not archaeologically well known. This included in particular the northern half of the garden which had only been assessed in a cursory manner over the last two decades.

Excavation of a total of 107.6 metres square was undertaken by JCB using a 1.6m wide toothless bucket, deposits being removed by machine down to the natural bedrock in at least one area of a trench. Only major features such as walls and ditches were sectioned by hand, although small sondages were used to locate the natural sandstone where this was not obvious. Trenches 1 to 3 were recorded in plan and by two sections, one north to south, the other east to west. Trench 4 was not planned due to health and safety problems created by the presence of deposits filling a former trench and more recent unstable dumping episodes. Levels were taken on all trench sections and on all plans. Part of the north facing east-west section of an earlier TPAT trench, located along the southern edge of the site, was cleaned and drawn where it encompassed a previously located ditch feature.

3.2 TRENCH 1

Trench 1 was located in the north-western quarter of the site and was 15.9m in length, north-south, by 1.6m in width, with an east-west extension 3.8m long by 2m wide (33.04m square). The trench was sealed by a topsoil [1001] below which was a general demolition layer [1002] sealing the whole of the trench. This rubble layer related to the destruction of the nineteenth century vicarage. Remains of the vicarage survived as foundation trenches [1008; 1012; 1018; 1027] forming the western edge of the building. Remains of an outbuilding [1025] relating to this vicarage were also uncovered as were a construction trench for a drainage pipe [1020].

No deposits were sectioned in the main part of the trench since the natural sandstone was located 0.3m below the modern ground surface at the northern end of the trench, at 94.57m AOD, and 0.6m at the southern end of the trench, c 93.78m AOD. Indeed the only archaeological stratigraphy to survive below the general demolition level [1002] was a dark brown loam devoid of finds in the southern half of the trench [1034] and a garden type soil [1017] 0.5m deep at the southern end of the trench (along the south-western corner of the vicarage).

However, a substantial feature was located in the eastern extension of the trench. This proved to be a ditch [1032] containing two fills; a lower fill of sandstone rocks and boulders [1024] interpreted as deliberate backfilling and an upper fill of silty clay loam [1023] interpreted as natural siltation. Both contained Roman coarseware pottery and Samian ware. The ditch was sealed by [1003], a dark brown loam, and was truncated on its western side by a foundation trench for the vicarage [1008].

3.3 TRENCH 2

Trench 2 was located in the central, southern, portion of the site to provide a stratigraphic link with an earlier TPAT trench (TPAT 9) opened in 1989. It was 23.4m long, north-south, and was 1.6m wide (37.44m square). The trench was partially sealed by a brick pavement [2002] at its northern end, which was cut into a thin topsoil below which was a series of very recent dumping

episodes, comprising layers containing a mixture of ash, charcoal and broken machine-made brick [2003; 2004; 2005; 2020; 2021]. These deposits sealed an old ground level at the northern end of the trench, represented by buried turf levels [2031; 2034] and an ashy/loam soil [2030] up to 0.4m deep, whilst at the southern end of the trench they sealed another ashy/loam soil [2022] which was up to 0.4m deep. These clearly related deposits were truncated in the middle of the trench by the later dump deposits. [2022] can probably be associated with the ashy/loam layer found to seal the whole of TPAT 9 in 1989. This soil was cut by the substantial foundations for the eastern wall of the vicarage [2029].

At the southern end of Trench 2 the ashy/loam soil [2022] sealed a mixed loam and clay level which contained micro-sherds and Roman pottery. Within this Roman level were a number of features, one at least appeared to be either a pit or posthole [2016], which also produced Roman pottery. This level can probably be associated with the similar general Roman deposit identified in the TPAT 9 in 1989.

A further area of discrete Roman deposits were located in the middle of the trench. These comprised two construction trenches [2010; 2011] roughly 0.6m wide and 0.4m deep both aligned east-west and flanking an area of hard-packed stone rubble [2009] over a pink clay base [2023], which was 1.5m wide.

A third area of possible Roman deposits was located at the northern end of the trench where a series of shallow U-shaped linear loam features, c 0.8m wide and at least 0.1m deep, were observed aligned east-west [2026; 2027; 2032].

All these certain and probable Roman deposits were found to cut into a very clean brown sandy loam [2007], up to 0.6m deep, which was traced across the middle of the trench. This clean brown sandy loam appeared to rest on the natural sandstone, but was not found in any of the other trenches on the site, nor was it located in the earlier TPAT 9 trench.

The natural sandstone in this trench was found at a height of 93.85m AOD at the northern end of Trench 2 and at 93.75m AOD when last seen in the centre of the trench.

3.4 TRENCH 3

Trench 3 was located in the centre of the Vicarage Garden and was 6m in length, north to south, and 1.6m in width (9.6m square). The trench was sealed by a brick pavement [3001], probably the same as the brick pavement [2002] seen in the neighbouring Trench 2. Below this was a series of foundations levels [3002; 3003] which sealed a brown loam soil containing Roman pottery [3004]. Modern disturbance was noted at the southern end of the trench where a pit or trench containing modern pottery [3007] was found to have cut through a laid cobble surface which produced Roman pottery and tile [3006]. The natural sandstone was located at a height of 94.1m AOD at the northern extremity of the trench, falling away to 93.80m AOD where it dipped below the area of cobbling [3006].

3.5 TRENCH 4

Trench 4 was located in the north-eastern quarter of the site, overlapping the site of a TPAT trench opened in 1989. It was 13.3m long by 1.6m wide, aligned north-south, with an east-west section 3.9m long by 1.6m wide (27.52m square). The trench was sealed by turf and topsoil, 95.349m AOD at the northern end of the trench and 94.067m AOD at the southern edge. Below these, covering the southern 8m of the trench, were a series of modern dump episodes comprising ash, cinder and charcoal [4007-9, 4014-5] up to 0.4m deep. These overlay a major dumping episode [4006] which ranged in depth from 0.4m at the southern end of the trench to 1m towards the northern end. This context was also found to have cut into the natural in this

trench, forming a shallow, level, terrace. This large deposit contained a few post-medieval sherds and brick fragments.

This major dumping episode was found to have truncated a dark brown silty loam [4002] covering the whole of the trench. In consequence context [4002] was only 0.1m deep at the southern end of the trench but was 0.4m deep at the northern end of the trench. This context produced post-medieval sherds, including Midland Purple and Cistercian Wares, and appeared to be a former soil.

[4002] was found to seal a series of early contexts, the upper one of which, [4012] was a light brown loam which produced Roman coarseware sherds and tile. This was found to survive only in the northern 6m of the trench and sealed a large V-shaped rock-cut ditch [4016], at least 1.3m deep and at least 3m wide. This was interpreted as the Period 4a Roman fort ditch.⁴ Although it was not possible to excavate a complete section across this ditch there were some indications to show that it had been partially backfilled [4010], and then re-cut [4013]. Both the primary ditch fill and the re-cut produced Roman pottery and tile, as well as charcoal and macro-fossils.

Excluding the fort ditch, the Roman deposits survived up to 0.4m in depth but only at the northern end of the trench. The natural sandstone was located at 94.2m AOD, on the southern lip of the ditch [4016], dipping to 93.18m AOD along the southern edge of the trench.

3.6 TPAT 9

TPAT 9 was aligned east to west and was 29.3m in length with a width varying from 3m to 7.9m. Only the north facing east-west section of this trench was investigated and recorded, where it coincided with a ditch feature first recorded in 1989. This section showed a topsoil [0001] below which was an ashy/ loam deposit [0002], similar in character to context [2022].

This sealed a loamy soil, up to 0.4m deep, with micro-sherds and Roman pottery very similar to context [2015]. Below and sealed by these deposits was a U-shaped rock-cut ditch [0014], 3m wide and 1.15m deep, with primary silts [0011; 0012; 0013] and a re-cut [0006], 2.3m wide and 1.1m deep, which appeared to have been deliberately backfilled [0004; 0005]. Roman pottery was recovered from both the re-cut and primary ditch fills. This material included a rim sherd of Samian ware from the earliest fill of the primary ditch [0011]. In total the Roman deposits in this trench were found to survive to a depth between 0.25m and 0.5m, and directly overlay the natural sandstone, which was located at a height of 92.05m AOD.

4 Ellis 1989, 122-3.

4. The Finds

Finds were recovered from most of the contexts excavated in the Old Vicarage Garden. These fell into four groups; pottery, tile, glass and bone. The latter two came from recent dumping episodes in Trench 2 and Trench 4, and are therefore not dealt with in this summary report. The rest came from Trenches 1 to 4, as well as TPAT 9.

4.1 ROMAN POTTERY

Roman pottery was found in contexts from all four of the trenches opened by UMAU in February 1996, as well as in contexts re-examined in TPAT 9. This material was largely undiagnostic, comprising mostly buff and orange coarsewares. Of note were several Samian pieces, a colour coated beaker fragment, a fragment of globular amphora, and a rim sherd of Derbyshire Ware. The date range of this material would appear to be mid-first century to mid-second century AD, with only the sherd of Derbyshire Ware, SF 2, possibly indicating later activity on the site.

SF 1, a body sherd of an early colour coated beaker, came from context [2015], a general Roman level.

SF 2, a rim sherd of a Derbyshire ware jar, came from context [2016], the fill of a Roman pit or posthole.

SF 3, an orange fabric body sherd from context [3004], a dark brown loam layer.

SF 7, a first century flagon base in buff/cream fabric, came from context [3008], the fill of a late pit [3007].

SF 10, a large rim sherd of Central Gaulish Samian, came from context [1023], the upper fill of ditch [1032].

SF 12, a fragment of globular amphora, came from context [0005], upper fill of the re-cut for ditch [0006].

SF 13, a base-herd in orange fabric, came from context [1024], the lower deliberate backfilling of ditch [1032].

SF 15, a Samian rim sherd from context [1024], the lower deliberate backfilling of ditch [1032].

SF 16, red fabric body sherd from context [1024], the lower deliberate backfilling of ditch [1032].

SF 17, red fabric body sherd from context [0005], the lower fill of ditch re-cut [0006].

SF 18, red fabric body sherd from context [0007], the primary fill of ditch re-cut [0006].

SF 19, a Samian rim sherd from context [0007], a deliberate infill of ditch [0006].

SF 21, an orange fabric body sherd from context [4006], a late dumping level.

SF 22, an orange fabric body sherd from context [4006], a late dumping level.

SF 23, a Samian body sherd from context [4006], a mixed late dumping deposit.

4.2 ROMAN TILE

Roman tile was found in the general Roman occupation levels in both Trench 2 and Trench 3, as well as in the ditch fills excavated in Trench 1, Trench 4, and TPAT 9. Unless otherwise stated all tile fragments were undiagnostic as to their type and function.

SF 5 came from context [3004], a dark brown loam which also produced Roman pottery.

SF 6 came from context [3004], a dark brown loam which also produced Roman pottery.

SF 11 came from context [1023], the upper fill of ditch [1032].

SF 14 came from context [1024], the lower deliberate backfilling of ditch [1032].

SF 20, a piece of tegula, came from context [4005], a deliberate backfilling of the Period 4a fort ditch [4016].

SF 24 came from context [4013], a re-cut of the Period 4a fort ditch [4016].

SF 26 came from context [4005], a deliberate backfilling of the Period 4a fort ditch [4016].

SF 27 came from context [2015], a general Roman level.

SF 28 came from context [2015], a general Roman level.

SF 29 came from an old TPAT context [20], in TPAT 9.

4.3 POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY

A small quantity of post-medieval pottery was found in the dump levels identified in Trench 2 and Trench 4. Most of this material was either late black-glazed wares or late porcelain and enamel wares. However, there were three earlier pieces suggesting activity in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries across the site; a neck sherd of Midland Purple from [4006], green-glazed shard from the top of [4012] (SF 25), and a body sherd of Cistercian ware from [2022].

5. Discussion

A total of 107.6 square metres of the Vicarage Garden site were evaluated in February 1996, representing 3.5% of the site.⁵

In zone A1 Fig 1 suggests that the natural may have been terraced during the Roman period. The present excavation confirmed the TPAT conclusions from the 1989 season that on average there were 0.4m depth of Roman deposits surviving in this part of the site.

In zone A2 context [2007], a very clean brown loam, is difficult to interpret. It could either represent solution deposits of the parent rock or a deliberate deposit. In favour of its being a natural solution is its clean material which does not contain any inherent structure. Against this is the fact that it does not survive above the parent rock in zone C. However, despite the data presented in Fig 1 it is difficult to project with accuracy the original levels of the natural. Therefore, its absence in zone C may not be significant. On balance current evidence suggests that [2007] represents a solution deposit similar to those encountered during the Sherwood Lodge Excavations at Bolsover.⁶ Nonetheless, for the purpose of mitigation this layer should be assumed to have archaeological significance. Therefore, in combination with Roman deposits there is likely to be 0.5m depth of material surviving in this part of the site.

Zone B proved to be a zone of heavy truncation, with only isolated, negative, Roman features surviving. This truncation appears to be related to the presence of a large nineteenth century vicarage roughly 10m wide east to west by 19m long north to south, whose foundations survive to a depth of c 1.15m.

Zone C is formed by the projected line of the Period 4a fort ditch. In this area a band c 6m wide was found to contain stratified Roman deposits up to 0.4m was found to survive. However, the narrowness of these surviving deposits and the proximity of the fort ditch make it unlikely that any recognisable Roman building plans will be recovered from this area.

Zone D is an area where considerable truncation and alteration of ground levels, during the creation of a terrace, has taken place in quite recent times. No Roman stratigraphy was found in this area. At best only negative features can be hoped for in this zone, although the depth of truncation noted at the southern end of Trench 4 suggests that the survival of even these deposits is doubtful.

The evaluation has confirmed the presence of structural features and horizontal stratigraphy of Roman military or pseudo-military type. The finds suggest that the date-range of this activity is mid to late first century AD to mid second century AD.

5 This figure excludes the derelict Church Hall range of buildings, giving a total site area of 3116 square metres). In terms of the preservation of the archaeological deposits the site can be divided into five zones; A1, A2, B, C, and D.

6 Jones, A, 'Sherwood Lodge, Bolsover, Archaeological Investigations, 1992-3', *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal* 115 (1995), 84-7.

Table 1.1 Differential Areas of Preservation; Archaeological Potential According to Areas Identified (A-D)							
	A1	A2	B	C	D		
Post-Roman	?	??	×	??	×		
Full Roman	?	??	×	??	×		
Large Features	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	?		
Horizontal Stratigraphy	✓✓	✓✓	×	✓	×		
Shallow Features	✓✓	✓✓	×	?	×		
Buildings (plan)	✓✓	✓✓	×	??	×		
Total Potential	20	18	3	12	1		

Key:

× = no survival of deposits (value 0); ?? = doubtful (1); ? = possible (2); ✓ = deposits survive (3); ✓✓ = deposits survive well (4)

Table 1.2 Evaluation Has Shown that the Following Survive in All Areas of the Site

Localised Organics

Pottery (poor, Samian looses its surfaces)

Metal (poor)

Bone (enamel or burnt only)

Table 1.3 Estimation of Cubic Metres of Archaeology and Roman Finds Survival Rate by Area

	A1	A2	B	C	D		
Overburden	420	684	335	115	250		
Roman Deposits	420	342	100	100	33		
Roman Finds	3 per cubic m	3 per cubic m	1 per cubic m	3 per cubic m	1 per cubic m		

Appendix: Summary Context List

TRENCH 1

- [1001] Soil: topsoil sealing all levels in T1.
- [1002] Soil: brick rubble layer representing demolition of the 19th century vicarage.
- [1003] Soil: dark brown loam cut by the 19th century vicarage construction trench 1014.
- [1004] Structure: machine-made brick wall for the 19th century vicarage. Contained by construction trench 1008.
- [1005] Soil: natural rotted sandstone, same as 1030 and 1031.
- [1006] Soil: very dark brown loam with 20% stones, cut by vicarage construction trench 1008.
- [1007] Soil: dark brown loam below 1006 and cut by vicarage wall trench 1008.
- [1008] Cut Feature: construction trench containing wall 1004 for 19th century vicarage.
- [1009] Soil: fill of 19th century construction trench 1008 for vicarage wall.
- [1010] Soil: fill of 19th century construction trench 1008 for vicarage wall.
- [1011] Soil: dark brown loam similar to 1003, cut by construction trenches 1008 and 1012.
- [1012] Cut Feature: construction trench containing wall 1014, part of the 19th vicarage foundations.
- [1013] Soil: fill of construction trench 1012.
- [1014] Structure: machine-made brick wall for vicarage. Contained by 1012.
- [1015] Soil: sand and sandstone foundation for wall 1014. Contained by 1012.
- [1016] Soil: fill of construction trench 1012.
- [1017] Soil: garden type soil cut by construction trenches 1018 and 1020.
- [1018] Cut Feature: construction trench for pipe.
- [1019] Soil: black fill of construction trench 1018.
- [1020] Cut Feature: construction trench for pipe.
- [1021] Soil: fill of construction trench 1018.
- [1022] Soil: dark brown loam overlying the natural 1005, and similar to 1003.

- [1023] Soil: silty clay loam. Upper natural fill, of ditch 1032.
- [1024] Soil: sandstone rocks and boulders in a silty clay matrix. Deliberate backfill of ditch 1032.
- [1025] Cut Feature: construction trench for vicarage outbuilding.
- [1026] Structure: machine-made brick wall for vicarage outbuilding.
- [1027] Cut Feature: construction trench for pipe.
- [1028] Soil: fill of construction trench 1026.
- [1029] Soil: silty clay loam. Possibly period 4 fort ditch. Unexcavated. Cut by 1012.
- [1030] Soil: natural rotted sandstone, same as 1005 and 1031.
- [1031] Soil: natural rotted sandstone, same as 1005 and 1030.
- [1032] Cut Feature: ditch containing Roman pottery and cut by 1008. On same alignment as Roman ditch 0006 seen in TPAT 09.
- [1033] Soil: fill of construction trench 1025.

TRENCH 2

- [2001] Soil: turf sealing the southern deposits in T2, but cut by brick pavement 2002.
- [2002] Structure: machine-made brick pavement cutting 2001 and sealing the northern half of T2.
- [2003] Soil: mixed dark brown loam with pebbles, brick, and coal intrusions. Garden soil?
- [2004] Soil: dumping level.
- [2005] Soil: dumping level.
- [2006] Soil: dark brown garden soil.
- [2007] Soil: very clean brown sandy loam. Possibly a pre-Roman soil level lying directly above the natural 2013. Partially sealed by the probable Roman level 2015.
- [2008] Soil: sandstone and loam fill of 2010, possibly a wall.
- [2009] Soil: very firm clay loam and stone layer.
- [2010] Cut Feature: construction trench aligned east-west cut into 2007 and 2009 and containing 2008.

[2011] Cut Feature: construction trench aligned east-west cut into 2007 and 2009 and containing 2012.

[2012] Soil: stone and clay fill of construction trench 2011.

[2013] Soil: natural rotted sandstone.

[2014] Cut Feature: oval area only seen during machine cutting. Not excavated. Possibly a pit.

[2015] Soil: mixed loam and clay level containing micro-sherds and Roman pottery. Truncated by 2022 and lying above 2007. Probable Roman level similar to 0003.

[2016] Cut Feature: Roman pit of posthole cut into 2007.

[2017] Cut Feature: pit apparently clay lined.

[2018] Soil: loam and stone fill of pit 2017.

[2019] Soil: pink clay lining of pit 2017.

[2020] Soil: dumping level.

[2021] Soil: dumping level.

[2022] Soil: brown black ash and loam soil similar to 0002. dumping level.

[2023] Soil: red/pink clay layer.

[2024] Soil: sandy loam fill of cut feature 2027.

[2025] Soil: sandy loam fill of cut feature 2026.

[2026] Cut Feature: unexcavated.

[2027] Cut Feature: unexcavated.

[2028] Soil: sandy loam fill of cut feature 2029.

[2029] Cut Feature: unexcavated.

[2030] Soil: dark loam with brick and coal intrusions. Dump level.

[2031] Soil: sandy loam fill of cut feature 2032.

[2032] Cut Feature: unexcavated.

[2033] Soil: natural rotted sandstone, same as 2013.

[2034] Soil: turf level sealed by 2004.

[2035] Soil: turf level sealed by 2004.

[2036] Soil: silty loam cut by 2006.

TRENCH 3

[3000] Soil: turf level sealing T3.

[3001] Structure: machine-made brick pavement.

[3002] Structure: layer of concrete below 3001.

[3003] Soil: sand and sandstone layer. Foundation for 3001 and 3002.

[3004] Soil: dark brown loam layer producing Roman pottery.

[3005] Soil: natural rotted sandstone.

[3006] Structure: laid surface of sandstone pebbles in a clay matrix.

[3007] Cut Feature: possible pit containing post-medieval pottery.

[3008] Soil: fill of pit 3008.

[3009] Soil: foundation level for 3001.

TRENCH 4

[4001] Soil: turf and topsoil sealing T4.

[4002] Soil: dark brown silty loam over the northern half of T4. Truncated by dump deposit 4006. Contained post-medieval pottery.

[4003] Soil: light brown sandy loam cut by possible Roman layer 4012. Partially seals Period 4a fort ditch 4016.

[4004] Soil: fine clean loam forming fill of ditch re-cut 4013.

[4005] Soil: deliberate fill of Period 4a Roman fort ditch 4016. Contained Roman pottery and tile.

[4006] Soil: mixed dumping deposit cutting into 4002.

[4007] Soil: recent dumping level sealing dumping episode 4008.

[4008] Soil: recent dumping level sealing dumping episode 4009 and 4006.

[4009] Soil: dumping episode sealing 4006.

[4010] Soil: natural rotted sandstone.

[4011] Soil: purple cinder layer, dump level.

[4012] Soil: light brown loam producing Roman pottery. Probable Roman level sealing ditch 4016.

[4013] Cut Feature: re-cut of ditch 4016.

[4014] Soil: brick rubble dumping layer.

[4015] Soil: black charcoal layer.

[4016] Cut Feature: Period 4a Roman fort ditch.

TPAT 09

[0001] Soil: turf and topsoil sealing trench TPAT 09.

[0002] Soil: ashy soil covering the whole of TPAT 09.

[0003] Soil: loamy soil with stone, micro-sherds and

Roman pottery inclusions sealing Roman ditch 0006. Truncated by 0002. Probable Roman deposit. Similar to 2015.

[0004] Soil: large broken sandstone slates containing Roman pottery. Upper deliberate fill of ditch re-cut 0006.

[0005] Soil: silty sandy loam containing Roman pottery. Secondary natural fill of ditch re-cut 0006.

[0006] Cut Feature: ditch containing contexts 0004, 0005 & 0007. Ditch re-cut. Roman.

[0007] Soil: broken sandstone slates in a silty clay matrix with Roman tile. Primary deliberate fill of ditch re-cut 0006.

[0008] Cut Feature: modern pipe trench.

[0009] Soil: fill of 0008.

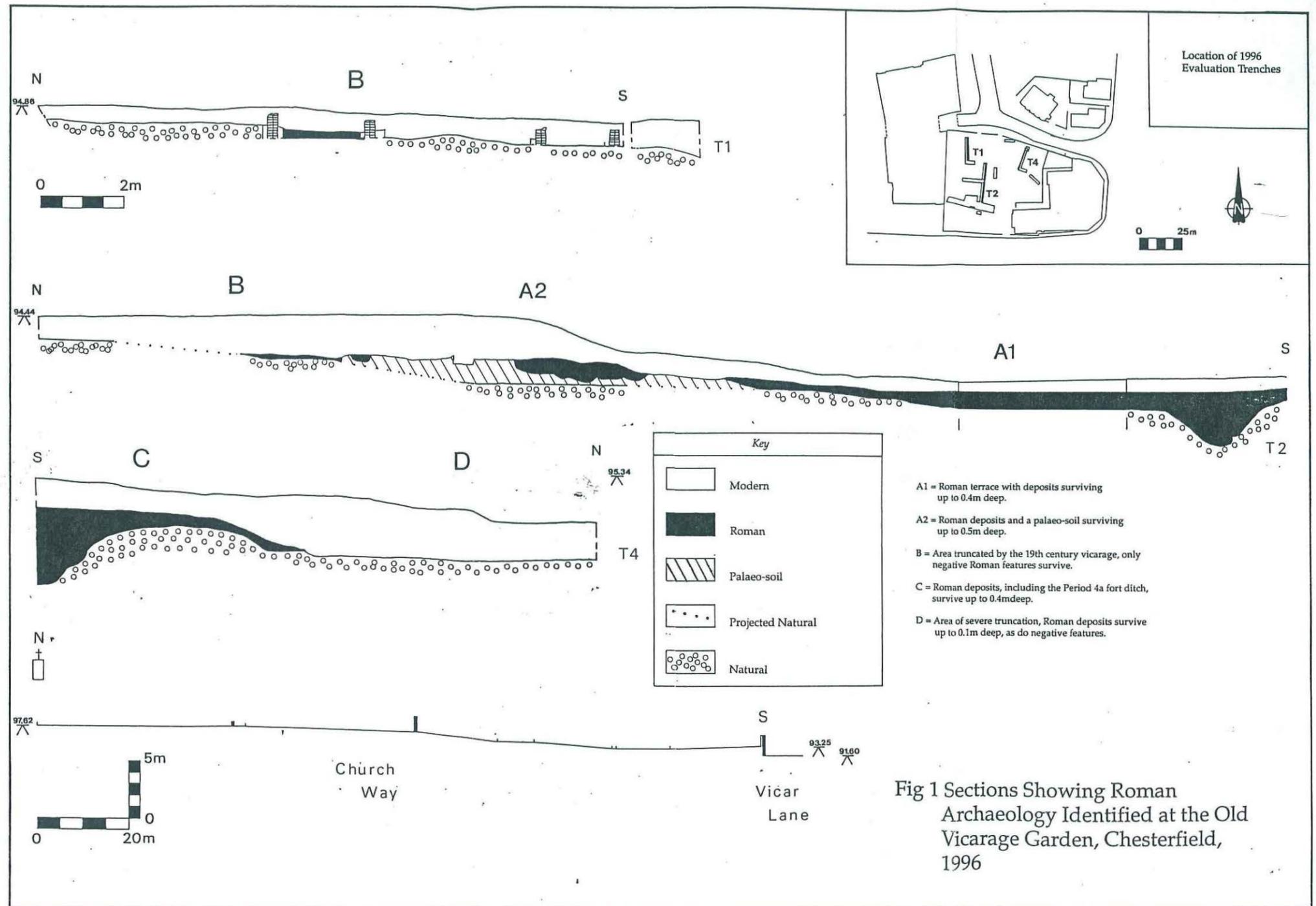
[0010] Soil: Natural rotted sandstone.

[0011] Soil: silty clay loam matrix containing Roman pottery. Primary natural fill of ditch 0014.

[0012] Soil: silty loam matrix with micro-sherds and Roman pottery. Fill of ditch 0014.

[0013] Soil: clay loam silt matrix containing Roman pottery. Natural fill of ditch 0014.

[0014] Cut Feature: primary ditch cut containing re-cut 0006. Roman.



	A1	A2	B	C	D		
Post-Roman	?	??	X	??	X		
Full Roman	?	??	X	??	X		
Large Features	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	?		
Horizontal Stratigraphy	✓✓	✓✓	X	✓	X		
Shallow Features	✓✓	✓✓	X	?	X		
Buildings (plan)	✓✓	✓✓	X	??	X		
Total Potential	20	18	3	12	1		

Key:
 X = no survival of deposits (value 0); ?? = doubtful (1); ? = possible (2); ✓ = deposits survive (3); ✓✓ = deposits survive well (4)

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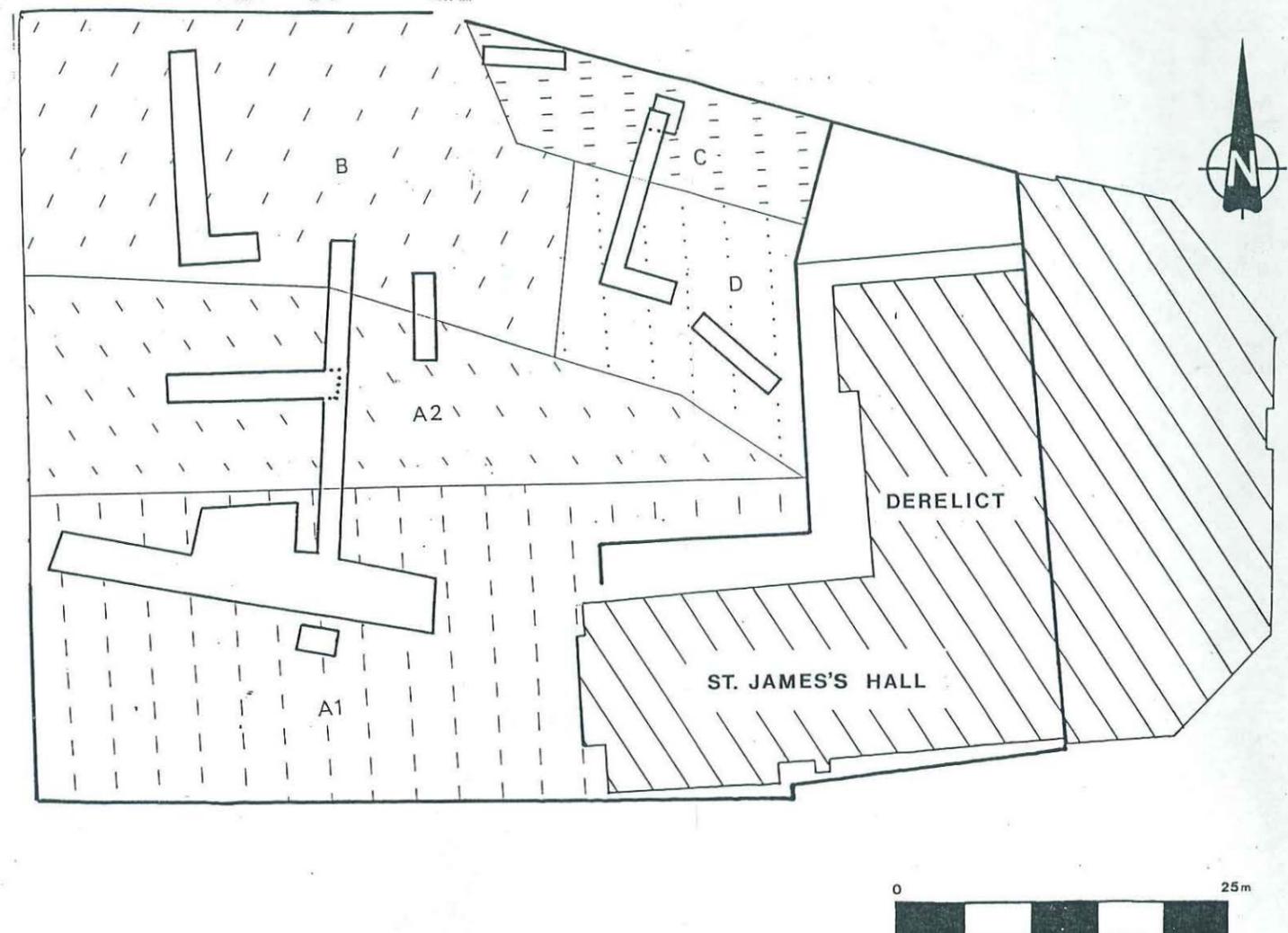
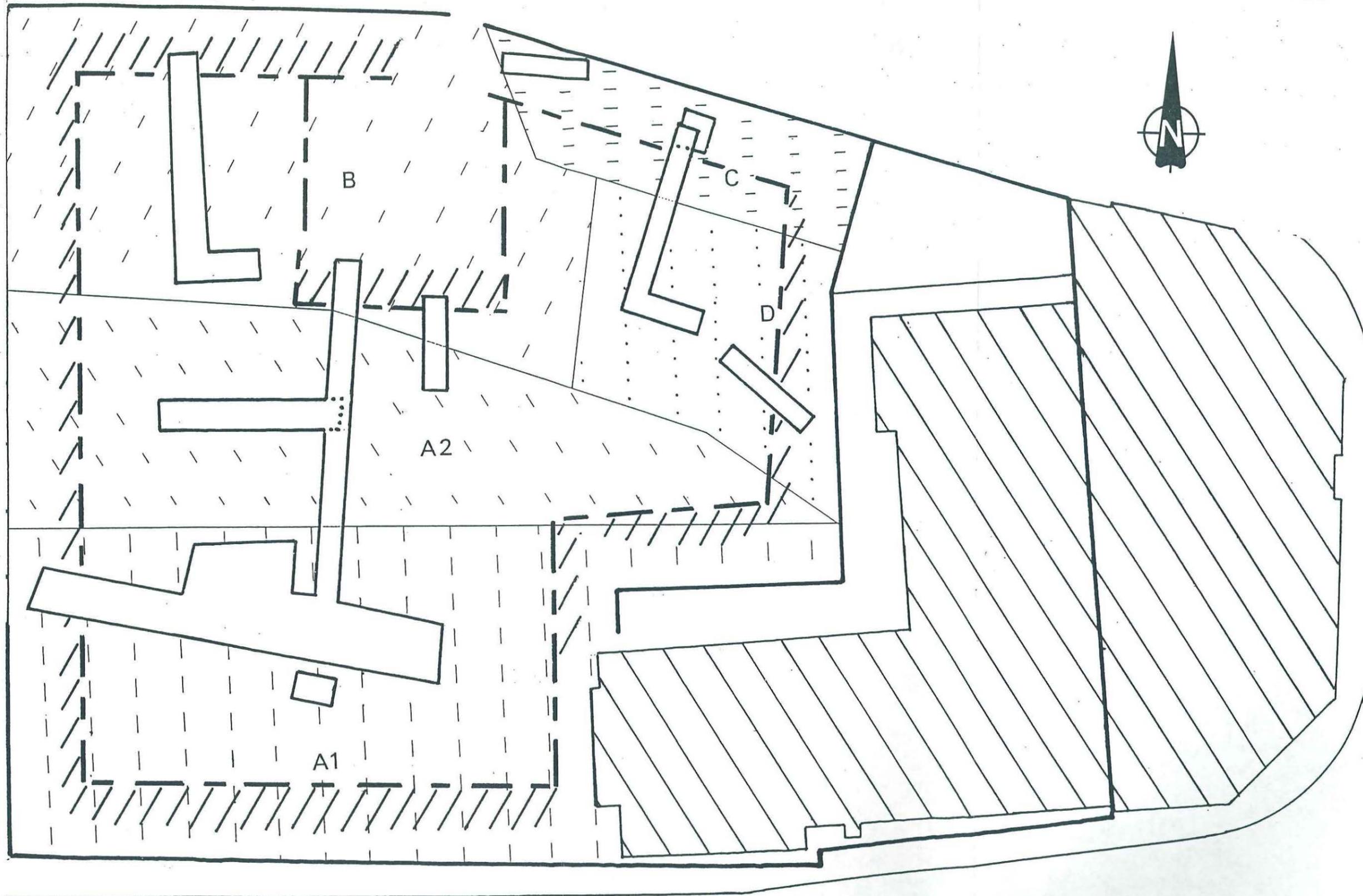


Fig 2 Areas of Archaeological Preservation

Fig 3 Proposed Excavation Strategy



Key

-  edge of proposed excavations
-  suggested location of spoil heaps

