

TR321

Report No. B0297.2R
February 1997

SMR Processing

GIS? ✓

PRN= 05920, 05914

EvUID = SA4972

Source UID = SA20972

DC90

**REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT
34/40 HIGH STREET, WHITCHURCH, SHROPSHIRE**

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~~was~~ carried out.
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GIFFORD
AND PARTNERS

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT
34/40 HIGH STREET, WHITCHURCH, SHROPSHIRE

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Gifford and Partners Document No:		B0297A.2R			
Status:	Final	Copy No:			
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Client Accepted:					
Revision Record					
Rev.	Date	By	Summary of Changes	Chkd	Aprvd

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34/40 HIGH STREET, WHITCHURCH, SHROPSHIRE**

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1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 The interior of the structure at 40 High Street, Whitchurch, Shropshire is subject to proposed redevelopment.
- 1.2 An archaeological evaluation was required by the Head of Archaeology, Information and Community Services, Shropshire County Council, in order to provide detailed archaeological information upon which a planning decision may be based.
- 1.3 A Brief for the archaeological evaluation was provided by the Head of Archaeology, Shropshire County Council and the evaluation was undertaken by Gifford and Partners in November 1996. This report sets out the results of the evaluation.
- 1.4 Previous archaeological and historical interest in Whitchurch has shown that the evaluation site is located within the known area of the Roman fort and later civilian settlement of *Mediolanum*. Occupation continued into the Saxon and Medieval periods and a Medieval street surface has been uncovered at the junction of Pepper Street and Newtown. The evaluation site is located within an area that would have comprised the rear of burgage plots extending back from the High Street during the Medieval period and the shop/house frontage onto the High Street itself.
- 1.5 The evaluation included the excavation of two trial trenches which revealed a depth of nineteenth and twentieth century demolition rubble and buried walls. This in turn overlay a thick deposit of cultivation soil, sealing a surviving Romano-British horizon and a series of post-Medieval and Medieval pits to the rear of the plot. At the front of the building the thick deposit of soil was conspicuously absent but a well-preserved sequence of post-Medieval and Medieval cobbled surfaces was revealed and the robbed remains of a substantial ashlar wall, the date of which was not able to be established.
- 1.6 Any proposed redevelopment which involves ground disturbance is therefore likely to disturb archaeological remains on the site.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Reason for the Project

A proposal to redevelop the site of 34-40 High Street has led the Head of Archaeology, Shropshire County Council, to request an archaeological evaluation to be undertaken in advance of any development. The evaluation requirements were set out in a Brief provided by the Head of Archaeology, Shropshire County Council, the Brief is reproduced in Appendix A.

2.2 Location

2.2.1 The town of Whitchurch is situated on a hill in the Shropshire plain to the east of the Welsh Hills at NGR: SJ 544 414. The evaluation site is situated immediately to the west of the High Street which extends south-east to north-west through the town, as shown on Figure 1.

2.3 Aims and Objectives

The aims of the evaluation project, as stated in the Gifford and Partners Project Design (Appendix B) were:-

2.3.1 To establish, in so far as is reasonably possible by desk-based assessment and sample excavation, the presence/absence, location, extent, survival, quality, condition, significance and date of archaeological features/deposits and buildings within the proposed development area.

2.3.2 To make the information listed above available in order to allow an informed planning decision to be made.

2.4 Methodology

2.4.1 The evaluation trenches were located inside the structure at 40 High Street, the concrete surface inside the building removed by a building contractor prior to excavation. All subsequent deposits were excavated by hand.

2.4.2 Written, drawn and photographic records were made of archaeologically significant deposits and features within each trench in accordance with the Project Design (Appendix B).

2.4.4 No background research was necessary in support of the results of the fieldwork since Gifford and Partners have previously undertaken thorough desk-based assessments of the archaeology of central Whitchurch during previous projects. Reference to these assessments was made before and

during the evaluation fieldwork. This report contains extracts of background information from an earlier evaluation report completed by Gifford and Partners on 34-40 High Street, Whitchurch in August 1996 (Gifford Report reference 7070.2R).

2.5 Timetable

The evaluation fieldwork was undertaken between Monday 25 November and Wednesday 27 November 1996.

2.6 The Archive

2.6.1 A full archive for this evaluation project will be produced to a professional standard in accordance with current English Heritage guidance, *The Management of Archaeological Projects, Second Edition* (1991), the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (Archaeology Section) *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage* (1990) and the requirements of the agreed repository (the Shropshire County Service).

2.6.2 The archive will comprise:-

- Introduction to the Archive
- Index to the Archive
- Copy of the final Evaluation Report (Gifford Reference no. B0297A.2R)
- Context records (64)
- Site matrix
- Drawing index
- Drawing record (5 A3 film drawings; 4 A3 paper drawings)
- Photographic index
- Photographic record (40 colour prints and 37 monochrome prints)
- Artefact record sheets (2)
- Artefacts (1 box)

2.7 Acknowledgements

2.7.1 Gifford and Partners would like to thank the following for their support and assistance during this evaluation project: Mr M White, the owner of the site; Mr C Bowen of Bower Edleston Architects; Mr M Watson, Head of Archaeology, Shropshire County Council; and the Whitchurch Area Archaeological Group.

2.7.2 The Gifford staff involved in this evaluation project were:

T J Strickland	-	Project Director
A Thompson	-	Project Manager, finds analysis, report editing
J L Perkins	-	Project Archaeologist, report text
K Kucharski	-	Site Archaeologist
J Sunderland	-	Site Archaeologist
G Reaney	-	Archaeology Technician, report illustrations and archive

2.8 Abbreviations

<i>c.</i>	<i>circa</i>
m	metre
mm	millimetre
NGR	National Grid Reference
OD	Ordnance Datum
OS	Ordnance Survey
pers comm	personal communication
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record (Shropshire)
WAAG	Whitchurch Area Archaeological Group

3. GEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Geology

Whitchurch lies on Upper Keuper Saliferous Beds (Toghill 1990, 152) comprising red, green and grey mudstone with thick halite deposits and a little gypsum. The drift geology is composed of glacial sand, clay and gravel.

3.2 Topography

Whitchurch is sited on a long, narrow hill which originated as a glacial terminal moraine. The western flank of the hill forms the valley slope of a small brook and erosion by the brook has exaggerated the steepness of the slope of the hill.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Prehistoric Period (Before AD 43)

The recovery of stray artefacts dated to the Prehistoric period suggests that there was some Prehistoric settlement/activity in the area of Whitchurch, but it is not until the Romano-British period that the development of the town as a focus of occupation can be traced. The Roman name for Whitchurch was *Mediolanum*, reflecting its topographical situation in the mid-plain area between the Roman legionary fortress of *Deva* (Chester) and *Viroconium* (Wroxeter). The settlement of *Mediolanum* was built astride the Roman road known as Watling Street, a route which follows the line of the present High Street through the town.

4.2 Romano-British Period (AD 43 - AD 410)

The Roman auxiliary fort of the first century AD developed into a civilian settlement in the second century. Limited archaeological excavation has located the focus of Romano-British settlement, particularly in its primary military phases within that part of the present town which is demarcated by Newton on the west, Yardington and St Alkmunds to the north and by either Green End or more probably Pepper Street and Bluegates to the south (Jones and Webster 1969; Toms and Griffiths 1979 in WAAG Newsletters 2 and 7). Physical evidence for the southern defences has been uncovered (Griffiths 1978, in WAAG Newsletter 4) in the form of a V-shaped ditch running parallel and to the south of Pepper Street. Therefore, as can be seen in Figure 1, the evaluation site is situated within the area of the southern boundary of the Roman fort/settlement.

4.3 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Periods (AD 410 - AD 1500)

4.3.1 Saxon settlement at Whitchurch is assumed from the name *Westune*, as recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 AD (Thorn F and Thorn L 1984). Newtown is recorded as having been called 'Westune' previously.

4.3.2 It was not until the Medieval period however, that the name 'Whitchurch' was commonly used. This name is derived from the reference to the church built in the eleventh century, which may well have been built of white (Grinsell) stone and was therefore given the Latin name *Album Monasterium* and the Norman French name *Blancminster*. Whitchurch is clearly derived from 'White-Church'.

4.3.3 Evidence for the existence of a castle at Whitchurch is attested by several sources which are discussed fully in the Gifford and Partners Report 6153.01/02, dated 21 June 1993. A copy of this report is lodged with the Shropshire SMR. In summary the evidence for the location of a castle at

Whitchurch suggests that it would have been located in the vicinity of the present evaluation site:-

- 4.3.3.1 The OS map of 1880 has the site of the castle marked at the Castle Hill/Pepper Street junction.
- 4.3.3.2 The OS map of 1910 has the site of the castle marked further north than that of 1880 - a location which the present OS map (1988) preserves.
- 4.3.3.3 The topography of Whitchurch suggests that the Newtown/ Castle Hill area would have provided a prime site for a castle. There is a natural escarpment to the west, to the north the land drops from Yardington to the A41 and to the south the land also drops from Newtown to Mill Street.
- 4.3.3.4 The street name 'Yardington' found to the north of Newtown is derived from the word 'yard'. It may be argued that the yard referred to must have been of sufficient size and/or note to have survived as a street name and this has led some members of WAAG to suggest that the name reflects the presence of a yard area as would have belonged to a castle -perhaps a yard that lay within the curtain walls.
- 4.3.3.5 The archaeological evaluation undertaken by Gifford and Partners adjacent to the coal yard on Castle Hill uncovered a Medieval ditch that is believed to be associated with the castle. The line of the ditch suggests a defended zone north of Pepper Street and along the western side of Castle Hill in which the castle could have been located.
- 4.3.4 During the Anglo-Saxon and Medieval periods domestic and commercial buildings within the town would have fronted on to the High Street. The land associated with each property was termed a burgage plot and was commonly a long narrow strip of land extending behind the building which fronted onto the street. The area to the rear of the buildings was often used for light industrial purposes and features such as pits and gullies dating to the Medieval period would be expected in a historic town such as Whitchurch.
- 4.3.5 In summary, therefore, the excavation site could reveal deposits relating to the Roman auxiliary fort, the defended zone associated with the castle and the development of a domestic or commercial zone to the rear of the properties fronting onto the High Street.

5. RESULTS

The following deposits and features were identified in the evaluation trenches, located as shown on Figure 2. The word 'context' refers to physically discrete and homogenous deposits (such as soil layers or pit fills) or features (such as walls, ditches or pits) identified within the sample excavation trenches and recorded on *proforma* context recording sheets. The context numbers are cross-referenced to the plans, sections and matrices, where appropriate.

5.1 Summary Description of Trench 1 (Plan - Figure 3; Section - Figure 4; Matrix - Figure 5)

Trench 1 measured 4m x 1.5m. Archaeological deposits were encountered at a depth of 98.26 OD, corresponding to 200mm below the current ground surface. In general the eastern part of the trench was found to contain at least two Medieval surfaces, a post-Medieval wall and the robbed remains of a Medieval wall, running at a slight angle to the present High Street. The western part of the trench was entirely occupied by a robber trench which appears to have been excavated to retrieve large ashlar masonry from a substantial wall. The maximum depth at which archaeological deposits were revealed was 97.98m OD, exactly 1m below the current ground surface, although the actual maximum depth of archaeological deposits was not determined as it was agreed with the Head of Archaeology to remove in situ Medieval deposits.

5.2 Detailed Description and Interpretation of Deposits in Trench 1

- 5.2.1 The uppermost deposit across Trench 1 comprised a double layer of concrete, each 100mm in thickness, providing the shop with a level floor surface (contexts 1 and 2). The concrete was found to overlie a thin bedding layer of orange builders sand (context 3) which protected the concrete from the underlying levelling layer of hardcore, which comprised complete and broken bricks set in a matrix of orange brown sandy-silt, at a fairly constant thickness of 150mm (context 5). These deposits date to the twentieth century.
- 5.2.2 Directly below the levelling layer (context 5) two deposits were excavated. The first comprised a 100-200mm thick mixed deposit of brick rubble set in a matrix of a dark brown sandy silt observed in the western part of the trench (context 53). The loose make-up of the deposit at this level was seen to contrast with the second adjacent deposit in the west of the trench which comprised a compacted thin lens of black sandy-silt, which appeared polished in places (context 54) and was interpreted as a layer of trample deposited during the works associated with the present floor surface.

- 5.2.3 In the western end of the trench, immediately underlying context 53 were a series of tipped deposits which comprised the fills of a large steep-sided trench (context 28) cut from immediately below context 4. The deposits consisted of a 50mm thick wedge shaped lens of mortar with occasional inclusions of solidified mortar fragments (context 55), a 200mm thick layer of brick and mortar mixed with more occupational debris such as charcoal and occasional fragments of pottery in a loose clay-silt (context 56), a thin layer of sticky dark black silty-clay which contained small fragments of brick and mortar mixed with a high content of charcoal and soot (context 57) and at the base of the excavated cut a very loose deposit which comprised mainly squared ashlar blocks of stone, c. 450mm x 250mm x 250mm in size with inclusions of brick fragments which had fallen into the large gaps maintained between the blocks (context 27).
- 5.2.4 The steep slope of the ditch cut and the presence of such substantial blocks of stone extant within the redeposited fill suggests that the area was subject to a robber trench, opened towards the end of the post-Medieval period. Once the choice masonry had been removed the trench was backfilled with the broken and damaged ashlar and surrounding demolition debris in a series of tips.
- 5.2.5 In the east of the trench, underlying context 54 was a dumped deposit of brick fragments, mortar and stone (c. 50mm in diameter) in a loose matrix of reddish-brown sandy-silt (context 39). The deposit was interpreted as a levelling dump situated in a naturally occurring slump caused by a feature below (context 38).
- 5.2.6 Context 38 was a modern vertical straight sided feature with a broad flat base cut through Medieval layers below (context 11 and 24) which were then almost immediately redeposited (context 37). The purpose of the channel is unknown but it probably dates to the post-Medieval period.
- 5.2.7 The layer immediately below context 39, through which context 38 was cut, comprised a dark mottled red/brown silty-clay with frequent inclusions of shattered red brick, small fragments of charcoal and sherds of pottery and animal bone (context 11). Situated at the base of context 11 were a number of c. 130mm diameter cobbles seemingly spread at random across the width of the trench, north-south (context 14). In between the sporadic cobbles the surface had been worn and polished, obviously through intensive use as a track or roadway (context 16). Finds were retrieved from the surface and in the gradual silting/demolition layer (context 11) which had occurred after its disuse as a track and during the demolition of surrounding properties, which occurred during the 18th century.

- 5.2.8 Underlying contexts 14 and 16 was a 300mm thick layer of mixed dark brown clay and silt with inclusions of occupational debris such as pottery and occasional charcoal fragments (context 24). Protruding through the layer were a number of extremely large sub-rounded stones c. 500mm in diameter (context 26), which were silted with context 24 and to the north and west, covered by a thin compact surface of gravelly sub-angular pebbles c. 20mm in diameter (context 29). The large stones revealed at this point appeared to be scattered across the width of the trench in a broad linear pattern running north-south and were interpreted as tumble from a structure. Context 24 is interpreted as a second floor surface underlying the heavily worn surface which replaced it (contexts 14 and 16) and incorporating the protruding stones beneath it. The surface is dated to the Early Medieval period on the basis of several sherds of green glazed pottery retrieved during the evaluation.
- 5.2.9 The surface on which the gravel path was set was a layer of dark brown sandy-silt with abundant charcoal inclusions and occasional fragments of pottery and burnt bone (context 25). This has been interpreted as a second layer of silting surrounding the large stone tumble (context 26), possibly relating to a demolition by fire.
- 5.2.9 Immediately underlying the large stones protruding through the layer above (context 24) and silted with context 25 was a second course of more densely packed stones of a similar size and nature. The lower course of stone maintained a more definite line across the trench, north-west to south-east. This structural feature is interpreted as a foundation wall for a timber or half-timbered structure probably dating to the twelfth-fourteenth centuries, based on the ceramic material retrieved from the silting phases (represented by contexts 24 and 25).
- 5.2.10 Cutting through all of the features in the east of the trench is a post-Medieval brick wall two courses wide (contexts 13 and 12). The course of the wall appears to be aligned with the present structure and is probably an earlier partition wall.
- 5.2.11 Situated to the west of the structure was a spread of grey/brown sandy-silt (context 30) which was noticeably cleaner than context 25. Furthermore there were fewer inclusions of stone and the overlying gravel surface (context 29) was not present. The clean nature of the layer in this area was due to a 150mm layer of light orange capping which enclosed the surface (context 52) but was only present as a narrow strip between the edge of the robber trench (context 28) and the edge of the structure (context 26) and as a wedge-shaped deposit to the east of the trench cut by context 12.

This sequence of layers is interpreted as the upper remains of the structural cut through context 52 and the underlying silty-sand (context 30) forming a foundation cut in which the structure (context 26) was secured.

- 5.2.12 A section was excavated through context 30 to establish the depth of archaeological deposits beneath it. At a depth of 700mm below the present ground surface a compact orange clay was revealed (context 31) to an excavated depth of 1m below ground. On the surface of this clay a single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered.

5.3 Summary Description of Trench 2 (Plan - Figure 6; Section - Figure 7; Matrix - Figure 8)

Trench 2 measured 4m x 1.5m. Archaeological deposits were encountered at a depth of 98.31m OD, corresponding to 200mm below the current ground surface. In general the trench was characterised by a series of large Medieval and post-Medieval pits truncated by a modern foundation and filled with dumps of demolition debris. The pits were cut into an extensive deposit of Medieval/post-Medieval cultivation soil which overlay a sandy-clay subsoil, interpreted as a relict surface dating to the Romano-British period and present at 97.52m OD (1.20m below the current ground surface). This in turn overlay an orange sand identified as a geological deposit, undisturbed by human activity and recorded at a depth of 97.34m OD, 1.50m below the current ground surface.

5.4 Detailed Description and Interpretation of Deposits in Trench 2

- 5.4.1 The uppermost deposit across Trench 2 was a c. 200mm thick layer of concrete which had been applied in two separate layers (context 1 and 2)) providing a uniform ground surface. This concrete layer was found to overlie a shallow bedding layer of orange builders sand (context 3). Immediately underlying the bedding layer were several discernable deposits. In the western part of the trench was a layer of dark brown sandy-silt containing large quantities of brick, mortar, pottery and animal bone. The majority of coarse components in this layer however comprised red floor tiles situated at the base of the layer (context 5), as if partially *in situ*. In the eastern end of the trench there is a 150mm thick deposit of dark grey-brown sandy-silt with frequent charcoal inclusions (context 6) which appears to be a dump associated with the demolition layer (context 5). Truncating contexts 5 and 6 was a modern brick wall foundation which had no regular bond and is three courses wide (contexts 9 and 44). This sequence of contexts is interpreted as a demolition layer/levelling layer prior to the construction of a brick-built house probably dating to the seventeenth century represented by the foundation wall.

- 5.4.2 Situated at the centre and perpendicular to the trench was a 20mm thick linear band of yellow sand c. 300mm in width (context 63) which lay beneath the demolition debris (context 5). Set into the sand was an irregular arrangement of sub-rounded cobbles c. 50mm in diameter (context 62), which did not appear to form a recognisable structure or surface but did lie on the rim of a shallow recut which fell away to the west (context 57).
- 5.4.3 Context 57 formed part of a pit complex cut into a 100-150mm thick mixed deposit of dark brown silty-clay with frequent inclusions of shattered brick, charcoal and mortar (context 8) which immediately underlay context 5. To the east was a large possibly U-shaped pit, with steep sides (the base was not excavated) filled with a single homogenous deposit comprising a light grey-brown sticky clay with frequent inclusions of brick and mortar and occasional charcoal fragments mixed with ceramics, and an iron stirrup. The pit is interpreted as post-Medieval pit filled with reposed material, probably refuse.
- 5.4.4 Cut into the uppermost surface of the pit fill was a shallow, 2mm deep, rectangular depression filled by a clean light orange bedding layer of sand upon which may have been placed a flagstone. The surface of the sand was level with the shattered tile surface at the base of context 5 and was covered initially by the dumped charcoal and silt deposit of context 6. It is interpreted that the flagstone and tiles were contemporary and served as a floor surface for an earlier structure dating to the post-Medieval period.
- 5.4.5 To the west of the trench a large stepped sided Medieval pit (context 49) which had been recut at least once, was cut from below context 8 and filled with a series of tipped deposits. At the excavated base of the pit was a 150mm thick deposit of yellow brown sand (context 22) which was situated in the southern profile of the pit. Immediately overlying context 22 was a slightly more even 200mm thick deposit of dark brown sandy-silt (context 21) which was covered by a 50mm thin deposit of brown sandy-silt containing fragments of charcoal (context 64). Above lay an equally thin layer of light brown sandy-silt (context 10) which underlay a large deposit of silty-clay (context 20). The uppermost fill of context 49 was a layer of dark brown/grey silt with occasional inclusions of tile and sub-circular stones c. 200mm in diameter (context 40). This layer may have formed part of a recut of the original Medieval pit.
- 5.4.6 Truncating context 40 was one side of a broad 2.20m wide depression the return of which was not located within the confines of the trench. The depression was cut through context 8 and falls away to the west of the trench (context 59). The depression was filled with two distinguishable deposits. Situated at the base of the depression is a dark grey/brown sandy-

silt with inclusions of brick fragments and mortar (context 18) whilst above lay a less-compacted brown silty-sand, with seemingly fewer inclusions (context 51). Both of these layers were recut by a second reestablishment of the depression, this time situated 1.8m from the western baulk (context 58). This recut was filled with two very shallow deposits which comprised a grey-brown clay-silt (context 41) above a 50mm thick layer of a dark brown silt with frequent inclusions of charcoal and burnt bone, (context 42). These two depressions were interpreted as areas cleared in which to burn waste materials from the adjacent building, probably in use during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

- 5.4.7 Underlying context 8 and truncated by both pits and depressions was a 800mm thick layer of dark brown/grey sandy-clay which has been interpreted as a cultivation soil brought into the area in order to establish gardens to the rear of the burgage plots. The layer is fairly homogenous throughout and produced a wide selection of redeposited Roman and Medieval pottery (context 19). This context is identical in nature to context 44 determined in Trench 2 of an evaluation undertaken in August 1995- Giffords Report reference. 7070.2R, section 5.4. Beneath context 19 a 100mm thick deposit of brownish-yellow sandy-clay (context 34) was observed and contained a quantity of Roman ceramics and was interpreted as a further cultivation soil predating the deposition of the cultivation soil (context 19) dating to the Romano-British period (Gifford report reference. 7070.2R, section 5.4. Context 34 was found to overlies an orange sand interpreted as a geological deposit undisturbed by human activity. Cut into context 34 was an irregular L-shaped feature with a shallow U-shaped profile (context 66). Its fill was similar in nature to context 34 but slightly paler in colour and contained a quantity of Roman ceramics (context 35).

5.5 Site Discussion

- 5.5.1 Aspects of the nature of the development of Whitchurch since the Romano-British period are preserved within the archaeological deposits present beneath the current ground surface and the archaeological evaluation at 34/40 High Street has confirmed the presence of Romano-British and Medieval archaeological features in this area of the town.
- 5.5.2 Previous archaeological investigations have recorded Romano-British deposits to the south of Pepper Street, which were interpreted as the southern defences of the Roman fort. The evaluation which was undertaken to the rear of the no. 34-38 High Street also established the presence of Romano-British features, this time to the north of Pepper street, in the form of beam slots and a yard surface within the limits of the Roman fort and a buried land surface.
- 5.5.3 The evaluation undertaken within the walls of no. 40 High Street has revealed the presence of a buried land surface and a small pit in Trench 2, which included a substantial number of Romano-British pottery sherds. The nature of the buried soil is identical to that excavated in 1995 (Gifford Report no. 7070.2R), thus conclusively dating it to the post-Romano-British period, sealing a Romano-British soil horizon beneath it.
- 5.5.4 In Trench 2 Romano-British levels were not reached due to the presence of overlying significantly well-preserved Medieval deposits. However there is conclusive evidence that a substantial wall/structure constructed with large ashlar blocks was extant in the west of the trench running parallel with the present High Street. There were no diagnostic finds retrieved from the structure due to the robbing process which had been undertaken relatively recently. However, the possible remains of an original foundation cut presents a case for dating the wall to the early Medieval period, or perhaps the Romano-British period.
- 5.5.5 If the wall is accepted as a construction of some antiquity it is fair to say that its location and north-south alignment is of great importance within the context of Roman and early Medieval Whitchurch.
- 5.5.6 Post-Medieval and Medieval features were recorded in Trench 2 in the form of pits which may be associated with domestic activity relating to settlement along High Street.
- 5.5.7 The excavation of Trench 2 uncovered a thick, uniform and virtually sterile deposit of cultivation soil which has been recorded at several locations in the town (M. Watson pers. comm; Toms in WAAG Newsletter, 1977; and

Gifford and Partners 1992 ,1993 and 1996). This deposit dates to the post-Romano-British period and may actually represent a series of episodes, occurring over a long period of time, by which the ground level was built up to compensate for the natural gradient of the hill which slopes to the south. Such episodes may have occurred during the Medieval period, as evidenced by the few sherds of Medieval pottery that were retrieved.

- 5.5.8 In Trench 1 archaeologically significant Medieval surfaces were encountered at a relatively shallow depth of 400mm below the current ground surface. The area in the east of the trench appears to have been extensively used as a track or pathway. The later surface of cobbles dates to the post-Medieval period and appears to have been well used and polished, with the occasional indentation, possibly interpreted as a rut. The earlier Medieval surface of gravel is not as well worn but still remains patchy in places suggesting some use. The probable alignment of these worn surfaces coincides with the line of the High Street, situated approximately 6m from the edge of the trench. The proximity of the street and the wear on the surface suggests that they comprise the very edge of the old roadway.
- 5.5.9 Aligned north-east to south-west were the remains of a structure dating to the twelfth-fourteenth century. Two courses of large unworked stone remained *in situ*. The full extent of the structure remained undetermined due to the remit of the evaluation. Again the wall appears to be on a line with the present High Street, but not directly parallel. The large pit to the west of Trench 2 appears to be contemporary with the structure on the basis of ceramic dating evidence.
- 5.5.10 The preservation of intact Medieval deposits in Trench 1 would appear to have been aided by recent building activity. Although there has been heavy disturbance at either end of the trench, the central area was not subjected to extensive clearance prior to construction, thus maintaining an intact sequence of Medieval horizons which were subsequently sealed beneath a thick levelling layer of hardcore.

6. FINDS SUMMARY

6.1 Introduction

The finds recovered from the evaluation at 40 High Street, Whitchurch have been examined by Gifford and Partners. All of the finds retrieved from the sample excavation were collected for analysis, in particular to obtain a date for the deposit from which they were recovered. Evidence for activity/function within the context and the site was also sought from the finds analysis.

6.2 Treatment

All of the finds, except for the metal objects, were cleaned, marked and bagged by material category. The metal objects (iron, copper alloy and slag) were packed with identification labels.

6.3 Recording

6.3.1 The Bulk Finds Record sheet in Appendix C summarises the categories of finds materials found within each context, together with the site category and a provisional date for the formation of the context.

6.3.2 The abbreviations used on the Bulk Finds Record sheet are as follows:

Bo	-	Animal Bone.
Ce	-	Ceramic.
CP	-	Clay Pipe.
BM	-	Building Material.
Fe	-	Iron.
Sl	-	Slag.

6.3.3 In this summary report the finds are discussed by material category, with an assessment of the level of presentation and dating potential of each category. Any conservation implications arising are noted.

6.4 Iron

6.4.1 Iron finds were recovered from a Medieval layer (Trench 1 context 25) and a post-Medieval pit fill (Trench 2 context 20). The iron nails from the Medieval layer are heavily encrusted with corrosion products but appear to be structural nails. The iron from the post-Medieval pit fill comprised a complete stirrup

- 6.4.2 The preservation level would appear to be quite good although it is difficult to assess what degree of damage objects have suffered under encrustation. No further analysis of the iron objects is required.

6.5 Slag

Fragments of metalworking residue (slag) were recovered from Trench 1, contexts 24 and 30. With a total weight of 300g the slag cannot be regarded as evidence of any former metalworking activity within the evaluation site - although some activity is probable in the vicinity.

6.6 Ceramics

6.6.1 Roman

The Roman pottery was recovered from both evaluation trenches and comprised small, abraded sherds from a number of coarse and fine wares. The coarse wares included Black Burnished 1, grey, orange and mortaria in a local red fabric. The fine wares included beaker Samian wares and a sherd of a second century route cast colour-coated beaker.

Many of the Roman pottery sherds were generally too small or consisted of undiagnostic body sherds to enable accurate dating. The general range of wares represented appears to date to the second-third centuries AD. The vessels in the assemblage comprise domestic wares, locally produced, except for the Samian and colour-coated wares. None of the wares recovered are unusual finds in Whitchurch.

In Trench 1 a Samian sherd (central Gaulish, second century) was found in context. A Medieval layer in which the Roman sherd is clearly residual. Other Roman sherds (coarseware) were recovered in another Medieval layer, context 24.

In Trench 2 Roman pottery was recovered from layers (contexts 19 and 34) and the fill of a feature (context 35). The pottery from the layers (contexts 19 and 34) was mixed Roman and Medieval, whilst only Roman pottery was recovered from context 35.

6.6.1 Medieval

The Medieval pottery sherds recovered from the sample excavation also comprise small abraded sherds which are generally too small to accurately identify vessel forms - though most appear to belong to jugs.

The wares represented consist of locally produced coarse wares- red ware with olive/green glazing (dating from the twelfth-fourteenth centuries. Some decoration is identifiable on several sherds.

In Trench 1 Medieval sherds were recovered from Medieval layers (contexts 24 and 25) a post-Medieval layer and pit fill (contexts 11 and 21) and as residual sherds in Roman layers (contexts 19 and 34).

6.6.2 Post-Medieval

The post-Medieval/modern wares are represented, like the other period wares from the evaluation, by small abraded sherds. The number of undiagnostic body sherds outweighs the number of rims, bases and handles that would allow accurate identification of vessel forms - although from the sherds recovered there appears to be a typical range of domestic vessels - storage jars, jugs and bowls.

The range of post-Medieval/modern wares represented includes coarse and fine earthenware (including black/brown glazed and unglazed wares) and stoneware. Much of these wares is of local production and dates largely to the seventeenth - eighteenth centuries. The post-Medieval/modern wares were recovered from post-Medieval contexts (5,6,16,18 and 21).

6.7 Clay pipe

A clay pipe bowl and twisted stem were recovered from contexts 5 and 6, two post-Medieval layers.

6.8 Discussion of Artefacts

6.8.1 The finds recovered support the stratigraphic interpretation of the evaluation trenches. Most of the finds are in context, with only some residual/intrusive material noted.

6.8.2 None of the finds are unusual within the contexts in which they were recovered. They do however provide further evidence of the presence of Romano-British and Medieval activity in the area.

6.8.3 The finds present few conservation implications provided they are stored in a stable, dry environment, with low humidity conditions. The analysis/assessment work to date suggests that there is little potential for further study of the finds.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 Previous archaeological investigations and studies have determined that the proposed development area at 34/40 High Street may contain deposits and features associated with the origin and development of the Roman military and civilian settlement at Whitchurch, as well as later Saxon and Medieval occupation and activity in the town.
- 7.2 Archaeological deposits and/or features were identified in both trial trenches. The condition of some of these features/deposits is poor, as a result of truncation and disturbance from recent building activity. However the majority of the features revealed, especially those in the centre of Trench 1, were well-preserved beneath a levelling layer of hardcore.
- 7.3 The nature of the deposits and features present on the site has been identified to include:
- a deposit of cultivation soil which post-dates the Romano-British period and may date to the Medieval period
 - the remains of deeply cut features in the form of pits dated to the Medieval/post-Medieval period
 - the remains of a building in the form of a stone wall foundation dated to the Medieval (twelfth-fourteenth century)
 - a buried land surface probably dating to the Romano-British period (and definitely sealing a soil horizon of Romano-British date)
 - a substantial sandstone ashlar wall the date of which cannot be established from the evidence recovered.
- 7.4 Securely identified Medieval deposits were found on the site in Trench 1 in the form of a silted layer of occupational debris at c. 98.21m OD and probable Roman deposits and features were found in Trench 2 in the form of a buried land surface at an upper limit of c. 97.52m OD.
- 7.5 The evaluation undertaken at 40 High Street, Whitchurch has been the closest sample excavation undertaken to date to the High Street. The present line of High Street is known from the earliest (tithe map) to have changed little since 1840. Furthermore, it is likely that the line of this part of High Street preserves the Medieval alignment although further downhill it appears today to diverge slightly from it. As such the discovery of Medieval deposits in Trench 1 relating to earlier settlement on High Street is important not only because it confirms the Medieval occupation at that

location, but also it demonstrates a potential for provide new evidence on Medieval Whitchurch.

- 7.6 The nature of the Roman deposits uncovered in Trench 2 is consistant with occupation of a Roman settlement, but would have been considered inconclusive regarding the precise nature of that settlement had there not been a considerable collection of related evidence for the fort/settlement from elsewhere in Whitchurch. The fact that such deposits survive at all so close to the Medieval and later High Street - where one would expect them to have been severly damaged if not removed by later activity- emphasises further the potential of this part of the town for uncovering further evidence of the Roman military and civilian settlement/activity in the town. To date excavation in Whitchurch has uncovered few parallels for the features recorded during this evaluation but it is now clear that further related evidence for Roman, Medieval and later Whitchurch is likely to survive elsewhere in the High Street area.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

The Brief

BRIEF FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION AT
34-40 HIGH STREET, WHITCHURCH, SHROPSHIRE

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 There is currently a proposal for a redevelopment at 34-40 High Street, Whitchurch, Shropshire (Planning Application Ref No: N596/0574). The proposal is for the conversion of existing buildings into flats and offices and replacement shop fronts including demolition works and demolition of outbuildings to the rear. This brief relates to the archaeological evaluation of the proposed development site.
- 1.2 The site lies within the core of the historic town of Whitchurch, and is situated within the known area of the Roman Fort and later civilian settlement of Mediolanum. It also occupies an area of former burgrave plots of the Medieval town.
- 1.3 A previous development proposal for the site involved redevelopment to the rear of the properties in an open area currently used for car parking. In response to this proposal an archaeological evaluation was carried out by Gifford and Partners during July 1995. (Report on an Archaeological Evaluation of 34/40 High Street, Whitchurch, Shropshire, Gifford and Partners Report No. 7070.2R August 1995). The evaluation demonstrated a considerable depth of 19th and 20th century demolition material and buried walls. This in turn overlay a thick deposit of cultivation soil which sealed pockets of surviving Roman/Medieval archaeological remains in the form of structural features and a yard surface. The results of this previous work shall be taken full account of in the current proposed evaluation and every effort shall be made to avoid any duplication of effort.
- 1.4 The current development proposals involve demolition and redevelopment closer to the High Street frontage in areas previously not evaluated. In view of the potential archaeological implications it has therefore been deemed necessary to undertake a further archaeological field evaluation of the proposed development scheme in accordance with the guidelines laid down in the DOE Planning Policy Guideline No. 16 (Nov. 1990).

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The aim of the evaluation is to provide information that will enable an informed and reasonable planning decision to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed development.

2.2 The objectives will be:

- (a) To locate any archaeological features and deposits within the study area.
- (b) To assess the survival, quality, condition and significance of any archaeological features, deposits, and structures within the study area.

3. REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1 The field evaluation shall comprise the sample excavation of two trenches, each measuring 4 metres long x 1.5 metres wide. The provisional locations for these trenches is marked on the attached plan.
- 3.2 All excavation shall be limited to the top of significant archaeological deposits. Further full or partial excavation of selected deposits shall be undertaken only where essential for achieving the objectives of the evaluation exercise, and only after consultation with the Head of Archaeology, Shropshire County Council.
- 3.3 A full graphic, photographic and written record of the findings will be made. Individual contexts will be recorded on separate context sheets within a context register. All plans and section drawings shall be drawn to an appropriate scale. Drawn records will be related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate. Photographic records will be at a minimum 35mm format, and include both black and white and colour.
- 3.4 All archaeological objects, artefacts, industrial waste and faunal remains will be recovered and related to the contexts from which they derive wherever possible. Provision shall also be made for the sampling of deposits for environmental and technological evidence where appropriate.

4. ARCHIVE AND REPORT

- 4.1 The site archive shall comprise all the data recovered during fieldwork and shall be quantified, ordered and indexed and will be internally consistent. It shall also contain a summary of the nature and quantity of the collected data; a full site matrix; a summary account of the context record; a summary of the artefact record; and a summary of the environmental record.
- 4.2 The results of the evaluation will be submitted in an illustrated and bound report, which will include:- (a) Written assessments of the specific objectives defined in paragraph 2.2. (b) A full written description and interpretation of the results of all elements of the evaluation. (c) A narrative and interpretative account of any excavated stratigraphic and structural evidence. (d) It will be fully illustrated with drawings to an appropriate scale showing location, trench layout, recorded features and deposits, and section drawings. (e) Any documentary research/historical analysis shall be supported by copies of relevant historic maps, documents and aerial photographs. All sources consulted shall be cited.

- 4.3. 3 copies of the report shall be submitted to the client, one copy to the Head of Archaeology, Information and Community Services Shropshire County Council, and one copy to the Conservation Officer, Environment Department, Shropshire County Council.

5. CONDITIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS

- 5.1 In response to the project brief contractors are expected to submit a written scheme of investigation to the Head of Archaeology, Shropshire County Council, detailing their intended scheme of work, proposed working methods, report format and content, time scales and staffing levels (including any specialist sub-contractors). Levels of professional competence in appropriate areas shall be demonstrated.
- 5.2 All archaeological work is to be carried out under the direct supervision of either a Member or Associate of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and who shall be formally recognised by the IFA in appropriate areas of competence.
- 5.3 The code of conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists will be adhered to.
- 5.4 The Archaeological Contractor is to ensure that all relevant health and safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice will be respected.
- 5.5 Prior to the commencement of the project the Archaeological Contractor shall contact the Curator of Archaeology, Information and Community Services Department, Shropshire County Council, who will advise on an appropriate repository for the site archive and the provision for any artefacts. Responsibility for obtaining the owner(s) permission for deposition of finds shall lie with the Contractor.
- 5.6 The project will be monitored throughout by the Head of Archaeology, Shropshire County Council. To facilitate this the archaeological contractor shall advise the Head of Archaeology in advance of the date of commencement and duration of the on-site work.

M. D. WATSON
HEAD OF ARCHAEOLOGY

ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE
INFORMATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
NOVEMBER 1996

Evaluation Trench
CAR

Scale 1:100

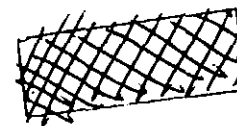
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APPENDIX B

The Project Design

PART B: PROJECT DESIGN

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Tender as been prepared by Gifford and Partners on behalf of Bower Edleston Architects. The Tender is presented in accordance with a written Brief for Archaeological Evaluation prepared by the Archaeology Service, Information and Community Service Department, Shropshire County Council, dated November 1996. The Brief is reproduced in Appendix A.
- 1.2 This Project Design is formatted according to the recommended model detailed in the English Heritage document *Management of Archaeological Projects*, Second Edition (1991).

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA AND THE EVALUATION SITE

- 2.1 The evaluation site is located at 34-40 High Street, Whitchurch.
- 2.2 The site lies within the core of the historic town of Whitchurch and is situated within the known area of the Roman fort and later civilian settlement of *Mediolanum*. It also occupies an area of former burgage plots of the Medieval town.

3. REASON FOR PROJECT

- 3.1 The Client proposes to redevelop 34-40 High Street, Whitchurch, (Planning Application Ref. no. N596/0574). The proposal involves the conversion of existing buildings into flats, offices and replacement shop fronts which would require demolition of outbuildings to the rear.
- 3.2 A previous development proposal for the site involved redevelopment to the rear of the property at 34 High Street in an open area currently used for car parking. In response to this proposal an archaeological evaluation was carried out by Gifford and Partners during July 1995, (*Report on an Archaeological Evaluation at 34/40 High Street, Whitchurch, Shropshire*, Gifford and Partners Report No. 7070.2R, August 1995). The evaluation demonstrated a considerable depth of nineteenth and twentieth century demolition material and buried walls. These features overlay a thick deposit of cultivation soil which in turn sealed pockets of surviving Roman and Medieval archaeological remains in the form of structural features and a yard surface.
- 3.3 The current development proposals involve demolition and redevelopment closer to the High Street frontage in areas not previously evaluated. In view of the potential archaeological implications it has therefore been deemed necessary by the Head of

Archaeology, Shropshire County Council, to undertake a further archaeological field evaluation of the proposed development scheme in accordance with the guidelines laid down in *Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning* (DoE, 1990).

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 The aim of the evaluation is to provide information that will enable an informed and reasonable planning decision to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed development.

4.2 The specific objectives of the evaluation are:

- To locate any archaeological features and deposits within the curtilage of 40 High Street, Whitchurch.
- To assess the survival, quality, condition and significance of any archaeological features, deposits and structures identified within the curtilage of 40 High Street, Whitchurch.
- To further understanding of the history and development of this area of Whitchurch.

5. METHOD STATEMENT

5.1 Desk-Based Assessment

5.1.1 Documentary and cartographic research into the archaeological and historical development of Whitchurch and in particular the historic core of the town has been comprehensively undertaken by Gifford and Partners as part of several previous evaluation and excavation projects.

5.1.2 Therefore, Gifford and Partners is able to take account of previous work and all relevant documentary and cartographic sources without the need to conduct a desk-based assessment.

5.2 Evaluation

5.2.1 The evaluation would be undertaken by means of the sample excavation of two trenches, each measuring 4 metres by 1.5 metres. The provisional locations of the trenches are indicated on the plan which accompanies the Brief.

- 5.2.2 Within the excavation trench, a mechanical excavator (with a toothless bucket) would be used to remove the surface levels and clearly disturbed or recent deposits under the direct supervision of a qualified archaeologist. All remaining deposits would be excavated stratigraphically by hand.
- 5.2.3 Within the trench the top of the first significant archaeological horizon identified would be cleaned by hand and examined for features. Excavation of features would be kept to the absolute minimum necessary to determine the date/period, nature, depth, survival, condition and extent of any archaeological features identified and to achieve the objectives of the evaluation exercise. No features would be entirely removed without the prior agreement of the Head of Archaeology, Shropshire County Council.
- 5.2.4 Gifford and Partners would be responsible for securing information on known services within the evaluation site and would take all reasonable precautions to avoid damage to such services.
- 5.2.5 Gifford and Partners would be responsible for the control of ground water during the sample excavation.
- 5.2.6 Archaeological deposits would be recorded using the Gifford and Partners system based on that developed by English Heritage, Central Archaeology Service. *Proformae* examples of context, finds and sample recording forms are given in Appendix B. The stratigraphy of the trench excavated would be recorded even where no archaeological deposits are identified. All sections of features would be recorded.
- 5.2.7 A levelling survey related to the nearest Ordnance Survey datum point would be completed covering the evaluation works.
- 5.2.8 The photographic record would comprise 35mm format colour slides and monochrome prints with a supporting index (Appendix B).
- 5.2.9 The drawn record would comprise plans of the site at a suitable scale, a trench plan at scale 1:50 or 1:20, and sections at scale 1:20 or 1:10, as appropriate.
- 5.2.10 Artefacts/ecofacts (including industrial waste and faunal remains) would be collected and recorded stratigraphically. All artefacts would be labelled, packed and stored in appropriate materials and conditions to ensure that no deterioration occurs. All artefact/ecofact processing/storage would be carried out in accordance with United Kingdom Institute for Conservation Archaeology Section guidelines and shall accord with the relevant Institute of Field Archaeologists *Guidelines on Finds Work*. Any artefact conservation required

would be agreed in advance with the Head of Archaeology, Shropshire County Council.

- 5.2.11 Palaeoenvironmental samples would be collected in 10 litre airtight buckets from deposits considered suitable and as agreed with the Head of Archaeology, Shropshire County Council.
- 5.2.12 Gifford and Partners would also be responsible for the safety and security of the evaluation site. Fencing would be erected and maintained around the excavation areas, as required by the Client, and excavations would be shored in accordance with legal requirements (for example, at a depth of 1.2m from the ground surface).
- 5.2.13 The trench would be backfilled to original profile (using excavated materials) to the satisfaction of the Client/landowner(s).

5.3 Assessment and Analysis

- 5.3.1 Immediately upon completion of the site work an assessment of the site archive would be undertaken to include all written, drawn and photographic records, artefacts and ecofacts/samples.
- 5.3.2 Artefacts would be assessed to provide dating, social, economic, and technological information. Special or unusual features would be highlighted and reference made to other material recovered from the immediate environs of the evaluation site.
- 5.3.3 The requirements for artefact conservation would be assessed and discussed with a specialist conservator (Bradford University).
- 5.3.4 The suitability of deposits identified during the sample excavation for palaeoenvironmental analysis would be assessed and with the agreement of the Head of Archaeology, Shropshire County Council samples requiring analysis would be forwarded to a specialist sub-contractor (Hereford and Worcester County Council Archaeological Section).
- 5.3.5 A site matrix would be prepared to include all contexts identified during the sample excavation.

5.4 Report

- 5.4.1 Five fully illustrated reports would be submitted to the Client for distribution to the Head of Archaeology, Shropshire County Council, the Sites and Monuments Record, the Conservation Officer, Environmental Department,

Shropshire County Council, the National Monuments Record (Swindon) and other interested organisations. One copy would also form part of the project archive.

5.4.2 The report would contain the following:-

- a non-technical summary.
- a table of contents.
- an introduction with acknowledgements, including a list of all those involved in the evaluation.
- a statement of the project aims.
- an account of the project methodology undertaken with assessment of same.
- the archaeological/historical background with transcripts of relevant sources where appropriate.
- a description of the evaluation results including any archaeologically significant features/deposits or potential features/deposits identified within the evaluation site.
- a discussion of the location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any archaeological deposits/features uncovered, together with a discussion of their relationship with known archaeology in the vicinity.
- a site plan at scale 1:1250 showing features of archaeological interest.
- relevant plans (1:50) and sections (1:20) related to the sample excavation and cross-referenced with the written text.
- other maps, plans, drawings and photographs as appropriate
- a description of the finds and palaeoenvironmental samples collected during the sample excavation including an exposition of the methodologies employed, a statement on the presence or absence of material and an assessment of preservation. A summary interpretation of the finds including reference to any unusual or important features of the assemblage would also be included.
- a map and gazetteer of identified archaeological remains in and around the site.
- a statement of the potential archaeological importance of any identified archaeological remains.
- an identification of research implications for the site/area.
- a full bibliography of sources consulted.
- a supplementary bibliography of sources identified but not available for consultation.
- an index to the project archive and a statement of its location/proposed repository.

5.4.3 Appendices to the report would contain the following:-

- a copy of the agreed Project Design (with Brief).
- an indication of any departure from the agreed Project Design with justification of the same.

- 5.4.4 A draft version of the report would be made available to the Client and Head of Archaeology, Shropshire County Council for comment/approval before the final report is issued.
- 5.4.5 With the agreement of the Client, and if appropriate, a summary report on the evaluation would be published in a suitable local journal, such as *West Midlands Archaeology*. A note on the evaluation would also be prepared for the appropriate national period journal.

5.5 Archive

- 5.5.1 The project archive would consist of all original records, artefacts, ecofacts/samples, and all documentation that relates to the evaluation. Copies of the Brief for archaeological works and Project Design and any relevant correspondence would be included.
- 5.5.2 The archive would be prepared according to the *Management of Archaeological Projects*, English Heritage, Second Edition, (1991). The records therefore would be fully ordered and indexed.
- 5.5.3 The archive would comply with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (Archaeology Section) *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage* (1990) the Society of Museum Archaeologists *Towards An Accessible Archive* (1995) and to the requirements of an agreed repository. Rowleys House Museum would be approached on award of contract to receive the archive.
- 5.5.4 The archive would be deposited within six months of the completion of the evaluation with the agreement of the Client.
- 5.5.5 Gifford and Partners would ensure that written consent from the landowner(s) would be obtained before archive deposition.
- 5.5.6 A synopsis of the archive would be lodged with the Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record.
- 5.5.7 Reproducible elements of the archive would be security-copied on microfiche and submitted to the National Monuments Record (Swindon).

6. CONFIDENTIALITY, PUBLICITY, SECURITY AND ACCESS

- 6.1 Gifford and Partners would treat as confidential all information obtained directly/indirectly from the Client in connection with the project. Gifford and Partners

would not, without the prior written consent of the Client, disclose any information relating to the project or publicise the project in any way.

- 6.2 Gifford would be responsible for adequate safety precautions on site including fencing around the sample excavation if required.
- 6.3 Gifford would be responsible for the security of excavated material and records relating to the evaluation prior to submission of the archive to the final repository.
- 6.4 Gifford would restrict access to the evaluation site if required to the Client and Planning Archaeologist and their nominated representatives.
- 6.5 Gifford would conform to the Client's arrangements for notification of entering and leaving the site.

7. COPYRIGHT

Gifford and Partners would retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* of 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that Gifford and Partners hereby provide an exclusive licence to the Client for the use of such documents by the Client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in this Project Design.

8. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 8.1 Gifford and Partners operate in accordance with the health and safety procedures as set out in:-
 - the *Health and Safety Work Act* (1974) and related legislation.
 - the Standing Conference of Archaeology Unit Managers *Health and Safety Manual* (1991).
 - the Council for British Archaeology Handbook no. 6, *Safety in Archaeological Fieldwork* (1989).
 - the *Construction Design and Management Regulations* (1994).
 - the *Gifford Health and Safety Handbook*.
- 8.2 In accordance with CDM Regulations Gifford would prepare a Risk Assessment prior to the commencement of the evaluation.

8.3 All necessary protective clothing and equipment would be used. The archaeologists on site would wear hard hats at all times. Ear defenders and eye goggles would be used as required when machinery is in operation.

8.4 A First-Aid kit and Accident Book would be kept on site at all times, with the Gifford Health and Safety file.

9. PROJECT MONITORING

9.1 Gifford and Partners understand that the project would be monitored by the Client and Planning Archaeologist. Gifford would give the Head of Archaeology, Shropshire County Council as much notice of the commencement of the works as possible.

9.2 Gifford propose to arrange the following meetings to ensure the smooth progress of the project:

9.2.1 a preliminary consultation between Gifford and the monitors to agree the Project Design, conditions of contract and other preliminaries.

9.2.2 a progress meeting between Gifford and the monitors during the evaluation as appropriate.

9.2.3 a consultation meeting to discuss the draft report before submission of the final report.

9.3 Gifford understand that report and archive preparation may also be subject to monitoring and would ensure all records are available upon request as far as is reasonably practicable.

9.4 Gifford would minute/distribute all monitoring consultations.

9.5 Gifford would provide the Client with progress reports as required during the evaluation.

10. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Gifford and Partners would manage the project in accordance with the Gifford quality management system which is third party accredited by Lloyds Quality Assurance to BS 5750, Part 1, ISO 9001.

11. RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

11.1 Staff

- Project Director: T J Strickland MA FSA MIFA
(Project Direction)
- Associate: A Thompson BA, Diploma in Post Excavation Studies
(Project management; artefact assessment; editing)
- Archaeologist: A L Martin MA PIFA
(Preparation of report text)
- Archaeologist: J Perkins BA PIFA
(Sample excavation; recording works and preparation of report text)
- Site Assistants: Two to be appointed
- Archaeology Technician: G Reaney
(Preparation of report illustrations; preparation of project archive)
- Specialist Subcontractor: Hereford and Worcester County Council Archaeology
Section
(Palaeoenvironmental Assessment and Report)
- Specialist Subcontractor: Bradford University, Department of Archaeological
Sciences
(Artefact Conservation)

11.2 Timetable

STAGE	DAYS
1. Project set-up	0.5 day
2. Evaluation	3 days
3. Assessment/Analysis/Report	3 days
4. Archive	1 day
TOTAL	7.5 days

APPENDIX C

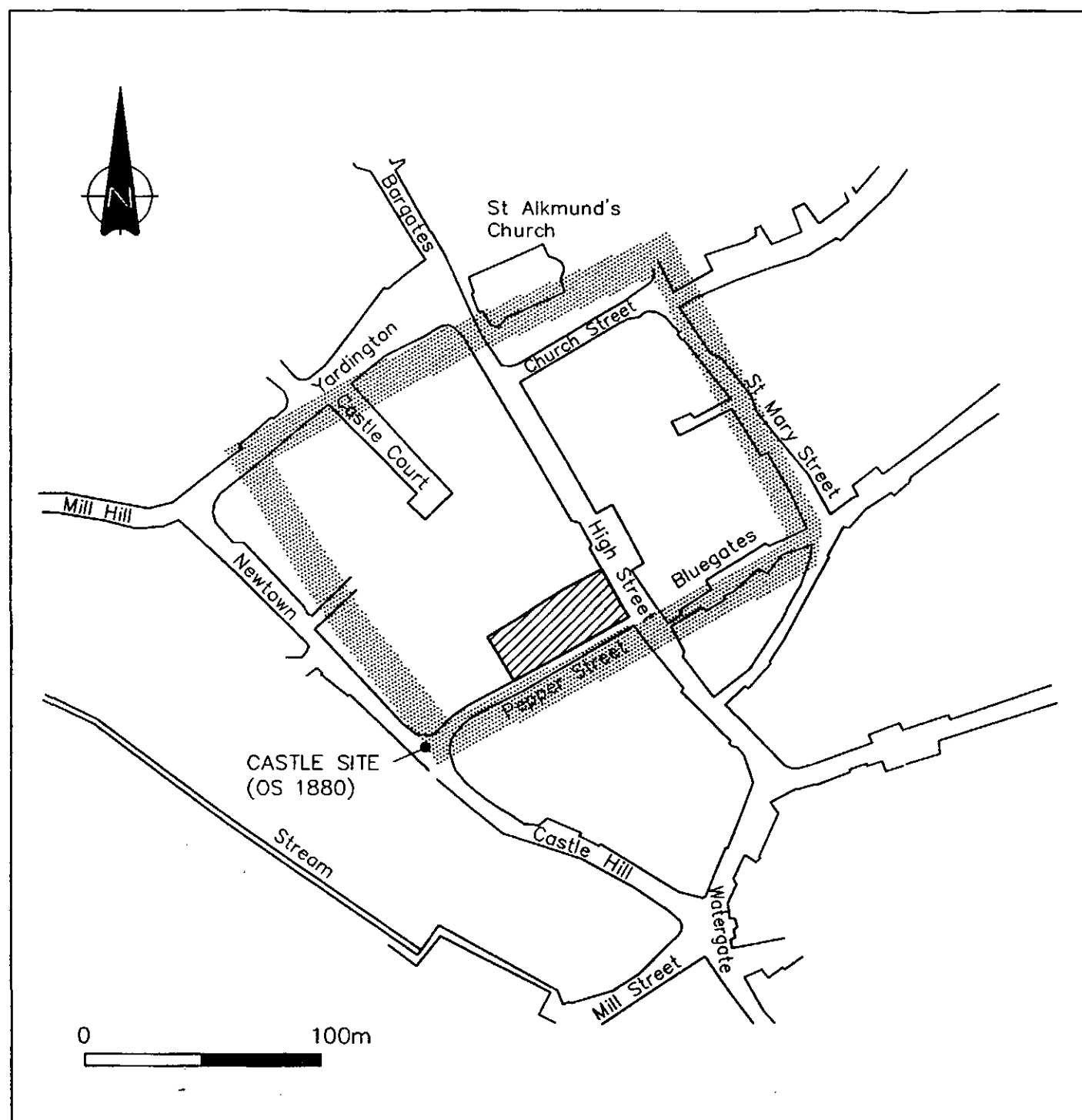
Bulk Finds Record

GIFFORD

Bulk Finds Record

PROJECT CODE: B0297A

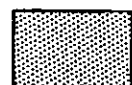
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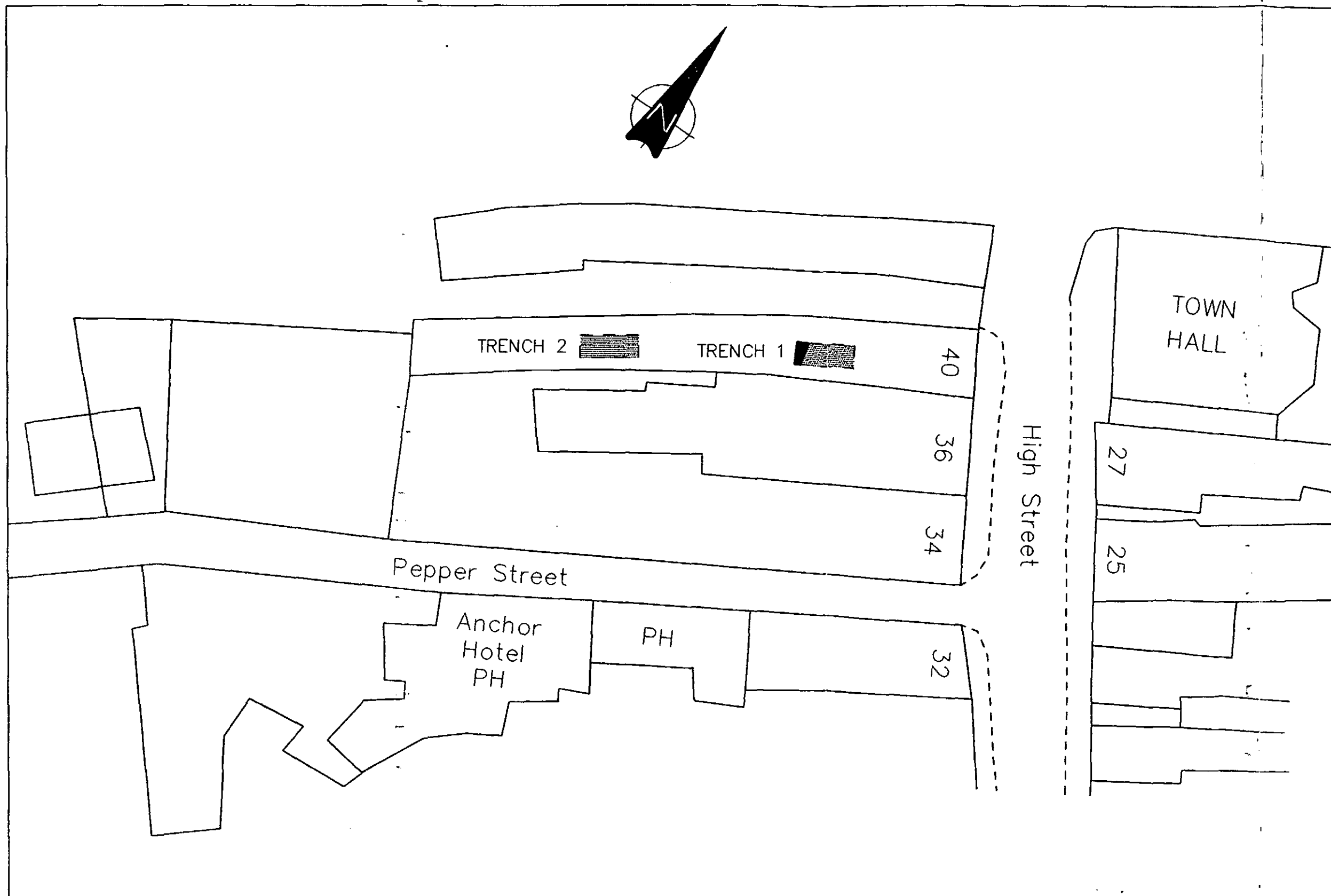


— EVALUATION AREA

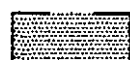


— ZONE IN WHICH ROMAN WHITCHURCH LAY

Project B0297A 40 HIGH STREET WHITCHURCH		
Title FIGURE 1 LOCATION OF EVALUATION TRENCH		
Drawn G.C.R	Checked 	Approved
Date 29.11.96		
Scale 1: 2500		
Drawing no. B0297A : 6D		Rev.
GIFFORD AND PARTNERS Archaeology		



KEY



— EVALUATION TRENCH



— LINE OF ROBBER TRENCH

Project B0297A
40 HIGH STREET
WHITCHURCH

Title FIGURE 2
TRENCH LOCATION PLAN

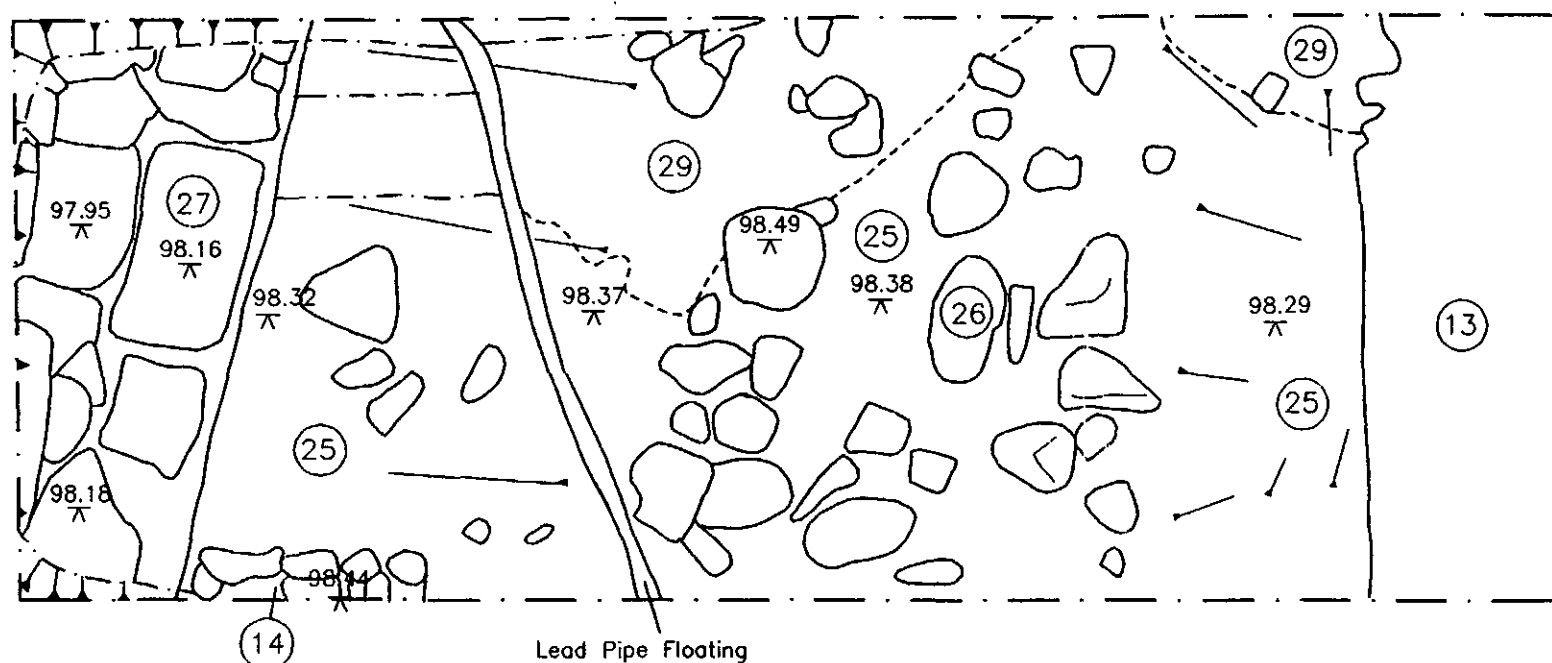
Drawn G.C.R. Checked *JP* Approved *MB*

Date 29.11.96

Scale 1:500

Drawing no. B0297A : 7D Rev.

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AND PARTNERS**
Archaeology

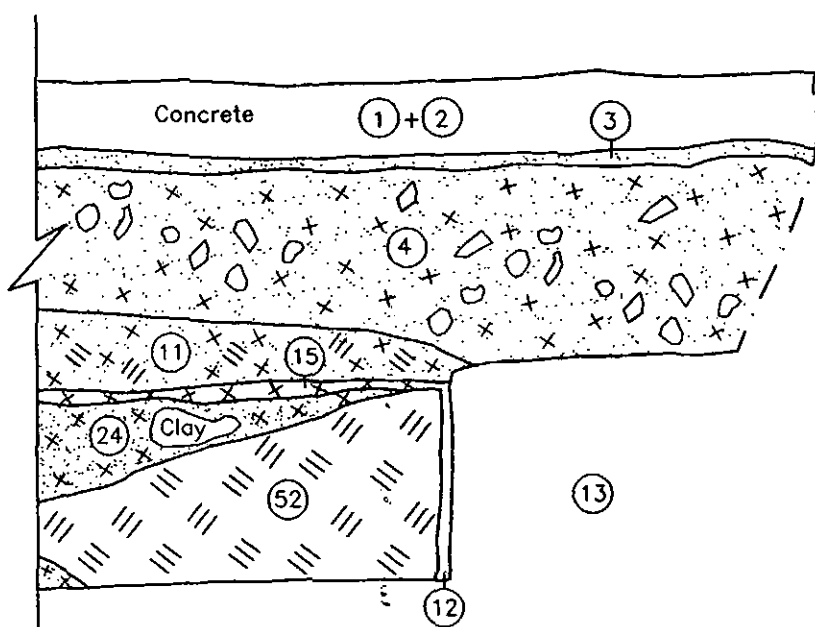
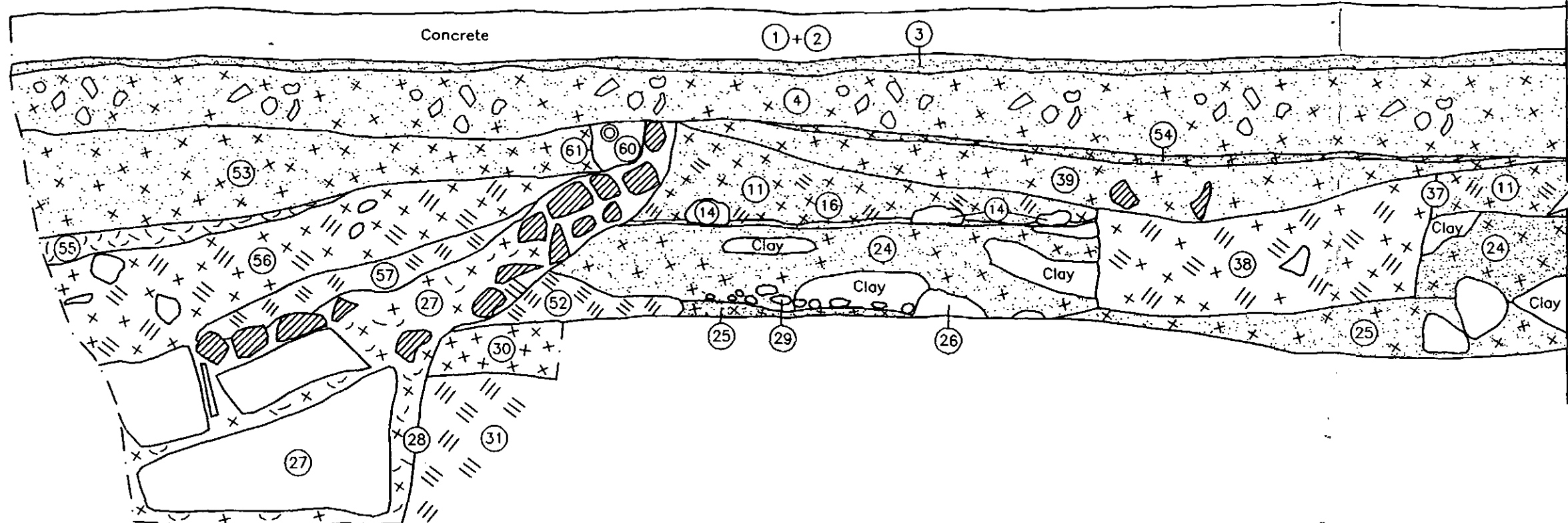


KEY

— — — Edge of excavation

Project B0297A 40 HIGH STREET WHITCHURCH		
Title FIGURE 3 PLAN OF TRENCH 1		
Drawn G.C.R.	Checked <i>JP</i>	Approved <i>[Signature]</i>
Date 28.11.96		
Scale 1:20		
Drawing no. B0297A : 8D		Rev.
GIFFORD AND PARTNERS Archaeology		

98.72
^

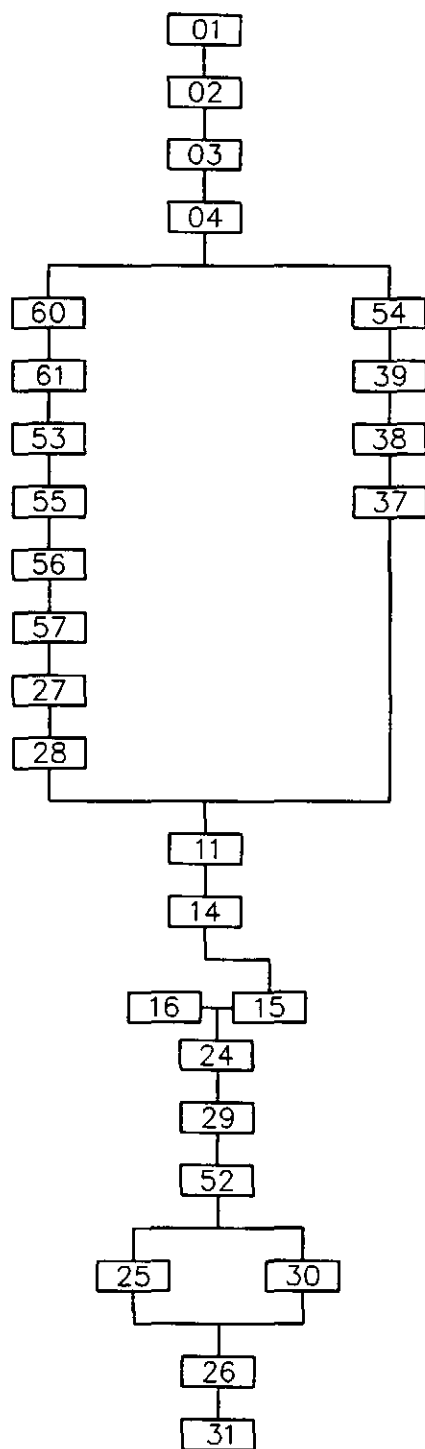


98.72
^

KEY

	Sand
	Silt
	Clay
	Mortar
	Brick
	Rubble

Project B0297A 40 HIGH STREET WHITCHURCH		
Title FIGURE 4 TRENCH 1 SOUTH FACING SECTION		
Drawn G.C.R.	Checked 	Approved
Date 29.11.96		
Scale 1:10		
Drawing no. B0297A : 9D		Rev.
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Project B0297A
40 HIGH STREET
WHITCHURCH

Title FIGURE 5
STRATIGRAPHIC MATIX
TRENCH 1

Drawn N.J.R. Checked *JP* Approved *RS*

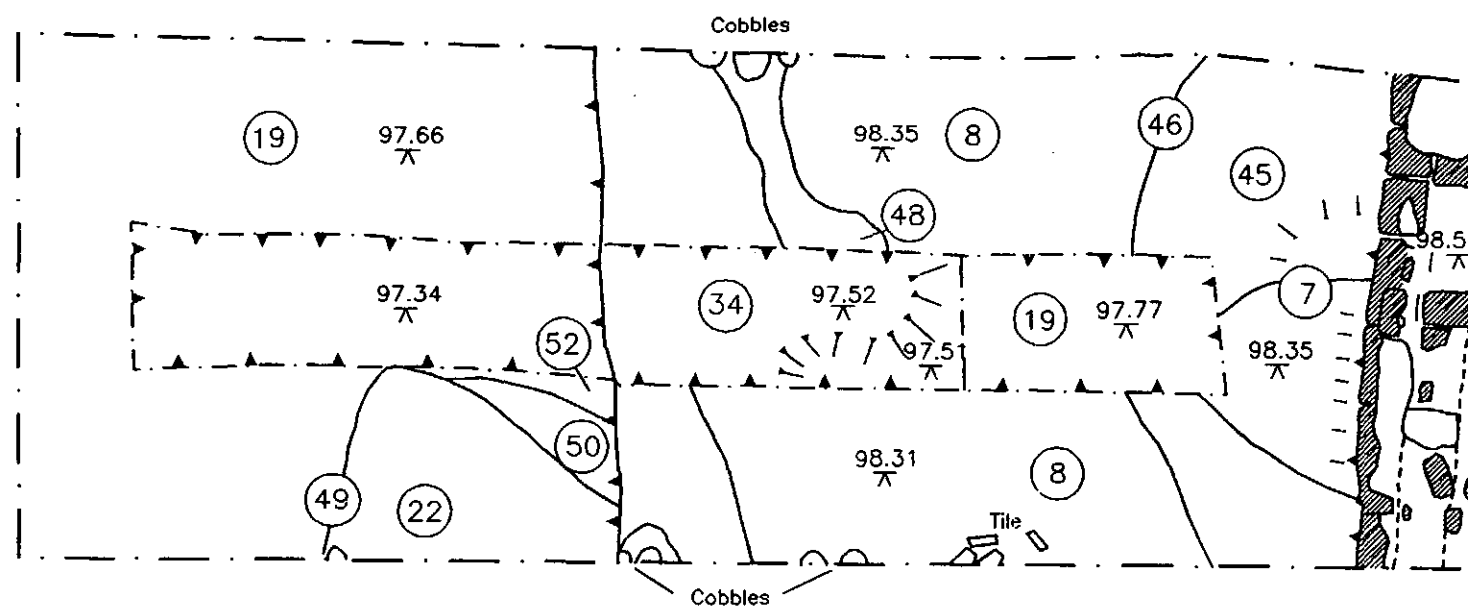
Date 29.11.96

Scale N.T.S.



Drawing no. B0297A : 10D Rev.



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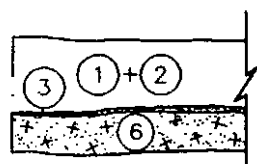
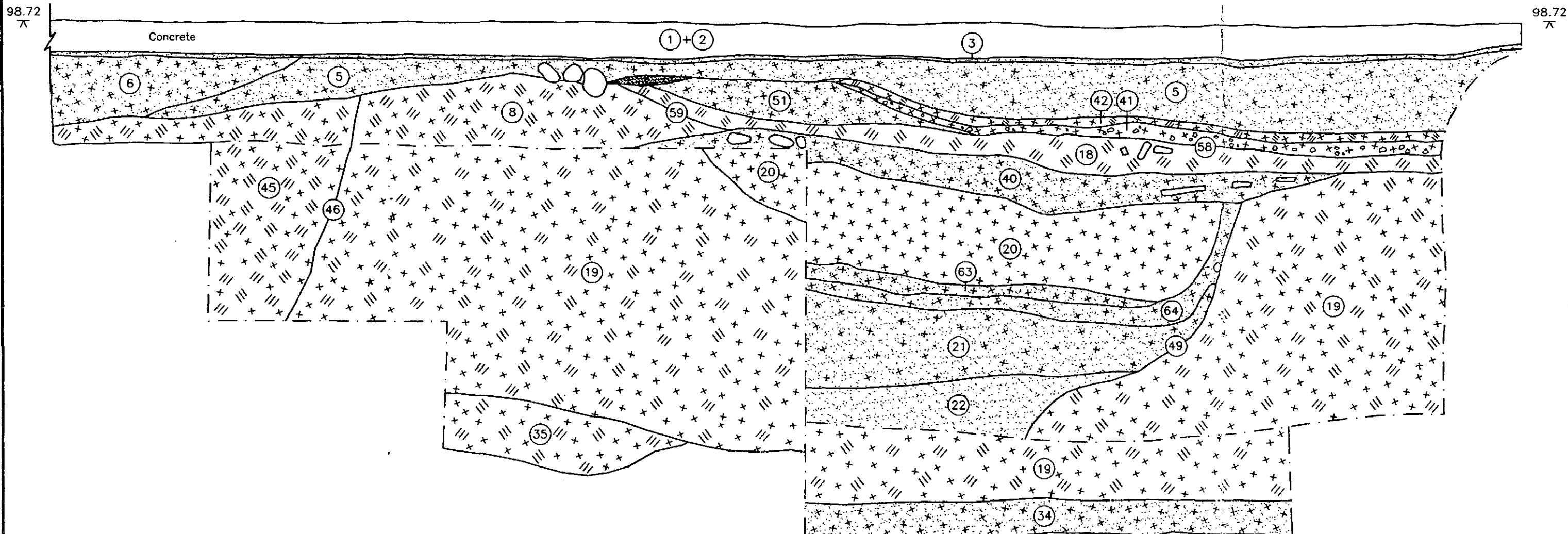
Archaeology



KEY



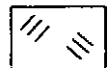
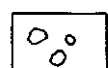
-  Three course brick and mortar wall
-  Edge of excavation


Project B0297A 40 HIGH STREET WHITCHURCH		
Title FIGURE 6 PLAN OF TRENCH 2		
Drawn G.C.R.	Checked 	Approved 
Date 28.11.96		
Scale 1:20		
Drawing no. B0297A : 11D		Rev.
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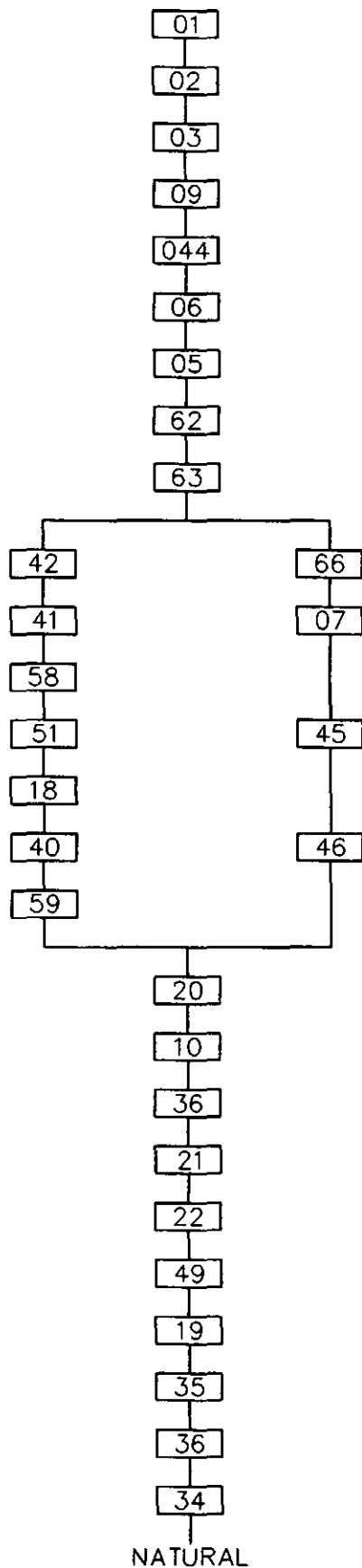


Brick Wall

KEY

-  Sand
-  Silt
-  Clay
-  Charcoal

Project B0297A 40 HIGH STREET WHITCHURCH		
Title FIGURE 7 TRENCH 2 NORTH FACING SECTION		
Drawn G.C.R.	Checked JP	Approved 
Date 28.11.96		
Scale 1:10		
Drawing no. B0297A : 12D		Rev.
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Project B0297A
40 HIGH STREET
WHITCHURCH

Drawn
N.J.R.

Checked
JP

Approved
1/11

Date 29.11.96

Title FIGURE 8
STRATIGRAPHIC MATIX
TRENCH 2

Scale N.T.S.

Drawing no.
B0297A : 13D

Rev.

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