

# **birmingham archaeology**

**Land adjacent to  
All Saints Way,  
West Bromwich,  
Sandwell**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION 2010**

**Project No. 2027**

**LAND ADJACENT TO ALL SAINTS WAY, WEST BROMWICH,  
SANDWELL**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION 2010**

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**Land Adjacent to All Saints Way, West Bromwich, Sandwell**  
**Archaeological Evaluation 2010**

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## Land Adjacent to All Saints Way, West Bromwich

### Archaeological Evaluation 2010

#### SUMMARY

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Birmingham Archaeology, during February 2010, on land adjacent to All Saints Way, West Bromwich (centred on NGR SP 004 916). The work was commissioned by Halcrow Group Ltd (archaeological consultants) on behalf of Stoford Developments Limited. The evaluation was carried out after demolition of standing buildings on the site and ahead of a proposed mixed use development which has been granted reserved matters planning permission. A total of twenty-six trial-trenches were excavated across the site.*

*Evidence of possible 17th-18<sup>th</sup>-century activity on the site was suggested by the presence of residual finds in later contexts. It is possible that some or all of these finds are derived from material imported into the site from elsewhere. Several features possibly dating to the 18th century were present at the central part of the site associated with agricultural or perhaps isolated settlement activity on the site at this time, although it is possible that the single sherds of pottery from these features may be residual. No evidence of any structures pre-dating the 19th century was recorded. Evidence of 18th-century buildings, the presence of which was suggested by the highly schematic 1775 Yates's Map of Staffordshire and the windmill suggested by Wood's 1837 Plan of West Bromwich was not located during the evaluation.*

*The evidence from one trench adjacent to Sandwell Road demonstrated that the foundations and lower courses of external and internal brick walls of the early 19th-century Providence Chapel survive in a reasonably good state of preservation. A tiled floor surface survived within a front porch entrance abutting the northwest front of the Chapel and evidence of other possible floors survived as spreads of mortar. The chapel would appear to have been 11m wide, which correlates with the cartographic evidence showing a structure approximately 10m wide and 17m long, with a northwest front with two external projections, which are probably entrance porches. There was also some evidence of pre-chapel activity in the form of possible pits, which may be associated with earlier temporary chapel buildings or be related to the construction of the chapel.*

*A brick alleyway surface between the Chapel and the probable chapel graveyard enclosure wall was recorded. The probable Chapel graveyard wall was also recorded in several trenches, together with one grave cut, containing remains of a coffin, and at least seven other probable grave cuts within the graveyard. The graveyard appears to conform exactly to the area shown on the 1890 OS map, where it is depicted as measuring 9m x 46m. It is difficult to estimate the total number of individuals interred, given the lack of documentary records and the difficulty of extrapolating the total number of individuals from the remains encountered in the evaluation trenches, but 100 is probably the minimum estimate. The graveyard could have been in use for as long as the chapel, which was built in 1810 and could have been in use until, perhaps, the early to mid-20th-century.*

*Other brick structures recorded during the evaluation may relate to 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century buildings which appear on OS maps. These were a row of terraced houses fronting onto Sandwell Road, depicted on OS maps between 1890 and 1960, adjacent to the Providence Chapel, and what may be an industrial building shown on the 1890 OS map. The building appears to be within the same yard as a corn mill and was probably associated with it.*

*Features recorded at the northern part of the site were associated with houses and gardens fronting onto Hargate Lane, first depicted on the 1890 OS map and demolished after 1960.*

*Structures associated with terraced houses fronting onto Mill Street and a large rectangular brick building, probably with an industrial function were also revealed and was first depicted on the 1904 OS map and was probably demolished between 1960 and 1977.*

*Brick walls and yard surfaces recorded at the eastern part of the site probably relate to the Corporation stables, shown on the 1890 OS map and on later OS maps. Brick walls, cellars and shallow pits revealed at the southern part of the site are associated with houses and rear gardens, formerly fronting onto Bratt Street, first depicted on the 1890 OS map.*

*Elsewhere two undated gullies at the east part of the site may be associated with drainage. Other undated features include a single square pit, an undated sub-circular pit and five postholes, some of which may be of post-medieval date.*

## Land Adjacent to All Saints Way, West Bromwich

Archaeological Evaluation 2010

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Birmingham Archaeology was commissioned by Halcrow Group Ltd (archaeological consultants) on behalf of Stoford Developments Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation by means of a programme of trial trenching at land adjacent to All Saints Way, West Bromwich, Sandwell. The evaluation was carried out after demolition of standing buildings and ahead of a proposed mixed use development which has been granted reserved matters planning permission (planning application reference number DC/08/50124) by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council.
- 1.2. This report outlines the results of the evaluation carried out during February 2010, and has been prepared in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (IfA 2008).
- 1.3. The evaluation conforms to a brief by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (2008) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (Halcrow 2010, Appendix 1) which was approved by the Borough Archaeologist for Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council prior to implementation, in accordance with guidelines laid down in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (DoE 1990).

### 2. LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1. The application area is located on the edge of West Bromwich Town Centre (centred on NGR SP 004 916, Figs. 1 and 2, hereinafter referred to as the site), at the junction of the A41 Expressway and Cronehills Linkway, which form the northern and eastern boundaries respectively. The south boundary of the site is formed by existing housing fronting onto Bratt Street, the north side of Bratt Street, the east side of Sandwell Road and an the existing car park to the north of Mill Street.
- 2.2. The underlying geology consists of superficial deposits of Devensian sands and gravel overlying solid geology of Pennine lower coal measures (British Geological Survey 2009). The site lies at an average height of 162m AOD.
- 2.3. The majority of the site was previously council depot buildings and associated car park, public car parks in Mill Street and Sandwell Road. The standing buildings have recently been demolished.

### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1. The following section is reproduced from the brief (Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council 2008) and the WSI (Halcrow 2010):
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### 3.2 Prehistoric and Romano-British

No evidence of prehistoric activity has been found within 500m of the site. There is also no evidence of Roman activity, with the exception of coins and pottery found c150m to the east of the site in 1986/87. Work undertaken in other parts of the West Midlands suggests that prehistoric and Roman remains are common, if not ubiquitous, reflecting extensive hunting and gathering in early prehistory and extensive farming since the late Bronze Age. Prehistoric and Roman remains have been found during fieldwork undertaken in advance of development in the wider West Midlands region. It is therefore possible that the West Bromwich area contains at least some evidence of prehistoric activity, and Roman activity than has yet been discovered. It is therefore possible that some evidence exists within the present site, if only in the form of scattered flints and pottery.

### 3.3 Early medieval

There is no evidence for activity or land-use between the Roman period and the Domesday survey of 1086. However, it is likely that the area formed part of the heath indicated by the place-name Bromwich ('the broom farm') which was first documented in 1086. It is also likely that the heath had formed centuries earlier, as a consequence of late or post-Roman agrarian decline. The reversion of farmland to heath and woodland was a feature of this period. Therefore it is unlikely that there will be any evidence of post-Roman and Anglo-Saxon activity within this area, as the heath would have been used primarily for grazing. Moreover, post-Roman and Anglo-Saxon remains are extremely rare throughout the West Midlands.

### 3.4 Medieval

The heath is likely to have reduced in size during this period as parts of it were brought into more intensive management. It is likely that the site and the modern centre of West Bromwich was heathland throughout the medieval period. This being so, no significant evidence of medieval activity can be expected.

### 3.5 Post-medieval

There is documentary evidence for further encroachments on the heath in the 17th and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and it appears that most of the site was enclosed during this period. The evidence comes in the form of William Yates's map of Staffordshire, published in 1775. By 1775, the area between Bratt Street, Sandwell Road, and New Street had been enclosed. Yates's map also shows at least five buildings within the enclosure. It is uncertain whether the buildings represent settlement or some other activity. However, it is clear that buildings existed on the site by 1775, and it is possible that remains of them survive. If so, they could be regarded as significant, especially in an area that has little archaeological evidence for the period before the Industrial Revolution.

In addition to the features recorded on Yates's map, a windmill north of Mill Street, shown by lettering on Wood's map of 1837, may also date to the 18<sup>th</sup>-century. With regard to the location of the windmill, it may have stood just outside or just inside the present car park off Mill Street. If it stood outside, in the Expressway, it is likely that all remains of it have been removed. However, it is possible that there may be remains inside the site area.

### 3.6 19th-century remains

This period saw the final enclosure of the heath and the evolution of the modern centre of West Bromwich, there was considerable development during this period, as indicated by numerous map sources consulted within the Environmental Statement chapter. Cartographic sources show that a chapel stood on Sandwell Road, opposite the entrance to Mill Lane. From the account of non-Conformist communities in the Victoria County History of Staffordshire, the chapel can be identified as a Baptist foundation, built in 1810 and called the Providence Chapel. The Ordnance Survey maps show that the chapel was a large building, measuring some 17m by 10m, and that the main entrance was flanked by buttresses. Given the scale of the chapel, and the fact that only part of its footprint is likely to have been disturbed, substantial remains are likely to survive.

The VCH account also states that the chapel had a burial ground attached to it. This was seemingly located on the north side of the chapel shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1890 (Fig. 3), and on later editions up to 1960. At present, the area is open ground. This area must therefore be regarded as particularly significant and sensitive. Although no records of burials exist, the size of the burial ground, and the figures for the congregation given in the VCH account, suggest that it might contain more than a hundred burials. Mapping also shows the presence of numerous buildings including a corn mill along Sandwell Road, around the chapel and on both sides of Bratt Street. It is possible that remains of these and other structures may exist on the site, providing modern truncation has not removed them.

## 4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1. The principal aim of the evaluation was to ascertain, where possible, the location, extent, character, condition, significance, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits which may be affected by the proposed groundworks.
- 4.2. More specific aims were to establish the extent and condition of any surviving remains of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century chapel and graveyard shown on the OS maps.

## 5. METHODOLOGY

- 5.1. Twenty-six trenches, mainly measuring 25m x 2m (unless stated otherwise in section 6, below), were excavated across the site (Fig. 2). Trenches 10 and 17 were not excavated as planned in the Written Scheme of Investigation due presence of deep modern foundations and several other trenches were shortened for the same reason. Trench 23 was extended and Trenches 27 and 28 were excavated instead, with the agreement of the Borough Archaeologist.
  - 5.2. The trench locations were agreed in advance with the Borough Archaeologist for Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, and surveyed-in using a Differential GPS and located on the Ordnance Survey National Grid.
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- 5.3. All topsoil and modern overburden was removed by a 360 mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, down to the top of the uppermost archaeological horizon, or to the natural geology, whichever was encountered first. Subsequent cleaning and excavation was carried out by hand.
- 5.4. A representative sample of archaeological features and deposits were manually sample excavated. This was done to sufficiently define their character and to obtain suitable dating evidence using the following strategy;
- 50% of pits or post-holes
  - 1m or 0.5m wide section across linear features
- 5.5. All stratigraphic sequences were recorded, even where no archaeology was present. Features were planned at a scale of 1:50, and sections drawn of all cut features and significant vertical stratigraphy at a scale of 1:20. A comprehensive written record was maintained using a continuous numbered context system on *pro-forma* cards. Written records and scale plans were supplemented by photographs using black and white monochrome, colour slide and digital photography.
- 5.6. Recovered finds were cleaned, marked and remedial conservation work undertaken as necessary. Treatment of all finds conformed to guidance contained within the Birmingham Archaeology Fieldwork Manual and *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998).
- 5.7. The full site archive includes all artefactual remains recovered from the site. The site archive will be prepared according to guidelines set down in Appendix 3 of the Management of Archaeology Projects (English Heritage 1991), the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage (UKIC 1990) and Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological collections (Museum and Art Galleries Commission, 1992). The paper and finds archives will be deposited with the appropriate repository subject to permission from the land owner.

## **6. RESULTS**

### **Trench 1 (Fig. 4)**

- 6.1. The natural subsoil (103) was revealed at a depth of 160.17m AOD. This was overlain by brown sandy clay (102) containing sherds of 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>-century pottery. Several northeast-southwest / northwest- southeast aligned brick walls (104, 107, 108, 109 and 110) cut subsoil 103 and layer 102, surviving up to 0.42m high. Wall 108 was built in a foundation trench (106) containing sherds of 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>-century pottery. West of the most easterly of these walls (110, Plate 1) two square brick plinth bases (111 and 112, Plate 1), 0.85m wide, 0.06m and 0.38m high, also cut subsoil 103. Sherds of 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>-century pottery were recovered from the surface of plinth base 112. These brick structures were sealed by several layers of demolition material, the earliest of which (101) contained sherds of 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>-century pottery, and the present tarmac car park surface, up to 1.0m deep.
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- 6.2. Brick structures 104, 107, 108, 109 and 110 are probably associated with terraced houses fronting onto Mill Street first depicted on the 1904 OS map. Plinth bases 111 and 112 may be associated with a large rectangular building, probably with an industrial function first depicted on the 1904 OS map. Both the houses and rectangular building appear to have been demolished between 1960 and 1977, on the basis of the OS map evidence.

### **Trench 2 (Fig. 4)**

- 6.3. The natural subsoil (209) was revealed at a depth of 161.06m AOD. Two northeast-southwest aligned brick walls (208 and 210, Plate 2) cut subsoil 209 surviving up to 0.32m high. Southeast of wall 208 were three features all cutting subsoil 209. A rectangular brick structure (206, Plate 2), 1.9m wide, at least 1.6m long, and surviving to height of 0.10m, and parallel with structure 206, to the northeast, a 1.9m length of wall (207) made of a single course of red sandstone blocks. South of 206 and 207 was an irregular oval pit (203, Plate 2), 0.75m wide at least 1.5m long and 0.25m deep, containing a dog skeleton and sherds of 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>-century pottery (204). Northwest of wall 210 was a small pit (211) which cut subsoil 209, 0.40m in diameter and 0.16m deep. These features were sealed by several layers of demolition material, one of which (201) contained sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery, and the present tarmac car park surface, up to 0.90m deep.
- 6.4. Brick walls 208 and 210 are probably garden walls associated with the rear garden wall of houses fronting onto Hargate Lane, first depicted on the 1890 OS map, and a wall surrounding a plot of land, probably a garden also shown on the 1890 map. Structure 206 is probably the remains of a garden outhouse also shown on the 1890 OS map with wall 207, pits 203 and 211 also being consistent with former garden activities.

### **Trench 3 (Fig. 4)**

- 6.5. The natural subsoil (315) was revealed at a depth of 161.51m AOD. Three northeast-southwest aligned brick structures (304, 305 and 307, Plate 3), surviving to a maximum height of 0.84m, cut the natural subsoil 315. Abutting 307 was a curvi-linear brick structure (306). Structures 305 and 304 were sealed by brick demolition rubble (312). West of structure 307 was an oval well or tank (311), 1.30m x 1.20m and a minimum of 0.90m deep (not fully excavated). The fills of 311 (308 and 309) contained sherds of 19<sup>th</sup>-century pottery. These features were sealed by several layers of demolition material and the present tarmac car park surface, up to 1.0m deep.
- 6.6. Structures 304, 305 and 307 are probably cellar walls associated with houses fronting onto Hargate Lane, first depicted on the 1890 OS map. Well or tank 311 may have been located in the backyard of one of these houses, also shown on the 1890 map.

#### Trench 4 (Fig. 4)

- 6.7. The earliest layer (403) recorded was a brown clay sand silt revealed at a depth of 161.68m AOD. Layer 403 was cut by a pit (412), 0.55m wide and 0.26m deep, filled with a black charcoal-rich sandy clay silt (411) containing clay pipe fragments. Pit 412 and layer 403 were cut by a northwest-southeast/northeast-southwest orientated brick- built structure (407, Plate 4) which survived to a height of at least 0.37m. Abutting the southeast wall of structure 407 was a probable set of two brick steps (406). Abutting the northwest wall of structure 407 and overlying layer 403 was a mortar surface (408). Layer 403 was also cut by another brick structure (409) on a similar alignment to 407, and an adjacent northwest-southeast aligned wall (410) which was also probably associated with structure 409. Layer 403 was also cut by a north-south aligned brick wall (405). Layer 403, 405, 406, 407, 409, 410 and pit 412 were sealed by a layer of demolition material (401), a minimum of 0.55m deep, and the present tarmac car park surface.
- 6.8. Pit 412 pre-dates brick structure 407 and is probably of 19<sup>th</sup>-century date. Structure 407 is probably a cellar associated with one of the houses fronting onto Hargate Lane, first depicted on the 1890 OS map. Structures 409/410 and wall 405 may also relate to one of these houses, shown on the 1890 map.

#### Trench 5 (Fig. 4)

- 6.9. The natural subsoil (514) was revealed at a depth of 162.77m AOD. Two gullies and a pit cut subsoil 514. East- west aligned linear gully (513), 0.39m wide and 0.12m deep, had steep sides and a flat base and was filled with a grey silt sand (512). Northwest- southeast aligned curvilinear gully (511, Plate 5), 0.38m wide and 0.09m deep, had steep sides and a flat base and was filled with a grey sandy silt (510) containing sherds of 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>-century pottery. South of gully 511 was a ovoid pit (508, Plate 5), 1.54m long x 0.80m wide and 0.60m deep. It was filled with a brown sandy silt (507) containing sherds of 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>-century pottery and glass which was sealed with a grey sandy silt (509) containing sherds of pottery. This was cut by a later pit (506), 1.10m long x 0.75m wide and 0.28m deep, filled by a black sandy silt (505) containing sherds of 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>-century pottery, clay pipe, brick, glass, animal bone and slag. These features and subsoil 514 were sealed by a layer of brown sandy silt (502), 0.20m deep, a layer of brick demolition rubble, a stone block yard surface and hardcore or tarmac, with a combined maximum depth of 0.80m.
- 6.10. Undated gullies 511 and 513 may be associated with drainage, whilst pits 511/506 may be related to 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup>-century industrial activities.

#### Trench 6 (not illustrated)

- 6.11. The natural subsoil (604) was revealed at a depth of 162.78m AOD. No archaeology was encountered. Modern layers sealed 604, with a combined maximum depth of 1.0m.
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**Trench 7 (not illustrated)**

6.12. The natural subsoil (704) was revealed at a depth of 162.92m AOD. Seven pits (707, 711, 715, 717, 723, 725, 719) and a possible gully terminal (721) or pit cut 704 together with a probable tree bole (705) containing a sherd of 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century pottery (706). One of the pits (711) contained a sherd of pottery of 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>-century date and four of the pits contained finds of 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>-century date. Modern layers sealed 704, with a combined maximum depth of 1.20m.

**Trench 8 (not illustrated)**

6.13. The natural subsoil (804) was revealed at a depth of 162.55m AOD. No archaeology was encountered. Modern or undated layers sealed 804, with a combined maximum of 1.20m.

**Trench 9 (not illustrated)**

6.14. The natural subsoil (909/914) was revealed at a depth of 162.17m AOD. A single undated square pit (900) cut 914. All other features were of modern date. A possible undated buried soil layer of grey silty clay (908), 0.15m deep, sealed pit 900 and subsoil 909/ 914. Modern layers or undated layers sealed 908, with a combined maximum depth of 1.05m.

**Trench 10 (not excavated)**

6.15. This trench was not excavated as modern concrete foundations, revealed in contractor's demolition works, exceeded the depth of the natural subsoil as encountered in adjacent trenches.

**Trench 11 (not illustrated)**

6.16. The natural subsoil (1110) was revealed at a depth of 162.62m AOD. A single undated sub-circular pit (1100), at least 1.5m wide and 0.20m deep, with steep sides and an uneven base, cut 1110. Also cutting subsoil 1110 were two east-west aligned brick walls (1102 and 1103). Modern or undated layers sealed pit 1100 and subsoil 1110, with a combined maximum depth of 1.10m.

6.17. The large pit is of unknown purpose or date. Two brick walls 1102 and 1103 may relate to a modern building, within the corporation yard, shown on the 1960 OS map.

**Trench 12 (not illustrated)**

6.18. The natural subsoil (1206) was revealed at a depth of 164.17m AOD. Two east-west aligned brick walls (1200 and 1201) cut subsoil 1206. Wall 1200 was orientated northwest-southeast and wall 1201 abutted 1200 and was at right-angles to it. Modern or undated layers sealed walls 1200 and 1201 and subsoil 1206, with a combined maximum depth of 0.84m.

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- 6.19. Two brick walls 1200 and 1201 may relate to a modern building, within the corporation yard, shown on the 1960 OS map.

**Trench 13 (not illustrated)**

- 6.20. This trench was 11.6m long and excavation ceased at the point where extensive truncation of the natural subsoil (1305), revealed at a depth of 163.38m AOD, was encountered caused by the construction of a large modern building that had been recently demolished. No archaeological features were recorded. The natural subsoil 1305 was sealed by a number of demolition and levelling layers with a maximum combined depth of 1.6m.

**Trench 14 (not illustrated)**

- 6.21. This trench was 9.6m long and excavation ceased at the point where extensive truncation of the natural subsoil (1409), revealed at a depth of 163.00m AOD, was encountered caused by the construction of a large modern building that had been recently demolished. No archaeological features were recorded. The natural subsoil was cut by modern drainage features and sealed by a number of demolition and levelling layers with a maximum combined depth of 1.6m.

**Trench 15 (not illustrated)**

- 6.22. The natural subsoil (1503) was revealed at a depth of 163.27- 163.52m AOD. No archaeological features were recorded. Modern or undated layers sealed subsoil 1503, with a combined maximum depth of 0.97m.

**Trench 16 (not illustrated)**

- 6.23. This trench was 8.2m long and excavation ceased at the point where extensive truncation of the natural subsoil was encountered caused by the construction of a large modern building that had been recently demolished. No archaeological features were recorded. The natural subsoil was sealed by a number of demolition and levelling layers with a maximum combined depth of 1.7m.

**Trench 17 (not excavated)**

- 6.24. This trench was not excavated as modern foundations, revealed in contractor's demolition works, exceeded the depth of the natural subsoil as encountered in adjacent trenches.

**Trench 18 (not illustrated)**

- 6.25. The natural subsoil (1810) was revealed at a depth of 164.48m AOD at the southwest part of the trench. A single sub-rectangular pit (1800) cut 1810 and contained sherds of 19<sup>th</sup>- century pottery. This was cut by a north-south aligned ditch (1802), at least 2.5m wide and 0.56m deep, containing three fills the earliest of which contained brick fragments and the latest of which contained

sherds of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>- century pottery. Modern or undated layers sealed ditch 1802 and subsoil 1810, with a combined maximum depth of 0.80m.

- 6.26. Pit 1800 is of 19<sup>th</sup>- century date and ditch 1802, appears to be of post-medieval date.

### **Trench 19 (Fig. 5)**

- 6.27. The natural subsoil (1914) was revealed at a depth of 164.34m AOD. This was sealed by a brown clay sand (1913), 0.20m deep. A brick wall (1900, Plate 6) cut 1913 and formed three sides of a structure, surviving to a maximum height of 0.29m, with a stone buttress (1901, Plate 6) at the southwest corner. A second wall (1905, Plate 6) abutted 1900 and appeared to form part of the structure extending northeast beyond the edge of excavations. Two internal walls (1902 and 1904, Plate 6) were also recorded. The structure was surfaced with a blue brick floor (1903, Plate 6). To the southeast two northeast-southwest aligned brick walls (1906 and 1907), survived to a maximum height of 0.35m, and also cut layer 1913. East of wall 1907, overlying subsoil 1914 was a dark brown silt (1912) containing stone rubble (1912), 0.04m deep, sealed by a grey gravel and clay layer (1911), 0.08m deep, overlain by a layer of red sand (1910) forming a levelling layer for a blue brick yard surface (1908, not illustrated), 0.12m thick. Sealing these layers and features was a layer of crushed brick rubble and clinker (1909).
- 6.28. Brick walls and yard surfaces revealed in this trench probably relate to the corporation stables buildings shown on the 1890 OS map and on later OS maps.

### **Trench 20 (not illustrated)**

- 6.29. The natural subsoil (2019) was revealed at a depth of 164.34m AOD. At the north end of the trench was a group of five N-S aligned postholes (2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, and 2008) cut 2019. These were filled with gravely silt containing clinker, slag and brick fragments. Also cutting subsoil 2019 was the base of a brick buttress (2010) and an east-west aligned brick wall (2011). At the south end of the trench was a yard surface (2014, Plate 7) with a northwest-southeast aligned drain (2012 and 2013) forming its northwest edge, made of granite cobble stones. Surface 2014 was sealed by tarmac (2017). North of surface 2014 natural subsoil and postholes 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, and 2008 were sealed by a brown clay sand (2018), 0.20m deep. A layer of brick rubble (2017), 0.30m deep, sealed layer 2018 and tarmac 2017.
- 6.30. The group of postholes are of post-medieval date and are of uncertain function, although they may be associated with activity in the corporation stables shown on the 1890 OS map. Cobbled surface 2014 and associated drain may also be associated with the corporation stables shown on the 1890 OS map. Brick wall 2011 and buttress 2010 may relate to a modern building, within the corporation yard, shown on the 1960 OS map.

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**Trench 21 (not illustrated)**

6.31. The natural subsoil (2116) was revealed at a depth of 164.07m AOD. A single square pit (2100) containing concrete and sherds of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>-century pottery cut 2116. Also cutting subsoil 2216 was a northeast-southwest aligned brick wall (2117). Modern or undated layers, including a layer (2115) entirely composed of shell, sealed 2116 and 2117 and subsoil 2116, with a combined maximum depth of 1.52m. Brick wall 2117 may relate to a modern building, within the corporation yard, shown on the 1960 OS map.

**Trench 22 (Fig. 6)**

6.32. Trench 22 measured 16m long and was aligned NE-SW. This trench was subsequently extended (see Trench 27). The natural subsoil, a light yellow brown sand with patches of pink clay (2216) was located at the southern end of the trench at a depth of 162.00m. A single NE-SW aligned grave cut, 0.80m x 0.30m, was filled with a greyish brown sandy clay with human bone visible (2217), cut the natural 2216, and was left unexcavated.

6.33. The natural 2216 at the northern end of the trench had been extensively disturbed by a number of service trenches. A NW-SE aligned linear ditch (2214), 0.7m wide and 0.2m deep, with a 'U'-shaped profile cut 2216 here. It was filled with a dark brown sandy silt (2213). Overlying this was the remains of a similarly aligned brick wall (2203), 0.25m wide and surviving to a height of up to 0.40m, only visible in the northwest facing section of the trench section. Wall 2203 was constructed in a foundation trench (2213) containing sherds of 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>-century pottery. The alignment of the ditch 2214 and the presence of a brick wall 2203, on the same alignment, may suggest that 2214 is the foundation trench for wall 2203, which is probably the remains of graveyard enclosure wall shown on the 1890 OS map or that it formed part of an earlier ditched boundary to the graveyard.

6.34. A large pit (2211) was located to the southwest of ditch 2214. Pit 2211 was only partially excavated, but was at least 2.5m wide and 0.42m deep, and contained at least three fills (2208-2210). The lowest fill (2208) contained sherds of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>-century pottery. The upper fill (2210) was a dark grey sandy silt.

6.35. All these features were sealed by a number of demolition and levelling layers, one of which contained lengths of decayed wood, and the current tarmac surface, with a maximum combined depth of 1.2m.

**Trench 23 (Fig. 6)**

6.36. Trench 23 was located parallel to, and directly to the southeast of, Trench 22, and measured approximately 20m in length (including an extension to the northeast). The natural subsoil (2336), a light brown clayey sand was uncovered at the northeast end of the trench at a depth of 162.20m. This was sealed by a reddish brown sandy silt clay (2332). Three probable red-brown sandy clay fills (2335, 2337, and 2338) probably filling grave cuts were recorded cutting layer 2332. One of these possible graves containing fill 2335

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(2334), 1.4m long x 0.55m wide and vertical-sided, was partially excavated to ascertain the depth of the buried human remains. Excavation was stopped at a depth of 0.70m with the base not reached and no human remains were recorded at this level. Northeast of possible grave 2334 was a northwest-southeast aligned brick wall (2331), 0.25m wide and surviving to a height of 0.12m, supported by a contemporary brick buttress. This probably formed the northeast graveyard enclosure boundary wall.

- 6.37. Also cutting layer 2332 were a number of other discrete features. A possible east-west aligned linear gully (2308), 1.5m wide and 0.20m deep, containing sherds of 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>-century pottery (2309) was cut by pit 2310 containing sherds of 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>-century pottery (2311). A number of other pits (2304, 2310, and 2314) and postholes or small pits (2306, 2312, 2317, 2319, 2321, and 2325) were recorded and pits 2304, 2319 and 2325 all contained sherds of 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>-century pottery. These features may relate to activities associated with the graveyard
- 6.38. To the southwest of these discrete features was a layer of grey sandy silty clay (2333) which abutted northwest- southeast aligned brick wall, 0.25m wide and at least 0.20m high, bonded with the remains of a brick floor surface (2330). Adjacent to 2330 was a brick-built inspection chamber (2329). Wall and surface 2330 may relate to buildings to the west of the graveyard shown on the 1890 OS map and probably marks the southwest extent of the graveyard.
- 6.39. Modern layers or undated layers sealed all features (with the exception of 2329), layers 2333, 2332 and subsoil 2336 with a combined maximum depth of 0.80m.

### **Trench 24 (Fig. 7)**

- 6.40. The natural subsoil was not uncovered within the trench. At the eastern end of the trench was a light brown clayey sand (2420), encountered at a depth of 161.90m, which probably represents a graveyard soil. The fills of four possible sub-rectangular child graves (2414, 2415, 2416, and 2445, Plate 8) all aligned northeast-southwest, and apparently cut into layer 2420, were uncovered. Fill 2414 was a dark grey sandy clay with human bone visible, 0.94m x 0.30m, fill 2415 was a dark brown clay sand containing mortar and brick fragments, 0.80m x 0.30m, 2417 was a dark brown clay sand, 0.85m x 0.30m, and 2445 was a pinkish brown sandy clay. One of these possible graves containing fill 2445 (2416, Plate 9), at least 0.6m long x 0.35m wide and vertical-sided, extending beyond the edge of excavations, was partially excavated to ascertain the depth of the buried human remains. The top of a wooden coffin was recorded at 0.54m below the top of the grave cut and excavation ceased at this level. The wooden coffin was sealed by a dark grey clayey sand (2446) containing sherds of 19<sup>th</sup>-century pottery. This was overlain by fill 2445 containing sherds of 19<sup>th</sup>-century pottery and clay pipe. A dark brown clayey sand (2419) was recorded adjacent to fill 2415. However, its edges were difficult to define and it was not fully excavated.
- 6.41. To the west of the possible graves, two inter-cutting pits (2421 and 2423) were located cutting layer 2420. Pit 2423 contained three fills the upper fill (2424) of

which contained sherds of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>-century pottery, brick, clay pipe and glass. Pit 2421 contained a single fill (2422) which contained sherds of 18<sup>th</sup>-century pottery. The full extent of these pits is unknown as they are both truncated by a later wall (2413).

- 6.42. A brick wall (2413, Plate 11), aligned NW-SE, appears to form the graveyard enclosure boundary wall, and is contemporary with an adjoining brick surface (2412) and parallel wall (2410). Brick surface 2412 was overlain by another brick surface (2411, Plate 11), which was most likely a replacement for 2412. Both these surfaces appear to form the surface of an alley between the graveyard and the chapel, as depicted on the 1890 OS map.
- 6.43. Brick wall 2410 (Plate 11) formed the external northeast wall of a rectangular building (corresponding with the chapel depicted on the 1890 OS map, Fig. 3) with another brick wall forming the front external wall and part of the external southwest wall (2401, Plates 10 and 13). Both walls were on average 0.5 m thick, up to 0.88m high and up to 11 courses of brickwork remained.
- 6.44. Four northeast-southwest aligned brick walls (2405-2408) and one northwest southeast aligned wall (2409) represented the internal walls of the chapel, on average 0.25 m thick and two bricks wide. A possible levelling layer (2434) for a floor was located between walls 2401 and 2405. The remains of two mortar surfaces (2428 and 2404) were uncovered abutting walls 2409 and 2408, and in between walls 2401 and 2405.
- 6.45. Two brick walls (2403 and 2400) and a tiled floor (2402, Plates 10, 12 and 13) were located at the western end of wall 2401, and form a small rectangular room or porch abutting external front chapel wall 2401 (Plate 13), most likely representing an entrance vestibule. A circular cut, 0.2m in diameter was uncovered within the tiled floor 2402.
- 6.46. A probable disturbed natural layer (2429) was located between walls 2410 and 2407. A pit (2426) of uncertain size and shape was partially uncovered cutting into layer 2429. Due to its location at the edge of the trench it is impossible to say whether wall 2410 truncated this pit, or if the pit post-dated the wall.
- 6.47. At the western end of the trench was a disturbed natural layer (2449) cut by wall 2400. A pit (2436, Plate 13) cut layer 2449 and was cut by wall 2400. To the southeast of pit 2436, another pit (2438) containing sherds of 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>-century pottery (2439) cut layer 2449 and had been cut by wall 2401. A possible posthole or small pit (2443) was visible possibly cutting pit 2438, however their exact relationship is unknown. Both these pits were cut into layer 2449.
- 6.48. A brick wall (2442), at least 0.7m in length and 0.10m high, cut layer 2449, However, as only part of 2442 was visible at the southwest edge of the trench its form and function is unknown.
- 6.49. All of these features were sealed by various layers of demolition rubble and levelling layers (including 2430-2433 and 2450-2460), 0.10m- 1.0m thick.

- 6.50. The earliest features recorded in this trench may be probable pre-chapel pit features 2421, 2423, 2436 and 2438. Wall 2413, appears to form the western graveyard enclosure boundary wall, with four possible graves situated to the east, within the graveyard. Wall 2413 is contemporary with adjoining brick surfaces 2412 and 2411 and the northeast chapel wall 2410. Both surfaces 2412 and 2411 appear to form the surface of an alley between the graveyard and the chapel wall, as depicted on the 1890 OS map. The front and part of the southwest wall 2401 and the northeast wall 2410 of the chapel were exposed, suggesting the building was 11m wide with a small rectangular room or porch with a tile floor abutting the external front chapel wall.

### **Trench 25 (Fig. 8)**

- 6.51. The natural subsoil (2535) was revealed at a depth of 162.01-162.16m AOD. Two northwest-southeast/ northeast-southwest aligned brick cellar structures (2526 and 2527, Plate 14), cut 2535 with remains of a brick vault surviving in both cellars. Cellar structure 2526, 2.3m wide and with a maximum height of 1.83m, had a brick floor and a doorway opening, visible in the southeast cellar wall. Northeast of cellar 2526 was a similarly aligned brick structure (2525, Plate 14) with a brick floor. Cellars 2527, 2526 and structure 2525 are probably associated with houses formerly fronting onto Bratt Street, first depicted on the 1890 OS map.
- 6.52. Northeast of structure 2525 were several shallow irregular pits (2508, 2510, 2512, 2517, 2520, 2522, 2524) and possible pit fills (2513 and 2518). Some of these pits contained sherds of mainly 19<sup>th</sup>-century pottery. These pits probably relate to backyard or back garden activities in the yards or gardens behind houses depicted on the 1890 OS map.
- 6.53. All of these features were sealed by various layers of demolition rubble and levelling layers, 0.13m- 0.80m thick.

### **Trench 26 (Fig. 8)**

- 6.54. The natural subsoil (2611) was revealed at a depth of 161.78m AOD. At the south end of the trench was an east-west aligned linear ditch, 1.70m wide and 0.15m deep, which cut 2611. To the north of this also cutting subsoil 2611 were two truncated northwest-southeast aligned brick walls (2609 and 2610). Wall 2610 was 0.75m wide and two courses survived. It was bonded with another brick wall, 0.20m wide, at right angles to it and extending southwest beyond the trench. Wall 2609 was located north of 2610, and on a similar alignment, 0.60m wide and four courses high, abutting a blue brick floor (2607), which was located between walls 2609 and 2610, possibly forming a corridor floor. These features may relate to structures which appears on OS maps between 1890 and 1977, apparently associated with a corn mill and later works buildings.
- 6.55. North of wall 2609 were two brick walls (2605 and 2606) at right-angles apparently part of the same structure. Wall 2606 was 0.22m wide and wall 2605 was 0.12m wide and only one course was visible. These walls may relate

to terraced houses which appear on OS maps between 1890 and 1960, fronting onto Sandwell Road.

- 6.56. Modern layers, one of which (2601) contained sherds of 19<sup>th</sup>-century pottery or undated layers sealed all features and subsoil 2611 with a combined maximum depth of 0.90-1.0m.

### **Trench 27 (Fig. 6)**

- 6.57. Trench 27 was located directly to the northeast of Trench 22, and measured approximately 5m in length. The natural subsoil (2707), a light brown clayey sand was uncovered at a depth of 162.30m. A single irregular probable tree bole, 0.16m deep, was recorded.

### **Trench 28 (Fig. 9)**

- 6.58. Trench 28 was located to the southeast of Trench 23, and measured approximately 8m in length. The natural subsoil was not uncovered and the earliest features revealed were at a depth of 163.08-163.25m. Two brick walls, 0.25m wide (2803 and 2804, Plate 15), were aligned northeast-southwest/northwest-southeast, at right-angles, and apparently bonded together to form a continuous wall. Walls 2803 and 2804 appear to have formed the southeast corner of graveyard enclosure wall, as shown on 1890 OS map. Walls 2803 and 2804 abutted a dark brown sandy clay silt (2809) containing brick fragments. East of wall 2804 was a dark brown sandy silt (2810) cut by a concrete post base (2805) which abutted wall 2804. Another brick wall (2800, Plate 15), orientated parallel with 2800, formed a passageway which was surfaced with blue brick (2802, Plate 15). This passageway is shown on the 1890 OS map, between the graveyard and court-type housing behind, to the southwest. At the southwest side of surface 2809, abutting wall 2808, and on an identical alignment, was the terminus of a drain formed by concave blue bricks (2801). These features and contexts were sealed by a brown silty sand and rubble (2808), 0.40m deep, sealed by modern tarmac.

### **Watching brief area (Fig. 7)**

- 6.59. A watching brief was carried out in a 4m x 4m area during the removal of a modern concrete tank south of Trench 24. Internal brick wall 2407 (Fig. 7) continued southeast for 1m, where it was cut by the pit for the concrete tank. No other archaeological features were visible.

## **7. THE FINDS**

### **7.1. Pottery** by Emma Collins

The assemblage consisted of 373 sherds (Appendix 2) and was examined macroscopically. The majority of sherds were quite small and abraded. The earliest pottery present was yellow ware dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> century from context 112, but this was residual in a later context. The latest pottery was a sherd

thought to date to the 1930s-1940s, from context 101. The assemblage was typical of a later post-medieval site and contained two sherds of interest. One a small sherd of stoneware (from context 505) was imported from the Westerwald (Gaimster 1997, 251-3) and the other a waster plate, possibly originally a blue transfer print from 101.

Context	Spot date
101	19th-20th
102	18th
106	18th
112	19th
201	19th
204	19th
308	19th
309	19th-20th
505	19th
507	19th-20th
510	19th
706	17th-18th
712	17th-18th
714	19th-20th
716	19th
718	19th-20th
1801	19th
1803	19th-20th
2101	19th-20th
2208	19th-20th
2213	M18th-E19th

Context	Spot date
2305	M18th-E19th
2309	17th-18th
2311	17th-18th?
2319	19th-20th
2326	19th
2422	18th
2424	19th-20th
2439	17th-18th
2445	19th
2446	19th
2502	19th
2503	19th
2504	L18th-E19th
2506	18th-20th
2511	19th
2513	19th
2515	18th-19th
2519	17th-19th
2521	19th
2523	19th
2601	E19th

Table 1: pottery spot dates

## 7.2. **Tile and brick** by Erica Macey-Bracken

7.2.1 Thirty-four fragments of brick and one complete brick were recovered from the site, along with 14 fragments of tile (Appendix 3). No complete tiles were recovered, and all of the fragments had a similar thickness of around 14mm. No diagnostic features were noted on any of the tiles, although one fragment of glazed tile of probable late 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century date was recovered from Trench Five (505).

7.2.2 The complete brick was recovered from the well (310) in Trench Three. This brick had suffered quite extensive heat damage on one side, and several deep cracks could be seen across that surface. The brick had been made in a mould, was unfrogged, and measured 9<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" x 4" x 3". The fabric of the brick had originally been red, but the subsequent heat damage had caused the exposed side to turn purple-brown. Another small brick fragment (2439) showed heat

damage, and had been damaged much more extensively than the complete brick, with the complete surface having become completely vitrified.

7.2.3 Several of the other brick fragments were of a slightly lesser thickness than the complete brick, at around 2½" to 2¾" (2439, 2444), and one brick measured 1 9/16" (507) but it was not possible to measure for the length and width of the bricks that these fragments had formed. Most of the fragments were red brick, with the exception of four fragments of blue engineering brick (505 x 2, 901 x 2), and three very crude fragments of dark brown, sandy brick (309).

### 7.3. **Clay pipe** by Erica Macey-Bracken

7.3.1 A total of ninety-nine clay pipe fragments were recovered from the site. Most of these were stem fragments (Appendix 4). One of the bowl fragments was dated to approximately 1840 – 1860 (Ayto, 1999, 7), but the other bowl fragment recovered was very fragmentary and not datable. Two of the stems recovered from the site were also datable; this included an early 19<sup>th</sup> century fragment with a spur stamped with the initials L D (101) and a stem with a forward-protruding spur which possibly dated to 1660 – 1680 (Ayto, 1999, 7).

7.3.2 Three mouthpieces were also recovered from Trench 1 (101). Two of these were glazed with a light green glaze; a common practice which helped prevent the pipe from sticking to the smoker's lips.

### 7.4. **Glass** by Erica Macey-Bracken

7.4.1 Fifty-nine fragments of glass were recovered from the site (Appendix 5). These included bottle and window glass and two pieces from drinking glasses. The bottle glass was very fragmentary, with the exception of one complete square green glass bottle (2208). Most of the bottle glass was clear, although two pieces of green glass (2208, 2311), some dark green wine bottle glass (101 x 7, 505 x 1, 2424 x 1) and two sherds of brown bottle glass (2208) were also noted. One bottle base (2208) was embossed with the words J L & Co and the serial number ILH796, and one body fragment from a square green glass bottle (2311) was embossed with the letters UCE, which may have formed part of the word SAUCE. One clear glass bottle neck had also survived, with rusted-on cap intact (2208).

7.4.2 The window glass was all clear, and of very modern appearance. The assemblage included four pieces of modern safety glass (101), with the remainder of the assemblage being composed of clear window glass.

7.4.3 Two pieces of drinking glass were also recovered. The largest piece was the base and stem of a clear glass drinking glass (309). The base and stem were plain and undecorated. A much more decorative piece of base from a drinking glass was also recovered (2504). This piece was ribbed from the underside in a circular pattern.

7.4.4 Two small pieces of glass slag were also recovered from the site (505 and 716).

#### 7.5. **Iron objects** by Erica Macey-Bracken

The most numerous iron finds from the site were twenty-one nails, which were distributed across the site (Appendix 6). Other iron finds from the site included a coat hook (101), a fragment of pipe (101), two pieces of iron sheet, one of which may have been from a lock plate (101), an iron rod (2601) and three amorphous lumps of iron covered in corrosion products (112 x 1, 505 x 2).

#### 7.6. **Copper alloy** by Erica Macey-Bracken

Three copper alloy items were recovered. The smallest item was a scrap of copper alloy sheet (716) from Trench Seven. This trench also produced a near complete pin with a wire-wound head. A wall mounting or bracket was also recovered from the site (2513). This item was partly covered in corrosion products, but a screw or nail hole for mounting the item was visible.

#### 7.7. **Coin** by Erica Macey-Bracken

A George V penny was recovered from Trench 24 (2412). This item was partially covered in corrosion products, but part of the monarch's head was visible, allowing the identification.

#### 7.8. **Slag** by Erica Macey-Bracken

Forty-one pieces of slag were recovered from the site (Appendix 7)

#### 7.9. **Animal bone** by Erica Macey-Bracken

A total of 359g of animal bone was recovered from the site (Appendix 8). Much of this bone came from a canine burial (2503). Small quantities of other animal bone were recovered across the site.

#### 7.10. **Shell** by Erica Macey-Bracken

Four pieces of oyster shell (309 x 2, 505 x 1, 709 x 1) and a piece of snail shell (101) were recovered. These showed no signs of having been used for shell-working, and are more likely to have been food waste.

### 8. **DISCUSSION**

- 8.1. Evidence of possible 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century activity on the site is suggested by the presence of residual finds in later contexts. Although it is possible that some or all of these finds are derived from material imported into the site from elsewhere.
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- 8.2. Several features possibly dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> century were present at the central part of the site; pit 712 (Trench 7), ditch 2308 (Trench 23), possible pits 2421 and 2439 (Trench 24). Pit 712 and ditch 2308 could be associated with agricultural or perhaps isolated settlement activity on the site at this time, although it is possible that the single sherds of pottery from these features may be residual. Possible pits 2421 and 2439 may relate to temporary chapel buildings on the site of the later early 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick Providence Chapel. No evidence of any structures pre-dating the 19<sup>th</sup> century was recorded. Evidence of 18<sup>th</sup>-century buildings, the presence of which was suggested by the highly schematic 1775 Yates's Map of Staffordshire and the windmill suggested by Wood's 1837 Plan of West Bromwich was not located during the evaluation.
- 8.3 The evidence from Trench 24 demonstrates that the foundations and lower courses of the external and internal brick walls of the early 19<sup>th</sup>- Providence Chapel survive in a reasonably good state of preservation, with exception of a 4m x 4m area, recorded during the watching brief, where a modern concrete tank had been constructed. A tiled floor surface survives within a front porch abutting the northwest front of the chapel and evidence of other possible floors survives as spreads of mortar. The chapel would appear to be 11m wide, which correlates with the cartographic evidence (Fig. 3) showing a structure approximately 10m wide and 17m long, with a northwest front with two external projections, which are probably entrance porches. There is also some evidence of pre-chapel activity in the form of possible pits, which may be associated with earlier temporary chapel buildings or be related to the construction of the chapel.
- 8.4 A brick alleyway surface between the chapel and the probable southwest graveyard enclosure wall survives in a fair condition. The probable graveyard wall was also recorded in Trenches 22, 23, 24 and 28, together with one grave cut, containing remains of a coffin, and at least seven other probable grave cuts within the graveyard. The probable southwest corner of the graveyard was defined by a brick wall in Trench 28 and beyond the graveyard wall, to the southwest, was a brick surfaced back alley, as shown on the 1890 OS map, at the rear of a row of court-type houses. The graveyard appears to conform exactly to the area shown on the 1890 OS map (Fig. 3), where it is depicted as measuring 9m x 46m. It is difficult to estimate the total number of individuals interred, given the lack of documentary records and the difficulty of extrapolating the total number of individuals from the remains encountered in the evaluation trenches, but 100 is probably the minimum estimate. The graveyard could have been in use for as long as the chapel, which was built in 1810 (Greenslade 1976, 61) and could have been in use until, perhaps, the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century. Certainly the chapel was used by the Baptists until 1853, after this time it was probably used by the Methodist Reform Union until at least 1908. An article in the West Bromwich Mail on the subject of Baptists in West Bromwich by John Richards states "for many years it (the Providence Chapel) stood empty until in the 1950s the Corporation took possession and demolished the building" (West Bromwich Mail, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1971, p 6).
- 8.5 Truncated brick walls were revealed in Trench 26 which may relate to buildings which appear on OS maps. These was a row of terraced houses fronting onto Sandwell Road, depicted on OS maps between 1890 and 1960, adjacent to the
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Providence Chapel, and what may be an industrial building shown on the 1890 OS map. The building appears to be within the same yard as the corn mill and is probably associated with it.

- 8.6 Features recorded in Trenches 2, 3 and 4 are associated with houses and gardens fronting onto Hargate Lane, first depicted on the 1890 OS map and demolished after 1960.
- 8.7 Brick walls exposed in Trench 1 are associated with terraced houses fronting onto Mill Street first depicted on the 1904 OS map. Also brick plinth bases recorded in this trench may be associated with a large rectangular building, probably with an industrial function first depicted on the 1904 OS map. Both the houses and rectangular building appear to have been demolished between 1960 and 1977, on the basis of the OS map evidence.
- 8.8 Brick walls and yard surfaces recorded in Trenches 19 and 20 probably relate to the corporation stables shown on the 1890 OS map and on later OS maps.
- 8.9 Evidence of brick walls, cellars and shallow pits revealed in Trench 25 are associated with houses and rear gardens, formerly fronting onto Bratt Street, first depicted on the 1890 OS map.
- 8.10 Two undated gullies in Trench 5 may be associated with drainage. Other undated features recorded are of unknown function and include a single square pit in Trench 9, an undated sub-circular pit in Trench 11 and five N-S aligned postholes in Trench 20 which may be of post-medieval date.

## **9. CONCLUSION AND RECCOMENDATIONS**

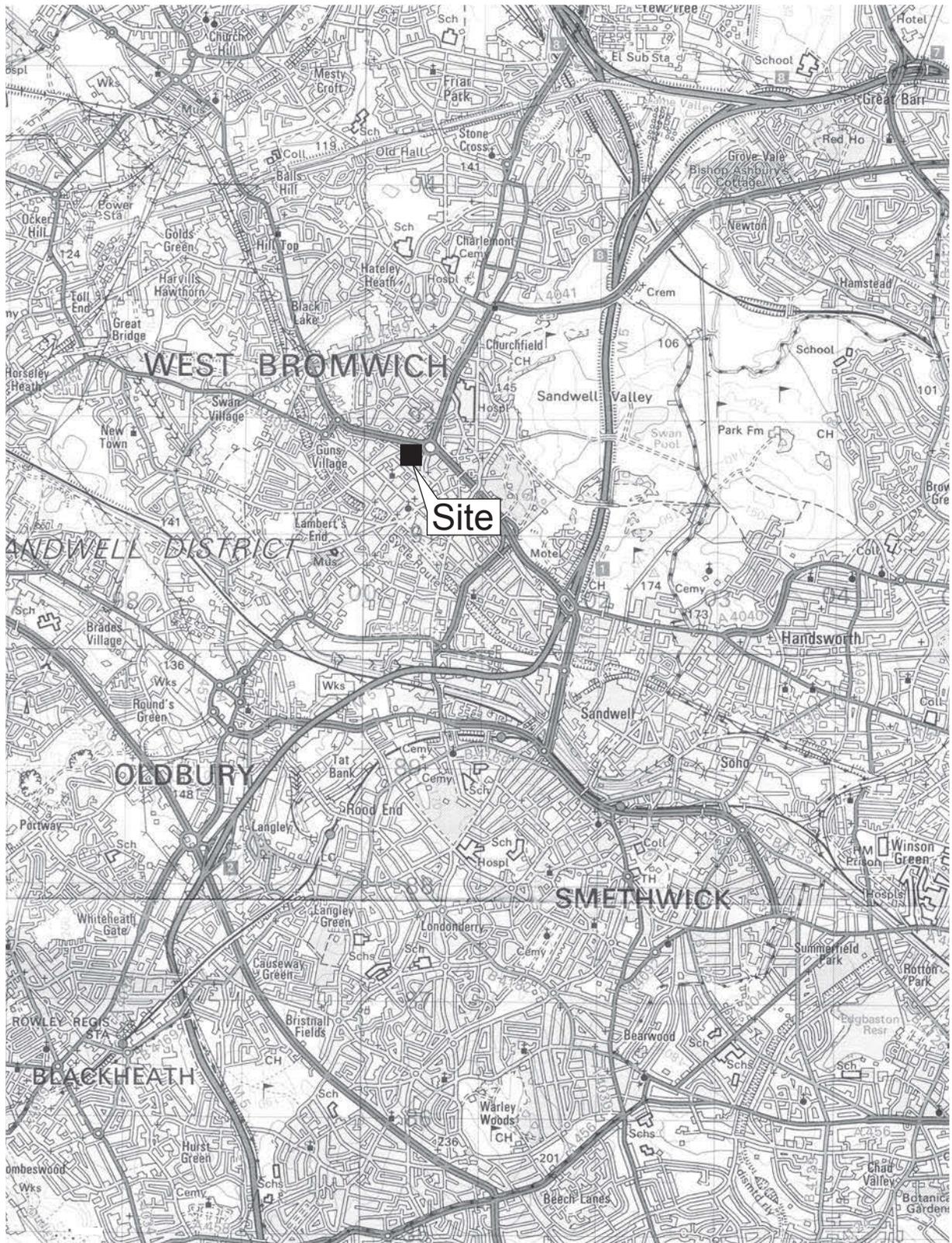
- 9.1. These recommendations are subject to review and the final decision on mitigation will be made by the Borough Archaeologist, Sandwell MBC.
- 9.2. It is apparent that the main area of archaeological significance is the area containing the remains of the early 19<sup>th</sup>-century chapel and associated walled graveyard. These remains are located just beyond the proposed initial development phase involving the construction of an access road and BT buildings. If the remains of the chapel cannot be preserved in-situ, then a programme of archaeological excavation and recording should be carried out prior to any subsequent development groundworks. Similarly if the graveyard and human burials cannot be preserved in-situ then the human remains would need to be excavated, recorded and removed for analysis and reburial following procedures contained within English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 2005) and following the legislation in the Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981. Archaeological excavation and analysis of the human remains could provide valuable information concerning the health of the local population and funerary practices. Archaeological excavation would be followed by post-excavation assessment and by full analysis and publication of the site in a relevant journal. This would also be required to adhere to Sandwell UDP policy (Sandwell SMBC 2004, C11).

## **10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The project was commissioned by Halcrow Group Ltd on behalf of Stoford Developments Ltd. Thanks are due to Graham Eyre-Morgan, the Borough Archaeologist who monitored the project on behalf of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council. Thanks are also due to Simon Griffin (Archaeological Consultant, Halcrow) and Matt Burgin (Director, Stofords) for their help and assistance throughout the project. Work on site was undertaken by Elisabeth Bishop, Bob Burrows, Emily Lancaster, Pete Spencer and Dave McNicol (Supervisor). Laurence Jones and Dave McNicol produced this report. The report was illustrated by Nigel Dodds and edited by Laurence Jones, who also managed the project for Birmingham Archaeology.

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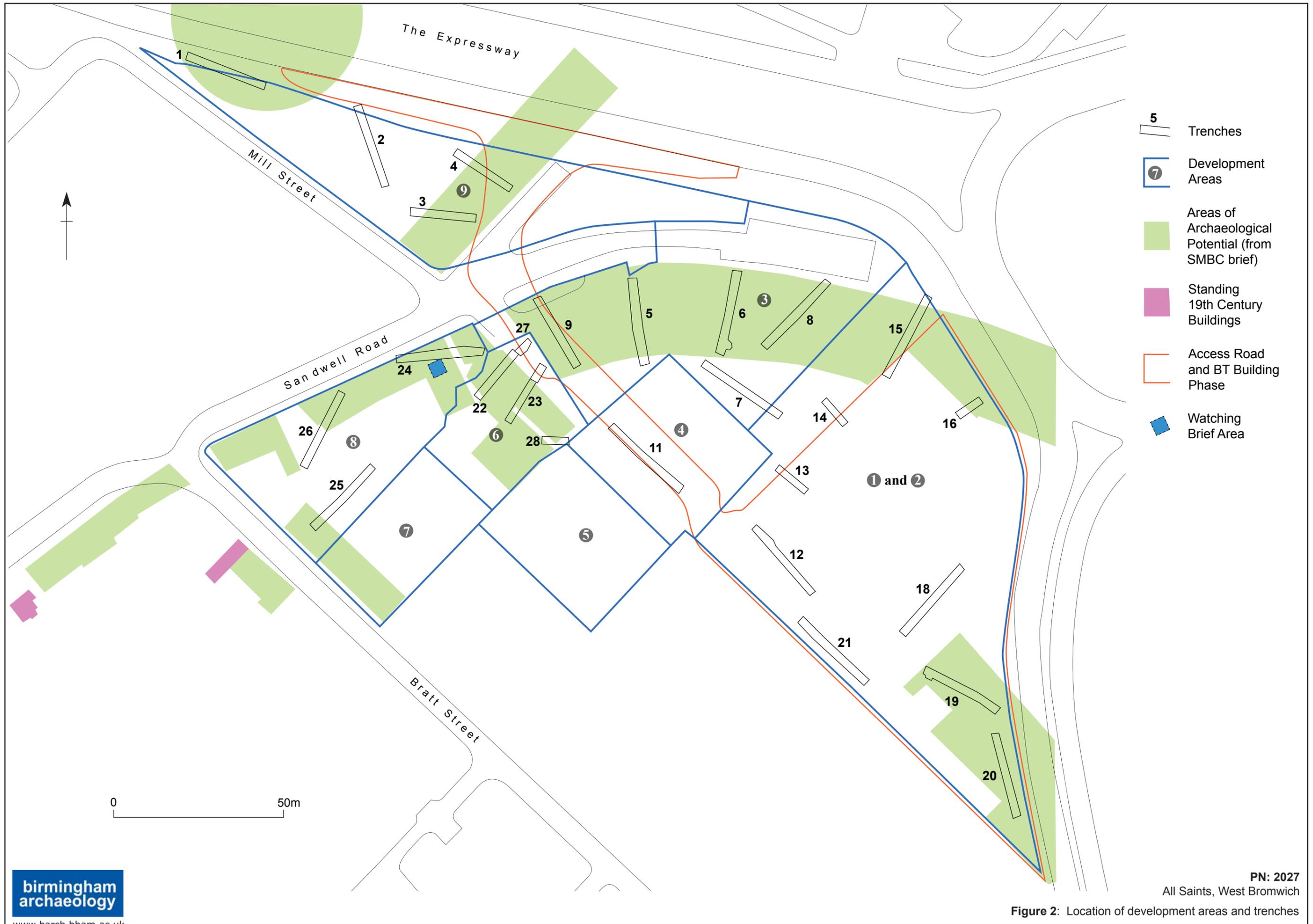


Figure 2: Location of development areas and trenches

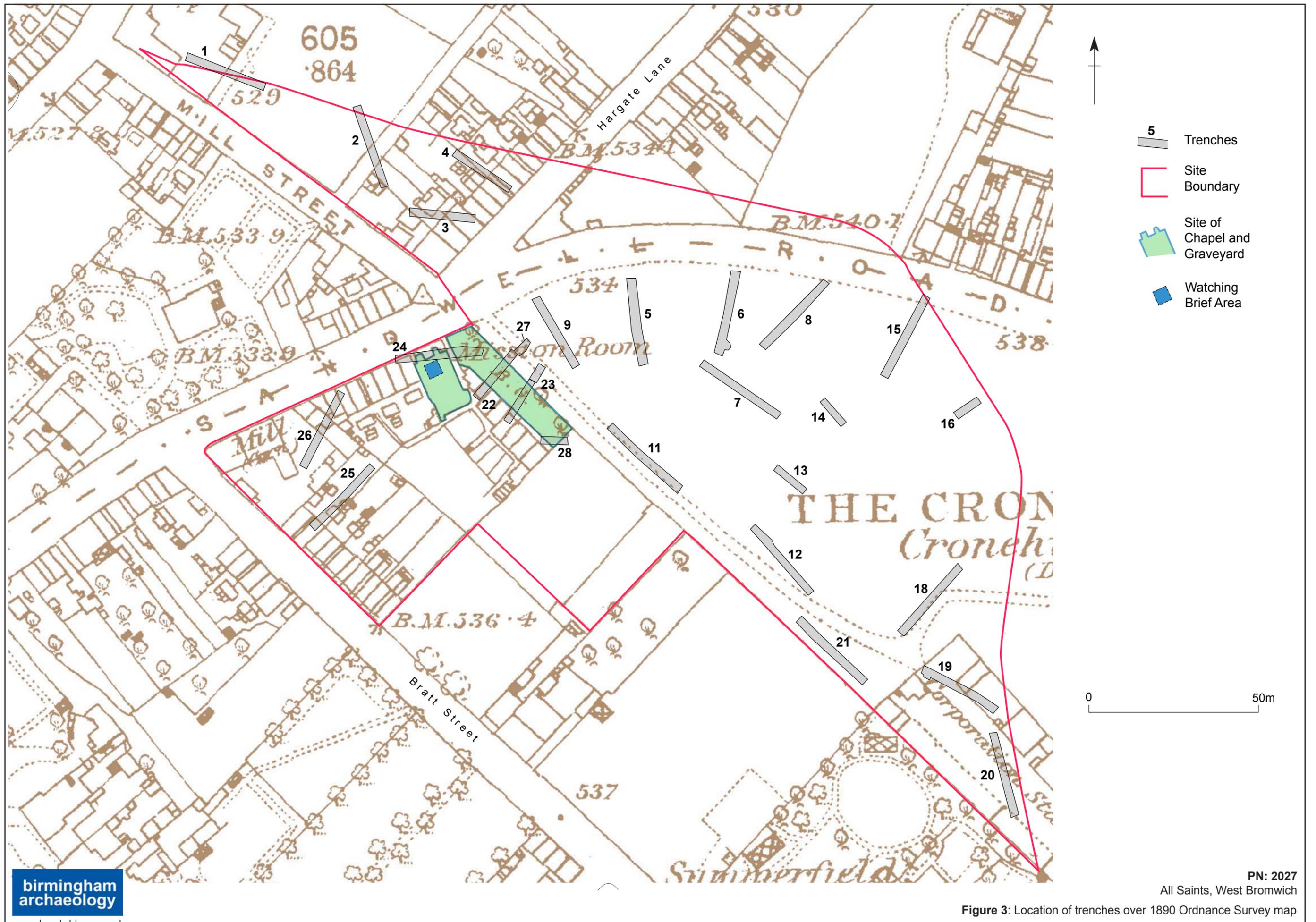
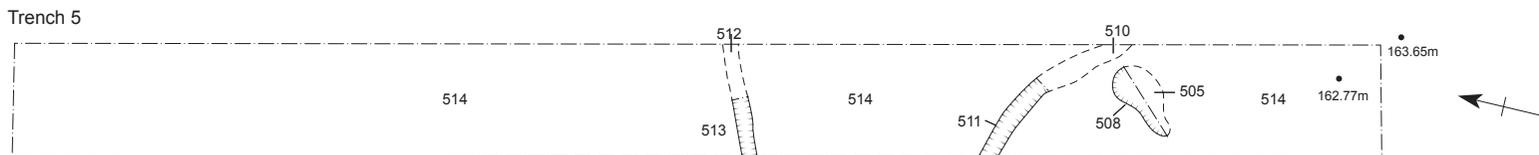
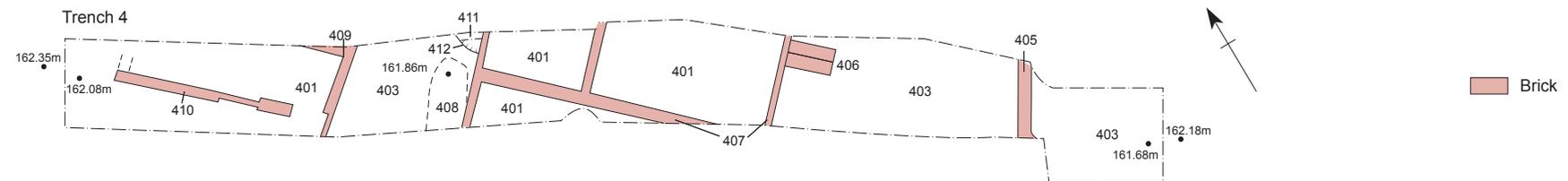
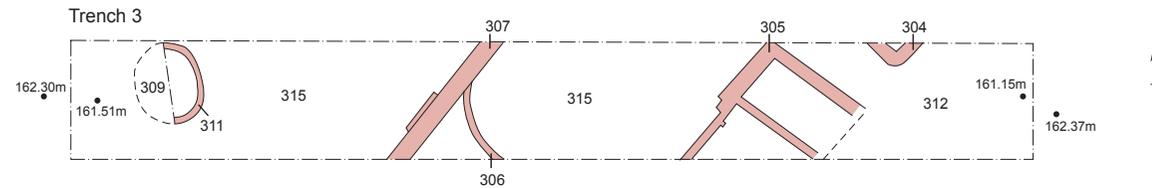
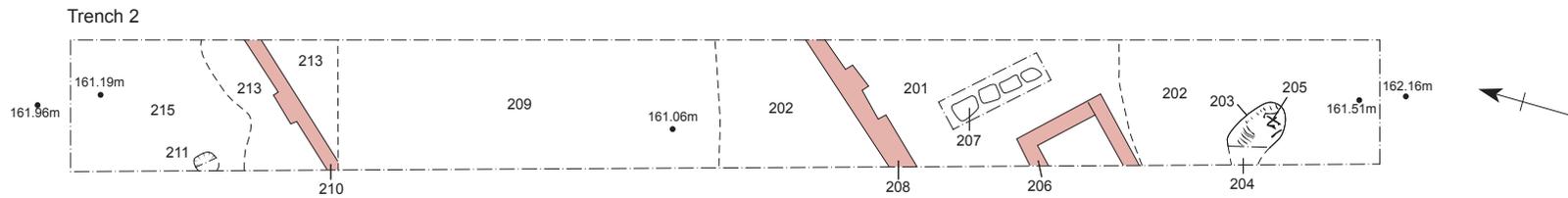
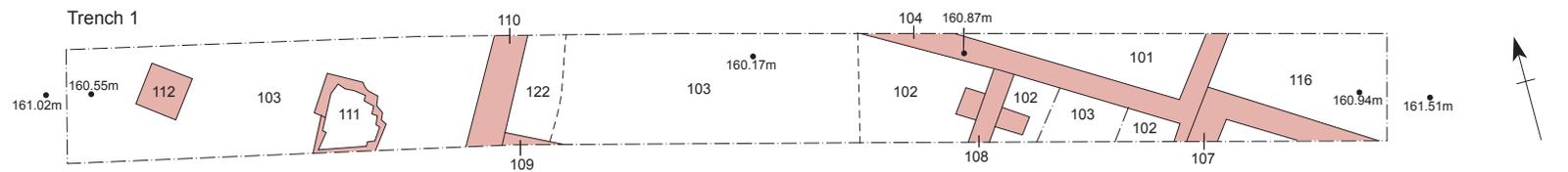
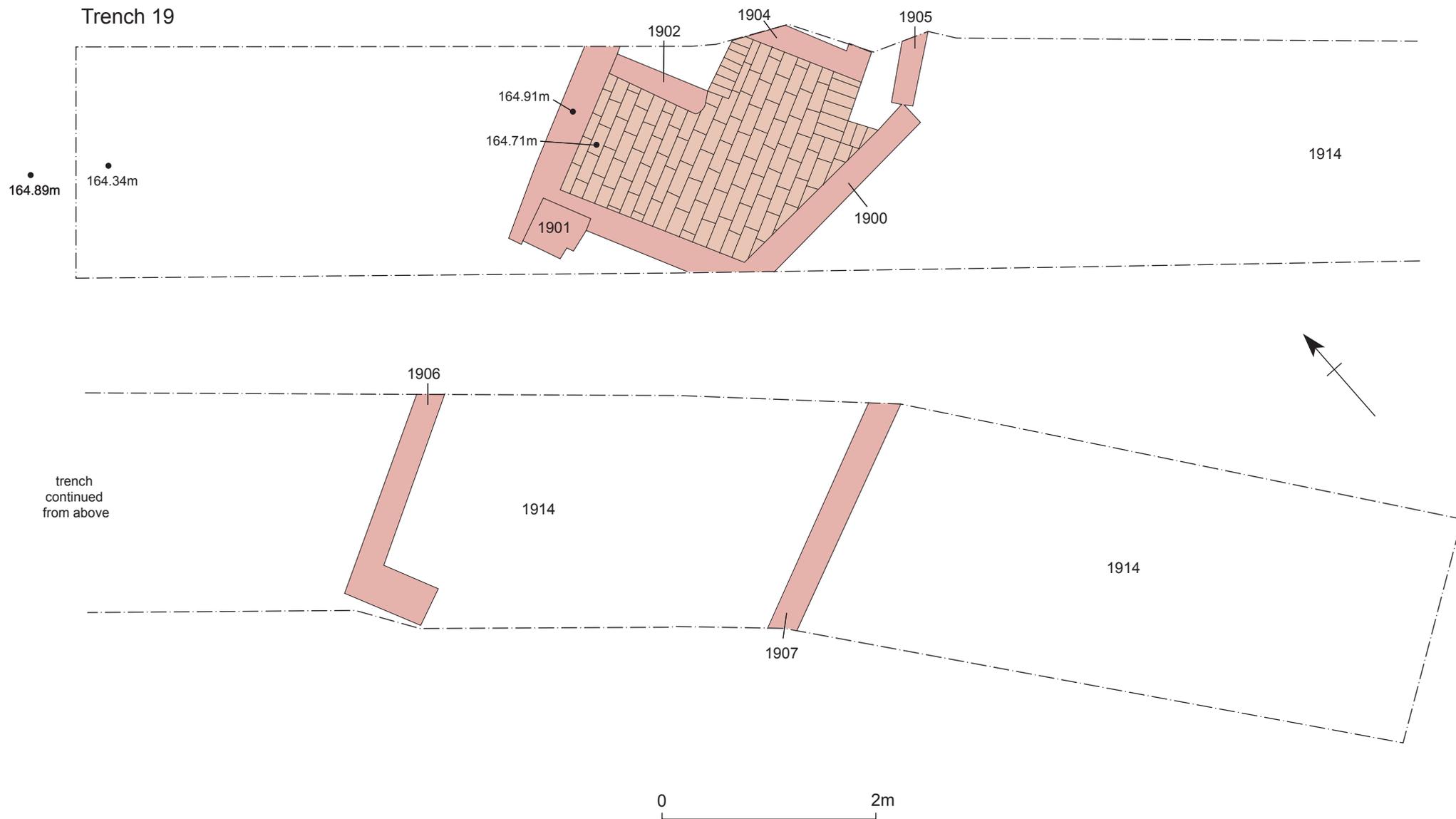
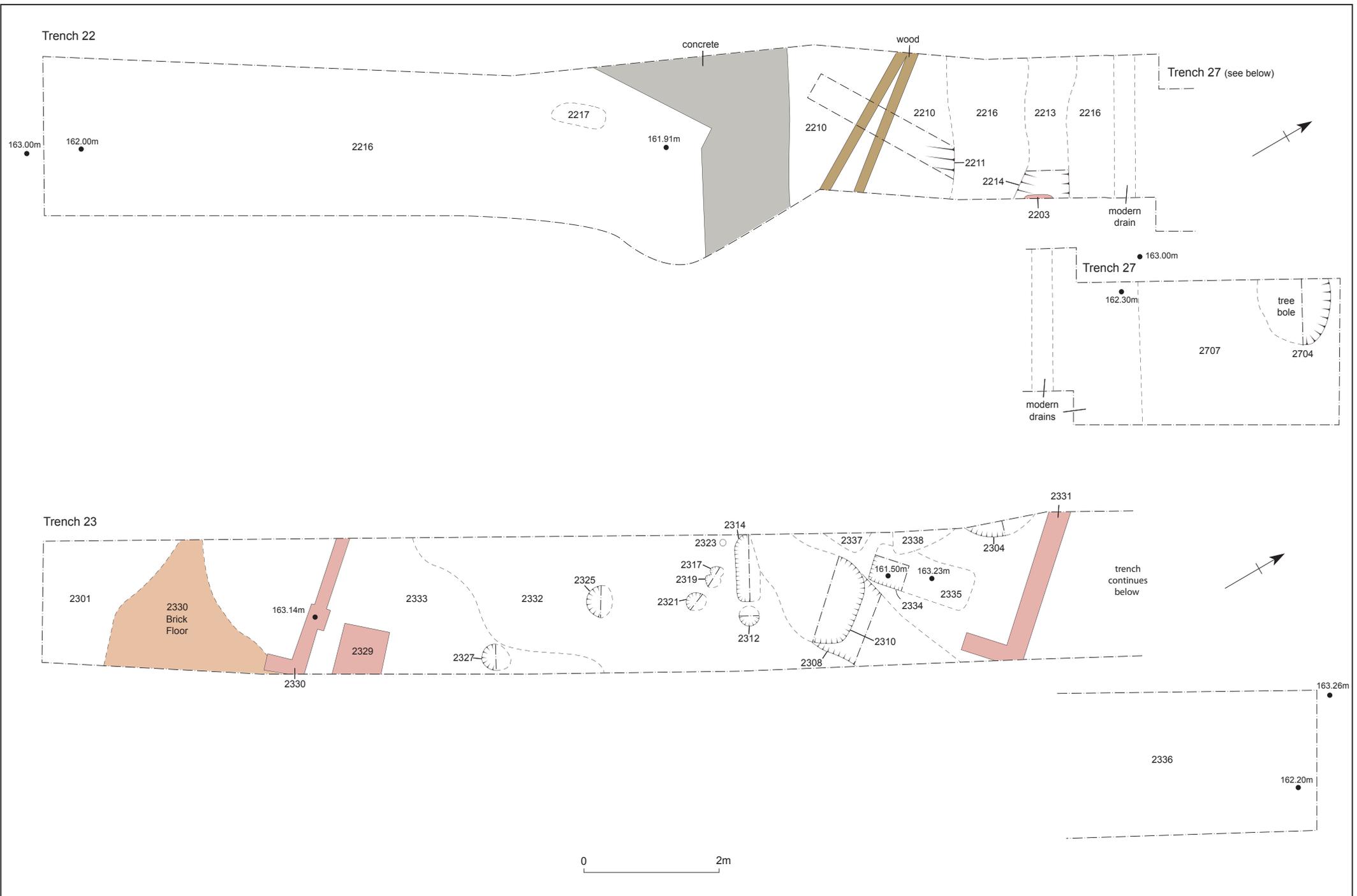


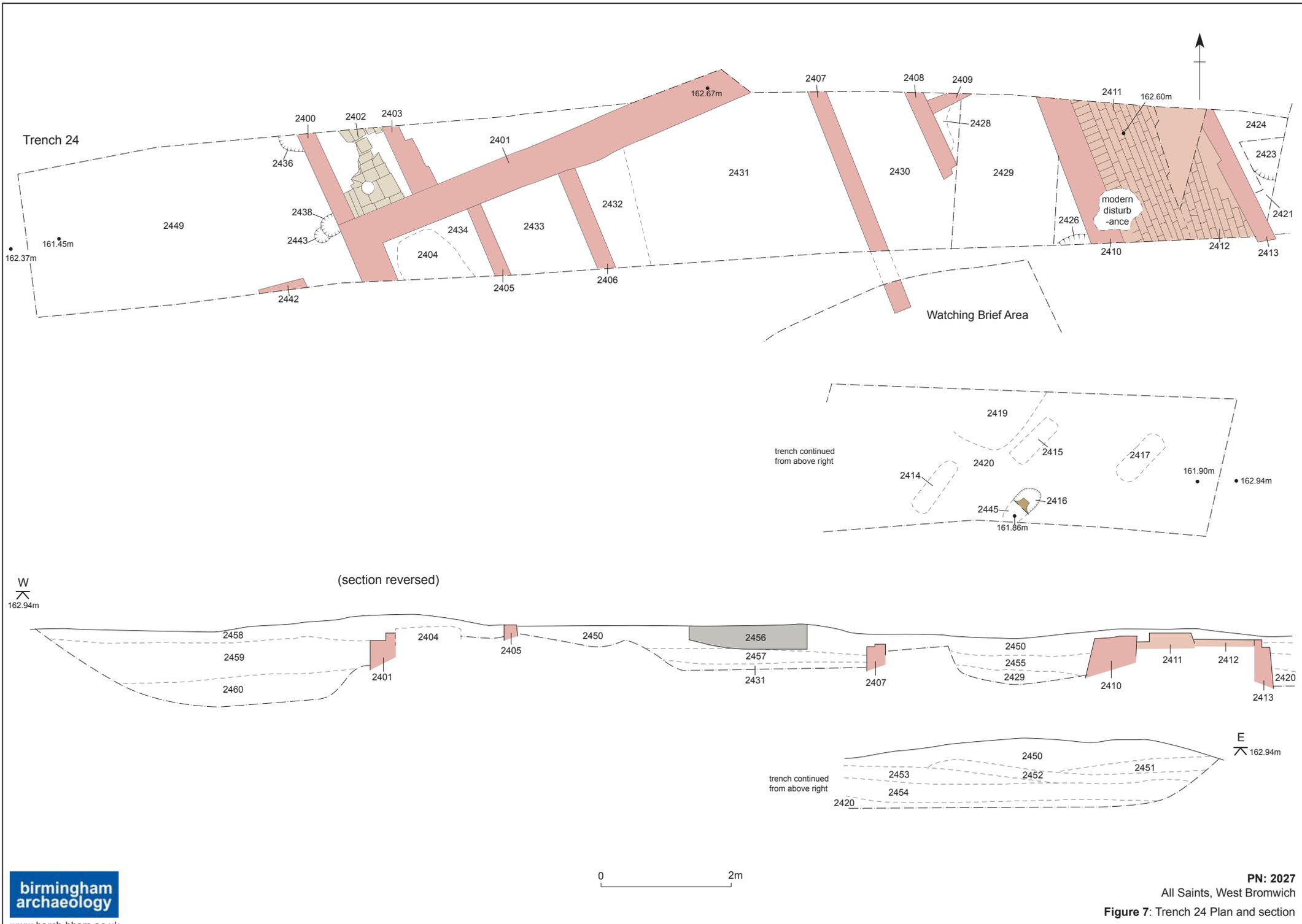
Figure 3: Location of trenches over 1890 Ordnance Survey map



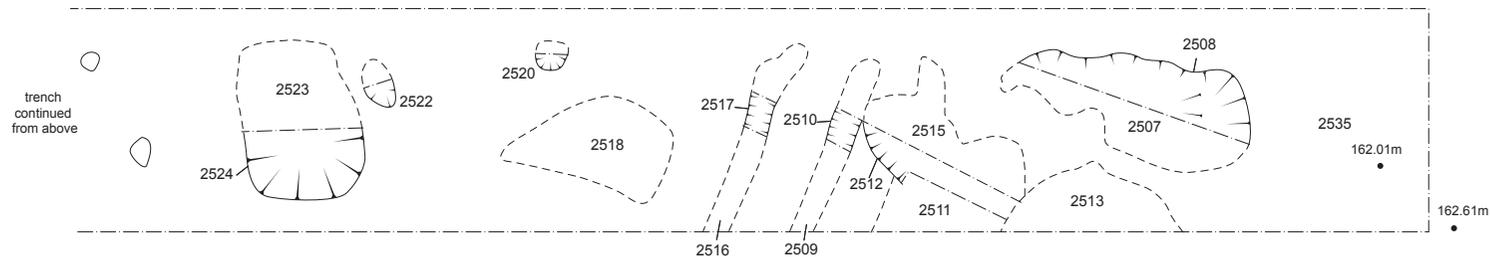
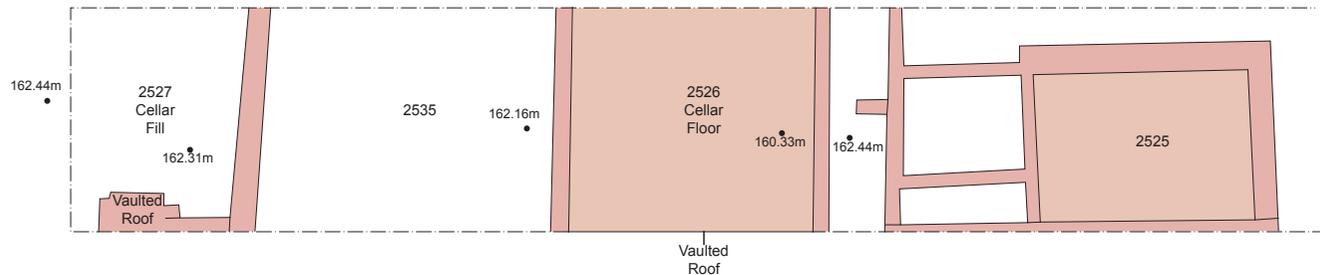
Trench 19



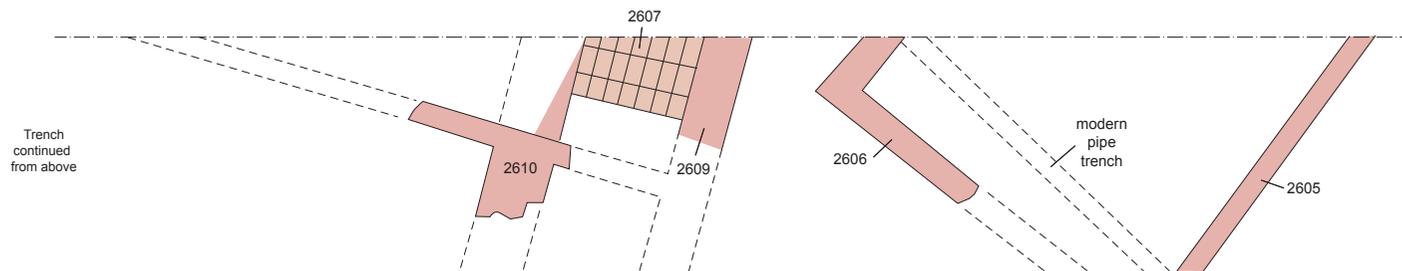
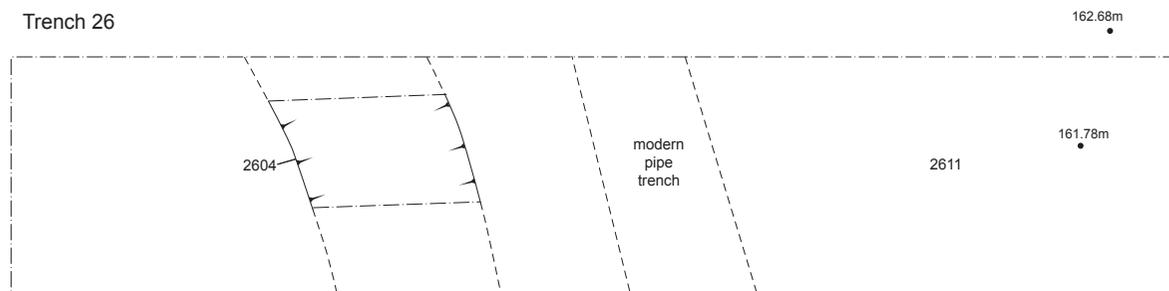


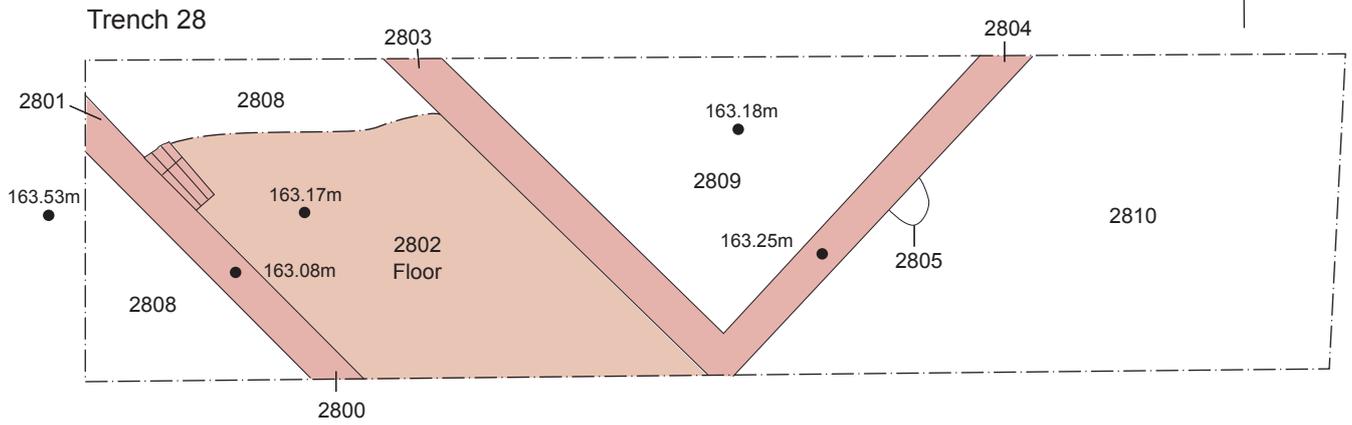


Trench 25



Trench 26



















## **Appendix 1 – WSI**

## **Stoford Developments Ltd**

All Saints, West Bromwich  
Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation  
December 2009 (revised January 2010)

## **Halcrow Group Limited**

## **Stoford Developments Ltd**

All Saints, West Bromwich

Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation

December 2009 (revised January 2010)

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# Stoford Developments Ltd

All Saints, West Bromwich

## Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation

### Contents Amendment Record

This report has been issued and amended as follows:

Issue	Revision	Description	Date	Signed
		Draft for issue to client for comment	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2009	SG
		Issue to Sandwell Borough Council	27 <sup>th</sup> March 2009	SG
		Revised draft to client	21 <sup>st</sup> December 2009	J. Goad
		Updated Planning background	8 <sup>th</sup> January 2010	S Griffin

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

Halcrow Group Ltd (Halcrow) has been commissioned by Stoford Developments Limited to provide archaeological consultancy with regard to a development at a site in All Saints, West Bromwich, hereafter referred to as 'the site'. The proposed development comprises phases of demolition and subsequent construction of a new office development.

The site was subject to an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) carried out as part of a wider Environmental Statement in 2007. This study revealed that there is potential for archaeological deposits, including a possible burial ground within the site.

As a result the Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Archaeologist has requested that a programme of archaeological evaluation is required ahead of development. A brief has been prepared (Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council August 2008). It is proposed that these investigations form part of a staged programme of archaeological recording at the site. A programme of demolition is scheduled for January to April 2010. Archaeological evaluation will be targeted to areas of the site as they become available following demolition. At present the first phase of evaluation is programmed to commence during February 2010.

In accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Guidance and Standards (2008)*, this Written Scheme of Investigation sets out the methodology and provides a reasoned justification for the proposed archaeological investigations.

## 1.2 Site Location (adapted from brief)

The site is located on the edge of West Bromwich town centre (approximate centre point SP 004 916), at the junction of the A41 Expressway and Cronehills Linkway, which form the northern and eastern boundaries respectively. The site extends to the south to include land on both sides of Bratt Street at its junction with Sandwell Road and the existing car park adjacent to Highfields. The proposed site is approximately 3.38 hectares in size comprising the Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council depot and its associated carpark and buildings, public carparks in Mill Street and Sandwell Road, together with three private dwellings.

## 1.3 Planning Background (adapted from brief)

The proposed development is a collaborative project being undertaken by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, Bt Liberata and Stoford Developments Ltd.

A Reserved matters planning application has been granted by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council for the demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment for mixed-use

comprising shops (A1), offices (B1), financial and professional services (A4), hot food takeaways (A5), residential units (C3), vehicular access, associated on and off site highway works, new public domain, car parking and soft landscaping (reference number DC/08/50124).

The following condition of planning consent has been included:

*11. No development involving any ground disturbance shall take place until an archaeological investigation which relates to that phase of development has been carried out in accordance with a specification to be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing.*

## **1.4 Background**

### **1.4.1 Archaeological and Historic Background (adapted from brief)**

The brief contains a detailed period by period breakdown which is provided in the Environmental Statement:

#### *Prehistoric and Romano-British*

No evidence of prehistoric activity has been found within 500m of the site. There is also no evidence of Roman activity, with the exception of coins and pottery found c150m to the east of the site in 1986/87. Work undertaken in other parts of the West Midlands suggests that prehistoric and Roman remains are common, if not ubiquitous, reflecting extensive hunting and gathering in early prehistory and extensive farming since the late Bronze Age. Prehistoric and Roman remains have been found during fieldwork undertaken in advance of development in the wider West Midlands region. It is therefore possible that the West Bromwich area contains at least some evidence of prehistoric activity, and Roman activity than has yet been discovered. It is therefore possible that some evidence exists within the present site, if only in the form of scattered flints and pottery.

#### *Early Medieval*

There is no evidence for activity or land-use between the Roman period and the Domesday survey of 1086. However, it is likely that the area formed part of the heath indicated by the place-name Bromwich ('the broom farm') which was first documented in 1086. It is also likely that the heath had formed centuries earlier, as a consequence of late or post-Roman agrarian decline. The reversion of farmland to heath and woodland was a feature of this period. Therefore it is unlikely that there will be any evidence of post-Roman and Anglo-Saxon activity within this area, as the heath would have been used primarily for grazing. Moreover, post-Roman and Anglo-Saxon remains are extremely rare throughout the West Midlands.

### *Medieval*

The heath is likely to have reduced in size during this period as parts of it were brought into more intensive management. It is likely that the site and the modern centre of West Bromwich was heathland throughout the medieval period. This being so, no significant evidence of medieval activity can be expected.

### *Post Medieval*

There is documentary evidence for further encroachments on the heath in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and it appears that most of the site was enclosed during this period. The evidence comes in the form of William Yates's map of Staffordshire, published in 1775. By 1775, the area between Bratt Street, Sandwell Road, and New Street had been enclosed. Yates's map also shows at least five buildings within the enclosure. It is uncertain whether the buildings represent settlement or some other activity. However, it is clear that buildings existed on the site by 1775, and it is possible that remains of them survive. If so, they could be regarded as significant, especially in an area that has little archaeological evidence for the period before the Industrial Revolution.

In addition to the features recorded on Yates's map, a windmill north of Mill Street, shown by lettering on Wood's map of 1837, may also date to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. With regard to the location of the windmill, it may have stood just outside or just inside the present car park off Mill Street. If it stood outside, in the Expressway, it is likely that all remains of it have been removed. However, it is possible that there may be remains inside the site area.

### *19<sup>th</sup> Century Remains*

This period saw the final enclosure of the heath and the evolution of the modern centre of West Bromwich, there was considerable development during this period, as indicated by numerous map sources consulted within the Environmental Statement chapter.

Cartographic sources show that a chapel stood on Sandwell Road, opposite the entrance to Mill Lane. From the account of non-Conformist communities in the *Victoria County History of Staffordshire*, the chapel can be identified as a Baptist foundation, built in 1810 and called the Providence Chapel. The Ordnance Survey maps show that the chapel was a large building, measuring some 17m by 10m, and that the main entrance was flanked by buttresses. Given the scale of the chapel, and the fact that only part of its footprint is likely to have been disturbed, substantial remains are likely to survive.

The VCH account also states that the chapel had a burial ground attached to it. This was seemingly located on the north side of the chapel shown on the first edition Ordnance

Survey map of 1890, and on later editions up to 1960. At present, the area is now open ground in front of the petrol station in Sandwell Homes. This area must therefore be regarded as particularly significant and sensitive. Although no records of burials exist, the size of the burial ground, and the figures for the congregation given in the VCH account, suggest that it might contain more than a hundred burials.

Mapping also shows the presence of numerous buildings including a corn mill along Sandwell Road, around the chapel and on both sides of Bratt Street. It is possible that remains of these and other structures may exist on the site, providing modern truncation has not removed them.

Figure 1 accompanying this document shows the areas identified in the desk study.

#### 1.4.2 Ground Investigation Information

A series of geotechnical trial pits have been excavated across the site (Environ UK Ltd 2009) and the information used to determine a preliminary topographic sequence. Made ground has been identified in all window samples and boreholes so far excavated across the site. It is probable that 'made ground' refers to both modern levelling and possible archaeological layers and deposits. This is especially the case when considering industrial archaeological features. Many of the borehole logs examined mention ashy sand material and occasional brick fragments. It is therefore likely that at least some of the material identified as 'made ground' is in fact potential archaeological material.

Depths of made ground range from c.0.5m below ground surface (bgs) to an average of 1.5m. Generally this material overlies Glacial Tills. It is likely that given the potential archaeological remains expected, these would be either within the 'made ground', or cutting into the upper layers of till. It is possible that, given the uniform depths of made ground across the site, that the area has been subjected to levelling or landscaping in the past, which may have involved the truncation of archaeological deposits.

Temporary window sample locations have been maintained in order to measure water and gas levels. These are located on the supporting drawing (Figure 1). These will be identifiable on site with a concrete 'collar' around them.

#### 1.5 Areas of Archaeological Potential

The site has been divided into a number of phases and areas, for both demolition and archaeological evaluation. From the desk study the following areas of potential have been identified and are depicted on figure 1.

- Areas 8 and 9: possible 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings identified from map regression
- Area 3: area adjacent to possible burial ground;

- Areas 1 and 2: possible stables in south-eastern corner and 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings;
- Areas 6 and 8: possible 19<sup>th</sup> century burial ground and the site of a chapel is adjacent to this area. A petrol tank lies within the centre of this area and it is possible that this may have impacted on remains in this area;
- Area 9: possible windmill site in the north-western corner of the area and further possible building remains

## 1.6 Terminology

Throughout this document the following terms will apply:

- *Contractor* – The archaeological contractor, and tasks which require attention
- Halcrow - Halcrow Group Ltd, Archaeological Consultants to the client
- The client – Stoford Developments Limited

## 2 Scope of Work

### 2.1 Aims and Objectives

An archaeological evaluation is required to ascertain the following:

- To establish a rolling programme of archaeological evaluation to be carried out in phases (as identified in this document)
- To determine the extent, date, nature and preservation of any archaeological deposits which may be present under the area proposed for development.
- To make an assessment of the relative significance of any archaeological deposits which are uncovered
- To provide sufficient information to enable an appropriate mitigation strategy to be developed to be instigated ahead of and/or during subsequent construction

The programme of archaeological evaluation at the site has the following specific objectives:

- To establish the presence /absence of archaeological remains on the site in the desk studies. Specifically these include the windmill site, corn mill, chapel, stables and numerous 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings indentified in historic mapping
- To establish the presence/absence of the burial ground as identified in the desk study and determine its extent and make an assessment of the potential for the proposed development to impact upon it
- Provide the necessary information to enable a mitigation strategy to be developed by Halcrow to counter any potential impacts on archaeological deposits encountered within the site area, this may include archaeological excavation, watching brief and possibly the excavation and re burial of human remains associated with the burial ground, should it exist.

## 3 Specific Archaeological Works Methodology

### 3.1 Proposed Programme of Works

#### 3.1.1 Introduction and Site Logistics

In accordance with the brief, archaeological works will comprise a programme of evaluation, which has been designed as a 5% sample of the available land within the proposed development area. This will exclude areas of cellarge and some areas which are currently not proposed for below ground works.

##### *Site Access and Security*

Access to the site is restricted along most of the existing frontages, which include hoardings and heras fencing. However, part of Area 9, being an existing car park, is unfenced and will require additional heras fencing protection during the initial phase of the archaeological investigation. This fencing will be required along stretches of Sandwell Road and Mill Street, and within the site itself.

Within the areas already secured by perimeter fencing, trenches will be demarcated using orange plastic mesh fencing until they have been signed off by the archaeological advisor from Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council.

Access arrangements will be provided by Halcrow Group Ltd via Stoford Developments Ltd.

##### *Services*

The existing services will be signed off by the demolition contractor PBM prior to handing over the cleared areas to the *Contractor*.

However, existing service locations will be provided to the archaeological contractor prior to works commencing, and all trench locations will be scanned for services by the archaeological contractor using a CAT scanner, operated by an appropriately trained member of staff.

##### *Plant and Spoil Storage*

The *Contractor* will arrange for plant to be on site at a date agreed in advance between the client, Halcrow and land tenants. Topsoil, if present, will be stored separately from other excavated material adjacent to the trench edges with a suitable buffer to enable safe working

within the trenches. The location of spoil heaps will be agreed prior to excavation commencing.

#### *Backfilling and reinstatement*

The archaeological contractor will be required to backfill trenches upon approval by Halcrow and the Archaeological Advisor from Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council. Trenches will be photographed before and after excavation.

Reinstatement will mostly comprise the replacement of excavated material, with any reserved topsoil replaced last followed by tracking across the backfilled trench by machine. Photographs will be taken before and after trench excavation/backfilling.

As most of Area 9 (Figure 1) will be retained as car park, reinstatement of excavated material must be sufficient to enable temporary usage of the backfilled trenches as safe car parking.

#### *Welfare*

The *archaeological contractor* will provide all welfare, office and tool storage facilities.

### 3.1.2 Phased Site and Demolition Programme

The site has been divided into nine areas (as depicted on Figure 1) and the trenches have been individually numbered for ease of reference.

Demolition of existing structures on the site will take place in a phased sequence. Currently, demolition is being sequenced to provide access to the *Contractors* to the priority BT and associated access road phase. The remainder of the site will become available as and when the demolition of the buildings is complete and the relevant areas are signed off as far as demolition is concerned.

After revision of the demolition schedule, and a meeting between the client, the Contractor and Halcrow in December 2009, the following sequence has been established:

#### **Phase 1: The BT building and access road**

- Areas 1 and 2 (Trenches 12-21);
- Parts of Area 3 (Trench 9) and Area 4 (Trench 11).
- Area 6 – this area contains potential contamination from a petrol tank (grey hatch on Figure 1) which is to be removed, it is likely that archaeological material would have been heavily truncated in this vicinity. As such the evaluation will be only carried out where it can be determined that there are no contaminants. The two trenches (22 and

23) are located within the present site access from Sandwell Road. This access will be re-located prior to the Phase 2 trenching to the side of the site adjacent to the A41 Expressway;

- Although only part of Area 9 will be affected by the access road, it has been agreed that all of the four trenches (Trenches 1-4) within the site will be excavated.

**Phase 2: the remainder of the site**

- Area 3 (Trenches 5-8);
- Area 4 (Trench 10);
- Area 8 (Trenches 24-26). Care has been taken to re-orient Trench 24 so it misses a mature tree by the current site entrance

Areas 5 and 7 are to remain as car parking and/or slab level, and are therefore excluded from the evaluation.

**3.1.3 Archaeological Evaluation**

Archaeological Evaluation will be carried out in accordance with this document and the brief. In the main, trenches will be excavated to a length of 25m with a standard ditching bucket (width c1.8-2.0m).

It is proposed that archaeological evaluation will follow the demolition team around the site. Within each of the identified phases trenching requirements are tabulated in Table 1 below. Final trench locations will be determined on site between, the archaeological contractor, Halcrow, the Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council Archaeological advisor and representatives of the client and engineering team. This will be to ensure that all potential risks are avoided (eg services) and to maintain any access routes which maybe required. Trenches must **avoid** the locations of existing environmental boreholes.

Phase	Site Area	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	5% Area	Metres of trenching
Phase 1	Area 3	4568m <sup>2</sup>	91.36m <sup>2</sup>	50.7m (approx 2 25m trenches)
Phase 2	Area 4	1791	89.55m <sup>2</sup>	49.75m (approx

				2 25m trenches)
Phase 3	Area 1, 2	9088m <sup>2</sup>	454.4m <sup>2</sup>	252m (approx 10 25m trenches)
Phase 4	Area 6	1334m <sup>2</sup>	66.7m <sup>2</sup>	37m of trenching (note this may be reduced due to possible contamination)
Phase 5	Area 9	3633m <sup>2</sup>	181.65m <sup>2</sup>	100m (approx 4 25m trenches)

*Table 1: Indicative trenching requirements*

Following demolition, the demolition contractor will break up and remove the existing slab. The archaeological contractor shall arrange to have their plant on site following this to commence the excavation of trenches.

Trenches will be excavated by a 360 degree tracked or wheeled excavator utilising a flat 'toothless' ditching bucket. All machining will be supervised by an appropriately experienced and qualified archaeologist. The overburden will be removed until the top of natural strata, or the top of significant archaeology is reached.

Trenches 1-3 in Area 9 are located within a car park tarmac surface and will be opened using a cutter, which will minimize damage to the surrounding tarmac upon machine excavation.

Should trench depths exceed a safe depth (to be determined by the archaeological contractor in accordance with a site specific risk assessment and on site health and safety procedures). A contingency provision for shoring and or stepping the trenches to facilitate a deeper excavation will be provided.

**Health and Safety considerations must take precedence at all times.**

All trenches will be cleaned and planned according to standard guidelines (see section 3.2 below). Should trenches be void of archaeological features selected profiles will be drawn and photographed (at the end of each trench) to demonstrate the stratigraphic sequence across the site.

Archaeological features will be cleaned and planned and excavated according to the following strategy

Feature type	Sample/excavation	Notes
Pits/Postholes	50%	Not including modern features. Features to be half sectioned.
Linears (ditches/gullies)	25% (of length)	Not including modern features
Linear intersections	50%	To obtain key relationship information
Burials	100%	To be recorded in plan only and subject to Ministry of Justice approval

Table 1 Archaeological Evaluation sample strategy

## 3.2 Recording Systems and Generic Methodology

### 3.2.1 Introduction

The following generic requirements shall apply for all fieldwork events and are general standards in accordance with current best practice and the *IFA's standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (IFA 2008)*

In all cases, works will be undertaken by appropriately qualified professional archaeologists employed by the *Contractor*.

### 3.2.2 Site Code

A unique site code shall be applied to the works carried out by the *contractor*. This will be obtained from Graham Eyre-Morgan the Sandwell Borough Archaeology Officer **prior** to fieldwork commencing.

### 3.2.3 Recording standards

The archaeological works shall be recorded to standards of current best practice. If archaeological deposits are encountered they will be planned and recorded in accordance with the archaeological *Contractor's* recording manual. This will be approved by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council.

This is to include, as a minimum, the recording of individual contexts on appropriate proformas; plans at a 1:50 scale (1:100 scale for areas solely containing natural features); planning and section drawings of appropriate single contexts and features (at 1:20 and 1:10 scales, as deemed commensurate with the subject); photographs and other appropriate drawn and written records. Representative measured sections of the side of the trench sections shall be prepared for each area as appropriate showing the sequences and depths of the general deposits.

#### **3.2.4 Surveying**

All archaeological remains shall be located on appropriate scale site plans, with TBMs and OSBMs indicated. All trenches and plans will be located with appropriate digital surveying equipment and located to OS base mapping. This will be submitted in a format acceptable for reproduction in technical drawings (.dwg, .dxf). All levels shall be reduced to ordnance datum.

#### **3.2.5 Photography**

The photographic record shall consist of monochrome prints/negatives colour transparencies. A 35mm standard format SLR camera is acceptable for all site photography; high resolution digital photography may be acceptable.

The photographic record shall include photographs of archaeological features, appropriate groups of features and structures.

Each photograph shall clearly show details of the above, and may require the use of artificial lighting to achieve suitable definition. Each photograph shall include an appropriate scale, a north arrow and a header board detailing (as a minimum) the site code and context/feature number. At least two colour slides (or high resolution digital images) showing general views of fieldwork in progress and where appropriate key find/ features.

The long term storage of digital and conventional photographic media should be considered and appropriate liaison should be made with Wednesbury Museum.

#### **3.2.6 Human Remains**

Any human remains discovered during the Archaeological Fieldwork shall be recorded and left in place, and the Curator and Employer's Agent will be informed as soon as reasonably practicable. If removal is necessary, this shall be carried out under a Burial License obtained from the Ministry of Justice in line with the Burial Act of 1857.

#### **3.2.7 Finds Recovery/ Artefactual Requirements**

All finds will be bagged by context, with the exception of 'small finds' which should be given a unique number and their location recorded two dimensionally. All artefacts will be

recovered and retained for processing and analysis in accordance with the *contractors* guidelines on the treatment of finds immediately after excavation. The *contractors* named specialist will visit the site periodically to record modern finds or large quantities of brick material ahead of discard.

A strategy should be provided for the short and long term storage of artefacts which may require immediate conservation to prevent decay.

Assessment of artefacts should be made by appropriately qualified specialists, which should be named by the archaeological *contractor* in their methods statement.

The *contractor* will comply fully with the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996 and the Code of Practice referred to therein. Any finds made that are identified under this Act shall be reported to the appropriate Coroner.

### 3.2.8 Environmental and Metallurgical Archaeology

The environmental sampling policy should adhere to the guidelines produced by English Heritage (2002) in their '*Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*' document.

The *contractor* shall make provision for the sampling of a wide range of contexts for potential assessment and analysis for plant and animal micro/macro fossils and soils/sediments.

The preparation for, and methods of, taking samples together with their size, presentation and processing shall be in accord with current best practice. Specific site sampling strategies will be agreed with Halcrow and the Sandwell Borough Archaeologist. Samples will be bagged by context wherever possible so that environmental information can be rapidly integrated with archaeological data. Bulk samples should be taken from all linear and pits and a representative sample taken from other features and surfaces. The *contractor* will provide an environmental strategy which includes provision for geoarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental sampling and assessment.

The *contractor* will also include provision for the storage and protection of waterlogged material and its treatment.

An assessment of all environmental material should be made by appropriately qualified specialist(s) and included in the initial post excavation assessment.

### **3.3 Contract**

The successful *contractor* will be contracted to Stoford All Saints Limited. The contract will take the form of an ICE Conditions of Contract for an Archaeological Investigation and subject to amendments by the client prior to issue.

### **3.4 Insurance**

Public Liability Insurance will be held to a limit of £10,000,000 and Professional Indemnity Insurance to a limit of £2,000,000. No claims will have been made or be pending against these policies in the last three years.

### **3.5 Health and Safety**

The *contractor* will conduct all works in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and all subsequent Health and Safety legislation, and the *contractor's* policies. A risk assessment and a Method Statement for the proposed works will be undertaken prior to commencement of fieldwork. CDM regulation will apply.

### **3.6 Communication**

All communication is to be through Halcrow Group Ltd.

### **3.7 Reporting of Archaeological Works**

In accordance with the brief the full post excavation requirement will be to include a post excavation report.

A timescale for the submission of post excavation reporting will be agreed between the archaeological contractor, Halcrow and the Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council Archaeologist.

This report will include the following elements:

- a factual summary, characterising the quantity and perceived quality of the data contained in the site archive
- a statement of the archaeological potential of the data contained in the site archive
- recommendations on the storage and duration of the data contained in the site archive, and the timescale on which this should be achieved.

The style and format of the report are to be determined by the archaeological *contractor*. However the report should comply with current Institute of Field Archaeologists standards and guidance (*IFA 2008*)

### 3.7.1 Archive

The archaeological *contractor* will also complete the OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>

The archaeological contractor will contact Wednesbury Museum prior to the commencement of works to confirm the requirements for conservation and storage. This must be confirmed in writing to Graham Eyre-Morgan via Halcrow Group Ltd.

## 4 Deliverables

### 4.1 Proposal

The Archaeological contractor will supply a proposal/methods statement which should include appropriate named specialist provision and a financial breakdown of proposed costs to carry out the project in accordance with this document (see section 4.2).

### 4.2 Itemised costing

The proposal should include an itemised costing to carry out the following elements:

- Fieldwork costs including all plant and travel costs for each phase as identified in this document (Phase 1-5) the fee should be inclusive for each phase as it is likely that there maybe periods of stand down between phases.
- Itemised contingency fee for shoring and/or stepping out trenches
- Post excavation report costs this should give a total for a single report covering the entire development area, but also indicative costs for phase by phase approach for information purposes.
- Cost for draft phase by phase reporting (in order for a mitigation strategy to be developed (by Halcrow)
- Details of staff rates (inclusive of all overheads)
- A day rate for team mobilisation
- Cost for welfare facilities

### 4.3 Health and Safety

A risk assessment is required for carrying out this work. This should include, but not be limited to, your assumptions on carrying out archaeological investigations in the proximity of over head power cables, recording in potentially deep trenches, working alone (if applicable) liaison with the Halcrow Representative, provision of personal protection equipment (hard hats, eye protection, boots, gloves, high visibility clothing etc) and access.

### 4.4 Reporting of Archaeological Works

A draft report will be submitted to Halcrow Group Ltd within 4 weeks of completion of site work. Following approval by Halcrow Archaeology, the client and the Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council Archaeologist, the archaeological contractor will produce one digital (pdf, including illustrations) and ten bound copies which are to be submitted to Halcrow Group Ltd for distribution to the relevant parties (Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Archaeologist and the client).

The style and format of the report are to be determined by the archaeological contractor. However the report should comply with current Institute for Archaeologists standards and guidance (*IfA 2008*) and include:

- a summary of the projects background;
- the site location;
- methodology;
- assessment of confidence in the methodology applied;
- description of results;
- interpretation of the results;
- site location plans on OS base mapping, showing the location of trenches or areas observed;
- plans of trenches or areas observed where archaeological features were recognised;
- trench and feature sections showing OD heights and where applicable below ground surface heights (bgs);
- discussion of the evidence within its wider context;
- summery tables for context information for all records with interpretation;
- summary of the contents of the project archive and its location.

## Appendix 2 – quantification of pottery

Context	Qty	Type	Date	Comments
101	2	Black transfer print	19th-20th	
101	6	Blackware	17th-18th	
101	41	Blue transfer print	19th-20th	one with stamp
101	10	Brown and grey SG	17th-19th	
101	1	Brown transfer print	19th-20th	
101	10	Coarseware	17th-18th	
101	1	Creamware	M18th-E19th	
101	2	Earthen dec with underglaze blue	19th-20th	
101	2	Green transfer print	19th-20th	
101	6	Industrial Slipware	19th	
101	1	Lustrous brown glazed grey SG	18th-19th	
101	1	Modern decorated sherd	20th	
101	46	Modern white glazeware	19th-20th	
101	1	Modern yellow glazeware	19th-20th	
101	1	Plate waster sherd	19th-20th?	
102	1	Blackware	17th-18th	
102	1	Brown SG	18th-20th	
102	2	Coarseware	17th-18th	
102	2	Creamware	M18th-E19th	
102	1	Lustrous brown glazed grey SG	18th-19th	
106	1	Blackware	17th-18th	
106	1	Coarseware bunghole jar	17th-18th	
106	1	Creamware	M18th-E19th	
112	1	Blackware	17th-18th	
112	3	Blue transfer print	19th-20th	
112	2	Industrial Slipware	19th	
112	1	Pearlware	L18th-M19th	
112	1	Purple transfer print	19th-20th	
112	1	Yellow ware	17th	
201	7	Blue transfer print	19th-20th	
201	2	Coarseware	17th-18th	
201	3	Grey SG	18th-20th	
201	1	Pearlware transfer print	L18th-M19th	Writing 'THE BO..'
204	4	Blue transfer print	19th-20th	
204	1	Lustrous brown glazed grey SG	18th-19th	
308	1	Blackware	17th-18th	
308	1	Blue transfer print large bowl	19th-20th	
308	1	Industrial Slipware	19th	Bowl?
309	2	Black transfer print	19th-20th	
309	2	Blackware	17th-18th	
309	10	Blue transfer print	19th-20th	
309	1	Coarseware	17th-18th	
309	3	Industrial Slipware	19th	
309	4	Modern white glazeware	19th-20th	one burnt
505	14	Blue transfer print	19th-20th	

505	1	Brown SG	17th-18th	
505	10	Coarseware	17th-18th	
505	3	Green transfer print	19th-20th	
505	11	Industrial Slipware	19th	
505	7	Modern white glazeware	19th-20th	
505	3	Porcelain/bone china type	19th-20th	
505	1	Purple transfer print	19th-20th	
505	1	Westerwald SG	E17th-L18th	
507	3	Blue transfer print	19th-20th	
507	3	Brown SGSW	18th-20th	
507	1	Coarseware base	17th-18th	
510	1	Industrial Slipware	19th	reed decoration
510	1	Modern yellow glazedware	19th-20th	
510	1	Pearlware	L18th-M19th	
706	1	Blackware	17th-18th	
712	1	Blackware rim	17th-18th	
714	4	Blue transfer print	19th-20th	
714	1	Industrial Slipware	19th	
714	2	Modern white glazeware	19th-20th	
716	1	Blue transfer print	19th-20th	
716	2	Industrial Slipware	19th	
718	2	Modern white glazeware	19th-20th	
1801	2	Creamware	M18th-E19th	
1801	1	Modern yellow glazedware	19th-20th	
1803	2	Blue transfer print	19th-20th	one backstamp
2101	1	Coarseware	17th-18th	
2101	1	Green transfer print	19th-20th	
2101	1	Modern brown glazeware	L19th-M20th	Acorn decoration
2208	2	Blackware	17th-18th	
2208	4	Blue transfer print	19th-20th	
2208	1	Creamware	M18th-E19th	
2208	2	Flowerpot	?	
2208	1	Lustrous brown glazed grey SG	18th-19th	
2208	1	Majolica ware	19th-20th	
2208	3	Modern white glazeware	19th-20th	
2208	1	Modern yellow glazedware	19th-20th	
2208	3	Pearlware	L18th-M19th	
2213	1	Creamware plate	M18th-E19th	
2305	1	Creamware	M18th-E19th	
2309	1	Coarseware bowl base	17th-18th	
2311	2	Coarseware	17th-18th	
2311	1	Modern white glazeware	19th-20th	
2319	1	Modern white glazeware	19th-20th	
2326	1	Industrial Slipware	19th	
2422	2	Coarseware	17th-18th	
2422	1	Creamware	M18th-E19th	
2424	3	Blue transfer print	19th-20th	
2424	1	Green transfer print	19th-20th	
2424	3	Modern white glazeware	19th-20th	
2424	1	Modern yellow glazedware	19th-20th	
2439	1	Coarseware	17th-18th	

2445	3	Blue transfer print	19th-20th	
2445	1	Coarseware base	17th-18th	
2445	1	Creamware	M18th-E19th	
2445	1	Modern white glazeware	19th-20th	
2445	1	Modern yellow glazeware	18th-19th	
2445	1	Pearlware	L18th-M19th	
2446	2	Modern white glazeware	19th-20th	
2446	2	Modern yellow glazeware	19th-20th	
2446	1	Pearlware	L18th-M19th	
2502	1	Brown SG	18th-20th	
2502	1	Creamware	M18th-E19th	
2502	1	Industrial Slipware	19th	
2502	11	Pearlware	L18th-M19th	
2503	1	Bone china cup	19th-20th	
2503	1	Brown SG large bottle	18th-20th	
2503	1	Industrial Slipware	19th	
2503	6	Modern white glazeware	19th-20th	
2504	2	Creamware plate rim	M18th-E19th	
2504	1	Pearlware	L18th-M19th	
2506	1	Brown SG	18th-20th	
2511	1	Brown SG	18th-20th	
2511	1	Creamware	M18th-E19th	
2511	2	Industrial Slipware	19th	
2511	1	Porcelain/bone china type	18th-20th	
2513	1	Coarseware	17th-18th	
2513	2	Modern white glazeware	19th-20th	
2513	1	Pearlware	L18th-M19th	
2515	1	Blackware	17th-18th	
2515	1	Blue transfer print	19th-20th	
2519	1	Coarseware	17th-18th	
2521	1	Industrial Slipware	19th	
2523	1	Coarseware	17th-18th	
2523	1	Industrial Slipware	19th	
2523	1	Porcelain/bone china type	18th-20th	
2601	1	Blue transfer print	19th-20th	
2601	1	Creamware serving platter	M18th-E19th	Blue shell edge
2601	1	Pearlware cup	L18th-M19th	

### Appendix 3: Quantification of tile and brick

Context	Tile	Tile weight (g)	Brick	Brick weight (g)
101	2	38g		
106	2	74g		
112	1	75g	1	115g
309			3	1988g
310			1	3945g
505	1	4g	4	954g
507			2	902g
510			2	11g
901			2	735g
1803	2	100g		
2001			4	27g
2005	1	35g		
2007			1	36g
2319	1	17g		
2424	1	15g	4	1042g
2439			7	1513g
2444			3	2009g
2502	1	30g	1	21g
2513	1	169g		
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>557g</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>13298g</b>

### Appendix 4: Quantification of clay pipe

<b>Context</b>	<b>Bowls</b>	<b>Stems</b>
101	2	43
102		2
112		4
201		1
204		1
308		1
309		4
411		2
505		5
507		1
709		1
716		1
2208		1
2213		1
2311		1
2424		1
2445		1
2502		4
2503		1
2504		1
2506		1
2511		2
2513		1
2523		16
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>97</b>

**Appendix 5: Quantification of glass**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Bottle Glass</b>	<b>Window Glass</b>	<b>Vessel Glass</b>	<b>Glass Slag</b>
101	13	17		
112	3			
204	2	1		
309	1		1	
505	2			1
709	1			
716				1
2208	6	2		
2311	1			
2315		1		
2424	1	2		
2437		1		
2502		1		
2504			1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

**Appendix 6: Quantification of iron objects**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
101	9
112	1
309	5
411	2
714	1
716	1
2502	1
2503	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>

### Appendix 7: Quantification of slag

<b>Context</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>
101	2	154g
505	18	18g
716	2	77g
718	2	778g
901	1	522g
2005	1	1207g
2009	1	169g
2101	1	16g
2213	9	204g
2504	4	62g
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>3207g</b>

### Appendix 8: Quantification of animal bone

<b>Context</b>	<b>Quantity (g)</b>
101	5g
102	1g
309	33g
505	6g
510	2g
718	8g
902	1g
2208	56g
2311	21g
2319	2g
2503	32g
2504	3g
2513	23g
2521	139g
2601	27g
<b>Total</b>	<b>359g</b>