

Archaeological Evaluation  
of land at  
**NOS. 77-85 CHURCH ROAD,  
REDFIELD, BRISTOL.**  
for  
Mr N Bracey



Report No. 1260/2005  
BSMR No. 22247



Bristol and Region Archaeological Services

Archaeological Evaluation  
of land at  
**NOS. 77-85 CHURCH ROAD,  
BRISTOL.**

Centred on  
N.G.R. ST 61145 73405

Client: Mr N Bracey  
Agent: David Cahill Design Consultants Ltd.

## CONTENTS

Summary

List of Illustrations

1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	2
3. OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY	3
4. THE EVALUATION	4
5. THE FINDS	5
6. CONCLUSIONS	6
7. REFERENCES	7
8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	7

Appendix 1: Policy Statement

Appendix 2: Context data

Appendix 3: Finds data

Illustrations and plates

## NOTE

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October, 2005.

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## **SUMMARY**

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services were commissioned by David Cahill Design Consultant Ltd on behalf of Mr. N. Bracey to carry out evaluation trenching at 77-85 Church Road, Redfield, Bristol. The site had been built on by 1803; the original buildings were replaced by terraced houses by 1842. These were cleared in the 1960s. The evaluation found the remains of a building probably dating from the late 18th century, and a substantial brick culvert representing the course either of the Wain Brook or of a channel feeding into the Wain Brook.

## **LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS**

### **Figures**

- Fig.1 Site location, 1:1250
- Fig.2 Trench locations, 1:500
- Fig.3 The site shown on William Maule's survey of 1803
- Fig.4 The site shown on the 1842 tithe map of St George
- Fig.5 The site shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:500, reduced
- Fig.6 Plan of Trench 1
- Fig.7 Trench 1, post excavation plan of drain 123
- Fig.8 Plan of Trench 2

### **Plates**

- Cover The site during the evaluation, from the opposite side of Church Road, looking north-west
- Pl.1 Trench 1 after machining, looking north
- Pl.2 Stone drain 123, looking south
- Pl.3 Brick culvert 102, looking north
- Pl.4 Brick wall 117, built against stone wall 103, looking north
- Pl.5 Demolition spread 118, looking north
- Pl.6 Trench 2 after machining, looking north
- Pl.7 Shallow garden feature 209, looking west
- Pl.8 Modern pit 204, looking north

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Bristol and Region Archaeological Services were commissioned by David Cahill Design Consultant Ltd to carry out evaluation trenching at 77-85 Church Road, Redfield, Bristol as the result of an application for redevelopment of the site (ref 03/02970/P/C).
- 1.2 The development area lies on the north side of Church Road, centred on NGR ST 61145 73405 (**Fig.1**). It is bounded to the north, east and west by commercial premises. The ground level varies from 21.26m above Ordnance Datum to 21.11m aOD and the underlying geology consists of sandstones of the Triassic period.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out between 3rd and 6th October 2005 in response to a brief prepared by the City Archaeologist (Jones 2003). Two trenches were dug (**Fig.2**). The purpose of the evaluation was to locate and assess any surviving archaeological remains, and to guide the production of a suitable mitigation strategy.
- 1.4 The archive from the evaluation will be deposited with Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery under the accession number BRSMG 2005/87. A copy of this report will be sent to the National Monuments Record in Swindon.

## 2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site was the subject of a desktop study carried out by BaRAS in April 2003 (BaRAS 2003). What follows is a summary of the desktop.
- 2.2 The development area lies within the parish of St George, which was created in 1756 and lay outside the city boundary until 1897. The site is in an area formerly known as Moorfields, a group of fields owned by a Bristol fish wholesaler called Solomon Moore.
- 2.3 Evidence for Romano-British occupation has been found in the vicinity, although there is no direct evidence for occupation on the site itself. Human remains have been found 300m to the south-east of the site; those found in Victoria Avenue in 2002 (BSMR 21201, 21206) were radiocarbon dated, producing a calibrated date of AD 340-640. It is possible that the line of Church Road follows part of the Roman road between Sea Mills and Bath, but present knowledge suggests this to be the case only for a short section of the road east of the site.
- 2.4 The site lay within the medieval manor of Barton Regis, which was held by the King at the time of the Domesday survey. It subsequently passed to the Berkeley family, and was acquired by Thomas Chester of Knolle Park in 1608. After this it was gradually broken up and sold off.
- 2.5 The Moorfields area was first developed for housing in the first half of the 19th century. William Maule's 1803 survey of St George showed a long narrow structure of which the development area forms the central part (**Fig.3**). The bulk of this building clearly differed from the later terrace, but the eastern end projected towards the road and appears similar to no.85 as shown on later maps. This suggests that the surviving building may be of 18th-century date. The 1842 tithe map for St George showed terraced housing at the southern end of the site with open fields to the north (**Fig.4**). Heber Street had been built on these fields by the Ordnance Survey First Edition of 1880-5 (**Fig.5**). The Church Street properties lost their front gardens to road widening, and some were converted for use as commercial premises. The site was cleared in the 1960s and subsequently used for car sales.

### **3. OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were set in the brief prepared by the City Archaeologist. They were to establish  
the nature and quality of the surviving archaeological resource  
the degree to which archaeological deposits and features have been disturbed by more recent activity  
the importance of surviving archaeological features, to be assessed in terms of their local, regional and national importance.
- 3.2 The brief also states that the evaluation report should estimate the likely impact of the development on archaeological deposits, and may make recommendations for suitable mitigation strategies.
- 3.3 Two trenches were opened using a 360 tracked excavator under archaeological supervision. Locations were specified in the brief. Both trenches were oriented north to south.
- 3.4 Archaeological remains within the trenches were cleaned by hand and photographed in 35mm monochrome print and digital formats. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20, and elevations and sections at 1:10. All remains were numbered and recorded using the BaRAS single context recording system. Compass directions as given in this report are based on site north, which is north-west of true north.



#### 4. THE EVALUATION

- 4.1 Both trenches were covered by tarmac and scalpings, which were laid approximately 15 years ago (A & N Bracey *pers. comm.*). Below these deposits in both trenches were rubble deposits of varying thickness.

##### **Trench 1 (Fig.6; Pl.1)**

- 4.2 Approximately 2.2m from the south end of the trench a Pennant Sandstone wall (103) ran east to west across the trench. It was bonded with a light brownish pink sandy mortar with flecks of lime. It survived to a height of 0.8m and stepped out at a depth of 0.35m.
- 4.3 2.25m north of 103 a substantial stone drain (123) was found (**Fig.7; Pl.2**). This also ran east to west, just north of the line of the back walls of the terraced houses to either side of the site. It was filled by 124, a fine greyish brown silt with sandier bands. The drain was of sandstone bonded with a hard yellow sand and lime mortar.
- 4.4 Wall 103 appears to have been partly demolished to allow for the building of brick culvert 102 (**Pl.3**). Its remains were then widened by the addition of brick wall 117 (**Pl.4**). The area south of 103 was subsequently backfilled with a mixture of clayey sand and burnt debris, but the backfill also included deposit 118, which comprised the demolition rubble from 103 (**Pl.5**).
- 4.5 The culvert itself was damaged but had not been breached. It was built of bricks 70mm thick, bonded with a hard mid grey ashy sand and lime mortar. The top of the culvert was at between 20.73 and 20.79m aOD. Along its northern edge was a rough wall (108) of Pennant Sandstone rubble in a similar ashy mortar. North of this wall, and probably contemporary with it, were the remains of a drainage system built from brick and stone rubble, with the damaged remains of ceramic pipes visible. This system overlay the earlier drain 123.
- 4.6 Overlying wall 108 and all of the drainage system was a damaged concrete floor (127), which was removed during the machining. The natural marl was encountered at the north end of the trench, at a depth of 20.32m aOD.

##### **Trench 2 (Fig.8; Pl.6)**

- 4.7 Most of the trench contained a mid brown silty clay layer (205), which produced pottery of late 18th-century date. This layer filled and sealed a shallow rectangular feature (209) whose purpose was unknown; it was probably a garden feature (**Pl.7**).
- 4.8 Layer 205 was cut by a rectangular pit (204) filled with burnt debris, probably of industrial origin (**Pl.8**), and containing pottery and clay tobacco pipes of mid to late 19th-century date. Further similar deposits filled modern tyre tracks in 205. The modern features were sealed by loose rubble deposit 202.
- 4.9 A layer (206) interpreted as disturbed natural was found at the northern end of the trench, at a depth of between 20.40m and 20.47m aOD. This layer was a maximum of 0.23m thick and overlay cleaner marl deposits.

## **5. THE FINDS**

### **Pottery**

- 5.1 Five contexts produced pottery. Trench one contexts (107, 114, 116 and 124) produced insufficient material to date the contexts. In trench 2, context 203, the fill of pit 204, produced 47 sherds of pottery, mostly blue and white transfer-printed ware. Of particular note are the 22 sherds that join together to form most of a decorated bowl; and the base marked “LIND”, a pattern named after the singer Jenny Lind (1820-1887) and manufactured in Bristol by Pountney and Company. This context is dated to the mid to late 19th century.

### **Clay tobacco pipes**

- 5.2 Most of the clay tobacco pipe fragments were undatable pieces of stem. One stem fragment from context 111 could be dated to the late 19th or early 20th century.
- 5.3 Two contexts in trench 2 produced datable fragments. Context 203 produced decorated spurred bowl fragments dating to the mid to late 19th century; and context 205 produced spurred bowl fragments dating to the late 18th century.

### **Glass**

- 5.4 Very few glass sherds were recovered. Three sherds from context 203 are of late 19th century date, and one clear bottle sherd from 205 may be intrusive.

### **Stone**

- 5.5 Thirteen pieces of stone were found in context 203, of which one is a fragment of Pennant Sandstone roofing. The remainder consists of burnt fragments of unidentified type, probably burnt by a bonfire or light industrial process.

### **Slag**

- 5.6 A single fragment of slag was retrieved from context 205. This appears to be fuel ash slag, resulting from bonfires or domestic hearths rather than industrial processes.

### **Animal bone and shell**

- 5.7 The trenches produced a small quantity of animal bone, 22 pieces in all. Most was in good condition, although fragmentary, the notable exception being that from context 205 (the oldest datable context), the surfaces of which were very abraded. Most fragments were from cattle, with sheep and pig also present.
- 5.8 Two shells were found, a land snail from drain fill 111 and a fragment of oyster from 203.

### **Registered special finds**

- 5.9 Ten finds special were registered, of which one (no.1) was a small ceramic marble, probably a bottle stopper. The remainder were iron objects, mostly nails, and likely to be domestic in function. Find no.4 was probably a piece of machinery. The difference in corrosion between the finds from context 111 and those from 203 is probably due to 111 being the fill of a drain and therefore a damper environment.

## **6. CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 Based on the evidence from the evaluation trenches in conjunction with the 19th-century surveys, it is most likely that wall 103 represents part of the building shown by Maule in 1803. Most of this building was demolished to make way for the terraced housing present by 1842, but no.85 seems to be a survival of it, based on its position relative to the terrace and the road.
- 6.2 The brick culvert 102, in trench 1, appeared to line up with the western section of the Wain Brook as shown on the Ordnance Survey First Edition. However, its orientation relative to the eastern section shown on the First Edition would make a very sharp curve in the culvert necessary, if it were to form part of the Brook itself. It seems more likely therefore that 102 is part of a subsidiary channel or tributary feeding into the Wain Brook.
- 6.3 The finds retrieved are typical for a site of this type and date, but relatively low in quantity, suggesting regular clearance of refuse. The presence of material dating to the late 18th century would seem to confirm occupation on the site by that date, as indicated by the cartographic sources and excavated evidence.
- 6.4 The proposed development will entail the demolition of no.85 Church Road. It is therefore recommended that a photographic record should be made of any surviving original features before its demolition. A watching brief should be maintained on the demolition and on all groundworks, to enable the remainder of wall 103 and the line of culvert 102 to be recorded, along with any further related features.

## 7. REFERENCES

- BaRAS 1180/2003      *Archaeological Desktop Study at nos.77-85 Church Road, Bristol* (Rod Burchill)
- Jones, R H., 2003      *Arrows Coaches, 77-85 Church Road, Redfield, Bristol: Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (privately circulated)

### Cartographic sources

- 1803      Plan of the Parish of St George by William Maule, with terrier (BRO AC/PL/60a & b)
- 1842      Tithe Map of the Parish of St George (BRO EP/A/32/32)
- 1880-5      First Edition Ordnance Survey, 1:500

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BaRAS would like to thank David Cahill Design Consultants Ltd and Nick Bracey for their help. The machining was carried out by Anthony Bracey. The evaluation was carried out by Elizabeth Davis assisted by Kevin Potter. Reg Jackson and Elizabeth Davis assessed the finds. This report was prepared by Elizabeth Davis and the illustrations prepared and the report produced by Ann Linge. The project was managed by Bruce Williams.

## **APPENDIX 1: Policy Statement**

This report is the result of work carried out in the light of national and local authority policies.

### **NATIONAL POLICIES**

Statutory protection for archaeology is enshrined in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), amended by the National Heritage Act, 1983. Nationally important sites are listed in the Schedule of Ancient Monuments (SAM). Scheduled Monument consent is required for any work which would affect a SAM.

### **DOE PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE**

The Planning Policy Guidance of Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16) consolidates advice to planning authorities. The Guidance stresses the non-renewable nature of the archaeological resource, details the role of the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), encourages early consultation with county and district archaeological officers and sets out the requirement for developers to provide sufficient information on the archaeological impact of development to enable a reasonable planning decision to be made.

PPG 16 also indicates the circumstances where further work would be necessary and outlines the use of agreements and conditions to protect the archaeological resource.

### **DISTRICT POLICY**

Bristol City Council Adopted Local Plan Written Statement (1997) states (policy B22):

- (i) There will be a presumption in favour of preserving any archaeological features or sites of national importance, whether scheduled or not.
- (ii) Development which could adversely affect sites, structures, landscapes or buildings of archaeological interest and their settings will require an assessment of the archaeological resource through a desktop study, and where appropriate a field evaluation. Where there is evidence of archaeological remains, development will not be permitted except where it can be demonstrated that the archaeological features of the site will be satisfactorily preserved in situ, or a suitable strategy has been put forward to mitigate the impact of development proposals upon important archaeological remains and their settings; or, if this is not possible and the sites are not scheduled or of national importance, provision for adequately recording the site prior to destruction is made, preferably by negotiating a planning agreement to ensure that access, time and financial resources are available to allow essential recording and publication to take place.

## APPENDIX 2: Context data

No.	Trench	Description	Dimensions within trench
100	1	Tarmac and scalpings	8m x 2m x 0.36m
101	1	Rubble deposit below 100	8m x 2m x 0.48m
102	1	Brick culvert, running e-w across trench	2m x 1.2m
103	1	Pennant Sandstone wall (e-w) s of 102	2m x 0.46m x 0.8m
104	1	Remnant of mortar floor s of 103	0.7m x 0.5m x 0.07m
105	1	Backfill over 103 and 117	1.35m x 0.64m x 0.31m
106	1	Backfill s of 103	1.8m x 1.08m x 0.32m
107	1	Backfill s of 103	2.04m x 2m x 0.31m
108	1	Remnant of Pennant Sandstone wall	2m x 0.6m
109	1	Drain structure containing downpipe	0.6m x 0.4m
110	1	Small brick and stone drainage channel	1.2m x 0.25m x 0.15m
111	1	Fill in 110	1.16m x 0.09m x 0.08m
112	1	Brick/stone/concrete block over 123	0.84m x 0.6m x 0.23m
113	1	Brick/stone/concrete block over 123	0.6m x 0.47m x 0.23m
114	1	Silt and mortar deposit between 112 and 113	0.97m x 0.97m x 0.2m
115	1	Natural marl at n end of trench	2.25m x 1.87m
116	1	Part of 106; not recorded separately	
117	1	Brick wall against s side of 103	2.3m x 0.12m x 0.2m
118	1	Demolition deposit exposed in sondage, not dug	>1m x >0.4m
119	1	Backfill s of 103; full extent not known	0.17m thick
120	1	Backfill s of 103; full extent not known	0.16m thick
121	1	Backfill s of 103; full extent not known	0.28m thick
122	1	Backfill s of 103; in base of sondage, not excavated	0.44m x 0.3m
123	1	Stone drainage channel n of 102	0.75m x 0.9m x 0.27m
124	1	Silty fill of 123	0.66m x 0.32m x 0.27m
125	1	Backfill s of 103; full extent not known	0.16m thick
126	1	Backfill s of 103; full extent not known	0.2m thick
127	1	Modern concrete floor	2m x 1.75m x 0.07m
128	1	Construction cut for drain 123	1.1m wide
129	1	Construction cut for drainage channel 110	1.2m x 0.25m x 0.15m
130	1	Cut between 112 and 113, filled by 114	0.97m x 0.97m x 0.2m
131	1	Silty clay below 127, above 109; full extent not known	0.2m thick
200	2	Tarmac surface	8m x 2m x 0.1m
201	2	Scalpings below 200	8m x 2m x 0.2m
202	2	Modern rubble below 201	8m x 2m x 0.35m
203	2	Burnt debris filling 204	1.05m x 0.5m x 0.51m
204	2	Rectangular pit at n end of trench	1.05m x 0.5m x 0.51m
205	2	Silty clay spread cut by 204, sealing 208 and 209	8m x 2m x 0.2m
206	2	Upper layer of natural marl, disturbed	8m x 2m x 0.23m
207	2	Lower layer of natural marl	8m x 2m
208	2	Cut, only one edge visible	L 2m; D 0.1m
209	2	Shallow rectangular feature below 205	1.17m x 0.52m x 0.15m

## **APPENDIX 3: Finds Data**

### **Pottery**

BPT = Bristol Pottery Type series

#### *Context 107*

2 sherds creamware (BPT 326) subsequently burnt in fire and vitrified

1 sherd English tin-glazed ware (BPT 99)

*Context not datable*

#### *Context 114*

3 sherds creamware (BPT 326)

*Context not datable*

#### *Context 116*

1 sherd redware (BPT 201)

*Context not datable*

#### *Context 124*

1 sherd creamware (BPT 326)

1 sherd redware (BPT 201)

*Context not datable*

#### *Context 203*

10 sherds transfer-printed ware (BPT 278) forming a bowl with central “Indian” scene surrounded by floral motifs

22 sherds transfer-printed ware (BPT 278) including Willow Pattern, “Chinese” scene and floral decorated sherds. One base is marked “LIND”, a pattern named after the opera singer Jenny Lind and manufactured by Pountney and Company in Bristol.

6 sherds redware (BPT 201)

1 sherd Bristol/Staffordshire yellow slipware (BPT 100)

2 sherds pearlware (BPT 349)

1 sherd spongeware (BPT 202)

*Context dated to mid-late 19th century*

### **Clay tobacco pipes**

#### *Context 107*

2 stem fragments

#### *Context 111*

1 stem fragment

*Late 19th-early 20th century*

#### *Context 114*

2 stem fragments

#### *Context 116*

3 stem fragments

#### *Context 203*

55 stem fragments, 2 spurred bowl fragments

8 decorated spurred bowl fragments: raised lines or oak leaves on either side of the front and rear mould lines

*Mid to late 19th century*

*Context 205*

6 stem fragments

2 unidentifiable bowl fragments

2 spurred bowls, one with a moulded circle on the side of the bowl but no maker's initials

*Late 18th century*

## **Glass**

*Context 203*

2 fragments light blue/green window glass

1 fragment clear cut glass

*Context 205*

1 fragment clear ?bottle glass

## **Stone**

*Context 203*

1 fragment Pennant Sandstone roofing

12 fragments burnt stone, type unident.

## **Slag**

*Context 205*

1 fragment fuel ash slag

## **Animal bone**

*Context 107*

4 fragments skull, large mammal

1 fragment rib, probably bos

1 fragment longbone shaft, possibly ovis; chop marks

*Context 111*

1 possible scapula, unidentified bird

*Context 114*

1 first phalanx, bos

1 first phalanx, ovis

1 tooth fragment, possibly sus

1 vertebra fragment, probably bos

*Context 203*

1 fragment pelvis, bos

1 fragment metacarpus, proximal end, unfused, ovis; chop marks

1 first phalanx, sus

1 fragment rib, possibly immature ovis; one end cut



1 fragment vertebra, sp. unident.

*Context 205*

3 fragments skull, sp. unident

3 fragments rib, 2 joining, possibly ovis

1 unident fragment

*Poor condition, abraded surfaces*

## **Shell**

Context 111

1 land snail

Context 203

1 fragment oyster

## **Registered special finds**

Ceramic

1 Context 203 ceramic marble

Iron

2 Context 203 thin plate object

3 Context 203 nail

4 Context 203 large, roughly cylindrical object, tapering at one end

5 Context 111 8 x nail fragments

6 Context 111 Flat, irregular object, small copper alloy tack attached to corrosion

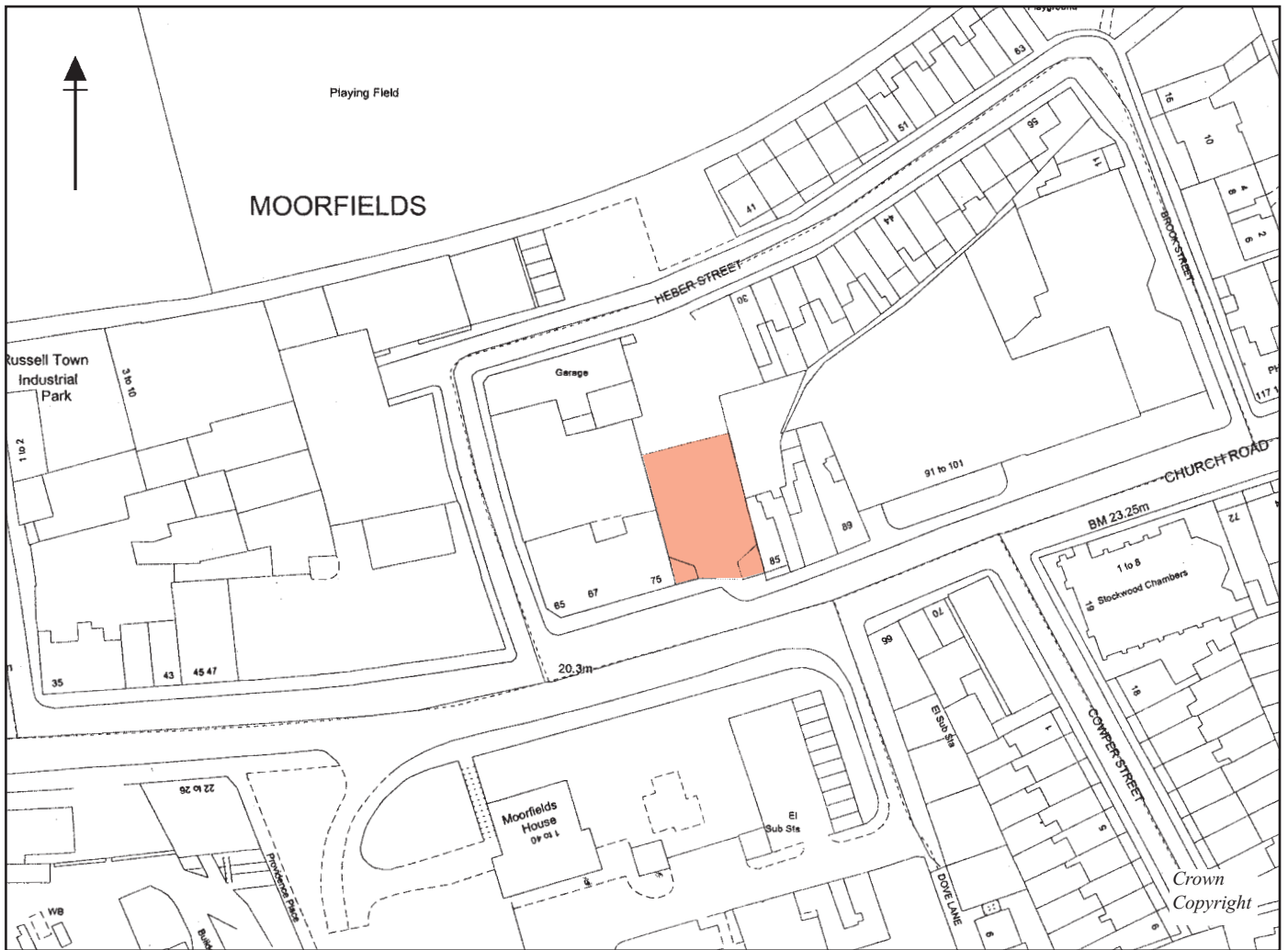
7 Context 111 Object, possibly very corroded nail

8 Context 111 nail fragment, with run from melting iron attached

9 Context 203 2 x nail fragments

10 Context 203 Object, probably nail

Objects from context 111 (trench 1) very corroded, covered with light bubbly orange corrosion, sfs 6 & 7 in particular appear to have very little iron surviving. Objects from context 203



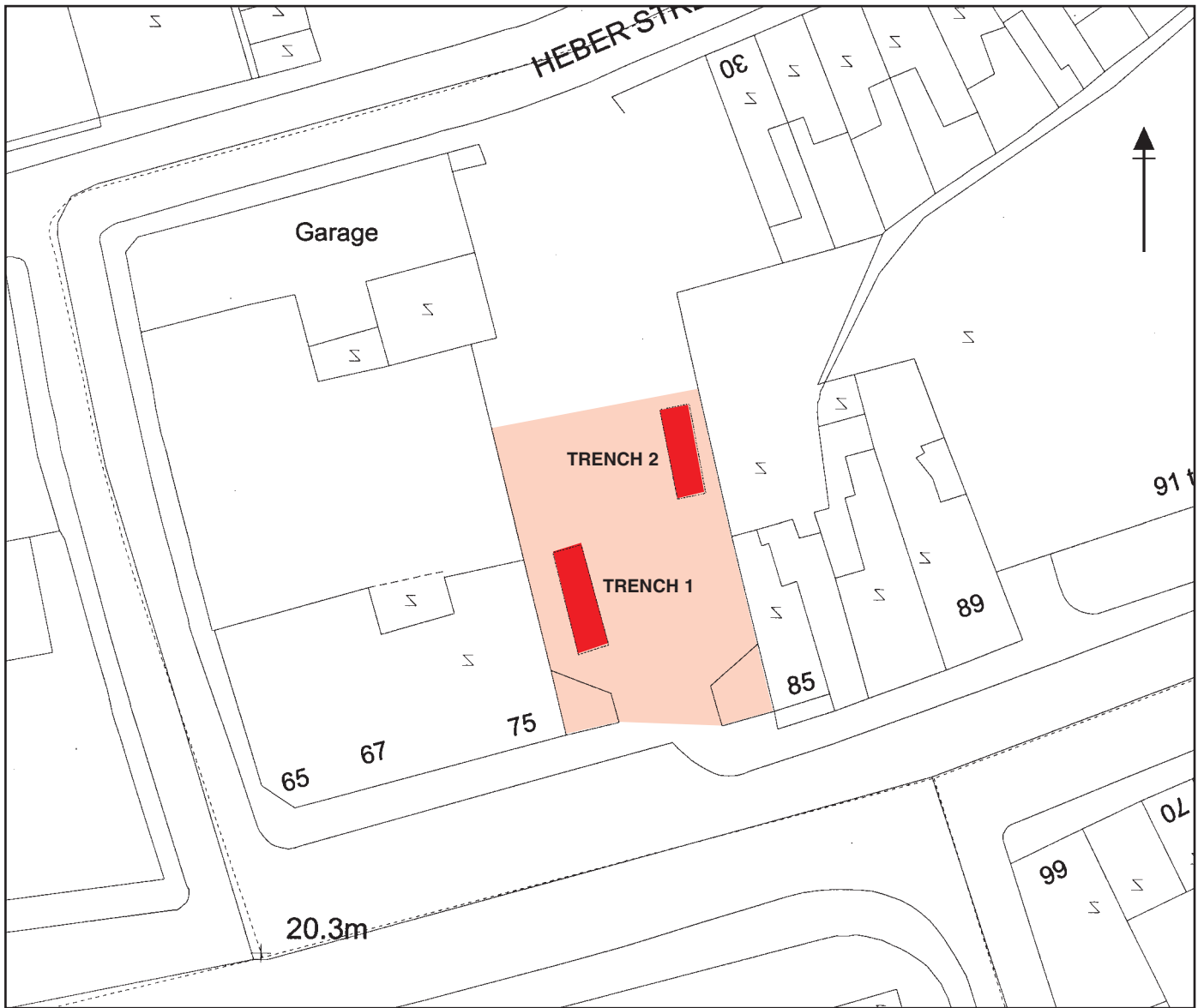


Fig.2 Trench locations, scale 1:500

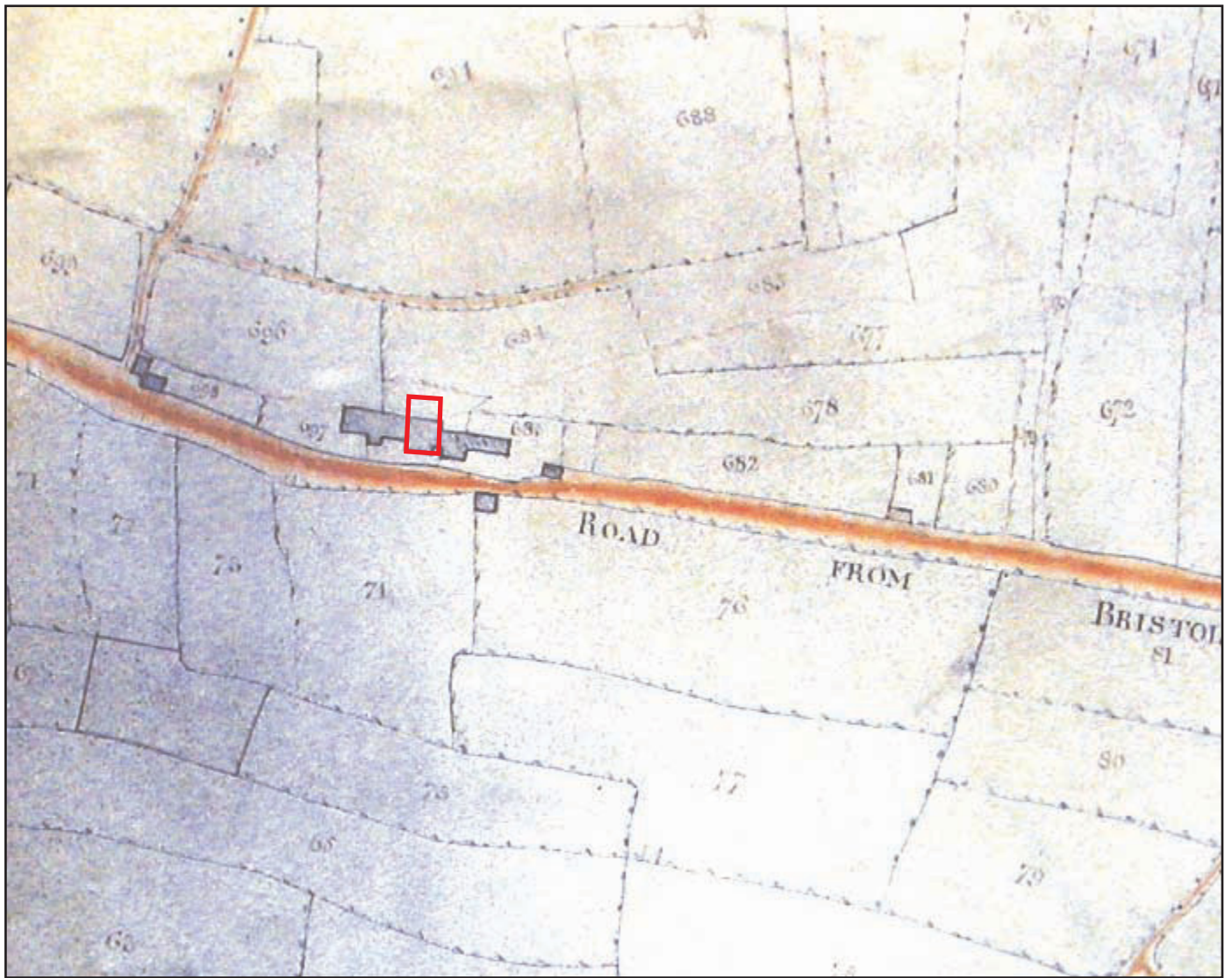


Fig.3 The site shown on William Maule's survey of 1803



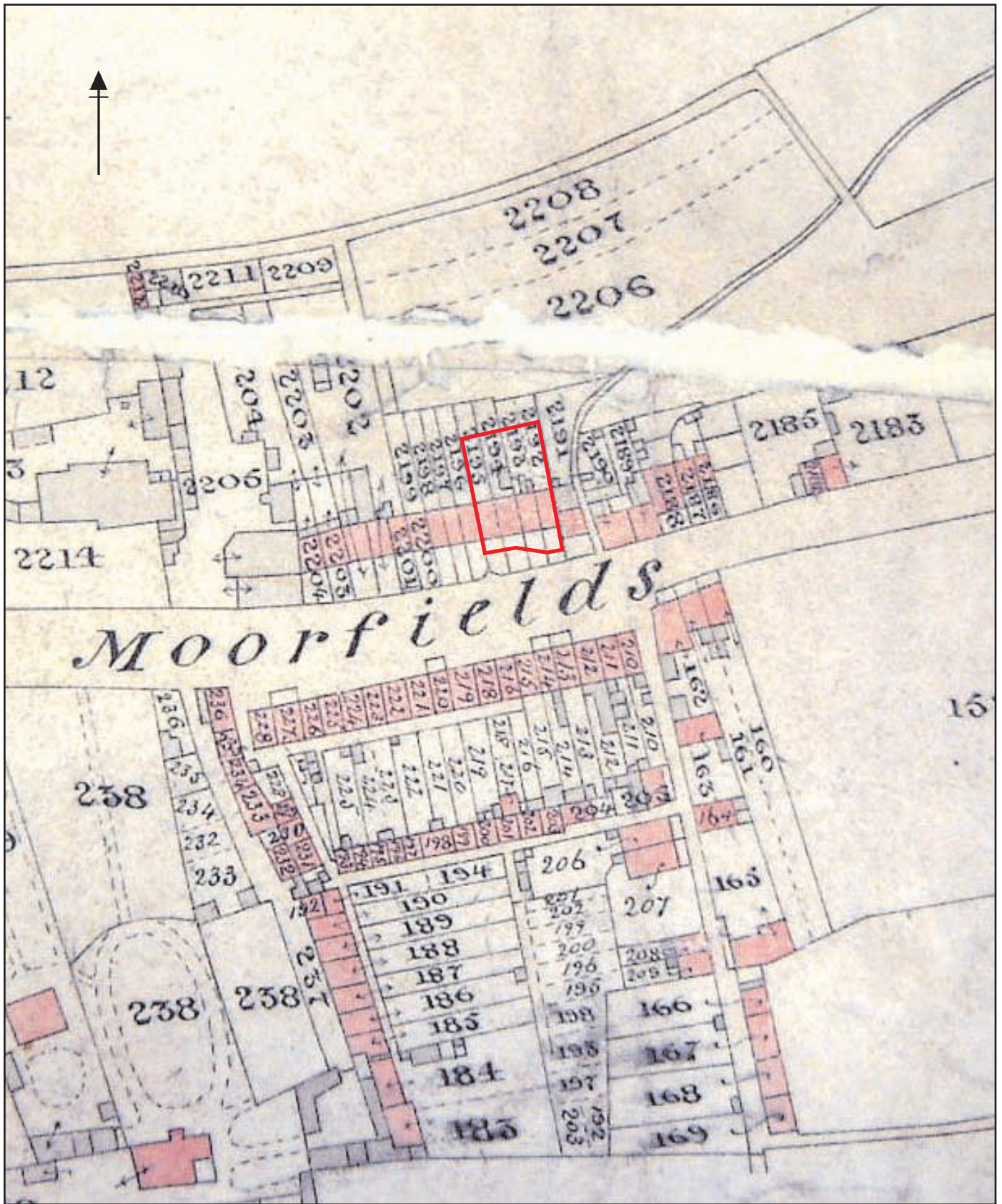






Fig.5 The site shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition, scale 1:500

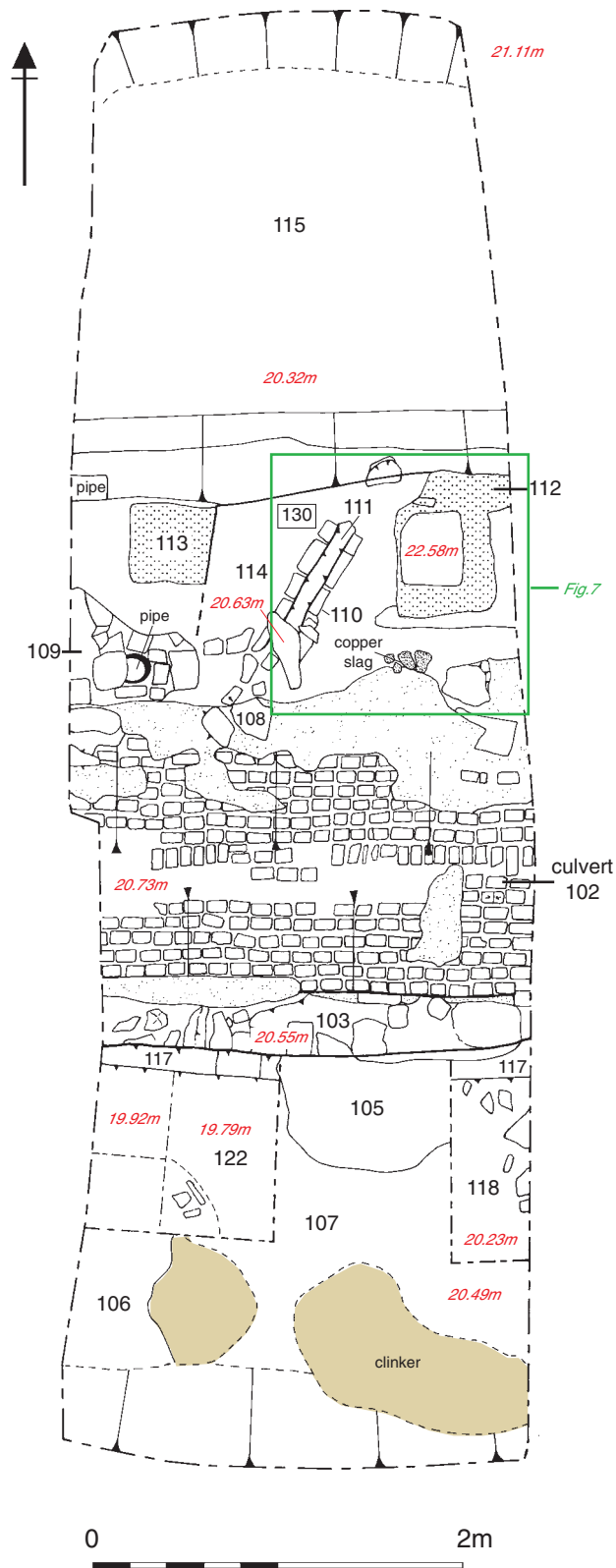


Fig.6 Plan of Trench 1, scale 1:40

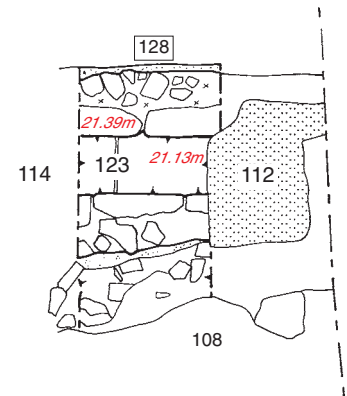


Fig.7  
Trench 1, post-excavation plan  
of drain 123

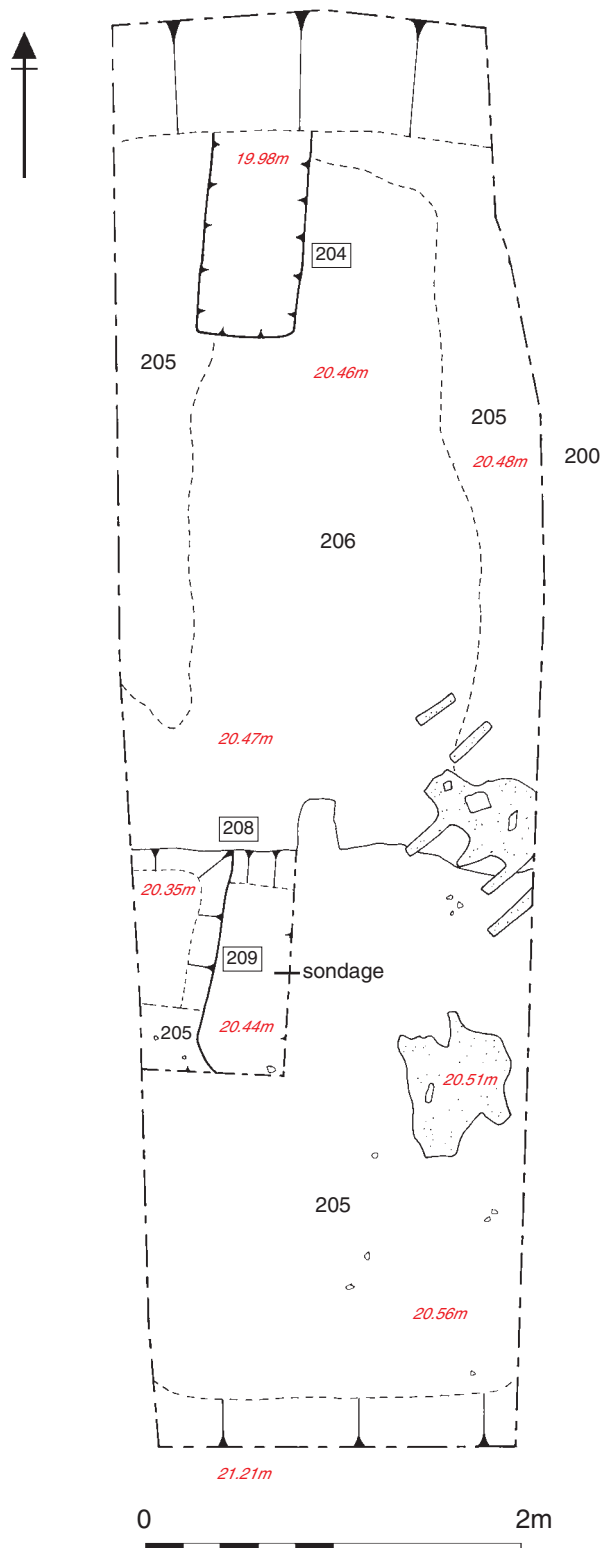


Fig.8 Plan of Trench 2, scale 1:40





Plate 1 Trench 1 after machining, looking north



Plate 2 Stone drain 123, looking south



Plate 3 Brick culvert 102, looking north



Plate 4 Brick wall 117, built against stone wall 103, looking north





Plate 5 Demolition spread 118, looking north



Plate 6 Trench 2 after machining, looking north



Plate 7 Shallow garden feature 209, looking west



Plate 8 Modern pit 204, looking north