

SMR

M2/30

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
OF GEO-TECHNICAL PITS
ON LAND TO THE REAR OF
THE ANCHOR INN,
HIGH STREET ST. MARTINS,
STAMFORD,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SWA 00)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

Conservation
Services

13 DEC 2002

Highways & Planning
Directorate



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Source L18411
L18412
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(SWA 00)**

Work Undertaken For
Broadbent Partners
on behalf of
City Centre Restaurants (UK) Ltd

November 2002

Report Compiled by
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Planning Application No: S00/0585/69
National Grid Reference No: TF 0307 0690
City and County Museum Accession No: 2000.202



A.P.S. Report No. 207/02

1. BACKGROUND

A planning application (No. S00/0585/69) was submitted for approval for the construction of a single storey extension to existing buildings on land at the site of the former Anchor Hotel, High Street, St. Martin's, Stamford, Lincolnshire. The site had been subject to archaeological evaluation which recorded deposits dating from the 17th century (Cope-Faulkner 2000). The South Kesteven Community Archaeologist requested monitoring of geo-technical pits in advance of development to ensure no archaeological deposits would be disturbed. This report details the results of the archaeological monitoring of the test pits.

2. TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

Stamford is situated 63km south of Lincoln and 23km southwest of Spalding, in the administrative district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig.1). The town lies on the banks of the River Welland, close to its confluence with the Gwash which provides the eastern boundary of the town.

Situated in the civil parish of St. Martin Stamford Baron on the south bank of the Welland, the proposed development area lies at a height of 22m OD on fairly level land built up against the river. Centred on National Grid Reference TF 0307 0690 the site is located at the junction of Water Street and High Street St. Martin's (Fig. 2).

Stamford sits in a narrow valley cut in the Lower Lincolnshire Limestone. Upper Lincolnshire Limestone and the overlying Great Oolite form the northern valley sides. In contrast, the southern part of the town, including the development area, is located on a solid geology of Northampton Sand and Lower Lincolnshire Limestone (Inferior Oolite). Remains of a river terrace and recent alluvium fill the valley bottom (Anderson 1982, 1).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Stamford is situated in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British through to the medieval periods. The Roman road, Ermine Street, crosses the River Welland to the west of the town and a tessellated pavement was excavated during the construction of cellars *c.* 1839 in the vicinity of the site. William Stukeley, the 18th century antiquarian who lived in Stamford, postulated that a Roman fort lay to the northwest of the town, although there is no evidence to support this.

Archaeological excavations, carried out 30m to the south and west of the present investigation area, revealed a number of buildings, workshops, hearths, cesspits and evidence for iron smelting. Pits and quarries of the early medieval period, and possible traces of timber buildings, were the earliest remains revealed. The most important feature dating to the medieval period was a house with associated workshops that fronted onto Water Street (Mahaney *et al.* 1982,

30). These remains indicate that the area surrounding the present investigation site is likely to have been developed during the 10th century.

The Anchor Hotel is an early 19th century building which has been accorded listed status (DoE 1974, 84).

4. METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS

Two test pits measuring approximately 1.55m x 2.85m were mechanically excavated to depths of c. 4.3m (Fig. 3) to determine the depth at which the underlying bedrock was located. One pit was located over the previous evaluation trench. Upon excavation the pits were immediately backfilled. Due to the depth of the pits, full recording of the deposits exposed was not feasible, on the grounds of health and safety.

Within test pit 1, a sequence of urban deposits, as recorded during the evaluation was noted. These deposits overlay a soft, dark blackish grey alluvium, which was noted to have a high organic content.

Within test pit 2, a similar urban build up overlay a layer of fractured limestone at approximately 2m below the ground surface. The limestone was not structural but represented a dumped layer. This in turn overlay dark blackish grey alluvium as had been noted in test pit 1.

5. DISCUSSION

Monitoring of the test pits revealed a sequence of urban deposits of the same character as that identified during the evaluation. These overlay a minimum of 2m of organic alluvium. This alluvium is likely to derive from the River Welland and may indicate that an earlier bank to the River lies under the site. Observations from the monitoring of the test pits concur with the conclusions of the evaluation in that it is unlikely that the site was occupied prior to the 17th century.

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Anderson, F. W, 1982, The Geology of the Stamford Region, in Mahany, C, Burchard, A. and Simpson, G. (eds.), *Excavations in Stamford Lincolnshire 1963-1969*, The Society for Medieval Archaeology Monograph Series 9

DoE, 1974, *List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest: District of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Stamford Area)*

Mahaney, C., Burchard, A. and Simpson, G., 1982, *Excavations in Stamford Lincolnshire 1963-1969*, The Society for Medieval Archaeology Monograph Series 9

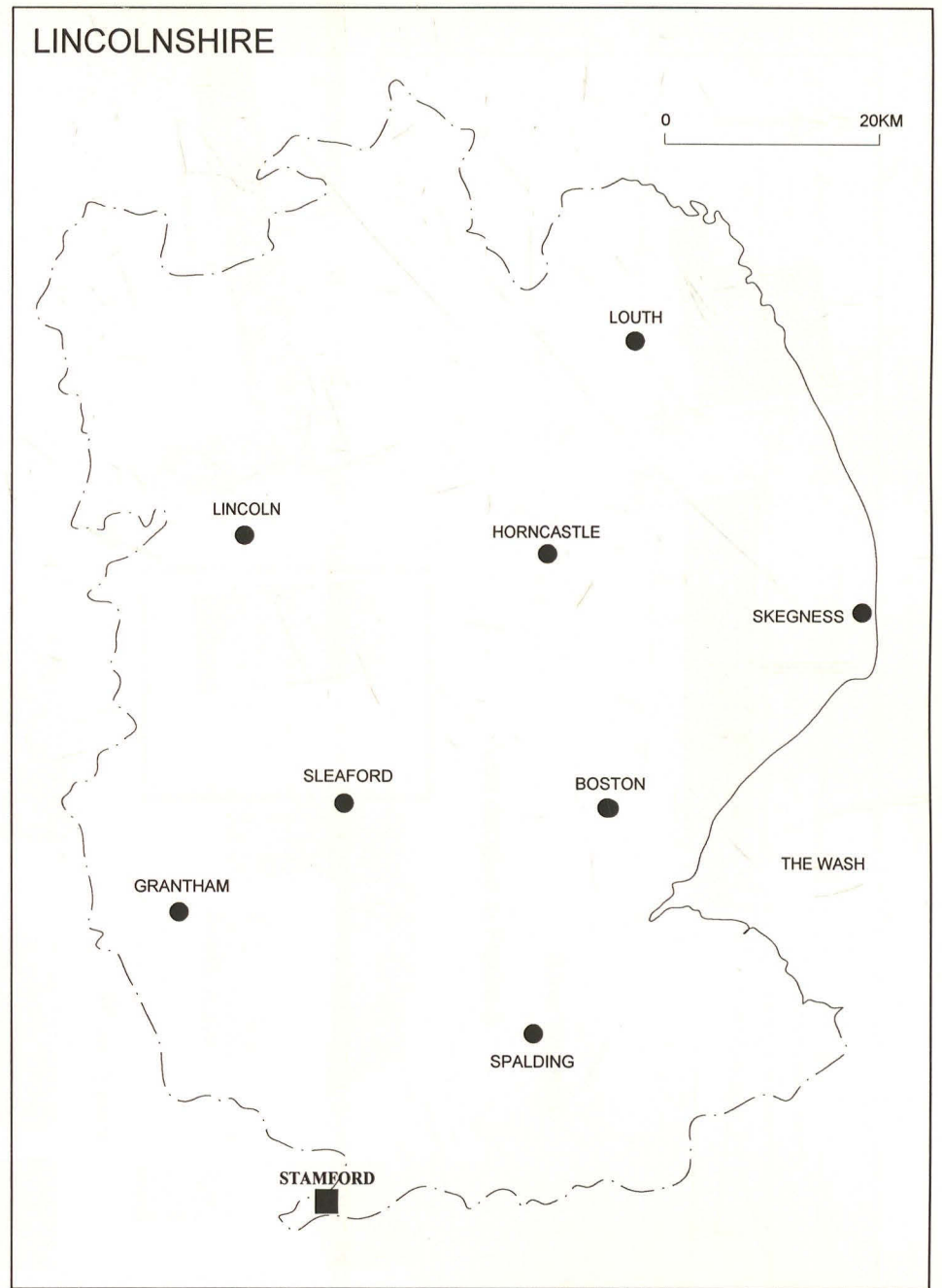
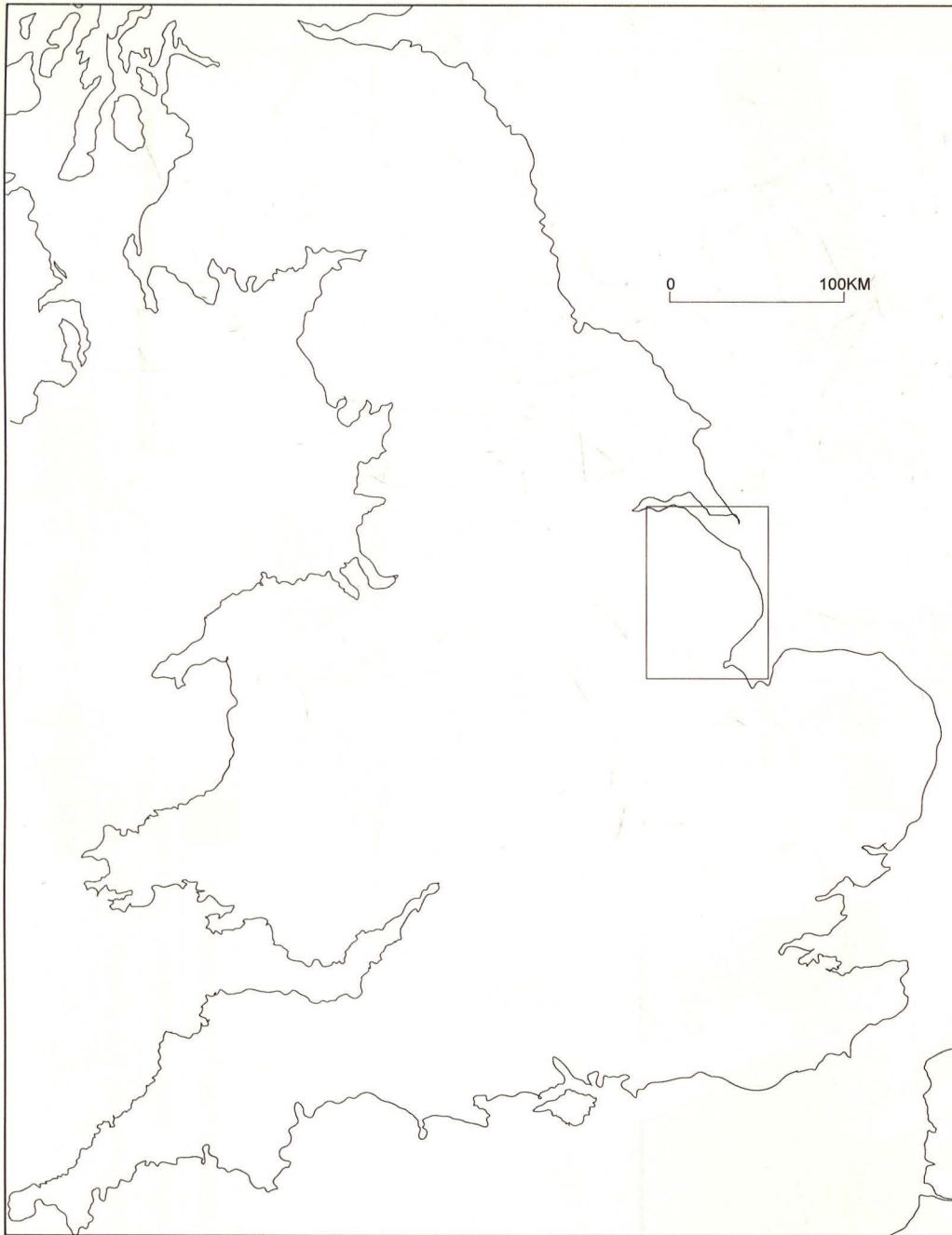
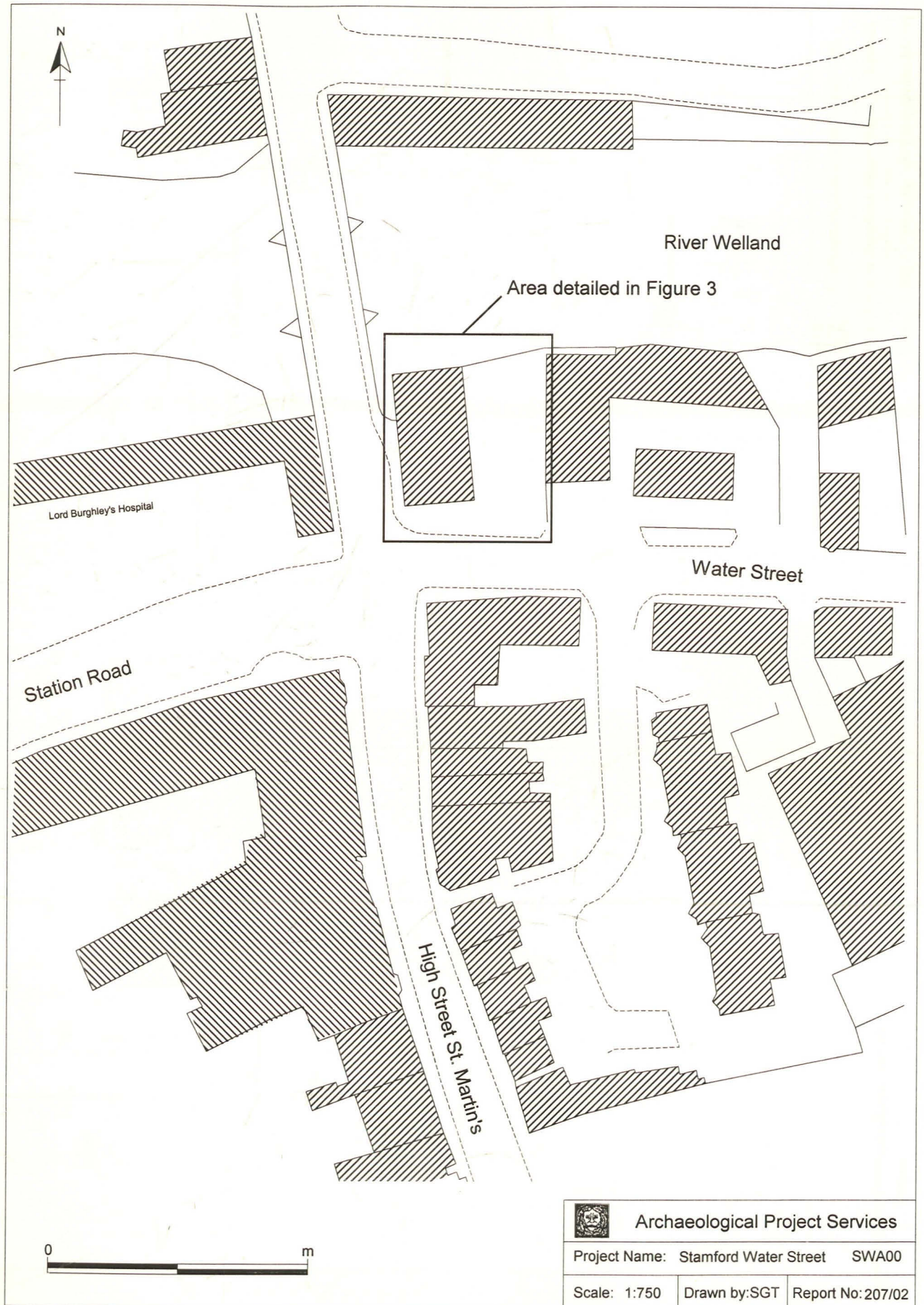


Figure 1 - General location map




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Stamford Water Street SWA00		
Scale: 1:750	Drawn by: SGT	Report No: 207/02

Figure 2 - Site location

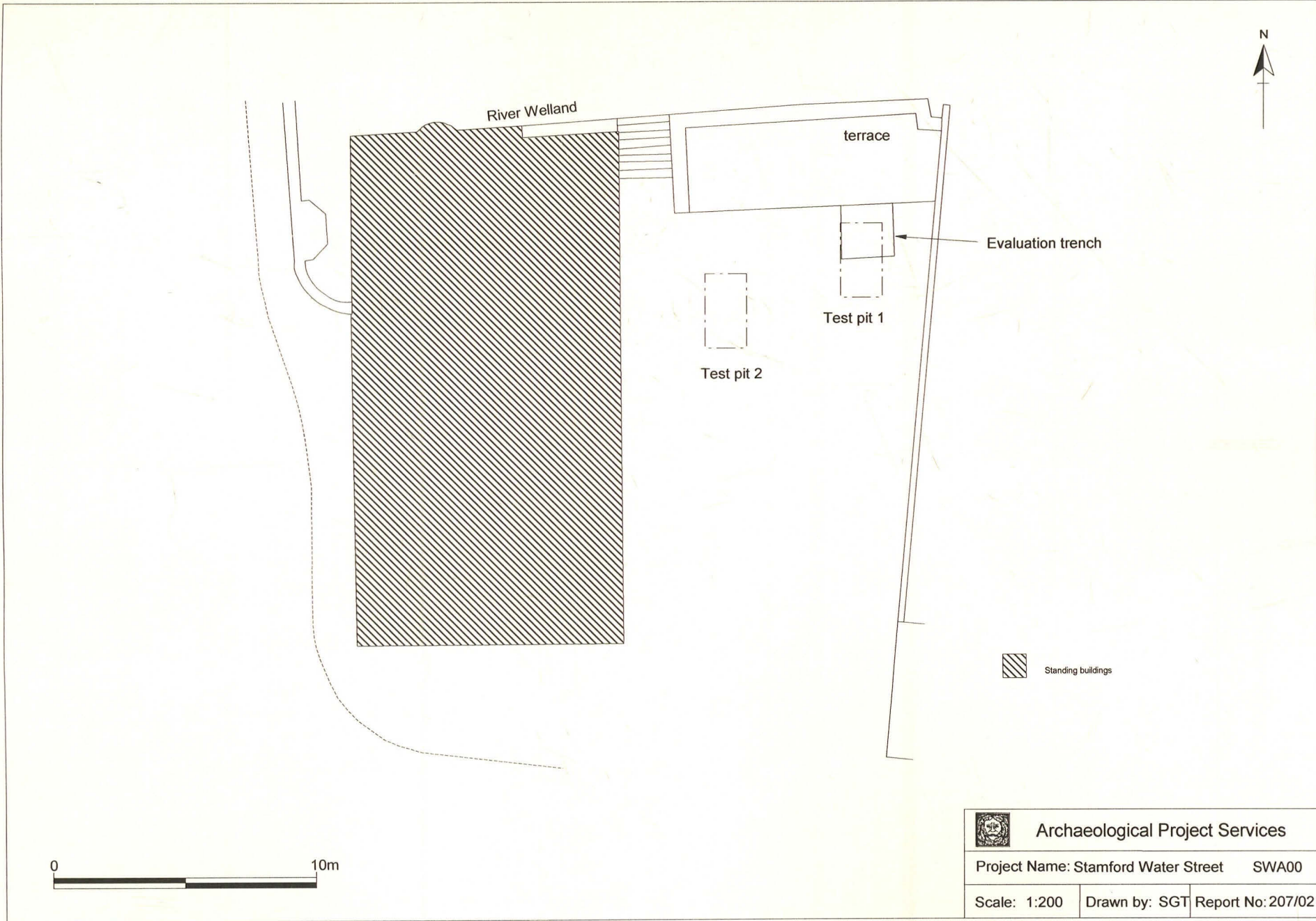


Figure 3 - Test pit locations