1 OF 2 COPIES

M4/9

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
BOSTON SOUTHERN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR
BOSTON DOCKS LINK ROAD,
BOSTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BSEC 04)

A P S

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

PROJECT

SERVICES

EVENT L14906 SOURCE L19350
L14908 L19351

PRN 13546 Po
PRN 13751 Late M
Post

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BOSTON DOCKS LINK ROAD,
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Work Undertaken For
Babtie Group

June 2004

Report Compiled by
Mark Peachey BA

National Grid Reference: TF 3259 4344 and TF 3310 4345
LCNCC Accession Number: 2004.7

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

APS Report No. **54/04**

EVENT L14906 SOURCE L19350
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Boston Southern
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Lincolnshire
(BSEC 04)
Quality Control

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Supervisors	Mark Peachey
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Date: 11 June 2004	Date: 23 June 2004

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken along the Boston Docks Link Road, part of the Boston Southern Economic Corridor, Lincolnshire.

The evaluation was required because the route lay almost entirely within an Area of Known Archaeological Interest as defined in the adopted Boston Borough Local Plan.

The evaluation found thick dumped deposits of probable post-medieval date in all four trenches but only very modern features were discovered. Analysis of borehole survey results indicated that the River Witham was previously wider than at present. Additionally, the borehole data suggested a river wall had been installed, probably in the medieval period, and this had led to the scouring and deepening of the channel. Variations in the results of the boreholes indicated this medieval river wall was between 5m and 20m back from the current river defence on the west side, and between 5m and 35m on the east side.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation is defined as, '*a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate*' (IFA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

A programme of archaeological work was required prior to the construction of the Boston Docks Link Road, part of the Boston Southern Economic Corridor. The evaluation was carried out between 6th January and 30th March 2004 in accordance with a specification designed by the Babtie Group.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Boston is situated 45km southeast of Lincoln and approximately 7km northwest of the coast of The Wash, on the banks of the River Witham in the Fenland of south Lincolnshire. The town is located in the administrative area of Boston Borough, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The proposed Boston Docks Link Road will run between London Road, on the west side of the river and Skirbeck Road to the east via a new road bridge (Fig. 2). Trenches 1-3 are centered on National Grid Reference TF 3310 4345 and Trench 6 is at TF 3259 4344 (Figs. 3 and 4). The investigation area lies at a height of *c.* 4m OD on generally level ground on either side of the River Witham.

Local soils are a coarse silty calcareous soil of the Wisbech Association, overlying marine alluvium, below which is glacial drift (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 127).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

In prehistoric times the area was part of a shifting silt laden delta of the River Witham with tidal river channels, low-lying islands and marsh. Aerial photographs show an extensive network of palaeochannels in the surrounding area.

Bronze Age metalwork was recovered during the building of the docks indicate some activity in the area at this date but little is known about the occupation of the Lincolnshire Marsh during this period as any occupation sites appear to have been buried under deep alluvial deposits following a rise in sea levels during the

Iron Age.

Numerous finds of Romano-British date from the Boston area suggest a recolonisation of the marsh following a retreat in sea levels in the late Iron Age and Roman periods. Occupation was probably confined to low-lying islands, with the tidal marshlands exploited for salt, fish and fowl and is likely to have been seasonal, with a withdrawal to higher, better-drained lands in winter. Although there is no direct evidence for sites of Romano-British date within the docks area finds at a depth of 3m on Fishtoft Road suggest a further rise in sea levels and accompanying alluvial deposits from the end of the fourth century.

No references are known for Boston in the Anglo-Saxon period nor is it mentioned in Domesday Book (1086 AD) but after being founded in the 12th century, the town grew rapidly to become one of the most important ports in medieval England.

In the northern half of the Docks survey area evidence for medieval settlement and industrial activity has been found, particularly on the former General Hospital site and along the frontages of St John's Road and Skirbeck Road. Work prior to redevelopment of the hospital site identified occupation layers dating from the 14th century onwards. Flooding had been common with metalling having been relaid over successive alluvial horizons.

The docks area was associated with the Hanseatic League, a powerful medieval European trading confederation which had a headquarters building and associated warehousing at Boston, part of which was found by trial excavations in 1994/5. Due to the size and importance of the medieval port it is likely that other water-using industries such as skinning, tanning and dyers were located in close proximity to the river and docks. An Augustinian Friary was established in the town in the 14th century and is thought to have stood between St John's Road and Skirbeck Road.

Cartographic and documentary evidence indicates that a series of docks and shipyards were established along the river frontage by the 16th century, in an area characterised by a series of tidal creeks and inlets. These shipyards were still in use in the early 19th century.

Archaeological evidence suggests that much of the area was flooded repeatedly during the post-medieval period and was allowed to revert to permanent pasture.

The Boston Corporation obtained an act of Parliament for the building of a dock in 1880 and it was opened on part of the People's Park in 1884. The remainder of this recreational area was gradually taken up by dock related industry over the following years and raised by 1-1.5m with the importation of surplus subsoil from large construction projects (Babtie Group 2003).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims of the work were to obtain information which would contribute to an evaluation of the potential of the road corridor and which will enable any mitigation measures to be determined.

The objectives of the evaluation were to determine (as far as possible) the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains; to determine or confirm the general nature of any archaeological features and the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence; to determine the condition or state of preservation of the remains; to determine both the thickness and degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy of the remains and the depth of overburden overlying such remains; to determine the likely range, quality, quantity and nature of the

artefactual evidence present, the potential range, quality, quantity and nature of palaeoenvironmental evidence present and to identify research potential or research questions that could be addressed at mitigation stage.

4. METHODS.

Initially, six trenches were proposed for the evaluation. However, two of these, Trenches 4 and 5, were cancelled due to difficulties of access. To replace these cancelled trenches, a watching brief was carried out, bore columns were examined and data from an adjacent evaluation was incorporated.

Four trenches (Figs. 3 and 4) were excavated by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. The exposed surfaces of the trenches were then cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains. The trenches measured 15m x 2m.

Each deposit exposed during the evaluation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled. Sections and plans of trenches were drawn at a scale of 1:20 (Figs. 5 and 6). Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard APS practice.

The location of the excavated trenches was surveyed with an EDM in relation to fixed points on boundaries and existing buildings.

In addition, a watching brief was maintained on 7 out of 10 geotechnical test pits and sections drawn (Fig. 7).

5. RESULTS (Figs. 5 and 6)

Following fieldwork, the records were examined and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them, supplemented by artefact dating.

The watching brief on the geotechnical test pits found similar contexts to the trenches and the results are summarised in Appendix 1 and Figure 7.

5.1 Natural Deposits

Sondages were excavated to reach the natural deposits in Trenches 1, 3 and 6 (Fig. 6). In Trench 1 a mid bluish greyish brown sandy silt (019) was reached at a depth of 1.55m. In Trench 3 a mid reddish brown silt with bluish mottles (013) was reached at a depth of 2.15m. In Trench 6 a bluish grey clay (051) was reached at a depth of 1.8m.

5.2 Post-medieval Deposits

On the east side of the river, Trenches 1-3 all contained a thick layer sealing the natural and containing fragments of post-medieval brick and tile. In Trench 1 layer (016) was a mid reddish yellowish brown sandy silt 0.8m thick. Trench 2 contained a mid greyish brown clayey silt layer (006) at least 0.3m thick and in Trench 3 a 1.25m thick layer of mid greyish brown clayey silt (012) overlay the natural.

On the other, west, side of the river Trench 6 contained a 1.1m thick layer of mid brown clayey silt (050).

Trenches 2 and 3 both contained a layer of dark brown silty clay about 0.2-0.25m thick (005 and 011 respectively) lying above the thick silt layers.

They both had a layer of blackened sand and gravel above these deposits. In Trench 2 layer (004) was present along the whole section and in Trench 3 layer (010) was only present in the northeastern part of the trench.

5.3 Modern Deposits

Trenches 1-3 all contained thick rubble levelling deposits as a base for the tarmac lorry yard currently in use.

In Trench 1 a modern feature of unknown shape [018] was cut from below the rubble.

Trench 6 contained a dark grey silt layer (049) at its southern end measuring 0.22m thick. Above this were rubble layers forming the modern surface. These were cut by rubble filled pit [055] and pipe trench [053].

6. DISCUSSION

The natural deposits revealed in Trenches 1, 3 and 6 were probably alluvial in nature.

Overlying these deposits the thick layers 006, 012, 016 and 050 appear to represent deliberate dumping of material containing fragments of brick and tile to raise ground levels. Although two sherds of medieval tile were the only finds retained from these layers it seems likely that this material is residual and that the deposits are of post-medieval date.

Layers 005 in Trench 2 and 011 in Trench 3 may be buried topsoil remnants from the public gardens present on the site on the Ordnance Survey map of 1887 (Molyneux and Wright 1974).

Dark silt layer 049 in Trench 6 is probably a remnant of the surface of the railway goods yard which occupied this site for most of the 20th century.

In all trenches these layers are sealed by rubble levelling for modern yard surfaces.

Trenches 4 and 5, located either side of the river, could not be opened due to difficulties of access.

In place of Trench 5, located within the Total Garage on High Street, it has been decided to include information from Trenches 1 and 4 on the 138-142 High Street (HSBA03) evaluation immediately to the north (Figs. 4, 8) and also from boreholes 2, 3 and 4 drilled by Lincs Laboratory (Appendix 2, Figs. 9-12).

Trench 4, which was to have been on the opposite bank, was replaced by boreholes 5 and 6, with further information from borehole 7 incorporated. On this east bank some of the boreholes hit obstructions and others were drilled adjacent to the depth-restricted cores (Appendix 2 and Figs. 9-12).

HSBA03 Trench 1, 50m to the northeast of, but aligned similarly to the abortive Trench 5 close to the river, contained a sequence of 18th and 19th century dumped deposits overlying deeper riverbank sands and silts (reached at 2m in a sondage at the west end).

HSBA03 Trench 4, 30m north of the Total Garage and aligned east-west, but further from the river, contained similar dumped deposits for the easternmost three quarters of its length, over bank deposits at the west end.

It was concluded that these deposits represented a stable unshored riverbank of post-medieval date. This was backed up by cartographic evidence, Hall's map of 1741 showing the bank edge at this position. The next detailed map of the area, Rennie's plan of 1811, showed the bank edge further to the east on approximately the same line as the modern concrete and steel quay. This information was supported by the finds evidence and it was concluded that the area between these points became permanent land some time after 1741 with the uppermost deposits being considerably later in date (Snee 2003). It can be safely concluded that Trench 5 would have revealed dumped deposits of a similar date, overlying bank sands and silts at a

depth of at least 3m as revealed in boreholes 2 and 3 (Figs. 11-12).

This evidence is supported by the difference in depth of made ground between boreholes 2 and 3 (Figs. 11-12) with the medieval riverbank probably lying between these points as well as the post-medieval. Moreover, on this west side of the river, boreholes 3 and 4, both within 5m of the present river defence, revealed stony, mixed deposits, interpreted as the river bed, between 6.75-7.2m below ground level. These are considered to have been formed by scouring and deepening of the river bed following the installation of a river wall that confined the watercourse. Comparable deposits were not present in borehole 2, 15m to the west, though this extended to a depth of 9.45m below ground level. Therefore, the river wall was between 5m and 20m west of the current west bank river defence (Figs. 9-12).

On the east side of the river, in boreholes 5 and 6.2, mixed, stony layers also considered to be river bed deposits were identified between 6.25-7.45m depth. Late medieval artefacts were recovered from these river bed levels in borehole 5. However, comparable deposits were not evident 30m to the east in borehole 7 (Figs. 9-12).

It is highly probable that these stony river bed deposits on either side of the watercourse are part of the same event, that is the deepening and scouring of the channel after it was restricted in width by the installation of a wall or defences. Moreover, the medieval artefacts from borehole 5 indicate the probability that this wall was erected in the medieval period. The exact position of these river defences is not known but the variation in the borehole results indicates that it was between 5m and 20m of the current west bank wall, and 5m to 35m from the east side defences. Furthermore, similarity between the upper borehole deposits on the west side of the Witham suggest that the top of this medieval river wall was within 2.7m of the current ground surface. On the east bank the height of the top of the river wall is unclear.

7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on the route of the proposed Boston Docks Link Road. All the trenches contained thick dumped deposits of probable post-medieval date but only very modern features were discovered. This was evidence of levelling up of the former marshland to facilitate dockside industry.

Borehole survey results adjacent to the River Witham indicated that it was previously wider but had been confined by a river wall, probably in the medieval period. The positions of these medieval defences were not accurately located but were between 5m and 35m back from the current river walls.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of the Babtie Group who commissioned this investigation. Thanks are also due to Richard Humphrey and John Young of Lincs Laboratory, for assistance with the processing and examination of the bore columns. The work was co-ordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report with Tom Lane.

9. PERSONNEL

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Bore column examination: James Rackham and Gary Taylor
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth

CAD Illustration: Mark Dymond, Victoria Mellor, Mark Peachey, Tobin Rayner, Jim Snee
Post-excavation analysis: Mark Peachey

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Snee, J., 2003 *Archaeological Evaluation on Land at 138-142 High Street, Boston, Lincolnshire* APS Report **195/03**

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

OD Ordnance Datum (height above sea level)

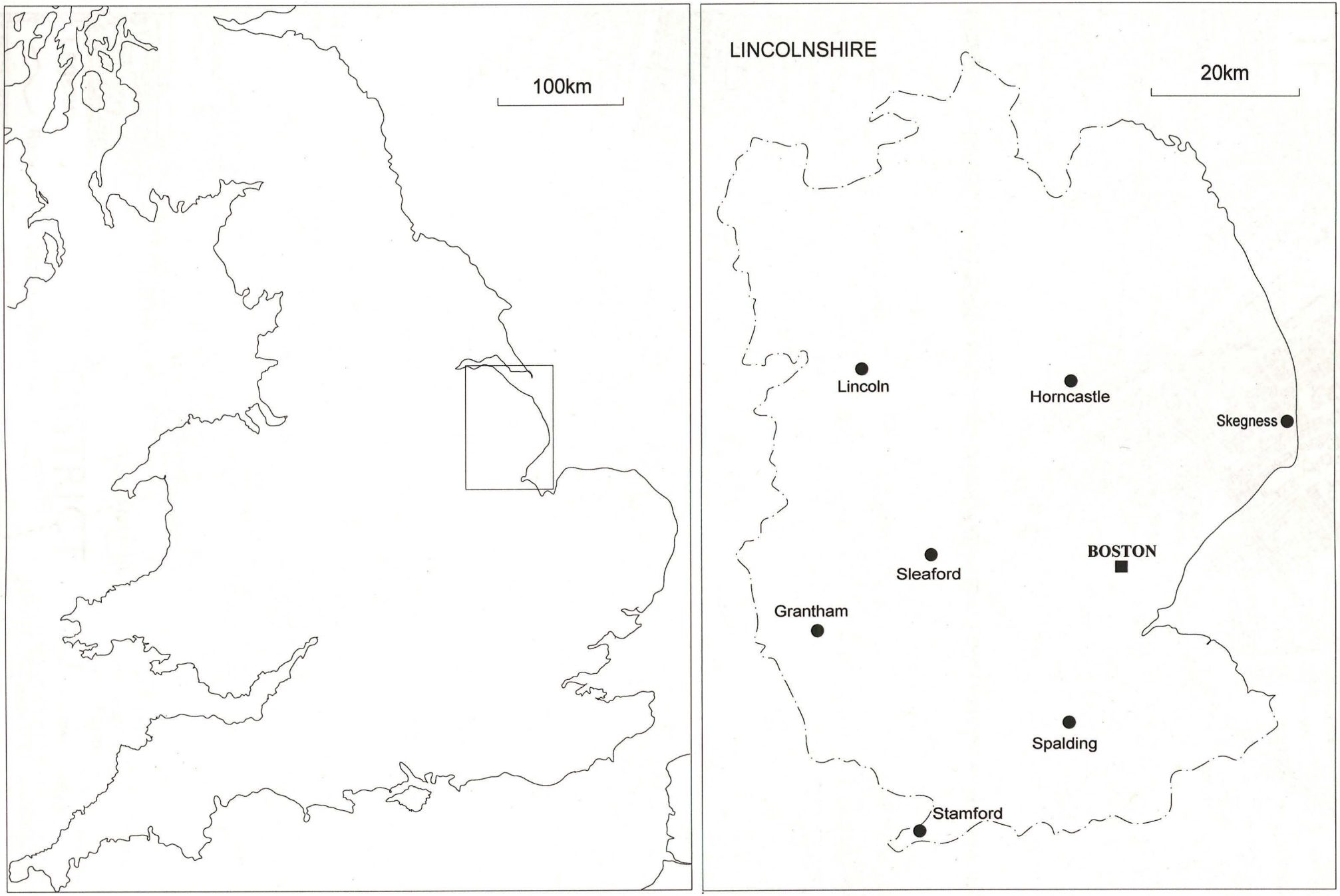


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

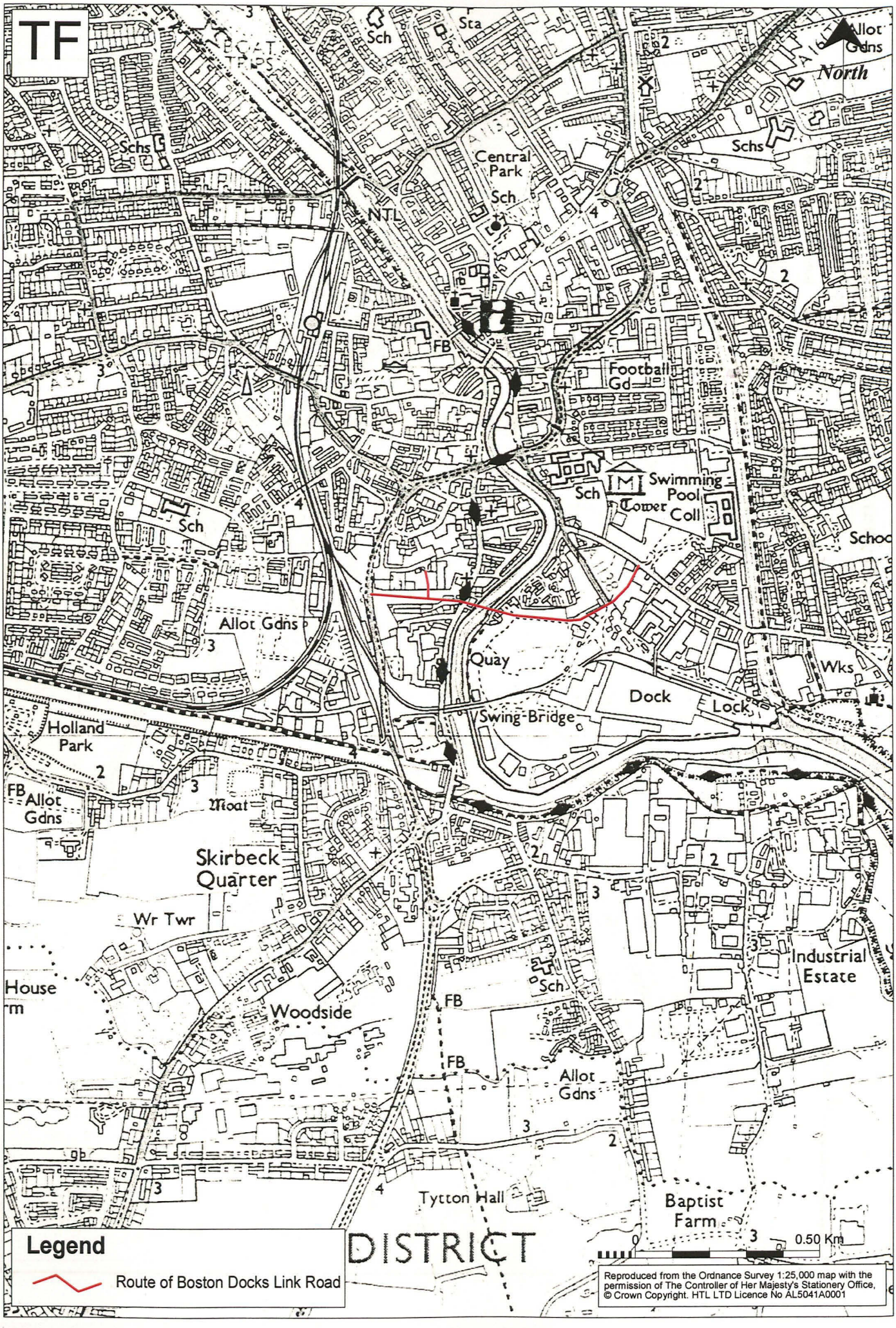
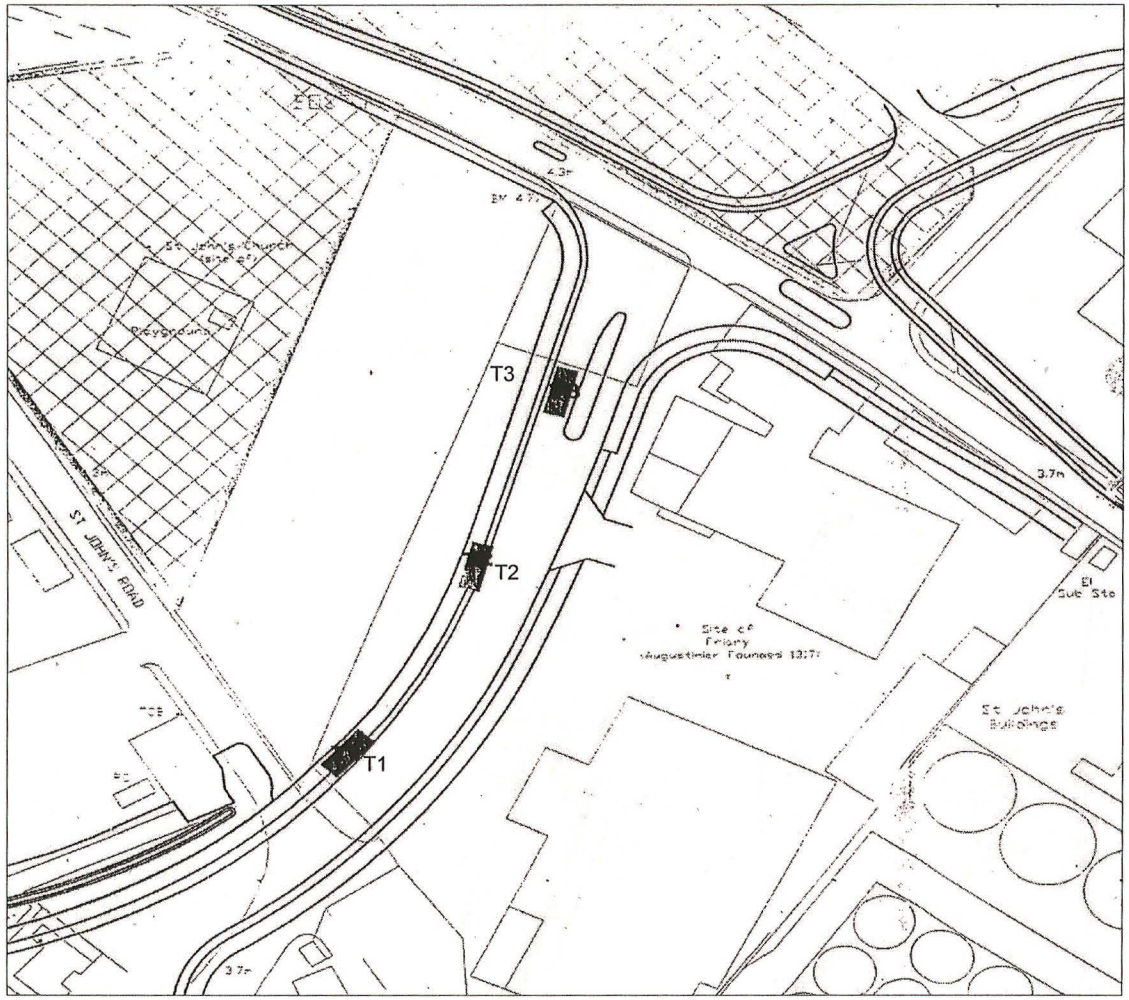


Figure 2 Site location plan



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Scale: 1:2000	Drawn by: TR	Report No: 54/04

Figure 3: Trench location plan (east)

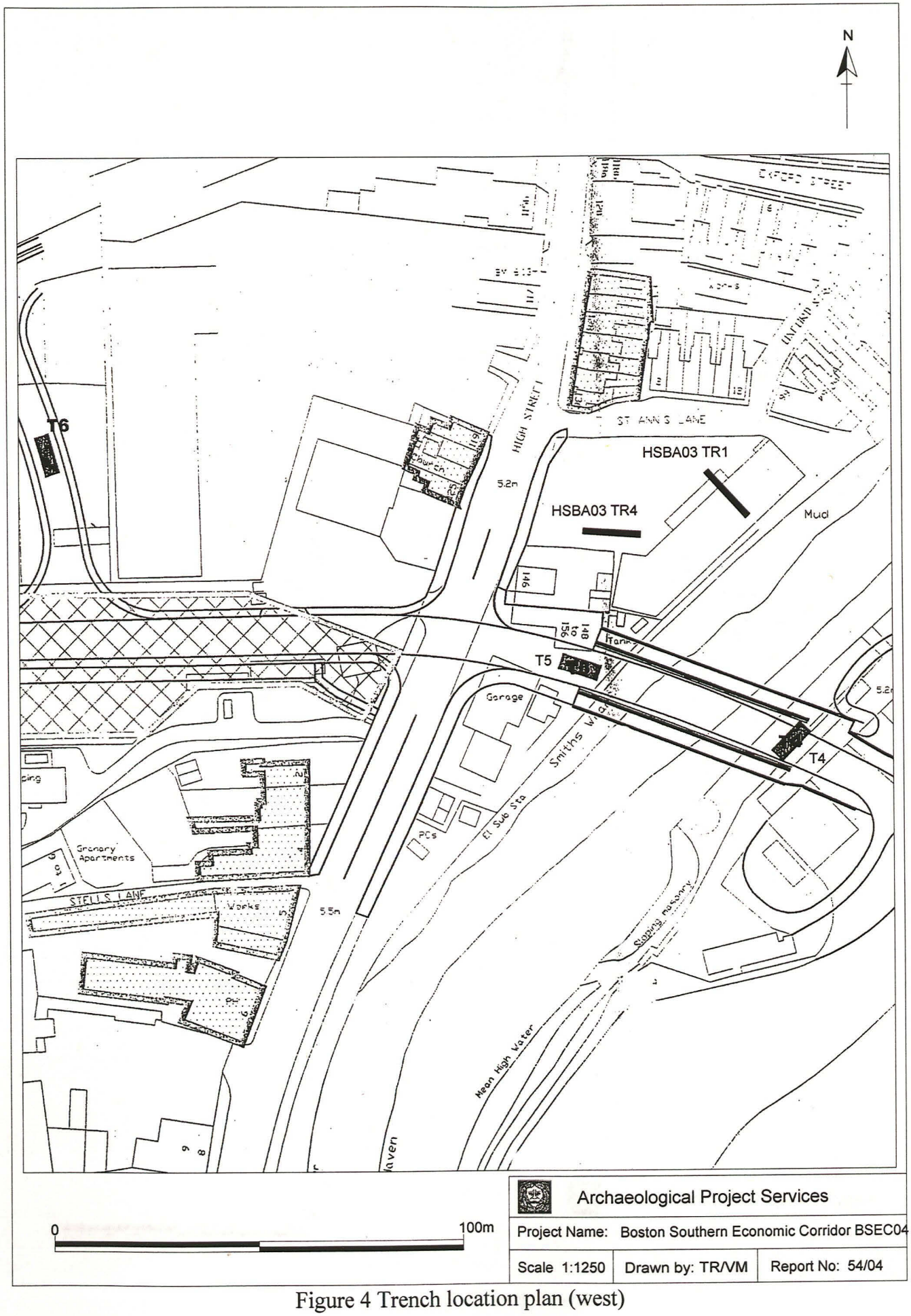


Figure 4 Trench location plan (west)

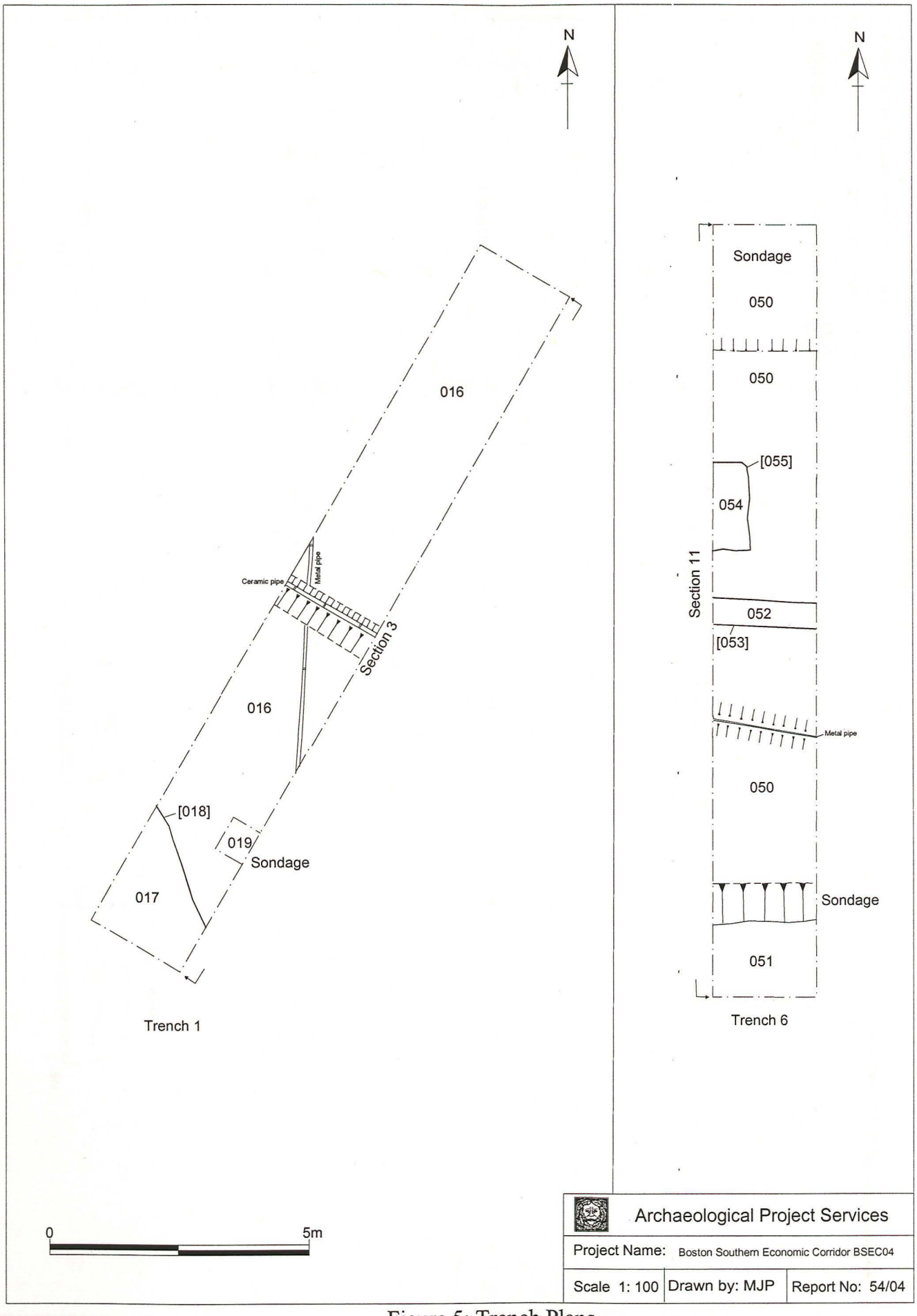


Figure 5: Trench Plans

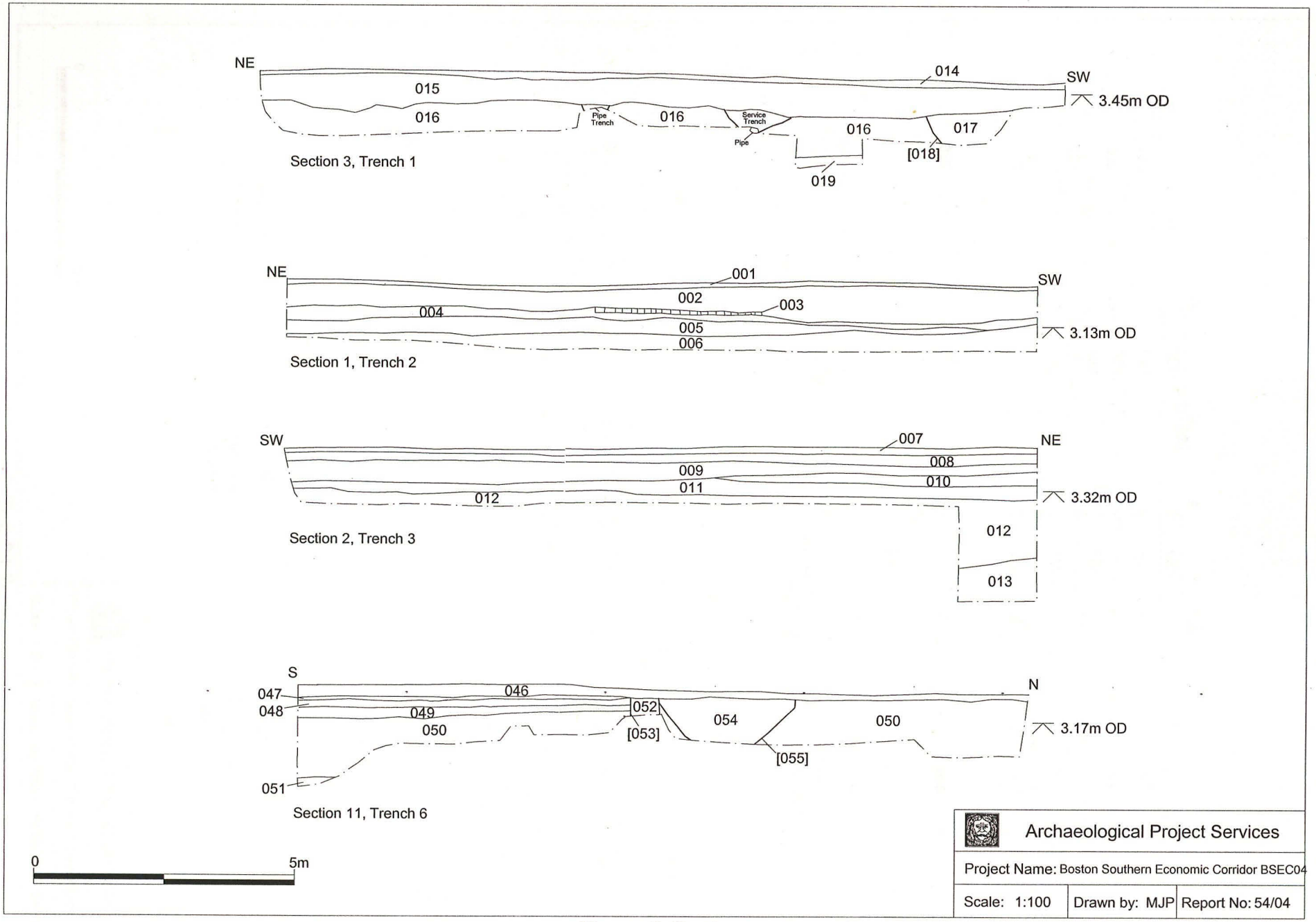


Figure 6: Sections

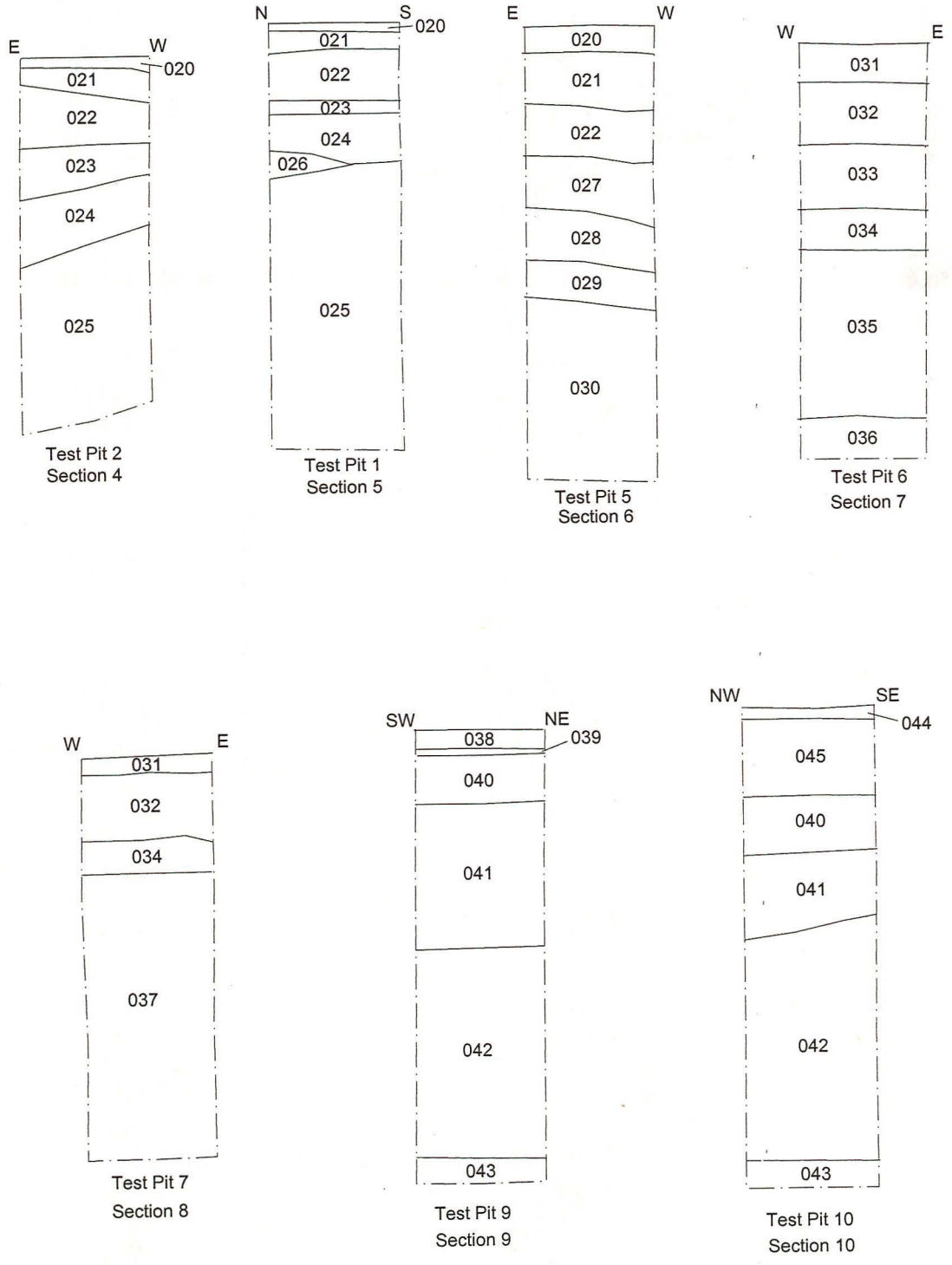
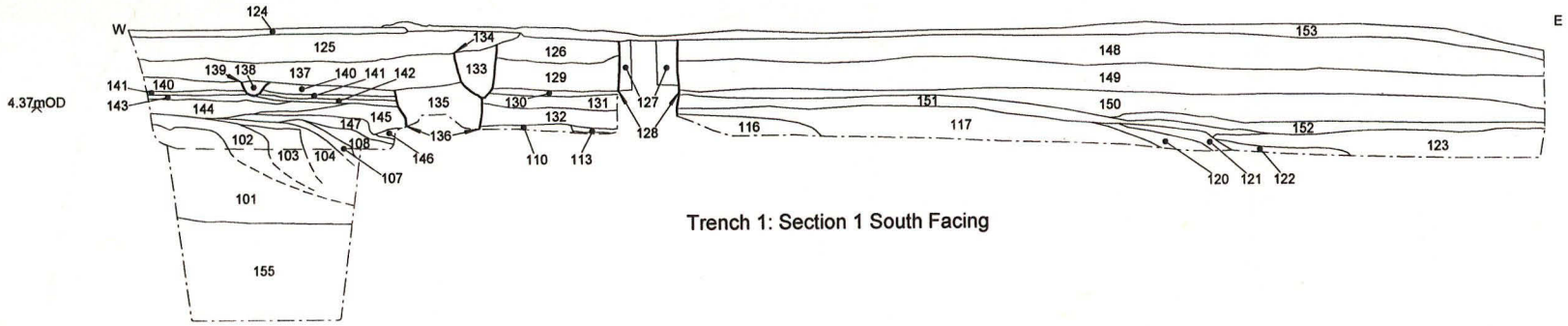
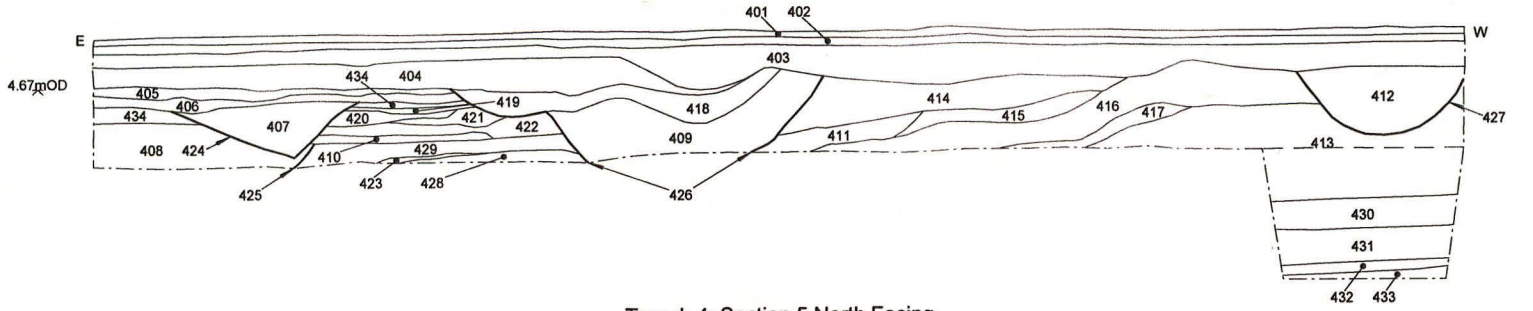


Figure 7. Test Pit Sections



Trench 1: Section 1 South Facing



Trench 4: Section 5 North Facing

0 5m

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Scale: 1:75	Drawn by: MJP	Report No: 54/04

Figure 8: HSBA03 Sections 1 and 4

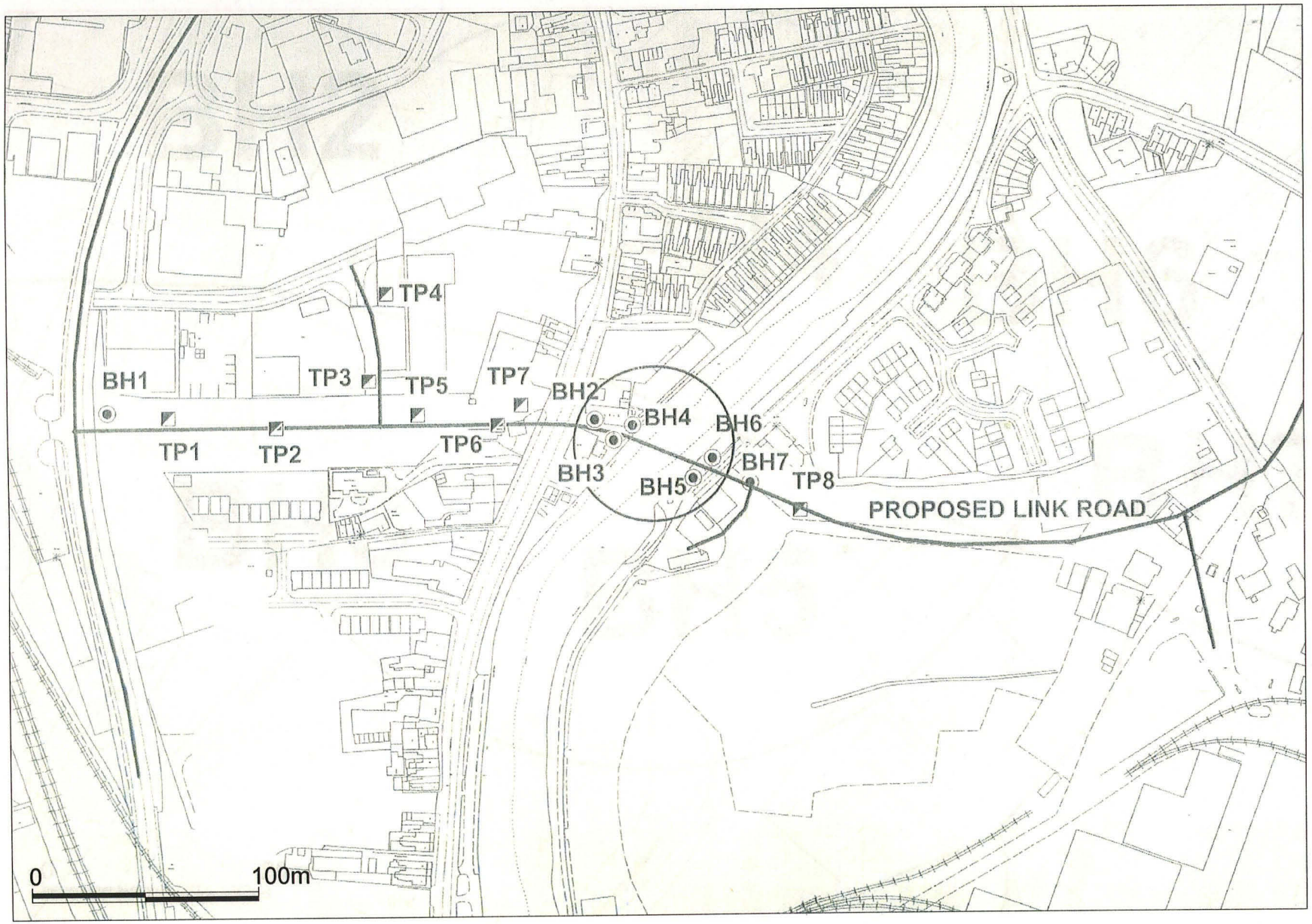

Figure 9 Link road route showing locations of boreholes

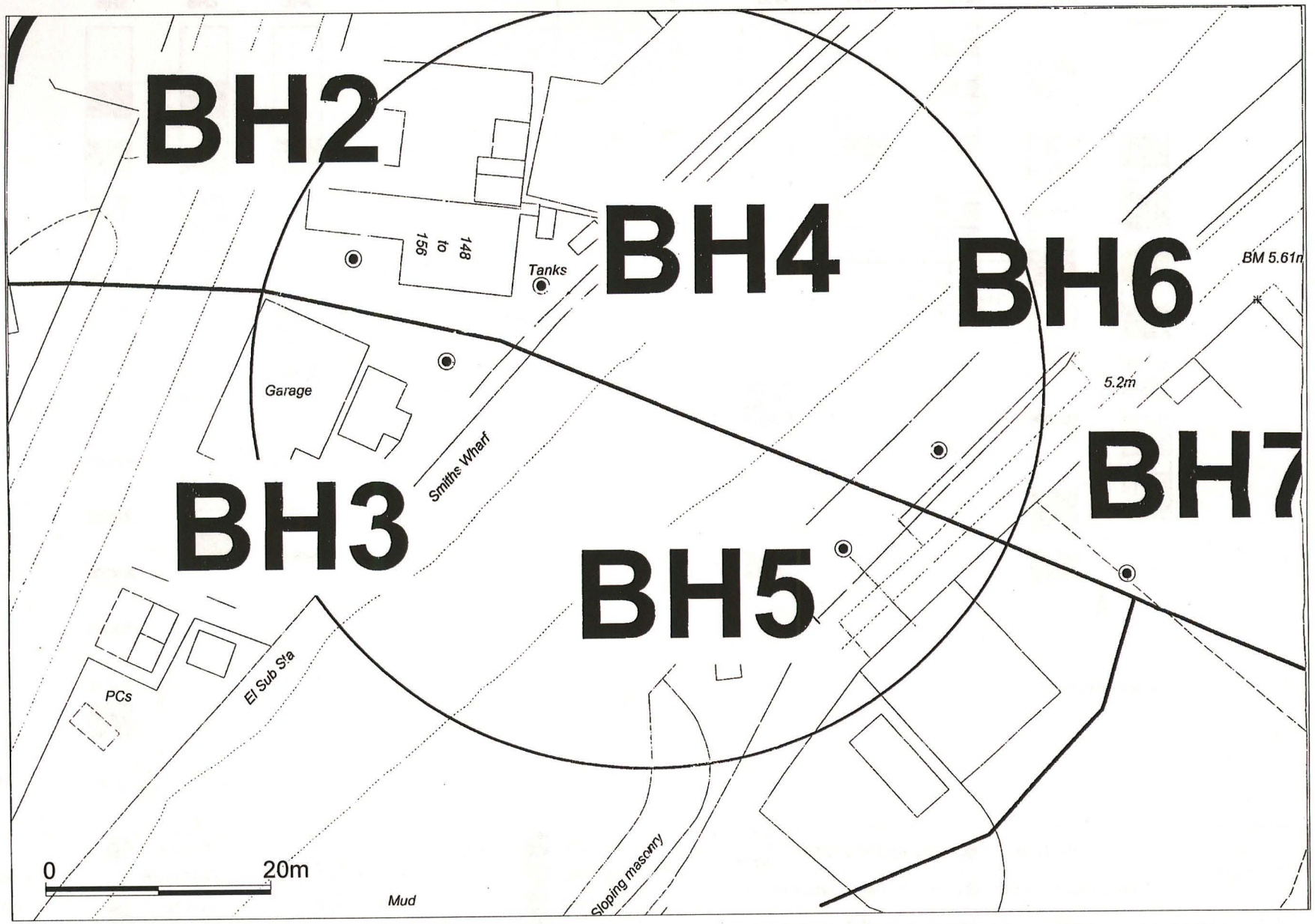

Figure 10 Detailed location plan of boreholes 2-7

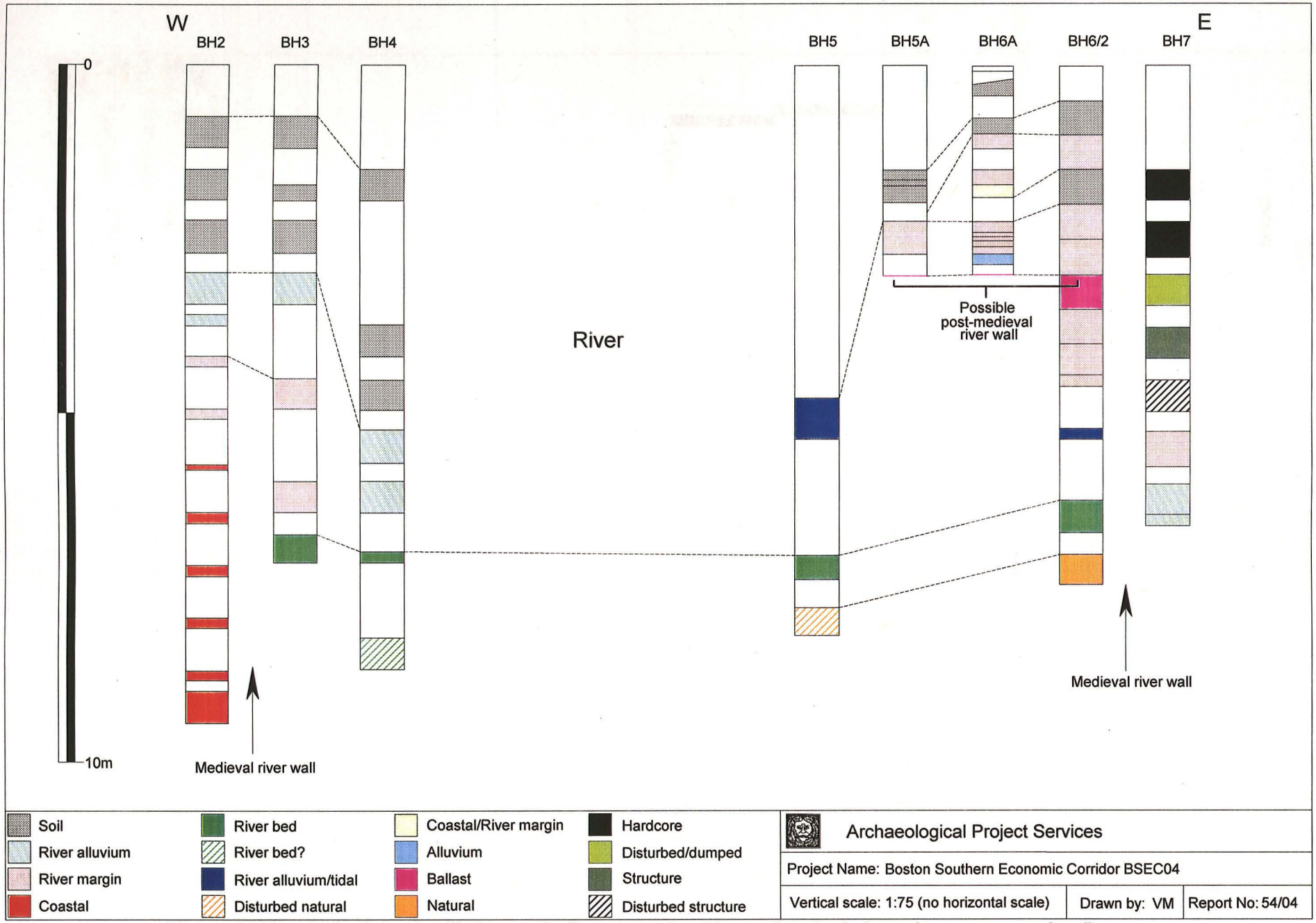

Figure 11 Borehole data, detailed records from examined bores (unshaded portions not examined)

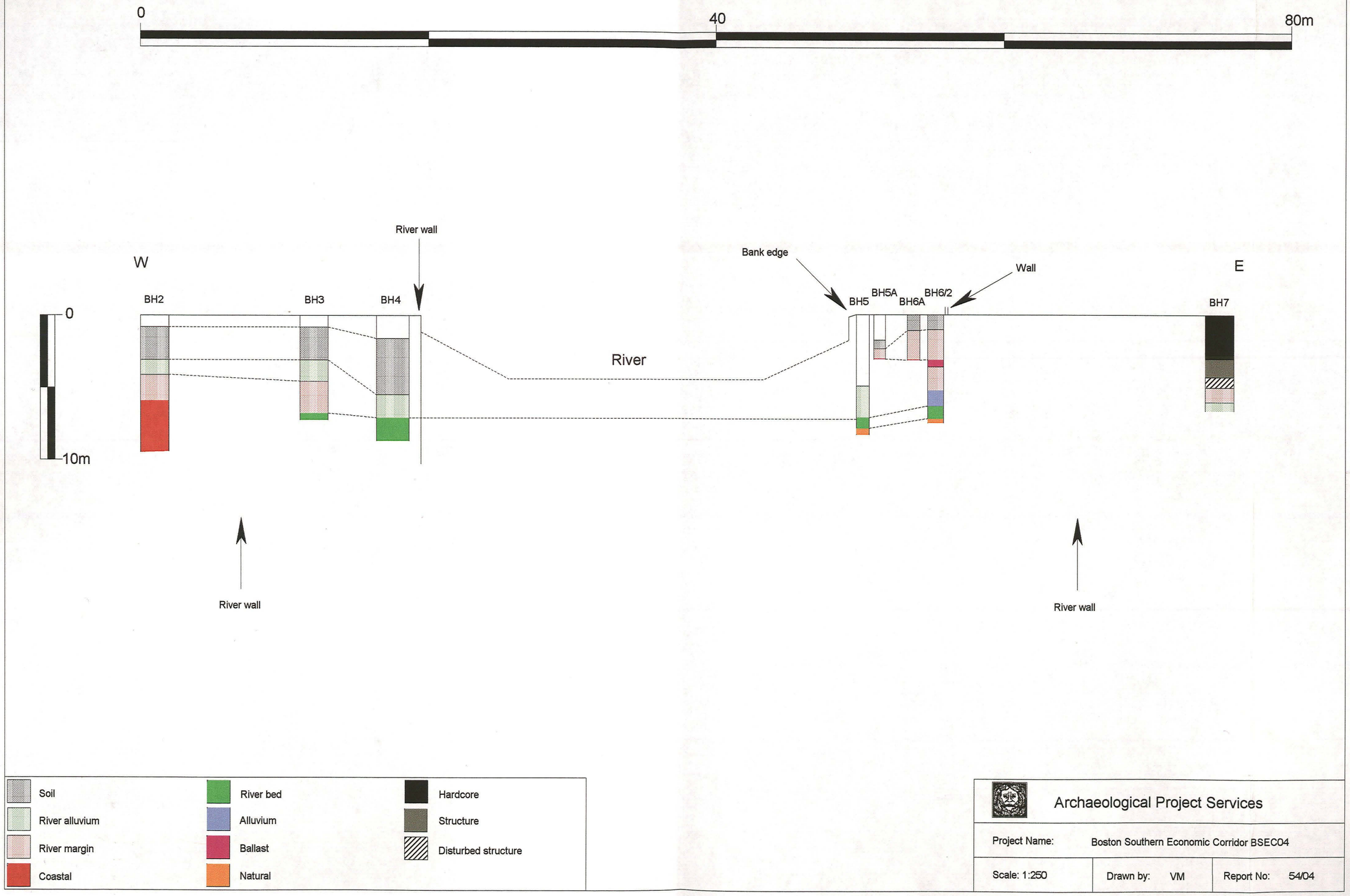

Figure 12 Representational section across river bed, based on borehole data

Plate 1: General view area of Trenches 1-3

Plate 2: Trench 3 looking southwest

Plate 3: Trench 1 looking northeast

Plate 4: General view area of Trench 6

Plate 5: Trench 6 looking north

Appendix 1

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Date
001	2	Black tarmac 0.09m thick	Yard surface	Modern
002	2	Hardcore/rubble 0.6m thick	Layer	Modern
003	2	Brick rubble 0.1m thick	Demolition layer	Modern
004	2	Black sand and gravel 0.1m thick	Layer	Post -med
005	2	Dark brown clayey silt 0.22m thick	Former topsoil?	Post-med
006	2	Mid greyish brown clayey silt 0.3m+ thick	Dumped deposit	Post-med
007	3	Black tarmac, same as 001	Yard surface	Modern
008	3	Brick rubble/sand and pebbles	Layer	Modern
009	3	Hardcore/rubble same as 002	Layer	Modern
010	3	Black sand and gravel same as 004	Layer	Post-med
011	3	Dark brown clayey silt same as 005	Former topsoil?	Post-med
012	3	Mid greyish brown clayey silt 1.25m thick	Dumped deposit	Post-med
013	3	Mid reddish brown /bluish mottles 0.8m + thick	Alluvium	
014	1	Black tarmac same as 001	Yard surface	Modern
015	1	Hardcore/rubble same as 002	Layer	Modern
016	1	Mid reddish brown sandy silt 0.8m thick	Dumped deposit	Post-med
017	1	Blackish brown sandy silt 0.6m+ thick	Fill of 018	Modern
018	1	Cut of linear feature	Linear feature	Modern
019	1	Mid bluish greyish brown sandy silt 0.2m+ thick	Alluvium	Modern
020	Test pit 2	Dark grey clayey silt 0.1m thick	Topsoil	Modern
021	Test pit 2	Hardcore/concrete rubble 0.2m thick	Layer	Modern
022	Test pit 2	Yellow sand 0.5m thick	Layer	
023	Test pit 2	Dark grey clayey silt 0.4m thick	Former topsoil?	
024	Test pit 2	Mixed red and mid grey clayey silt 0.3m thick	Layer	
025	Test pit 2	Mid grey brown silty clay 1.3m+ thick	Alluvium	
026	Test pit 1	Pale grey clayey silt 0.2m thick	Lens	
027	Test pit 5	Mid grey clayey silt 0.5m thick	Layer	
028	Test pit 5	Pale yellowish grey clayey silt 0.3m thick	Levelling	
029	Test pit 5	Brick rubble	Layer	
030	Test pit 5	Dark grey silty clay 1.3m+ thick	Natural	
031	Test pit 6	Dark greyish brown clayey silt 0.3m thick	Topsoil	
032	Test pit 6	Pale grey gravel, sand, concrete rubble	Levelling	
033	Test pit 6	Dark grey silt 0.5m thick	Levelling	
034	Test pit 6	Mid yellow silt 0.3m thick	Natural	
035	Test pit 6	Mid brown silty clay 1.3m thick	Natural	
036	Test pit 6	Mid grey clayey silt 0.3m thick	Natural	
037	Test pit 7	Mid brown silt 2.2m+ thick	Natural	
038	Test pit 9	Mid brown clay silt 0.15m thick	Topsoil	
039	Test pit 9	Dark grey tarmac 0.05m thick	Surface	
040	Test pit 9	Concrete/brick rubble 0.36m thick	Layer	
041	Test pit 9	Dark grey silty clay 1.1m thick	Levelling	
042	Test pit 9	Mid brown silt 1.6m thick	Natural	
043	Test pit 9	Mid grey silty clay 0.2m thick	Natural	
044	Test pit 10	Red-brown sandy clayey silt	Topsoil	
045	Test pit 10	Mid greyish brown silt and gravel 0.6m thick	Levelling	
046	6	Crushed concrete	Surface	
047	6	Yellow sandy aggregate 0.1m thick	Levelling	
048	6	Brick rubble 0.2m thick	Layer	
049	6	Very dark grey silt 0.22m thick	Layer	
050	6	Mid brown clayey silt 1.1m thick	Dumped deposit	
051	6	Bluish grey clay	Natural	

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Date
052	6	Rubble, clay, stones	Fill of 053	Modern
053	6	Linear cut	Pipe trench	Modern
054	6	Dark grey silt/rubble	Fill of 055	Modern
055	6	Rectangular cut	Pit	Modern

HSBA03 Trenches 1 and 4 context summary

Each trench was allocated a continuous run of 100 contexts, the trench number forming the prefix of the sequence (e.g context numbers for Trench 1 were 100 to 199 and the context numbers for Trench 4 were 400 to 499).

Context No	Section No	Description	Interpretation
100	-	Unstratified finds.	-
101	1	Friable, light yellowish brown silty sand, 1.0m thick.	Dumped deposit/ bank material.
102	1	Friable, dark brown silty sand, with moderate CBM fragments and occasional charcoal and shell flecks, 0.23m thick.	Dumped deposit.
103	1	Friable, mid brown sandy silt, with frequent CBM fragments, 0.24m thick.	Dumped deposit.
104	1	Friable, dark brown sandy silt, with frequent CBM flecks, 0.21m thick.	Dumped deposit.
105	-	Loose, dark blackish brown silty sand, with frequent CBM flecks, 0.02m thick.	Dumped lens.
106	-	Friable, mid brown silty sand, with frequent CBM flecks, 0.02m thick.	Dumped lens.
107	1	Loose, light greyish brown silty sand and mortar, with frequent CBM flecks, 0.10m thick.	Dumped layer.
108	1	Friable, dark brown sandy silt, with moderate CBM fragments and occasional mortar flecks, 0.18m thick.	Dumped deposit.
109	1	Soft, dark yellowish brown sandy silt, with frequent CBM and mortar flecks, contains a concrete encased pipe.	Fill of service trench (136).
110	1	Loose/friable, dark black sandy silt, with frequent CBM and mortar flecks, 0.08m thick.	Dumped layer.
111	1	Indurate, white concrete beam.	Modern foundation.
112	1	Sub-rectangular cut, 0.49m wide and > 0.82m deep, with vertical sides.	Construction cut.
113	1	Friable, mid grey-brown silty sand, with frequent CBM flecks, 0.04m thick.	Dumped lens.
114	1	Wall, composed of machine made bricks and Portland cement, 0.40m wide and 0.30m high.	Foundation wall.
115	1	Indurate, white concrete beam.	Modern foundation.
116	1	Friable, blackish brown silty sand, with frequent CBM, mortar and charcoal fragments, 0.20m thick.	Dumped refuse and demolition debris.
117	1	Friable, mid yellowish brown sand, > 0.30m thick.	Dumped deposit/ bank material.
118	-	Friable, mottled mid yellowish brown and dark grey silty sand.	Fill of (019).
119	-	Linear cut, > 0.82m deep, with near vertical sides, oriented east-west.	Construction cut.
120	1	Loose, black sandy silt, with frequent CBM, mortar and charcoal fragments, 0.12m thick.	Dumped deposit.

Context No	Section No	Description	Interpretation
121	1	Friable, light yellowish grey sandy silt, 0.10m thick.	Make up/bank material.
122	1	Friable, dark greyish brown sandy silt, with occasional CBM fragments and frequent charcoal fragments, 0.06m thick.	Dumped deposit.
123	1	Friable, mid yellowish reddish brown sand, > 0.30m thick.	Dumped deposit/bank material.
124	1	Indurate, black tarmac, 0.06m thick.	Yard surface.
125	1	Weakly cemented, light yellow sand and limestone rubble, up to 0.28m thick.	Levelling deposit.
126	1	Firm, banded grey-brown silt and grave, with frequent CBM and charcoal fragments, 0.26m thick (in 20mm to 40mm thick bands)	Disturbed surfaces.
127	1	Soft, mid greyish yellowish brown sandy silt, with occasional CBM flecks.	Fill of construction cut (128).
128	1	Linear cut, 0.62m wide and 0.93m deep, with vertical sides, oriented north-south.	Construction cut.
129	1	Friable, dark greyish brown, silty sand, with frequent CBM and mortar fragments and occasional pebbles, 0.36m thick.	Dumped deposit.
130	1	Friable, light yellowish brown silty sand, with occasional pebbles, 0.08m thick.	Make up layer/bank material.
131	1	Friable, mid greyish brown silty sand, with frequent CBM and mortar fragments, 0.16m thick.	Dumped deposit.
132	1	Friable, mid yellowish brown sand, 0.22m thick.	Dumped deposit/bank material.
133	1	Friable, mid greyish brown silty sand, with frequent gravel.	Fill of pipe trench (134).
134	1	Linear cut, 0.43m wide and 0.52m deep, with concave sides and a rounded base, oriented north-south.	Pipe trench.
135	1	Soft, dark yellowish brown sandy silt, with frequent CBM and mortar flecks, contains a concrete encased pipe.	Fill of service trench (136).
136	1	Linear cut, 0.77m wide and 0.46m deep, with concave sides, oriented north-south.	Service trench.
137	1	Friable, dark greyish brown, silty sand, with frequent CBM and mortar fragments and occasional pebbles, 0.34m thick.	Dumped layer.
138	1	Friable, dark greyish brown silty sand, with frequent CBM and mortar fragments.	Fill of (139).
139	1	Linear cut, 0.30m wide and 0.16m deep, with sloping sides and a rounded base.	Gully.
140	1	Friable, light yellowish brown silty sand, with occasional pebbles, 0.08m thick.	Make up layer/bank material.
141	1	Friable/soft, mid greyish brown sandy silt, with frequent CBM and shell fragments and occasional pebbles, 0.05m thick.	Dumped layer.
142	1	Soft, black charcoal and sand, with moderate mortar and occasional CBM flecks, 0.06m thick.	Dumped layer.

Context No	Section No	Description	Interpretation
143	1	Friable, dark yellowish brown sandy silt, with frequent mortar flecks and occasional small pebbles, 0.06m thick.	Dumped deposit.
144	1	Friable, mid grey-brown silty sand, with occasional mortar flecks and rare pebbles, 0.20m thick.	Dumped deposit.
145	1	Friable, mid yellowish brown silty sand, 0.31m thick.	Dumped layer/bank material.
146	1	Friable, mid grey-brown silty sand, with occasional CBM fragments, 0.12m thick.	Dumped deposit.
147	1	Friable, mottled dark greyish brown and black silty sand, with frequent CBM, mortar and charcoal flecks, 0.15m thick.	Dumped layer.
148	1	Firm, banded grey-brown silt and grave, with frequent CBM and charcoal fragments, 0.36m thick (in 20mm to 40mm thick bands)	Levelling deposit.
149	1	Friable, dark greyish brown, silty sand, with frequent CBM and mortar fragments and occasional pebbles, 0.38m thick.	Dumped layer.
150	1	Friable, light yellowish brown silty sand, with occasional pebbles, 0.27m thick.	Make up layer/bank material.
151	1	Friable, mid grey-brown sandy silt, with frequent CBM and mortar fragments, 0.12m thick.	Dumped deposit.
152	1	Loose, grey-brown sand and pebbles, 0.10m thick.	Dumped deposit/bank material.
153	1	Loose, red-yellow-brown brick and limestone rubble, up to 0.14m thick.	Demolition layer.
154	1	Friable, light brownish yellow sand.	Fill of construction cut (112).
155	14	Friable, laminated light yellowish brown silty sand, > 1.0m thick.	Bank material.
400	-	Unstratified finds.	-
401	5	Indurate, black tarmac, 0.07m thick.	Yard surface.
402	5	Weakly cemented, light yellow sand ballast, with frequent sandstone fragments.	Levelling deposit.
403	5	Loose, red and yellow sand and brick fragments, 0.41m thick.	Levelling deposit.
404	5	Friable, dark greyish brown sandy silt, with frequent mortar and CBM fragments, 0.40m thick.	Dumped deposit.
405	5	Soft/friable, white crushed lime, 0.10m thick.	Levelling deposit.
406	5	Friable, dark greyish brown sandy silt, with frequent CBM fragments, 0.13m thick.	Dumped deposit.
407	5	Friable, mid yellowish brown sand.	Fill of (424).
408	5	Friable, dark brown sandy silt, with occasional CBM fragments.	Fill of (425).
409	5	Loose, black gravely sand, with frequent CBM fragments, 0.52m thick.	Fill of (426).
410	5	Friable, mid brown silty sand, with frequent CBM, charcoal and mortar flecks, 0.07m thick.	Dumped deposit.
411	5	Friable, mid brown sand, 0.20m thick.	Dumped deposit/bank material.
412	5	Friable, dark greyish brown sandy silt, with frequent CBM fragments and gravel.	Fill of pit (427).

Context No	Section No	Description	Interpretation
413	5	Soft, mid brown clayey silt, with frequent CBM and mortar fragments, 0.68m thick.	Dumped deposit/bank material.
414	5	Soft, mid grey-brown sandy silt, with frequent ash, charcoal and CBM fragments, 0.49m thick.	Dumped deposit.
415	5	Soft, dark greyish brown sandy silt, with frequent CBM and mortar fragments, up to 0.20m thick.	Dumped deposit.
416	5	Soft, blackish brown sandy silt, with frequent CBM and mortar fragments, up to 0.46m thick.	Dumped deposit.
417	5	Soft, mid grey-brown sandy silt, with frequent CBM and mortar fragments, 0.16m thick.	Dumped deposit.
418	5	Friable, dark greyish brown sandy silt, with frequent limestone and CBM fragments, 0.29m thick.	Fill of (426).
419	5	Soft, blackish brown, sandy silt and charcoal, with frequent CBM fragments, 0.08m thick.	Dumped deposit.
420	5	Friable, mid yellowish brown silty sand, with frequent mortar and occasional CBM fragments, 0.16m thick.	Dumped layer.
421	5	Soft, dark greyish brown silty sand, with frequent CBM and mortar fragments, 0.20m thick.	Dumped deposit.
422	5	Friable, mid yellowish brown silty sand, with frequent CBM and mortar fragments, 0.20m thick.	Dumped deposit.
423	5	Loose, mid grey-brown sandy silt, with occasional charcoal fragments, 0.05m thick.	Dumped deposit.
424	5	Linear cut, 1.87m wide and 0.56m deep, with sloping sides and a V-shaped base, oriented north-south.	Possible ditch.
425	5	Linear cut, > 2m wide and > 0.50m deep, with a steep sloping side, oriented north south.	Possible river cut.
426	5	Linear cut, 3.65m and > 0.65m deep, with sloping stepped sides, oriented north-south.	Possible former sewer.
427	5	Linear cut, 1.60m wide and 0.68m deep, with concave sides and a rounded base, oriented north-south.	Possible ditch or demolition cut.
428	5	Loose, mid grey-brown sandy silt, with occasional stones and CBM fragments, 0.15m thick.	Dumped deposit.
429	5	Loose, yellow-brown sand, > 0.10m thick.	Bank material.
430	5	Friable, light brown sandy silt, 0.30m thick.	Bank material.
431	5	Friable, dark brown sandy silt, 0.30m thick.	Bank material.
432	5	Loose, light yellow brown silty sand, 0.18m thick.	Bank material.
433	5	Friable, dark brown sandy silt, 0.30m thick.	Bank material.
434	5	Friable, mid yellowish brown sand, up to 0.20m thick.	Make up layer.

Abbreviations: CBM – Ceramic Building Material.

Appendix 2
Borehole Data

BOREHOLE 2

DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
0.75-1.2	Brown slightly sand silt, incls salt-glazed drainpipe, CBM, coal etc; 19th-20th century	Dumped/soil
1.5-1.95	Brown silty fine sand, rare very small limestone fragments	Worked soil
2.25-2.7	Brown silty fine sand, no incls, roots	Soil
3.0-3.45	Dark grey very slight fine sandy silt, no incls except few small grits; oxidising to lt grey	Riverine sediment
3.6-3.75	Lt greeny grey-brown silt, occ grits, no obvious organics	Riverine sediment
4.2-4.35	Lt grey-brown silt, some degraded organic incls, no grit	River edge/marsh
4.95-5.1	Mottled grey-brown clay silt, abundant degraded organics, small wood and twigs	Marsh and river edge
5.7-5.85	Grey-brown coarse silt and small amount fine sand, few grits	Coastal
6.45-6.6	Medium-dk grey-brown coarse silt and small amount fine sand, few grits	Coastal
7.2-7.35	Medium-dk grey-brown coarse silt and small amount fine sand, few grits	Coastal
7.95-8.1	Medium-dk grey slightly sandy coarse silt, few grits, rare shell fragment, not particularly organic	Coastal
8.7-8.85	Medium-dk grey slightly sandy coarse silt, occ grit, rare shell fragment, not particularly organic	Coastal/marsh?
9.0-9.45	Medium orange-brown sand, no incls	Coastal

BOREHOLE 3

DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
0.75-1.2	Medium-dk brown slightly clayey sandy silt, very gritty and sticky; CBM (pm) at 1.2m	Soil
1.5-1.95	Coarse sandy silt loam, much grit, stone, slag etc	Worked soil, plus dumping
2.25-2.7	Medium-dk grey-brown soil, much limestone fragments, flints, CBM (med + pm)	Soil, dry ground deposit
3.0-3.45	Medium yellow-brown medium sand, some grits and small stones	River alluvium, sand bank
4.5-4.95	V dk grey silty fine sand, no grits or pebbles	River sand bank
6.0-6.45	V dk grey very fine sandy silt, some fibrous matter, v few grits, no obvious pebbles	River edge
6.75-7.2	V dk grey sandy silt, occ pebbles, domestic mammal bone, fish bone, occ limestone	River bed

BOREHOLE 4

DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
1.5-1.95	Mixed sands and silts, many small stones, CBM, rubbly	Soil; out of river
3.75-4.2	Medium-dk brown sands	Worked soil
4.5-4.95	Medium brown sands	Alluvium converting to soil, sand bank
5.25-5.7	Clean yellow-brown sand, rare pebbles	River alluvium (sand bank or deposit within channel)
6.0-6.45	Clean yellow-brown sand	River alluvium (sand bank or deposit within channel)

7.0-7.2	V dk grey silty fine sand, medium amount CBM (med), shell, flint pebbles, some organics	River bed
8.25-8.7	Yellow-brown medium sands, occ small rounded pebbles	River bed?

BOREHOLE 5

DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
2.95-3.1	Iron slag, wood recovered	
4.75-5.35	Silty fine sand, organic rich, occ fibrous matter, v rare small stone	Tidal river deposit
7.0-7.45	Silty soil, much pebble and small CBM, mussel, cockle, whelk shells, CBM late med-pm	River bed
7.75-8.2	Mixed sandy clays etc, flint, small stones, root	Disturbed natural?

BOREHOLE 5A – recovered materials

DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
0.45-0.6	CBM and organics	Post-med
1.2-1.35	Dark organic layer at base	
1.5-1.63	Med grey-brown silts	Soil derived from river alluvium
1.63-1.69	Med grey very fine sandy silts with organics	Soil/marsh, floodplain deposits
1.69-1.75	CBM on top of deposit below	
1.75-1.95	Sl mixed fine sandy silt/silt, small roots, small CBM, pebbles, shell	Soil; probably relatively dry for a period of time, derived from river deposits
1.95-2.1	Sl organic	
2.25-2.7	Variable dk grey –lt-medium yellow-brown bands silt, laminae visible; variable stages of oxidation of deposits and some differentiation of deposits	River edge/alluvium, sediments deposited within a tidal system
2.7-2.85	CBM and prob intrusive straw/vegetation (fresh)	
3.0	Limestone	River wall or bank debris or ballast?

BOREHOLE 6 –recovered materials

DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
7.0-7.2	CBM, med	

BOREHOLE 6A

DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
0.0-0.08	Med-dk grey-brown very fine sandy silt	Topsoil
0.08-0.26	Lt brown clay in feature	Alluvial/redeposited fill
0.2-0.45	Med-dk brown-grey fine sandy silt, much CBM, pebbles, charcoal flecks, glass	Soil developed from silts, + dumping
0.45-0.6	Shell, organics	
0.75-1.0	Dk grey-brown gritty sandy silt, rootlets, CBM	Soil
1.0-1.2	Medium dk yellow-brown v fine sandy silt, platey, cockle shells, roots, occ stone, rare wood, glass 19th-20th century	River margin with occupation debris
1.2-1.35	Shell, well-preserved roots (recent)	
1.5-1.71	Mod-dk grey-brown v fine sandy silt, pebbles, remnant layering from 1.65m down, oxidised	Water-lain river margin, converting to soil
1.71-1.95	Dk grey-black organic silts, layered, minimal incls, no stones, a bit disrupted	Water-lain river margin in tidal channel

1.95-2.1	Limestone chunks, slightly organic	
2.25-2.4	Mottled/layered dk grey and medium lt brown silt, rare CBM; a bit mixed	River margin/salt marsh
2.4-2.45	Mixed/mottled medium dk grey and lt grey-brown slightly clayey silt, iron stained from 2.44m down	River margin/salt marsh
2.45-2.5	Mixed/mottled/layered medium dk sl brownish grey silt, iron stained	River margin/salt marsh
2.5-2.6	Lt brown sl clayey silt, iron stained from 2.5-2.55m	River marsh/salt marsh
2.7-2.85	Brown clay changing to grey clay, charcoal in both	Alluvium, partially oxidised
3.0	Ferruginous limestone	Ballast?

BOREHOLE 6.2

DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
0.5	Soil, much roots and germinating seeds, much CBM, pm	Soil
1.0	V fine sands	Redeposited or overbank flood deposits
1.5	V fine sandy silts – silty v fine sands, occ small CBM, rare pot 18th century	Soil
2.0	Fibrous, organic fine sandy silt, occ small CBM	River edge
2.5	Silt, sl organic, sl fibrous, oxidised throughout	Riverside
3.0	Limestone	Ballast?
3.5-4.0	Silts, much fibrous organics and wood, CBM, small limestone frags	River margin, water-lain
4.45-4.6	Slightly fine sandy silt, organic, fibrous, occ grit	River margin
5.2-5.35	V fine slightly silty sand, occ chalk, pebbles and flint, some fibrous matter and wood	River deposit, tidal
6.25-6.7	Much med CBM, flint, shell, pot, bone etc	River bed
7.0-7.45	Sticky sandy clay with flints	Natural

BOREHOLE 7

DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
1.5-1.95	Tarmac etc	Surfaces/hardcore
2.25-2.7	Abundant creosoted wood, mod CBM, hardcore, soil	Hardcore
3.0-3.45	Abundant creosoted wood, occ CBM, hardcore	Dumped
3.75-4.2	V abundant creosoted wood, CBM, abundant pebbles	Wooden structure, post-medieval
4.5-4.95	V dk grey-black v gritty sandy silt, v stony, CBM, fragmented wood	Dumped/disturbed material; wood may be intrusive from layers above
5.25-5.7	V dk grey fine sandy silt, mod lg stones, flints, wood frags, mixed	River edge
6.0	Black v fine silty sand, some grit, wood, occ small flint	River deposit (in water)
6.45-6.6	Black silty fine sand, occ small pebbles	River deposit (in water)

Abbreviations

CBM	Ceramic Building Material	Dk	Dark
Frags	Fragments	Incls	Inclusions
Lg	Large	Lt	Light
Med	Medieval	Mod	Moderate
Occ	Occasional	PM	Post-medieval
Sl	Slightly	V	Very

Appendix 3

THE FINDS
by Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor

A total of 3 artefacts, tile and clay pipe, weighing a total of 646g, was retrieved from the evaluation trenches. Other artefacts, mostly ceramic building materials, were recovered from the boreholes. Faunal remains were also collected from the boreholes.

Provenance
The material was recovered from layers (005, 006 and 050) in the evaluation trenches and various boreholes.

All of the artefacts were probably made in or near Boston, with the exception of the piece of pottery, which is a Lincoln product.

Range
The range of material is detailed in the tables.

Table 1: Artefacts

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
005	Clay pipe	Stem, bore 5/64"	1	2	18th century
006	CBM	Nib tile, reduced core, 17mm thick; applied rectangular nib, mortar adhering	1	558	Medieval
050	CBM	Tile, reduced core, 16mm thick	1	86	Medieval

The nib tile from (006) is large and unworn and unlikely to have moved far from its original place of deposition. The tile is not dissimilar in form to those produced in the late 14th century kiln excavated to the northeast of the current investigation area (Mayes 1965, plt XXXIII no 3), though the fabric is different. Brick and tile was made in Boston for an extended period and there are references to Tile Kiln Green in nearby Skirbeck as early as 1555 (Bailey 1980, 21).

Table 1: Artefacts from Boreholes

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
BH3 2.25-2.7m	CBM	Brick/tile, post-medieval	26	85	Post-medieval
	Mortar	Mortar	3	19	
	Coal/cinder	Coal/cinder	6	1	
BH4 1.5-1.95m	Glass	Colourless vessel glass, 19th-20th century	1	1	19th-20th century
	Glass	Purple vessel glass, 19th-20th century	1	1	
	Mortar	Mortar	3	1	
	CBM	Brick/tile, post-medieval	25	13	
	Coal/cinders	Coal/cinders	12	2	
BH4 7.0-7.2m	CBM	Brick/tile, mixed medieval and post-medieval	41	110	Post-medieval
	Coal	Coal	6	5	
	Glass	Pale green vessel glass, iridescence, post-medieval	1	1	

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
BH5 7.0-7.45m	Iron	Nail head and shaft	2	1	Late medieval
	CBM	Brick/tile, incl handmade brick, late medieval	11	106	
	CBM	Fired clay	1	3	
	Pottery	Lincoln ware, jug, abraded, 13th-14th century	1	1	
BH5A 1.5-1.95m	CBM	Handmade brick	5	118	Post-medieval
BH6A 0.2-0.45m	Glass	Colourless moulded vessel glass	1	3	19th-20th century
BH6A, 1.10m	Glass	Colourless vessel glass	1	4	19th-20th century
BH6/2 6.25-6.7m	Mortar	Mortar	1	3	
BH7 4.5-4.95m	Glass	Colourless glass, 20th century	6	1	20th century
	Mortar	Mortar	2	1	
	CBM	Brick/tile	4	29	
	Slag	Iron smithing slag	1	4	
	Coal	Coal	3	1	
	Wood	Abundant –not retained	-	-	

Note: CBM = Ceramic Building Material

The pottery and ceramic building materials from BH5 7.0-7.5m depth indicate medieval deposits are present to this depth. The small and water-worn nature of the artefacts suggests these deposits were in the river.

Table 3: The Faunal Remains

12 Context	Species	Bone	No.	Wt (g)	Comments
BH3 2.25-2.7m	Mussel	Shells	3	1	Tiny fragments
	Cockle	Shells	4	1	Tiny fragments
BH4 1.5-1.95m	Cockle	Shell	1	1	Tiny fragment
BH4 7.0-7.2m	Mussel	Shell	30	14	Tiny fragment
	Oyster	Shell	2	1	Small fragment
	Cockle	Shells	5	1	Tiny fragments
	Unidentified mammal	Bone	1	1	Abraded
BH5 7.0-7.45m	Mussel	Shells	25	5	Tiny fragments
	Oyster	Shells	5	3	Tiny fragments
	Cockle	Shells	15	3	Tiny fragments
	Whelk	Shell	1	16	Complete
BH6/2 6.25-6.7m	Mussel	Shells	4	1	Tiny fragments

Condition
All the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the collection is by material class.

Documentation
There have been previous archaeological investigations at Boston, including in close proximity to the current survey areas, which are the subjects of reports. Additionally, there has been reported study of the archaeological and historical evidence for the town and its vicinity. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record and the files of the Boston Community Archaeologist.

Potential
As a mixed collection from diverse locations, the assemblage is of generally of limited local potential and significance. The brick and tile fragments may indicate the presence of late medieval and post-medieval buildings in proximity to their individual find spots though, lacking supporting evidence, this can only be speculative.

Early modern artefacts, of 19th-20th century date, were recovered generally to depths of over 1m in the boreholes, and from below 4.5m depth in borehole 7. Unless these have been intruded into the deposits in the borehole capture, which is unlikely except for perhaps Borehole 7, this indicates 19th-20th century deposits extend to at least 1m below current ground level.

Artefacts of apparently late medieval date were recovered from a depth of 7.0-7.45m below ground level in Borehole 5. It is likely that these artefacts were recovered from the medieval river bed. This is of major local potential and significance as it indicates that the river was wider than at present. Moreover, the great depth at which the artefacts were recovered suggests that the river scoured its bed after being confined by a wall or river defence.

The absence of any earlier medieval artefacts is informative and suggests that archaeological deposits dating from prior to this period are absent from the area, or were not revealed by the investigations, or were of a nature that did not involve artefact deposition. Similarly, the general dearth of any artefacts of medieval or post-medieval date would tend to suggest that the areas of investigation did not see intensive occupation in these periods.

References

Bailey, J. F., 1980 *Transcription of the Minutes of the Corporation of Boston, 1545-1607*, vol. 1

Mayes, P., 1965 A medieval tile kiln at Boston, Lincolnshire, *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, 3rd Series, **XXVIII**

Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, *e.g.* [004].
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, *etc*. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Dissolution	The closing and seizure of abbeys, priories and other monastic houses by the crown. This occurred in the period 1536-40.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Dumped deposits	These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Layer	A layer is an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500 - 2250 BC.
Norman	Architectural style current in the 11th-12th centuries. Also known as Romanesque.
Old English	The language used by the Saxon (*q.v.*) occupants of Britain.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

55	Context records
40	Borehole record sheets
2	Photographic record sheets
1	Stratigraphic matrix
21	Drawing sheets
1	Plan record sheet
1	Section record sheet
8	Day record sheets
1	Box of finds

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum
12 Friars Lane
Lincoln
LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 2004.7

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BSEC 04

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.