

# The Former Rainbow Depot, Burgage Green, Southwell, Nottinghamshire

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**For Burgage Homes Ltd**

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## Summary

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- Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Burgage Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the former Rainbow Depot, Burgage Green, Southwell. The work formed the final stage of an evaluation, the first stage of which was completed in 2014 (Mapplethorpe 2014).
- The development site comprised approximately 0.83ha of land situated to the north east of Southwell town centre. There are two designated heritage assets within the site boundary. The first, a former prison block or workshop of the former house of correction which occupied the site for most of the 19th century, and the second, an 80m length of the boundary wall of the former house of correction which now forms the north east boundary of the site.
- Four trenches (25m, two 10m and 15m) were excavated within the site boundary. Late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century brickwork and flagstone surfaces were present in the trenches, most of which were likely to be related to the use of the site as a lace factory.
- A linear feature which corresponded well with the approximate position of the house of correction's perimeter wall may have represented a trench dug during its demolition to facilitate the removal of foundations.

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

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- 1.1 Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Gusto Construction Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the former Rainbow Depot, Burgage Green, Southwell,. The investigation formed the final phase of an evaluation, the first stage of which was completed in 2014 (Mapplethorpe 2014). The work followed an approved written scheme of investigation prepared by Trent & Peak Archaeology (Taylor 2014b). The fieldwork was undertaken between January 18<sup>th</sup> and January 21<sup>st</sup> 2016.
- 1.2 The development area (NGR SK 70420 54260) was a brownfield site containing several extant 19th and 20th century buildings. It was bounded by Burgage Green to the south, Kirklington Road to the north east and Byron Gardens to the north west.

## 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

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- 2.1 The development area comprised approximately 0.83ha of land situated to the north-east of Southwell town centre (see Fig. 1). The site boundary was defined by a red brick wall on all sides. Topographically, the site lay between 32m and 35m aOD and sloped gradually from south-west to north-east. There was a dramatic change of level within the centre of the site from south-west to north-east, and a steep change of level was present at the north east boundary of the site down to Kirklington Road.
- 2.2 The 1:50,000 British Geological Mapping showed that site was situated on solid geology of Radcliffe Member mudstone and siltstone, although borehole data showed it to be in fact Mercia Mudstone (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

## 3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

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- 3.1 The desk-based assessment undertaken by Trent & Peak Archaeology (Taylor 2014a) identified two designated heritage assets on the site, both Grade II Listed Buildings. The first was a former prison block or workshop of the former house of correction which occupied the site for most of the 19th century (LB1211471), and the second was an 80m length of the boundary wall of the former house of correction which now formed the north east boundary of the site (LB1369904) (Taylor 2014a). Four non-designated heritage assets were identified within the site, although three of these duplicated the designated heritage assets previously mentioned (M3351, M10623 and M9468). The Fourth was a map depiction of the lace factory which occupied the site from 1895 to 1956 (M3320) (Taylor 2014a).
- 3.2 There were 14 known archaeological events within the wider study area beyond the limits of the site: Saxo-Norman and medieval features and associated deposits (L11233, L11240 and L11230) which included a possible timber structure (L11234) and stone foundations (L11236, L11238, L11241, L11242, M13363 and M18287). Medieval inhumation burials (L11227 and L11228) and a single Roman or Saxon cremation were also identified (L11226) and a post-medieval destruction layer was excavated (L11237) (Taylor 2014a).
- 3.3 There were 13 designated heritage assets within the wider study area, comprising ten Grade II Listed Buildings, a war memorial, a water pump and a single Scheduled Monument. All but one of the Listed Buildings were 18th or 19th century in date and included the gateway to the former house of correction (LB1045460) and the former Police station and courthouse (LB1045463) (Taylor 2014b, 14). There was also the Saracen's Head Hotel which was late medieval in date (L5710/M5710). Two grade I Listed Buildings were also present; the Minster

Church of St. Mary with chapter house (LB1374853) and the remains of the Bishop's Palace (LB1211315). The Scheduled Monument within the wider study area comprised a Roman villa complex and Anglo-Saxon cemetery (1003528) (Taylor 2014b, 15).

- 3.4 There were a total of 19 non-designated heritage assets within the wider study area, consisting of documentary references, earthworks and findspots. A full summary of the heritage assets within and outside of the site is available within the desk-based assessment (Taylor 2014b).
- 3.5 The previous phase of the evaluation comprised 5 trenches and revealed that parts of the site had been truncated to a significant depth by later development. Where less truncation was encountered, the remnants of brick structures and surfaces were recorded. A wall foundation trench in the north-west part of the site correlated well with the alignment of a former prison building (Mapplethorpe 2014).

## 4 OBJECTIVES

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4.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- To assess the date, character, condition, significance and quality of archaeological remains within the proposed development site.
- To assess the artefactual and environmental potential of the archaeological deposits encountered.
- To assess the impact of previous land use on the site.
- To inform formulation of further measures to mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains.
- To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to Nottinghamshire HER.

4.2 The specific aims of the evaluation were to establish if subsurface remains of the 19<sup>th</sup> century house of correction were still present within the development area. These included the buildings of the original 1807 prison and the buildings and perimeter wall of the 1817 extension.

## 5 METHODOLOGY

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5.1 Excavation of one 25m, 20m and 15m trench (the 20m trench was divided into two perpendicular 10m sections due to the presence of a 20<sup>th</sup> century manhole), positioned to target areas of potentially good archaeological preservation. Trenches were located using GPS and excavated using a tracked excavator with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

5.2 Each trench was hand cleaned and all exposed features were investigated. A plan of any archaeological remains was produced. A written, drawn and photographic record of the trenches was maintained. Drawings were produced at a suitable scale, normally 1:10 or 1:20 for sections and 1:20 or 1:50 for plans.

5.3 At all times the project followed current ClfA best practice as laid out in *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (ClfA 2014).

## 6 RESULTS

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### 6.1 Trench 1

(Figure 3, Plate 1)

6.1.1 Trench 1 was 15m in length and was located at the centre of the site on a north-south alignment. The trench was mostly sealed by a mixed layer consisting of mid yellowish brown crushed stone, brown clayey-silt and black klinker with a maximum depth of 0.6m (0118), imported as a surfacing material (Fig 6, 6c). This surfacing material was situated directly above a layer of heat-affected yorkstone slabs (0109) averaging 0.13m in thickness. This layer of stone was removed in the northern part of the trench and left in-situ across the southern part of the trench. Directly below (0109) was a layer of cream and red-brown mortar and silt (0104) containing frequent fragments of brick. This layer was a maximum of 0.18m deep and extended across the entire trench.

*Structure 0120 (Plate 2)*

6.1.2 Below this layer were two parallel north-west to south-east walls 2.1m apart (0101) and (0103). Wall (0101) was shown to survive to a height of 6 courses, though only a single course was exposed of (0103). Both were 2 courses wide. The bricks were laid as headers and stretchers in alternate courses. These walls were connected at their north western extent by a third wall (0102), with bricks laid as headers along the entire length.

6.1.3 The bricks were likely to be of mid 19th century to early 20th century date. Following excavation of a sondage against the eastern side of (0101), it was established that this wall was cut into the natural clay (0119) and redeposited natural containing occasional brick rubble (0115) and the foundation cut [0117] backfilled with redeposited natural with inclusions of brick and mortar (0116) (Fig 6, 6d).

6.1.4 Layer (0104), was observed to extend above and between these walls, sealing the construction cut [0117], construction back fill (0116) and made ground (0115).

6.1.5 To the north-west and south of walls (0103) and (0101) there were two parallel walls, (0107) and (0110) (Plates 3 and 4) which were up to 0.76m thick. Running at right angles to (0110) was a further north-east south-west aligned wall (0112); this was similar in construction to (0102) and was similarly aligned.

6.1.6 A rough brick surface, with the bricks laid in no clear pattern (0111), was observed within the space between the walls (0110) and (0112) (Plate 5).

6.1.7 Three potential machine bases (all disturbed) were also observed within this trench, (0108), (0113) and (0114) (Plate 2). These were sealed by (0104). Upon excavation of a sondage against (0114), it was established that this base was sat upon the redeposited natural/made ground (0115, Plate 6).

6.1.8 No dating evidence was retrieved from any of the deposits or features within this trench.



## 6.2 Trench 2

(Figure 4, Plate 7)

- 6.2.1 Trench 2 was located to the east of Trench 8 and to the north of Trench 1 and was 25m long, on a north-east south-west alignment. The trench was sealed by friable reddish-brown clay (0201), with moderate inclusions of brick rubble with a maximum depth of 0.58m. Beneath this a compact reddish-brown clay (0202) with brick rubble inclusions, probably redeposited natural, was observed.
- 6.2.2 These materials sealed a compacted brown-grey clayey-silt (0803), at least 0.86m thick, possibly a buried post-medieval soil horizon. This material was cut by a north-west south-east aligned linear feature [0205], which was filled by a brown-grey sandy-silt (0206) with frequent inclusions of brick rubble (Fig 6, 6a). Due to its location and alignment, this feature could represent the robbing trench of the boundary wall of the 19<sup>th</sup> century house of correction (Plate 8).
- 6.2.3 At the south-western end of the trench, a heavily truncated east-north-east to west-south-west aligned brick wall (0204, Plate 9) was observed, its construction cutting into the made-ground/redeposited natural (0202).
- 6.2.4 No dating evidence was retrieved from any of the features deposits within this trench.

## 6.3 Trench 8

(Figure 5 Plates 10 & 11)

- 6.3.1 Trench 8 consisted of two 10m long sections aligned perpendicular to each other, located at the centre of the site on a north-east south-west (8A) and north-west south-east (8B) alignment. This alignment was necessary to fully investigate the archaeology and avoid disturbance to a manhole, just to the north of Trench 8B.
- 6.3.2 No dating evidence was retrieved from either sections of trench.

*Trench 8A*

- 6.3.3 A demolition layer (0810), consisting of pinkish-red clayey-sand with frequent clinker and brick fragments, with a depth of up to 0.15m lay directly above the archaeological horizon.

*Culvert 0801*

- 6.3.4 Cutting into a possible demolition deposit (0812), was the construction cut [0807] of a brick built culvert (0801) & (0802), which contained an insulated copper pipe (0806). The outer course of bricks (0801) survived to a height of 4 courses, and was 1 course wide; the bricks were laid flat as stretchers. The inner course (0802) survived one course high, with the ricks laid on edge as headers. Within the central void of the culvert a copper pipe (0806), with fibre glass insulation was laid.
- 6.3.5 The entire structure was backfilled with friable greyish brown silty clay (0809), which also contained timbers in some parts to cap the inner course of bricks (0802) and copper pipe (0807).
- 6.3.6 Abutting the above structure was a layer of paved flooring (0808, Plate 12). The floor was constructed of rectangular flagstones averaging 1.3 x 0.6m in size, a modern brick built manhole truncated the floor to the south.

### *Trench 8B*

- 6.3.7 A series of demolition deposits (0810) and (0811) formed the upper layers of the trench. These consisted of pinkish-red clayey-sand with frequent clinker and brick fragments, with a depth of up to 0.45m.
- 6.3.8 Cutting (0811) was a large trench or possible pit, [0815, Plate 11, Fig 6, 6b]. The feature correlates well with the alignment of a gas service shown on the 1921 plan of the site (Fig 7, courtesy of Gusto Construction). Due to the depth and loose nature of the overlying deposits this feature was not fully investigated.
- 6.3.9 Deposit (0811) sealed the heavily truncated remains of a north-east south-west aligned brick wall (0803, Plate 13). The surviving section of wall was too heavily disturbed and truncated to draw any further conclusion, except that the bricks were probably 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century in date and as such the structure was most likely related to the lace factory. The construction cut [0804], clearly cut into the underlying natural clay (0805).

## **7 CONCLUSION**

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- 7.1.1 The stratigraphic sequence within Trench 1, suggested that the brickwork (0120, 0108, 0110 & 0112) could have supported a wooden floor within the large central prison block. The infilling of the areas between the brick walls with the same material that sealed them, suggested that the floor was later replaced by the flag stone floor (0109) perhaps during the conversion of the building to a lace factory in the late 19th century.
- 7.1.2 The redeposited natural (0115 & 0202) with inclusions of brick rubble observed in both Trenches 1 and 2, probably indicated a large scale landscaping during the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. As this material sealed the possible robber trench of the outer boundary wall of the house of correction (discussed below), it was probably related to the establishment of the lace factory.
- 7.1.3 Cartographic analysis of the 1840 tithe map, indicated that the linear feature observed within Trench 2 [0205], lay along the same alignment and location as the boundary wall of the 19<sup>th</sup> century house of correction. The wall is known to have been over 5m in height with the top six courses left unbonded to help prevent escape (Smith 2015).
- 7.1.4 The brickwork within Trench 8b, was unfortunately too truncated to draw any meaningful conclusion. The culvert and surface observed within Trench 8a, are probably related to the use of the site as a Lace factory. Unfortunately the culvert (0801) does not match up with any services depicted on the 1921 map of the lace factory (Fig. 7).
- 7.1.5 Other than a trench, possibly associated with the former prison boundary wall, no remains relating to the early 19th century radial arrangement of the house of correction were encountered during the course of the evaluation. It would appear that these have been removed by later construction at the site relating to the large central prison block in 1867 and the subsequent development of the lace factory.
- 7.1.6 The central prison block survived until the 1970's when it was demolished following a fire at the site. The below ground remains of this building were found to be relatively well preserved.

## 8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## Plates



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking North



Plate 2: Structure 0120 and Machine Bases (0108, 0113 & 0114), looking North-West



Plate 3: Wall (0107), looking North-West



Plate 4: Wall 0110, Looking South-East



Plate 5: Surface (0111), looking South-East



Plate 6: Wall (0101) Sondage within Trench1, looking South-West



Plate 7: Trench 2, looking South-West



Plate 8: Robber Cut of House of Correction Boundary Wall [0205], looking South-East



Plate 9: Wall 0204, looking South





Plate 10: Trench 8a and Culvert (0801), looking East



Plate 11: Trench 8b, looking South



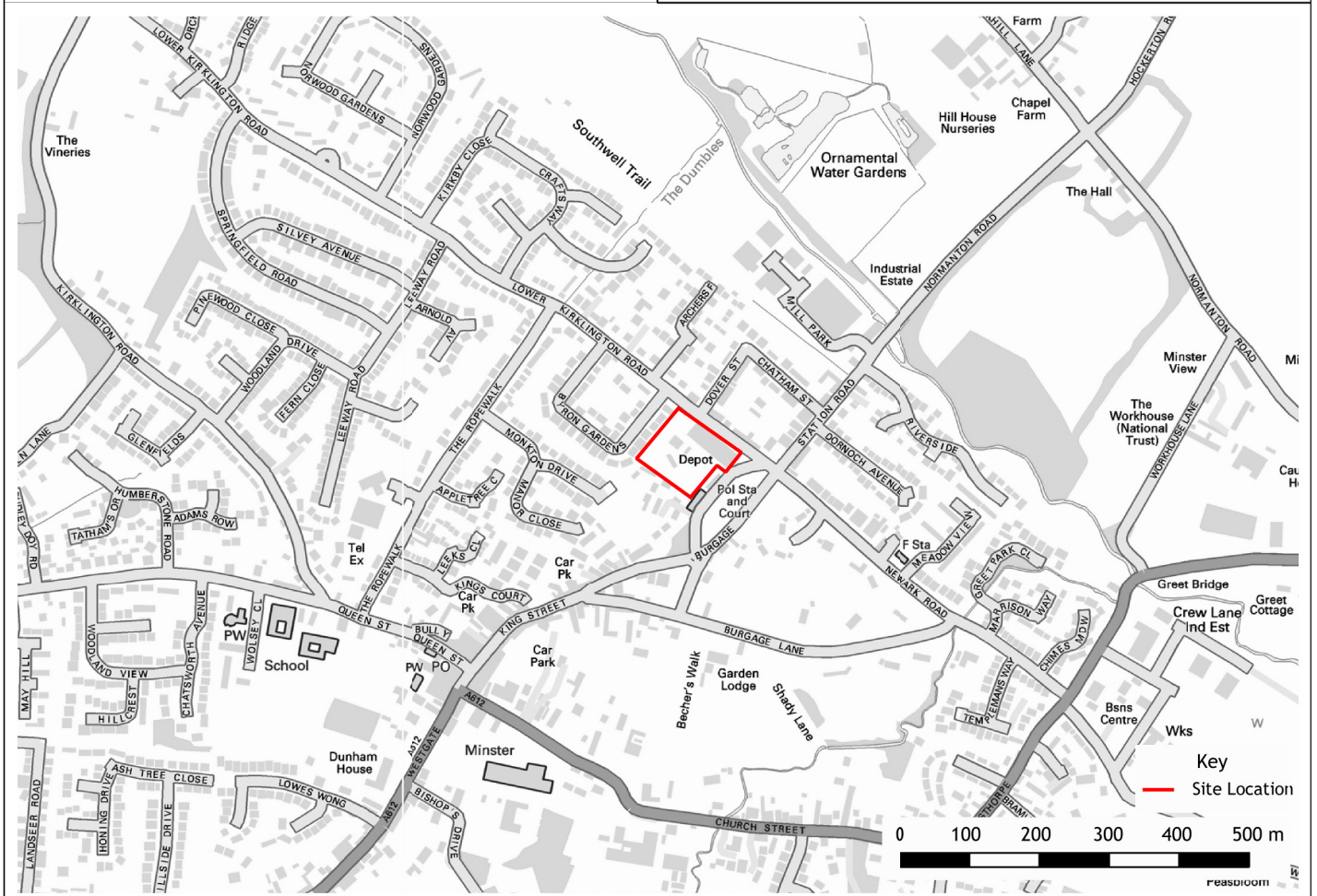
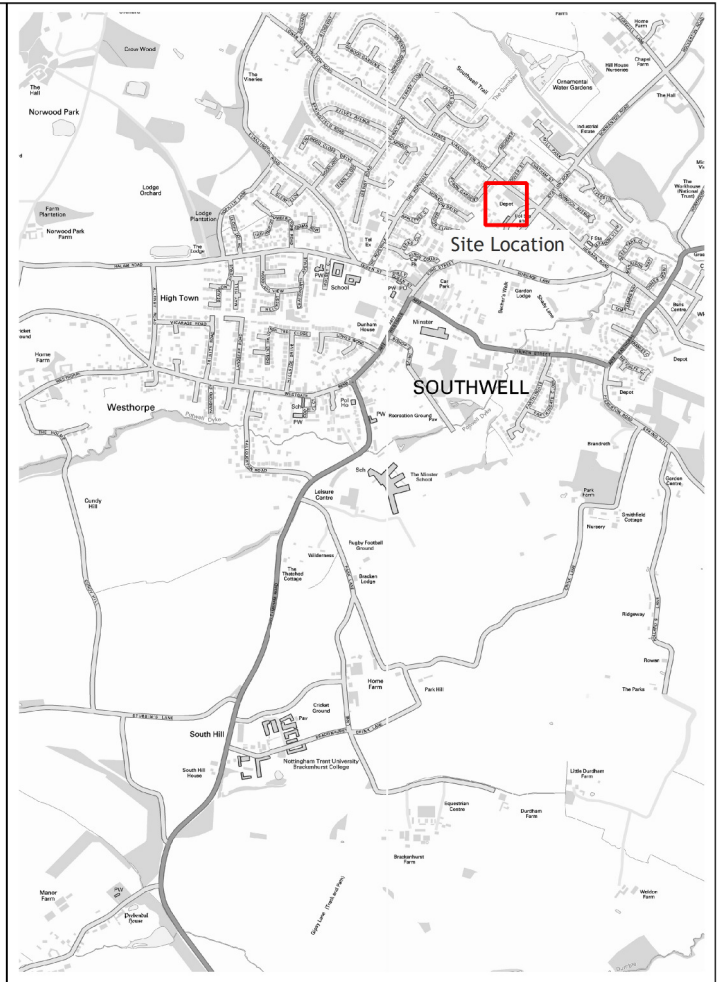
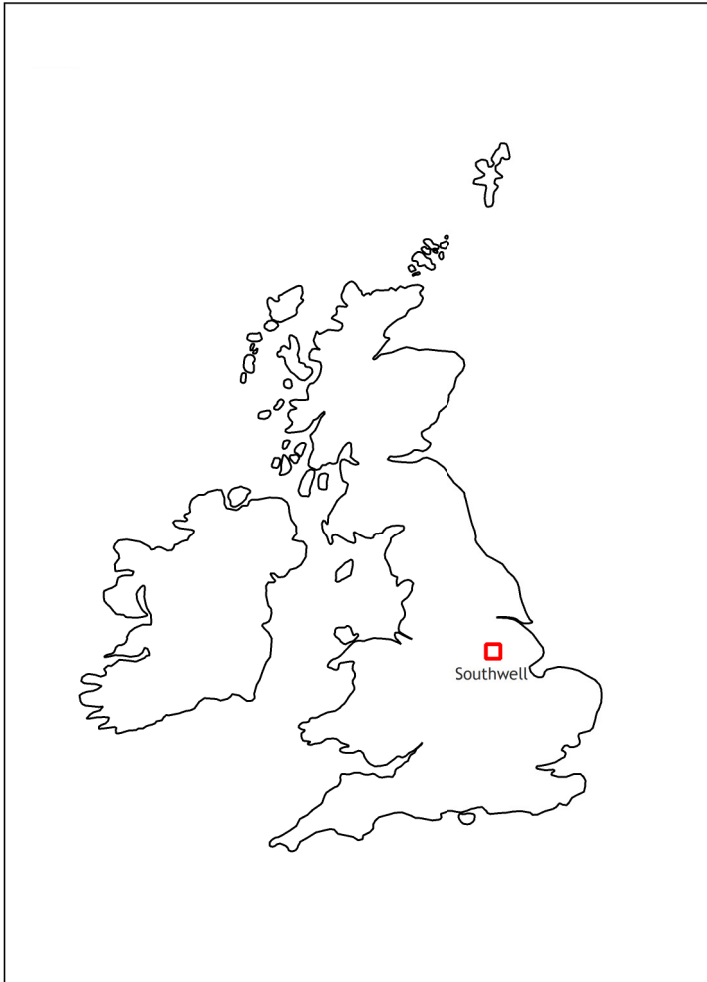
Plate 12: Surface (0802), looking West, Manhole in background

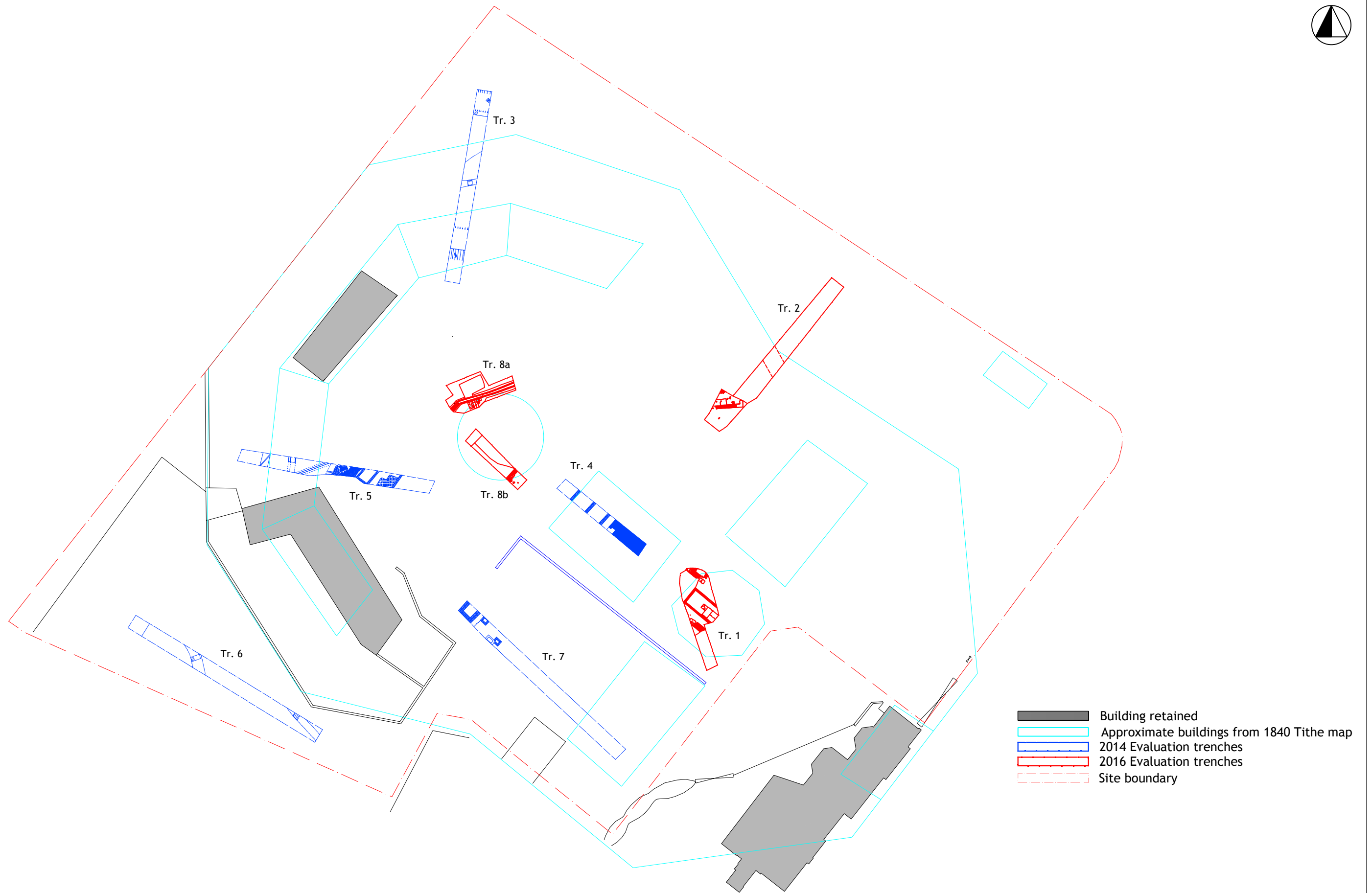


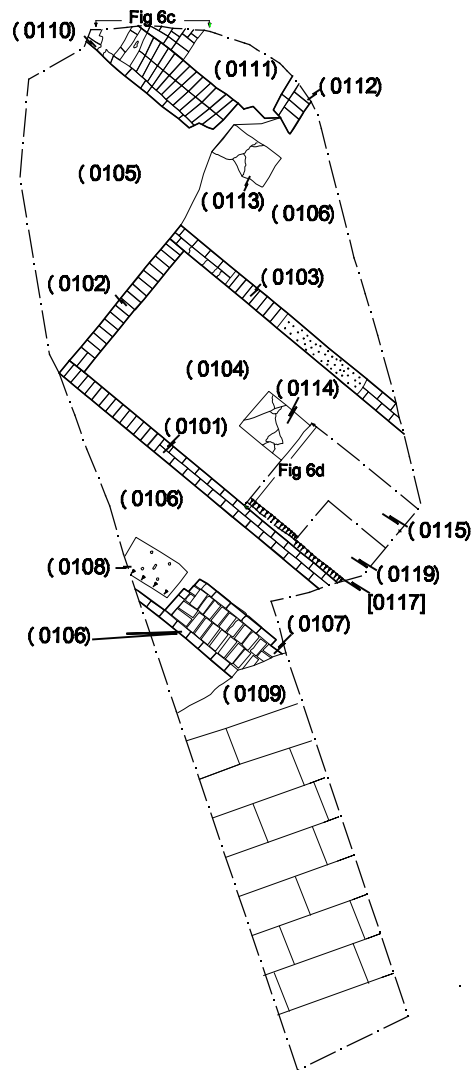
Plate 13: Wall (0803), looking North-West

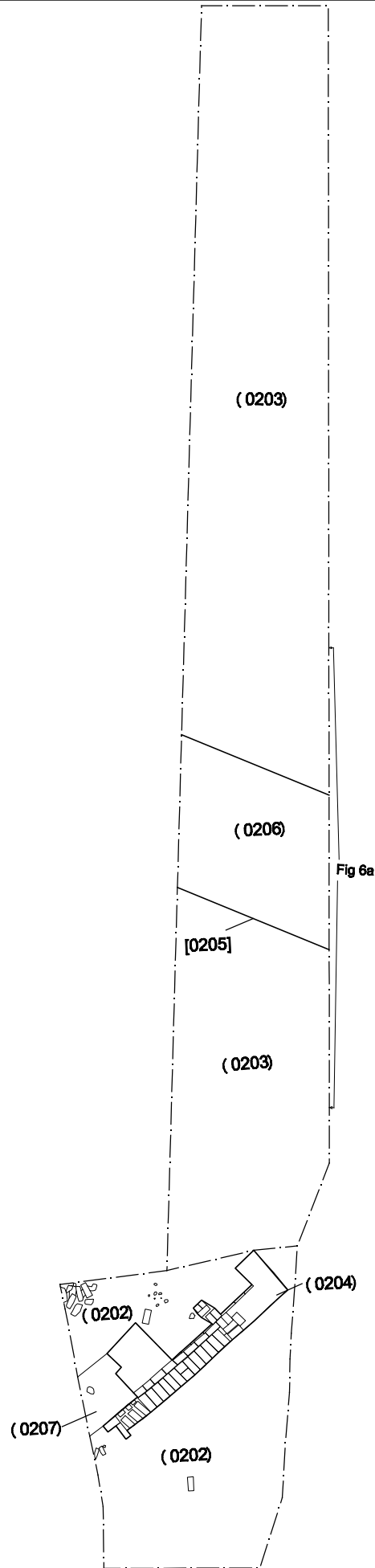
## Figures

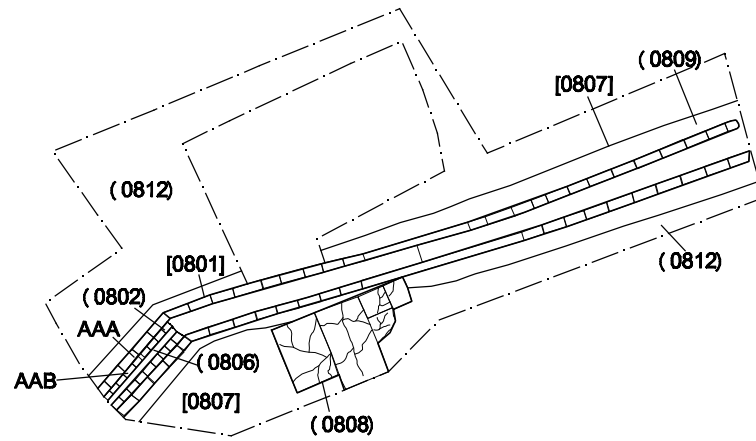
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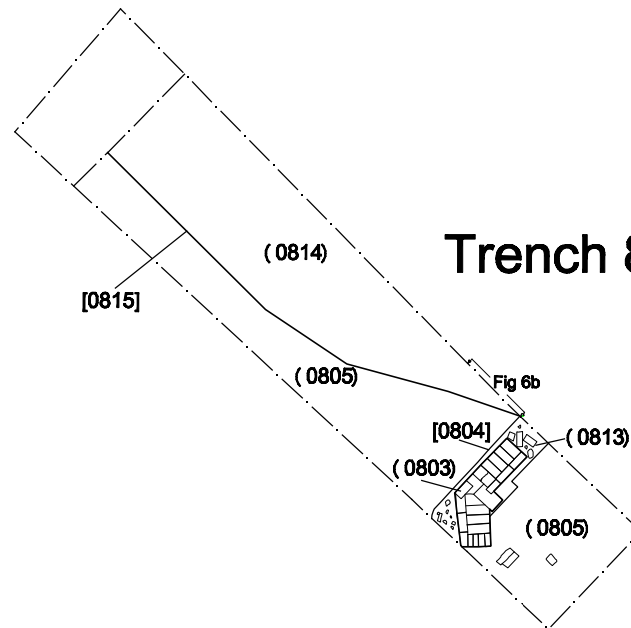








Trench 8A



Trench 8B





Fig 6a  
North-West facing section of Trench 2 showing robber trench of 19th century House of Correction boundary wall

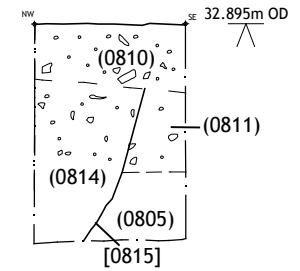


Fig 6b  
South-West facing Representative Section of Trench 8b

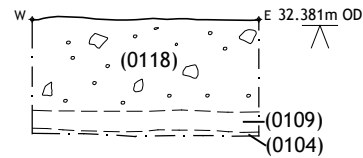


Fig 6c  
South facing Representative Section of Trench 1

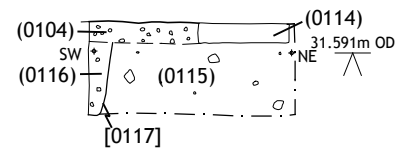
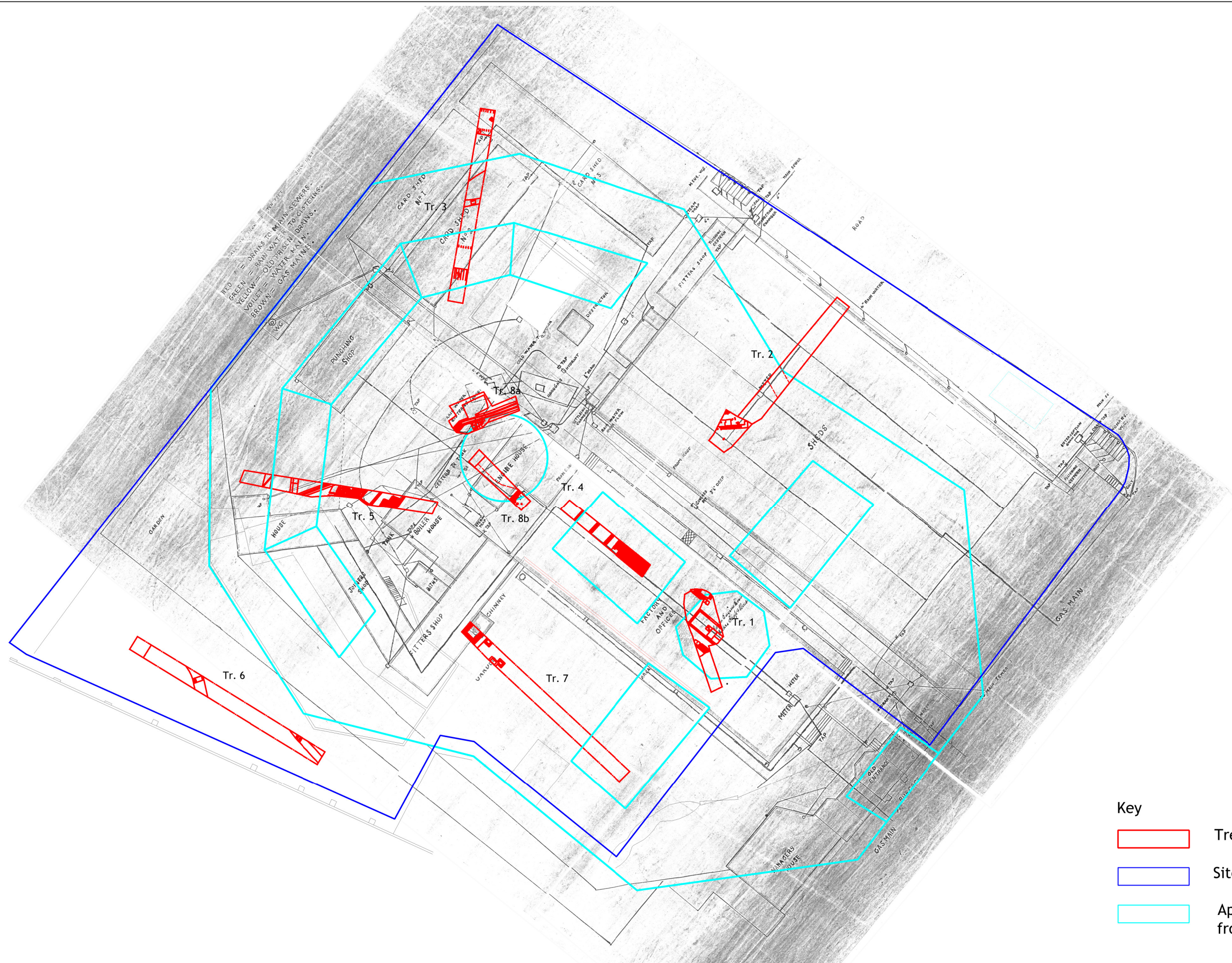


Fig 6d  
South-East facing section of Sondage within Trench 1



## Appendix 1 - Trench Register

<b>Trench 1 (Figure 3)</b>			
<b>Trench Length</b>	15m	<b>Trench Alignment</b>	North South
<b>Context</b>		<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
0100		Layer	Demolition
0101		Wall	Brick Wall
0102		Wall	Brick Wall
0103		Wall	Brick Wall
0104		Layer	Infill/Floor Bedding
0105		Layer	Infill/Floor Bedding
0106		Layer	Infill/Floor Bedding
0107		Wall	Brick Wall
0108		Stone	Machine Base
0109		Surface	Flagstone Floor
0110		Wall	Brick Wall
0111		Surface	Brick Floor
0112		Wall	Brick Wall
0113		Stone	Machine Base
0114		Stone	Machine Base
0115		Layer	Made-Ground
0116		Fill	Construction Backfill
0117		Cut	Construction Cut
0118		Layer	20 <sup>th</sup> Century Made Ground/Demolition
0119		Layer	Natural
0120		Group	Brick Supports for Sprung Wooden Floor

<b>Trench 2 (Figure 4)</b>			
<b>Trench Length</b>	25m	<b>Trench Alignment</b>	North-East South-West
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	
0201	Layer	20 <sup>th</sup> Century Made Ground	
0202	Layer	Demolition Layer	
0203	Layer	Redeposited Natural, Made Ground	
0204	Wall	Brick Wall	
0205	Cut	Robber Cut	
0206	Fill	Robber Cut, Fill	
0207	Layer	Buried Soil	

<b>Trench 8 (Figure 5)</b>			
<b>Trench Length</b>	8a - 10m 8b - 10m	<b>Trench Alignment</b>	8a – North East South-West 8b – North-West South-East
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	
0801	Group	Culvert	
0802	Wall	Internal Wall of Culvert	
0803	Wall	External Wall of Culvert	
0804	Cut	Construction Cut	
0805	Layer	Natural	
0806	Pipe	Copper Pipe	
0807	Cut	Construction Cut for Culvert	
0808	Surface	Flagstone Floor	
0809	Fill	Fill of 0807	
0810	Layer	Demolition Layer	
0811	Layer	Demolition Layer	
0812	Layer	Demolition Layer	
0813	Fill	Fill of [0804]	

## Appendix 2 - Index of Archive and Arrangements for Deposition

<b><i>Field Records</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>	<b><i>Number</i></b>
Trench Record Sheets	Record of each Trench	3
Context Sheets	Record of each Context	41
Drawing Sheets	Drawings of all Trenches and Features on A3/4 drafting paper	6
Registers	Registers of Drawings & Photos	3
Digital Photographs	All views	143
<b><i>Documents</i></b>		
<b><i>Documents</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>	<b><i>Number</i></b>
Written scheme of investigation	Statement of the aims, objectives and methodology for the project.	1
Health & Safety	Safe working statement & risk assessment	1
Report to client	Report of findings of the watching brief.	1

The archive is currently held in the offices of Trent & Peak Archaeology, Unit 1, Holly Lane, Chilwell, Nottingham, NG9 4AB. It will be deposited at an appropriate museum upon approval of this report.