WE DIG WOLLATON PARK

A TRAINING EXCAVATION AT WOLLATON PARK NOTTINGHAM

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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Summary

- Between the *15th July 2019 and 9th August 2019* Trent & Peak Archaeology undertook an archaeological investigation within the formal gardens of Wollaton Park as part of the ongoing training scheme, *We Dig...*
- The *We Dig... Wollaton Park* project is a partnership between Nottingham City Council, Trent & Peak Archaeology and the University of Nottingham, Department of Classics and Archaeology designed to investigate the landscape of Wollaton Park, Nottingham, and its changes over time, from farmland, to a designed pleasure landscape to a community space.
- Wollaton Hall was built in 1580-1588 for Sir Francis Willoughby and was designed by Robert Smythson. The park and gardens saw significant redevelopment between 1687 and 1800, with the construction of the lake taking place between 1774 and 1785 (Daniels *et al.* 1999). The Hall and Park were sold to the Nottingham Corporation in 1924-25 and were used as a US army base and POW camp during the Second World War (Historic England 2019).
- The aims of the excavation were as follows:
    - *To elucidate the 17th- to 19th-century layout of Wollaton Park's gardens and external buildings, test preservation and to recover details of their form, character and function.*
    - *To provide evidence of the earliest layout of the gardens devised by Smythson.*
    - *To characterise the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site.*
- An H-shaped open excavation totalling approximately 123m^2 was used to investigate the presence, form and character of an Orangery located on a lower garden terrace in the foreground of Jan Siberechts' painting from 1697, to the east of Wollaton Hall. A number of interesting anomalies were identified by the geophysical survey completed by Northamptonshire Archaeological and were used as points of reference for the excavation location.
- Excavations revealed the edge of a terrace edge cut into the sandstone bedrock, measuring 1.7m at its deepest point. It was filled by tipped deposits, with the majority of material consisting of rubble-filled pink orange sand, possibly redeposited crushed mudstone, of which the nearest example is found to the south of Wollaton Park in the grounds of the University of Nottingham. It is possible that the lowest grey-brown silt deposits were the remains of the topsoil and turf used to cover the sandstone bedrock whilst in use. A second feature which seemed to be related to the terrace edge was revealed to contain the same fills, but further work is need to investigate the relationship between to two features.
- The terrace edge could possibly relate to the sunken terrace onto which the Orangery was built, and which is shown in the Siberechts' painting of 1697. It is likely that the terrace was backfilled when the ha-ha to the north-east of the site was constructed in the 1780s.
- A number of other features were uncovered, believed to be formal garden features dating to the 17th and 18th centuries. They were both in alignment with the edge of the terrace and are therefore thought to be contemporary with each other.
- A brick plinth thought to have once held a statue was uncovered; this also seemed to be in alignment with the terrace edge, however a construction date for the plinth is unknown.
- The next season of work will include extending the excavations to establish the relationships between the features revealed during the 2019 season.

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1 Introduction

1.1.1 Between the 15th July 2019 and 9th August 2019, Trent & Peak Archaeology (TPA) undertook an archaeological training excavation within Wollaton Park (HER 1143090), Nottingham. This training excavation, part of the *We Dig...* training excavation series, focussed on investigating the presence, form and character of the Orangery located in the foreground of Jan Siberechts' painting of 1697, to the east of Wollaton Hall (List entry 1255269), centred around National Grid Reference SK 53291 39288.

1.1.2 Located to the west of Nottingham City Centre, Wollaton Hall was built in 1580-1588 for Sir Francis Willoughby and was designed by Robert Smythson. The park and gardens were developed on numerous occasions from the 16th to the 20th centuries, with significant redevelopment between 1687 and 1800, and the construction of the lake taking place between 1774 and 1785 (Daniels *et al.* 1999). The Hall and Park were sold to the Nottingham Corporation in 1924-2.

1.1.3 This first year of a potentially long-term, training-focussed project at Wollaton Park returned to a back-to-basics style training excavation based on similar works by TPA at Nottingham Castle. This report presents the results of this first year of evaluation within one area of the gardens to the east of the Hall.

1.1.4 The long-term outputs from the project will include: to have a better understanding of the changes to the park landscape including what the site was used for prior to the construction of Wollaton Hall; to have explored the social history of the site, including the relationships between Wollaton Park and the local population, both past and present; and to have a better understanding of how the designed landscape was used to display the 18th- and 19th-century fascination with natural history.

2 Site Topography and Geology

2.1 Topography

2.1.1 Wollaton Hall and its surrounding park, comprising 203ha, is located on the west side of the City of Nottingham. The northern boundary of the site in part follows Wollaton Road, with the Derby Road (A52) following part of the southern boundary. The western boundary is represented by the park wall, beyond which are houses and their back gardens running along Parkside. The eastern boundary abuts housing built after 1926 on land which was formerly within the park (Figure 01).

2.1.2 Wollaton Hall is built on a hill, the ground sloping down steeply to the north with a more gradual slope to the west and with the gentlest slopes to the south and east. The other notable landform is Arbour Hill to the south-east.

2.1.3 The park is now enclosed largely by housing development, with the University of Nottingham campus to the south of Derby Road.

2.2 Geology

2.2.1 The geology of Wollaton Park consists of an outcrop of Chester Formation pebbly sandstone, previously known as the Nottingham Castle Sandstone Formation, forming the hill onto which Wollaton Hall is built and where the excavations were situated. The surrounding parkland consists of Lenton Sandstone Formation.

3 Project Background

3.1 Historical Background

3.1.1 In 1998, Nottingham City Council commissioned a Conservation Plan for Wollaton Park. A report on the historic landscape was produced as background to the Conservation Plan by the School of Geography at the University of Nottingham in association with Woodhall Planning and Conservation (Daniels *et al.* 1999). These phases have been summarised within the We Dig Wollaton project design (TPA report number 075/2019) alongside the designated and non-designated assets as recorded in the Historic Environment Record (HER) for Wollaton Park. The works are summarised further here to present a more relevant historical background to this phase of works.

14th-16th Centuries

3.1.2 Wollaton Old Hall was built near to St Leonard's church in Wollaton village. A medieval park was established to the north of the Old Hall by 1315 (Daniels *et al.* 1999). The early 14th-century manors of Wollaton and Cossall were acquired by the Willoughby family through marriage. The Willoughbys, who descended from a successful Nottinghamshire merchant Ralph Bugge (d 1240) had made Middleton in Warwickshire their main residence, but when Henry Willoughby (c 1451-1528) exploited the coal reserves at Wollaton, he made Wollaton Old Hall his chief residence. However it became unsuitable to keep deer within the park when it became a site for coal mining, therefore a larger park was enclosed for deer and wild white cattle between 1492 and 1510 (Historic England 2019) on the former common grazing lands of the villages of Sutton Passeys (later deserted), Wollaton and Lenton (Daniels *et al.* 1999).

Wollaton Park Phase 1: 1580-1687

3.1.3 Henry's great grandson Francis Willoughby (1547-96) became heir to the estates at the age of twelve in 1559 when his brother, Thomas, died. Francis commissioned architect Robert Smythson to build Wollaton Hall between 1580 and 1588. Built of Ancaster stone, Wollaton Hall (hereafter, 'the Hall') was set on the crest of a hill in the centre of the enclosed Park, with distant views of the Leicestershire Wolds and Sherwood Forest (Marshall 1999).

3.1.4 Upon his death in 1596, the Hall was passed to Francis Willoughby's daughter Bridget, who married her cousin Percival Willoughby. They also inherited her father's large debts and so it seems unlikely that they did much to the Hall. However, there was a flurry of activity in 1603 when the Hall was visited by Queen Anne of Denmark, James I's wife, and her eldest son, Prince Henry, *en route* from Scotland to London for James' coronation (Marshall 1999).

3.1.5 Several Elizabethan plans survive showing the plans for the house and gardens. The original plan by Robert Smythson shows a ground plan of eight symmetrical enclosed areas encompassing the Hall. The current gardens containing the circular pond and fountain to the south-east of the Hall may be relics of this earliest plan, as the pond and fountain are shown on Smythson's plan and later in Jan Siberechts' painting of the grounds dating from 1697 (Daniels *et al.* 1999). However it is not known as to whether this original plan was entirely implemented, and if so, when. A second plan of the gardens by John Thorpe in 1596-1603 does not show the symmetrical gardens and service buildings as portrayed in the Smythson plan and a third plan by John Smythson, son of Robert Smythson, in 1618 shows a different garden layout entirely, with plans for a 'New Orchard' for Sir Percival Willoughby (Daniels *et al.* 1999). Later landscaping and building has removed all evidence of the entire original layout, if it was ever implemented.

3.1.6 The park did not contain ancient woodland, however Siberechts' painting shows a number of well-established trees suggesting that there would have been a number of trees in the park during this phase, (Daniels *et al.* 1999). However, it is likely that the basic layout of formal gardens and semi-natural parkland was established at the beginning of this period and has remained in place until modern day.

3.1.7 Upon Percival's death in 1643, the house fell into disuse for approximately 44 years. Parliamentary troops were garrisoned in the Hall during the Civil war, but apart from one Royalist raid, the house had a quiet war (Marshall 1996).

Wollaton Park Phase 2: 1687-1800

3.1.8 The grandson of Bridget and Percival, Sir Francis (1668-88) created Baronet in 1677, inherited aged 19 and moved to Wollaton Hall in 1687 with his brother and sister, Thomas (d 1742) and Cassandra (1670-1735). Sir Francis began to alter the Hall, repair the fire damage and tend to and expand the gardens. After a year, at the age of 20 Sir Francis died, and his brother Sir Thomas succeeded him and was made the first Baron Middleton in 1712 (Marshall 1999).

3.1.9 The improvements made by the siblings were commemorated in a series of paintings and illustrations, the first three of which were painted by Jan Siberechts in 1695 and 1697 (Plate 38). The paintings present the formal gardens divided into compartments with differing functions and characteristics. A bowling green is depicted on the north-eastern side of the Hall, with a set of terraces and young trees, and a summerhouse with a roof terrace for viewing the landscape. In the foreground, an outbuilding believed to be an Orangery is depicted, leading onto an area of informal planting. This area is bounded by walls, and railings. The area immediately to the south west of the Hall is the site of the formal gardens, studded with statues and the fountain as the centrepiece, in keeping with Smythson's original designs. Beyond the gardens the park is divided into grazing enclosures with tree lined avenues to the west and a lake is visible in the south-west (Daniels *et al.* 1999). An engraving was also produced by Kip and Knyff in 1707, reflecting the continuation of this layout into the beginning of the 18th Century (Plate 39).

3.1.10 From the middle of the 18th century, formally arranged and geometric gardens set around the Hall with geometrically laid-out parks beyond, rapidly fell out of fashion and were replaced by 'naturalised' parklands. A number of features appeared in the Park in the late 18th century possibly relating to this change in fashion and are briefly discussed here (Daniels *et al.* 1999).

3.1.11 The park was planted during the latter part of the 18th century with plantations of beech, sweet chestnut, oak and lime, with an understorey of yew and rhododendron, and many informal groups of trees, including, in 1786, some 11,300 oaks (Daniels *et al.* 1999).

3.1.12 Some 400m to the south of the Hall, an 18 hectare sub-triangular lake was created between 1774 and 1785 on the site of an earlier lake shown in 17th-century illustrations. It is retained by a dam and drainage ditch 800m long (Daniels *et al.* 1999).

3.1.13 The bowling green visible on Siberechts' paintings was levelled in 1788-91. A ha-ha separating the Hall from the park was built in 1788 surrounding the Hall and replaced the formal bowling green and wall. A large quantity of soil was removed from this area when the ha-ha was constructed and the ground was levelled to create the platform around the Hall to the north, south and east. The gardens were subsequently planted with the grove of Cedar of Lebanon and embellished with structures including a summerhouse with grotto located c. 100m to the south east of the site. The main construction of the building dates from c 1800 although it contains recycled elements from other sources: the columns and pilasters may be part of the late 17th-century Orangery and the stone wall plaques, incorporating themes from classical mythology, may be from an earlier 17th-century building (Historic England 2019).

Wollaton Park Phase 3: 1800-1926

3.1.14 The 6th Lord Middleton commissioned the architect Jeffry Wyatt (later Wyattville) to work on the site during the early 19th century. Considerable expense was lavished on improvements to the park. His work involved both the renovation and extension of the Hall, including a new servants' wing in 1823 (Historic England 2019), and the design of garden

and park buildings, such as a saddle room on the stables in 1801 and an indoor riding school in 1829, as well as two ice houses in 1826.

3.1.15 To the south-west of the Hall, a Camellia House (probably designed by Wyatt; listed grade II*) was constructed in 1823. This is a pre-fabricated cast-iron structure (one of the earliest surviving examples of a cast-iron glasshouse) with copper glazing bars and unique heating system designed by Harrison of Derby, which takes rainwater from the fluted cast-iron supporting columns which serve the piped heating system. Bronze floor vents provide a humidifying effect. To the rear of the Camellia House is its boiler house.

3.1.16 During the early to mid 19th century the large number of oaks were supplemented with circular and oval copses, the best surviving examples of these are to the north of the Hall, one being a *wellingtonia* grove framed by a ring of horse chestnut (Historic England 2019).

3.1.17 After the 6th Lord Middleton's death in 1835, the estate was handed down to Digby, 7th Lord Middleton, who planted additional avenues of oak and lime. However the family visited Wollaton less and less, preferring their Yorkshire residence at Birdsall. After his death in 1856, the family did not return to the estate and, in 1867, it was leased to Henry Ackroyd Esq (Marshall 1999).

3.1.18 In 1900, Wollaton featured in an early 1900 volume of *Country Life* as one of the finest country house gardens in England. At the same time, the City of Nottingham increased its influence on Wollaton Park, such as in the development of merchants' villas like Lenton Hall, and started to surround it with industrial suburbs (Daniels *et al.* 1999).

3.1.19 In 1921, Sir Jesse Boot approached the 9th baron, making an offer for the estate, where he wished to site Nottingham University (Marshall 1999). He was refused, but the 11th Lord Middleton (d 1970), due to double death duties incurred by the deaths of his father and uncle after the First World War, sold the estate to the Corporation of Nottingham in 1924-25. The 801 acre (c 334ha) estate was made up of 744 acres (310ha) of the Hall and Park and 57 acres (c 24ha) of garden allotments. The Corporation sold off 274 acres (c 114ha) for housing development, the remainder being set aside as a public park with 139 acres (c 58) for use as a golf course. The Hall itself opened as a natural history museum in 1926 (Historic England 2019).

Wollaton Park Phase 4: After 1926

3.1.20 Between 1926 and 1940, Wollaton park was used for a number of events, including hosting the Royal Show during the visit of George V and Queen Mary in 1928 (Picture Nottingham 2018) and the Northern Command Tattoo in July 1935, which also involved fireworks displays.

3.1.21 From 1940 for almost fifteen years the northern area of the park was used for military purposes, first to accommodate US troops, then, from 1945 onwards, it held approximately 4,000 German prisoners of war (Historic England 2019).

3.1.22 Many changes have been made to the park to accommodate the many thousands of visitors to the site, including the addition of carparks, footpaths, café and play area. However several features became derelict, including the duck decoy and boathouse.

3.2 Archaeological Background

3.2.1 A watching brief was undertaken following damage caused when ladies' toilets were constructed at the rear of the Hall between 1978-79. The drains were investigated and were found to be constructed of brick and were believed to be the original 16th-century drains. Some of the drains had been bricked up (Nottingham City Museum Field Archaeology Section 1978-89).

3.2.2 An extensive building survey of the Hall was completed by Pamela Marshall in 1996 which remains the definitive study of the building (Marshall 1996).

3.2.3 As a part of the 1998 commissioned Conservation Plan for Wollaton Park, Northamptonshire Archaeology conducted a resistivity survey on four areas within the vicinity of the Hall, at the front entrance, to the west, in the fountain garden and in the Cedar Grove (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2002). A possible gateway from the Smythson Plan of the 1580s was potentially located at the front entrance and a spread of rubble possibly relating to former walls, steps and garden terracing was observed to the east of the Hall (Plate 40). A radar survey was also undertaken, which identified a number of pipelines, culverts or other linear structural features, voids probably within buried chambers and areas of complexity suggesting past disturbance (Stratascan 2002).

3.2.4 During remedial works for subsidence at the north-east of Wollaton Hall and improvements to services, a number of watching briefs was undertaken between 2008 and 2010. It was established that the Hall had cut through an old ground surface and natural clay only and revealed just topsoil overlying soft weathered natural clay (Event ID: ENU649).

3.2.5 In 2006, 11 test pits were excavations by Trent & Peak Archaeology to the front (north-west) and to the north-east of the Hall. A pit was recorded directly in front of the hall, to the south west of the steps, containing 18th- to 19th-century clay pipe fragments and a large fragment of a 17th-century blackware jug. One ditch was uncovered within the modern-day turning circle in front of the main entrance, however this remained undated (Kinsley 2006).

3.2.6 During May and June 2009, Trent & Peak Archaeology, funded by the East Midlands Development Agency and the University of Nottingham, carried out archaeological investigations to highlight Wollaton Hall's World War II heritage. The fieldwork was used to inform visitors of the presence of WWII remains within the Park and to ensure this episode of Nottingham's history continues to be remembered. The primary focus of the project was the former tented camp of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division, US Army, while investigations also occurred on the remains of the subsequent POW camp. Some of the excavations had to be abandoned due to asbestos contamination. The project, which coincided with the commemoration of the 65th anniversary of D-Day and a visit by US veterans of the 508th PIR, brought together a team of over sixty archaeologists, community volunteers and students. Initial work involved documentary searches and aerial photographic analysis. Ground investigations comprised geophysics and terrestrial laser scanning surveys, followed by targeted excavation and metal detecting. The excavation, supported by Nottingham City Council and the staff of Wollaton Hall, was the first of its kind in the grounds of the Park (Trent & Peak Archaeology 2011).

3.2.7 In 2012, Trent & Peak Archaeology, were contracted by Nottingham City Council to undertake a geophysical survey on the site of the South Garden and Camellia House garden. Watching briefs on the South Lawn, conducted by Nottingham City Council during cable trenching for a new CCTV system, revealed traces of further subterranean structures. Discussions with Nottingham City Council staff identified a need for fuller survey of the known subterranean features and non-intrusive investigation of the possible and unknown subterranean features. This led to the creation of a project design for the 'Subterranean Wollaton' project. A number of anomalies were identified that may represent features of archaeological interest and included possible former garden features, buried rubble, the surface of a large drain/tunnel incorporating a manhole, a possible drain/tunnel and ephemeral possible ridge and furrow cultivation remains (Davies, 2013).

3.2.8 A Ground Penetrating Radar survey was undertaken within the South Garden at Wollaton Hall. The GPR survey followed an earlier magnetometry survey (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2002). During the GPR survey a number of anomalies were identified, some of which were interpreted as possibly of archaeological interest. Some of these may have related to earlier, now buried, paths on the lawn. A number of services were also identified. Bedrock was identified at c. 1.25m below ground level. It was concluded that the South Garden has relatively low potential for archaeological features (Carey 2013).

3.2.9 A condition survey was undertaken, to English Heritage Level 2 standards, of the Walled Garden in the north-east corner of Wollaton Park in 2014. The Garden was found to

measure approximately 1.5ha in area. It was built 1783-88 with some later, 19th and 20th century, features. It is surrounded and bisected by brick walls, almost 4m high. The walls, which contain flues and firemouths, provided heating for the garden. Large parts of the Garden's original structure were considered to be in good condition and could be fully restored. This included the majority of the external walls. Some features were found to be heavily damaged by accident or design, including short lengths of external walls and gates, and the western range of potting sheds. Some features were considered to be in too poor a state to warrant restoration, including the standing part of the central spine wall, the north-western glasshouses and the later eastern range of potting sheds. Some parts of the Garden were found to have been destroyed to such a degree that restoration was not cost-effective, including the western half of the central spine wall (Strange-Walker *et al.* 2014).

4 Aims and Objectives

4.1 Project Theme

4.1.1 The training excavations will fit within the overarching theme of the Wollaton landscape through time, focussing on the later use of the site in terms of garden design and the exploitation of the natural landscape.

4.2 Project Objectives

4.2.1 The objectives specific to the excavations this year are as follows:

To elucidate the 17th- to 19th-century layout of Wollaton Park's gardens and external buildings, test preservation and to recover details of their form, character and function.

To provide evidence of the earliest layout of the gardens devised by Smythson.

To characterise the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site.

- To establish the use of space within Wollaton Park's formal gardens and how the site developed over time to reflect new social dynamics.
- To establish the investment in the site through renovation and rebuilding and how this relates to documentary evidence

To retrieve an assemblage of artefacts and ecofacts to illustrate daily life and the material culture of the inhabitants

- What can be learnt from artefacts and ecofacts in regards to lifestyle and the presence of the different levels of society on site?

4.3 Research Framework

4.3.1 The *East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework (EMHERF) Interactive Digital Resource* host a digitised version of East Midlands Heritage - Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands (Researchframeworks.org). Any buried archaeological remains, depending on their nature, could offer an opportunity to address the following research priorities highlighted in the Research Framework:

Post Medieval (1485-1750)

8.2 Landscapes of display: country houses and gardens

- Can we elucidate further the use of social space in buildings and across the landscape, the manipulation of vistas and the integration of gardens with the wider landscape?
- How were garden designs influenced by changing fashions and by a familiarity with Continental garden styles?
- What horticultural methods, planting schemes and water management methods were employed by garden planners?
- How are tenants and servants reflected in the surviving material culture?
- Can we establish regional typologies of parklands, parkland structures and the villages and cottages associated with estates?

8.8 Material Culture

- Can we identify the changing material culture of the urban and rural poor, the emerging middle classes and the aristocracy?

Research Objective 8D – Investigate developments in estate and garden design and their landscape context

Modern (1750 – Present)

9.5 Estates, parks, gardens and woodland

- What was the social role and influence of country houses and estates?
- What survives of country estates, parks and gardens, how are they distributed, and how should they be classified?
- How may élite landscapes have influenced municipal park designs?

Research Objective 9H - Characterising the rural environment: identify and record historic buildings and landscape features.

5 Methodology

5.1 Archaeological Excavations

5.1.1 All phases of works within Wollaton Park were carried out between 15th July 2019 and 9th August 2019 by TPA staff, paying trainees, Nottingham City Museums and Galleries volunteers and volunteers from the local community.

5.1.2 All works were undertaken in accordance with the Project Design and WSI (Binns 2019) as approved by Scott Lomax, City Archaeologist for Nottingham City Council (NCC), and Ron Inglis, Chief Operating Officer for Nottingham City Museums (NCMG).

5.1.3 All work met with requirements and standards set out in *Management and Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide* (Historic England revised 2015), All work also met with the requirements and standards set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) in their *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a); *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014b); *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Material* (CIfA 2014c) and *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (CIfA, 2014d).

5.1.4 A H-shaped trench covering an area of c. 123m^2 was machine excavated to an approximate depth of 0.3m over the projected remains of the Orangery, the location of which was determined by using the geophysical survey results produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology in 2002 (Plate 40; Figure 01). The excavation was divided into three areas, the north-western trench orientated north-east to south-west, the central trench orientated north-west to south-east and the south-eastern trench orientated north-east to south-west (Figure 02). The excavations were then continued by hand. The width of the excavation allowed for stepping the trench edges if there was reason to go deeper than 1m.

5.1.5 Prior to the commencement of the excavation, the ground was CAT scanned for services by a trained member of TPA staff.

5.1.6 The location of the trenches and any archaeological features were located within the OS coordinate-system, in 3-dimensions, using a Leica CS15/GS15 RTK Differential GNSS (GPS) prior to excavation. Where it was impractical to use GPS (in proximity to overhanging tree-canopies), a Leica TCR 705 Total Station was used as an alternative and the trenches referenced to the OS grid.

5.1.7 Topsoil, subsoil and deposits were stacked at a safe distance from the trench.

5.1.8 All features and deposits encountered were excavated sufficiently to determine their survival, nature, plan, and form and to recover datable evidence.

5.1.9 All excavated features and deposits were hand cleaned and recorded photographically using both colour digital and black and white negative film, in a 35mm format.

5.1.10 All features and deposits were recorded at an appropriate scale by measured drawing. Sections of excavated features were recorded at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. Archaeological features were hand cleaned and planned at a scale of 1:20. Spot heights were recorded relative to the Ordnance Datum.

5.1.11 Archaeological features and layers were given a four-figure context number e.g. 0001. Context sheets were completed for each context revealed.

5.1.12 Standard 40-litre environmental samples were to be taken from contexts if they were deemed to be of palaeo-environmental significance and would be given a two-digit sample number.

5.1.13 The location of any artefacts recovered in the subsoil or in features were recorded by context. All artefacts were treated in accordance with *UKIC guidelines* (1983 and 1984) *and First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neal 1998). Finds washing and cataloguing was started by volunteers whilst on site and finished by TPA members of staff and in-house volunteers. The finds were then analysed by TPA in-house specialists.

6 Community Participation Methodology

6.1 Training Dig – Paying Placements

6.1.1 The excavations were designed to cater for those people wishing to develop a more detailed, practical understanding of archaeological fieldwork. Up to 10 people a day could pay for single days as taster sessions, or for the full week-long training programme. Modules based on different archaeological skills were scheduled for each day of the week. The excavation modules dealt with excavation, recording (using the YAT single context recording system), stratigraphic analysis and finds processing. The context of the work in each module in relation to the project aims and the wider history of Nottingham were explained in conjunction with visits, tours and lectures which formed part of the modules.

6.1.2 Continuing the format of a rota system, trainees were allocated more time in each area to achieve a greater understanding of the processes involved; building on confidence and understanding, allowing the student to take the knowledge learnt from this experience to further their careers or personal development in the subject.

6.2 NCMG Volunteers

6.2.1 A limited number of free places were offered to people who lived within the county over the five weeks. These places were once again subsidised by the Nottingham City Council. NCMG volunteers were invited to fill 'explainer' roles, where they would be the main contact for casual visitors if they wanted to know more about the excavation.

7 Excavation Results

7.1 Site Stratigraphy

7.1.1 The removal of friable dark brown silty sand topsoil (0001) to a depth of 35mm across the entirety of the excavation area revealed light brown grey sandy modern landscaping subsoils (0002), (0031) (0032) up to 0.07m deep. The first archaeological horizon was encountered at a depth of 0.1m.The entire area was excavated to the natural sandstone bedrock (0019), which was 0.34m Below Ground Level (BGL) at its shallowest point within the central trench. Light brown yellow degraded sandstone (0046) was revealed above bedrock (0019) intermittently across the excavation area measuring up to 0.4m deep. A number of archaeological layers, deposits and features were revealed below the subsoils and cutting into degraded sandstone layers and bedrock (Figure 02 and 03). They are discussed here from earliest to latest. A full context list can be found in Appendix 1.

7.2 Archaeological Features

Terrace edge [0016] and associated feature [0072]

7.2.1 A large and deep linear cut [0016] was located within the excavation area, cutting into bedrock [0019] and through degraded sand (0046). It was steep yet even sloping, with a flattish base, measuring at least 7.5m wide within the north-western trench (Plates 01–05). Continuing beyond the edges of the excavation area, a 7.5m long section of linear cut [0016] was revealed in the north-western and central trenches and a further 2m were revealed in the south-eastern trench (Plates 10–11). It is believed that these two sections were parts of the same feature as they were both orientated east to west, and therefore the linear cut would have measured a minimum of 21m long if the central trench had been widened (Figure 03–05). The toolmarks were still visible on the slope within the north-western trench. The length and width of this feature suggested cut [0016] to be the terrace edge pictured in the foreground of Jan Siberechts' 17th-century painting of Wollaton Park (Plate 38). The terrace measured 1.7m deep within the north-western trench, and 1.4m deep in the south-eastern trench. It was filled with terrace bank material deposits described below.

7.2.2 A rounded corner of squarish feature [0072] was revealed within the south-eastern trench (Plates 8-9). Located to the immediate south-west of terrace edge [0016], it is likely that the two features are contemporary and feature [0072] is a continuation of edge [0016] but with a different purpose, such as a cut for a set of steps to the lower garden terrace (Figure 05). Feature [0072] measured 1.5m long and 0.6m wide. It was excavated to a depth of 0.2m and was filled with four deposits, three of which continued into [0016] and are discussed below.

Terrace bank material

7.2.3 A number of deposits found covering the terrace edge and base were likely to be the remains of the grass bank and loose topsoil used to disguise the sandstone bedrock and create the formal garden layout of the 17th century. These fills within terrace edge cut [0016] also filled feature [0072], but differed between the north-western trench and the south-eastern trench (Figure 09, 11-13).

7.2.4 The fills within terrace edge [0016] observed in the north-western trench consisted of seven fills (0050), (0043), (0051), (0069), (0052), (0068). These fills ranged in colour and composition from compacted yellowy orange mottled coarse sand, to friable dark to mid brown sand silt in. These fills measured a full depth of 0.7m from the edge of the terrace (Plates 5–7).

7.2.5 Friable light grey sandy silt (0068) was revealed above silty sand (0052) following the sloping edge of the terrace [0016] and covering its flat base in the north-western trench. It measured 5m wide and up to 0.15m deep in the south-east and south-west facing sections and continued beyond the edges of the excavation. Sandy silt (0068) was the uppermost

surviving layer of possible bank material deposited against the sloping sandstone terrace edge and across the terrace base, although a lack of organic material within this deposit suggested that further deposits, such as an overlying turf layer, were removed prior to the complete infilling of the terrace.

7.2.6 Compacted yellowy orange mottled course sand (0070) containing frequent inclusions of brick and tile fragments, angular stones and charcoal flecks was revealed on the base of terrace edge cut [0016], below sandy silt (0068) in the north-western trench. It measured 0.6m wide and 0.16m deep in section and continued beyond the edges of the excavation. The inclusions of CBM within this deposit were the probable remains of earlier structural garden features, which were used in the initial levelling of the terrace base for turf and paths.

7.2.7 The fills within terrace edge [0016] observed in the south-eastern trench and feature [0072] consisted of five fills; loose light brown sand (0063), light yellow brown silt sand (0032), dark orange-brown silt sand (0062), light brown silt sand (0061) and mid-dark brown silt sand with yellow mottles (0060). These fills measured 0.24m deep at the base, 0.5m deep on the terrace edge and 0.7m deep within feature [0072] (Plates 08–11).

Terrace backfill deposits

7.2.8 Terrace [0016] was artificially backfilled with mottled light red-orange silt (0015)/(0017), possibly redeposited crushed mudstone, of which the nearest example is found to the south of Wollaton Park in the grounds of the University of Nottingham (Figures 09, 11–13). The deposit measured up to 1.4m deep but was likely to have been deeper prior to modern levelling and new turf laying (Plates 02–07 and 10–12). This may have occurred during the late 18th century when the grounds of Wollaton park were altered to reflect the new 'natural landscape' trend as championed by Capability Brown and others.

17th- to 18th-century garden features [0035], [0039] and [0049]

7.2.9 Three garden features were revealed cutting into the flattened sandstone bedrock located to the south-west of terrace edge [0016] and running parallel to it (Figures 03 and 04). The corner of a sub-rectangular garden feature [0035] extending beyond the edges of the trench and was revealed in the south-west end of the north-western trench (Plate 13). Its north-west to south-eastern edge measured 2.6m before turning a 90° angle. Its north-east to south western edge measured 2.8m. Feature [0035] cut through bedrock (0019) to a depth of 0.2m, had a slightly uneven profile and a flattish base (Figure 10). The primary fill of garden feature [0035] comprised mid-dark brown silty sand remnants of garden soils (0059) measuring a depth of 0.1m with secondary fills consisting of mottled mid brown silty sand backfill (0034) and dark orangey brown sand (0058) measuring a total depth of 0.3m (Plates 14–15).

7.2.10 A corner of a second sub-rectangular garden feature [0049] extending beyond the edges of the trench was revealed in the south-eastern trench approximately 20m to the east of the corner of feature [0035] and orientated on the same alignment (Plates 16–17). Its north-west to south eastern edge measured 1.4m before turning a 90° angle. Its north-east to south-west edge measured 2.8m. Feature [0049] cut through bedrock (0019) and degraded sand (0046) to a depth of 0.34m, had a slightly uneven profile and a flattish base (Figures 05 and 13). The primary fill of garden feature [0049] was dark brown sandy silt remnants of garden soils (0065) measuring a depth of 0.04m with a secondary fills consisting of mottled mid pink brown silty sand backfill (0066) and dark grey-brown sand (0067) measuring a total depth of 0.36m.

7.2.11 Circular garden feature [0039] was revealed 5.5m to the north-west of garden feature [0049] within the central section of the site (Plates 18–20). It was in alignment with garden features [0035] and [0049]. Feature [0039] measured 2m in diameter and 0.4m in depth, with steep sloping sides and an uneven base due to root disturbance (Figure 05). It was filled with a strong brown silty sand (0040) with occasional charcoal flecks and heavy root disturbance.

Brick plinth [0030]

7.2.12 Square brick plinth [0030] was exposed at first within the south-east facing section of the south-eastern trench, before turf was removed to expose the entire feature (Plates 21–24, Figures 14 and 15). The brick plinth measures 0.5m x 0.5m in plan and 0.34m in depth. It consists of four loose courses of bricks and each course steps out a further 60mm forming a pyramidal shape with a hollow measuring at least 0.3m x 0.3m in the centre. The individual bricks measure up to 240mm x 115mm x 75mm and are loosely mortared with a white grey mortar. Plinth [0030] is backfilled with a primary fill of dark yellowish brown silty sand (0042) measuring 0.15m deep and a secondary fill of dark brown sandy silt (0041).

7.2.13 Similar structures of similar dimensions are found within the gardens of Wollaton Park, suggesting this structure to be a plinth for a statue. Construction cut [0033] for the plinth was visible in plan and in the south-west facing section of structure [0030]. It was irregular in shape and was tight to the structure, especially at the base, where the cut was not visible in the south-west facing section. Construction cut [0033] was truncated at the north-east and north-west facing edges of plinth [0030] by robber cut [0037], which was created during the removal of further coursing once present above the existing remains. Robber cut [0037] is rectangular with straight edges, measured 0.06m deep, but is not parallel with plinth [0030]. The robber cut was filled with grey sandy buried topsoil (0036), which was found to cover the lower courses as they stepped out.

7.2.14 Plinth [0030] seems to be in alignment with the terrace however a construction date for the plinth is unknown.

Sub-rounded pits [0013] and [0026]

7.2.15 Circular to sub-rounded pit [0013] was revealed in the eastern end of the south western trench cutting through the backfill (0015) of terrace edge [0016]. It had steep shallow sides and a flat base and measured 0.63m x 0.6m x 0.1m (Plate 25, Figure 08). It was filled with friable light brown grey silt sand (0014) with red-brown mottles and pebble inclusions. Its regular shape suggests it may have been some kind of garden feature of unknown date but that post-dates the backfilling event of terrace edge [0016].

7.2.16 Located within the north-western trench, sub-rectangular pit or linear feature [0026] was also found cutting into terrace backfill deposit (0017) and continuing beyond the trench section (Plates 26–28). It measured an observed length of 1.1m, 1m wide and 0.4m deep (Figure 07). The edges and base were concave in shape. Feature [0026] was filled by a primary fill of friable dark brown silt sand (0027) containing mortar and charcoal flecks and measuring 0.18m deep. Above the primary fill was a compacted orange-brown sand (0028) containing large flattish fragments of stone and bricks, measuring a maximum depth of 0.12m. Above this, light brown sand (0029) filled the final 0.07m of feature [0026]. It contained inclusions of charcoal and rounded pebbles. The purpose of feature [0026] is unknown but post-dates the backfilling event of terrace edge [0016].

Redeposited sands (0006) and (0018)

7.2.17 Intermittently located across the western half of the site, highly compacted light brown yellow sands (0006) and (0018) measured 0.3m deep and continued beyond the trench edges (Plate 37). The presence of finds within these sands suggested that they were redeposited and possibly laid down during the landscaping phase of the late 18th century (Figures 09 and 11).

Late 18th- to 19th-century garden features [0007] and [0009]

7.2.18 Two features were revealed in the north-western trench cutting into compacted redeposited sand (0006). Sub-rounded pit [0007] measured 0.58m x 0.39m x 0.08m with steep sides and a flat base (Plates 29-30). It was filled with friable grey-brown sandy silt (0008) with charcoal flecks and pebble inclusions. It is possible that (0008) is the same as or mixed with landscaping material (0011) which is described below, however pit [0007] is

interpreted as a later garden feature that would have suited the informal and natural landscape design, implemented in the late 18th Century (Figure 06).

7.2.19 Sub-rounded pit [0009] was asymmetrical in profile with steep sides and a flat base (Plates 30–31). It measured 0.55m x 0.46m x 0.12m. It was filled with friable reddish brown silty sand (0010) with charcoal flecks and pebble inclusions. It is possible that (0010) is also the same as or mixed with landscaping material (0011) which is described below, however pit [0009] is interpreted as a later garden feature that would have suited the informal and natural landscape design, implemented in the late 18th century.

Other late 18th- to 19th-century features

7.2.20 Pit [0044] was revealed in the north-east facing section of the south-eastern trench measuring 1.95m wide and 0.34m deep (Plate 32 and Figure 16). It was filled with a primary fill of light brown sand, pebbles and CBM (0045) to a depth of 0.22m, covered by mid-light brown sand (0047) and light brown sand (0048) to a depth of 0.12m. Due to the truncation of this feature by the initial machining, there is insufficient to interpret its function.

7.2.21 Possible pit [0004] was revealed in the north-west facing section of the north-western trench, measuring 0.6m wide and 0.07m deep. It was filled with friable brown sand (0005) with pebble inclusions (Figure 10). Due to the truncation of this feature by the initial machining, its function is uncertain, but it is likely to be a garden feature or landscaping.

Landscaping / levelling deposits (0012), (0020), (0022), (0023), (0053), (0056), (0057) and (0058)

7.2.22 Landscaping or levelling deposits were revealed in the north-western trench above garden feature [0035] and terrace edge [0016]. They measured up to 0.5m deep in total and were revealed in section to be at least 3m wide (Figure 10). They range in composition from friable dark-brown medium silt to orange-brown sand. These deposits are likely to have been used it filled in a recurring hollow or dip in the landscape caused by the presence of garden feature [0035] below ground level (Plates 33–37).

Gravel deposits (0003), (0011), (0021), (0024) and (0025)

7.2.23 A number of gravel deposits were recorded in plan but mostly in section (Plates 33–37). Deposits (0021) and (0024) consisted of intermittent pockets of compact rubble, pebbles and grey-brown sand measuring up to 1m wide and 0.1m deep in section (Figures 09–11 and 17). Deposit (0011) was an uneven yet continuous spread of sandy silt with pebbles, CBM and chalk inclusions observed both in plan and in section. It measured at least 2.6m long and 0.1m deep with its width undulating between 0.2 and 0.6m. Deposits (0003) and (0025) were thin yet consistent fine gravelly layers above sand deposit (0006) and above terrace backfill (0017). These deposits were even and long, with (0003) observed in section for 9.3m. Both deposits measured 0.05m deep. All of these gravel deposits are interpreted as levelling deposits from a later phase of landscaping, possible into the 20th century.

8 Finds Assessment

8.1 Introduction

Material	Quantity
Pottery	24
Animal bone	30
CBM	278
Mortar/Plaster	108
Clay tobacco pipe	8
Metal	21
Glass	9
Shell	5
Stone	94
Coal fragments	>50
TOTAL (not including coal)	**577**

8.1.1 A total of 577 finds and more than 50 fragments of coal were recovered from the We Dig Wollaton 2019 excavation. A table of these can be seen above.

8.2 The Pottery

8.2.1 A total of 24 fragments of pottery weighing 331g were recovered during the archaeological work. These ranged in date from the 13th to 19th centuries. The assemblage was quantified by two measures: number of sherds and weight, and the resulting archive was recorded in table form. The pottery is stored in one archive box presently held at the Trent & Peak Archaeology stores, Chilwell, Nottingham.

Context	Quantity	Weight (g)	Description	Date range
0002	2	38	Midland Purple	15th-16th century
0002	2	18	Slipware	17th-18th century
0002	1	21	Cistercian/Black ware	17th-18th century
0006	3	48	Coarse Earthenware	17th-19th century
0012	1	6	Cistercian/Black ware	17th-18th century
0012	1	9	Midland Purple	15th-16th century
0012	1	9	Medieval sandy Ware	12th-15th century
0017	2	13	Coarse earthenware	17th-19th century
0017	1	3	Mottled ware	17th-18th century
0017	1	9	Midland Purple	15th-16th century
0017	2	66	Cistercian/Black ware	17th-18th century
0017	2	26	Slipware	17th-18th century
0017	1	16	Midland Yellow ware	16th-18th century
0027	1	1	Flowerpot	18th-19th century
0038	1	5	Salt glazed stone ware	17th-19th century
0043	1	8	Midland yellow ware	16th-18th century
0050	1	40	Midland Purple	15th-16th century

Discussion

8.2.2 The pottery assemblage is comprised almost entirely of pottery of a post-medieval date with the exception of a single abraded sherd of medieval pottery found in context (0012).

8.2.3 The pottery was fairly evenly scattered across the site and consisted of small quantities of post-medieval pottery dating to between the 16th and 19th centuries, typical of a post-medieval domestic assemblage. The medieval sherd, which is heavily abraded is likely to be residual from when the Park used to be the common grazing lands of the villages of Sutton Passeys (later deserted), Wollaton and Lenton in the 15th century. No further study is required.

8.3 Animal Bone

8.3.1 A total of 30 animal bone and teeth fragments were recorded from WDW. There appears to be a mixture of bones typically associated with primary butchery and remains of meals within the assemblage. It seems likely that the bone assemblage, mixed with other general kitchen waster, was deposited onto the gardens as a way of aiding soil fertility. Such remains are likely to have come from the hall.

Context	Quantity	Weight (g)	Description	Date range
0012	3	5	Small fragment and teeth	Post-medieval?
0015	6	87	Animal fragments	Post-medieval?
0017	5	74	Animal fragments	Post-medieval?
0018	2	19	Animal fragments	Post-medieval?
0028	8	24	Animal skull fragments	Post-medieval?
0029	5	23	Animal fragments, inc. vertebra	Post-medieval?
0043	1	38	Animal tooth	Post-medieval?

8.4 Ceramic Building Material

8.4.1 A total of 278 brick and tile fragments were recovered from 17 contexts. Much of the material was un-diagnostic and could only be assigned to a general period of medieval to modern. However, the bulk of the assemblage, especially that recovered from fill (0017), part of the terrace backfill, is very likely to relate to landscaping work carried out in the 18th century. A complete brick was retained from (0028), the fill of feature (0026), which although of unclear function, post-dates the backfilling of the terrace. The measurements of this were 23cm x 11cm x 5.5cm (9"x 4.5" x 2.5") which are the dimensions stipulated in a charter dating to 1571. The size was geared to a man's hand, the length of the brick being twice its width, the width being twice the height. However, the most useful dateable feature is the presence of a frog (indentation), a feature introduced in the late 17th century. No further study is required.

Context	Quantity	Weight (g)	Description	Date range
0002	47	2655	Brick/tile fragments	Post-medieval
0006	29	3751	Small brick/tile fragments	Post-medieval
0010	10	1520	Brick fragments	Post-medieval
0011	1	99	Brick fragment	Post-medieval
0012	6	54	Brick/tile fragments	Post-medieval
0014	23	1042	Brick fragments	Post-medieval
0015	10	3426	Brick/tile fragments, one shaped	Post-medieval
0017	55	15873	Brick/tile fragments – some vitrified, nib on 1 tile, I decorative rounded brick	Post-medieval
0018	26	3757	Brick/tile fragments – some vitrified	Post-medieval
0019	1	229	Brick fragment	Post-medieval
0027	3	945	Brick/tile fragments	Post-medieval
0028	5	5005	Complete hand-made brick plus fragments	Post-medieval
0029	35	1016	Brick/tile fragments - small	Post-medieval
0032	14	1248	Brick/tile fragments	Post-medieval
0038	2	230	Brick fragments	Post-medieval
0060	7	1939	Brick/tile fragments	Post-medieval
0118	4	229	Brick fragments	Post-medieval

8.5 Mortar/ Plaster

8.5.1 Fragments of mortar and plaster were recovered from nine contexts across the excavated area. Most of the plaster contained marine shells pushed into the surface for decoration and will have formed part of the decorative garden. No further study is required.

Context	Quantity	Weight (g)	Description	Date range
0002	8	32	Mortar fragments	Post-medieval
0006	20	722	Fragments	Post-medieval
0011	2	160	Plaster fragments	Post-medieval
0015	5	117	Mortar fragments	Post-medieval
0017	27	1096	Fragments, small fragment of plaster with shell	Post-medieval

0018	9	1059	Plaster fragments	Post-medieval
0027	8	251	Plaster fragments, decorated with oyster and mussel shell	Post-medieval
0028	13	194	Plaster fragments, decorated with oyster and mussel shell	Post-medieval
0029	16	86	Plaster fragments, decorated with oyster and mussel shell	Post-medieval

8.6 Clay Pipe

8.6.1 Eight fragments of clay tobacco pipe were collected during the excavation. Only small fragments of stem were recovered. Where possible, the clay tobacco pipe finds have been dated using bore diameter (early clay pipes have a bore diameter of 3mm, decreasing over time until stems by the middle of the 18th century had a bore of less than 2mm). All fragments recovered were of a 17th- to 19th-century date with bore diameters ranging from 1.5–3mm. There were no identifiable features such as decorative style or makers marks which would make further study worthwhile.

Context	Quantity	Weight (g)	Description	Date range
0002	1	1	Stem fragment, 3mm bore diameter	17th – 18th century
0006	3	8	Stem fragments 1.5-3mm bore diameter	17th – 19th century
0017	3	9	Stem fragment 3mm bore diameter	17th – 18th century
0032	1	5	Stem fragment 2mm bore diameter	18th – 19th century

8.7 Shell

8.7.1 A total of four fragments of shell, weighing 46g, was collected from three contexts on the site. A further fragment was recovered from an unstratified context. The full assemblage consisted of Common Oyster shell *(Ostrea edulis)* fragments and are likely to be waste food products. No further work is necessary.

Context	Quantity	Weight (g)	Description	Date range
0010	1	38	Complete oyster shell	Unknown
0017	1	1	Oyster shell fragment	Unknown
0029	2	1	Oyster shell fragments	Unknown
U/S	1	6	Complete oyster shell	Unknown

8.8 Glass

8.8.1 A total of nine glass fragments weighing 20g was recovered. These came from five contexts. The majority of the fragments came from post-medieval/modern bottle fragments, with the exception of one small fragment of probable clear modern window glass found in context (0032). No further work is necessary.

Context	Quantity	Weight (g)	Description	Dating
0002	1	8	Green bottle fragment	19th – 20th century
0012	4	1	Fine medicine-type bottle glass fragments	19th – 20th century

0017	1	1	Fine medicine-type bottle glass fragment	19th – 20th century
0029	1	1	Fine medicine-type bottle fragment	19th – 20th century
0032	2	9	Green bottle fragment, clear window glass fragment	19th – 20th century

8.9 Metalwork

8.9.1 A total of 21 objects was recovered from seven contexts. Most of the assemblage comprised post-medieval nails and nail fragments which were heavily corroded, and in most cases encrusted. The only exception to this was a corroded iron handle, probably from a small bucket or tub, and a fragment of lead slag, presumably the result of an industrial process. No further study is required.

Context	Quantity	Weight (g)	Description	Date
0002	1	15	Nail (Fe)	Post-medieval
0003	2	387	Nail (Fe), lead slag	Post-medieval
0006	3	19	Nails (Fe)	Post-medieval
0014	1	6	Nail (Fe)	Post-medieval
0026	1	5	Nail (Fe)	Post-medieval
0026	1	25	Handle from small bucket/pot (Fe)	Post-medieval
0028	2	11	Nails (Fe)	Post-medieval
0029	10	76	Nails (Fe), fragment of window came	Post-medieval

8.10 Stone

8.10.1 Four small fragments of slate were recovered from the subsoil, levelling deposit (0012) and terrace backfill (0015). These were probably used for roofing, although no evidence in the form of shaping or holes were visible. There were also fragments of gypsum alabaster, probably for processing into plaster powder, found in redeposited sand (0018) and (0046). Other than a large worked limestone slab found in (0015), the remaining fragments of stone have no evidence of working and may be natural. No further work is needed.

Context	Quantity	Weight	Description	Date range
0002	2	2	Slate fragments	Post-medieval?
0006	6	1327	Limestone/sandstone fragments, possible working and signs of heat. Slate fragment	Post-medieval?
0012	2	114	Sandstone fragment, limestone fragment	Post-medieval?
0014	21	472	Sandstone fragments	Post-medieval?
0015	2	7231	Slate fragment and worked limestone slab	Post-medieval?
0017	22	5023	Limestone/sandstone fragments, possible working and signs of heat	Post-medieval?
0018	33	12985	Limestone/sandstone fragments, possible working and signs of heat. Fragments of alabaster.	Post-medieval?
0035	2	84	Sandstone fragments	Post-medieval?
0046	1	74	Alabaster fragment	Post-medieval?
0060	3	2103	Limestone fragments	Post-medieval?

8.11 Coal

8.11.1 Fragments of coal, presumably used for heating in the hall and discarded onto the garden, were found scattered across the site.

Context	Quantity	Weight	Description	Date range
0002	>20	45	Coal fragments	Post-medieval
0011	4	1	Coal fragments	Post-medieval
0015	7	23	Coal fragments	Post-medieval
0017	3	1	Coal fragments	Post-medieval
0018	1	70	Large coal fragment	Post-medieval
0021	1	17	Large coal fragment	Post-medieval
0027	2	5	Coal fragments	Post-medieval
0028	6	36	Coal fragments	Post-medieval
0029	4	3	Coal fragments	Post-medieval
0032	8	29	Coal fragments	Post-medieval
0118	1	25	Coal fragment	Post-medieval

8.12 Conclusion

8.12.1 Given the disturbed nature of the ground the finds are likely to be residual with the assemblage as a whole being representative of a site of post-medieval development and landscaping into the 18th century.

9 Discussion

9.1 Pre- Wollaton Hall

9.1.1 One sherd of heavily abraded medieval sandy-ware pottery suggests that there could be further remains from when the land used to be the common grazing for the villages of Sutton Passeys, Wollaton and Lenton in the 15th century, however this sherd was found to be residual within the landscaping and levelling deposits from above the terrace edge and formal garden feature to the north-west of the site.

9.2 16th- and 17th-Century Formal Garden

9.2.1 The 'We Dig... Wollaton Park' 2019 excavations revealed previously undiscovered evidence of the late 17th-century formal garden layout that is portrayed in Jan Siberechts' paintings of 1695 and 1697. The terrace edge seems to be parallel with Wollaton Hall and perpendicular to the contemporary balustrade as it is shown on the paintings.

9.2.2 Three cut features and the remains of a brick plinth were partially revealed during the excavations, cutting into the natural sandstone bedrock. Also sitting parallel to the terrace edge and Wollaton Hall, they have been interpreted as formal garden features. Square and circular garden features are not depicted in Jan Siberechts' paintings or in the engraving by Kip and Knyff in 1707, however the formal gardens could have been constantly changing during the time of Thomas and Cassandra Willoughby, or the features could reflect an earlier garden layout from the time of Robert and John Smythson. Further excavations of such features may help to determine more accurate dates for these features.

9.2.3 The presence of the Orangery, which is seen depicted on Siberechts' paintings, was not established. However, on revealing the true location of the formal terracing, the original location of the Orangery can now be proposed as further to the north-east, away from Wollaton Hall.

9.3 Late 18th-Century Landscaping

9.3.1 During the middle to the late 18th century, the formally arranged and geometric gardens set around the hall and were replaced by 'naturalised' parklands to follow the trend set by the likes of Capability Brown. The bowling green visible on Siberechts' paintings was levelled in 1788-91 and was replaced with a ha-ha. A large quantity of soil was removed from this area when the ha-ha was constructed and the ground was altered to form a natural-looking slope. It is thought that during these works, the terrace edge discovered during the dig and located behind the ha-ha was backfilled and the visible slope that still can be seen today was created.

9.4 19th- and 20th-Century Levelling and Garden Features

9.4.1 Later levelling deposits or gravel pathway surfaces were laid down from the early 19th to the early 20th centuries, possibly for drainage or to fix areas of subsidence caused by the terrace edge and earlier garden features.

10 Conclusions

10.1 Additional Work at Wollaton Park

10.1.1 The objectives specific to the excavations this year were as follows:

> ***To elucidate the 17th- to 19th-century layout of Wollaton Park's gardens and external buildings, test preservation and to recover details of their form, character and function.***
>
> ***To provide evidence of the earliest layout of the gardens devised by Smythson.***
>
> ***To characterise the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site.***
>
> ***To retrieve an assemblage of artefacts and ecofacts to illustrate daily life and the material culture of the inhabitants***

10.1.2 The remains of the early formal garden layout and alterations to the landscape over time have been revealed within the excavations of 2019. More details have been revealed, such as rock-cut garden features that help to build upon the impression of the gardens given by contemporary images and texts. However, evidence of the earliest layout of the gardens devised by Smythson could not be confirmed due to a lack of clear dating evidence.

10.1.3 Additional short term projects within Wollaton Park as a part of the 'We Dig... Wollaton Park' project design would entail geophysical surveys, topographical surveys, documentary research and small-scale excavations. Plans, paintings and drawings would also be georeferenced as a 'We Dig...' training session to further specify areas of interest.

10.2 Community Engagement and Training

10.2.1 The training excavations involved 43 paid trainees and 10 explainers from Nottingham Castle Museums and Galleries, and TPA volunteers. The trainees were involved with creating and running their own Open Day with resources and pop-up banners created by the trainees themselves. Over 100 people visited the Open Day on Saturday 10th August 2019.

10.2.2 The Nottingham branch of the Council For British Archaeology's (CBA) Young Archaeologists' Club also visited the site and were able to get involved with the excavations, despite the weather. A tour of the site and Wollaton Hall was also arranged for the CBA's East Midlands branch.

11 Acknowledgements

11.1.1 Fieldwork was supervised by Laura Parker with the assistance of Kath Bentley and Tristan Cousins. The project was managed by Laure Parker with assistance from Gareth Davies. Thanks are due to Nottingham City Council especially Ron Inglis, Karen Lushey and Mick Smurthwaite for their enthusiasm and support throughout the project. Also to the army of keen trainees and volunteers for their dedicated assistance and hard work. Thanks are also due to the post-excavation and artefacts specialists who organised and ran the different training sessions and helped with the exhibition work: Marius Ilie, Kris Poole, Peter Hammond, Jen Jackson, and Chris Tuckley. Many thanks are due to Scott Lomax and Chris King for their guidance and knowledge of the site.

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Plates

Plate 1: Terrace edge and base [0016] revealed in the north-western trench. Scales = 1m and 2m. Looking south west.

Plate 2: Terrace edge and base [0016] revealed in the north-western trench, section showing terrace edge backfill (0017). Scale = 2m. Looking south-west.

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Plate 31: Pit [0009] in western end of north-western trench. Scale = 0.2m. Looking south-east.

Plate 32: Pit [0044] in the northeast facing section of the south-eastern trench. Scales = 0.5m and 1m. Looking south-west

Plate 33: North-west facing section in north-western trench showing levelling and gravel deposits. Scales = 1m and 2m. Looking south.

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Plate 37: South-east facing section of north-western trench showing redeposited sand, levelling deposits and shallowness of bedrock. Scales = 1m. Looking north.

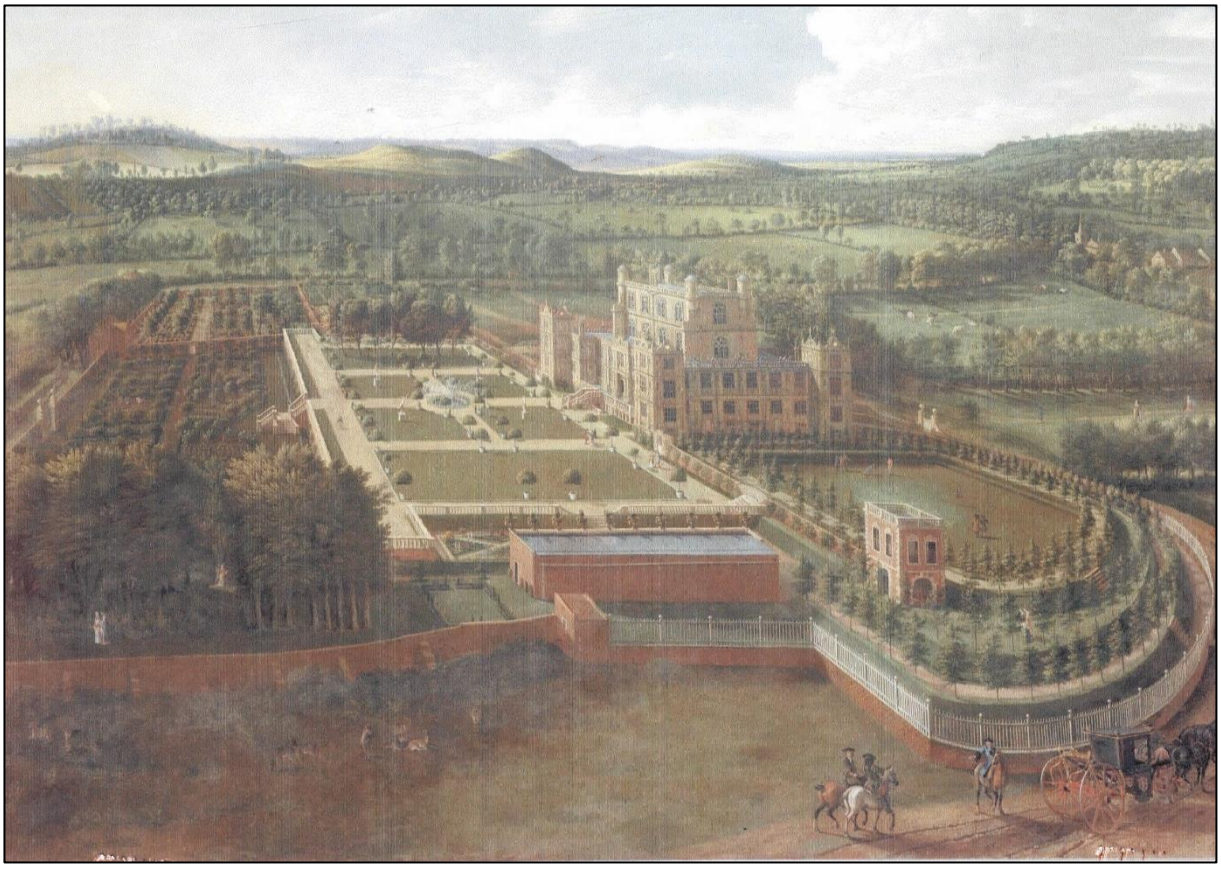


Plate 38: Jan Siberechts painting of Wollaton Hall from the East, 1697. Showing the Orangery in the foreground. (Paul Mellon Collection, Yale Center for British Art, Connecticut)

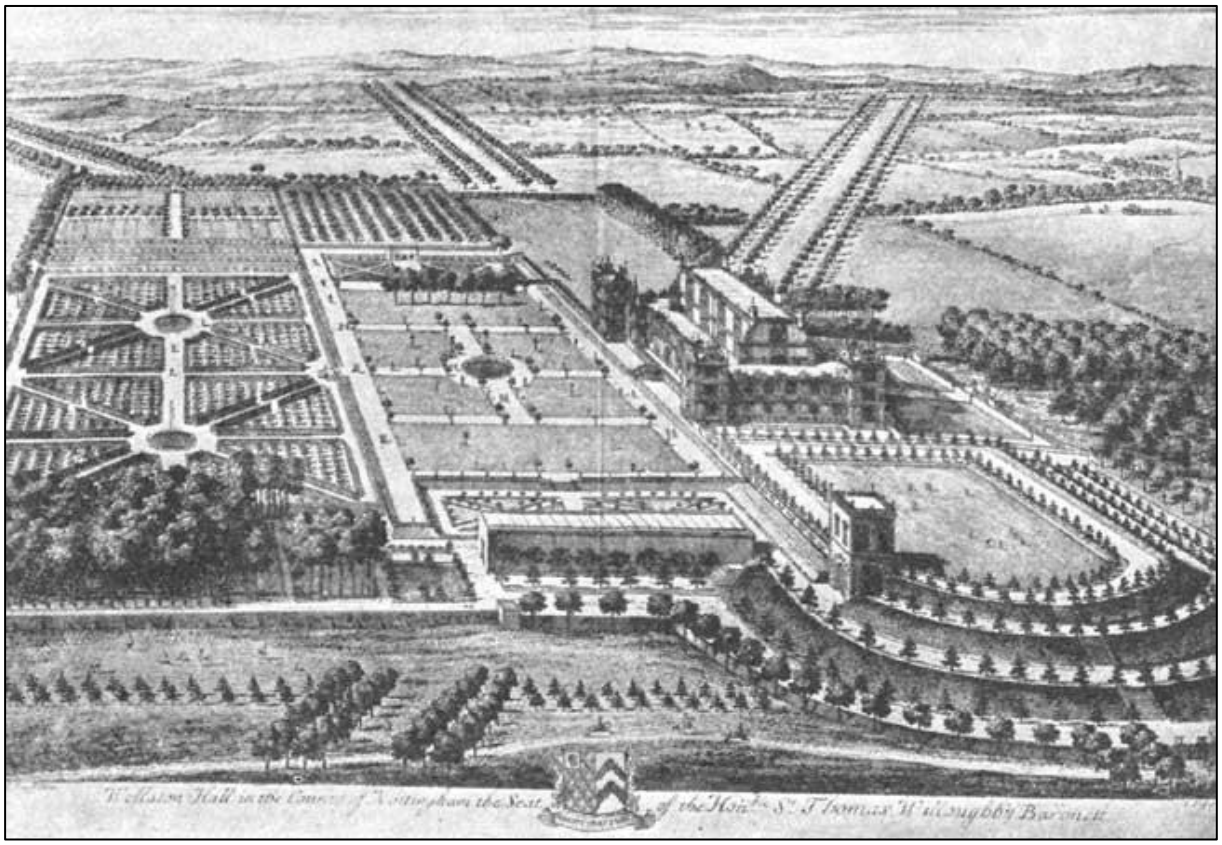


Plate 39: Wollaton Hall, from a drawing by Leonard Knyff, engraved by Kip in 1707

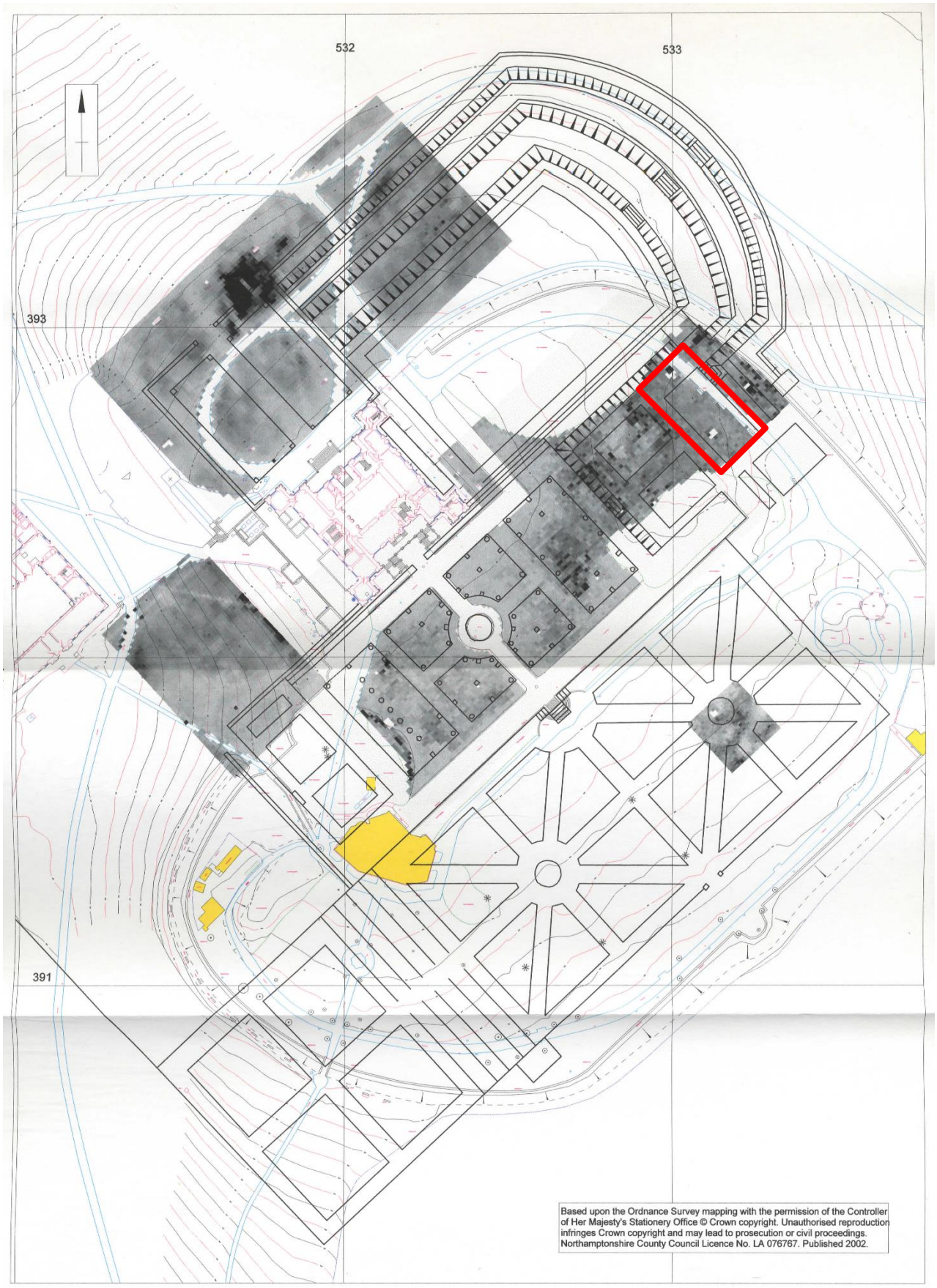
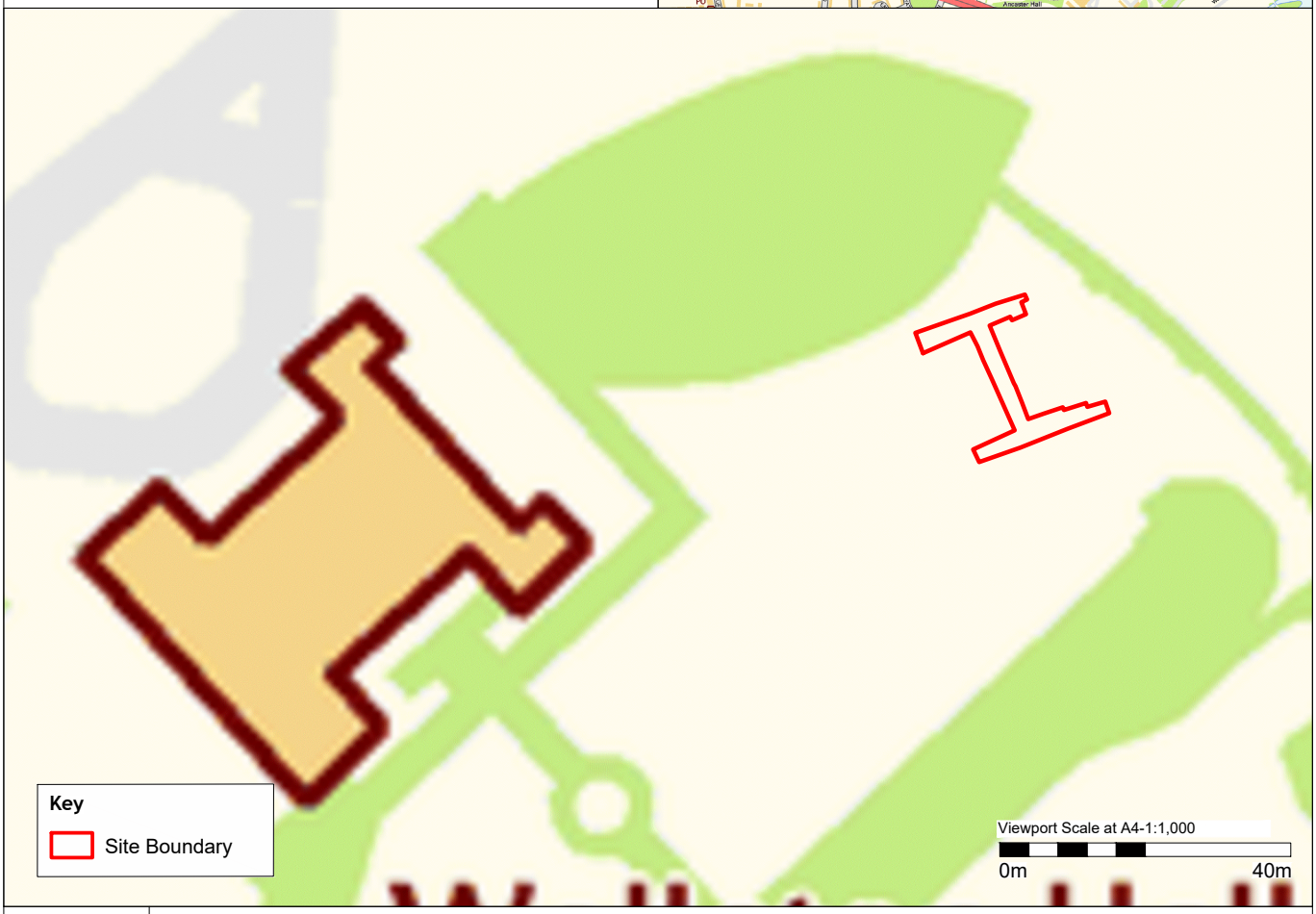


Plate 40: The Northamptonshire Archaeology geophysical survey results overlain by a plan showing the approximate locations of the formal gardens and external buildings of the 18th-century layout. The red box shows the projected excavation area of this interim report (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2002)

Figures

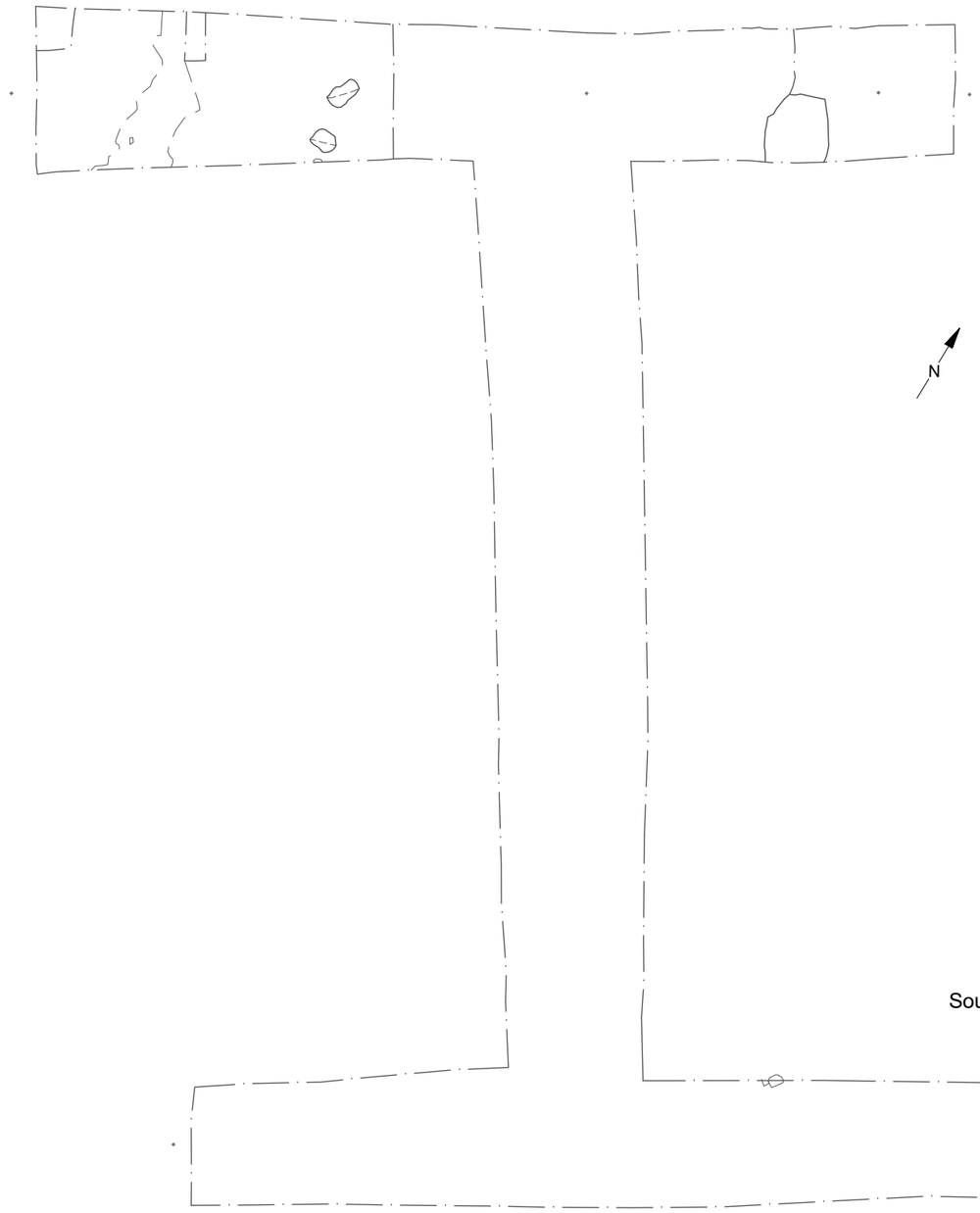


Trent & Peak ARCHAEOLOGY

Figure 01 - Location Map
WDW - We Dig... Wollaton Training Excavations

Scale at A4 - 1:Varies
Drawn by M.V

DR#01
North-Western End of Trench



Trent & Peak ARCHAEOLOGY

Figure 02 - Mid Excavation Plan
WDW - We Dig... Wollaton Training Excavations

Scale at A3 - 1:100
Drawn by M.V

DR#02

North-Western End of Trench

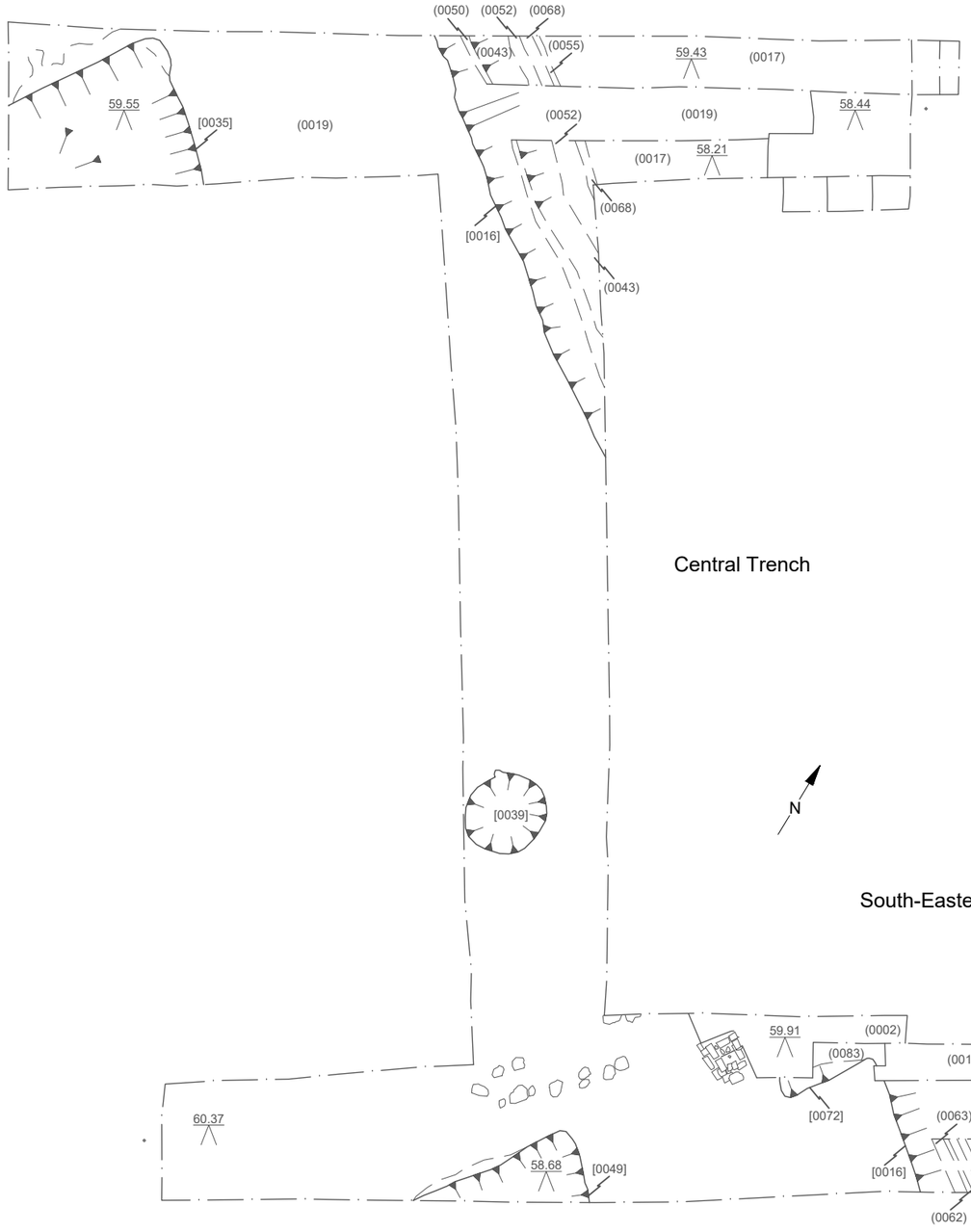


Figure 03 - Post Excavation Plan
WDW - We Dig... Wollaton Training Excavations

Scale at A3 - 1:100
Drawn by M.V

DR#03
Post Excavation Plan North-Western End of Trench

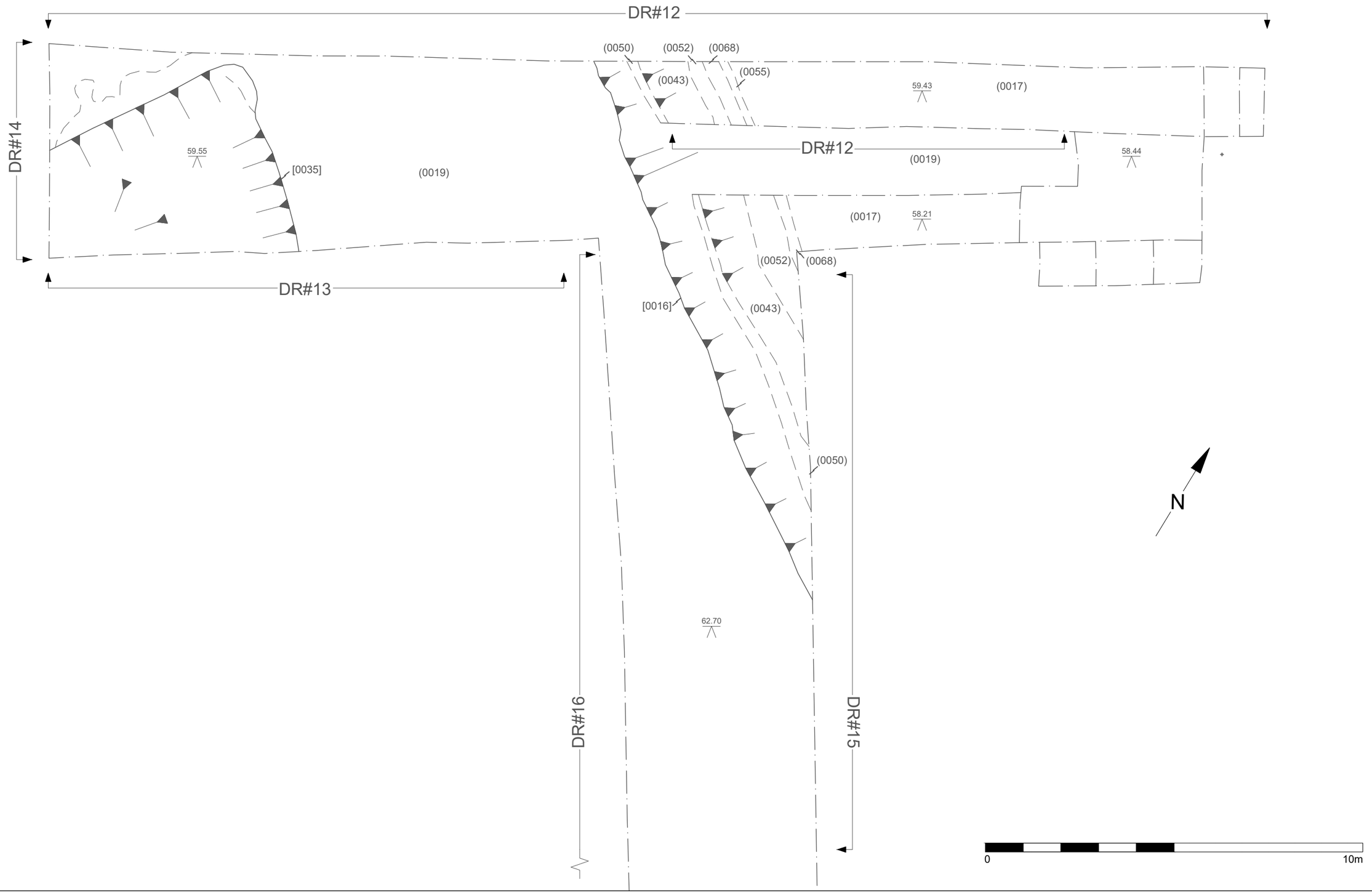


Figure 04 - North-Western End of Trench
WDW - We Dig... Wollaton Training Excavations

Scale at A3 - 1:50
Drawn by M.V

DR#04
Post Excavation Plan South End of Trench

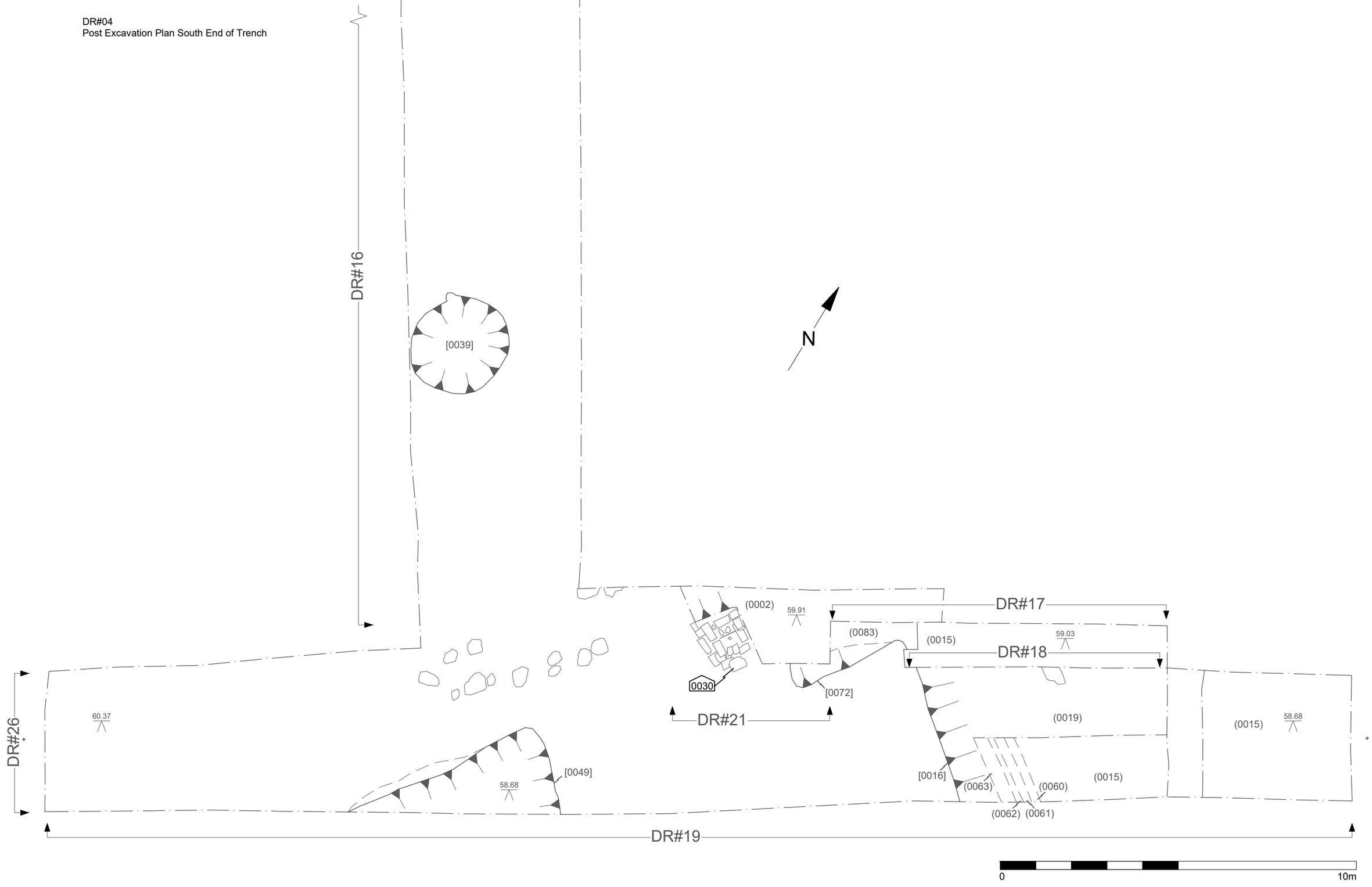
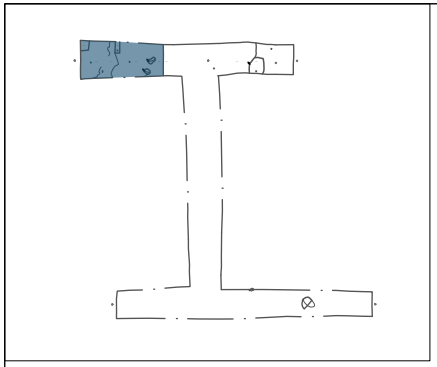
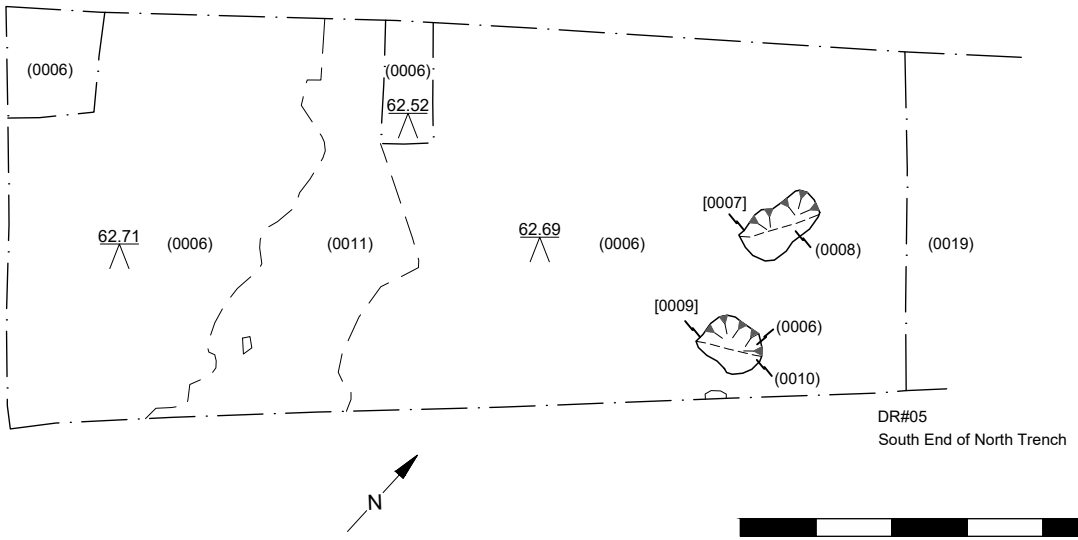


Figure 05 - South-Eastern End of Trench
WDW - We Dig... Wollaton Training Excavations

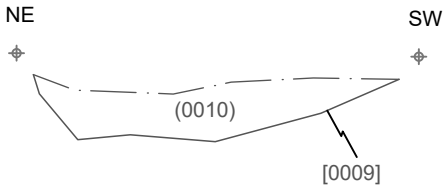
Scale at A3 - 1:50
Drawn by M.V



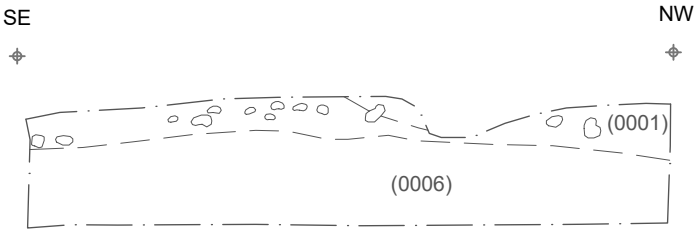


DR#05
South End of North Trench

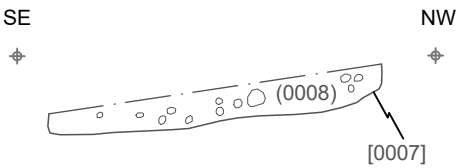
DR#06
North-West Section of Pit [0009]



DR#07
North-East Facing Section of Sondage (0011)



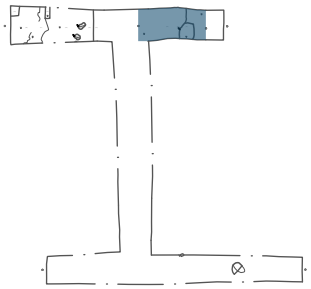
DR#08
West Section of Feature [0007]

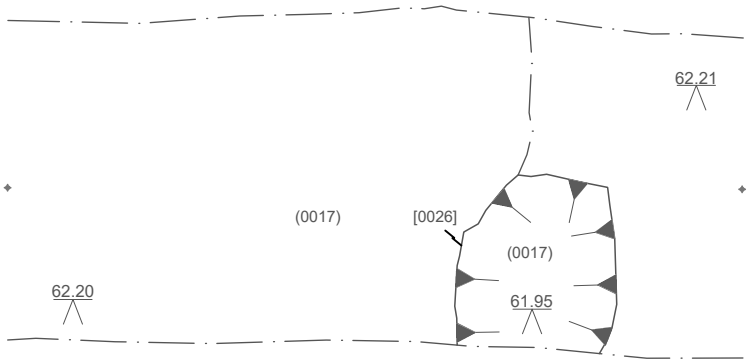


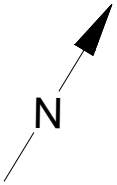
Trent & Peak ARCHAEOLOGY

Figure 06 - Detailed Mid Excavation Plan North-East End of Trench
WDW -We Dig... Wollaton Training Excavations

Scale at A4 - Varies
Drawn by M.V

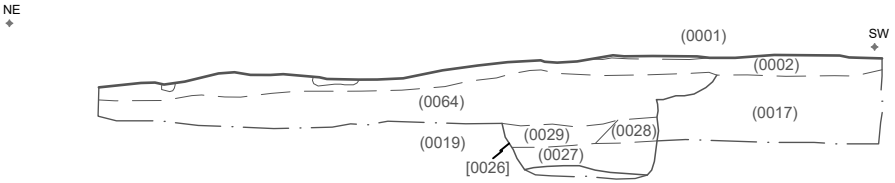




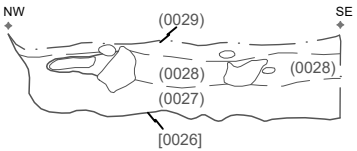


DR#09
[0026] Plan Post Excavation

DR#10
North-East Section [0026]



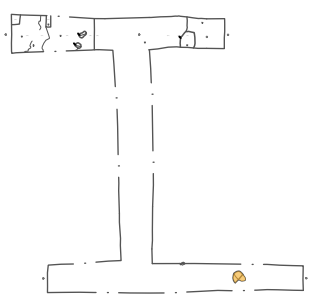
DR#11
South-West [0026] Section of Pit/Ditch Drawn at 1:10



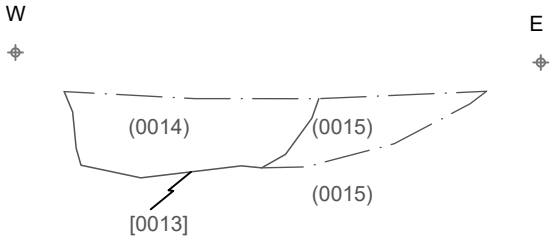
Trent & Peak ARCHAEOLOGY

Figure 07 - Detailed Mid Excavation Plan of North-Western End of Trench
WDW -We Dig... Wollaton Training Excavations

Scale at A4 - 1:50
Drawn by M.V



DR#12
South Section [0013]



DR#13
[0013] Post Excavation Plan

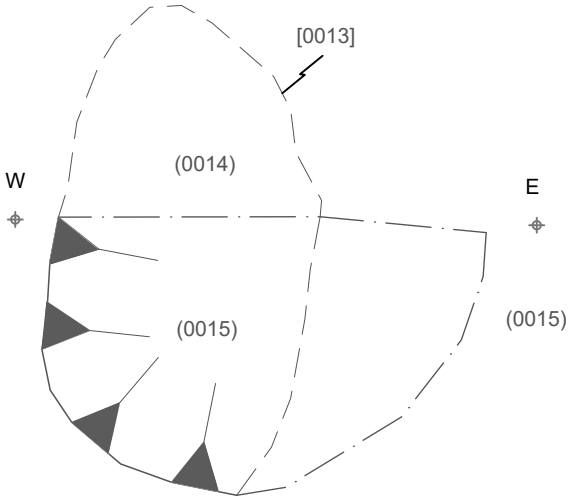


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Figure 08 - Mid Excavation Plan
WDW -We Dig... Wollaton Training Excavations

Scale at A4 - 1:20
Drawn by M.V

DR#014
South-East Facing Section of the Northwestern Trench

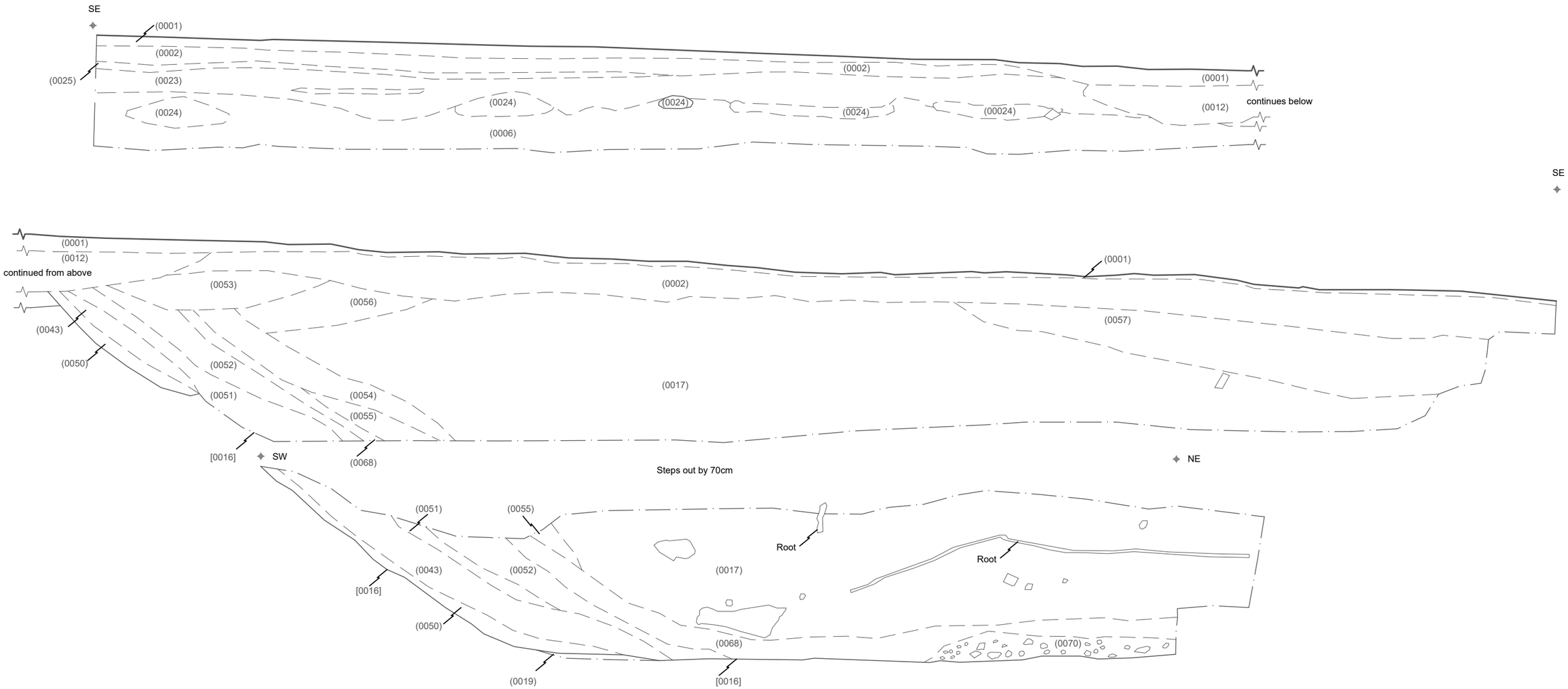
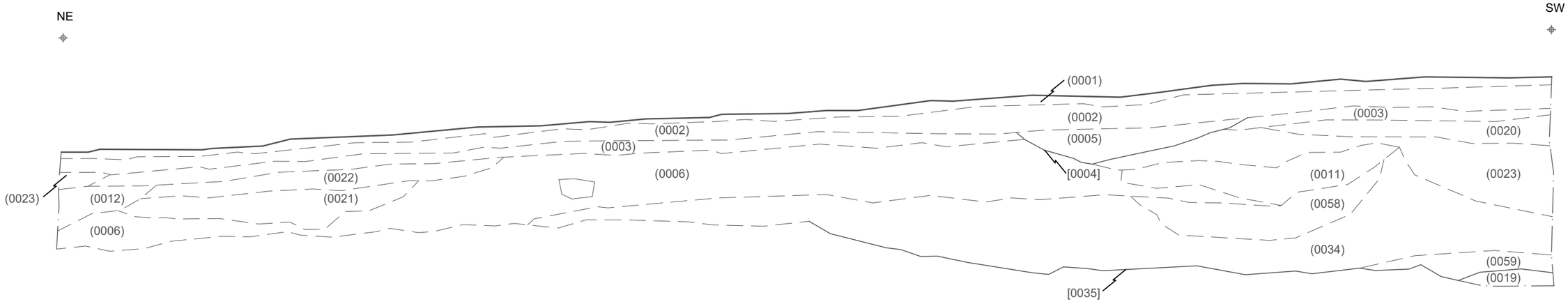


Figure 09 - South-East Facing Section of the North-Western Trench
WDW - We Dig... Wollaton Training Excavations

Scale at A3 - 1:25
Drawn by M.V

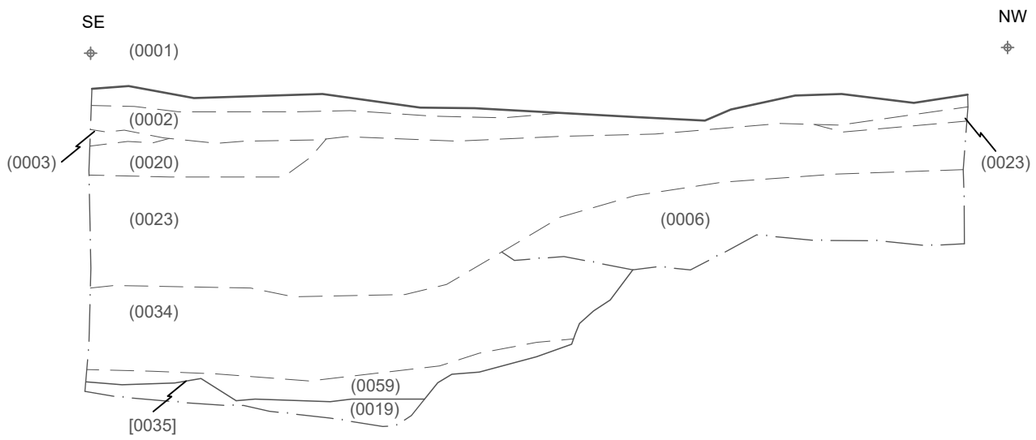
DR#15

North-West Facing Section of North-Western Trench



DR#16

North-East Facing Section of North-Western Trench

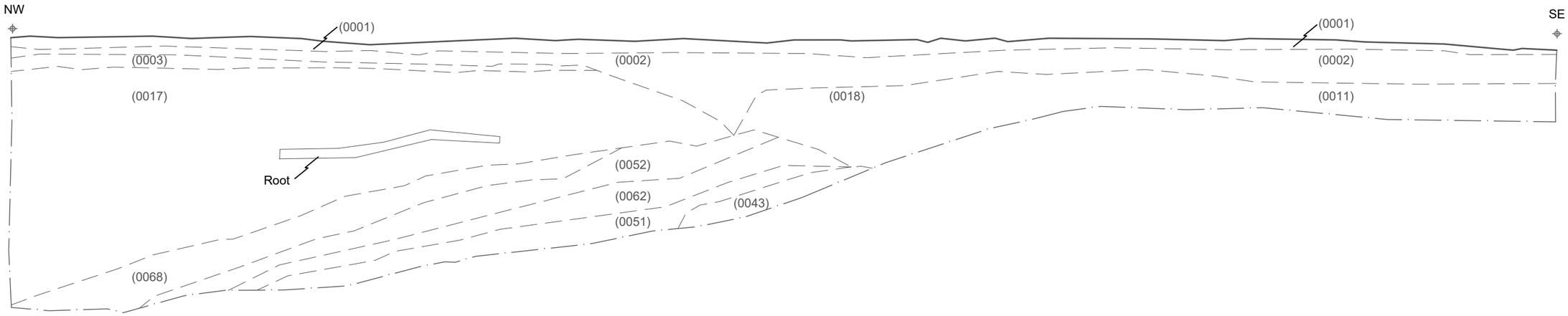


Trent & Peak ARCHAEOLOGY

Figure 10 - North-Western Trench Section
WDW - We Dig... Wollaton Training Excavations

Scale at A3 - 1:20
Drawn by M.V

DR#17
South-West Facing Section North-Western End of Central Trench



DR#18
North-East Facing Section Central Trench

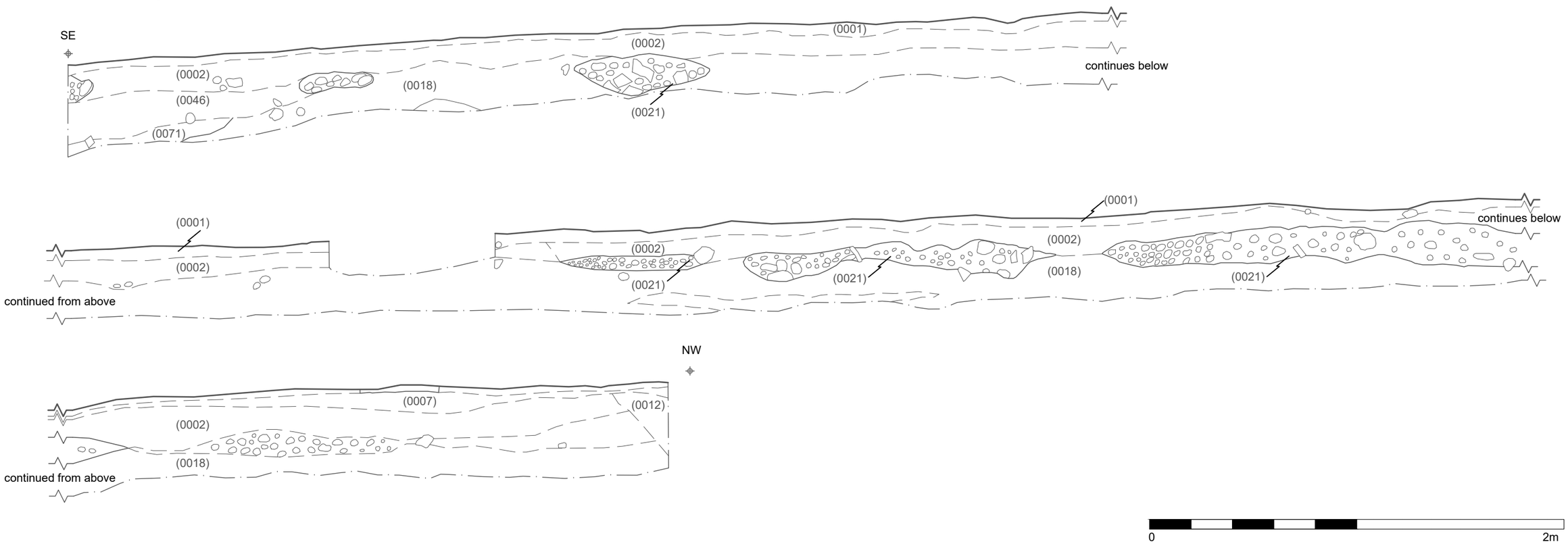
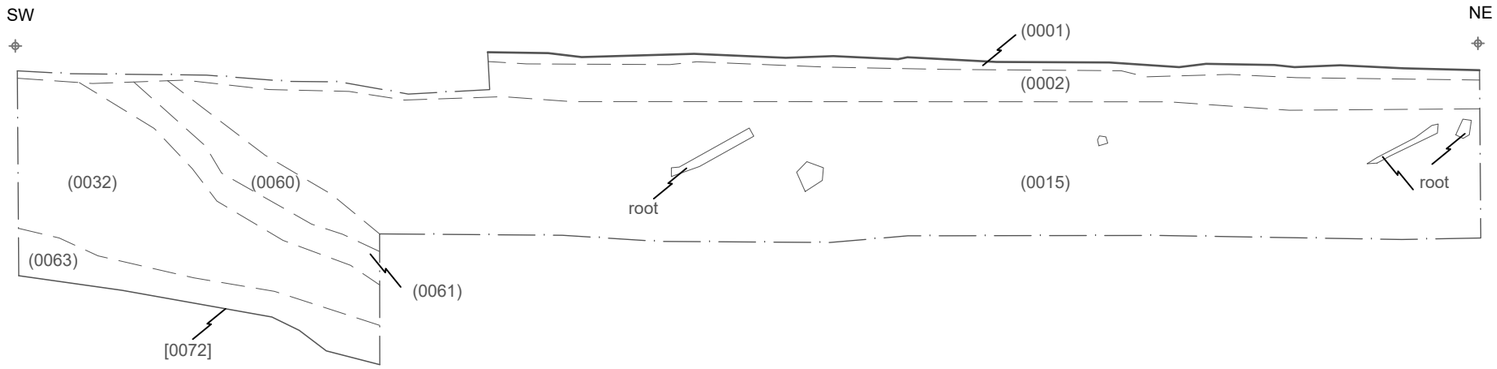


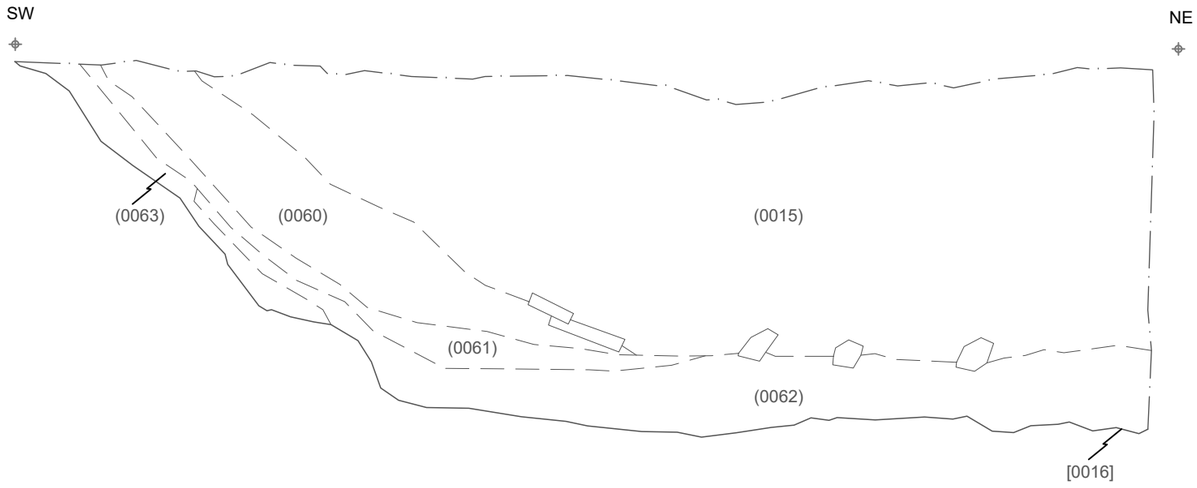
Figure 11 - Section Drawing of Central Trench
WDW - We Dig... Wollaton Training Excavations

Scale at A3 - 1:20
Drawn by M.V

DR#19
Post Excavation Upper South-East Section North-Western End of South-Eastern Trench



DR#20
South-East Facing Section of Terrace [0016]



Trent & Peak ARCHAEOLOGY

Figure 12 - South-Eastern Trench Section
WDW - We Dig... Wollaton Training Excavations

Scale at A3 - 1:20
Drawn by M.V

NE

DR#21
Post Excavation of North-Western Facing Section of South-Eastern Trench

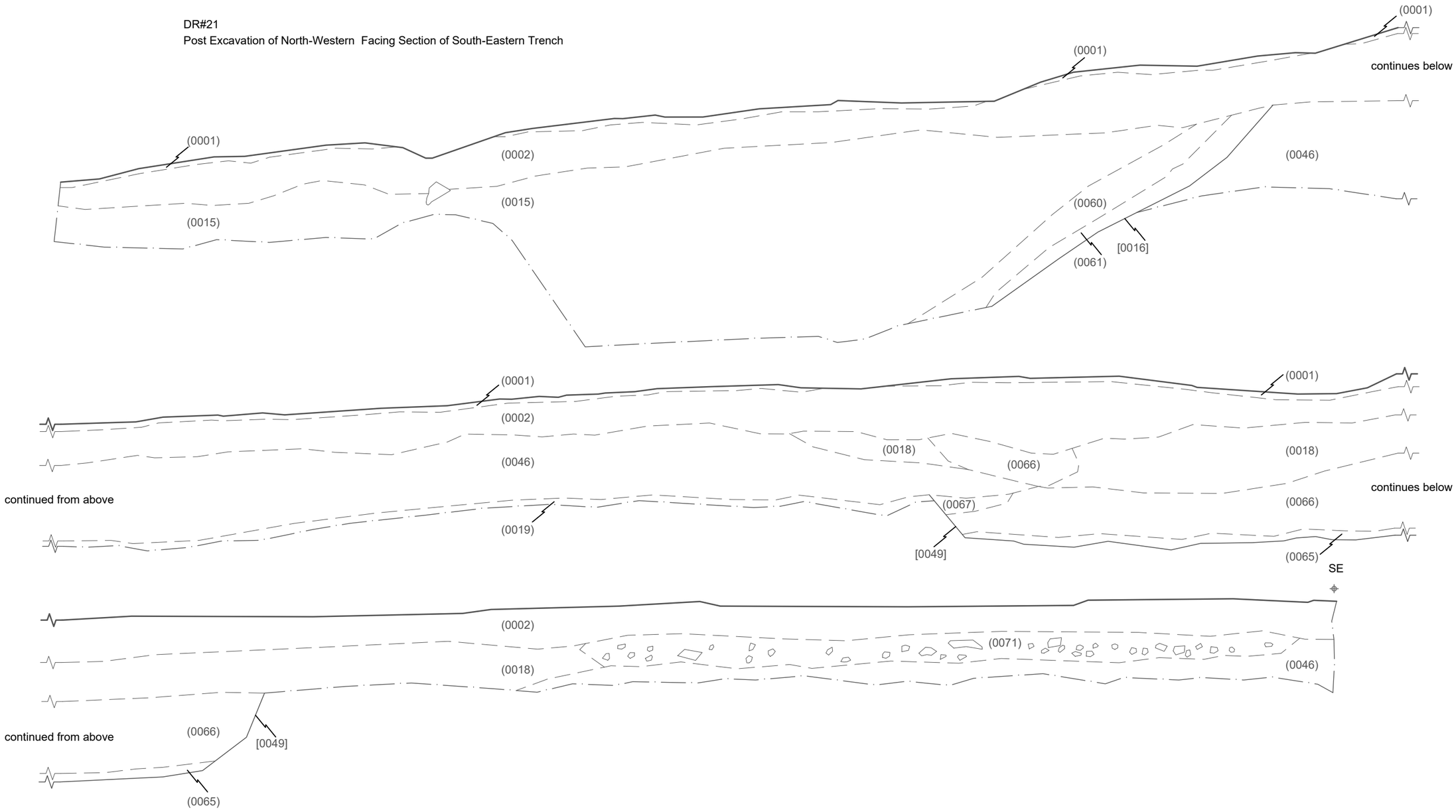
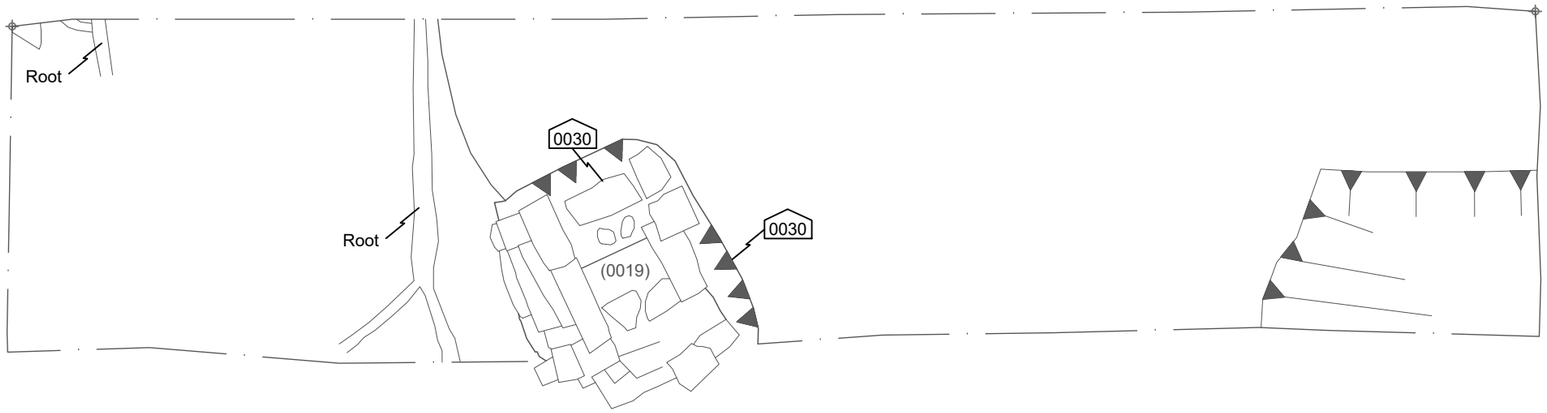


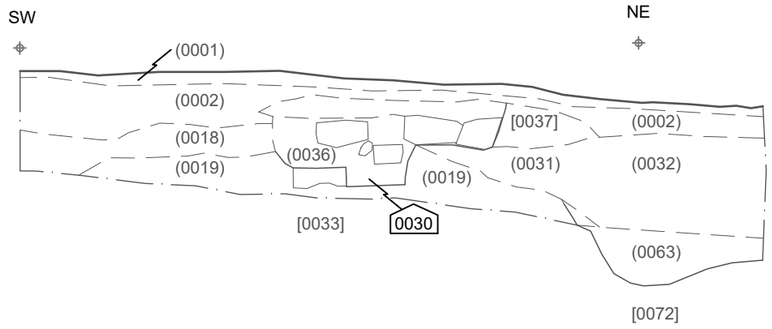
Figure 13 - Post Excavation of South-Eastern Trench Section
WDW - We Dig... Wollaton Training Excavations

Scale at A3 - 1:20
Drawn by M.V

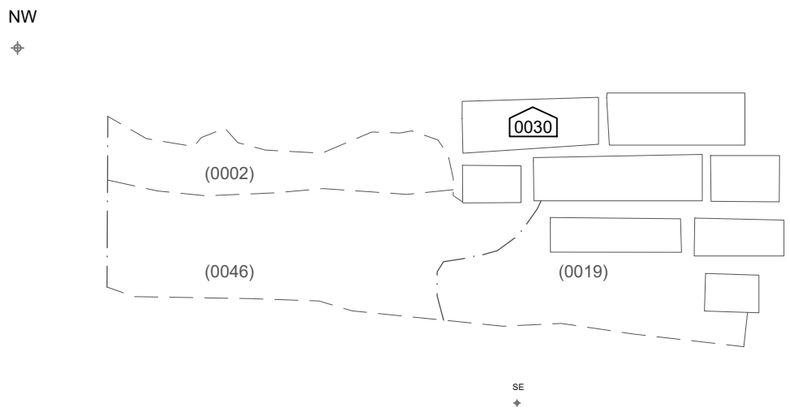
DR#22
0030 Post Excavation Plan



DR#23
South-East Facing Elevation 0030



DR#24
Section of 0030 Mid Excavation scaled to 1:10



DR#25
Section of Middle of 0030 scaled to 1:10

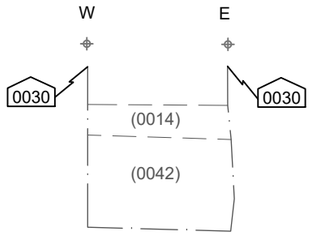
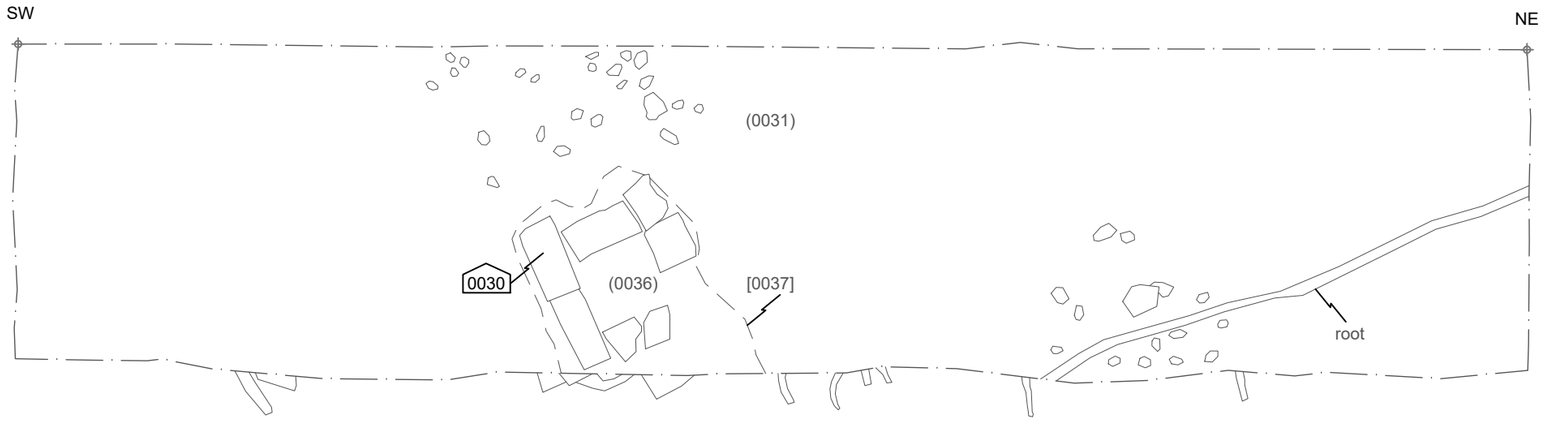


Figure 14 - 0030 Excavation Plan and Sections
WDW - We Dig... Wollaton Training Excavations

Scale at A3 - Varies
Drawn by M.V

DR#26
Site Plan of [0030] Pre-Excavation



DR#27
Site Plan of [0030] Mid-Excavation

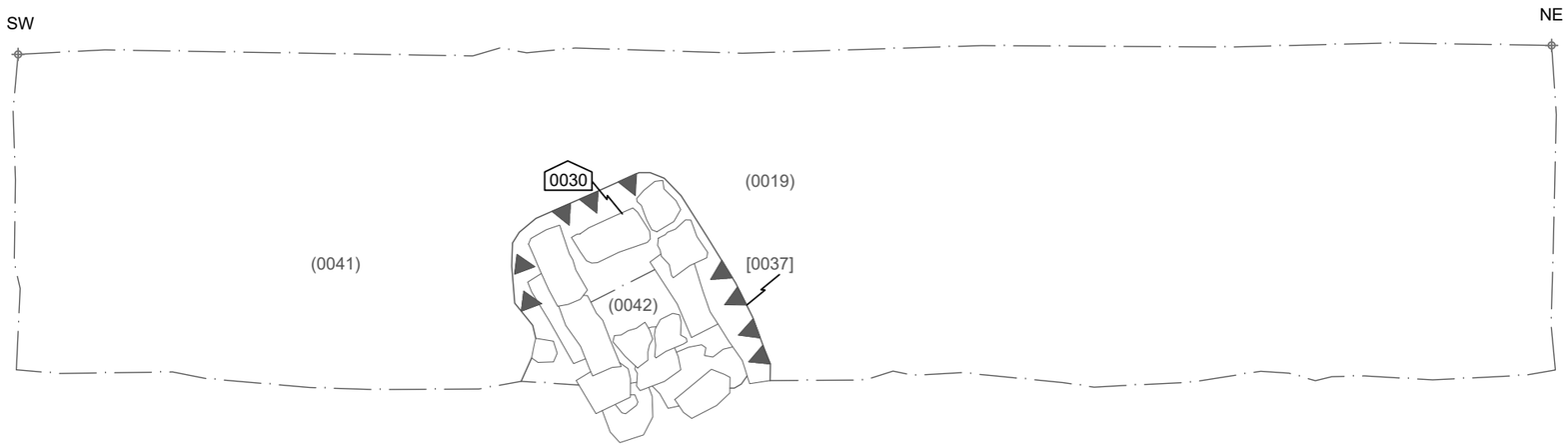
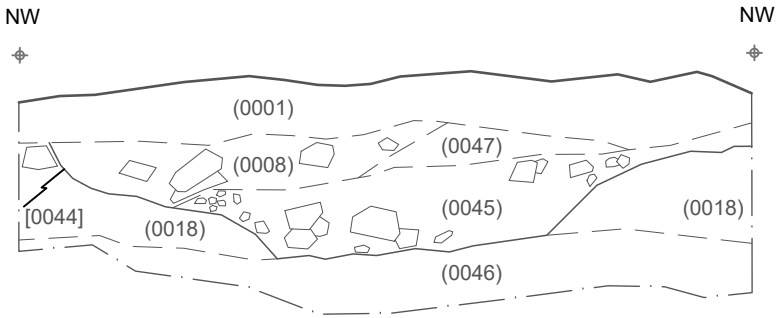


Figure 15 - Pre and Mid Excavation Site Plan of [0030]
WDW - We Dig... Wollaton Training Excavations

Scale at A3 - 1:20
Drawn by M.V

DR#28

North-East Facing Section of Southeastern Trench



DR#29

North-West Section of [0039]

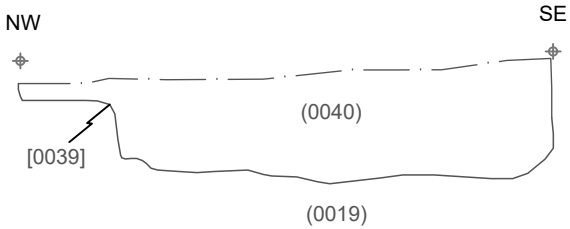


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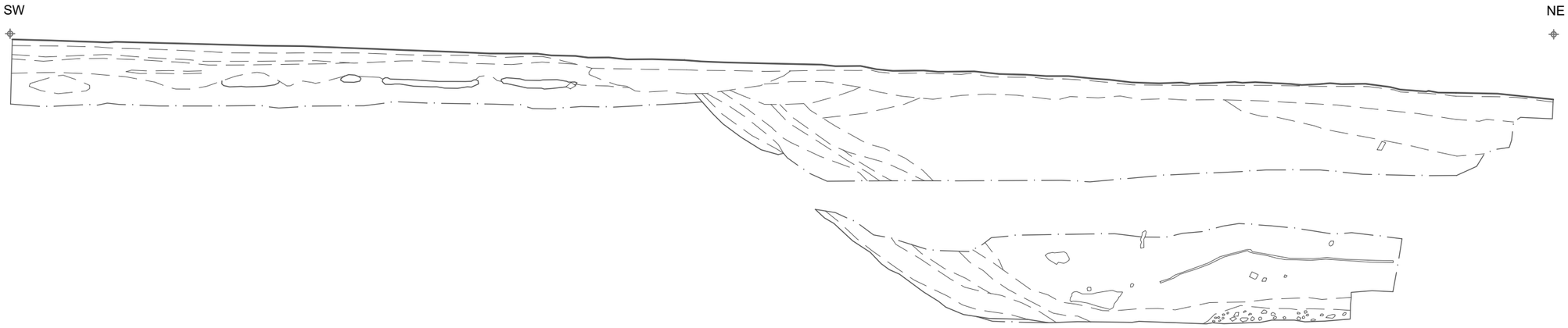
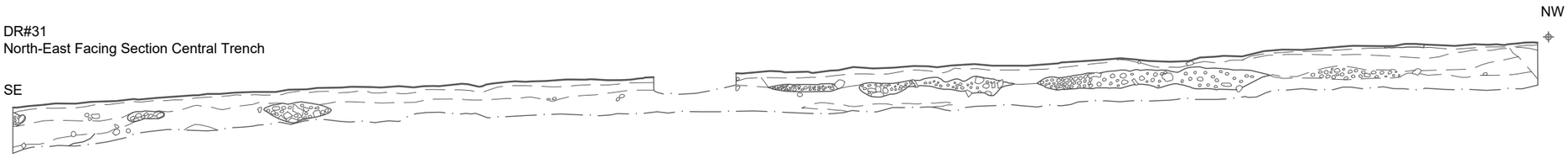
Figure 16 - Northeast Facing Section of South-Eastern Trench
WDW - We Dig... Wollaton Training Excavations

Scale at A4 - 1:20
Drawn by M.V

DR#30
South-East Facing Section of the North-Western Trench



DR#31
North-East Facing Section Central Trench



DR#32
Post Excavation of North-West Facing Section of South-Eastern Trench

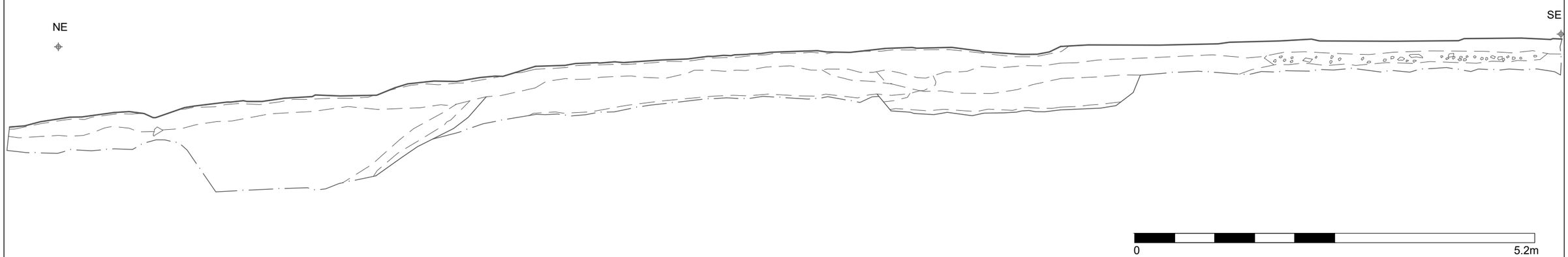


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Figure 17 - Combined Trench Sections
WDW - We Dig... Wollaton Training Excavations

Scale at A3 - 1:50
Drawn by M.V

Appendix 1: Context list

Context	Area	Category	Description
0001	All	Layer	Topsoil/ Turf
0002	All	Layer	Subsoil
0003	NW trench	Layer	Thin gravel sand
0004	NW trench	Cut	Cut of small pit
0005	NW trench	Fill	Fill of [0004]
0006	NW trench	Layer	Friable mottled orangey sand
0007	NW trench	Cut	Cut of small Pit
0008	NW trench	Fill	Fill of [0007]
0009	NW trench	Cut	Cut of small pit
0010	NW trench	Fill	Fill of [0009]
0011	NW trench	Layer	Thin root disturbance
0012	NW + central	Layer	Brown silty sand
0013	SE trench	Cut	Cut of rounded pit
0014	SE trench	Fill	Fill of [0013]
0015	SE trench	Fill	Mottled red orange silt backfill
0016	NW + SE	Cut	Cut of bedrock terrace
0017	NW trench	Fill	Mottled red orange silt backfill
0018	Central	Layer	Redeposited sand
0019	All	Layer	Sandstone bedrock
0020	NW trench	Layer	Orange levelling sand in section
0021	NW trench	Deposit	Concentrated gravel deposits
0022	NW trench	Layer	Orange brown silt sand landscaping layer
0023	NW trench	Layer	Grey-brown silt sand landscaping layer
0024	NW trench	Deposit	Gravel deposits
0025	NW trench	Layer	Thin brown orange silt and gravel layer
0026	NW trench	Cut	Cut of pit or linear feature
0027	NW trench	Fill	Dark brown silt sand fill of [0026]
0028	NW trench	Fill	Orange brown sand fill of [0026]
0029	NW trench	Fill	Light brown sand fill of [0026]
0030	SE trench	Structure	Brick plinth
0031	SE trench	Layer	Early topsoil associated with plinth
0032	SE trench	Layer	Orange silt sand below (0031)
0033	SE trench	Cut	Construction cut for [0030]
0034	NW trench	Fill	Brown silt sand fill of [0035
0035	NW trench	Cut	Sub rectangular garden feature
0036	SE trench	Fill	Fill of [0037]
0037	SE trench	Cut	Demolition cut for removal of [0030]
0038	SE trench	Layer	Same as (0060)
0039	Central	Cut	Cut of circular garden feature
0040	Central	Fill	Brown silty sand fill of [0039]
0041	SE trench	Fill	Fill within structure [0030]
0042	SE trench	Fill	Fill within structure [0030]
0043	NW trench	Layer	Dark brown silt sand bank material
0044	SE trench	Cut	Pit or linear cut in section
0045	SE trench	Fill	Light brown sand, pebbles and CBM fill of [0044]
0046	SE trench	Layer	Light brown yellow degraded sandstone
0047	SE trench	Fill	Mid-light brown sand fill of [0044]
0048	SE trench	Fill	Light brown sand fill of [0044]
0049	SE trench	Cut	Sub rectangular garden feature
0050	NW trench	Layer	Mid brown bank material
0051	NW trench	Layer	Light orange band of bank material
0052	NW trench	Layer	Light orange sand in bank material

Appendix 1: Context list

0053	NW trench	Layer	Brown silty sand
0054	NW trench	Layer	Mid brown sandy silt band
0055	NW trench	Layer	Orange brown sandy silt
0056	NW trench	Layer	Light mid brown sandy silt landscaping
0057	NW trench	Layer	Mottled yellowy pink sandstone landscaping
0058	NW trench	Layer	Dark orange brown landscaping layer
0059	NW trench	Fill	Dark brown fill of [0035]
0060	SE trench	Fill	Dark brown silt sand yellow mottles
0061	SE trench	Fill	Light orange brown silt sand
0062	SE trench	Fill	Dark brown silt sand with charcoal flecks
0063	SE trench	Fill	Orange brown silt sand of [0072] and [0016]
0064	NW trench	Layer	Dark brown silt layer above (0017)
0065	SE trench	Fill	Dark brown sandy silt fill of [0049]
0066	SE trench	Fill	Mottled mid pink brown silty sand fill of [0049]
0067	SE trench	Fill	Dark grey brown sand fill of [0049]
0068	NW trench	Fill	Grey silt sand band in [0016]
0069	Central	Layer	Possible bank material layer
0070	NW trench	Layer	Compacted stones and CBM on base of [0016]
0071	SE trench	Layer	Mid brown sand silt
0072	SE trench	Cut	Rounded corner of squarish feature

Appendix 2: OASIS Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

Printable version

OASIS ID: trentpea1-376256

Project details

Project name	We Dig... Wollaton Park
Short description of the project	A training excavation within the grounds of Wollaton park. The aims were: To elucidate the 17th-19th century layout of Wollaton Park's gardens and external buildings, test preservation and to recover details of their form, character and function. To provide evidence of the earliest layout of the gardens devised by Smythson. To recover information about the spatial patterning of features present on the site. Based on a geophysical survey completed by Northamptonshire Archaeological Services, an 'H' shaped excavation, approximately 123m², was used to investigate the presence, form and character of an Orangery visible in the foreground of Jan Siberechts painting from 1697, on a lower terrace to the east of Wollaton Hall. The excavations revealed the edge of a terrace cut into the sandstone bedrock, measuring 1.7m at its deepest point. It was filled by a number of tipped deposits, with the majority of material consisting of rubble-filled pink orange sand. The terrace edge could possibly relate to the sunken terrace onto which the Orangery is shown in the painting from 1697. The terrace could have been filled in and covered over when the Ha-Ha to the north-east of the site was built in the 1780's. A number of garden features dating to the 17th and 18th centuries were uncovered, including a possible brick plinth for a statue. Finds included a high amount of post medieval brick rubble from a demolished building, clay pipes and a small number of post medieval and modern pottery fragments. If the remains of the Orangery are still intact, they are likely to be further to the north east of the excavations.
Project dates	Start: 15-07-2019 End: 09-08-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	WDW - Sitecode
Type of project	Research project
Site status	English Heritage List of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	RT - HOUSE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	SN - POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	SN - BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	SN - CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	SN - ALABASTER Post Medieval
Investigation type	""""Open-area excavation"""""
Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest
Prompt	Training excavation

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NOTTINGHAM NOTTINGHAM Wollaton Park, Wollaton
Postcode	NG8 2AE
Study area	123 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 463378 344588 52.905243973361 -1.310965023171 52 54 18 N 001 18 39 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 61m Max: 62.5m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Trent and Peak Archaeology
Project brief originator	City/Nat. Park/District/Borough archaeologist
Project design originator	Laura Binns
Project director/manager	Dr. Gareth Davies
Project supervisor	Laura Parker
Project supervisor	Tristan Cousins
Type of sponsor/funding body	Nottingham City Museum and Galleries
Type of sponsor/funding body	majority from paying trainees

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Nottingham City Museums and Gallery
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass","Metal","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Digital Archive recipient	Nottingham City Museums and Gallery
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Spreadsheets","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Nottingham City Museums and Gallery
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Matrices","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	We Dig Wollaton Park: A Training Excavation at Wollaton Park, Nottingham. Report on an Archaeological Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s)	Parker, L.
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	Trent and Peak Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Nottingham

Entered by	Scott Lomax (scott.lomax@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)
Entered on	14 December 2020

OASIS: