

LAND TO THE REAR OF 39 to 41 FRIAR LANE, LEICESTER

A Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief and Trial Trench Evaluation



For: Hazelton Group Ltd

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Non-Technical Summary

- Between November 2018 & March 2019 Trent & Peak Archaeology (TPA) were commissioned by Hazelton Group Ltd to conduct an archaeological watching brief during planned residential development to the rear of 39 to 41 Friar Lane, Leicester (centred on SK 58495 04297).
- The site is located within the Scheduled Monument of Greyfriars which formed part of the former Franciscan Friary and the burial place of Richard III after the Battle of Bosworth c 200m to the east of the site.
- The site was stripped to between 1-2m below ground level, which revealed a considerable depth of made ground which was probably laid down during the late 19th and early 20th century as a result of the construction of deep-celled buildings immediately to the east of the site.
- A number of brick structures observed during the excavations may be related to outbuildings and garden walls of 39-41 Friar Lane, datable to the late 18th - early 19th century.
- A subsequent phase of groundworks included the monitored excavation of two additional trenches within the eastern portion of the site (FRI3). These were excavated on 29th October 2019, which revealed a similar level of post-medieval and modern development related truncation and levelling material c 1m in thickness. No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified.

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This project was managed by Ed Taylor and fieldwork was overseen by Richard Parker (Project Officer), Tom Keyworth, Tori Bedingfield and Charlotte Bishop. The project was overseen by Tim Allen, Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Historic England and the City Archaeologist for Leicester, Grahame Appleby.

Illustrations have been compiled by Marius Ilie and Michael Hughes.

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 Trent & Peak Archaeology (TPA) were commissioned by Hazelton Group Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land to the rear of 39 - 41 Friar Lane, Leicester. The work was undertaken during planned residential development of the site.
- 1.2 Leicester was a civitas capital between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD, and the site sits within the bounds of the Roman town. Leicester was also an important administrative centre throughout the medieval period, and the site is situated within the historic core of the city. As such has a high potential for buried archaeological remains from the Roman period through to the post-medieval period.
- 1.3 The site sits within the Scheduled Monument of Greyfriars (Listing Number 1442955), which formed part of the former Franciscan Friary and the burial place of Richard III. Any works undertaken within the boundary of the Scheduled Monument required consent from the Secretary of State, advised by Historic England. Proposed groundworks are covered under Scheduled Monument Consent (ref: S001846447). All work was monitored by Tim Allen, Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Historic England and the City Archaeologist for Leicester, Grahame Appleby.

2 Site Topography and Geology

2.1 Topography

- 2.1.1 The site consists of a roughly rectangular parcel of land centrally located within the city of Leicester (centred on SK 58495 04297). The site lies at approximately 63m AoD which falls to 61m AoD to the north and south.
- 2.1.2 The site is bounded primarily by Georgian and Victorian residential development (Fig 1). Friar Lane runs parallel with the northern boundary of the site, separated by 18th/19th century buildings and New Street to the east of the site. The site is currently used as a car park and for access to nearby residences. The watching brief comprised the monitoring of a total of ten trenches to be excavated as part of level reduction, services and investigative trenching for service location (Figure 2).

2.2 Geology

- 2.2.1 The 1:50,000 British Geological Survey shows that New Street and Friar Lane are situated on bedrock geology of Branscombe Mudstone Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed between 228.4 and 201.3 million years ago during the Triassic period. No superficial deposits are recorded. (British Geological Survey 2019).

3 Project Background

3.1 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1.1 The archaeological and historical background detailed below is a summary of the research undertaken for the proposed development, supplemented by a search of the local Heritage Gateway and Leicester City Historic Environment Record (LCHER).
- 3.1.2 Leicester was a civitas capital between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD, and the site sits within the bounds of the Roman town. Leicester was also an important administrative centre throughout the medieval period, and the site is situated within the historic core of the city. As such has a high potential for buried archaeological remains from the Roman period through to the post-medieval period.
- 3.1.3 The site sits within the Scheduled Monument of Greyfriars (Listing Number 1442955), which formed part of the former Franciscan Friary and the burial place of Richard III. As such, the site has a high potential for buried archaeological remains.
- 3.1.4 The development also lay within the bounds of the Roman town and within the historic core of the city and as such has a high potential for buried archaeological remains from the Roman period through to the post-medieval period.
- 3.1.5 A search of LCHER yielded over 230 entries within a 250m radius of the site and the National Monument Record Excavation Index lists 101 entries. The most notable of these is the discovery of the remains of Richard III which were located immediately adjacent to the development area on the site of the former Franciscan Friary of Greyfriars (Figure 03). The friary is first mentioned in 1230 and demolished soon after its closure in 1538. The priory buildings are thought to have spanned the northern part of what is now New Street and the remains of a possible cellar which may have been related to the priory was recorded to the rear of 12 New Street.
- 3.1.6 A watching brief and trench evaluation were undertaken by TPA in 2016 within the footprint of the site, which indicated the presence of a substantial depth of 19th/20th century made ground. A single evaluation trench revealed archaeological features and a brick wall dating from the 18/19th century. Green glaze pottery sherds datable to the 13th/14th century were recovered, possibly indicating that medieval deposits were disturbed during development immediately adjacent to the site in the 19th century.

4 Aims and Objectives

4.1 Regional Research Framework

4.1.1 Any archaeological remains encountered during archaeologically monitored groundworks presented an opportunity to address research questions as set out in the *East Midlands Heritage and Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (Knight *et al.* 2012). A digitised version of this document can be found within the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework (EMHERF) Interactive Digital Resource at: www.researchframeworks.org/emherf.

4.1.2 The following research questions were of particular significance to this project:

| High Medieval (1066 - 1485) |
|--|
| 7.5 Religion |
| 2. Can we discern significant differences in the planning, economy and landscape impact of the different monastic orders? |
| 6. Can we shed further light on the distribution and development of early churches or chapels and the origins and growth of the parish system? |

4.2 Objectives

4.2.1 The general objective of the fieldwork can be stated as:

- To identify the presence of any archaeological remains to be affected by any intrusive aspects of the development and to achieve an appropriate level of *preservation by record*.

4.2.2 This was to ensure that any archaeological remains which significantly contributed towards an understanding of the Scheduled Ancient Monument were preserved *in situ*.

5 Methodology

- 5.1 The archaeological watching brief took place between November 2018 and March 2019. An area totalling 536m² was excavated, which encompassed all areas of intrusive groundworks in accordance with advice issued from the City Archaeologist for Leicester, Grahame Appleby.
- 5.2 All work met with requirements and standards set out in '*Management and Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide* (revised Historic England 2015), All work also met with the requirements and standards set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) in their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA 2014b) *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Material* (CIfA 2014c); *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (CIfA, 2014d).
- 5.3 The excavation was undertaken under the supervision of suitably qualified members of TPA's supervisory staff. Mechanical excavation was undertaken with a 3-ton tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, so that a clean surface could be exposed and the attendant archaeologist could inspect the deposits revealed.
- 5.4 All features and deposits were hand excavated and recorded at an appropriate scale by measured plans, sections and photography. The trenches and planning points were located and levelled using Leica GSIS/CSIS GPS.
- 5.5 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 and *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal, 1998).

6 Results

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 An approximate 536m² area was machine excavated under archaeological supervision to the rear of 39-41 Friar Lane, Leicester, during a scheme of planned residential redevelopment. This initially comprised an earlier excavation of a c 0.8m x 0.6m test pit (section 6.2; FRI1). The subsequent core phase of groundworks comprised a contractor led excavation of investigative service trenches and generalised ground level reduction (section 6.3; FRI2). Following this, an additional two trenches were excavated within the eastern portion of the site under archaeological supervision (section 6.4; FRI3).
- 6.1.2 These three phases of investigation allowed for a cohesive understanding of the below ground stratigraphy for the site, which revealed that post-medieval and modern development related truncation had impacted the site to a depth of at least 1.2m below ground level. Groundworks did not impact on geological natural. A number of modern gas and water services were identified during the course of these groundworks. These do not form part of the stratigraphic narrative below; however, a full breakdown of the location of these contexts can be found in section 11 and within figs 2-10.

6.2 Watching Brief FRI1

- 6.2.1 Test pit 01 was hand excavated within the northwestern portion of the site, against an extant property boundary (Fig 02). The test pit measured 0.8m x 0.6m, and was excavated to a depth of 0.7m. The test pit exposed modern brick-built housing foundations, with associated gas and water services (Fig 11; Dr#08). No finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified.

6.3 Watching Brief FRI2

- 6.3.1 Phased excavation of investigative trenches and ground reduction revealed structural remains associated with former housing and rear property boundaries dating to the 19th century, visible on historic mapping. On average, these were identified c 0.3m below ground level. Groundworks revealed the presence of a number of structural remains relating to former 19th century housing at an average depth of 0.3m below ground level. This increased to 0.5m to the south and east of the site, where higher average degrees of truncation were identified.

Modern

Surface [2011] (Figs 2, 4, 5 Dr#01; Plates 1-2)

- 6.3.2 A quartzite pebble surface, probably the remains of a former rear pathway, was identified within the western most portion of the site. This measured approximately 0.2m in thickness and abutted adjacent structures discussed below. The full dimensions of the surface are unknown.

Housing Foundations (the same across the site) (Figs 02, 04, 06; Dr#03, 07; Dr#04, 09, 10; Dr#06-07; Plates 3-24)

- 6.3.3 On average, structural remains across the site comprised single or double skinned modern brick foundations (as shown in fig 02), which relate to former dwellings constructed in the 19th century and associated rear property boundaries. These comprised unfrogged, red brick structures measuring c 230mm x 70mm x 110mm, which were bonded with a very light pinkish white limestone mortar. These structural remains were largely constructed in Flemish or English Garden wall bond, with the differences in building types probably reflective of the structural function of the remains. Preservation of the remains varied across the site, with foundations to the south surviving to a much greater depth (c 8 courses thick or more). A breakdown of these contexts can be found in section 11.

Robber Trenches [2100, 2102, 2103, 2015] (Figs 2, 8 DR#05; Plates 24-26)

- 6.3.4 Within the central portion of the site, the remains of a north by south -aligned wall was removed as part of piling works. This revealed a number of vertical sided, flat based robber trenches within the section edges of the trench, relating to abutting walls which were removed during a prior demolition. These were between 0.8m and 1.2m in width, and had an average depth of 0.8m. Each were infilled by a single deposit of demolition material comprised of loose lime mortar that yielded no other datable material.

Levelling Material (Figs 5-8; Plates 13- 18, 27)

- 6.3.5 Interleaving deposits of demolition and levelling material were identified across the site, up to c 1.2m thick. These comprised deposits of brick rubble and crushed lime mortar, with sporadic deposits of dark brownish black silty clay, ash and clinker (2002, 2003, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2019, 2020, 2026, 2027), that yielded fragments of pottery, glass and clay pipe dating to the post-medieval and modern periods (Plate 28). These deposits almost certainly relate to the demolition and subsequent levelling of the area prior to the use of the land as a rear carpark for the surrounding properties. The site was sealed by a layer of c 0.1m thick tarmac.

6.4 Trial Trench Evaluation FRI3**Trench 01 (6.5m x 1.8m) (Figs 9, 11; Dr# 10; Plates 29-30)**

- 6.4.1 Trench 01 was aligned east by west, situated within the northeastern portion of the site where additional groundworks were scheduled to take place. The trench was located to assess the potential for any surviving subsurface archaeological finds, features or deposits due to its proximity to the former Franciscan Friary, and its location within the Scheduled Ancient Monument boundary. The trench was excavated to a depth of c 1m, which revealed a c 0.3m thick deposit of dark greyish black silty clay ground levelling material (2317), the base of which was not reached. This was sealed by a c 0.28m thick mixed deposit of dark greyish brown silty clay and demolition rubble (2315), the same as deposits identified during the FRI2 watching brief phase.

Wall [2314] (Fig 11, Dr# 10; Plate 29)

- 6.4.2 The remains of approximately five courses of a double skinned north-west by south-east aligned probable garden wall [2314], formed of unfrogged, red brick (measuring 230mm x 110mm x 70mm), and bonded by a very light pinkish white lime mortar in English Garden Wall bond, was identified within the southern section edge, which was demolished prior to excavation. This aligned well with known features identified during earlier phases of groundworks (FRI2).
- 6.4.3 The trench was sealed by a c 0.2m thick layer of tarmac (2316).

Trench 02 (5.5m x 1.8m) (Figs 9, 11; Dr# 09; Plates 31-32)

- 6.4.4 Trench 02 was aligned north by south, situated within the eastern portion of the site where additional groundworks were scheduled to take place. The trench was located to assess the potential for any surviving subsurface archaeological finds, features or deposits due to its proximity to the former Franciscan Friary, and its location within the Scheduled Ancient Monument boundary.
- 6.4.5 Trench excavated to a maximum depth of c.1m, which revealed modern ground levelling material (2317) c 0.3m thick, the same as seen in trench 01. This was sealed by a deposit of dark greyish brown silty clay demolition material (2315), which ranged in thickness between 0.28-0.84m. The trench was sealed by deposits of clinker bedding (2318) and tarmac (2316), c 0.2m thick. The archaeological horizon was not reached. Garden soil (2317) forms the base of the trench, overlain by demolition rubble. The entire trench is covered by (2318) clinker levelling layer for modern tarmac [Plates 36, 37], which was removed prior to excavation.

7 Finds Assessment by Alison Wilson and Paul Blinkhorn

- 7.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the excavations at Friar Lane, Leicester Derbyshire. Brief summaries of all typologies are noted here, with individual reference to finds of specific interest and significance to the site.

| Material | Description | Quantity | Weight |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|--------|
| Medieval/Post-medieval pottery | Body sherds | 28 | 1315g |
| Clay tobacco pipe | Complete bowls, 1 with stem | 2 | 33g |
| Glass | Bottle fragments | 7 | 1400g |
| Stone | Marble | 2 | 237 |
| Metal | Lead fragment | 1 | 93g |

7.2 Pottery

- 7.2.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 28 sherds with a total weight of 1315g. It consists of a mixture of medieval and later wares, and was recorded using the conventions of the Leicestershire County type-series (Sawday 1994), as follows

- CC1:** Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware, AD1200-1400. 2 sherds, 40g.
- CC2:** Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware, 1200-1475. 2 sherds, 116g.
- CW:** Cistercian Ware, 1475-1550.1 sherds, 45g.
- EA2:** Iron-Glazed Earthenware, 17th – 19th century. 1 sherd, 23g.
- EA3:** Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware, 1680-1750. 2 sherds, 38g.
- EA10:** Modern Earthenware's, 1800+. 13 sherds, 607g.
- PM:** Potter's Marston Ware, 1100-1300. 4 sherds, 163 g.
- SW5:** English Brown Stoneware, 1700+. 2 sherds, 148 g.

- 7.2.2 The following, not covered by the Leicestershire type-series, was also noted:

- SOL:** Spanish Olive Jar, 17th – 19th century (James 1988). 1 sherd, 135g.

- 7.2.3 The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is mostly typical of contemporary sites in the region. The fragment of Spanish Olive Jar is rather unusual. Such pottery is a relatively common find in large towns and ports (ibid.), but much less so at smaller rural settlements. The medieval material is all fragments of unglazed jars and glazed jugs, which is typical of the period.

- 7.2.4 Context 2055 also produced two fragments (207g) of glazed ridge-tile. They are both of Chilvers Coton (Nuneaton) type, and dateable to the 14th – 15th century (Mayes and Scott 1984, fig.114).

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

| Cntxt | PM | | CC1 | | CC2 | | CW | | EA2 | | EA3 | | SW5 | | SOL | | EA10 | | Date |
|-------|----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-------|
| | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | |
| 2055 | 1 | 32 | | | 1 | 23 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 135 | 13 | 607 | MOD |
| 2059 | 3 | 131 | 2 | 40 | 1 | 93 | 1 | 45 | 1 | 23 | 2 | 38 | 2 | 148 | | | | | 18thC |
| Total | 4 | 163 | 2 | 40 | 2 | 116 | 1 | 45 | 1 | 23 | 2 | 38 | 2 | 148 | 1 | 135 | 13 | 607 | |

7.3 Clay Tobacco Pipe

7.3.1 Two fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from demolition layer (2059). These consisted of two bowls, one with a long section of stem still attached. The earliest bowl was long with straight sides and a spur although this was broken off, the rim was milled and bottered and the borehole 3mm in diameter. These features place the manufacture of the pipe to c.1690 – 1710. The remaining bowl with stem was large, with a long spur and cut and bottered rim. The stem bore diameter was 1.5mm with a manufacturing date of c. 1730 – 80.

7.4 Glass

7.4.1 Seven fragments of post-medieval bottle glass were recovered from demolition layer (2059). These consisted of 2 kick up bases, 4 bottle necks and a body fragment. The fragments were large but with the beginnings of degradation of the glass.

7.5 Metal

7.5.1 One fragment of lead was recovered in demolition layer (2059). One side of the lead was rounded with a hole pushed in, possibly part of a weight. Date is uncertain although the association with other post-medieval finds would suggest the 18th-19th century.

7.6 Stone

7.6.1 Two fragments of stone were found in demolition layer (2059). One fragment is of a greenish coloured marble, perhaps from a hearth or fireplace surround, while the remaining piece is a black stone floor tile fragment. Date is unknown but the association with the other finds in context (2059) would suggest an 18th-19th century date.

7.7 Discussion

7.7.1 The bulk of the finds were of post-medieval date with the exception of the fragments of medieval pottery. The assemblage could possibly represent a medieval site with later post-medieval development.

8 Discussion and Conclusions

- 8.1.1 The excavations at Friar Lane proved to be informative for the later development of the area which falls within the scheduled area of Greyfriars, Leicester. The site is the location an early c-13th century Franciscan friary which later became the burial place of King Richard III after the Battle of Bosworth (Fig 3). The present site was located c.200m to the south-east of this area, which resulted in the archaeologically monitored ground reduction, undertaken within the footprint for the development.
- 8.1.2 In general, groundworks revealed intensive post-medieval and modern development related activity, which impacted the site to a depth of around 1.5m-2m below ground level. A clean natural substrate was never achieved at the lowest level of ground reduction, and deposits are likely to continue beyond the two meters observed in the deepest areas of excavation. Initial groundworks identified a cobbled surface toward the southwestern portion of the site, relating to the use of properties 39-41 Friar Lane, and is of a probable 19th century date. Subsequent excavations revealed additional 19th century brick foundations up to 8 courses deep which presumably form part of outbuildings and garden walls associated with properties 39-41 Friar Lane, and are of a contemporary or later date.
- 8.1.3 The brickwork for much of this construction would suggest a focus of construction during the first half of the 19th century with remnants of 20th century walling generally relating to drainage construction. Removal of a wall within the main area revealed lime mortared brick foundations, robber trenches of a date which may pre-date the 18th century however no dating evidence or more of the feature was exposed in order to gain an adequate understanding. This central area was the deepest at nearly two meters and demonstrated the ground was still within deposits probably relating to an earlier post medieval/medieval date and the potential for undisturbed in-situ medieval structures within the area remains high.
- 8.1.4 An additional trial trench evaluation, undertaken in 2019 within the eastern and northeastern portion of the site (FRI3) further demonstrated the impact of truncation/levelling present within the site. A single garden wall feature [2314] was encountered during this phase of groundworks, which aligned well with previously identified structures of similar date within ground investigations as part of FRI2.
- 8.1.5 Given the paucity of archaeological features, finds and deposits pre-dating the post medieval period encountered during the investigation, the relevant research questions could not be addressed.

9 Bibliography

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10 Context Register

| Context | Area | Category | Description | Period |
|---------|------|-----------|---|--|
| 1000 | FRI1 | Layer | Tarmac: Car park surface, thickness 0.04m | Modern |
| 1001 | FRI1 | Layer | Type 2 hardcore, thickness 0.06m | Modern |
| 1002 | FRI1 | Cut | Cut for Drain pipe | Modern |
| 1003 | FRI1 | Fill | Fill of drain pipe cut [1002], mid brown clay sand with brick inclusions, thickness 0.2m | Modern |
| 1004 | FRI1 | Cut | Cut of land drain, 0.6m x 0.4m | 19 th /20 th Century |
| 1005 | FRI1 | Fill | Mid yellow brown fill of land drain [1004] | 19 th /20 th Century |
| 1006 | FRI1 | Layer | Dark brown sand clay made ground thickness 1m | 19 th /20 th Century |
| 1007 | FRI1 | Cut | Wall of Victorian Villa | 19 th Century |
| 2008 | FRI2 | Layer | Mortar/brick layer: cream/pink lime mortar layer, thickness 0.4m | 19 th /20 th Century |
| 2009 | FRI2 | Layer | Charcoal/Backfill: heat affected fill abutting brick wall, 0.7m x 0.6m | 19 th /20 th Century |
| 2010 | FRI2 | Structure | Brick wall N-S orientated. Two courses in width, probably western garden wall. Thickness 0.2m | 19 th Century |
| 2011 | FRI2 | Layer | Cobbled surface: quartzite pebble side entrance surface. 0.8m x 0.6m. observed in plan | 19 th Century |
| 2012 | FRI2 | Layer | Black silt clinker. Black silt clay with mixed clinker overlying pebbled surface (2011), thickness 0.4m | 19 th /20 th Century |
| 2013 | FRI2 | Cut | Cut of Trench 02: rectangular N-S aligned Trench. 3m x 0.5m | Modern |
| 2014 | FRI2 | Layer | Tarmac: Black Tarmac, carpark surface. Thickness 0.06m | Modern |
| 2015 | FRI2 | Layer | Type 2 hardcore: creamy white loose stone hardcore. Thickness 0.1m | Modern |
| 2016 | FRI2 | Layer | Black clinker silt: Firm black clay silt with clinker/brick inclusions | Modern |
| 2017 | FRI2 | Cut | Cut for gas pipe: 'U' shaped profile. C. 0.3 x 0.6m | Modern/20 th Century |
| 2018 | FRI2 | Fill | Fill of pipe cut [2017]: Firm black clay. Thickness 0.6m | Modern/20 th Century |
| 2019 | FRI2 | Layer | Compact black silt clay mixed with clinker | 20 th Century |
| 2020 | FRI2 | Layer | Dark grey clinker silt: thickness 0.2m | 20 th Century |
| 2021 | FRI2 | Deposit | Bedding sand for gas pipe: friable light-yellow bedding sand, thickness 0.2m | Modern/20 th Century |
| 2022 | FRI2 | Structure | Plastic gas pipe: yellow plastic pipe. Width 0.1m | Modern/20 th Century |
| 2023 | FRI2 | Structure | Brick foundations: rectilinear structure seen in plan, probably relating to drain. 1.1m x 0.3m | 19 th /20 th century |

| Context | Area | Category | Description | Period |
|---------|------|-----------|---|--|
| 2024 | FRI2 | Cut | Cut of Trench 03: rectangular N-S aligned trench. 2.5m x 0.5m | Modern |
| 2025 | FRI2 | Layer | Tarmac: Black tarmac, car park surface. Thickness 0.06m | Modern |
| 2026 | FRI2 | Layer | Hardcore: type 2 hardcore. Thickness 0.12m | Modern |
| 2027 | FRI2 | Layer | Black silt clinker mix. Thickness 0.4m | 20 th Century |
| 2028 | FRI2 | Cut | Cut for Gas Pipe: 'U' shaped profile, 0.3m x 0.6m | Modern |
| 2029 | FRI2 | Fill | Upper fill of pipe cut [2028]: Firm black clay with clinker inclusions | Modern |
| 2030 | FRI2 | fill | Fill of pipe cut [2028]: Loose brick rubble and clinker mix. Thickness 0.12m | Modern |
| 2031 | FRI2 | Deposit | Sand bedding for pipe, primary fill pipe cut [2028] | Modern |
| 2032 | FRI2 | Cut | Cut of trench 04. Rectangular N-S aligned trench. 3m x 0.5m | Modern |
| 2033 | FRI2 | Layer | Tarmac: black tarmac, carpark surface | Modern |
| 2034 | FRI2 | Layer | Levelling sand: bedding layer for tarmac (2033) 0.2m x c. 2m | Modern |
| 2035 | FRI2 | Layer | Dark grey black clay silt: made ground, thickness 0.4m | 20 th century |
| 2036 | FRI2 | Cut | Cut for gas pipe | Modern |
| 2037 | FRI2 | Deposit | Yellow sand bedding for gas pipe, thickness 0.1m | Modern |
| 2038 | FRI2 | Structure | Plastic gas pipe, width 0.1m | Modern |
| 2039 | FRI2 | Structure | N-S aligned wall, 2 courses wide, Flemish style. Width 0.3m. Chamfered outside (east) edge | 18 th /19 th Century |
| 2040 | FRI2 | Structure | E-W aligned wall, two rows bricks, only stretchers lengthways. Width 0.3m | 18 th /19 th Century |
| 2041 | FRI2 | Structure | E-W boundary wall, rows of headers straddling wall. Width 0.3m | 18 th /19 th Century |
| 2042 | FRI2 | Structure | N-S aligned wall. Rows of stretchers observed in plan, width 0.3m | 18 th /19 th Century |
| 2043 | FRI2 | Layer | Loose pea gravel: Northern end of site on garden of Victorian villa. Gravel surface spread, thickness 0.06m | Modern |
| 2044 | FRI2 | Layer | Tarmac: Black tarmac, car park surface. Thickness 0.1m | Modern |
| 2045 | FRI2 | Layer | Dark brown sand silt. Dump layer/ made ground, thickness 0.3m | 20 th Century |
| 2046 | FRI2 | Layer | Loose brown sand brick and gypsum. Made ground, thickness c.0.15m-0.3m | 20 th Century |
| 2047 | FRI2 | Layer | Dark Brown sand silt: Made Ground, thickness c. 0.2m | 19 th Century |
| 2048 | FRI2 | Cut | Cut of Drain. 2.2m x 0.6m | Modern |
| 2049 | FRI2 | Fill | Upper fill of drain cut [2048]: mixed loose rubble, large rocks, bricks and type 2 hardcore with loose | Modern |

| Context | Area | Category | Description | Period |
|---------|------|-----------|---|--|
| | | | silty loam matrix, thickness 0.4m | |
| 2050 | FRI2 | Fill | Loose tarmac deposit within drain cut [2048] below (2049) thickness 0.04m | Modern |
| 2051 | FRI2 | Fill | Lower fill drain [2048]. Mid brown silt sand with brick and concrete inclusions | Modern |
| 2052 | FRI2 | Structure | Ceramic glazed waste pipe | Modern |
| 2053 | FRI2 | Layer | Crushed brick hardcore. Made ground, thickness 0.2m | 20 th Century |
| 2054 | FRI2 | Layer | Loose black clinker, thickness 0.1m | 20 th Century |
| 2055 | FRI2 | Layer | Dark brown black sand silt, made ground | 18 th /19 th Century |
| 2056 | FRI2 | Layer | | |
| 2057 | FRI2 | Layer | Brick, ash and silt sand made ground dump, thickness 0.45m | 20 th Century |
| 2058 | FRI2 | Layer | Compact mid brown sand silt, thickness 0.4m | 20 th Century |
| 2059 | FRI2 | Layer | Redeposited light brown silt sand, made ground, thickness 0.8m | 19 th Century |
| 2060 | FRI2 | Layer | Demolition rubble, white lime mortar debris, thickness 0.06m to stripped level | 19 th Century |
| 2061 | FRI2 | Layer | Loose lime mortar, brick rubble layer | |
| 2062 | FRI2 | Layer | Tarmac and crushed brick hardcore, made ground, thickness 0.1m | Modern |
| 2063 | FRI2 | Structure | E-W aligned wall, width 0.3m | 18 th /19 th Century |
| 2064 | FRI2 | Layer | Yellow sand, bedding for tarmac surface (2044) | Modern |
| 2065 | FRI2 | Layer | Type 2 and crushed brick hardcore, thickness 0.2m | Modern |
| 2066 | FRI2 | Layer | Redeposited firm mid brown clay, thickness 0.8m | 19 th /20 th Century |
| 2067 | FRI2 | Layer | Loose mid brown silt clay with brick rubble, made ground | Modern |
| 2068 | FRI2 | Layer | Buried tarmac, thickness 0.06m | Modern |
| 2069 | FRI2 | Layer | Yellow bedding sand, below tarmac, thickness 0.08m | Modern |
| 2070 | FRI2 | Layer | Mid brown clay silt | 19 th /20 th Century |
| 2071 | FRI2 | Layer | Tarmac layers, Carpark surface, thickness 0.2m | Modern |
| 2072 | FRI2 | Layer | Loose dark brown black sand silt, demolition layer, thickness c.0.4m | 19 th /20 th Century |
| 2073 | FRI2 | Deposit | Loose slate demolition layer, thickness c.0.4m | 19 th /20 th Century |
| 2074 | FRI2 | Deposit | Loose ash, brick and slate demolition layer, thickness c.0.2m | 19 th /20 th Century |
| 2075 | FRI2 | Layer | Compact dark brown sand silt with brick inclusions, made ground | 19 th /20 th Century |
| 2076 | FRI2 | Structure | Brick structure, possibly part of outhouse building | Late 19 th |

| Context | Area | Category | Description | Period |
|---------|------|-----------|--|---|
| | | | square feature observed in section and plan with one meter of corner visible. Width 0.3m | Century |
| 2077 | FRI2 | Structure | Brick wall, east facing elevation 3m x 1m | 19 th /20 th Century |
| 2078 | FRI2 | Layer | Mid brown ash/silt sand redeposited made ground thickness 0.8m | Late 19 th /20 th Century |
| 2079 | FRI2 | Layer | Tarmac, carpark surface, thickness 0.06m | Modern |
| 2080 | FRI2 | Layer | Loose rock, brick, ash and concrete made ground, thickness 0.2m | Modern / 20 th Century |
| 2081 | FRI2 | Fill | Robber trench backfill, loose cream/white lime mortar, demolition | 18 th /19 th Century |
| 2082 | FRI2 | Fill | Robber trench backfill, loose cream/white lime mortar, demolition | 18 th /19 th Century |
| 2083 | FRI2 | Fill | Robber trench backfill, loose cream/white lime mortar, demolition | 18 th /19 th Century |
| 2084 | FRI2 | Fill | Robber trench backfill, loose cream/white lime mortar, demolition | 18 th /19 th Century |
| 2085 | FRI2 | Fill | Robber trench backfill, loose cream/white lime mortar, demolition | 18 th /19 th Century |
| 2086 | FRI2 | Structure | Brick structure, 0.8m x 0.2m visible | Undated |
| 2087 | FRI2 | Structure | Brick structure, 0.8m x 0.2m visible | Undated |
| 2088 | FRI2 | Deposit | Sand, yellowish white sand, thickness c.0.1m | Undated |
| 2089 | FRI2 | Layer | Black silt, 18 th Century ground level, thickness 0.4m | 18 th Century |
| 2090 | FRI2 | Deposit | Mid brown construction material, thickness 0.4m | 18 th /19 th Century |
| 2091 | FRI2 | Deposit | Redeposited mid brown sand silt, thickness 0.5m | |
| 2092 | FRI2 | Deposit | Loose construction/demolition material, black sand loam with brick fragments | |
| 2093 | FRI2 | Structure | Brick line base (part of 2086) 2.4m x 0.8m observable | Undated |
| 2100 | FRI2 | Cut | Cut of robber trench. C. 0.9 width x 0.6m depth | |
| 2101 | FRI2 | Cut | Cut of robber trench c. 0.6m width x 0.7 depth | |
| 2102 | FRI2 | Cut | Cut of robber trench c. 1m width x 0.7m depth | |
| 2103 | FRI2 | Cut | Cut of robber trench c. 1m width x 1m depth | |
| 2104 | FRI2 | Cut | Cut of feature, use unknown | Modern |
| 2105 | FRI2 | Cut | Cut of robber trench 0.7m c 0.6m | |
| 2106 | FRI2 | Structure | N-S aligned Brick wall, width 0.3m | Early 19 th Century |
| 2107 | FRI2 | Structure | E-W aligned brick wall, width 0.3m | Early 19 th Century |
| 2108 | FRI2 | Structure | N-S aligned brick wall, width 0.3m | Early 19 th Century |
| 2203 | FRI2 | Cut | Loose black tarmac and ash, thickness 0.3m | 20 th Century |

| Context | Area | Category | Description | Period |
|---------|------|-----------|---|---|
| 2204 | FRI2 | Fill | Friable light-yellow bedding, builders sand, thickness 0.1m | |
| 2205 | FRI2 | Cut | Type 2 hardcore, thickness 0.1m | |
| 2206 | FRI2 | Fill | Mid dark brown redeposited sand clay, frequent brick/rubble fragments, thickness 0.6m | |
| 2209 | FRI2 | Layer | Loose tarmac/ ash, thickness 0.2m | |
| 2210 | FRI2 | Layer | Pebble surface, thickness 0.1m | 19 th Century |
| 2211 | FRI2 | Layer | Sand clay made ground, frequent bricks/rubble inclusions, thickness 0.7m | 19 th Century |
| 2304 | FRI2 | Fill | Fill between [2301] and [2307] Brownish grey clay silt | 20 th Century |
| 2305 | FRI2 | Fill | Fill between [2300] and [2303] Brownish grey clay silt | 20 th Century |
| 2306 | FRI2 | Fill | Fill between [2300] and [2303] Brownish grey clay silt | 20 th Century |
| 2307 | FRI2 | Structure | NW-SE wall, possible cellar/floor support/ foundations of building | Late 19 th /20 th Century |
| 2308 | FRI2 | Fill | Fill between [2307] and [2309] Brownish grey clay silt | 20 th Century |
| 2309 | FRI2 | Structure | NW-SE wall, possible cellar/floor support/ foundations of building | Late 19 th /20 th Century |
| 2310 | FRI2 | Structure | NW-SE/SW-NE wall, possible cellar/floor support/ foundations of building | Late 19 th /20 th Century |
| 2311 | FRI2 | Fill | Fill between [2309] and [2310] Brownish grey clay silt | 20 th Century |
| 2312 | FRI2 | Layer | Hardcore, type 2 hardcore, below tarmac | Modern |
| 2313 | FRI2 | Layer | Black clinker ash levelling layer | 20 th Century |

FRI 3

| Trench 01 | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|--|---------|--------------|--|
| Trench Dimensions (LxW) | 6.5m x 1.8m | Trench Alignment | NNW-SSE | Trench Depth | 0.9m-1m |
| Context | Type | Description | | Thickness | Period |
| 2314 | Structure | SE-NW aligned wall, 5 courses remain | | 0.52m | 19 th /20 th Century |
| 2315 | Layer | Dark grey brown silt clay with rubble/ demolition inclusions | | 0.28m | 19 th /20 th Century |
| 2316 | Layer | Tarmac, black tarmac, car park surface | | N/A | Modern |
| 2317 | Layer | Dark grey silt clay, ground levelling material | | N/A | 19 th /20 th Century |

| Trench 02 | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|--|-------|---------------|--|
| Trench Dimensions (LxW) | 5.5m x 1.8m | Trench Alignment | NE-SW | Trench Depth | 0.85 – 0.1m |
| Context | Type | Description | | Thickness | Period |
| 2315 | Layer | Dark grey brown silt clay with rubble/ demolition inclusions | | 0.28m – 0.84m | 19 th /20 th Century |
| 2316 | Layer | Tarmac, black tarmac, car park surface | | | Modern |
| 2317 | Layer | Dark grey silt clay, Made ground/ level material | | N/A | 19 th /20 th Century |
| 2318 | Layer | Clinker bedding/levelling for tarmac (2316) | | 0.1m | Modern |

11 Plates



Plate 5: Showing cobbled surface [2011] and 18th/19th century western side rear boundary wall for 41 Friar Lane and gas main. Scale 2 x 1m, looking east.



Plate 6: South facing section of deposits overlying [2011]. Scale 2 x 1m, looking northeast.



Plate 7: Showing 20th century brick work possibly relating to drainage and gas pipe within the western portion of the site. Scale 2 x 1m, looking northeast



Plate 8: Showing 20th century brick work possibly relating to drainage within the western portion of the site. Scale 1m, looking north



Plate 5: General site overview showing housing foundations within the northern portion of the site. looking northeast.



Plate 6: General site view from the central portion of the site, revealing boundary wall aligned to the eastern side of 39 Friar Lane (side of arched window). Scale 2 x 1m, looking northwest



Plate 7: East-west boundary wall (2040) leading to side of Victorian villa immediately to the west. Scale 2 x 1m, looking northeast.



Plate 8: East-west Georgian brick wall (2041) leading off (2039) on its western side. Scale 2 x 1m, looking east.



Plate 9: View of stripped northern end of area showing north-south brick wall (2039), east-west wall (2040) and east-west wall (2041)



Plate 10: East-west wall (2041) showing a change in direction to the south-west. Looking southwest



Plate 11: North-south wall (2039) showing chamfered edging, a feature which normally stands clear of the ground level at least 200mm. Scale 1m, looking northeast



Plate 12: North-south wall (2039) showing bricks laid in the 'Flemish' style. Scale 1m, looking northeast



Plate 13: Showing late 19th/early 20th century made ground overlying early 19th century demolition/construction layers. Scale 2 x 1m



Plate 14: Showing north-south wall (2039) in section and east-west wall (2107) within modern made ground. Scale 2 x 1m, looking southeast



Plate 15: East facing section showing remnants of a wall (2077). Scale 2 x 1m, looking west



Plate 16: East facing section located in the southwest corner of the site showing brickwork [2076] and demolition material. Brickwork is possibly an outbuilding relating to 41 Friar Lane. Scale 2 x 1m, looking southwest



Plate 17: Early 19th century foundations [2108, 2106, 2107] revealed at southern end of site within footprint of proposed development Scale 2 x 1m, looking north



Plate 18: Early 19th century foundations [2108, 2107] revealed at southern end of site within footprint of proposed development. Scale 2 x 1m, looking southeast



Plate 19: Detail shot of brickwork [2310] within the southeastern portion of the site. Scale 0.4m, looking west



Plate 20: Located within the central portion of the site, after removal of early 19th c garden wall (2039). East facing section showing c.300mm of mixed 18th/19th c. construction/demolition material overlying a black silty soil (actual 18th ground level). Scale 2 x 1m



Plate 21: General site view showing removed wall foundations in the near foreground and several 'Robber' trenches visible cut



through pre 18th century black layers. Scale 2 x 1m, looking southeast



Plate 23: Representative brick foundation (2100). Scale 2 x 1m, looking northeast



Plate 24: Trench 06 west facing section showing brick foundation and 'robber trench cut' (2101). Scale 2 x 1m, looking northeast



Plate 25: Showing 'robber trench cut' [2102]. Scale 2 x 1m, looking northeast



Plate 26: Trench 06 west facing section showing 'robber trench cut' (2103). Scale 2 x 1m, looking east



Plate 27: Lowering of the level through Trench 09



Plate 28: 18th/early 19th c wine bottle necks and clay pipe bowl



Plate 29: FRI 3, watching brief. Trench 01, looking north-west. Scale 2 x 1m



Plate 30: FRI 3, North-east facing representative section trench 01. Showing garden wall footings [2314]. Scale 1 x 1m

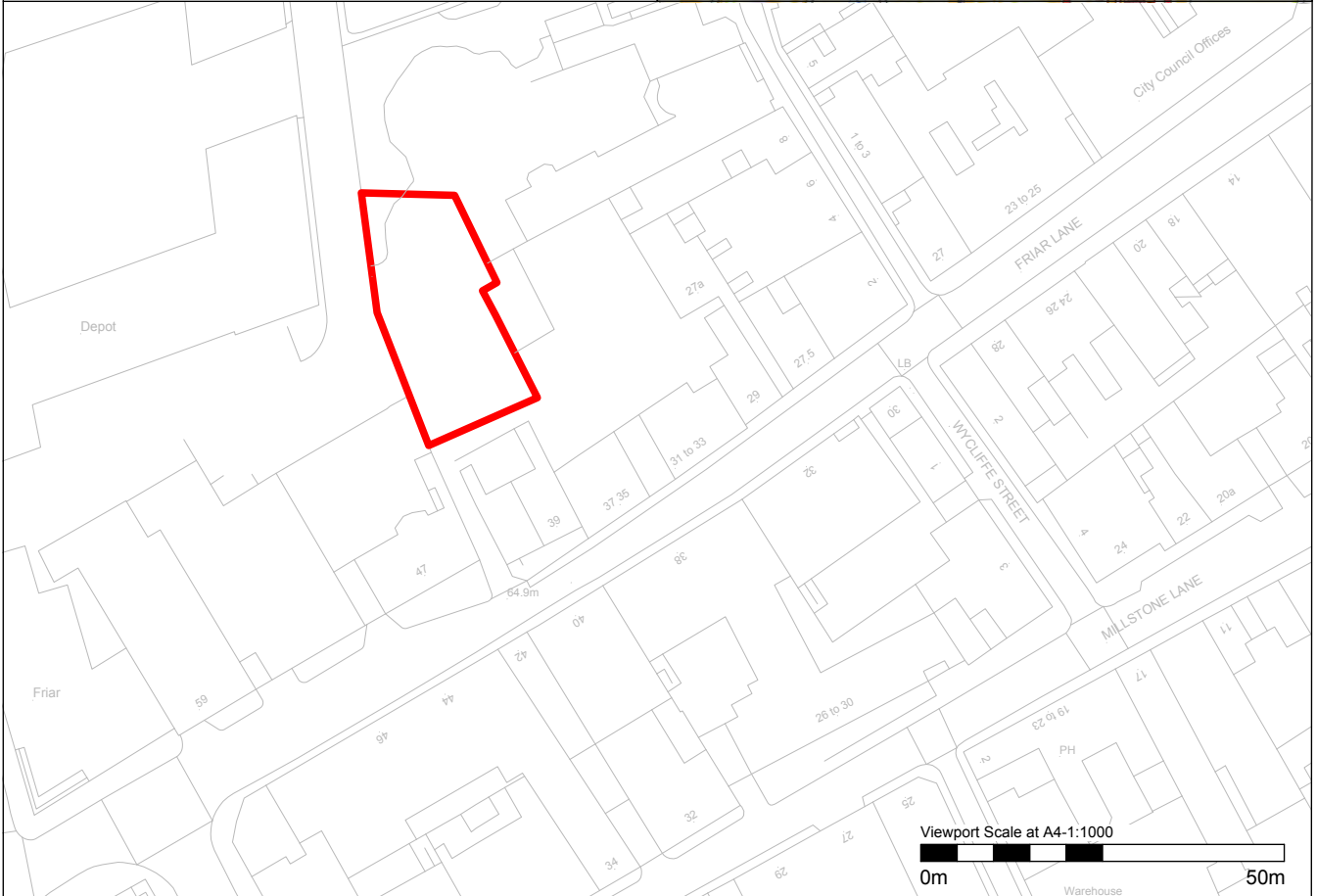


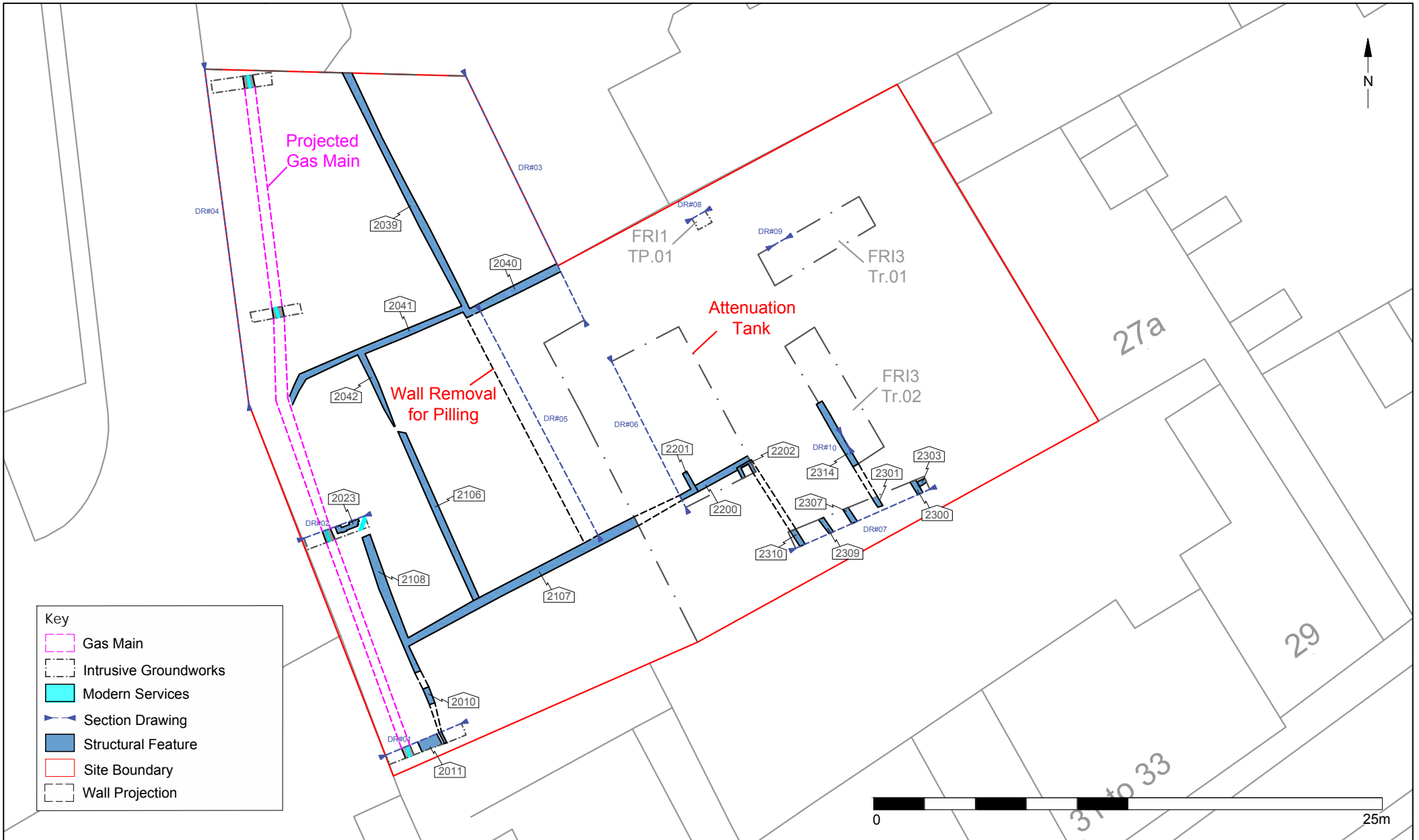
Plate 31: FRI 3, Trench 02, looking north-east. Scale 2 x 2m



Plate 32: FRI 3, North-west facing representative section trench 02. Scale 1 x 1m

12 Figures





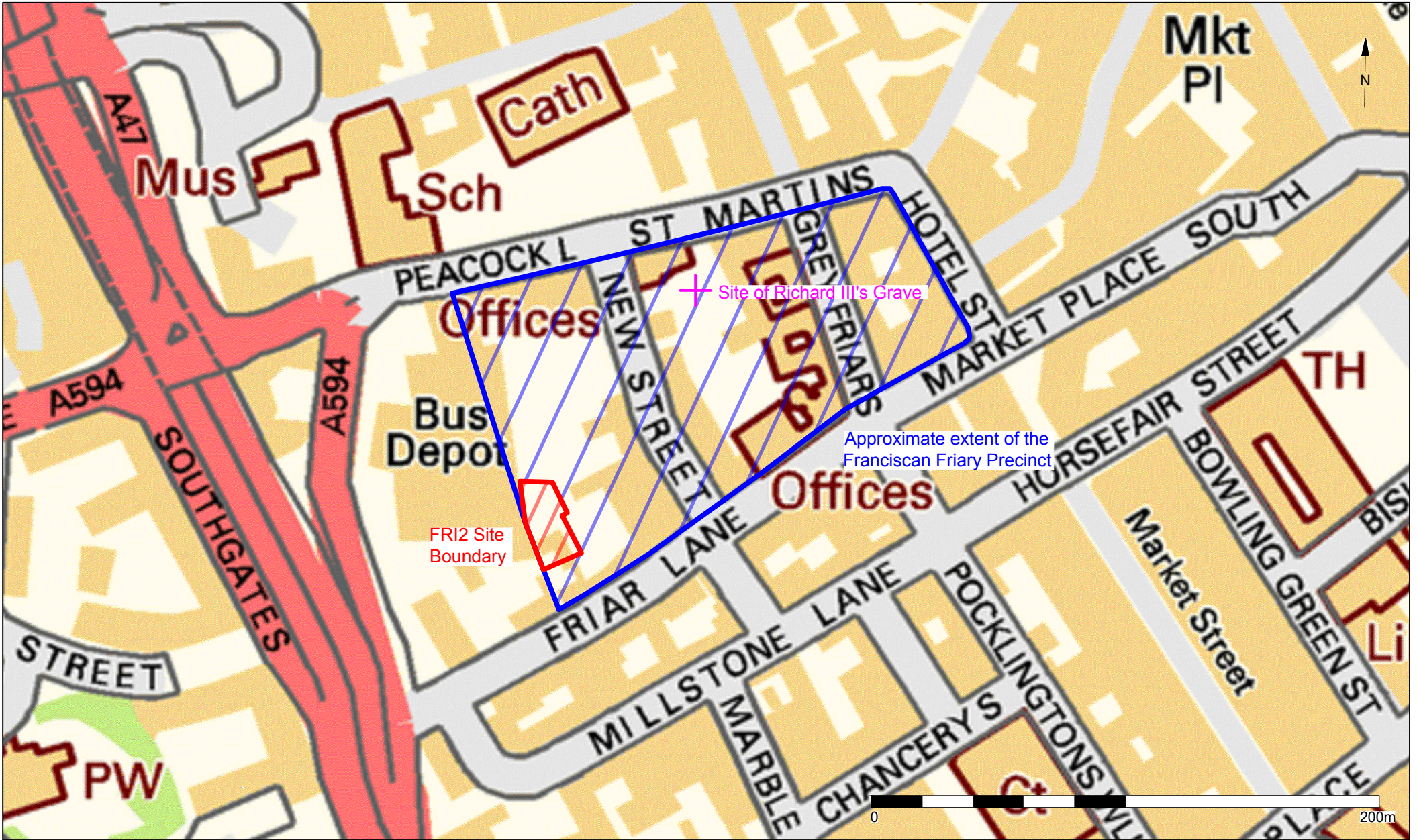
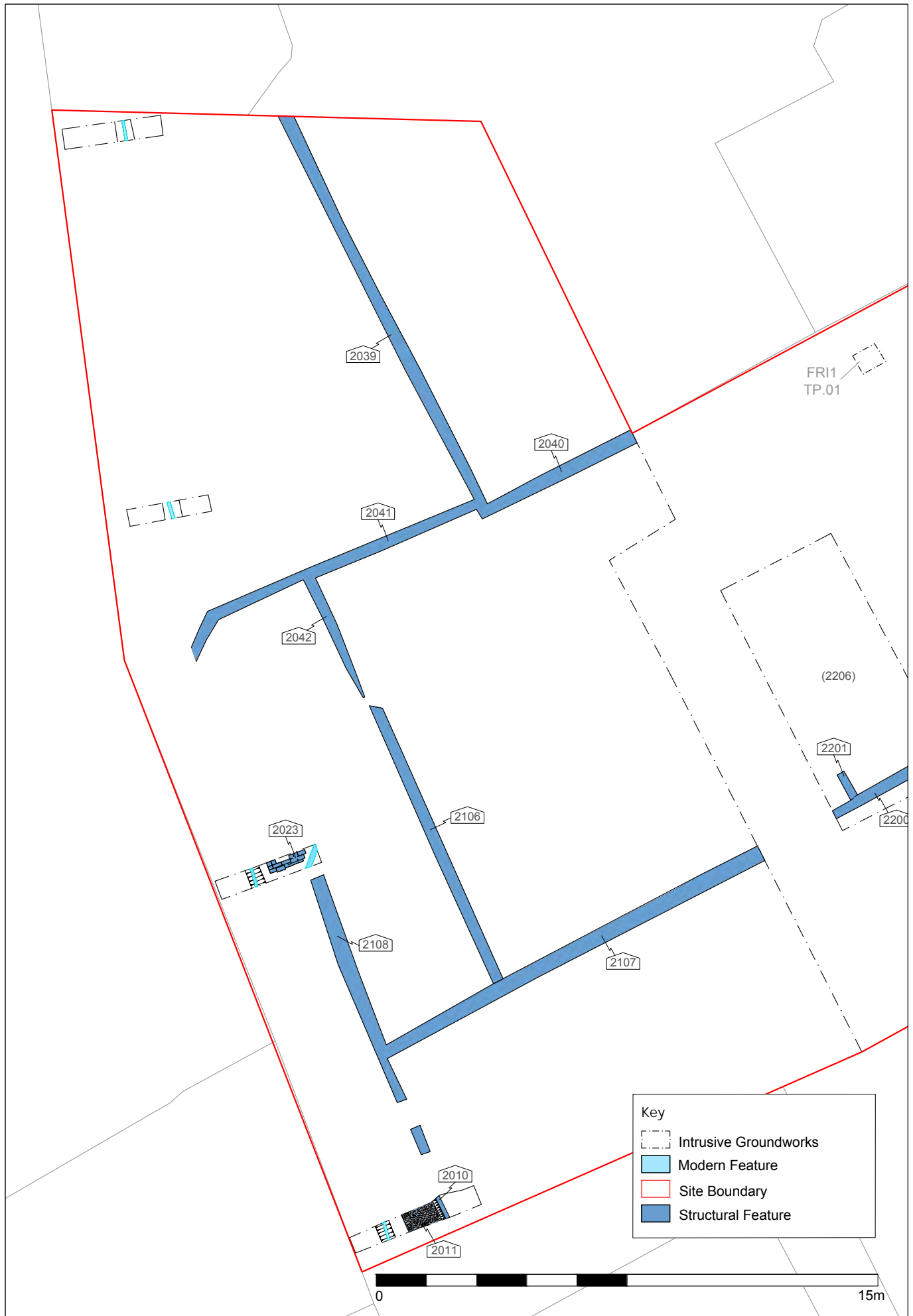
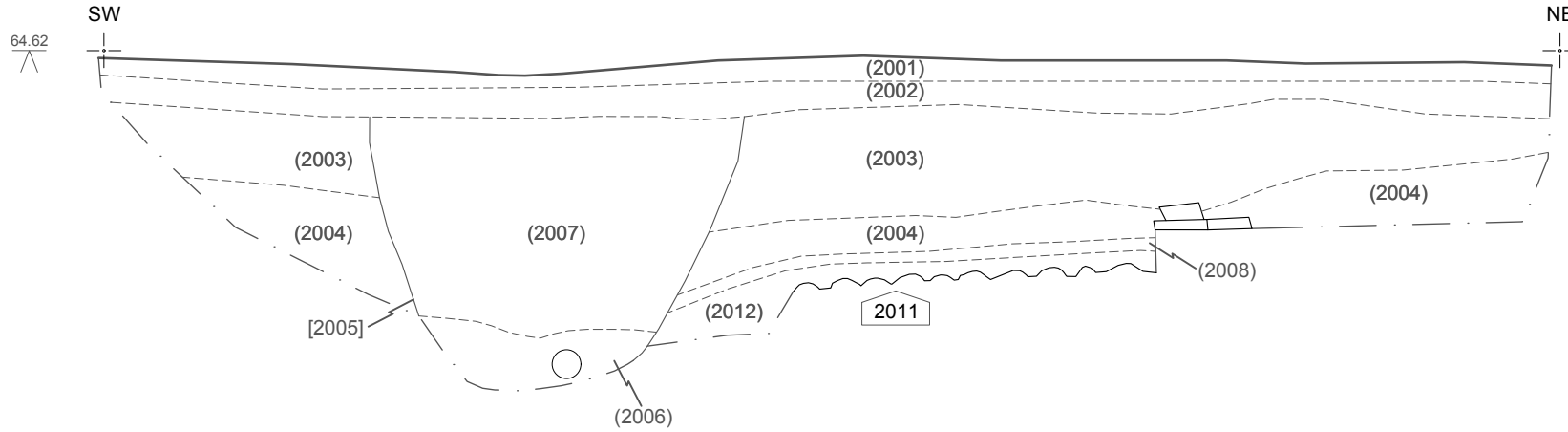


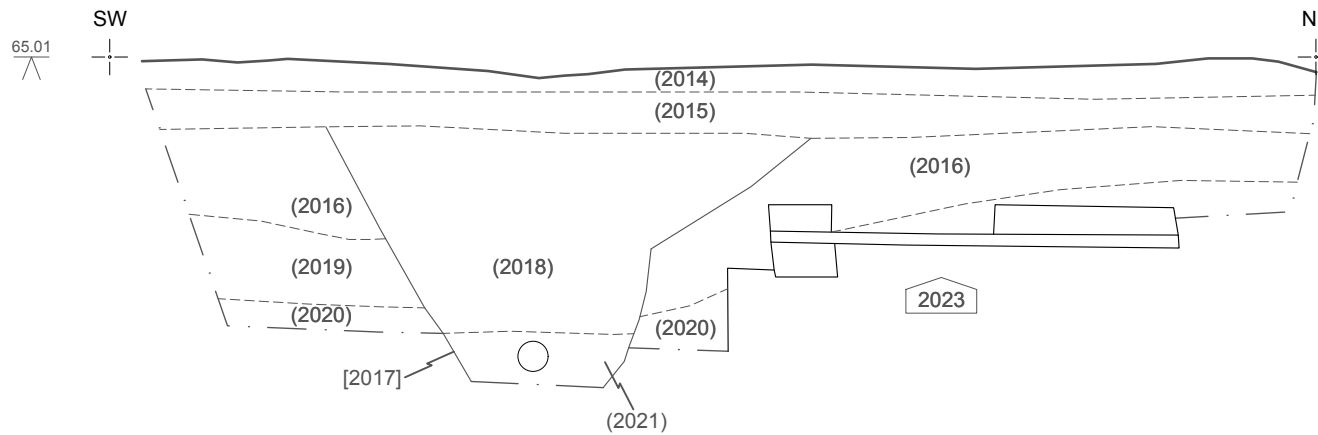
Figure 03 - Location of Richard III's Grave and Extent of Franciscan Friary Precinct
 FRI2 - Land to the Rear of 39 - 41 Friar Lane, Leicester



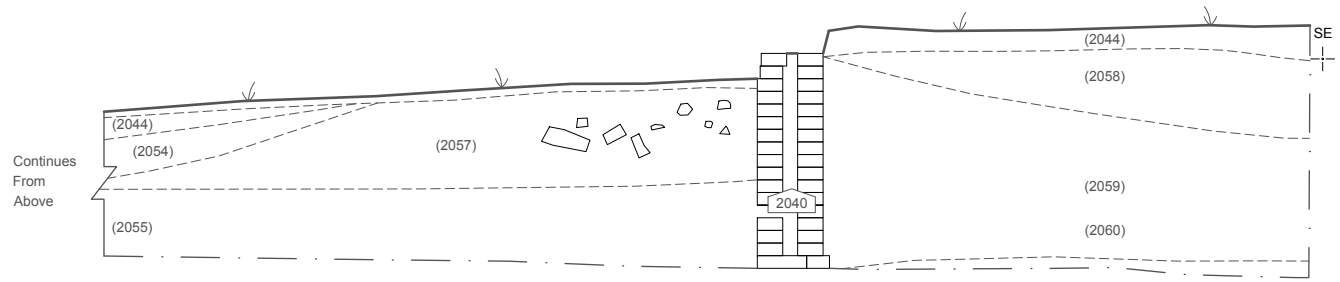
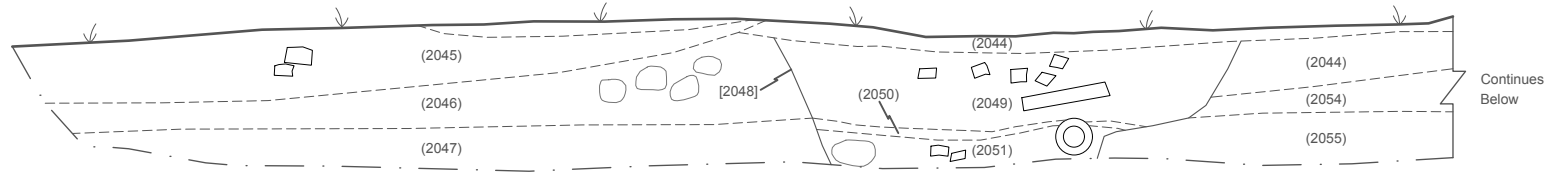
DR#01 - FRI2
South East Facing Section of Service Trench



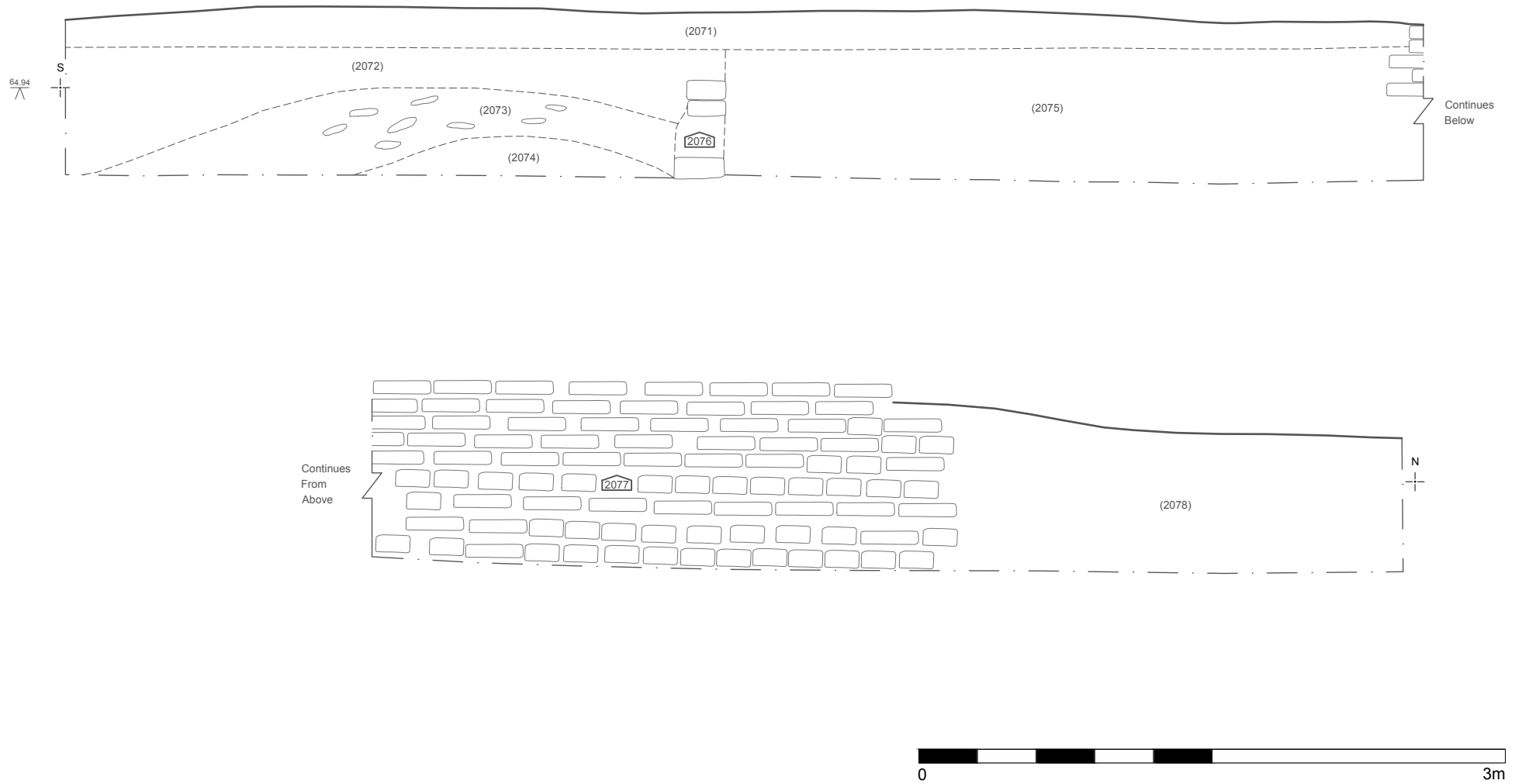
DR#02 - FRI2
South East Facing Section of Service Trench



DR#03 - FRI2
South West Facing Section of Site

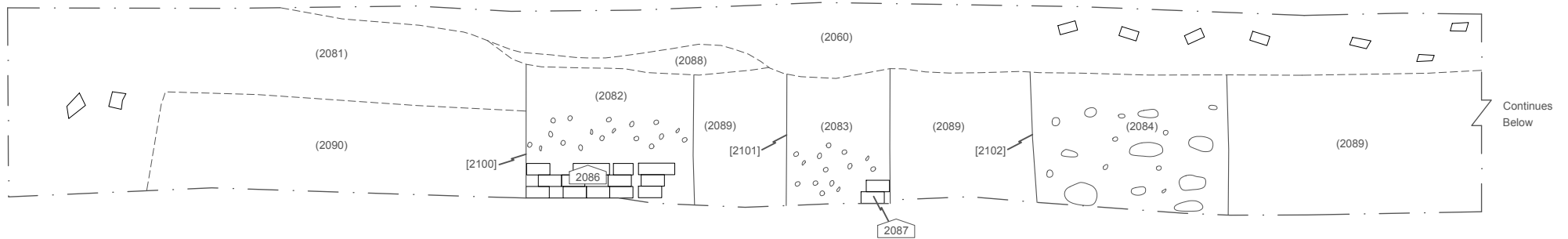


DR#04 - FRI2
East Facing Section of Site

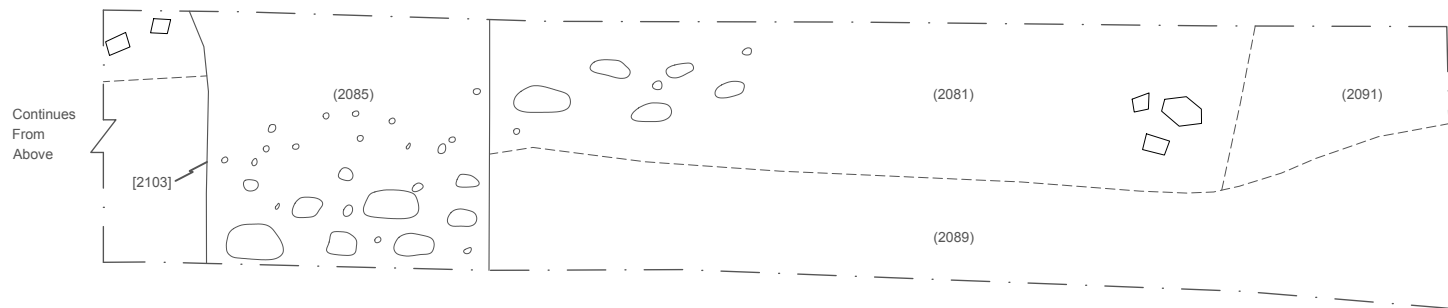


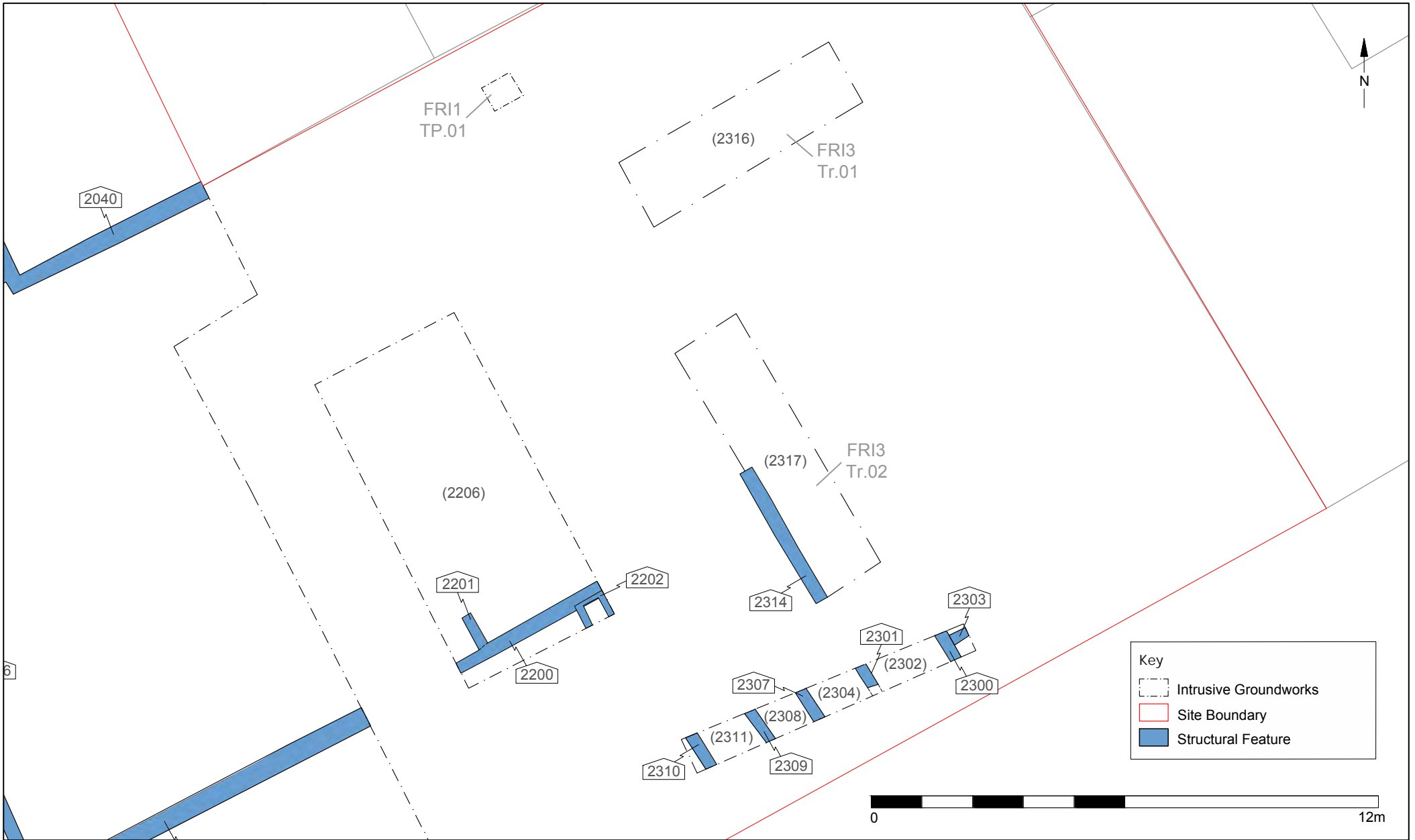
DR#05 - FRI2
West Facing Section of Wall Removal

64.24
NW

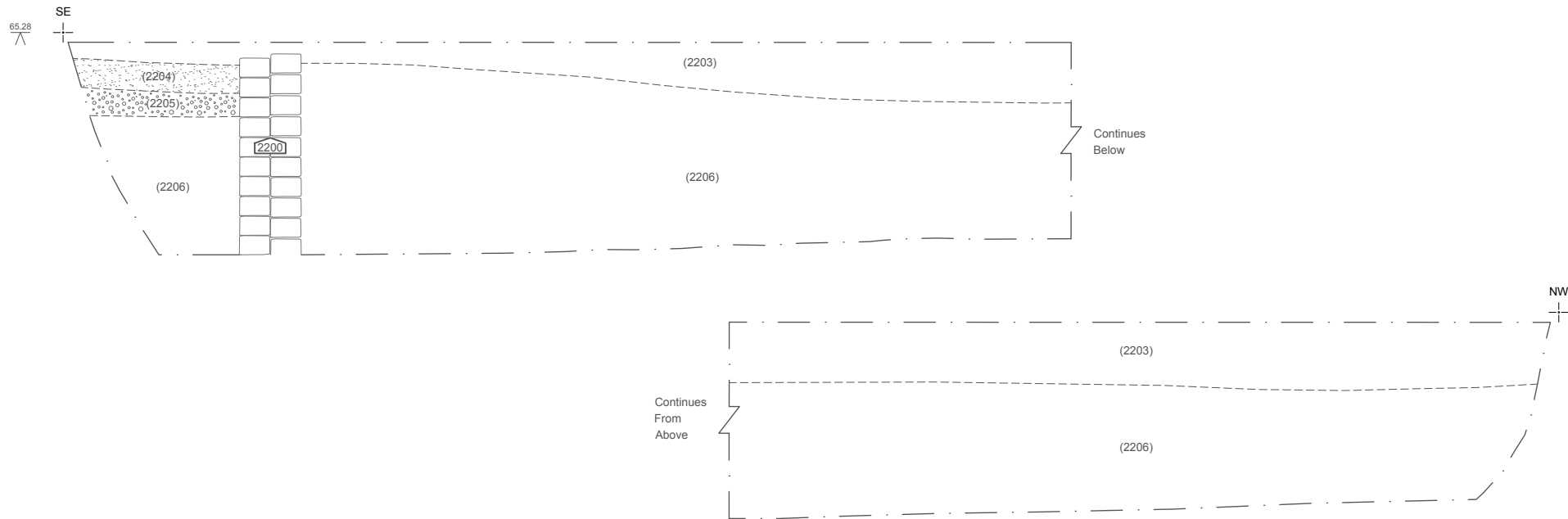


SE

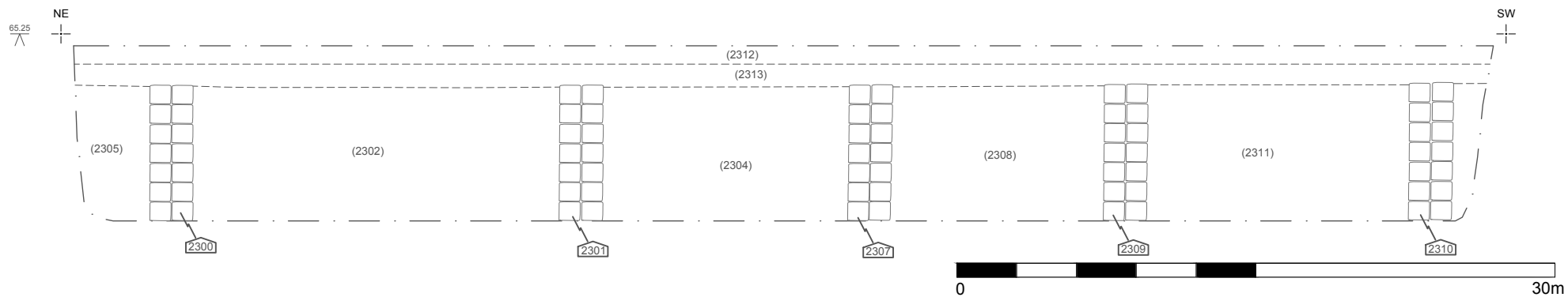




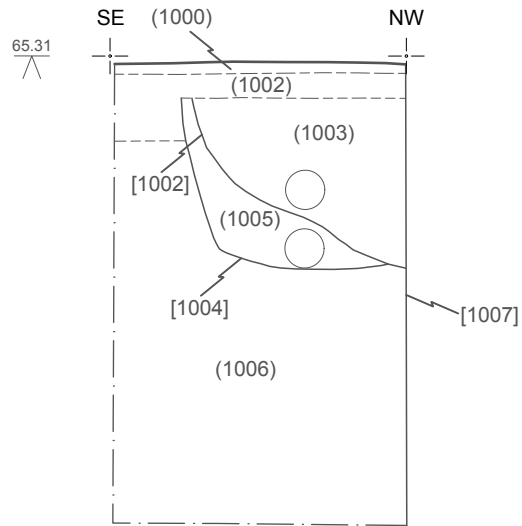
DR#06 - FRI2
North East Facing Section of Attenuation Tank



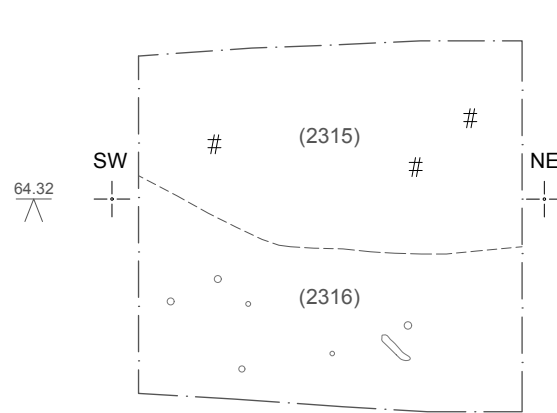
DR#07 - FRI2
South East Facing Section of Servife Trench



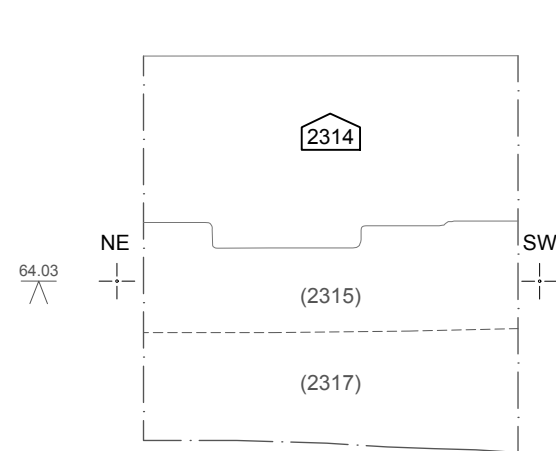
DR#08 - FRI1
South East Facing Section of Test Pit



DR#09 - FRI3
South East Facing Representative Section of TR02



DR#10 - FRI3
North East Facing Representative Section of TR01



Appendix 1: Index of Archive and Arrangements for Deposition

| <i>Field Records</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Number</i> |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Watching brief record sheets | Record of visit and work carried out | 15 |
| Context register | Register of context numbers | 5 |
| Context sheets | Record of features and deposits | 128 |
| Photo record sheets | Record of photographs taken | 2 |
| Digital photographs | All views | 3871 |
| Site drawings | Plan & section drawings of site | 21 |
| | | |
| <i>Documents</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Number</i> |
| 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 |
| | | |
| <i>Finds</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Number</i> |
| Pottery | Body sherds | 28 |
| Clay tobacco pipe | Complete bowls, 1 with stem | 2 |
| Glass | Bottle fragments | 7 |
| Stone | Marble | 2 |
| Metal | Lead fragment | 1 |

The site archive is currently held at the offices of Trent & Peak Archaeology, Unit 1, Holly Lane, Chilwell, Nottingham, NG9 4AB

Appendix 2: OASIS Data Collection Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: trentpea1-386520

Project details

| | |
|--|--|
| Project name | FRIAR LANE LEICESTER |
| Short description of the project | Between November 2018 and March 2019 Trent and Peak Archaeology (TPA) were commissioned by Hazelton Group Ltd to conduct an archaeological watching brief during planned residential development to the rear of 39 to 41 Friar Lane, Leicester (centred on SK 58495 04297). The site is located within the Scheduled Monument of Greyfriars which formed part of the former Franciscan Friary and the burial place of Richard III after the Battle of Bosworth c 200m to the east of the site. The site was stripped to between 1-2m below ground level, which revealed a considerable depth of made ground which was probably laid down during the late 19th and early 20th century as a result of the construction of deep-celled buildings immediately to the east of the site. A number of brick structures observed during the excavations may be related to outbuildings and garden walls of 39-41 Friar Lane, datable to the late 18th - early 19th century. A subsequent phase of groundworks included the monitored excavation of two additional trenches within the eastern portion of the site (FRI3). These were excavated on 29th October 2019, which revealed a similar level of post-medieval and modern development related truncation and levelling material c 1m in thickness. No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified. |
| Project dates | Start: 01-11-2018 End: 30-03-2019 |
| Previous/future work | No / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | FRI2 - Sitecode |
| Any associated project reference codes | 1442955 - SM No. |
| Type of project | Recording project |
| Site status | Scheduled Monument (SM) |
| Current Land use | Residential 1 - General Residential |
| Monument type | BUILDING Post Medieval |
| Investigation type | "Watching Brief" |
| Prompt | Scheduled Monument Consent |

Project location

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Country | England |
| Site location | LEICESTERSHIRE LEICESTER LEICESTER 39 - 41 FRIAR LANE |

Postcode LE1 5RB
 Study area 536 Square metres
 Site coordinates SK 458495 304297 52.869065263194 -1.318793410937 52 52 08 N 001 19 07 W Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 61m Max: 63m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Trent and Peak Archaeology
 Project brief originator Trent and Peak Archaeology
 Project design originator Victoria Owen
 Project director/manager Edmund Taylor
 Project supervisor Richard Parker
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Contents "Ceramics","Glass","Metal","other"
 Physical Archive notes Clay pipe
 Digital Contents "Ceramics","Glass","Metal","other"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey"
 Digital Archive notes Clay pipe
 Paper Contents "Ceramics","Glass","Metal","other"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"
 Paper Archive notes Clay pipe

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title LAND TO THE REAR OF 39 to 41 FRIAR LANE, LEICESTER: A REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Parker, R., Owen, V
 Other bibliographic details 077/2019
 Date 2020
 Issuer or publisher Trent and Peak
 Place of issue or publication Trent and Peak

| | |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| Description | Grey literature, PDFa |
| Entered by | V. Owen (vowen@yorkat.co.uk) |
| Entered on | 26 February 2020 |

OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

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