

**Former SEB Depot,  
Back of the Walls,  
Southampton, Hampshire  
Report on an  
Archaeological Watching  
Brief**

**May 2016**



## PROJECT SUMMARY

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**Investigation Type:** Watching Brief

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**Contractor:** Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (West)  
Block 4, Chilcomb House  
Chilcomb Lane  
Winchester  
Hampshire  
SO23 8RB

**Tel:** 01962 849549

**E-mail:** pmcculloch@pre-construct.com

**Website:** www.pre-construct.com

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## DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Former SEB Depot, Back of the Walls, Southampton

Archaeological Watching Brief Report R12225

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K4001
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	T Molloy		15/02/2016
Graphics Prepared by:	J Simonson & Mark Roughley		12/02/2016
Graphics Checked by:	J Brown	<i>Josephine Brown</i>	12/02/2016
Project Manager Sign-off:	P McCulloch	<i>P McCulloch</i>	15/02/2016

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## **Abstract**

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. (PCA) was commissioned by McAleer & Rushe Contracts UK Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the former SEB Depot, Back of the Walls, Southampton. The Site is located to the immediate east of the site of Southampton's medieval town wall in the known location of the town's double ditches.

Evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity had previously been identified beneath the berm deposits between the inner ditch and the town wall on archaeological investigations to the immediate north of the Site. Historic maps depict a substantial late 18<sup>th</sup> century artillery bastion butting the town wall at the northern end of the Site and, to the east of it, the Southampton to Salisbury Canal located along the eastern edge of the Site.

Previous evaluation on the Site by PCA had identified gravelly infilling deposits overlying re-deposited brickearth and blackish-blue gleys filling both the town ditches and the berm between the inner town ditch and town wall in trenches located at the southern end of the Site. Trenches located in the central areas of the Site identified extensive, deep concrete foundations overlying gravelly levelling layers and blackish-blue gleys filling the inner town ditch. A post-medieval cobbled ground surface and two post-medieval features were also found cut into the levelling layers within the inner town ditch.

Trenches located at the northern end of the Site identified sections of limestone walls thought to represent either the 18<sup>th</sup> century artillery bastion or remnants of the Southampton to Salisbury canal. Deposits recorded at the northern end of the Site comprised interspersed redeposited brickearth and dark soils thought to represent post-medieval infilling of the inner town ditch, possibly associated with the construction of the 18<sup>th</sup> century artillery bastion.

The watching brief exposed further evidence of infilling deposits within the inner town ditch and layers representing the central berm at the northern end of the Site. The limestone walls previously exposed during the evaluation were re-exposed and further limestone walls were encountered on a similar alignment a short distance to the south of these.

These walls were previously thought to represent either the 18<sup>th</sup> century artillery bastion or remnants of the Southampton to Salisbury canal, however, re-examination of the physical and documentary evidence indicates that the walls appear to form the western edge of the canal. No clear evidence of the 18<sup>th</sup> century artillery bastion depicted on the historic maps was recorded on the Site although deposits at the northern end of the site may represent remnants of lower part of this structure or infilling of the town ditches during that phase.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Planning Background

- 1.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) were appointed by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the former SEB Depot, Back of the Walls, Southampton, (**Figure 1**), hereafter 'the Site', in connection with its proposed redevelopment. The redevelopment comprises the erection of a building of between 6 and 9-storeys (including lower ground level) to provide a student hall of residence (350 rooms) with associated facilities, a cafe with associated parking and vehicular access from Canal Walk.
- 1.1.2 The site is situated within the City Centre and Itchen Ferry Local Area of Archaeological Potential (LAAP), as designated by Southampton City Council in 2010 and, in consequence, the Historic Environment Team (HET), Southampton City Council, archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority, requested that a programme of archaeological conditions be applied to the re-development as a requirement of planning consent, as the re-development posed a threat to the archaeology on the Site.
- 1.1.3 The archaeological conditions placed on the required, in the first instance, an archaeological evaluation to a subsequent requirement for further archaeological works based on the results of the evaluation. A Written Scheme of Investigation (2014a) was produced by PCA, which, in consultation with the HET and CgMs Consulting, formulated a strategy for the evaluation. This was informed by a Desk-based Assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2013), which summarised previous archaeological investigations on the Site and in its vicinity.
- 1.1.4 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in two phases. Phase 1 was conducted over the period 04/09/2014 – 19/10/2014 and the second phase of over the period 28/10/2014 – 31/10/2014. Subsequent to the fieldwork PCA produced a report presenting the results from the evaluation trenches.
- 1.1.5 Based on the findings of the evaluation report the HET requested that a watching brief be undertaken on the enabling groundworks for the redevelopment. PCA produced a WSI which was approved by the HET on 30/01/2015. PCA was notified by site contractors Mcaleer and Rushe on the commencement of the enabling works and the watching brief conducted over the period 18/04/15 – 12/05/15. The HET was informed of the start of groundworks and updated by phone as groundworks proceeded. The results of the watching brief are presented in this report.

## 1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 1.2.1 The site, a roughly rectangular area centred on SU442163 111378, measures approximately 1.9ha in area and lies between Back of the Walls and Canal Walk (**Figure 2**). It is in two parts, the larger and higher western and southern part forming the existing car park, at c. 6.5m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), and the smaller north-eastern part, at c.5m aOD. The two areas are separated by a c.1.5m high retaining wall topped by a metal post and rail fence. An electricity substation, not part of the Site, is incorporated in the Site's eastern boundary.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology of the site comprises Palaeogene sand, silt and clay of the Earnley Sand Formation, which are overlain by superficial Quaternary River Terrace Deposits comprising clay and silt 'brickearth' (British Geological Survey).

## 1.3 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the Site was addressed comprehensively in a desk-based assessment (WA 2013) prepared in respect of the planning application granted permission for the proposed redevelopment of the site. For the purposes of this document the assessment identified the Site as having the potential to contain heritage assets of national importance comprising evidence of Saxon settlement, a section of Southampton's medieval defences including the town wall and inner and outer ditches east of the wall, a post-medieval artillery bastion and evidence of the Southampton to Salisbury canal.
- 1.3.2 The evidence of the potential was indicated by a previous archaeological evaluation of the site conducted in 1994 by the Southampton Archaeology Unit (Site code **SOU 627**) (Garner 1994). Three trenches were opened aimed to establish evidence of the Town wall and associated tower, evidence of the town ditches and occupation along the berm between the town wall and inner ditch, evidence of the Southampton to Salisbury canal and evidence of the artillery bastion. The trenches revealed evidence of the town wall running north-south within the site's western boundary, better preserved to the north and heavily disturbed to the south, no evidence of the town's inner or outer ditch east of the town wall, which Garner considered may survive at greater depth than achieved in the trenches, and, in the north-east corner of the site, a section of wall interpreted as remains of the post-medieval artillery bastion known from 18<sup>th</sup> century cartographic evidence. No evidence of the canal was found.
- 1.3.3 An archaeological evaluation consisting of two trenches and two test pits conducted by the Southampton City Council Archaeology and Heritage Management Section (Site code **SOU 397**) (Robey 1989; amended by Cottrell 2001), at the Supreme Warehouse site (now Saxon Gate offices) revealed

evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity including postholes and a beam-slot in the inner berm beneath the rampart for the town wall, the extent of the width of the inner town ditch, the location of the central berm and, in one of the test pits, a floor of rough cut limestone blocks interpreted as a stone lining for the canal.

1.3.4 An archaeological evaluation consisting of five trenches in two phases of fieldwork conducted by PCA (Site code **SOU1666**) on the Site in 2014 identified the infilling deposits of the town ditches and the inner berm between the town wall and the inner ditch. Limestone walls recorded in one trench were interpreted as the post-medieval artillery bastion based on comparative alignment with historic maps or, alternatively, remnants of the Southampton to Salisbury Canal.

1.3.5 The evaluation confirmed the results of the previous investigations that the bulk of the southern end of site has been extensively disturbed by modern development, although two late 18th century discrete features were recorded cutting the infill of the inner town ditch in one trench, one of which contained evidence of post-medieval iron metalworking.

## 2. **AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

The aims of the watching brief stated within the approved WSI were:

- ensure that the surviving section of the artillery bastion in the north-eastern part of the site is not subject to needless damage and is preserved;
- monitor groundwork and record evidence of the artillery bastion that is unexpectedly uncovered;
- advise the main contractor on the adjustment of the foundation design and construction so as to avoid unnecessary impacts upon the surviving section of the artillery bastion;
- Monitor the excavation for pile caps along the western boundary of the site.

## 3. **METHODOLOGY**

3.1 Previous investigations at the southern end of the Site, (to the south of the electricity sub-station), had revealed extensive truncation and disturbance from the insertion of Victorian culverts, 20<sup>th</sup> century reinforced crushed brick and concrete building foundation slabs, storm drains and numerous services. On this basis the HET decided that the focus of the watching brief would be to monitor groundworks within the northern area of the Site where the 18<sup>th</sup> century artillery bastion was sited and where previous investigations had revealed a reasonably good depth of survival of archaeological deposits (**Figure 2**).



- 3.2 On arrival on Site it was clear that enabling groundworks had already commenced; the previously higher western ground level at the northern end of the Site, including the 1.5m high retaining wall, had been lowered by mechanical excavator with a toothed bucket by up to 1.5m in places in preparation for the piling cap formation.
- 3.3 Meanwhile, at the southern end of the Site, the concrete foundations for the pre-existing modern buildings were being removed by mechanical excavator, stockpiled, crushed on-site then removed by lorry. Visual inspection was made of this process on occasions during the watching brief but, such was the extensive disturbance it was not possible to identify any archaeological deposits (**Figure 2**).
- 3.4 Archaeologically monitored groundworks commenced with the excavation in an area broadly bisecting the location of trenches 1 and 2 of the prior evaluation by a machine excavator with a toothless bucket. This intervention was unexpected as previous discussions had focused exclusively on determining the location of the previously encountered limestone walls on the Site. On enquiry, the monitoring archaeologist was informed that the purpose of the enabling works here was to ascertain the presence of any deep building foundations or other impediment to the positioning of the piling mat foundations.
- 3.5 On reaching the required depth, the contractors proceed to compact the northern end of base of the trench with a mechanical compact roller at which point the monitoring archaeologist requested that no further enabling works be carried out there until the exposed surfaces within the trench had been hand-cleaned and summarily recorded. Due to the time constraints imposed by the enabling groundworks none of the deposits in the base of the trench were hand-excavated. The completed area of excavation comprised a trench measuring c.25m north-south from the northern site boundary x 8m east-west and up to 2.5m in deep at the northern end of the trench, though an area at the southern end of the trench was not monitored. It was numbered Trench 6 (**Figure 3**). Trench 6 was measured in using hand-tapes and its location at the southern end of trench maybe somewhat less than accurate due to the presence of large spoil heaps which obstructed clear sight lines to the Site boundaries.
- 3.5 Trench 6A (**Figure 2**) was located to re-expose the limestone wall footings previously encountered in Trench 2 of the archaeological evaluation so to advise the main contractor on the adjustment of the foundation design and so as to avoid unnecessary impacts upon the surviving section of the walls. The final size of the trench measured approximately 18m x 5m x up to 1.5m deep and was measured in using hand-tapes referenced from Site boundaries (**Figure 2**). On location of

- the walls yellow-painted scaffold poles were placed either side of them so that their location would be visible after backfilling the trench.
- 3.6 Trench 7 (**Figure 2**) was located approximately 5m to the south of Trench 6A on the alignment of the north-south aligned wall exposed in Trenches 2 and 6A. The area between Trenches 6A and Trench 7 was also machine excavated but not archaeologically monitored as the contractors undertook this work on a Bank Holiday in the absence of the monitoring archaeologist. Trench 7 comprised a sub-square area measuring c.9.5m x 8.3m x 1.5m. Trench 7 was measured in by GPS.
- 3.7 On removal of a large spoil heap overlying the southern boundary edge of Trench 7 the contractors agreed to a request by the archaeologist for the trench to be extended further south in an attempt to follow a section of north-south aligned limestone wall visible in the south-facing section of the trench. This extra machining allowed for further, deeper excavation at the southern end of the trench and examination of the limestone walls and the deposits abutting the walls. This trench extension was numbered Trench 8 and measured c.5m x 2.2m x 1.6m (**Figure 2**). Trench 8 was measured in using hand-tapes referenced from Site boundaries.
- 3.8 Ground level in the area of the Site to the east of trenches 6A and 7, extending up to the eastern Site boundary along Canal Walk and south to the northern end of the Electrical Sub-Station was lowered by machine by approximately 1.2m and then overlain by a layer of 'crush' in preparation for piling.
- 3.9 Monitoring of the pile caps along the western site boundary as stated in the aims was not achieved. The contractors lowered the ground level here and it was decided that as no new stratigraphy was revealed it would have been a pointless exercise as this reduction represented the depth of the piling cap.

#### **4. RESULTS**

##### **4.1 Trench 6 West-Facing Section (Figures 2, 3 & 7; Plates 3 - 6)**

- 4.1.1 On arrival at the Site, the higher, western area of the northern end of Site had been reduced by machine by up to 1.5m in places exposing a very mixed spread of ill-defined deposits.
- 4.1.2 Trench 6, which broadly bisected evaluation trenches 1 and 2, began at the northern end of the Site. On completion of the excavation of the trench, a layer of spoil up to 0.7m thick containing common brick, metal glass, tarmac and gravel inclusions had been created overlying parts of the edge of the west-facing section and partially obscuring the ground level there.

- 4.1.3 At the northern end of the west-facing section of the trench, ground surface comprised a 0.05m thick layer of grey scalplings containing patches of grass and weeds. Beneath this was a 0.05m thin orange-brown gravel levelling layer which in-turn overlay a further, 0.1m thin, levelling layer of grey-coloured scalplings. These layers were also visible elsewhere in the section to the south but mostly obscured by slumping from the overlying spoil.
- 4.1.4 Beneath the grey scalplings appeared to be a dark grey Modern make-up layer, up-to 0.4m thick, although spoil slumping from the top of the trench made visibility of this part of the section difficult. This deposit sealed a brick cellar probably constructed as part of the row of tenements built there in the 1840s.
- 4.1.5 The brick cellar cut, to the north and south, a sequence of compact layers (**600**, **601**, **602**, **603** and **604**). This sequence of layers comprised, from the latest to the earliest formation, **604**, a very dark greyish brown sandy clay loam c.0.4m thick which contained occasional flint inclusions. Beneath **604** was a dull yellowish brown re-deposited brickearth layer, **603**, just visible in the section to the north of the cellar where it was recorded to a thickness of 0.1m. Layer **603** overlay a 0.4m thick very dark grey sandy clay loam, **602**, not dissimilar in colour and texture to layer **604**, although it contained a greater concentration of flint inclusions. Beneath **602** was a 0.1m uniformly thick layer of dull yellowish brown brickearth, **601**, commonly referred to as a 'dirty brickearth' which suggests it represents weathering and bioturbation of the upper surface of the parent material below, **600**, which was a yellowish brown silt loam, interpreted as natural brickearth. No finds were recovered from any of these deposits.
- 4.1.6 A similar sequence of layers was visible to the south of the brick cellar; brickearth layer **603** thickened slightly and also appeared more mixed and interspersed with a dark brown soil. As the section progressed southwards, these layers appeared to slope downwards in that direction and their interfaces became less clearly discernible due to the unevenness of the machining and the piling of spoil over that end of the section.
- 4.1.7 Immediately south of the brick cellar, at the base of the section, there was a steep incline, possibly a cut, in what appeared to be natural brickearth, **600**. The depth of this cut was not established as it extended beyond the base of the trench. Natural brickearth **600** was again visible at the base of the section, although slightly lower in the section, at a distance of approximately 0.5m from the northern cut but was not seen to extend to the height of the northern cut in section. Dirty brickearth layer **601** was not visible above brickearth **600** above the northern cut but was visible above **600** to the south which suggests **601** was removed during

the cutting process there. It's uncertain as to the extent and function of this possible feature as it was not clearly exposed in either section or plan. The material overlying the cut was a dark grey sandy clay loam with common flint inclusions but was indistinguishable, as a fill, from layer **602** in the section. The possible feature was assigned a cut number, **615**, and a fill number, **616**, and is annotated on the section drawing (**Figure 7**).

- 4.1.8 The sequence of layers recorded in the west-facing section of Trench 6 almost certainly form part of the central berm between the medieval inner and outer town ditches. A similar sequence of layers was recorded in exploratory digging through the western section of evaluation Trench 2 approximately 1m to the east of the Trench 6 section, and this location is consistent with the location of the central berm recorded by the Archaeology and Heritage Management Section, Southampton City Council in investigations at the Supreme Warehouse site to the immediate north of the site in 1989 (**Figure 3**). Whether the berm layers were present at the extreme southern end of this section is less certain as the section had been lowered by machining and partially obscured by overlying spoil deposits there.

#### **Base of Trench (Figure 3; Plates 1 & 2)**

- 4.1.9 In the northeast corner of the base of the trench, adjacent to the west-facing section of Trench 6, an area of clean brickearth was exposed which appeared to be natural brickearth **600** exposed within the section. The extent of the natural brickearth in the base of the trench adjacent to the west-facing section was obscured by the smearing of deposits by the mechanical compact roller although hand-cleaning at the base of the section did reveal its presence for approximately 8m from the northern end of the section.
- 4.1.10 Immediately to the west of brickearth **600**, machining exposed a sub-rectangular area of dark greyish blue silty clay, **610**, representing waterlogged deposits within the inner town ditch. The presence of natural brickearth **600** in the base of the trench suggests that the central berm extended into Trench 6 and its interface with ditch fill **610** may approximate the eastern edge of the inner town ditch. This arrangement is broadly consistent with the location of the central berm and eastern edge of the inner ditch recorded in an E-W section at the Supreme Warehouse site (**SOU397**) to the immediate north of the Site.
- 4.1.11 A linear feature, **605**, measuring approximately 1m in width was recorded in the base of the trench on a broadly north to south alignment flanking the west-facing section of the trench. It was filled by a dark brown stony soil, **606**. At its northern end it extended up to the patch of blackish blue gley ditch fill, **610**, previously

- mentioned in paragraph 4.1.10, although it was not possible to establish whether **605** cut **610** or whether **605** was cut by the eastern edge of the town ditch, **609**.
- 4.1.12 At the southern end of the trench **605** appeared to extend into the west-facing section of the trench (**Figure 7**; **Plate 7**) where it was recorded to a depth of approximately 0.5m cutting natural brickearth **600** and also appeared to extend into Trench 7 to the south and is possibly represented by deposits **716**, **717** and **718** in the east-facing section of Trench 7. If this interpretation is correct, then **605** appears to terminate within this trench as these deposits appear to be cut by **714** or overlain by deposit **715** and did not appear to extend into the north-facing section.
- 4.1.13 To the east of **605** within the base of Trench 6 was a pale brown deposit, possibly context **601** which overlay natural brickearth **600** in the north-eastern area of the trench, though this was not investigated. To the west of **605** was a sequence of dark yellowish brown brickearth and dark greyish brown irregular-shaped striped deposits, **607**, and to the west of these a dark greyish blue gley deposit, **610**, that extended up to the east-facing edge of the trench. Context **610** almost certainly represents waterlogged deposits within the inner town ditch and the striped deposits to the east of it may also be ditch fills within the inner town ditch.
- 4.1.13 The function of ditch **605** and its relationship to the inner town ditch, **609**, is not understood. The two features maybe contemporaneous in respect of their alignments though without further characterisation and dating evidence this is speculative. An alternative interpretation is that ditch **605** represents activity beneath the berm layers and may therefore pre-date the town ditch though this, again, is speculative.

#### **East-Facing Section**

- 4.1.14 The east-facing section of Trench 6 revealed a different sequence of stratigraphy to that in the west-facing section. At the northern end of the section a sequence of intermixed, soft, yellowish brown brickearth and dark brown clay loam deposits were recorded, **611**. These deposits appeared to extend the full height (c.2m) of the section and were comparable to the deposits, **106**, **107** and **108** recorded in Trench 1 of the evaluation, although those deposits appear to have occurred higher up in section than those in Trench 6 but were removed during the mechanical lowering of the ground level in that area of the Site. A similar sequence of intermixed deposits was recorded in an east-west aligned trench (Trench 2) at the Supreme Warehouse site to the immediate north of the Site (**Figure 3**), by the Southampton City Council Archaeology and Heritage Management Section in 1989 and was interpreted as fills of the inner town ditch.

4.1.15 Deposit **611** extended approximately 5m to the south in the section where it appeared to be overlain by blackish-blue silty clay layers, **610** which were initially interspersed with patches of redeposited brickearth then formed a solid deposit within the section adjacent to a similar deposit recorded in the base of the trench. **610** represents waterlogged silting within the town ditch, though its presence high-up within the section suggests it was re-deposited from its formation in the lower, wetter part of the ditch. Towards the southern end of Trench 6, **610** tapered-out in section and appeared to be overlain by a clean re-deposited brickearth deposit, **612**, which was seen to extend up to the southern end of Trench 6. Lenses of a dark greyish brown soil were recorded within **612** at the southern end of the section.

4.1.16 Some of the deposits recorded in this section may represent rampart deposits for the bastion overlying and infilling the town ditch during its construction although this was not established. It is possible that level reduction in this area may have removed all evidence of the rampart and that all that remains are post-medieval infilling deposits within the town ditch.

#### **4.2 Trench 6A (Figures 2 – 4; Plate 6)**

4.2.1 Machine excavation proceeded down to the top of the north-south aligned section of limestone wall **209** previously exposed in Trench 2 of the evaluation and was then extended to reveal its extent both to the north and south beyond the confines of Trench 2.

4.2.2 Machining revealed that wall **209** continued to the north of its location recorded in Trench 2 at the same height previously encountered in Trench 2 and extended up to the northern boundary of the Site where it was cut by the foundations for the Saxon Gate building.

4.2.3 Machining southwards over wall **209** re-exposed E-W aligned wall **210** which survived at a greater height than wall **209** in Trench 2. Wall **210** was lowered down to the level of wall **209** to ascertain whether wall **210** continued to the west into the trench section or whether it terminated within the trench. Wall **210** terminated with a clear western edge approximately 0.5m to the west of wall **209** and, as no evidence of this wall was recorded in the adjacent Trench 6, suggests that this was the original extent of the wall. Wall **210** was approximately 0.8m in width and of a similar build to wall **209**, comprising Bembridge limestone blocks bonded in a grey mortar.

4.2.4 It was previously considered that wall **210** may have formed part of a wall of a later structure unrelated to wall **209**, perhaps a boundary wall extending towards the western end of the Site, however the termination of wall **210** a short distance

to the west of the wall **209** suggests that the two walls formed part of a walled structure with the walls keyed-in by constructing part of wall **210** over wall **209**. How the walls interacted lower down where wall **209** was battered was not observed.

4.2.5 Machining to the south of wall **210** exposed, what appeared to be natural brickearth at the base and the east-facing section of the trench. To the east of the natural brickearth there appeared to be a north-south aligned linear feature, **613**, cutting the brickearth, filled by a dark greyish brown soil, **614**. **613** was approximately 0.3m wide and, to the south of wall **210**, was filled by a dark greyish brown soil, **614**. Feature **613** may have extended to the north of **210** where it was filled by a dark soil with mortar inclusions although this maybe a misinterpretation of part of the buttress that was recorded within this part of Trench 2. To the east of **613** was a dark yellowish brown deposit, **617**. Due to time constraints these deposits weren't investigated further and it is possible that **617** and possibly **613** could be backfills of robber trench of wall **209** extending to the south, or deposits overlying wall **209**.

4.2.6 The east-facing section of Trench 6A exposed what appeared to be natural brickearth at the bottom of the section and above it a uniformly thick dark yellowish brown layer subsoil. Overlying the subsoil were dark soils which, due to time constraints, were not further characterised. However, this section was very similar to the upper, east-faction section recorded in Trench 2 and almost certainly represents deposits forming the central berm between the town ditches.

### **4.3 Trench 7 (Figures 2 – 4; Plates 8 -11)**

4.3.1 Machining in the area to the south of Trench 6A exposed a number of large limestone blocks and hand cleaning revealed a further section of limestone wall on a similar alignment to wall **209** exposed in to the north in Trenches 2 and 6A.

4.3.2 The north-facing section of the exposed trench revealed a thin levelling layer, **700**, sealing a construction cut, **707**, for the north-south aligned limestone wall, **710**. Limestone wall **710** was broadly 0.5m in width with three short sections (all c.1m in length) of wall forming buttresses adjoining it to the west. The wall was constructed with roughly faced Bembridge limestone blocks set in a creamy white lime mortar. The eastern face of the wall was battered slightly from the top to the bottom of the wall in a similar fashion to wall **209** in evaluation Trench 2 though only c.0.3m of the eastern face of the wall was exposed in this trench.

4.3.3 To the west of the limestone wall was a sequence of deposits which were cut by the construction cut for wall **710**. Uppermost in this sequence was a 1.6m thick mottled light and dark yellowish brown brickearth, **701**, which had a steep west

to east incline. Beneath **701** was a further sequence of deposits (contexts **702 – 705**) the upper deposits of which also exhibited a pronounced west to east incline whilst the lower deposits levelled out somewhat. At the base of the trench was a blackish blue clayey deposit, **706**, redolent of the waterlogged deposits recorded elsewhere in the town ditch/ditches. These deposits were located in an area occupied by central berm deposits to the north which may indicate that the central berm tapers away here and the double ditches to the north merge into a single ditch.

4.3.4 Some of these deposits (contexts **703**, **705** and **706**) continued into the east-facing section of the trench where the sequence was overlain by a thick modern gravel levelling deposit, **713**, at the top of the trench. At the northern end of the east-facing section these deposits overlay a thin dark brown deposit on a north to south incline, **715**, which may have been a lining for a cut, **714**. **714** may represent the edge the terminus of the central berm with the overlying deposits representing fills of the single town ditch.

4.3.5 At the northern end of the east-facing section of Trench 7 a sequence of deposits (**716**, **717** and **718**) appeared to be cut by, or overlain by, **714** and **715**. In Trench 6, ditch **605** appeared to extend into the northwest corner of this trench and it is proposed that these deposits represent fills of **605** albeit containing upper fills that were truncated and therefore not visible in Trench 6. These deposits did not extend into the north-facing section of this trench which suggests the feature terminated within this trench.

4.3.6 Natural brickearth, **719**, occupied most of the south-facing section of Trench 7 where, at its western end, it was cut by ditch **605** and, at its eastern end, by a modern service trench, **720**, which also possibly disturbed the northern end of limestone wall, **710**, in the northeast corner of the trench. Service trench **720** did not appear to extend beyond the east-facing section of the trench as no cut could be seen within it, so may have terminated within the trench.

4.3.7 Some of the deposits recorded on a west to east tipline in the north-facing section of trench 7 were visible in the base of the trench, including blackish blue gley **706** in the southwest corner of the trench and deposit **705** extending into on a north-south alignment broadly parallel to wall **710**.

#### **4.4 Trench 8 (Figures 2 – 4; Plates 12-14)**

4.4.1 Removal of a spoil heap above the south-facing section of Trench 7 enabled further machine excavation to the immediate south of the trench with the specific aim of following limestone wall **710** along its southern course to determine its extent on the Site. This trench extension was named Trench 8. Machining, then



hand-cleaning revealed that wall **710** extended no more than 0.8m south of Trench 7 where the wall formed a corner with a section of wall **801**, on an east-west alignment. Wall **710** survived at greater height than in Trench 7 (**Plate 13**) and this may have been due to the protection afforded by the proximity of the SW corner of the Electrical Sub-Station and hence a lesser degree of later disturbance in this area of the Site. Wall **801** extended in a westerly direction for 3.8m then terminated. There was no evidence that the wall had been truncated here, furthermore, in the north-facing section of the trench the wall could be seen to slope up over the tipping deposits previously recorded in Trench 7 (**Plate 13**).

4.4.2 Hand-cleaning of the recessed area created by buttress **811**, wall **710** and wall **801** revealed a single skin, red-brick mortar-bonded brick lining that extended to the length of buttress **811** along wall **801**. This brick lining was removed to expose the limestone walls, however parts of it can be seen in-situ (**Figure 9; S.23**) and the residues from it on the limestone walls (**Plates 9 & 15**). The south-facing section of Trench 8 differed from the north-facing section where a cut **809**, containing a dark brown fill, **810**, containing brick inclusions had removed the deposits visible in the north-facing section and this probably represents a cut for the insertion of an east-west alignment of the pre-existing retaining wall of the NCP car park.

#### **4.5 Area of the Site to the east of Trench 7 and north of the Electricity Sub-Station (Plate 17)**

4.5.1 The area to the east of Trench 7 was lowered by machine, presumably to test for the presence of obstructions within the ground. Machining here exposed a west-facing section below Canal Walk. In that section an orange gravel infill in that was also recorded in evaluation Trench 2 extending the full height of the west-facing section which probably represents infilling of a cellar.

4.5.2 At the southern end of this section was a sequence of thin levelling layers and beneath these layers and cutting into the brickearth ground surface here were several large cuts which probably represents cellar activity associated with the 19<sup>th</sup> century tenements fronting Canal Walk.

4.5.3 No finds were recovered from the watching brief.

### **5. DISCUSSION**

#### **5.1 General**

5.1.1 The wide extent of the groundworks overseen during both the evaluation and the watching brief provided an opportunity to further characterise the archaeological sequences at the northern end of the Site and re-assess the evidence recorded in the evaluation trenches. In addition, the archive from the Supreme Warehouse

site (SOU 397) to the immediate north of the Site was consulted to provide a comparison of the evidence from both sites.

## 5.2 The Town Ditches and Berms

5.2.1 A sequence of deposits at the northern end of the west-facing section of Trench 6 almost certainly represent deposits forming the central berm between the double ditches. Despite the absence of an east-west section across the trench, the interface between ditch fills and natural brickearth in that trench probably represents the approximate eastern edge of the inner town ditch and the western edge of the central berm and this location corresponds broadly in plan with the location of the central berm identified at the Supreme Warehouse site to the north (**Figure 3**).

5.2.2 The presence of natural brickearth in the south-facing section of Trench 7 to the south of Trench 6 may indicate that the berm extended this far to the south albeit with the overlying berm deposits removed by machining. The absence of natural brickearth within the base of Trench 7 and the presence of tipping deposits in this trench may be evidence of infilling within the single town ditch.

## 5.3 The Artillery Bastion

5.3.1 Woolley's map of 1791 (**Figure 4**), which shows the bastion in greater detail than Mazell's 1771 and Milne's 1791 maps, appears to show in plan a structure comprised of two faces and two flanks above a rampart. Walls **209**, exposed in Trench 2 and wall **710** exposed in Trench 7 overlain on this map match fairly closely the location of the southern face of the post-medieval artillery bastion as depicted on Woolley's 1791 map.

5.3.2 Woolley's map of 1791 also illustrates a cross-section (**Figure 5**) through the bastion in an area included within the Site. The cross-section shows ground level to the west of a tower and, to the east of it, a rampart that extends up to a ditch. The flat base of the ditch extends to the east where it is cut by a narrow drain. On the counterscarp, either a wall or a bush denotes the eastern end of the section. Above the eastern end of the rampart the map shows a raised platform, presumably constructed in masonry.

5.3.3 At the eastern end of the platform the cross-section shows a banquette, or firing-step for the artillery. This is probably an inaccurate depiction as the step would have been located either side of the platform and directly behind the parapet not directly behind the platform as it would have obstructed the movement of cannon onto the platform. A gentle gradient at the back of the platform would have allowed for cannon or cannonade to mount the platform with the aid a sloping wooden platform butted up against the eastern edge of the platform. The flat area of the

platform extends up to a parapet that is depicted with an irregular edge which probably denotes the use of turf at the top of the parapet to prevent masonry from splintering should it be hit by cannon fire. The exterior face of the parapet is shown as vertical. There is a small berm to the east of the platform which extends to the steeply sloping rampart at the front of bastion.

- 5.3.4 Woolley's map provides measurements (in feet and inches) for all the elements shown in the section although some of them are difficult to read. The measurements place the masonry platform at a distance of approximately 16m from the town wall which is slightly to the west of the where the walls were recorded in Trench 2. The width of the platform measures approximately 4m and the earthen rampart beneath the platform is recorded at a height of approximately 1.7m above ground level inside the town wall.
- 5.3.5 Woolley's illustration seems to be showing the rampart at the front of the bastion as an earth bank with no stone revetment. If this is accurate then the walls exposed in Trenches 2, 6A, 7 and 8 of the investigations would appear to represent another structure.
- 5.3.6 That the bastion is shown without a stone revetment suggests that it was only intended as a temporary measure. The addition of a stone revetment on such a large structure would have also added a significant cost to its construction.

## **5.4 The Canal**

- 5.4.1 The Southampton – Salisbury canal is known to have utilised the outer town ditch within the area of the Site; Milne's 1791 map shows the projected course of the canal (the actual location of the canal may have differed from this) deviating around the bastion. Robey (**SOU397**) recorded evidence of a limestone wall in a test pit at the Supreme Warehouse site to the immediate north of the Site, which he interpreted as the lining for the canal, whilst Garner (**SOU627**) also identified a limestone wall within an evaluation trench approximately 25m to the south of Robey's trench on the study Site, which he interpreted as the artillery bastion. Although the area of the walls exposed in both these investigations was relatively small and comparison of the design and fabric is not possible, it seems highly likely, given their alignment, that these walls represent the same structure and that only one of these interpretations is correct.
- 5.4.2 As to the fabric of the walls exposed in the trenches, the specification for the canal states: '*To 2 Locks one in the Town Ditch the other at Northam should be built with Stone front and backed with Bricks*' (Welch 1977). Although the walls from the investigations are unlikely to represent a lock – Welch also mentions that the

- two locks were located at either end of the Southampton arm of the canal- this method of construction was visible in parts of the walls exposed in Trench 8.
- 5.4.3 During the construction of Palmerston House opposing the Site along Canal Walk a wall was located which was described as a wharf (Welch 1977). The lower part of the wall was built of stone and the upper part of brick and this description, perhaps, best matches the walls recorded in the trenches albeit with the upper brick courses removed. That wall **209** is battered on its outer face may be due wholly to the softness of the ground within the ditch and was employed as a load bearing mechanism.
- 5.4.4 The n-s aligned walls encountered during the investigation, when superimposed on Doswell's Water Map of 1803 – 1827 (**Figure 6**) shows the walls approximate the western edge of the canal. The positioning of wall **210** at a right-angle to wall **209** is not understood, though It is quite plausible that wall **210** is not associated with canal but is a later addition on the Site. Wall **210** may represent robbing of the canal lining in the area between trenches to construct part of a building or boundary wall during the development of the land after the canal had been infilled. If this interpretation is accepted, then wall **209** and wall **710** could represent the true western edge of the canal albeit with parts robbed out or destroyed in places.
- 5.4.5 The steps containing the mooring rings at the rear of Lankasters Warehouse that once stood on the Supreme Warehouse site have long been held as evidence of the site of the canal. The steps were situated approximately 8m north of the wall located in Trench 2 and 6A on the general north-south alignment of the canal.
- 5.4.6 The location of Test Pit 2 on the Supreme Warehouse Site, where possible walls for the canal were identified, is a short distance to the west of the location of the canal depicted on Doswell's map although not too far to dismiss it representing the western edge of the canal.

## 6. REASSESSMENT OF THE EVIDENCE FROM ALL SITE INVESTIGATIONS

- 6.1 The sequence of deposits recorded at the north-west area of the Site consisted of intermixed brickearth and dark soils and blackish blue gleys overlying natural gravel. This was evident in Trench 6 and, in particular, the northern extension of Trench 5 where a deep N-S section was exposed. These deposits appeared to be infilling deposits within the inner town ditch. It is possible that some of the deposits recorded in Trench 1 may represent the rampart over the ditch although this was not established. This sequence of deposition extended both southwards and eastwards into Trench 6 but did not extend as far as the west-facing section of the trench which suggests the eastern edge of the inner town ditch would have been located somewhere within the trench. A patch of natural brickearth at the base of the trench probably approximates the interface of the edge of the town ditch and the western edge of the central berm represented by the deposits at the northern end of the west-facing section of Trench 6.
- 6.1.2 To the south of the NE extension to Trench 5 disturbance by Modern building foundations became increasingly prevalent. Trench 5 had a large Victorian culvert within it and its attendant backfilling deposits filling much of the trench. A sequence of deposits recorded in the east-facing section of this trench may have represented inner berm deposits though this wasn't clearly established.
- 6.1.3 The southern extension to trench 5 revealed further wide and deep modern disturbance in the form of deep concrete foundations and a pale orange gravel levelling layer in this trench attested to level reduction in this area. This layer was also visible at the top of Trench 5 and over Trench 7. The brick culvert located in Trench 5 extended southwards into this trench and, at the bottom of the trench were blackish blue gleys within the inner town ditch overlying natural gravel.
- 6.1.4 The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 4 were similar to those recorded in the southern extension to Trench 5 but also contained two post-medieval features cutting infilling deposits and a post-medieval cobbled ground surface.
- 6.1.5 At the southern end of the Site, the brick culvert recorded in trenches to the north was recorded in the western end of Trench 3 cutting possible deposits forming the inner berm, and to the east, deposits on a west to east tipline which probably represent infilling of the town ditch. Blackish blue gleys overlying natural gravel were recorded in this trench. No evidence of a central berm was recorded in this trench and the location of the tipping deposits within this trench suggests only a single ditch was utilised along this part of the walls.
- 6.1.6 The four trenches placed in the north-eastern area of the Site (Trenches 2, 6A, 7 and 8) revealed limestone walls which were probably associated with the

Southampton to Salisbury canal and further evidence of the central berm recorded in Trench 6. Berm deposits were not clearly identified in Trench 7 although natural brickearth at the northern end of this trench may indicate it tapered out there.

- 6.1.7 The sequence of gravel and clay deposits on a west to east tipline recorded in the east-facing section of this trench possibly represent infilling deposits of the town ditch.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 The watching brief fulfilled most of the aims of the WSI: it re-located the sections of limestone walls previously encountered during the evaluation phase (Trench 6A), enabling the archaeological contractor to advise the groundworks contractor on the foundation design so as to avoid needless impacts upon the walls surviving there.
- 7.2 Monitoring of the groundworks (Trench 7) revealed further limestone walls to the south of the previously discovered walls which were recorded and enabled further characterisation of the post-medieval activity on the Site.
- 7.3 Monitoring of the excavation for the pile caps along the western boundary of the Site was not achieved due to lowering of the Site in this area and thus removing any stratigraphy that would have been impacted by the piling mat.
- 7.4 Excavation of a trench (Trench 6) in an area of the Site not included within the aims set out in the WSI, revealed further evidence of the location of the inner town ditch and central berm at the northern end of the Site, whilst possibly establishing that the central berm terminated within the northern end of the Site within Trench 7.
- 7.5 Interpretation of the deposits encountered in Trench 7 was more complex as the deposits recorded in this trench were not fully investigated and, together with the adjacent trenches within this area of the Site did not provide a coherent east-west profile.
- 7.6 No clear evidence of the Bastion survived on the Site although it is possible that the upper deposits recorded in Trench 1 may be rampart deposits or, deposits within the ditches represents infilling associated with its construction, however, it was not possible to demonstrate this.
- 7.7 Given the unexpected nature of the groundworks undertaken during the watching brief and the time constraints imposed upon it, useful new information relating to the town ditches and the canal was attained from some of the trenches.

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PCA Fieldwork: Tony Molloy

PCA CAD team for preparing the illustrations.

## APPENDIX 1. PLATES



Plate 1. General view of base of northern end of Trench 6

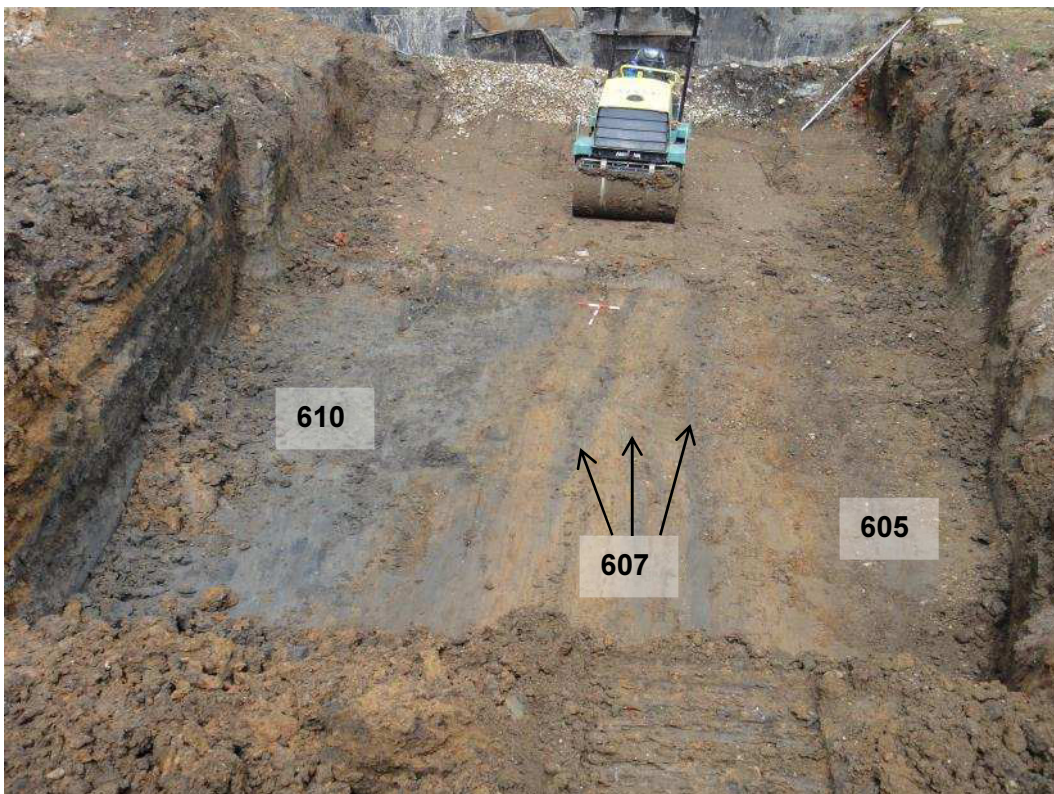


Plate 2. Southern end of base of Trench 6 showing linear feature **605**, possible ditch fills, **607** and ditch fill **610**. Scales: 2 x 0.4m.



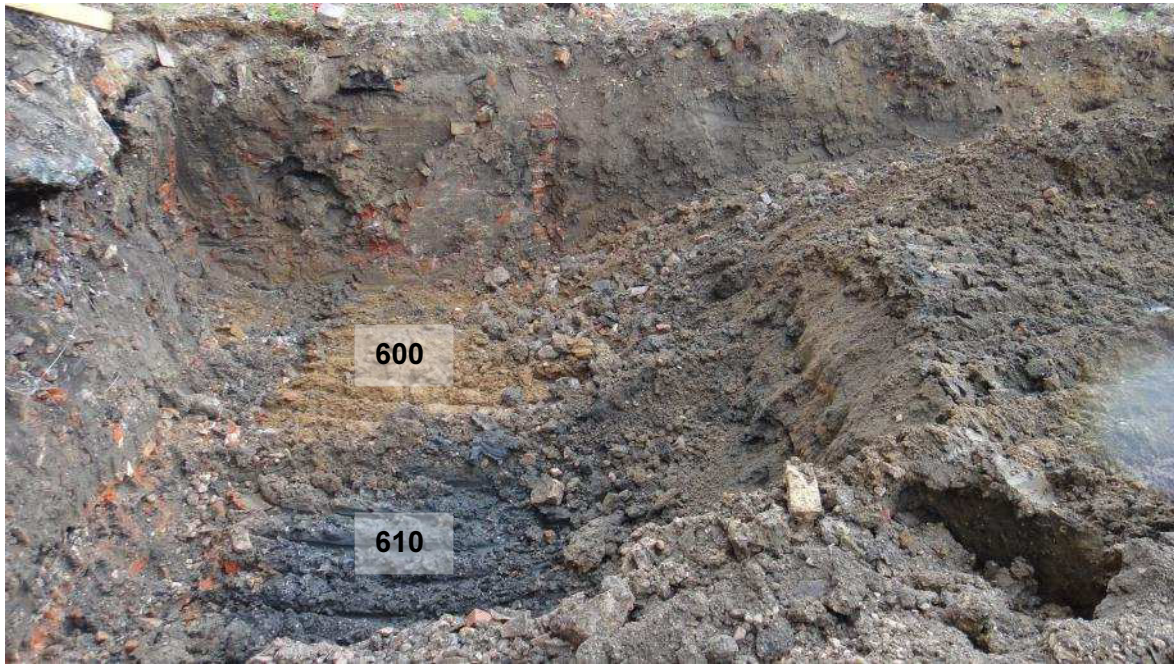


Plate 3. Machining at north end of Trench 6 showing natural brickearth, **600**, and bluish-grey ditch fill, **610**, at the base of the trench.



Plate 4. Northern end of west-facing section of Trench 6 showing hand-cleaned section and natural brickearth, **600**, at base of trench. Scales: 2 x 0.4m.



Plate 5. West-facing section of T6 south of brick cellar walls. Scales 2 x 0.4m.



Plate 6. West-facing section of T6 to the south of Plate 5. Scales 2 x 0.4m.



Plate 7. South-east corner of Trench 6, showing linear feature **605** running into section where it cuts natural? Brickearth **600** in west-facing section of trench, looking south. No scales.

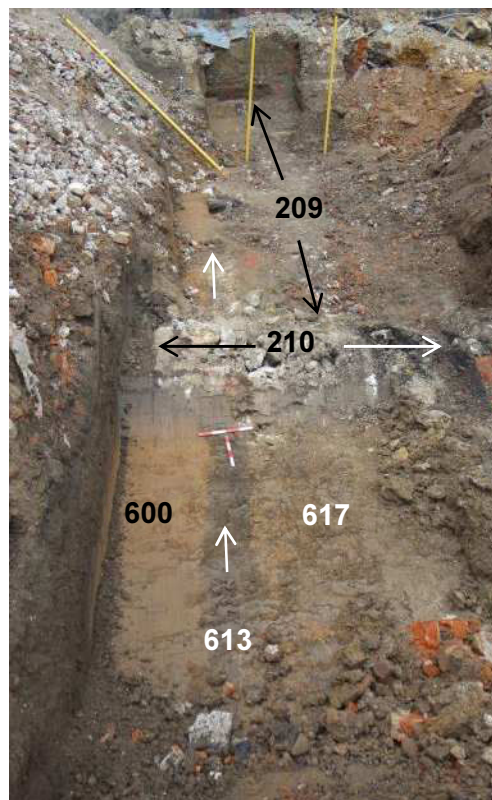


Plate 8. Trench 6A, looking north, exposing top of limestone walls **209** and **210** (lowered down to the height of wall **209**), linear feature, **613** extending up to and north of wall **210** and natural brickearth **600**. Scales 2 x 0.4m.



Plate 9. Trench 7 looking south showing north-south aligned limestone wall **710** and butresses and W-E sloping deposits in the north-facing section and, possibly, linear feature, **705**, in the base of the trench. Scales 2 x 0.4m.



Plate 10. Trench 7 looking east, showing west-facing section of wall **710** after partially excavating abutting deposits, and north-facing section showing W-E sloping deposits. Scales 2 x 0.4m.

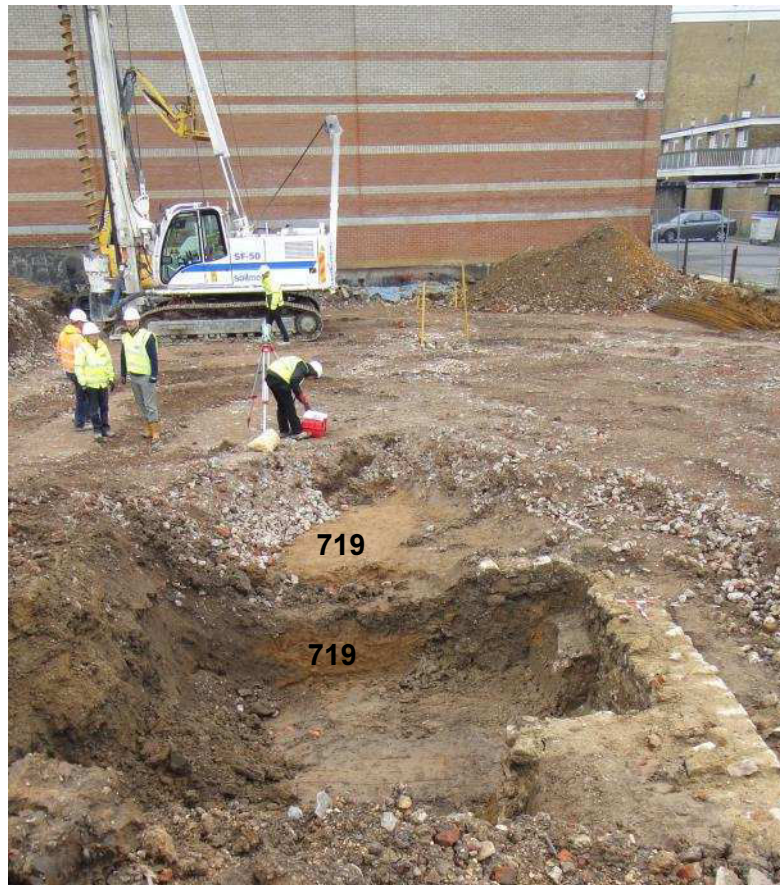


Plate11. Trench 7 looking north showing south-facing section and possible natural brickearth **719**. No scales. The upright yellow poles in the background demarcate the approximate location of N-S aligned wall **209** located in trenches 2 and 6A of investigations.



Plate 12. Trench 7 looking west showing wall **710** in the foreground and in the background the east-facing section of the trench after hand-cleaning. Scale 1 x 0.4m.



Plate 13. Trench 8, looking south showing return wall **801** on an E-W alignment and tapering over sloping deposits previously identified in Trench 7. Scales 2 x 0.4m.



Plate 14. Trench 8, looking east showing blackish-blue gley at the base of the trench. Scales 2 x 0.4m.



Plate 15. Close-up shot of west-facing section of Trench 8 showing residue from pre-existing brick lining on limestone walls. Scales 2 x 0.4m.



Plate 16. South-facing section of Trench 8 showing narrow cut, **809**, in-between Trench 8 and the north-facing section of Trench 7 which is probably a cut for the pre-existing modern E-W retaining wall of the NCP car park. Scales 2 x 0.4m.



Plate 17. General shot of the area of the Site to west of Trench 7 and north of the Electricity Sub-Station showing strong brown gravel infilling in the section and extensive cuts in redeposited brickearth infilling of the canal in the base of the trench. Scales 2 x 0.4m.



## **APPENDIX 2. CONTEXT INDEX**

In the following table the abbreviations, where used, used mean the following: UE means 'unexcavated'; N/A means 'not applicable'; > means 'greater than'; < means 'up to'; ? means 'uncertain'; Context numbers are followed by a brief description and interpretation, their dimensions and their stratigraphic relationships.

Context				Length (m)	Width (m)	H/Depth/Thk (m)	Diameter (m)	Finds	
	Category	Key Description	Interpretation						
<b>TRENCH 6</b>									
600	Layer	Yellowish brown silt loam	Natural brickearth	Site	Site	<0.9		-	
601	Layer	Dark yellowish brown silty clay loam	Buried subsoil	<17.5	<2	0.18		-	
602	Layer	Very dark greyish brown silty clay loam	Cultivation/ agricultural soil	<10	<2	0.4		-	
603	Layer	Yellowish brown silty clay loam	Re-deposited brickearth layer	<10	<2	0.07		-	
604	Layer	Very dark greyish brown sandy clay loam	Cultivation/ agricultural soil	<10	?	0.42		-	
605	Feature	Linear cut on a N-S alignment visible in the base of Trench 6 where it extends into the west-facing section. May also extend into trenches 7 and 8.	Possible ditch. Undated but possibly pre-dates town ditch. Function unknown.	<29	<1	<0.5		-	
606	Fill	Dark brown sandy clay loam	Fill of ditch <b>605</b>	<29	<1	<0.5		-	
607	Fill	Narrow meandering N-S aligned linear streaks of dark greyish brown loam visible in base of Trench 6	Possible town ditch fills.	<19	<0.5	UE		-	
608	Fill	Dark yellowish brown brickearth	Re-deposited brickearth fills of town ditch	<19	<0.5	UE		-	
609	Feature	Cut number assigned to interface between bluish-grey town ditch deposits <b>610</b> and natural brickearth at the base of Trench 6 possibly representing edge of berm layers.	Possible location of eastern edge of the inner town ditch at northern end of Trench 6	<14	<2.5	<2.3		-	
610	Fill	Bluish-grey silty clay loam	Anaerobic fill of inner town ditch	<14	<2.5	<2.3		-	
611	Layer	Dark yellowish brown and mid-dark brown silt loam and sandy clay loam deposits	Possible town ditch infill deposits	<7	<3	<1.5		-	
612	Layer	Yellowish brown silt loam containing a few brick and charcoal frags	Re-deposited brickearth town ditch infill	<20	?	<1.2		-	
<b>TRENCH 6A</b>									

Context				Length (m)	Width (m)	H/Depth/Thk (m)	Diameter (m)	Finds	
	Category	Key Description	Interpretation						
613	Feature	N-S aligned linear feature exposed to the east of walls 209 and 210 in Trench 6A	Narrow ditch or possible robber trench of wall 209 to the south of wall 210.	<12	0.3	UE		-	
614	Fill	Homogenous dark greyish brown soil with no obvious inclusions.	Fill of 613	<12	0.3	UE		-	
615	Cut	Possible E-W cut in berm deposits in west-facing section of Trench 6	Possible E-W cut of unknown function	?	1	0.5		-	
616	Fill	Very dark grey stony sandy clay loam	Fill of 615	?	1	0.5		-	
617	Layer	Dark yellowish brown deposit to the east of linear feature 613	Possible backfill of robber trench 613 or deposit overlying wall 609.	<5	<1	UE		-	
<b>TRENCH 7</b>									
700	Layer	Very dark greyish brown sandy clay loam	Levelling layer	1.46	?	0.18		-	
701	Layer/Fill	Yellowish brown silty clay loam	Re-deposited brickearth town ditch infill?	<3.5	?	<1.6		-	
702	Layer/Fill	Pale yellowish brown clayey gravel on a steep west to east tipline	Town ditch infill?	1.34	?	0.02		-	
703	Layer/Fill	Yellowish brown silty clay loam on a steep east to west tipline	Town ditch infill?	<1.5	?	<0.4		-	
704	Layer/Fill	Pale brown silty clay	Town ditch infill?	<1.4	?	0.34		-	
705	Layer/Fill	Pale brown silt loam with mid-brown silty clay lenses	Town ditch infill?	<1.9	?	<0.5		-	
706	Layer/Fill	Dark bluish grey silty clay	Silting of town ditch	<1.5	?	<0.3		-	
707	Cut	Steep, slightly concave cut visible in the north-facing section of Trench 8 to the west of wall 710	Construction cut for wall lining 710 of wharf of canal	?	0.74	0.94		-	
708	Fill	Dark yellowish brown sandy clay loam	Backfill of construction cut 707	?	0.74	0.94		-	
709	Structure	East-west aligned limestone wall abutting wall 710 bonded in a creamy white lime mortar. Same as 811	Buttress supporting stone lining of wharf of canal	1.1	0.6	<1		-	

Context				Length (m)	Width (m)	H/Depth/Thk (m)	Diameter (m)	Findings	
	Category	Key Description	Interpretation						
710	Structure	North-south aligned limestone wall bonded in creamy white lime mortar	Stone lining of wharf of canal	8.25	0.6	<1		-	
711	Fill	Dark greyish brown sandy clay loam with mortar inclusions	Infilling of modern brick cellar	<1.1	?	<0.36		-	
712	Fill	Yellowish brown silty clay loam	Infilling of modern brick cellar	<1.3	?	<0.24		-	
713	Layer	Pale yellowish brown medium gravel with limestone inclusions	Modern make-up layer	<2.5	?	<0.56		-	
714	Cut	Possible cut visible in east-facing section of Trench 7. Slopes down on an approximate 45° angle from north to south	Possible cut for town ditch; only visible in east facing section	?	?	<0.7		-	
715	Fill	Greyish brown silty clay loam	Fill lining cut <b>714</b>	?	?	0.1		-	
716	Layer	Dark yellowish brown silty clay loam deposit visible at northern end of east-facing section of Trench 7 where it appears to be cut by 714.	Upper fill of feature <b>605</b>	<1.2	?	<0.7		-	
717	Layer	Mid-yellowish brown clay loam above deposit <b>716</b>	Secondary fill of <b>605</b>	<1.6	?	0.3		-	
718	Layer	Yellowish brown silty clay loam above deposit <b>717</b>	Primary fill of <b>605</b>	<1.2	?	<0.7		-	
719	Layer	Brownish yellow silty clay	Natural ? brickearth exposed in south-facing section of Trench 7	Site	Site	<0.25		-	
720	Cut	NE - SW aligned linear cut visible in base and south-facing section of Trench 7	Cut for service trench	<2	0.6	<1		-	
721	Fill	Dark yellowish brown sandy clay loam surrounding a ceramic pipe	Pipe and backfill of service trench	<2	0.6	<1		-	
722	Structure	E-W aligned section of wall comprising limestone blocks set in a creamy white lime mortar aligned	Buttress supporting stone lining of wharf of canal	1.1	0.5	0.34		-	
723	Layer	Yellowish brown clay with common mortar inclusions	Clay lining of canal	5.8	<1.2	<0.8		-	
<b>TRENCH 8</b>									
800	Layer	Dark greyish brown sandy clay loam	Modern overburden	<2.4	?	<0.14		-	

Context				Length (m)	Width (m)	H/Depth/Thk (m)	Diameter (m)	Finds	
	Category	Key Description	Interpretation						
801	Layer	E-W aligned section of limestone wall forming a return wall to wall 710. Slopes up to west	Buttress supporting stone lining of wharf of canal	3.8	0.45	<1.6		-	
802	Layer/Fill	Pale yellowish brown medium gravel on a steep west to east tipline in north-facing section of Trench 8	Possible town ditch infill	<4	<1	0.2		-	
803	Layer/Fill	Dark brown gravelly clay loam on a west to east tipline in north-facing section of Trench 8	Possible town ditch infill	0.9	<1	<0.2		-	
804	Layer/Fill	Yellowish brown silty clay loam on a west to east tipline in north-facing section of Trench 8	Possible town ditch infill	2.1	?	0.06		-	
805	Layer/Fill	Greyish brown clay loam on a west to east tipline in north-facing section of Trench 8	Possible town ditch infill	<2.6	<1	0.36		-	
806	Layer/Fill	Yellowish brown silty clay loam on a west to east tipline in north-facing section of Trench 8	Possible town ditch infill	<0.9	<0.3	0.2		-	
807	Layer/Fill	Greyish brown clay loam with brickearth lenses	Possible town ditch infill	<2.7	<1	<0.4		-	
808	Layer/Fill	Blackish blue clay loam	Possible town ditch infill	<4	<1	0.36		-	
809	Cut	Wide E-W linear cut visible in south-facing section of Trench 8	Cut for E-W section of retaining wall of NCP car park	<3	?	0.18		-	
810	Fill	Blackish blue silty clay loam	Backfill of 809	<3	?	0.18		-	
811	Structure	E-W aligned limestone wall abutting wall 710 bonded in a creamy white lime mortar. Same as 709	Buttress supporting stone lining of wharf of canal	1.1	0.6	<1		-	

## APPENDIX 3. OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

### 1.1.1 OASIS ID: preconst1-223979

#### Project details

Project name	Former SEB Depot, Back of the Walls, Southampton: Archaeological Watching Brief
Short description of the project	A watching brief exposed further evidence of town ditch infilling deposits and the central berm between the ditches. Further limestone walls were exposed which, upon re-examination of the physical and documentary evidence, are now thought to represent part of a wharf of the Southampton to Salisbury canal. No clear evidence of the 18th century bastion was found.
Project dates	Start: 18-04-2015 End: 12-05-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	SOU1666 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	DITCHES Medieval
Monument type	CANAL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE SOUTHAMPTON SOUTHAMPTON Back of the Walls
Postcode	SO14 3AY

Study area	1.9 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 2142 1351 50.920100770366 -1.695233164624 50 55 12 N 001 41 42 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 3m Max: 3m

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA West
Project brief originator	Southampton City Council
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Paul McCulloch
Project supervisor	Tony Molloy
Type of sponsor/funding body	Private company
Name of sponsor/funding body	Knightsbridge Student Housing

#### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Southampton Museums and Archive Service
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Southampton Museums and Archive Service
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Southampton Museums and Archives Service

Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Map", "Miscellaneous Material", "Plan", "Report"
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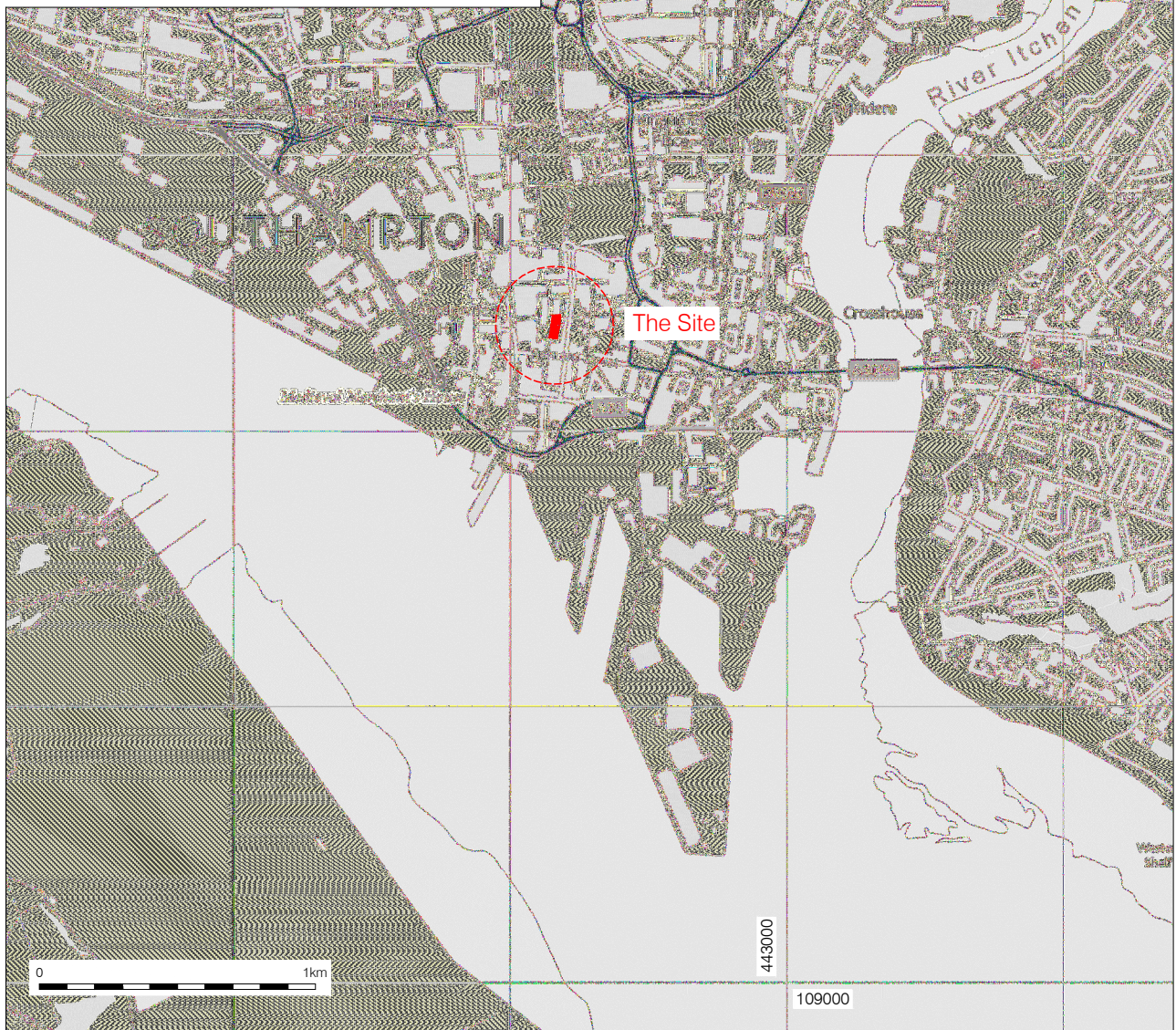
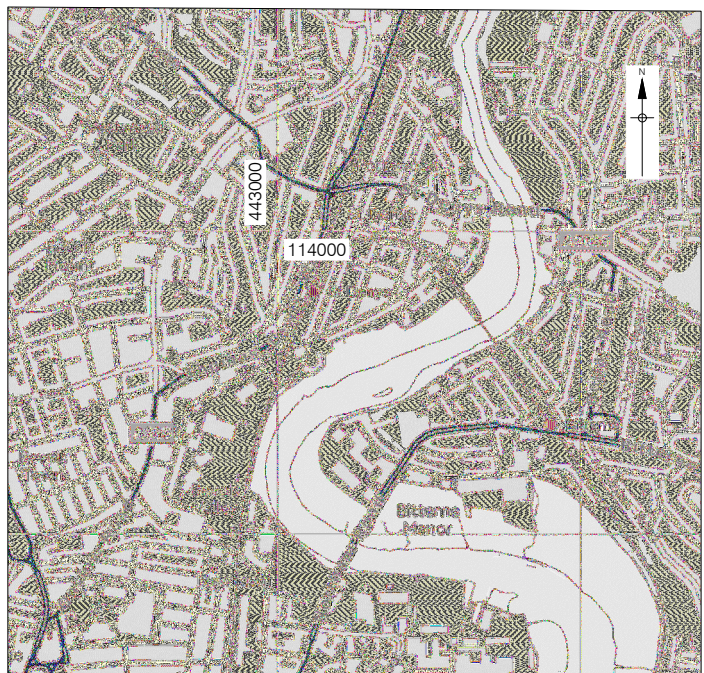
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Entered by	Tony Molloy (TMolloy@pre-construct.com)
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Entered on	2 December 2015
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## **APPENDIX 4. ILLUSTRATIONS**

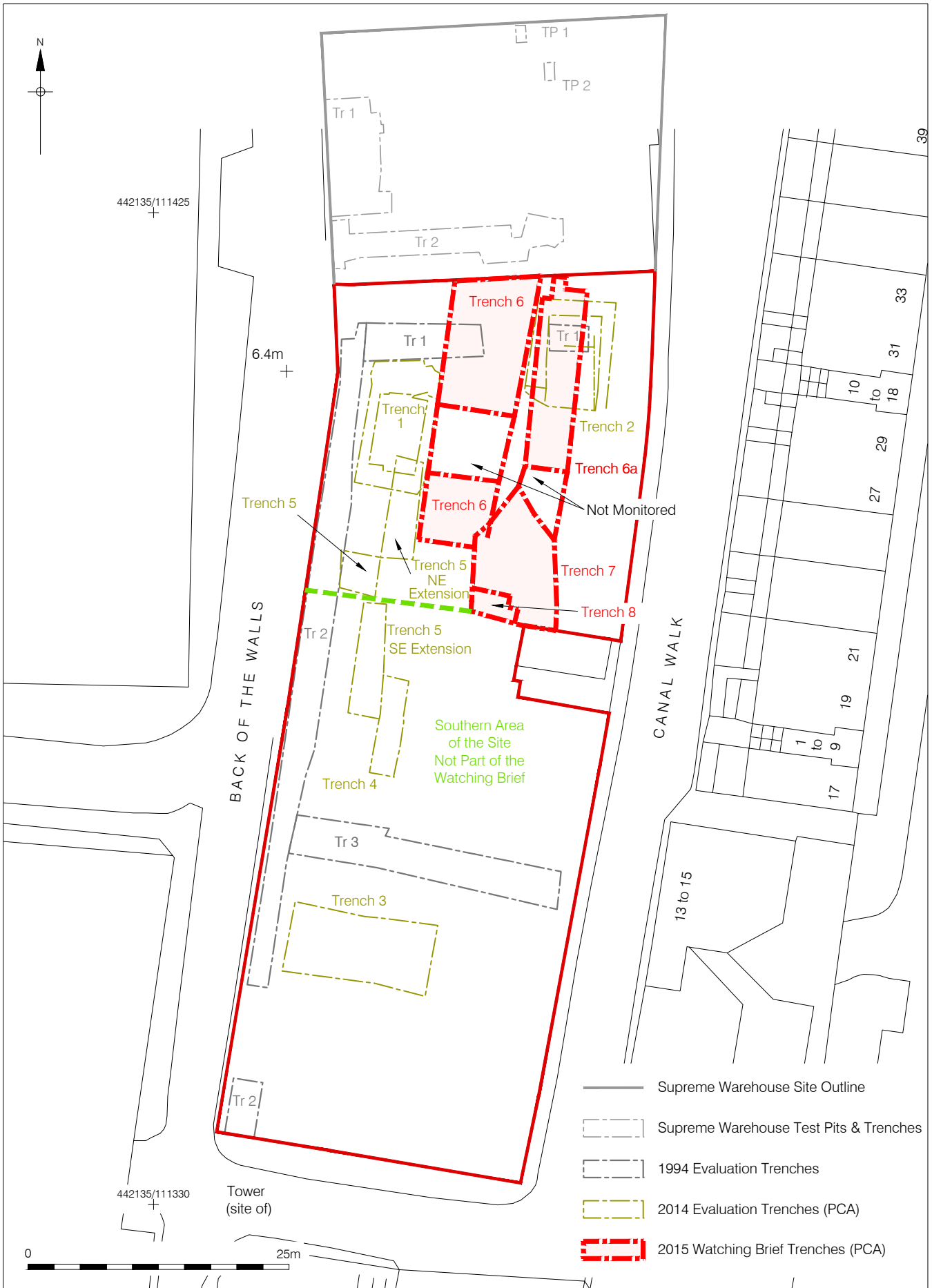


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Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:2,000,000 and 1:25,000 at A4

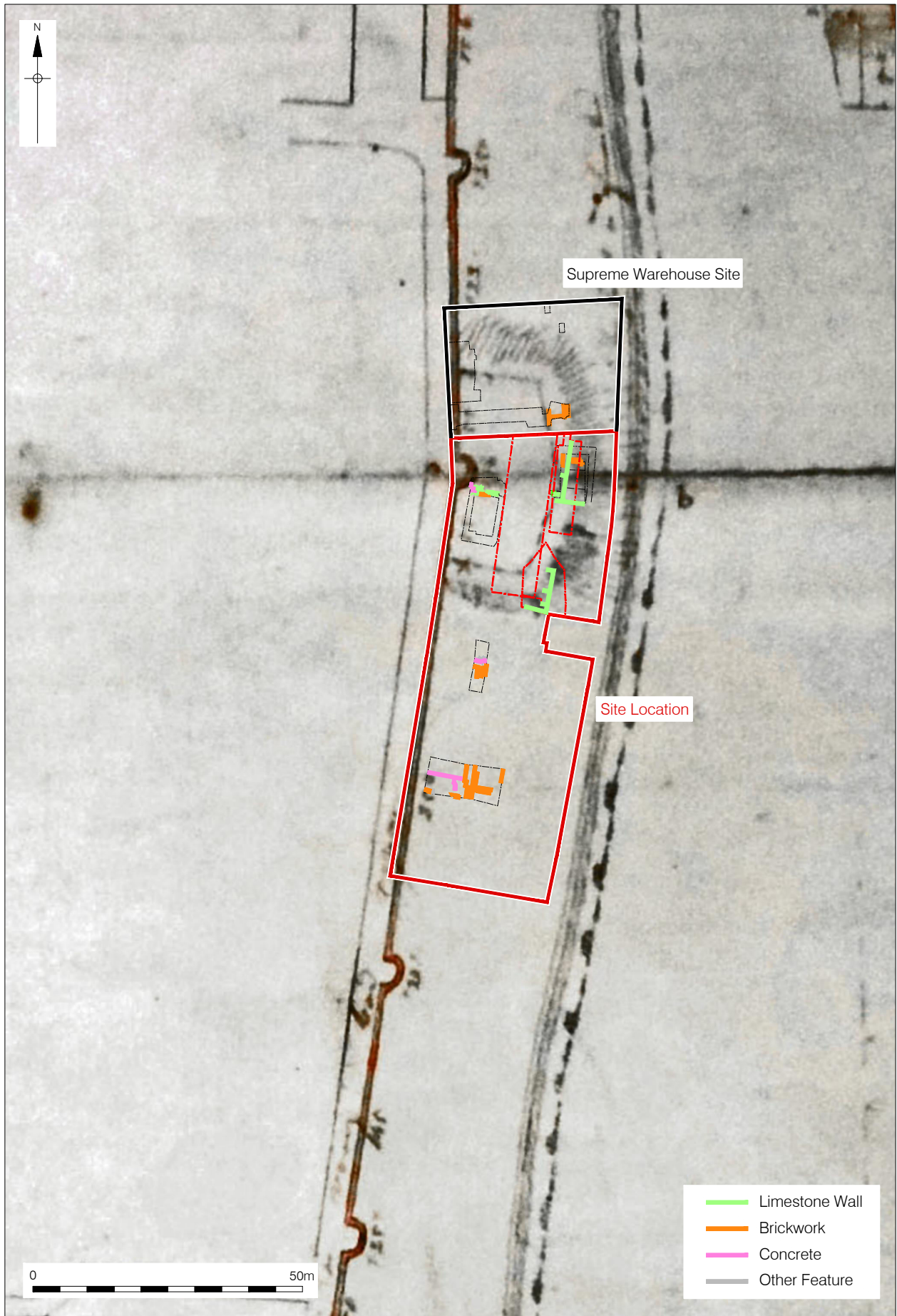


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 04/02/16 JS\_revision 2

Figure 2  
 Trench Location  
 1:500 at A4

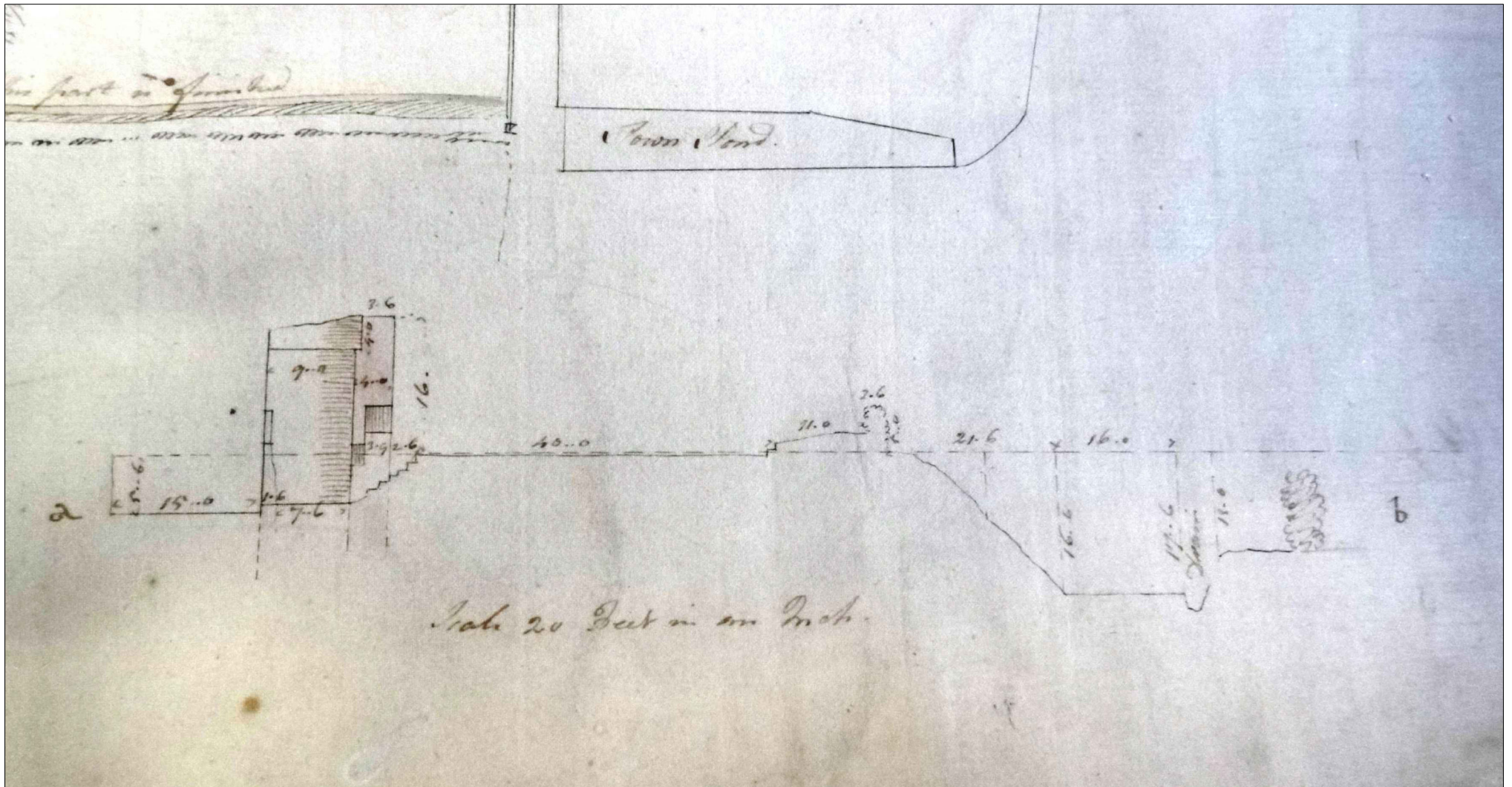


Figure 3  
All Features  
1:250 at A3



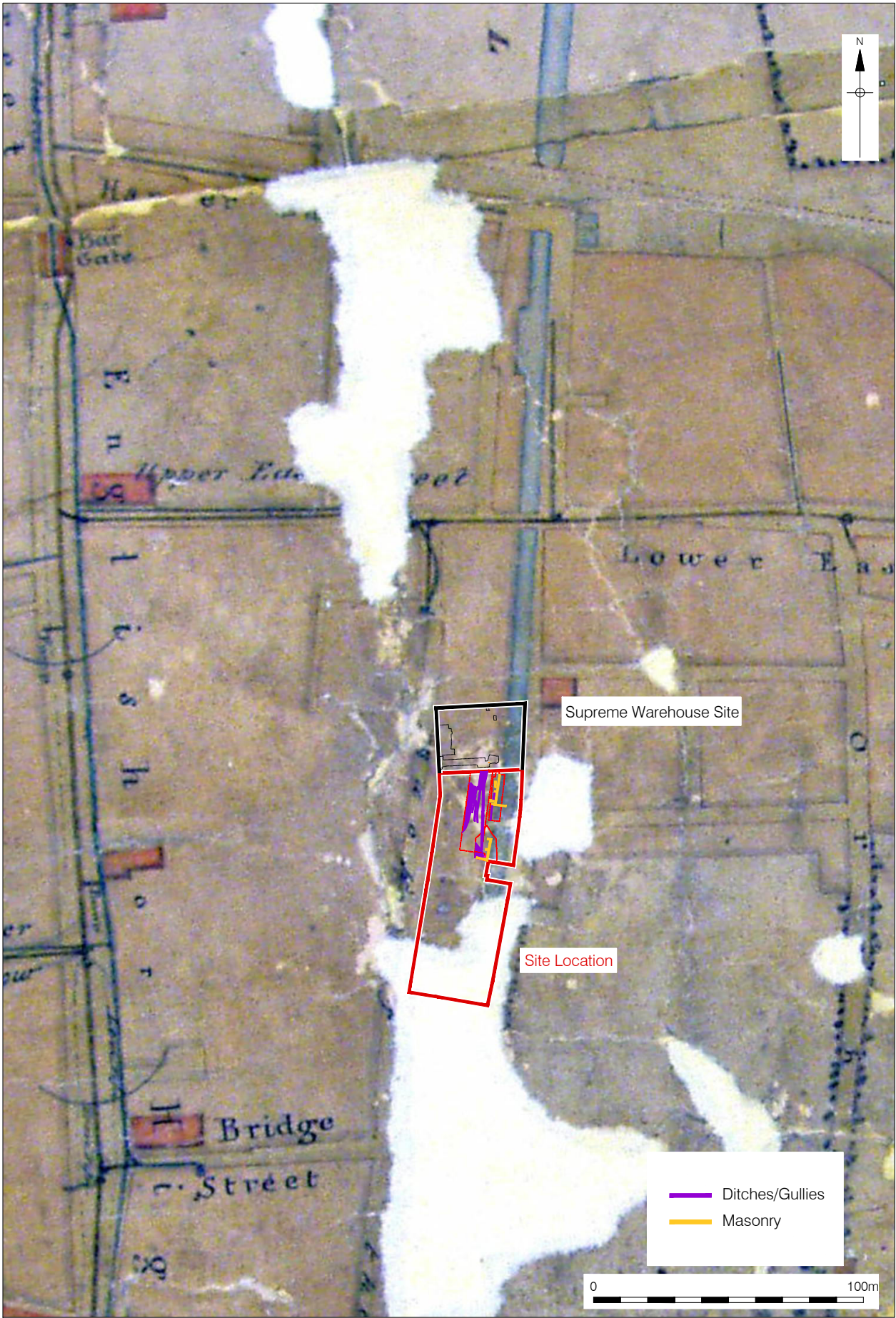
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Figure 4  
Trench Plan overlain on Woolley's 'Rough Plan of the Walls atte Southampton', 1791  
Approx. 1:1,000 at A4



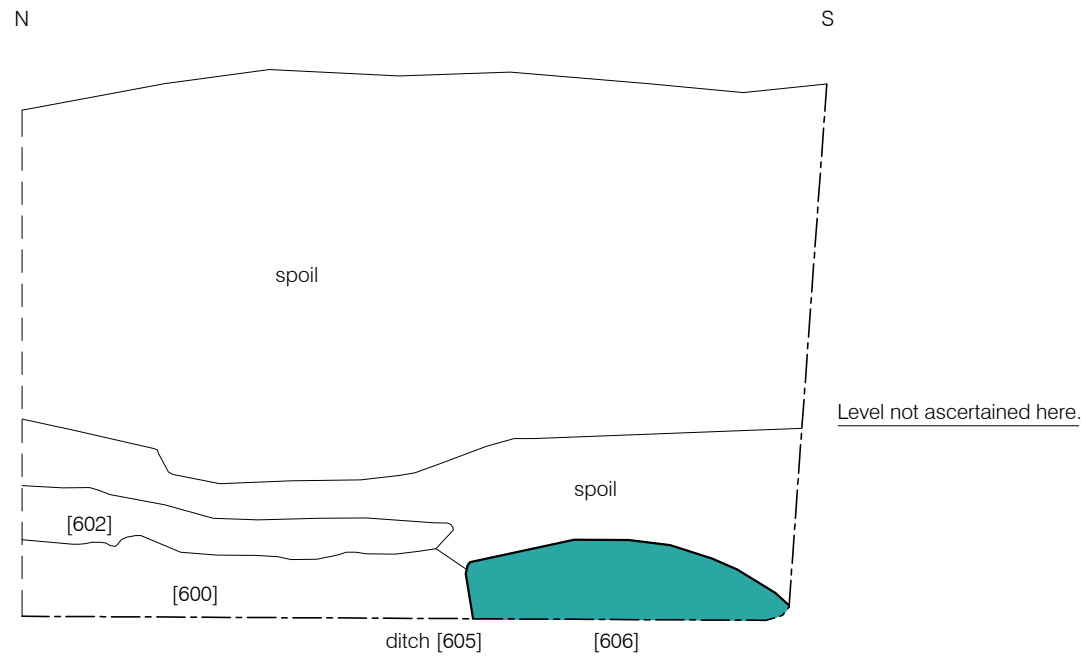
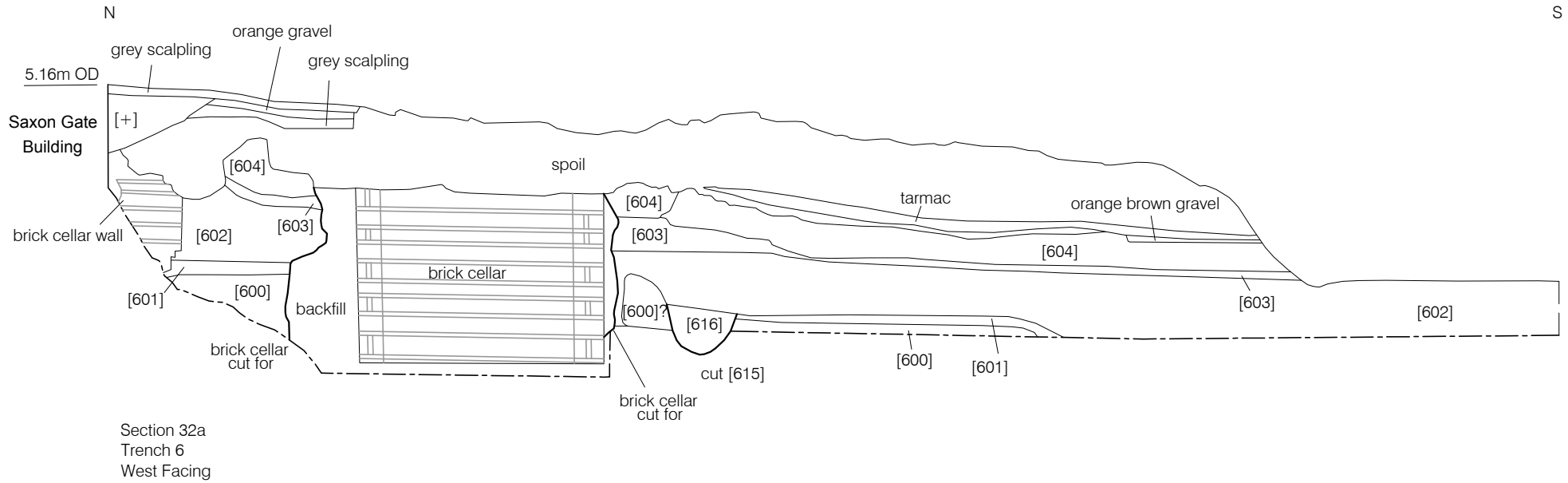
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Figure 5  
 Section through the bastion as shown on Wooley's 1791 map  
 Not to Scale



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Figure 6  
Trench Plan overlaid onto Doswell's 1803-1827 Map  
Approx. 1:2,000 at A4

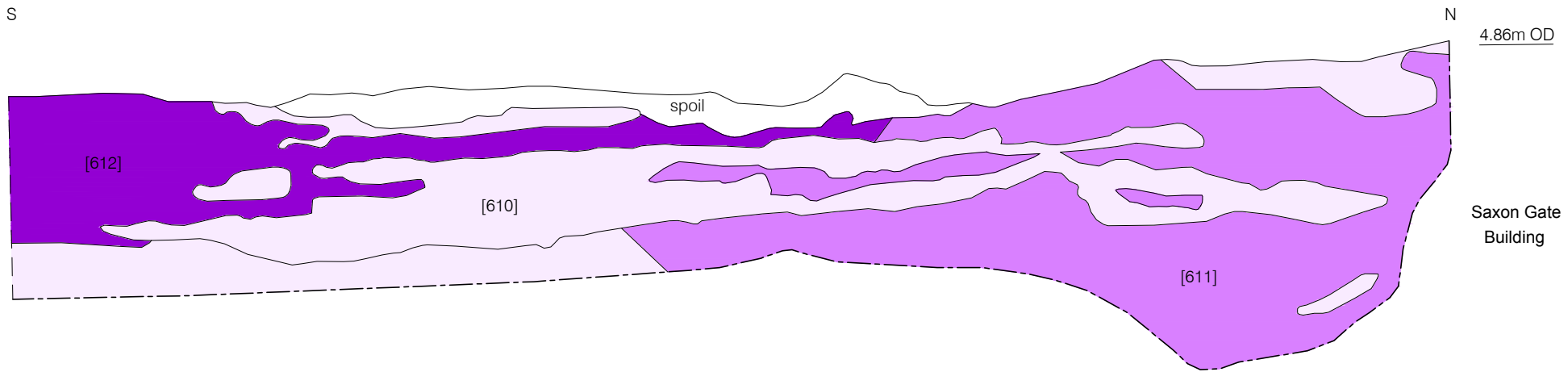


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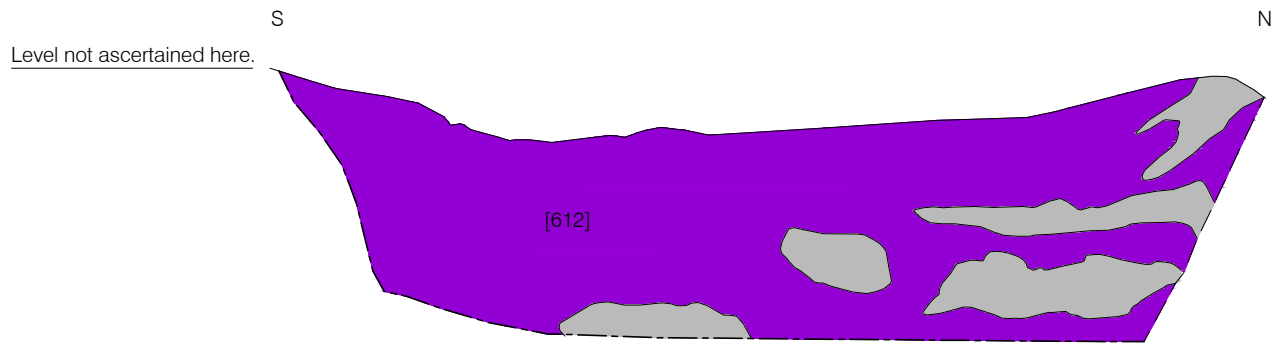
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Figure 7  
Sections 32 from Trench 6  
1:50 at A4

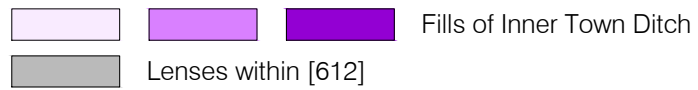


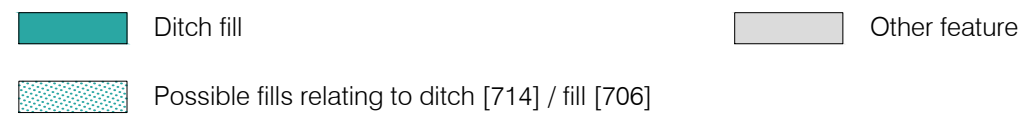
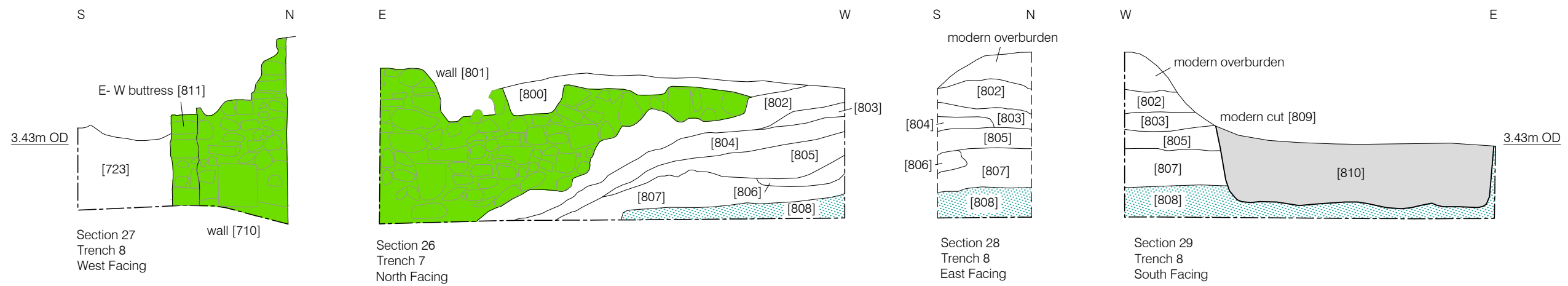
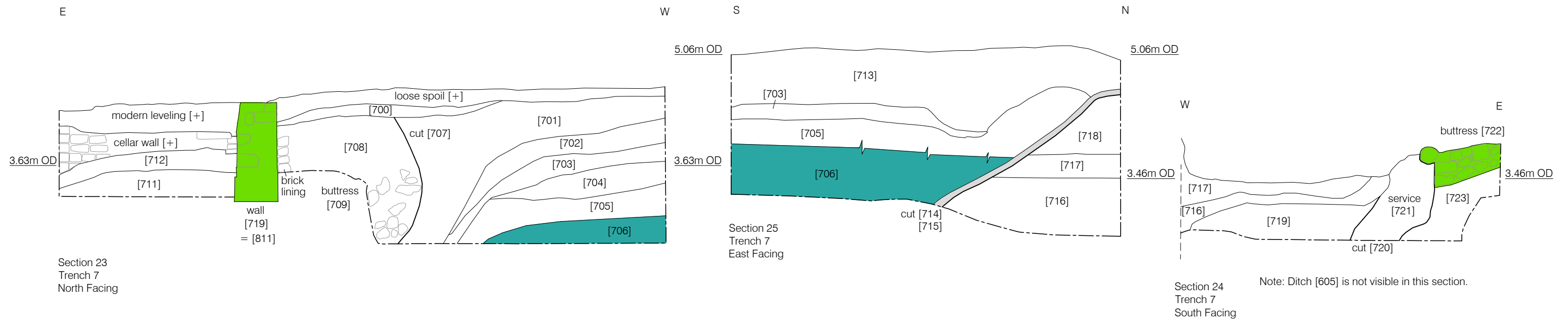


Section 33b  
Trench 6  
East Facing



Section 33a  
Trench 6  
East Facing





0 2m  
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Figure 9  
Sections 23 - 25 from Trench 7  
and Sections 27-29 from Trench 8  
1:50 at A3



Figure 10  
Masonry Overlay on to the Amended Piling Location Drawing  
1:400 at A4

# PCA

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## PCA SOUTH

UNIT 54  
BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE  
96 ENDWELL ROAD  
BROCKLEY  
LONDON SE4 2PD  
TEL: 020 7732 3925 / 020 7639 9091  
FAX: 020 7639 9588  
EMAIL: [info@pre-construct.com](mailto:info@pre-construct.com)

---

## PCA NORTH

UNIT 19A  
TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK  
DURHAM DH6 5PG  
TEL: 0191 377 1111  
FAX: 0191 377 0101  
EMAIL: [info.north@pre-construct.com](mailto:info.north@pre-construct.com)

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## PCA CENTRAL

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM  
BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN  
TEL: 01223 845 522  
FAX: 01223 845 522  
EMAIL: [info.central@pre-construct.com](mailto:info.central@pre-construct.com)

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## PCA WEST

BLOCK 4  
CHILCOMB HOUSE  
CHILCOMB LANE  
WINCHESTER  
HAMPSHIRE SO23 8RB  
TEL: 01962 849 549  
EMAIL: [info.west@pre-construct.com](mailto:info.west@pre-construct.com)

---

## PCA MIDLANDS

17-19 KETTERING RD  
LITTLE BOWDEN  
MARKET HARBOROUGH  
LEICESTERSHIRE LE16 8AN  
TEL: 01858 468 333  
EMAIL: [info.midlands@pre-construct.com](mailto:info.midlands@pre-construct.com)

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