

**ST. NICHOLAS STREET/QUEENS LANE,
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, TYNE &
WEAR**

**EVALUATION AND WATCHING
BRIEF REPORT**

MAY 2019

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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

St. Nicholas Street/Queens Lane, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Tyne and Wear

Evaluation and Watching Brief

Site Code: SNS 18

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT ST. NICHOLAS STREET/QUEENS LANE,
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, TYNE AND WEAR**

EVALUATION AND WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Quality Control	
<i>Project Number</i>	K5654
<i>Site Code</i>	SNS18
<i>Report Number</i>	R13685

<i>Task</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>
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1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology was commissioned by Newcastle City Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation/watching brief prior to and during a scheme of highway works located around the junctions of St. Nicholas Street and Westgate Road, and St Nicholas Street, Queen's Lane and Castle Garth, Newcastle upon Tyne (National Grid Reference NZ 25003 63876). The archaeological investigation was split into two phases: Phase 1 was conducted as an archaeological evaluation/watching brief (Trenches 1-6), whilst Phase 2 was conducted as an archaeological watching brief (Trenches 7-17).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was required on the recommendation of the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer at Newcastle City Council as the site lies partially within the scheduled monument of *Pons Aelius* Roman fort, an Anglo-Saxon cemetery, the Norman motte and bailey castle and the medieval tower keep castle (Historic England List Entry Ref. 1020126). The site was also considered to lie partly within the area of the *vicus*, the civilian settlement associated with the fort. Roman remains including successive Roman road and floor surfaces, as well as occupation evidence, probably associated with the *vicus* were uncovered during excavations in 2009 at 1-7 Westgate Road and Arches 23/24 Queen's Lane, to the west of the projected area of the Roman fort and immediately to the west of the site.
- 1.3 The site may also lie on the line of Hadrian's Wall, a designated a World Heritage Site (Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Hadrian's Wall Ref. 1000098). Previous archaeological work has fixed the line of the Wall on the approach to the fort to the north-west of the site and current thinking is that the Wall may have swung to the north and down the line of the modern street, The Side, a route that would take it potentially through or very close to the northern part of the site.
- 1.4 Two specifications for archaeological evaluation (Tyne and Wear Archaeology Service 2018a and 2018b) were produced prior to the commencement of the scheme which included method statements that set out the scope of works and methodologies to be employed during the evaluation/watching brief.
- 1.5 Seven phases of activity were uncovered during the works. These comprised: Phase 1: Roman; Phase 2: Post-Roman demolition; Phase 3: Anglo-Saxon; Phase 4 Medieval; Phase 5: Post-medieval; Phase 6: Early 20th century and Phase 7: Modern.
- 1.6 Archaeology remains of significance was only recorded in Trenches 5, 10 and 11 however, superficial geological deposits were not encountered in any of the trenches therefore archaeological remains of significance may survive at lower levels.
- 1.7 The earliest significant archaeological remains encountered within the site (Phase 1) comprise a sandstone wall of probable Roman date recorded in Trench 5 and a

- levelling/dump deposit within Trench 11. The wall is considered to be part of the western barracks block of *Pons Aelius* Roman fort for which its location has been conjectured within this area. The levelling/dump deposit was the basal deposit recorded in Trench 11 from which five sherds of Roman pottery were recovered dating to the mid-2nd to the early 3rd century AD.
- 1.8 Phase 2 is represented by layers of sandstone rubble overlying the Roman walls within Trench 5. These deposits have been interpreted as possibly dating to the time of abandonment and subsequent demolition/robbing of the buildings within the fort that is thought to have occurred at the end of the Roman period in the early 5th century.
- 1.9 Phase 3 is represented by two east-west burials that were recorded truncating either Phase 1 Roman masonry or Phase 2 post-Roman demolition deposits in Trench 5. The graves are considered to be part of the extensive Anglo-Saxon cemetery that began c. AD 700, continued in places after the creation of the Norman '*New Castle*' in 1080 and after the rebuilding of the Castle keep in stone in 1168-78 and also intermittently into the mid-13th century.
- 1.10 The medieval period (Phase 4) comprised three levelling/dump deposits recorded in Trench 10. All levelling/dump deposits were partially exposed in the north-western corner of Trench 10 from which a small assemblage of finds was recovered including small quantities of animal bone and three sherds of medieval pottery.
- 1.11 Phase 5 represents post-medieval activity comprising levelling/dump deposits and structures recorded in Trenches 2, 3, 6, 10 & 13-18.
- 1.12 Early 20th century activity (Phase 6) was recorded in Trenches 1-5, 10 & 13-18. Modern activity (Phase 7) was recorded in all trenches and comprised existing surfaces and associated make-up layers, along with various modern services.
- 1.13 The archaeological investigations identified the remains of part of the western barracks block of *Pon-Aelius* Roman fort, as well as a period of abandonment and subsequent re-use of the area as an Anglo-Saxon cemetery from AD 700 into the mid-13th century. Also identified were medieval deposits that survived within the vicinity of the Black Gate.
- 1.14 This report has determined that the archaeological remains are of regional significance, however due to the limited nature of the investigation further work is not required. The Site Archive (including this report) form the permanent record of the strata encountered, with Roman and Anglo-Saxon remains encountered left unexcavated at the base of the trench as per the condition of Scheduled Monument Consent.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Background

- 2.1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation/watching brief undertaken around the junctions of St. Nicholas Street and Westgate Road, and St Nicholas Street, Queen's Lane and Castle Garth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne between July and November 2018 (Figure 1 & 2). The archaeological investigation was commissioned by Newcastle City Council and was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA). The work was undertaken ahead of and during a scheme of highway works associated with the laying out of a two-way cycle track along the western side of St. Nicholas Street. The work for the scheme included the installation of a new traffic light system at junctions, which required the excavation of trenches in the pavement and carriageway for the installation of service cable ducting, controller units and junction boxes associated the new signalling system. The work also included some road reconstruction, which required the excavation of trenches within the carriageway of St. Nicholas Street to assess the load bearing capacity of the base layers under the road.
- 2.1.2 The archaeological investigations comprised trial trench evaluation and watching brief to inform the planning authority and Historic England of the potential for archaeological remains within the area and to assess the character, nature, depth and degree of survival of any archaeology. The area covered by the scheme lies within the projected extent of the known site of the Roman fort of *Pons Aelius*, and within the extent of the *vicus*, the civilian settlement associated with the fort, which was known from recent archaeological investigations (PCA 2007 and 2009a) to have extended to the west of the fort itself. The site also lies within the World Heritage Site of Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Hadrian's Wall). The initial trial trench evaluation/watching brief phase of archaeological investigation was undertaken to help inform if the proposed scheme is likely to impact upon any significant archaeological deposits relating to Roman-medieval periods. The second phase of archaeological investigations was undertaken during the construction phase of the scheme and involved archaeological watching brief of any groundworks that were considered to have the potential to adversely impact on any archaeological remains.
- 2.1.3 Six trenches (Trenches 1-6) of variable dimensions were excavated during the initial trial trench evaluation/watching brief phase (Figure 2). The trenches were excavated by Newcastle City Council as part of their engineering investigations unless archaeological deposits were encountered at which time the excavation became an archaeological evaluation, hand dug by an archaeologist (PCA). A total of 13 trenches (Trenches 7 to 19) were monitored during the subsequent watching brief phase. These varied from small trenches (measuring from 0.85m x 0.95m) that were excavated for the insertion of services associated with the new traffic lighting system, to larger trenches (max dimensions: 13.90m x 4.30m) that were excavated to assess the load bearing capacity of sub-base layers under

St Nicholas Street. The trenches were excavated to either the top of significant archaeology remains or, if no significant archaeological remains were present, to the required depth of the activity that was being carried out as part of the scheme.

- 2.1.4 The archaeological work was undertaken on the recommendation of Tyne and Wear Archaeology Service and Historic England as the site lies immediately to the west of, as well as partly within, the known site of the Roman fort of *Pons Aelius* and also within the area of the *vicus*, the civilian settlement that was associated with the fort. The site may also lie on the line of Hadrian's Wall, designated a World Heritage Site (WHS). The Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigation (OASIS) reference number of the project is preconst1-367463.

2.2 Site Location and Description

- 2.2.1 The site is situated within the southern part of Newcastle-upon-Tyne at the junctions of St. Nicholas Street and Westgate Road, and St Nicholas Street, Queen's Lane and Castle Garth at National Grid Reference NZ 25005 63876 (Figure 1 & 2). The site is bounded to the north-east by Newcastle Castle, which consists of the extant remains of the medieval castle (the Tower Keep, the Black Gate, and parts of the defensive eastern and southern curtain walls). The site is bounded to the south-east by the High-Level Bridge and to the south-west by a railway viaduct; part of this viaduct also crosses the central part of the site (within the location of Trench 6 and 16; Figure 2). St. Nicholas building defines the north-western limit of the site with St Nicholas Cathedral located immediately to the north of the site.
- 2.2.2 Most of the site is situated around St. Nicholas Street; a busy commercial road with mainly office and business premises on its south-western side and the Castle on its north-eastern side. The site also includes the eastern end of Westgate Road, which, like St. Nicholas Street is a busy commercial zone with offices on its northern side and commercial properties situated within the railway viaduct arches on the south side of the street. The site itself comprises a tarmac road with pedestrian walkways associated with St. Nicholas Street, Westgate Road and the Castle Garth.

2.3 Geology and Topography

- 2.3.1 The bedrock geology of Newcastle is Carboniferous Coal Measures comprising interbedded mudstones, sandstones and siltstones. The overlying superficial geological deposits are characterised by Glacial Till, with other glacial and fluvioglacial deposits intermittently present (information from the British Geological Survey website).
- 2.3.2 The site lies on the north side of the River Tyne adjacent to Castle Keep. Land at the site is generally flat with only a slight incline from north to south. Ground level on St Nicholas Street, at the north-western end of the site, stands at 28.56m to 28.69m AOD, and at the south-east end of the site at 28.75 to 28.85m AOD. Ground level at the south-eastern end of the site reflects ground build-up in recent centuries on the approach to the High-Level

Bridge, which opened in 1849. To the west ground level drops sharply along Queens Lane, representing the natural fall of the River Tyne valley.

2.4 Planning Background

- 2.4.1 The archaeological investigation was carried out as part of Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) for the proposed two-way cycle track along the west side of St. Nicholas Street (Historic England Refs. S00196078 and S00196997). The entire site lies within the World Heritage Site *Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Hadrian's Wall)* (Historic England List Entry Ref. 1000098) and the Scheduled Monument of *Pons Aelius Roman fort, an Anglo-Saxon cemetery, motte and bailey castle and tower keep castle* (Historic England List Entry Ref. 1020126).
- 2.4.2 As the site has Scheduled Monument status and therefore has statutory protection under *The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*, any intrusive groundworks for the installation required SMC from DCMS prior to their undertaking. In accordance with the 1979 Act, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport consulted with Historic England before deciding whether to grant SMC after an application for the installation was submitted by Newcastle City Council on the 14th and 27th June 2018 (Historic England List Entry Refs. S00196078 & S00196997 respectively). Historic England considered '*...the effect of the proposed works upon the monument to be archaeologically evaluated is necessary to assess the extent, depth and nature of archaeological deposits in order to provide information to underpin decisions on the management of the monument, changes in its land use, or development proposals*'.
- 2.4.3 Accordingly, SMC was granted for the archaeological investigation by the Secretary of State, advised by Historic England, subject to a series of conditions set out in letters dated 27th June 2018 (Historic England List Entry Ref. S00196078) and 6th July 2018 (Historic England List Entry Ref. S00196997). Condition b) of SMC states '*No works shall take place except in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State advised by Historic England*'. Condition e) of SMC required a report on the archaeological recording to be sent to the County Historic Environment Record and to Mike Collins at Historic England within 3 months of the completion of the works (or such other period as may be mutually agreed).
- 2.4.4 As part of a Scheduled Monument and World Heritage Site, any archaeological remains affected by this scheme fall within the category of 'designated heritage assets' as defined within current guidance on the history environment set out within National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012 (revised 2019)).
- 2.4.5 Heritage assets – those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest – remains a key concept of the NPPF, retained from the previous national planning policy PPS5.

- 2.4.6 The project aimed to fulfil the specific requirements of SMC by undertaking an appropriately specified scheme of archaeological investigation, in this case archaeological evaluation, in association with the proposed two-way cycle track.
- 2.4.7 Historic England as well as Tyne and Wear Archaeology Service, have responsibility for development control in relation to the Scheduled Monument, World Heritage Site and the surrounding area. Two specifications for Preliminary Archaeological Evaluation at St Nicholas St/Queens Lane were produced by Tyne and Wear Archaeology Service (2018a&b; Ref. MON15968).

2.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

No archaeological desk-based assessment of the site was undertaken prior to the investigations herein described. A summary of the archaeological and historical background has therefore been compiled from various sources, including the Tyne and Wear Historic Environment Record (HER), published reports and documentary and cartographic material held by PCA.

2.5.1 Prehistoric

- 2.5.1.1 No prehistoric remains have been recorded within the area of the site, although evidence of prehistoric agricultural activity, flint tools and a stone axe were recorded during excavations carried out between 1973 and 1992 on the promontory to the east of the site (PCA 2007 & 2009a). A prehistoric cist with a possible cremation was located c. 200m south of the site and a number of high value bronze and iron objects, mostly weaponry, have been recovered from the Tyne during dredging and bridge building, suggesting that it was a place of ceremonial object deposition. Also, of note is a permanent prehistoric settlement site that was recorded during excavations carried out near Pilgrim Street in 2004 (*ibid.*).

2.5.2 Roman

- 2.5.2.1 The site is located partly within the conjectured line of Hadrian's Wall, a WHS (Ref. 1000098), as well as immediately to the west of *Pons Aelius* Roman fort (Historic England List Entry Ref. 1020126). The Wall was originally planned to run westwards from Newcastle, where a new bridge was constructed and named *Pons Aelius* in honour of Hadrian (Emperor AD 117-138).
- 2.5.2.2 The Wall was built in stone between Newcastle, and the River Irthing, the eastern c. 72km, with the remaining c. 50km constructed in turf. From its inception, the Wall was planned with regularly spaced fortlets ('milecastles') at intervals of about 1 mile and the original design also planned for two equally spaced towers ('turrets') between each milecastle (PCA 2007 & 2009a).
- 2.5.2.3 At some point a fundamental change of plan occurred and forts were constructed along the line of the Wall, including the fort at Newcastle, and the Wall was extended to the east to terminate at the fort at Wallsend. A further defensive element – the Vallum – was added to

the Wall after the decision had been taken to construct the forts. This comprised a broad flat-bottomed ditch flanked by a pair of linear banks constructed at some distance to the south of the Wall, sometimes adjacent to the Wall, and in some places up to 1km to its south. In the centre of Newcastle its presence is largely unconfirmed, and it does not continue eastwards beyond the fort to Wallsend (Breeze and Dobson 2000, 59-60).

- 2.5.2.4 The line of Hadrian's Wall in the vicinity of the site has been the subject of much previous discussion, since it must have been a significant factor in determining the position of the fort (Bidwell and Snape 2002, 260-262). Originally the Wall must have descended to the riverside, thus affording protection to the northern bridgehead of the Tyne crossing. Archaeological work along the easternmost portion of Westgate Road, most notably the discovery in 1985 of a milecastle at 67-75 Westgate Road (HER 205) and work further east on Westgate Road in 2004 at the former Cooper's Auction House (HER 5977), has fixed the line of the Wall on the approach to the fort. Current thinking is that the Wall then swung to the north and that the obvious line for it to have taken, avoiding a precipitous descent, was down the line of the modern street, The Side, thereby taking it along the bottom of small valley of a minor tributary of the Lort Burn, itself a tributary of the Tyne (Snape and Bidwell 2002, 6).
- 2.5.2.5 The exact location of the Roman fort in Newcastle (HER 204; Historic England List Entry Ref. 1020126) was only determined beyond doubt in the 1970s (Snape and Bidwell 2002). It lies largely beneath the medieval castle, between the Black Gate and the Keep. It was evidently detached from the Wall, as previously described, and was situated on a promontory defended by steep scarps to the north, east and south, an area now known as Castle Garth. Its full extent has not been determined, but it is thought to have been irregular in shape in order to utilise the triangular shape of the promontory and it had an estimated area of c. 0.5 hectares.
- 2.5.2.6 The northern defences of the fort lay above the steep slopes of the valleys of the Lort Burn and its minor tributary, these defining the northern edge of the promontory; a section of the north wall was excavated in 1985 near the site of the Black Gate. The southern defences are thought to have lain along the edge of the steep river cliff of the Tyne, whilst the eastern and western sides have never been located. Features predating the construction of the stone-built fort, comprise mid-2nd century construction debris, ditches and gullies of possibly Hadrianic date, all identified during previous archaeological work in the area.
- 2.5.2.7 The stone-built fort in Newcastle dates from the late 2nd century or early third century AD. The principia has been partially excavated and appears to be of exceptionally small size, as are two granaries, also partially excavated. A recent summary of the fort intimates that the small size may reflect reductions in military unit size as represented by smaller barracks of the 3rd century seen elsewhere on the Roman frontier (Bidwell 2009, 71-73). The fort also has an unusual plan, with the granaries placed in the praetentura opposite the principia, this possibly being an early occurrence of the cruciform plan typical of late Roman date. The

most recent hypothetical reconstruction of the location and layout of the fort was produced in 2002 (Bidwell and Snape 2002, Fig. 6, 274). Figure 2 shows the location of the site herein described in relation to the proposed location of the fort.

- 2.5.2.8 Excavated evidence, specifically the pattern and quantity of coin loss, suggests that a market was established on the via praetoria in the 4th century. Archaeological work on the southern part of the promontory, near The Bridge Hotel, revealed a metalled surface, interpreted as part of one of the main fort roads. Immediately outside the north wall of the fort, archaeological work revealed evidence for Roman activity, including postholes, metalworking hearths and the fragmentary remains of a stone building.
- 2.5.2.9 Evidence for Roman activity has also been uncovered to the west of the fort, indicating the presence of a vicus and an associated cemetery on the western approach. The most extensive work in the vicus has been in the area of Clavering Place/Hanover Square, which lies c. 120m to the south-west of the site, just within the line of the western medieval town wall and the location of a medieval Carmelite friary, (established 1262). Numerous antiquarian discoveries of Roman material are recorded on the HER from this area, including an inscribed stone found in 1864 bearing the name of the first cohort of Thracians (HER 1442) and two Roman stone coffins found in the early 1900s (HERs 1450 and 1452). Roman material was discovered in the 1960s at Clavering Place during archaeological work to investigate the medieval friary (Harbottle 1968).
- 2.5.2.10 Most notable amongst other archaeological work in the area of Clavering Place was a programme of excavations at the former BEMCO building in 2008 and 2009 (Annis 2009, 85-87). This work established that although the area was evidently part of the vicus at one time, it had evidently been abandoned for cemetery activity. The most notable finds at the site were two massive sandstone sarcophagi within a large burial pit adjacent to a narrow north-south aligned Roman road. The Roman coarse pottery from that site indicates that the main period of activity was in the first half of the 3rd century, with a possibility of late 2nd century commencement and no occupation at all after c. AD 270.
- 2.5.2.11 The site of a former Parcels Office on the south side of Westgate Road, a short distance to the north-west of the site herein described, revealed the presence of limited archaeological remains of Roman date within one evaluation trench in 2007 (M. Town, North Pennines Archaeology, *pers. comm.*).
- 2.5.2.12 An evaluation in 2007 at 1-8 Westgate Road immediately to the south of the site herein described recorded evidence for multi-phase Roman occupation during the 2nd and 3rd centuries, with various types of remains being recorded, including structures, successive surfaces and pits (PCA 2007).
- 2.5.2.13 Further Roman deposits, features and structures were recorded during archaeological investigations at 1-7 Westgate Road and Arches 23/24 Queen's Lane in 2009 (PCA 2009a & 2010). These features included activity pre-dating and associated with the construction

and usage of a vicus carriageway on a roughly north-south alignment that was recorded during excavations as Street 1. Current knowledge of the location and layout of the fort of Pons Aelius suggest that Street 1 lay c. 25-30m from the western wall of the fort. It appears to have been set out on a NNW-SSE alignment and may have formed a right-angled junction with a road which ran on a WSW-ENE alignment towards a hitherto undiscovered western 'side' gate of the fort. Stone walls, levelling layers and floor surfaces were identified that probably related to buildings fronting onto Street 1. In occasional instances the masonry on these features showed evidence of having been heat affected providing evidence of industrial activities being undertaken in the street frontage properties. The road and buildings are likely date to the late 2nd or early 3rd century, the period during which the fort was constructed. The carriageway and street frontage buildings were subsequently modified probably during the 3rd century, a period which earlier excavations have demonstrated saw modifications to many of the buildings and streets within the fort.

- 2.5.2.14 Subsequent phases of Roman activity were also recorded during the investigations that were associated with the construction and usage of a later vicus carriageway on a roughly east-west alignment recorded as Street 2, which had associated street frontage activity on its northern side. If the proposed line of the western wall of the fort is correct, Street 2 lay only c. 10-15m to the west of it. Street 2 probably dates to the 3rd or 4th century, a period which earlier excavations have demonstrated witnessed re-development within the fort, with some buildings being rebuilt and, for example, resurfacing of the via praetoria and at least one of the intervallum streets.
- 2.5.2.15 Whether the remains recorded during the 2007 and 2009 investigations relate to vicus settlement close to the fort or to the military installation itself was not certain. The range of artefactual material recovered was certainly indicative of high status, possibly military, Roman period settlement. The hard surfaces recorded within the Roman levels could represent yards or roads, possibly associated with defined properties in a civilian settlement, as identified at other *vici* in the north of England or could represent an area of hardstanding for military activity, for example, the surface of a parade ground.

2.5.3 Anglo-Saxon & Medieval

- 2.5.3.1 The Roman fort at Newcastle was abandoned in the early 5th century and archaeological work within the fort site has recorded evidence that collapsed buildings were levelled, timber buildings and drainage features were built and paving was laid out after the demolition of the north wall of the fort. Non-Roman native pottery indicates that this was the result of early Anglo-Saxon occupation (Snape and Bidwell 2002, 7-9). Subsequently, a large Anglo-Saxon cemetery was established on Castle Garth; more than 650m east-west aligned inhumation burials dating from the 8th century to the mid-12th century have been recorded. It is possible that stretches of the fort wall may have still been upstanding in the eighth century and that they may have defined the burial area. It has been observed that many of the graves follow the orientation of the Roman buildings within the defensive circuit (Nolan 2010, 252). The

burials were probably Christian as they were all aligned roughly east-west and they were buried without grave goods. The remains of a small possible Anglo-Saxon chapel building was recorded during excavation of the cemetery. This structure was replaced, possibly in the early 11th century, by a larger building on the same site that has been interpreted as a church. It has been argued that the cemetery and the early chapel may have been associated with a small monastic establishment that would have served a lay community living within the vicinity of the fort. There are 12th century references to the presence of a monastic settlement at the site of the Norman 'New Castle' called 'Munecaceastre', later referred to as Monkchester, and it has been suggested that the ceastre or chester element often used in the context of Roman towns or forts could be an allusion to the fort of Pons Aelius (Nolan et al. 2010, 258). It is not known when the cemetery finally went out of use, but the burial area was considerably reduced and many of the graves were destroyed when the 'New Castle' was built in the late 11th century. The cemetery continued in use, but there were significantly fewer burials after this event.

- 2.5.3.2 Documentary evidence records that in 1080, Robert Curthose, Duke of Normandy, built a motte and bailey castle on the site of the Roman fort in Newcastle. Part of its boundary was recorded during excavations along the north-western side of the promontory, with a broad flat-bottomed ditch and a bank to the south, which formed part of the bailey to the rear. The location of the motte was not established. A stone-built tower keep castle replaced the motte and bailey castle between 1168 and 1178 during the reign of Henry II, of which part of the east curtain wall and north gateway remain upstanding.
- 2.5.3.3 The site lies within the medieval town defences of which two lengths survive to the south-west (Historic England List Entry Refs. 1019813 and 1019814). These defences were constructed from the mid-13th to the mid to late 14th century, enclosing an area of c. 60 hectares, with later additions along the riverside in the 15th century. Gateways were constructed at principle points of entry and a berm and ditch outside. Between the late 18th and 19th centuries, the gates and large sections of the wall were demolished, as demonstrated by cartographic evidence.
- 2.5.3.4 No evidence of the aforementioned Anglo-Saxon cemetery was recorded during the 2007 and 2009 excavations that were carried out immediately to the west of the site, although evidence for reuse of the area during the medieval period was recorded comprising pits, ditches and possible structural remains. A levelling layer, stone surface, lime mortar spread and two north-south orientated beamslots and/or eaves gullies were recorded that collectively suggested that one or more medieval buildings had existed within the area that was investigated. Much of the evidence recorded during the excavations related to drainage activities and waste deposition within the area in the later medieval period.
- 2.5.3.5 As the 2007/2009 site lay within the medieval town walls, it is possible that this area lay within the backlots of plots fronting onto the medieval street of Westgate, the line of which survives as modern Westgate Road, a principal thoroughfare of the medieval town. Precise

details of the pattern of medieval landholding are not known, but Oliver's map of Newcastle from the 1830s shows a series of long north-south orientated burgage plots running back from plots fronting Westgate Road.

- 2.5.3.6 The aforementioned excavations undertaken in the 1960s to the south-west at Clavering Place recorded structural remains associated with the Carmelite friary, including a stretch of wall belonging to the quire, the south wall of the nave and the remains of the west and east walls of the friary east range (Harbottle 1968). Cemetery activity of the period was recorded, along with a wattle-lined latrine from which 13th and 14th century pottery was recovered.
- 2.5.3.7 Further archaeological work was undertaken at the site of the Carmelite Friary in the 1990s (Muncaster and Macpherson 1998). Various features, structures and deposits of medieval to 17th century date were recorded, including a cobble surface and a sandstone drain. Also, a deposit containing mortar and sandstone roofing slate was interpreted as possible material derived from the demolition of the monastic buildings.

2.5.4 Post-Medieval

- 2.5.4.1 At the beginning of the 17th century the layout of the area encompassing the site was radically different to that of today. In the early 1600s, the site lay immediately within the western boundary of the Castle Garth, which encompassed an area that was much larger than at present. The western perimeter of the garth was defined by a street running from the top of Long Stairs to The Side, which was known, up until the 18th century, as the 'Castle Mote', and which later became Queen's Street and King Street (Nolan 1990, 79-82, 88). This was a broad open area defined by the street called 'Castle Mote' on its western side and the curtain wall of the castle to the east. There is a reference to a large public rubbish tip being situated within this area in 1620 and the map evidence shows that it remained undeveloped until the very beginning of the 18th century when most of it was divided into wide strips that may have defined small agricultural plots (Nolan 1990, 92).
- 2.5.4.2 The early part of the 1700s saw the beginnings of a steady piecemeal development within the Castle Garth that would lead to the area encompassing the site being crowded with buildings and yards by the beginning of the following century. These buildings included a Presbyterian Meeting House with associated structures built from 1705 onwards (located between Queen's Street and the Castle Keep); a group of structures arranged around a large yard (to the north of the recently built chapel); properties constructed on what was formerly the Black Gate garden (to the south of the barbican fortification); a cluster of buildings to the south-west of the Castle Keep as well as a number of buildings adjoining its southern and western faces. These latter buildings were not long-lived, as they were removed to facilitate the construction of Castle Street, which ran between the south side of the Keep and Queen's Street, in the early 19th century (Oliver's map, 1830).
- 2.5.4.3 Many of the buildings that were constructed in the area encompassing the site during the rapid development of the 18th and early-19th century were demolished to make way for the

railway viaducts that were constructed as part of the northward extension of the Newcastle and Berwick railway which was completed in 1849. Additional properties were removed from the east side of Queen's Street prior to the construction a new carriageway connecting the area to the north of the Castle Garth with the recently constructed High Level Bridge. This road was later to become known as St Nicholas Street.

- 2.5.4.4 Further redevelopment of the area occurred when the railway viaduct linking the Castle Garth and the Central Station was widened on its northern side during the second half of the 19th century. Queen's Street was shortened, terminating at the south side of viaduct, and the street of Bailiff Gate, which adjoined it to the west, and which lay directly in the path of the proposed viaduct, was removed. The street of Back Row, which adjoined Queen's Street at its north-western end, was widened, and was also shortened slightly at its eastern end to make way for the new carriageway leading to the High-Level Bridge. Structures on the north-east corner of Back Row, which was later to be renamed as part of Westgate Road, were demolished to make way for St Nicholas Buildings. The only other noteworthy development in the area was the removal of a group of buildings attached to the northern side of the Black Gate at some time between the publication of the first and second Edition Ordnance Survey maps in 1862 and 1896, respectively. After the major alterations of the mid to late 19th century, very little significant development is known in the area.

3. PROJECT AIMS AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

3.1 Project Aims

- 3.1.1 The project aims to fulfil the requirements of the local planning authority by undertaking an appropriately specified scheme of archaeological work. The primary aim of the scheme of works was to determine the absence/presence of archaeological features on site. The work aimed to attempt to define the presence, character, date and extent of any structures or archaeological deposits within the boundaries of the proposed development site. The results are to be used to inform decisions regarding further mitigation measures that may be required at the site prior to the proposed development.

3.2 Research Objectives

- 3.2.1 The project was considered to have good potential to make a significant contribution to existing archaeological knowledge of central Newcastle in general and particularly of the Roman frontier, Anglo-Saxon burial practices and medieval development. In advance of the fieldwork, specific research objectives to be addressed by the project were formulated with reference to two existing archaeological research frameworks. The first was *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment* (NERRF) (Petts & Gerrard 2006), which highlights the importance of research as a vital element of development-led archaeological work. The second was the two-volume *Frontiers of Knowledge. A Research Framework for Hadrian's Wall* (Symonds & Mason (eds) 2009).
- 3.2.2 Given the site location, what information can the project provide regarding the *vicus* associated with the Roman fort of *Pons Aelius* and/or for the military installation itself? With this question in mind, the following key priorities within the NERRF research agenda for the Roman period are of particular relevance to this project:
- **Riii – The Roman military presence.** When discussing the northern Roman forts, it is stated: 'It is also important to establish the number and extent of associated *vici*' and 'Forts should not be studied separately from their *vici* and vice versa; the populations and economies of these two site types would have been closely integrated and their development closely linked'.
 - **Riv – Native and civilian life.** When discussing the relationship between the Roman military and civilian populations, it is stated: 'There is a need to improve our knowledge of the chronology of the *vici*, particularly the date at which they fall out of use. Who were the *vicani*? What was their relationship between *vici* and their forts' and 'For populations living in villas and *vici*, what do artefactual and ceramic assemblages tell us? How do they relate to assemblages at military sites? This artefactual material will also help improve our chronological understanding of these sites'.

3.2.3 Other key priorities within the NERRF research agenda for the Roman period (R) of some relevance to the project herein described are:

- **Rv – Material culture;**
- **Rvii – Religion;**
- **Rviii – Burial.**

3.2.4 In *Frontiers of Knowledge*, research strategy theme 'S.5 The Forts and Extramural Settlement' discusses a serious gap in current knowledge of extramural settlement along the Wall, largely due to the restricted investigation of such settlements over the years. Largely echoing NERRF key priority Riv, above, this theme highlights the shortage of information regarding who lived in, worked in or used the *vici* and underlines a need to clarify the speed with which they developed and to determine when they ceased to be occupied and establish whether or not this abandonment may have been precipitated by any specific military, economic or social factors. This theme also highlights the need to clarify the layout and extent of extramural settlement and to determine if there was ever any formal layout or zoning by function or class in such settlements, these questions also echoing elements of NERRF key priorities Riv, Rvii and Rviii, above.

3.2.5 Other research strategy themes within *Frontiers of Knowledge* of relevance to the project herein described are 'S.6 Landscape and Environment', 'S.7 Production and Procurement' and 'S.8 Life and Society'. In addition, theme 'S.9 The Post-roman Archaeology of Hadrian's Wall AD 400-1000' may also be of some relevance in that it discusses how there is not always a clear distinction between the latest Roman deposits and the earliest post-Roman ones, where these are present on archaeological sites, and highlights how there is real need to collect more data for the post-Roman theme.

3.2.6 The proposed development also lies within the limits of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery and medieval motte and bailey castle and tower keep castle. Key priorities within the NERRF agenda for the early-medieval (EM) and later medieval (MD) periods of some relevance to the project are:

- **EMi - Landscape;**
- **EMii – Settlement;**
- **EMiii – Architecture;**
- **EMv – Trade and economy;**
- **EMvi. Christianity;**
- **EMvii – Death and burial;**
- **MDi – Settlement;**
- **MDiii – Urbanism;**

- **MDiv Castles and defensive structures;**
- **MDv – Churches and religion;**
- **MDvi – Death and burial;**
- **MDvii – Medieval ceramics and other artefacts;**
- **MDix Trade and economy;**
- **MDxi – The medieval to post-medieval transition.**

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

4.1 Fieldwork

- 4.1.1 The fieldwork was undertaken in compliance with the codes and practice of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and the relevant ClfA standard and guidance document (ClfA 2014 a, b and c). PCA is a ClfA 'Registered Organisation'. All fieldwork and post-excavation was carried out in accordance with the Yorkshire, the Humber & The North East: Regional Statement of Good Practice (SYAS 2011). The work was carried out between the 9th July to the 6th November 2018.
- 4.1.2 The initial archaeological trial trench evaluation & watching brief phase comprised six trenches (Trenches 1-6) that were undertaken to help inform if the proposed scheme was likely to impact upon any archaeologically significant remains, including any deposits that might be associated with the Roman fort of *Pons Aelius*, an Anglo-Saxon cemetery, motte and bailey castle, and tower keep castle scheduled monument (Historic England List Entry Ref. 102126) or the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Hadrian's Wall) World Heritage Site (Ref. 1000098). The second watching brief phase of the works involved the monitoring of 13 trenches (Trenches 7-19).
- 4.1.3 The trenches were of variable dimensions ranging from small excavations for the installation of control units associated with the proposed new signalling at junctions; linear trenches for the insertion of service cables, and two larger rectangular trenches excavated with the purpose of assessing the load bearing capacity of base layers under the existing St. Nicholas Street carriageway. The table below summarises the dimensions and findings of each of the trenches:

Trench No.	Dimensions	Superficial geology observed?	Archaeology observed?
1	4.90m NNW-SSE x up to 1.60m ENE-WSW and up to 0.80m deep	No	No
2	4.10m NNW-SSE x 1.00m ENE-WSW and up to 0.85m deep	No	Post-medieval brick structure
3	6.90m NNW-SSE x 0.60m ENE-WSW and up to 0.95m deep	No	Post-medieval culvert and wall
4	5.20m ENE-WSW x 0.45m NNW-SSE and up to 0.80m deep	No	No
5	2.15m E-W x 1.35m N-S and up to 1.24m deep	No	Roman structure, Post Roman demolition & Anglo-Saxon burials
6	1.80m NE-SW x 1.90m NW-SE and up to 1.00m deep	No	Post-medieval structure

7	12.00m NNW-SSE x up to 7.00m ENE-WSW and up to 0.30m deep	No	No
8	0.95m NW-SE x 0.85m NE-SW and up to 0.25m deep	No	No
9	1.50m north-south x 0.80m east-west and up to 0.30m deep	No	No
10	13.90m NW-SE x 4.30m NE-SW and up to 1.10m deep	No	Medieval levelling/dumping deposits
11	11.45m ENE-WSW x 0.90m NNW-SSE and up to 1.00m deep	No	Roman levelling/dumping deposit
12	14.60m NW-SE & ENE-WSW x 0.60m wide and up to 0.30m deep	No	No
13	19m NW-SE x up to 1.35m NE-SW and up to 0.70m deep	No	No
14	9.95m ENE-WSW x 1m NNW-SSE and up to 1.00m deep	No	No
15	5.70m NW-SE x up to 1.00m NE-SW and up to 0.40m deep	No	No
16	5.70m ENE-WSW x 0.50m NNW-SSE and up to 1.18m deep	No	No
17	6.00m NE-SW x 4m NW-SE and by up to 0.70m deep	No	No
18	2.00m ENE-WSW by 1.40m NNW-SSE and up to 0.60m deep	No	No
19	1.90m ENE-WSW by 0.90m NNW-SSE and up to 0.30m deep	No	No

Trench summary

- 4.1.4 The methodology for Trenches 1-4 involved excavation by hand by Newcastle City Council groundworks team to remove any modern overburden or levelling materials, followed by hand excavation by an archaeologist of any significant archaeological remains if encountered. The excavation of Trenches 5-19 involved mechanical removal of any modern overburden or levelling materials by Newcastle City Council groundworks team using a 180° back-acting, mechanical excavator JCB. This was followed by hand excavation by an archaeologist of any significant archaeological remains if encountered. Successive spits of no more than 100mm in depth were removed until either the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or to the depth of the required activity. All ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision.
- 4.1.5 The investigation of archaeological levels was by hand, with cleaning, examination and recording both in plan and in section, where appropriate. Investigations within the trenches

followed the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation and were conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the field manual of PCA (PCA 2009b) and the Museum of London Site Manual (Museum of London 1944).

- 4.1.6 Deposits and cut features were individually recorded on the *pro-forma* and 'Context Recording Sheet'. All site records were marked with the unique-number SNS18 (site code). All archaeological features were excavated using hand tools and were generally recorded in plan at 1:20 or in section at 1:10/1:20. The height of all principal strata and features was calculated in metres above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) and indicated on appropriate plans and sections.
- 4.1.7 A detailed photographic record of the evaluation/watching brief was prepared using SLR cameras (35mm film black and white prints for archive purposes) and by digital photography. All detailed photographs included a legible graduated metric scale. The photographic record illustrated both in detail and general context archaeological exposures and specific features in all trenches.

4.2 Post-excavation

- 4.2.1 The stratigraphic data for the project comprises written and photographic records. A total of 212 archaeological contexts were defined in the 19 trenches (Appendix 2). Post-excavation work involved checking and collating site records, grouping contexts and phasing the stratigraphic data. A written summary of the archaeological sequence was then compiled, as described in Section 5. Artefactual material from the investigations comprised an assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material. For each category of material, an assessment report has been produced including a basic quantification of the material, and a statement of its potential for further analysis. The reports are contained in Appendix 5, 6 and 7 (Post-Roman pottery, CBM and Roman pottery assessment, respectively). No ecofactual material was recovered from the investigation.
- 4.2.2 The complete Site Archive, in this case comprising only the written, drawn and photographic records (including all material generated electronically during post-excavation) will be packaged for long term curation. In preparing the Site Archive for deposition, all relevant standards and guidelines documents referenced in the Archaeological Archives Forum guidelines document (Brown 2007) will be adhered to, in particular a well-established United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) document (Walker, UKIC 1990) and the most recent ClfA publication relating to archiving (ClfA 2014d).
- 4.2.3 At the time of writing the Site Archive was housed at the Durham Office of PCA, The Rope Works, Broadwood View, Chester-le-Street, County Durham, DH3 3AF. When complete, the site Archive will be deposited with The Great North Museum, under the site code SNS18. The Site Archive will be organised as to be compatible with the other archaeological archives produced in the county. A completed transfer of title deed will accompany the archive on deposition.

5. RESULTS

During the archaeological investigation, separate stratigraphic entities were assigned unique and individual context numbers, which are indicated in the following text as, for example [123]. The archaeological sequence is described by placing stratigraphic sequences within broad phases, assigned on a site-wide basis in this case. An attempt has been made to add interpretation to the data and correlate these phases with recognised historical and geological periods. The figures can be found in Appendix 1 with the context index and stratigraphic matrix located in Appendix 2 and 3 respectively. A selection of plates can be found within Appendix 4. Post-excavation specialist assessment of the artefactual remains can be found within Appendix 5, 6 & 7 (post-Roman pottery, CBM and Roman pottery assessment respectively).

5.1 Trench 1 (Figure 7, Section 2)

- 5.1.1 Trench 1 was situated in the footpath on the western side of St. Nicholas Street, adjacent to the junction with Westgate Road, immediately to the east of St. Nicholas Building (Figure 2). The trench was irregular shaped and had dimensions of 4.90m NNW-SSE by up to 1.60m ENE-WSW and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.80m.

Phase 6: Early 20th century

- 5.1.2 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 1 comprised compact light brownish yellow sandy gravel, [107], at least 0.20m thick. It was encountered c. 0.70m below present ground level at maximum and minimum heights of 28.03m AOD and 27.93m AOD. This deposit probably represents a levelling and consolidation deposit laid down prior to the installation of the overlying services [102].
- 5.1.3 Services comprising six northwest-southeast aligned cast iron pipes [102] that directly overlay levelling and consolidation deposit [107] were recorded extending across Trench 1. The services were truncated by a substantial modern intrusion [106] resulting in the removal of four of the westernmost cast iron pipes. The cast iron pipes themselves were uniformly 0.10m in diameter and encountered c. 0.60m below the present ground level, at maximum and minimum heights of 28.15m AOD and 28.09m AOD, respectively. Although no cut was encountered for the services in Trench 1, the services were observed extending beyond all limits of the evaluation trench, therefore it is likely that the cut for the services lay beyond the limits of the evaluation trench. The cast iron pipes were directly overlain by c. 0.15m thick clayey sandy ash [103] that probably represents the backfilling of the services.

Phase 7: Modern

- 5.1.4 A brick-built inspection chamber [101] was partially exposed at the eastern edge of the trench and as exposed had dimensions of 1.10m north-south by 0.60m high.

- 5.1.5 Concrete [105] up to 0.50m thick was present across the southern half of the trench and was encountered between 0.10m and 0.20m below present ground level, at maximum and minimum heights of 28.63m AOD and 28.53m AOD, respectively. This concrete represents a consolidation deposit that was overlain by stone flags [100] forming the current pedestrian pathway.
- 5.1.6 Concrete [105] was truncated by a substantial irregular shaped modern intrusion [106] that was exposed for a maximum distance of at least 2.80m north-south by 1.50m east-west and was up to 0.50m deep. Its single fill [104] comprised crushed stone (dolomite). This feature represents recent excavations probably associated with the installation of modern utilities.
- 5.1.7 The current pedestrian surface comprised 0.10m thick stone pavers [100] and associated c. 0.12m thick sub-bases of sand and concrete. The current pedestrian footpath at the location of Trench 1 occurred at c. 28.76m AOD high.

5.2 Trench 2 (Figure 8, Section 3)

- 5.2.1 Trench 2 was located within the footpath on the northern side of Westgate Road at the junction with St. Nicholas Street (Figure 2). The trench was rectangular shaped and had dimensions of 4.10m NNE-SSW by 1.00m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth 0.85m (Figure 8, Section 3). Trench 2 had to be excavated in two stages in order not to obstruct access to the public footpath.

Phase 5: Post-medieval and Undated

- 5.2.2 The earliest archaeological remains encountered in Trench 2 comprised an east-west aligned brick wall [225] that was partially exposed for a maximum distance of 1.00m at the northern end of Trench 2. The wall was exposed to at least six courses in English Cross bond and was at least 0.45m high, encountered at 0.28m below the present ground level at a maximum height of 28.48m AOD. The wall itself was built using unfrogged red brick (230mm x 120mm x 90mm), bonded with light grey lime mortar. Although no construction cut for the wall was observed it is likely to be present at a greater depth below Phase 6 levelling/dump deposits.

Phase 6: Early 20th century

- 5.2.3 In Trench 2 Phase 6 is represented by early 20th century ground raising and levelling activity. Levelling/dump deposits, (208), (209=215), (210), (212=213), (214), (222), (223), (224) & (226), were recorded extending across Trench 2 and overlay Phase 5 brick wall {225}. These deposits comprised various compositions of silt, sand and clay and contained varying quantities of sandstone and CBM rubble. The full combined thickness of these deposits was not established and as exposed were at least 0.90m thick (Figure 6, Section 3). The thickness and heights for each for each levelling/dump deposit is summarised in the table below. The uppermost strata of these levelling/dump deposits were encountered between 0.30m and 0.38m below present ground level at maximum and minimum heights of

28.48m AOD and 28.40m AOD, respectively. Although three sherds of Roman pottery and two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from these levelling/dump deposits they are certainly residual.

Context	Thickness	Height (mAOD)	Description
208	0.19m	28.37	Firm mid grey sandy clay sandstone rubble
209=215	0.19m	28.19	Firm mid grey sandy clay sandstone rubble
210	>70mm	28.10	Soft light yellowish brown sandy clay
212=213	>90mm	28.01	Firm mid greyish brown sandy clay sandstone rubble
214	N/A	27.90	Soft mid greyish brown silty clay
222	0.43m	28.45	Soft dark grey sandy silt
223	0.15m	28.26	Friable dark grey sandy clay
224	>90mm	28.12	Firm mid grey clay
226	0.24m	28.47	Loose light grey sandy silt brick and sandstone rubble

Phase 6: Trench 2 levelling/dump deposits

- 5.2.4 Two east-west aligned service trenches, [207] & [221], were recorded cutting Phase 6 levelling/dump deposits. Each service trench contained a salt-glazed ceramic pipe and a single soft silty clay backfill, (206) & (220), respectively.

Phase 7: Modern

- 5.2.5 Three east-west aligned modern services trenches, [219], [202] & [204], were recorded truncating Phase 6 and Phase 7 deposits. Modern Service Trench [219] contained plastic ducts for electricity cables and a single loose sand backfill (218), modern Service Trench [202] contained two plastic ducts for telecom cables and a single crushed stone backfill (201) and modern Service Trench [204] contained three electricity cables and a single friable sandy clay backfill (203).
- 5.2.6 Modern made ground deposits recorded in Trench 2 include c. 0.10m thick concrete (217) and c. 0.29m thick concrete (205) within cut [216].
- 5.2.7 The current surface comprised c. 80mm thick flagstone paving (200) and associated concrete, sand and gravel sub-bases (211) up to 0.18m thick. The current surface occurred at c. 28.76m AOD high.

5.3 Trench 3 (Figure 3 Plan; Figure 9, Section 4)

- 5.3.1 Trench 3 was located in the footpath on the eastern side of St Nicholas Street and west of the Black Gate (Figure 2). The northwest-southeast aligned trench had dimensions of 6.90m long by c. 0.60m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.95m.

Phase 5: Post-medieval and Undated

- 5.3.2 The earliest activity recorded in Trench 3 comprised two levelling/dump deposits, (314) and (312), recorded extending across the south-eastern half of the trench that had a maximum combined thickness of at least 0.42m, encountered at c. 28.20m AOD (Plate 2).
- 5.3.3 At the northern end of Trench 3, a brick and sandstone structure was partially exposed that comprised a sandstone foundation {320} upon which a brick wall {309} was built. The sandstone foundation {320} was located at the base of the trench at its north-western corner and was exposed two at least two courses (Plates 4 and 5). This foundation extended beyond the north-western and southwestern limits of the trench and was encountered at a depth of 0.76m below ground level at a maximum height of 27.82m AOD. The sandstone blocks were roughly hewn measuring between 150x100x100mm and 470x200x150mm, occupied an area of 0.85m north-south by 0.50m east-west, and as exposed was at least 0.30m high.
- 5.3.4 The brick wall {309} was built directly on top of the sandstone foundation {320} (Plate 5). The orientation of the wall could not be determined as it was only visible in the south-western side of the trench. The brick wall as exposed was at least 0.23m wide, survived to a height of 0.25m, and was encountered at a depth of 0.50m below ground level (28.08m AOD). The wall comprised common unfrogged brick suggesting a broadly mid-17th to 18th century date (Appendix 6).
- 5.3.5 Truncating levelling/dump deposits (314) and (312) and structure {320} and {309} was the construction cut [317] for a north-south aligned sandstone culvert {318}={319}. The culvert was partially exposed across the northern end of the trench for a distance of 3.72m north-south and was encountered at 0.53m below ground level at a maximum height of 28.10m AOD (Figure 3). The construction cut [317] had vertical edges and measured c.2.48m wide and was at least 0.45m deep. The full depth of the culvert was not established to the limitations of the current groundworks scheme. The culvert itself was built using sandstone blocks (Plates 3 and 4) and consisted of two parallel sandstone walls {318} c. 0.70m apart and sandstone capping {319}. The culvert walls {318} were built using small to large sized roughly hewn sandstone blocks (minimum size 100mm x 50mm x 50mm & maximum size 250mm x 150mm x 150mm), bonded with mid brownish grey clay. The culvert capping {319} comprised large roughly hewn sandstone blocks (minimum size 600mm x 450mm x 100mm & maximum size 670mm x 300mm x 100mm).
- 5.3.6 The construction cut for the culvert was backfilled with soft mid brownish grey clay (310)=(313)=(321) that contained frequent inclusions of sandstone rubble. Although a single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from backfill (313) it is certainly residual within the deposit and the culvert and associated backfilling deposits are more likely to broadly date to the post-medieval period.

Phase 6: Early 20th century

- 5.3.7 Overlying Phase 5 brick wall {309} and sandstone foundation {320} was a c. 0.30m thick deposit that comprised dark greyish brown ashy silty clay (308) that contained frequent lenses of yellowish white mortar and small brick fragments. This deposit was recorded at a depth of 0.45m below ground level (28.13m AOD) and as exposed had dimensions of 0.50m NW-SE by 0.50m NE-SW. It seems likely that this deposit represents the backfill possibly associated with the disuse and subsequent robbing of Phase 5 wall {309}.
- 5.3.8 Deposit (308) and Phase 5 brick wall {309} were in turn overlain by a compacted layer of mortar, sandstone and brick rubble (307)=(311) that extended across Trench 3, up to 0.26m thick. It was encountered c. 0.33m below ground present ground level at a maximum height of 28.26m AOD. A single brick dating from the mid-17th to 18th century was recovered from deposit (307) which is likely to be residual. This deposit is interpreted as a levelling/dump deposit representing early 20th century levelling activity.
- 5.3.9 Ground raising dump (307)=(311) was truncated by NW-SE aligned Service Trench [325] and was filled with dark brownish grey silty clay (324). Its cut was 0.45m deep and as exposed was at least 0.75m wide, extending beyond the north-western limit of excavation. Within the southern part of the trench the ground raising dumps were truncated by an additional three service trenches, [302], [304] & [306]. All service trenches were approximately aligned north-east/south-west and generally backfilled with a similar mid greyish brown sandy clay, (301), (303) & (305), respectively. The cuts were of variable widths ranging from 0.40m to 0.75m and depths ranging from 0.25m to 0.60m. The cuts for the drainage trenches recorded in Trench 3 were encountered at a depth of between 0.32m and 0.40m below ground level and encountered at minimum and maximum heights of 28.20m to 28.28m AOD. Each service trench contained a cast iron pipe.
- 5.3.10 A small assemblage of finds recovered from the backfill (303) of Service Trench [304] including a single sherd of medieval pottery, three post-medieval pottery sherds and a tobacco clay pipe stem. A single large fragment of post-medieval salt-glazed ceramic stamped with the logo "Hepwo[rth]" was also recovered from the backfill (305) of Service Trench [306] (Appendix 5).

Phase 7: Modern

- 5.3.11 Layer (315) was noted at the northern end of the trench and comprised c. 0.10m thick firm dark brownish grey clayey silt that was encountered at c. 28.52m AOD high. The deposit represents a levelling deposit.
- 5.3.12 Levelling deposit (315) was truncated by Service Trench [323] that extended across the centre of the trench along its entire length and was 0.55m wide by 0.25m deep. Its single fill [322] consisted of a dark brownish grey silty clay that contained an orange plastic cable ducting pipe.
- 5.3.13 The uppermost deposits within Trench 3 consisted of c. 0.10m thick compact silty sand bedding (315) for concrete pavers (300) that formed the modern pedestrian walkway along

St. Nicholas' Street. The current pedestrian footpath surface occurred at maximum and minimum heights of 28.62m AOD and 28.58m AOD.

5.4 Trench 4 (Figure 10, Sections 5 & 6)

5.4.1 Trench 4 was located in the pathway on the southern side of Westgate Road immediately to the west of the junction with St. Nicholas Street (Figure 2). The trench was aligned east-west and had dimensions of 5.20m long by 0.45m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.80m.

Phase 6: Early 20th century

5.4.2 The earliest deposits encountered in Trench 4 represent 20th century ground raising and levelling activity. Levelling/dump deposits, (405), (404) & (403), were recorded extending across Trench 4 that comprised various compositions of silt, sand and clay and contained varying quantities of sandstone rubble.

5.4.3 Although the full combined thickness of these deposits was not established, as exposed, they had a maximum combined thickness of 0.46m (Figure 13, Sections 5 & 6). The thickness and heights for each for each levelling/dump deposit is summarised in the table below. The uppermost strata of these levelling/dump deposits were encountered between 0.38m and 0.69m below present ground level at maximum and minimum heights of 28.18m AOD and 27.92m AOD, respectively. Although no datable material was recovered from any of these deposits their compositions and inclusions of varying quantities of coal, ceramic building material and sandstone rubble indicate an early 20th century date.

Context	Thickness	Height (mAOD)	Description
405	n/a	27.85	Firm mid brown clay
404	60mm	27.95	Friable mid grey silty clay and sandstone rubble
403	0.30m	28.18	Firm mid grey sandy silty clay

Phase 6: Trench 4 levelling/dump deposits

5.4.4 Cutting levelling/dump deposit (403) was an east-west aligned Service Trench [402] that was recorded extending across the length of Trench 4. The service trench contained a single dark friable brownish grey sandy clayey silt backfill (401) that contained two cast iron pipes.

Phase 7: Modern

5.4.5 Two modern service trenches [409] and [407] were recorded in Trench 4. North-south aligned Service Trench [409] was recorded for a distance of 1.85m at the eastern end of the trench that truncated the uppermost Phase 6 dump/levelling deposit (401). This service trench contained an iron pipe c. 0.10m in diameter that was encased in concrete (408) up to 0.50m thick. Service trench [409] was in turn truncated by east-west aligned Service Trench

[407] that was recorded along the trenches southern edge for a distance of 5.14m. Its single c. 0.40m thick dolomite backfill (406) contained a c. 90mm diameter plastic cable duct.

- 5.4.6 The pedestrian footpath surface comprised c. 60mm thick concrete pavers and associated c. 90mm thick concrete sub-base (400). The current surface was recorded at maximum and minimum heights of 28.64m AOD and 28.59m AOD, respectively.

5.5 Trench 5 (Figures 4 Plan; Figure 11-12, Sections 7-10; Plate 6)

- 5.5.1 Trench 5 was considered to have high potential for the survival of significant archaeological remains for the Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods due to its location within the western extent of a scheduled monument (Historic England Ref. 1020126: Roman Fort, Anglo-Saxon Cemetery, Motte and Bailey Castle and Tower Keep Castle, Newcastle upon Tyne) (Figure 2).
- 5.5.2 The trench was located within the road surface near the junction of St Nicholas' Street and Castle Garth within the area of the Roman fort (*Pons Aelius*). Its location is also within the Castle Garth immediately to the south-west of the Castle Keep where there was potential to encounter Anglo-Saxon burials along with medieval and post-medieval remains associated with the Castle itself.
- 5.5.3 The trench had dimensions of 2.15m east-west by 1.35m north-south and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.24m. The archaeological remains encountered in Trench 5 is representative of those encountered during previous archaeological investigations undertaken during 1979-1981 to the west and north-west of the Castle Keep. At this location structural remains associated with the Roman fort (*Pons Aelius*) were encountered along with remains of post-Roman demolition and settlement activity and a post-Roman/Anglo-Saxon cemetery.

Phase 1: Roman

- 5.5.4 The earliest activity encountered in Trench 5 comprised a partially exposed east-west aligned masonry wall {516} that was directly overlain by Phase 2 post-Roman demolition/dump deposit (511) and also truncated by Phase 3 burial (509). The wall was encountered c. 1.01m below present ground level, at a maximum height of 27.37m AOD, and as exposed was recorded for a distance of 1.07m east-west by at least 0.25m wide (Plates 6 & 8). Phase 3 burial (509) truncated the northern side of wall {516} therefore its full width was not established. The wall was at least 0.20m high and comprised two courses built using medium sized roughly hewn sandstone blocks (minimum size 230mm x 200mm x 100mm & maximum size 250mm x 250mm x 100mm), bonded with compact mid brown coarse sandy mortar.
- 5.5.5 Although no datable material was recovered from the wall it is almost certain to be Roman in date. Only a small portion of this wall was exposed therefore its function was not definitively established. Trench 5 was situated within southern part of the Roman fort and more

specifically the presumed location of the Barrack buildings. Therefore, the wall partially exposed within the base of the trench may represent a structural element of the Barrack buildings.

Phase 2: Post-Roman

- 5.5.6 A silty clayey sandstone rubble deposit (511) was recorded extending across the whole of Trench 5 and was at least 0.26m thick (Plates 6 & 7). This deposit was encountered c. 1.00m below the present ground level at a maximum height of 27.45m AOD. The sandstone rubble material consisted primarily of small to medium sized fragments of sandstone (minimum 75mm x 75mm x 50mm & maximum 400mm x 250mm x 70mm) and a single partially exposed large sandstone slab that had dimensions of at least 700mm x 650mm x 100mm thick (Plate 7). Although no datable material was recovered from this deposit it directly overlay Phase 1 masonry wall {516} and probably represents the post-Roman period of abandonment and collapse of the Roman buildings or alternatively the robbing of building material or clearance areas within the Roman fort.

Phase 3: Anglo-Saxon/Undated

- 5.5.7 Two inhumation burials, (Burials 1 & 2), orientated west-east were recorded within the central portion of Trench 5 (Plate 6). Both burials were only partially exposed and were in a poor state of preservation with limited survival of skeletal material. The archaeological investigations were undertaken according to a specification (Ref. MON15968) produced by the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Service that states: '*excavation is to be carried out with a view to avoid damage to any archaeological features which appear to be worthy of preservation in-situ*'. To this end both burials were partially exposed with only the upper strata of any significant archaeological remains exposed, hand cleaned and recorded. Both burials were left *in-situ*.
- 5.5.8 The westernmost burial (Burial 1) grave cut [507] had dimensions of at least 0.80m west-east, continuing beyond the limit of excavation to the west, by up to 0.50m wide and was encountered c. 0.87m below present ground level at a maximum height of 27.50m AOD. The skeletal remains (506) were in a poor state of preservation and only a tibia and a fibula along with part of a femur survived (Plate 9). The surviving skeletal remains possibly represent the left leg from an adult of indeterminate sex. The body position is likely to be supine however due to the limited survival of skeletal material this could not be definitively established. Burial 1 contained a single friable mid grey silty clay (505) from which no finds were recovered.
- 5.5.9 The easternmost burial (Burial 2) grave cut [510] had dimensions of at least 0.75m west-east, continuing beyond the limit of excavation to the east, by 0.35m wide and was encountered at c. 1.07m below present ground level at a maximum height of 27.24m AOD. The skeletal remains (509) of Burial 2 was only partially exposed with elements of the cranium, left femur and pelvis recorded (Plate 8). Due to the limited exposure of skeletal

material all that could be ascertained was that the body position was supine and that the remains were of a juvenile of indeterminate sex. Burial 2 contained a single friable mid grey silty clay (508) from which no finds were recovered.

- 5.5.10 These burials probably represent a continuation to the south of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery that was recorded in previous excavations within the area of the Roman fort. During these excavations more than 650 west-east orientated inhumation burials dating from the 8th century to the 12th century were recorded truncating structures associated with the Roman fort and cutting post-Roman deposits.

Phase 6: Early 20th century

- 5.5.11 Phase 2 post-Roman and Phase 3 Anglo-Saxon features and deposits were overlain by a dark grey sandy silt levelling/dump deposit (503) that extended across Trench 5 up to 1.00m thick. Located at the base of this deposit services including an east-west aligned corroded cast iron pipe c. 80mm diameter and a metal pipe c. 50mm diameter.

Phase 7: Modern

- 5.5.12 A modern east-west aligned Service Trench [502], recorded cutting Phase 6 levelling/dump deposit (503), had dimensions of at least 1.65m wide by 0.90m deep. Its single dolomite backfill (501) contained a plastic pipe c. 100mm diameter at its base and at its eastern extent several concrete blocks were recorded that formed part of an access chamber.
- 5.5.13 The current road surface comprised asphalt up to 0.25m thick that directly overlay concrete bedding and haunching associated with the stone kerbing along the northern edge of the trench that had a combined thickness of 0.30m. The current road surface occurred at maximum and minimum heights of 28.44m AOD and 28.31m AOD, respectively.

5.6 Trench 6 (Figure 13, Section 11)

- 5.6.1 Trench 6 was situated in the pedestrian footpath on the western side of St. Nicholas Street near the junction with Queen's Lane (Figure 2). The trench had dimensions of 1.80m NE-SW by 1.90m NW-SE and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.00m.

Phase 5: Post-medieval and Undated

- 5.6.2 The earliest material encountered in Trench 6 include two levelling/dumping deposits (608) & (609). The earliest of these comprised friable dark grey sandy silt (608) at least 0.55m thick that in turn was overlain by c. 0.40m thick friable mid brownish grey sandy silt (609). The uppermost levelling/dump deposit was encountered c. 0.15m below present ground level at a maximum height of 28.36m AOD. Although no datable material was recovered from any of the levelling/dumping deposits animal bone was observed from deposit (608) and sandstone and ceramic building material was observed from deposit (609).
- 5.6.3 A structure comprising a sandstone flag surface {604} and brick wall {603} was partially exposed within the eastern corner of Trench 6 (Plate 10). It was built within a narrow

construction cut [612], truncating Phase 5 levelling/dumping deposit (609), and as exposed, had overall dimensions of at least 0.70m NW-SE by c. 0.60m NE-SW. The brick wall {603} was built directly onto the sandstone flags {604} (maximum 600mm x 500mm x 90mm) that formed the base of the structure. The wall itself survived up to 0.20m high of a single course of brick, bonded with light grey lime mortar, and was encountered at a maximum height of 28.16m AOD. Although no datable finds were recovered from its single friable dark grey sandy silt backfill (613), based on the dimensions and character of the bricks forming structure {603}, this structure broadly dates to the mid-17th to 18th century and could possibly represent a structural element associated with the Presbyterian Meeting House established outside the Baliff Gate of the Castle c. 1705 (Appendix 6). The function of the structure itself is uncertain due to its limited exposure.

Phase 7: Modern

- 5.6.4 Three NW-SE aligned modern service trenches, [605], [602] & [611], were recorded extending across Trench 6. Service Trench [605] was recorded truncating Phase 5 levelling/dumping deposit (609) and was at least 1.36m wide by at least 0.90m deep. Its lower fill (607) comprised poured concrete at least 0.20m thick that presumably capped an underlying service pipe. Concrete (607) in turn was overlain by 0.77m thick friable mid grey sandy silt backfill (606) from which a small assemblage of finds was recovered including pottery and ceramic building material. Animal bone and shell were also observed in this deposit but not retained. The pottery includes two sherds of late medieval – early post-medieval pottery which are certainly residual and a further sherd of undiagnostic pottery (Appendix 5). Five fragments ceramic building material were recovered from deposit (606) including three fragments of post-medieval brick dating broadly to the mid-17th to 18th century, a single fragment of brick of probably late-14th to 15th century date and one complete floor tile that dates to the 14th century (Appendix 6). All finds from backfill (606) are certainly residual.
- 5.6.5 Service Trenches [602] and [611] were recorded truncating the backfill of Service Trench [605]. Service Trench [602] contained a single dolomite backfill (601) that contained a plastic duct for an electricity cable and Service Trench [611] contained a single friable mottled mid brownish grey and mid grey sandy silt backfill (611) that contained an electricity cable.
- 5.6.6 The current pedestrian footpath (600) comprised c. 0.14m thick concrete pavers and associated c. 40mm thick sand bedding. The surface at the location of Trench 6 occurred at c. 28.51m AOD high.

5.7 Trench 7

- 5.7.1 Trench 7 was located within the area of a traffic island at the junction of St. Nicholas Street and Westgate Road (Figure 2). The area monitored was triangular-shaped and had dimensions of 12.00m NNW-SSE by up to 7.00m ENE-WSW and was excavated to a maximum depth 0.30m.

Phase 7: Modern

- 5.7.2 Due to the limited depth of excavation only modern features and deposits were encountered across Trench 7. The earliest deposit encountered comprised concrete (703) that was recorded extending across the area of Trench 7. The concrete was encountered at maximum and minimum depths below present ground level of 0.20m to 0.30m, respectively, and occurred at maximum and minimum heights of 28.48m and 28.40m AOD, respectively.
- 5.7.3 Four variously aligned modern Service Trenches [702] were recorded truncating concrete (703). The service trenches varied in width from 0.25m to 0.30m wide and were each backfilled with dolomite (701). Plastic ducts for cables were observed within three of the service trenches.
- 5.7.4 The current traffic island surface comprised various materials including stone pavers, tactile paving and raised areas formed by stone edging blocks and brick along with its associated concrete and sand sub-base (700). The present ground surface at the location of Trench 7 occurred at maximum and minimum heights of 28.78m AOD and 28.70m AOD, respectively.

5.8 Trench 8

- 5.8.1 Trench 8 was located in the carriageway on the western side of St. Nicholas Street immediately to the north of the High Level Bridge (Figure 2). The trench had dimensions of 0.95m NW-SE by 0.85m NE-SW and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.15m below ground level.

Phase 7: Modern

- 5.8.2 The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 8 comprised concrete [801] c. 0.10m thick that formed the sub-base for the c. 0.15m thick asphalt road surface (800). The asphalt road surface occurred at a height of 28.57m AOD.

5.9 Trench 9

- 5.9.1 Trench 9 was located within the pedestrian footpath on the eastern side of St. Nicholas Street and south-west of the Black Gate (Figure 2). It had dimensions of 1.50m north-south by up to 0.80m east-west and was excavated to a depth of 0.25m to 0.30m.

Phase 7: Modern

- 5.9.2 The earliest deposit identified in Trench 9 comprised loose mid greyish brown silty sand backfill (901) of a modern service that was encountered at a depth of 60mm below present ground level, at a maximum height of 28.52m AOD. The cut for the service trench was not exposed due to the narrow width of the trench. The full depth of the service trench was not established due to the limited depth required for the groundworks. A black plastic duct was partially exposed at the base of the trench that presumably housed a cable.

- 5.9.3 The current pedestrian footpath comprised c. 0.10m thick stone pavers and associated c. 0.10m thick concrete sub-base (900). The footpath at this location occurred at c. 28.58m AOD high.

5.10 Trench 10 (Figure 5 Plan; Figure 14, Sections 17 & 20)

- 5.10.1 Trench 10 was located within the carriageway on the eastern side of St. Nicholas Street and to the south-west of the Black Gate (Figure 2). The trench was rectangular shaped and had dimensions of 13.90m NW-SE by 4.30m NE-SW and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.85m, with the exception of a small area of excavation that had dimensions of c. 0.80m x 0.80m located at the central-eastern edge of the trench that was undertaken for the installation of services, and excavated to a maximum depth of 1.10m.

Phase 4: Medieval

- 5.10.2 The earliest material encountered in Trench 10 comprised three levelling/dump deposits, (1011), (1009) & (1010), of probably late medieval date (Plate 11). All three levelling/dump deposits were only partially exposed within the north-western corner of the trench for an area of at least 1.56m north-south by 2.10m east-west. These levelling/dump deposits had a combined maximum thickness of at least 0.44m with the uppermost strata of these deposits encountered at c. 0.38m below present ground level, at maximum and minimum heights of 28.28m AOD and 27.80m AOD, respectively.
- 5.10.3 The earliest levelling/dump deposit comprised soft mid greyish brown silty clay (1011) at least 0.14m thick and contained occasional small stones, fragments of ceramic building material, and flecks of charcoal. Levelling/dump deposit (1011) was directly overlain by c. 0.40m thick sandstone rubble within a friable mid grey clayey silt matrix (1009). The rubble material comprised small to large roughly hewn and unworked sandstone blocks and sandstone fragments (maximum size 400mm x 300mm x 200mm and minimum size 150mm x 150mm x 100mm) that may represent material derived from robbing activity from the medieval fortifications during the latter part of the medieval period. In turn sandstone rubble deposit (1009) was overlain by c 0.30m thick firm mid greyish brown silty clay (1010).
- 5.10.4 A small assemblage of finds was recovered from these deposits including small quantities of animal bone from deposits (1010) and (1011) and three sherds of medieval pottery from the uppermost deposit (1010).

Phase 5: Post-medieval and Undated

- 5.10.5 In Trench 10 Phase 5 represents post-medieval ground raising and levelling activity. Six levelling/dump and consolidation deposits, (1002), (1008), (1012), (1013), (1014) & (1015), were recorded extending across Trench 10 (Plate 11, 12 & 13) that had a combined thickness of at least 0.40m (Plates 11, 12 & 13). The uppermost strata for these deposits was encountered at maximum and minimum heights of 28.20m AOD and 28.04m AOD,

respectively. The table below summarises all Phase 5 levelling/dump and consolidation deposits.

Context	Thickness	Height (mAOD)	Description
1002	0.20m	28.17	Sandstone blocks/fragments and CBM within a friable mid greyish sandy silt matrix
1008	0.35m	28.08	Friable dark grey clayey silt
1012	70mm	28.18	Soft mid greyish brown sandy silt
1013	0.40m	28.20	Loose mid yellowish brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of small fragments of sandstone
1014	0.10m	28.08	Small to medium sized angular sandstone fragments within mid greyish brown sandy silt matrix
1015	0.15m	28.14	Compact mid orange brown coarse sandy silt with frequent inclusions of Fe slag

Summary of Phase 5 levelling/dump and consolidation deposits

- 5.10.6 Levelling/dump deposits (1008), (1012), (1013) (1014) and (1015) were observed to be tipping downwards from the north-west to south-east suggesting the infilling and subsequent levelling of an area of sloping topography (Plates 13 & 14).
- 5.10.7 The Phase 5 levelling/dump deposits were in turn overlain by compact dark grey sandy silt stone rubble levelling/consolidation deposit (1002) that was partially exposed at the south-eastern end of the trench and encountered c. 0.40m below the current ground surface (Plate 13). This deposit has been heavily truncated by Phase 6 levelling activity and as exposed had dimensions of at least 3.60m NW-SE by 2.70m NE-SW and was up to 0.20m thick. This deposit comprised mainly of medium sized roughly hewn and unworked sandstone blocks (maximum size 300mm x 200mm x 200mm & minimum size 100mm x 100mm x 50mm) along with infrequent medium sub-round river cobbles (maximum size 200mm x 150mm x 100mm) and fragments of ceramic building material. This deposit may represent the surviving portion of a consolidation layer for a surface that is no longer present.
- 5.10.8 A small assemblage of finds was recovered from levelling/dump deposits (1008) & (1014) including seven sherds of 14/16th century pottery (Appendix 5) and one fragment of medieval brick (Appendix 6). Although the pottery and brick assemblage provided a date range for the 14th to 16th centuries these are all likely to be residual.

Phase 6: Early 20th century

- 5.10.9 Phase 5 levelling/consolidation deposit (1002) and levelling/dump deposit (1015) were directly overlain by Phase 6 levelling activity. A single levelling/dump deposit was recorded extended across the majority of Trench 10 that comprised mid greyish brown clayey silt (1004) up to 0.20m thick. This deposit was encountered c. 0.40m below the present ground

level and encountered at maximum and minimum heights of 28.14m AOD and 28.04m AOD, respectively. Although three sherds pottery of 14th/16th century date were recovered from this deposit they are certainly residual. This deposit probably represents early 20th century levelling activity associated with the raising of the ground level prior to the construction of the road that would become St Nicholas Street.

Phase 7: Modern

- 5.10.10 The current surface comprised c.0.22m thick asphalt (1000) and c. 0.27m thick concrete sub-base (1001). The current surface occurred at maximum and minimum heights of 28.63m AOD and 28.47m AOD, respectively.
- 5.10.11 Phase 6 levelling/dump deposit (1004) was cut by modern service trench [1021] that extended across Trench 10 aligned NE-SW. Its single backfill comprised loose light grey crushed stone (1020).
- 5.10.12 Two NE-SW aligned modern service trenches, [1017] & [1019], were recorded extending across Trench 10 truncating concrete (1001). Both service trenches had a similar compact light brownish crushed stone and sand backfill, (1016) & (1018), and each contained two plastic ducting pipes.

5.11 Trench 11 (Figures 6 Plan; Figure 15 Section 11)

- 5.11.1 Trench 11 extended across the carriageway of St. Nicholas Street located immediately to the north of the junction with Westgate Road (Figure 2). The trench was NE-SW aligned and had dimensions of 11.45m ENE-WSW by up to 0.80m wide and was excavated to varying depths of between 0.40m and 1.00m.

Phase 1: Roman

- 5.11.2 The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 11 represents Roman levelling/dumping activity. A single levelling/dump deposit was recorded at the base of the western part of Trench 11 and comprised firm dark grey silty clay (1105) at least 0.15m thick. It was exposed for a maximum area of 3.37m ENE-WSW by 0.90m NNW-SSE and was encountered c. 0.69m below the present ground level at maximum and minimum heights of 27.96m AOD and 27.86m AOD, respectively. Five sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from this deposit dating to the mid-late 2nd to the early 3rd century AD (Appendix 7).

Phase 5: Post-medieval and Undated

- 5.11.3 Phase 5 represents levelling activity presumably undertaken in the post-medieval period. The earliest Phase 5 levelling/dump deposit comprised c. 0.25m thick sandstone rubble and river cobbles within a firm grey silty clay matrix (1117) that was encountered c. 0.47m below the present ground level, at a maximum height of 28.18m AOD (Plate 14 & 15). Although a single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from this deposit, based on its composition

and the presence of post-medieval ceramic building material this deposit probably dates to the post-medieval period.

- 5.11.4 Levelling/dump deposit (1117) was in turn overlay by two further levelling/dump deposits (1102) and (1116). Levelling/dump deposit (1102) comprised firm dark grey silty clay that was partially exposed across the central and ENE extent of the trench for a distance of at least 7.85m ENE-WSW, and was up to 0.35m thick at its WNW extent and at least 0.46m thick at its ENE extent where its full thickness at this location was not established. Levelling/dump deposit (1116) was partially exposed across the WSW extent of Trench 11 and comprised firm dark brownish grey silty clay at least 0.20m thick. Levelling/dump deposits (1102) and (1116) were encountered c. 0.40m below the present ground level at maximum and minimum heights of 28.25m AOD and 28.01m AOD, respectively. Although no datable finds were recovered from these deposits their mottled compositions suggest a post-medieval date.

Phase 7: Modern

- 5.11.5 Three NNW-SSE aligned service trenches, [1107], [1109] & [1111], were recorded cutting concrete deposit (1101). Each service trench contained a single crushed stone (dolomite) backfill, (1106), (1108) & (1110), respectively, and Service Trenches [1109] and [1111] contained plastic ducting pipes.
- 5.11.6 The current carriageway surface comprised c. 0.20m thick asphalt (1100) and associated c. 0.30m thick concrete sub-base (1101). The current surface occurred at maximum and minimum heights of 28.66m AOD and 28.55m AOD, respectively.

5.12 Trench 12 (Figure 16, Section 22)

- 5.12.1 Trench 12 was located within both the carriageway at the junction of St Nicholas' Street and the Castle Garth, immediately to the north of the High Level Bridge (Figure 2). The trench was c. 14.60m long, aligned NW-SE along St Nicholas' Street and gradually turned to an ENE-WSW alignment towards Castle Garth. It was uniformly 0.60m wide and excavated to a maximum depth of 0.30m.

Phase 7: Modern

- 5.12.2 All deposits recorded in Trench 12 were modern. The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 12 represents modern levelling activity and comprised loose dark red sand and gravel (1203). Only the upper strata of this deposit was encountered within the SE extent of the trench for a maximum distance of 4.30m. The thickness of this deposit was not established.
- 5.12.3 The current surface comprised c. 0.13m thick asphalt (1200) and c. 0.23m thick concrete sub-base (1201). The current surface occurred at maximum and minimum heights of 28.66m AOD and 28.23m AOD, respectively.

5.13 Trench 13 (Figure 17, Section 25)

- 5.13.1 Trench 13 was located within the pedestrian footpath on the eastern site of St Nicholas' Street and immediately to the ENE of Trench 10 that by this time had been backfilled (Figure 2). Trench 13 had dimensions of c. 19m NW-SE, varied in width from 0.65m to 1.35m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.70m. At the north-western extent of the trench it was extended to the northeast by 2.70m NE-SW and 1.30m NW-SE.

Phase 5: Post-medieval and Undated

- 5.13.2 The earliest material encountered in Trench 13 consisted of a two levelling/dump deposits (1311) and (1312) (Plate 16). The earliest levelling/dump deposit comprised friable dark grey clayey silt (1311) that was partially exposed within the NNW extent of the trench for an area of at least 2.50m NNW-SSE by 2.00m ENE-WSW. The full thickness of this deposit was not established, extending below the excavation levels of the current groundworks scheme, and was encountered c. 0.50m below the present ground level at a maximum height of 28.01m AOD. Although no datable finds were recovered from this deposit it has a similar composition to Phase 5 levelling/dump deposit (1008) recorded in Trench 10 and probably represents a continuation of this to the ENE.
- 5.13.3 Levelling/dump deposit [1311] was in turn overlain by mid yellowish brown sandy silt (1312) that contained frequent quantities of small sub-angular fragments of sandstone. It was partially exposed within the NNW extent of the trench for an area of at least 3.15m NNW-SSE by 0.80m ENE-WSW and was c. 0.10m thick, encountered at maximum and minimum heights of 28.05m AOD and 27.97m AOD, respectively. This deposit is similar in composition to that of levelling/dump deposit (1014) recorded in Trench 10 and represents a continuation of this to the ENE.

Phase 6: Early 20th century

- 5.13.4 Phase 6 is represented by a single levelling/dump deposit (1310) that directly overlaying the upper most Phase 5 levelling/dump deposit (1312). Levelling/dump (1310) comprised loose dark greyish brown clayey silty that was exposed across Trench 13 for at least 15.00m NNW-SSE. As exposed, it was at least 0.30m thick and encountered c. 0.34m below the present ground level at c. 28.14m AOD high. Although a single sherd of 17th century pottery was recovered from this deposit it is certainly residual (Appendix 5).

Phase 7: Modern

- 5.13.5 Concrete (1303), directly overlying Phase 6 levelling/dump deposit (1310), was partially exposed at the SSE extent of the trench for a distance of 4.60m NNE-SSW by 1.60m ENE-WSW and was up to 0.25m thick, encountered at c. 28.38m AOD high. This probably represents part of the sub-base for the current surface.
- 5.13.6 Five various aligned modern service trenches, [1302], [1309], [1314], [1317] & [1319], were recorded extending across Trench 13. Each service contained a single backfill, (1301), (1308), (1313), (1316) & (1318), respectively, comprising various compositions of sand, silt

and crushed stone (dolomite). The backfills (1301) & (1316) of Service Trenches [1302] & [1317] contained plastic ducting pipes, Service Trench [1309] backfill (1308) contained a row of ceramic tiles stamped 'DANGER ELECTRICITY' and Service trench [1319] backfill (1318) contained a black electricity cable.

- 5.13.7 A brick inspection chamber (1306), within the central portion of the trench, was recorded within construction cut [1307] and had dimensions of 2.45m NNW-SSE by at least 0.46m high. The construction cut [1307] was backfilled with crushed stone (1304) and concrete (1305).
- 5.13.8 The pedestrian footpath comprised c. 0.10m thick concrete pavers and associated c. 60mm thick sand bedding (1300). The current footpath surface occurred at c. 28.54m AOD high.

5.14 Trench 14 (Figure 18, Section 27)

- 5.14.1 Trench 14 was located within the carriageway of St. Nicholas Street immediately to the south of the junction with Westgate Road (Figure 2). It was aligned ENE-WSW and had dimensions of c. 9.95m long by up to 1.20m wide and was excavated to varying depths of between 0.40m and 1.00m.

5.14.2 Phase 6: Early 20th century

- 5.14.3 Phase 6 represents levelling activity and two service trenches of early 20th century date. Levelling/dump deposit (1408) comprised loose dark brownish grey clayey silt that was the basal deposit exposed across the ENE half of Trench 14. The full thickness of this deposit was not established and it was exposed to at least 0.36m thick, encountered between 0.46m and 0.56m below present ground level at maximum and minimum heights of 28.108m AOD and 28.04m AOD, respectively.
- 5.14.4 Two NNW-SSE aligned service trenches, [1405] & [1407], were recorded extending across Trench 14, and cut levelling/dump deposit (1408). Both service trenches contained similar backfills of friable mid greyish brown clayey silt, (1404) & (1406), respectively. Service Trench [1405] contained a single cast iron pipe and Service Trench [1407] contained two cast iron pipes.

Phase 7: Modern

- 5.14.5 Phase 6 service trenches were overlain by c. 0.35m thick concrete [1401] that spanned the length of the Trench. The concrete was encountered at a depth of 0.23m below present ground at a maximum height of 28.33m OD and represents the sub-base for the current asphalt carriageway surface. The eastern extent of concrete sub-base (1401) was cut by an NNW-SSE aligned modern Service Trench [1403] that contained a single crushed stone backfill (1402) and plastic ducting pipe.
- 5.14.6 The current c. 0.22m thick asphalt carriageway surface occurred at maximum and minimum heights of 28.62m AOD and 28.56m AOD.

5.15 Trench 15

- 5.15.1 Trench 15 was located within the pedestrian footpath on the western side of St Nicholas street immediately to the south of the junction with Westgate Road (Figure 2). It was aligned NW-SE and had dimensions of 5.70m long by up to 1.00m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.40m.

Phase 6: Early 20th century

- 5.15.2 Phase 6 represents early 20th century levelling activity and a brick surface.
- 5.15.3 Three levelling deposits, (1508), (1510) & (1511), were the basal deposits exposed across Trench 15. Levelling/dump deposit (1508) comprised friable mid grey sandy silt that was exposed within the SSE extent of the trench for at least 1.50m NNW-SSE; levelling/dump deposit (1510) comprised compact dark grey silty clay and sandstone rubble that was exposed across the central portion of the trench for 1.48m NNW-SSE; levelling/dump deposit (1511) comprised friable mid grey silty clay that was exposed in the northern half of Trench 15 for at least 1.40m NNW-SSE. All levelling/dump deposits were encountered c. 0.40m below the present ground level at maximum and minimum heights of 28.22m AOD and 28.16m AOD, respectively.
- 5.15.4 Part of a brick surface {1507}, directly overlay levelling/dump deposit (1508), was exposed at the SSE extent of the trench for an area of 0.62m north-south by at least 0.32m east-west. The brick surface itself was constructed using unfrogged half bat and three-quarter bat bricks, bonded with light brown sandy mortar, and encountered c. 0.20m below the present ground level at a height of c. 28.31m AOD.

Phase 7: Modern

- 5.15.5 Phase 6 levelling/dump deposits were truncated by three modern service trenches, [1503], [1505] & [1512]. Service Trench [1512] was partially exposed within the SSE end of the trench and had dimensions of at least 0.54m ENE-WSW by 1.10m NNW-SSE. Its single concrete backfill (1506) contained a vertical cast iron pipe c. 0.20m diameter. NNW-SSE aligned Service Trench [1505] was partially exposed along the eastern side of the trench. It was exposed for a maximum distance of 2.56m by at least 0.34m wide, encountered at a maximum height of 28.31m AOD, and contained a single concrete backfill (1504). Service Trench [1503] was recorded extending across the trench aligned ENE-WSW and was up to 1.10m wide. It was backfilled with concrete (1502) and crushed stone (dolomite) (1509).

5.16 Trench 16 (Figure 18, Section 28)

- 5.16.1 Trench 16 was located within the carriageway on the western side of St. Nicholas Street, immediately to the north of the junction with Queen's Lane (Figure 2). The trench was orientated ENE-WSW and had dimensions of 5.70m long by 0.50m wide with two later extensions undertaken at its WSW extent (1.84m NNW-SSE x up to 1.20m ENE-WSW) and

ENE-WSW extent (0.90m ENE-WSW x 1.20m NNW-SSE). The trench was excavated to various depths of between 0.34m and 1.18m.

Phase 6: Early 20th century

- 5.16.2 In Trench 16 Phase 6 activity represents early 20th century levelling activity and services. Four levelling/dump deposits, (1604), (1605), (1606) & (1607), were recorded extending across Trench 16 (Plate 17). These deposits comprised various compositions of ash, clay and silt and had a maximum combined thickness of at least 0.80m. The upper strata of such deposits was encountered c.0.37m below the present ground level at a maximum height of c. 28.18m AOD. A single sherd of Cistercian ware pottery of 16th date was recovered from the earliest exposed levelling/dump deposit (1604) that is likely to be residual.
- 5.16.3 NNW-SSE aligned Service Trench [1603] truncated the uppermost levelling/dump deposit (1604) and was recorded extending across the ENE extent of Trench 16. The service trench was 0.65m wide by at least 0.30m deep and contained a loose mid greyish brown backfill (1602) and cast iron pipe.

Phase 7: Modern

- 5.16.4 Phase 6 levelling/dump deposit (1604) was truncated by a modern NNW-SSE aligned Service Trench, [1609], that was recorded extending across the WSW extent of Trench 16. It was 1.10m wide and is backfill comprised concrete that encased three plastic ducting pipes.
- 5.16.5 The carriageway surface comprised c. 0.18m thick asphalt (1600) and associated c. 0.30m thick concrete sub-base (1601). The asphalt surface occurred at maximum and minimum heights of 28.55m AOD and 28.38m AOD, respectively.

5.17 Trench 17 (Figure 19, Section 29)

- 5.17.1 Trench 17 was located within the carriageway at the south-eastern end of St Nicholas Street, immediately adjacent to the entrance to the High Level Bridge (Figure 2). It had dimensions of 6.00m NE-SW by up to 4.00m NW-SE and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.70m.

Phase 6: Early 20th century

- 5.17.2 The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 17 comprised c. 0.30m thick light brown sand [1708] that contained frequent small pieces of sandstone. This deposit extended across the whole of Trench 17 and was encountered c. 0.40m below the present ground level at a maximum height of c. 28.41m AOD. This material probably represents a levelling/consolidation deposit laid down to raise the ground level for the approach to the High Level Bridge.
- 5.17.3 Levelling/consolidation deposit [1708] was truncated by NW-SE aligned Service Trench [1707] that was partially exposed within the south-western corner of the trench. It was

exposed for a maximum distance of 2.00m and was 0.30m wide by 0.20m deep. Service Trench [1707] was in turn truncated by a NE-SW aligned Service Trench [1705] that was exposed for 6.00m NE-SW and was 0.30m wide. The backfills of both Service Trenches comprised friable mid greyish brown clayey silt, (1706) and (1704), respectively, with each service trench containing a single cast iron pipe.

- 5.17.4 Deposit (1708) and Service Trenches [1705] and [1707] were overlain by a substantial concrete deposit (1701) that was up to 0.50m thick. This deposit has tentatively been attributed to Phase 6 activity based on the substantial quantities of sandstone rubble inclusions and may represent consolidation material associated with the former tramway that ran between Gosforth and Low Fell via the High Level Bridge.

Phase 7: Modern

- 5.17.5 Concrete (1701) was truncated by four NW-SE aligned shallow linear features [1710] that were between 0.70m and 1.25m wide and had variable depths of between 0.07m and 0.12m. These linear features may be the result of the removal of the former tramway tracks that ran between Gosforth and Low Fell via the High Level Bridge. All shallow linear features were backfilled with asphalt (1700) that forms the current surface.
- 5.17.6 NE-SW aligned modern Service Trench [1703], was recorded truncating Phase 6 concrete (1701) at the north-western extent of Trench 17. The service trench was up to 0.45m wide by 0.40m deep and contained a single crushed stone (dolomite) backfill (1702) and plastic ducting pipe.
- 5.17.7 The current c. 70mm thick asphalt surface (1700) directly overlay Phase 6 concrete (1701) and occurred at maximum and minimum heights of 28.81m AOD and 28.75m AOD, respectively.

5.18 Trench 18 (Figure 19, Section 30)

- 5.18.1 Trench 18 was located within the pedestrian footpath on the western side of St. Nicholas Street, immediately to the east of St. Nicholas Building (Figure 2). The trench was rectangular shaped and had dimensions of 2.00m ENE-WSW by 1.40m NNW-SSE and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.60m.

Phase 6: Early 20th century

- 5.18.2 A partially exposed brick structure {1805} was recorded in the base of Trench 18 and comprised two parallel walls c. 0.48m apart. Only the uppermost course of each wall was exposed and comprised frogged red brick (120mm x 110mm) bonded with concrete mortar, encountered c. 0.49m below the present ground level. This structure probably represents housing for and an earlier service, however this was not definitively established.

- 5.18.3 Brick structure {1805} was directly overlain by a levelling/dump deposit that was recorded extending across Trench 18 and comprised friable dark grey sandy silt (1803) at least 0.22m thick. Deposit (1803) contained three cast iron pipes for which no cut was observed.

Phase 7: Modern

- 5.18.4 Phase 6 levelling/dump deposit (1803) was truncated by a NW-SE aligned modern Service Trench [1802] that was at least 1.40m wide by 0.43m deep. Its single backfill comprised loose mid brown gravelly sand (1801) that contained two cables for electricity.
- 5.18.5 The current pedestrian footpath surface comprised stone pavers c. 70mm thick and associated c. 0.10m thick concrete sub-base (1800).

5.19 Trench 19

- 5.19.1 Trench 19 was located within the recently expanded pedestrian footpath area along St. Nicholas Street, immediately to the south of the junction with Westgate Road (Figure 2). This trench had dimensions of up to 1.90m ENE-WSW by 0.90m NNW-SSE and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.30m.

Phase 7: Modern

- 5.19.2 Concrete (1901) was the basal deposit recorded in Trench 19 that was in turn directly overlain by the current c. 60mm thick concrete paver surface and associated c. 0.21m thick concrete sub-base (1900). At this location the pedestrian footpath had recently been widened and all deposits encountered within Trench 19 represents activity associated with this.

6. SUMMARY DISCUSSION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS

6.1 Phase 1: Roman/undated

- 6.1.1 Phase 1 is represented by the remains of a sandstone wall of probable Roman date in Trench 5 and a levelling/ground raising dump in Trench 11 that contained five sherds of Roman pottery. Although no dateable material was recovered from wall {516} it is almost certain to be Roman as it was overlain by Phase 2 post-Roman demolition rubble and truncated by Phase 3 Anglo-Saxon Burial 2.
- 6.1.2 Only a small portion of the wall was exposed therefore its function could not be established. Trench 5 was located within the southern part of *Pons Aelius* Roman fort and more specifically the presumed location of the Barrack block indicating that the wall was a structural element within the barracks. Current knowledge of the location and layout of the fort suggest that Trench 5 lies within the northern end of the western barrack block, with the *Praetorium* located to the west, a second barrack block to the east and the *Principia* to the north.
- 6.1.3 The wall in Trench 5 was recorded at a similar height (27.37m AOD) to the floors within the *Principia* building (c. 27.05m) noted during excavations immediately to the north (Snape and Bidwell 2002, 31 & 40). Considering this factor and their location adjacent to the *Principia*, it seems likely that the walls represent part of the northern end of the barrack block or an internal partition wall. Roman structures have been excavated to the south of the *Principia* building, immediately to the east of Trench 10. The remains included three north-south walls interpreted as being part of narrow buildings that may have been additional barrack blocks, and later, possibly 3rd century hypocausted building that may have been attached to the south-eastern side of the *Principia* (Snape and Bidwell 2002, 268 & 273).
- 6.1.4 The exact location of the Roman fort in Newcastle (HER 204; Historic England List Entry Ref. 102126) was only determined beyond doubt in the 1970s (Snape and Bidwell 2002). It was evidently detached from the Hadrian's Wall (located to the north along the line of the modern street The Side) and was situated on a promontory defended by steep scarps to the north, east and south, an area now known as Castle Garth. Its full extent has not been determined, but it is thought to have been irregular in shape in order to utilise the triangular shape of the promontory and it had an estimated area of c. 0.5 hectares.
- 6.1.5 The stone-built fort in Newcastle dates from the late 2nd century or early third century AD. The *principia* has been partially excavated and appears to be of exceptionally small size, as are two granaries, also partially excavated. A recent summary of the fort indicates that the small size may reflect reductions in military unit size as represented by smaller barracks of the 3rd century seen elsewhere on the Roman frontier (Bidwell 2009, 71-73). The fort also has an unusual plan with the granaries placed in the *praetentura* opposite the *principia*, this possibly being an early occurrence of the cruciform plan typical of late Roman date. The

most recent hypothetical reconstruction of the location and layout of the fort was produced in 2002 (Bidwell and Snape 2002, 274; outline shown on Figure 2).

- 6.1.6 Evidence for Roman activity has also been uncovered to the west of the fort, indicating the presence of a *vicus* and an associated cemetery on the western approach. During the investigation Roman levelling/dumping activity was recorded at the base of the western part of Trench 11, located just outside the western walls of the fort (Figure 2). It was exposed for a maximum area of 3.37m ENE-WSW by 0.90m NNW-SSE and was encountered at c. 0.69m below the present ground level. Five sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from this deposit dating to the mid-late 2nd to the early 3rd century AD, which compares well with the dating of the establishment and construction of the Roman Fort at Newcastle (Bidwell and Croom 2002).
- 6.1.7 The most extensive work in the *vicus* has been in the area of Clavering Place/Hanover Square. Numerous antiquarian discoveries of Roman material are recorded on the HER for this area, including an inscribed stone found in 1864 bearing the name of the first cohort of Thracians (HER 1442) and two Roman stone coffins found in the early 1900s (HER 1450 and 1452). Roman material was discovered in the 1960s at Clavering Place during archaeological work to investigate the medieval friary (Annis 2009, 85-87).
- 6.1.8 Excavations at the former BEMCO building in 2008 and 2009 (Annis 2009, 85-87) established that at one time the *vicus* extended c. 130m to the west of the fort before it was subsequently abandoned for cemetery activity. The most notable finds at the site were two massive sandstone sarcophagi within a large burial pit adjacent to a narrow north-south aligned Roman road. The Roman coarse pottery from that site indicated that the main period of activity was in the first half of the 3rd century, with a possibility of late 2nd century commencement and no occupation at all after c. AD 270.
- 6.1.9 The site of the former Parcels Office to the west of the site along Westgate Road revealed the presence of limited archaeological remains of Roman date within one of the evaluation trenches in 2007 (M. Town, North Pennines Archaeology, *pers comm*).
- 6.1.10 Roman remains were also identified in an evaluation in 2007 adjacent to the site to the west that recorded evidence for multi-phase Roman occupation during the 2nd and 3rd centuries, with various types of remains being recorded, including structures, successive surfaces and pits (PCA 2008). The range of artefactual material recovered was certainly indicative of high status, possibly military, roman period settlement. The hard surfaces recorded within the Roman levels could represent yards or roads, possibly associated with defined properties in a civilian settlement, as identified at other *vici* in the north of England, or could represent an area of hardstanding for military activity, for example, the surface of a parade ground.
- 6.1.11 Further work was undertaken within the railway arches to the west of the site that identified six main sub-phases of Roman activity comprising structures and features (PCA 2010). Activity pre-dating and associated with the construction and usage of a *vicus* carriageway,

was uncovered (Street 1) as well as activity associated with the construction and usage of a later carriageway (Street 2). Current knowledge of the location and layout of the fort *Pons Aelius* suggest that Street 1 lay c. 25-30m from the western wall for the fort. Street 1 appears to have been set out on a NNW-SSE alignment and within the boundaries of the site or possibly to the north of the site below Westgate Road, Street 1 may have formed a right angled junction with a road which ran WSW-ENE alignment towards a hitherto undiscovered western 'side' gate of the fort. Construction of Street 1 and the associated street frontage buildings likely date to the late 2nd or early 3rd century, the period during which the fort was constructed. The carriageway and street frontages were subsequently modified probably during the 3rd century, a period which earlier excavations have demonstrated saw modifications to many of the buildings and streets within the fort (Snape and Bidwell 2002, 9).

- 6.1.12 If the proposed line of the western wall of the fort is correct, Street 2 lay only c. 10-15m to the west of it. This street probably did not run towards the western 'side' gate of the fort, although it is difficult to be certain given the limited degree to which it was possible to expose the feature and also given the limited amount of previous investigation conducted towards the western limit of the fort (the western wall of which has never been identified). Street 2 probably dates to the 3rd or 4th century, a period which earlier excavations have demonstrated witnessed re-development within the fort, with some buildings being rebuilt and for example, resurfacing of the *via praetoria* and at least one of the intervallum streets (Snape and Bidwell 2002, 9).
- 6.1.13 Many of the forts along Hadrianic frontier had *vici*, either under the formal control of a military commander or existing as more spontaneous growths attracted by the economic and social possibilities of supplying the base. Many of the formal aspects of such settlements cannot be identified at Newcastle such as bath suites or the *mansio*. Apart from the BEMCO site, only small-scale investigations such as evaluations and watching briefs have been undertaken and later urban developments in the city, especially in the 19th century, have destroyed much of the domestic settlement. The Newcastle *vicus* may therefore have been more significant than what the archaeological evidence suggests.

6.2 Phase 2: Post-Roman Demolition/Undated

- 6.2.1 The Roman fort at Newcastle was abandoned in the early 5th century, this saw *Pons Aelius* enter a period of decay and collapse (Phase 2). Archaeological evidence for post-Roman activity at the site consisted of a silty clayey sandstone rubble deposit extending across Trench 5. Although no dateable material was recovered from the deposit it directly overlay Phase 1 masonry walls {516} and therefore probably represents the abandonment of the barrack block in the post-Roman period and its subsequent collapse.
- 6.2.2 Snape and Bidwell (2002, 111-27) have identified two different phases in the period following the Roman occupation of the fort and its immediate vicinity. The first of these is the

aforementioned decay and collapse of the buildings whilst the other involved the robbing of stone from the structures, levelling and clearance of some areas of the fort. This was followed by the construction of a number of features that were no longer in alignment with the Roman structures (*ibid.* 111; Graves and Heslop 2013, 72).

- 6.2.3 No Anglian or Anglo-Saxon settlement has been uncovered at Newcastle although a wicker pit on The Close indicates late Saxon activity in the area (Graves and Heslop 2013, 65) with an additional findspot of a barbed arrowhead to the north of the site from Stowell Street (Adams 2005, 97).
- 6.2.4 Interpretation of the post-Roman occupation of the fort and surrounding area is problematic due to the limited scale of excavation in the area. There appears to be limited evidence from the end of Roman military occupation through to c. AD700 when dateable artefacts and radiocarbon evidence suggest that burials began on site. What is clear is that within this period collapsed buildings were levelled, timber buildings and drainage features constructed, and paving was laid out after the demolition of the north wall of the fort. Non-Roman native pottery indicates that this was the result of early Anglo-Saxon occupation (Snape and Bidwell 2002, 7-9). Subsequently, a large Anglo-Saxon cemetery was established on Castle Garth; more than 650 east-west aligned inhumation burials dating from the 8th century to the mid-13th century have been recorded.

6.3 Phase 3: Anglo-Saxon cemetery/Undated

- 6.3.1 Two east-west inhumations burials were uncovered within Trench 5 that represent part of the extensive Anglo-Saxon cemetery that was established around the site of the Roman fort. The two burials were only partially exposed and were in poor state of preservation with limited survival of skeletal material. The archaeological investigations were undertaken in accordance to the specification (Ref. MON15968) that stated: '*excavation is to be carried out with a view to avoid damage to any archaeological features which appear to be worthy of preservation in-situ*'. To this end both burials were partially exposed with only the upper strata of any significant archaeological remains exposed, hand cleaned and recorded. Both burials were left *in situ*.
- 6.3.2 The burials truncated both the Phase 1 Roman wall of the barrack block and Phase 2 post-Roman demolition/abandonment deposits. These burials represent the continuation to the south of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery that was recorded in previous excavations within the area of the Roman fort. During these excavations more than 650 west-east orientated inhumation burials dating from the 8th century to the 12th century were recorded truncating structures associated with the Roman fort and cutting post-Roman deposits. The burials began c. 700AD and continued in places after the creation of the Norman New Castle in 1080, and indeed after the rebuilding of the Castle keep in stone in 1168-78, and intermittently into the mid-13th century.

- 6.3.3 The burials were both interred on the same alignment with neither grave cutting the other, indicating a level of spatial organisation within the cemetery. This would accord with the evidence from the area of the cemetery that has been excavated immediately to the north where, despite dense burial in the area, there was “no apparent pressure on grave space, many graves on a single level of interment, neither cutting nor cut by other burials” (Nolan *et al.* 2010, 172). Burial 2 followed the line of wall {516} suggesting the latter was upstanding when the body was buried. It is recorded that many of the graves within the Anglo-Saxon cemetery followed the orientation of the walls of the fort (*ibid.*, 252). This evidence may also provide further support for an Anglo-Saxon date for the burials.
- 6.3.4 The location of the southern boundary of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery has not been established but the burials in Trench 5 at least indicate that it extends a little further to the south of its previously recorded extent, which was immediately to the south of the *Principia* building. It has been suggested that an east-west ditch excavated 17m to the south of the Keep may have formed the boundary of the graveyard, based partly on the fact that excavations to the south of the ditch, adjacent to the south curtain wall of the castle, did not encounter any human remains (Nolan *et al.* 2010, 158 & 161). What is known is that all remains relating to the cemetery fall within the postulated area of the Roman fort (Harbottle 1989, Figure 2). A space defined or set aside in this way may have presented a convenient location to the people who first used it for burial; enclosure had a high symbolic and status significance (Graves and Heslop 2013, 77). Furthermore, it has been suggested that some of the early burials took their orientation from the vestigial internal fort buildings (Nolan *et al.* 2010), this has been supported by the burials uncovered within Trench 5 (Figure 4).

6.4 Phase 4: Medieval

- 6.4.1 Phase 4 is represented by medieval remains uncovered within Trench 10 (Figure 5). These comprised three levelling/dump deposits exposed in the north-western corner of the trench, which contained a large quantity of sandstone rubble. The rubble may be derived from robbing activity from the medieval fortifications during the latter part of the medieval period.
- 6.4.2 A small assemblage of finds was recovered from these deposits including three sherds of medieval pottery from uppermost layer (1010). The medieval pottery comprised two unglazed dark grey sherds possibly dating to the 13th century and a third undiagnostic sherd.
- 6.4.3 Documentary evidence records that in 1080, Robert Curthose, Duke of Normandy, constructed a motte and bailey castle on the site of the Roman fort in Newcastle. A stone-built tower keep castle replaced the motte and bailey between 1168 and 1178 during the reign of Henry II, of which part of the east curtain wall and north gateway remains upstanding.

6.5 Phase 5 to 7: Post-medieval, early 20th century and modern

- 6.5.1 The later phases of the site comprised levelling/ground raising dumps, brick structures, and the installation of services. As such these phases have limited archaeological value.
- 6.5.2 The earliest phase (Phase 5) is comprised of post-medieval remains within Trenches 2, 3, 6, 10, 11 and 13. Levelling deposits were noted in these trenches that are likely derived from urban clearance and the re-development of this part of the city in the 18th/19th century.
- 6.5.3 The majority of the ground raising/levelling layers most likely date to the mid-18th century when many of the buildings in the area were cleared prior to the construction of the railway viaducts and the High Level Bridge as part of the extension of the Newcastle and Berwick Railway. At some time following the construction of the viaducts, a new road was created between the newly constructed railway bridge and the northern end of what was then Queen's Street, approximately the area around the junction of St Nicholas Street and Westgate Road. As the levelling layers from this phase lie directly under the concrete base layers for the modern road it seems likely that they are associated with the raising of ground levels following the clearance of buildings in the area prior to the construction of the viaducts and the new road.
- 6.5.4 Cartographic sources of the 19th century denoted structures on site at this time and it is thought probable that the brick structures observed within Trenches 3 and 6 represent elements of these historically attested structures. A structure comprising sandstone flag surface and brick wall was partially exposed within Trench 6. Based on the dimensions and character of the brick, this structure broadly dates to the mid-17th to 18th century and could possibly represent a structural element associated with the Presbyterian Meeting House established outside the Baliff Gate of the Castle c. 1705. The function of the structure itself is uncertain due to its limited exposure.
- 6.5.5 A sandstone culvert orientated north-east/south-west was uncovered in Trench 3 just to the south-east of wall {309}. The relationship between the culvert and wall [309] could not be established due to the presence of an intervening drainage cut [306]. However, it seems plausible to suggest that the culvert could be part of the same phase of development as the wall, perhaps associated with the need for more drainage facilities within this rapidly developing area of the town.
- 6.5.6 In the early 20th century (Phase 6) several services were installed, along with a concrete sub-base laid down for the road surface. Several episodes of ground raising dumps were also attributed to this phase.
- 6.5.7 Modern remains (Phase 7) were comprised of modern services, levelling deposits and the existing road/pavement surfaces.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Conclusions

7.1.1 The archaeological investigation undertaken at St Nicholas Street/Queen's Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, comprised the monitoring of 19 trenches during a scheme of highways improvements. Geological deposits were not reached within any of the trenches however, elements of Newcastle Roman fort, an Anglo-Saxon cemetery and medieval levelling was encountered along with post-medieval levelling and structures and early 20th century and modern remains. This activity was assigned to seven phases of activity:

- Phase 1: Roman remains comprising a wall in Trench 5 possible forming part of the barrack block in *Pons Aelius* Roman fort and levelling deposits adjacent to the fort within the location of the *vicus*;
- Phase 2: Post-Roman deposits representing period of collapse and abandonment within Trench 5;
- Phase 3: Anglo-Saxon cemetery comprising two burials uncovered in Trench 5;
- Phase 4: Medieval levelling/demolition deposits within Trench 10;
- Phase 5: Post-medieval levelling/ground raising dumps, remnants of structures shown on historic Ordnance Survey maps and a culvert;
- Phase 6: Early 20th century levelling deposits and services;
- Phase 7: Modern levelling, services, and the present road/ surface.

7.1.2 The North East Regional Research Framework highlights the importance of research as a vital element of development-led archaeological work. As outlined in that section, several key priorities within the NERRF Research Agenda for the Roman and Early Medieval period are of direct relevance to this project. In addition, the Research Agenda of *Frontiers of Knowledge*, the research framework for Hadrian's Wall, has highlighted a gap in existing understanding of the forts and their extramural settlements along with the post-Roman archaeology of the area after the end of Roman military occupation. As a consequence, the activity recorded at the site is considered to be of Regional significance in contributing to the understanding of *Pons Aelius* Roman fort, along with its decline and subsequent reuse of the area as an Anglo-Saxon cemetery.

7.1.3 The medieval and post-medieval activity is of limited significance, only enabling a local understanding of land use in the area during these periods.

7.1.4 Archaeological remains were only noted within Trenches 5, 10 and 11, however, none of the remaining trenches encountered superficial geological deposits indicating that archaeology may be present at lower levels. Although the findings are of regional significance, they only offer a limited data set for further investigation. The specification for the works, produced by

Tyne and Wear Archaeology Service (Ref. MON15968), contained a proviso that stated '*excavation is to be carried out with a view to avoid damage to any archaeological features which appear to be worthy of preservation in-situ*'. To this end, the wall of the Roman fort's barrack block and the two Anglo-Saxon burials were only partially exposed. The upper elements were exposed, hand cleaned and recorded in order to establish the nature and date with the archaeology left *in situ*. The limited size of the investigation in both area and depth also restricted potential for further analysis with any publication of the results offering only unsubstantiated conclusions on the development of the site. It is therefore considered that no further work is required.

7.2 Recommendations

- 7.2.1 No further work is required on the information recovered during the watching brief, with the Site Archive (including this report), forming the permanent record of the strata encountered.

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9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Newcastle City Council for commissioning the archaeological investigations. PCA would also like to thank Claire MacRae, Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer, for their assistance during the project.

PCA Credits

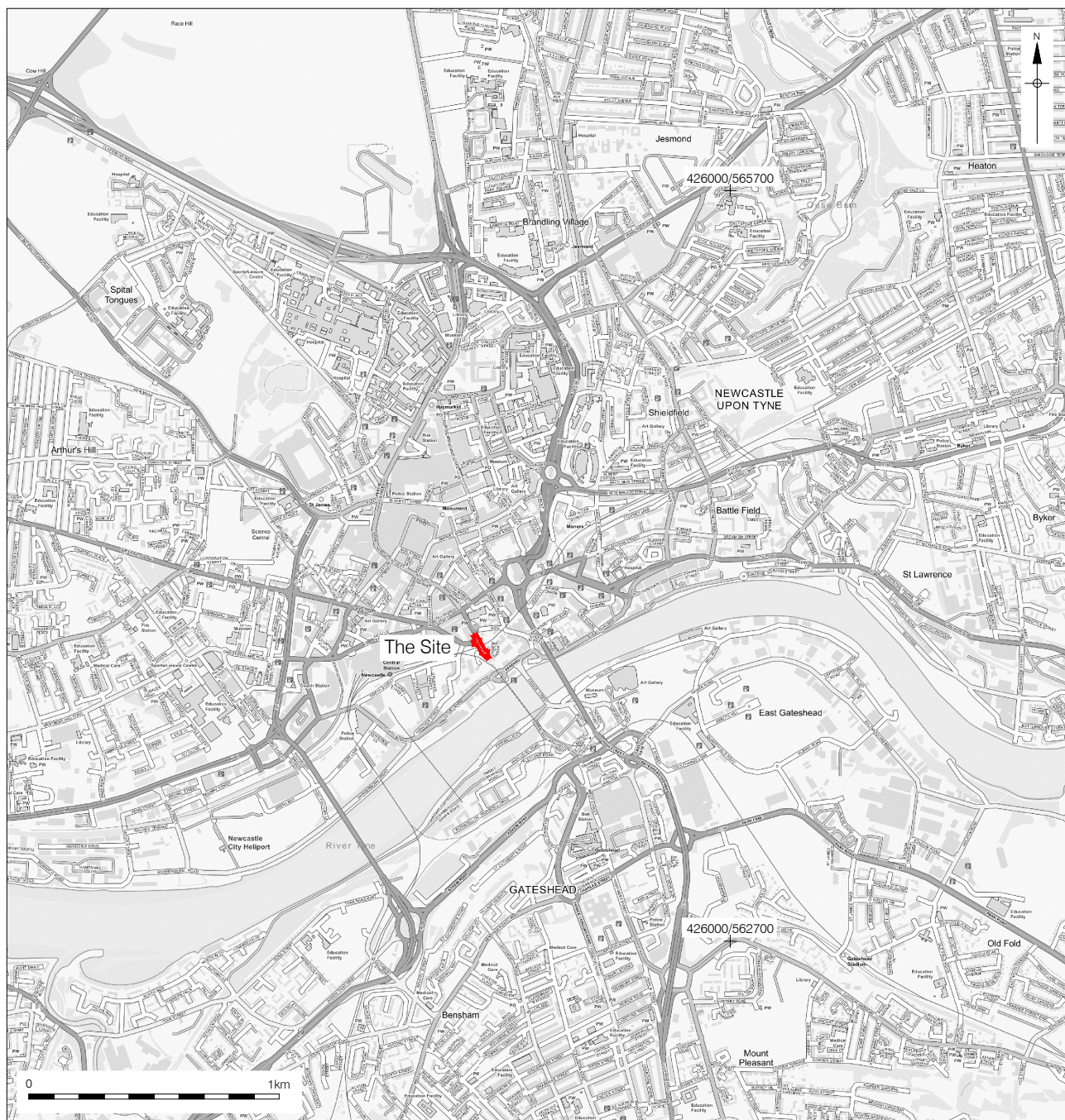
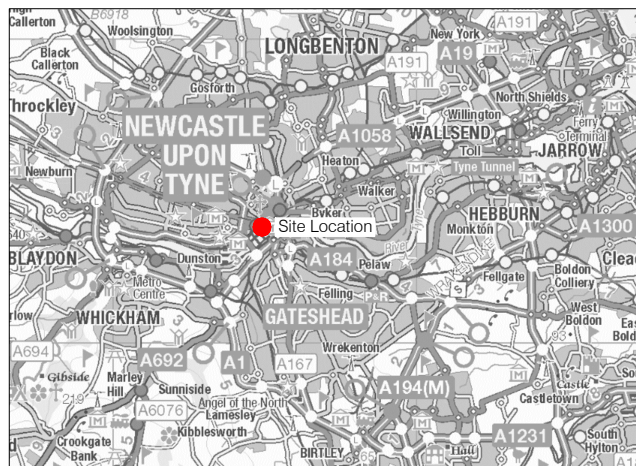
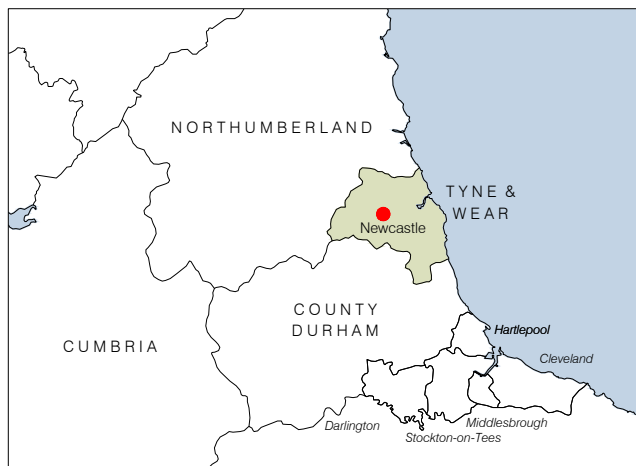
Fieldwork: Derek Moscrop (Supervisor) and Fred Garrett.

Report: Derek Moscrop, Aaron Goode and Scott Vance

Project Manager: Jennifer Proctor

CAD: Diana Valk

APPENDIX 1: FIGURES



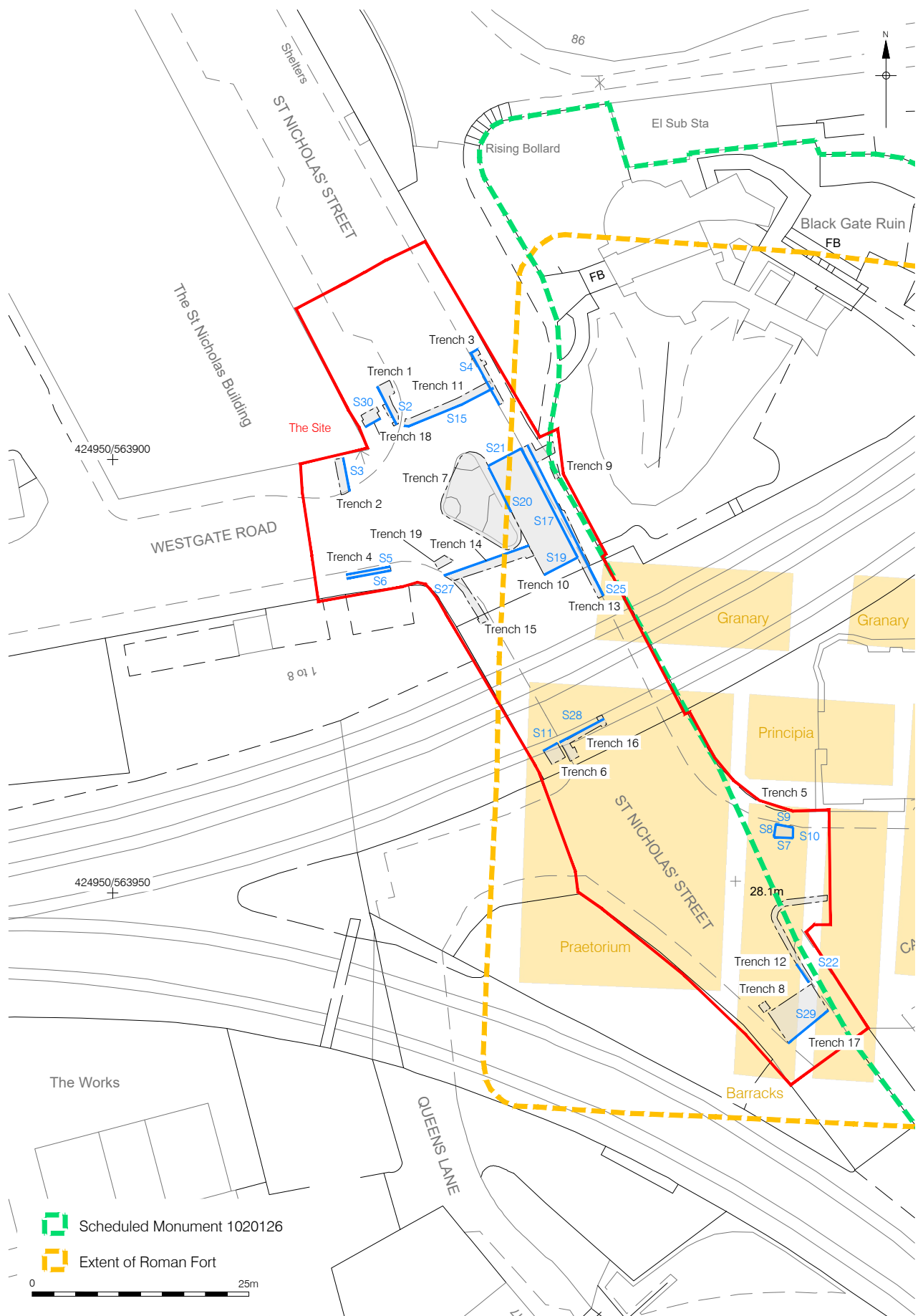
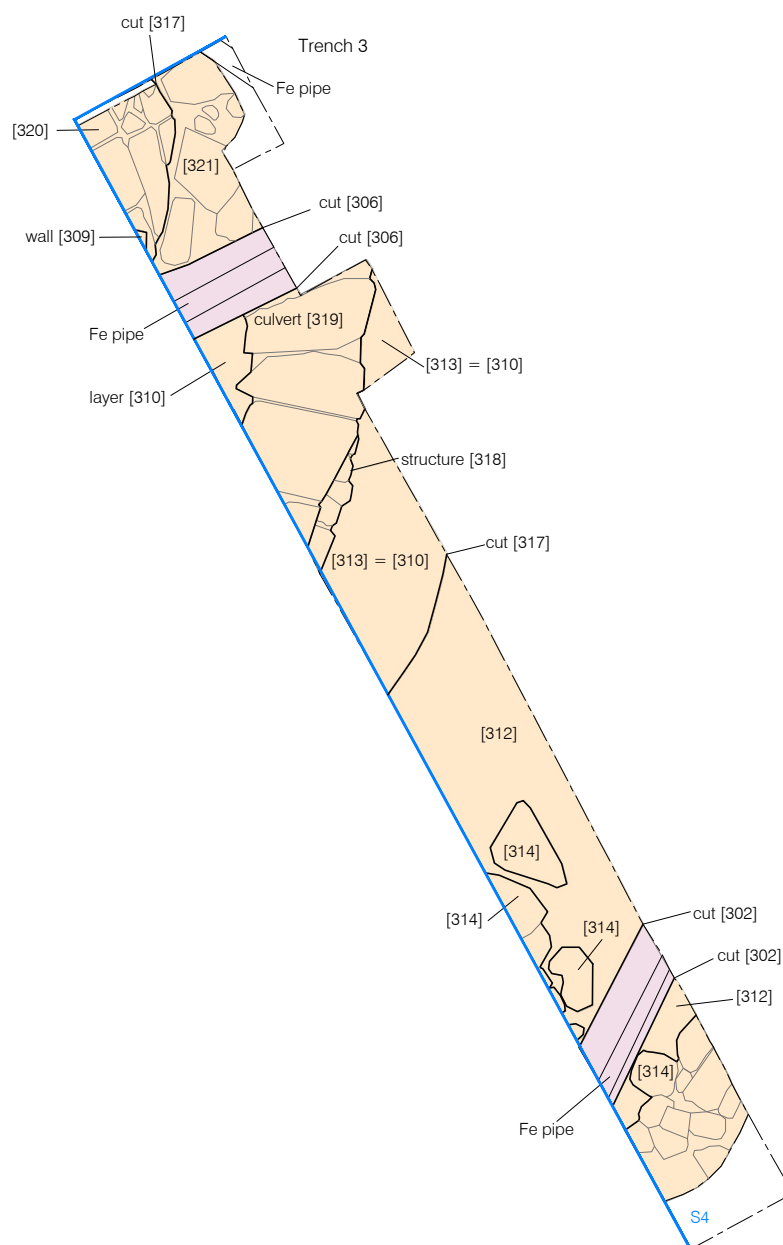
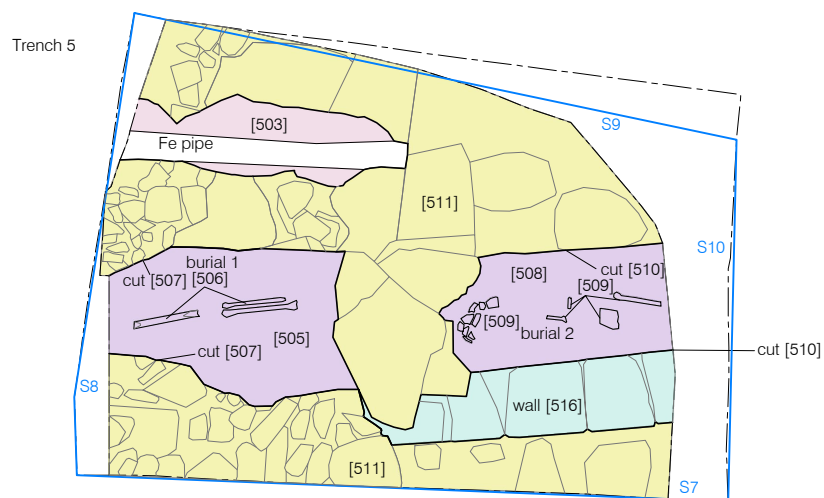


Figure 2
Detail Site Location
1:625 at A4



- Phase 5: Post-Medieval / Undated
- Phase 6: Early 20th Century

0 2m



- Phase 6: Early 20th Century
- Phase 3: Anglo Saxon
- Phase 2: Post-Roman Demolition
- Phase 1: Roman / Undated



Figure 4
Trench 5 Plan
1:25 at A4

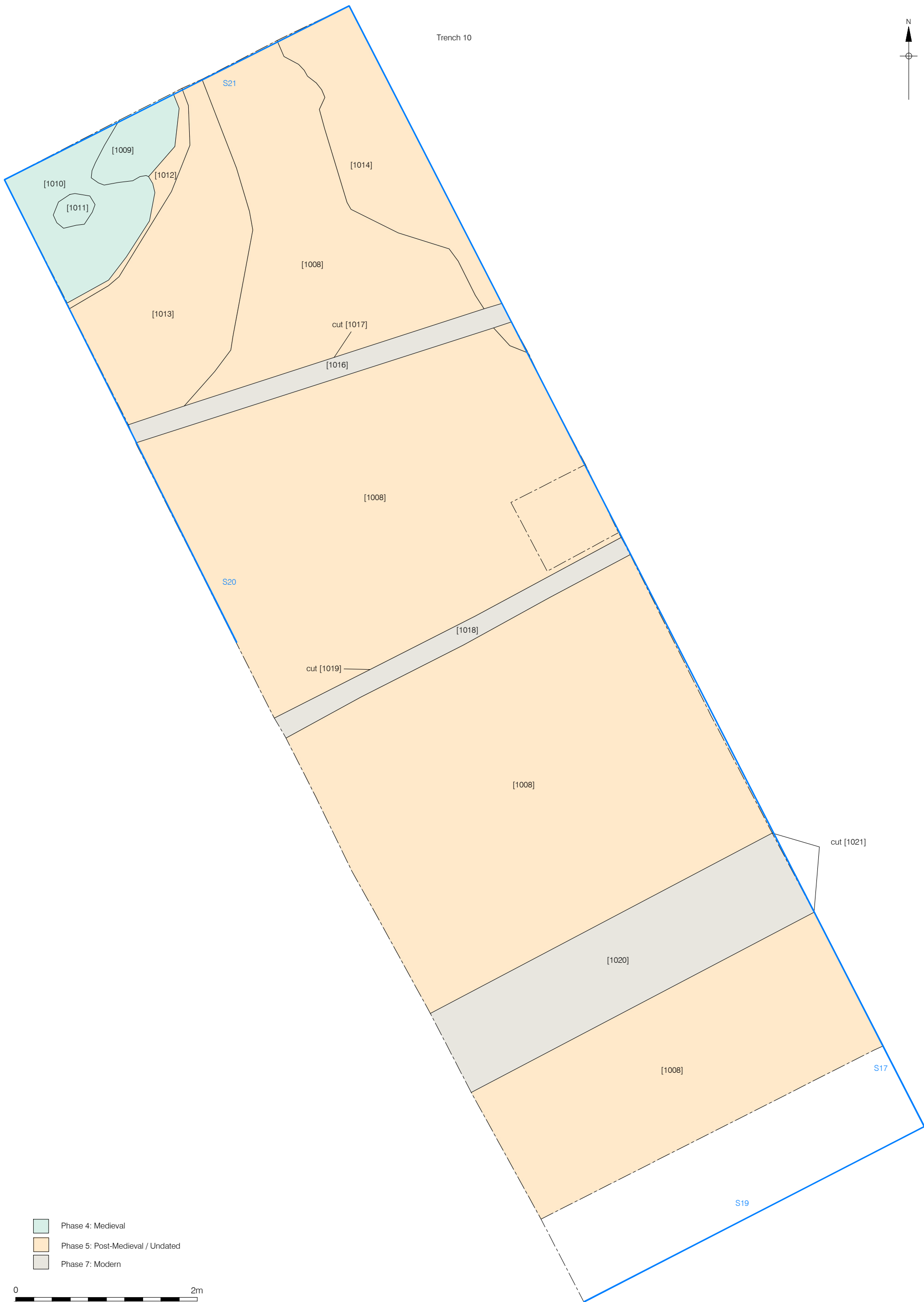


Figure 5
Trench 10 Plan
1:40 at A3

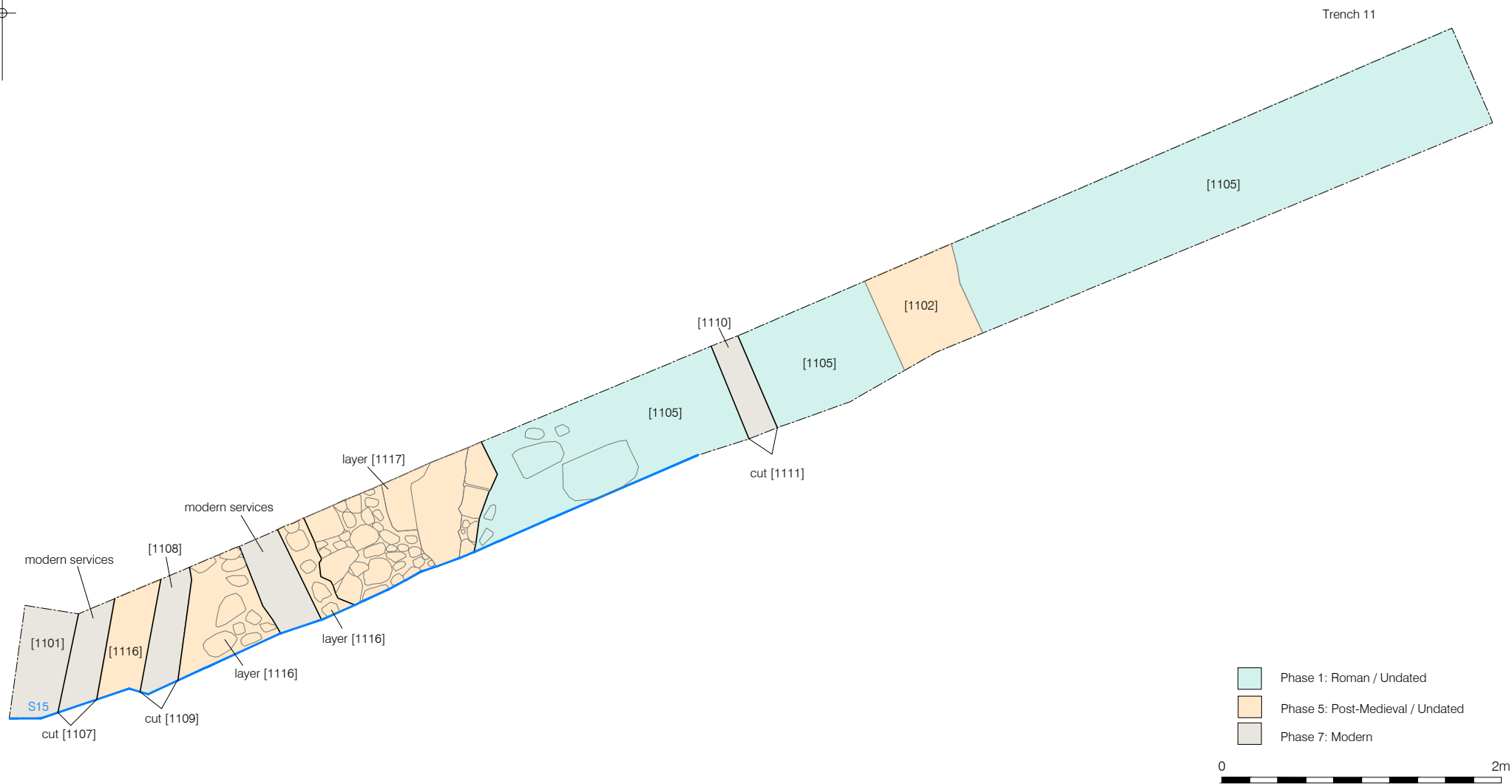
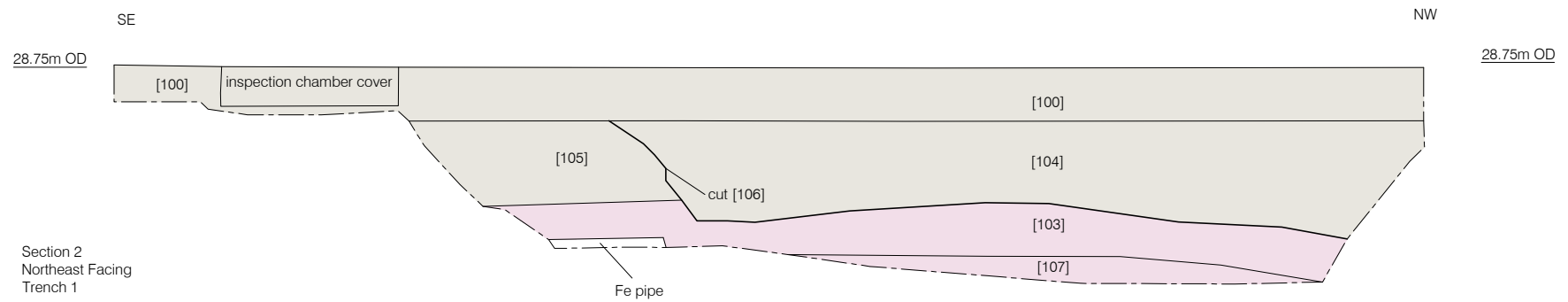


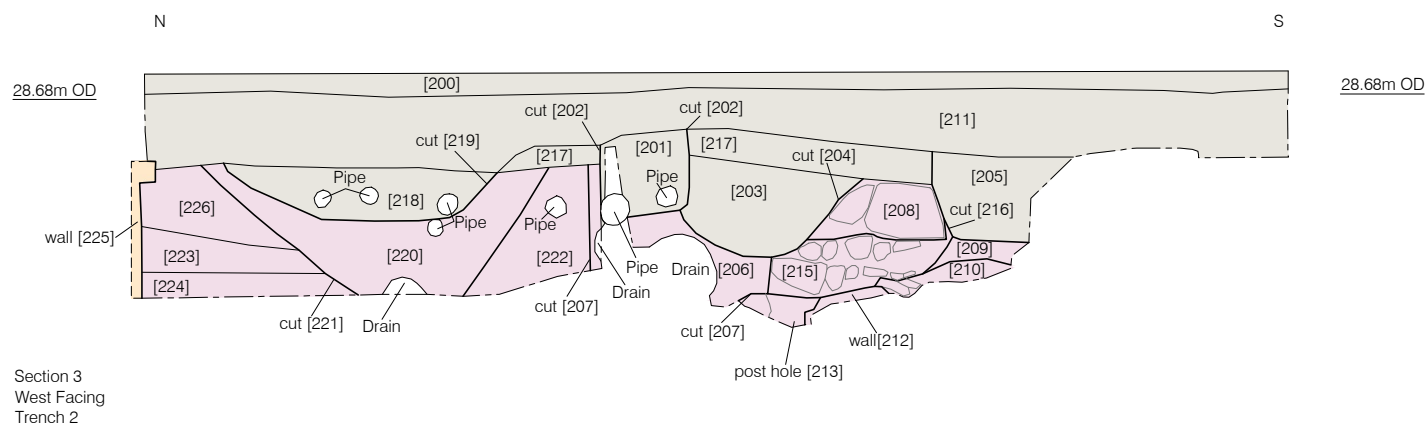
Figure 6
Trench 11 Plan
1:40 at A4



- Phase 6: Early 20th Century
- Phase 7: Modern

0 1m

Figure 7
Trench 1, Section 2
1:25 at A4



- Phase 5: Post-Medieval / Undated
- Phase 6: Early 20th Century
- Phase 7: Modern

0 1m

Figure 8
Trench 2, Section 3
1:25 at A4

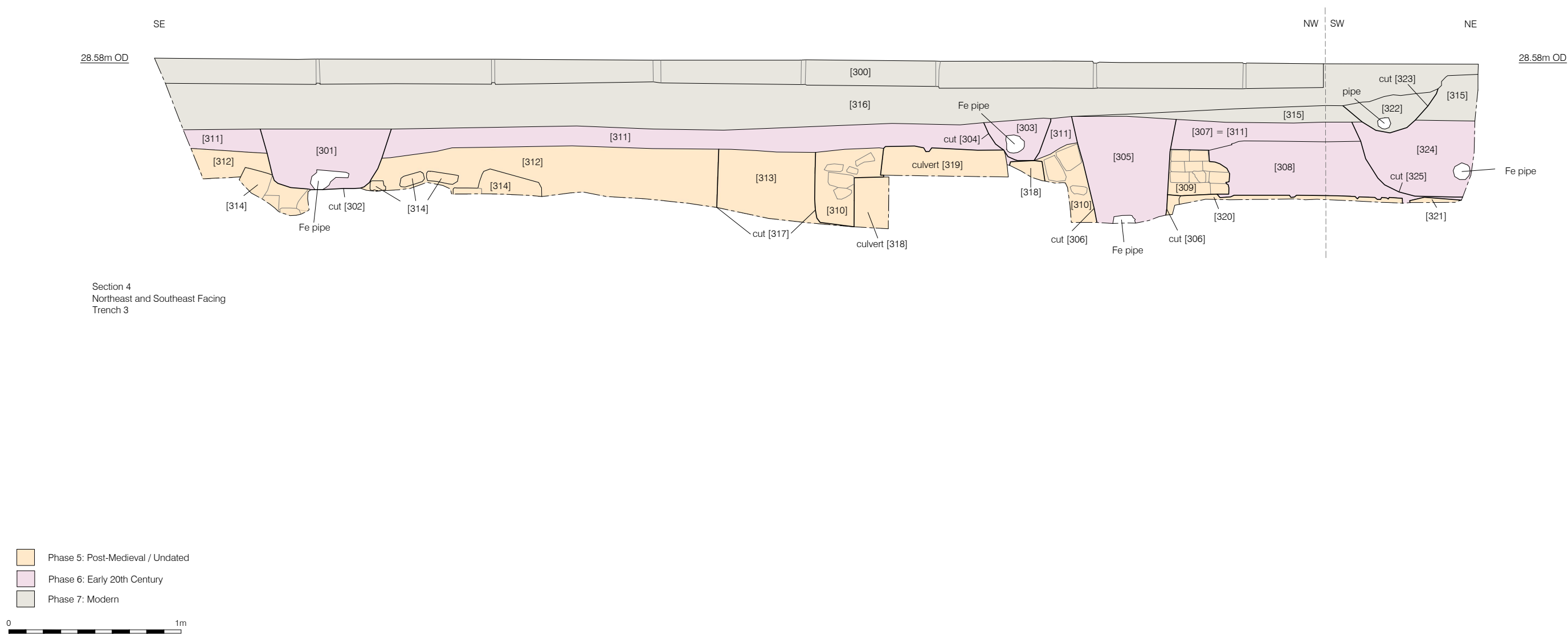


Figure 9
Trench 3, Section 4
1:25 at A3

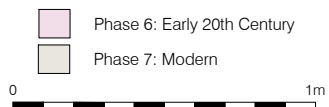
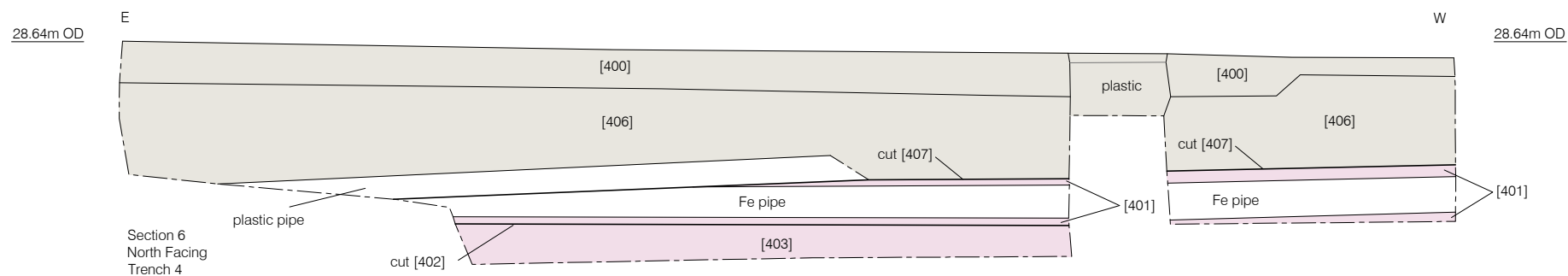
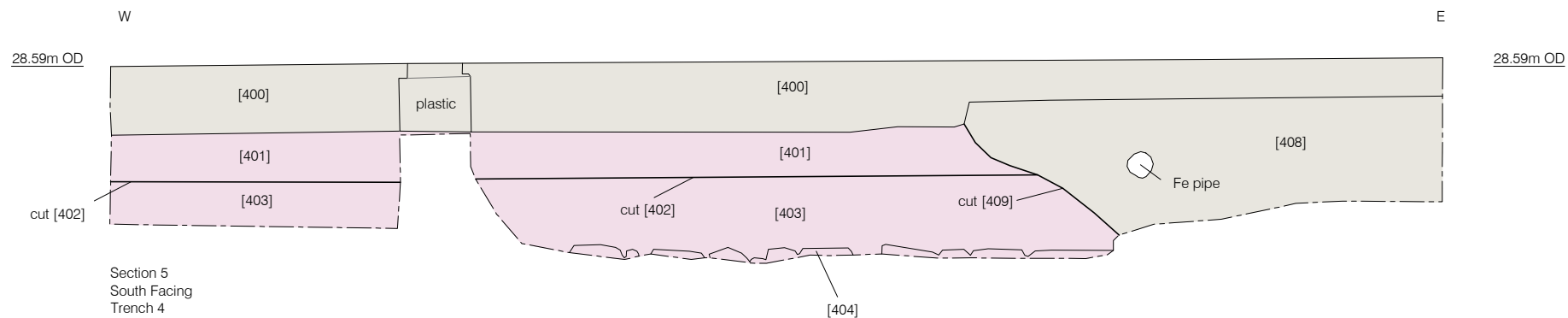
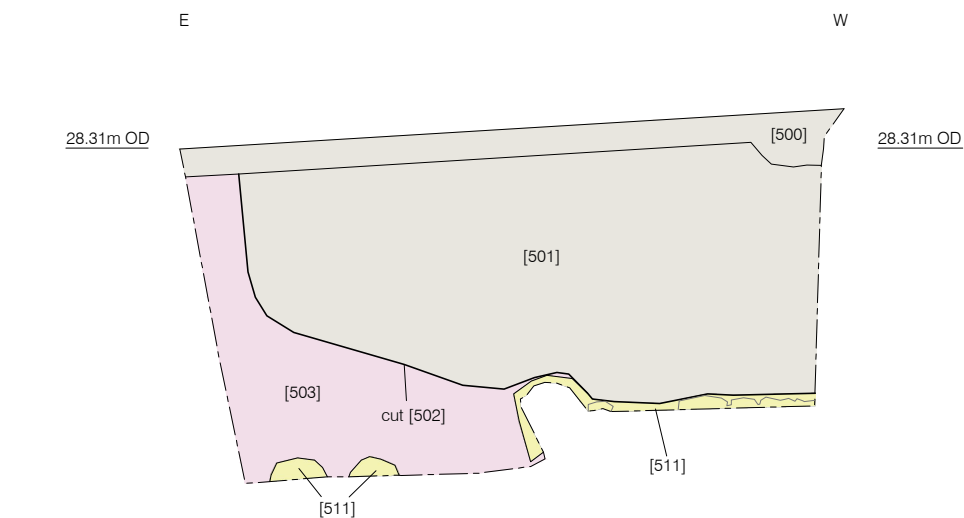
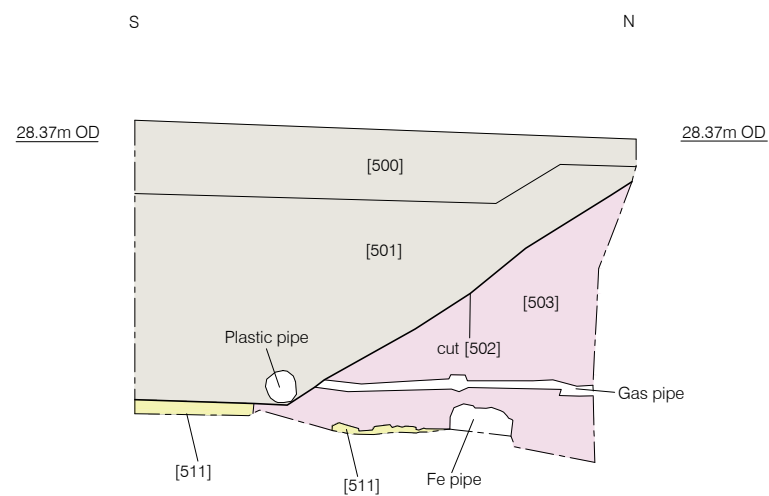


Figure 10
Trench 4, Sections 5 and 6
1:25 at A4



Section 7
North Facing
Trench 5



Section 8
East Facing
Trench 5

- Phase 2: Post-Roman Demolition / Undated
- Phase 6: Early 20th Century
- Phase 7: Modern



Figure 11
Trench 5, Sections 7 and 8
1:25 at A4

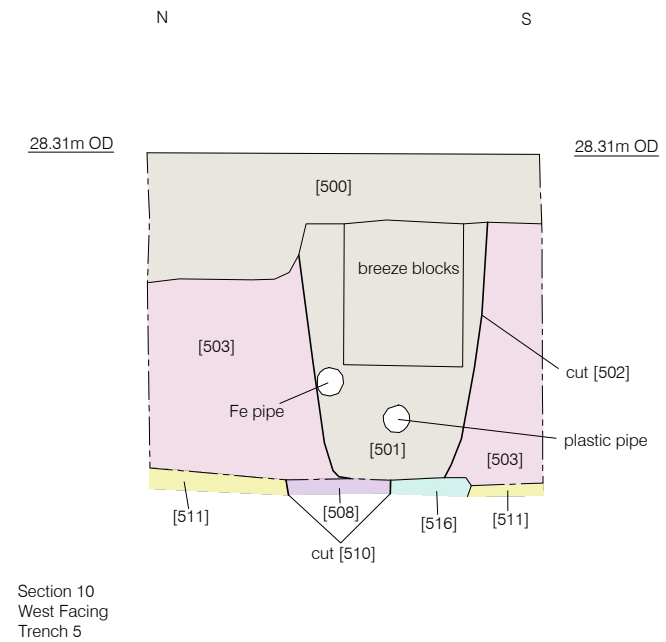
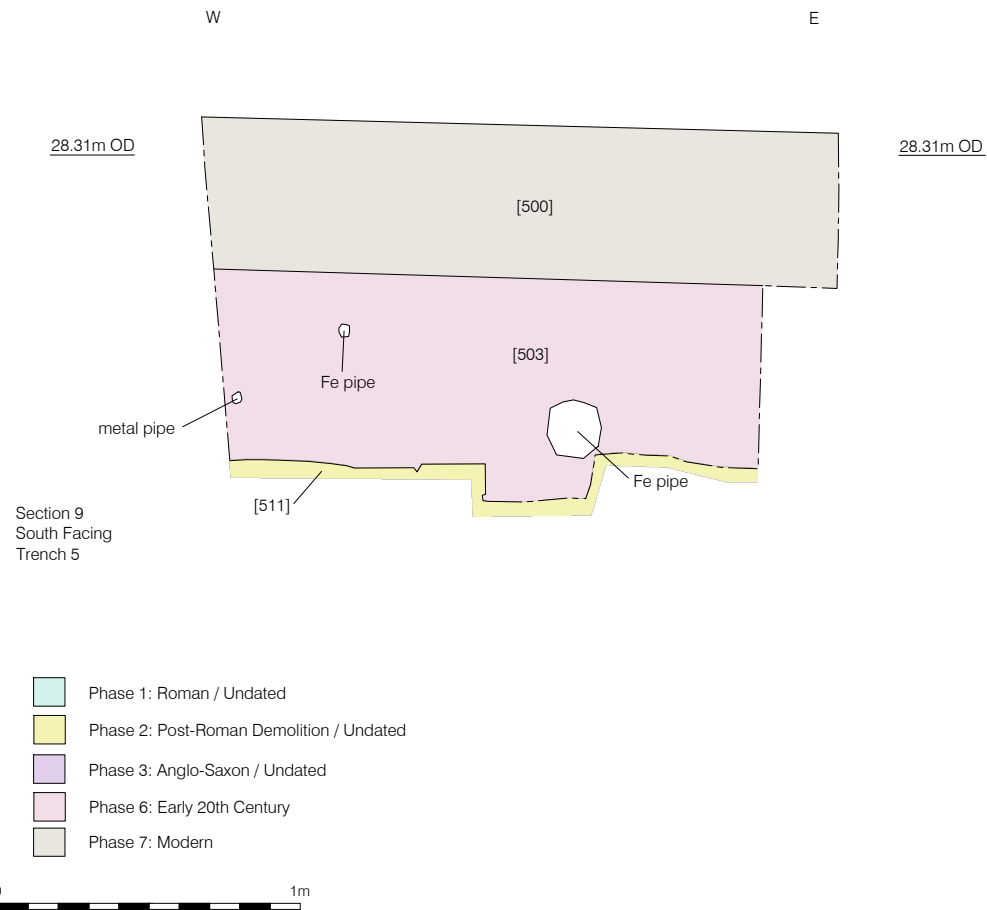
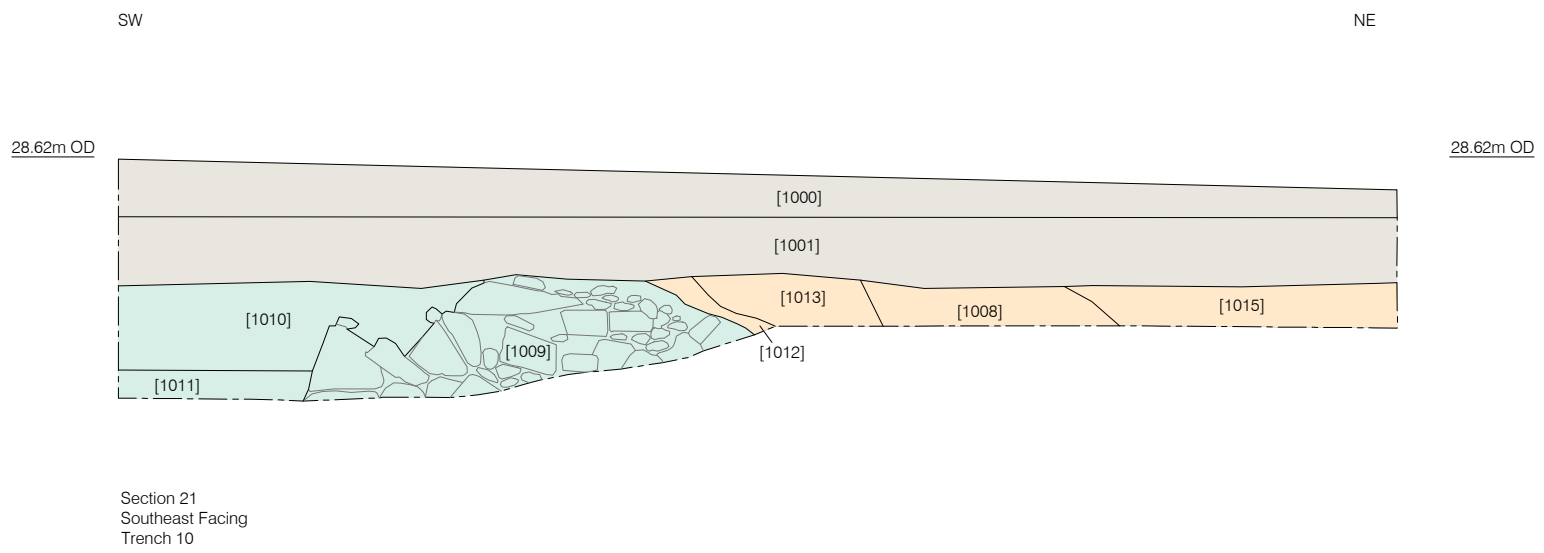
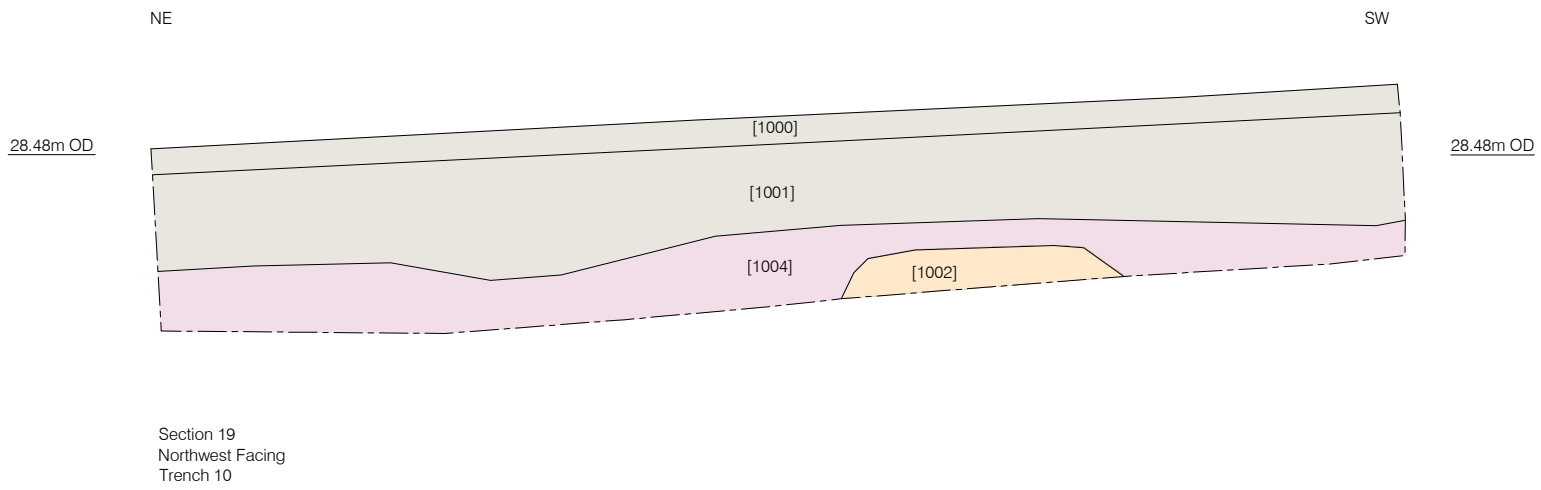
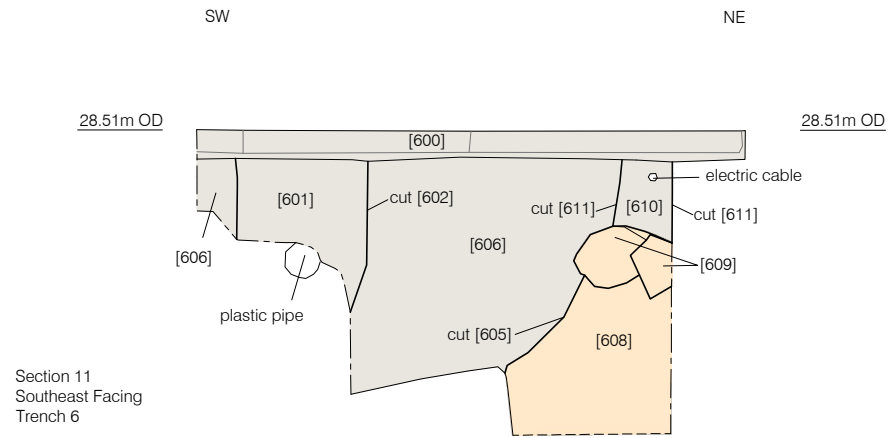


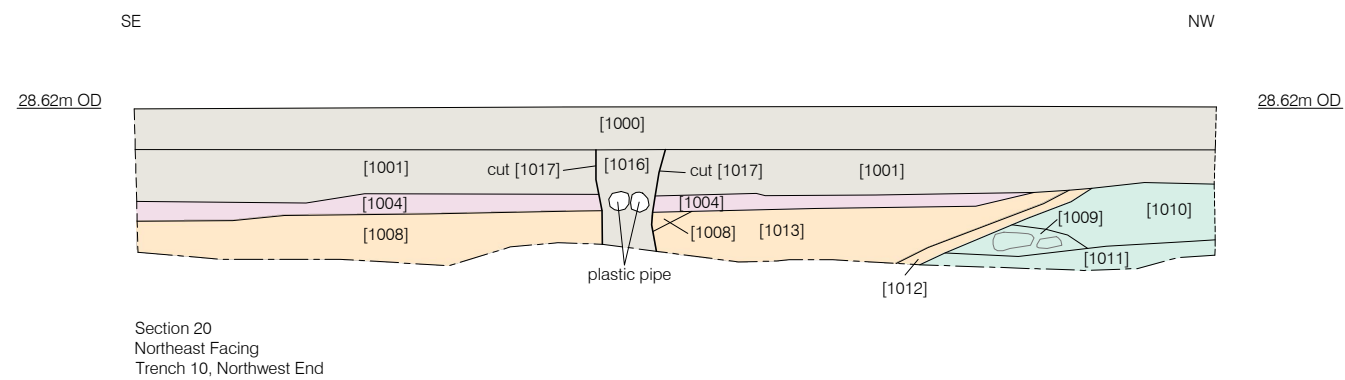
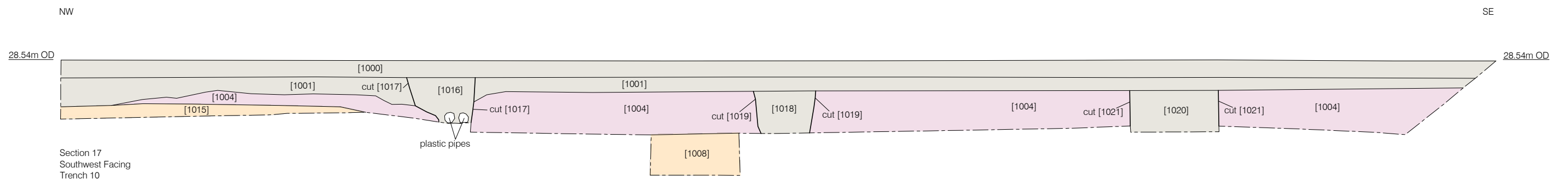
Figure 12
Trench 5, Sections 9 and 10
1:25 at A4



- Phase 4: Medieval
- Phase 5: Post-Medieval / Undated
- Phase 6: Early 20th Century
- Phase 7: Modern

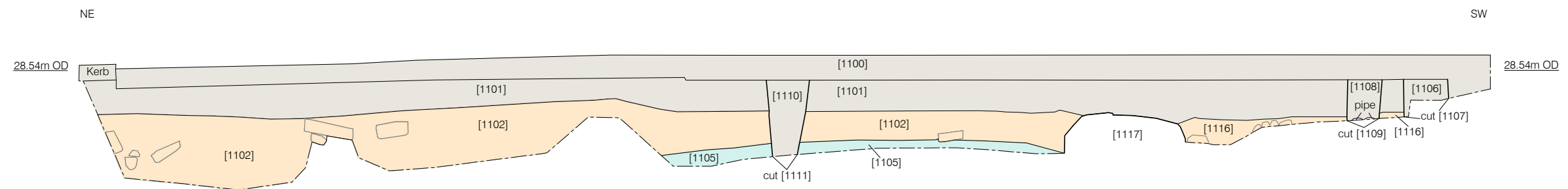
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Figure 13
Trench 6, Section 11 and Trench 10, Sections 19 and 21
1:25 at A3



- Phase 4: Medieval
- Phase 5: Post-Medieval / Undated
- Phase 6: Early 20th Century
- Phase 7: Modern

0 2m

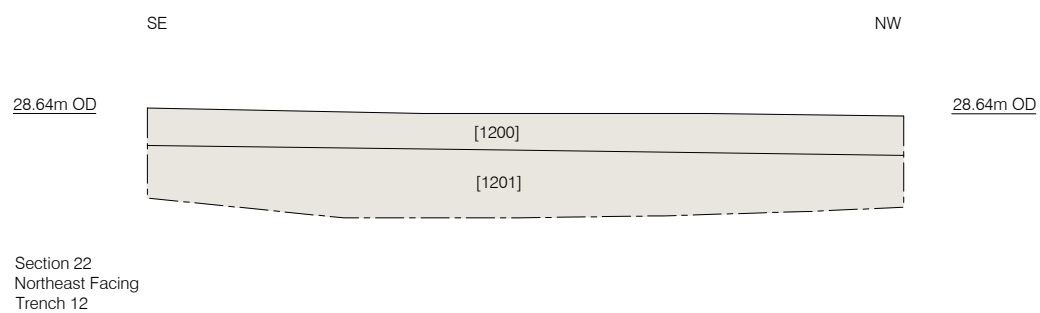


Section 15
Northwest Facing
Trench 11

- Phase 1: Roman / Undated
- Phase 5: Post-Medieval / Undated
- Phase 7: Modern

0 2m

Figure 15
Trench 11, Section 15
1:40 at A3



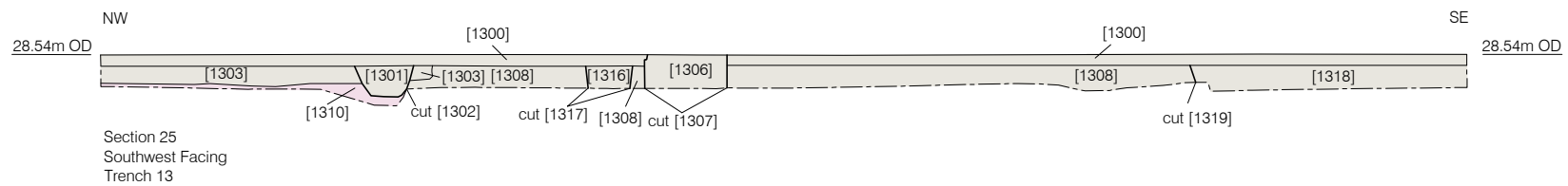
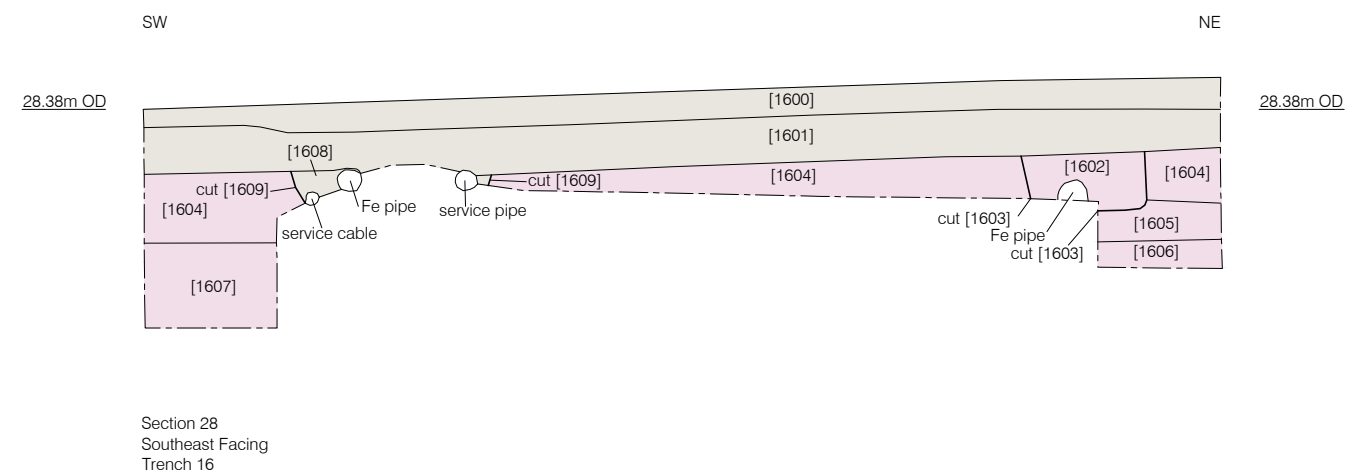
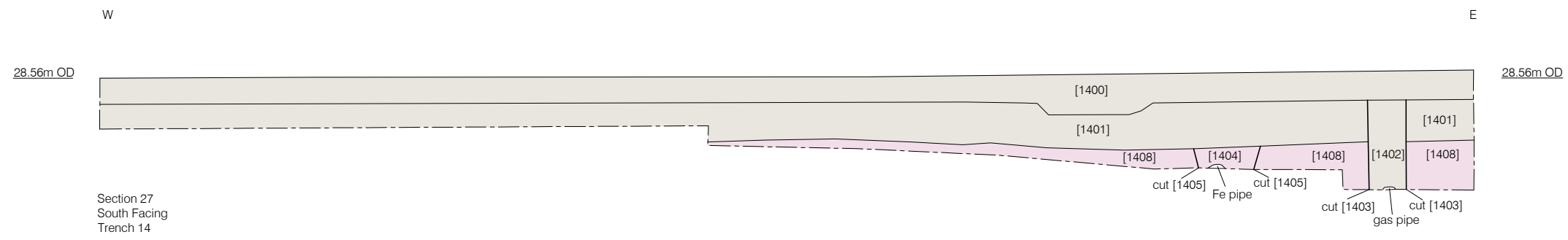
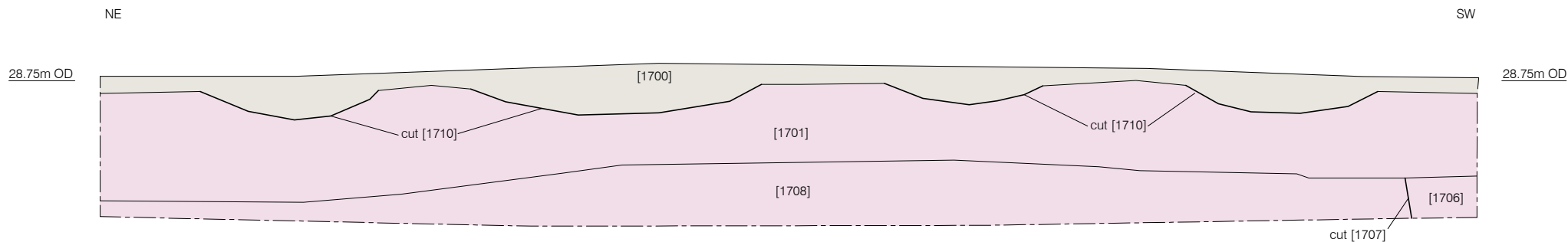


Figure 17
Trench 13, Section 25
1:100 at A4

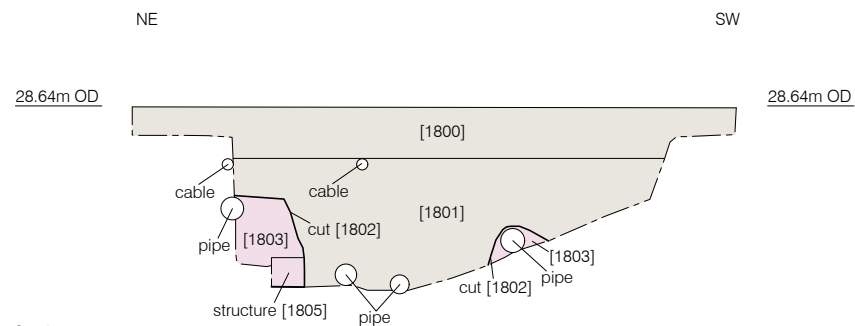


Phase 6: Early 20th Century
Phase 7: Modern

0 2m



Section 29
Northwest Facing
Trench 17



Section 30
Northwest Facing
Trench 18

- Phase 6: Early 20th Century
- Phase 7: Modern



Figure 19
Trench 17, Section 29 and Trench 18, Section 30
1:25 at A4

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Phase	Type 1	Type 2	Fill of	Interpretation
Trench 1					
100	7	Deposit	Surface		Flagstone pavers and concrete sub-base
101	7	Masonry	Structure		Brick inspection chamber
102	6	Structure	Pipe	[108]	Cast iron pipes
103	6	Deposit	Layer	[108]	Fill of Service Trench
104	7	Deposit	Fill	[106]	Fill of modern feature [101]
105	7	Deposit	Layer		Concrete
106	7	Cut	Discrete		Modern feature filled by (104)
107	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/consolidation
108	6	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by [102] & [103]
Trench 2					
200	7	Structure	Surface		Flagstone pavers
201	7	Deposit	Fill	[202]	Fill of Service Trench
202	7	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (201)
203	7	Deposit	Fill	[204]	Fill of Service Trench
204	7	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (203)
205	7	Deposit	Fill	[216]	Fill of Service Trench
206	6	Deposit	Fill	[207]	Fill of Service Trench
207	6	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (206)
208	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
209	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump, same as (215)
210	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
211	7	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
212	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
213	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump, same as (212)
214	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
215	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
216	7	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (205)
217	7	Deposit	Layer		Concrete
218	7	Deposit	Fill	[219]	Fill of Service Trench
219	7	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (218)
220	6	Deposit	Fill	[221]	Fill of Service Trench
221	6	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (220)
222	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
223	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
224	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
225	5	Masonry	Wall		Brick wall
226	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
Trench 3					
300	7	Deposit	Surface		Concrete pavers
301	6	Deposit	Fill	[302]	Fill of Service Trench
302	6	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (301)

303	6	Deposit	Fill	[304]	Fill of Service Trench
304	6	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (303)
305	6	Deposit	Fill	[306]	Fill of Service Trench
306	6	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (305)
307	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
308	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
309	5	Masonry	Structure		Brick wall
310	5	Deposit	Fill	[317]	Backfill of construction cut [317] for culvert [319], same as [313], [321]
311	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
312	5	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
313	5	Deposit	Fill	[317]	Backfill of construction cut [317] for culvert [319], same as [310], [321]
314	5	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
315	7	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
316	7	Deposit	Layer		Concrete sub-base for concrete pavers (300)
317	5	Cut	Linear		Construction cut for culvert [319]
318	5	Masonry	Structure		Sandstone culvert
319	5	Masonry	Structure		Capping of sandstone culvert
320	5	Masonry	Structure		Sandstone surface/foundation
321	5	Deposit	Fill	[317]	Backfill of construction cut [317] for culvert [319], same as [310], [321]
322	7	Deposit	Fill	[323]	Fill of Service Trench
323	7	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (322)
324	6	Deposit	Fill	[325]	Fill of Service Trench
325	6	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (324)
Trench 4					
400	7	Deposit	Surface		Concrete pavers and concrete sub-base
401	6	Deposit	Fill	[402]	Fill of Service Trench
402	6	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (402)
403	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
404	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
405	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
406	7	Deposit	Fill	[407]	Fill of Service Trench
407	7	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (406)
408	7	Deposit	Fill	[409]	Fill of Service Trench
409	7	Cut	Fill		Service Trench filled by (408)
Trench 5					
500	7	Deposit	Surface		Tarmac surface and concrete sub-base
501	7	Deposit	Fill	[502]	Fill of Service Trench
502	7	Cut	Linear		Service Trench Filled by (501)
503	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
504	-	-	-	-	VOID
505	3	Deposit	Fill	[507]	Fill of cut Burial 1

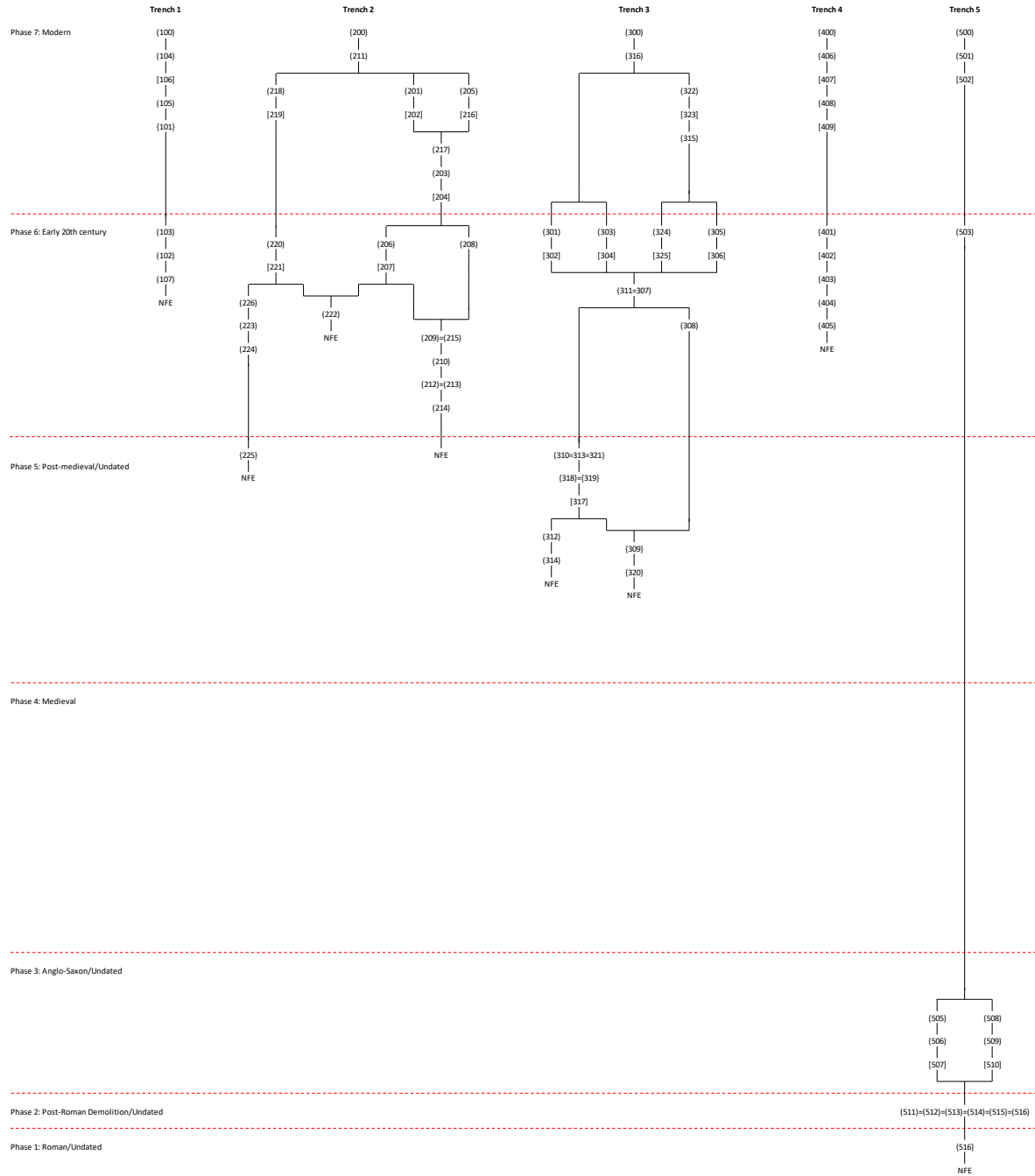
506	3	Skeleton	Adult		Adult/supine Burial 1 [507]
507	3	Cut	Discrete		Burial 1 containing adult (506), cut [507]
508	3	Deposit	Fill	[510]	Fill of Burial 2
509	3	Skeleton	Juvenile		Juvenile/supine Burial 2 [510]
510	3	Cut	Discrete		Burial 2 containing juvenile (509), cut [510]
511	2	Deposit	Layer		Demolition dump/spread
512	2	Deposit	Layer		Demolition dump/spread, same as (511)
513	2	Deposit	Layer		Demolition dump/spread, same as (511)
514	2	Deposit	Layer		Demolition dump/spread, same as (511)
515	2	Deposit	Layer		Demolition dump/spread, same as (511)
516	1	Deposit	Structure		Sandstone wall
Trench 6					
600	7	Deposit	Surface		Stone pavers
601	7	Deposit	Fill	[602]	Fill of service trench
602	7	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (601)
603	5	Masonry	Structure	[612]	Brick wall
604	5	Masonry	Structure	[612]	Sandstone slabs
605	7	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (606), (607)
606	7	Deposit	Fill	[605]	Fill of Service Trench
607	7	Deposit	Fill	[605]	Fill of Service Trench
608	5	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
609	5	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
610	7	Deposit	Fill	[611]	Fill of Service Trench
611	7	Cut	linear		Service Trench filled by (610)
612	5	Cut	Discrete		Construction cut for structure {603} {604}
613	5	Deposit	Fill	[612]	Backfill of structure {603}
614	7	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
Trench 7					
700	7	Deposit	Surface		Stone pavers, blocks and brick forming surface
701	7	Deposit	Fill	[702]	Fill of Service Trench
702	7	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (701)
703	7	Deposit	Layer		Concrete
Trench 8					
800	7	Deposit	Surface		Asphalt surface
801	7	Deposit	Layer		Concrete sub-base for surface (800)
Trench 9					
900	7	Deposit	Surface		Stone pavers
901	7	Deposit	Fill		Fill of service trench (cut not identified)
Trench 10					
1000	7	Deposit	Surface		Asphalt surface
1001	7	Deposit	Layer		Concrete sub-base for surface (1000)
1002	5	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/consolidation
1003	-	-	-	-	VOID

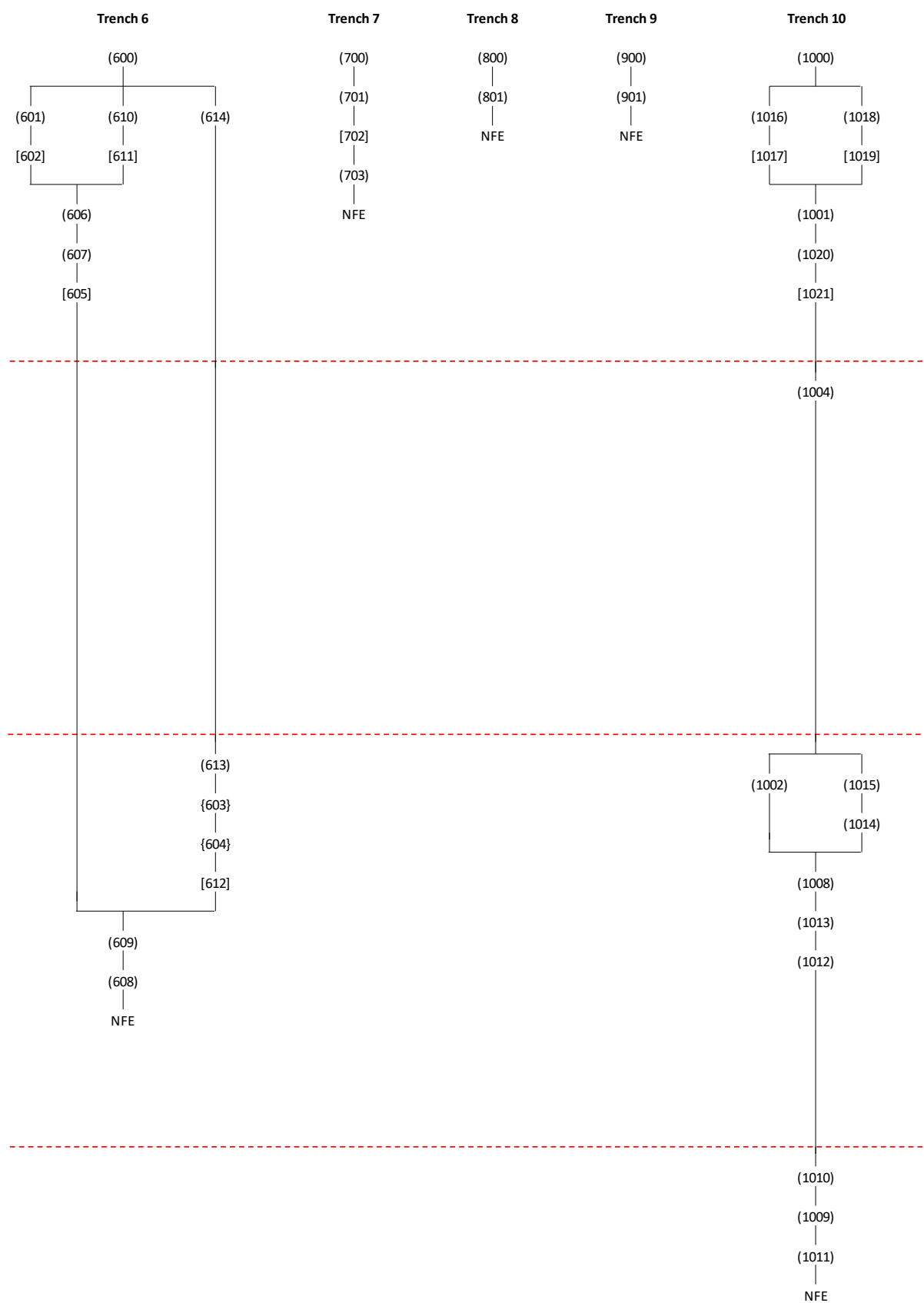
1004	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
1005	-	-	-	-	VOID
1006	-	-	-	-	VOID
1007	-	-	-	-	VOID
1008	5	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
1009	4	Deposit	Layer		Demolition dump/spread
1010	4	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
1011	4	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
1012	5	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
1013	5	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
1014	5	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
1015	5	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
1016	7	Deposit	Fill	[1017]	Fill of Service Trench
1017	7	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (1016)
1018	7	Deposit	Fill	[1019]	Fill of Service Trench
1019	7	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (1018)
1020	7	Deposit	Fill	[1021]	Fill of Service Trench
1021	7	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (1020)
Trench 11					
1100	7	Deposit	Surface		Asphalt surface
1101	7	Deposit	Layer		Concrete sub-base for (1100)
1102	5	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
1103	-	-	-	-	VOID
1104	-	-	-	-	VOID
1105	1	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
1106	7	Deposit	Fill	[1107]	Fill of Service Trench
1107	7	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (1106)
1108	7	Deposit	Fill	[1109]	Fill of Service Trench
1109	7	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (1108)
1110	7	Deposit	Fill	[1111]	Fill of Service Trench
1111	7	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (1110)
1112	-	-	-	-	VOID
1113	-	-	-	-	VOID
1114	-	-	-	-	VOID
1115	-	-	-	-	VOID
1116	5	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
1117	5	Deposit	Layer		Rubble levelling/dump
1118	-	-	-	-	VOID
1119	-	-	-	-	VOID
1120					Same as (1117)
Trench 12					
1200	7	Deposit	Surface		Asphalt surface
1201	7	Deposit	Layer		Concrete sub-base for (1200)
1202	-	-	-	-	VOID

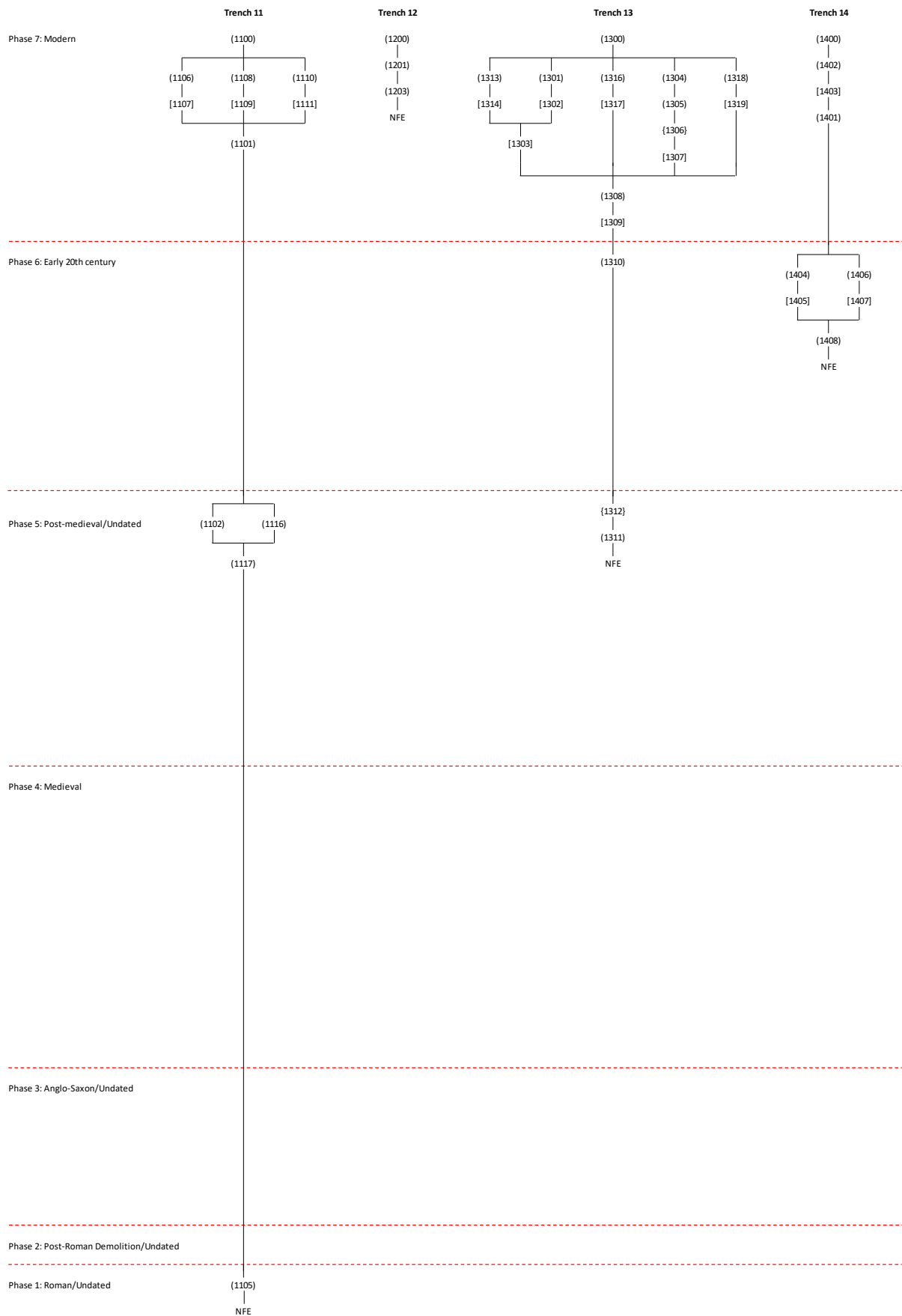
1203	7	Deposit	Layer		Levelling
Trench 13					
1300	7	Deposit	Surface		Concrete pavers and sand sub-base
1301	7	Deposit	Fill	[1302]	Fill of Service Trench
1302	7	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (1301)
1303	7	Deposit	Layer		Concrete
1304	7	Deposit	Fill	[1307]	Fill of manhole construction cut
1305	7	Deposit	Fill	[1307]	Fill of manhole construction cut
1306	7	Masonry	Structure	[1307]	Brick manhole within construction cut [1307]
1307	7	Cut	Discrete		Construction cut for brick manhole filled by (1304), (1305) & (1306)
1308	7	Deposit	Fill	[1309]	Fill of Service Trench
1309	7	Deposit	Fill		Service Trench filled by (1308)
1310	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
1311	5	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
1312	5	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
1313	7	Deposit	Fill	[1314]	Fill of Service Trench
1314	7	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (1313)
1315	-	-	-	-	VOID
1316	7	Deposit	Fill	[1317]	Fill of Service Trench
1317	7	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (1316)
1318	7	Deposit	Fill	[1319]	Fill of Service Trench
1319	7	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (1318)
Trench 14					
1400	7	Deposit	Surface		Asphalt surface
1401	7	Deposit	Layer		Concrete sub-base for (1400)
1402	7	Deposit	Fill	[1403]	Fill of Service Trench
1403	7	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (1402)
1404	6	Deposit	Fill	[1405]	Fill of Service Trench
1405	6	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (1404)
1406	6	Deposit	Fill	[1407]	Fill of Service Trench
1407	6	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (1408)
1408	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
Trench 15					
1500	7	Deposit	Surface		Concrete pavers and sand base layer
1501	7	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
1502	7	Deposit	Fill	[1503]	Fill of Service Trench
1503	7	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (1502), (1509)
1504	7	Deposit	Fill	[1505]	Fill of Service Trench
1505	7	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (1504)
1506	7	Deposit	Fill	[1512]	Concrete backfill
1507	6	Masonry	Surface		Brick surface
1508	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
1509	7	Deposit	Fill	[1503]	Fill of Service Trench

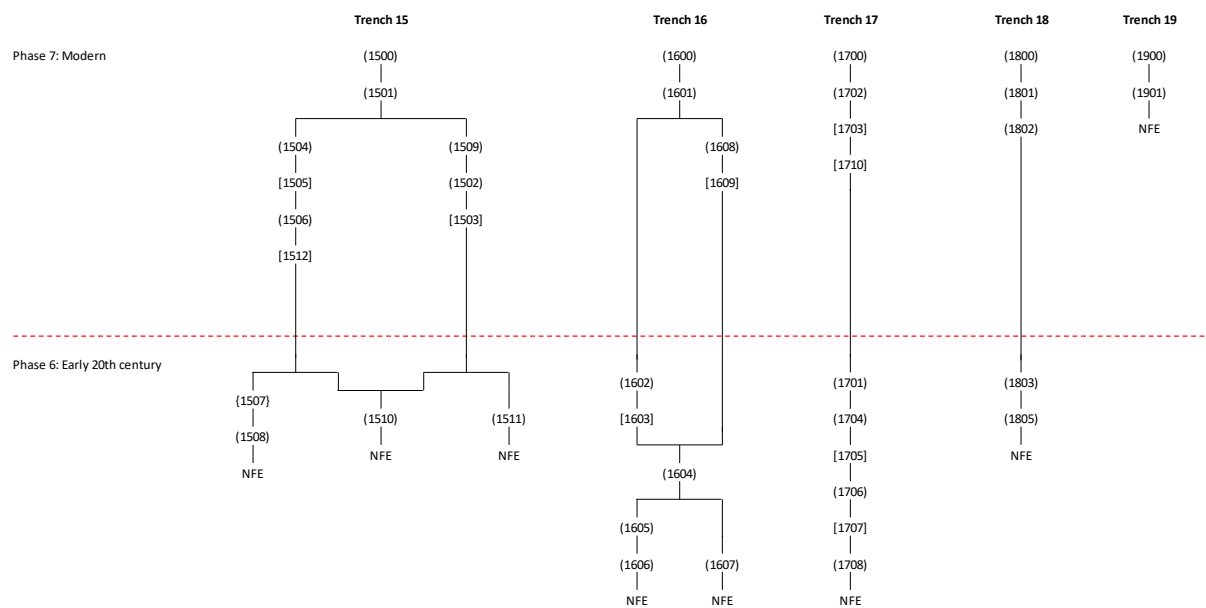
1510	6	Deposit	Surface		Levelling/dump
1511	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
1512	7	Cut	Discrete		Service Trench filled by (1506)
Trench 16					
1600	7	Deposit	Layer		Asphalt surface
1601	7	Deposit	Layer		Concrete sub-base for surface (1600)
1602	6	Deposit	Fill	[1603]	Fill of Service Trench
1603	6	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (1602)
1604	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
1605	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
1606	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
1607	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
Trench 17					
1700	7	Deposit	Layer		Asphalt surface
1701	6	Deposit	Layer		Concrete sub-base
1702	7	Deposit	Fill	[1703]	Fill of Service Trench
1703	7	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (1702)
1704	6	Deposit	Fill	[1705]	Fill of Service Trench
1705	6	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (1704)
1706	6	Deposit	Fill	[1707]	Fill of Service Trench
1707	6	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (1706)
1708	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/consolidation
1709	-	-	-	-	VOID
1710	7	Cut	Linear		Modern Features
Trench 18					
1800	7	Deposit	Surface		Stone pavers and concrete sub-base
1801	7	Deposit	Fill	[1802]	Fill of Service Trench
1802	7	Cut	Linear		Service Trench filled by (1801)
1803	6	Deposit	Layer		Levelling/dump
1804	6	Deposit	Layer		Same as (803)
1805	6	Masonry	Structure		Brick structure
Trench 19					
1900	7	Deposit	Structure		Concrete pavers and concrete sub-base
1901	7	Deposit	Layer		Concrete

APPENDIX 3: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX









APPENDIX 4: PHOTOGRAPHIC PLATES

Plate 1: Levelling/dump deposit [212] within Trench 2: view east, 1m scale



Plate 2: Sandstone rubble [314] at the base of Trench 3 at its south-eastern end: view south-east, 1m scale



Plate 3: Sandstone Culvert [319] in Trench 3: view south-west, 1m scale



Plate 4: North-west end of Trench 3 showing sandstone culvert [319] and wall foundation [320]: view south-east, 1m scale



Plate 5: North-east facing section of Trench 3 showing wall [309] and sandstone foundation [320]: view south-west, 1m scale



Plate 6: Overview of Trench 5 show demolition deposit [511], Burials 1 & 2 and wall [516]: view west, 1m scale



Plate 7: Detail of Trench 5 showing demolition deposit [511]. Burial 1 is also visible in the top-left corner of the frame: view west, 0.50m scale



Plate 8: Detail of Trench 5 showing wall [516] and Burial 2: view west, 0.50m scale



Plate 9: Burial 1 in Trench 5: view west, scale 0.50m



Plate 10: Post-medieval structure [603]/[604] in Trench 6: view south-east, scale 0.50m



Plate 11: North-east facing section of Trench 10 (north-west end) showing Phase 4 levelling/dump deposits [1009]-[1011] and Phase 5 levelling/dump deposits [1008], [1012] & [1013]: view south-west, 1m scale



Plate 12: Levelling/dump deposit [1014] located in the north-eastern corner of Trench 10: view south-east, 1m and 0.50m scales



Plate 13: Levelling/consolidation deposit [1002] located towards the south-east end of Trench 10: view south-west, 1m scale



Plate 14: Levelling/dump deposit [1117] in Trench 11: view north-east, 1m scale



Plate 15: Levelling/sump deposit [1117] in Trench 11: view south-west, 1m scale



Plate 16: Levelling/dump deposit [1312] located towards the north-western end of Trench 13: view south-east, 1m scale



Plate 17: South-west facing section of Trench 16 (north-eastern end) showing ground raising/levelling layers [1604], [1605] and [1606]: view north-east, 1m scale



APPENDIX 5: Post-Roman Pottery Assessment

Jenny Vaughn NCAS

A small assemblage of 29 sherds of pottery weighing 918 g was recovered from six of the trenches excavated during the watching brief. The distribution and date range is summarised in the table below.

Trench	sherds	weight	date
2	2	16	13 th /14 th c.
3	6	479	13 th to 19 th c.
6	4	41	l.med/e. pm
10	14	298	13 th - 16 th c.
13	2	39	17 th c.
16	1	45	16 th c.
totals	29	918	

The Assemblage [see catalogue for further details]

Local medieval pottery was recovered from four of the trenches with most sherds being grey fabrics with green glaze. Four of these sherds from Trench 10 were of later reduced greenware (lrg) type. One (from [1008]) was the base of a large strap handle, possibly the early post-medieval type 5 as it was relatively coarse. Other green-glazed sherds, including two from [209], were less diagnostic. Also from Trench 10 ([1010]) were two small unglazed dark grey sherds with oxidised interior surfaces. These are possibly the earliest (13th century) fragments in the assemblage. There was a small sherd of hard fired buff-white ware from [313].

A greyware base fragment with pulled foot from [303] has been identified as a Low Countries import (lcgr). Small quantities of this type have been recovered from the Castle excavations (Sage and Vaughan forthcoming and Ellison 1981, 146). The piece is likely to be late medieval. Redware sherds from [606] may also all be Low Countries imports. Redwares continue to be imported into the 17th century. Four sherds from [1008] were an off-white near stoneware tentatively identified as a Martincamp type 1 flask possibly showing the beginning of the applied neck. This would be a 16th century French import.

Another 16th century fragment was a Cistercian ware base from [1604]. It was glazed brown with typical applied line decoration, yellow under the glaze. The applied decoration is quite fluid with no rouletting which indicates that this is a vessel from the second half of the 16th century (Ellison 1981, 156). Earlier examples have thicker applied strips pressed on with a roulette wheel.

Two sherds of redware of English 17th century type came from [1310]. One was a folded rim, blackened on the outside so possibly from a vessel used for cooking or heating. Another 17th, or 18th, century fragment was a sherd of tin-glazed earthenware from [303].

Context [303] also produced the only sherds of late post-medieval vessels. One was a rim of refined whiteware with splashed pink lustre decoration and the other an unglazed red earthenware rim, possibly an industrial vessel of some type.

A large fragment of salt-glazed ceramic which appeared at first sight to be the base of a heavy vessel came from [305]. However an aperture had been cut, somewhat unevenly, out of the 'base'. This was covered by the glaze so was not a fracture. The side had the letters HEPWO impressed into it, presumably Hepworth. Hepworth was a manufacturer of various clay products established about 1857 in Yorkshire. What exactly this piece is, is not known. It is not obviously any part of a draining system or other sanitary ware. Apparently in 1921 the company got a contract from the Post Office to supply conduits for telephone cables (see https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Hepworth_Iron_Co). It is possible that this is something of that sort, although the context has been assigned to a mid to late 19th century phase.

Conclusion

This is a very small and scattered assemblage and, apart from the two sherds in [209] (= [215]), all the medieval to 17th century pottery appears to be residual in later post-medieval ground make-up deposits, although only Trench 3 produced material of that date. The assemblage has therefore little value for dating purposes. The small numbers, limited form elements present and evident residuality in any event make closer dating problematic, apart from the Cistercian ware base. Both dark grey fabrics with green glaze (13th to 16th century) and imported redwares (14th to 17th century) have a wide date range and can be difficult to identify closely in small fragments.

The most intriguing item is the large Hepworth piece (which no-one has yet been able to identify) and the Cistercian base is good reference material, otherwise the pottery itself is of little interest.

Bibliography

Ellison, M. 1981 'The pottery' in Harbottle, B, and Ellison, M, 'An Excavation in the Castle Ditch, Newcastle upon Tyne, 1974-76' *Archaeologia Aeliana*⁵, 9, 95-164.

Vaughan, J.E. and Sage, A.P. forthcoming, 'The Pottery' in the report on the medieval castle, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Catalogue

context	type	sherds	weight	comments	date
209	rg	2	16	One has white int surface	13th/14th
303	lcgr?	1	15	Base with pulled foot	late med
303	tge	1	6	Pale blue with dark blue dec.	18th?
303	unglre	1	88	Everted rim ?industrial ves?	18th/19th
303	ref ww	1	13	Plain rim with splash pink lustre dec. May have had transfer printed design on main body	19th
305	salt gl st	1	353	Not sure what this is. Something industrial. Stamped HEPWO...	19th/20th
313	bwh	1	4	Light grey with purplish gl.	l.13th/14th
606	lcr	2	13		l.med - 17th c.
606	red ew	2	28	Joining sherds sandy red fabric with reduced core, rough gl int and thin white ungl ext surface. Glaze worn off? ?another red import.	?
1004	lrg	3	151	Base of large strap handle - ?RG5 type. Others joining with thumbled strips and roundel	l.14th/16th
1008	rg	3	87	Quite sandy	14th or later
1008	Martincamp 1?	4	30	Hard off white fabric with patches brown discoloration, poss showing base of neck	16th c.
1010	ir med	2	9	Dark grey, oxidised int.	13th c?
1010	oxidised?	1	5	Undiagnostic	med
1014	lrg	1	16		14th-16th
1310	Eng red	2	39	Rolled/folded rim ?bowl	17th
1604	Cistercian	1	45	Clubbed base with brown glaze and fluid applied strips	later 16th

Abbreviations

bwh	buff-white hard-fired
ew	earthenware
ir	iron rich
lcgr	Low Countries greyware
lcr	Low Countries redware
ref ww	refined whiteware

APPENDIX 6: Ceramic Building Material Assessment

John Nolan NCAS

Introduction

Ten pieces of ceramic building material were submitted for assessment. All had been recovered during a watching brief (site code SNS18) on trenches dug by Newcastle City Council for public realm improvements to the highway in St. Nicholas Street on the western side of the Castle of Newcastle upon Tyne, between the Black Gate and the south-west corner of the Keep.

The samples came from Trenches 3, 6 and 10. Most of the material was not intrinsically closely datable, but span the medieval period to the early 19th century. The assemblage included two pieces of medieval floor-tile and two pieces of medieval brick. The remainder were post-medieval common brick.

Methodology

The material was examined, measurable dimensions taken where appropriate, and described. This data was entered into an Excel spreadsheet catalogue by context and trench number where appropriate.

In this assessment report the trench numbers are abbreviated to 'Tr.' and context numbers are given in square brackets.

Brick

There were two fragments of medieval brick, one from Tr.6 context [606] and the other from Tr.10 context [1014]. These could be late 14th-15th century

Of the post-medieval common bricks. two came from Tr.3 [307] and [309], and four from Tr. 6 [603] and [606 x 3]. The dimensions and character of these suggests a broadly mid-17th to 18th century date, though one from Tr.3 [307] with a shallow 'combed' frog, was perhaps late 18th - early 19th century.

The samples from Tr.3 [309] and Tr.6 [603] came from surviving brick structures. Those from Tr.6 may be associated with the Presbyterian Meeting House established outside the Bailiff Gate of the Castle c.1705 (Nolan, 97).

Floortile

One complete floortile came from Tr.6 [606]. This was 120mm square with bevelled edges and the remains of a slip-coated and clear glazed surface giving a yellow colour. The same context produced part of another, larger, floortile, which appeared to have been burned. The latter is similar in size to ones found in-situ in a building suggested to have been a church or chapel north of the Keep. Both tiles are of broadly 14th century date.

Discussion

The medieval samples may have come from disturbed deposits of the 'dunghill', a rubbish dump which effectively filled the western ditch of the Castle, though re-

deposition of material from medieval structures during railway construction works between 1846 and 1849 is also possible.

The post-medieval bricks are most likely to have come from buildings cleared for the railway construction and are probably products of a local brick works. It is just possible the Tr.6 bricks derive from the 18th century Presbyterian Meeting House, demolished c.1846.

Archiving (Retention/disposal)

It is considered that none of the fragments have significant potential for further analysis, closer dating, or provenancing. Unless usable for teaching or display, these could justifiably be discarded.

Sources

Nolan J. The Castle of Newcastle upon Tyne after c.1600. *Archaeologia Aeliana* 5, 18 (1990).

McComish, J.M. A Guide to Ceramic Building Materials. York Archaeological Trust Report No. 2015/36. August 2015.

APPENDIX 7: Roman Pottery Assessment

Eniko Hudak

The archaeological investigations at SNS18 produced a very small amount of residual Roman pottery totaling ten fragments weighing 0.122 kg and representing 0.36 Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVEs). The pottery was quantified and recorded according to SGRP guidelines (PCRG, SGRP, MPRG 2016) using fabric and form codes of the National Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998) and the Hadrian's Wall Ceramic database of TWM Archaeology (Tyne & Wear Museums 2008-2009).

The assemblage comprises mostly coarse wares including unsourced reduced sand-tempered wares (GREY) including a figure-7 rim jar fragment (TWAM type 6.12), a single sherd of Black-Burnished Ware 2 cooking jar (TWAM type 5.1), and a body sherd in an unsourced oxidised fabric. Fine wares are restricted to two joining fragments of a Lower Nene Valley Colour-Coated beaker (LNV CC), and a rim sherd of a Dr31 type Samian dish possibly of Central Gaulish origin (SAMCG DR31). All of these fabrics are well-attested in the assemblage recovered from the Roman Fort at Newcastle upon Tyne (Bidwell and Croom 2002).

Overall the pottery assemblage can be dated to the mid-late 2nd to the early 3rd century AD, which compares well with the dating of the establishment and construction of the Roman Fort at Newcastle (*ibid.*).

The small size and residual nature of the assemblage limits its value and discussion beyond dating. No further work is required with the assemblage at this stage, but reference should be made to it in the appropriate sections of the publication of the site.

Context	Fabric	Count	Weight (g)	Form	EVEs	Earliest date	Latest date	Notes
0	BB2	1	9	SENK 5.1	0.11	120	250	
209	GREY	2	15			50	400	
215	GREY	1	6			50	400	
1105	LNV CC	2	10	Beaker		150	400	rejoin
1105	OXID	1	11			50	400	
1105	SAMCG	1	27	DR31	0.11	160	250	
1105	GREY	1	39	SENK 6.12	0.14	150	230	
1120	GREY	1	5			50	400	
TOTAL		10	122		0.36			

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- PCRG, SGRP, MPRG (2016) *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology*, Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Study Group for Roman Pottery, Medieval Pottery Research Group.

Tomber, R. and Dore, J. (1998) *The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection*. London, MoLAS Monograph 2.

Tyne & Wear Museums 2008-2009 *Hadrian's Wall Ceramic Database*, accessed 08/11/19 at <http://collectionsprojects.org.uk/archaeology/Ceramic%20Database/introduction.html>.

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