# An Archaeological Watching Brief at the Salvation Army Hostel, 39 City Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Tyne and Wear

Central National Grid Reference: NZ 2359 6419

Site Code: SAN 09

Commissioning Client:
RPS Planning
1st Floor West
Cottons Centre
Cottons Lane
London
SE1 2QG

Tel: 020 7939 8000

Contractor:

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Northern Office Unit N19a Tursdale Business Park Durham DH6 5PG

Tel: 0191 377 1111

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#### 1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological monitoring and recording exercise was undertaken in June 2009 at the Salvation Army Hostel, 39 City Road, Newcastle, Tyne and Wear. The central National Grid Reference of the area of investigation is NZ 2558 6418.
- 1.2 The investigation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and commissioned by RPS Planning. The work involved monitoring a programme of geotechnical site investigations to record archaeological evidence ahead of a proposal to replace an existing single-storey building with a new residential building within the hostel complex.
- 1.3 The site has considerable archaeological potential as it lies within an area designated by Newcastle City Council as an Area of Archaeological Interest and also lies immediately south of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site.
- 1.4 Three geotechnical test-pits, hand-dug to examine the foundations of the building to be replaced and an adjacent building, were recorded. Material recovered from the site as five geotechnical window samples was examined and recorded. The results of three geotechnical boreholes were examined.
- 1.5 No archaeological remains of note were encountered by the geotechnical investigations.
  Natural boulder clay was recorded at relatively shallow depths within c. 0.60m of the existing ground surface across the development area.

#### 2. INTRODUCTION

#### 2.1 General Background

- 2.1.1 This report describes the methodology and results of an archaeological monitoring and recording exercise (hereafter 'watching brief') carried out at the Salvation Army Hostel, 39 City Road, Newcastle, Tyne and Wear (Figure 1).
- 2.1.2 The watching brief was undertaken in June 2009 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) and the work was commissioned by RPS Planning. The investigation took place in association with a programme of geotechnical site investigations ahead of the proposed construction of a new residential building, replacing an existing single-storey brick building.
- 2.1.3 The archaeological work was undertaken following recommendations by the Tyne and Wear County Archaeologist and the Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist at English Heritage. The site has considerable archaeological potential, as identified in an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) compiled by RPS Planning in 2008.<sup>1</sup>
- 2.1.4 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) for the watching brief was compiled by PCA.<sup>2</sup> The archaeological work aimed to record archaeological information revealed by the geotechnical site investigations.
- 2.1.5 At the time of writing, the project archive is housed at the Northern Office of PCA, at Unit N19a, Tursdale Business Park, Durham. The completed project archive, comprising written, drawn, and photographic records will be ultimately deposited with Great North Museum, under the site code SAN 09. The Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS (OASIS) reference number is: preconst1-61807.

### 2.2 Site Location and Description

- 2.2.1 The development site forms part of the Salvation Army Hostel complex at 39 City Road, known generally as The Men's Palace. The hostel is located on the north side of City Road, Newcastle, on the north valley side of the River Tyne and approximately 0.2km from the quayside (Figure 1). The hostel grounds are bounded by City Road to the south, by Garth Heads and Blagdon Close to the north, by Grenville Terrace to the east and by the Keelman's Hospital to the west.
- 2.2.2 Roughly rectangular in shape, the development site is located to the rear of the main hostel building in the north-western portion of the overall hostel complex. It covers *c.* 260m<sup>2</sup> and has a central National Grid Reference of NZ 2558 6418 (Figure 2).
- 2.2.3 The development site is currently occupied by a disused single storey brick building measuring 15m x 10m. At either end of the existing building are areas enclosed by brick walls. To the north-east there is small paved yard, while to the south-west is a predominantly grassed area on landscaped ground forming an associated garden. Geotechnical site investigations were undertaken within the vicinity of the existing building (Figure 2).

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>RPS Planning 2008.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> PCA 2009.

#### 2.3 Geology and Topography

- 2.3.1 The 'solid' geology of this part of Newcastle is Carboniferous Coal Measures comprising interbedded mudstones, sandstones and siltstones. The 'drift' geology of this part of the northern valley side of the Tyne is characterised by undifferentiated Boulder Clay and Glacial Drift.
- 2.3.2 The site lies on the northern valley side of the Tyne, thus ground level naturally slopes downwards from north-west to south-east. Terracing of the valley side to accommodate the north-western side of the existing building is evident. The cut for this is greater at the north-eastern end of the building where ground level drops from c. 25.60m OD to c. 24.40m OD, while at the south-western end of the building the fall is far less significant from c. 25.0m OD to c. 24.70m OD. Ground level on the south-eastern side of the building is c. 24.30m OD the terracing may have raised the previous ground level in this area.

## 2.4 Planning Background

- 2.4.1 The site lies within the 'Newcastle City Centre' Area of Archaeological Interest, as designated by Newcastle City Council and as shown on the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) (adopted 1998). In addition, the site lies directly adjacent to the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, which runs through the centre of Newcastle. Four sections of the Wall corridor close to the site have been designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM TW 28/9).
- 2.4.2 Government guidance regarding archaeology is contained in the document 'Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: 'Archaeology and Planning' (PPG 16).<sup>3</sup> At a local level the aforementioned UDP contains saved policies regarding sites of archaeological interest.
- 2.4.3 The Tyne and Wear Specialist Conservation Team, part of the Historic Environment Section of Newcastle City Council, has responsibility for archaeological development control throughout Tyne and Wear. In this instance, advice is also taken from English Heritage's Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist, whose role, given the proximity of the site to the World Heritage Site, is to ensure that the is to ensure that the archaeology of the Roman frontier is properly treated as part of the development process.
- 2.4.4 The development proposal entails demolition of the existing building and its walled garden and yard and construction of new two-storey ancillary building of eight flats for the existing hostel facility. The proposed building is to be sited in approximately the same location as the existing building and will not be basemented.

#### 2.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

Information contained within the aforementioned desk-based assessment (DBA) compiled by RPS

Planning has been used as the basis for this summary background. The research and writing of those responsible is fully acknowledged. Historic Environment Record (HER) numbers are not included here and the DBA should be consulted for full details and references.

2.5.1 There is no recorded prehistoric activity in the immediate vicinity of the site and there is considered negligible potential for remains of the various prehistoric eras at the site.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Department of the Environment 1990.

- 2.5.2 Hadrian's Wall runs on a NE-SW alignment only *c.* 20m to the north of the site and the Wall corridor is scheduled (SAM 28/9) in this area. Descriptions of the four scheduled sections of the Wall corridor, comprising SAM 28/9, between Crawhall Road and Jubilee Road are reproduced in the DBA. Beyond Tyneside, the Military Way is known to run parallel to and to the south of the Wall, although its presence in the city is less certain. It was probably built when Hadrian's Wall was reoccupied following the withdrawal from Scotland and may have been preceded by a Hadrianic service road. Although a 19th century observation on the south side of Buxton Street, to the north of the site, evidently recorded the Military Way, recent investigations of the Wall on Tyneside have not found anything comparable to a metalled track found immediately behind the Wall in Denton, in the west end of Newcastle.
- 2.5.3 Two relatively recent archaeological interventions in the vicinity of the site recorded the Wall and associated features. The first was an archaeological evaluation undertaken at Garth Heads in 1994, *c*. 20m to the north of the site. Disturbance from 19th century pits was recorded in four of the five trenches investigated but the Wall was located towards the eastern end of the site, only *c*. 0.40m below the existing ground surface at *c*. 26.35m OD. The second was an excavation undertaken in 2004 to the north of Buxton Street that revealed a 13m long section of the Wall at a depth of *c*. 2.3m below existing ground level. In addition, the berm, with three rows of defensive 'cippi' pits, and the north ditch of the Wall were revealed. On the south side of the Wall there had been heavy disturbance by post-medieval cellars and no evidence of the Military Way was recorded. However, the aforementioned 19th century observation of the Military Way century on the south side of Buxton Street would place it between 15m and 30m to the south of the Wall where it was recorded in 2004 and thus potentially on the site. The potential for Roman remains at the site is considered moderate to high.
- 2.5.4 The potential for Saxon and medieval remains at the site is considered low to moderate.
  Documentary evidence places a windmill and a lime kiln in the vicinity in the 14th century but the precise locations of these features are uncertain.
- 2.5.5 Cartographic evidence indicates that the site lay within open fields until the early 19th century, despite lying immediately adjacent to the Keelman's Hospital, which is of 18th century date. It was developed as the Jubilee School by the time John Wood's plan of Newcastle in 1827.
- 2.5.6 By the time of the Ordnance Survey 1st edition in 1861, the school had been re-named the Royal Jubilee School. This remained in place, with some additions, until the mid 1970s when the buildings were demolished. By 1983 the Salvation Army 'Men's Palace' hostel had been built and the existing building in the development area was in place. The potential for post-medieval remains at the site is thought to be low to moderate.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Bidwell, p.53 in Volume I of Symonds and Mason (eds.) 2009.

#### 2.6 Aims and Objectives

- 2.6.1 The broad aim of the watching brief was to record archaeological information through monitoring a programme of geotechnical site investigations.
- 2.6.2 Various geotechnical techniques were to be employed during the site investigations, including trial pitting, boreholing and window sampling. The extent to which archaeological monitoring of these techniques was to be undertaken was to be clarified during the work since the potential for recovering significant archaeological data during some geotechnical techniques is debatable. Thus the watching brief aimed to collate geotechnical data and the results of the archaeological monitoring to assess the potential for survival of significant archaeological remains at the site.
- 2.6.3 Specific research objectives to be addressed by this project may be formulated with reference to *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment* (NERRF).<sup>5</sup> NERRF identifies the following key priorities within the research agenda for the Roman (R) period which are likely to be of direct relevance to the project: *Riii the Roman military presence*. The recently produced *Frontiers of Knowledge*. *A Research Framework for Hadrian's Wall. Volume I Resource Assessment; Volume II Agenda and Strategy*,<sup>6</sup> is also of relevance.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Petts and Gerrard 2006.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Symonds and Mason (eds.) 2009.

#### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken in June 2009 by PCA. Fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the relevant standard and guidance document of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA).<sup>7</sup> PCA is an IfA-Registered Organisation (RO 23). The fieldwork was also undertaken in accordance with the WSI compiled by PCA. The geotechnical site investigations were undertaken by Ian Farmer Associates.
- 3.1.2 On 4 June three hand-dug trial pits (TP1-3) were examined and recorded (Figure 2). TP1 was located in the small courtyard area against the north-east elevation of the existing building proposed for demolition; it measured 0.90m x 0.70m and was excavated to a depth of 1.20m. TP2 was located on a tarmac pathway against the north-west elevation of the building to the north-east; it measured 0.90m x 0.55m and was excavated to a depth of 0.72m. TP3 was located on a paved pathway against the south-east elevation of the same building; it measured 0.55m x 0.50m and was excavated to a depth of 0.66m.
- 3.1.3 Five window samples (WS1-5) formed part of the geotechnical investigation (Figure 2). WS1-3 were located on a landscaped grass area on the south-east side of the existing building in the development area and WS4-5 were located in the garden area at the south-western end of the building. Excavation of the window samples was not subject to archaeological monitoring, however, on 8 June, material recovered by this method (WS1-5) was made available for examination by PCA at the offices of lan Farmer Associates. In addition, the window sample logs were provided to PCA in electronic format.
- 3.1.4 Three cable percussion boreholes (BH1, BH1A and BHR1A) formed part of the geotechnical site investigations. Boreholes BH1 and BH1A were sited within close proximity to each other on a tarmac car park on Garth Heads to the north-west of the development area. Borehole BHR1A was located on the grass bank to the south-east of the building to be demolished. Subsequent to the fieldwork, the results of the boreholes were provided to PCA in electronic format.
- 3.1.5 The trial pits and window samples were recorded on pro forma 'Trial/Test Pit Recording Sheets' and 'Borehole/Window Sample Recording Sheets', respectively. A digital photographic record of the exposures was compiled. Archaeological deposits revealed in the pits were recorded on pro forma 'Context Recording Sheets'. The locations of all the trial pits, borehole and window samples was provided electronically to PCA.

### 3.2 Post-excavation

- 3.2.1 The stratigraphic data for the project is represented by the written, drawn and photographic records. In total, 23 archaeological context numbers were assigned during the watching brief (Appendix B). Post-excavation work involved checking and collating site records. A written summary of the archaeological sequence was then compiled, as described below.
- 3.2.2 No artefactual or organic material was recovered and no bulk samples for palaeoenvironmental remains were collected during the watching brief.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> IfA 2001.

- 3.2.3 The complete Site Archive, in this case comprising 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 document8 will be adhered to, in particular a well-established United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) document<sup>9</sup> and a forthcoming IfA publication. <sup>10</sup>
- At the time of deposition of the Site Archive, the depositional requirements of the receiving 3.2.4 body, in this case the Great North Museum, Newcastle, will be met in full.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Brown 2007.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Walker, UKIC 1990. <sup>10</sup> IfA forthcoming.

#### 4. RESULTS: THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

#### 4.1 Trial Pits

#### TP1 (Figure 3)

- 4.1.1 The earliest deposit, [102], encountered in TP1 comprised firm dark grey clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones. This deposit was exposed within a small area at the base of the pit and was at least 0.30m thick, its upper interface lying c. 0.80m below existing ground level. It is likely to represent ground levelling and consolidation material associated with the construction of the existing building.
- 4.1.2 Cut into deposit [102] was a NW-SE aligned construction cut, [107], for a brick wall [100], and a short length of a NW-SE aligned service trench, [106]. Both features were encountered at c.0.80m below existing ground level.
- 4.1.3 Wall [100] formed the south-western limit of excavation of the trial pit and the north-east elevation of the existing building. The method of construction involved laying a concrete footing, [101], directly within construction cut [107]. The brickwork was laid in stretcher bond upon this footing. The bricks had standard dimensions of 220mm long x 70mm high and were bonded with hard grey mortar.
- 4.1.4 A substantial dump deposit, [104], comprising light yellow brown sandy gravel was encountered at *c.* 70mm below existing ground level, extending across TP1. It was up to 0.70m thick and had been dumped against the lower portion of wall [100] and upon its footing. The deposit represents infilling and ground raising prior to re-surfacing. It was directly overlain by a block paving surface, [103], which extended across this part of the yard area and forms the existing hard surface.

#### TP2 (Figure 4)

- 4.1.5 A NE-SW aligned brick wall [200] formed the south-eastern limit of excavation of TP2 and the north-western elevation of the building against which the pit was excavated. The method of construction involved laying a concrete footing, [101], encountered at a maximum depth of c. 0.64m below existing ground level, then probably against shuttering a concrete foundation, [201]. Overlying this foundation was the brickwork, again in stretcher bond. Again the bricks had standard dimensions of 220mm long x 70mm high and were bonded with hard grey mortar. Due to the limited dimension of this trial pit, the construction cut for this wall was not observed.
- 4.1.6 Adjacent to the base of foundation [201] part of a NE-SW aligned ceramic drain was recorded. No cut was observed indicating that it was probably installed at the same time as a dump deposit [204], which, along with a rubble layer, [203], formed the uppermost deposits within TP2. Their combined average thickness was 0.73m. Directly overlying rubble layer [203] was a tarmac surface, this being the current hard surface across this area.

#### TP3 (Figure 5)

- 4.1.7 A NE-SW aligned wall, [300], was recorded in TP3. This formed the north-western limit of excavation and the south-eastern elevation of the building against which the pit was excavated. The method of construction was similar to that of wall [100] in TP1 and involved laying a concrete footing, [301], to a depth of *c*. 0.46m below existing ground level. The brickwork, again in stretcher bond, directly overlay this. Again the bricks had standard dimensions of 220mm long x 70mm high and were bonded with hard grey mortar.
- 4.1.8 Towards the base of TP3 a NW-SE aligned service, [307], was recorded, set within the footing [301]. It was backfilled with a gravel deposit, [306].
- 4.1.9 A silty dump layer, [304], for ground levelling and a sub-base layer. [305], of crushed stone hardcore, were recorded lying against wall [300], and overlying service [307]. These deposits had a combined thickness of 0.45m. Two brick courses of the south-western side of what was probably a drain chamber, [303], were recorded in the north-eastern side of the trial pit. This may have been constructed against wall [300] prior to infilling with layers [304] and [305], although this is uncertain.
- 4.1.10 Overlying drain chamber [302] and rubble layer [303] were concrete paving slabs, [302], this being the current hard surface across this area.

## 4.2 Boreholes

#### BH1 and BH1A

- 4.2.1 BH1A extended to a depth of more than 26m, the majority being through geological strata underlying the site. Boulder clay described as stiff brown sandy slightly gravelly clay was first encountered at a depth of only c. 0.60m below existing ground level at c. 24.54m OD. A similar deposit was recorded at a similar depth in BH1, which was extended to a depth of only 4.60m below ground level. These results indicate that natural drift geology lies at relatively shallow depth below existing ground level on the north side of the development area. Whether or not this material has suffered any horizontal truncation through previous landscaping in this area is uncertain.
- 4.2.2 In both BH1 and BH1A, natural clay was overlain by brown or brown black clayey deposits, up to 200mm thick, containing brick and slag, as well as concrete in BH1. This material is considered to be of modern or, at the earliest, late post-medieval date which suggests that some truncation of the natural sub-stratum has occurred at this location. In both boreholes this material was overlain by a dump of gravel, then a layer of concrete and then the existing tarmac ground surface, this at *c.* 25.02m OD.

#### BHR1A

4.2.3 No detailed results of this borehole were available.

## 4.3 Window Samples (Figures 6-10)

- 4.3.1 The earliest recorded deposits within the five window samples were glacial drift deposits, which comprised various compositions of silt, sand, clay and gravel. The highest level recorded on any such deposit a stiff brown, mottled with blue grey, slightly sandy, slightly gravelly clay in WS2 was 23.46m OD, this at 0.37m below existing ground level. The lowest level on a similar clayey deposit in WS3 was 22.72m OD, this at 0.60m below existing ground level.
- 4.3.2 In all five window samples glacial drift material was directly overlain by deposits interpreted as modern dumps of rubble for levelling and ground consolidation. These comprised various combinations of silt, sand and clay with varying quantities of fragmented brick, coal, clinker, and dolomite. These deposits varied in thickness from a maximum of 1.30m in WS1 to a minimum of 0.30m thick in WS2. In WS4 this 'made ground' was the uppermost deposit recorded, this the gravel surface at the south-western end of the existing building, where existing ground level was 24.36m OD,
- 4.3.3 The latest deposit recorded in WS1-3 and WS5 was existing topsoil, which generally comprised dark brown silty sand. The maximum height at which the upper interface of this deposit was recorded was 24.69m OD in WS5, this in the garden at the south-western end of the existing building, while the lowest was 23.23m OD in WS3, this sited on the grass bank to the south of the development area.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## 5.1 Conclusions

- 5.1.1 No archaeological remains of note were encountered during any of the geotechnical site investigations. No artefactual material worthy of recovery was encountered.
- 5.1.2 The work has demonstrated that natural drift deposits lie a relatively shallow depths within c.
  0.60m of the existing ground surface across the development area. This, along with the presence of probable modern material directly overlying the drift deposits, probably indicates that former archaeological levels have been subject to horizontal truncation during one or more previous episodes of landscaping at the site.

#### 5.2 Recommendations

5.2.1 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.

#### 6. REFERENCES

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## 7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

## Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank RPS Planning for commissioning the project herein described. The liaison role of Josh Williams is acknowledged.

## **PCA Credits**

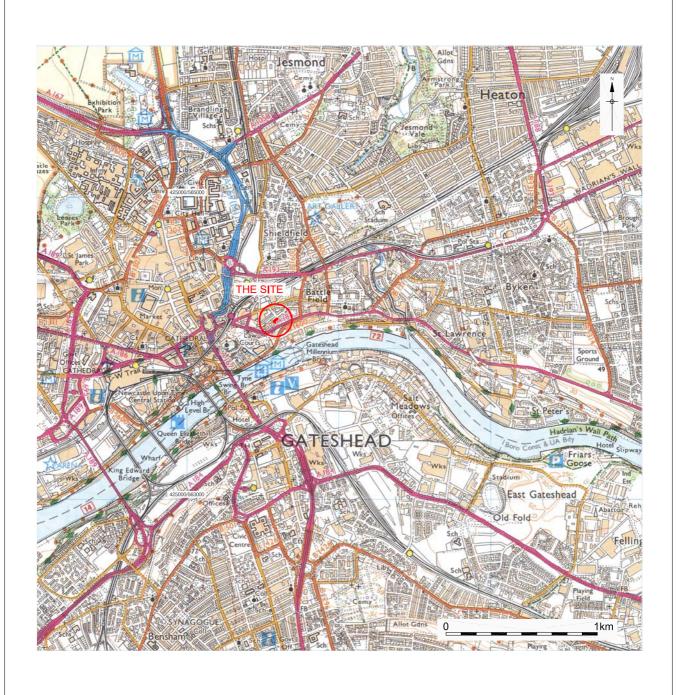
Fieldwork: Mick Coates and Aaron Goode

Report: Aaron Goode and Robin Taylor-Wilson

Project Management: Robin Taylor-Wilson

CAD: Adrian Bailey

## **APPENDIX A FIGURES 1-10**



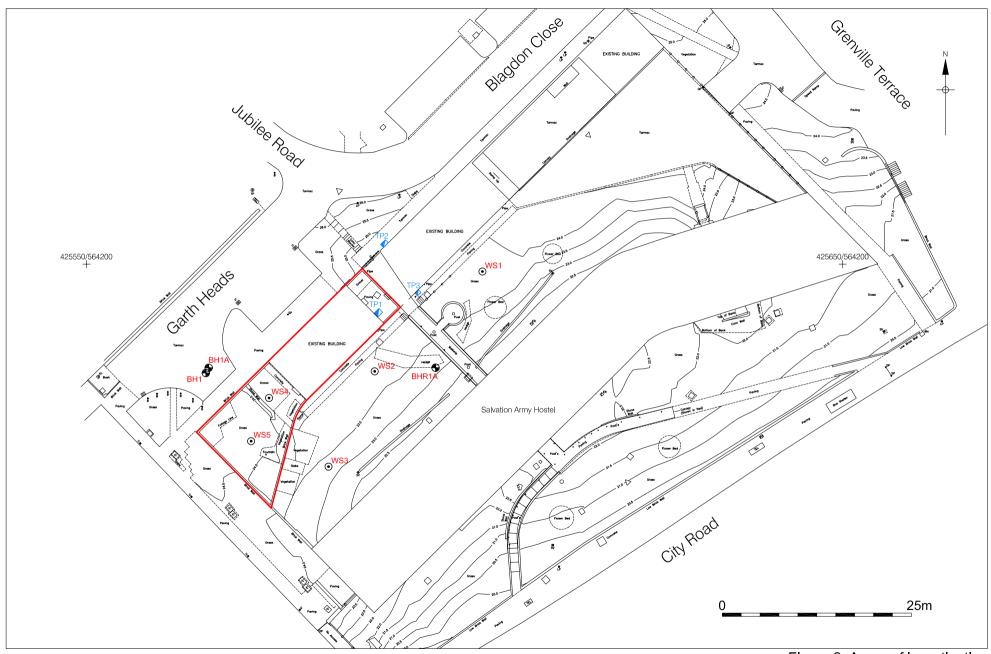


Figure 2. Areas of investigation Scale 1:500



Figure 3. Trial Pit 1.



Figure 4. Trial Pit 2.



Figure 5. Trial Pit 3.



Figure 6. Window Sample 1.



Figure 7. Window Sample 2.



Figure 8. Window Sample 3.



Figure 9. Window Sample 4.



Figure 10. Window Sample 5.

## APPENDIX B CONTEXT INDEX

#### SAN 09: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Trial Pit	Type 1	Type 2	Interpretation
100	1	masonry	wall	brick wall
101	1	structure	foundation	concrete foundation for wall [100]
102	1	deposit	layer	levelling/demolition deposit
103	1	masonry	paving	block paving
104	1	deposit	layer	levelling/demolition deposit
105	1	deposit	fill	fill of service [106]
106	1	cut	linear	service trench filled by [105]
107	1	cut	linear	foundation trench filled by [101], [100]
200	2	masonry	wall	brick wall
201	2	structure	foundation	concrete foundation for wall [200]
202	2	structure	surface	concrete surface
203	2	deposit	layer	sub-base for concrete surface [202]
204	2	deposit	layer	levelling/demolition deposit
205	2	structure	pipe	drain pipe
206	2	structure	foundation	foundation for wall [201]
300	3	masonry	wall	brick wall
301	3	structure	foundation	concrete foundation for wall [300]
302	3	structure	slabs	paving slabs
303	3	structure	uncertain	brick structure
304	3	deposit	layer	levelling deposit
305	3	deposit	layer	sub-base
306	3	deposit	fill	fill of service [307]
307	3	cut	linear	service trench filled by [306]