ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT FARRINGDON ROW, SUNDERLAND, TYNE AND WEAR

Post-Excavation Assessment Report

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeological Investigations at Farringdon Row, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear

Post-Excavation Assessment Report

Central National Grid Reference: NZ 3907 5720

Site Code: FRS 04

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PART A: PROJECT SUMMARY

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1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

1.1 This report details the results of archaeological investigations undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at Farringdon Row, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear. The central National Grid Reference of the site is NZ 3907 5720. The investigations were commissioned by Sunderland City Council and undertaken between December 2004 and February 2005, in advance of a re-development scheme by Sunderland arc.

1.2 The site is located on the south side of the River Wear, in the Bishopwearmouth area of the city. It lies to the east of Farringdon Row, on the northeastern side of the junction with Silksworth Row and occupies a parcel of land overlooking the low-lying Galley's Gill area to the east. Substantial masonry revetment walls of 19th century date delimit the eastern boundary of the site. To the north lies additional land adjacent to Farringdon Row that has been proposed for re-development. The area available for archaeological investigation comprised an open space, *c.* 6,200m^2 in size, with its southern portion rough, unsurfaced ground and its northern portion surfaced with tarmac.

1.3 The investigations herein described were preceded by a desk-based assessment of the cultural heritage potential of the site. This identified potential for remains from several archaeological eras and particularly highlighted the discovery of significant Bronze Age remains on the nearby Vaux Brewery site, as well as cartographic evidence which showed that the Lambton Waggonway ran across the western part of the site during the 19th century.

1.4 A phased programme of archaeological investigations was conducted. The initial fieldwork comprised an archaeological evaluation, undertaken in December 2004, with four linear trial trenches (Trenches 1-4) being investigated. The southeastern edge of a substantial feature, of medieval or earlier date, was exposed at the northern end of Trench 1, in the northwestern portion of the site. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered in Trenches 2-4. Trenches 3 and 4 demonstrated that cellars associated with 19th century housing had disturbed the southeastern portion of the site. In conjunction with the evaluation trenching, recording of the masonry revetment walls at the eastern limit of the site was undertaken.

1.5 The second phase of fieldwork, undertaken in January 2005, aimed to further investigate the feature encountered in Trench 1 and to this end the trench was extended to the north. The full dimensions of the feature could not be determined since it met the limit of excavation to the north-west and its precise form was not obvious, even after sample excavation, for the same reason. However, a struck flint was recovered from the infill material and the broad conclusion was that the feature represented prehistoric activity at the site.

1.6 The third phase of fieldwork, undertaken in February 2005, comprised archaeological monitoring of overburden removal and then open area archaeological excavation of an area *c.* 2,200m^2 in size within the northern portion of the site. This revealed further possible evidence for prehistoric activity in the northeastern corner of the site where a group of features was interpreted as representing part of a post-built structure. Further excavation of the remains revealed in the evaluation established that three intercutting features formed what had been previously thought to be one substantial feature. The terminus of a curvilinear ditch was the earliest feature identified, and this had been truncated to the west by a substantial feature, possibly another ditch terminus, which produced another struck flint. Finally, what appeared to be a substantial pit had been cut through the infilled upper parts of the two earlier features. The only other archaeological features recorded during the excavation comprised a short linear feature of probable medieval date and a linear feature of post-medieval date, from which struck flints were recovered, although these were residual in context.

1.7 The artefactual material recovered from the investigations comprised small assemblages of struck flint and medieval pottery, along with a spindle whorl with no diagnostic features to clarify its period of origin.

1.8 Assessment of bulk soil samples taken from the prehistoric features revealed very few biological remains and those that were recovered were of no interpretative value. However, two samples contained organic material suitable for radiocarbon dating and, if further processing were undertaken in order to maximise the quantity of such material, it could be possible to obtain absolute dates in order to clarify in which archaeological era the activity recorded at the site took place.

1.9 This Post-Excavation Assessment Report is divided into three parts (Parts A, B and C). Part A, the Project Summary, begins with an introduction to the site, describing its location, geology and topography, and setting out the planning and archaeological background to the project, and then continues with a full description of the methodologies employed during the investigations. Part A concludes with a section detailing the archaeological remains representing each of the main phases of activity and a description of the masonry revetment wall at the eastern boundary of the site.

1.10 Part B, the Data Assessment and Conclusions, quantifies the written, graphic and photographic elements of the project archive and contains specialist assessments of the artefactual and bioarchaeological evidence, with recommendations for further analysis for each category, and then sets out the conclusions of the project to date with a discussion of the significance of the project data in local, regional and national terms.

1.11 Part C contains the references and acknowledgements. The report has three appendices.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 General Background

2.1.1 Archaeological investigations were undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) at Farringdon Row, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, between December 2004 and February 2005. The site - sometimes referred to as Farringdon Row Phase 1 - formed part of a substantial belt of land south of the River Wear that has been proposed for re-development by Sunderland arc. The central National Grid Reference of the site herein described is NZ 3907 5720 (Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Sunderland City Council.

2.1.2 The site is located to the east of Farringdon Row, on the northeastern side of the junction with Silksworth Row. To the east, the site overlooks the low-lying Galley's Gill area, the route of a former tributary of the River Wear. To the north lies the remainder of the land on Farringdon Row that is proposed for re-development.

2.1.3 The archaeological investigations were undertaken as a planning condition, upon the recommendation of the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer (TWAO), in order to mitigate the impact of the proposed re-development upon the archaeological resource. At the onset of the archaeological investigations, outline planning permission had been granted for a mixed-use re-development scheme at the site.

2.1.4 Prior to the archaeological fieldwork, a desk-based assessment of the cultural heritage of the site was compiled.[1] A phased programme of archaeological fieldwork was undertaken, commencing with an initial trial trenching evaluation, along with recording of a masonry revetment wall delimiting the eastern site boundary. This was followed by supplementary evaluation work involving an extension to the northernmost trial trench in order to further expose and investigate potential remains of significance. This led to an open area archaeological excavation, undertaken over an area *c*. 2,200m² in size within the northern portion of site (Figure 2). A Project Design for the open area excavation was compiled by PCA.[2]

2.1.5 All archaeological investigations at the site were undertaken by PCA under the direction of Emma Allen and the Project Management of Robin Taylor-Wilson.

2.1.6 At the time of writing, the project archive is housed at the Northern Office of PCA, Unit N19a Tursdale Business Park, Durham. The completed project archive, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, as well as artefactual and palaeoenvironmental material will be deposited with the Tyne and Wear Museums Service, under the site code FRS 04. The Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (hereafter OASIS) reference number for the project is preconst1-9804.

2.1.7 This report follows English Heritage guidelines set out in '*Management of Archaeological Projects (2nd edition)*' (MAP2).[3]

[1] Entec UK Limited, 2004.
[2] Pre-Construct Archaeology, 2005.
[3] English Heritage, 1991.

Figure 1. Site location
Scale 1:25,000

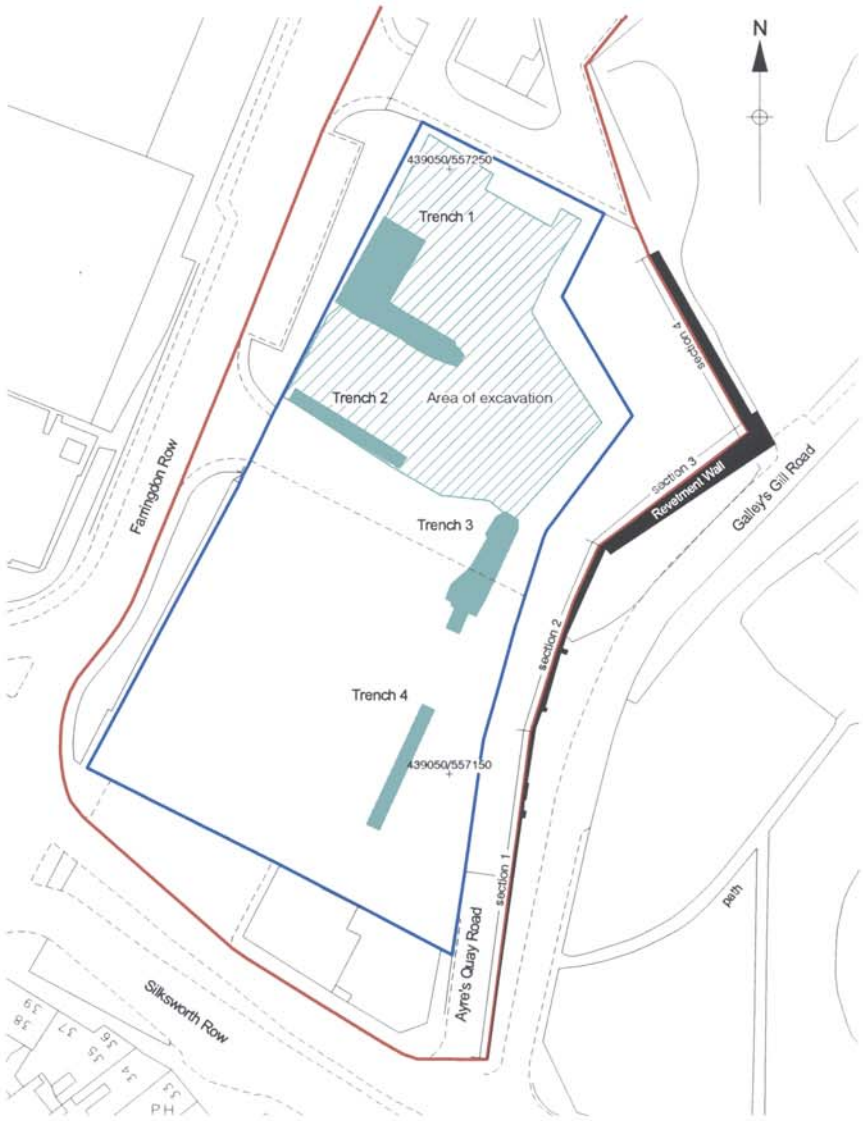


Figure 2. Areas of investigation
Scale 1:1250

2.2 Site Location and Description

2.2.1 The site is located to the south of the River Wear, in the Bishopwearmouth area of Sunderland and lies between the Queen Alexandra and Wearmouth Bridges (Figure 1). The central National Grid Reference of the site is NZ 3907 5720.

2.2.2 In local terms, the site lies to the east of Farringdon Row, on the northeastern side of the junction with Silksworth Row and occupies land overlooking Galley's Gill - low-lying ground on the line of a former tributary of the Wear - to the east. The remaining portion of the overall Farringdon Row re-development area lies to the north of the site herein described.

2.2.3 The area available for archaeological investigation comprised a sub-rectangular plot, *c.* 6,200m² in size (Figure 2). This comprised an open space, delimited for the most part by galvanised steel perimeter fencing. The southern portion of this area comprised rough ground, with a surface of levelled demolition material, while the northern portion comprised tarmac surfaces. Access to the site was from Farringdon Row through gates situated at approximately the mid-point of the western perimeter fence. Beyond the eastern perimeter fence was a corridor of rough woodland, delimited by a masonry revetment wall facing Galley's Gill Road. This wall became more substantial to the north as the ground fell away, and at its greatest height formed an angle, from which it continued to the north-east away from Galley's Gill Road.

2.3 Geology and Topography

2.3.1 Sunderland's geology comprises Carboniferous rocks that are overlain in the east by younger rocks of the arid Permian period, principally Magnesian Limestone. The limestone forms an escarpment running through the western part of the city, from Downhill (near Hylton Castle) in the north to High Moorsley (near Hetton-le-Hole) in the south. The Farringdon Row site lies to the east of the escarpment, where the limestone is exposed or is overlain by glacial drift deposits, dominated by clay, sometimes with small pockets of sand and gravel.

2.3.2 The masonry revetment wall forming the eastern boundary of the site was constructed in the 19th century against a limestone rockface, overlooking the area of Galley's Gill, once a natural tributary of the Wear. At the northeastern angle in the revetment wall, the structure was at its most substantial, at least *c.* 1.0m thick, and *c.* 8.0m in height. Existing ground level adjacent to the revetment wall, on an area of waste ground off Galley's Gill Road, was *c.* 27.40m. At this location, the structure rose at least *c.* 3.0m above the height of the rockhead, with the 19th century infill material behind it. To the south, along Galley's Gill Road and towards Silksworth Row, the revetment wall became gradually less substantial, both in height and thickness, reflecting the natural decrease in height of the rockface. Again, material had been infilled behind the structure in order to create the existing ground level to the west.

2.3.3 In the portion of the site in which the archaeological investigations were undertaken, well to the west of the limestone rockface, the existing ground surface sloped down very slightly from a height of *c*. 38.60m OD in the south to *c*. 38.0m OD in the north. During the investigations, modern surfaces and modern and post-medieval overburden were removed to reveal earlier strata, these in turn giving way to either glacially derived drift deposits or degraded limestone derived from the rockhead.

2.4 Planning Background

2.4.1 At the onset of the archaeological investigations, outline planning permission had been granted for a mixed-use re-development scheme at the site, comprising business and residential units with associated access, parking and landscaping. The re-development was proposed by Sunderland arc, a public-interest, private company involved with the regeneration of Wearside. The planning application (reference number 04/01104/OUT) covered only the site herein described, previously referred to as Farringdon Row Phase 1.

2.4.2 It is the role of the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer (TWAO), attached to the Historic Environment Section at Newcastle City Council, to identify proposed development schemes that may have archaeological implications throughout Tyne and Wear and to provide archaeological advice to Local Planning Authorities, in this case Sunderland City Council. In this instance, the TWAO advised that a programme of archaeological assessment and evaluation should be undertaken prior to development, secured by a condition attached to the planning consent.

2.4.3 The need for early consultation in the planning process in order to determine the impact of development schemes upon the archaeological resource is identified in *'Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning'* (PPG16).[4] That document provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains. Paragraph 21 of PPG16 states that:

> *'Where early discussions with local planning authorities or the developer's own research indicate that important archaeological remains may exist, it is reasonable for the planning authority to request the prospective developer to arrange for an archaeological field evaluation to be carried out before any decision on the planning application is taken.'*

2.4.4 The first stage of the programme of archaeological assessment and evaluation was the compilation of a desk-based assessment of the cultural heritage potential of the site herein described. A specification for the desk-based assessment was prepared by the TWAO.[5]

[4] Department of the Environment, 1990.
[5] Newcastle City Council, 2004a.

2.4.5 The assessment established that the site had considerable archaeological potential, even though 19th-20th century developments had almost certainly impacted upon earlier archaeological remains. In particular, the site lay close to the medieval village of Bishopwearmouth, the 19th century Lambton Waggonway probably ran through the northwestern portion of the site and archaeological fieldwork in 2003 and 2004 at the site of the former Vaux Brewery, *c*. 150m to the south-east of Farringdon Row, had identified significant archaeological remains of prehistoric date.[6]

2.4.6 The second stage of archaeological work involved a trial trenching evaluation of the site, undertaken by PCA in December 2004. In addition, the masonry revetment walls at the eastern boundary of the site were subject to a programme of recording. A specification for the initial evaluation and historic structure recording was compiled by the TWAO.[7] The specific objective of the trial trenching was to investigate the line of the Lambton Waggonway, and another, broader aim was to assess the archaeological potential of the site for prehistoric and medieval remains. Four trenches were investigated in total. Trenches 1 and 2 were located in the northwestern portion of the site, across the postulated line of the Lambton Waggonway, while Trenches 3 and 4 were located in the eastern portion of the site as a sampling exercise.

2.4.7 No archaeological features or remains of significance were encountered in evaluation Trenches 2-4. At the northern end of Trench 1, part of a substantial feature, of medieval or earlier origin, was exposed. The TWAO advised that further investigation of the feature should be undertaken by supplementary evaluation involving an extension to the northern end of Trench 1. The requirement for this was agreed between Sunderland City Council and the TWAO, and the fieldwork was conducted by PCA in January 2005. The work demonstrated that the feature was possibly the terminal of a substantial ditch or part of a large pit and a struck flint recovered by sample excavation indicated that the feature was probably of prehistoric origin.

2.4.8 The proposed development was to involve substantial ground reduction within the central and northern parts of the site. For example, in the vicinity of evaluation Trenches 2 and 3, existing ground levels at *c*. 38.50m OD were to be reduced to a project formation level of *c*. 35.50m OD (with the natural sub-stratum at *c*. 37.50m OD) and to the north in the vicinity of evaluation Trench 1 where existing ground levels were *c*. 38.0m OD, the project formation level was *c*. 34.0m OD (with the natural sub-stratum at *c*. 36.0m OD).

2.4.9 Accordingly, the TWAO recommended that overburden should be stripped from the northern portion of the site under archaeological supervision and that the exposed area should be subject to open area archaeological excavation to record and sample any archaeological remains thus revealed. It was agreed by all parties that archaeological excavation should be initially confined to the northern part of the site, since the evaluation had demonstrated the presence of remains of note only in Trench 1 and that 19th century cellars had impacted on archaeological levels in the southern part of the site. If it could be demonstrated by the work undertaken in the northern part of the site that significant remains continued into the southern part, then the area of investigation would be extended to the south. In practice, this did transpire.

[6] Pre-Construct Archaeology, 2004a and 2004b.
[7] Newcastle City Council, 2004b.

2.4.10 The final phase of fieldwork - the open area excavation - was carried out in February 2005, after a Project Design for the work had been prepared by PCA and approved by the TWAO.

2.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.5.1 A cultural heritage desk-based assessment of the site was undertaken in 2004. A summary of this archaeological and historical background is set out below, using information taken from the desk-based report, as well that gathered by additional research, using information in the Tyne and Wear Historic Environment Record (HER).

Prehistory

2.5.2 Although prehistoric remains have been encountered in the Sunderland area on numerous occasions over the years, it is only relatively recently that evidence of activity has been discovered during a controlled archaeological investigation. Probably the most well-known prehistoric site in Sunderland is the Neolithic and Bronze Age site at Hastings Hill, *c*. 5km to the south-west of Farringdon Row. That site includes a Neolithic causewayed enclosure and a cursus monument. A round barrow close to the cursus was archaeologically investigated in 1911, with 8 cists being investigated, these producing 3 cremations and 3 inhumations, all of which contained pottery, possibly from food vessels. An unenclosed cremation and an inhumation grave were excavated within the mound.

2.5.3 Other sites and discoveries in the broad vicinity of Farringdon Row are summarised below. At Humbledon Hill, *c*. 3km to the south, prehistoric food vessels and a cremation contained within a food vessel were removed from a barrow in 1873, ahead of the construction of a reservoir. A further prehistoric burial is recorded as being found on Humbledon Hill in 1750, with flint arrowheads found in a similar location in the 1950s. A possible cist burial and cremations were discovered *c*. 2.5km to the south at Tunstall Hills in the early 19th century, close to where a possible unexcavated barrow is situated, and a number of stray finds of flint artefacts have also been recorded in that area. Approximately 2km to the north, on the north side of the river, a number of possible prehistoric burials have been discovered in the Fulwell area, along with flint tools and antler fragments.

2.5.4 Further evidence of prehistoric activity in the Lower Wear Valley is confined to stray finds and artefacts dredged from the River Wear or encountered during work along the banks of the river. Many of these are antiquarian discoveries and as such may be rather unreliable. In 1984, Miket produced an inventory of prehistoric discoveries known at that time, summarised below.[8] A rough Neolithic flint axe was found in 1884 during the enlarging of Doxford's shipyard, *c*. 2km west of Farringdon Row, and a Neolithic polished stone axe was found on the opposing bank, 30 feet below the waterline, at Pickersgill's Shipyard in 1976. Upstream, near Hylton, a log boat believed to be of Late Bronze Age or early Iron Age date was found in the river in 1880. A second log boat may also have been recovered during the 1880s, possibly in association with stone tools, but it is also possible that the two reported finds represent the same boat. Although these boat(s) were discovered *c*. 4km to the west of Farringdon Row, they are of potential interest as they suggest that the river was being used to facilitate movement of people and goods, potentially linking riverside settlements.

2.5.5 Approximately 3km to the west of Farringdon Row, two (or possibly three, records are unclear) bronze swords of probable Late Bronze Age date were dredged from the river during the 19th century. The first (and possibly a second, records are unclear) is said to have been dredged from the river between Hylton Dene and Park's Nook. Initially thought to be Roman, it now seems more likely that the sword was of Late Bronze Age date, of Ewart Park type. Another reported Bronze Age sword, also of Ewart Park type, was dredged from the river at Hylton.

2.5.6 In 2003 and 2004, archaeological evaluation at the former Vaux Brewery site, *c.* 150m to the east of Farringdon Row, revealed significant archaeological remains of prehistoric date. A number of archaeological features and deposits were identified which contained cultural material dating from the Mesolithic period through to the Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age, suggesting that prehistoric activity at the site was long-lived. A relatively large assemblage of pottery dating to the Middle Bronze Age was recovered from a number of the features, suggesting that the site may have been the location of an important settlement focus during this period.

Roman

2.5.7 Ancient literary evidence refers to a Roman fort, known as '*Dictum'*, which although unlocated has long been thought to lie in the area between the known forts at South Shields and Chester-le-Street. Wearmouth has been increasingly identified as the location of the 'missing' fort in recent years.

2.5.8 Two antiquarian reports (one from 1865, one from 1873) of ancient stone walling being discovered in Wearmouth, have led to suggestions that the site of the former Vaux Brewery, *c*. 150m to the east of Farringdon Row, is the location of a Roman fort. The aforementioned archaeological evaluation undertaken in 2003 recorded no evidence of such remains.

Early Medieval and Medieval

2.5.9 The early history of the settlement at Bishopwearmouth, which lay a short distance to the south of Farringdon Row, is poorly understood. Its origin was certainly monastic, with St. Peter's monastery being established on the north bank of the Wear *c.* AD 673. The landholding of the monastery was extended south of the river, to become 'Bishop's Wearmouth' in the 7th-8th centuries. By the 12th-13th centuries, documentary evidence indicates that a small settlement had developed around St. Michael's Church, *c*. 250m to the south of Farringdon Row. Subsequent expansion of the settlement was to the south of the church.

2.5.10 In the 19th century, the remains of a boat thought to be a Viking galley were discovered immediately to the north of the Farringdon Row site *'at the base of the limestone cliff in the old Gill'*. Prior to industrialisation, Galley's Gill was a substantial tributary of the Wear and, according to local tradition, was where Danish invaders moored their vessels.

[8] Miket, 1984.

Post-medieval

2.5.11 Cartographic evidence from the 18th century shows Galley's Gill as a small industrial hamlet. However, the higher ground overlooking the Gill, including the Farringdon Row site, remained undeveloped into the early 1800s. Johnson's map of 1826 shows the site occupied by terraced housing off Hopper Street, which ran NW-SE through the centre of the site.

2.5.12 The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map from 1855 shows that by this date the area had become heavily industrialised, with Bishopwearmouth Iron Works and the Wear Glass Works in place to the south-west of Farringdon Row, at what was clearly an important transport junction. Two roads, Back Hopper Street and Ayre's Quay Road, are shown flanking the site to the west and east, respectively, with Silksworth Row skirting the site to the south. Terraced housing fronting Back Hopper Street and Ayre's Quay Road backed onto the dwellings along Hopper Street. The now vanished Back Hopper Street was separated from Farringdon Row by the Lambton Waggonway. Only a short section of Ayre's Quay Road remained in place at the southeastern corner of the site at the time of the investigations herein described. In the 19th century, however, Ayre's Quay Road continued to the north-east then turned to the north-west before crossing the line of the waggonway, north of the site.

2.5.13 The Lambton Waggonway[9] was constructed in 1815 by the Nesham family to replace an earlier line from Philadelphia to the station at Penshaw. Its purpose was to carry coal from Monkwearmouth Colliery to the staiths at Lambton Drops, on the south bank of the Wear to the north-east of Farringdon Row. The line was sold to John Lambton in 1822. As intimated above, mid-19th century cartographic evidence suggested that the waggonway ran SW-NE close to, if not actually across, the northwestern portion of the Farringdon Row site.

2.5.14 The expanding population of the area in the early 19th century gave rise to the need for a larger burial ground, so Rector's Gill Cemetery, in the Galley's Gill area to the east of the Farringdon Row site, was first consecrated for burials in 1806. The cemetery was short-lived and was discontinued in 1854 and is shown a s '*Gill Cemetery (Disused*)' on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map from 1897. By the time of the 1941 Ordnance Survey map, terraced housing had been cleared from the Farringdon Row site and by the 1968 edition, the southwestern and northwestern portions were occupied by a *'Depot'* and an *'Engineering Works'*, respectively.

[9] Tyne and Wear HER No. 2833.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 In broad terms, the archaeological investigations at Farringdon Row aimed to establish the date, nature, extent and significance of archaeological remains at the site as evidenced by any buried deposits and features and any artefactual and ecofactual evidence contained within them.

3.2 The specific research objective of the open area archaeological excavation was to focus on prehistoric utilisation of the site, as suggested by the findings of the initial archaeological evaluation. Fieldwork in 2003 and 2004 at the former Vaux Brewery site, *c*. 150m to the east, had demonstrated the potential for significant prehistoric settlement activity in this part of Sunderland. It was, therefore, a project-specific objective to determine whether similar activity was present on the rockhead overlooking the former watercourse Galley's Gill, west of the Vaux Brewery site.

3.3 In addition, although the evaluation work failed to identify evidence of the 19th century Lambton Waggonway, a project-specific objective of the open area excavation was to determine whether there were in fact any remains associated with this important industrial monument present at the site and, if so, what was their form, character and extent.

3.4 The purpose of the historic structure recording was to provide a permanent record of the masonry revetment walls skirting the eastern site boundary prior to re-development. It was proposed that the less substantial southern sections of the revetment wall would be wholly demolished as part of the scheme. The highest portions, towards the northeastern 'corner' of the structure, were to be reduced in height by approximately one-third, in association with ground reduction across much of the re-development site.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

4.1 Historic Structure Recording

4.1.1 The historic structure recording was undertaken in accordance with the relevant standard and guidance document of the Institute of Field Archaeologists[10] (IFA) and to the standards detailed by the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England.[11]

4.1.2 The masonry revetment wall at the eastern boundary of the site was inspected on the 3rd January 2005 and the findings provide the basis for Section 6 of this report.

4.1.3 A photographic record of the revetment wall was also compiled on the 3rd January 2005. The main structural elements of the wall were photographed using 35mm colour print formats. A selection of the prints is included in Appendix C to this report.

4.2 Evaluation Trial Trenching

4.2.1 The initial archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in the specification prepared by the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer (TWAO). In addition, the fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the relevant standard and guidance document of the IFA.[12] The initial evaluation was undertaken 9th-20th December 2004 and comprised the investigation of four trenches (Trenches 1-4), the locations of which were proposed by the TWAO in the specification. Trench 1 had to be re-located *c*. 2.0m to the south of its intended location, to avoid the line of a gas main that ran NW-SE across the northern portion of the site.

4.2.2 Trenches 1 and 2 were located in the northwestern portion of the site, aligned NW-SE and positioned to locate remains of the Lambton Waggonway (Figure 2). Trench 1 had to be widened and stepped-in for Health and Safety reasons due the depth of deposits encountered, so that at ground level it was 4.50m wide and 23.0m long. Trench 2 measured 2.0m wide and 21.10m in length at ground level; it did not have to be widened and stepped-in as a lesser depth of deposits was encountered than in Trench 1

4.2.3 Trenches 3 and 4 were aligned NE-SW and located in the eastern portion of the site (Figure 2). Trench 3 was 21.60m long and 2.0m wide in its southern part; its northern and central parts had to be widened and stepped-in, so that at ground level these parts were *c*. 5.0m wide. Trench 4, located to the south of Trench 3, was 22.0m long and 2.0m wide at ground level; it did not have to be widened and stepped-in.

[10] IFA, 1999a.
[11] RCHME, 1996.
[12] IFA, 1999b.

4.2.4 A 20-tonne tracked 360º mechanical excavator was used to open the evaluation trenches. A hydraulic breaker was used to break-out existing surfaces in Trenches 1 and 2 and ground reduction in all four trenches was undertaken utilising a wide-blade ditching (non-toothed) bucket. All work was directed by the supervising archaeologist. Overburden and non-archaeologically significant material was removed gradually by the machine, in spits of approximately 100mm thickness, down to the first significant archaeological horizon. Spoil was mounded away from the edge of each trench by the machine.

4.2.5 Subsequent excavation and recording was undertaken in accordance with recognised archaeological practice and following methodology set out in PCA's field recording manual.[13] Following machine clearance, the sections and the base of each trench were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. One long section of each trench and detailed sections of individual features were drawn at an appropriate scale. Each trench was planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50 relative to a baseline established along the trench and the position of each baseline was precisely located using a Geodimeter Total Station EDM.

4.2.6 Two Temporary Bench Marks (TBMs) were established on the site from the Ordnance Survey Bench Mark located at the rear of a property fronting Hylton Road which had a value of 41.25m OD. The TBMs had values of 38.49m OD and 38.88m OD.

4.2.7 Supplementary evaluation was undertaken on 10th-12th January 2005, with this work involving the extension of the northern part of Trench 1 to the north-east. The requirement for this work was agreed between Sunderland City Council and the TWAO. The supplementary evaluation involved extending the northern part of Trench 1 to the north-east, with an area measuring *c*. 12.0m NE-SW x *c*. 8.0m NW-SE at ground level being investigated. The sides of the excavation again had to be either stepped-in or battered-back for Health and Safety reasons. A 21-tonne tracked 360º mechanical excavator was used for ground reduction during the supplementary evaluation. An identical methodology was employed to that in the earlier phase of work, involving initial breaking-out and then gradual ground reduction. Again, all work was directed by the supervising archaeologist.

4.3 Open Area Excavation

4.3.1 The methodology adopted for the open area excavation was set out in the Project Design prepared by PCA in advance of the work. Archaeological excavation was to be initially confined to the northern part of the site, since the evaluation had demonstrated the presence of remains of note only in Trench 1 and that 19th century cellars had impacted on archaeological levels in the southern part of the site. In the event that significant remains continued into the southern part of the site, then the area of investigation was to be extended. In practice, this was not case and the overall excavation area was not extended; the final area comprised an irregular L-shape covering *c*. 2,200m^2 in the northern part of the site. The open area excavation fieldwork took place 24th January-9th February 2005.

[13] Pre-Construct Archaeology, 1999.

4.3.2 Preparation of the excavation area was undertaken in a systematic manner. Initially, existing surfaces and modern overburden were removed by a 25-tonne tracked 360º mechanical excavator. All the material generated by this work - it varied in depth from 0.50m in the south to 2.0m in the north - was removed from site. This work took place January 24th-31st 2005. The second stage, undertaken 1st-4th February 2005, involved reducing the excavation area down to the first significant archaeological horizon using a 20-tonne tracked 360º mechanical excavator with a wide blade 'ditching' bucket. This work was conducted under archaeological supervision. Spoil was removed by a dumper-truck and mounded in the southern portion of the site. The sides of the excavation area were stepped-in for Health and Safety reasons, due to the depth of deposits overlying the natural sub-stratum.

4.3.3 Exposed surfaces were cleaned, beginning 3rd February 2005, by the archaeological team using appropriate hand tools. All subsequent excavation and recording was carried out in accordance with recognised archaeological practice and following the methodology set out on PCA's field recording manual. All archaeological features (layers, cuts, fills, *etc.*) that were not obviously of late 19th century or later origin within the excavation area were investigated with hand tools and recorded in plan at 1:20 or in section at 1:10 using standard 'single context planning' methods.

4.3.4 The sampling policy for archaeological features of potentials significance had been set out in PCA's Project Design and comprised:

- Stakeholes – to be 100% excavated.
- Postholes – to be half-sectioned to determine and record their form, and then fully excavated to aid recovery of dateable material.
- Larger discrete features – to be subject to a minimum of 50% excavation.
- Linear features, such as ditches and gullies – to be sectioned as appropriate, to obtain a meaningful sample of each feature and give an indication in variations in profile along their length. The terminal ends of linear features to be excavated.

4.4 Site Recording

4.4.1 *Pro forma* recording sheets were used to compile a full record of all written, graphic and photographic work undertaken. Detailed written records were made of all archaeological features and deposits encountered, comprising both factual data and interpretative elements. Drawings were executed on polyester-based drawing film, at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20, and were related to a site survey grid that was installed across the excavation area. A unique site code, FRS 04, was used throughout all stages of the investigations.

4.4.2 TBMs established during the evaluation continued to be utilised during the open area excavation. The elevation of all principal strata and features was calculated in metres above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the values indicated on the appropriate plans and section drawings.

4.4.3 'Harris Matrix' stratification diagrams were compiled to record stratigraphic relationships during all stages of the fieldwork.

4.4.4 Detailed photographic records of all stages of the fieldwork were compiled utilising SLR cameras. The records included monochrome and colour prints and colour transparencies (on 35mm film), illustrating the principal features and finds discovered in detail and in general context. All photographs of this nature included a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. The photographic record also included 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

4.5 Artefacts and Palaeoenvironmental Remains

4.5.1 All artefacts recovered from the investigations were treated in an appropriate manner and were exposed, lifted, cleaned, marked, conserved, bagged, packaged, boxed and stored, as appropriate and in accordance with recognised guidelines.[14]

4.5.2 Specialist assessment was undertaken on all categories of finds (*e.g.* flint, ceramic, *etc.*).

4.5.3 All processing of artefacts and ecofacts was undertaken away from the site. Subsequent assessment of artefactual and ecofactual material was undertaken by suitably qualified personnel. For each category of artefact and ecofact, an assessment report has been produced including a basic quantification of the material and a statement of its potential for further analysis and recommendations for such work.

4.5.4 The strategy for sampling archaeological and environmental deposits and structures was set out in PCA's Project Design. As far as possible sampled deposits were uncontaminated and well-dated by artefactual or stratigraphic evidence. Bulk soil samples normally comprised 30 litres (where sufficient material was available).

4.5.5 In total, five bulk samples were collected during the open area excavation and all five were considered to be a high priority for processing and assessment. Bulk soil samples collected for environmental remains during the investigations were processed and assessed by suitably qualified personnel. Sieving was used when necessary for the possible recovery of small items.

4.6 Post-Excavation Assessment

4.6.1 This report has been prepared as the first phase of post-excavation work associated with the archaeological investigations at Farringdon Row. The report enumerates the different categories of evidence (stratigraphic, artefactual and palaeoenvironmental) that were recovered and includes assessments of the potential for further analysis of each category. This procedure is in accordance with the guidelines of English Heritage, as set out in MAP2. The potential for further analysis of site data is considered in relation to the project's original research objectives and any additional research questions generated either by the fieldwork or the process of post-excavation assessment.

[14] UKIC, 1983 and RESCUE, 1988.

4.6.2 Assessment of each category of artefactual and palaeoenvironmental material was undertaken by suitably qualified archaeological specialists as soon as possible following the completion of the fieldwork.

4.6.3 Survival of all materials recovered during or generated by archaeological projects depends upon suitable storage. The complete project archive, comprising written, drawn, and photographic records (including all material generated electronically during post-excavation) and all recovered materials will be packaged for long term curation according to relevant guidelines.[15] An acceptable standard for archives generated by archaeological projects has been defined in MAP2. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, and internally consistent. The depositional requirements of the receiving body, in this case Tyne and Wear Museums Service, will be met in full.

4.6.4 Data will be prepared for accession to the Tyne and Wear HER.

4.6.5 Unless overridden by National Law, any artefacts and ecofacts recovered from the site belong to the landowner, which is urged to donate these to an appropriate body. PCA will, with the agreement of the landowner, arrange for deposition of the material with a suitable repository, in this case Tyne and Wear Museums Service.

[15] UKIC, 1990.

5. PHASED SUMMARY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Phase 1: Natural Deposits

5.1.1 Fractured and degraded limestone was observed at two locations during the evaluation fieldwork; this material representing the degraded rockhead that forms the solid geology of the site. The first was beneath a modern intrusion in the central portion of Trench 3, where degraded limestone, [9], was recorded at a maximum height of 36.21m OD. The second was in the western part of Trench 1, where similar degraded limestone, [34], was recorded in plan, at a maximum height of 36.14m OD. When Trench 1 was extended to the north during the supplementary evaluation, this material was exposed across a greater area. Adjacent to the northern limit of excavation in the extension to Trench 1, degraded limestone was recorded at a height of 35.90m OD.

5.1.2 Natural boulder clay representing the underlying drift geology of the area was recorded in all four evaluation trenches. The deposits, [30], [33], [8] and [22], in Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4, respectively, were broadly comparable, comprising firm, pinkish brown clay or sandy clay, with varying amounts of coal and sub-angular sandstone inclusions. Occasional light brown, sandy patches were recorded throughout the deposits in Trenches 1 and 2. Boulder clay overlay the aforementioned degraded limestone, where that material was exposed, in Trenches 1 and 3.

5.1.3 There was considerable variation in the composition of the drift deposits, [139], as exposed across the excavation area. In general, the material consisted of loose, mid yellowish brown, clayey sand with occasional to moderate patches of degraded limestone and firm, mid pinkish brown clay. Towards the southeastern corner of the excavation area, there was more variation, with the material becoming hard, mid pinkish brown, clay, with occasional patches of loose, light brownish grey sand and degraded limestone. Towards the northeastern corner, the sub-stratum was compact, mid brownish yellow, very slightly clayey sand.

5.1.4 The maximum height at which natural drift material was recorded during all parts of the fieldwork was *c.* 37.50m OD, this being a fairly consistent height recorded on the boulder clay along the length of evaluation Trench 2, in the central western part of the site. From there, drift deposits fell away slightly to the south-east, for example, in evaluation Trench 4, boulder clay was recorded at a maximum height of 37.31m OD, but fell away far more significantly to the north-east, for example, at the northeastern corner of the excavation area, probably untruncated drift material was recorded at *c*. 35.30-35.50m OD.

5.2 Phase 2.1: Prehistoric

5.2.1 The terminus of a curvilinear feature, [126], was recorded adjacent to the northwestern limit of the excavation area cut into the degraded limestone sub-stratum (Figures 3 and 4). It had steep sloping sides and a concave base (Section 16, Figure 8 and Section 18, Figure 9) and was 5.40m in length, continuing beyond the limit of excavation to the north-west, and up to 0.66m deep. The feature had been truncated along its western edge by activity assigned to Phases 2.2 and 2.3 so that its maximum surviving width was 1.24m wide; the highest level at which it was recorded was 35.94m OD.

5.2.2 Feature [126] contained a single fill, [127], which comprised soft, mid pinkish brown, clayey silt. This material probably represents silting-up following disuse of the feature. No artefactual material was recovered but a bulk sample of the deposit produced a single land snail and two unidentified marine shells, of no interpretative value.

5.2.3 This feature is interpreted as the terminus of a ditch. Although it was not possible to come to a definite conclusion regarding the precise function of the feature within the limits of the excavation, its form broadly suggests that it represents part of the boundary ditch of a small, possibly circular, enclosure with a south-facing entrance.

5.3 Phase 2.2: Prehistoric

5.3.1 Part of the southeastern edge of a substantial possibly curvilinear feature, [128], truncated part of the western side of the terminus of Phase 2.1 ditch [126] (Figure 5). Feature [128] continued beyond the limit of excavation to the north-west and much of its upper part had been truncated by activity assigned to Phase 2.3 (Figures 3 and 5). It had moderately steep to steep sloping sides and a concave base (Figures 8 and 9). Three portions of the feature were excavated during the evaluation and subsequent excavation and in sum the feature measured *c.* 6.75m in length, aligned NE-SW, and was at least 1.08m wide, continuing beyond the limit of excavation to the north-west. The feature had a maximum recorded depth of 1.22m and the highest level at which it was recorded was 35.90m OD.

5.3.2 Six distinct fills, [125], [131], [124]=[130], [134], [133] and [123], were recorded within feature [128] during the excavation phase of work. A primary fill, [125], comprising light brown silt, up to 0.27m thick, was recorded across the majority of the basal area of the feature and is likely to represent initial silting-up. A bulk sample of this deposit produced a small quantity of black ash/cinder. A single flint flake recovered from fill [125] is broadly indicative of knapping waste and is likely to date from the earlier prehistoric period, late Glacial to Neolithic. In the northernmost excavated portion was another primary fill, comprising degraded limestone, [131], up to 0.09m thick. This deposit may represent the partial collapse of the open sides of the feature, or possibly slumped-in upcast material. The secondary fill, [124]=[130], of the feature comprised light to mid brown silt (50%) and degraded fragmented limestone (50%), up to 0.52m thick. The quantity of limestone within perhaps indicates weathering of the open sides of the feature or, again, slumping-in of upcast material.

5.3.3 Two deposits, [134], and [133], comprising loose, mid brownish grey clayey sand, at least 0.20m and 0.18m thick, respectively, and another deposit, [123], comprising soft, mid brownish grey silt, at least 0.24m thick, formed the uppermost fills within the feature. These deposits are likely to represent further silting-up as the feature fell into disuse. A bulk sample of fill [123] produced a few charred naked wheat grains and wild grass.

5.3.4 Interpretation of feature [128] cannot be certain due to the restricted exposure possible adjacent to the limit of excavation. However, due to the stratigraphic relationship identified between it and ditch terminus [126], it is perhaps tempting to suggest that feature [128] was installed as a replacement for the silted-up earlier feature. Hence feature [128] may also have been part of an enclosure or boundary ditch. There was a suggestion in the form of the edge of the feature in the northernmost excavated portion, that a terminus was possibly located immediately beyond the limit of excavation.

5.4 Phase 2.3: Prehistoric

5.4.1 Features [126] and [128] were both truncated by a substantial feature, [120], which extended beyond the limit of excavation to the north-west (Figures 3 and 6). The maximum recorded dimensions of this feature were *c*. 6.0m NE-SW x 2.20m NW-SE x 0.74m deep and the highest level at which it was recorded was 35.97m OD. It had gradual to moderately steep sloping sides and a concave to flat base (Figures 8 and 9).

5.4.2 The primary fill, [132], of feature [120], as recorded in the excavation phase of work, comprised loose, mid greyish brown clayey sand, up to 0.16m thick. This was overlain by a deposit, [122], of compact mid greyish brown silty sand, up to 0.46m thick. Two silty fills, [121] and [129], mid pinkish brown and mid greyish brown in colour and up to 0.26m thick and up to 0.46m thick, respectively, formed the uppermost fills in the excavation. A flint flake was recovered from the feature during the supplementary evaluation (from what was at that location the uppermost fill, [36]=[122], of feature [4]).

5.4.3 Given the limited extent to which it was possible to expose feature [120], a precise interpretation is difficult. This feature, unlike those assigned to Phases 2.1 and 2.2, appeared to be part of a substantial discrete feature, perhaps a quarry pit, rather than part of a curvilinear or linear ditch.

5.4.4 An irregular feature, [29], interpreted as having been created by tree root disturbance, was recorded close to the feature [120] at the northwestern end of evaluation Trench 1. A single small flint flake was retrieved from its fill, [28], and it is considered likely that it was introduced through root action. This feature is not illustrated in this report due to its interpreted non-anthropogenic origin.

5.4.5 A group of six circular and sub-circular postholes, [105], [107], [109], [111], [115] and [117], and a single stakehole, [113], were recorded towards the northeastern corner of the excavation area (Figure 3). All were exposed cut into the natural sub-stratum and the maximum height recorded – on posthole [107] - was 35.54m OD. These features were generally steep sided with concave bases (Figure 7); their dimensions are shown in Table 5a, below. The base of one, posthole [111], was sharply concave, presumably representing the shape of a sharpened post, which had been driven into the ground. The fills of these features, [104], [106], [108], [110], [112], [114] and [116], respectively, varied from greyish brown to brownish grey silty sand or sand. A bulk sample of fill, [110], of feature [111] produced small fragments of cinder and charcoal.

Feature	Dimensions	Depth
[105]	0.40m NW-SE x 0.32m NE-SW	0.30m
[107]	0.32m E-W x 0.18m N-S	0.20m
[109]	0.30m in diameter	0.35m
[111]	0.40m N-S x 0.38m E-W	0.52m
[113]	0.15m in diameter	0.09m
[115]	0.22m N-S x 0.26m E-W	0.32m
[117]	0.58m NE-SW x 0.42m NW-SE	0.44m

Table 5a: Dimensions of Phase 2.3 structural features

5.4.6 These structural features, which would have held timber uprights, are interpreted as representing the remains of a post-built structure. However, it was not possible to ascertain within the limits of excavation whether the features represented part of one or more structures, *e.g*. a dwelling, or part of one or more linear features, *e.g.* fencelines.

5.4.7 No dating evidence was recovered from the structural features, however, both their form and stratigraphic position demonstrate that they are likely to have been associated with the prehistoric activity encountered to the west; the features truncated natural deposits and were overlain by a substantial developed soil assigned to Phase 3. It was not possible to determine which sub-phase of prehistoric activity this group of features was associated with and the features have accordingly been placed with the latest sub-phase to which they may relate.

5.5 Phase 3: Medieval

5.4.1 A shallow butt-ended NE-SW aligned feature, [101], was recorded in the central portion of the site (Figure 3). It measured 4.98m x 1.14m x up to 0.10m deep and the maximum height at which it was recorded was 36.52m OD. The sides and base of the feature were irregular, and it is likely that the feature had suffered horizontal truncation. A sandy silt fill, [100], was recorded and this yielded a single fragment of medieval pottery, possibly of 13th century date, along with a spindle whorl of uncertain date. Interpretation of this feature cannot be certain due to the limited degree to which it survived.

5.4.2 A substantial layer, [138], comprising orange brown sandy silt varying to mid brown, was recorded in section in the excavation area. This varied in thickness from *c*. 0.20m–0.50m and was recorded in section at a highest level of 37.76m OD. It is interpreted as developed soil and although no datable evidence was recovered, it is likely to be of medieval origin, probably having been reworked during the post-medieval period.

5.4.3 Similar developed soils were recorded in all of the trenches investigated during Phase 1 and 2 of the archaeological evaluation and are interpreted as also representing developed soil.

5.4.4 In Trench 1, developed soil [27] comprised reddish brown silty sandy clay up to 0.20m thick and was recorded at a highest level of 37.07m OD.

5.4.5 In Trench 2, developed soil [32] comprised brown silty sandy clay up to 0.36m and recorded at a highest level of 37.76m OD.

5.4.6 In Trench 3, developed soil [7] comprised clayey silt varying in colour from brownish grey to mid grey. It was up to 0.60m thick and was recorded at a highest level of 37.39m OD.

5.4.7 In Trench 4, developed soil [21] comprised brownish grey clay silt up to 0.49m thick recorded at a highest level of 37.66m OD.

5.5 Phase 4: Post-Medieval

5.5.1 A NE-SW linear aligned feature, [102], was recorded in the southern portion of the excavation area (Figure 3). It was 13.60m long, truncated by a modern intrusion at its northeastern end and meeting the limit of excavation to the south-west. It was 2.30m wide x 0.15m deep and was recorded at a maximum height of 37.24m OD. It had gradual sloping sides with a concave to flat base. This feature is interpreted as a possible boundary ditch. Its single fill, [103], comprised greyish brown sandy clay, in which late post-medieval pottery and brick fragments were noted and from which three flint flakes were recovered. Although residual in context, these flints were noteworthy as they were sequential refits, having been struck from a small round alluvial pebble. The condition of the pieces and the fact that they refit suggests that knapping was occurring in the vicinity of their recovery and this adds further information to the overall picture of prehistoric activity at the site.

5.5.2 The remains of a layer, [137], comprising brownish grey sandy clayey silt was recorded in places across the excavation area. It survived up to 0.20m in thickness and was recorded at a maximum height of 37.10m OD. A similar silty deposit, [35], was recorded in section in Trench 1, during the evaluation. These deposits – which can be reasonably equated - are interpreted as developed soils of post-medieval origin.

5.5.3 Structural remains associated with 19th century terraced housing at the site were encountered in Trench 3 during the evaluation. Towards the western end of that trench, the remains of a brick cellar were recorded in section, at a maximum height of 37.65m OD. Its construction cut, [13], was 4.40m wide x at least 1.74m deep, cutting down through developed soil [7] and at least a further 1.20m into the natural sub-stratum. The base of the construction cut on its southern side was stepped, presumably indicating the location of steps leading into the cellar. Parts of two NW-SE aligned walls, [10] and [11], survived within the sides of the construction cut. To the south-west, wall [10] was a single brick thick and survived to a height of only 0.60m. To the north-east, wall [11], comprised sandstone blocks and pink bricks and survived to a height of 1.74m. The northeastern connecting cellar wall, [14], was again a single brick thick, surviving in section for a length of 3.62m and at least 1.50m in height. The bricks in walls [10] and [14] were unfrogged red bricks, measuring 215mm x 85mm x 70mm, laid in stretcher bond. This cellar was certainly a remnant of the 19th century terraced housing at the site. The location and orientation of the structure indicates that it was associated with a dwelling on either the former Hopper Street or Ayre's Quay Road.

5.5.4 Towards the northern end of evaluation Trench 3, a heavily truncated structure, [16], comprising a single course of five red bricks, was recorded in section. The bricks measured 110mm wide x 70mm thick and were bonded with a light grey mortar. The structure was recorded at a maximum height of 37.41m OD and possibly represented the truncated base of a brick-lined drain.

5.6 Phase 5: Modern

5.6.1 Material removed initially as 'modern overburden' across the excavation area was assigned a single context number, [136]. The existing ground surface comprised a layer of tarmac, with hardcore make-up, underlain by a substantial layer of demolition rubble. The demolition layer was *c*. 0.40m thick at the southern limit of the excavation area, increasing to *c*. 2.0m at the northern limit. Existing ground level across the southern half of the site, up to the southern limit of the excavation area was *c*. 38.60m OD, falling away to *c*. 38.0m OD at the northern limit of the excavation area.

5.6.3 The evaluation trenches recorded a number of deposits and features relating to the demolition of the 19th century houses and later structures which formerly occupied the site.

5.6.4 In evaluation Trench 1, a layer, [26], comprising demolition rubble up to 1.0m thick, overlay Phase 3 developed soil, [27]. Modern overburden overlying the demolition material was assigned a group context number, [25], and comprised a reinforced concrete slab, overlain by two layers of hardcore, with a layer of tarmac forming the existing surface ground surface. In Trench 1, the tarmac surface was recorded at a highest level of 38.19m OD.

5.6.5 Deposits overlying Phase 3 developed soil, [32], in Trench 2, were assigned a group context number, [31], and had a combined maximum thickness of *c*. 1.0m. This modern overburden comprised a layer of demolition rubble, a reinforced concrete slab and a layer of hardcore, this being the make-up for the existing tarmac surface. In Trench 2, the surface was recorded at a highest level of 38.64m OD.

5.6.6 In Trench 3, a substantial feature, [19], containing two fills, [18] and [17], was recorded in section at the northern end of the trench. It was interpreted as a demolition feature, probably representing 'grubbing-out' of foundations. Two layers of demolition rubble, [15] and [6], were recorded in section, the latter extended along the length of the trench. Deposits overlying demolition layer [6] were assigned group context number [5] and consisted of a mixed levelling layer overlain by a layer of hardcore. At the southeastern end of the trench, a concrete slab overlay demolition layer [6]. A layer of hardcore at the northeastern end of the trench and a layer of tarmac across the remainder of the trench formed the existing ground level, recorded at a highest level of *c*. 38.60m OD.

5.6.7 Two layers of demolition rubble, [23] and [24], were recorded in section at the northern end of Trench 4, overlying Phase 3 developed soil, [21]. Deposits overlying the demolition rubble were assigned group context number [20] and comprised two mixed layers with a combined maximum thickness of *c*. 0.80m. The uppermost deposit was a layer of hardcore, recorded at a highest level of 38.35m OD.

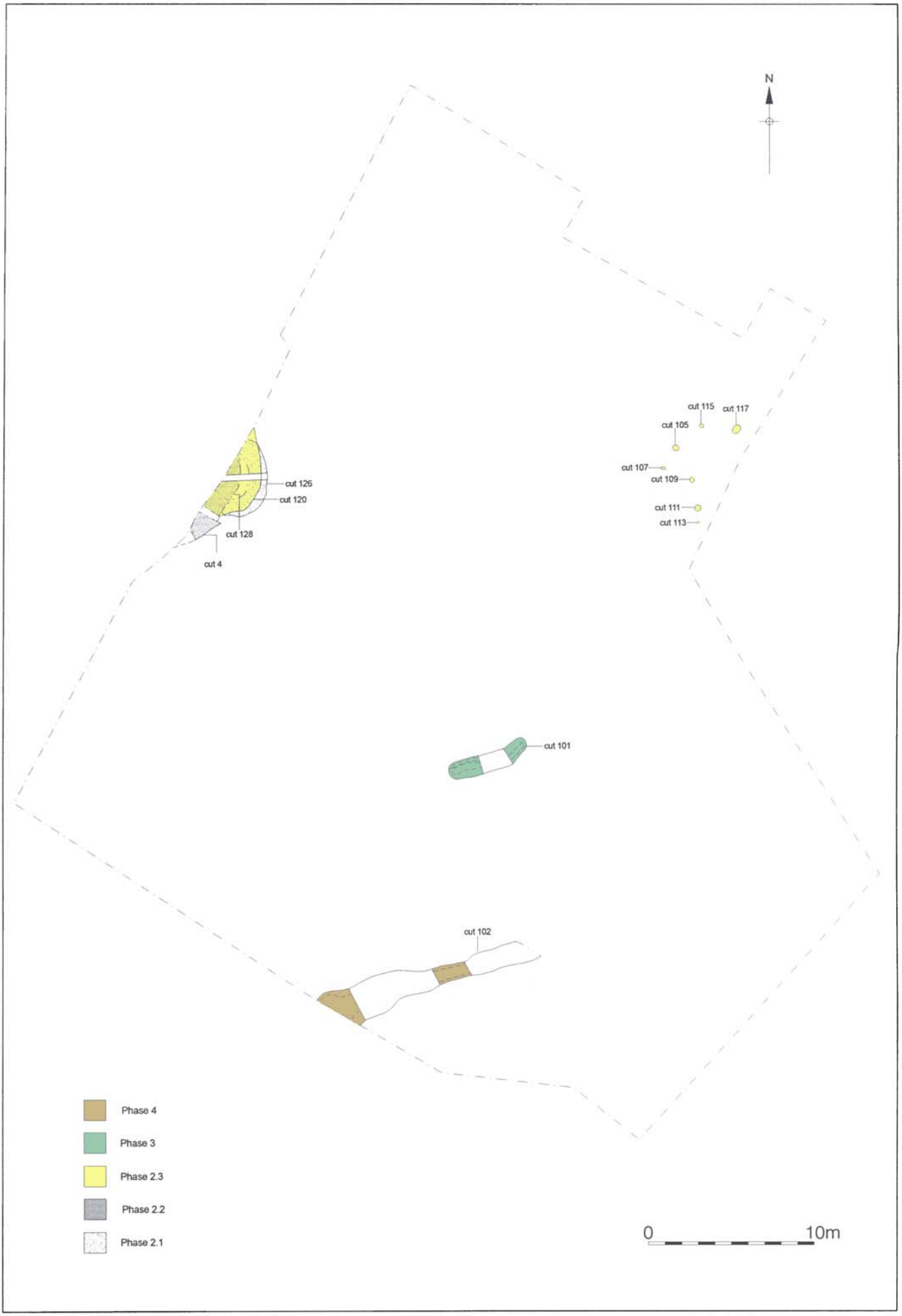


Figure 3. All archaeological features
Scale 1:300

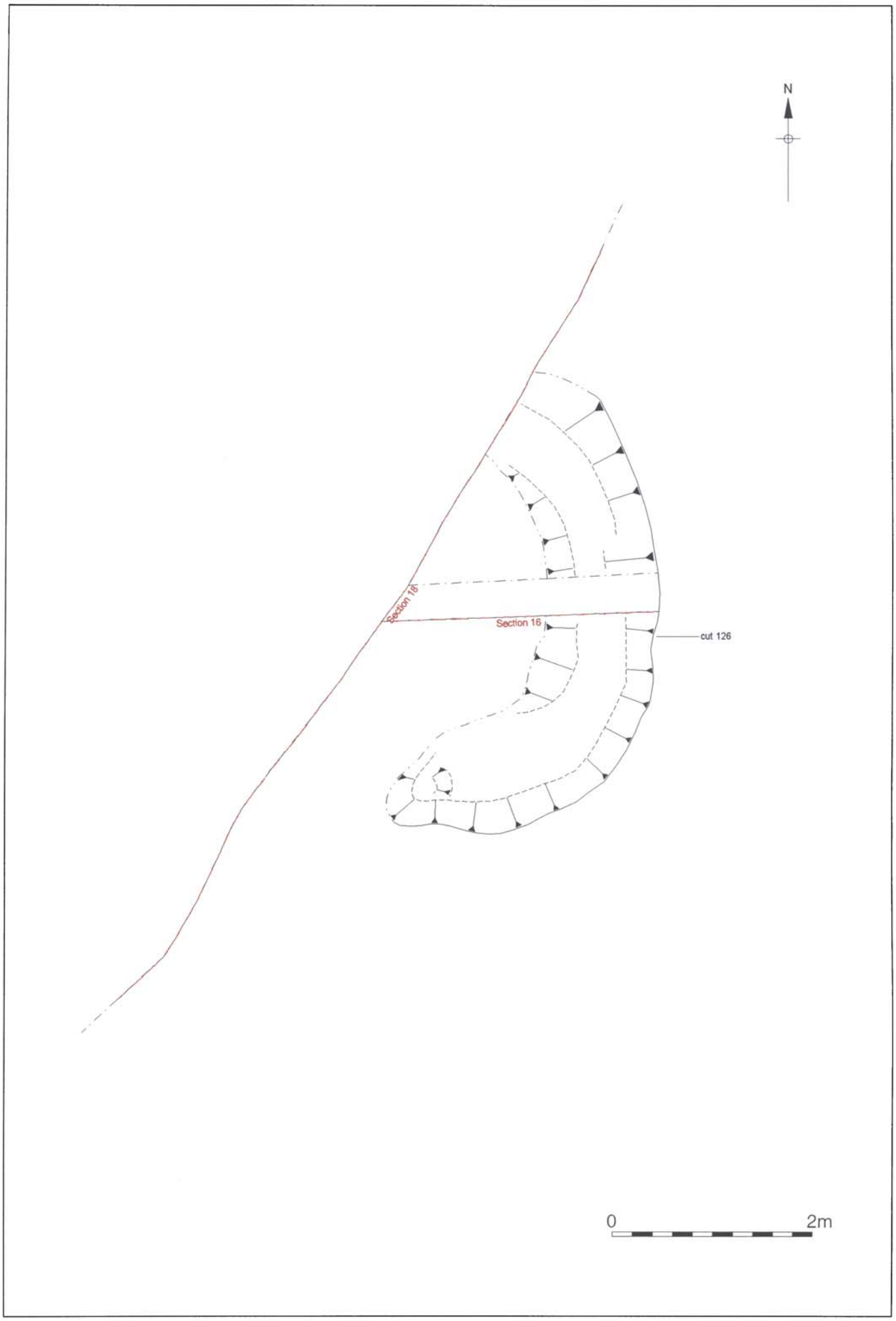


Figure 4. Phase 2.1
Scale 1:50

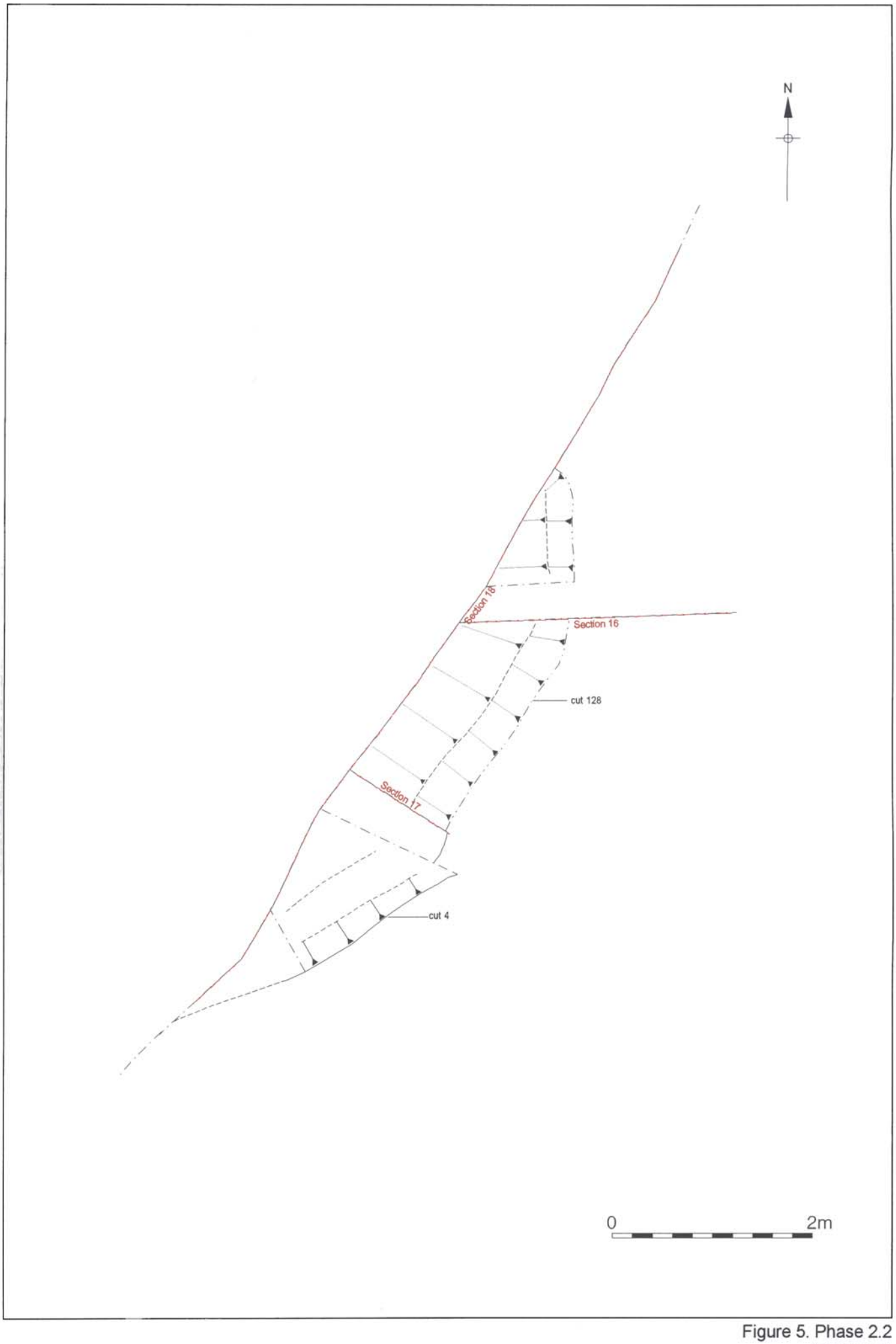


Figure 5. Phase 2.2
Scale 1:50

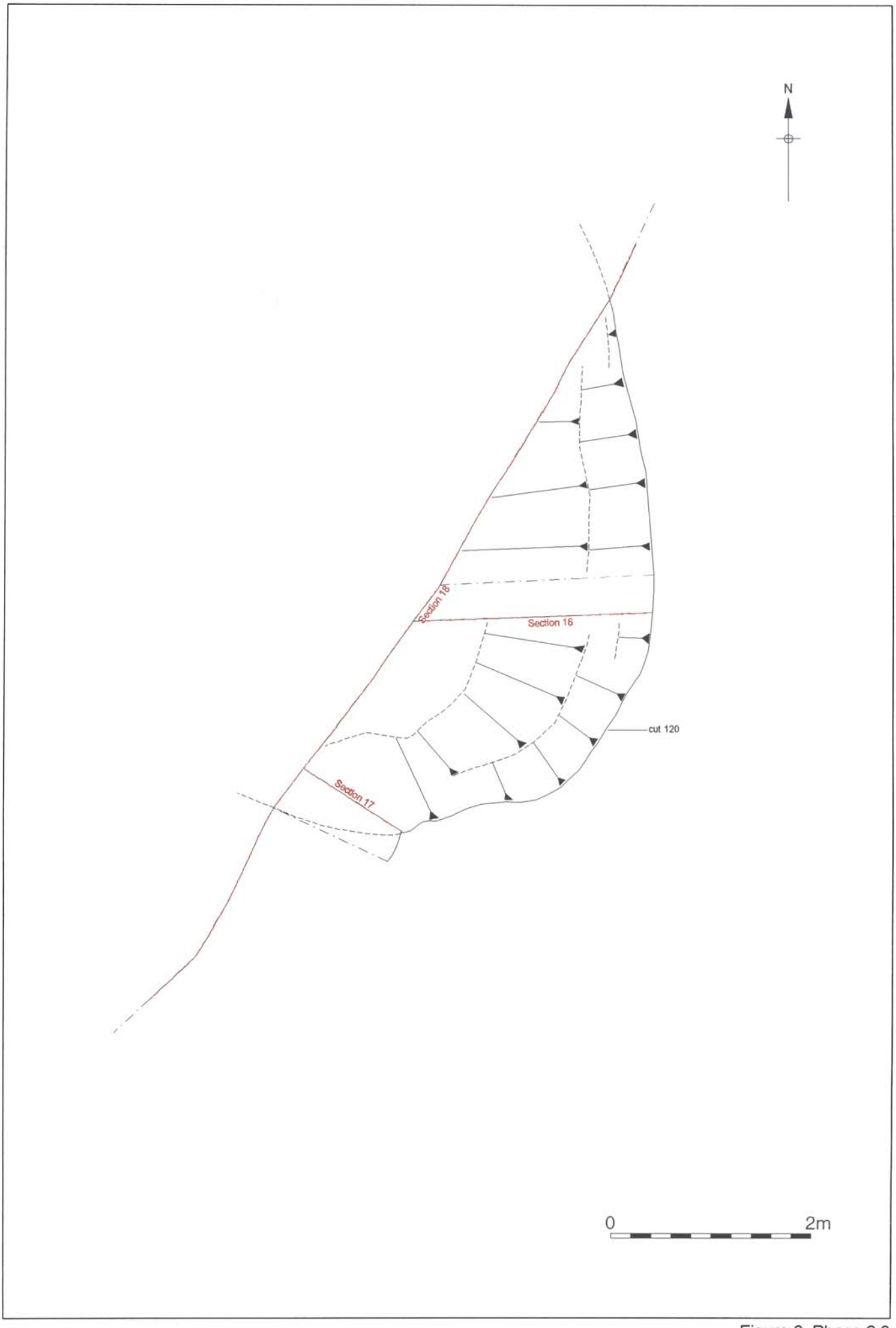
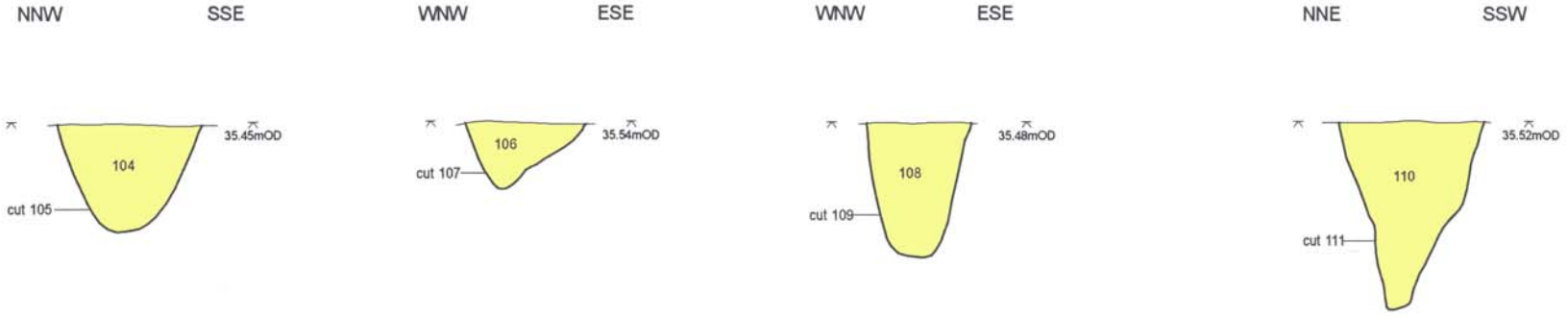


Figure 6. Phase 2.3
Scale 1:50

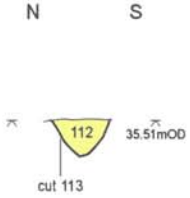


WSW facing Section 9.

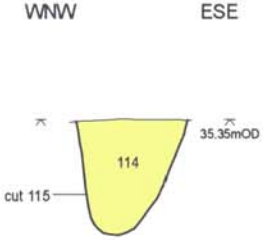
SSW facing Section 10.

SSW facing Section 11.

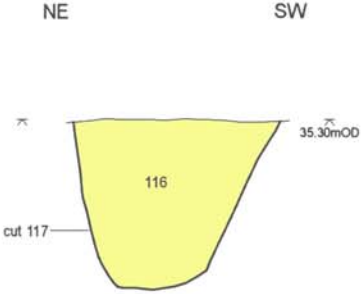
WNW facing Section 12.



W facing Section 13.



SSW facing Section 14.

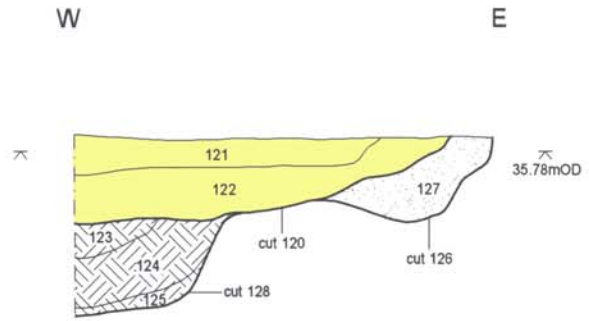


NW facing Section 15.

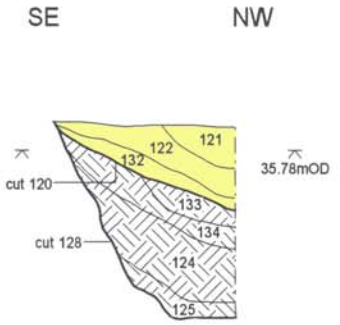
Phase 2.3

0 1m

Figure 7. Sections 9 - 15
Scale 1:20



South facing Section 16.

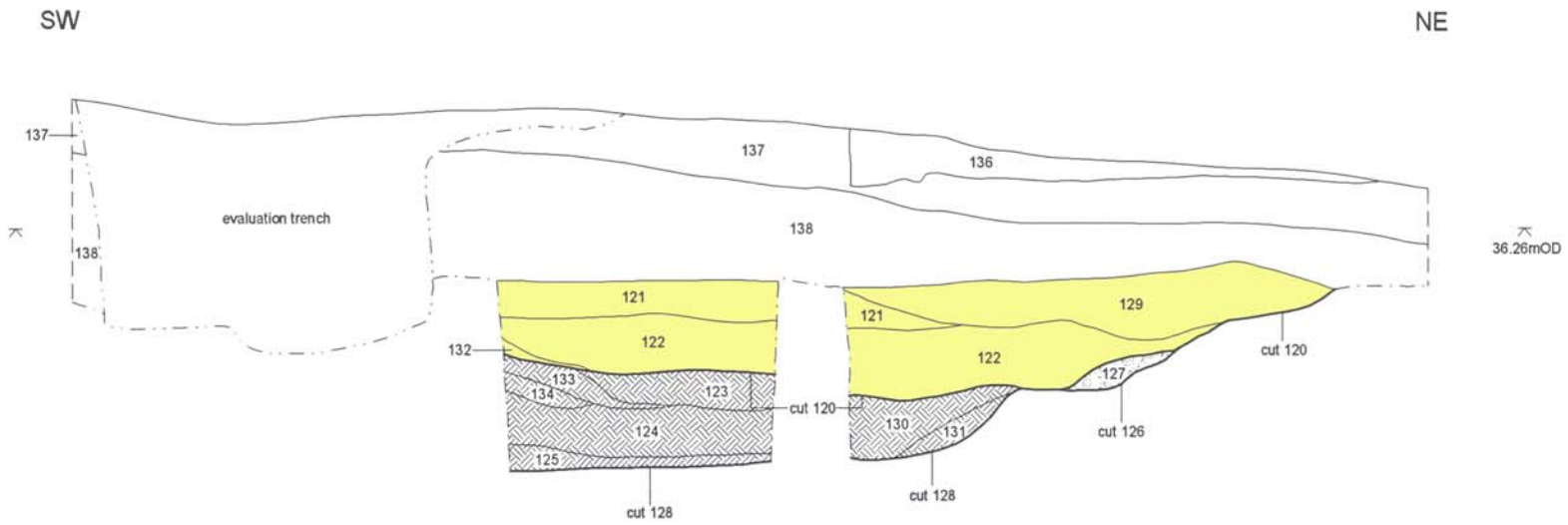


North-east facing Section 17.

Phase 2.1 Phase 2.2 Phase 2.3

0 2m

Figure 8. Sections 16 and 17
Scale 1:50



South-east facing Section 18.

Phase 2.1 Phase 2.2 Phase 2.3

0 2m

Figure 9. Section 18
Scale 1:50

6. HISTORIC STRUCTURE RECORDING

6.1 The masonry revetment wall delimiting the eastern boundary of the Farringdon Row site was recorded as part of the initial archaeological evaluation. For the purposes of this report the retaining wall has been divided into four wall sections, numbered 1-4 from south to north (Figure 10).

6.2 Wall section 1 ran in a NNE-SSW alignment for a length of 54.50m. At its southern end this section divided the surviving portion of Ayre's Quay Road from Galley's Gill Road, with a roadside grass verge skirting the wall to the east. Further north, this verge widened, becoming a strip of young woodland that continued along the length of wall section 2, before reverting to a wide sloping grass verge. Wall section 1 had a maximum height of 0.43m at its southern end increasing to a maximum height of 2.73m at its northern end.

6.3 Wall section 1 comprised, for the most part, random coursed sandstone rubble with occasional bricks and flat sandstone slabs throughout. There had been considerable re-pointing along the elevation, using a hard, light grey, fine mortar, and only small areas of the original bonding material were visible, this being a friable, light yellow, coarse mortar. A section of brickwork, beginning 27.50m from the southern end of wall section 1 and 21m in length, formed the lowermost section of the retaining wall and this may have been the remaining portion of the earliest structural boundary. A maximum of 17 courses of bricks, in random bond, were recorded in this element, in sum 1.25m high from existing ground level. The bricks measured 230mm x 110mm x 70mm and were bonded with a hard, light grey, mortar with coarse inclusions. North of this brickwork, the lowermost portion of wall section 1 was formed by up to four courses of large rather roughly dressed sandstone blocks. This element extended 3.40m in length and the sandstone blocks measured 350mm x 250mm. This may have been added as underpinning rather than being an earlier build, although this is not certain. Well-dressed sandstone blocks formed the two uppermost courses of masonry from a point 29.30m from the southern end of wall section 1, continuing for a length of 12.40m. The average size of these blocks was 330mm x 130mm and the bonding material was a hard, light grey mortar, this derived from repointing.

6.4 Two buttresses were associated with wall section 1. The lowermost portion of the southernmost buttress, Buttress 1, (Plate 11) comprised eight courses of red bricks, bonded with a light grey, coarse mortar. This gave way to re-pointed random coursed, rubble sandstone, thus maintaining the general form along portion of the structure. Buttress 1 was 1.25m wide, 2.10m high and at ground level projected outwards from the wall line for 0.42m. At ground level, Buttress 2 (Plate 12) comprised two courses of well-dressed, sandstone blocks, measuring an average of 550mm x 220mm x 260mm. The uppermost portion was constructed from sandstone rubble, with four courses of brickwork incorporated into the central part of the buttress. Again the masonry had been substantially repointed with a hard, light grey, fine mortar. Buttress 2 was 2.80m wide, 1.65m high and at ground level projected outwards from the wall line for 0.25m.

6.5 Wall section 2 ran on slightly different alignment to the southernmost portion, still broadly NNE-SSW but slightly more to the east. This portion was 31.50m in length and at its northern end attained a height of 5.09m. It largely comprised a mixture of roughly hewn, squared sandstone blocks and slabs, in a wide variety of sizes. The masonry had been repointed with a hard, light grey, fine mortar and the original bonding material was not visible. Along the northernmost portion the structure had been underpinned with dressed, sandstone blocks (two courses being visible above ground level) of average size 330mm x 150mm x 200mm, bonded with a hard, light grey mortar. This element projected outwards for *c*. 0.15m from the line of the supported wall and was 10.16m in length (Plate 7). Two buttresses were associated with wall section 2. Both were constructed from roughly hewn sandstone blocks and slabs with an occasional squared concrete block incorporated. The southernmost buttress, Buttress 3 (Plate 13), was bonded by a hard, light grey, mortar and was 0.73m wide, 2.60m high and at ground level projected beyond the wall line for 0.95m. The northernmost buttress, Buttress 4 (Plate 14) was bonded with a light yellow sandy mortar and was 0.75m wide, 2.90m high and at ground level also projected outwards for 0.95m.

6.6 Wall section 3 ran on a NE-SW alignment and was a far more substantial structure than the previously described portions – attaining a maximum height of 10.26m at its northeastern end. It was 32.50m in length (Plate 8). At its southern end, the structure projected out from the line of wall section 2 for 1.05m (Plate 7). Wall section 3 comprised random coursed, roughly hewn, sandstone blocks and sandstone rubble. Where the original bonding material was visible, a light yellow coarse mortar was recorded but there had been extensive repointing using hard, light grey mortar. A rectangular strip of concrete, *c*. 6m long and *c*. 1m high, had been incorporated into the upper part of wall section 3, at its northeastern end. Three iron brackets were noted in the upper portion of the same elevation. Due to their situation, it was not possible to examine either the concrete strip or the brackets in any further detail and their original purpose is uncertain.

6.7 Wall section 4 ran on a NW-SE alignment from the angle that it formed with wall section 3. The southeasternmost portion was 6.20m in length, this essentially being the same build as wall section 3, with large, dressed quoins at the angle. This portion was *c*. 10.50m high at its maximum height and at its northwestern end projected out from the exposed rock face for a distance of 1.10m (Plate 9). The remainder of wall section 4 had been built directly on to the exposed limestone rockface, so that the structure itself had to be only *c*. 3.0m high for the remainder of its visible length (Plate 10). The lowest portion of this part of wall section 4 consisted of mortared brickwork, up to eleven courses high, this probably the remains of the earliest structure erected here. The northeasternmost visible portion in this wall section, *c*. 10m in length, was also evidently an earlier build than the majority of the sandstone wall and consisted of very weathered, random coursed sandstone rubble and roughly hewn sandstone blocks. The top *c*. 1.0m of the wall had collapsed for a length of *c*. 8m in the main portion of wall section 4.

6.8 The majority of the revetment wall in all four sections, was capped with roughly hewn, semi-circular sandstone slabs, on average 0.30m x 0.25m x 0.15m in size, and bonded with hard light grey mortar.

6.9 Wall sections 3 and 4 of the revetment wall first definitely appear on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map, *c*. 1890. Although the structure is not clearly indicated on the 1st edition map, *c*. 1850, it is not certain that it was not present at that time since the land boundaries that the wall now delimits were seemingly in place. The wall may have been originally constructed at the same time as the terraced housing (Hopper Street, Back Hopper Street and Ayre's Quay Road) was built on the site in the first half of the 19th century. Ground raising in the northern part of the Farringdon Row site, conducted in advance of construction of the housing, as demonstrated by the archaeological investigations, may have necessitated construction of the wall. The initial build may have been brickwork, as suggested by the structural recording work. Rebuilding of the structure in sandstone is likely to have taken place later in the 19th century.

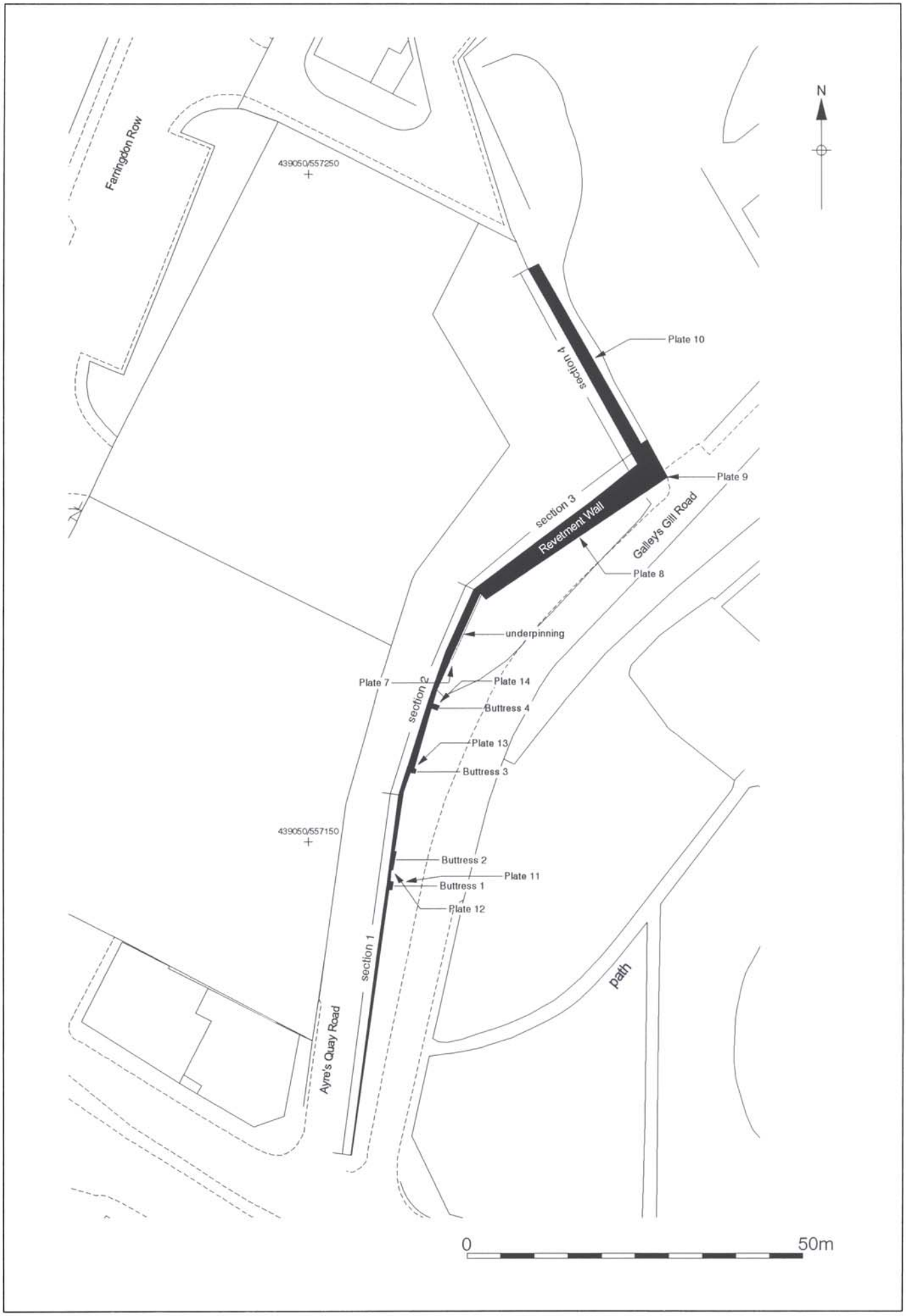


Figure 10. Detail of revetment wall (with locations of Plates 7-14)
Scale 1:750

PART 2: DATA ASSESSMENT AND CONCLUSIONS

7. STRATIGRAPHIC DATA

7.1 Written and Graphic Records

7.1.1 The contents of the paper archive are set out in Table 7a.

Item	No.	Sheets
Context Register	2	2
Context Sheets	73	73
Section Register	1	1
Section Drawings	18	25
Plans	14	27
Sample Register	1	1
Sample Sheets	6	6
Small Finds Register	1	1

Table 7a. Quantification of paper records

7.2 Photographic Records

7.2.1 The contents of the photographic archive are set out in Table 7b.

Item	No.	Sheets
Colour Slide Register	3	3
Colour Slides	54	4
Colour Print Register	1	1
Colour Prints	26	4
Colour Negatives	42	2
Monochrome Print Register	4	4
Monochrome Prints	45	8
Monochrome Negatives	45	4

Table 7b. Quantification of photographic record

7.3 Project Archive

7.3.1 The paper and photographic archive is currently housed at the Northern Office of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited.

7.3.2 The complete project archive, comprising written, drawn, and photographic records (including all material generated electronically during post-excavation) and all 'finds' (see the following sections) will be packaged for long-term storage according to relevant guidelines.[16] The archive will be deposited with Tyne and Wear Museums Service for permanent curation. The depositional requirements of the receiving body will be met in full.

[16] UKIC, 1990.

8. POTTERY

By: ***Jenny Vaughan (NCAS)***

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 Two fragments of pottery were recovered from the investigations.

8.2 Fabric

8.2.1 One pottery sherd recovered from the fill, [100], of Phase 3 ditch [101], was an oxidised iron rich fragment with small flecks of glaze.

8.2.2 The other fragment, recovered from the upper fill, [129], of Phase 2.3 feature [120], was a very small pink fragment with a buff core. This could easily have been introduced intrusively into the deposit.

8.3 Dating

8.3.1 Both fragments are likely to be of medieval date, possibly 13th century, but are too small to be of any significance.

9. SMALL FIND

By: ***Phillipa Walton***

9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 An object identified as a complete stone spindlewhorl was recovered from the excavations.

9.2 Catalogue

9.2.1 SF1. Complete stone spindlewhorl. Context [100], ditch [101], Phase 3. Diameter 34mm, weight 6g.

9.3 Discussion

9.3.1 The spindlewhorl had no diagnostic features and therefore could date from the prehistoric period through to the 18th or 19th century.

10. BIOARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

By: ***John Carrot and Örni Akeret (PRS)***

10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 Five bulk sediment samples ('GBA'/'BS' *sensu* Dobney *et al*. 1992) were submitted to Palaeoecology Research Service Ltd (PRS), for an assessment of their bioarchaeological potential and content of remains suitable for radiocarbon dating by standard radiometric technique or accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS).

10.2 Methods

10.2.1 The sediment samples were inspected in the laboratory and their lithologies recorded using a standard *pro forma*. Sub-samples of each were processed, broadly following the procedures of Kenward *et al*. (1980), for the recovery of plant and invertebrate macrofossils.

10.2.2 Plant remains (and the general nature of the residues and washovers) were recorded briefly by 'scanning', identifiable plant taxa and other components being listed on paper. Notes on the quantity and quality of preservation were made for each fraction. Nomenclature for plant species follows Stace (1997).

10.2.3 The washovers and residues were dried prior to examination for larger plant macrofossils and other biological and artefactual remains—as they were primarily inorganic or contained ancient organic remains (*e.g.* charred plant remains) which would not be damaged by drying, and are most appropriately examined dry.

10.3 Results

10.3.1 The results of the investigation are presented below in context number order. Archaeological information, provided by the excavator, is given in square brackets. A brief summary of the processing method and an estimate of the remaining volume of unprocessed sediment follows (in round brackets) after the sample numbers.

Context [36]=[122]. Phase 2.3: An upper fill of pit [120]

Sample 2/T (2 kg/1.5 litres sieved to 300 microns with washover; approximately 15 litres of unprocessed sediment remain. NB: this sub-sample was taken during a previous evaluation and was processed in advance of the others specifically to determine the presence/absence of material suitable for radiocarbon dating)

Moist, mid brown to mid grey-brown, crumbly to unconsolidated (working soft and somewhat plastic), sandy silty clay, with stones (6 to 60 mm) and modern rootlets present.

There was a tiny washover (~5 ml) mostly of modern rootlets, with some ?cinder/?coal and traces of fine charcoal and small charred ?'seeds'.

The residue was exclusively of inorganic material (sand and stones) and not recorded further.

Context [110]. Phase 2.3: Fill of post-hole [111]

Sample 6/T (3 kg/2.5 litres sieved to 300 microns with washover; approximately 14 litres of unprocessed sediment remain)

Dry, mid brown, crumbly to unconsolidated, slightly sandy clay silt, with stones (2 to 20 mm) present.

The washover was tiny (~5 ml). Approximately half was of sand grains and the remainder small fragments (to 2 mm) of ?coal, ?cinder and charcoal (including one larger fragment to 10 mm).

The medium-sized residue (dry weight 0.84kg) was mostly sand, with some stones (to 20 mm).

Context [123]. Phase 2.2: An upper fill of feature [128]

Sample 3/T (3 kg/2 litres sieved to 300 microns with washover; approximately 24 litres of unprocessed sediment remain)

Moist, mid brown, crumbly to unconsolidated (working soft), sandy clay, with stones (6 to 60 mm) present.

There was a tiny washover (~5 ml) of sand, with some small fragments of ?coal and charcoal (both to 2 mm) and a few fragments of charred grain. This last component comprised single grains of naked wheat (*Triticum aestivum/durum/turgidum*) and wild grass (Poaceae) and another unidentified fragment, but no cereal chaff was recovered. Some earthworm egg capsules (probably modern) were also present.

There was a medium-sized residue (dry weight 1.1kg) of sand, with some stones (to 40 mm).

Context [125]. Phase 2.2: Primary fill of feature [128]

Sample 4/T (3 kg/2 litres sieved to 300 microns with washover; approximately 24 litres of unprocessed sediment remain)

Moist, mid brown, crumbly to unconsolidated (working soft), sandy clay, with stones (6 to 60 mm) and modern rootlets present.

The tiny washover (~10 ml) was mostly of sand grains and tiny fragments (1-2 ml) of ?coal, with some modern rootlets and a trace of fine charcoal (to 3 mm).

The medium-sized residue (dry weight 1.2kg) was of sand and stones (to 55 mm), with trace quantities of ?coal (to 3 mm) and ?black ash/cinder (to 3 mm).

Context [127]. Phase 2.1: Primary fill of curvilinear ditch [126]

Sample 5/T (3 kg/2 litres sieved to 300 microns with washover; approximately 25 litres of unprocessed sediment remain)

Moist, mid brown, crumbly to unconsolidated (working soft), sandy clay, with stones (6 to 60 mm) and modern rootlets present.

The tiny washover (~5 ml) was mostly small fragments of ?coal (to 5 mm), with some sand, a trace of ?charcoal (to 2 mm) and some modern rootlets. A single *Vallonia* ?*excentrica* Sterki land snail was also noted.

There was a medium-sized residue (dry weight 1.1kg) of sand and stones (to 40 mm), with traces of ?coal (to 3 mm) and one or two fragments of unidentified marine shell (to 4 mm).

10.4 Discussion and Statement of Potential

10.4.1 The very few ancient biological remains recovered from Farringdon Row were of no interpretative value. The sub-sample from context [123] did contain a few remains (charred grains) that would be suitable for radiocarbon dating of the deposit if required (though additional sediment processing would be required to maximise the available material). Processing of a very large sample, of at least 50 litres, from context [36]= [122] could also recover sufficient remains for AMS dating.

10.4.2 None of the charcoal fragments seen were identifiable and, in most instances, other charred plant remains (if available) should be preferred for radiocarbon dating. There are two possible sources of error if charcoal is used for dating. Firstly, the piece of wood may be from the centre of the trunk or a large branch of the tree, and the time span between the growth of this wood (its carbon content being fixed at the point of cell formation) and the death of the tree may be several tens (sometimes hundreds) of years. Secondly, prior to becoming burnt the wood may have been stored or formed part of a structure, also perhaps for many years. Both of these 'old wood' problems may result in a radiocarbon date significantly earlier than the charring event being returned.

10.4.3 If material is required for radiocarbon dating to be attempted then cereal grains from context [123] should be initially submitted (the quantity of material is likely to be small and will almost certainly require dating via AMS). These are short-lived plant structures and are unlikely to have been stored for more than a few years, so that the date returned is likely to be close to that of the charring event. Material for submission would need to be carefully selected and prepared to avoid both modern and very ancient remains (*e.g.* ?coal) and to remove adhering sediment which was present on most of the fragments of ?coal, charcoal and charred grains seen in this evaluation.

10.5 Recommendations

10.5.1 The low concentrations of (probable) ancient biological remains from the current sub-samples warrant no further study.

10.5.2 No further work is recommended for these samples unless material is required for radiocarbon dating of the deposits to be attempted. In this case, all of the remaining sediments from contexts [123] and [36]=[122] should be processed, the former initially.

10.5.3 The concentrations of charred plant remains can be very variable and highly localised within deposits. Although very few remains have been recovered from the evaluation sub-samples, any future excavation should allow for the possibility of encountering deposits where interpretatively valuable charred plant assemblages are present.

10.6 Retention and Disposal

10.6.1 All of the remaining sediment samples should be retained for the present, together with the biological remains recovered from the processed sub-samples.

11. LITHICS

By: ***Barry John Bishop***

11.1 Introduction

11.1.1 Six struck flint flakes were recovered form the investigations at the site. This report quantifies and describes the material, offers some comments on its significance and recommends any further work required. All metrical determinations follow the methodology of Saville (1980).

11.2 The Assemblage

Context [28]. Unphased

- Flake of translucent grey-brown flint in slightly chipped condition. Edge trimmed striking platform 2mm wide, diffuse bulb of percussion and feathered distal termination. Single dorsal flake scar. 25mm X 18mm X 3mm. 1.5g.

Context [36]=[122]. Phase 2.3

- Flake of opaque white flint in slightly chipped condition. Edge trimmed striking platform 1mm wide, diffuse bulb of percussion and feathered distal termination. Unidirectional flake scars. 26mm X 15mm X 4mm. 2.0g.

Context [103]. Phase 4

- Flake of translucent grey-brown flint in sharp condition. Cortical striking platform 3mm thick, diffuse bulb of percussion and feathered distal termination. Dorsal had two unidirectional flake scars and retains *c.*10% smooth rolled cortex. 20mm X 25mm X 4mm. 1.8g.
- Flake of translucent grey-brown flint in sharp condition. Cortical striking platform 4mm thick with slight platform edge trimming, diffuse bulb of percussion and feathered distal termination. Dorsal has two unidirectional flake scars and retains *c.*15% smooth rolled cortex. 20mm X 27mm X 6mm. 2.4g.
- Flake of translucent grey-brown flint in sharp condition. Cortical striking platform1mm thick, diffuse bulb of percussion and feathered distal termination. Dorsal has single flake scar and retains *c.*10% smooth rolled cortex. 18mm X 29mm X 2mm. 0.9g.

Context [125]. Phase 2.2

- Flake of opaque white flint in slightly chipped condition. Plain striking platform 2mm thick, diffuse bulb of percussion and stepped distal termination. Dorsal has several roughly parallel flake scars and a severe thermal fault line. 23mm X 20mm X 4mm. 1.7g.

11.3 Discussion

11.3.1 All of the material may be regarded as knapping waste and no chronologically diagnostic pieces were present. The general narrowness and thinness of the flakes, combined with occasional platform edge trimming, may tentatively suggest a late Glacial to Neolithic date for at least part of the assemblage.

11.3.2 The three flakes from [103] were all sequential refits, having been struck from a small rounded alluvial pebble. Both their condition and the fact that they refit strongly suggests that knapping was occurring in the vicinity of their recovery.

11.4 Recommendations

11.4.1 Due to its size and lack of chronologically diagnostic artefacts, this report is all that is required for the purposes of the archive and no further analytical work is proposed. It does, however, contribute to the body of evidence for prehistoric activity in the area and a short description of the assemblage should be included in any published account of the fieldwork.

12. CONCLUSIONS

12.1 Summary of the Archaeological Resource

12.1.1 Archaeological remains of prehistoric origin were recorded in the northern portion of the area subject to archaeological investigation at Farringdon Row. To the north-west, three substantial inter-cutting features, probably portions of two curvilinear ditches and a pit, were recorded. Although the precise form and extent of these features could not be determined within the limit of excavation, they are attributable on the basis of stratigraphic and artefactual evidence broadly to the late Glacial to Neolithic. To the north-east, a group of structural features, comprising six substantial postholes and one stakehole, was recorded. This cluster of features was exposed close to the limit of excavation and for this reason it was not possible to ascertain whether these features represented a dwelling or a boundary feature. No artefactual material was recovered from the structural remains, but stratigraphic evidence indicates that they are of prehistoric origin.

12.1.2 A small assemblage of struck flint was recovered during the investigations, some of the material from prehistoric features, some from later activity and therefore residual in context. Although no diagnostic pieces were present amongst the assemblage, the characteristics of material as a whole, which can be broadly regarded as knapping waste, suggest a late Glacial to Neolithic date for the prehistoric activity at the site.

12.1.3 In summary, the investigations revealed evidence of multi-phase prehistoric activity, probably associated with enclosure or boundary features and subsequently possible quarrying, as well as evidence of post-built structures, perhaps indicative of a dwelling or stock management. Broadly this evidence can be considered as being indicative of the rockhead overlooking Galley's Gill perhaps being a focal point for significant prehistoric activity, possibly settlement. At such a strategically advantageous location, overlooking the now extinct watercourse Galley's Gill to the east and with the river to the north, this area would undoubtedly have been attractive to ancient settlers. The surrounding land would have provided an ideal habitat for activities such as fishing and wild-fowling and the rivers would have facilitated trade and the movement of people between riverside settlements.

12.1.4 No evidence of later prehistoric, Roman or early medieval activity was recorded at the site. Evidence of medieval and post-medieval activity was recorded, although not in any great quantity. It is probable that the site simply lay under pasture for many centuries. The remains of a shallow linear feature in the centre of the excavation area was probably of medieval origin, although too little survived to be able to determine its precise function. Another linear feature, probably a boundary marker, at the southern limit of the excavation area was of post-medieval origin. In summary, the recorded evidence is indicative of very limited utilisation of site in the medieval and post-medieval periods prior to industrialisation and the associated widespread housing development in this part of Sunderland. No evidence was recovered for any archaeological remains associated with the Lambton Waggonway.

12.2 Summary of the Significance of the Project Data

12.2.1 The evidence of prehistoric activity at Farringdon Row is of significance. Until 2003, evidence for prehistoric activity along the Lower Wear Valley and in Sunderland itself was confined to stray finds and artefacts recovered from the River Wear or encountered during activities along the banks of the river. The Farringdon Row evidence, when considered in the light of the findings *c*. 150m to the south-east at the former Vaux Brewery site, adds further data to the growing body of knowledge which indicates that riverside locations in the city centre were a particular focal point for human activity during the prehistoric period. In terms of cultural resource management and archaeological development control, the evidence from these investigations highlights the high potential for archaeological remains of prehistoric date at future re-development sites in the riverside corridor in Sunderland.

12.2.2 The stratigraphic data from Farringdon Row is of significance, although the limited degree to which it was possible to expose potentially the most informative features, namely those adjacent to the north-western limit of excavation, certainly limits the potential for further analysis.

12.2.3 Amongst the artefactual assemblage, the struck flint is certainly of the highest significance; characteristics of at least part of the assemblage suggest a late Glacial to Neolithic origin. However, due to the small quantity of material and the lack of chronologically diagnostic pieces, no further analytical work is considered to be required.

12.2.4 Bioarchaeological assessment of bulk samples from prehistoric features identified very few biological remains and those that were recovered were of no interpretative value. However, two samples (from contexts [123] and [36]=122]) contained material suitable for radiocarbon dating. If further processing of these samples was undertaken in order to maximise the quantity of material suitable for this dating method, then it may be possible to obtain absolute dates from organic material through the AMS dating technique.

12.2.5 In summary, if, as discussed above, absolute dates could be obtained from organic material recovered from samples collected from two of the prehistoric features, the significance of the data-set as a whole would be considerably enhanced. Subject to the results of such work, it is considered that the results of the investigations should be placed in the public domain. Given the relatively small quantities of stratigraphic, artefactual and bioarchaeological data recovered, a suitable outlet for publication would perhaps be the ‘Notes’ section in a volume of a local journal, such as *Archaeologia Aeliana*. A short summary of the findings of the investigations, along with illustrative material, as appropriate, should be prepared.

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PCA Credits

Site Supervisor: Emma Allen

Field team: Richard Archer, Gavin Glover, Aaron Goode, Kathryn Johnson and Guy Seddon

Report: Emma Allen and Robin Taylor-Wilson

Project Manager: Robin Taylor-Wilson

Post-Excavation Manager: Jennifer Proctor

CAD: Adrian Bailey

Survey: Jim Wright and Adrian Bailey

Lithics Report: Barry Bishop

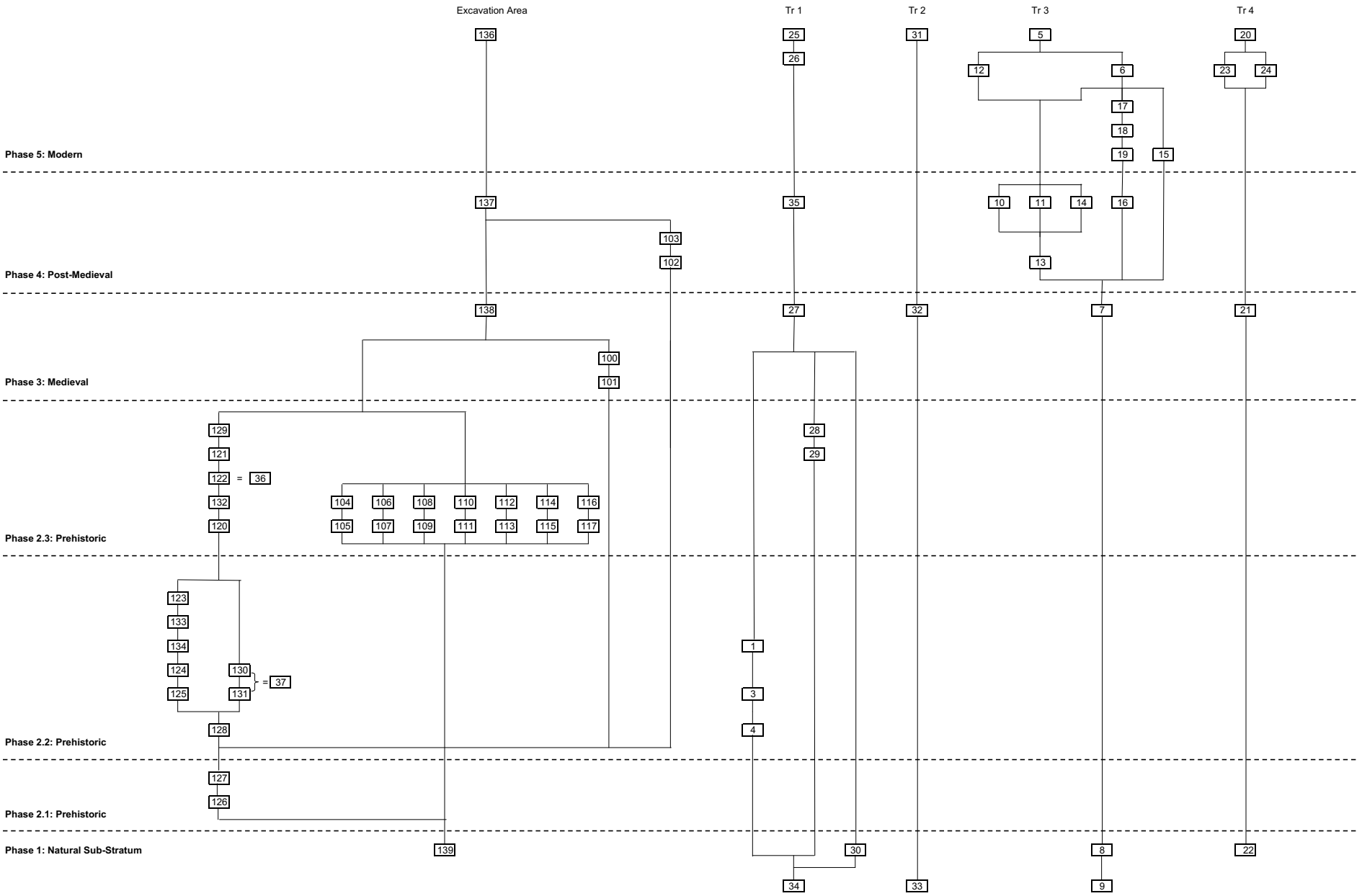
Other Credits

Small Finds Report: Phillipa Walton

Pottery Report: Jenny Vaughan

Bioarchaeological Remains Report: Palaeoecology Research Services

APPENDIX A
STRATIGRAPHIC MATRICES


Excavation Area
Tr 1
Tr 2
Tr 3
Tr 4
Phase 5: Modern
Phase 4: Post-Medieval
Phase 3: Medieval
Phase 2.3: Prehistoric
Phase 2.2: Prehistoric
Phase 2.1: Prehistoric
Phase 1: Natural Sub-Stratum
136
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APPENDIX B
CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Trench	Phase	Type	Type	Description	Interpretation
1	1	2.2	Deposit	Fill	Soft-firm; dark reddish brown; sandy clayey silt; occ small sub-rounded stones and degraded limestone frags; up to 1.22m thick	Upper fill of [4]; equates to [123]/[133]/[134]/124]
2	**VOID**					
3	1	2.2	Deposit	Fill	Friable-soft; dark reddish brown with light brownish yellow mottling; moderate small sub-angular and sub-rounded degraded limestone frags; up to 0.43m thick	Primary fill of [4]; equates to [125]
4	1	2.2	Cut	Ditch	Linear; very shallow sloping southern edge which breaks to a moderately steep slope; concave base; at least 2.48m SE-NW x at least 3.0m NE-SW; up to 1.48m deep; NE-SW aligned	?Ditch; equates to [128]
5	3	5	Deposits & Structures	Various	Indurated; light grey; concrete; 6.0m in length; up to 0.24m thick. To SW overlain by a layer of hardcore, up to 0.26m thick. To NE overlain by a a layer of brick frags (30%) with mottled clay (70%), up to 0.66m thick. This underlay a layer of surface make-up, up to 0.38m thick, and then tarmac, up to 0.08m thick. Two modern drains were also recorded.	Group number for modern overburden
6	3	5	Deposit	Layer	Soft; mid-dark grey; silty clay; moderate small sub-angular coal frags, occ charcoal flecks, occ small sub-rounded pebbles, occ cinder frags; extends across trench; up to 0.42m thick	Demolition layer
7	3	3	Deposit	Layer	Friable-firm; mid brownish grey varying to mid grey at NE end of trench; clayey silt; occ small sub-angular coal frags, occ charcoal flecks, occ small sub-rounded pebbles; up to 0.60m thick	Developed soil
8	3	1	Deposit	Layer	Firm-hard; mid pinkish brown; slightly sandy clay; moderate coal flecks, occ-mod small sub-rounded and sub-angular limestone frags	Natural boulder clay
9	3	1	Deposit	Layer	Loose; small and medium sized sub-angular limestone frags (60%) in a light yellowish brown; sandy clay (40%); observed at SW end of trench *c*. 1.90m below existing ground level	Natural degraded limestone bedrock
10	3	4	Structure	Wall	Unfrogged; red bricks (215mm x 85mm x 70mm); bonded with light grey mortar; stretcher bond; at least 0.68m NW-SE x 85mm thick x 0.60m high; NW-SE aligned	Brick cellar wall
11	3	4	Structure	Wall	Roughly hewn; fine-grained; yellow; sandstone and light pink bricks (sandstone average size 330mm x 390mm x 70mm; bricks 110mm wide x 800mm thick) bonded by light grey mortar; random bond; at least 0.50m NW-SE x 0.34 thick x 0.36m high; NW-SE aligned	Brick cellar wall
12	3	5	Structure	Wall	Loose; dark grey-black; clayey sand; freq small sub-angular coal frags, mod large brick frags, occ mortar flecks; at least 0.25m thick	Backfill of cellar
13	3	4	Cut	Construction	Rectangular; vertical sloping N side; W and S sides are vertical, then stepped; flattish base; extends 4.40m NE-SW x at least 2.0m NW-SE x 1.74m deep	Construction cut for cellar
14	3	4	Structure	Wall	Unfrogged; red bricks (215mm x 85mm x 70mm); bonded with light yellowish grey mortar; stretcher bond; measures 3.62m NE-SW x 0.085m wide x at least 1.50m high; NE-SW aligned; light grey plaster adheres to surface in places	Brick cellar wall
15	3	5	Deposit	Layer	Loose; crushed brick frags (30%) with light grey mortar (70%); occ coal flecks; extends 3.80m SW-NE; up to 0.10m thick	Demolition layer
16	3	4	Structure	?Base of drain	5 red bricks (110mm wide x 70mm thick), bonded with light grey mortar; extends 0.64m NW-SE; recorded in section	?Truncated brick-lined drain
17	3	5	Deposit	Fill	Hard; light grey; mortar; freq coal flecks; up to 0.14m thick	Fill of feature [19]
18	3	5	Deposit	Fill	Loose; dark grey-black; coal fines and clinker (40%) with clayey sand (60%); occ mortar flecks; up to 0.08m thick	Fill of feature [19]
19	3	5	Cut	Demolition cut	Shape not seen in plan; steep sloping S side; flat base; extends 2.24m NE-SW; up to 0.20m deep	Demolition cut

Context	Trench	Phase	Type	Type	Description	Interpretation
20	4	5	Deposits & Structures	Various	In section, a layer of brick rubble, up to 0.45m thick, was recorded along trench. The uppermost deposit was a layer of hardcore, up to 0.10m thick. Two drains and a wall foundation were also recorded in section, along with a substantial demolition cut in the centre of the trench	Group number for modern overburden
21	4	3	Deposit	Layer	Firm; mid brownish grey; clayey silt; occ charcoal and coal flecks; extends across trench; up to 0.49m thick	Developed soil
22	4	1	Deposit	Layer	Firm; mid reddish brown; clay; occ small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones; extends across trench	Natural boulder clay
23	4	5	Deposit	Layer	Loose-firm; dark greyish black; sandy silt; freq cinder frags; occ small sub-rounded stones and cbm frags; up to 0.14m thick	Demolition layer, same as [24]
24	4	5	Deposit	Posthole	Loose-firm; dark greyish black; sandy silt; freq cinder frags; occ small sub-rounded stones and cbm frags; up to 0.14m thick	Demolition layer, same as [23]
25	1	5	Deposits	Layers	Indurated; light grey; steel reinforced concrete; up to 0.14m thick. Overlain by two layers of hardcore; up to 0.36m thick. A layer of indurated; dark grey; tarmac; up to 0.08m thick forms the uppermost deposit recorded	Group number for modern surfaces and make-up layers
26	1	5	Deposit	Layer	Loose; black; brick frags (40%) within a black, sandy cinder matrix (60%); occ medium concrete frags; extends across trench; up to 1.0m thick	Demolition layer
27	1	3	Deposit	Layer	Friable; dark reddish brown; silty sandy clay; occ small sub-angular stones and manganese flecks; extends across trench; up to 1.06m thick	Developed soil
28	1	N/A	Deposit	Fill	Firm; dark reddish brown; silty clay; up to 0.35m thick	Fill of ?tree root [29]
29	1	N/A	Cut	?Tree root	Irregular in plan; steep irregular sloping sides; concave base; up to 0.35m deep	?Tree root
30	1	1	Deposit	Layer	To SE comprised firm, mid reddish brown boulder clay; to NW comprised degraded white limestone	Natural boulder clay and degraded bedrock
31	2	5	Deposits	Layers	Loose; dark greyish black; silty sand; up to 0.10m thick. Overlain by indurated; light grey; steel reinforced concrete slab; up to 0.18m thick. Overlain by compact; dark grey; silty sand; freq brick frags, coal fines and concrete frags; up to 0.34m thick. Overlain by hardcore make-up; up to 0.30m thick. Overlain by layer of tarmac; up to 0.10m thick	Group number for modern overburden
32	2	3	Deposit	Layer	Soft; mid brown; silty sandy clay; occ charcoal and coal flecks; up to 0.36m thick	Developed soil
33	2	1	Deposit	Layer	Firm; mid pinkish brown with occ light brown patches; sandy clay; freq small and medium sub-angular sandstone frags	Natural boulder clay
34	1	1	Deposit	Layer	Loose; small and medium sub-angular limestone frags (60%) with light yellowish brown; sandy clay (40%); observed at N end of trench	Natural degraded limestone bedrock
35	1	4	Deposit	Layer	Friable; mid brownish grey; sandy clayey silt; freq mortar flecks, occ small sub-angular pebbles; extends across trench; up to 0.37m thick	Developed soil
36	1	2.3	Deposit	Fill	Friable to soft; mid orange brown; slightly sandy clayey silt; occ large sub-angular limestone frags at base, moderate small sub-angular limestone frags, occ flecks and small frags of coal and patches of re-deposited natural boulder clay; 0.74m thick	Equates to fill [122]
37	1	2.2	Deposit	Fill	Loose; light yellowish grey and mid brown; degraded limestone and grey silt; occ sub-rounded pebbles; up to 0.36m thick	Equates to fills [130] and [131]
100	Open Area	3	Deposit	Fill	Friable; mid orange brown; sandy silt; occ charcoal flacks, freq small sub-angular stones	Fill of ?ditch [101]
101	Open Area	3	Cut	Linear	Linear, rounded terminals at both ends; irregular and gradual sloping sides; irregular base; 4.78m NE-SW; 1.14m NW-SE; 0.10m deep	?Ditch

Context	Trench	Phase	Type	Type	Description	Interpretation
102	Open Area	4	Cut	Linear	Linear; gradual sloping sides; concave to flat base; 13.60m NE-SW; 2.30m wide; 0.16m deep	Ditch
103	Open Area	4	Deposit	Fill	Firm; mid greyish brown; sandy clay; frequent small and medium sub-rounded stones; up to 0.16m thick	Fill of ditch [102]
104	Open Area	2.3	Deposit	Fill	Compact; mid greyish brown; silty sand; occ small sub-angular limestone frag; up to 0.30m thick	Fill of posthole [105]
105	Open Area	2.3	Cut	Posthole	Circular; moderately steep sloping sides; concave base; 0.40m NW-SE; 0.32m NE-SW; up to 0.30m deep	Posthole
106	Open Area	2.3	Deposit	Fill	Compact; mid grey; sand; occ small sub-angular sandstone frag; up to 0.17m thick	Fill of posthole [106]
107	Open Area	2.3	Cut	Posthole	Sub-oval; gradual to steep sloping E side; other sides are moderately steep sloping; concave base; 0.32m E-W; 0.18m N-S; up to 0.20m deep	Posthole
108	Open Area	2.3	Deposit	Fill	Loose; mid brownish grey; silty sand; occ small sub-rounded pebbles; up to 0.35m thick	Fill of posthole [109]
109	Open Area	2.3	Cut	Posthole	Circular; moderately steep sloping sides; slightly concave base; 0.30m in diameter; up to 0.35m deep	Posthole
110	Open Area	2.3	Deposit	Fill	Compact; mid greyish brown; silty sand; occ small limestone and sandstone frags; up to 0.44m thick	Fill of posthole [111]
111	Open Area	2.3	Cut	Posthole	Circular; moderately steep which break to steep sloping sides; concave base; 0.40m N-S; 0.38m E-W; up to 0.52m deep	Posthole
112	Open Area	2.3	Deposit	Fill	Compact; mid brownish grey; sand; up to 0.09m thick	Fill of stakehole [113]
113	Open Area	2.3	Cut	Stakehole	Circular; moderately steep sloping sides; concave base; 0.15m in diameter; up to 0.09m deep	Stakehole
114	Open Area	2.3	Deposit	Fill	Compact; mid greyish brown; silty sand; occ small rounded pebbles; up to 0.32m thick	Fill of posthole [115]
115	Open Area	2.3	Cut	Posthole	Circular; steep-moderately steep sloping sides; concave base; 0.22m N-S; 0.26m E-W; 0.32m deep	Posthole
116	Open Area	2.3	Deposit	Fill	Compact; mid brownish grey; sand; up to 0.44m thick	Fill of posthole [117]
117	Open Area	2.3	Cut	Posthole	Oval; moderately steep to steep sloping sides; flat base; 0.58m NE-SW; 0.42m NW-SE; up to 0.44m deep	Posthole
118	**VOID**					
119	**VOID**					
120	Open Area	2.3	Cut	?Pit	Sub-rounded; moderately steep to moderately gradual sloping sides; concave to flat base; at least 8.40m NE-SW; at least 2.20m NW-SE; up to 0.74m deep	?Pit
121	Open Area	2.3	Deposit	Fill	Firm; mid pinkish brown; clayey silt; occ small sub-angular and sub-rounded stones; at least 2.04m NW-SE; at least 3.10m NE-SW; up to 0.26m thick	Fill of [120]
122	Open Area	2.3	Deposit	Fill	Compact; mid greyish brown; silty sand; mod small-angular limestone frags; at least 4.96m NE-SW; at least 2.50m NW-SE; up to 0.46m thick	Fill of ?pit [120]
123	Open Area	2.2	Deposit	Fill	Soft; mid greyish brown; silt; very occ small sub-angular and sub-rounded stones; at least 1.30m NE-SW; at least 0.56m E-W; up to 0.24m thick	Fill of ?pit [120]
124	Open Area	2.2	Deposit	Fill	Friable; light brown; silt (50%) and small limestone frags (50%); at least 1.80m NE-SW; at least 1.10m NW-SE; up to 0.52m thick	Fill of ?ditch [128]
125	Open Area	2.2	Deposit	Fill	Soft; dark brown; silt; very occasional small sub-rounded stones, lense of small limestone frags; at least 1.74m NE-SW; 0.88m NW-SE; up to 0.27m thick	Fill of ?ditch [128]
126	Open Area	2.1	Cut	Linear	Curvi-linear; rounded terminal at S end; steep sloping sides; concave base; at least 5.40m long; 1.24m wide; up to 0.66m deep	Ditch terminal

Context	Trench	Phase	Type	Type	Description	Interpretation
127	Open Area	2.1	Deposit	Fill	Soft; mid pinkish brown; clayey silt; very occ small sub-angular and sub-rounded stones; up to 0.66m thick	Fill of ditch [126]
128	Open Area	2.2	Cut	Linear	?Linear; moderately steep to steep sloping side; concave base; 5.54m NE-SW; at least 1.08m NW-SE; up to 1.22m deep	?Ditch
129	Open Area	2.3	Deposit	Fill	Firm; mid greyish brown; sandy silt (90%) with small sub-angular limestone frags (10%); occ small coal frags; 3.20m NE-SW; at least 1.44m E-W; up to 0.46m thick	Upper fill of ?pit [120]
130	Open Area	2.2	Deposit	Fill	Friable; mid greyish brown; sandy silt (40%) and small sub-angular and sub-rounded limestone frags (60%); at least 0.57m NE-SW; 0.98m E-W; up to 0.40m thick	Fill of ?ditch [128]
131	Open Area	2.2	Deposit	Fill	Firm-friable; small sub-angular limestone frags; at least 0.74m NE-SW; at least 0.98m E-W; up to 0.09m thick	Fill of ?ditch [128]
132	Open Area	2.3	Deposit	Fill	Loose; mid brownish grey; silty clayey sand; mod limestone flecks, occ small lumps of firm, light grey sandy clay; at least 0.60m NE-SW; at least 1.20m NW-SE; up to 0.16m thick	Fill of ?pit [120]
133	Open Area	2.2	Deposit	Fill	Loose; mid brownish grey; silty clayey sand; mod limestone flecks, occ small lumps of firm, light grey sandy clay, occ small sub-angular sandstone frags; at least 1.16m NE-SW; at least 0.64m NW-SE; up to 0.18m deep	Fill of ?ditch [128]
134	Open Area	2.2	Deposit	Fill	Loose; mid grey; clayey sand; occ sub-angular sandstone and limestone frags; at least 0.64m NE-SW; at least 1.16m NW-SE; at least 0.20m thick	Fill of ?ditch [128]
135	**VOID**					
136	Open Area	5	Deposits	Layers	Brick rubble; up to 2.0m thick; surface make-up layer; up to 0.30m thick; tarmac surface; up to 0.20m thick	Group number for modern overburden
137	Open Area	4	Deposit	Layer	Friable; mid brownish grey; sandy clayey silt; freq-mod small mortar frags and flecks, occ sub-angular and sub-rounded pebbles; up to 0.20m thick; recorded in W of open area	Developed soil
138	Open Area	3	Deposit	Layer	Friable; mid orange brown becoming mid brown to E end; sandy silt; occ charcoal flecks, occ small sub-angular stones; up to 1.06m thick	Developed soil
139	Open Area	1	Deposit	Layer	To S was firm-hard; mid pinkish brown; clay with patches of loose; light brownish grey; sand and degraded limestone; to NE was compact; mid brownish yellow; sand	Natural sub-stratum

APPENDIX C
PHOTOGRAPHIC PLATES

Plate 1. Phase 2 features [120], [126] and [128], looking south-west *(1m scale).*

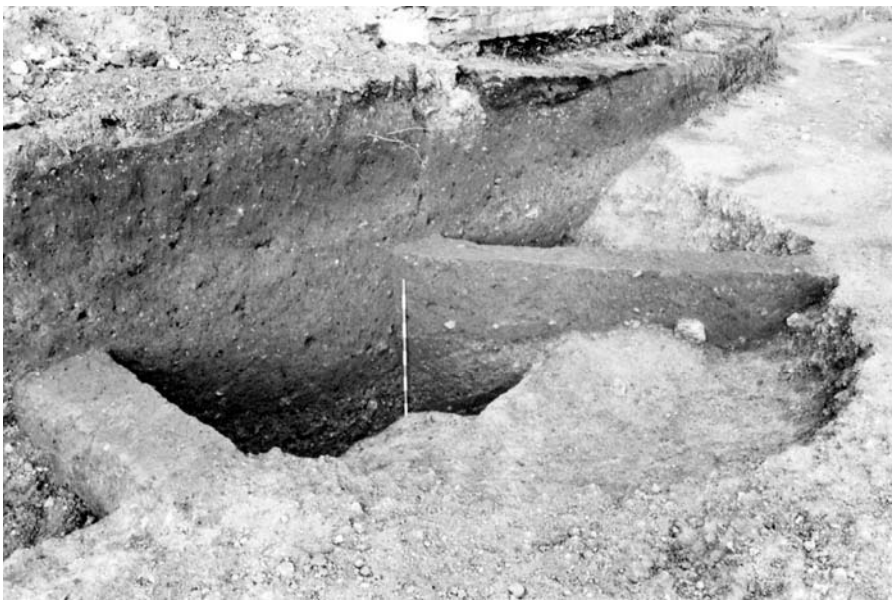

Plate 2. Phase 2 features [120], [126] and [128], looking north-west *(1m scale).*

Plate 3. Phase 2 features [120], [126] and [128], looking north-west *(1m scale).*

Plate 4. Phase 2 features [120] and [128], looking south-west *(1m scale).*

Plate 5. Phase 2.3 structural features, looking north-west *(1m scale).*

Plate 6. Phase 2.3 structural features, working shot, looking south-west.

Plate 7. Stone underpinning of revetment wall.
Northern end of Section 2, looking north-east
(2m scale).

Plate 8. Section 3 of revetment wall, looking north-west *(2m scale).*

Plate 9. Sections 3 and 4 of revetment wall, looking west *(2m scale).*

Plate 10. Section 4 of revetment wall, looking south-west *(2m scale).*

Plate 11. Buttress 1. Section 1 of revetment wall, looking west *(2m scale).*

Plate 12. Buttress 2. Section 1 of revetment wall, looking north-west *(2m scale).*

Plate 13. Buttress 3. Section 3 of revetment wall, looking SSW *(2m scale).*

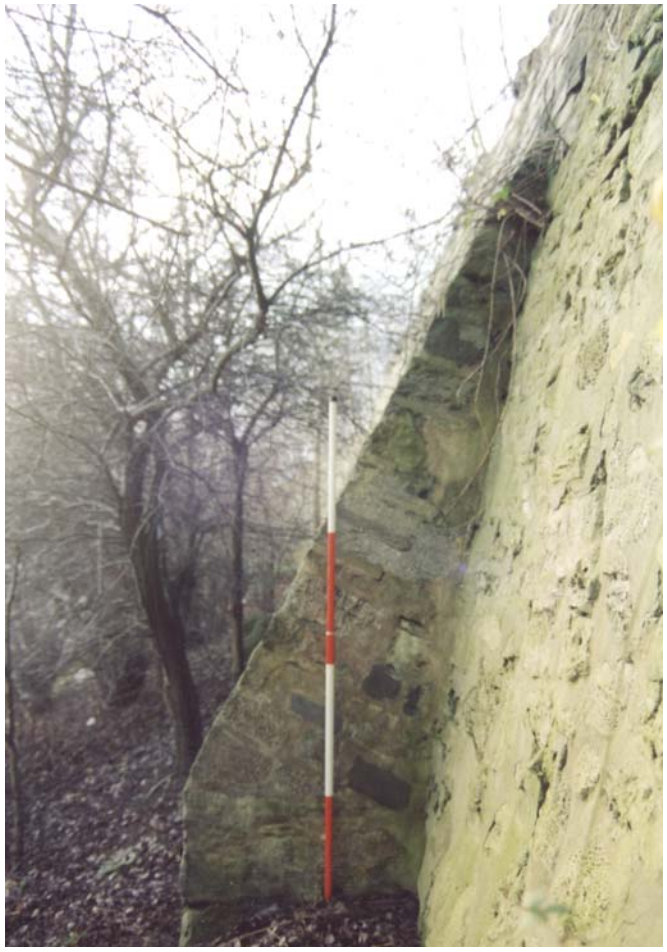

Plate 14. Buttress 4. Section 2 of revetment wall, looking SSW *(2m scale).*

P C A

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