

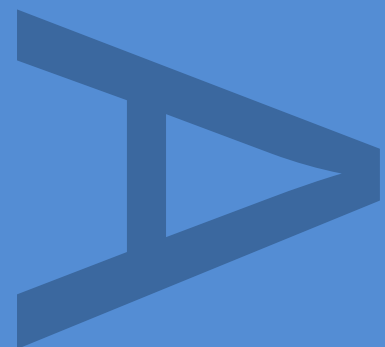
**The Sanctuary and Dean's Yard,
Westminster Abbey, City of
Westminster, SW1P 3PA**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
During Gas Main Replacement Work**

Site Code: SYQ10

PCA Report No: 11059

June 2011



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY



DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

THE SANCTUARY AND DEAN'S YARD,
WESTMINSTER ABBEY, CITY OF WESTMINSTER,
SW1P 3PA

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
DURING GAS MAIN REPLACEMENT WORK

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
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	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Peter Boyer		June 2011
Graphics Prepared by:	Jennifer Simonson		June 2011
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown	 pp	June 2011
Project Manager Sign-off:	Chris Mayo		June 2011

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Unit 54
Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
London
SE4 2PD

**The Sanctuary and Dean's Yard, Westminster Abbey, City of Westminster,
SW1P 3PA**

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Site Code: SYQ10

Central NGR: TQ29977941

**Written and Researched by: Peter Boyer
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, June 2011**

Project Manager: Chris Mayo (MifA)

Commissioning Client: Morrison Utility Services

**Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Unit 54, Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
Brockley
London
SE4 2PD**

Tel: 020 7732 3925

Fax: 020 7732 7896

Email: cmayo@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

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June 2011

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out during gas main replacement work at The Sanctuary and Dean's Yard, Westminster Abbey, City of Westminster SW1P 3PA. The work was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. on behalf of Morrison Utility Services. The project was managed by Chris Mayo and supervised by Guy Seddon, Paw Jorgensen and Peter Boyer, all of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. The work was monitored by Professor Warwick Rodwell, Archaeological Consultant to Westminster Abbey, and the Archaeology Advisor to the City of Westminster, Robert Whytehead of English Heritage.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out between December 2010 and March 2011 within The Sanctuary and around the perimeter of Dean's Yard, immediately to the west and south-west of Westminster Abbey (central National Grid Reference: TQ29977941).
- 1.3 The earliest evidence of activity was recorded in a trench within Little Dean's Yard, to the east of Dean's Yard, and comprised the basal element of a possible medieval wall. A more substantial wall of late medieval/early medieval date was located immediately to the south and had undergone some modification, probably in the early post-medieval period, and again, possibly in the 18th century or later.
- 1.4 Elsewhere the deposits probably dated no earlier than the 18th or 19th centuries and included the walls of a building and a brick drain on the western side of Dean's Yard, and building rubble and other deposits on the south and east sides of Dean's Yard.
- 1.5 Extensive recent truncation of earlier deposits was recorded in all excavated trenches and was mostly associated with the excavation of earlier gas pipe trenches, though other services including drains, water mains and electricity cabling and ducting were also observed.
- 1.6 Very few finds were recovered during the watching brief and most were associated with recent activity, though some residual material of medieval and earlier post-medieval date was identified.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. during gas main replacement work at The Sanctuary and Dean's Yard, Westminster Abbey, City of Westminster, SW1P 3PA (Figures 1 and 2). The watching brief was conducted between 10th December 2010 and 8th March 2011 on behalf of Morrison Utility Services.
- 2.2 The site comprises the southern edge of the triangular area that defines The Sanctuary, the rectangular area defined by Dean's Yard and a small area of Little Dean's Yard immediately east of this, all situated to the south and south-west of the main Westminster Abbey buildings.
- 2.3 The central National Grid Reference of the site is TQ29977941.
- 2.4 The project was monitored by Professor Warwick Rodwell, Archaeological Consultant to Westminster Abbey, and the Archaeology Advisor to the City of Westminster, Robert Whytehead of English Heritage. It was project managed by Chris Mayo and supervised by Guy Seddon, Paw Jorgensen and the author.
- 2.5 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records and artefactual material will be deposited with the Westminster Abbey Museum under the site code SYQ10.
- 2.6 Westminster Abbey, along with Westminster Palace and St Margaret's Church, is a World Heritage Site (number 426, designated inscription in 1987).

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

3.1 National Policy

- 3.1.1 In March 2010 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5), which provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the investigation and preservation of heritage assets.
- 3.1.2 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPS5, by current Local Plan policy and by other material considerations.

3.2 Local Policy

- 3.2.1 The site is located within the World Heritage Site of the Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey including St. Margaret's Church (number 426, designated inscription in 1987).
- 3.2.2 PPS5 does not include policies specific to World Heritage Sites, but it does define a number of Designated Heritage Assets, including World Heritage Sites, for which there are specific policies:

Terminology:

DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSET

A World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area designated as such under the relevant legislation.

POLICY HE9: ADDITIONAL POLICY PRINCIPLES GUIDING THE CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR CONSENT RELATING TO DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

HE9.1 There should be a presumption in favour of the conservation of designated heritage assets and the more significant the designated heritage asset, the greater the presumption in favour of its conservation should be. Once lost, heritage assets cannot be replaced and their loss has a cultural, environmental, economic and social impact. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. Loss affecting any designated heritage asset should require clear and convincing justification.

Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, including scheduled monuments, 14 protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings and grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.

HE9.2 Where the application will lead to substantial harm to or total loss of significance local planning authorities should refuse consent unless it can be demonstrated that:

- (i) the substantial harm to or loss of significance is necessary in order to deliver substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss; or
- (ii)
 - (a) the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and
 - (b) no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term that will enable its conservation; and
 - (c) conservation through grant-funding or some form of charitable or public

- ownership is not possible; and
- (d) the harm to or loss of the heritage asset is outweighed by the benefits of bringing the site back into use.

HE9.3 To be confident that no appropriate and viable use of the heritage asset can be found under policy HE9.2(ii) local planning authorities should require the applicant to provide evidence that other potential owners or users of the site have been sought through appropriate marketing and that reasonable endeavours have been made to seek grant funding for the heritage asset's conservation and to find charitable or public authorities willing to take on the heritage asset.

HE9.4 Where a proposal has a harmful impact on the significance of a designated heritage asset which is less than substantial harm, in all cases local planning authorities should:

- (i) weigh the public benefit of the proposal (for example, that it helps to secure the optimum viable use of the heritage asset in the interests of its long-term conservation) against the harm; and
- (ii) recognise that the greater the harm to the significance of the heritage asset the greater the justification will be needed for any loss.

HE9.5 Not all elements of a World Heritage Site or Conservation Area will necessarily contribute to its significance. The policies in HE9.1 to HE9.4 and HE10 apply to those elements that do contribute to the significance. When considering proposals, local planning authorities should take into account the relative significance of the element affected and its contribution to the significance of the World Heritage Site or Conservation Area as a whole. Where an element does not positively contribute to its significance, local planning authorities should take into account the desirability of enhancing or better revealing the significance of the World Heritage Site or Conservation Area, including, where appropriate, through development of that element. This should be seen as part of the process of place-shaping.

POLICY HE10: ADDITIONAL POLICY PRINCIPLES GUIDING THE CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT AFFECTING THE SETTING OF A DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSET

HE10.1 When considering applications for development that affect the setting of a heritage asset, local planning authorities should treat favourably applications that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveal the significance of the asset. When considering applications that do not do this, local planning authorities should weigh any such harm against the wider benefits of the application. The greater the negative impact on the significance of the heritage asset, the greater the benefits that will be needed to justify approval.

HE10.2 Local planning authorities should identify opportunities for changes in the setting to enhance or better reveal the significance of a heritage asset. Taking such opportunities should be seen as a public benefit and part of the process of place-shaping.

3.2.3 The study aims to satisfy the objectives of the City of Westminster, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians.

3.2.4 The Local Planning Authority's relevant Archaeological Policy, as defined in the City of Westminster's Unitary Development Plan adopted 24 January 2007, is as follows:

DES 16: WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Aim

10.188 To safeguard the World Heritage Site.

POLICY DES 16: WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Permission will only be granted for developments that protect and conserve the character, appearance, setting and ecological value of the World Heritage Site

Policy application

10.189 Although no additional statutory controls follow from the designation of a World Heritage Site, PPG15: Planning and the Historic Environment [now superseded by PPS5] states, in paragraph 2.22, that the designation highlights the outstanding international importance of the site which should be a key material consideration to take into account when determining planning and listed building consent applications. Great weight is placed upon the need to protect them for future generations. Development proposals affecting these sites or their settings need to be compatible with this objective and require careful scrutiny, often by way of formal environmental assessments, to ensure that their immediate and long term impact are fully evaluated.

Reason

10.190 The member states of United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation UNESCO adopted the Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage in 1972. This Convention provided for the creation of the World Heritage Committee which, in 1987, inscribed the area formed by the Palace of Westminster, St Margaret's and Westminster Abbey as a World Heritage Site, now one of twenty six in the United Kingdom. This area has thus been recognised as being of 'outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological point of view'.

3.2.5 It was decided that a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording (watching brief) would form appropriate mitigation in this instance, applied specifically to the excavation of trenches prior to the replacement of sections of gas piping. This was carried out according to a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by Chris Mayo of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. (Mayo 2010) and in accordance with published standards and practices (GLAAS 1998a; 1998b; English Heritage 1990). The WSI was approved by both Warwick Rodwell and Robert Whytehead.

3.3 Archaeological Aims and Objectives

3.3.1 The objective of the archaeological work was to identify, excavate, record and analyse any archaeological remains that were exposed by the excavation of the gas pipe trenches.

3.3.2 The objectives of the archaeological investigation, as outlined in the WSI were:

- To record the nature, extent, date, character, quality, significance and state of preservation of any archaeological remains affected by the investigation
- To assess where appropriate the ecofactual and palaeoenvironmental potential of archaeological deposits and features from within the site
- To report on the results of the watching brief

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

4.1.1 The study site is located on the former Thorney Island, the largest and probably the most elevated of the islands within the Tyburn delta. The island was located at the confluence of the Rivers Tyburn and Thames. The underlying geology of the island comprises Eocene London Clay overlain by sands and gravels deposited during the Late Quaternary era (Thomas *et al.* 2006).

4.2 Topography

4.2.1 The study site comprised an area of The Sanctuary located immediately to the west of Westminster Abbey and the perimeter of Dean's Yard (including part of Little Dean's Yard) located to the south and south-west of the main Abbey buildings.

4.2.2 The area was generally flat and located at c. 4.00 m OD, Dean's Yard having been levelled during the post-medieval period. Prior to levelling there would have been a slope down from north-east to south-west, reflecting the natural gradient of the western side of Thorney Island.

4.2.3 The north-flowing River Thames is located beyond the Houses of Parliament, some 300m east of the site.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Palaeoenvironmental

5.1.1 The natural sedimentary depositional sequence in the vicinity of the study site has a complex recent (in geological terms) history stretching back 6000 to 7000 years, the upper stratigraphy of the basal geology having been formed by alluvial deposition (Thomas 2000). The early Holocene sequence was characterised by channel margin deposition and the formation of palaeochannel dune systems. The meandering stream of the River Tyburn divided into two branches forming a tripartite division of the land near its confluence with the River Thames. Deposition of sand and gravel between the two branches of the stream commenced around 4350 cal. BP and led to the formation of a riverine dune system known as the Thorney Sand Bed (*ibid.*). This area of firm ground amidst the marshland in the Tyburn delta later became known as Thorney Island (De Maré 1968) on which the current study site is located.

5.1.2 By the beginning of the Bronze Age the higher ground of the island had become dominated by lime forest, which was later replaced by oak-dominated woodland with a hazel understorey, whilst lower-lying areas around the periphery of the island were dominated by alder and sedge vegetation. Deforestation of the island occurred sometime during the Early Bronze Age with evidence for arable cultivation appearing shortly thereafter (Thomas *et al.* 2006).

5.2 Prehistoric

5.2.1 An archaeological excavation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology during 2009 towards the north of Dean's Yard, recovered a struck flint of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date (Jorgensen 2010). Archaeological investigations undertaken prior to the extension of the Jubilee Line between 1991 and 1998 revealed evidence for Bronze Age activity along the east side of Thorney Island in the form of a timber revetment along the river as well as possible boundary fences. Environmental data collected during investigation in the 1990s indicated the presence of cereal pollen, suggesting arable cultivation in the vicinity during this period. Although there may have been significant human activity on the island from the Late Neolithic and through much of the Early Bronze Age, there appears to have been a much-reduced presence by the later Bronze Age (Thomas *et al.* 2006).

5.2.2 Evidence for Iron Age occupation is limited and has almost exclusively been recorded in the more elevated areas of the island. It has been suggested that this may have been due to a major flooding event during the middle of the 11th century AD, which resulted in extensive truncation of Late Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman deposits along the peripheral areas of Thorney Island (Thomas *et al.* 2006). However, the 2009 excavation in Dean's Yard revealed a single pit that contained a small assemblage of Late Iron Age and early Roman pottery (Jorgensen 2010).

5.3 Roman

- 5.3.1 The Roman settlement of *Londinium* was centred upon the modern day City of London, some distance to the east of Westminster. Whilst no definite Roman features have been recorded during excavations on the former Island, artefacts dating to this period have been recovered from a number of excavation sites. In the vicinity of the Abbey itself a number of antiquarian discoveries have been reported including a Roman sarcophagus found on the north side of the Abbey (Poole 1870). Although the sarcophagus itself was probably of Roman origin, it is likely that it was brought to the island and reused during the Saxon period.
- 5.3.2 Part of a Roman hypocaust and walls are reported to have been observed below the floor of the nave of the Abbey church and two fragments of Roman concrete floor have been recorded near the south side of the cloister and infirmary cloister (Thomas et al. 2006). Some accounts of the origins of Westminster Abbey claim that a temple dedicated to Apollo was constructed on Thorney Island in the second century AD., and when it was destroyed by a violent earthquake, King Lucius built the island's first church in its place (Morley 1890). However, no archaeological evidence exists to substantiate these suggestions.

5.4 Anglo-Saxon

- 5.4.1 The main Saxon settlement of *Lundenwic* was focussed on the area between present day Charing Cross and Aldwych to the north-east of the site. During the late Saxon period Thorney Island became an important religious centre. This is reflected by the place name 'Westminster', which derives from the Saxon word 'minster', referring to either the monastery church built on the island by Edward the Confessor or an earlier church on the site. It was consecrated prior to the Norman invasion of 1066.
- 5.4.2 One of the earliest references to a church derives from Offa's Charter, c. AD 785, which refers to 'St. Peter and the people of the Lord dwelling in Thornea at the awesome place called Westminster' (Barton 1992). The authenticity of this charter has been brought into question by various 20th century scholars and it seems likely that it is a later forgery.
- 5.4.3 It is more likely that the foundation of the abbey dates to the reign of King Edgar (959-75) who granted a foundation charter to St Dunstan. The church founded by St. Dunstan was described as a *monasteriolum*, or little monastery, and was inhabited by twelve monks and an abbot (Thomas et al. 2006).
- 5.4.4 Under Edward the Confessor the abbey was refounded and a new church built in stone to replace the earlier building. The anonymous 11th-century biographer of the Confessor stated in *Vita Ædwardi* that Edward's motives for founding a great Abbey church at Westminster were not only in his piety and devotion to St. Peter, the favourable location of the place, on the river and close to London, but principally because he wished for himself to be buried there (Field 1996).
- 5.4.5 Work on the new church commenced in 1045 and, although not completed in its entirety, was consecrated in December 1065. *Vita Ædwardi* states that the new church was built far

enough to the east of the existing one to enable services to continue in it; whilst Sulcard in his History of Westminster (written in the 11th century) states that the old church was demolished to make room for the new (Field 1996).

- 5.4.6 Limited archaeological evidence for a presence during the Saxon period has been found within the vicinity of the study site, including land reclamation deposits of Saxon date along with a contemporary partial donkey skeleton identified during investigations at 17 Dean's Yard (Murray 2003). Residual Saxon pottery was also recovered during the 2009 excavation towards the north of Dean's Yard (Jorgensen 2010).

5.5 Medieval

- 5.5.1 In the early medieval period, the pre-established seats of government and law were retained by the Norman Kings in an attempt to legitimise their claims to the throne. The Palace of Westminster, largely built by Edward the Confessor, was to remain the legislative centre and residence for over 500 years (De Maré 1968).

- 5.5.2 The flow of the Tyburn was heavily impacted upon in 1236 when, on the request of Henry III and the Lord Mayor, a conduit was installed by Tyburn Springs (near present day Marble Arch) to ensure a supply of clean water to the growing population of the city. While it is unclear exactly how much this impacted on the flow of the river it has been suggested that the stream was reduced to a mere trickle as a result of the piping of the springs (Barton 1992).

- 5.5.3 Following his return from visits to France in 1242 and 1243 Henry III embarked on an ambitious mission to rebuild Westminster Abbey as a rival to the great abbeys and churches of France. With the assistance of Master Henry of Reynes, the newly appointed Master of the King's Masons, the task of demolishing the old Romanesque church began (Field 1996).

- 5.5.4 By the time of the king's death in 1272 the work of rebuilding the abbey had not been completed although the unfinished church had been consecrated in 1269. The church was described as 'fully finished to the end of the quire' in 1285 (Field 1996).

- 5.5.5 Fire swept through Westminster Palace and the adjacent abbey in 1298 and although it did not reach the unfinished church itself, the conflagration did cause widespread damage to many of the major monastic buildings on the site. As a result priority shifted from completing the nave of the church to rebuilding the auxiliary buildings (Bond 1909).

- 5.5.6 Following the fire the royal household of Edward I was moved to York for the duration of the rebuilding of the palace on Thorney Island. During the King's absence the integrity of the inhabitants of the monastery was brought into question when the Royal Treasury at the Abbey was burgled. Even prior to the fire Edward had started to divert his attention, and funds, towards St. Stephen's Chapel in Westminster Palace and the burglary of 1303 resulted in a further reduction of royal support for the rebuilding of the Abbey (Field 1996).

- 5.5.7 Work on the ancillary buildings progressed slowly until the later part of the 14th century when a "great fortune" was bequeathed to the Abbey by Cardinal Langham. Even though the money had been intended to aide the completion of the nave, Abbot Litlyngton directed

a significant portion of it towards finishing the rebuilding of the auxiliary buildings (Bond 1909).

- 5.5.8 During Litlyngton's time as abbot (1362-1386) the areas to the north and east of Dean's Yard underwent significant changes. These included the rebuilding "... anew from the foundations" the whole of the abbot's place, the west and south sides of the cloister, the cellarer's range, the great malt house, the watermill, the dam, and the stone enclosure of the infirmary garden (Robinson 1911).
- 5.5.9 An archaeological watching brief carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology in The Sanctuary during 2008 revealed walls apparently associated with medieval buildings including the Chapter Clerk's dwelling and the Bishop of London's Prison. Several pits and a palaeochannel of medieval date were also recorded (Jorgensen 2008). Further features of medieval date were recorded during the 2009 excavation in Dean's Yard (Jorgensen 2010). Ongoing investigations by PCA in the area of the *Cellarium* and *Misericorde* of Westminster Abbey, immediately east of Dean's Yard have revealed well-stratified medieval deposits, including walls of 11th- to 13th century date.

5.6 Post-Medieval

- 5.6.1 By 1528 the work that Henry III had started nearly three centuries earlier was finally completed with the carving of the screens. Only twelve years later, as a result of the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the deed surrendering the abbey to the crown was drawn up (Bradley 1895).
- 5.6.2 Following the Dissolution, Henry VIII, in 1541, granted to Thomas Thirlby, who had recently been appointed Bishop of Westminster, "... and his successors of the site and circuit of the dwelling-house, Cheynyngats in Westminster, Midd., in which William, late abbot of Westminster, dwelt, with all buildings and lands, &c., within and adjoining the said site, certain of the buildings abutting on:—the cloister of the said late monastery, the Elmes, the church of the said late monastery, the poors' house called the Kynges Almoshouse, and upon the street called the Brode Sentwarye" (Gairdner 1898).
- 5.6.3 During his time as Protector (1547-1549), Edward Seymour, 1st Duke of Somerset stripped away "... the plate and furniture" which had remained in the possession of the Chapter following the Dissolution under Henry VIII's reign. At this time the land that had been returned to the Chapter by Henry, including the Elms (Dean's Yard), was granted by the Dean to the Protector (Bradley 1895).
- 5.6.4 John Norden's 1593 survey of Westminster shows Dean's Yard as an enclosed rectangular area bordered to the south and east by buildings and planted with trees. Buildings are also shown extending eastwards from the north-west corner of the enclosed space.
- 5.6.5 In 1561 Queen Elizabeth I established the College of Westminster and the old monastic granary was converted into a dormitory for the Queen's Scholars. It subsequently became known as Scholars' or College Chamber (Tanner 1923).
- 5.6.6 Dr. Markham, headmaster of Westminster School, in 1756 submitted a proposal to enlarge

Dean's Yard by pulling down the dormitory, which was then in a ruinous state, as well as the brewhouse and the buildings to the west of these. By 1760 Dean's Yard began to assume its present appearance although mostly gravelled with the exception of "the Elms" rectangle to the north. A row of "picturesque" houses extended east into the centre of the new quadrangle. These included the Scholars' Coffee-House (Tanner 1923).

- 5.6.7 In 1815 Dean's Yard was described as "...an odd mixture of decayed grandeur, modern ruins, strong old flinty walls, and crumbling new bricks" there "even the very trees nod in unison with falling structures and broken rails, and the earth, in many a rise and fall, shows some remote effects of Henry VIII's dissolution of monasteries" (Nightingale 1815).
- 5.6.8 By the end of that year the row of "picturesque" houses extending into the yard were demolished and the entire area turned into a large green space to be used as sports fields for Westminster School. The transformation of Dean's Yard from the small rectangular area of "the Elms" into the modern quadrangle was almost entirely completed by 1844 when flagstones replaced the gravelled area along the periphery of "the Green" (Tanner 1923).
- 5.6.9 Archaeological investigations within the study area have revealed evidence of earlier post-medieval deposits surviving below ground including those carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology in 2008 and 2009 (Jorgensen 2008; 2010). Another watching brief carried out in 2009 between The Sanctuary and Victoria Street revealed post-medieval made ground deposits below the modern road surface (Barrowman 2009), though subsequent investigations in the same area revealed no deposits pre-dating the 20th century (Bright 2010). The ongoing work by PCA in the *Cellarium* and *Misericorde* has also revealed deposits encompassing much of the post-medieval period.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 In accordance with the WSI (Mayo 2010), archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during the excavation of trenches to facilitate the replacement of gas pipe sections in The Sanctuary, Dean's Yard and Little Dean's Yard. The watching brief aimed to identify and quantify any archaeological remains and assess the nature of any disturbances or intrusions.
- 6.2 Most of the trenches were located in areas with a tarmac surface, though a small number were located within areas of paving slabs (particularly in Little Dean's Yard) and cobbles. The tarmac (and where necessary, underlying concrete) was broken out using a mechanical breaker attached to a small 360° excavator. Modern backfill was then removed down to the top of the pre-existing gas pipe using a narrow, toothless bucket attached to the excavator. Thereafter each trench was excavated by hand to below the level of the pre-existing pipe.
- 6.3 Works were carried out under archaeological supervision and once excavation of each trench was completed, written, drawn and photographic records were made of the trench base plan, depth of excavation and any deposits of potential archaeological interest. A total of 38 trenches were excavated with Trench 34 later being extended as Trench 36 to form a single entity. The trenches ranged in size and form from simple small rectangular examples measuring less than 1m² such as Trenches 2 and 3, to more extensive, sinuous examples such as Trenches 9 and 34/36. Trenches 1-8 were excavated along the southern edge of The Sanctuary, Trenches 28 & 29 were excavated within Little Dean's Yard and the remainder were excavated around the perimeter of Dean's Yard.
- 6.4 The recording systems were fully compatible with those used elsewhere in the City of Westminster. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated and exposed were entered onto pro-forma recording sheets. All plans and sections of archaeological deposits were recorded on polyester based drawing film, the plans being drawn at a scale of 1:20 and the sections at 1:10. A digital photographic record was made of the investigations as they progressed. Levels were derived from spot heights recorded on Ordnance Survey plans and earlier surveys.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION

7.1 Phase 1: Medieval

7.1.1 The only *in situ* feature of this date identified during the watching brief was a possible wall element [28] observed in the base of Trench 29 in Little Dean's Yard (Figure 3). It had been heavily truncated by the excavation of the earlier gas pipe trench and only an apparent basal mortar layer remained of the feature, which was on a NNW-SSE alignment. It exhibited no obvious physical relationship with a later and more substantial E-W wall directly to the south (see below, para 8.2.1).

7.1.2 Although no further *in situ* medieval deposits were recognised, medieval peg tile was recovered from an 18th-century deposit in Trench 34, towards the north-east corner of Dean's Yard, and a fragment of very early medieval glazed peg tile was recovered from a modern deposit in Trench 36, a short distance to the north-west (Appendix 3).

7.2 Phase 2: Late Medieval/Early Post-Medieval

7.2.1 The earliest substantial archaeological remains encountered were *in situ* fragments of apparent late medieval/early post-medieval masonry and were only observed along the southern edge of Trench 29 (Figure 3, Plate 1). The earliest masonry element comprised a deposit of chalk, limestone and Kentish Ragstone fragments, along with mortar [26], which provided a rubble foundation for an overlying masonry wall, observed towards the south-east corner of the trench (Figure 3). The wall [25] was represented by a single limestone block, measuring in excess of 0.46m E-W by 0.18m N-S and 90mm thick. It had been truncated to the west by a recent drain cut. A further element of what appeared to be the same wall was recorded to the west of the drain cut as [24] (Figure 3). This comprised a single, large, mortared limestone block, measuring at least 0.55m E-W by 0.16m N-S and 0.46m thick. Together, these elements, along with a possible third (see [23] below) formed part of a substantial stone wall, orientated approximately east to west, though on a slightly different alignment to other Abbey buildings.

7.2.2 A short distance west of wall fragment [24] was another fragment of wall [23] comprising bricks, tiles, limestone, Reigate Stone and mortar, measuring in excess of 0.54m E-W, 0.15m N-S and 0.56m high. This appeared to be of a later date than the other wall fragments but followed the same alignment. However, mortar from this feature provided a similar date to that from the apparently earlier elements and it is likely therefore, to have been contemporary with [24] and [25].

7.3 Phase 3: 18th Century

7.3.1 Features and deposits apparently dating to this phase were recorded across a larger area of the site than those of preceding phases, though the most substantial remains were again present in Trench 29 (Figure 3, Plate 1). A fragment of irregularly coursed brick and mortar wall [22], measuring at least 0.45m E-W by 0.25m N-S and 0.53m high was located between wall fragments [23] and [24], on the same alignment and appeared to have been a later

repair and/or rebuilding of these earlier walls. It appears therefore that a building following an approximate east to west alignment was present in this area of Little Dean's Yard for quite a considerable period of time.

- 7.3.2 Another segment of walling of apparent 18th-century date was recorded in Trench 8 (Figure 4), located towards the south-west corner of The Sanctuary. This was a regularly coursed, unfrogged red brick and mortar wall [1], which was aligned east to west. A fragment of the wall measuring 0.92m E-W by 0.10m N-S and 0.30m high was observed towards the south-west corner of the trench and probably represented part of an 18th-century building located to the west of the former Gatehouse Prison.
- 7.3.3 A further wall fragment [7] was recorded in Trench 14 towards the south-west corner of Dean's Yard (Figure 5). This also comprised regularly coursed, unfrogged red bricks and mortar. The wall fragment observed, measured 1.10m E-W by 1.30m N-S and stood up to 0.30m high. It represented the south-west corner of a building that stood in this area prior to expansion of The Green. It had also been extensively truncated by modern services.
- 7.3.4 A further 18th-century structure was recorded in Trench 18 (Figure 6). This comprised the remains of a vaulted drain, constructed from unfrogged red bricks and lime mortar [8]. The structure had collapsed, the remaining elements measuring 0.50m E-W by 0.65m N-S and standing up to 0.35m high. It was filled with rubble material [9] up to 0.20m thick and it is likely that the structure was a feeder into the Great Abbey Drain, which is known to run from west to east beneath Dean's Yard.
- 7.3.5 In other trenches, layers rather than structural deposits were recorded, which have been interpreted as being of 18th-century date, i.e. dating to the mid-18th-century demolition of earlier structures and the expansion of Dean's Yard. In Trench 22, located towards the south-east corner of Dean's Yard (Figure 7), a very firm layer of dark reddish brown sandy silt [11], at least 90mm thick was observed less than 1m below the modern ground surface. Its derivation was unclear but it was overlain by up to 0.53m of building rubble, including brick and worked stone fragments [10], presumably derived from a nearby demolished structure.
- 7.3.6 At the northern end of Trench 31, located on the eastern side of Dean's Yard, a layer of apparently redeposited mortar [30] in excess of 0.12m thick and lying a little more than 1m below the modern surface level was recorded. Although redeposited, analysis of this material suggests it derived from a structure of 15th- to 16th-century date (Appendix 3). This was overlain by a mixed, compacted deposit [29] comprising fragments of building rubble (Figure 8), probably also derived from a former building within Dean's Yard.
- 7.3.7 In Trenches 34 & 36, located close to the north-east corner of Dean's Yard, a further layer of mixed building rubble [31] was recorded at less than 0.75m below the modern ground surface. This was in excess of 0.36m thick (Figure 9) and probably represented a destruction deposit from another Dean's Yard building.

7.4 Phase 4: 19th and 20th Century

- 7.4.1 This phase represents activity pre-dating modern developments but post-dating the main developments within Dean's Yard, deposits therefore dating to the late 19th and 20th centuries are included. Deposits of this phase were only identified at two locations; Trench 10 on the western side of Dean's Yard and Trench 29 in Little Dean's Yard.
- 7.4.2 Evidence for two earlier road surfaces, pre-dating the modern surface was recorded in Trench 10 (Figure 10). The earliest deposit [6] was a 0.10m thick layer of compact sandy silt recorded at 0.85m below the modern ground surface. This acted as a bedding layer for crushed brick and gravel road surface [5], up to 0.17m thick. This was overlain by a 0.24m thick deposit of compact sandy silt containing frequent brick fragments and pebbles [4], which acted as a bedding layer for a second road surface [3]. The latter surface was up to 0.20m thick, comprised compacted brick rubble and gravel, and was recorded just 0.30m below the modern ground surface.
- 7.4.3 In Trench 29, wall [22] was overlain by up to 0.22m of friable, dark brown silty sand made ground [21], containing frequent brick and mortar fragments (Figure 3). Further to the east, wall [25] was overlain by up to 0.55m of friable, dark greyish brown sandy silt [20]. This may also have been a made ground deposit or it could have been the fill of a feature, the edges of which, could not be defined. Layers [20] and [21] were both cut by a trench [19] excavated to hold a ceramic drain pipe [18]. Trench [19] was aligned north to south but pipe [18] was vertically positioned. The trench was backfilled with a loose, dark brown sandy silt [17], above which was placed a layer of compacted bricks, stones and mortar [16]. This latter deposit had apparently been laid to provide a hard surface, flush with the surface of earlier wall [24], however the remainder of the pipe trench was backfilled with a further deposit of friable, dark brown silty sand [15].

7.5 Phase 5: Modern

- 7.5.1 This phase mostly relates to activity associated with the excavation and backfilling of earlier gas pipe trenches, other services and the deposition of modern surface deposits. In Trench 29 the earlier deposits were extensively truncated by gas pipe cut [27], which was backfilled with a loose, very dark greyish brown silty sand with frequent building rubble [12], including worked Kentish Ragstone broadly dated to the medieval to early post-medieval periods (Appendix 3). This deposit also produced a residual sherd of post-medieval redware, dated 1480-1600 and a sherd of London Stoneware, probably dating to the 18th or 19th century (C. Jarrett, pers. comm.). It was overlain by a sandy bedding deposit [14] for modern surface [13], which comprised limestone and sandstone slabs, in addition to concrete examples.
- 7.5.2 Trench 28, also in Little Dean's Yard and Trench 30, in the entrance to Little Dean's Yard, also revealed the earlier gas pipe trench to have been overlain by sandy bedding and a paved surface. In Trench 25, west of the entrance to Little Dean's Yard, the surface mostly comprised granite cobbles set within a sandy bedding. In all other trenches the backfilled earlier gas pipe trenches were overlain with tarmac resurfacing, with the exception of Trench

24, located just to the south of the south-east entrance to Dean's Yard. The gas pipes here were located at a very shallow depth and were overlain with a protective layer of concrete, which was re-surfaced with tarmac.

8 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The general aims of the watching brief were to identify, excavate, record and analyse any archaeological remains exposed by the excavation of trenches to facilitate the replacement of gas pipes. In all of the trenches excavated in The Sanctuary and the majority within Dean's Yard, only the backfilling deposits of earlier gas pipe trenches and other services were recorded below modern surface deposits. However, some earlier remains of archaeological interest were recorded in a small number of trenches, in particular, Trench 29 in Little Dean's Yard.
- 8.2 The earliest substantial archaeological features identified in Trench 29 were fragments of a late medieval/early post-medieval stone wall on an approximate east to west alignment. The wall appears to have been repaired and/or rebuilt on at least two subsequent occasions, tentatively dated to the early post-medieval period and the 18th century. It has therefore been suggested that a building stood in this area for a considerable period of time. The apparent alignment of the building was interesting as it was not exactly parallel with the main Abbey buildings, instead being slightly offset from the main alignment, though a number of other structures, including one immediately to the north of the trench also followed this peculiar alignment.
- 8.3 Elsewhere, the remains of two buildings probably dating to the 18th century or earlier were identified in the south-west corner of The Sanctuary and on the western side of Dean's Yard. There was insufficient exposure to ascertain the exact nature and function of either of these buildings, but they are both likely to have been demolished at approximately the time of expansion of Dean's Yard.
- 8.4 The remains of a collapsed, vaulted brick drain were identified in Dean's Yard and also interpreted as 18th century in date. Further layers exposed along the eastern side of Dean's Yard too have been interpreted as rubble from possible 18th-century or earlier buildings, their demolition again probably coinciding with the expansion of The Green.
- 8.5 Few other deposits pre-dating the modern period were identified though two earlier road surfaces were recorded on the western side of Dean's Yard and a drain recorded in Trench 29 may have had a late 19th- or early 20th-century origin.
- 8.6 Overall the watching brief revealed little evidence of the pre-modern development of The Sanctuary and Dean's Yard as the excavated trenches deviated little beyond the disturbances caused by earlier excavations. However, it has been shown that the remains of some post-medieval structures survive within Dean's Yard, and more importantly, it is apparent that the footings of what may have been quite a substantial late medieval and post-medieval structure survive below the current surface of Little Dean's Yard.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Kevin Hatt for commissioning the project on behalf of Morrison Utility Services. PCA would also like to thank the staff of Brockwell and Son Ltd., in particular Stuart and Brett, who carried out the excavation of the gas pipe trenches.
- 9.2 We also thank Professor Warwick Rodwell and Robert Whytehead for monitoring the project on behalf of Westminster Abbey and the City of Westminster respectively.
- 9.3 The author would like to thank Guy Seddon and Paw Jorgensen for monitoring a number of the trench excavations, Chris Mayo for his project management, Jennifer Simonson for the preparation of illustrative material, Chris Jarrett and Kevin Hayward for identifying and dating the artefactual material, and Nathalie Barrett for surveying the trenches.

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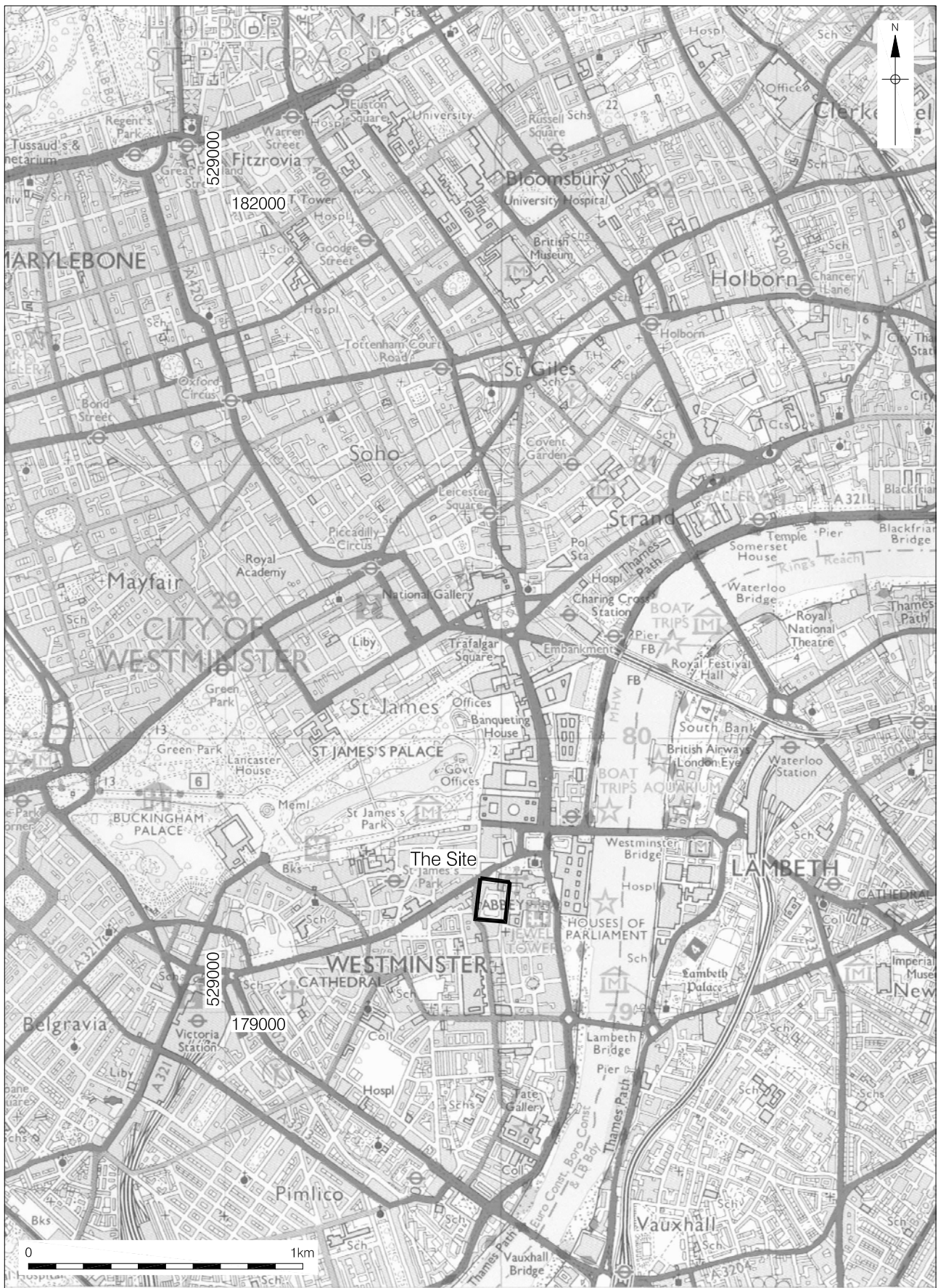
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Plate 1: Trench 29, view South

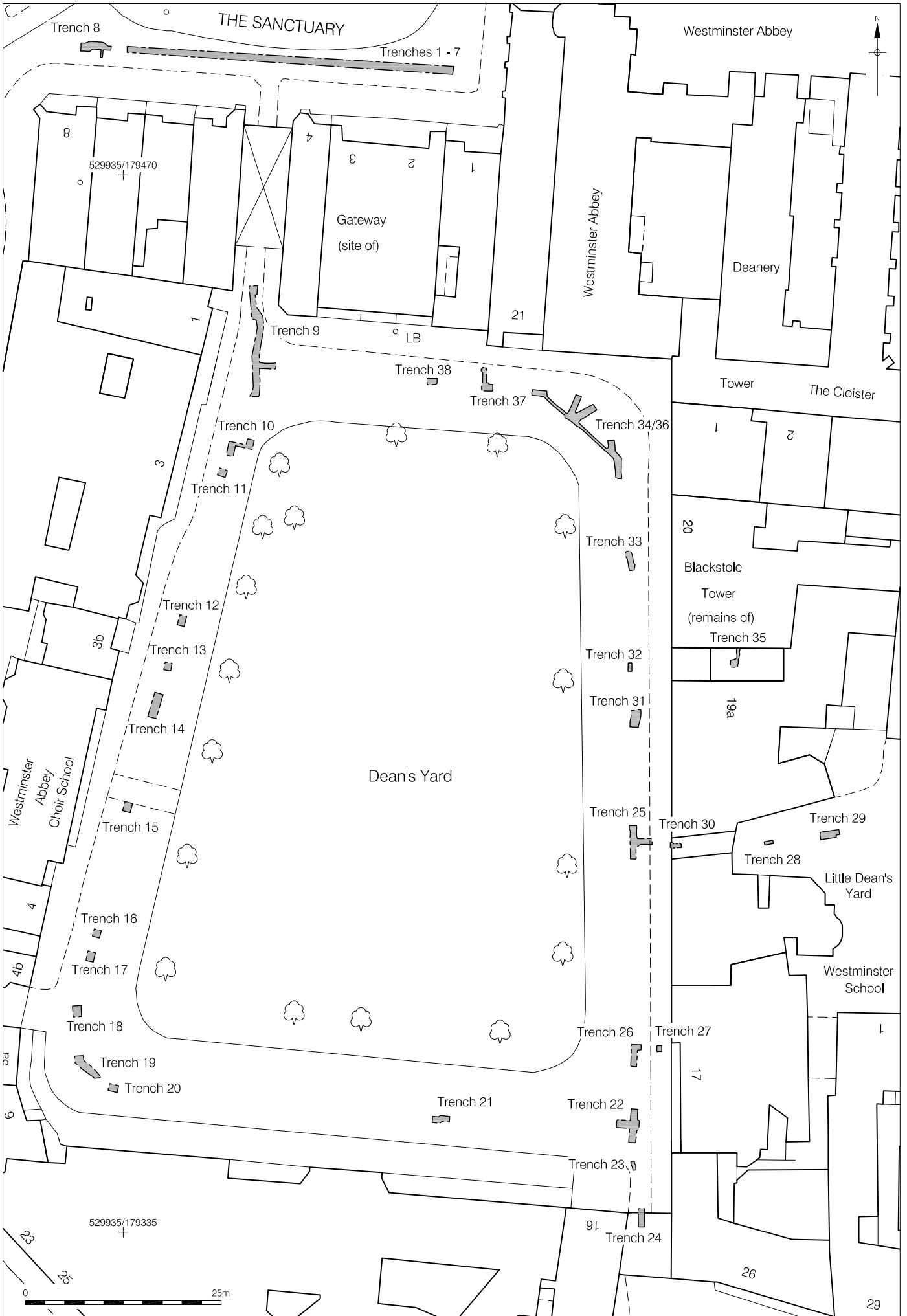




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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



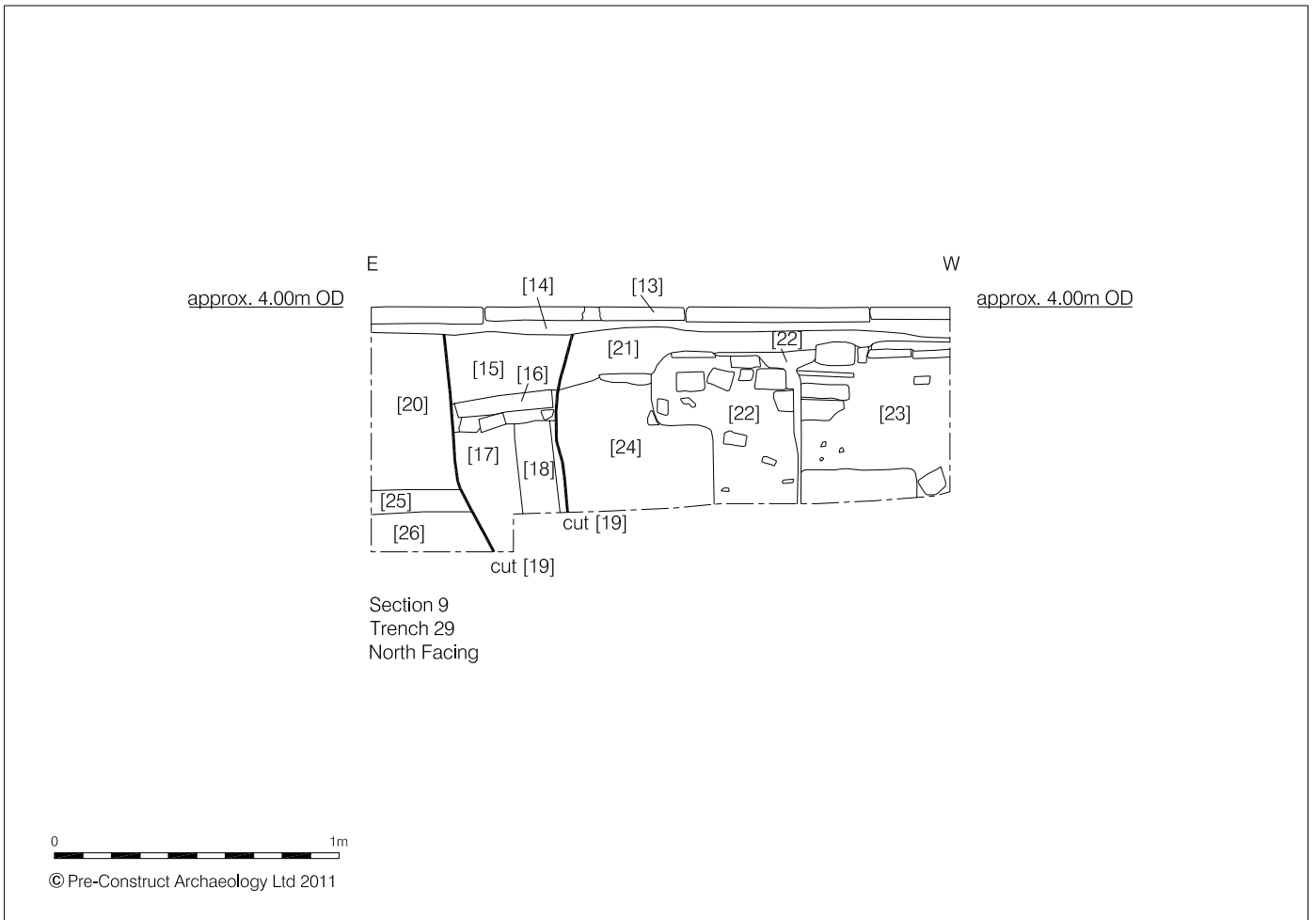
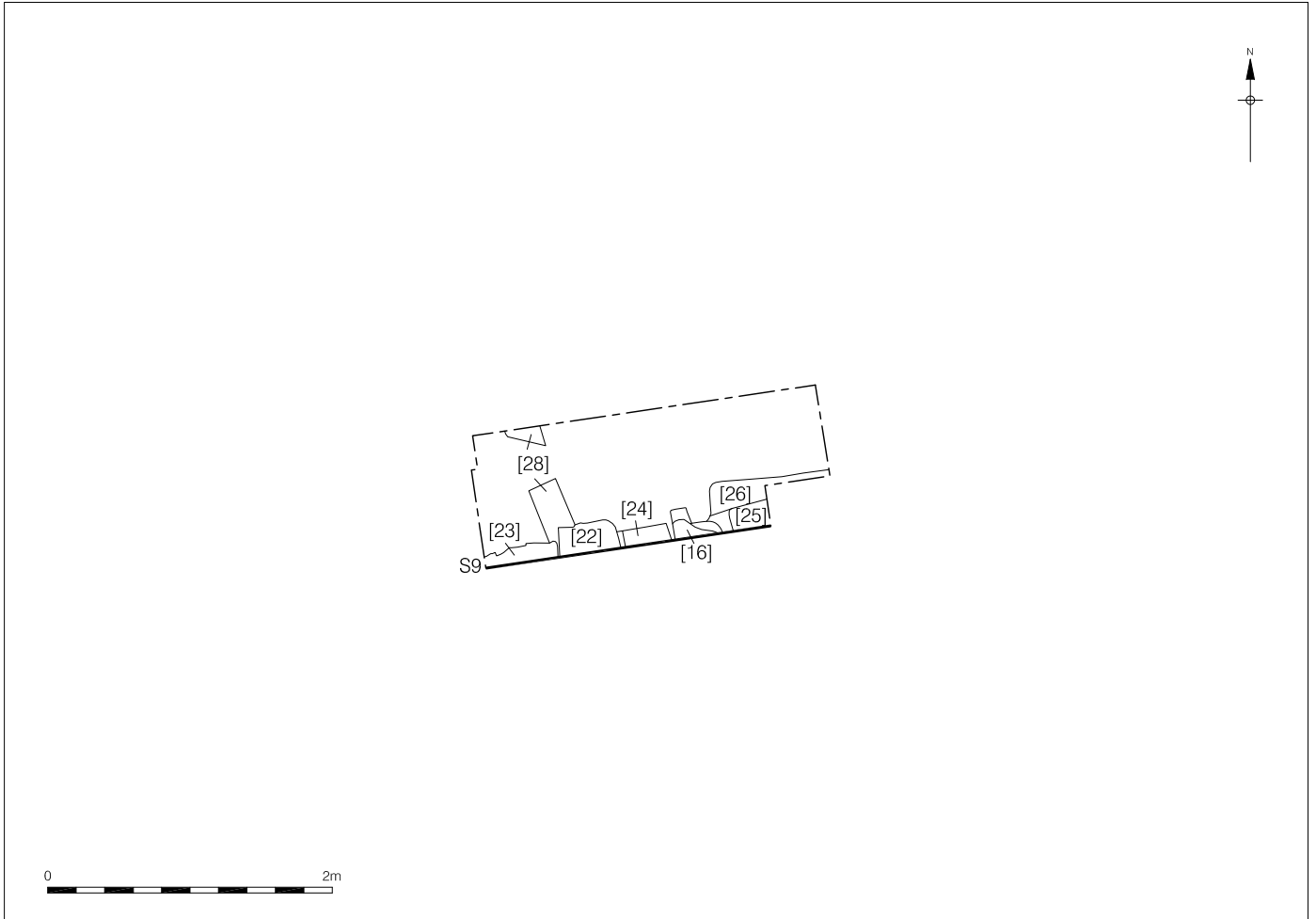


Figure 3
Trench 29; Plan and Section
Plan 1:50; Section 1:25 at A4

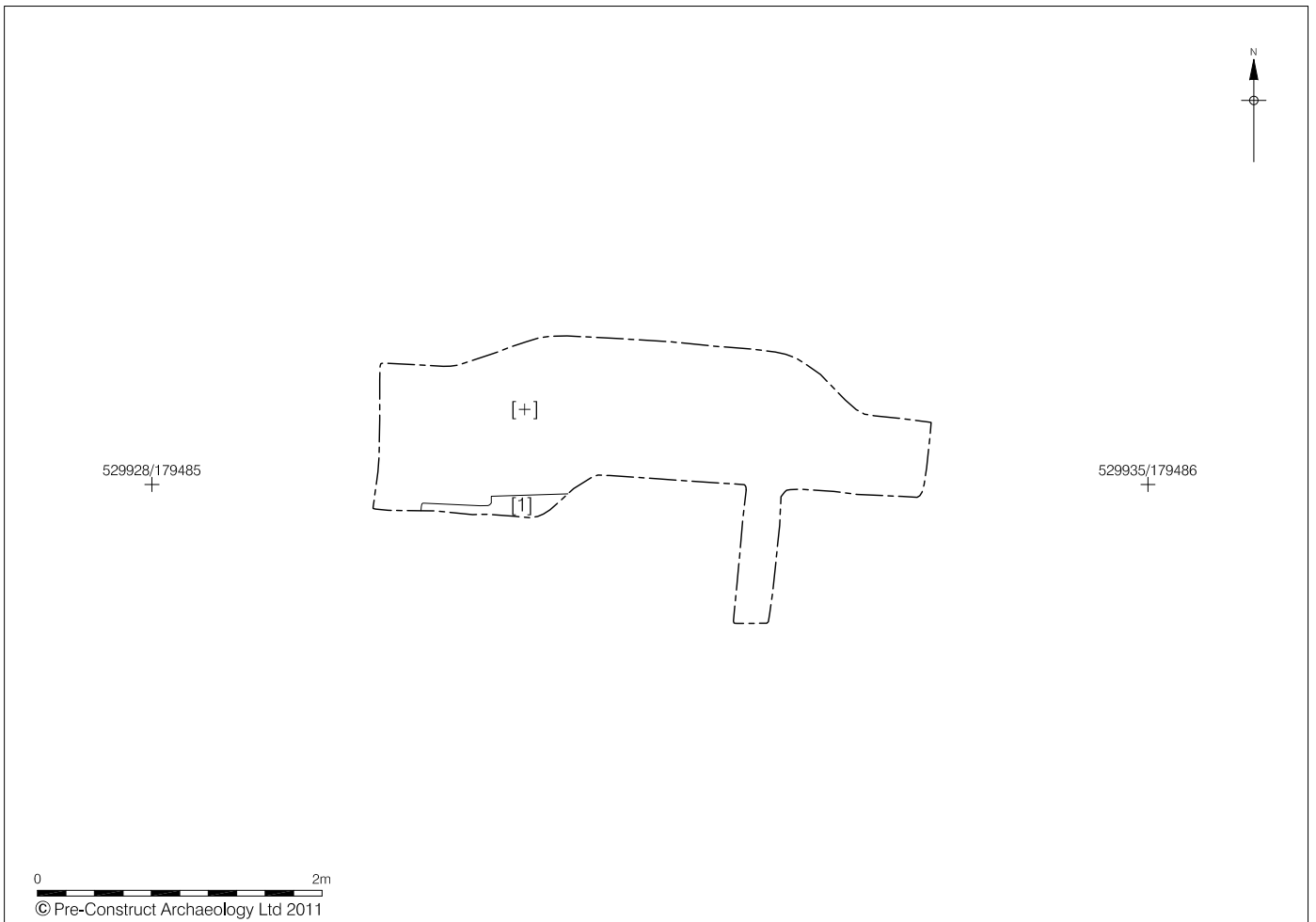


Figure 4
Trench 8
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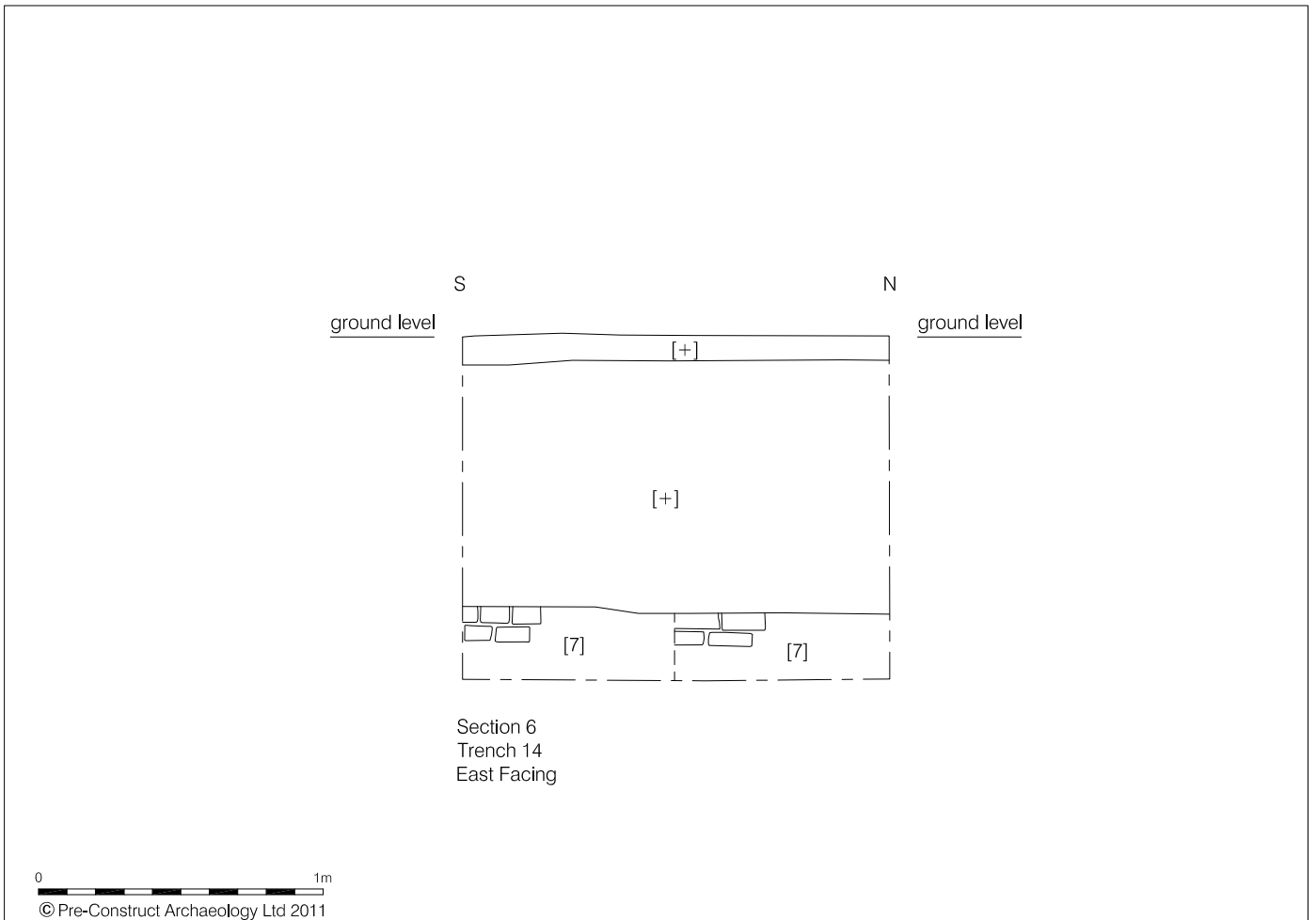
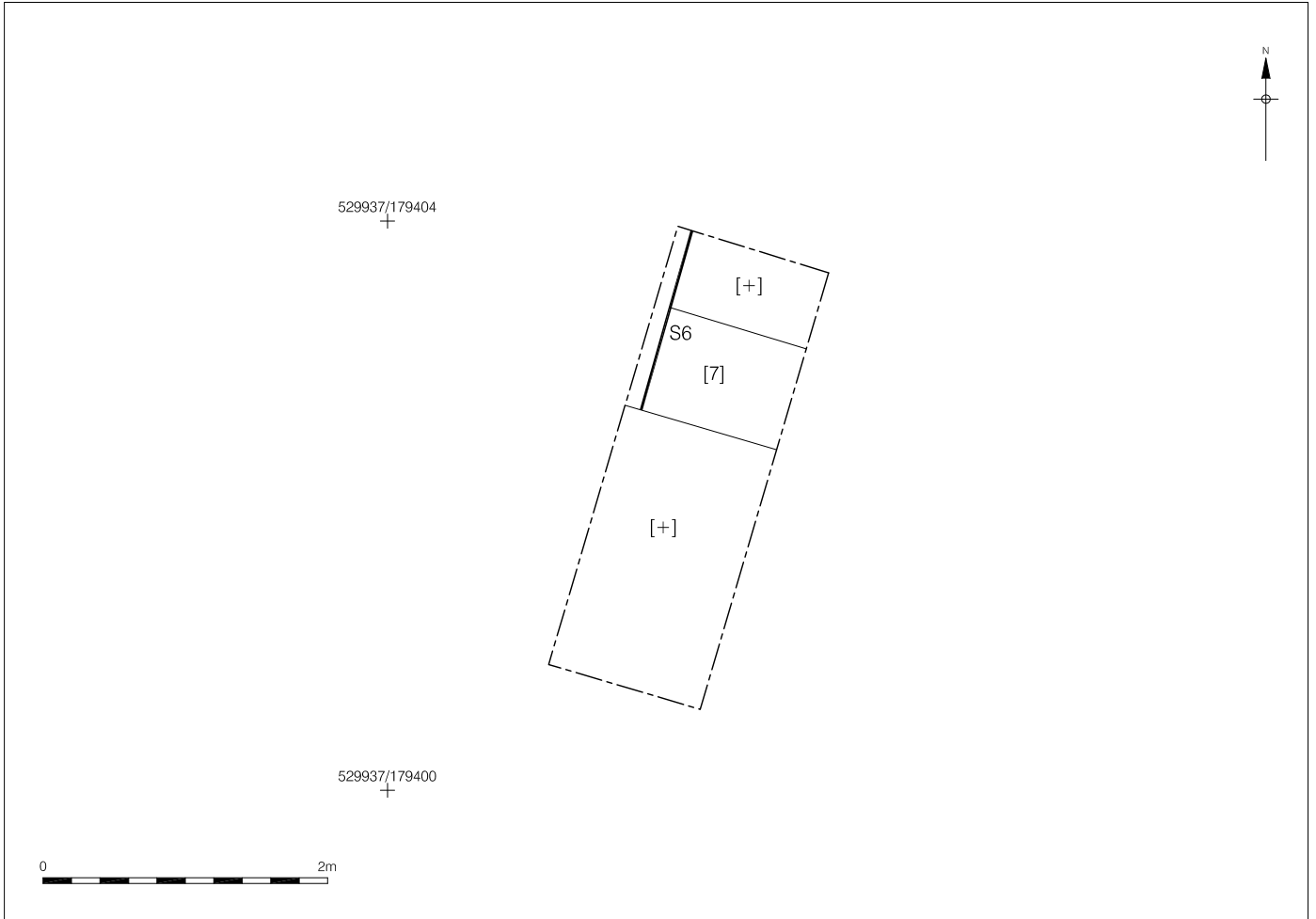


Figure 5
Trench 14; Plan and Section
Plan 1:50; Section 1:25 at A4

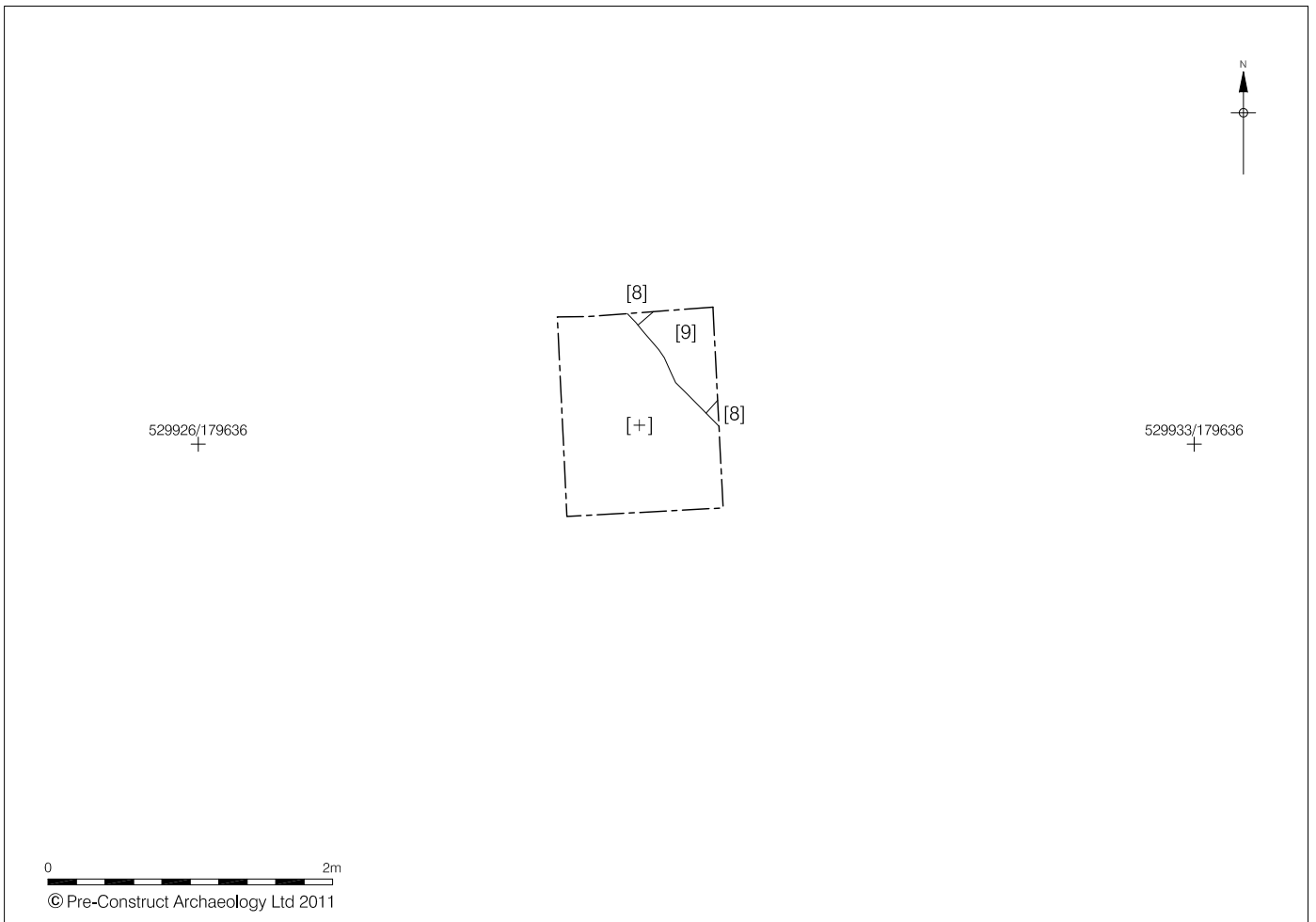


Figure 6
Trench 18
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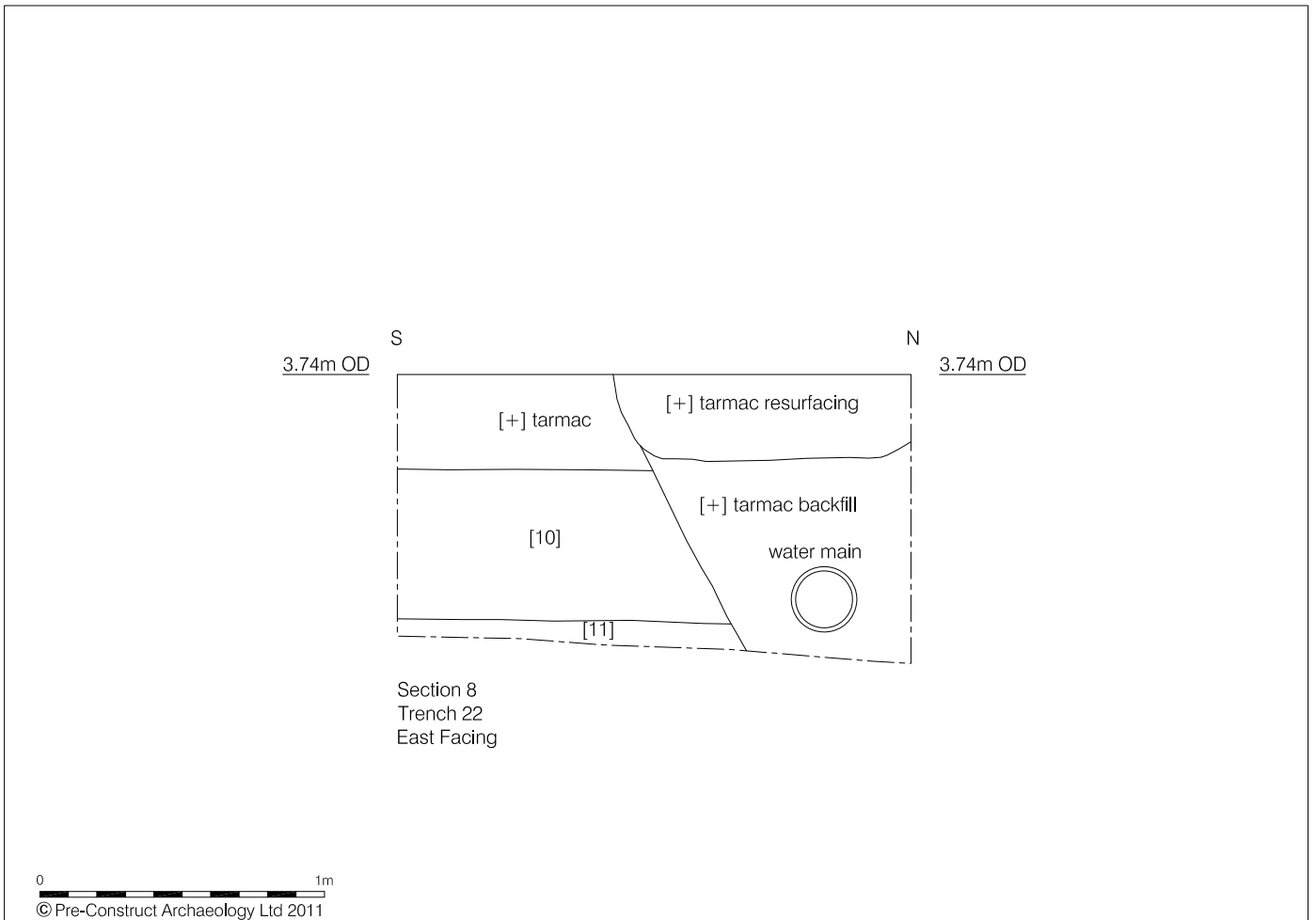
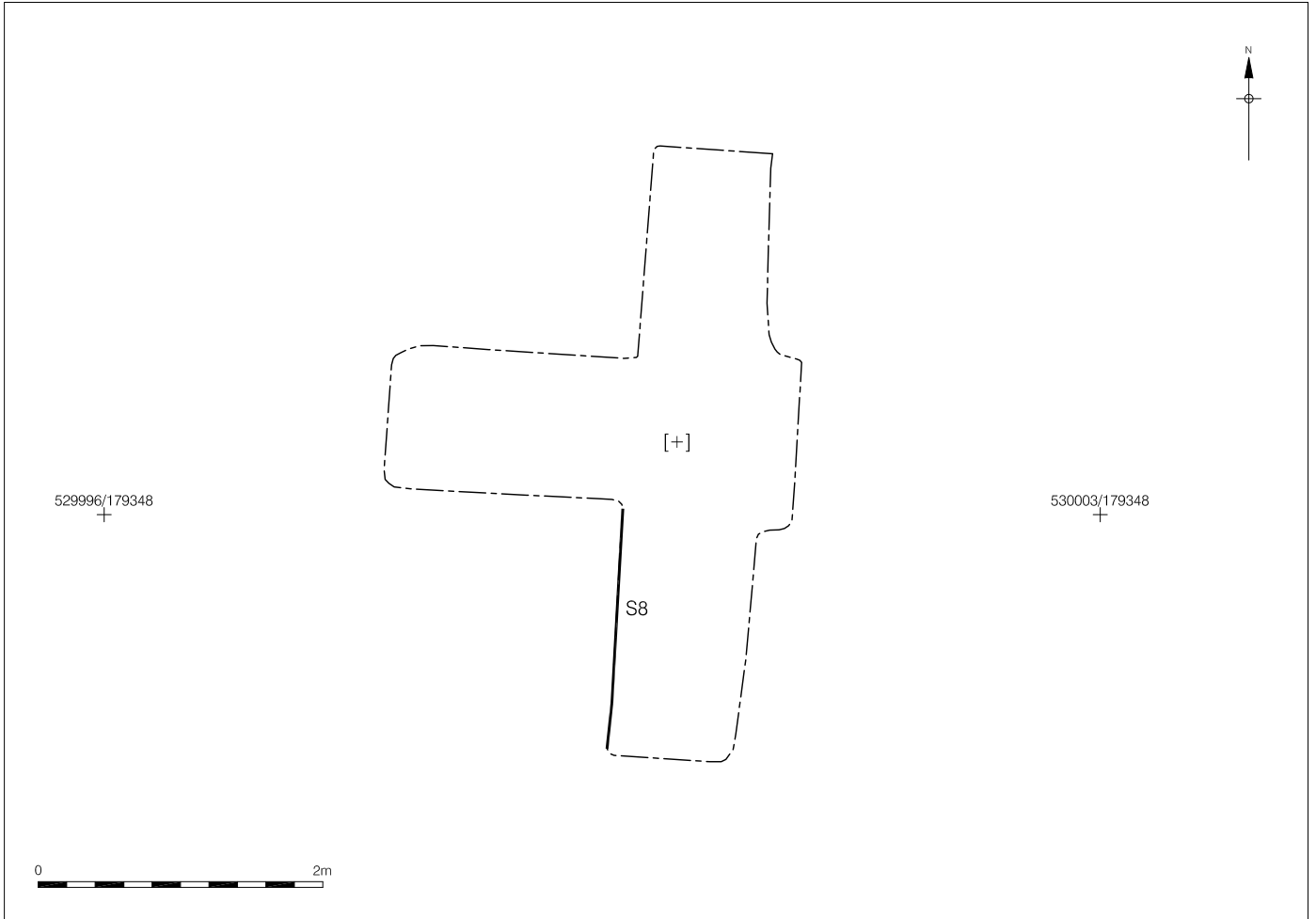


Figure 7
Trench 22; Plan and Section
Plan 1:50; Section 1:25 at A4

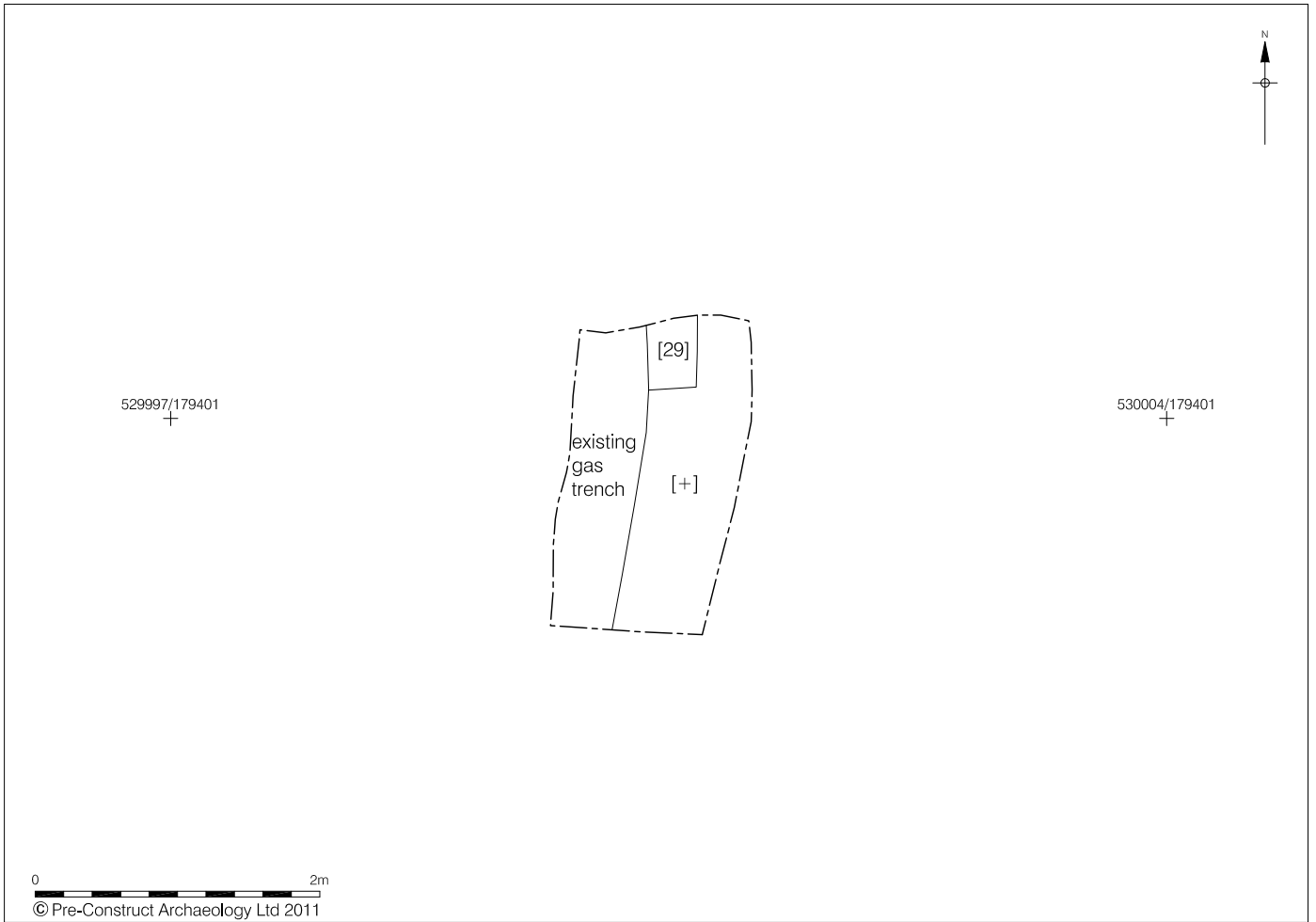


Figure 8
Trench 31
1:50 at A4

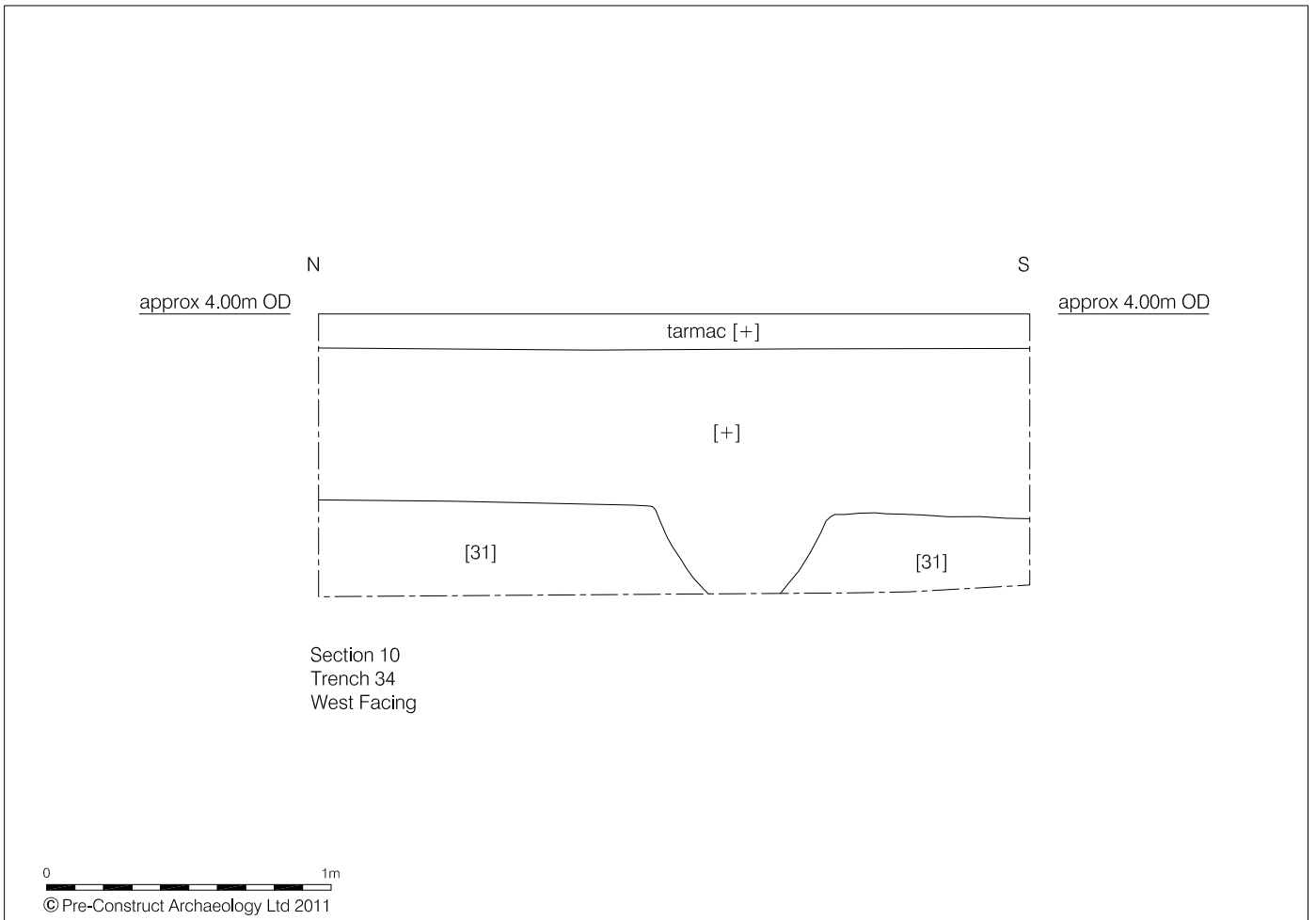
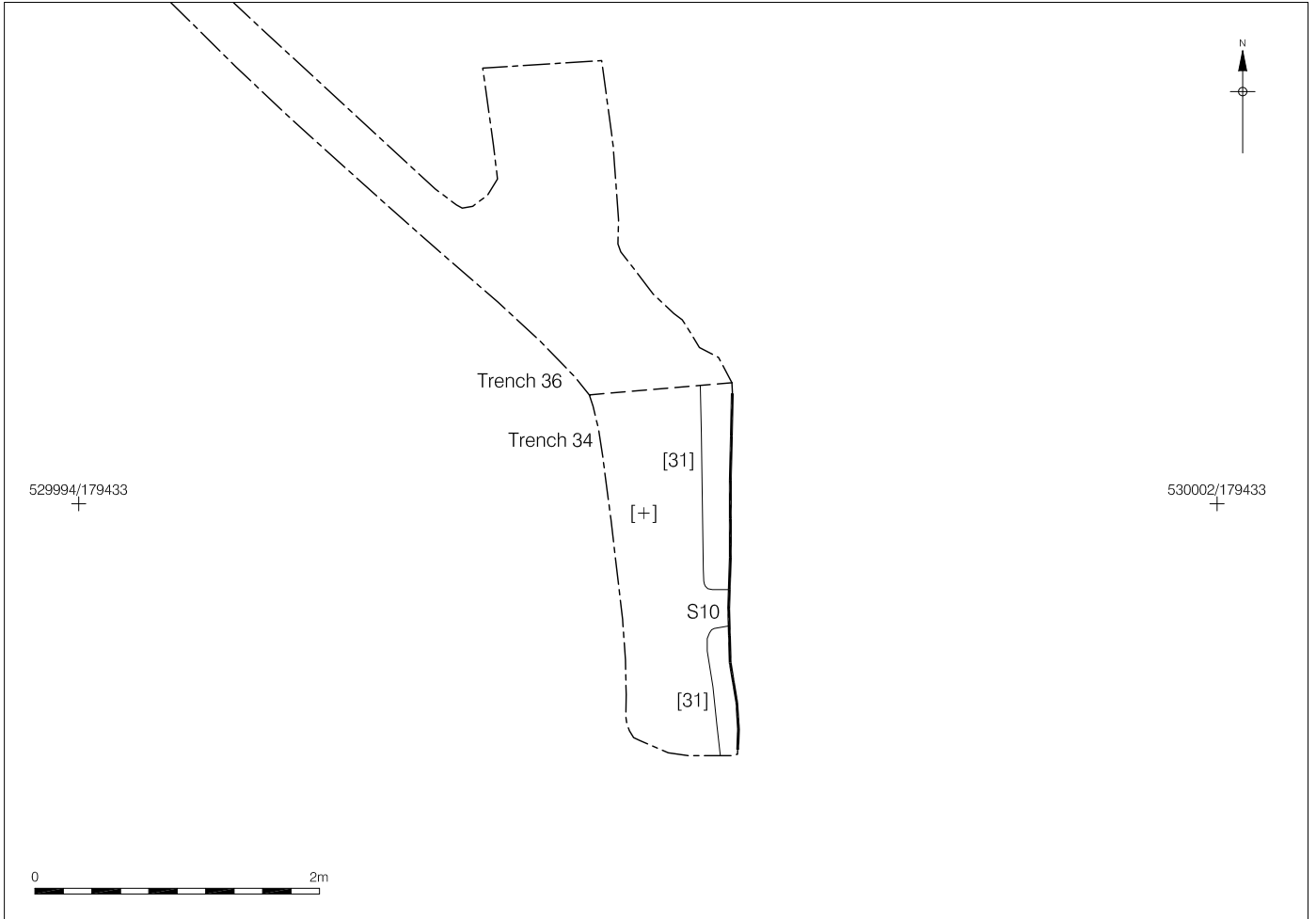


Figure 9
Trench 34; Plan and Section
Plan 1:50; Section 1:25 at A4

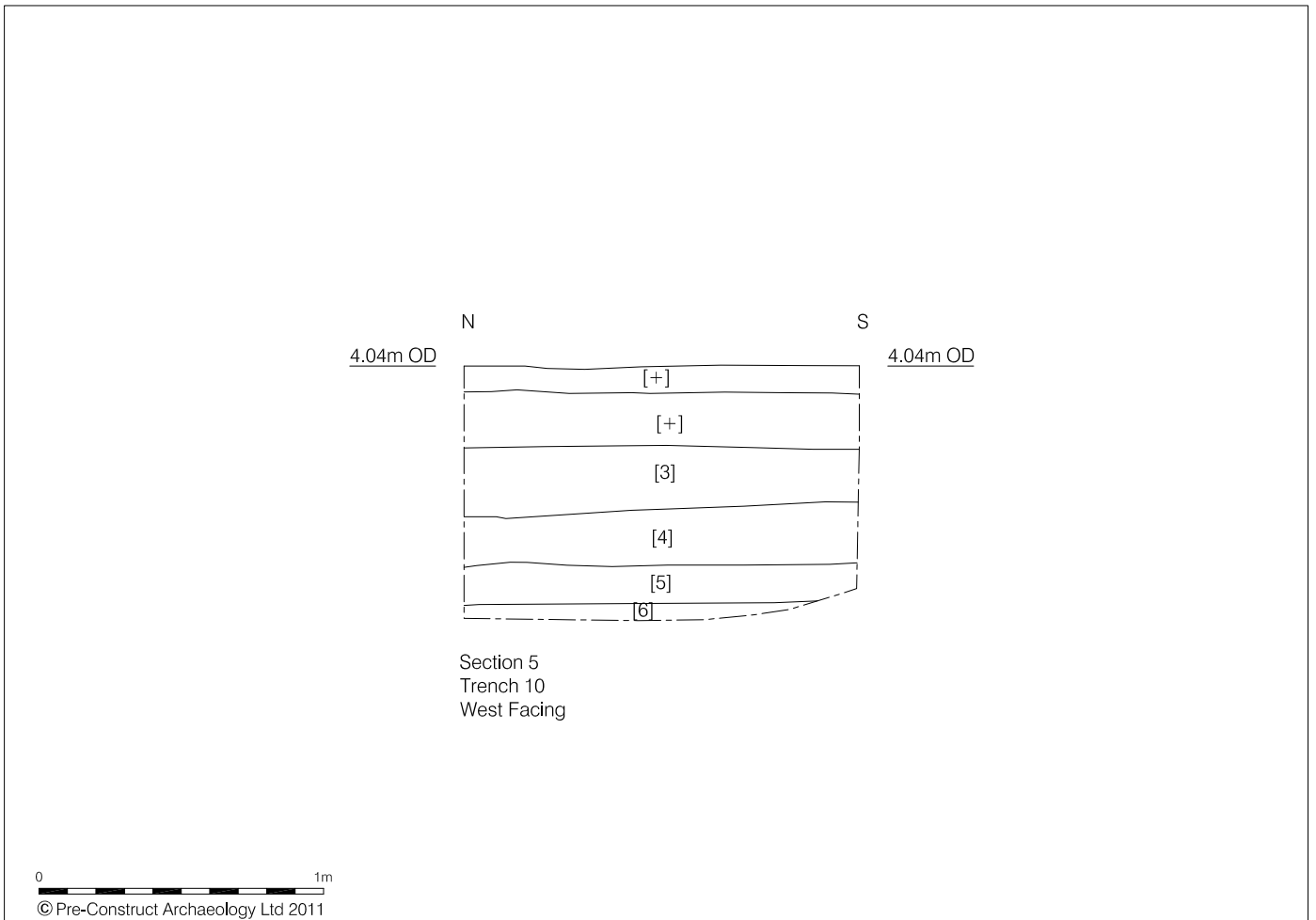
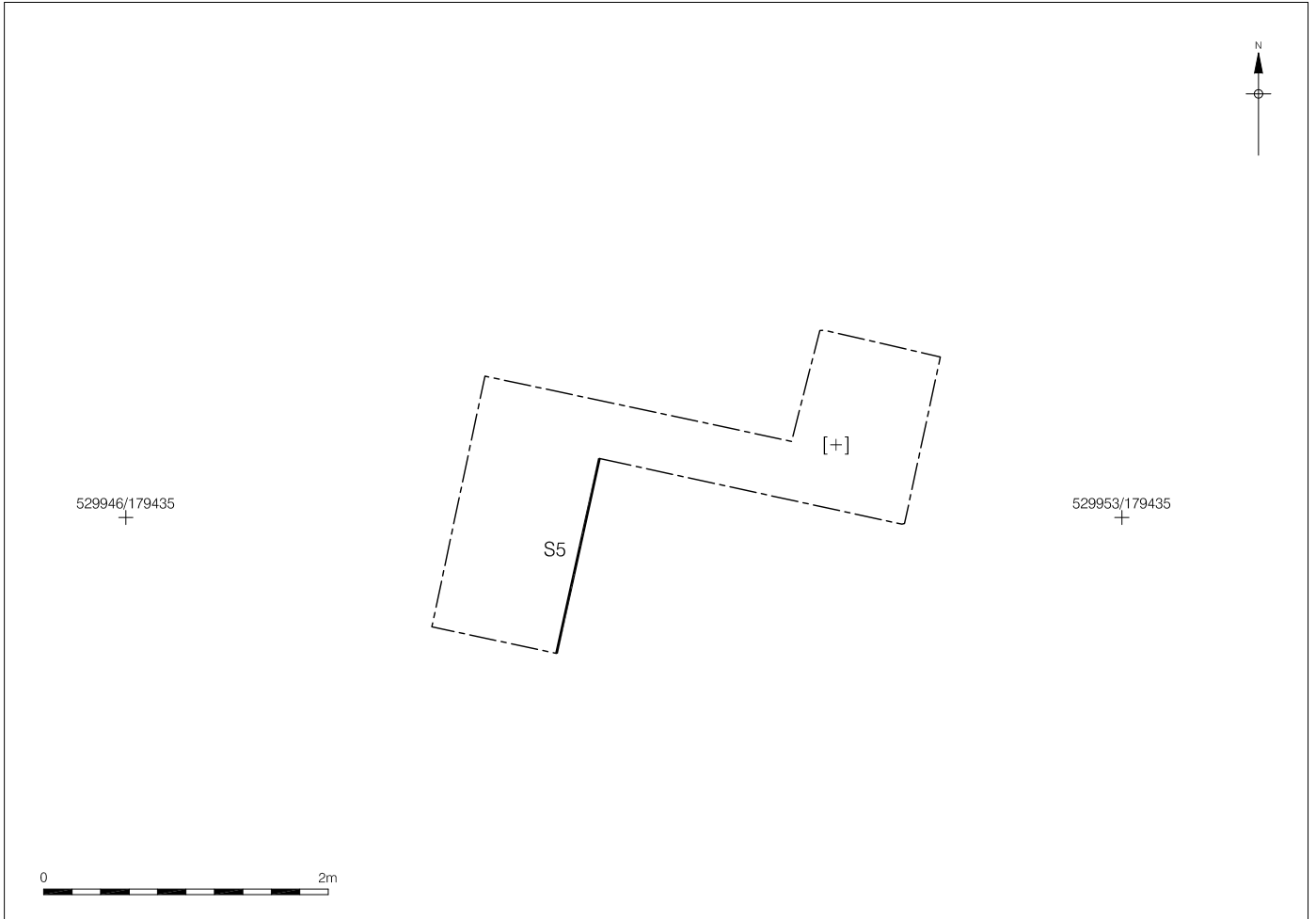


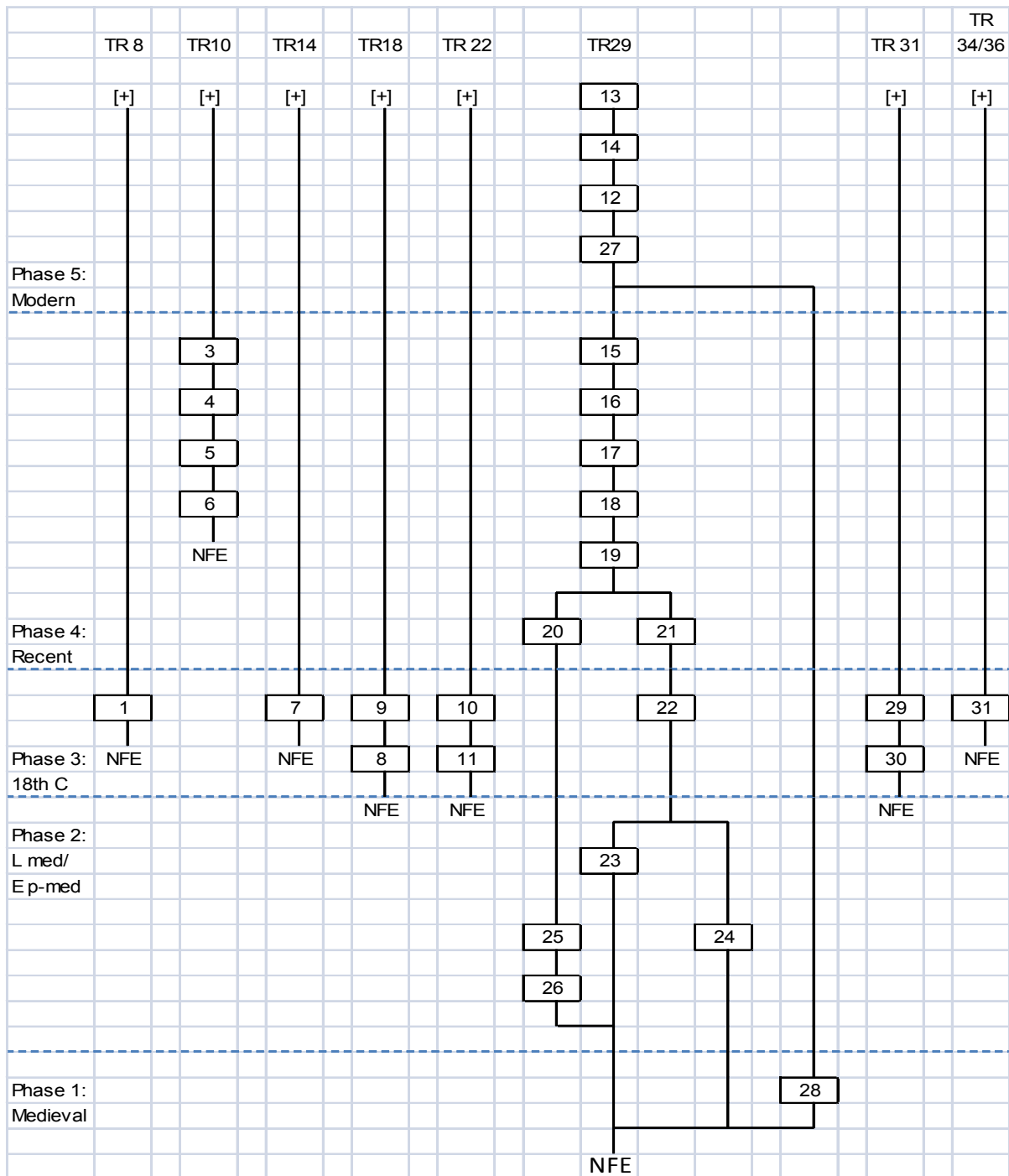
Figure 10
Trench 10; Plan and Section
Plan 1:50; Section 1:25 at A4

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Cxt. No	Type	Area	Plan	Section	Date	Ph	Description
SYQ10	1	Masonry	TR 8	TR8	N/A	C18th	3	N-S aligned brick wall
SYQ10	2	Void						
SYQ10	3	Layer	TR 10	N/A	5	C19th & 20th	4	Road surface
SYQ10	4	Layer	TR 10	N/A	5	C19th & 20th	4	Bedding layer for [3]
SYQ10	5	Layer	TR 10	N/A	5	C19th & 20th	4	Road surface
SYQ10	6	Layer	TR 10	N/A	5	C19th & 20th	4	Bedding layer for [5]
SYQ10	7	Masonry	TR 14	TR 14	6	C18th	3	Brick wall
SYQ10	8	Masonry	TR 18	TR 18	N/A	C18th	3	Brick drain
SYQ10	9	Fill	TR 18	TR 18	N/A	C18th	3	Rubble fill of [8]
SYQ10	10	Layer	TR 22	N/A	8	C18th	3	Redeposited building rubble
SYQ10	11	Layer	TR 22	N/A	8	C18th	3	Firm sandy silt deposit
SYQ10	12	Fill	TR 29	N/A	N/A	Modern	5	Fill of [27]
SYQ10	13	Masonry	TR 29	N/A	9	Modern	5	Modern slab surface
SYQ10	14	Layer	TR 29	N/A	9	Modern	5	Bedding for [13]
SYQ10	15	Fill	TR 29	N/A	9	C19th & 20th	4	Upper fill of [19]
SYQ10	16	Fill	TR 29	TR 29	9	C19th & 20th	4	Levelling deposit within [19]
SYQ10	17	Fill	TR 29	N/A	9	C19th & 20th	4	Lower fill of [19]
SYQ10	18	Masonry	TR 29	N/A	9	C19th & 20th	4	Drain pipe within [19]
SYQ10	19	Cut	TR 29	N/A	9	C19th & 20th	4	Cut for drain
SYQ10	20	Layer	TR 29	N/A	9	C19th & 20th	4	Layer cut by [19]
SYQ10	21	Layer	TR29	N/A	9	C19th & 20th	4	Made ground
SYQ10	22	Masonry	TR 29	TR 29	9	C18th	3	Brick wall fragment
SYQ10	23	Masonry	TR 29	TR 29	9	L med/E p-med	2	Brick and stone wall
SYQ10	24	Masonry	TR 29	TR 29	9	L med/E p-med	2	Stone wall
SYQ10	25	Masonry	TR 29	TR 29	9	L med/E p-med	2	Stone wall
SYQ10	26	Masonry	TR 29	TR 29	9	L med/E p-med	2	Rubble foundation for [25]
SYQ10	27	Cut	TR 29	N/A	N/A	Modern	5	Gas pipe trench
SYQ10	28	Masonry	TR 29	TR29	N/A	Medieval	1	Wall mortar
SYQ10	29	Layer	TR 31	TR 31	N/A	C18th	3	Mixed, compacted deposit
SYQ10	30	Layer	TR 31	N/A	N/A	C18th	3	Redeposited mortar
SYQ10	31	Layer	TR 34, TR 36	TR 34	10	C18th	3	Mixed rubble deposit

APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX

The matrix only illustrates trenches where pre-modern deposits were present.



APPENDIX 3: BUILDING MATERIALS SPOT DATES

By Kevin Hayward, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Context	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date
+ Trench 2	2276 1977	Early post medieval peg tile; unglazed Flemish Floor Tile	2	1480	1900	1480	1900	1600-1700+
+ Trench 36	2273	Very early medieval glazed peg tile	1	1135	1220	1135	1220	1135-1220+
12	3105	Kentish ragstone part worked facing = ashlar or paving	1	50	1660	50	1660	1050-1660+
22	3101	Mortar – white clinker	1	1500	1900	1500	1900	1500-1750
23	3101	Mortar – white clinker	1	1500	1900	1500	1900	1500-1750
24	3101	Mortar – white clinker	1	1500	1900	1500	1900	1500-1750
25	3101	Mortar – white clinker	1	1500	1900	1500	1900	1500-1750
26	3101	Mortar – white clinker	1	1500	1900	1500	1900	1500-1750
28	3101	Mortar –white	1	1400	1800	1400	1800	1400-1600
30	3101	Mortar –white	1	1400	1800	1400	1800	1400-1600
31	2587 2271	Medieval peg tile – some glazed some unglazed coarse moulding sand	1	1180	1800	1180	1800	1240-1450+

APPENDIX 4: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-98145

Project details

Project name	A Watching Brief at The Sanctuary and Dean's Yard, Westminster Abbey
Short description of the project	A watching brief was carried out between December 2010 and March 2011 within The Sanctuary and around the perimeter of Dean's Yard, immediately to the west and south-west of Westminster Abbey. The earliest evidence of activity was recorded in a trench within Little Dean's Yard, to the east of Dean's Yard, and comprised the basal element of a possible medieval wall. A more substantial wall of late medieval/early medieval date was located immediately to the south and had undergone some modification, probably in the early post-medieval period, and again, possibly in the 18th century or later. Elsewhere the earliest deposits probably dated no earlier than the 18th or 19th centuries and included the walls of a building and a brick drain on the western side of Dean's Yard, and building rubble and other deposits on the south and east sides of Dean's Yard. Extensive recent truncation of earlier deposits was recorded in all excavated trenches and was mostly associated with the excavation of earlier gas pipe trenches, though other services including drains, water mains and electricity cabling and ducting were also observed. 1.6 Very few finds were recovered during the watching brief and most were associated with recent activity, though some residual material of medieval and earlier post-medieval date was identified.
Project dates	Start: 10-12-2010 End: 08-03-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SYQ10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	World Heritage Site
Current Land use	Other 11 - Thoroughfare
Monument type	WALL Medieval
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CITY OF WESTMINSTER WESTMINSTER The Sanctuary and Dean's Yard, Westminster Abbey
Postcode	SW1P 3PA
Study area	0.40 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 2997 7941 51.4981695342 -0.127396603016 51 29 53 N 000 07 38 W
Point

Lat/Long Datum Unknown

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator Chris Mayo
Project director/manager Chris Mayo
Project supervisor Peter Boyer
Project supervisor Paw Jorgensen
Project supervisor Guy Seddon
Type of sponsor/funding body Utility Company
Name of sponsor/funding body Morrison Utility Services

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Westminster Abbey Museum
Physical Contents 'Ceramics','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient Westminster Abbey Museum
Digital Contents 'Ceramics','Stratigraphic','Survey'
Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Spreadsheets','Text'
Paper Archive recipient Westminster Abbey Museum
Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Matrices','Miscellaneous Material','Plan','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title The Sanctuary and Dean's Yard, Westminster Abbey, City of Westminster,
SW1P 3PA: An Archaeological Watching Brief During Gas Main
Replacement Work
Author(s)/Editor(s) Boyer, P.
Date 2011
Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
Place of issue or publication London
Description A4 grey literature document

Entered by Chris Mayo (cmayo@pre-construct.com)
Entered on 10 June 2011

PCA

PCA SOUTHERN

UNIT 54

BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE

96 ENDWELL ROAD

BROCKLEY

LONDON SE4 2PD

TEL: 020 7732 3925 / 020 7639 9091

FAX: 020 7639 9588

EMAIL: info@pre-construct.com

PCA NORTHERN

UNIT 19A

TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK

DURHAM DH6 5PG

TEL: 0191 377 1111

FAX: 0191 377 0101

EMAIL: info.north@pre-construct.com

PCA CENTRAL

7 GRANTA TERRACE

STAPLEFORD

CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 5DL

TEL: 01223 845 522

FAX: 01223 845 522

EMAIL: mhinman@pre-construct.com

