

# *Marches Archaeology*

## **The Guildhall Dogpole Shrewsbury**

**Report on an archaeological evaluation**

April 2004

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**This report is produced by**

## ***Marches Archaeology***

**Marches House  
6 High Street  
Clun  
Shropshire  
SY7 8JB**

**Tel:- 01588 640976**

**Fax:- 01588 640796**

**e-mail:- [marches@archaeology.kc3.co.uk](mailto:marches@archaeology.kc3.co.uk)**

**For:-**

**Morris Property  
Welsh Bridge  
Shrewsbury  
Shropshire  
SY3 8LH**

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**The Guildhall  
Dogpole  
Shrewsbury**

**A report on an archaeological evaluation**

**NGR: SJ 4937 1250**

**Report by  
Jane Kenney and Jo Wainwright**

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# **The Guildhall Dogpole Shrewsbury**

## **A report on an archaeological evaluation**

**NGR: SJ 4937 1250**

### *Summary*

*Three evaluation trenches were dug to investigate the car park to the north of the Guildhall and part of the gardens to its east. In the western part of the site these revealed levelling activity pre-dating the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In the eastern part of the site under the soil of the late 17<sup>th</sup> century gardens was 14<sup>th</sup> century industrial activity taking place on top of made-up ground built up during the 13<sup>th</sup> and early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. A small sondage through this made-up ground revealed activity predating it, which may be of Saxon date. This date was supported by the existence of a residual late Saxon sherd in a later layer.*

## **1 Introduction**

A planning application was submitted to the local planning authority for permission to erect housing on the former Guildhall site. The site is centred on NGR: SJ 4937 1250 (Fig. 1).

The site is within the medieval core of Shrewsbury. An ‘Archaeological Desk-based Assessment and Outline Field Evaluation’ had been carried out (Morriss 2004), however, the Local Planning Authority’s Archaeology Advisor advised that further information was required before the archaeological implications of the application could be adequately assessed and recommended that an archaeological field evaluation be carried out to provide this information. This report relates to the area defined in Fig. 1, not to the wider area covered by Morriss’ report.

The Local Planning Authority’s Archaeology Advisor produced a Brief for the archaeological field evaluation and Morris Property (the client) commissioned Marches Archaeology provide the archaeological services described in the Brief. The site work was carried between 12th and 16th April and the report was issued on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2004.

## **2 Aims and objectives**

An archaeological evaluation aims to “gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality) in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context, leading to one or more of the following: the formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource; the formulation of a strategy to mitigate a threat to the archaeological resource; the formulation of a proposal for

further archaeological investigation within a programme of research” (Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations).

The objectives of this evaluation are:

To locate any archaeological features and deposits within the study area.

To assess the survival, quality, condition and relative significance of any archaeological features, deposits and structures within the study area.

To identify and recommend options for the management of the resource, including any further archaeological provision.

### **3 Methodology**

#### *Documentary research*

A desk-based assessment has already been carried out (Morriss 2004), so no further documentary research was required by the Brief at this stage.

#### *Fieldwork*

Three trenches were excavated, which were located as defined in the Brief (see Fig. 2 for trench location). The upper deposits were excavated by mechanical excavator to a level determined to comprise deposits, features or horizons of archaeological significance or when natural subsoil had been reached. In trench 3 the mechanical excavator was used to dig deeper into the subsoil to demonstrate that it was *in situ* and to test its nature. In trench 1 a small area was excavated by hand through significant archaeological layers to test the level of the natural deposits. Archaeological features identified were tested by hand excavations. All artefactual material recovered from hand excavation was retained.

The recording system included written, drawn and photographic data. Context numbers were allocated and context record sheets completed. A running site matrix was maintained. Sections at 1:20 or 1:10 were drawn of the long side of each trench, plans at 1:20 were drawn of each trench and other drawings were made as necessary. A plan showing the location of the trenches was made using an electronic total station theodolite and this was tied in an architect’s plan of the site provided by the client. The photographic record was made using black and white negative and colour transparency film.

#### *Office work*

On completion of fieldwork a site archive was prepared. The written, drawn and photographic data was catalogued and cross-referenced and a summary produced. The artefactual data was processed, catalogued and cross-referenced and summaries produced (appendix II, list of finds). The pottery was sent to Stephanie Rátkai for specialist analysis (appendix III, pottery report). A phased site matrix was produced and is presented as appendix IV. It must be noted that some of the lower relationships in trench 1 are preliminary and that the dating of the earlier layers in trench 2 is unproven.

### **4 Site description**

The area investigated by the present evaluation included a car park to the north of the Guildhall, accessed off St Mary’s Court, and part of the gardens to the east of the Guildhall (Fig. 1). The car park is presently surfaced with tarmac and the gardens covered in short grass. The site lies to the east of Dogpole near the heart of Shrewsbury. Its eastern boundary

is a wall presumed to be part of the town walls and this stands on the top of a steep escarpment running down to the River Severn. The site is at an altitude of between *c.* 71.20m and 72.20m OD.

## 5 Archaeological and historical background

The desk-based assessment (Morriss 2004) gives a detailed history of the site concentrating on the standing buildings. The assessment only briefly refers to below-ground archaeology and no additional research was required in the Brief. This summary of the historical background of the site is based on Morriss' report.

Shrewsbury seems to have developed in the 8<sup>th</sup> century AD as a market town for the surrounding area and mid Wales. A castle was built after the Norman Conquest and in the 13<sup>th</sup> century the town was walled. Shrewsbury was at its height from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, but maintained its importance as the county town down to the present day.

It is suggested that the Saxon settlement was concentrated around the pre-Norman church of St Mary just north of the present site (Fig. 1). Excavations in the area have uncovered late Saxon and Roman pottery (Morriss 2004, 5). The relationship of the town wall to the property boundaries suggests that the latter pre-date the wall and they may be of late Saxon date and could represent the town planning of the late Saxon *burh*. The *burh* would probably have been defended by a palisade topped rampart and ditch. No remains of such a feature have yet been found, but it is possible that any Saxon defences did pass through the present site. The medieval town wall, completed by 1242, probably ran along the line of the present revetment wall defining the eastern side of the site, although most of the present masonry is of a post-medieval date.

The origin of the name Dogpole for the street running to the west of the site is unknown but it is first mentioned in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century. The area was relatively prosperous in the medieval period, containing the town houses of the aristocracy, but the documents also mention industrial activity in the area. A kiln is mentioned in a medieval deed and a carriage works was established in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Guildhall was built in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, when it was called Newport House. There is a reference dating to 1723 stating that the house had 'hanging gardens down to the river', indicating that the gardens extended down the steep escarpment. The first edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 12) shows that the present landscaping of the upper garden in front of the Guildhall was in existence by the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but it is likely that the gardens were originally laid out in the 17<sup>th</sup> century when Newport House was built. The gardens extended under what is now the car park and the western part of the car park was a garden for the houses fronting onto St Mary's Court. The documentary evidence suggests that the escarpment later used for the hanging gardens belonged to Shrewsbury Abbey in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and was planted as a vineyard.

Several archaeological investigations have been carried out in the vicinity, but these were not discussed by Morriss. The results have been synthesised by Nigel Baker in the Shrewsbury Urban Archaeological Assessment. This confirms the possible Saxon origins and refers to the imperfect understanding of terracing and other changes to the natural slope of the area.

## 6 The evaluation

### *Trench 1* (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 1 measured *c.* 15.0m by 1.8m and was located just inside the northern boundary of the Guildhall garden.

At 1.58m below the present ground surface (*c.* 69.63m OD) a fairly clean yellow sand [132] with a few small pebbles was found. This appeared to be natural fluvio-glacial sand, but this was not tested. Over [132] was a thin patch of charcoal [131], indicating human activity immediately above the level of the natural. Above [131] was a patch of light brown sandy loam with occasional small pebbles [130]. These deposits were seen in the base of a hand dug test pit towards the middle of the trench, so their full extents were not established.

Above these basal deposits was up to 0.7m of brown sandy, gravelly loam with large and small river pebbles and occasional lumps of charcoal. The lower part of this deposit was recorded as [129], while the upper part was [108]. These contexts were divided by a lens of yellowish brown sandy loam [133]. [108] produced late 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery, while that from [129] seemed to be mostly 13<sup>th</sup> century. Both also produced animal bones and other rubbish and seem to represent a phase of dumping to deliberately raise the level of this area in the medieval period.

Although only investigated in one small test pit it seems likely that this made-up ground covered most of the area of the trench. On top of this made-up ground deposit were numerous features all forming a single horizontal level and apparently related to each other, representing a single phase of activity. This zone of activity lay at *c.* 1m below the present ground surface (*c.* 70.20m OD). As this project was an evaluation and not an excavation the relationship between many of these deposits was not investigated and further work is necessary to define the full sequence and significance of deposits in this area. In the eastern part of the trench three deposits seemed to underlie the main phase of activity. These were [105], a brown sandy loam, [113], a brown loamy sand, and [121], a hard yellowish brown clay. [105] produced a single blackware sherd dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is probable that this had been introduced by later disturbance but it highlights that the relationships of these deposits have not been thoroughly investigated and that the details of the stratigraphy are only preliminary.

Over these deposits were the remains of a structure with sandstone footings. The foundations of a wall [114] ran nearly north-south across the eastern end of the trench (plate 1). The wall footings were composed of large and small lumps of creamy sandstone bonded with buff mortar with frequent charcoal flecks. Running in a line perpendicular to [114] were two horizontally laid slabs of red sandstone [134], presumably pads to support internal posts (plate 2). A firm pinky brown clay [104] was visible on the western side of wall [114] but seemed to pre-date it. A mid pinky brown sandy loam [103] on the eastern side of the wall was also earlier.

In the western end of the trench was a linear structure [110] made of fired red clay lumps with small stones along the western edge. This was not parallel to [114], but may be related to it. The area between them had linear patches of firm, reddish brown sandy clay [107], and a small sub-circular patch of friable reddish brown sand [123]. To the east of [110] was a brownish grey loamy clay [122] with frequent small pebbles and occasional slag and nails. The burnt red clay and presence of charcoal in these features and deposits suggest they are



the result of some activity involving heat, possibly a domestic hearth, but the slag from [122] suggests iron smelting.

Two deposits associated with this phase ([104] and [107]) contained pottery, the former dating to the mid 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century, the latter to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, but as the activity overlies [108], which is dated to the late 13<sup>th</sup> or early 14<sup>th</sup> century, it is unlikely that this phase of activity dates to before the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Over the remains of the footings [114] were dumped deposits containing lumps of reddish fired clay ([126], [127]), probably from the demolition of the structure or a kiln or furnace related to it.

Cut into the southern side of these deposits was a long, shallow linear cut with a rounded south-eastern end [128], filled with sandstone and mortar in a brown gritty loam matrix [106]. The fill [106] contained sherds dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Over the 14<sup>th</sup> century activity was 0.9m of garden soil, all but the uppermost layer [101] dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. This represented the creation of the gardens of Newport House, and probably involved the importation of topsoil. Four layers could be defined within this general build-up of soil. The lowest [102] was dark brown sandy loam, 0.34m thick, and containing a sherd of 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery. [102] was covered by 0.5m of mid brown loamy clay [120]. The eastern edge of [120] sloped away and was overlaid by [117], a dark brown loam. [117] contained sherds dating to the late 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> century. The uppermost layer over most of the trench was up to 0.4m of dark grey loamy sand [101]. This produced pottery dating to 19<sup>th</sup> century.

There were some features within this garden soil. A pit [119] cut [120] and was sealed by [101], and therefore is presumably 18<sup>th</sup> century or later in date. A shallow pit [116] cut [117] and was also sealed by [101], so it is presumably of a similar date. A posthole [112] was seen in plan but it was not clear what level it had been cut from. However, the fill [111] contained pottery showing that it dated from the later 18<sup>th</sup> century. Cutting [101] was a shallow pit [125] with a thick lens of charcoal in the base of its fill. This appeared to be a recent fire pit.

#### *Trench 2 (Figs 5 to 7)*

Trench 2 measured 5.0m by 2.2m and was located in the western half of the car park, close to the southern boundary wall.

Running roughly east-west across trench 2 was a line of red sandstone slabs, which proved on investigation to be a revetment [208] surviving to a height of *c.* 0.5m with a rough southern face (plates 3 and 4). The highest surviving point of the revetment was *c.* 0.6m below the present ground surface (*c.* 71.69m OD). On the northern side the slabs were interleaved with a deposit composed almost entirely of rounded river pebbles with occasional pieces of red sandstone [206]. There was a matrix of red-brown sand towards the top of [206] but lower down there was no matrix, only voids between the stones. [208] seemed to have been built on a similar dump of river pebbles with no matrix at all between the stones [209].

The whole structure would have been quite unstable and it seems probable that the deposit of red sandstone slabs and river pebbles [207] on the southern side of the revetment was dumped there soon after the revetment had been completed. After completion a thin layer of dark grey sandy loam [205] developed over the top of the pebbles [206].

The top of [207] sloped down toward the south at an angle of *c.* 30 degrees and this dip had been filled in by a dump of silt [203] composed of orange-brown silt containing 10% rounded

river pebbles and frequent snail shells. At the interface between [207] and [203] was layer of slightly greenish orange-brown silty sand with up to 80% river pebbles [204], probably the result of sorting in [203] causing the coarser particles to descend and mixing with [207].

Cut into the top of [203] along the southern side of the trench was a linear feature with steep sides [211] filled by a mixed deposit with various lenses of sand and silts [210]. This fill produced two sherds dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century. These sherds represented the only diagnostic finds from this trench. The northern side of [211] in plan was curved rather than straight but the feature was severely confused by animal burrowing. Two features apparently cutting through or related to [211] were investigated but were disregarded as probable animal burrows ([213], [215]).

In the top of fill [210] was set the remains of a wall footing [217] built of red sandstone bonded with friable pinkish mortar. This did not extend significantly into the trench and was only seen in the north facing section. Built up around this and over most of the trench was a general soil layer [202] composed of dark grey-brown sandy loam with 30% small stones, flecks of mortar and pieces of brick. At the eastern end of the trench this merged into or was overlain by a dump of brown sandy loam with *c.*70% pieces of brick, sandstone and river pebbles [216]. The whole trench was covered by 0.35m of scalplings and tarmac forming the current car park surface [201].

### *Trench 3 (Figs 8 to 11)*

Trench 3 measured *c.* 5m by 2m and was positioned in the western part of the car park towards its northern boundary.

The natural fluvio-glacial sand and gravel [312] was found in trench 3 only 0.34m below the car park surface (*c.* 71.92m OD). Unlike in trench 1 the natural here was a coarse orange-brown sand with *c.*30% gravel and *c.*20% river pebbles, but no silt. The trench was excavated up to 0.8m into the natural so it was thoroughly inspected and there was no question of it being redeposited. Over the natural was a 0.2m thick layer of dark brown sandy loam with frequent charcoal and occasional pebbles [313]. This was interpreted as a post-medieval garden soil. Between [313] and [312] in a small area in the north-western corner of the trench was a mid brown sandy loam with occasional charcoal, mortar and pebbles [314], presumably a survival of a relict soil horizon.

Running south-west to north-east across the trench was a large linear cut with near vertical sides [311]. This was excavated to a depth of 1.5m deep but its base was still not reached. This feature appeared to be a modern structure, possibly a drainage channel, as it was lined towards its base by concrete [310]. Above this was a fill of dirty redeposited natural sand [309] and three more fills of brown sandy loam and silty clay ([308], [307], [306]) containing charcoal brick fragments and other building rubble. [306] also produced later 17<sup>th</sup> century pottery but it is assumed that this is residual.

Two other features were identified cut into the natural, but both appeared to be of 19<sup>th</sup> century date. [303] was a sub-circular pit filled with dark brown/black sandy loam with frequent charcoal and brick fragments [302]. [305] was a posthole, sub-circular in plan and tapering to blunt point. It was filled by dark brown/black sandy loam with frequent charcoal and brick fragments [304].

The trench was covered by up to 0.5m of tarmac and scalplings, which formed the current car park surface [301].

### *The finds*

Too little diagnostic material was recovered from trenches 2 and 3 to say much about the finds from these trenches. A considerable quantity of pottery was recovered from trench 1. Much of this was small and abraded and its condition is consistent with it being incorporated into backfilling and levelling operations. One sherd of late Saxon Stafford ware pottery was recovered from layer [103]. It was residual in this context but this does suggest that there was Saxon activity in the immediate area. The other sherd found in this layer was 12<sup>th</sup> century and also residual as this layer overlay layers containing 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century pottery. The medieval made-up ground deposit [108]/[129] may have built up fairly gradually as there is some chronological change in the pottery found throughout it. The lower part of the deposit [129] produced 13<sup>th</sup> century sherds, whereas the upper part [108] contained late 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery. The structural remains and industrial activity on top of [108] are probably of a 14<sup>th</sup> century date. A possibly 13<sup>th</sup> century sherd was found in [107], a dump of fired clay and a mid-13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century sherd was found in layer [104] directly underlying the wall footings [114].

The garden soil, below the uppermost layer [101], produced 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery indicating the date of the creation and development of the gardens. Rátkai (see below) notes the absence of any 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century pottery, and this may be of significance. It could suggest that the area was not used in this period but it is more likely to be the result of landscaping for the gardens removing deposits of this period.

## **7 Discussion**

### *Trench 1*

The natural topography appears to slope quite steeply down from west to east with the virgin ground only appearing in trench 1 at *c.* 69.63m OD, nearly 1.8m below the present surface. The evaluation produced evidence of human activity directly on top of the natural subsoil in the form of a charcoal rich deposit [131]. No dating evidence was recovered from this level but it is possible that it represents Saxon activity. Over this was up to 0.7m of medieval made-up ground ([108] and [129]) apparently deposited in the 13<sup>th</sup> and early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries to raise the level of this area. The made-up ground created a level platform on which was built a structure with sandstone footings [114] and postpads [134] to support internal timber posts. To the west a slighter wall footing [110] seemed to define the other side of this structure, which appears to have been used for some industrial process, possibly involving iron smelting, as indicated by the deposits found within it.

After the demolition of this structure the area was laid out as a garden, probably involving the importation of quantities of topsoil to landscape the area. The presence of 17<sup>th</sup> century pottery within these deposits indicates that the garden was created when Newport House was built in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. Occasional pits were dug during this period of garden soil build-up, probably for the planting of shrubs or similar purposes, but no garden structures were found. The 1882 Ordnance Survey map shows that trench 1 was located within a lawn area, avoiding paths and flowerbeds, so no features would be expected in this trench (Fig. 12), but they could survive elsewhere. As there are several phases of built-up garden soil earlier garden features may have been buried rather than entirely removed.

### *Trench 2*

The activity in trench 2 represents a considerable effort to raise the level of this area by dumping river pebbles and river silt. To help consolidate these loose deposits a rough

sandstone revetment was built within the dumped material. This is unlikely to have been free standing but would hold the river pebbles in place long enough for more material to be dumped to fully consolidate the area. The aim appears to be to build up the land to a level similar to that it is at today. Unfortunately no dating was obtained for this event as there were very few finds amongst the dumped material. However, it pre-dates feature [211], which contained 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery, so it may be 17<sup>th</sup> century or it may be considerably earlier.

It was thought that cut [211] might be the foundation trench for the brick wall along the southern edge of the car park, but close study of the available maps suggests that this is unlikely. John Wood's 1838 map shows a boundary close to the existing wall but it bends to join the end of the block of house facing on to St. Mary's Court. The inaccuracies of the map prevented its overlay on the 1882 1:500 map but the probable line of this wall has been indicated on Fig. 12. This strongly suggests that the brick wall along the southern side of the car park was rebuilt between 1838 and 1882 and that the western end of its line was altered. Feature [217] may be the remains of the wall on the 1838 map, and [202] is presumably garden soil related to the levelling of the gardens as seen in 1882. This makes [211] too early to be related to the present wall.

### *Trench 3*

Surprisingly little was found in trench 3. Features [303] and [305] appeared to be 19<sup>th</sup> century and the large cut [311] was probably later. The natural sands and gravels are at a very high level here being only 0.34m below the ground surface at *c.* 71.92m OD, compared to *c.* 69.63m OD in trench 1.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the western part of the present car park was a garden behind the properties fronting on to St Mary's Court (Fig. 12), so [313] and [314] probably represent this garden soil, which may have developed at least since the medieval period.

### *Underlying natural topography*

The borehole logs compiled by Geotechnical Investigation Services provide some additional information on the level of the natural sands and gravels under the site. Both trench 3 and borehole BH1 adjacent to it (Fig. 2) show that the natural deposits lie at *c.* 71.90m OD in the north-western corner of the site. Borehole BH2 revealed the natural at 70.10m OD at the eastern edge of the site, so there is a fairly steep slope down from west to east in the natural topography. There is also a steep slope down from north to south. The level of the natural was not found in trench 2 but it is below 70.95m OD despite it being only 7m away from trench 3. The natural seen in trench 1 at 69.63m OD was 0.47m lower than in borehole BH2. A borehole towards the southern edge of the lower part of the garden terrace (borehole DCS4) showed natural to be at 69.10m OD, so the slope appears to level off as it goes south.

The current ground surface also slopes down to the east but it is much more level than the underlying natural topography. This indicates a much greater depth of archaeological deposits along the southern and eastern sides of the investigated area than in the north-west corner.

The natural in trench 1 [132] is more typical of natural deposits seen elsewhere in Shrewsbury than the coarse sands [312] in trench 3 (pers. comm. M Watson). The boreholes indicate a whole sequence of glacial sands and gravels of differing colour and particle size, so horizontal differences in the natural are mostly due to differing depositional and erosional affects across the site pre-dating any human activity there. However, some of the sharper

changes in slope in the surface of the sands and gravels could indicate human terracing events at various stages in the town's history.

## **8 Conclusions**

The archaeology found in the eastern part of the site is of considerable significance. It apparently represents industrial activity in the back-lot behind the street front properties and has considerable potential for contributing to the understanding of the economic and social history of Shrewsbury in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The evaluation could only demonstrate the existence of these deposits and structures and further work would be necessary to investigate what activities had been carried out here. Below this zone of industrial activity is a thick deposit of made-up ground, built up during the 13<sup>th</sup> and possibly early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. Below this there are hints of earlier activity. If this proved to be Saxon in date it would be of major importance. *In situ* deposits and features of Saxon date would contribute considerably to the understanding of this poorly explored period of Shrewsbury's history.

In the upper layers covering this part of the site there is potential for the survival of late 17<sup>th</sup> garden features related to Newport House. Although no such features were found in the evaluation trench they could survive elsewhere.

The archaeology discovered in the western part of the site has proved to be of less importance. Nothing of significance was seen in trench 3, although it is impossible to predict what may lie just beyond the limits of the trench. In trench 2 the well ordered efforts to raise the level of the ground are of interest and probably extend for some distance to the west and east of the trench, but no evidence of structures or activities on top of the new level seems to have survived. Further work might provide a date for this activity and it is possible that medieval remains related to buildings on Dogpole could survive below this landfill.

## **9 Recommendations**

Archaeological deposits are present in part of the western end of the site and would require further recording if impacted on by the development. An archaeological watching brief involving an archaeologist being present during all ground works in this area should allow for adequate recording. For such a watching brief a contingency would be required for more extensive and detailed investigation and recording if any deposits and features of greater importance than those identified in the evaluation are found.

In the eastern part of the site the archaeology is of sufficient importance that there should be a preference for its preservation *in situ* if possible. If this is not possible any ground disturbance below 900mm would require formal archaeological excavation. The preferred option is for the foundations of the proposed buildings to be designed to minimise the impact on the archaeological deposits. The most likely way of achieving this would be to use piling and slab foundations. The piles should be kept as small and few as possible, and these should be the only aspects of the design that penetrate the medieval deposits. Digging below 900mm to remove potential obstacles to the piling should not be carried out unless the area is first archaeologically excavated. The rest of the foundations should be kept within the depth of the post-medieval garden soil, i.e. no more than 900mm below the present ground surface. This work would require an archaeological watching brief during groundworks as the medieval activity may not be perfectly level and could be present above 900mm below ground level in

places. Also it is possible that garden features may survive within the garden soil deposits and it is recommended that these be recorded if found. Archaeological excavation would not be necessary unless medieval or earlier deposits are to be disturbed.

If a foundation design is used which requires disturbance of medieval and earlier remains this would cause considerable and extensive destruction of important archaeological deposits and full archaeological excavation of the affected area down to the natural subsoil would be appropriate. This would result in archaeological excavation to a depth of at least 1.8m over the area of the proposed buildings.

All service trenches and other groundworks should be kept within the garden soil, where possible. If they have to be deeper and would impact on the medieval deposits these would have to be excavated archaeologically to the depth of the service trenches.

Prior to the commencement of any further below ground archaeological work it is strongly recommended that an additional desk-based assessment be carried out focussing on previous interventions in the area and the results of the Urban Archaeological Assessment in order to supplement Morriss' report and to formulate a clear research agenda.

Any further below ground archaeological works should aim to contribute to an understanding of the nature of the land use from the earliest human activity and should consider the development of the town and any enclosing or defensive elements as core objectives.

## **10 References**

Morriss, RK, 2004, An archaeological desk-top assessment and outline field evaluation.  
*Mercian Heritage Series 205*

## **11 Archive**

The site code is GDS04a. The archive consists of:

- 59 context sheets
- 5 trench sheets
- 1 drawing index sheet
- 12 field drawings on 4 sheets
- 2 sheets of levels
- 1 sheet site diary
- 19 finds sheets
- 1 sample index
- 4 photo record sheets
- 2 films of black and white photographic negatives
- 2 films of colour photographic transparencies
- 1 box of finds

The archive is currently held by Marches Archaeology awaiting transfer to Rowley House Museum, Shrewsbury: accession number SHYMS A/2004/020.

## Appendix I

### List of contexts

<b>Context</b>	<b>Trench</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
101	T1	Dark grey loamy sand, friable.	Garden soil
102	T1	Dark brown sandy loam, friable.	18 <sup>th</sup> century garden soil
103	T1	Mid pinky brown sandy loam.	Layer
104	T1	Firm pinky brown clay with occasional patches of red clay.	Clay floor/surface or fill of construction trench
105	T1	Brown sandy loam.	Layer
106	T1	Sandstone and mortar with brown gritty loam matrix	Fill of 128
107	T1	Firm reddish brown sandy clay.	Part of hearth or burnt area
108	T1	Brown sandy, gravely loam with large and small river pebbles and occasional lumps of charcoal.	General made-up ground layer
109	T1	Deleted	Deleted
110	T1	Linear structure made of fired red clay lumps with small stones along the western edge. Contains quite large pieces of charcoal.	Part of a hearth?
111	T1	Friable very dark brown sandy loam with frequent charcoal.	Fill of 112
112	T1	Sub-circular cut.	19 <sup>th</sup> century posthole
113	T1	Friable brown loamy sand.	Medieval soil horizon
114	T1	Wall composed of large and small lumps of creamy sandstone bonded with buff mortar with frequent charcoal flecks.	Footings of wall
115	T1	Friable dark brown loamy clay.	Fill of 116
116	T1	Bowl shaped pit.	18 <sup>th</sup> century or later garden feature
117	T1	Friable dark brown loam.	Post-medieval garden soil
118	T1	Dark grey loamy clay.	Fill of 119
119	T1	Steep sided, round based cut.	18 <sup>th</sup> century garden feature
120	T1	Friable mid brown loamy clay.	Post-medieval garden soil
121	T1	Hard yellowish brown clay with occasional large pebbles.	Early clay deposit
122	T1	Firm brownish grey loamy clay with frequent small pebbles, occasional slag and nails.	Possible surface of occupation deposit in hearth area.
123	T1	Friable reddish brown sand.	Small patch of sand in area of burning, may be related to industrial or domestic processes.
124	T1	Thick lens of charcoal in base of fill.	Fill of 125
125	T1	Irregularly shaped cut with fairly gently sloping sides.	Possible fire pit, recent
126	T1	Gritty reddish brown loam with occasional lumps of reddish fired clay.	Dump of soil above wall footing 114.
127	T1	Mid brown loamy clay with frequent lumps of red fired clay.	Dump of burnt clay
128	T1	Shallow linear cut with rounded SE end. Concave sides and rounded base.	Cut filled by 106
129	T1	Brown sandy, gravely loam with large and small river pebbles and occasional lumps of charcoal.	Lower spit of 108
130	T1	Friable light brown sandy loam with occasional small pebbles.	Lens of material below medieval made-up ground

<b>Context</b>	<b>Trench</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
131	T1	Soft black lens of degraded charcoal with occasional large lumps of charcoal.	Patch of material below medieval made-up ground
132	T1	Fairly clean yellow sand with a few small pebbles.	Fluvio-glacial sand?
133	T1	Yellowish brown sandy loam.	Lens of redeposited sand
134	T1	2 slabs of red sandstone laid horizontally to form a line perpendicular to the wall 114.	Post pads
201	T2	Tarmac and scalpings	Car park surface
202	T2	Dark grey-brown sandy loam with 30% small stones, flecks of mortar and pieces of brick.	General soil layer
203	T2	Orange brown silt containing 10% rounded river pebbles and frequent snail shells.	Dump of river silt
204	T2	Slightly greenish orange-brown silty sand with up to 80% river pebbles.	Deposit of sand and stones
205	T2	Dark grey sandy loam with c.30% river pebbles.	Soil built up over 206
206	T2	Deposit composed almost entirely of rounded river pebbles with occasional pieces of red sandstone. Matrix of red-brown sand towards the top of the deposit but lower down no matrix only voids between the stones.	Dump of river pebbles
207	T2	Deposit of red sandstone slabs and river pebbles with a sandy matrix composed of rotted sandstone.	Dump of stone
208	T2	Revetment composed of red sandstone slabs with rough southern face and interleaved with pebbles 206 on N side.	Revetment for built-up ground
209	T2	River pebbles and red sandstone slabs with no matrix.	Dump of river pebbles
210	T2	Dark brown sandy loam with c.20% stones, both river pebbles and sandstone. Also some charcoal. Contains various lenses of sand and silts. A mixed deposit further confused by a large animal burrow cutting through it.	Fill of 211
211	T2	Linear cut running along S edge of trench. Steep sides. Confused by animal burrows.	Possible foundation trench for brick wall to the south of the trench
212	T2	Brown sandy loam with occasional stones and fairly large quantities of charcoal	Fill of 213
213	T2	Linear cut with rounded N terminal. Steep, concave sides and rounded base.	Probable animal burrow
214	T2	Brown sandy loam with occasional stones and patches of red-brown clay.	Fill of 215
215	T2	Shallow, sub-circular cut with gradually sloping sides and rounded base.	Possible animal burrow
216	T2	Brown sandy loam with c.70% pieces of brick, sandstone and river pebbles. Also pieces of mortar and patches of orange sand.	Dump of rubble
217	T2	Remains of a wall built of red sandstone bonded with friable pinkish mortar.	Wall footing
218	T2	Poorly defined cut.	Foundation trench for 217
301	T3	Tarmac and scalpings	Car park surface
302	T3	Dark brown/black sandy loam with frequent charcoal and brick fragments.	Fill of 303
303	T3	Sub-circular cut, not excavated.	19 <sup>th</sup> century posthole
304	T3	Dark brown/black sandy loam with frequent charcoal and brick fragments. Darker and softer than 302.	Fill of 305
305	T3	Sub-circular cut tapering to blunt point.	Posthole
306	T3	Mixed dark grey brown silty clay with some sand. Many lenses of cleaner sand, gravel and pink clay. Frequent charcoal, brick, tile and stone.	Fill of 311



<b>Context</b>	<b>Trench</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
307	T3	Mid brown sandy loam with frequent pebbles, charcoal and occasional brick.	Fill of 311
308	T3	Mid brown sandy loam with frequent pebbles, charcoal and occasional brick. Slightly lighter than 307.	Fill of 311
309	T3	Gravelly sand similar to the natural but dirtier with charcoal and brick fragments.	Fill of 311
310	T3	Concrete lining of cut 311	Fill of 311
311	T3	Linear cut with near vertical sides, base not seen. Over 1.5m deep.	Drainage channel?
312	T3	Coarse orange-brown sand with c.30% gravel and c.20% river pebbles, but no silt.	Natural fluvio-glacial sand and gravel
313	T3	Dark brown sandy loam with frequent charcoal and occasional pebbles.	Post-medieval garden soil
314	T3	Mid brown sandy loam with occasional charcoal, mortar and pebbles.	Old soil horizon between 313 and natural

## Appendix II

### List of finds

Context 101	5 sherds of pot	19 <sup>th</sup> century
	2 animal bones	post-medieval
Context 102	1 sherd of pot	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century
	1 clay pipe stem	post-medieval
	1 sherd vessel glass	post-medieval
	2 animal bones	post-medieval
Context 103	1 sherd of pot	medieval
	1 sherd of pot	Saxon
Context 104	1 sherd of pot	13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century
Context 105	1 sherd of pot	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century
Context 106	3 sherds of pot	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century
Context 107	1 sherd of pot	13 <sup>th</sup> century?
	3 nails	medieval?
Context 108	14 sherds of pot	13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century
	2 pieces burnt clay	medieval
	2 iron objects	medieval
	31 animal bones	medieval
Context 111	2 sherds of pot	late 18 <sup>th</sup> century
Context 113	1 sherd of pot	13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century
Context 117	4 sherds of pot	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century
Context 129	5 sherds of pot	13 <sup>th</sup> century?
	28 animal bones	medieval
Context 203	1 piece of brick	early post-medieval?
	4 snail shells	early post-medieval?
Context 207	1 tile fragment	early post-medieval?

Context 210	1 animal bone 2 sherds of pot 1 piece of brick 5 animal bones	early post-medieval? 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century post-medieval post-medieval
Context 214	1 animal bone	post-medieval?
Context 302	1 sherd of pot	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century
Context 306	14 sherds of pot 1 piece of brick 2 clay pipe stems	17 <sup>th</sup> century post-medieval post-medieval
Context 309	1 sherd vessel glass 4 pieces of brick	post-medieval post-medieval?

### Appendix III

#### Catalogue and spot-dating of the pottery by Stephanie Rátkai

	<i>Sherd Count</i>	<i>Sherd Weight</i>
<b><u>Context 101 19<sup>th</sup> c</u></b>		
Brown salt-glazed stoneware	1	15g
Light-on-dark trailed slipware bowl sherd	1	15g
Mottled ware	2	66g
Pearlware jar rim-body sherd	1	11g
<b><u>Context 102 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> c</u></b>		
Tin-glazed earthenware bowl sherd. Heavy external abrasion with no glazed surface remaining.	1	8g
<b><u>Context 103 12<sup>th</sup> c</u></b>		
Worcester-type glazed ware rim-body sherd	1	38g
Stafford-type ware body sherd	1	5g
<b><u>Context 104 mid 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> c</u></b>		
Fabric Cb2 ?bowl sherd, internal olive glaze external soot	1	3g
<b><u>Context 105 mid 17<sup>th</sup>- mid 18<sup>th</sup> c</u></b>		
Blackware mug rim sherd.	1	4g
<b><u>Context 106 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> c</u></b>		
Blackware bowl sherd	1	7g
Fabric Bb2 body sherd	1	7g
Fabric Cb10 cooking pot rim sherd	1	9g
<b><u>Context 107 ?13<sup>th</sup> c</u></b>		
Fab Ca7 bowl sherd, internal yellowish olive glaze	1	13g

**Context 108 late 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> c**

Worcester-type cooking pot rim sherd	1	47g
Fabric Ab3 jug base-body sherd external yellowish-olive glaze	1	34g
Fabric Bb2 jug body sherd, rilled neck, trace of external olive glaze	1	8g
Fabric Bb3 jug body sherd, external decayed whitish, opaque glaze	1	6g
Fabric Bb3 jug rim sherd, internal and external dark olive glaze	1	12g
Fabric Ca3? 2 joining strap handle sherds, central groove and oblique slashing	2	32g
Fabric Ca7 jug body sherd external olive glaze	1	2g
Fabric Cb1.1 body sherd	1	7g
Fabric Cb2 jug body sherd, thin patchy olive glaze	1	10g
Fabric Cb2 jug body sherd, external olive glaze	1	14g
Fabric Cb5 body sherd	1	2g
Fabric Cb5? Bowl rim-body sherd same vessel as in (129), internal and external olive glaze, crude, incised wavy line below rim	1	53g
Fabric Cb5.1 jug body sherd, external abraded yellowish glaze	1	7g

**Context 111 later 18<sup>th</sup> c**

Blackware hollow ware (chamber pot?) sherd	1	11g
Creamware roll-rim bowl sherd.	1	2g

**Context 113 later 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> c**

Fabric Bb3, wheel-thrown jug body sherd, thin patchy olive glaze	1	26g
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**Context 117 late 17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> c**

Blackware carinated mug sherd	1	9g
Light-on-dark trailed slipware bowl sherd with heavily sooted exterior	1	4g
Mottled ware body sherd	1	25g
Fabric Ab4 base sherd from small jug	1	51g

**Context 129 ?13<sup>th</sup> c**

Worcester-type cooking pot base sherd	1	14
Malvernian cooking pot body sherd	1	10
Malvernian cooking pot rim sherd	1	11
Fabric Cb5? rim-body sherd from a bowl	1	41g
Fabric Cb2 abraded ?jug sherd, exterior tan glaze, interior limescale	1	17g

**Context 210 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> c**

Coarseware bowl base sherd, internal tan glaze external red slip	1	9g
Fabric Cb1 bowl base-body sherd, internal olive glaze, external soot	1	16g

**Context 302 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> c**

Tin-glazed earthenware rim sherd, heavily abraded.	1	1g
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**Context 306 later 17<sup>th</sup> c**

Blackware mug sherds	2	37g
Frechen stoneware ( <i>bartmann?</i> ) jug base	2	106g
Midlands Purple jar rim sherd	1	38g
Mottled ware mug rim sherd	1	2g
Tin-glazed earthenware flange rim, heavily worn but trace of		

blue painted decoration	1	4g
Tin-glazed earthenware ?flange rim, heavily worn	1	2g
Tin-glazed earthenware bowl sherd, heavily worn on interior, trace of internal blue decoration	1	3g
Tin-glazed earthenware body sherd, heavily worn on interior	1	1g
Coarseware	3	82g
One piece of slag	1	2g

### **Comment**

The medieval pottery was catalogued using the fabric type series used at St Julian's Friars, Water Lane and Frankwell. The assemblage is small and so no detailed analysis of the material was attempted.

The pottery was often abraded and consisted mainly of small sherds. An unusual hemispherical bowl with traces of a pouring lip was found in (108) and (129).

Much of the pottery is consistent with being incorporated into backfilling and levelling operations. There appear to be two distinct horizons represented. The first represents predominantly post-Conquest-14<sup>th</sup> century activity. The residual Stafford ware sherd in context (103) is evidence of some pre-Conquest occupation, which is consistent with evidence from excavation elsewhere in Shrewsbury. The second horizon is represented by 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Although the assemblage is small, the absence of any demonstrable 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century pottery is noticeable.

The building represented by a beam slot and padstones must post date the 13<sup>th</sup> century since it overlies (129).

## **Appendix IV**

### **Phased matrix for trenches 1 and 2**

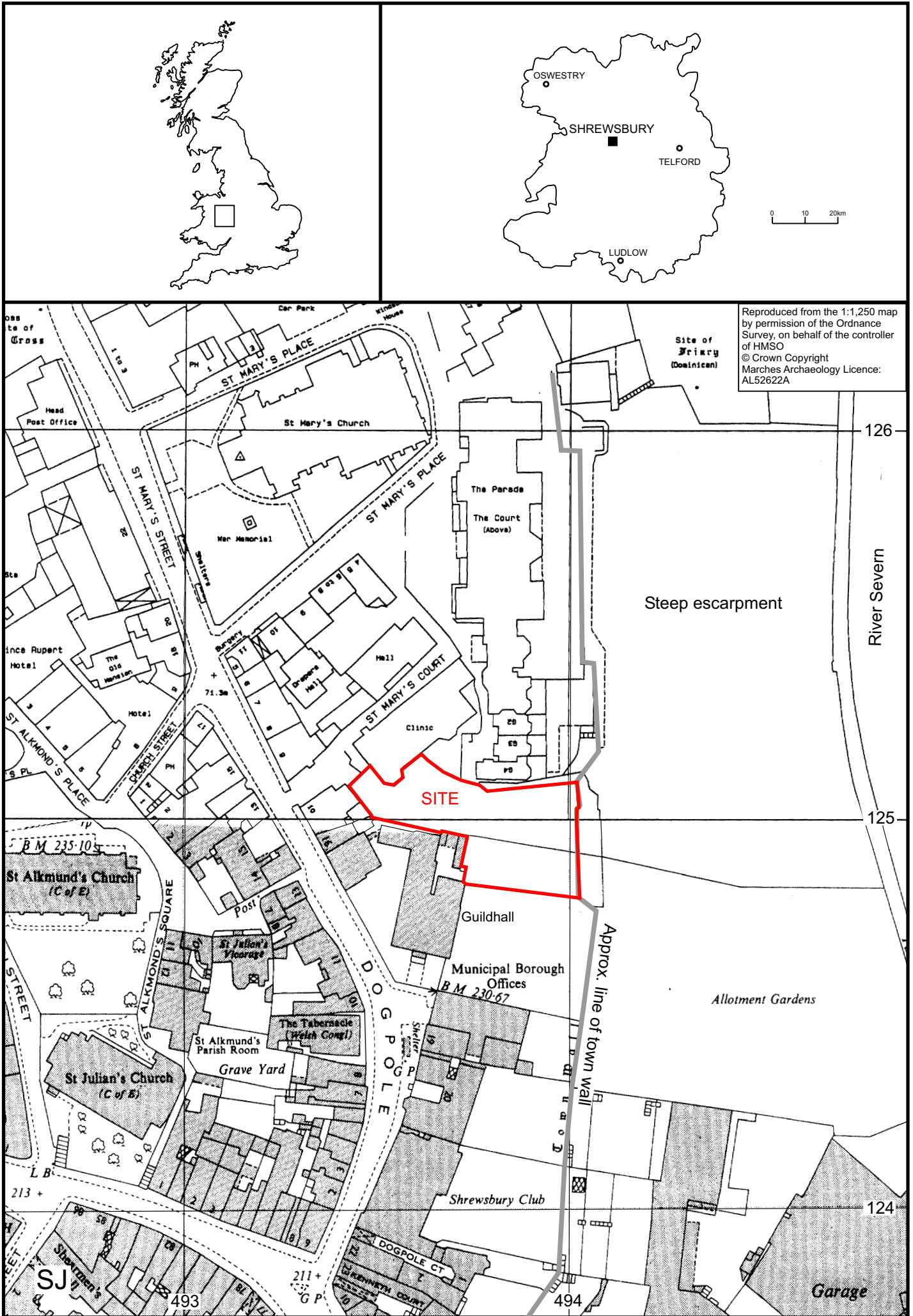


Fig. 1: Location of site

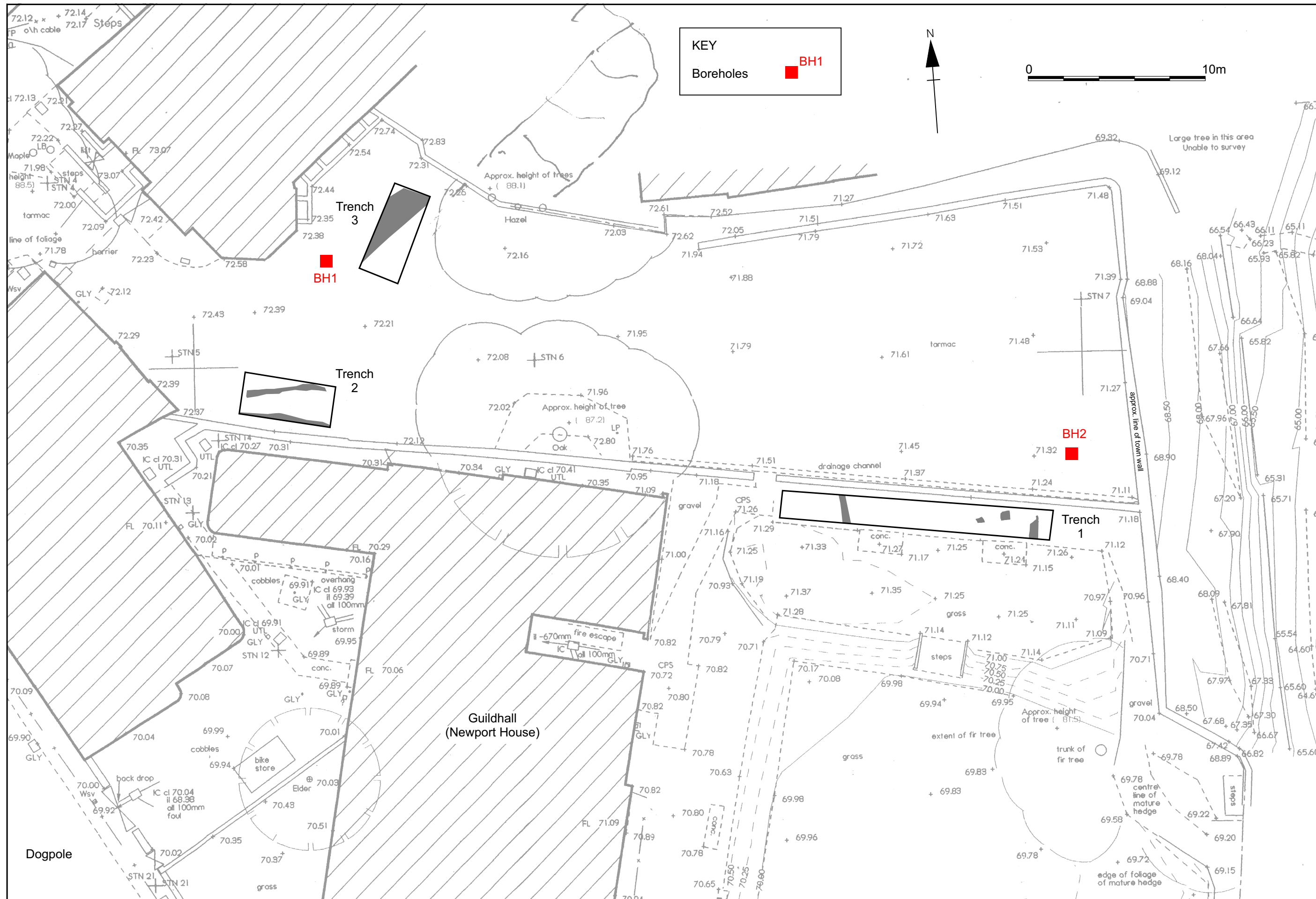
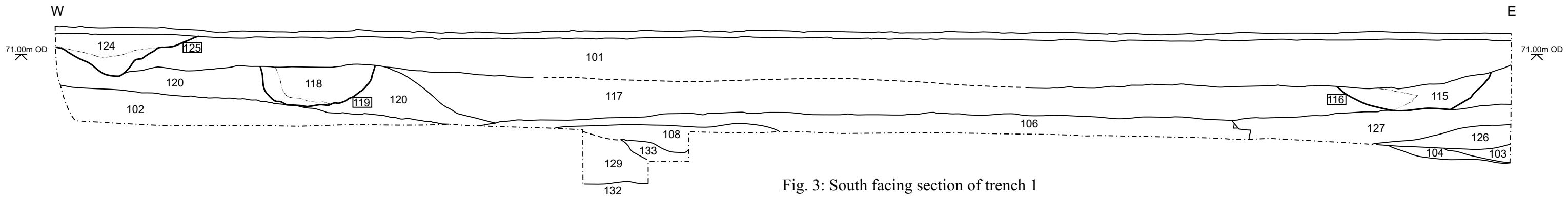
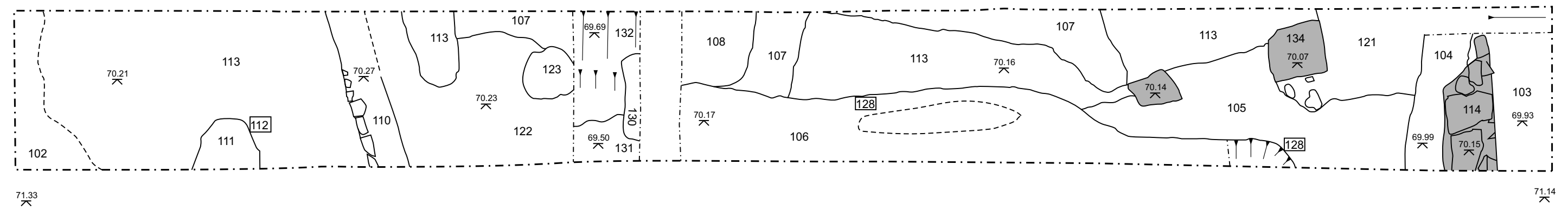


Fig. 2: Location of trenches



brick wall



**Figs 3 and 4**



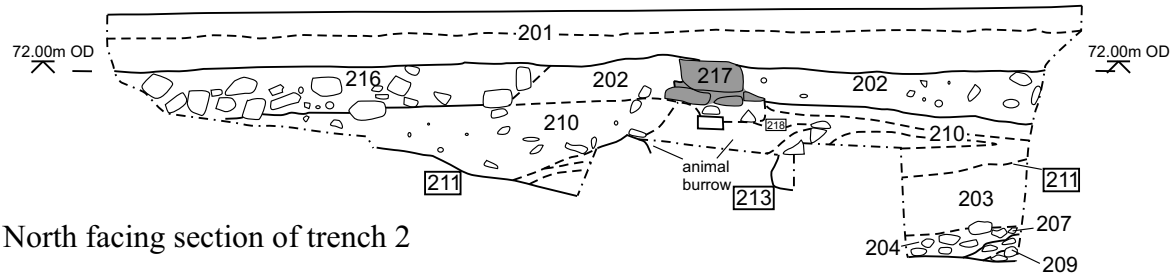


Fig. 5: North facing section of trench 2

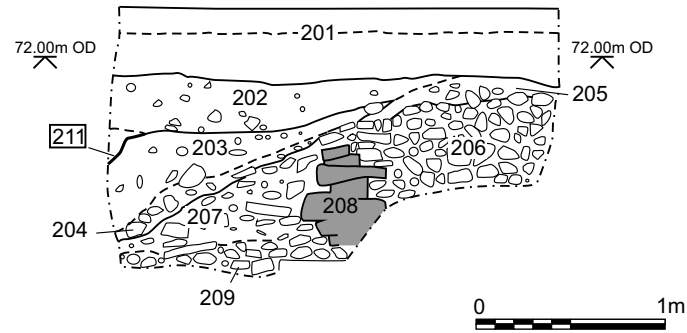


Fig. 6: East facing section of trench 2

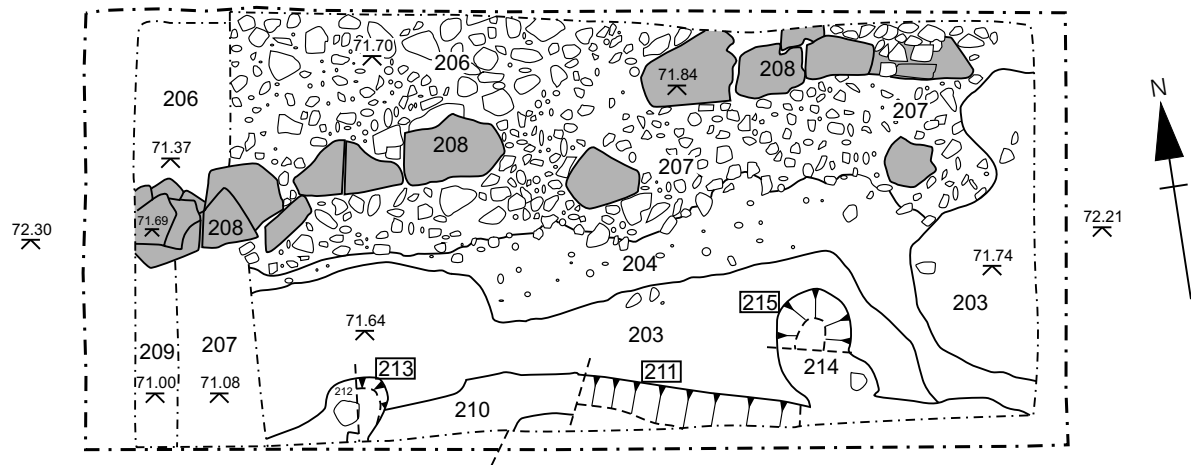


Fig. 7: Plan of trench 2

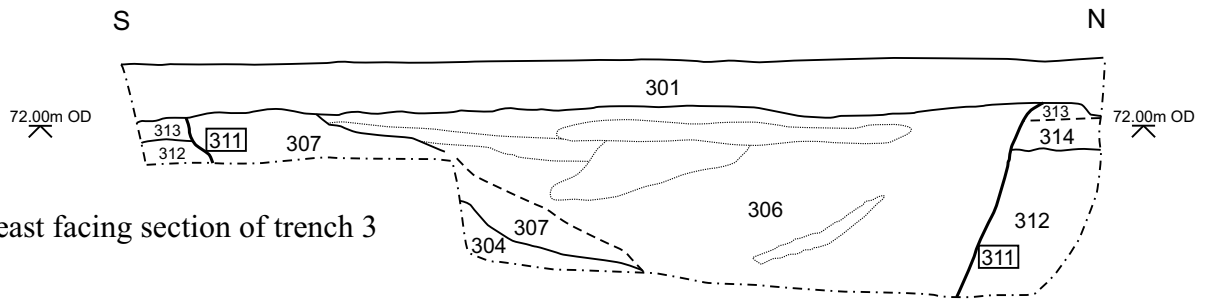


Fig. 8: South-east facing section of trench 3

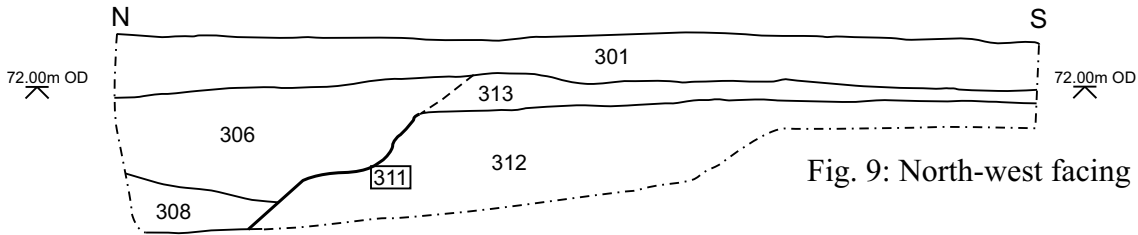


Fig. 9: North-west facing section of trench 3

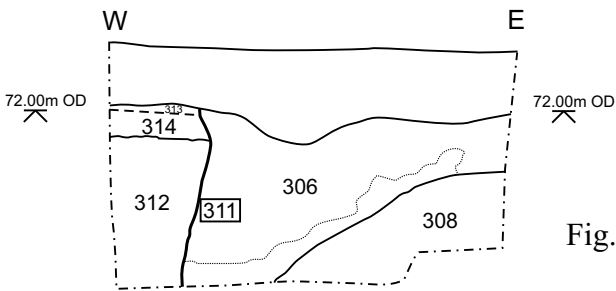


Fig. 10: South-west facing section of trench 3

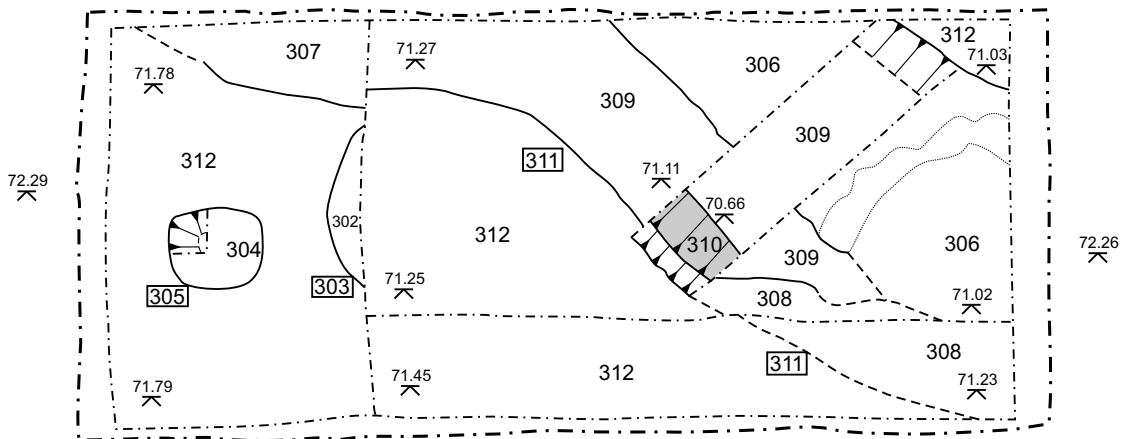
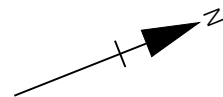
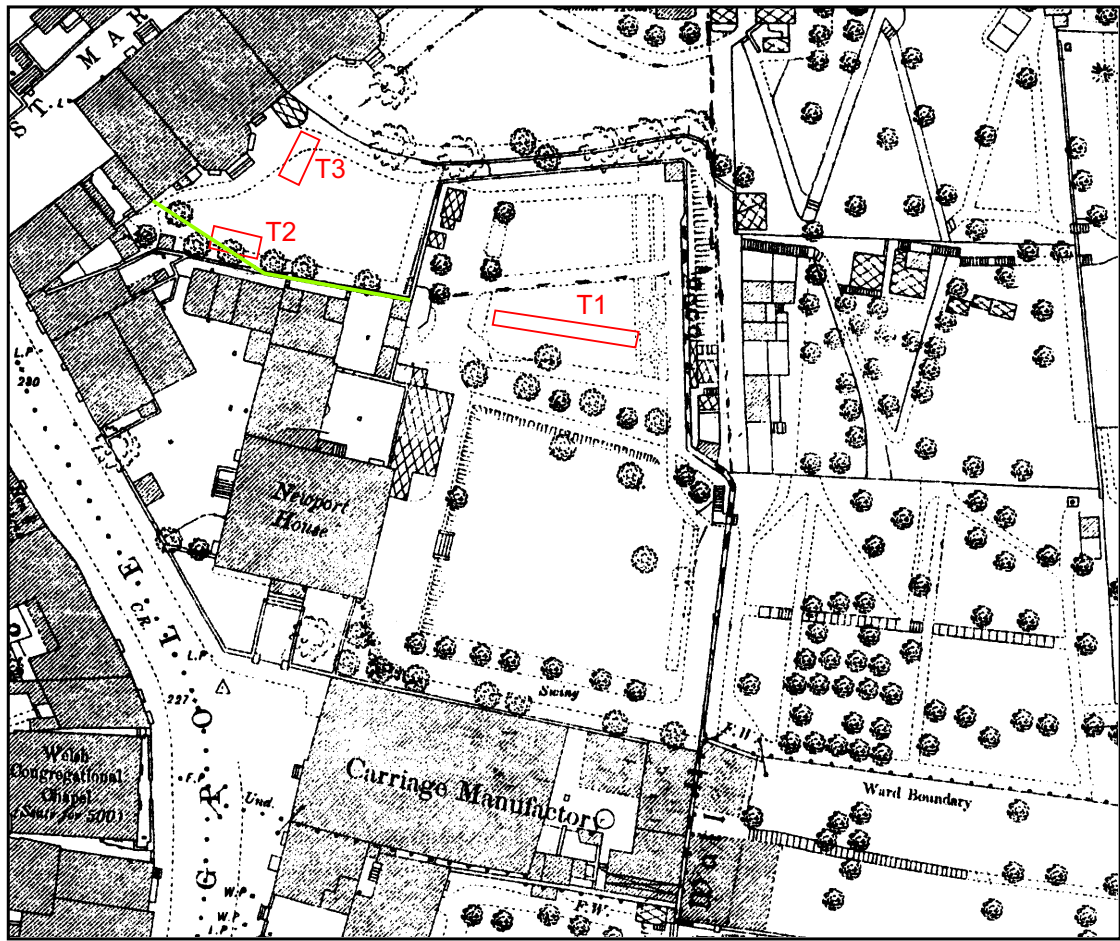


Fig. 11: Plan of trench 3



KEY

evaluation trenches



approx. line of wall on 1838 map



Fig. 12: Reduced extract of the 1882 1:500 Ordnance Survey map with evaluation trenches superimposed

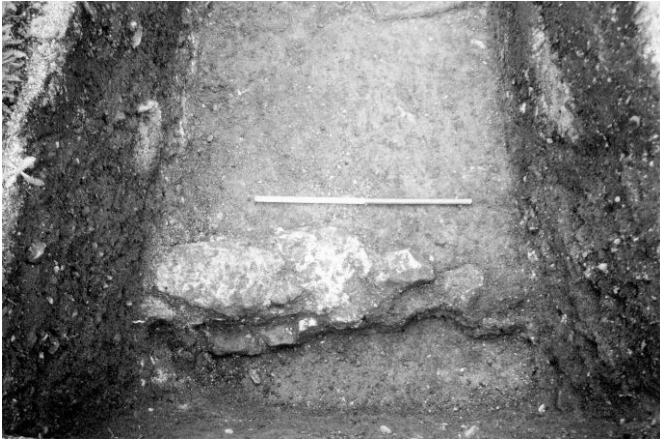


Plate 1: Wall footing [114] in trench 1, looking west

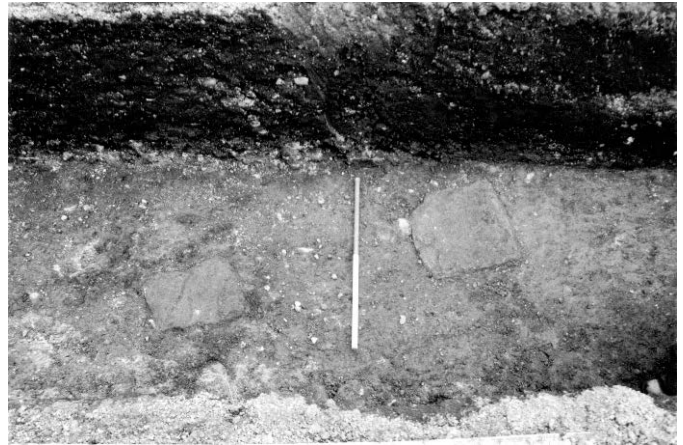


Plate 2: Postpads [134] in trench 1, looking north



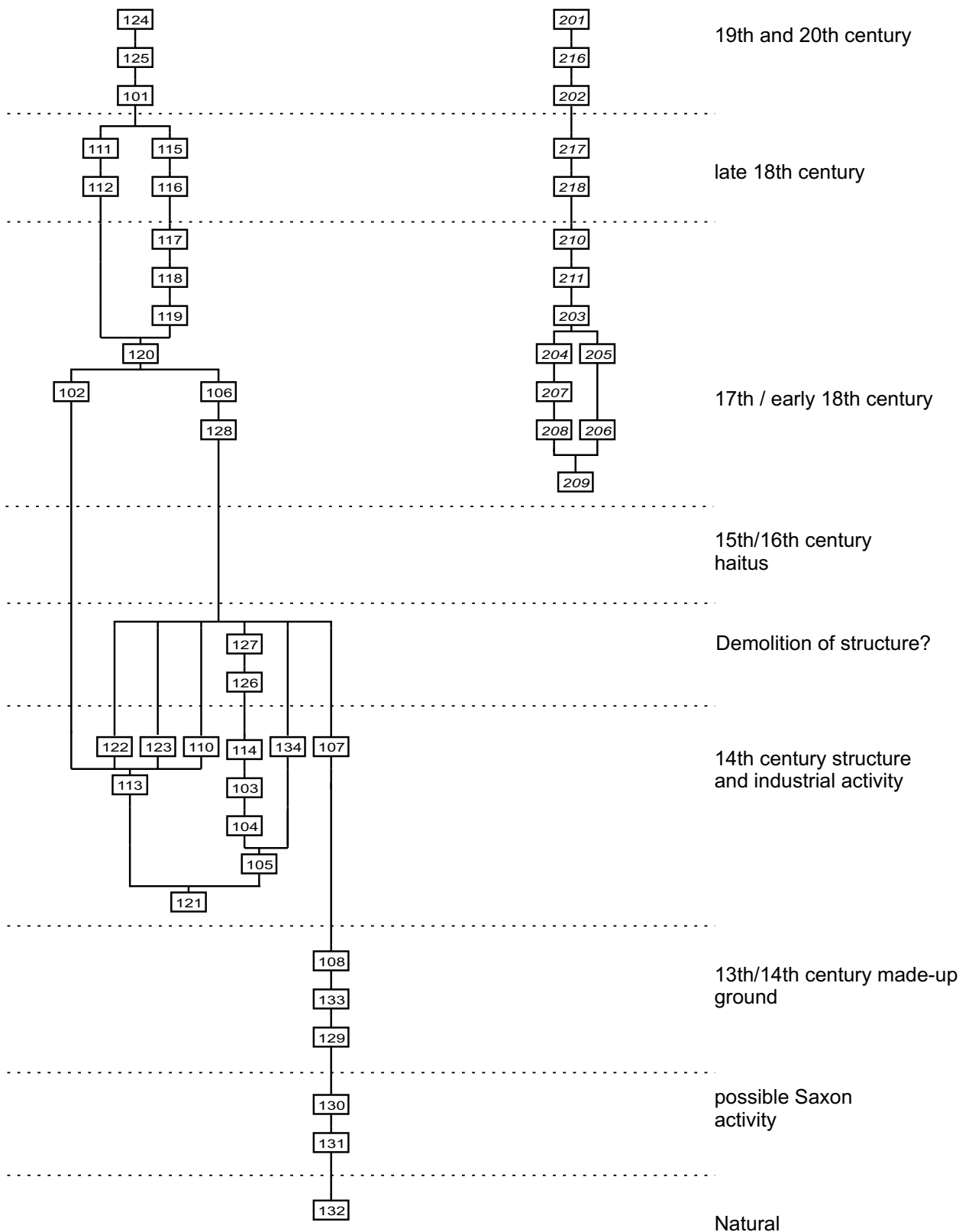
Plate 3: Trench 2, looking east



Plate 4: East facing section of trench 2, looking west

Trench 1

Trench 2



Phased matrix for trenches 1 and 2