

**LAND AT BOOTH HALL,
BLACKLEY,
GREATER MANCHESTER**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT
CP. No: 10518/14
20/05/2014**



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DOCUMENT TITLE: Land at Booth Hall, Blackley, Greater Manchester
DOCUMENT TYPE: Archaeological Evaluation Report
CLIENT: Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd
CP NUMBER: 10518/14
SITE CODE: BHM-A
PLANNING APP. NO: 086932/00/208/N1
OASIS REFERENCE: wardella2-178429
PRINT DATE: 20/05/2014
GRID REFERENCE: SD 865 030

Quality Assurance

This report covers works as outlined in the brief for the above-named project as issued by the relevant authority, and as outlined in the agreed programme of works. Any deviation to the programme of works has been agreed by all parties. The works have been carried out according to the guidelines set out in the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standards, Policy Statements and Codes of Conduct. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance set out by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology on the preparation of reports.

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SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the former Booth Hall Children's Hospital, Blackley, Greater Manchester (NGR SD 865 030). This work follows a planning application (Planning Application No. 086932/OO/2008/N1) for the construction of a residential development. Manchester City Council granted planning consent for the development, on the condition an archaeological evaluation be undertaken. The work is required as the site overlies the 17th century Booth Hall and associated 19th century outbuildings.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken over three days between the 8th and 10th April 2014. The evaluation involved the excavation of seven trenches, using a tracked mechanical digger with a toothless ditching bucket. Archaeological remains were identified in four of the seven trenches; Trenches 1, 4, 6 and 7, in the form of one large pit and several small walls. These appear to relate to the earlier Booth Hall and associated estate buildings.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology thank Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd, for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. Wardell Armstrong Archaeology thank Norman Redhead, Heritage Management Director (Archaeology) at Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS), for his assistance throughout the project. Further thanks are extended to the staff at the County Record Office in Manchester for their help during this project.

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology also extend their thanks to Steve Duffy of WPI Civil Engineering Ltd, and all groundwork staff on site, for their help during this project.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Sue Thompson, Helen Phillips and Ed Johnson, assisted by Fiona Wooler. The report was written by Sue Thompson and the drawings were produced by Adrian Bailey. The project was managed by Frank Giecco, Technical Director for WAA, who also edited this report.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was invited by Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the former Booth Hall Children's Hospital, Charlestown Road, Blackley, Greater Manchester (NGR SD 865 030; Figure 1), in association with an ongoing residential development. The proposed development is on the site of the former hospital complex, which was built over the earlier Booth Hall. As a result, Norman Redhead of Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service requested a programme of archaeological investigation, prior to the development taking place. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken following approved standards and guidance (IfA 2008), and was consistent with the specification provided by Giecco (2014) and generally accepted best practice.
- 1.1.3 This report outlines the evaluation works undertaken on-site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design was submitted by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology in response to a request by Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd, for an archaeological evaluation of the study area. Following acceptance of the project design by Norman Redhead, Heritage Management Director (Archaeology) at Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS), Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008a).

2.2 THE FIELD EVALUATION

2.2.1 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of seven trenches on the site of the former Booth Hall Children's Hospital. The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains within the vicinity, the evaluation trenches being located to target the earlier Booth Hall and associated estate buildings.

2.2.2 In summary, the main objectives of the field evaluation were:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed;
- to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
- to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.

2.2.3 Turf and topsoil had been removed, and the site levelled, prior to the evaluation, as preparation for the new housing development. The trial trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision and subsequently cleaned by hand. All features were investigated and recording according to the Wardell Armstrong Archaeology standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (Giecco 2012).

2.2.4 All finds encountered were recovered and retained, including those from excavated topsoil, and were cleaned and packaged according to Institute for Archaeologists guidelines (IfA 2008b), and recorded under the supervision of Megan Stoakley, WAA Finds Officer.

2.2.5 All deposits encountered that were deemed suitable for environmental sampling were retained, and processed according to English Heritage Environmental Archaeology

guidelines (EH 2011) under the supervision of Don O'Meara, WAA Environmental Officer.

2.2.6 The evaluation trenches were backfilled following excavation and recording.

2.2.7 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the Management of Archaeological Projects (2nd Edition, 1991).

2.3 THE ARCHIVE

2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited within Salford Museum & Art Gallery, with copies of the report sent to the County Historic Environment Record at the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier WAA14, BHM-A, CP 10518.

2.3.2 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, and Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service, support the **Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS)** project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, as a part of this national project.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

- 3.1.1 Blackley is located approximately five kilometres to the north-east of Manchester city centre, on either side of the main A664 Rochdale Road, and to the east of the River Irk. The former Booth Hall Children's Hospital is located on the north side of Charlestown Road, and to the north of Boggart Hole Clough (Figure 1).
- 3.1.2 Blackley is located within an area characterised by Natural England as the 'Manchester Conurbation'. Countryside extends throughout the Manchester Conurbation following the network of corridors formed by the numerous rivers and, to a lesser extent, canals, railways and roads which thread through the urban fabric. The Mersey river valley is the largest stretch of continuous countryside within the conurbation, dominated by its heavily meandering river within a broad flood plain. Other river valleys include those of the Irwell, Irk, Medlock, Tame and Goyt, which are more sinuous and narrow than the Mersey but nevertheless form important corridors of more open space throughout the area. Many of these have large areas of woodland along their valley sides providing a buffer with neighbouring urban development. Numerous country parks and Victorian urban parks are associated with the river valleys, for example Boggart Hole Clough, near the site of Booth Hall (Wooler 2013)
- 3.1.3 The underlying geology of the area on which the former Booth Hall Children's Hospital site is located consists of the Sherwood Sandstone Group, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 227 to 256 million years ago in the Triassic and Permian periods. The British Geological Survey (BGS) notes that the local environment was previously dominated by rivers (BGS 2012).
- 3.1.4 The proposed development area is situated at a height of approximately 90m AOD.

3.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 3.2.1 *Introduction:* this historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources including the Greater Manchester HER, and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments specific to the study area.
- 3.2.2 *Prehistoric:* the earliest evidence of prehistoric activity in the area consists of fragments of an early Bronze Age (c.2350 to 1501BC) tanged spearhead was found in 1959 at Boggart Hole Clough and are now at Manchester Museum (HER No.2011.1.0), although no further information is provided, and the nature of the discovery is not clear.
- 3.2.3 *Romano-British:* There is presently no archaeological or antiquarian evidence for Romano-British activity during this period in the area around Blackley, other than a single entry in the HER recording a findspot of coins of Roman date discovered in Boggart Hole Clough in 1902 (HER No. 1395.1.0).

- 3.2.4 *Medieval:* Evidence for medieval settlement around Blackley consists of Documentary evidence indicates that the area was largely rural, and developed as a deer park by the early 14th century. A chapel is believed to have existed in Blackley 'in and before 1548' (Wooler 2013).
- 3.2.5 *Post-medieval and Modern:* Documentary evidence suggests that the earliest phase of Booth Hall dates to the mid 17th century, when the Booth family owned the estate. A map of the Booth Hall estate shows a representation of a property on the current development area set within a managed landscape, which possibly included two kilns. The HER database records Booth Hall as 17th century with later additions (HER No. 1363.2.0).

3.3 PREVIOUS WORK

- 3.3.1 No excavations and investigations are known to have occurred in the immediate vicinity of Booth Hall.
- 3.3.2 In 2013 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd to undertake a desk based assessment of the site of the former Booth Hall Children's Hospital, Charlestown Road, Blackley, Greater Manchester as part of an extant outline planning application for a residential development (Planning Application No. 086932/OO/2008/N1).
- 3.3.3 The desk based assessment identified the potential survival of pockets of significant remains relating to the 17th century Booth Hall following the building of the Children's Hospital (Wooler 2013).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken between 8th April and the 10th April 2014 (Figure 1).
- 4.1.2 Prior to the evaluation, the site had been stripped of topsoil and levelled with a rough brick rubble deposit (**100**) associated with the demolition of the Booth Hall Children's Hospital. This was undertaken as remediation and site preparation for the new housing development (Figure 2).

4.2 RESULTS

- 4.2.1 **Trench 1:** Trench 1 was located at the eastern corner of site, situated to examine the site of the former Booth Hall and was aligned northwest-southeast (Figure 2). The trench measured 20m x 1.8m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.8m revealing banded sands and clay (**101**) below c.0.20m of rubble deposit (**105**) and the concrete surface (**106**) of a former car park at its northern end (Plate 1).
- 4.2.2 The upper deposit (**100**) was seen across the site and comprised of a rough brick rubble deposit formed by recent ground leveling works.
- 4.2.3 A large pit [**102**] was observed in the northern end of Trench 1. This pit was only partially excavated, the remainder being outside the limits of the trench. The full measurements of the pit are unknown, but measurements within the trench were 5m x 2m and over 2m deep (Figure 3).
- 4.2.4 The fill of pit [**102**] was a dark grey/black silty clay (**103**) which contained frequent post medieval pottery and glass, with occasional leather shoe fragments and wood. The earliest pottery was a fragment of a 17th Midland Black earthenware cup. There were numerous sherds of 18th century pottery including an 18th century jug, which was possible to reconstruct (Plate 9). Frequent 19th century pottery and glass sherds were also present. This deposit was sealed by a deposit of yellow clay (**104**), which was overlain by 0.20m of a rubble hardcore (**105**) base for a concrete surface (**106**) for a former car parking area associated with the hospital (Plate 2).
- 4.2.5 **Trench 2:** Trench 2 was located to west of Trench 1 and was also aligned northwest-southeast (Figure 2). It was also positioned to investigate the potential remains of Booth Hall. The trench measured 20m x 1.8m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.6m revealing natural deposits of sands and clays (**101**) (Plate 3). No topsoil or subsoil was present.
- 4.2.6 No archaeological features were observed within Trench 2.



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking northwest: Pit [102] seen in northern end of trench



Plate 2: Pit [102] seen in northern end of Trench 1



Plate 3: Trench 2 looking northwest towards brick filled spoil heap

- 4.2.7 **Trench 3:** Trench 3 was located to the southern end of the evaluation area and was aligned northeast – southwest (Figure 2). The trench measured 20m x 1.8m and was excavated to an average depth of 0.5m revealing natural sand deposits with clay banding to the eastern end of the trench (**101**) below 0.30m rubble deposit (**100**) (Plate 4).
- 4.2.8 A modern deposit of rubble measuring 4m in width and 1.8m in depth was excavated and found to contain frequent brick fragments and concrete, as well as modern plastics. It is likely that this deposit forms part of the levelling layer (**100**).
- 4.2.9 No archaeological features were observed within Trench 3.



Plate 4: Trench 3 looking northeast

- 4.2.10 **Trench 4:** Trench 4 was located to the southern end of the evaluation area and aligned roughly north – south (Figure 2). Again, this trench was positioned to investigate the remains of the Former Booth Hall. The trench measured 30m x 1.8m was excavated to an average depth of 0.4m revealing a sandy natural deposit (**101**) below the rubble levelling layer (**100**). A rubble dump containing modern plastic was observed mid trench of the same material, seen to a depth of 1m.
- 4.2.11 Two parallel brick walls (**400**) were uncovered at the southern end of Trench 4. These walls were built of rough red bricks with no frog or makers mark and measured 0.40m in width. No foundation cut was visible. It is likely that these walls relate to the south west corner of Booth Hall, and formed part of one of the bays to the front of the Hall (Figure 4) (Plate 5).



Plate 5: Trench 4 looking southwest showing wall (400)



Plate 6: Trench 5 looking north

4.2.12 **Trench 5:** Trench 5 was located in the west of the evaluation area, positioned on the site one of the outbuildings associated with Booth Hall (Figure 2). The trench was

20m x 1.8m wide, and excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m revealing mottled natural deposits of sand and clay (**101**) overlain by the brick rubble layer (**100**) 0.4m in depth (Plate 6). No archaeological features were observed within Trench 5.

- 4.2.13 **Trench 6:** Trench 6 was located to the north of the evaluation area, on the site of former farm buildings associated with Booth Hall which were reused as part of the Children's Hospital outbuildings (Figure 2). This trench measured 20m x 1.8m and was a maximum of 0.70m in depth, revealing a sandy clay natural deposit. This was the only trench to have any topsoil remaining, which survived as a thin 0.15m deposit of dark grey brown silty clay (**603**). Trench 7 formed a T junction mid trench, extending to the west.
- 4.2.14 A small red brick wall (**600**) was observed in the northern end of the trench orientated east – west. A foundation cut [**601**] for this wall measured roughly 0.5m in width. The wall was constructed from well made red bricks with no frog or makers mark and was 0.25m thick, constructed in a double thickness, bonded with lime mortar. This wall appears to be part of the 19th century Booth Hall farm buildings, later reused by the hospital as one of their estate buildings (Figure 5) (Plate 7).
- 4.2.15 A brick structure (**602**) was situated mid trench, at the junction with Trench 7. The structure measured 0.40m x 0.40m and was of unknown depth. This appeared to be a brick lined drain, and was of a similar size and construction to another feature seen between trenches 1 and 2.
- 4.2.16 **Trench 7:** Trench 7 was located to the north of the evaluation area, on the site of former farm buildings associated with Booth Hall and reused as part of the Children's Hospital outbuildings (Figure 2). This trench measured 20m x 1.8m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.70m in depth, revealing a sandy clay natural deposit. A possible wall foundation was located towards the western end of Trench 7 as evidenced by a concrete block (Figure 5) (Plate 8).
- 4.2.17 As part of the evaluation phase, a spoil heap to the north of trenches 1 and 2 was investigated for any architectural material. This had been identified during an earlier site visit as having potential to contain architectural remains of either the earlier Booth Hall, or one of the kiln sites identified in the desk based assessment. Although a few fragments of worked stone and occasional handmade bricks were present within the spoilheap, these were of limited interest; these stone fragments and brick samples were collected and stored on site for possible future use in the new development.



Plate 7: Trench 6 looking south showing wall (601)



Plate 8: Trench 7 looking east showing location of possible wall foundation

5 FINDS

5.1 FINDS ASSESSMENT

- 5.1.1 A total of 281 artefacts, weighing 21,708Kg, were recovered from a single context from pit [102] during an archaeological evaluation at Booth Hall, Blackley, Manchester.
- 5.1.2 All finds were dealt with according to the recommendations made by Watkinson & Neal (1998) and to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Standard & Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2008b). All artefacts have been boxed according to material type and conforming to the deposition guidelines recommended by the Salford Museum & Art Gallery.
- 5.1.3 The material archive has been assessed for its local, regional and national potential and further work has been recommended on the potential for the material archive to contribute to the relevant research frameworks.
- 5.1.4 The finds assessment was compiled by Megan Stoakley.
- 5.1.5 Quantification of finds by context is visible in Table 1.

Context	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Date	Notes
103	Clay Pipe	9	36	PM	Undecorated stem and bowl fragments
103	Glass	19	2,969	PM	18th - 19th C
103	Pottery	247	18,509	PM	17th - 19th C
103	Leather	5	168	PM	18 th – 19 th C
103	Wood	1	106	PM	17 th – 19 th C, undiagnostic, sawn?

Table 1: Quantification of Finds by Context

Key:

Qty: Quantity

Wgt: Weight

PM: Post-medieval

5.2 POST-MEDIEVAL CERAMICS

- 5.2.1 A total of 247 sherds of post-medieval pottery, weighing 18,509Kg, were recovered from a single deposit (103). The sherds are in good condition and display little evidence of abrasion.
- 5.2.2 Fabric types include coarse red earthenware (manganese and yellow lead glaze), decorated and plain Jackfield ware (red earthenware fineware), refined white earthenware, Willow Pattern (Transfer Print) and English Stoneware. This pottery is largely of 19th century date.

- 5.2.3 Forms recorded in the assemblage include a teapot lid, bowls, dishes, teacups, cups, deep cooking dishes, large storage jars, shallow bowls, tureens, scalloped plates, saucers and a sherd possibly originating from a chamber pot.
- 5.2.4 A sherd of an 18th century Delftware plate was also recovered from this deposit (103).
- 5.2.5 Other pottery of particular interest was the recovery of numerous sherds of Midlands Black, a fine, red earthenware with a distinctive black glaze which was achieved by the addition of iron (Laing 2003, 112). The presence of a partial multi-handled black glazed cup was recorded in the assemblage, likely dated to the 17th century. Common forms of Midlands Black pottery in the 17th century were cups and mugs; the most common black-glazed vessels in the 19th century were bread bowls (*Ibid*). The current assemblage dates from the 17th – 19th century.



Plate 9: Reconstructed 18th century Midlands Black pottery jug

5.3 CLAY PIPE

- 5.3.1 Nine fragments of clay tobacco pipe, weighing 36g, were recorded. The fragments are in good condition.
- 5.3.2 The small assemblage comprises largely undecorated, undiagnostic stem fragments. One undecorated bowl fragment of likely 18th – 19th century date was recovered.

5.4 GLASS

- 5.4.1 Nineteen fragments of post-medieval glass, weighing 2,969Kg, were recorded.
- 5.4.2 Approximately a third of the assemblage comprises large base shards of large bottles which were likely used for wine. Bottle neck shards comprise roughly 40% of the assemblage and the rest of the assemblage is made up of miscellaneous body shards of bottle glass.
- 5.4.3 The post-medieval glass largely dates to the 18th and 19th centuries.

5.5 LEATHER

- 5.5.1 A total of five fragments of leather, weighing 168g, were recovered from deposit (102). The leather fragments are in fairly good condition with some evidence of damage.
- 5.5.2 The artefacts comprise three almost-complete shoe-soles, a right heel and the tongue-flap of a shoe. Stitching is evident on all five leather fragments and small iron/steel hobnails are evident on two of the soles.
- 5.5.3 Two of the almost-complete soles likely comprise men's footwear. The third sole is more likely to comprise women's footwear due to the smaller size and more gracile shape of the print. The heel fragment is fairly large in diameter and may have originated from male footwear while the tongue-flap, although originating from an adult shoe, is undiagnostic.
- 5.5.4 The leather fragments are post-medieval in date.

5.6 WORKED WOOD

- 5.6.1 A single fragment of worked wood, weighing 106g, was recovered from pit fill (103). The fragment is in relatively good condition.
- 5.6.2 The fragment, possibly comprising a stake, measures 147mm in length and 36mm in width. The diameter at the largest end of the stake measures 36mm by 25mm.
- 5.6.3 The widest end of the stake exhibits a clean cut indicative of a saw mark. There are no other diagnostic traits on the artefact. The artefact, although undatable, was recovered with pottery of 17th to 19th century date, thus it is likely of a contemporary date.

5.7 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

- 5.7.1 The finds assemblage provides dating evidence for rubbish pit [102] and also provides evidence of post-medieval domestic activity on the site and within its vicinity. The finds assemblage is of low to moderate archaeological significance.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL

6.1 INTRODUCTION

- 6.1.1 During the course of the evaluation 1 soil sample was collected by the excavation team. This consisted of c. 20 litres of sediment. It was hoped that this sample would help to demonstrate the nature of the large organic deposit (**103**).
- 6.1.2 The methodology employed required that the whole earth sample be broken down and split into its various different components: the flot, the residue, the clay-silt and the sand-silt. The sample was soaked in water, then manually flotted and sieved through a 'Siraf' style flotation tank. In this case the residue and the flot are retained while the sand-silt-clay components are filtered out. The sample was flotted into a 250-micron geological sieve, while the heavy residue was retained within a 1mm plastic mesh. The heavy residue was then air-dried and sorted by eye for any material that may aid our understanding of the deposit; in particular artefactual and ecofactual material.
- 6.1.3 The washover flot was dried slowly and scanned at x40 magnification for charred and uncharred botanical remains. Identification of these was undertaken by comparison with modern reference material held in the Environmental Laboratory at Wardell-Armstrong Archaeology and by reference to relevant literature (Jacomet 2006; Cappers et al. 2010). Plant taxonomic nomenclature follows Stace (2010).

6.2 FEATURE SAMPLED

- 6.2.1 The samples were taken from pit **[102]**, with the sample being composed of material from fill (**103**).

6.3 DISCUSSION

- 6.3.1 Few remains of seeds were recovered from the samples examined. The washover material as dominated by the organic herbaceous and woody material in a fragmentary state. Rare (considering the c.300ml volume of the flot) seeds of brambleberries (*Rubus* species), stinging-nettle (*Urtica dioica*), buttercups (*Ranunculus* species), elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and a slow stone (*Prunus spinosa*) were recovered and suggest that the local vegetation was of a wayside/hedgerow type environment. The presence of elder seeds and sloe remains suggests that the site may have been quite overgrown at times. In general the washover was dominated by organic remains, with a much lower quantity of ashy type.
- 6.3.2 The heavy residue contained occasional fragments of larger (c.1cm thick) of wood, as well as frequent post-medieval pottery, infrequent fragments of post-medieval glass and infrequent remains of cockle-shell. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of coal and ash, with c.30% stones and rock fragments.

6.4 ANIMAL BONE AND OYSTER SHELL

- 6.4.1 Few fragments of bone or shell were recovered, and in all cases these were from deposit (103), and therefore also presumably of a post-medieval date. Therefore this examination is intended as a note of the remains rather than a full analysis which seeks comparisons with other sites, or one which involves morphometric analysis, body part analysis, or economic concerns for post-medieval Manchester.
- 6.4.2 The animal bone consisted of five bone fragments; a right sheep metatarsal (Bp:22.4; Bd:26.3; Gl:140.8), the distal end of a cattle metapodial, a 22cm mid-shaft fragment of cattle rib, a fragment of unfused pig radius, and a 9cm unfused distal fragment of a pig rib. Five oyster shells were also recovered (maximum diameters 6-9cm). The surfaces of the bone were generally very well preserved with very light abrasion and root-etching to small areas of the sheep bone. A small deposit of vivianite on the surface of the cattle bone suggests its burial matrix was phosphate rich and waterlogged at various times; a conclusion which supports the hypothesis that the pit held domestic rubbish, which can be high in phosphates due to the presence of organic food wastes. No clear evidence of butchery or other human modification was noted on the remains. The oyster shells showed evidence of light abrasion but were generally well preserved; i.e. they were not flaking apart, or easily cracked with finger pressure.

6.5 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.5.1 This pit seems to have been used as a dump for the remains of domestic rubbish in general, rather than just pottery. This is borne out by the large quantity of coal and ash fragments, as might be expected from a domestic fire setting, and lacking the slag fragments which might be expected from an industrial origin.
- 6.5.2 The archaeobotanical remains suggest an overgrown, wayside environment. The remains of sloe and elder seeds might suggest the dumping activity was one which took place over a prolonged, successive period, rather than a short one (less than 5 years). This is based on the assumption that the dump was not itself created within a copse of these trees.
- 6.5.3 The animal bone is likely to be from the remains of domestic consumption, though the small volume present and the lack of clear evidence of human modification reduces the ability to interpret this small assemblage of material.
- 6.5.4 No further analysis is recommended on this material.

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1.1 During the archaeological field evaluation at the former Booth Hall Children's Hospital, Blackley, Greater Manchester, seven trenches were excavated to the eastern edge development area. The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains within the vicinity, the evaluation trenches being located to target the 17th century Booth Hall and associated estate buildings. All trenches were excavated down to the natural substrate.
- 7.1.2 Trenches 2 and 5 were devoid of any archaeological features or deposits, whilst Trench 3 and 4 revealed modern dumps of brick rubble, which appears to be associated with the recent levelling carried out prior to redevelopment. Trenches 1, 4, 6 and 7 had fragmentary remains which probably relate to Booth Hall.
- 7.1.3 Trench 1 contained a large pit containing numerous sherds of pottery and glass, sealed below a yellow redeposited clay deposit. This pit was located to the rear of the former Booth Hall and appeared to be been a refuse pit filled over a period of time.
- 7.1.4 All finds on the evaluation were recovered from pit [102], fill (103) and dated to between the 17th century and the 19th century. Frequent pottery sherds, glass and leather fragments were collected.
- 7.1.5 The trenches situated to identify remains of Booth Hall and its associated structures, revealed evidence of at least 19th century domestic activity, but identified little in the way of robust structural remains. It seems that later development, and perhaps site remediation, had removed much of the archaeological evidence relating to the former Booth Hall.
- 7.1.6 The noted remains, structural, artefactual and environmental, are generally of a low archaeological significance.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Description
100	Deposit	Rubble levelling deposit
101	Deposit	Natural sands and clays
102	Cut	Large pit
103	Fill	Of [102]
104	Deposit	Upper fill of [102]
105	Deposit	Rubble hardcore base for (106)
106	Deposit	Concrete carpark surface
400	Structure	Northwest-Southeast walls
600	Cut	Foundation cut for wall (601)
601	Structure	East-West Wall
602	Structure	Brick Drain
603	Deposit	Topsoil

Table 4: List of Contexts issued during the Evaluation

APPENDIX 2: FIGURES



 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2014</p>	<p>PROJECT: Land at Booth Hall, Blackley, Greater Manchester</p> <p>SCALE: 1:25,000 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP10518</p> <p>CLIENT: Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: May 2014</p> <p>FIGURE: 1</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <p> Site location</p>	 <p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019512</p>
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Figure 1: Site location.



Wardell Armstrong
Archaeology
2014

PROJECT:

Land at Booth Hall,
Blackley, Greater Manchester

CLIENT:

Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd

SCALE: 1:1,250 at A4

DRAWN BY: AB

DATE: May 2014

KEY:

-  Site boundary
-  Evaluation trenches
-  1990s buildings
-  1800s buildings



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REPORT No:

CP10518

FIGURE:

2

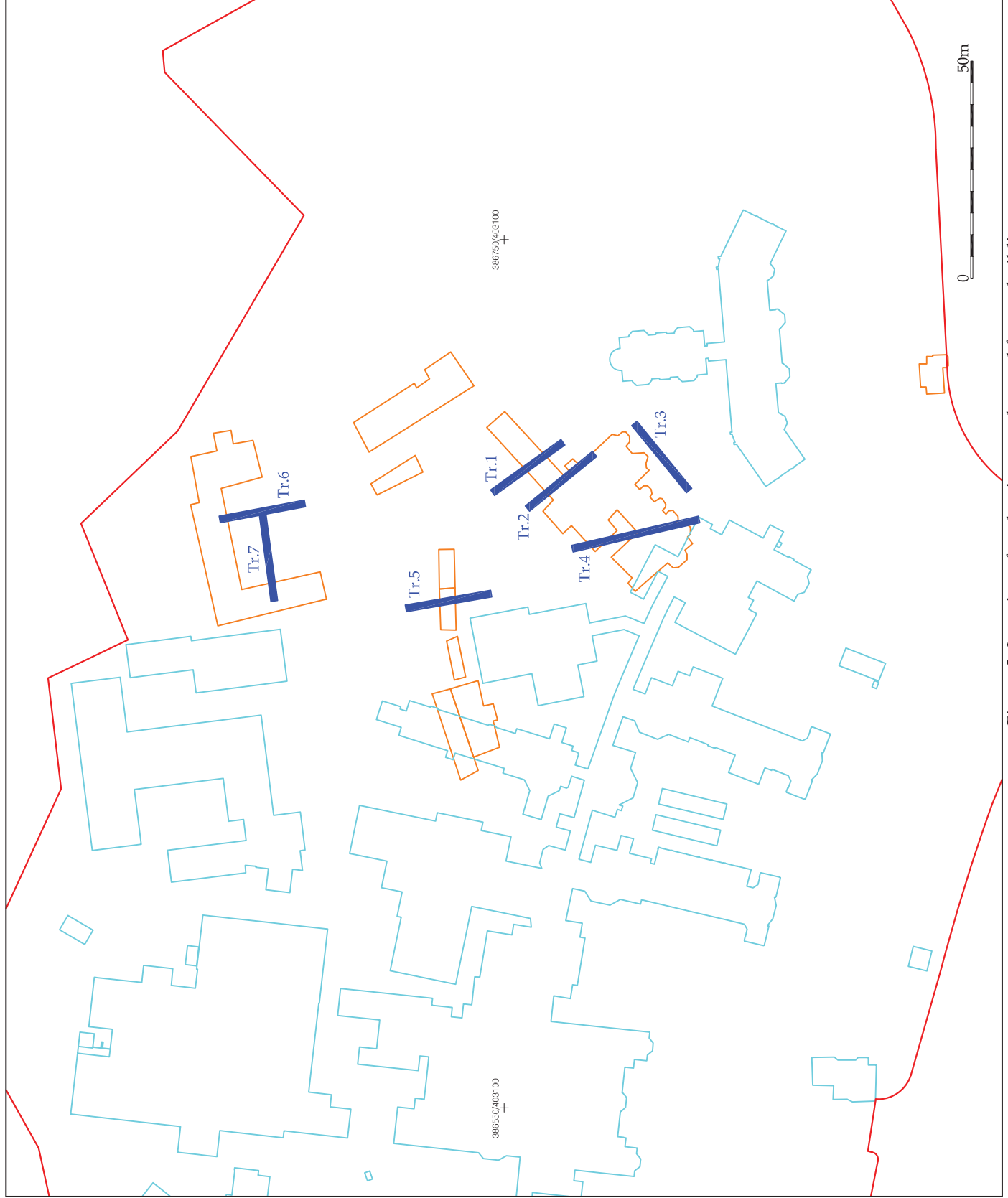


Figure 2: Location of evaluation trenches and former buildings.

PROJECT:
Land at Booth Hall,
Blackley, Greater Manchester





CLIENT:
Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd

SCALE: Plan 1:75/Section 1:50 at A3

DRAWN BY: AB

DATE: May 2014

KEY:

-  Context number
-  Height mAOD
-  Section location
-  Limit of excavation

REPORT No:
CPI0518

FIGURE:
3

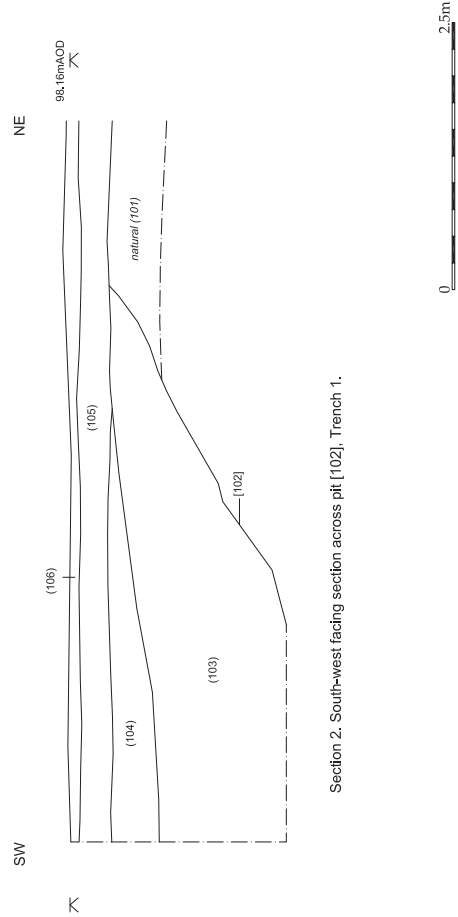
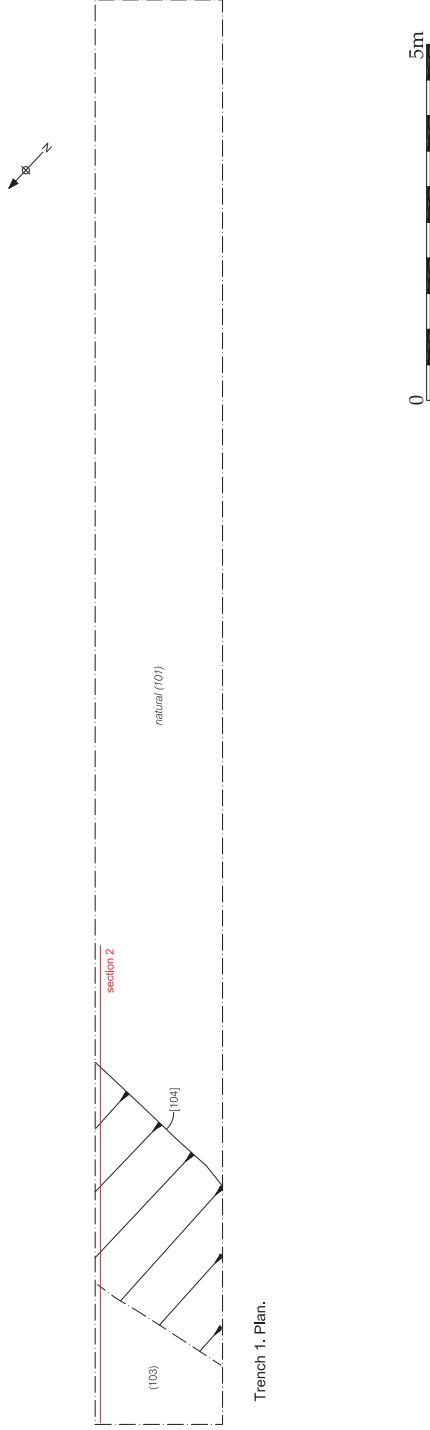
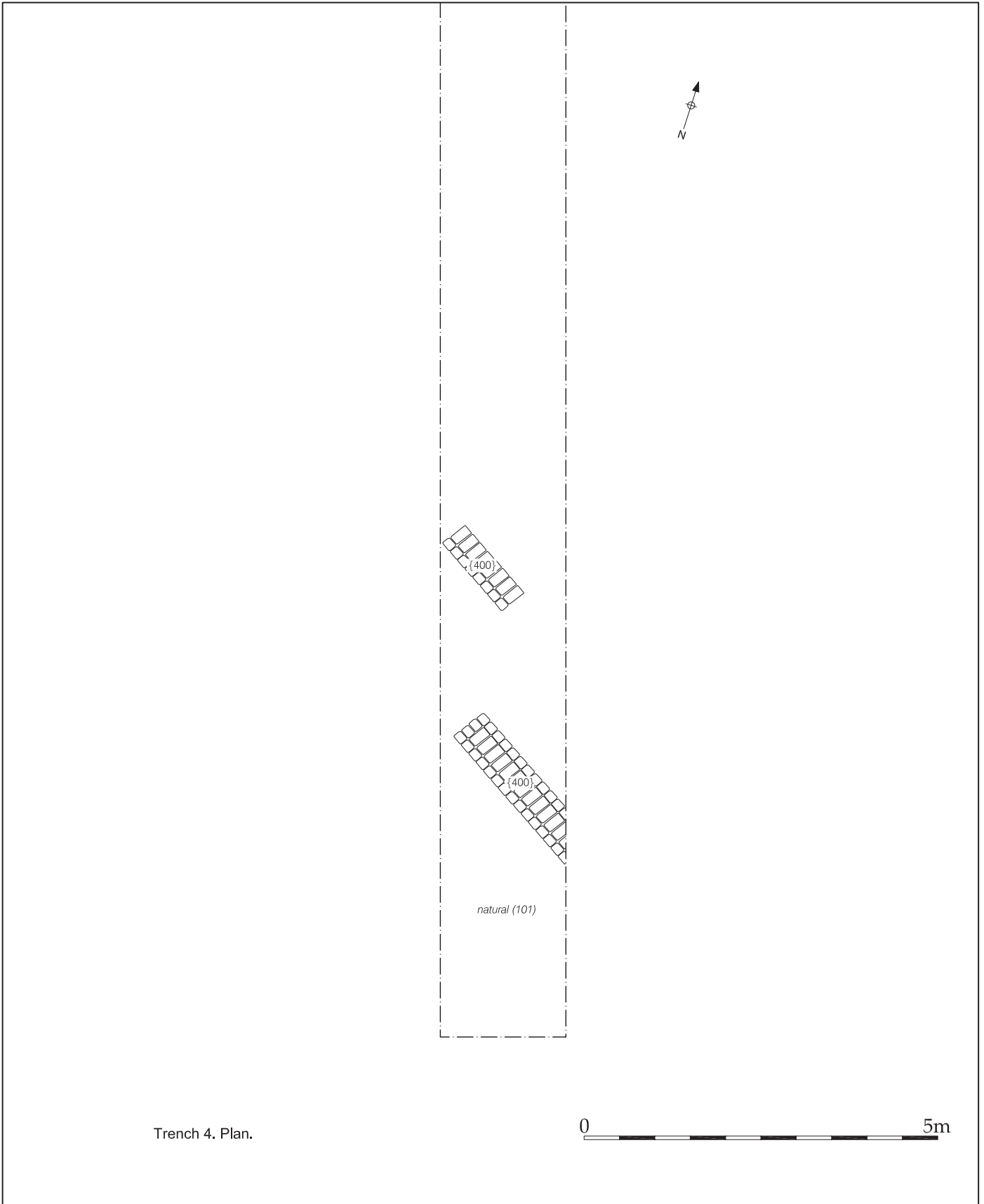


Figure 3: Trench 1, plan and section.



Trench 4. Plan.

0 5m



Wardell Armstrong
Archaeology
2014

PROJECT: Land at Booth Hall, Blackley,
Greater Manchester
SCALE: 1:75 at A4
REPORT No: CP10518
CLIENT: Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd
DRAWN BY: AB
DATE: May 2014
FIGURE: 4

KEY:

- (101) Context number
- Limit of excavation

Figure 4: Trench 4, plan (southern end).



Wardell Armstrong
Archaeology
2014

PROJECT:
Land at Booth Hall,
Blackley, Greater Manchester

CLIENT:
Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd

SCALE: 1:75 at A3

DRAWN BY: AB

DATE: May 2014

KEY:

[101] Context number
--- Limit of excavation

REPORT No:
CPT0518

FIGURE:
5

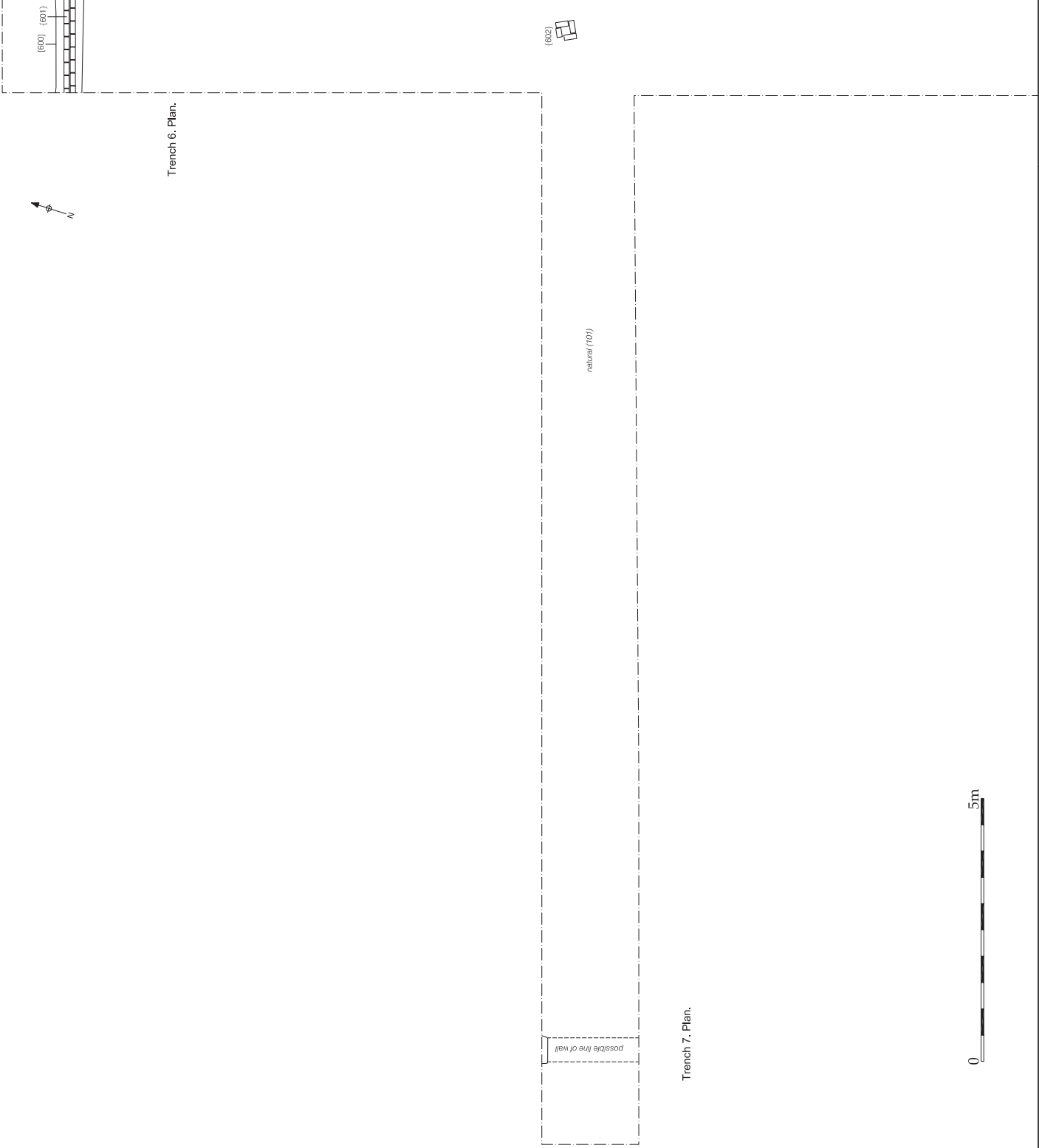


Figure 5: Trench 6 & 7, plan.