

NYCC HER	
SNY	9118
ENY	2488
CNY	3872
Parish	3102
Rec'd	2011/05

---



---

PICKERING LIBRARY, PICKERING.

---



---

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF.  
OSA REPORT No: OSA04WB31.

JANUARY 2005.

**N.Y.C.C.**  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
26 JAN 2005  
JAE

Page to  
Ackd  
Area

**OSA**

ON SITE ARCHÆOLOGY LTD.

25A Milton Street ♦ York ♦ North Yorkshire ♦ YO10 3EP  
 telephone ♦ 01904 411673 ♦ fax ♦ 01904 414522 ♦ mobile ♦ 07767 385766  
 e-mail ♦ mail@onsitearchaeology.co.uk  
 © On-Site Archaeology Ltd, 2005

---

**Report Summary.**


---

C 3872  
E 2488  
S 9118

**REPORT NO:** OSA04WB31

**SITE NAME:** Pickering Library, Pickering

**NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE:** SE 7970 8410

**ON BEHALF OF:** Scarborough Borough Council  
Architectural Services  
Town Hall  
St. Nicholas Street  
Y011 2HG

**TEXT:** Liz Humble

**FIELDWORK:** Liz Humble

**TIMING:** Fieldwork  
8th, 9th, 11th and 15th November 2004  
Post excavation & report preparation 16th and 19th  
January 2005

**ENQUIRIES TO:** Nick Pearson  
On Site Archaeology  
25A Milton Street  
York  
YO10 3EP

*tel* (01904) 411673  
*fax* (01904) 414522  
*mobile* (07767) 385766  
*e-mail* mail@onsitearchaeology.co.uk

**PERIODS REPRESENTED:** Post-medieval

Planning App ref : 04/00291/CAO

---

## Table of Contents.

---

1.0 Abstract .....	3
2.0 Site Location, Topography and Land Use .....	5
3.0 Archaeological Background .....	6
4.0 Methodology .....	6
5.0 Results ..	7
5.1 Trench 1 .....	7
5.2 Trench 2 .....	8
5.3 Trench 3 .....	9
5.4 Trench 4 .....	9
6.0 Discussion and Conclusions .....	10
6.1 Trench 1 .....	10
6.2 Trench 2 .....	10
6.3 Trench 3 .....	10
6.4 Trench 4 .....	10
7.0 Appendix 1 ~ List of Contexts. ....	11
8.0 Appendix 2 ~ The Plates .....	12

---

## List of Figures.

---

Figure 1 Site Location (NGR SE 7970 8410 ) .....	4
Figure 2 Trench location plan. (Scale 1:200) .....	5
Figure 3 North facing section of Trench 1 (Scale 1 20) .....	7
Figure 4. West facing section of Trench 2. (Scale 1 40).....	8

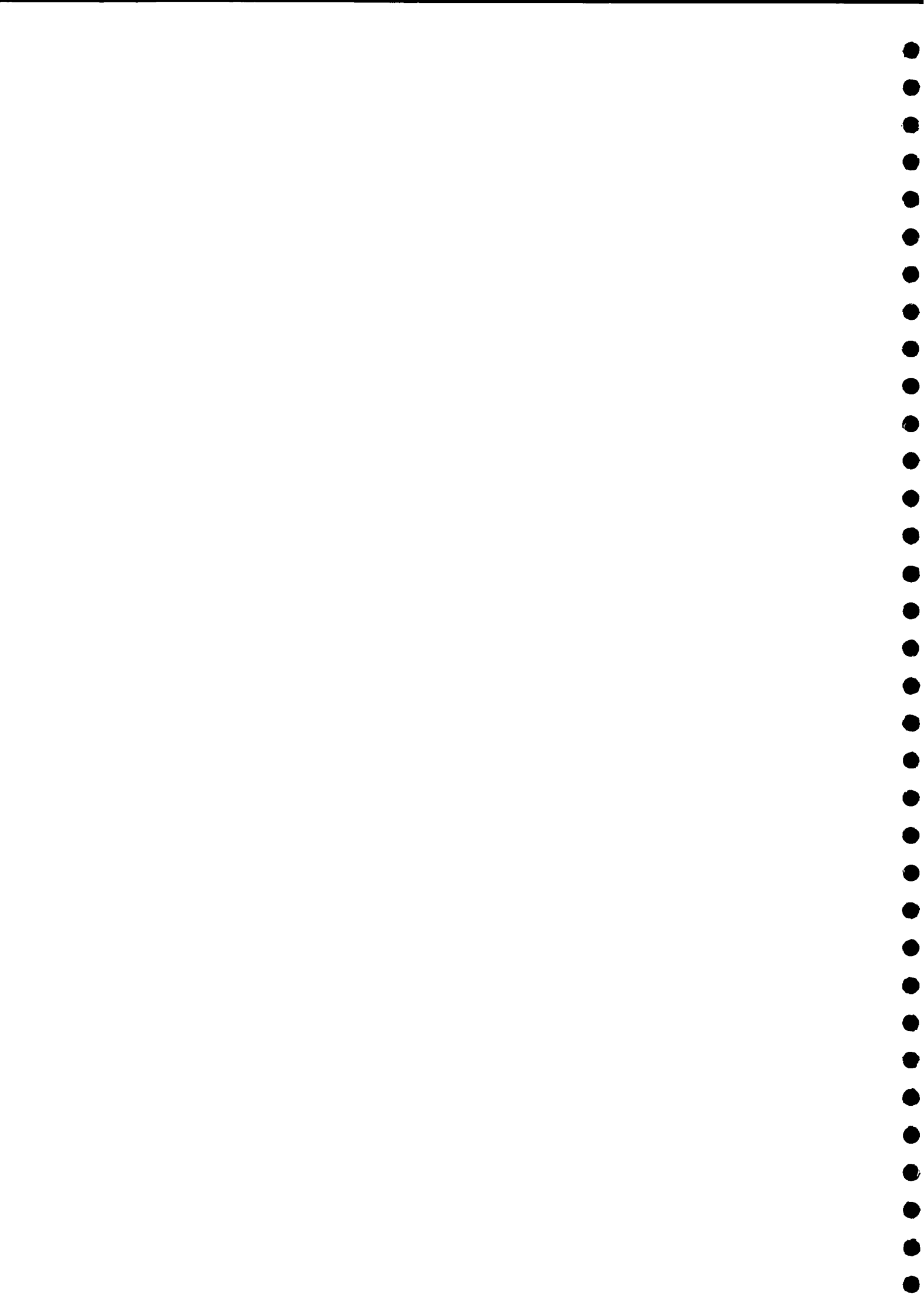
---

## List of Plates.

---

Plate i Trench 1, north facing section (Scale of 1m). ....	12
Plate 2. Trench 2, general shot of trench looking south. ....	13
Plate 3. Trench 2, looking north. (Scale of 1m).....	13

---



---

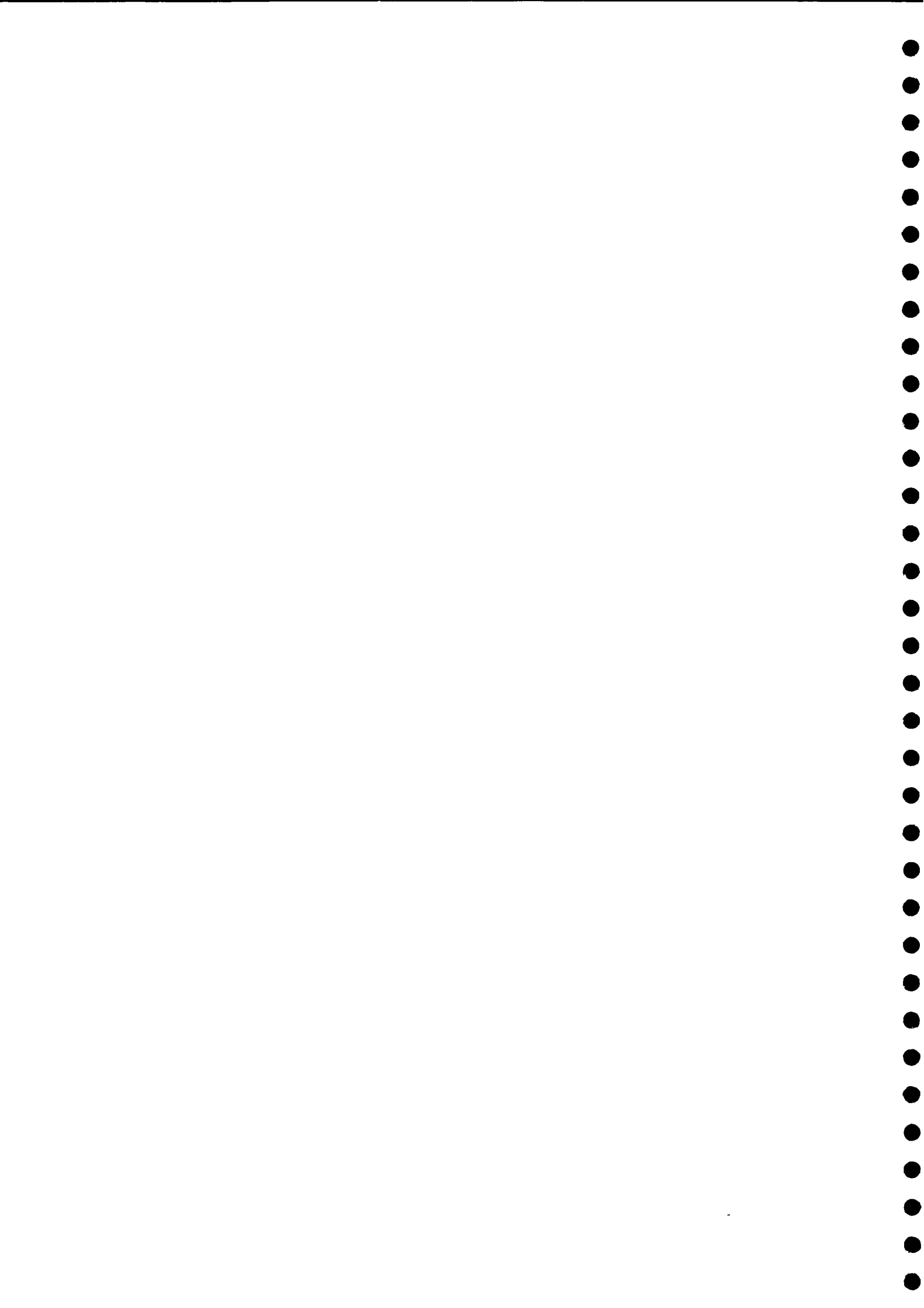
## 1.0 Abstract.

---

*An archaeological watching brief was carried out by On-Site-Archaeology at Pickering Library on behalf of Scarborough Borough Council. The work was undertaken in order to fulfil the archaeological condition attached to a planning application to build an extension to Pickering library*

*The watching brief took place on the 8th, 9th, 11th and 15th of November 2004. It comprised observation of the excavation of foundation trenches for the erection of an extension to the existing library*

*As the trenches were excavated, close archaeological supervision was maintained in order to identify the presence or absence of any surviving archaeological deposits. Whilst many of the trenches encountered only very recent layers associated with modern pavement surfaces and demolition activity, there was evidence within trench 1 of partially in-situ post-medieval archaeological remains*



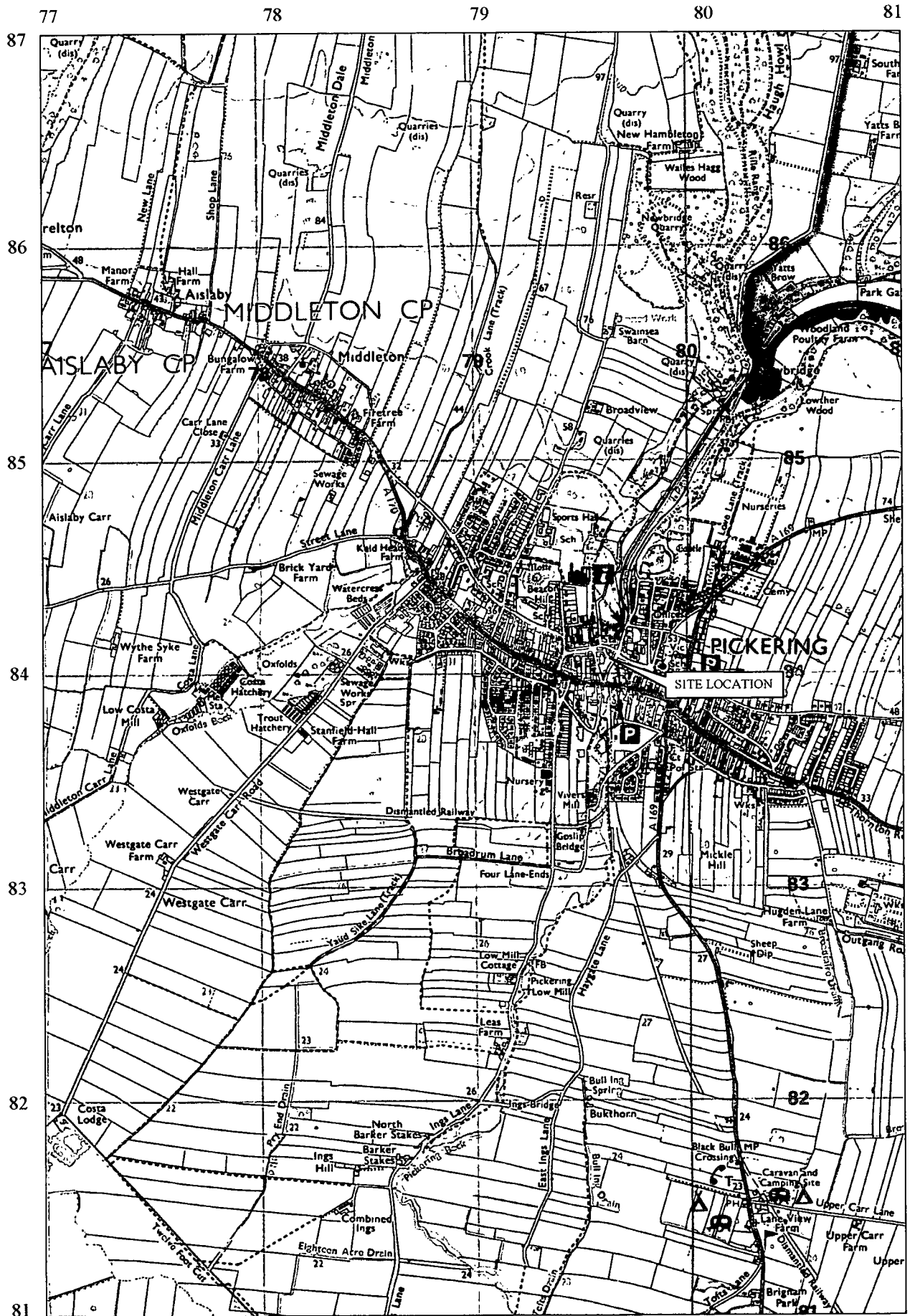


Figure 1 Site Location (NGR SE 7970 8410)

Reproduced from the 1992 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 maps with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office

© Crown copyright OS Licence No. AL 52132A0001

## 2.0 Site Location, Topography and Land Use.

The excavation of four trenches immediately surrounding Pickering library was observed. The library was situated in an urban environment. It was enclosed by roads and surrounded by various buildings, including the tourist information centre.

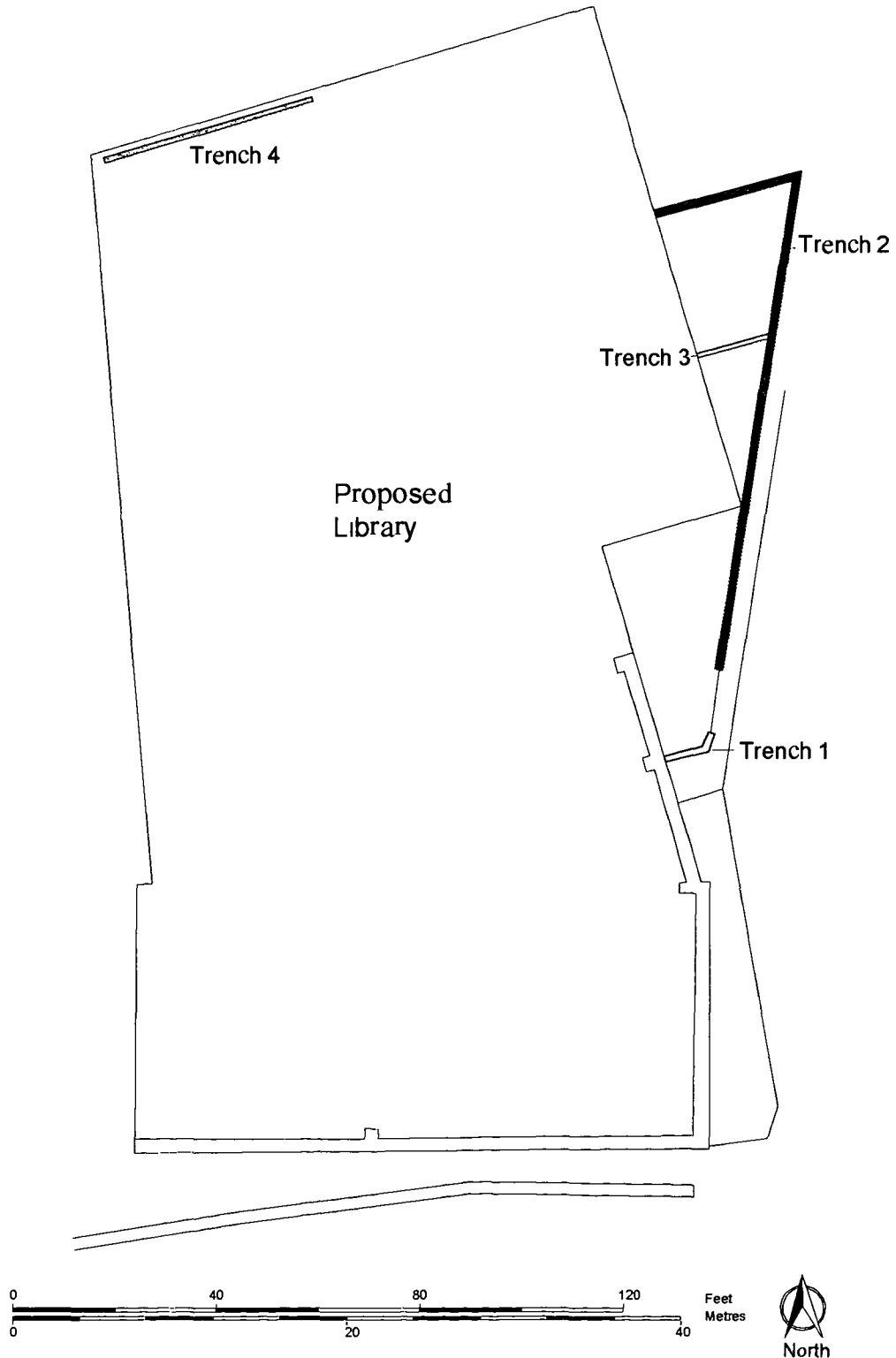


Figure 2 Trench location plan (Scale 1 200)





---

### 3.0 Archaeological Background.

---

The archaeological potential for any of the individual trenches is clearly related to detailed knowledge on a local level. Unfortunately, due to a lack of recent urban developments in Pickering, little is known of the potential archaeology. However, certain generalisations about the archaeological background can be made. The library was situated within a 10 minute walk of both the parish church and the medieval castle. As such, there was the potential for medieval archaeology related to the origins and development of this historic town.

---

### 4.0 Methodology.

---

The excavation methodology employed by the groundworks contractors, (Frank Bramble Construction Ltd), varied according to the access to each of the locations. Trenches 1-3 were dug by a 3 tonne mini-excavator with a 600mm bucket. Trench 4 was dug using a 360° JCB with a 600mm toothed bucket.

Standard *On-Site-Archaeology* techniques were followed throughout the excavation of the trenches as required by the Archaeological Scheme of Investigation prepared by the City of York Council Principal Archaeologist. This involved the completion of a written description for each archaeological deposit or cut encountered, along with sections drawn to scale as appropriate. All depths were taken from the existing surface. A photographic record of each of the trenches was also maintained.

## 5.0 Results.

The results are presented in trench order. The dimensions of each trench are noted, together with a description of the stratigraphy encountered.

### 5.1 Trench 1, (see Fig.3).

This was located to the east of the library and extended east-west. Its dimensions were 1.40m x 0.70m x 1.40m deep. The upper layers in this trench were modern. The top layer (100) consisted of machine made regular grey bricks. Below this was modern make-up, (101), a layer of loose yellow brown silty sand with large coarse grains and frequent flint fragments. Layer (102) was also modern make-up. It comprised a loose light grey gravel in a sandy flint matrix. Beneath this was a hard modern concrete (103). This was present only in the eastern third of the trench and related to the modern pavement to the east. Below this was encountered a loose, friable black silty gritty mixed deposit of which the largest components were fragments of slag (104). This modern make-up extended for 0.70m east-west and was 0.20m thick. It was found at a depth of 0.35m. It sat atop a layer of re-used/re-deposited natural (105). This reached its deepest extent in the western third of the trench and was a plastic mid brownish grey silty clay. Further modern make-up was encountered beneath and adjacent to this. Context (106) was a loose, very reddish brown sand. It contained small flint and pebble inclusions with occasional larger rounded pebbles 1mm – 6mm.

From a depth of 0.58m – 1.20m at the southern edge of this trench were two irregular courses of yellow sandstone blocks (107). The stones were roughly rectangular. The largest visible stone was 0.40m x 0.25m and projected 0.20m from the more recent layers above. These courses continued beyond the southern edge of the trench. There was also a frequent occurrence of broken rubble yellow sandstone, which lay immediately to the north of the wall. These stones were mixed into a matrix of plastic mid-dark brownish grey clay (108) that was re-deposited natural. The stones were joined by a modern mortar. This was a very hard white mortar with a pinkish grey hue. It contained frequent inclusions of white chalk and smaller finer yellow orange grains.

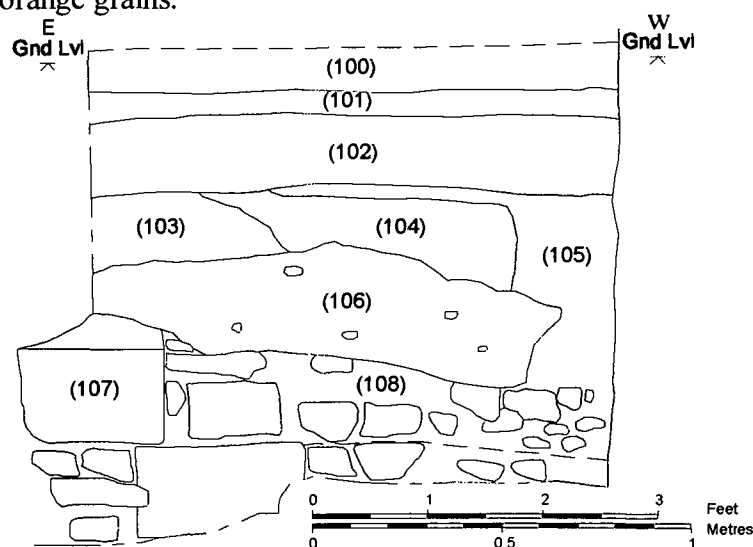


Figure 3 North facing section of Trench 1 (Scale 1 20)

## 5.2 Trench 2, (see Fig.4).

Trench 2 extended at a right angle from the eastern end of trench 1. It extended northwards for 14.5m and had a width of 0.70m and a depth of 1.40m.

The most recent layer in this trench was the kerbstone edges and modern paving (200) that ran parallel to the eastern edge. These extended to a depth of 0.25m. Below context (200) was a layer of concrete approximately 0.20m thick (201). This was the same as (103) in trench 1. Similarly the layers of modern make-up beneath this, (202), (203) and (204), were the same as layers (104) and (106) and (105) respectively. Layer (205) was the foundations stones which appeared in trench 1 (107). The length of these varied in size from 0.06m – 0.45m. None of these yellow sandstone blocks were coursed, rather they formed a random rubble layer which appeared throughout the trench. These stones were also present in contexts (204) and (206).

Context (206) was a greyish yellow silty gritty clayey sand. This was a mixed deposit as mortar had mixed with degraded yellow sandstone. It was probably the result of demolition activity.

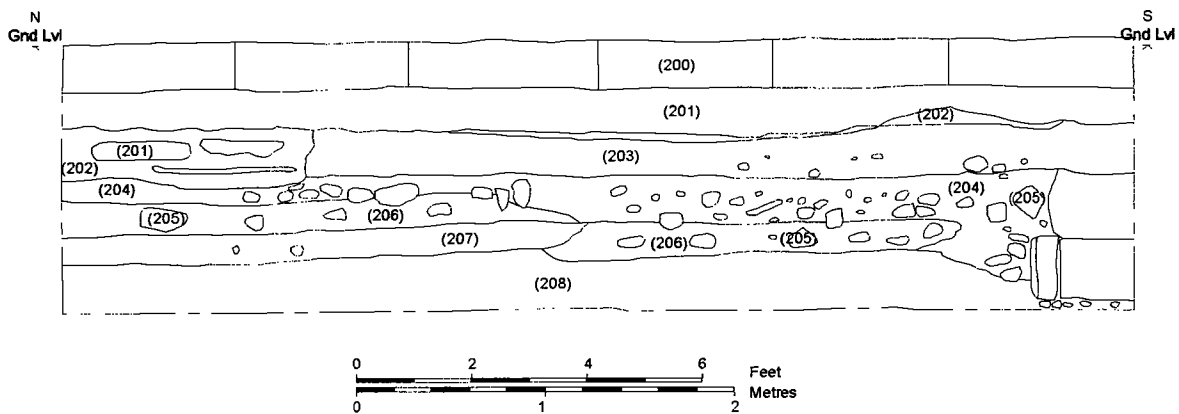


Figure 4 West facing section of Trench 2 (Scale 1 40)

### **5.5 Trench 3.**

Trench 3 was located to the east of the library. It was machine dug to a depth of 1.30m. It was 3.0m x 0.80m in extent.

The natural (308) in this trench was the same plastic mid brownish grey clay that was encountered in trenches 1 and 2. The earliest deposit was a layer of black gritty silty slag (307). This modern make-up was 0.16m thick. It was the same material as (104), (202) and (207). At the extreme edges of this trench was a 0.20m thick layer of concrete (306) which supported the library and the pavement. There was also a layer of yellow sandstone rubble (305) that was 0.40m thick and a layer of redeposited natural (304) that was 0.32m thick. Deposit (304) contained yellow sandstone blocks and fragments. These layers correspond to (105) and (107) in trench 1 and (204) and (205) in trench 2.

These contexts were sealed by three layers of modern make-up. Context (303) was a reddish brown sand, the same as (106) and (203). It was 0.16m thick. Context (302) was 0.15m thick and was the same black layer of slag as (307). Above this, (301), was a gravely modern make-up. The uppermost layer of this trench was grass-covered topsoil. This consisted of a soft greyish brown sandy silt, which was 0.23m thick.

### **5.4 Trench 4.**

This was located immediately north of the library and ran east-west. It was dug by a 360° JCB and was 5.80m x 0.70m x 0.70m deep. The natural (403) was identical to that found in trenches 1-3. Above this was a layer of loose black silty gritty slag (402) that was 0.20m thick. This was the same as layers (104), (202), (207), (302) and (307). Above this was (401). This layer was 0.35m thick and was a mid slightly reddish brown silty sand. It contained occasional mortared machine made modern bricks and yellow and grey sandstone blocks with a maximum length of 0.40m. This demolition rubble was overlain by (400). Context (400) was the topsoil. It was 0.15m thick and was a soft slightly greyish brown sandy silt.



---

## 6.0 Discussion and Conclusions.

---

During the course of the watching brief four trenches were observed. Many of the layers that were encountered were related to the modern pavement, modern make-up, or grass covered topsoil. However, in the following instances features worthy of archaeological discussion were encountered.

### 6.1 *Trench 1.*

The two courses of yellow sandstone (107) encountered in this trench are likely to represent parts of the foundations of a building, possibly a house, belonging to a post-medieval, probably late 19th, century building.

Fragments of post-medieval pottery and a 6 inch nail were found between the stones and within context (108). This strongly suggests that these stones were the foundations, rubble infill and demolition rubble of a post-medieval building, perhaps a residence. In relation to the library itself, the foundations of the library, as revealed in trench 1, sat atop a concrete layer with a thickness of 0.15m. Below this concrete was (107). This building may therefore have been demolished when the library was built.

### 6.2 *Trench 2.*

This trench revealed the demolition rubble (205) and (206). The presence of layers of relatively modern make-up above, (202), and beneath, (207), the yellow sandstone revealed the relatively recent nature of this layer and its demolition.

### 6.3 *Trench 3.*

This trench encountered archaeological layers in the form of the demolition layer of the yellow sandstone at a depth of approximately 1m beneath the ground surface.

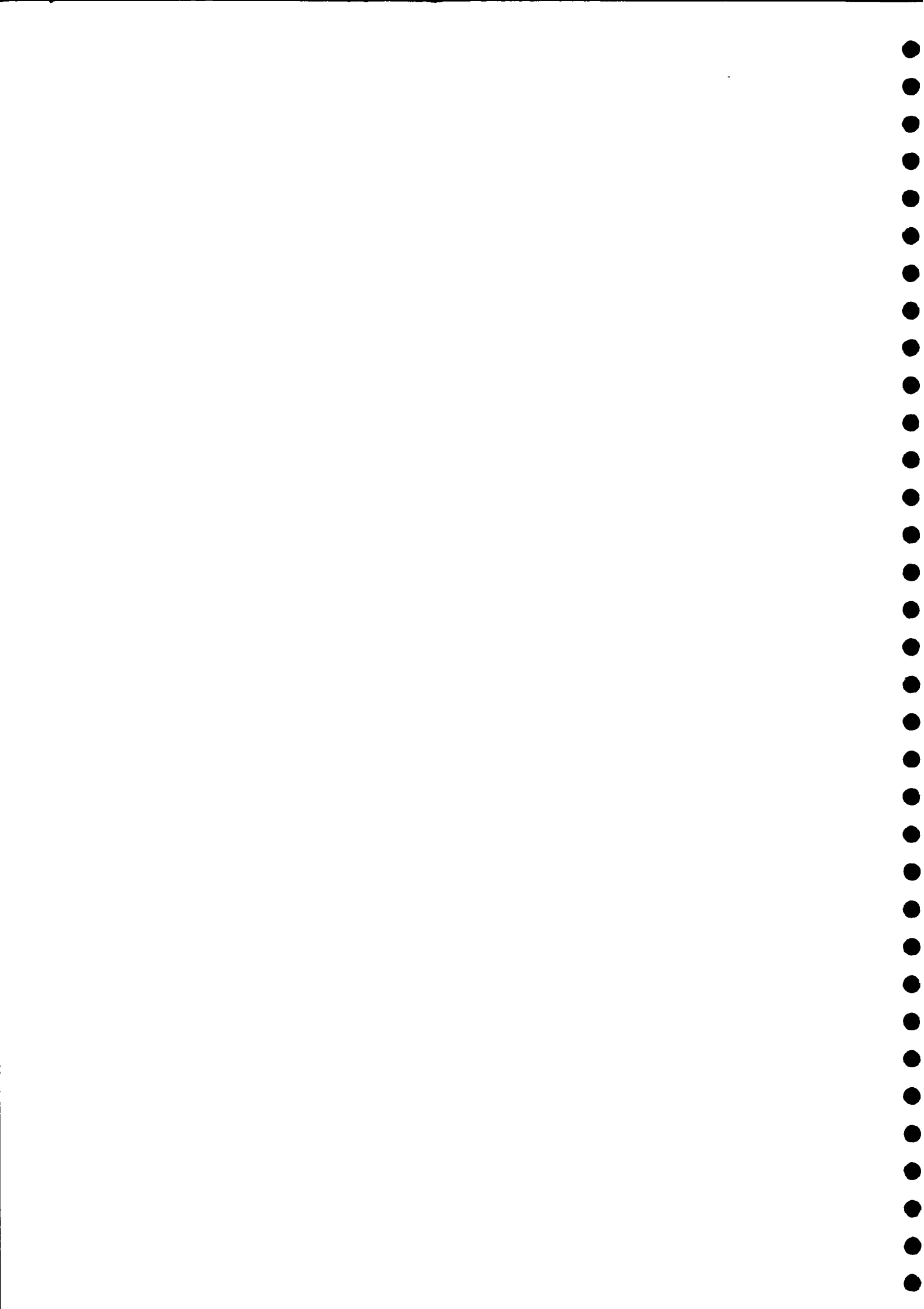
### 6.4 *Trench 4.*

This trench encountered archaeological layers in the form of the demolition layer of the yellow sandstone with occasional mortared bricks at a depth of 0.15m below the modern ground surface.

## 7.0 Appendix 1 ~ List of Contexts.

Context	Description	Extent	Max. depth
<i>Trench 1</i>			
100	Modern brick paving	trench	0 12m
101	Sand and flint modern make-up	trench	0 06m
102	Gravelly modern make-up	trench	0 20m
103	Concrete	eastern third of trench	0 19m
104	Loose black silty gritty slag layer	0 70m x 0 35m	0 20m
105	Plastic mid brownish grey silty clay	western two-thirds of trench	0 50m
106	Loose reddish brown sand make-up	eastern two-thirds of trench	0 30m
107	Coursed mortared yellow sandstone foundations and demolition rubble	trench	0 60m
108	Plastic mid-dark brownish grey clay re-deposited natural	western two-thirds of trench	0 35m
109	Plastic mid-dark brownish grey clay natural	trench	N/A
<i>Trench 2</i>			
200	Paving stones	trench	0 25m
201	Concrete	trench	0 23m
202	Loose black silty gritty slag layer	trench	0 31m
203	Loose reddish brown sand make-up	trench	0 25m
204	Plastic mid brownish grey silty clay	trench	0 55m
205	Yellow sandstone rubble	trench	0 55m
206	Greyish yellow silty gritty clayey sand Contains frequent yellow sandstone rubble	95 % of trench	0 20m
207	Loose black silty gritty slag layer	80% of trench	0 15m
208	Plastic mid-dark brownish grey clay natural	trench	0 30m excavated
<i>Trench 3</i>			
300	Soft greyish brown sandy silt topsoil	trench	0 23m
301	Gravelly modern make-up	trench	0 18m
302	Loose black silty gritty slag layer	trench	0 15m
303	Loose reddish brown sand make-up	trench	0 16m
304	Plastic mid brownish grey silty clay	trench	0 32m
305	Greyish yellow silty gritty clayey sand Contains frequent yellow sandstone rubble	trench	0 40m
306	Concrete	trench	0 20m
307	Loose black silty gritty slag layer	trench	0 16m
308	Plastic mid-dark brownish grey clay natural	trench	N/A
<i>Trench 4</i>			
400	Soft slightly greyish brown sandy silt topsoil	trench	0 15m
401	Soft slightly reddish brown silty sand Contains moderate to frequent sandstone blocks and rubble and occasional mortared bricks	trench	0 35m
402	Loose black silty gritty slag layer	trench	0 20m
403	Plastic mid-dark brownish grey clay natural	trench	0 01m excavated

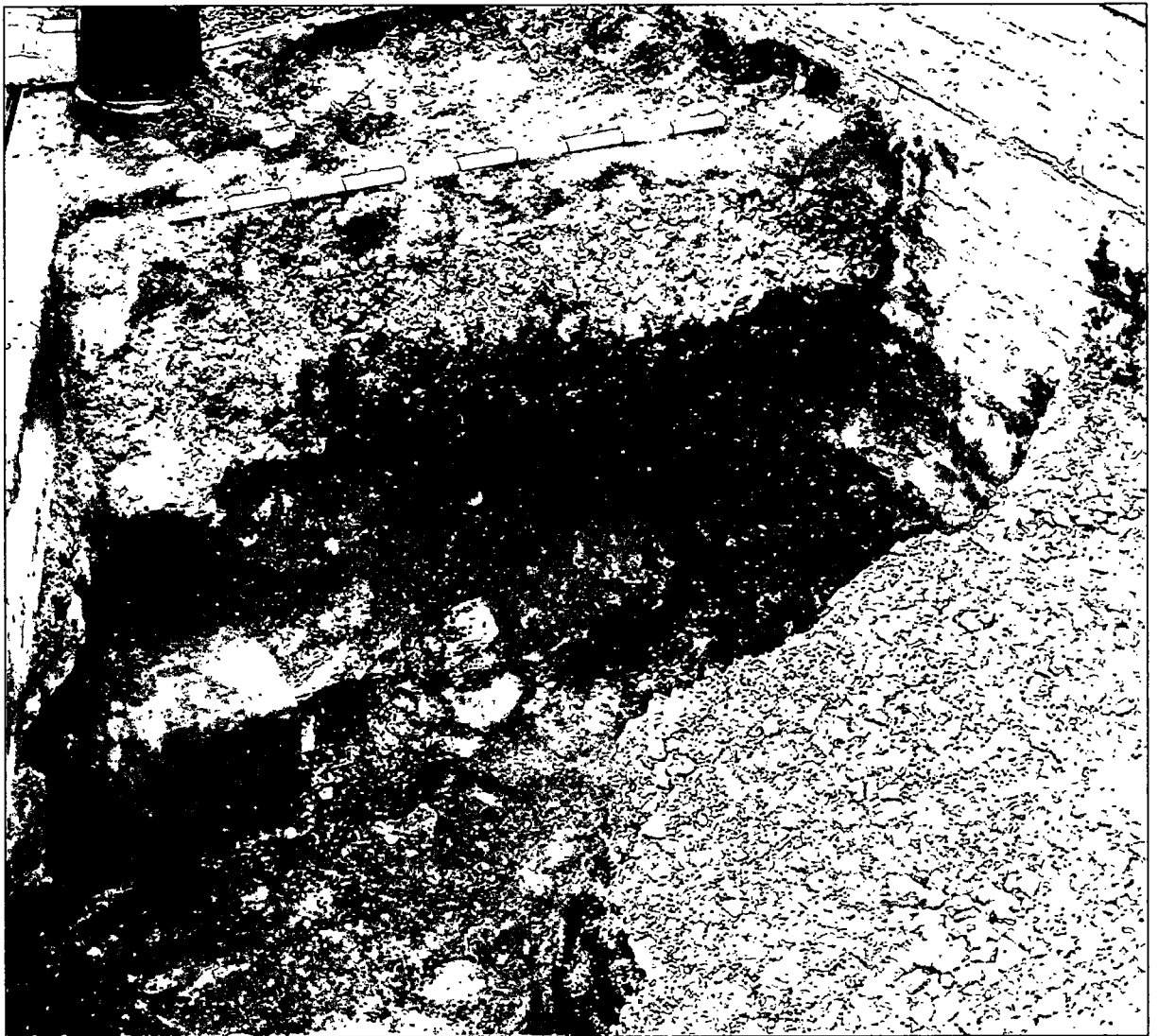




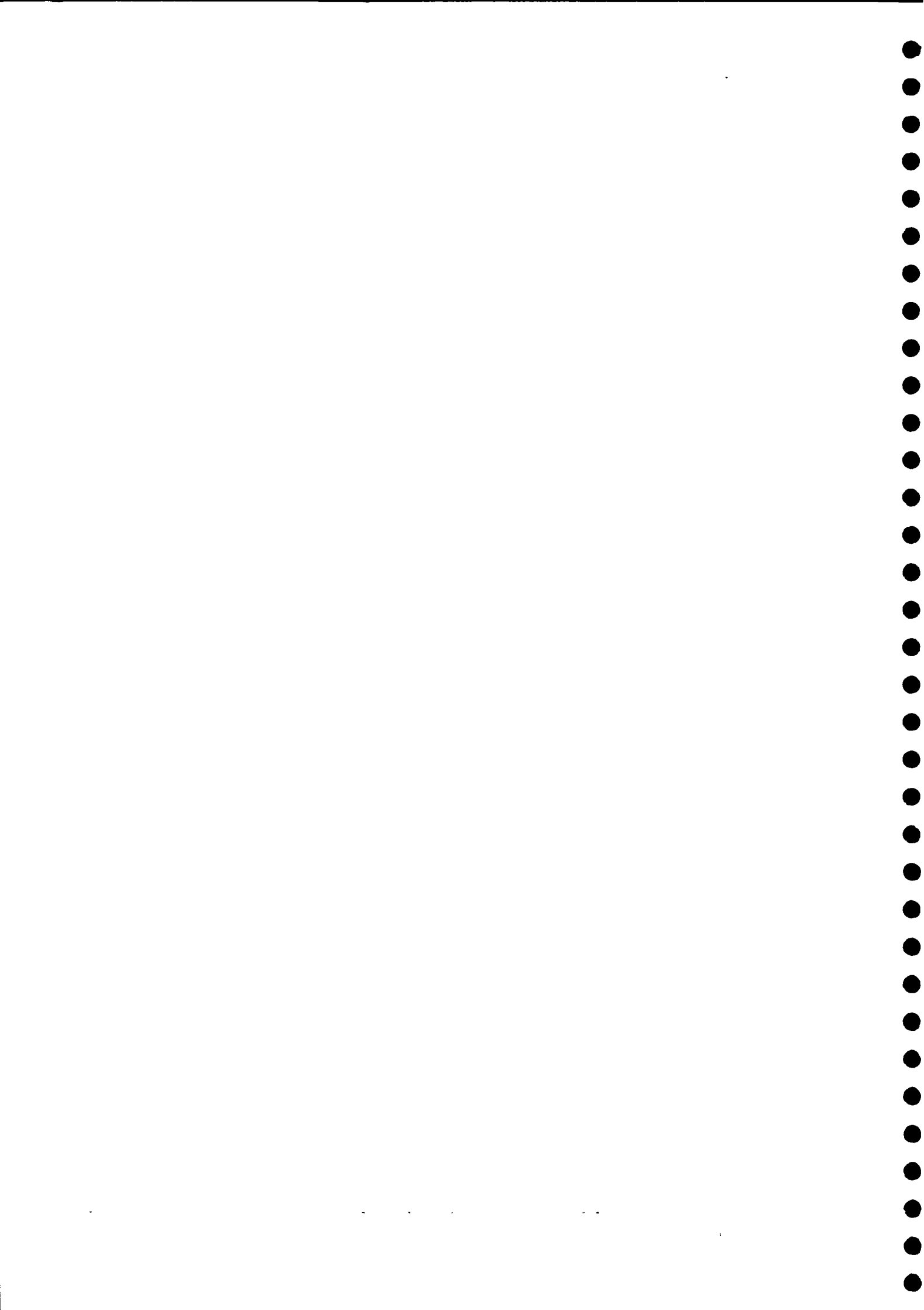
---

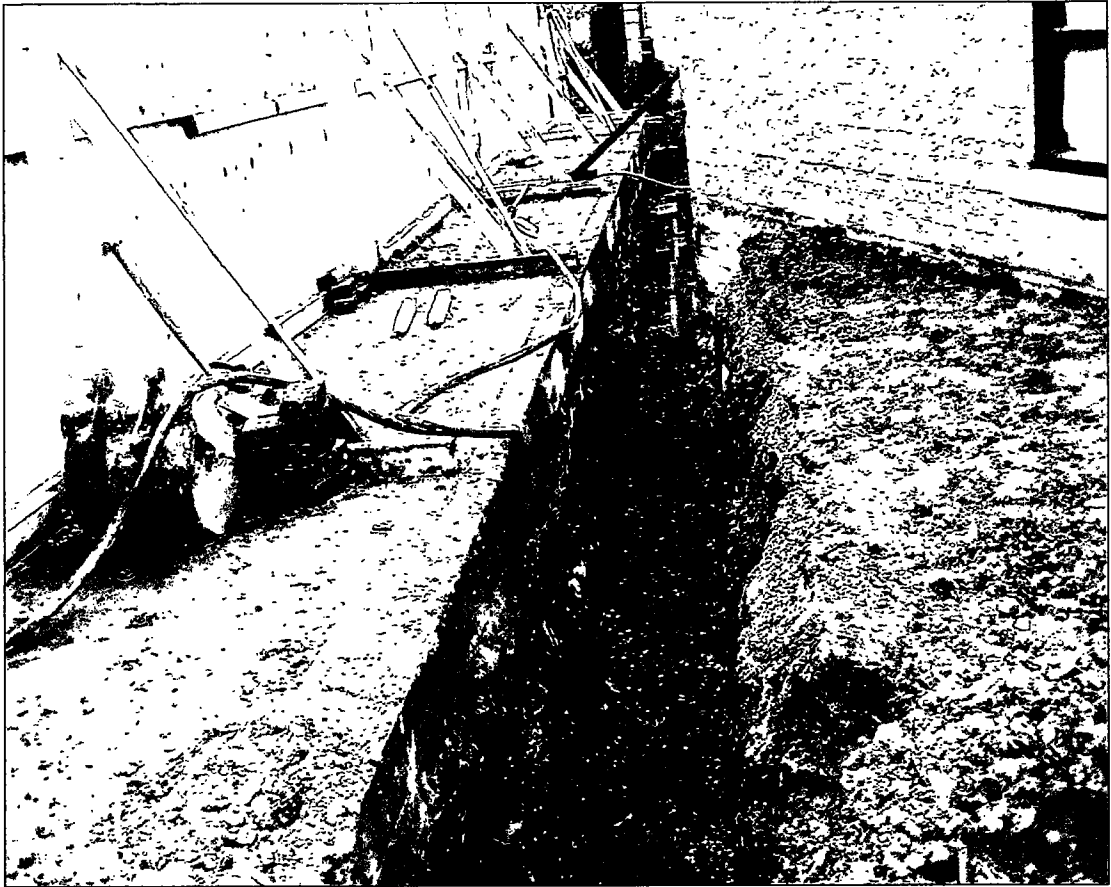
## 8.0 Appendix 2 ~ The Plates.

---



*Plate 1 Trench 1, north facing section (Scale of 1m)*





*Plate 2 Trench 2, general shot of trench looking south*



*Plate 3 Trench 2, looking north (Scale of 1m)*

