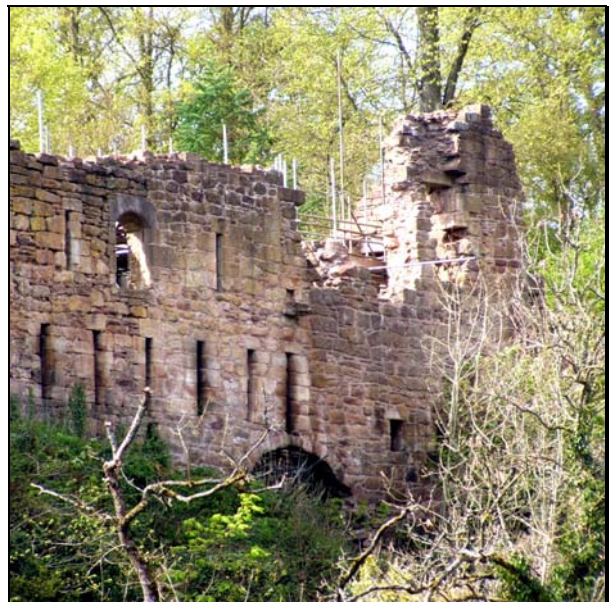


**Historic Scotland
Properties in Care
Minor Archaeological Works 2007**

**Cadzow Castle:
Archaeological excavation
and recording,
December 2007**

**HS PIC Index number: 90342
Project code: HSCO-90342-2007-03**



**March 2008
Kirkdale Archaeology**

<u>Site</u>	Cadzow Castle
<u>N.G.R</u>	NS 734 537
<u>Project Description</u>	Archaeological excavation
<u>Project code</u>	HSCO-90342-2007-03

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SUMMARY: December 2007 – Further excavation and recording was undertaken in the NW corner of the Middle Ward of Cadzow Castle. This was the latest in a series of visits examining features in this area. This latest work was a brief examination of areas now more readily accessible due the removal of scaffolding.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its PIC call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to undertake archaeological excavation and recording in the Middle Ward of Cadzow Castle. This work was undertaken at the W end of the range of buildings running parallel to the cliff edge. Earlier phases of excavation by Kirkdale Archaeology (HSCO-90342-2006-02, HSCO-90342-2007-01, HSCO-90342-2007-02) had cleared much of this area for archaeological recording and interpretation as part of stabilisation works. This latest work was a brief examination of areas now more readily accessible due the removal of scaffolding, and to allow further stabilisation work it was necessary to remove the infill deposits in these areas.

The feature numbers and phases referred to in this report correspond to those used in the earlier reports.

The work was carried out 13-14 December 2007.

2.0 DESCRIPTION

2.1 Trench 3A

Deposits **113** and **114** filled the aperture prior to excavation; these have been detailed in both of the previous reports on excavation in this area.

The aperture (**189**) to the E of **179** was fully exposed, it measured 1.00m N-S and 940mm E-W (the thickness of the wall) and 1.27m high. Large stones were now seen at the base of the aperture, **421** to N and **422** to S, both flat and level.

421 was formed with two rectangular blocks of sandstone laid E-W on top of and along the line of wall **185**, both stones measured 250mm in width and at least 150mm

high. The stone to the W was 420mm long and the E one 720mm with the eastern 120mm below wall 179. There was no trace of mortar on the exposed part of either stone. There were good flat faces including a flat upper surface, with course tooling visible on them.

422 was a single triangular sandstone block laid on its edge to run E-W following the line of wall 178. It measured 1.00m in length, 230mm wide and 290mm high. The W end was flush with 178 and the E projects roughly 20mm S of its line. The N and S faces were very finely dressed with oblong tool marks visible. The upper surface was rougher and had patches of cream coloured mortar on it.

Loose soil and rubble **423** filled the gap, which measured 1.00m E-W and 440mm N-S, between the stones. Mostly small to large split yellow sandstone blocks, the largest level with the top of **421** and **422**, and the other stones lower – c 20% very loose pale grey fine silt with no mortar seen. The sondage in the SW corner dug 350mm into **423** but the bottom of this deposit not seen.

427 was a void in the masonry at the SE corner of aperture 189, at the base it measured 240mm N-S by 120mm wide. There was a fairly regular hole, 300mm in diameter, at the bottom of **427** above which it widened progressively.

424 was an aperture within the phase 1 wall, 178, directly below aperture 189. It measured 750mm N-S and 1.00m wide and the ends of back margins had been broken off.

425 appeared to be a single block, the S end obscured by **422**, of finely dressed sandstone laid N-S. It measured 7800mm in length, 310mm wide and was 300mm thick. The top of a second course was just visible below this. The N end of **425** had been broken off but the block was very finely dressed with good E and S faces.

Forming the E edge of **424**, **426** was a single sandstone block laid N-S and measuring 620mm long, 280mm wide and 280mm thick. There was very fine tooling on the S and W faces, while the N end had been broken off and the top damaged by **427**.

2.2 Trench 4A

This trench was located against the base of the S wall in the NW towers vault. It was intended to join the previous trenches and find the base of the S wall where it still

existed. Trench 5 was extended W and now measured 1.90m E-W, c 1.10m N-S and up to 1.25m deep. A small trench, measuring 1.55m E-W, 200mm wide and up to 250mm deep was excavated to join trenches 4 and 5. Trench 4 in the SW corner of the area was not excavated any further.

The majority of the material removed, **4007-4009**, was as seen in the earlier excavations. As with Trench 3A most of the interest was in the structure that had been revealed rather than the deposits excavated. **417-419** were seen in the N part of the trench, against the N face of the wall. There was less excavation in this lower area in the previous excavation and phases of features were less well established - the phases here have been assigned the same numbers as those in Trench 3.

428 was a slab at the base of the rebuilt area and **429** (under it) was the continuation of the same structure, while **430** continued the feature N. **428-430** measured a total of 600mm N-S and 250mm wide and where **428** is over **429** the feature was 150mm high.

At the base of the trench **431** was a large slab measuring 700mm E-W and 300mm N-S but continuing to the W and N outside the excavated area. **431** had a fairly flat upper face and there were two smaller stones immediately to the E of it that may have been associated.

The unexcavated deposit at the base of the trench, **432**, was a deposit of dark grey silty clay. **431** was either over or within **432**.

In the E part of the trench **433** was an edge in the upstanding structure, extending 900mm into the trench from the E baulk, and at the baulk it was 650mm behind (to the S of) the N face of the vault's S wall (**437**) and at the W end it was 300mm to the S.

Running 600mm into the trench from the E baulk **435** were four courses of walling, measuring 700mm in height. The stones were rectangular and were seen the full length of the feature and continuing beyond the baulk. The upper stone measured 250mm in thickness and the other three 150mm. Close to the W edge of the upper stone **434** was a 30mm deep groove cut into its N face.

Seen at the bottom of **435**, **438** was seen as three stones that seem to continue up

behind that feature - but these too continued to the E beyond the trench's edge.

437 was a fairly straight wall face continuing W from **428** and **429**.

3.0 INTERPRETATION AND OBSERVATIONS

The work in this area was intended to clear out an aperture and the material removed was mainly fairly recent topsoil. The principle interest was in the structure that was revealed during this work. The phases assigned to the features are those from the previous reports.

3.1 Trench 3A: Phase 1 features

Aperture **424** seemed to be integral to the phase 1 wall **178** and was the same width as **189** above it, but the W and E margins (**425** and **426**) here continued this face down for at least two courses (400mm) below **189**. **424** may have been a window with a low thin wall at its S end, later converted to a door as **189**, in phase 3.

3.2 Trench 3A: Phase 3 features

421 was the N threshold of an aperture that appeared to have been built in the same period as wall **185** - the sides of the aperture were formed by vertical breaks in wall **179** above this. This aperture sat directly over **424**.

The S threshold within this aperture, **422**, was dressed in the same way as the phase 1 structure. It is unclear if this stone had been cut to be used here or (more likely) part of **424** recycled when the aperture was altered in this phase. **422**, was built against **425** and **426**, but its N face also went down at least two courses.

Hole **427** is probably collapse higher up but at its base seems pecked into the top of **426**, suggesting it was deliberate - perhaps part of a door mechanism.

The infill between **421** and **422**, **423**, was presumably imported as part of this phase, infilling over the bottom part of the earlier aperture.

3.3 Trench 3A: Phase 6

The material removed from the aperture, **113** and **114**, measured a total of 800mm in depth.

3.4 Trench 4A: Phase 2 features

437 was the S wall at the base of the vault - there seems to be a possibility that this structure ended around the E end of the trench.

The edge to **437** in the E part of the trench was **433**, a curve that is 650mm back into what should be the wall at the E baulk. The edge then runs N as it continues W and finally curves out to the surviving N face 1.80m into the trench. It may be that this was simply a crack that has formed in the wall but it is also possible that this was a result of structures having been removed in this area.

There seemed to be definite shape to the surviving stonework and this was thought during the excavation to be unlikely to be due simply to the way it had collapsed. The curve of **433** may suggest that a stairway curved down in this area. A possibility is that the stair was at the back, E end of a tower in the NW corner of the middle ward with the structure to the E being built on later.

The earliest structure of the NW tower may be slightly to the S of this but **437** was the earliest of the remnants seen in this area. The tooling on the stonework suggests that it belongs in phase 2 or later - it is certainly not as finely made as the phase 1 structure to the S in trench 3.

At the bottom of **435**, and appearing to continue behind that feature, stones **438** could have been part of this phase, but with the little that was seen it is impossible to be sure. Perhaps the stones at **435** have slipped N and down slightly and this was part of the same wall. The deciding factor in placing this feature, however tentatively, in this phase, was that these stones are notably smaller than **435** above and it seems unlikely that the wall would be constructed with small stones at the bottom are very large ones above.

428-430 all seem to be part of the same structure and likely to be associated with **438**. This may be a very broken drain or a fragment of floor surface. Slab **431** could be another fragment of floor surface.

Deposit **432** remained unexcavated but placed in this phase.

3.5 Trench 4A: Phase 4 features

Walling **435** was four courses of massive stone blocks that roughly continue the line

of the phase 1 structure. It is however notable that the line did change slightly at this point. At the W side of the top stone in **435**, **434** was a deliberately cut, 250mm high and 30mm deep groove that was cut into its N face. It is difficult to suggest what **434** was for and it may even have been imported with the stone.

Although **433** has been discussed in phase 2, whatever structure may have been there was taken out at some point and the edges that were seen are the result of that demolition phase. Within **433**, loose fill **436** was probably deposited as infill and part of the construction phase that sees **435** built.

These alterations may have been of a similar date to the phase 4 ones seen in Trench 3.

3.6 Trench 4A: Phase 6 features

The upper deposits removed were as those described in the earlier report. Although these deposits have all been placed in this phase there could be quite a time span involved.

407, **408** and **409** were all removed from over the stonework in this area, this material could have been deposited here fairly recently, potentially within the last hundred years. At the bottom of the trench against the N face of **435** infill deposits **417-420** were earlier but still post-dating the demolition of the structure.

A1.0 APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Trench 3A

#	Description
421	N threshold of aperture 189.
422	S threshold of aperture 189.
423	Infill between 421 and 422.
424	Early aperture under 189.
425	W margin of 424.
426	E margin of 424.
427	Hole in the SE corner of aperture 189.

Trench 4A

#	Description
428	Slab at the W end of 435.
429	Small slab under 428.
430	N continuation of 429.
431	Large slab, possible floor remnant.
432	Dark grey silty clay deposit at the base of the trench.
433	Cut in early wall face.
434	Groove cut in N face of 435.
435	Later wall face.
436	Loose infill within 433.
437	Original wall face in the W part of the trench.
438	Walling below and possibly behind 435.

A2.0 APPENDIX 2: LIST OF DRAWINGS

#	Description	Date	Scale
1	Trench 3A Plan.	14/12/07	1:20
2	Trench 3A S elevation	14/12/07	1:20
3	Trench 4A plan.	14/12/07	1:20

#	Description	From	Date
1	112 and 113 removed, 421-423 seen in the aperture.	S	14/12/07
2	112 and 113 removed, 421-423 seen in the aperture, close up.	S	14/12/07
3	112 and 113 removed, 421-423 seen in the aperture, close up.	S	14/12/07
4	Phase 1 wall to the W of the aperture.	S	14/12/07
5	SE corner of the trench, 175 in section.	W	14/12/07
6	E side of structure 426 and 427.	W	14/12/07
7	112 and 113 removed, 421-423 seen in the aperture.	W	14/12/07
8	W side of the structure, 179.	E	14/12/07
9	E side of structure 426 and 427.	SW	14/12/07
10	N threshold, 421.	N	14/12/07
11	Whole trench post excavation.	NE	14/12/07
12	Wall 437.	E	14/12/07
13	E end of the trench.	S	14/12/07
14	Whole trench post excavation.	W	14/12/07
15	Deposits 417-419 in the N section.	S	14/12/07
16	Top of walling 425.	SW	14/12/07
17	Detail of 424 and 425.	N	14/12/07
18	Detail of 424 and 425, W end.	N	14/12/07
19	Detail of the N edge of wall 425 and 427.	NE	14/12/07
20	Detail of the N edge of wall 425 and 427.	W	14/12/07
21	Detail of the N edge of wall 425 and 427. Shows the two parts of wall on slightly different lines.	W	14/12/07

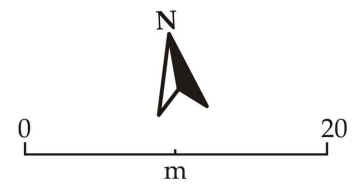
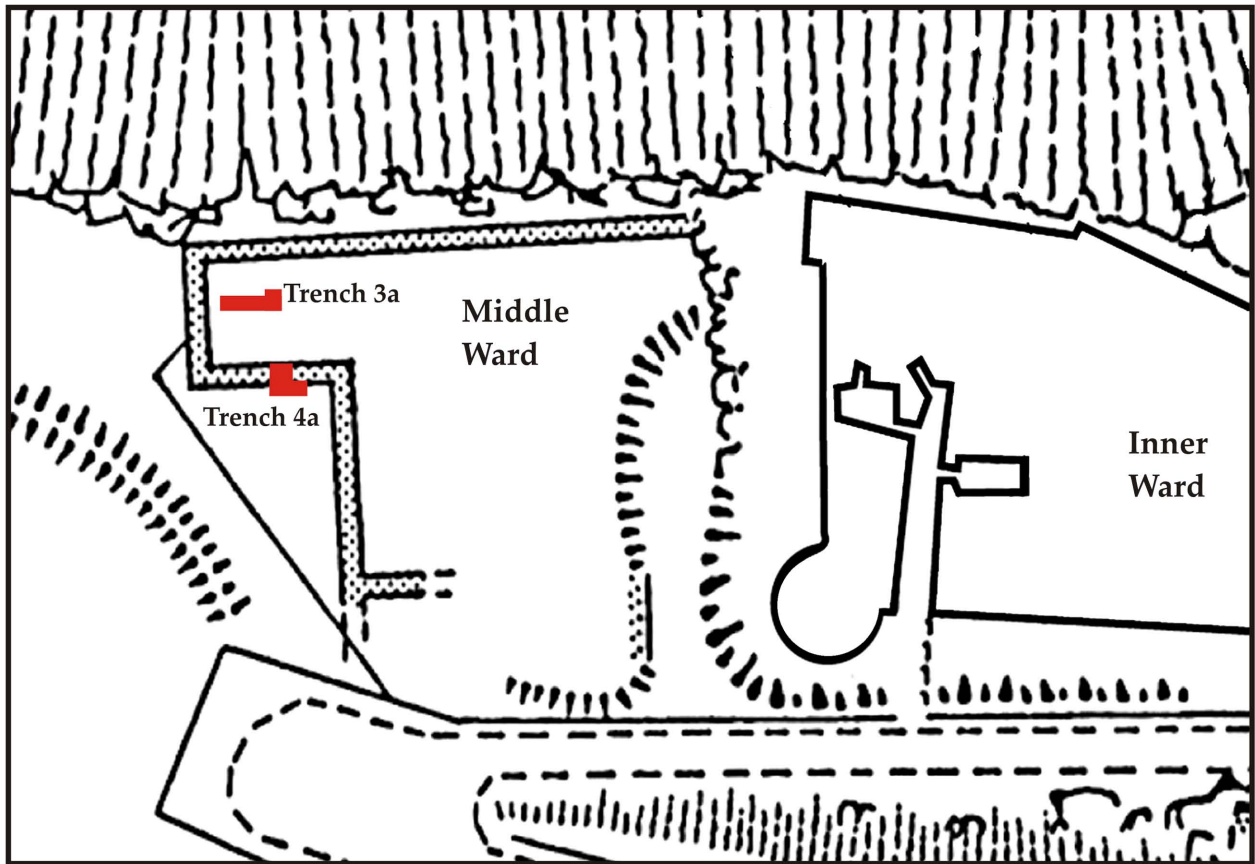


Fig. 1 : Plan showing location of trenches

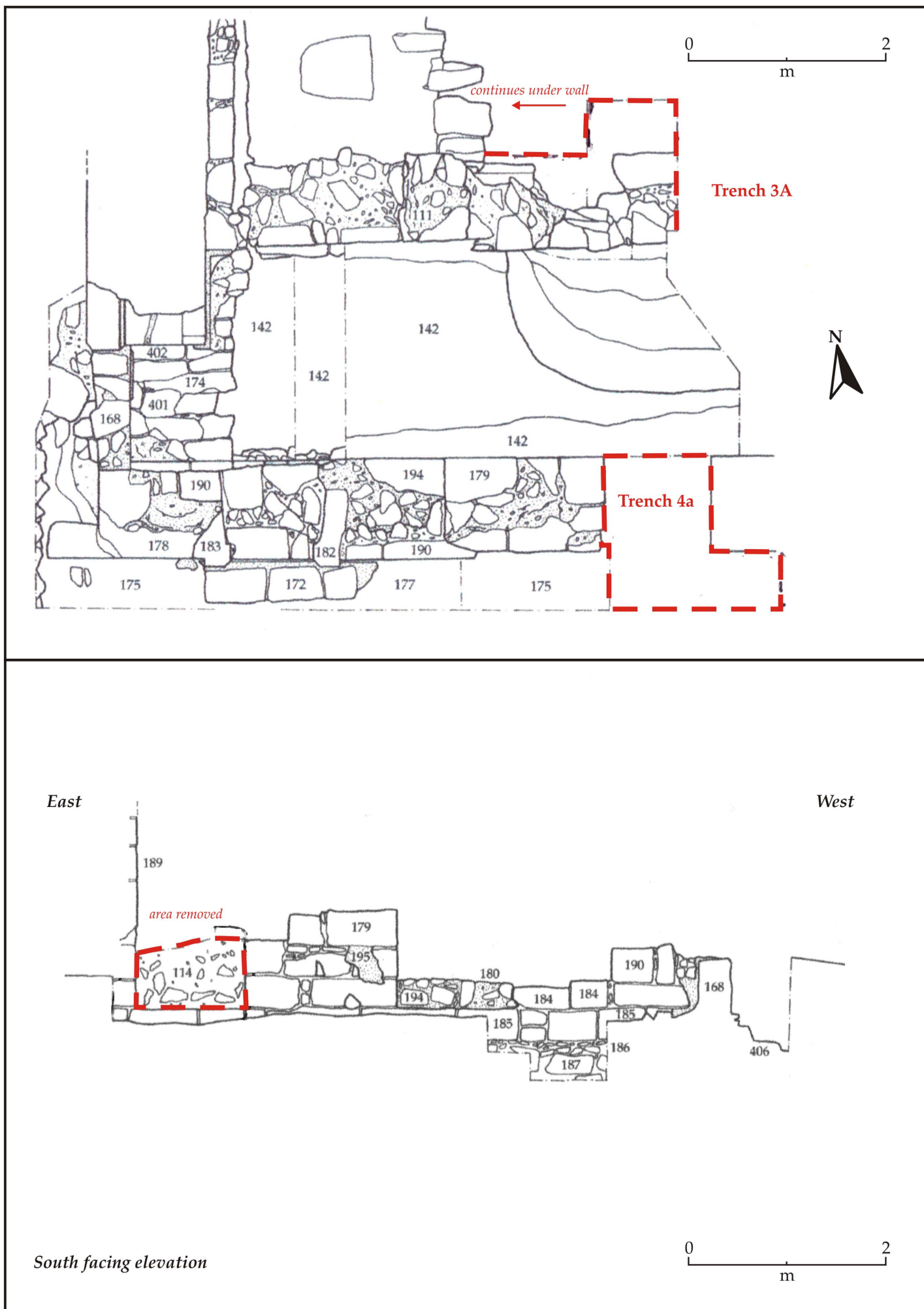


Fig. 2 : Plan and elevation showing location of excavated areas