

Heworth Hall, Gateshead  
Tyne and Wear

Archaeological Watching Brief



Solstice Heritage  
Crabtree Hall Business Centre  
Little Holtby  
Northallerton  
North Yorkshire  
DL7 9NY

[www.solsticeheritage.co.uk](http://www.solsticeheritage.co.uk)



# Heworth Hall, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear

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## Archaeological Watching Brief

Prepared for:	Aspire Technology Solutions Heworth Hall Shields Road Gateshead NE10 0UX
Prepared by:	Chris Scott BA (Hons), MA, MClfA Solstice Heritage Crabtree Hall Business Centre Little Holtby Northallerton North Yorkshire DL7 9NY
Checked by:	Jim Brightman BA (Hons), MLitt, MClfA
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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in December 2016 and January 2017, monitoring foundation excavation works in advance of the construction of a new-build extension to the west side of the Grade II\* listed Heworth Hall, Gateshead. The watching brief was undertaken in response to a condition placed on planning permission for the scheme.*

*The watching brief uncovered a paved surface, boundary walls and a stone-built culvert or drain, all of probable 18<sup>th</sup>- to early 20<sup>th</sup>-century date. It has also helped to ascertain the original function of the outshot extension at the western side of the Hall, which seems to have been created as a double outside toilet.*

*The archaeological monitoring undertaken indicates that, as with the previous watching brief undertaken in 2013 at eastern side of the Hall (Brightman and Stobbs 2013), the immediate areas around the Hall were part of its gardens over a long period of time. Both watching brief projects have not uncovered any evidence of earlier material relating to medieval occupation or use of the site, and have been restricted to uncovering built post-medieval remains mainly relating to garden boundary features and drainage truncated by modern landscaping and levelling of the site.*

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

This report has been commissioned by Aspire Technology Solutions to outline the findings of a programme of archaeological monitoring (watching brief) on foundation excavation works in advance of the construction of a new-build extension to the west side of the Grade II\* listed Heworth Hall, Gateshead (NHLE 1355084). The monitoring was undertaken to fulfil a condition of planning permission (DC/15/00910/FUL).

## 1.2 SITE LOCATION

The proposed development site is situated at the eastern side of the junction of the A184 (Felling Bypass) and the A185 (Shields Road) in Heworth, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, centred at grid reference NZ 28753 61994 (Figure 1). The groundworks monitored involved the excavation of strip foundations for the new office extension to a depth of c. 2 m below existing ground level (Appendix 1).

## 1.3 POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The potential archaeological significance of the site, and hence the reason for the monitoring works, lies in the potential for archaeological deposits to survive associated with the medieval settlement of Nether Heworth, as well as other built or garden features associated with the development of the listed building.

## 1.4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

An archaeological watching brief is defined as:

“A formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, intertidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive” (ClfA 2014b, 2).

The overarching aim of the watching brief was:

- To ensure that significant archaeological remains were not destroyed without first being adequately recorded.

The objectives of the watching brief were:

- To record, excavate and environmentally sample any archaeological deposits of significance observed during the groundworks
- To establish the date, character and significance of any archaeological and palaeoenvironmental deposits, including in relation to other similar features within the area
- To ensure there is a permanent record of the work undertaken deposited with the local Historic Environment Record (HER) and made available online
- To ensure all work is undertaken in compliance with the *Code of Conduct* of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) (2014a), the *ClfA Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs* (revised 2014b), and the *Regional Statement of Good Practice*.



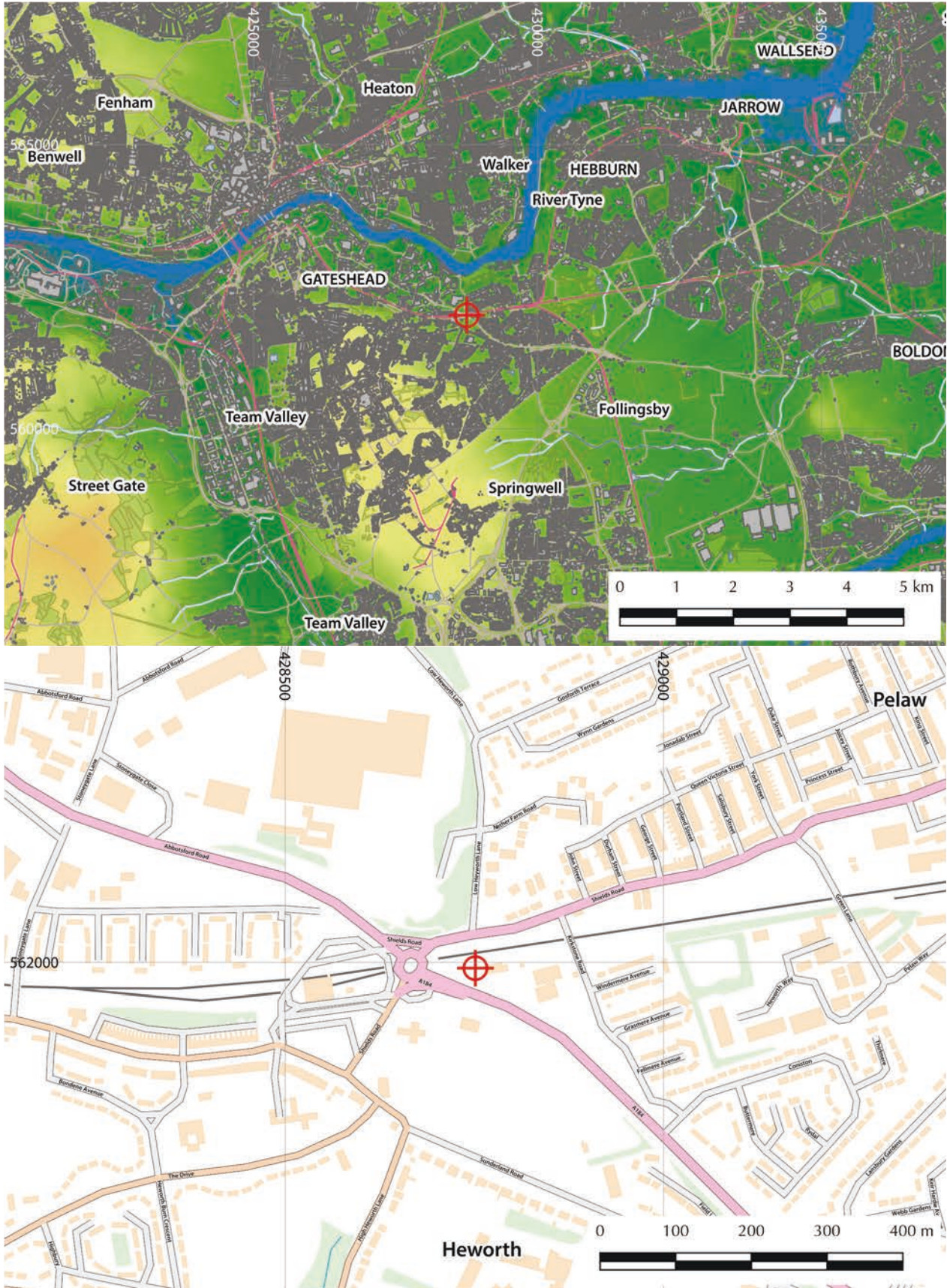


Figure 1 Site Location

## 2. POLICY AND GUIDANCE FRAMEWORK

### 2.1 LEGISLATION

National legislation which applies to the consideration of cultural heritage within development and the wider planning process is set out in Table 1 below.

Title	Key Points
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (amended by the National Heritage Act 1983 and 2002)	Scheduled Monuments, as defined under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), are sites which have been selected by a set of non-statutory criteria to be of national importance. Where scheduled sites are affected by development proposals there is a presumption in favour of their physical preservation. Any works, other than activities receiving class consent under The Ancient Monuments (Class Consents) Order 1981, as amended by The Ancient Monuments (Class Consents) Order 1984, which would have the effect of demolishing, destroying, damaging, removing, repairing, altering, adding to, flooding or covering-up a Scheduled Monument require consent from the Secretary of State for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.
Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	Buildings of national, regional or local historical and architectural importance are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Buildings designated as 'Listed' are afforded protection from physical alteration or effects on their historical setting.
Hedgerows Regulations 1997	The Hedgerow Regulations (1997) include criteria by which hedgerows can be regarded as historically important (Schedule 1 Part III).

Table 1 Legislation relating to cultural heritage in planning

### 2.2 POLICY

#### 2.2.1 NATIONAL

The principal instrument of national planning policy within England is the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (CLG 2012) which outlines the following in relation to cultural heritage within planning and development:

Paragraph	Key Points
7	Contributing to protecting and enhancing the historic environment is specifically noted as being a part of what constitutes 'sustainable development' – the "golden thread" which, when met, can trigger presumption in favour.
17	A core planning principle is to "conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for the contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations".
128	During the determination of applications "local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting". This information should be proportionate to the significance of the asset and only enough to "understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance". The normal minimum level is expected to be a desk-based assessment of proportional size "and, where necessary, a field evaluation".
129	Paragraph 129 identifies that Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

Paragraph	Key Points
132	It is noted that significance – the principal measure of inherent overall heritage worth – can be harmed or lost through development within its setting. Heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and any adverse effects require “clear and convincing justification” relative to the significance of the asset in question.
135	At paragraph 135 it states that the effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.
139	At paragraph 139 it states that non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.
141	In paragraph 141 amongst other matters it states that planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.

Table 2 Key passages of NPPF in reference to cultural heritage

### 2.2.2 LOCAL

The *Gateshead Unitary Development Plan* (UDP) was originally adopted in 2007, setting out policies and proposals for land use, transport and the environment. Some of the 153 saved policies, or parts of policies, have been superseded by policies in the *Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan* (adopted March 2015), and have therefore been deleted. The remaining saved UDP policies form part of Gateshead’s Local Plan until they are superseded by policies in further documents forming part of the Local Plan. The key policies in relation to the site are:

Policy	Text or Summary
ENV21	“Where archaeological remains survive, whether designated as a scheduled ancient monument or not, there will be a presumption in favour of their preservation in-situ. However, where the significance of the archaeological remains is such that their preservation in-situ is not essential, or is not feasible, a programme of archaeological works aimed at achieving preservation by record will be required, the findings of which should be published”.

Table 3 Summary of relevant local planning policy

## 2.3 GUIDANCE

### 2.3.1 NATIONAL

During the preparation of this document, the following guidance has been referred to, where relevant:

Document	Key Points
National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) (CLG 2014)	The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) released the guidance to NPPF in March 2014 in a ‘live’ online format which, it is intended, can be amended and responsive to comment, particularly as case law develops in relation to the implementation of NPPF. For cultural heritage the NPPG follows previous guidance in wording and ‘keys in’ with, in particular, extant Historic England guidance.
Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance (Historic England 2008)	This document sets out the guiding principles of conservation as seen by Historic England and also provides a terminology for assessment of significance upon which much that has followed is based.

Document	Key Points
Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (ClfA 2014)	This document represents non-statutory industry best practice as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. The work has been undertaken to these standards, as subscribed to by Solstice Heritage.

Table 4 National guidance documentation consulted

### 2.3.2 REGIONAL

Archaeological work in Tyne and Wear is often required to comply with *Yorkshire, The Humber and The North East: A Regional Statement of Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process* (SYAS 2011). The key principles in relation to the monitoring work undertaken are summarised in the table below:

Principle	Key Points
2	Archaeological work should be undertaken by professionally qualified and appropriately experienced archaeologists and organisations.
3	All archaeological work will have a scope agreed in advance with the archaeological curator (this document), and any changes to the scope or methodology will be agreed in writing with the archaeological curator.
4	Monitoring of archaeological work by the local archaeological curator will be the norm, and reasonable notice of commencement of fieldwork will be given.
5	Archaeological work will be undertaken in accordance with the best practice guidance of English Heritage and the IfA.
6	The local Historic Environment Record should be consulted prior to the commencement of fieldwork.
7	Archaeological work in the planning process should have regard to national and local published research agenda (see section 4.2 below)
9	Reports and required data will be submitted to the archaeological curator and local HER in a timely fashion and in accordance with the agreed WSI.
10	Any comments made by the archaeological curator on reports and outputs will be made within a reasonable timetable of receipt.
11	Where appropriate significant archaeological findings will be submitted for publication in a suitable journal or journals.
12	Any archive produced will be deposited in an ordered and acceptable fashion within a reasonable timetable, the details of which will be given in the report.
13	During the course of archaeological work arrangements will be made, where possible, for disseminating information about the site to the general public.

Table 5 Key principles of the *Regional Statement of Good Practice*

### 3. METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 FIELDWORK

The strip foundations of the new office extension were excavated into the natural clay substrate between 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and 6<sup>th</sup> January 2017. All groundworks were monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist, and a toothless bucket was used for all excavations.

Where archaeological features and deposits were encountered, these were recorded to the standards outlined in the relevant ClfA *Standard and Guidance* (2014b). All features and deposits were recorded on *pro forma* record sheets, drawn in plan and section at a suitable scale and photographed. No deposits with palaeoenvironmental potential were noted. In addition to any specific features or deposits, a general record of the trench stratigraphy was made on a *pro forma* record sheet.

#### 3.2 POST-FIELDWORK

The primary site archive was compiled, comprising site records and digital photography. This has been used to compile this report, which will be deposited with the local HER as the principal record of the monitoring work undertaken. If considered to be of sufficient significance following discussion with the Local Authority Archaeological Officer, the documentary archive will be deposited with a suitable local collections museum within six months of the submission of this report. A suitable OASIS record will be completed for this work, including a digital version of the report uploaded, within the same timescale.

#### 3.3 CHRONOLOGY

Where chronological and archaeological periods are referred to in the text, the relevant date ranges are broadly defined in calendar years as follows:

- Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age): 1 million – 12,000 BP (Before present)
- Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age): 10000 – 4000 BC
- Neolithic (New Stone Age): 4000 – 2400 BC
- Chalcolithic/Beaker Period: 2400 – 2000 BC
- Bronze Age: 2000 – 700 BC
- Iron Age: 700 BC – AD 70
- Roman/Romano-British: AD 70 – 410
- Anglo-Saxon/Anglo-Scandinavian: AD 410 – 1066
- Medieval: AD 1066 – 1540
- Post-medieval: AD 1540 – 1750
- Industrial: AD 1750 – 1900
- Modern: AD 1900 – Present

#### 3.4 ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

Data and information obtained and consulted in the compilation of this report has been derived from a number of secondary sources. Where it has not been practicable to verify the accuracy of secondary information, its accuracy has been assumed in good faith. All statements and opinions arising from the works undertaken are provided in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of this report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

#### 3.5 COPYRIGHT

Solstice Heritage will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

## 4. RESULTS

### 4.1 GENERAL STRATIGRAPHY

The monitored excavations at the site cut through a series of surfacing and levelling deposits which increased in depth from east to west. These deposits, generally dating to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, were approximately 0.5 m in thickness nearest to the existing buildings of the Hall, increasing to around 1.5 m at the western extent of the site. These deposits represent levelling of the sloping site during the earlier part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Underlying these modern layers, the natural mid brown/ yellow clay till substrate (009) was shown to exist across the entirety of the site.

### 4.2 STANDING BUILDING

Due to the groundworks resulting in the lowering of the ground level next to the west elevation of the main standing building, the lower extents of the walls of the later outshot extensions at this side were exposed to view during the watching brief. This revealed previously covered elements of their construction.

The single-storey outshot extension to the west side of the building (see Town 2011 - Building D) was previously thought to represent a coal house, although this attribution was uncertain (Town 2011, 56). Uncovered within the north elevation of the outshot, two latterly blocked openings, either side of a central pier with stone lintels including iron pins to hold hinges for lifting wooden doors (Figure 2), suggest that the extension was actually created as a traditional 'two-seater' outside toilet and is most likely to be early 19<sup>th</sup>-century in date.

The blocking of the two openings for removing waste from the outside toilet had been subsequently built against by the 1929 stairway extension to this side of the Hall (Figure 2), indicating clearly that it was no longer in use for its original purpose by that date.



Figure 2 North elevation of outshot at west side of Heworth Hall after ground reduction. Scale 1x25cm

### 4.3 BURIED STRUCTURES

Aside from the standing building, other archaeological features uncovered during the watching brief consisted of:

- Wall foundation (003)
- Stone drain/culvert (011)
- Flagged surface (010)
- Wall (014)
- Wall (015)

#### 4.3.1 WALL FOUNDATION (003)

Wall foundation (003) consisted of a 2.1 m length of stone blockwork foundation, exposed at the south-east corner of the excavation for the new office extension foundations (Figure 3). The foundation included one surviving course of masonry in roughly shaped sandstone blocks, the largest of which was approximately 0.44 m x 0.16 m x 0.11 m. Traces of a white, chalky lime mortar were evident across the upper surface of the stones and in patches immediately around them. The foundation construction was of two leaves with two areas of collapse/construction debris (005, 006), one noted on either side of the wall course. Deposit (005) consisted of redeposited yellow/brown till (boulder clay) with inclusions of lime mortar, charcoal flecks and crushed mortar, as well as patches of mid-brown clay silt. The deposit measured 0.6 m x 0.65 m x 0.05 m. Deposit (006) was similar to (005) but more mixed. It consisted of a mixed grey silt clay with frequent inclusions of stone fragments, mortar, slate, charcoal flecks and brick fragments.

The wall foundation (003) was cut by the trench for a modern gas pipe (007) at its south-eastern extent, immediately to the north side of the north-west corner of the outshot extension on this side of the main Hall building (Figure 4). The foundation (003) overlay a firm mid/dark grey clay with moderate inclusions of brick, mortar and pebbles (004). This layer, which was present across the site, was interpreted as a probable disturbed or reworked clay substrate, perhaps representing a 19<sup>th</sup>-century construction/levelling layer. This deposit overlay the natural clay substrate (009).

This wall foundation presumably represents the garden wall shown on the 1858 First Edition Ordnance Survey map extending west from this side of the Hall (see Town 2011, Figure 4).

#### 4.3.2 STONE DRAIN/CULVERT (011)

Immediately to the east of the wall foundation (003), but cut into the natural substrate (009) at a lower level, was a stone-lined culvert or drain (011) (Figure 5). This drain was initially exposed at the south-east corner of the site, immediately to the north side of the outshot from the main Hall building. At its eastern extent, the drain ran beneath the foundation of the 1929 stairway extension to the main building (Town 2011, 34-36). From that point it ran for 1.5 m to the west before turning 90° to run directly north. 0.6 m of this northern extension was observed within the monitored excavation (Figure 6).

The culvert itself was 0.6 m wide, comprising sandstone rubble walls up to 0.22 m in width and approximately 0.20 m high. These rubble walls included up to three courses of mostly small unshaped rubble stone and were typically c. 0.07 m – 0.08 m per course. There was no mortar used within the construction. The walls of the drain sat within a linear construction cut (013), and were wedged closely against the vertical sides of this tight cut, sitting directly upon its flat base. The roughly square channel of the drain was found to be c. 0.2 m wide and around 0.25 m high. The channel was covered by partially surviving slabs of laminated sandstone, the largest of which was 0.52 m x 0.36 m x 0.025 m. These covering stones only survived in position at the eastern end of the structure but presumably once extended across its entire length. The channel of the drain was filled with a loose grey silt fill (012), which presumably represented silting of the drain during and after its use. The purpose and date of the drain is uncertain; however, it presumably post-dates the construction of the nearby outshot, given that it respects the line of that building.



Figure 3 Wall foundation (003), looking south-east. Scale 1x50 cm



Figure 4 Wall foundation (003), looking north-west. Note corner of outshot extension and cut with modern gas pipe. Scale 1x50 cm





Figure 5 Culvert/ drain (011), looking east. Note north wall of outshot to right. Scale 1x50 cm



Figure 6 Detail of northern extent of culvert (011). Scale 1x50 cm

#### 4.3.3 FLAGGED SURFACE (010)

Immediately to the west of the west wall of the 1929 stairwell addition to the main Hall building (Town 2011, 34-36), and partially underlying its foundation, was a flagged stone surface (010) (Figure 7). Two sections of this surface were encountered during the monitoring of underpinning works to the west wall of the standing building (Figure 8). The flagstone surface was formed from irregular flat sandstone slabs, closely spaced with no pattern. A distinct straight edge was observed at the western side of the surface but its eastern extent was not confirmed beneath the standing building foundation, which it underlay. The average flagstone was c. 0.04 m thick and c. 0.3 m across. The surface was partially overlain by the disturbed grey clay (004) considered to represent a 19th-century levelling deposit; it was lain directly onto the natural boulder clay (009). The surface is considered most likely to represent an exterior garden path or paved area running north to south, contemporary in date with the earlier phases of the Hall and clearly earlier than 1929.

#### 4.3.4 WALL (014)

Within the northern central part of the site a well-coursed sandstone wall (014) was encountered within the excavations for the foundations of the new office extension (Figure 9). The wall was made of rectangular masonry blocks (c. 0.3 m x 0.1 m x 0.2 m) set in a chalky, white lime mortar. Neatly cut facing stones were present to both sides of the 0.6 m wide construction, which was filled with a mortar and rubble core. The wall was shown to survive to at least five courses in height (c. 0.65 m) and was aligned north-east to south-west, with around 2-2.5 m of its course exposed within the excavation (Figure 10). The wall was bedded directly onto the natural clay substrate (009), and no construction cut was visible within the surrounding disturbed later levelling layer (004), which was dumped around and over the partly demolished wall. It is not clear from the historic mapping which wall this might represent; however, it seems clear that it is a boundary wall of likely 19<sup>th</sup>-century construction. Although not certain, a short length of cast-iron post found within the adjacent backfill (004) suggests that this wall may have been topped with inset iron railings.

#### 4.3.5 WALL (015)

At the western extent of wall (014), it was found to include a 90° return to the north-west. This return was initially given a separate context number (015) but was later found to be part of (014) (Figure 11). As with (014), wall (015) was found to have a width of 0.60 m and survived to a height of 0.7 m. Around 1.0 m of the length of this wall section was exposed within the foundation excavation. It appeared that the wall continued to the north-west beyond the limit of excavation, but it was not possible to ascertain whether this was a true corner, or whether it was the junction of two contemporary walls and (015) continued past this point further to the south-east (Figure 12).



Figure 7 Southern section of paved surface (010), looking east. Note distinct straight edge at western extent. Scale 1x1 m



Figure 8 Northern section of paved surface (010), looking east. Scale 2x 1 m



Figure 9 Wall (014), looking north-east. Scale 1x2 m



Figure 10 Wall (014) looking north-west. Scale 1x2 m



Figure 11 Right-angle return of Wall (014/015), facing north-east. Scale 2x1 m



Figure 12 Wall (014/015), looking south-east. Scale 2x1 m

## 5. DISCUSSION

The archaeological monitoring undertaken indicates that, as with the previous watching brief undertaken in 2013 at eastern side of the Hall (Brightman and Stobbs 2013), the immediate areas around the Hall were part of its gardens over a long period of time.

The watching brief uncovered a paved surface, boundary walls and a stone-built culvert or drain, all of probable 18<sup>th</sup>- to early 20<sup>th</sup>-century date. The work has also helped to ascertain the original function of the outshot extension at the western side of the Hall, previously tentatively identified as a possible coal house, which seems to have been created as a double outside toilet.

Both watching brief projects have not uncovered any evidence of earlier material relating to medieval occupation or use of the site, and have been restricted to uncovering built post-medieval remains relating principally to garden boundary features and drainage truncated by modern landscaping and levelling of the site. Due to the limited number and significance of archaeological features uncovered as part of this work, it is recommended that this report is sufficient as the project archive.

## 6. SOURCES

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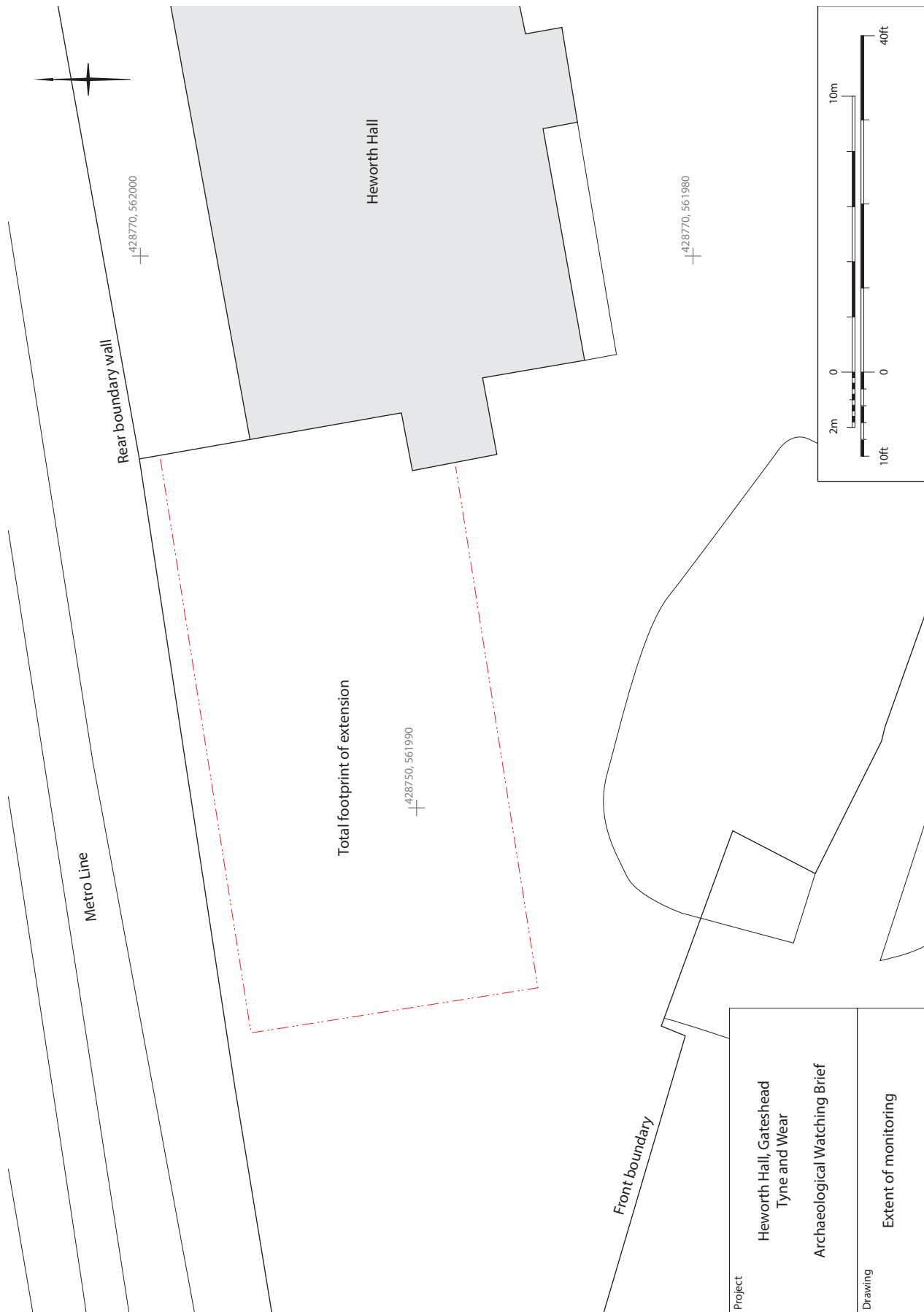
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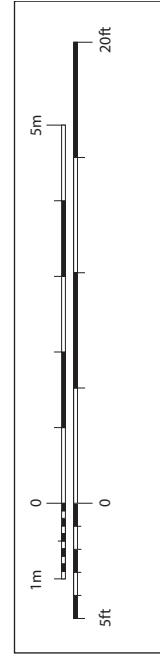
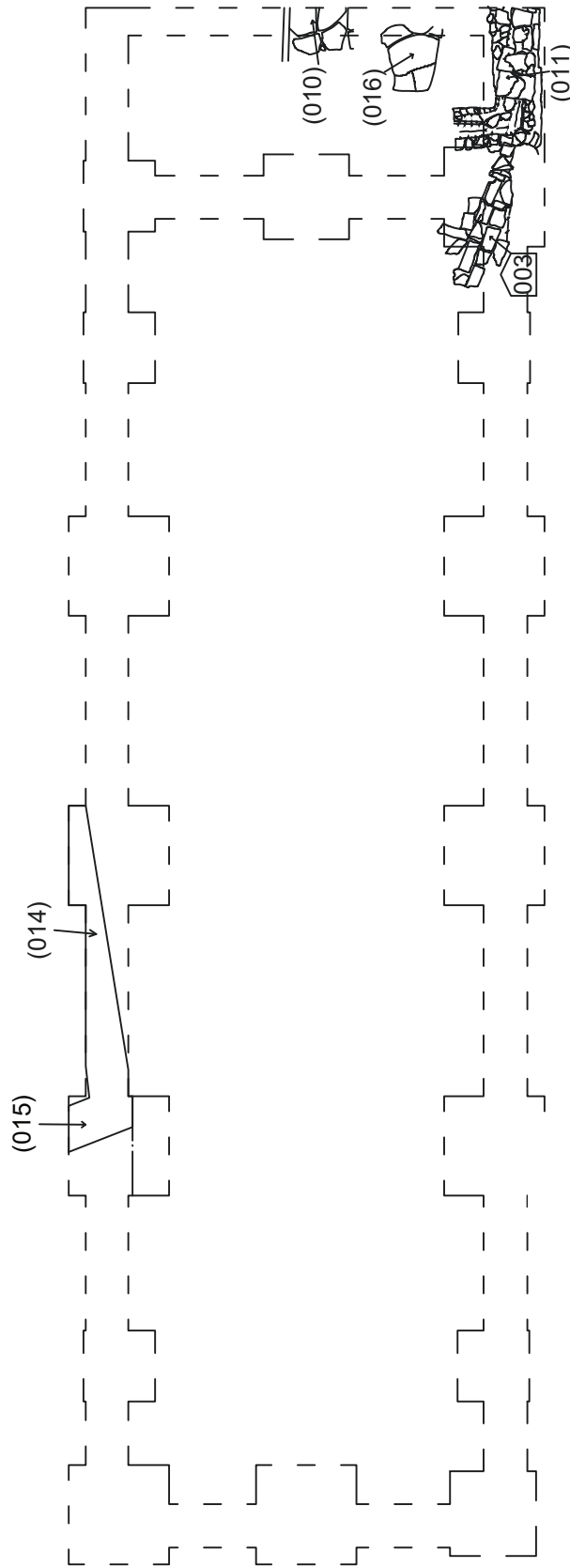
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## APPENDIX 1 – ADDITIONAL PROJECT ILLUSTRATIONS

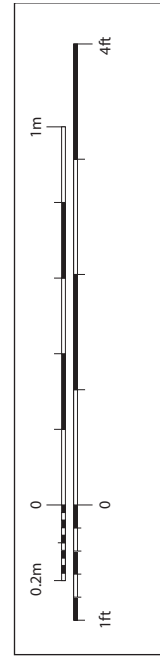
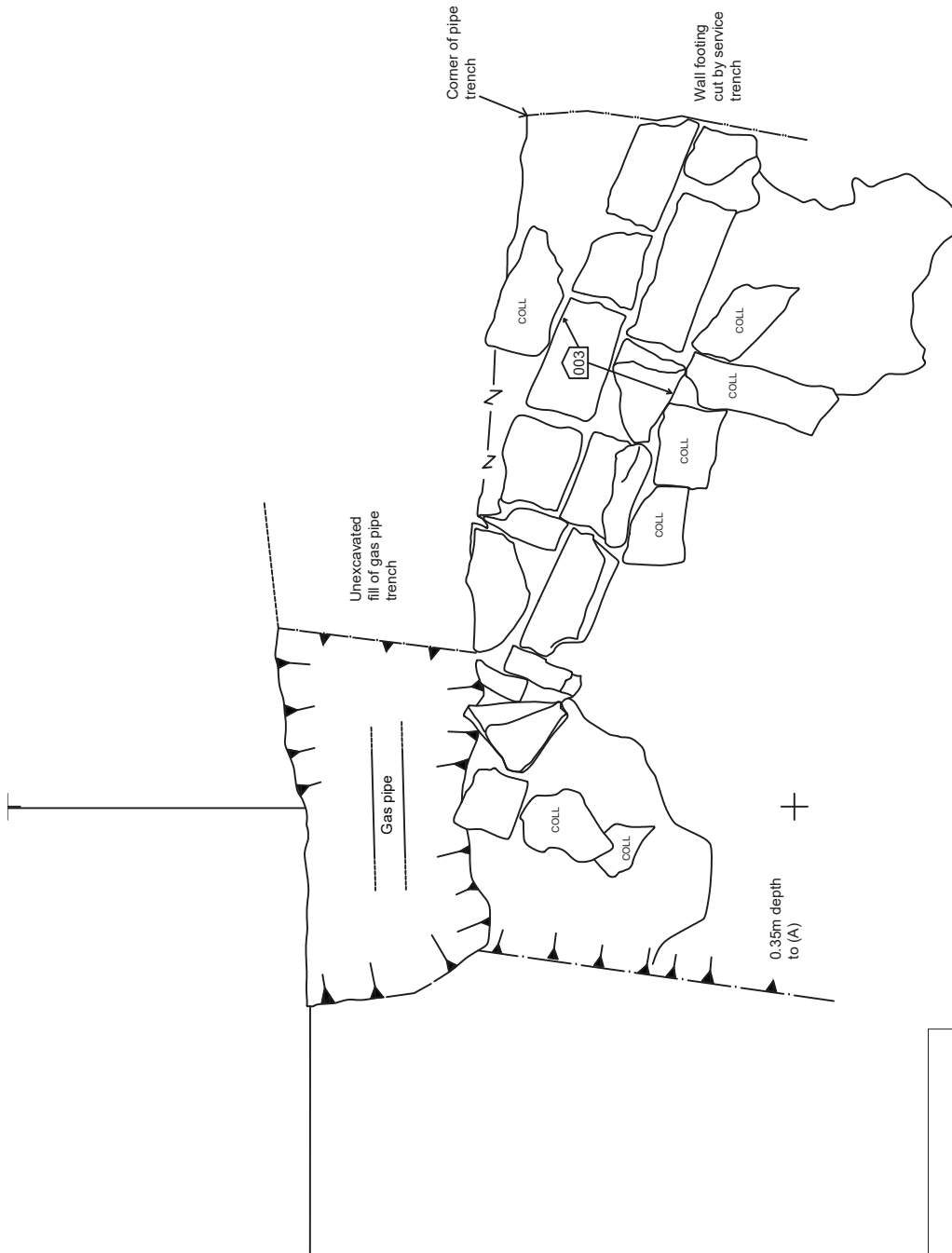






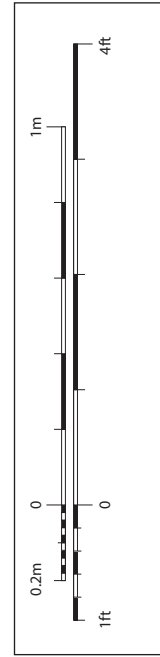
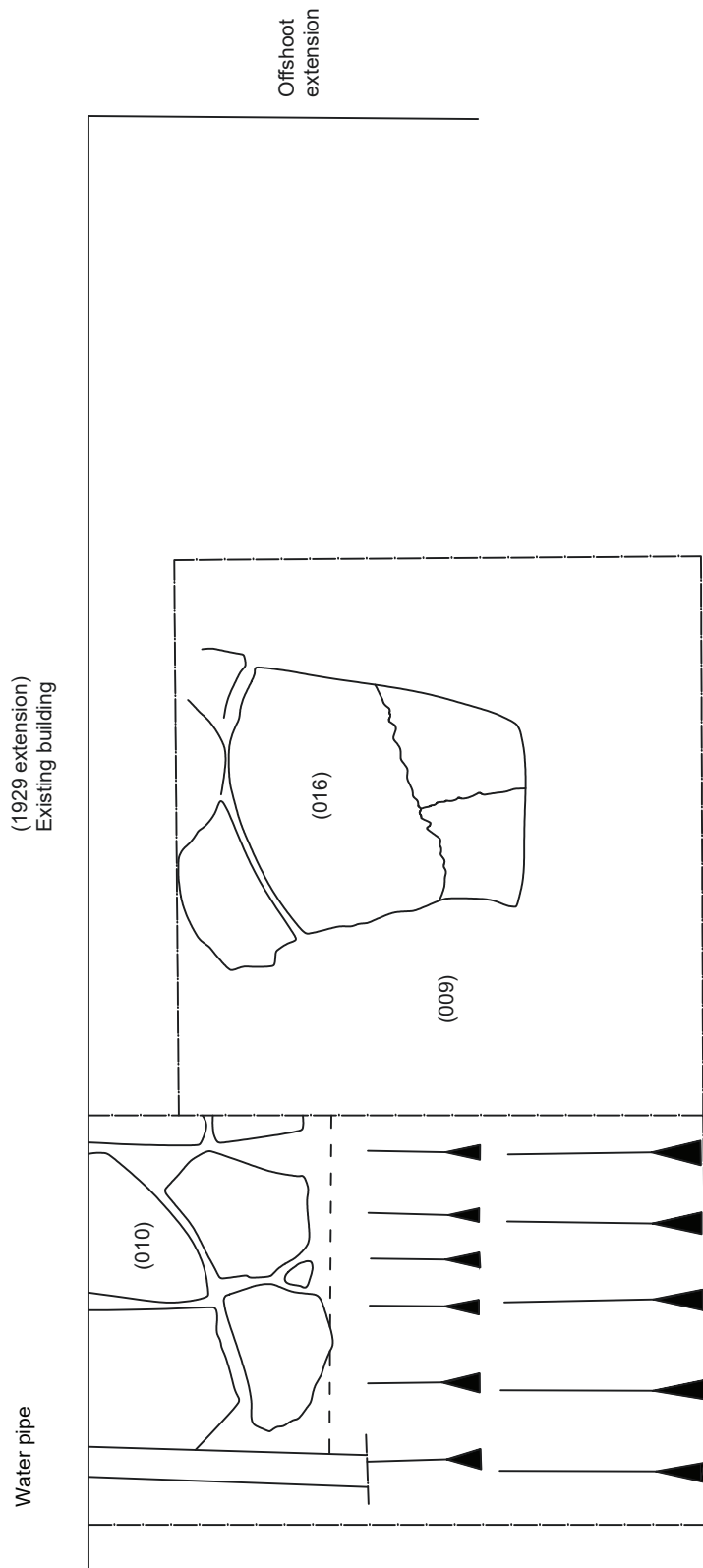


Project	Heworth Hall, Gateshead Tyne and Wear Archaeological Watching Brief
Drawing	Location of features in monitored area

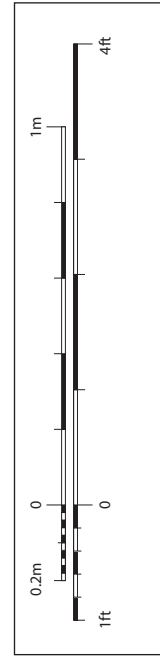
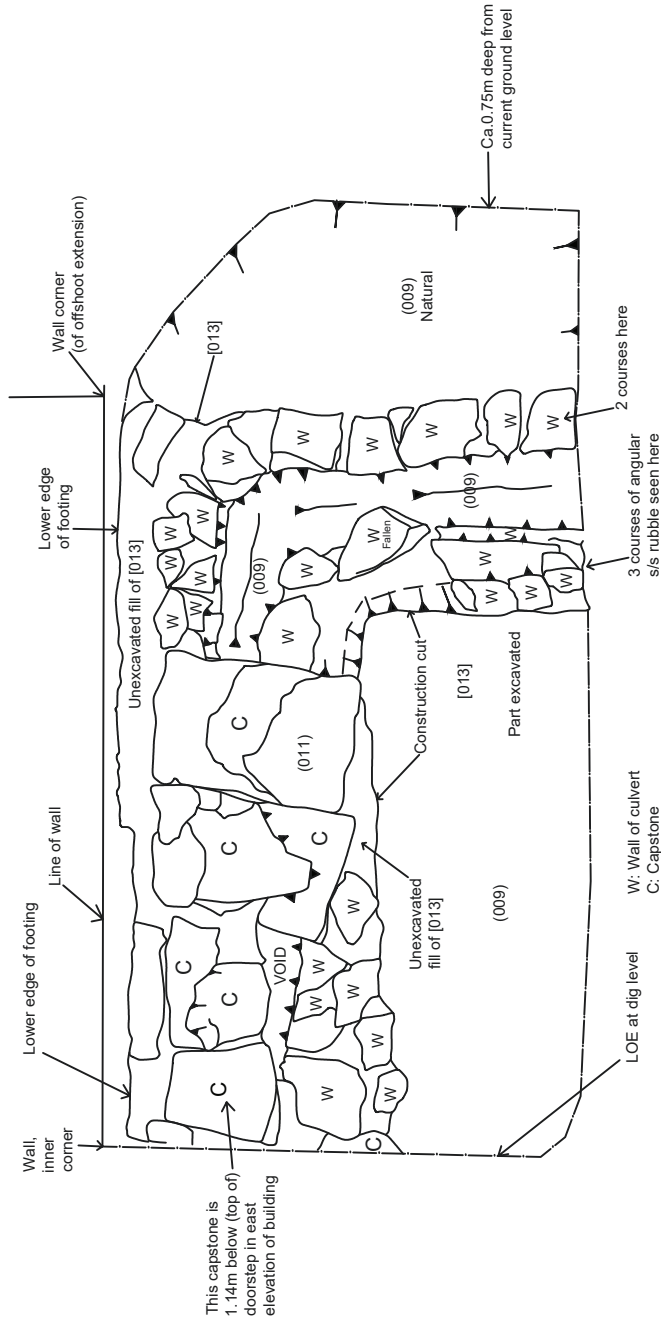


Project	Heworth Hall, Gateshead Tyne and Wear  Archaeological Watching Brief
Drawing	Plan of wall foundation (003)





Project	Heworth Hall, Gateshead Tyne and Wear
	Archaeological Watching Brief
Drawing	Plan of flagged surface (010)



Project	Heworth Hall, Gateshead Tyne and Wear
	Archaeological Watching Brief
Drawing	Plan of stone culvert (011)



## APPENDIX 2 – CONTEXT REGISTER

Context Number	Type	Description	Probable Date
001	Deposit	Tarmac surfacing	Modern
002	Deposit	Mixed backfill/ made-ground	Modern
003	Structure	Wall foundation	19th - 20th century
004	Deposit	Disturbed grey clay	19th – 20th century
005	Deposit	Collapse/construction deposit	20th century
006	Deposit	Collapse/construction deposit	20th century
007	Cut	Cut for modern gas pipe	Modern
008	Fill	Fill of cut for modern gas pipe	Modern
009	Deposit	Natural Clay till substrate	Glacial
010	Structure	Stone surface	18th - 19th century
011	Structure	Stone culvert/ drain	19th century
012	Fill	Fill of culvert	19th – 20th century
013	Cut	Construction cut for stone culvert	19th century
014	Structure	Stone wall	19th century
015	Structure	Stone wall	19th century

Table 6 Context Register

