

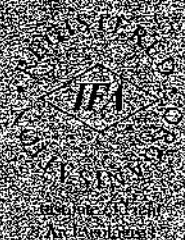


THE UNIVERSITY  
OF BIRMINGHAM

**Old Hall Street,  
Wolverhampton**

**An archaeological evaluation,  
2000**

*Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit*



THE QUEEN'S  
ANNIVERSARY PRIZES  
FOR HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION

1996

**Old Hall Street,  
Wolverhampton**

**An archaeological evaluation,  
2000**

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit  
**Project No. 734**  
February 2001

**Old Hall Street, Wolverhampton**  
**An archaeological evaluation, 2000**

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## **Old Hall Street, Wolverhampton, An Archaeological Evaluation**

### **1.0 Summary**

*An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit in October and December 2000. The work was undertaken on behalf of Wolverhampton Metropolitan Borough Council on a site at Old Hall Street in Wolverhampton, West Midlands (NGR SO391660/298410), ahead of a proposed housing development. The site had been identified as part of a zone of potential archaeological survival, and development of the site was likely to affect below-ground archaeological remains, particularly those associated with the Old Hall and its moat. Trial trenching showed the survival of the moat in Trench 3 at a depth of 0.75m below the present ground surface and an ironstone construction, possibly a sump, cut into the moat. The remainder of the recorded deposits and features consisted of probable palaeochannels in Trench 3 and Trench 4, and 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century cellars, which had been backfilled in the 20<sup>th</sup> century in Trenches 2 and 4. Trench 1 contained no significant archaeological deposits. The survival of the moat in Trench 3 demonstrated the survival of 'islands' of archaeological deposits and features.*

### **2.0 Introduction**

This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in the area of Old Hall Street, Wolverhampton. The work was carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit on behalf of Wolverhampton Metropolitan Borough Council, ahead of a proposed development by Heantun Housing Association. This programme of work was carried out in addition to two phases of desk-based assessment (White 1996, Watt 2000) which had identified the site as part of a zone of potential archaeological survival. In line with government guidance (Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, Department of the Environment 1991) and the Borough Council's planning policies, there was a requirement, therefore, for archaeological evaluation in advance of development, and for archaeological observation and recording during development.

The archaeological evaluation was conducted in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994), a Design Brief prepared by Mike Shaw (Appendix 1), Black Country Archaeologist, on behalf of Wolverhampton Metropolitan Borough Council and a Specification prepared by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU 2000).

### **3.0 Site Location and Description (Fig.1)**

The site is centred on NGR SO 391660/298410 (Fig. 1), within the southern part of Wolverhampton Town Centre, and comprises an area of approximately 6 hectares. It

is bounded by Bilston Street in the north, Garrick Street in the west and St. George's Parade in the south and east. Old Hall Street bisects the site from east to west. The site contains a number of buildings, including the College of Adult Education and the Central Library. Other areas of the site consist of car-parking areas and derelict ground (Fig. 2).

#### **4.0 Archaeological Background**

Two previous desk-based assessments (White 1996, Watt 2000) have described the archaeological background of the site in detail, so only a brief summary is given here.

Wolverhampton has seen little previous archaeological work, and finds from the prehistoric and Roman periods are extremely limited. Medieval pottery was found during an excavation at St Johns Street in 1983 (SMR 5391) and from excavations across the "Ditch" (SMR 2575) by Malam in 1982. This ditch is shown on Taylor's 1755 map of Wolverhampton, running north of, and parallel to, Bilston Street. In 1989, further trenches were cut across the ditch by Lang, and revealed heavy truncation by 19<sup>th</sup> century cellarage. Various dates have been suggested for its provenance, including Saxon, Medieval, and Post-medieval, but investigations have so far proved inconclusive.

The Old Hall Street site lies within a Conservation Area and immediately south of Bilston Street, which is an ancient routeway. This area lay outside the probable location of the defensive earthworks of the main settlement of Wolverhampton, but due to its location at a meeting of important routes, it has been suggested that the area may have had significance prior to the building of the Old Hall (SMR 2557) on the site.

Taylor, on his 1751 map, depicts the great hall and its associated gardens surrounded by a substantial moat. White (1996) points to the fact that the buildings shown within the moat are not centrally positioned and that this could indicate that earlier buildings may have existed in this area. It is thought, from the study of illustrative and photographic material, that the Old Hall may have originated in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. However the substantial buildings, shown to the south-west of it, which were probably barns for keeping sheep and storing wool (Jones 1990), have not been securely dated. The house was also known as Levesons and Turtons Hall. In 1575, the Leveson family, who made their fortune in the wool trade, owned it.

By 1842, as depicted on the tithe map, the moat had been infilled and the Old Hall building had been substantially extended. Towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was largely used as a japanning factory and for the production of tin goods. In 1883, it was demolished.

In 1982, during groundwork excavations between Old Hall Street and Bilston Street, Malam and Thom (SMR 8631) excavated a 'peaty' deposit about two metres below the surface. No plan is available of the exact location of the groundworks, but it is known to have been adjacent to the site of the college. The upper fills produced Post-medieval material.

## 5.0 Objectives

As there has been little previous archaeological work in Wolverhampton and the location and survival of the archaeological deposits is largely unknown, any deposits recorded would be of great importance to the understanding of Wolverhampton town history.

Taking this into consideration the evaluation aimed to:

- Establish the date of the moated site.
- Establish the dimensions and characteristics of the moat.
- Establish the date of the hall and associated buildings within the moat.
- Establish whether there were earlier buildings within the moated area.
- Establish the date of the ancillary buildings to the west of the moated area.
- Establish whether there was earlier occupation outside the moated area.
- Establish whether there is a potential for the recovery of environmental information, particularly from the moat deposits.

## 6.0 Methodology

Four trenches, each measuring 20m by 1.50m, were excavated within the area. Trenches 1 and 2 were located in St. George's Parade car park, Trench 3 was positioned in derelict ground in the north-east corner of the site, and Trench 4 located in the grounds of the Adult Education College. Trench 1 was excavated at the south end of the car park in order to locate any earlier buildings to the south-east of the moat. Trench 2 was excavated at the north end of the car park over the south-east corner of the moat, in order to determine the state of preservation of the moat and the extent of disturbance by cellaring. This trench was shortened to 18m with the agreement of the Black Country Archaeologist, as the northernmost 2m was capped by reinforced concrete. Trench 3 was located within derelict ground over a section of the projected northern side of the moat, which was thought not to have been disturbed. It was also hoped that Trench 3 would locate any buildings within the moat. This trench was widened to 4.5m in places, and stepped for health and safety reasons. Trench 4 was excavated within the Adult Education College car park and positioned across a north-west section of the proposed line of the moat. This trench was located close to several walls, so for health and safety reasons it was shortened to 10.4m.

The layers of modern overburden were removed with the use of a 360° wheeled excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under archaeological supervision, until archaeological deposits were encountered. Subsequent excavation was carried out by hand, and environmental samples were taken from features where appropriate. Recording was carried out using pre-printed *pro-forma* record cards for contexts and features, supplemented by plans and sections (at 1:20 and 1:50) and monochrome print and colour slide photography forming part of the archive which is currently stored at Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit.

## 7.0 Results

### Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

Level of top of trench: 157.19m A.O.D.

Trench 1, located in St. George's Parade car park, excavated on a north-south alignment, was 23m in length and was 2.1m wide. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m.

The natural ground surface (1002), reddish brown clays and sands was recorded at a depth of between 0.5m and 0.6m across the whole trench. Overlying this was a brick and rubble layer (1001), approximately 0.3m deep. Cut into 1001, near the northern end of the trench was a cellar built with machine-cut brick walls (1003, 1004, 1005 and 1006) and back-filled with ash and clinker (1007 and 1008). On the eastern side of the trench a small square cut (1009) was located. This measured 0.8m by 0.8m and was filled with brick and rubble. Another square cut (1011, only seen in section), 2m wide and 0.4m deep was recorded. This appeared to be a modern cut and was filled with ash and clinker. A pipe trench (1010), aligned north-east to south-west, was located near the southern end of the trench. A 0.3m deep layer of tarmac (1000) capped the trench.

The cellar fills contained 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century white glazed pottery. All brick construction and fragments appeared to be machine-cut which suggests the same date.

### Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

Level of top of trench: 156.54m A.O.D.

Trench 2 was excavated in St. George's Parade car park on a north-south alignment and measured 18m in length and 3m in width. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.4m. The water table was recorded at a depth of 2.3m.

The natural ground surface (2011), a reddish brown silty clay with pockets of sand, was located at a depth of 0.3m below the surface of the car park. Cut into this at the northern end of the trench was a cellar, 2.3m deep, consisting of an east-west brick wall (2003) and a north-south brick wall (2004). The cellar had been back-filled with brick rubble (2002). The walls were constructed from machine-cut bricks. A 0.2m thick layer of re-inforced concrete capped the cellar. Another east-west brick wall (2010), with a concrete capping (2005), was cut into the natural ground (2011). This formed the northern wall for another cellar, which also contained a north-south brick wall (2007) and reached a depth of at least 2.4m. This was filled with brick and rubble (2006). The southernmost end of the trench consisted of a series of levelling layers of sand, brick and rubble (2008 and 2009). The whole trench was capped by between 0.1m and 0.4m of tarmac (2000).

No finds were recovered from the trench. All brick construction and fragments appeared to be machine-cut, and therefore date from the late 19th or early 20th century.



### Trench 3 (Fig. 5)

Level of top of trench: 155.16m A.O.D.

Trench 3 was excavated on derelict ground in the north-east corner of the site. The trench was 18m in length and a maximum of 4.5m wide, and was cut on a north-south alignment. The water table was reached at a depth of 1.3m.

The natural ground surface (3001), a mix of red clays and sands was located at a depth of 0.5m below the modern ground surface. At the northern extent, the natural ground surface changed to a compact bluish-brown clay. At the northern end, this was cut into by a 7m wide ditch (F302) running east-west and approximately 1.5m deep. This had a steep edge on the northern side, but a much shallower edge on the southern side. The primary fill of the ditch (3019) was a 0.1m thick layer, brownish-grey in colour, which appeared to be a mixed deposit containing re-deposited natural. This layer was not fully excavated due to the depth of the water table. Overlying the primary fill was a very dark green-black organic fill (3015), approximately 0.3m deep. A 3m by 0.7m sondage was hand-excavated into this deposit. This layer contained the bulk of the pottery recovered from Trench 3, and also contained slag, animal bone, brick and tile of 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century date. In turn, this was overlain by a greenish-grey clay layer (3014), approximately 0.2m deep. On the northern side, this was overlain by a compact pinkish brown clay (3016), possibly a slumped deposit. These deposits were cut through by a large ironstone wall (3017), approximately 2m wide and 1.2m high. The construction of the wall consisted of 8 courses of large ironstone blocks (up to 0.5m wide). The wall was well constructed and faced on the southern side, but had a rubble construction on the northern side. The ditch fills were cut through on the south side by a square cut (F301), 0.5m by 0.6m, which was filled with a loose grey-brown clayey-silt with brick fragments and some stones (3011). Overlying F302 and F301 was a levelling layer (3013) of brick and rubble.

On the south side of the ditch, a north-west to south-east linear feature (F300) was cut through the natural (3001). This feature was a maximum of 0.75m deep and approximately 3m in length. It was filled with a grey sand (3005) in ironpanning. The fill appeared to be sterile. F300 was cut on the eastern side by an ironstone construction consisting of a north-south ironstone wall (3008) and an east-west ironstone wall (3004). The ironstone on both walls was capped by concrete and bricks, although whether this was part of the original construction or a later rebuild is unknown. A small channel (F304, not illustrated) appeared to run underneath 3008 and was filled with a dark mixed deposit (3018) containing brick, tile, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery, rubble and stones. This was not completely excavated, as the wall 3008 was too large and hard to remove. At the northern edge of 3008 was a very large ironstone block and some rubble (3010), which was possibly collapse from the wall. On the east side of 3008 was a dark mixed fill (3009), containing brick, rubble, stones and 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century pottery. The base of this fill was not reached due to space constraints. On the west side of the trench a loose black mixed deposit (3007) containing stones, brick and ash was cut into the natural. This intrusion measured 1m by 0.7m. In the south-east corner of the trench a square brick cellar (3006) was recorded. This was filled with a mixture of ash, brick and rubble (3003). At the far southern extent of the trench, a modern pipe trench (3002) was cut through all the deposits. A layer of tarmac (3000) covered the entire trench.

Trench 3 contained the majority of the pottery recovered. All of the pottery was of 18th/19th Century date, as was the brick and tile.

#### Trench 4 (Fig. 6) by Charlotte Neilson

Trench 4 was located in the north-western corner of the car park of the Adult Education College. It was excavated on a north-south alignment and measured 10.4m in length and 3.3m in width, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 2m at the northern end and 1.7m at the southern end.

The natural ground surface (4001) was a red-brown sand, containing lenses of yellow-orange sand. The natural was recorded at a depth of 1.2m in the middle of the trench, but modern cellarage in the southern end meant that the natural was encountered at a depth of 1.7m. A sondage into the natural was excavated to a depth of 2m in the northern end of the trench to confirm that this had not been re-deposited and that no traces of the possible moat (F302), identified in Trench 3, lay underneath.

Traces of a ditch or pit, F400, could be seen in the east facing section close to the north end of the trench. This area of Trench 4 was extended westwards, which established that F400 had been truncated by cellars 0.4m to the west. This made its alignment and function difficult to establish. It was U-shaped or possibly bowl-shaped (see S.2, Fig. 6), which suggests that it may have been a pit and not a ditch, but this could not be determined. The primary fill (4005) was a yellow-orange clay-sand-silt, 0.26m deep. Overlying 4005 was 4003, a grey-brown clay with frequent flecks of charcoal, this layer filled the upper part of F400 and extended up to 6m from the north end of the trench and was a maximum of 0.3m deep. Pottery and bottle-glass dating to the Post-medieval period were retrieved from 4003.

The west facing section of Trench 4 contained one possible feature F401. F401 was located above (4001) at the north end of the trench and had gently sloping sides with a rounded base. It was filled with a yellow-orange sand (4006), very similar to the natural, suggesting that this was a palaeochannel and not an archaeological feature. It appeared to cut another layer (4004), which was also a very similar yellow-orange sand-clay, 0.3m thick. F401 and 4006 were also overlain by 4003. Above 4003 was a layer of brick, ash and rubble (4002), which varied in thickness from 0.3m to 1.7m, at the southern end of the trench, where 19<sup>th</sup> century foundations were encountered. A layer of tarmac (4000), 0.3m deep, covered the entire trench.

## 8.0 The Finds by Annette Hancocks

Table 1 A summary of the finds recovered from Old Hall Street, Wolverhampton

Material/Context	Tr.1 1007	Tr.3 U/S	Tr.3 3009	Tr.3 3015	Tr.3 3018	Tr.4 4003	Total
<b>Tile: Ceramic</b>	1	6	-	7	2	-	16
<b>Brick: Ceramic</b>	-	-	-	3	3	-	6
<b>Post-medieval pottery</b>	29	3	10	64	2	1	109
<b>Clay pipe</b>	-	-	-	4	3	-	7
<b>Other ceramic</b>	4	2	-	-	2	-	8
<b>Slag</b>	315g	253g	-	420g	-	-	988g
<b>Other metal</b>	-	-	-	9	-	-	9
<b>Window glass</b>	4	2	-	-	-	-	6
<b>Bottle glass</b>	-	-	-	3	-	1	4
<b>Shell</b>	2	-	-	19	-	-	21
<b>Slate (roof tile)</b>	2	3	-	-	-	-	5
<b>Charcoal</b>	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
<b>Animal bone</b>	-	-	1g	94g	-	-	95g
<b>Leather</b>	-	-	-	5 frags.	-	-	-

### Results (Table 1)

The finds were quantified by occurrence, with the exception of animal bone and slag which were quantified by weight (g) and sorted in to the following groups: Post-medieval pottery (18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century), Post-medieval brick and tile, vessel glass, clay pipe, slag, shell and animal bone and leather.

*The Post-medieval pottery* - A total of 109 sherds of Post-medieval pottery was recovered from all trenches. Seventy-nine sherds were recovered from Trench 3. The range of the pottery includes blackwares, modern glazed wares, tin-glazed earthen wares and typical willow pattern material and could be dated to the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century. All of this material was well preserved and did not show any signs of abrasion. This implies that the material was deposited and buried within a short time span and was probably associated with the backfilling of the moat ditch.

*Other finds* - A small quantity of other Post-medieval finds was recovered, including ceramic ridge and roof tile and ceramic brick. This material was primarily recovered from Trench 3 and could be associated with the back-filling of the moat. The average thickness of the brick recovered was 250mm. The bricks were oxidised and irregularly fired with large inclusions. A few had lime based mortar attached to them. No evidence of keying was present. All of the above described features can be typically dated to the late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century (pers. comm. Steve Litherland.)

The pottery and brick has provided a *terminus post quem* for the backfilling of the moat ditch recorded in Trench 3. However, the overall nature and character of the

artefactual archive is poor. It is therefore recommended that no further work be undertaken on this material.

The finds and archive are currently stored at Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit, before arrangements for deposition with Wolverhampton Museum and Art Gallery are made. The finds archive comprises two boxes of finds and five assemblage summary sheets.

## **9.0 The Environmental Remains by Marina Ciaraldi**

A single sample from a waterlogged context (3015, F302) from a possible moat was taken during excavation. The sample was examined to establish its environmental potential. The soil was dark brown in colour and had the typical smell of an organic-rich, waterlogged deposit.

A 300-ml sub-sample was washed on a 0.3 mm sieve and examined under a low power microscope.

The sample was rich in small fragments of coal and charcoal. No seeds were observed although there were some *Daphnia* sp. eggs and small bivalve shells that suggest that the feature might have contained water during some stages of its use.

Due to the scarce presence of organic remains and to the uncertain date of the deposit, no further analysis is recommended for this sample.

## **10.0 Discussion and Implications (Fig.7)**

It is almost certain that the large ditch at the northern end of Trench 3 was the moat for the Old Hall. The finds, particularly the pottery, date this to the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> centuries, which corresponds with the late use of the moat prior to its back-filling in 1842. The purpose of the stone structure within the moat is less obvious. Taylor's map of 1751 shows the presence of towers at the north-east and south-east corners of the moat. However, as the stone structure appears to be cut into the moat deposits, and is in the middle of the moat this explanation seems unlikely. There is also a possibility that the structure was built for use as a sump when the moat was backfilled. This sump could have been constructed using stone from demolished buildings, and this would account for the presence of a number of faced stones. The ironstone structure at the southern end of Trench 3 could be associated with ancillary buildings of the Old Hall, although these do not appear on Taylor's map. The presence of brick over the ironstone would suggest that these structures did not pre-date the Hall. The feature running under the ironstone construction, which contained Post-medieval material, confirms this. Since Trench 4 failed to locate the moat ditch, it can be surmised that the moat turns to the south before reaching Trench 4 (as plotted on Fig. 7). This would mean that the moat as plotted on Figure 3 of the desk-based assessment (Watt 2000) is inaccurate. However, this is not surprising given the distortion of the Taylor map of 1750, from which Figure 3 was plotted.

Trench 2 showed the extent of disturbance by cellarage in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, which will have destroyed any moat deposits or other archaeological features. Trench 1 failed to locate any earlier buildings to the south-east of the moat.

The trenching as a whole has demonstrated extensive disturbance, especially by cellarage. However, islands of preservation do survive. The most promising area is the derelict ground around Trench 3 and perhaps the college car park to the south of Old Hall Street.

### **11.0 Acknowledgements**

Work on site was carried out by Gary Coates, Mary Duncan, Heather Hopkins, Helen Martin, Charlotte Neilson, Howell Roberts, Dan Slater and Josh Williams. The report was written by Josh Williams, with contributions by Marina Ciaraldi, Annette Hancocks and Charlotte Neilson, with illustrations by Nigel Dodds and Mark Breedon. It was edited by Gary Coates. Thanks are due to Steve Litherland for his brick and tile identification. We are grateful to Mike Shaw, Black Country Archaeologist for his advice and guidance.

### **12.0 References**

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## Figures

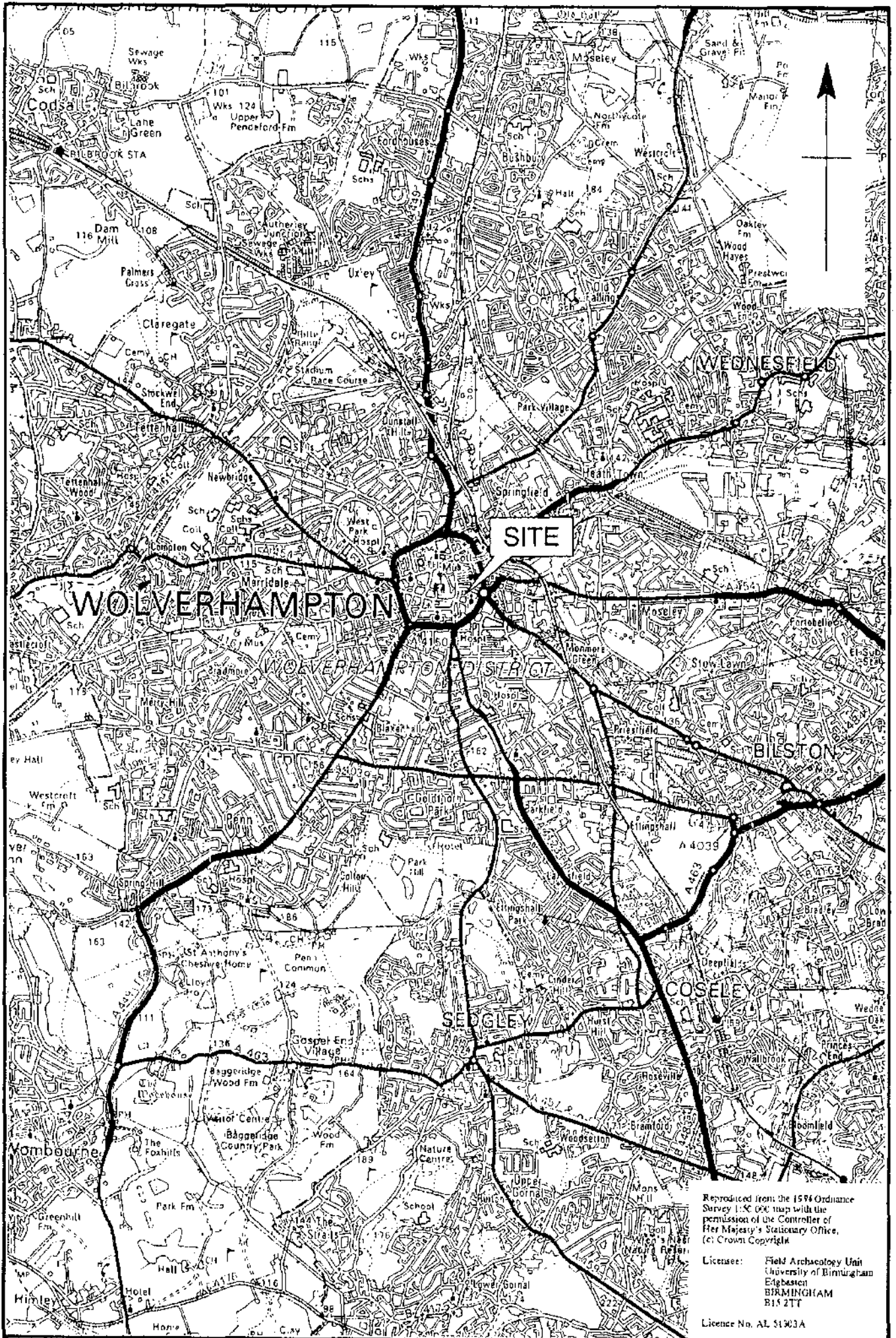


Fig.1

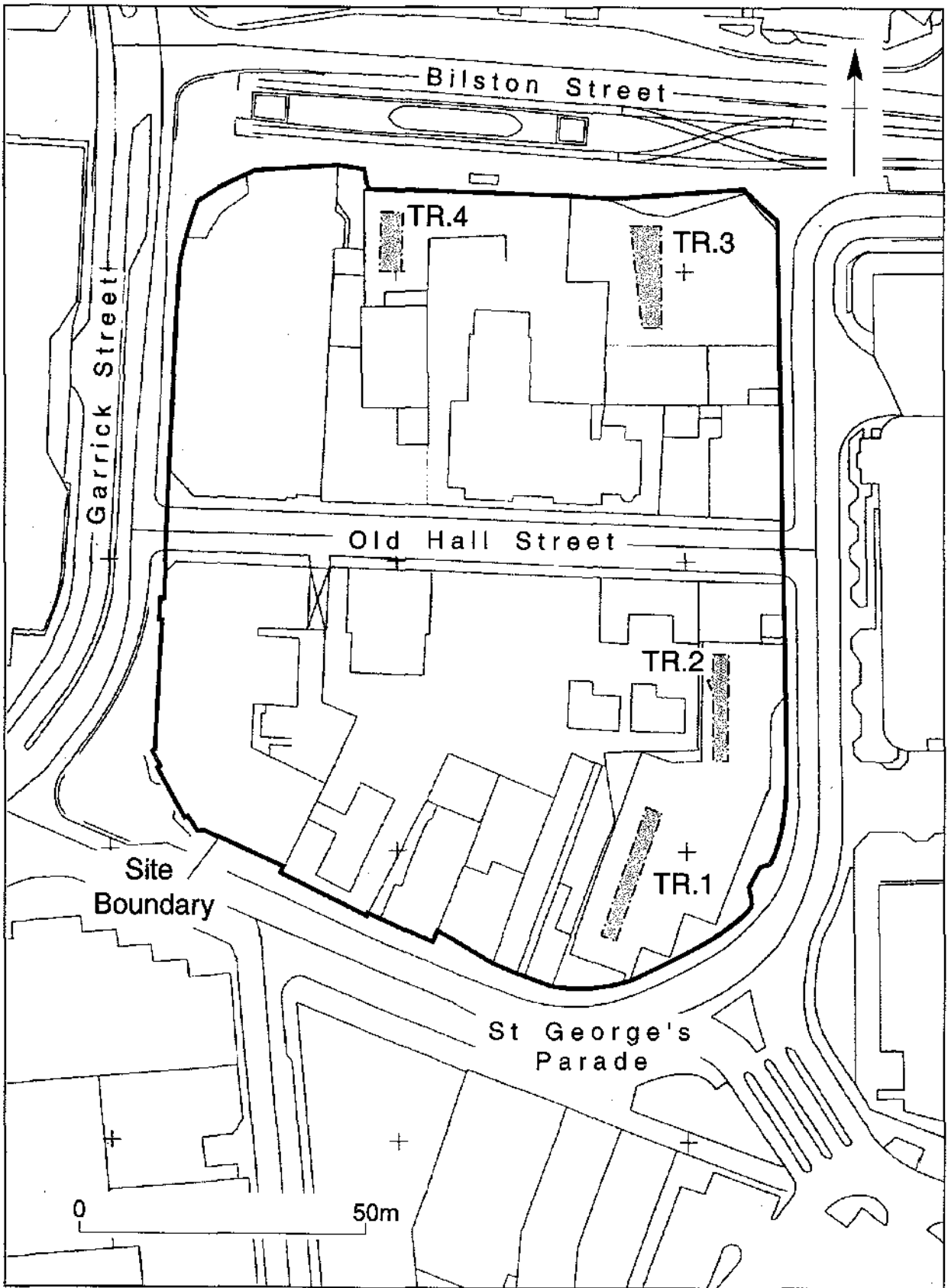


Fig.2



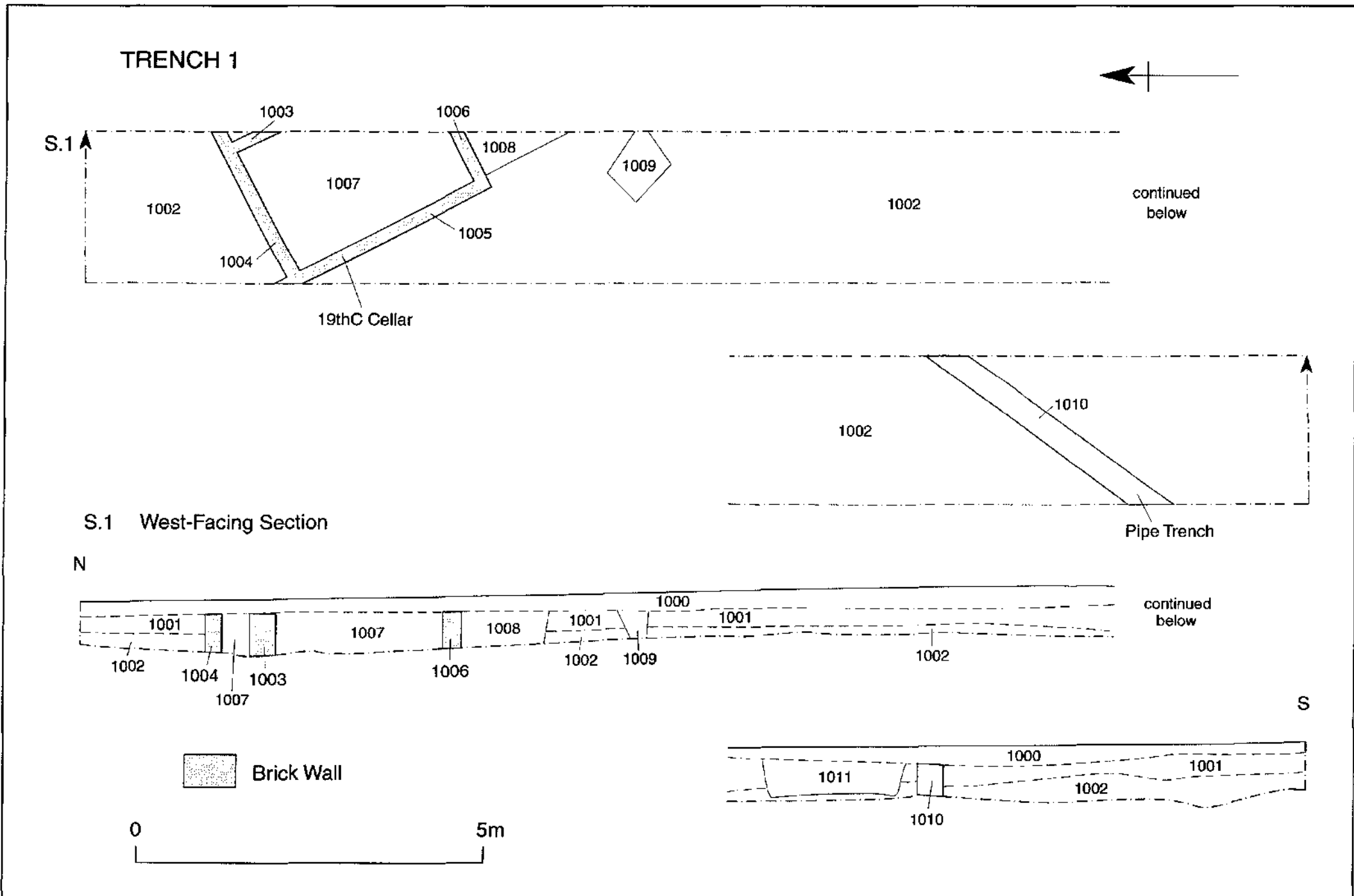


Fig.3

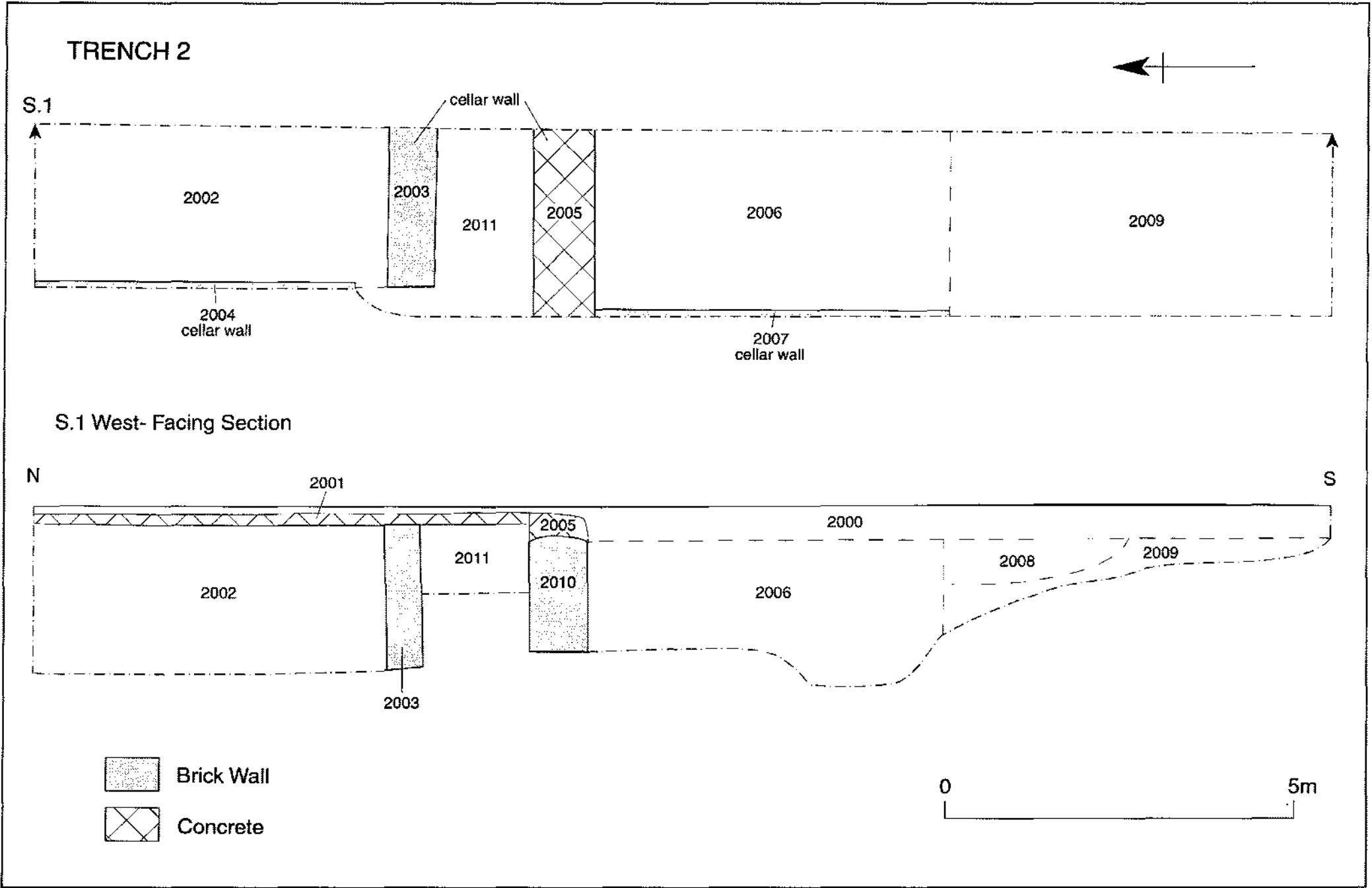


Fig.4

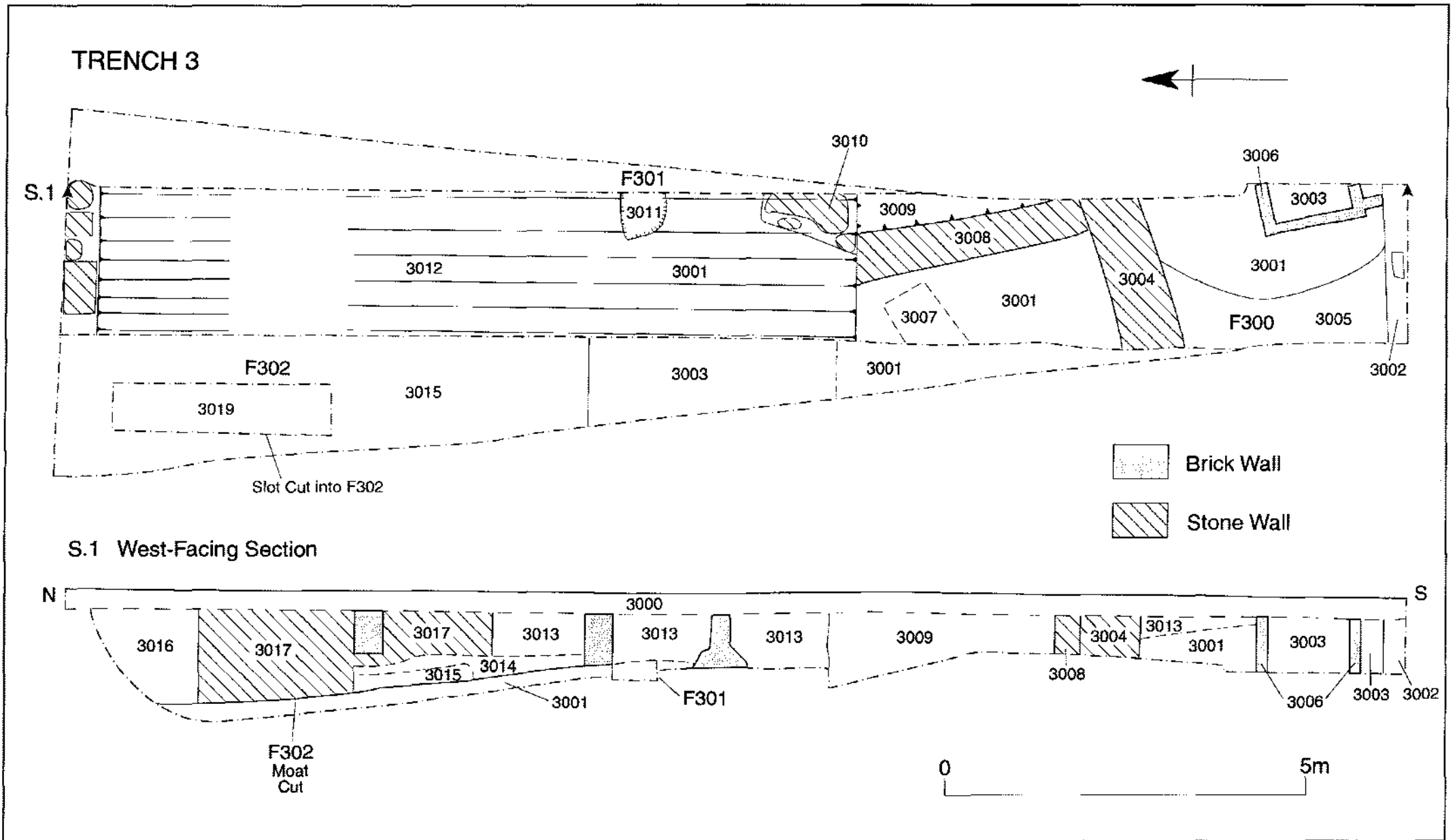


Fig.5

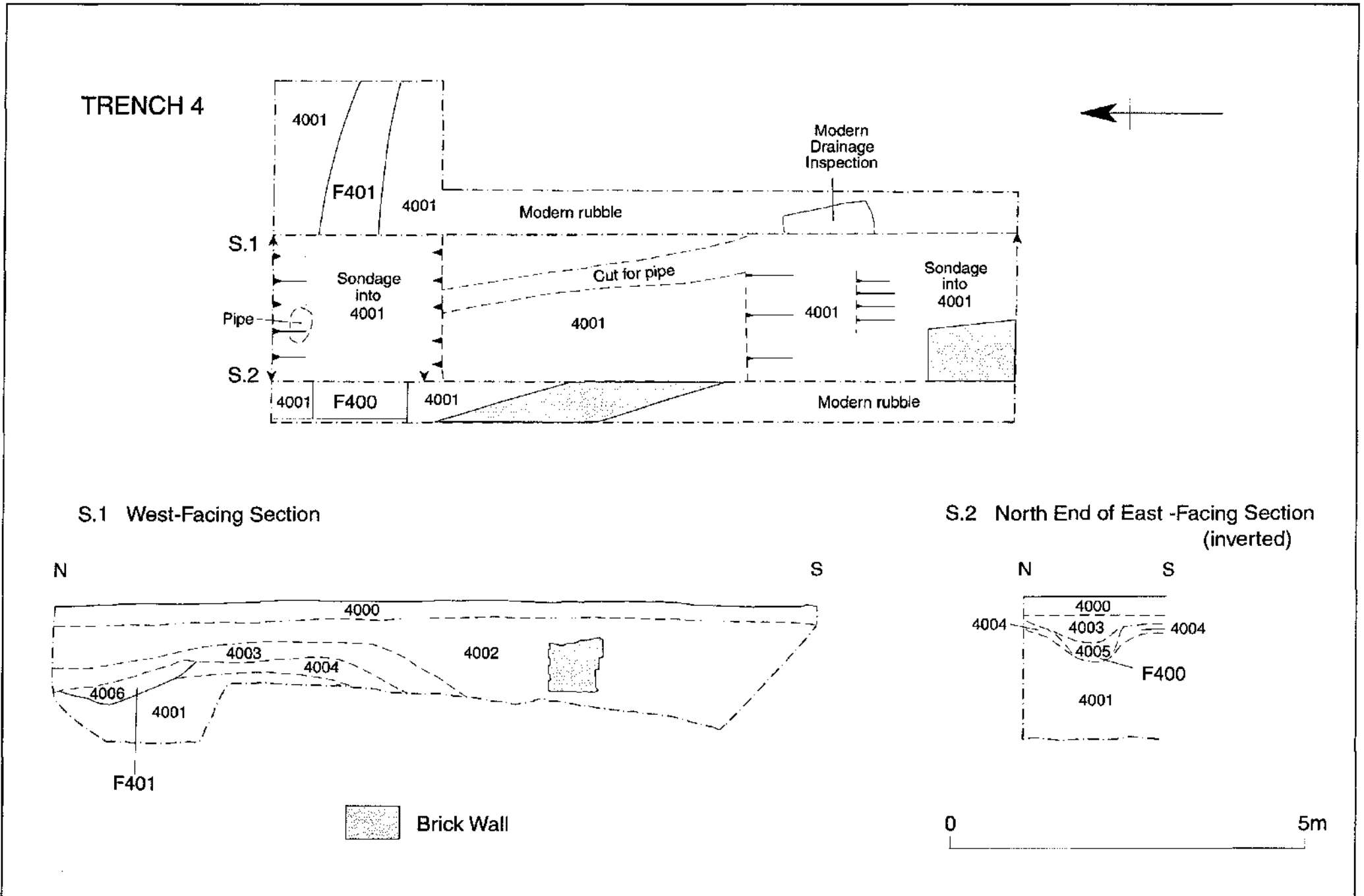


Fig.6

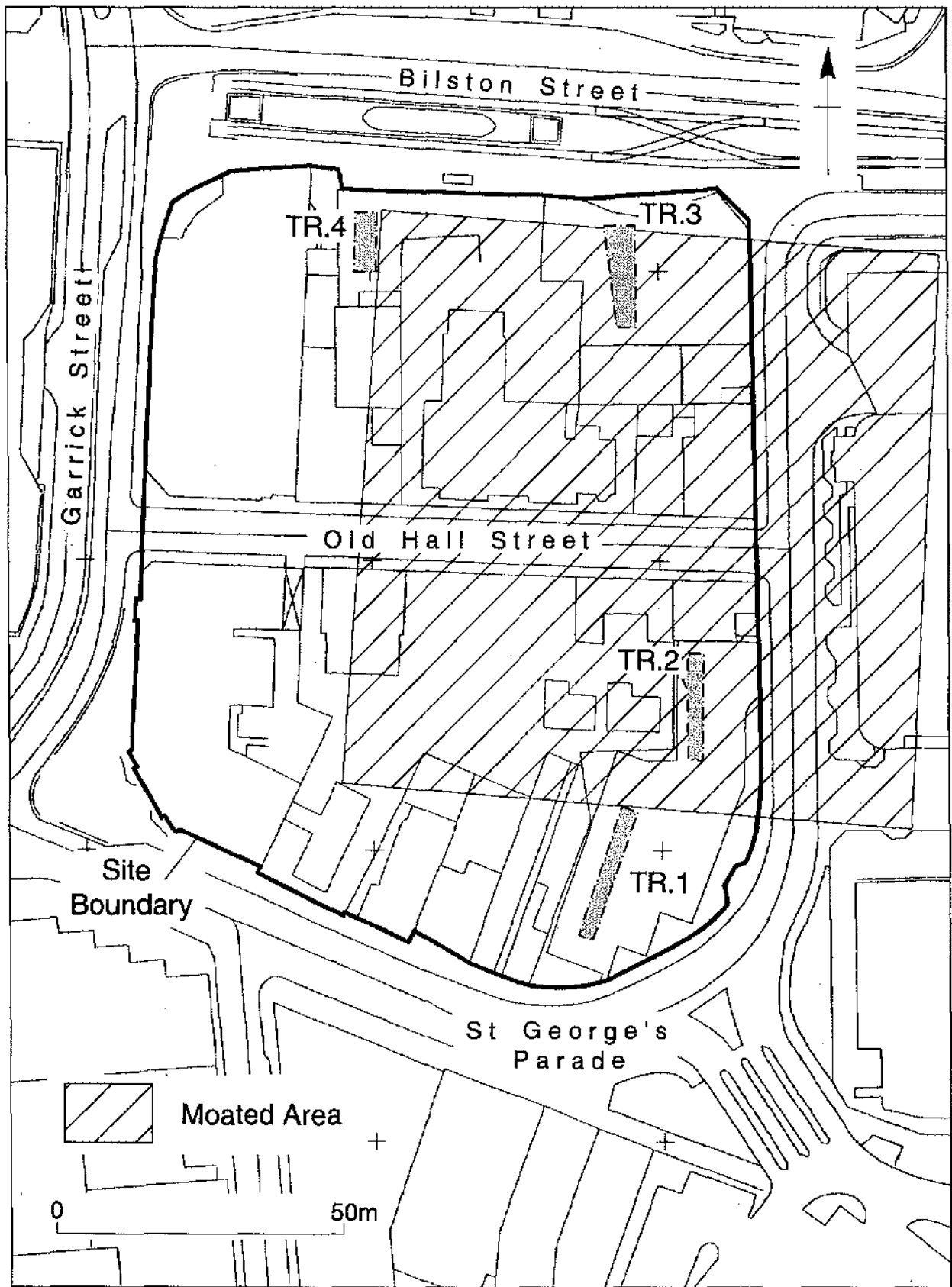


Fig.7

## **Appendix 1 Brief for Archaeological Evaluation**

# **Old Hall Street Development Area, Wolverhampton**

## **Brief for Archaeological Evaluation**

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 The Old Hall Street development area lies on the site of one of Wolverhampton's major monuments, the Old Hall, a moated site that dates back to at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The hall was demolished towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century but there is a strong possibility of survival of foundations and of the infilled moat below the present ground surface. In addition earlier remains may survive both within and outside the moated area. The brief sets out work necessary to ensure that provisions are made for preservation of the archaeological deposits in any future development of the area.

### **2. Site location and description**

- 2.1 The Old Hall Street development area lies within the southern part of Wolverhampton town centre at SO916984. The site is a rectangular area of around 6ha delineated by Bilston Street on the north, Garrick Street on the west and St George's Parade on the south and east. Old Hall Street bisects it. The area includes a number of major buildings such as the College of Adult Education and the Central Library but there are also a number of open spaces, which are at present either derelict ground or surface car parking.

### **3. Planning background**

- 3.1 The area is a Conservation Area and Wolverhampton MBC is actively promoting the regeneration of this area as part of the St John's Urban Village. Draft proposals were drawn up and sent out for public consultation at the end of 1999. They are defined in the accompanying leaflet (Wolverhampton Council, *Draft Planning Guidelines for Old Hall Street Area, Wolverhampton Town Centre*).

### **4. Archaeological Background**

- 4.1 Settlement in Wolverhampton dates back to at least the Saxon period when an ecclesiastical (church) and probably royal centre appears to have been founded around the site of the present St Peter's church. Slater has pointed out a roughly oval area centred on the church, which may have demarcated this original settlement (Hooke and Slater 1986). He suggests that the area may have originated as an Iron Age hill fort although there are as yet no finds of this date from the town.

- 4.2 Old Hall Street lies outside and immediately south of this area, separated from it by the line of a large ditch, shown on the earliest map of Wolverhampton, Taylor's map of 1750. The site does, however, lie beside an early routeway out of the town, now marked by the line of Bilston Street, and is likely to have come into occupation as the settlement expanded in the medieval period. Certainly by the 16<sup>th</sup> century it was the site of a major building, the *Old Hall*, also known as *Leveson's*, *Turtori's* or the *Great Hall*.
- 4.3 The hall was surrounded by a large, square moat with a causeway entrance on the west side. The building itself appears to have been a three-storey brick structure, dated on stylistic grounds to c 1575. There may, however, have been an earlier hall on the site for there are early 16<sup>th</sup> century references to the Levesons holding a large house and grounds in the town. The moat was infilled by 1842 and the hall itself was demolished in 1883. There were in addition ancillary buildings outside the moated area to the west, described as barns for receiving sheep and storing bales of wool (Jones 1900). The Leveson family is known to have had business interests in wool.
- 4.4 The excavation of a trench for the construction of a boundary wall at the north end of the Old Hall area in 1982 revealed over 1m of late post-medieval build up. Below this 'peaty' material was recovered at the bottom of the trench at a depth of around 2m. This may have been fill from the moat of the Old Hall.

## **5. Requirements for work**

- 5.1 There has been little previous archaeological work in Wolverhampton and the location and survival of archaeological deposits is largely unknown. Hence any archaeological deposits which do survive will be of great importance in starting to understand the early history of the town
- 5.2 The general requirements for the work will be to establish presence or absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the whole of the area potentially affected by development.
- 5.3 Using this information an appropriate mitigation strategy should be devised to ensure the preservation of archaeological deposits within the development area, or failing this preservation by record (ie an archaeological excavation) may be required.
- 5.4 Specific requirements would be:
- Establish date of the moated site



- Establish width and depth of moat
- Establish date of hall and associated buildings within moat
- Establish whether there are earlier buildings within moated area
- Establish the date of ancillary buildings to the west of the moated area
- Establish whether there is earlier occupation outside the moated area
- Establish whether there is a potential for the recovery of environmental information, particularly from the moat deposits

## **6. Stages of work**

### **6.1 Desk-based assessment**

The area has already been the subject of a recent desk-based assessment (White 1996) which examines the archaeological, historical and topographical evidence for the area.

Further requirements are:

- To plot features shown on the historic maps onto a modern Ordnance Survey base, preferably using a computerised mapping (GIS) system
- To gather and plot details of cellarage onto a modern Ordnance Survey base, preferably using a computerised mapping (GIS) system
- To gather and plot details of services onto a modern Ordnance Survey base, preferably using a computerised mapping (GIS) system
- To plot any borehole data onto a modern Ordnance Survey base, preferably using a computerised mapping (GIS) system
- To gather information about the previous trial trench on the site, particularly its exact location, the nature and depth of deposits and the types of finds recovered.

### **6.2 Trial trenching**

On completion of the desk-based assessment the Contractor should agree locations for the excavation of trial trenches with the Black Country Archaeologist taking into account the need to provide sufficient information to compile a mitigation strategy and taking into account the data gathered in the desk-based assessment. A particular requirement would be to assess the potential of the site for recovery of palaeoenvironmental information.

### **6.3 Reporting and mitigation strategy**

Reports should be produced on completion of the desk-based assessment and on completion of the trial trenching. The desk-based assessment should include a list of sources consulted. The reports should include an

assessment of the impact of development and be used to devise and agree an appropriate mitigation strategy (see 5.3 above).

Reports should contain:

- A written summary of the findings together with appropriate illustrations, which should be related to the national grid.
- A copy of this brief

Excavation reports should contain:

- An analytical summary of features and deposits
- A summary of any artefactual material uncovered

## **7. General conditions**

7.1 Suitably qualified and experienced archaeological staff should undertake all work.

7.2 An appropriate recording strategy should be used and the method and justification for this stated in the report.

7.3 The code of conduct, standards and guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists should be adhered to.

7.4 A specification for the work required should be prepared by the archaeological contractor and agreed with the sponsor and the local planning authority before the work commences. It is advisable to submit a draft of the specification to the Black Country Archaeologist before the submission of a tender in order to ensure that the work proposed meets the requirement of the archaeological evaluation brief.

7.5 Archive deposition

On completion of the work the site archive should be deposited with an appropriate museum/public archive. The site owner should be encouraged to deposit any finds with the archive.

7.6 Publication and dissemination

On completion of the work a summary report should be produced for publication in an appropriate local or national archaeological journal

Two copies of all reports should be submitted to the Black Country Sites and Monuments Record and two copies to the local planning authority. Unless there is a specific request for confidentiality, the reports will be made publicly available six months after their publication and a copy will be deposited with the borough archives service.

## 7.7 Health and Safety

It is the responsibility of the contractor to ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with relevant Health and Safety regulations.

Site procedures should be in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual of the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers

Where necessary, responsibility for the reinstatement of land after excavation should be agreed with the developer and landowner.

## 7.8 Monitoring

The work will be monitored by the Black Country Archaeologist on behalf of the Planning Authority and provisions for monitoring should be agreed with him. At least five working days notice of commencement of any fieldwork should be given to the Black Country Archaeologist.

## 8. Bibliography

Hooke, D, and Slater, T R, 1986 *Anglo-Saxon Wolverhampton and its monastery*

Jones, W H, 1900 *Story of the Japan tin plate working and iron braziers trade etc in Wolverhampton and District*

White, H, 1996 *The Old Hall site, Wolverhampton: a desk-based assessment*

Prepared on 13 February 2000 by Mike Shaw, Black Country Archaeologist, on behalf of Wolverhampton MBC