An Archaeological Evaluation at Sheffield Family Courts, West Bar, Sheffield 2001 Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit Project No. 834 December 2001

# An Archaeological Evaluation at Sheffield Family Courts, West Bar, Sheffield 2001

by Eleanor Ramsey

with contributions by Lynne Bevan, Emily Murray, Stephanie Ratkai and Marina Ciaraldi

For further information please contact: Simon Buteux or Iain Ferris (Directors) Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit The University of Birmingham Edgbaston Birmingham B15 2TT Tel: 0121 414 5513 Fax: 0121 414 5516 E-Mail: BUFAU@bham.ac.uk Web Address: http://www.bufau.bham.ac.uk

<u>Maps</u>	
1	Ordnance Survey, 1853

# <u>Plates</u>

1	General site view looking east
2	Vaulted cellar and foundations in Trench 2
3	Trench 3, walls F146-7, general view
4	Trench 3, walls F146-7, detail
5	Trench 4, path F133 and wall F124
5	F100, Trench 7

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# 1.0: SUMMARY

This report outlines the results of a trial trenching evaluation on the proposed site of Sheffield Family Courts, West Bar, Sheffield (NGR SK 3545 8785) undertaken on behalf of John Samuels Archaeological Consultants. This work follows a desk based assessment (Slatcher 2001) which suggested that development of part of the site had begun in the second quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

A total of seven trenches were excavated, specifically targeting areas within the development area and also outside it.

The site was found to have been largely disturbed by buildings, demolition and cellarage over the last two centuries. No archaeological features or deposits that predate the 18<sup>th</sup> century were encountered.

# 2.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of a trial trenching evaluation at the proposed new Sheffield Family Courts, West Bar, Sheffield (hereinafter referred to as 'the site', Fig. 1). Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) undertook the work reported on here in September 2001, on behalf of John Samuels Archaeological Consultants.

In accordance with the guidelines laid down in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (DoE 1990), a recommendation for a programme of archaeological work to accompany a major redevelopment of this land was made by the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service.

The methodology conforms to an archaeological specification prepared by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (Slatcher 2001).

The archaeological evaluation was conducted in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999).

#### 3.0: THE SITE AND ITS SETTING (Figs 1-2)

The proposed development site is located immediately east of the current law courts at West Bar, Sheffield (centred on NGR SK 3545 8785). The site is on a northwest-facing slope, from about 53 metres to about 49 metres AOD. All previous buildings in this area have been demolished and levelled, and is currently lawned.

The desk based assessment (Slatcher 2001, Map 1) comprised a detailed analysis of cartographic and documentary sources relating to the study area, information which will not be repeated in this report.

Briefly, medieval Sheffield was located on higher ground around what is now the cathedral of SS Peter and Paul, the then parish church. The core of the medieval town was probably bounded by West Bar, although there were outlying features, particularly the Town Mill, on the lower lying ground close to the River Don. Most of the medieval manor of Sheffield lay on the eastern side of the river.

The desk based assessment states that the town had begun to expand to the north by the second quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The cartographic evidence might indicate that Brick Lane - later Spring Street - in the southwestern angle of the site, was a speculative development on the hitherto green-field site at Coulston Crofts, though there is no corroborative evidence for this interpretation (Slatcher 2001).

The desk based assessment was followed by archaeological observation of geotechnical test pits.

The natural geology in this area is of coal measures, giving rise to a mixture of clays and sandstones (GS 1948).

#### 4.0: AIMS

The primary aim of the trial trenching was to establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits. Secondly, should archaeology be present, to determine the location, extent, date and character of the deposits and to assess the significance and quality of the remains.

The overall aim of the evaluation was to assess the site's archaeological potential in order to allow the Local Planning Authority to make an informed decision regarding further action, if any, with respect to archaeology.

# 5.0: METHODOLOGY

Seven trial trenches were excavated (Fig. 2). These were located to sample the site as widely as possible in relation to areas of known or suspected archaeology and to avoid live services. The sample was also chosen to provide information regarding the potential affect of the proposed development on surviving archaeology within the new building footprint and also external to the new building due to landscaping.

Topsoil layers and modern overburden was removed mechanically using a 360 machine under direct archaeological supervision. The mechanical excavation ceased when significant archaeological features were identified, or in the absence of archaeology, at the deepest safe level. Because of the depth of excavation involved, the sides of the trenches were battered to a 45 degree angle, to provide maximum safety. The trenches were then hand cleaned and recorded, and a sample of archaeological deposits was excavated by hand to characterise and date them. The site

was recorded using *pro-forma* record sheets complemented by scale drawings. A complete photographic record was maintained and finds were kept and processed.

Subject to the approval of the land owner, it is proposed to deposit the site archive with Sheffield Museum Service.

# 6.0: THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS (Fig. 2, Plate 1)

The pottery identification and dating is summarised in Table 1. A listing of features and contexts by trench is provided by Appendix 2.

#### 6.1: Trench 1 (Figs. 3-5)

#### <u>Aims</u>

The specific aim of Trench 1 was to test the potential survival of former buildings on the south side of Spring Street.

#### Description

Trench 1 was orientated northwest-southeast, and was mechanically excavated to a depth of c. 51.7m AOD, c. 1.4 metres below the modern ground surface. Two sondages were further excavated by hand. In the northernmost sondage, the natural yellow clay subsoil (1123) was exposed at a depth of c. 51.1m AOD. In the southernmost sondage, the subsoil was exposed at a depth of c. 50.9m AOD.

Overlying the natural subsoil in this trench was a layer of redeposited yellow clay subsoil with some brick and tile inclusions (1134). This layer was c. 0.2m–0.3m deep. Cutting this layer was a ceramic drain (F132). This feature was aligned east-west and was filled with yellow clay with a high proportion of brick and sandstone blocks (1074). The sandstone blocks appeared to have been placed deliberately to protect the drain.

Also cutting the redeposited layer 1134 was a rectangular brick manhole (F119). This structure was built with frogged bricks and showed evidence of plastering on the internal face. A deposit containing modern bricks and plastic sheeting (1075) was identified within and slightly over this structure (F119).

Parts of two buildings were exposed at this depth. An east-west aligned brick wall (F108) was identified in the southwestern end of the trench. The foundation cut for this wall was dug into layer 1134. A mixed brick and rubble infill (1077) was identified to the south of the wall F108 within the interior of the building, suggesting the infill represented a former cellar. To the east, F108 abutted a north-south aligned brick wall (F145), which appears to have been the west wall of another possible cellar to the east.

The corner of another brick walled building (F131) was identified at the northwestern end of the trench. This structure was mis-aligned with the other building. Internal to the structure was a brick and concrete floor (1122). The cut for the walls was visible truncating the fill of the drain F132. Also cutting the fill of the drain was a shallow deposit of coke, ash and brick fragments (1076). This deposit had irregular edges and base, and probably represented an episode of demolition.

Overlying the whole of the trench was c. 1.2m of brick and demolition rubble (1139). Large quantities of the bricks were frogged, suggesting they were related to the demolition of the modern buildings within this area. Overlying the brick and rubble deposit was c. 0.2 to c. 0.3 metres of topsoil.

#### Interpretation/dating

The character of the walls and deposits in this trench are 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century in date. Pottery recovered from the drain cut F132 was dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Wall F131 truncated this drain and was associated with a concrete floor, suggesting a 20<sup>th</sup> century date for this structure. Manhole F119 and cellar F108 were both infilled with frogged bricks, again suggesting a 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

The cartographic evidence for this area (Map 1) indicates that there was development to the south of Spring Street from the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The date and alignment of the walls identified matches better with structures recorded in later maps, from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, which show a sub-rectangular courtyard in this area, bounded by walls at similar alignments to the two buildings identified in this trench. This set of buildings (The Blue Boar Hotel) was evident on the 1978 Ordnance Survey map, but not on the 1985 Ordnance Survey map.

#### 6.2: Trench 2 (Figs. 3-4, 6-7, Plate 2)

#### <u>Aims</u>

The specific aim of Trench 2 was to test the potential survival of former buildings and yards north of Spring Street.

#### **Description**

Trench 2 was aligned north south, and was mechanically excavated to a depth of c. 51.1 metres AOD, c. 1.7 metres below the modern ground surface. Selected areas were further excavated by hand. The natural subsoil was not encountered within this trench. At the southern end of the trench, a deposit of dirty orange clay with charcoal and stone inclusions (1079) was encountered at a depth of c. 50.9 metres AOD. The foundation trench (F113, filled by 1072 and 1073) for the brick cellar walls (F112) was identified cutting this layer (1079). These walls were aligned northwest-southeast and northeast-southwest. Another brick wall (F111) abutted F112 to the east. To the north of these walls was the remains of another northwest-southeast aligned wall (F129) and the collapsed ceiling of a vaulted cellar (F128). The relationship between the two sets of walls is unknown, but it is likely they represent the same structure. The cellar infill (1067) was a homogenous mix of building debris and silty soil that contained much brick and tile fragments, deposits of ash and occasional slag. This infill was tested to a depth of c. 50.0m AOD but the base of the cellar was not encountered.

To the north of F129, a deposit of building debris and silty soil (1068) was identified. This deposit was similar in composition to the cellar infill 1067. To the north of this deposit (1068) was an overlying layer comprised mainly of brick and tile (1120). It is likely that these two deposits comprise another cellar infill, although no other walls to the north of F129 were identified.

A concrete wall foundation (F127) was aligned northwest-southeast, in the centre of Trench 2. This wall truncated the cellar infill 1067, and is possibly the cause of the vaulted ceiling collapse. A wall (F110) was visible mainly in the west-facing section at a similar depth to the concrete foundation. This wall (F110) was constructed from modern frogged bricks. The relationship between the wall (F110) and the concrete foundation (F127) was not established.

At the southern end of the trench, cutting layer 1079, were modern services and cuts (F118, F121). Overlying layer 1079 to the south, was a layer of concrete (F109) possibly representing a modern surface.

Overlying the whole of the trench was c. 1.5 metres of general demolition debris (1139). Overlying this was c. 0.2 to c. 0.3 metres of topsoil.

#### Interpretation/dating

The evidence from this trench shows heavy disturbance due to cellaring. The pottery recovered from the general cleaning layer (1057, not illustrated) and from the deposit to the north of F129 (1068) was  $19^{th}$  century in date. The pottery from the cellar infill to the south of F129 (1067) was late  $19^{th}$  century in date.

The desk based assessment states that there was development to the north of Brick Lane (Spring Street) in 1737. A more detailed plan of 1781, drawn by William Fairbank indicates the area was being used for housing and small workshops. The Ordnance Survey map of 1853 (Map 1) shows extensive buildings within this area; by 1894 there was a Public House here. It is likely that the cellars encountered in this trench relate to these later buildings.

By 1935 the area appears to have been cleared; only the external walls of the Public House are indicated on this map. The Ordnance Survey sheet SK 3597 from 1954 shows a new building constructed to the north of Spring Street. It is likely that the concrete wall foundation (F127) identified truncating the top of the cellars in this trench relates to this building. By 1985 the area had been cleared.

#### 6.3: Trench 3 (Figs. 3-4, Plates 3-4)

#### <u>Aims</u>

The specific aim of Trench 3 was to test the location of demolished former industrialstyle building fronting Bridge Street and Coulston Street.

#### Description

Trench 3 was aligned northwest-southeast. A northwest-southeast aligned brick wall was exposed at a depth of c. 49.9 metres AOD at the eastern end and c. 49.8 AOD metres at the western end, under c. 1.1 metres of demolition layers and rubble (1139) and topsoil. A mechanically excavated sondage was placed parallel to the wall through modern brick and concrete debris. Neither the natural subsoil, nor the base of the wall were exposed. The westernmost part of the wall (F146, not illustrated) appeared to be of earlier construction, with a blocked up arched cellar entrance visible

within this section. Abutting the earlier wall to the south was a modern wall on the same alignment (F147, not illustrated), suggesting the earlier wall had been utilised as part of a later building.

This wall was extensively photographed; all recording was conducted from outside the trench due to safety considerations.

# Interpretation

The desk based assessment indicated that this area was not developed until the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The first edition of the large scale Ordnance Survey plan (1853) shows the walls of buildings aligned northwest-southeast that are likely to correlate with the earlier section of wall visible in this trench. Subsequent maps show that the main northwest-southeast wall survives and is later incorporated into the walls of 20<sup>th</sup> century civil defence training centre. These buildings were still standing in 1978; the area had been cleared by 1985.

# 6.4: Trench 4 (Figs. 3-4, 7-8, Plate 5)

# <u>Aims</u>

The specific aim of Trench 4 was to examine the possible survival of demolished workshops to the north of Spring Street.

# Description

Trench 4 was aligned north south. The natural yellow clay subsoil (1105) was encountered at a depth of c. 49.7 metres AOD, c. 1.8 metres below the modern ground surface.

A north-south aligned brick wall (F124) was identified running central to the trench, with an entry gap in the middle. One side of this was disturbed by layer activity. This wall was set directly onto the natural subsoil with no evidence of a foundation cut on either side. This wall survived to four courses high.

Overlying the natural subsoil (1105) to the west of F124 was a thin layer of brown clay (1127). This layer was severely truncated by later layers and disturbances and did not extend throughout the trench.

A small pit (F134) was identified cutting this layer. Sealing this pit and overlying the brown clay layer 1127 was a thin patchy layer of dark grey silty clay with some stone inclusions (1121, not illustrated; contains  $19^{th}$  century pottery). Set into this layer was a stone path (F133), aligned east-west. The western extent of this path was flush with wall F124. The northern extent of the path (F133) was in line with the entry-gap within F124. Overlying the path was a layer of rubble and mortar (1128) that also overlay grey silty clay layer 1121. Both these layers (1121 and 1128) were found to the east but not to the west of F124.

To the east of wall F124, overlying the brown clay layer (1127) were two other brick walls (F135 and F136). Wall F135 was aligned approximately east-west, but was not quite at right angles to the wall F124. It comprised a single unbonded line of bricks laid on their sides, and was aligned with the entry within F124. Wall F136 was aligned north-south, parallel to F124, and was identified at the very edge of the

exposed area. This wall (F136) comprised a single course of bricks 0.64 metres wide with flat laid bricks either side. Only a part of this wall was exposed, and it is possible it represents an internal, rather than an external wall. The relationship between these three walls was not determined.

Another small pit (F138) was identified cutting the brown clay layer (1127) in the south of the trench. This pit was mainly filled with clay, mortar, brick and stones, and was severely truncated by a modern disturbance in this area that was filled with black ash and coke.

To the west of wall F124, a layer of grey clay and mixed brick and rubble (1102) abutted the wall and overlay the natural subsoil (1105). Overlying 1102 and the partly demolished remains of F124 were lenses of levelling/demolition layers (1140, not illustrated). Overlying these was a layer of tarmac (1106, not illustrated). This layer (1106) was not continuous throughout the trench, having been disturbed at various intervals by later cuts. At the southern end of the trench, the tarmac terminated at a stone path (F126). At the northern end of the trench, the tarmac extended to the corner of a brick structure (F125). The foundation cut for wall F125 truncated two layers, (1062 and 1063, not illustrated), both of which produced 19th century pottery. Frogged bricks were evident in the build of this wall.

Overlying the tarmac surface was a dark grey clay and rubble layer (1064, not illustrated). Overlying this was a very compact layer of mixed brick rubble and silt (1101, not illustrated). A discrete deposit of grey clay and brick (1104) and an irregular layer of black silty clay with charcoal inclusions (1066, not illustrated) also overlay the tarmac at the northern end of the trench.

Cutting these layers at the northern end of the trench was a large modern disturbance filled with a mixed orange clay (1103, not illustrated) and a black ash and coke layer (1065). This disturbance truncated the natural subsoil (1105) in this area, but respected F124 and F125.

Overlying the whole trench was c. 1.6 metres of modern demolition rubble and makeup layers (1100 and 1139, not illustrated). Overlying this was c. 0.2m of topsoil.

#### Interpretation/dating

The cartographic evidence indicates that there was mid-18<sup>th</sup> century activity to the north of Spring Street, although it is unclear how far to the north this activity extended. Certainly the evidence suggests activity by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The First Edition large scale Ordnance Survey map (1853) shows a series of buildings and yards in this area on a similar alignment to wall F124.

Whilst noting Ratkai's comment (see below) that there are no uniquivocal sherds of 17<sup>th</sup> century date from the site, it is possible that sherds from backfills 1125-6 of feature F134 were late 17<sup>th</sup> in date, although the clay pipe fragments from this deposit were dated to the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, which suggests a later date. Most of the pottery from this trench was from demolition layers that post-date the buildings and was 19<sup>th</sup> century in date. Pottery from layer 1102 was also 19<sup>th</sup> century. 1102 was directly over the natural subsoil and abutted wall F124 on the west side. The existence of a stone path (F133) to the cast of F124 might suggest that this was outside the

building. This again, matches with the cartographic evidence. The small rough built walls F135 and F136 also identified to the east of F124 may be interpreted as industrial features associated with activity in this area. As the survival of these walls was very poor due to truncation and levelling at later dates, and no layers, deposits or features, industrial in character, were identified relating to these walls, this is only conjecture.

The building at the north of Trench 4 (F125) is constructed from frogged bricks and is therefore modern. There is no specific building in the cartographic evidence that can be directly related to this feature. As only a corner was exposed it is impossible to say how substantial this building was.

# 6.5: Trench 5 (Figs. 4, 9-10, Plate 6)

#### <u>Aims</u>

The specific aim of Trench 5 was to examine the potential survival of former buildings/workshops fronting Love Lane (south side) and to determine the location of pottery recovered from Test Pit 7. The trench was moved south to avoid a mains sewer, so was located to the south of the main range of features, which were its initial target, although its re-alignment allowed testing for yard surfaces and other features not recorded by mapping.

# Description

Trench 5 was aligned east-west. The natural subsoil was not encountered in this trench. At the western end of the trench, a deep series of makcup layers were identified in a mechanically-excavated sondage. These were excavated to a depth of *c*. 46.9 metres AOD, *c*. 2.8 metres below the modern ground surface. Finds were recovered from layers at the base of the sondage (1131; a brown sandy silt rubble, not illustrated, 1132; a crushed brick and mortar, not illustrated, and 1133; black coke and rubble, not illustrated). This series of layers was visible in plan at a depth of *c*. 48.2 metres AOD, *c*. 1.5 metres below the modern ground surface. A layer of clay and sandstone (1136) overlay a layer of sand and mortar (1137), and was in turn overlain by a layer of brown sandy silt and rubble (1135). This layer was overlain by a layer of crushed brick and (1134).

These layers were cut by a wall aligned northeast-southwest (F141). The return of the wall (F143) ran into the north-facing section. To the east, a wall (F142) was identified on a parallel alignment to wall F143, truncated by a modern brick wall (F140).

A brick manhole and ceramic drain (F144) were identified to the north of the wall F141, and appear to respect it. The cut for the drain (1130) was identified as also truncating the series of makeup layers, and wall F142.

The eastern end of Trench 5 was contained a modern brick building (F140) only part of which was located within the trench. The concrete foundation (F139) for the western external wall of this building truncated the earlier wall (F142). This foundation (F139) was identified at a depth of c. 48.6 metres AOD. All the bricks used in the structure were frogged, and the fill between the visible walls was a very compact crushed brick, concrete and mortar mix.

Overlying the whole trench was varying depths of general building debris and demolition layers (1139). Overlying this was c. 0.15 to 0.2 metres of topsoil.

# Interpretation/dating

The pottery identified at the base of the sondage (1131, 1132 and 1133) was of late 18<sup>th</sup>-early 19<sup>th</sup> century date. The material from layer 1130 was 19<sup>th</sup> century; from layer 1131 dated to the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the material from 1132 was attributed to the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the sherds from layer 1133 were of late 18<sup>th</sup> century date. This series of layers suggested deliberate landscaping activity in this area at this time, which corroborates the cartographic evidence that the land between Spring Street and Love Lane was being developed at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The pottery found in Test Pit 7 may have come from below this series of layers, that were identified in Test Pit 7 to at least 3.5 metres below ground level.

The walls identified in this trench (F141, F142 and F143) are likely to be cellar walls. No dating evidence was recovered from deposits internal to these structures as they were outside the area exposed. It was evident, however, that the cellars post-dated the series of makeup layers.

The structure identified in the east of the trench was obviously modern due to the character of the brick and concrete used in its construction. Though the structure was quite substantial, none of the 20<sup>th</sup> century maps produced for the desk based assessment indicated a building in this area. The drain (F144) may have serviced this building. This building may have been part of the civil defence training centre.

# 6.6: Trench 6 (Figs. 4, 11-12)

# <u>Aims</u>

The specific aim of Trench 6 was to test the survival of demolished, industrial-style building fronting Bridge Street and Love Lane.

# Description

Trench 6 was aligned northeast-southwest. It was mechanically excavated to a depth of c. 47.0 metres AOD, c. 1.5 metres below the modern ground surface. Two sondages were excavated by hand, and then augured at the base.

In the easternmost sondage (Sondage 1), clean blue clay (1141) was identified at a depth of c. 44.8 metres AOD. It is possible that this clay represents the natural subsoil in this area. Overlying the clay in Sondage 1 was 1.1 metres of dark organic silt (1097).

In the westernmost sondage (Sondage 2), clean blue clay (1142, not illustrated) was identified at a depth of c. 44.6 metres AOD. This clay was similar to the blue clay identified in the eastern sondage (1141), and again possibly represents the natural subsoil. Overlying the clay in Sondage 2 was 1.1 metres of dark organic silt (1061, not illustrated). It is likely that this layer (1061) is equivalent to 1097.

Overlying both 1061 and 1097 was a series of irregular layers comprising brown silty sand and brick rubble, and yellow elay and sandstone fragments. These layers (1090, 1081, 1082, 1083, 1085, 1084, 1087, 1088, 1094, 1093 and 1092; 1059, 1060, 1095 not illustrated) although allocated numbers may represent the same event of dumping throughout the trench.

Two parallel wall footings (F115 and F120) were identified truncating this series of layers. These wall foundations were aligned approximately north south. The easternmost wall (F115) comprised one course of red bricks which overlay a foundation course of sandstone blocks (F123). The westernmost wall (F120) comprised one course of sandstone blocks. A mortared brick wall (F148), one course deep, survived in part over the sandstone blocks of F120 at the southern end. A shallow linear feature (F116) ran parallel to this wall, filled with a black coke and silt (1078) on the western side and orange sand (1089) on the eastern side. This is likely to represent the foundation cut for F120.

At the western end of the trench, a linear feature (F117, 1091) was identified, aligned north-south, but not excavated. This feature was cut from high in the stratigrapic sequence and is likely to represent a modern drain. In the east of the trench, a modern brick manhole (F114) was also identified, also cut from high in the stratigraphic sequence.

Overlying the whole trench was c. 1.3 metres of modern makeup layers and building debris (1080; 1139, not illustrated). Overlying this was c. 0.2 metres of topsoil.

#### Interpretation

Pottery recovered from the dark organic silt (1061) was 18<sup>th</sup> century in date. Environmental analysis was conducted on samples collected from this deposit which indicated the possible presence of industrial activity nearby and the likelihood of a wet environment.

Pottery recovered from the series of layers sealing this layer (1061/1097) was also mainly 18<sup>th</sup> century in date. A few of the layers contained possibly early 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery, and one of the layers (1085) contained one fragment of possibly 17<sup>th</sup> century pottery. This, however, is likely to be residual as it overlies later dated deposits.

The cartographic evidence shows two parallel walls in this area from at least 1853 onwards. In 1903 the easternmost wall was not illustrated on the Ordnance Survey map, but was represented on the 1935 map. The 1954 OS map again omits the easternmost wall. By 1985 the area had been cleared. There was no evidence from the evaluation to indicate the presence of other walls or structures associated with the two walls identified within the trench (F115 and F120), which matches the cartographic evidence produced in the desk based assessment. No deposits, layers or features were identified that could provide evidence to allow an interpretation of building use. The cartographic evidence, however, suggests the buildings in this area were warehouses.

#### 6.7: Trench 7 (Figs. 4, 13-15)

#### Aims

The specific aim of Trench 7 was to test the potential survival of building/workshops between Love Lane and Love Street.

#### Description

Trench 7 was aligned east-west and was extended on its north side, to form a T-shape. At the northern end of the extension, the natural clay and sandstone subsoil (1138) was encountered at a depth of c. 46.2 metres AOD, c. 1.5 metres below the modern ground surface. The deposits in this area were severely truncated by modern services.

In the south of the trench, a sondage exposed the natural clay subsoil at a depth of c. 45.6 metres AOD on the western side, and c. 45.8 metres AOD on the eastern side, c. 2.2 metres below the modern ground surface. Overlying this was a series of layers; a brown grey sandy silt (1055), a mid-brown sandy silt (1054), a blue grey layer with fragments of brick and mortar (1053), a blue grey clay with building debris and sub-angular stones (1050), a mid-brown sandy silt with fragments of mortar, brick and stone (1049), a grey silty clay with rubble (1043), a mid-brown silty clay with flecks of mortar (1042), a grey silt sand and rubble layer (1033) and a black coke layer with some silt and sand (1032). Layers 1033 and 1032 were also tested in a sondage to the south of F103 and were allocated the numbers 1018 and 1019. This series of layers was approximately 1.6 metres deep. These layers appeared to slope towards the centre of the sondage. It is possible they represent the fill of a larger feature rather than makeup layers.

In the east-west aligned part of Trench 7, c. 0.2 to c. 0.3 metrcs of topsoil and rubble was removed to expose the cobble surface of Love Lane (1023). Adjacent to the cobbles was a line of rectangular granite stone slabs (1025) which formed the northernmost kerb of Love Lane.

Two brick walls were identified to the north of Love Lane (F102 and F103) forming the external walls of a narrow building. These walls were approximately 2.1 metres apart and ran parallel to Love Lane. The northernmost wall (F103) survived up to three courses, and overlay layer (1032) recorded in the sondage.

A brick structure (F100) was identified between these walls. This structure was rectangular, with the external walls being one brick thick. An internal wall (F101) divided the structure east-west, and a brick and stone flag floor (1020) was encountered 0.42 metres below. This structure (F100) abutted F102 to the south, and was itself abutted by an east-west aligned wall (F106) to the north. The fill of this feature contained pottery and degraded metal (1015, 1014, and 1013).

To the northwest of structure F100 was a north-south aligned wall (F107). This wall (F107) abutted F106 and F103. To the west of F100, a ceramic pipe with concrete footings was identified. This structure appeared to respect the brick structures in this area, which continued to the west of the trench.

To the east of F100, a rough cobble surface (F104) was identified. This surface was severely truncated by later drains and rubble. The cobbles were aligned along walls F102 and F103.

Further to the east, a brick manhole with ceramic drains at the base was identified (F105). This structure was abutted by the general layer of rubble and disturbance that truncated most of this area (1041 and 1037). To the east of this, a rough brick surface (1036) overlay the rubble deposit 1037. This was a foundation for a concrete layer, utilised as a modern carpark.

#### Interpretation/dating

Pottery recovered from the series of layers identified in the sondage was dated to early 19<sup>th</sup> century (1055, 1050 etc.). Pottery dated to the 18<sup>th</sup> century was also recovered from these contexts. The dished profile of the layers and the difference in the height AOD of the natural subsoil in this area may suggest the layers form the infill of a discrete feature. No evidence for a cut was identified that would support this theory within the exposed area of the trench.

The desk based assessment stated that Love Street (at the north of the proposed development area) had been built by the time of Harris's plan of Sheffield of 1797, and the Ordnance Survey map from 1853 (Map 1) shows the proposed development area crossed by Love Lane. This map, and subsequent maps, indicate much activity to the north of Love Lane. Maps from 1894 and 1905 show the buildings set back a distance from Love Lane, with some form of industrial structure located between them.

It is not unfeasible to suggest that F100 is associated with this structure, as are the surrounding walls and cobble surface F104. There was no evidence for *in situ* burning within this feature and it is possible that the deposits within it (1013, 1014 and 1015), dated to the early  $20^{\text{th}}$  century, are not related to the use of this structure.

The northern part of Trench 7 identified a series of parallel, deeply-cut, modern services, which will have damaged or destroyed any structures any structures fronting Love Street.

#### 7.0: SPECIALIST REPORTS

#### 7.1: Pottery by Stephanic Ratkai

Pottery from the evaluation was examined, spot-dated and briefly reported-on. Most of the pottery is of 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century date. The earliest possible wares were manganese mottled ware and feathered slipware (from 1061, Trench 6 Sondage 2 and fill 1225 of feature F134, Trench 4) and a plain tin glazed earthenware sherds from layer 1059 (Trench 6, layer under F120, not illustrated; and layer 1131in Trench 5). All of these could be of late 17<sup>th</sup> century date. A fourth sherd somewhere between a blackware and eistercian ware from (1085 Trench 6) is very different from the other blackwares recovered from the site and a 17<sup>th</sup> century date seems possible for this also. Layers 1061, 1059 and 1085 all also contained 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery. A single brown glazed coarseware sherd from layer 1126 (feature F134, Trench 5) was slightly

different to the other coarsewares and could date to the late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century. A similar coarseware sherd was found in layer 1126 together with two manganese mottled sherds. This context also contained clay pipe fragments dating to the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. As there were no uniquivocal sherds of 17<sup>th</sup> century date from the site it is perhaps more convincing to date all these sherds to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The coarseware fabric (with the exception of the two sherds mentioned above) was very clean and well prepared and the crossover from blackwares to coarsewares was not always clear since the fabric of both was more or less the same. The ware type could only be differentiated by the vessel forms i.e. coarseware forms consisted of jars and pancheons or bowls and blackware forms consisted mainly of mugs and tankards. Glazes were always a good quality glossy black. Coarsewares were found in just over a third of all contexts. Where diagnostic sherds existed they suggested that the coarseware was of 18<sup>th</sup> century date, although of course, coarsewares were in use in the previous century. Some of the coarsewares may also date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The other main utilitarian ware found on the site was brown stoneware, many of which closely resembled Nottingham stonewares and which seemed to be more or less contemporary with the coarsewares.

Table wares were mainly represented in the  $18^{th}$  century by creamware (c. 1750c1790). The creamware was mainly undecorated but there were occasional examples of tortoiseshell ware and Whieldon ware (1750s and 1760s). There were only two white salt glazed stoneware sherds (from layers 1055 and 1131) representing an carlier tradition (c 1720-c 1760) of light coloured table wares. By the 19<sup>th</sup> century creamware had been replaced by pearlware, which began in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, and transfer printed wares and blue shell edge plates. There were also a small number of green shell edge plates in the assemblage. The early 19<sup>th</sup> century also saw the introduction of industrial slipwares eg Mocha ware and painted and sponged wares. These latter three are often associated with the lower end of the pottery buying market (pers comm D. Barker) and are commonly found on the site of urban "artisan"

The potential of this material for further analysis is poor, because only a limited quantity derived from primary, undisturbed contexts.

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# TABLE 1: The diagnostic pottery

#### 7.2: Small finds by Lynne Bevan

#### Glass

The glass recovered was typical of many late 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century urban glass assemblages. The majority of the glass consisted of 33 fragments from wine and beer bottles, the largest of which was a broken beer bottle labelled 'John Marples and Co., 2 Markets Street, Sheffield (1014, Trench 7), 34 fragments from several blue, green and clear medicine bottles, 38 fragments of window glass, including some modern pieces of reinforced glass (1100, Trench 4), and 17 fragments of recent, clear vessel glass. Complete items included a fish paste jar of mid-late 20<sup>th</sup> century date (1067, Trench 2) and a Codd drinks bottle still containing its marble, labelled 'J.C.BROTHWELL, BRITTANIA WORKS, SHEFFIELD' around an image of the seated Britannia, with the date 1900' on the reverse (1014, Trench 7). This bottle has been perforated through the shoulder with a slot, perhaps to make it into a money box.

Other finds, all of which are broadly datable to the late 19<sup>th</sup>- early 20<sup>th</sup> century, included a fragment from a blue fluted bowl (1107, Trench 2), a fragment of cut, fluted glass, probably from a rose bowl (1121, Trench 4), a large slab of clear glass, possibly part of the base of a dressing table set (Trench 4, unstratified), two fragments of decorative vessel glass with an opaque white trail (1067, Trench 2), a clear marble, probably from a drinks bottle (1015, Trench 7), two stoppers (1062, Trench 4 and Trench 6, unstratified), and a fragment of red glass from a door panel (1121, Trench 4).

#### Clay pipe

The clay pipe assemblage consisted of 15 bowls, many of which were fragmentary, and 142 stem fragments. The morphology of the bowls suggests a slightly earlier focus of activity than that of the glass assemblage. The two carliest forms in the collection were late 17<sup>th</sup> century pedestal-footed forms (1060, Trench 6). Other datable forms included several spurred examples, the two earliest of which date to approximately 1730-80, and are marked 'DUBLIN' on their inner faces (1014, Trench 7). Two later spurred forms date to 1820-40 (Trench 4, unstratified) and 1840-80 (1019, Trench 7). An incomplete 18<sup>th</sup> century bowl is stamped with the letters 'R.A.O.B' over a rams horn motif (1015, Trench 7) and another 18<sup>th</sup> century bowl was decorated with a heart motif (1121, 4). A complete bowl with fluted decoration dates to the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Trench 7, unstratified). A fragment of pipe stem from feature F134 (1125) may be dated to the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century; a small bowl fragment from context 1126 within the same feature is too small to be datable.

Another item of smoking equipment was a moulded, black pipe mouthpiece dating to the  $20^{\text{th}}$  century (1015, Trench 7).

#### Worked bone/wood

An 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century bone knife handle with the remains of a broken corroded blade was recovered (1063, Trench 4) and there are also worked bone fragments from the site, almost exclusively from Trench C, in the form of several worked and cut

fragments. Four simply cut bones were found (1050, 1095, Trenches 7 and 6, unstratified). One long bone, now broken, had been cut into a roughly-square shape and partially hollowed, perhaps for fashioning into a knife handle (1082, Trench 6). A circular hollowed fragment might have been intended for a similar purpose (1055, Trench 7). Another bone fragment had a flattened base, sawn edges and a small perforation at one end (1050, Trench 7) and three other small bone fragments exhibited sawn edges (1050, 1053, Trench 7, unstratified).

There was also a rectangular fragment of worked wood carved roughly into a comb shape with seven remaining 'teeth' and ?attachment holes at each end (1015, Trench 7).

# Metal items

One perforated strip of copper alloy was recovered (1080, Trench 6), the appearance of which suggested that it was of no great antiquity. Other finds included a cast iron ornamental hook of probable  $19^{th}-20^{th}$  century date (1068, Trench 2), and a fragment of lead pipe (1077, Trench 1). Recent iron finds consisted of a scaffold clamp (Trench 4, unstratified), a large bolt (1076, Trench 1), and iron nails (1064, Trench 4 x 24, 1065, Trench 4 x 1, 1067, Trench 2 x 2, 1102, Trench 4 x 1, Trench 7, unstratified x 1). Modern aluminium finds comprised a small bar, probably from machinery (1057, Trench 2) and two hollow cuff-shaped objects, one of which had been partially melted (Trench 2, unstratified).

# Brick and tile

Nine fragments of brick, three of which were half bricks (1076, Trench 1; 1077/F108, Trench 1 x 2) and two pieces of stone roof tile (1126/F134, Trench 4) were recovered.

#### Slag

Small quantities of slag, comprising 512 grams and 130 grams, were recovered from Trenches 4 (1102, 1125 and unstratified) and Trench 2 (1107).

#### Miscellaneous finds

Miscellaneous finds included two fragments of graphite rod (1067, Trench 2, 1068, Trench 2), a crucible fragment (1017, Trench 7), a 19<sup>th</sup> century rubber bottle top labelled 'THOS.RAWSON & Co., POND STREET, SHEFFIELD' (1015, Trench 7), a fragment of plaster (1057, Trench 2), and two fragments of leather (1065, Trench 4, 1097, Trench 6), one of which came from the upper part, including rivet holes, of a discarded boot (1097).

#### **Oyster** shell

Small quantities of oyster shell were recovered from the following layers: 1013, 1033, 1045, 1050, 1055, all Trench 7; 1059, Trench 6, 1068, Trench 2, 1082, Trench 6; and Trenches 7, 6, 4 and 2, unstratified.

# Worked animal bone

Small quantities of worked animal bone were found, the majority of which (450 grams) was roughly divided between Trenches 7 and 6 from which there is evidence of bone-working. The remaining 250 grams came from Trenches 4 and 2.

# 7.3: Animal bone by Emily Murray

A small assemblage of hand-collected animal bones (c. 1 kg) was recovered from the evaluation. Animal bones were found in Trenches 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7 and the state of preservation overall was quite good. A number of bones were stained suggesting that they had been exposed to waterlogged conditions (contexts 1061, 6 and 1097, Trench 6) and context 1130 (Trench 1) had a mixture of stained and unstained bone. Green copper staining (contexts 1013 and 1014, Trench 7) and iron staining (contexts 1131, Trench 5 and 1014, Trench 7) was also noted on a small number of specimens.

The range of species represented by the assemblage is cattle, sheep/goat, pig, fallow deer, dog, rabbit, domestic fowl and fish. Of the sheep/goat bones that could be speciated, only sheep were positively identified and most of the pig and ovicaprid elements derived from large modern breeds. All of the animals were represented by post cranial elements only and there were no teeth or skull fragments. There was extensive evidence of butchery, in particular sawn bone. Evidence of gnawing was also common especially rodent gnawing.

Given the small size of the animal bone assemblage and its association with relatively modern demolition activity, it is of limited archaeological interest and no further analysis is recommended.

#### 7.4: Environmental analysis by Marina Ciaraldi

A 40l sample from 1061, Trench 6, was collected by the excavator during the evaluation excavation at Sheffield Family Courts. This was processed in order to assess the preservation of organic remains, and its potential to help understand the nature of the feature from which it was collected.

The sample consisted of a dark sandy silt of a grey colour, which contained some waterlogged organic material visible to the naked eye. A small sub-sample of 300 ml was wet-sieved on a 0.3 mm sieve and the fraction retained on the mesh was scanned under a standard stereomicroscope.

The sample was constituted mainly by small fragments of burnt and unburnt coal, suggesting that industrial activities might have occurred nearby. Numerous seeds of buttercups (*Ranunculus bulbosus/repens*) and a single seed of (*Sonchus* sp.) were also observed. The abundant presence of buttercups seeds suggests the presence of a wet environment, however it is difficult to infer more on the nature of the deposit.

The sample does not require further analysis as its content suggests that its palaeoenvironmental potential is very limited.

# 8.0: DISCUSSION

Four of the seven excavated trenches lie either wholly or in part within the current application area of the proposed new Family Court (Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4). Trenches 5, 6 and 7 lie outside the application area.

The desk based assessment identified that Sheffield had begun to expand to the north by the second quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and Gosling's plan of Sheffield from 1736 showed buildings north of West Bar and Brick Lane (later Spring Street). Subsequent maps and plans show the advancement north of development through the area for the next hundred years.

Although Trench 1 possessed the most potential for evidence relating to early development, being closer to the medieval centre of Sheffield, the structures exposed within Trench 1 were dated to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. No evidence for earlier activity was encountered, suggesting that any earlier buildings had been removed or severely truncated in this area prior to redevelopment in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The stratigraphy on the eastern side of the development site (Trench 2 and Trench 3) is characterised by extensive cellarage. The cartographic and pottery evidence associated with these walls suggests a 19<sup>th</sup> century date. Trench 3 demonstrates further disturbance in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Any earlier activity, again, would have suffered from extensive truncation by these later buildings.

The north-south wall identified in Trench 4 directly over the natural subsoil may represent the 18<sup>th</sup> century activity in the area as demonstrated in the desk based assessment. The path to the east overlay layer 1121 which contained 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery. All the layers that truncate or overlie the wall and the stone path are 19<sup>th</sup> century in date. The line of the proposed building wall foundation transects the northern end of Trench 4 where modern building and disturbance were identified.

The carliest stratigraphy encountered in Trench 5 was possible 18<sup>th</sup> century landscaping. Subsequent activity in this area has truncated these layers. Trenches 6 and 7 also show significant depths of makeup layers below the modern ground surface. The buildings to the north of Love Lane survive at a very shallow depth below the modern ground surface, and have been shown to overlie the landscaping layers. No earlier activity was identified outside the building footprint.

The overall character of the site is one of 18<sup>th</sup> century landscaping prior to extensive development in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. One possible explanation for the significant land build-up is ground raising activity is to counteract flooding, especially since waterlogged deposits were encountered in Trench 6. Another theory is infilling of possible quarry pits as sloping layers were encountered in Trench 7. Conclusive evidence to support either of these hypotheses was not gained from this evaluation.

# 9.0: IMPLICATIONS

Within the current application area the archaeological evaluation has demonstrated extensive truncation due to cellaring and later 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century activity. It is

unlikely that any significant earlier archaeological deposits have survived within this area.

Outside the current application area the structures encountered at the north of the site survive under a very shallow depth of topsoil and overburden. The extent of preservation of these structures is good, and possibly continues to the west.

#### **10.0: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants commissioned this report. Dinah Saitch monitored the project on behalf of the Local Planning Authority. Work on site was carried out by Mary Duncan, Nathan Flavell, Lucy Griffin, Malcolm Hislop, Roy Krakowicz, Phil Mann, Sally Radford and Eleanor Ramsey. Thanks are also due to Stephanie Ratkai and Marina Ciaraldi for their specialist contribution to this report. Eleanor Ramsey produced the written report which was illustrated by Mark Breedon and edited by Alex Jones, who also monitored the project for BUFAU.

#### **11.0: REFERENCES**

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# Appendix 1: Finds quantification

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1130 1131 1132 1133 (Exclud			16 3 8	3							1			-	104

(Excludes unstratified material)

# Appendix 2: List of features and contexts

1139	Modern rubble and makeup layers over the whole site
Trench 1 <u>Features</u> F108 F119 F131 F132 F145	Brick wall Brick manhole Brick wall Cut for drain Brick wall
<u>Contexts</u> 1051 (1134) 1052 1056 (1139) 1074 1075 1076 1077 1122 1123 1134 (1051)	Yellow sandy clay with rubble Fill of foundation cut for F108 General modern rubble buildup Fill of F132 Modern deposit assoc, with F119 Coke, ash and brick deposit Cellar infill Brick and concrete floor Yellow clay natural Yellow sandy clay with rubble
Trench 2 <u>Features</u> F109 F110 F111 F112 F113 F118 F121 F127 F128 F129 F130	Concrete layer Brick wall Brick wall Brick wall Cut for wall Modern pit Cut for modern services Concrete wall foundation Vaulted cellar Vaulted cellar Brick structure
Contexts 1057 1058 1067 1068 1069 1070 1071 1072 1073 1079 1098 1099 1107 1108 1109 1110 1111 1112 1113	General cleaning layer F109 concrete Rubble cellar infill Building debris Build of F110 Build of F111 Build of F112 Fill of F113 Fill of F113 Dirty orange clay Fill of F118 Fill of F121 Infill of F120 Build of F127 Build of F127 Build of F128 Build of F128

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1114 1115 1116 1117 1118 1119 1120	Build of F128 Build of F129 Build of F129 Build of F130 Build of F130 Redeposited natural Rubble infill
Trench 3 <u>Features</u> F146 F147	Brick wall Brick wall
Trench 4 <u>Features</u> F124 F125 F126 F133 F134 F135 F136 F137 F138	Brick wall Brick wall Stone wall Stone path Small pit Brick wall Brick structure Brick wall Small pit
Contexts 1062 1063 1064 1065 1066 1100 1101 1102 1103 1104 1105 1106 1121 1125 1126 1127 1128 1129 1140 1143	Light grey brown mixed soil layer Yellow silty clay layer Grey clay and rubble layer Black ash and coke layer Black silty clay layer Building debris Compact brick rubble and silt Mixed clay and rubble layer Mixed orange clay Grey clay and brick deposit Natural yellow clay subsoil Tarmac layer Grey silty clay layer Yellow brown clay fill of F134 Clay and rubble fill of F134 Brown clay layer Rubble and mortar layer Black ash and coke deposit Lenses of demolition rubble Fill of F138
Trench 5 <u>Features</u> F139 F140 F141 F142 F143 F144	Concrete wall foundation Modern brick walls Brick wall Brick wall Brick wall Drain

<u>Contexts</u> 1130 1131 1132 1133 1135 1136 1137	Fill of F144 Brown sandy silt rubble layer Brick and mortar layer Black coke, ash and rubble layer Brown silt sand and rubble layer Clay and sandstone layer Mortar layer
Trench 6 <u>Features</u> F114 F115 F116 F117 F120 F122 F123 F148	Brick wall Brick wall Linear Linear Stone slab wall footings Cut for modern drain Sandstone block wall footing Part of brick wall
Contexts 1059 1060 1061 1078 1080 1081 1082 1083 1084 1085 1086 1087 1088 1089 1090 1091 1092 1093 1094 1095 1096 1097 1141 1142	Yellow clay and sandstone layer Rubble deposit Black clay organic layer Fill of F116 Building debris Yellow clay layer Grey black rubble layer Orange brown sand layer Brown sand silt deposit Orange brown sand layer Deposit of mortar and sand Mixed yellow clay and sandstone layer Grey compact rubble layer Fill of F116 Clay and rubble layer Fill of F117 Brownish yellow clay and sandstone layer Grey silt clay with brick fragments Yellow grey silty clay with brick fragments Brown yellow gritty clay Fill of F122 Black organic clay layer Clean blue clay Clean blue clay
Trench 7 <u>Features</u> F100 F101 F102 F103 F104 F105 F106 F107	Brick structure Brick wall Brick wall Brick wall Stone cobbles Manhole and drain Brick wall Brick wall

Contexts	
1013	Fill of F100
1014	Fill of F100
1015	Fill of F100
1016 (1031)	Red sandy deposit
1017 (1032)	Black silt and charcoal layer
1018 (1033)	Brown silt rubble layer
1019 (1033)	Mixed brown silt rubble layer
1020	Brick and flag stone surface
1021	Build of F100
1022	Build of F101
1023	Cobble surface of Love Lane
1024	Topsoil over Love Lane
1025	Granite kerbstones of Love Lane
1026	Ash, clinker and coke deposit
1027	Build of F102
1028	Brick and rubble layer
1029	Build of F103
1030	Build of F104
1031 (1016)	Red sandy deposit
1032 (1017)	Black silt and charcoal layer
1033 (1018/1019)	Mixed grey silt rubble layer
1034	Build of F105
1035	Fill of F105
1036	Rough brick surface
1037	Rubble and coke deposit
1038	Build of F106
1039	Build of F107
1040	Brick rubble deposit
1041	Rubble deposit
1042	Silt, clay and mortar layer
1043	Grey silt clay layer
1044	Rubble layer
1045	Tarmac layer
1046	Clay layer
1047	Tarmac layer
1048	Clay layer
1049	Brown sandy silt layer
1050	Grey blue silty clay layer
1053	Brick rubble and mortar layer
1054	Brown grey sand silt layer
1055	Brown grey sand silt layer
1138	Yellow clay and sandstone natural

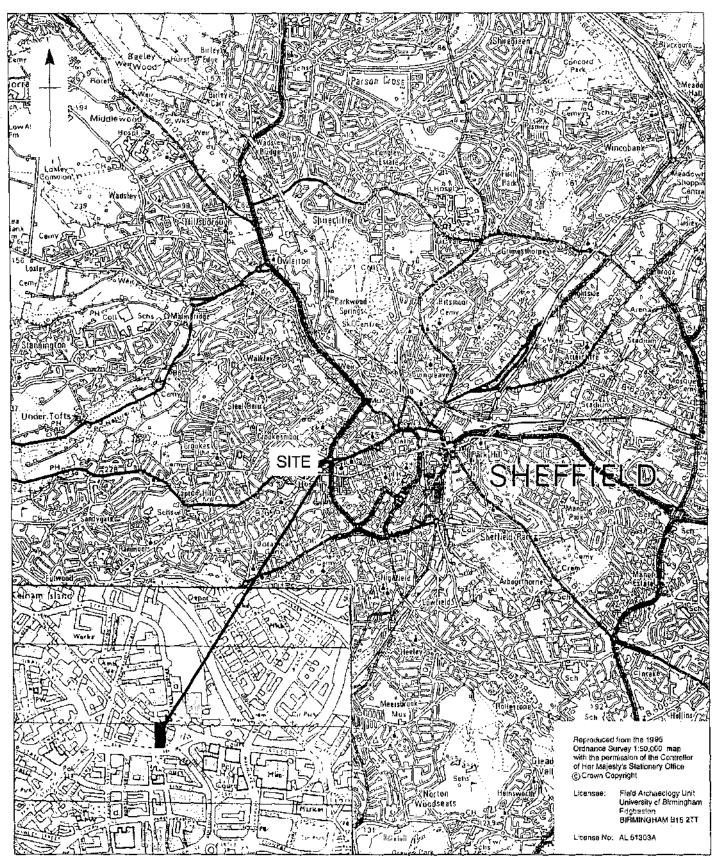


FIGURE 1. SITE LOCATION

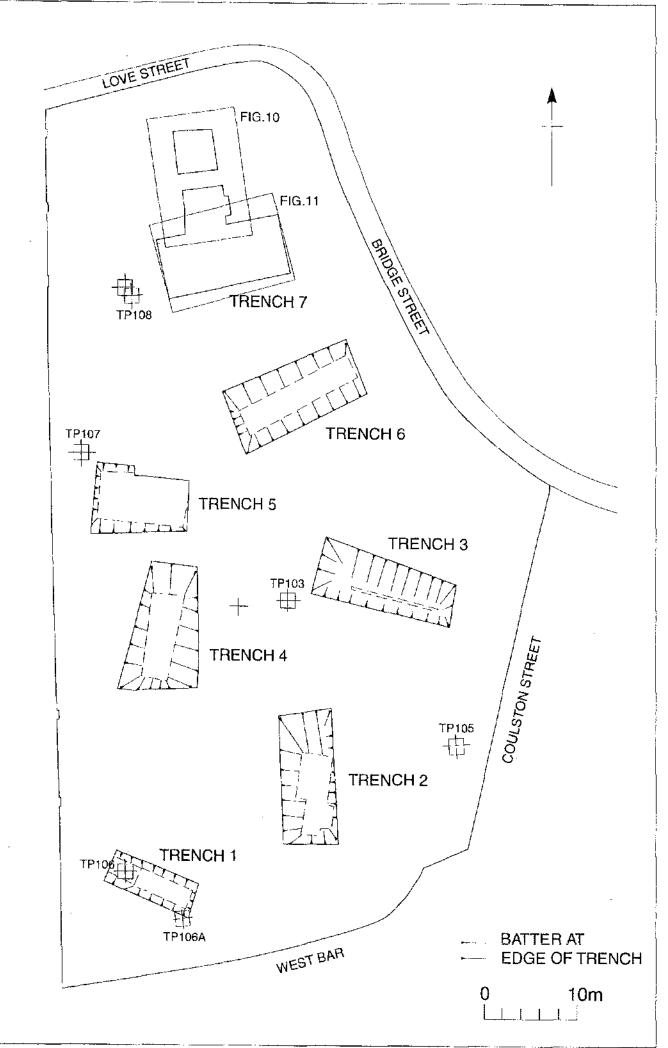


FIGURE 2. TRENCH AND TEST PIT LOCATION

LAW COURTS

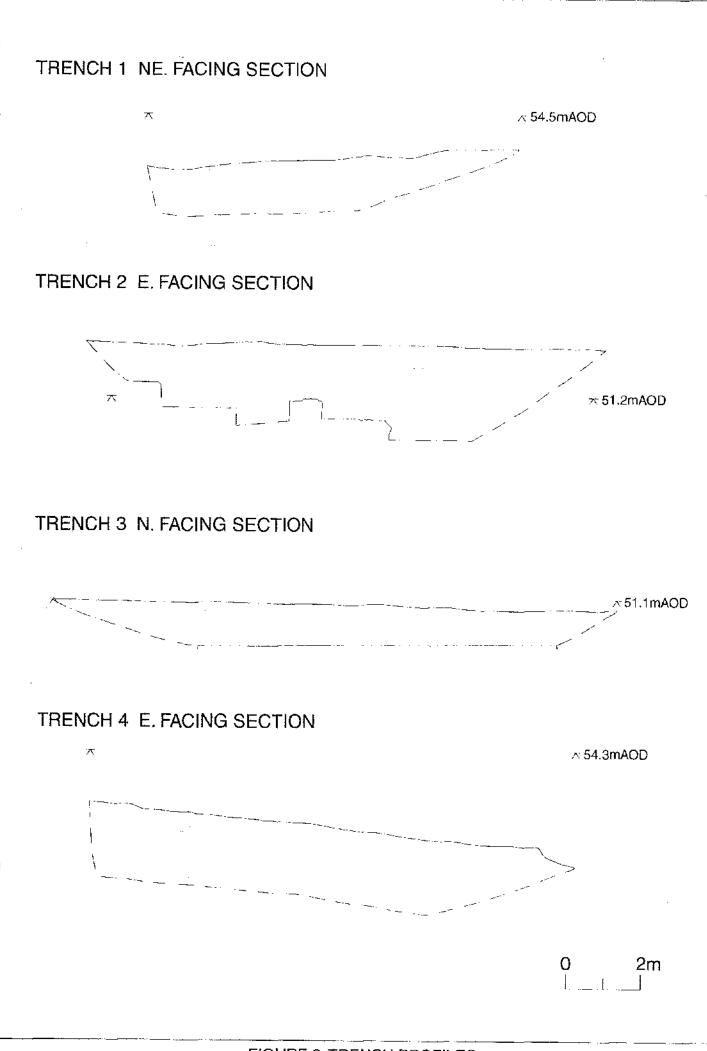
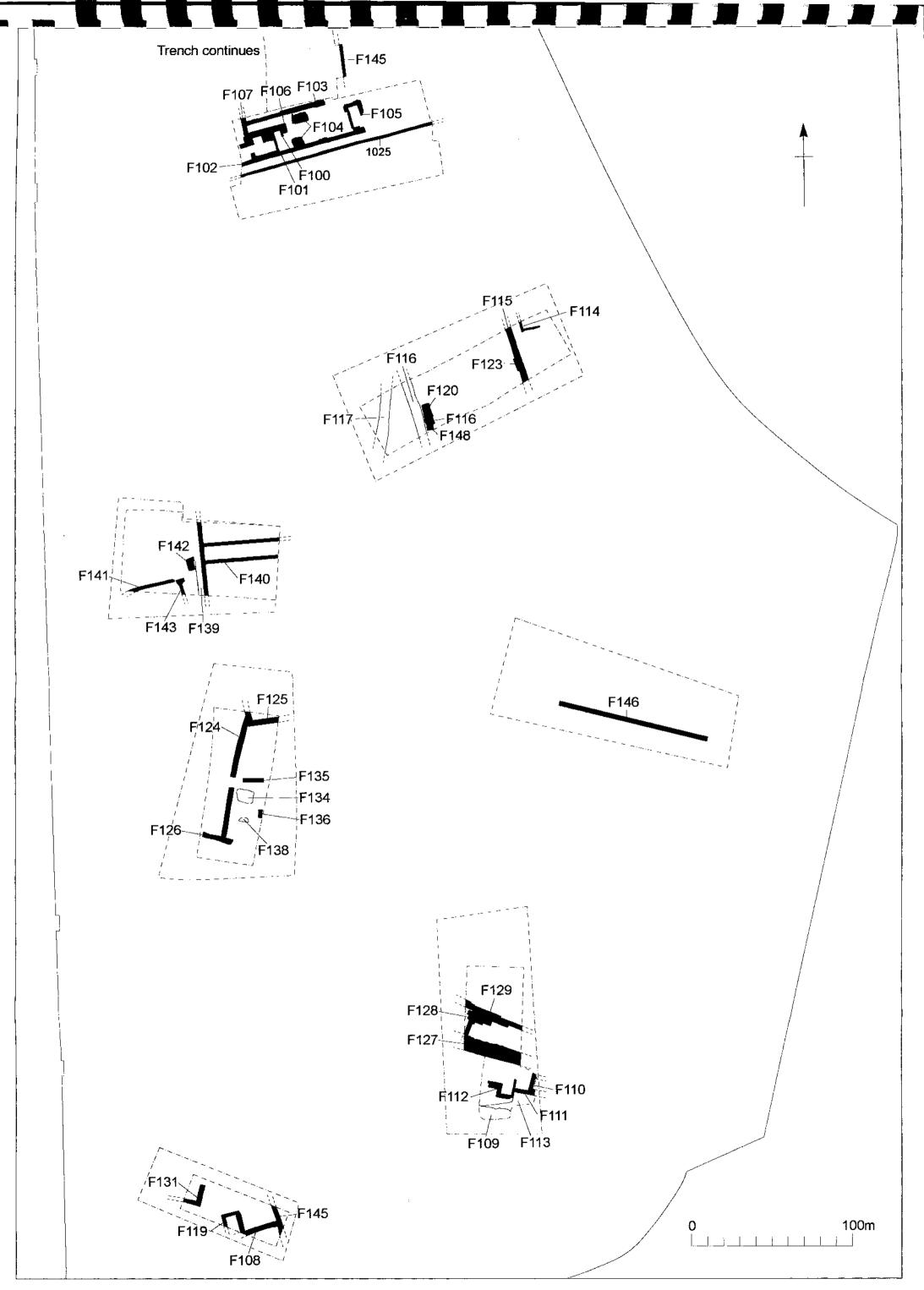
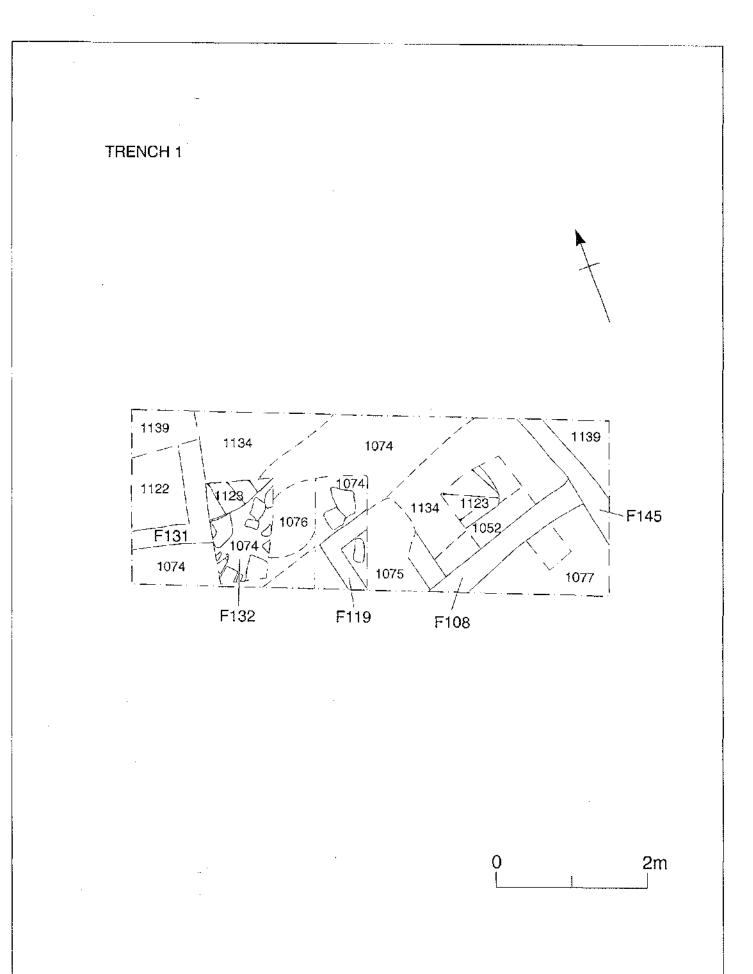
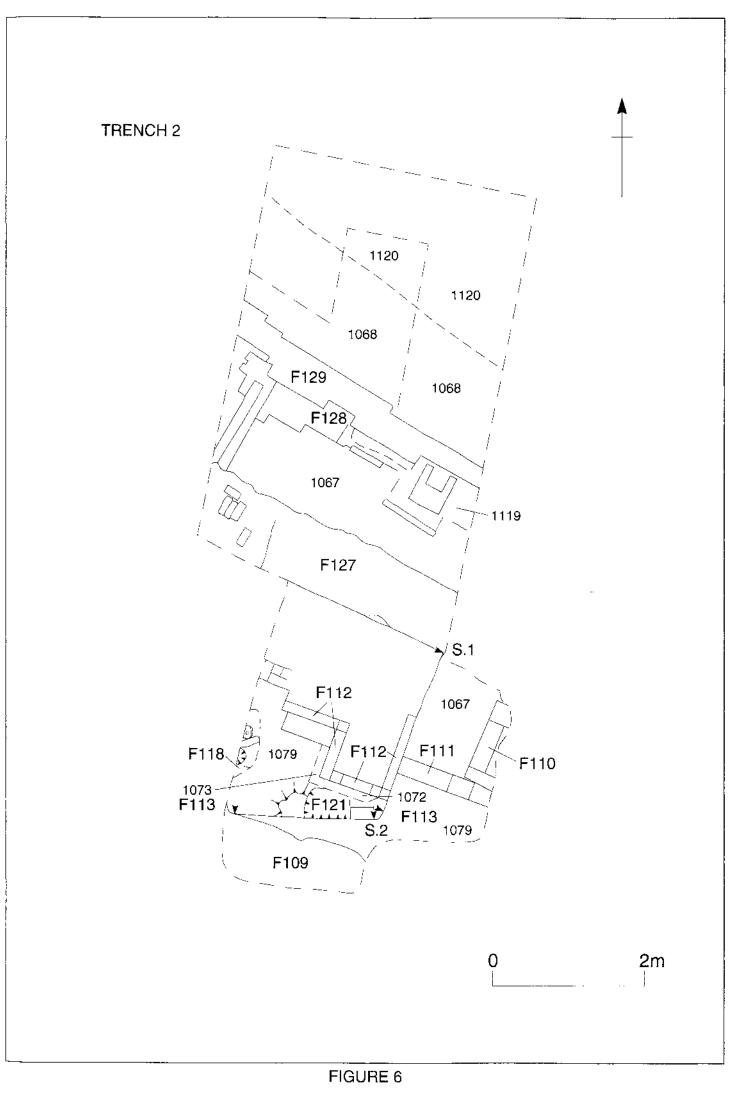
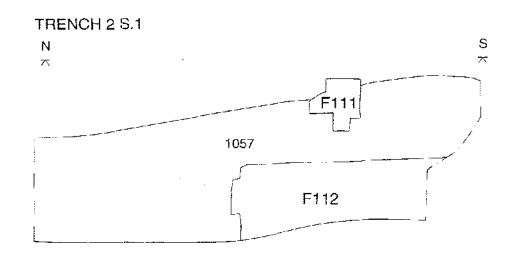


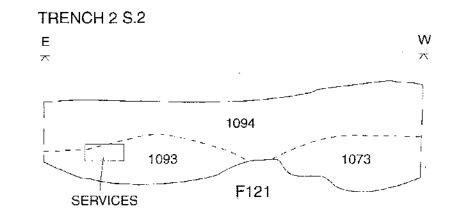
FIGURE 3. TRENCH PROFILES



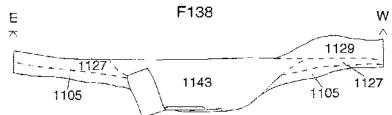


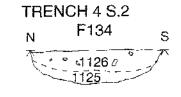




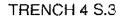


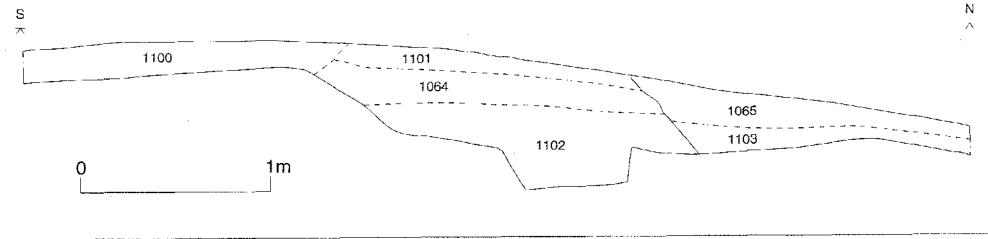
#### TRENCH 4 S.1

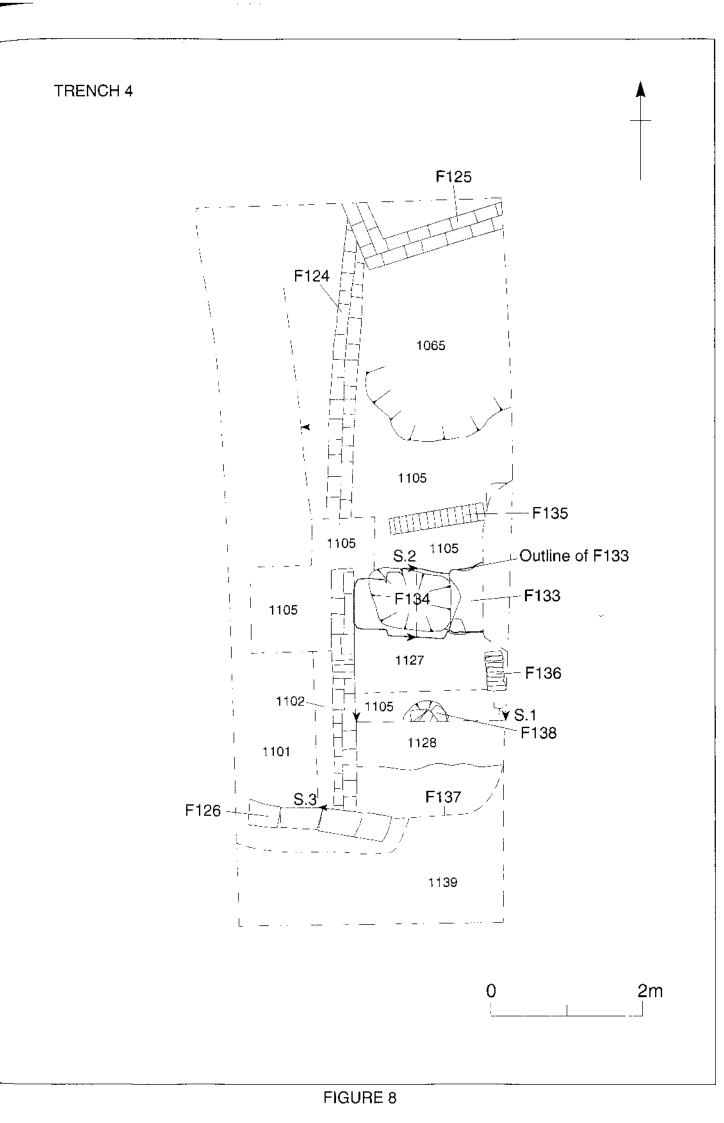


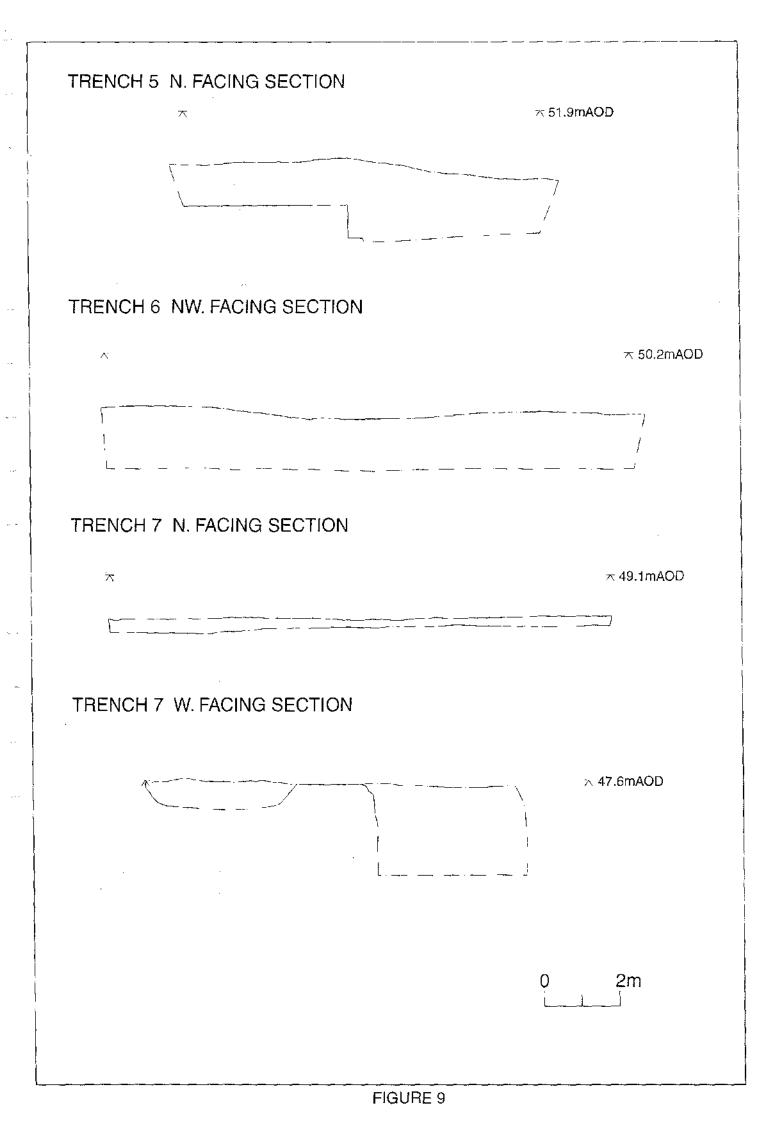


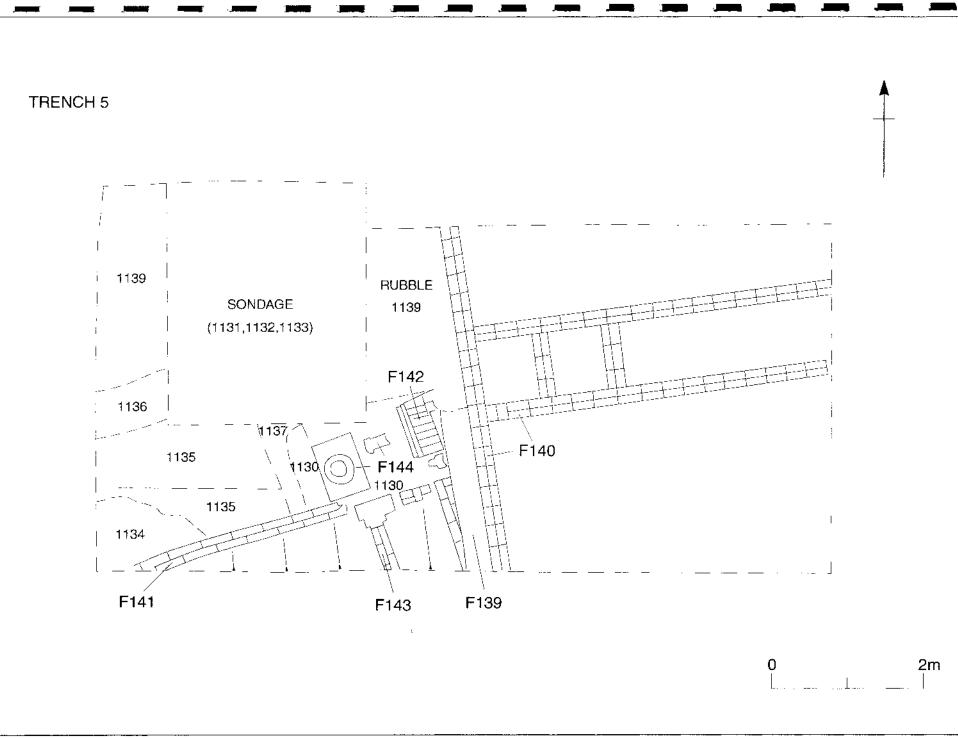
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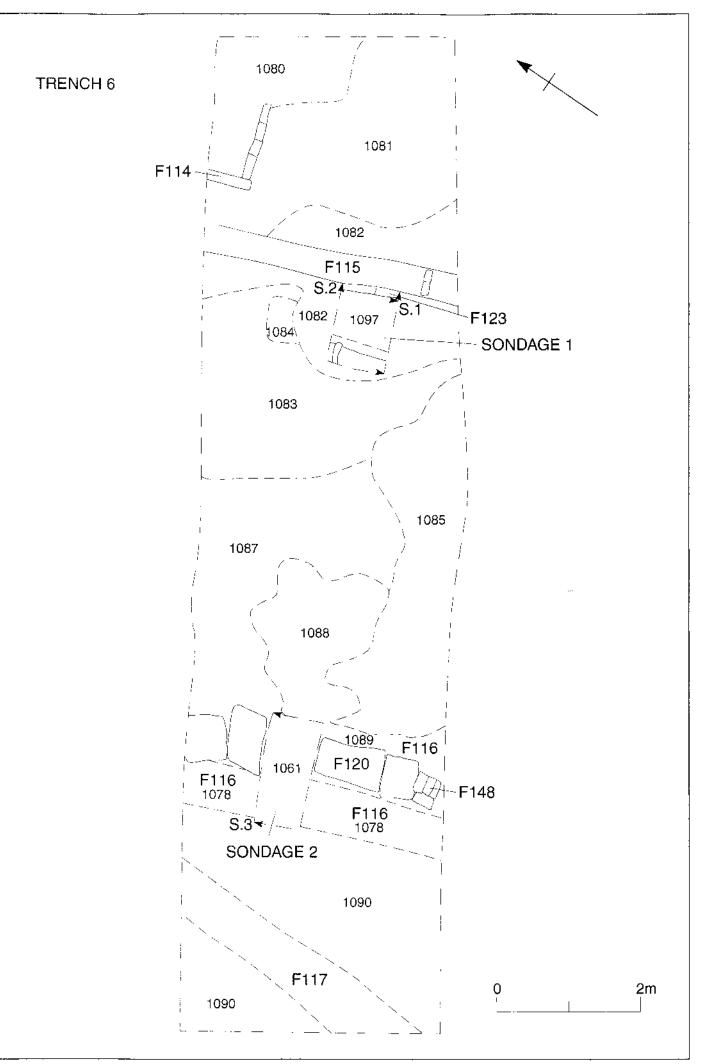






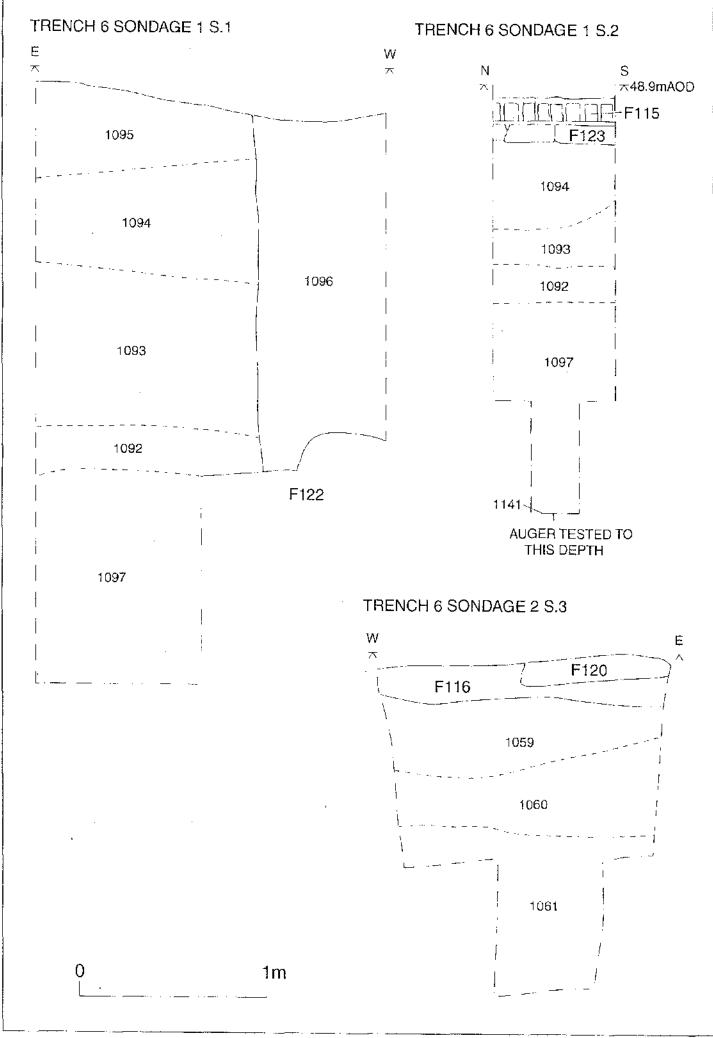






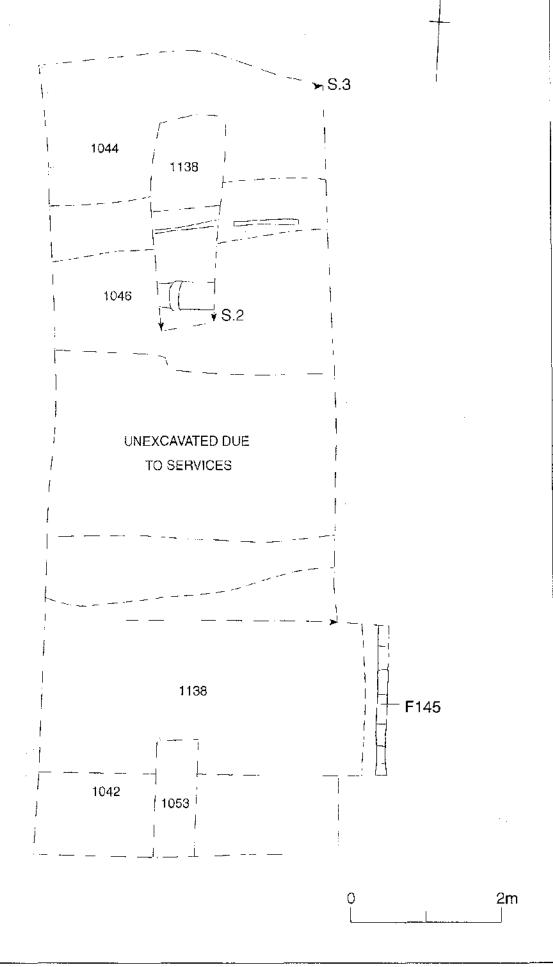
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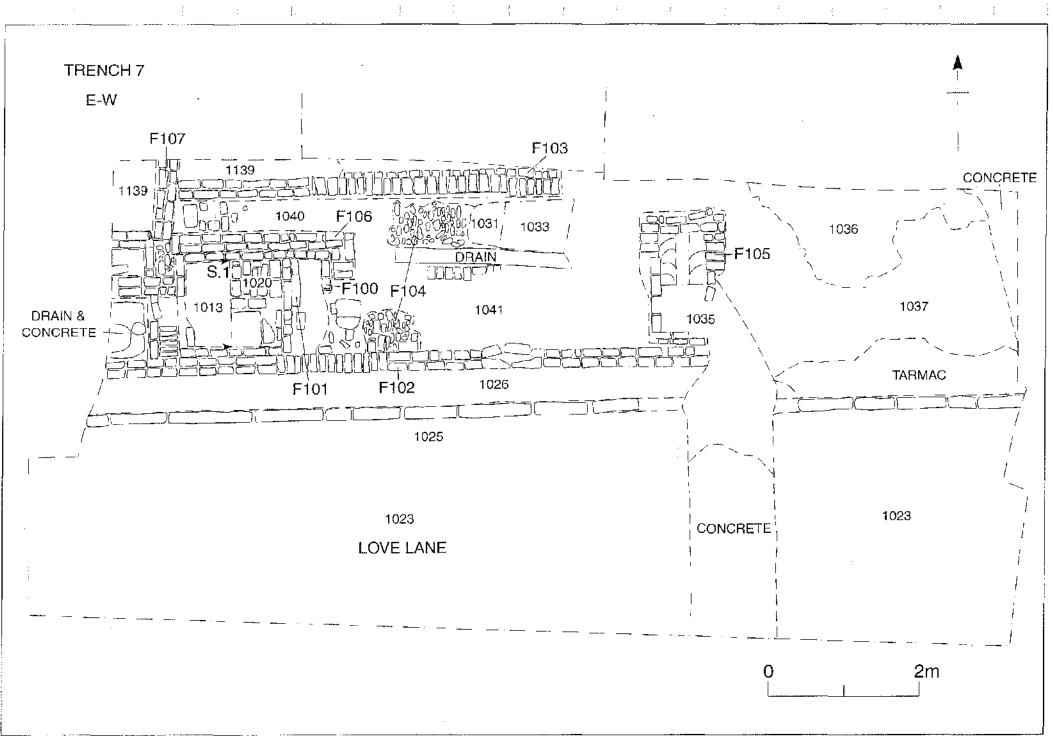
FIGURE 11

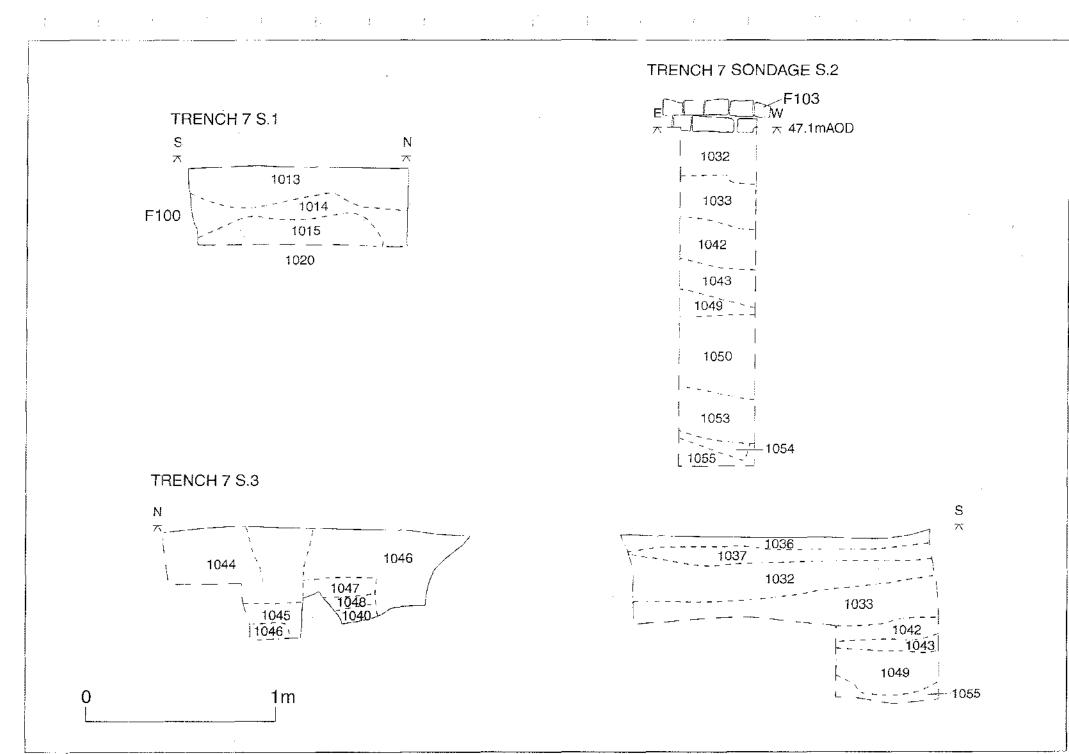


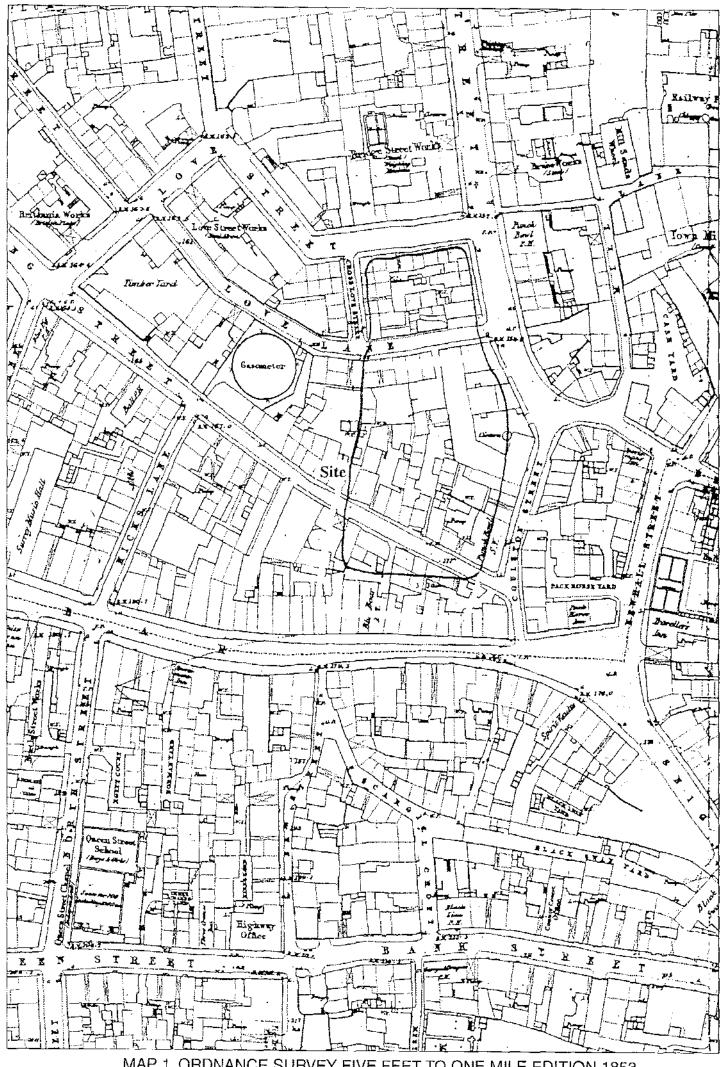
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TRENCH 7









MAP 1. ORDNANCE SURVEY FIVE FEET TO ONE MILE EDITION 1853

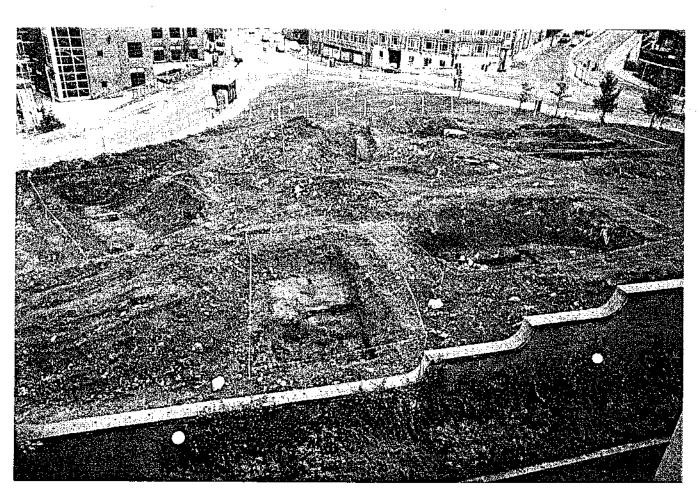


PLATE 1

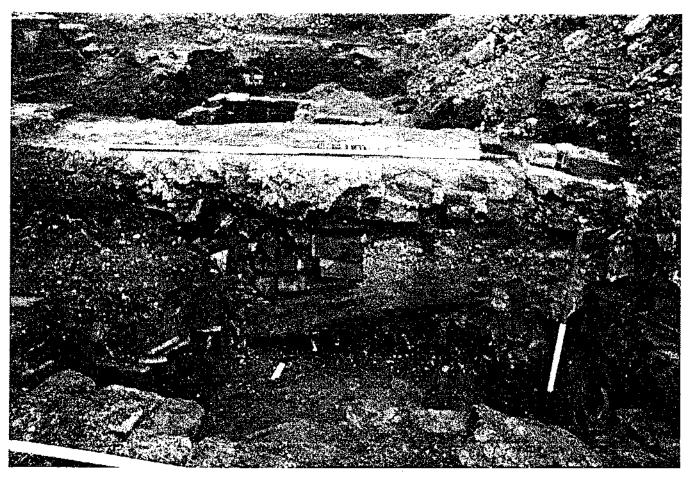
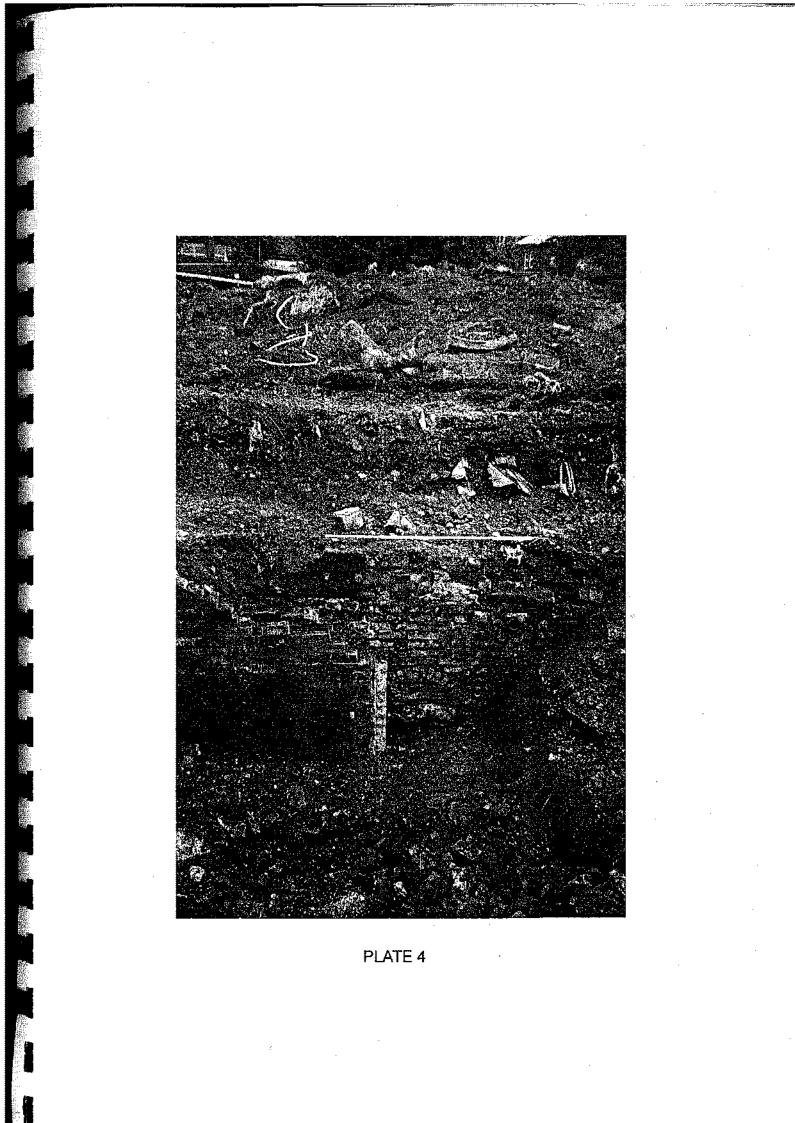


PLATE 2



PLATE 3



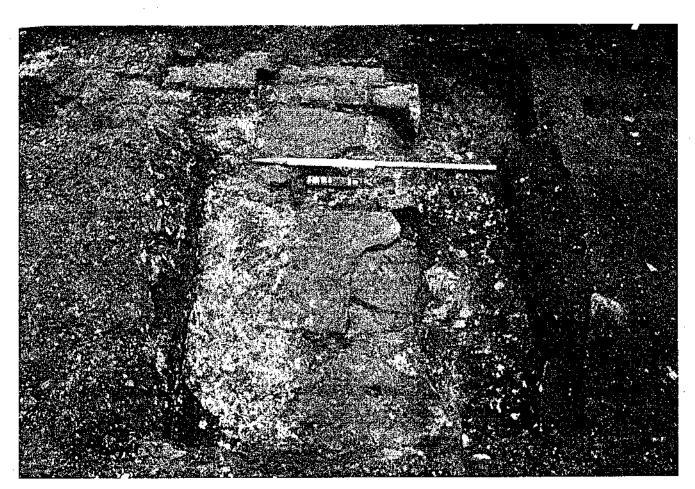


PLATE 5

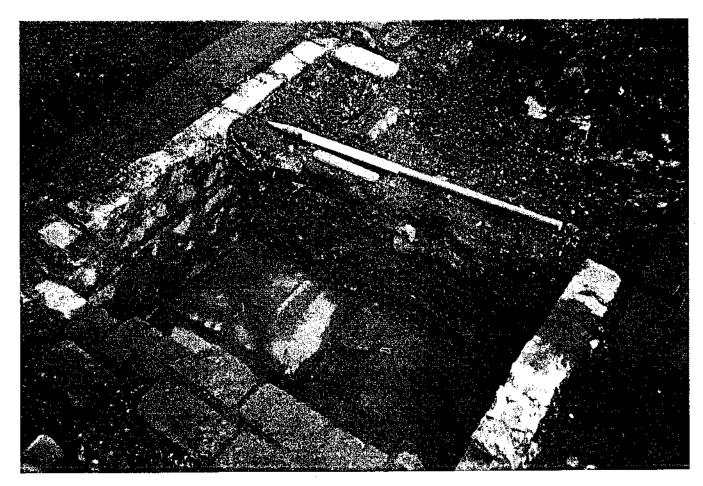


PLATE 6