

birmingham archaeology

Insula X, Wroxeter Roman City,
Shropshire

Archaeological Evaluation

2005/2006

UNIVERSITY OF
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By

Kevin Colls

With contributions by Paul Breeze, David Brown, Paul Collins, Dr Hilary Cool, Scott Harrison, Fotini Kondyli, Rosalind McKenna, Marion Mittelstaedt, Emma Sautejeau, Marsia Sfakianou and Dennis Williams.

For further information please contact:

Alex Jones (Director)
Birmingham Archaeology
The University of Birmingham
Edgbaston
Birmingham B15 2TT
Tel: 0121 414 5513
Fax: 0121 414 5516
E-Mail: bham-arch@bham.ac.uk
Web Address: <http://www.barch.bham.ac.uk/bufau>

INSULA X, WROXETER ROMAN CITY
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2005/6.

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SUMMARY

In 2005, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken within Insula X of the Roman City of Wroxeter, Shropshire. Based on the results of previous geophysical survey and aerial photography, three trenches were excavated. The locations were targeted to produce evidence to confirm or reject the theories that one represents the buried remains of a Roman Church and the other an area of modern disturbance.

The fieldwork has proved successful in identifying the nature, character, and preservation of the archaeological deposits, although further work is required before any definitive conclusions can be reached. Trenches 1 and 3 revealed the wall foundations of the building identified from geophysical surveys and aerial photography. However, no clear evidence was identified to confirm or deny this structure functioned as a Church. Although the primary function of the structure is unclear, the evaluation identified evidence relating to its ultimate use (or perhaps disuse). Only a small section of probable floor surface was encountered, the rest appeared to have been removed. Almost all of the internal area of the building (identified in Trench 1) consisted of a sequence of silty deposits similar in nature and consistency to domestic waste material. Excavations to the south of the building identified further features including a road surface and associated ditch, a cobbled surface, and at least three human burials within a putative 'graveyard' soil.

Excavations in Trench 2 confirmed the presence of a large, irregular feature in this area. However, no artefactual evidence was recovered from the two excavated fills which post-date the 4th century, certainly no post-medieval or modern finds were recovered to suggest this feature is of a post-Roman date. The southern section of Trench 2 identified *in situ* Roman walls and foundations at a shallow depth below present ground level. This highlights this area as a suitable site for future community fieldwork projects and further student training exercises.

INSULA X: WROXETER ROMAN CITY
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2005.

- **INTRODUCTION**
- **Background to the project**

In 2005, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken within Insula X of the Roman City of Wroxeter, Shropshire. Under the supervision of archaeologists from Birmingham Archaeology, the work was carried out by postgraduate students studying at the University of Birmingham. Based on the results of previous geophysical survey and aerial photography, three trenches were excavated.

This report outlines the results of the field evaluation carried out in October and November 2005, and has been prepared in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (IFA 2001). The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 32) and this report fulfils the condition of consent for fieldwork set by English Heritage.

The evaluation conformed to a Written Scheme of Investigation (Buteux 2005) which was approved by English Heritage prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

- **Location and geology**

Wroxeter lies approximately 5 miles (8 km) southeast of Shrewsbury, Shropshire (Fig. 1). The area of Wroxeter Roman City extends over 1 km², with the site situated within Insula X (NGR SJ 566085) (Fig 2). Mainly undisturbed by modern development, the land is predominantly used for agriculture, in particular livestock.

The drift geology comprises fluvial-glacial sands and gravels with pockets of Mercia Mudstone (Keuper Marl) overlaying solid geology of Triassic Bridgnorth Sandstone.

- **ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

Once the fourth largest Roman city in Britain and a *civitas* capital, Wroxeter was home to an important military camp on route from London to Chester and the centre of a complex network of important road and river links for military, communication and trade links. Insula X lies immediately to the south of the present Baths Basilica and to the eastern side of Watling Street.

No previous archaeological excavations have taken place within Insula X. From as early as the 19th century, excavations have concentrated on the Baths in Insula V (Atkinson 1942; Barker et al. 1997; Ellis 2000; Kenyon 1947) and (on the west side of Watling Street) the Forum in Insula VI (Bushe-Fox 1913, 1914, 1916). To the south of the baths, excavations carried out by Kenyon (1980) in the early 1950s revealed the presence of a town house in Insula IX.

Archaeological observations were noted by Calvert *et al* (1901) during the excavation of a trench for a new water pipe across Insula X (Fig. 3). The note published after this work

describes a number of structures that was cut by the trench including a 'wall', 2 ft 6 in (0.75 m) thick with its top being not more than 1 foot (0.3 m) below the existing ground surface.

In recent years, resistivity measurements (Dabas et al. 2000; Walker 2000), ground-penetrating radar (Nishimura and Goodman 2000) and magnetometry (Buteux et al. 2000; Gaffney et al. 2000) have all made significant contributions to the archaeological knowledge of Wroxeter and its hinterland. The evaluation trenches were targeted to investigate two of the anomalies identified by the geophysics (Fig. 3). The first is a rectangular anomaly identified by resistivity, gradiometry and GRP. Appearing to be basilican in plan, it has been theorised that this represents the location of a late Roman Church (White and Barker 1998, 107-8, pl. 14). The second is a large irregular anomaly located c. 25m to the east of the first (Fig 3). Extensive aerial photographic evidence exists covering Wroxeter (Baker 1956, 1960, 1975-6; CUCAP AV5d), including Insula X. Several of which highlight the anomalies identified by geophysics (Figs. 4 and 5).

- **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The principle aim of the evaluation was to determine the character, state of preservation and the potential significance of any buried remains.

More specific aims were to:

- Investigate the anomalies identified through aerial photography and geophysical surveying, in particular attempt to produce evidence to confirm or reject the theories that one represent the buried remains of a Roman Church and the other an area of modern disturbance.
- Improve our knowledge about the life of Wroxeter, especially the organisation and spatial distribution of the town.
- Identify the range and preservation of environmental evidence that may exist across the site including charred plant and pollen, insects and animal bone.
- Provide an opportunity for postgraduates at the University of Birmingham to be trained in archaeological excavation and recording techniques.
- Evaluate the suitability of using Wroxeter as a training site for undergraduates, postgraduates and professional archaeologists.
- Evaluate the possibility of developing an 'outreach' community project at Wroxeter.

- **METHODOLOGY**

- **Fieldwork**

Three trenches were excavated during this evaluation (Fig. 6). Trench 1, measuring 30m in length, was excavated over the location of the putative Roman Church identified by geophysics and aerial photography. Trench 2, also 30m in length, was located to investigate the large irregular anomaly to the east. Trench 3, measuring 10m in length was placed over the possible apsidal end of the putative Roman Church.

All topsoil and modern overburden was removed using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, under direct archaeological supervision, down to the top of the uppermost archaeological horizon. Subsequent cleaning and excavation was by hand.

All stratigraphic sequences were recorded, even where no archaeology was present. Features were planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50, and sections were drawn through all cut features and significant vertical stratigraphy at a scale of 1:10. A comprehensive written record was maintained using a continuous numbered context system on *pro-forma* context and feature cards. Written records and scale plans were supplemented by photographs using monochrome, colour slide and print, and digital photography.

Twenty litre soil samples were taken from datable archaeological features for the recovery of charred plant remains. The environmental sampling policy followed the guidelines contained in the Birmingham Archaeology Guide to On-Site Environmental Sampling. Recovered finds were cleaned, marked and remedial conservation work was undertaken as necessary. Treatment of all finds conformed to guidance contained within 'A strategy for the care and investigation of finds' published by English Heritage.

The full site archive includes all artefactual and/or ecofactual remains recovered from the site. The site archive will be prepared according to guidelines set down in Appendix 3 of the Management of Archaeology Projects (English Heritage, 1991), the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage (UKIC, 1990) and Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological collections (Museum and Art Galleries Commission, 1992). Finds and the paper archive will be deposited with an appropriate repository subject to permission from the landowner.

- **RESULTS**
- **Introduction**

This section provides a summary narrative of the evaluation results arranged in trench order. Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are presented in Appendix 1 and full details are available in the project archive. In the following sections both feature (cut) and context numbers are highlighted in bold.

Trench 1

Two wall foundations, **1003** and **1012**, were identified orientated east west across the trench (Fig. 7, Plates 1 and 2). The locations corresponded with the north and south wall of the probable building identified by crop-marks and geophysics. Consisting of red sandstone blocks bonded with white lime mortar, both wall foundations were approximately 0.6m in width. Excavations following the internal elevation of **1012** identified 9 courses. Excavations following the external elevation of **1012** revealed the foundations stepped out to a wall width totalling 0.9m (**1036**).

With the exception of a small area of possible floor foundation material (**1016**) identified adjacent to wall **1003**, no internal floor or surface material was identified. Three test pits were excavated within the building and each identified a sequence of dark, silty clay deposits characteristic of domestic waste material (Fig. 7, Plate 4). These deposits contained large quantities of pottery sherds and animal bone as well a fragmented building material and demolition waste. A small area of flat, irregular sandstone blocks (**1023**), interpreted as a probable tipping platform, was identified within **1024**. A probable cut associated with this material was identified in the northern test pit (**1037**) cutting floor foundation material **1016**. Beneath this cut, excavations revealed gully **1038** cutting yellow sand deposit **1019** (possibly

natural geology). Fill **1039** produced pottery sherds and a single coin (SF45) representing the earliest dated coin recovered (Septemus Severus 193-211 AD).

Excavation following the external elevation of wall foundations **1012** and **1036** (Fig. 7) identified a sequence of dark grey silty deposits built up against the stonework (**1032**, **1031**, and **1011**). Further to the south excavations through **1011** identified the human skeletal remains of at least three individuals (**1033**, **1040**, and **1046**). Although only partially exposed and recorded, no grave cuts were apparent cutting through **1011**. Fragments of animal bone were also noted within **1011**.

Immediately to the south of inhumation 1033 was the partial remains of a possible surface consisting of irregular stone cobbles and red clay (**1044** and **1045**). A relationship between this and **1011** could not be established during the evaluation.

Excavations at the southern limits of the trench identified an upper metallated road surface (**1010**) and an associated ditch (**1041**), both on an east west alignment.

All the above features were sealed by 0.2m of subsoil **1002** which, in turn, was overlain by 0.06m of topsoil **1001**.

Trench 2

Feature **2023** covered the northern section of the trench and corresponded with the anomaly identified by geophysics. Excavations revealed two distinct fills, **2004** and **2012**. The uppermost of these two layers (**2004**) comprised sandy-silt, dark greyish-brown in colour, with small sandstone inclusions and pebbles (Fig. 8, Plate 7). The lower layer (**2012**) was a harder deposit, mid greyish-brown, with larger sandstone inclusions. The lower limit of 2012 was not identified. Fragments of brick/tile, pottery sherds, and animal bone were present throughout these deposits, however, masonry and mortar were notably absent. An intaglio, bearing the emblem of an eagle or raven, and part of a late 1st Century copper alloy brooch were found in **2012**.

This area of the trench was situated outside the diffuse magnetic anomaly and included a number building features (Fig. 8, Plates 5 and 6). Orientated east-west direction across the trench was sandstone and mortar wall **2005**, approximately 0.7m wide, although it had apparently been subjected to stone robbing. This wall lay approximately 10° off the transverse axis of the trench, and was therefore close to being parallel to the E-W street bounding the southern side of Insula X. Walls **2008** and **2009** butted against **2005**, and consisted of flat slabs of sandstone, with stone robbing apparent at the southern end of **2009**.

Adjacent to the remains of **2009** was a large area of very dark grey soil, containing a high concentration of charcoal fragments (**2010**). Alongside **2010**, and also in contact with the southern side of wall **2005**, was a compact deposit of red clay (**2011**). Environmental samples were taken from both (**2010**) and (**2011**). In the course of extracting a sample from **2010**, contact was made with a possible floor surface **2022**, comprising mortar and a fine aggregate. To the north of wall **2005** was another area of compacted red clay (**2013**).

Further to the north, two further features were identified. **2015** comprised of an arrangement of irregular, unbonded, sandstone blocks located on the western edge of the trench. Feature **2018** represented the possible remains of a wall, although its non-uniform width suggests heavy stone robbing. Consisting of grey sandstone blocks bonded by lime mortar, the feature was L-shaped in plan. Associated with **2018** were deposits of mortar (**2016**), orange sand (**2017**) and hard, reddish-orange clay (**2021**).

All the above were sealed by 0.20m of subsoil 2002 which, in turn, was overlain by 0.10m of topsoil 2001.

Trench 3

Wall **3005** was identified at the northwestern end the trench. Consisting of irregular sandstone blocks bonded with lime mortar, **3005** may represent the eastern wall of the building identified in Trench 1. A number of demolition and mortar dump deposits were identified over the rest of the trench (**3004**, **3006**, **3008**, and **3009**), although the highly truncated remains of a possible road surface (**3007**) was identified close to the south-eastern edge of the trench.

All the above were sealed by 0.14m of subsoil **3002** which, in turn was overlain by 0.06m of topsoil **3001**.

- **THE FINDS**

Full analysis of the finds assemblage has been undertaken by post-graduate students from Birmingham University assisted by relevant specialists. The information shall only be summarised here as full reports are available in the project archive.

- **Special finds**

A number of artefacts were recorded as special finds. These are shown below in Table 1. The majority of the artefacts date to between the 2nd and 4th centuries. A number of coins were also recovered and illustrated in Table 2.

Context Number	Small Finds No	Description	Comment/Interpretation
2002	1	Stamped samianware	Stamp says "O FVITA I"
1004	2	Decorated samianware	2nd century Gaulish Triton decoration.
1006	6	Fragment of copper bracelet	Believed to be 4th century.
1011	12	Copper head of a stud	
1011	13	Stone whorl	
2012	15	Copper brooch	Believed to be of Hodhill or Lamberton manufacture of late 1st century.
2012	16	Intaglio of brooch	Decorated with either a raven or eagle motif.
1002	19	Lead whorl	
1008	20	Copper buckle	
2002	21	Waste from bronze casting	
2002	24	Bone pin	Very ornate pin with the head decorated with a series of central circles and circumferential notches. This intricacy suggests that it was for decoration rather than functionality.
1009	25	Knee brooch	Believed to be 3rd century.
3003	27	Copper element of horse harness	Believed to be a 'button and loop fastener' to a horse harness.
1025	29	Cock spur	Was recorded as a small find because excavators were unsure of what object was. Interpreted as a cock spur; a natural skeletal feature of cockrels.
1026	36	Copper bracelet	Believed to be of 4th century.
1026	37	Copper round wire bracelet	
1027	38	Bone pin	Not as ornate as its counterpart from the site suggests that it was a functional item rather than decorative.
1027	39	Copper brooch pin	
1035	42	Worked bone handle	Possibly part of a grave goods assemblage.
1039	43	Copper stud	

Table 1: The special finds

Context Number	Roman Coin Period	Small Finds No	Coin Type	Date	Comments
1039	Severan I period (AD 193-217)	45	<i>Dvpondis Septimus Severus</i>	c AD 193-211	-
1006 1009x2 1025 1007	Severan II period to end of Carausian coin period (AD 217-296)	3; 7; 22; 28; 30	<i>Barbarous Radiates</i>	uncertain	Coin type largely, but not exclusively, minted between AD 258-296 (Askew n.d.).
1009	Constantinian I period (AD 317-330)	18	<i>Soli Invicto Comiti</i>	c AD 320's	
1011		11	<i>Vrbs Roma</i>	AD 307-337	
1002	Constantinian II period (AD 330-348)	40	<i>Gloria Exerticvs</i>	AD 317-337	Coin copies were common in this period. Especially between AD 341-6 (Casey 1980). Uncertain if this example is genuine or a copy.
1009		9	<i>Beata Tranqvillitas</i>	AD 337-361	Common coin find on archaeological sites reflecting low unitary value (Casey 1980).
1028 2002	Constantinian I, II, or III periods (AD 317-364)	14; 44	Uncertain	uncertain	Believed to date to one of Constantinian periods but difficult to be more specific without conservation.
1009x2	Valentinianic period (AD 364-378)	8; 23	<i>Gloria Romanorvm</i>	AD 364-378	Coins from this period are common on archaeological sites; indicative of their low unitary value (Casey 1980).
1002 1009 1007 1026x3 3003		17; 26; 31; 32; 33; 34; 41	<i>Secvritas Reipvblicae</i>	AD 364-375	<i>Ibid</i>

Table 2: The coins. (Coins 4, 5, 10, and 35 have been omitted as they were unidentifiable)

- **Pottery**

A small assemblage of pottery was recovered from the site including fragments of Samianware, Mortaria, Amphora, and Courseware. The majority of the pottery sherds were recovered from the dark, silty deposits in-filling the structure identified in Trench 1 and consisted of fragments associated with domestic usage and waste. Much of the pottery dates to the 4th century, apart from the Samian that shows a clear bias towards 1st century imports. Further details are available in the project archive.

- **The animal bone**

Animal bone was recovered from 29 contexts. Although the state of preservation varied across the site, the general survival of animal bone was generally good. The overall assemblage consisted of three major taxa: cattle, sheep, and pig. Several other species, including deer, dog and domestic fowl were also noted in smaller percentages. Of the 29 contexts, bones demonstrating evidence of processing were recovered from 18 (62%). In this instance, the term processed refers to all specimens had exhibit attributes that cannot be afforded to natural processes and taphonomy. Worthy of note is a worked antler tine from **1009**. Its outer cortex has been removed and several notches have been carved into one end producing what most probably was a handle of some tool or instrument.

To conclude, the assemblage appears to correspond to material that is typically recovered from a later phase Romano-British settlement site (livestock husbandry, intermittent use of wild fauna, and differential proportions of processed material).

- **Environmental remains**

A total of 6 contexts (Table 3) were sampled and analysed for environmental remains following English Heritage guidelines and standards. The samples were processed off site by means of bucket flotation. The flots were sieved through a 500 micrometre mesh and hand sorted under microscopy. The heavy residues were sieved through a one millimetre mesh followed by hand and eye sorting for artefacts.

Trench No	Sample No	Context No	Litres collected	Litres processed
1	1	1007	20L	10L
1	2	1025	20L	10L
2	3	2010	20L	20L
2	4	2004	40L	10L
2	5	2012	40L	10L
2	6	2011	20L	10L

Table 3: Environmental samples taken and processed

Initial findings show that no plant material was present in the samples and this can be seen in the Table 4 below:

	Charcoa	Modern Plant Root	Snails	Bone Fragmen
Sample 1 (1007)	●	●	●	
Sample 2 (1025)	●	●	●	
Sample 3 (2010)	●	●	●	
Sample 4 (2004)	●	●	●	●
Sample 5 (2012)	●	●	●	
Sample 6 (2011)	●	●	●	

Table 4: Initial findings from analysis of the environmental samples

The evidence from the samples demonstrate that although plant derived material is absent, charred material did survive in the soil conditions, as did snails. The potential for palaeo-environmental evidence to be identified in future excavations is good.

- **Glass**

A brief analysis of the glass was undertaken by Dr Hilary Cool. The results are shown in Table 5. No further work on this assemblage was recommended.

Context	Description	Information
1007	blue/green sherd	Blue/green vessel glass 1 st -3 rd century
1008	Blue/green sherd	Blue/green vessel glass probably square or hexagonal 1 st -3 rd century
1008	Blue/green sherd	Blue/green vessel glass, probably square or hexagonal 1 st -3 rd century
1009	Colourless sherd	Soda glass, possible Roman, but probably relatively modern due to the weathering
1034	Small sherd	Post-Medieval case glass
2002	colourless sherd, very flat	Modern piece of window glass
2003	Very small fragment	Soda glass, possibly Roman 2 nd -3 rd century but not diagnostic enough to tell
3003	thin sherd with 3 blue/purple blobs	Typical of the 4 th century, contains some bubbles. Ther is a band of abrasion. There were probably a few more blobs in a triangle formation representing grapes. There is a good example of this type of glass/decoration in the 1980 Kenyon report

Table 5: Analysis of the glass fragments

- **DISCUSSION**

To summarise, firstly the fieldwork has proved successful in identifying the nature, character, and preservation of the archaeological deposits, although further work is required before any definitive conclusions can be reached. Secondly, the project succeeded in providing a training opportunity for post-graduate archaeology students and identified the possibility of expanding this project into a larger, more community/outreach led fieldwork exercise in up coming years.

Trenches 1 and 3 revealed the wall foundations of the building identified from geophysical surveys and aerial photography. However, no clear evidence was identified to confirm or deny this structure functioned as a Church. The wall foundations identified in Trench 1, orientated east west, produced an internal building width of 16m (north-south axis). The length of the building (east-west axis) cannot be estimated, as location of the west wall was not established. Although the wall foundations were only approximately 0.60m in width, this does not preclude the possibility this functioned as a Church. Indeed, the excavations adjacent to wall 1012 revealed stepped out foundations 1032 producing a wall width of 1m. Trench 3 successfully identified a section of wall foundation from the eastern limits of the structure. Although the wall was linear in plan and not apsidal, only a small section was identified within the trench. Further excavation would be required to reveal a greater portion of this feature before any conclusions could be reached.

Although the primary function of the structure is unclear, the evaluation identified evidence relating to its ultimate use (or perhaps disuse). Only a small section of probable floor surface was encountered, the rest appeared to have been removed. Almost all of the internal area of the building (identified in Trench 1) consisted of a sequence of silty deposits similar in nature and consistency to domestic waste material. Excavations through this material ceased at a depth of 1.4m below present ground level. A number of cores were taken using a hand auger suggesting this material extended for at least a further 0.5m. The organic nature of this material would account for the distinct crop-marks noted in this area, as its water retention would be so different to the surrounding deposits. The artefactual data recovered suggests a 4th century date, although quantities of clearly residual earlier material (such as 1st century imported Samianware) were recovered. All evidence suggests that the primary function of the building ceased and was reused as a dump for domestic waste. It is unclear if this re-use incorporated a dismantling of the building above ground or whether the structure remained intact. Interestingly, would this series of events preclude the possibility that the primary function of this building was indeed a Church? Does the presence of a putative 'graveyard soil' complete with human remains just to the south of the structure help confirm its function as a church?

Excavations in Trench 2 confirmed the presence of a large, irregular feature in this area. However, no artefactual evidence was recovered from the two excavated fills which post-date the 4th century, certainly no post-medieval or modern finds were recovered to suggest this feature in of a post-Roman date. Excavations ceased at a depth of 1.2m, so the depth of the feature is not known. The possible dimensions for the feature, if taken from the geophysical survey, are approximately 50m by 35m. Again, the test pit excavated through this feature was small in size and a much larger excavation would be required to unequivocally identify the nature and function of this feature. However, as the geophysical survey clearly highlights that this feature appears to disrupt the Wroxeter City plan, it can be argued that that feature is relatively late in the sequence of Roman activity at this site. The southern section of Trench 2 identified *in situ* Roman walls and foundations at a shallow depth below present ground level. This highlights this area as a suitable site for future community fieldwork projects and further student training exercises.

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- APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

Context No	Description
1001	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with small gravel.0.075m thick
1002	Subsoil. Brown silty sand with stones. 0.18-0.33m thick
1003	Wall orientated E/W consisting of red sandstones 0.5-0.22m long and 0.19-0.28 wide bonded by lime mortar, 0.163m wide, 0.30m height.
1004	Grey brown sandy silt with rounded stones.0.015m thick
1005	Mid-brown sandy silt with pebbles.0.011m thick
1006	Dark brown sandy silt with small pebbles, shell and charcoal inclusions.0.22m thick
1007	Dark brown/black sandy silt with stones and charcoal inclusions, to the north side of the south wall. 0.33-0.5m thick
1008	Grey brown silty sand with angular stones. 0.06- 0.4m thick
1009	Dark brown silty sand with pebbles and charcoal inclusions. 0.12m thick
1010	Yellow sandy stone layer with stones. Unexcavated
1011	Dark brown sandy silt with stone, flexes and charcoal inclusions, to the south of the south wall.0.18m thick
1012	Linear wall orientated E/W consisting of sandstone, bonded by crème white lime mortar.0.6m wide
1013	Brown-black sandy silt rubble layer associated with wall [1012]
1014	Brown -grey silty clay with sub round pebbles and mortar. Not fully excavated
1015	Light reddish orange silty clay with stones and mortar, fill of [1016]. Not fully excavated
1016	Red-brown friable red sandstone with pebbles used as foundation of the floor.0.08m thick
1017	Linear cut of the foundation of wall [1003]orientated E/W.0.39m wide
1018	Linear cut of road orientated E/W.2m wide. Profile unexcavated
1019	Light-mid yellow-brown silty sand with pebbles. 0.08-0.36m thick
1020	Dark grey -brown sandy silt layer with small number of stones.Fill of [1037] 0.42m thick
1021	Gully.T-junction, orientated NNE/SSW,WNW/ESE. 0.20m wide. Not fully excavated
1022	Brown yellow sand silt layer with pebbles.Fill of [1021] 0.2m wide
1023	Rubble layer with stones and roof tiles.0.16m thick
1024	Dark brown sandy silt with mortar and charcoal inclusions.0.3m thick
1025	Brown sandy silt with charcoal inclusions. 0.23m thick
1026	Mid brown sandy silt layer with rubble and sandstone fragments located within layer (1013).0.45-0.58m thick
1027	Mid orange-brown sandy silt.0.09m thick
1028	Brown sandy silt. 0.2m thick
1029	Yellow-orange sandy clay with charcoal incusions. 0.1-0.2m thick
1030	Black-brown silt with charcoal inclusions. 0.06m thick
1031	Dark brown sandy silt with small stones and building material. 0.13m thick
1032	Brown with patches of light brown clay sandy layer with small stones and charcoal inclusions.0.1m thick
1033	Human male skeleton aligned E/W with left scapula and humerus,left side of ribs,both femurs, pattela, fibula and tibta and the two last lumbae vertebrae present, not fully excavated
1034	Grey -brown sandy silt with sub round pebbles, associated with layer (1033)

Context No	Description
1035	Brown -grey sandy silt with sub round pebbles, associated with layer (1033)
1036	Wall orientated E/W consisting of rough cut, creamy- grey sandstones bonded by lime mortar.0.24m wide, 0.14m high
1037	Pit with vertical moderate sides.not fully excavated
1038	Linear ditch orientated W/E with steep u-shaped profile at the base of other ditch (1020).0.4m wide, 0.4m deep
1039	Dark brown sandy silty layer with sub round pebbles.Fill of ditch [1038] 0.4m thick
1040	Human juvenile skeleton, body twisted to face south, with right leg flexed over the top of right tibia and fibula of adult(1033).Left side of ribs, left epiphysis and left tibia present. Not fully excavated
1041	Linear ditch orientated E/W with moderate u-shaped profile.0.56m wide, 0.3m deep
1042	Fill of [1041]. Mid brown silt with charcoal flecking
1043	Cut for cobbled surface (1044)
1044	Cobbled surface constructed from well rounded stones of varying sizes
1045	Mid red-brown silty clay with stone inclusions, 0.15m thick
1046	Partially exposed human skull. Unexcavated.
2001	Topsoil. Dark brown silty clay with very small angular stones.0.18m thick
2002	Subsoil. Dark brown silty clay with a few small stones.0.15 thick
2003	Dark brown silty clay with a few round and angular stones.0.15 thick
2004	Dark grey -brown sandy silt with sandstone fragments and pebbles.0.35 thick
2005	Wall orientated NW/SE consisting of rough-cut grey and red sandstones 0.38m long, 0.25 wide bonded with lime mortat.0.5-0.7m wide
2006	Dark brown sandy clay with a few stones
2007	Dark brown silty clay with a few angular stones and charcoal inclusions
2008	Linear wall orientated N/S consisting of green-grey and red sandstones 0.4m long, 0.25m wide bonded by light brown mortar.0.5m wide
2009	Linear wall orientated N/S consisting of green-grey and red sandstones 0.4m long, 0.3m wide bonded by light brown mortar .0.5m wide
2010	Dark grey silty clay with charcoal inclusions.
2011	Red clay deposits.
2012	Mid grey -brown sand with sandstone fragments and gravel.0.55m thick
2013	Red clay with pieces of grit and sandstone within (2006)
2014	Linear wall orientated WNW/ESE consisting of green-grey sandstone 0.4m long, 0.2m wide bonded by light grey mortar. 1.40m long, 0.5 wide
2015	Linear wall consisting of red, blue, grey and orange sandstone 0.15-0.22m long, 0.1-0.2m wide bonded by lime mortar .0.7m long, 0.5m wide
2016	Deposits of white rubble lime mortar. 0.85m long, 0.9m wide
2017	Orange sand with small pebbles.
2018	Wall. L-shaped in plan, orientated W/E consisting of grey sandstone bonded by lime mortar. 0.85m wide
2019	Dark brown silty clay with rubble material, pebbles and pieces of brick. Not fully excavated
2020	Dark brown silty clay with small pebbles.Not fully excavated
2021	Red-orange hard clay with rubble. Not fully excavated
2022	Floor orientated S/N consisting of hand-made limestones bonded by cement with a pebble-dash surface treatment.1.08m long, 0.35m wide

Context No	Description
2023	Cut for large feature identified in northern section of trench 2. Filled by 2004 and 2012.
3001	Topsoil. Grey -brown silt. 0.06m thick
3002	Subsoil. Grey -brown grey silt. 0.14m thick
3003	Grey -brown clay silt with small pebbles. 0.14m thick
3004	Light yellow -brown mortar. Not fully excavated
3005	Linear wall orientated N/S consisting of rough-cut sandstone blocks 0.2m long, 0.2m wide bonded by creamy lime mortar. 0.58m long, 0.7m wide. Same context to [3010].
3006	Mid brown -orange silty sand with gravel. Not fully excavated
3007	Linear feature orientated N/S in a grey brown sandy silt layer with small pebbles. Not fully excavated
3008	Creamy grey sandy silt with small pebbles. Not fully excavated
3009	Red, pink and grey rubble with large and small rocks. 0.65m long, 0.8m wide
3010	Mortar bonding for wall 3005. Cream lime mortar.

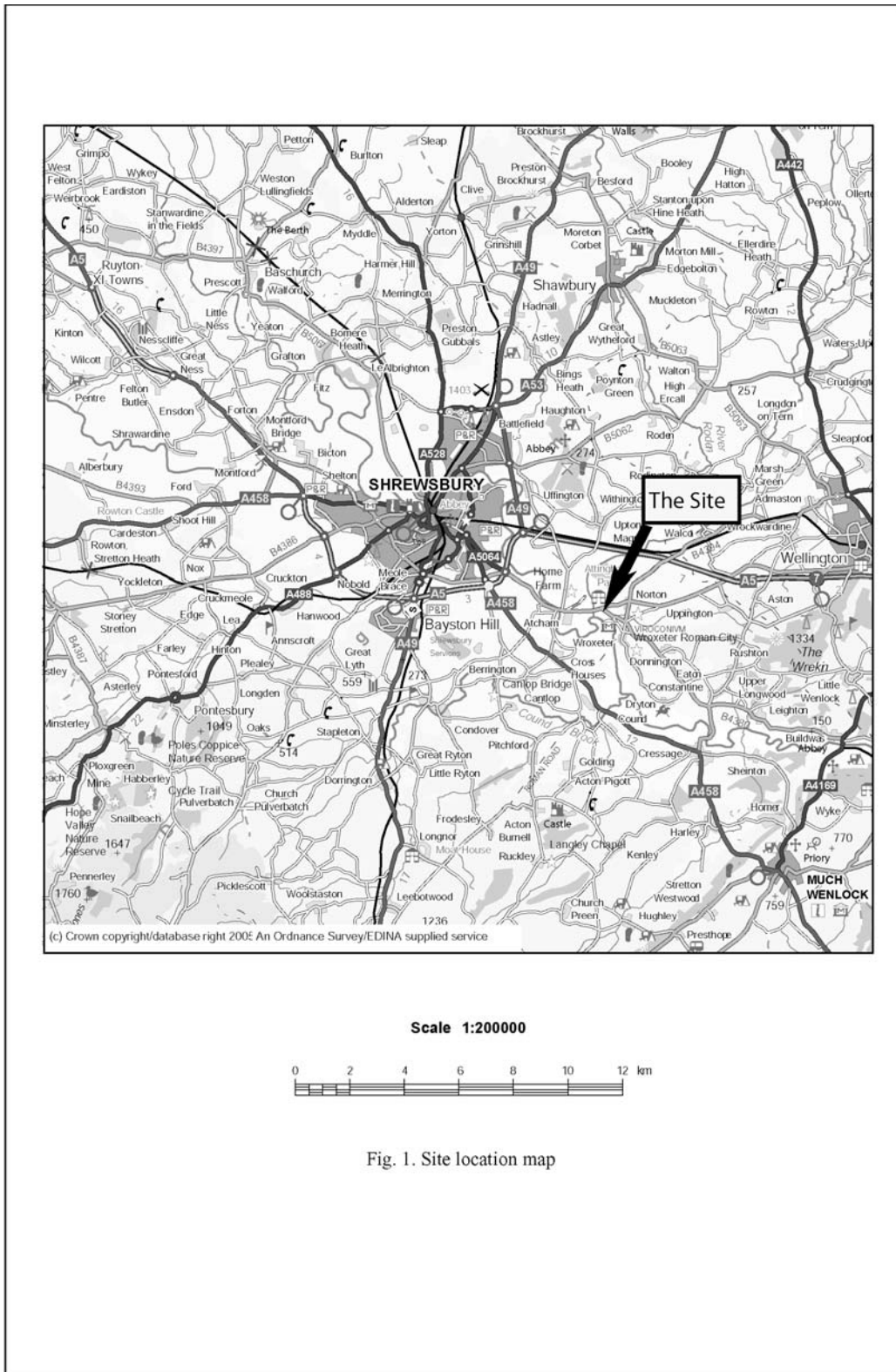


Fig. 1. Site location map

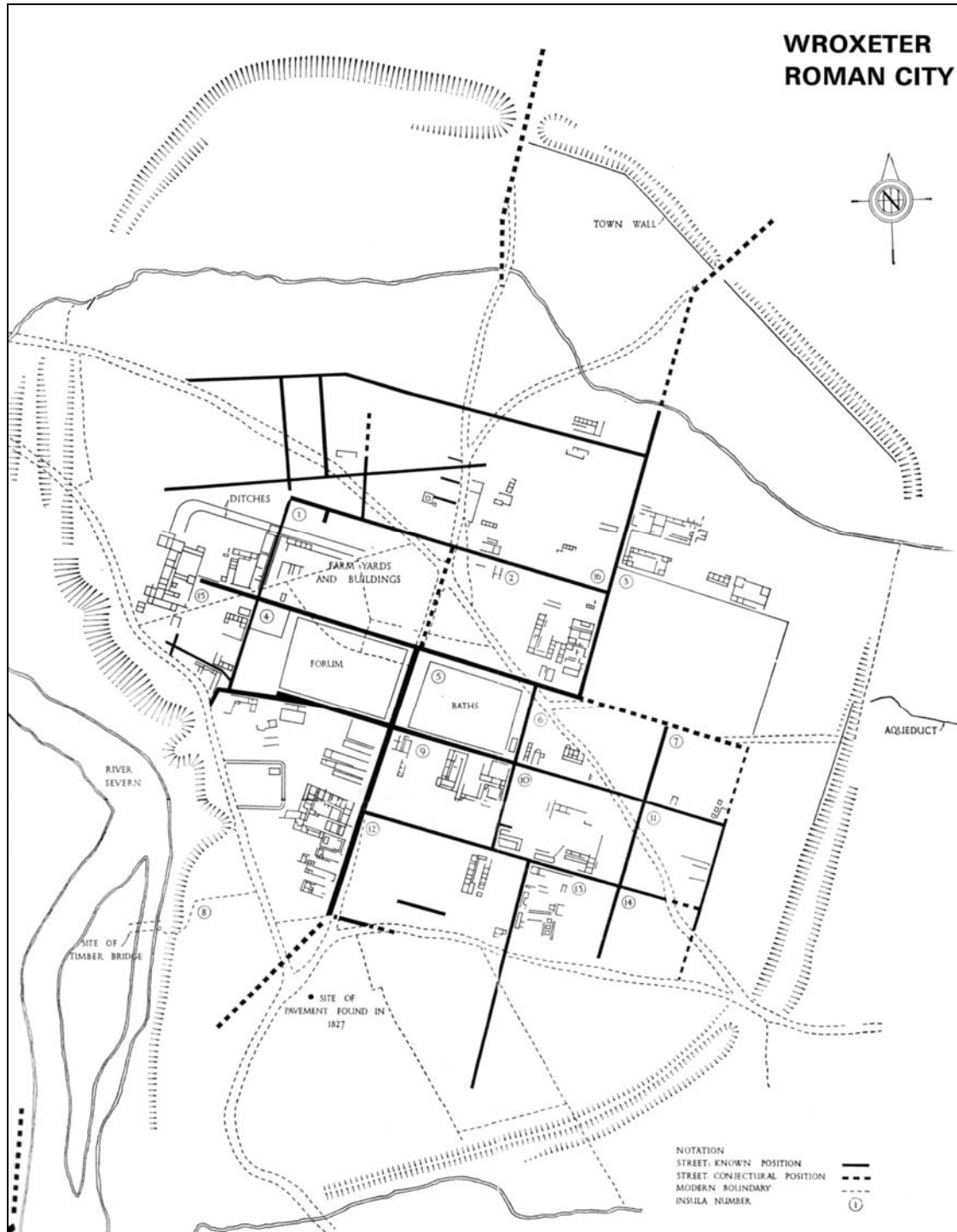


Fig. 2. The layout of Wroxeter Roman city (Webster 1973)

Fig. 3. Fluxgate gradiometer plots for south-east quadrant at Wroxeter (Gaffney et al. 2000) showing anomalies targeted by evaluation trenches (1 and 2) and the putative location of the water pipe trench from 1901 (3)

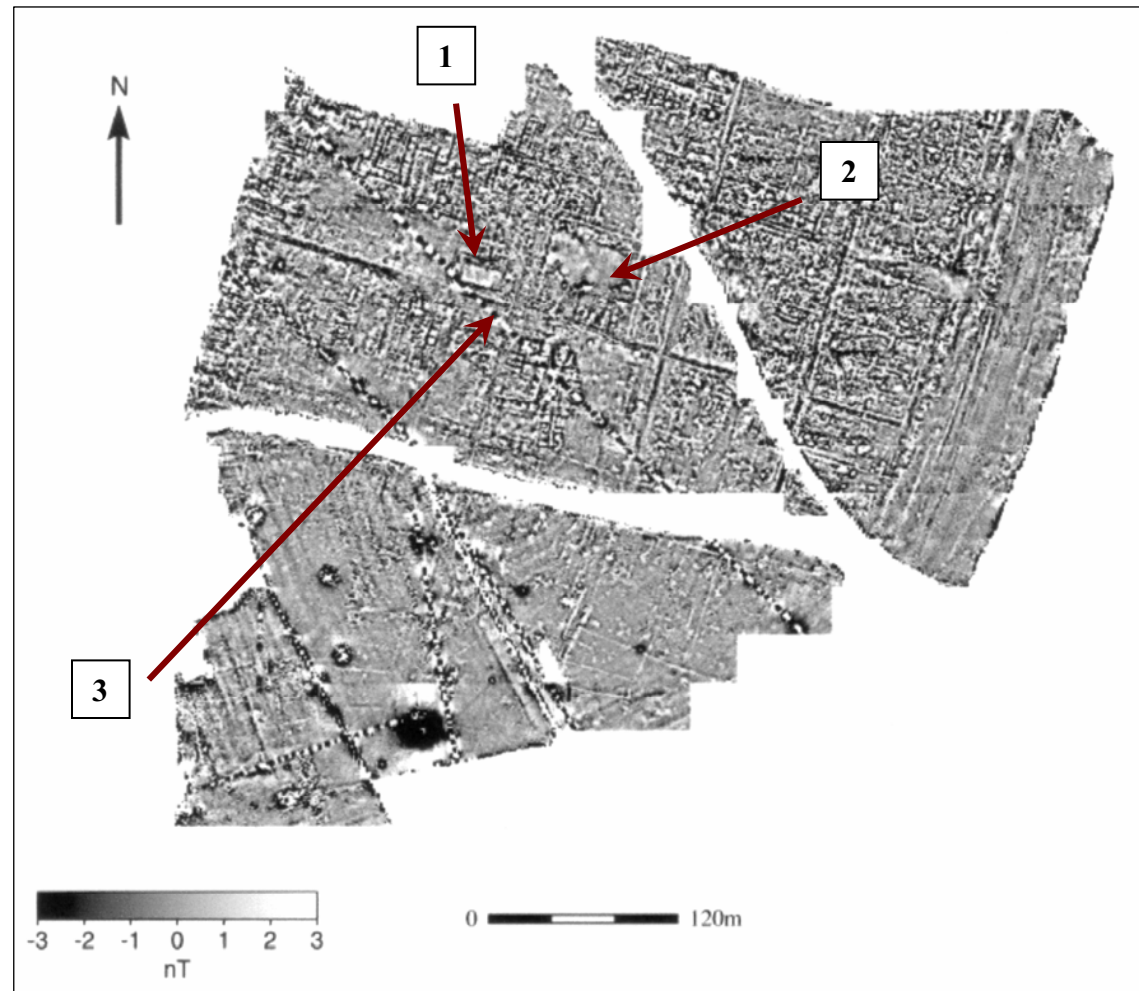


Figure 4. Cropmarks to the south of the Baths (Baker 1956).



Figure 5. Cropmarks to the south of the Baths (Baker 1960).

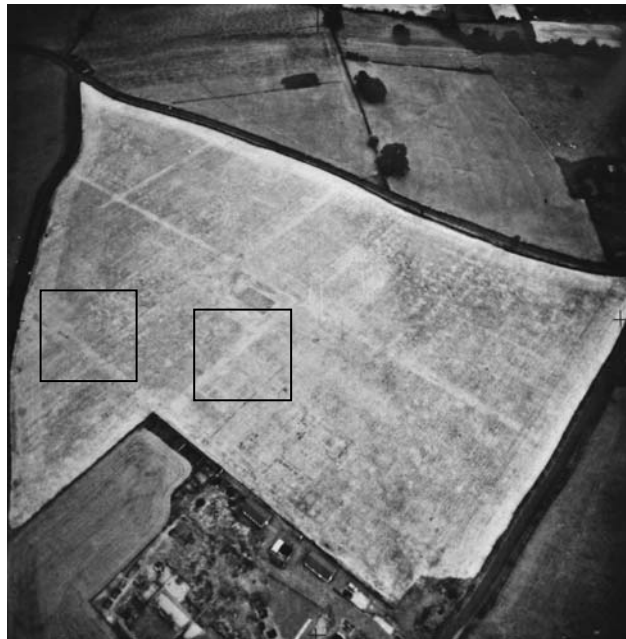




Fig 6. Trench location plan

0 50m

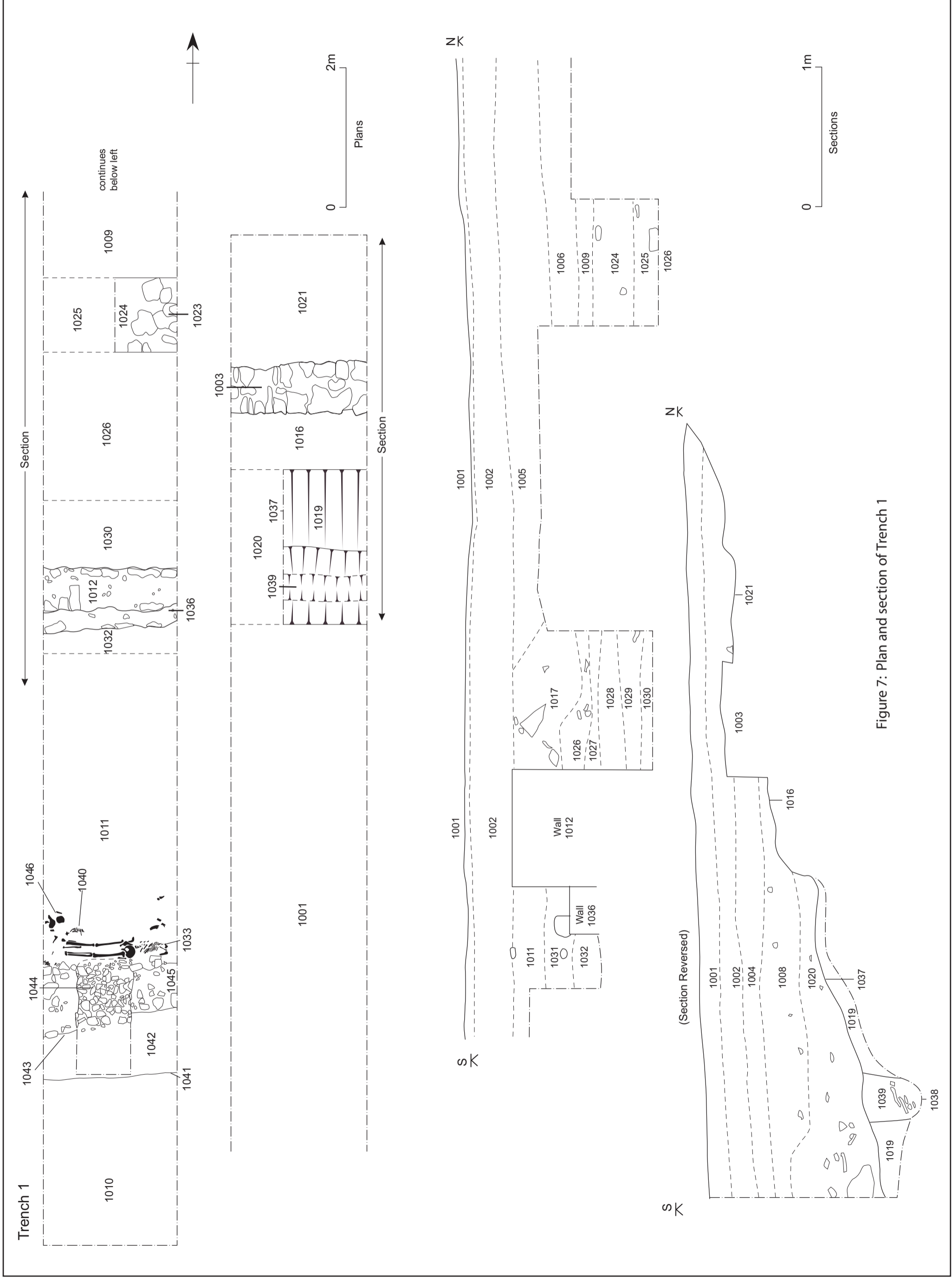


Figure 7: Plan and section of Trench 1

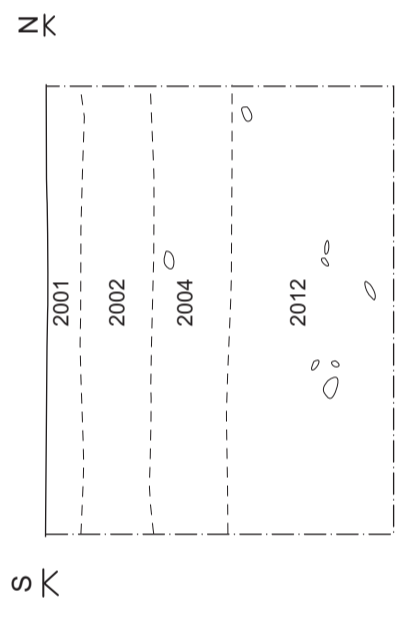
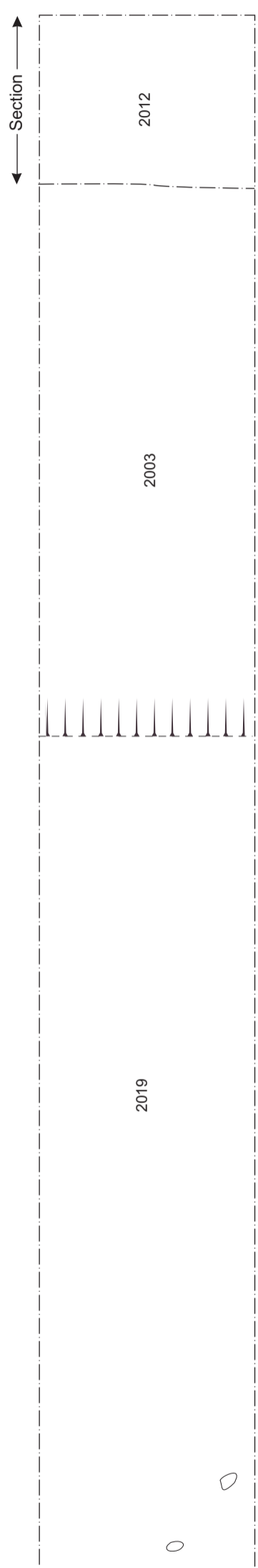
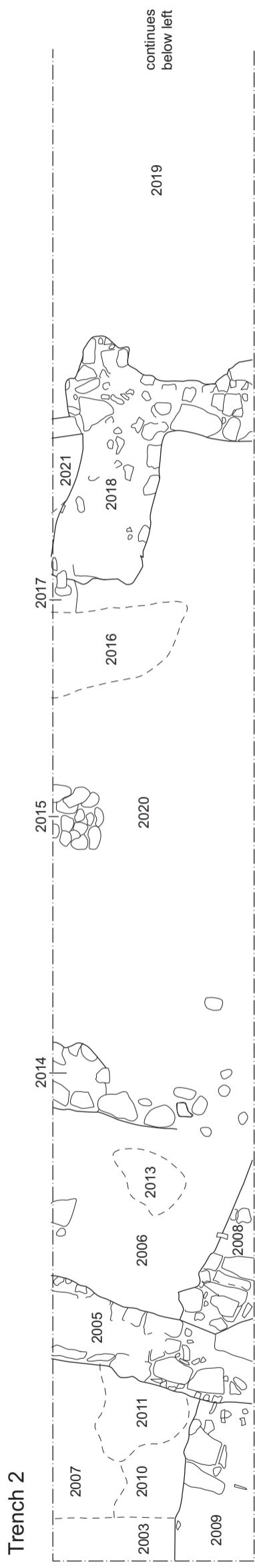


Figure 8: Plan and section, Trench 2

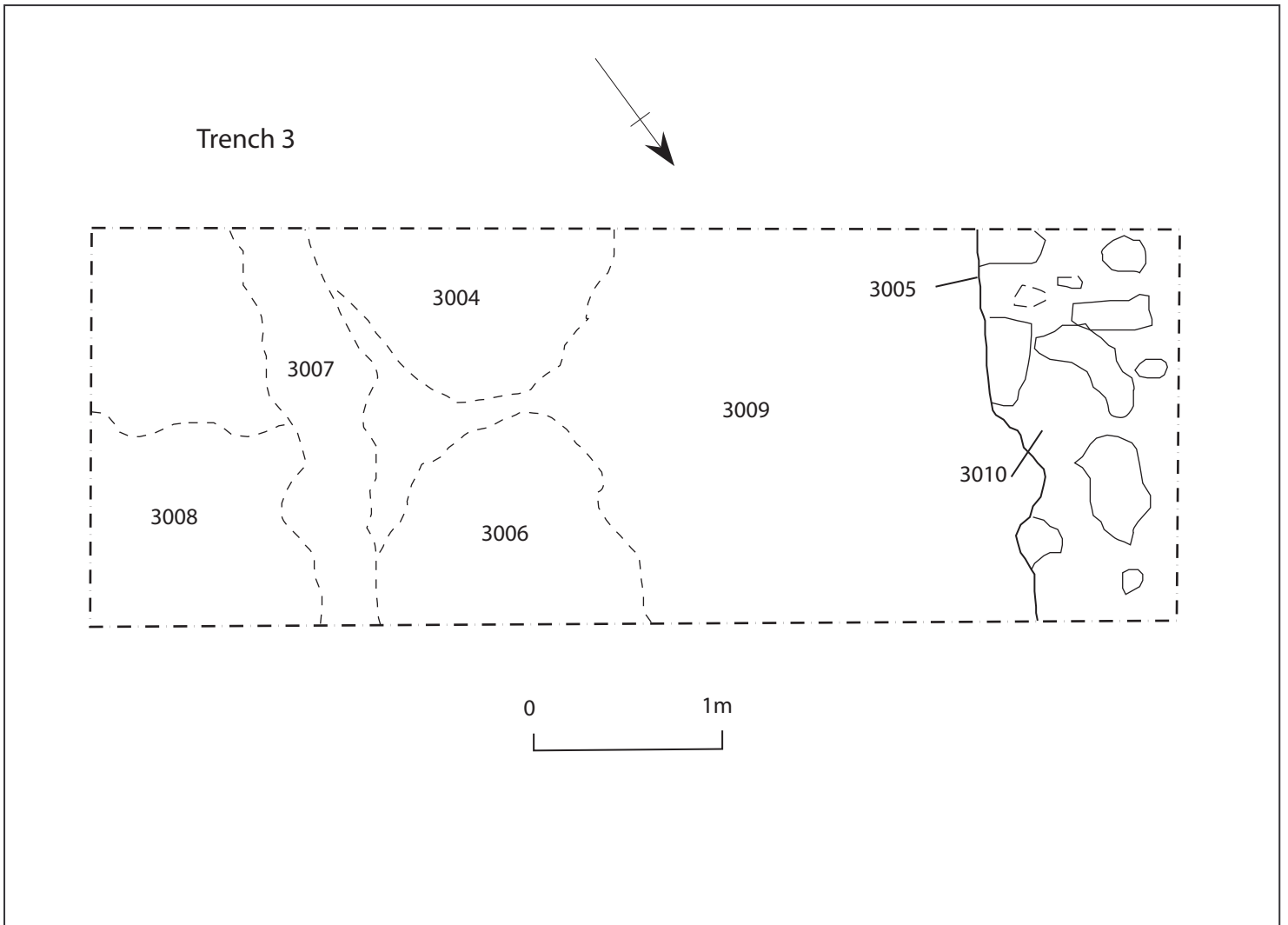


Figure 9: Plan of Trench 3



Plate 1: Wall 1003, Trench 1



Plate 2: Wall 1012, Trench 1



Plate 3: Human remains 1033, Trench 1

Plate 4: Dark silty deposits in-filling the building, Trench 1





Plate 5: Trench 2, looking north



Plate 6: Walls 2005, 2008, and 2009, Trench 2



Plate 7: Trench 2, looking south.



Plate 8: Decorated bone pin; small find 24



Plate 9: Gaulish decorated Samainware; small find 2



Plate 10: Ornate decorated horse harness fastener