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WEDNESBURY TOWN CENTRE
DEVELOPMENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
Stage 1, 2006

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**Wednesbury Town Centre Development:
Archaeological Evaluation, Stage 1, 2006**

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SUMMARY

In August 2006, Birmingham Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on behalf of Wm Morrison Supermarkets PLC, in advance of proposals for the construction of a new supermarket and associated petrol filling station in Wednesbury, West Midlands (centred on NGR SO 9862 9490). Three areas were investigated: to the north and south of Union Street, and to the northeast of Holyhead Road, all within the Town Centre. A total of ten trenches were excavated in August-September and October 2006 following the completion of a desk-based assessment. The trial-trenching was intended to assess the evidence for surviving below-ground deposits related to medieval settlement and industry, and post-medieval industry.

Two trenches contained datable late medieval to early post-medieval deposits. Trench 3, to the south of Union Street contained a group of late medieval to early post-medieval features, including pits, possible property boundary and a beam-slot. Trench 9, located to the northeast of Holyhead Road contained evidence for early post-medieval pottery production. A number of possible kilns or pits were located, together with a hearth rake-out deposit, containing large quantities of pottery. The remaining trenches mainly contained the truncated remains of 19th brick structures and associated deposits. To the north of Camp Street archaeological deposits had been scoured-out by the construction of a 1960s shopping centre, now demolished.

Wednesbury Town Centre Development
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, STAGE 1, 2006

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the project

Birmingham Archaeology was commissioned by Wm Morrison Supermarkets PLC (with advice from S R Davis Architects) to undertake a programme of trial-trenching in advance of a proposed supermarket and petrol filling station development in Wednesbury Town Centre (hereafter 'the site', Planning Application Numbers DC/04/42399 and DC/05/44324).

This report outlines the results of a field evaluation carried out in two stages during August - September and October 2006 and has been prepared in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists 'Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations' (IFA 2001). The evaluation conformed to a brief produced by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (Appendix 1), and a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Birmingham Archaeology 2006 (Appendix 2) approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to implementation, in accordance with guidelines laid down in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG 16, DoE 1990).

The evaluation was informed by an Archaeological Impact Assessment (Lobb 2005) which provided a full map regression, historic background and assessment of archaeological potential.

1.2 Location and geology

The site is located within the centre of Wednesbury and is bounded by car parks to the north of Union Street, Holyhead Road, Russell Street and Camp Street, and is centred on NGR SO 9862 9490 (Fig. 2).

Wednesbury Town centre lies on the Upper Coal Measures, overlain by grey clays with alluvial deposits to the north. To the north of Union Street the area investigated (Trench 10) was located within a public car park, overlying recent demolition deposits. The remainder of the area evaluated comprised waste ground. To the north of Camp Street (Trenches 5-7) trenches were cut through the concrete surfaces associated with a basement car park, demolished to slab level (Plate 1).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Full details of the archaeological background are provided by the assessment (Lobb 2006), which will not be repeated in full here.

The earliest evidence for occupation in Wednesbury is the suggested Iron Age hillfort on Church Hill. Whilst there is no datable evidence of Anglo-Saxon settlement, the place-name evidence suggests activity in that period.

During the medieval period the focus of settlement appears to have moved from Church Hill down to the Market Place (Lobb 2006, Fig. 2). The bulk of archaeological material from

Wednesbury comes from the post-medieval period. Pottery production in Wednesbury appears to have increased greatly in the post-medieval period, with numerous sherds of Midlands Purple wares, Cistercian wares, glazed red earthenwares and Midlands Yellow wares being recovered (Lobb 2006). Hodder (1991) suggests that these finds indicate that pottery production occurred as a cottage industry in post-medieval Wednesbury. During the later post-medieval period large quantities of coal and iron were produced in Wednesbury. The 18th-century saw a growing industry of gunlock filing and forging in Wednesbury (Greenslade 1976, 35), which extended within an area of the site to the south of Union Street.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The principle aim of the evaluation was to determine the character, extent, date, state of preservation and the potential significance of any buried remains. In particular, it is intended to provide data concerning the development of Wednesbury from the medieval period to the present, including evidence of industrial activity.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Fieldwork

A total of ten trenches were excavated across the site to test its archaeological potential as widely as possible (Fig. 2). Many of the trenches were excavated to a width of 4m to allow for stepping and/or battering of the trench sides to enable a depth of 2m to be safely reached below the modern surface.

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

All stratigraphic sequences were recorded, even where no archaeology was present. Features were planned, and sections were drawn through all cut features and significant vertical stratigraphy at a scale of 1:20. 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 and digital and colour slide photography (Appendix 3).

Recovered finds were cleaned and marked. Treatment of all finds conformed to guidance contained within 'A Strategy for the Care and Investigation of Finds' published by English Heritage. Samples for environmental analysis were taken from suitable datable deposits.

The full site archive includes all artefactual 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 the Community History and Archive Service, Smethwick Library subject to permission from the landowner.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

This section provides a description of the results arranged in trench order, together with a summary of the main dating evidence.

5.2 Trenches 1-9

Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

Trench 1 was located to the south of Union Street, within an area formerly used for gunmaking. The upper horizon of natural clay subsoil, 1000, was recorded at a depth of between 1.35-1.78m below the modern ground surface. The subsoil was overlain by a stony layer of orange-yellow clay, 1001, measuring 0.50m in depth. This clay was sealed by a layer of coke, 1002, also measuring 0.50m in depth. Above was a layer of grey-green clay-silt, 1003, also 0.50m in depth.

Layer 1003, was cut by a foundation trench, 1008, cut, filled by a yellow-grey clay-silt, 1009. Layer 1003 was also cut by a possible foundation trench, 1010, V-shaped in profile, and measuring 3.50m in width and 1.4m in depth. It was backfilled with a deposits of brick rubble, 1011 and 1012, and with redeposited natural clay, 1013. A backfilled well, 1014, was also cut into these layers.

Backfilled features 1008, 1010 and 1014 were overlain by a layer of ash and coke, 1015, measuring 0.60m in depth. This was truncated by a concrete floor, 1007, a concrete drain, 1017, and by a modern drain, 1004.

No features of archaeological importance were located in this trench. No datable pottery was recovered.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

Trench 2 was located to the north of Trench 1, and fronting onto Union Street. It was located to test the archaeological potential of the southern street frontage. The natural subsoil, 2000, was recorded at a depth of between 1.73 and 1.99m below the modern ground surface. This was overlain at the eastern end of the trench by a yellow-grey silt-clay alluvial deposit, 2001, measuring 0.25m in depth. This deposit was sealed by a layer of black-dark brown clay, 2002, measuring 0.10m in depth, with degraded organic inclusions. Above was a layer of dark black silt-clay, 2003, 0.30m in depth which was in turn overlain by a layer of coke and charcoal, 2004, 0.50m in depth.

The natural subsoil was cut by a drain, 2016, orientated north-south which was in turn cut by a pit, 2019, backfilled with a deposit of yellow hardcore, 2020. This trench also contained a late Victorian cellar, 2010-2015, which was cut through layers 2001-2004 (see above), and into the natural subsoil (2000). Above, a possible demolition trench, 2028, may be related to the clearance of the celled building. This was sealed by a demolition layer, 2033, containing brick rubble mixed with topsoil, the uppermost layer recorded.

No features of archaeological importance were located in this trench. Layer 2001 contained pottery of mid 16th and 17th century date.

Trench 3 (Figs. 3-4.S.1-S.2)

Trench 3 was located to test below-ground deposits to the south of Union Street. The natural yellow clay subsoil, 3050, was recorded at a depth of 0.8m below the modern ground surface. The subsoil was cut by an oval pit, 3025 (Fig. 4, S. 1), measuring a maximum of 1.4m in length and 1.6m in depth. The primary pit backfill was an orange-grey silt-clay, 3026. Above was a layer of grey sand-silt, 3027. This layer was overlain by a deposit of charcoal-flecked silt-sand, 3028. This layer was truncated by the cutting of second pit, 3029. The primary backfills of this second pit was a grey silt-clay, 3030, containing quantities of stone rubble, and a grey sand-silt, 3007. The uppermost pit backfill was a deposit of grey clay-silt, 3039. The western side of this pit was cut by a well, 3033, lined with brick, 3034. The well was backfilled with layers of silt and brick rubble, 3035-3038 and 3040-3041, together measuring 0.9m in depth. The western side of the backfilled well was cut by a north-south aligned brick wall, 3042/3043. The eastern side of well 3043 was cut by a service trench, 3031. The well, wall and service trench were overlain by deposits of rubble and brick, 3003, overlain by hardcore and tarmac, 3000-3002.

Towards the centre of the trench (S.2) the subsoil, 3049, was sealed by a layer of brown sand-silt, 3021. The subsoil was also cut by a vertically-sided and flat-based feature, 3044, possibly a ditched property boundary. This feature was backfilled with a mixed deposit, 3045, containing coal and clay (Plate 1). A narrow, vertically-sided beam-slot, 3046 (Fig. 3), aligned north-south also cut the subsoil. The beam-slot was backfilled with grey silt, 3047 (not illustrated). No relationship could be observed between the beam-slot and the ditch. Sealing the backfilled beam-slot was a layer of grey-brown sand-silt, 3022/3020/3030, measuring up to 0.6m in depth, which was heavily charcoal, and coal-stained. Layers 3020 and 3022 were cut by an east-west aligned ditch, 3019, cut to a V-shaped section. This feature was backfilled with a grey-black shale/sand deposit, 3018. Layers 3022/3020 and backfilled ditch 3019 were sealed by a layer of stone rubble, 3007/3011/3016/3024. Above were modern layers of modern build-up, 3008, 3009 and 3010, cut by service trenches, 3012, 3014, and 3005, and by layer 3004. These were sealed by layers of modern make-up deposits, 3000-3000 and 3023.

To the south of these features a large vaulted 19th century cellar, 3048 (Figs. 3-4), which had truncated earlier deposits or features. There were two doorways observed, one in the west facing section and one in the east facing section. The cellar also had a red quarry tile floor which was removed but no underlying features could be identified. A circular well, 3049, lined with brick and measuring 0.8m in diameter (externally) was recorded to the south of cellar 3048, and could have been associated with the same building. The cellar was overlain by modern make-up deposits (3000-3002).

Mixed groups of late 15th-17th century pottery, the earliest material from the trench, were found in contexts 3020 and 3047. Mid-late 16th century material was derived from context 3028, and other 16th century material from layers 3027 and 3029. The pottery from layer 3007 was again mixed, dating from the late 15th century to the 17th, or possibly 18th century, the latter probably represented by intrusive sherds. Seventeenth century pottery derived from layers 3021 and 3045. In addition, layer 3021 contained clay pipe fragments of early-mid 17th, late 17th, or possible 18th century date. Slag was recovered from contexts 3007, 3020, 3021, 3028 and 3045, including tap slag.

Trench 4 (Fig. 2)

Trench 4 was located towards the eastern side of the site. The trench was cut to test the potential of the eastern frontage of Camphill Lane to contain evidence of medieval to post -

medieval activity. The natural subsoil, 4002, was recorded at a depth of between 1.36m (in the north of the trench) and 0.43m (in the south of the trench) below the modern ground surface. The natural subsoil was sealed by a layer of steel reinforced concrete, 4000, measuring 0.9m in depth. At the southern end of the trench the subsoil was sealed by a layer of black slate and brick rubble, 4001, measuring 0.60m in depth. At the northern end of the trench the natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of dirty yellow silt-clay, 4004, 0.40m in depth.

No features of archaeological importance were observed in this trench, and no diagnostic pottery was collected.

Trench 5 (Fig. 2)

Trench 5 was located at the southern end of the site, fronting onto Camp Street, to test the potential of the northern street frontage to contain evidence of medieval or later settlement and industry. The natural subsoil, 5000, was recorded at a depth of 0.53m below the modern ground surface. The subsoil was sealed by a layer of steel reinforced concrete, 5001, measuring 0.53m in depth, which formed the modern surface of the trench.

No features of archaeological importance were observed in this trench, and no datable pottery was collected.

Trench 6 (Fig. 2)

Trench 6 was located to the northeast of Trench 5, also fronting onto Camp Street. The natural subsoil was reached at a depth of 0.99m below the modern ground surface. The subsoil was overlain by a thick layer of black coal and silt, 6001, measuring 1.20m in depth, which was overlain by a thick layer of steel reinforced concrete, 6002, which formed the floor of the demolished shopping centre.

The trench contained no features of archaeological importance. No sherds of diagnostic pottery were collected.

Trench 7 (Fig. 2)

Trench 7 was located towards the eastern site boundary, to test the archaeological potential of an area formerly containing a foundry. The natural subsoil, 7031, was recorded at a depth of between 1.17m (north of trench), and 1.68m (south of trench) below the modern ground surface. At the northern end of the trench the natural subsoil was cut by a small pit, 7023. The primary backfill of this feature was a grey silt-clay deposit, 7024, sealed by coke deposits, 7001 and 7000. These deposits were cut by modern service trenches, 7002 and 7004.

Towards the centre of the trench the subsoil was overlain by several layers of coke and sand, 7018, measuring 0.5m in depth, possibly associated with the former foundry. Above was a layer of yellow-brown sand, 7017, measuring 0.08m in depth, sealed by a layer of grey-black sand, 7016, measuring 0.50m in depth. This was overlain by a layer of slag, 7015, measuring 0.25m in depth. These layers were cut by modern foundation trenches, 7011 and 7013. These modern features were sealed by a layer of grey-black sand, 7009, measuring 0.15m in depth, which was in turn overlain by a layer of hardcore, 7008. Above was a layer of black-orange sand-silt, 7007, measuring 0.10m in depth, which was overlain by a layer of tarmac, 7006.

At the southern end of the trench the natural subsoil was cut by a shallow, north-south aligned ditch, 7030. The primary ditch backfill was a black clay silt deposit, 7026, sealed by a layer of

grey silt-sand, 7025. Above was a layer of grey silt-sand, 7027, sealed by a layer of black clay-silt, 7028, overlain by a deposit of grey clay-silt, 7029.

The earliest pottery recovered from this trench was dated to the later 17th century, and was collected from layer 7024. Pottery of 18th-19th century date was collected from layer 7015. Layer 7028 contained pottery of post-1830s date. A child's shoe of 18th or 19th century date was recovered from layer 7028.

Trench 8 (Fig. 5)

Trench 8 was located to the south of Camp Street, and was sited to test the archaeological potential of the zone on the eastern frontage of the former continuation of Camphill Lane. The natural grey-white mudstone subsoil was recorded at a depth of between 0.46m (north end of trench) and 0.19m (south end of trench), below the modern surface. The natural subsoil, 8002, in the northern end of the trench was truncated by several modern services all orientated east-west, which were not excavated.

In the centre of the trench the natural subsoil was cut by a small pit, 8019, measuring a maximum of 0.4m in depth, which was backfilled with black coke and crushed stone, 8020. This was sealed by a post-medieval brick floor, 8012, only part of which was recorded within the trench. Two layers of grey-white clay and coke, 8016 and 8015 (not illustrated), overlay the natural subsoil to the south of the pit. These were in turn overlain by a layer of grey sand-clay, 8014 (not illustrated), measuring 0.30m in depth. These layers adjoined a mudstone wall, 8024, which was orientated east-west. To the south of the wall was a repaired brick floor, 8028-8030, which contained late Victorian bricks set into a compacted clay deposit, 8031 (Plate 4). To the east of the floor was a curving brick wall, 8020, also probably Victorian in date, which may have formed a cellar. This structure was backfilled with rubble and ash 8022 (Plate 3). The subsoil, and structure were overlain by a layer of dark brown silt clay topsoil with coke inclusions, 8016 (not illustrated), measuring 0.15m in depth. These were sealed by a mixed topsoil, 8010, 0.40m thick.

Layer 8022 contained residual 19th century roof tile fragments.

Trench 9 (Fig. 6)

Trench 9 was located to the southwest of the Camphill Lane and Camp Street junction. The trench was located to test the potential of the western frontage of the former continuation of Camphill Lane, to the south of its present junction with Camp Street. The natural yellow-orange silt-clay subsoil, 9002, was recorded at a depth of between 0.81m and 0.99m below the modern ground surface. At the northwestern end of the trench the natural subsoil was cut by an oval pit, 9004, which was backfilled with several deposits containing kiln waste (Fig. 4.S.3, Plate 5). The basal deposit was a light brown silt-clay, 9005, measuring 0.10m in depth, with frequent coal fragments. Above was a deposit of red-brown silt-clay, 9006, containing large sherds of pottery, slag and coal. This layer was sealed by a deposit of red-brown silt clay, 9007, measuring 0.26m in depth, and containing frequent sherds of pottery, coal and slag. This deposit was cut by a shallow gully, 9008, 0.70m wide and 0.24m in depth, which was backfilled with grey-black silt clay, 9009, containing occasional sherds of pottery. This was sealed by a layer of concrete rubble, 9010 (not illustrated), measuring 0.60m in depth.

At the southeastern end of the trench was a deposit of green-brown clay-sand, 9010, with frequent charcoal inclusions, interpreted as a hearth rake-out deposit. This layer partially sealed two features, 9011, 9012, possibly associated with pottery production, which were recorded in plan, but not excavated. These features were truncated by a brick wall, 9015. Part

of a further wall trench, 9013, was also recorded, following a different alignment to the other wall. All the features and deposits in this part of the trench were sealed with a layer of coke, 9001, measuring 1.10m in depth, sealed beneath layer 9010 (see above).

Layers 9004, 9005, 9006, 9010 and 9028 contained 17th century pottery. Layer 9012 contained sherds of possible 17th century date. Layer 9009 contained sherds of 17th or possible early 18th century date, and layer 9011 contained pottery of 17th or possible early 18th century date.

5.3 Trench 10

Trench 10 (Fig. 7)

Trench 10, measuring a maximum of 6m by 4m was located to the north of Union Street (Fig. 2), to test the archaeological potential of an area affected by the construction of a proposed Petrol Filling Station (PFS). For reasons of safety the trench was not excavated below a depth of 1.8m below the modern surface. The earliest deposit encountered was a grey silt-sand-clay, 10010. The full depth of this deposit was not established by trenching. Above was a layer of rubble, 10007, measuring 0.3m in depth. This layer was cut by an east-west aligned trench, 10009, measuring a maximum of 0.5m in depth. The cut was backfilled with grey-black sand, 10008, flecked with charcoal. Backfilled cut 10009 and layer 10007 were sealed by a deposit of brown-black sand, 10004, measuring 0.45m in depth. To the south was a layer of concrete debris, 10003. The relationship between layers 10004 and 10003 was destroyed by a service trench intrusion, 10006 (see below), which cut both layers 10004 and 10003. Part of a north-south aligned brick wall, 10002, was also recorded, overlying layer 10004. Above was a mixed demolition deposit, 10001, measuring 0.72m in depth, sealed by the modern car park surface, 10000.

Layers 10002, 10011 and 10012 contained late 17-18th century pottery. Layers 10002 and 10009 contained 17th and 18th century pottery. Layer 10000 contained 18th or possibly 17th century pottery. Finally, layer 10014 contained sherds of possible 18th century date.

6 THE FINDS

6.1 The pottery by Stephanie Ratkai

TABLE 1: Pottery spot dates from Trenches 2-9

<i>Context</i>	<i>Spot date</i>	<i>Details</i>
2001	mid 16th c	Cistercian ware / blackware
2001	17th c	Coarseware x1
2002	late 17th-18th c	1 x coarseware waster
2003	late 17th-18th c	2 x slip-coated ware
3007		Very mixed group. Latest material is creamware, although sherds are probably intrusive
<u>3018</u>	<u>late 15th-?mid 18th c</u>	<u>Very mixed group</u>
3020	late 15th-17th c	Mixed group
3021	17th c	There are a couple of cistercian ware sherds which pre-date 17th c. A trailed slipware sherd may just be evidence of slipware production here
3026	15th-16th c	Rather mixed group, including one unique yellow ware
<u>3027</u>	<u>16th c</u>	
3028	Mid-late 16th c?	
3029	16th c	
<u>3045</u>	<u>17th c</u>	
3047	late 15th-?early 17th c	Rather mixed group
7015	18th-19th c	
7024	?later 17th c	
7028	19th c post 1830s	
8022	19th c	Contains possibly residual blackened roof tile
9004	17th c	
9005	17th c	
9006	17th c	
9009	late 17th-early 18th c	
9010	17th c	Two cistercian ware sherds which are pre 17th c
9011	17th or possibly early 18th c	
9012	17th c?	
9028	17th c	

Comment

The earliest pottery consists of one large iron-poor medieval sherd from layer 3020 which shows no signs of being a waster and probably dates to the 14th or 15th centuries.

Kiln waste is found in material dating from the 15th or 16th centuries (late oxidised ware) and late 15th-?mid 16th centuries (cistercian ware). The former is much less common than the latter. Midlands Purple ware which has been found on other Wednesbury production sites is not represented here. Waste is also found in blackware, yellow ware (although not so frequent) and coarseware. The latest, possible waste comprises brown salt-glazed stoneware sherds from context 7018, although there is one further possible BSG waster from context 7028.

There are a number of unusual or unique sherds such as the yellow ware from context 3026, a tripod skillet from (3020) and dripping trays - the latter paralleled at Edgbaston Street, Birmingham.

It is tempting to say that the pottery represents primarily waste from the 16th-17th centuries, although the 15th century cannot be excluded.

Trench 10

TABLE 2: Pottery spot dates from Trench 10

<i>Context</i>	<i>Spot date</i>	<i>Details</i>
10000	18th/ possibly 17th c	1 x coarseware
10002	late 17th-18th c	3 x slip-coated ware
10002	17th-18th c	1 x blackware (later?)
10009	17th-18th c	2 x coarseware
10011	later 17th-18th c	1 x coarseware / blackware
10011	17th c	1 x coarseware / Midlands purple
10012	17th c	1 x blackware
10012	L17th-18th c	1 x slip-coated ware
10014	? 18th c	1 x brown stoneware
10014	-	1 x clay "bob" - used to separate vessels in the kiln

6.2 Other finds by Stephanie Ratkai

Clay pipe was found in contexts:

3007, 3018, 3021 and 7024. Bowls from context 3021 appear to date from the early-mid 17th c and late 17th- possibly early 18th c.

Slag or similar industrial waste was found in:

3007, *3020, 3021, *3028, *3045 (*contained tap slag)
9004, 9006, 9010 (possibly part of a kiln structure or hearth)

A child's shoe sole was found in context 7028 which would seem to be of 18th or 19th century date.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL

7.1 Waterlogged remains by Emma Tetlow

Two samples from Trench 7 (contexts 7026 and 7028, see above) were assessed for environmental potential. Both samples were processed using the standard method of processing for waterlogged plant remains outlined in Kenward *et al.* (1980). The material was washed through a 300µm mesh sieve and examined under a low power binocular microscope at x10 magnification.

Both contexts contained abundant organic remains, context 7028 consisted of finer fragments of organic material, whilst those in context 7026 were larger and also contained small twigs and fragments of wood. No identifiable waterlogged plant remains or insects were observed in either sample. The organic matrix of both samples is strongly reminiscent of straw.

Contexts 7026 and 7028 have yielded no interpretable evidence; hence further processing of these samples for proxy evidence is not recommended. No material commonly found in this type of deposit such as charred plant remains were readily visible. The nature of the depositional environment clearly precludes the preservation of identifiable or interpretable, site-specific proxy evidence.

8 DISCUSSION

The earliest datable pottery, belonging to the late 15th-17th centuries, was recovered from Trench 3, which examined part of the southern frontage of Union Street. One of the earliest features was a pit, 3025, which contained pottery of 15th-16th century date. A later pit, 3029, was backfilled with mixed pottery of late 15th-17th century date. These pits may have been dug for the extraction of clay, to be used in pottery production. Further to the south was recorded a north-south aligned beam-slot, 3044, backfilled with a deposit containing coal, and dated by pottery of 17th century date. This beam-slot presumably formed one side of a timber-framed building which could not be further defined within the trial-trench. The beam-slot provided the only evidence of timber-framed buildings of late medieval date within the site. The beam-slot was overlain by a build-up deposit, 3022, measuring up to 0.6m in depth. An east-west aligned ditch, 3044, containing 17th century pottery may have formed a rearward boundary to a plot of land located on the southern frontage of Union Street. Much of the trench was truncated by a 19th century cellar, and by later service trenches. Tap slag was found in layers 3020, 3028 and 3045, and slag was found in layer 3007. Although only small quantities of slag were recovered, Trench 3 has provided evidence of metalworking of 17th, or pre-17th-century date. It is not possible to confirm that this material was associated with gunmaking, although this remains a possibility.

No features of archaeological interest were identified in Trenches 1-2. Part of the southern Union Street frontage was built up by 1844 (Fig. 8). Most of the remainder of the frontage was built up in 1890, and into the early 20th century. Nineteenth and 20th century building is likely to have removed all trace of late medieval to early post-medieval settlement and industry along the southern Union Street frontage.

Trenches 4-7 to the north of Camp Street contained few features of archaeological interest. Features in Trench 7 were associated with the iron foundry mapped in 1890 (Fig. 8), notably a deposit of foundry sand, 7018. The deposits recorded in Trenches 4-6 were heavily truncated by the construction of a shopping centre, now demolished to floor slab level.

The earliest activity in Trench 10 to the north of Union Street was datable to the 17th-18th century. It was not possible to fully interpret this activity within the area investigated. The depth of 18th century and later overburden could suggest that earlier deposits and features could have been protected from disturbance. Archaeological deposits within part of this northern frontage area will have been scoured-out by later 19th and 20th century disturbance, although islands of earlier deposits may possibly survive.

Of particular interest was the recovery of very large quantities of large, comparatively unabraded sherds of pottery, including significant quantities of wasters from Trench 9. Waster fragments were recovered in particular from cut 9004. This pit was not burnt *in situ* and is

unlikely to have been associated with the high-temperature processes of pottery production. The pit could have been dug to recover pottery for pottery production, and have been backfilled with waste products. Two areas containing burnt material, 9011 and 9012 were also identified, together with a hearth rake-out deposit, 9010. Most of the pottery, including the wasters, was dated to the 17th century, although a small quantity of possibly earlier material was also present. This dating suggests that this area of pottery production was contemporary with the episode of pottery production recorded by Hodder (1991), suggested to be carried out as a small-scale, cottage-based industry. Pits 3025 and 3029 in Trench 3 could also have been quarry pits associated with the extraction of clay. The evidence from Trench 9 extends the known limits of early post-medieval activity within Wednesbury, and in particular to provide new evidence for the extent of this important early post-medieval industry.

Trench 8 was located to examine the eastern frontage of Camphill Lane. Activity within this trench may be dated to the 19th century. The main feature identified in this trench was part of an underground cellar. This corresponds with a range of outbuildings mapped in 1890 (Fig. 8). The absence of residual 17th century pottery from this trench may suggest that the pottery industry was confined to the western side of Camphill Lane, unless the area surrounding Trench 8 was heavily scoured-out.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDIX 3: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTERS

Colour slide BA1468C
Film number 1

<i>No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Orientation</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Initials</i>
1	-			
2	-			
3	-			
4	-			
5	-			
6	-			
7	-			
8	-			
9	-			
10	-			
11	=			
12	-			
13	=			
14	-			
15	=			
16	-			
17	-			
18	Trench 3 west facing section	E	1x2m	DSC
19	"	"	1x2m	DSC
20	"	"	1x2m	DSC
21	General shots Trench 3	N	1x2m	DSC
22	Tr 9 looking northwest	NW	1x2m	DSC
23	Tr 9 looking southeast	SE	1x2m	KK
24	"	"	1X2m	KK
25	Tr 8 view south	S	1x2m	KK
26	Tr 8 wall view south	S	1x2m	KK
27	Tr 8 looking north	N	1x2m	KK
28	Tr 8 wall looking north	"	1x2m	KK
29	Tr 8 curving wall	E	1x2m	KK
30	Tr 3 3025	E	1x2m	CJ
31	Tr 3 3044	E	1x2m	DSC
32	"	"	1x2m	DSC
33	9004 north facing section	S	1x0.4m	KK
34	"	"	1x0.4m	KK
35	"	"	1x0.4m	KK
36	<u>9004 south facing section</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>1x0.4m</u>	<u>KK</u>

Black and white BA 1468C
 Film number 2

<i>No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Orientation</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Initials</i>
1	Tr 3 west facing section	E	1x2m	DSC
2	"	"	"	"
3	"	"	"	"
4	"	"	"	"
5	General site shot	"	"	"
6	Tr 9 looking northwest	NW	"	KK
7	Tr 9 looking southeast	SE	"	"
8	"	"	"	"
9	Tr 8 looking south	S	"	"
10	Tr 8 wall looking south	"	"	"
11	Tr 8 looking north	N	"	"
12	Tr 8 wall looking north	N	"	"
13	Tr 8 curving wall	N	"	"
14	Tr 3 3035	E	"	CJ
15	Tr3 3025	E	"	"
16	Tr3 3044	"	"	"
17	"	"	"	"
18	9004 south facing section	N	1x0.4m	KK
19	"	"	"	"
20	"	"	"	"
21	9004 north facing section	S	"	"
22	Tr 3 south facing section 3046	N	"	MC
23	Tr 3 west facing section 3020	E	1x2m	MC
24	Tr 3 west facing section 3025	E	1x2m	CJ
25	Tr 6 south facing section 6001	N	"	DSC
26	Tr 9 kiln plan 9012	S	"	MC
27	"	N	"	"
28	Tr 7 7023	N	"	DSC
29	"	"	"	"
30	"	"	"	"
31	"	"	"	"
32	Tr 8 8019	E	"	CJ
33	-			
34	-			
35	-			
36	-			

Colour slide BA 1468C
 Film number 3

<i>No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Orientation</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Initials</i>
1	Tr2	NW	2x2m	DSC
2	"	"	"	"
3	"	NE	"	"
4	"	"	"	"
5	Tr 2 close up of south facing section	N	1x2m	"
6	Tr 2 close up of mid section	"	"	"
7	Tr 2 close up of south facing section	"	2x2m	"
8	Tr 2 north facing section	SE	"	"
9	"	"	"	"
10	"	"	"	"
11	"	"	"	"
12	<u>General site shot</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
13	"	<u>W</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>"</u>
14	Tr 3 northern extent	N	"	RTC
15	"	"	"	"
16	"	"	"	"
17	-			
18	-			
19	-			
20	-			
21	-			
22	-			
23	-			
24	-			
25	-			
26	-			
27	-			
28	-			
29	-			
30	-			
31	-			
32	-			
33	-			
34	-			
35	-			
36	-			

Colour slide BA 1468C
 Film number 4

<i>No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Orientation</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Initials</i>
1	Tr 3 3040 south facing section	N	1x0.4m	MC
2	Tr 3 3020 west facing section	E	1x2m	MC
3	Tr 3 3025 west facing section	E	"	"
4	Tr 6 6001	N	"	DSC
5	Tr 9 9012	S	"	MC
6	"	N	"	"
7	Tr 7 7023	N	"	DSC
8	Tr 7	"	"	"
9	"	"	"	"
10	"	"	"	"
11	Tr 8 8019	E	"	CJ
12	=			
13	-			
14	-			
15	-			
16	-			
17	-			
18	=			
19	-			
20	-			
21	-			
22	-			
23	-			
24	-			
25	-			
26	-			
27	-			
28	-			
29	-			
30	-			
31	-			
32	-			
33	-			
34	-			
35	-			
36	-			

Trench 10
 Colour slide
 Film number 1

<i>No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Orientation</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Initials</i>
1	Machining Trench 10	Northeast	1x0.40m	BB
2	Machining Trench 10	Northeast	1x0.40m	BB
3	Machining Trench 10	Northeast	1x0.40m	BB
4	Machining Trench 10	East	1x0.40	BB
5	Machining Trench 10	Northwest	1x0.40m	BB
6	Machining Trench 10	North	1x0.40m	BB
7	South facing section	North	1x0.40m	BB
8	Southwest facing section	Northeast	1x0.40m	BB
9	Southwest facing section	Northeast	1x0.40m	BB
10	South facing section	North	1x0.40m	BB
11	West facing section	Southeast	1x0.40m	BB
12	West facing section	East	1x0.40m	BB
13	<u>West facing section</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>1x0.40m</u>	<u>BB</u>
14	West facing section	Northeast	1x0.40m	BB
15	<u>West facing section</u>	<u>Northeast</u>	<u>1x0.40m</u>	<u>BB</u>
16	East facing section	Northwest	1x0.40m	BB
17	East facing section	North	1x0.40m	BB
18	West facing section	Northeast	1x0.40m	BB
19	West facing section	East	1x0.40m	BB
20	West facing section	Northeast	1x0.40m	BB
21	West facing section	East	1x0.40m	BB
22	West facing section	East	1x2m, 1x1m	BB
23	West facing section	Northeast	1x2m, 1x1m	BB
24	West facing section	Northeast	1x2m, 1x1m	BB
25	West facing section	Northeast	1x2m, 1x1m	BB
26	General trench shot	North	1x2m, 1x1m	BB
27	General trench shot	Southeast	1x2m, 1x1m	BB
28	West facing section	Southeast	1x2m, 1x1m	BB
29	-			
25	-			
26	-			
27	-			
28	-			
29	-			
30	-			
31	-			
32	-			
33	-			
34	-			
35	-			
36	-			



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Fig 1

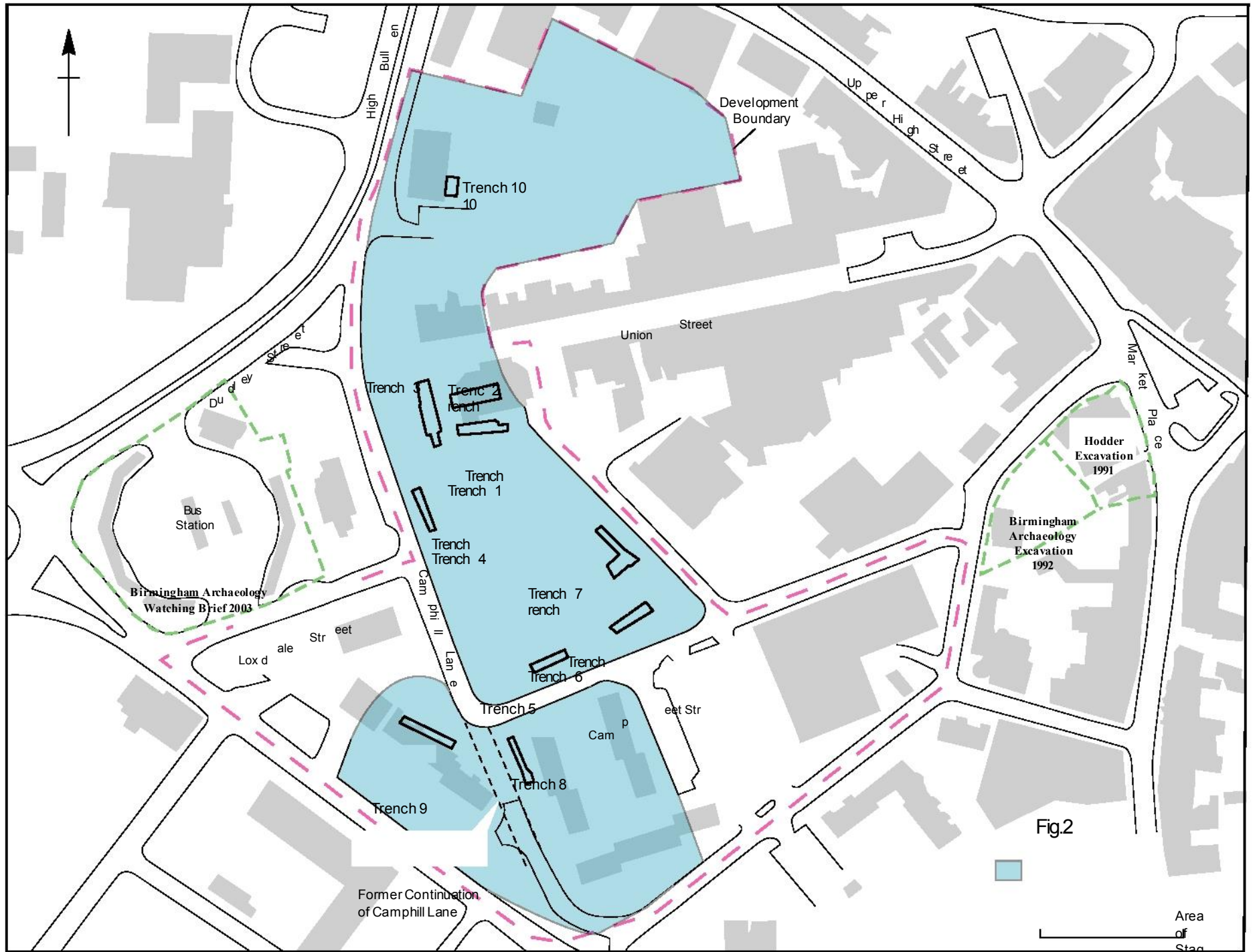


Fig.2

aluation

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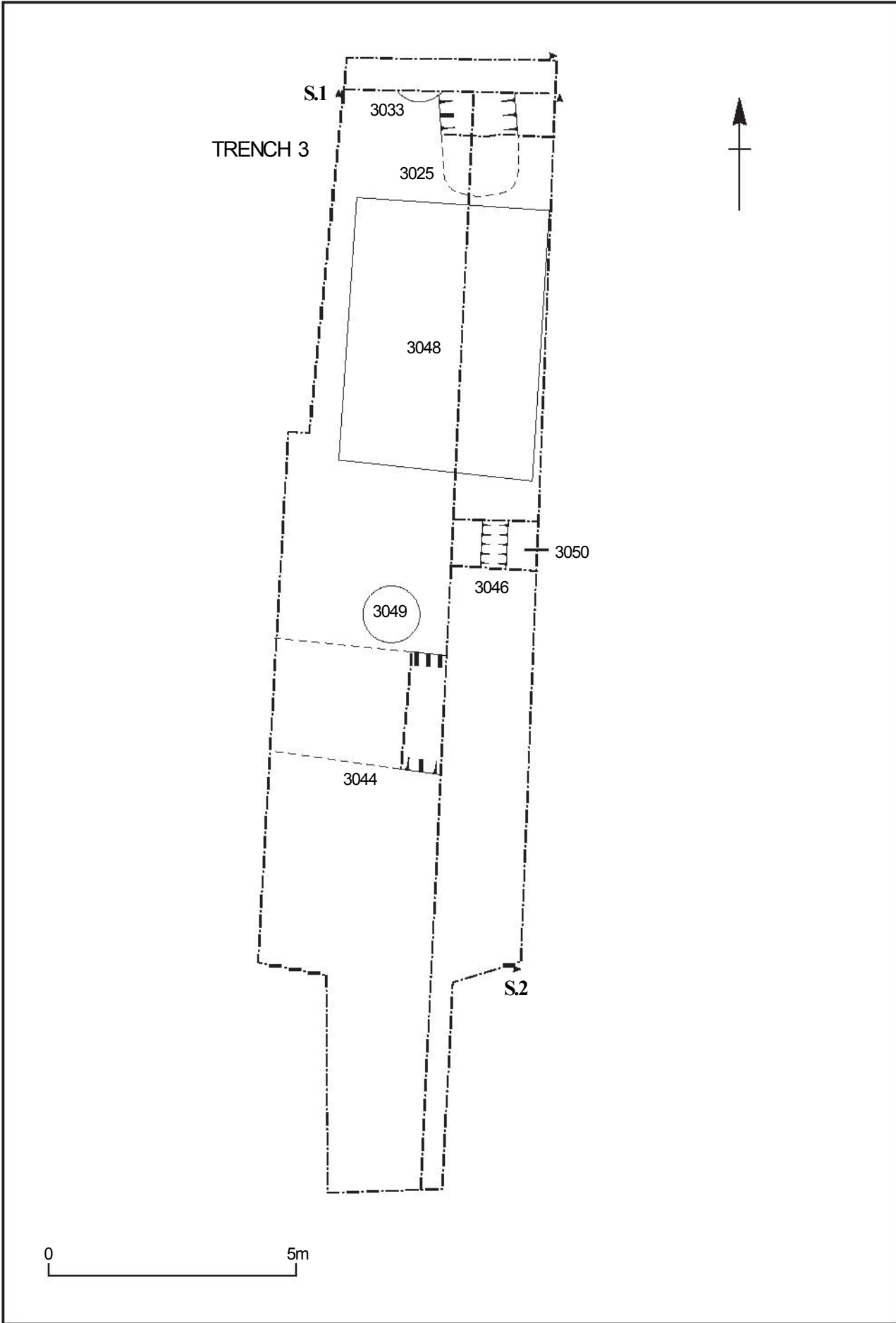


Fig.3

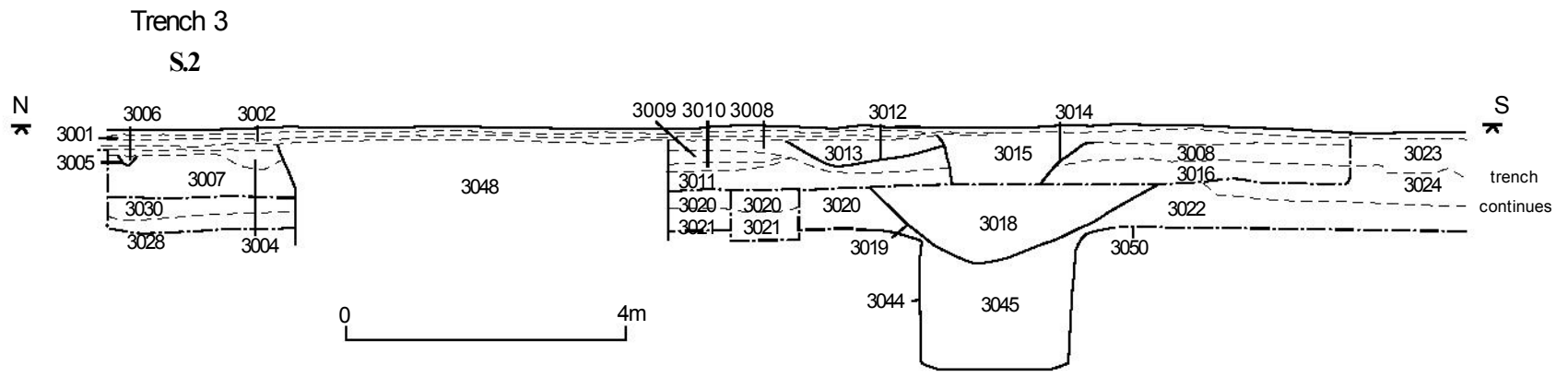
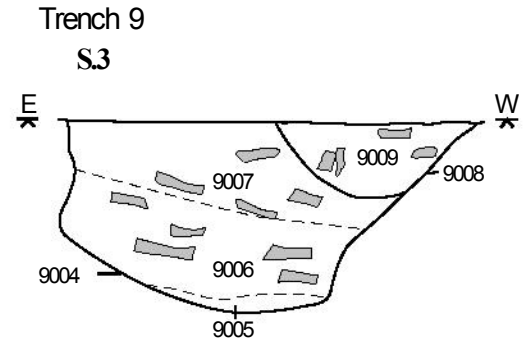
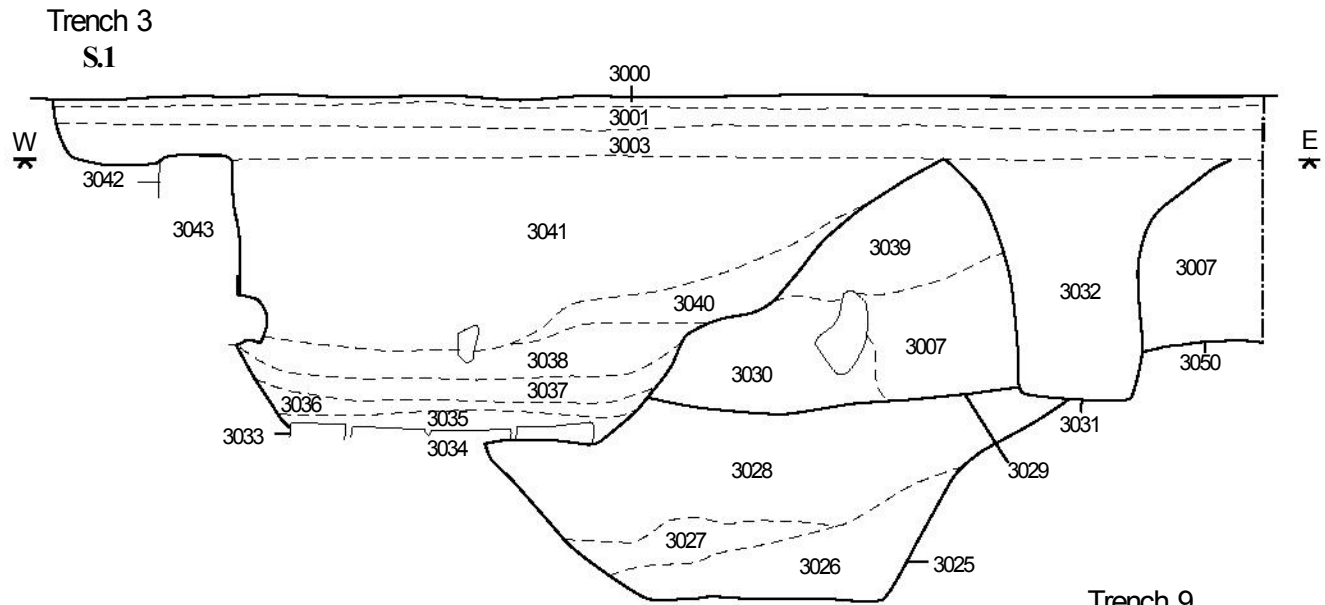
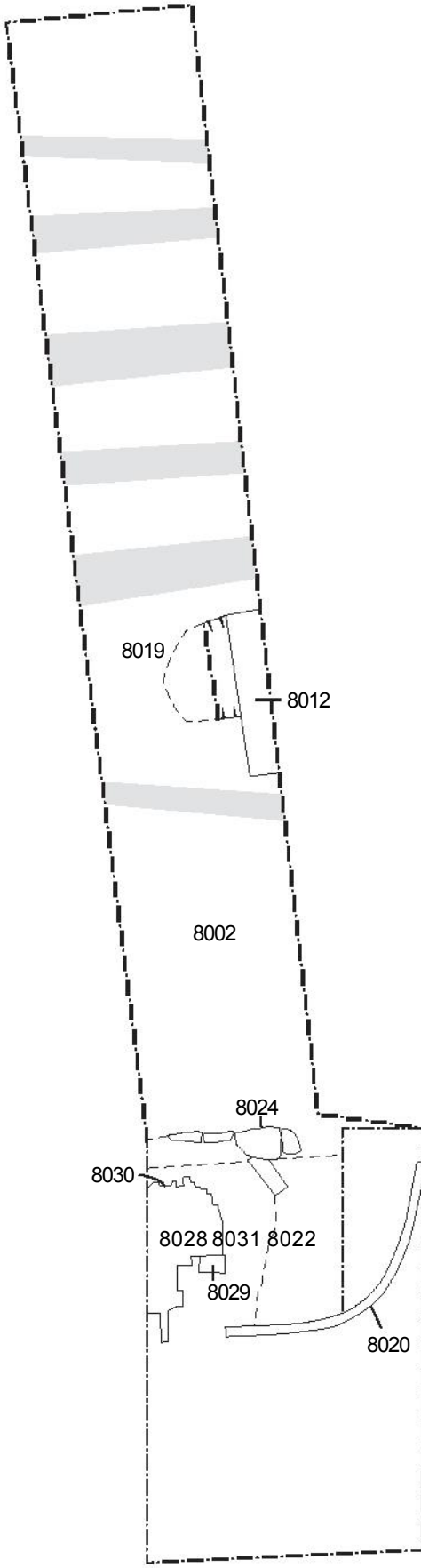


Fig.4

TRENCH 8



Services

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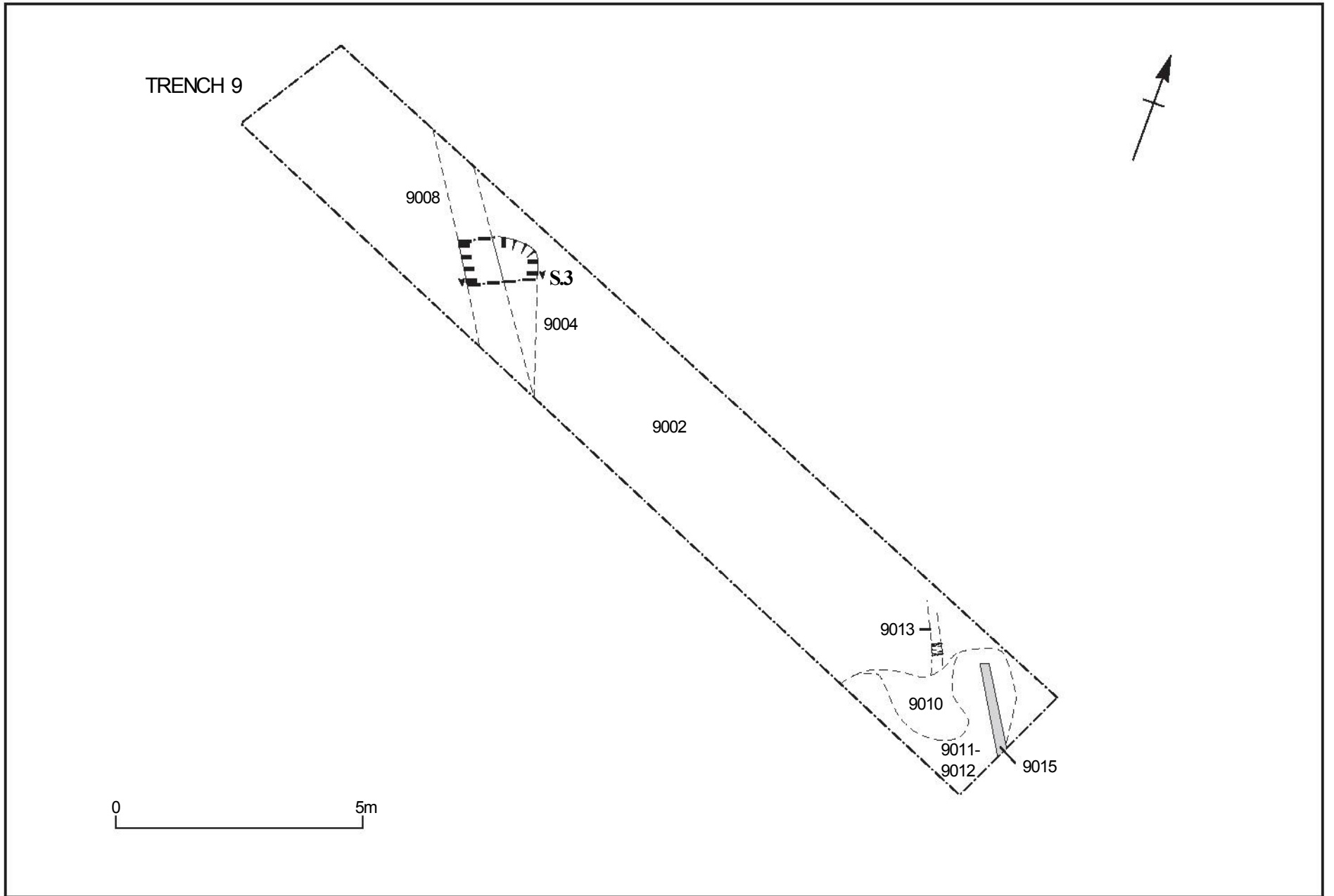


Fig.6

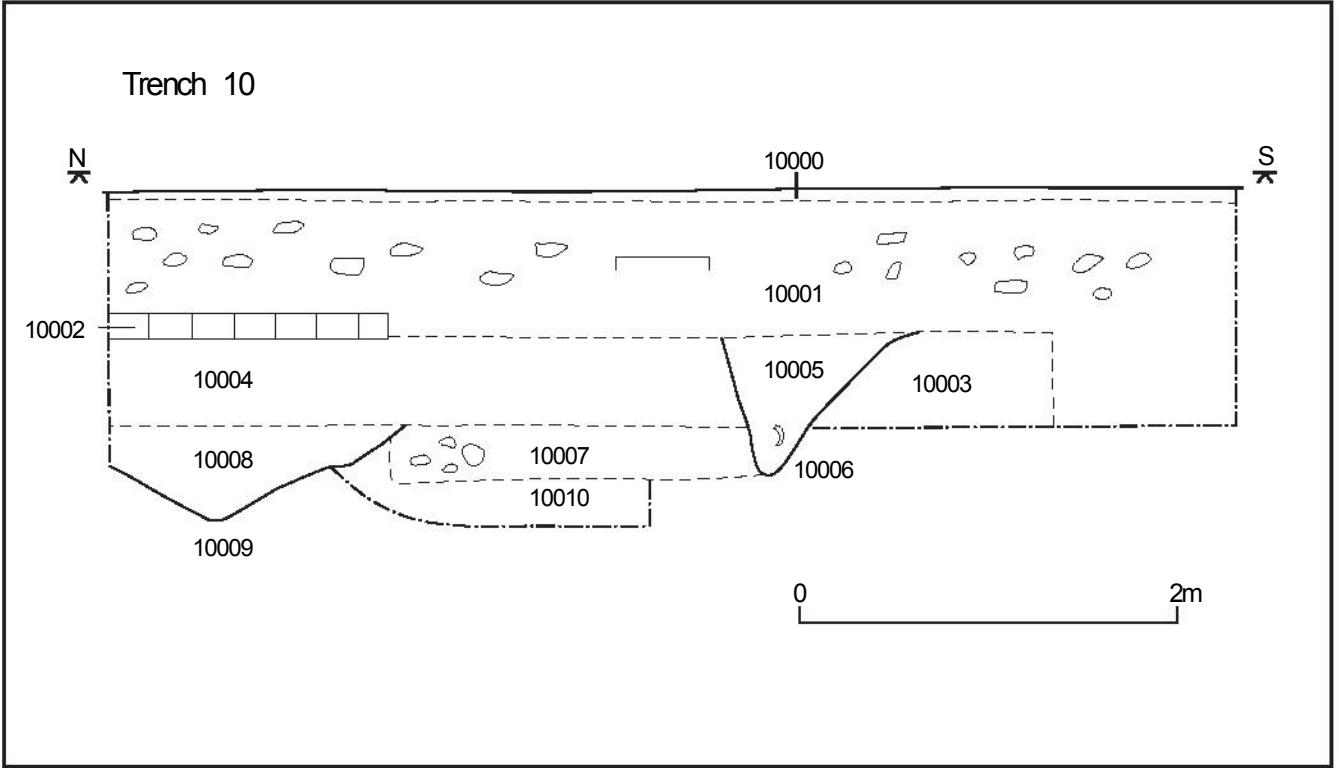


Fig.7

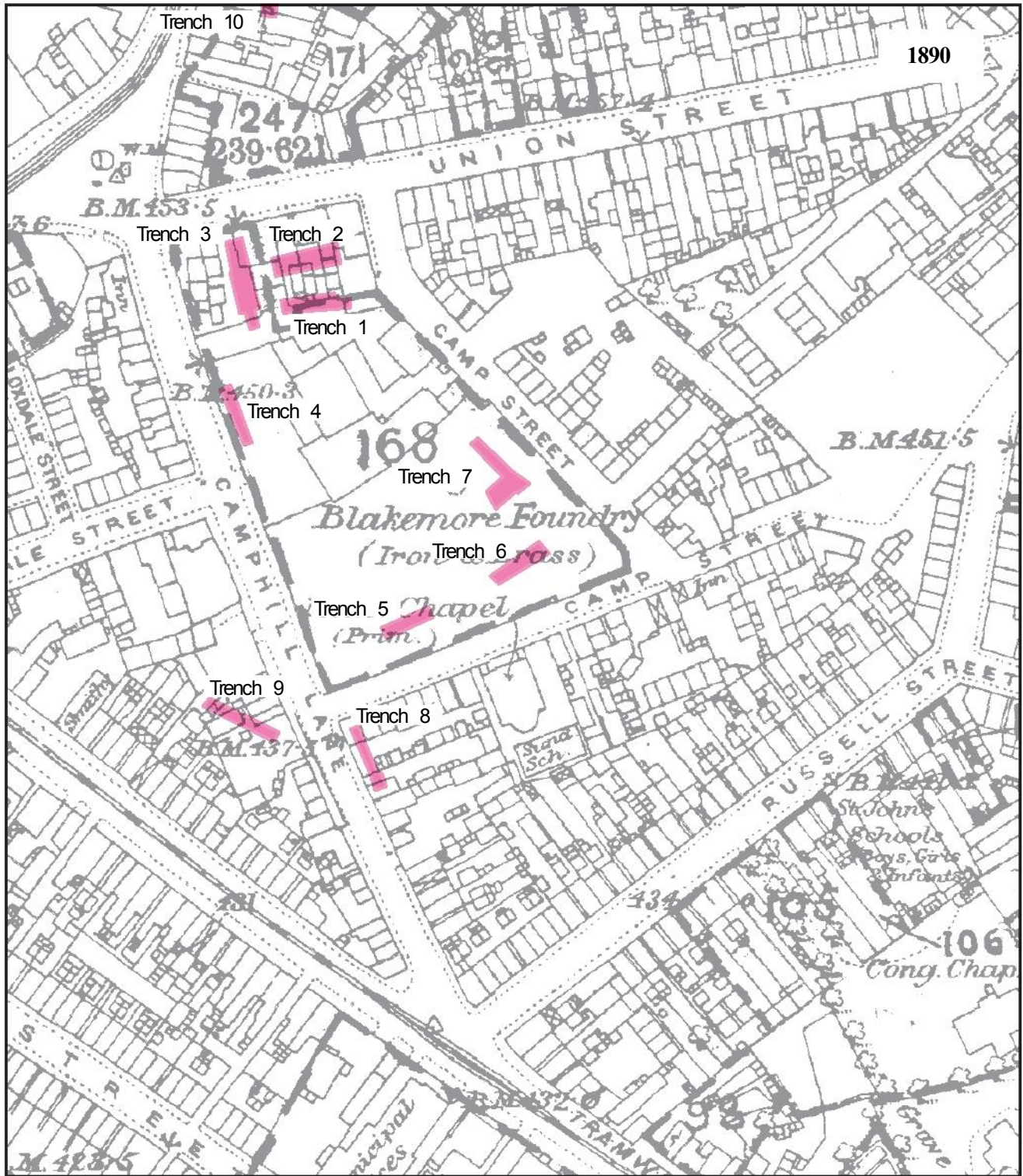


Fig.8



Plate 1



Plate 2



Plate 3



Plate 4



Plate 5