

PN 2127
PN 1625

birmingham archaeology

BLACKFRIARS, BATH LANE
LEICESTER

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



Project No. 2127
(Including PN 1625)

2007 and 2010

Blackfriars, Bath Lane

Leicester

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS

By
Samantha Paul AIFA
and Phil Mann

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Edited by/ Reviewed by: | <u>Name</u> S. Paul | <u>Position</u> Project Manager |
| Approved by: | A.Jones | Director |
| | Signature: | |
| Version: v0c | Version Date: 06.01.2011 | |
| File location: <i>P:\BArchinfo\03_Templates and logos\01_Reports\04_Evaluation\Evaluation report BY TRENCH v1.doc</i> | | |

for
Watkins Jones and Sons Ltd
Unit 2, Wellfield Business Park
Preston Brook
Runcorn
Cheshire
WA7 3FR

This report has been prepared by Birmingham Archaeology within the terms of the Contract with the Client. No part of this document may be reproduced without prior approval from Birmingham Archaeology.

Birmingham Archaeology
The University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT
tel: +44 (0)121 414 5513, fax: +44 (0)121 414 5516, email: bham-arch@bham.ac.uk
www.barch.bham.ac.uk/bufau

BLACKFRIARS BATH LANE, LEICESTER
Archaeological Evaluations, 2007 and 2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| <i>SUMMARY</i> | iv |
| 1. INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| 2. LOCATION AND GEOLOGY | 1 |
| 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND | 1 |
| 4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES | 3 |
| 5. METHODOLOGY | 3 |
| 6. RESULTS | 4 |
| 6.1. Introduction | 4 |
| 6.2. Subsoil (natural) | 4 |
| 6.3. Trench 1 (Fig. 3)..... | 5 |
| 6.4. Trench 2 (Southern Extent, Fig. 4 and 5)..... | 6 |
| 6.5. Trench 2, Sondages 1 and 2 | 6 |
| 6.6. Trench 2 (Northern Extent) | 7 |
| 6.7. Trench 3 (Fig. 6 and 7) | 8 |
| 6.8. Trench 4 (Fig. 8)..... | 10 |
| 6.9. Trench 5 (Fig. 9 and 10) | 10 |
| 6.10. Trench 6 (Fig. 11) | 13 |
| 6.11. Trench 7 (Fig. 12) | 14 |
| 6.12. Trench 8 (Fig. 13) | 14 |
| 6.13. Trench 9 (Fig. 14) | 15 |
| 6.14. Trench 10 (Fig. 15) | 16 |
| 6.15. Trench 11 (Fig. 16) | 17 |
| 6.16. Trench 12 (Fig. 17, Plate 14) | 17 |
| 7. THE FINDS | 19 |
| 7.1. The pre-medieval pottery (Trenches 1-7) by Jane Timby..... | 19 |
| 7.2. The pre-medieval pottery (Trenches 8-12) by Jane Timby | 22 |
| 7.3. The post-roman pottery (Trenches 8-12) by Stephanie Ratkai | 24 |
| 7.4. The animal bone (Trenches 1-7) by Matilda Holmes | 26 |
| 7.5. The animal bone (Trenches 8-12) by Matilda Holmes..... | 27 |
| 7.6. The Wood (Trenches 1-7) by Stephen J Allen | 28 |
| 7.7. The Glass (Trenches 1-7) by H.E.M. Cool | 30 |
| 7.8. The Worked Bone (Trenches 1-7) by Quita Mould | 31 |
| 7.9. Copper Alloy Small Finds (Trenches 1-7) by Dr. Roger White | 32 |
| 7.10. Copper Alloy Small Finds (Trenches 8-12) by Dr. Roger White | 33 |
| 7.11. Tile and Other Building Materials (Trenches 1-7) by Erica Macey-Bracken..... | 33 |
| 7.12. Other finds (Trenches 1-7) by Erica Macey-Bracken | 35 |
| 7.13. The Charred Plant Remains (Trenches 1-7) by Emma Tetlow | 36 |
| 8. INTERPRETATION | 38 |
| 8.1. Subsoil (natural) | 38 |
| 8.2. 1 st Century Deposits | 38 |
| 8.3. Rampart and Non-Occupational Deposits (Fig. 18) | 39 |
| 8.4. Occupational and Structural Deposits | 41 |

8.5. Late Saxon and Saxo-Norman Deposits42
8.6. Medieval Deposits42
9. DISCUSSION AND IMPLICATIONS43
10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS46
11. REFERENCES46

List of plates

- Plate 1: South facing section pit 1023, Trench 1
 Plate 2: Wall 2012/2013, Trench 2
 Plate 3: Sondage 1 looking east, 2066 in southeast corner
 Plate 4: Wall foundation 3033, Trench 3. Facing south
 Plate 5: Unexcavated surfaces and structural features, Trench 3
 Plate 6: North facing section showing the earliest excavated deposits within Trench 5, the alluvial derived rampart deposits, cesspit 5038 and feature 5051
 Plate 7: The base of cesspit 5046 containing square wicker basket 5049, looking south.
 Plate 8: Trench 6 looking east showing the camber on cobble surface 6011 and cut 6010
 Plate 9: Column Base 7010 sitting on concrete foundation 7011, looking northwest
 Plate 10: Trench 8, 8017 south facing section
 Plate 11: Trench 9, 9003 and 9005 south facing section
 Plate 12: Ditches 10003, 10005 and 10008 plan shot
 Plate 13: Ditch 11010, Trench 11
 Plate 14: Trench 12 plan shot, south facing
 Plate 15: Pits 12010, 12011 and 12015, north facing sections
 Plate 16: Well 12006, Trench 12 plan shot
 Plate 17: Pit 12022 east facing section, trench 12
 Plate 18: Pits 12019 and 12028 plan shot

List of figures

- Fig. 1: Site Map
 Fig. 2: Trench Locations
 Fig. 3: Trench 1 Plan and Section A
 Fig. 4: Trench 2 Plan and Section B and C
 Fig. 5: Trench 2 Section D
 Fig. 6: Trench 3 Plan
 Fig. 7: Trench 3 Section E and F
 Fig. 8: Trench 4 Plan and Section G
 Fig. 9: Trench 5 Plan
 Fig. 10: Trench 5 Section H
 Fig. 11: Trench 6 Plan and Sections I, J and K
 Fig. 12: Trench 7 Plan and Sections L and M
 Fig. 13: Trench 8 Plan and Section N
 Fig. 14: Trench 9 Plan and Sections O, P and Q
 Fig. 15: Trench 10 Plan and Sections R, S, T and U
 Fig. 16: Trench 11 Plan and Sections V and W
 Fig. 17: Trench 12 Plan and Sections X and Y
 Fig. 18: The Speculated Alignment of the Roman Ramparts and Defensive Ditches

List of appendices

- Appendix 1: WSI (Removed)

Blackfriars Bath Lane, Leicester

Archaeological Evaluations, 2007 and 2010

SUMMARY

Birmingham Archaeology was commissioned by Watkin Jones to undertake a programme of trial trenching ahead of a residential development at Blackfriars Bath Lane, Leicester (NGR SK 550046). The site work was undertaken in two main stages with the first taking place between July and September 2007 in respect of an apartment focused scheme. The second phase took place in October 2010 in respect of a proposed residential scheme to include student accommodation and extra care living.

The results of the evaluation indicate that a significant length of the Roman defences cross the north-west corner of the development site, including the earthen rampart and associated ditches, and the later addition of the city wall into the top of the rampart. It is also possible that evidence of the Iron Age defences or the early Roman fort may be preserved below the main earthen rampart deposits. Although it is clear that extensive robbing and demolition of these features took place during post Roman periods, there is also evidence to suggest the re-use of the defences by the medieval occupants of the city.

Within the central portion of the site, evidence of 2m deep stratified Roman deposits including several phases of building was recorded within Trench 2, while the eastern end of Trench 3 contained evidence for timber frame structures and stratified archaeological deposits reaching a depth of 3m below the present ground surface. Towards the southern end of the site Trench 10 also revealed evidence of structures with the presence of a number of beam slots. The most significant structural evidence uncovered was within Trench 7, where a large stone column base remained intact providing evidence of an extremely substantial and important building with at least two distinct phases of use.

Trench 6 contained evidence for the east-west aligned Roman Road thought to pass through the area, however later evaluation of this area in Trenches 9 and 10 showed no further preservation of this road system to the west.

Evidence for 4th century activity at Leicester is sparse, however the significant finds include a rare Cross Bow broach and two bone pins dating to the 4 century, as well as numerous features and finds, including roman coins, located in Trench 12 to the northeast of the site. These finds indicate that the site at Bath Lane may provide new evidence of late Roman activity within Leicester and therefore may have wider significance to the city.

The excavation also revealed a significant area of medieval industrial features on the banks of the River Soar in the form of two large square pits which contained waterlogged timbers, and large probable cess pits in the area of Trench 8.

It is clear that deeply stratified archaeological remains dating from the pre/early-Roman period through to the medieval period are present within the site. The majority of the archaeological deposits, especially those within the central and eastern portion of the site are well preserved below a 0.5-0.8m deep deposit of dark soils and major modern truncation appears minimal. Within the southern portion of the site, there appeared to be a greater degree of truncation than is seen in

other areas, although stratified archaeological deposits were present in all trenches at a similar level to the rest of the site. It is likely that these deposits are present across the entire development area and are therefore vulnerable to any ground penetrating works.

The site therefore has the potential to provide detailed information on the Iron Age and Romano-British development of Leicester. As many of the medieval deposits are waterlogged the environmental potential is considered to be high and the results of any further work are expected to be of regional and national importance.

Blackfriars, Bath Lane, Leicester

Archaeological Evaluations, 2007 and 2010

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1. Birmingham Archaeology was commissioned in 2007, and again in 2010, by Watkin Jones to undertake a programme of trial trenching ahead of a residential/retail development at Blackfriars Bath Lane, Leicester (Planning Application Number OPP 20061724). The number and position of trenches in 2007 were restricted by the location of industrial buildings. Following their demolition, Watkins Jones commissioned Birmingham Archaeology to evaluate the remaining areas of the Blackfriars development site in 2010.
- 1.1.2. This report outlines the results of a field evaluation carried out between July 5th to August 1st (trenches 1-4), and August 24th to September 7th 2007 (trenches 5-7) and during October 2010 (trenches 8-12), and has been prepared in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (IFA 2001)
- 1.1.3. The evaluation conformed to a brief prepared by Leicester City Council and Written Schemes of Investigation (Birmingham Archaeology 2007 and 2010, Appendix 1) which was approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to implementation in accordance with guidelines laid down in Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5): Planning for the Historic Environment (DCLG 2010).

2. LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1.1. The site is located at Bath lane, situated on the western edge of the historic town core of Leicester (Fig. 1) and is centred on NGR SK 550046. The site is bounded by All Saints Road to the north, Bath Lane to the west, Jarvis Street to the east, and Blackfriars Street to the east and south. Alexander Street dissects the site on an east-west alignment (Fig. 2). The canalised River Soar is located approximately 70m west of the site, with the former Great Central railway Station to the east.
- 2.1.2. The site covers an area of 1.5 hectares and is at a height of approximately 55.75m AOD. The underlying geology is mapped as Mercian Mudstone overlain by river terrace sands and gravels (BGS map sheet 156).
- 2.1.3. The site was previously characterised by large industrial units and office buildings which have now been demolished. The current character of the site is hard standing and crushed rubble.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1.1. The detailed archaeological and historical background of the site and its immediate environs is highlighted in several archaeological desk-based assessments, including Meek (2002 and 2005) and JSAC (2003). A short summary will be given here.
- 3.1.2. The proposed development site is located in an area of high archaeological potential. Late Iron Age occupation has been identified on the eastern banks of the

River Soar and has been suggested by finds spots along Bath Lane (JSAC 2003, Priest 2005). Fine wares found in the area have included imported wares from Italy, Spain and France, which suggests that Iron Age settlement in Leicester is likely to have been high status. This also indicates that the settlement in Leicester had trade links with the Roman Empire. During recent excavations at the nearby Merlin Works site on Bath Lane (Gnanaratnam and Meek 2003) a fragment from an Iron Age coin mould was recovered, suggesting that the Iron Age settlement was important enough to mint coins.

- 3.1.3. Following the Roman Conquest of south-eastern Britain in AD46 the early Roman settlement at Leicester was founded on the eastern bank of the Soar. The buildings of the early town seem to have been predominantly timber, with masonry buildings becoming more popular in the mid to late 2nd century along with a programme of major public works which saw a slightly different grid alignment to the earlier street plan of the 1st century. It is possible that part of the 2nd and 3rd century Roman road system was aligned across the site, approximately northwest-southeast, with an intersection towards the southern end of the site (Fig. 2). Evidence for 4th century activity within the town is sparse, and may be due to either truncation or a genuine absence of occupation.
- 3.1.4. The site therefore has the potential to produce archaeological remains dating from the Iron Age and the earliest phases of Roman occupation through to the formalised Roman town layout of the 2nd and 3rd centuries.
- 3.1.5. The site is situated approximately 50m east of the projected line of the Roman and medieval town defences. Several evaluations and excavations to the immediate west of the site identified features associated with the defence of the town, including wall and rampart structures at Merlin Works (Priest 2005) and Westbridge Wharf (Cooper 2004), wall fragments at Friars Mill (Jones 2003), and other sightings of the wall defences during development throughout the 1950s and 1960s.
- 3.1.6. The SMR highlights a number of finds within the vicinity of the site that suggest the presence of high status Roman buildings. Several fine mosaics, including the 'Blackfriars Mosaic', have been identified in the locality (this particular mosaic was recovered during the construction of the Great Central Railway, immediately east of this site, in the 1880s). Romano-British structural remains have been identified during several archaeological projects adjacent to Bath Lane, to the immediate west of this site. These excavations produced evidence for high-status buildings, with mosaic floors, hypocaust systems and painted wall plaster.
- 3.1.7. Excavations within the locality have suggested the presence of Roman terracing on the western side of the town, close to the river. Sites within the Bath Lane area have produced good evidence to suggest at least three terraces, the lowest adjacent to the town defences, a second terrace 2m higher on the eastern side of Bath Lane, and a third terrace, again 2m higher, between Bath lane and Talbot Lane below Jewry wall (Meek 2002). This would suggest that the site is located on the second terrace or that the edge of the second terrace may lie within the site.
- 3.1.8. There is little evidence for occupation in the early part of the medieval period in the area. Deeds show that properties were present along the western side of the town during the later medieval/early post medieval periods. The Merlin Works site to the south west produced evidence for medieval leather working, although these finds were not associated with clear medieval structural remains (Gnanaratnam and Meek 2003). The site of a Dominican Friary (Blackfriars) is located to the immediate north

of the site on All Saints Road, although recent excavations to the west of Bath Lane suggest that the Blackfriars perimeter wall may have been located as far south as Blackfriars Street.

- 3.1.9. The post-medieval period was dominated by the canalisation of the River Soar (to the west of the site) and the construction of the Great Central Railway Station (to the east). Documentary evidence, and excavations on the east bank of the river, all indicate this area was centred on the tanning industry. From the 19th century onwards, the area has been subjected to intense development of industrial units, landscaped yet further throughout the 20th century.

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1.1. The principal aim of the evaluation was to determine the character, state of preservation and the potential significance of any buried remains.
- 4.1.2. More specific aims were to:
- Establish the level of survival of any structures and deposits relating to roadside Roman settlement.
 - Evaluate the form, function, status, construction, and phasing of any Roman structures identified at the site.
 - Establish level of post-Roman occupation of the site.
 - Identify any remains relating to Blackfriars Friary.
 - Investigate the potential for the site to contribute to the understanding of the historic development of this part of Leicester.
 - Use the information obtained to enable an appropriate mitigation strategy to be devised prior to groundworks.

5. METHODOLOGY

- 5.1.1. The proposed development area covers approximately 1.5 hectares. In total, twelve trenches were excavated across the site totalling 620m², which provides for a sample of approximately 5% of the total area (Fig. 2). The evaluation was undertaken in two phases with Phase 1 taking place between July 5th to August 1st 2007 (Trenches 1 to 4) and August 24th to September 7th 2007 (Trenches 5, 6 and 7), and Phase 2 taking place during October 2010 (Trenches 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12).
- 5.1.2. Trenches 1 to 4 were located between the standing industrial units and workshops and away from buildings to facilitate deep excavation. Trench 5 lay at the northern extent of the site, and Trenches 6 and 7 were located within the existing building at the southern extent of the site. Trenches 8 to 12 were excavated after the demolition of the standing buildings on the site, and were located over previously inaccessible areas. Where required, the trenches were stepped to ensure safe working conditions. All concrete and tarmac surfaces 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 or the subsoil. Subsequent cleaning and excavation was by hand.

- 5.1.3. All stratigraphic sequences were recorded, even where no archaeology was present. Trenches were planned at a scale of 1:20 and 1:50, and sections were drawn through all cut features and significant vertical stratigraphy at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 and 1:50. 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 film, colour slide and digital photography.
- 5.1.4. Once all features and stratigraphy had been fully recorded a mechanical excavator was used to establish the level of the natural deposits within Trenches 1 to 5, and in Trench 11. These test sondages were excavated below a safe working depth and so recording of the deposits encountered was undertaken from outside the trench.
- 5.1.5. Auguring was performed within trenches 5, 6 and 7 in an attempt to establish the depth at which natural deposits were present across the site. In some areas this also allowed a rudimentary description of further stratigraphy below the maximum excavated depth. Boring was terminated where obstacles (stones etc) prevented further investigation, and despite exceeding 4.5m in some areas, did not encounter natural materials.
- 5.1.6. Twenty litre soil samples were taken from datable 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.
- 5.1.7. The full site archive includes all artefactual and ecofactual remains recovered from the site. A 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 Leicester City museum Service subject to permission from the landowner in accordance with the Museum Service's terms and conditions.

6. RESULTS

6.1. Introduction

- 6.1.1. The following section is arranged in trench order and both feature (cut) and context numbers are highlighted in bold, with full details available in the project archive. A representative selection of trench plans and sections are illustrated.

6.2. Subsoil (natural)

- 6.2.1. Within the central portion of the site, the natural subsoil was reached at a height of around 52.79m to 53m AOD (2.75m to 3m below the present ground surface) within Trenches 2 and 3. This consisted of pale yellow orange sands overlying river terrace gravels. Despite auguring to a depth of 4.5m below the current ground surface, natural deposits were not encountered at the northern extent of the site within Trench 5. Natural deposits were also not encountered within Trenches 6 and 7. Within the areas of Trenches 8-10, the natural subsoil was located at a depth of

52.99-53.22m AOD, while the natural subsoil was reached at 54.11m AOD within Trench 11, and 52.44m AOD within Trench 12.

6.3. Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

6.3.1. The natural subsoil was not reached in trench 1 due to the depth of overlying deposits.

6.3.2. The earliest deposit was a layer of light brown silty clay with flecks of charcoal (**1025**). This deposit was recorded as having a depth of 0.7m though it continued below the base of the trench. Deposit **1025** was overlain by a 0.6m deep layer of light orange silty sand and gravel (**1020**) that contained very little in the way of inclusions and may have been re-deposited natural. A deposit of brown/grey/green silty clay (**1021**, not evident in section) lay against, or may be a lens within **1020**. Deposit **1021** had a width of 0.3m and a depth of 0.25m and contained flecks of charcoal and small pebbles.

6.3.3. Truncating both **1020** and **1021** was clay lined pit **1023** (Plate 1), which had minimum width of 1.4m and depth of 1.2m. The top of this feature had been heavily disturbed by the modern sewer trench (**1006**) and therefore the shape in plan was indiscernible. The side of the pit visible in section (Fig. 3, Section A, Plate 1) sloped at an angle of roughly 45 degrees and was lined with layer of clean green clay (**1013**), 0.1m thick. The lowest recorded fill of pit **1023** was dark brown silty clay (**1022**), which was overlain by a very dark brown/black fine sandy silt **1014**. Fill **1014** contained a single sherd of 1st/2nd century pottery and a high percentage of charcoal and may have been organic in origin. The upper fill of the clay lined pit **1023** comprised a mid brown silty clay (**1024**) with inclusions of small pebbles, flint pieces and oyster shells throughout.

6.3.4. Several unexcavated deposits (**1004**, **1007**, **1008**, **1009**, **1010**) were recorded in plan and section on the southern side of the cut for the sewer (**1006**). Orange brown sandy silt deposit **1007** lay at the eastern end of the trench and measured 1.0 by 0.6m. Mid brown silty clay **1010** lying towards the centre of the trench, contained Roman pottery, and appeared to be overlain by a mid orange brown sandy silt **1009**. Deposit **1009** was covered by a deposit of mid brown/orange silty gravel (**1008**) and an orange flecked green clay with inclusions of rubble, pebbles and medieval pottery (**1004**). These deposits, and the upper fill of clay lined pit **1023** were all sealed by a layer of dark brown black silty clay (**1003**), 0.8m in depth. This deposit contained occasional stones and pieces of building debris and appeared to overlay the Roman and medieval deposits within Trench 1 (Fig. 3, Section A).

6.3.5. Layer **1003** was cut by the sewer trench with a width of 1.2m and near vertical sides (**1006**) truncated, with a minimum length of 10m. The fill (**1005**) was removed by machine to a depth of 3.1m below the present ground surface where the presence of the sewer pipe halted excavations. The fill of the sewer trench was a mixed deposit (**1005**) containing the re-deposited Roman layers through which trench **1006** had been dug along with 19th century pottery. Also truncating layer **1003** was modern service trench cut **1018** and brick culvert **1019** (Fig 3).

6.3.6. The service trenches were sealed by a 0.3m thick rubble deposit (**1002**) which covered the whole trench (Fig. 3, Section A). **1002** probably represented a consolidation deposit for the overlying cobble yard surface (**1001**). The cobble yard was overlain by the two contemporary surfaces of concrete (**1015**) and tarmac (**1000**) which sealed Trench 1.

6.4. Trench 2 (Southern Extent, Fig. 4 and 5)

- 6.4.1. The portion of the trench to the south of the electricity cable was characterised by a series of possible surfaces and wall foundations (Fig. 4). Compacted surface **2016** was made of mottled red brown gritty clay containing crushed mortar, brick fragments and 2nd century pottery. Into this surface was laid wall foundations **2012/2013** and **2018**. Foundation **2012/2013** was 0.6m wide and was aligned roughly north-south (Plate 2). Some of the stone had been robbed out in places but the edges were clearly defined and the southern end was finished with two faced stone blocks suggesting that the wall did not continue beyond this point (Plate 2). Several sherds of 2nd-3rd century pottery were found within the backfill of wall **2012/2013**.
- 6.4.2. Wall foundation **2018** also had a width of 0.6m and ran at right angles to **2012/2013**, though the majority of the stone had been robbed the edges were still largely visible. The pottery recovered from the backfill over wall **2018** was both Roman and medieval in date, possibly indicating the time at which the wall was robbed. To the north of walls **2012/2013** and **2018** lay stone dumps **2017** and **2019** which contained late 2nd century pottery. Truncating the top of the rubble deposits **2017** and **2019**, and wall foundation **2018**, was pit **2024** which measured 1.9m by 0.5m and had a depth of 0.2m. The feature contained 4th century pottery and dark grey brown silty clay (**2023**).
- 6.4.3. At the southern end of wall **2012/2103** lay a compacted mortar surface **2015** which contained rubble pieces, Roman pot and some stone tesserae. This surface was cut by a circular posthole which had a diameter of 0.4m and a depth of 0.2m (**2011**). The fill of the posthole was a dark grey brown sandy silt containing small stones and 2nd century Roman pottery (**2010**).

6.5. Trench 2, Sondages 1 and 2

- 6.5.1. To provide a window into the lower stratigraphy to the north of the electricity cable, and to establish the level of the natural gravels, two sondages were excavated by machine and the deposits were recorded in section (Fig. 4, Section B). Sondage 1 was located towards the centre of the trench (Plate 3), north of the electricity cable, and Sondage 2 at the northern end of the trench (Fig. 4).
- 6.5.2. The natural yellow/orange gravel (**2068**) was reached at 52.95m AOD (2.44m below the present ground surface) within Sondage 1 (Fig. 4, Section B), and at 53m AOD (2.35m below the present ground surface) within Sondage 2. In both cases the natural was only present on the eastern side of the sondage, and appeared to slope down to the west.
- 6.5.3. The lowest deposit recorded within Sondage 1 was a mid brown soft silty clay (**2063**,) that had a depth of 0.9m before continuing below the base of the trench (Fig. 4, Section B). The lower deposit within Sondage 2 was a very similar mid brown silty clay (**2069**, not illustrated) and both contained inclusions of charcoal, rubble and 2nd century pottery. Both **2063** and **2069** lay up against a 45° slope of natural gravels on the eastern side of the sondages.
- 6.5.4. At the base of Sondage 1, three thin layers were seen in section that were probably the lower fills of a cut (Plate 3). The lower of the three, a black silty clay (**2067**), was charcoal rich. The central layer was a green grey gritty clay (**2066**) that may have been cess derived. The upper of the three layers was a black deposit (**2065**)

that was almost entirely composed of degraded organic matter and contained 2nd+ century pottery.

- 6.5.5. Overlying **2063**, was a 0.2m thick layer of light brown clean clay (**2064**) with very little in the way of inclusions (Fig. 4, Section B). This deposit was only seen within the western half of Sondage 1 though it did appear purposefully laid and may represent a man made surface. Lying above possible surface **2064** was a thin dirty grey/brown layer (**2062**) containing crushed rubble, mortar, charcoal and metal fragments, and small pieces of 2nd century Roman pottery. This layer was highly compacted and may represent a trample deposit related to the use of possible clay surface **2064**. Three other layers (**2047**, **2044** and **2033**) were also recorded as having similar characteristics to **2064** and may in fact be the same deposit. This possible trample deposit was slightly overlain on its eastern edge by a 0.3m thick, 1.2m wide deposit of dirty white/yellow crushed mortar and sandstone (**2043**). Although no definable cut was visible during machining this deposit did appear on a roughly north-south alignment across the eastern side of Sondage 1 (Fig. 4, Section B). Deposit **2043** also contained large pieces of sandstone.
- 6.5.6. Overlying these layers was a 0.4m thick, homogenous mid brown silty clay (**2042**) that contained charcoal flecks and building debris throughout (Fig. 4, Section B). This deposit also contained late 2nd century pottery and several fired clay and stone tesserae. Layer **2042** was overlain by two deposits. The first, a mid brown silty clay (**2045/2029/2050**) contained a high proportion of degraded mortar and late 2nd century pottery, and a dark brown silty loam (**2031**) that may have lay within a shallow undefined cut (**2032**).
- 6.5.7. A deposit of clean yellow/orange sand (**2026**) was seen in plan (Fig. 4) overlying **2045**, followed by a thin layer of black silty sand containing late 2nd century pot (**2025**). These deposits were truncated by a very shallow, 1.2m wide linear feature on a roughly north-south alignment (**2041**). The lower fill of **2041** was a mixed grey brown sandy silt (**2027**) comprising mainly of demolition debris and containing 3rd-4th century pottery. Pressed into the top of this fill, surviving only at the southern end of the feature, was a layer of sandstone, slate and broken tile pieces (**2028**). It is possible that this layer originally continued the length of **2041**.
- 6.6. **Trench 2 (Northern Extent)**
- 6.6.1. The deposits at the northern end of Trench 2 were markedly different to the complicated stratigraphy in the central portion. The main deposit of mid orange grey, mottled brown silt (**2036**, Fig. 4) lay directly over deposit **2069** seen in the base of Sondage 2. Silt **2036** was a substantial deposit measuring 1.05m in depth and contained occasional inclusions of charcoal, rubble and 2nd century pottery. Although no relationship was ascertained with the layers to the south, **2036** was remarkably similar to a substantial deposit (**3015**) seen in plan in Trench 3.
- 6.6.2. The stratigraphic relationships of the deposits and layers that overlay silt **2036** had been lost due to modern disturbance, though a few were discernable as discreet, undated features. Mottled brown/orange silty clay (**2061**) and dark brown sandy silty (**2060**) may represent the fill of a large unexcavated pit at the northern extent of Trench 2 (Fig. 4). Mixed dark brown silty clay **2058** contained pebbles and mortar and appeared to fill an unexcavated small rectangular cut. Dark brown grey silty clay **2059** may well have represented the fill of an unexcavated posthole.
- 6.6.3. Sealing all the Roman features and deposits both to the north and south of the electricity cable was a 0.4m thick homogenous mid brown silty clay containing

some rubble fragments (**2006**, Fig. 5). Layer **2006** was truncated by a 2.4m wide ditch (**2035/2021**). The ditch has an irregular profile (Fig. 4, Section C) with the west edge being almost vertical and the east edge sloping gradually and unevenly to a base which lay to the west side of the feature. The sides of the ditch appeared to have been reinforced with a mortar lining (**2048** and **2049**, Fig. 4 & Fig 5, Section D). The fill of the ditch, mid brown grey silty clay (**2008/2022**), contained occasional charcoal flecks and 55 sherds of pottery that dated the feature to the medieval period. A rectangular cut (**2038**) containing redeposited roman pottery and natural gravel (**2037**) truncated the top of the ditch; however the character of this feature could not be defined. Toward the centre of Trench 2, a 0.3m thick deposit of degraded mortar and building debris (**2005**) overlay **2006** (Fig. 5, Section D).

6.6.4. The medieval ditch fill (**2008/2022**) was sealed by a substantial modern deposit of rubble and hard core (**2002**). Truncating this deposit was a modern service trench (**2040**, containing **2004** and **2003**) and a red brick wall foundation (**2007**). Pale grey gravel **2001** provided a base for concrete surface **2034** and the tarmac **2000** which sealed the whole trench (Fig. 5, Section D).

6.7. Trench 3 (Fig. 6 and 7)

6.7.1. The western end of trench 3 contained the remains of a pub cellar and no archaeological recording took place within this feature. The natural yellow orange gravels (**3045**) were encountered at a depth of 52.92m AOD (2.75m below the present ground surface) at the east end of the trench and at 52.79m AOD (3.0m below the present ground surface) towards the west end of the trench.

6.7.2. At the east end of the trench, the earliest deposits were encountered following the removal of the floor of cellar **3031** by machine and remained unexcavated due to the depth of the trench. They were numbered and described through observation alone. Lying directly above the natural was green grey silty clay (**3044**) which contained charcoal flecks and Roman pottery. This deposit appeared to lie within a cut (not illustrated) therefore possibly representing pit fill, though lack of excavation means this could not be confirmed. Deposit **3044** was overlain by a dark brown sandy clay (**3043**) followed by a light orange brown sandy gravel (**3037**). This was overlain by mixed yellow brown sandy silt (**3036**) which contained a high proportion of degraded mortar indicating the location of a possible surface (Fig. 7, Section E).

6.7.3. Mortar surface **3036** was truncated by a north south aligned feature aligned perpendicular to the trench with a width of 2.5m and a minimum length of 2m (**3035**, Fig. 6 and Plate 4). The base of **3035** was lined with a 0.05m thick layer of clean red clay which provided a solid foundation for the overlying deposit of slate and sandstone (**3033**). Masonry fill **3033** appeared to represent the base of a large structural feature with a layer of slate being overlain by blocks of sandstone (Plate 4). Only a small proportion of **3033** remained, one of the larger remaining blocks measured 0.6m by 0.5m and it is possible that this feature originally contained more similar sized pieces of sandstone (Plate 4). No bonding material was visible on any of the stonework though if all that remained of **3033** was the lower foundation layers it is possible that the upper courses may well have been bonded.

6.7.4. Lying directly over and within the sandstone foundation blocks was a dark blackish brown sandy silt containing gravel and flecks of mortar throughout (**3032**, Fig. 7, Section E). This was overlain by grey silty clay (**3034**) which contained large pieces of slate, possibly originating from the demolition of wall **3033**. No robber cut to

access wall **3033** could be seen through deposits **3032** and **3034**, indicating that they accumulated after the wall had been demolished or gone out of use.

- 6.7.5. Towards the western end of the trench, the earliest deposit encountered was a light brown sandy gravel (**3046**) that lay directly over the natural (Fig. 7, Section E). This was overlain by a 0.2m thick layer of dark brown/ black fine silty loam (**3047**) that contained large quantities of charcoal and organic matter (Fig. 6 & Fig. 7, Section E). The overlying 0.3m thick deposit of grey brown silt (**3010**) was also very fine in nature and contained small concentrated areas of charcoal flecking and 2nd century pottery. Towards the centre of the trench was a grey brown silt deposit (**3039**) that was only seen in section, though may well be the equivalent of **3010**.
- 6.7.6. The silt deposits were overlain by mid orange yellow gravel (**3011**) then pale grey gravel **3038**. These gravel deposits appeared to truncate the silts and may have lain within a cut though as they were not excavated this was not conclusively proven (Fig. 7, Section E). Overlying the gravel deposits was a 0.6m thick layer of mid brown silty clay (**3008**) containing rubble, mortar, medieval pottery and a lens of clean orange sand (**3009**). Layer **3008** appeared to signify the end of the Roman deposits at the western end of the trench and may be equivalent to deposit **3034** at the eastern end of Trench 3. Deposit **3008** was overlain by a sequence of thin undated rubble deposits (**3007**, **3006**, **3005** and **3004**) that probably represent post-medieval levelling layers.
- 6.7.7. The central portion of the trench was dominated by a substantial deposit of mid orange grey brown mottled silt (**3015**) containing the occasional piece of rubble or mortar (Fig. 6). This deposit sloped slightly down to the west and was similar enough to deposit **2036** within Trench 2 to assume that they were one and the same.
- 6.7.8. At the eastern end of silt **3015** (and to the west of a modern service trench) lay a collection of possible surfaces and structural features (**3022**, **3023**, **3024**, **3025**, **3026**, **3027**, **3028**, **3029**, and **3019**) that appeared to overlay **3015** (Plate 5), though this was never proven by excavation (Fig. 6). A surface of clean orange sand with slate inclusions (**3022**) appeared to have been cut by a possible posthole containing dark brown silty clay (**3028**) and a beam slot containing a mid brown silty sand (**3023**). Other unexcavated deposits associated with surface **3022** included compacted mortar rich deposits (**3024**, **3025**, **3026** and **3027**), a dark brown silty clay (**3029**), and a light brown silty sand (**3019**) that appeared to be the fill of a north south aligned feature. Truncating **3019** was a posthole with near vertical sides and a minimum depth of 0.4m (**3020**). This feature contained a mid brown silty clay (**3021**) with pieces of slate lining the upper edge of the feature, indicating the presence of post packing. Although these features and deposits were not fully excavated, they appeared structural in nature.
- 6.7.9. Truncating the fill (**3021**) of posthole **3020** was a north south aligned ditch with vertical edges and a flat base (**3017**, Fig. 6). The ditch had a width of 0.8m, a depth of 0.6m and had a minimum length within the trench of 2m (Fig. 7, Section F). Ditch **3017** contained a dark grey brown silty loam with medieval pottery inclusions (**3018**), and its upper edges appeared to have been lined with a compacted mortar deposit (**3016**).
- 6.7.10. Overlying all the previously discussed deposits and features in Trench 3 was a 0.4-0.6m thick layer of post medieval brick rubble (**3003**, Fig. 7, Section E). Truncating this deposit was a selection of modern features including the cellar (**3031**) at the eastern end of the trench (Fig. 6), a pit (**3014**) containing redeposited tarmac

(**3013**) and bricks (**3012**) and a service trench (**3041**) that was aligned north south across the Trench 3 with a width of 2m and a minimum depth of 2m. Overlying pit **3014** at the western end of the trench was concrete surface **3002**. This was covered by a layer of mid grey gravelly (**3001**) which provided the foundation for the tarmac surface (**3000**) that sealed Trench 3 (Fig. 7, Section E).

6.8. Trench 4 (Fig. 8)

- 6.8.1. The natural yellow orange gravels (**4010**) in trench 4 were present at 2.5m below the present ground surface within the sondage on the east side of the trench.
- 6.8.2. The natural was overlain by a 0.15m thick layer of crushed brick rubble, mortar and mid brown silty clay (**4009**, Fig. 8, Section G). This layer may represent a demolition deposit though it appeared compact in nature and could have easily been used as a surface. This possible surface was overlain by grey brown sandy silt (**4009**) which appeared to be water bourn in nature. Sitting above **4009** was a 0.1m thick layer of crushed and degraded mortar containing medieval pottery, which butted a row of sandstone blocks (**4006**). A 2m length of the sandstone blocks was recorded, appearing to provide an edge to the motor deposit, and it is very likely that they continued, along with mortar deposit **4007**, for a greater distance (Fig. 8)
- 6.8.3. Overlying **4006** and **4007** was a 0.8m thick deposit of dark grey brown, very silty clay (**4005**) which also contained medieval pottery. This was covered by a 0.5m thick layer of dark brown black silt (**4004**) which contained the occasional piece of brick rubble and post medieval pottery (Fig. 8).
- 6.8.4. Silty deposit **4004** was overlain by a 0.3m thick levelling layer of brown orange silty sand (**4003**) which was in turn overlain by 0.25-0.05m thick deposit of modern brick rubble (**4002**). Dark brown sandy silt **4001** provided the levelling course for the tarmac surface (**4000**) which sealed Trench 4 (Fig. 8, Section G).

6.9. Trench 5 (Fig. 9 and 10)

- 6.9.1. The earliest deposits within Trench 5 (**5058** and **5057**, Fig. 10, Section H and Plate 6) contained no dateable artefacts, though despite their relatively clean appearance, these deposits cannot be considered to represent the natural level, since auguring through **5057** demonstrated the presence of archaeological material at significantly greater depths. Trench 5 was excavated by machine to a depth of 3.80m below current ground surface, and boring using a hand auger proceeded to a depth of 4.70m (Plate 6). A reddish sandy-clay was encountered directly below deposit **5057**, and was present until investigation was terminated at 4.70m. Natural deposits were apparently not encountered, as a large charcoal fragment was recovered from the basal portion of the borehole.
- 6.9.2. The earliest machine excavated deposit was clean blue clay (**5058**) visible sporadically in the south section with a thickness in excess of 0.5m. Deposit **5058** was overlain by pale grey, orange flecked clay (**5057**), 8m+ in length and 0.5m in thickness. Layer **5057** was in turn sealed by a pale grey spotted clay with charcoal flecking (**5043**), which had a minimum length of 0.8m, a thickness of 0.14m and contained Roman pottery (Fig. 10, Section H and Plate 6).
- 6.9.3. Also present at this level was a bowl-shaped cut (**5051**), possibly aligned north-south across the trench, with its base at 3.50m below the current ground surface

- (Fig. 10, section H and Plate 6). The lower fill of **5051** was a mid brown gritty clay (**5044**) which was overlain by an orange gravel sand (**5061**). This feature was truncated completely in plan by a later medieval cess pit (**5038**) and therefore the original stratigraphic relationships of pit **5051** could not be confirmed. The lower fill (**5044**) did however contain a large sherd of 1st century pottery.
- 6.9.4. Deposit **5043** was overlain by several more dirty, alluvial derived deposits (Fig. 10, Section H). A dirty-brown silty clay (**5056**), sealed **5043** to the east and **5057** to the west. A series of silty-clays (**5055**, **5042**, and **5054**, respectively) each of maximum thickness of 0.4m, possibly represent re-deposited alluvial materials (Plate 6). Deposit **5042** contained 2nd-3rd century pottery and was sealed by a further silty-clay deposit across 7m of the eastern area of Trench 5, (**5009**) which had a thickness of 0.5m and contained 2nd century Romano pottery.
- 6.9.5. Layer **5009** was cut by a stepped bowl-shaped cut for a possible large post-hole (**5031**, Fig. 9). The primary fill of which was a clayey-silt containing charcoal fragments (**5030**) and was densely packed with large sub-angular stone, some of which may have been re-used from a prior structure. Deposit **5009** was sealed by two layers, silty-clays **5008** and **5007** (containing 2nd century pottery), with a further small post-hole (**5040**) cut into **5007**. This was a shallow, bowl-shaped cut, circular in plan and 30cm in diameter, which was filled with dark brown-grey silty clay (**5039**) with occasional pebbles and flecks of mortar. A possible beam slot (**5062**) lay to the south of posthole **5040**. To the east of these features was gritty clay with charcoal and mortar (**5006**) which may represent a Romano-British make-up or occupation layer. It should be noted that due to truncation by two cesspits and post-medieval levelling the precise relationship of these deposits to other materials is ambiguous.
- 6.9.6. Aligned roughly north-south across the trench was a large irregular cut (**5059**) which appeared to truncate the alluvial derived deposits and had its base at the upper extent of **5057** (Fig. 10, Section H). The cut sloped at an angle of 45°, becoming almost vertical towards its base. Within this base of this cut was a rough surface of stonework and mortar (**5062**, Figure 9), composed of sub-angular pieces of sandstone (<0.15m diameter) and the local Swithland slate, and had a width of 0.5m and a thickness of 0.15m (Plate 7). Overlying this was a waterlogged green silty-clay (**5050**) containing large rough-hewn sandstone fragments, preserved timber boards (0.40 x 0.15 x 0.03m), and some plant material.
- 6.9.7. Deposit **5050** was sealed by compacted mortar and stones deposit (**5018**), with a maximum thickness of 0.4m (Fig 10, Section H). This deposit was overlain in turn by a slumped dark-brown sandy demolition layer, containing frequent mortar inclusions and sandstone fragments (**5016**). **5016** was overlain in two separate areas by similar yellow-brown mortar-rich sandy-silts, (**5035** and **5017** respectively).
- 6.9.8. Three unexcavated deposits are located at the western end of Trench 5 (**5019**, **5020**, **5021**, Figs. 9 and 10, section H). Deposit **5021** was mid-brown silty clay containing charcoal and mortar flecking, and had a visible width of 5m, a length in excess of 2m, and thickness of 0.6m. Deposit **5021** contained 12th-14th century pottery and was sealed by a thin pale brown silt-clay with grey patches (**5020**), which had a length of 2.5m+, a width of 4.5m+ and a thickness of 0.1m. This was overlain by mid-brown silty clay loam with flecks of mortar (**5019**), in excess of 2.5m and 7m in length and width respectively, and was 0.5m thick. This deposit contained Roman pottery, presumably re-deposited, and had an interface with **5018** at its eastern edge.

- 6.9.9. Initial medieval activity is associated with the north-western of two large, square pits (**5046**) which truncated deposit **5007** (Fig. 9). The base of the cut was not visible, extending beyond the excavated depth in this area of the trench. Pit **5046** was a square, near-vertical cut of 1.6 by 2.3m in plan, with clearly defined corners. The visible depth of the cut was 2m, with the basal visible extent at 3.20m below current ground surface. The lowest visible fill was an orange silty-clay with flecks of yellow mortar (**5048**), and contained occasional waterlogged timber planks and a possible square wood or wicker object of 1m by 1m+ in size (**5049**). This object appeared to be hollow, potentially forming a container or basket, and had sides of 0.1m thick, with the base of the object below the excavated extent of trench 5 (Fig. 9 and Plate 7).
- 6.9.10. This object was left in-situ for preservation purposes during the evaluation phase. A cess-rich waterlogged deposit (**5047/5045**) of 1.4m thicknesses and containing medieval pottery overlay **5049** and **5048**. The upper-most deposit within this feature was a mid-brown gritty silty-clay with mortar and charcoal flecking, of thickness 0.20m and with its upper extent at approximately 1.4m below current ground surface (**5041**).
- 6.9.11. The upper fill (**5041**) of pit **5046** was truncated by a second feature with a sub-rectangular vertical sided cut (**5038**). This cut, of 2m by 1.25m+ in plan, also physically truncated the Roman alluvial derived, built up deposits and the upper extent of the 1st century feature **5051** (Fig. 10, Section H and plate 6). The primary fill of **5038** was a brown sandy-silt with charcoal flecks and 12th-13th century pottery (**5053**), of 0.15m in thickness. This was sealed by a thin layer (0.03-0.04m) of decayed timber, forming a possible timber base for the usage phase of the feature (**5052**). This was overlain by cess-rich material (**5037**) containing large stones and a concentration of medieval and redeposited Roman pottery against the southern edge of the cut, which had a maximum thickness of 1.3m. The final fill of the pit was a mixed layer of apparent demolition material (**5036**), containing 13th-15th century pottery, with a depth of 2.5m from the modern ground surface.
- 6.9.12. The final deposit recorded prior to the post-medieval levelling episodes (see below) was mixed brown silty clay (**5034**), containing 13th-15th century pottery, which appeared to represent a levelling event in the upper region of cut **5059**.
- 6.9.13. Within the central portion of the trench was a large irregular cut (**5033**) that, following minimal investigation, was found to contain a horse burial complete with iron shoes. The level at which this feature was originally cut was not established due to the post-medieval levelling episode removing the required stratigraphic relationships. The feature was not excavated at this stage though it is thought to be either late medieval or post-medieval in date.
- 6.9.14. The above features were all truncated at their upper horizons by a levelling event clearly visible along the entire length of Trench 5. This event appeared to be post-medieval in date, and occurred at a relatively uniform depth of 1.3m across the trench (Fig. 10, Section H). This was followed by the apparent dumping of levelling material in the form of dark brown-black greasy clay containing industrial oil (**5005**) which lay on a thin lens of grit. Deposit **5005** was succeeded several further levelling events within the eastern and western areas of trench 5. A black silty clay was deposited to the east (**5003**), and a mixed level of demolition and possible garden soil material (**5029**) deposited to the west (perhaps in association with late post-medieval housing), both deposits having a thickness of 0.5m. **5029** was overlain to the west by another garden soil deposit (**5028**) followed by demolition/levelling layers (**5023**, **5024**, **5027**, **5025**, **5026** and **5011=5013**),

and in the central area of the trench by a further series of demolition/levelling layers (**5012, 5014, 5015**). Collectively, these deposits had their upper limit at 0.20m below current ground surface. A brick cellar (**5004**), within the central portion of the Trench 5 was cut from this level down through **5003, 5011** and **5012**, and had a visible width of 1m and a depth of 0.8m. **5004** and **5011** were sealed by a block paving surface (**5010**), of thickness 0.1m, a width in excess of 3m, and a length in excess of 10m, and may represent a late post-medieval/ recent yard surface. The area was subsequently levelled to the east with concrete (**5002**, sealing **5003**), before the establishment of the current ground surface (at 55.59m OD) through the emplacement of modern hardcore (**5001**) and tarmac (**5000**) across the whole area.

6.10. **Trench 6 (Fig. 11)**

- 6.10.1. The natural subsoil in trench 6 was not located due to the depth of overlying deposits.
- 6.10.2. Several unexcavated layers and deposits were recorded only in section following the excavation of later features (Fig. 11, section I). The earliest of these was a mid brown silt sand deposit with frequent inclusions of mortar fragments and oyster shells (**6018**). Overlying this was a compact layer of grey sandy clay (**6008/6017**) which in turn was overlain by a charcoal rich deposit of grey sand and silt (**6009/6016**). These layers contained 1st century pottery.
- 6.10.3. These deposits were sealed by a layer of orange sand (**6020/6015**) with small rounded pebbles (up to 0.02m diameter). This deposit appeared to form a foundation for a highly compacted cobble surface (**6011**, Plate 8) that only remained in a 1m wide strip aligned east-west across the trench (Fig 11). It is not clear how far this surface extended to the south due to later truncation though it is possible that the true northern edge remained within the trench. The northern edge of **6011** had a 45° camber with a depth of 0.45m from the top to the bottom of the slope. Cobble surface **6011** was overlain by a layer of soft pale brown orange silt (**6019**).
- 6.10.4. Truncating silt deposit **6019** were two east-west aligned cuts, backfilled with Roman demolition debris, which may indicate the location of post-Roman robber trenches. The northern cut had a minimum length of 5m, a width of 1.3m and a depth of 0.5m (**6010**, Fig. 11, section J). This feature was filled by a series of dumping episodes, consisting mainly of Roman demolition debris and mortar rich deposits (**6006/6007, 6005, 6004, 6003** and **6002**). Deposit **6007** contained 4th century pottery. The southern cut had a minimum length of 3m, a minimum width of 1.05m and a depth of 0.7m (**6014**, Fig. 11, Section K). Cut **6014** was filled by a single deposit of friable grey brown sandy silt with occasional fragments of mortar and ceramic building material throughout (**6013**). Fill **6013** also contained a single, disarticulated human humerus.
- 6.10.5. A dark brown silt sand with occasional small rounded stones and patches of mottled orange sand (**6001**) overlay the upper fills of the robber trenches with a depth of 1.2m (Fig. 11, Section I). Deposit **6001** was overlain by the off-white modern concrete and hardcore layer (**6000**) which sealed Trench 6.

6.11. **Trench 7 (Fig. 12)**

- 6.11.1. The natural subsoil in trench 7 was not located due to the depth of overlying deposits.
- 6.11.2. Very little hand excavation took place within trench 7 and for the most part deposits and features were cleaned and recorded in plan and section (Fig. 12). The earliest deposit was recorded in plan only, consisted of mid grey brown compact silty clay (**7023**) and appeared to be present over the central portion of the trench. Lying on top of layer **7023** was a bed of Roman concrete (**7011**), onto which was set a large cut block of millstone grit (**7010**), a probable Roman column base. The block measured 0.9m by 0.7m by 0.26m, was faced on all sides (Plate 9) and appeared undisturbed. Just to the northeast of **7011**, a further patch of Roman concrete (**7021**) was found to overlie **7023** and may well be contemporary with **7011**.
- 6.11.3. Overlying the concrete deposits **7011** and **7021**, and butting up against the large stone block (**7010**) were several unexcavated deposits consisting of mixed silty clays, mortar rich dumps and Roman demolition debris all of which contained ceramic building material (**7013**, **7019**, **7014**, **7024**, **7025** and **7026**). Lying over these deposits were two further surfaces of concrete with the traces of the mortar bonding for a stone structure impressed into the surface. The northern of these, **7012**, measured 1.75m by 0.7m minimum (Fig. 12) and lay level with the surface of stone block **7010**. The southern concrete deposit (**7020**) also lay level with the top of **7010** and the chiselled remains of a large piece of stone was visible set into its surface.
- 6.11.4. On the east side of the trench, aligned roughly north-south was cut **7015**. Cut **7015** was filled with a mid brown clay silt containing Roman pottery (**7018**) that was truncated along its length by re-cut cut **7017** (Fig. 12, Section L). The main fill of this cut appeared to consist solely of demolition debris in the form of degraded mortar and large quantities of roof tiles (**7006/7007**). Over this was a dump of stone rubble (**7009**).
- 6.11.5. All the archaeological deposits and fills within Trench 7 were sealed by a 0.8m deep deposit of dark brown clay silt containing 4th century pottery (**7005**, Fig. 12, section M) which was in turn overlain by a grey brown silty clay layer containing modern brick inclusions (**7004**). This was covered by the sand (**7003**) and hardcore (**7002**) levelling deposits for the concrete surface (**7001**) which sealed Trench 7.

6.12. **Trench 8 (Fig. 13)**

- 6.12.1. The natural subsoil in trench 8 was reached at a depth of 53.22m AOD at the western end of the trench and consisted of yellow-orange gravel **8014**.
- 6.12.2. Sealing the subsoil was a layer of orange-brown sandy gravel **8011** measuring c.0.15-0.35m in thickness and which probably represents redeposited natural subsoil (Fig. 13, Section N).
- 6.12.3. Cutting **8011** to the eastern end of the trench was one of a series of large cess pit features **8009**. Pit **8009** consisted of a steep sided bowl shaped profile measuring 3.5m in width by 1.5m in depth, and was primarily filled by a mid grey silt containing charcoal flecks **8008**. Overlying **8008** was a layer of mid-green clay **8007** 0.92m in thickness which was overlain by a mid-grey silty clay **8006** 0.46m in thickness and from which late 13th century pottery was recovered. Sealing **8006** was a thin layer of grey-brown silty clay **8005**.

- 6.12.4. Cutting **8009** on its eastern side was an east-west aligned ditch **8004** that consisted of steep sided, u-shaped profile measuring 1.1m in depth, and which was filled by a dark grey sandy silty clay **8003** that contained sherds of roman pottery, overlain by an orange-brown sandy silt **8002**. Pit **8009** was cut on its eastern edge by a similar linear feature **8010**, although this was unexcavated.
- 6.12.5. Towards the centre of the trench sandy gravel layer **8011** was overlain by a thin layer of dark brown silty clay **8020**. Cut through **8020** were two further cess pits, **8018** and **8019**, although these remained unexcavated.
- 6.12.6. Towards the western end of the trench was another cess pit **8017** (Plate 10). **8017** consisted of a steep-sided bowl shaped profile measuring 1.2m in width by 0.98m in depth and was filled by a light green sandy clay **8016** that contained roman pottery, and which was overlain by a grey-green clay that contained charcoal fragments **8015**.
- 6.12.7. Cutting this feature on its southern edge was a modern wall foundation **8021** that had a small associated construction pit **8022** at its eastern end.
- 6.12.8. Overlying these features and the remainder of the trench was a 0.82m thick layer of black silty clay containing brick-/rubble throughout **8001**, which was overlain by a layer of modern demolition brick/rubble measuring 1.8m in depth.
- 6.13. **Trench 9 (Fig. 14)**
- 6.13.1. The natural subsoil in trench 9 was reached at a depth of 52.99m AOD and consisted of a yellow gravel **9009**.
- 6.13.2. Overlying **9009** was a layer of probable redeposited natural gravel **9010** which consisted of a light brown silty gravel and which measured around 0.92m in thickness (Fig. 14).
- 6.13.3. Cut through **9010** at the eastern end of the trench was a east-west aligned ditch feature **9005** (Fig. 14, Section P, Plate 11) that measured 0.94m in width by 0.52m in depth, and which was filled by an olive green-brown silty clay **9004** that contained fragments of 1st century pottery and a Cu (copper) spoon provisionally dated to the 4th century AD.
- 6.13.4. Cutting **9005** were two out of a group of three parallel north-south aligned ditches, **9003** (Fig. 14, Section Q) and **9015** (unexcavated). **9003** consisted of a vertically sided u-shaped profile measuring 0.91m in width by 0.9m in depth, and was filled by a dark grey silty clay **9002** that contained pottery dating from between the 1st-4th century. **9015** ran parallel to the west of **9003**, while to the east was ditch **9007**, a similar vertical sided u-shaped ditch that measured 1.38m in width by 0.96m in depth, and which was again filled by a dark grey silty clay **9006**.
- 6.13.5. The western end of the trench had been disturbed by modern foundations and building activity. Here **9010** had been truncated by a large modern pit **9017** which had been cut by a modern concrete foundation/footing **9018**.
- 6.13.6. Overlying these features was a layer of black silty clay **9001** that contained large amounts of ash/charcoal and is the likely residue from modern industrial activity in the surrounding areas.

- 6.13.7. Cutting **9001** to the western end of the trench was a modern brick foundation **9011**, while to the centre of the trench **9001** was cut by a modern pit **9014** measuring 2.65m in width and which was filled by a black silty clay **9013**.
- 6.13.8. Overlying these features and the remainder of the trench was a layer of brick demolition rubble **9000** measuring 1.3m in depth.
- 6.14. **Trench 10 (Fig. 15)**
- 6.14.1. The natural subsoil in trench 10 was located at a depth of 53.04m AOD to the western end of the trench and consisted of yellow-orange silty gravel **10019**.
- 6.14.2. Overlying **10019** was a layer of mid yellow-brown silty clay **10030** that probably represents a redeposited natural horizon (Fig. 15, Section R). Cut through **10030** were a number of features.
- 6.14.3. Towards the eastern end of the trench was a small east-west aligned gully **10010** that consisted of a steep sided u-shaped profile measuring 0.22m in width by 0.1m in depth, and which was filled by a grey-brown silty clay **10009**.
- 6.14.4. To the west of **10010** and on a north-south alignment was another steep sided gully **10003** (Fig. 15, Section S and Plate 12) that measured 0.22m in width by 0.19m in depth and which was filled by a dark brown silty clay **10002** that contained fragments of 1st century AD pottery. Running parallel with **10003** on its western side was a moderately sloping u-shaped ditch **10008** measuring 0.76m in width by 0.24m in depth, and which was filled by a orange brown sandy gravel **10007** overlain by a mid brown silty clay **10006**. Cutting these features was a small steep sided pit **10005** (Fig. 15, Section T) measuring 0.33m in width by 0.15m in depth, and which was filled by a dark brown silty clay **10004** that contained 1st century AD pottery.
- 6.14.5. To the west of **10008** was a large irregularly shaped pit **10021** measuring 0.88m in width by 0.28m in depth that was filled by a brown grey sandy silty clay **10020**. Cutting **10021** on its eastern edge was a rectangular modern pit **10023** that was filled by a mixed brick rubble **10022**.
- 6.14.6. Towards the centre of the trench was a rectangular shaped pit **10018** (Fig. 15, Section U) measuring 0.75m in width by 0.86m in depth and which consisted of a vertically sided u-shaped profile primarily filled by a grey-orange sandy silt **10017**. Overlying **10017** was an organic dark brown silty clay **10016**, which was overlain by a grey-green sandy silt **10015**. Sealing **10015** was a mid-grey sandy silt **10014**, which was overlain by a grey-brown sandy silt clay **10013** that contained fragments of late roman pottery.
- 6.14.7. To the north of **10018**, and truncated by the edge of the trench, was a small steep sided pit **10012** measuring 0.43m in width by 0.27m in depth and which was filled by a mid-grey sandy silty clay **10011** that contained pottery dating to the late 11th-early 12th century AD. To the west of **10018** was another unexcavated rectangular pit **10031**, a probable robbed out modern building footing, while to the far eastern end of the trench was a rectangular modern pit **10032** that remained unexcavated.
- 6.14.8. Sealing these features and the remainder of the trench was a layer of black silty clay containing brick rubble **10001**.

- 6.14.9. Towards the western end of the trench **10001** was cut by a large irregularly shaped steep sided pit **10027** that measured 1.15m in width by 0.8m in depth and which was filled by a dark brown silty clay **10026**, while towards the centre of the trench **10001** had been cut by a moderately sided pit **10029** that was filled with a yellow-brown silty clay **10028**.
- 6.14.10. Overlying these features and the remainder of the trench was a brick demolition rubble **10000** 1.35m in thickness.
- 6.15. **Trench 11 (Fig. 16)**
- 6.15.1. The natural subsoil in trench 11 was located at a depth of 53.16m AOD to the eastern end of the trench and consisted of yellow-orange silty gravel **11002** (Fig. 16, Section V).
- 6.15.2. Cut through **11002** in a sondage to the western end of the trench was a large moderately sided u-shaped ditch **11007** running on a probable north-south alignment that measured 4.5m in width by 2.2m in depth, and which was filled by a dark brown silty clay **11006** overlain by a light brown silty clay **11005**.
- 6.15.3. Overlying **11005** was a layer of light brown sand **11013** through which a number of features were cut.
- 6.15.4. At the western end of the trench was a small north-south aligned ditch **11004** measuring 0.7m in width by 0.42m in depth and which was filled by a dark brown silty clay **11003**.
- 6.15.5. Towards the centre of the trench was a southwest-northeast aligned ditch **11010** (Fig. 16, Section W and Plate 13) consisting of a steep sided u-shaped profile measuring 1.84m in width by 0.65m in depth, and which was filled by pale orange sandy clay **11009** that contained 3rd century AD pottery overlain by a mid grey silty clay **11008** that also contained fragments of 3rd century pottery.
- 6.15.6. At the eastern end of the trench to the side of the sondage was an unexcavated square pit **11016**.
- 6.15.7. Cutting **11001** was a modern brick lined well **11012** that was filled by dark brown silt containing brick rubble **11011**. To the west of **11012** was a modern brick wall foundation **11014** running on a northeast-southwest alignment, while to the east of **11014** was an unexcavated ditch on a southwest-northeast alignment **11015**.
- 6.15.8. Overlying these features and the remainder of the trench was a c.0.75m thick layer of modern brick demolition rubble **11000**.
- 6.16. **Trench 12 (Fig. 17, Plate 14)**
- 6.16.1. The natural subsoil in trench 12 (Plate 14) was located at a depth of 52.44m AOD to the southern end of the trench and consisted of yellow-orange silty gravel **12002**.
- 6.16.2. Overlying the natural subsoil was a layer of redeposited orange-yellow silty gravel **12014** measuring c. 0.7m in thickness through which a number of features had been cut (Fig. 17, Section X).

- 6.16.3. Towards the centre of the trench were two large pits, **12022** (Fig. 17, Section Y and Plate 17) and **12031** (unexcavated). **12022** consisted of steeply sloping sides with a u-shaped profile measuring 6.1m in width (full section) by 1.1m in depth and which was filled by a mixed brown-yellow silty gravel **12021** containing fragments of animal bone and pottery dating to 1st century AD, which was overlain by a green-brown silty gravel clay **12020** that also contained numerous fragments of pre-Flavian pottery and bone.
- 6.16.4. **12031** cut pit **12022** on its eastern edge and was itself cut by a probable cess pit feature **12026** (unexcavated) on its eastern side. The southern edge of **12022** was cut by a small pit **12015**.
- 6.16.5. To the south and west of **12015** were a series of pits **12010**, **12011** and **12013** (Plate 15). **12010** consisted of a steep sloping u-shaped profile measuring 1.06m in width by 0.68m in depth. To the immediate west of **12010** was a similar pit **12011** that consisted of a steep sided u-shaped profile measuring 0.52m in width and 0.77m in depth. Pits **12015**, **12010** and **12011** were filled by a brown-grey silty clay **12009** that contained fragments of possible 1st century pottery. Cutting **12009** on its northern edge was pit **12013**, which consisted of moderately sloping sides with a bowl shaped profile and was filled by a mid-brown clay silt **12012**.
- 6.16.6. Deposit **12009** was also cut to the south by a later well feature **12006** (Plate 16) that consisted of a grey rough cut stone block lining **12005** 1.5m in width, and which was excavated to a depth of 0.5m. Filling the well to this depth was a layer of mid grey-brown sandy silt **12004** that contained animal bone, overlain by a layer of dark grey sandy silt **12003** that contained large amounts of late 3rd-early 4th century pottery as well as a number of coins predominately dated to the mid 4th century AD, and other metallic small finds.
- 6.16.7. Towards the northeastern end of the trench were two further rectangular pits **12019** and **12028** (Plate 19). **12019** consisted of vertical sides with a u-shaped base measuring 2.1m in width by 0.9m in depth and was filled by a mid-brown sandy clay **12027** that contained fragments of 12th-13th century pottery. Overlying **12027** was a layer of grey-brown sandy clay **12018** which was overlain by a dark brown-black organic waterlogged clay **12017** that contained Saxo-Norman pottery. Within this context was a large rough cut stone boulder overlying a large curved piece of waterlogged wood. Overlying **12017** and forming the upper fill of the pit was a layer of light brown silty sandy clay **12016** that contained 3rd century AD pottery.
- 6.16.8. Cutting **12019** on its eastern edge was **12028**, a steep sided rectangular pit measuring 1.06m in width by 0.64m in depth. Filling **12028** was a light brown silty sandy clay **12029** that contained fragments of 12th-13th century pottery, which was overlain by a grey-brown silty clay **12023**.
- 6.16.9. Sealing these features and the remainder of the trench was a layer of dark brown silty clay **12024** c. 0.5m in thickness, which was overlain at the southwestern end of the trench by a small lens of red clay **12030**.
- 6.16.10. Overlying **12030** and the remainder of the trench was a layer of black silty clay containing brick/rubble **12001**, which was overlain by a layer of brick demolition rubble **12000**.

7. THE FINDS

The finds section contains the results from both the 2007 and 2010 evaluations, and as such the reports have been split into these two dates for ease of reference.

7.1. The pre-medieval pottery (Trenches 1-7) by Jane Timby

7.1.1. Introduction

7.1.1.1. A total of 390 sherds of pottery weighing 7.2 kg were recovered during the evaluation. The assemblage comprises a mixture of material mainly of Roman and medieval date. In addition 10 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) were included with the pottery.

7.1.1.2. In general terms the assemblage is in very good condition, reflected in the overall average sherd weight of 18.4 g although it is evident from the stratigraphic matrices that there is a certain level of re-deposition present. Surface treatments have been preserved.

7.1.1.3. Pottery was recovered in varying amounts from all seven trenches. In total this amounts to some 65 contexts with some additional un-stratified material. The quantity of material present per context was generally very low which must be borne in mind when considering the dating, especially in an urban context where there is likely to be considerable mixing of deposits.

7.1.1.4. At this stage no detailed research work has been carried out to specifically compare the assemblage with other material published from the immediate locality or to link the fabrics in with any pre-existing local fabric or form series.

7.1.1.5. Following a comment on the methodology used, the assemblage is briefly described. A section follows this on the potential of the group and further work.

7.1.2. Methodology

7.1.2.1. The assemblage was sorted into broad fabric groups based on inclusions present, the frequency and grade of the inclusions and the firing colour. For the Roman sherds known regional or traded wares were coded following the system advocated for the National Roman reference collection (Tomber and Dore 1998). The medieval pottery was recorded but not identified to local fabrics.

7.1.2.2. The sorted assemblage was quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context and the data entered onto an MS Excel spreadsheet. A summary is presented in Appendix 3.

7.1.2.3. The CBM was counted but not weighed.

7.1.3. Roman: composition

7.1.3.1. Roman wares account for 66.4% of the assemblage by sherd count, some 259 sherds. Overall the assemblage appears to chronologically span the entire Roman period and comprises a mixture of imports, both continental and regional and local wares.

7.1.3.2. Finewares and amphorae represent continental imports. Most of the fineware is samian of which there are 22 sherds present, with products from both the South

and Central Gaulish workshops. Both decorated and plain forms are represented with at least two stamps. One of the stamped sherds, stamped MAR ..., possibly Martialus, has a rivet hole through the base (context 2013). Other finewares are restricted to a single sherd of Moselle beaker (context 2013), a single sherd of Gallo-Belgic TR3 beaker (Tr 2 u/s) and possibly one or two sherds of the whitewares.

7.1.3.3. Only eight sherds of amphorae are present all of which appear to be from Baetica, Spain, in particular Dressel 20 used for transporting olive oil.

7.1.3.4. Regional imports include a number of Lower Nene Valley products, both mortaria and colour-coated wares, sixteen sherds of Dorset black burnished ware, two sherds, a colour-coated ware and mortaria from Oxfordshire and one or two pieces of Severn Valley ware.

7.1.3.5. The local wares largely comprise grey or black sandy wares, grog-tempered ware and shelly ware.

7.1.4. **Medieval and post-medieval**

7.1.4.1. Medieval sherds form 25.6% of the total recovered assemblage with some 100 sherds. Some of the sherds were well preserved with several sherds from single vessels particularly from contexts 5053 and 5037.

7.1.4.2. Forms include squat cooking vessels with sagged bases, a handled spouted pitcher and other jar forms with both handmade and wheelmade versions. A few green-glazed sherds from decorated jugs also feature with at least one sherd of probable Stamford ware.

7.1.4.3. Post-medieval pottery came from just two contexts with 30 sherds from context 1005 and a single sherd from context 4004. The former includes sherds of china, English stoneware bottles and black iron-glazed kitchenware indicative of a date after the mid 19th century.

7.1.4.4. At least 18 contexts date to the medieval or later on the basis of the pottery present.

7.1.5. **Discussion by trench**

7.1.5.1. **Trench 1:** Trench 1 produced a total 39 sherds from six contexts. The latest group is the mid-late 19th-century group from context 1005. Single sherds of medieval date were recovered from contexts 1011 and 1004. Contexts 1012 and 1014 both contained single South Gaulish samian sherds, probably 1st-century, whilst context 1010 produced a single, small, black Roman coarseware.

7.1.5.2. **Trench 2:** This trench produced the largest assemblage with a total 201 sherds from 27 contexts most of which are Roman. Sherds of medieval date came from contexts 2004, 2018, 2022. Context 2022 produced the largest single assemblage recorded with 55 sherds most of which are later Roman. Further late Roman sherds came from contexts 2023 and 2027 with a Dorset black burnished (LNV) colour-coated jar from the former, and another DOR BB1 bowl and a LNV whiteware mortaria with the edge of a stamp from 2027. Later 2nd or 3rd century sherds came from contexts 2009 (?redeposited), 2031, 2010, 2013, 2017, 2019 and 2065. Second-century wares came from 2016, 2029, 2036, 2038, 2062, 2063 and 2065. Context 2069, the stratigraphically lowest context contained just two body sherds of

Dressel 20 amphora, which are not closely datable being current from the 1st to 3rd centuries. A 3rd-century Oxfordshire whiteware mortarium (Young 1977, form M17) features amongst the un-stratified finds along with two hammer-rim LNV whiteware mortaria probably of similar date and a small sherd of imported Gallo-Belgic TR3 beaker of pre-Flavian date.

- 7.1.5.3. **Trench 3:** A small group of 14 sherds came from six contexts. Medieval sherds came from 3018, 3008 and 3009. Context 3042 stratigraphically above these produced a mid-late 2nd-century DOR BB1 flat rim bowl and a large sherd of Dressel 20 amphora, presumably both redeposited. Context 3010 appears to be of 2nd-century date with ovoid beaker sherds. Context 3044 produced three shelly ware sherds, probably Roman.
- 7.1.5.4. **Trench 4:** Four contexts produced 24 sherds, mainly of medieval date. Context 4004 had a small post-medieval sherd, two pieces of glazed roof tile and three medieval sherds. Green-glazed jug sherds from 4005 and 4006 suggest these are probably 13-14th century. Six small Roman sherds are also present, one with mortar attached.
- 7.1.5.5. **Trench 5:** Slightly more material came from Trench 5 with 87 sherds from 13 contexts. Pottery from 5021, 5034, 5036, 5037, 5053 and 5045 is largely of medieval date, specifically later 12th-14th/15th century. Twelve sherds from a single plain spouted, handled pitcher with incised wavy line decoration came from 5053 whilst a number of joining sherd from a squat cooking pot came from 5037.
- 7.1.5.6. Context 5019 produced a single fragment of Roman roofing tile but no pottery. The remaining contexts (5044, 5007, 5030, 5009, 5042, 5043) with pottery produced a mixture of 1st to 2nd/3rd century types. Context 5044 produced a single sherd of shelly storage jar with vertical scoring, typical of the 1st century. Such wares could date to either the immediate pre or post-conquest period and it is thus not possible to date the feature to the Iron Age on the basis of a single sherd. It should also be observed that no residual material of pre-conquest date came from the excavation.
- 7.1.5.7. **Trench 6:** The small assemblage of 17 sherds from test pit 6 is exclusively Roman in date. Context 6007 contained mainly early Roman sherds including a piece of decorated South Gaulish samian but is dated by a single sherd of Oxford colour-coated ware (Young 1977, type C51) of later 3rd-4th century date. The sherds from 6012 are probably 2nd century and those from 6008, 6009 of 1st-century date.
- 7.1.5.8. **Trench 7:** Trench 7 produced a very small assemblage of seven sherds, again all Roman. The single sherd from 7005 is an Oxfordshire white-slipped mortarium of later 3rd-4th century date. The other sherds are not closely datable although a large sherd from a grog-tempered storage jar with a combed surface from 7014 is probably early Roman.
- 7.1.6. **Potential**
- 7.1.6.1. The assemblage documents the presence of medieval and Roman activity across the area investigated. The apparent absence of later medieval and the limited amount of post-medieval finds suggests either that the area was probably built over and rubbish did not accumulate, or that the upper levels have been truncated by subsequent development.
- 7.1.6.2. There seems to be a similar truncation of the later Roman levels most of the pottery of this date coming from un-stratified or post-Roman deposits.

- 7.1.6.3. The size of the Roman assemblage is quite modest given this area falls within the core area of the Roman town. It suggests activity from pre-Flavian times onwards. A small scatter of material is probably of 1st century date, both fineware and coarseware, although not always in stratigraphic sequence.
- 7.2. **The pre-medieval pottery (Trenches 8-12)** by Jane Timby
- 7.2.1. **Introduction**
- 7.2.1.1. The recent archaeological work carried out at Blackfriars Bath Lane, Leicester resulted in the recovery of 606 sherds of pottery weighing 16.2 kg. Most of this dates to the Roman period but small quantities of sherds of later prehistoric, later pre-Roman Iron Age (LPRIA) and medieval date are also present. In addition a single fragment of ceramic building material (CBM) was included with the pottery.
- 7.2.1.2. In general terms the assemblage was in very good condition, reflected in the overall average sherd weight of 26.7 g. There are several examples of multiple sherds from the same vessels. Surface treatments such as slipping, are very well preserved.
- 7.2.1.3. Pottery was recovered from some 23 contexts, ranging in quantity from single sherds up to a maximum of 195.
- 7.2.1.4. At this stage no detailed research work has been carried out to specifically compare the assemblage with other material from the immediate locality or to link the fabrics in with any pre-existing local fabric or form series.
- 7.2.2. **Methodology**
- 7.2.2.1. The assemblage was sorted into broad fabric groups based on inclusions present, the frequency and grade of the inclusions and the firing colour. Known regional or traded wares were coded following the system advocated for the National Roman reference collection (Tomber and Dore 1998).
- 7.2.2.2. The sorted assemblage was quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context and the data entered onto an MS Excel spreadsheet.
- 7.2.3. **Later Prehistoric**
- 7.2.3.1. Two handmade bodysherds were recovered from context 12007 which appear to be of later prehistoric date. One sherd with a calcareous temper had a vertically combed exterior finish. The other sherd contained fragment of an argillaceous rock.
- 7.2.4. **Roman**
- 7.2.4.1. Roman wares account for around 97.5% of the assemblage by sherd count, some 591 sherds. The group seems to belong to two phases of occupation; one dating to the 1st century AD; the second to the later Roman period.
- 7.2.4.2. The assemblage is quite diverse comprising a mixture of continental, regional and local wares. Finewares, mortaria and amphorae represent continental imports with vessels from North, Central and Southern Gaul, Baetica, Spain and Campania, Italy.
- 7.2.4.3. Amongst the earliest imports are two or three sherds of Italian-style sigillata (arretine), probably of provincial origin, and all from context 12021. One is from the rim of a cup, probably a Conspectus 22, dating to the Augustan period.

- 7.2.4.4. The samian includes South, Central and East Gaulish wares spanning the pre-Flavian period through to the later 2nd or early 3rd century. There is one complete stamp on the base of a Drag 30 bowl from context 11009 by the potter DOVIICCVS (Doveccus). The South Gaulish sherds include a piece of a decorated beaker, probably Drag 67 and a dish Drag 18. Amongst the Central Gaulish sherds are forms Drag 79, 40, 33, 30, 37, cup O & P LV.13. A mortarium (Drag 45) from 12016 is probably East Gaulish. Many of the samian sherds appear to be residual finds or survivals.
- 7.2.4.5. Ten sherds of Gallo-Belgic fineware are present with examples of *terra rubra* (GAB TR1B; GAB TR1C); *terra nigra* (GAB TN) and white ware (NOG WH). The former includes a sherd of pedestal beaker and at least one cup Cam 56. The GAB TN includes a rim of a platter Cam 2, two platter basesherds and a cup Cam. 56. The white wares are from butt beakers Cam 113. Several of these sherds are potentially of pre-conquest or early conquest period date.
- 7.2.4.6. Other imported wares include five pieces of white-slipped flagon, probably from Central Gaul and a well-made oxidised ware with a partial white slip and rouletting of unknown source.
- 7.2.4.7. Amphorae are not well represented with just four sherds from two vessels. One of these is in a Baetican fabric from southern Spain and is probably a globular olive oil amphora imported from the 1st to early 3rd century. The second is in one of the Campanian fabrics and is most likely a Dressel 2-4 wine amphora.
- 7.2.4.8. There is a single imported wall-sided mortarium from North Gaul from (12020), probably of Claudio-Neronian date. Typically of such vessels it lacks the trituration grits on the interior surface.
- 7.2.4.9. The early coarsewares mainly comprise handmade grog tempered or shelly wares with smaller quantities of sandy or mixed temper. Vessels are mainly restricted to large jars, channel-rim jars, necked bowls and cordoned carinated bowls. There are some copies of imported butt beakers and a single copy of a platter. Some of the larger vessels are finished with fine combing or decorated with incised designs.
- 7.2.4.10. The later assemblages are characterized by the presence of a number of regional imports from the Lower Nene Valley (LNV CC) and Oxfordshire colour-coated industries (OXF RS, OXF WS), South-west (SOW BB1) and South-east (DOR BB1) black burnished wares, Mancetter-Hartshill (MAH WH) and Lower Nene Valley mortaria (LNV WH) and Derbyshire coarseware (DER CO). More local wares appear to be mainly reduced sandy wares.
- 7.2.4.11. Several vessels showed evidence of use in the form of sooting, internal calcareous deposits, leaching of interior surfaces or abrasion. One of the flanged OXF RS bowls has lost the flange but the break has been ground smooth.

7.2.5. **Chronology**

- 7.2.5.1. The earliest assemblages dating to the 1st century AD are those recovered from contexts 10002, 10004, 10020, 12018, 12020 and probably 12021 apart from one intrusive medieval sherd.
- 7.2.5.2. Determining the precise chronology is less easy - i.e. pre or post-conquest and may rely on later fine-tuning of the samian assemblage, the presence of other non-ceramic finds or the stratigraphic sequence. There is no samian from 10002, 10004,

10020 and 12018 so they could potentially be pre-conquest. Contexts 12020 and 12021, however, with some samian are more likely to be post-conquest. These two contexts, also those with the largest assemblages, produced the greatest number of sherds of Gallo-Belgic imported fineware and the Italian-style sigillata much of which is, or could be, pre-conquest and may be residual here. The assemblages from the other contexts are very small, between 1 and 9 sherds and thus any dating would not be conclusive.

7.2.5.3. Some other contexts contain 1st-century material but mixed with later sherds, in particular 12009 and 9002. Although there appears to be some 2nd-century samian present most of this seems to be residual in later deposits and there are no clear groups present dating to the 2nd century suggesting a hiatus at this point.

7.2.5.4. The later deposits are largely dated on the presence of LNV CC, OXF RS, OXF WS and black burnished wares. Of note amongst the LNV CC wares is a sherd from 11008 decorated with a barbotine dolphin, along with sherds of beaker and flanged bowl. The Oxfordshire wares include examples of Young (1977) forms C51, C52, C97 and WC5; and the BB1 plain rim dishes and jars with oblique lattice decoration.

7.2.6. **Medieval**

7.2.6.1. At least one definite rimsherd from a medieval cooking pot is present in the largely early Roman assemblage from 12021. A whiteware with wipe marks from 9002 may be a piece of Stamford ware. There are possibly one or two other unfeatured sherds present which may also belong to this period or may be local late Roman wares.

7.2.7. **Potential**

7.2.7.1. This is a good-sized, well preserved assemblage from a Roman town with known pre-conquest occupation. The range of material is quite typical of that to be expected and there are several other published groups from the immediate locality with which to compare this group.

7.3. **The post-roman pottery (Trenches 8-12)** by Stephanie Ratkai

7.3.1. **Introduction**

7.3.1.1. The post-Roman pottery from the site was scanned and the salient characteristics of each group noted and dated. At this stage the pottery was not quantified nor every sherd identified to ware. Each context was spot dated. The results of the assessment are given below.

7.3.2. **Spot dates by trench/context**

7.3.2.1. **Trench 8**

- **8006** - Chilvers Coton A jug with applied, combed strips brushed with fe oxide, **1250-1300**
- **8007** - Hand- formed cylindrical cooking pot with very heavy external sooting, possibly Potters Marston, **1250-1300**
- **8008** - Potters Marston cooking pot sherds, **12th-13th century**

- **8015** - Chilvers Coton A jug with applied, combed strips brushed with fe oxide, **1250-1300**

Potters Marston cooking pot/jar with thumbled rim, **1250-1300**

Potters Marston and shelly ware body sherds, **1250-1300**

7.3.2.2. **Trench 9**

- **9002** - Stamford ware sherds with yellow glaze, **Saxo-Norman**

7.3.2.3. **Trench 10**

- **10011** - Most of the sherds are from a Potters Marston pitcher (unglazed) decorated with rows of vertical applied thumbled strips and thumbled neck cordon. The form is early and suggests a date in the late 11th or early 12th century. However, also in the pit fill are a green glazed Chilvers Coton A jug handle and a green glazed Potters Marston sherd. These latter two are in the region of 200 years later than the pitcher sherds. As the pitcher sherds are substantial, I think it most likely that the two later later sherds are intrusive into the pit fill.
- The neck and rim of a crudely formed jug were also found in the pit. The neck is particularly narrow for its height. It seems too crude to be Roman but not a conventional post-Conquest medieval form either - **possibly late Saxon, late 11th-early 12th century**
- **10013** - Three Stamford ware sherds with a pale green to light orange glaze, probably from a spouted pitcher, **Saxo-Norman**
- **10015** - Mainly Potters Marston cooking pot/jar sherds, **12th-13th century**

7.3.2.4. **Trench 11**

- **11008** - Three Midlands Purple sherds, Two Chilvers Coton C sherds and Two Potters Marston sherds, **15th-16th century**

7.3.2.5. **Trench 12**

- **12016** - The group is dominated by Potters Marston cooking pot/jar sherds, often very heavily sooted but also contained: Six Stamford ware sherds with a pale green glaze, Three Stamford ware sherds with orangey-yellow glaze and a Late Saxon pedestal lamp. Superficially the fabric resembles Stafford ware but this lamp form is not noted in any published material from the town, **12th century**
- **12017** - One unglazed Stamford ware rim sherd from a jug or pitcher, **Saxo-Norman**
- **12027** - Mainly Potters Marston cooking pot sherds, **12th-13th century**
- **12029** - Mainly Potters Marston cooking pot sherds and one jug, **12th-13th century**

7.3.3. **Comment**

- 7.3.3.1. The small assemblage is of interest because of the presence of Late Saxon and Saxo-Norman pottery. This is sufficient in quantity to suggest that occupation began in the Late Saxon period.
- 7.3.3.2. Most of the remaining pottery is local Potters Marston ware. The absence or near absence of glazed wares in many of the groups would favour a 12th century deposition date but a 13th century date cannot be ruled out.
- 7.3.3.3. Non-local wares were represented by Chilvers Coton A (white fabric) or Chilvers Coton C (in this case a salmon pink fabric), made in the Nuneaton area.
- 7.3.3.4. Only one context 11008 is late and the material recovered from this phase of work at Blackfriars indicates a focus of early occupation in this area.

7.4. **The animal bone (Trenches 1-7)** by Matilda Holmes

7.4.1. **Methodology**

- 7.4.1.1. Bones were identified using the author's reference collection, and further guidelines from Bass (1995), Cohen and Serjeantson (1996), Hillson (1992) and Schmidt (1972). Due to anatomical similarities between sheep and goat, bones of this type were assigned to the category 'sheep/goat', unless a definite identification using guidelines from Prummel and Frisch (1986) or Payne (1985) could be made. Bones that could not be identified to species were, where possible, categorised according to the relative size of the animal represented (small - rodent /rabbit sized, medium - sheep / pig / dog sized, or large - cattle / horse size). Ribs and vertebrae (except 1st and 2nd cervical vertebrae and sacrum) were not identified to species.
- 7.4.1.2. Tooth wear and eruption were noted using guidelines from Grant (1982) and Silver (1969), as were bone fusion (Amorosi 1989, Silver 1969), metrical data (von den Driesch 1976), anatomy, side, zone (Serjeantson 1996), pathology, butchery, bone working and condition (Lyman 1994) of the bones.
- 7.4.1.3. All the animal bones were hand collected, no sieved samples were noted and all fragments were recorded. The assemblage has been phased using information from the pottery assessment, the majority of bones coming from Roman and medieval contexts.

7.4.2. **Taphonomy and Condition**

- 7.4.2.1. The bones were in varied condition, mostly fair to good, but fragmentary. Taphonomic factors affecting the material were recorded including burnt, gnawed, butchered and recently broken bones. Between 2 and 5% of fragments in Roman and medieval contexts were burnt, 3 to 4% showed signs of canid gnawing and 14 to 19% were observed to have been affected by butchery methods. Between 3 and 4% of bones bore evidence of fresh breaks, and 40 fragments were refitted to make 8 larger fragments in the whole assemblage. There was no evidence for articulated or associated fragments.
- 7.4.2.2. The absence of sieved samples may lead to a negative bias in the number and variety of small mammals, fish and bird bones recorded in the assemblage.

7.4.3. **Basic description of findings**

- 7.4.3.1. This is a small assemblage of 496 fragments, of which 41% were identified to species. Table 1 shows the species identified, of which the main domestic species (cattle, sheep / goats and pigs) were most common. Cattle predominate in all phases, although sheep also make up a large proportion of the assemblage. Pigs are the next most common species appearing in lower frequencies through time, a phenomena also noted in the bird assemblage. Horse, dog, cat, chicken, goose, pheasant and oyster were identified, as well as a human humerus from un-phased context 6013.
- 7.4.3.2. Bones were present from all areas of the carcass, with no concentrations of primary butchery or industrial waste detected. There was a small amount of fusion data and 3 mandibles that may be useful for ageing evidence. Metrical data was also scarce, with only two bones complete enough to use to calculate wither or shoulder heights, the assemblage is not large enough for morphological comparisons to be accurate.

Table 1: Species Representation (fragment count)

| Species | Roman | Roman / Medieval | Medieval | Post Medieval | Unphased |
|----------------------------|------------|---------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|
| Cattle | 40 | 24 | 19 | 1 | 3 |
| Sheep / Goat | 31 | 20 | 14 | 2 | 4 |
| Pig | 12 | 8 | 3 | | 1 |
| Horse | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Dog | 1 | | | | |
| Cat | | 1 | 1 | | |
| Human | | | | | 1 |
| Oyster | | | 1 | | |
| Chicken | 8 | 2 | | 1 | |
| Goose | 2 | | | | |
| Pheasant | 1 | | | | |
| Total Identified | 95 | 55 | 39 | 4 | 10 |
| Unidentified Large Mammal | 59 | 35 | 16 | 1 | 3 |
| Unidentified Medium Mammal | 48 | 21 | 14 | | 6 |
| Unidentified Small Mammal | | | 1 | | |
| Unidentified Mammal | 46 | 20 | 12 | 3 | 2 |
| Unidentified Bird | 4 | | 2 | | |
| Total | 252 | 131 | 84 | 8 | 21 |

7.5. **The animal bone (Trenches 8-12)** by Matilda Holmes

7.5.1. **Summary and quantification of material recovered**

7.5.2. Bones were in good to fair condition (Table 1), and it is likely that they were buried soon after deposition, given the minimal amount of canid gnawing. Because preservation was good, there is a considerable amount of butchery, fusion, tooth wear and metrical data that can be recorded.

7.5.3. The main domesticates were abundant (cattle, sheep/ goat and pigs), of which cattle and sheep/ goat were present in similar proportions. Bones from horse, dog, cat and wild mammals (hare/ rabbit, roe deer and possibly fallow deer) were also recorded. Bird bones were limited to domestic fowl and goose, of which the former was well represented (Table 2).

7.5.4. The assemblage is typical of domestic food refuse, with an under-representation of head, foot and vertebrae from those which may be expected from the burial of complete carcasses (Figure 1). The exception to this is the high number of sheep heads present, many of which had been split longitudinally, typical of the removal of the brain. A few cattle skulls were also recorded.

7.5.5. **Potential and significance**

7.5.6. The excellent preservation of animal bone and its abundance on this site are good indicators that further excavation will recover additional material, which has the potential to reveal data regarding the following areas of the animal economy of Roman and medieval Leicester:

The diet of the inhabitants;

Local butchery techniques;

Status of the inhabitants;

The presence of a market for animals and animal products based on demand from the inhabitants, and/ or supply from the hinterland;

The underlying animal husbandry of the local countryside and possibly within the town itself.

7.5.7. If enough data are available, they can be compared with other, contemporary, local and regional sites, to contextualise the site socially and economically.

7.5.8. **Discussion of the material in regional setting**

7.5.9. A consultation of the regional review of archaeozoological reports for Leicester (Albarella and Pirnie, 2008) has shown that little has been published relating to the animal bones from Roman and medieval Leicester. This site therefore has the potential to be of significant value to the understanding of the nature of this part of the town. In terms of regional and national comparanda, urban sites from Coventry, Birmingham and Oxford will provide good preliminary sources.

7.5.10. **Recommendations for further work**

7.5.11. No further work needs to be undertaken at this stage, but the bones from this assemblage should be included with any further material recovered if future excavations take place.

7.6. **The Wood (Trenches 1-7)** by Stephen J Allen

7.6.1. **Procedures**

7.6.1.1. The wood was delivered to the Wet Wood Laboratory in York wet packed. The two timbers from 5050 were wrapped in plastic bags secured with adhesive tape. Timber numbers 5048 and 5049 were bagged in self seal plastic bags within a small Stewarts box. A single fragment of leather was packed with the wood from 5048. All objects were removed from their packaging, washed under cold running water to remove adhering burial deposits and returned to their packaging after recording, assessment and species identification.

7.6.2. **Condition**

7.6.2.1. All of the wood has been preserved through burial in a waterlogged anoxic environment and it appears that these conditions were maintained in all contexts in which the material survived up to the time of excavation. The wood was in a generally good condition on arrival in York (wet wood laboratory). The leather fragment was in good condition but slightly stiff.

7.6.3. **Catalogue**

7.6.3.1. Finds numbers used here are for the purposes of this report. All species identifications follow Schweingruber (1982), all dimensions in millimetres.

Table 2: Species Identification

| Context No | Find No | Description | Species ID |
|--------------|---------|---|---|
| 5048 | i | Section of twig, bark present. Both ends broken and missing. 52 l, 04 dia. | Quercus spp. |
| 5048 | ii | Section of roundwood, bark present. Both ends broken and missing. In two refitting sections. 87 l, 16 dia. | Salix spp. |
| 5048 | iii | Radially faced offcut, sub rectangular cross section. Both ends broken and missing. 99 l, 18 w, 16 th. | Quercus spp. |
| 5048 | iv | Radially faced offcut, sub rectangular cross section. Both ends broken and missing. 58 l, 18 w, 14 th. | Quercus spp. |
| 5048 | v | Section of roundwood, bark present. Both ends broken and missing. 26 l, 28 dia. | Fraxinus excelsior L. |
| 5048 | vi | Leather. Offcut from thick hide. Sub triangular plan | N/A |
| 5049 S 18 | i | Section of roundwood, bark present. One end hewn, other broken and missing. 88 l, 37 dia. | Fraxinus excelsior L. Very slow grown. |
| 5049 S 18 | ii | Section of roundwood, bark present. Both ends broken and missing. In three refitting sections. 132 l, 12 dia. | Acer campestre L.. |
| 5050 | i | Radially faced board. One end hewn roughly square to axis of grain, other end broken away before burial. All surfaces abraded. 385 l, 224 w, 16 th. | Quercus spp. |
| 5050 | ii | Radially faced board fragment. All surfaces eroded. 252 l, 124 w, 10 th. | Quercus spp. |

Acer campestre L.

Field Maple

- Fraxinus excelsior L. Ash
- Quercus spp. Oaks- exact species not distinguishable.
- Salix spp. Willows- exact species not distinguishable.

7.6.4. **Discussion**

- 7.6.4.1. There is no clear evidence that these wood fragments are part of a structure and all may be casual losses incorporated into the fill of the feature in which they were found. 5049 is believed to be part of a rectangular wattle or wicker structure within a cess pit but nothing of its construction or date can be concluded from the sample submitted. They are not particularly diagnostic or intrinsically datable. That said, there is nothing here to contradict the suggested medieval date for the context(s) in which they were found. Most have slightly eroded surfaces, which indicates that they have suffered from a degree of degradation before becoming fully waterlogged, but are otherwise in good condition.
- 7.6.4.2. The leather offcut is typical of waste products from the cutting up of tanned hides. There is not sufficient information on this one artefact to suggest what leather goods were being made nearby.
- 7.6.4.3. Previous excavations in Leicester (Mellor and Pearce 1981) are known to have produced important collections of wood and leather finds. The survival of wood and leather in the deposits excavated in this evaluation indicate that further finds should be expected from the same site should further work be undertaken.

7.7. **The Glass (Trenches 1-7) by H.E.M. Cool**

7.7.1. **Discussion**

- 7.7.1.1. All of the Roman vessel glass was recovered in Trench 2. The earliest material was found in the fill of the robber pit 2024 and consisted of the very diagnostic central part of a base of a colourless cylindrical cup (Price and Cottam 1998, 99-100). These were in use from the later second century to the mid third century and were a very common form at Leicester as elsewhere.
- 7.7.1.2. At Causeway Lane, for example, fragments from at least three cups were recovered (Davies 1999, 289 nos. 31-6), there were at least two from the excavations at the Forum (Charlesworth in Hebditch and Mellor 1973, 52 nos. 5-6, fig. 22) and the form was well represented in the currently unpublished assemblage at the Shires. Such cups have pushed-in base rings like that seen on no. 2 but given the base diameter it is unlikely that the two pieces came from the same vessel, and no. 2 is more likely to have come from a jug. A similar second or third century date would be appropriate. The shoulder fragment no. 3 probably came from a contemporary cylindrical bottle (Price and Cottam 1998, 204-5).
- 7.7.1.3. The hemispherical cup no. 5 is a very common fourth century form (Price and Cottam 1998, 117-9). Its recovery from this excavation is a welcome addition to the corpus of Roman glass from Leicester as fourth century material has hitherto been relatively uncommon.
- 7.7.1.4. The final fragment of glass (no. 4) is relatively un-diagnostic, but its colour indicates a first to third century date.

7.7.1.5. Trench 4 produced a small fragment of window glass of a type that can be assigned to the first to third centuries.

7.7.1.6. The assemblage is too small to draw any major conclusions from it, though it is of some interest to note that there is virtually no chronological overlap with the glass that has been published previously from this area of Leicester which was of late first to mid second century date (Clay and Mellor 1985, 70-1). Presumably this is accounted for by the fact that excavation did not reach natural in parts of the trench where the glass was found.

7.7.2. **Trench 2 catalogue**

1 Cylindrical cup; base fragment. Colourless; clouded surfaces. Central part with thick ring trailed on underside. Dimensions 27 x 22mm. 2023 sf 4.

2 Base fragment. Colourless. Wide lower body mainly missing; pushed-in base ring, flat base mostly missing. Base diameter 90mm. 2023 sf 4.

3 Bottle shoulder fragment. Colourless. Horizontal shoulder broken at neck. Dimensions 39 x 27mm. 2031 sf 7

4 Body fragment. Blue/green. 2042 sf 11.

5 Hemispherical cup; rim fragment. Pale green with many bubbles. Vertical rim, with cracked off edge, possibly ground; convex-curved side. One abraded band below rim edge; second band on upper body. Present height 27mm, wall thickness 1mm. 2019; sf 1

7.7.3. **Trench 4 catalogue**

6 Window glass. Blue/green. Cast matt/glossy. Area 4cm². 4007 sf 10.

7.8. **The Worked Bone (Trenches 1-7) by Quita Mould**

7.8.1. **Summary**

7.8.1.1. Two hair pins of later Roman date and an offcut of worked bone were found in Roman contexts. A hair pin (SF8) of 4th century date was found in a layer (2031) within a shallow cut [2032] sealed by layer 2006. A second hair pin (SF5), of a type dating no earlier than AD200 was found with an offcut of worked bone (SF12) in fill (2022) of a wide ditch [2035/2021] above layer 2006. The pin (SF5) is comparable to other examples firmly dated to the late 3rd and 4th centuries at Colchester (Crummy 1983, 24-5) and is also likely to be of 4th century date. As evidence for 4th century activity at Leicester is sparse (Paul 2007, 2) these pins are of interest. They are of importance to the dating of the site and may have wider significance to the city.

7.8.1.2. A fragment of worked bone with tool marks (SF14) was found in fill (5048) of the north-western cesspit [5046] in Trench 5. A ribbed handle of bone (SF9) was found in a layer of silty clay (4005) that lay above a deposit (4004) containing brick rubble and post-medieval pottery. The regularity of the ribbing of the handle and the presence of turning lines visible within the central hole suggest that the item dates to the post-medieval period.

7.8.2. **Catalogue of worked bone objects**

7.8.2.1. **Context 2022**

SF 5 Context 2022 Tr 2
Near complete bone hair pin. The broken head has a double reel moulding remaining, the fracture indicates that a finial has been snapped off. The stem has a distinct neck and expands into a shoulder before tapering to a pointed tip; the tip has been re-pointed. Length 89mm, stem Diameter min 2.44mm, max 3.82mm
Crummy type 6 dated c. AD200 onward

SF 12 Context 2022 Tr 2
Worked bone offcut. Fragment of bone (rib or scapula) with a single, worked, flat surface snapped off along an oblique, straight cut, tooled groove. All other edges broken. Length 43mm, width 19.5mm, maximum thickness 6.25mm

7.8.2.2. **Context 2031**

SF 8 Context 2031 Tr 2
Near complete bone hair pin. Small head with conical finial with a reel beneath, crudely carved. The round-sectioned stem tapers to a pointed tip, the tip is now broken off. Length 87mm, stem Diameter maximum 4.31mm
Crummy type 5

7.8.2.3. **Context 4005**

SF 9 Context 4005 Tr 4
Near complete ribbed bone handle. Slightly tapering round-sectioned handle with central circular hole. The ends are straight and flat cut, the narrower end is now broken. Decorated with a series of highly regular ribs and grooves. Turning lines visible within the central hole. Length 70mm, Diameter maximum 14.5mm, minimum 10.5mm, groove width c 1.32mm, rib width 1.39mm

7.8.2.4. **Context 5048**

SF 14 Context 5048 Tr 4
Tooled fragment. Lozenge-shaped fragment of flat-sectioned bone with a very slightly curved profile, all edges broken. Tool marks (file marks) visible at right angle to the edge visible running along one edge on one face.
Length 83mm, maximum width 15mm, thickness 1.62mm

7.9. **Copper Alloy Small Finds (Trenches 1-7)** by Dr. Roger White

7.9.1. **Discussion**

7.9.1.1. Six copper alloy items were recovered from the site. The most interesting item was a complete cross bow brooch recovered from Trench 7 (7008). This item, dating to around AD340 - 60, is well-preserved and is worthy of full conservation for potential exhibition in a museum, as brooches of this type are extremely rare in Leicester and the surrounding area. Other finds from Trench 7 included a possible crotal bell (7005), a small, enclosed bell commonly used on harness mounts, dating to the 13th - 14th century (Read, 2001), and an un-datable lozenge-shaped piece of copper

alloy (7018) which was upturned at one end. This item is probably an offcut from some manufacturing process.

- 7.9.1.2. The other copper alloy finds from the site were recovered from Trench 2. The best-preserved piece from this trench was the handle of a clasp-knife (2022), which showed a dog chasing another quadruped. This item was dated to the 2nd - 3rd century. The other two copper alloy pieces from the site were un-datable, one item, recovered during cleaning of the trench, was part of a thick ring of uncertain function, whilst the other was an offcut of copper alloy sheet (2022).

7.10. **Copper Alloy Small Finds (Trenches 8-12)** by Dr. Roger White

7.10.1. **Discussion**

- 7.10.1.1. A total of seven objects were presented for identification. Of these, four were coins, one was a possible coin, one was a brooch and the last was a spoon fragment.

- 7.10.1.2. Three of the coins, all from the same context, formed a small but very closely dated contemporary group which can be placed in the 330-340s AD. All are small module *nummi* comprising a wolf and twins issue of Constantine I dated 330-7, a two soldiers, two standards issue of 330-335 and a two soldiers, one standard issue of 335-7. It may be possible to refine these dates if the mint marks are legible.

- 7.10.1.3. The fourth coin was an *aes* of Antoninus Pius (?) but this was not entirely legible (although it will be once it is cleaned). If it is of this reign, then it dates to 137-160 AD but I am sure it will be identifiable once it has been conserved. The last remaining coin was a corroded coin-sized purple / lilac-coloured disc. One side was smooth, the other had corrosion products. I suspect this may be a tinned head of a flat-headed stud rather than a coin but it could be a very worn *denarius*. Only conservation will resolve that issue.

- 7.10.1.4. The brooch was of the Langton Down type (1st century AD) but was very heavily corroded and incomplete with only the bow surviving. The spoon had much better preservation and is of the so-called 'mandolin' shape (Crummy 1983, 69). She lists an exact parallel for the shape of the bowl (ibid, pg 2018) but her example lacks the handle. In this case the spoon has a well-preserved and unworn bowl with a disc-shaped attachment between the bowl and handle. It is probably fourth century in date.

7.11. **Tile and Other Building Materials (Trenches 1-7)** by Erica Macey-Bracken

7.11.1. **The Tile**

- 7.11.1.1. A total of 635 fragments of ceramic tile, weighing 55439 grammes, were recovered from the site. The tile was fragmentary, and no complete tiles were recovered, although some tiles still retained diagnostic features. The tile was quantified by count and weight, and examined macroscopically for the purposes of this report.

- 7.11.1.2. The tile was evenly distributed across the site, and fragments of tile were recovered from all the trenches. Diagnostic sherds of known Romano-British tile forms such as tegula, imbrex and tubulus were noted in all trenches apart from Trench 1. The most common tile form noted was imbrex, with 21 fragments being recovered. Sixteen tegulae fragments were also recovered, as were ten fragments of tubulus, or box-flue tile, with its characteristic comb marks. The size and thickness of many

of the undiagnostic sherds suggests that many of them are from broken tegulae which have not retained any diagnostic elements. One large piece of pedalis was recovered from Trench 7 and a flat piece of tile with a nail hole was recovered from Trench 3.

Table 3: Distribution of Romano-British Tile Forms

| Context | Tegula | Imbrex | Tubulus | Pedalis | Tile with nail hole |
|---------|--------|----------|----------|---------|---------------------|
| 2015 | | 1 | | | |
| 2016 | | | <u>1</u> | | |
| 2018 | 1 | | | | |
| 2022 | 2 | | 2 | | |
| 2025 | | <u>1</u> | | | |
| 2027 | 2 | | 1 | | |
| 2036 | 1 | | | | |
| 2042 | 1 | | | | |
| 2045 | | | 1 | | |
| 3018 | | | <u>3</u> | | |
| 3043 | | | | | 1 |
| 4005 | | | 1 | | |
| 4007 | | | <u>1</u> | | |
| 5030 | 1 | | | | |
| 5042 | 1 | | | | |
| 5045 | | 1 | | | |
| 6005 | 1 | 1 | | | |
| 7007 | 1 | 8 | | | |
| 7008 | 3 | 3 | | 1 | |
| 7014 | 1 | 3 | | | |
| U/S | 1 | 3 | | | |
| TOTAL | 16 | 21 | 10 | 1 | 1 |

7.11.1.3. There was little variation in the tile fabrics noted on the site, and most of the assemblage was made from the same hard-fired dark orange material. Some examples were slightly softer, and pale orange in colour, but the overall impression of the fabrics present is one of uniformity, suggesting that all of the tile came from one phase of construction of a large building.

7.11.2. **Other Building Materials**

7.11.2.1. Other building materials recovered from the site were stone, slate, concrete, tesserae, plaster and mortar, as shown in table 4.

Table 4: Distribution of other building materials

| Context | Stone | Slate | Concrete | Tesserae | Plaster | Mortar |
|---------|-------|-------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 2009 | - | - | - | 6 | - | 2 |
| 2012 | - | - | - | 3 | - | - |
| 2013 | - | - | - | - | <u>2</u> | <u>2</u> |
| 2015 | - | - | - | - | 3 | 2 |
| 2016 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - |
| 2017 | - | - | - | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> |
| 2018 | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | 18 |

| | | | | | | |
|-------|---|----|----|--------------|----------|----------|
| 2019 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| 2020 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| 2022 | 3 | 17 | - | 11 | 7 | 16 |
| 2023 | - | 1 | - | 1 | 4 | 11 |
| 2031 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2039 | - | - | - | 3 | - | - |
| 2042 | - | - | - | 8 | - | - |
| 4005 | = | = | = | = | <u>1</u> | = |
| 4007 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| 5007 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5021 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| 5030 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 6012 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| 6013 | = | = | = | = | = | <u>3</u> |
| 7005 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| 7008 | 3 | - | -- | - | - | - |
| U/S | - | 1 | - | 1 (Trench 2) | - | - |
| TOTAL | 9 | 20 | 1 | 39 | 22 | 61 |

7.11.2.2. The stone had not been worked, but appears to have been used in construction of a wall. One fragment of slate (2023) had a nail hole, and appears to be part of a roof slate, and it is likely that the other fragments of slate recovered were from similar broken slates.

7.11.2.3. The plaster was mostly painted, and green, red, white, brown and pink / white fragments were recovered, although all the fragments were too small to see whether they were part of a painted design, or part of a plain painted wall.

7.11.2.4. The fragment of concrete was shaped, and may also have been used in construction.

7.12. **Other finds (Trenches 1-7)** by Erica Macey-Bracken

7.12.1. **Iron**

7.12.1.1. Nails were the most abundant iron finds recovered from the site (2012 x 1, 2012 x 1, 2018 x 1, 2022 x 2, 2023 x 1, 2025 x 1, 2042 x 1, 5007 x 1, 7022 x 1), with most coming from Trench 2. All of the nails were fairly corroded, but most appear to correspond to Manning's Type 1 (Manning, 1985, 134), which were common across Roman Britain.

7.12.1.2. Other iron finds from the site included a corroded iron bar of no discernable function (1005), a large horseshoe (5032) from an unexcavated late Medieval or Post-Medieval horse burial in Trench 5, three fragments of an iron bracket (5042) and a fragment from a thick iron strip (7008).

7.12.2. **Shell**

7.12.2.1. A large quantity of oyster shell, and several snail shells were noted across the site, as can be seen from the table below.

Table 5: Distribution of Shell

| Context | Oyster Shell | Snail Shell |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1005 | 6 | - |
| 1007 | 1 | - |
| 1012 | 1 | - |
| 2009 | 2 | - |
| 2016 | 2 | - |
| 2017 | 1 | - |
| 2018 | 1 | - |
| 2022 | 18 | 3 |
| 2023 | 16 | - |
| 2027 | 1 | 3 |
| 2028 | 1 | - |
| 2031 | 4 | - |
| 2039 | 3 | - |
| 2042 | 3 | - |
| 2062 | 2 | - |
| 3008 | - | 1 |
| 3018 | 2 | - |
| 4005 | 1 | - |
| 5009 | 1 | - |
| 7008 | 4 | - |
| TOTAL | 70 | 7 |

7.12.2.2. None of the shell was worked, and is likely to be discarded food waste.

7.12.3. **Clay Pipe**

7.12.3.1. Seven clay pipe stem fragments were recovered from the fill of a modern service trench in Trench 1 (1005). One of the stems retained a spur, which enabled the piece to be tentatively dated to 1840 - 60 (Ayto, 1999, 7).

7.12.4. **Modern Glass**

7.12.4.1. The fill of the service trench in Trench 1 which produced the clay pipe discussed above also produced five fragments of glass. One of these fragments was from a dark green wine bottle, and another was from a clear glass vessel. The other three fragments were from window glass. One sherd of modern glass was also noted in a silty deposit in Trench 4 (4004). This fragment, from a clear green bottle, was embossed with the letters [...ED W].

7.12.5. **Other finds**

7.12.5.1. The remainder of the finds from the site consisted of five fragments of metallic slag (1005, 2025, 2026, 2028, 7008) and eleven fragments of charcoal (2009 x 2, 2022 x 2, 2023 x 1, 7008 x 1, 7009 x 1).

7.13. **The Charred Plant Remains (Trenches 1-7)** by Emma Tetlow

7.13.1. **Introduction**

7.13.1.1. A total of six samples were assessed for archaeo-environmental potential. Archaeological investigations suggest multi-phase, multi-period activity has taken place at the site, spanning the Romano-British to Medieval periods. The proximity

of this site to the River Soar (500m to the east) and its situation within the floodplain suggest great potential for the preservation of both waterlogged and charred archaeo-environmental evidence at the site.

7.13.2. **Methodology**

7.13.2.1. The samples were washed through a 300µm mesh sieve, allowed to dry and examined under a low power binocular microscope at x10 magnification.

7.13.3. **Results**

7.13.3.1. The results of this assessment are presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Potential for further charred plant or charcoal analysis of the six selected samples from Blackfriars, Leicester.

| Feature | Context | Sample | Sedimentology /description | Finds | Charred Plant | Comments | Potential |
|---------|-------------|-----------|---|---------------|---------------|---|-------------|
| | 3044 | 11 | Grey/green silty clay | | No | Abundant charcoal, relatively large fragments >50mm. | None |
| | <u>2063</u> | <u>14</u> | <u>Early Ditch fill</u> | | <u>No</u> | <u>Abundant charcoal.</u> | <u>None</u> |
| | 4009 | 10 | Alluvium, with crushed brick and mortar | | No | Abundant charcoal, animal bone. | None |
| | 3046 | 12 | sand and gravel | | Yes | Limited charcoal, single grain of Triticum aestivum (Bread Wheat) | None |
| | 2062 | 13 | Rubble layer | RB pot sherds | No | Abundant charcoal | None |
| 2035 | 2008 | 9 | Dark brown ditch fill | RB pot sherds | No | Abundant charcoal, fish bone. Single seed of Sambucus nigra | None |

7.13.3.2. Five samples contained abundant charcoal (11, 14, 10, 13, 9), Sample 11 produced a number of large charcoal fragments >50mm. Animal bone was recovered from samples 10 (indeterminate small mammal) and 9 (indeterminate fish bone).

7.13.3.3. Charred and waterlogged plant remains were restricted to a single grain of charred Triticum aestivum (bread wheat) recovered from Sample 12, and well-preserved uncharred seeds from the shrub Sambucus nigra (elder) from Sample 9. S. nigra is typical of waste and disturbed ground and wayside situations (Stace 1997). It is, however likely that this seed is in fact accidental, relatively modern contamination.

7.13.4. **Pollen analysis**

7.13.4.1. Four samples have been selected for pollen assessment from this site, outlined in Table 7.

7.13.4.2. The material has been selected on the basis of the sedimentology, level of organic preservation and on the potential for waterlogging. Many of the samples selected are from organic-rich deposits interpreted as 'cess'. Of most interest was material from Sondage 1. In addition, context descriptions suggest deposits of a similar nature were encountered below context 2065. If this is indeed the case, pollen assessment of the underlying strata is also recommended.

Table 7: Potential for further charred plant or charcoal analysis of the six selected samples from Blackfriars, Leicester.

| Feature | Context | Sample | Sedimentology/ description | Finds | BA Comments | Comments |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|---|------------|---------------------------------|--|
| | 2065 | 15 | Humified black organics | N/A | Cess pit? | Assess the potential of subsequent samples 2066-2067 |
| <u>5046</u> | <u>5049</u> | <u>17</u> | Gritty, silty clay | <u>N/A</u> | Cess pit? <u>Medieval</u> | |
| | 4009 | 10 | Alluvium, with crushed brick and mortar | N/A | Cess pit? | |
| 5046 | 5037 | 16 | Cess rich | N/A | Cess pit? Med and RB pot sherds | |

8. INTERPRETATION

8.1. Subsoil (natural)

8.1.1. Where the natural yellow/orange gravel was encountered within trenches 2, 3 and 4 it appeared to slope down to the west. This is further backed by evidence revealed in the later evaluation of trenches 8-12 where a similar pattern could be seen. This could be due to a natural slope leading down to the river or the result of terracing on the west side of the city. The lower deposits within Trench 2 (**2063** and **2069**) lay up against a 45° slope of natural gravel which appeared man made. One possibility is that this slope represents the eastern edge of a ditch on a north-south alignment with deposits **2063** and **2069** representing ditch fill, although if present this ditch does not appear to extend as far as the area evaluated by Trenches 8-10 where no evidence of the feature was noted, suggesting either a termination of the feature or a turn in its alignment between these points.

8.2. 1st Century Deposits

8.2.1. Pottery dating to the 1st century was recovered from both Trench 5 and Trench 6. Within trench 5 a single sherd of shelly storage jar with vertical scoring came from fill **5044**, within cut **5051**. The original stratigraphic relationships of this feature had been truncated completely in plan by a later medieval cess pit (**5038**, Fig 10,

section H). One interpretation is that this is the base of a deep feature, cut from a much higher level containing re-deposited 1st century pottery. Alternatively, it is also possible that this north-south aligned feature pre-dated the earthen rampart deposits (see below) and represents an earlier defensive ditch. It is known that a considerable Iron Age settlement lay along the east bank of the river and this feature could be tentatively interpreted as the Iron Age Oppidum ditch suspected to be present in this area. It has also been speculated that the early Roman fort defences may pass through the site and **5051** could therefore represent the remains of a Fort ditch. However, the pottery could date to either the immediate pre or post-conquest period so these theories can only be speculative.

- 8.2.2. 1st century pottery was also recovered from unexcavated deposits seen in section in Trench 6 (**6008** and **6009**, Fig. 11, section I). The frequent inclusions of charcoal and oyster shells within these layers indicated that they may be early Roman occupation deposits, though the limited area makes their interpretation difficult. These deposits were overlain by a highly compacted cobble surface (**6011**) which appeared to have an east-west alignment and a 45° camber on its northern side (Plate 8). It is possible that the cobble surface indicates the remains of the east-west Roman Road which is thought to pass through this area (Fig. 12). No dating evidence was recovered from **6011** but it is known that the layout of the road system was altered during the 2nd century and so would have overlain the position of the earlier 1st century timber structures and occupation deposits.
- 8.2.3. Pottery from the 1st century was also recovered from Trenches 10 and 12. The pottery from Trench 10 is related to a feature interpreted as a beam slot (**10005**) and perhaps suggests a date for the occupation of the potential structures within this area. The pottery from Trench 12 is in small amounts, and is perhaps residual within features of a later date.
- 8.2.4. It is important to note that the lack of recorded 1st century occupation deposits within the rest of the trenches does not imply a genuine absence. During this evaluation stage it was not feasible to excavate all the overlying later Roman and medieval deposits, and so it is possible that early or pre-Roman archaeology is present over a greater portion of the site than the recorded finds suggest.

8.3. **Rampart and Non-Occupational Deposits (Fig. 18)**

- 8.3.1. Excavations elsewhere in the city have suggested that the turf-built rampart and associated outer defensive ditches were constructed some time during the 2nd century, and it has been speculated that the western defenses followed the line of Bath Lane. Within the eastern end of Trench 5 were a series of orange/brown alluvial derived layers (**5056**, **5055**, **5042**, **5054**, **5009**, and **5007**, Fig. 10) which appear to have been laid one on top of the other to form a bank, possibly the early Roman earthen rampart. Deposit **5056** (at 2.80m below current ground surface) appeared to be a turf horizon, possibly marking the contemporary ground surface prior to the rampart construction. If this interpretation is correct it is likely that the overlying layers were derived from the excavation of the outer ditches which, so close to the river Soar, would have been dug through the alluvial flood plain deposits.
- 8.3.2. The small section of rampart exposed could also contain evidence for the timber strapping used in the construction of the earthen rampart in the form of beam slot **5062**, which lay at right angles to the line of the defences (Fig. 9). The large posthole (**5031**) which truncated layer **5007** and contained 2nd century pottery, may represent the position of a large post used to support rampart construction or

indicate the presence of a substantial structure on the top of the rampart. The entire sequence interpreted as rampart deposits has a thickness of 1.6m, and a width in excess of 7m.

- 8.3.3. The western side of the possible rampart deposits were truncated by a north-south aligned cut (**5059**, Fig. 10). Previous excavations in Leicester (for example at Sanvey Gate) have shown that during a later phase of rampart construction, a large stone wall was dug into the front of the existing earthen defences. It is possible that the cut **5059** actually represents two very different features with the lower, more vertical portion of the feature, representing the original construction cut for the Roman city wall and the upper portion indicating the position of the later, possibly medieval, robber cut. Therefore, mortared stone deposit **5060** could represent the remnant of foundations for the town wall with a later robbing event removing all but its most basal course. Waterlogged deposit **5050** may represent the primary level of the robbing event, with an accumulation of material in the base of the robber cut, prior to deliberate backfilling. However, given the confines of the evaluation trench and the small area in which these features were recorded, this interpretation could not be conclusively proven. The city defences also included two outer ditches and it is equally possible that cut **5059** indicated the location of one of these ditches.
- 8.3.4. Similar alluvial derived deposits to those interpreted as rampart material in Trench 5, were recorded in Trenches 2 and 3 (**2036** and **3015**). Therefore, it is likely that the city defences were aligned through Trench 3 and the north-west corner of Trench 2 (see Fig. 13 for a speculated alignment of the rampart and ditches). Within Trench 3 deposit **3015** sloped gradually down to the west before being truncated by a large modern service pipe (**3040**, Fig. 7). To the west of the service pipe the deposits were very silty containing lots of charcoal flecks and degraded organic material (**3046**, **3047** and **3010**). It appeared that these layers, given their fine nature, may have been deposited by water action, or as the result of water accumulating in a large feature, i.e. a ditch. It seems possible that these deposits are in fact the lower fills of one of the Roman defensive ditches. If this is the case then the cut for the ditch has been completely removed by the modern service pipe **3041**.
- 8.3.5. To the east of this possible ditch was a large north-south aligned masonry feature **3033**, which if previous interpretations are correct, would have been on the top of, or to the front of the earthen rampart. It has been speculated that this could be the basal course of the city wall dug through the earthen rampart, though as only a small proportion of **3033** remained this interpretation is tentative.
- 8.3.6. No rampart deposits were encountered within trenches 8, 9 or 10. If the deposits within trenches 2 and 3 are interpreted correctly, then this would indicate that the alignment of the city defences alters considerably between the locations of trenches 2-8, kicking out presumably to follow the line of Bath Street (Fig. 18).
- 8.3.7. The layers filling the possible robber/ditch cut (**5059**) in Trench 5 (**5018**, **5016**, **5017** and **5035**, Fig. 10) are best interpreted as demolition material (potentially from wall **5062**) created during the medieval period and used to back-fill the robbed-out feature or Roman defensive ditch. The final deposit recorded prior to the post-medieval levelling episodes in Trench 5 was mixed brown silty clay (**5034**), containing 13th-15th century pottery. It has been suggested that in other parts of the city the medieval defensive ditch followed the line of the original Roman defences, and it is possible that **5034** may represent the fill of this ditch. Collectively, the post-robbing demolition and levelling in-fills have a thickness of

1.9m, with the upper visible extent marked by recent truncation at 1.3m below current ground surface.

- 8.3.8. The homogenous deposits recorded in Trench 4 (**4005** and **4004**) were reminiscent of river silts suggesting that Trench 4 had been excavated through an old watercourse, the upper silting of a large ditch, or through substantial hill-wash deposits. Given the interpretation of the deposits within Trenches 3 and 5 it is likely that these layers represent the final filling of the outer Roman defensive ditch during the medieval and post-medieval periods.

8.4. **Occupational and Structural Deposits**

- 8.4.1. Trenches 1, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 and the southern end of Trench 2 appear to lie inside the earthen rampart defences and most contained evidence for Roman occupation and structures (Fig. 13)

- 8.4.2. Within Trench 2 were the remains of several foundation courses on a roughly north-south and east-west alignment (**2018**, **2012/2013** and **2027**) which sat on top of, or were cut into, a series of compacted mortar-rich surfaces (**2015** and **2016**, Fig. 4). To the north of walls **2012/2013** and **2018** lay stone dumps **2017** and **2019** which may represent the base for an internal floor surface or the rubble resulting from the demolition of walls **2012/2013** and **2018**. The pottery recovered from the backfill over wall **2018** was both Roman and medieval in date, possibly indicating the time at which the wall was robbed.

- 8.4.3. Several of the layers encountered within Sondage 1 in Trench 2 (Fig. 4, Section B) may indicate the presence of structural deposits pre-dating those seen in plan. Deposit **2043** contained large pieces of sandstone indicating the possible remains of a robbed out foundation trench. If this is a structural feature it is possible to suggest that clay surface **2064** and trample deposit **2062** were associated with a stone structure. Many of the deposits within the southern half of Trench 2 also contained several fired clay and stone tesserae suggesting that a tessellated pavement or surface may have been located nearby.

- 8.4.4. The most substantial structural evidence was encountered in Trench 7 in the form of large stone block **7010** (Fig. 12, Plate 9), likely to belong to a high status Roman building. It is possible that the associated concrete deposits **7011** and **7021** represent the foundation layer, or internal surface of a substantial structure, though as most of this surface was covered by later unexcavated deposits this can only be speculated. It is possible that the later concrete deposits **7020** and **7012** indicate the re-use, or a later phase of the structure originally indicated by the presence of the large stone block (**7010**).

- 8.4.5. To the east of these features lay a north-south aligned foundation cut (**7015**) with evidence of later robbing activity (**7017**). This feature remained largely unexcavated though it did contain a large quantity of broken masonry pieces, presumably representing the material that was discarded following the robbing of the original structure. The back fill of this robber cut also contained a rare 4th century copper brooch which may indicate the date of the robbing activity.

- 8.4.6. Within Trench 10 were two probable beam slots with associated pottery dating to the 1st century AD (**10005** and **10010**). These ran on a north-south, and an east-west alignment respectively and represent the only certain evidence of occupation in the 2010 stages of the evaluation.

8.4.7. The three parallel vertically sided ditches within trench 9 (**9003**, **9007** and **9016**) are difficult to interpret. While they appear structural in nature, no evidence for the structures they may have held was uncovered during excavation. Even if stone foundations had been robbed out, some trace evidence would be expected in the form of small stone pieces or mortar mixed in with the backfill. The most likely interpretation is that the features represent large beam slots which would indicate the presence of a large timber building, possible relating to the earliest phases of the Roman occupation in Leicester.

8.4.8. Another interpretation for the substantial beam slots within trench 9 may also be suggested; a barrack block. Barrack blocks are generally 9-10m wide with the distance between the main beam ditches being around 4m from their centre points, and direct parallels can be found within Johnson 1983 (pg 166-169). This would imply that a barracks block was aligned north-south within the site. The average barrack block measures between 40-50m in length so a structure could lie within the space between trenches 8 and 10. However, this suggestion that there is evidence for a fort on the east bank of the River Soar is only tentative at this stage.

8.5. **Late Saxon and Saxo-Norman Deposits**

8.5.1. Trenches 9, 10 and 12 contained evidence for occupation during the Late Saxon period in the form of a number of pit features that contained fragments of pottery dating to this period and into the Saxo-Norman period.

8.5.2. Within Trench 9 pottery from ditch (9003) was dated to the Saxo-Norman period and consisted of Stamford ware sherds with a yellow glaze, while similar pottery was recovered from a small pit located in Trench 10 (10012). From within Trench 12 pottery of Saxo-Norman origin including a late Saxon pedestal lamp, was recovered from a large square pit at the northern end of the trench (12019).

8.5.3. Until now, there has been little evidence for Saxon or Early medieval activity within the area so the discovery of several features containing pottery dating to this period is significant. Recent excavations to the south of the site, and to the west of Bath Lane, revealed an east-west aligned wall tentatively interpreted as the south precinct wall of the Blackfriars Friary. It is therefore possible that the site lies within the surrounds of the Friary and that the Late Saxon and early medieval features are associated with activities therein.

8.6. **Medieval Deposits**

8.6.1. Trenches 2 and 3 contained north-south aligned ditches dated to the medieval period. Ditch **2021** (Fig. 4) appeared to have a mortar lining which although degraded and crumbling now may once have made ditch **2021/3035** a very solid feature. A suggestion of a similar mortar lining could be seen in the sides of ditch **3017** though it was very degraded and less conclusive.

8.6.2. The western edge of the ditch in Trench 3 (**3017**) aligned perfectly with western edge of ditch **2021** in Trench 2 (Fig. 4) and it is likely that they are the same feature. However, the segment of the ditch seen in Trench 2 was twice the width and depth of that seen in Trench 3 indicating that its profile drastically altered somewhere between the two trenches. If the theory regarding the location of the Roman defences is correct, then this feature would truncate the top of the earthen rampart and may indicate the presence of a medieval defensive ditch.

- 8.6.3. The two large cess filled pits (**5038** and **5048**) within Trench 5 also truncated the top of the Roman earthen rampart deposits. Previous excavations along Bath Lane have hinted at large scale medieval industrial activity, especially tanning, on the east bank of the River Soar. Although these features did not contain the usual profusion of horn cores associated with the tanning process, the leather off-cut from pit **5048** is typical of waste products from the cutting up of tanned hides. The pits did contain well preserved waterlogged timbres and the possible remains of a wicker basket suggesting that they originally contained a wooden structure or performed a specific purpose.
- 8.6.4. It was probably around the time that these large pits were created that the possible robbing of the Roman city wall took place, as the upper demolition deposits overlay the upper fills of the two pits.
- 8.6.5. Large probable cesspits were also excavated in Trench 8, with a number of these pits located along the entirety of the trench, again suggesting large scale industrial processes being carried out in the area. Pottery from the features (8004 and 8017) give a 12th-13th century date as an indication of when this activity might have been taking place.
- 8.6.6. The pit excavated in Trench 12 (**12019**) that also contained fragments of 12th-13th century pottery was also a likely feature used for some sort of industrial process, and the presence of a possible waterlogged wooden structure within may be a residue from the sort of activity that was taking place. The wooden object was left in situ to better preserve the artefact as removing it would have caused likely damage.

9. DISCUSSION AND IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1.1. The results of the evaluation indicate that a significant length of the Roman defences cross the north-west corner of the development site, including the earthen rampart and associated ditches, and the later addition of the city wall into the top of the rampart. It is also possible that evidence of the Iron Age defences or the early Roman fort may be preserved below the main earthen rampart deposits. Although it is clear that extensive robbing and demolition of these features took place during post Roman periods, there is also evidence to suggest the re-use of the defences by the medieval occupants of the city.
- 9.1.2. The absence of the rampart and associated defences in Trenches 8, 9 and 10 suggest that the alignment of the feature changes slightly, and may lie further to the west of the site. Excavations to the west of Bath Lane have proved this to be the case (Priest 2005, Gnanaratnam and Meek 2003).
- 9.1.3. Within the central portion of the site, evidence of 2m deep stratified Roman deposits including several phases of building was recorded within Trench 2, while the eastern end of Trench 3 contained evidence for timber frame structures and stratified archaeological deposits reaching a depth of 3m below the present ground surface. The most significant structural evidence uncovered was within Trench 7, where a large stone column base remained intact providing evidence of an extremely substantial and important building with at least two distinct phases of use. This theory is further supported by the 19th century discoveries of mosaics in the immediate vicinity.

-
- 9.1.4. Probable beam slots were also located in Trench 10 to the south of the site, and in addition to the three large beam slots located in Trench 9, this suggests occupation activity also occurred in this area.
- 9.1.5. Trench 6 contained evidence for the east-west aligned Roman Road thought to pass through the area and therefore it is likely that the remains of Roman street frontages are also preserved within the site, although Trenches 9 and 10 did not reveal any further evidence of this road to the west of the site.
- 9.1.6. It has been previously thought that evidence for 4th century activity at Leicester is sparse (see Historical background), however the significant finds of a rare Cross Bow broach, two bone pins and a number of coins dating to the 4th century bring this into question. These finds indicate that the site at Bath Lane may provide new evidence of late Roman activity within Leicester and therefore may have wider significance to the city.
- 9.1.7. The presence of Saxon pottery in the assemblage suggests that occupation of the site occurred during this time, with the pottery indicating a Late Saxon starting date. This is of interest as the number of Saxon period sites is small and as such this site has the potential to provide new information on this period in history.
- 9.1.8. It is possible that the development site may contain a significant area of medieval industrial features on the banks of the River Soar given the discovery of the two large square pits which contained waterlogged timbers, along with a number of large industrial cess pits.
- 9.1.9. It is clear from the results of the evaluation that well preserved, deeply stratified archaeological remains dating from pre/early-Roman through to the medieval periods are present at the Bath Lane site. The majority of the archaeological deposits have been well preserved below a 0.5-0.8m deep deposit of dark soils and any major modern truncation appears minimal. It is likely that these deposits are present across the entire development area and are therefore vulnerable to ground works. The level at which significant archaeological remains were encountered within each trench are detailed in Tables 8 and 9.
- 9.1.10. The site has the potential to answer specific questions raised by the East Midlands Regional Research Network (Taylor 2006) including:
- Is it possible to better establish the evidence for early forts, significant Late Iron Age settlements and 3rd/4th century activity at Leicester?
 - What is the extent to which nucleated or centralised places of social power in Roman Britain developed from existing foci in the Late Iron Age or were consequent upon a series of far reaching changes brought about by conquest and subsequent administration?
 - Were forts established as local centres in their own right during the period of military occupation or subsequently?
 - How was architectural space within settlements arranged?
 - Focusing on urbanism as a social process rather than focus on towns as an object of study.

- Why in the Later Roman period were some of these centres provided with defences and not others?

9.1.11. The site therefore has the potential to provide a significant contribution to our understanding of Roman and medieval Leicester. The results of any further work are expected to be of regional and national importance.

Table 8: Approximate Depth of Modern Overburden

| Trench | Level AOD | | Approximate depth below ground surface | |
|--------|-----------------|-----------------|--|---------------|
| | Upper | Lower | Upper | Lower |
| 1 | 54.95m | 53.80m | | 1.25m |
| 2 | 55.50m | 54.70m | | 0.80m |
| 3 | 55.50m | 54.75m | | 0.75m |
| 4 | 55.31m | 53.70m | | 1.65m |
| 5 | 55.59m - 55.31m | 54.44m - 53.81m | | 1.15m - 1.50m |
| 6 | 55.80m | 55.35m | | 1.45 |
| 7 | 55.76m | 54.55m | | 1.21 |
| 8 | 56.21m | 53.81m | | |
| 9 | 56.20m | 53.60m | | |
| 10 | 56.64m | 53.64m | | |
| 11 | 56.26m | 54.01m | | |
| 12 | 55.78m | 53.33m | | |

Table 9: Approximate Depth of Roman and Medieval Archaeological Deposits

| Trench | Level AOD | | Approximate depth below ground surface | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| | Upper | Lower/Natural (if known) | Upper | Lower/Natural (if known) |
| 1 | 53.80m | | 1.15m | |
| 2 | 54.70m (medieval) 54.10m (Roman) | 53.03m | 0.80m (medieval) 1.40m (Roman) | 2.50m |
| 3 | 54.75m | 52.75m | 0.75m | 2.75m |
| 4 | 53.70m | 52.81m | 1.65m | 2.50m |
| 5 | 54.45m | | 1.15m | |
| 6 | 54.35m | | 1.45m | |
| 7 | 54.55m | | 1.21m | |
| 8 | 53.81m | 53.22m | | |
| 9 | 53.60m | 52.98m | | |
| 10 | 53.64m | 53.04m | | |
| 11 | 54.01m | 53.16m | | |
| 12 | 53.33m | 52.44m | | |

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The project was commissioned by Watkin Jones. Thanks are due to Mark Woodgate and Angela Lennox of Cirrus Property, Gwyn Pritchard of Watkin Jones Homes and Mary Power of Savills Commercial Planning for their co-operation and assistance throughout the project (2007) and Andy Shaw and Ian Smith of Watkins Jones (2010). Thanks also go to Chris Wardle who monitored the project on behalf of Leicester City Council. Work on site was undertaken by A. Aston, E. Bishop, P. Breeze, P. Collins, M. Edgeworth, E. Hamilton, S. Paul and E. Sautejeau (2007) and Lis Bishop, Mark Charles, Paul Collins, Samantha Hepburn and Phil Mann (2010). Samantha Paul (2007) and Phil Mann (2010) produced the written report which was illustrated by N. Dodds, B. Ryder and H. Moulden, and edited by Richard Cuttler (2007) and Samantha Paul (2010). The project was managed by Richard Cuttler in 2007 and Samantha Paul in 2010.

11. REFERENCES

- Amorosi, T (1989). *A postcranial guide to domestic neo-natal and juvenile mammals*. BAR Int. series 533.
- Albarella, U and Pirnie, T (2008) A review of animal bone evidence from central England.
- Ayto, E. G. 1999 *Clay Tobacco Pipes Shire Album 37*, Shire Publications Ltd, Princes Risborough
- Bass, WM (1995). *Human Osteology*. Missouri archaeology society. Columbia
- Cohen, A. and D. Serjeantson (1996). *A Manual for the Identification of Bird Bones from Archaeological Sites*: London.
- Clay, P. and Mellor, J. 1985. Excavations in Bath Lane, Leicester, Leicestershire Museums, Art Galleries and Record Service Archaeological Report 10 (Leicester).
- Cooper 2004 *The lost defences in Leicester*. In ULAS Review 2002-2003, 14-15
- Crummy, N, 1983, *The Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-9*. *Colchester Archaeological Report 2*
- Davies, S. 1999. 'The Roman glass', in Connor, A. and Buckley, R. *Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester*. Archaeology Monograph 5 (Leicester), 283-92.
- DCLG. (2010) *Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5): Planning for the Historic Environment*.
- English Heritage (1991) *Management of Archaeological Projects* London
- Ettlinger, E, et al. 1990, *Conspectus Formarum Terra Sigillatae Italico modo confectae*, Bonn
- Gnanaratnam, A. and Meek, J. 2003 *An Archaeological Evaluation on the Site of the Merlin Works, Bath lane, Leicester*. ULAS Report No. 2003-162
- Grant, A. (1982). *The use of toothwear as a guide to the age of domestic ungulates. Ageing and Sexing Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites*. B. Wilson, C. Grigson and S. Payne. Oxford, BAR British Series 109: 91-108.
- Hawkes, C F C, and Hull, M R, 1947, *Camulodunum. First report on the excavations*

at Colchester 1930-1939, Rep Res Comm Soc Antiq London No **14**

Hebditch, M. and Mellor, J. 1973. 'The Forum and Basilica of Roman Leicester', *Britannia* 4, 1-83.
Hillson, S. (1992). *Mammal Bones and Teeth*. London, Institute of Archaeology.

Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) 2001 *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations*

JSAC 2003 *An archaeological desk-based assessment of land at Bath Lane, Leicester*. John Samuels Archaeological Consultants.

Johnson, A 1983 *Roman Forts of the 1st and 2nd centuries AD in Britain and German Provinces*. A+C Black.

Jones 2003 *Land at Friar's Mill, 58 Bath Lane, Leicester*. BUFAU Report No. 1075

Lyman, R. L. (1994). *Vertebrate Taphonomy*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

Manning, W. H. 1985 *Catalogue of the Romano-British Iron Tools, Fittings and Weapons in the British Museum*. British Museum Publications Ltd. London.

Meek, J. 2002 *An archaeological desk-based assessment of the Merlin Works (formerly Trucolor Works), Bath Lane, Leicester*. ULAS Report No. 2002-193

Meek 2005 *An archaeological desk-based assessment of the Leicester Regeneration Company, Waterside Area*.

Mellor, JE and Pearce, T (1981) *The Austin Friars, Leicester*. Council for British Archaeology Research Report 35, London.

Payne, S. (1985). Morphological distinctions between the mandibular teeth of young sheep and goats. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 12: 139-147.

Price, J. and Cottam, S. 1998. *Romano-British Glass Vessels: a Handbook CBA Practical Handbook in Archaeology* 14 (York).

Priest 2005 *Archaeological Evaluations at Bath Lane, Leicester*. ULAS Report No. 2005-021

Prummel, W. and H. Frisch (1986). A guide for the distinction of species, sex and body side in bones of sheep and goat. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 13: 567-577.

Read, B. *Metal Artefacts of Antiquity* Portcullis Publishing, 2001

Schmid, E. (1972). *Atlas of Animal Bones*. Elsevier.

Schweingruber, FW (1982) *Microscopic Wood Anatomy* Zurich

Serjeantson, D. (1996) *The animal bones*. In *Refuse and disposal at area 16 East Runnymede*. S. Needham and T. Spence (eds). *Runnymede bridge research excavations* 2

Silver, I. A. (1969). *The ageing of domestic animals*. *Science and Archaeology*. D. R. Brothwell and E. S. Higgs. London, Thames and Hudson.

Stace, C. (1997) *New Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge: University Press.

Tomber, Roberta and John Dore 1998. The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection: A Handbook, London : Museum of London Archaeology Service

von den Driesch, A. (1976). A guide to the measurement of animal bones from archaeological sites. Cambridge, Massachusettes, Harvard University Press.

Young, C J, 1977, Oxfordshire Roman pottery. BAR 43, Oxford

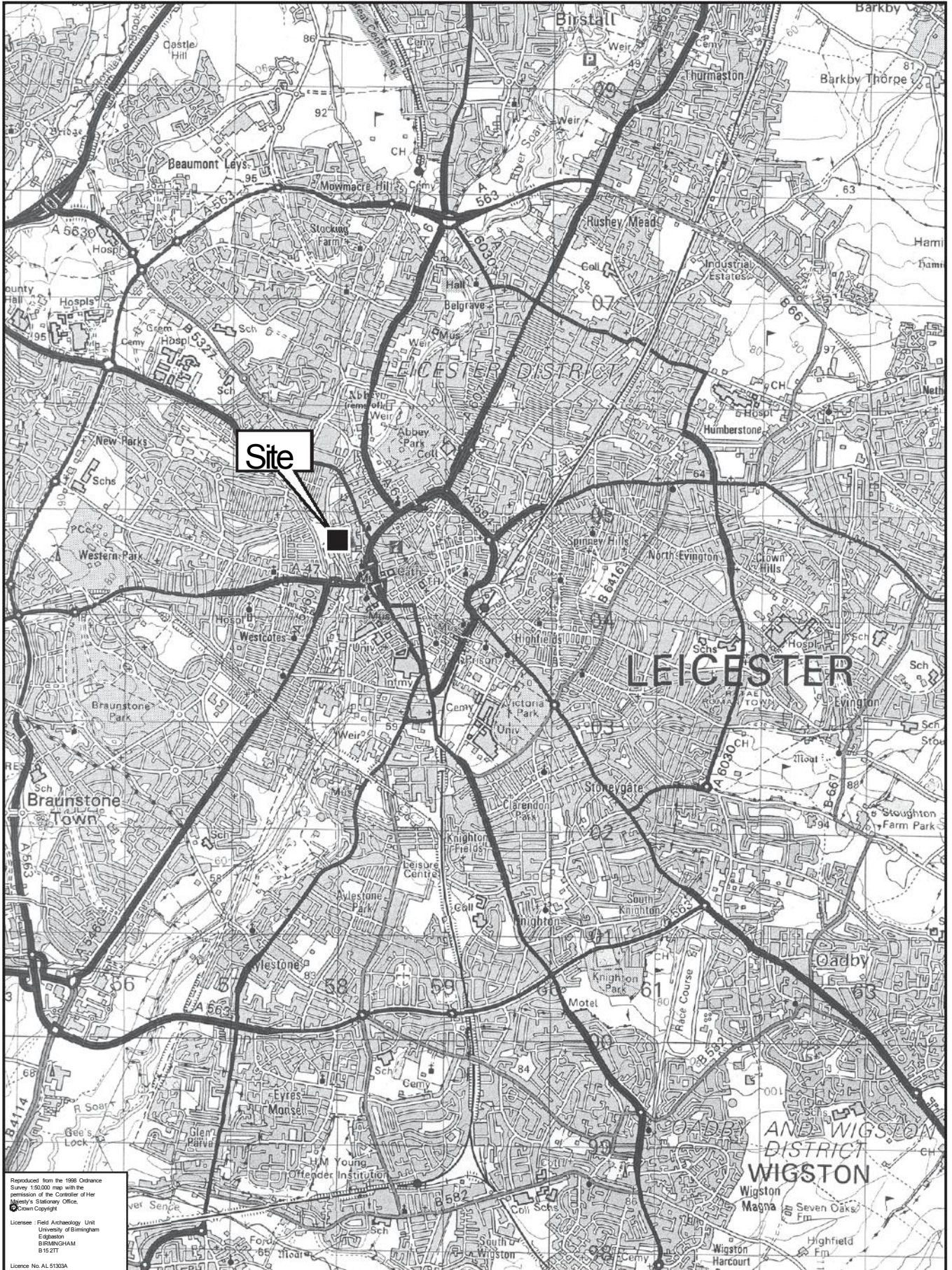


Fig.1

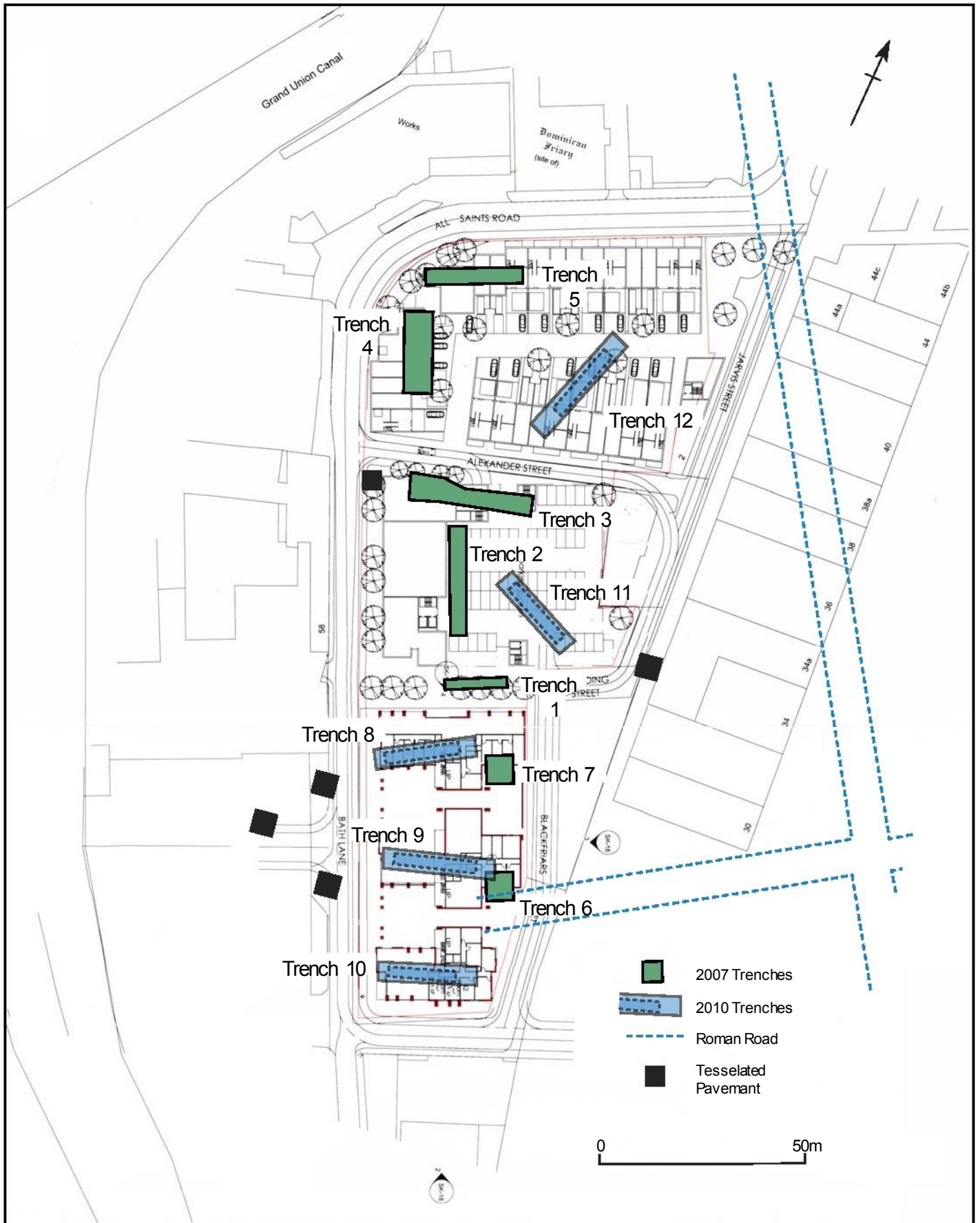


Fig.2

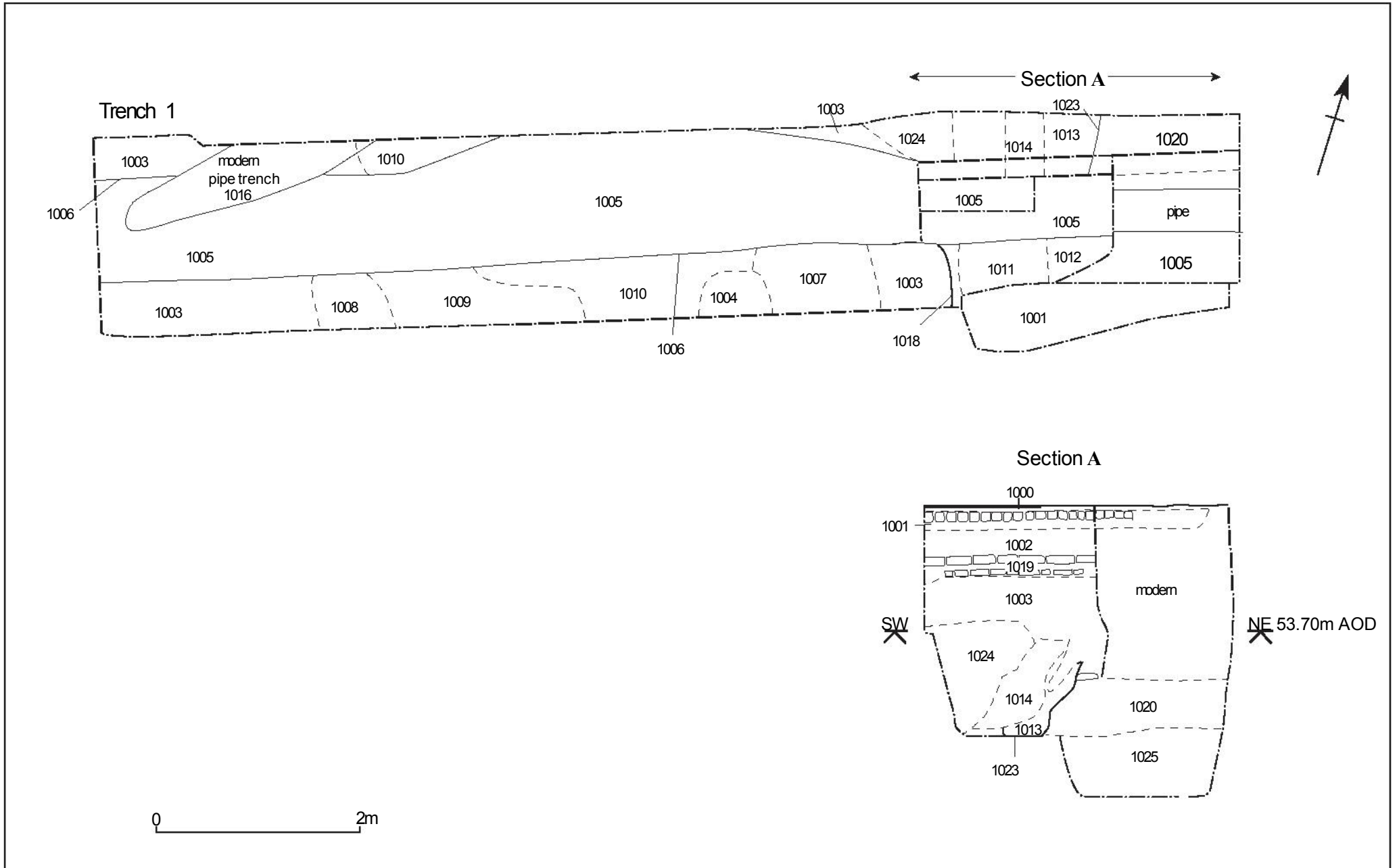


Fig.3

Trench 2

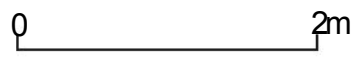
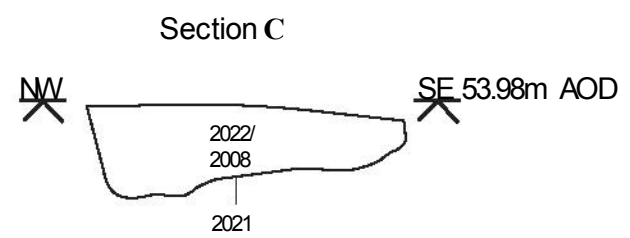
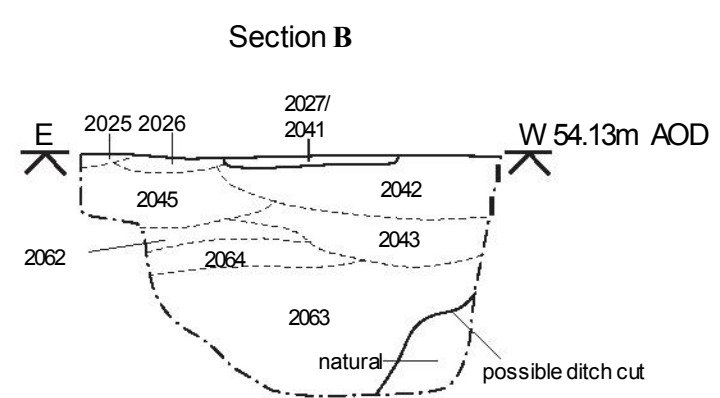
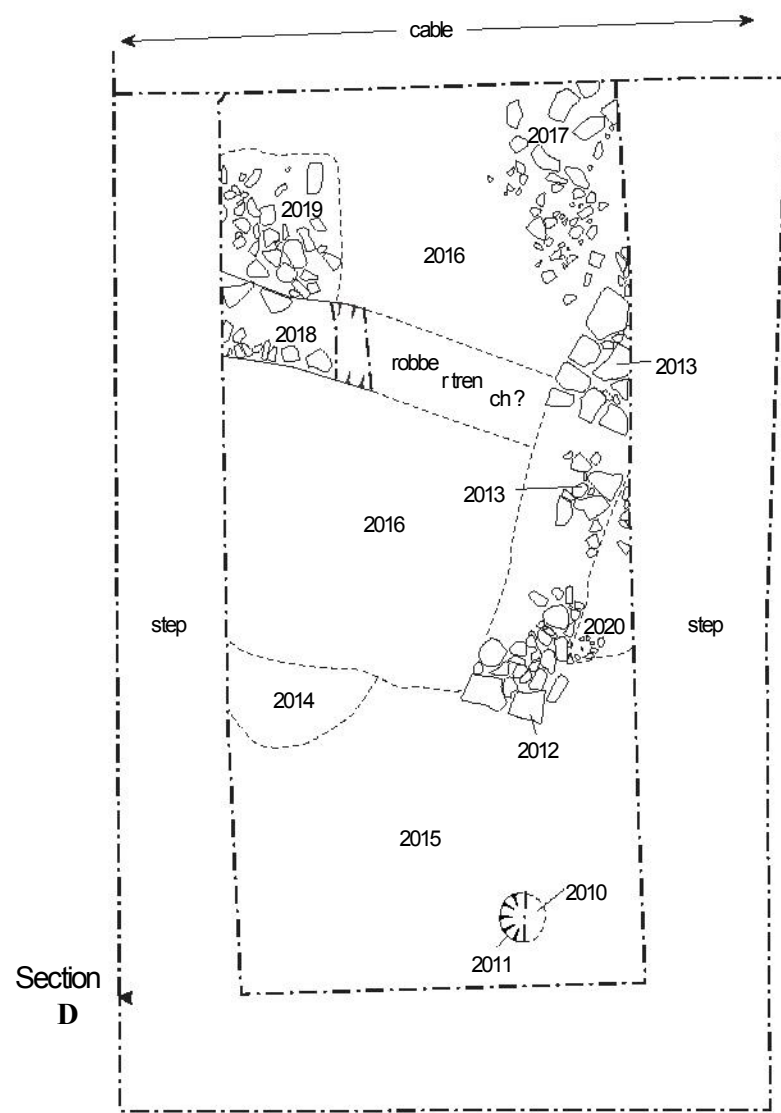
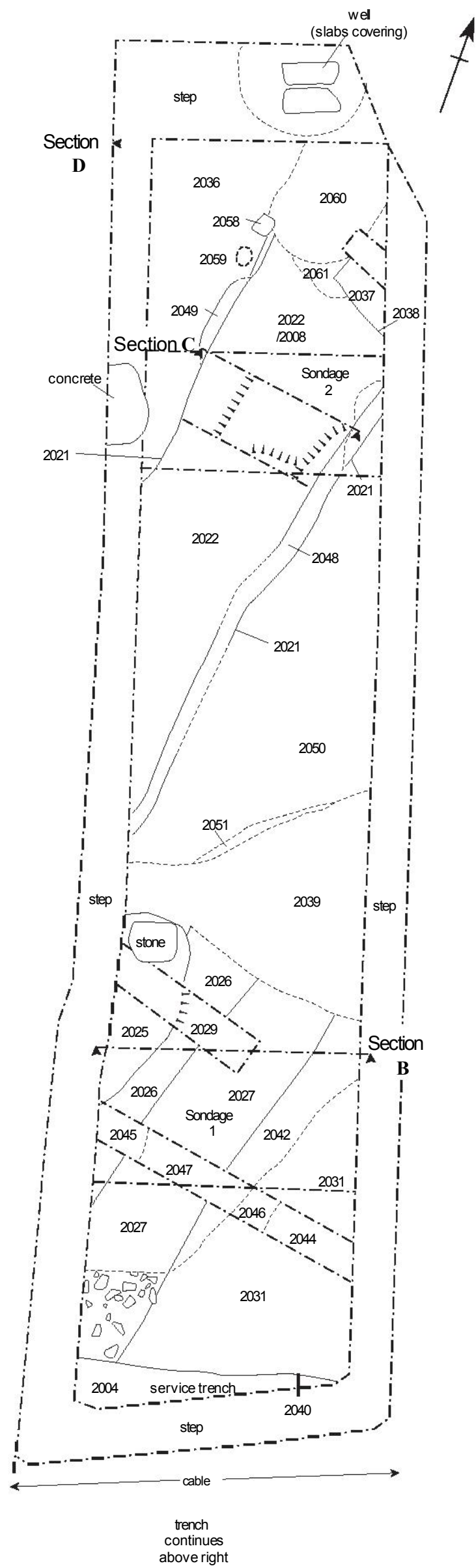


Fig.4

Trench 2

Section D

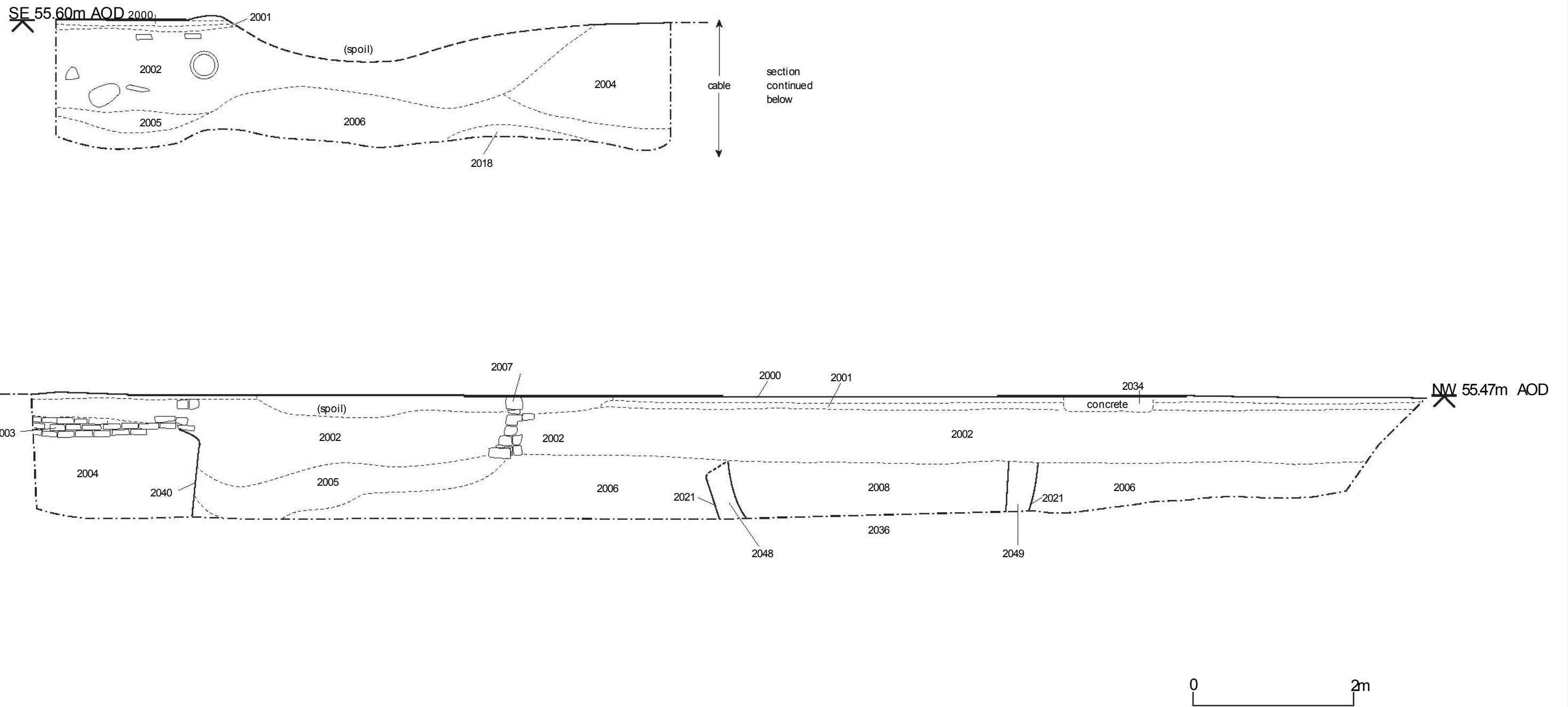
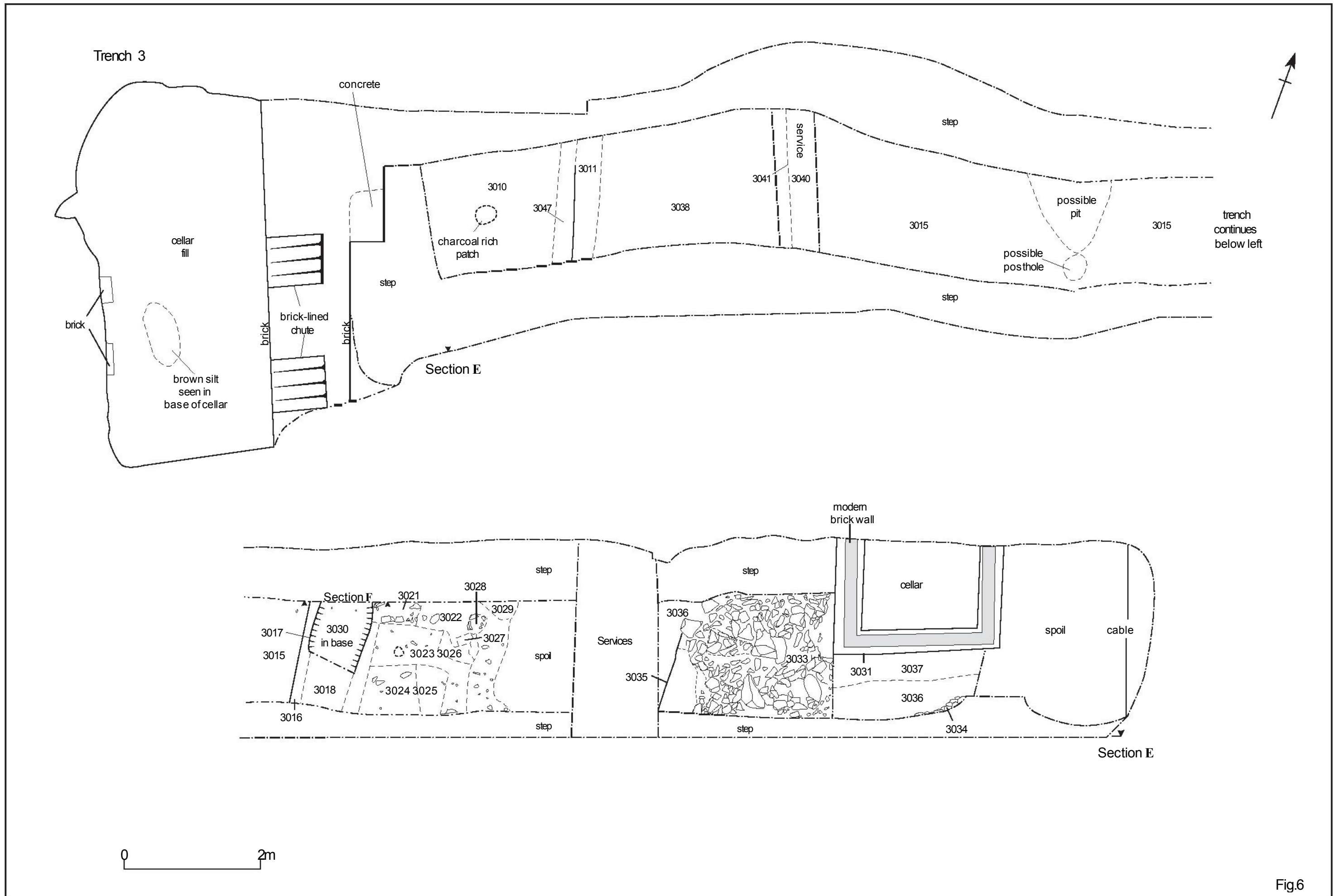


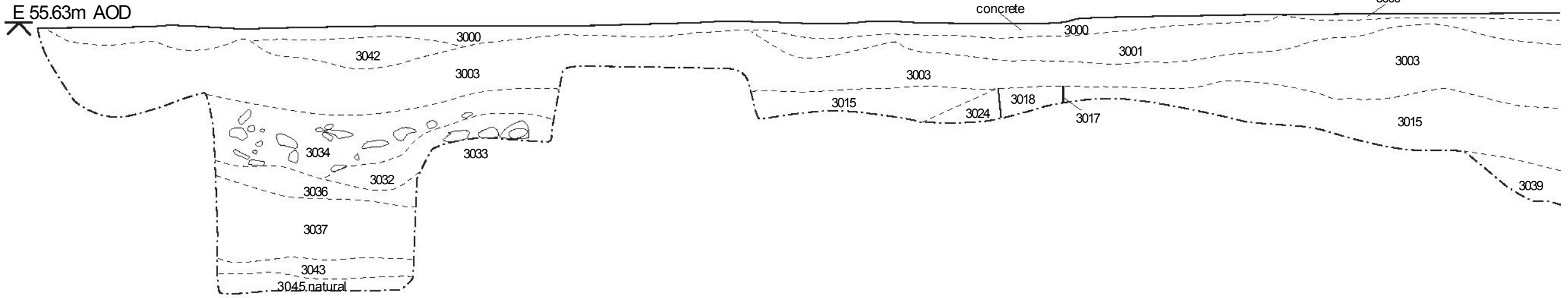
Fig.5



Trench 3

E 55.63m AOD

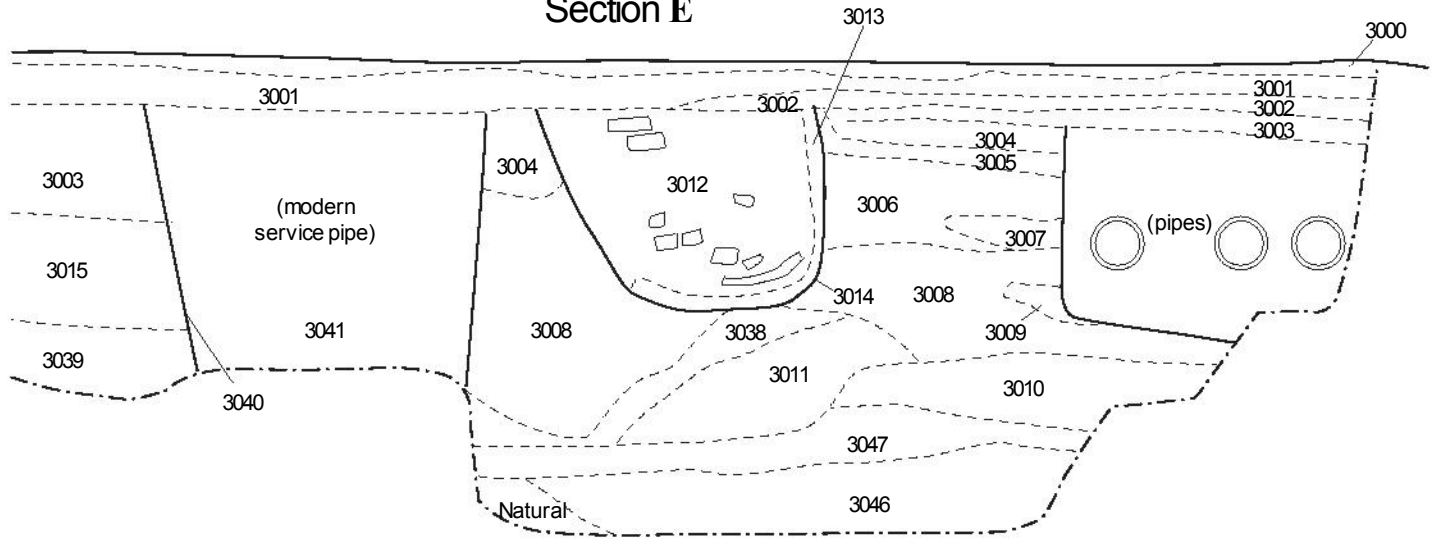
Section E



trench continues below left

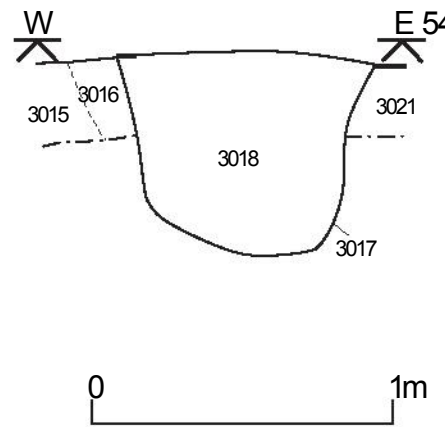
Section E

W 55.43m AOD



Section F

E 54.89m AOD

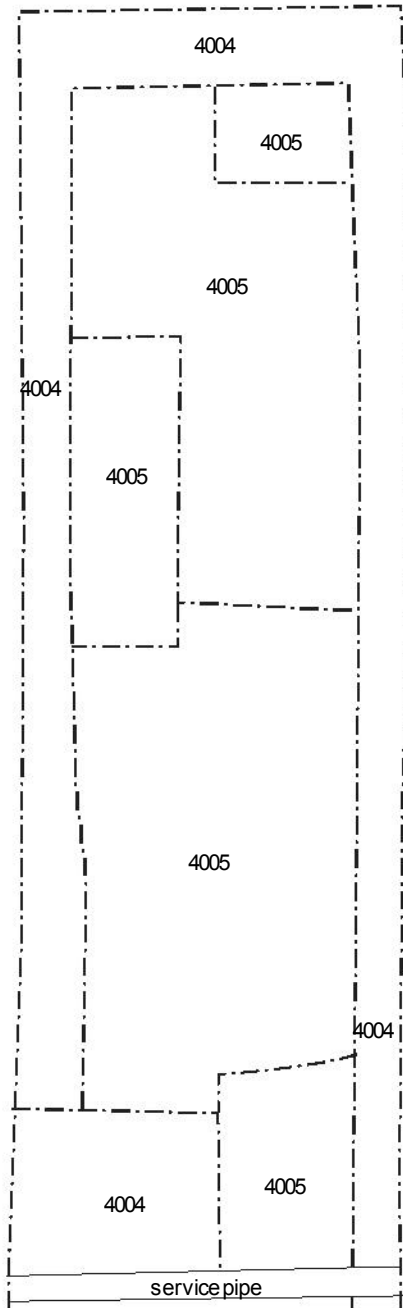


0 2m

0 1m

Fig.7

Trench 4



trench continues above right

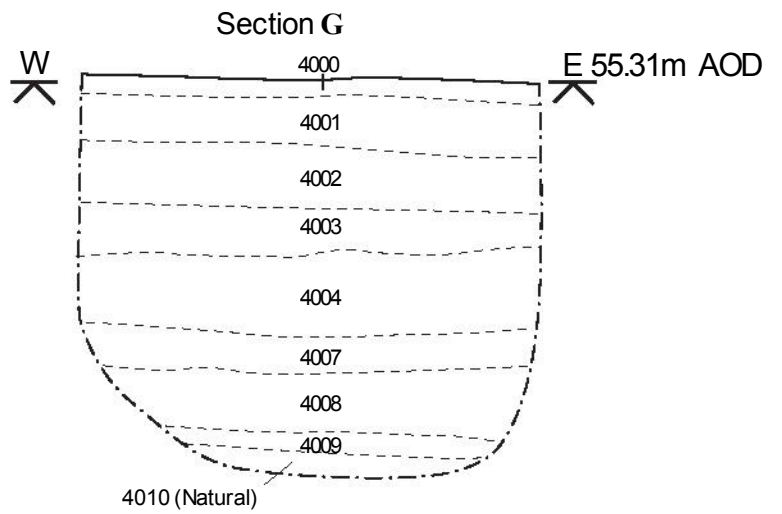
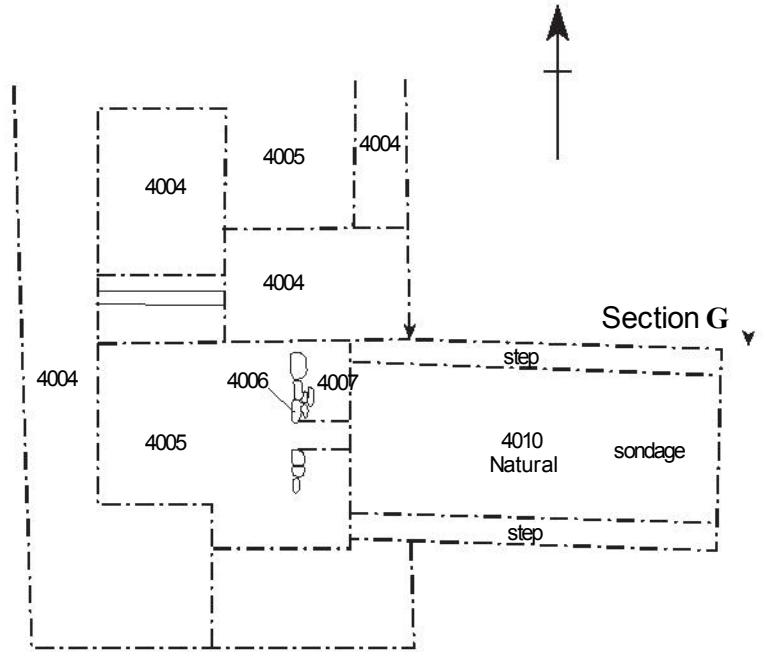


Fig.8

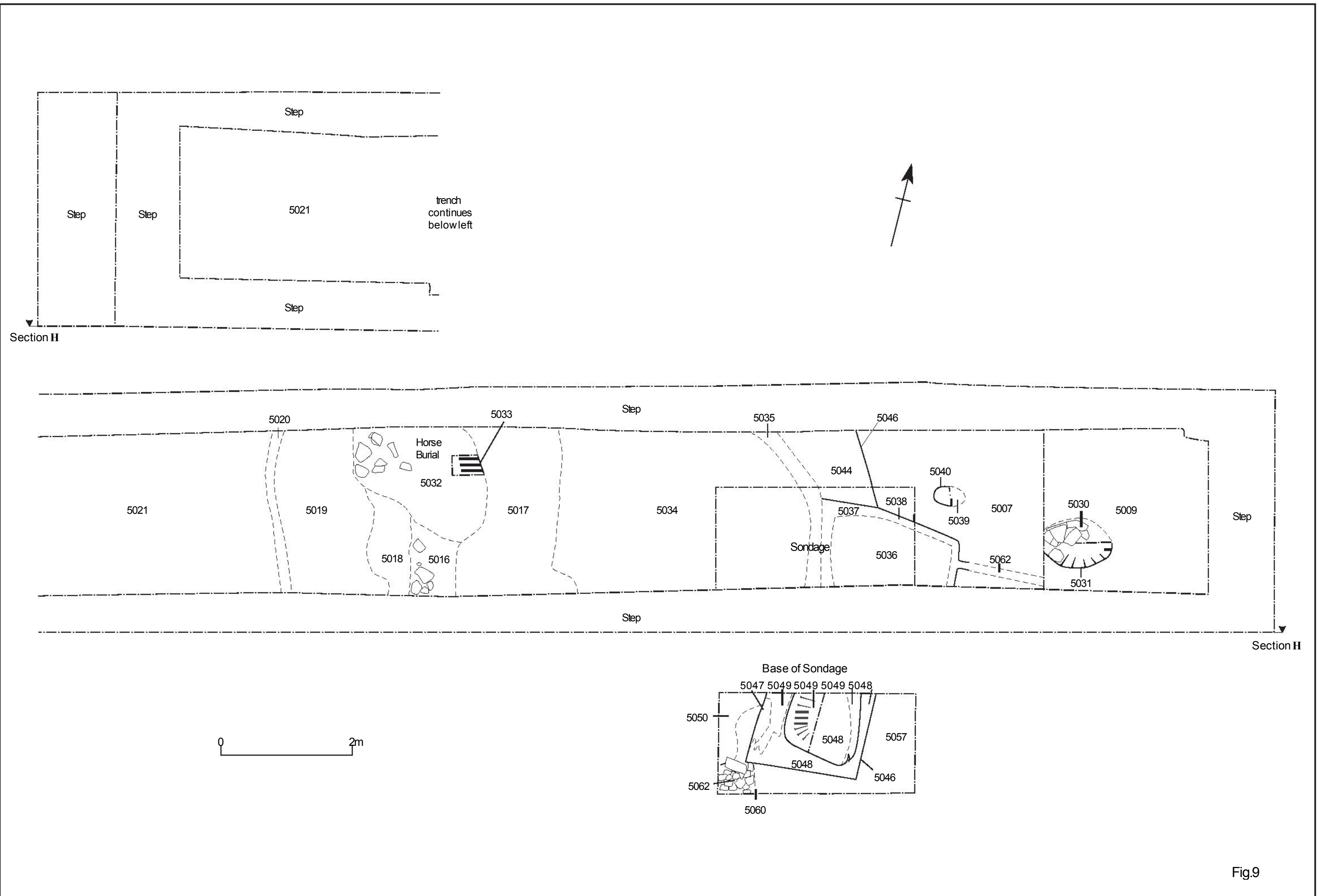


Fig.9

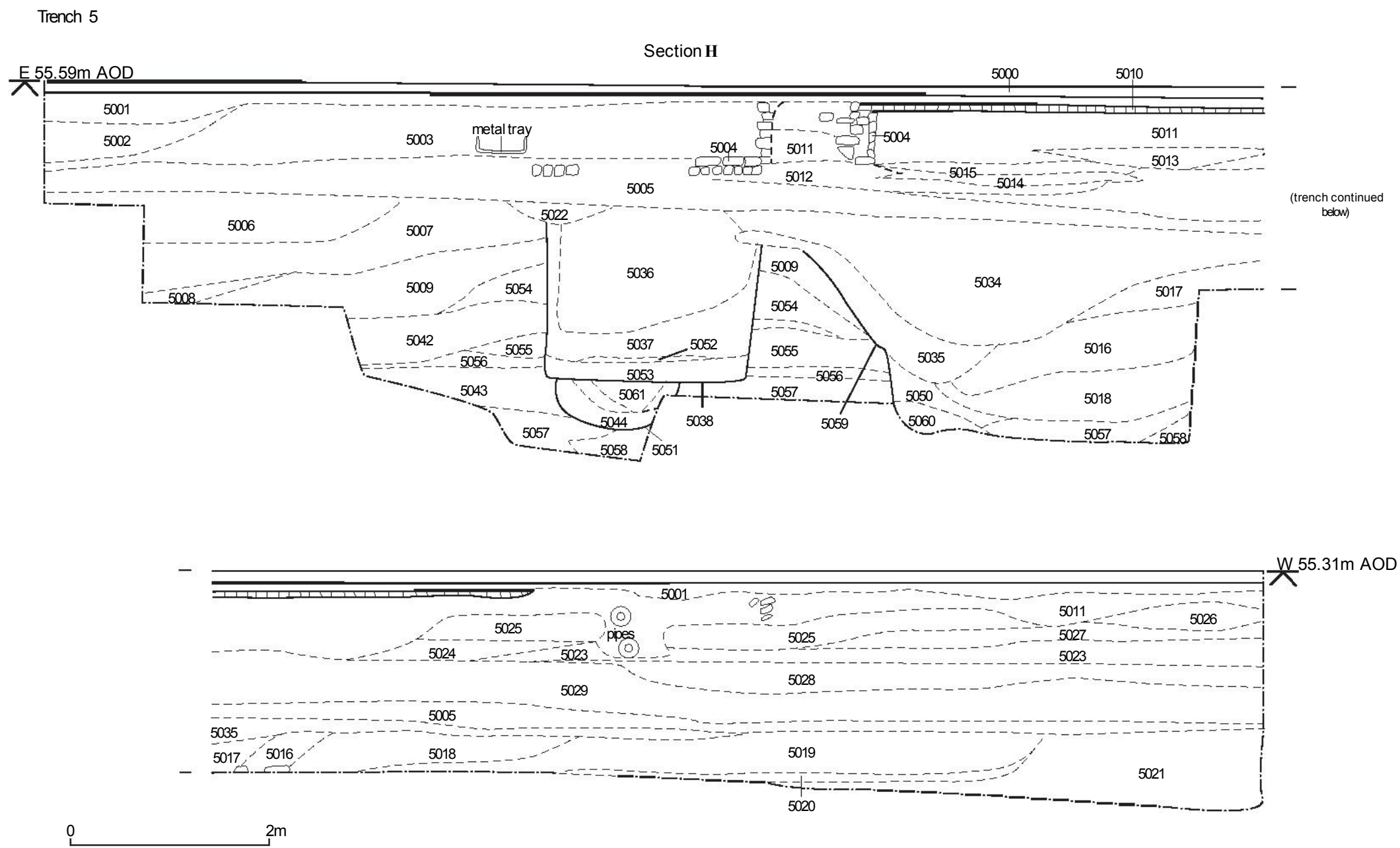


Fig.10

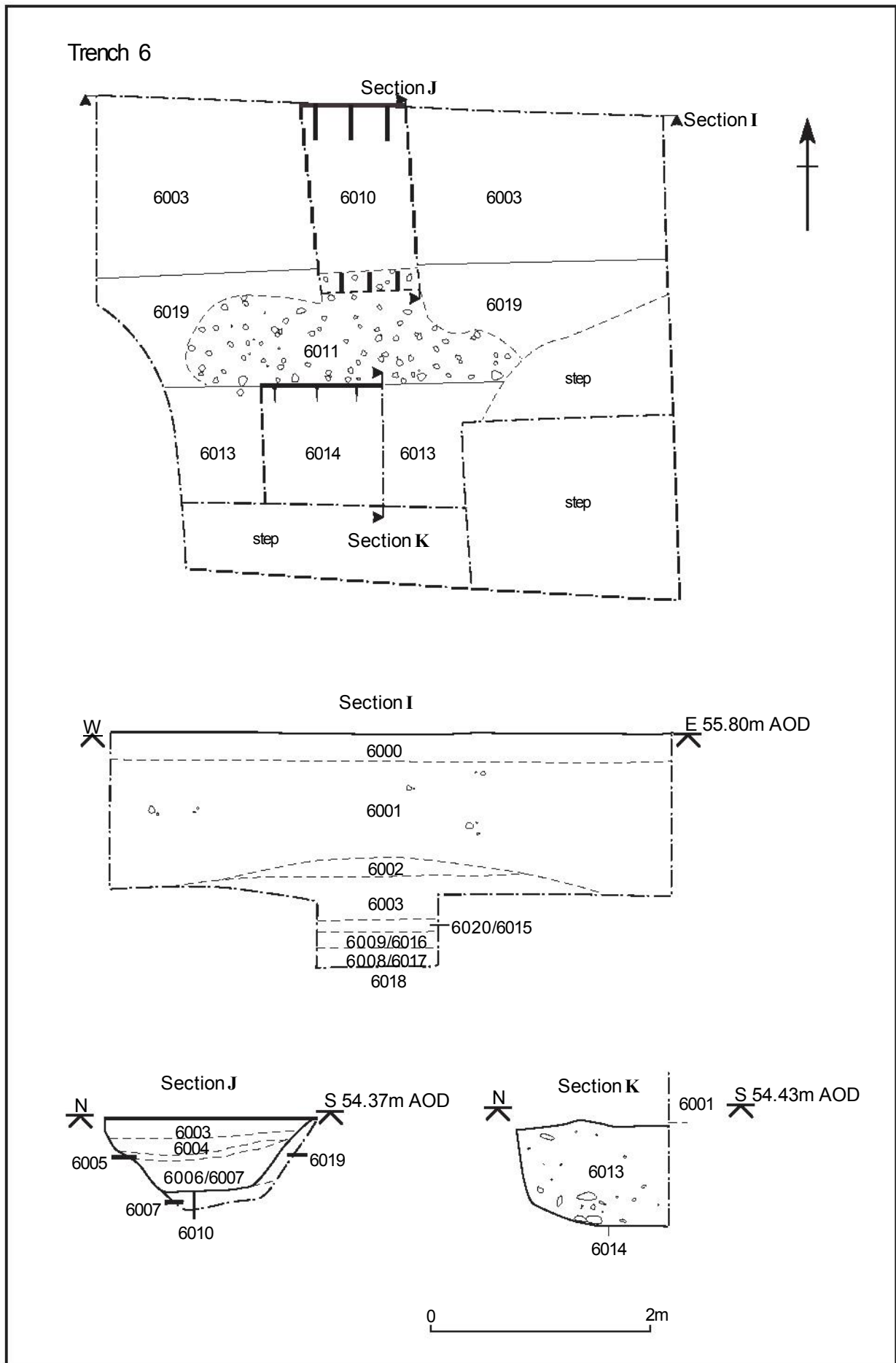
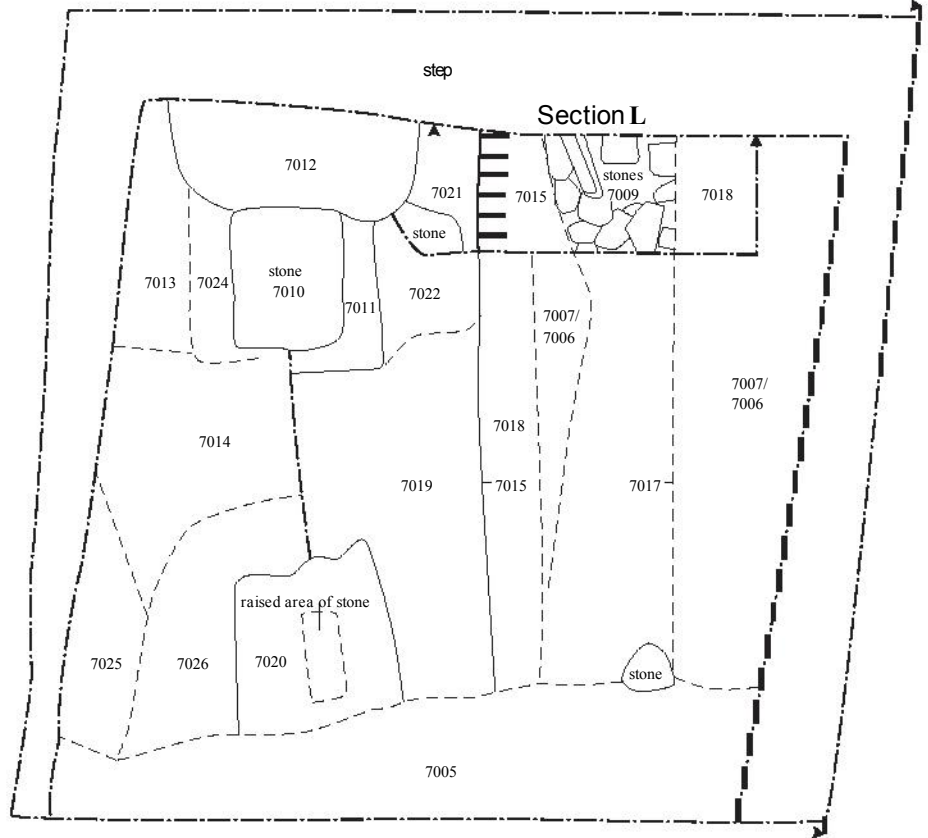


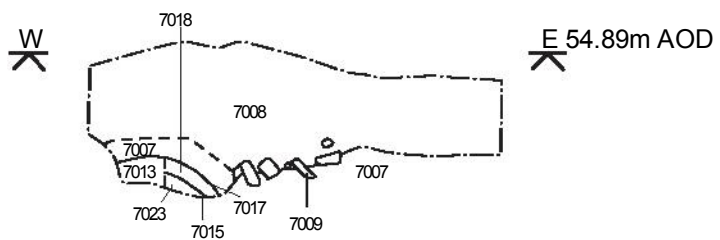
Fig.11

Trench 7

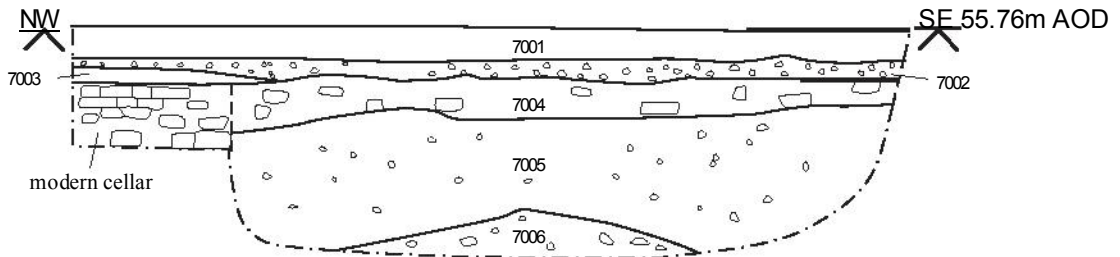
Section M



Section L



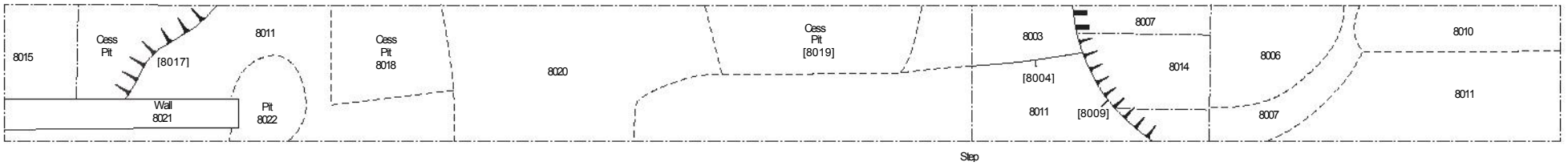
Section M



0 2m

Fig.12

Trench 8



Section N

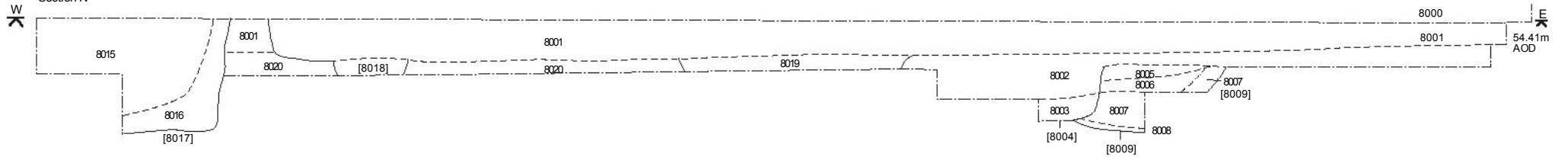


Fig.13

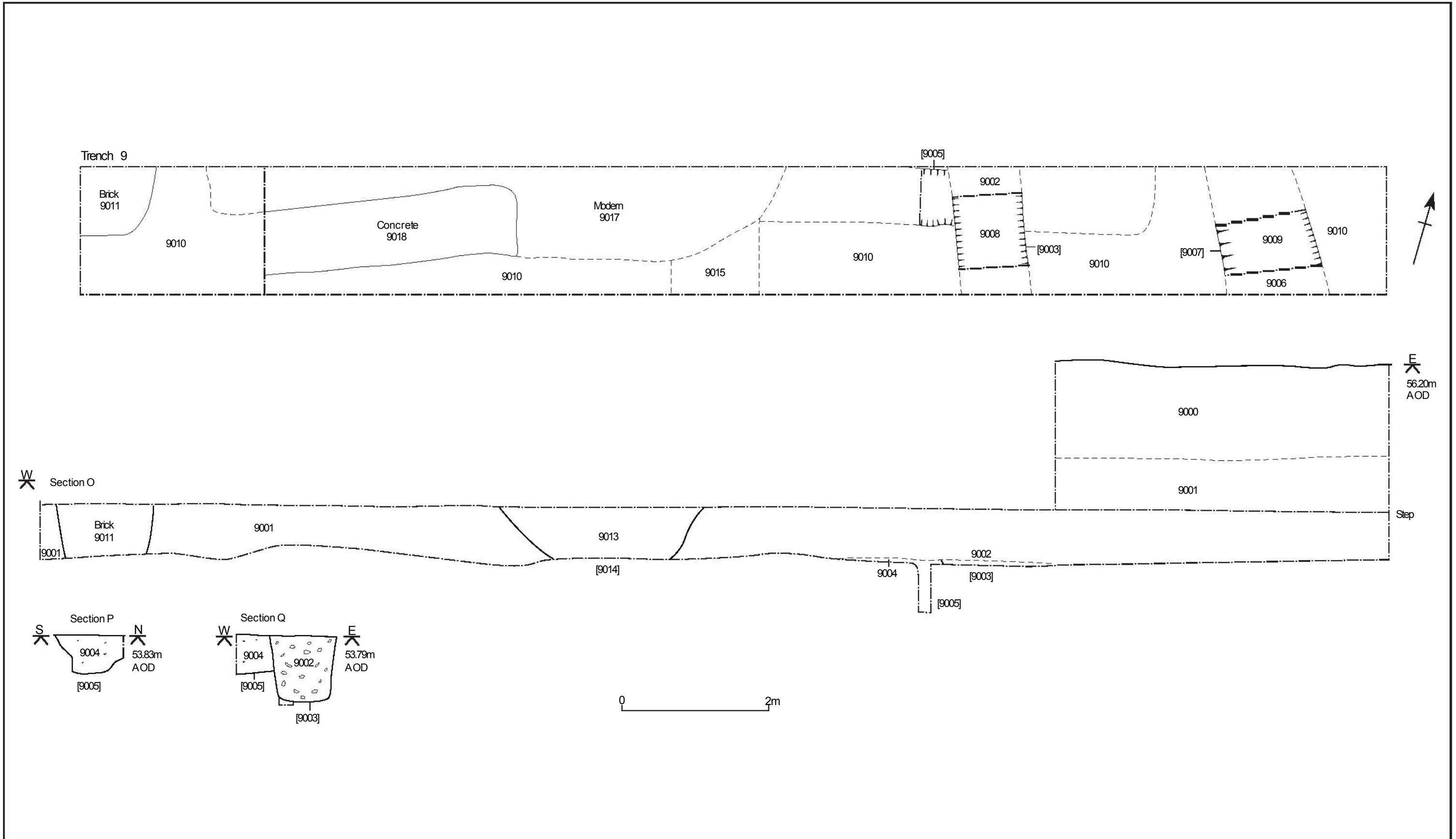


Fig.14

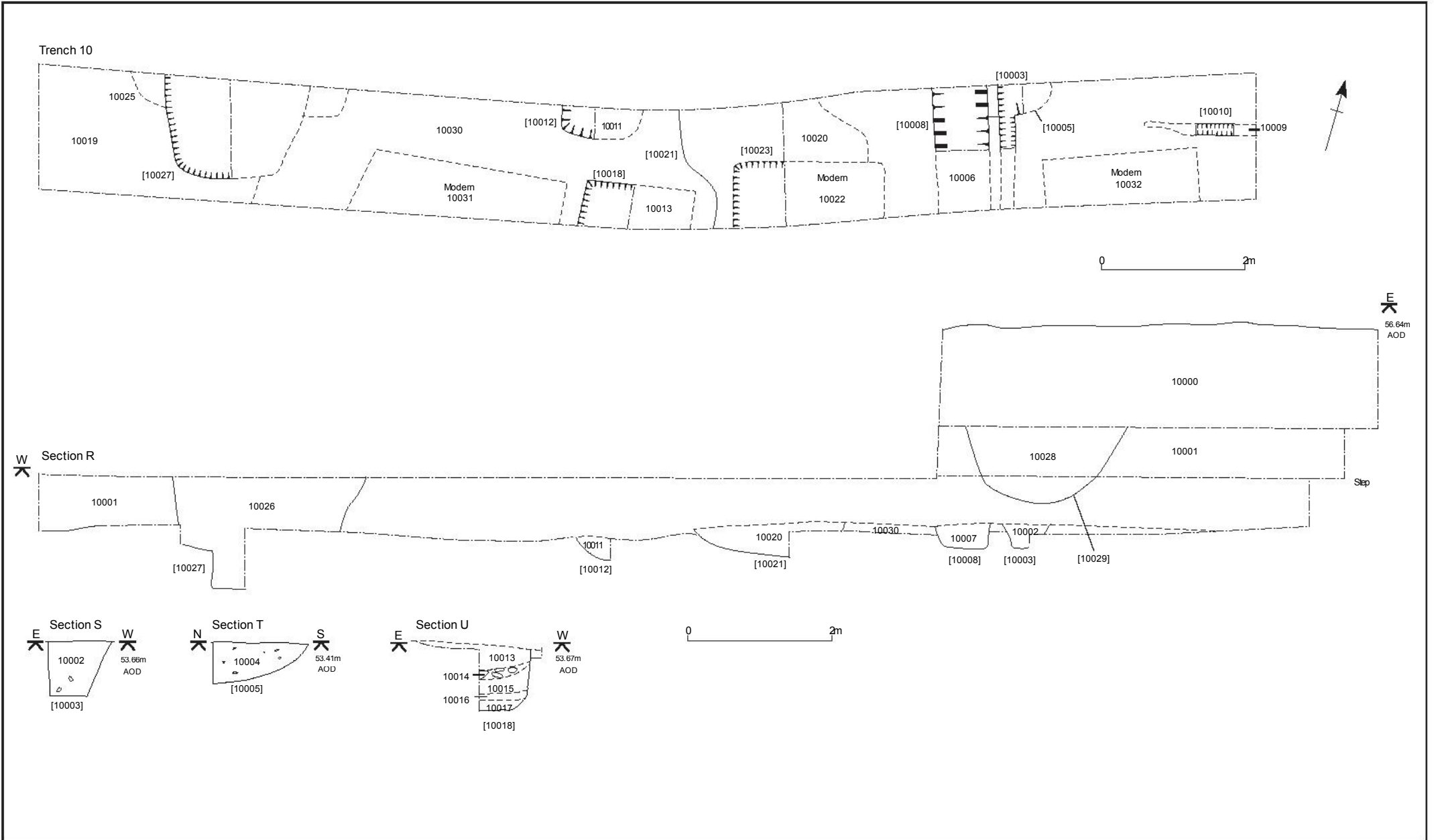


Fig.15

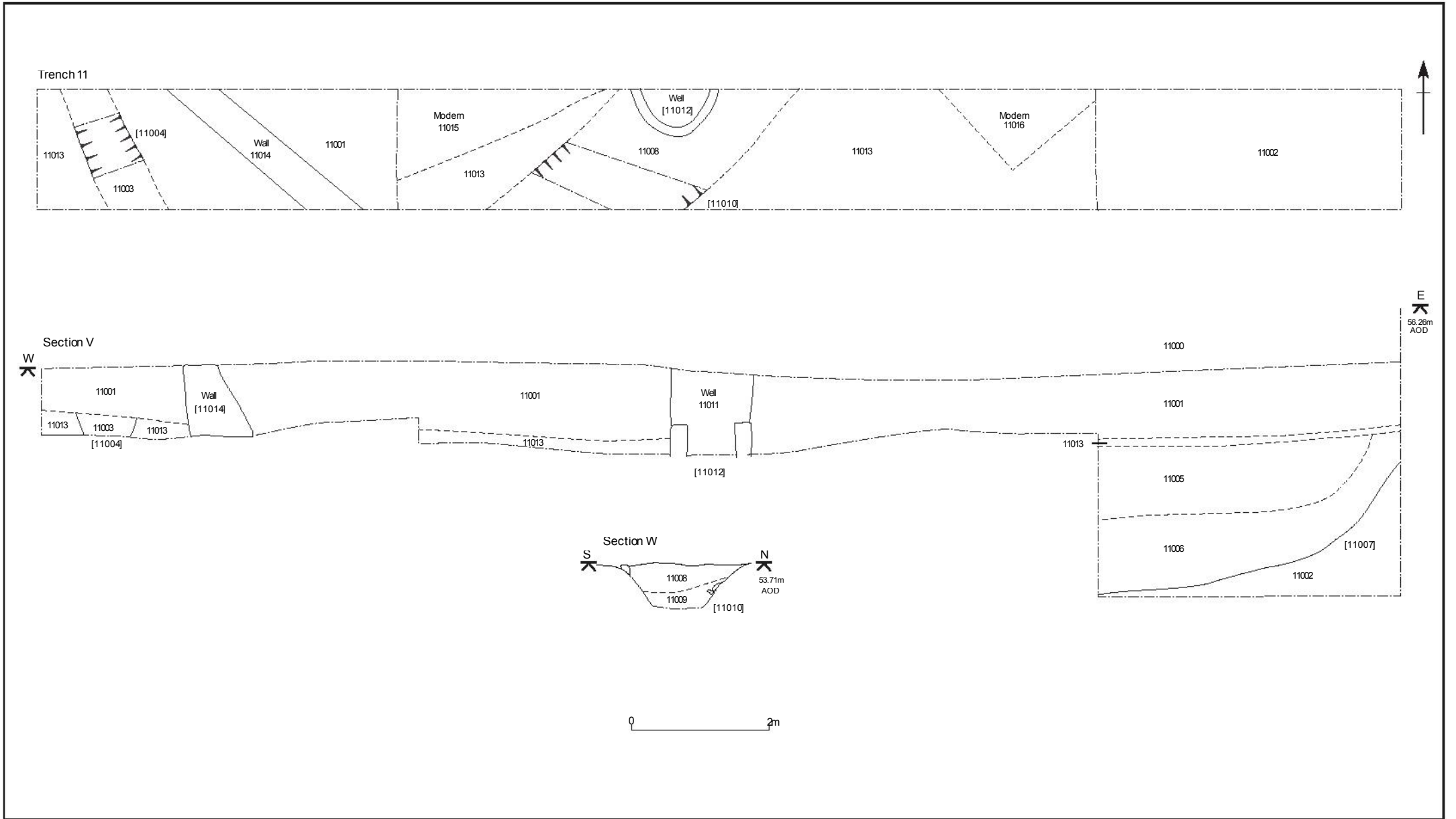


Fig.16

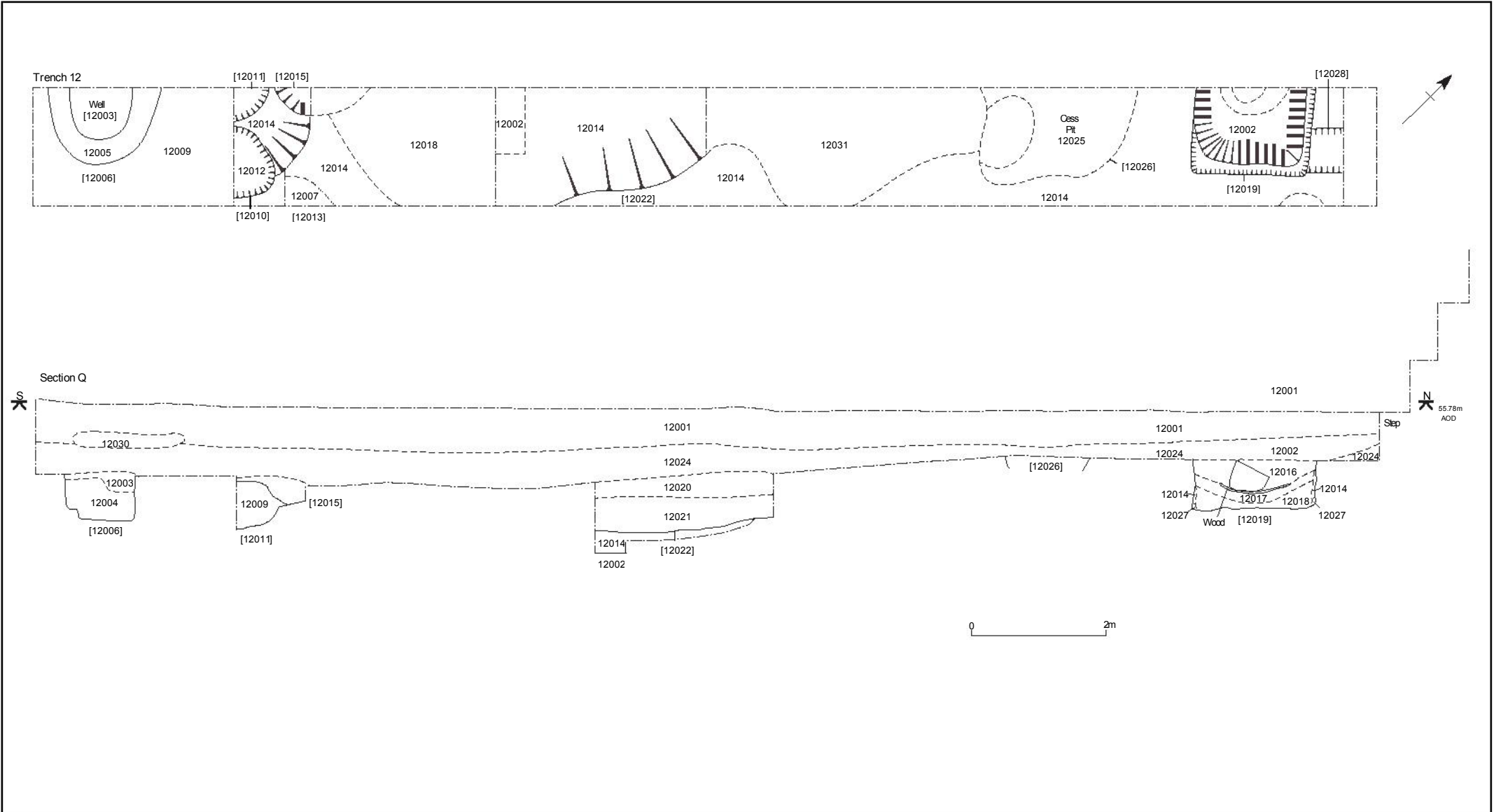


Fig.17

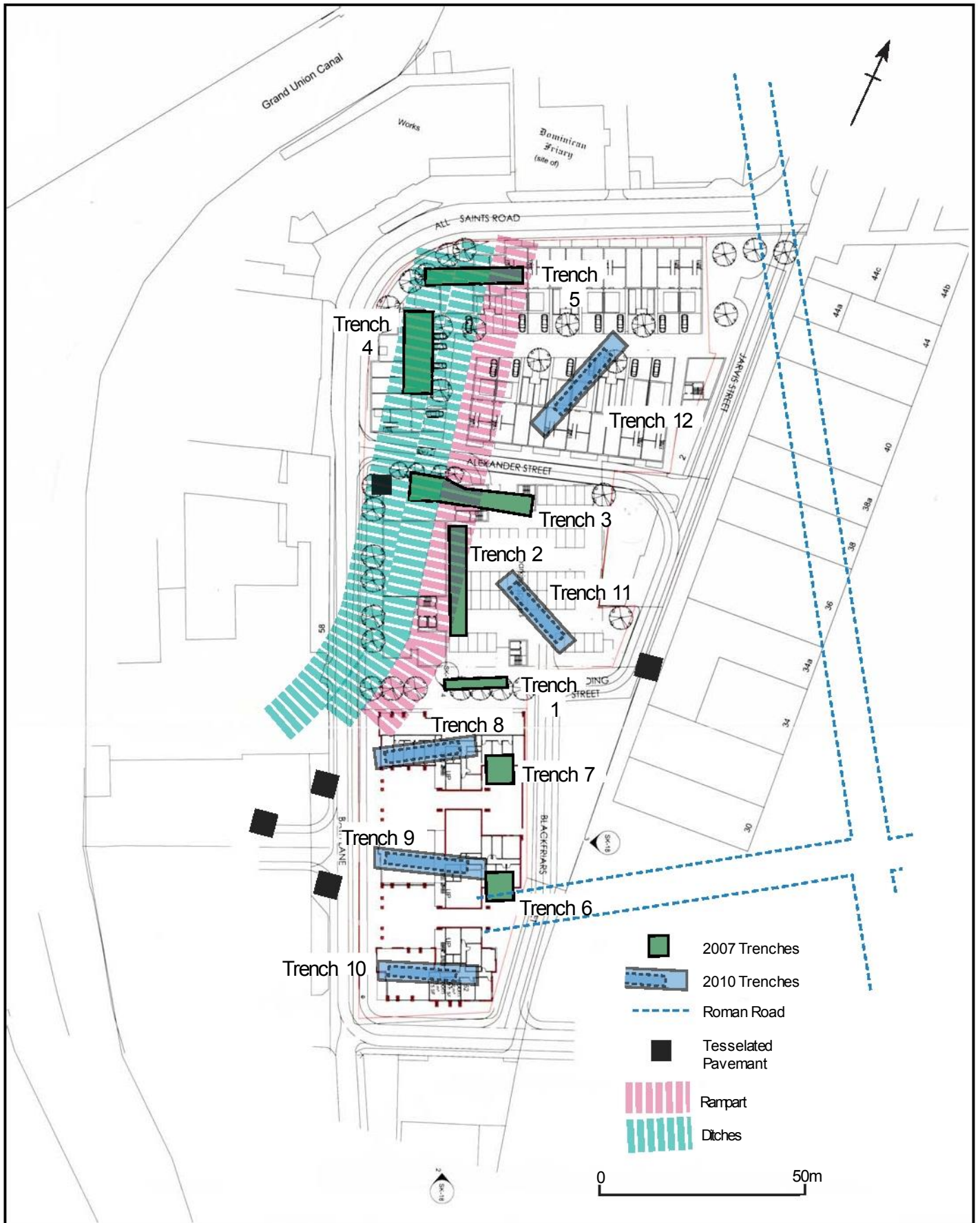


Fig.18



Plate 1



Plate 2



Plate 3



Plate 4



Plate 5



Plate 6



Plate 7



Plate 8



Plate 9



Plate 10



Plate 11



Plate 12



Plate 13



Plate 14



Plate 15



Plate 16



Plate 17



Plate 18