

**THE QUEENSGATE SHOPPING
CENTRE, COWGATE, KING STREET,
PETERBOROUGH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE,
PE1 1NT.**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AND RECORDING**

Site Code: QGCE 11
NGR: TL 519023 298690
Planning Ref: 10/01426/FUL

Report prepared for
Queensgate Limited Partnership
by

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MAS 326/11

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Summary

- A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken on land at the Queensgate Shopping Centre, Cowgate/King Street, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, PE1 1NT. This was conducted by Midland Archaeological Services during alterations.
- 20th Century made ground/construction layers and part of a late 19th Century brick building foundation were encountered.
- The programme of archaeological work concluded that archaeology was limited to several meters of late 19th Century brick building foundation adjacent to King Street and that the site had been extensively truncated and subjected to levelling layers of made ground during its initial development phase during the late 1970's.

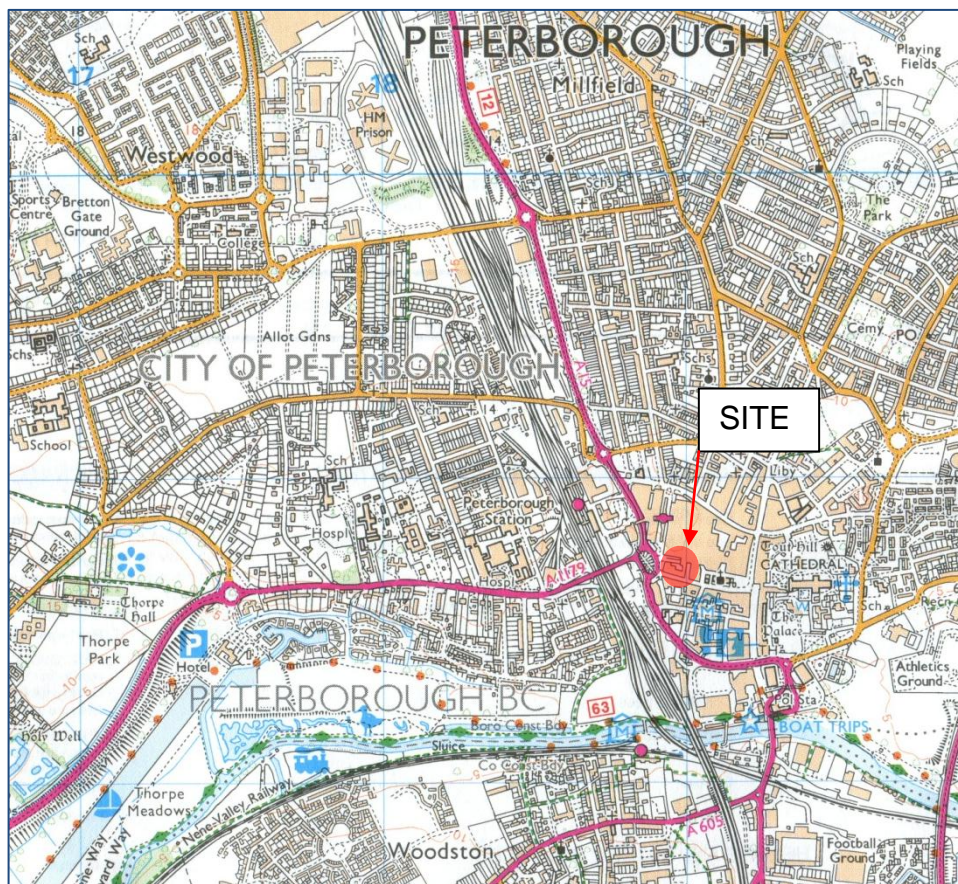


Fig. 1: General site location. Scale 1: 25 000.

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1.0 Introduction

Midland Archaeological Services was commissioned by the Queensgate Limited Partnership to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with alterations to part of the Queensgate Shopping Centre, Cowgate, King Street, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, PE1 1NT, henceforth called the site.

These works were undertaken at the request of Peterborough City Council to fulfil a condition attached to a planning permission. This approach is consistent with the *recommendations of Archaeology & Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (Department of the Environment, 1990), *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991), *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA, 2008).

2.0 Location and description

Peterborough is located 65.3 km north/north/west of Cambridge and 25.4km south/east of Stamford. The development area extends from the south/west limit of Queensgate Shopping centre and to the rear of Cowgate and King Street and lies just outside of the Peterborough City Conservation area. The site is centred on TL 519023 298690 and lies at approximately 10.00-15.00m OD, while the underlying geology comprises of Cornbrash (BGS, 1984).

3.0 Planning background

Peterborough City District Council has granted planning permission for an extension to provide additional retail floor space, development of new service corridor and lift core in the basement service yard, construction of new mansard roofs and elevation works to King Street and Queen Street elevations on Land to the Rear of Cowgate/King Street, Queensgate Shopping Centre, Peterborough, PE1 1NT, (planning ref: 10/01426/FUL).

Permission is subject to conditions and by the recommendation of the Peterborough City Council Archaeology Service (PCCAS) that; all significant groundwork excavations will be carried out in a way that allows the early identification of archaeological remains.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

The founding of Peterborough stems from a Saxon settlement known as *medeshamstede*, the name being of the Old English meaning homestead of a man called mēde. These early origins were founded on the establishment of a monastery during the 7th Century AD and by the 12th Century AD the town had become a 'Vill' known as *Burch* (Mills, 1993).

Archaeology relating from both the medieval and post-medieval periods has been recorded throughout the City Centre, notably during rescue excavations conducted prior to the development of the Queensgate Shopping Centre during the mid 1970's. Over the following decades numerous remains have been recorded during re-

development of commercial properties, such as Unit 8 of the Queensgate Centre HER N0. 51149, this revealed the presence of 15th Century Pits, while slightly further north at Westgate Arcade HER N0. 51436 excavation recorded 1.6m of 15th century stratified deposits, a boundary/structural wall and a cobbled yard surface, postulating an earlier phase of Cumbergate or possibly an unidentified Street frontage.

Not far to the east of the site is the 14th Century church of St John the Baptist, a Grade I listed building and also just to the east of this the 17th Century Grade II * listed Guildhall building.

The site areas lie relatively close to the Cowgate area to the south, an area with a long history. The name is believed to derive from the Danish word 'gata' meaning gate, the gates in Peterborough representing roads as the City was never walled. Cowgate may have been an extension of the local cattle market or even the route to and from their pasture on common land (Herbert, 1979).

The south/west limit of the site is close to the area which was once occupied by the old Cowgate cemetery established in 1803 and established due to the burial ground within the Minster Precincts becoming full.

This new cemetery was relatively short lived and only in use up until 1859 when it was replaced by the cemetery on Eastfield Road. During the early 20th Century parts of the cemetery were disturbed during the building of a road by the London and North Eastern Railway Company, and later again with the construction of the Crescent Bridge in 1913 when many of the burials were removed to another cemetery on Broadway (Mellows, W.T, 1947).

5.0 Methodology

The methodology required the archaeological monitoring and recording of three test-holes to the immediate south of the site and immediately north of the service road, (Area 1); and that of a new lift core in the basement service yard area and adjacent and to the east of King Street, (Area 2), (figs: 1, 2, 3, plates 1, 3).

Conditions for archaeological monitoring were extremely difficult to undertake throughout most of Area 2 of the development. Monitoring was hampered by the confines of an indoor site, poor lighting, 24 hour site operating times, the inaccessibility of some areas and generally working within a very busy and hazardous construction site (plate 3).

Due to the above it was the case that in sometimes circumstances deposits were already exposed upon arrival for the site visit. When deposits were encountered they were subject to cleaning when practical, in order to assess their nature, dimensions and to attempt to recover datable materials. These investigations resulted in the production of written descriptions complemented by colour slide transparencies, digital images and scale drawings in both plan and section.

Five site visits were undertaken by the author between the 17th October 2011-17th April 2012, these visits are summarised in this report.

6.0 Results

Five contexts were recorded throughout the site areas, these were: (005) a re-deposited loam layer, (004) a layer of modern limestone 'hogging' material, (003) a modern sand blinding layer, (002) a modern concrete slab and (001) a short section of brick walling (figs. 2, 3, 4, plates 4, 5).

Area 1

Because of unexpected underground services encountered throughout Area 1, archaeological monitoring was limited to one test-hole only. The excavation of this proved insignificant for the purposes of the archaeological monitoring; as only several centimetres of contemporary sand bedding layer and a concrete slab below were revealed, (figs. 2, 3, plates 1, 2).

Area 2

Most of this area had prior to these alterations been subject to heavy truncation, as well as foundation pours of concrete to considerable depths, both of which were associated with the current shopping centre building (figs. 2, 3, 4, plate 3).

A small section of brick walling was uncovered towards the southern limit the area, L shaped in plan and constructed from (22.5cm x 6.5cm) red brick with lime mortar in Header Bond. As this had been exposed prior to the author's attendance it was not possible to ascertain which on-site deposit had covered it, this feature was also encompassed by the current foundation concrete of the shopping centre (fig4, plate 4).

The remaining deposits were contemporary construction layers and a re-deposited mid brown loam which was evident throughout some of the south and south-east part of the area, although this contained occasional brick fragments of 19th/20th Century type there was no artefactual evidence (figs, 2, 3, 4, plate 5).

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

Contexts recorded throughout the site comprised of contemporary construction layers and a late 19th Century wall.

It is possible that the wall recorded was once part of the Salvation Army Citadel building which formerly occupied the site. A collection of buildings can be seen in this area on the 1889, 1901 and 1924 Ordnance survey mapping, the latter map clearly showing a building as SA Citadel (Figs, 5, 6, 7).

Presumably these building were cleared sometime during the mid or latter half of the 20th Century as the City Centre expanded and developed.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology required the monitoring of all associated groundwork as agreed with the PCCAS within the development area. Throughout Area 1 ground reduction

was undertaken by hand, while a 360° tracked excavator was used throughout area 2 and fitted with a toothed bucket. Sufficient time was given by the developer to ensure that deposits and archaeology was recognised and recorded, thus enabling the site to be preserved by record.

9.0 Acknowledgments

Midland Archaeological Services would like to thank the Queensgate Limited Partnership for this commission and also Louise Rutherford and David Bebb (Gardiner & Theobald LLP), Richard Hartigan (Hammerson plc), Nigel Watts and Mark Hallowell (ISG). Thanks also go to the Peterborough City Council Archaeology Service for their advice prior to and during these investigations.

10.0 References

Archaeological Data Service 2012

British Geological Survey, 1984. Peterborough: *England and Wales Sheet 158, Solid and Drift Edition*. 1:50 000 Provisional Series. BGS, Keyworth.

Heritage Gateway 2012

Tebbs, H.F., 1979 *Peterborough* The Oleander Press

Mellows, W.T., 1947 *The Old Churchyard Peterborough* Peterborough Natural History, Scientific and archaeological Society

Mills, A. D., 1993, *English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press.

11.0 Site archive

An archive of written, drawn and photographic elements is in preparation and will be deposited at Peterborough Museum within three months of the completion of this report.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: Location of test-hole Area 1 looking east.



Plate 2: Test-hole looking north-east.



Plate 3: Location of lift pits Area 2 looking north-east.



Plate 4: (001) looking north.



Plate 5: Section 1 looking east.

Appendix 2: Context Descriptions

- (001)** Section of red brick walling, L shaped in plan and measuring approximately 1.80m L, 0.47m W north-south, 1.00m L, 0.40m W east-west. Bonding together with lime mortar in header bond. Possible building foundation.
- (002)** 0.20m thick concrete foundation slab. Contemporary.
- (003)** 0.20m thick layer of sand. Contemporary.
- (004)** 0.17m thick limestone 'hooging' layer. Contemporary.
- (005)** Mid brown loam, occasional brick inclusions, poorly sorted, in excess of 1.00m in thickness. Re-deposited 19th Century soil.

Appendix 3: Oasis documentation

OASIS ID: midlanda1-126863

Project details

Project name	Queensgate Shopping Centre Peterborough
Short description of the project	Programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with alterations to the Queensgate Shopping Centre , Cowgate/King Street, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, PE1 1NT
Project dates	Start: 17-10-2011 End: 17-04-2012
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	QGCE 11 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	MAS 326/11 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE PETERBOROUGH PETERBOROUGH The Queensgate Shopping Centre, Cowgate, King street, Peterborough, PE1 1NT
Postcode	PE1 1NT
Study area	70.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 519023 298690 51.9460882988 0.210380926590 51 56 45 N 000 12 37 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 8.50m Max: 9.90m

Project creators

Name of	Midland Archaeological Services
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Organisation	
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Midland Archaeological Services
Project director/manager	S.L.W Williams
Project supervisor	S.L.W.Williams
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Queensgate Limited Partnership

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Peterborough Museum
Paper Media available	'Drawing','Photograph','Plan','Report','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	The Queensgate Shopping Centre, Cowgate, King Street, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, PE1 1NT Archaeological Monitoring and Recording
Author(s)/Editor(s)	S.Williams
Other bibliographic details	MAS 326/11
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	MAS
Place of issue or publication	MAS Digby, Lincolnshire
Description	Archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with alterations at the Queensgate Shopping Centre, Peterborough. A possible 19th century wall was found believed to be associate with the former Salvation Army Citadel on King Street, Peterborough. The site in general had been heavily truncated during the late 70's construction of

the shopping centre and no other recognisable deposits or features were encountered.

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Entered on 21 May 2012

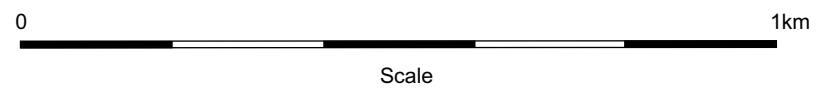
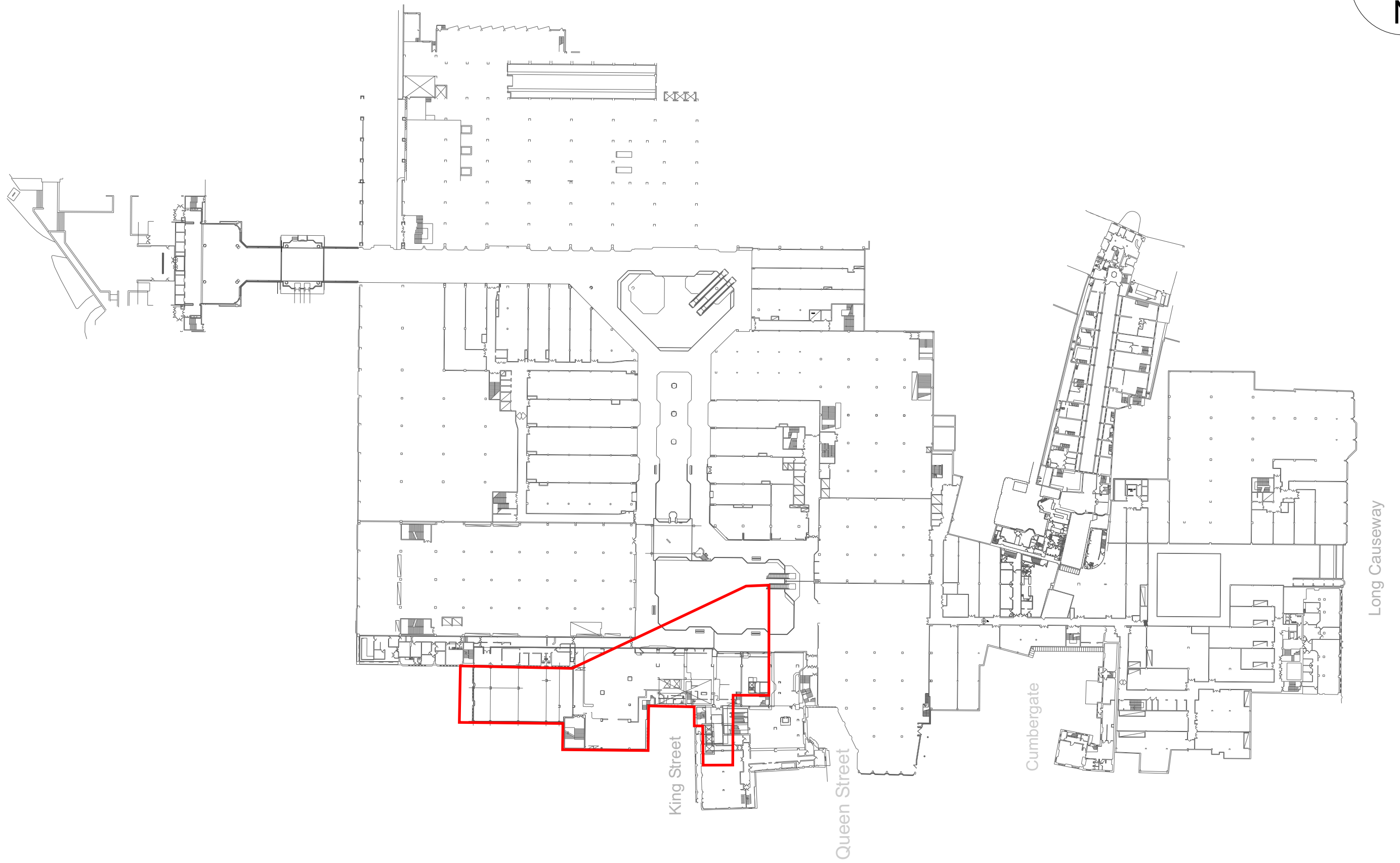
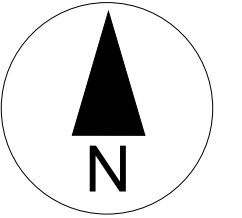


Fig. 2

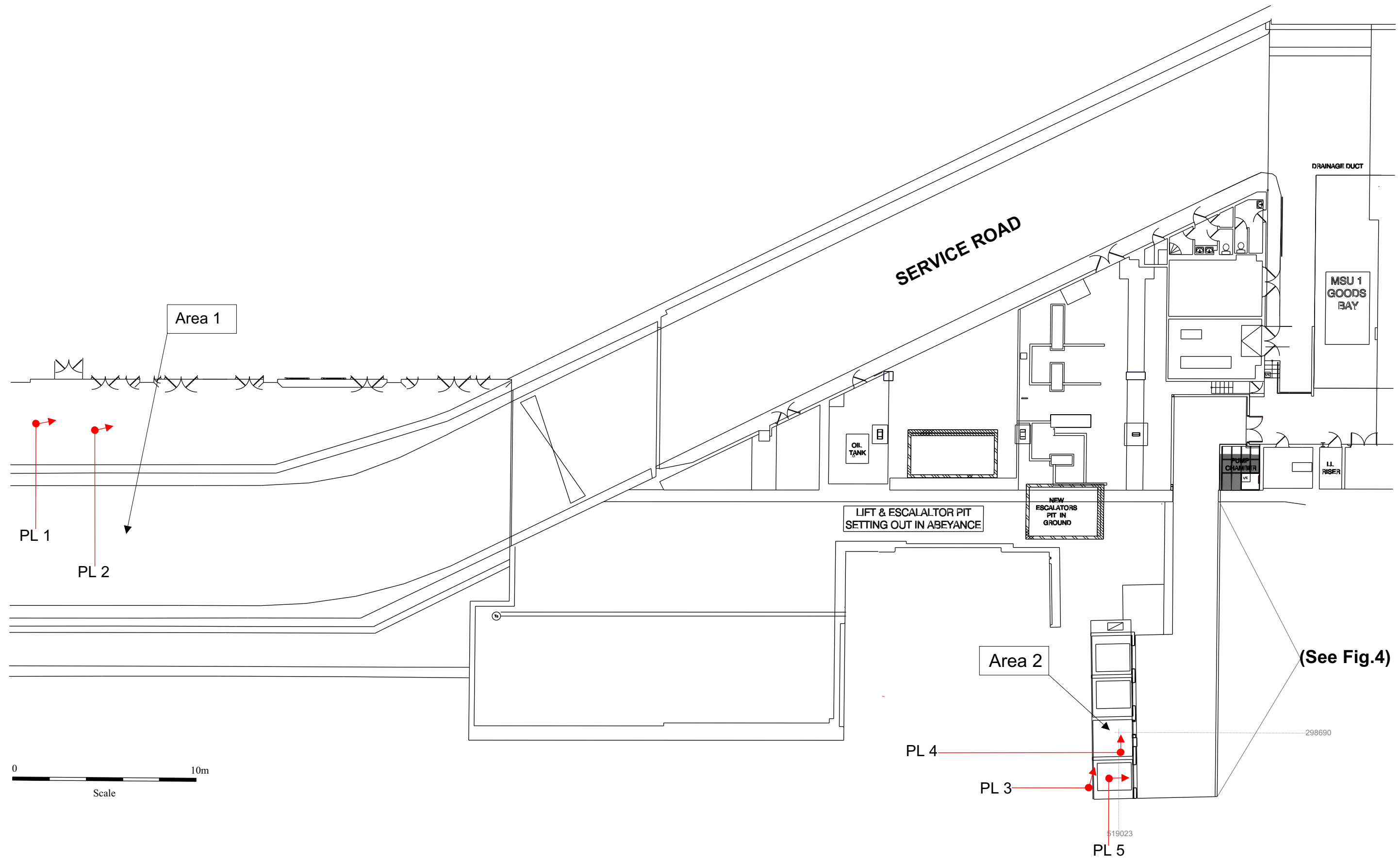
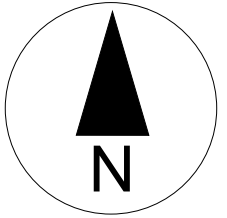


Fig.3

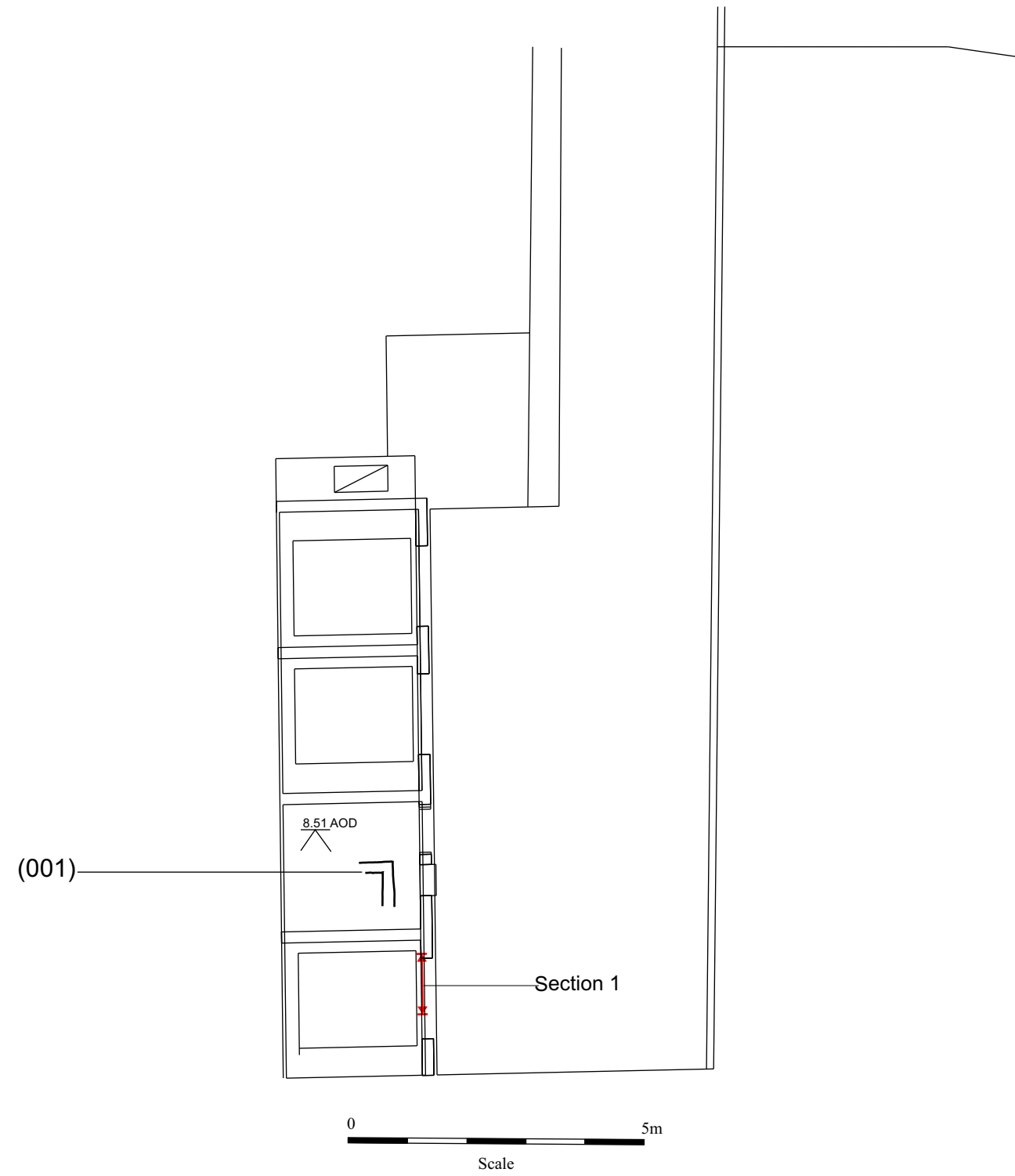
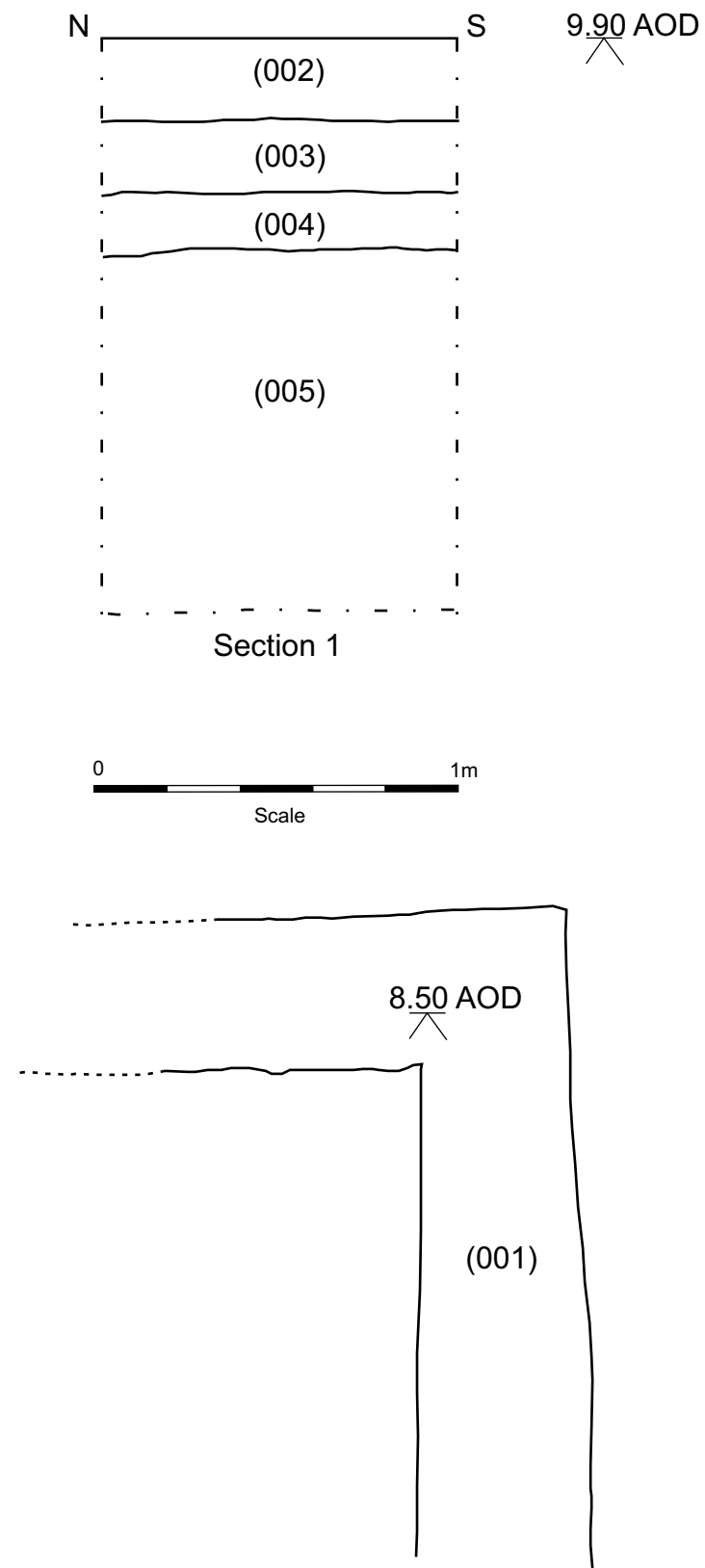
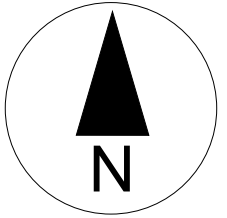


Fig.4

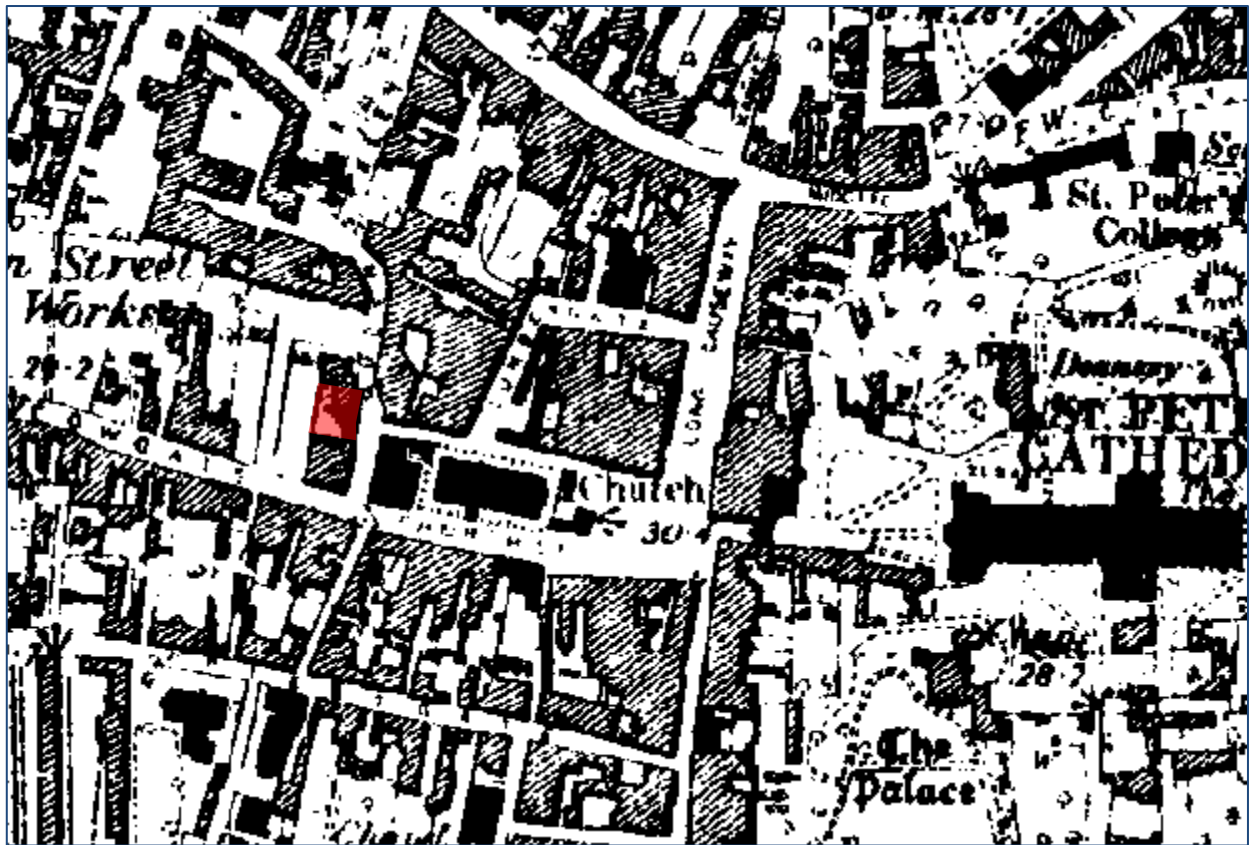


Fig.5: Ordnance Survey map of Peterborough 1889. Not to scale.



Fig.6: Ordnance Survey map of Peterborough 1901. Scale 1:4340.



Fig.7: Ordnance Survey map of Peterborough 1924. Scale 1:4340.