

Report 2795



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Archaeological Watching Brief along the route of a Replacement Gas Main, Cathedral Close, Norwich

ENF126797

Prepared for
Morrison Utility Services
c/o National Grid Gas
Cadwell Lane
Hitchin
Hertfordshire
SG4 0SL



Steve Hickling BA MA AIfA

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www.nps.co.uk

PROJECT CHECKLIST		
Project Manager	David Whitmore	
Draft Completed	Steve Hickling	19/12/2011
Graphics Completed	David Dobson	26/01/2012
Edit Completed	Jayne Bown	19/04/2012
Signed Off	David Whitmore	20/04/2012
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NPS Archaeology

Scandic House
85 Mountergate
Norwich
NR1 1PY

T 01603 756150

F 01603 756190

E jayne.bown@nps.co.uk

<http://nau.nps.co.uk/>

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draft

Location:	Cathedral Close, Norwich
District:	Norwich
Planning Ref.:	n/a
Grid Ref.:	62300, 308800
HER No.:	ENF126797
SM No.:	423 (St Ethelbert Gate)
OASIS Ref.:	116587
Client:	Morrison Utility Services
Dates of Fieldwork:	11 July – 3 November 2011

Summary

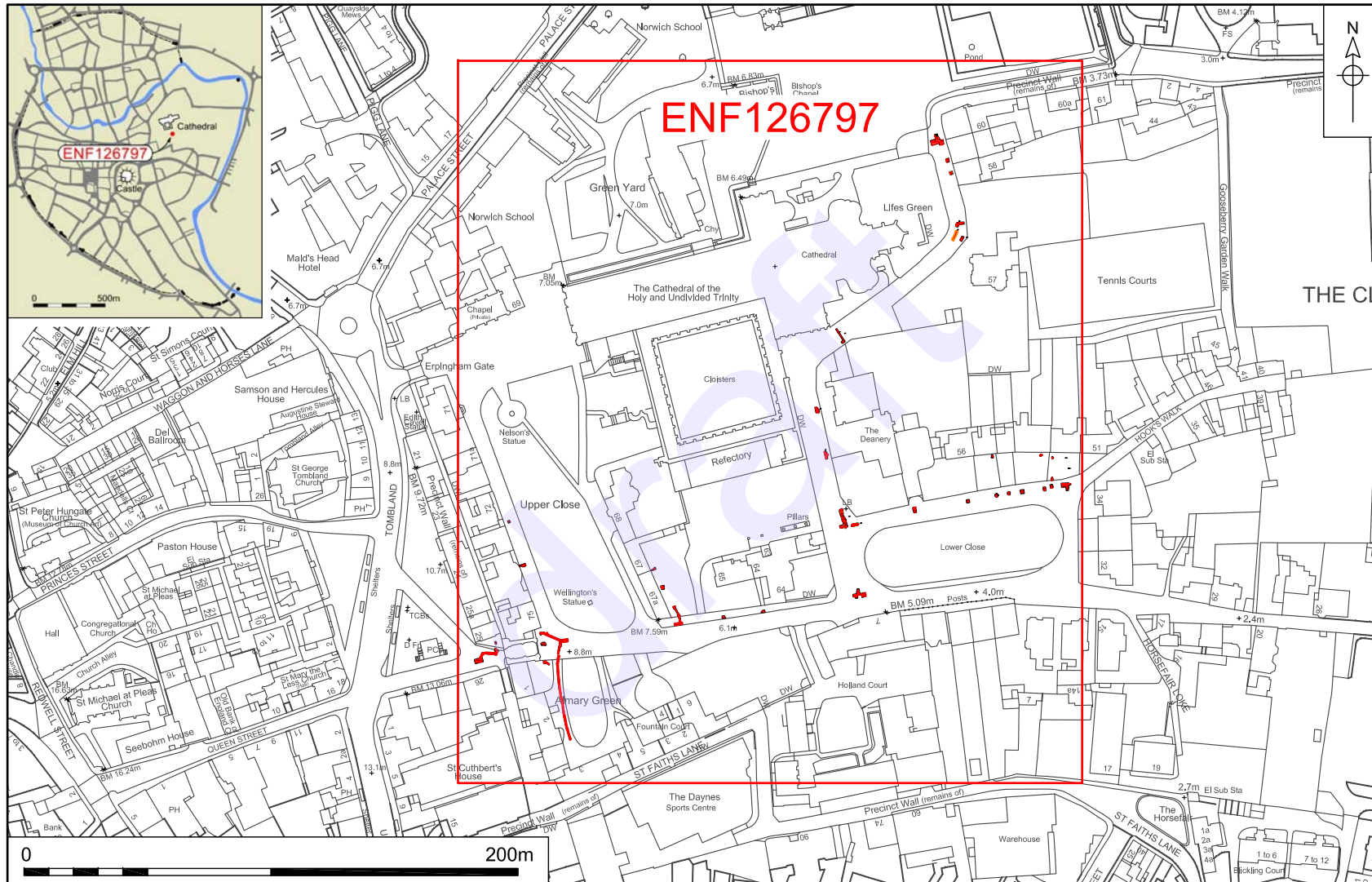
An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Morrison Utility Services during groundworks associated with gas main replacement works at Norwich Cathedral Close.

The results of this project were somewhat compromised by the small amount of open trench available for monitoring as it was possible to feed new pipe along earlier steel gas pipes in most cases) and the fact that most of the trenches that were dug followed the line of existing services and were dug down to steel pipes generally exposing backfill deposits associated with these services.

Between The Lower Close and Bishopgate, evidence was found for the insertion of the present road in 1830, in the form of compacted layers of rubble and soil above the heavily, horizontally-truncated, archaeological deposits below. Several walls were recorded, but mostly these were impossible to date or even to surmise their alignment. A new and massive wall was located close to 60 The Close - which may be connected with the 'Gate-Tower to Sextry Yard' shown on Whittingham's map of 1938. A wall that was recorded during watching brief monitoring in 2006-7 was found to extend further.

Throughout the area of the Lower Close, previous investigations have found that natural sand lies in excess of 3m below the present ground surface, with 16th-century deposits deeper than 1m below ground level. The walls and floor levels found in the Lower Close were certainly post-medieval in date and were probably associated with garden walls and small garden buildings.

The trenches around St Ethelbert's Gate were devoid of significant remains, but the open trench through Almary Green produced large amounts of 17th-century garden soil, sealing a couple of earlier boundary walls.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:2500

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This project consisted of an archaeological watching brief on groundworks associated with the replacement of the gas main within the Cathedral Close (Fig. 1). Most of the pits inspected were small and cut through backfill deposits in earlier service trenches. However a small number showed some evidence of earlier archaeological deposits. Monitoring was made problematic towards the end of the fieldwork due to the subcontractor on site (Brockwells) ceasing to trade.

This work was undertaken to fulfil a requirement stipulated by the Norwich Cathedral Archaeologist, Dr Roland Harris. The relevant document detailing that these works take place is the Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief, Norwich Cathedral – Gas Main Replacement (Harris and Hamilton 2011). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref. BAU2795/DW). This work was commissioned and funded by Morrison Utility Services.

This programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010).

The site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service (NMAS), following the relevant policies on archiving standards.

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site lies in the centre of Norwich, within a bend of the River Wensum within the precinct of the medieval cathedral and follows a linear route in the Cathedral's Close and in the vicinity of St Ethelbert's Gate

The underlying geology consists of alluvial sands (BGS 1991) above Cretaceous Upper Chalk (BGS 1985).

3.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this watching brief was to record archaeological remains that may be exposed during the replacement works and relevant locative information.

The Brief required that all groundworks be continuously monitored and if 'anything of exceptional archaeological significance is uncovered which would be disturbed or destroyed by the works, then works shall stop to allow for consultation with the Cathedral Archaeologist and the Cathedral Fabrics Commission...'. Similarly if 'any human remains are uncovered, they shall be treated with due care and decency, and in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Church of England and English Heritage's joint Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England...'.

Machine excavation was carried out with a small hydraulic 360° excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds, other than those which were obviously modern, were retained for inspection.

No environmental samples were taken due to a lack of securely dated deposits.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Colour, monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate.

The pits and trenches were located by the NPS Land Survey Team using a GPS900 RTK and a Leica TS15. The trenches close to the Cathedral were located utilising the HBRU co-ordinate system. Trenches located outside the HBRU network were located within the National Grid.

Site conditions were good, with the work taking place in fine weather.

4.0 RESULTS

The results of the monitoring are presented below in three (geographical) sections (Lifes Green to Prior's Hall; The Lower Close and The Upper Close; the road to The Lower Close) (Fig. 2) along with the relevant background for each area taken from the project brief (Harris and Hamilton 2011).

4.1 Lifes Green to Prior's Hall

4.1.1 Background (Lifes Green to Prior's Hall)

This section of the replacement gas main passes through the area around the east end of the cathedral known as Lifes Green, close to the south transept of the cathedral, and along the site of the eastern range of medieval conventual buildings (comprising the slype (or treasaunce), chapter house and subdorter) (Fig. 2).

Lifes Green was the location of the monastic cemetery, although the precise boundaries of this have yet to be determined. Today it comprises an open area with grass and trees, edged, on its southern and eastern sides, by a road leading from the Close to Bishopgate.

The road leading from the Lower Close to the south transept, and thence to Bishopgate, was created in the 1830s during Anthony Salvin's remodelling of the south transept. This work involved removing the 12th-century slype that abutted the exterior of the south transept, and followed demolition, in 1828, of a passage linking the Deanery/Prior's Hall to the Dark Entry. The passage represented part survival of the undercroft below the dormitory (i.e. the subdorter), with most of the rest of this eastern range of conventual buildings (which also included the chapter house) having been demolished in the 1560s (the southern end of the range, however, survived until demolition in 1574: at this point it still contained the library at the upper level, with the petty canons' kitchen in the undercroft).

There has only been a small amount of archaeological investigation at Lifes Green, however the four watching briefs undertaken to date have produced significant archaeological evidence; the results are summarised below.

Archaeological watching brief of trench for Norwich School IT link phase1 (May-June 2007)

The IT link required excavation of a trench c.350mm wide and c.600mm deep, extending c.220m from Lifes Green to the Lower School site, passing along the northern part of Lifes Green. Remains of two walls were discovered on the west side of the north-south road through Lifes Green. The northern wall was of flint-rubble construction, with footings measuring c.900mm, and was abutted, on its northern side, by a drain lined with bricks of 16th-century date and capped with bricks (reused from ovolo-sectioned mullions) of 17th-century date. The wall corresponds with the location of the northern wall of 62 The Close, which was in existence by 1688 and demolished in 1930. The southern wall was parallel, but, less well built and included brick: almost certainly it represents an internal transverse wall within 62 The Close.

Archaeological watching brief during repairs to sewers (Aug 2006-Aug 2007)

A watching brief was undertaken during excavation to replace parts of the main sewer in 2006-7, which included the digging of a small trench on the east side of Lifes Green (Trench 13) on the axis of the cathedral, which revealed a wall at a depth of c.600mm, probably of medieval date, which may represent a north-south boundary or building within the sextry yard (the excavator incorrectly relates it to 62 The Close, on the west side of the road, which was demolished in 1930).

Archaeological watching brief at Lifes Green (July 2002)

This watching brief concerned the monitoring of a gas pipe trench c.600mm wide and c.700mm deep, extending 8m northwards from the Jesus chapel (Segment A), then eastwards for 60m along the driveway north of Lifes Green (Segment B), and then northwards in front of 60 The Close for 20m (Segment C). East of this, the gas pipe continued to the cathedral gate to Bishopgate, but excavation was limited here to three small sections (Segments D, E and F). A 3m long north-south medieval wall, with a westwards return at the south end, was discovered in Segment A. This had gone out of use by the time a post-medieval north-south grave was cut: the articulated skeleton was of a male 35-50 years old. Disarticulated skeletal remains of post-medieval or medieval date were found in seven disturbed contexts in Segment B.

Drainage trench south of St Saviour's chapel (Jan 1982)

Digging of a new drainage trench revealed a 17th- to 18th-century garden wall foundation, which included a reused Norman shaft.

Watching brief of service trench to the new Refectory (Aug-Nov 2003)

Excavation of a north-south service trench c.3.6m to the west of 56a-c The Close revealed medieval walls and other features almost immediately below the tarmac. Seven walls on an east-west axis crossed the trench in the subdorter area (confirming Whittingham's interpretation of the internal bay arrangement of the vaulted undercroft), including walls defining the passage connecting the Dark Entry and the prior's lodging (with a tiled area between c.900mm below the present road surface). Although the south wall of the chapter house was not located, the north wall survived to within 200mm of the present road surface.

Archaeological evaluation on the site of the chapter house and treasaunce/slype (July 2003)

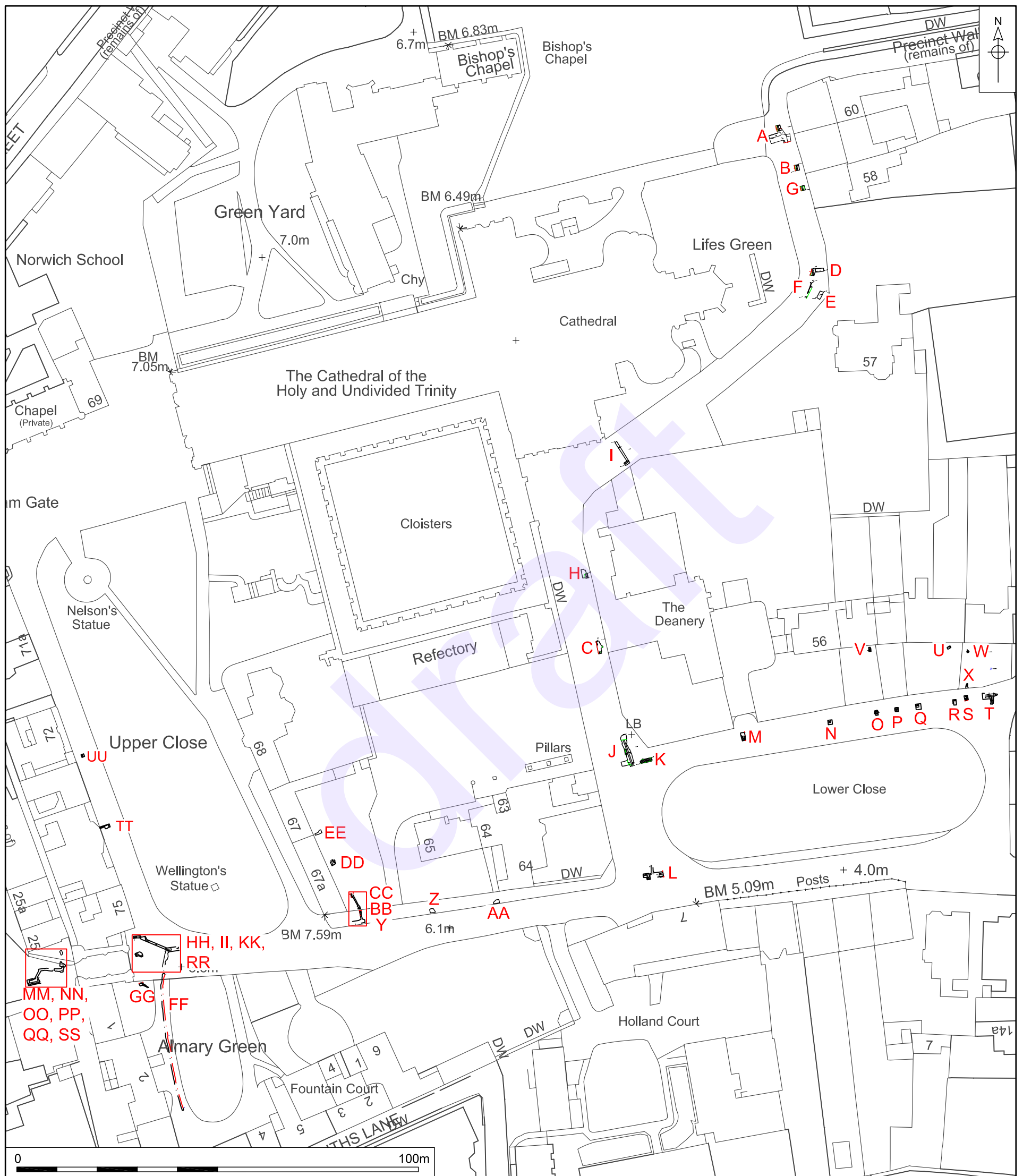
Two trenches c.1m square were excavated to evaluate the archaeological impact of a scheme for ramped access to the cloister from the site of the chapter house (the scheme was not implemented). Trench 1 was located towards the west end of the medieval slype or treasaunce (which survived in its 12th-century form until demolished in the 1830s during the refacing of the south transept by Anthony Salvin), and was excavated to a depth of 1.2m. Trench 1 revealed part of a Late Saxon pit (containing 17 sherds of Thetford-type ware and one of St Neots ware), stratigraphically above which were remains of a north-west to south-east aligned flint-rubble wall. Trench 2 was located towards the west end of the northern part of the site of the chapter house (probably within its vestibule: the chapter house was built in the early 12th century, replaced in the late 13th century and demolished c.1565-9), to a depth of 850mm. Trench 2 revealed a buried soil horizon (pre-Late Saxon) and a small Late Saxon to Norman pit (containing two sherds of Thetford-type ware and one of Andenne-type ware), stratigraphically above which were remains of a south-west to north-east aligned flint-rubble wall. The two parts of walls, at right angles to each other, may relate to the same structure and, given their alignment, stratigraphic relationship to the early pits, and lack of correspondence with the plan of the medieval monastic buildings, appear to pre-date the slype and chapter house.

Chapter house (Sept 1932)

Foundations were exposed when a trench was dug for telephone cables at the south end of the Cathedral's south transept. One appeared to be the north wall of the chapter house running east-west. Another, to the south, may have been the east wall of the dormitory running north-south. A third foundation, south-west of the Deanery's south-west angle is difficult to interpret. At 31ft south of Deanery south wall it was approximately at the north edge of the southernmost bay of the dormitory - about twenty feet short of the south end wall of the dormitory as shown on Whittingham's plan.

Chapter House (1889)

Excavations made in 1889 on the site of the chapter house led to the discovery of the semi-circular apse of the original Norman building.



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Figure 2. Location of Trenches. Scale 1:1000

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4.1.2 Results from Trenches A-J (Lifes Green to Prior's Hall)

4.1.2.1 Trench A

Trench A was located outside the front garden of 60 Cathedral Close and was the most northerly of the interventions (Fig. 2). The trench was positioned in the road that had been created in 1830 to link the Lower Green to Bishopgate. The trench was 5.2m long east to west, 3.6m north to south and a maximum of 1.2m deep (Fig. 3).

The earliest deposit encountered was a large patch of masonry [1] which appeared to have covered the whole area of the base of the trench, but had been heavily truncated by later services. It was composed mainly of medium sized flints with a small amount of brick and pegtile fragments held in a pale cream sandy mortar with frequent small flint pebbles. There was no sign of coursing and no finished faces were visible. Above this was a layer of loose masonry [7] which was probably the upper part of wall [1] loosened by excavation. Above this were four compacted layers ([3]-[6]). Layer [6] was 0.08m thick and was a compacted dark brown silty sand with moderate flint gravel, ceramic building material (CBM) and mortar fragments. Above [6] was layer [5], 0.04m thick, of compacted chalk with occasional pieces of CBM and flint gravel. Above that was layer [4], 0.05m thick and composed of a compacted dark brown silty sand with very frequent chalk and frequent numbers of CBM fragments. All these layers were truncated by 4-5 service trenches. The old gas pipe trench was excavated to a depth of 1.2m, finding wall [1] still present at the base. Above this was the levelling layer [3] for the tarmac road [2]. The levelling layer [3] was 0.07-0.14m deep, composed of heavily compacted mid-dark brown sandy clay with frequent flint gravel and occasional CBM fragments. Above this was the modern tarmac road surface [2] which was 0.1m thick.



Plate 1. Trench A facing north

The stratigraphy seems to suggest the presence of massive, probably medieval masonry, which was levelled and cut down to a flat formation level before the deposition of heavily compacted layers of soil and rubble, probably associated with the road of 1830.

The large, probable medieval wall [1] suggests the presence of a large medieval building on this site, but identifying this building is difficult. The closest extant medieval buildings are the Sextry and the Sextry gatehouse just to the west. It is possible that it may be associated with the early precinct wall which ran along the southern side of Bishopgate and continued eastwards towards the Bishops Palace (see Fig. 4 in Gilchrist 2005). Cleer's map of 1696 (Cleer 1696) shows a building in approximately the position of this trench, but the quality of the surveying is questionable. Hochstetter's map of 1789 (Hochstetter 1789) appears to be more accurate and shows the area as open ground/road.

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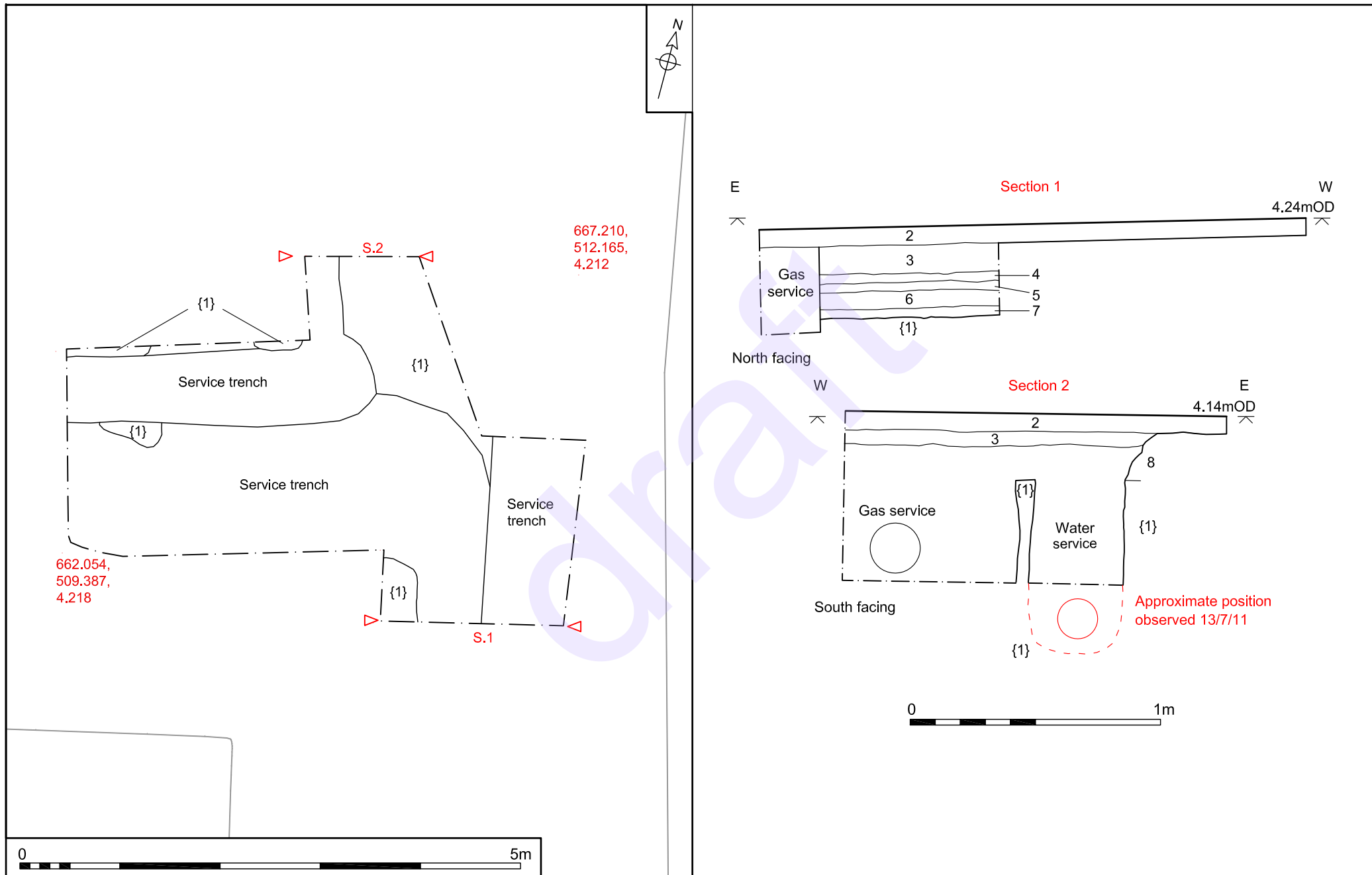


Figure 3. Trench A, plan and sections. Scale 1:50 and 1:25

4.1.2.2 Trench B

Trench B was located 8.5m to the south of Trench A and was 1.08m wide east to west and 1.4m long north to south with a depth of 0.95m (Figs 2 and 4).

Most of the trench only encountered the backfill of the service trench for the old gas pipe, but the western edge was partially dug into earlier deposits.



Plate 2. Trench B facing west

The earliest deposit encountered at the base of the trench was [10] a dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional pieces of flint gravel, mortar flecks and rare occurrences of pegtile fragments. Above this was wall [9], 0.17m in depth and composed of frequent flints with occasional pegtile fragments within a pale cream sandy mortar with occasional pieces of fine flint gravel. There were no visible faced edges and no indication as to its alignment. Like in Trench A, above this wall were a number of compacted layers underlying the modern tarmac road surface. Above wall [9] was layer [11], 0.08m thick, composed of compacted dark brown silty sand with moderate CBM fragments and flint gravel. Above [11] was layer [12] was 0.03m thick and composed of compacted pale cream mortar fragments with occasional CBM fragments. Above this was layer [13] which was 0.09m thick but otherwise the same as layer [11]. Above that was layer [14] a 0.02m thick layer of gravel hoggin providing a bedding for the tarmac layer [2] above.

The stratigraphy of this trench told a similar story to that observed in Trench A - a medieval or post-medieval masonry structure being reduced to a formation level in 1830 for the construction of the road. What this masonry structure was is impossible to say, but the presence of soil below wall [9] containing pegtile fragments suggests a late medieval or post-medieval date.

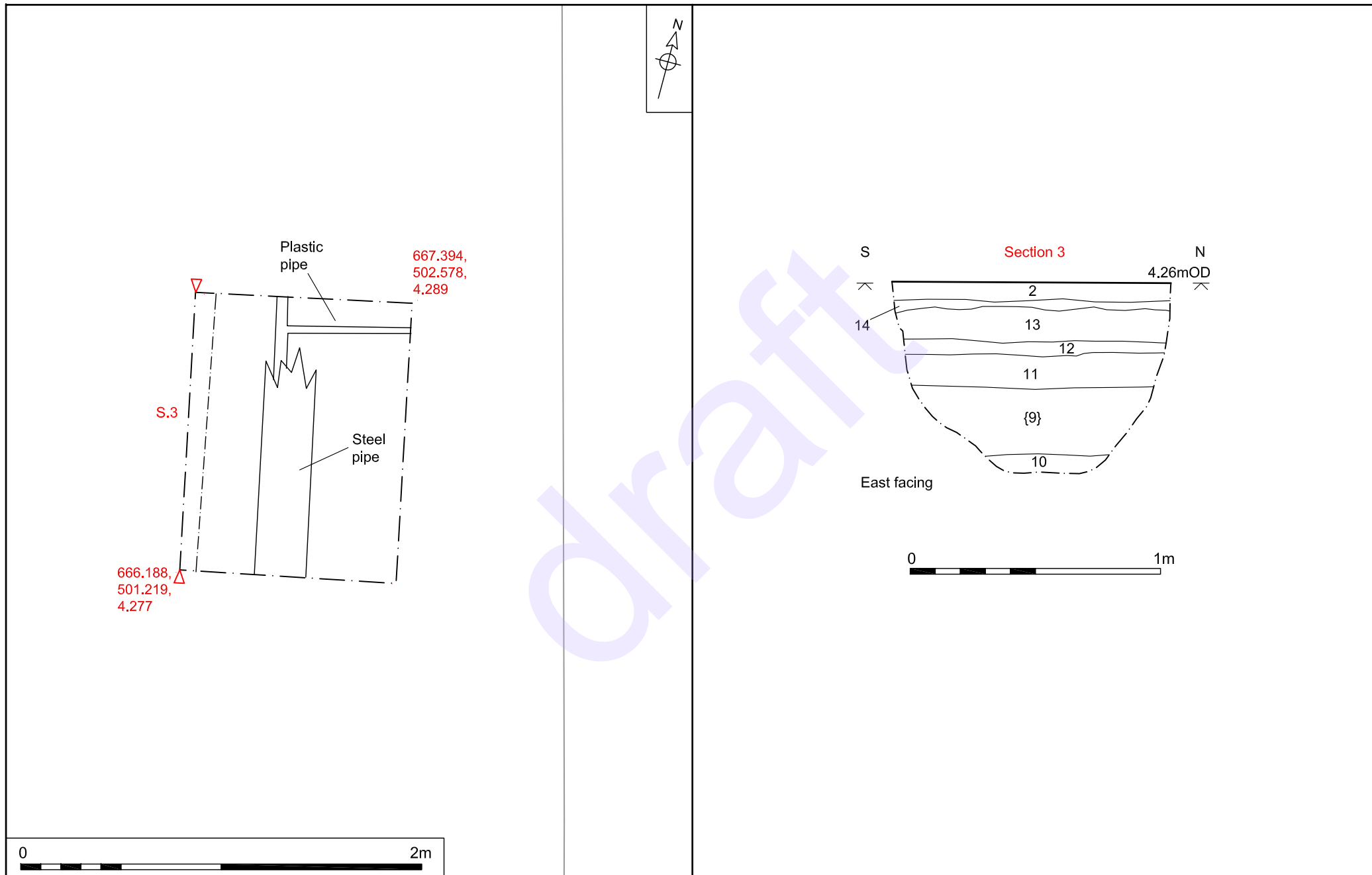


Figure 4. Trench B, plan and section. Scale 1:25

4.1.2.3 Trench C

Trench C was located adjacent to the west wall of The Deanery and was 3.12m long north to south, 1.44m east to west and a maximum of 0.92m deep (Figs 2 and 5).

A dark brown soil backfill was visible, along with three service pipes. However a masonry structure [15] was visible at the base of the north end of the trench. This was unmortared and constructed of reused brick and limestone and was aligned west-north-west to east-south-east. It was probably a rough drain and the use of reused 2½ inch brick suggests a modern date. It had been truncated by the old steel gas pipe.



Plate 3: Trench C facing northwest

Drain [15] was modern in date and was probably associated with surface water drainage.

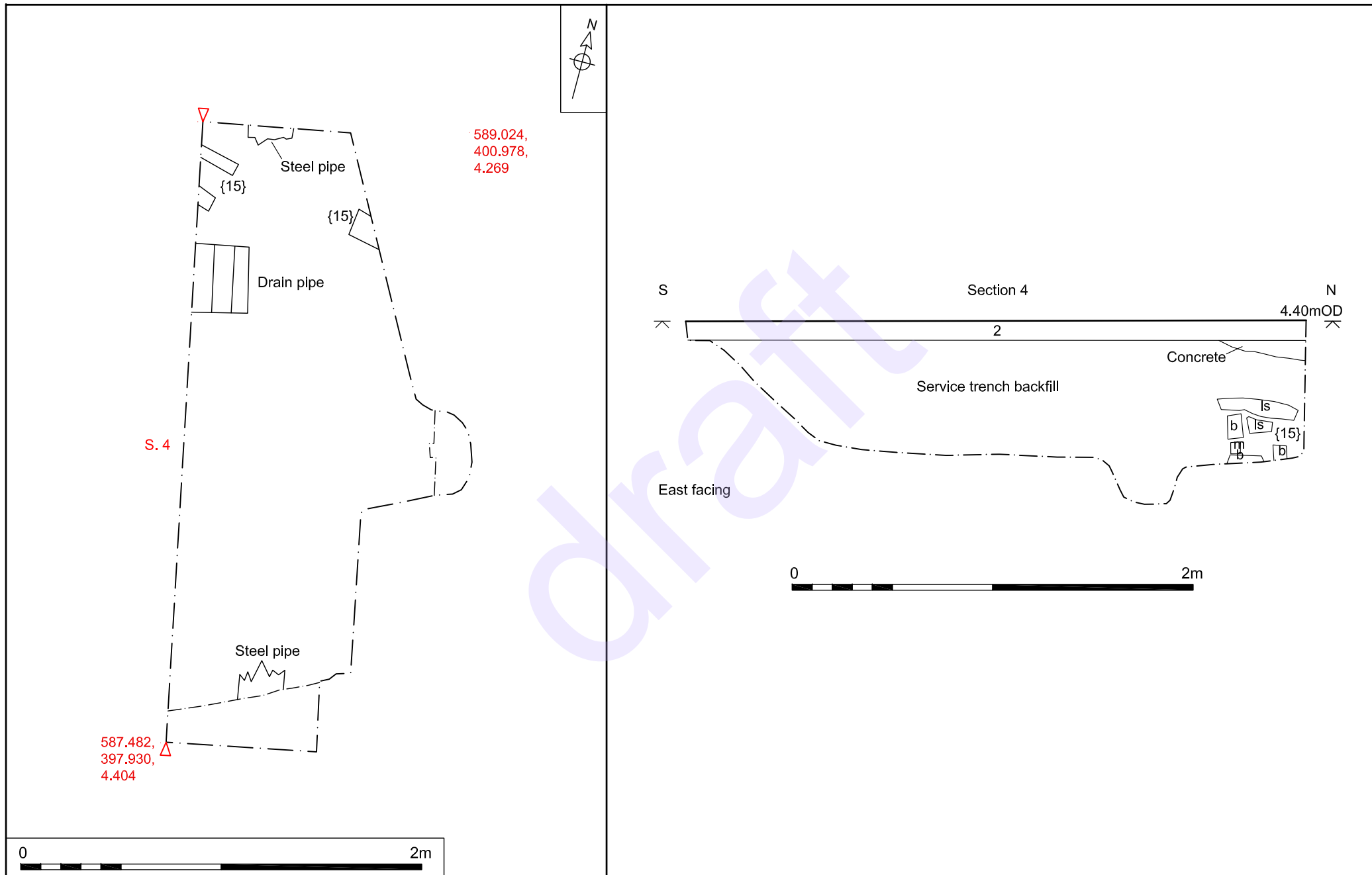


Figure 5. Trench C, plan and section. Scale 1:25

4.1.2.4 Trench D

Trenches D, E and F were located in the road outside 57 Cathedral Close.

Trench D was 3.05m long south-east to north-west, 1.7m wide south-west to north-east and 0.57m deep (Figs 2 and 6).

Most of the trench was dug into previous service trench backfills, however earlier stratigraphy was present at the northern corner and along the southern edge of the trench.

At the northern corner, the visible archaeology consisted of layer [20] at the base, a dark brown silty sand with occasional CBM, mortar and charcoal flecks. Above this was wall [19], 0.15m deep and composed of medium sized flints in a pale cream sandy mortar. No finished faces were visible so its alignment was not apparent. Above this were the layers of compacted road material seen in trenches A and B. Layer [18] was above wall [19] and was 0.03m thick, composed of compacted dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and flint gravel. Above this was layer [17], a 0.02m thick layer of compacted pale cream mortar fragments with occasional flint gravel and CBM fragments. Above layer [17] was layer [16], a 0.12m thick layer of compacted dark greyish brown silty sand with moderate CBM fragments, charcoal and mortar flecks and occasional flint gravel. The tarmac road surface [2] was above that.



Plate 4. Trench D facing west

A small patch of wall was visible on the southern edge of the trench. This was the same wall as that seen in a watching brief in 2008 (Wallis 2008, Trench 13), possibly dated as medieval.

The two walls noted were from different structures and their dating must remain undetermined.

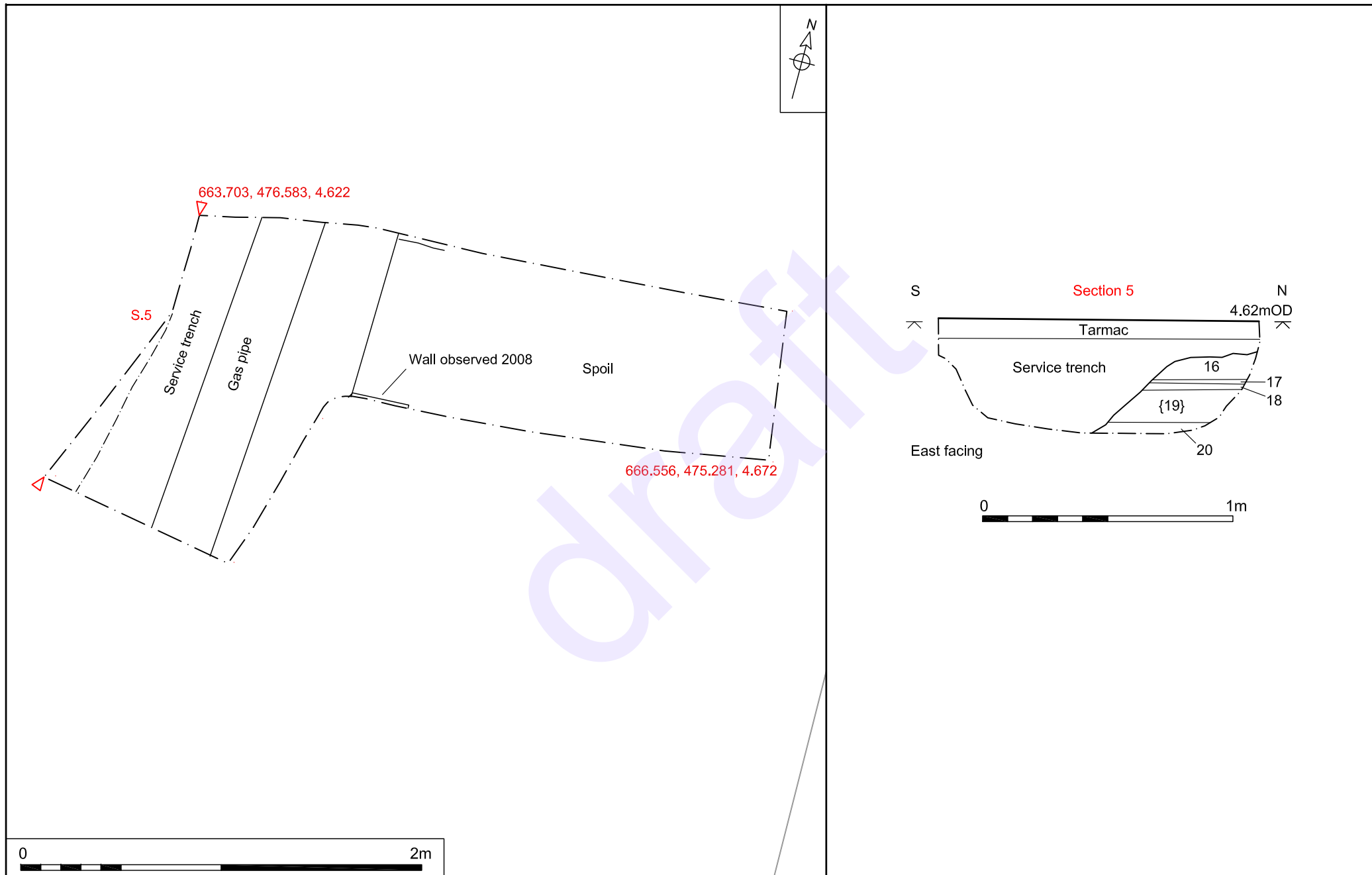


Figure 6. Trench D, plan and section. Scale 1:25

4.1.2.5 Trench E

Trench E along with Trenches D and F was located in the road outside 57 Cathedral Close (Fig. 2).

Trench E measured 2.04m long north-east to south-west and 1.14m wide north-west to south-east.

It was backfilled prior to recording, but no archaeological features had been observed whilst it was being excavated.



Plate 5. Trench E facing east

4.1.2.6 Trench F

Trench F, along with D and E, was located in the road outside 57 Cathedral Close (Fig. 2).

Trench F was 4.23m long north-east to south-west, 1.2m wide south-east to north-west and a maximum of 0.65m deep (Fig. 7).

The only deposits encountered were service trench backfills.



Plate 6. Trench F facing north-east

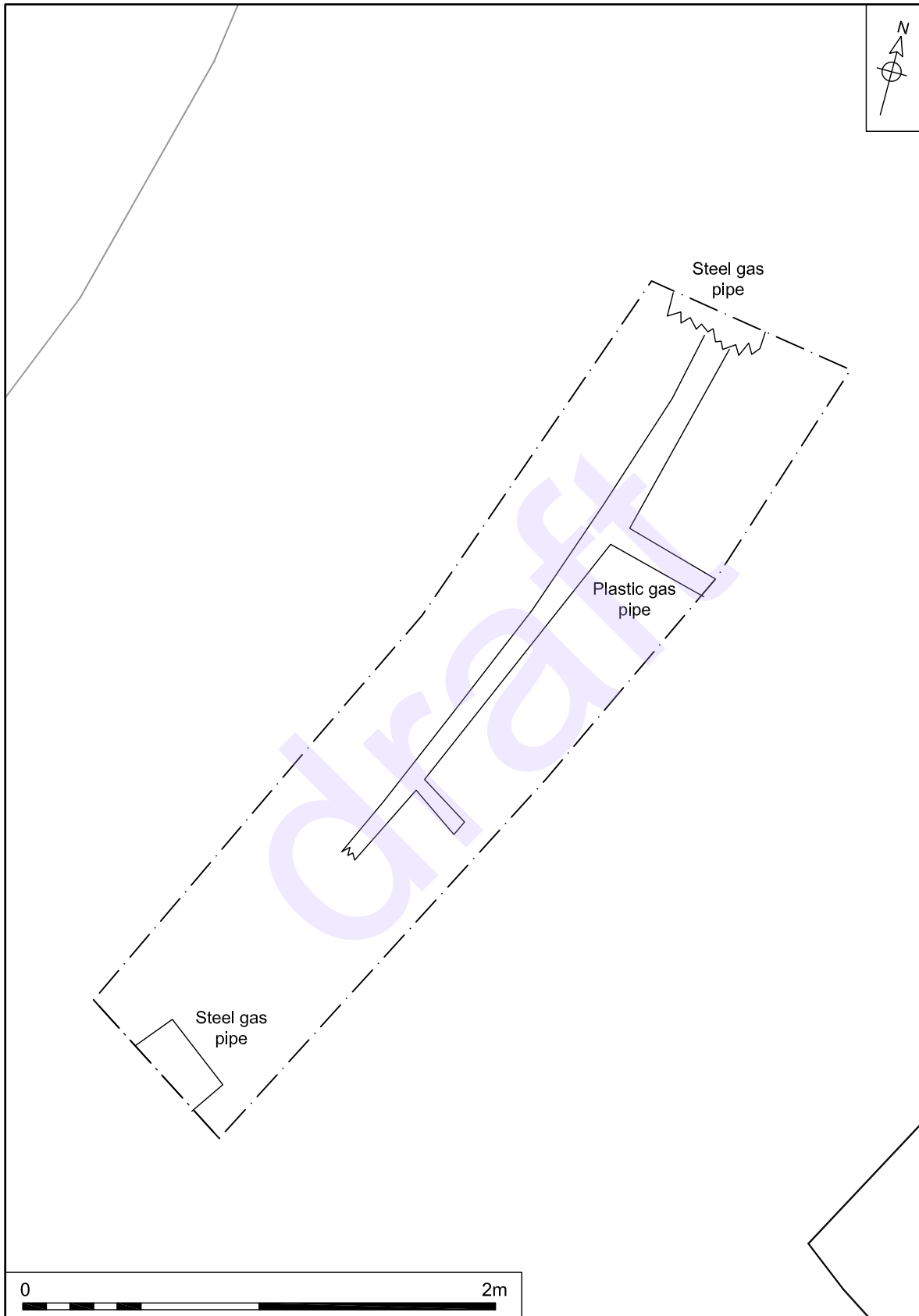


Figure 7. Trench F, plan. Scale 1:25

4.1.2.7 Trench G

Trench G was located outside the front of 58 Cathedral Close. It was 1.1m long north to south, 1.08m wide east to west and a maximum of 0.67m deep (Figs 2 and 8).

Most of the trench was excavated through previous service trench backfill material, but some earlier stratigraphy was encountered on the western edge of the trench.

The earliest deposit was layer [26], a dark brown silty sand with rare occurrences of mortar flecks, CBM fragments and charcoal flecks as well as occasional flint gravel. Above this was layer [25], which was 0.06m thick and identical to [26] apart from it having frequent mortar flecks and moderate CBM fragments. Above [25] was [24] a 0.12m thick compacted layer of dark brown silty sand with rare pieces of flint gravel and mortar flecks. Above this was [23] a 0.1m thick compacted layer of mortar fragments with rare pieces of flint gravel and occasional CBM fragments. Its northern end was vertical, suggesting that it may represent a robbed-out wall, with [23] being the rubble left after the reusable masonry fragments had been reclaimed. Above [23] was layer [22], a compacted layer 0.04m thick of mortar fragments with rare occurrences of flint gravel and moderate charcoal flecks. Above this was layer [21] which was 0.19m deep and was a compacted dark brown silty sand with moderate CBM fragments, occasional flint gravel and rare flecks of mortar and charcoal. The tarmac road surface [2] was above this.

It is possible that [23] represents a wall robbed-out before the road was built in 1830.



Plate 7. Trench G facing west

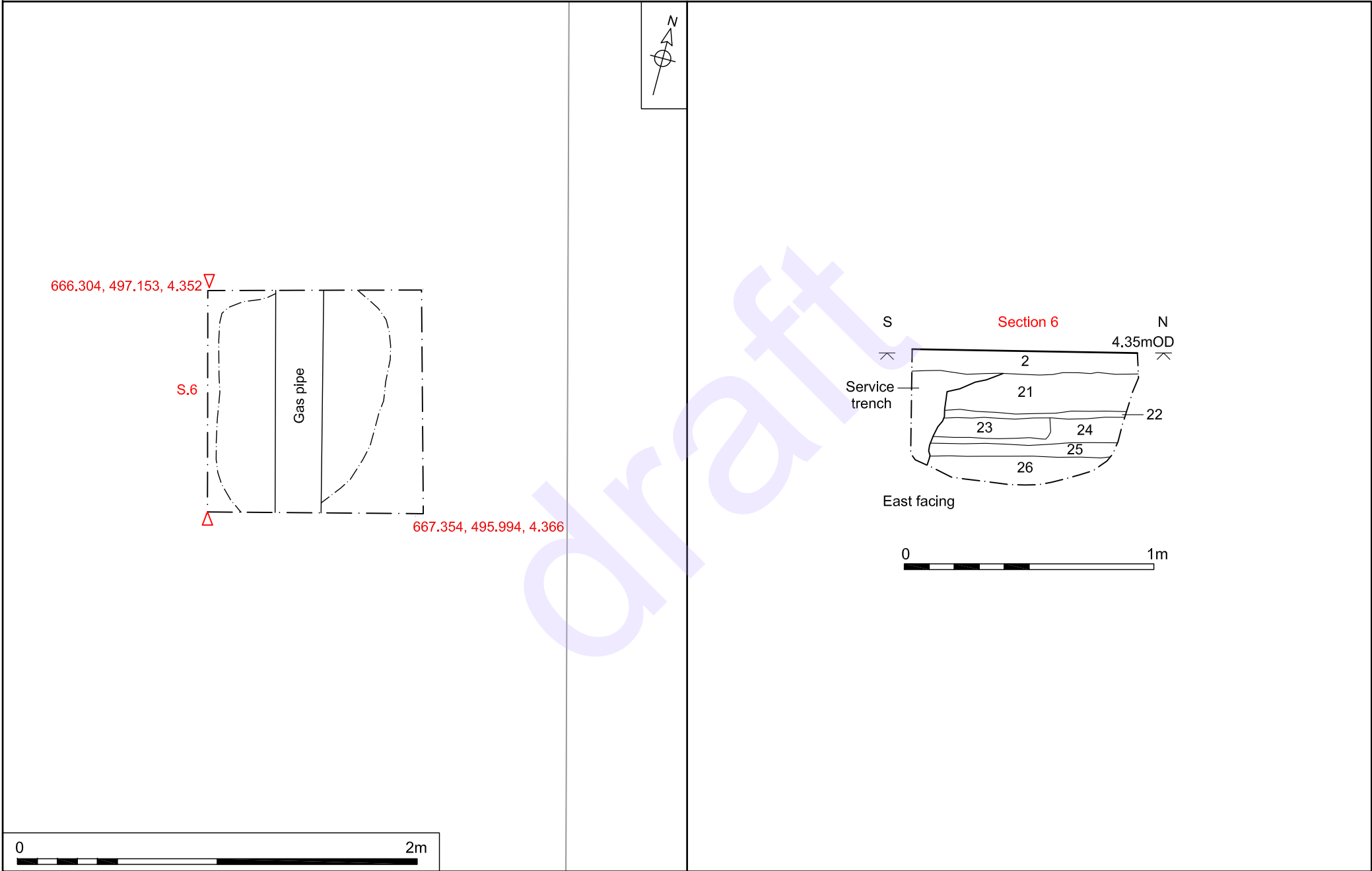


Figure 8. Trench G, plan and section. Scale 1:25

4.1.2.8 Trench H

Trench H was located against the west wall of the Deanery, 18m north of Trench C (Fig. 2).

It was excavated to locate and repair a sewer pipe. It measured 1.16m long north to south, 0.98m wide east to west and 0.65m deep (Fig. 9) and was dug through a mixed soil backfill.



Plate 8. Trench H facing east

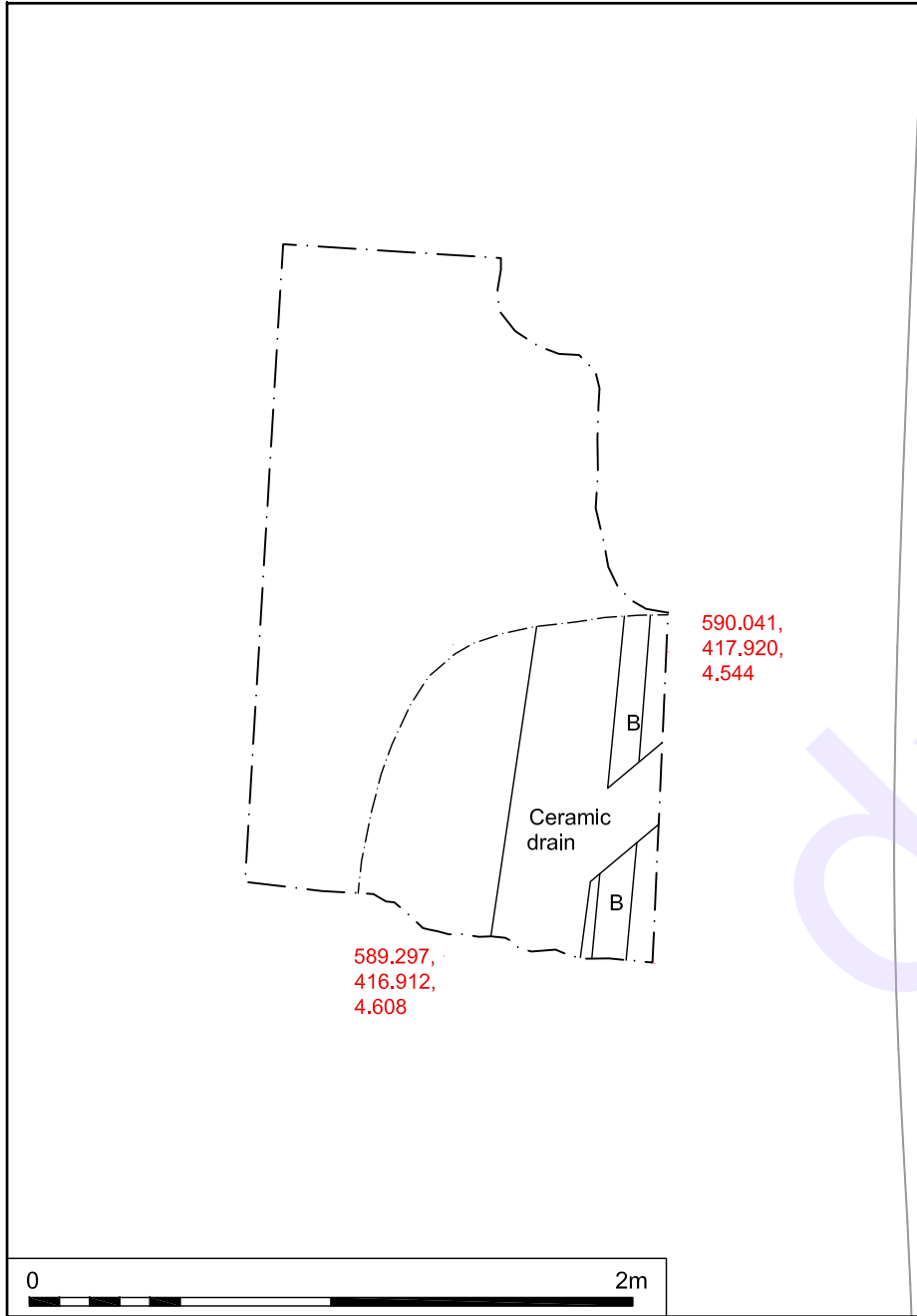


Figure 9. Trench H, plan. Scale 1:25

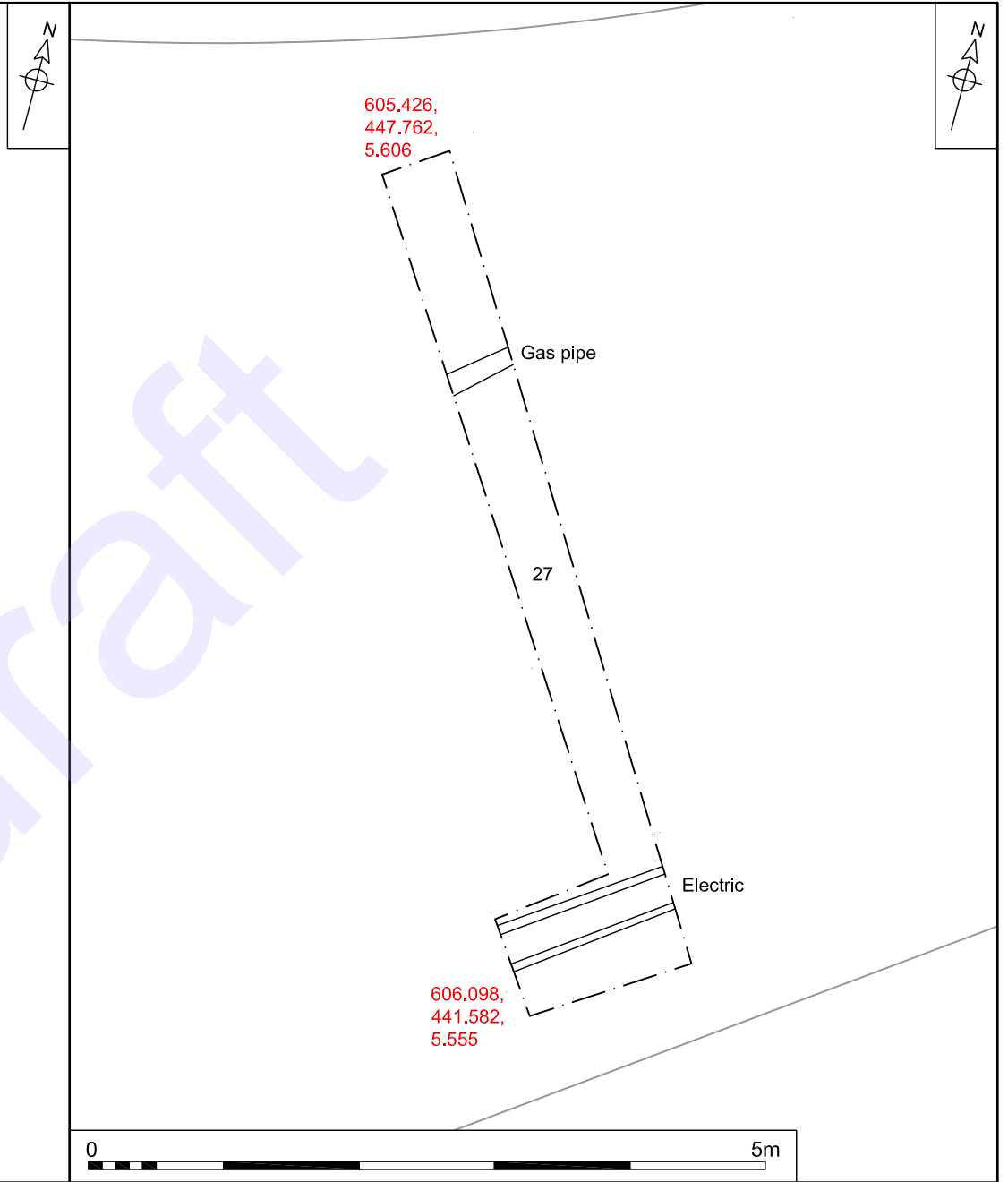


Figure 10. Trench I, plan. Scale 1:50

4.1.2.9 Trench I

Trench I was located north of the rear gate of the deanery (Fig. 2).

It measured 6.25m long north to south and was a maximum of 1.3m wide with a maximum depth of 0.8m (Fig. 10).

Beneath 0.14m of tarmac and hoggin, soil layer [27] was encountered. It was a dark brown silty sand with moderate flint gravel and occasional mortar, oyster, CBM and charcoal. There were several service runs present, but it was impossible to define the service trench edges.



Plate 9. Trench I facing south

4.1.2.10 Trench J

Trench J was located at the north-western corner of the Lower Close (Fig. 2).

It was 3.25m long north to south, 1.22m wide east to west and a maximum of 0.75m deep (Fig. 11).

Again, most of the trench was cut through service trench backfill deposits, but some earlier stratigraphy was present on its western edge. The earliest deposit was wall [28], a masonry foundation of pale cream sandy mortar with occasional chalk flecks, containing moderate small to medium sized flints at a depth of 0.55m below ground level. Above this was deposit [34], a mixed dark brown silty sand with occasional flint gravel and CBM fragments, with 0.05m of tarmac [2] above that.

The purpose of wall [28] was impossible to define.



Plate 10. Trench J facing west

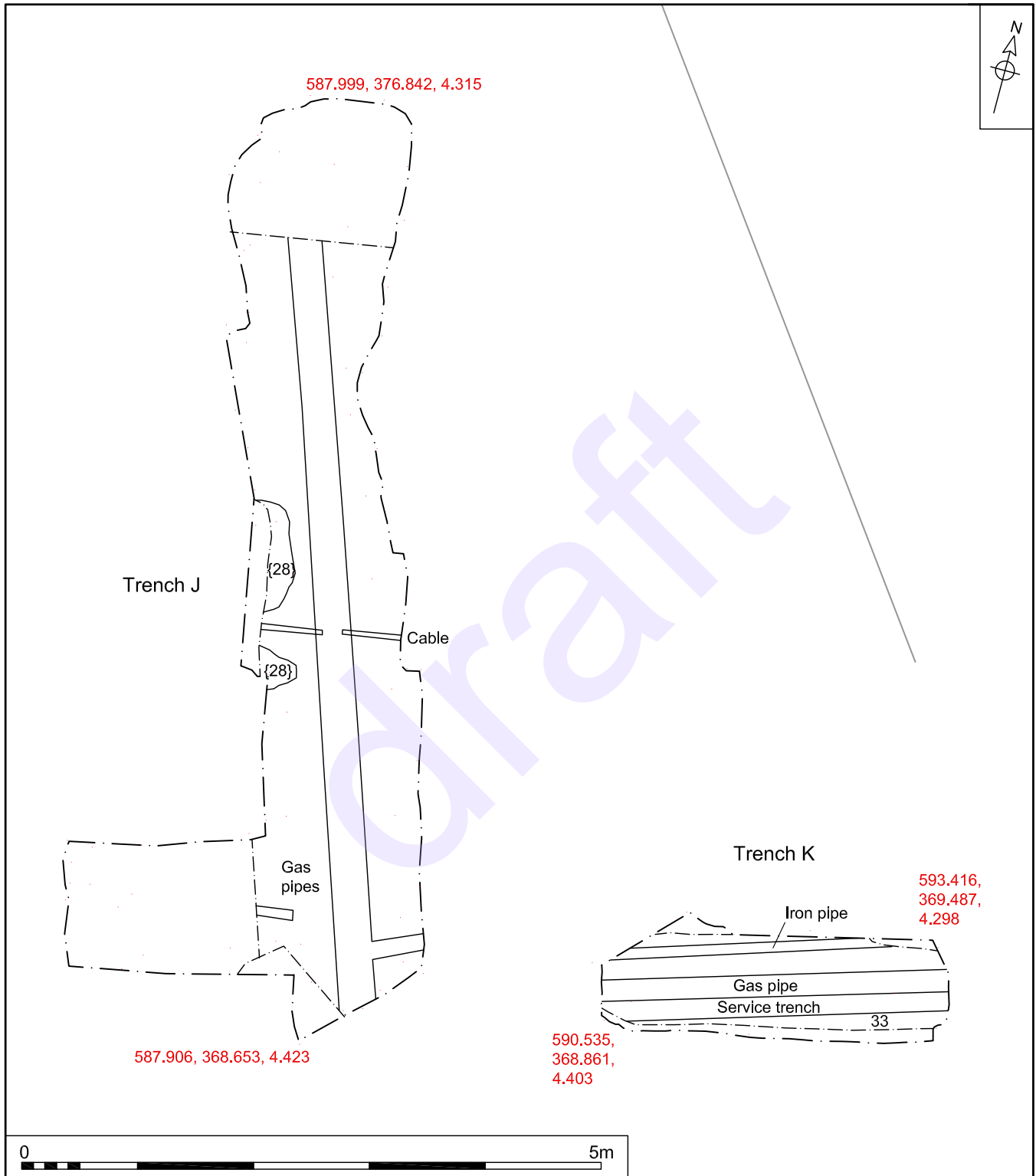


Figure 11. Trenches J and K, plans. Scale 1:50

4.1.3 Conclusion from Trenches A-J (Lifes Green to Prior's Hall)

Most of the trenches in this area show evidence of road construction in 1830, when the road from the Lower Close to Bishopgate via Lifes Green was inserted. The underlying archaeology had been levelled off at 0.3-0.4m below present ground level, then the level brought up by compacted layers of rubble and soil. Trench D was adjacent to Trench 13 of the 2006-7 watching brief (Wallis 2008) and contained the same north-south orientated wall. This was heavily truncated by modern services, but appeared to continue northwards beyond trench D.

Trench A contained foundations for a large masonry structure. Unfortunately due to extensive truncation by modern services and the absence of any wall faces, it is a very difficult structure to interpret. However it may be also connected with the 'Gate-Tower to Sextry Yard' area shown on Whittingham's map of 1938.

Several other masonry remains in this area were recorded, but due to a lack of information regarding orientation and/or date, these are impossible to interpret.

A layer of dark brown silty sand which may be an early garden soil was present in most of the trenches, and underlying some of the masonry.

draft

4.2 The Lower Close

4.2.1 Background (*The Lower Close*)

The Lower Close is the successor to the lower part of the inner court of the priory, being that part of the inner court that was devoted to the provisioning of the priory. Although archaeological evidence (see below, section 4.2.2) suggests that there was at least one service building in the central area in the 12th century, it is unclear whether there were buildings ranged around the edge of this area at this date. With the demolition of the building (and perhaps others) in the central area by c.1200, however, this is likely: the earliest architectural evidence for buildings around the edge of the Lower Close green dates from the mid-13th century (54-5 The Close). The later medieval Lower Close Green, known previously as the Brewery Green, had service buildings ranged along its north, east, and part of the south sides: from east of the Deanery clockwise, comprising the steward's house, the wheat granary, the malt granary, the bakehouse, the brewhouse and, on the south side, the stables. To the west of the stables, and approximating to 10-12 The Close, was the pre-Conquest church of St Mary in the Marsh, which survived as an institution until shortly before 1564, and physically into the 18th century - the recorded northern boundary of the churchyard extended c.5m into the present roadway on the south side of the Lower Close. In the 17th century the former upper inner court became a focus for substantial houses. Today the central area remains open, although the detail of the landscaping and its planting largely derives from the 20th century.

There have been several archaeological investigations in the Lower Close green and its surrounding road.

Cathedral IT link cable trench, Lower Close (Sept 2009)

A cable trench measuring 400mm wide was dug extending from the front of 12 The Close to a point just south-west of the entrance to Prior's Hall: the trench was c.720mm deep in the roadway areas and c.520mm deep where it crossed the grass of the Lower Close green. Throughout the trench post-medieval and modern make-up deposits were encountered, although three walls were exposed. The wall at the southern edge of the Lower Close green, north of the boundary of 11 and 12 The Close, was apparently aligned south-west to north-east and constructed of ashlar blocks and was tentatively identified as a possible boundary wall of post-medieval date. In the roadway to the north-west of the Lower Close green another post-medieval wall was also aligned south-west to north-east and was constructed of red brick and lime mortar. A more substantial flint-rubble wall, measuring c.1.14m wide was revealed adjacent to the south-west corner of the Deanery garden. This was aligned east-west and, given its common alignment with the monastic infirmary and its eastern chapel, it is possible that it represents survival of medieval monastic buildings - it appears, perhaps, to be located too far south to be the chapel wall although the usual location of this (as shown, for example, on Whittingham's plan) is by no means certain. An L-shaped building was built south of the Deanery in 1623 and was demolished in 1784; it has been suggested that this lay north of the excavated wall, but maps of 1779 and 1783 suggest that its south wall was aligned with the excavated wall (which follows the line of the south wall of the garden today), and that the present 'chamfered' south-west corner of the garden was only created following demolition of this house.

Archaeological watching brief during repairs to sewers (Aug 2006-Aug 2007)

A watching brief was undertaken during excavation to replace the main sewer in front of 15 The Close to and through the Ethelbert Gate (Trench 1, 215m long, 1.6m wide and 2.2m deep). Successive post-medieval (possibly 16th-century) road surfaces were identified in Trench 1 immediately outside 12 The Close at depths of 350mm and 650mm, below which was an earlier surface at a depth of 900mm. There was no evidence for a medieval or early post-medieval precursor to the present east-west road linking the Upper Close and Lower Close, and the upper road surfaces near 12 The Close probably relate to the north-east to south-west aligned road of 16th-century date identified in the 1976 excavations on the Lower Close green (see below).

Archaeological excavation of the Lower Close green (1976)

Two parallel trenches (Trial Trench A at 1.5m x 28m and, 1.5m to the east, Trench B at 3m x 12m, excavated to natural sand and gravel at a depth of c.3.7m). The deep stratigraphy of the site showed that the ground level had been raised c.2.7m between the 11th and 16th centuries. The site appeared to lie outside the more 'urbanised' area in the Late Saxon period, and at this time saw significant build-up (presumably a deliberate raising of ground level to address drainage problems), which was followed by cutting of gullies in the late 11th century - these were roughly parallel with extant roads on the north and south sides of Lower Close. The only evidence for actual activity on the site was a post-hole building, possibly of two rooms, which was dated to the 12th century and, on the basis of a concentration of ironworking slag, was probably a smithy. Later medieval accumulation of soils included wheel ruts and trackways (again, roughly parallel to the road in front of 12 The Close), reaching a level c.1.9m below the present surface. Make-up layers of 16th-century date (to c.1m below the present ground level) were associated with three successive road surfaces, one of which was of cobbles; these road surfaces roughly followed the earlier alignment of tracks. Seventeenth- and 18th-century build-up in the order of c.300-650mm depth sealed the uppermost road surface. Although a small assemblage of more than 300 animal bones was discovered there was no evidence of human bone which is significant given the documentary record that in 1782 states that material from the cloister graveyard was moved to the Lower Close green (apparently then nicknamed 'Skeleton Square').

Observations during excavation for a drain in front of 8 The Close (April 1937)

'Excavation before the front door revealed:

- 1) 14ins flint wall with medieval brick bonders running eastwards in line with front wall of No. 7.
- 2) Some original plaster remaining on the south face [of this wall]. This plaster covered by a later coating.
- 3) Black earth 3ft below ground found under the ?lowest floor of this building

Contains; [unidentified] pot rim with thumb marks. (On this black earth); flint rubble filling, finished with white lime floor. On this floor [unidentified] bones found. Above white lime floor, a second flint-rubble filling finished with a second floor of red colour from brick dust mixed with it. This floor is 1ft 6ins below ground.'

If correctly dated the east-west wall observed in 1937 could represent the north churchyard wall of St Mary in the Marsh, although the stepping-in of the north-west corner of the churchyard here and its apparent extent c.2.5m further north, suggests that the wall may derive from a building against the exterior of the churchyard. Certainly the plastered south face suggests a building, although, just possibly, this could be part of the Gascoine and Lines tenements established on this site by the 18th century, following closure of the church before 1564.

4.2.2 Results from Trenches K-X (The Lower Close)

4.2.2.1 Trench K

Trench K was located adjacent to Trench J, at the north-western corner of the Lower Close (Fig. 2).

The trench was 3m long east to west, 1.02m wide north to south and a maximum of 0.8m deep (Fig. 11).

Most of the deposits encountered were the backfill of the trenches of the two steel service pipes present, but some earlier stratigraphy was visible on the southern edge of the trench. At a depth of 0.4m was soil layer [33], a dark brown silty sand with occasional flint gravel and rare flecks of mortar and CBM fragments. This was thought to be a buried soil. Above that was layer [32], a compacted 0.16m thick layer of yellowish brown flint gravel. Above [32] was [31], a 0.17m thick layer of compacted pale grey silty clay with frequent flint pebbles, with 0.07m of tarmac [2] road surface above that.



Plate 11. Trench K facing west

4.2.2.2 Trench L

Trench L was located at the south-western corner of the Lower Close (Fig. 2). It was 5m long east to west, 3.7m north to south and 0.64m deep (Fig. 12). Again most of the deposits encountered were service trench backfills, but there was a small island of earlier stratigraphy at the eastern end of the trench consisting of soil [30] and foundation [29].

Soil deposit [30] was a dark brown sand with frequent flint gravel, occasional CBM fragments and one clay tobacco pipe stem fragment. Cutting this layer was foundation [29] a banded foundation 0.4m wide, aligned east to west. It was composed of alternate bands of compacted brick and pegtile fragments in powdered mortar, and compacted soil (dark brown silty sand with frequent flint gravel).

Above this was a layer of compacted mixed soil ([3]), concrete and tarmac 0.12m thick with tarmac [2] above that.

Wall foundation [29] may be connected with garden walls belonging to the building which is now known as 64 Cathedral Close, seen on Cleer's and Hochstetter's maps (Cleer 1696 and Hochstetter 1789).



Plate 12. Trench L facing east

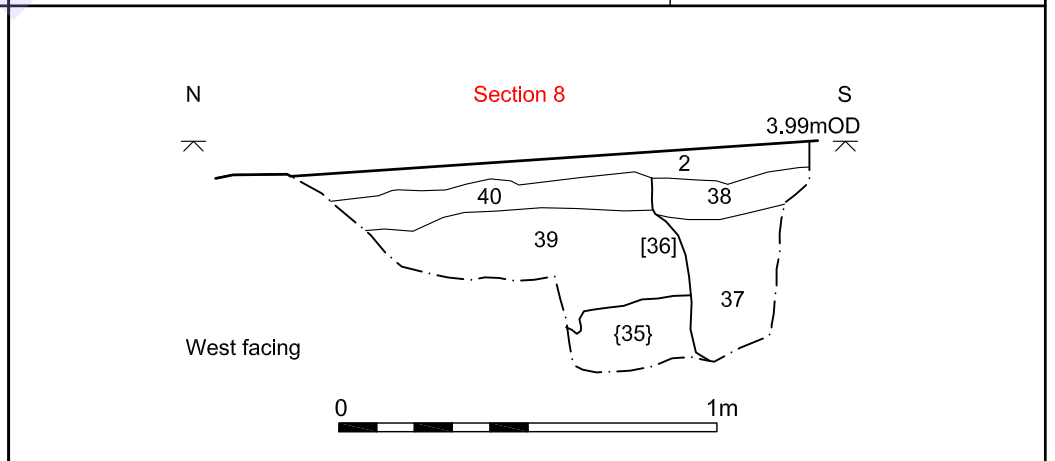
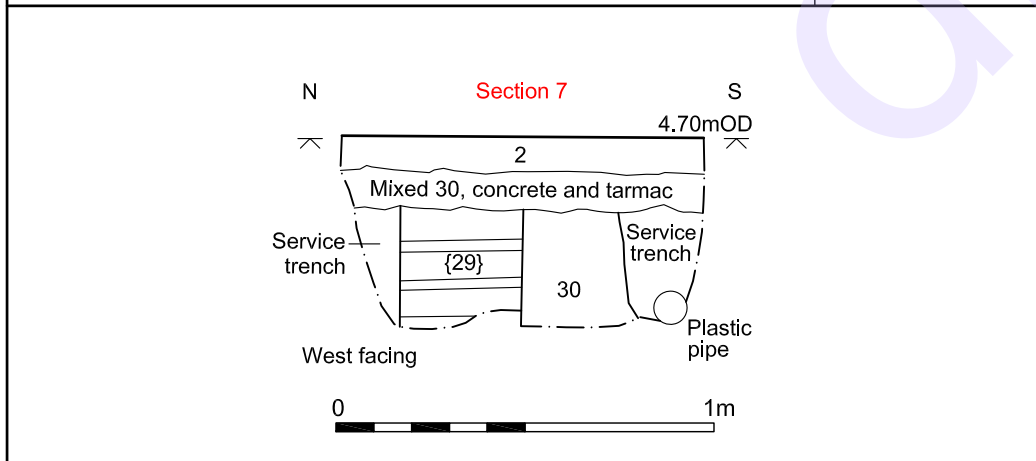
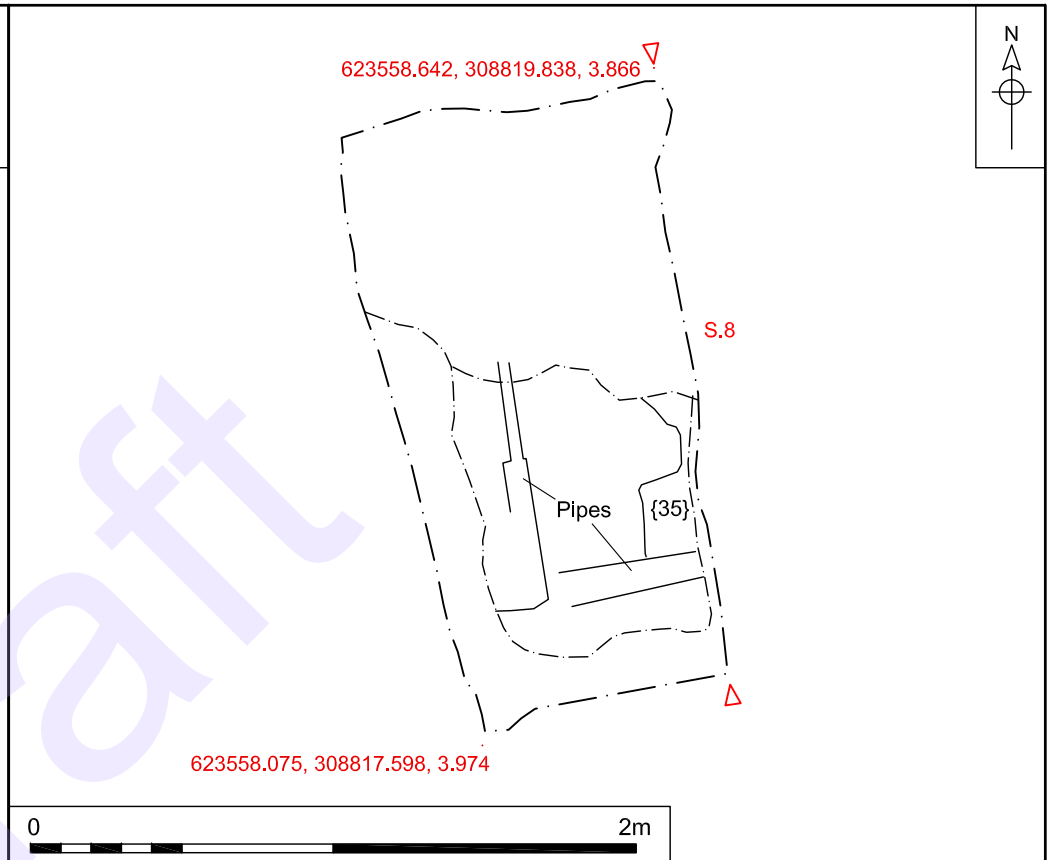
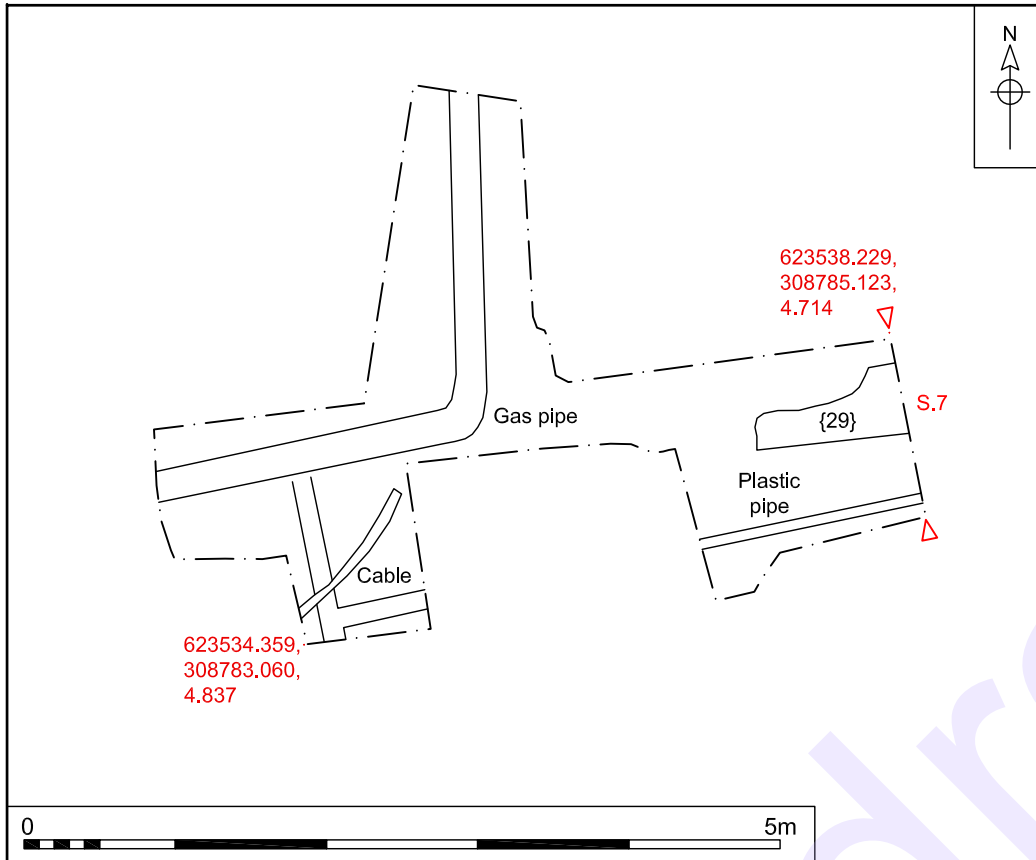


Figure 12. Trench L, plan and section. Scale 1:50 and 1:25

Figure 13. Trench M, plan and section. Scale 1:25

4.2.2.3 Trench M

Trench M was adjacent to the southern entrance to the Deanery (Fig. 2). It was 2m long north to south, 1.14m wide east to west and 0.72m deep (Fig. 13).

The trench encountered mostly service trench backfill deposits, but present on the eastern side of the trench was a patch of earlier stratigraphy. The earliest deposit seen was masonry [35] composed of creamy mortar containing rare fragments of flint and animal bone. This was probably a foundation. Above this was layer [39], a 0.4m thick layer of mid grey material containing occasional flint gravel and mortar flecks. Cutting through these deposits was modern service trench [36], aligned east to west with a depth of 0.7m. Its fill [37] was of pale grey material with occasional flint gravel and mortar flecks. Above all these deposits was a layer of gravel ([38] and [40]), providing bedding for tarmac surface [2].

Wall [35] may have been an earlier form of garden wall for the Deanery.



Plate 13. Trench M facing west

4.2.2.4 Trench N

Trench N was located in the road on the north side of the Lower Close, outside 56 Cathedral Close (Fig. 2). It was 1.1m long north to south, 1.06m wide east to west and 0.8m deep (Fig. 14).

The only deposits encountered beneath the road surface were service trench backfills.



Plate 14. Trench N facing west

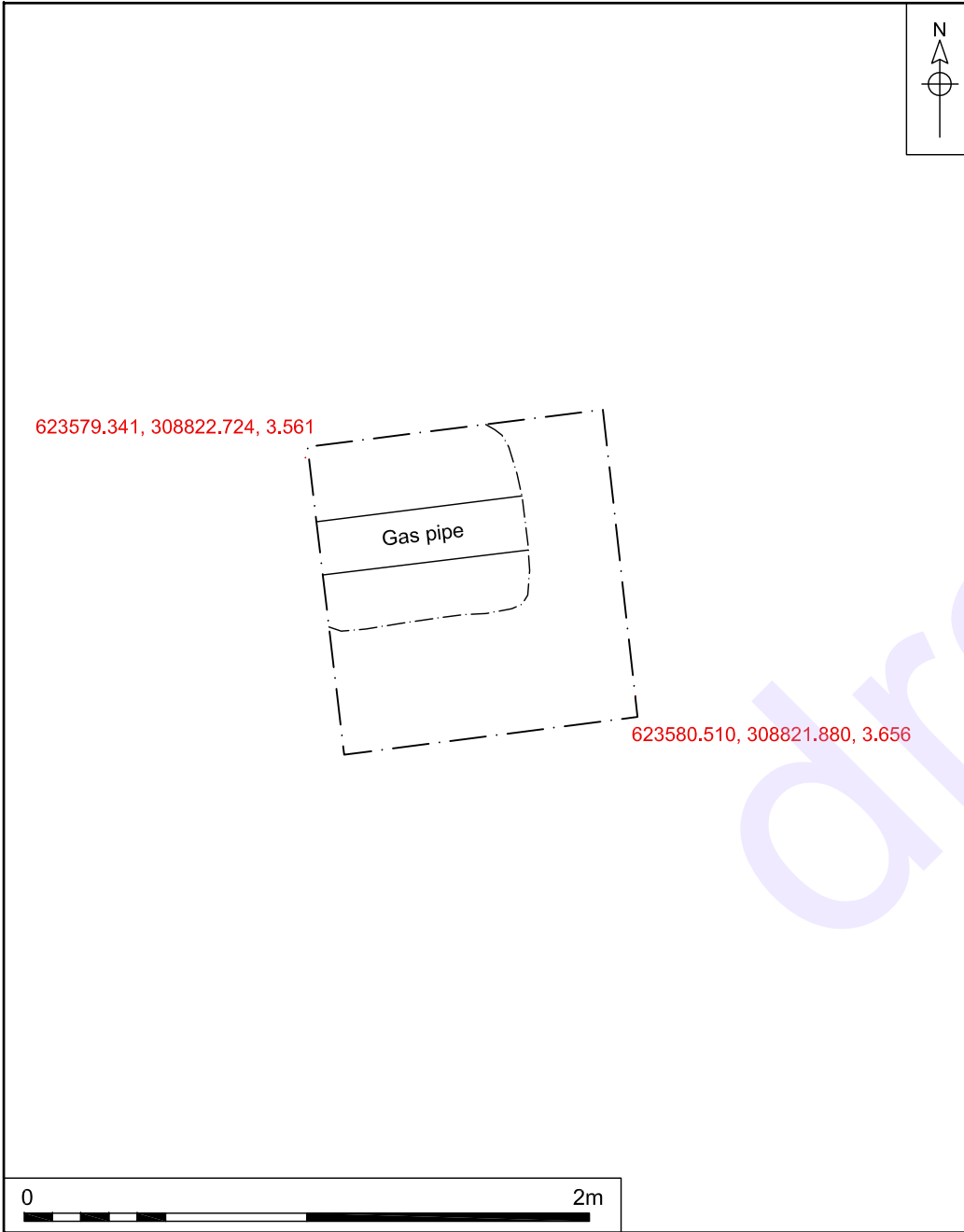


Figure 14. Trench N, plan. Scale 1:25

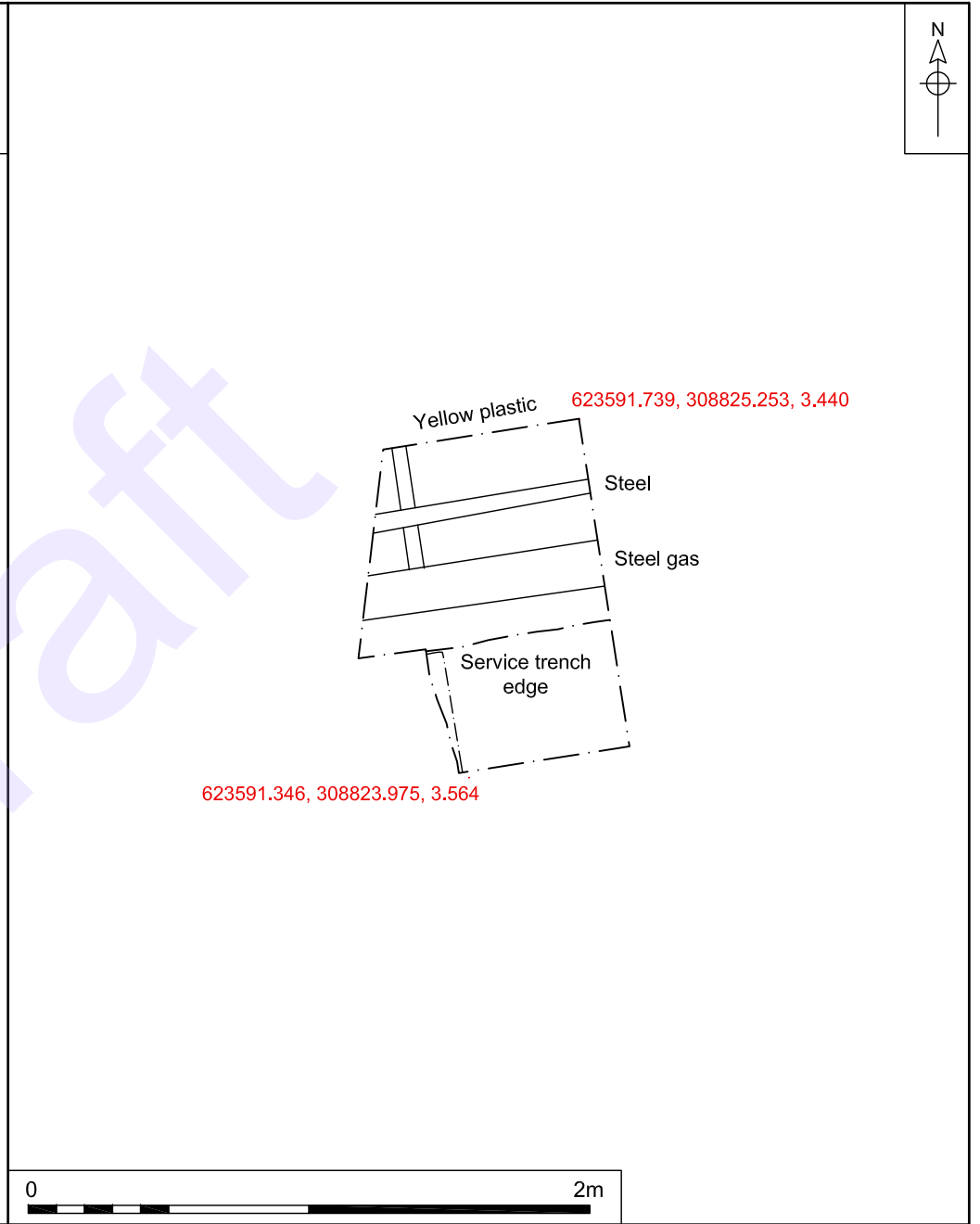


Figure 15. Trench O, plan. Scale 1:25

4.2.2.5 Trench O

Trench O was located in the road on the north side of the Lower Close, outside 55 Cathedral Close (Fig. 2). It was 1.18m long north to south, 0.9m wide east to west and a maximum of 0.9m deep (Fig 15).

Although most of the deposits encountered were service trench backfills, a small area of earlier stratigraphy was visible on the western edge of the trench. The earliest deposit was a layer [46] of dark grey sand with frequent mortar and CBM fragments. Above this was layer [47] which was 0.05m thick and composed of compacted black ashy sand with frequent charcoal. Sealing this was layer [48], a compacted layer 0.03m thick of pale cream crushed mortar, which may have been an internal floor surface. Above that was layer [49] a 0.28m thick layer of mid brown sand with frequent flint gravel and CBM fragments as well as rare pieces of animal bone. Above this was 0.24m of gravel and tarmac.

The chalk floor surface and layer of compacted fire debris suggest the presence of a structure.



Plate 15. Trench O facing north

4.2.2.6 Trench P

Trench P was located in the road on the north side of the Lower Close, outside 54 Cathedral Close (Fig. 2). It was 1m long (north to south), 0.91m wide (east to west) and up to 0.95m deep (Fig. 16).

The only deposits encountered were service trench backfills beneath 0.25m of tarmac and concrete.



Plate 16. Trench P facing east

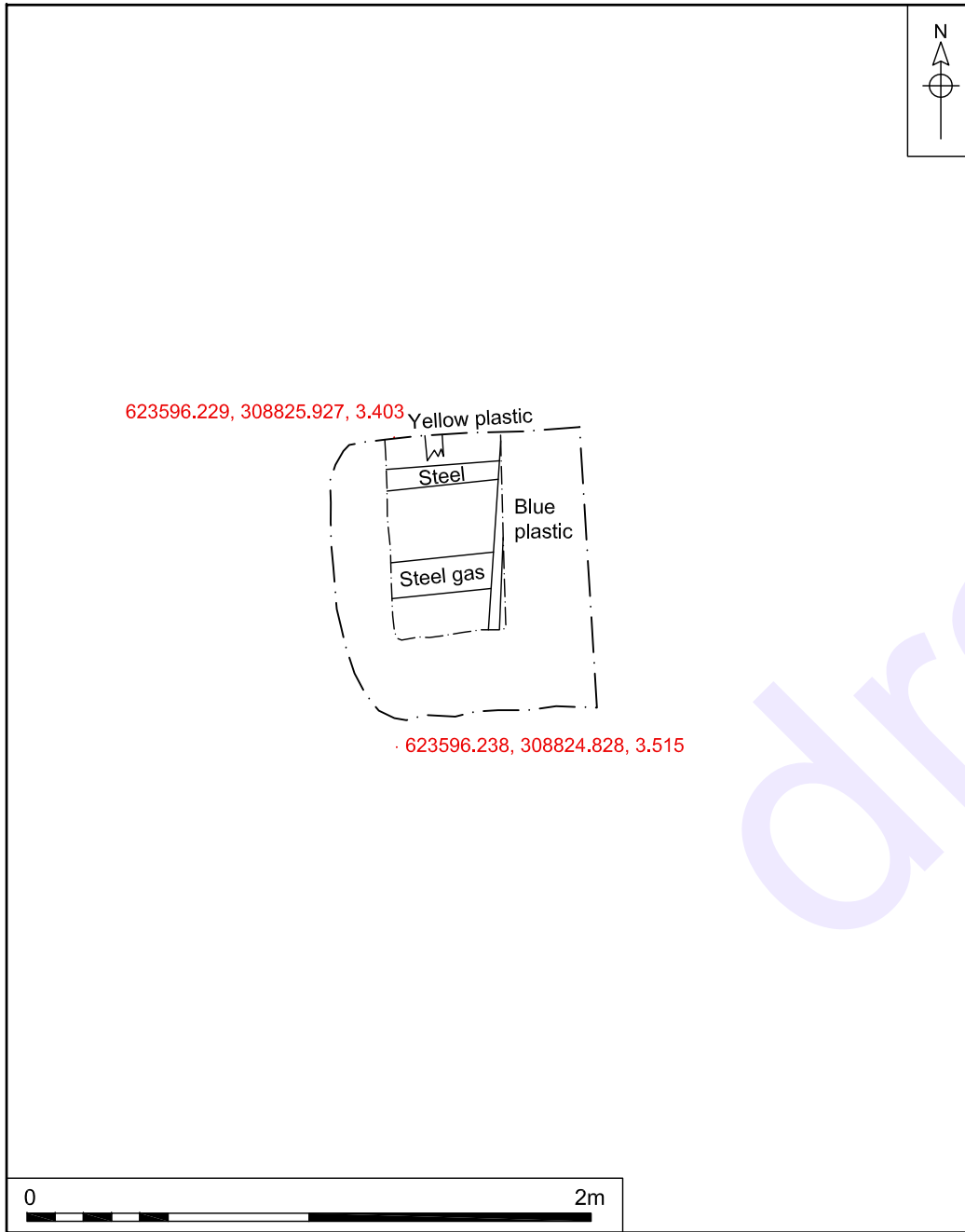


Figure 16. Trench P, plan. Scale 1:25

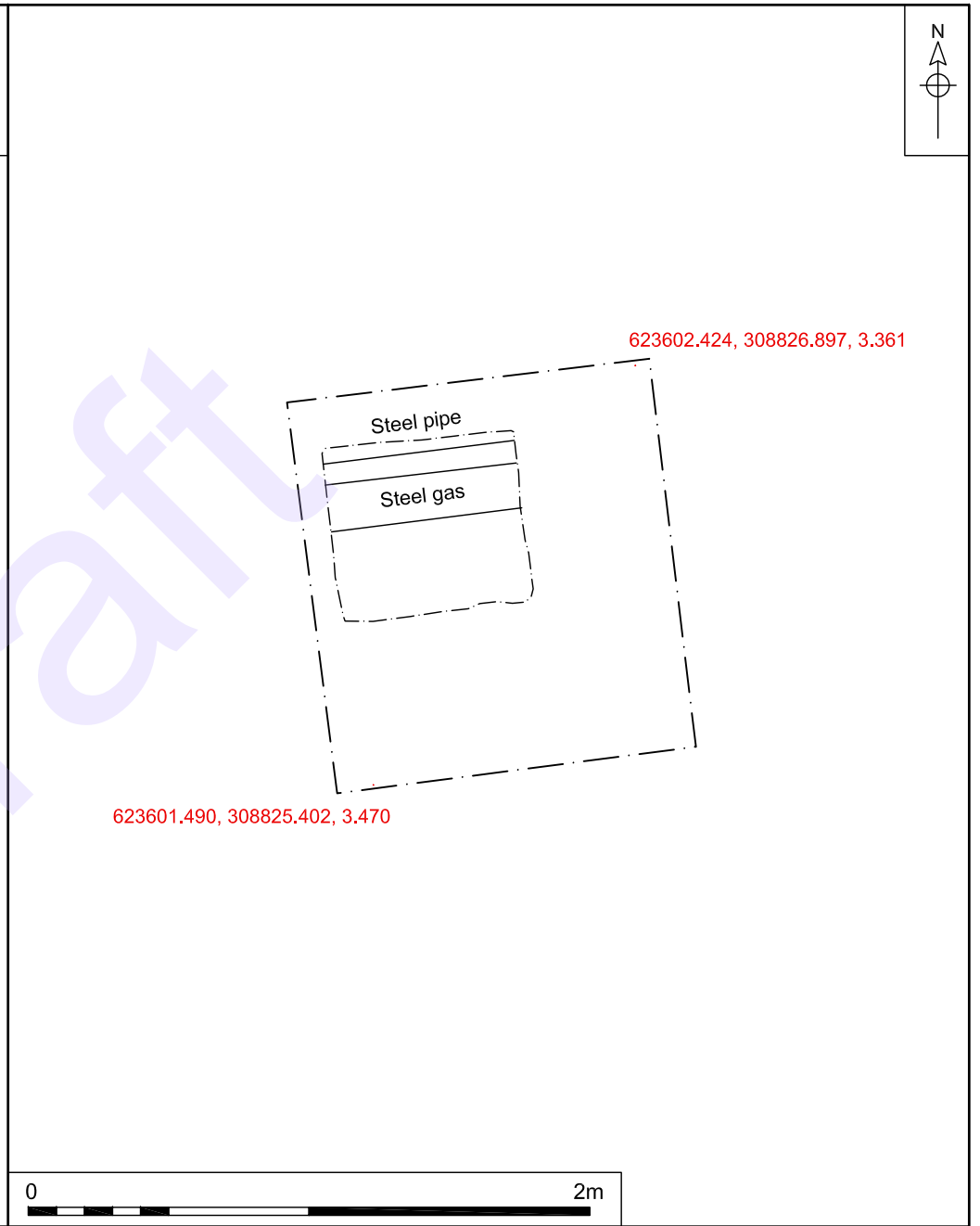


Figure 17. Trench Q, plan. Scale 1:25

4.2.2.7 Trench Q

Trench Q was located outside the front garden of 53 Cathedral Close (Fig. 2). It was 1.4m long north to south, 1.3m wide east to west and a maximum of 0.85m deep (Fig. 17).

The only deposits encountered were service trench backfills below 0.17m of tarmac and gravel.



Plate 17. Trench Q facing north

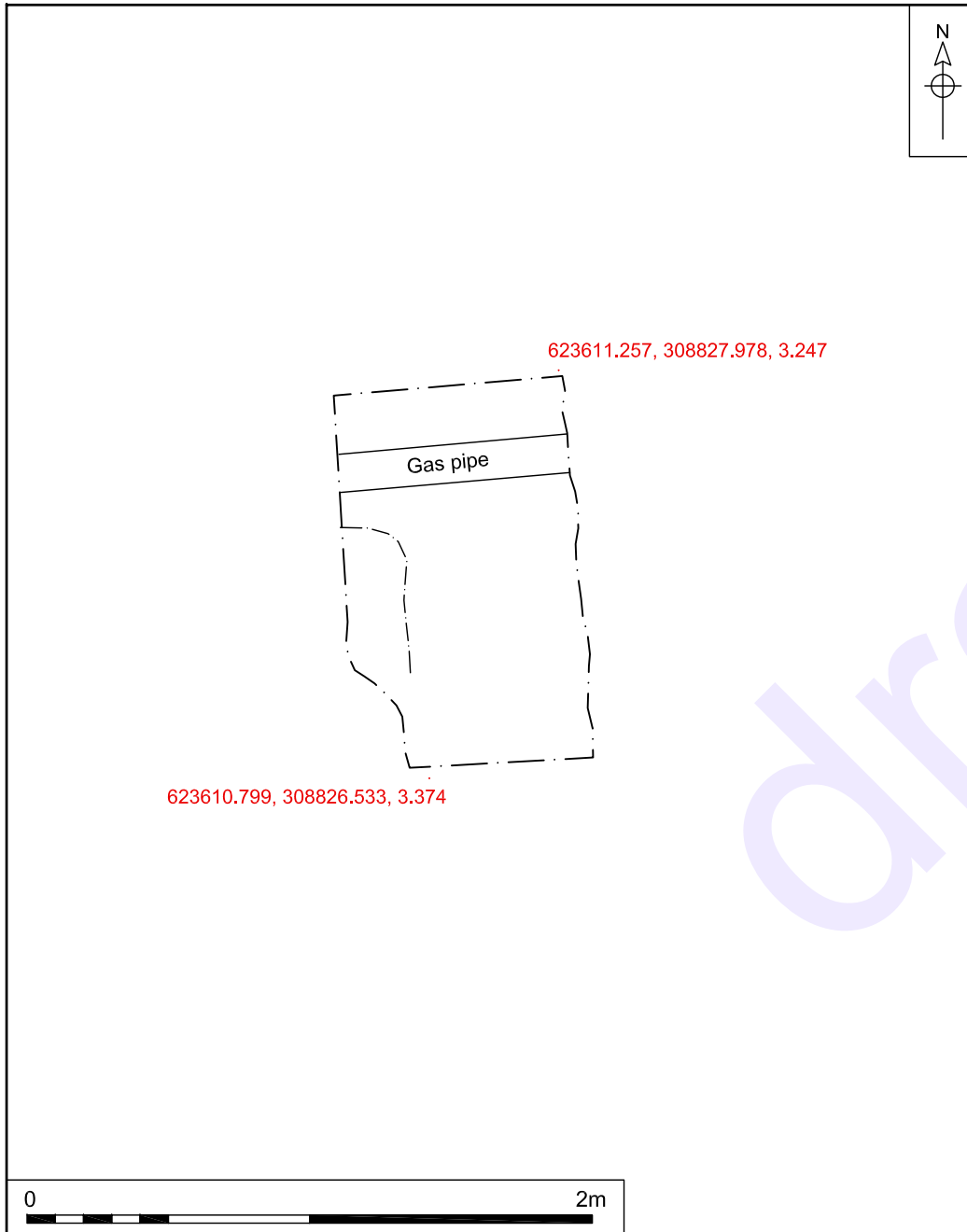


Figure 18. Trench R, plan. Scale 1:25

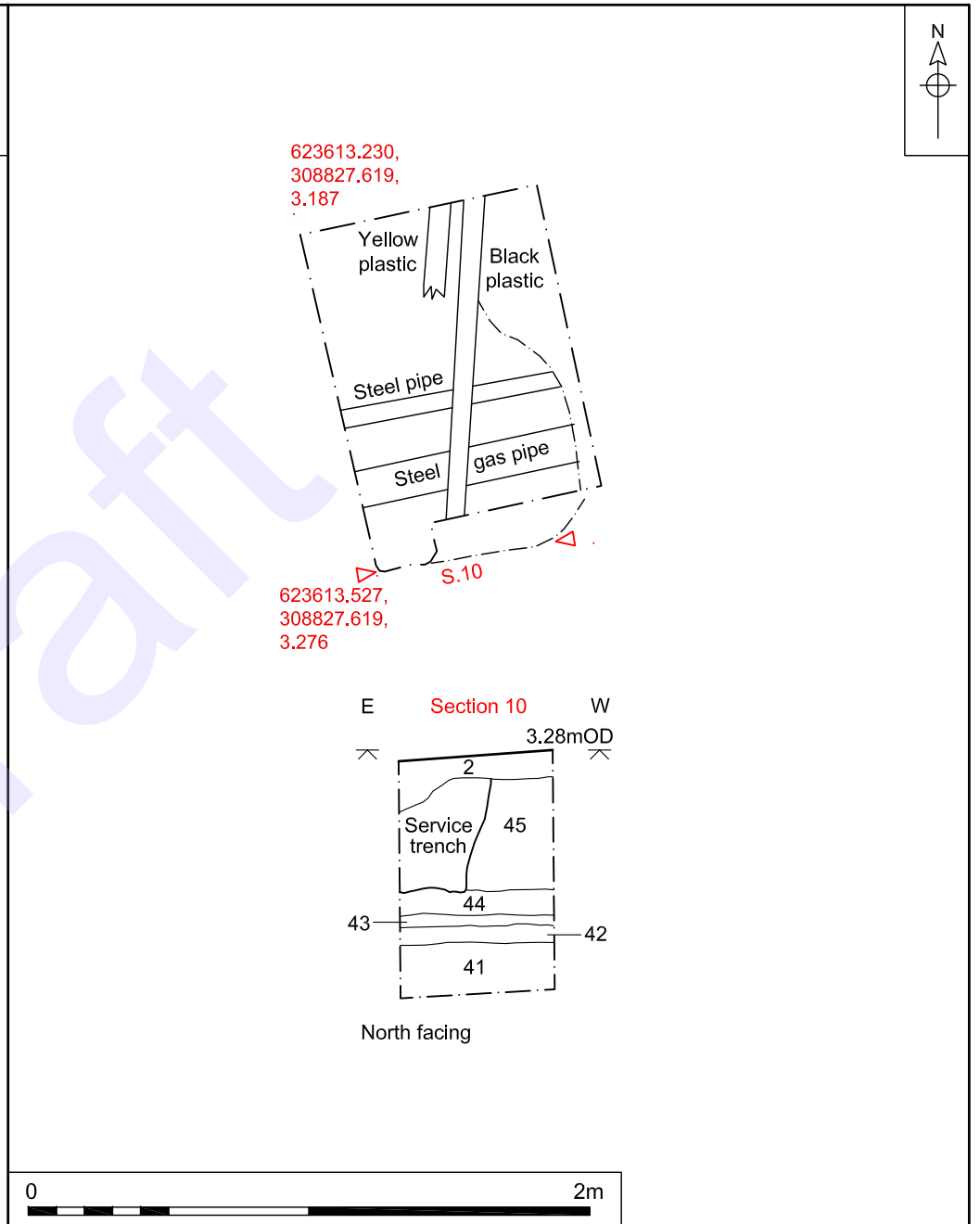


Figure 19. Trench S, plan and section. Scale 1:25

4.2.2.9 Trench S

Trench S was located in the road outside 52 Cathedral Close and was 1.24m long north to south, 0.86m wide east to west and 0.82m deep (Figs 2 and 19).

Only the southern edge of the trench revealed deposits earlier than the service trench backfill.

The earliest deposit [41] was a dark brown silty sand with occasional flint gravel, but no CBM fragments, which perhaps indicates a very early date. Above this was layer [42], a 0.06m thick layer of compacted mortar fragments which may have been an internal floor. Above [42] was layer [32], a 0.04m thick layer of dark brown silty sand with rare fragments of CBM and flint gravel. Above this was [44] a 0.09m thick layer of loose pale cream sandy mortar with moderate flint gravel and rare occurrences of CBM. Layer [45] was a 0.4m thick layer of dark brown silty sand with frequent CBM fragments, occasional mortar fragments and sparse flint gravel. Above this was tarmac deposit [2].

Like Trench O, the presence of a chalk floor layer seems to suggest that buildings were present within the open area of the Lower Green.



Plate 19. Trench S facing south

4.2.2.10 Trench T

Trench T was located in the north-eastern corner of the Lower Close, adjacent to the entrance to Hook's Walk (Fig. 2). It was 3.74m long east to west, 3.1m wide north to south and a maximum of 0.85m deep (Fig. 20).

The only deposits encountered were service trench backfills for the three services visible.



Plate 20. Trench T facing east

4.2.2.11 Trench U

Trench U was located within the front garden of 53 Cathedral Close (Fig. 2). It was 0.71m wide east to west, 0.6m wide north to south and a maximum of 0.57m deep (Fig. 21).

The only deposit encountered was the modern garden soil [50].



Plate 21. Trench U facing north

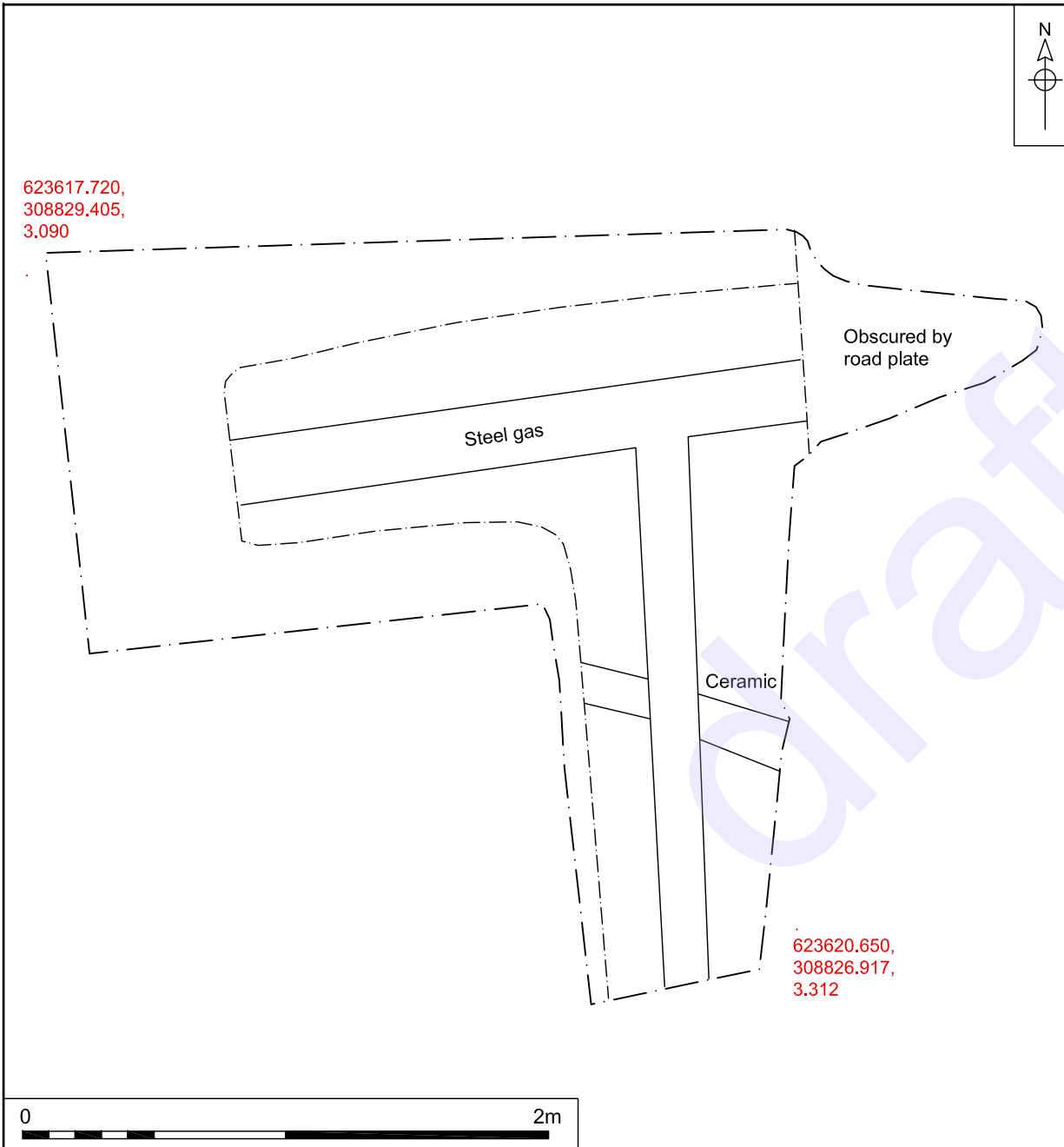


Figure 20. Trench T, plan. Scale 1:25

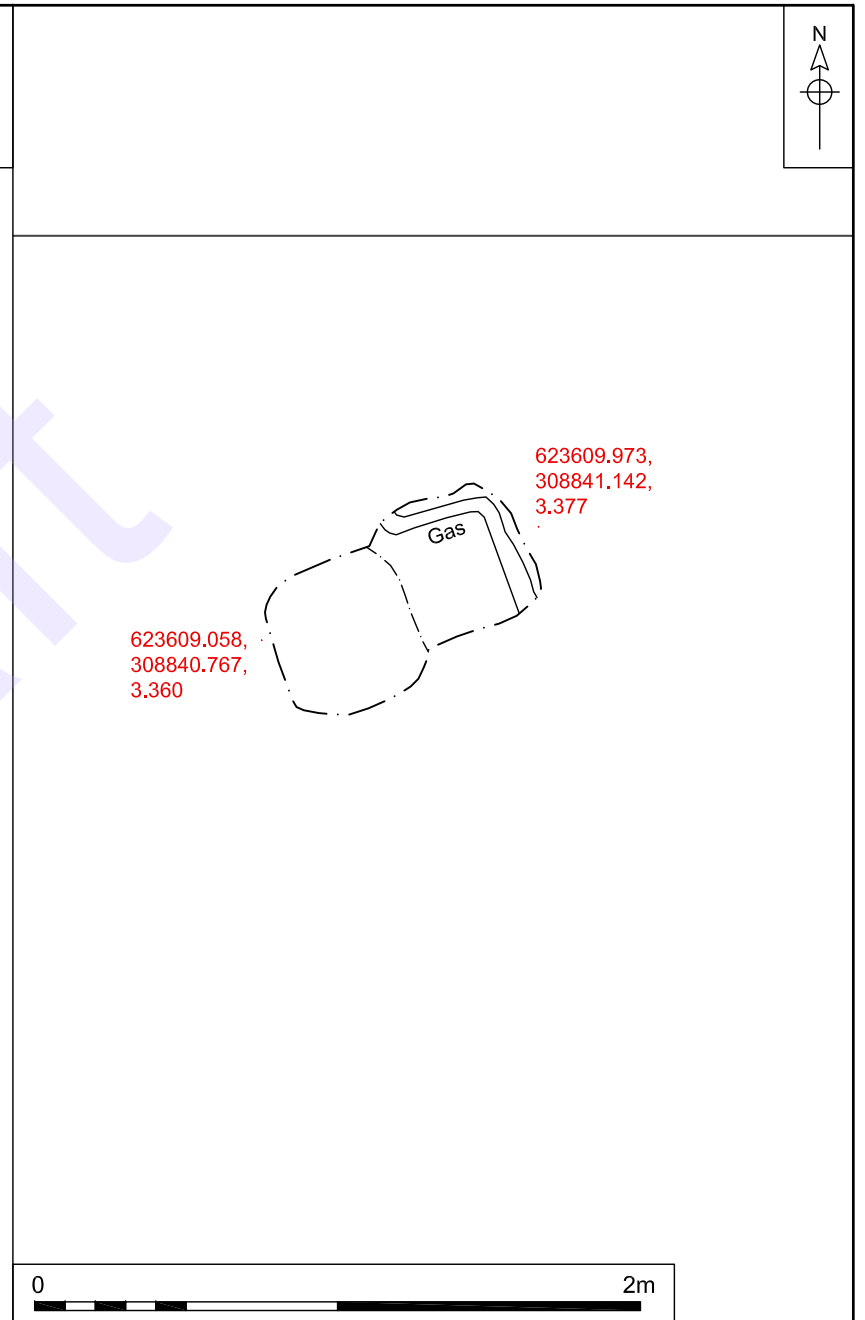


Figure 21. Trench U, plan. Scale 1:25

4.2.2.12 Trench V

Trench V was located within the front garden of 55 Cathedral Close (Fig. 2). It was 1.06m long north to south, 0.52m wide east to west and a maximum of 0.32m deep (Fig. 22).

The stratigraphy consisted of garden soil [50] below modern paving.



Plate 22. Trench V facing east

4.2.2.13 Trench W

Trench W was located within the front garden of 52 Cathedral Close (Fig. 2). It was 0.58m long north to south and 0.53m wide east to west (Fig. 23).

The only deposit encountered was dark greyish brown silty sand garden soil [50] containing occasional pieces of flint gravel, chalk flecks and sparse CBM fragments.



Plate 23. Trench W facing southwest

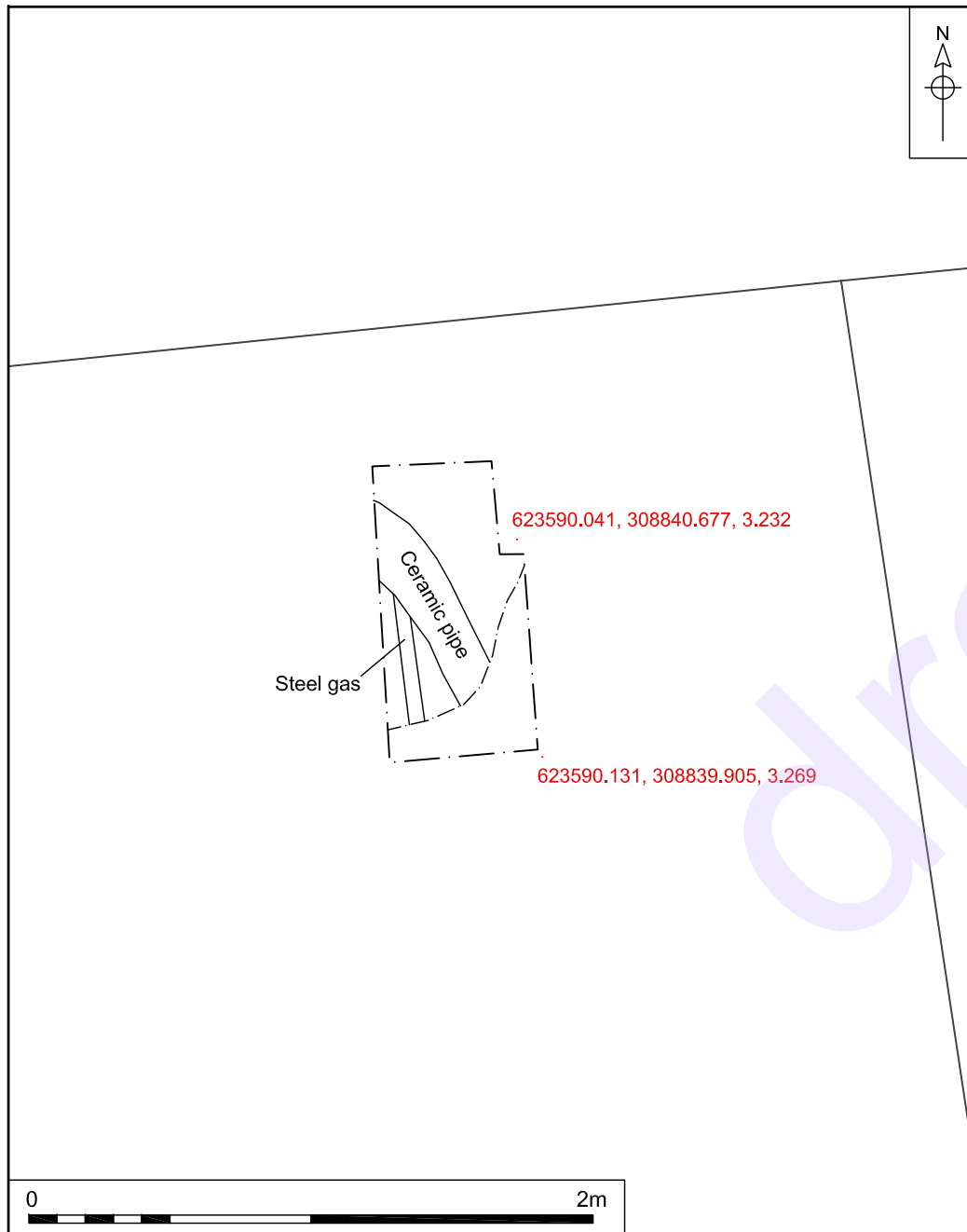


Figure 22. Trench V, plan. Scale 1:25

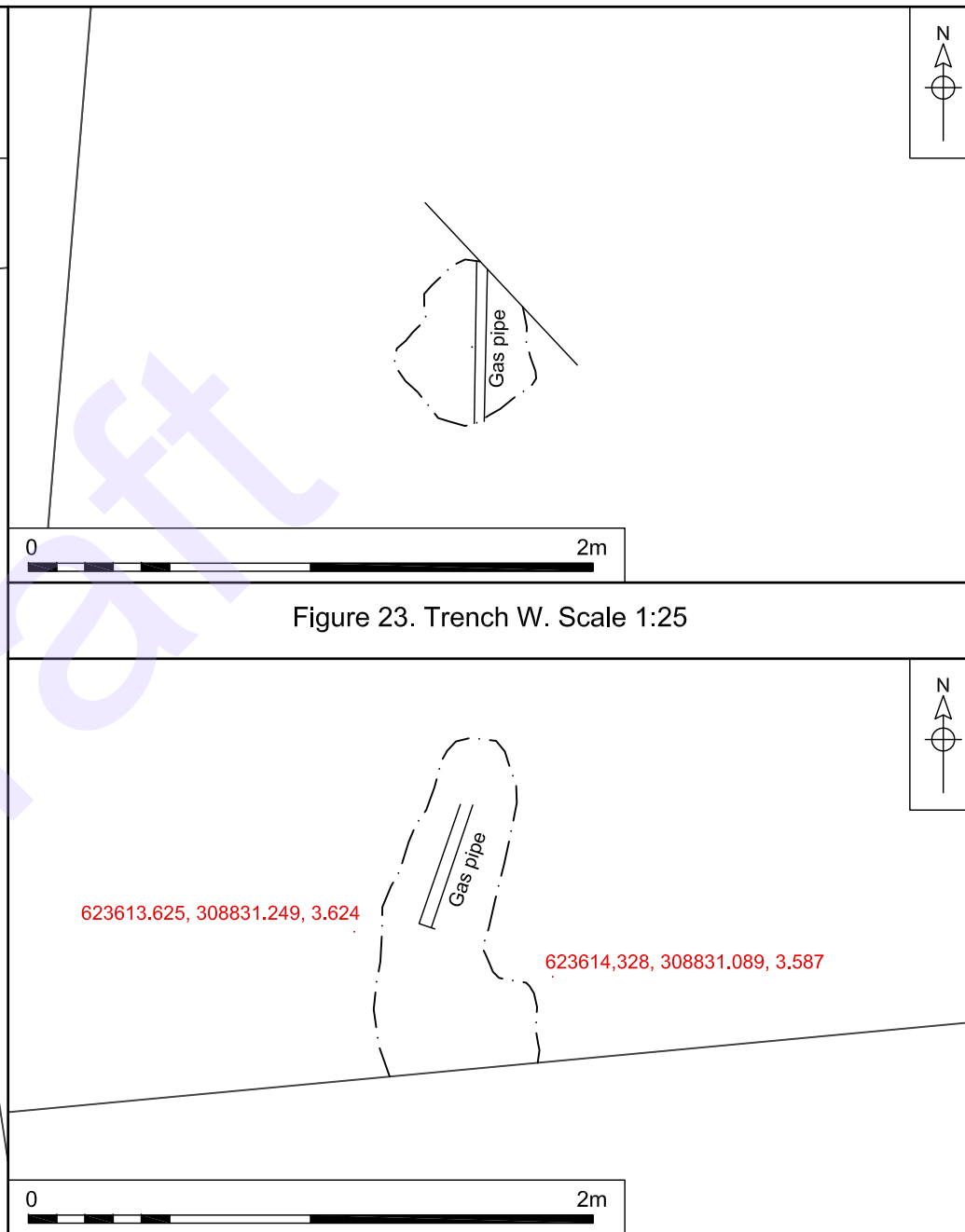


Figure 23. Trench W. Scale 1:25

Figure 24. Trench X. Scale 1:25

4.2.2.14 Trench X

Trench X was located within the front garden of 52 Cathedral Close (Fig. 2). It was 1.16m long north to south, 0.57m east to west and 0.4m deep (Fig. 25).

The only deposit encountered was modern garden soil [50].



Plate 24. Trench X facing north

4.2.3 Conclusions for Trenches K-X (Lifes Green)

Earlier archaeological investigations in 1976 (see section 4.2.1 above) reached natural sand at a depth in excess of 3m below ground level, with 16th-century deposits at a depth of 1m below ground level, suggesting a deliberate raising of surfaces through the medieval and post-medieval periods. It is therefore unlikely that any of the trenches in this area would reach 16th-century or earlier deposits.

Trench L contained a banded foundation on an east to west alignment and of probably post-medieval date. It may be connected with garden walls belonging to the building which is now 64 Cathedral Close seen on early mapping (Cleer 1696 and Hochstetter 1789).

A possible wall was seen in Trench M, and internal floors in Trenches O and S, which must relate to post-medieval (probably 18th- to 19th-century) structures within the Lower Close, or possibly gardens fronting onto the Lower Close.

4.3 The Upper Close and the road to The Lower Close

4.3.1 Background (*The Upper Close and the road to The Lower Close*)

The road between the Upper Close and the Lower Close forms part of the longer east-west route that today links the Ethelbert Gate to the Water Gate, and connects the southern end of the Upper Close to the south-west corner of the Lower Close (Fig. 2). The road has a modern tarmac finish, flanked by shallow cobbled drains, but is evidently of antiquity as it is shown on maps from the 16th century onwards. Although the division of the monastic inner court had achieved something akin to its current arrangement (i.e. with buildings fringing the Upper Close green and Lower Close green) by the 13th century, the precise route, scale and location of the assumed connection between them is less clear, and it may not have been a defined road along the present alignment.

The Upper Close is the successor to the upper part of the inner court of the priory, being that part of the inner court that was more publicly accessible and used for charitable and commercial purposes. The central area, which broadly corresponds with the green and the adjacent roads today, was largely open and was known as the almary green (not to be confused with the area of that name today, south-east of the Ethelbert Gate: for which, see below). At the north end of the green a free-standing bell tower was built in the 12th or 13th centuries, and was rebuilt following damage during the riot of 1272. This tower had largely gone by c.1580: the site corresponds to 71 The Close and the road in front. By the 15th century a row of shops extended eastwards from the bell tower towards the outer parlour (Locutory), and north of what appears to have been an earlier lane. This northern part of the upper inner court had a more commercial function, although the trades represented were closely related to the needs of the priory (including masons, carpenters and glaziers), but, at the same time the bell tower and the Carnary chapel were part of a mortuary landscape in this part of the Close. Previously, it has been assumed that the lay cemetery which they served was located to the north-east of the Carnary chapel, but excavation outside the west front in 2009 showed that the cemetery included this area. In the 17th century the former upper inner court became a focus for substantial houses. Today the central area remains open, although the detail of the landscaping and its planting largely derives from the mid to late 20th century, albeit since modified on its eastern side to provide access to the new Hostry building by Hopkins Architects (2008-9); these recent works exposed remains – mostly post-medieval – of the Hostry court wall and the prebendary house built on part of the site of the medieval Hostry. The material of the surrounding roads and hard surfaces is post-1945.

The area now known as Almary Green comprises an open grassed area surrounded by a gravel drive, forming a lawn in front of 1-4 The Close, and is separated from the rest of the Upper Close by iron railings and gates. This may be the site of the (probably) pre-Conquest church of St Ethelbert, which survived the creation of the cathedral-priory and its precinct, and, unusually, maintained its burial rights until the 13th century. A near-contemporary record of the 1290s records that it was burnt in the 1272 riot, and was not rebuilt. However, the church has been more traditionally located further to the east (i.e. immediately north of 6 The Close). To the west of the churchyard (probably immediately west) is the probable location of Roger Bigod's *palatium* at the south end of Tombland,

perhaps representing the earlier palace of the Saxon earls. Following the founding of the cathedral-priory, the various buildings associated with the almonry (hall, stables, cookhouse, granary and office) were located in the south-west corner of the precinct, adjacent to, and possibly including, this site. The green with surrounding drive was established in the mid-19th century: it is not shown on Millard and Manning's map of 1830, but was essentially as it is today (including the gates and railings at the north end) by the time of Ordnance Survey map of 1882.

The building at 67a-c The Close forms the southern part of a long narrow medieval range extending into 68 The Close (see separate entry, below), which was probably that of the master of the cellar, who was responsible for provisioning the priory. The northern end (68 The Close) saw a substantial addition by J. H. Brown in 1873. The garden extends to the east to include the area identified by Whittingham as the monastic meat kitchen, with the kitchen court between this and the cellarer's range.

The road between Upper Close and Lower Close has seen four modern archaeological investigations, all relating to services and, thus, of limited extent.

•*Archaeological watching brief during repairs to sewers (Aug 2006-Aug 2007)*

A watching brief was undertaken during excavation to replace the main sewer from in front of 15 The Close to, and through, the Ethelbert Gate (Trench 1: 215m long, 1.6m wide and 2.2m deep). There was no evidence for a medieval or early post-medieval precursor to the present east-west road linking the Upper Close and Lower Close, although the findings of other investigations (see below) suggests that this resulted from the disturbance of the 19th-century sewer trench.

•*Archaeological watching brief of trench through Holland Court (April-May 2006)*

The electric cable required excavation of a trench c.450-700mm deep and c.300mm wide, extending c.86m in length from the south side of 64 The Close, across the road between the Upper Close and the Lower Close, through Holland Court to the north front of the southern of the three modern office blocks of Holland Court. The northern part of the trench revealed remains of flint and brick walls corresponding with boundaries of adjacent houses (i.e. 6 and 7 The Close), while the part under the road by 64 The Close found evidence of a post-medieval flint road surface, over a crushed mortar base or earlier surface: the latter had a dipped profile, suggestive of a hollow way, which could mean that there was an old – very possibly medieval – road here by the time this was laid.

•*Excavations and watching briefs at 64 and 63/5 The Close (2000-1)*

These investigations included that of a cable trench that was excavated in the road immediately to the south and east of the garden wall of 64 The Close: it was 500mm deep, of which the top 100mm was asphalt road surface, and the remainder build-up for this. A joining north-south trench (i.e. at the west end of the cable trench, at the boundary of 64 and 65 The Close) for a new sewer connection was excavated to 1.70m, and recovered remnants of three archaeological layers, which included a relict medieval topsoil/build-up and probable post-medieval make-up for an earlier road surface.

•*Eastern Gas Board trench, just south of 64 The Close (1973)*

A small deepening of the trench in an area measuring 1m x 2m revealed a number of post- medieval surfaces to a depth of 1.8m, before archaeological observations in the trench had to be abandoned for safety reasons.

The Upper Close itself has had limited archaeological investigation, although where works have taken place, exceptional archaeological potential has been demonstrated.

•*Hostry excavation (2007-9, preceded by evaluations in July 2003 and Nov 2006)*

Although focused on the site of the medieval Hostry (guest hall), the area immediately west of the Hostry (i.e. within the Upper Close) was the subject of excavation in 2007-9, to allow landscaping works. This revealed extensive remains of the walls of a post-medieval prebendary house, together with a wall (following the line of the front wall of 67-8 The Close) that marked the western edge of the Hostry court, remains of walls on the alignment of the shops that (on the basis of documentary evidence) are known to extended to the bell tower, and well preserved Late Saxon deposits (left *in situ*) west of the Hostry porch. It is likely that these deposits extend to the naturally rising land of the green to the west, and this was the conclusion of window sampling taken in this area in November 2006 as part of the evaluation of the landscaping proposals for the new Hostry. The Hostry-related works also included a watching brief on a water pipe trench outside the west front in 2009, which revealed stone sarcophagi and articulated skeletons which have been carbon dated between the late 13th to early 16th centuries.

•*Archaeological watching brief during repairs to sewers (Aug 2006-Aug 2007)*

At the south end of the Upper Close, trenching in the road leading from the Ethelbert Gate in 2006-7 (for drain repairs) revealed nothing of significance in this area as the ground had been disturbed by insertion of the 19th-century sewer.

•*Observations of the bell tower near 71 The Close (Sept 1881)*

J. H. Brown (surveyor to the cathedral) exposed foundations under the roadway immediately east of 71 The Close, which were evidently of a substantial building. The entire east wall and partial elements of the north and south walls of a building were revealed. The south-east and north-east corners were provided with buttresses, the latter thickened to allow for a spiral stair above. The walls were massive, averaging around 2.4m thick. Combined with observations of the still visible masonry within the cellars of 71 The Close, this indicated a free-standing tower 14m square externally. Detailed scaled and dimensioned plans survive, but no depths were recorded.

The area of Almary Green has seen very little archaeological investigation.

•*Archaeological watching brief during repairs to sewers (Aug 2006-Aug 2007)*

These works included a small trench in front of 2 The Close, which failed to reveal any significant archaeology (largely due to the intrusion of the earlier – probably 19th-century – sewer).

•*Resistivity survey on Almary Green (1970s)*

Two surveys were carried out - Survey A covered an area of 34m x 15m at intervals of 1m, and Survey B covered an area of 20m x 13m within Area A at

closer intervals of 0.5m. Both surveys showed high resistance anomalies, with the anomalies appearing to follow a north/south and an east/west alignment. The HER (which uses as its source an unpublished document, Carter, A., *Alan Carter Memorial Archive: Norwich; Buildings and Churches* (1983: UEA)) suggests that the east/west alignments may represent a building, possibly that of the church of St Ethelbert (a probably pre-Conquest church, destroyed in 1272). However, the church has been more traditionally located further to the east (i.e. immediately north of 6 The Close).

Observations at 67a-c The Close

Whittingham's plan shows that he recorded late medieval masonry at the south-east corner of his suggested meat kitchen to the rear of 67c The Close.

4.3.2 Results for Trenches Y-UU, (The Upper Close and the road to The Lower Close)

4.3.2.1 Trench Y

Trench Y was located outside the gate leading to 67 and 67a Cathedral Close (Fig. 2). It was 3.10m long north to south, 3.17m wide east to west and 0.54m deep (Fig. 25).

At the base of the trench was the top of a culvert [51] while the northern end of the trench was up against a modern garden wall [64] and its possibly earlier foundations [52].

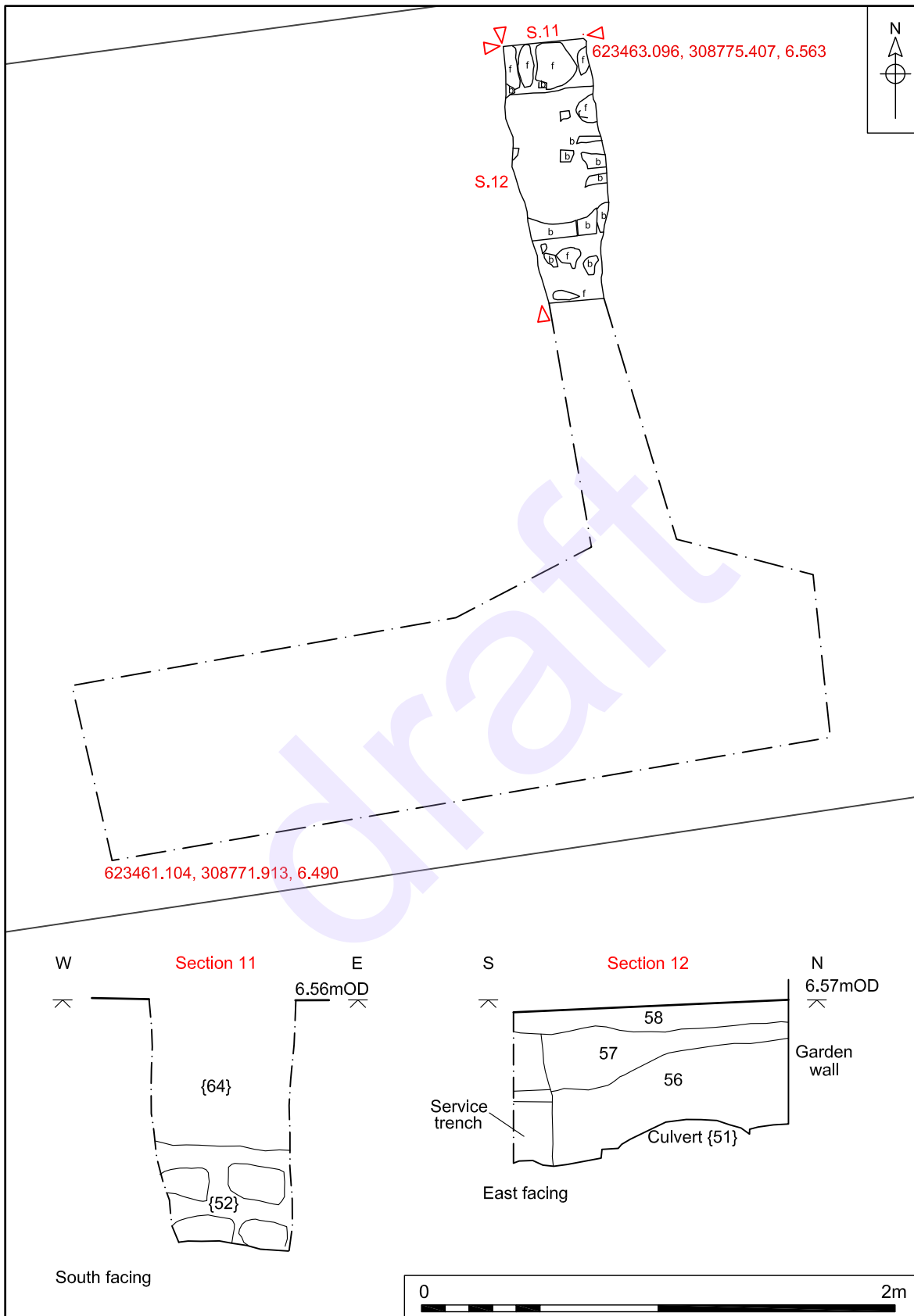


Plate 25. Trench Y facing north

Culvert [51] was aligned east to west and was c.0.63m wide. Only the top was seen, but it appeared to have an arched roof, constructed of red brick bonded with white lime mortar. Above this was layer [56], a 0.38m thick layer of mid brown silt

with frequent fine flint gravel and occasional mortar flecks, containing four fragments of animal bone, one fragment of post-medieval brick and six sherds of

draft



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Figure 25. Trench Y, plan and sections. Scale 1:25

post-medieval pottery, the latest dating to the 18th-19th century. Above this was layer (57) which was 0.26m thick and was a pale brownish grey silt with frequent pieces of fine flint gravel with moderate amounts of mortar, CBM and chalk fragments. Above [57] was the modern tarmac road surface [2].

The south end of the trench was truncated by a service trench, while the northern end butted against modern garden wall [64]. Wall [64] was predominantly of medium sized flints with a few fragments of brick. It was uncoursed and bonded with a greyish white mortar. It was above what appeared to be an earlier wall ([52]) which was composed of large coursed flints with rare occurrences of brick fragments in a dirty creamy mortar and which stepped out 0.20m at its base. The interface with wall [64] was severe and level.

Between culvert [51] and the service trench at the southern end of the trench was patch of masonry [65], possibly the top of a truncated wall. It was constructed of medium sized flints and brick fragments bonded with a pale creamy white mortar containing fine flint gravel and small CBM fragments.

Of particular archaeological interest are walls [52] and [65] which may be evidence of previous buildings in this area.

4.3.2.2 Trench Z

Trench Z was backfilled before recording took place (Fig. 2).

4.3.2.3 Trench AA

Trench AA was backfilled before recording took place (Fig. 2).

4.3.2.4 Trench BB

Trench BB was located on the opposite side of wall [64] to Trench Y (Fig. 2). It was 0.84m wide east to west and eventually joined with Trench CC to the north (Fig. 26).

The earliest feature was wall [52] which was also seen in Trench Y. This side of the wall also stepped out at the base, here by 0.27m. This side of the wall was unfaced and rather untidy in comparison with the opposite side seen in Trench Y.

Also present was garden soil [54] which was later in date than wall [52].



Plate 26. Trench BB facing south

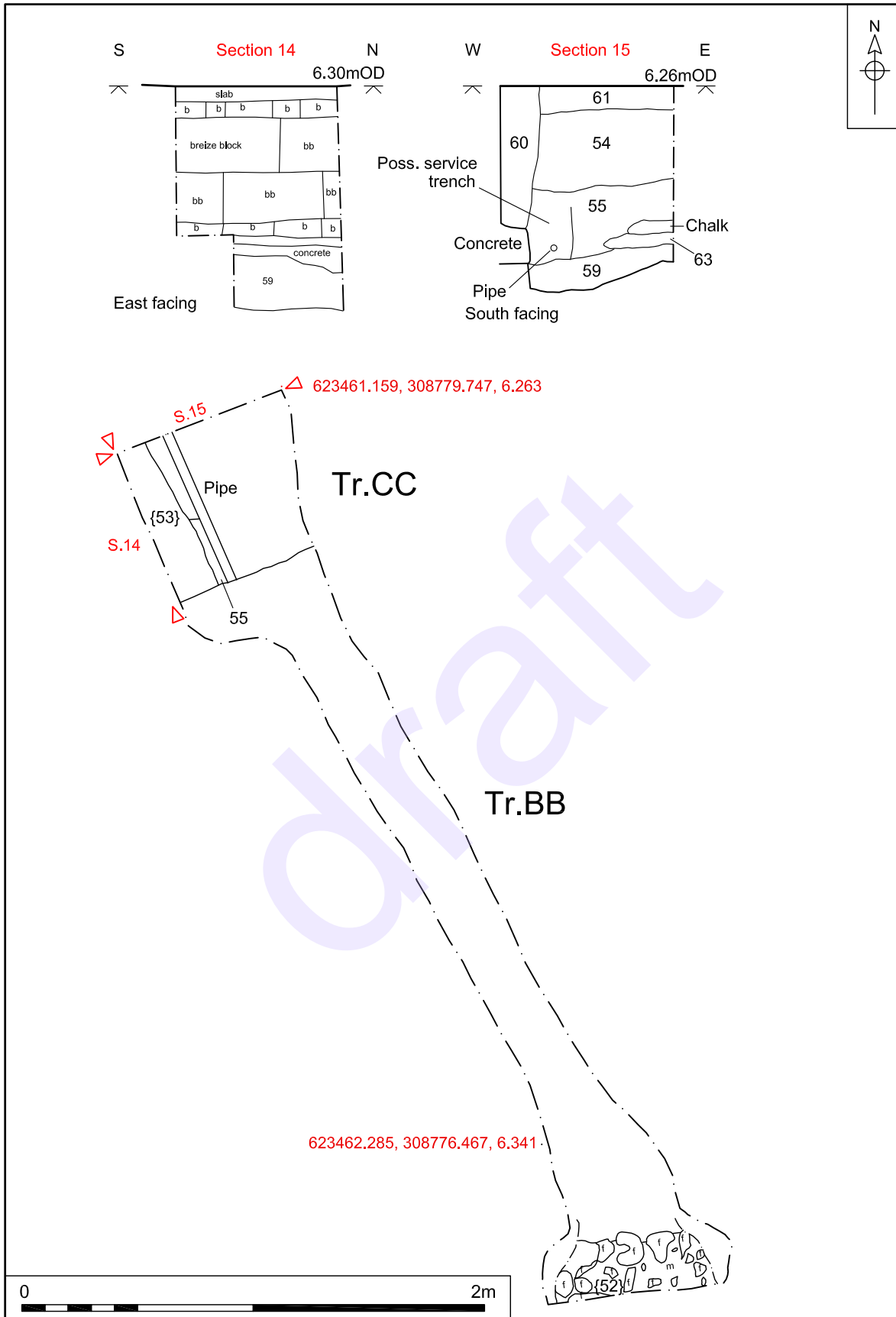


Figure 26. Trenches BB and CC, plans and sections. Scale 1:25

4.3.2.5 Trench CC

Trench CC was located in the garden outside number 67a Cathedral Close (Fig. 2). It was 0.76m long (east to west), 0.71m wide (north to south) and 0.97m deep (Fig. 26).

Present in Trench CC were wall [53], topsoil [61], garden soil [54]/[65], layer [55], deposit [63] and layer [59].

The earliest deposit was layer [59] present below wall [53] and deposit [63]. It was a dark greyish brown with charcoal and chalk flecks. Above this, deposit [63] was a 0.06m thick layer of dirty mid orange clayey sand with no inclusions. This may have been a floor surface or a levelling layer. There was a large block of chalk in its upper surface. Above [63] was layer [55], a 0.3m thick layer of mid greyish brown silt with occasional flint gravel and chalk lumps and flecks. Within this was a steel service pipe, the cut for which could not be discerned. One sherd of mid 16th- to 17th-century imported German stoneware was found in this layer. Also the foundation cut for wall [53] ([62]) truncated this layer. Above [55] was garden soil layer [54] which was 0.36m thick and was mid to dark brown and soft and silty. Above [54] was topsoil layer [61] which was 0.12m thick and was dark greyish brown with occasional flint gravel. Cutting through (61) was foundation cut [62] for wall [53]. This was only visible on its eastern side which was 0.77m deep with a very steeply sloping side. It was filled by wall [53] and fill [60]. Wall [53] was of breeze block construction upon a base of concrete and brick. The backfill of the foundation trench ([60]) was a dark greyish brown sand with CBM flecks, very similar to garden soil [54].

The only archaeologically significant deposit was layer [63] which may have been a floor surface.



Plate 27. Trench CC facing west

4.3.2.6 Trench DD

Trench DD was within the footpath leading to 67 and 67a Cathedral Close (Fig. 2). It was 1.25m long north to south, 1.02m wide east to west and 0.36m deep (Fig. 27).

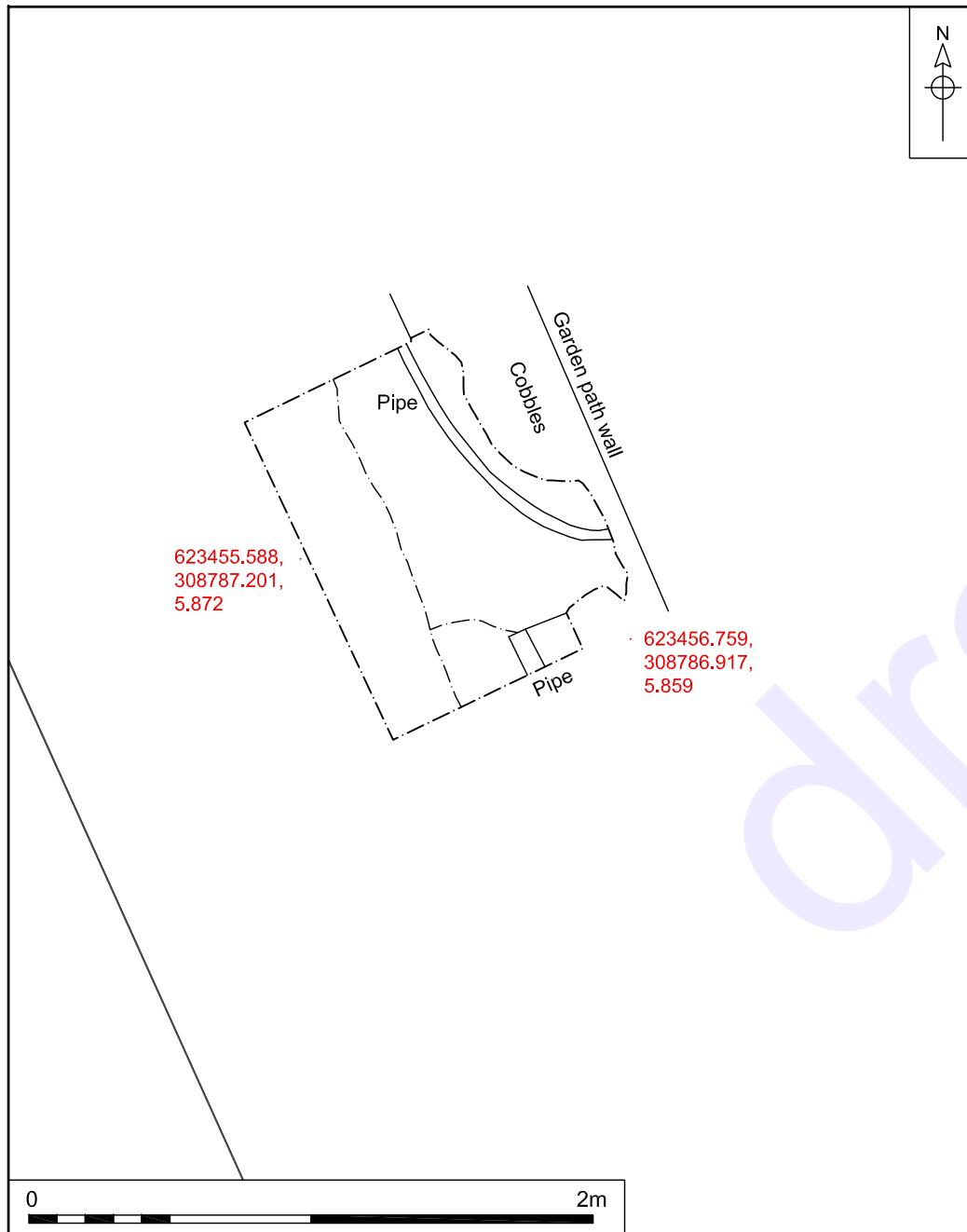
The only deposits encountered appear to be levelling deposits for the garden path.



Plate 28. Trench DD facing vertically

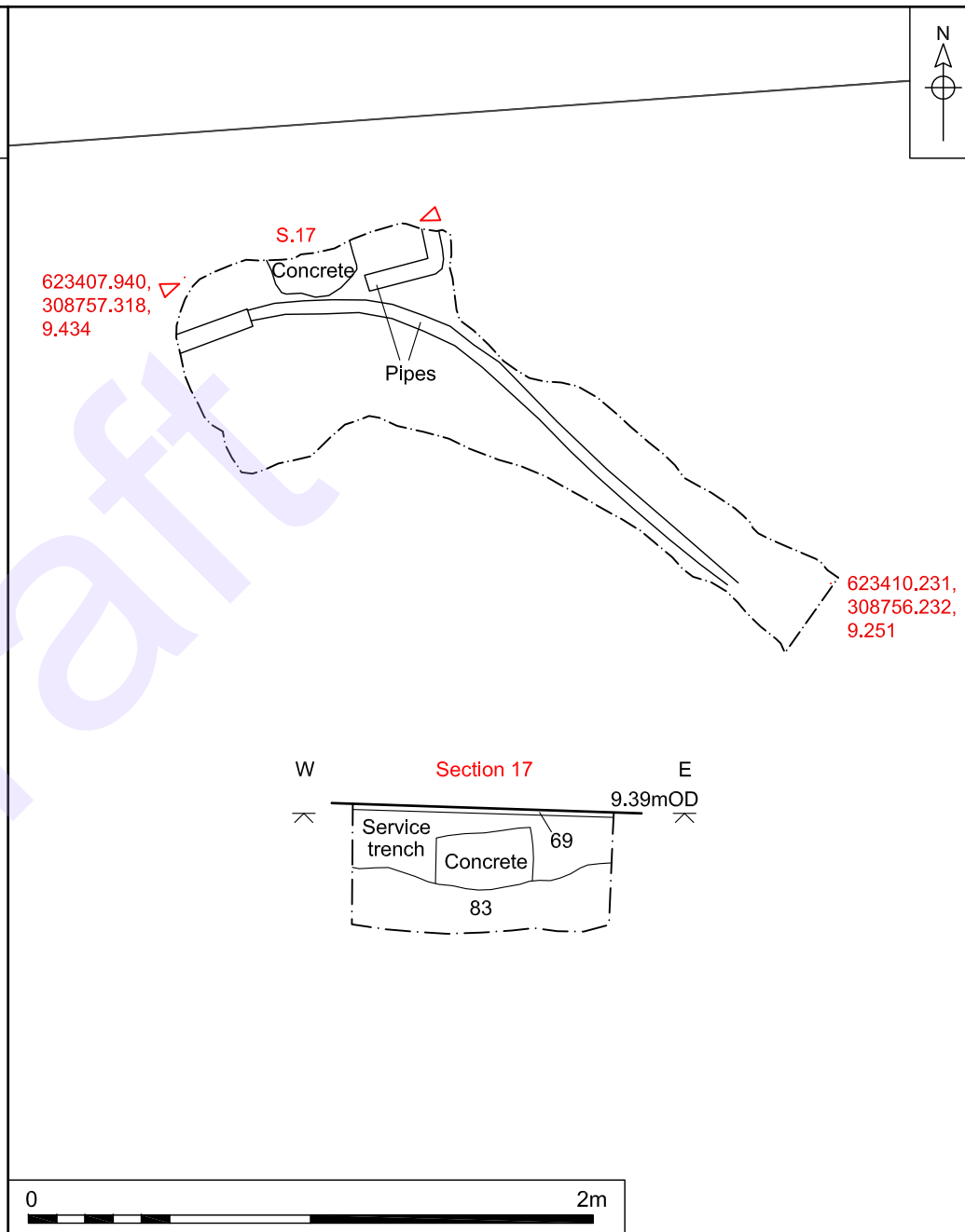
4.3.2.7 Trench EE

Trench EE was backfilled before recording took place (Fig. 2).



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Figure 27. Trench DD, plan. Scale 1:25



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Figure 28. Trench GG, plan and section. Scale 1:25

4.3.2.8 Trench FF

Trench FF was a long open trench across the front of 1 and 2 Cathedral Close, to the south of St. Ethelbert's Gate (Fig. 2). It was c.38m long, 0.36m wide and up to 0.8m deep. The trench was crossed by several service trenches (Fig. 29).

Probably the earliest features encountered were two walls ([67] and [68]) towards the southern end of the trench. Wall [67] was aligned east to west and was 0.6m wide. It was composed predominantly of 50mm thick soft red brick with some flints. They were coursed and bonded with a pale grey mortar with frequent chalk flecks. Wall [68] was parallel to wall [67] and was 0.3m wide, composed of medium sized flints bonded with a cream coloured sandy mortar with occasional chalk flecks. The proximity of the walls suggests that they may mark the same boundary and wall [68] appeared to be the earlier of the two.

Sealing wall [68] was layer [72], a dark brown silty sand with occasional charcoal and mortar flecks and rare occurrences of flint gravel. Above this was layer [71], 0.4m thick and a dark brown silty sand with occasional CBM, oyster shell and flint gravel and a sherd of 17th-century pottery. Above that was layer [70], a dark brown silty sand with frequent CBM, flint and mortar and occasional oyster shell. Sealing that was [69] the modern road surface. Also above layer [71] and beneath road surface [69] but further north, was deposit [73], 0.28m thick and of dark brown silty sand with frequent mortar lenses, lumps and flecks and moderate CBM and flint gravel.

Working north along the trench, after a large service trench was an island of archaeological deposits consisting of layer (76) at the base, a dark brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel. Above this was layer (75), a 0.5m thick layer of dark brown silty sand with frequent mortar flecks and flint gravel. Sealing this, and the service trenches either side was layer (74), a 0.1m thick layer of orange gravel acting as a levelling layer for the modern road surface (69) above.

Further to the north, layer [78] appeared at the base of the trench. This was a dark brown sandy silt with rare pieces of charcoal and flint gravel containing two sherds of 17th-century pottery and one early 17th-century clay tobacco pipe bowl. Above this was layer [77] which was 0.44m thick and composed of loose rubble, predominantly cream coloured sandy mortar with occasional chalk flecks, CBM fragments and moderate flints. This was well-sorted demolition rubble with all the reusable fragments removed. However it also contained two moulded fragments of Caen stone which may have come from the adjacent church of St. Ethelbert. Sealing this was layer [74].

There were two more 'islands' of undisturbed archaeology further north along the trench. The first was 1.3m wide, consisting of layer [78] at the base, with layer [79] above it. This was 0.3m thick and composed of a pale greyish brown silt with chalk, charcoal and brick flecks. Above this was layer [80] which was 0.18m thick and composed of white mortar fragments with fragments of red brick. The second (and most northerly) was composed of layer [81] at the base which was a mid brown silt. Above that was 0.25m-thick layer [82], a mid greyish brown silt with moderate CBM and mortar. This deposit was sealed by layer [74].

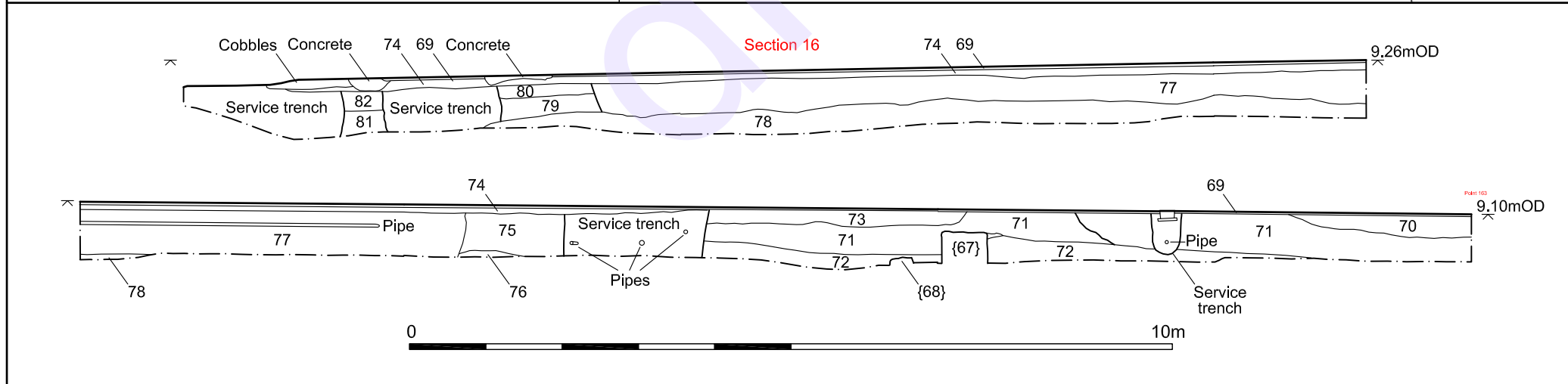
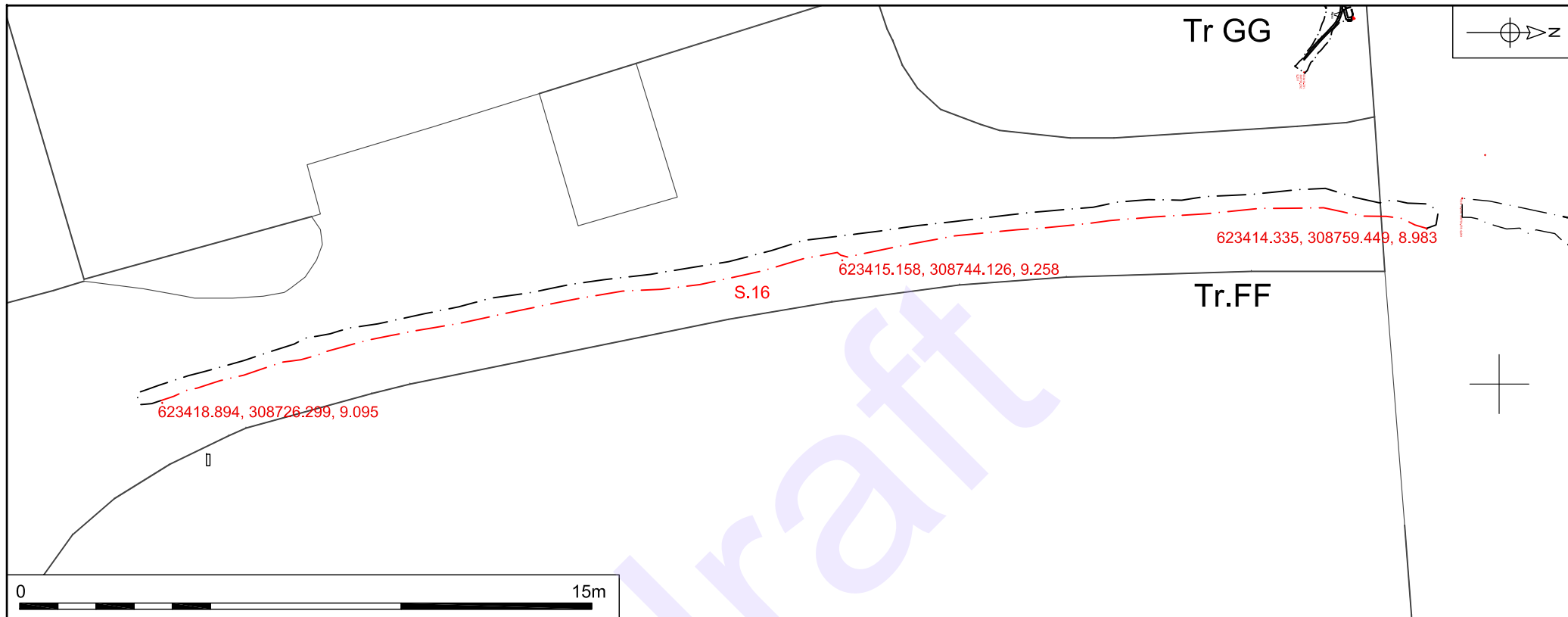


Figure 29. Trench FF, plan and section. Scale 1:150 and 1:75

The most significant features found were the two walls ([67] and [68]) which may represent an old property boundary. The other deposits appeared to be old garden soils and deposits of demolition waste.



Plate 29. Trench FF facing north

4.3.2.9 Trench GG

Trench GG was located on the inside of St. Ethelbert's Gate (Fig. 2). It measured 2.45m north-west to south-east, 1.50m wide north to south and was 0.45m deep (Fig. 28).

The deposits encountered were predominantly service trench backfills, but a small amount of earlier stratigraphy was present on the northern side of the trench. Deposit (83) was present below a depth of 0.22m and was a mid greyish brown sandy silt with mortar and CBM fragments.



Plate 30. Trench GG facing north-west

4.3.2.10 *Trench HH*

Trench HH was located to the east of St. Ethelbert's Gate (Fig. 2). It was 3.4m long east to west, 1m wide north to south and 0.56m deep (Fig. 30).

The only deposits encountered were service trench backfills.



Plate 31. Trench HH facing south

4.3.2.11 *Trench II*

Trench II was located to the west of Trench HH and linked Trench HH to the north side of St. Ethelbert's Gatehouse (Fig. 2). It was 8.75m long east to west, up to 1.1m wide and 0.52m deep (Fig. 30).

The only deposits encountered were service trench backfills.

4.3.2.12 *Trench KK*

Trench KK (Fig. 2) was backfilled before recording could take place.

4.3.2.13 *Trench MM*

Trench MM (Fig. 2) was backfilled before recording could take place.

4.3.2.14 *Trench NN*

Trench NN (Figs 2 and 31) was backfilled before recording could take place.

4.3.2.15 *Trench OO*

Trench OO (Figs 2 and 31) was backfilled before recording could take place.

4.3.2.16 *Trench PP*

Trench PP (Figs 2 and 31) was backfilled before recording could take place.

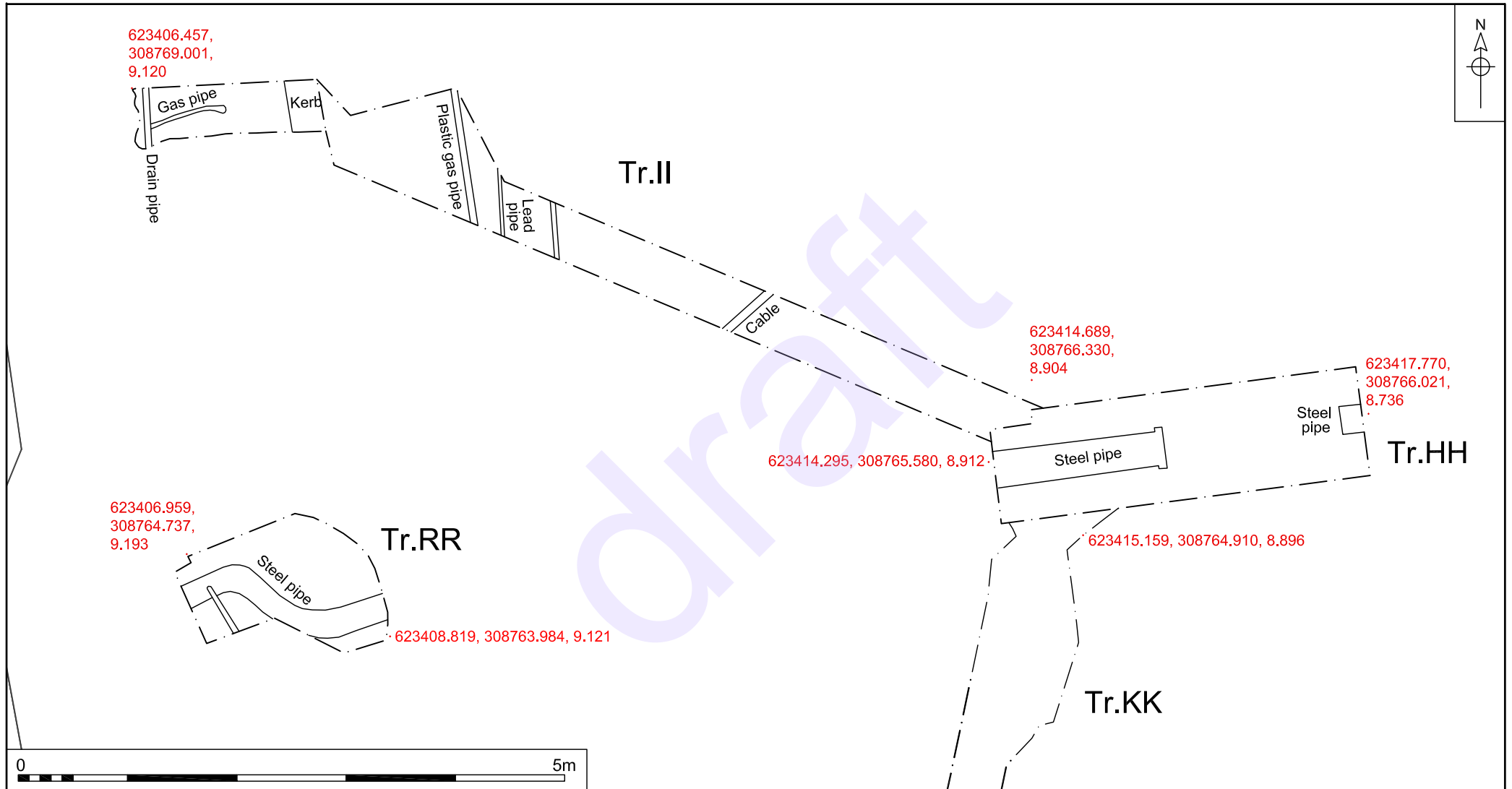


Figure 30. Trenches HH, II and RR, plans. Scale 1:50

4.3.2.17 Trench QQ

Trench QQ was 3.1m long east to west, 1.6m north to south and 1.1m deep. It was located within Tombland, just to the west of St. Ethelbert's Gate (Fig. 2).

The only deposits encountered were clean sand and brown soil service trench backfills for the six service pipes encountered.



Plate 32. Trench QQ facing west

4.3.2.18 Trench RR

Trench RR was located within the Upper Close, just to the east of St. Ethelbert's Gate (Fig. 2). It was 1.68m long east to west, 1.4m wide north to south and 0.7m deep (Fig. 30).

The only deposits encountered were service trench backfills.



Plate 33. Trench RR facing west

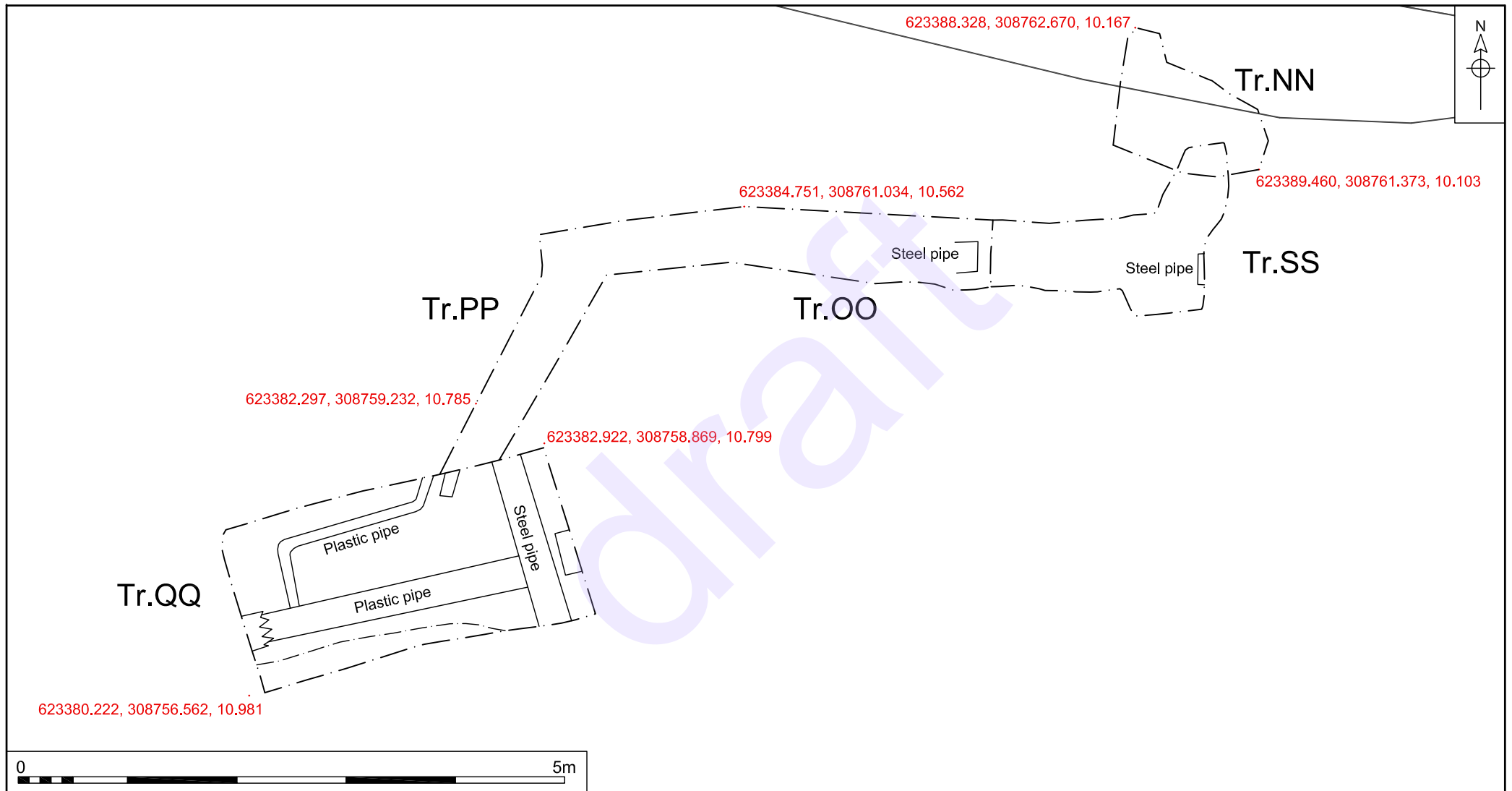


Figure 31. Trenches OO, PP, QQ and SS, plan. Scale 1:50

4.3.2.19 Trench SS

Trench SS was located to the west of the St. Ethelbert Gate (Figs 2 and 31).

No significant archaeological deposits were encountered, only service trench backfills.



Plate 34. Trench SS facing west

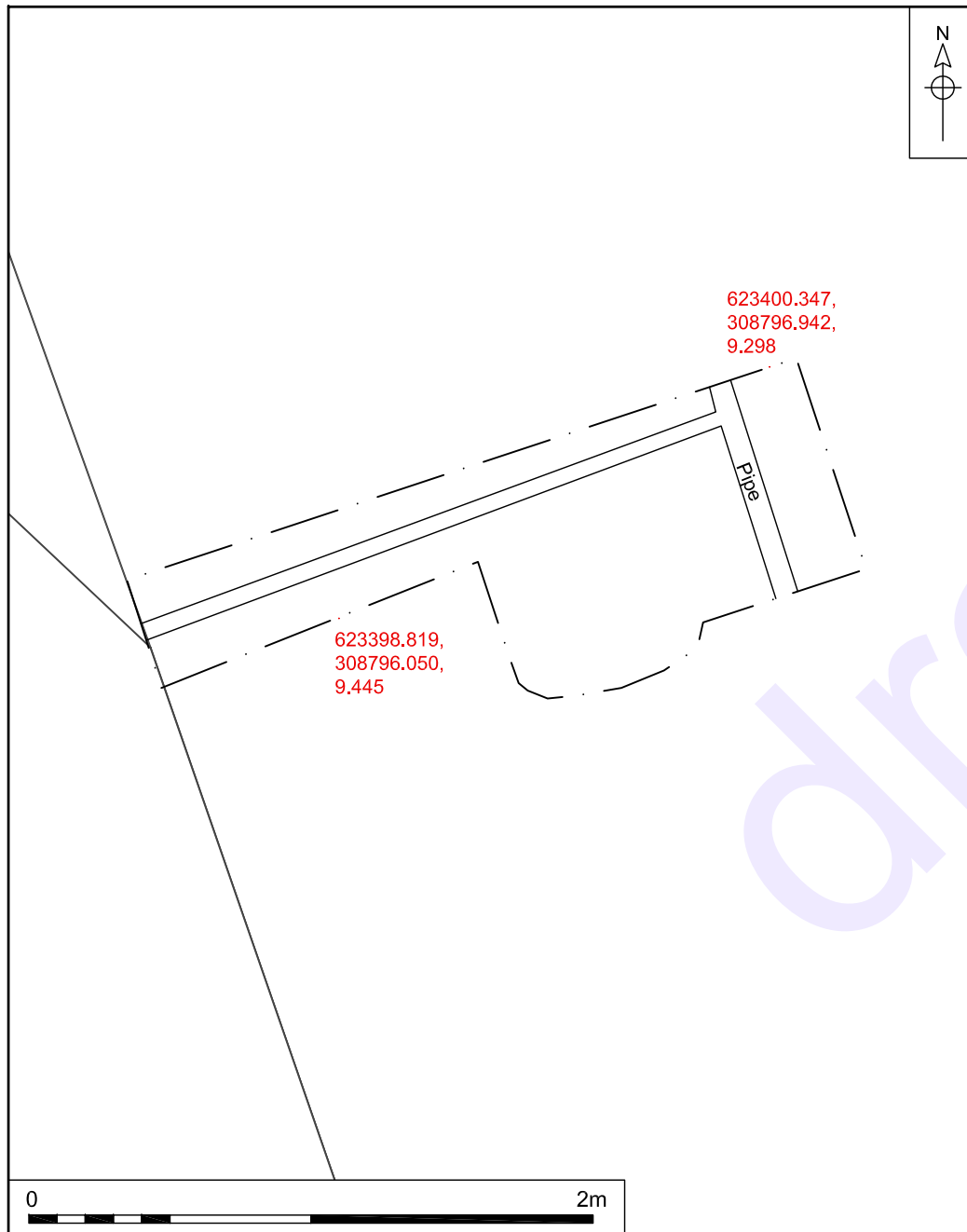
4.3.2.20 Trench TT

Trench TT was located outside number 74 Cathedral Close and was 2.5m long east to west, 0.92m wide north to south and 0.7m deep (Figs 2 and 32).

The only deposits encountered were service trench backfills.

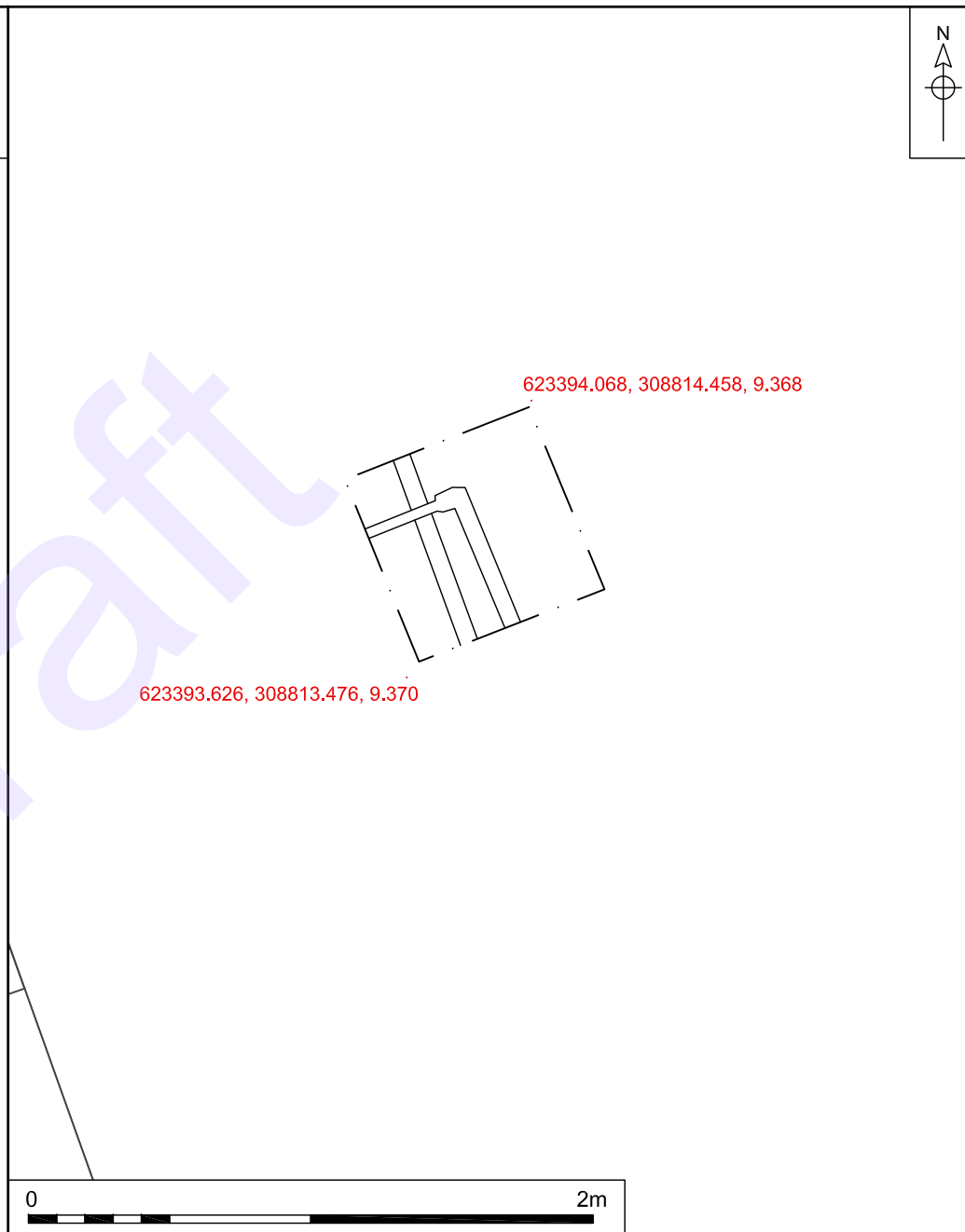


Plate 35. Trench TT facing north



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Figure 32. Trench TT, plan. Scale 1:25



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Figure 33. Trench UU, plan. Scale 1:25

4.3.2.21 Trench UU

Trench UU was located outside number 72 Cathedral Close and was 0.7m long north to south, 0.7m wide east to west and 0.48m deep (Figs 2 and 33).

The only deposits encountered were service trench backfills.



Plate 36. Trench UU facing north

4.3.3 Conclusions for Trenches Y-UU, (The Upper Close and the road to The Lower Close)

Trench CC, to the east of the medieval Cellarers range (67a-c The Close) contained what may have been an internal floor surface.

Trench FF, within Almary Green produced two east to west aligned walls which were sealed by probable 17th-century garden soils. The earlier of the two walls did not contain any brick, and may have been medieval in date, but its narrowness (only 0.3m thick) suggests it was probably not part of the church of St. Ethelbert. In fact both these walls are more likely to be later property boundary walls. The rest of the stratigraphy within Trench FF was made up of large amounts of garden soil containing a small amount of 17th-century pottery and clay tobacco pipe.

None of the other trenches in this area hit significant archaeological deposits as the holes were only dug with the purpose of locating existing service runs and therefore only service trench backfill deposits were disturbed.

5.0 FINDS

All finds were processed and recorded by count and weight, and an Excel spreadsheet was produced outlining broad dating. Each material type has been considered separately and is described below in date order within its category. A list of finds in context order can be found in Appendix 2a.

5.1 Pottery

by Lucy Talbot

Thirteen sherds of pottery weighing 120g were collected from four contexts. The assemblage was recorded by count and weight and fabrics and forms identified (Jennings 1981)

5.1.1 Medieval

A single body sherd of late 12th- to 14th-century green glazed Grimston type ware, weighing 1g was recovered from Trench Y layer [56]. The form is undiagnostic.

5.1.2 Post-medieval

The majority of the pottery assemblage is of post-medieval date and consists of twelve sherds recovered from four contexts, weighing 119g.

Trench CC layer [55] produced a single partial medallion and body sherd of mid-16th- to 17th-century, Frechen stoneware 'Bartmann' style jug. From Trench FF and also of 16th- to 17th-century date was a body sherd of Cologne/Frechen stoneware globular jug or mug, with scroll and Oak leaf decoration from deposit [78]. Four sherds of 16th- to 18th-century Glazed Red Earthenware were also collected from Trench Y layer [56] and Trench FF deposit [78]. Three rim sherds from a 17th-century Anglo-Netherlands Tin Glazed Earthenware drug/ointment jar were recovered from Trench FF deposit [71]. A single mid-17th- to 19th-century Staffordshire slip flatware base and two sherds of 18th- to 19th-century Nottingham Stoneware were also retrieved from this layer.

5.2 Ceramic Building Material

by Lucy Talbot

A single piece of medium sandy, 18th- to 19th-century brick, weighing 91g was recovered from Trench Y layer [56].

5.3 Plaster and Mortar

by Lucy Talbot

Wall [65] in Trench Y produced a piece of plaster and mortar.

The white-coloured plaster (9g), with a pinkish-white coloured applied finish, is 5mm thick and adhering to a thin layer of off-white coloured medium sandy and chalk lime mortar.

The sample of mortar, weighing 63g, is an off-white colour, of a medium sandy consistence with small chalk lumps, fine grit and unidentified black inclusions.

5.4 Clay Pipe

by Rebecca Sillwood

A single piece of clay tobacco pipe was recovered from the deposit [78] in Trench FF.

It consisted of just the bowl of the pipe, with all of the stem missing. The bowl is an early type with milling around the rim of the piece and a flat base. The Museum of London type series defines this piece as a Type 5, dating to c.1610-1640 (Grove 1984). The context of this piece is unknown at the time of writing.

5.5 Worked Stone

by Lucy Talbot

Two pieces of worked Caen stone weighing a total of 5600g were recovered from Trench FF rubble [77].

The assemblage consists of a moulded fragment, possibly a jamb, and a section of shaft (diam. 905mm). Both have remains of mortar adhering to them, showing possible evidence of re-use.

5.6 Faunal Remains

by Lucy Talbot

Faunal remains, weighing 129g, were recovered from Trench Y, layer [56].

These remains, consist of fragmentary domestic mammal bones and represent typical food waste.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

The results of this project were constrained by the relatively small amount of open trench created during the replacement of the pipe (it was found possible to feed the new pipe along earlier steel gas pipes in most cases) and the fact that most trenches dug were excavated to the depth of the existing steel pipes, mostly only encountering backfills associated with these earlier services.

Layers of dark brown silty sand garden soil were found in a large number of the trenches, which were mostly undated.

No evidence of human burial was found in the area of Lifes Green, reputedly the site of the monastic burial ground.

Between The Lower Close and Bishopgate, evidence was found of the insertion of the present road in 1830, in the form of compacted layers of rubble and soil above the heavily horizontally truncated archaeological deposits below. Several walls were recorded, but mostly these were impossible to date or even to guess the alignment of. A wall that was found in a 2006-7 watching brief was found to extend further and a new and massive wall was found close to 60 The Close which may be connected with the 'Gate-Tower to Setry Yard' shown on Whittingham's map of 1938.

Throughout the area of the Lower Close, previous investigations have found that natural sand lies in excess of 3m below present ground level, with 16th-century deposits deeper than 1m below ground level. The walls and floor levels found in the Lower Close were certainly post-medieval in date and were probably associated with garden walls and small garden buildings.

The trenches around St.Ethelbert's Gate were devoid of significant remains, but the open trench through Almary Green produced large amounts of 17th-century garden soil, sealing a couple of earlier boundary walls.

Acknowledgements

The author, Lilly Hodges and David Adams monitored the groundworks. The groundworks were surveyed by Sandrine Whitmore and Steve Howes of the NPS Land Survey Team.

The finds were washed and recorded by Lucy Talbot. The clay tobacco Pipe was described by Rebecca Sillwood whilst the pottery, ceramic building material, plaster, mortar, worked stone and faunal remains were reported on by Lucy Talbot.

The author would also like to thank the contractors, Harry and Billy of Brockwells, Roland Harris the diocesan archaeologist and the cathedral staff for their help.

The illustrations were completed by David Dobson and this report was edited by Jayne Bown.

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
1	Masonry		Wall	Uncertain	A
2	Deposit		Tarmac	Modern	All
3	Deposit		Levelling for [2]	Modern	A
4	Deposit		Levelling for [2]	Uncertain	A
5	Deposit		Levelling for [2]	Uncertain	A
6	Deposit		Levelling for [2]	Uncertain	A
7	Deposit		Top of wall [1]	Uncertain	A
8	Deposit		Levelling for [2]	Uncertain	A
9	Masonry		Wall	Uncertain	B
10	Deposit		Soil beneath wall [9]	Uncertain	B
11	Deposit		Compacted layer	Uncertain	B
12	Deposit		Compacted layer	Uncertain	B
13	Deposit		Compacted layer	Uncertain	B
14	Deposit		Hoggin	Modern	B
15	Masonry		Wall	Uncertain	C
16	Deposit		Levelling for [2]	Uncertain	D
17	Deposit		Levelling for [2]	Uncertain	D
18	Deposit		Levelling for [2]	Uncertain	D
19	Masonry		Wall	Uncertain	D
20	Deposit		Buried soil	Uncertain	D
21	Deposit		Levelling for [2]	Uncertain	G
22	Deposit		Levelling for [2]	Uncertain	G
23	Deposit		Levelling for [2]	Uncertain	G
24	Deposit		Levelling for [2]	Uncertain	G
25	Deposit		Levelling for [2]	Uncertain	G
26	Deposit		Buried soil	Uncertain	G
27	Deposit		Buried soil	Uncertain	I
28	Masonry		Wall	Uncertain	J
29	Masonry		Wall	Uncertain	L
30	Deposit		Buried soil	Uncertain	L
31	Deposit		Levelling for [2]	Uncertain	K
32	Deposit		Levelling for [2]	Uncertain	K
33	Deposit		Buried soil	Uncertain	K
34	Deposit		Service trench?	Uncertain	J
35	Masonry		Possible wall	Uncertain	M
36	Cut		Gas pipe trench	Modern	M
37	Deposit	36	Primary fill of [36]	Modern	M
38	Deposit	36	Secondary fill of {36}	Modern	M
39	Deposit		Layer	Uncertain	M

Context	Category	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
40	Deposit		Hoggin	Modern	M
41	Deposit		Layer	Uncertain	S
42	Deposit		Demolition debris	Uncertain	S
43	Deposit		Layer	Uncertain	S
44	Deposit		Demolition debris	Uncertain	S
45	Deposit		Buried soil	Uncertain	S
46	Deposit		Layer	Uncertain	O
47	Deposit		Burnt material	Uncertain	O
48	Deposit		Floor surface	Uncertain	O
49	Deposit		Buried soil	Uncertain	O
50	Deposit		Garden soil	Modern	W and X
51	Masonry		Wall ?culvert	Uncertain	Y
52	Masonry		Wall	Uncertain	Y
53	Masonry		Wall	Uncertain	CC
54	Deposit		Garden soil	Modern	CC
55	Deposit		Layer	Post-Medieval	CC
56	Deposit		Service trench?	Post-Medieval	Y
57	Deposit		Service trench?	Uncertain	Y
58	Deposit		Tarmac	Modern	Y
59	Deposit		Layer	Uncertain	CC
60	Deposit	62	Fill of [62]	Uncertain	CC
61	Deposit		Topsoil	Uncertain	CC
62	Cut		For wall	Uncertain	CC
63	Deposit		Layer	Uncertain	CC
64	Masonry		Wall	Uncertain	Y
65	Masonry		Wall	Uncertain	Y
66	Masonry		Wall	Uncertain	y
67	Masonry		Wall	Uncertain	FF
68	Masonry		Wall	Uncertain	FF
69	Deposit		Tarmac and gravel	Modern	FF
70	Deposit		Levelling for surface (69)	Uncertain	FF
71	Deposit		Buried soil	Post-Medieval	FF
72	Deposit		Buried soil	Uncertain	FF
73	Deposit		Levelling	Uncertain	FF
74	Deposit		Orange gravel hoggin	Modern	FF
75	Deposit		Buried soil	Uncertain	FF
76	Deposit		Buried soil	Uncertain	FF
77	Deposit		Rubble	Uncertain	FF
78	Deposit		Buried soil	Post-Medieval	FF
79	Deposit		Layer	Uncertain	FF
80	Deposit		Rubble	Uncertain	FF
81	Deposit		Layer	Uncertain	FF

Context	Category	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
82	Deposit		Layer	Uncertain	FF
83	Deposit		Layer	Uncertain	GG

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Feature	Total
Modern	Pipe trench	1
Uncertain	Wall	14
	Foundation cut	1

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
55	Pottery	1	28g	Post-medieval	Frechen Stoneware
56	Pottery	1	1g	Medieval	Glazed
56	Pottery	2	29g	Post-medieval	Glazed Red Earthenware
56	Pottery	1	13g	Post-medieval	Staffordshire slipware
56	Pottery	2	15g	Post-medieval	Nottingham stoneware
56	Ceramic Building Material	1	91g	Post-medieval	Brick
56	Animal Bone	4	129g	Unknown	
65	Mortar	1	63g	Unknown	
65	Plaster	1	9g	Unknown	Traces of white/pale pink wash
71	Pottery	3	3g	Post-medieval	TGE Anglo-Netherlands
77	Stone	1	3,350g	Medieval	Caen stone; Moulded frag
77	Stone	1	2,250g	Medieval	Caen Stone; Shaft frag
78	Pottery	1	10g	Post-medieval	Cologne/ Frechen stoneware
78	Pottery	2	21g	Post-medieval	Glazed Red Earthenware
78	Clay Pipe	1	5g	Post-medieval	Bowl

Appendix 2b: Oasis Table for Finds

Period	Material	Total
Medieval	Pottery	1
	Stone	2
Post-medieval	Ceramic Building Material	1
	Clay Pipe	1
	Pottery	12
Unknown	Animal Bone	4
	Mortar	1
	Plaster	1