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**LEICESTER**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at  
Holliers Walk, Hinckley, Leicestershire**

**NGR: SP 42849 94158**

**Richard Huxley**



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At Holliers Walk,  
Hinckley,  
Leicestershire**

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**Richard Huxley**

**For: ALDI Stores Ltd/STOAS Architects**

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University of Leicester  
Archaeological Services  
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH  
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

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# An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Holliers Walk, Hinckley, Leicestershire

**Richard Huxley**

## **Summary**

*The evaluation of Land at Holliers Walk, Hinckley, consisted of the excavation of 5 trenches, four of which measured 20m long and one measured 13.5m. The trenches were positioned in the eastern half of the development area which totalled 0.82 hectares and is ahead of a planned retail development. The evaluated area is planned to be lowered to produce a flat carpark. The results of the evaluation show post-medieval and modern features were present in the north of the investigated area beneath the remains of a post-medieval brick building fronting Holliers Walk. One feature also contained a single fragment of Roman pottery with a fragment of modern pottery. A large pit dating to the post-medieval period was found close to the central northern boundary which truncated an earlier pit to the south-east and layers to the north-west. A post medieval building was found fronting New Buildings road which contained a cellar, brick surface and brick walls. The structure was overlaying earlier pitting of probable post-medieval date. The area towards the southern edge of site contained a deep layer of building rubble and the natural substratum was not reached in the trench. The trench within the central part of the site was negative for features.*

*The report will be archived under accession number XA141.2018*

*Cover photo: Evaluated area of site looking north-west.*

## **Introduction**

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 16 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* (DCLG 2018) this document forms the report for trial trenching at Land at Holliers Walk, Hinckley. It details the programme of archaeological trial trenching that was undertaken in January 2019 and follows the strategy of work set out in the Written Scheme for Investigation (WSI; ULAS 2018).

The work has been commissioned by STOAS Architects on behalf of Aldi Stores Limited, and is intended to provide preliminary indications of the character and extent of any heritage assets in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains may be assessed by the Planning Authority. The evaluated area is planned to be lowered to produce a flat carpark for the store.

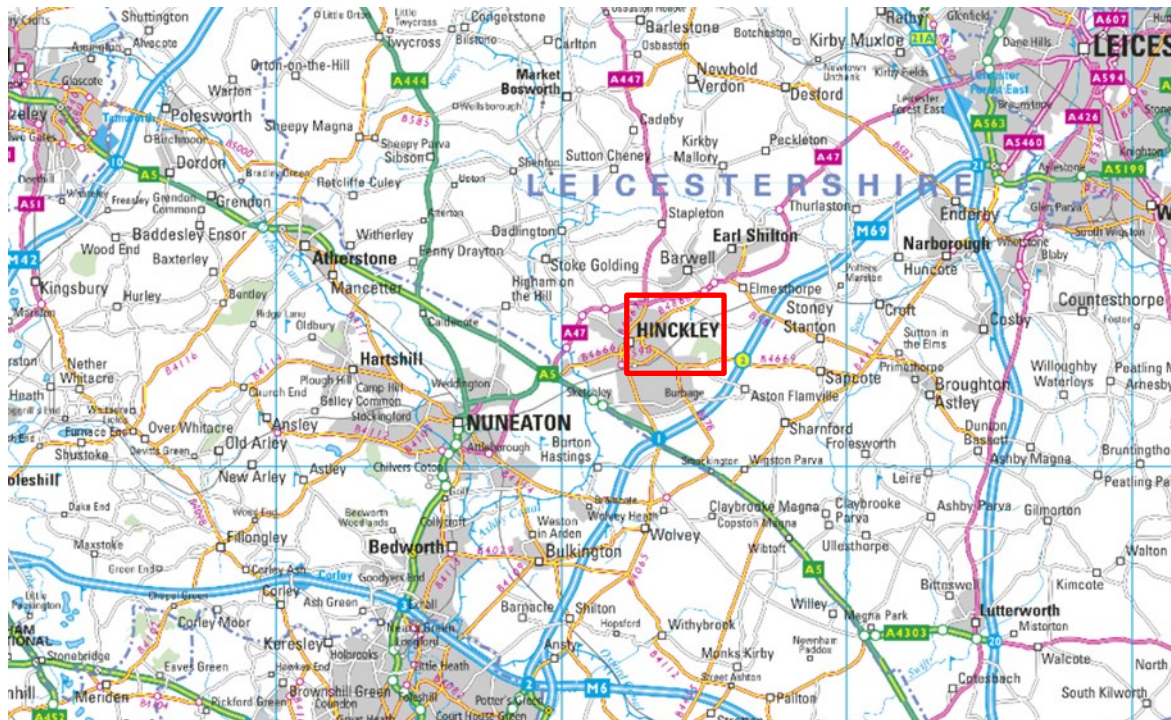


Figure 1: Location of Hinckley (outlined red).

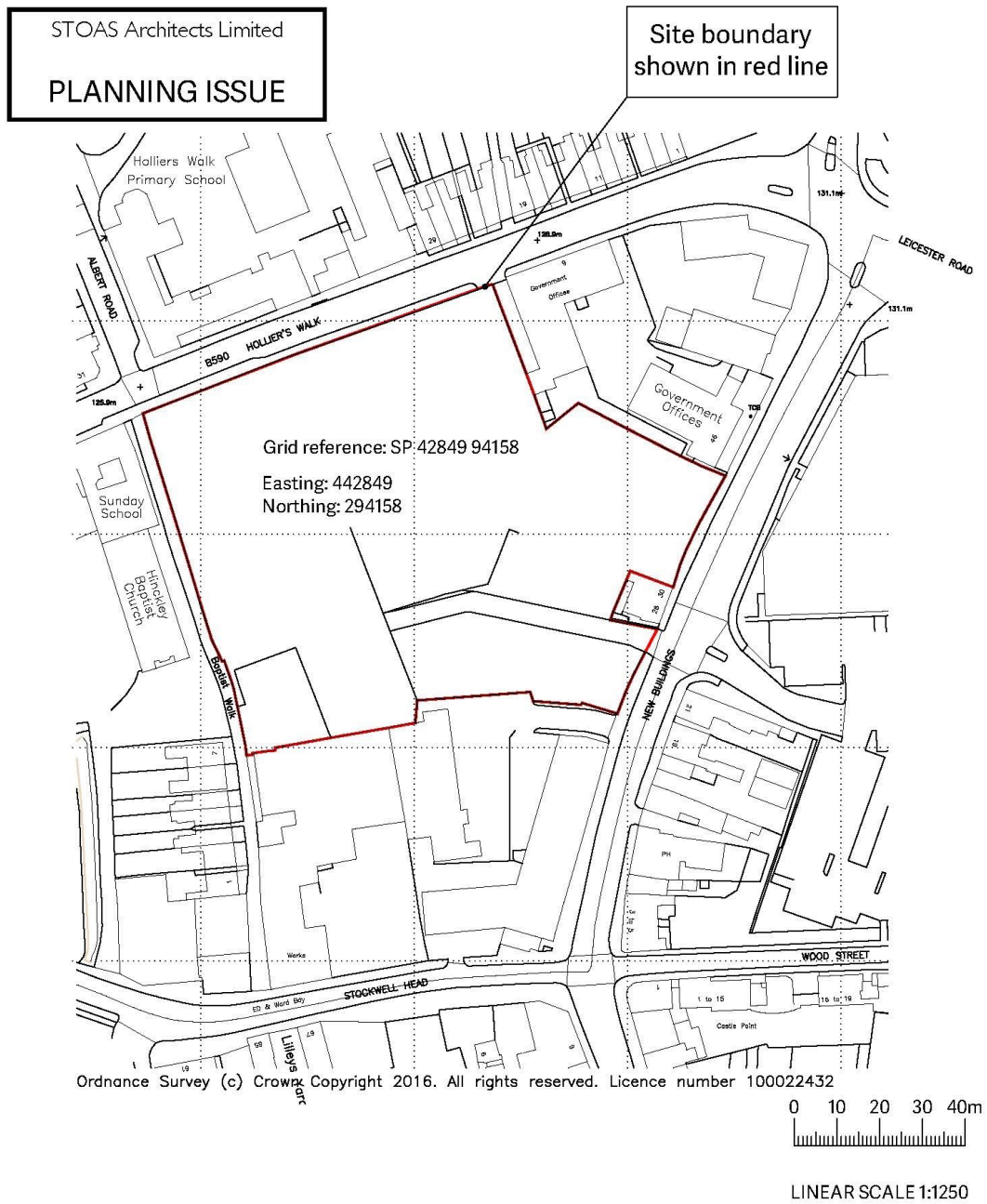
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### Site Description, Topography and Geology

Hinckley lies in the south-west of Leicestershire close to Nuneaton (see Figure 1) and the proposed development is located between Holliers walk and New Buildings road found in the centre of the town. Holliers walk forms the northern limit of the site with commercial and office buildings to the south-east, Hinckley Baptist church to the west and New Buildings road to the east (see Figure 2). The western half of the development area is planned to contain a retail structure and the eastern half to provide a carpark for the store. Prior to the evaluation the site had been scrubland and covered with trees and plants.

The topography of the development area varied with the eastern edge being the highest and the western being the lowest. The northern edge sloped southwards and the southern edge sloped to the north producing a depression in the centre. The evaluated area varied in height from 125-130m aOD with the central area representing the lowest.

The British Geological Survey website indicates that the underlying geology is likely to be Mercia Mudstone over Oadby Member Diamicton (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).



CLIENT			
PROJECT	HOLLIER'S WALK HINCKLEY		
TITLE	SITE LOCATION PLAN		
SCALE	1:1250 @ A4	DRAWN	pH.w
DATE	07/02/2017	CHECKED	SB

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ARCHITECTS

216 FORT DUNLOP - FORT PARKWAY - BIRMINGHAM - B24 9FD - TEL 0121 747 1943  
1 DUNSTON PLACE - DUNSTON ROAD - GOSPORT - TD15 3AH - TEL 01246 369 888

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Figure 2: Location of the development area (supplied by client).

## **Archaeological and Historical Background**

The site lies within the historic medieval core of Hinckley. The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland indicates that there are a number of archaeological remains in the vicinity of the development area.

### *Medieval*

The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland indicates that there are no known archaeological remains recorded on within assessment area itself, but there are some remains within the vicinity. The development area lies within the northern portion of the historic medieval settlement core of Hinckley (**MLE2901**). The medieval church of St Marys lies to the south (**MLE13020**) along with the site of Hinckley Priory (**MLE2878**) which has Saxon origins. The site of Hinckley Castle also lies approximately 400m to the south of the area (**MLE2890**).

### *Post-Medieval to Modern*

There are a number of post-medieval-modern buildings within 500m of the development area with timber framed buildings recorded on Regent Street (**MLE9165**) (**MLE17983**) (**MLE17980**) and further buildings on Castle Street (**MLE13005**) (**MLE13019**).

## **Aims and Objectives**

The general objectives of the archaeological work were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development site
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits and features encountered.
- To assess the impact of previous land use on the site
- To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to assess the impact of the proposed development on cultural heritage and to help formulate a mitigation strategy
- To record any archaeological deposits and produce an archive and report of any results.

The results of the evaluation will provide information in order for the local planning authority to make informed recommendations and to identify an appropriate mitigation strategy for the proposed development.

## **Research Objectives**

While the nature, extent and quality of archaeological remains within the area of investigation for the project remain unknown until archaeological work is undertaken, it is possible to determine some initial objectives derived from *East Midlands Heritage* research agenda (Cooper 2006, Knight *et al.* 2012). The site's location within the historic settlement core of Hinckley and within the vicinity of known archaeological sites on the HER suggests that there is potential for archaeological deposits from the medieval period onwards. The evaluation therefore has the potential to contribute to the following research aims:



### *Medieval*

Understanding the development of urban centres and the nature and variations of industrial and economic activity (7A).

Investigating the provisioning of the medieval town by further detailed study of environmental data and human remains (7C).

### *Post-Medieval-Industrial*

Researching the development of East Midlands industry and its impact upon landscape and settlement morphology (8F).

Assessing urban building types of the early twentieth century (9A).

These research aims have been identified based on the current state of knowledge within the area of the scheme. The research aims will be re-assessed and updated during the course of the fieldwork.

## **Methodology**

All work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014b) and adhered to their Code of Conduct (2014a). A total of 5 trenches each measuring 20m long were proposed to give an indication of the deposits and survival of archaeology in the various parts of the development area. The trench plan (Figure 3) shows the proposed location of the trenches.

The positions of several trenches had to be altered slightly due to the presence of trees with protection orders and to avoid truncation along the southern edge from the extraction of Japanese Knotweed. The easternmost trench was orientated parallel to New Buildings road and shortened to 13.5m avoiding existing trees. It was excavated with the aim of assessing the preservation of building remains fronting this road and determining if any other features existed within this area. The trench immediately to the west was moved slightly westwards and the southern trench had to be moved to the north-west to avoid stored machinery and truncation incurred during the extraction of Japanese Knotweed. The orientation of the central trench was altered to north to south in order to avoid large tree stumps and bioturbation.

Excavation was carried out with a machine appropriate for the work and fitted with a flat-bladed bucket. Topsoil and overburden were removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision. The trenches were excavated down to the top of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed ground, whichever was encountered first.

Any archaeological deposits encountered were recorded in plan and excavated using standard ULAS procedures. All exposed features were investigated (unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Archaeologist). Discrete features were half-sectioned as a minimum where possible and a 1m wide section of each linear feature was also excavated.

The ULAS recording manual was used as a guide for all recording. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed were entered onto pro-forma recording sheets.

A site plan based has been prepared showing the location of the areas examined in relationship to the overall investigation area and OS grid. All principal contexts were recorded by drawn plans (scale 1:20 or 1:50, or electronically using GPS) and drawn sections (scale 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate). The relative height of all principal strata and features were also recorded.

Excavated trench locations were recorded by GPS and tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. A photographic record of the investigations was prepared, illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered and their location and context. The primary photographic record was by digital camera and the record also included overall site and working shots' which illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

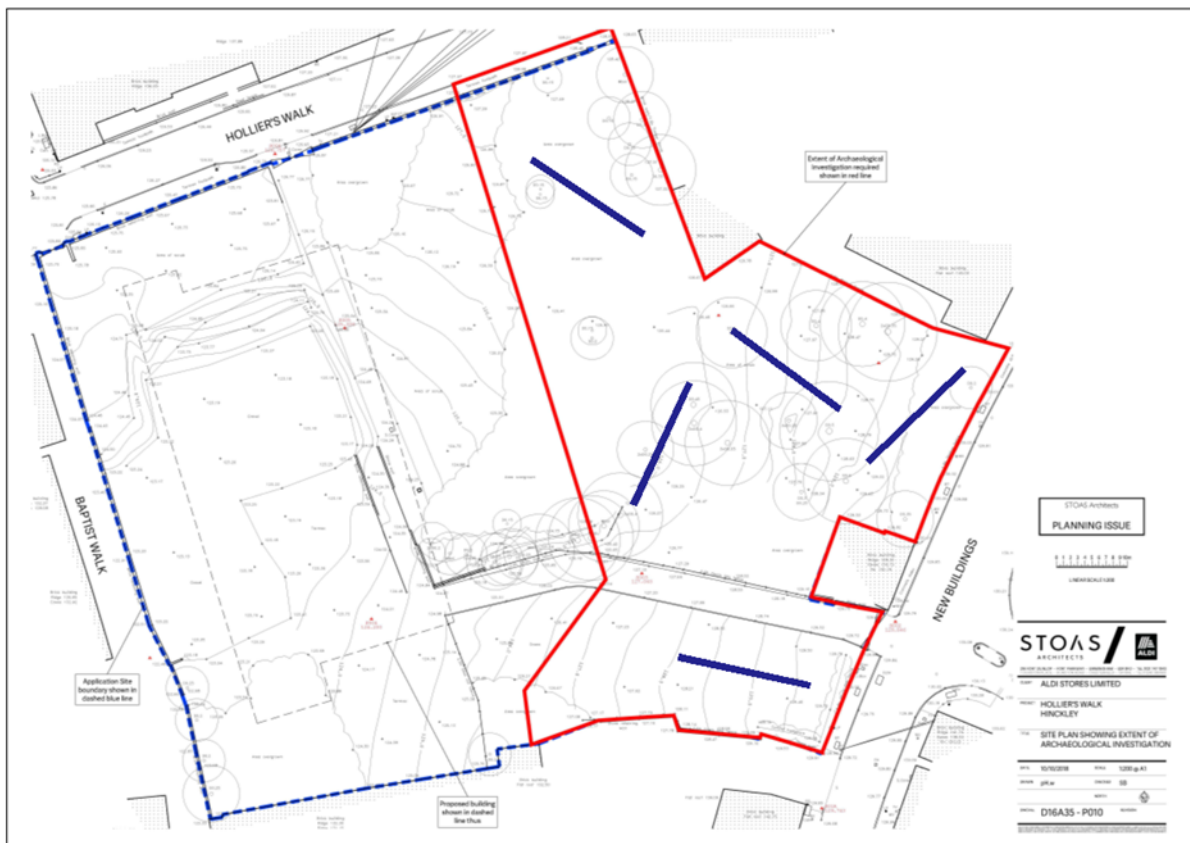


Figure 3: Proposed trench plan showing the investigated area (outlined red).

## Results

Covering the development area was a thin modern topsoil that was composed of a soft friable loamy sandy silt which was coloured dark greyish brown. This deposit contained inclusions of stones with patches of building rubble and a large proportion of bioturbation from the trees and vegetation which covered the area. Below this layer was a soft friable mid greyish brown sandy silt, resembling an earlier topsoil, that contained patches of post-medieval and modern building rubble with some *in situ* remains. Upstanding walls and building remains were found in parts of the north and eastern trenches. The south-eastern trench was found to contain a layer of building rubble at the interface between the old topsoil and subsoil and this deposit increased in depth to the east.

The subsoil was typically composed of a firm friable mid yellowy brown silty sand that contained inclusions of small to medium sized pebbles with flecks of charcoal. The amount of inclusions in the subsoil appeared to increase to the north-west and the eastern trench contained just a few small stones. The top of the subsoil was only reached in the western end of the southern trench due to the depth of the overlaying deposits. The southern half of the central trench was found to have an additional layer below the subsoil which is likely to represent colluvium.

The natural substratum varied across the site and was not reached in every trench. The northern part of the site (Trench 1) contained a compact mid brownish yellow silty sand containing clay, small to medium sized pebbles and flint. A hard compact friable silty sand coloured mid brownish grey with orange patches was also encountered and this probably represents a natural variation. The central trenches (Trenches 2 and 4) contained a natural substratum that was composed of silty clay that was coloured light greyish yellow with blueish grey patches. The natural within Trench 4 changed to the south and consisted of silty sand with a small amount of clay which was coloured light brownish yellow with red patches. The natural in the eastern Trench 3 was found to be a hard compact mid brownish yellow silty sand that occasionally contained small stones. This layer was overlaying a hard light brownish grey silty sand that contained lenses of small pebbles with inclusions of flint. The natural substratum was not reached in the southern Trench 5 but the general trend across the site was that the higher deposits consisted of compact silty sands and the deeper deposits became increasingly clay rich.



*Figure 4: Excavation of the trenches.*

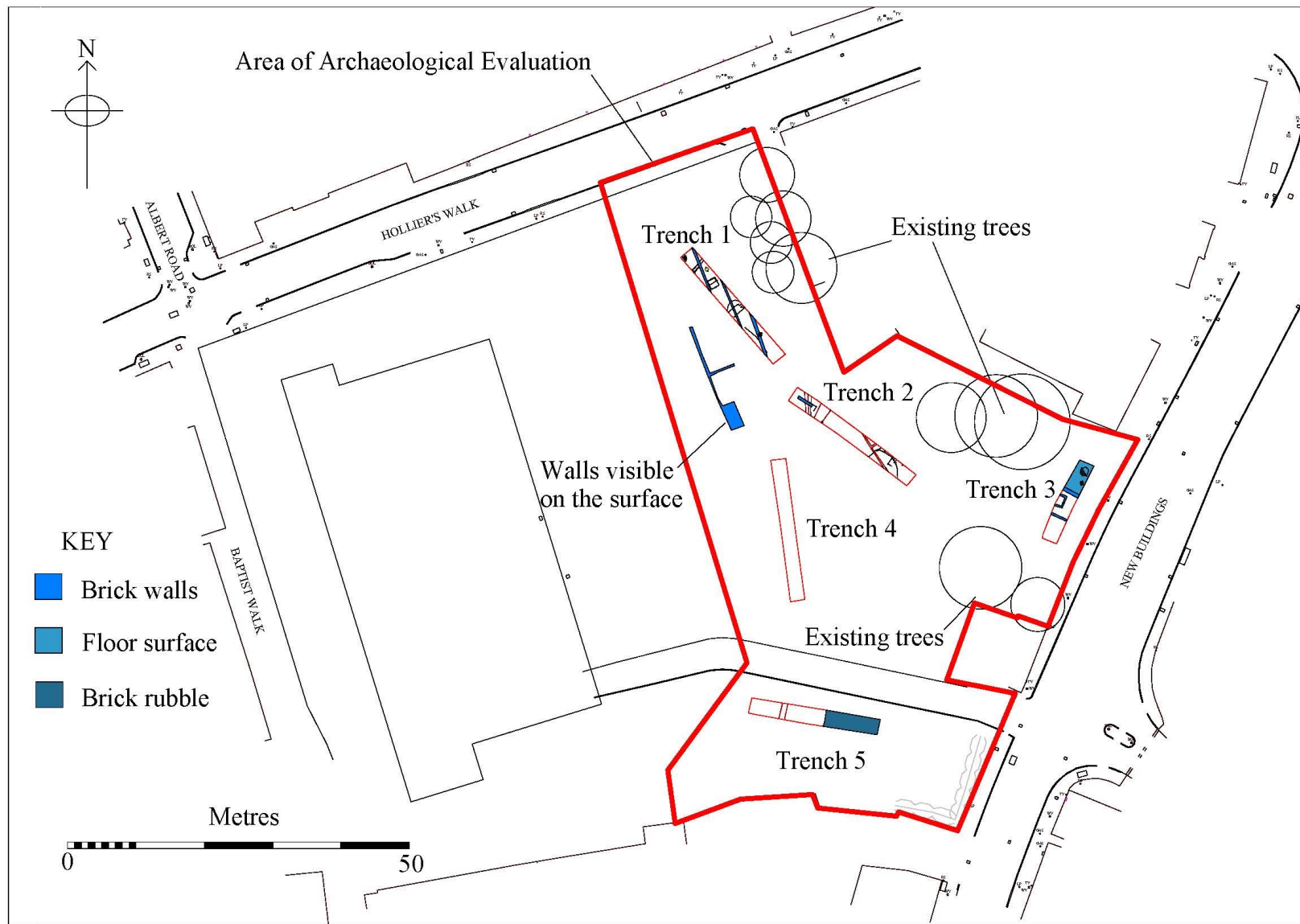


Figure 5: Trench plan showing the adjusted position of the trenches. .

Table 1: Details of the trenches showing the depth to the features or deposits.

Trench Number	Upper topsoil depth (m)	Old topsoil and building remains depth (m)	Subsoil depth (m)	Colluvium depth if present (m)	Base of trench (m)	Natural Substratum	Depth to features (OD)
1	0.12-0.22	0.18-0.4	0.15-0.4	None	0.66-0.92	Mid brownish yellow silty sand and clay	Post-medieval/modern walls (127m aOD) overlaying pitting, a gully and animal burial (126-126.53m aOD)
2	0.18-0.3	0.2-0.48	0.4-0.5	None	0.76-1.18	Light greyish yellow clay with blueish grey patches	Post-medieval/modern wall in northern end (126.59m aOD) overlaying pitting and layers (125.68-126.39m)
3	0.06-0.2	0.3->0.88	0.3-0.5	None	0.8-0.96	Mid brownish yellow silty sand	Post-medieval/modern walls and cellar (129.54m aOD), Post-medieval/modern floor surface (129.43m aOD) overlaying pitting (128.92m aOD)
4	0.16-0.4	0.1-0.3	0.25-0.6	0.02-0.16	0.92-1.13	Light greyish yellow silty clay with blueish grey patches in north, light brownish yellow silty sand with red patches in south	Negetive for features. Natural substratum (124.85-125.24m aOD)
5	0.2-0.4	0.5->0.9	>0.3	Unknown	0.83-1.2	Unknown	Post-medieval/modern building rubble in east end of trench (127.45m aOD). Subsoil in west of trench (126.08m aOD)

### ***Trench 1***

Trench 1 was located in the north-western corner of the site and measured 20m long by 2m wide. The trench was orientated north-west to south-east and was found to contain the remains of 3 brick walls (contexts (01), (02) and (03)). The walls were all orientated north north-east to south south-west and measured approximately 0.28m wide (becoming slightly wider at the base), by >5.6m long, by 0.4-0.5m deep and were spaced 1.75-2m apart. They were composed of unfrosted factory-made bricks that were regularly coursed and bonded with mortar. A number of similarly constructed walls were visible at ground level 5m to the south-east (see Figure 5) of this trench and the group appeared to be related to a building fronting Holliers Walk.



*Figure 6: Brick wall (01) in the north end of Trench 1.*

Below the topsoil and building remains was a layer of subsoil that overlay a number of features dug into the natural substratum. The north-eastern corner of the trench contained part of a shallow sub oval pit [09] which measured >0.6m long, by 0.68m wide and 0.1-0.15m deep. The feature had shallow concave sides and was filled by a sandy silt (10) that was coloured mid greyish brown with a hint of green containing small stones and regular flecks of charcoal. The skeletal remains of a pig were found in the feature (see Figure 9) along with modern pottery that was not retained.

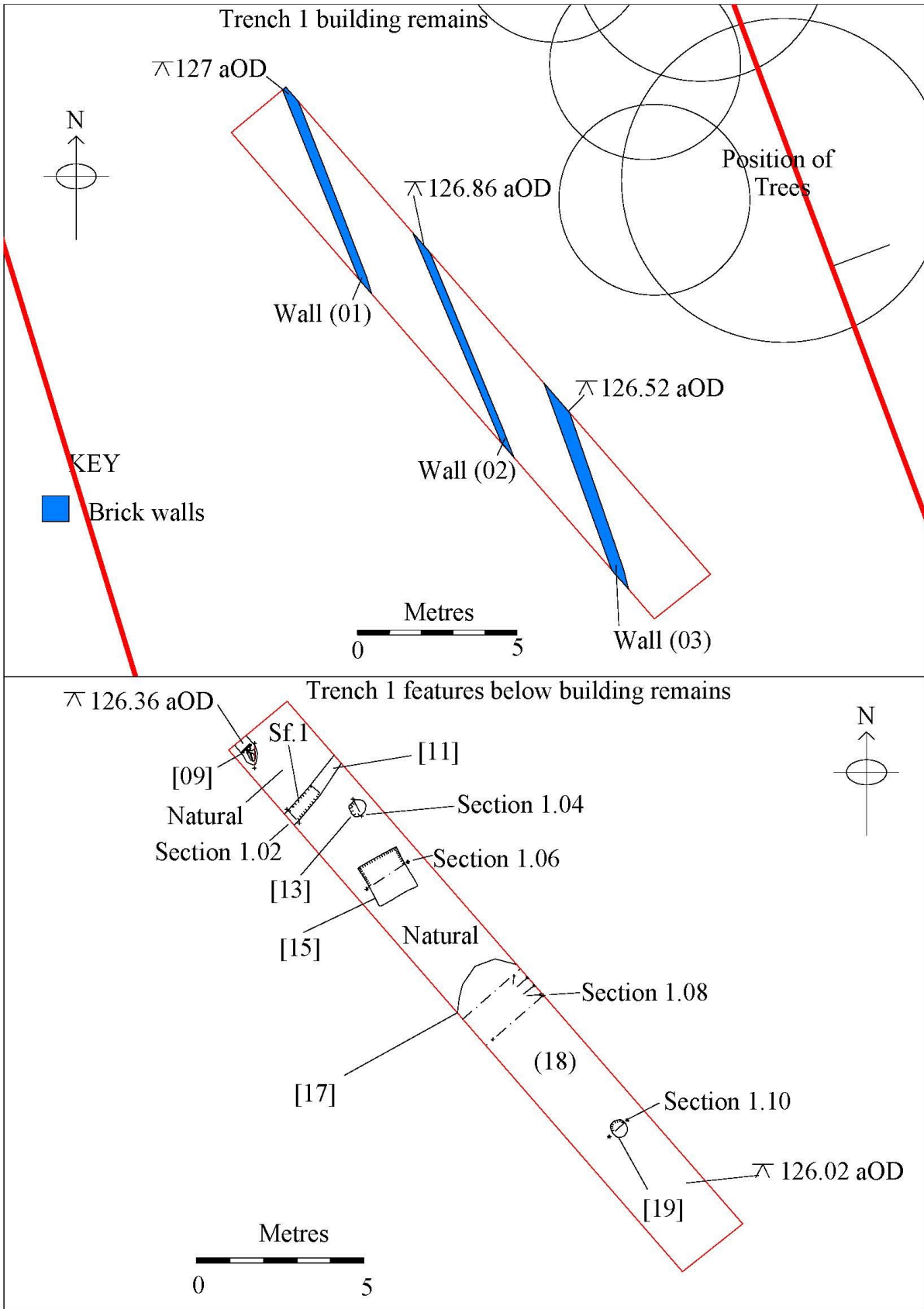


Figure 7: Plans of Trench 1 showing the building remains and earlier features.

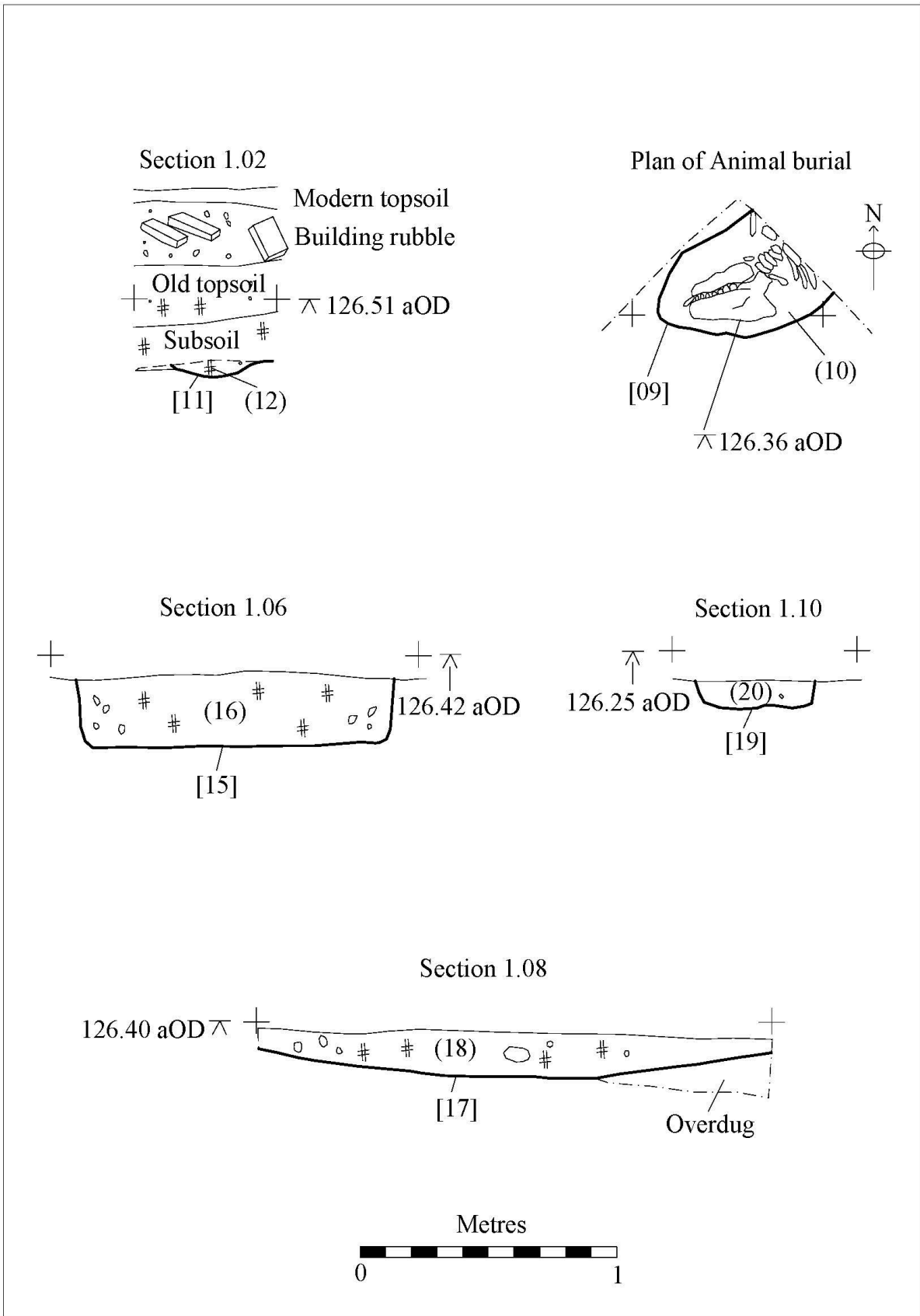


Figure 8: Sections from Trench 1 and detailed plan of the animal burial (10).





*Figure 9: Animal burial (10) in feature [09] found in Trench 1.*

A gully orientated north-east to south-west was found to the south of the animal burial. Feature [11] measured >2m long, by 0.35m wide, by 0.07m deep and had shallow concave sides with a concave base. It was filled by a hard friable mid-yellowish brown sandy silt (12) that contained regular flecks of charcoal and ceramic building material (CBM). A small copper alloy object (Sf 1 on Figure 7) possibly part of a medieval thimble dating from 14th-16th century was also recovered from the feature (Sawday, p29). To the south of the gully a small sub-rectangular pit [13] was found which measured 0.46m long, by 0.44m wide and 0.08m deep (Figure 10). The pit had straight moderately sloping sides with a sloping base and was filled with a soft friable mid brownish grey sandy silt (14) that contained flecks of charcoal, CBM (see Figure 10) and a fragment of Pancheon ware pottery that may date to the later post-medieval or modern period (Sawday, p29).



*Figure 10: Pit [13] in the north of Trench 1.*



*Figure 11: Rectangular pit [15] in Trench 1.*

A rectangular pit [15] orientated north-west to south-east was found to the south-east of [13]. This feature measured 1.32m long, by 1.24m wide, by 0.28m deep and had steep or vertical straight sides with a flat base (see Figure 11). It was filled by a sandy silt (16) that was coloured mid yellowy brown with a hint of green and contained inclusions of small to medium sized rounded pebbles. Cobbles, regular flecks of charcoal, CBM and pottery dating from the 17th to early 18th century (Sawday, p29) were found within the feature.

The south-eastern end of Trench 1 contained a large feature [17] which measured >10m long, by >2m wide, by 0.18m deep (Figure 12). The north-eastern edge was diffuse within the trench, but the feature appeared to have shallow concave sides and a concave base. The feature was filled by a hard friable mid-brownish grey sandy clay (18) that contained small to medium sized pebbles, occasional angular cobbles and charcoal flecks. Early Roman pottery dating to the 1st century and a fragment of modern ceramic was found within the feature (Sawday, p29). The deposit appeared to become increasingly clay rich towards the south-eastern end of the trench where a shallow pit was dug into the top of it.

Pit [19] measured 0.54m long, by 0.44m wide, by 0.1m deep and was a sub-oval shape that was orientated north-west to south-east. The feature had steeply sloping straight or slightly concave sides with a flat base and was filled by a sandy silt (20) that was coloured mid yellowy brown with a hint of green. The fill contained small pebbles, regular flecks of charcoal, CBM and pottery dating from the 16th to late 18th century (Sawday, p29).



*Figure 12: Large shallow feature [17] in the south-eastern end of Trench 1.*

## ***Trench 2***

Trench 2 was located to the south-east of Trench 1 and measured 20m long by 2m wide. The trench was orientated north-west to south-east and contained the partial remains of a brick wall in the north-western end. Wall (04) was orientated north-west to south-east and measured approximately 4m long, by 0.28m wide, by 0.4m deep. The wall was made of unfrosted factory-made bricks in regular courses and was similar to the construction of those found in Trench 1 (see Figure 13). Building remains and rubble were only found in the north-western end of this trench. The north-western end of the trench was also runcated by a drain orientated north to south, a mains sewer orientated north-east to south-west and the central area was found to be truncated by 2 old land drains. The south-eastern end of this trench was wet and the clay rich deposits encountered became soft and degraded.



*Figure 13: Wall (04) in Trench 2.*

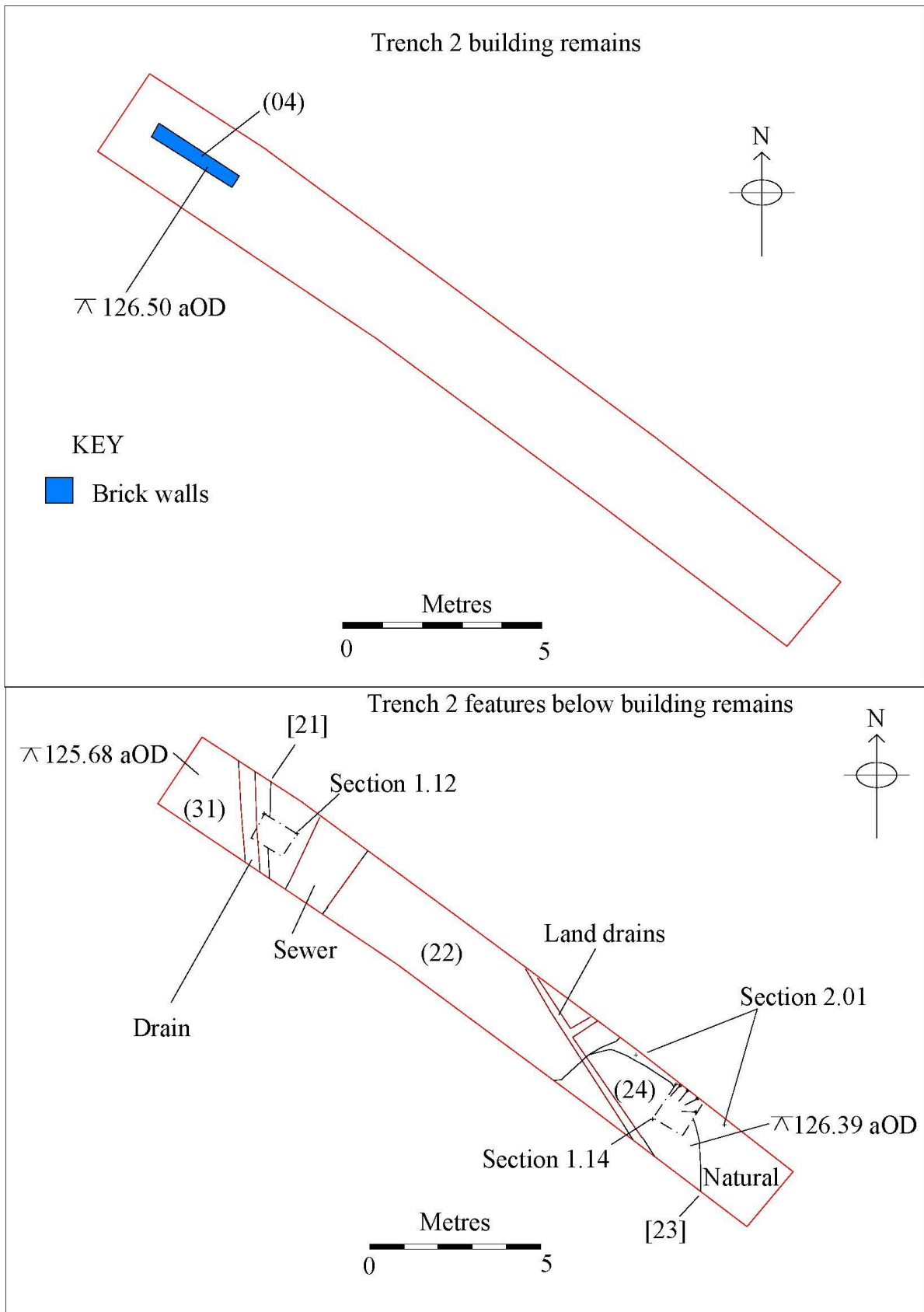


Figure 14: Plans of Trench 2 showing the building remains overlaying earlier features.

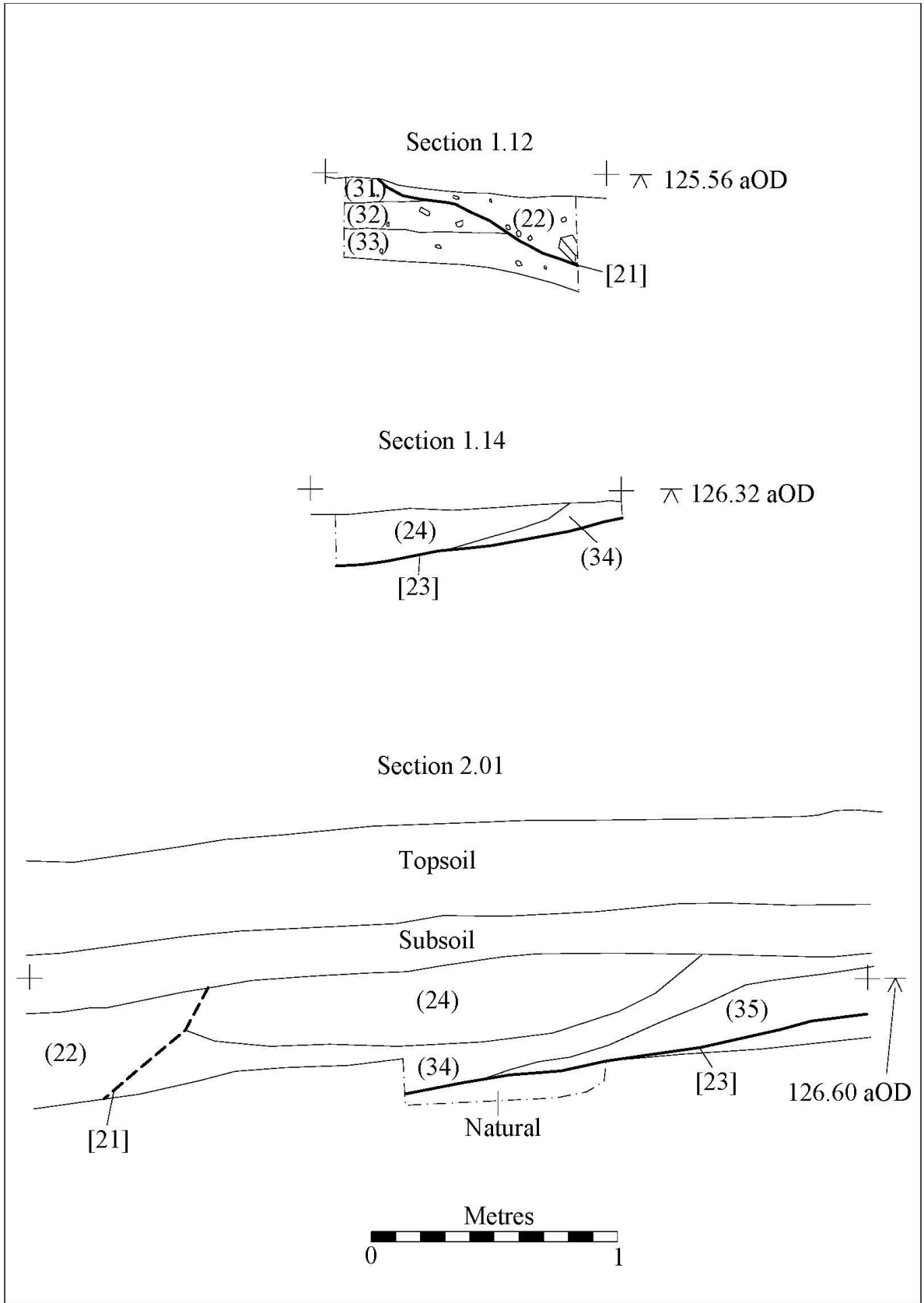


Figure 15: Sections from Trench 2.

The trench appeared to be dominated by two large intercutting pits which were found below the subsoil. The latest appeared to be [21] which measured approximately 10m long, by >2m wide, by >0.27m deep (Figure 16). The feature had shallow to moderately sloping concave and convex sides and was filled by a firm friable sandy silt (22) that was coloured mid brownish grey with a hint of green. The deposit contained regular flecks of charcoal in addition to inclusions of small to medium sized pebbles, frequent cobbles and occasionally large angular stones. The fill contained post-medieval pottery dating 1680-1780 (Sawday, p29), CBM and glass.

Pit [21] was found to be truncating three layers in the north-western end of the trench (see Figure 16). The upper deposit (31) measured >2.7m long, by >2m wide and 0.1m deep and consisted of hard mid-greyish green sandy clay containing regular small to medium sized rounded pebbles, occasionally a cobble and flecks of charcoal. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit and it was found to be overlaying a firm light blueish grey sandy clay (32) measuring 0.22m thick. No artefacts were found in this layer and it was found to contain infrequent inclusions of pebbles with flecks of charcoal. Below this a layer of soft dark greyish blue clay sand (33) was found which measured 0.3m thick. This layer regularly contained inclusions of small pebbles and no artefacts were found within it.



*Figure 16: Pit [21] truncating layers in north-western end of trench 2 with a modern drain.*

The south-eastern end of pit [21] appeared to be truncating an earlier pit [23] which measured >2m long, by >5m wide and >0.5m deep (Figure 17). The pit was only partially visible within the trench but appeared to have shallow concave sides and was filled with several deposits. The earliest fill in the pit was (35) which was composed of a very soft friable dark brownish black coloured loamy silt that contained a small amount of sand and a few small stones. This layer

was only visible in section on the north-eastern edge of the cut. Above this deposit was a soft mid-brownish grey sandy clay (34) that occasionally contained a small pebble. This layer was only found on the northern edge of pit [23]. The main fill of the pit was a soft mid-brownish yellow sandy clay (24) that contained small pebbles and an occasional cobble. No artefacts were found in any of the fills within this feature.



Figure 17: Pit [23] in the south-eastern end of Trench 2.

### ***Trench 3***

Trench 3 was positioned in the north-eastern corner of the site on a north north-east to south south-west orientation. The trench was located close to, and parallel with, New Buildings road, but due to protected trees being located around the northern and southern edges was only machined to 13.5m length. The trench revealed a number of features relating to a building fronting New Buildings road. The northern end of the trench contained a brick floor surface (05) that measured >4.4m long, by >2m wide, by approximately 0.2m thick (see Figure 19). This floor surface abutted wall (06), which was orientated west north-west to east south-east and measured >2m long, by 0.45m wide and 0.9m deep. The wall was constructed of regularly coursed unfrogged factory made bricks that appeared slightly thinner in size than those used in the walls found in trenches 1 and 2. Post medieval pottery was found in the base of the construction cut of the wall which and have a terminal date of late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (Sawday, p29).



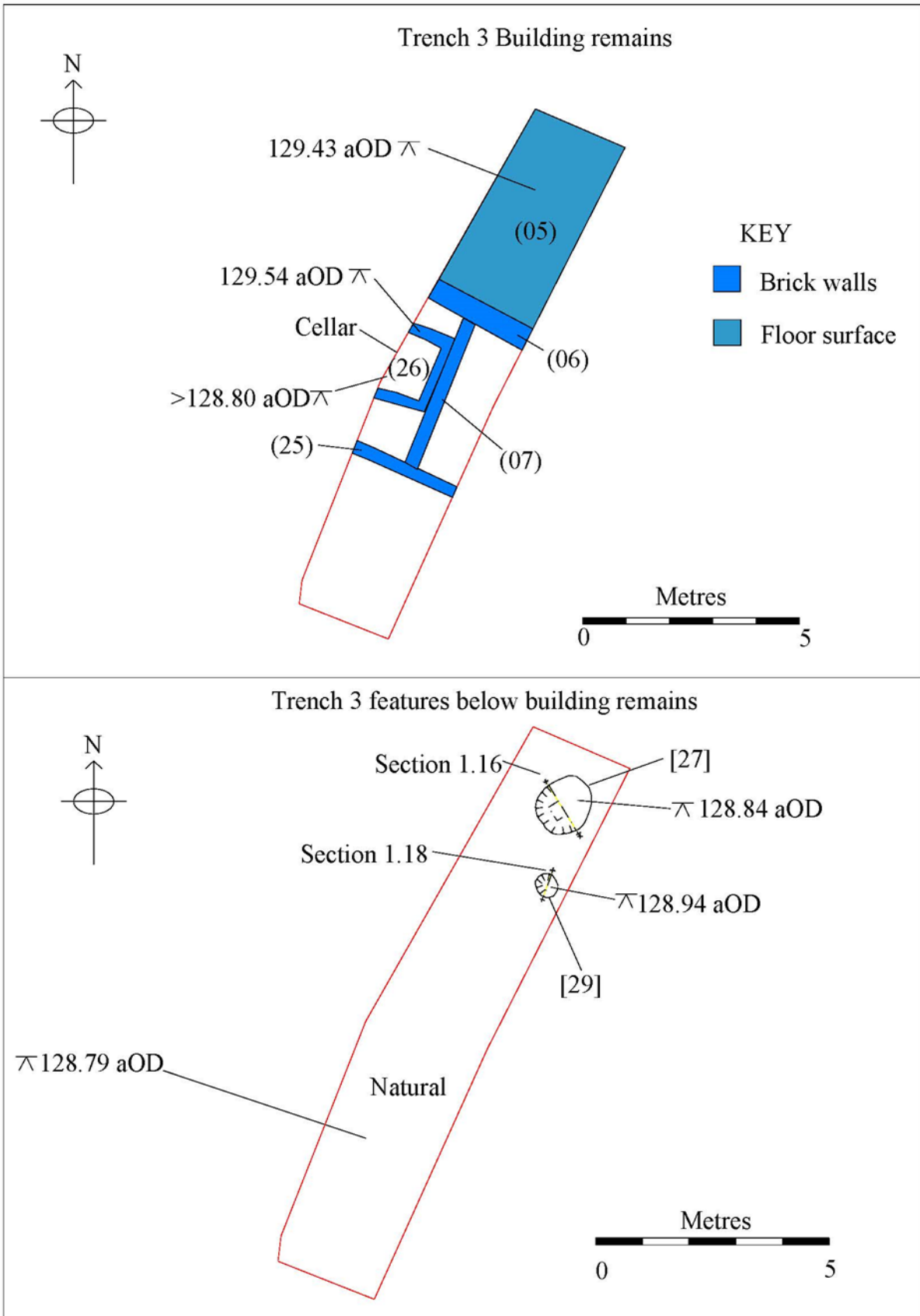


Figure 18: Plans of Trench 3 showing the building remains overlaying earlier features.



*Figure 19: Brick floor surface (05) in Trench 3.*

Wall (06) was found to be parallel to wall (25) which was located 3.5m to the south-west. This wall was found to be the same size as (06) and constructed in a same way. Joining walls (06) and (25) was a third wall (07) which was orientated north north-east to south south-west. This wall was measured 0.24m wide and was shallower than the other two. On the western side of this wall a small cellar (26) was found (see Figure 20) which measured >0.83m long, by 1.85m wide and >0.96m deep. The feature was only partially visible within the trench but is likely to be a square or rectangular shape. The cellar was constructed with the same type of bricks that were found in walls (06) and (25). The feature was constructed out of two layers of bricks that were regularly coursed measuring 0.23-0.31m wide. Part of a brick arch appeared to be supporting the ceiling of the cellar and the feature was filled with building rubble from the demolished building.



*Figure 20: Cellar (26) in Trench 3 with wall (06) in the foreground and (25) in the background.*



*Figure 21: Pits [27] and [29] in Trench 3 with brick floor (05) visibly overlaying the subsoil.*

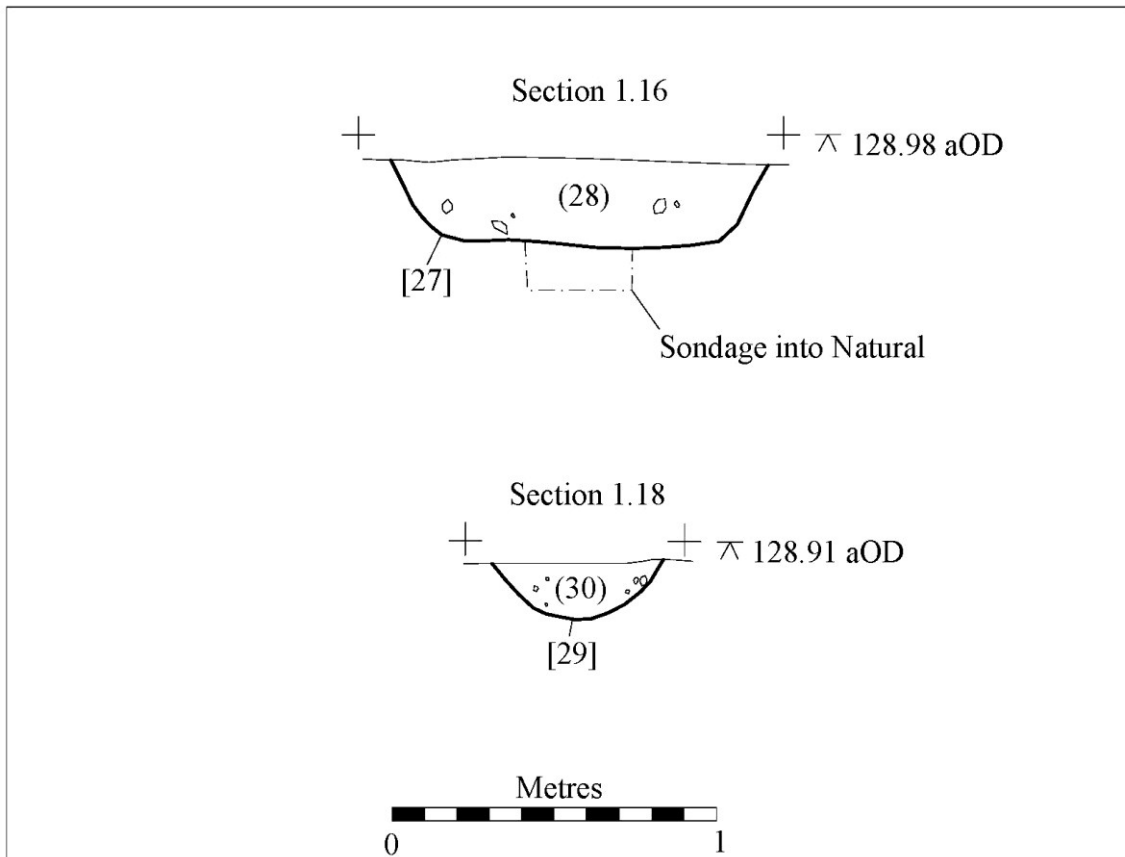


Figure 22: Sections from trench 3.

Floor surface (05) was overlaying the subsoil and when this was removed two pits were revealed located at the northern end of the trench (see Figure 21). The largest was pit [27] which was a sub-oval shape that was orientated north-east to south-west. The feature measured 1.24m long, by 1.12m wide and 0.26m deep and had straight and moderately sloping sides with a relatively flat base. The feature was filled with a friable mid-yellowish brown sandy silt (28) that contained a few small to medium sized rounded pebbles. No artefacts were found in this feature and a small sondage was dug into the base to investigate the natural substratum.

To the south of pit [27] a smaller pit [29] was found, which was a sub-circular shape with a diameter of 0.5m and a depth of 0.17m. The pit had moderately sloping concave sides with a concave base and was filled with firm friable mid-yellowish brown sandy silt (30). The deposit contained a few small rounded pebbles and a small fragment of CBM was recovered during the excavation. No other features were found within this trench.

#### **Trench 4**

Trench 4 measured 20m long by 2m wide and was located in the centre of the site orientated north to south. The trench was found to contain a layer in the southern half of the trench which measured 0.02-0.16m, increasing in thickness to the south. The layer was composed of mid greyish brown sandy silt containing inclusions of small stones. This deposit did not contain any artefacts and is likely to represent colluvium. It was machined away to reveal a natural substratum composed of silty sand which was coloured light brownish yellow with red patches. The northern end of the trench contained a natural variation consisting of light greyish yellow

silty clay with blueish grey patches. Drains were found in the centre of the trench orientated east to west and no other features were visible.

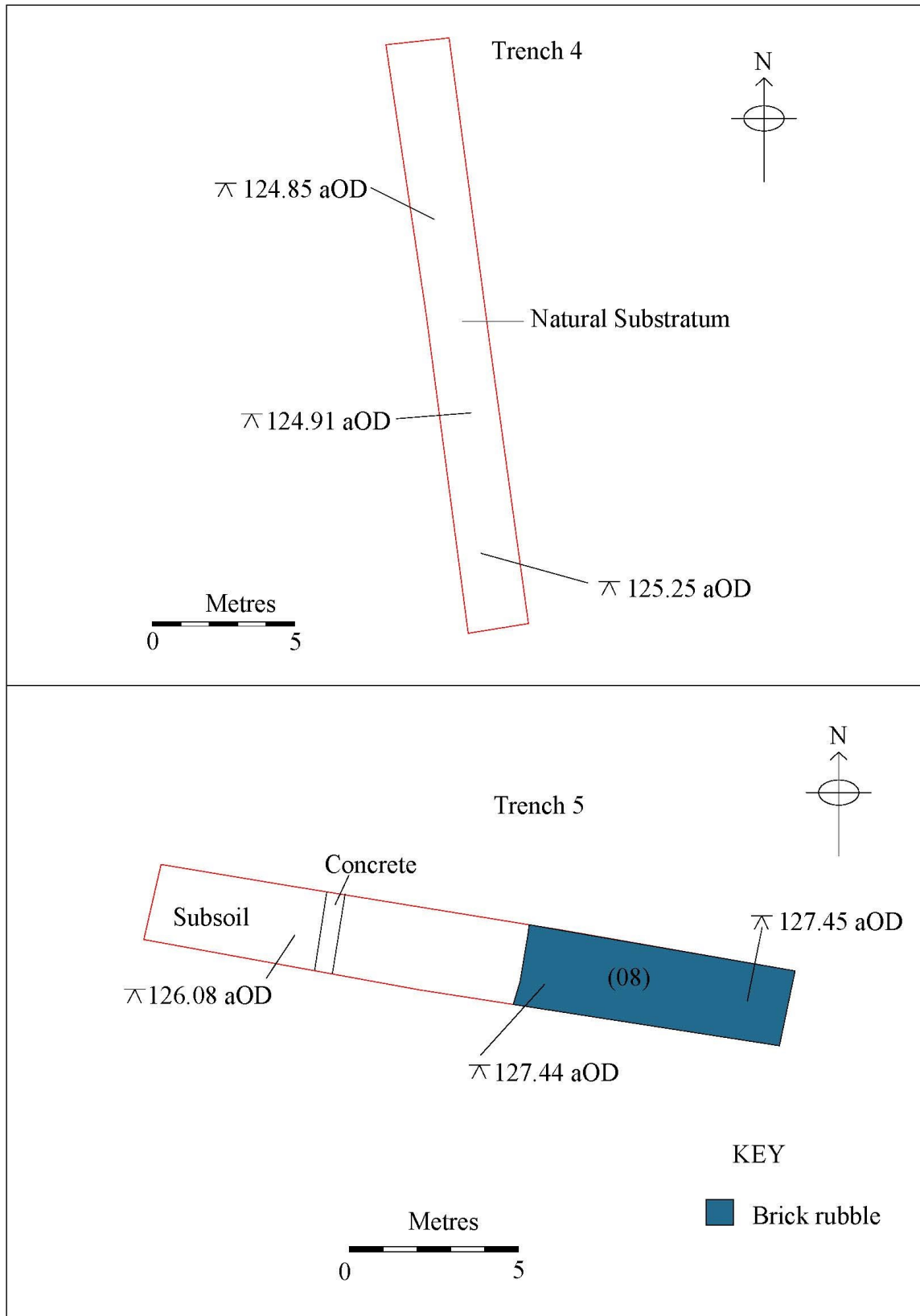


Figure 23: Plans of trenches 4 and 5.



*Figure 24: Negative Trench 4 after colluvium layer was machined away.*

### ***Trench 5***

Trench 5 measured 20m long by 2m wide and was located in the south of the site, orientated east to west. The position of the trench had to be slightly altered due to machinery being stored to the east and truncation occurred during the extraction of Japanese Knotweed along the southern boundary. The trench was positioned between this truncation and the site access and the proximity of these features hindered the excavation. The eastern half of the trench was found to contain a layer of bricks and building rubble (08) that measured >8m long, by >2m wide and >0.4m deep. The rubble appeared to increase in thickness to the east and was located at the base of the old topsoil at a depth of 0.75-0.85m. Because of the thickness of the deposit and the confined nature of the trench it was not possible to completely remove it and expose the underlying strata. Modern concrete orientated north to south was found 5m from the western end of the trench and this marked the end of the brick rubble deposit. The western end of Trench 5 was found to contain a firm friable mid brownish yellow silty sand that contained a few small stones and was similar to the subsoil encountered in the other trenches. This layer was found at a depth of 1.2m and measured >0.3m thick. Due to the lack of space surrounding the trench and the depth of this layer, it could not be removed to expose the natural substratum. No other features were found within this trench.



Figure 25: Trench 5 showing the subsoil in the foreground and the rubble in the background

## The Post Roman Ceramic and Miscellaneous Finds - Deborah Sawday

### *The Finds*

The pottery assemblage was made up of twenty seven sherds, weighing 303 grams and representing a maximum count of twenty four vessels. Nine fragments of ceramic building material weighing 153 grams were also recorded, together with miscellaneous finds of china clay, glass and copper alloy.

### *Condition*

The pottery and ceramic building material was fragmentary, with an average sherd weight of only 11.22 grams for the pottery, and 17 grams for the ceramic building material.

Table 2: The pottery and ceramic building material fabrics.

Fabric Code	Common Name/Kiln & Fabric Equivalent where known	Approx. Date Range
MG	Miscellaneous Gritted ware	Roman 1st Century AD
EA1	Earthenware 1 – Coarse Post Medieval Earthenware - Chilvers Coton/Ticknall, Derbyshire	c.1500-1750

EA2	Earthenware 2 – ‘Pancheon ware’, Chilvers Coton/Ticknall, Derbyshire	17th C-18th C. +
EA3	Mottled ware	1680-1780
EA5	Imitation Mottled ware	1680-1780
EA8	Cream ware	1750-1850
EA10/PO	Fine White Earthenware	Modern
EA	Earthenware	Late Medieval - Modern
SW4	White Salt Glazed Stoneware	1730-1770
SW5	Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware	1670-1800+
SW7	Black Basalt ware	c.1770+

### *Methodology*

The pottery and ceramic building material was examined under an x20 binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to current guidelines (MPRG 1998, MPRG 2016) and the ULAS fabric series (Connor and Buckley 1999, Sawday 1989, Sawday 2009). The results are shown below (Tables 3 and 4).

### *The Finds Record*

Table 2 lists the pottery and ceramic building material fabrics present, Table 3 the pottery site totals by fabric, and Table 4 catalogues the pottery and miscellaneous finds by context. Single pottery sherds have been counted as one vessel.

### *Discussion (Table 4)*

The stratigraphic evidence suggests that the wall, context 6, in Trench 3 is part of a building, which appears on an the early mapping for the area. The material from the foundation trench of this wall clearly pre-dates the building. Similarly the pits [17] and [19] in Trench 1 pre-date the buildings lying above, whilst the rectangular pit [15] in the same trench is aligned with a modern building nearby, it also appears to be earlier in date. Pit [21] in Trench 2 also lay below a building – wall 4. All of these pits, gully [11] in Trench 1 and pit [29] in trench 3 (which lay beneath a floor associated with wall 6), contained pottery and/or ceramic building material with a possible terminal date in the later 18th century. The only find from the post pad [13] in Trench 1 was a Pancheon ware rim in EA2 of uncertain date.

Of note was the rim of a Roman jar in Gritted ware, dating from the 1st century AD in context 18 [17], and two copper alloy fragments in contexts [11] and [21] from Trenches 1 and 3 respectively. The former is part of a hand-made thimble dated from the 14th to the 16th centuries (N. Cooper, pers. comm.).

### *Conclusion*

This small assemblage provides some evidence of the development of the historic core of the town in the post medieval and early modern periods, whilst the presence of Roman and medieval finds hints at even earlier activity in the vicinity.



Table 3: The pottery site totals by fabric, sherd number, weight and vessel number.

Fabric Code	No	Gr	V. no
MG	1	2	1
EA1	1	19	1
EA2	6	131	6
EA3	2	17	2
EA5	1	15	1
EA8	8	93	6
EA10	1	1	1
SW4	1	2	1
SW5	5	22	4
SW7	1	1	1

Table 4: The finds by context, fabric/material, number, and weight (grams).

Context	Fabric	No	Gr	Max Vessel No	Comments
POT					
6 wall Tr 3	EA3	2	17	1	Cup body with base of handle stub, glazed, late 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> C.
6	SW5	2	17	1	The shoulder of a jug with cordons at base of neck and on shoulder. Underfired salt glazed stoneware – with small dark inclusions in the paste, 18 <sup>th</sup> century.
6	EA8	1	4	1	Hollow ware fragment with over glaze transfer printing in black and red – 1760-1780 (Barker and Halfpenny 1990, 71)
14 [13] post pad Tr 1	EA2	1	39	1	Pancheon rim, a similar vessel to this was recorded at Causeway Lane, Leicester, in a sealed deposit with a deposition date of <i>circa</i> 1820 (Davies and Sawday 1999, 196-197, fig.97.182). However this fabric and the vessel forms are not closely dated and this sherd probably lies within the post medieval to the modern period.
16 [15] rect. pit Tr 1	SW4	1	2	1	Cup rim, similar at Temple Balsall, Warwickshire (Gooder 1984, fig.21.203), where the assemblage dated from the late 17 <sup>th</sup> and early 18 <sup>th</sup> century.

16	SW5	1	2	1	Body of mug with cordons, crawled, over-fired glaze, ?late 17 <sup>th</sup> – early 18 <sup>th</sup> C.
16	SW5	1	1	1	Small cup/mug rim, 18 <sup>th</sup> C.
16	EA2	1	2	1	Hollow ware – brown glaze on interior, sandy fabric suggest typologically quite early, 17 <sup>th</sup> C+.
16	EA2	2	19	2	Abraded, 17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> C+.
16	EA8	4	7	2	Yellow tinge to glaze, c.1760+
18 [17] pit Tr 1	MG	1	2	1	jar rim - Roman
18	EA10	1	1	1	Blue painted decoration under glaze (Barker and Goodby 2008), 25).
20 [19] pit Tr 1	EA1	1	19	1	Hollow ware, purple glaze on interior, ?16 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> C.
20	SW7	1	1	1	Base fragment with foot ring, circa 1770+.
20	EA8	1	1	1	c. 1760+
22 [21] pit Tr 2	EA2	2	71	2	Includes a collared jar rim, post medieval
22	EA5	1	15	1	c.1680+
22	EA8	1	77	1	Flat base, hollow ware vessel.
22	EA8	1	4	1	With mocha decoration in blue, black and red – popular in period 1760-1780 (Barker and Halfpenny 1990, 71)
22	SW5	1	2	1	Later 17 <sup>th</sup> C+
CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL			All in sandy fabrics, later medieval or post-medieval in date.		
12 [11] gully Tr 1	EA	2	4		Frag only
16 [15] rect. pit Tr 1	EA	2	73		Flat roof tile
20 [19] pit Tr 1	EA	3	5		Frag only
22 [21] pit Tr 2	EA	1	70		Tile/brick
30 [29] pit Tr 3	EA	1	1		Frag only
MISC					
16 [15] rect. pit Tr 1	China clay	1			Clay tobacco pipe stem, post medieval/modern
22 [21] pit Tr 2	Glass	1			Bottle glass – post medieval/modern
<1> 12 [11] gully Tr 1	Cu alloy	1			Thimble – hand made, 14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> C (Holmes 1998).
22 [21] pit Tr 3	Cu alloy	1			Suspension loop, ovoid in section of unknown date.

## Discussion and Conclusions

The results of the evaluation show that archaeological remains are present within the development area with a number of pits being the earliest features found in the northern and eastern trenches. The oldest artefact recovered was a sherd of early Roman pottery recovered from (18) in feature [17]. The majority of features contained early post-medieval pottery and overlaying this was found to be later post-medieval and modern brick building remains.

Walls (01), (02) and (03) from Trench 1 were all found to be parallel and roughly equidistant. Several other walls were visible to the south-west of the trench these are likely to relate to a building fronting Holliers Walk of uncertain date. Wall (04) in Trench 2 is also likely to be contemporary with this activity due to its proximity and similarity in construction. The north-eastern trench revealed building remains consisting of 3 walls (06), (07) and (25) with a cellar (26) being found between them. Floor surfaces also survive in this area with brick floor (05) being found in the northern end of the trench. These remains appear to relate to a post-medieval building fronting New Buildings road and structures are recorded along this road on the 1782 town plan (see Figure 26 top). The 1818 Tithe map of Hinckley shows that by this time the number of buildings has increased and are found all the way along the western side of the street (see Figure 26 bottom). The bricks used in the construction of this building fronting New Buildings road appeared slightly thinner than those associated with the structure fronting Holliers Walk. Holliers Walk is only recorded as being a road on the First edition OS map in the 1880's and structures are not indicated along it until the early 20th century. The cartographic evidence suggests the building remains encountered along New Buildings road are older than those along Holliers Walk.

A number of pits were found beneath the building remains in the northern and eastern trenches. Rectangular pit [15] appeared to be orientated on the same alignment as the overlaying building and whilst it could represent a contemporary feature, the pottery within it implies it is earlier and dates from the 17th to early 18th century. Gully [11] does not appear to be on the same orientation as the overlaying building and a medieval thimble dating 14th-16th century was recovered. Feature [17] appeared to be a large pit in the southern end of Trench 1 and this contained a fragment of early Roman pottery with a fragment of modern ceramic. This implies that the feature is either a modern pit with a residual fragment of Roman pottery or it is an older feature that has been contaminated or disturbed in the modern period. Because of the uncertainty surrounding the age and contamination of the feature a soil sample was not retrieved. The deposit appeared to become clay rich to the south and a small pit [19] was found dug into the top of it. This pit also contained early post-medieval pottery and was directly beneath a brick wall.

Trench 2 was found to contain a number of features that were truncated by modern drains and a sewer. Wall (04) was positioned in the north-western end of the trench and when it was removed large pit [21] was found. This feature continued to the centre of the trench and contained early post-medieval pottery. The north-western edge of the pit was found to be truncating 3 deposits (31), (32) and (33), which either represent layers or the fills of an earlier feature continuing beyond the edges of the trench. No artefacts were found within these deposits and it is uncertain how they were formed. Similarly the south-eastern edge of pit [21] appeared to truncate an earlier pit [23], but no artefacts were found to date the feature.



Figure 26: Buildings along New Buildings road (circled red) on the 1782 town plan (top) and the increased numbers on the 1818 Tithing map (bottom).

From *Hinckley Past and present* (: <https://www.hinckleypastpresent.org/hinckleybuildings-maps.html>)

Trench 3 was found to contain post-medieval building remains fronting New Buildings road with a brick floor surface (05) located at the northern end. When the floor surface and the subsoil beneath it was removed, two pits were found dug into the natural substratum. Pits [27] and [29] were both filled with very similar deposits that resembled the subsoil. Pit [27] did not contain any artefacts, but pit [29] was found to contain a fragment of CBM indicating it dates to the post-medieval period. The comparable fills of both pits suggests they represent contemporary activity and both may date to the post-medieval period prior to the brick building being constructed 1782-1818.

The 1782 town plan and 1818 Tithe map indicate that buildings were found along the eastern edge of the site fronting New Buildings road and a large proportion of building rubble (08) was found in the southern end of Trench 5. This rubble increased in thickness to the east as it approached the road and it is possible this represents the demolished remains of a nearby structure. It is unknown whether any building remains (other than rubble (08)) survive in this area beyond the trench and whether any features are found below it. The features at Holliers Walk appear to follow the position of the building remains and were typically found near to or below buildings located along the northern and eastern edges of the site. The trench in the centre (Trench 4) was found to be negative for both building remains and features and the southern trench was inconclusive due to the depth of the deposits.

A fragment of modern ceramic was found accompanying a sherd of Roman pottery in pit [17] (in Trench 1) and it is unclear whether the Roman pottery is residual or if the feature was disturbed in the modern period. Trees and other vegetation covered the site and it is possible this activity has caused modern pottery to become incorporated into the feature. The focus of activity at Holliers Walk appears primarily to date to the early post-medieval period, although the recovery of a medieval thimble and a sherd of Roman pottery hint at earlier activity occurring on the site. The top of the building remains found in Trenches 1 to 3 (and the archaeology located beneath them) are indicated to be below the finished construction levels for the development by 0.46-1.19m (see Figure 27). However the extent the ground will be cut into to achieve the finished construction levels is unknown and consequently the proximity of the work to the archaeological horizon is not known. The top of the post-medieval building remains are relatively close to the finished construction levels and if any significant ground reduction occurs, both the building remains and the earlier features below it are likely to be impacted by the development.

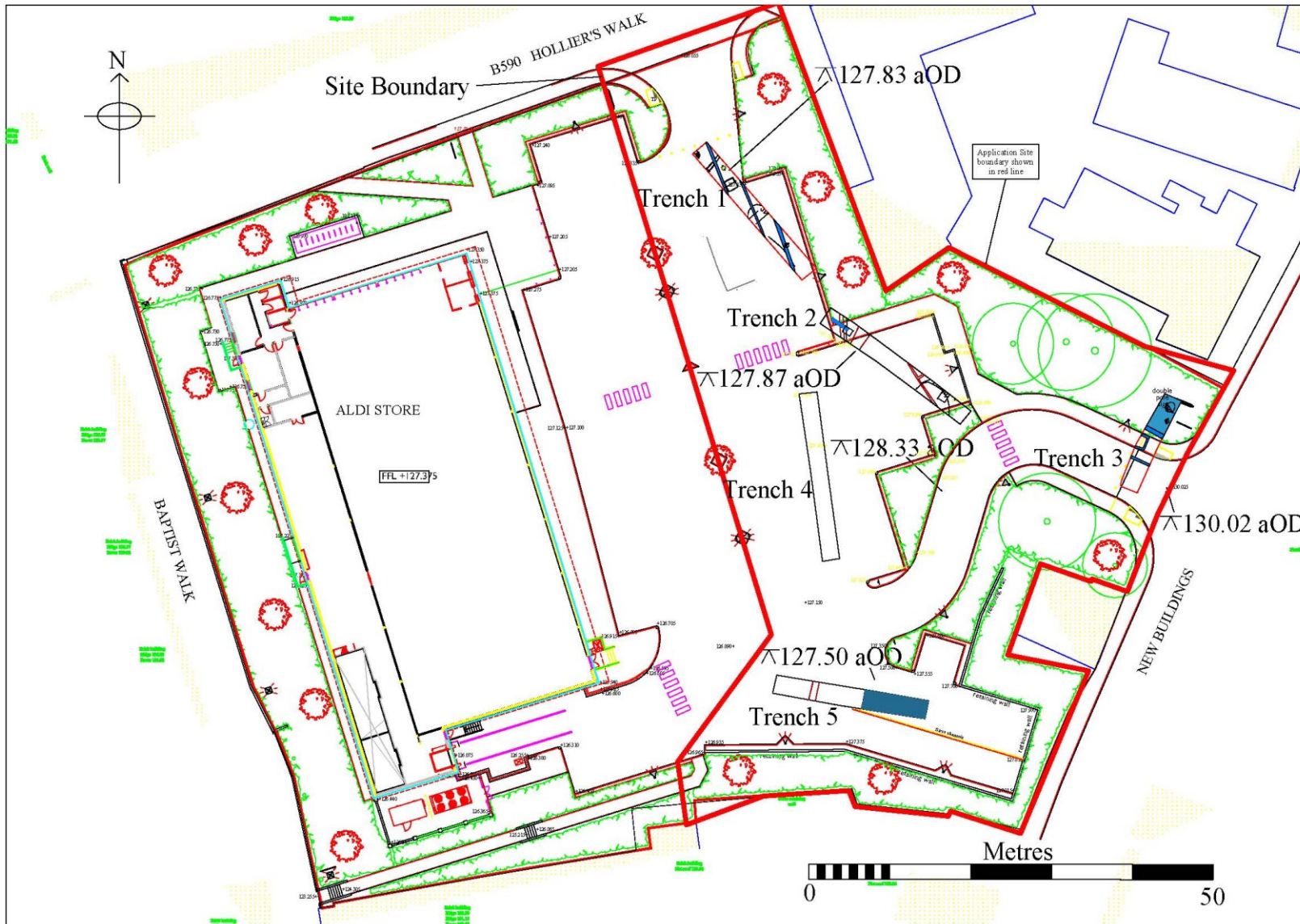


Figure 27: Plan of the trenches and features overlaying the proposed development with details of the finished car park heights

## Archive

The site archive consists of:

- X5 Trench recording sheets.
- X1 Context index
- X1 Photograph index
- X1 Drawing sheet index
- X1 Drawing Index
- X2 Drawing sheet
- X33 Context sheets
- X69 Digital photographs

The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Museums under the accession number XA141.2018.

## Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work to the *Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) at the University of York.

A summary of the work will also been submitted for publication in an appropriate local archaeological journal in due course.

## Acknowledgments

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The fieldwork was carried out by Richard Huxley and the project was managed for ULAS by John Thomas.

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### Oasis Information

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	universi1-340433
	Project Name	An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Holliers Walk, Hinckley, Leicestershire
	Start/end dates of field work	09-01-2019 to 15-01-2019
	Previous/Future Work	No/Not known
	Project Type	Field Evaluation
	Site Status	
	Current Land Use	Other 13 - Waste ground
	Monument Type/Period	Pits Post Medieval Pits Modern Building Post Medieval Building Modern
	Significant Finds/Period	Pottery Post Medieval Pottery Modern Pottery Roman Cu Alloy object Medieval
	Development Type	Urban commercial
	Reason for Investigation	Planning condition
	Position in the Planning Process	Pre-application
Planning Ref.		
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	LE10 1QW
	Study Area	0.82 Ha
	Site Coordinates	SP 42849 94158
	Height OD	125-130
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	University of Leicester Archaeological Services
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority
	Project Design Originator	ULAS

	Project Manager	John Thomas		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Richard Huxley		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Developer		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	LCCM	LCCM	LCCM
	ID (Acc. No.)	XA141.2018	XA141.2018	XA141.2018
	Contents	Ceramics Metal	Images/raster Digital photography Spreadsheets Survey	Context sheet Drawing, Notebook, Photograph Plan Report Section
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature		
	Title	An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Holliers Walk, Hinckley, Leicestershire		
	Author	Huxley, R		
	Other bibliographic details			
	Date	2019		
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester		
	Description	A4 pdf		

ULAS  
University of Leicester  
University Road  
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel:0116 252 2848  
Fax: 0116 252 2614

Email: [ulas@le.ac.uk](mailto:ulas@le.ac.uk)

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UNIVERSITY OF  
**LEICESTER**

### Archaeological Services

University of Leicester  
University Road  
Leicester LE1 7RH  
UK

Directors

**Dr Richard Buckley** OBE BA PhD FSA MCifA

**e:** [rjb16@le.ac.uk](mailto:rjb16@le.ac.uk)

**t:** +44 (0)116 252 2848

**f:** +44 (0)116 252 2614

**e:** [ulas@le.ac.uk](mailto:ulas@le.ac.uk)

