

**An Archaeological Evaluation at the
Queen's Head Hotel, Morpeth,
Northumberland**



Sandstone wall footings within Trench 1.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Name: An Archaeological Evaluation at the Queen's Head Hotel, Morpeth, Northumberland

Site Code: QU16

Planning Authority: Northumberland County Council

Geology: Pennine Middle Coal Measures overlain by undifferentiated River Terrace deposits of gravel, sand and silt

NGR: NZ 19869 85912

Date of Fieldwork: October 2016

Date of Report: November 2016

In October 2016 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Crafted Projects to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the Queen's Head Hotel, Morpeth. The evaluation was carried out at the pre-determination stage of a planning application (16/02233/FUL) to redevelop the hotel. The proposed development would involve the demolition of the existing buildings, while retaining the façade, and the erection of a new five storey building incorporating a 43-bedroom hotel, a bar/restaurant, a tea room unit, a 400-person event hall, a spa, a covered car park and a servicing area.

A Heritage Statement of the Queen's Head Hotel carried out in 2015 (Scott and Lothingington 2016) identified that the hotel has a core dating back to the late 18th to early 19th century, with later additions. A 17th century over mantle, present within the western rear wing, could indicate that the hotel contains further 17th century fabric.

There is the potential for the site to contain unknown buried archaeological remains relating to the medieval town of Morpeth such as burgage plots and associated features and deposits.

The archaeological evaluation consisted initially of three excavated trenches:

- Trench 1: 15m x 2m aligned east to west at the southern extent of the car park.*
- Trench 2: 15m x 2m aligned north to south running down the centre of the car park.*
- Trench 3: 2m x 1m aligned north to south and located within the covered walkway which bisects the Queen's Head Hotel through the middle, towards the building frontage.*

Within Trench 1, the sandstone foundations of the inner walls of two barn buildings, identified on historic maps from 1852, were encountered. In addition there was a shallow pit containing broken clay tobacco pipe stems which possibly date to the mid-17th century. The fill of this pit is believed to be a discarded hearth deposit, and pre-dates the barns.

Trench 2 was found to contain a sandstone-lined culverted drain running down its length with smaller off-shoot drains branching from it. A piece of pottery found within the culvert dates it to the mid-19th century. Additionally, the drain is represented on a plan of the site dating from 1852. Also within Trench 2 was a large midden pit with multiple fills. The upper fill of the pit produced bones of a red deer. It is possible that this

pit relates to the earliest phase of the Queen's Head Hotel when it was occupied by the Pye family.

Trench 3 was excavated within the covered walkway leading from Bridge Street in the north towards the back of the Queen's Head Hotel. The aim of the trench was to locate the original, medieval street frontage. However, a number of services were encountered within the trench which made it unsafe to continue excavation.

A further trench (Trench 3b) was excavated at a later date within the interior of the western wing at the northern extent. Excavation of this trench was carried out due to the unsuccessfulness of the previous Trench 3. Due to a high number of services within the building exterior, Trench 3b was excavated by hand through the modern concrete floor surface. Beneath this was a 19th century brick floor surface overlying a number of levelling deposits. Beneath these deposits was brown subsoil and then gravel natural.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2016 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Crafted Projects to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the Queen's Head Hotel, Morpeth. The evaluation was carried out at the pre-determination stage of a planning application (16/02233/FUL) to redevelop the hotel. The proposed development would involve the demolition of the majority of the current buildings and can be summarised as including the following:

Demolition of existing building(s) (with some retention of facades) and erection of new five storey building incorporating 43-bedroom hotel, bar/restaurant, tea room unit, 400-person event hall (with associated kitchen and storage), spa, covered car park, and servicing area.

1.2 A Heritage Statement of the Queen's Head Hotel was conducted by ARS Ltd in April 2015, revised in 2016 (Scott and Lotherington 2016), which identified that the hotel has a core dating back to the late 18th to early 19th century, with later additions. A 17th century over mantle, present within the western rear wing, could indicate that the hotel contains further 17th century fabric.

1.3 In addition, there is the potential for the proposed development area (PDA) to contain unknown buried archaeological remains relating to the medieval town of Morpeth. The long, narrow shape of the PDA boundary suggests that it respects the earlier, medieval burgrave plots that would have once lined Bridge Street. Therefore it is possible that evidence of these burgrave plots, as well as feature associated with them, such as structures and pits, still exists below ground. Furthermore, it is also possible that evidence relating to the medieval street frontage exists, towards the northern extent of the PDA, beneath the current building frontage. Previous investigations within Morpeth have been unsuccessful in locating much evidence of the medieval town although it is known to have developed during this period.

1.4 The Northumberland Core Strategy has a number of policies which are relevant to this archaeological evaluation:

Policy	Name	Description
C40	Archaeological Remains	The Council will not permit development which would be detrimental to regionally or locally important archaeological sites or their settings unless the proposed development is of overriding regional importance and no alternative site is available.
C41	Archaeological Remains	Where the impact of a development proposal on an archaeological site, or the relative importance of such a site is unclear, the council will require the developer to provide further information in the form of an archaeological assessment and, where appropriate, an archaeological evaluation. Applications for planning permission will not be determined until adequate assessment of the impact of proposals on the archaeological site and its setting has been carried out.

Policy	Name	Description
C42	Archaeological Remains	Where the council decides to grant planning permission for development which will affect sites known to contain archaeological remains, and preservation in situ is not appropriate, such permission may be subject to a condition or an agreement requiring the developer to make provision for the excavation and recording of the remains and publication of the findings.

Table 1. Northumberland Core Strategy policies relevant to this evaluation.

1.5 Based on the requirements of the Core Strategy, the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council commented:

‘In this instance it will not be necessary to undertake a full archaeological desk-based assessment; the Heritage Statement already includes a suite of historic maps and the existing EUS provides a detailed overview of the archaeological potential of the site and surrounding area. Instead, the assessment should take the form of a programme of archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) based on the excavation of archaeological trial trenches at agreed locations to sample the development site. The exercise should also be informed by the results of previous programmes of archaeological work within the historic core of the town. Whilst the site is currently occupied by the existing buildings, it will be possible to agree the scope of an appropriate assessment exercise which could be undertaken prior to the demolition of the existing buildings.’

2. SITE LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The ‘red line boundary’ of the PDA is outlined in Figure 1. Morpeth is located 10.6km to the west of the Northumberland coast and 21.9km north-north-west of Newcastle. The site is centred at NZ 19869 85912 within the Morpeth Conservation area and is bordered to the north by Bridge Street, and to the south by Whalebone Lane. The PDA is bounded to the east by a commercial building and to the west by a passageway that leads from Bridge Street.

2.2 The PDA occupies a rectangular portion of land, orientated north to south, running from Bridge Street in the north towards Whalebone Lane in the south. The northern side of the PDA is occupied by the current Queen’s Head Hotel buildings, while the southern extent is occupied by a car park.

2.3 The solid geology of the PDA comprises mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures formation overlain by undifferentiated river terrace deposits of gravel, sand and silt (BGS 2016).

3. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The following historical and archaeological background has been taken from the Heritage Statement which was produced in April 2015 (Scott and Lotherington 2016).

3.2 Prehistoric period

3.2.1 Evidence of early prehistoric activity in Morpeth is relatively limited and confined to the recovery of a Langdale Neolithic axe head from an allotment at Loansdene in 1959 (HER 11703) and a Bronze Age cist with inhumation burial at Clifton Lodge (HER11122) (Parker 2004).

3.2.2 Later prehistoric occupation of Morpeth is also limited. The town lies within a relatively densely populated Iron Age landscape of unenclosed and enclosed Mid-Late Iron Age settlements. Examples include late prehistoric settlements at Highhouse Dean (HER11083), Pegswood Moor and St Georges Hospital, the latter site located approximately 800m north-east of Bridge Street (Parker 2004, Proctor 2009).

3.3 Romano-British period

3.3.1 The evidence for Roman military and civilian presence in the north of England is well known and includes Hadrian's Wall and its associated structures and infrastructure. Similarly, rural settlements, such as those at St Georges Hospital and Pegswood, must have been producing considerable quantities of agricultural produce for consumption by the Roman army. However, the only evidence for Roman activity taking place within the centre of Morpeth is restricted to the recovery of a copper-alloy button and loop fastener, from a horse harness, found by metal detectorists at Coopies Lane (HER 11562; NDC 2010).

3.4 Medieval period

3.4.1 There is no direct documentary or archaeological evidence for pre-Norman conquest settlement within Morpeth. However, the etymology of the name Morpeth, meaning 'town on the path over the moor' may suggest that the origins of the town lay as a small, earlier medieval, settlement centred on a ford across the River Wansbeck (Hodgson 1832).

3.4.2 Subsequent medieval settlement of Morpeth is divided between two phases. Initially activity was concentrated to the south of the River Wansbeck with the construction on Ha Hill of the early Motte and Bailey Castle by William de Merlay, 1st Baron of Morpeth in 1095. The second settlement north of the Wansbeck was established following the granting of a borough charter, granting rights and privileges to the town, in 1188.

3.4.3 The later medieval core Morpeth developed from the northern settlement and was centred on the market place (HER 11201) with Newgate Street (HER11206), Bridge Street (HER 11204) and Oldgate Street (HER 11205) radiating northwards, eastwards and westwards from this location respectively.

3.4.4 Bridge Street was originally referred to as Brygestreet or Briggate and tenements fronting onto it are recorded in documents from 1465 (Hodgson 1832). A 16th century land deed also mentions a burgage in 'Bryge-street' extending from 'the highway before to Fulbeck behind' (Hodgson 1832).

3.4.5 John Woods 1826 town map of Morpeth depicts a series of narrow, north-south aligned, plots of land fronting onto Bridge Street, potentially demarcating the location of earlier medieval burgage plots (The Archaeological Practice 1998). The Queens Head

Hotel is located at the northern extent of a probable burgage plot fronting onto Bridge Street, immediately south-east of the market place.

3.4.6 Archaeological evidence for the medieval occupation of Morpeth is also surprisingly slight, potentially indicating that post-medieval and later Victorian development of the town may have truncated pre-existing medieval structures or deposits.

3.4.7 Medieval remains identified through archaeological intervention include the recovery of pottery fragments in a garden soil or agricultural deposit at Newgate Street; postholes identified during development of Damside; and a single fragment of unstratified medieval pottery recovered during a watching brief in Carlisle Park.

3.4.8 Archaeological evaluation at Davidsons Garage site in 2006 did not find any stratified medieval remains (The Archaeological Practice 1998 and 2006; Annis 2005). However, it should be noted that the medieval core of Morpeth is testified by both documentary and structural evidence, such as All Saints Chapel at the eastern extent of Bridge Street (HER 11533, Grade I). Consequently, it is not unreasonable to assume that densely stratified medieval deposits almost certainly survive throughout the medieval core of Morpeth, inclusive of Bridge Street.

3.5 Post-Medieval period

3.5.1 The descendants of William de Merlay governed Morpeth until it passed through marriage to the Greystoke family in the 13th century. The barony was again transferred by marriage to the Dacres in the 15th century and, in the late 16th century, to Elizabeth Dacre who married Lord William Howard, whose great-grandson, Charles Howard, was created the Earl of Carlisle in 1661. The Earls of Carlisle remained lords of the manor of Morpeth until the early 20th century (The Archaeological Practice 2006).

3.5.2 Limited evidence exists for a great deal of change to the layout of Morpeth, between the medieval and post-medieval period, with reference to Haiwardes 1604 map still depicting the principal street layout as centred upon Bridge Street and Newgate Street (The Archaeological Practice 1998). A fire in 1689 almost certainly caused the redevelopment and infill of some pre-existing burgage plots, a process partially illustrated on Woods 1826 map (The Archaeological Practice 2006). The town continued to expand throughout the 18th and 19th century with commercial businesses on Bridge Street continuing to develop in addition to the construction of a series of tanneries and mills associated with the boroughs expanding textiles industry (Finlayson and Hardie 2009).

3.5.3 The earliest date associated with the Queens Head Hotel comes from a timber fireplace in the first floor foyer that displays the coat of arms of the Pye family and is inscribed with the year 1656. The Pye family are central figures in the post-medieval history of Morpeth and are quoted as "...old and respectable inhabitants of the town" (Hodgson 1832). Hodgson indicates that the presence of the Pye coat of arms in the Queens Head Hotel, coupled with the dominant local presence maintained by the Pye family in Morpeth during the mid-17th century, would indicate that the property was a family possession at the date the fireplace surround was created.

3.5.4 Following the insertion of the timber fireplace surround, a lady of the family, Jane Pye was executed for witchcraft in 1658. Francis Pye later mortgaged the Queens Head Hotel to Susannah Bland in 1692. The hotel then passed, under conditions of redemption, to Robert Berwick who, in 1720, transferred full-ownership of the property to Thomas Pye. Thomas Pye himself passed the hotel to his daughter Elizabeth who married an army major George Monrose Esq in the mid-18th century and later conveyed the hotel to the Sunderland family who maintained ownership until the early 19th century (Hodgson 1832).

3.5.5 Although the earliest identifiable date associated with the hotel derives from the mid-17th century it is not unreasonable to assume that the property may have medieval antecedents predating ownership by the Pye family.

3.5.6 Hoggars 1852 map of Morpeth, Ordnance Survey mapping data and additional early 20th century photographic evidence indicate that the Queens Head continued to function as a hotel from the mid-19th century until present day.

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 Regional Research Aims and Objectives

4.1.1 The Extensive Urban Survey of Morpeth (Finlayson and Hardie 2009. 36-37, 39) sets out several research themes which may be addressed by the evaluation.

- ◆ When was a settlement established on the north side of the river?
- ◆ Has the street pattern to the north of the river remained constant?
- ◆ What evidence is there for surviving medieval structures within burgage properties?
- ◆ How extensive is post-medieval cellaring in the town?
- ◆ What evidence is there for crafts, industry and trade within these areas?
- ◆ What archaeological evidence is there for the lifestyle of the population over the 17th and 18th centuries?

4.2 Project Aims and Objectives

4.2.1 The archaeological evaluation trenching will aim to:

- ◆ establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character and date of any archaeological deposits within the area affected by invasive development.
- ◆ gather sufficient evidence to establish, supplement, improve and make available information about the archaeological resource existing within the areas of investigation.

5. METHODOLOGY

5.1 Coverage

5.1.1 The archaeological evaluation consisted of four excavated trenches:

- Trench 1: 15m x 2m aligned east to west at the southern extent of the car park.
- Trench 2: 15m x 2m aligned north to south running down the centre of the car park.
- Trench 3a: 2m x 1m aligned north to south and located within the covered walkway which bisects the Queen's Head Hotel through the middle, towards the building frontage.
- Trench 3b: c.0.5 x 0.5m hand dug within interior of western wing at northern extent

5.1.2 Indicative locations of the trial trenches were agreed with the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council as sufficient to cover the proposed works. However, it was agreed that locations could be revised following consultation with the Assistant County Archaeologist.

6. RESULTS

6.1 Trench 1

6.1.1 A service scan using a CAT located services at the western end of where Trench 1 was to be located and it was shortened so as to avoid this area. A drain was also known to run from north to south through the middle of the car park so the trench was split in two with the central area remaining unexcavated. The western portion of the trench measured 3.5 x 2m while the eastern portion of the trench measured 6 x 2m. The trench, in its two parts, was orientated from west-south-west to north-north-east (Figures 2 and 4).

6.1.2 Both the eastern and western portions of the trench were dug through the tarmac car park surface (101), the previous concrete surface beneath, (102), and through a deposit of demolition material containing broken bricks and tiles (103) (Figure 3). Beneath this demolition material was the previous topsoil deposit (108), overlying dark earthy subsoil (104) which was above yellow natural clay (107). Within the western portion of the trench a north-south orientated sandstone wall (105) was encountered running widthways across the trench (Figure 5). The wall only survived to one course high and had been bonded with a sandy mortar. The wall was 0.52m wide and constructed of roughly dressed sandstone blocks within a vertically sided cut [106]. The cut had been created through the topsoil (108), subsoil (104) and natural clay (107).

6.1.3 A similar sandstone wall foundation (111) was encountered within the eastern portion of Trench 1 on the same alignment as wall (105) (Figure 7). Wall (111) survived to a maximum of three courses high and was also bonded with sandy mortar and had been constructed using roughly dressed sandstone blocks. Wall (111) was sat within a vertically sided cut [112] that had been created through the topsoil (108), subsoil (104) and natural clay (107).

6.1.4 Also seen within the eastern portion of Trench 1 was part of a shallow pit, F109, which contained pieces of broken clay pipe, coal and broken sandstone (Figure 8). The

feature had a flat base and its fill was black. The full extent of the feature could not be ascertained as it continued beyond the limit of excavation.

6.2 Trench 2

6.2.1 Trench 2 was located centrally within the hotel car park running from north to south (Figure 2). The trench measured 16.3 x 2m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.84m. The trench was excavated through the car park tarmac (201), a previous concrete surface (202), and a clay levelling layer (203) (Figure 3). Discovered within the trench was a sandstone-lined culverted drain running from north to south down the centre with smaller culverts branching from it (Figure 9). The main stretch of the drain, (205), had been constructed using flat sandstone slabs with a 'V' shaped base and vertical sides. Internally the culvert measured 0.44m wide and was a maximum of 0.85m wide externally. The sides measured 0.4m high but the drain was 0.6m deep within the centre of the 'V' shaped base. The capstones measured, on average, 0.7m wide and 0.15m deep. There was no bonding material present between the stones. An east to west culvert, (204), was found at the northern extent of (205) while another branch, (206), was seen further to the south, also running from east to west. These two smaller culverts were constructed in the same way as the main stretch and are believed to be contemporary. The base of the culvert contained a finely-textured sediment that is thought to have accumulated naturally when the drain was in use. Above this was a deposit of silty clay that is believed to have accumulated within the drain once it had gone out of use (Figure 10). A smaller, later culvert, (212), was found running up to and joining the main north-south culvert (205) but had been constructed with brick sides (Figure 11). The bricks measured 12 x 24 x 7cm and were un-bonded.

6.2.2 Also encountered within Trench 2 was a large pit F215 (Figure 12). This pit contained three separate fills, (215), (216) and (217), the upper of which produced animal bone. The pit was located only partially within the trench and continued beyond the limit of excavation. The pit cut, [218], had steep sides and a flat base.

6.3 Trench 3a

6.3.1 Trench 3a was located within the covered carriageway which leads from Bridge Street at the north of the PDA to the car park at the rear (Figures 2, 4 and 14). A trench was excavated in this location in order to try and locate deposits associated with the original medieval street frontage. A service scan using a CAT located services either side of the carriageway so the trench was narrowed in order to avoid these. The trench measured 1.82 x 1m and was excavated through tarmac (301), concrete (302), bedding sand (303) and modern backfill deposits. Careful excavation revealed a further two services and therefore excavation was stopped at a depth of 0.58m and the trench was backfilled.

6.4 Trench 3b

6.4.1 Trench 3b was excavated within the northern extent of the western wing of the Queen's Head Hotel. An area of the wooden flooring measuring approximately 2 x 2m was sawn and lifted revealing a modern concrete surface beneath (320). A service scan using a CAT identified numerous potential services beneath the floor so, as a result, a small test pit measuring c.0.5 x 0.5m was dug by hand. A brick floor surface (321),

relating to an earlier phase of the Queen's Head Hotel, was found beneath the concrete. The floor had been constructed using handmade red bricks each measuring 23.5 x 11.5 x 5.5cm which appeared to have been laid in a herringbone pattern although it had sustained some damage, presumably due to the insertion of modern services. The brick floor had been laid on levelling deposits of grey/black clay (322), a layer of brown/red silt and mortar (323) and a layer of crushed mortar and large cobbles (324). Beneath these layers was brown silty clay subsoil (325) overlying natural sand and gravel (326) (Figure 15 and Figure 16).

7. SPECIALIST REPORTS

7.1 Animal bone analysis

By Milena Grzybowska

7.1.1 Context (216) produced four refitted fragments of a single bone. The proximal end of radius represented a red deer (*Cervus elaphus*). Due to incompleteness of the element no measurements were taken. Similarly, no butchery marks were observed, however these could have been obscured by poor surface preservation. The presence of red deer remains within a midden pit deposit may suggest localised hunting practices.

7.2 Pottery and Clay Tobacco Pipe

Dr Robin Holgate MCIfA, FSA

Pottery

7.2.1 One fragment of a blue-and-white transfer-printed earthenware plate of mid-19th century date was recovered from context (210).

Clay tobacco pipe

7.2.2 Four clay tobacco pipe stem fragments representing at least three clay pipes were recovered from context (109). The clay pipe fragments were examined visually: they have stem bores of 8/64" and weigh 19.2g. As no diagnostic features were present, they have been dated by established stem bore guidelines (Oswald 1975) to the mid-17th century, although this is intended only as a general guide.

Discussion

7.2.3 The finds are by no means unusual in any respect for an urban site of this nature. Parallels can be found at other sites of this nature in Northumberland. None of the finds require conservation or have any potential for further research and could, therefore, be returned to the landowner, archived or disposed of.

8. DISCUSSION

8.1 The sandstone wall foundations encountered within Trench 1 are the remains of the walls of the two barns that can be seen on the 1826 plan of the PDA, and were labelled as such on Robert Syer Hoggar's 1852 plan of the borough of Morpeth. The

barns were located at the southern extent of the site, south of the carriage sheds, and the walls within the trench are believed to be the eastern wall of the western barn (105) and the western wall of the eastern barn (111). By 1920 the eastern barn had been demolished although the western barn remained extant until 1949 when the southern area of the PDA was occupied by a large rectangular building, which was also later demolished (Scott and Lotherington 2016).

8.2 The shallow pit feature found and excavated within Trench 1 was filled with a very dark, coarse deposit containing coal waste. Also found within the pit were four pieces of broken clay pipe stem which have been dated by established stem bore guidelines (Oswald 1975) to the mid-17th century. It is probable that this waste deposit was associated with a previous use of the site, before the barns were constructed, and may be the discarded contents of a hearth.

8.3 It is possible that the large pit found within Trench 2 is a medieval midden pit which would have once been located within a burgage plot belonging to a dwelling on Bridge Street. However no pottery or diagnostic, dateable finds were recovered from within the feature. The animal bone recovered from the upper fill of the large pit belonged to a red deer. During the early medieval period it was prohibited for common people to hunt large game such as red deer and it did not, therefore, appear in their diets. This indicates that it is more likely that the midden pit was in use during the later medieval or early post-medieval period and could be contemporary with the earliest phase of the Queen's Head Hotel when it was owned by the Pye family. The Pye family were an important family within Morpeth and served as town bailiff for Morpeth throughout the late 16th and early 17th century (Scott and Lotherington 2016).

8.4 The sandstone culvert within Trench 2 has been dated to the 19th century, based on its construction and the recovery of a piece of 19th pottery from within the culvert itself. It was subsequently added to and altered at a later date by the insertion of the brick-lined culvert, (212). The boundary of the plot occupied by the Queen's Head Hotel is thought to respect the original medieval burgage plots, although it is probable that two plots once occupied the space. It is possible that the culvert was inserted into an existing drainage trench which once ran between the two, earlier burgage plots.

8.5 Robert Syer Hoggar's 1852 plan of the borough of Morpeth (Figure 17) shows a line running from north to south down the centre of the PDA and then heading in a south-south-easterly direction towards the River Wansbeck. Although the labels on the plan are faint and difficult to read, it appears that the line is labelled 'Drain'. This is almost certainly the culverted drain discovered during the evaluation and therefore concludes that the culvert was installed sometime prior to the mid-19th century. It is possible that the drain was visible within the yard at this time in order for it to have been included on the plan, although it is more likely that the plan was produced as part of a specific sewer and drain survey and that the location of the culvert was already known.

8.6 The excavation of Trench 3b revealed the deposit sequence beneath the building's frontage and demonstrates that a brick floor surface, relating to an earlier phase of the Queen's Head Hotel, still exists beneath the modern floor. The existence of natural deposits at a depth of 0.37m below the modern ground level indicate that

the level of disturbance beneath the hotel is not as severe as has been seen elsewhere in Morpeth; however levelling of the ground, represented by levelling deposits (322), (323) and (324), demonstrate that some degree of ground disturbance and truncation had occurred prior to the construction of the hotel which could have affected the survival of earlier archaeological remains.

9. PUBLICITY, CONFIDENTIALITY AND COPYRIGHT

9.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client.

9.2 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

10. STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY

10.1 All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

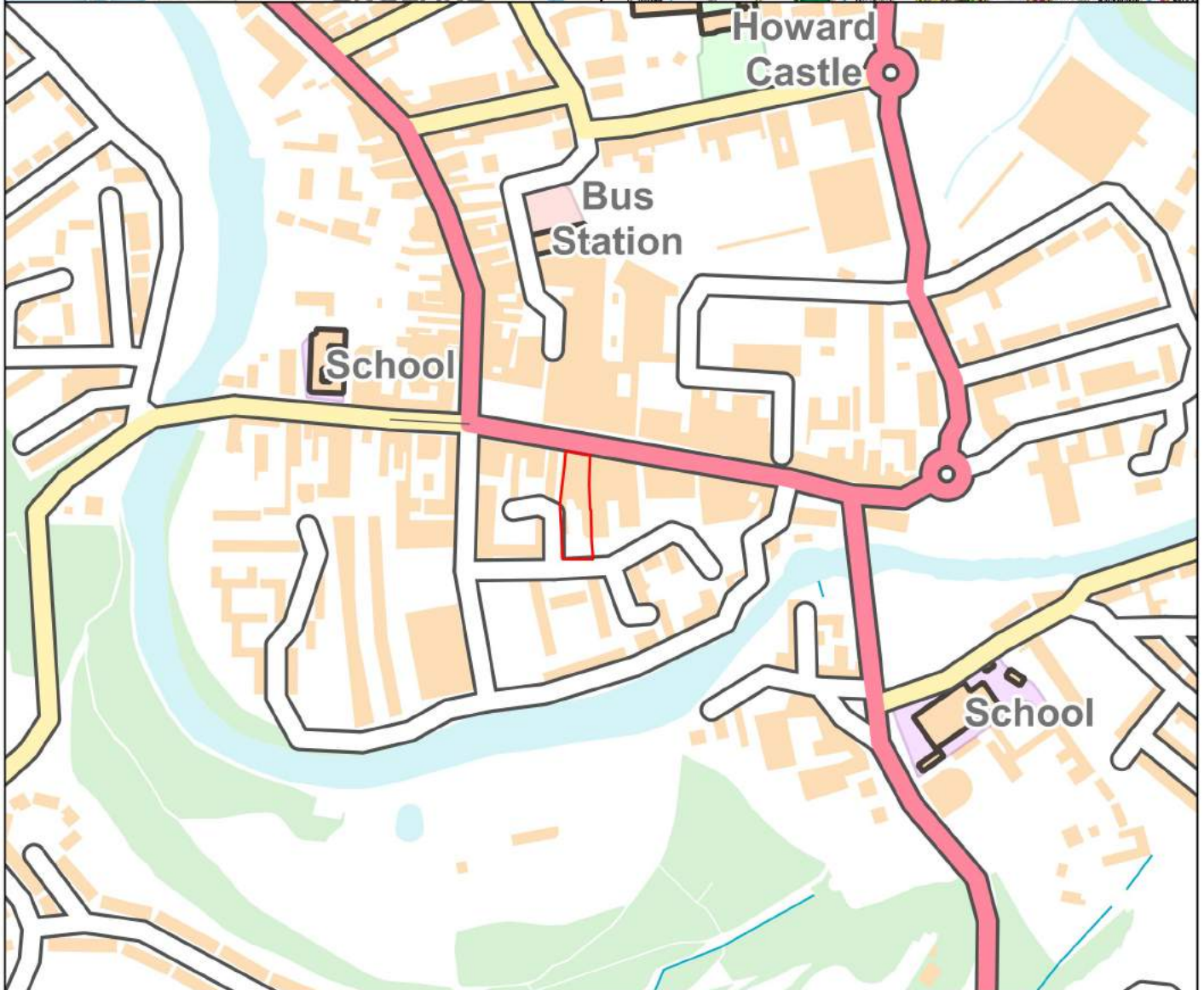
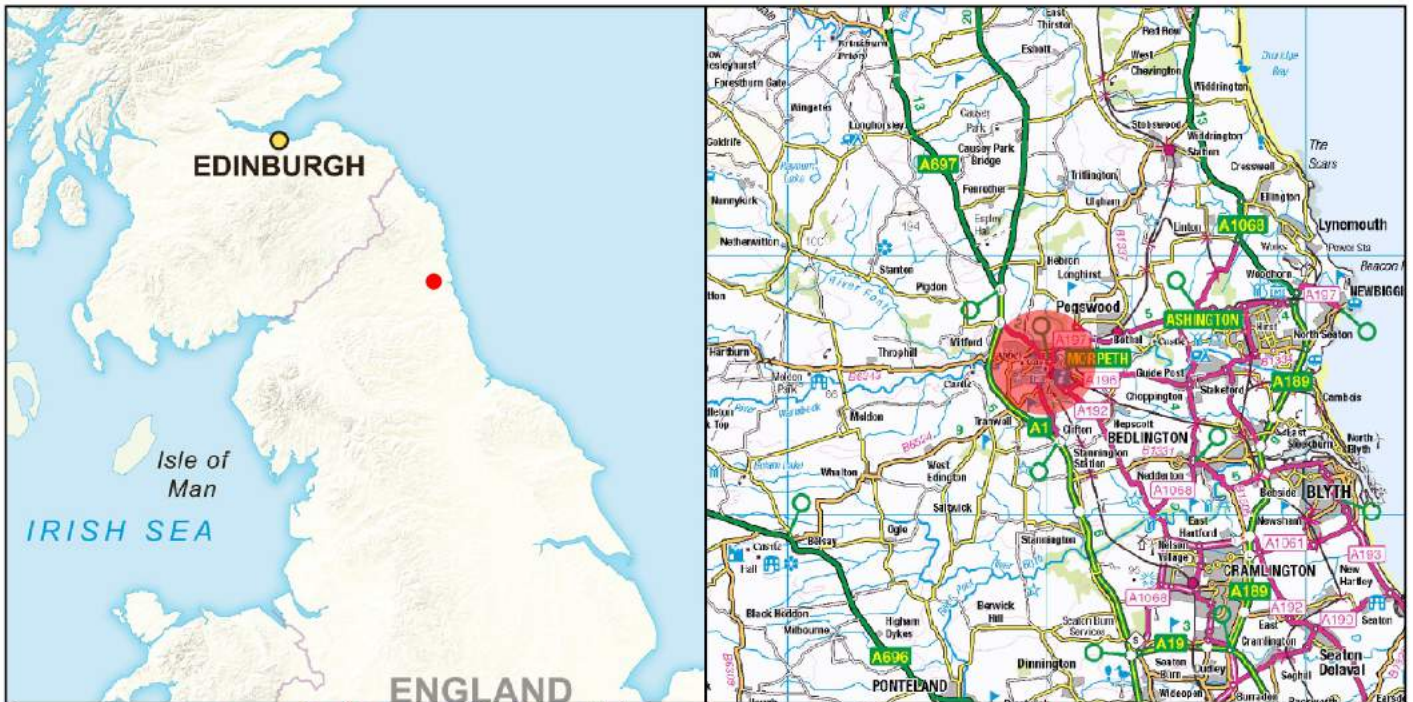
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APPENDIX I: FIGURES



Site name: The Queen's Head Hotel, Morpeth
 Date: November 2016
 Drawn by: PC
 Scale: Varies

Key:
 PDA



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Figure 1:
 Site location

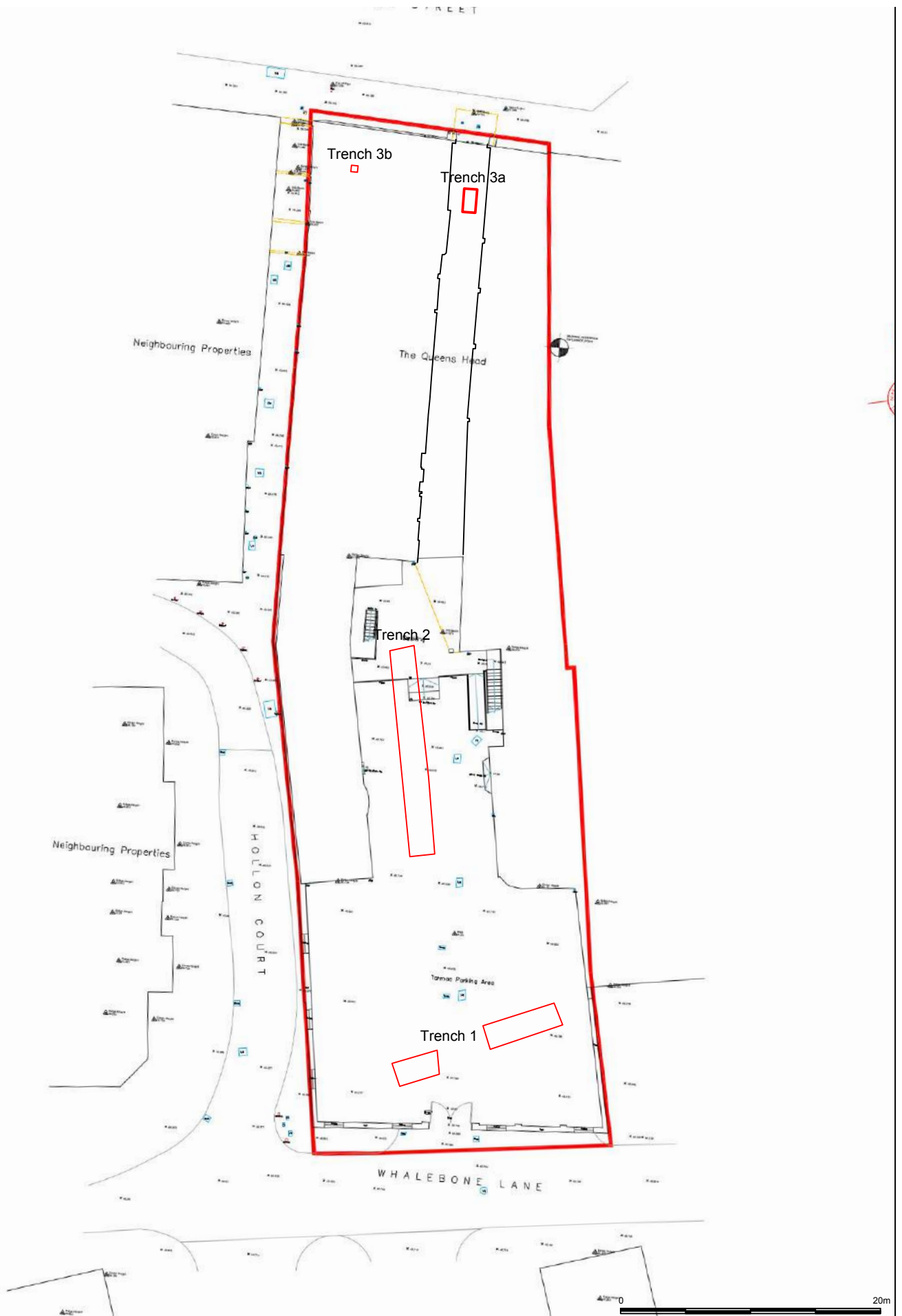


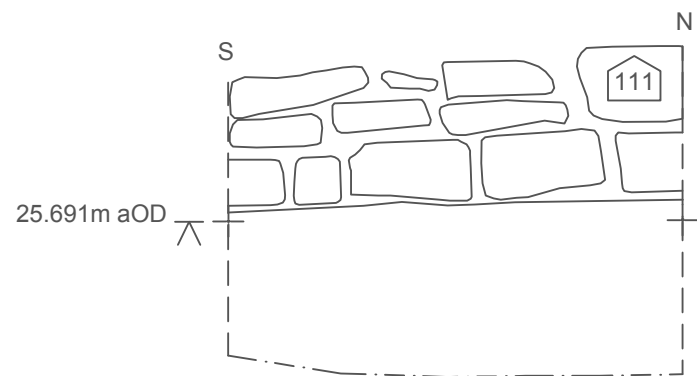
Figure 2:
 Site plan showing trench locations.
 Scale = 1:400 at A4

Key:

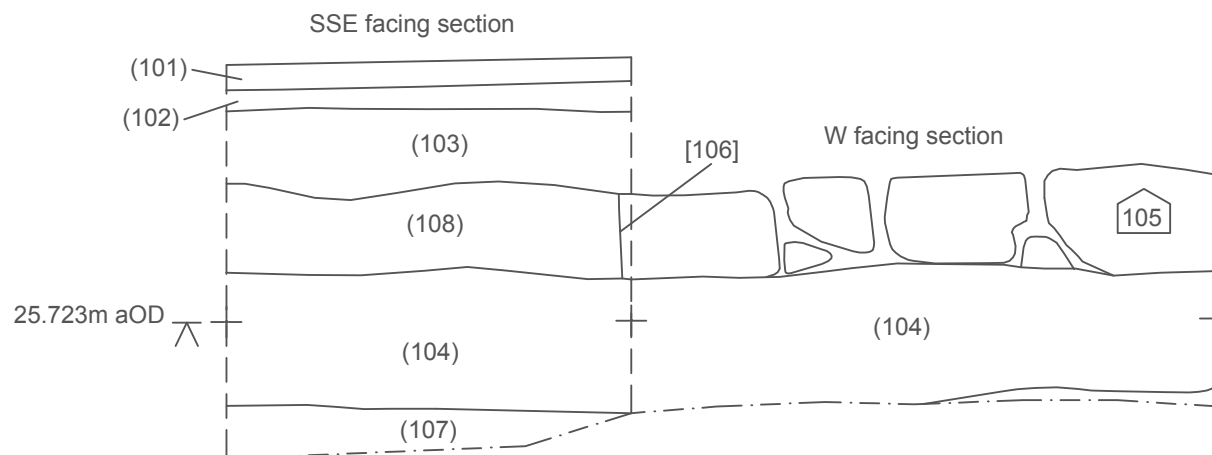


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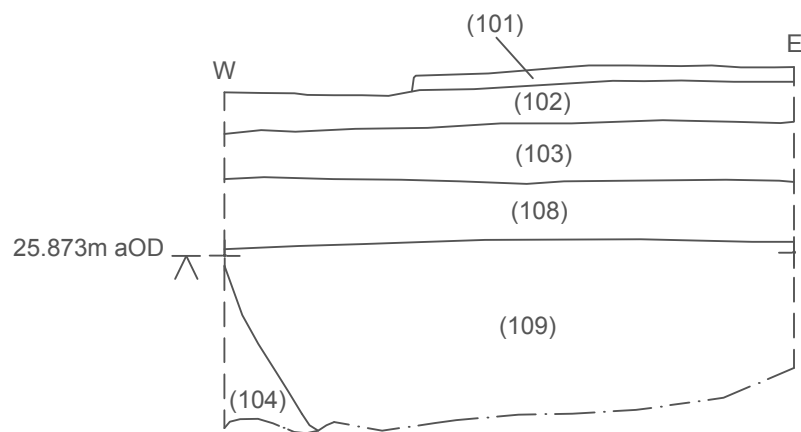
East facing section through wall (111) in Trench 1



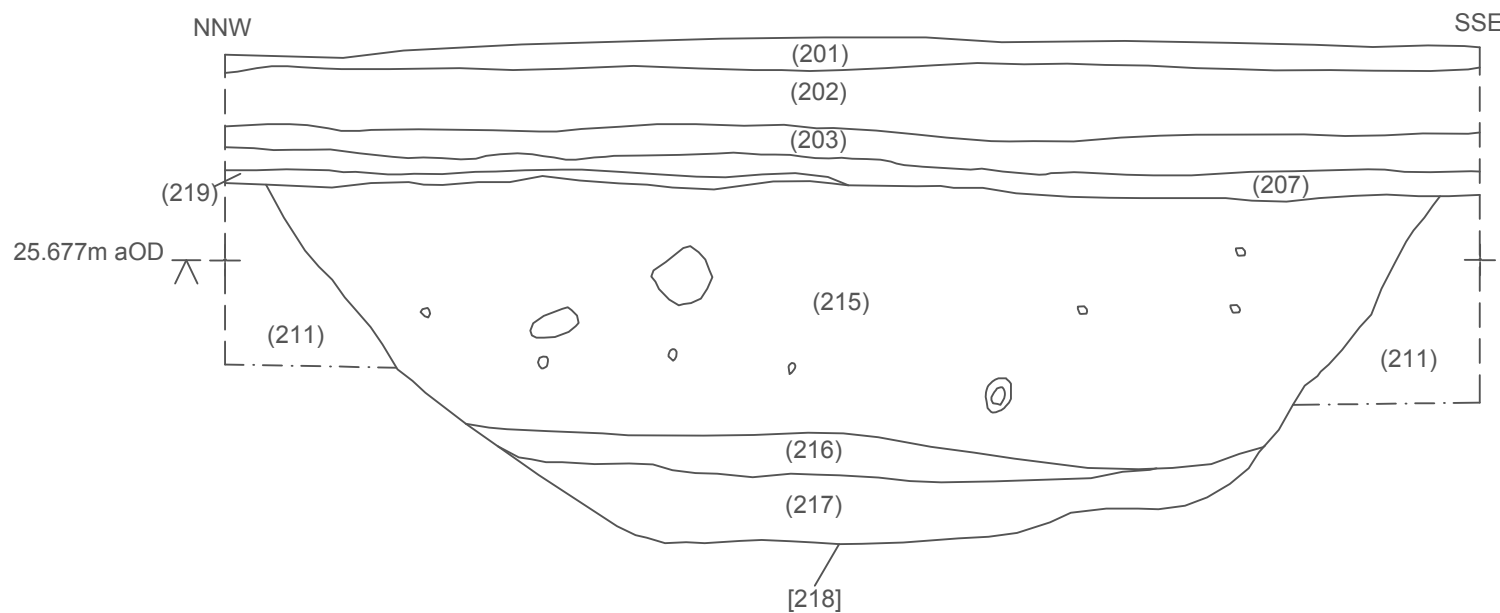
SSE and W facing section through western extent of Trench 1



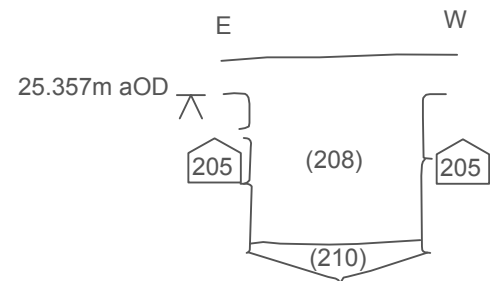
South facing section through (109), Trench 1



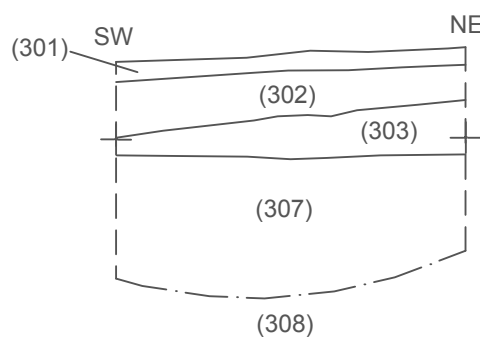
WSW facing section through modern pit (215), Trench 2



North facing section through culvert 205, Trench 2



East facing representative section of Trench 3a



East facing representative section of Trench 3b

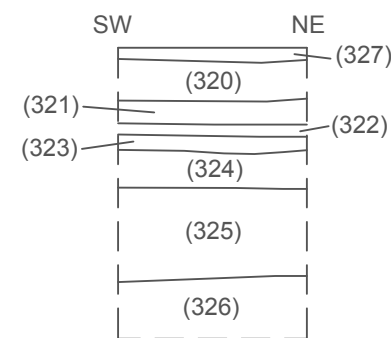


Figure 3:
Trench sections.
Scale = 1:20 at A3

Key:



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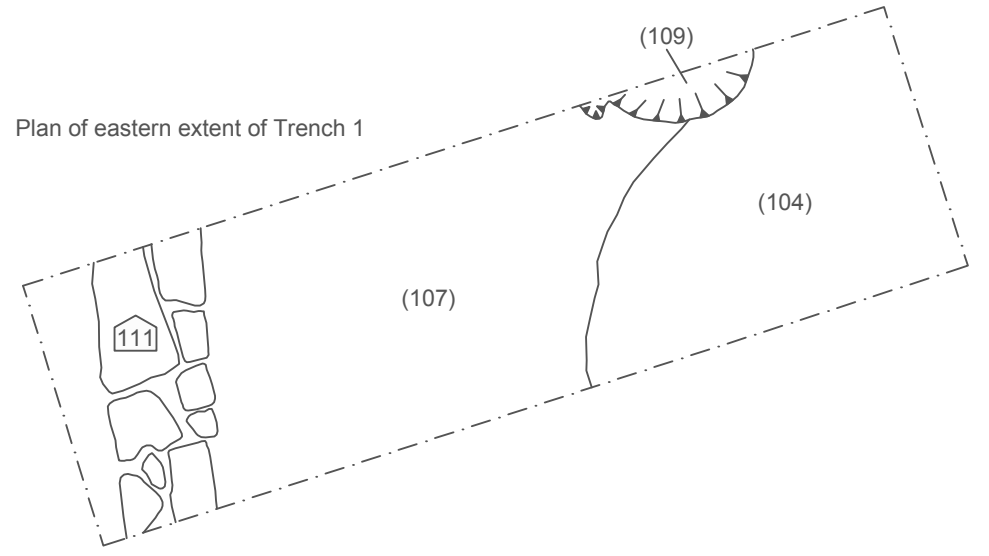
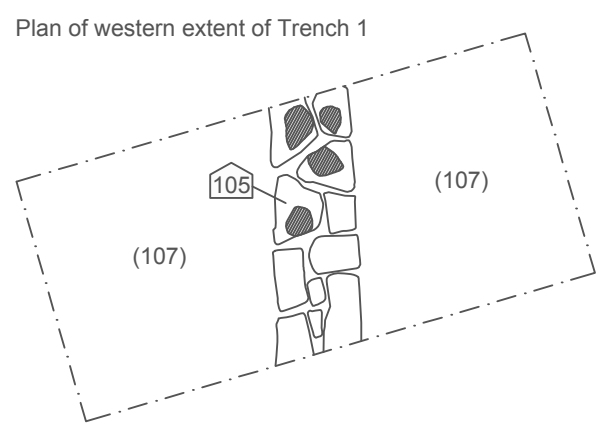
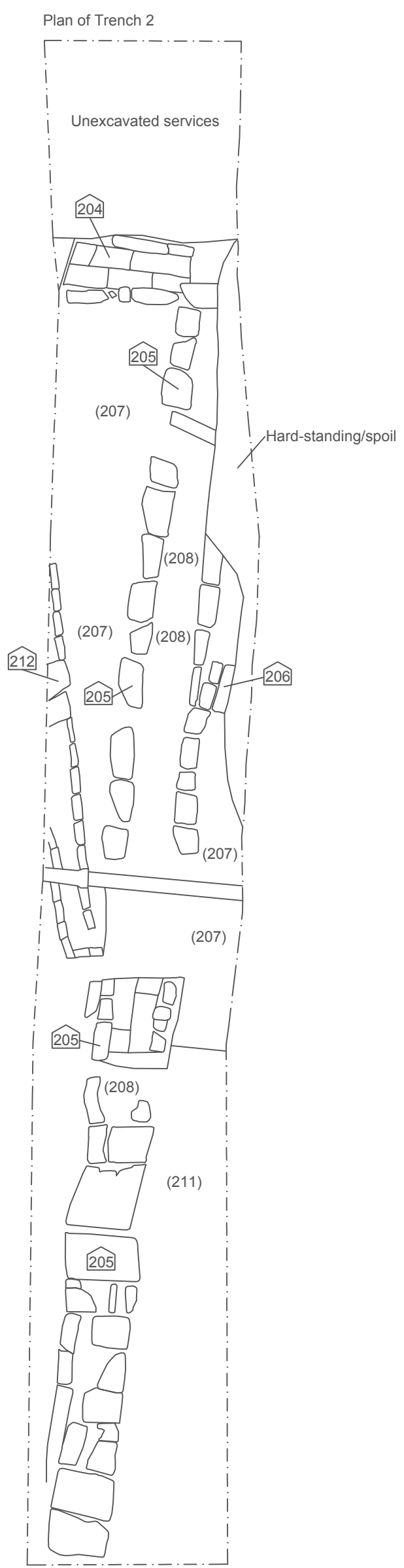


Figure 4:
Trench plans.
Scale = 1:50 at A3.

Key:



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Figure 5. Wall (105) within the western extent of Trench 1. Scale = 0.5m graduations.



Figure 6. South facing section of Trench 1. Scale = 0.5m graduations.



Figure 7. Wall (111) within the eastern extent of Trench 1. Scale = 0.5m graduations.



Figure 8. Eastern portion of Trench 1, looking north-west showing pit F109 on the right hand side. Scale = 0.5m graduations.



Figure 9. Stone-lined culverted drain looking north. Scale = 0.5m graduations.



Figure 10. Stone-lined culverted drain section showing deposits within.



Figure 11. Later inserted brick and stone lined drain (212). Scale = 0.5m graduations.



Figure 12. Pit F215 within Trench 2, looking north-east. Scale = 0.5m graduations.



Figure 13. Trench 2, looking north showing the base of stone-lined culvert 9205 and pit (215). Scale = 0.5m graduations.



Figure 14. Trench 3a, looking south. Scale = 1cm graduations.



Figure 15. Trench 3b.



Figure 16. Deposit sequence within Trench 3b including remains of brick floor. Scale = 0.5m.

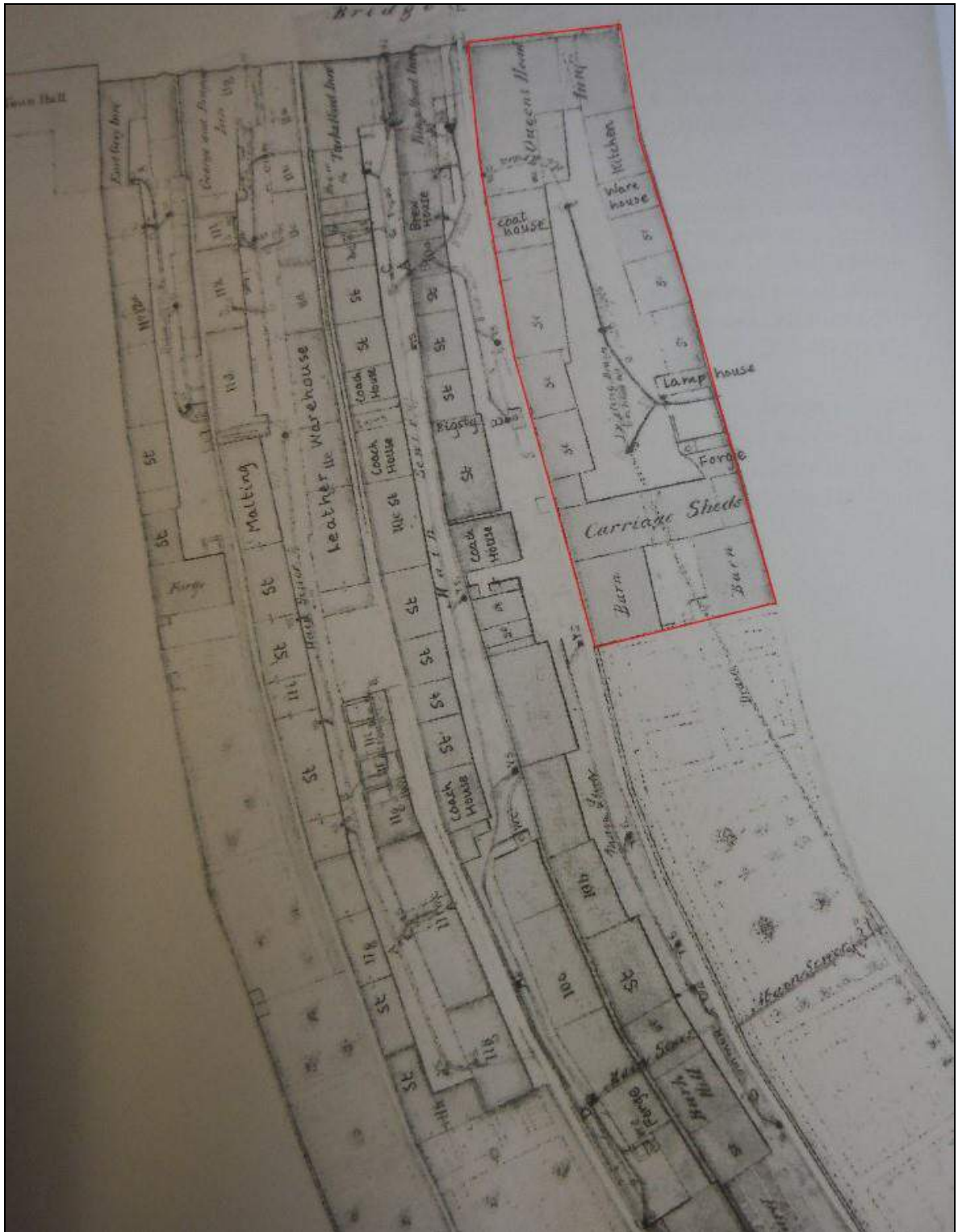


Figure 17. Robert Syer Hoggar's 1852 plan of the borough of Morpeth.

APPENDIX II: CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLE

An Archaeological Evaluation at the Queen's Head Hotel, Morpeth, Northumberland

Context	Type/Interpretation	Description / Processual Interpretation	Thickness/extent (feature = length x width x depth)	Depth to top (BGL)
101	Surface	Modern tarmac car park surface	0.06m deep	0m
102	Surface	Previous concrete car park surface	0.1m deep	0.06m
103	Deposit	Demolition deposit of crushed brick and tile	0.25m deep	0.12m
104	Subsoil	Dark sandy loam subsoil	0.55m deep	0.56m
105	Structure	Sandstone wall foundation	0.52m wide	0.34m
106	Cut	Linear cut for wall (105)	0.52m wide	-
107	Natural geology	Yellow natural clay	-	1.03m
108	Topsoil	Previous topsoil deposit	0.16m deep	0.35m
109	Fill	Black, coarse fill of pit feature	1.5m wide x 0.4m deep	0.46m
110	Cut	Cut of F109	1.5m wide x 0.4m deep	-
111	Structure	Sandstone wall foundation	0.66m wide	0.1m
112	Cut	Linear cut for wall (111)	0.66m wide	-
201	Surface	Modern tarmac car park surface	0.02m deep	0m
202	Surface	Previous concrete car park surface	0.15m deep	0.09m
203	Deposit	Brown clay levelling deposit	0.1m deep	0.24m
204	Structure	Sandstone-lined culverted drain E-W	0.7m wide x 0.2m high	0.39m
205	Structure	Sandstone-lined culverted drain N-S	0.85m wide x 0.4m high	0.39m
206	Structure	Sandstone-lined culverted drain E-W	0.5m wide	0.39m
207	Deposit	Black clay containing clinker	0.06m	0.35m
208	Fill	Brown/grey silty clay filling culverts	0.5m	0.4m
209	Cut	Cut for culverts	-	-
210	Fill	Natural silting deposit within culverts	0.2m deep	-
211	Deposit	Yellow natural sand	-	0.36m
212	Structure	Brick and sandstone culverted drain	0.5m wide	0.5m
213	Cut	Cut for culvert F212	0.5m wide	-
214	Fill	Natural silting deposit within culvert F212	0.2m deep	-
215	Fill	Upper sandy clay fill of large pit F215	3m wide x 0.55m deep	0.39m
216	Fill	Secondary fill of large pit F215	1.3m wide x 0.14m deep	1.06m
217	Fill	Primary fill of large pit F215	2.1m wide x 0.23m deep	1.16m
218	Cut	Large, steep-sided cut of F215	3m wide x 0.9m deep	-

An Archaeological Evaluation at the Queen's Head Hotel, Morpeth, Northumberland

Context	Type/Interpretation	Description / Processual Interpretation	Thickness/extent (feature = length x width x depth)	Depth to top (BGL)
219	Deposit	Redeposited natural sand sealing pit F215	5.3m wide x 0.03m deep	0.32m
220	Fill	Very dark grey sandy clay backfill within construction cut for culverts [209]	0.2m wide	0.39m
301	Surface	Modern tarmac surface	0.04m deep	0m
302	Surface	Previous concrete car park surface	0.08m deep	0.04m
303	Deposit	Brown sand	0.07m deep	0.14m
304	VOID			
305	Fill	Fill of modern cable trench	0.27m wide	0.3m
306	Cut	Cut for modern cable trench	0.27m wide	-
307	Deposit	Brown sand and gravel	0.3m deep	0.28m
308	Fill	Pea gravel filling gas pipe trench	-	0.64m
320	Floor	Internal concrete floor surface	0.1m deep	0.03m
321	Floor	Brick floor	0.07m deep	0.13m
322	Deposit	Grey ash and clay deposit	0.05m deep	0.2m
323	Deposit	Brown mortar deposit	0.02m deep	0.25m
324	Deposit	Large cobbles amongst mortar	0.1m deep	0.26m
325	Deposit	Subsoil	0.25m deep	0.51m
326	Deposit	Natural gravel geology	0.15m deep	0.66m
327	Floor	Wooden floor above (320)	0.03m deep	0m

APPENDIX III: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

The Queen's Head Hotel, Morpeth, Northumberland

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation

October 2016



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The Eco Centre, Windmill Way, Hebburn, Tyne and Wear

www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

Prepared on behalf of: Easteye Ltd

Date of compilation: October 2016

Compiled by: Philippa Cockburn ACIfA and
Reuben Thorpe MCIfA

Planning Reference: 16/02233/FUL

Local Authority: Northumberland County
Council

Site central NGR: NZ 19869 85912

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and Planning Background

1.1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) on behalf of Easteye Ltd (the client). It details a scheme of works for archaeological evaluation which will help in determining the outcome of planning application (16/02233/FUL) for the demolition and redevelopment of the Queen's Head Hotel, Morpeth (NGR NZ 19869 85912). The proposed development will involve:

Demolition of existing building(s) (with some retention of facades) and erection of new five storey building incorporating 43-bedroom hotel, bar/restaurant, tea room unit, 400-person event hall (with associated kitchen and storage), spa, covered car park, and servicing area.

1.1.2 The client commissioned a Heritage Statement in April 2015 (Scott and Lotherington 2016) and this identified that the Queen's Head Hotel, which is a non-designated heritage asset, has a core which dates back to the late 18th to early 19th century with later additions, although a 17th century over mantle, present within the western rear wing, may indicate further 17th century fabric is present (Scott and Lotherington 2016).

1.1.3 There is the potential for unknown buried archaeological remains relating to the medieval town of Morpeth to exist within the car park to the rear of the Queen's Head Hotel. The long, narrow shape of the PDA boundary suggests that it respects the earlier, medieval burgage plots that would have once lined Bridge Street. Therefore it is possible that evidence of these burgage plots, as well as features associated with them, such as structures and pits, still exists below ground. Furthermore, it is also possible that evidence relating to the medieval street frontage exists, towards the northern extent of the PDA, beneath the current building frontage.

1.1.4 Archaeology is a material consideration in the planning process within *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) Paragraph 128 (DCLG 2012).

1.1.5 In addition Northumberland Core Strategy has been the subject of a recent review though proposed changes to the Core Strategy are, at time of writing, yet to implemented. Therefore the Castle Morpeth Local Plan (2003) remains in force and has the following policies relevant to the current assessment.

Policy	Name	Description
C40	Archaeological Remains	The Council will not permit development which would be detrimental to regionally or locally important archaeological sites or their settings unless the proposed development is of overriding regional importance and no alternative site is available.



Policy	Name	Description
C41	Archaeological Remains	Where the impact of a development proposal on an archaeological site, or the relative importance of such a site is unclear, the council will require the developer to provide further information in the form of an archaeological assessment and, where appropriate, an archaeological evaluation. Applications for planning permission will not be determined until adequate assessment of the impact of proposals on the archaeological site and its setting has been carried out.
C42	Archaeological Remains	Where the council decides to grant planning permission for development which will affect sites known to contain archaeological remains, and preservation in situ is not appropriate, such permission may be subject to a condition or an agreement requiring the developer to make provision for the excavation and recording of the remains and publication of the findings.

1.1.6 Based on the information gathered and provided in the Heritage Statement, the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council comments:

‘In this instance it will not be necessary to undertake a full archaeological desk-based assessment; the Heritage Statement already includes a suite of historic maps and the existing EUS provides a detailed overview of the archaeological potential of the site and surrounding area. Instead, the assessment should take the form of a programme of archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) based on the excavation of archaeological trial trenches at agreed locations to sample the development site. The exercise should also be informed by the results of previous programmes of archaeological work within the historic core of the town. Whilst the site is currently occupied by the existing buildings, it will be possible to agree the scope of an appropriate assessment exercise which could be undertaken prior to the demolition of the existing buildings.’

1.2 Site description

1.2.1 The ‘red line boundary’ of the PDA is outlined in Figure 1. The site is centred at NZ 19869 85912 within the Morpeth Conservation area and is bordered to the north by Bridge Street, and to the south by Whalebone Lane. The PDA is bounded to the east by a commercial building and to the west by a passageway that leads from Bridge Street.

1.2.2 The PDA occupies a rectangular portion of land, orientated north to south, running from Bridge Street in the north towards Whalebone Lane in the south. The northern side of the PDA is occupied by the current Queen’s Head Hotel buildings, while the southern extent is occupied by a car park.

1.3 Geology



1.3.1 The solid geology of the PDA comprises mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures formation overlain by undifferentiated river terrace deposits of gravel, sand and silt (BGS 2016).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

2.1 Evidence of early prehistoric activity in Morpeth is relatively limited and confined to the recovery of a Langdale Neolithic axe head from an allotment at Loansdene in 1959 (HER 11703) and a Bronze Age cist with inhumation burial at Clifton Lodge (HER11122) (Parker 2004).

2.2 Later prehistoric occupation of Morpeth is also limited. The town lies within a relatively densely populated Iron Age landscape of unenclosed and enclosed Mid-Late Iron Age settlements. Examples include late prehistoric settlements at Highhouse Dean (HER11083), Pegswood Moor and St Georges Hospital, the latter site located approximately 800m north-east of Bridge Street (Parker 2004, Proctor 2009).

Romano-British

2.3 The evidence for Roman military and civilian presence in the north of England is well known and includes Hadrian's Wall and its associated structures and infrastructure. Similarly, rural settlements, such as those at St Georges Hospital and Pegswood, must have been producing considerable quantities of agricultural produce for consumption by the Roman army. However, the only evidence for Roman activity taking place within the centre of Morpeth is restricted to the recovery of a copper-alloy button and loop fastener, from a horse harness, found by metal detectorists at Coopies Lane (HER 11562; NDC 2010).

Medieval

2.4 There is no direct documentary or archaeological evidence for pre-Norman conquest settlement within Morpeth. However, the etymology of the name Morpeth, meaning 'town on the path over the moor' may suggest that the origins of the town lay as a small, earlier medieval, settlement centred on a ford across the River Wansbeck (Hodgson 1832).

2.5 Subsequent medieval settlement of Morpeth is divided between two phases. Initially activity was concentrated to the south of the River Wansbeck with the construction on Ha Hill of the early Motte and Bailey Castle by William de Merlay, 1st Baron of Morpeth in 1095. The second settlement north of the Wansbeck was established following the granting of a borough charter, granting rights and privileges to the town, in 1188.

2.6 The later medieval core Morpeth developed from the northern settlement and was centred on the market place (HER 11201) with Newgate Street (HER11206), Bridge Street (HER 11204) and Oldgate Street (HER 11205) radiating northwards, eastwards and westwards from this location respectively.



2.7 Bridge Street was originally referred to as Brygestreet or Briggate and tenements fronting onto it are recorded in documents from 1465 (Hodgson 1832). A 16th century land deed also mentions a burgage in 'Bryge-street' extending from 'the highway before to Fulbeck behind' (Hodgson 1832).

2.8 John Woods 1826 town map of Morpeth depicts a series of narrow, north-south aligned, plots of land fronting onto Bridge Street, potentially demarcating the location of earlier medieval burgage plots (The Archaeological Practice 1998). The Queens Head Hotel is located at the northern extent of a probable burgage plot fronting onto Bridge Street, immediately south-east of the market place.

2.9 Archaeological evidence for the medieval occupation of Morpeth is also surprisingly slight, potentially indicating that post-medieval and later Victorian development of the town may have truncated pre-existing medieval structures or deposits.

2.10 Medieval remains identified through archaeological intervention include the recovery of pottery fragments in a garden soil or agricultural deposit at Newgate Street; postholes identified during development of Damside; and a single fragment of unstratified medieval pottery recovered during a watching brief in Carlisle Park.

2.11 Archaeological evaluation at Davidsons Garage site in 2006 did not find any stratified medieval remains (The Archaeological Practice 1998 and 2006; Annis 2005). However, it should be noted that the medieval core of Morpeth is testified by both documentary and structural evidence, such as All Saints Chapel at the eastern extent of Bridge Street (HER 11533, Grade I). Consequently, it is not unreasonable to assume that densely stratified medieval deposits almost certainly survive throughout the medieval core of Morpeth, inclusive of Bridge Street.

Post-Medieval

2.12 The descendants of William de Merlay governed Morpeth until it passed through marriage to the Greystoke family in the 13th century. The barony was again transferred by marriage to the Dacres in the 15th century and, in the late 16th century, to Elizabeth Dacre who married Lord William Howard, whose great-grandson, Charles Howard, was created the Earl of Carlisle in 1661. The Earls of Carlisle remained lords of the manor of Morpeth until the early 20th century (The Archaeological Practice 2006).

2.13 Limited evidence exists for a great deal of change to the layout of Morpeth, between the medieval and post-medieval period, with reference to Haiwardes 1604 map still depicting the principal street layout as centred upon Bridge Street and Newgate Street (The Archaeological Practice 1998). A fire in 1689 almost certainly caused the redevelopment and infill of some pre-existing burgage plots, a process partially illustrated on Woods 1826 map (The Archaeological Practice 2006). The town continued to expand throughout the 18th and 19th century with commercial businesses on Bridge Street continuing to develop in addition to the construction of a series of tanneries and mills associated with the boroughs expanding textiles industry (Finlayson and Hardie 2009).



2.14 The earliest date associated with the Queens Head Hotel comes from a timber fireplace in the first floor foyer that displays the coat of arms of the Pye family and is inscribed with the year 1656. The Pye family are central figures in the post-medieval history of Morpeth and are quoted as "...old and respectable inhabitants of the town" (Hodgson 1832). Hodgson indicates that the presence of the Pye coat of arms in the Queens Head Hotel, coupled with the dominant local presence maintained by the Pye family in Morpeth during the mid-17th century, would indicate that the property was a family possession at the date the fireplace surround was created.

2.15 Following the insertion of the timber fireplace surround, a lady of the family, Jane Pye was executed for witchcraft in 1658. Francis Pye later mortgaged the Queens Head Hotel to Susannah Bland in 1692. The hotel then passed, under conditions of redemption, to Robert Berwick who, in 1720, transferred full-ownership of the property to Thomas Pye. Thomas Pye himself passed the hotel to his daughter Elizabeth who married an army major George Monroe Esq in the mid-18th century and later conveyed the hotel to the Sunderland family who maintained ownership until the early 19th century (Hodgson 1832).

2.16 Although the earliest identifiable date associated with the hotel derives from the mid-17th century it is not unreasonable to assume that the property may have medieval antecedents predating ownership by the Pye family.

2.17 Hoggars 1852 map of Morpeth, Ordnance Survey mapping data and additional early 20th century photographic evidence indicate that the Queens Head continued to function as a hotel from the mid-19th century until present day.



3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Regional Research Aims and Objectives

3.1.1 The Extensive Urban Survey of Morpeth (Finlayson and Hardie 2009. 36-37, 39) sets out several research themes which may be addressed by the evaluation.

- ◆ When was a settlement established on the north side of the river?
- ◆ Has the street pattern to the north of the river remained constant?
- ◆ What evidence is there for surviving medieval structures within burgage properties?
- ◆ How extensive is post-medieval cellaring in the town?
- ◆ What evidence is there for crafts, industry and trade within these areas?
- ◆ What archaeological evidence is there for the lifestyle of the population over the 17th and 18th centuries?

3.2 Project Aims and Objectives

The archaeological evaluation trenching will aim to:

- ◆ establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character and date of any archaeological deposits within the area affected by invasive development.
- ◆ gather sufficient evidence to establish, supplement, improve and make available information about the archaeological resource existing within the areas of investigation.

4. METHOD STATEMENT

4.1 Coverage

4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation will comprise three excavated trenches.

- ◆ Trench 1: 15m x 2m aligned east to west at the southern extent of the car park.
- ◆ Trench 2: 15m x 2m aligned north to south running down the centre of the car park.
- ◆ Trench 3: 2m x 1m aligned north to south and located within the covered walkway which bisects the Queen's Head Hotel through the middle, towards the building frontage.

4.1.2 Indicative locations of the trial trenches have been agreed with the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council as sufficient to cover the proposed works, however a need to retain flexibility in trench location is recognised and trench locations may be revised following consultation with the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council.



4.1.3 If the objectives of the evaluation cannot be met additional or alternative trenching or test pits elsewhere on the site may need to be discussed in order to provide an appropriate sample. In the first instance this could involve a site discussion but may need to involve a revision of this WSI.

4.1.4 If additional trenching is to be considered, the client should provide details of proposed foundations and a ground reduction methodology to inform the scope of the assessment.

4.1.5 Contingency has also been set aside for additional works to be invoked, at the request of the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council, which, if invoked, will be focussed on and proportionate to the significance of the potential archaeological resource and the risk posed to it by the threat of development impacts.

4.2 Archaeological Evaluation Trenching

4.2.1 A programme of evaluation trenching will evaluate the likely impacts on any buried archaeology of the proposed development. The size and location of the trenches has been agreed with the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council (see section 4.1 above).

4.2.2 Any proposed changes in the siting of the evaluation trenches will be discussed and agreed with the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council.

4.2.3 All site operations will be carried out in a safe manner in accordance with ARS Ltd's health and safety policy. Deep sections such as those across ditches or pits will be shored as necessary. A risk assessment will be prepared before commencement on site.

4.2.4 All elements of the archaeological evaluation will be carried out in accordance with the *CifA Code of Conduct* (CifA 2014a) and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CifA 2014b).

4.2.5 Hard standing, un-stratified modern material will be removed mechanically by a machine using a toothless ditching bucket, under continuous archaeological supervision. The recent overburden will be removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits. No machinery will track over areas that have previously been stripped until the area has been signed off by ARS Ltd.

4.2.6 The trenches will be cleaned by hand sufficiently to allow the identification and planning of archaeological features.

4.2.7 All identified archaeological features will be sufficiently sampled by hand excavation to allow their date, nature and degree of survival to be ascertained. All features thus investigated will be recorded in plan and section and all finds recovered retained for analysis.

4.2.8 Site recording will follow standard conventions outlined in the *Site Recording Manual* of Museum of London Archaeology (MoLAS) (2002).



4.2.9 For sealed and stratigraphically secure deposits that have the potential to provide environmental evidence relating to diet and economy, dating evidence or landuse regime, a minimum of 40 litres of sample will be taken, or 100% of the sample if smaller.

4.2.10 In the case of waterlogged or anaerobic deposits a minimum sample size of 20L will be taken.

4.2.11 Should a sequence of superimposed deposits of note be present column sampling may be considered.

4.2.12 In all instances sampling strategies will be in accordance with guidelines issued by Historic England *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice Methods, from sampling and recovery to post excavation* (Campbell *et al.* 2011).

4.2.13 Should other types of environmental deposits be encountered, appropriate specialist advice will be sought and an appropriate sampling strategy devised. Samples will be assessed by a suitable specialist with provision for further analysis as required. Advice from the Historic England Scientific Advisor will be taken as appropriate.

4.2.14 Should hearths, kilns, or ovens, be encountered during the evaluation provision will be made to collect one archaeo-magnetic date to be calculated from each individual hearth surface (or in the case of domestic dwelling sites a minimum of one per building identified).

4.2.15 In such event samples will be collected from the site and processed by a suitably trained specialist for dating purposes and at point of discovery, the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council will be contacted to discuss the appropriate response. The appropriate sampling strategy will also be discussed in advance of samples being taken with Historic England.

4.2.16 Any human remains encountered will initially be left *in-situ* and, if deemed necessary, removal entailing the excavation of the entire burial will be undertaken once a Coroners licence has been obtained, in accordance with the relevant Ministry of Justice regulations. Excavation of human remains will follow discussion with the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council.

4.2.17 Finds of "treasure" will be reported to the Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act (DCMS 2008). The Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Liaison Officer will also be notified.

Coroner
17 Church Street
Berwick-Upon-Tweed
Northumberland
TC15 1EE
Tel No: 01289 304318

Finds Liaison Officer
Archaeology Section
Durham County Council
County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UQ
Tel No: 03000 267 011



4.2.18 The Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council will also be notified and, if necessary, a site meeting arranged to determine if further investigation in the vicinity of the find spot is required.

4.2.19 All stratified finds will be collected by context or, where appropriate, individually recorded in 3 dimensions.

4.2.20 Unstratified finds of intrinsic value or which contribute to the project objectives will be collected. All pottery of 19th century or earlier will be retained, whether stratified or un-stratified.

4.2.21 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in compliance with the *ClfA Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2014c).

4.2.22 Artefact collection and discard policies will be appropriate for the defined purpose.

4.2.23 Bulk finds which are not discarded will be washed and, with the exception of animal bone, marked. Marking and labelling will be indelible and irremovable by abrasion. Bulk finds will be appropriately bagged, boxed and recorded. This process will be carried out no later than two months after the end of the excavation.

4.2.24 All small finds will be recorded as individual items and appropriately packaged (e.g. lithics in self-sealing plastic bags and ceramic in acid-free tissue paper). Vulnerable objects will be specially packaged and textile, painted glass and coins stored in appropriate specialist systems. This process will be carried out within two days of the small find being excavated.

4.2.25 All retained artefacts and ecofacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum.

4.2.26 During and after the evaluation all objects will be stored in appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (including controlled storage, correct packaging, and regular monitoring, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material). All storage will have appropriate security provision.

4.2.27 The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and the repository for the archive prior to the work taking place.

4.3 Archaeological Evaluation Trenching – Addendum

4.3.1 Excavation of Trench 3 was attempted on 21.10.16 but hindered by the presence of buried services. Following consultation with the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council it was recommended that Trench 3 be re-sited into the interior of the Queens Head Hotel (Figure 3).

4.3.2 Trench 3 should measure 2m x 2m in plan and be situated at the northern extent of the hotel interior. The location of Trench 3 has been sited in consultation with all available measured service drawings, however limited scope for shifting the trench may be applicable at the discretion of the attending archaeologist, and in



consultation with the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council, should further buried services be encountered.

4.3.3 The trench is to be excavated in accordance with the methodology described in section 4.2 (see above).

5. RECORDING

5.1 The site and evaluation trenches will be tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area. The site will be recorded in accordance with the ARS Ltd. field recording manual.

5.2 The trenches will be planned at an appropriate scale; 1:20 where complex deposits are present or 1:50 in areas of lesser complexity (to be omitted if the trench is completely blank). One representative long section of the trench will be produced, at an appropriate scale, if necessary. Sections and profiles of each feature identified will be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20, depending on the size of the feature. Spot levels relative to ordnance datum in metres will be taken as appropriate.

5.3 For brick structures the record will include details of brick dimensions and type (handmade/machine-made, plain/frogged), mortar (colour, composition, hardness) and the extent of structures (number of courses, thickness in skins). Brick samples will be taken for structures likely to pre-date the mid 19th century.

5.4 A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) will be made for all work, using pre-printed record sheets with text descriptions appropriate to the work.

5.5 A stratigraphy of the site will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.

5.6 The heights above sea level will be recorded for all deposits and features in metres above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

5.7 A full photographic record will be maintained including photographs of all significant features and overall photographs of the trench. All images will be taken in high resolution colour digital format (minimum 7.1 megapixels). A supplementary record of working images will be taken to demonstrate how the site was investigated and what the prevailing conditions were like during excavation.

5.8 A stratigraphic matrix will be compiled for all trenches where superimposed archaeological deposits, features or structures are encountered.

6. FINDS PROCESSING AND STORAGE

6.1 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in accordance with the ClfA (2014d) *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* and the UKIC (1990) *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*.

6.2 Artefact collection and discard policies will be appropriate for the defined purpose.



6.3 Bulk finds which are not discarded will be washed and, with the exception of animal bone, marked. Marking and labelling will be indelible and irremovable by abrasion. Bulk finds will be appropriately bagged, boxed and recorded. This process will be carried out no later than two months after the end of the excavation.

6.4 All small finds will be recorded as individual items and appropriately packaged (e.g. lithics in self-sealing plastic bags and ceramic in acid-free tissue paper). Vulnerable objects will be specially packaged and textile, painted glass and coins stored in appropriate specialist systems. This process will be carried out within two days of the small find being excavated.

6.5 During and after the excavation all objects will be stored in appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (including controlled storage, correct packaging, and regular monitoring, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material). All storage will have appropriate security provision.

6.6 The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and the recipient museum prior to the work taking place. All finds except treasure trove are the property of the landowner.

6.7 All retained artefacts and ecofacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum

7. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

7.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will give no less than 5 working days notice prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

Nick Best
Assistant County Archaeologist
Northumberland Conservation
Development Services
Northumberland County Council
County Hall
Morpeth
NE61 2EF

7.2 ARS Ltd will liaise with the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council at regular intervals throughout the course of the work.

7.3 The client will afford reasonable access to the the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council, or their representative, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological mitigation

8. TIMETABLE, STAFFING AND RESOURCES



8.1 The Project Manager for the fieldwork will be Reuben Thorpe, MCIfA, Projects Manager at ARS Ltd. The Project Officer for the evaluation trenching will be Philippa Cockburn ACIfA, Project Officer at ARS Ltd.

8.2 Finds analysis will be carried out by appropriately qualified specialists as detailed subject to availability.

◆ Flint and prehistoric pottery:	Dr Robin Holgate MCIfA/Dr Clive Waddington MCIfA
◆ Romano-British pottery:	Ian Rowlandson/Paul Bidwell
◆ Samian ware:	Dr Gwladys Monteil
◆ Medieval and post-medieval pottery:	Dr Chris Cumberpatch/Dr Robin Holgate MCIfA
◆ Medieval and post-medieval glass, metalwork and clay pipes:	Mike Wood MCIfA
◆ Plant macrofossils and charcoals:	Elise McLellan
◆ Human and animal bone:	Milena Grzybowska
◆ Radiocarbon dating:	Prof Gordon Cook (SUERC)
◆ Finds conservation:	Vicky Garlick (Durham University)

9. REPORT

9.1 Following completion of the evaluation, Archaeological Research Services Ltd will produce a report which will include:

- ◆ Non-technical summary
- ◆ Introductory statement to include
 - ◆ Planning application number,
 - ◆ Northumberland Conservation reference,
 - ◆ OASIS reference number, Archive reference and an eight figure grid reference
- ◆ Aims and purpose of the project
- ◆ Methodology
- ◆ A location plan showing all excavated areas and any archaeological features with respect to nearby fixed structures and roads
- ◆ Illustrations of all archaeological features with appropriately scaled hachured plans and sections
- ◆ An narrative summary of results
- ◆ Conclusions
- ◆ Supporting data – tabulated or in appendices to include:
 - ◆ Specialist Reports
 - ◆ Structural and Stratigraphic details including context summary tables with depths aOD and BGS



- ◆ Index to archive and details of archive location
- ◆ References
- ◆ Statement of intent regarding publication
- ◆ Confirmation of archive transfer arrangements
- ◆ A copy of the OASIS form
- ◆ A copy of the Northumberland County Councils "check list".

9.2 Within the report:

- All plans will be clearly related to the national grid.
- All levels will be quoted relative to ordnance datum.

9.3 If significant archaeological remains are identified the report will include:

- Detailed description and plans (at 1:50 scale) of any areas which provided significant archaeological information, all feature plans and sections (at 1:10 or 1:20 scale), select artefact illustrations, photographs and an overall site plan showing all recorded archaeological features.
- Finds quantification and assessment.
- Assessment of any palaeo-environmental samples taken.
- A summary of the extent, depth and state of preservation of archaeological deposits across the site.

9.4 One bound copy of the final report with a digital copy of the report in PDF/A format on disk will be deposited with the Northumberland Historic Environment Record (HER). A copy of the report should be uploaded as part of the OASIS record.

10. ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

10.1 No later than six weeks after completion of the evaluation a digital, paper and artefactual archive, which will consist of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data will be submitted in a format agreed in discussion with the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council and the museum curator. The Digital archive will be supplied to ADS and photographs will be supplied in uncompressed baseline TIFF format.

10.2 All artefacts and associated material will be cleaned, recorded, properly stored and deposited in the archive.

10.3 10.4 The Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council will be notified on completion of fieldwork, with a timetable for reporting and archive deposition.

10.5 Written confirmation of the archive transfer arrangements, including a date (confirmed or projected) for the transfer, will be included as part of the final report.

10.6 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. All parts of the OASIS online



form will be completed for submission to the HER. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included within the archive).

10.7 The Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council will be notified of the final deposition of the archive.

11. GENERAL ITEMS

11.1 Health and Safety

11.1.1 All work will be carried out in accordance with The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. Specific health and safety policies exist for all out workplaces and all staff employed will be made aware of the policy and any relevant issues. The particular risks involved with this project will be assessed, recorded and relevant mitigation measures put in place as part of a full risk assessment, which will be compiled in advance of fieldwork. ARS Ltd retains Peninsula as its expert health and safety consultants.

11.2 Insurance Cover

11.2.1 ARS Ltd has full insurance cover for employee liability (£10 million) public liability (£5 million), professional indemnity (£2 million) and all-risks cover.

11.3 Changes to the Written Scheme of Investigation

11.3.1 Changes to the approved methodology or programme of works will only be made with prior written approval of the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council.

11.4 Copyright

11.4.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client. ARS Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988). Licence will be granted for the HER to use the report which may include partial dissemination to others.

12. REFERENCES

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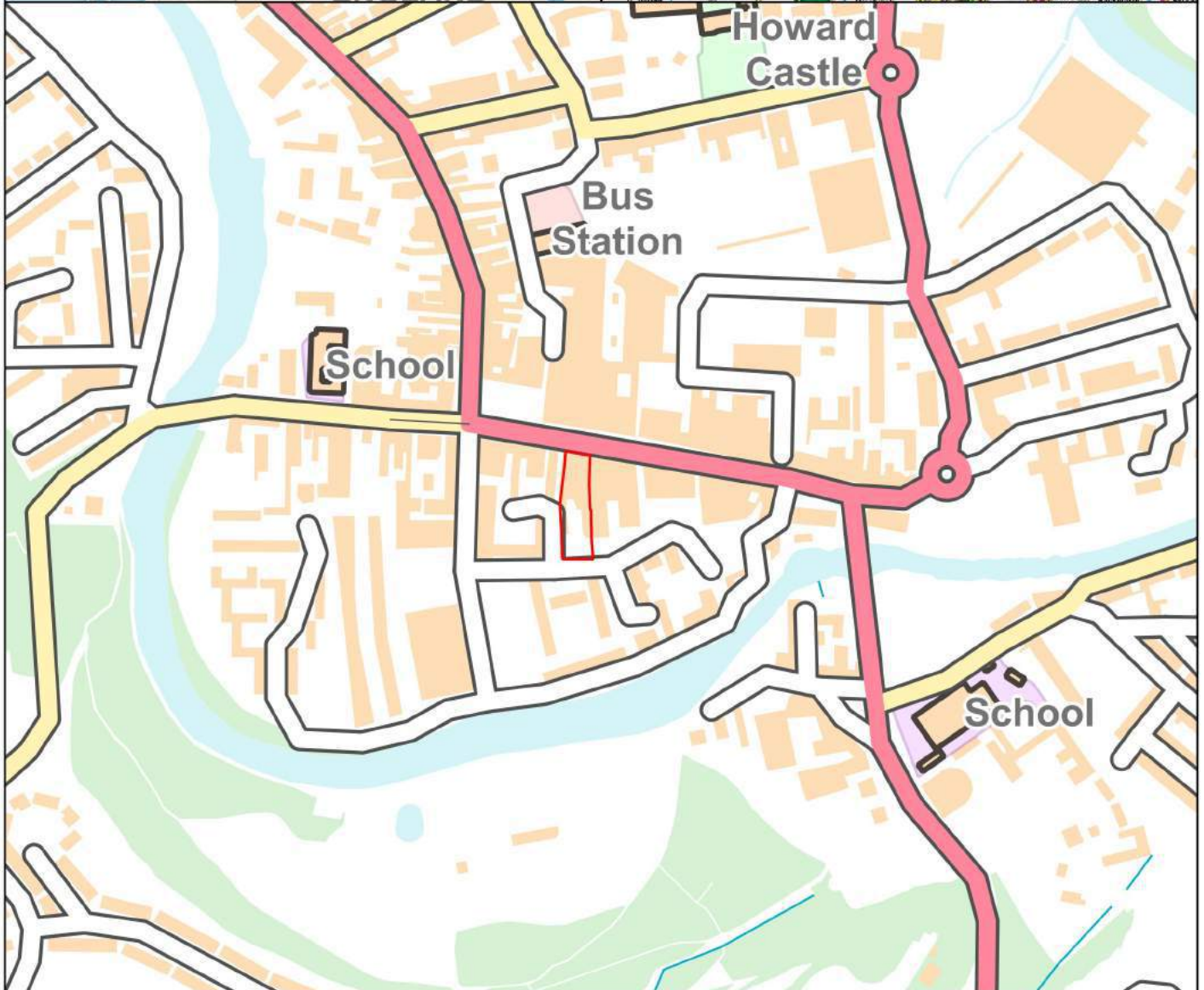
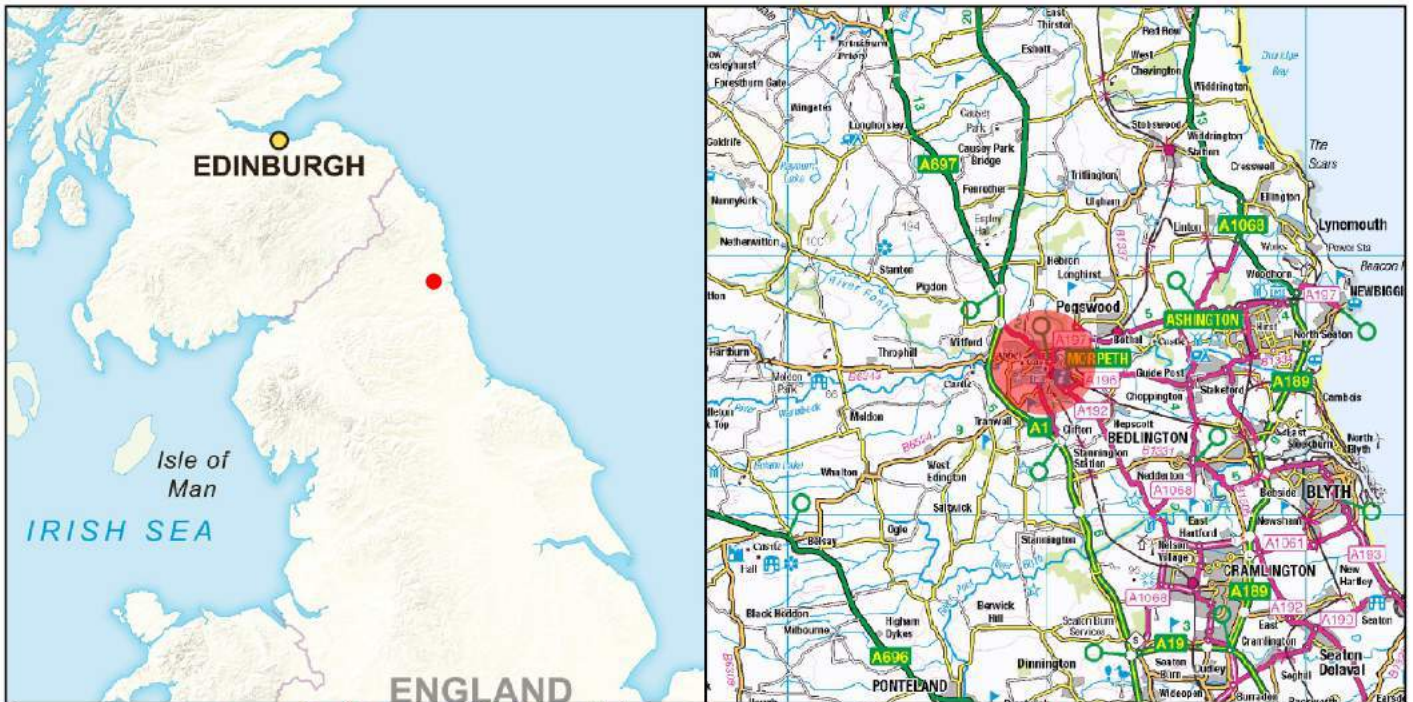


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- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation. 1990. *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*.




FIGURES





Site name: The Queen's Head Hotel, Morpeth
 Date: November 2016
 Drawn by: PC
 Scale: Varies

Key:
 PDA



Archaeological Research Services Ltd

The Eco Centre
 Windmill Way
 Tyne and Wear
 NE31 1SR



Tel: 0191 4775111

www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

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Figure 1:
 Site location

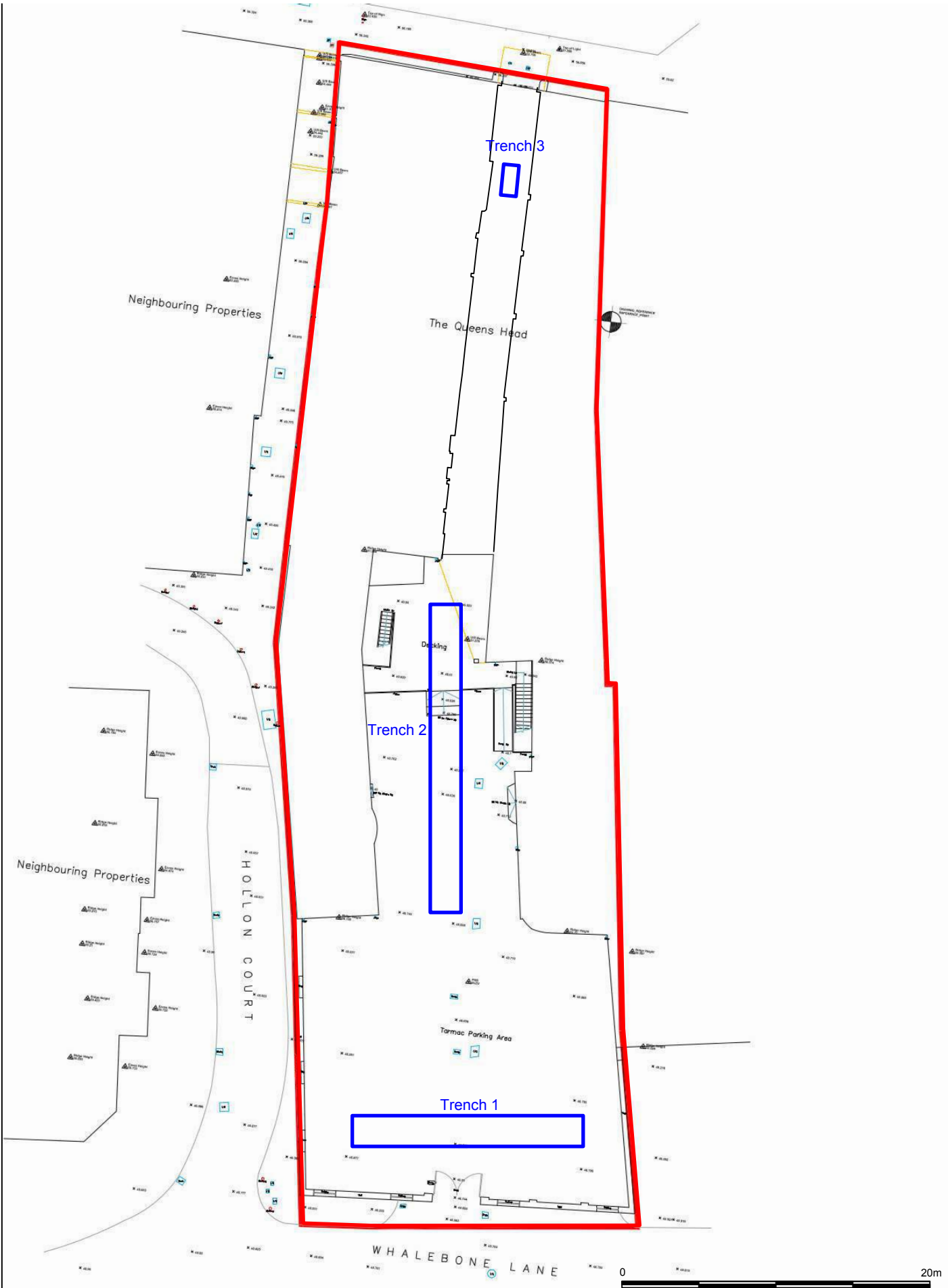


Figure 2:
The Queen's Head Hotel, evaluation trench plan.

Key:
 Evaluation trenches

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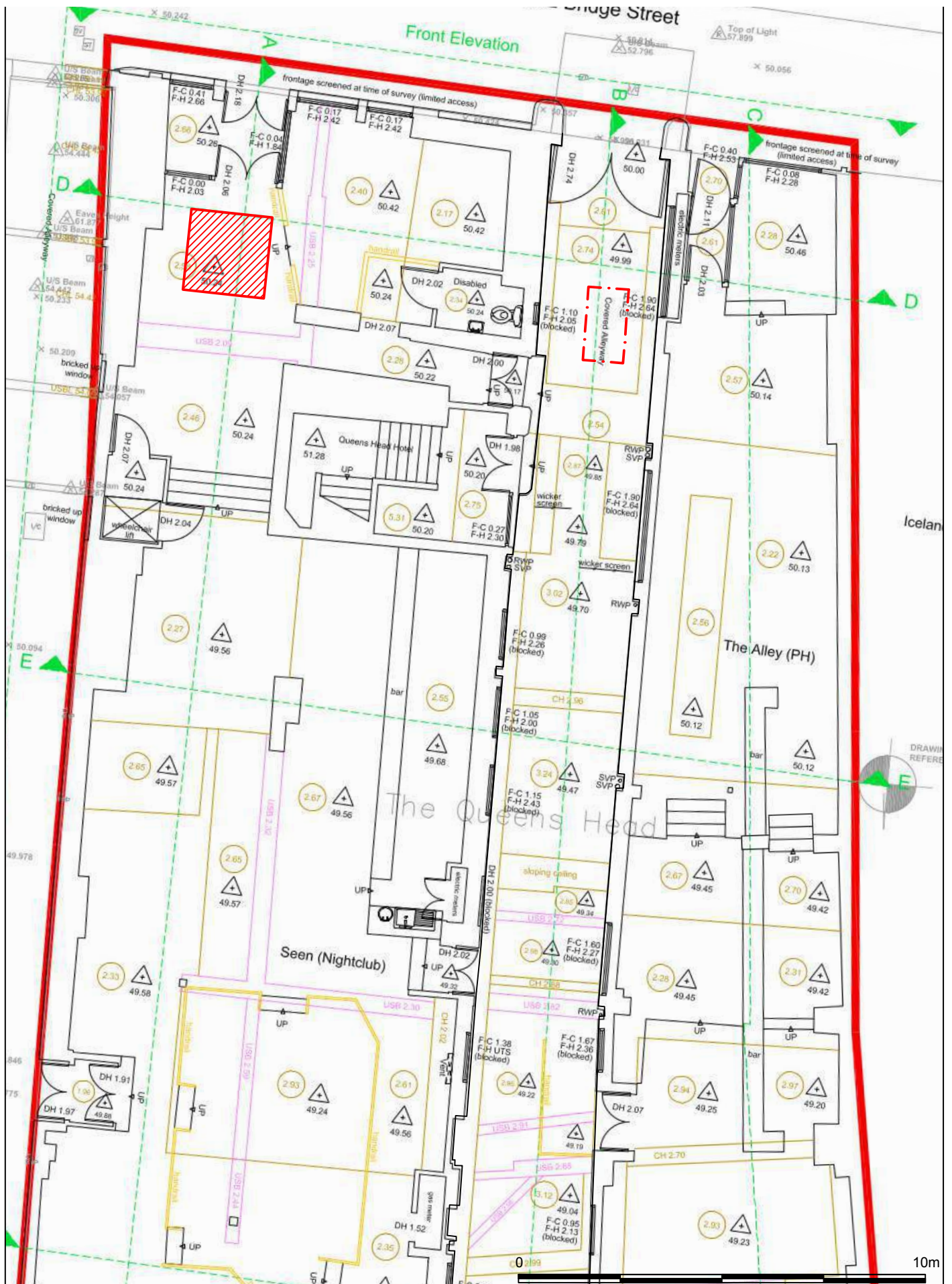




Figure 3:
Addendum to the Queen's Head Hotel trench plan.

- Key:
-  Proposed trench
 -  Previously excavated trench



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