



**LAND AT NEW MEETING
STREET/BROMFORD ROAD
Oldbury
West Midlands**

Archaeological evaluation



December 2006

Hereford Archaeology Series 741

EXCAVATION•RESEARCH•GEOPHYSICS•ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY

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Cover picture: *Trench 1 under excavation, looking west*

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Land at New Meeting
Street/Bromford Road
Oldbury
West Midlands

(NGR SO 9908 8983)

Archaeological evaluation

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December 2006

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Land at New Meeting Street/Bromford Road Oldbury West Midlands

(NGR SO 9908 8983)

Archaeological evaluation

1. Summary.

The project arose in response to a commission from Tayma Homes Limited to carry out archaeological investigations to satisfy a condition on planning permission for development of the site of The Old Slaughterhouse, Oldbury.

This phase of the archaeological works took the form of archaeological evaluation after demolition of the standing fabric of an enclosed complex of late 19th-century and later buildings used as a slaughterhouse until the early 21st century.

Three trenches were excavated and material exposed in a newly dug foundation was recorded. The only evidence of activity on the Site before the late 18th century was an area of truncated, undated topsoil. Evidence of subsequent activity mirrored the evidence derived from map regression and comprised 19th- and 20th-century wall foundations and cellars with intervening phases of demolition and dumping of introduced materials. All contexts contained disturbed 19th- or 20th-century material, which was not retained.

The site archive will be deposited with the Community History and Archives Service, Smethwick Library, West Midlands.

2. Introduction.

The project came in response to a commission from Tayma Homes Limited to carry out archaeological evaluation in partial satisfaction of a condition on planning permission for development of the site of The Old Slaughter House, New Meeting Street, Oldbury.

The Site lay to the north-east of the commercial and historic centre of Oldbury, on the southern bank of the backfilled cut of the Birmingham Canal Old Line, and was centred at NGR SO 9908 8983 (Figs 1 and 2). The slaughterhouse ceased operations in 2001 and Mr Geoff Bates died in 2004, but the equipment had been left within the buildings. Security and maintenance had prevented degradation and vandalism. With the exception of weeds in the yard, the complex had the air of a “time capsule”. Immediately surrounding the buildings were areas of maintained grassland (to the north-west and to the north-east within the backfilled canal) and derelict areas of tarmac, concrete and scrub with some dumping (to the south and south-east). Beyond this, the surrounding area had been redeveloped for housing in recent years (i.e. since 1998).

As a first phase of archaeological works the buildings of The Old Slaughterhouse were the subject of a Historic Building Record in advance of demolition (AIL 2006). This and the evaluation formed part of the requirements to satisfy a planning condition placed upon permission for development (Planning Ref: 2000/100/105/83), namely “the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which is to be submitted and approved by the Local Authority”.

A brief for the evaluation was produced by the Assistant Archaeologist for Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (Appendix 2) and after discussion with staff at the Borough Archaeologist’s office, Archaeological Investigations Ltd (AIL) responded with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 3), which subsequently was approved.

The fieldwork was carried out on the 10th, 11th October and 2nd November 2006.

3. Aims and Objectives.

The project was considered likely to produce results that would be of local archaeological importance.

The objectives of the work were to:

- a. Establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the development area
- b. Determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered
- c. Identify the extent and record the profile of a cellar/s and other features uncovered in groundworks

- d. Provide further information on the origins and development of Oldbury from the medieval to the present day
- e. Contribute to the existing body of academic knowledge
- f. Make available to interested parties the results of the investigation (subject to restrictions of confidentiality).

4. Methodology.

4.1 Documentary research

This was carried out as part of the earlier campaign of building recording.

4.2 Evaluation

4.2.1 Trial trenching

The code of conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists was adhered to, together with their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (1994, revised 2001).

Under the constant supervision of experienced archaeologists, three trenches were excavated by a machine with a toothless bucket. This number of trenches was a variation on the original agreed proposal, but was in response to on-site logistical concerns and was agreed with the Sandwell MBC Borough Archaeologist in advance. Two trenches, measuring 12m x 2m (Trench 1) and 6.50m x 2m (Trench 2), formed a T-shape at the southern end of the site (Fig. 9). A further trench (3) measured 7.50m x 2m with a right-angled extension of 2.50m x 2m to form an "L"-shape. Mechanical excavation ceased upon the exposure of undisturbed natural deposits or significant archaeological deposits, whichever occurred higher. Exposed subsoils or archaeological horizons were cleaned prior to recording.

All archaeological features were recorded in plan at a scale of 1:20, and photographed, either digitally or with B&W negative and colour film (35mm), following cleaning. Trench plans were produced at 1:50 and selected sections drawn at 1:10.

The intention was that at least 50% of all features totally contained within the trenches would be excavated, together with a sample of at least 20% of linear or large features extending beyond the bounds of the trenches. Where substantial 19th- or 20th-century masonry foundations were encountered within trenches, it was intended to dig test pits by hand to establish the presence/absence and condition of earlier remains and a hand auger would be used to establish the sequence of deposits in areas where further excavation was not being carried out.

A system of context records was kept and recording was in accordance with Archaeological Investigations Ltd's site manual with registers kept of context records, photographs, drawings, small finds and samples on site. In the event no contexts suitable for sampling were

encountered. All artefacts were modern in date and many were from disturbed or redeposited contexts so none were retained for further analysis.

4.2.2 Cellar recording

A previously unsuspected cellar and well had been exposed in groundworks before AIL staff arrived on Site. The depth of the features and the looseness of the surrounding fills rendered access to the trench impossible on Health and Safety grounds, but the exposed features and profiles were surveyed and recorded. The opportunity was also taken to observe and record details of the construction and foundations of the slaughterhouse which had not been accessible at the time of the historic building recording.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background.

5.1 The immediate area

Prior to a housing development to the east of the Site in New Meeting Street, a programme of archaeological investigation had taken place comprising a desk-based study (Winter 1998) and evaluation (Mould 1998). Much of the following information is drawn from those accounts.

Known evidence for prehistoric activity in the area is very restricted. A flint scraper of possible Neolithic or Bronze Age date was found at an unknown spot in Oldbury (SMR No: 2802) and a Bronze Age socketed axe was found c.1km north-west of the Site during construction work (SMR No: 1724). Also, it has been postulated that the historic core of Oldbury occupies the location of an Iron Age hillfort (SMR No: 4020), but no physical evidence has been recovered for this hypothesis.

Excavations within the core of modern Oldbury have produced some medieval pottery (SMR No: 1732) and some pits behind buildings on Church Street containing late medieval or early post-medieval pottery (SMR No: 6205). The earliest documentary reference to *Aldeberia* dates to the 12th century, but it is unlikely that the medieval settlement amounted to more than a village, possibly not nucleated. For example, it did not have parish status until 1841 and before that date was part of Halesowen parish. Erection of a new parish church involved the demolition of a chapel dedicated to St Nicholas that had been erected in 1529 (SMR No: 2828). Further possible evidence of medieval activity includes a group of distinctive linear, boundaries creating narrow sinuous properties c.125m to the east of the Site. These survived until the late 19th century (Figs. 3-5) and appear to be relict strips from an open field, pre-dating the Oldbury Loop of the Birmingham Canal (1770), which clearly cuts across them. Evaluation trenches excavated in this area in 1998 revealed a deposit identified as an old cultivation soil which contained one 13th-14th-century sherd (Mould 1998, 6).

The exploitation of the South Staffordshire coalfield resulted in major urban growth and the establishment of Oldbury as a town and Urban District Council. This is reflected in a concentration of 19th-century buildings in the middle of the town (Birmingham Street, Church Square, Church Street) and relics of infrastructure (canals) and industry in the surrounding area.

5.2 The Site

The report on the building recording included an account of the slaughterhouse which formerly occupied c. 33% of the Site (AIL 2006, 5.2). The reader is referred to that source for fuller information on the buildings, whilst the following account focuses on the remainder of the Site.

Evaluation trenches dug in the area of open land immediately to the west of the Slaughterhouse buildings and on the land to the east now occupied by housing (Fig. 2) suggested that, in the first case “it is unlikely that any deposits pre-dating the post-medieval period will have survived”, and in the second case “it would appear that terracing, prior to the 20th century development of this piece of land, has erased any earlier deposits” (Mould 1998, 7). Little evidence for land use on or adjacent to the Site before the 19th century is available, although it may have formed part of the medieval open-field system seen to the east.

Early maps are not very helpful in advancing a narrative, although Yates’ map of 1775 does show the Oldbury Loop of the Birmingham Canal Navigation old line (Winter 1998, map 3) which ran immediately to the north of the Site. This canal was constructed in 1770, but was replaced by a new line running around the south and west of Oldbury in 1821. By 1845 the Tithe Map and assessment refer to it as Old Canal, but it remained in use until at least 1956 (Fig. 8 shows a “Towing Path” on the northern bank at this date).

Charles Henry Blood’s map of 1857 (Fig. 3) shows more detail and may show a building on or near the Site at right-angles to the canal. The township map of the same year (Fig. 4) shows the Site divided into regular properties laid out between New Meeting Street and the canal with some buildings along the street frontage and others running back towards the canal. Figure 4 is based on a reduced version of this map, but examination of a full-size version in Sainsbury’s, off the Oldbury Ringway, confirmed that no buildings were present on the canal frontage on the Site. By 1889, the date of the First Edition of the Ordnance Survey, parts of the fabric of The Old Slaughterhouse have appeared including the structure on the canal frontage which was demolished in 2006 (Fig. 5). A terraced range runs north/south along the eastern boundary of the slaughterhouse and is at right-angles to a terrace along the New Meeting Street frontage. A further north/south range links street frontage and canal on the eastern side of the Site.

By 1919 (Fig. 6) this range appears to have been replaced by a range of small buildings which did not extend as far north as the canal. These formed the eastern side of a yard, with buildings to the west and accessed through an opening from New Meeting Street. The terrace on this street frontage and detached structures between it and the slaughterhouse seem unchanged since 1889.

Major changes had occurred by 1938 (Fig. 7) with all buildings on the Site apart from the slaughterhouse swept away.

To this point, all Ordnance Survey maps had shown The Slaughterhouse fronting directly onto the canal to the north and there had been no labelling to identify the use of the Site. However, by 1956 (Fig. 8) the canal seems to have narrowed (possibly through silting up around Church Street/Bromford Lane Bridge) and the formerly canal-side building is no longer on the bank. Also the Site is labelled “Slaughter House”. To the east is an “Engineering Works” within a

demarcated yard. A building is located adjacent to the slaughterhouse with a further structure standing in the yard. Two buildings on the street frontage flank the entrance and the ground falls away in the north-east corner of the Site. By 1971 (not illustrated) the engineering works and all its component buildings had disappeared. The canal had been backfilled and the boundary wall running south-westwards from the south-eastern corner of The Slaughterhouse had disappeared.

6. Results of Fieldwork (Figs. 9-13)(Pls. 1-11)

6.1 Trench 1 (Figs. 10-11)

Trench 1 (Plate 1) was excavated near to the New Meeting Street frontage, was aligned approximately east-west and measured 2m wide x 12m long and 2m deep.

The surface consisted mostly of tarmac (1000) that had been broken up in places, measuring 0.10m deep. Below this was 0.12m of grey-brown sandy-silt and brick rubble (1001) sealing a deep (0.60m) deposit of black, sooty, smelly industrial waste (1002), containing iron objects, rubble and stone, as well as modern pottery (19th/20th century). The deposit appeared to be land fill and was visible over a large part of the site as well as the area of Trench 1.

At the northwest end of the trench, layer 1002 sealed a 0.12m deep layer of grey/brown sand (1003) and along the northern section the latter was above a layer of mixed sooty/brick demolition material 0.11m deep (1004).

Layer 1004 overlay a brick wall (1005), three courses high (Plate 2). The wall consisted of a course of headers that overlay two courses of stretchers all bonded with cream coloured mortar and founded on a brick surface (1006) that also pre-dated brick wall 1012 to the south. To the north of 1012 the bricks were blue-black and to the south red. Wall 1012 survived to a height of about 1.5m and was sealed and bounded on both sides by demolition rubble 1010/1011. It extended for at least 3m and, like 1005, was aligned parallel with New Meeting Lane.

The brick surface (1006) overlay a mixed deposit 0.40m deep (1007) of brown clay and gravel (probably re-deposited natural), and black sooty material, probably derived from 1002. Underlying this was patchy, thin grey brown, sandy former topsoil, up to 0.10m deep and also confined to the northwest end of the trench (1008).

Other features in Trench 1 which overlay or cut 1007/1008 included lime mortar spread (1013), which measured 0.70m x 0.80m x 0.10m deep and appeared to comprise two layers. The top crust looked like lime and was hard, white and shiny. The underlying material was softer, creamy in colour and consisted of mortar.

A rubbish pit (1014) containing 19th or early 20th century pottery, metal objects, bone, and glass had a fill similar in appearance and texture to 1002 and was located adjacent to the mortar/lime spread. It was roughly oval shaped measuring 1.30m long x 0.95m wide and also cut 1007.

The natural deposit lying below 1007/1008 consisted of red-brown sandy clay and gravel. (1009).

6.2 Trench 2 (Figs. 10-11)

Trench 2 was excavated at right-angles to Trench 1. Of similar width, space constraints meant it was only 6.5m long. Layers encountered were the same as in Trench 1 with two exceptions. No building remains were present and layers 1007 and 1008 seemed more intermixed, making it more difficult to distinguish between them. Several features were located within the trench including two rubbish pits and recent bore hole 1015 (Plates 3 and 4).

Rubbish pit 1016 cut 1007/1008 and was partly exposed on the west side of the trench close to the junction with Trench 1. The exposed part of the feature measured 1.10m x 0.80m and was filled with a mixed brown and black fill containing brick rubble and modern material. The feature was not excavated. Also cutting 1007/1008 and only partly exposed in the trench was a 0.80m x 0.80m feature filled with a brown and black clayish mix containing pot, bone, glass and brick (1017). When the feature was partly excavated it was found to survive to a depth of only 0.20m and had a very irregular shape.

6.3 Trench 3 (Figs. 12-13)

Trench 3 was excavated on November 2nd and was aligned east-west, measuring just over 7.5m long x 2m wide. Due to constraints on access, the east end of the trench was extended northwards by 2.50m to form an L shape. The trench was located towards the northeast boundary of the site and north of trenches 1 and 2.

The surface where Trench 3 was excavated consisted of 0.30m of sandy silt, stone and rubble similar to 1001 in the area of trenches 1 and 2. Below this surface was a layer of orangey brown clay (1022) that grew thicker towards the east side of the trench. At its deepest the layer averaged between 0.30-0.50m. No finds were present within the deposit.

Below the orangey clay was a layer (1021) that was probably re-deposited natural (1007) mixed with black sooty material from deposit 1002. This deposit was 0.30m at its deepest.

Sealed by 1021 was (1020) a deep deposit of demolition rubble averaging 0.70m deep that consisted of concrete, roof tiles, pottery, metal objects, bricks and mortar. Within the fill material a stone grinding wheel (Plate 5) was located measuring 0.55m in diameter and 0.30m thick with a central hole measuring around 0.12m diameter. The deposit sloped down towards the east side of the site where its maximum depth was 1.40m.

The excavation of the trench showed that layer 1002 (the black deposit) not only extended into this area but was in excess of 1.20m deep towards the western end of trench 3. Within the middle of the layer in this area was a 0.30m deep lens or layer of broken up stone slabs. Layer 1002 directly overlay the natural (1009) within Trench 3 and also overlay the remains of two walls that directly cut the natural (Plates 6 and 7).

The layers described above all appear to have been tipped from the west as they are narrowest on that side (Plate 7), all getting deeper towards the east where they overlay the demolished walls.

The surviving structural remains consisted of two brick walls, 1023 to the west and 1024 to the east, both walls bonded with similar grey mortar. The walls survived to a height of around 0.60-0.80m and were of one and a half bricks thickness (0.35m). Aligned approximately north/south, the distance between the walls was 2.50m. No returning walls were found that could have helped determine whether walls 1023 and 1024 were contemporary or part of the same building. Wall 1024 exceeded 4.70m in length.

On the east side of wall 1024 and overlying the natural, was a 0.50m deep deposit of lime/mortar (1025) that may have been a deliberately laid surface. Unfortunately the condition of the section was too dangerous to allow entry into the trench to examine the deposit in detail. Traces of the same mortar were present between the two walls but did not appear to be *in situ*.

6.4 Notes on observations made of the cellared area to the north of the site (Fig. 9)

The results of the building survey of the slaughterhouse (AIL 2006) had not produced any evidence of cellars or other below ground structures and, following demolition of the slaughterhouse complex, foundation trenches for the proposed new buildings were excavated without any archaeological involvement. The depth and unstable nature of the sides of the trench meant that all recording had to be done without entering this trench.

When the archaeological observations were made it was evident that most, if not all of the site was covered by a layer of black industrial waste of variable depth (1002). Underlying this material in places was a similar earlier deposit of black sooty waste. In other places there was evidence of former ground levels and/or evidence of earlier, demolished brick buildings. In only a few instances did the trenches penetrate to the underlying natural.

Brick walls bonded with lime mortar were located in several places in and around the northern half of the site. Most of the visible remains were located along the eastern section of a foundation trench under excavation in the middle of the north end of the site, during the first site visit. The trench measured 62m long on a north-south alignment and was up to 2m deep.

At the northern end of the newly dug foundation trench and aligned northeast/southwest were two walls butting at the mid point of the north end of the foundation trench. The extent of the walls could not be ascertained from what was visible and the material being excavated was too loose to allow access to further investigate them.

The newly dug north/south trench appeared to coincide with the eastern boundary wall of the slaughterhouse and a wall of two brick's thickness could be seen at its southern end running on the correct alignment. More building remains were observed in the east section of this trench. The remains of a brick basement were located, the exposed vertical walls aligned east-west and contained within them, a semi circular barrel vault (Plate 8). The basement was c.3.50m wide and the vault measured c.3m in width, the top part of it having been demolished before backfilling. The basement walls were of a single brick's thickness. The vault appeared to have been built separately within the walls of the basement, was also one brick thick in the

lower part and the vault was supported on only half a brick's thickness springing from the lower supporting walls. There was no visible evidence to suggest that the supporting walls of the vault and the basement walls were contemporary or tied into each other.

To the north of the vaulted basement (c.3m away) the remains of a possible cellar wall (seven courses visible) were located, with a brick surface butting its southern face and a demolished wall on a small footing standing four courses high at the southern end of the brick surface (Plate 9). The distance between the two walls was not more than 2m and overlying the brick surface and the southern wall was a deposit (around 0.30m deep) of building rubble sealed by black sooty industrial waste.

To the south of the vaulted basement, and below the spread of loose black sooty waste and rubble which averaged around 0.40-0.50m in this area, was a brown clay that appeared to be a former ground level (0.20m deep). The clay overlay a thin layer (less than 10cm) of sooty black material that sealed a 0.60m deep layer of mortar, stone and some brick rubble. This deposit was approximately 3m long overlying more black industrial waste, and at its southern end it butted another brick wall of only a brick's thickness (Plate 10). This wall was only partly exposed as the area where it was located was being used for access, and had been partly backfilled with previously excavated material. No other features were exposed by excavation while archaeologists re present on the site.

A few metres to the south-west of the butting walls at the northern end of the new foundation trench and at an excavated depth of at least 2m was a backfilled, brick lined well (Plate 11), measuring over 1.20m in diameter (it's depth and the frailty of it's sides meant that the trench could not be entered). Cutting the fill of the well, and almost central to it, was a circular hole that appeared to be a bore hole measuring around 0.30m in diameter. A brick wall (two bricks thick) aligned north-south appeared to overly the well remains, although it could have joined or butted the upper parts of the well structure (depending on where the ground level had been and if the two structures were contemporary). Unfortunately the area around the well had been excavated to at least 2m depth in an area over 3m wide, truncating the relationships between the two structures.

7. Discussion

The archaeological deposits and structures identified during the work have been divided into three phases of activity on the basis of the Stratigraphy of the Site interpreted in the light of the information derived from map regression.

7.1 Phase 1 (before 1770)

This comprises the natural deposits overlain in Trenches 1 and 2 by truncated topsoil 1008. No dating evidence was recovered from the latter, but it is assumed to pre-date the construction of any buildings on the Site and may be relict of agricultural activity pre-dating the construction of the canal across open fields.

7.2 Phase 2 (1770 - ? second quarter of 20th century)

7.2.1 Phase 2a

This comprises a phase of major groundworks which seems to involve at least partial stripping of topsoil and deposition of a spread of redeposited natural near the street (1007). This may derive from the excavation of the canal or from the cellars and/or foundations of buildings.

The phase may also include the brick-lined well. This is located within the yard of the slaughterhouse and to the south of an original doorway into the Slaughter Room. However, no evidence was recovered to determine whether the well pre-dated (Phase 2a) or was associated with (Phase 2b) the construction of the Slaughterhouse, which took place between 1857 and the 1870s (AIL 2006).

7.2.2 Phase 2b

The groundworks of Phase 1 were succeeded by phases of building and other forms of occupation (floor 1006; walls 1005, 1012, 1023 and 1024; pits 1014, 1016 and 1017; spread 1013). Walls 1012 and 1005 are probably associated with buildings shown on the New Meeting Street frontage in 1857 (Fig.4), 1889 (Fig. 5) and 1919 (Fig. 6), but demolished by 1938 (fig. 7). The vaulted cellar and other walls exposed in the eastern side of the newly dug foundation trench in Trench 3 also probably related to the range of buildings shown on the eastern side of the Slaughterhouse compound in 1919 and also in 1889. It is assumed that the cellars did not continue beyond the enclosure wall of the slaughterhouse.

Wall 1024 may be the eastern wall of a building shown on 1956 OS (Fig. 8), or (more likely) it is the western wall of the range of buildings shown on the 1919 map (Fig. 6) and 1023 is the single wall shown to the west of that range (also on the 1919 map. These structures had all gone by 1938). The 1956 map also shows a terrace with a slope to the north-east towards the canal, suggesting that the buildings on the Site at that time post-dated an episode of deliberate dumping/ground-raising.

7.3 Phase 3 (?second quarter of 20th century – 2006)

7.3.1 Phase 3a

This phase comprises episodes of demolition and ground raising. It includes the destruction by 1938 of all buildings on the Site apart from the Slaughterhouse complex. The resultant material was spread and other material was introduced, possibly from an industrial process in the form of contexts 1002-4. This is very similar to the picture derived from the 1998 evaluation (Mould, 4-5), in particular from Trenches 4 (west of the Site) and 6 (to the east) which both contained a thick black layer of silt sand and ash with structural debris in it.

7.3.2 Phase 3b

A second phase of dumping was restricted to the eastern border of the Site and comprised contexts 1020-22, which seem to have been deposited between 1938 (Fig. 7) and 1956 (Fig 8) in order, possibly, to create a more extensive terrace/plateau on which the engineering works marked on Fig. 8 was constructed. No evidence of the buildings of this complex was seen

during the investigation and it may be concluded that they were of a temporary nature or without deep foundations. They may have rested upon the hard standing which covered the Site and is represented by 1001/1000.

8. Conclusions

The evaluation established that activity on the Site in the late 18th-20th centuries had removed almost all traces of earlier activity. This evidence was interesting, but the structural remains and other deposits recovered were not considered worthy of further investigation or redesign of the foundations of the development. The archaeological condition on planning permission has been partially fulfilled through the evaluation of the Site by trenching.

9. Acknowledgements

The recording was commissioned by Tayma Homes Limited, through Antony R. Tranter, Architect, and the company also arranged the provision of plant and accommodation on site.

The archaeological work was monitored for Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council by Graham Eyre-Morgan and Charlotte Lewis.

10. Bibliography

10.1 *Maps consulted*

1775	Yates' Map
1857	Blood's Map
1857	"Plan of the Townships of Oldbury and Langley, in the Parish of Halesowen and County of Worcester."
1889	Ordnance Survey (OS)
1919	OS
1938	OS
1956	OS
1971	OS.

10.2 *Secondary printed and typescript sources*

AIL (Archaeological Investigations Ltd), 2006 *The Old Slaughterhouse, New Meeting Street/Bromford Road, Oldbury, West Midlands. Building Recording* (Hereford Archaeology Series 721)

Mould, C., 1998 *An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at New Meeting Street, Oldbury* unpublished BUFAU client report 555.01

Winter, C., 1998 *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Walkover Survey of New Meeting Street, Oldbury* unpublished BUFAU client report 555.

Appendix 1: Site Archive

- 1 colour film (98/06)
- 1 black and white film (60/06)
- 1 CD of digital images of the evaluation
- 2 sheets of photographic registers (film 98 col/60 b/w)
- 6 sheets of site recording notes
- 26 context sheets
- 1 sheet of context register
- 1 sheet of site drawings
- 1 sheet of drawing register
- 1 copy of this report.

Appendix 2: Sandwell MBC Brief

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

**SLAUGHTER HOUSE,
LAND AT NEW MEETING STREET AND BROMFORD
ROAD, OLDBURY**

SANDWELL MBC

April 2006



Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council

Site: Slaughter House, Land At New Meeting Street And Bromford Road, Oldbury

Agent: Anthony Tranter Architects

Planning Officer: John Baker Sandwell MBC (0121 569 4049)

Borough Archaeologist: Graham Eyre-Morgan (0121 569 4025)

Assistant Archaeologist: Charlotte Lewis (0121 569 4217)

This archaeological brief is only valid for six months. After this period the Borough Archaeologist should be contacted. Any written scheme of investigation resulting from this brief shall only be considered for the same period. The contractor is strongly advised to visit the site before completing their written scheme of investigation, as there may be implications for accurately costing the project.

1. Introduction

This brief has been prepared by the Assistant Archaeologist of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council. The brief sets out the requirements for an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching. The purpose of evaluation is to determine the presence/absence of archaeological features within the application area so that an informed decision can be made on their preservation or otherwise. This Brief and any resulting Contractors' Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) will ensure that the requirements of the Condition can be adequately discharged.

2. Site Location and Description

The site is located off the New Meeting Street and Bromford Road, Oldbury. The site is within an area of mixed uses on the edge of Oldbury Town Centre with residential development to the east and south, business use to the north and a former Foundry to the west. The site slopes towards the east with a drop of two metres between Bromford Road and the eastern boundary of the site. The site appears to be clear of made ground and the former Canal to the north has been filled in.

To the north of the site is the in filled Oldbury Loop Canal, which is identified on the Sites and Monuments Record PRN 13157. This was originally part of Brindley's New Main Line Canal, which remained in use until the 1950s.

3. Planning Background

3.1 A planning application (DC/05/45529) was approved subject to conditions in December 2005 for the development of the slaughterhouse for residential housing.

3.2 Based on the advice given in *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning* (DoE 1990, paras 21-22):

'No development involving any ground disturbance shall take place until an archaeological investigation of the site has been carried out in accordance with a specification to be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing'

The evaluation is designed provide sufficient information on the presence/absence, nature, quality and extent of any below ground remains. If present, the investigation will identify any archaeological remains thereby enabling the formulation, if appropriate, of an additional programme of excavation; should the deposits be of 'national importance' there would be a presumption in favour of their in-situ preservation.

3.3 This Brief and any resulting Contractors' Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) will ensure that the requirements of any future Condition can be adequately discharged.

4. Archaeological Background

This application forms part of DC/05/45529 the site is within an Area of Archaeological potential as defined in the Councils Unitary Development Plan. The Slaughter House is within the historic core of Oldbury (PRN 6205) and is identified on the 1890 Map and possibly the 1857 Parish Map of Oldbury and Langley.

The current application provides a fresh opportunity of examining the origins and development of the medieval town. Isolated pottery fragments are also likely to provide

important information on the chronology of the town, the status of the inhabitants and their general living conditions. Other archaeological remains could also be revealed.

Due to the location of the proposed development, which was the focus of early medieval occupation it is recommended that an archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) is undertaken by a professional archaeological contractor to determine the archaeological potential of the site. Should archaeology be discovered it is possible that further archaeological work may be required at the site before any development may take place.

5. Requirement for Work

5.1 The purpose of the archaeological investigation is to locate and identify any surviving remains within the constraint area; in this particular instance this office wishes to know the extent, the date, nature and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits, which may be present under the area, proposed for development. The work must also assess the relative importance of these deposits, and the potential loss of any archaeological information by the development, therefore substantiating any need for further excavation or change in the planning consent

5.2 A **5% sample** of the development area will be investigated by trial trenching and the layout should be designed to ensure uniform coverage across the site; a trench plan must be appended to the specification.

5.3 The site-specific aims are:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the development area
- To determine the nature, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered
- To provide further information on the origins and development of Oldbury from the medieval period to the present day
- To contribute to any existing corpus of academic knowledge
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation subject to any confidentiality restrictions

5.4 The evaluation recommended above is only the first stage in the archaeological investigation of each of the sites recommended. The scope of any further archaeological recording on each of the sites will depend on the results of the preliminary (and second phase if appropriate) evaluation of surviving archaeological deposits.

5.5 If evaluation indicates that significant archaeological evidence survives on the site, and would be negatively impacted by the proposed redevelopment, a further stage of detailed archaeological excavation and recording will be carried out, in accordance with a site-specific Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the Borough Archaeologist, which sets out specific aims of further recording work.

6.0 General Methodology

6.1 The evaluation shall be supported by a written scheme of investigation.

6.2 The contractor is expected to follow the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

6.3 Details including the name, qualifications and experience, of the site director and all other project personnel (including specialist staff) shall be supplied to the Borough Archaeologist as part of the written scheme of investigation.

6.4 Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the members of the team shall be provided in writing to Borough Archaeologist at least one week in advance of commencement of work.

6.5 The site code for this project is OBSH06.

6.6 All the latest Health and Safety guidelines shall be followed on site.

6.7 Should the client wish to curtail the investigation for any reason at any point in advance of its completion the contractor will still be expected to produce a full report including specialist finds assessments within the timetable set out below.

6.8 The IFA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* should be used for additional guidance in the production of the written scheme of investigation, the content of the report, and the general execution of the project.

7. Evaluation Methodology

7.1 The contractor shall ensure detailed study of all mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

7.2 Prior to the commencement of on-site works the contractor must consult the Sandwell Sites and Monuments Record (Fay de Souza 0121 568 4216) and undertake a rapid map regression exercise based on the sources held at the Local Studies Section of Smethwick Library. This information will assist in on-site interpretation.

7.3 It is recommended that a minimum of 5% of the area to be developed is investigated by trial trenching. The trial trenches will be machine excavated using a toothless ditching bucket, and under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. The exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon will be hand cleaned in all trenches and any archaeological deposits or negative features planned.

7.4 At least 50% of all contained features shall be excavated. A stated percentage of structural and linear features to be excavated shall be provided in the WSI. For those trenches where substantial nineteenth and twentieth century masonry remains are encountered hand dug test pits will be excavated within the trench in order to examine the presence/absence of earlier remains. NOTE: In some circumstances it may be necessary to use shoring to support the sides of the trench, but advice must be sought from the Borough Archaeologist before employing this methodology.

7.5 Details of how all archaeological contexts and artefacts will be excavated, surveyed, recovered and recorded shall be provided. The site grid will be tied to the national grid.

7.6 Details of the site planning policy shall be given in the WSI. The normal preferred policy for the scale of archaeological site plans is 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

7.7 The photographic record shall consist of high quality digital colour and black and white copies. This shall include both general and feature specific photographs; a photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. A photographic register and supporting plan detailing as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot shall accompany the photographic record.

7.8 The contractor must arrange, through a suitably qualified specialist, the assessment of the environmental and metallurgical potential of the site through the examination of suitable deposits. Guidance should be sought from the appropriate English Heritage Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science and details of the methodology included within the WSI.

8.0 Finds

8.1 All finds, where appropriate, shall be washed and marked with both the site code and context number.

8.2 The WSI shall include an agreed list of specialist consultants who might be required to conserve and/or report on finds, and advise or report on other aspects of the investigation.

8.3 Finds work should be to accepted professional standards and adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologists Guidelines for Finds Work. Details of the finds retrieval policy must be included within the WSI.

8.4 The requirements for conservation and storage shall be agreed with Wednesbury Museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed in writing with the Borough Archaeologist.

9.0 Results

9.1 The draft full report including all specialist assessments of artefact assemblages shall be submitted to the Borough Archaeologist within six weeks of completing the fieldwork for

approval. Once approved a total of **eight** copies plus a copy on CD-ROM are to be supplied to the Borough Archaeologist for general distribution.

9.2 The report must contain:

- The aims and methods adopted during the course of the evaluation.
- Detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion. This must be linked to the research objectives cited above and consider the sites in their local, regional and national context.
- An assessment of the local, regional national importance of the site. The latter should be based on the criteria for scheduling as set out in Annex 4 of PPG 16 (DoE 1990).
- Impact Assessment and recommended mitigation strategy will be used to assess the impact of the proposal on the surviving archaeological resource.
- The contractor is also expected to formulate a mitigation strategy and future research programme. The latter should be based on national/regional/local research frameworks and identify the aims/objectives of any future excavation.
- Although the emphasis should be on those deposits that are likely to be destroyed, the wider potential the site must also be considered
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results
- All specialist reports and assessments
- Site location plan, copies of any historical maps and a representative sample of the photographs including colour prints
- Location plan of trenches in relation to the proposed development. All corners of each trench shall be given a 10 figure grid reference
- A section/s within each trench showing the depth of deposits including the present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale
- Sufficient plans by period and area to aid interpretation
- Artefact illustrations that would be submitted in any future publication

9.3 The following appendices should also be included:

- Location and summary of the archive contents
- Completed Sites and Monuments Record summary sheet (copy attached to brief)
- Photographic register

- Archaeological brief, the approved contractors' written scheme of investigation together with the completed pro-forma and site location plan which were submitted as part of the planning application

9.4 The proposed format of the report will be described within the WSI.

10.0 Archive

10.1 Before commencing any fieldwork, the Contractor must contact the Community History and Archives Service, Smethwick Library (High Street, Smethwick, West Midlands B661AB. Tel. 0121 5582561), to determine the requirements for the deposition of the archive.

10.2 The archive should include the record photographs and digital information together with a copy of the Report.

10.3 Photographic prints should be re-produced at a minimum of five by four inches and labelled on the back using indelible ink with the frame number, date, photographers name together with the site code, name and grid reference; the photographs being mounted in archival quality sleeves.

10.4 It is the responsibility of the Contractor to meet the Community History and Archives Service requirements with regard to the preparation of material for deposition.

10.5 Written notification of the commencement of fieldwork shall be given to Community History and Archives Service at the same time as the Borough Archaeologist.

10.6 A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to Borough Archaeologist at the time of deposition.

11.0 Monitoring

11.1 The Borough Archaeologist will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project and should be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, interpretation and reporting stages.

11.2 Written Notification of the start date will be given to the Borough Archaeologist at least one week before the commencement of work and once the fieldwork stage of the investigation has been completed.

12.0 Contractors Written Scheme of Investigation

12.1 Any variations to the WSI shall be agreed in writing with the Borough Archaeologist before being implemented.

12.2 This Brief has been written following a cursory examination of the site by the Borough Archaeologist, potential contractors are therefore strongly advised to carry out their own inspection before submitting a written quotation.

12.3 If on first visiting the site or at any time during the recording exercise, it appears that:

- i) part or the whole of the site is not amenable to the recording programme outlined above, and/or
- ii) an alternative approach may be more appropriate or likely to produce more informative results, and/or
- iii) any features that should be recorded as having a bearing on the interpretation of the site have been omitted,

then it is expected that the Contractor will contact the Borough Archaeologist as a matter of urgency.

For further information regarding the content of this Brief please contact the author at the address below. As part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content and presentation of this Archaeological Brief.

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Appendix 3: AIL Archaeological Proposal



**LAND AT NEW MEETING
STREET/BROMFORD ROAD**

Oldbury
WEST MIDLANDS

Archaeological Proposal

October 2006

**LAND AT NEW MEETING STREET/BROMFORD ROAD,
OLDBURY
Sandwell
(NGR SO 9908 8983)**

Project Design for archaeological evaluation

Contents

- 1. Background**
 - 1.1 Description of the site*
 - 1.2 Previous archaeological work/knowledge*
 - 1.3 Reasons for the project*
 - 1.4 Archive deposition*
- 2. Aims and objectives**
 - 2.1 Research design*
- 3. Method statement**
 - 3.1 General archaeological method*
 - 3.2 Cellar recording*
 - 3.3 Trial trenching*
 - 3.4 Schedule of drawings (preliminary)*
- 4. Fieldwork resources and programming**
 - 4.1 Staffing and equipment*
 - 4.2 Draft programme*
- 5. Consolidation of the site archive**
 - 5.1 Paper records*
 - 5.2 Finds*
 - 5.3 Inventory*
 - 5.4 Report*
- 6. Report specification**
- 7. Publication**
- 8. Bibliography**
- Risk assessment**
- Trench location plan**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS LTD

LAND AT NEW MEETING STREET/BROMFORD ROAD, OLDBURY Sandwell (NGR SO 9908 8983)

Project Design for archaeological evaluation

1. Background

1.1 Description of the site

1.1.1 The plot of land is on the northern edge of Oldbury town centre, to the east of Bromford Road and bounded to the south by New Meeting Street. It slopes to the east and a drop of 2m between Bromford Road and the eastern edge of the site implies an absence of made ground on the site.

1.1.2 The site is within an Area of Archaeological Potential as defined in the council's UDP.

1.1.3 The site is located at NGR SO 9908 8983.

1.2 Previous archaeological work/knowledge

1.2.1 The slaughter house which stood on the site is within the historic core of Oldbury and is identified on the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1886. It may also be shown on the 1857 Parish map of Oldbury and Langley. The Birmingham canal (built 1770) included a loop around the east and north of Oldbury which passed close to the northern wall of the building. This loop had been replaced by 1821, but was still shown on early editions of the Ordnance Survey. Subsequently it has been filled in.

1.2.2 In 1998 archaeological investigation in the form of desk-based assessment (Winter 1998) and evaluation (Mould 1998) took place on New Meeting Street in advance of new housing (SO 99129 89793). Some of the evaluation trenches exposed medieval cultivation soil at depths of 0.4-0.7m, whilst a Wesleyan burial ground was also encountered (SO 99153 89776).

1.2.3 As a first stage of a programme of archaeological investigation an historic building record was made of the Slaughterhouse prior to demolition. This was reported as *The Old Slaughterhouse, New Meeting Street/Bromford Road, Oldbury, West Midlands. Building Recording* (HAS 721) (Archaeological Investigations Ltd 2006). This report contained the results of documentary research and a map recession exercise for the Site.

1.3 Reasons for the project

1.3.1 Planning permission was granted by Sandwell MBC for development on the site subject to an archaeological condition (Application Ref: DC/05/45529).

1.3.2 The condition is based on advice within Planning Policy Guidelines Note 16 and states

“No development involving any ground disturbance shall take place until an archaeological investigation of the site has been carried out in accordance with a specification to be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing.”

- 1.3.3 A brief has been drafted to demonstrate the archaeological methodology for an evaluation to partially fulfil the terms of the condition and this project design has been submitted to comply with the requirements of the brief and revisions to it agreed on 5th May 2006.
- 1.3.4 The client must arrange for access to the site and provide information on all services. Plant will be provided by the client.
- 1.3.5 On completion of site work **Archaeological Investigations Ltd. will not take any responsibility for the maintenance of the backfilled trenches. If special reinstatement is required then this is additional to the quote submitted.**

1.4 Archive deposition

- 1.4.1 It is Archaeological Investigations Ltd's policy to encourage landowners to deposit the site archive including all finds with the local museum. Archaeological Investigations Ltd will prepare the archive for transfer following discussion with the Community History and Archives Service, Smethwick Library.

2. Aims and objectives

2.1 Research design

- 2.1.1 The objectives of the work are to:
 - a. Establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the development area
 - b. Determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered
 - c. Identify the extent and record the profile of a cellar/s and other features uncovered adjacent to the canal
 - d. Provide further information on the origins and development of Oldbury from the medieval to the present day
 - e. Contribute to the existing body of academic knowledge
 - f. Make available to interested parties the results of the investigation (subject to restrictions of confidentiality).

3. Method statement

3.1 General archaeological method

- 3.1.1 This applies to all relevant cases below.

- 3.1.2 The trench positions and survey grid will be tied into features shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 mapping. A temporary site bench mark would be set up on site using the nearest surviving Ordnance Datum (where possible).
- 3.1.3 All archaeological features will be recorded in plan at a scale of 1:20, and photographed, using B&W negative and colour slide film (35mm), following cleaning. A trench plan will be produced at 1:50. Selected sections of the trenches would be drawn at 1:10.
- 3.1.4 Trenches will be excavated by a machine with a toothless ditching bucket under continuous supervision by a qualified archaeologist. After removal of overburden and topsoil, exposed subsoils or archaeological horizons will be cleaned for planning.
- 3.1.5 At least 50% of all features totally contained within the trenches will be excavated. A sample of at least 20% will be dug of linear or large features extending beyond the bounds of the trenches and, where substantial 19th- or 20th-century masonry foundations are encountered within trenches, test pits will be dug by hand to establish the presence/absence and condition of earlier remains.
- 3.1.6 A hand auger may also be used to establish the sequence of deposits in areas where further excavation is not being carried out. The auger has a head diameter of 100mm, which is usually sufficient for the collection of soil samples, and identification of relatively fine changes in stratigraphy.
- 3.1.7 A system of context records will be kept and numbered independently by trench. Recording will be in accordance with Archaeological Investigations Ltd's site manual. Registers will be kept for context records, photographs, drawings, small finds and samples on site.
- 3.1.8 General biological samples (c.30 litres) would be retained from archaeological deposits. Each sample would be floated to recover carbonised remains. A number of further samples which, based on assessment of the environmental remains, demonstrate good potential for environmental preservation will be assessed for plant macrofossils, insects and pollen. Specialist advice will be used to determine which samples to collect and assess.
- 3.1.9 All pottery, metal artefacts and stratified bone would be retained for further analysis. Any ceramic building material would usually be retained although if large quantities are present (>10 pieces per context) then only diagnostic pieces/or a representative sample would be retained.
- 3.1.10 The code of conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists will be adhered to, together with their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*.

3.2 Cellar recording

A previously unsuspected cellar/s has been exposed at the northern side of the site. The depth of the feature and the looseness of the fill render access to the trench impossible on Health and Safety grounds, but the profile will be surveyed and an attempt made to determine the extent of the cellar by targeted use of mechanical excavator. An area of tile flooring which appears to predate the Slaughterhouse will also be investigated by means of targeted use of the machine.

3.3 *Trial trenching*

A sample by trenching of 3% of the development area is proposed for the site. This has been provided as two trenches, each measuring 12m x 2m, arranged in a "T-shape" to the north of a range of cellars known to exist along the northern frontage of New Meeting Street. **Trench positions may vary according to the results of the documentary research and factors local to the site (e.g. service locations).** Any variations to the indicated trench locations will be agreed with the Borough Archaeologist for Sandwell MBC.

3.4 *Schedule of drawings (preliminary)*

Drawing	Scale
Trench location plans	1:500
Trench plans	1:20/1:50
Plans of archaeological features	1:20
Selected sections of trenches	1:10
Sections through archaeological features	1:10/1:20.

4. **Fieldwork resources and programming**

4.1 *Staffing and equipment*

4.1.1 The project team would comprise the following members of staff:

Project manager – Niall Oakey (26 years+ professional field experience)

Based in Hereford and responsible for the over all co-ordination of the development of the project along with determining strategies and reassessing priorities in consultation with the project supervisors, specialists, monitors and client.

Project officer – Simon Mayes (at least three years experience in field archaeology)

Responsible for the day to day running of the site work and adherence to the agreed project design and risk assessment along with the assignment of priorities to individual project staff following consultation with the project manager.

Field officer – Dale Rouse (at least three years experience in field archaeology)

Responsible for the excavation of deposits/features, collection of samples. Also responsible for the accurate production of drawn and written records.

1 Post excavation assistant - finds/environmental processing.

4.1.2 Specialists

Faunal remains – Andy Hammon

Charred remains – Angela Monkton

Pollen/plant microfossils - James Greig

Insects - David Smith (Birmingham)

Medieval pottery – Kath Crooks (AIL)

Roman Pottery – Dr Jerry Evans

Post-medieval and modern pottery – Jon Goodwin (Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology)

Industrial - Jerry McDonnell (Bradford).

4.1.3 Specialist equipment

Soil auger (2m depth/100mm head)

Floatation tank.

4.1.4 Site accommodation/security

A toilet may need to be placed on site and temporary fencing will be required to define the edges of the trenches.

4.2 Draft Programme

Trial trenching on site

up to 4 days

Report for above

4 weeks.

Ideally a weeks' written notice of the commencement of fieldwork and composition of the site team would be given to the Sandwell MBC Borough Archaeologist and to the Community History and Archives Service, but circumstances have prevented this (with the agreement of the Borough Archaeologist).

5. Consolidation of the site archive

5.1 Paper records

5.1.1 All records will be checked and catalogued. The site supervisor and staff will ensure that the site archive is complete and all registers are up to date.

5.1.2 On completion of the fieldwork the entire paper record will be copied and the copy held in a repository other than the building in which the post excavation work is being carried out.

5.2 Finds

5.2.1 Pottery

All pottery will be washed and marked with the site code and context number.

5.2.2 Bone

All bone will be washed and stored in labelled bags. Any bone tools will be marked and bagged separately.

5.2.3 Metal artefacts

All metal artefacts will be X-rayed and stored under appropriate humidity conditions.

5.2.4 Glass

A conservator will be contacted if any glass is recovered and they will ensure that the material is stored and adequately consolidated.

5.2.5 Industrial waste

The conservator's and industrial specialist's advice will be sought over the treatment and storage of industrial waste.

5.3 Inventory

An inventory of the site archive will be produced and this will be available to all members of the project team.

5.4 Report

The site report will amalgamate the results from specialist work and the excavation and research. A plan and section for each trench will be produced as well as an over-all site

plan showing the location of the trenches in relation to surrounding features. The sections will include vertical and horizontal scales, together with a level aOD. The site will be assessed for local, regional and national importance (on the criteria set out in Annex 4 of PPG 16) and a strategy formulated to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeological resource.

6. Report specification

The interim report will contain the following elements and will not be paginated but each section is numbered for easy reference:

- Contents page
- Summary
- Introduction
- Background information
- Statement of aims and methods employed
- Description of results
- Discussion of results integrated with any other information
- Assessment of the local, regional and national importance of the site
- Assessment of the impact of the development on the surviving archaeological resource
- Formulation of a mitigation strategy and future research programme, if appropriate
- Conclusion
- Site location plan, copies of relevant historical maps and a representative sample of photographs including colour prints
- Location plan of trenches in relation to proposed development. The corner of each trench will be given a ten figure grid reference
- Appendices containing specialist reports, site archive information (including photographic register), archaeological brief, written scheme of investigation and summary sheet.

Eight copies will be provided for planning purposes and a copy on CD-ROM.

7. Publication

It is envisaged that the results of the work will be published in either a regional or local journal depending on the relative importance of their findings. This will be determined after the completion of the interim report.

8. Bibliography

Archaeological Investigations Ltd., 2006 *The Old Slaughterhouse, New Meeting Street/Bromford Road, Oldbury, West Midlands. Building Recording (HAS 721)*

Mould, C., 1998 *An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at New Meeting Street, Oldbury* unpublished BUFAU client report

Winter, C., 1998 *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Walkover Survey of New Meeting Street, Oldbury* unpublished BUFAU client report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

1. Company/Location: Archaeological Investigations Ltd
Unit 1, Premier Business Park
Westfields Trading Estate
Faraday Road
Hereford HR4 9NZ

2. Date of assessment: 6/10/06

3. Activity/situation: Archaeological works at Oldbury

4. Identification of hazards/action to note

4.1 Heavy plant

All staff to be issued with safety boots, hard hats and vis jackets and to wear these at all times on site. Visitors to be issued with hard hats/vis jackets. Access to areas where plant is working to be restricted to members of the client's agents and company staff only. Staff should note that they must keep out of the swing arc of the machine. Never approach a machine from behind. Always ensure the driver of the machine has seen you before approaching a machine.

4.2 Fall on level

Staff should be aware that soil and gravel is slippery when wet. Take extra care when working in the wet. Never run on site. Grid pegs should be clearly identifiable and safely protected.

4.3 Use of ladder/fall from height

No one is to climb the step ladder for the purpose of taking photographs without it being placed on firm level ground and another member of staff supporting the ladder all the time it is in use.

4.4 Use of hand tools

Staff using hand tools must be aware that lack of care can result in injury. Always regularly clean soil off tools. Take short rests if feeling fatigued. Ensure no one is working within 2-3m of the maximum swing distance of picks, mattocks and shovels. If you are unfamiliar with any particular item of equipment then ask a supervisor.

4.5 Deep holes

Be aware of the location of the sides of excavation trenches. All trenches should be marked 1m from their edge with bunting. Ramped access should be provided at one end of each trench. Shoring and fencing will be provided where necessary.

4.6 Underground services

A plan of known services will need to be obtained prior to work commencing from the site agent.

4.7 Lifting soil sacks/equipment

Do not lift anything that because of its size or weight is likely to cause you injury.
Remember:

Keep a straight back

Take the strain with your thigh muscles

Keep your fingers clear of edges and trapping areas

If you are lifting with someone else ensure that you both work as a team - notifying each other when to lift or lay the item to rest.

4.8 Contaminated ground

The site is not known to be contaminated but never the less staff should not only wash hands before eating or any other hand to mouth activity, but **wear gloves at all times**. Face masks will be available on Site.

5. Items assessed which present low level risk

5.1 Bad weather

Come equipped with enough clothing and waterproofs for bad weather.

Appendix 4: Completed Summary Sheet

SANDWELL MBC SMR SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address: The Old Slaughterhouse, New Meeting Street/Bromford Road, Oldbury	
Borough: Sandwell	NGR: SO 9908 8983
Type of Work: Archaeological Evaluation	Site Code: OBSHO6
Contractor: Archaeological Investigations Ltd	Date of Work: October-November 2006
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Community History & Archives Service Smethwick Library	
Title of Report: Land at New Meeting Street/Bromford Road, Oldbury, West Midlands. Archaeological Evaluation (Hereford Archaeology Series 741)	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</p> <p><i>The project arose in response to a commission from Tayma Homes Limited to carry out archaeological investigations to satisfy a condition on planning permission for development of the site of The Old Slaughterhouse, Oldbury. This phase of the archaeological works took the form of archaeological evaluation after demolition of the standing fabric of an enclosed complex of late 19th-century and later buildings used as a slaughterhouse until the early 21st century.</i></p> <p><i>Three trenches were excavated and material exposed in a newly dug foundation was recorded. The only evidence of activity on the Site before the late 18th century was an area of truncated, undated topsoil. Evidence of subsequent activity mirrored the evidence derived from map regression and comprised 19th- and 20th-century wall foundations and cellars with intervening phases of demolition and dumping of introduced materials. All contexts contained disturbed 19th- or 20th-century material, which was not retained.</i></p> <p><i>The site archive will be deposited with the Community History and Archives Service, Smethwick Library, West Midlands.</i></p>	
Author of Summary: N. J. Oakey	Date of Summary: 20 th December 2006

Figures and Plates

Figure 1. Site location.

Figure 2. The Site at the beginning of 2006.

Figure 3. Extract from Blood's map of 1857.

Figure 4. Extract from "Plan of the Townships of Oldbury and Langley", 1857.

Figure 5. Extract from First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1889.

Figure 6. Extract from Ordnance Survey of 1919.

Figure 7. Extract from Ordnance Survey of 1938.

Figure 8. Extract from Ordnance Survey of 1956.

Figure 9. Location of trenches and other observations.

Figure 10. Plan of Trenches 1 and 2.

Figure 11. Representative sections of Trenches 1 and 2.

Figure 12. Plan of Trench 3.

Figure 13. Representative section of Trench 3.

Plate 1. Trench 1 from the east.

Plate 2. North section of Trench 1.

Plate 3. Trench 2 from the south, showing features 1015 and 1016.

Plate 4. Trench 2, feature 1015 (borehole) during excavation.

Plate 5. Grinding wheel, found during excavation of Trench 3.

Plate 6. Wall 1024, located in Trench 3.

Plate 7. North section of Trench 3, wall 1023.

Plate 8. North side of the vaulted cellar, located on the east side of the former slaughter house.

Plate 9. Brick cellar wall, brick surface and footing.

Plate 10. Brick wall exposed during excavation of foundations.

Plate 11. Well found during excavations, with borehole centrally located.

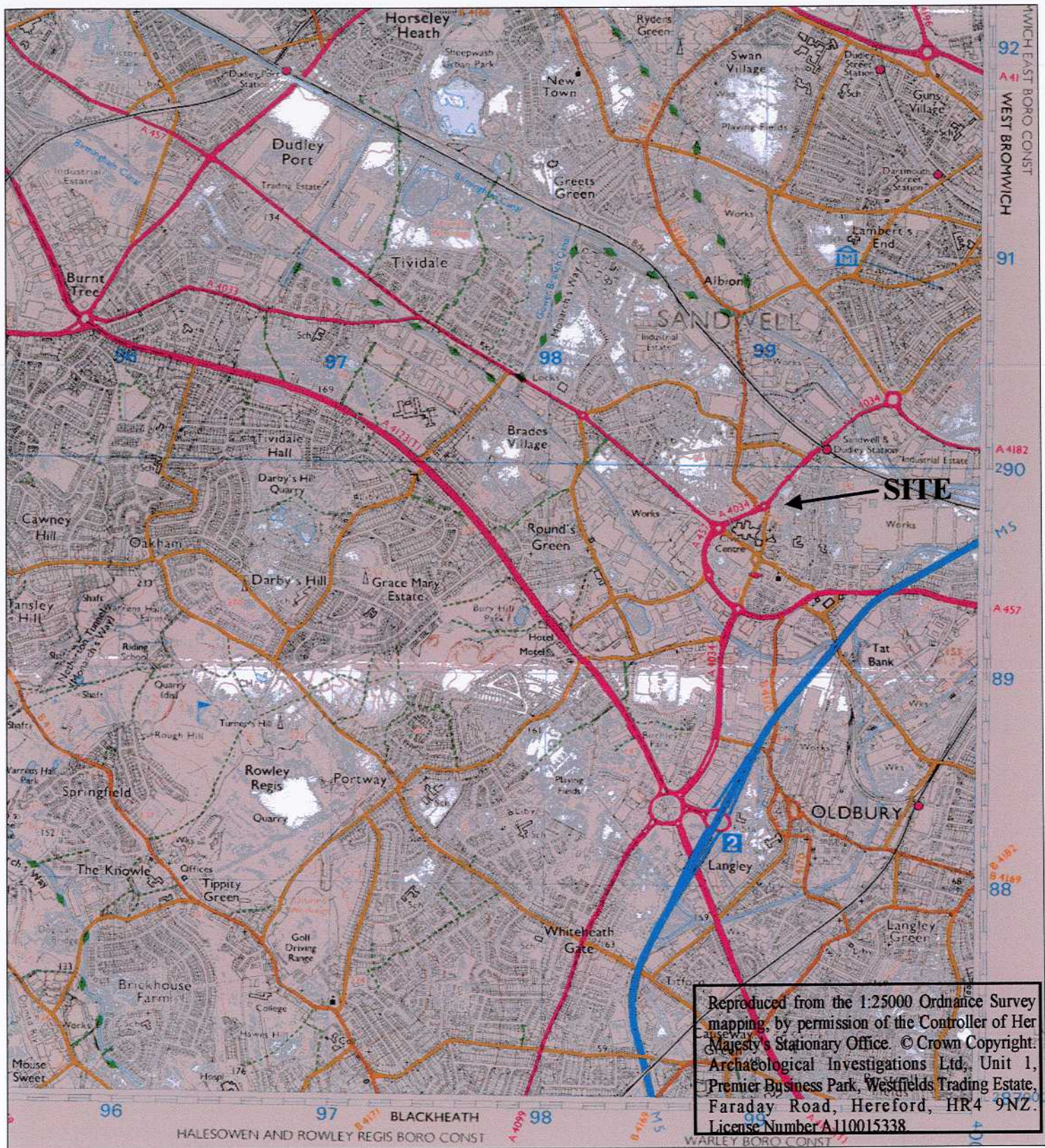


Figure 1. Site location

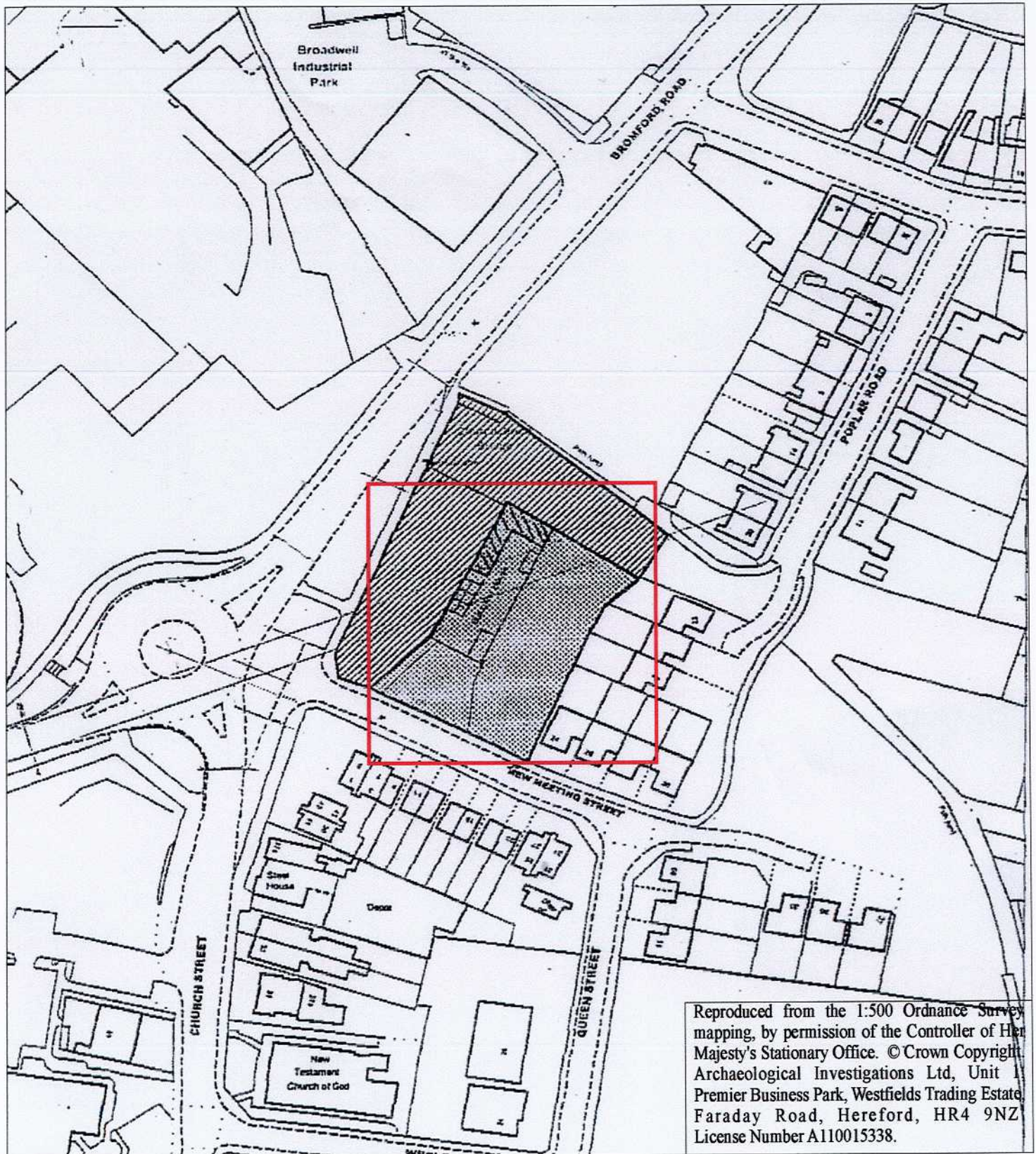


Figure 2. The Site at the beginning of 2006.



Figure 4. Extract from "Plan of the Townships of Oldbury and Langley", 1857



Figure 3. Extract from Blood's map of 1857.

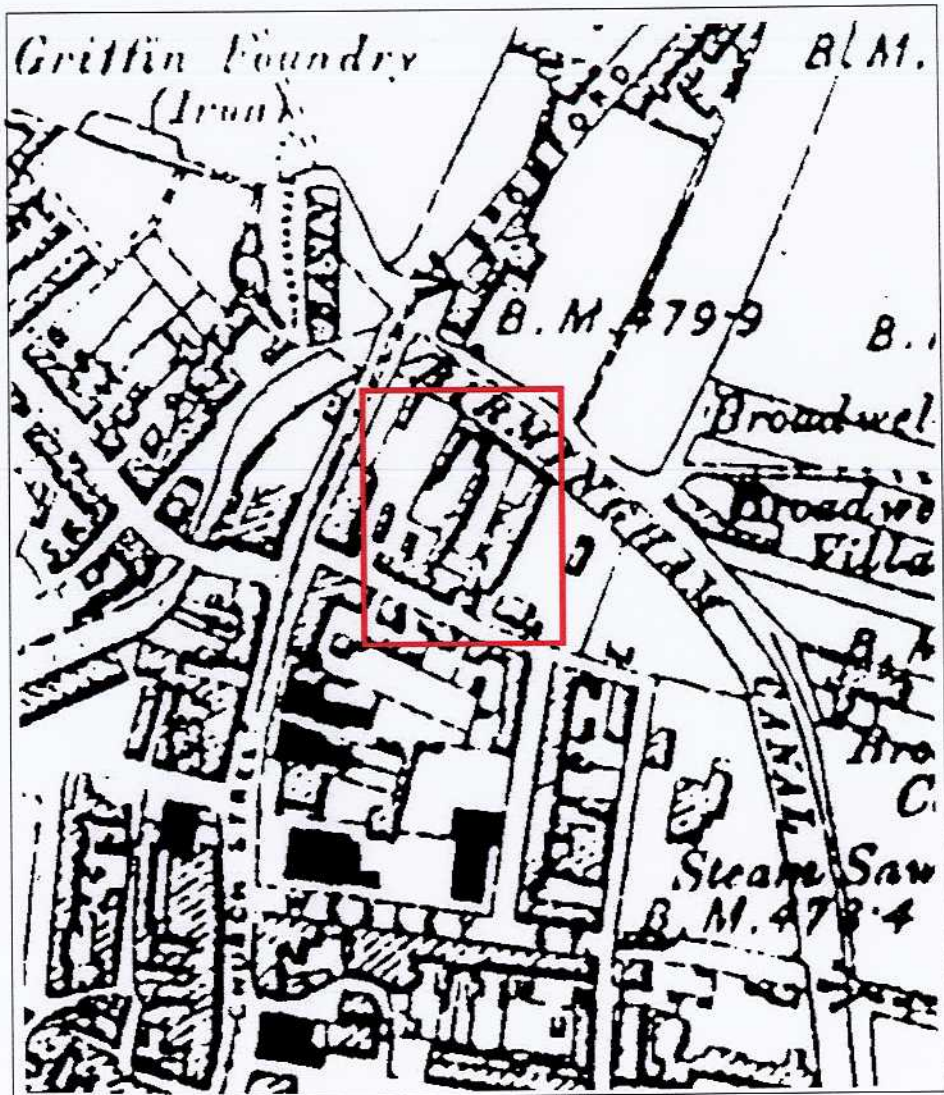


Figure 5. Extract from First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1889.

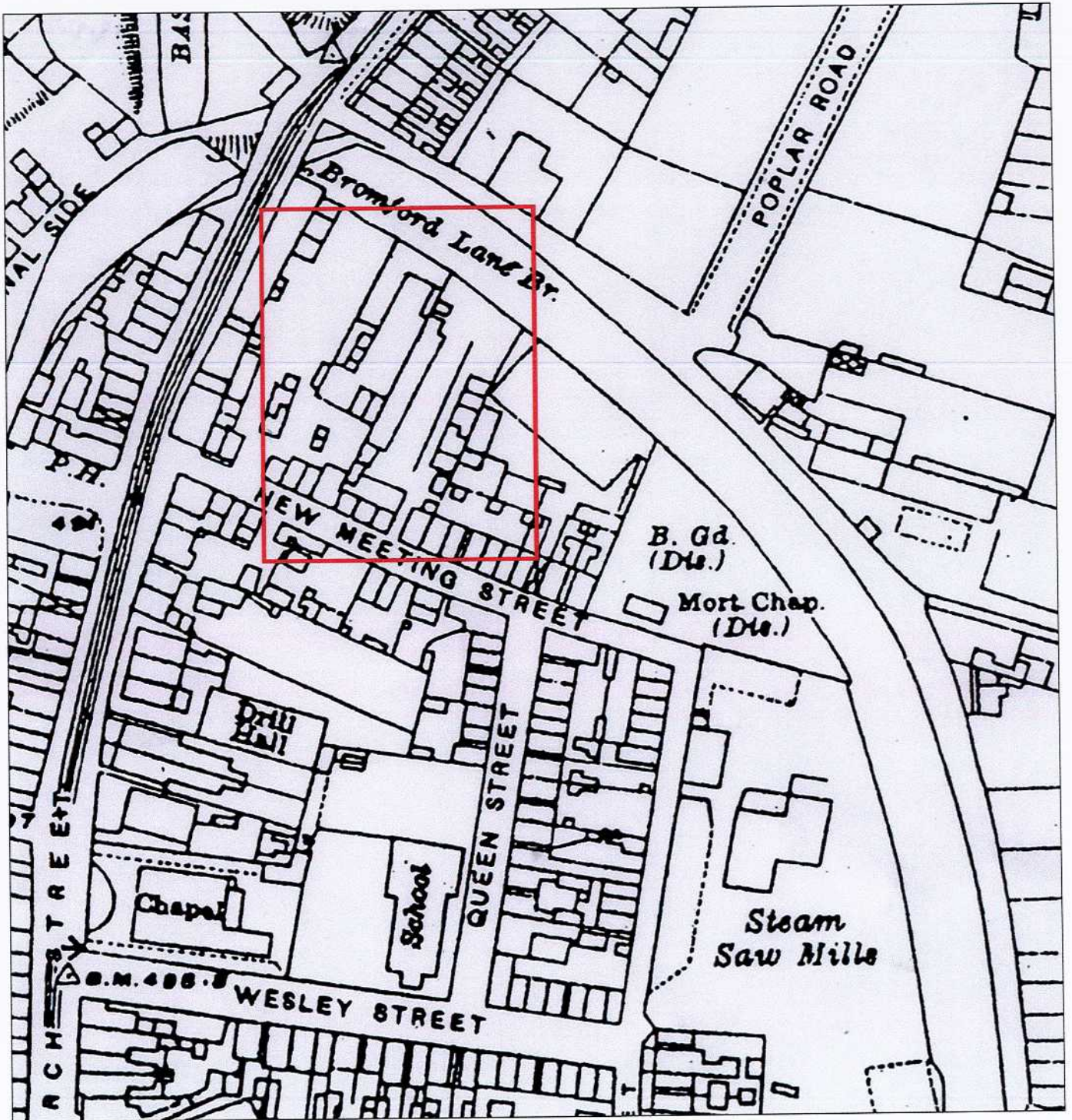


Figure 6. Extract from Ordnance Survey of 1919.

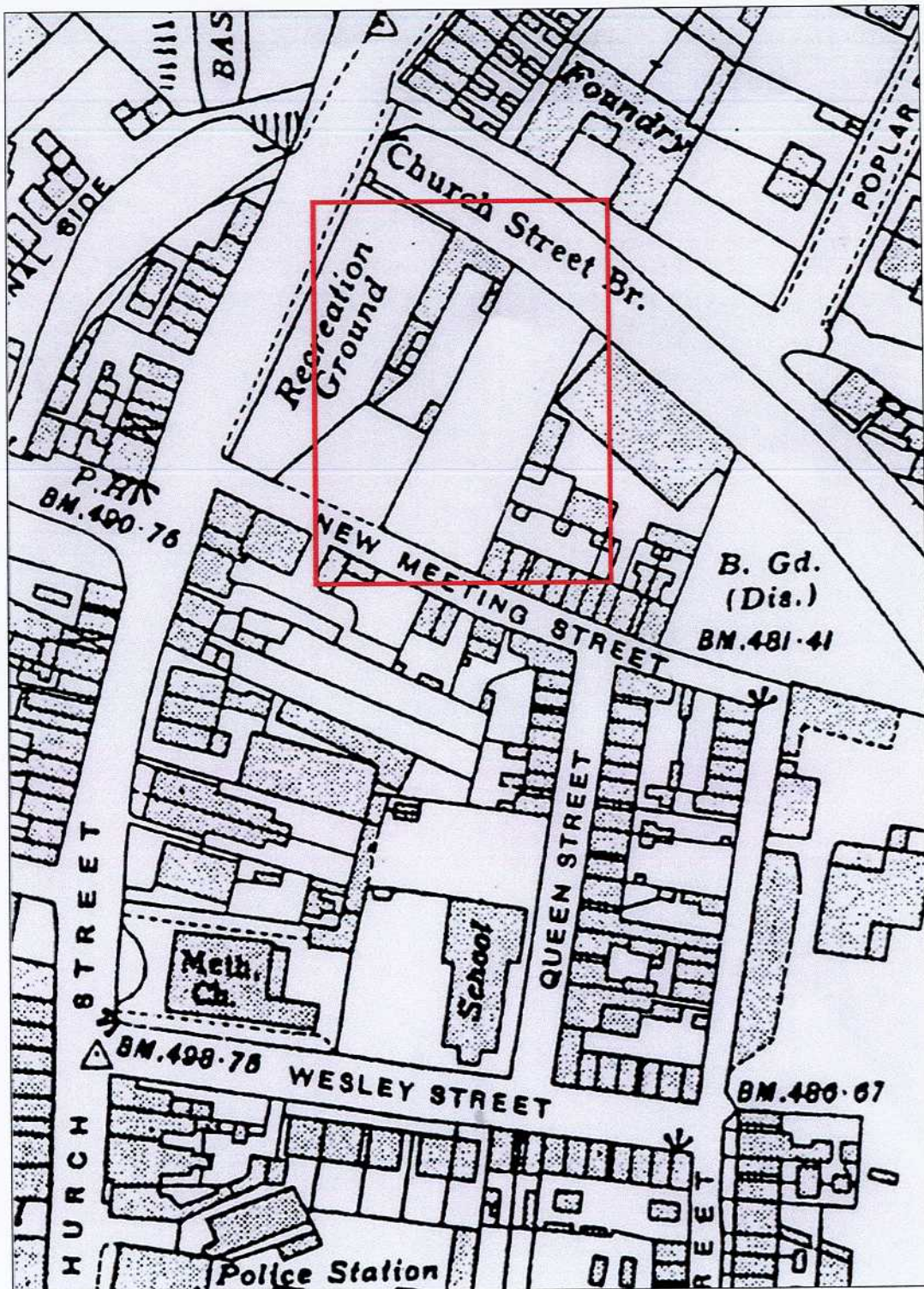


Figure 7. Extract from Ordnance Survey of 1938.

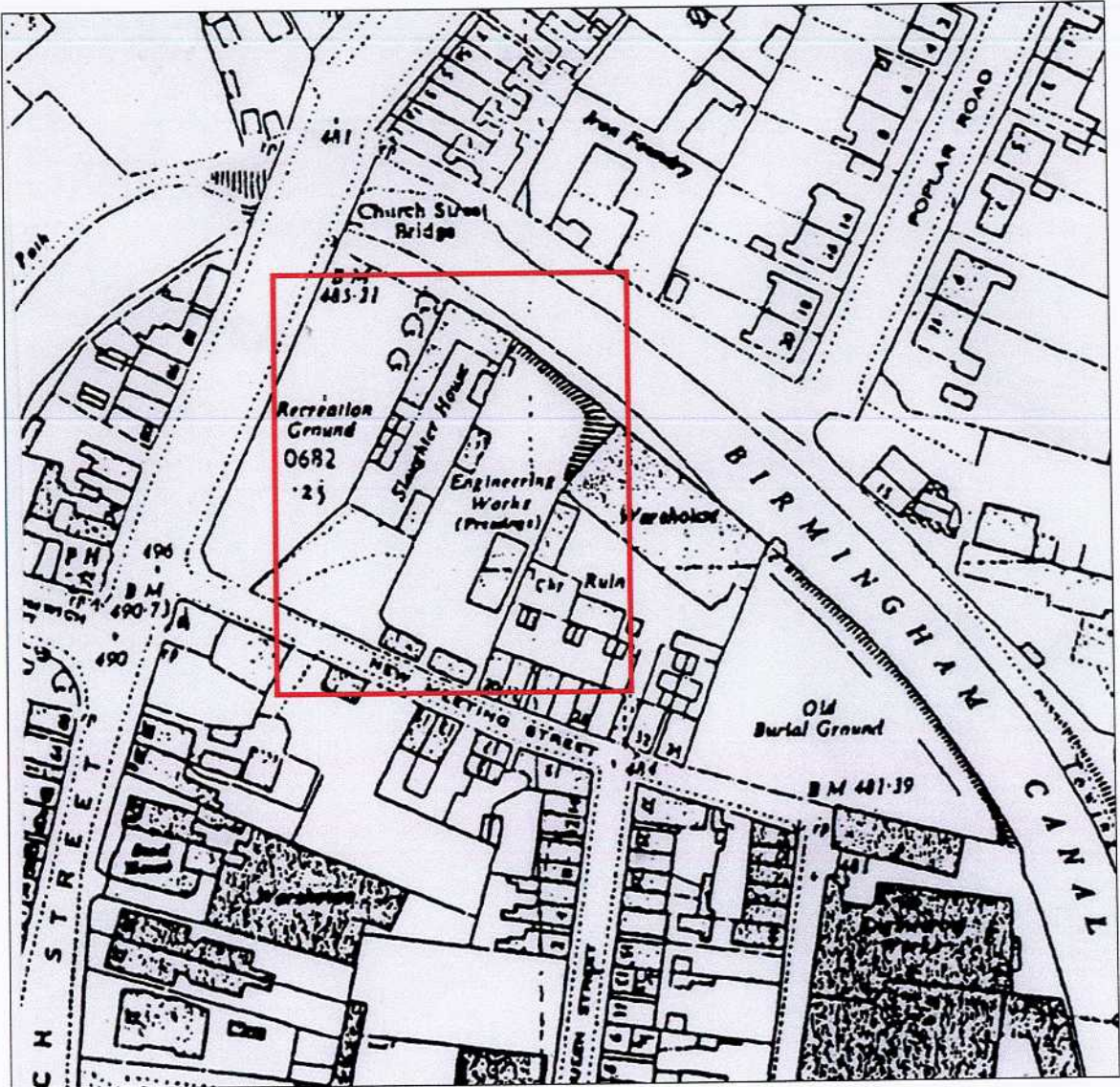


Figure 8. Extract from Ordnance Survey of 1956.



Based upon the 1:500 Ordnance Survey
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BROMFORD ROAD

BRICK LINED WELL

E3991304/
N2898599

E3991381/
N2898650

SLAUGHTER HOUSE WALL AND
WALL OF UNKNOWN BUILDING

E3991284/
N2898589

E3991333/
N2898551

E3991401/
N2898547

E3991313/
N2898520

ARCHED CELLAR

E3991282/
N2898315

E3991282/
N2898315

TRENCH 3

E3991380/
N2898243

E3991413/
N2898249

E3991366/
N2898232

E3991424/
N2898243

E3991408/
N2898207

E3991165/
N2898207

E3991178/
N2898194

TRENCH 2

E3991092/
N2898178

E3991133/
N2898149

E3991147/
N2898139

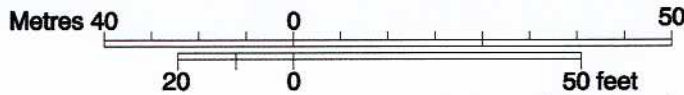
E3991082/
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N2898095

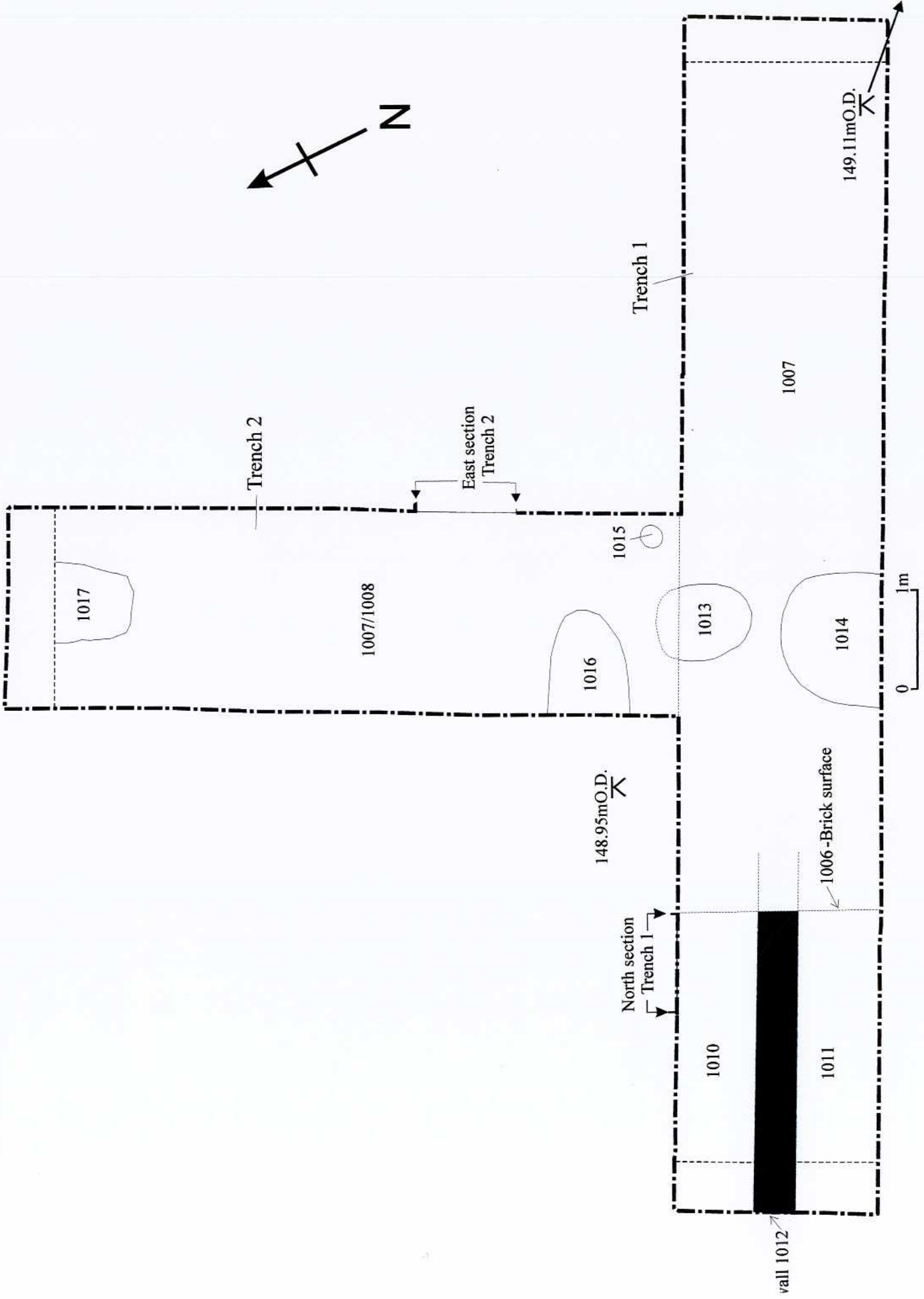
TRENCH 1

NEW MEETING STREET



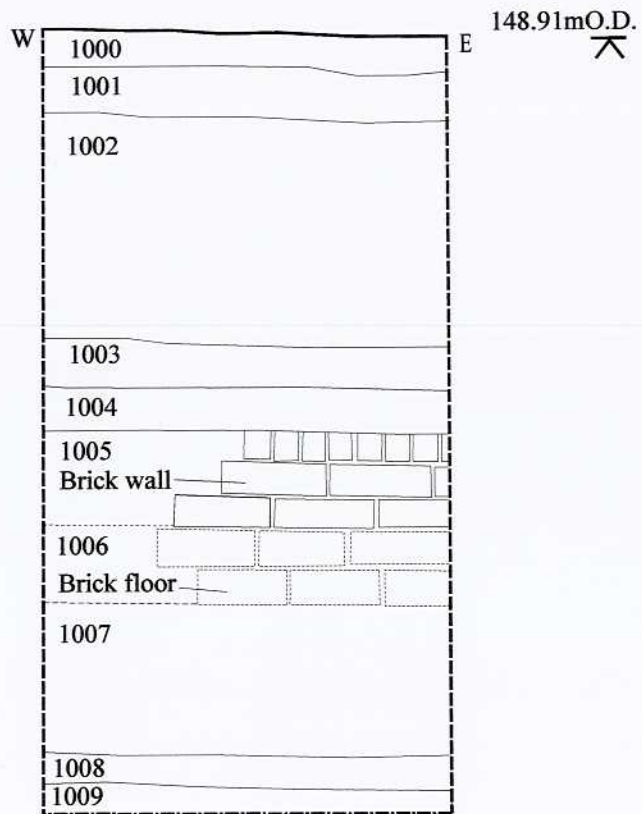
Excavation Location Plan

Figure 9

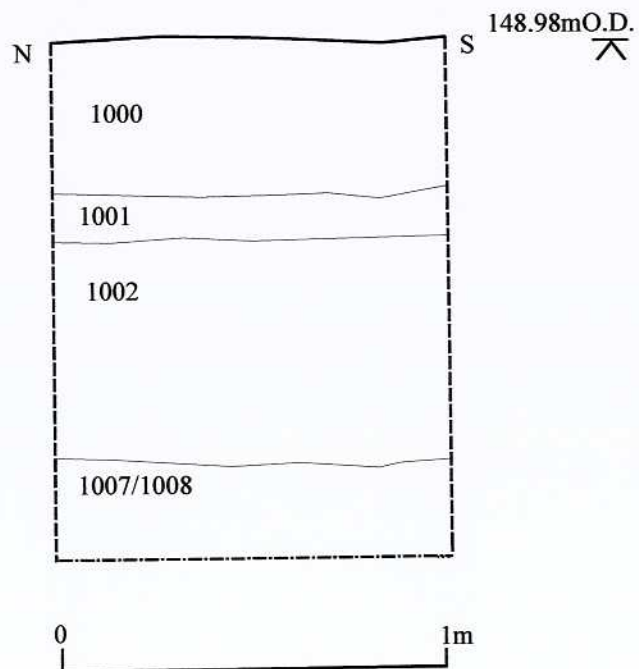


Trenches 1 and 2 at 1:50 scale, Fig 10.

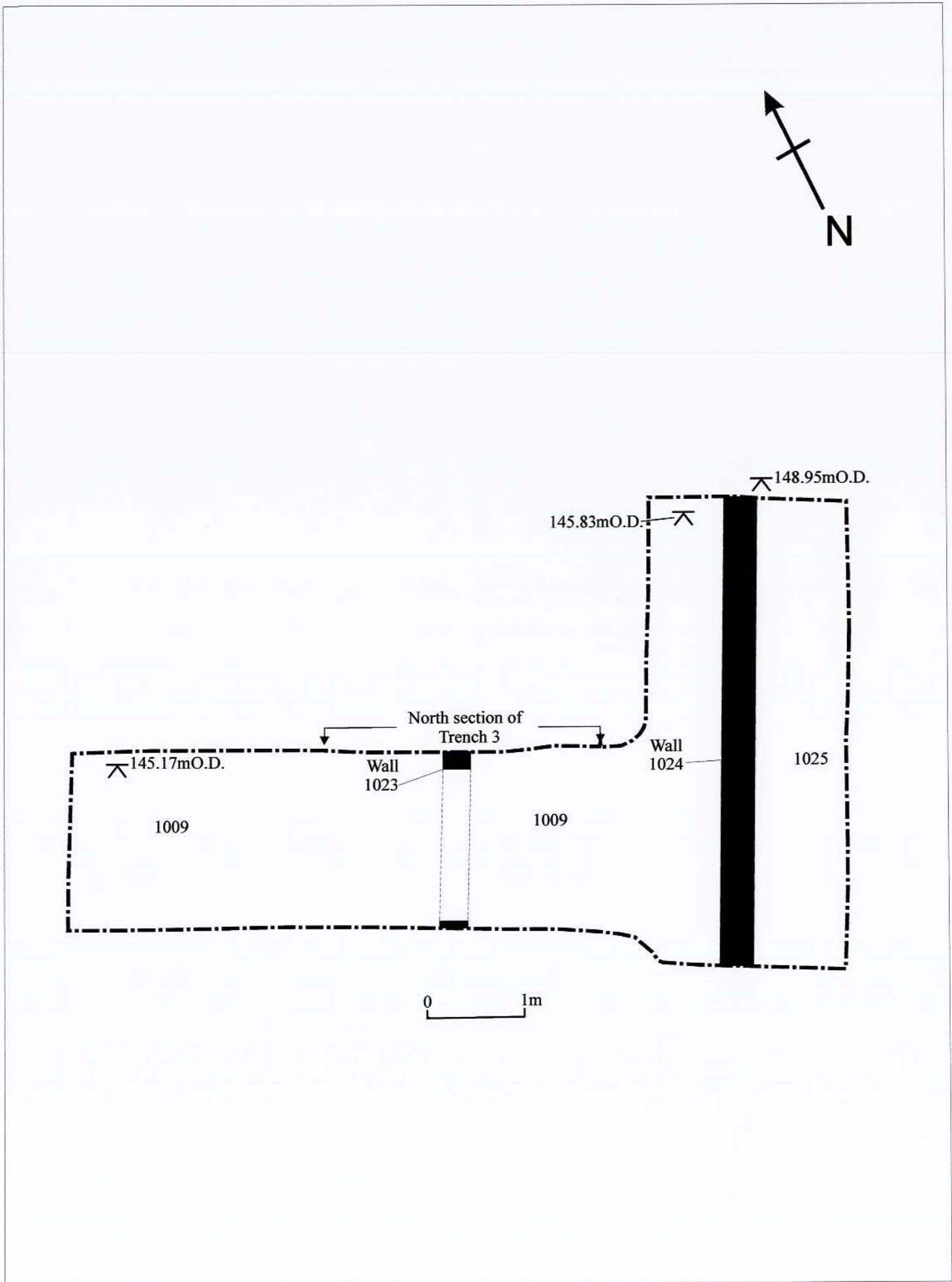
North section of Trench 1 at 1:20 scale.



East section of Trench 2 at 1:20 scale.

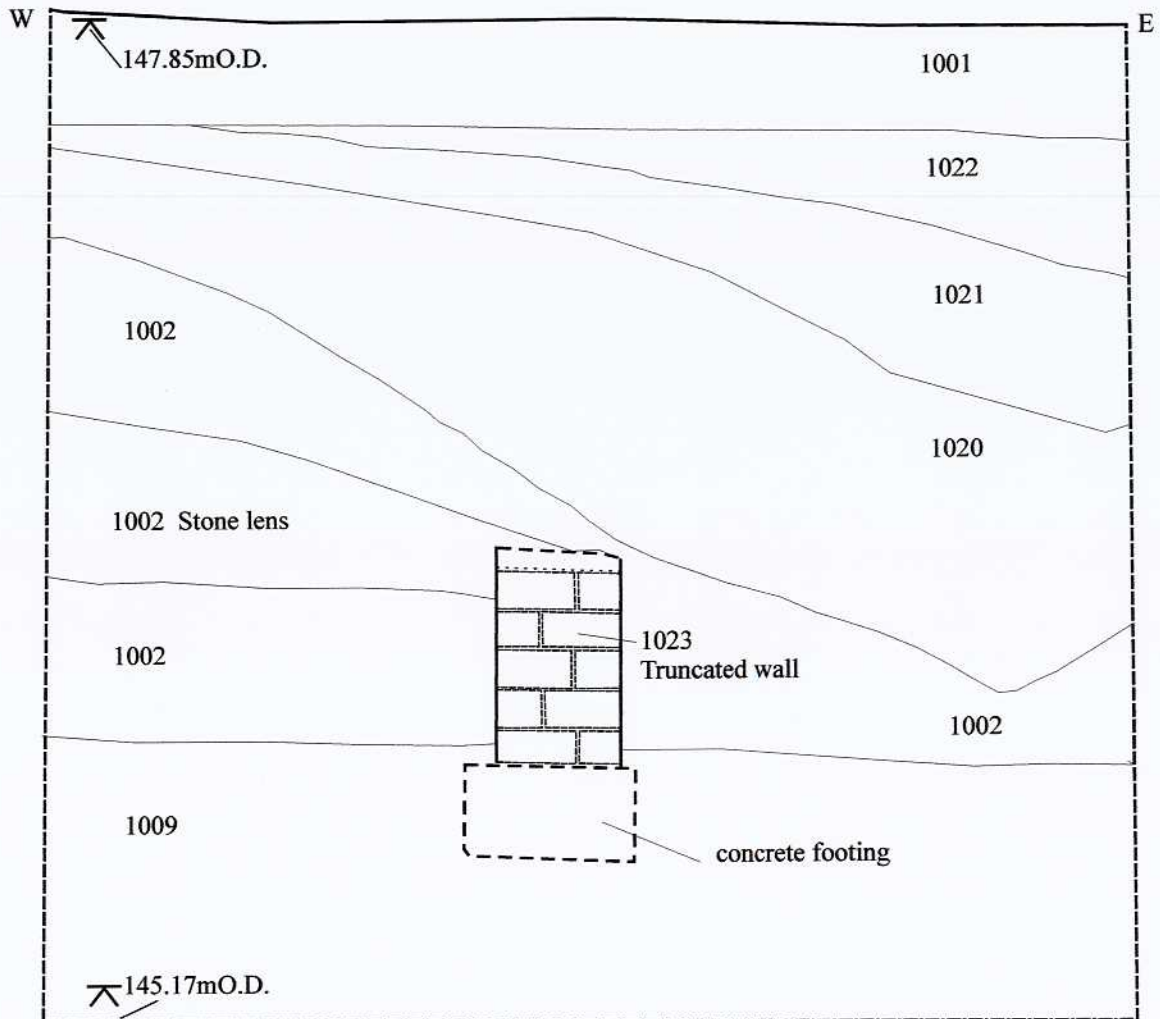


Selected trench sections from Trenches 1 and 2, Fig 11.



Plan of Trench 3 at 1:50 scale, Fig 12.

North section of Trench 3 at 1:20 scale.



Selected section from Trench 3, Fig 13.



Plate 1. Trench 1 from the east.



Plate 2. North section of Trench 1, showing wall 1005.

Plate 3. Trench 2 from the south, showing features 1015 and 1016.



Plate 4. Trench 2, feature 1015 (borehole) during excavation.



Plate 5. Grinding wheel found during the excavation of Trench 3.



Plate 6. Wall 1024 located in Trench 3.



Plate 7. North section of Trench 3, wall 1023.



Plate 8, North side of the vaulted cellar, located on the east side of the former slaughter house.



Plate 9. Brick cellar wall, brick surface and footing.



Plate 10. Brick wall exposed during excavation of foundations.



Plate 11. Well found during excavation, with borehole centrally located.