

**Watching Brief Report
Service Trial Trenches
Marble Arch Tower
55 Bryanston Street
London, W1H 7AJ**

**NGR: 527768 181041
(TQ 27768 81041)**

**ASE Project No: 7752
Site Code: BRT15**

**ASE Report No: 2015344
OASIS ID: archaeol6-226679**





By Sarah Ritchie, MA, ACIfA

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Waterman Infrastructure & Environment Ltd to carry out a watching brief on the preliminary geotechnical and services investigations at Marble Arch Tower, 55 Bryanston Street, London, W1H 7AJ. The site work was carried out between the 17th August and 13th October 2015. Ground level outside the site slopes from 26.60m OD at the junction of Edgware Road and Bryanston Street in the north-west, to 26.40m OD at the junction of Edgware road and Bayswater Road in the south-west.

The Trial Holes were all located beyond the boundary of the existing building on the pavement. The only surviving archaeology consisted of two east-west orientated red brick arches, located at c.26.46m OD as well as a red brick floor and wall located at c. 25.82m OD, all of which are likely to be late post-medieval in date.

Natural deposits were only observed to the south, within trial hole 13, and consisted of sand and gravel at c. 25.20m OD.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Waterman Infrastructure & Environment Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Marble Arch Tower, 55 Bryanston Street, London, W1H 7AJ (Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The solid geology of the site is shown by the British Geological Survey as London Clay Formation; a Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 34 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period. Overlying the London Clay is a superficial deposit of Lynch Hill Gravel Member consisting of sand and gravel and formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period.

1.2.2 A recent geotechnical investigation by RSK (RSK 2013) concluded that *“beneath the existing concrete basement slab (from 0.45 to 0.70m), the ground conditions generally consist of mixed granular and cohesive made ground soils (from 0.70 to 2.80m) overlying medium dense to very dense sandy gravels and very soft to soft silty clays, of the Lynch Hill Gravel (from 3.80 to 5.20m), firm to very stiff London Clay (to 43.40 to 44.00m) with very stiff to hard Lambeth Group proven to the terminal depth of investigation of 55.00m. The interface between the London Clay and Lambeth Group was encountered at elevations between -19.93 to -20.47mAOD”*.

1.2.3 Ground level outside the site slopes from 26.60m OD at the junction of Edgware Road and Bryanston Street in the north-west, to 26.40m OD at the junction of Edgware road and Bayswater Road in the south-west.

1.2.4 The site is currently occupied by Marble Arch Tower, a 21 storey building comprising offices, retail units and a cinema, and located in the north-western part of the Site at the junction of Bryanston Street and Edgware Road. Marble Arch Tower is located above a two storey podium that extends the length of the Site along Bryanston Street and Edgware Road, connecting to an eight storey building located to the south-east of the Site fronting Marble Arch. A single storey basement extends the entire area of Site to a depth of 23.5m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) (nominally 3.5m in depth).

1.2.5 The site is bounded by Bryanston Street to the north; by buildings fronting Marble Arch and Great Cumberland Place to the east; Bayswater Road to the south and Edgware Road to the west.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A Planning application (Planning Ref: 14/11220/FULL) for redevelopment of the site was permitted on the 25th June 2015. The application is for the demolition of the existing buildings and the erection of two new buildings with two basement levels and two mezzanine levels below ground. The proposed buildings will be a mix of uses comprising offices, up to 54 residential units, retail, restaurant, bar and cinema; provision of car parking spaces, cycle parking spaces, plant and works to public realm, including a new pedestrian

route between Marble Arch and Bryanston Street.

- 1.3.2 An archaeological desk based assessment was prepared in support of the planning application (Waterman Infrastructure & Environment Ltd 2014a). The document found that the site had a medium potential for finds and features from the prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval periods.

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological monitoring of preliminary service investigations between the 17th August and 13th October 2015. This report has been prepared in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Waterman Infrastructure & Environment Ltd 2014(b)).
- 1.4.2 The site work was carried out by Sarah Ritchie and Tom Rugg, and was managed by Andy Leonard (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.0.1 The archaeological background is set out in the Heritage Desk Based Assessment prepared for the site (Waterman Infrastructure & Environment Ltd 2014a) and summarised below.
- 2.0.2 There are no finds recorded from the prehistoric period within the Site, although a hand axe of uncertain prehistoric date, but believed to be from between the Lower Palaeolithic to early Neolithic date, was recovered from a made-ground deposit (i.e. not *in situ*) approximately 200m north-east of the Site (MLO420).
- 2.0.3 No finds or features from the Roman period have been recorded within the Site. However, the Site is located near to the known remains of a Roman road (MLO21677) running east to west approximately 100m south-west of the Site, on the southern edge of Bayswater Road. The remains of a Roman road were recorded as 9.14m wide and sealed by Roman pottery and other finds.
- 2.0.4 The site is also within the vicinity of two post-medieval roads, one running north to south (MLO18478) along the course of the present day Edgware Road, 150m north-west of the Site, and one running east to west (MLO3171) along the north side of the present day Oxford Street, approximately 100m east of the Site. Both of these roads have possible Roman origins (Margary 1967, cited in MOLAS 2009).
- 2.0.5 There are no finds or features from the Anglo-Saxon period within the Site or in immediately surrounding the Site. However, several of the settlements that surround the Site, such as Tyburn and Paddington, to the south-east and north-west of the Site respectively, have their origins in Saxon times (MOLAS 2009).
- 2.0.6 The earliest place name associated with the Site is 'Tyburn', referred to as 'Tiburne' in the Domesday Book, and commonly believed to mean 'boundary stream'.
- 2.0.7 The Site occupies the location of the former Tyburn Gallows (MLO15316), first erected in 1388 (Weinrebb and Hibbert 1995, cited in MOLAS 2009).
- 2.0.8 There is evidence for a conduit ditch (MLO52002) approximately 50m south-east of the Site. The conduit ditch was used to supply additional water for the City and is likely to have been in use into the post medieval and industrial periods.
- 2.0.9 There is also evidence for a medieval arable field system (MLO67330), surviving in the present northwest area of Hyde Park covering an area of c. 10ha. Ditched boundaries and ridge-and-furrow cultivation are clearly visible in aerial photographs. These fields pre-date Henry VIII's enclosure of the park in 1536 and formed part of the manorial lands of Hyde, a moiety of Eye-next-Westminster, belonging to the Abbey of Westminster.
- 2.0.10 The site of the Tyburn Tree, approximately 30m from the south-west of the Site, was a place of execution erected in 1571. It is now marked by a stone on the traffic island at the junction of Edgware Road, Marble Arch and Oxford

Street. The executions at this place continued into the late eighteenth century.

- 2.0.11 Holmes, 1897 (cited in GLHER record) identified MLO70959/ELO680, within the Site boundary (the corner of Bryanston Street and Edgware Road, to the north of the Tyburn Gallows, also within the Site), as the burial place for those executed at Tyburn. However, MLO23167/ELO642 marks the site where, according to the Thames Basin Archaeological Observation Group, skeletons of medieval and post medieval date were found, including one apparently wearing manacles, approximately 30m to the south-west of the Site.
- 2.0.12 Rocque's map (dated 1747) depicts a quarry approximately 100m east of the Site. This is likely to have been a brickearth quarry, common in this period of rapid expansion. There are examples of other quarries nearby from recent archaeological evaluations.
- 2.0.13 Both the Tyburn Gallows (within the Site) and the Tyburn Tree are also shown on Rocque's map from 1747, but have disappeared by the time of the 1799 Horwood map.
- 2.0.14 Horwood's map from 1799 shows that the Site had been developed, with properties fronting the eastern, southern and western boundaries of the Site, and with the stables of Cumberland Mews running through the centre of the Site.
- 2.0.15 The Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1870 does not indicate a significant change in use of the Site, but by 1914 the OS map shows additional buildings alongside the west of the Site, with the Church Army Headquarters also clearly marked. Cumberland Mews is still shown crossing the Site.
- 2.0.16 The Regal (now the Odeon) on the Site was first built in 1928. It was renamed as the Odeon Theatre in 1945. The original building was demolished to make way for a new cinema theatre in 1964. The current building opened in 1967.
- 2.0.17 The 1953 OS map shows that within the Site, the Church Army Headquarters was located to the north of the Odeon Theatre and a public house (New Inn) was located at the southern entrance of Cumberland Mews on the western side.
- 2.0.18 By 1964, the OS map shows the new Odeon Cinema developed over the Site, a development which included the Marble Arch Tower, as it is today.

2.6 Project Aims and Objectives

2.6.1 The general aims of the watching brief were, through the monitoring of the ground works, to:

Record the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered in terms of their physical composition (e.g. sand, gravel, organic materials, etc.) and their archaeological formation (primary deposits, secondary deposits, etc.);

Assess the overall level of truncation across the Site caused by industrial age developments in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries;

Assess the overall presence and survival of any artefactual evidence encountered, its condition given the nature of the deposits encountered;

Assess the overall presence and survival of the main kinds of ecofactual and environmental evidence (e.g. including plant remains, pollen, charcoal, molluscs, soils, etc.), its condition and potential, given the nature of the deposits encountered.

2.6.2 The specific aims of the watching brief were to determine the following:

To record and characterise any evidence of prehistoric and palaeoenvironmental materials associated with water channels;

To record and characterise the impacts of medieval, post medieval and industrial age development of the Site and any associated heritage assets / artefacts encountered;

To record and characterise any features relating to the historic crossroad and the Site's use as a place of execution; and

To sample and analyse environmental remains to create a better understanding of past land use across the Site and within its wider context.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The archaeological watching brief comprised the monitoring of the excavation of service locating Trial Holes situated outside the boundary of the existing building within the pavement (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 The entire length of Trial Holes 5; 7 and 9 were not archaeologically monitored, as sections of these holes had been opened and backfilled between weekly ASE visitations. Trial Holes 7 and 5 were both 9.10m long in total, of which, 5.60m of TH 7 and 1.60m of TH5 were monitored. Trial Hole 9 was 7m long, of which 3.30m was monitored. Trial Hole 4 was shortened by the main contractor to span only the pavement, not the road also.
- 3.1.3 The machine excavation was carried out using a ditching bucket, and, once the paving slabs or tarmac were lifted, the ground was reduced to locate existing services, or to a depth of 1.20m, which ever came first. The Trial Holes were recorded by an ASE Archaeologist.
- 3.1.4 All deposits and features were recorded using ASE standard context sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection only.

3.2 Archive

- 3.2.1 ASE informed LAARC prior to the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at the LAARC in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of contexts	61
No. of files/paper record	20
Digital photos	73
Permatrace sheets	5

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trial Hole 1

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
1/001	Layer	Tarmac	3.87m	0.80m	0.10m	27.20m OD
1/002	Layer	Concrete	3.87m	0.80m	0.34m	27.10m OD
1/003	Layer	Made Ground	3.87m	0.80m	0.68m	26.76m OD

Table 2: Trial Hole 1 list of recorded contexts

4.1.1 Trial Hole 1 was located to the north of Marble Arch Tower, within Bryanston Street. The monitored Trial Hole was orientated north-south and measured 3.87m x 0.80m x 1.10m (max depth).

4.1.2 The Trial Hole consisted of 0.68m of compact brownish grey silty-clay made ground [1/003] with brick rubble and gravel inclusions overlain by 0.34m of concrete [1/002]. The trench was sealed by tarmac [1/001].

4.1.3 No archaeological finds or features were observed. The Trial Hole ended at 26.08m OD at maximum depth and natural deposits were not reached.

4.2 Trial Hole 2

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
2/001	Layer	Paving Slabs	2.30m	0.90m	0.06m	27.36m OD
2/002	Layer	Concrete	2.30m	0.90m	0.17m	27.30m OD
2.003	Pad	Concrete Pad	2.30m	0.90m	NFE	27.13m OD

Table 3: Trial Hole 2 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 Trial Hole 2 was located to the north of Marble Arch Tower, within the pavement on Bryanston Street. The monitored Trial Hole was orientated east-west and measured 2.30m x 0.90m x 0.23m (max depth).

4.2.2 The Trial Hole consisted of a concrete pad for one of the columns of the existing building [2/003] located at 27.13m OD. Overlying this was 0.17m of concrete [2/002]. The trench was sealed by paving slabs [2/001].

4.2.3 No archaeological finds or features were observed. The Trial Hole ended at 27.13m OD at maximum depth and natural deposits were not reached.

4.3 Trial Hole 3

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
3/001	Layer	Cobble Stones	1.60m	0.51m	0.10m	27.36m OD
3/002	Layer	Cement Bedding	1.60m	0.51m	0.06m	27.26m OD
3/003	Layer	Made Ground	1.60m	0.51m	0.24m	27.20m OD

Table 4: Trial Hole 3 list of recorded contexts

- 4.3.1 Trial Hole 3 was located to the north of Marble Arch Tower, within the pavement on Bryanston Street. The monitored Trial Hole was orientated north-south and measured 1.60m x 0.51m x 0.40m (max depth).
- 4.3.2 The Trial Hole consisted of 0.24m of dark brown silty made ground [3/003] overlain by 0.06m of cement bedding layer [3/002]. The trench was sealed by cobble stones [3/001].
- 4.3.3 No archaeological finds or features were observed. The Trial Hole ended at 26.96m OD at maximum depth and natural deposits were not reached.

4.4 Trial Hole 4

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
4/001	Layer	Paving Slabs	2.20m	0.62m	0.06m	27m OD
4/002	Layer	Concrete	2.20m	0.62m	0.08m	26.94m OD
4/003	Layer	Made Ground	2.20m	0.62m	0.78m	26.86m OD

Table 5: Trial Hole 4 list of recorded contexts

- 4.4.1 Trial Hole 4 was located to the north of Marble Arch Tower, within the pavement on Bryanston Street. The monitored Trial Hole was orientated north-south and measured 2.20m x 0.62m x 0.94m (max depth).
- 4.4.2 The Trial Hole consisted of 0.78m of brownish orange silty made ground [4/003] overlain by 0.08m of concrete bedding layer [4/002]. The trench was sealed by paving slabs [4/001].
- 4.4.3 No archaeological finds or features were observed. The Trial Hole ended at 26.06m OD at maximum depth and natural deposits were not reached.

4.5 Trial Hole 5

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
5/001	Layer	Paving Slabs	1.60m	0.80m	0.06m	27.36m OD
5/002	Layer	Sand	1.60m	0.80m	0.05m	27.30m OD
5/003	Layer	Made Ground	1.60m	0.80m	0.99m	27.25m OD
5/004	Layer	Tarmac	7.50m	0.60m	0.13m	27.20m OD
5/005	Layer	Concrete	7.50m	0.60m	NFE	27.07m OD

Table 6: Trial Hole 5 list of recorded contexts

4.5.1 Trial Hole 5 was located to the north of Marble Arch Tower, within the pavement on Bryanston Street. The monitored Trial Hole was orientated north-south and measured 1.60m x 0.80m x 1.10m (max depth). The Trial Hole continued north across the road for a further 7.50m, however this section was not fully recorded, due to it being both opened and backfilled between archaeological visitations.

4.5.2 The southern-most 1.60m, situated within the pavement, consisted of 0.99m of grey sandy-silt made ground [5/003] with frequent modern pipes overlain by 0.05m of bedding sand [5/002] and sealed by paving slabs [5/001].

4.5.3 To the north of the pavement the trench consisted of concrete [5/005], the depth of which was not fully recorded, overlain by 0.13m of tarmac [5/004].

4.5.4 No archaeological finds or features were observed. The Trial Hole ended at 26.26m OD at maximum depth and natural deposits were not reached.

4.6 Trial Hole 7

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
7/001	Layer	Paving Slabs	2.40m	0.80m	0.06m	27.36m OD
7/002	Layer	Concrete	2.40m	0.80m	0.07m	27.30m OD
7/003	Layer	Made Ground	0.90m	0.80m	0.70m	27.23m OD
7/004	Layer	Tarmac	4m	0.60m	0.13m	27.20m OD
7/005	Layer	Concrete	4m	0.60m	0.40m	27.07m OD
7/006	Layer	Made Ground	4m	0.60m	0.68m	26.67m OD

Table 7: Trial Hole 7 list of recorded contexts

4.6.1 Trial Hole 7 was located to the north of Marble Arch Tower, within the pavement on Bryanston Street. The monitored Trial Hole was orientated north-south and measured 6.40m x 0.80m x 1.20m (max depth).

4.6.2 The southern-most 2.40m consisted of 0.70m of grey sandy-silt made ground [7/003] overlain by 0.07m of concrete [7/002] and sealed by paving slabs [7/001]. Live cables were located directly beneath concrete [7/002], due to

this only 0.90m of the concrete [7/002] was broken out and reduced.

4.6.3 To the north of the pavement the trench consisted of 0.68m of mid brown sandy-silt made ground with occasional CBM inclusions [7/006]. This was overlain by 0.40m of concrete [7/005], and the trial hole sealed by 0.13m of tarmac [7/004].

4.6.4 No archaeological finds or features were observed. The Trial Hole ended at 25.99m OD at maximum depth and natural deposits were not reached.

4.7 Trial Hole 8

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
8/001	Layer	Tarmac	6.10m	0.58m	0.14m	26.60m OD
8/002	Layer	Concrete	6.10m	0.58m	0.21m	26.46m OD
8/003	Layer	Hardcore	6.10m	0.58m	0.22m	26.25m OD
8/004	Layer	Made Ground	6.10m	0.58m	0.52m	26.03m OD

Table 8: Trial Hole 8 list of recorded contexts

4.7.1 Trial Hole 8 was located to the north of Marble Arch Tower, within Bryanston Street. The monitored Trial Hole was orientated north-south and measured 6.10m x 0.58m x 1.10m (max depth).

4.7.2 The Trial Hole consisted of 0.52m of brown silty made ground [8/004] with frequent rubble and occasional stone inclusions, overlain by 0.22m of hardcore [8/003, overlain by concrete [8/002] and sealed by tarmac [8/001].

4.7.3 No archaeological finds or features were observed. The Trial Hole ended at 25.50m OD at maximum depth and natural deposits were not reached.

4.8 Trial Hole 9

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
9/001	Layer	Paving Slabs	3.40m	0.62m	0.06m	26.60m OD
9/002	Layer	Sand	3.40m	0.62m	0.05m	26.54m OD
9/003	Layer	Concrete	3.40m	0.62m	0.49m	26.49m OD
9/004	Layer	Made Ground	3.40m	0.62m	0.45m	26.49m OD

Table 9: Trial Hole 9 list of recorded contexts

4.8.1 Trial Hole 9 was located to the north of Marble Arch Tower, on the junction of Bryanston Street and Edgware Road. The monitored Trial Hole was orientated north-south and measured 3.40m x 0.62m x 0.60m (max depth).

4.8.2 The Trial Hole consisted of 0.45m of made ground consisting of redeposited sand and gravel [9/004], cut to the south by 0.49m of concrete [9/003]. Both these were overlain by 0.05m of sand [9/002] and sealed by paving slabs

[9/001].

4.8.3 No archaeological finds or features were observed. The Trial Hole ended at 26m OD at maximum depth and natural deposits were not reached.

4.9 Trial Hole 10

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
10/001	Layer	Paving Slabs	3.70m	0.60m	0.06m	26.50m OD
10/002	Layer	Sand Bedding	3.70m	0.60m	0.05m	26.44m OD
10/003	Layer	Made Ground	3.70m	0.60m	1.09m	26.39m OD

Table 10: Trial Hole 10 list of recorded contexts

4.9.1 Trial Hole 10 was located to the west of Marble Arch Tower, within the pavement on Edgware Road. The Trial Hole was orientated north-east – south-west and measured 3.70m x 0.60m x 1.20m (max depth).

4.9.2 The Trial Hole consisted of 1.09m of redeposited sand and gravel with large blocks of concrete and modern cables [10/003]. [14/003] was sealed by 0.05m of bedding sand [10/002] and the trench sealed by 0.06m thick paving slabs [10/001].

4.9.3 No archaeological finds or features were observed. The Trial Hole ended at 25.30m OD at maximum depth and natural deposits were not reached.

4.10 Trial Hole 11

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
11/001	Layer	Paving Slabs	6.42m	0.60m	0.06m	26.40m OD
11/002	Layer	Sand Bedding	6.42mm	0.60m	0.05m	26.34m OD
11/003	Layer	Tar	3.06m	0.60m	0.06m	26.29m OD
11/004	Layer	Concrete	3.06m	0.60m	0.16m	26.22m OD
11/005	Fill	Loose tar	3.06m	0.60m	0.87m	26.06m OD
11/006	MAS	Wall	0.60m	0.36m	1.03m	26.29m OD
11/007	Layer	Made Ground	3m	0.60m	0.79m	26.29m OD

Table 11: Trial Hole 11 list of recorded contexts

4.10.1 Trial Hole 11 was located to the west of Marble Arch Tower, within the pavement on Edgware Road. The Trial hole was orientated north-east – south-west and measured 6.42m x 0.60m x 1.20m (max depth).

4.10.2 The north-eastern most 3m of Trial Hole 11 consisted of 0.79m of sand and gravel made ground with brick and concrete inclusions and cables [11/007] located at 26.29m OD. Truncating [11/007] is modern red brick wall [11/006]

which was tiled on the south-west facing side. Wall [11/006] was located at 26.29m OD. To the south-west of wall [11/006] was 0.87m of loose black tar [11/005], possibly backfilling a room associated with [11/006]. Tar [11/005] was sealed by concrete slab [11/004], which was in turn overlain by 0.06m of tar [11/003]. Tar [11/003] was sealed by 0.05m of bedding sand [12/002] and paving slabs [12/001].

4.10.3 No archaeological finds or features were observed. The Trial Hole ended at 25.20m OD at maximum depth and natural deposits were not reached.

4.11 Trial Hole 12

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
12/001	Layer	Paving Slabs	8.70m	0.60m	0.06m	26.40m OD
12/002	Layer	Sand Bedding	8.70m	0.60m	0.05m	26.34m OD
12/003	Layer	Tar	5.50m	0.60m	0.06m	26.29m OD
12/004	Layer	Made Ground	5.50m	0.60m	0.20m	26.23m OD
12/005	Layer	Concrete	5.50m	0.60m	0.10m	26.03m OD
12/006	Layer	Made Ground	3.30m	0.60m	0.43m	25.93m OD
12/007	CONC	Concrete Arch	3.30m	0.60m	NFE	25.50m OD
12/008	CONC	Concrete Foundation	1m	0.60m	0.42m	25.92m OD
12/009	Layer	Made Ground	3.20m	0.60m	0.84m	26.29m OD
12/010	CONC	Slab	3.20m	0.60m	NFE	25.45m OD

Table 12: Trial Hole 12 list of recorded contexts

4.11.1 Trial Hole 12 was located to the south of Marble Arch Tower, within the pavement on Marble Arch Road. The Trial hole was orientated north-south and measured 8.70m x 0.60m x 1m (max depth).

4.11.2 The base of the Trial Hole consisted of flat concrete slab [12/010] within the northern-most 3.20m at 25.45m OD and associated concrete foundation [12/008], located at 25.92m OD. These are believed to be associated with the basement of the existing building. The base of the southern-most 4.50m of the trench consisted of the top of concrete arch [12/007], located at 25.50m OD and curving down east to west.

4.11.3 Overlying concrete slab [12/010] was 0.84m of mid brown sandy-silt modern made ground with occasional red brick inclusions and various ceramic pipes [12/009]. Overlying concrete arch [12/007] was 0.43m of sand and gravel modern made ground [12/006] with occasional red brick and concrete inclusions. Sealing made ground [12/006] and foundation [12/008] was a thin layer of concrete [12/005].

4.11.4 [12/005] was overlain by light grey sand and gravel layer [12/004], which was sealed by 0.06m of tar [12/003], which was in turn sealed by 0.05m of

bedding sand [12/002] and paving slabs [12/001].

4.11.5 No archaeological finds or features were observed. The Trial Hole ended at 25.40m OD at maximum depth and natural deposits were not reached.

4.12 Trial Hole 13

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
13/001	Layer	Paving Slabs	4m	0.60m	0.06m	26.40m OD
13/002	Layer	Sand Bedding	4m	0.60m	0.05m	26.34m OD
13/003	Layer	Tar	4m	0.60m	0.07	26.29m OD
13/004	Layer	Made Ground	4m	0.60m	0.40m	26.22m OD
13/005	Layer	Dump/made ground	2.26m	0.60m	0.74m	25.94m OD
13/006	MAS	Wall	0.60m	0.40m	0.40m	25.94m OD
13/007	MAS	Floor	1.74m	0.60m	NFE	25.82m OD
13/008	Natural	Sand and Gravel	2.26m	0.60m	NFE	25.20m OD

Table 13: Trial Hole 13 list of recorded contexts

4.12.1 Trial Hole 13 was located to the south of Marble Arch Tower, within the pavement on Marble Arch Road. The Trial hole was orientated north-south and measured 4m x 0.60m x 1.20m (max depth).

4.12.2 Natural sands and gravels [13/008] were observed at 25.20m OD (1.20m bgl) within the northernmost 1.28m of the trial hole. Overlying the natural was a light grey silty-sand layer/dump [13/005] with occasional crushed mortar and red brick fragments measuring 0.74m thick. Truncating [13/005] was red brick wall [13/006], orientated east-west and located at 25.94m OD. To the south of wall [13/006], and probably associated with it, was red brick floor surface [13/007]. This measured 1.74m long and was located at 25.82m OD. Wall [13/006], floor [13/007] and layer [13/005] are all likely to be of late post-medieval date (c. 19th-20th century), however due to the nature of the trial trenching no brick samples were collected and the contexts preserved *in situ*.

4.12.3 Floor [13/007]; wall [13/006] and layer [13/005] were all sealed by a light brown sandy-silt modern made ground [13/004], within which were numerous modern services. [13/004] was sealed by 0.07m of tar [13/003], which was in turn sealed by 0.05m of bedding sand [13/002] and paving slabs [13/001].

4.12.4 No archaeological finds or features were observed.

4.13 Trial Hole 14

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
14/001	Layer	Paving Slabs	3.70m	0.60m	0.06m	26.50m OD
14/002	Layer	Sand Bedding	3.70m	0.60m	0.05m	26.44m OD
14/003	Layer	Made Ground	3.70m	0.60m	1.09m	26.39m OD

Table 14: Trial Hole 14 list of recorded contexts

4.13.1 Trial Hole 14 was located to the west of Marble Arch Tower, within the pavement on Edgware Road. The Trial hole was orientated north-east – south-west and measured 3.70m x 0.60m x 1.20m (max depth).

4.13.2 The Trial Hole consisted of 1.09m of redeposited sand and gravel with large blocks of concrete and tarmac inclusions, and modern cables [14/003]. [14/003] was sealed by 0.05m of bedding sand [14/002] and the trench sealed by 0.06m thick paving slabs [14/001].

4.13.3 No archaeological finds or features were observed. The Trial Hole ended at 25.30m OD at maximum depth and natural deposits were not reached.

4.14 Trial Hole 15

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
15/001	Layer	Tarmac	3.80m	0.70m	0.12m	27.20m OD
15/002	Layer	Concrete	3.80m	0.70m	0.47m	27.08m OD
15/003	Layer	Made Ground	3.80m	0.70m	0.63m	27.33m OD
15/004	MAS	Wall	0.60m	0.70m	NFE	26.46m OD
15/005	MAS	Wall	2m	0.70m	NFE	26.30m OD

Table 15: Trial Hole 15 list of recorded contexts

4.14.1 Trial Hole 15 was located to the north of Marble Arch Tower, within Bryanston Street. The monitored Trial Hole was orientated north-south and measured 3.80m x 0.70m x 1.22m (max depth).

4.14.2 Red brick arches [15/004] and [15/005] were observed at 26.96m OD and 26.30m OD respectively. Built of red brick bonded with a soft cream coloured mortar, they have been interpreted as possible east-west orientated culverts. Overlying brick structures [15/004] and [15/005] was brownish grey silty-clay made ground [15/003] with frequent CBM inclusions. This was sealed by 0.47m of concrete [15/002]. The trial hole was sealed by tarmac [15/001].

4.14.3 No archaeological finds or features were observed. The Trial Hole ended at 25.98m OD at maximum depth and natural deposits were not reached.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 5.1.1 The stratigraphic sequence generally consisted of paving or tarmac over made ground with modern cables and services, dug to a depth of 1.20m bgl and natural deposits not being reached.
- 5.1.2 Trial Hole 11, to the east of Marble Arch Tower, revealed a modern building/cellar filled with loose tar to a depth of at least 25.20m OD. Trial Hole 12 revealed concrete foundations believed to be associated with the existing buildings at a depth of c. 25.50m OD.
- 5.1.3 Post-medieval features were observed within Trial Holes 13 and 15. Trial Hole 13 revealed a red brick floor and wall at c. 25.82m OD, Trial Hole 15 revealed two east-west red brick arches, possibly culverts, located at c.26.46m OD.
- 5.1.4 Natural sands and gravels were only observed within Trial Hole 13 at 25.20m OD.

5.2 Potential impact on archaeological remains

- 5.2.1 A planning application (Planning Ref: 14/11220/FULL) for redevelopment of the site was permitted on the 25th June 2015. The application is for the demolition of the existing buildings and the erection of two new buildings with two basement levels and two mezzanine levels below ground.
- 5.2.2 The depth of basements proposed for the new development would completely remove any potential existing archaeological finds and features, however from the results of this watching brief it is unclear at present what, if anything, those features might consist of.

5.3 Consideration of research aims

- *Assess the overall presence and survival of any artefactual evidence encountered, its condition given the nature of the deposits encountered;*

No artefactual evidence was observed within these trial holes.

- *Assess the overall presence and survival of the main kinds of ecofactual and environmental evidence (e.g. including plant remains, pollen, charcoal, molluscs, soils, etc.), its condition and potential, given the nature of the deposits encountered.*

No ecofactual or environmental evidence was observed within these trial holes.

- *To record and characterise any evidence of prehistoric and palaeoenvironmental materials associated with water channels;*

No prehistoric or palaeoenvironmental evidence was observed within these trial holes.

- *To record and characterise the impacts of medieval, post medieval and industrial age development of the Site and any associated heritage assets / artefacts encountered;*

East-west orientated red brick arches [15/004] and [15/005], located at c.26.46m OD as well as floor [13/007] and wall [13/006] located at c. 25.82m OD, are likely to be late post-medieval in date. It was not possible to establish an accurate date for the layers of made ground observed within the trial holes, however it is possible that some of those are also of 19th or 20th century date.

- *To record and characterise any features relating to the historic crossroad and the Site's use as a place of execution*

No features relating to the historic crossroad and the Site's use as a place of execution were encountered within the trial holes

- *To sample and analyse environmental remains to create a better understanding of past land use across the Site and within its wider context.*

No environmental remains were encountered within the trial holes.

5.4 Conclusions

- 5.4.1 The service trial trench Watching Brief at Marble Arch Tower revealed that the perimeter of the site to the north, west and south, consists of made ground with service pipes and cables to a level of c.1.20m below ground level.
- 5.4.2 East-west orientated red brick arches [15/004] and [15/005], located at c.26.46m OD as well as floor [13/007] and wall [13/006] located at c. 25.82m OD, are likely to be late post-medieval in date.
- 5.4.3 Natural deposits were only observed to the south, within trial hole 13, and consist of sand and gravel at c. 25.20m OD.

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HER Summary

Site Code	BRT15					
Identification Name and Address	Marble Arch Tower, 55 Bryanston Street, London, W1H 7AJ					
County, District &/or Borough	London Borough of Westminster					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 27768 81041					
Geology	Lynch Hill Gravel					
Arch. South-East Project Number	7752					
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief			
Type of Site			Deep Urban			
Dates of Fieldwork			17 th August – 13 Oct 2015			
Sponsor/Client	Waterman Infrastructure & Environment Ltd					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Sarah Ritchie					
Period Summary						
			PM	Modern		
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Waterman Infrastructure & Environment Ltd to carry out a watching brief on the preliminary geotechnical and services investigations at Marble Arch Tower, 55 Bryanston Street, London, W1H 7AJ. The site work was carried out between the 17th August and 13th October 2015. Ground level outside the site slopes from 26.60m OD at the junction of Edgware Road and Bryanston Street in the north-west, to 26.40m OD at the junction of Edgware road and Bayswater Road in the south-west.</i></p> <p><i>The Trial Holes were all located beyond the boundary of the existing building on the pavement. The only surviving archaeology consisted of two east-west orientated red brick arches, located at c.26.46m OD as well as a red brick floor and wall located at c. 25.82m OD, all of which are likely to be late post-medieval in date.</i></p> <p><i>Natural deposits were only observed to the south, within trial hole 13, and consisted of sand and gravel at c. 25.20m OD.</i></p>						

OASIS Form**OASIS ID: archaeol6-226679****Project details**

Project name	A Watching Brief on service trial trenches at Marble Arch Tower, 55 Bryanston Street, London, W1H 7AJ
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Waterman Infrastructure & Environment Ltd to carry out a watching brief on the preliminary geotechnical and services investigations at Marble Arch Tower, 55 Bryanston Street, London, W1H 7AJ. The site work was carried out between the 17th August and 13th October 2015. Ground level outside the site slopes from 26.60m OD at the junction of Edgware Road and Bryanston Street in the north-west, to 26.40m OD at the junction of Edgware road and Bayswater Road in the south-west. The Trial Holes were all located beyond the boundary of the existing building on the pavement. The only surviving archaeology consisted of two east-west orientated red brick arches, located at c.26.46m OD as well as a red brick floor and wall located at c. 25.82m OD, all of which are likely to be late post-medieval in date. Natural deposits were only observed to the south, within trial hole 13, and consisted of sand and gravel at c. 25.20m OD.
Project dates	Start: 17-08-2015 End: 13-10-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BRT15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	FLOOR Post Medieval
Monument type	CULVERT Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Test Pits"
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - Direction 4
Position in the planning process	After outline determination (eg. As a reserved matter)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CITY OF WESTMINSTER WESTMINSTER Marble Arch Tower, 55 Bryanston Street
Postcode	W1H 7AJ
Study area	1000 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 27768 81041 51.513331762757 -0.15851418609 51 30 47 N
000 09 30 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 25.2m Max: 25.2m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator Waterman Infrastructure & Environment Ltd
Project design originator Waterman Infrastructure & Environment Ltd
Project director/manager Andy Leonard
Project supervisor Sarah Ritchie
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

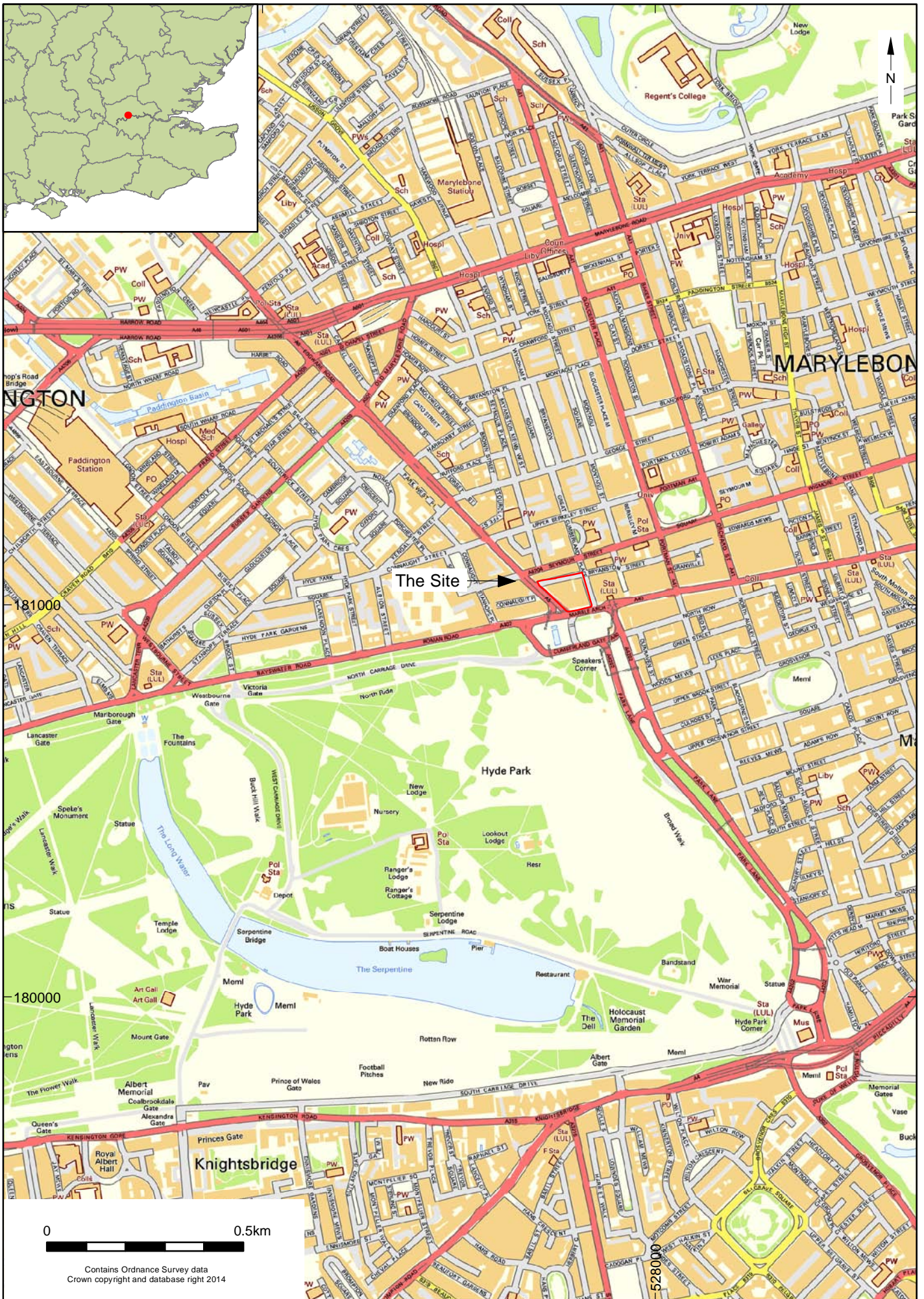
Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Physical Archive recipient LAARC
Physical Archive ID BRT15
Digital Archive recipient LAARC
Digital Archive ID BRT15
Paper Archive recipient LAARC
Paper Archive ID BRT15

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Author(s)/Editor(s) Ritchie, S.
Date 2015
Issuer or publisher Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication London

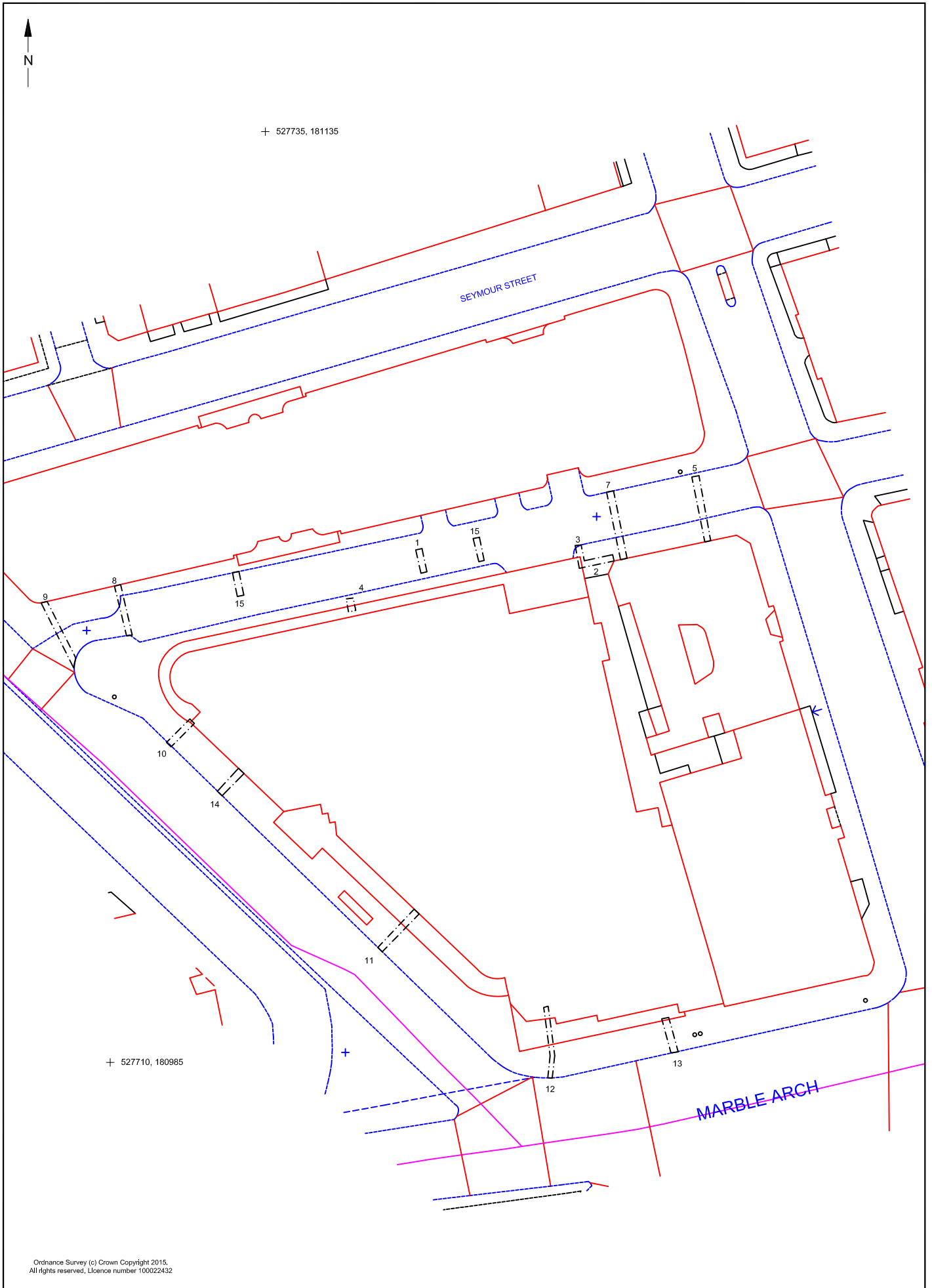
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Entered on 15 October 2015



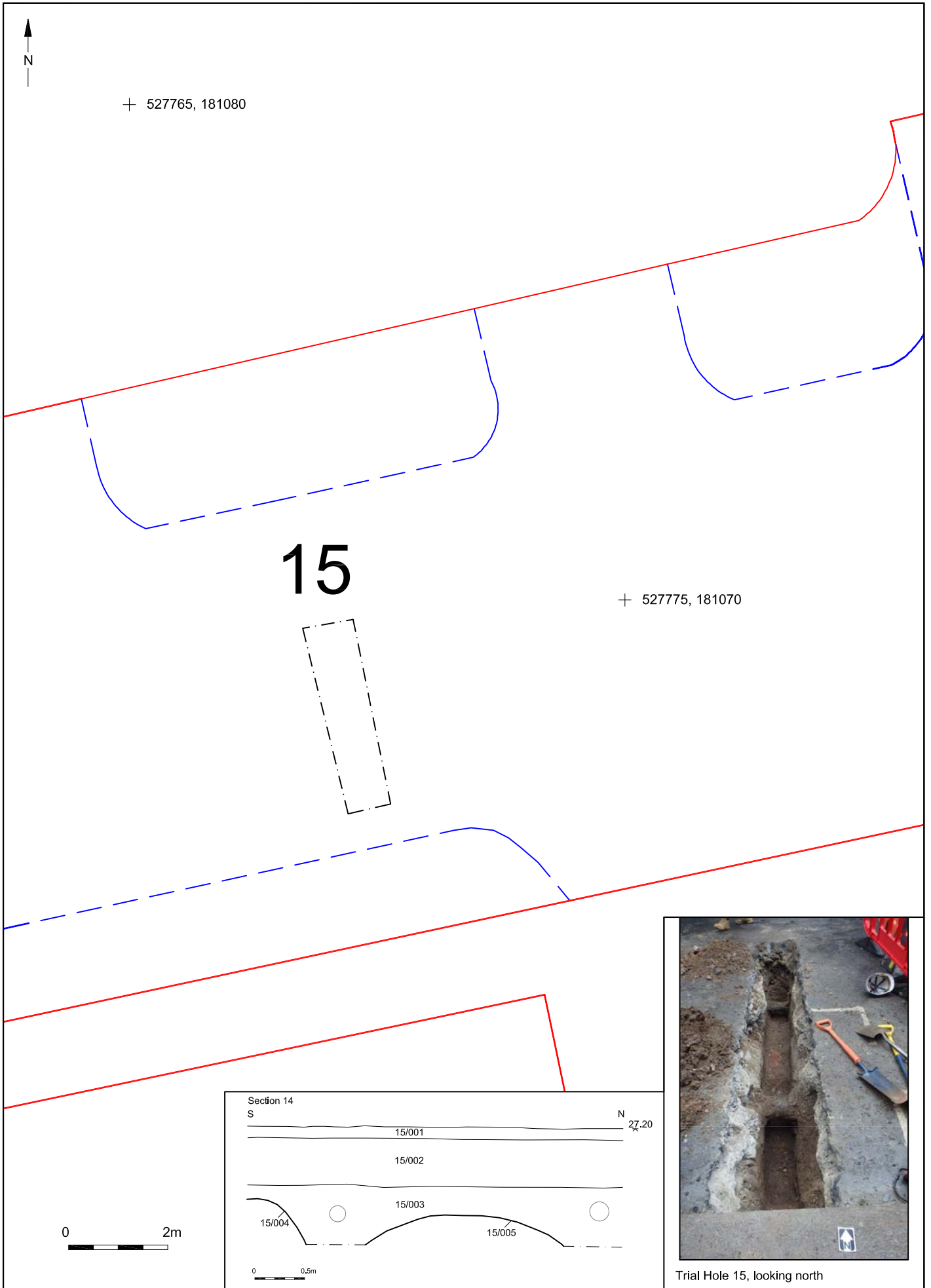
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Report Ref: 2015344	Drawn by: NG		

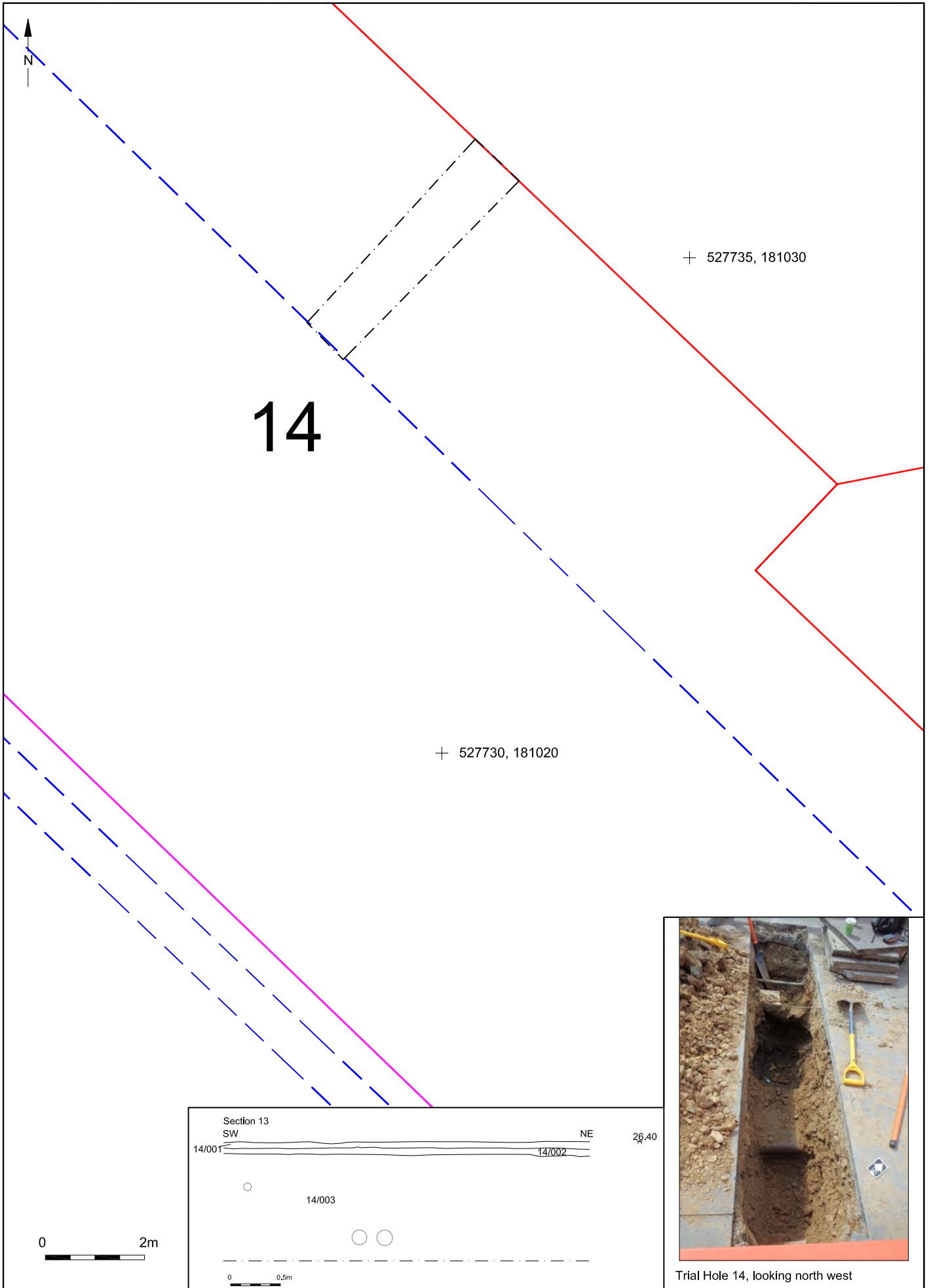
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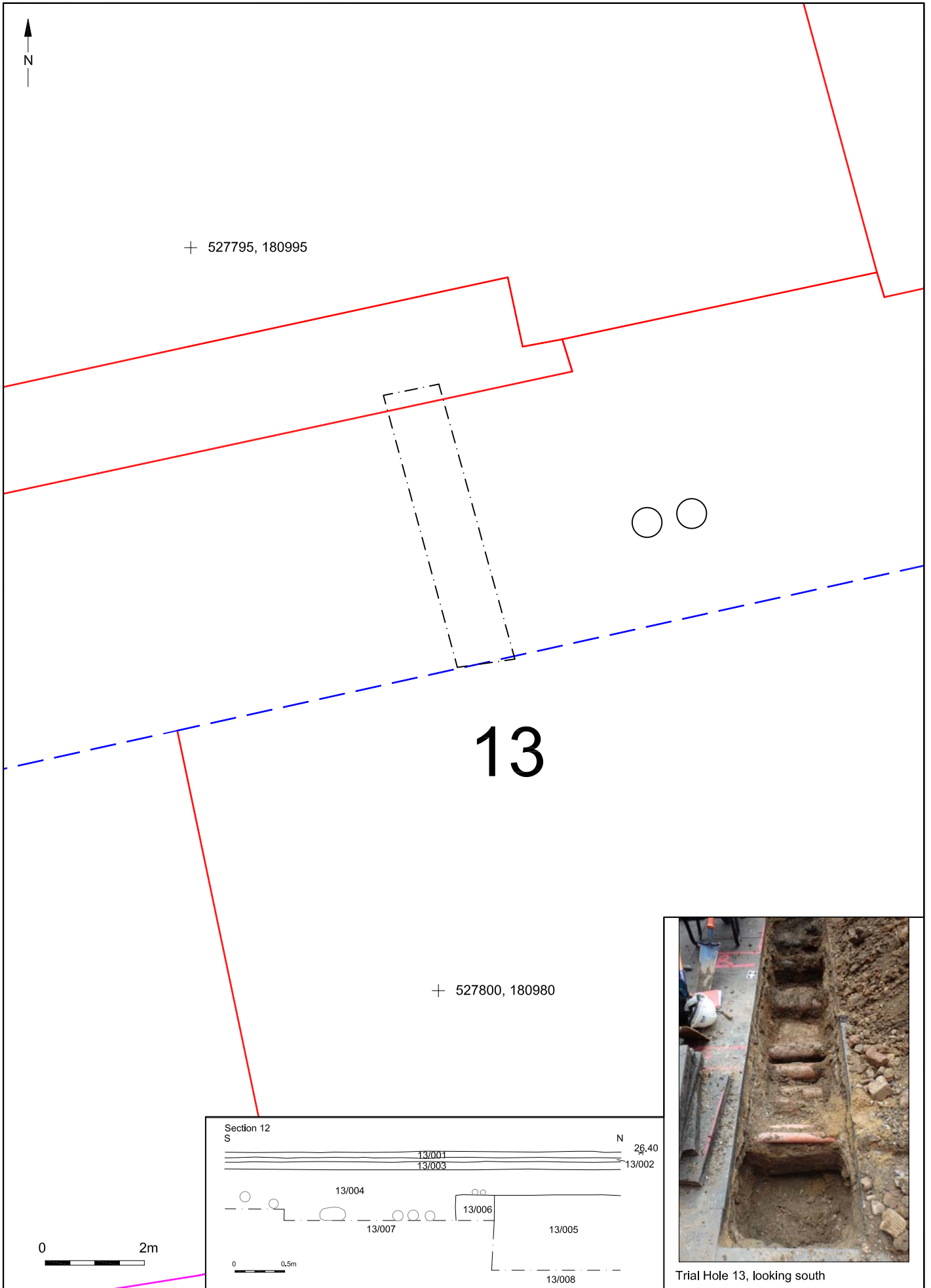
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Report Ref: 2015344	Drawn by: NG			



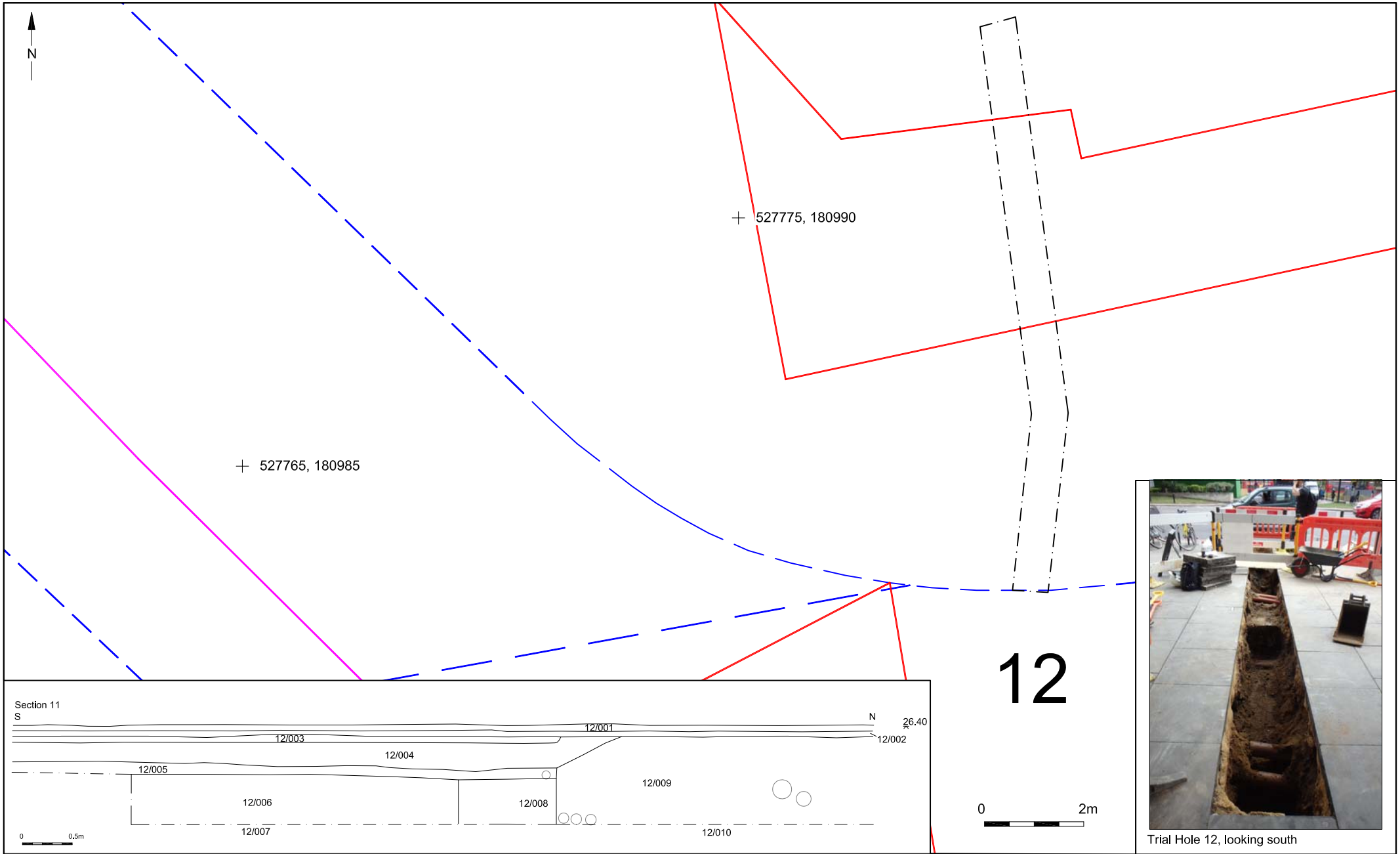
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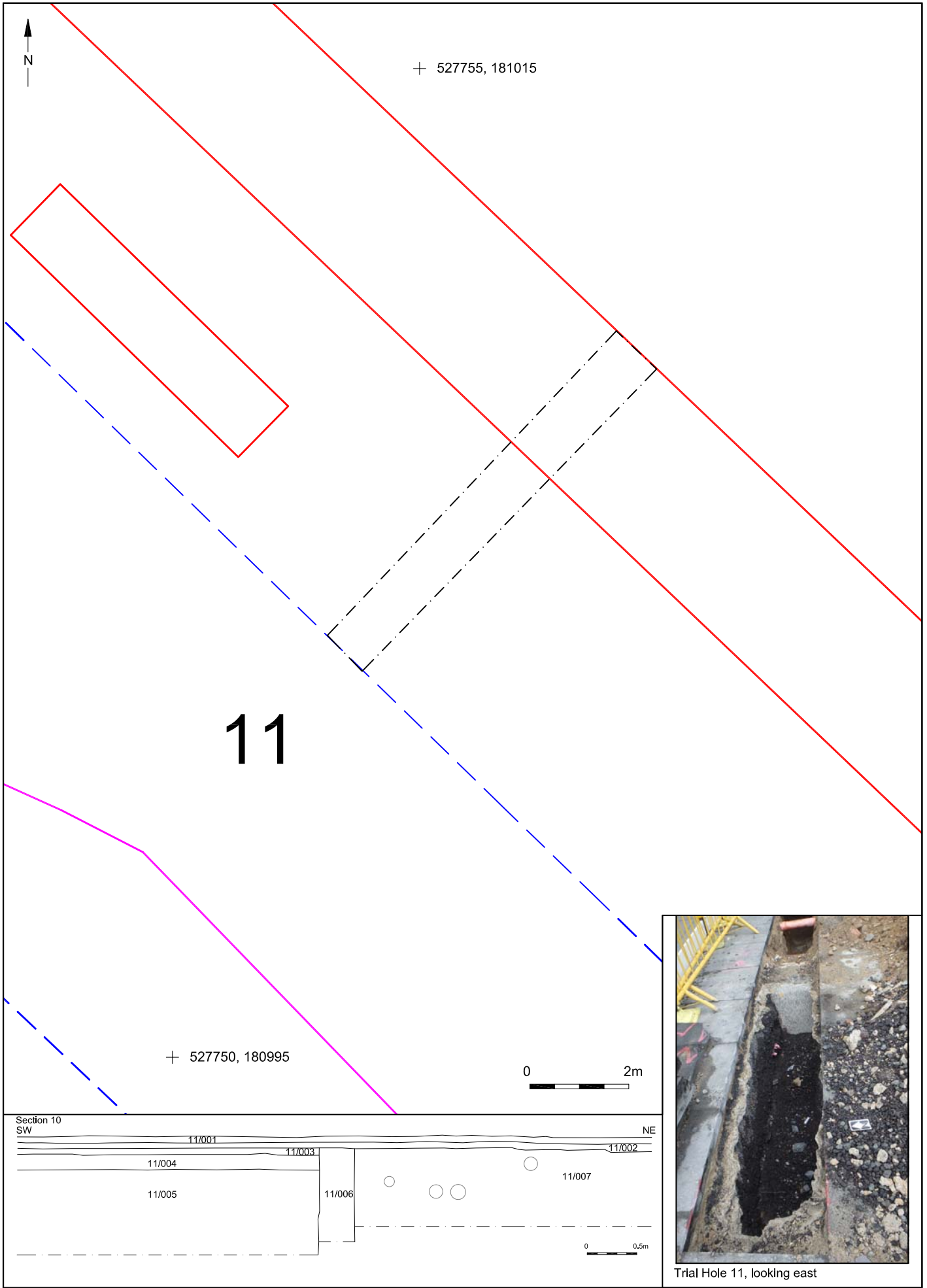
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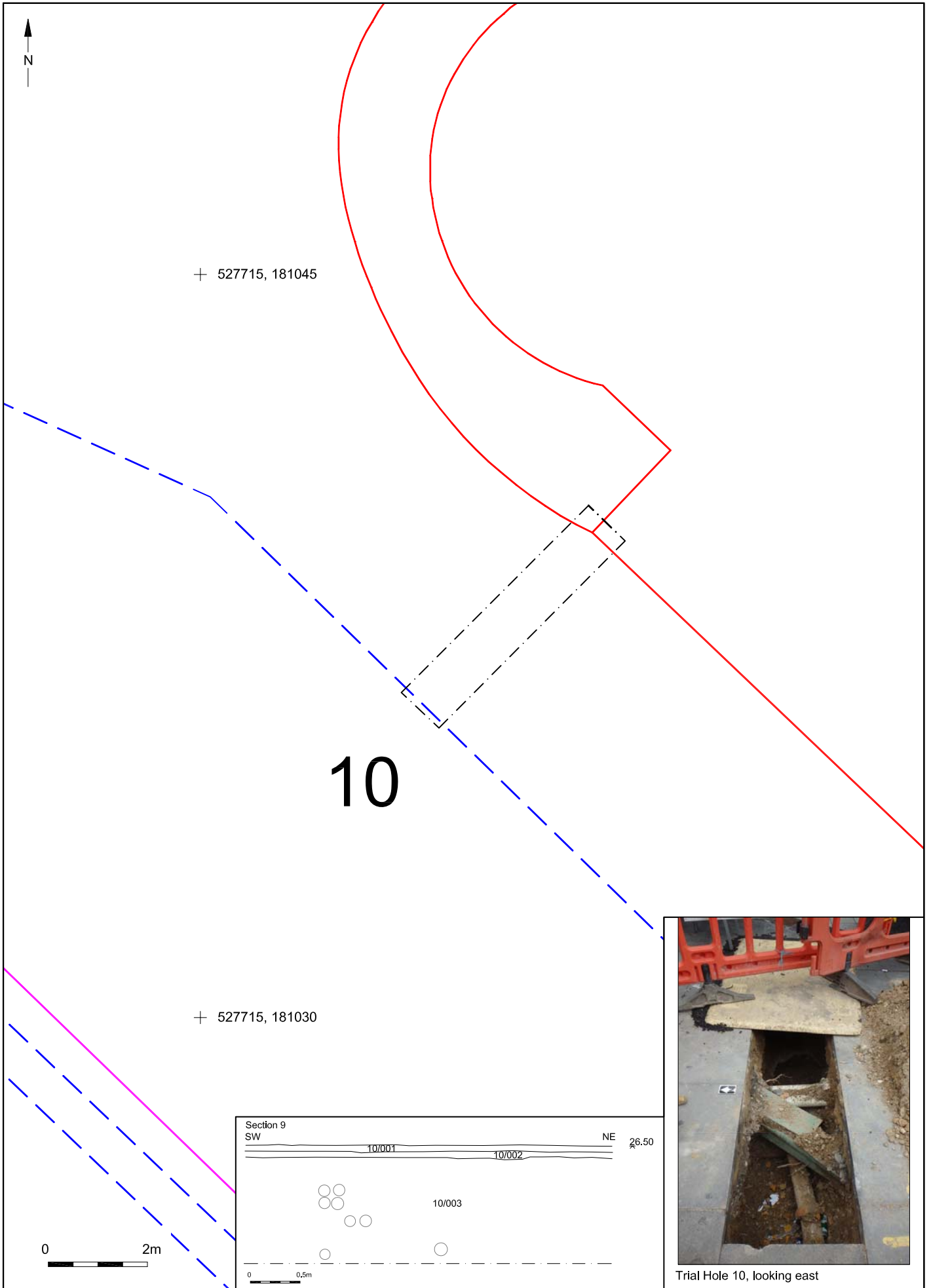
Marble Arch Tower, Westminster

Trial Hole 12 : section and photograph

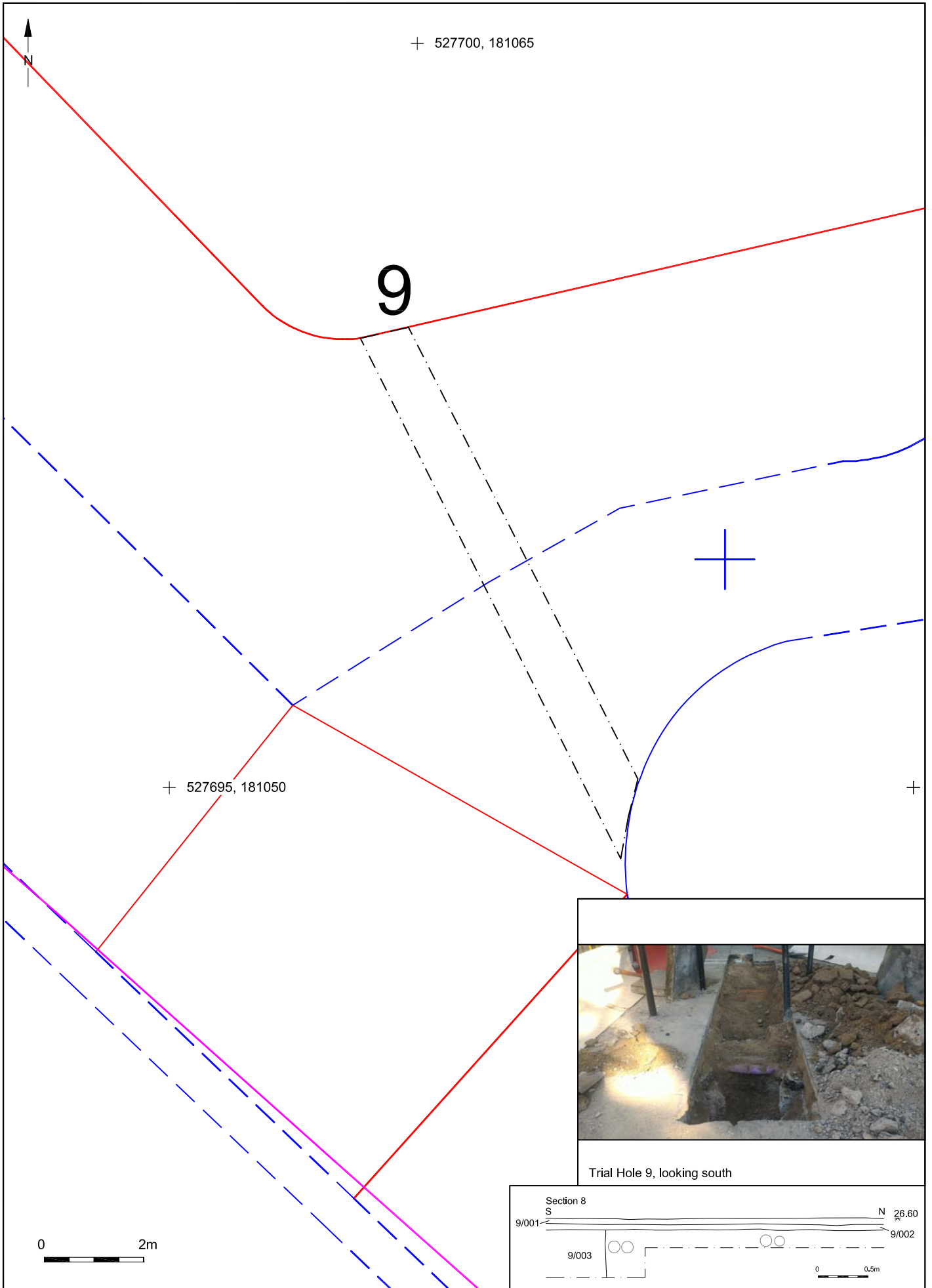
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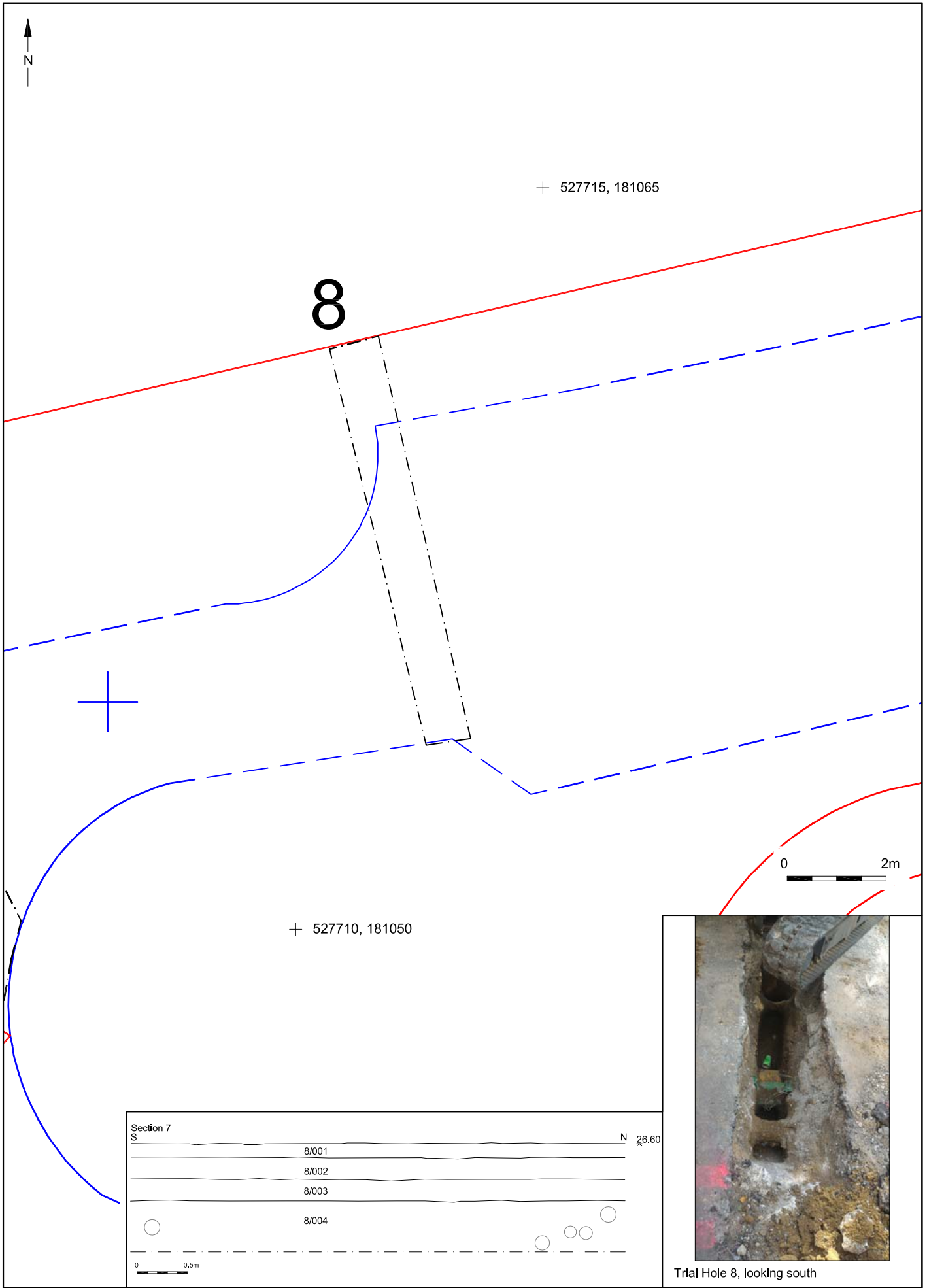
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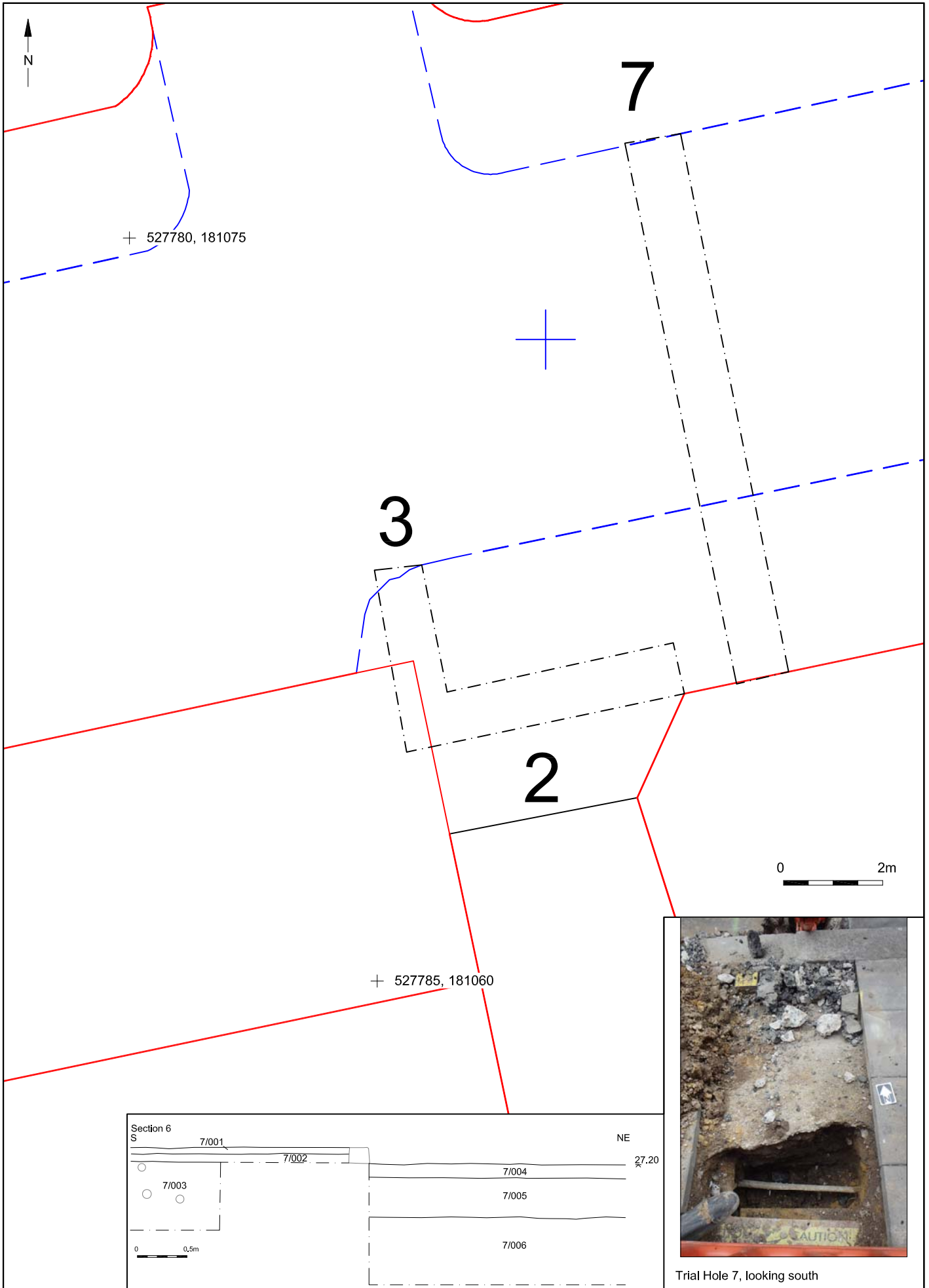
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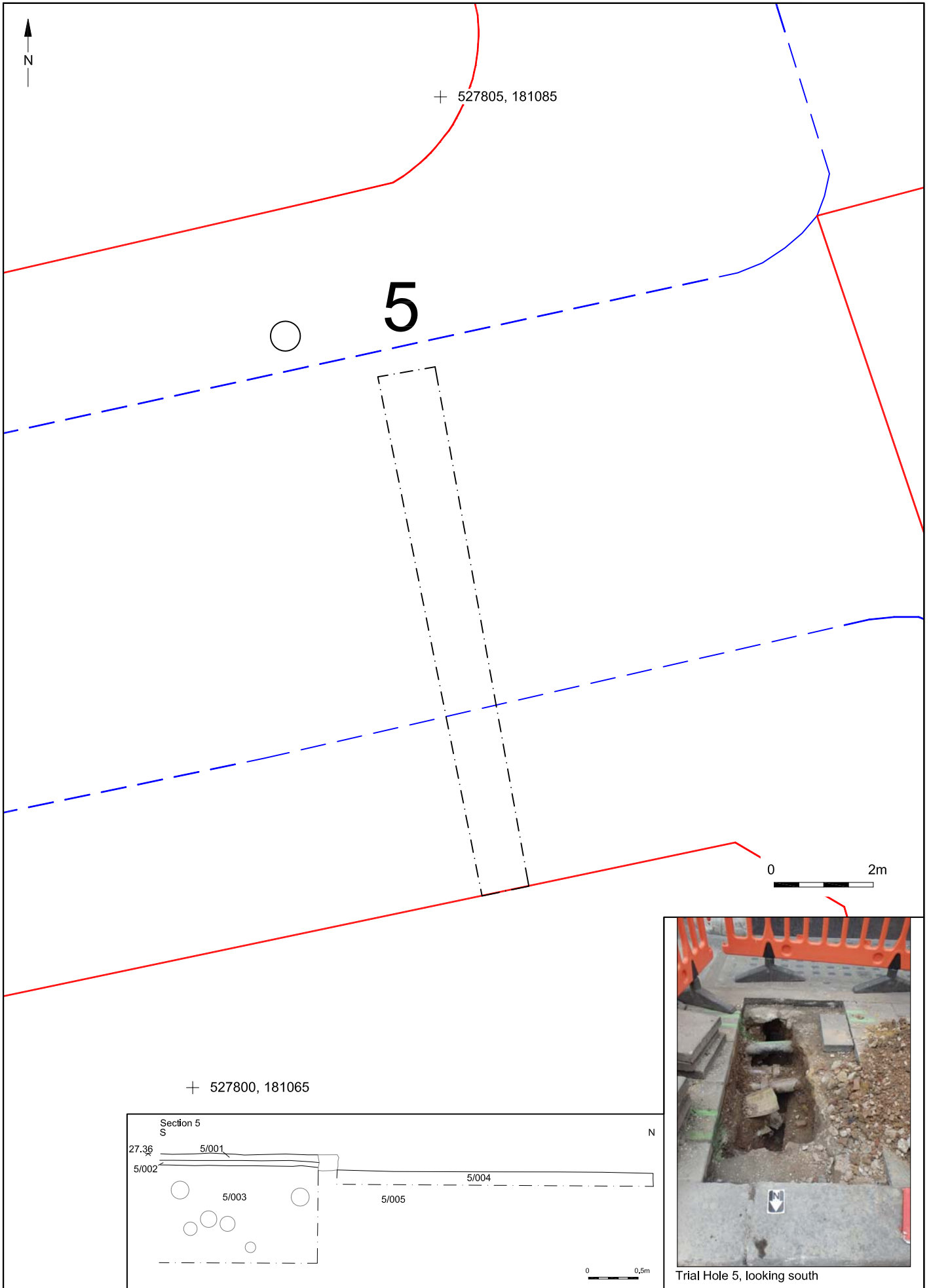
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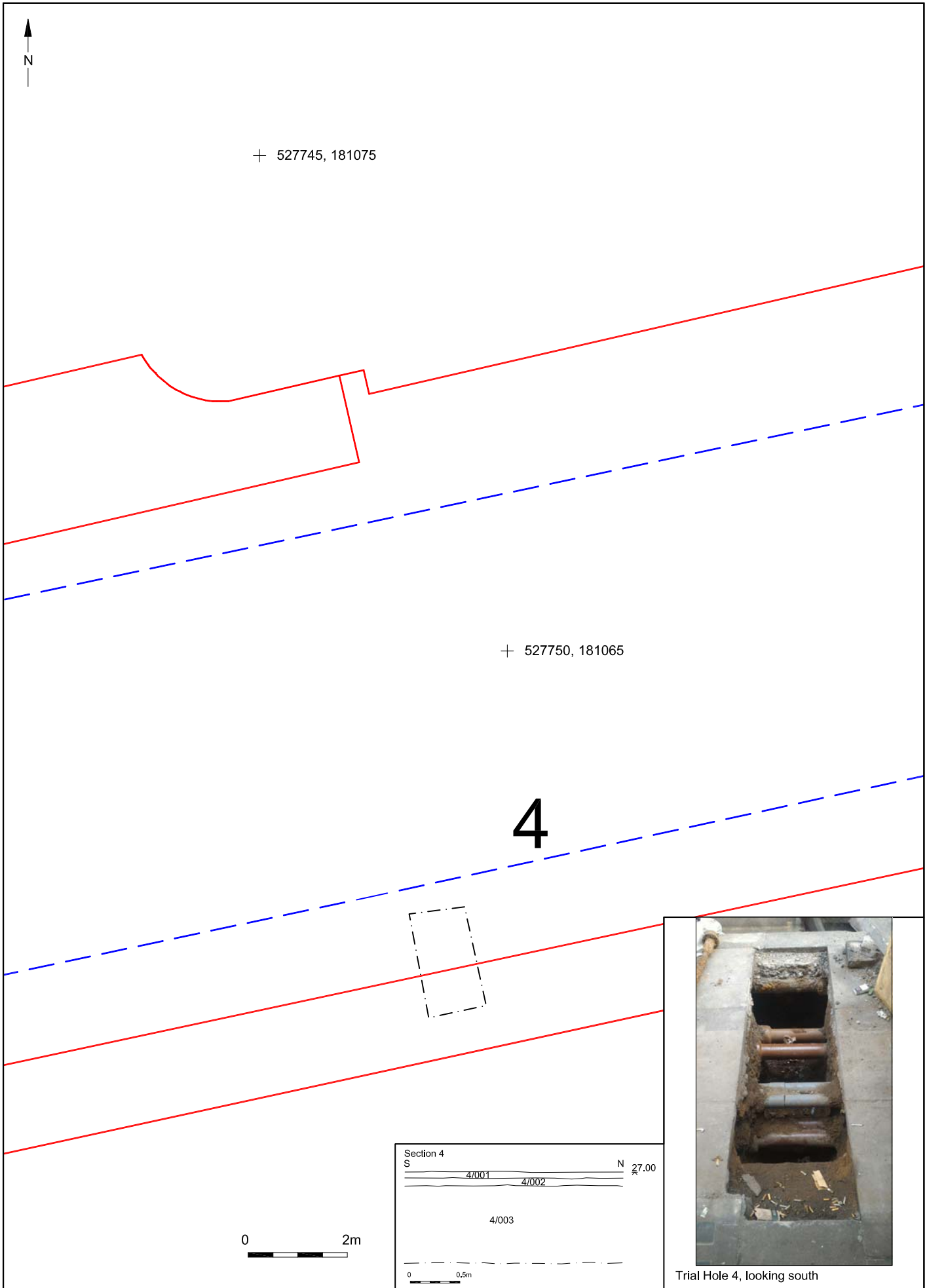
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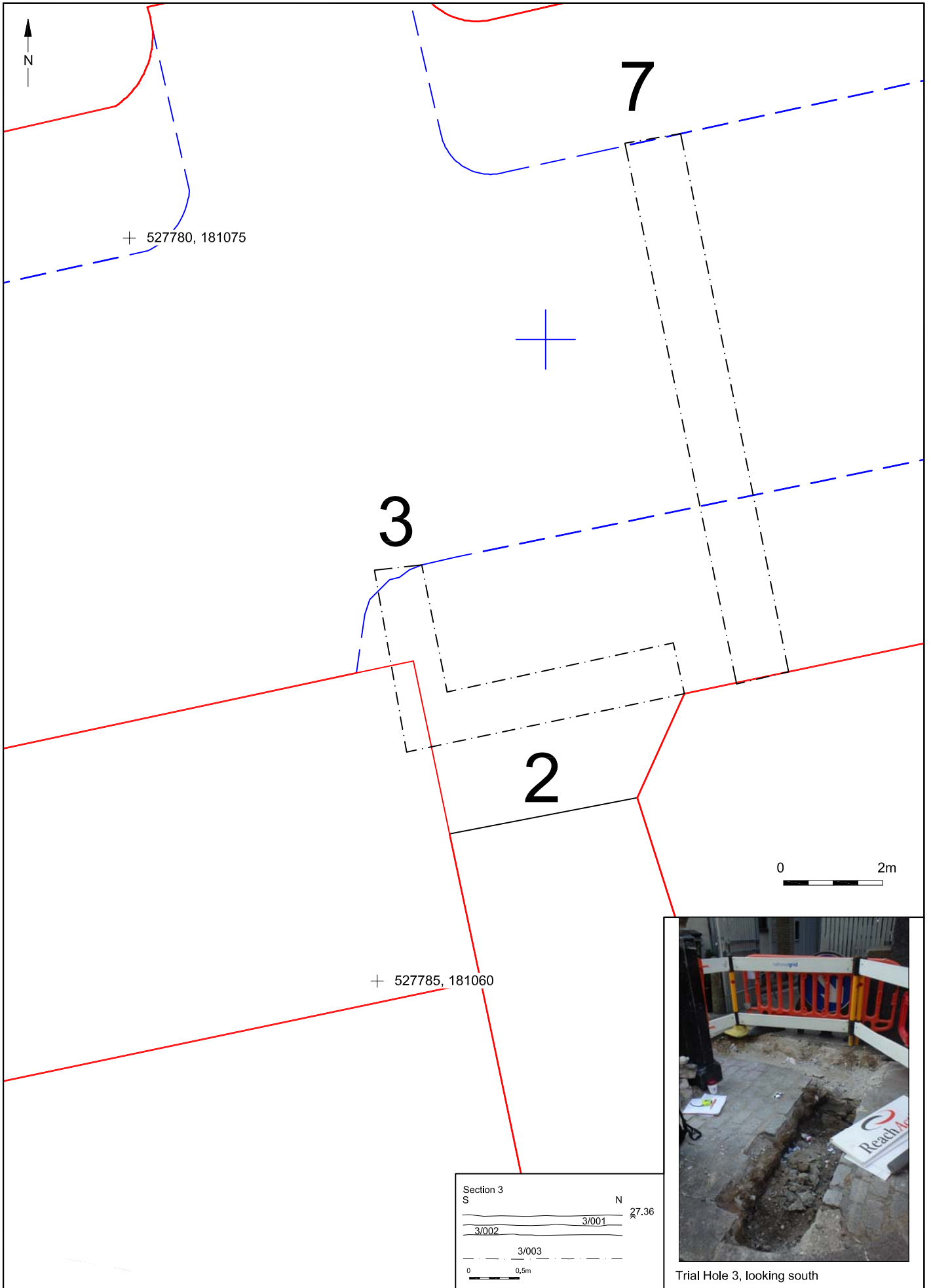
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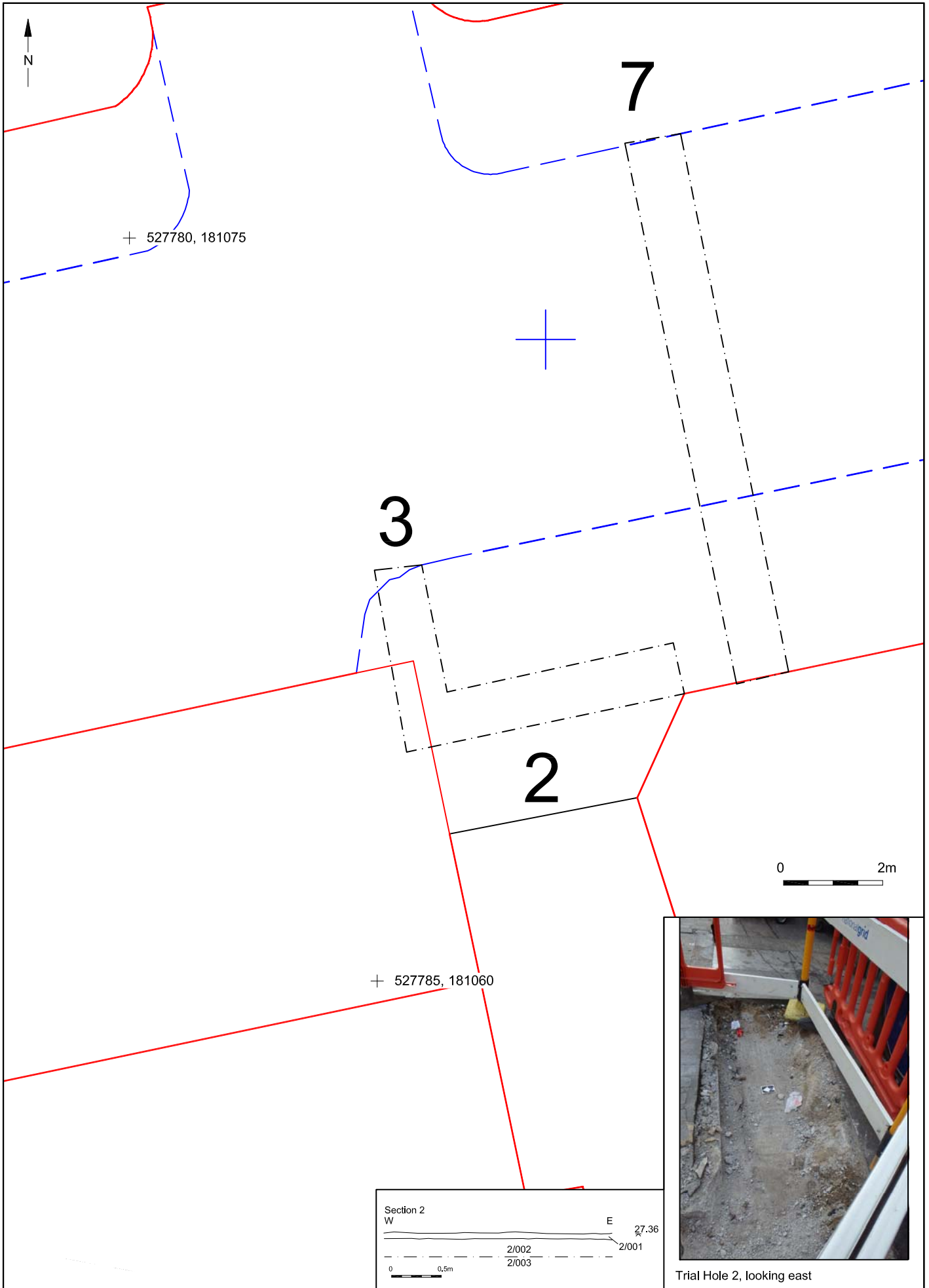
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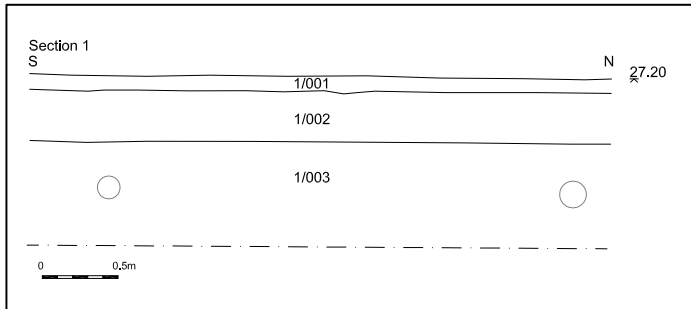
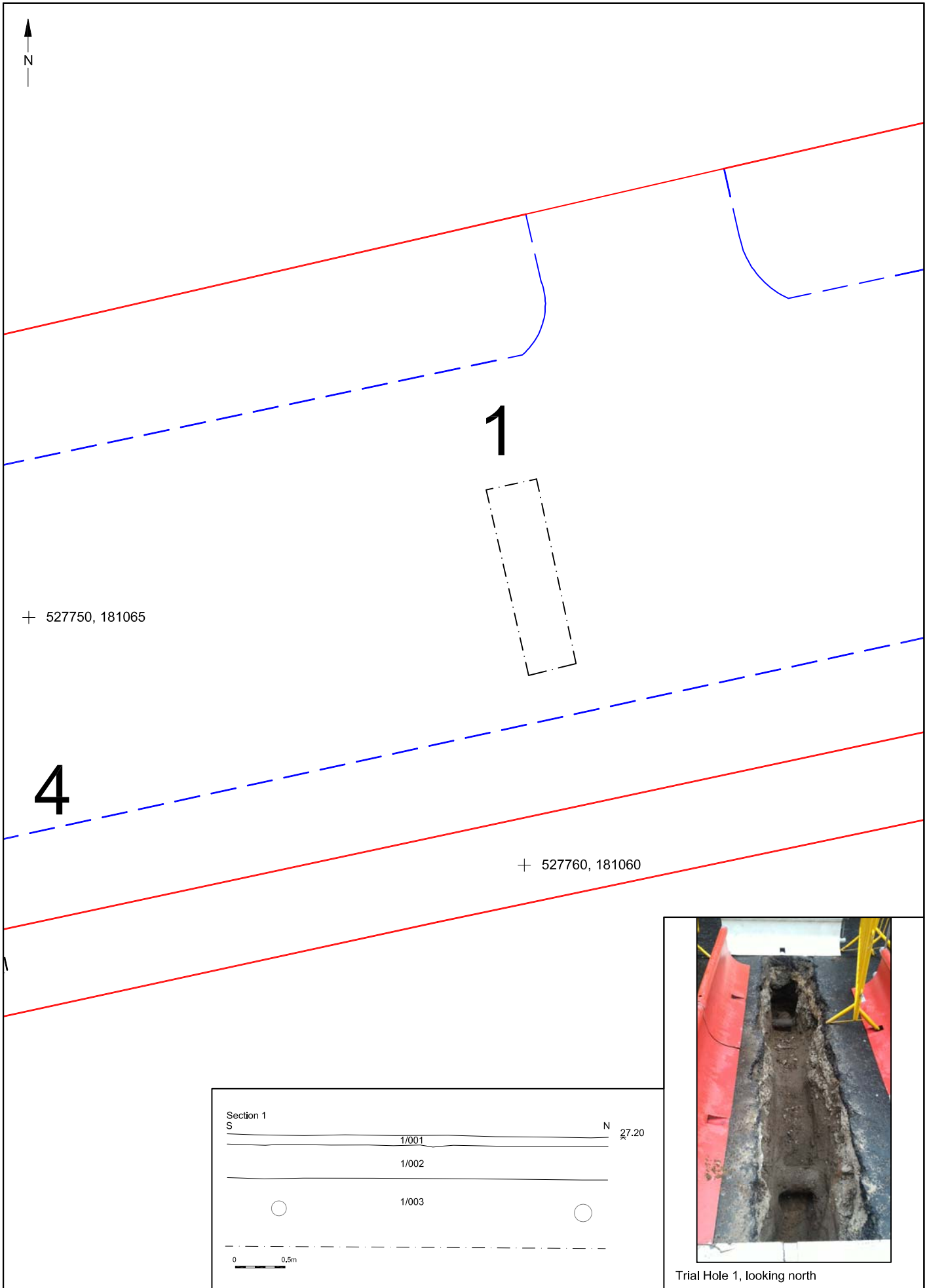
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Trial Hole 1, looking north

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