

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

**Former GPO Building
Sansome Walk
Worcester
Worcestershire**

NGR: SO 85020 55240

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGY

PO Box 36
Leominster
Herefordshire
HR6 0YQ
E-mail: enquiries@borderarchaeology.com

Technical Services
Chapel Walk
Burgess Street
Leominster
Herefordshire
HR6 8DE
Tel: 01568 610101
Tel/fax: 01568 616900
E-mail: borderarch@btconnect.com

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Report specification:
Report compilation: Thomas Wellicome BSc

Historical research: Stephen Priestley MA

Artwork: Michelle Bithell BA

Report editing: George Children MA MIFA

1. Non Technical Summary

Two evaluation trenches opened outside the foundation line of the former GPO building in Sansome Walk Worcester revealed evidence of several large pits. None of these could definitely be assigned a date earlier than the post-medieval period, although two pieces of probable medieval pottery were located within the earlier fills of one of the pits. These sherds could not be used independently to date the feature, however, as it is possible that they were intrusive.

The most significant feature in Trench 1 was pit [014]/[102] in Trench 1, which, given its large size and unusual profile, appeared to be more than a simple domestic waste pit; a small posthole located in its base suggests it may have had an industrial function.

Based on the fills within them, the remaining pits within Trench 1 ([108], [119], [104] and [110]) were of similar date. The ceramic material within these features appeared to be building waste and they may thus have been disposal pits for brick, possibly relating to construction of the Worcester & Hereford Railway viaduct in 1860.

The majority of the features within Trench 2 appeared to be modern and were probably associated with groundworks relating to the construction or demolition of the GPO building. The exception was feature [206] and James Dinn of Worcester City Council advised that an area centred upon Trench 2 should be fully excavated to establish the date and nature of this feature.

2. Introduction

Border Archaeology was instructed by Markey Builders on behalf of Severn Vale Housing to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the site of the former GPO building in Sansome Walk, Worcester (SO 850 552) (**Fig. 1**), in pursuance of a brief issued by James Dinn of Worcester City Council.

Copies of this report will be submitted to Markey Builders / Severn Vale Housing, James Dinn and the Worcestershire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).

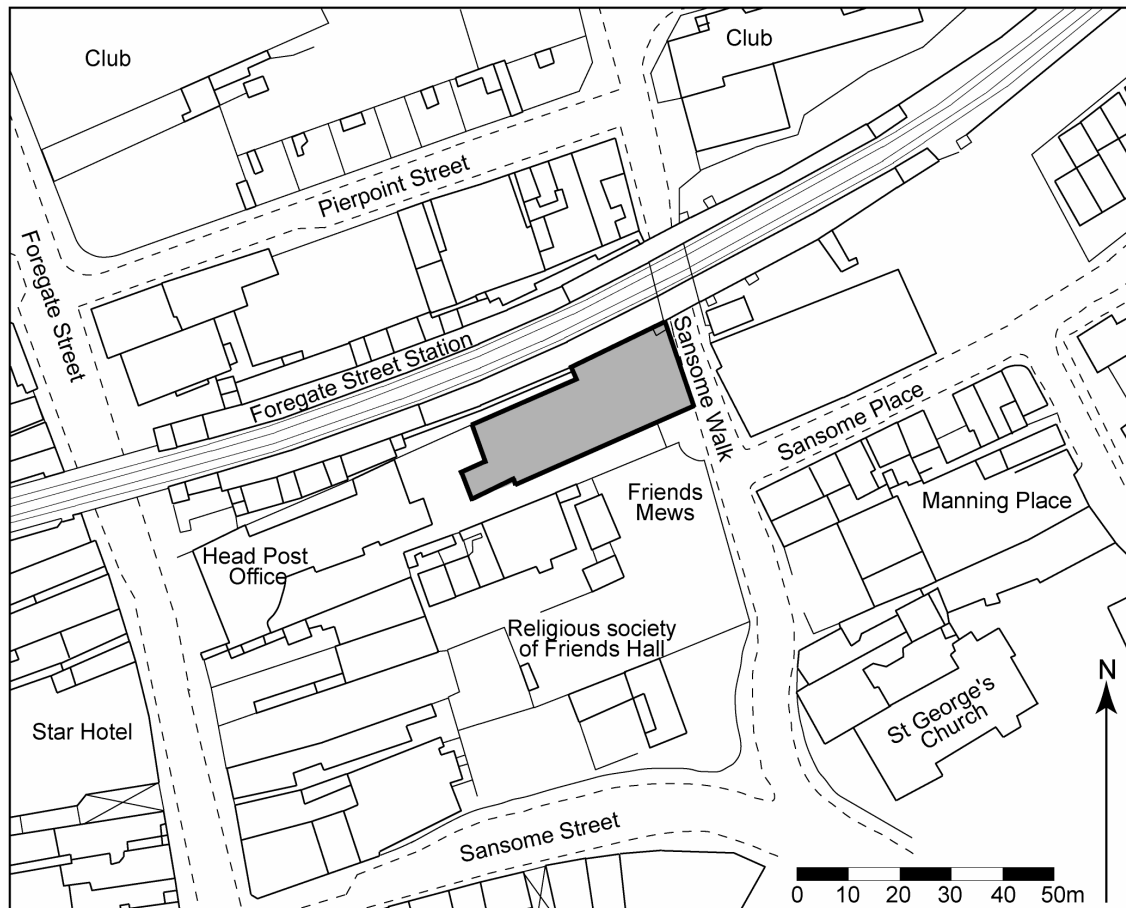


Fig. 1: Site location plan

2.1 Soils & Geology

The Soil Survey of England and Wales classifies Worcester as an unsurveyed area (SSEW, 1983). However, the trenching revealed soils similar to the typical brown earths described for the WICK 1 series (541r), these being deep well drained coarse loamy and sandy soils, locally over gravel, with some similar soils affected by groundwater, with underlying geology consisting of glaciofluvial or river terrace drift.

3. Methodology

Full written, drawn and photographic records were made in accordance with archaeological practices set out in *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 revised 2001); Border Archaeology adheres to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of conduct* and *Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology*.

Two trenches (**Fig. 2**) were opened by machine and toothless bucket and these were excavated to the top of archaeological deposits or to natural, whichever was encountered first. Trench 1 was located at the western end of the site, outside the foundations of the former GPO building. The trench measured 8m x 3m and was orientated roughly NW-SE. Trench 2 ran approximately N-S at the eastern end of the site adjacent to Sansome Walk and measured 6m x 3m.

A detailed stratigraphic record was made using a sequential context numbering system and this was summarised in graphic form using Harris matrices (Appendix 2). Archaeological deposits, features and structures were recorded in plan at a scale of 1:20 and in section or elevation at 1:10, as appropriate. All features and structures were photographed using 8MPX digital format.

A temporary benchmark with a value of 22.75m OD was derived from an OS benchmark on the Foregate Street railway viaduct located immediately N of the site and all levels were taken from this point.

Finds were retained from sealed contexts revealed at the excavation depth; later finds were noted but not retained.

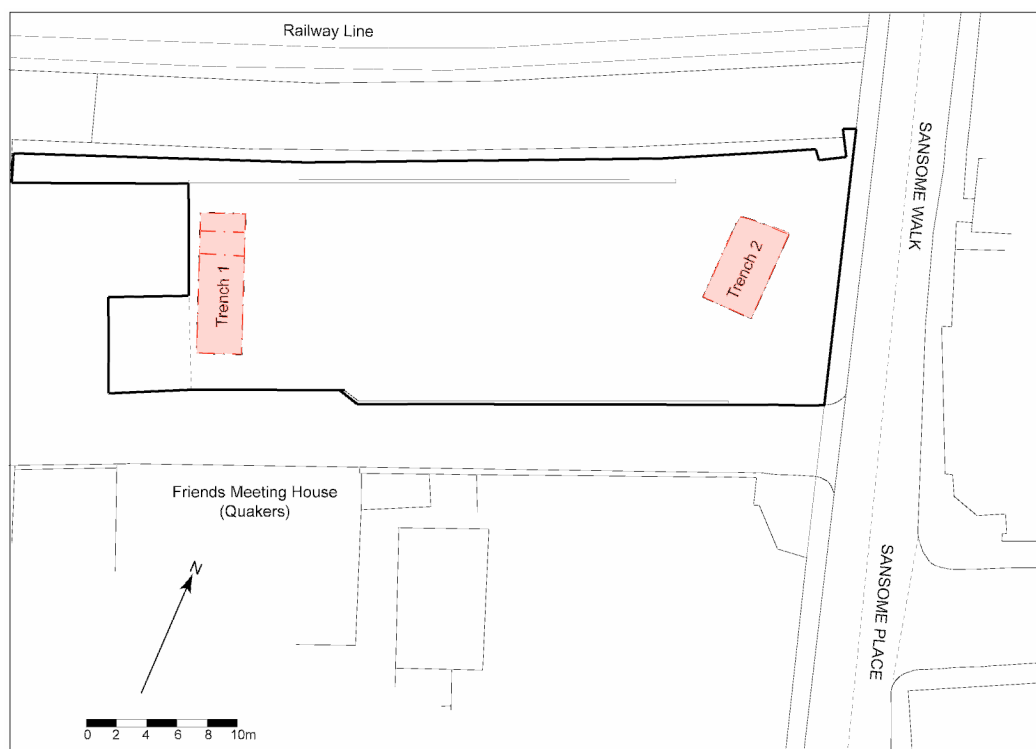


Fig. 2: Site plan

4. Results

4.1 Trench 1

Ground reduction works carried out during the demolition phase had affected the stratigraphy within Trench 1 and the precise stratigraphic relationships between some of the features could not be fully determined, although some could be tied into overlying deposits (**Plate 1**). The description of Trench 1 thus first details the deposits excavated during this initial phase of works, although the full extent of these cannot be defined. The impact of the ground reduction works appears to have been limited, with features being reduced by approximately 0.4m. Deposits excavated during the demolition phase are numbered in the format (001), (002) etc. At the point where these coincided with archaeologically excavated deposits within Trench 1, a number from both the (001) and the (101) series has been assigned.

The uppermost deposit consisted of tarmacadam hard standing (001) abutting a series of concrete slabs (002). Underlying these was a rubble levelling deposit (006) and a compact aggregate sub-base (003). Both deposits overlay a concrete foundation (004) within [005], which cut into a moderately compacted dark greyish-brown silty sand with occasional small rounded stones (007). This appeared to be a fairly typical post-medieval garden soil.



Plate 1: View W showing deposits excavated during initial groundworks

Underlying (007) was a thin lense of ash and charcoal (008), suggesting either burning/clearance activity or domestic deposition. Context (008) overlay a moderately compacted dark brown sandy silt with occasional small subangular stones (009), which ran across the section and filled a small cut feature [010] within it. Context [010] cut into (013)/(129), part of the fill of a large pit [014]/[102] (**Plates 2 & 3; Figs. 3, 4, 5 & 8**). Also underlying (009) was the uppermost fill of [014]/[102], a moderately compacted mid yellow to orangey-brown silty sand with frequent CBM and small subangular & sub-rounded stones

(016). Pit [014]/[102] was located in the SW corner of Trench 1. At this point, the deposits removed during the ground reduction phase interfaced with the uppermost of the excavated deposits.



Plate 2: View W showing pit [014]/[102]

The entire evaluation area had been covered by loose dark greyish-brown silty sand containing frequent CBM, stones and pebbles (101), which was, in places, up to 0.1m thick and had been pressed into the underlying deposits.

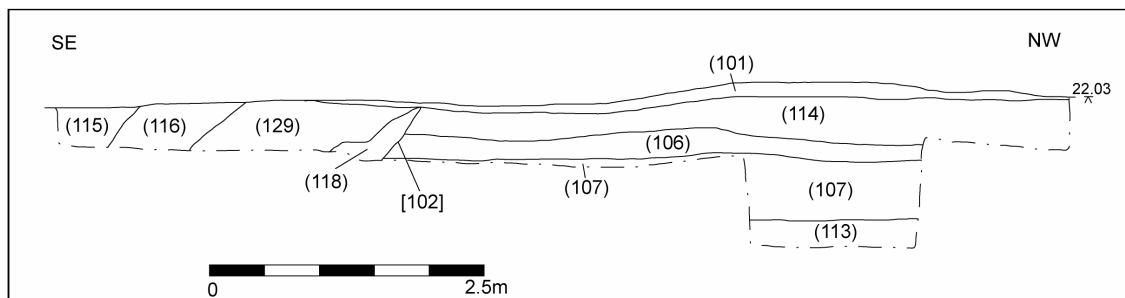


Fig. 3: NE-facing section of Trench 1

Filling pit [014]/[102] were a series of tipped backfills, the upper part of which had been removed during the ground reduction phase. Underlying fill (016) was a loose mid yellowish-brown silty sand with frequent post-medieval CBM, mortar flecking and small and medium angular and subangular stones (115), which overlay loose mid to dark greyish-brown silty sand containing frequent CBM and brick, small to medium stones and mortar flecking (116) (**Figs. 3, 4 & 8**).

Underlying (116) was a loose mid grey to orangey-brown silty sand with frequent CBM and small sub-rounded stones (124), which overlay a loose mid red orangey-brown silty sand (117). Context (117) overlay a loose to moderately compacted dark greyish-brown silty sand (118),

which, in turn, overlay a loose mid orangey-brown silty sand with occasional small stones (125).

Underlying (125) were contexts (012)/(103) and (126). Context (012)/(103) was a loose light to mid grey to orangey-brown silty sand with frequent CBM and small to medium angular and subangular stones. Context (126) consisted of loose dark orangey-brown silty sand with occasional small stones.



Plate 3: View S showing pit [014]/[102]

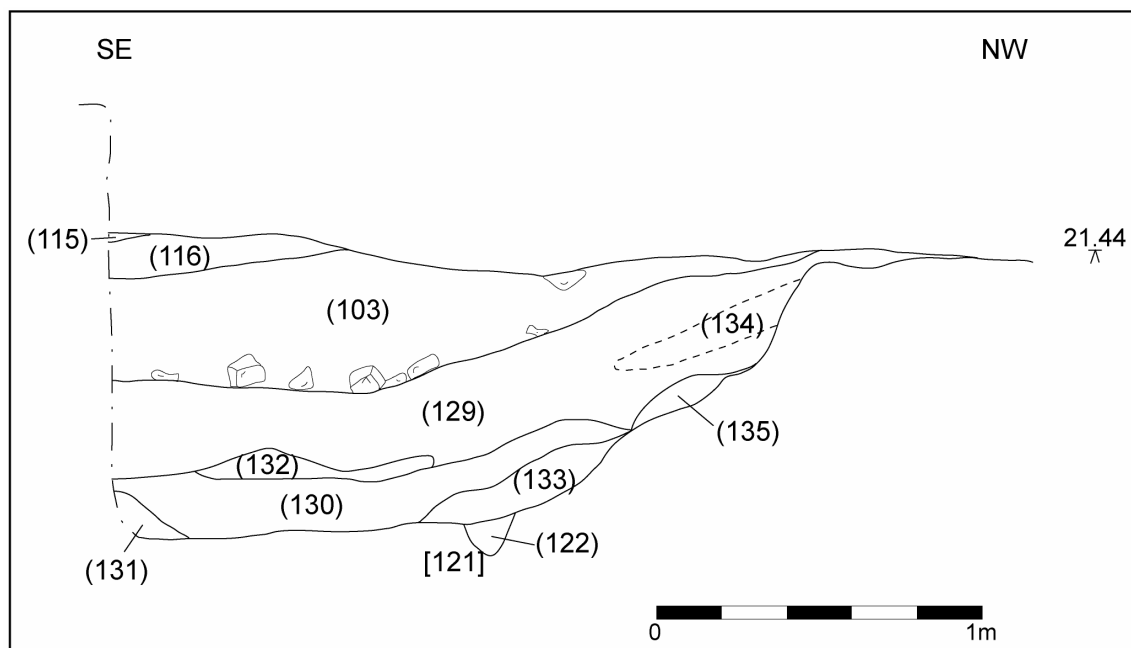


Fig. 4: NE-facing profile of [102]

Underlying (012)/(103) and (126) was a loose dark reddish-brown silty sand with occasional small stones (127) and this overlay a loose orangey-brown sand with occasional small stones (123). Underlying (123) was a loose to moderately compacted mid to dark greyish-brown silty sand with occasional small stones (013)/(129), which overlay contexts (132), (135) & (136).

Context (132) was a loose mid reddish to orangey-brown silty sand containing occasional small stones. Context (135) was a loose to moderately compacted mid reddish-brown silty sand and (136) was a loose to moderately compacted dark reddish-brown silty sand with frequent medium stones. Underlying (136) was a loose mid red to orangey-brown sand with very occasional small rounded stones (128), which overlay (130). Context (132) also overlay (130) while (135) was one of the earlier fills of pit [014]/[102].

Context (130) was a loose mid greyish-brown silty sand with occasional small stones. This overlay (131), a moderately compacted dark reddish-brown silty sand with frequent small and medium stones, which overlay cut [014]/[102] and (133), a loose to moderately compacted mid orangey-brown silty sand with occasional small to medium stones. Context (133) overlay a loose mid greyish-brown silty sand (122), which filled a small circular posthole [121] cut into the base of pit [014]/[102]. Pit [014]/[102] was cut into a moderately compacted mid yellow to orangey-brown silty sand containing occasional small stones (015).

Context (015) overlay a loose mid orangey-red sand with frequent darker gravel patches (114), which in turn overlay a loose mid to light orangey-red sand containing occasional flecks of degraded sandstones (106); this was interpreted as natural deposition. Underlying (106) was a moderately compacted light red sand with moderate pebble inclusions (107), which overlay a moderately compacted red sand with very occasional pebble inclusions (113); these were interpreted as natural deposition.

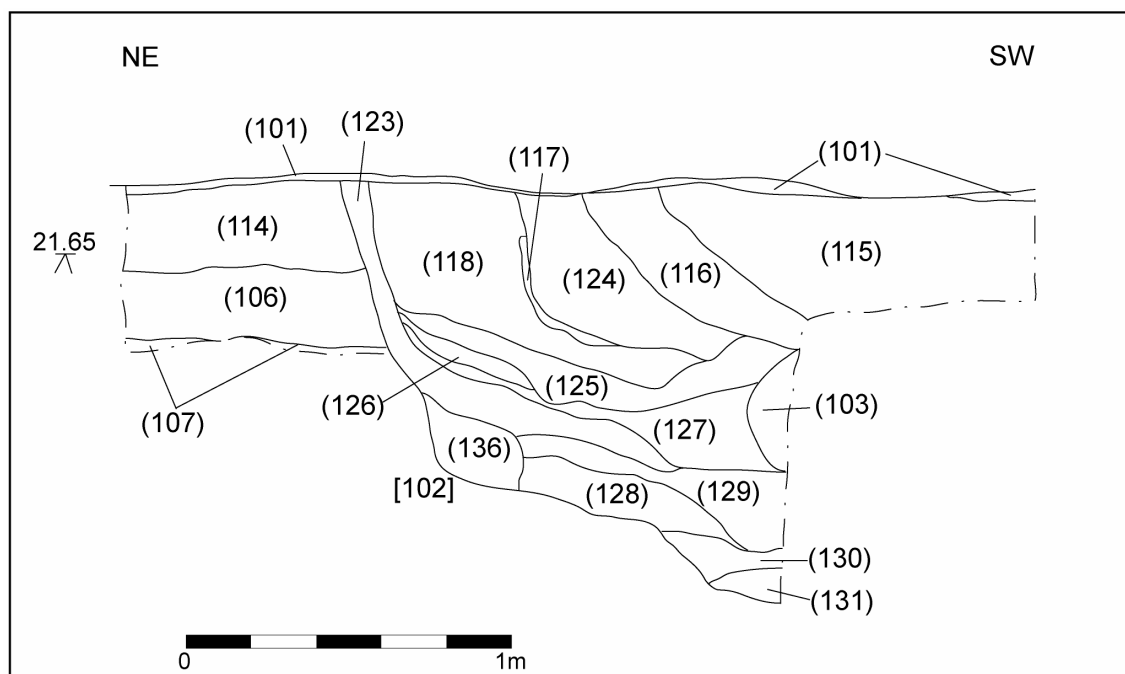


Fig. 5: NW-facing section of Trench 1

The four other features described below were cut into context (114); however, the deposits overlying these features had been removed during the demolition phase and thus could not be

accurately placed in the stratigraphic sequence; they have been recorded as underlying context (101).

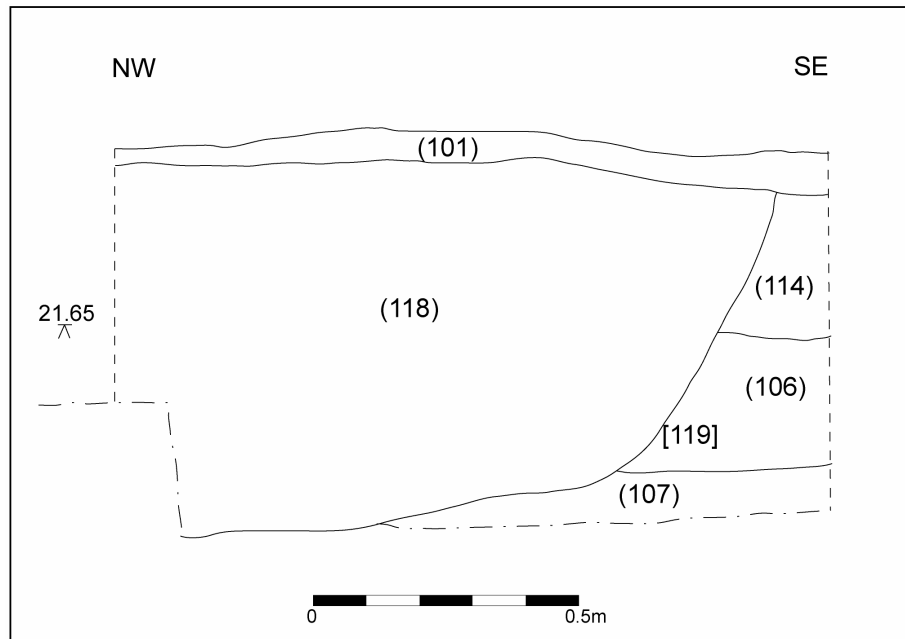


Fig. 6: S-facing profile of [119]

An apparent pit [110] was noted in the NE corner of the trench. Although the feature was not excavated, it appeared similar to pits [108], [119] & [104] (**Plate 4; Fig. 6**) and was filled by a loose mid greyish-brown silty sand with frequent gravels and pebbles, occasional river-washed stones and post-medieval CBM fragments (111).



Plate 4: View W showing pit [104]

A large circular pit [104] measuring 2.52 x 2.05 x 1.54m was identified in the central part of the trench (**Fig. 7**). Its primary fill consisted of a loose 0.1m thick mid to dark greyish-brown silty sand with moderate charcoal flecking (112), which underlay a loose mid brown silty sand with frequent post-medieval brick, occasional clay pipe, pottery and bone (105). Truncating this feature was another pit [119] located partially within the trench. This appeared to be sub-circular in plan and was filled by (120), a mixture of post-medieval CBM and dark brown soil that was similar to the material found within [104].

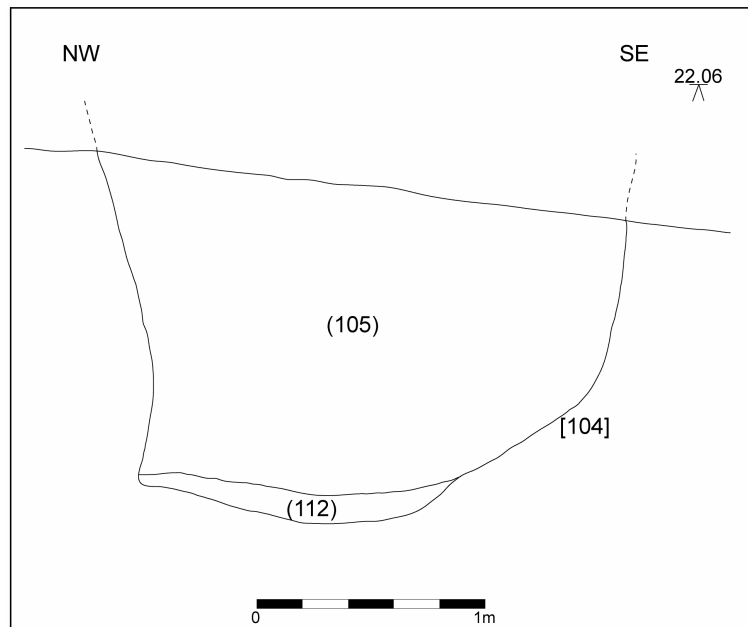


Fig. 7: SW-facing profile of pit [104]



Plate 5: View W showing pit [108]

To the N of [104] was what appeared to be another post-medieval pit [108], containing three fills (**Plate 5**; **Fig. 8**). The feature appeared to have squared corners suggesting a different function from that of other pits identified within the trench, although the fills were similar. The

primary fill was a loose mid greyish-brown silty sand with frequent CBM and small to medium subangular stones, and moderate mortar flecks and lumps (109). The secondary fill (137) was a loose dark orangey-brown sand with occasional small stones and the uppermost fill was a loose dark greyish-brown silty sand with occasional CBM and small stones (138).

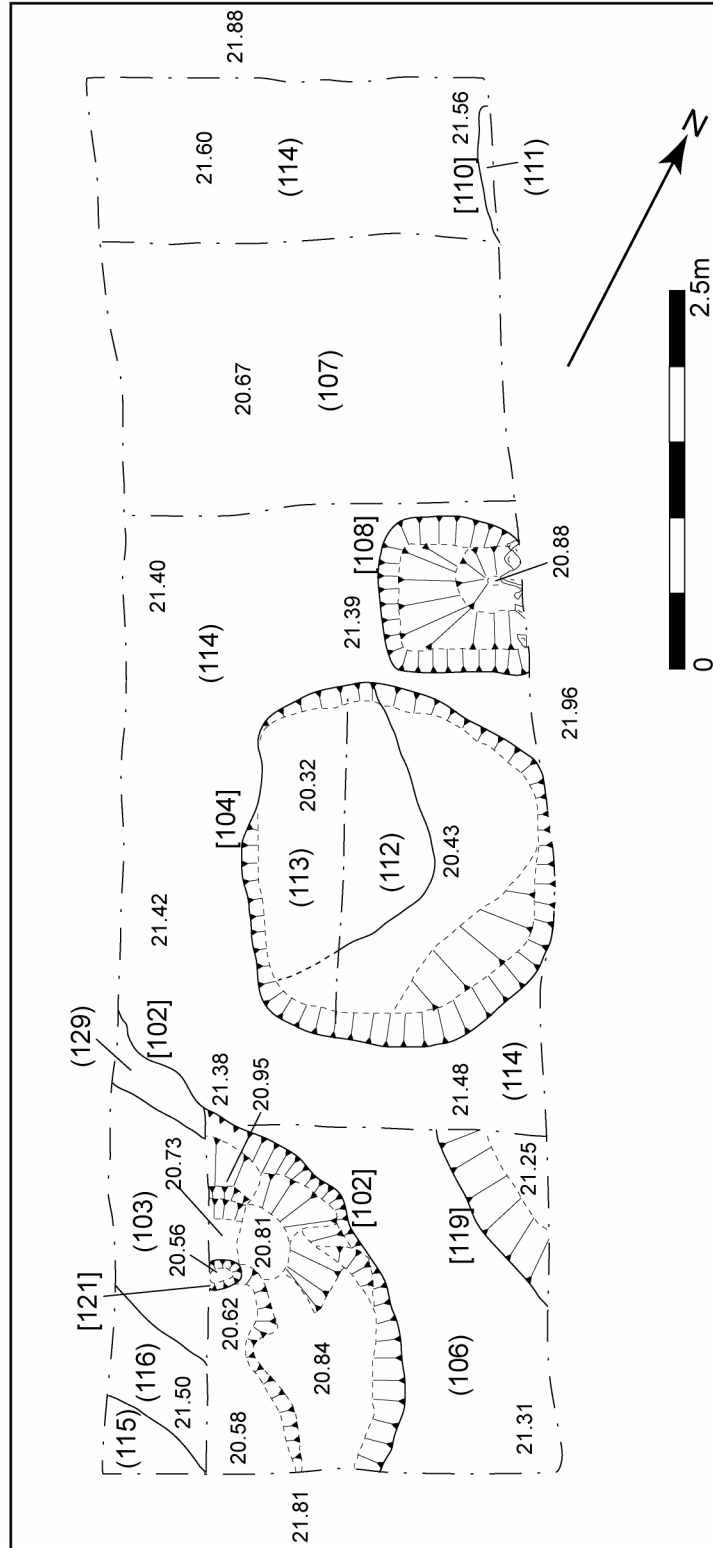


Fig. 8: Post-excavation plan of Trench 1

4.2 Trench 2

The uppermost deposit in Trench 2 was a loose dark grey silty sand with frequent CBM and small, medium and large stones, occasional clay pipe stems and moderate slate tiles (201). This deposit comprised part of the same demolition/site clearance material as that previously identified as (101). Underlying (201) was a substantial cut and fill representing modern site clearance and ground reduction activity [204]/(205), which had removed much of the stratigraphy overlying the natural sands (**Plate 6; Fig. 10**). Filling the cut was a demolition-like backfill containing moderate post-medieval CBM and occasional plastic, post-medieval pottery and clay pipe fragments (205). Truncated by [204] were [218] & [213]. Context [213] was a large pit measuring at least 3.6m long and >0.3m wide (**Figs. 9 & 10**). Its fill consisted of loose dark brown sandy silt with frequent post-medieval CBM and occasional post-medieval pottery & clay pipe pieces (214). The fill also contained several pieces of plastic suggesting the pit was no earlier than 20th century in date.

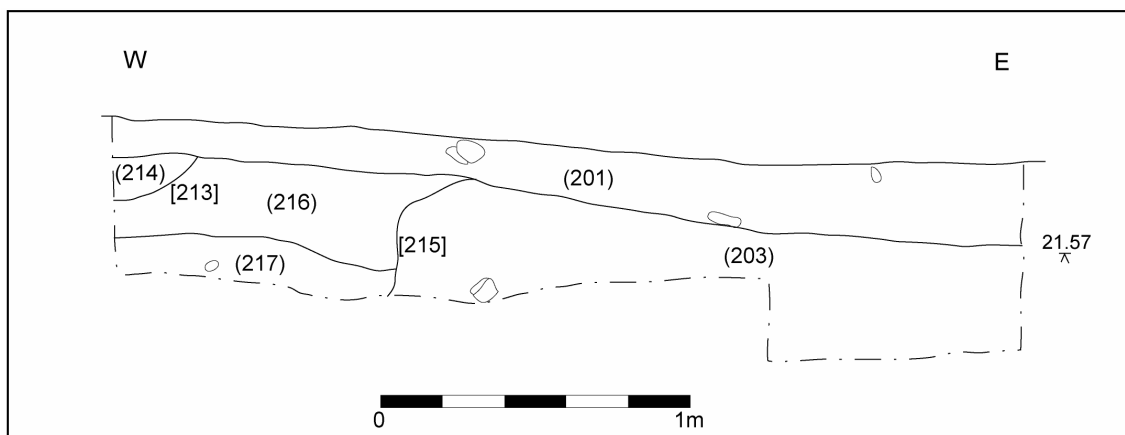


Fig. 9: S-facing section of Trench 2

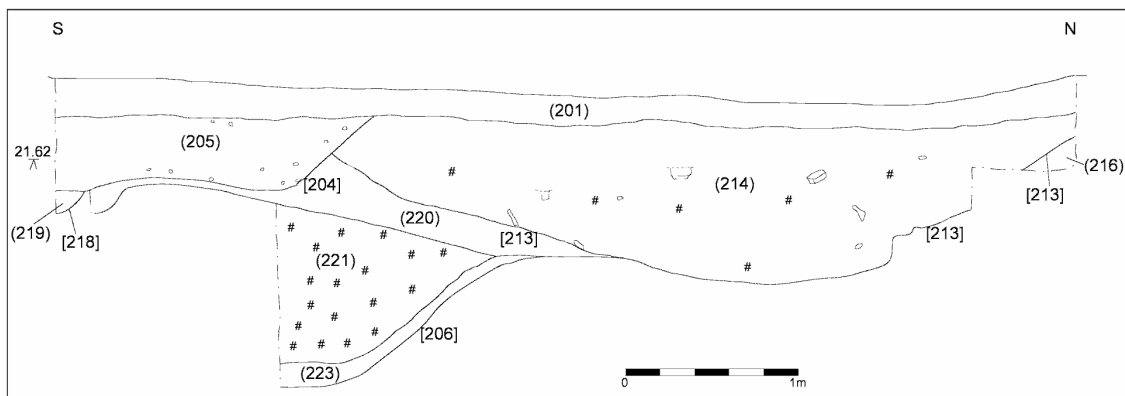


Fig. 10: E-facing section of Trench 2



Plate 6: View N showing the northern end of Trench 2 and features [215], [202] & [204]

Pit [213] heavily truncated another post-medieval pit [215] at the NW end of the trench, the remains of which measured $>0.8\text{m} \times >0.5\text{m} \times >0.4\text{m}$ (Plate 6; Fig. 9). The uppermost fill of [215] was a loose orange sand (216), which appeared to be redeposited natural material. Underlying (216) was a loose mid brown sandy silt (217). The full depth of the pit was not ascertained during the evaluation. Pit [215] truncated [202], a shallow sub-circular feature measuring more than $2\text{m} \times 1.5\text{m}$ that was located in the NE corner of the trench (Fig. 11). Filling [202] was a loose to moderately compacted mid brown silty sand containing occasional small pebbles and two small pieces of furnace slag (203). Context [202] cut into natural sands (222) (Fig. 11).

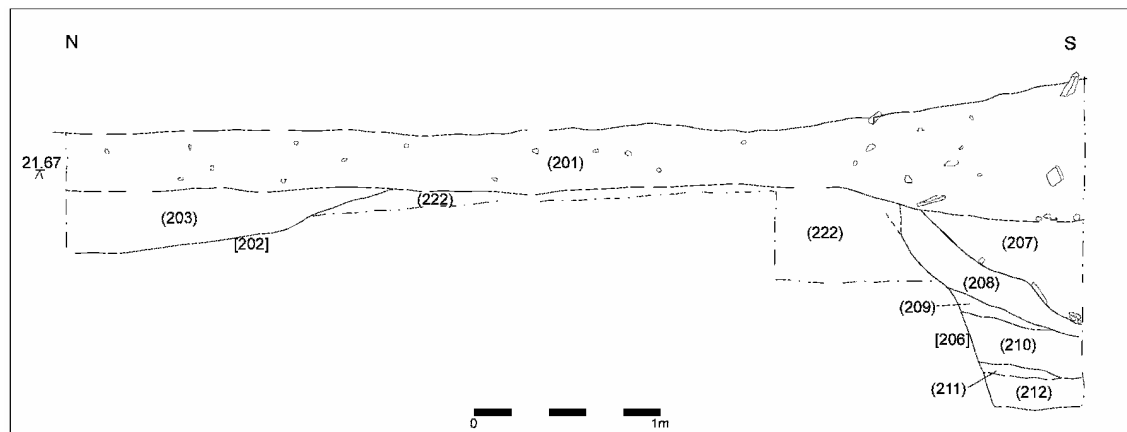


Fig. 11: W-facing section of Trench 2

Context [218] was a small feature cut into what appeared to be the uppermost deposit (220) of a large pit or linear [206] (Fig. 10). Only a small part of context [218] lay within the trench boundary. Its fill consisted of loose dark brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and very occasional mortar flecking (219). Context (220) was a loose mid brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecking, CBM and animal bone, which appeared to overlie a moderately compacted grey mortar with moderate roof tile inclusions (207). This deposit evidently extended over most of the surface of feature [206], which appeared to be the cut of a large pit of similar dimensions to [014]/[102] (Figs. 10 & 11). The pit measured $>3\text{m} \times 2\text{m} \times 1.35\text{m}$. The

sides sloped gradually down to approximately one third of the depth of the pit, becoming almost vertical from that point to the base. The feature extended well beyond the limits of the trench, with very little indication of curvature, and may thus have formed part of a linear feature.

Two test slots were excavated into the fills of [206], one on the eastern side of the feature and the second on the western side (**Plates 7 & 8**). Underlying (207) on the eastern side was a loose dark brown sandy silt containing occasional charcoal flecks, post-medieval CBM, pottery and clay pipe pieces (208). This overlay a loose light orange and red sand with occasional charcoal flecks (209). Underlying (209) was a loose mid brown silty sand containing a single piece of animal bone (210). Context (210) overlay loose orange sand with occasional patches of sandy silt (211), which overlay (212), a loose light brown silty sand extending to the base of the feature.



Plate 7: View S showing eastern test slot within feature [206]

On the western side, context (220) overlay (221), a substantial deposit of loose ash and mortar with occasional clay pipe pieces and post-medieval pottery and very occasional glass fragments. Underlying (221) at the base of the feature was a loose light brown silty sand with no inclusions (223). Feature [206] cut into natural sand (222).



Plate 8: View S showing western test slot within feature [206]



Plate 9: Post-excitation photograph of Trench 2, view S

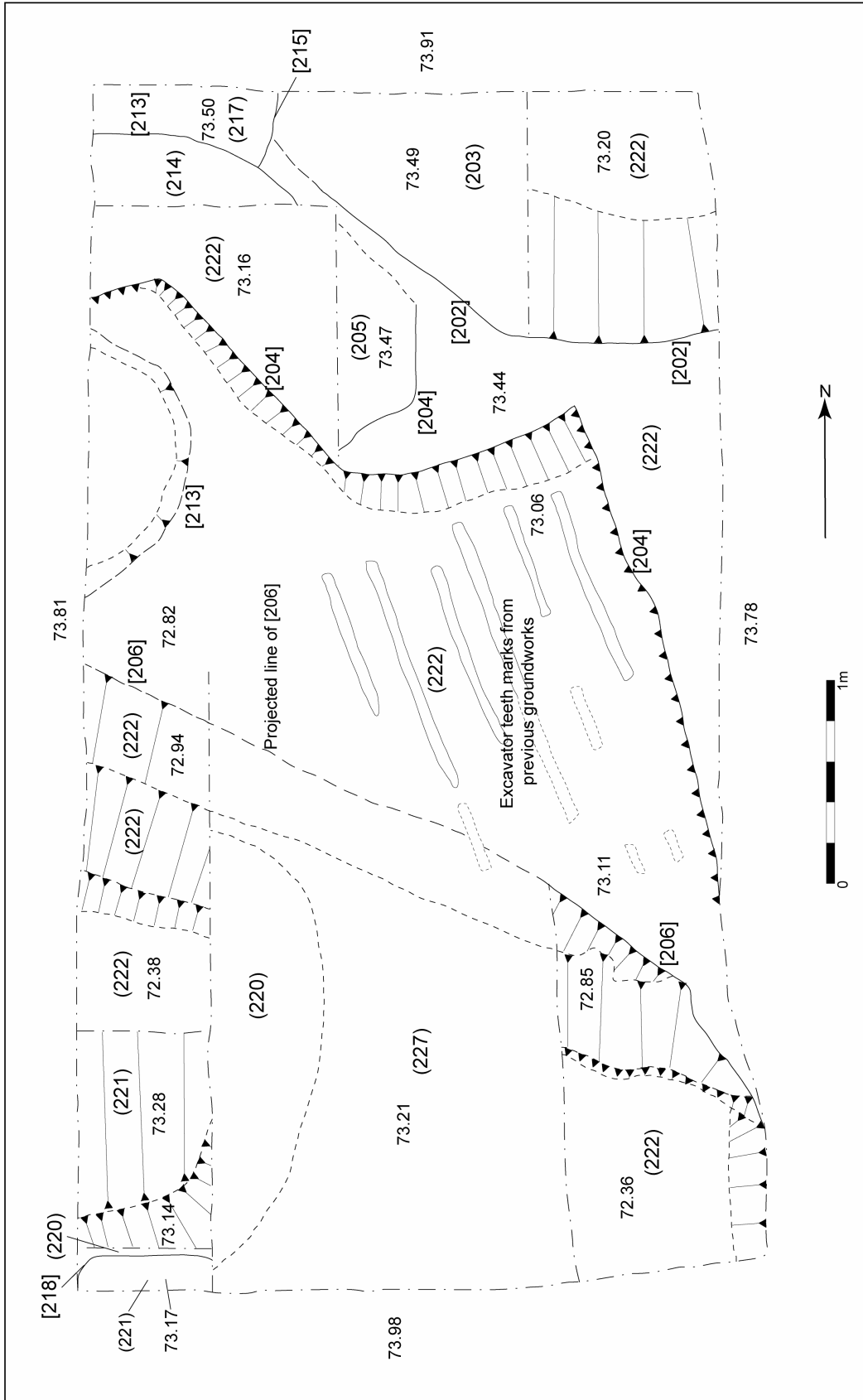


Fig. 12: Trench 2: Post-excavation plan

5. Interpretation

The two most significant features were pits [014]/[102] in Trench 1 and [206] in Trench 2.

5.1 Pit [014]/[102]

Several deposits within the pit suggest that it stood open for certain lengths of time. These include (117), (125), (123) and (120), all of which were deposited prior to the uppermost fills, containing large amounts of CBM, and appear to represent the natural collapse of sand from the sides of the pit. It is tempting to suggest that [014]/[102] represents a partially backfilled earlier pit that was subsequently filled with waste material; however, the extremely friable edges of the pit suggest that a large amount of sand could have filled the pit over a relatively short period. The only finds from the base of the pit were one sherd of medieval green glazed ware from fill (129) and another sherd of pottery from (130). These may well have been intrusive and thus cannot be used to date the early fills.

The large amounts of tile and brick within (103) and (129) suggest the pit may have had an industrial use, although no firm conclusions could be drawn from the evaluation. Certainly, the size of the pit suggests that it is unlikely to have been domestic, although some of the earlier fills may point in this direction. Similarly, the presence of posthole [121] in the base of the pit and its stepped sides suggest the pit had a function beyond that of waste disposal.

5.2 Pit [206]

Pit [206] shares many similarities with [014]/[102] and the deposition of fills appears very similar. Again, there are suggestions of a period when the pit remained open, with fills (209) and (211) probably representing natural collapse. The uppermost fills contained frequent brick and tile. Unfortunately, no dating evidence was recovered from the earlier fills.

5.3 Other features in Trench 1

Based on the fills within them, the remaining pits within Trench 1 ([108], [119], [104] and [110]) were of similar date. The ceramic material within the fills of these features suggests building waste and they may thus have been disposal pits for brick used in the construction either of the railway viaduct or the buildings along the frontage of Sansome Walk.

5.4 Other features in Trench 2

Other than pit [206], the majority of the features within Trench 2 appeared to be modern and were probably associated with groundworks relating to the construction or demolition of the GPO building. The exception may have been feature [202] but no finds were recovered from the fill to accurately date this feature.

5.5 Phasing

5.5.1 Phase 1

The earliest phase that could be recorded seemed to relate to the deposition of context (015) in Trench 1. No comparable deposit was located within Trench 2 and it is likely, due to the

small amount of deposition overlying the natural, that any such material had been removed previously. No precise dating material was recovered from (015), which may have been post-medieval deposition.

5.5.2 Phase 2

This phase was more difficult to interpret, as the relationships between several of the features and their associated stratigraphy had been removed previously. Features were thus loosely divided between Phase 2 and Phase 3, based upon their material fills rather than on any stratigraphic relationship.

Pit [014]/[102] in Trench 1 could be accurately related to its surrounding soils and formed a definite part of Phase 2. Pit [206] in Trench 2 appeared to be similar in size and shape, and contained a similar series of fills; it is thus likely to have been excavated around the same time. Feature [202] may well also relate to this phase of activity, although it bore little resemblance to the other two pits. The features from this phase appear to be of early to mid post-medieval date, although some of the earlier fills within [014]/[102] may indicate an earlier origin. Certainly, these features are likely to have existed prior to the construction of a series of buildings marked on the OS 1st Edition 6-inch map of 1891.

5.5.3 Phase 3

Again, the features were assigned to this phase based on their fills rather than any clear stratigraphic relationship. It appeared that pits [108], [104], [110] and [119] in Trench 1 broadly belonged to the same phase of activity and probably related either to construction of the railway viaduct or to the structures recorded on the OS 1st Edition 6-inch map of 1891.

5.5.4 Phase 4

This brief phase of activity is represented by the ash and charcoal lense (008) located in the section of the reduced area by Trench 1. It is not clear whether the presence of this material actually signified a distinct phase, as neither its extent nor its function could be accurately determined. It may have represented clearance, industrial or simply domestic activity.

5.5.5 Phase 5

Phase 5 is characterised by the build-up of post-medieval soil (007) to the W of the site adjacent to Trench 1. This deposition is likely to have taken place towards the end of the post-medieval period and may relate to buildings shown on the OS 1st Edition 6-inch map of 1891.

5.5.6 Phase 6

This relates to construction of the GPO building and associated car parking and comprises the uppermost deposits excavated during the demolition phase around Trench 1. Contexts contemporary with this phase include (001)-(006) above Trench 1; pits [204], [213] and [215] may also belong to this phase, although this is less clear.

5.5.7 Phase 7

This phase relates to modern demolition excavations, comprising feature [204] in Trench 2 and deposits (101) and (201).

6. Conclusion

The features identified all appeared to be post-medieval; none could definitely be assigned an earlier date, although two pieces of probable medieval pottery were located within the earlier fills of pit [014]/[102]. These sherds could not be used independently to date the feature, however, as it is possible that they were intrusive. Pit [014]/[102] and [206] both appeared to be more than simple domestic waste pits, given their large size and unusual profiles. A small posthole located in the base of [014]/[102] suggests it may have had an industrial function.

Most features had been backfilled with CBM. No trace of the buildings marked on the OS 1st Edition 6-inch map of 1891 were identified and it can only be assumed that any structural remains were removed during construction of the GPO building.

7. Copyright

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8. Bibliography & Cartography

8.1 Bibliography

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8.2 Cartography

- 1610 Speed's Plan of Worcester
- 1660 Civil War Plan of Worcester (based on Speed's 1610)
- 1741-2 Dougharty's Plan of Worcester City
- 1779 Young's Plan of Worcester city and suburbs
- 1781 Young's Plan of Worcester city and suburbs
- 1891 Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6-inch map
- 1930 Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition 6-inch map
- 1938 Ordnance Survey Provisional 6-inch map
- 1953 Ordnance Survey Provisional 6-inch map

9. APPENDIX 1: Context Register

9.1 Section above Trench 1

CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION
(001)	Tarmacadam. Thickness: 0.04m. Extends across section.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Car park surface.</i>
(002)	Concrete slabs. Thickness: 0.06m. Extends across section.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Part of car parking surface.</i>
(003)	Compacted aggregate sub-base. Thickness: 0.15m. Extends across section.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Sub-base for (001)/ (002).</i>
(004)	Concrete, Dimensions: 0.65m wide by 0.72m thick (length not observed). Fills [005].
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Concrete foundation</i>
[005]	Cut – Shape in plan: Only visible in section. Dimensions: 0.65m wide by 0.72m thick (length not observed). Break of slope top: Sharp. Sides: Vertical. Break of slope base: Sharp. Base: Flat. Orientation: Only observed in section. Filled by (004).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut for concrete foundation (004)</i>
(006)	Dark brown sandy silt and post-medieval CBM.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Demolition rubble.</i>
(007)	Moderately compact dark greyish-brown silty sand with occasional rounded stones, charcoal flecking and CBM. Extends across section to a thickness of 0.8m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Post-medieval garden soil.</i>
(008)	Moderately compact mid-greyish black ash and charcoal rich. Extends across section to a thickness of 0.04m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Site clearance or industrially related deposit</i>
(009)	Moderately compact dark brown sandy silt with occasional small subangular stones. Extends across section to a thickness of 0.12m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Landscaping layer covering fill of underlying pits.</i>
[010]	Cut: Shape in plan – Only observed in section. Dimensions: Undetermined extent by 0.30m deep. Break of slope top: Sharp. Sides: Concave. Break of slope base: Appears moderate. Base: Appears flat. Filled by (009). Precise nature difficult to determine due to it only being located in section.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Small pit</i>
(011)	Same as (116)
(012)	Same as (103)
(013)	Same as (129)
[014]	Same as [102]
(015)	Moderately compact mid yellow to orangey-brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded stones. Extends across section to a thickness of 0.3m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Deposited garden soil.</i>
(016)	Moderately compact mid yellow to orangey-brown silty sand, frequent CBM and small subangular and sub-rounded stones. Dimensions: 1.84 x (undefined) x 0.35m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Upper fill of pit [014].</i>

9.2 Trench 1

CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION
(101)	Loose dark grey brown silty sand with frequent CBM, small medium and large subangular and angular stones. Frequent pebbles and gravels. Occasional plastic and clay pipe stems. Dimensions: 9 x 3 x 0.1–0.3m. Same as (201)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Demolition debris.</i>
[102]	Cut - Shape in plan: Roughly circular though only partially within trench. Dimensions: >2.5 x >2 x >1.3m. Break of slope top: Sharp. Sides: Steeply sloping to approximately 1/3 of depth and then near vertical to base. Break of slope base: Variable. Base: Undulating. Filled by (016), (103), (115), (116), (117), (123)–(135).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Large post-medieval pit with possible industrially related function.</i>
(103)	Loose light to mid grey to orangey-brown silty sand with frequent CBM and small and medium angular and subangular stones. Occasional post-medieval pottery.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of pit [102].</i>
[104]	Cut – Shape in plan: Roughly circular. Dimensions: 2.52 x 2.05 x 1.54m. Break of slope top: Right angled. Sides: Near vertical. Break of slope base: Sharp (almost right angled). Base: Slightly concave. Filled by (105), (112).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Post-medieval rubble pit cut.</i>
(105)	Loose mid brown silty sand with frequent post-medieval CBM, occasional clay pipe, pottery and bone. Dimensions: 2.52 x 2.05 x 1.44m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Demolition rubble.</i>
(106)	Loose light to mid orangey-red sand with flecks of degraded sandstone and patches of mid orangey-red sand. Dimensions: 9 x 3 x 0.22m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Natural deposit.</i>
(107)	Moderately compact light red sand with moderate pebbles. Dimensions: Trench wide x 0.53m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Natural deposit.</i>
[108]	Cut – Shape in plan: Sub-rectangular. Corners: Rounded. Dimensions: 1.04 x 0.96 x 0.66m visible. Break of slope top: Sharp. Sides: Concave. Break of slope base: Moderate (30°). Base: Concave. Orientation: E–W. Filled by (109).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Post-medieval demolition deposit.</i>
(109)	Loose mid greyish-brown silty sand with frequent CBM, small and medium stones, moderate mortar flecks and pieces and roof tile. Dimensions: 1.04 x 0.96 x 0.66m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Post-medieval demolition.</i>
[110]	Cut – Shape in plan: Sub-circular. Dimensions: 0.86 x 0.06 x 0.30m as observed. Break of slope top: Sharp. Sides: Moderately sloping. Break of slope base: Unknown (Not excavated). Base (Not excavated). Filled by (111).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut of apparent post-medieval pit.</i>
(111)	Loose mid greyish-brown silty sand with frequent gravels and small pebbles, occasional small subangular and sub-rounded stones. Occasional small CBM fragments. Dimensions: 0.86 x 0.06 x 0.3m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of post medieval pit [110].</i>
(112)	Loose mid to dark greyish-brown silty sand with moderate charcoal flecking and charcoal. 1.2 x 0.0 x < 0.1m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Primary fill of [104]. Possibly a silting or domestic fill.</i>
(113)	Moderately compact red sand with very occasional pebbles. Dimensions: Trench wide x 0.34m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Natural soil.</i>
(114)	Loose mid orange red sand with frequent darker gravel patches. Frequent very small stones/pebbles. Dimensions: Trench wide x 0.22m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Natural deposit</i>

(115)	Loose mid yellowish-brown silty sand with frequent CBM, mortar flecks and lumps, small to medium angular and subangular stones and gravels. Dimensions: 0.98 x 0.71 x 0.46m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of pit [102].</i>
(116)	Loose mid to dark greyish-brown silty sand with frequent CBM, small to medium angular and subangular stones and mortar flecking. Dimensions: 0.84 x 0.73 x 0.18m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of pit [102].</i>
(117)	Loose mid red to orangey-brown silty sand. Dimensions: 0.3 x 0.2 x 0.04m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of pit [102].</i>
(118)	Loose to moderately compact dark greyish-brown silty sand. Dimensions: 1.06 x 0.4 x 0.4m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of pit [102].</i>
[119]	Cut – Shape in plan: Semi circular (only partially within trench). Dimensions: 0.85 x 0.56 x 0.21m. Break of slope: Sharp. Sides: Moderately steep. Break of slope base: Gradual. Base: Bowl shaped. Orientation: N – S. Truncates [104]. Filled by (120).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut of post medieval pit.</i>
(120)	Moderately compact dark brown silty sand with frequent pebbles/gravel, moderate post-medieval CBM. Occasional post-medieval pottery and glass. Dimensions: 0.85 x 0.56 x 0.21m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of [119].</i>
[121]	Cut – Shape in plan: Circular. Diameter: 0.14m, depth: 0.11m. Break of slope top: Sharp. Sides: Steeply. Break of slope base: Moderate. Base: Concave/U-shaped. Truncates [102]. Filled by (122).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Posthole within pit [102].</i>
(122)	Loose mid greyish-brown silty sand. Dimensions: Diameter: 0.14m, depth: 0.11m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of posthole [121].</i>
(123)	Loose mid orangey-brown sand with occasional small sub-rounded stones. Dimensions: 0.97 x 0.20 x 0.12m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of pit [102].</i>
(124)	Loose mid grey to orangey-brown silty sand with frequent CBM and small sub-rounded stones. Dimensions: 0.72 x 0.2 x 0.19m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of pit [102].</i>
(125)	Loose mid orangey-brown silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded stones. Dimensions: 1.18 x 0.2 x 0.19m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of pit [102].</i>
(126)	Loose dark orangey-brown silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded stones. Dimensions: 0.36 x 0.15 x 0.06m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of pit [102].</i>
(127)	Loose dark reddish-brown silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded stones. Dimensions: 1.17 x 0.30 x 0.28m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of pit [102].</i>
(128)	Loose mid red to orangey-brown sand with occasional small rounded stones. Dimensions: 0.66 x 0.2 x 0.14m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of pit [102].</i>
(129)	Loosely to moderately compacted mid to dark greyish-brown silty sand with occasional small subangular stones. Dimensions: 7.24 x 0.82 x 0.32m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of pit [102].</i>
(130)	Loose mid greyish-brown silty sand with occasional small subangular stones. Dimensions: 1.56 x 0.36 x 0.19m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of pit [102].</i>
(131)	Moderately compact dark reddish-brown silty sand with frequent small to medium subangular and sub-rounded stones. Dimensions: 0.24 x 0.24 x 0.12m.

INTERPRETATION:	<i>Fill of pit [102].</i>
(132)	Loose mid red to orangey-brown silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded stones. Dimensions: 0.72 x 0.31 x 0.08m.
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Fill of pit [102].</i>
(133)	Loose to moderately compacted mid orangey-brown silty sand with occasional small medium sub-rounded stones. Dimensions: 0.3 x 0.1 x 0.15m.
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Fill of pit [102].</i>
(134)	Not Used.
(135)	Loose to moderately compacted mid reddish-brown silty sand. Dimensions: 0.3 x 0.12 x 0.08m.
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Fill of pit [102].</i>
(136)	Loose to moderately compact dark reddish-brown silty sand with frequent medium subangular and sub-rounded stones. Dimensions: 0.38 x 0.28 x 0.18m.
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Fill of pit [102].</i>
(137)	Loose dark orangey-brown sand with occasional small sub-rounded stones. Dimensions: 1.14 x 0.96 x 0.14m.
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Secondary fill of pit [108].</i>
(138)	Loose dark brown silty sand with occasional CBM and small subangular stones. Dimensions: 1.18 x 0.98 x 0.46m.
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Tertiary fill of pit [108].</i>

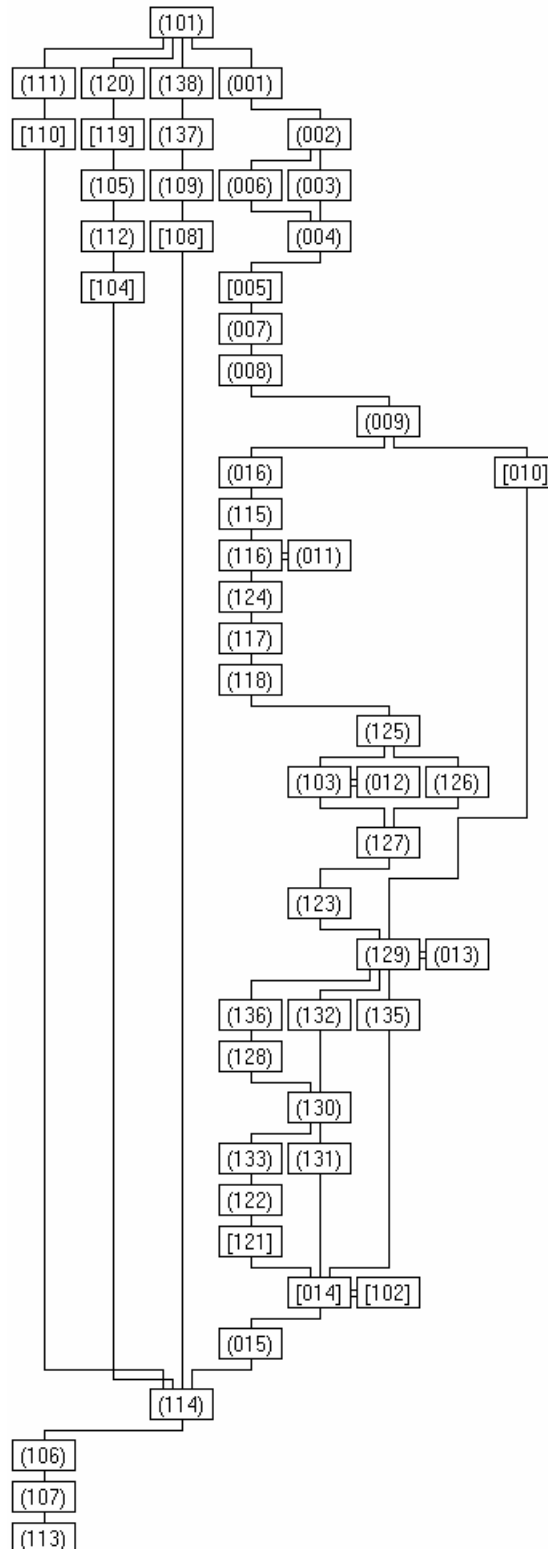
9.3 Trench 2

CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION
(201)	Loose dark grey brown silty sand with frequent CBM, brick small, medium and large stones. Moderate slate tiles and occasional clay pipe stems. Dimensions: 6 x 3 x 0.3m.
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Demolition rubble from GPO building clearance.</i>
[202]	Cut – Shape in plan: Appears roughly circular (not fully within trench). Corners: Rounded. Dimensions: 2 x 1.5 x 0.35m. Break of slope top: Gentle. Sides: Gently sloping. Break of slope base: Gentle. Base: Very slightly concave. Filled by: (203).
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Shallow pit of indeterminate period.</i>
(203)	Loose to moderately compact mid brown silty sand. Occasional small pebbles and two pieces of slag. Dimensions: 2 x 1.5 x 0.35m.
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Fill of shallow pit [202].</i>
[204]	Cut – Shape in plan: Roughly sub-rectangular. Corners: Roughly at a right angle. Dimensions: 3.5 x < 3 x 0.45m. Break of slope top: Sharp. Sides: Vertical. Break of slope base: Right angle. Base: Roughly flat with slight slop to west. Orientation: NW–SE. Filled by: (205).
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Modern excavation.</i>
(205)	Loose dark brown sandy silt with moderate CBM and occasional plastic, post-medieval pottery and clay pipe. Dimensions: 3.5 x < 3 x 0.45m.
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Modern backfill.</i>
[206]	Cut – Shape in plan: Roughly circular. Dimensions: > 2 x 2 x 1.35m. Break of slope top: Sharp. Sides: Gentle slope to 1/3 of depth, steeply sloping from this point to base. Break of slope base: Moderate. Base: Undulating. Filled by: (207), (208), (209), (210), (211), (212).
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Cut of large pit of probable post-medieval date.</i>
(207)	Moderately compact grey mortar with occasional roof tile and mortar chunks. Dimensions: > 2 x 2 x 0.5m.
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Uppermost fill of pit [206].</i>

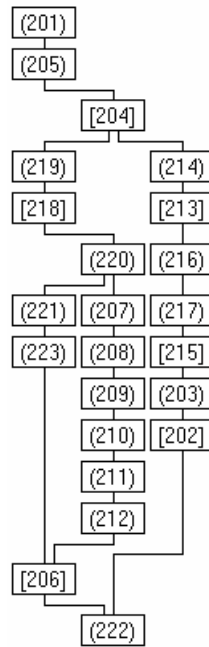
(208)	Loose dark brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks, post-medieval CBM, pottery and clay pipe. Dimensions: > 1.5 x > 0.8 x < 0.5m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Post-medieval tipping deposit.</i>
(209)	Loose light orange to red sand, occasional charcoal flecks. Dimensions: > 1.2 x > 0.8 x < 0.1m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Sand tipping lense.</i>
(210)	Loose mid brown silty sand with one fragment of bone. Dimensions: > 0.8 x > 0.8 x 0.1m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Tipping fill.</i>
(211)	Loose orange sand with occasional small patches of sandy silt. Dimensions: > 0.8 x > 0.8 x 0.05m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Secondary fill of pit [206].</i>
(212)	Loose light brown silty sand. Dimensions: > 0.8 x 0.4 x 0.1m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Primary fill of pit [206].</i>
[213]	Cut – Shape in plan: Probably originally circular but heavily truncated by [204]. Corners: Removed by later cut [204]. Dimensions: 3.6 x > 0.3 x 0.5m. Break of slope top: Appears sharp. Sides: Concave. Break of slope base: Gentle. Base: Concave. Orientation: Unclear due to truncation by [204]. Truncated by [204]. Filled by (214).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut of late post-medieval pit.</i>
(214)	Loose dark brown sandy silt, frequent post-medieval CBM and occasional post-medieval pottery and clay pipe. Dimensions: 3.6 x > 0.3 x 0.5m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Modern fill of pit [213].</i>
[215]	Cut – Shape in plan: Appears roughly circular, but heavily truncated. Dimensions: > 0.8 x > 0.5 x > 0.4m. Break of slope top: Appears sharp. Sides: Steeply sloping. Break of slope base: Not excavated. Base: Not Excavated. Orientation: Not defined. Truncated by: [213]. Filled by: (216), (217).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Post-medieval pit cut.</i>
(216)	Loose orange sand. Dimensions: > 0.8 x > 0.4 x < 0.2m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Re-deposited natural fill (secondary?) of pit [215].</i>
(217)	Loose mid brown sandy silt. Dimensions: > 0.8 x > 0.5 x > 0.2m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill (primary?) of pit [215].</i>
(218)	Cut – Shape in plan: Appears elliptical, though partially outside confines of trench. Dimensions: 0.45 x > 0.10 x > 0.08m. Break of slope top: Sharp. Sides: Concave. Break of slope base: Not within trench. Base: Not within trench. Orientation: E – W? Filled by (219).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut of small pit or posthole.</i>
(219)	Loose dark brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecking and very occasional mortar flecking. Dimensions: 0.45 x > 0.1 x > 0.08m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of small pit or posthole [218].</i>
(220)	Loose mid brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks, CBM and bone. Dimensions: > 3 x > 1 x < 0.45m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Possible sealing layer for (221).</i>
(221)	Loose mixture of ash and mortar with occasional clay pipe, post-medieval pottery and very occasional glass. Dimensions: Trench wide x 1m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Domestic ash waste, fill of pit [206].</i>
(222)	Loose orangey-brown sand with occasional pebbles. Dimensions: Trench wide x 1m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Natural Sand</i>
(223)	Loose light brown silty sand. Dimensions: > 0.6 x > 0.5 x < 0.3m
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Primary or early fill of [206].</i>

10. APPENDIX 2: Site Matrices

10.1 Trench 1 Matrix



10.2 Trench 2 Matrix





Document Control

Job title	Archaeological Evaluation at the site of the former GPO building Sansome Walk Worcester Worcestershire	Job No	BA0804SVMBSWW
Report written by	<i>Thomas Wellicome BSc</i>		
Report edited by	<i>George Children MA MIFA</i>		
Issue No	Status	Date	Approved for issue
1	Final	January 2008	<i>Neil Shurety</i>